

Quadratic Surfaces and Tangents

Question 1:

Given a plane P with equation $2x - 5y + 7z = 9$, and a line with the parametric form $L : \begin{cases} x(t) = 1 + 4t \\ y(t) = 2 + kt \\ z(t) = 1 + 6t \end{cases}$, find a value of k such that L is parallel to P .

A direction that is parallel to P must be perpendicular to the normal vector of P : $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$.

The direction vector of L is: $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ k \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$\mathbf{n} \perp \mathbf{v} \iff \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \iff \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ k \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \iff 8 - 5k + 42 = 0 \iff k = 10$$

Therefore: $k = 10$

Question 2:

Identify the quadratic surface, and find the point on which it is centered:

$$-x^2 - 4y^2 - 4z^2 - 2x + 24z = 33$$

$$\begin{aligned} -x^2 - 4y^2 - 4z^2 - 2x + 24z = 33 &\iff -(x^2 + 2x) - 4y^2 - 4(z^2 - 6z) = 33 \\ &\iff -((x+1)^2 - 1) - 4y^2 - 4((z-3)^2 - 9) = 33 \iff -(x+1)^2 - 4y^2 - 4(z-3)^2 + 1 + 36 = 33 \\ &\iff -(x+1)^2 - 4y^2 - 4(z-3)^2 = -4 \iff \left(\frac{x-(-1)}{2}\right)^2 + y^2 + (z-3)^2 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

This surface is achieved by starting from the unit sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$, and first applying the respective stretches of 2, 1, and 1 to the x , y , and z directions, and then applying the respective translations of -1 , 0 , and 3 to the x , y , and z directions.

This surface is an **ellipsoid** centered on the point $(-1, 0, 3)$.

Question 3:

Identify the quadratic surface, and find the point on which it is centered:

$$-9x^2 + 9y^2 - z^2 + 72x + 2z = 136$$

$$\begin{aligned} -9x^2 + 9y^2 - z^2 + 72x + 2z = 136 &\iff -9(x^2 - 8x) + 9y^2 - (z^2 - 2z) = 136 \\ &\iff -9((x-4)^2 - 16) + 9y^2 - ((z-1)^2 - 1) = 136 \iff -9(x-4)^2 + 9y^2 - (z-1)^2 + 144 + 1 = 136 \\ &\iff -9(x-4)^2 + 9y^2 - (z-1)^2 = -9 \iff (x-4)^2 - y^2 + \left(\frac{z-1}{3}\right)^2 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

This surface is achieved by starting from the one-sheet hyperboloid that is oriented along the y -axis $x^2 - y^2 + z^2 = 1$, and first applying the respective stretches of 1, 1, and 3 to the x , y , and z directions, and then applying the respective translations of 4, 0, and 1 to the x , y , and z directions.

This surface is a **one-sheet hyperboloid** that is oriented along the y -axis and centered on the point $(4, 0, 1)$.

Question 4:

Identify the quadratic surface, and find the point on which it is centered:

$$-y^2 - 4z^2 + 4x + 2y - 24z = 41$$

$$\begin{aligned} -y^2 - 4z^2 + 4x + 2y - 24z = 41 &\iff -(y^2 - 2y) - 4(z^2 + 6z) + 4x = 41 \\ &\iff -((y-1)^2 - 1) - 4((z+3)^2 - 9) + 4x = 41 \iff -(y-1)^2 - 4(z+3)^2 + 4x + 1 + 36 = 41 \\ &\iff -(y-1)^2 - 4(z+3)^2 + 4x - 4 = 0 \iff x - 1 = \left(\frac{y-1}{2}\right)^2 + (z+3)^2 \end{aligned}$$

This surface is achieved by starting from the paraboloid that is oriented along the +ve x -axis $x = y^2 + z^2$, and first applying the respective stretches of 1, 2, and 1 to the x , y , and z directions, and then applying the respective translations of 1, 1, and -3 to the x , y , and z directions.

This surface is a **paraboloid** that is oriented along the +ve x -axis and centered on the point $(1, 1, -3)$.

Question 5:

The two curves C_1 and C_2 defined by:

$$C_1 : y = x^3 - 9x^2 + 24x - 15$$

and

$$C_2 : y = x^3 - 6x^2 + 6x + 9$$

intersect at the point $P(2, 5)$.

part 5a:

Derive parametric equations for the tangent lines to C_1 and C_2 at the intersection point P .

For curve C_1 , the derivative is $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 18x + 24$ so $\frac{dy}{dx}\Big|_{x=2} = 12 - 36 + 24 = 0$.

The tangent to curve C_1 is $T_1 : \begin{cases} x(t) = 2 + t \\ y(t) = 5 \end{cases}$

For curve C_2 , the derivative is $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 12x + 6$ so $\frac{dy}{dx}\Big|_{x=2} = 12 - 24 + 6 = -6$.

The tangent to curve C_2 is $T_2 : \begin{cases} x(t) = 2 + t \\ y(t) = 5 - 6t \end{cases}$

part 5b:

Derive the angle between the tangent lines from the previous section.

The direction vectors of T_1 and T_2 are respectively $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix}$.

The angle between T_1 and T_2 is:

$$\theta = \arccos\left(\frac{\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2}{|\mathbf{v}_1| |\mathbf{v}_2|}\right) = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{1 \cdot \sqrt{37}}\right) = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{37}}\right)$$