



PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS  
SPRING 2018

EXAM 1 REVIEW EXERCISES

**Exercise 1.** Verify that both  $u = \log(x^2 + y^2)$  and  $u = \arctan(y/x)$  are solutions of Laplace's equation  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$ .

**Exercise 2.** Solve the boundary value problem.

a.  $r \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = e^{3x}, \quad (x, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty),$

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

b.  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - 3y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 0, \quad (x, y) \in (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R},$

$$u(0, y) = y^4 - 2$$

c.  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - 2u \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 0, \quad (x, y) \in (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R},$

$$u(0, y) = y$$

d.  $4x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 2y, \quad (x, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty),$

$$u(x, 0) = \log(8 + x^2)$$

**Exercise 3.** Show that the general solution to  $u_{xy} + u_x = 0$  has the form  $u(x, y) = F(y) + e^{-y}G(x)$ . [*Suggestion:* Notice that  $u_{xy} + u_x = (u_y + u)_x$ .]

**Exercise 4.** Solve the wave equation subject to the initial conditions

$$u(x, 0) = xe^{-x^2}, \quad u_t(x, 0) = \frac{1}{1 + x^2}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

**Exercise 5.** Suppose we want to find a solution of the (unbounded) wave equation that consists of a single traveling wave moving to the right with shape given by the graph of  $f(x)$ . What initial conditions are required to cause this to happen?

**Exercise 6.** This problem concerns the partial differential equation

$$u_{xx} + 4u_{xy} + 3u_{yy} = 0. \quad (1)$$

**a.** If  $F$  and  $G$  are twice differentiable functions, show that

$$u(x, y) = F(3x - y) + G(x - y) \quad (2)$$

is a solution to (1).

**b.** Use a linear change of variables to show that every solution to (1) has the form (2).

**c.** Find the solution to (1) that satisfies the initial conditions

$$u(x, 0) = \frac{x}{x^2 + 1} \text{ and } u_y(x, 0) = 0 \text{ for all } x.$$

**Exercise 7.** Show that the functions

$$\cos x, \cos 3x, \cos 5x, \cos 7x, \dots,$$

are pairwise orthogonal relative to the inner product  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^{\pi/2} f(x)g(x) dx$ . [*Suggestion:* Use the identity  $\cos(A + B) + \cos(A - B) = 2 \cos A \cos B$ .]

**Exercise 8.** Let

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x) &= 1, \\ f_2(x) &= 2x - 1, \\ f_3(x) &= 6x^2 - 6x + 1, \\ f_4(x) &= 20x^3 - 30x^2 + 12x - 1. \end{aligned}$$

**a.** Verify that the polynomials  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  and  $f_4$  are pairwise orthogonal relative to the inner product  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^1 f(x)g(x) dx$ .

**b.** Let  $p(x) = x^3 - 2$ . Use part **a** to write  $p$  as a linear combination of  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  and  $f_4$ . [*Suggestion:* Recall that since the  $f_i$  are orthogonal, if

$$p = a_1f_1 + a_2f_2 + a_3f_3 + a_4f_4,$$

then  $a_j = \langle p, f_j \rangle / \langle f_j, f_j \rangle$ .]

**c.** Explain why the procedure of part **b** *fails* if we take  $p(x) = x^5 - 2x + 1$ .

**Exercise 9.** For each  $2\pi$ -periodic function  $f$  given: **i.** carefully sketch three periods of  $f$  and **ii.** carefully sketch three periods of the the Fourier series of  $f$ .

$$\mathbf{a.} \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} \lfloor 2x/\pi \rfloor & \text{if } -\pi \leq x < \pi, \\ f(x + 2\pi) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{b.} \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} \min\{\lfloor 3x/\pi \rfloor, 1\} & \text{if } -\pi \leq x < \pi, \\ f(x + 2\pi) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{c.} \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} \pi/2 & \text{if } -\pi \leq x < 0, \\ \pi - x/2 & \text{if } 0 \leq x < \pi, \\ f(x + 2\pi) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$