



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

SECOND YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR  
OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

### SPH 3202: MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS I

DATE: DECEMBER 2023

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

a) Prove the following entities

i.  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \phi = 0$  (5 Marks)

ii.  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = 0$  (5 Marks)

b) Use the results in (a) above to show that Maxwell's equations of electrodynamics.

$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0, \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}, \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$  satisfy the equation  $\frac{\partial^2 \vec{H}}{\partial t^2} = \nabla^2 \vec{H}$  (4 Marks)

c) Evaluate the work done  $\int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s}$  by a force  $\vec{F}$  along a circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$  in the  $x - y$  plane from point A(2,0,0) to B  $(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2}, 0)$  given that  $\vec{F} = -\frac{1}{x}(y + z)$  (10 Marks)

d) Use De Moivre's theorem to find the smallest angle  $\theta$  for which  $(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)^{15} = -i$  (6 Marks)



MUST is ISO 9001:2015 and



ISO/IEC 27001:2013 CERTIFIED

## QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

a) Consider the time-invariant schrodigen equations of the form.  $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}u''(x) + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2x^2u(x) = Eu(x)$  where  $E = \text{constant}$ .

i. Use transformation of the form  $y = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}}x$  to transform their equation to the form

$$V''(y) + (\varepsilon - y^2)v(y) = 0 \text{ where } \varepsilon = \frac{2E}{\hbar\omega} = \text{constant.} \quad (3 \text{ Marks})$$

ii. Solve the equation (ii) above using a solution of the form  $v(y) = B(y)e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}}$  hence show that it leads to a Hermite polynomial of the degree of the form  $B''(y) - 2y B'(y) + (\varepsilon - 1)B(y) = 0$  (4 Marks)

iii. Show that the Hermite polynomial in (ii) above can be solved by power series or ansatz method given by

$B(y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n y^n$  to give a recurrence relation. (6 Marks)

v) by considering the value for large n, write down the expression of the recurrence relation in (iii) above (2 Marks)

## QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

a) State Green's theorem (2 Marks)

b) Prove Green's theorem in (a) above (10 Marks)

c) Use Green's theorem to evaluate  $\int_C xy dx + (y^2 + 1)dy$  where  $C$  is a circle centered at the origin with radius 2. (8 Marks)



#### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Consider a Legendre generating function  $g(t, x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2xt+t^2}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_n(x) t^n$

- i. Derive the recurrence relation by
  - a) Taking derivative w.r.t.t (10 Marks)
  - b) Taking derivations w.r.t.x (5 Marks)
- ii. Given Bessel generating function.

$g(x, t) = e^{\frac{x}{2t}(t^2-1)} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} J_n(x) t^n$  obtain the recurrence relation w.r.t x. (5 Marks)

