
Multivariable Analysis: Problem Set II

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Abstract

This work contains solutions to the problem set II of Multivariable Analysis 2016 at Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

Question 1.

8. An infinite series $\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 + \cdots$ converges *absolutely* if the series of nonnegative numbers $|\mathbf{x}_1| + |\mathbf{x}_2| + \cdots$ converges. Prove that any absolutely convergent infinite series is convergent. [Hint: Show that the sequence $[s_m]$ of partial sums is Cauchy.]

Solution. Fix $\epsilon > 0$. As the series converges absolutely, we have that $\{a_n = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|\}$ converges, hence is Cauchy. As $\{a_n\}$ is Cauchy, there exists an index N such that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=n}^m |x_i| &= |a_m - a_n| \\ &< \epsilon, \end{aligned}$$

for $m \geq n \geq N$. Observe that for $m \geq n \geq N$, by the triangle inequality and the above inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum_{i=1}^m x_i - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right| &= \left| \sum_{i=n}^m x_i \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{i=n}^m |x_i| < \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\epsilon > 0$ was arbitrary, this shows that $\{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\}$ is Cauchy. Since the sequence is drawn from a Euclidean space, we have shown that it is convergent.

□

Question 2.

6. (Subsequences.) Let $[x_m]$ be a sequence, and $y_l = x_{m_l}$ for $l = 1, 2, \dots$, where $m_1 < m_2 < \dots$. Then $[y_l]$ is called a *subsequence* of $[x_m]$.
- (a) Show that any bounded sequence in E^n has a convergent subsequence.
- (b) A set S is called *sequentially compact* if: any bounded sequence $[x_m]$, with $x_m \in S$ for $m = 1, 2, \dots$, has a subsequence $[y_l]$ such that $y_l \rightarrow y_0$ as $l \rightarrow \infty$, $y_0 \in S$. Show that a nonempty set $S \subset E^n$ is sequentially compact if and only if S is closed and bounded.

Solution. Correction: Drop the boundedness assumption from sequentially compact definition. (a) Let $\{x^k\}$ be a bounded sequence in E^n . It follows that the sequences formed by each component are bounded as well, as otherwise it would contradict the boundedness of the original sequence in E^n . Now, consider the sequence of reals from the first component $\{x_1^k\}$. By Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem, we have that there exists a convergent subsequence $\{x_1^{k_i}\}$. Now, consider the sequence of reals from the second component $\{x_2^k\}$ and form a subsequence using the subsequence indices from the convergent subsequence from the first component, which we denote as $\{x_2^{k_i}\}$. Now, by Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem, once again, we get a convergent subsequence of the second component sequence, with a property that it is also a subsequence of the convergent subsequence from the first component sequence. We do the above construction inductively until we get a convergent subsequence for the n th component's convergent subsequence, whose indices we denote as k_l . By construction, it follows that $\{x_i^{k_l}\}$ is a convergent sequence for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and they are subsequences of $\{x_i^k\}$ respectively. By proposition 2.7, pg.38, we have the sequence $\{x_l^{k_l}\}$ converges, as each of its component sequence converges. Hence, we have constructed a convergent subsequence of $\{x^k\}$. Therefore, we have shown that a bounded sequence in E^n has a convergent subsequence. \square

(b) Assume that S is closed and bounded. Let $\{x_m\}$ be a bounded sequence from S . Since S is bounded, by (a), there exists a convergent subsequence $\{x_{m_k}\}$. Now, observe that $\{x_{m_k}\}$ is a sequence in S , and by the closedness of S , we have that the limit of $\{x_{m_k}\}$ is in S . Hence, we have shown that there exists a convergent subsequence that converges to a point in S . S is sequentially compact.

Assume that S is sequentially compact. Let $\{x_m\}$ be a sequence from S such that $x_m \rightarrow x$ as $m \rightarrow \infty$. Fix $\epsilon > 0$. Then, there exists an N such that $|x_m - x| < \epsilon$ for $m \geq N$. Consider $\{x_m\}_{m \geq N}$. This is a bounded sequence in S , and it is also a subsequence of $\{x_m\}$, whose limit is x , as any subsequence of a convergent sequence converges to the limit of the original sequence. By the sequential compactness assumption, we have that $x \in S$. Since the sequence that was considered was arbitrary, we have shown that S is closed. Now, suppose for sake of contradiction that S is not bounded. Then, there exists a sequence $\{x_m\}$ such that $|x_m| \geq m$. Observe that every subsequence of this sequence is not Cauchy, hence not convergent. Therefore, it is a contradiction to the sequential compactness. Hence, S is bounded. \square

Question 3.

8. (Uniform continuity.) A transformation \mathbf{f} is *uniformly continuous* on $S \subset E^n$ if given $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ (depending only on ε) such that $|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y})| < \varepsilon$ for every $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S$ with $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| < \delta$. Show that if S is closed and bounded then every \mathbf{f} continuous on S is uniformly continuous on S . [Hint: If not, then there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ and for $m = 1, 2, \dots$, $\mathbf{x}_m, \mathbf{y}_m \in S$ such that $|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_m) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}_m)| \geq \varepsilon$ and $|\mathbf{x}_m - \mathbf{y}_m| \leq 1/m$. Let \mathbf{x}_0 be an accumulation point of $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots\}$. Show that the continuity of \mathbf{f} at \mathbf{x}_0 is contradicted.]

Solution. Let S be a closed and bounded set in \mathbb{R}^n and f be a continuous transformation. on S . We know that a closed bounded set in \mathbb{R}^n is compact. Therefore, we prove the following more general theorem.

Theorem. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$, such that f is continuous, X, Y are metric spaces, and X is compact. Then, f is uniformly continuous.

Proof. Fix $\epsilon > 0$. As f is continuous on X , for any $x \in X$, there exists $\delta_x > 0$ that corresponds to the $\frac{\epsilon}{2}$ -challenge. Then, we have

$$X = \bigcup_{x \in X} B(x, \delta_x).$$

Now, observe that the sets in the RHS form an open cover of X . Since X is compact, the open cover has a finite sub-cover. Thus, we can write X as follows:

$$X = \bigcup_{i=1}^n B(x_i, \delta_{x_i}),$$

where x_i are from X and δ_{x_i} are the values that correspond to the $\frac{\epsilon}{2}$ challenge at x_i . Now, let $\delta = \frac{\min_{i=1,2,\dots,n}(\delta_{x_i})}{2}$. We claim that δ corresponds to the ϵ -challenge of uniform continuity. Let $x, y \in X$, such that $d(x, y) < \delta$. It follows that there exists $x_i \in X$, such that $x, y \in B(x_i, \delta_{x_i})$. By the triangle inequality, and the continuity of f at x_i , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x) - f(y)| &= |f(x) - f(x_i) + f(x_i) - f(y)| \\ &\leq |f(x) - f(x_i)| + |f(x_i) - f(y)| \\ &< \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, δ corresponds to the ϵ -challenge of uniform continuity of f . Since $\epsilon > 0$ was arbitrary, we have shown that f is uniformly continuous. \square

As a corollary, it follows that if S is closed and bounded, then every continuous function f is uniformly continuous on S . \square

Question 4.

6. (*Indiscrete spaces.*) Let S be any set, and let every $p \in S$ have exactly one “neighborhood,” namely, S itself; that is, each \mathcal{U}_p consists of the set S only.
- (a) Verify Axioms (1) through (4).
 - (b) Show that the only open sets are S and the empty set.
 - (c) Show that any real valued function continuous on S is constant.

Solution. (a) For any point $p \in S$, and we have defined S as a neighborhood of p . Hence, there is a neighborhood of p . The axiom (1) is satisfied.

Let $p \in S$. We have that the only neighborhood of p is S . Since $p \in S$, the axiom (2) is satisfied.

Let $p \in S$, U_1 and U_2 be neighborhoods of p . Since S is the only neighborhood of p , we have $U_1 = U_2 = U_1 \cap U_2 = S$. Since $S \subset S$, the axiom (3) is satisfied.

Let $p \in S$, U be a neighborhood of p , and $q \in U$. We have $U = S$ and S is a neighborhood of q by definition. Since $S \subset S$, the axiom (4) is satisfied.

(b) By the 4th axiom, we have that any neighborhood is an open set. Hence, S is open. \emptyset is open, because the statement of open holds vacuously. Now, let A be a nonempty subset of S such that $A \neq S$. Since A is nonempty, there exists a point $p \in A$, and by definition of the topology, p has S as a neighborhood. Since $A \neq S$, $S \not\subset A$, and we have that p is not interior to A . Hence, A is not open. We have shown that S and \emptyset are the only open sets.

(c) Let $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous with respect to the indiscrete topology. By the corollary 2.6.2 in Fleming, pg.53, we have that $\{p : f(p) > c\}$ is open for any $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Assume that f is not a constant function. Then, it follows that there exists $p_1 \neq p_2 \in S$ such that $f(p_1) \neq f(p_2)$. Since $f(p_1) \neq f(p_2)$, we have either $f(p_1) > f(p_2)$ or $f(p_1) < f(p_2)$. As the cases are symmetric, assume without loss of generality that $f(p_1) > f(p_2)$. It follows that $f(p_1) > \frac{f(p_1) + f(p_2)}{2} > f(p_2)$. Now, consider $A = \{p : f(p) > \frac{f(p_1) + f(p_2)}{2}\}$. We have that $p_1 \in A$ and $p_2 \notin A$. Therefore, we have that A is nonempty and $A \neq S$. By the corollary, we have that A is open, but we have previously shown that S and \emptyset are the only open sets. Hence, we have reached a contradiction and f must be a constant function.

□

Question 5.

12. Let S be as in Example 3. Show that:

- (a) S is a closed set.
- (b) There is no path in S joining $(0, 0)$ and any point of S_2 .
- (c) S is a connected set.

Solution. (a) We show that S^c is open, which is equivalent to S being closed. Let $(x, y) \in S^c$. If $x < 0$, we can take the ball of radius of $\frac{|x|}{2}$, which is disjoint from S . If $|y| > 1$, we can take the ball of radius $\frac{|y| - 1}{2}$, which is disjoint from S . Now, for $x > 0$; $|y| \leq 1$, consider the horizontal distance to the nearest $\sin(x)$ curve. Since $\sin(1/x)$ is periodic and yields value from -1 to 1 such distances well-defined, denote this by h_x . Now, simply take the vertical distance to the graph $|x - \sin(\frac{1}{x})|$, which we call h_y . Take $\delta = \min(h_x, h_y)$, we have that the ball is disjoint from the graph. Hence, we have shown that S^c is open and S is closed.

(b) Let $x \in S_2$. Assume that $(0, 0)$ and x are path-connected. Then, there has to exist a continuous function on $[0, x]$. However, this is a contradiction, because, we can have $\{a_n\} = \frac{1}{2k\pi + 1\frac{\pi}{2}}$ and $\{b_n\} = \frac{1}{2k\pi + 3\frac{\pi}{2}}$, and those converge to $(0, 1)$ and $(0, -1)$, which breaks the sequential characterization of continuity. Hence, there is no point in S joining $(0, 0)$ and any point of S_2 .

(c) Suppose that there exists two nonempty open sets A and B in S such that $A \cap B = \emptyset$ and $S = A \cup B$. Since $S = A \cup B$, it follows that $\delta A \cap B = \emptyset$. However, S is closed by (a). Therefore, we have that $\delta A \cap S \neq \emptyset$. Therefore, this is a contradiction and S is connected. \square

Question 6.

5. Let A, B be nonempty subsets of E^n , and let $d = \inf\{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| : \mathbf{x} \in B, \mathbf{y} \in A\}$.
- (a) Show that $d > 0$ if A is closed, B is compact, and $A \cap B$ is empty. [Hint: Problem 4.]
- (b) Give an example of closed sets A, B such that $A \cap B$ is empty but $d = 0$.

Solution.

(a) Suppose for sake of contradiction that $d(A, B) = 0$. As $d(A, B) = 0$, we can choose a sequence of $\{(a_n, b_n)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n - b_n| = 0$, by using the approximation property of infimum. As B is compact, there exists a subsequence $\{b_{n_k}\}$ such that it converges to some b in B . We claim that the corresponding subsequence $\{a_{n_k}\}$ converges to b . Fix $\epsilon > 0$. Then, there exists K_1 such that $|b - b_{n_k}| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ for $k \geq K_1$. Furthermore, there exists K_2 such that $|a_{n_k} - b_{n_k}| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ for $k \geq K_2$. Let $K = \max(K_1, K_2)$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |a_{n_k} - b| &= |a_{n_k} - b_{n_k} + b_{n_k} - b| \\ &\leq |a_{n_k} - b_{n_k}| + |b_{n_k} - b| < \epsilon, \end{aligned}$$

for $k \geq K$. Hence, we have shown that $a_{n_k} \rightarrow b$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Since A is closed, we have that $b \in A$ and this is a contradiction with $A \cap B = \emptyset$. Therefore, we have that $d(A, B) = 0$.

(b) Let $A = \mathbb{N}$ and $B = \{n + \frac{1}{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Observe that both sets are closed, and $A \cap B = \emptyset$, but $d(A, B) = 0$, as for any $\epsilon > 0$, by Archimedean property of the real, there is a large enough n , where $\frac{1}{n} < \epsilon$.

□

Question 7.

7. A topological space S_0 is called a *Hausdorff* space if S_0 has the property that for every $p, q \in S_0$ ($p \neq q$) there exist a neighborhood U of p and a neighborhood V of q such that $U \cap V$ is empty.
- (a) Show that any metric space is a Hausdorff space.
 - (b) Show that any compact set $S \subset S_0$ is closed, if S_0 is a Hausdorff space.
 - (c) Let f be continuous and univalent from a compact space S onto a Hausdorff space T . Show that f^{-1} is continuous from T onto S . [Hint: Show that $(f^{-1})^{-1}(B)$ is closed if B is closed.]

Solution. (a) Let (X, d) be a metric space, with $p_1 \neq p_2 \in X$. By one of the axioms of metric spaces, we have that $d(p_1, p_2) > 0$. Let $\delta = \frac{d(p_1, p_2)}{2}$, and consider $B_1 = B(p_1, \delta)$ and $B_2 = B(p_2, \delta)$. We claim that $B_1 \cap B_2 = \emptyset$. Suppose that there exists $p \in X$ such that $p \in B_1 \cap B_2$. It follows that $d(p, p_1) < \delta$ and $d(p, p_2) < \delta$. By the triangle inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(p_1, p_2) &\leq d(p_1, p) + d(p, p_2) \\ &< \delta + \delta = d(p_1, p_2). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have shown that $d(p_1, p_2) < d(p_1, p_2)$, which is a contradiction. Therefore, $B_1 \cap B_2 = \emptyset$. Since p_1 and p_2 were arbitrary two distinct points from X , we have shown that a metric space is Hausdorff. \square

(b) Let S_0 be a Hausdorff space, and S be a compact subset of S_0 . Let $x \in S_0 \setminus S$. Now, for any $s \in S$, by Hausdorff property of S_0 , there exists a neighborhood of x , N_x , and a neighborhood of s , N_s , such that $N_x \cap N_s = \emptyset$. Observe that

$$S \subset \bigcup_{s \in S} N_s.$$

As the RHS is an open cover of S , by compactness of S , there exists a finite sub-cover $\{N_{s_i}\}_{i=1}^n$ such that

$$S \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n N_{s_i},$$

with the corresponding neighborhood of x , selected via Hausdorff property denoted as $\{N_{x_i}\}_{i=1}^n$. As an intersection of finite collection of open sets is open, we have that $\bigcap_{i=1}^n N_{x_i}$ is open. Furthermore, it is a neighborhood of x , that is disjoint from $\bigcup_{i=1}^n N_{s_i}$, thus from S as well. Since x was chosen arbitrarily from $S_0 \setminus S$, we have shown that $S_0 \setminus S$ is open. Hence, S is closed. \square

(c) We first prove a simple central lemma:

Lemma 7.c. Closedness implies Compactness in Compact Space. *Let X be a compact topological space, and A be a closed subset of X . Then, A is compact.*

Proof. Let $\{O_\lambda\}$ be an open cover of A . As A is closed, $X \setminus A$ is open, and we have that $\{O_\lambda\}$ with $X \setminus A$ is an open cover of X . By compactness of X , there exists a finite subcover of the open cover that covers X . Remove $X \setminus A$ if it's in the finite subcover. Since we only removed $X \setminus A$, the finite subcover still covers A . Also, it is a finite subcover of the original open cover of A . Hence, we have shown that A is compact. \square

We wish to show that f^{-1} is continuous. We know that a function is continuous iff an inverse image of a closed set is closed. Hence, it suffices to show that for a closed subset B of S , $(f^{-1})^{-1}(B)$ is closed. Note that $(f^{-1})^{-1}(B) = f(B)$. Let B be a closed subset of S . By the established lemma, as B is closed, B is compact. By the theorem 2.10 on pg.61 in Fleming, since f is continuous, $f(B)$ compact. We have shown that a compact subset is closed in Hausdorff space in part (b). Therefore, $f(B)$ is closed. We have shown that f^{-1} is continuous. \square

Question 8.

4. Let $f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (\sin kx)/k^2$. Use Theorem 2.11 to show that f is continuous on E^1 .

Solution. To begin with, we note that the function is well-defined as for a fixed $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(kx)}{k^2}$ converges absolutely. The absolute convergence of the series can be shown through a comparison test with $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2}$. Now, we denote the n th partial sum function as f_n . Observe that $\{f_n\}$ forms a sequence of continuous functions, as $\sin(kx)/k^2$ is continuous for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and a sum of two continuous function is continuous. Furthermore, observe that $f_n \in \mathbb{B}(E)$ for all n , as $|\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin(kx)}{k^2}| \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^2} < \infty$ for all $x \in E$. Since $\mathbb{B}(E)$ forms a complete metric space with respect to the supnorm, showing that $\{f_n\}$ is Cauchy in supnorm will give us that $\{f_n\}$ convergent in supnorm, which then gives uniform convergence of $\{f_n\}$.

Fix $\epsilon > 0$. Now, since $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2}$ is convergent, there exists an index N such that for all $n \geq m \geq N$, we have $\sum_{k=m}^n \frac{1}{k^2} < \epsilon$. Observe that, for $n \geq m \geq N$,

$$\begin{aligned} |f_n - f_m| &= \left| \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin(kx)}{k^2} - \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{\sin(kx)}{k^2} \right| \\ &= \left| \sum_{k=m}^n \frac{\sin(kx)}{k^2} \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{k=m}^n \left| \frac{\sin(kx)}{k^2} \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{k=m}^n \frac{1}{k^2} < \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\epsilon > 0$ was arbitrary, we have shown that $\{f_n\}$ is Cauchy in $\mathbb{B}(E)$, with respect to the supnorm, hence $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(kx)}{k^2}$ is a uniform limit of a series of continuous function on E . By Theorem 2.11, we have that f is continuous on E as required. \square

Question 9.

5. A *seminorm* on E^n is a real valued function f satisfying: $f(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0$ for every \mathbf{x} ; $f(c\mathbf{x}) = |c|f(\mathbf{x})$ for every c and \mathbf{x} ; and $f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}) \leq f(\mathbf{x}) + f(\mathbf{y})$ for every \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} .

(a) Let f be a seminorm and $K = \{\mathbf{x} : f(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\}$. Show that K is closed and satisfies Properties (ii) through (iv). Show that K is compact if and only if f is a norm. [Hint: First prove that f is continuous.]

(b) Conversely, let K be any closed set satisfying Properties (ii) through (iv). Let $f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ if $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ or if the line through $\mathbf{0}$ and \mathbf{x} is contained in K . Otherwise, let

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\max\{t : t\mathbf{x} \in K\}}$$

as in (2.5). Show that f is a seminorm.

(c) Let $n = 3$ and $f(x, y, z) = |x| + 2|y|$. Sketch K and show that f is a seminorm.

Solution. (a) Let $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$. Since $f(x + y) \leq f(x) + f(y)$, we have $\frac{f(x)}{n} \leq \max(f(e_1), \dots, f(e_n))|x|_\infty$. Thus, we have shown that f is continuous. It follows that for any $x, y \in K$, we have $f(tx + (1 - t)y) \leq |t|f(x) + |1 - t|f(y) \leq 1$, which gives that K is convex. For any $x \in K$ such that $f(x) \leq 1$, $f(-x) = |-1|f(x) = f(x)$. Hence K is symmetric. When f is not a norm, we have that there exists a non-zero vector x such that $f(x) = 0$. As a scalar multiple of x is always 0, K is not compact. If it is a norm, it induces a metric. Being closed and bounded implies compact.

(b) Positivity is obvious. For any x , if $x \in K$, it follows that $f(x) = 0 = |c|f(x)$. When $x \notin K$, we have $f(x) = \frac{1}{\max_{|k|} \frac{1}{|k|}} = |c|f(x)$. Now, let x, y be any two points. Take $c_x = \max\{c :$

$cx \in K\}$ and c_y for y . By convexity, it follows that $f(x + y) = \frac{1}{\max} \leq \frac{a + b}{ab} = f(x) + f(y)$.

(c) We first show that $f(x, y, z)$ is a semi-norm. Let $(x, y, z) \in E^3$, and $c \in E$. It follows that $0 \leq |x| + 2|y| = f(x, y, z)$ and $f(cx, cy, cz) = |cx| + 2|cy| = |c||x| + 2|c||y| = |c|f(x, y, z)$. Now, let $a = (x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $b = (x_2, y_2, z_2)$ in E^3 . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} f(a + b) &= |x_1 + x_2| + 2|y_1 + y_2| \\ &\leq |x_1| + |x_2| + 2|y_1| + 2|y_2| = f(a) + f(b). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have shown that f is a semi-norm. We plot the figure below.

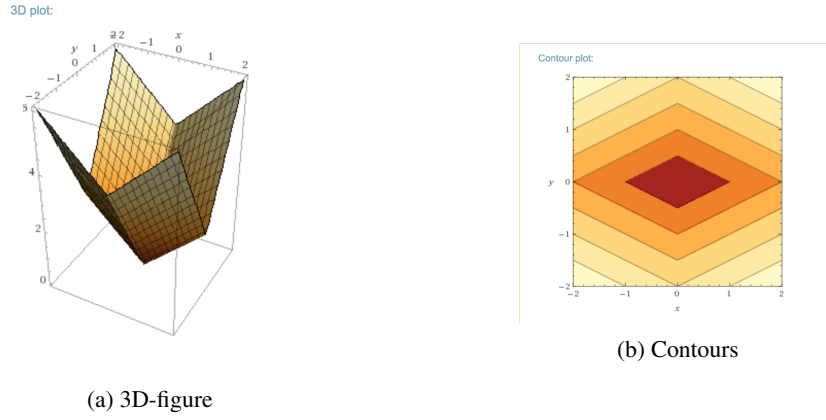


Figure 1: Plot of $f(x, y, z) = |x| + 2|y|$

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