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Ph.D. Qualifying Exam in Mathematics

- Closed book and Notes
- You may use a one page (8.5×11) – **one sided** formula sheet.
- Laplace Transform Tables are attached at the end of the exam.
- Answer all questions. All questions have the same weight.

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January 2022

Possibly useful information for problems 1 and 2:

1. **See the attached Laplace Transform tables:**

2. **Table 1. Particular-solution forms for constant-coefficient linear ODEs:**

$f(t)$		$y_p(t)$
Polynomial of degree n	$m = 0$ is not a root of the characteristic equation	$y_p(x) = A_0 + A_1 t + A_2 t^2 + \cdots + A_n t^n$
	$m = 0$ is a root	$y_p(x) = t(A_0 + A_1 t + A_2 t + \cdots + A_n t^n)$
	$m = 0$ is a repeated root	$y_p(x) = t^2(A_0 + A_1 t + A_2 t^2 + \cdots + A_n t^n)$
$f(t) = Ce^{kt}$	$m = k$	$y_p(t) = Ae^{kt}$
	$m = k$ is a root	$y_p(t) = Axe^{kt}$
	$m = k$ is a repeated root	$y_p(t) = At^2 e^{kt}$
$g(t) = C\cos(kt)$	$m = ik$ is not a root	$y_p(t) = A\cos(kt) + B\sin(kt)$
	$m = ik$ is a root	$y_p(t) = t(A\cos(kt) + B\sin(kt))$

3. **Fourier Series:**

Fourier series of a periodic signal with period $2T$ is given by:

$$f(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi t}{T}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi t}{T}\right)\right),$$

where, the expansion coefficients a_0, a_n, and b_n can be obtained using:

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{T}\int_{-T}^{T} f(t)dt,$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{T}\int_{-T}^{T} f(t)\cos\left(\frac{n\pi t}{T}\right)dt,$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{T}\int_{-T}^{T} f(t)\sin\left(\frac{n\pi t}{T}\right)dt,\ \ n = 1,2,3,\ldots$$

4. **Partial Fractions:**

- Let $Q(s)$ have m unrepeated real roots: $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_m$. Thus,

$$Q(s) = (s - a_1)(s - a_2)\ldots(s - a_m),$$

then,

$$F(s) = \frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} = \frac{A_1}{s-a_1} + \frac{A_2}{s-a_2} + \cdots + \frac{A_m}{s-a_m}.$$

Where,

$$A_i = \lim_{s\to a_i}(s - a_i)F(s)$$

- Let $Q(s)$ have n roots $a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots, a_n$, with a_1 repeated m times, then

$$F(s) = \frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} = \frac{B_m}{(s-a_1)^m} + \cdots + \frac{B_2}{(s-a_1)^2} + \frac{B_1}{s-a_1} + \frac{A_2}{s-a_2} + \cdots + \frac{A_n}{s-a_n}.$$

where,

$$B_m = \lim_{s \to a_1} \frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} (s - a_1)^m,$$

$$B_{m-1} = \lim_{s \to a_1} \frac{d}{ds} \left[\frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} (s - a_1)^m \right],$$

$$B_{m-2} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{s \to a_1} \frac{d^2}{ds^2} \left[\frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} (s - a_1)^m \right],$$

$$B_{m-3} = \frac{1}{3 \times 2} \lim_{s \to a_1} \frac{d^3}{ds^3} \left[\frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} (s - a_1)^m \right],$$

$\vdots$

$$B_1 = \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \lim_{s \to a_1} \frac{d^{m-1}}{ds^{m-1}} \left[\frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} (s - a_1)^m \right].$$

Possibly useful information & formulas for Problems 3 and 4:

1. **Gradient:** Also known as the "del" operator, $\vec{\nabla} = \hat{\imath} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{\jmath} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$.

2. **Partial derivative:** If $u(x, y)$ then $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$ means taking the derivative of $u(x, y)$ with respect to x while holding $y = constant$.

3. **Total derivative of a field function:** $du(x, y, z, t) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} dz + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dt$.

4. **Partial differential equation:** A mathematical relation between quantities that are differentiated with respect to several (at least two) different independent variables.

5. **Fourier Series:**

(1) Sine series: $f(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi t}{T}\right)$; $b_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T}^{T} f(s) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi s}{T}\right) ds, \; -T < t < T$.

(2) Cosine series: $f(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi t}{T}\right)$; $a_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T}^{T} f(s) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi s}{T}\right) ds, -T < t < T$.

The **general series** is given in the information for Problems 1 and 2 above.

6. **Trigonometric Identities:**

(1) $\sin(A \pm B) = sinAcosB \pm cosAsinB$

(2) $\cos(A \pm B) = cosAcosB \mp sinAsinB$

7. **Superposition Principle:** For a linear PDE the solution $u(x, y, z, t) \equiv u(\vec{x}, t)$ can be written as a *superposition of solutions* $u_1(\vec{x}, t)$, $u_2(\vec{x}, t), \ldots$ as needed, each component satisfying different BCs.

8. **Partial Derivative:** If *f(x, y, z)*, the differentiation operation *∂f/∂x* holds *y, z* constant, *∂f/∂y* holds *x, z* constant, *∂f/∂z* holds *x, y* constant.

9. **Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization:** $v_i = u_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{u_i \cdot v_j}{v_j \cdot v_j} v_j$, where the v_i and the u_i are vectors.

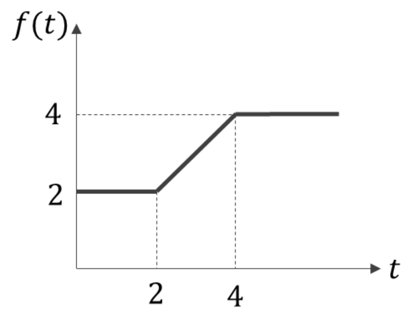
10. **Separation of Variables:** For the solution of a partial differential equation for the function $\varphi(x_1, x_2, x_3, t)$ we try $\varphi(x_1, x_2, x_3, t) = \Phi_1(x_1)\Phi_2(x_2)\Phi_3(x_3)\Phi_4(t)$. If this solution works the equations for the component functions Φ_i will be ODEs. In addition, the BC and ICs will sort out properly and the problem will be *well-posed*.

Problem 1: Find the complete solution of y to the following differential equation

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = 2 + 2\mathrm{t} + 2e^{t}, \qquad y(0) = y'(0) = 0,$$

Problem 2: Consider the function shown on the right figure.

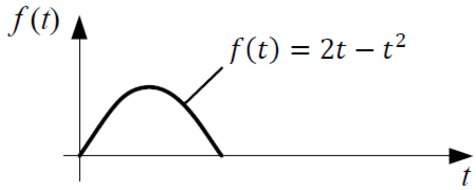
a) Write the function using shifted step functions.
b) Find the Laplace Transform of f(t).



<u>Problem 3:</u> Let x and y be two distinct eigenvectors of a matrix A such that $x + y$ is also an eigenvector of A. Is $x - y$ an eigenvector of A? Prove or give a counterexample.

Problem 4: For the function $f(t)$ shown below,

a) **Obtain a Cosine Fourier series expansion**, and
b) **Obtain a Sine Fourier series expansion**.



<u>Problem 5:</u> **Solve the 1D wave equation** for a vibrating stretched string of length L:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2},$$

where, a is the wave speed. The string vibration is initiated displacing the string in the shape of a triangle as shown below then letting go. **State the boundary and initial conditions**, and show details of your solution.