



L-Università  
ta' Malta

Department of Mathematics  
Faculty of Science

**B.Sc. (Hons.) Year I**

Semester I Examination Session 2023/24

MAT1804: Mathematics for Computing


24th January 2024

8:30–10:35

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## Instructions

Read the following instructions carefully.

- Attempt only **THREE** questions.
- Each question carries **35** marks.
- Calculators and mathematical formulæ booklet will be provided. 

⚠ Attempt only **THREE** questions.

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**Question 1.**

(a) (i) State and prove the handshaking lemma.

(ii) Show that

$$\delta(G) \leq (n-1)\rho(G) \leq \Delta(G),$$

where  $\delta(G)$ ,  $\rho(G)$  and  $\Delta(G)$  denote the *minimum degree*, *density* and *maximum degree* of the graph  $G$  respectively, and  $n = |V(G)|$ .

(b) Consider the matrices

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 1 & 8 \\ 2 & 0 & -4 \\ -4 & 1 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 & -1 & 4 \\ -2 & 3 & 4 \\ -2 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(i) Work out the product  $\mathbf{AB}$ , and deduce  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$ .

(ii) Hence, solve the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} -5x + y + 8z = 9 \\ 2x - 4z = -2 \\ -4x + y + 7z = 7. \end{cases}$$

(iii) Given that

$$\det(\lambda\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda+5 & -1 & -8 \\ -2 & \lambda & 4 \\ 4 & -1 & \lambda-7 \end{vmatrix} = (\lambda+1)(\lambda-1)(\lambda-2),$$

find the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and determine an eigenvector for each.

(c) By constructing an appropriate diagram involving the basis vectors  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ , find the matrix  $\mathbf{R}$  which rotates vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  by  $45^\circ$  anticlockwise about the origin.

(d) Let  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  be any two  $n \times n$  matrices. Show that if  $\mathbf{AP} = \mathbf{PB}$  for some invertible matrix  $\mathbf{P}$ , then  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  have the same eigenvalues.

[10, 14, 5, 6 marks]

### Question 2.

- (a) A total function  $f: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is said to be *Lipschitz continuous* if

$$\exists k > 0 : \forall x, y \in A, |f(x) - f(y)| \leq k|x - y|.$$

Write down the negation of the above statement.

- (b) Prove that for any two sets  $A$  and  $B$ ,

$$(A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) = (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B).$$

- (c) Construct a truth table for the proposition  $(\neg\phi \wedge \psi) \vee \xi \rightarrow \neg\psi \vee \neg\xi$ .

- (d) For any  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , write  $x \sim y$  if  $x^2 - y^2$  is an integer.

- (i) Show that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation.  
(ii) What is the equivalence class of the real number 2 in this relation?  
Write down the equivalence class of  $x$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  using set notation.

[5, 15, 5, 10 marks]

### Question 3.

- (a) If  $x, y > 0$ , show that  $\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^2 \geq 2$ .

- (b) Using induction, prove that

$$1 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 4 + 3 \cdot 5 + \cdots + n(n+2) = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+7).$$

- (c) You may assume that  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  is not a multiple of 3 if and only if it can be expressed in the form  $3k+1$  or  $3k+2$  for an appropriate  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- (i) Show that if  $n^4$  is divisible by 3, then  $n$  is.  
(ii) Hence, show that  $\sqrt[4]{3}$  is irrational.  
(iii) Show, by contradiction, that  $\frac{1 + \sqrt[4]{3}}{\sqrt[4]{3} - 2}$  is irrational.

[10, 10, 15 marks]

**Question 4.**

(a) Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two finite sets.

(i) Show that the number of functions from  $A$  to  $B$  is  $(|B| + 1)^{|A|}$ .

[Recall that for us, a function need not be total.]

(ii) How many total injective functions are there from  $A$  to  $B$ ?

(b) Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $f(x) = x^2 - 1$ . Find:

(i)  $f([1, 4])$

(ii)  $f(\{9\})$

(iii)  $f([1, 2] \cup (3, 4])$

(iv)  $f([-3, 3])$

(v)  $f^{-1}(\{3\})$

(vi)  $f^{-1}([-3, 3])$

(c) Define the function  $f : (-1, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$f(x) = \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}.$$

Prove that  $f$  is a bijection, hence determine a formula for  $f^{-1}$ .

(d) Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be any function.

(i) Show that for any  $A, B \subseteq Y$ , we have  $f^{-1}(A \cup B) = f^{-1}(A) \cup f^{-1}(B)$ .

(ii) Is it always true that  $f(A \cup B) = f(A) \cup f(B)$  for  $A, B \subseteq X$ ? If yes, prove it, if no, give a counterexample.

[10, 10, 6, 9 marks]

## Answers and Hints

1. (a) (i) For all graphs  $G$ ,

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} \deg(v) = 2|E(G)|.$$

*Proof 1.* The number  $\deg(v)$  counts the number of edges incident to the vertex  $v$ . Since each edge in the graph is incident to precisely two vertices, then each edge in  $|E(G)|$  contributes 2 to the sum.  $\square$

*Proof 2.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v \in V(G)} \deg(v) &= \sum_{v \in V(G)} |N(v)| \\ &= \sum_{v \in V(G)} \sum_{e \in E(G)} \mathbb{1}_{v \in e} \\ &= \sum_{e \in E(G)} \sum_{v \in V(G)} \mathbb{1}_{v \in e} = \sum_{e \in E(G)} 2 = 2|E(G)|. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

- (ii) First of all, observe that

$$(n-1)\rho(G) = \frac{(n-1)|E(G)|}{n(n-1)/2} = \frac{2|E(G)|}{|V(G)|}.$$

Now clearly

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v \in V(G)} \delta(G) &\leq \sum_{v \in V(G)} \deg(v) \leq \sum_{v \in V(G)} \Delta(G) \\ \Rightarrow |V(G)|\delta(G) &\leq 2|E(G)| \leq |V(G)|\Delta(G), \end{aligned}$$

and dividing through by  $|V(G)|$  gives

$$\delta(G) \leq \frac{2|E(G)|}{|V(G)|} \leq \Delta(G),$$

where the middle term is  $(n-1)\rho(G)$  as observed earlier.  $\square$

- (b) (i)  $\mathbf{AB} = 2\mathbf{I}$ , so  $\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{B}$ .

- (ii)  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}(9, -2, 7) = (-3, 2, -1)$ , so  $x = -3, y = 2, z = -1$ .

(iii) Eigenvalues are  $-1, 1, 2$ , with corresponding eigenvectors being (multiples of)  $(2, 0, 1), (1, -2, 1), (1, -1, 1)$ .

(c) Diagram should involve rotated vectors  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ , with some calculations showing working to find the “new”  $x$ - and  $y$ -coordinates.

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

(d) If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{A}$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$  for some vector  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , then  $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{x}) = \lambda(\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{x})$ . Thus  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue for  $\mathbf{B}$  with corresponding eigenvector  $\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{x}$ . Analogous reasoning shows that any eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{B}$  is also one of  $\mathbf{A}$ .  $\square$

2. (a)  $\forall k > 0, \exists x, y \in A : |f(x) - f(y)| > k|x - y|$ .

(b) To show that  $(A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) = (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$ , we must prove both:

$$(i) (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) \subseteq (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$$

$$(ii) (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B) \subseteq (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$$

For (i), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & x \in (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) \\ \Rightarrow & x \in (A \setminus B) \vee x \in (B \setminus A) && \text{(definition of } \cup) \\ \Rightarrow & (x \in A \wedge x \notin B) \vee (x \in B \wedge x \notin A), && \text{(definition of } \setminus) \\ \Rightarrow & ((x \in A \wedge x \notin B) \vee x \in B) && \text{(distributivity of} \\ & \quad \wedge ((x \in A \wedge x \notin B) \vee x \notin A), && \text{ } \vee \text{ over } \wedge) \\ \Rightarrow & ((x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge (x \notin B \vee x \in B)) && \text{(distributivity of} \\ & \quad \wedge ((x \in A \vee x \notin A) \wedge (x \notin B \vee x \notin A)), && \text{ } \vee \text{ over } \wedge) \\ \Rightarrow & ((x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge \text{true}) && (\phi \vee \neg\phi \leftrightarrow \text{true}) \\ & \quad \wedge (\text{true} \wedge (x \notin B \vee x \notin A)), && \\ \Rightarrow & (x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge (x \notin A \vee x \notin B), && (\phi \wedge \text{true} \leftrightarrow \phi) \\ \Rightarrow & (x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge \neg(x \in A \wedge x \in B), && \text{(de Morgan's)} \\ \Rightarrow & x \in (A \cup B) \wedge x \notin (A \cap B), && \text{(definition of } \cup, \cap) \\ \Rightarrow & x \in (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B), && \text{(definition of } \setminus) \end{aligned}$$

and for (ii), notice that every step above is reversible, so replacing each  $\Rightarrow$  with a  $\Leftrightarrow$  gives us a complete proof.  $\square$

(c) Use [1c.mt/tt](#) for this.

(d) (i) The proof is straightforward. For reflexivity,  $x^2 - x^2 = 0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so  $x \sim x$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

For symmetry,  $x \sim y$  means  $x^2 - y^2$  is an integer, so  $y^2 - x^2 = -(x^2 - y^2)$  is clearly also an integer, which means  $y \sim x$ .

Finally for transitivity,  $x \sim y$  and  $y \sim z$  mean that  $x^2 - y^2$  and  $y^2 - z^2$  are both integers, thus their sum  $x^2 - z^2$  is also an integer, which means that  $x \sim z$ .

(ii) The equivalence class of 2 consists of all those real numbers  $y$  for which  $4 - y^2$  is an integer, i.e.,  $y^2 - 4 = a$ , i.e.,  $\{\pm\sqrt{a+4} : a \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } a \geq -4\}$ .

For any  $x$ , we have  $[x] = \{\pm\sqrt{a+x^2} : a \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } a \geq -x^2\}$ .

3. (a) Hint:  $\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{x^2 - y^2}{xy}\right)^2 + 2$ .

(b) Straightfoward induction proof.

(c) (i) By contrapositive: we show that if  $n$  is not divisible by 3, then  $n^4$  is not divisible by 3.

Indeed, if  $n$  is not divisible by 3, then it equals  $3k + 1$  or  $3k + 2$  for appropriate  $k$ . In the first case,

$$n^4 = (3k + 1)^4 = 3(27k^4 + 36k^3 + 18k^2 + 4k) + 1,$$

so it is not divisible by 3. In the second case,

$$n^4 = (3k + 2)^4 = 3(27k^4 + 72k^3 + 72k^2 + 32k + 5) + 1,$$

so it is also not divisible by 3.  $\square$

(ii) By contradiction: suppose that we can write  $\sqrt[4]{3} = a/b$  with  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\text{hcf}(a, b) = 1$ . Then  $a^4 = 3b^4$ , so  $a^4$  is a multiple of 3, which by (i) implies that  $a$  is a multiple of 3, say,  $a = 3k$ . But then  $(3k)^4 = 3b^4$  which implies that  $b^4 = 3(9k^4)$ , so  $b^4$  is also a

multiple of 3, which again by (i) implies that  $b$  is a multiple of 3. This contradicts that  $\text{hcf}(a, b) = 1$ .  $\square$

(iii) By contradiction: If the given number is rational, say equal to  $a/b$ , then we may express

$$\sqrt[4]{3} = \frac{2a + b}{a - b},$$

which contradicts (ii).  $\square$

4. (a) (i) Suppose  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_{|A|}\}$ . Then we can encode the function  $f$  by writing out the corresponding element of  $B$  as a “word”, where the  $i$ th letter corresponds to  $f(a_i)$ :

$$\overline{a_1} \quad \overline{a_2} \quad \overline{a_3} \quad \cdots \quad \overline{a_{|A|}}$$

in each space, we can put any of the  $|B|$  possible output, or ‘undefined’, so we have  $1 + |B|$  options for each  $a_i$  (since the function doesn’t need to be total).

Thus the number of functions is  $(1 + |B|)(1 + |B|) \cdots (1 + |B|) = (1 + |B|)^{|A|}$ .  $\square$

(ii) Similar to part (i), but the function must be total, so instead of  $|B| + 1$ , we have  $|B|$  choices. Moreover, we cannot repeat ourselves, since  $f$  is injective. Thus  $|B|(|B| - 1) \cdots (|B| - |A| + 1)$  is the result, assuming  $|A| \leq |B|$ . If  $|A| > |B|$ , then the answer is zero.

- |     |                |                 |                             |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| (b) | (i) $[0, 15]$  | (ii) $\{80\}$   | (iii) $[0, 3] \cup (8, 15]$ |
|     | (iv) $[-1, 8]$ | (v) $\{-2, 2\}$ | (vi) $[-2, 2]$              |

(c) Firstly,  $f$  clearly assigns each  $x \in (-1, 1)$  to a unique real number, so  $f$  is total and functional.



Now to see that  $f$  is injective, suppose  $f(x) = f(y)$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{1-y^2}} \\ \Rightarrow & \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} = \frac{y^2}{1-y^2} \\ \Rightarrow & x^2(1-y^2) = y^2(1-x^2) \\ \Rightarrow & x^2 = y^2 \\ \Rightarrow & y = \pm x \end{aligned}$$

Clearly  $f(x) \neq f(-x)$  since they have opposite signs, so we must have  $x = y$ , thus  $f$  is an injection.

Finally, to see that  $f$  is a surjection, let  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} & f(x) = y \\ \Rightarrow & \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = y \\ \Rightarrow & x^2 = y^2(1-x^2) \\ \Rightarrow & x^2 + x^2y^2 = y^2 \\ \Rightarrow & x^2(1+y^2) = y^2 \\ \Rightarrow & x = \pm \frac{y}{\sqrt{1+y^2}} \end{aligned}$$

Of the two, it is clear that we should take the + version, since

$$f\left(\frac{y}{\sqrt{1+y^2}}\right) = \frac{\frac{y}{\sqrt{1+y^2}}}{\sqrt{1-\frac{y^2}{1+y^2}}} = \frac{y}{1-y^2},$$

thus for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ , we can take  $x = y/\sqrt{1+y^2}$  to get  $f(x) = y$ , proving that  $f$  is surjective.

Consequently, we see that

$$f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}.$$

(d) (i)  $x \in f^{-1}(A \cup B) \iff f(x) \in A \cup B$  (definition of  $f^{-1}$ )  
 $\iff f(x) \in A \vee f(x) \in B$  (definition  $\cup$ )  
 $\iff x \in f^{-1}(A) \vee x \in f^{-1}(B)$  (definition of  $f^{-1}$ )  
 $\iff x \in f^{-1}(A) \cup f^{-1}(B)$  (definition of  $\cup$ ),  
 which completes the proof.  $\square$

(ii) It is true, and the proof is similar:

$y \in f(A \cup B)$   
 $\iff \exists x : (x \in A \cup B \wedge f(x) = y)$  (definition of  $f(S)$ )  
 $\iff \exists x : ((x \in A \vee x \in B) \wedge f(x) = y)$  (definition of  $\cup$ )  
 $\iff \exists x : (x \in A \wedge f(x) = y) \vee (x \in B \wedge f(x) = y)$  (distributivity)  
 $\iff y \in f(A) \vee y \in f(B)$  (definition of  $f(S)$ )  
 $\iff y \in f(A) \cup f(B)$ , (definition of  $\cup$ )  
 as required.  $\square$