# Math 124A

# Second Midterm Solutions v2

1 (12 points) Compute the derivatives of the following functions. Do not simplify your answers.

(a) (4 points) 
$$g(x) = (3x+1)\sec\sqrt{2-7x}$$

$$g'(x) = 3 \cdot \sec\sqrt{2 - 7x} + (3x + 1) \cdot \sec\sqrt{2 - 7x} \cdot \tan\sqrt{2 - 7x} \cdot \frac{-7}{2\sqrt{2 - 7x}}$$

(b) (4 points) 
$$h(x) = \sin\left(2 + \cos\sqrt{1+x^3}\right)$$
  
 $h'(x) = \cos\left(2 + \cos\sqrt{1+x^3}\right) \cdot \left(-\sin\sqrt{1+x^3}\right) \cdot \frac{3x^2}{2\sqrt{1+x^3}}$ 

(c) (4 points) 
$$y = (\tan^{-1} x)^{\ln x}$$
$$y = (\tan^{-1} x)^{\ln x}$$
$$\ln y = \ln (\tan^{-1} x)^{\ln x}$$
$$\ln y = \ln x \cdot \ln (\tan^{-1} x)$$
$$\frac{1}{y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x} \cdot \ln (\tan^{-1} x) + \ln x \cdot \frac{1}{\tan^{-1} x} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + x^2}$$
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = (\tan^{-1} x)^{\ln x} \cdot \left[\frac{1}{x} \cdot \ln (\tan^{-1} x) + \ln x \cdot \frac{1}{\tan^{-1} x} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + x^2}\right]$$

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2 (12 points)

pints) Consider the curve given by the parametric equations

 $x = t^3 - 7t + 5, \ y = 4t^3 - 3t^2 + 10t$ 

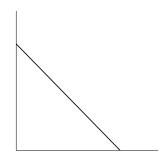
(a) (6 points) Find the equation of the tangent line to the curve when t = -1.

$$\begin{aligned} x(-1) &= 11 \qquad y(-1) = -17 \\ \frac{dx}{dt} &= 3t^2 - 7 \qquad \frac{dx}{dt} \Big|_{t=-1} = -4 \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= 12t^2 - 6t + 10 \qquad \frac{dy}{dt} \Big|_{t=-1} = 28 \\ \frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{t=-1} &= -\frac{28}{4} = -7 \\ y + 17 &= -7(x - 11) \end{aligned}$$

(b) (6 points) Find all times t when the tangent line has slope 5.

From part (a) we have 
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{12t^2 - 6t + 10}{3t^2 - 7}$$
.  
 $\frac{12t^2 - 6t + 10}{3t^2 - 7} = 5$   
 $12t^2 - 6t + 10 = 15t^2 - 35$   
 $0 = 3t^2 + 6t - 45$   
 $0 = t^2 + 2t - 15$   
 $0 = (t - 3)(t + 5)$   
 $t = -5, 3$ 

3 (10 points) A ladder 17 ft long rests against a vertical wall. The bottom of the ladder slides away from the wall at a rate of 0.5 ft/s. Consider the triangle formed by the ladder, the ground and the wall. At what rate is the area of this triangle changing when the bottom of the ladder is 8 ft from the wall?



Let y be the height of the top of the ladder. Let x be the distance of the bottom of the ladder from the wall. Let A be the area of the triangle. We know that  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 0.5$ .

We wish to compute  $\frac{dA}{dt}$  when x = 8.

We have 
$$A = \frac{1}{2}xy$$
.

By the Pythagorean Theorem, we have  $y = \sqrt{289 - x^2}$ Thus  $A = \frac{1}{2}x\sqrt{289 - x^2}$ .

Differentiating with respect to t gives

$$A = \frac{1}{2}x\sqrt{289 - x^2}$$
  

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} \cdot \sqrt{289 - x^2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot x \cdot \frac{-2x}{2\sqrt{289 - x^2}} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$$
  

$$= \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0.5 \cdot \sqrt{289 - 8^2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 8 \cdot \frac{-2 \cdot 8}{2\sqrt{289 - 8^2}} \cdot 0.5$$
  

$$= -\frac{161}{60}$$
  

$$\approx -2.68 \ ft^2/sec$$

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4 (8 points) Use a linear approximation to estimate  $\sqrt[5]{31}$ .

Let  $f(x) = x^{1/5}$  and take a = 32.

$$f(32) = 2$$
  

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{5}x^{-4/5}$$
  

$$f'(32) = \frac{1}{80}$$
  

$$L(x) = 2 + \frac{1}{80}(x - 32)$$
  

$$\sqrt[5]{31} \approx L(31)$$
  

$$= 2 + \frac{1}{80}(31 - 32)$$
  

$$= \frac{159}{80}$$

5 (8 points) Find all the points (a, b) on the curve  $2x^3 + y^2 + y = 0$  where the tangent line is vertical.

$$2x^{3} + y^{2} + y = 0$$
  

$$6x^{2} + 2yy' + y' = 0$$
  

$$y' = -\frac{6x^{2}}{2y + 1}$$

Thus the tangent line is vertical when  $y = -\frac{1}{2}$ .

$$2x^{3} + y^{2} - 8y = 0$$
  

$$2x^{3} + (-1/2)^{2} + (-1/2) = 0$$
  

$$x^{3} = \frac{1}{8}$$
  

$$x = \frac{1}{2}$$

The only point on the curve with a vertical tangent is (1/2, -1/2).