

**2019.3 Question 2**

1. Let  $y = 0$ , and we have

$$f(x+0) = f(x) = f(x)f(0),$$

so either  $f(x) = 0$  or  $f(0) = 1$  for all  $x$ .

Assume, B.W.O.C., that  $f(0) \neq 1$ , then we must have  $f(x) = 0$  for all  $x$ , which means  $f'(x) = 0$ , contradicting with  $f'(0) = k \neq 0$ .

Hence,  $f(0) = 1$ .

By definition of the derivative, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x)f(h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= f(x) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(h) - 1}{h}, \end{aligned}$$

and letting  $x = 0$ , we also have

$$k = f'(0) = f(0) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(h) - 1}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(h) - 1}{h},$$

and hence

$$f'(x) = kf(x)$$

as desired.

This differential equation solves to

$$f(x) = Ae^{kx},$$

and with the condition  $f(0) = 1$ , we have  $A = 1$ , and hence

$$f(x) = e^{kx}$$

for all  $x$ .

2. Let  $y = 0$ , and we have

$$g(x+0) = g(x) = \frac{g(x) + g(0)}{1 + g(x)g(0)}.$$

This means that

$$g(x) + g(x)^2g(0) = g(x) + g(0),$$

which gives

$$g(0)[g(x)^2 - 1] = 0.$$

Since  $|g(x)| < 1$  for all  $x$ , we must have  $g(x)^2 - 1 < 0$ , and hence  $g(0) = 0$ .

By the definition of the derivative,

$$\begin{aligned} g'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{g(x)+g(h)}{1+g(x)g(h)} - g(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(x) + g(h) - g(x) - g(x)^2g(h)}{h(1 + g(x)g(h))} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)[1 - g(x)^2]}{h(1 + g(x)g(h))} \\ &= [1 - g(x)^2] \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)}{h(1 + g(x)g(h))}. \end{aligned}$$

Considering the limit, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)}{h(1 + g(x)g(h))} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)/h}{1 + g(x)g(h)} \\ &= \frac{\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [g(h)/h]}{\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [1 + g(x)g(h)]} \\ &= \frac{\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [g(h)/h]}{1} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)}{h},\end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$g'(x) = [1 - g(x)^2] \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)}{h}.$$

Let  $x = 0$ , and we have

$$k = g'(0) = 1 \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)}{h},$$

hence giving the differential equation

$$g'(x) = k [1 - g(x)^2].$$

This rearranges to give

$$\frac{dg(x)}{1 - g(x)^2} = k dx,$$

and hence

$$\left[ \frac{1}{1 + g(x)} + \frac{1}{1 - g(x)} \right] dg(x) = 2k dx,$$

which gives

$$\ln|1 + g(x)| - \ln|1 - g(x)| = 2kx + C.$$

Let  $x = 0$ , we have  $g(0) = 0$ , and hence  $C = 0$ , and hence

$$\frac{1 + g(x)}{1 - g(x)} = \exp(2kx),$$

and hence

$$1 + g(x) = \exp(2kx) - \exp(2kx)g(x),$$

which gives

$$g(x) = \frac{\exp(2kx) - 1}{\exp(2kx) + 1} = \frac{\exp(kx) - \exp(-kx)}{\exp(kx) + \exp(-kx)} = \tanh(kx).$$