

**Exercise 7.1** You are given cryptic proofs of mathematical statements. Rewrite them in a good style, with plenty of explanations.

1. A point on the first line is represented by the position vector

$$l(\lambda) = (4, 5, 1)^T + \lambda(1, 1, 1)^T = (4 + \lambda, 5 + \lambda, 1 + \lambda)^T$$

for some real number  $\lambda$ . Similarly, a point on the second line has position vector

$$m(\mu) = (5, 4, 0)^T + \mu(2, 3, 1)^T = (5 + 2\mu, 4 + 3\mu, \mu)^T$$

for some real  $\mu$ . For the lines to intersect, there must exist values of  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  for which the two position vectors are the same, namely

$$l(\lambda) = m(\mu)$$

The above vector equation corresponds to three scalar equations:

$$4 + \lambda = 5 + 2\mu$$

$$5 + \lambda = -4 - 3\mu$$

$$1 + \lambda = \mu$$

Eliminating  $\mu$  from equations, we obtain

$$4 + \lambda = 5 + 2(1 + \lambda)$$

which yields the solution  $\lambda = 3$ ,  $\mu = 2$ . This solution satisfies all three equations. Substituting these values in first two equations, we obtain

$$l(3) = m(2) = (1, 2, 2)^T$$

which is the position vector of the common point of the two lines.

2. A point where the function assumes its minimum or maximum value is where its derivative equals zero. Also if the second derivative of a function at the corresponding point is positive or negative, the function is curved outward or inward respectively. The derivative function of  $f$  is

$$f'(x) = 12x(x^2 + x + 1)$$

and the only root of it is 0. the second derivative of  $f$  is always positive which implies that function  $f$  is curved outward and its minimum is at point 0. by evaluating the value of  $f$  at 0, we find out that it is positive. therefore we made sure that the function never assumes negative values and is always positive.

3. We have the line equation as

$$l(x) : y = ax - \left(\frac{a-1}{2}\right)^2$$

and the parabola equation as

$$p(x) : y = x^2 + x$$

In order to assert whether the line is tangent to the parabola, we need to check two constraints: at a given point  $x_0$ :

$$(i) l(x_0) = p(x_0)$$

$$(ii) l'(x_0) = p'(x_0)$$

by solving the first equation with some straight forward calculations we find that  $x_0 = \frac{a-1}{2}$  and  $x_0$  also satisfies the second equation which involves the second derivatives. Eq.(i) implies that line and parabola intersect at  $x_0$  and Eq.(ii) implies that their slopes are equal, therefore they are tangent.

**Exercise 7.2** The following text has several faults: (a) explain what they are; (b) write an appropriate revision.

- (a) The statement of the theorem is imprecise in several respects.  
 The nature of the numbers  $x$  and  $y$  is not specified (the inequality would be meaningless for complex numbers). The case in which one of  $x$  or  $y$  is zero should be excluded, since in this case the left-hand side of the inequality is undefined. The statement is false unless the inequality is made non-strict; indeed the equality holds for infinitely many values of  $x$  and  $y$ .  
 There are several flaws in the proof  
 The basic deduction is carried out in the wrong direction, which proves nothing. (Proving that  $P \Rightarrow \text{True}$  gives no information about  $P$ .) The assertion ‘the last equation is trivially true’ is, in fact, false for  $x = y$ . The writing is inadequate, without sufficient explanations, and also imprecise (the expression  $(xy)^2 > 0$  is an inequality, not an equation).
- (b) Revised statement: Theorem: For all nonzero real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , the following holds:

$$\frac{x^2 + y^2}{|xy|} \geq 2$$

Proof: Let  $x$  and  $y$  be real numbers, with  $xy \neq 0$ . We shall deduce our result from the inequality  $(xy)^2 \geq 0$ . We begin with the chain of implications:

$$(xy)^2 \geq 0 \Rightarrow x^2 2xy + y^2 \geq 0 \Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 \geq 2xy$$

, Now, since  $xy$  is non-zero, we divide both sides of the rightmost inequality by  $-xy$ , to obtain

$$\frac{x^2 + y^2}{|xy|} \geq 2 \frac{xy}{|xy|}$$

The expression  $xy/|xy|$  is equal to 1 or -1, and by choosing an appropriate sign we can ensure that  $xy/|xy| = 1$ . Our proof is complete.

**Exercise 7.4** Write the

first few sentences of the proof of each statement, introducing all relevant notation in an appropriate order, and identifying the RTP.

1. Let  $X$  be a compact set, and let  $f$  be a continuous function over  $X$ . RTP:  $f$  is uniformly continuous.
2. Let  $F$  be a field, and let  $V$  be a valuation of  $f$  with prime characteristics. RTP:  $V$  is non-archimedean.
3. Let  $f(x)$  be a polynomial with integer coefficients, and assume that  $f$  is not a constant. RTP: There is an integer  $n$  such that  $f(n)$  is not prime.
4. Let  $X:[a,b]$  be a closed interval, and assume  $f(x)$  be a real function continuous in  $X$ . RTP: for all points  $x$  in  $X$ ,  $f(x)$  is between maximum and minimum of  $f$ .
5. Let  $X$  be a subset of a metric space, and assume  $X'$  be its complement. RTP: (i) We prove that  $X$  is open if  $X'$  is closed.  
 (ii) We prove that  $X'$  is closed if  $X$  is open.