3.3 方向导数与梯度

- 一、方向导数
- 二、梯度
- 三、物理意义

一、方向导数

定义: 若函数f(x,y,z) 在点 P(x,y,z) 处

沿方向 l (方向角为 α , β , γ) 存在下列极限:

$$\lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{\Delta f}{\rho}$$

$$= \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y, z + \Delta z) - f(x, y, z)}{\rho} \stackrel{\text{i.e.}}{=} \frac{\partial f}{\partial l}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix}
\rho = \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2 + (\Delta z)^2}, \\
\Delta x = \rho \cos \alpha, \ \Delta y = \rho \cos \beta, \ \Delta z = \rho \cos \gamma
\end{pmatrix}$$

则称 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial l}$ 为函数在点 P 处沿方向 l 的**方向导数**.

定义 3.3.1 (方向导数) 设 $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2$, l是平面上一向量, 其单位向量记为 e_l , $f: N(x_0) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$. 在 $N(x_0)$ 内让自变量x由 x_0 沿与 e_l 平行的射线变到 $x_0 + e_l$,从而对应的函数值有改变量 $f(x_0 + te_l) - f(x_0)$. 若

$$\lim_{t\to 0^+} \frac{f(\boldsymbol{x}_0 + t\boldsymbol{e}_l) - f(\boldsymbol{x}_0)}{t}$$

存在,则称此极限为f在点 x_0 沿l方向的**方向导数**,记作

$$\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x}_0)}{\partial l} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial l} \Big|_{\mathbf{x}_0} = \lim_{t \to 0^+} \frac{f(\mathbf{x}_0 + t\mathbf{e}_l) - f(\mathbf{x}_0)}{t}.$$
 (3.3.2)

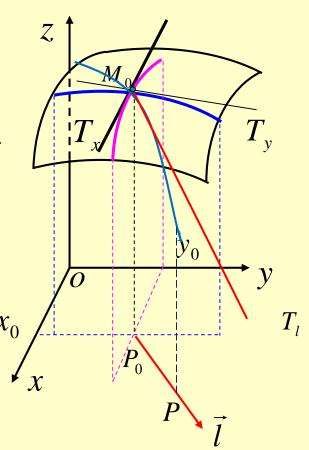
方向导数的几何意义:

$$z = f(x, y) \qquad \rho = |P_0P| = \sqrt{\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l}\Big|_{(x_0, y_0)} = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{f(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - f(x_0, y_0)}{\rho}$$

是曲面 z = f(x, y) 与过 P_0 点且与

方向 \bar{l} 和z轴平行的平面的交线在点 M_0 处的切线(射线) M_0T_l 对 \bar{l} 方向的斜率.



定理: 若函数 f(x, y, z) 在点 P(x, y, z) 处可微,

则函数在该点沿任意方向 l 的方向导数存在, 且有

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cos \beta + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \cos \gamma$$

其中 α , β , γ 为l的方向角.

证明: 由函数 f(x,y,z) 在点 P 可微,得

$$\Delta f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Delta y + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \Delta z + o(\rho)$$

$$= \rho \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cos \beta + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \cos \gamma \right) + o(\rho)$$

故
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{\Delta f}{\rho} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cos \beta + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \cos \gamma$$

对于二元函数 f(x,y), 在点 P(x,y) 处沿方向 l (方向角为 α , β) 的方向导数为

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y) - f(x, y)}{\rho}$$

$$= f_x(x, y) \cos \alpha + f_y(x, y) \cos \beta$$

$$(\rho = \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2}, \ \Delta x = \rho \cos \alpha, \Delta y = \rho \cos \beta)$$

特别:

• 当
$$l$$
 与 x 轴同向($\alpha = 0$, $\beta = \frac{\pi}{2}$)时,有 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$

• 当
$$l$$
 与 x 轴反向 $(\alpha = \pi, \beta = \frac{\pi}{2})$ 时,有 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = -\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$

例1. 求函数 $u = x^2yz$ 在点 P(1, 1, 1) 沿向量 $\overrightarrow{l} = (2, -1, 3)$ 的方向导数.

解: 向量 \vec{l} 的方向余弦为

$$\cos\alpha = \frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}, \quad \cos\beta = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{14}}, \quad \cos\gamma = \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}$$

$$\therefore \left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial l} \right|_{P} = \left(2xyz \cdot \frac{2}{\sqrt{14}} - x^2z \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}} + x^2y \cdot \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}} \right) \right|_{P} (1, 1, 1)$$

$$=\frac{6}{\sqrt{14}}$$

例2. 求函数 $z = 3x^2y - y^2$ 在点P(2,3)沿曲线 $y = x^2 - 1$ 朝 x 增大方向的方向导数.

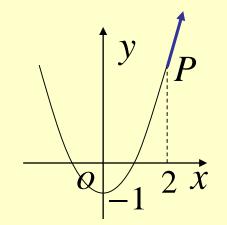
解: 将已知曲线用参数方程表示为

$$\begin{cases} x = x \\ y = x^2 - 1 \end{cases}$$

它在点 P 的切向量为 $(1, 2x)|_{x=2} = (1, 4)$

$$\therefore \cos \alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{17}}, \qquad \cos \beta = \frac{4}{\sqrt{17}}$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial z}{\partial l} \right|_{P} = \left[6xy \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{17}} + (3x^2 - 2y) \cdot \frac{4}{\sqrt{17}} \right] \Big|_{(2,3)} = \frac{60}{\sqrt{17}}$$



解:
$$\vec{n} = (4x, 6y, 2z)|_P = 2(2, 3, 1)$$

方向余弦为 $\cos \alpha = \frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}, \cos \beta = \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}, \cos \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}$
而 $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}|_P = \frac{6x}{z\sqrt{6x^2 + 8y^2}}|_P = \frac{6}{\sqrt{14}}$
同理得 $\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}|_P = \frac{8}{\sqrt{14}}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}|_P = -\sqrt{14}$
 $\therefore \frac{\partial u}{\partial n}|_P = \frac{1}{14}(6\times 2 + 8\times 3 - 14\times 1) = \frac{11}{7}$

二、梯度

方向导数公式
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cos \beta + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \cos \gamma$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{G} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, & \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{l}^0 = (\cos \alpha, \cos \beta, \cos \gamma)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \vec{G} \cdot \vec{l}^0 = |\vec{G}| \cos(\vec{G}, \vec{l}^0) \quad (|\vec{l}^0| = 1)$$

当 \vec{l}^0 与 \vec{G} 方向一致时,方向导数取最大值:

$$\max\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial l}\right) = |\vec{G}|$$

这说明 \vec{G} : \begin{cases} 方向: f 变化率最大的方向 模: f 的最大变化率之值

1. 定义

向量 \vec{G} 称为函数f(P) 在点P 处的梯度 (gradient), 记作 $\operatorname{grad} f$, 即

grad
$$f = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, & \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\vec{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\vec{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\vec{k}$$

同样可定义二元函数 f(x,y) 在点P(x,y) 处的梯度

grad
$$f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\vec{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\vec{j} = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)$$

说明: 函数的方向导数为梯度在该方向上的投影.

2. 梯度的几何意义

设 f_x , f_y 不同时为零,则 L^* 上点P处的法向量为

$$(f_x, f_y)|_P = \operatorname{grad} f|_P$$

同样,对应函数 u = f(x, y, z),有等值面(等量面) f(x, y, z) = C,当各偏导数不同时为零时,其上点P处的法向量为 grad $f|_{P}$.

$$y = c_3$$

$$f = c_2$$

$$f = c_1$$

$$O$$

$$(设 c_1 < c_2 < c_3)$$

函数在一点的梯度垂直于该点等值面(或等值线), 指向函数增大的方向.

3. 梯度的基本运算公式

- (1) grad $C = \vec{0}$
- (2) $\operatorname{grad}(Cu) = C \operatorname{grad} u$
- (3) $\operatorname{grad}(u \pm v) = \operatorname{grad} u \pm \operatorname{grad} v$
- (4) $\operatorname{grad}(uv) = u \operatorname{grad} v + v \operatorname{grad} u$
- (5) grad f(u) = f'(u) grad u

例4. 设 f(r) 可导, 其中 $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ 为点 P(x, y, z)

处矢径 \vec{r} 的模,试证 grad $f(r) = f'(r) \vec{r}^0$.

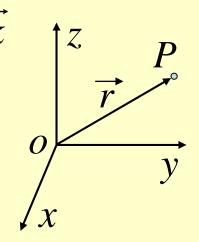
$$\mathbf{\tilde{uE}} : : \frac{\partial f(r)}{\partial x} = f'(r) \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = f'(r) \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} = f'(r) \frac{x}{r}$$

$$\frac{\partial f(r)}{\partial y} = f'(r) \frac{y}{r}, \quad \frac{\partial f(r)}{\partial z} = f'(r) \frac{z}{r}$$

$$\therefore \operatorname{grad} f(r) = \frac{\partial f(r)}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial f(r)}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial f(r)}{\partial z} \vec{k}$$

$$= f'(r) \frac{1}{r} (x \ \vec{i} + y \ \vec{j} + z \ \vec{k})$$

$$= f'(r) \frac{1}{r} \vec{r} = f'(r) \vec{r}^0$$



三、物理意义

注意:任意一个向量场不一定是梯度场.

例5. 已知位于坐标原点的点电荷 q 在任意点P(x,y,z)

处所产生的电位为
$$u = \frac{q}{4\pi \, \varepsilon \, r} \, (r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2})$$
, 试证

$$\operatorname{grad} u = -\vec{E} \qquad (场强 \vec{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi \varepsilon r^2} \vec{r}^0)$$

证: 利用例4的结果 $\operatorname{grad} f(r) = f'(r) \overrightarrow{r}^0$

grad
$$u = \left(\frac{q}{4\pi \varepsilon r}\right)' \overrightarrow{r}^0 = -\frac{q}{4\pi \varepsilon r^2} \overrightarrow{r}^0 = -\overrightarrow{E}$$

这说明场强:垂直于等位面,

且指向电位减少的方向.

内容小结

1. 方向导数

• 三元函数 f(x,y,z) 在点 P(x,y,z) 沿方向 l (方向角 为 α , β , γ) 的方向导数为

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cos \beta + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \cos \gamma$$

• 二元函数 f(x,y) 在点 P(x,y) 沿方向 l (方向角为 α , β)的方向导数为

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cos \beta = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \sin \alpha$$

2. 梯度

• 三元函数 f(x,y,z) 在点 P(x,y,z) 处的梯度为

grad
$$f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\right)$$

• 二元函数 f(x,y)在点 P(x,y)处的梯度为 $\operatorname{grad} f = (f_x(x,y), f_y(x,y))$

3. 关系

•可微 方向导数存在 偏导数存在

•
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial l} = \operatorname{grad} f \cdot \vec{l}^0$$
 梯度在方向 \vec{l} 上的投影.

思考与练习

- 1. 设函数 $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^z$
- (2) 求函数在 M(1,1,1) 处的**梯度**与(1)中**切线方向** 的夹角 θ .
 - 2. 求函数 $u = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$ 在椭球面 $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$ 上点 $M_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ 处沿外法线方向的方向导数.

解答提示:

1. (1)
$$f(x,y,z) = x^2 + y^z$$
, 曲线
$$\begin{cases} x = t \\ y = 2t^2 - 1 \text{ 在点} \end{cases}$$

M(1,1,1)处切线的方向向量

$$\vec{l} = \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t}, \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}t}, \frac{\mathrm{d}z}{\mathrm{d}t} \right) \bigg|_{t=1} = (1, 4, 3)$$

函数沿儿的方向导数

$$\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial l} \right|_{M} = \left[f_{x} \cdot \cos \alpha + f_{y} \cdot \cos \beta + f_{z} \cdot \cos \gamma \right]_{(1,1,1)}$$

$$= \frac{6}{\sqrt{26}}$$

(2) grad
$$f|_{M} = (2, 1, 0)$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\operatorname{grad} f|_{M} \cdot \vec{l}}{|\operatorname{grad} f|_{M} |\vec{l}|} = \frac{\frac{\partial f}{\partial l}|_{M}}{|\operatorname{grad} f|_{M}} = \frac{6}{\sqrt{130}}$$

$$\therefore \theta = \arccos \frac{6}{\sqrt{130}}$$

2. (答案)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial n}\bigg|_{M_0} = \frac{2x_0 \cdot \frac{2x_0}{a^2} + 2y_0 \cdot \frac{2y_0}{b^2} + 2z_0 \cdot \frac{2z_0}{c^2}}{2\sqrt{\frac{x_0^2}{a^4} + \frac{y_0^2}{b^4} + \frac{z_0^2}{c^4}}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\frac{x_0^2}{a^4} + \frac{y_0^2}{b^4} + \frac{z_0^2}{c^4}}}$$

练习题1. 函数 $u = \ln(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$ 在点 M(1,2,-2) 处的梯度 $\operatorname{grad} u|_{M} = \frac{2}{9}(1,2,-2)$

解: grad
$$u|_{M} = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}\right)|_{(1,2,-2)}$$

令
$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$
,则 $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{r^2} \cdot 2x$
注意 x, y, z 具有轮换对称性
$$= \left(\frac{2x}{r^2}, \frac{2y}{r^2}, \frac{2z}{r^2}\right)_{(1,2,-2)} = \frac{2}{9}(1,2,-2)$$

2. 函数 $u = \ln(x + \sqrt{y^2 + z^2})$ 在点A(1,0,1)处沿点A指向 B(3,-2,2)方向的方向导数是 <u>½</u>.

提示: $\overrightarrow{AB} = (2, -2, 1)$, 则

$$\overrightarrow{l} = \overrightarrow{AB}^{0} = \left(\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right) = \{\cos\alpha, \cos\beta, \cos\gamma\}$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_A = \frac{\mathrm{d} \ln(x+1)}{\mathrm{d} x} \bigg|_{x=1} = \frac{1}{2},$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right|_A = \frac{\mathrm{d} \ln(1 + \sqrt{y^2 + 1})}{\mathrm{d} y} \bigg|_{y=0} = 0, \qquad \left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right|_A = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial u}{\partial l} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \cos \beta + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \cos \gamma = \frac{1}{2}$$

思考题

讨论函数 $z = f(x,y) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ 在(0,0) 点处的偏导数是否存在? 方向导数是否存在?

思考题解答

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}\Big|_{(0,0)} = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \frac{f(\Delta x, 0) - f(0, 0)}{\Delta x}$$
$$= \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \frac{|\Delta x|}{\Delta x}.$$

同理:
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}\Big|_{(0,0)} = \lim_{\Delta y \to 0} \frac{|\Delta y|}{\Delta y}$$

故两个偏导数均不存在.

沿任意方向 $\vec{l} = \{x, y, z\}$ 的方向导数,

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial l}\Big|_{(0,0)} = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{f(\Delta x, \Delta y) - f(0,0)}{\rho}$$
$$= \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2}}{\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2}} = 1$$

故沿任意方向的方向导数均存在且相等.

练习题

一、填空题:

- 1、函数 $z = x^2 + y^2$ 在点(1,2) 处沿从点(1,2) 到点 $(2,2+\sqrt{3})$ 的方向的方向导数为______.
- 2、设 $f(x,y,z) = x^2 + 2y^2 + 3z^2 + xy + 3x 2y 6z$, 则gradf(0,0,0) =_______.
- 3、已知场 $u(x,y,z) = \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2}$,则u沿场的梯度 方向的方向导数是______.
- 4、称向量场 a 为有势场,是指向量 a 与某个函数 u(x,y,z)的梯度有关系

二、求函数
$$z = 1 - (\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2})$$
在点 $(\frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}})$ 处沿曲线
$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$$
在这点的内法线方向的方向导数.

- 三、设u,v 都是x,y,z 的函数,u,v 的各偏导数都存在且 连续,证明: grad(uv) = vgradu + ugradv
- 四、求 $u = \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2}$ 在点 $M(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ 处沿点的向径 r_0 的方向导数,问a,b,c具有什么关系时此方向导数等于梯度的模?

练习题答案

$$\begin{array}{ll}
-, & 1, & 1+2\sqrt{3}; & 2, & 3\vec{i}-2\vec{j}-6\vec{k}; \\
3, & \sqrt{(\frac{2x}{a^2})^2+(\frac{2y}{b^2})^2+(\frac{2z}{c^2})^2} = |gradu|; \\
4, & \vec{a}=gradu. \\
-, & \frac{1}{ab}\sqrt{2(a^2+b^2)}. \\
-, & \frac{\partial u}{\partial r_0}|_{M} = \frac{2u(x_0, y_0, z_0)}{\sqrt{x_0^2+y_0^2+z_0^2}}; a=b=c.
\end{array}$$