

Thm:- Let $f(x, y, z)$ be a scalar function having cont. partial derivatives, then ∇f exists & its length is a vector i.e. & magnitude is independent of the particular choice of cartesian co-ords in space. If at pt P the gradient is a non-zero vector, then it has the dirⁿ of max. increase of f at P.

Proof:- We have proved earlier,

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\vec{b}} f &= \nabla f \cdot \hat{b} \\ &= \nabla f \cdot \frac{\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|} \\ &= |\nabla f| \frac{|\vec{b}|}{|\vec{b}|} \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$D_{\vec{b}} f = |\nabla f| \cos \theta$$

Where θ is the angle between \vec{b} & ∇f . & value of ∇f at P depends on P.

\therefore length & dirⁿ of ∇f depends on P, & not on cartesian co-ords in space or surfaces.

$$\text{Also, } -|\nabla f| \leq D_{\vec{b}} f \leq |\nabla f| \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} -1 \leq \cos \theta \leq 1 \\ -|\nabla f| \leq |\nabla f| \cos \theta \leq |\nabla f| \end{array} \right. \quad \therefore -|\nabla f| \leq D_{\vec{b}} f \leq |\nabla f|$$

\therefore Max Value of $D_{\vec{b}} f = |\nabla f|$ when $\theta = 0$

\therefore Dirⁿ deriv. of f at pt P is max in the direction of ∇f , $\nabla f \neq 0$.

Min. value of $D_{\vec{b}} f = -|\nabla f|$ when $\theta = \pi$

\therefore Dirⁿ deriv. of f at P is min. in the dirⁿ $(-\nabla f)$.

Thm :- (For gradient as Surface Normal Vector)

Let f be a differentiable scalar function that represents a surface S . $f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) = d$ (const). & if gradient of f at P of S is a non-zero vector then it is a normal vector of S at P .

Proof:- Let $f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) = d$ represent a family of surfaces in space for different values of d . And P be a fixed pt. on curve C on surface S in space.

$$\therefore \vec{r}(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{r}'(t) = x'(t)\hat{i} + y'(t)\hat{j} + z'(t)\hat{k} \quad (1)$$

i.e. this vector (1) is tngt to S at P , as $\vec{r}'(t)$ is tngt to curve C on S at P . And therefore to all curves on S thru P we have respective tngt vectors & hence a family of tngt. vectors generates a tngt. Plane of Surface S at P , and its normal is called Surface Normal of S at P . Also, any vector \mathbf{n} to it is also called surface normal to S .

We have:

$$f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) = d \text{ (const)}$$

$$\therefore \frac{df}{dt} = 0$$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt} = 0$$

$$\therefore \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right) \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \left(\hat{i} x(t) + \hat{j} y(t) + \hat{k} z(t) \right) = 0$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\nabla f \cdot \bar{r}'(t)} = 0, \quad \nabla f \neq 0$$

$\therefore \nabla f$ & $\bar{r}'(t)$ are mutually \perp to each other

$\therefore \nabla f$ is the vector normal to S at P.

Hence proved.

