

ENGINEERING TRIPOS PART IIA  
ENGINEERING TRIPOS PART IIB

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Monday 2 May 2011 2.30 to 4

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Module 4M12

PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS AND VARIATIONAL METHODS

*Answer not more than **three** questions.*

*All questions carry the same number of marks.*

*The **approximate** percentage of marks allocated to each part of a question is indicated in the right margin.*

*Attachment: 4M12 Data Sheet (3 sides).*

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS  
Single-sided script paper

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS  
Engineering Data Book  
CUED approved calculator allowed

**You may not start to read the questions  
printed on the subsequent pages of this  
question paper until instructed that you  
may do so by the Invigilator**

1 For a body  $V$  with boundary  $\partial V$  and with outward unit normal vector  $\mathbf{n}$  on  $\partial V$ :

(a) Use index notation to show that

$$\int_{\partial V} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{A} \mathbf{n} dS = \int_V \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{u}) dV$$

where  $\mathbf{u}$  is a vector and  $\mathbf{A}$  is a second-order tensor.

[10%]

(b) If  $V$  is subject to tractions  $\mathbf{t}$  on its boundary and a body force  $\rho \mathbf{g}$ , force equilibrium requires that

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \rho \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{0}$$

where the stress  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$  is a second-order tensor and is defined by  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{t}$  on  $\partial V$ . Write down an expression for moment equilibrium, and show that if force equilibrium is satisfied then moment equilibrium is satisfied if  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}^T$ .

[50%]

(c) Determine the partial differential equation that is satisfied by  $w$  if  $w$  minimises the functional

$$J = \int_V (\nabla^2 w)^2 dV$$

Comment on the boundary conditions.

[40%]

2 The steady-state heat equation with variable conductivity  $\kappa = \kappa(\mathbf{x}) > 0$  and a prescribed source term  $f$  for a body  $V$  reads

$$-\nabla \cdot \kappa \nabla u = f$$

Boundary conditions  $u = 0$  on  $\partial V$  are applied.

- (a) Formulate a weak version of the steady-state heat equation. [15%]
- (b) Derive a functional  $J$  whose minimum corresponds to a solution of the steady-state heat equation. Comment on the significance of the sign of the conductivity. [15%]
- (c) Suppose that the heat equation can be controlled by varying  $\kappa$  such that  $u \approx z$ , where  $z$  is prescribed.
- (i) Using the framework of optimal control, formulate a suitable functional whose stationary points correspond to the optimal control of this problem. [20%]
- (ii) Find the system of partial differential equations that solve the optimal control problem. Comment on the type of equations that must be solved. [50%]

3 A second-order linear PDE is defined as

$$a \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + c \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + d \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, u, x, y \right) = 0$$

where the coefficients  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  depend on  $x$  and  $y$ .

(a) If a change of variables  $\xi = \xi(x, y)$  and  $\eta = \eta(x, y)$  is made, the PDE reads

$$A \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} + 2B \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} + C \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \eta^2} + D \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta}, u, \xi, \eta \right) = 0$$

With  $J$  given by

$$J = \frac{\partial(\xi, \eta)}{\partial(x, y)} = \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}$$

it can be shown that

$$B^2 - AC = (b^2 - ac)J^2$$

What can be deduced from the above equation?

[20%]

(b) Classify the following PDEs and find changes of variables that reduce each PDE to the standard form. You are not required to reduce the PDEs to their standard form.

(i)  $4 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 4 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + x \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 0$  [20%]

(ii)  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + \sin^2(x) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$  [20%]

(iii)  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - 2 \sin x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + (2 - \cos^2 x) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + u = 0$  [20%]

(c) Reduce the equation in (b)(iii) to its standard form.

[20%]

You may use

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \left(\frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x}\right)^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} + 2 \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} + \left(\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}\right)^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \eta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \xi}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} + \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} + \left(\frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}\right) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} + \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \eta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \xi}{\partial x \partial y} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} + \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial x \partial y} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = \left(\frac{\partial \xi}{\partial y}\right)^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} + 2 \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} + \left(\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y}\right)^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \eta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \xi}{\partial y^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} + \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial y^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta}$$

- 4 (a) The inviscid Burgers' equation reads

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \rho \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} = 0$$

where  $\rho = \rho(x, t)$  depends on position  $x$  and time  $t$ .

- (i) For the initial condition

$$\rho(x, 0) = \begin{cases} 1 & x > 1 \\ x & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

find  $\rho(x, t)$  by integrating along characteristic lines, or otherwise. [20%]

- (ii) Do discontinuities form in this case? If so, indicate where and when a discontinuity first occurs and find the density distribution  $\rho$  at this instant. Otherwise, find the density distribution  $\rho$  at  $t = 1$ . [20%]

- (b) A model equation for traffic flow reads

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial ((1 - \rho)\rho)}{\partial x} = 0$$

where  $\rho = \rho(x, t)$  depends on position  $x$  and time  $t$ .

- (i) Consider the same initial condition as in (a)(i). By integrating along characteristic lines, or otherwise, find  $\rho(x, t)$ . [20%]

- (ii) Do discontinuities form in this case? If so, indicate where and when a discontinuity first occurs, and find the density distribution  $\rho$  at this instant. Otherwise, find the density distribution  $\rho$  at  $t = 1$ . [20%]

- (iii) Sketch the characteristic lines and car trajectories of the solution to (b)(i). Note: the car velocity is  $u = 1 - \rho$ . [20%]

**END OF PAPER**

**Engineering Tripos Part IIA and Part IIB**  
**Module 4M12: Partial Differential Equations and Variational Methods**

**Data Sheet**

**1 Index notation**

$$1. \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & i=j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

$$2. \epsilon_{ijk} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if any two of } i, j, k \text{ are equal} \\ 1 & \text{if } (i, j, k) \text{ is a permutation of } (123) \\ -1 & \text{if } (i, j, k) \text{ is a permutation of } (321) \end{cases}$$

$$3. [\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{y}]_i = \epsilon_{ijk} x_j y_k$$

$$4. \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{klm} = \delta_{il} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{jl}$$

$$5. \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_j} = \delta_{ij}$$

$$6. [\text{grad } \phi]_i = [\nabla \phi]_i = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i}, \quad \text{div } \mathbf{u} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i}, \quad [\text{curl } \mathbf{u}]_i = [\nabla \times \mathbf{u}]_i = \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial u_k}{\partial x_j}$$

$$[\text{grad } \mathbf{u}]_{ij} = [\nabla \mathbf{u}]_{ij} = \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j}, \quad [\text{div } \mathbf{A}]_i = [\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}]_i = \frac{\partial A_{ij}}{\partial x_j}$$

**2 Integral theorems**

1. Divergence theorem:

$$\int_V \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (\cdot) dV = \int_S (\cdot) n_i dS$$

where  $V$  is a volume enclosed by the surface  $S$ ,  $(\cdot)$  is any permissible index notation expression, and  $\mathbf{n}$  is the unit outward normal vector to the volume  $V$ .

2. Stokes's theorem:

$$\int_S \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\cdot) n_i dS = \oint_C (\cdot) s_k dC$$

where  $S$  is surface (possibly curved) with a curve  $C$  running around the boundary of  $S$ ,  $\mathbf{n}$  is the unit normal vector to the surface  $S$ ,  $(\cdot)$  is any permissible index notation expression and  $\mathbf{s}$  is the unit vector tangential to the edge of  $S$ .

### 3 Variational methods

1. To minimise  $I = \int_0^L F(y, y', x) dx$ ,  $F$  must satisfy the Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial y'} \right) = 0$$

at all  $x$ .

2. For the above problem, if  $F$  depends on  $y'$  but not on  $y$ , then

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y'} = k, \quad \text{where } k \text{ is a constant.}$$

If  $F$  does not depend explicitly on  $x$  (i.e., only depends on  $x$  via  $y$  and  $y'$ ), then

$$F - y' \frac{\partial F}{\partial y'} = k, \quad \text{where } k \text{ is a constant.}$$

3. The directional derivative of the functional  $f(\mathbf{u})$  is given by

$$Df(\mathbf{u})[\mathbf{v}] = \left. \frac{df(\mathbf{u} + \epsilon \mathbf{v})}{d\epsilon} \right|_{\epsilon=0}$$

### 4 Partial differential equations

1. Classification: The second-order quasi-linear partial differential equation

$$a \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + c \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + F \left( x, y, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = 0$$

is: *hyperbolic* where  $b^2 - ac > 0$   
*parabolic* where  $b^2 - ac = 0$   
*elliptic* where  $b^2 - ac < 0$

2. Well-posed problem: A problem is well-posed if the solution

- exists
- is unique
- depends continuously on the input data (i.e. is stable with respect to changes in the input data)



3. Common reference equations are:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Helmholtz equation} \quad & \nabla^2 u + k^2 u = 0 \\ \text{Poisson equation} \quad & \nabla^2 u = f(x, y) \\ \text{Laplace equation} \quad & \nabla^2 u = 0 \\ \text{Wave equation} \quad & \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \nabla^2 u = 0 \\ \text{Diffusion equation} \quad & \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \alpha \nabla^2 u = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The form of the Laplacian operator  $\nabla^2$  in various coordinate systems can be found in the Maths Data Book.

4. D'Alembert travelling wave solution: the solution of

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{for } t > 0 \text{ and for all } x$$

with the initial conditions  $u(x, 0) = \phi(x)$  and  $\partial u(x, 0)/\partial t = \psi(x)$  is

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} (\phi(x+ct) + \phi(x-ct)) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} \psi(\xi) d\xi.$$

5. Fundamental solution (free-space Green's function):

2D Poisson/Laplace equation

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) = \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0), \quad G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \ln|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0|$$

3D Poisson/Laplace equation

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) = \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0), \quad G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) = -\frac{1}{4\pi|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0|}$$

Fundamental solution:

Diffusion equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} - \alpha \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2} &= \delta(x - x_0) \delta(t - t_0) \\ F(x, t; x_0, t_0) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\alpha\pi(t - t_0)}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - x_0)^2}{4\alpha(t - t_0)}\right) \quad \text{for } t > t_0 \end{aligned}$$

3-(space)D wave equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \nabla^2 F &= \delta(t - t_0) \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) \\ F(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_0, t_0) &= \frac{\delta\left(t - t_0 - \frac{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0|}{c}\right)}{4\pi c^2 |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0|} \quad \text{for } t > t_0 \end{aligned}$$