

The questions marked with \* are intended as additional. Please email comments, corrections to: [n.wickramasekera@dpmms.cam.ac.uk](mailto:n.wickramasekera@dpmms.cam.ac.uk).

1. Quickies: (i) Let  $F : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous and  $a = (a_0, \dots, a_{m-1}) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ . Suppose that  $F$  is uniformly Lipschitz in the  $\mathbb{R}^m$  variables near  $a$ , i.e. for some constant  $K$  and an open subset  $U$  of  $\mathbb{R}^m$  containing  $a$ ,  $|F(t, x) - F(t, y)| \leq K\|x - y\|$  for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $x, y \in U$ . Use the Picard–Lindelöf existence theorem for first order ODE systems to show that there is an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that, writing  $f^{(j)}$  for the  $j$ th derivative of  $f$ , the  $m$ th order initial value problem

$$f^{(m)}(t) = F(t, f(t), f^{(1)}(t), \dots, f^{(m-1)}(t)) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, \epsilon];$$

$$f^{(j)}(0) = a_j \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j \leq m - 1$$

has a unique  $C^m$  solution  $f : [0, \epsilon) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

(ii) Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . If the directional derivatives  $D_u f(a)$  exist for all directions  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and if  $D_u f(a)$  depends linearly on  $u$ , does it follow that  $f$  is differentiable at  $a$ ?

(iii) Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and suppose that  $f$  is differentiable at  $a$ . Define the *gradient* of  $f$  at  $a$  to be the vector  $\nabla f(a) = (D_1 f(a), \dots, D_n f(a))$ . Show that  $\max\{D_u f(a) : u \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|u\| = 1\} = \|\nabla f(a)\|$ , and if  $\nabla f(a) \neq 0$ , that this maximum is attained when and only when  $u = \frac{\nabla f(a)}{\|\nabla f(a)\|}$ . What does this say about the rates of change of  $f$  at  $a$  in different directions?

(iv) Let  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be continuous, and differentiable on  $(a, b)$ . Does there exist  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f(b) - f(a) = f'(c)(b - a)$ ?

(v) Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a  $C^1$  map with  $\|Df(x) - I\| \leq 1/2$  for each  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , where  $I$  is the identity map on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Does it follow that  $f$  is one-to-one? Does it follow that  $f$  is an open mapping, i.e. that  $f$  maps open sets to open sets?

2. (a) Let  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_m): \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ . Show that  $f$  is differentiable at  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  iff each  $f_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable at  $x$ , and in this case,  $Df(x)(h) = (Df_1(x)(h), \dots, Df_m(x)(h))$  for each  $h \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

(b) Define  $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  by  $f(x, y, z) = (e^{x+y+z}, \cos x^2 y)$ . Without making use of partial derivatives, show that  $f$  is everywhere differentiable and find  $Df(a)$  at each  $a \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .

(c) Find all partial derivatives of  $f$  and hence, using appropriate results on partial derivatives, give an alternative proof of the result of (b).

3. Let  $\mathcal{M}_n$  be the space of  $n \times n$  real matrices. (Note that  $\mathcal{M}_n$  can be identified with  $\mathbb{R}^{n^2}$ .) Define  $f: \mathcal{M}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_n$  by  $f(A) = A^4$ . Show that  $f$  is differentiable at every  $A \in \mathcal{M}_n$ , and find  $Df(A)$  as a linear map. Show further that  $f$  is twice-differentiable at every  $A \in \mathcal{M}_n$  and find  $D^2 f(A)$  as a bilinear map from  $\mathcal{M}_n \times \mathcal{M}_n$  to  $\mathcal{M}_n$ .

4. Let  $\|\cdot\|$  denote the usual Euclidean norm on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Show that the map sending  $x$  to  $\|x\|^2$  is differentiable everywhere. What is its derivative? Where is the map sending  $x$  to  $\|x\|$  differentiable and what is its derivative?

5. Consider the map  $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  given by  $f(x) = x/\|x\|$  for  $x \neq 0$ , and  $f(0) = 0$ . Show that  $f$  is differentiable except at 0, and that

$$Df(x)(h) = \frac{h}{\|x\|} - \frac{x(x \cdot h)}{\|x\|^3}.$$

Verify that  $Df(x)(h)$  is orthogonal to  $x$  and explain geometrically why this is the case.

6. At which points of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is the function  $f(x, y) = |x||y|$  differentiable? What about the function  $g: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $g(x, y) = xy/\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$  if  $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$ ,  $g(0, 0) = 0$ ?

7. Show that the function  $\det: \mathcal{M}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable at the identity matrix  $I$  with  $D \det(I)(H) = \text{tr}(H)$ . Deduce that  $\det$  is differentiable at any invertible matrix  $A$  with  $D \det(A)(H) = \det A \text{tr}(A^{-1}H)$ . Show further that  $\det$  is twice differentiable at  $I$  and find  $D^2 \det(I)$  as a bilinear map.

8. Define  $f: \mathcal{M}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_n$  by  $f(A) = A^2$ . Show that  $f$  is continuously differentiable on the whole of  $\mathcal{M}_n$ . Deduce that there is a continuous square-root function on some neighbourhood of  $I$ ; that is, show that there is an open ball  $B_\varepsilon(I)$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a continuous function  $g: B_\varepsilon(I) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_n$  such that  $g(A)^2 = A$  for all  $A \in B_\varepsilon(I)$ . Is it possible to define a continuous square-root function on the whole of  $\mathcal{M}_n$ ?

9. Let  $f$  be a real-valued function on a subset  $E$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  such that that  $f(\cdot, y)$  is continuous for each fixed  $y \in E$  and  $f(x, \cdot)$  is continuous for each fixed  $x \in E$ . Give an example to show that  $f$  need not be continuous on  $E$ . If additionally  $f(\cdot, y)$  is Lipschitz for each  $y \in E$  with Lipschitz constant independent of  $y$  and  $E$  has the property that  $E \cap L$  is an open subset of  $L$  for every line  $L$  parallel to the  $y$ -axis, show that  $f$  is continuous on  $E$ . Deduce that if  $U$  is an open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $D_1 f$  exists and is bounded on  $U$  and  $f(x, \cdot)$  is continuous for each fixed  $x \in U$ , then  $f$  is continuous on  $U$ .

10. Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . If  $D_1 f$  exists in some open ball around  $a$  and is continuous at  $a$ , and if  $D_2 f$  exists at  $a$ , show that  $f$  is differentiable at  $a$ .

11. Let  $C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^3 + y^3 - 3xy = 0\}$  and define  $F: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  by  $F(x, y) = (x, x^3 + y^3 - 3xy)$ . Show that  $F$  is locally  $C^1$ -invertible around each point of  $C$  except  $(0, 0)$  and  $(2^{\frac{2}{3}}, 2^{\frac{1}{3}})$ ; that is, show that if  $(x_0, y_0) \in C \setminus \{(0, 0), (2^{\frac{2}{3}}, 2^{\frac{1}{3}})\}$  then there are open sets  $U$  containing  $(x_0, y_0)$  and  $V$  containing  $F(x_0, y_0) = (x_0, 0)$  such that  $F$  maps  $U$  bijectively to  $V$  with inverse a  $C^1$  function. What is the derivative of the inverse function? Deduce that for each point  $(x_0, y_0) \in C \setminus \{(0, 0), (2^{\frac{2}{3}}, 2^{\frac{1}{3}})\}$ , there exists an open interval  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  containing  $x_0$  and a  $C^1$  function  $g: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $C \cap V = \text{graph } g$  ( $\text{graph } g = \{(x, g(x)) : x \in I\}$ ).

12. (i) Let  $E$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Show that  $E$  is path-connected if and only if  $E$  is an interval, i.e.  $E$  is of the form  $(a, b)$ ,  $[a, b)$ ,  $(a, b]$  or  $[a, b]$  for some  $a, b$  with  $-\infty \leq a \leq b \leq \infty$ . [Hint: Let  $b = \sup E$  and  $a = \inf E$  (allowing  $\pm\infty$ ). Use the intermediate value theorem to show that if  $E$  is path-connected, then any  $x$  with  $a < x < b$  belongs to  $E$ .]

(ii) Let  $U$  be a non-empty open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Show that  $U$  is path-connected  $\iff$  whenever  $U = U_1 \cup U_2$  for disjoint open subsets  $U_1, U_2$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , either  $U_1$  or  $U_2$  is empty. [Hint: For the direction  $\implies$ , use the theorem that says that a function with zero derivative on a path-connected open set must be constant; for  $\impliedby$ , show first that the relation  $x \sim y \iff$  there exists a continuous map  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow U$  with  $\gamma(0) = x, \gamma(1) = y$  is an equivalence relation on  $U$  with each equivalence class (called a path component) an open subset.]

13\*. For  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and a continuous map  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $\gamma(0) = a, \gamma(1) = b$ , define the length  $\ell(\gamma)$  of  $\gamma$  to be  $\ell(\gamma) = \sup \sum_{j=1}^N \|\gamma(t_j) - \gamma(t_{j-1})\|$  where the sup is taken over all finite partitions  $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_N = 1$ .

(i) Give an example for which  $\ell(\gamma) = \infty$ . If  $\gamma$  is continuously differentiable on  $[0, 1]$ , show that  $\ell(\gamma) < \infty$  and that in fact  $\ell(\gamma) = \int_0^1 \|\gamma'(t)\| dt$ .

(ii) For a path-connected subset  $E$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $a, b \in E$ , define  $d(a, b) = \inf \ell(\gamma)$ , where the inf is taken over all continuous  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow E$  with  $\gamma(0) = a, \gamma(1) = b$ . Show, for any  $a, b, c \in E$ , that  $d(a, b) \geq 0$  with equality iff  $a = b$ , that  $d(a, b) = d(b, a)$  and that  $d(a, b) \leq d(a, c) + d(c, b)$ .

14\*. Let  $U$  be a path-connected open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  be differentiable on  $U$  with  $\|Df(x)\| \leq M$  for some constant  $M$  and all  $x \in U$ . Does it follow that  $\|f(b) - f(a)\| \leq M\|b - a\|$  for every  $a, b \in U$ ? Does it follow that  $\|f(b) - f(a)\| \leq Md(a, b)$  for every  $a, b \in U$ , where  $d$  is as in Q13(ii) with  $E = U$ ?

15\*. (i) Let  $f$  be a real-valued  $C^2$  function on an open subset  $U$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . If  $f$  has a local maximum at a point  $a \in U$  (meaning that there is  $\rho > 0$  such that  $B_\rho(a) \subset U$  and  $f(x) \leq f(a)$  for every  $x \in B_\rho(a)$ ), show that  $Df(a) = 0$  and that the matrix  $H = (D_{ij}f(a))$  is negative semi-definite (i.e. has non-positive eigenvalues).

(ii) Let  $U$  be a bounded open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and let  $f : \bar{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous on  $\bar{U}$  (the closure of  $U$ ) and  $C^2$  in  $U$ . If  $f$  satisfies the partial differential inequality  $\Delta f + aD_1f + bD_2f + cf \geq 0$  in  $U$  where  $\Delta$  is the Laplace's operator defined by  $\Delta f = D_{11}f + D_{22}f$ , and  $a, b, c$  are real-valued functions on  $U$  with  $c < 0$  on  $U$ , and if  $f$  is positive somewhere in  $\bar{U}$ , show that

$$\sup_{\bar{U}} f = \sup_{\partial U} f$$

where  $\partial U = \bar{U} \setminus U$  is the boundary of  $U$ . Deduce that if  $a, b, c$  are as above,  $\varphi : \partial U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a given continuous function, then for any  $g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  there is at most one continuous function  $f$  on  $\bar{U}$  that is  $C^2$  in  $U$  and solves the boundary value problem  $\Delta f + aD_1f + bD_2f + cf = g$  in  $U$ ,  $f = \varphi$  on  $\partial U$ .