



SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Spring Semester  
2012-2013

Vectors and Fluids

2 hours

Answer **four** questions. If you answer more than four questions, only your best four will be counted.

- 1 (i) A vector field is given by  $\mathbf{F} = (\alpha x e^{2y}, e^{-3x} - e^{2y}, 0)$ , where  $\alpha$  is a constant. Calculate

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}, \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{F}, \quad \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}), \quad \nabla^2 \mathbf{F},$$

and verify that the following result holds for this case:

$$\nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}) = \nabla^2 \mathbf{F} + \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}).$$

(9 marks)

Using your results, determine the value of  $\alpha$  that ensures the existence of a vector  $\mathbf{A}$  such that  $\mathbf{F} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$ . Let  $\mathbf{A} = A \mathbf{k}$ , where  $A = A(x, y)$  and  $A = 0$  at the origin. Find the function  $A$ .

(8 marks)

- (ii) A scalar field is given by  $\phi = z - x^2 - y^2$ . Sketch isosurfaces for  $\phi$ . Calculate the rate of change of  $\phi$  in the direction  $(1, 1, 0)$  at the point  $(3, 5, 0)$ .

(8 marks)

- 2 (i) Find an expression for the  $i^{\text{th}}$ -component of  $\nabla \times (\phi \nabla \psi)$ , where  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are scalars. *Using suffix notation, show that*

$$\nabla \times (\phi \nabla \psi) = \nabla \phi \times \nabla \psi.$$

(6 marks)

- (ii) Consider the scalar

$$\phi = \frac{\boldsymbol{\kappa} \cdot \mathbf{r}}{r^n},$$

where  $r = |\mathbf{r}|$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$  and  $\boldsymbol{\kappa} = (\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3)$  is a constant vector. Using suffix notation, show that

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\kappa_i}{r^n} - \frac{n(\boldsymbol{\kappa} \cdot \mathbf{r}) x_i}{r^{n+2}}.$$

(You may assume that  $\partial r / \partial x_i = x_i / r$ .) Find the  $n$  for which  $\phi$  satisfies the Laplace equation.

(11 marks)

- (iii) Let  $L$  be a  $3 \times 3$  matrix. State the conditions on  $L$  for it to be a valid matrix of transformation, representing a rotation of frames about a common origin.

Define vectors  $\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \mathbf{e}_1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \mathbf{e}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{e}_3$ , and let

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{3} & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & \sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

be a valid matrix of transformation. Determine which of the two perpendicular vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  points along the axis of rotation, and calculate the angle of rotation between frames.

(8 marks)

**3** The spherical polar coordinates are related to the Cartesian system by

$$\alpha_1 = r = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \alpha_2 = \phi = \cos^{-1}(z/r), \quad \alpha_3 = \theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x),$$

or,

$$x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi, \quad y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi, \quad z = r \cos \theta.$$

- (i) Calculate  $\nabla\alpha_1$  and  $\nabla\alpha_3$ . Using these results, find expressions for  $h_1$  and  $h_3$  (standard notation) in terms of  $r$  and  $\theta$ . Note that  $d(\tan^{-1} \xi)/d\xi = 1/(1 + \xi^2)$ .

Given that

$$\nabla\alpha_2 = \frac{1}{r^2(x^2 + y^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} (xz\mathbf{i} + yz\mathbf{j} - (x^2 + y^2)\mathbf{k}),$$

and  $h_2 = r$ , show that the  $\alpha_i$  define a right-handed coordinate system.

*(11 marks)*

- (ii) The vector field  $\mathbf{F}$  is given by

$$\mathbf{F} = (x^2 + y^2 + 2z^2) \mathbf{k}.$$

Sketch the volume  $V$  bounded by the surface  $S$ , defined by  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$  and  $z = 0$ . Verify that Gauss's Theorem, namely

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} \, dV = \int_S \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S},$$

holds for this case.

*(14 marks)*

- 4 The Euler equation for the motion  $\mathbf{u}$  of an inviscid fluid is

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \mathbf{F},$$

where  $p$  is the pressure,  $\rho$  is the density and  $\mathbf{F}$  is a body force.

- (i) Show that

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \frac{p}{\rho} = \beta,$$

where  $\beta$  is a uniform constant throughout the flow, provided that the following conditions hold:

- body forces can be neglected,
- the flow does not change in time,
- the flow is irrotational,
- the density is uniform.

*(7 marks)*

- (ii) The flow  $\mathbf{u}$  of an incompressible fluid around a cylinder of radius  $a$  is given by

$$\mathbf{u} = U \left( 1 - \frac{a^2}{r^2} \right) \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{r}} - U \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{a^2}{r^2} \right) \sin \theta + \frac{a}{r} \right] \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}},$$

in cylindrical polar coordinates  $(r, \theta, z)$ , where  $U$  is a constant. Verify that the appropriate boundary conditions are satisfied on  $r = a$ , and find the flow far from the origin.

If  $p$  tends to the constant value  $p_\infty$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , find an expression for the pressure on the surface of the cylinder.

*(9 marks)*

- (iii) The flow in part (ii) has two stagnation points below the line  $y = 0$ . Sketch the flow and determine the lift, i.e. the force in the  $y$  direction, per unit length of the cylinder.

*(9 marks)*

5 The generalised gradient and curl are given by

$$\nabla\phi = \left( \frac{1}{h_1} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial\alpha_1}, \frac{1}{h_2} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial\alpha_2}, \frac{1}{h_3} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial\alpha_3} \right), \nabla \times \mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \begin{vmatrix} h_1 \hat{\alpha}_1 & h_2 \hat{\alpha}_2 & h_3 \hat{\alpha}_3 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial\alpha_1} & \frac{\partial}{\partial\alpha_2} & \frac{\partial}{\partial\alpha_3} \\ h_1 F_1 & h_2 F_2 & h_3 F_3 \end{vmatrix}.$$

The velocity potential for a flow is given by

$$\phi = \frac{\kappa}{2\pi}\theta,$$

everywhere except at the origin, in cylindrical polar coordinates, and where  $\kappa$  is a scalar constant.

(i) The streamfunction  $\psi$  for the flow is related to the velocity field  $\mathbf{u}$  by  $\mathbf{u} = \nabla \times (\psi \hat{\mathbf{z}})$ , where  $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  is the unit vector in the  $z$  direction. Find  $\psi$  and describe the flow in a few words.

(13 marks)

(ii) By considering a circle of radius  $a$  centred on the origin, calculate the circulation,

$$\oint_C \mathbf{u} \cdot d\mathbf{l}.$$

(5 marks)

(iii) State Stokes' Theorem and evaluate the surface integral for this case. Explain briefly why Stokes' Theorem cannot be applied trivially for this case.

(7 marks)

**End of Question Paper**