

Mini-Problems 6

1. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function such that $\|f(t)\| = 1$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Prove that $f'(t) \cdot f(t) = 0$.

2. Define the function $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^3}{x^2+y^2} & (x, y) \neq (0, 0) \\ 0 & (x, y) = (0, 0). \end{cases}$$

Show that its partial derivatives exist everywhere and are bounded functions on all of \mathbb{R}^2 (this implies that f is continuous). Nevertheless, show that f is not differentiable at $(0, 0)$. Hint: a sometimes useful way to prove that a function is not differentiable is to show that for some unit vector u and point a , the directional derivative $\partial_u f(a) \neq \nabla f(a) \cdot u$ (see Theorem 2.17 of the notes).

3. Let $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a differentiable function, where $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is *connected* open set. Suppose that the Jacobian matrix $Df(x) = 0$ for every $x \in S$. Prove that f is constant. What goes wrong if S is not connected (the condition about openness is there just so that the derivative makes sense in S)?

4. Prove the following identities for $f, g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, which are clearly generalizations of the 1-variable product and quotient rules for derivatives: (i) $\nabla(fg) = f\nabla g + g\nabla f$ and (ii) $\nabla(1/f) = -f^{-2}\nabla f$ wherever $f \neq 0$.