Department of Mathematics



SF1626/SF1686 Several Variable Calculus

Seminar 2

See www.kth.se/social/course/SF1626/SF1686 for information about how the seminars work and what you are expected to do before and during the seminars.

This seminar will start with a quiz on a variant of one of the recommended exercises from the text book Calculus by Adams and Essex (9th edition) which are marked by boldface in the following list:

Avsnitt	Rekommenderade uppgifter
12.3	5 , 7, 13 , 23
12.4	5 , 7, 11 , 15, 17
12.5	7 , 11, 17 , 21
	3, 5 , 17 , 19
12.7	3 , 5, 13, 17 , 25

In the seminar the following problems will be discussed.

PROBLEMS

Problem 1. When looking at the intersection between two graphs of functions f(x,y) and g(x,y) it could define a curve in three-space. For example the intersection of the graphs of the functions

$$f(x,y) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$
 och $g(x,y) = 20 + x - y$

gives a *conic section*, C, i.e., a degree two curve in the plane x - y - z + 20 = 0.

- (a) Determine the tangent planes of the two graphs in the example at the point (x,y,z)=(5,12,13).
- (b) Compute normal vectors of the two graphs at the same point.
- (c) How can we know that the tangent line to the conic section is orthogonal two the normal vectors of both graphs?
- (d) Determine the tangent line to the curve C at the point (x, y, z) = (5, 12, 13), for example by means of the cross product.

Problem 2. The vector values function f is given by $f(r) = v \times r$ where v is a constant vector v = (2, -1, 2).

- (a) Compute the Jacobi matrix Df.
- (b) Show that **f** is a *linear* function.
- (c) What relation does the matrix of f as a linear map have to the Jacobi matrix Df?

Problem 3. A function f(x, y) is called *harmonic* if it satisfies the Laplace equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 0.$$

(a) Use the chain rule to show that

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = (a^2 + b^2) \left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial u^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial v^2} \right)$$

if

$$\begin{cases} u = ax - by, \\ v = bx + ay, \end{cases}$$

where a and b are constants.

- (b) Use (a) to show that the function $e^{2x+3y}\sin(3x-2y)$ is harmonic.
- (c) Show that the product of two harmonic functions is harmonic if their gradients are orthogonal to each other at every point.

Problem 4. The curve C with equation

$$y^2 = x^3 + x^2$$

can be parametrized by $\mathbf{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t)) = (t^2 - 1, t^3 - t)$, where t is a real parameter.

- (a) Sketch the curve C or use a suitable software to plot it.
- (b) Check that $\mathbf{r}(t)$ lies on the curve C for all t. How can we be sure that the parametrization reaches all points of C?
- (c) Check that $\mathbf{r}'(t)$ is orthogonal to the gradient $\nabla f(\mathbf{r}(t))$ where

$$f(x,y) = y^2 - x^3 - x^2.$$

(d) Discuss why the vectors in (c) are orthogonal to each other.