

The Gradient

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 - $\nabla(Cf) = C\nabla f$ for all constants C ;
 - $\nabla(fg) = f\nabla g + g\nabla f$, i.e., the Product Rule holds; and
 - $\nabla(g \circ f) = (g' \circ f)\nabla f$ for any differentiable function g of one variable, i.e., the Chain Rule holds.

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$$D_{\mathbf{u}}f(P) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a + th, b + tk) - f(a, b)}{t}.$$

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Once all the dust settles in the limit, we have that

$$D_{\mathbf{u}}f(P) = \nabla f_P \cdot \mathbf{u}.$$

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where θ is the angle between ∇f_P and \mathbf{u} .

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- $\|\nabla f_P\|$ gives the maximum rate of increase of f at P .

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$$\psi = \tan^{-1}(D_{\mathbf{u}}f(P)) = \tan^{-1}(\nabla f_P \cdot \mathbf{u}) = \tan^{-1}(f_x(P)) \approx 63.5^\circ.$$

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By walking in the direction of $\frac{1}{\|\nabla f_P\|} \nabla f_P$, we would encounter the steepest slopes, and the angle of inclination would be

$$\psi = \tan^{-1}(\|\nabla f_P\|) = \tan^{-1}(\sqrt{2^2 + 3^2}) \approx 74.5^\circ.$$