

**Mathematics 2401 Hour Examination**

W. L. Green  
 March 7, 2006

**Directions:** Do all problems. Show your work and justify your answers. This is a closed book examination, and calculators are allowed. Make sure your name is on all four pages of your examination.

1. (48) A circular plate occupies the space in the x-y-plane described by  $x^2 + y^2 \leq 25$ . Suppose the temperature at any point in the plate is given by the function  $f(x, y) = xy$ .

Page	
1	
2	
3	
4	
Total	

a. Find the gradient of f.

$$\nabla f(x, y) = (y, x)$$

b. Find the directional derivative of f at (2,3) in the direction of the unit vector u that points from (0,0) toward (1,-1).

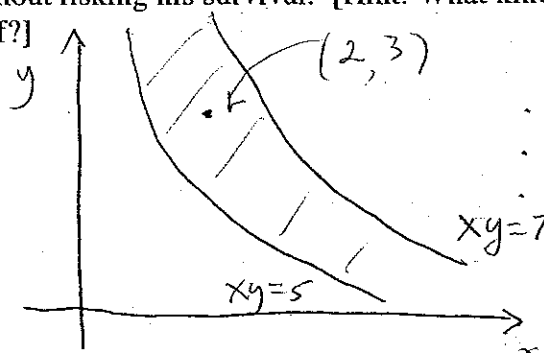
$$u = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \text{ and } \nabla f(2, 3) = (3, 2)$$

$$(3, 2) \cdot \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

c. In what direction is the temperature increasing most rapidly at the point (2,3)?

In the direction of the gradient (3, 2)

d. A certain bug can only survive if the temperature under his feet is between 5 degrees and 7 degrees. Suppose we put him down on the plate at the point (2,3). Sketch the region on the plate that the bug can reach without risking his survival. [Hint: What kind of curves are the level curves of the function f?]



1 (continued) A circular plate occupies the space in the  $x$ - $y$ -plane described by  $x^2 + y^2 \leq 25$ . Suppose the temperature at any point in the plate is given by the function  $f(x, y) = xy$ .

e. Another bug, more tolerant of temperature, runs in a straight line from the center of the plate to a point on the boundary. If he runs at a constant velocity of  $(\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt}) = (3, 4)$ , how fast is the temperature changing under his feet at time  $t$ ?

$$\frac{d}{dt}(f(x, y)) = \nabla f(x, y) \cdot \left(\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt}\right) = (y, x) \cdot \left(\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt}\right)$$

$$(x, y) = (3t, 4t), \text{ so the rate of change is } (4t, 3t) \cdot (3, 4) = 24t \quad \underline{\underline{24t}}$$

$$(x, y) = (3t, 4t), \text{ so } f(x, y) = (3t)(4t) = 12t^2, \text{ which has derivative } 24t$$

f. Show that the hottest points on the plate must be on the boundary of the plate. [Hint: You don't have to find these points to show that they must lie on the boundary.]

At an interior point of the plate, we have  $\nabla f(x, y) = (0, 0)$

whenever  $(x, y)$  is a local minimum or maximum. But

$(y, x) = (0, 0)$  only at the origin, where the 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative is

$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . This is indefinite, so  $(0, 0)$  gives a saddle point.

2. (36) Let  $f(x, y) = x^4 + y^4 - 4xy + 1$ .

a. Find equations for the tangent line and the normal line to the curve  $f(x, y) = 7$  at the point  $(1, -1)$ .

$$\nabla f(x, y) = (4x^3 - 4y, 4y^3 - 4x) \text{ and } \nabla f(1, -1) = (8, -8)$$

The ~~normal~~ <sup>tangent</sup> line has equation  $(8, -8) \cdot (x-1, y+1) = 0$ , i.e.  $y = x - 2$

The ~~tangent~~ <sup>normal</sup> line has equation  $(8, 8) \cdot (x-1, y+1) = 0$ , i.e.  $y = -x$

2. (continued) Let  $f(x, y) = x^4 + y^4 - 4xy + 1$ .

b. Find the local maximum and minimum values and saddle points of the function  $f$ .

$$\nabla f(x, y) = (4x^3 - 4y, 4y^3 - 4x)$$

$$\nabla f(x, y) = (0, 0) \Leftrightarrow x^3 = y \text{ and } y^3 = x$$

These equations imply that  $x = y^3 = (x^3)^3 = x^9$ , i.e. that

$$x^9 - x = 0, \text{ i.e. that } x(x^8 - 1) = 0. \text{ This holds if and}$$

$$\text{only if } x=0, x=1 \text{ or } x=-1.$$

The critical points are  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 1)$  and  $(-1, -1)$ .

$$\text{The 2nd derivative matrix is } \begin{bmatrix} 8x^2 & -4 \\ -4 & 8y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

At  $(0, 0)$ , this matrix is  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -4 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , which is indefinite.

$(0, 0)$  is a saddle point.

At  $(1, 1)$  the matrix is  $\begin{bmatrix} 8 & -4 \\ -4 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$ , which is positive

definite, since  $8 > 0$  and  $\det \begin{bmatrix} 8 & -4 \\ -4 & 8 \end{bmatrix} > 0$

$-1 = f(1, 1)$  is a local minimum value.

At  $(-1, -1)$ , the matrix is the same as at  $(1, 1)$ , so

$-1 = f(-1, -1)$  is a local minimum value.

There are no local maximum values.

4 (20) Use the method of Lagrange multipliers to find the minimum and maximum values of the function  $x^2 + y^2$  subject to the constraint  $x^4 + y^4 = 1$ .

$$(2x, 2y) = \lambda (4x^3, 4y^3) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} 2x = 4\lambda x^3 \\ 2y = 4\lambda y^3 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x = 2\lambda x^3 \\ y = 2\lambda y^3 \end{cases}$$

Either  $x=0$  or  $x^2 = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$  ( $\lambda=0$  means  $x=y=0$ , so  $x^4 + y^4 = 0 \neq 1$ )

Either  $y=0$  or  $y^2 = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$

If  $x \neq 0$  and  $y \neq 0$ , then  $x^2 = y^2$ , so  $x^4 + y^4 = 1$   
gives  $2x^4 = 1$ , i.e.  $x^2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ . Then  $y^2 = x^2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

This gives a value of  $2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{2}$  for  $x^2 + y^2$

If  $x=0$ , then  $y^4 = 1$ , so  $y^2 = 1$ , so  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$

If  $y=0$ , then  $x^4 = 1$ , so  $x^2 = 1$ , so  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$

The minimum value is 1, and the maximum value is  $\sqrt{2}$