

# Graphing Surfaces and Contour Maps

- To graph  $z = f(x, y)$ , use Plot3D. You have to specify a domain for  $x$  and for  $y$ . Do not type the "z =" part.

```
Plot3D[x^2 + y^2, {x, -3, 3}, {y, -3, 3}]
```

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- You can use options such as PlotRange, BoxRatios, PlotStyle, etc. Try adding each one individually while evaluating to see what it does.

```
Plot3D[x^2 + y^2, {x, -3, 3}, {y, -3, 3}, PlotRange → {{-5, 5}, {-5, 5}, {0, 20}},  
BoxRatios → Automatic, PlotStyle → Green, Mesh → False, Boxed → False,  
Axes → True, AxesEdge → {-1, -1}, AxesOrigin → {0, 0, 0}]
```

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- ContourPlot is similar to Plot3D in how you set it up. Tooltips appear when you point to a contour line (level curve).

```
ContourPlot[x^2 + y^2, {x, -3, 3}, {y, -3, 3}]
```

```
ContourPlot[x^2 + y^2, {x, -3, 3}, {y, -3, 3}, ContourLabels → All]
```

```
ContourPlot[x^2 + y^2, {x, -3, 3}, {y, -3, 3}, ContourLabels → Automatic, Contours → 100]
```

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- Try the options listed below to figure out what each does.  
(Note: Listing Contours like below shows the contour line for  $z =$  each of those values.)

```
ContourPlot[x^2 + y^2, {x, -3, 3}, {y, -3, 3},  
Frame → False, Axes → True, ContourShading → None, ContourStyle → Red,  
ContourLabels → Automatic, Contours → {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10}]
```

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- Below are different options for the same function. (Note: This specifies how many contour lines you want to see.)

```
ContourPlot[x^2 + y^2, {x, -3, 3}, {y, -3, 3},  
ColorFunction → "Rainbow", ContourLines → False, Contours → 50]
```

For other ColorFunction inputs, delete "Rainbow" and put your cursor after the →. Then go to the menu Palettes >> ColorSchemes. Choose one you like and click "Insert."

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- Use what you have learned to graph the following surfaces and their contour maps. (Remember to use appropriate *Mathematica* syntax such as Cos[x] or x^2.)

$$z = \cos(x) \sin(y), \quad 0 \leq x \leq 4\pi, \quad 0 \leq y \leq 4\pi$$

$$z = -\frac{4x}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \quad -3 \leq x \leq 3, \quad -3 \leq y \leq 3$$

$$z = \cos\left(\frac{1}{4}(x^2 + 2y^2)\right), \quad -3 \leq x \leq 3, \quad -3 \leq y \leq 3$$

$$z = y^2 - x^2, \quad -3 \leq x \leq 3, \quad -3 \leq y \leq 3$$

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## 4 Dimensions

- To graph  $w = f(x, y, z)$  in a 3D space, you must use `ContourPlot3D`. See the example below.

```
ContourPlot3D [x^2 + y^2 - z^2, {x, -4, 4}, {y, -4, 4}, {z, -4, 4}]
```

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- Try it with the options below.  
(Note: If it is too slow, use fewer contours and do not use `Opacity`.)

```
ContourPlot3D [x^2 + y^2 - z^2, {x, -4, 4}, {y, -4, 4}, {z, -4, 4}, Contours -> 5,  
Mesh -> False, Boxed -> False, Axes -> False, ContourStyle -> {{Purple, Opacity[0.4]}}
```

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- Try changing `ContourStyle` and adding `ColorFunction` as below.

```
ContourPlot3D [x^2 + y^2 - z^2, {x, -4, 4}, {y, -4, 4}, {z, -4, 4}, Contours -> 5, Mesh -> False,  
Boxed -> False, Axes -> False, ContourStyle -> Opacity[0.4], ColorFunction -> "Rainbow"]
```

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- Choose one specific contour (level surface) to show. Start with `-1` as below, then change to `0`, then `1`.

```
ContourPlot3D [x^2 + y^2 - z^2, {x, -4, 4}, {y, -4, 4}, {z, -4, 4}, Contours -> {-1}]
```

```
ContourPlot3D [x^2 + y^2 - z^2, {x, -4, 4}, {y, -4, 4}, {z, -4, 4}, Contours -> {0}]
```

```
ContourPlot3D [x^2 + y^2 - z^2, {x, -4, 4}, {y, -4, 4}, {z, -4, 4}, Contours -> {1}]
```

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- Manipulate!

```
Manipulate [  
ContourPlot3D [x^2 + y^2 - z^2, {x, -4, 4}, {y, -4, 4}, {z, -4, 4}, Contours -> {c}],  
{c, -2, 2}]
```

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- Try these other functions with `ContourPlot3D`  
(Note: Do NOT go crazy with your functions. `ContourPlot3D` already takes a lot of time to compute. Avoid using trig functions.)

$f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq 4$ ,  $-4 \leq y \leq 4$ ,  $-4 \leq z \leq 4$  Use the option `BoxRatios -> Automatic`

$f(x, y, z) = x + y + z$ ,  $-4 \leq x \leq 4$ ,  $-4 \leq y \leq 4$ ,  $-4 \leq z \leq 4$  Use the options `Contours -> 10` and `ColorFunction -> "Rainbow"`

$f(x, y, z) = x y z$ ,  $-4 \leq x \leq 4$ ,  $-4 \leq y \leq 4$ ,  $-4 \leq z \leq 4$   
Use the options `Contours -> {-4, 0, 4}` and `ColorFunction -> "Rainbow"` What is going on with this function and graph?

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