

13.1 vector calculus = calculus of space curves

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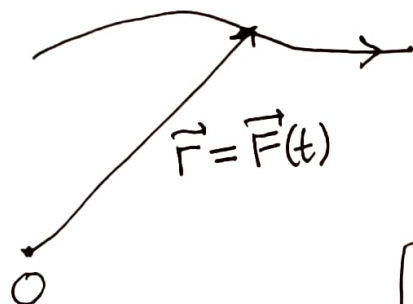
We begin in multivariable calculus by considering multiple dependent variables which are functions of a single independent variable.

We package the dependent variables as a vector and apply single variable calculus operations simultaneously to each component.

Parametrized curves in \mathbb{R}^n can be understood through the lens of $n=3$, space. We interpret them as position vectors in space as a function of a parameter t .

vector-valued function: $\vec{F}(t) = \langle F_1(t), F_2(t), F_3(t) \rangle$

visualized as a parametrized curve in space:



$$\vec{r} = \vec{F}(t)$$

equivalent to

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle F_1(t), F_2(t), F_3(t) \rangle$$

but usually we have no named function and simply write.

$$\vec{r} = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$$

where these are explicit expressions

$$\text{or sometimes } \vec{F}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$$

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example: twisted cubic

$$\vec{r} = \langle t, t^2, t^3 \rangle, \quad -1 \leq t \leq 1$$

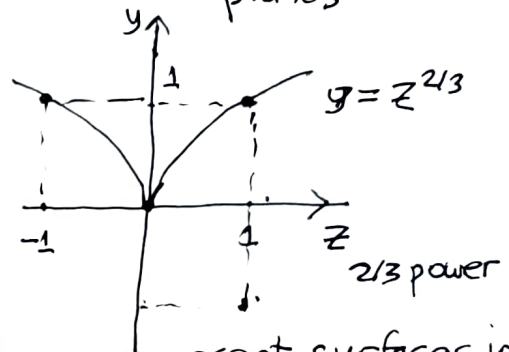
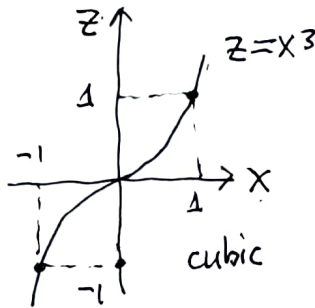
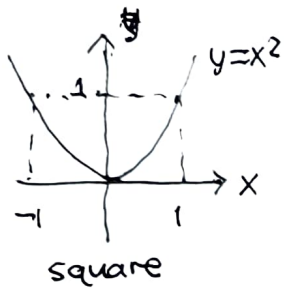
or $x = t, y = t^2, z = t^3$

eliminate parameter

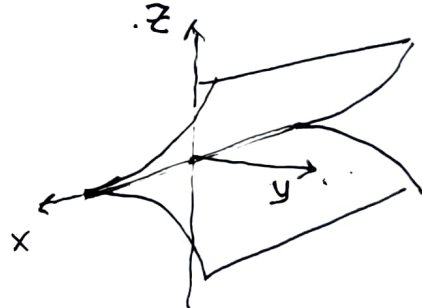
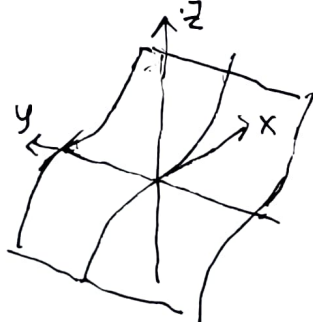
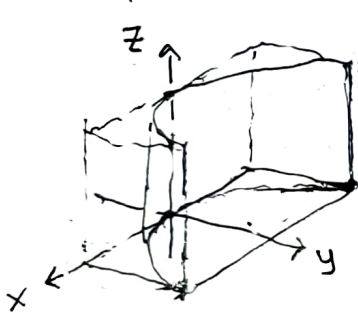
$$y = x^2 \quad z = x^3$$

$$y = (z^{1/3})^2 = z^{2/3}$$

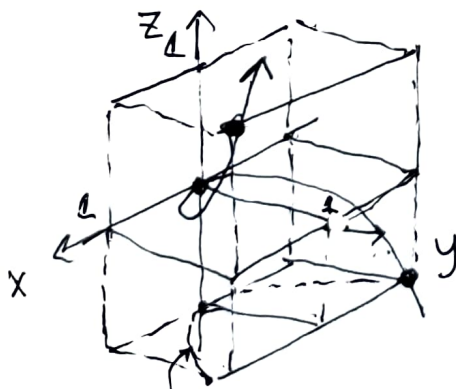
these happen to be the projections of the curve onto the 3 coordinate planes



Each is independent of the third coordinate, so represent surfaces in space by extending them in that third direction:



Intersection of any two of these surfaces describes the unparametrized curve



endpoints: $\langle -1, 1, -1 \rangle$
 $\langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle$
 $t=0: \langle 0, 0, 0 \rangle$ } 3 key points in diagram

This is the job of technology

[see Maple]

$y = x^2$ imagine projected up to intersect actual curve
 increase t , move up (z monotonically increasing)

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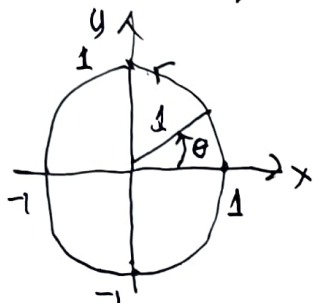
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Reverse process: parametrizing a curve specified as the intersection of two surfaces

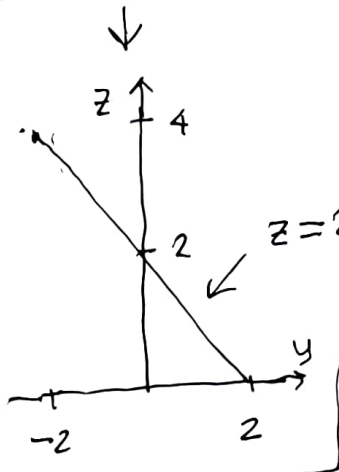
example: plane cut cylinder

$x^2 + y^2 = 1, y + z = 2$

how to parametrize?

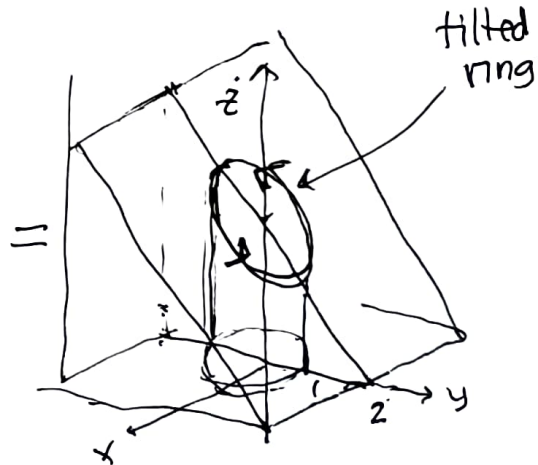
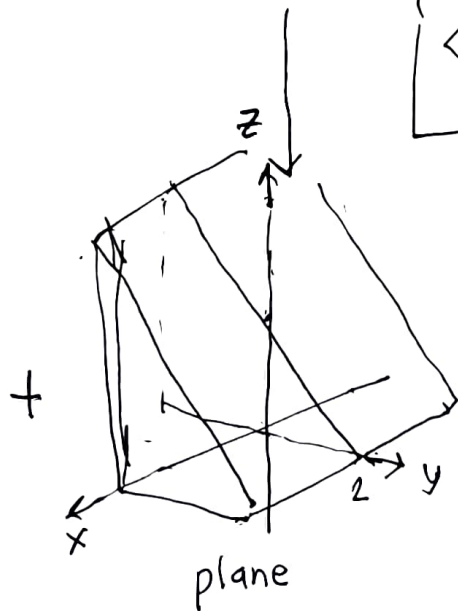
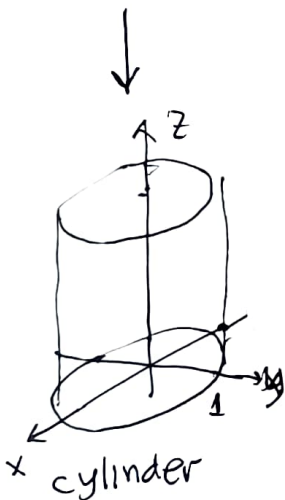


unit circle
choose $t = \theta$:
 $x = \cos t, y = \sin t$
 $t = 0, 2\pi$



$z = 2 - y \rightarrow z = 2 - \sin t$

$\langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle \cos t, \sin t, 2 - \sin t \rangle$
 $t = 0, 2\pi$



oblique cut of cylinder
increase t , move in
counterclockwise
direction from above.

[see Maple]

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Calculus operations (lim, diff, int) on a vector-valued function are performed simultaneously on all components.
"parallel computation"

$$\square \vec{r}(t) = \langle \square x(t), \square y(t), \square z(t) \rangle$$

↑ put calc operation in the box.

example $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^3, \ln(3-t), \sqrt{t} \rangle$ what is the domain?

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 3-t > 0 \\ 3 > t \\ t < 3 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} t \geq 0 \\ 0 \leq t < 3 \end{array}$$

only need limits at endpoints (continuous inside interval)

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \vec{r}(t) = \langle 0^3, \ln(3-0), \sqrt{0} \rangle = \langle 0, \ln 3, 0 \rangle$$

one-sided limit

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 3} \vec{r}(t) = \langle 3^3, \lim_{t \rightarrow 3} 3-t, \lim_{t \rightarrow 3} \sqrt{t} \rangle = \langle 27, -\infty, \sqrt{3} \rangle$$

(limit does not exist)

but does approach $x=27, z=\sqrt{3}$ in xz plane projection while $y \rightarrow -\infty$, so useful information

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}'(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \vec{r}(t) = \left\langle \frac{d}{dt} t^3, \frac{d}{dt} \ln(3-t), \frac{d}{dt} t^{1/2} \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle 3t^2, \frac{1}{3-t} (-1), \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} \right\rangle = \left\langle 3t^2, \frac{-1}{3-t}, \frac{1}{2\sqrt{t}} \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \vec{r}(t) dt &= \left\langle \int t^3 dt, \int \ln(3-t) dt, \int t^{1/2} dt \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle \frac{t^4}{4} + C_1, \text{?} + C_2 \text{ (use Maple)}, \frac{t^{3/2}}{3/2} + C_3 \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

(integration by parts - NO!)