



**Mathematical Economics – 1st Semester - 2023/2024**

Exercises - Group I

1. (DeMorgan's laws) Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $A, B, C \subset \Omega$ . Show that:
  - (a)  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$
  - (b)  $A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$
  - (c)  $A \setminus (B \cup C) = (A \setminus B) \cap (A \setminus C)$
2. Sketch the following sets:
  - (a)  $A_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x^2 > 1\}$  and  $A_2 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 > 1\}$
  - (b)  $B = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x^3 > 1 \text{ and } x^4 < 16\}$
  - (c)  $C = \{x \in \mathbf{Z} : x^2 < 2 \text{ and } x \text{ is even}\}$
  - (d)  $B \cup C$  and  $(A_1)^c$
  - (e)  $A_1 \times B$
  - (f)  $D = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 \leq 4\}$
  - (g)  $E = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 \leq y \text{ and } 1 \geq y + x^2\}$
3. Consider the following real values maps defined by  $f(x) = \sqrt{x-1}$  and  $g(x) = x^2 - 4$ .
  - (a) Compute  $(f - g)(1)$ ,  $(fg)(0)$  and  $f(3)/g(2)$  if they exist.
  - (b) Define the maps  $f \circ g$  and  $g \circ f$  (including their domains).
  - (c) Do  $f$  and  $g$  commute?
  - (d) Define the inverse of  $f$  and  $g$  (in a suitable domain).
4. Sketch the graph of the following real valued functions  $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , determine if are injective/surjective and compute its inverse (if it exists):
  - (a)  $f(x) = x^3 + 1$  with  $x \in \mathbb{R}$
  - (b)  $f(x) = x^2 - x$  with  $x \in \mathbb{R}$
  - (c)  $f(x) = \sqrt{x+1}$  with  $x > 0$ .
  - (d)  $f(x) = \frac{x-1}{x+1}$  with  $x > -1$
  - (e)  $f(x) = 2e^{-x}$  with  $x \in \mathbb{R}$
  - (f)  $f(x) = \log(x^2 + 1)$  with  $x > 0$

5. (a) Find a bijective function mapping  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbf{Z}$ .  
 (b) Find a bijective function mapping  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $] - 10, 10[$ .
6. Show that the following functions  $d : \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfy the four axioms of a metric:

(a)  $d(x, y) = \sqrt{(x_1 - y_1)^2 + (x_2 - y_2)^2}$

(b)  $d(x, y) = |x_1 - y_1| + |x_2 - y_2|$

(c)  $d(x, y) = \max\{|x_1 - y_1|, |x_2 - y_2|\}$

For each of the metrics above sketch the set

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : d(x, 0) = 1\}.$$

7. Consider the open intervals  $A_n = ] - 1/n, 1/n[$  with  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Show that

$$\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n = \{0\}.$$

Conclude that the intersection of a countable set of open sets might be closed.

8. Consider the following sequence in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

$$u_n = \left( \left( \frac{n+3}{n} \right)^{2n}; \frac{n^2(-1)^{2n+1}}{5n^2+1}; \frac{4n^5+5n^3}{8n^5+7n^2} \right), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$$

Does  $(u_n)_n$  converge?

9. The (maximal) domain of  $f : D_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the set

$$D_f = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : y > (x-1)^2 \wedge (x, y) \neq (1, 5)\}.$$

- (a) Define the closure and the set of accumulation points of  $D_f$ .  
 (b) Is  $D_f$  an open set? Why?  
 (c) Given one possible analytical expression for  $f$ .

10. Which is the set of accumulation points of  $\{(\cos(n\pi), (\frac{1}{2})^n), n \in \mathbb{N}\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ ?

11. Consider the map  $f : D_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $D_f \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ , given by:

$$f(x, y) = \frac{\ln(4 - (x-1)^2 - y^2)}{\sqrt{y-x}}$$

- (a) Define analytically the domain of  $f$ ,  $D_f$  and represent it in the plane  $(x, y)$   
 (b) Define analytically  $\text{int}(D_f)$ ,  $\text{cl}(D_f)$  and  $\partial(D_f)$ .  
 (c) Is  $D_f$  compact?

12. Consider  $A = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + (y+2)^2 < 4 \wedge xy \neq 0\}$ .

- (a) Is  $A$  a compact set?
- (b) Define analytically its topological border.
13. Define the topological interior, closure and accumulation points of the following sets:
- (a)  $A = \{(1, 1), (1, 0)\}$
- (b)  $B = \left\{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x \geq 0 \wedge y = \frac{(-1)^n}{n}, n \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$
14. Sketch the following sets and decide which are open, closed, bounded and compact.
- (a)  $A = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x \geq 0\}$
- (b)  $B = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 1 \leq x^2 + y^2 \leq 4\}$
- (c)  $A \cap B$
- (d)  $C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + 2x > y\}$
- (e)  $C \setminus A$
- (f)  $D = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : z > x^2 + y^2\}$
- (g)  $E = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : -1 \leq z \leq 1\}$
- (h)  $F = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : z^2 \geq x^2 + y^2 \text{ and } z \leq 0\}$
- (i)  $D \cap E$
- (j)  $(\overline{D} \cup F) \cap E$
15. Show that:
- (a) Any finite union of compact sets is compact.
- (b)  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is bounded if and only if  $\overline{A}$  is compact.
16. Exhibit an example of a compact set of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  without accumulation points.
17. In this exercise you will study the Cantor set  $C$ . Let  $A_0 = [0, 1]$  and define  $A_1$  by cutting  $A_0$  in three equal parts and then removing the middle part from  $A_0$ . i.e.,  $A_1 = [0, 1/3] \cup [2/3, 1]$ . The set  $A_1$  is a union of two disjoint intervals. Now for each interval of  $A_1$  we proceed as before. Cut in three equal parts and remove from each its middle part. Call this new set  $A_2$ . Continue this process indefinitely to obtain a sequence of sets  $A_n, n \geq 0$ . The Cantor set is the intersection of all these sets, i.e.,

$$C = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} A_n$$

- (a) Obtain the analytic expression for  $A_2$ .
- (b) Show that each set  $A_n$  is a union of  $2^n$  disjoint closed intervals.
- (c) Is  $A_n$  closed? Why?
- (d) Prove that  $C$  is compact.

18. Show that the limit of a converging sequence is unique, i.e., a converging sequence cannot more than one limit.
19. For each of the following functions  $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  determine its continuity points and, using the Weierstrass theorem, decide if the function has a maximum or minimum.
- (a)  $f(x) = x^2$  where  $D = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : |x| \leq 1\}$
  - (b)  $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$  where  $D = [-2, -1] \cup [1, 2]$
  - (c)  $f(x) = x \cos^2(1/x)$  where  $D = \left\{ \frac{(-1)^n}{2\pi n} : n \in \mathbb{N} \right\} \cup \{0\}$
  - (d)  $f(x, y) = xy$  where  $D = [-1, 1]^2$
  - (e)  $f(x, y) = x \log(y)$  where  $D = ]0, 1]^2$
  - (f)  $f(x, y) = e^{-x^2-y^2}$  where  $D = \mathbb{R}^2$
20. Consider the function  $f: [-1, 1] \rightarrow [-1, 1]$  defined by  $f(x) = \sin(\lambda x)$  where  $\lambda \in ]0, 1[$ . Sketch the graph of  $f$  and interpret the fixed point geometrically (also draw the bisectrix, i.e.,  $y = x$ ).
21. Complete the sentence:  
The continuous map  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$  has a maximum but not a minimum when restricted to the set

$$M = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \dots\dots\dots\}$$

.....'s Theorem cannot be applied because  $M$  is not .....

22. Show that  $f: ]0, 1/4[ \rightarrow ]0, 1/4[$  defined by  $f(x) = x^2$  is a Lipschitz contraction. Can you conclude that  $f$  has a unique fixed point?
23. Determine whether the following functions  $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are Lipschitz contractions. For each function determine its fixed points.
- (a)  $f(x) = \frac{1}{4}x(1 - x^2)$  with  $D = [-1, 1]$
  - (b)  $f(x) = \arctan(x/2)$  with  $D = \mathbb{R}$
  - (c)  $f(x) = \frac{1}{4} \sin(x^3)$  with  $D = [-1, 1]$
  - (d)  $f(x) = \sqrt{1+x}$  with  $D = [0, +\infty[$
  - (e)  $f(x, y) = \left(\frac{x}{2} + 5, \frac{y}{3} - 1\right)$  with  $D = \mathbb{R}^2$
24. Use the Banach fixed point theorem to show that the sequence  $x_{n+1} = \sqrt{1+x_n}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x_0 = 0$  converges to the golden ratio

$$\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} = \sqrt{1 + \sqrt{1 + \sqrt{1 + \dots}}}$$

25. Decide which of the following sets are convex:

- (a)  $A = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2: y \geq x^2\}$
- (b)  $B = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2: y < x^2\}$
- (c)  $C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2: \frac{x^2}{4} + y^2 \leq 1\}$
- (d)  $A \cap C$
- (e)  $C \setminus B$
- (f)  $D = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3: x + y + z = 1, x, y, z \geq 0\}$

26. Consider the function  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}(x + 1)$  defined on the interval  $]0, 1[$ . Show that  $f(]0, 1[) \subset ]0, 1[$ . Does  $f$  has a fixed point in  $]0, 1[$ ? Can you apply the Brouwer fixed point theorem to  $f$ ?

27. Consider the following matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and define the function  $f(v) = Av$  where  $v \in \Delta^2 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3: x + y + z = 1, x, y, z \geq 0\}$ .

- (a) Show that  $f(\Delta^2) \subset \Delta^2$ .
  - (b) Can you apply the Brouwer fixed point theorem to  $f$ ? Can you show that  $f$  has a fixed point?
  - (c) If yes, compute the fixed points of  $f$  explicitly.
28. Find a continuous function  $f: [0, 1[ \rightarrow [0, 1[$  with no fixed points. Can you apply the Brouwer fixed point theorem to  $f$ ?
29. Find a continuous function  $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  with an infinite number of fixed points.
30. Consider the function  $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x, & x \leq 1/2 \\ 2 - 2x, & x > 1/2 \end{cases}$$

- (a) Can you apply the Brouwer fixed point to  $f$ ?
  - (b) Compute the fixed points of  $f$  and of  $f \circ f$  (hint: draw the graph of the functions).
  - (c) How many fixed points has  $f^n = f \circ \dots \circ f$ ? Here,  $f^n$  denotes the composition of  $f$  with itself  $n$  times ( $f^2 = f \circ f$ ,  $f^3 = f \circ f \circ f$ , etc.)
31. Consider a pure exchange economy with 2 commodities and 2 consumers. Denote by  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  the relative price of commodity 1 and 2, respectively. The 1st consumer has an initial amount of 1 unit of commodity 1 and 2 units of commodity 2. The 2nd consumer has an initial amount of 2 units of commodity 1 and 1 unit of commodity 2. Consumers engage in exchanging with the following demand functions

$$x_{1,1}(p) = \frac{\alpha(p_1 + 2p_2)}{p_1}, \quad x_{1,2}(p) = \frac{(1 - \alpha)(p_1 + 2p_2)}{p_2}$$

for the 1st consumer and

$$x_{2,1}(p) = \frac{\alpha(2p_1 + p_2)}{p_1}, \quad x_{2,2}(p) = \frac{(1 - \alpha)(2p_1 + p_2)}{p_2}$$

for the 2nd consumer, where  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . Recall that  $x_{i,j}(p)$  is the demand of commodity  $j$  of consumer  $i$ . Check that the Walras's law is satisfied. Determine an equilibrium price for this economy.

32. Sketch the following hyperplanes and half-spaces:

- (a)  $H((1, 1), -1)$
- (b)  $H^+((2, -1), 1)$
- (c)  $H((1, 0, -1), 1)$
- (d)  $H^-((0, 1, 0), 2)$

33. (a) Let  $A$  be the set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  whose first coordinate is equal to  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . Find  $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $A = H(p, c)$ .

(b) Find a hyperplane  $H(p, c)$  that separates  $\Delta^2 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}_+^3 : x + y + z = 1\}$  and  $A = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x = -2\}$ .

(c) Find the hyperplane  $H(p, c)$  that contains the points  $(1, 0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 1, 0)$  and  $(0, 1, 1)$ .

34. Explain, using the hyperplane separation theorem, if it is possible to prove the existence of a hyperplane separating  $A$  and  $B$ :

(a)  $A = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 < 1\}$  and  $B = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x + y = 2\}$

(b)  $A = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 < 3\}$  and  $B = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_+^2 : x + y = 1\}$

(c)  $A = C \cap D$  with  $C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 = 2\}$  and  $D = [-6, 6] \times [-5, 5]$ , and  $B = [-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]$

35. Decide if the following correspondences  $F : [0, 1] \rightrightarrows [0, 1]$  are upper hemicontinuous and/or have the closed graph property:

(a)

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} [1/4, 3/4], & x < 1/2 \\ [1/2, 3/4], & x \geq 1/2 \end{cases}$$

(b)

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} [x^2, (x + 1)/2], & x < 1 \\ \{0, 1\}, & x = 1 \end{cases}$$

(c)

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} ]x, 1 - x[, & x < 1/2 \\ \{1/4, 3/4\}, & x \geq 1/2 \end{cases}$$

(d)

$$F(x) = ]x/2, (x + 1)/2[$$

36. Explain if the following correspondences satisfy the hypothesis of the Kakutani fixed point theorem. Compute the fixed points if they exist.

(a)  $F: [0, 2] \rightrightarrows [0, 2]$  defined by

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \{1\}, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ [1, 2], & x = 1 \\ \{2\}, & 1 < x \leq 2 \end{cases}$$

(b)  $F: [0, 20] \rightrightarrows [0, 20]$  defined by

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \{10 - x\}, & 0 \leq x < 7 \\ [3, 20], & x = 7 \\ \{x - 4\}, & 7 < x \leq 20 \end{cases}$$

(c)  $F: [-6, 20] \rightrightarrows [-6, 20]$  defined by

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \{x + 1\}, & -6 \leq x < 7 \\ [-6, 10], & x = 7 \\ \{(x + 5)/2\}, & 7 < x \leq 20 \end{cases}$$

(d)  $F: [-6, 20] \rightrightarrows [-6, 20]$  defined by

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \{x + 1\}, & -6 \leq x < 7 \\ [-6, 6] \cup [8, 10], & x = 7 \\ \{(x + 5)/2\}, & 7 < x \leq 20 \end{cases}$$