

1. Liouville equation. Calculus of variations.

Remark: Parts (a) and (b) are not related to each other.

- (a) A particle of mass m moves along the x axis whereby the dynamics is governed by the Hamilton function

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} - \gamma xp \quad \text{with } \gamma = \text{const.}$$

- (i) State the Liouville equation obeyed by the phase-space density $\varrho(t, x, p)$.
(ii) Solve this quasilinear partial differential equation to determine $\varrho(t, x, p)$ in terms of $\varrho_0(x, p) = \varrho(t = 0, x, p)$.
(iii) Verify that

$$\int dx dp \varrho(t, x, p) = \int dx dp \varrho_0(x, p)$$

where the integration covers all of phase space. [15 marks]

- (b) What is the smallest value that you can get for

$$\int_0^1 dx x \left[\frac{d}{dx} y(x) \right]^2$$

if the permissible $y(x)$ are restricted by $\int_0^1 dx xy(x) = 1$ as well as $y(1) = 0$ and $\frac{dy}{dx}(0) = 0$? [10 marks]

2. **Group theory.** The elements $\mathbf{g} = (a, b, u)$ of G are ordered triplets of two real numbers a, b , and a complex phase factor u , one element for each triplet, whereby no restrictions are imposed on a, b , or u other than $|u| = 1$. Their compositions, written as products, are defined by the rule

$$\mathbf{g}_1 \mathbf{g}_2 = (a_1 + a_2, b_1 + b_2, u_1 u_2 e^{i a_1 b_2}) \quad \text{for } \mathbf{g}_1 = (a_1, b_1, u_1), \mathbf{g}_2 = (a_2, b_2, u_2).$$

- (a) Show that, with this composition rule, G is a group. In particular, state the triplets for the neutral element e and the inverse \mathbf{g}^{-1} of \mathbf{g} . [8 marks]
(b) For each period $N = 2, 3, 4, \dots$, group G has a unique cyclic subgroup G_N . What are the elements of G_N ? [5 marks]
(c) Which relation among a_1, b_1, u_1 and a_2, b_2, u_2 is implied by $\mathbf{g}_1 \mathbf{g}_2 = \mathbf{g}_2 \mathbf{g}_1$? [5 marks]
(d) Given group element $\mathbf{a} = (a_0, 0, 1)$ with $a_0 > 0$, find $\mathbf{b} = (0, b_0, 1)$ with the smallest $b_0 > 0$ such that $\mathbf{a}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}\mathbf{a}$. Which elements of G constitute the smallest Abelian subgroup that contains both \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} ? [7 marks]

3. Laplace transforms.

Remark: Part (c) is not related to parts (a) and (b).

(a) Function $f(t)$ obeys the linear differential equation

$$\left(t \frac{d^2}{dt^2} + 2 \frac{d}{dt} + t\right) f(t) = g(t) \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{df}{dt}(0) = \frac{1}{2}g(0)$$

where $g(t)$ is a given inhomogeneity.

(i) Derive the differential equation obeyed by the Laplace transform $F(s)$ of $f(t)$. Hint: It will involve $f(0)$ and the Laplace transform $G(s)$ of $g(t)$.

(ii) Then state $f(t)$ for given $f(0)$ and $g(t)$. [10 marks]

(b) (i) What is $f(t)$ for $f(0) = 0$ and $g(t) = 1$?

(ii) What is $f(t)$ for $f(0) = -2$ and $g(t) = 3 \sin(2t)$? [5 marks]

(c) Evaluate the integral

$$\int_0^\infty dt \frac{J_0(at) - J_0(bt)}{t} \quad (a, b > 0)$$

with the aid of a Laplace transform. — Note: The Laplace transform of the Bessel function $J_0(t)$ is $1/\sqrt{1+s^2}$. [10 marks]

4. **Functions of a complex variable.** The function $f(z)$ is analytic everywhere in the complex plane except for a few isolated point singularities. One of its Laurent series is

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n z^n \quad \text{with} \quad a_n = \begin{cases} (1/3)^{n+1} & \text{for } n \geq 0, \\ -3(-1)^{n/2} & \text{for } n < 0 \text{ even}, \\ (-1)^{(n+1)/2} & \text{for } n < 0 \text{ odd}, \end{cases}$$

which applies for $1 < |z| < 3$.

(a) Find a simple, compact expression for $f(z)$ that is valid everywhere except at the singularities. Identify the singularities and determine their residues. [10 marks]

(b) What are the coefficients in the Taylor series of $f(z)$ at $z = 0$? For which z does this Taylor series converge? [5 marks]

(c) Integrate $f(z)$ along the following closed path: From $z = 0$ proceed just below the real axis to $z = \infty$, then return to $z = 0$ just above the real axis. [5 marks]

(d) Integrate $f(z)$ along the following closed path composed of four straight lines: First from $z_1 = -2(1+i)$ to $z_2 = 2(1+i)$, then to $z_3 = -2(1-i)$, then to $z_4 = 2(1-i)$, then back to z_1 . [5 marks]