

Complete the following problems on a separate sheet(s) of paper. Your solution is due at the beginning of the final examination session, 1 pm on Friday, 8 May. The examination is worth 20 points (the point breakdown is given for each problem). The use of books, notes, computers, etc., is allowed for this examination; however, you are expected to do your own work. Be sure to complete both sides of the examination paper.

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1. Consider the following, hopefully familiar, equation of motion:

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = -g - bt .$$

- (a) [4] Given that  $b = 1.0$ , fill in the table by carrying out two Euler steps for  $v$  to the indicated precision.

$t$	$\frac{dv}{dt}$	$v$
0.00	-10.00	0.000
0.05		
0.10		

- (b) [1] As  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , describe the behavior of  $v$ .
- (c) [1] Will the Euler method be sufficient to study such a problem? Explain.
- (d) [1] Describe a physical situation that corresponds to the initial conditions given above.
2. In studying atmospheric acoustics, you're looking at the wave equation to model infrasound ( $f \leq 16$  Hz) propagation. The wave speed in the air you're concerned with is 330 m/s and the signal of interest is centered at 3 Hz.
- (a) [1] What is the wavelength of the center frequency of this sound?
- (b) [1] Given this wavelength, give a reasonable choice for  $\Delta r$ , the spatial grid size. Explain your choice.
- (c) [1] Apply the Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy condition to determine an appropriate choice (or range of choices) for  $\Delta t$ .

3. You're studying the rotation of a disc governed by the model equation

$$\theta_f = \theta_i + \omega_i t + \frac{1}{2} \alpha t^2 .$$

You have taken  $N$  observations of identically prepared experiments, forming the set of ordered pairs  $\{(t, \theta_f)\}_N$ . Your goal is to find the numerical value of the angular acceleration (or deceleration in this case)  $\alpha$ . Use the normal equation formulation of linear least squares to set up expressions for

- (a) [1] the design matrix  $\mathbb{M}$ ;
  - (b) [1] the parameter vector  $|a\rangle$ ;
  - (c) [1] and the dependent variable vector  $|b\rangle$ .
4. [1] Laplace's equation in electrostatics is elliptical in form, so that the system it describes is in a steady state. In this course we numerically solved the diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = D \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

in order to find a solution to Laplace's equation. Describe how the diffusion equation is used in the Jacobi relaxation method to accomplish this.

5. [6] In our study of the time-independent Schrödinger equation, we found an approximate numerical solution in the form

$$\psi_{n+1} = 2\psi_n - \psi_{n-1} - 2(\Delta x)^2 (E - V_n) \psi_n .$$

Describe the six variables in this approximation.