



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

MAS6450

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Autumn Semester 2019–20

WAVES

2 hours

*Marks will be awarded for your best FOUR answers. The marks awarded to each question or section of question are shown in italics.*

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- 1 The transverse displacement of a stretched string is  $u(x, t)$ , where  $x$  is the distance along the string and  $t \geq 0$  is time.

(i) Verify that the d'Alembert general solution

$$u(x, t) = f(x - ct) + g(x + ct),$$

where  $f$  and  $g$  are arbitrary functions and  $c$  is a constant, satisfies the wave equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}. \quad (1)$$

Hence find  $u(x, t)$ , for  $t > 0$ , of an infinite stretched string that, at  $t = 0$ , is at rest with displacement  $\sin(x)$ .

(10 marks)

- (ii) Next, assume that a finite string is held fixed at its endpoints  $x = 0$  and  $x = L$  and the transverse displacement  $u(x, t)$  satisfies the wave equation given by (1). At  $t = 0$  the displacement is zero. Verify that

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin(\alpha_n x) \sin(\alpha_n ct)$$

satisfies equation (1) and the initial and boundary conditions, where  $B_n$  and  $\alpha_n$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ) are constants. Determine  $\alpha_n$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ).

If it is further given that, at  $t = 0$ , the velocity  $\partial u / \partial t = f(x)$ , find an integral formula for  $B_n$ .

(15 marks)

- 2 A uniform finite string of length  $L$  and density  $\rho$  undergoes small transverse vibrations with displacement  $y(x, t)$ , where  $y_{tt} = c^2 y_{xx}$ , and  $c^2$  is a constant.

(i) Given that  $y(0, t) = y(L, t) = 0$ , derive by using the method of separation of variables that the general solution is

$$y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right) \right\} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right),$$

where  $\{a_n\}$ ,  $\{b_n\}$  are constants.

(15 marks)

- (ii) Find  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  for the case when

$$y(x, 0) = A \left[ \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{3\pi x}{L}\right) \right]; \quad y_t(x, 0) = 0,$$

where  $A$  is constant.

(10 marks)

- 3 (A model of a stethoscope.) Sound waves propagate in the positive  $Oz$  direction inside the circular cylinder  $r = a$  (where  $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$  in standard notation). The velocity potential  $\phi$  satisfies

$$c^2 \left\{ \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} \right\} = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2}, \quad (2)$$

where the constant  $c$  is the speed of sound.

- (i) State how  $c$  depends on pressure ( $p$ ) and density ( $\rho$ ). Determine the value of  $c$  for the case when this is

$$\left( \frac{p}{\rho_0} \right) = \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^\gamma,$$

where  $\gamma = 1.4$ , and  $p_0$  and  $\rho_0$  are the ambient pressure and density with  $p_0 \approx 1.013 \times 10^5 \text{ N m}^{-2}$ ,  $\rho_0 \approx 1.293 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ .

(6 marks)

- (ii) Seek solutions of (2) of the form

$$\phi = g(r) \exp\{i(kz - \omega t)\},$$

where  $k$  and  $\omega$  are real positive constants. Show that

$$g''(r) + \frac{1}{r} g'(r) + m^2 g(r) = 0 \quad (3)$$

where  $m^2$  is a constant, depending on  $\omega$ ,  $c$  and  $k$ . (You may assume that  $m^2 > 0$ .)

(7 marks)

- (iii) It is given that  $\phi$  is bounded at  $r = 0$ , that  $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} = 0$  at  $r = a$ , and that the only solution of (3) that is bounded at  $r = 0$  must be a multiple of  $J_0(mr)$ , where  $J_0(\xi)$  is the Bessel function of order zero. Show that  $m = m_n$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ), where  $m_n = \beta_n/a$  and  $\beta_n$  is the  $n$ th non-zero root of  $J'_0(\xi) = 0$ . Given that the  $\beta_n$  are discrete, that  $\beta_1 < \beta_2 < \dots$ , and that  $\beta_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , deduce that, for fixed  $\omega$ , there are a finite number of positive values of  $k$ .

(12 marks)

- 4 The equilibrium position of the free surface of a liquid is  $z = 0$ , where  $z$  is measured vertically upwards. A short surface wave, causing the displacement of this surface to be  $\eta(x, t)$ , where  $x$  is measured along the undisturbed surface, is affected by a phenomenon known as *surface tension*. This results in the pressure at the free surface not being continuous. You are given, as a consequence, a linear dynamic boundary condition

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + g\eta = \frac{T}{\rho} \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{at } z = 0,$$

where  $T$  is the magnitude of the surface tension, and, (a) the velocity potential  $\phi = \phi(x, z, t)$  satisfies  $\phi_{xx} + \phi_{zz} = 0$ . You are also given that (b)  $\phi_z = \eta_t$  at  $z = 0$ .

- (i) Show that for a progressive surface wave on water of depth  $h$  with  $\eta = \eta_0 \sin(kx - \omega t)$ ,  $\phi = f(z) \cos(kx - \omega t)$ , and, (c)  $\phi_z = 0$  at  $z = -h$  the dispersion relation is

$$\omega^2 = gk \left( 1 + \frac{Tk^2}{\rho g} \right) \tanh kh.$$

(10 marks)

- (ii) Next, suppose  $kh$  is large (deep water). Find the dispersion relation  $\omega(k)$  in this approximation.

(3 marks)

- (iii) Show that the phase velocity  $c$  and the group velocity  $c_g$  satisfy

$$c = \left( \frac{gT}{\rho} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left( \frac{1+p^2}{p} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad c_g = \frac{1}{2}c \left( \frac{1+3p^2}{1+p^2} \right) \quad \text{with } p^2 = \frac{Tk^2}{\rho g}.$$

Deduce that  $c$  has a minimum  $c_m$  when  $p = 1$ . Show that  $c_g > c$  for  $p > 1$  and that  $c_g < c$  for  $p < 1$ . Sketch the graph of  $c$  against  $p$ .

(12 marks)

- 5 (i) In a model of traffic flow in the direction of  $Ox$ , the density of traffic at time  $t$  is  $\rho(x, t)$ , the speed of traffic of density  $\rho$  is  $v = v(\rho)$ , the flowrate  $q(\rho) = \rho v(\rho)$ , and  $c(\rho) = q'(\rho)$ . Given that  $\rho_t + c\rho_x = 0$ , show that  $c_t + c c_x = 0$ . If  $\rho(x, 0) = f(x)$ , deduce that in regions where  $c(x, t)$  is continuously differentiable:

$$c = c\{f(\xi)\} = F(\xi) \text{ on straight lines } x = \xi + F(\xi)t.$$

(12 marks)

- (ii) Using the method of characteristics solve the equation

$$yz_x + xz_y = xy,$$

given that  $z = e^{-y^2}$  on  $x = 0$  for  $y \geq 0$  and that  $z = e^{-x^2}$  on  $y = 0$  for  $x \geq 0$ .

(13 marks)

End of Question Paper