MAT 125 Solutions to Second Midterm, Vers. 2

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

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

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

   $$f'(x) = 9x^8 + 20x^3 + 6x$$

   (b) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ $f(x) = \cos(x)\sin(2x)$

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

   $$f'(x) = -\sin(x)\sin(2x) + 2\cos(x)\cos(2x)$$

   (c) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ $f(x) = \dfrac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)}$

   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) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ $f(x) = \arctan\left(x^4\right)$

   Solution: This is a straight chain-rule problem.

   $$f'(x) = \frac{1}{1 + (x^4)^2} \cdot \left(4x^3\right) = \frac{4x^3}{1 + x^8}$$

   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) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ $\dfrac{d}{dt}\left[\dfrac{e^t - e^{-t}}{e^t + e^{-t}}\right]$

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) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ $\dfrac{d}{du}\left[\, u\ln(u) \,\right]$

Solution: Using the product rule, we have

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

(c) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ $\dfrac{d}{dz}\left[\, \ln(\sec(7z)) \,\right]$

Solution: From the chain rule, we have

$$\frac{1}{\sec(7z)}\cdot\sec(7z)\tan(7z)\cdot 7 = 7\tan(7z)$$

(d) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ $\dfrac{d}{dx}\left[\, e^x - x^e \,\right]$

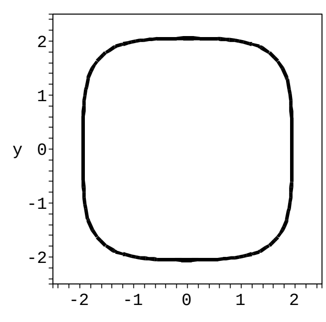
Solution: Remembering that e is a constant, we have $e^x - e\,x^{e-1}$.

3. $\boxed{\text{10 points}}$ 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 $\mathcal{C}$ 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.

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

Thus, the desired line is

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

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

$$y = x^4 - 8x^2 - 1 \qquad \text{where} \qquad -3 \leq x \leq 1.$$

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

$$x = 0 \qquad x = 2 \qquad x = -2$$

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

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

- $f(0) = -1$.
- $f(-2) = 16 - 32 - 1 = -17$.
- $f(-3) = 81 - 72 - 1 = 8$.
- $f(1) = 1 - 8 - 1 = -8$.

The largest value of the above occurs at $x = -3$, $y = 8$. This is our absolute maximum.

The smallest occurs when $x = -2$ and $y = -17$, which is our absolute minimum.

5. Let $f(x) = x\,e^{-2x}$.

(a) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ Calculate $f'(x)$

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

$$f'(x) = e^{-2x} - 2x\,e^{-2x}$$

(b) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ Calculate $f''(x)$

Solution: Taking the derivative of the above gives

$$f''(x) = -2e^{-2x} - 2e^{-2x} + 4x\,e^{-2x}$$

which simplifies to

$$4x\,e^{-2x} - 4e^{-2x}$$

(c) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ For what values of x is $f(x)$ increasing?

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

$$e^{-2x} - 2x\,e^{-2x} > 0$$

Factoring out the exponential term gives $e^{-2x}(1 - 2x) > 0$, and since e^{-2x} is always positive, we only need ask where $1 - 2x > 0$. This happens for

$$x < \frac{1}{2}.$$

(d) $\boxed{\text{3 points}}$ For what values of x is $f(x)$ concave down?

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

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

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

6. $\boxed{\text{10 points}}$ 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 10 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

$$100 = 2\pi \cdot 5 \frac{dr}{dt},$$

so we have

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{100}{10\pi} = \frac{10}{\pi}.$$