

**MATH 2551-D MIDTERM 2**  
**VERSION A**  
**SPRING 2023**  
**COVERS SECTIONS 14.1-14.8**

**Full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GT ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Honor code statement:** I will abide strictly by the Georgia Tech honor code at all times. I will not use a calculator. I will not reference any website, application, or other CAS-enabled service. I will not consult with my notes or anyone during this exam. I will not provide aid to anyone else during this exam.

(     ) I attest to my integrity.

**Read all instructions carefully** before beginning.

- Print your name and GT ID neatly above.
- You have 75 minutes to take the exam.
- You may not use aids of any kind.
- Please show your work.
- Good luck! Write yourself a message of encouragement on the front page!

Question	Points
1	2
2	2
3	2
4	3
5	9
6	8
7	7
8	7
9	10
Total:	50

For problems 1-3 choose whether each statement is true or false. If the statement is *always* true, pick true. If the statement is *ever* false, pick false. Be sure to neatly fill in the bubble corresponding to your answer choice.

1. (2 points) The domain of the function  $f(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{x-2} + yz^2$  is  $(-\infty, 2) \cup (2, \infty)$ .

TRUE

FALSE

2. (2 points) There does not exist a function  $f(x, y)$  which is continuous and has continuous partial derivatives such that  $f_x(x, y) = x^2 + 2xy$  and  $f_y(x, y) = 3xy + y^2$ .

TRUE

FALSE

3. (2 points) A function of two variables is differentiable at the point  $(a, b)$  if the surface  $z = f(x, y)$  has a unique tangent plane at the point  $(a, b, f(a, b))$ .

TRUE

FALSE

4. (3 points) Which of the following is NOT a valid approach to finding the extreme values of the function  $f(x, y) = 3x^2 - y^2 + 4$  on the unit disk  $x^2 + y^2 \leq 1$ ?

A) Find all critical points of  $f$  inside the disk, use the formula  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  to rewrite  $f$  as function of only  $x$  and use this to find the critical points of  $f$  on the boundary, check for endpoints, and then evaluate  $f$  at all the points you found.

B) Find all critical points of  $f$  inside the disk, use the formula  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  to rewrite  $f$  as function of only  $y$  and use this to find the critical points of  $f$  on the boundary, check for endpoints, and then evaluate  $f$  at all the points you found.

C) Find all critical points of  $f$  inside the disk, parameterize the unit circle to rewrite  $f$  as function of only  $t$  and use this to find the critical points of  $f$  on the boundary, check for endpoints, and then evaluate  $f$  at all the points you found.

D) Find all critical points of  $f$  inside the disk, use Lagrange multipliers with the constraint  $g(x, y) = 1 - x^2 - y^2 = 0$  to find possible extreme points on the boundary, check for endpoints, and then evaluate  $f$  at all the points you found.

E) None of the above.

5. (a) (4 points) By considering the paths  $x = 0$  and  $x = y^4$ , show that the following limit does not exist. Your final answer should be a sentence that includes the test you are using.

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{xy^4}{x^2 + y^8}$$

**Solution:** Along  $x = 0$ , the limit becomes

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{(0)y^4}{0 + y^8} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} 0 = 0.$$

On the other hand, along  $x = y^4$ , the limit becomes

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{(y^4)y^4}{(y^4)^2 + y^8} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Since these values are different, the **two-path test** says that this limit does not exist.

- (b) (5 points) Let  $w = xz + y^2$ , with  $x = 3s - t$ ,  $y = s^2$ , and  $z = 4st$ . Use the Chain Rule, either via total derivatives or a tree diagram, to compute the partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial s}(1, 1)$  and  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial t}(1, 1)$ .

**Solution:** The total derivative of  $w(x, y, z)$  is

$$Dw(x, y, z) = [z \quad 2y \quad x].$$

The total derivative of  $\mathbf{r}(s, t) = \langle x(s, t), y(s, t), z(s, t) \rangle$  is

$$D\mathbf{r}(s, t) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 2s & 0 \\ 4t & 4s \end{bmatrix}$$

At  $(s, t) = (1, 1)$ ,  $(x, y, z) = (2, 1, 4)$ . The Chain Rule then tells us

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial w}{\partial s}(1, 1) & \frac{\partial w}{\partial t}(1, 1) \end{bmatrix} = Dw(2, 1, 4)D\mathbf{r}(1, 1) = [4 \quad 2 \quad 2] \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = [24 \quad 4].$$

6. Suppose you are on a landscape whose elevation can be modeled by the function  $f(x, y) = e^{xy} - xy^2$ , and you are standing at the point where  $(x, y) = (1, 2)$ .
- (a) (3 points) Find the rate of change of your elevation if you were to walk north (positive  $y$ -direction) or east (positive  $x$ -direction).

**Solution:** The rate of change if we walk east is  $f_x(1, 2)$  and the rate of change if we walk north is  $f_y(1, 2)$ .

$f_x = ye^{xy} - y^2$  and  $f_y = xe^{xy} - 2xy$ , so the rate of change walking east is  $2e^2 - 4$  and the rate of change walking north is  $e^2 - 4$ .

- (b) (3 points) Find the rate of change of your elevation if you were to walk in the direction 3 units east and 4 unit south.

**Solution:** The unit vector in this direction is  $\mathbf{u} = \frac{\langle 3, -4 \rangle}{|\langle 3, -4 \rangle|} = \left\langle \frac{3}{5}, -\frac{4}{5} \right\rangle$ .

The rate of change of elevation in this direction is the directional derivative

$$D_{\mathbf{u}}f(1, 2) = \nabla f(1, 2) \cdot \mathbf{u} = \langle 2e^2 - 4, e^2 - 4 \rangle \cdot \left\langle \frac{3}{5}, -\frac{4}{5} \right\rangle = \frac{2}{5}e^2 + \frac{4}{5}.$$

- (c) (2 points) What is the relationship between the direction of maximum decrease of elevation from  $(1, 2)$  and the contour line of  $f$  passing through  $(1, 2)$ ?

**Solution:** This is the direction which is exactly opposite of the gradient of  $f$  at  $(1, 2)$ , and therefore will be perpendicular to the contour line of  $f$  passing through  $(1, 2)$ .

7. (7 points) Use Lagrange multipliers to find the point on the plane  $x + y + z = 2$  closest to the point  $(0, 5, -1)$ .

**Solution:** Let  $d(x, y, z) = \sqrt{x^2 + (y - 5)^2 + (z + 1)^2}$  be the distance from any point  $(x, y, z)$  to the point  $(0, 5, -1)$ . Since any minimum of this function occurs when the quantity under the square root has a minimum, we will seek to minimize  $f(x, y, z) = d^2 = x^2 + (y - 5)^2 + (z + 1)^2$ . The constraint in this problem is that the point must lie on the plane, so we have  $g(x, y, z) = x + y + z = 2$ .

By the method of Lagrange multipliers, any solution satisfies  $\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g$  and  $g = 2$ . This gives us the system

$$\langle 2x, 2(y - 5), 2(z + 1) \rangle = \lambda \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle, \quad x + y + z = 2.$$

We therefore have  $\lambda = 2x = 2(y - 5) = 2(z + 1)$ , so  $x = (y - 5) = (z + 1)$ . Rearranging, we have  $y = x + 5$  and  $z = x - 1$ , so the constraint equation yields

$$x + x + 5 + x - 1 = 2 \Rightarrow x = -\frac{2}{3}.$$

Therefore the unique solution of the system is  $\left(-\frac{2}{3}, \frac{13}{3}, -\frac{5}{3}\right)$ . We know that this is the location of a minimum of the distance function due to geometry - the line through  $(0, 5, -1)$  normal to the plane contains the closest point on the plane, and there is no furthest point.

8. You need to approximate the value  $\sqrt{4.9^2 - 3.1^2}$ .

- (a) (1 point) Define a function  $f(x, y)$  that you will linearize to approximate this square root.

**Solution:** Many choices of  $f$  will work. One of the simplest is  $f(x, y) = \sqrt{x^2 - y^2}$ .

- (b) (2 points) Choose a point  $(a, b)$  to base the approximation at and a nearby point  $(c, d)$  such that

$$f(c, d) = \sqrt{4.9^2 - 3.1^2}$$

**Solution:** Answers will depend on choice in (a). For the choice of  $f$  above, the point  $(c, d) = (4.9, 3.1)$  and a good nearby point to base the approximation at is  $(a, b) = (5, 3)$ .

- (c) (4 points) Compute the linearization of your chosen  $f$  at  $(a, b)$  and use it to approximate the square root.

**Solution:** Since  $L(x, y) = f(a, b) + Df(a, b)\langle x - a, y - b \rangle$ , we compute  $f(5, 3) = \sqrt{5^2 - 3^2} = 4$  and

$$Df(5, 3) = \left[ \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 - y^2}} \quad \frac{-y}{\sqrt{x^2 - y^2}} \right] \Big|_{(5,3)} = \left[ \frac{5}{4} \quad \frac{-3}{4} \right].$$

Therefore  $L(x, y) = 4 + \frac{5}{4}(x - 5) - \frac{3}{4}(y - 3)$  and we have

$$\sqrt{4.9^2 - 3.1^2} = f(4.9, 3.1) \approx L(4.9, 3.1) = 4 + \frac{5}{4}(-.1) - \frac{3}{4}(.1) = 4 - .125 - .075 = 3.8.$$

9. (10 points) Find and classify all of the critical points of the function  $f(x, y) = xy(1 - x - y)$ .

**Solution:** To find the critical points, we solve the equation  $Df(x, y) = [0 \ 0]$ . Here

$$\begin{aligned} Df(x, y) &= [y(1 - x - y) + xy(-1) \quad x(1 - x - y) + xy(-1)] \\ &= [y(1 - 2x - y) \quad x(1 - x - 2y)] \\ &= [0 \ 0]. \end{aligned}$$

From the first component, we have either  $y = 0$  or  $1 - 2x - y = 0$ . If  $y = 0$ , then the second component gives  $x(1 - x) = 0$ , so  $x = 0$  or  $x = 1$ . Thus  $(0, 0)$  and  $(1, 0)$  are critical points.

If  $1 - 2x - y = 0$ , then  $y = 1 - 2x$  and the second component gives

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= x(1 - x - 2(1 - 2x)) \\ &= x(-1 + 3x). \end{aligned}$$

So either  $x = 0$  and  $y = 1 - 0 = 1$  or  $x = \frac{1}{3}$  and  $y = 1 - \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$ . Thus  $(0, 1)$  and  $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$  are also critical points.

To classify the critical points, we compute the Hessian and use the second derivative test.

$$Hf(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} -2y & 1 - 2x - 2y \\ 1 - 2x - 2y & -2x \end{bmatrix}$$

At  $(0, 0)$ ,  $\det(Hf(0, 0)) = (0)(0) - (1)(1) = -1 < 0$ , so  $f$  has a saddle point at  $(0, 0)$ .

At  $(1, 0)$ ,  $\det(Hf(1, 0)) = (0)(-2) - (-1)(-1) = -1 < 0$ , so  $f$  has a saddle point at  $(1, 0)$ .

At  $(0, 1)$ ,  $\det(Hf(0, 1)) = (-2)(0) - (-1)(-1) = -1 < 0$ , so  $f$  has a saddle point at  $(0, 1)$ .

At  $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ ,  $\det(Hf(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})) = (\frac{-2}{3})(\frac{-2}{3}) - (\frac{-1}{3})(\frac{-1}{3}) = \frac{1}{3} > 0$  and  $f_{xx}(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}) = -\frac{2}{3} < 0$ , so  $f$  has a local max at  $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ .

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## FORMULA SHEET

- For  $\mathbf{f}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \langle f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n), \dots, f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rangle$

$$D\mathbf{f} = \begin{bmatrix} (f_1)_{x_1} & (f_1)_{x_2} & \cdots & (f_1)_{x_n} \\ (f_2)_{x_1} & (f_2)_{x_2} & \cdots & (f_2)_{x_n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \cdots & \vdots \\ (f_m)_{x_1} & (f_m)_{x_2} & \cdots & (f_m)_{x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Near  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $L(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{a}) + Df(\mathbf{a})(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{a})$
- If  $h = g(f(\mathbf{x}))$  then  $Dh(\mathbf{x}) = Dg(f(\mathbf{x}))Df(\mathbf{x})$
- If the equation  $F(x, y, z) = c$  implicitly defines  $z$  as a function of  $x$  and  $y$ , then  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \frac{-F_x}{F_z}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = \frac{-F_y}{F_z}$ .
- If  $\mathbf{u}$  is a unit vector,  $D_{\mathbf{u}}f(P) = Df(P)\mathbf{u} = \nabla f(P) \cdot \mathbf{u}$
- The tangent line to a level curve of  $f(x, y)$  at  $(a, b)$  is  $0 = \nabla f(a, b) \cdot \langle x - a, y - b \rangle$
- The tangent plane to a level surface of  $f(x, y, z)$  at  $(a, b, c)$  is

$$0 = \nabla f(a, b, c) \cdot \langle x - a, y - b, z - c \rangle.$$

- For  $f(x, y)$ ,  $Hf(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} f_{xx} & f_{yx} \\ f_{xy} & f_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$
- If  $(a, b)$  is a critical point of  $f(x, y)$  then
  1. If  $\det(Hf(a, b)) > 0$  and  $f_{xx}(a, b) < 0$  then  $f$  has a local maximum at  $(a, b)$
  2. If  $\det(Hf(a, b)) > 0$  and  $f_{xx}(a, b) > 0$  then  $f$  has a local minimum at  $(a, b)$
  3. If  $\det(Hf(a, b)) < 0$  then  $f$  has a saddle point at  $(a, b)$
  4. If  $\det(Hf(a, b)) = 0$  the test is inconclusive

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