

**Mathematics 121 Midterm**  
**Terence Tao**  
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All questions are of equal value. There is plenty of working space, and a blank page at the end.

Good luck!

**Full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Problem 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Problem 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Problem 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Problem 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Problem 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem 1.** Let  $l^\infty$  be the space of all bounded sequences of real numbers  $(x_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ , with the sup norm

$$\|x\|_\infty = \sup_{n=1}^\infty |x_n|.$$

Show that  $(l^\infty, \|\cdot\|_\infty)$  is a Banach space. (You may assume that this space satisfies the conditions for a normed vector space).

**Problem 2.** Let  $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be a bounded sequence of real numbers. Prove that there exists a bounded sequence  $(b_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  such that

$$b_{n-1} + 4b_n + b_{n+1} = a_n \tag{*}$$

for all  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , where we take  $b_0$  to equal 0. [You may assume the result of Problem 1].

Hint: Use the Contraction Mapping theorem. You may need to rewrite the recurrence (\*).

**Problem 3.**

Let  $T_1, T_2, \dots$  be a sequence of continuous linear transformations from a Banach space  $X$  to a normed vector space  $Y$ . Assume that none of the  $T_i$  are identically zero; in other words, for every  $i$  there exists a  $x \in X$  such that  $T_i x \neq 0$ . Show that there exists a single  $x \in X$  (which does not depend on  $i$ ) such that  $T_i x \neq 0$  for every  $i$ .

Hint: use the Baire Category theorem.

**Problem 4.**

(a) Show that the product of two totally bounded sets is totally bounded.

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(b) Show that every bounded set in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is totally bounded.

**Problem 5.** Suppose  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a continuous map from a metric space  $X$  to a metric space  $Y$ .

(a) Is the inverse image of a closed set under  $f$  always closed? Justify your answer.

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(b) Is the inverse image of a compact set under  $f$  always compact? Justify your answer.

