There are 13 questions in this paper. Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 Q10 Q11 Q12 Q13 $\,$

Sixth Term Examination Paper

16-S3



Compiled by: Dr Yu 郁博士

www.CasperYC.club

Lasted updated: May 8, 2025



Suggestions to DrYuFromShanghai@QQ.com

Section A: Pure Mathematics

1 Let

$$I_n = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(x^2 + 2ax + b)^n} \,\mathrm{d}x \,,$$

where a and b are constants with $b > a^2$, and n is a positive integer.

(i) By using the substitution $x + a = \sqrt{b - a^2} \tan u$, or otherwise, show that

$$I_1 = \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{b-a^2}} \,.$$

- (ii) Show that $2n(b-a^2) I_{n+1} = (2n-1) I_n$.
- (iii) Hence prove by induction that

$$I_n = \frac{\pi}{2^{2n-2}(b-a^2)^{n-\frac{1}{2}}} \begin{pmatrix} 2n-2\\n-1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- 2 The distinct points $P(ap^2, 2ap), Q(aq^2, 2aq)$ and $R(ar^2, 2ar)$ lie on the parabola $y^2 = 4ax$, where a > 0. The points are such that the normal to the parabola at Q and the normal to the parabola at R both pass through P.
 - (i) Show that $q^2 + qp + 2 = 0$.
 - (ii) Show that QR passes through a certain point that is independent of the choice of P.
 - (iii) Let T be the point of intersection of OP and QR, where O is the coordinate origin. Show that T lies on a line that is independent of the choice of P.

Show further that the distance from the *x*-axis to *T* is less than $\frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}$.

Paper III, 23 June 2016

3 (i) Given that

$$\int \frac{x^3-2}{(x+1)^2} \operatorname{e}^x \mathrm{d} x = \frac{\mathrm{P}(x)}{\mathrm{Q}(x)} \operatorname{e}^x + \operatorname{constant},$$

where P(x) and Q(x) are polynomials, show that Q(x) has a factor of x + 1.

Show also that the degree of P(x) is exactly one more than the degree of Q(x), and find P(x) in the case Q(x) = x + 1.

(ii) Show that there are no polynomials P(x) and Q(x) such that

$$\int \frac{1}{x+1} e^x dx = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} e^x + \text{constant} \, .$$

You need consider only the case when P(x) and Q(x) have no common factors.

4 (i) By considering
$$\frac{1}{1+x^r} - \frac{1}{1+x^{r+1}}$$
 for $|x| \neq 1$, simplify

$$\sum_{r=1}^{N} \frac{x^r}{(1+x^r)(1+x^{r+1})} \, .$$

Show that, for |x| < 1,

$$\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^r}{(1+x^r)(1+x^{r+1})} = \frac{x}{1-x^2}$$

(ii) Deduce that

$$\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \operatorname{sech}(ry) \operatorname{sech}((r+1)y) = 2 e^{-y} \operatorname{cosech}(2y)$$

for y > 0.

Hence simplify

$$\sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} \operatorname{sech}(ry) \operatorname{sech}((r+1)y)$$

for y > 0.

5 (i) By considering the binomial expansion of $(1 + x)^{2m+1}$, prove that

$$\binom{2m+1}{m} < 2^{2m} \,,$$

for any positive integer m.

(ii) For any positive integers r and s with r < s, $P_{r,s}$ is defined as follows: $P_{r,s}$ is the product of all the prime numbers greater than r and less than or equal to s, if there are any such primes numbers; if there are no such primes numbers, then $P_{r,s} = 1$.

For example, $P_{3,7} = 35$, $P_{7,10} = 1$ and $P_{14,18} = 17$.

Show that, for any positive integer m, $P_{m+1, 2m+1}$ divides $\binom{2m+1}{m}$, and deduce that

$$P_{m+1,2m+1} < 2^{2m}$$
.

- (iii) Show that, if $P_{1,k} < 4^k$ for k = 2, 3, ..., 2m, then $P_{1,2m+1} < 4^{2m+1}$.
- (iv) Prove that $P_{1,n} < 4^n$ for $n \ge 2$.
- 6 Show, by finding R and γ , that $A \sinh x + B \cosh x$ can be written in the form $R \cosh(x+\gamma)$ if B > A > 0. Determine the corresponding forms in the other cases that arise, for A > 0, according to the value of B. Two curves have equations $y = \operatorname{sech} x$ and $y = a \tanh x + b$, where a > 0.
 - (i) In the case b > a, show that if the curves intersect then the x-coordinates of the points of intersection can be written in the form

$$\pm \operatorname{arcosh}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{b^2 - a^2}}\right) - \operatorname{artanh}\frac{a}{b}$$

- (ii) Find the corresponding result in the case a > b > 0.
- (iii) Find necessary and sufficient conditions on a and b for the curves to intersect at two distinct points.
- (iv) Find necessary and sufficient conditions on a and b for the curves to touch and, given that they touch, express the y-coordinate of the point of contact in terms of a.

Paper III, 23 June 2016

7 Let $\omega = e^{2\pi i/n}$, where n is a positive integer. Show that, for any complex number z,

$$(z-1)(z-\omega)\cdots(z-\omega^{n-1})=z^n-1.$$

The points $X_0, X_1, \ldots, X_{n-1}$ lie on a circle with centre O and radius 1, and are the vertices of a regular polygon.

(i) The point P is equidistant from X_0 and X_1 . Show that, if n is even,

$$|PX_0| \times |PX_1| \times \cdots \times |PX_{n-1}| = |OP|^n + 1,$$

where $|PX_k|$ denotes the distance from P to X_k .

Give the corresponding result when n is odd. (There are two cases to consider.)

(ii) Show that

8

$$|X_0X_1| \times |X_0X_2| \times \cdots \times |X_0X_{n-1}| = n.$$

(i) The function f satisfies, for all x, the equation

$$f(x) + (1 - x)f(-x) = x^2$$
.

Show that $f(-x) + (1+x)f(x) = x^2$. Hence find f(x) in terms of x. You should verify that your function satisfies the original equation.

(ii) The function K is defined, for $x \neq 1$, by

$$\mathcal{K}(x) = \frac{x+1}{x-1} \,.$$

Show that, for $x \neq 1$, K(K(x)) = x.

The function g satisfies the equation

$$g(x) + x g\left(\frac{x+1}{x-1}\right) = x$$
 $(x \neq 1)$.

Show that, for $x \neq 1$, $g(x) = \frac{2x}{x^2 + 1}$.

(iii) Find h(x), for $x \neq 0, x \neq 1$, given that

$$h(x) + h\left(\frac{1}{1-x}\right) = 1 - x - \frac{1}{1-x}$$
 $(x \neq 0, x \neq 1).$

www.CasperYC.club/step

Section B: Mechanics

- **9** Three pegs P, Q and R are fixed on a smooth horizontal table in such a way that they form the vertices of an equilateral triangle of side 2a. A particle X of mass m lies on the table. It is attached to the pegs by three springs, PX, QX and RX, each of modulus of elasticity λ and natural length l, where $l < \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}a$. Initially the particle is in equilibrium.
 - (i) Show that the extension in each spring is $\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}a l$.
 - (ii) The particle is then pulled a small distance directly towards P and released. Show that the tension T in the spring RX is given by

$$T = \frac{\lambda}{l} \left(\sqrt{\frac{4a^2}{3} + \frac{2ax}{\sqrt{3}} + x^2} - l \right),$$

where x is the displacement of X from its equilibrium position.

(iii) Show further that the particle performs approximate simple harmonic motion with period

$$2\pi \sqrt{\frac{4mla}{3(4a-\sqrt{3}\,l)\lambda}} \; .$$

10 A smooth plane is inclined at an angle α to the horizontal. A particle *P* of mass *m* is attached to a fixed point *A* above the plane by a light inextensible string of length *a*. The particle rests in equilibrium on the plane, and the string makes an angle β with the plane.

The particle is given a horizontal impulse parallel to the plane so that it has an initial speed of u.

- (i) Show that the particle will not immediately leave the plane if $ag\cos(\alpha + \beta) > u^2 \tan \beta$.
- (ii) Show further that a necessary condition for the particle to perform a complete circle whilst in contact with the plane is $6 \tan \alpha \tan \beta < 1$.

- 11 A car of mass m travels along a straight horizontal road with its engine working at a constant rate P. The resistance to its motion is such that the acceleration of the car is zero when it is moving with speed 4U.
 - (i) Given that the resistance is proportional to the car's speed, show that the distance X_1 travelled by the car while it accelerates from speed U to speed 2U, is given by

$$\lambda X_1 = 2\ln\frac{9}{5} - 1\,,$$

where $\lambda = P/(16mU^3)$.

(ii) Given instead that the resistance is proportional to the square of the car's speed, show that the distance X_2 travelled by the car while it accelerates from speed U to speed 2U is given by

$$\lambda X_2 = \frac{4}{3} \ln \frac{9}{8}.$$

(iii) Given that $3.17 < \ln 24 < 3.18$ and $1.60 < \ln 5 < 1.61$, determine which is the larger of X_1 and X_2 .

Paper III, 23 June 2016

Section C: Probability and Statistics

12 Let X be a random variable with mean μ and standard deviation σ . Chebyshev's inequality, which you may use without proof, is

$$\mathbf{P}\left(|X-\mu| > k\sigma\right) \leqslant \frac{1}{k^2},$$

where k is any positive number.

(i) The probability of a biased coin landing heads up is 0.2. It is thrown 100n times, where n is an integer greater than 1. Let α be the probability that the coin lands heads up N times, where $16n \le N \le 24n$.

Use Chebyshev's inequality to show that

$$\alpha \geqslant 1 - \frac{1}{n}$$

(ii) Use Chebyshev's inequality to show that

$$1 + n + \frac{n^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{n^{2n}}{(2n)!} \ge \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) e^n.$$

13 Given a random variable X with mean μ and standard deviation σ , we define the *kurtosis*, κ , of X by

$$\kappa = \frac{\mathrm{E}((X-\mu)^4)}{\sigma^4} - 3$$

Show that the random variable X - a, where a is a constant, has the same kurtosis as X.

- (i) Show by integration that a random variable which is Normally distributed with mean 0 has kurtosis 0.
- (ii) Let Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_n be *n* independent, identically distributed, random variables with mean 0, and let $T = \sum_{r=1}^{n} Y_r$. Show that

$$E(T^4) = \sum_{r=1}^{n} E(Y_r^4) + 6 \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \sum_{s=r+1}^{n} E(Y_s^2) E(Y_r^2).$$

(iii) Let X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n be *n* independent, identically distributed, random variables each with kurtosis κ . Show that the kurtosis of their sum is $\frac{\kappa}{n}$.