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Vol 1

Section 11.7

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①

Find the shortest distance from the point $(2, 0, -3)$ to the plane $x+y+z=1$.

Solⁿ Let d be the distance of the point $(2, 0, -3)$ from the ~~plane~~ a point (x, y, z) on the plane $x+y+z=1$.

Then,

$$d = \sqrt{(x-2)^2 + (y-0)^2 + (z+3)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{(x-2)^2 + y^2 + (4-x-y)^2}$$

[since $x+y+z=1 \Rightarrow z=1-x-y$]

Notice that d will be minimum if ~~d^2 is mini~~ $d^2 = (x-2)^2 + y^2 + (4-x-y)^2$ is minimum. Let

$$f(x, y) = (x-2)^2 + y^2 + (4-x-y)^2$$

We have

$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2(x-2) + 2(4-x-y)(-1)$$

$$= 2x - 4 - 8 + 2x + 2y$$

$$= 4x + 2y - 12$$

and

$$f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2y + 2(4-x-y)(-1)$$

$$= 2y - 8 + 2x + 2y$$

$$= 2x + 4y - 8$$

Now

$$f_x = 0, f_y = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 4x + 2y - 12 = 0 \quad \& \quad 2x + 4y - 8 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x + y = 6 \quad \& \quad x + 2y = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{8}{3}, y = \frac{2}{3}$$

(2)

$$\begin{aligned}
 2x + y &= 6 \\
 2x + 4y &= 8 \\
 \hline
 -3y &= -2 \\
 \Rightarrow y &= \frac{2}{3} \\
 2x &= 6 - \frac{2}{3} = \frac{16}{3} \\
 \Rightarrow x &= \frac{8}{3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\left(\frac{8}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$ is a critical point. Since the shortest distance exists, we can say $f(x, y)$ is minimum at the point $\left(\frac{8}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$. Hence, the shortest distance is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 d &= \sqrt{(x-2)^2 + y^2 + (4-x-y)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{8}{3}-2\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \left(4-\frac{8}{3}-\frac{2}{3}\right)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{4}{9} + \frac{4}{9} + \frac{4}{9}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{12}{9}} = \sqrt{\frac{4}{3}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3} \text{ unit}
 \end{aligned}$$

(Ans)

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Find the point on the plane $x-2y+3z=6$ that is closest to the point $(0, 1, 1)$.

Solⁿ Let (x, y, z) be the point on the plane $x-2y+3z=6$ that is closest to the point $(0, 1, 1)$.

Let d be the distance of the point (x, y, z) from $(0, 1, 1)$. Then,

$$d = \sqrt{(x-0)^2 + (y-1)^2 + (z-1)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{x^2 + (y-1)^2 + \left(2 - \frac{x}{3} + \frac{2y}{3} - 1\right)^2} \quad \begin{cases} x - 2y + 3z = 6 \\ \Rightarrow z = \frac{1}{3}(6 - x + 2y) \end{cases}$$

$$= \sqrt{x^2 + (y-1)^2 + \left(1 - \frac{x}{3} + \frac{2y}{3}\right)^2} \quad = 2 - \frac{x}{3} + \frac{2y}{3}$$

Let $f(x, y) = d^2 = x^2 + (y-1)^2 + \left(1 - \frac{x}{3} + \frac{2y}{3}\right)^2$

Now $f_x = 2x + 2\left(1 - \frac{x}{3} + \frac{2y}{3}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)$ $\left[\frac{d(x^n)}{dx} = nx^{n-1}\right]$

$$= 2x - \frac{2}{3} + \frac{2x}{9} - \frac{4y}{9}$$

$$= \frac{20x}{9} - \frac{4y}{9} - \frac{2}{3}$$

$$f_y = 2(y-1) + 2\left(1 - \frac{x}{3} + \frac{2y}{3}\right) \cdot \frac{2}{3}$$

$$= 2y - 2 + \frac{4}{3} - \frac{4}{9}x + \frac{8y}{9}$$

Now $f_x = 0$ & $f_y = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{20x}{9} - \frac{4y}{9} = \frac{2}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad -\frac{4x}{9} + \frac{26y}{9} = \frac{2}{3}$$

Now $f_x = 0$ & $f_y = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{20x}{9} - \frac{4y}{9} = \frac{2}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad -\frac{4x}{9} + \frac{26y}{9} = \frac{2}{3} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\text{--- (1)}$$

Solving (1) & (2) we have

$$x = \frac{5}{14}, \quad y = \frac{2}{7}, \quad \text{and then}$$

$$z = 2 - \frac{5}{42} + \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{7} = \frac{29}{14}$$

$$= 2 - \frac{5}{42} + \frac{4}{21} = \frac{29}{14}$$

Hence
the
closest
point is,

$$\left(\frac{5}{14}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{29}{14}\right)$$

(Ans)

$$\frac{20x}{9} - \frac{4y}{9} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$-\frac{20x}{9} + \frac{130y}{9} = \frac{10}{3}$$

$$+ \frac{126y}{9} = \frac{12}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow 14y = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{2}{7}$$

$$\frac{20x}{9} - \frac{4}{9} \cdot \frac{2}{7} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{20x}{9} - \frac{8}{63} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{20x}{9} = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{8}{63} = \frac{42+8}{63}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{20x}{9} = \frac{50}{63}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{5}{14}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2}{3} - \frac{5}{42} + \frac{4}{21} \\ &= \frac{84-5+8}{42} \\ &= \frac{87}{42} = \frac{29}{14} \end{aligned}$$