



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

**MAS165**

**SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS**

**Spring Semester  
2012-2013**

**Mathematics for Physicists**

**2 hours**

*You should attempt ALL questions of this exam.*

## Section A

**A1** A plane is given by the equation

$$4x + 5y + 7z = 21$$

and a line by the equation  $\mathbf{r} = (1, 2, 3) + \lambda(1, 2, -2)$ , where  $\lambda$  is a real parameter.

- (i) Show that the line does not intersect the plane. *(4 marks)*
- (ii) Therefore, calculate the distance of the line to the plane. *(4 marks)*
- (iii) Find the direction of the line of intersection of the two planes  $x + 3y - z = 5$  and  $2(x - y) + 4z = 3$ . *(5 marks)*

**A2** Show that  $f(x, y) = e^{-x} \cos(y) - e^{-y} \cos(x)$  obeys the two dimensional Laplace equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 0 .$$

Show that the function  $g(x, y) = \sqrt{x^2 + y} - xy$  does not obey the two dimensional Laplace equation. *(9 marks)*

**A3** Stokes' theorem may be written:

$$\oint_C \mathbf{G} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_S (\nabla \times \mathbf{G}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} dS$$

Indicate whether the following statements about Stokes' theorem, as expressed here, are true or false

- (i) The term  $(\nabla \times \mathbf{G})$  is the divergence of the vector field  $\mathbf{G}$ .
- (ii)  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  is a unit vector parallel with the boundary  $C$ .
- (iii)  $\int_S dS$  is a surface integral, over the surface  $S$ .

*(3 marks)*

## Section B

- B1** (i) Find the work done by a force  $\mathbf{F} = (x + yz)\mathbf{i} + (y + xz)\mathbf{j} + (z + xy)\mathbf{k}$  in moving a particle from the origin  $\mathcal{O}$  to the point  $A(1, 1, 1)$
- (a) along the curve  $x = t, y = t^2, z = t^3$ ,
  - (b) along the straight line  $\mathcal{O}A$ .

*(12 marks)*

- (ii) A scalar function is given as

$$\phi(x, y, z) = x^2 - y \sin(x - z).$$

- (a) Calculate the gradient of  $\phi(x, y, z)$ , i.e. calculate  $\mathbf{V} = \nabla\phi$ . *(3 marks)*
- (b) Using your result, calculate the divergence of  $\mathbf{V}$ . *(4 marks)*
- (c) By explicit calculation, show that  $\nabla \times \mathbf{V} = 0$ . *(6 marks)*

- B2** (i) A vector field is given by

$$\mathbf{V} = V_1\hat{\mathbf{r}} + V_2\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + V_3\hat{\mathbf{z}} = r\hat{\mathbf{r}} + (a + r^3)\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + b\ln(z)\hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

in cylindrical polar coordinates, where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive constants. Calculate the divergence and curl of the vector field, given that the divergence and curl may be expressed in cylindrical coordinates as

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (rV_1) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (V_2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (V_3)$$

and

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{r} \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{r}} & r\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ V_1 & rV_2 & V_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

respectively. Can  $\nabla \times \mathbf{V}$  be zero? (10 marks)

- (ii) Sketch the region of integration represented by the repeated integral

$$\int \int_R x^2 y \, dx \, dy$$

where  $R$  is the region such that  $x \geq 0$ ,  $y \geq 0$ , and  $x^2 + y^2 \leq a^2$ . By transforming to plane polar coordinates, evaluate the integral.

(15 marks)

- B3** (i) Verify the divergence theorem

$$\int_V (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) \, dV = \oint_S \mathbf{A} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \, dS,$$

for the vector field  $\mathbf{A} = (x, y, z)$  and  $S$  being the surface enclosing a cylinder of radius  $a$  (i.e.  $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$ ) and height  $h$ . The bottom surface of the cylinder lies in the  $xy$ -plane ( $z = 0$ ). Hint: split the surface integral into three parts. To find  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  for the curved surface of the cylinder, note that you can find it by calculating  $\nabla\phi$ , with  $\phi(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 = a^2$  describing the surface. (15 marks)

- (ii) A magnetic field is given, in cylindrical polar coordinates  $(r, \theta, z)$ , as  $\mathbf{H} = H_0 r^2 \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} / a^2$ , with  $r \leq a$ , where  $H_0$  and  $a$  are positive constants. The magnetic field vanishes for  $r > a$ . Evaluate

$$\oint_C \mathbf{H} \cdot d\mathbf{x},$$

where  $C$  is the circle  $z = 0$ ,  $r = R$ , described in the anticlockwise sense for  $R < a$ .

(10 marks)

### End of Question Paper

## Mathematical Formulae:

Spherical Polar Coordinates:

$$x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi, \quad y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi, \quad z = r \cos \theta,$$

$$dV = r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi \quad (\text{Element of volume})$$

In the following  $\mathbf{F} = F_1 \hat{\mathbf{r}} + F_2 \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + F_3 \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$  (note that  $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ ,  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$  and  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$  are unit vectors):

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 F_1) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta F_2) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial \phi}$$

and

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{r}} & r \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} & r \sin \theta \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ F_1 & r F_2 & r \sin \theta F_3 \end{vmatrix}.$$

Let  $f$  be a scalar function, then the gradient is given by

$$\text{grad} f = \nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}.$$

Plane Polar Coordinates:

$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta, \quad dA = dx dy = r dr d\theta$$

Vector Calculus:

$$\nabla \phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \mathbf{k}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} \right) \mathbf{i} - \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} \right) \mathbf{j} + \left( \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \right) \mathbf{k}$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \nabla \cdot (\nabla \phi) = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \phi) = 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = 0$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}$$

Vectors:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} &= A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z \\ \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} &= (A_y B_z - A_z B_y)\mathbf{i} - (A_x B_z - A_z B_x)\mathbf{j} + (A_x B_y - A_y B_x)\mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) &= (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C})\mathbf{B} - (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B})\mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) &= \mathbf{B} \cdot (\mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{C} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B})\end{aligned}$$

Trigonometry:

$$\begin{aligned}\sin(\phi \pm \theta) &= \sin \phi \cos \theta \pm \cos \phi \sin \theta \\ \cos(\phi \pm \theta) &= \cos \phi \cos \theta \mp \sin \phi \sin \theta \\ \tan(\theta \pm \phi) &= \frac{\tan \phi \pm \tan \theta}{1 \mp \tan \phi \tan \theta} \\ \sin(2\phi) &= 2 \sin \phi \cos \phi \\ \cos(2\phi) &= 2 \cos^2 \phi - 1 = 1 - 2 \sin^2 \phi \\ \sin \phi + \sin \theta &= 2 \sin \left( \frac{\phi + \theta}{2} \right) \cos \left( \frac{\phi - \theta}{2} \right) \\ \sin \phi - \sin \theta &= 2 \cos \left( \frac{\phi + \theta}{2} \right) \sin \left( \frac{\phi - \theta}{2} \right) \\ \cos \phi + \cos \theta &= 2 \cos \left( \frac{\phi + \theta}{2} \right) \cos \left( \frac{\phi - \theta}{2} \right) \\ \cos \phi - \cos \theta &= 2 \sin \left( \frac{\phi + \theta}{2} \right) \sin \left( \frac{\phi - \theta}{2} \right)\end{aligned}$$