

Problem Sheet 3

APM 384

Autumn 2014

1. Using the method of separation of variables or otherwise, solve the BVP

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0 \quad \text{if } 0 < x < L \text{ and } 0 < y < H \quad (1)$$

$$u(0, y) = u(x, 0) = u(x, H) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$u(L, y) = g_2(y). \quad (3)$$

2. Using the method of separation of variables or otherwise, solve the BVP

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0 \quad \text{if } 0 < x < L \text{ and } 0 < y < H \quad (4)$$

$$u(0, y) = u(x, 0) = u(L, y) = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$u(x, 0) = f_1(x). \quad (6)$$

These two questions can be solved analogously to the other cases treated in the book and lectures respectively.

3. Show that $|z|^2 = z\bar{z}$ and $\Re(z) = \frac{1}{2}(z + \bar{z})$ and $\Im(z) = \frac{1}{2i}(z - \bar{z})$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Let us write $z = x + iy$ where $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$z\bar{z} = (x + iy)(x - iy) = x^2 - (iy)^2 = x^2 + y^2 = |z|^2$$

and further

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}(z + \bar{z}) &= \frac{1}{2}(x + iy + x - iy) = \frac{2x}{2} = \Re(z) \\ \frac{1}{2i}(z - \bar{z}) &= \frac{1}{2i}(x + iy - (x - iy)) = \frac{2iy}{2i} = \Im(z). \end{aligned}$$

4. Let D be a domain in \mathbb{C} and let $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be complex differentiable. For $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ define $u(x, y) = \Re f(x + iy)$ and $v(x, y) = \Im f(x + iy)$. In this exercise we will show that u and v are harmonic in D .

(a) Using the Cauchy-Riemann equations show that $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y}$.

(b) Find a similar expression for $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}$ and deduce that $\Delta u(x, y) = 0$ for all $(x, y) \in D$.

(c) Show similarly that v is harmonic in D .

See problem sheet 4.

5. In this question we obtain Laplace's equation in polar co-ordinates. Suppose that $u(x, y)$ satisfies $\Delta u = 0$ and $v(r, \theta) = u(r \cos(\theta), r \sin(\theta))$. Show that

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial \theta^2} = 0.$$

This is a straightforward calculation.

6. (a) Check that the following three functions are harmonic:

- i. $u(x, y) = x + 1$
- ii. $u(x, y) = y(x - 1)$
- iii. $u(x, y) = xy$.

This is a straightforward calculation. Alternatively observe that each of these is the real or imaginary part of a complex differentiable function. For example in i. we have $u(x, y) = \Re f(x + iy)$ where $f(z) = z + 1$.

- (b) For each function u from part (a) check directly that the maximum principle holds, i.e. show that

$$u(0, 0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} u(\cos(t), \sin(t)) dt.$$

Another straightforward computation.

7. Prove that $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$.

Take $y = \pi$ in the equation $e^{iy} = \cos(y) + i \sin(y)$.