**Table** Graphs of Quadric Surfaces

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