

## Determine the projection of the intersection curve of two surfaces

**Example (1):** Prove the projection into the  $yz$ -plane of the curve of intersection of the surfaces  $x = 1 - y^2$  and  $x = y^2 + z^2$  is an ellipse.

**Solution:** We are to determine the equation of such a projection. As the projection is on the  $yz$ -plane, this equation should be one without the variable  $x$ . To find the equation of the projection, we cancel  $x$  in the system of equations (obtained by combining the equations of the two surfaces)

$$\begin{cases} x = 1 - y^2 \\ x = y^2 + z^2 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

to get  $1 - y^2 = y^2 + z^2$ . With some algebra, we can rewrite this equation into

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

which is an ellipse on the  $yz$ -plane.

**Example (2):** Prove the projection into the  $xz$ -plane of the curve of intersection of the paraboloids  $y = 2x^2 + 3z^2$  and  $y = 5 - 3x^2 - 2z^2$  is a circle.

**Solution:** We are to determine the equation of such a projection. As the projection is on the  $xz$ -plane, this equation should be one without the variable  $y$ . To find the equation of the projection, we cancel  $y$  in the system of equations (obtained by combining the equations of the two surfaces)

$$\begin{cases} y = 2x^2 + 3z^2 \\ y = 5 - 3x^2 - 2z^2 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

to get  $2x^2 + 3z^2 = 5 - 3x^2 - 2z^2$ . With some algebra, we can rewrite this equation into

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

which is a circle on the  $xz$ -plane.