



**SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS**

**Spring Semester  
2017–2018**

**Mathematics (Computational and Numerical  
Methods)**

**2 hours**

*Attempt all the questions. The allocation of marks is shown in brackets.*

- 1 (i) Sketch the functions  $f(x) = \tan x$  and  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  on the same graph for  $-2\pi \leq x \leq 2\pi$ . From this sketch deduce how many times

$$f(x) = g(x) \quad (1)$$

for  $-2\pi \leq x \leq 2\pi$ .

Prove that the first positive  $x$  value that satisfies equation (1) lies in the interval  $(0.5, 1)$ . **(4 marks)**

- (ii) When applying the bisection method to find a root of a function, the tolerance  $\epsilon$  is an upper bound on the actual error and is given by the following inequality

$$\epsilon \geq \frac{1}{2^n}(b - a), \quad (2)$$

where  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  and  $(a, b)$  is the initial interval.

For  $\epsilon = 10^{-2}$  and the interval  $(0.5, 1)$  find the smallest possible value of  $n$  that satisfies inequality (2).

Hence use this value of  $n$  to find an approximate solution to equation (1) in the interval  $(0.5, 1)$ . State your final answer to an accuracy of 2 decimal places. **(6 marks)**

- (iii) Show that finding an approximate value of  $\sqrt[3]{7}$  with the Newton-Raphson method leads to a recurrence relation of the form

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{2x_n^3 + 7}{3x_n^2}.$$

**(3 marks)**

1 (continued)

(iv) Factorise the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 8 & 5 \\ 1 & 6 & 8 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

into the product  $A = LU$ . For this particular example show that  $\det A = \det L \det U$ . (6 marks)

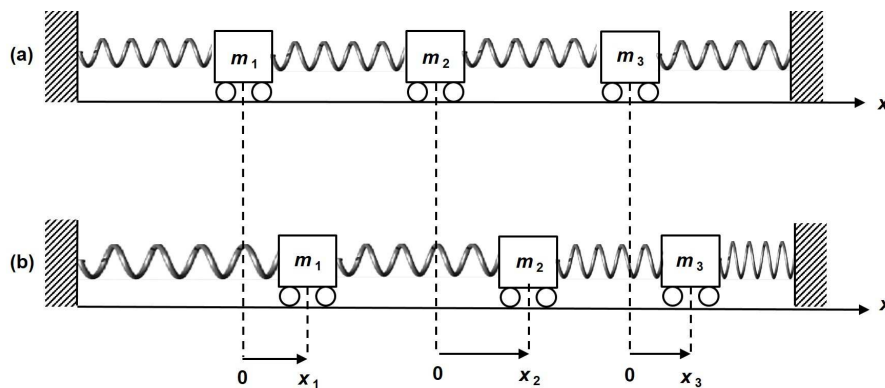
(v) Use the Jacobi iteration method to find an approximate solution to the following system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 + 10x_2 + 3x_3 &= 19 \\ 3x_1 + 4x_2 + 11x_3 &= 0 \\ 9x_1 + x_2 + x_3 &= 10. \end{aligned}$$

If necessary, first rearrange these equations to ensure convergence. Then starting with the initial column vector  $\mathbf{x} = [0, 0, 0]^T$  compute 4 successive iterations, giving your final answer accurate to 3 decimal places.

(6 marks)

2 (i) Figure (a) shows three equal masses,  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$  and  $m_3$ , connected by four springs at their equilibrium positions. Figure (b) shows each mass displaced by an amount  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  respectively.



Assume the motions of the masses are undamped and governed by Hooke's law, i.e., the restoring force of each spring is  $F = -kx$ , where  $k > 0$  is the spring constant and  $x$  is the change in spring length from the equilibrium value.

Take the value of  $k$  to be equal for all the springs and assume the oscillatory time dependence is  $x_1 = X_1 \cos(\omega t)$ ,  $x_2 = X_2 \cos(\omega t)$  and  $x_3 = X_3 \cos(\omega t)$ , where  $\omega$  is the angular frequency and  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  are constants.

2 (continued)

Form the eigenvalue problem of this system and hence, to an accuracy of two decimal places, find all the possible values of  $\omega$  when  $m_1 = m_2 = m_3 = 0.5$  kg and  $k = 10$  N m<sup>-1</sup>.

(12 marks)

(ii) Given the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

implement the power method to find the *largest* eigenvalue (by magnitude) of matrix  $A$ . Do three iterations with the starting eigenvector  $[1, 1, 1]^T$  and give your final eigenvalue approximation to an accuracy of three decimal places.

Then by finding the inverse matrix of  $A$ , implement the power method to find the *smallest* eigenvalue (by magnitude) of matrix  $A$ . Do three iterations with the starting eigenvector  $[1, 1, 1]^T$  and give your final eigenvalue approximation to an accuracy of three decimal places.

(13 marks)

3 (i) For the following data

|     |       |       |       |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| $x$ | 0.489 | 0.524 | 0.559 |
| $y$ | 0.532 | 0.577 | 0.625 |

calculate the interpolated derivative  $P'_2(0.532)$  to an accuracy of two decimal places.

*Hint:* The Lagrange interpolation polynomial of least degree which passes through  $(n + 1)$  points  $(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$  is

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n L_i(x)y_i$$

where

$$L_i(x) = \frac{(x - x_0)(x - x_1) \dots (x - x_{i-1})(x - x_{i+1}) \dots (x - x_n)}{(x_i - x_0)(x_i - x_1) \dots (x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1}) \dots (x_i - x_n)}$$

and  $y_i = y(x_i)$ .

(5 marks)

3 (continued)

- (ii) A theoretical model for the following data predicts exponential behaviour.

|     |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| $x$ | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.3  | 0.4  | 0.5  |
| $y$ | 0.29 | 0.33 | 0.39 | 0.45 | 0.53 |

By employing a suitable transformation, fit an exponential curve to this data by using the least squares linear approximation. Compute the associated coefficients to an accuracy of two decimal places.

*Hint:* A polynomial of degree  $n$  can be expressed by the following sum,

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j x^j.$$

In the least squares sense, a unique polynomial of degree  $n$  can be fitted to data points  $(x_i, f(x_i))$ , where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $m \geq n$ . Assuming that the  $x_i$  values are free of errors, the normal equations used in the process of a least squares fit for a polynomial of degree  $n$  are

$$\sum_{i=0}^m \left( \sum_{j=0}^n a_j x_i^{j+k} \right) = \sum_{i=0}^m x_i^k f_i, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

(15 marks)

- (iii) The Taylor series for a function
- $y(x)$
- around a point
- $x = x_0$
- is given by

$$y(x) = y(x_0) + \frac{(x - x_0)}{1!} y'(x_0) + \frac{(x - x_0)^2}{2!} y''(x_0) + \frac{(x - x_0)^3}{3!} y'''(x_0) + \dots$$

Hence, use Taylor series to derive the approximations,

$$y'(x_0) = \frac{y(x_0 + h) - y(x_0 - h)}{2h}$$

and

$$y''(x_0) = \frac{y(x_0 + h) - 2y(x_0) + y(x_0 - h)}{h^2},$$

where  $h > 0$  is a constant, showing that the leading terms of the error associated with these approximations are proportional to  $h^2$ .

(5 marks)

- 4 (i) Use the data points  $(x_0, y_0)$ ,  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  to derive Simpson's rule assuming  $x_1 - x_0 = h$  and  $x_2 - x_0 = 2h$ . **(10 marks)**
- (ii) Using the composite Simpson's rule evaluate

$$\frac{1}{8} \int_1^5 x^3 \ln(\sqrt{x}) dx$$

to an accuracy of  $\epsilon = 10^{-3}$ . Give your final answer to an accuracy of 3 decimal places.

*Hint:* If a function  $y(x)$  has four continuous derivatives on an interval  $(a, b)$  and this interval is divided into  $n$  subintervals, where  $n$  is an even positive integer, then the error bound for the composite Simpson's rule is given by

$$|E_n^S| \leq \frac{h^4}{180}(b-a)K,$$

where

$$h = \frac{b-a}{n}$$

and

$$K = \max_{a \leq x \leq b} \left| \frac{d^4 y(x)}{dx^4} \right|.$$

**(15 marks)**

**End of Question Paper**