

We compute the gradient in spherical coordinates.

In spherical coordinates, we have

$$x = r \sin\theta \cos\phi, \quad y = r \sin\theta \sin\phi, \quad z = r \cos\theta.$$

We will assume that we already know the spherical unit vectors

$$\hat{r} = \sin\theta \cos\phi \hat{x} + \sin\theta \sin\phi \hat{y} + \cos\theta \hat{z}$$

$$\hat{\theta} = \cos\theta \cos\phi \hat{x} + \cos\theta \sin\phi \hat{y} - \sin\theta \hat{z}$$

$$\hat{\phi} = -\sin\phi \hat{x} + \cos\phi \hat{y}$$

The gradient is given by

$$\vec{\nabla} f = \hat{x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} =$$

$$\hat{r} g_r + \hat{\theta} g_\theta + \hat{\phi} g_\phi.$$

We find  $g_r, g_\theta, g_\phi$ .

$$\hat{x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \hat{x} (f_r r_x + f_\theta \theta_x + f_\phi \phi_x)$$

$$+ \hat{y} (f_r r_y + f_\theta \theta_y + f_\phi \phi_y) + \hat{z} (f_r r_z + f_\theta \theta_z + f_\phi \phi_z).$$

Inverting our spherical coordinates, we have

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}, \quad \theta = \arccos(z/\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}), \quad \phi = \arctan(y/x).$$

The derivatives can be computed simply in Mathematica. Plugging in, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} f = & \hat{x} (f_r \sin\theta \cos\phi + f_\theta \cos\theta \cos\phi/r - f_\phi \sin\phi/r\sin\theta) + \\ & \hat{y} (f_r \sin\theta \sin\phi + f_\theta \cos\theta \sin\phi/r + f_\phi \cos\phi/r\sin\theta) + \\ & \hat{z} (f_r \cos\theta - f_\theta \sin\theta/r) = \end{aligned}$$

$$(\sin\theta \cos\phi \hat{x} + \sin\theta \sin\phi \hat{y} + \cos\theta \hat{z}) f_r +$$

$$(\cos\theta \cos\phi/r \hat{x} + \cos\theta \sin\phi/r \hat{y} - \sin\theta/r \hat{z}) f_\theta +$$

$$(-\sin\phi/r\sin\theta \hat{x} + \cos\phi/r\sin\theta \hat{y}) f_\phi =$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r\sin\theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \hat{\phi} = \vec{\nabla} f}$$