

*This midterm has **5 questions** on **5 pages**, for a total of 50 points.*

Duration: 50 minutes

- Read all the questions carefully before starting to work.
- Give complete arguments and explanations for all your calculations; answers without justifications will not be marked.
- Continue on the back of the previous page if you run out of space.
- This is a closed-book examination. **None of the following are allowed:** documents, cheat sheets or electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones, etc.)

Last name: _____ Student No.: _____

First name and all middle names: _____

Signature: _____

Question:	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Points:	12	8	8	12	10	50
Score:						

12 marks

1. Let

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{xy^3}{x^2 + y^2} & \text{if } (x, y) \neq (0, 0) \\ 0 & \text{if } (x, y) = (0, 0) \end{cases}$$

(a) (8 marks) Does f have a limit at $(0, 0)$? Explain your answer.

Solution:

Since $|x| \leq \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ and $|y| \leq \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$, we have for all $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$

$$\left| \frac{xy^3}{x^2 + y^2} \right| \leq \frac{(x^2 + y^2)^2}{x^2 + y^2} = x^2 + y^2.$$

Since $x^2 + y^2 \rightarrow 0$ as $(x, y) \rightarrow (0, 0)$, the function has limit 0 at that point. (In terms of δ and ϵ , to ensure that $|f(x, y) - 0| < \delta$, it suffices if $x^2 + y^2 < \delta$, or equivalently, $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} < \sqrt{\delta}$. Therefore we can take $\epsilon = \sqrt{\delta}$.)

(b) (4 marks) Find $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(0, 0)$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(0, 0)$, or else explain why they do not exist.

Solution: We have $f(x, 0) = 0$ for all x and $f(0, y) = 0$ for all y , so that $f_x(0, 0) = 0$ and $f_y(0, 0) = 0$.

8 marks

2. Find the equation of the tangent plane to the surface $z = 5x^2y - y^2$ at the point where $x = -1$, $y = 3$.

Solution:

We have $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = 10xy$ and $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 5x^2 - 2y$. Thus at $(x, y) = (-1, 3)$, $z = 15 - 9 = 6$,
 $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -30$, and $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 5 - 6 = -1$. Thus the equation of the tangent plane is

$$z = 6 - 30(x + 1) - (y - 3)$$

which simplifies to $z = -30x - y - 21$.

8 marks

3. Let $w = f(a_1x + a_2y + a_3z, b_1x + b_2y + b_3z)$, where $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has continuous first order partial derivatives. Prove that

$$c_1 \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + c_2 \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + c_3 \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$

for any vector (c_1, c_2, c_3) orthogonal to both (a_1, a_2, a_3) and (b_1, b_2, b_3) .

Solution:

We have $w = f(u, v)$, where $u = a_1x + a_2y + a_3z$ and $v = b_1x + b_2y + b_3z$. By the Chain Rule,

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + c_2 \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + c_3 \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} &= c_1(f_u a_1 + f_v b_1) + c_2(f_u a_2 + f_v b_2) + c_3(f_u a_3 + f_v b_3) \\ &= (c_1 a_1 + c_2 a_2 + c_3 a_3) f_u + (c_1 b_1 + c_2 b_2 + c_3 b_3) f_v = (\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{a}) f_u + (\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{b}) f_v = 0. \end{aligned}$$

12 marks

4. The tangent plane to the graph of $z = f(x, y)$ at $(x, y) = (3, 4)$ has the equation $x - 6y - 2z = 1$.

- (a) Find the directional derivative $D_{\mathbf{u}}f(3, 4)$ if $\mathbf{u} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \mathbf{i} - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{j}$.

Solution:

From the equation of the tangent plane, we have $\nabla f(3, 4) = \langle 1/2, -3 \rangle$ so that

$$D_{\mathbf{u}}f(3, 4) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} - 3\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} + \frac{3}{2}.$$

- (b) Is there a unit vector \mathbf{v} such that $D_{\mathbf{v}}f(3, 4) = 4$? If yes, find it. If no, explain why.

Solution: (3 marks)

The largest possible value of $D_{\mathbf{v}}f(3, 4)$ is $|\nabla f(3, 4)| = \sqrt{(1/2)^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{9.25}$. This is less than 4 (since $9.25 < 16$). Hence there is no such \mathbf{v} .

10 marks

5. The equations

$$u = x^3 - y^2$$
$$v = 2xy^3$$

define x, y implicitly as functions of u, v near $x = -1, y = 1$. Find $\frac{\partial x}{\partial u}$ and $\frac{\partial y}{\partial u}$ at $x = -1, y = 1$.

Solution:

Differentiating the two equations with respect to u , we get

$$1 = 3x^2 \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} - 2y \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}$$
$$0 = 2y^3 \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + 6xy^2 \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}$$

so that

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2y \\ 0 & 6xy^2 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 3x^2 & -2y \\ 2y^3 & 6xy^2 \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{6xy^2}{18x^3y^2 + 4y^4} = \frac{3x}{9x^3 + 2y^2}$$
$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial u} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 3x^2 & 1 \\ 2y^3 & 0 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 3x^2 & -2y \\ 2y^3 & 6xy^2 \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{-2y^3}{18x^3y^2 + 4y^4} = \frac{-y}{9x^3 + 2y^2}$$

Thus at $(x, y) = (-1, 1)$, we have

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} = \frac{-3}{-9 + 2} = \frac{3}{7}, \quad \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} = \frac{-1}{-9 + 2} = -\frac{1}{7}.$$