



MMP I

Tutorial 3

HS 2019
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Exercise 1: 3-dimensional Fourier transform (4 Pts.)

The Yukawa potential is a spherically symmetric potential in 3 dimensions defined as $V_Y = e^{-\alpha r}/r$, with $\alpha > 0$ and $r = |\vec{r}|$.

- Compute the Fourier transform of the Yukawa potential: $\mathcal{F}[V_Y(r)] = V_Y(\vec{k})$;
- Use your result from a) to compute the Fourier transform of the Coulomb potential.

Exercise 2: Fourier transform and convolution of a specific function (4 Pts.)

Let f be the following function:

$$f(x) = e^{-a|x|} \quad , \quad a > 0. \quad (2.1)$$

- Evaluate the Fourier transform of f , $\hat{f}(k)$.
- Find the function g such that $\hat{g}(k) = \left(\frac{2}{1+k^2}\right)^2$.

Hint: Recall

$$\mathcal{F}(f * g)(k) = \mathcal{F}f(k)\mathcal{F}g(k). \quad (2.2)$$

Exercise 3: Heat equation in \mathbb{R} (5 Pts.)

Consider the homogeneous heat equation:

$$\partial_t u(x, t) - a^2 \Delta_x u(x, t) = 0 \quad , \quad t > 0 \quad (3.1)$$

with the initial condition $u(0, x) = f(x)$ where f is a bounded function, i.e. $|f(x)| \leq M < +\infty$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

- Find the bounded solution $u(x, t)$ to the heat equation in terms of the Gaussian function:

$$K_t(x - y) = \frac{1}{2a\sqrt{\pi t}} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4ta^2}} \quad , \quad t > 0. \quad (3.2)$$

Note: $\mathcal{F}(\partial_x^\alpha f)(k) = i^{|\alpha|} k^\alpha (\mathcal{F}f)(k)$.

- Take f to be $f(x) = \delta(x)$ and find the corresponding solution $u(x, t)$. Graphically represent how $u(x, t)$ evolves as a function of $t > 0$.

– please turn over –

Exercise 4: Wave equation in \mathbb{R} (5 Pts.)

Consider the wave equation defined on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$:

$$\frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 u(x, t) - \Delta_x u(x, t) = 0 \quad (4.1)$$

with the initial conditions $u(x, 0) = f(x)$ and $\partial_t u(x, 0) = g(x)$.

a) Use Fourier transform to obtain the following solution to (4.1):

$$u(t, x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[\hat{f}(k) \cos(|k|ct) + \frac{\hat{g}(k)}{|k|c} \sin(|k|ct) \right] e^{ikx} dk. \quad (4.2)$$

b) Check that the above solution indeed does satisfy the wave equation (4.1).

c) Show that the solution satisfies the initial conditions.