



## Why

1

## 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”).<sup>2</sup>

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

---

<sup>1</sup>Future editions will include, the historical motivation is obviously cartography.

<sup>2</sup>Future editions will expand.



