Question

The hyperboloid of one sheet is

$$S = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 | x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1\}$$

Show that for every θ , the straight line

$$(x-z)cos\theta = (1-y)sin\theta, (x+z)sin\theta = (1+y)cos\theta$$

is contained in *S* and that every point of hyperboloid lies on one of these lines. Deduce that *S* can be covered by a single surface patch, and hence is a surface.

Solution

Multiplying two equations of lines we get:

$$(x-z)\cos\theta(x+z)\sin\theta = (1-y)\sin\theta(1+y)\cos\theta$$
$$(x-z)(x+z) = (1-y)(1+y)$$
$$x^2 - z^2 = 1 - y^2$$
$$x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1$$

So, the line is contained in *S* and every point of hyperboloid lies on one of the given lines.

The Jacobian of $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 - z^2 - 1$ is (0,0) only in (0,0) so it is a smooth surface. You can move the lines continuously to go from a point $p \in S$ to any point q so it is a single surface patch.

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