

Theory question

Let S be the implicit surface defined by $f(x) = 0$.

Formally prove that the normal of S at point $p \in S$ is proportional to $\nabla f(p)$.

- the surface where $f(p) = 0$ is a level surface.
- Every curve can be written as $p(t)$ for a parameter t , when $p(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$, and if we require this curve to be on the $f(p) = 0$ then $f(p(t)) = 0$. we derive both sides and get:

$$0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(p(t)) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} * \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} * \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} * \frac{dz}{dt} = \nabla f \cdot p'(t)$$

- meaning that the gradient is perpendicular to the tangent (dot product 0), which means that the normal goes in the same direction as $\nabla f(p)$ ■