



Why

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Definition

Let S be the sphere in \mathbf{R}^3 and let $N = (0, 0, 1)$, the north pole. Then the *stereographic projection* of $S - \{N\}$ is the function $\pi : S - \{N\} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$ defined as follows. The point $\pi(p)$ is the (x, y) values for the point where the line through N and p intersects the plane $P = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbf{R}^3 \mid z = 0\}$ (the “xy-plane”).²

Proposition 1. *The stereographic projection is a diffeomorphism.*

¹Future editions will include, the historical motivation is obviously cartography.

²Future editions will expand.

