MATH 125 Solutions to Second Midterm, Vers. 1

1. For each of the functions f(x) given below, find f'(x).

(a) 3 points
$$f(x) = x^9 + 5x^4 + 2x^2 + \pi^2$$

Solution: Don't forget that $\pi^2 \approx 9.87$, so its derivative is 0.

$$f'(x) = 9x^8 + 20x^3 + 4x$$

(b) 3 points
$$f(x) = \cos(x)\sin(4x)$$

Solution: This requires the product rule, and the chain rule.

$$f'(x) = -\sin(x)\sin(4x) + 4\cos(x)\cos(4x)$$

(c) 3 points
$$f(x) = \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)}$$

Solution: After simplifying $\frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)} = \tan(x)$, we just remember that the derivative of $\tan(x)$ is $\sec^2(x)$.

Alternatively, if you prefer to use the quotient rule, you should get

$$\frac{\cos(x)\cos(x) + \sin(x)\sin(x)}{\cos^2(x)} = \frac{1}{\cos^2(x)} = \sec^2(x)$$

(d) 3 points
$$f(x) = \arctan(x^2)$$

Solution: This is a straight chain-rule problem.

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{1 + (x^5)^2} \cdot (5x^4) = \frac{5x^4}{1 + x^{10}}$$

Several people were confused and thought that $\arctan(x) = \frac{1}{\tan(x)} = \cot(x)$; this is nonsense. You should know that $\arctan(x) = y$ means that $\tan(y) = x$.

2. Compute each of the following derivatives as indicated:

(a) 3 points
$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{e^t + e^{-t}} \right]$$

Solution: Applying the quotient rule gives us

$$\frac{(e^t + e^{-t})(e^t + e^{-t}) - (e^t - e^{-t})(e^t - e^{-t})}{(e^t + e^{-t})^2} = \frac{(e^{2t} + 2 + e^{-2t}) - (e^{2t} - 2 + e^{-2t})}{(e^t + e^{-t})^2}$$
$$= \frac{4}{(e^t + e^{-t})^2}$$

(b) 3 points
$$\frac{d}{du} [u \ln(u)]$$

Solution: Using the product rule, we have

$$1 \cdot \ln(u) + u \cdot \frac{1}{u} = \ln(u) + 1$$

(c) 3 points
$$\frac{d}{dz} [\ln(\sec(3z))]$$

Solution: From the chain rule, we have

$$\frac{1}{\sec(3z)} \cdot \sec(3z) \tan(3z) \cdot 3 = 3\tan(3z)$$

(d) 3 points
$$\frac{d}{dx} [e^x - x^e]$$

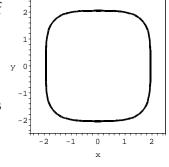
Solution: Remembering that *e* is a constant, we have $e^x - e^{x^{e-1}}$.

3. 10 points Let $\mathcal C$ be the curve which consists of the set of points for which

$$x^4 + x^2 + y^4 = 18$$

(see the graph at right).

Write the equation of the line tangent to C which passes through the point (1, -2).



Solution: In order to write the equation of a line, we need a point on the line (which we have: (1, -2)) and the slope of the line. For the slope, we need dy/dx at the given point.

We *could* solve for y, getting $y=\pm\sqrt[4]{18-x^4-x^2}$, and take the derivative of the resulting function to get $y'=\pm(18-x^4-x^2)^{-3/4}(-4x^3-x)$.

Instead, let's use implicit differentiation:

$$4x^3 + 2x + 4y^3 \, \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

Since we want the slope when x = 1 and y = -2, we plug in and solve for dy/dx.

$$4+2-32\frac{dy}{dx}=0$$
, so $\frac{dy}{dx}=\frac{-6}{-32}=\frac{3}{16}$

Thus, the desired line is

$$y+2 = \frac{3}{16}(x-1)$$
 or $y = \frac{3}{16}x - \frac{35}{16}$

4. $\boxed{10 \text{ points}}$ Give the x and y coordinates of the (absolute) maximum and minimum values of the function

$$y = x^4 - 8x^2 + 1$$
 where $-1 \le x \le 3$.

Solution: First, we locate the critical points. Since the function is a polynomial, f'(x) is defined everywhere, so we only need concern ourselves with the x for which f'(x) = 0.

Since $f'(x) = 4x^3 - 16x = 4x(x^2 - 4) = 4x(x - 2)(x + 2)$, we have the critical points

$$x = 0$$
 $x = 2$ $x = -2$

However, since we are concerned only with $-1 \le x \le 3$, we discard x = -2.

Now we evaluate f at each of the critical points, and the endpoints:

- f(0) = 1.
- f(2) = 16 32 + 1 = -15.
- f(-1) = 1 8 + 1 = -6.
- f(3) = 81 72 + 1 = 10.

The largest value of the above occurs at x = 3, y = 10. This is our absolute maximum. The smallest occurs when x = 2 and y = -15, which is our absolute minimum.

- 5. Let $f(x) = x e^{-4x}$.
 - (a) 3 points Calculate f'(x)

Solution: We use the product rule and the chain rule:

$$f'(x) = e^{-4x} - 4x e^{-4x}$$

(b) 3 points Calculate f''(x)

Solution: Taking the derivative of the above gives

$$f''(x) = -4e^{-4x} - 4e^{-4x} + 16x e^{-4x}$$

which simplifies to

$$16x e^{-4x} - 8e^{-4x}$$

(c) 3 points For what values of x is f(x) increasing?

Solution: To answer this, we need to know when f'(x) > 0, that is, where

$$e^{-4x} - 4x e^{-4x} > 0$$

Factoring out the exponential term gives $e^{-4x}(1-4x) > 0$, and since e^{-4x} is always positive, we only need ask where 1-4x>0. This happens for

$$x < \frac{1}{4}.$$

(d) 3 points For what values of x is f(x) concave down?

Solution: We need to know when f''(x) < 0, so factor f''(x) as

$$8e^{-4x}(2x-1)$$
.

As before, we can ignore the exponential term, since it is always positive, and we see that f''(x) < 0 when x < 1/2.

6. 10 points A leaky oil tanker is anchored offshore. Because the water is very calm, the oil slick always stays circular as it expands, with a uniform depth of 1 meter. If the oil is leaking from the tanker at a rate of $100 \frac{m^3}{hr}$, how fast is the radius of the slick expanding (in $\frac{m}{hr}$) when the diameter is 20 meters?

Solution: First, notice that since we are given the rate of oil leaking out from the tanker, this is the rate of change of volume of oil $(dV/dt = 100 \frac{m^3}{hr})$, and we want to know the rate of change of the radius (dr/dt). This means we need to write a formula for the volume of the oil as a function of the radius.

Since we are told that the oil slick is circular and has a constant depth of 1 meter, it is a cylinder of height 1 and radius r. That is,

$$V = \pi r^2$$

Taking the derivative with respect to time gives

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = 2\pi r \, \frac{dr}{dt}$$

and plugging in the given values yields

$$100 = 2\pi \cdot 10 \, \frac{dr}{dt},$$

so we have

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{100}{20\pi} = \frac{5}{\pi}.$$