18.303: Linear PDEs

Please submit your solutions to the following problems for **extra credit** on Gradescope by **11pm** on the due date. You may collaborate, but please write up your solutions individually.

1) Method of characteristics. Consider the first-order linear transport PDE, given by

$$\partial_t u - x \, \partial_x u + u = 0,$$
 where $u(x, 0) = \cos(\pi x).$

- (a) Find the characteristic curves and plot them in the (x,t)-plane for $x>0,\,t>0$.
- (b) Write down a formula for the solution u(x,t) that is valid for any $x>0,\,t>0$
- (c) What is the maximum value of the solution, $\sup_{x>0} |u(x,t)|$, at time t=10? What happens to the maximum value of the solution as $t\to\infty$?

2) Laplace's equation. Solve the Laplace boundary-value problem on the unit disk,

$$\Delta u = 0$$
, where $\partial_r u(1, \theta) = \cos(\theta)$.

- (a) Write down the general solution to the Laplace equation in the disk.
- (b) Write down a particular solution that satisfies the boundary condition. Is it unique?
- (c) Identify the maximum and minimum values of the solution and where they are located.
- 3) Poisson's equation. Solve the Poisson boundary-value problem on the unit square,

$$\Delta u = f$$
, where $u(\pm 1, y) = u(x, \pm 1) = 0$.

- (a) Write down the homogeneous Dirichlet eigenvalues/eigenfunctions of Δ .
- (b) Write down a series solution and give a formula for the series coefficients.
- (c) Compute the coefficients explicitly in the case $f(x,y) = \sin(\pi x)\sin(\pi y)$.
- 4) The operator exponential. Consider the initial boundary value problem of the form

$$\partial_t u = Au$$
, where $u(\pm 1, t) = 0$, and $u(x, 0) = g(x)$,

where A is a self-adjoint differential operator on $L^2(-1,1)$ with a complete set of orthogonal eigenfunctions and its eigenvalues have real part $\leq M < \infty$.

- (a) Find a solution using only the initial data and the eigenvalues/eigenfunctions of A.
- (b) If the eigenvalues of A are all less than -1, what can you say about u(x,t)? Explain.
- (c) If all eigenvalues of A are purely imaginary, what can you say about u(x,t)? Explain.