

## three-dimensional coordinates.

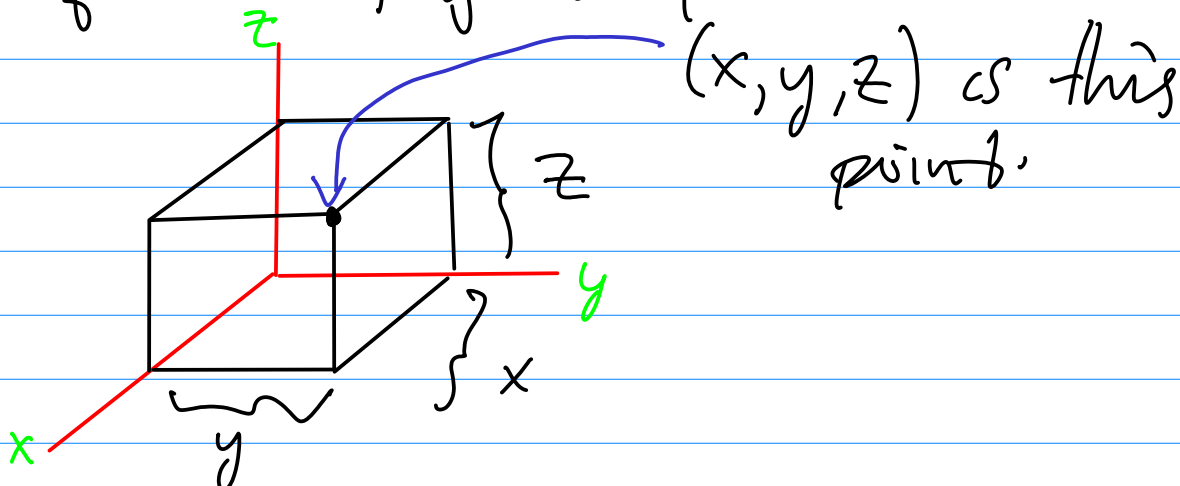
As we are quite familiar with, we need two coordinates  $(x, y)$  to represent a point in the plane.

In three-dimensional space, we need 3 coordinates  $(x, y, z)$

Aside: This is actually one possible definition of what it means to be 3-dimensional

In fact, in higher mathematics we define the dimension of a space to be the number of coordinates we need to parametrize the points of that space.

It is important to develop the skill of visualizing 3d pictures



Note there are two types of  
3d coordinate systems, that are  
equivalent in many, but not all ways  
Right-handed vs. Left-handed

x-axis = index  
y-axis = middle  
z-axis = thumb



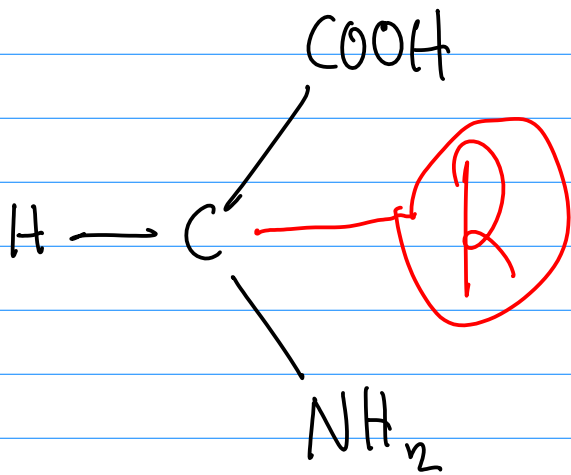
WE ALWAYS USE **RIGHT-HANDED**  
coordinate systems

[ The phenomenon of "handedness" is called  
"Chirality".

Important in chemistry:

Chiral Molecule  
Enantiomer  
Stereo-isomer

left handed  
people have  
an advantage  
when we  
consume  
cross products.

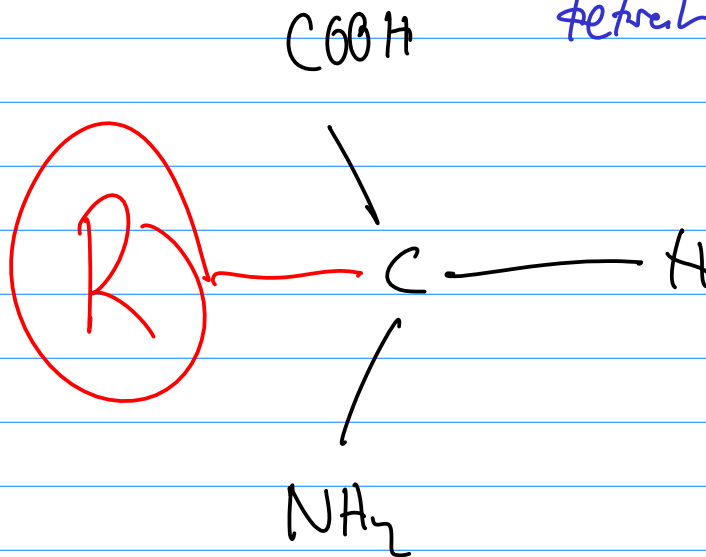


R group coming out of paper

shape is now a tetrahedral

vs.

R group coming out of paper



If R is a nontrivial group, these molecules are chiral. They are amino acids and they will have different biological functions.

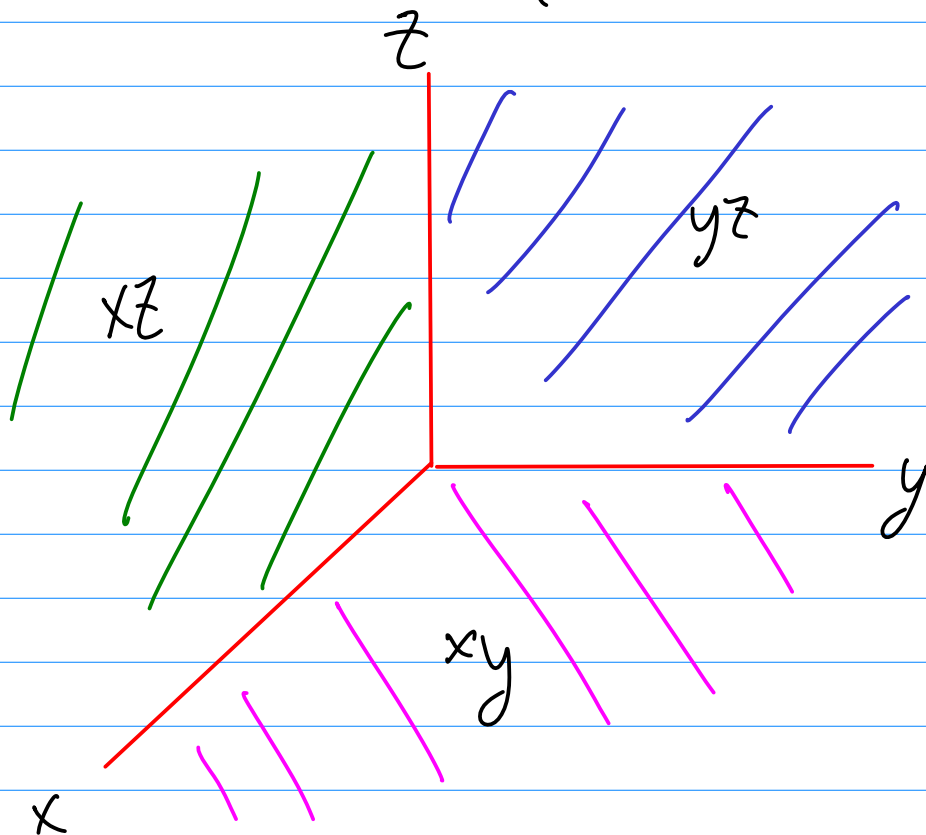
Exercise: if  $R = H$ , the molecule is not chiral.

coordinate planes  $xy$ ,  $yz$ ,  $xz$ -planes  
are where the "third" coordinate vanishes

$$xy\text{-plane} = \{z=0\}$$

$$yz\text{-plane} = \{x=0\}$$

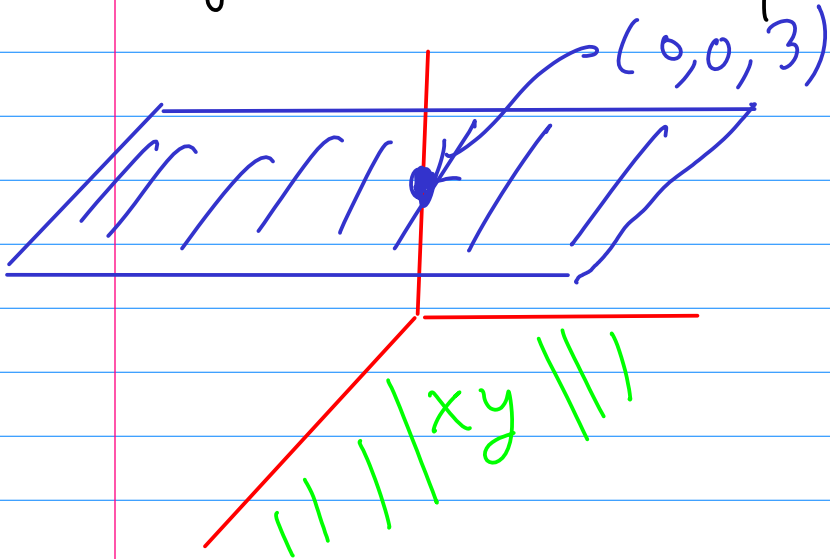
$$xz\text{-plane} = \{y=0\}$$



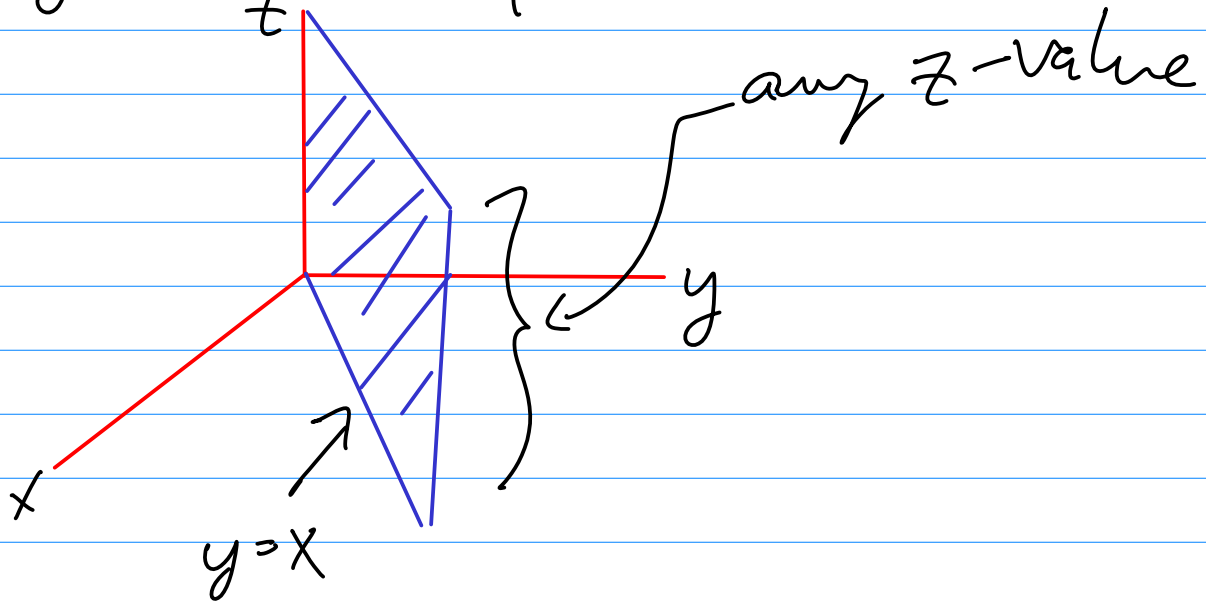
these 3-planes divide 3d space  
into 8 parts called octants  
(analogous to quadrants in 2d)

In 3d, one equation defines a surface:

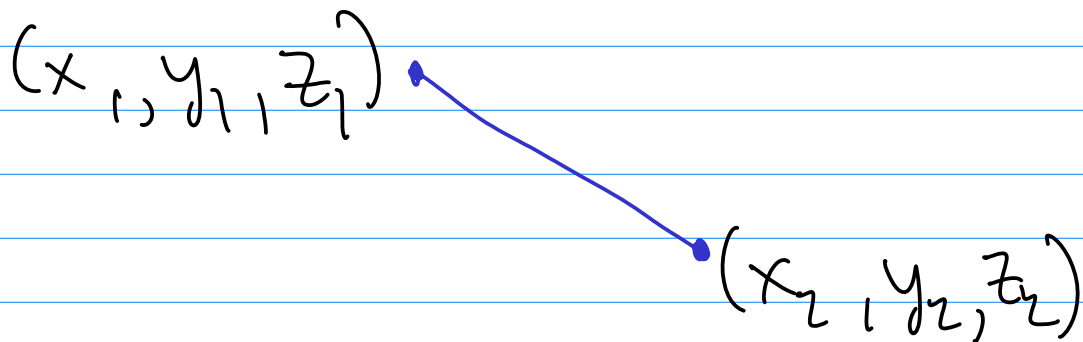
e.g.  $z=3$  is a plane parallel to  $xy$ -plane



$y=x$  is a plane

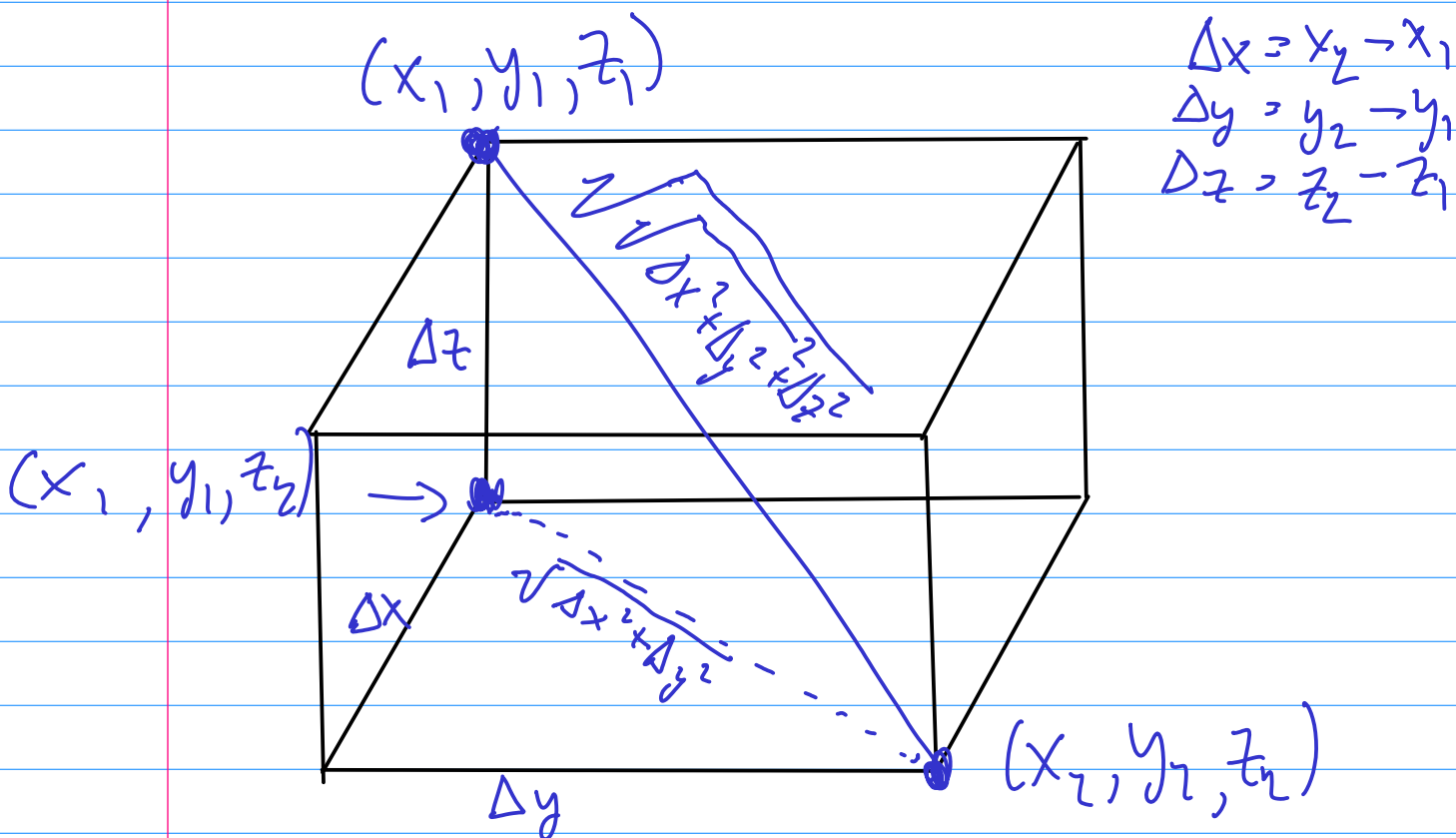


# Distance formula in 3d



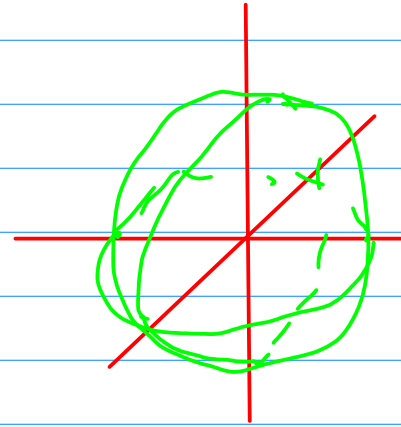
$$\text{distance} = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$$

you can get this by applying the pythagorean theorem several times



Set of points equidistant from a given pt  
= sphere in 3d.

Sphere centered at  $(0,0,0)$   
of radius  $r$



$$\text{dist}((x, y, z), (0, 0, 0)) = r$$

$$\sqrt{(x-0)^2 + (y-0)^2 + (z-0)^2} = r$$
$$\underline{x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2}$$

centered at  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$

$$\text{dist}((x, y, z), (x_0, y_0, z_0)) = r$$

$$\sqrt{(x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2 + (z-z_0)^2} = r$$

$$(x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2 + (z-z_0)^2 = r^2$$

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Ex Show that  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 6x + 4y - 2z = 11$   
represents a sphere, find center and rad.

Complete the square

$$x^2 - 6x = (x-3)^2 - 3^2$$

$$y^2 + 4y = (y+2)^2 - 2^2$$

$$z^2 - 2z = (z-1)^2 - 1^2$$

In general

$$u^2 + bu = \left(u + \frac{b}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$$

$$(x-3)^2 - 3^2 + (y+2)^2 - 2^2 + (z-1)^2 - 1^2 = 11$$

$$(x-3)^2 + (y+2)^2 + (z-1)^2 - \underbrace{9-4-1}_{-14} = 11$$

$$(x-3)^2 + (y+2)^2 + (z-1)^2 = 25 = 5^2$$

$$\text{Center} = (3, -2, 1)$$

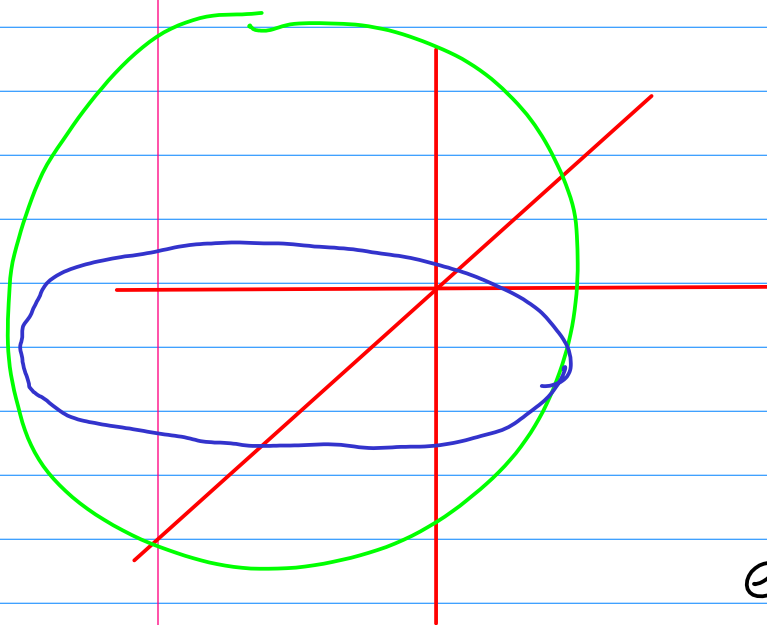
$$\text{Radius} = 5$$



We have the sphere

$$(x-3)^2 + (y+2)^2 + (z-1)^2 = 5^2$$

What is the intersection of this sphere with the  $xy$ -plane  $\{z=0\}$ ?



Intersection will be a circle.

When you intersect you're imposing both equations

$$\text{circle} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (x-3)^2 + (y+2)^2 + (z-1)^2 = 5^2 \\ z = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

What are the center and radius of the circle?

Need to simplify the equations.

To do this, plug  $z=0$  into the first equation:

$$(x-3)^2 + (y+2)^2 + (0-1)^2 = 5^2$$

$$(x-3)^2 + (y+2)^2 + 1 = 5^2 = 25$$

$$(x-3)^2 + (y+2)^2 = 24 = (\sqrt{24})^2$$

center at  $x=3, y=-2, z=0$   
radius  $=\sqrt{24}$   
lies in  $xy$ -plane

Another set of equations is

$$\text{circle} = \begin{cases} (x-3)^2 + (y+2)^2 = 24 \\ z=0 \end{cases}$$

Draw the region defined by the inequalities  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq 4 \\ z \leq 0 \end{array} \right\}$

first inequality means

$1 \leq \text{distance to origin} \leq 2$

Second inequality means

below the  $xy$ -plane

The solid area  
between the spheres  
and below  $xy$ -plane

