



1. (a) Compute the cosine of the angle between

$$\vec{A} = \vec{i} + \vec{j} + z\vec{k}$$

and find a value of z for which the two vectors are perpendicular to each other.

(b) If a differentiable position vector $\vec{r}(t)$ has a constant length, show that

$\frac{d}{dt}\vec{r}(t)$ is perpendicular to $\vec{r}(t)$, and interpret geometrically.

a) First note:

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \|\vec{A}\| \|\vec{B}\| \cos \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}}{\|\vec{A}\| \|\vec{B}\|}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 1 \cdot (-1) + 1 \cdot 0 + z \cdot z = -1 + z^2$$

$$\|\vec{A}\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + z^2} = \sqrt{2+z^2}$$

$$\|\vec{B}\| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + z^2} = \sqrt{1+z^2}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{-1+z^2}{\sqrt{2+z^2} \sqrt{1+z^2}}$$

Note for perpendicular vectors:

$$\cos \theta = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{-1+z^2}{\sqrt{2+z^2} \sqrt{1+z^2}} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -1+z^2 = 0$$

$$z^2 = 1$$

$$z = \pm 1$$

b) First note that:

$|\vec{r}(t)|$ is a constant

$\Rightarrow |\vec{r}(t)|^2$ is a constant.

Then note:

$|\vec{r}(t)|^2 = \vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t)$ is a constant

Note the derivative of a constant is 0.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}(\vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t)) = 0$$

Then note:

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t)) = r'(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t) + \vec{r}(t) \cdot r'(t) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t) = 0$$

$$\vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t) = 0$$

Thus they are perpendicular.

On the geometric perspective:

Note that since the magnitude is constant.

Thus the point is moving on the surface of a sphere centered at the origin.

Then note $r'(t)$ is the velocity, or the direction of the movement.

So with $\vec{r}(t)$ and $\vec{r}'(t)$ perpendicular, it means that the point moves in a direction perpendicular to the origin line.

2. (a) Let $h = 8 - x^2 - 2x - y^2 - 2y$

denote the height on a mountain at position (x, y) . Assume that the positive x axis points east and that the positive y axis points north. In what direction from $(1, 1)$ is the steepest descent? What is your rate of change of elevation if you head northeast? Use your knowledge of the gradient to locate the top of the mountain.

(b) Find the unit normal to the surface $x^2 - y^2 + z^2 = 6$ at the point $(1, 2, 3)$.

a) First note the gradient vector is:

$$\nabla h = \hat{i} \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial h}{\partial y}$$

$$= \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} = -2x - 2$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial y} = -2y - 2$$

We have:

$$\nabla = (-2x-2, -2y-2)$$

Plug in $(1, 1)$:

$$\nabla(1, 1) = (-2-2, -2-2) = \boxed{(-4, -4)}$$

Then note:

$$\nabla h = (\frac{1}{h} \hat{e}_1 \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}, \frac{1}{h} \hat{e}_2 \frac{\partial h}{\partial y})$$

$$\nabla h(1, 1) = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla(1, 1) \cdot \nabla h(1, 1) = (-4, -4) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{4}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{4}{\sqrt{2}} = \boxed{-\frac{8}{\sqrt{2}}}$$

Then note: $\nabla = 0$ at the top of the mountain

$$-2x-2=0 \rightarrow x=-1$$

$$-2y-2=0 \rightarrow y=-1$$

The top of the mountain is: $(-1, -1)$

b) Let $f(x, y, z) = x^2 - y^2 + z^2 - 6$ ← evaluate this function at $(1, 2, 3)$ gives the normal vector
 Then $\nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$
 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -2y, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = 2z$

Then we have:

$$\nabla f = (2x, -2y, 2z)$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla f(1, 2, 3) = (2, -4, 6)$$

Since we want the "unit" normal vector:

$$|\nabla f(1, 2, 3)| = \sqrt{4+16+36} = \sqrt{56} = 2\sqrt{14}$$

$$\vec{n} = \left(\frac{2}{2\sqrt{14}}, -\frac{4}{2\sqrt{14}}, \frac{6}{2\sqrt{14}} \right) = \boxed{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}, -\frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}, \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}} \right)}$$

3. A scalar field is given by $h = f(x, y, z) = \frac{xyz}{x^2 + y^2}$.

Find (the components of) $\vec{\nabla}h$ in (a) Cartesian, (b) cylindrical and (c) spherical coordinates.

$$a) \nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{y^2(x^2+y^2)-2x^2yz}{(x^2+y^2)^2} = \frac{y^3z-x^2yz}{(x^2+y^2)^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{xz(x^2+y^2)-2xy^2z}{(x^2+y^2)^2} = \frac{x^2z-x^2yz}{(x^2+y^2)^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{xy(x^2+y^2)}{(x^2+y^2)^2} = \frac{xy}{x^2+y^2}$$

$$\nabla f = \left(\frac{y^3z-x^2yz}{(x^2+y^2)^2}, \frac{x^2z-x^2yz}{(x^2+y^2)^2}, \frac{xy}{x^2+y^2} \right)$$

b) Note:

$$x = r\cos\theta$$

$$y = r\sin\theta$$

$$\nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}, \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$$

plug in x and y into f we have:

$$f = \frac{r\cos\theta r\sin\theta z}{r^2\cos^2\theta + r^2\sin^2\theta} = z\cos\theta\sin\theta$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{r} z (-\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta) = \frac{z}{r} (\cos(2\theta))$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \cos\theta\sin\theta$$

$$\nabla f = (0, \frac{z}{r} \cos(2\theta), \cos\theta\sin\theta)$$

c) Note:

$$x = r\sin\theta\cos\phi$$

$$y = r\sin\theta\sin\phi$$

$$z = r\cos\theta$$

Then we have:

$$f(r, \theta, \phi) = r^3\sin^2\theta \cos\phi\sin\phi\cos\theta$$

The note:

$$\nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}, \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}, \frac{1}{r\sin\theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} = 3r^2\sin^2\theta \cos\phi\sin\phi\cos\theta$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} = r^3(\cos\phi\sin\phi(2\sin\theta\cos^2\theta - \sin^3\theta))$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} = r^3\sin^2\theta\cos\theta(\cos^2\theta - \sin^2\theta) = r^3\sin^2\theta\cos\theta\cos(2\phi)$$

$$\nabla f = \left(3r^2\sin^2\theta \cos\phi\sin\phi\cos\theta, r^3(\cos\phi\sin\phi(2\sin\theta\cos^2\theta - \sin^3\theta)), r^3\sin\theta\cos\theta\cos(2\phi) \right)$$