There are 13 questions in this paper.

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 Q10 Q11 Q12 Q13

Sixth Term Examination Paper

15-S2



Compiled by: Dr Yu 郁博士

www.CasperYC.club

Lasted updated: May 8, 2025



Section A: Pure Mathematics

1 (i) By use of calculus, show that $x - \ln(1+x)$ is positive for all positive x. Use this result to show that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{1}{k} > \ln(n+1) \,.$$

(ii) By considering $x + \ln(1-x)$, show that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} < 1 + \ln 2.$$

- 2 (i) In the triangle ABC, angle $BAC=\alpha$ and angle $CBA=2\alpha$, where 2α is acute, and BC=x. Show that $AB=(3-4\sin^2\alpha)x$.
 - (ii) The point D is the midpoint of AB and the point E is the foot of the perpendicular from C to AB. Find an expression for DE in terms of x.
 - (iii) The point F lies on the perpendicular bisector of AB and is a distance x from C. The points F and B lie on the same side of the line through A and C. Show that the line FC trisects the angle ACB.
- Three rods have lengths a, b and c, where a < b < c. The three rods can be made into a triangle (possibly of zero area) if $a + b \geqslant c$.
 - (i) Let T_n be the number of triangles that can be made with three rods chosen from n rods of lengths $1, 2, 3, \ldots, n$ (where $n \ge 3$).
 - (ii) Show that $T_8 T_7 = 2 + 4 + 6$ and evaluate $T_8 T_6$. Write down expressions for $T_{2m} T_{2m-1}$ and $T_{2m} T_{2m-2}$.
 - (iii) Prove by induction that $T_{2m} = \frac{1}{6}m(m-1)(4m+1)$, and find the corresponding result for an odd number of rods.

4 (i) The continuous function f is defined by

$$\tan f(x) = x$$
 $(-\infty < x < \infty)$

and $f(0) = \pi$. Sketch the curve y = f(x).

(ii) The continuous function g is defined by

$$\tan g(x) = \frac{x}{1 + x^2} \qquad (-\infty < x < \infty)$$

and $\mathbf{g}(0)=\pi.$ Sketch the curves $y=\frac{x}{1+x^2}$ and $y=\mathbf{g}(x)\,.$

(iii) The continuous function h is defined by $h(0)=\pi$ and

$$tan h(x) = \frac{x}{1 - x^2} \qquad (x \neq \pm 1).$$

(The values of h(x) at $x=\pm 1$ are such that h(x) is continuous at these points.) Sketch the curves $y=\frac{x}{1-x^2}$ and y=h(x).

- **5** In this question, the \arctan function satisfies $0 \leqslant \arctan x < \frac{1}{2}\pi$ for $x \geqslant 0$.
 - (i) Let

$$S_n = \sum_{m=1}^n \arctan\left(\frac{1}{2m^2}\right)$$
,

for n=1, 2, 3, \ldots . Prove by induction that

$$\tan S_n = \frac{n}{n+1}.$$

Prove also that

$$S_n = \arctan \frac{n}{n+1}.$$

(ii) In a triangle ABC, the lengths of the sides AB and BC are $4n^2$ and $4n^4-1$, respectively, and the angle at B is a right angle. Let $\angle BCA=2\alpha_n$. Show that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \alpha_n = \frac{1}{4}\pi .$$

6 (i) Show that

$$\sec^2\left(\frac{1}{4}\pi - \frac{1}{2}x\right) = \frac{2}{1 + \sin x}.$$

Hence integrate $\frac{1}{1+\sin x}$ with respect to x.

(ii) By means of the substitution $y = \pi - x$, show that

$$\int_0^{\pi} x f(\sin x) dx = \frac{\pi}{2} \int_0^{\pi} f(\sin x) dx,$$

where f is any function for which these integrals exist. Hence evaluate

$$\int_0^\pi \frac{x}{1+\sin x} \, \mathrm{d}x \,.$$

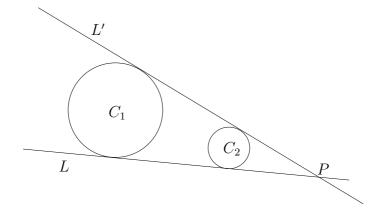
(iii) Evaluate

$$\int_0^{\pi} \frac{2x^3 - 3\pi x^2}{(1 + \sin x)^2} \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

- A circle C is said to be *bisected* by a curve X if X meets C in exactly two points and these points are diametrically opposite each other on C.
 - (i) Let C be the circle of radius a in the x-y plane with centre at the origin. Show, by giving its equation, that it is possible to find a circle of given radius r that bisects C provided r > a. Show that no circle of radius r bisects C if $r \leqslant a$.
 - (ii) Let C_1 and C_2 be circles with centres at (-d,0) and (d,0) and radii a_1 and a_2 , respectively, where $d>a_1$ and $d>a_2$. Let D be a circle of radius r that bisects both C_1 and C_2 . Show that the x-coordinate of the centre of D is $\frac{a_2^2-a_1^2}{4d}$. Obtain an expression in terms of d,r,a_1 and a_2 for the y-coordinate of the centre of D, and deduce that r must satisfy

$$16r^2d^2 \geqslant (4d^2 + (a_2 - a_1)^2)(4d^2 + (a_2 + a_1)^2).$$

8



The diagram above shows two non-overlapping circles C_1 and C_2 of different sizes. The lines L and L' are the two common tangents to C_1 and C_2 such that the two circles lie on the same side of each of the tangents. The lines L and L' intersect at the point P which is called the *focus* of C_1 and C_2 .

(i) Let x_1 and x_2 be the position vectors of the centres of C_1 and C_2 , respectively. Show that the position vector of P is

$$\frac{r_1\mathbf{x}_2 - r_2\mathbf{x}_1}{r_1 - r_2}\,,$$

where r_1 and r_2 are the radii of C_1 and C_2 , respectively.

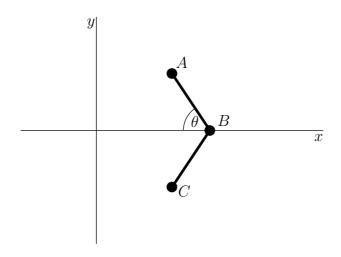
- (ii) The circle C_3 does not overlap either C_1 or C_2 and its radius, r_3 , satisfies $r_1 \neq r_3 \neq r_2$. The focus of C_1 and C_3 is Q, and the focus of C_2 and C_3 is R. Show that P,Q and R lie on the same straight line.
- (iii) Find a condition on r_1, r_2 and r_3 for Q to lie half-way between P and R.

Section B: Mechanics

- An equilateral triangle ABC is made of three light rods each of length a. It is free to rotate in a vertical plane about a horizontal axis through A. Particles of mass 3m and 5m are attached to B and C respectively. Initially, the system hangs in equilibrium with BC below A.
 - (i) Show that, initially, the angle θ that BC makes with the horizontal is given by $\sin \theta = \frac{1}{7}$.
 - (ii) The triangle receives an impulse that imparts a speed v to the particle B. Find the minimum speed v_0 such that the system will perform complete rotations if $v > v_0$.
- A particle of mass m is pulled along the floor of a room in a straight line by a light string which is pulled at constant speed V through a hole in the ceiling. The floor is smooth and horizontal, and the height of the room is h.
 - (i) Find, in terms of V and θ , the speed of the particle when the string makes an angle of θ with the vertical (and the particle is still in contact with the floor).
 - (ii) Find also the acceleration, in terms of V, h and θ .
 - (iii) Find the tension in the string and hence show that the particle will leave the floor when

$$\tan^4 \theta = \frac{V^2}{gh} \, .$$

Three particles, A,B and C, each of mass m, lie on a smooth horizontal table. Particles A and C are attached to the two ends of a light inextensible string of length 2a and particle B is attached to the midpoint of the string. Initially, A,B and C are at rest at points (0,a),(0,0) and (0,-a), respectively. An impulse is delivered to B, imparting to it a speed a in the positive a direction. The string remains taut throughout the subsequent motion.



- (i) At time t, the angle between the x-axis and the string joining A and B is θ , as shown in the diagram, and B is at (x,0). Write down the coordinates of A in terms of x, a and θ . Given that the velocity of B is (v,0), show that the velocity of A is $(\dot{x}+a\sin\theta\,\dot{\theta}\,,\,a\cos\theta\,\dot{\theta})$, where the dot denotes differentiation with respect to time.
- (ii) Show that, before particles A and C first collide,

$$3\dot{x} + 2a\dot{\theta}\sin\theta = v \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{\theta}^2 = \frac{v^2}{a^2(3 - 2\sin^2\theta)} \,.$$

- (iii) When A and C collide, the collision is elastic (no energy is lost). At what value of θ does the second collision between particles A and C occur? (You should justify your answer.)
- (iv) When v=0, what are the possible values of θ ? Is v=0 whenever θ takes these values?

Section C: Probability and Statistics

- Four players A, B, C and D play a coin-tossing game with a fair coin. Each player chooses a sequence of heads and tails, as follows: Player A: HHT; Player B: THH; Player C: TTH; Player D: HTT. The coin is then tossed until one of these sequences occurs, in which case the corresponding player is the winner.
 - (i) Show that, if only A and B play, then A has a probability of $\frac{1}{4}$ of winning.
 - (ii) If all four players play together, find the probabilities of each one winning.
 - (iii) Only B and C play. What is the probability of C winning if the first two tosses are TT? Let the probabilities of C winning if the first two tosses are HT, TH and HH be p,q and r, respectively. Show that $p=\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}q$. Find the probability that C wins.
- 13 The maximum height X of flood water each year on a certain river is a random variable with probability density function f given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & \text{for } x \geqslant 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where λ is a positive constant. It costs ky pounds each year to prepare for flood water of height y or less, where k is a positive constant and $y \geqslant 0$. If $X \leqslant y$ no further costs are incurred but if X > y the additional cost of flood damage is a(X-y) pounds where a is a positive constant.

(i) Let C be the total cost of dealing with the floods in the year. Show that the expectation of C is given by

$$E(C) = ky + \frac{a}{\lambda} e^{-\lambda y}$$
.

How should y be chosen in order to minimise $\mathrm{E}(C)$, in the different cases that arise according to the value of a/k?

(ii) Find the variance of C, and show that the more that is spent on preparing for flood water in advance the smaller this variance.