

PHYSICS 116C

Homework 6

Due in class, Thursday November 7

- The **midterm** will be in class on **Tuesday November 5**. It will cover all the material up to and including separation of variables in cartesian coordinates.
- Exams are **closed book** but you may bring one sheet of notes that you have prepared yourself.
- **No calculators** are allowed in exams.
- **In exams (and homework) it is essential that you EXPLAIN your work.**
- This problem set is shorter than usual to give you time to **fully prepare** for the midterm.
- To prepare for the midterm, it is useful to **go over the homework problems**, for which typed up solutions are available on the class web site

<http://young.physics.ucsc.edu/116C>.

Also solve similar problems from the book.

- Read both sides of this sheet.

1. Consider separation of variables of Laplace's equation in circular polars.

(a) Show that the angular equation is

$$\frac{d^2\Theta}{d\theta^2} + n^2\Theta = 0 \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots).$$

What is the solution of this equation (easy) and why must n be an integer?

(b) Show that the radial equation is

$$r \frac{d}{dr} \left(r \frac{dR}{dr} \right) = n^2 R \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots).$$

Look for solutions of the form $R = r^\lambda$ (i.e. just a single power of r) for a suitable choice of λ .

Note: You will need to treat the $n = 0$ case separately.

(c) Write down the general solution of Laplace's equation in circular polars.

2. Consider the electrostatic potential inside a semi-infinite cylinder of radius a and occupying the range $0 \leq z < \infty$. The potential is zero on the round vertical surface at $r = a$, and given by $r \sin \theta$ on the bottom face at $z = 0$. Find the potential inside the cylinder, expressing your answer as a series.

Note: The series will involve zeroes of a Bessel function which you should not evaluate numerically.

Hints:

(a) The solution will contain $\sin \theta$ and hence it must also involve J_1 .

(b) You are given the following results:

$$\int_0^1 x J_m(c_{n,m}x) J_m(c_{p,m}x) dx = \delta_{np} \frac{1}{2} J_{m+1}^2(c_{n,m})$$
$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^n J_n(x)] = x^n J_{n-1}(x)$$

Here $c_{n,m}$ is the n -th zero of $J_m(x)$, i.e. $J_m(c_{n,m}) = 0$.

3. Consider a cylinder of radius $r = a$ and height $z = L$. Its top and bottom faces are maintained at $T = 0$ and its curved surface is maintained at $T = T_0 z(L - z)$. Consider the steady state temperature distribution (which satisfies Laplace's equation).

- (a) By separating out the part of the solution which depends on z show that the equation determining the solution in the r - θ plane is

$$(\nabla^2 - k^2) u(r, \theta) = 0,$$

(where ∇^2 refers to the Laplacian in circular polars) which differs from the Helmholtz equation in the minus sign in front of k^2 .

- (b) Noting the solution is independent of θ show that the radial part of the solution can be written as

$$R_n(r) = c_1 I_0\left(\frac{n\pi r}{L}\right) + c_2 K_0\left(\frac{n\pi r}{L}\right),$$

where I_0 and K_0 are modified Bessel functions of the first and second kind. (You may need to look up their properties.)

- (c) Explain why we must have $c_2 = 0$.
(d) Hence determine the solution in the form of a series.