

Dip and Dip Direction

A third way to uniquely describe the orientation of a plane is with dip and dip direction (Fig. 14). The dip value is defined the same way as described earlier for strike and dip. The dip direction is perpendicular to the strike of the plane. Remember that the strike line is horizontal, so the dip direction coincides with the line in the plane with the greatest plunge value. Dip direction is equal to the strike + 90 if the strike is 270 or less. For strike values between 270 and 360, the dip direction is strike - 270.

Dip and dip direction measurements are used in the field by many geologists, and some compasses are ideally suited for making both measurements in one fell swoop making data collection efficient.

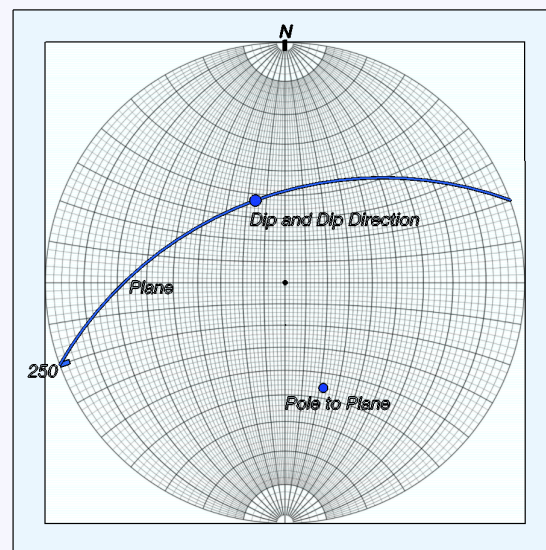


Figure 14. Stereonet showing a plane with a strike of 250 and dip of 50. The pole to plane has a trend of 160 and plunge of 40. The dip direction of the plane has a trend of 340 and the dip is 50.