

# Calculus Problems

Noah Kochanski

August 18, 2025

## Calculus: Part I

---

1. Using the familiar set notation  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}, \cap, \cup, \setminus, ^C$ , write at least three different expressions that represent the set of all irrational real numbers.
2. Let  $A = [0,1], B = [0,1), C = [0,2], D = [0,2)$ . What is
  - (a)  $A \cap B^C$ ?
  - (b)  $(A \cup C) \cap (A \cup D)$ ?
  - (c)  $A^C \cap D^C$ ?
3. Let  $A = \{1,2,3,4,5\}$  and  $B = \{10, 20, 30\}$ . Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$ .
  - (a) Is it possible for  $f$  to be surjective? If yes, explicitly provide such a function  $f$  by providing values for  $f(1), f(2), \dots, f(5)$ . If no, explain why.
  - (b) Is it possible for  $f$  to be injective? If yes, explicitly provide such a function  $f$  by providing values for  $f(1), f(2), \dots, f(5)$ . If no, explain why.
4. Let  $f$  be a function given by the formula  $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x}$ .
  - (a) What is  $(f \circ f)(x)$ ? (Hint: You may need to find a common denominator).
  - (b) What is the domain of the function  $(f \circ f)(x)$ ?
5. Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be given by

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

Is  $f$  injective? Surjective?

## Calculus: Part II

---

1. Evaluate

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 2x - 3}{x - 3}.$$

2. Is the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2 - 2x - 3}{x - 3}, & x \neq 3 \\ 3, & x = 3 \end{cases}$$

continuous at  $x = 3$ ? Explain why or why not.

3. Calculate the derivative of

$$f(x) = \sin(\cos(x)).$$

4. Calculate the derivative of

$$f(x) = \frac{(x - 1)(x - 4)}{(x - 2)(x - 3)}.$$

5. Find the value  $x$  that maximizes the function

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-5)^2}{2}}$$

by taking the derivative and setting it equal to zero, and solving for  $x$ .

## Calculus: Part III

---

1. Find an antiderivative of

$$f(x) = x^2 - 5x^3 + \cos(x)$$

2. Find an antiderivative of the function

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x+5}.$$

3. Find an antiderivative of

$$f(x) = x\sqrt{16-x^2}.$$

4. Evaluate the definite integral

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos(x) dx.$$

5. Evaluate the definite integral

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xe^{-x^2} dx.$$

## Calculus: Part IV

---

1. Calculate the partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$  of

$$f(x, y) = \cos(x^2 + 2y) - e^{4x-y} + y^3.$$

2. Calculate the gradient of

$$-\frac{1}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{1}{2} \log \sigma^2 - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (x - \mu)^2$$

with respect to the variables  $\mu, \sigma^2$ . Evaluate the gradient at the point  $(\mu, \sigma^2) = (0, 1)$ .

3. Calculate

$$\int_0^1 \int_{-1}^2 x e^{xy} dx dy.$$

4. **(Challenge)** Compute the gradient of the *matrix function*  $f : \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = a^\top \mathbf{X} b$$

for fixed vectors  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . A gradient of a matrix function is computed the same way as a gradient of a vector function: taking the partial derivative with respect to each element of the matrix.

5. **(Challenge)** Let  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$  be a random vector with the given  $n$ -dimensional multivariate normal distribution. Use the change of variable formula to find the density of the random variable  $Y = \mathbf{A}X$  for some invertible matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . What is the distribution of  $Y$ ?

(For your reference, if  $Y = T(X)$  and  $X$  has density  $p_X$ , the the density of  $Y$  is given by

$$p_Y(y) = p_X(T^{-1}(y)) \left| \det JT^{-1}(y) \right|$$

where  $JT^{-1}$  is the Jacobian of the inverse of the  $T$ .)