

**MATH 2551, Fall 2016**  
**Practice Exam 2, Solutions**

**Problem 1.** Calculations.

(a) Find the directional derivative of  $f(x, y, z) = xy + yz + zx$  at  $P(1, -1, 1)$  in the direction of  $\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$

**Solution:**

$$\nabla f = (y + z)\mathbf{i} + (x + z)\mathbf{j} + (y + x)\mathbf{k},$$

$\nabla f(1, -1, 1) = 2\mathbf{j}$ .  $\mathbf{u} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{6}(\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k})$ , so

$$f'_{\mathbf{u}}(1, -1, 1) = \nabla f(1, -1, 1) \bullet \mathbf{u} = \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{6}.$$

(b) Find the rate of change of  $f(x, y) = xe^y + ye^{-x}$  along the curve  $\mathbf{r}(t) = (\ln t)\mathbf{i} + t(\ln t)\mathbf{j}$ .

**Solution:**

$$\nabla f = (e^y - ye^{-x})\mathbf{i} + (xe^y + e^{-x})\mathbf{j},$$

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{r}(t)) = (t^t - \ln t)\mathbf{i} + (t^t \ln t + \frac{1}{t})\mathbf{j},$$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \nabla f(\mathbf{r}(t)) \bullet \mathbf{r}'(t) = t^t \left( \frac{1}{t} + \ln t + (\ln t)^2 \right) + \frac{1}{t}.$$

(c) Find  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial s}$  for  $u = x^2 - xy$ ,  $x = s \cos t$ ,  $y = t \sin s$ .

**Solution:**

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} = (2x-y)(\cos t) + (-x)(t \cos s) = 2s \cos^2 t - t \sin s \cos t - st \cos s \cos t.$$

(d) Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  if  $x \cos(xy) + y \cos(x) = 2$ .

**Solution:** Set  $u = x \cos(xy) + y \cos(x) - 2$ ,

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \cos(xy) - xy \sin(xy) - y \sin(x).$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -x^2 \sin(xy) + \cos(x).$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{\partial u / \partial x}{\partial u / \partial y} = \frac{\cos(xy) - xy \sin(xy) - y \sin(x)}{x^2 \sin(xy) - \cos(x)}.$$

(e) Is  $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = (x + \sin y)\mathbf{i} + (x \cos y - 2y)\mathbf{j}$  a gradient of a function  $f(x, y)$ ?  
If yes, find the general form of  $f(x, y)$ .

**Solution:** Set  $P = x + \sin y$ ,  $Q = x \cos y - 2y$ .  $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = \cos y = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \cos y$ .

Thus,  $\mathbf{F}$  is a gradient of a function. For  $f(x, y)$ , we have from  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = P$  that

$$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + x \sin(y) + g(y).$$

To determine  $g(y)$ , we have

$$Q = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x \cos(y) + g'(y),$$

which implies that  $g'(y) = -2y$ , thus  $g(y) = -y^2 + C$ , with  $C$  a constant. So,  $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + x \sin(y) - y^2 + C$ .

(f) Set  $f(x, y) = \frac{x^2 - y^4}{x^3 - y^4}$ . Determine whether or not  $f$  has a limit at  $(1, 1)$ .

**solution:** Along  $x = 1$ , the limit is 1, while along  $y = 1$ , the limit is  $2/3$ . So it has no limit at  $(1, 1)$ .

**Problem 2** Consider the function  $f(x, y, z) = \sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y} + \sqrt{z}$ .

(a) Find the equation for the tangent plane to the level surface  $f = 4$  at the point  $P(1, 4, 1)$ .

**Solution:**

$$\nabla f = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}\mathbf{i} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}}\mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{z}}\mathbf{k},$$

$$\nabla f(1, 4, 1) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{i} + \frac{1}{4}\mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{k}.$$

Tangent plane:  $\frac{1}{2}(x - 1) + \frac{1}{4}(y - 4) + \frac{1}{2}(z - 1) = 0$ .

(b) Find the equation for the normal line to  $f = 4$  at  $P(1, 4, 1)$ .

**Solution:** The normal line:  $x = 1 + \frac{1}{2}t$ ,  $y = 4 + \frac{1}{4}t$ ,  $z = 1 + \frac{1}{2}t$ .

(c) Use differentials to estimate  $f(0.9, 4.1, 1.1)$ .

**Solution:**  $f(0.9, 4.1, 1.1) \approx f(1, 4, 1) + df$ .

$$df = \frac{1}{2} \times (-0.1) + \frac{1}{4} \times 0.1 + \frac{1}{2} \times 0.1 = 0.025.$$

Thus, the estimate is 4.025.

**Problem 3.** Find the area of the largest rectangle with edges parallel to the coordinate axes that can be inscribed in the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{9} + \frac{y^2}{4} = 1$ .

**Solution:** Use Lagrange multipliers method. Set the coordinates of the corner points of the rectangle to be  $(x, y)$ ,  $(-x, y)$ ,  $(-x, -y)$ ,  $(x, -y)$ . We need to

maximize  $f(x, y) = 4xy$  with the side condition  $g(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{9} + \frac{y^2}{4} - 1 = 0$ .  
 $\nabla f = 4y\mathbf{i} + 4x\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\nabla g = \frac{2}{9}x\mathbf{i} + \frac{1}{2}y\mathbf{j}$ . Solve the following system:

$$\begin{cases} 4y = \lambda \frac{2}{9}x \\ 4x = \lambda \frac{1}{2}y \\ g(x, y) = 0. \end{cases}$$

We have

$$\lambda = 12, x = \frac{3}{2}\sqrt{2}, y = \sqrt{2}, \text{ and the area is } 12.$$

**Problem 4** Find the absolute extreme values taken on  $f(x, y) = \frac{-2y}{x^2+y^2+1}$  on

the set  $D = \{(x, y) : x^2 + y^2 \leq 4\}$ .

**Solution:**  $\nabla f = \frac{4xy}{(x^2+y^2+1)^2}\mathbf{i} + \frac{2y^2-2x^2-2}{(x^2+y^2+1)^2}\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{0}$  at  $P_1 = (0, 1)$  and  $P_2 = (0, -1)$  in  $D$ .

Next we consider the boundary of  $D$ . We parametrize the circle by

$$C : \mathbf{r}(t) = 2\cos(t)\mathbf{i} + 2\sin(t)\mathbf{j}, \quad t \in [0, 2\pi].$$

The values of  $f$  on the boundary are given by the function:

$$F(t) = f(\mathbf{r}(t)) = -\frac{4}{5}\sin(t), \quad t \in [0, 2\pi].$$

$F'(t) = -\frac{4}{5}\cos(t) = 0$  at  $t = \frac{1}{2}\pi$  and  $t = \frac{3}{2}\pi$ . Thus the critical points on boundary of  $D$  are  $P_3 = \mathbf{r}(0) = \mathbf{r}(2\pi) = (2, 0)$ ,  $P_4 = \mathbf{r}(\frac{1}{2}\pi) = (0, 2)$ , and  $P_5 = \mathbf{r}(\frac{3}{2}\pi) = (0, -2)$ . Evaluate  $f$  at all critical points:

$$f(0, 1) = -1, \quad f(0, -1) = 1, \quad f(2, 0) = 0,$$

$$f(0, 2) = -\frac{4}{5}, \quad f(0, -2) = \frac{4}{5}.$$

So,  $f$  takes on its absolute maximum of 1 at  $(0, -1)$  and its absolute minimum of  $-1$  at  $(0, 1)$ .