

**MATH 231: Calculus of Several Variables**  
**Section 1, 107 Ag Sc & Ind Bldg,**  
**TR 9:05 AM - 9:55 AM**

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**Homework 20:** Due Tuesday, November 19

1. Find the tangent “plane” at  $(3, 2, 6)$  of the function

$$f(x, y, z) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

and use it to approximate  $f(3.02, 1.97, 5.99)$ .

Hint: Instead of  $z = f(x, y)$ , extrapolate the techniques of tangent planes and linear approximations in the case where  $w = f(x, y, z)$ .

2. (This is easier than it seems) Suppose that the price of a carburetor (a car part) is a function of how many cars are owned internationally and the price of steel. You’ve collected data on carburetor prices in 2011 and found that

- When there were \$1 billion cars on the planet and the price of steel was \$90 a ton, the price of a carburetor was \$200. That is,  $f(1 \text{ billion}, 90) = 200$ .
- When the number of cars increased by 1 million ( $=0.001$  billion), the price of steel increased by \$2. To keep your units in billions of cars, you estimate that  $f_x(1 \text{ billion}, 90) = 2000$ .
- When the price of steel increased by \$10, the price of a carburetor increased by \$5. Therefore, you estimate that  $f_y(1 \text{ billion}, 90) = 5$ .

Estimate the cost of a carburetor if there are 2 billion cars on the road and the price of steel jumps to \$140 per ton. Is this a good estimate?

3. Suppose  $f(3, 1) = 2$ ,  $f_x(3, 1) = -1$ , and  $f_y(3, 1) = 10$ . How much does  $z$  change if  $x$  increases by 0.5 and  $y$  increases by 0.7?
4. Use the Chain Rule to find  $dz/dt$  for the following.
- (a)  $f(x, y) = x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + y^3$ , where  $x = 3t$  and  $y = t^2$
  - (b)  $f(x, y) = \cos(xy)$ , where  $x = 1/t$  and  $y = t^3 + t$
  - (c)  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$ , where  $x = \sin(2t)$  and  $y = \cos(2t)$
5. Use the Chain Rule to find  $\partial z/\partial t$  and  $\partial z/\partial s$  for the following.
- (a)  $f(x, y) = \arctan(x - y)$ , where  $x = t^2 + s^2$  and  $y = 2st$
  - (b)  $f(x, y) = \cos(x) \sin(y)$ , where  $x = s^2t^2$  and  $y = st$