Tangent Planes and Differentials



Tangent Vector = $\langle dx, dy \rangle$



$$\langle dx, dy \rangle = \langle dx, y'dx \rangle = \langle 1, y' \rangle dx$$



 $\langle dx, dy \rangle = \langle dx, y'dx \rangle = \langle 1, y' \rangle dx = (\vec{\mathbf{i}} + y'\vec{\mathbf{j}})dx$





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$$y' = e^{x/2}$$
 so at $x = 1, y' = e^{1/2}$



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$$\vec{\mathbf{T}} = 1\vec{\mathbf{i}} + y'\vec{\mathbf{j}} = 1\vec{\mathbf{i}} + \sqrt{e}\vec{\mathbf{j}}$$













$$\vec{\mathbf{n}} = \vec{\mathbf{T}}_x \times \vec{\mathbf{T}}_y = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{i}} & \vec{\mathbf{j}} & \vec{\mathbf{k}} \\ 1 & 0 & \sqrt{e} \\ 0 & 1 & 2\sqrt{e} \end{vmatrix} = \langle -\sqrt{e}, -2\sqrt{e}, 1 \rangle$$

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$$\vec{\mathbf{n}} \bullet (\vec{\mathbf{r}} - \vec{\mathbf{r}}_0) = 0$$
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$$z = \sqrt{e}(x + 2y + 1)$$



$$z = f(x, y)$$

Find the equation of the plane tangent to this surface at (x_0, y_0, z_0)

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General Case z = f(x, y)

Find the equation of the plane tangent to this surface at (x_0, y_0, z_0)

 $\vec{\mathbf{n}} \bullet (\vec{\mathbf{r}} - \vec{\mathbf{r}}_0) = 0$ $\langle -z_x, -z_y, 1 \rangle \bullet \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = 0$ $-z_x(x - x_0) - z_y(y - y_0) + z - z_0 = 0$

$$z = f(x, y)$$

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Example

Find the equation of the plane that is tangent to the paraboloid $z = 1 - (x+1)^2 - (y+1)^2$ at the point (-1, 0, 0).

Example

 z_x

Find the equation of the plane that is tangent to the paraboloid $z = 1 - (x+1)^2 - (y+1)^2$ at the point (-1, 0, 0).

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -2(x+1) \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = -2(y+1)$$
$$= \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}(-1, \ 0) = 0 \qquad \qquad z_y = \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}(-1, \ 0) = -2$$

Find the equation of the plane that is tangent to the paraboloid $z = 1 - (x+1)^2 - (y+1)^2$ at the point (-1, 0, 0).

$$z = z_0 + z_x(x - x_0) + z_y(y - y_0)$$
$$z = 0 + (0)(x - (-1)) + (-2)(y - 0)$$
$$z = -2y$$

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Tangent Plane z = -2y

In Calculus I, the differential dy is the change in the height of the tangent line.



If z = f(x, y), then dz is the change in the height of the tangent plane.



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$$z = z_0 + z_x(x - x_0) + z_y(y - y_0)$$
$$z - z_0 = z_x(x - x_0) + z_y(y - y_0)$$





If y = f(x) and dx is small, the differential dy is a good approximation of the change in the height of the curve.



If z = f(x, y) and both dx and dy are small, the differential dz is a good approximation of the change in the height of the surface.



$$z = f(x, y) = 2e^{x/2+y}$$

If we change (x, y) from (1, 0) to (1.02, 0.04), the change in the height of the surface is:

$$f(1.02, 0.04) - f(1, 0) = 2e^{1.02/2 + 0.04} - 2e^{1/2 + 0}$$
$$= 2e^{0.55} - 2e^{0.5}$$
$$\approx 0.169$$

$$z = f(x, y) = 2e^{x/2+y}$$
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = e^{x/2+y} \qquad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 2e^{x/2+y}$$

At x = 1 and y = 0 then:

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \sqrt{e} \qquad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 2\sqrt{e}$$

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At x = 1 and y = 0 then:

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \sqrt{e} \qquad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 2\sqrt{e}$$

(x, y) is changing from (1, 0) to (1.02, 0.04)so dx = 0.02 and dy = 0.04

$$dz = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} dy$$
$$= \sqrt{e}(0.02) + 2\sqrt{e}(0.04)$$
$$= \sqrt{e}(0.100)$$
$$\approx 0.165$$

Compare with f(1.02, 0.04) - f(1, 0) = 0.169

Example: The Ideal Gas Law is $P = \frac{nRT}{V}$.

Suppose V is changed from 1,000 liters to 1,200 liters and the temperature is changed from 100 degrees to 130 degrees.

Use the differential to calculate the relative change in pressure, $\frac{dP}{P}$.

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Suppose V is changed from 1,000 liters to 1,200 liters and the temperature is changed from 100 degrees to 130 degrees.

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial T} = \frac{nR}{V} \qquad \frac{\partial P}{\partial V} = -\frac{nRT}{V^2}$$
$$dP = \frac{\partial P}{\partial T}dT + \frac{\partial P}{\partial V}dV = \frac{nR}{V}dT - \frac{nRT}{V^2}dV$$

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$$= \frac{dT}{T} - \frac{dV}{V}$$

$$\frac{dP}{P} = \frac{dT}{T} - \frac{dV}{V}$$

We are starting at V = 1,000 and T = 100. If V is changed from 1,000 liters to 1,200 liters and the temperature is changed from 100 degrees to 130 degrees then dV = 200 and dT = 30.

$$\frac{dP}{P} = \frac{1}{100}(30) - \frac{200}{1,000} = \frac{1}{10}$$