Math 120C

First Midterm Solutions

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.

$$f(x+h) = (x+h)^2 - 5(x+h)$$

= $x^2 + 2xh + h^2 - 5x - 5h$

$$f(x+h) - f(x) = (x^2 + 2xh + h^2 - 5x - 5h) - (x^2 - 5x)$$

= 2xh + h^2 - 5h

$$\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = 2x + h - 5$$

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

We must solve |3 - 2x| = 3x - 7. This gives two equations:

1. 3-2x = 3x - 7. This has solution x = 2. But plugging x = 2 back into the original equation gives 1 = -1. This equation does not give a solution.

2. -(3-2x) = 3x - 7. This has solution x = 4. Plugging x = 4 back into the original equation gives 5 = 5. This equation does give a solution. The only solution is x = 4.

First Midterm Solutions

Autumn 2015

Math 120C

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.

Clovis is traveling in a straight line away from Isobel for the first 6 seconds. After that he is traveling at right angles to her and we must use the distance formula.

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

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

Since the intersection is only 30 feet away, we can assume t > 6.

$$50 = \sqrt{900 + 25(t-6)^2}$$

$$2500 = 900 + 25(t-6)^2$$

$$1600 = 25(t-6)^2$$

$$64 = (t-6)^2$$

$$\pm 8 = t-6$$

$$t = -2, 14$$

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

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First Midterm Solutions

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?

Introduce coordinates with the buoy at the origin, the x-axis going East-West and the y-axis going North-South.

Then the circle around the buoy has equation $x^2 + y^2 = 81$ Tafu is initially traveling South along the line x = -7. We calculate the intersection of the line and the circle:

$$(-7)^2 + y^2 = 81$$

 $y^2 = 32$
 $y = \pm 4\sqrt{2}$

Thus Tafu enters the circle at the point $(-7, 4\sqrt{2})$.

Traveling South for one hour from his initial position at 6 km/hr takes him to the point (-7,5). His total distance in the circle on his Southward voyage is $4\sqrt{2}-5$ km.

This part of his voyage in the circle takes $T_1 = \frac{4\sqrt{2}-5}{6} \approx 0.11$ hours.

Now Tafu is travelling East along the line y = 5 and he starts at (-7, 5). Traveling 30 km will take him out of the circle. We intersect the line and the circle:

$$x^{2} + (5)^{2} = 81$$
$$x^{2} = 56$$
$$x = \pm\sqrt{56}$$

Thus Tafu exits the circle at the point $(\sqrt{56}, 5)$. His total distance in the circle on his Eastward voyage is $\sqrt{56} - (-7)$ km. This part of his voyage in the circle takes $T_2 = \frac{\sqrt{56} + 7}{6} \approx 2.41$ hours.

The total time is $T_1 + T_2 = \frac{4\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{56} + 2}{6} \approx 2.52$ hours.

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First Midterm Solutions

- 4 (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.

Win starts at (3, -1) and goes to the point (0, 5), the y-intercept of the line. The distance is $\sqrt{3^2 + 6^2} = 3\sqrt{5}$ units.

He has a speed of 3 units/second so we compute $\Delta t = \frac{3\sqrt{5}}{3} = \sqrt{5}$ seconds. Now plug into $x = v_x t + x_0$, $y = v_y t + y_0$.

 $(x_0, y_0) = (3, -1)$ $v_x = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = \frac{0 - 3}{\sqrt{5}}$ $v_x = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t} = \frac{5 - (-1)}{\sqrt{5}}$

$$\Delta v = \sqrt{3}$$

The equations are

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

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

The line through the origin perpendicular to Win's path is $y = \frac{1}{2}x$. We find the x-coordinate of the intersection of the two lines:

$$\frac{1}{2}x = -2x + 5$$
$$x = -4x + 10$$
$$5x = 10$$
$$x = 2$$

We use the x-parametric equation to solve for t:

$$2 = -\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}t + 3$$
$$\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}t = 1$$
$$t = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}$$

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