

1. Consider the differential equation:

$$\dot{x}(t) = |x(t)|^{3/4}.$$

- (a) Suppose  $x(0) = 0$ . Find a nontrivial solution, with proper justification, that is defined on all of  $\mathbb{R}$ . [5 marks]

- (b) Now suppose  $x(0) = 1$ . Show that the local solution in this case could be extended to all of  $\mathbb{R}$  in more than one ways. [5 marks]

Consider

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \dots \dot{x}(t) = |x(t)|^{3/4}, \quad x(0) = x_0 > 0.$$

Consider now

$$F(y) = \int_{x_0}^y \frac{1}{f(s)} ds, \quad y \in (0, \infty),$$

where  $f(s) = s^{3/4}$ . Therefore,

$$F(y) = \int_{x_0}^y \frac{1}{s^{3/4}} ds = 4(y^{1/4} - x_0^{1/4}), \quad y \in (0, \infty).$$

$$\text{Range } F = \left( \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} F(y), \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} F(y) \right)$$

$$= (-4x_0^{1/4}, \infty).$$

Note that  $F$  can be extended at  $y=0$ , by putting  $F(0) = -4x_0^{1/4}$ .

Case a:  $x_0 = 0$ .

In this case, a solution of  $\textcircled{1}$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  is given by the inverse of  $F$ , namely

$$x(t) = \frac{t^4}{4^4}.$$

There are two ways of extending it to all of  $\mathbb{R}$ , namely

$$x_1(t) = \begin{cases} t^4/4^4, & t \geq 0 \\ 0, & t \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{or,}$$

Observe that in this case, if  $x(t)$  is a solution on  $t \geq 0$ , then  $-x(-t)$  is a solution on  $t \leq 0$ . Therefore

$$x_2(t) = \begin{cases} t^4/4^4, & t \geq 0 \\ -t^4/4^4, & t \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

is also a solution of  $\textcircled{1}$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Case b:  $x_0 = 1$ .

In this case, on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ , the inverse of  $F$ , defined on  $[-4, \infty)$ , by

$$x(t) = \left( \frac{t}{4} + 1 \right)^4$$

is a solution.

One way of extending this to all of  $\mathbb{R}$ , is to extend it by defining  $x_4(t) = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{t}{4} + 1 \right)^4, & [-4, \infty), \\ 0, & (-\infty, -4]. \end{cases}$

Another way to extend it is by observing that

$$-\left(\frac{t+4}{4}\right)^4$$

is a solution of

$$\dot{x}(t) = |x(t)|^{3/4} \quad \text{on } t \leq -4 \text{ and}$$

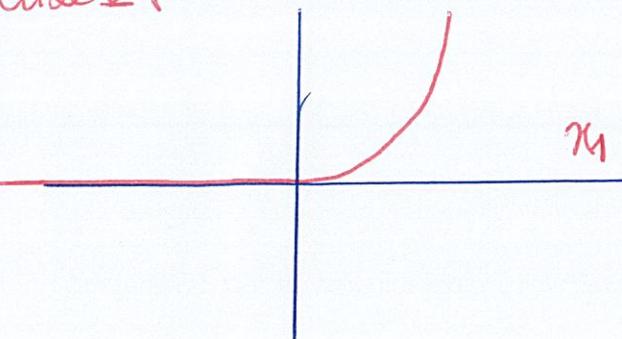
satisfying  $x(-4) = 0$ . Hence

$$x_2(t) = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{t}{4} + 1 \right)^4, & [-4, \infty); \\ -\left( \frac{t+4}{4} \right)^4, & (-\infty, -4). \end{cases}$$

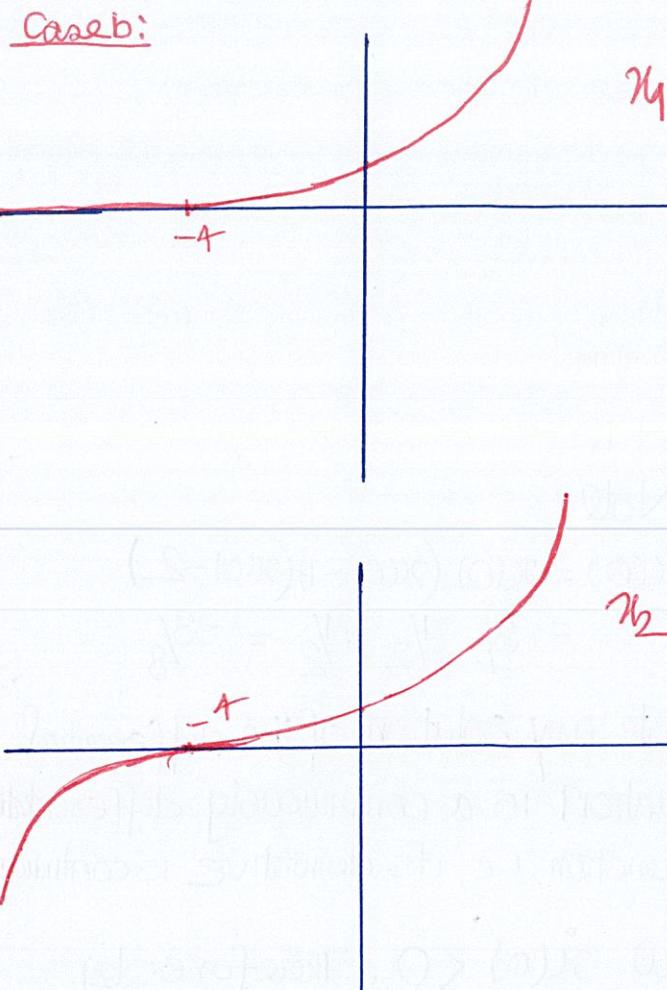
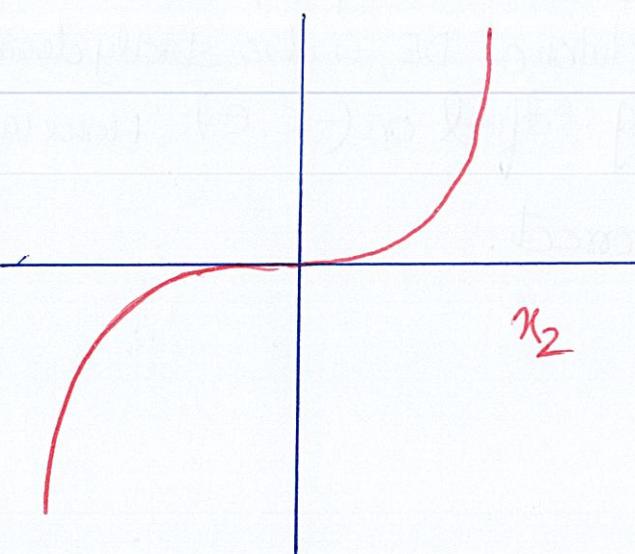
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Case a:



Case b:



ROUGH WORK

2. Consider the nonautonomous differential equation:

$$\dot{x}(t) = x(t)(x(t)-1)(x(t)-2), \quad x(0) = 3/2.$$

Consider the following two statements:

- (a) There exists an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that any solution of the above differential equation on  $(-\epsilon, \epsilon)$  is strictly decreasing.
- (b) No such  $\epsilon$  exists.

Which of the above statements is correct? Justify your answer (no marks without proper reasoning).

[5 marks]

Sol 1.

Note

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(0) &= x(0)(x(0)-1)(x(0)-2) \\ &= 3/2 \cdot 1/2 \cdot -1/2 = -3/8.\end{aligned}$$

Note any solution of the differential equation is a continuously differentiable function, i.e., its derivative is continuous

Now  $\dot{x}(0) < 0$ . Therefore, by continuity of  $x'$ , we can find  $\epsilon > 0$  such that

$$\dot{x}(t) < 0 \text{ on } (-\epsilon, \epsilon).$$

Hence  $x$  is strictly decreasing.

Sol 2 Consider the function

$$f(s) = s(s-1)(s-2).$$

Its graph looks like

Note  $f < 0$  on  $(1, 2)$ .

Hence the function

$$F(y) = \int_2^y \frac{1}{f(s)} ds \text{ is strictly decreasing on } (1, 2).$$

Note  $F(3/2) = 0$ . Clearly  $\text{Range}(F) \supset (-\epsilon, \epsilon)$  for some  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Hence the inverse of  $F$ , which is a solution of DE, is also strictly decreasing defined on  $(-\epsilon, \epsilon)$ . Hence (a) is correct.

ROUGH WORK

## QUIZ 1(B): MTH421

Time: 2:55 P.M., Date: 22/08/2025, Duration: 30M, Maximum Marks: 10.

1. Consider the nonautonomous differential equation:

$$\dot{x}(t) = x(t)(x(t) - 1)(x(t) - 2), \quad x(0) = 1/2.$$

Consider the following two statements:

- (a) There exists an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that any solution of the above differential equation on  $(-\epsilon, \epsilon)$  is strictly increasing.  
 (b) No such  $\epsilon$  exists.

Which of the above statements is correct? Justify your answer (no marks without proper reasoning).

[5 marks]

**Solution:** Solution for this is exactly  
 same as Problem-2 in version A  
 of the Quiz1.

Name (Capital):

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ROUGH WORK

2. Consider the differential equation:

$$\dot{x}(t) = |x(t)|^{4/5}.$$

(a) Suppose  $x(0) = 0$ . Find a nontrivial solution, with proper justification, that is defined on all of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

[5 marks]

(b) Now suppose  $x(0) = 1$ . Show that the local solution in this case could be extended to all of  $\mathbb{R}$  in more than one ways.

Consider

$$\dot{x}(t) = |x(t)|^{4/5}, \quad x(0) = x_0 > 0. \quad \text{... } ①$$

In this case  $f(s) = |s|^{4/5}$  remains positive on  $(0, \infty)$ . Consider the function

$$F(y) = \int_{x_0}^y \frac{1}{f(s)} ds, \quad y \in (0, \infty).$$

$$= \int_{x_0}^y \frac{1}{s^{4/5}} ds = 5y^{1/5} - x_0^{1/5}, \quad y \in (0, \infty).$$

$$\text{Range } F = (-5x_0^{1/5}, \infty).$$

Note that  $F$  can be extended continuously at  $y=0$  by setting

$$F(0) = -5x_0^{1/5}.$$

Case a:  $x_0 = 0$ , nontrivial

In this case on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ , a solution of ① is given by the inverse of  $F$ , namely

$$x(t) = (t/5)^5. \quad \text{Now}$$

you can extend it to get

$$x_1(t) = \begin{cases} (t/5)^5, & t \geq 0; \\ 0, & t \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Another way to extend it is to observe that in this case if  $x(t)$  is a solution for  $t \geq 0$ , then  $-x(-t)$  is a solution on  $t \leq 0$ . Note

$$-\dot{x}(-t) = -\left(\frac{-t}{5}\right)^5 = \left(\frac{t}{5}\right)^5, \quad \text{Hence}$$

$x_2(t) = (t/5)^5$  is another nontrivial solution of ① with  $x_0 = 0$ .

Case b:  $x_0 = 1$

In this case, on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ , the inverse of  $F$  defined on  $[-5, \infty)$  and given by

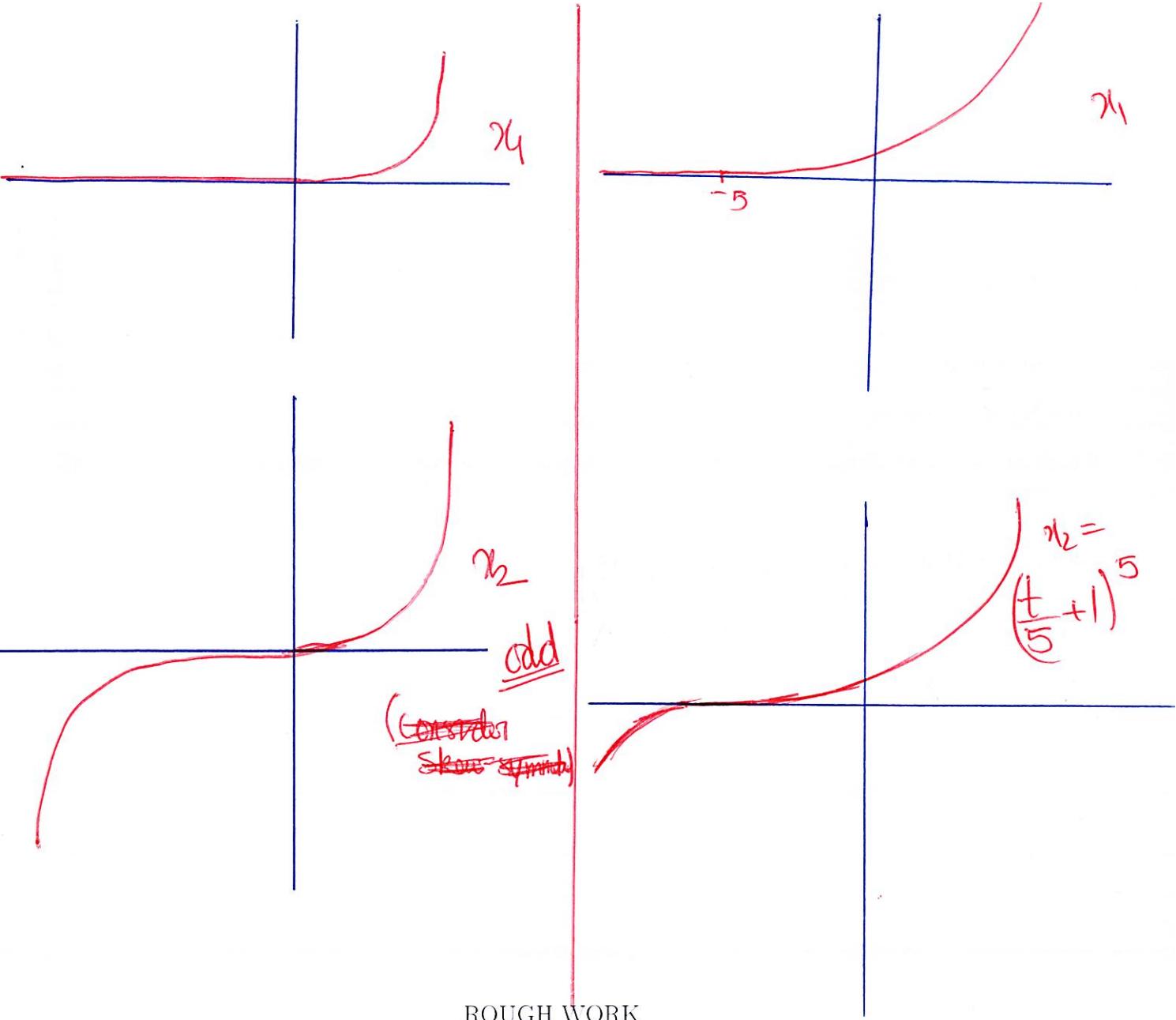
$x(t) = \left(\frac{t}{5} + 1\right)^5$  is a solution. One way of extending it is:

$$x_1(t) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{t}{5} + 1\right)^5, & t \geq -5 \\ 0 & t \leq -5 \end{cases}$$

Another way of extending it is to consider  $\left(\frac{t-(-5)}{5}\right)^5$  on  $t \leq -5$ . Therefore

$$\cancel{x_2(t) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{t-(-5)}{5}\right)^5, & t \leq -5 \\ 0 & t \geq -5 \end{cases}}$$

$$x_2(t) = \left(\frac{t}{5} + 1\right)^5 \text{ is a solution on } \mathbb{R}.$$



ROUGH WORK