

For questions 1 and 2, consider the function

$$f(x, y, z) = xy^2 + 3x^2z$$

1. [2 points] Find the directional derivative of $f(x, y, z)$ at the point $(1, 3, -1)$ in the direction of $\vec{u} = \langle 2, -1, 2 \rangle$

$$\nabla f = \langle y^2 + 6xz, 2xy, 3x^2 \rangle,$$

$$\nabla f(1, 3, -1) = \langle 9 - 6, 6, 3 \rangle = \langle 3, 6, 3 \rangle$$

$$D_{\vec{u}} f = \frac{\nabla f \cdot \vec{u}}{|\vec{u}|} = \frac{\langle 3, 6, 3 \rangle \cdot \langle 2, -1, 2 \rangle}{\sqrt{4+1+4}} = \frac{6}{\sqrt{9}} = \frac{6}{3} = \boxed{2}$$

2. [2 points] Find the maximum rate of change of $f(x, y, z)$ at the same point $(1, 3, -1)$, and the direction in which it occurs.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max r.o.c} &= |\nabla f(1, 3, -1)| = |\langle 3, 6, 3 \rangle| = \sqrt{9+36+9} \\ &= \sqrt{54} = 3\sqrt{6} \end{aligned}$$

Direction: just the gradient.

$$|\nabla f = \langle 3, 6, 3 \rangle|$$

or parallel, $c\nabla f$ for $c > 0$.

$$\text{So if you normalized, } \frac{\nabla f}{|\nabla f|} = \left\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right\rangle$$

3. [4 points] Find equations for both the tangent plane *and* the normal line to the surface given by the equation

$$z^3 = xy^2 - yz + 1$$

at the point (1, 1, 1).

Let $f = z^3 - xy^2 + yz - 1$, surface is the level curve
 $f(x, y, z) = 0$.

Normal vector is $\nabla f = \langle -y^2, -2xy + z, 3z^2 + y \rangle$,

at point (1, 1, 1) is $\nabla f(1, 1, 1) = \langle -1, -2+1, 3+1 \rangle$
 $= \langle -1, -1, 4 \rangle = \vec{n}$

Tangent plane: $\vec{n} \cdot \langle x-1, y-1, z-1 \rangle = 0$,

$$\langle -1, -1, 4 \rangle \cdot \langle x-1, y-1, z-1 \rangle = 0$$

$$-x+1 - y+1 + 4z - 4 = 0$$

$$\boxed{-x - y + 4z - 2 = 0} \text{ or equivalent.}$$

Normal line: $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle + t \langle -1, -1, 4 \rangle$

$$\boxed{\vec{r}(t) = \langle 1-t, 1-t, 1+4t \rangle}$$

Or, in symmetric form,

$$\boxed{\frac{x-1}{-1} = \frac{y-1}{-1} = \frac{z-1}{4}}$$

or $n = \langle 1, 1, -4 \rangle$,
 then tangent plane

$$\text{is } \boxed{x + y - 4z + 2 = 0}$$

and normal line is

$$r(t) = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle + t \langle 1, 1, -4 \rangle$$

$$= \langle 1+t, 1+t, 1-4t \rangle$$

in vector form, or

$$\boxed{x-1 = y-1 = \frac{z-1}{-4}}$$

in symmetric form