# 270C - Homework 3

#### 5.1.2

Prove the following statements.

(a) Every Lipschitz function is uniformly continuous.

*Proof.* Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a Lipschitz function between metric spaces  $(X, d_X)$  and  $(Y, d_Y)$  with Lipschitz constant K. Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be given. Then if  $d_X(x, y) < \epsilon/K$ , we have that

$$d_Y(f(x), f(y)) \le K d_X(x, y) \le \epsilon,$$

so f is uniformly continuous.

(b) Every differentiable function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  is Lipschitz and

$$||f||_{\text{Lip}} \le \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} ||\nabla f(x)||_2.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be given. Since f is differentiable, for each x there exists a  $\delta_x$  such that  $||x-y|| < \delta$  implies that

$$||f(y) - f(x) - \nabla f(x)^T (y - x)||_2 < \epsilon ||y - x||_2.$$

By the triangle inequality,  $||f(y) - f(x)||_2 \le (||\nabla f(x)||_2 + \epsilon)||y - x||_2$ . Taking  $\epsilon \to 0$  establishes the bound (locally). If we restrict ourselves to a compact set (gets rid of locality) and assume f is continuously differentiable we can establish the desired claim I think.

(c) Give an example of a non-Lipshitz but uniformly continuous function  $f: [-1,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ .

Proof. Consider  $f(x) = |x|^{1/2}$ . Qualitatively, the sharp cusp at the origin keeps f from being Lipshitz on [-1,1], while f is uniformly continuous since it's a continuous function on a compact set. More rigorously,  $|x|^{1/2}/|x| \to \infty$  as  $x \to 0$ , so there is no K such that  $|x|^{1/2} \le K|x|$  for all x sufficiently small.

(d) Give an example of a non-differentiable but Lipshitz function  $f: [-1,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ .

*Proof.* Since Lipshitz functions are differentiable almost everywhere, the most exotic thing we can hope for is something with only a few bad points. For example, f(x) = |x| is as Lipshitz as it gets, but it isn't differentiable at the origin.

### 5.1.3

Prove the following statements.

(a) For a fixed  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the linear functional

$$f(x) = \langle x, \theta \rangle$$

is a Lipshitz function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $||f||_{\text{Lip}} = ||\theta||_2$ .

*Proof.* That f is Lipshitz follows from Cauchy-Schwartz:

$$|f(x) - f(y)| = |\langle x - y, \theta \rangle| \le ||x - y||_2 \cdot ||\theta||_2.$$

In particular,  $||f||_{\text{Lip}} \leq ||\theta||_2$ . Now we also have

$$\frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{\|x - y\|_2} = \frac{|\langle x - y, \theta \rangle|}{\|x - y\|_2} = |\cos \phi| \cdot \|\theta\|_2,$$

where  $\phi$  is the angle between x - y and  $\theta$ . Since  $|\cos \phi|$  can reach its maximum value of 1, we conclude that the Lipschitz norm of f is indeed  $\|\theta\|_2$ .

(b) More generally, an  $m \times n$  matrix A acting as a linear operator

$$A: (\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|_2) \to (\mathbb{R}^m, \|\cdot\|_2)$$

is Lipschitz and  $||A||_{Lip} = ||A||$ .

*Proof.* A is certainly Lipschitz since for any  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$||Ax - Ay||_2 = ||A(x - y)||_2 \le ||A|| \cdot ||x - y||_2.$$

In particular,  $\|A\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq \|A\|$ . Furthermore, by linearity we have

$$||A||_{\text{Lip}} = \inf \left\{ K : \frac{||A(x-y)||_2}{||x-y||_2} \le K, \text{ for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n \right\} = \sup_{v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ v \ne 0} \frac{||Av||_2}{||v||_2} = ||A||.$$

(c) Any norm f(x) = ||x|| on  $(\mathbb{R}^n, ||\cdot||_2)$  is a Lipschitz function. The Lipschitz norm of f is the smallest L that satisfies

$$||x|| \le L||x||_2$$
 for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

*Proof.* It's a standard fact from real analysis that all norms on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are equivalent, so there are positive constants  $C_1, C_2$  such that

$$C_1||x||_2 \le ||x|| \le C_2||x||_2$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . By the reverse triangle inequality we then have

$$|f(x) - f(y)| = ||x|| - ||y||| \le ||x - y|| \le C_2 ||x - y||_2,$$

so f is Lipschitz. The same argument used in part (b) gives the Lipschitz constant.

#### 5.1.9

Let A be a subset of the sphere  $\sqrt{n}S^{n-1}$  such that

$$\sigma(A) > 2\exp(-cs^2)$$

for some s > 0.

(a) Prove that  $\sigma(A_s) > 1/2$ .

*Proof.* Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that  $\sigma(A_s) \leq 1/2$ . Then the complement  $B := (A_s)^C$  satisfies  $\sigma(B) \geq 1/2$  and we have by the blowup lemma that

$$\sigma(B_t) \ge 1 - 2\exp(-ct^2)$$

for all  $t \geq 0$ . By construction, the sets  $B_s$  and A are disjoint, but  $\sigma(B_s) \geq 1 - 2\exp(-cs^2)$  and  $\sigma(A) > 2\exp(-cs^2)$ , a contradiction.

(b) Deduce that for any  $t \geq s$ ,

$$\sigma(A_{2t}) \ge 1 - 2\exp(-ct^2).$$

*Proof.* By part (a) and the blowup lemma we have that

$$\sigma((A_s)_t) \ge 1 - 2\exp(-ct^2)$$

for all  $t \geq 0$ . Setting  $t \geq s$  gives the desired result since for such t we have  $A_{2t} \supseteq (A_s)_t$ .

## 5.1.15

Fix  $\epsilon \in (0,1)$ . Show that there exists a set  $\{x_1,\ldots,x_N\}$  of unit vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  which are mutually almost orthogonal:

$$|\langle x_i, x_j \rangle| \le \epsilon$$
 for all  $i \ne j$ ,

and the set is exponentially large in n:

$$N \ge \exp(c_{\epsilon}n)$$
.

*Proof.* Fix any  $x_0$  in the sphere  $\sqrt{n}S^{n-1}$  and consider the function  $f_0(x) = \langle x, x_0 \rangle$ . By exercise 5.1.3,  $f_0$  is Lipschitz and  $||f_0||_{\text{Lip}} = ||x_0||_2 = \sqrt{n}$ . If  $X \sim Unif(\sqrt{n}S^{n-1})$ , then by theorem 5.1.4 (concentration of Lipschitz functions on the sphere), we have that

$$\Pr\left[|f(X) - E[f(X)] > t\right] = \Pr[|\langle X, x_0 \rangle| > t] \le 2\exp(-ct^2/n),$$

for all  $t \geq 0$ . Now we have that

$$\Pr \left[ \left| \left\langle X, x_0 \right\rangle \right| > t \right] = \Pr \left[ n |\cos \phi| > t \right],$$

where  $\phi$  is the angle between X and  $x_0$ . Setting  $t = n\epsilon$  gives

$$\Pr\left[|\cos\phi| > \epsilon\right] \le 2\exp(-c\epsilon^2 n).$$

In particular, if we let  $E_0$  be the set of vectors in  $\sqrt{n}S^{n-1}$  that are almost orthogonal to  $x_0$ ,

$$E_0 = \{ x \in \sqrt{n} S^{n-1} : |\langle x, x_0 \rangle| \le \epsilon \},$$

then we have  $\sigma(E_0) \geq 1 - 2\exp(-c\epsilon^2 n)$ . This gives us a sort of algorithm for building our mutually almost orthogonal set. We first choose  $x_0$  anywhere in  $\sqrt{n}S^{n-1}$  and then choose  $x_1 \in E_0$  as defined above. Then we choose  $x_2$  in  $E_0 \cap E_1$ , where  $E_1$  is defined analogously. A union bound says that on the k-th step we have

$$\sigma\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^{k} E_i\right) \ge 1 - 2k \exp(-c\epsilon^2 n).$$

The above quantity is strictly positive as long as  $k < \frac{1}{2} \exp(c\epsilon^2 n)$ , so we can build a family of mutually almost orthogonal vectors that is exponentially large in the dimension.

### 5.2.3

Consider a random vector  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_n)$  and a Lipschitz function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  (with respect to the Euclidean metric). Show that

$$||f(X) - Ef(X)||_{\psi_2} \le C ||f||_{\text{Lip}}.$$

*Proof.* The proof strategy is the basically the same that we used to prove this result on the sphere. We use the Gaussian isoperimetric inequality, a blow-up argument for half spaces, and then use the same median argument to put it all together.

First suppose that  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is measurable with Gaussian measure  $\gamma(A) \ge 1/2$ . Then we claim that for all  $t \ge 0$ ,

$$\gamma(A_t) \ge 1 - \exp(-ct^2)$$

for some positive constant c. To see this, consider the half space,  $H = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 \leq 0\}$ . By assumption we have

$$\gamma(A) \ge \frac{1}{2} = \gamma(H).$$

Now by the Gaussian isoperimetric inequality, we have that  $\gamma(A_t) \geq \gamma(H_t)$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . Now the t-neighborhood of a half space is again a half space:

$$H_t = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 \le t\}.$$

Since  $x_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$  and the standard normal is clearly sub-Gaussian, we have that

$$\gamma(H_t) \ge 1 - \exp(ct^2)$$

for some c > 0. From here, the proof is identical to the spherical case.

## 5.2.11

Let  $\Phi(x)$  denote the cumulative distribution function of the standard normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$ . Consider a random vector  $Z = (Z_1, \ldots, Z_n) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_n)$ . Show that

$$\phi(Z) := (\Phi(Z_1), \dots, \Phi(Z_n)) \sim \operatorname{Unif}([0, 1]^n).$$

*Proof.* Since the coordinates of Z are independent, so are the coordinates of  $\phi(Z)$ . Since the coordinates of a Unif([0,1]<sup>n</sup>) random variable are independent Unif([0,1]) random variables, we just have to show that  $\Phi(Z_i) \sim \text{Unif}([0,1])$ . This is clear since for all  $t \in [0,1]$  we have.

$$\Pr[\Phi(Z_i) \le t] = \Pr[Z_i \le \Phi^{-1}(t)] = \Phi(\Phi^{-1}(t)) = t.$$

5.2.12

Let  $X = \phi(Z)$  be as in the previous exercise. Use Gaussian concentration to control the deviation of  $f(\phi(Z))$  in terms of  $||F \circ \phi||_{\text{Lip}} \le ||F||_{\text{Lip}} ||\phi||_{\text{Lip}}$ . Show that  $||\phi||_{\text{Lip}}$  is bounded by an absolute constant and complete the proof of theorem 5.2.10.

*Proof.* By Gaussian concentration we have

$$\|(f \circ \phi)(Z) - E(f \circ \phi)(Z)\|_{\psi_2} \le C \|f \circ \phi\|_{\text{Lip}} \le C \|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \|\phi\|_{\text{Lip}}$$

Let's pick apart  $\|\phi\|_{\text{Lip}}$ . The function  $\Phi$  is differentiable and its derivative is bounded by 1. By an earlier exercise, we then have  $|\Phi(x) - \Phi(y)| \le |x - y|$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ . This gives

$$\frac{\|\phi(x) - \phi(y)\|_2}{\|x - y\|_2} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\Phi(x_i) - \Phi(y_i))^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2}} \le 1.$$

We then have that  $\|\phi\|_{\text{Lip}}$  is bounded by 1 and the claim follows.

#### 5.3.3

Let A be an  $m \times n$  random matrix whose rows are independent, mean zero, sub-gaussian isotropic random vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Show that the conclusion of the Johnson-Lindenstrauss lemma holds for  $Q = (1/\sqrt{m})A$ .

*Proof.* Our plan is to show that with probability at least  $1 - 2\exp(-c\epsilon^2 m)$ , Q satisfies

$$(1 - \epsilon) \|x\|_2 \le \|Qx\|_2 \le (1 + \epsilon) \|x\|_2$$
 for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

By linearity we can assume that  $||x||_2 = 1$ . We have that

$$(Qx)_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}} \sum_{j=1}^n Q_{ij} x_j.$$

By our assumptions on Q, we have that  $(Qx)_i$  is centered, has unit variance, and is sub-Gaussian.  $\square$ 

#### 5.4.5

Prove the following properties.

(a)  $||X|| \le t$  if and only if  $-tI \le X \le tI$ .

*Proof.* The eigenvalues of  $X \pm tI$  are  $\lambda \pm t$ , where  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of X. Now  $||X|| = |\lambda_1|$ , where  $\lambda_1$  is the eigenvalue with the largest magnitude. If  $||X|| \le t$ , then  $0 \le \lambda + t$  and  $t - \lambda \ge 0$  for all eigenvalues  $\lambda$  of X, so  $-tI \le X \le tI$ .

Suppose now that  $-tI \leq X \leq tI$ . By the same reasoning used above, every eigenvalue of X has magnitude less than t, so  $||X|| \leq t$ .

(b) Let  $f, g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  be two functions. If  $f(x) \leq g(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  satisfying  $|x| \leq K$ , then  $f(X) \leq g(X)$  for all X satisfying  $||X|| \leq K$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $||X|| \leq K$ . The eigenvalues of g(X) - f(X) are  $g(\lambda) - f(\lambda)$  where  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of X. Since  $f(x) \leq g(x)$  for all  $|x| \leq K$ , we then have that the eigenvalues of g(X) - f(X) are nonnegative, so  $f(X) \leq g(X)$ .

(c) Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  be an increasing function and X, Y are commuting matrices. Then  $X \preceq Y$  implies  $f(X) \preceq f(Y)$ .

Proof. Since X and Y commute, they are simultaneously diagonalizable and the eigenvalues of the difference Y - X are  $\lambda_i - \mu_i$  for a particular ordering of the eigenvalues of Y and X. Since  $X \leq Y$ , we have that  $\lambda_i - \mu_i \geq 0$ . Since f is increasing,  $f(\lambda_i) - f(\mu_i) \geq 0$ . These are the eigenvalues of f(X) - f(Y), so  $f(X) \leq f(Y)$ .

(d) Give an example showing that property (c) may fail for non-commuting matrices.

*Proof.* The idea is to find two  $2 \times 2$  matrices A, B such that  $0 \leq A \leq B$  but  $A^2 \nleq B^2$ .

(e) Show that  $X \leq Y$  always implies  $\operatorname{tr} f(X) \leq \operatorname{tr} f(Y)$  for any increasing function  $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ .

*Proof.* As per the hint, we'll show that  $\lambda_i(X) \leq \lambda_i(Y)$  for all i. By Courant-Fischer and the given

hypotheses, we have

$$0 \le \lambda_i(Y - X)$$

$$= \max_{\dim E = i} \min_{x \in S(E)} (\langle Yx, x \rangle - \langle Xx, x \rangle)$$

$$\le \max_{\dim E = i} \min_{x \in S(E)} \langle Yx, x \rangle - \max_{\dim E = i} \min_{x \in S(E)} \langle Xx, x \rangle$$

$$= \lambda_i(Y) - \lambda_i(X).$$

The claim follows since the trace is the sum of the eigenvalues.

(f) Show that  $0 \leq X \leq Y$  implies  $X^{-1} \succeq Y^{-1}$  if X is invertible.

*Proof.* First, suppose the claim holds when one of the matrices is the identity. We claim that we can multiply  $X \leq Y$  through on the left and right by  $Y^{-1/2}$ , which gives  $Y^{-1/2}XY^{-1/2} \leq I$ . Since the desired conclusion is assumed to hold when one matrix is the identity, we have that  $Y^{1/2}X^{-1}Y^{1/2} \succeq I$ . Multiplying through on the right and left by  $Y^{1/2}$  gives the desired  $X^{-1} \succeq Y^{-1}$ .

The product of two psd matrices is psd if and only if the product is also symmetric. Since  $Y^{-1/2}(Y - X)Y^{-1/2}$  is symmetric, we have that it is also psd. We then have

$$X \preceq Y \iff 0 \preceq Y - X$$

$$\implies 0 \preceq Y^{-1/2} (Y - X)^{-1/2}$$

$$\implies Y^{-1/2} X Y^{-1/2} \preceq I.$$

so our earlier claim is justified. It remains to show that the proposition holds for the identity, i.e.  $0 \leq X \leq I$  implies that  $X^{-1} \succeq I$ . But this is clear since in part (e) we showed that  $0 \leq X \leq I$  implies that each eigenvalue of X is between 0 and 1. Consequently, each eigenvalue of  $X^{-1}$  is at least 1, so we have  $X^{-1} \succeq I$ .

(g) Show that  $0 \leq X \leq Y$  implies  $\log X \leq \log Y$ .

*Proof.* Since  $0 \leq X \leq Y$ , we have  $0 \leq X + t \leq Y + t$  for all t > 0. By part (f) we deduce that  $(X + t)^{-1} \succeq (Y + t)^{-1}$ . Finally, by this identity that follows from elementary calculus,

$$\log x = \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{1+t} - \frac{1}{x+t}\right) dt,$$

we have that

$$\log Y - \log X = \int_0^\infty \left( (X+t)^{-1} - (Y+t)^{-1} \right) dt \succeq 0.$$

#### 5.4.11

Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_N$  be independent, mean zero,  $n \times n$  symmetric random matrices, such that  $||X_i|| \leq K$  almost surely for all i. Deduce from Bernstein's inequality that

$$E \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{N} X_i \right\| \lesssim \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{N} E X_i^2 \right\|^{1/2} \sqrt{1 + \log n} + K(1 + \log n.)$$

Proof.

## 5.4.12

Let  $\epsilon_1, \ldots, \epsilon_n$  be independent symmetric Bernoulli random variables and let  $A_1, \ldots, A_N$  be symmetric  $n \times n$  matrices (deterministic). Prove that for any  $t \geq 0$  we have

$$\Pr\left[\left\|\sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_i A_i\right\| \ge t\right] \le 2n \exp(-t^2/2\sigma^2),$$

where  $\sigma^2 = \|\sum_{i=1}^N A_i^2\|$ .

*Proof.* We start with the usual moment generating function setup:

$$\Pr\left[\left\|\sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_{i} A_{i}\right\| \geq t\right] \leq e^{-\lambda t} E \exp\left(\lambda \left\|\sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_{i} A_{i}\right\|\right).$$

Now we have that  $\|\sum_{i=1}^N \epsilon_i A_i\| = \lambda_1(\sum_{i=1}^N \epsilon_i A_i)$ , the magnitude of the largest eigenvalue. As discussed in class, we can bound the maximum eigenvalue of a matrix by its trace, which gives

$$\exp\left(\lambda \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_{i} A_{i} \right\| \right) = \exp\left(\lambda \cdot \lambda_{1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_{i} A_{i} \right) \right)$$

$$= \lambda_{1} \left[ \exp\left(\lambda \sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_{i} A_{i} \right) \right]$$

$$\leq \operatorname{tr} \exp\left(\lambda \sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_{i} A_{i} \right).$$

Now just as in the proof of the matrix Bernstein inequality, we apply Lieb's inequality repeatedly to get

$$E \exp \left(\lambda \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_i A_i \right\| \right) \le \operatorname{tr} \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} \log E e^{\lambda \epsilon_i A_i} \right).$$

We can actually compute this expectation.

$$Ee^{\lambda\epsilon_i A_i} = \cosh(\lambda A_i) \leq e^{\lambda^2 A_i^2/2}$$

The semidefinite order bound follows from exercise 5.4.5(b). From 5.4.5(e) we have

$$\operatorname{tr} \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \log E e^{\lambda \epsilon_i A_i} \right] \leq \operatorname{tr} \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \log \exp \frac{\lambda^2 A_i^2}{2} \right] = \operatorname{tr} \exp \left( \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N A_i^2 \right).$$

I might be cheating here when I say that  $\exp \log A = A$ . I think you need some condition on ||A - I||. Now we bound the trace in terms of the maximum eigenvalue.

$$\operatorname{tr} \exp \left( \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N A_i^2 \right) \le n \cdot \lambda_i \left[ \exp \left( \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N A_i^2 \right) \right] = n \exp \left( \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sigma^2 \right).$$

Thus, we have

$$\Pr\left[\left\|\sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_i A_i\right\| \ge t\right] \le n \exp(-\lambda t + \lambda^2 \sigma^2/2).$$

The  $\lambda$  that optimizes this bound is  $\lambda = t/\sigma^2$ , which leaves us with the desired conclusion.

- 5.4.13
- 5.4.15
- 5.6.8

#### 7.1.8

Consider a random process  $(X_t)_{t \in T}$ .

(a) Express the increments  $||X_t - X_s||_2$  [I think this is supposed to be  $||\cdot||_{L^2}$ ] in terms of the covariance function  $\Sigma(t, s)$ .

Solution. We have

$$d(t,s)^{2} = E[(X_{t} - X_{s})^{2}] = E[X_{t}^{2}] - 2E[X_{t}X_{s}] + E[X_{s}^{2}] = \Sigma(t,t) - 2\Sigma(t,s) + \Sigma(s,s).$$

(b) Assuming that the zero random variable 0 belongs to the process, express the covariance function  $\Sigma(t,s)$  in terms of the increments  $||X_t - X_s||_{L^2}$ .

Solution. Suppose the zero process occurs at  $t=t_0$ , i.e.  $X_{t_0}=0$  a.s.. We have

$$\Sigma(t,s) = -\frac{1}{2}(-2E[X_t X_s])$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(E[X_t^2] + E[X_s^2] - E[X_t^2 - 2X_t X_s + X_s^2])$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(d(t,t_0)^2 + d(s,t_0)^2 - d(t,s)^2).$$

## 7.1.13

Realize an N-step random walk with  $Z_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$  as a canonical Gaussian process with  $T \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Solution. Let  $t_n$  be the vector  $e_1 + \cdots + e_n$ , the sum of the first n standard basis vectors of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . If we let  $g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_N)$ , then we have that  $\langle g, t_n \rangle$  is a sum of n independent standard normals, which is equal to  $X_n$  in distribution. This process is canonical since

$$||X_n - X_m||_{L^2} = ||\langle g, t_n - t_m \rangle||_{L^2} = \sqrt{n - m} = ||t_n - t_m||_2.$$

## 7.2.4

If  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ , show that

$$EXf(X) = \sigma^2 Ef'(X).$$

*Proof.* Note that  $X = \sigma Z$  for  $N \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$ . We apply Gaussian integration by parts.

$$E[Xf(X)] = \sigma E[Zf(\sigma Z)] = \sigma E[(f(\sigma Z))'] = \sigma^2 E[f(\sigma Z)] = \sigma^2 E[f(X)].$$