Math background answers for Physics 316, Modern Physics I (Hoffstaetter/Drasco/Thibault) Date: Wednesday, 01/24/05

0) Do you have the math requirements?

Math190 or 191: analytic geometry, differential and integral calculus Math192: vectors and calculus of functions of several variables through double and triple integrals Co-registration in at least Math294: Linear algebra **Result:** 76% yes, 22% no answer, 2% no

1) Use complex numbers to derive the following equation: $\sin(2\alpha) = 2\sin(\alpha)\cos(\alpha)$. Solution: $\sin(2\alpha) = \frac{e^{i2\alpha} - e^{i2\alpha}}{2i} = \frac{(e^{i\alpha} - e^{i\alpha})(e^{i\alpha} + e^{i\alpha})}{2i} = 2\frac{e^{i2\alpha} - e^{i2\alpha}}{2i}\frac{e^{i2\alpha} + e^{i2\alpha}}{2} = 2\sin(\alpha)\cos(\alpha)$. Result: 27% correct, 73% wrong.

2) What is the general solution of the following ODE: x'' = kx for k < 0 and for k > 0? Solution: For k < 0 it is $x = A\cos(\sqrt{|k|}t) + B\sin(\sqrt{|k|}t)$. For k > 0 it is $x = A\cosh(\sqrt{k}t) + B\sinh(\sqrt{k}t)$.

Result: 6% correct, 94% wrong.

3) Please simplify $5e^{i\pi/2} \cdot 3e^{-i\pi/4}$? Solution: $15e^{i\pi/4}$. Result: 65% correct, 35% wrong.

4) What is the real and imaginary part of $5e^{i\pi/2} + 3e^{-i\pi/4}$? Solution: $5e^{i\pi/2} + 3e^{-i\pi/4} = 5i + \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}(1-i) = \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} + i\frac{5\sqrt{2}-3}{\sqrt{2}}$. Result: 20% correct, 80% wrong.

5) Solve the following indefinite integral: $\int \frac{1}{x} dx$. Solution: $\ln x + C$. Result: 90% correct, 10% wrong.

6) Solve the following integral: $\int_0^{\pi} \cos^2 \phi \sin \phi d\phi$. Solution: $\int_0^{\pi} \cos^2 \phi \sin \phi d\phi = -\int_1^{-1} \cos^2 \phi d(\cos \phi) = \int_{-1}^1 x^2 dx = \frac{2}{3}$. Result: 43% correct, 57% wrong.