

## Section 14.6

**Definition:** The directional derivative of  $f$  at  $(x_0, y_0)$  in the direction of a unit vector  $\vec{u} = \langle a, b \rangle$  is

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x_0, y_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0+ha, y_0+hb) - f(x_0, y_0)}{h}$$

if this limit exists.

**Theorem:** If  $f$  is a differentiable function of  $x$  and  $y$ , then  $f$  has a directional derivative in the direction of any unit vector  $\vec{u} = \langle a, b \rangle$  and

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x, y) = f_x(x, y)a + f_y(x, y)b.$$

**Exercise 1.** Find the directional derivative  $D_{\vec{u}}f(x, y)$  if

$$f(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy + 4y^2$$

and  $\vec{u}$  is the unit vector given by  $\theta = \pi/6$ . What is  $D_{\vec{u}}f(1, 2)$ ? (Stew Sec 14.6 Ex 2)

**Class Exercise 1.** Find the directional derivative of  $f$  at the given point in the direction indicated by the angle  $\theta$ . (#4,6)

(a)  $f(x, y) = x^3y^4 + x^4y^3$ ,  $(1, 1)$ ,  $\theta = \pi/6$     (b)  $f(x, y) = e^x \cos y$ ,  $(0, 0)$ ,  $\theta = \pi/4$

**Definition** If  $f$  is a function of two variables  $x$  and  $y$ , then the gradient of  $f$  is the vector function  $\nabla f$  defined by

$$\nabla f(x, y) = \langle f_x(x, y), f_y(x, y) \rangle = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \vec{j}.$$

**Formula:** The directional derivative of a differentiable function  $f$  is

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x, y) = \nabla f(x, y) \cdot \vec{u}.$$

**Exercise 2.** Let  $f(x, y) = x^2 - 4xy$ . (Swok Sec 16.6 Ex 2)

(a) Find the gradient of  $f$  at the point  $P(1, 2)$ .

(b) Use the gradient to find the directional derivative of  $f$  at  $P(1, 2)$  in the direction from  $P(1, 2)$  to  $Q(2, 5)$ .

**Class Exercise 2.** (i) Find the gradient of  $f$ .

(ii) Evaluate the gradient at the point  $P$ .

(iii) Find the rate of change of  $f$  at  $P$  in the direction of the vector  $\vec{u}$ . (#8,10)

(a)  $f(x, y) = y^2/x$ ,  $P(1, 2)$ ,  $\vec{u} = \frac{1}{3}(2\vec{i} + \sqrt{5}\vec{j})$

(b)  $f(x, y, z) = y^2e^{xyz}$ ,  $P(0, 1, -1)$ ,  $\vec{u} = \langle \frac{3}{13}, \frac{4}{13}, \frac{12}{13} \rangle$

**Definition:** The directional derivative of  $f$  at  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  in the direction of a unit vector  $\vec{u} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  is

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x_0, y_0, z_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0+ha, y_0+hb, z_0+hc) - f(x_0, y_0, z_0)}{h}$$

if this limit exists.

**Definition:** For a function  $f$  of three variables, the gradient vector, denoted by  $\nabla f$  or grad  $f$ , is

$$\nabla f(x, y, z) = \langle f_x(x, y, z), f_y(x, y, z), f_z(x, y, z) \rangle.$$

**Formula:** The directional derivative can be rewritten as

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x, y, z) = \nabla f(x, y, z) \cdot \vec{u}.$$

**Exercise 3.** Find the derivative of  $f(x, y, z) = x^3 - xy^2 - z$  at  $P_0(1, 1, 0)$  in the direction of  $\vec{v} = 2\vec{i} - 3\vec{j} + 6\vec{k}$ . (Hass Sec 14.5 Ex 6)

**Class Exercise 3.** Find the directional derivative of the function at the given point in the direction of the vector  $\vec{v}$ . (#12, 14, 16)

(a)  $f(x, y) = \frac{x}{x^2+y^2}$ ,  $(1, 2)$ ,  $\vec{v} = \langle 3, 5 \rangle$     (b)  $g(r, s) = \tan^{-1}(rs)$ ,  $(1, 2)$ ,  $\vec{v} = 5\vec{i} + 10\vec{j}$

(c)  $f(x, y, z) = \sqrt{xyz}$ ,  $(3, 2, 6)$ ,  $\vec{v} = \langle -1, -2, 2 \rangle$

**Theorem:** Suppose  $f$  is a differentiable function of two or three variables. The maximum value of the directional derivative  $D_{\vec{u}}f(\vec{x})$  is  $|\nabla f(\vec{x})|$  and it occurs when  $\vec{u}$  has the same direction as the gradient vector  $\nabla f(\vec{x})$ .

The minimum value of the directional derivative  $D_{\vec{u}}f(\vec{x})$  is  $-|\nabla f(\vec{x})|$  and it occurs when  $\vec{u}$  has the opposite direction as the gradient vector  $\nabla f(\vec{x})$ .

**Exercise 4.** Let  $f(x, y) = 2 + x^2 + \frac{1}{4}y^2$ . Find the direction in which  $f(x, y)$  increases most rapidly at the point  $P(1, 2)$  and find the maximum rate of increase of  $f$  at  $P$ . (Swok Sec 16.6 Ex 3)

**Class Exercise 4.** Find the maximum rate of change of  $f$  at the given point and the direction in which it occurs. (#22, 24, 26)

(a)  $f(s, t) = te^{st}$ ,  $(0, 2)$  (b)  $f(x, y, z) = (x + y)/z$ ,  $(1, 1, -1)$  (c)  $f(p, q, r) = \arctan(pqr)$ ,  $(1, 2, 1)$

**Definition:** The **tangent plane to the level surface**  $F(x, y, z) = k$  at  $P(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  is the plane that passes through  $P$  and has normal vector  $\nabla F(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ .

**Equation:** The equation of the tangent plane is

$$F_x(x_0, y_0, z_0)(x - x_0) + F_y(x_0, y_0, z_0)(y - y_0) + F_z(x_0, y_0, z_0)(z - z_0) = 0$$

**Definition:** The **normal line** to  $S$  at  $P$  is the line passing through  $P$  and perpendicular to the tangent plane.

**Exercise 5.** Find an equation for the tangent plane to the ellipsoid  $\frac{3}{4}x^2 + 3y^2 + z^2 = 12$  at the point  $P_0(2, 1, \sqrt{6})$  and illustrate graphically. (Swok Sec 16.7 Ex 1)

**Exercise 6.** Find an equation of the normal line to the ellipsoid  $\frac{3}{4}x^2 + 3y^2 + z^2 = 12$  at the point  $P_0(2, 1, \sqrt{6})$ . (Swok Sec 16.7 Ex 2)

**Exercise 7.** Let  $P_0$  be the point  $(3, 4 - 2)$  on the hyperboloid  $16x^2 - 9y^2 + 36z^2 = 144$ . Find equations for the tangent plane and the normal line at  $P_0$ . (Swok Sec 16.7 Ex 3)

**Class Exercise 5.** Find equations of (a) the tangent plane and (b) the normal line to the given surface at the specified point. (#42, 44, 46)

(i)  $y = x^2 - z^2$ ,  $(4, 7, 3)$  (ii)  $xy + yz + zx = 5$ ,  $(1, 2, 1)$  (iii)  $x^4 + y^4 + z^4 = 3x^2y^2z^2$ ,  $(1, 1, 1)$

Homework: 5, 11-59 (every 4th)