

Name (print): Solutions

There are two problems worth 2 points and one problem worth 4 points. Show all your work.

1. (2 points) Find the directional derivative of f at the given point in the direction indicated by the angle θ :

$$f(x, y) = ye^{-x}, \quad P(0, 4), \quad \theta = 2\pi/3.$$

$$f_x = -ye^{-x}, \quad f_y = e^{-x}$$

$$f_x(0, 4) = -4, \quad f_y(0, 4) = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\vec{u}} f(0, 4) &= f_x(0, 4) \cos \theta + f_y(0, 4) \sin \theta \\ &= -4 \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) + 1 \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = 2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

2. (2 points) Find an equation of the tangent plane to the surface $xyz^2 = 6$ at the point $P(3, 2, 1)$.

$$F(x, y, z) = xyz^2$$

$$F_x = yz^2, \quad F_y = xz^2, \quad F_z = 2xyz$$

when $x=3, y=2, z=1$:

$$F_x = 2, \quad F_y = 3, \quad F_z = 12$$

Tangent plane:

$$2(x-3) + 3(y-2) + 12(z-1) = 0$$

$$2x + 3y + 12z = 24$$

3. (4 points) Find all critical points and classify them as local maxima, local minima or saddle points:

$$f(x, y) = x^3 - 12xy + 8y^3.$$

$$\vec{\nabla} f = (3x^2 - 12y, -12x + 24y^2)$$

$$\text{Crit. points: } \begin{cases} 3x^2 - 12y = 0 \\ -12x + 24y^2 = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x^2 = 4y \\ x = 2y^2 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow 4y^4 &= 4y \\ \Rightarrow y(y^3 - 1) &= 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x=0 \\ y=0 \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow y=0 \text{ or } y=1 & \Rightarrow \text{or } \begin{cases} x=2 \\ y=1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Second derivatives:

$$D^2 f = \begin{pmatrix} 6x & -12 \\ -12 & 48y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(x, y) = (0, 0)$$

$$D^2 f = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -12 \\ -12 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Delta = -144 < 0$$

$\Rightarrow$ saddle point
at $(0, 0)$

$$(x, y) = (2, 1)$$

$$D^2 f = \begin{pmatrix} 12 & -12 \\ -12 & 48 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= 12 \cdot 48 - 12 \cdot 12 > 0$$

$$f_{xx} = 12 > 0$$

$\Rightarrow$ local minimum
at $(2, 1)$.