

Tangent plane of ellipsoid

Friday, February 12, 2021 4:35 PM

Find the tangent plane to the ellipsoid

$$x^2 + 2y^2 + 2z^2 = 2 \quad \leftarrow$$

at point $(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$.

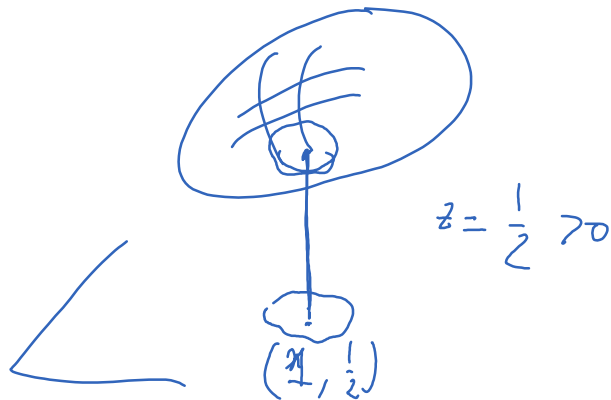
* Recall: the tangent plane of the graph of function $f(x, y)$

at point $(x_0, y_0, f(x_0, y_0))$ has the equation

$$z = \underbrace{f(x_0, y_0)} + \underbrace{f_x(x_0, y_0)}(x - x_0) + \underbrace{f_y(x_0, y_0)}(y - y_0).$$

$$z^2 = \frac{2 - x^2 - 2y^2}{2}$$

$$z = \underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{2 - x^2 - 2y^2}{2}}}_{f(x, y)}$$



$$x_0 = 1, y_0 = \frac{1}{2}$$

Eq. of the tangent plane is $z = f(1, \frac{1}{2}) + f_x(1, \frac{1}{2})(x - 1) + f_y(1, \frac{1}{2})(y - \frac{1}{2})$

$$f(x, y) = \sqrt{\frac{2 - x^2 - 2y^2}{2}} = \left(\frac{2 - x^2 - 2y^2}{2}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$f_x = \frac{1}{2} (-x) \left(\frac{2 - x^2 - 2y^2}{2}\right)^{-1/2}$$

$$f_x(1, \frac{1}{2}) = -1$$

$$f_y(1, \frac{1}{2}) = -1$$

$$z = \frac{1}{2} + (-1)(x-1) + (-1)(y-\frac{1}{2})$$

$$\boxed{x + y + z = 2}$$