

MATH 2551, Spring 2018
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:

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

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

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

(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 the values of $\frac{dy}{dx}$ if $x \cos(xy) + y \cos(x) = 2$ at the point $(0, 2)$

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

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

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

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

At $(0, 2)$, one finds that $\frac{dy}{dx}(0, 2) = -1$.

(e) For $f(x, y) = \frac{x^2 - y^4}{x^3 - y^4}$, 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 multiplies 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 $(0, 1)$.