

Ex 1: The derivative of $f(x, y, z)$ at a point P is greatest in the direction of $v = i + j - k$, and $(D_v f)_P = 2\sqrt{2}$.

a) Find $(\nabla f)_P$?

b) Find $(D_{i+j} f)_P$?

Solution: a) The derivative of $f(x, y, z)$ at P is greatest in the direction of $(\nabla f)_P$:

$$(D_v f)_P = \|\nabla f\|_P \cdot \underbrace{\left\| \frac{v}{\|v\|} \right\|}_{1} \cdot \underbrace{\cos \theta}_{\text{angle between } (\nabla f)_P \text{ and } v} = 2\sqrt{2}$$

Thus $\|\nabla f\|_P = 2\sqrt{2}$. Therefore:

$$(\nabla f)_P = 2\sqrt{2} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{v}{\|v\|}}_{\text{unit vector in the direction of } v} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} (i + j - k)$$

$$b) (D_{i+j} f)_P = (\nabla f)_P \cdot \frac{i+j}{\|i+j\|}$$

$$= \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} [i + j - k] \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [i + j] = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} (1 + 1) = \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}}$$

Ex 2: Find an equation for the plane that is tangent to the surface $z = \sqrt{y-x}$ at $(1, 2, 1)$.

Solution: let $f(x, y, z) = \sqrt{y-x} - z$.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} &= \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{y-x}} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{(1,2,1)} = -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y-x}} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{(1,2,1)} = \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} &= -1 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \Big|_{(1,2,1)} = -1 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow (\nabla f)_{(1,2,1)} = \left\langle -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, -1 \right\rangle$$

An equation of the tangent plane is: $-\frac{1}{2}(x-1) - \frac{1}{2}(y-2) - (z-1) = 0$

Ex3. Let $f(x,y) = \ln x + \ln y$

a) Find $L(x,y)$ of $f(x,y)$ at $P_0(1,1)$

b) Find an upper bound of the error in the approximation $f(x,y) \approx L(x,y)$ over the rectangular region

$$R: |x-1| \leq 0.2, |y-1| \leq 0.2.$$

Solution: a) $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{x} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{(1,1)} = 1.$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{y} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{(1,1)} = 1. \text{ Thus,}$$

$$L(x,y) = f(1,1) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{(1,1)} (x-1) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{(1,1)} (y-1) = x+y-2$$

b) $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$, $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = -\frac{1}{y^2}$ and $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = 0.$

Over R , we have: $0.8 \leq x \leq 1.2 \Rightarrow 0.64 \leq x^2 \leq 1.44$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{1.44} \leq \frac{1}{x^2} \leq \frac{1}{0.64} \Rightarrow -\frac{1}{0.64} \leq -\frac{1}{x^2} \leq -\frac{1}{1.44}.$$

Thus $\left| \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} \right| \leq \frac{1}{0.64}$ over R .

Using a similar argument, we show that $\left| \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \right| \leq \frac{1}{0.64}.$

Hence the error $E(x,y)$ in the approximation $f(x,y) \approx L(x,y)$ satisfies:

$$|E(x,y)| \leq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{0.64} [|x-1| + |y-1|]^2 \leq \frac{1}{1.28} (0.2+0.2)^2 = 0.125$$

Ex4: Find all the local extrema and saddle points of $f(x,y) = (x^2+y^2)e^{-y}.$

Solution : $f_x(x,y) = 2xe^{-y}$

$$f_y(x,y) = 2ye^{-y} - (x^2 + y^2)e^{-y}$$

Setting $f_x(x,y) = 0 = f_y(x,y)$ implies:

$$\begin{cases} 2xe^{-y} = 0 \\ 2ye^{-y} - (x^2 + y^2)e^{-y} = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x = 0 \\ (2-y)y = 0 \end{cases}$$

$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} x = 0 \\ y = 0 \text{ or } y = 2 \end{cases}$. Thus f has two critical points: $(0,0)$ and $(0,2)$

$$i) f_{xx}(x,y) = 2e^{-y}, f_{yy}(x,y) = 2e^{-y} - 2ye^{-y} - 2ye^{-y} + (x^2 + y^2)e^{-y} = (2 - 4y + x^2 + y^2)e^{-y},$$

$$f_{xy}(x,y) = -2xe^{-y}$$

ii) The Hessian at $(0,0)$ is:

$$\Delta(0,0) = f_{xx}(0,0)f_{yy}(0,0) - (f_{xy}(0,0))^2 = 4 > 0 \text{ and } f_{xx}(0,0) = 2 > 0. \text{ Hence } (0,0) \text{ is a local minimum}$$

iii) The Hessian at $(0,2)$ is:

$$\Delta(0,2) = (2e^{-2})(-2e^{-2}) = -4e^{-2} < 0. \text{ Therefore } (0,2) \text{ is a saddle point.}$$