Table 1 Graphs of Quadric Surfaces

| Surface               | Equation  | Surface                              | Equation  |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Ellipsoid  x  y  x  y | $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$ All traces are ellipses. If $a = b = c$ , the ellipsoid is a sphere.  | Cone                                 | $\frac{z^2}{c^2} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$ Horizontal traces are ellipses.  Vertical traces in the planes $x = k \text{ and } y = k \text{ are hyperbolas if } k \neq 0 \text{ but are pairs of lines if } k = 0.$ |
| Elliptic Paraboloid   | $\frac{z}{c} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$ Horizontal traces are ellipses. Vertical traces are parabolas. The variable raised to the first power indicates the axis of the paraboloid. | Hyperboloid of One Sheet             | $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$ Horizontal traces are ellipses. Vertical traces are hyperbolas The axis of symmetry corresponds to the variable whose coefficient is negative.                      |
| Hyperbolic Paraboloid | $\frac{z}{c} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2}$ Horizontal traces are hyperbolas.  Vertical traces are parabolas.  The case where $c < 0$ is illustrated.                                   | Hyperboloid of Two Sheets  y y y y y | $-\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$ Horizontal traces in $z = k$ are ellipses if $k > c$ or $k < -c$ .  Vertical traces are hyperbolas The two minus signs indicate two sheets.                        |