

# Plotting surfaces and curves on Mathematica

Below are some examples of plotting in Mathematica using the commands **Plot3D**, **ContourPlot3D**, and **ParametricPlot3D**. To learn more options to each command, you can go to Help, choose 'Find Selected Function', and type the command's name.

## 1. Surfaces

The command **Plot3D** is used to plot surfaces that are graphs of a function  $f(x, y)$ , for example  $z = f(x, y) = x + y, x^2 + y^2, \sin(x)y, \dots$

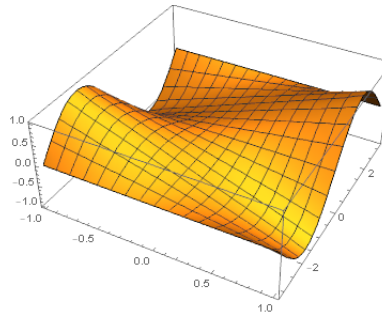
The command **ContourPlot3D** is used to plot surfaces given by an equation, for example  $x^2 + y^2 = 1, x + y^2 - z = 3, \sin(yz) = 0, \dots$

The command **ParametricPlot3D** is used to plot surfaces given by parametric equations, for example  $x = t \cos t, y = t \sin t, z = t$ .

You can rotate each 3D picture plotted in Mathematica by placing the mouse on the picture and drag it.

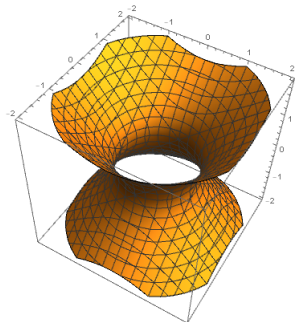
- Plot the graph of function  $f(x, y) = x \sin y$ .

```
Plot3D[x*Sin[y], {x, -1, 1}, {y, -Pi, Pi}]
```

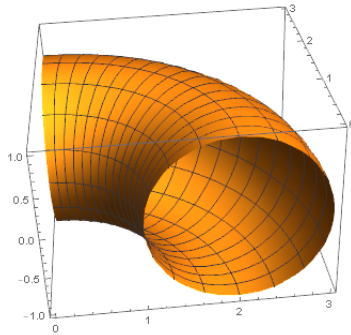


- Plot the one-sheet elliptic hyperboloid  $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1$ .

```
ContourPlot3D[x^2 + y^2 - z^2 == 1, {x, -2, 2}, {y, -2, 2}, {z, -2, 2}]
```



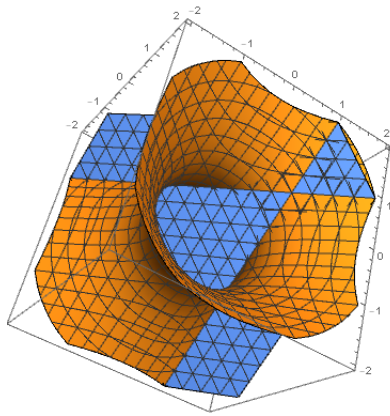
- Plot the surface  $x = (2 + \cos t) \cos s, y = (2 + \cos t) \sin s, z = \sin t$ .



```
ParametricPlot3D[{(2 + Cos[t])*Cos[s], (2 + Cos[t])*
  Sin[s], Sin[t]}, {t, 0, 2*Pi}, {s, 0, Pi/2}]
```

- Plot the one-sheet elliptic hyperboloid  $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1$  and the plane  $x + y - z = 1$  to see the trace.

```
ContourPlot3D[{x^2 + y^2 - z^2 == 1, x + y - z == 1}, {x, -2,
  2}, {y, -2, 2}, {z, -2, 2}]
```

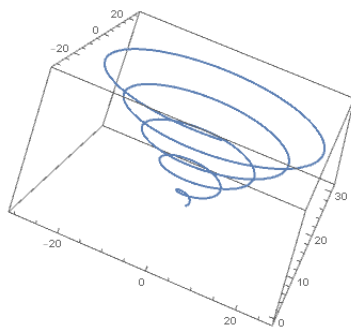


## 2. Curves

The command **ParametricPlot3D** is used to plot a curve given by parametric equations.

- Plot the curve  $r(t) = \langle t \cos t, t \sin t, t \rangle$ .

```
ParametricPlot3D[{t*Cos[t], t*Sin[t], t}, {t, 0, 30}]
```



- The parametric equations also show us how a curve is drawn. For example, consider the curve parametrized by  $r(t) = \langle t \cos t, t \sin t, t \rangle$ .

```
p[s_] := ParametricPlot3D[{t*Cos[t], t*Sin[t], t}, {t, 0, s},  
  PlotRange -> {{-30, 30}, {-30, 30}, {0, 30}}]  
Manipulate[p[s], {s, 0.1, 30}]
```

