

# Math 440 Exam 2 Practice Test

October 13, 2025

Timothy Tarter  
James Madison University  
Department of Mathematics

## 1 Describe / Explain:

### 1.1 Laplace's Equation (include well-posedness, uniqueness, and the mean value proposition).

Laplace's equation states that the sum of the first partials are equal to zero, i.e.,

$$0 = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \quad (1)$$

Well-posedness: there exists a unique solution which depends continuously on non-homogeneous data.

Uniqueness: solutions to laplace's equation are unique.

Mean value proposition: the temperature at the origin is the average of the temperature at the boundary.

### 1.2 Linear Operators, provide an example of something which is a linear operator, and provide an example of something which is not a linear operator.

A linear operator,  $\mathcal{U} : V \rightarrow V$  where  $V$  is a vector space, has the property that for any  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V$  and any scalar  $c$  in the field of  $V$ ,

1.  $\mathcal{U}(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = \mathcal{U}(\vec{x}) + \mathcal{U}(\vec{y})$
2.  $\mathcal{U}(c\vec{x}) = c\mathcal{U}(\vec{x})$ .

Example:

$$L(u) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ K_0(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right] \quad (2)$$

Non-Example:

$$L(u) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ K_0(u, x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right] \quad (3)$$

where  $K_0$  is a non-constant function.

## 2 Prove Orthogonality of Sines.

We want to show that

$$\int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0; & \text{if } n \neq m \\ \frac{L}{2}; & \text{if } n = m. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

$$\int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0; & \text{if } n \neq m \\ \frac{L}{2}; & \text{if } n = m \neq 0 \\ L; & \text{if } n = m = 0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Starting off with (4), if  $n = m$ , then

$$\int_0^L \sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \int_0^L \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos(2\frac{n\pi x}{L})) dx \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ x - \frac{L}{2n\pi} \sin\left(\frac{2n\pi x}{L}\right) \right] \Big|_0^L \quad (7)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} [L - 0] = \frac{L}{2} \quad (8)$$

as desired. Alternatively, if  $n \neq m$ , then

$$\int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad (9)$$

$$= \int_0^L \frac{1}{2} [\cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L} - \frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L} + \frac{m\pi x}{L}\right)] dx \quad (10)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{\pi x(n-m)}{L}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{\pi x(n+m)}{L}\right) dx \quad (11)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{L}{\pi(n-m)} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x(n-m)}{L}\right) - \frac{L}{\pi(n+m)} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x(n+m)}{L}\right) \right] \Big|_0^L \quad (12)$$

$$= 0 - 0 = 0 \quad (13)$$

as desired.

Moving to (5), if  $n \neq m$ , it works pretty much the same way as with sines. If  $n = m \neq 0$ , then

$$\int_0^L \cos^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \quad (14)$$

$$= \int_0^L \frac{1}{2} (1 + \sin(\frac{2n\pi x}{L})) dx \quad (15)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ x - \frac{L}{2n\pi} \cos(\frac{2n\pi x}{L}) \right] \Big|_0^L \quad (16)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} [L + (-1 + 1)] \quad (17)$$

$$= \frac{L}{2} \quad (18)$$

as desired. Then finally, if  $n = m = 0$ ,

$$\int_0^L \cos^2(0) dx = \int_0^L 1 dx = L. \quad (19)$$

**3 Solve  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$  with certain BC's and IC's, addressing  $\lambda > 0, = 0, < 0$ .**

**3.1**  $u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0$

Gives sine solutions.

**3.2**  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(0, t) = 0 = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(L, t)$

Gives cosine solutions.

**3.3**  $u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(0, t) = 0 = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(L, t)$

Gives sine and cosine solutions.

**4 Solve  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$  at equilibrium in polar coordinates over the interval  $(-L, L)$ .**

Note that the 1D heat equation can be expressed in polar coordinate with axial symmetry (meaning that  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0$ ) as follows:

$$0 = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right). \quad (20)$$

We also get the following BCs for free:

$$u(-L) = u(L) \quad (21)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}(-L) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial r}(L) \quad (22)$$

$$|u(0)| < \infty. \quad (23)$$

**5 Solve Laplace's Equation on a rectangle, with LHS, Top, and Bottom = 0, RHS =  $g_2(y)$ .**

**6 Extra Resources Which You Gotta Know or You Might Be Cooked:**

Trig Identities:

$$\sin(a + b) = \sin(a)\cos(b) + \cos(a)\sin(b) \quad (24)$$

$$\cos(a + b) = \cos(a)\cos(b) - \sin(a)\sin(b) \quad (25)$$

$$\sin(a - b) = \sin(a)\cos(b) - \cos(a)\sin(b) \quad (26)$$

$$\cos(a - b) = \cos(a)\cos(b) + \sin(a)\sin(b) \quad (27)$$

If BC's are

- $u(0, t) = 0 = u(L, t)$  then

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n e^{-kt(\frac{n\pi}{L})^2} \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{L}) \quad (28)$$

- $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(0, t) = 0 = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(L, t)$  then

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n e^{-kt(\frac{n\pi}{L})^2} \cos(\frac{n\pi x}{L}) \quad (29)$$

where

$$A_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{L}) dx \quad (30)$$

$$\text{and} \quad (31)$$

$$B_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos(\frac{n\pi x}{L}) dx. \quad (32)$$

Orthogonality of sines and cosines (formulas):

$$\int_0^L \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{L}) \sin(\frac{m\pi x}{L}) = \begin{cases} 0; & \text{if } n \neq m \\ \frac{L}{2}; & \text{if } n = m. \end{cases} \quad (33)$$

$$\int_0^L \cos(\frac{n\pi x}{L}) \cos(\frac{m\pi x}{L}) = \begin{cases} 0; & \text{if } n \neq m \\ \frac{L}{2}; & \text{if } n = m \neq 0 \\ L; & \text{if } n = m = 0 \end{cases} \quad (34)$$