

Name: _____

Show your work, or give reasoning, to receive full credit.

1. Consider the function $f(x, y) = \tan^{-1}(e^{xy})$.

(a) (1 point) Compute the gradient $\nabla f(x, y)$.

Solution:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{ye^{xy}}{1 + e^{2xy}}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{xe^{xy}}{1 + e^{2xy}}$$

So the gradient vector is

$$\nabla f(x, y) = \left\langle \frac{ye^{xy}}{1 + e^{2xy}}, \frac{xe^{xy}}{1 + e^{2xy}} \right\rangle$$

(b) (1 point) Compute the directional derivative $D_{\vec{u}}f$ at the point $(1, \ln(2))$, where \vec{u} is the unit vector in the direction $\langle -1, \ln(2) \rangle$.

Solution: Call the given vector $\vec{v} = \langle -1, \ln(2) \rangle$. It is not a unit vector, so we should divide by its length to get a unit vector $\vec{u} = \frac{1}{|\vec{v}|}\vec{v}$. We also need the value of the gradient at the point $(1, \ln(2))$:

$$\nabla f(1, \ln(2)) = \frac{2}{5} \langle \ln(2), 1 \rangle$$

Finally, the directional derivative is the dot product:

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\vec{u}}f(1, \ln(2)) &= \vec{u} \cdot \nabla f(1, \ln(2)) \\ &= \frac{2}{5|\vec{v}|} \langle -1, \ln(2) \rangle \cdot \langle \ln(2), 1 \rangle \\ &= \frac{2}{5|\vec{v}|} (-\ln(2) + \ln(2)) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$