

Find the parametric equations of the tangent line to the curve of intersection of the two surfaces shown below at the point (2,0,3)

$$S_1: x^2 + y^2 = 4 \quad \text{This is a cylinder centered on the } z \text{ axis}$$

$$S_2: x + z = 5 \quad \text{This is a plane}$$

1) Rewrite $x^2 + y^2 = 4$ as function of three variables: $f(x,y,z) = x^2 + y^2 - 4 = 0$

2) Rewrite $x+z=5$ as a function of three variables: $g(x,y,z) = x+z - 5 = 0$

3) Form the gradient of f by taking partials and putting them inside a vector. Evaluate.

$$\nabla f(x,y,z) = \langle 2x, 2y, 0 \rangle$$

$$\nabla f(2,0,3) = \langle 2(2), 2(0), 0 \rangle = \langle 4, 0, 0 \rangle$$

4) Form the gradient of g by finding its partials and putting them inside a vector. Evaluate.

$$\nabla g(x,y,z) = \langle 1, 0, 1 \rangle$$

$$\nabla g(2,0,3) = \langle 1, 0, 1 \rangle$$

5) Form the cross product of the gradient vectors. This cross product gives the directions we need to form the parametric equations of the tangent line.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla f(2,0,3) \times \nabla g(2,0,3) &= \langle 4, 0, 0 \rangle \times \langle 1, 0, 1 \rangle = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = (0 \cdot 1 - 0 \cdot 0)\mathbf{i} - (4 \cdot 1 - 1 \cdot 0)\mathbf{j} + (4 \cdot 0 - 1 \cdot 0)\mathbf{k} \\ &= 0\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 0\mathbf{k} = -4\mathbf{j} \end{aligned}$$

6) Parametric equations have the following standard form:

$$x(t) = x_0 + at \quad y(t) = y_0 + bt \quad z(t) = z_0 + ct$$

We have to identify a, b and c. These numbers are the components of the cross product shown above.

$$a=0 \quad b=-4 \quad c=0$$

$$x_0=2 \quad y_0=0 \quad z_0=3$$

$$x(t) = 2+0t \quad y(t) = 0-4t \quad z(t) = 3+0t$$

$$x(t) = 2 \quad y(t) = -4t \quad z(t) = 3$$