

Calculus IV [2443–002] Midterm I

Q1]... Find an equation for the tangent plane to the graph of $f(x, y) = x^2 + 2xy - y^2$ at the point $(2, 1, 7)$.

Ans: Equation is given by $(z - z_0) = f_x(2, 1)(x - x_0) + f_y(2, 1)(y - y_0)$. We have $f_x = 2x + 2y$ and $f_y = 2x - 2y$ which gives us $f_x(2, 1) = 6$ and $f_y(2, 1) = 2$.

Thus, our equation becomes $(z - 7) = 6(x - 2) + 2(y - 1)$ which simplifies to

$$z = 6x + 2y - 7.$$

The graph of $f(x, y) = x^2 + 2xy - y^2$ and the vertical plane $y = 1$ intersect in a curve. Find a parametric equation for the tangent line to this curve of intersection at the point $(2, 1, 7)$.

Ans: We have a point on the line; namely $(2, 1, 7)$. We only have to find a parallel vector, \mathbf{V} . First, note that \mathbf{V} lies in the plane $y = 1$ and so its y -component will be zero (it is perpendicular to the y -axis). So we can write $\mathbf{V} = \langle a, 0, b \rangle$. Now, the ratio b/a is just the slope of the tangent vector to the curve of intersection in the $y = 1$ plane. This is just $f_x(2, 1)$ from the definition of f_x . Thus, if we let $a = 1$ then we get $c = f_x(2, 1) = 6$ from part one above. So $\mathbf{V} = \langle 1, 0, 6 \rangle$.

Another way to obtain \mathbf{V} is to think of our curve of intersection as a parametric curve obtained by setting $y = 1$ as shown: $\mathbf{r}(x) = \langle x, 1, f(x, 1) \rangle$. Then we can take \mathbf{V} to be the tangent vector

$$\left. \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dx} \right|_{x=2} = \langle 1, 0, f_x(2, 1) \rangle = \langle 1, 0, 6 \rangle.$$

Finally, we write out the equation of the line as

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle 2, 1, 7 \rangle + t\langle 1, 0, 6 \rangle$$

or

$$x = 2 + t \quad y = 1 \quad z = 7 + 6t.$$

Q2]... Recall that Cartesian coordinates can be viewed as functions of polar coordinates as shown:

$$x = r \cos \theta \quad y = r \sin \theta.$$

Suppose $f(x, y)$ is a differentiable function of x and y . Use the Chain Rule to express $\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}$ in terms of f_x and f_y .

Ans: First note that $\frac{\partial x}{\partial r} = \cos \theta$, $\frac{\partial y}{\partial r} = \sin \theta$, $\frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} = -r \sin \theta$ and $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} = r \cos \theta$.

By the chain rule we have

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} = f_x \cos \theta + f_y \sin \theta$$

and

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} = -f_x r \sin \theta + f_y r \cos \theta$$

Use your computations above to show that

$$\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}\right)^2$$

Ans: From the first part above we get

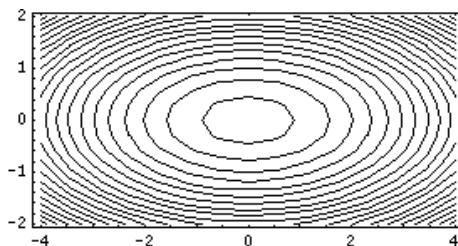
$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}\right)^2 &= (f_x \cos \theta + f_y \sin \theta)^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} (-f_x r \sin \theta + f_y r \cos \theta)^2 \\ &= (f_x \cos \theta + f_y \sin \theta)^2 + (-f_x \sin \theta + f_y \cos \theta)^2 \\ &= f_x^2(\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + f_y^2(\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + 2f_x f_y(\cos \theta \sin \theta - \cos \theta \sin \theta) \\ &= f_x^2 + f_y^2 \end{aligned}$$

Q3]... Suppose that the temperature, $T(x, y)$ in degrees Celsius, at the point (x, y) on a metal plate is given by

$$T(x, y) = 30e^{-(x^2+4y^2)}.$$

1. Draw the level curves (isothermal lines) for T .

Ans: Note that $30e^{-u}$ is constant precisely when u is constant. Thus the level curves are a concentric family of ellipses of the form $x^2 + 4y^2 = c$. Their x -diameters will be twice as long as their y -diameters.



2. Compute the gradient vector $\nabla T(x, y)$.

Ans: $\nabla T(x, y) = \langle T_x, T_y \rangle = \langle -60xe^{-(x^2+4y^2)}, -240ye^{-(x^2+4y^2)} \rangle.$

3. Compute the directional derivative $D_{\hat{\mathbf{u}}}T(1, 1)$ where $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ is the unit vector in the direction of $\langle 1, 2 \rangle$.

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\hat{\mathbf{u}}}T(1, 1) &= \nabla T(1, 1) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}} \\ &= \langle -60e^{-5}, -240e^{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 1/\sqrt{5}, 2/\sqrt{5} \rangle \\ &= \frac{-60(1) - 240(2)}{e^5\sqrt{5}} = -\frac{540}{e^5\sqrt{5}} \end{aligned}$$

4. Suppose an ant is about to walk away from the point $(1, 1)$ at unit speed. In which direction (on the plane) should the ant walk in order to experience the maximum rate of increase of temperature? [Your answer will be a vector].

Ans: The ant will experience the maximum rate of increase of temperature if it walks in the $\nabla T(1, 1) = \langle -60e^{-5}, -240e^{-5} \rangle$ direction. This is just the $\langle -1, -4 \rangle$ direction.