

Deadline: October 15th

Consider two parallel circles of radius 2, say $x^2 + y^2 = 4, z = 0$ and $x^2 + y^2 = 4, z = h$. If h is small there is a connected surface of revolution of minimal area having the two circles as boundary. Our intuition suggests that when h grows, the surface collapses in some way. Give a numerical estimation of the critical separation h_c .