

EMBEDDING A 2-D CURVED SURFACE IN 3-D: THE COSINE

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Reference: Moore, Thomas A., *A General Relativity Workbook*, University Science Books (2013) - Chapter 11; Problem 11.08.

A third example embedding a curved-space-2-d metric in 3-d flat space. This time, our 2-d metric is

$$(1) \quad ds^2 = \frac{dr^2}{\cos^2(r/R)} + r^2 d\phi^2$$

Here, the ϕ component is already in the required form, so we can equate this to the cylindrical metric directly:

$$(2) \quad dz^2 + r^2 d\phi^2 + dr^2 = \frac{dr^2}{\cos^2(r/R)} + r^2 d\phi^2$$

$$(3) \quad \frac{dz}{dr} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos^2(r/R)}{\cos^2(r/R)}}$$

$$(4) \quad = \pm \tan\left(\frac{r}{R}\right)$$

This integrates directly to give

$$(5) \quad z = \pm R \ln \left| \cos\left(\frac{r}{R}\right) \right|$$

This integral is a bit problematic, as the logarithm is defined only for positive arguments, which is why we've put the absolute value in the answer. If the limits include a region where the cosine is zero, the log goes to infinity, so in our case here, $0 \leq r/R < \pi/2$. (This also follows from the original metric, since the cosine is in the denominator.) Since the cosine is always ≤ 1 , the log is always negative.

The lobe of this surface obtained from taking the + sign above looks like this (there is an upper lobe which is a mirror image of the lower one):

