Math 120C

First Midterm Answers

1 (12 points) Let $f(x) = x^2 - 5x$ and g(x) = |3 - 2x|

(a) (7 points) Simplify the expression $\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$ far enough so that plugging in h = 0 would be allowed.

2x + h - 5

(b) (6 points) Find all solutions to the equation g(x) = 3x - 7.

The only solution is x = 4.

- 2 (13 points) Clovis and Isobel are standing on Broadway, 30 feet South of the intersection with Aloha St. Clovis starts walking North at a constant rate of 5 feet/second. When he reaches the intersection, he turns West and continues at the same speed down Aloha St. Isobel does not move.
 - (a) (7 points) Give a multi-part function for the distance between Clovis and Isobel as a function of time. Use units of feet and seconds.

$$d(t) = \begin{cases} 5t & \text{if } 0 \le t \le 6; \\ \sqrt{900 + 25(t-6)^2} & \text{if } t > 6. \end{cases}$$

(b) (6 points) When are they 50 feet apart?

The only answer that makes sense is t = 14 seconds.

3 (12 points) Tafu is sailing near a radar buoy which can detect anything within 9 km of the buoy. He starts sailing from a point 7 km West and 11 km North of the buoy. He sails South for one hour, then turns and sails East for 30 km.

He sails at a constant speed of 6 km/hr.

How much time was he within 9 km of the buoy?

The total time is
$$\frac{4\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{56} + 2}{6} \approx 2.52$$
 hours.

- (12 points) Winfield is moving linearly in the xy-plane at a constant speed. He starts from the point (3, -1) and moves along the line y = -2x + 5 at a speed of 3 units per second, heading toward the y-axis.
- (a) (6 points) Write parametric equations for Winfield's location t seconds after starting.

The equations are

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$$x = -\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}t + 3, \ y = \frac{6}{\sqrt{5}}t - 1$$

(b) (6 points) At what time is Winfield closest to the origin?

The answer is
$$t = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} \approx 0.745$$
 seconds.