

**CHENNAI MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE**  
**M.Sc. Data Science Entrance Examination - Solutions**

**Part A - Answers**

*This is the only place that will be seen for grading part A. So carefully and clearly write the answers to each question on the designated line below. Write only the final answers, do not show any intermediate work. Illegible/unclear answers will not be considered.*

A1. \_\_\_\_\_ (a), (b), (c)

A11. \_\_\_\_\_ 5:00 p.m.

A2. \_\_\_\_\_ (a), (c)

A12. \_\_\_\_\_  $\frac{1}{3}$

A3. \_\_\_\_\_ (a), (c)

A13. \_\_\_\_\_ (B)

A4. \_\_\_\_\_ (a), (b), (c)

A14. \_\_\_\_\_ (b), (c)

A5. \_\_\_\_\_ (c), (d)

A15. \_\_\_\_\_ 35

A6. \_\_\_\_\_ All are true

A16. \_\_\_\_\_ (a), (c)

A7. \_\_\_\_\_ (a), (b)

A17. \_\_\_\_\_ (c), (d)

A8. \_\_\_\_\_ (a)

A18. \_\_\_\_\_ 11

A9. \_\_\_\_\_ 1360 minutes.

A19. \_\_\_\_\_ (a), (b), (d)

A10. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 a.m.

A20. \_\_\_\_\_ (a), (c)

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## Notation

- A function  $f$  from a set  $A$  to a set  $B$  is said to be **injective (or one-to-one)** if  $f(x) = f(y)$  implies  $x = y$  for all  $x, y \in A$ ;
  - $f$  is said to be **surjective (or onto)** if for every  $y \in B$  there exists  $x \in A$  such that  $f(x) = y$ ;
  - $f$  is said to be **bijective** if it is both injective and surjective;
  - $f$  is said to be **invertible** if there exists a function  $g$  from  $B$  to  $A$  such that  $f(g(y)) = y$  for all  $y \in B$  and  $g(f(x)) = x$  for all  $x \in A$ .
  - For a matrix  $A$ ,  $|A|$  denotes the determinant of  $A$  and  $A^T$  denotes the transpose of  $A$ .
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### Part A - Questions

This section consists of some questions requiring a single answer and some multiple choice questions. For questions that ask you to calculate a value, you will be assessed based on the answer you provide. No explanation is required. In multiple choice questions, there may be multiple correct choices. **You have to select all the correct options and no incorrect option to get full marks. There is no partial credit. Write the correct options / answer in the space provided on page 3. Only page 3 will be seen for grading part A.**

1. If  $P$  is an invertible matrix and  $A = PBP^{-1}$ , then which of the following statements are necessarily true?
  - (a)  $B = P^{-1}AP$
  - (b)  $|A| = |B|$
  - (c)  $A$  is invertible if and only if  $B$  is invertible
  - (d)  $B^T = A^T$ .

2. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $C = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $D = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & -5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & -9 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Which of the following statements are true?

- (a)  $|A| = |B|$
  - (b)  $|C| = |D|$
  - (c)  $|B| = -|C|$
  - (d)  $|A| = -|D|$ .
3. Let  $x = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Which of the following statements are true?
    - (a)  $x^T x$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix
    - (b)  $xx^T$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix
    - (c)  $xx^T$  is a  $1 \times 1$  matrix
    - (d)  $xx^T = x^T x$



local time	local time				local time	local time
arrival	departure		City		arrival	departure
-	06:00 AM	↓	Zut		12:40 PM	-
07:45 AM	07:50 AM	↓	Yag	↑	10:50 AM	10:55 AM
09:40 AM	09:45 AM	↓	Xum	↑	06:55 AM	07:00 AM
12:10 PM	12:15 PM	↓	Wip	↑	02:25 AM	02:30 AM
02:45 PM	02:50 PM	↓	Vaq	↑	11:50 PM	11:55 PM
04:05 PM	04:10 PM	↓	Uap	↑	08:30 PM	08:35 PM
05:40 PM	05:45 PM	↓	Tix	↑	04:55 PM	05:00 PM
07:40 PM	07:45 PM	↓	Sab	↑	12:55 PM	01:00 PM
10:40 PM	-		Raz	↑	-	08:00 AM

8. Which of the following pairs of cities are in the same time zone?
- Zut and Yag
  - Xum and Wip
  - Vaq and Uap
  - Tix and Sab
9. Write down the total time taken in minutes by the train to go from Zut to Raz.
10. Write down time at Uap when it is 12:00 noon at Zut.
11. Write down time at Xum when it is 12:00 noon at Raz.
12. In an entrance examination with multiple choice questions, with each question having four options and a single correct answer, suppose that only 20% candidates think they know the answer to one difficult question and only half of them know it correctly and the other half get it wrong. The remaining candidates pick one option out of the four randomly and tick the same. If a candidate has correctly answered the question, what is the (conditional) probability that she knew the answer?
13. There are  $n$  songs segregated into 3 play lists. Assume that each play list has at least one song. The number of ways of choosing three songs consisting of one song from each play list is:
- $> \frac{n^3}{27}$  for all  $n$
  - $\leq \frac{n^3}{27}$  for all  $n$
  - $\binom{n}{3}$  for all  $n$
  - $n^3$  for all  $n$
14. Consider the following functions defined from the interval  $(0, 1)$  to real numbers. Which of these functions attain their maximum value in the interval  $(0, 1)$ ?
- $f(x) = \frac{1}{x(1-x)}$
  - $g(x) = -(x - 0.75)^2$
  - $u(x) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2}\right)$

(d)  $v(x) = x^2 + 2x$

15. A farmer owns 50 papaya trees. Each tree produces 600 papayas in a year. For each additional tree planted in the orchard, the output of each tree (including the pre-existing ones) drops by 5 papayas. How many trees should be added to the existing orchard in order to maximize the total production of papayas?

16. Let  $a, b$  be numbers between 1 and 2 and let  $c, d$  be numbers between 3 and 4. Let  $u = a^{-1}, v = b^{-1}, w = c^{-1}$  and  $x = d^{-1}$ . Say which of the following inequalities are true:

(a)  $(a + b + c + d)(u + v + w + x) > 16$

(b)  $(a^4 + b^4 + c^4 + d^4) \leq 4abcd$

(c)  $(a^2 + b^2)wx \leq (c^2 + d^2)uv$

(d)  $d(a^3 + b^3 + c^3) < 3abc$

17. In the code fragment below, `start` and `end` are integer values and `square(x)` is a function that returns `True` if `x` is a perfect square and `False` otherwise.

```
i := 0;
j := 0;
k := 0;
for m in [start, start+1, ..., end]{
    if (square(m)=True){
        i := i + m*m;
        k := k + m*m;
    }else{
        j := j + m*2;
        k := k + m*2;
    }
}
```

At the end of the loop, which of the following are correct statements about the relationship between `i`, `j` and `k`?

(a)  $k = i*i + j*2$  if  $(end - start)$  is even

(b)  $k = i*i + j$  if  $(end - start)$  is odd

(c)  $j = k - i$  if  $(end - start)$  is even

(d)  $i = k - j$  if  $(end - start)$  is odd

18. Given the following definition of the function `foo`, what does `foo(1037, 2)` return? Note that `a//b` denotes the quotient (integer part) of  $a \div b$ , for integers  $a$  and  $b$ . For instance `7//3` is 2.

```
function foo(n,d){
    x := 0;
    while (n >= 1) {
        x := x+1;
        n := n//d;
    }
}
```

```
    return(x);  
}
```

19. A very special island is inhabited only by knights and knaves. Knights always tell the truth, and knaves always lie. You meet three inhabitants: Ramesh, Bharat and Menaka. Ramesh claims, “Bharat is a knave.” Bharat says, “Menaka and I are both knights or both knaves.” Menaka claims that Bharat is a knave.

Which of the following are correct?

- (a) Bharat is a knave
  - (b) Ramesh is a knight
  - (c) Exactly two of the three are knaves
  - (d) Exactly two of the three are knights
20. There are 7 switches on a switchboard, some of which are *on* and some of which are *off*. In one move, you pick any 2 switches and toggle each of them—if the switch you pick is currently off, you turn it on, if it is on, you turn it off. Your aim is to execute a sequence of moves and turn all 7 switches on. For which of the following initial configurations is this possible? Each configuration lists the initial positions of the 7 switches in sequence, from switch 1 to switch 7.
- (a) (off,on,on,on,on,off,on)
  - (b) (off,on,on,on,off,on,off)
  - (c) (off,on,off,off,on,off,on)
  - (d) (off,on,off,off,off,on,off)

**Part B**

For questions in part (B), you have to write your answer with a short explanation in the space provided below the question. For numerical answers, the following forms are acceptable: fractions, decimals, symbolic e.g.:  $\binom{n}{r}$ ,  ${}^n P_r$ ,  $n!$  etc.

1. Let  $N = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  be the set of natural integers and let

$$f : N \times N \mapsto N$$

be defined by  $f(m, n) = (2m - 1) * 2^n$ . Is  $f$  injective? Is  $f$  surjective? Give reasons.

**Solution:**  $f$  is injective: suppose  $f(m_1, n_1) = f(m_2, n_2)$  i.e.  $(2m_1 - 1)2^{n_1} = (2m_2 - 1)2^{n_2}$ . Then we must have  $2^{n_1} = 2^{n_2}$  because the remaining part is odd, hence  $n_1 = n_2$ . This gives  $2m_1 - 1 = 2m_2 - 1$  which implies  $m_1 = m_2$ .

$f$  is not surjective: there is no pair  $(m, n)$  for which  $f(m, n) = 1$ .

2. Suppose  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are  $m \times m$  matrices. What does the following algorithm compute? (Here  $A(i, j)$  denotes the  $(i, j)^{th}$  entry of matrix  $A$ .)

```
for  $i = 1$  to  $m$ 
  for  $j = 1$  to  $m$ 
    for  $k = 1$  to  $m$ 
       $C(i, j) = A(i, k) * B(k, j) + C(i, j)$ 
    end
  end
end
```

**Solution:** Overwrites  $C$  with  $AB + C$ .

3. Find  $A^{10}$  where  $A$  is the matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Justify your answer.

**Solution:**  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10 & 45 \\ 0 & 1 & 10 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

In general,  $A^n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & n & n(n-1)/2 \\ 0 & 1 & n \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

4. In computing, a floating point operation (flop) is any one of the following operations performed by a computer: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division. For example, the dot product of two vectors  $(u, v, w) \cdot (x, y, z) = ux + vy + wz$  involves 3 multiplications and 2 additions, a total of 5 flops. Calculate the exact number of flops required computing  $C = AB$  for two  $5 \times 5$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$  using a direct implementation of  $c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^5 a_{ik}b_{kj}$ . How does this number change if both the matrices are upper triangular?

**Solution:** Computing each entry of the product matrix requires 5 multiplications and 4 additions, i.e. a total of 9 flops. Since there are 25 entries to be computed, a total of  $25 \times 9 = 225$  flops is required. If the matrices are upper triangular, then the product matrix is upper triangular too, so that only 15 entries are computed. Also, the number of flops required per entry is reduced. For example, the number of computations required for the first row is  $(5 + 4) + (4 + 3) + (3 + 2) + (2 + 1) + 1 = 9 + 7 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 25$ , while for the second row  $7 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 16$  computations are required. The total number of computations required is 55.

5. A function  $f$  from the set  $A$  to itself is said to have a *fixed point* if  $f(i) = i$  for some  $i$  in  $A$ . Suppose  $A$  is the set  $\{a, b, c, d\}$ . Find the number of bijective functions from the set  $A$  to itself having no fixed point.

**Solution:** # bijections with exactly 4 fixed points equals 1 (the identity);

# bijections with exactly 3 fixed points equals 0, since 3 fixed points would imply the fourth one is also fixed;

# bijections with exactly 2 fixed points equals  $\binom{4}{2} = 6$  : choose the two points to be fixed, and don't fix the other two;

# bijections with exactly 1 fixed point equals  $\binom{4}{1} \times 2 = 8$  : choose one point to be fixed, for each such choice the remaining 3 elements can be permuted in 2 ways without introducing new fixed points.

Thus the required number equals  $4! - (1 + 6 + 8) = 24 - 15 = 9$ .

6. A 4-digit number is represented as  $abcd$  i.e.  $a \times 10^3 + b \times 10^2 + c \times 10 + d$ , where  $a \neq 0$ . Suppose the number  $dcba$ , obtained by reversing the digits of  $abcd$ , is 9 times  $abcd$ . Find the number  $abcd$ .

**Solution:**  $a$  must be  $\leq 1$ , for else  $abcd \geq 2000$ , but  $2000 \times 9 = 18000$ , while  $dcba$  has to be a 4-digit number; since  $a \neq 0$ , thus  $a$  must be 1. Then  $d$  must be 9; if  $b \geq 2$ , then  $abcd \times 9 = 12c9 \times 9 \geq 10,000$ , so  $b$  must be  $\leq 1$ . Consider the 2 cases:

(a)  $b = 1$ : in this case,  $11c9 \times 9 = 9c11$  implies  $9c + 8$  has unit digit 1, so  $9c$  has unit digit 3, so  $c = 7$  and  $abcd = 1179$ , but  $1179 \times 9 \neq 9711$ . So  $b = 1$  does not give a solution;

(b)  $b = 0$ : in this case  $c = 8$  and  $abcd = 1089$  works.

Thus, the only solution is  $abcd = 1089$ .



7. A computer password requires you to use exactly 1 uppercase letter, 3 lowercase letters, 3 digits and 2 special characters (there are 33 special characters that can be used). In how many ways can you create such a password?

**Solution:**  $9! \times \binom{26}{1} \times \binom{26}{3} \times \binom{10}{3} \times \binom{33}{2}$ .

**Description for the following three questions:**

Suppose  $X$  is the number of success out of  $n$  trials, where the trials are independent of each other. The probability of success at every trial is  $p$ . The probability that there will be exactly  $k$  successes out of  $n$  trial is

$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

The expected number of success is  $\mathbb{E}(X) = np$ .

8. Probability that an individual will default on his/her credit is  $\frac{1}{100}$ . What is the probability that out of 200 debtors of the bank, there will be at least one credit default in a year. You can assume that whether a given debtor will default or not is independent of the behavior of other debtors.

**Solution:**  $X$  : Number of debtors will default out of 200 debtors.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\text{at least one default}) &= 1 - \mathbb{P}(\text{None of the debtors default}) \\ &= 1 - \mathbb{P}(X = 0) \\ &= 1 - {}^{200}C_0 p^0 (1 - p)^{200-0} = 1 - (1 - p)^{200} \end{aligned}$$

9. For the situation in the previous problem, what is the expected number defaults?

**Solution:**  $X \sim \text{Binomial}(200, p)$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = np = 200 \times \frac{1}{100} = 2$$

10. Suppose the bank earns 10% of the loan amount for every loan that is repaid. If the person defaults on his/her credit then the bank loses the entire loan amount. What is the expected revenue of the bank from a loan of Rs. 100,000?

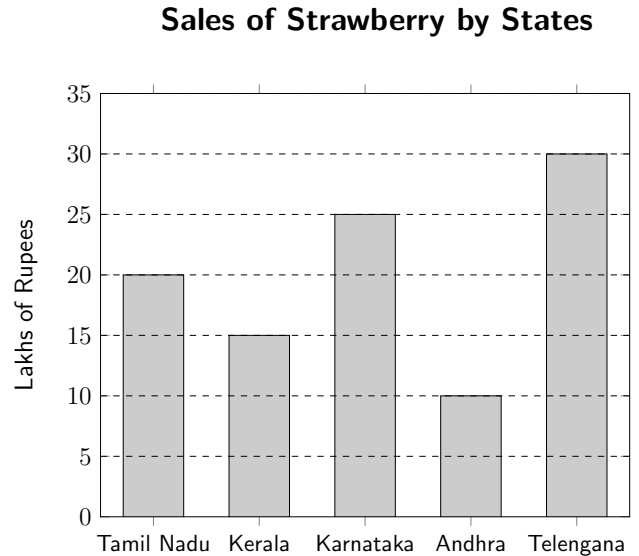
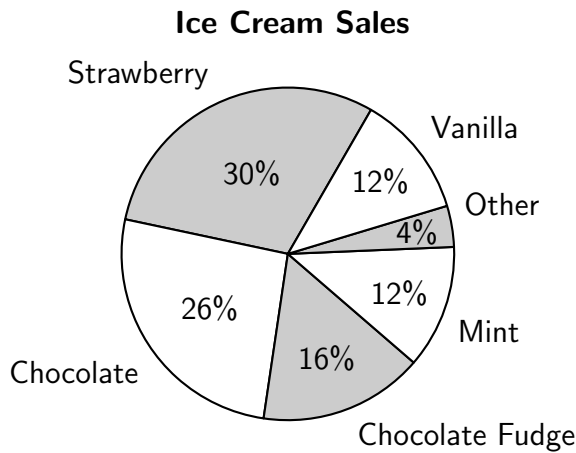
**Solution:** If debtor repay the loan then the bank earns Rs 10,000. But the chance that the debtor will repay the loan

$$\text{revenue} = \begin{cases} 10,000 & \mathbb{P}(\text{repay loan}) = 1 - p = \frac{99}{100} \\ -100,000 & \mathbb{P}(\text{default}) = p = \frac{1}{100} \end{cases}$$

The expected revenue of the bank from every Rs 100,000 is  $10000 * 0.99 + (-100000) * 0.01 = 8900$ .

**Description for the following four questions:**

An ice-cream company mainly operates in the five southern states of India. The pie chart shows the breakdown of revenues (in percentages) for the ice cream company over the last summer. The bar chart shows the detail of breakdown for strawberry flavor by states in lakhs of rupees.



11. What are the total sales of the strawberry flavor?

**Solution:** Rs. 100 lakh

12. What is the total revenue of the ice cream company?

**Solution:** Rs. 333.33 lakh

strawberry sales is 30%, i.e., 30/100. Total sale of strawberry is Rs 100 Lakh. Therefore,

$$\frac{30}{100} = \frac{100}{x},$$

where  $x$  is the total revenue. Therefore  $x = \frac{100^2}{30} \approx 333.33$ .

13. What are the total sales of the chocolate flavor?

**Solution:** chocolate sale is 26%, i.e., 26/100. Total revenue is Rs 333.33 Lakh. Therefore,

$$\frac{26}{100} = \frac{x}{333.33},$$

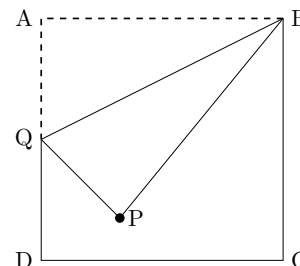
where  $x$  is the total sale of Chocolate flavor. Then  $x = \frac{26 \times 333.33}{100} \approx 86.67$

14. If you assume that the chocolate flavor and the strawberry flavor are sold in the same proportion across the five states, then what are the sales of chocolate in Tamil Nadu, in lakhs of rupees? **Solution:** The total revenue of chocolate sale is Rs 86.67 Lakh (from previous question). The distribution of the sales of chocolate flavor by state is same as that of strawberry flavor. That is 20% of the chocolate sales are coming from Tamil Nadu. That is

$$\frac{x}{86.67} = \frac{20}{100},$$

where  $x$  is the sale of chocolate in the state of Tamil Nadu. That is  $x = \frac{20 \times 86.67}{100} = 17.334$ . **The sale of chocolate in the state of Tamil Nadu is Rs. 17.334 Lakh.**

15. A square piece of paper  $ABCD$  of side length 1 is folded along the segment that connects the upper right corner  $B$  and the midpoint  $Q$  of the left edge  $AD$ , as shown. What is the vertical distance between the base edge (segment  $DC$ ) and the point  $P$  (which was originally point  $A$ )?



**Solution:** Let  $PR$  be  $\perp$  to  $QD$  and  $PT$  be  $\perp$  to  $BC$ . The right-angled triangles  $QPR$  and  $PBT$  are similar with  $BP = 1$  and  $QP = 1/2$ , so that  $BT = 2RP$  and  $PT = 2QR$ . Also  $BT^2 + PT^2 = 1$ . Now  $BT - QR = 1/2$ , so that  $2BT - 2QR = 1$ , so  $PT = 2BT - 1$ . Substituting in  $BT^2 + PT^2 = 1$  gives  $BT = 4/5$ , so the required length is  $1/5$ .

16. A boolean value is a value from the set  $\{\text{True}, \text{False}\}$ . A 3-ary boolean function is a function that takes three boolean values as input and produces a boolean value as output. Let  $f$  and  $g$  be 3-ary boolean functions. We say that  $f$  and  $g$  are *neighbours* if  $f$  and  $g$  agree on at least one input triple and disagree on at least one input triple: that is, there exists a triple  $(x, y, z)$  such that  $f(x, y, z) = g(x, y, z)$  and a triple  $(x', y', z')$  such that  $f(x', y', z') \neq g(x', y', z')$ .

Suppose we fix a 3-ary boolean function  $h$ . How many neighbours does  $h$  have?

**Solution:** 254.

Of the 8 possible input combinations of the three input variables, neighbours agree on 1 to 7 of them.  $\binom{8}{1} + \binom{8}{2} + \dots + \binom{8}{7} = 254$ . Or, observe that there are 256 3-ary boolean functions. The only non-neighbours of  $h$  are  $h$  itself and the unique function that differs from  $h$  on all arguments, so  $256 - 2 = 254$  are neighbours.

#### Description for the following four questions:

A golf club has  $m$  members with serial numbers  $1, 2, \dots, m$ . If members with serial numbers  $i$  and  $j$  are friends, then  $A(i, j) = A(j, i) = 1$ , otherwise  $A(i, j) = A(j, i) = 0$ . By convention,  $A(i, i) = 0$ , i.e. a person is not considered a friend of himself or herself. Let  $A^k(i, j)$  refer to the  $(i, j)^{th}$  entry in the  $k^{th}$  power of the matrix  $A$ .

Suppose it is given that  $A^9(i, j) > 0$  for all pairs  $i, j$  where  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ ,  $A^2(1, 2) > 0$  and  $A^4(1, 3) = 0$ . Then which of the following are necessarily true? Give reasons.

17. Member 1 and member 2 have at least one friend in common.  
**Solution:** True -  $A^2(1, 2) > 0$  means 1 and 2 have at least one friend in common :  $\exists k$  such that  $A(1, k) > 0$  and  $A(k, 2) > 0$ .
18.  $A^2(i, i) > 0$  for all  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .  
**Solution:** True - note that if  $i$  has a friend, then  $A^2(i, i) > 0$ . If  $i$  has no friend, then  $A^m(i, j) = 0$  for all  $m$  and for all  $j$ . But it is given that  $A^9(i, j) > 0$  for all  $i, j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ . Hence 18 is true.
19.  $m \leq 9$ .  
**Solution:** False - in the extreme case every one is friend with everyone else and then  $A^9(i, j) > 0$  for all  $i, j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$  irrespective of  $m$  - say  $m$  can be 100.
20.  $m \geq 6$ .  
**Solution:** True - the smallest chain that links 1 and 3 has length 5 - otherwise  $A^4(1, 3) > 0$  - so there are at least 6 members in the club.