

MATH 516-101 Homework TWO  
Due Date: October 13, 2015

1. This problem concerns the Green's representation formula in a ball.  
(a) using the Green's function in a ball to prove

$$r^{n-2} \frac{r - |x|}{(r + |x|)^{n-1}} u(0) \leq u(x) \leq r^{n-2} \frac{r + |x|}{(r - |x|)^{n-1}} u(0)$$

whenever  $u$  is positive and harmonic in  $B_r(0)$ .

- (b) use (a) to prove the following result: let  $u$  be a harmonic function in  $R^n$ . Suppose that  $u \geq 0$ . Then  $u \equiv \text{Constant}$ .
2. This problem concerns the heat equation

$$u_t = \Delta u$$

Let

$$\Phi(x - y, t) = (4\pi t)^{-n/2} e^{-\frac{|x-y|^2}{4t}}$$

- (a) Show that  $\int_{R^n} \Phi(x - y, t) dy = 1$  for all  $t > 0$   
(b) Show that there exists a generic constant  $C_n$  such that

$$\Phi(x - y, t) \leq C_n |x - y|^{-n}$$

Hint: maximize the function in  $t$ .

- (c) Let  $f(x)$  be a function such that  $f(x_0-)$  and  $f(x_0+)$  exists. Show that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \int_R \Phi(x - x_0, t) f(y) dy = \frac{1}{2} (f(x_0-) + f(x_0+))$$

3. This problem concerns the one-dimensional wave equation

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$$

$$u(x, 0) = f(x), u_t(x, 0) = g(x)$$

- (a) Show that all solutions to the following equation

$$u_{XY} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial X \partial Y} = 0$$

are given by a combination of two functions

$$u = F(X) + G(Y)$$

- (b) Show that all solutions to

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$$

are given by

$$u = F(x - ct) + G(x + ct)$$

Hint: let

$$X = x - t, Y = x + t$$

and then use (a)

(c) Prove the d'Alembert's formula: all solutions to

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$$

$$u(x, 0) = f(x), u_t(x, 0) = g(x)$$

are given by

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2}(f(x + ct) + f(x - ct)) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} g(s) ds$$

(d) use (c) to show that Maximum Principle does not hold for wave equation, i.e.,

$$\max_{U_T} u(x, t) > \max_{\partial' U_T} u(x, t)$$

Hint: Let  $f = 0$  and  $g = 1$ ,  $U = (-1, 1)$  and choose  $T$  large.

4. This problem concerns Sobolev space

(a) Let  $U = (-1, 1)$  and

$$u(x) = |x|$$

What is its weak derivative  $u'$ ? Prove it rigorously.

(b) Does the second order weak derivative  $u''$  exist?

(c) For which integer  $k$  and positive  $p > 1$ , does  $u$  belong to  $W^{k,p}(U)$ ?