

Code Number :.....

# MATHEMATICS QUALIFYING EXAM

January 2008

OPEN BOOK (only one book allowed)

Answer all questions

All questions have equal weight

TIME: 3.0 hrs

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## Problem #1

Consider

$$f(x, y, z) = \sin(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) + xy + xz + yz.$$

One of its critical point (min, max, or saddle point) is  $(0,0,0)$ . Identify by computing the various first- and second-order partial derivatives the nature of the critical point you have identified.

### Problem #2

Stokes' Theorem can be stated as

$$\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \iint_S \nabla \times \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, d\sigma$$

Verify Stokes' theorem using the vector field  $\mathbf{F} = (x^2 - y)\mathbf{i} + 4z\mathbf{j} + x^2\mathbf{k}$  where the closed contour is comprised of the x and y coordinate axis and the portion of the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$  that lies in the first quadrant with  $z=1$ .

### Problem #3

Consider

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and find all the eigenvalues of matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ . Find the eigenspace corresponding to the real eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

**Problem 4.**

- a) What is the general solution of the following ODE?

$$y' - 3y = e^{3x} \sin x$$

- b) What is the solution to the following initial value problem, and on what interval is it defined?

$$y' = x \sin x^2, \quad y(0) = 3$$

- c) Solve the following initial value problem and determine the interval on which the solution is defined.

$$y' = \frac{y+x}{y-x}, \quad y(2) = 0$$

- d) What is the general solution of the following ODE?

$$y' = 2 \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^3 + \frac{y}{x}$$

- e) What is the solution of the following ODE?

$$y'' + 4y = 2e^x - \sin x$$

**Problem 5.**

The failure rate of a certain mechanical device has been studied and quantified. The problem of finding the rate  $dr/dt$  at which devices should be replaced, to keep a specified number  $f(t)$  of devices operational at time  $t$ , is described by the equation

$$f(t) = f(0)p(t) + \int_0^t p(t - \tau) \frac{dr}{d\tau} d\tau \quad (1)$$

where  $f(0)$  is the number of new devices installed at time  $t = 0$  and  $p(t)$  is a function that determines the device's longevity and takes the form  $p(t) = e^{-ct}$ .

Using Laplace transformation or otherwise, find the required replacement rate  $dr/dt(t)$  of devices so that the number of operational devices  $f(t)$  is always a constant number  $A$ . Verify your answer by evaluating (1) in the physical domain.

Explain briefly (but do not attempt to solve) how your solution strategy for this problem might change if  $p(t) = c/t$ .

**Problem 6.**

The deviation of fluid pressure  $p$  from its ambient value during one-dimensional acoustic vibrations is described by the equation

$$c^2 \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

where  $c$  is the (constant) sound speed in the fluid. The lateral velocity  $u$  driven by acoustic motions is related to the pressure field by the equation

$$\rho \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$

where  $\rho$  is the (constant) fluid density. We consider the well-known case of acoustic vibrations in a long tube or bottle that is closed at  $x = 0$  (where  $u = 0$  and  $\partial p / \partial x = 0$ ) and open at  $x = L$  (where  $p = 0$ ). Find expressions for the pressure oscillations, and then the velocity oscillations, that arise from these acoustic vibrations.

Suppose these acoustic vibrations are to be damped by placing a fibrous material, that will retard the fluid motion, at a location at which the fluid velocity is greatest. What is the amplitude of the pressure field (the sound you are trying to damp) at this location?