

1. **(20 points)** Consider the vector-valued function  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \left\langle \frac{t^3}{3}, -2t, t^2 \right\rangle$ .

(a) **(5 points)** Find the parametric equations of a tangent line to the curve described by  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  at the point  $(9, -6, 9)$ .

We are looking at the curve at  $t = 3$ : necessary information will be the point of tangency (which we were given), and the orientation of the tangent line, which is given by  $\mathbf{r}'(3)$ . Since  $\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle t^2, -2, 2t \rangle$ , in this particular case our orientation is  $\langle 9, -2, 6 \rangle$ , so our parametric equation is

$$\begin{cases} x = 9t + 9 \\ y = -2t - 6 \\ z = 6t + 9 \end{cases}$$

(b) **(5 points)** Find the arclength along this curve from  $(0, 0, 0)$  to  $(9, -6, 9)$ .

Above we determined  $|\mathbf{r}'|$ ; now we calculate  $|\mathbf{r}'(t)|$ :

$$|\mathbf{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{(t^2)^2 + (-2)^2 + (2t)^2} = \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2 + 4} = \sqrt{(t^2 + 2)^2} = t^2 + 2$$

and thus our arclength is

$$\int_0^3 (t^2 + 2) dt = \left. \frac{1}{3}t^3 + 2t \right|_0^3 = (9 + 6) - (0 + 0) = 15$$

(c) **(5 points)** Find the curvature of this curve at  $(9, -6, 9)$ .

While there are other formulas for the curvature, the easiest, especially given our knowledge so far, is

$$\kappa = \frac{|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''|}{|\mathbf{r}'|^3}.$$

Note that  $\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle t^2, -2, 2t \rangle$  and  $|\mathbf{r}'(t)| = t^2 + 2$  were calculated above;  $\mathbf{r}''(t) = \langle 2t, 0, 2 \rangle$  follows readily. Evaluating each of these at  $t = 3$ , we can find the curvature at the point  $t = 3$  with ease:

$$\kappa = \frac{|\langle 9, -2, 6 \rangle \times \langle 6, 0, 2 \rangle|}{3^3} = \frac{|\langle -4, 18, 12 \rangle|}{(3^2 + 2)^3} = \frac{2\sqrt{16 + 81 + 36}}{11^3} = \frac{2}{121}$$

(d) **(5 points)** Find the unit binormal vector at  $(9, -6, 9)$ .

Since we calculated  $\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''$  above, we already know a vector with the right orientation:  $\langle 4, 2, 4 \rangle$ . Making it of unit length is a matter of calculating

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\langle -4, 18, 12 \rangle}{|\langle -4, 18, 12 \rangle|} = \left\langle \frac{-2}{11}, \frac{9}{11}, \frac{6}{11} \right\rangle$$

2. **(10 points)** Consider the line given by the system of parametric equations  $x = 3t - 5$ ,  $y = -t + 2$ ,  $z = 4t + 4$ , and the plane given by the equation  $2x + 2y - z = 8$ .

(a) **(3 points)** Does the line intersect the plane or not?

We substitute the parametric equations for  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  given by the line into the equation of the plane, and see if there is a  $t$  satisfying the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} 2(3t - 5) + 2(-t + 2) - (4t + 4) &= 8 \\ 6t - 10 - 2t + 4 - 4t - 4 &= 8 \\ -10 &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

Since there is no value of  $t$  making this equation true (or if there is, I'd like to know about it!), there is no value of  $t$  such that the point  $(3t - 5, -t + 2, 4t + 4)$  lies in the plane  $2x + 2y - z = 8$ , so the line does not intersect the plane.

- (b) **(7 points)** *If the line intersects the plane, determine the point where it does so; if it does not intersect the plane, determine the distance between the line and plane.*

Let us pick an arbitrary point on the line; we might use the  $t = 0$  point  $(-5, 2, 4)$  for simplicity. Likewise pick an arbitrary point on the plane; there are several obvious choices, but in this particular solution, let's consider  $(4, 0, 0)$ . The vector  $\mathbf{u}$  between these points is  $\langle -9, 2, 4 \rangle$ . This vector includes significant components parallel to the line and plane, so it doesn't reflect the *shortest* distance between the line and plane; to find that, we need to find the length of the projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  onto the line and plane's mutual normal. The plane's normal is clearly  $\mathbf{n} = \langle 2, 2, -1 \rangle$ ; a cursory inspection indicates that it is perpendicular to the line as well (an aside: if the plane's normal were *not* perpendicular to the line, the line would necessarily intersect the plane, so we can take the fact that  $\mathbf{n}$  is orthogonal to the line as given). Now we simply calculate the length of the normal component of  $\mathbf{u}$ :

$$\text{comp}_{\mathbf{n}} \mathbf{u} = \frac{|\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{u}|}{|\mathbf{n}|} = \frac{|2(-9) + 2 \cdot 2 - 1 \cdot 4|}{\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + (-1)^2}} = \frac{18}{3} = 6$$

3. **(15 points)** *Answer the following questions about surfaces in space:*

- (a) **(5 points)** *Identify the surface described by the equation  $z = x^2 + 3y^2 - 18y$  and state its orientation, if applicable.*

If we were to complete the square, we would find that  $z + 27 = x^2 + 3(y^2 - 3)^2$ . This is an elliptical paraboloid, which opens in the positive  $z$ -direction, since  $z$  does not appear squared in this expression. The vertex of the paraboloid (what might be thought of as the "center") is at  $(0, 3, -27)$ , but the question did not in fact ask that.

- (b) **(5 points)** *Determine (either by description or by sketching) the domain of the multivariable function  $f(x, y) = \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2-y^2}}{x+y}$ .*

There are two impediments to calculating  $f(x, y)$ : there is a fraction whose denominator might be zero and a square root whose argument might be negative. In order to be in the domain of the function, it thus must be the case that  $x + y \neq 0$  and  $1 - x^2 - y^2 \geq 0$ ; More succinctly,  $y \neq -x$  and  $x^2 + y^2 \leq 1$ .

Visually, this domain could be thought of as the unit disk (i.e. the boundary and interior of the unit circle), except for the line  $y = -x$ .

- (c) **(5 points)** *Give a parametric system of equations describing the curve formed by the intersection of  $z = x^2 + 3y^2 - 18y$  and  $x + 2y = 4$ .*

A curve satisfying both equations will probably allow us to express everything in terms of a single variable. The second equation presents an easy relationship:  $x = 4 - 2y$ . Plugging

that back into the first equation,  $z = (4 - 2y)^2 + 3y^2 - 18y = 7y^2 - 34y + 16$ . Thus, letting  $y = t$ , we have the parametric system

$$\begin{cases} x = 1 - 2t \\ y = t \\ z = 7t^2 - 34t + 16 \end{cases}$$

4. (15 points) In the questions which follow,  $\mathbf{u} = 2\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{i} - \mathbf{k}$ .

(a) (4 points) Identify each of the following four expressions as a vector, a scalar, or as uncalculatable nonsense. You do not need to calculate these expressions or justify your assertions!

i.  $(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) - |\mathbf{v}|$ .

Working from the inside of each expression out:  $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$  is a scalar (dot product of two vectors),  $|\mathbf{v}|$  is a scalar (length of a vector), and the difference of these two is a scalar minus a scalar (ordinary subtraction), which yields a scalar.

ii.  $\frac{\mathbf{u}-\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v}}$ .

Eyeballing this, we immediately see division by the vector  $\mathbf{v}$ , which is a nonsensical operation (there is no idea of what it means to divide by a vector).

iii.  $|\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v})$ .

Working from the inside of each expression out:  $|\mathbf{u}|$  is a scalar (length of a vector), so  $|\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{v}$  is the product of a scalar and a vector, which is a vector (scalar-product of a vector).  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$  is a vector (cross product of a vector), so the difference of the vectors  $|\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$  (vector subtraction) is a vector.

iv.  $\frac{1}{|\mathbf{u}|}(\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v})$ .

Working from the inside of each expression out:  $|\mathbf{u}|$  is a scalar (length of a vector), and  $\frac{1}{|\mathbf{u}|}$  is its reciprocal, which is also a scalar.  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$  is a vector (cross product of a vector), so the product of a scalar and a vector is the scalar-product of a vector, which is a vector.

(b) (3 points) Calculate  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$ .

Using any method you wish, one can find this to be  $4\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$ .

(c) (4 points) Find the angle between  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ .

The angle is given by  $\theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{u}||\mathbf{v}|}$ , which we can calculate as a matter of routine:

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{2 \cdot 1 - 4 \cdot 0 + 6(-1)}{\sqrt{2^2 + 4^2 + 6^2} \sqrt{1^2 + 0^2 + 1^2}} = \cos^{-1} \frac{-4}{\sqrt{56}\sqrt{2}} = \cos^{-1} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{7}}$$

(d) (4 points) Calculate  $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u}$ .

$$\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}} \mathbf{v} = \frac{2 \cdot 1 - 4 \cdot 0 + 6(-1)}{1 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot 0 + (-1)(-1)} \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle = \langle -2, 0, 2 \rangle$$

5. (5 point bonus) Prove on the back of this page that  $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})\mathbf{b} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}$ .

There are astonishingly tedious arithmetical ways to do this one, since both sides will evaluate to  $\langle a_2b_1c_2 + a_3b_1c_3 - a_2b_2c_1 - a_3b_3c_1, a_1b_2c_1 + a_3b_2c_3 - a_1b_1c_2 - a_3b_3c_2, a_1b_2c_1 + a_3b_2c_3 - a_1b_1c_2 - a_3b_3c_2 \rangle$ . Some very interesting results can be developed without such recourse, however: we can

immediately determine that both sides of the equation have the same *orientation*, for instance: we note that  $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$  has an orientation characterized by its perpendicularity to both  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$ ; it is easy to show that  $(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})\mathbf{b} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}$  satisfies both of these characteristics. First, we shall show that it is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} [(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})\mathbf{b} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}] \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) &= (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})[\mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})] - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})[\mathbf{c} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})] \\ &= (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})0 - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We know that  $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$  is perpendicular to both  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$ ; it is thus that we knew  $\mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$  and  $\mathbf{c} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$  were both zero. Now we do the same for perpendicularity to  $\mathbf{a}$ :

$$[(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})\mathbf{b} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}] \cdot \mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}) - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})(\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{a}) = 0$$

and thus  $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$  and  $(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})\mathbf{b} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}$  have the same orientation. Showing that they have the same length is rather trickier and depends on a certain degree of unweildy arithmetic.