

That removes irrelevant edges. A large  $\sigma$  leaves only the big picture; a small  $\sigma$  allows a closer look. Pattern recognition is an *inverse problem*—to recover the coloring book from the finished picture—like recovering the coefficients of a differential equation from its solutions.

### EXERCISES

**3.3.1** (a) Show that  $u = x^3 - 3xy^2$  satisfies Laplace's equation.

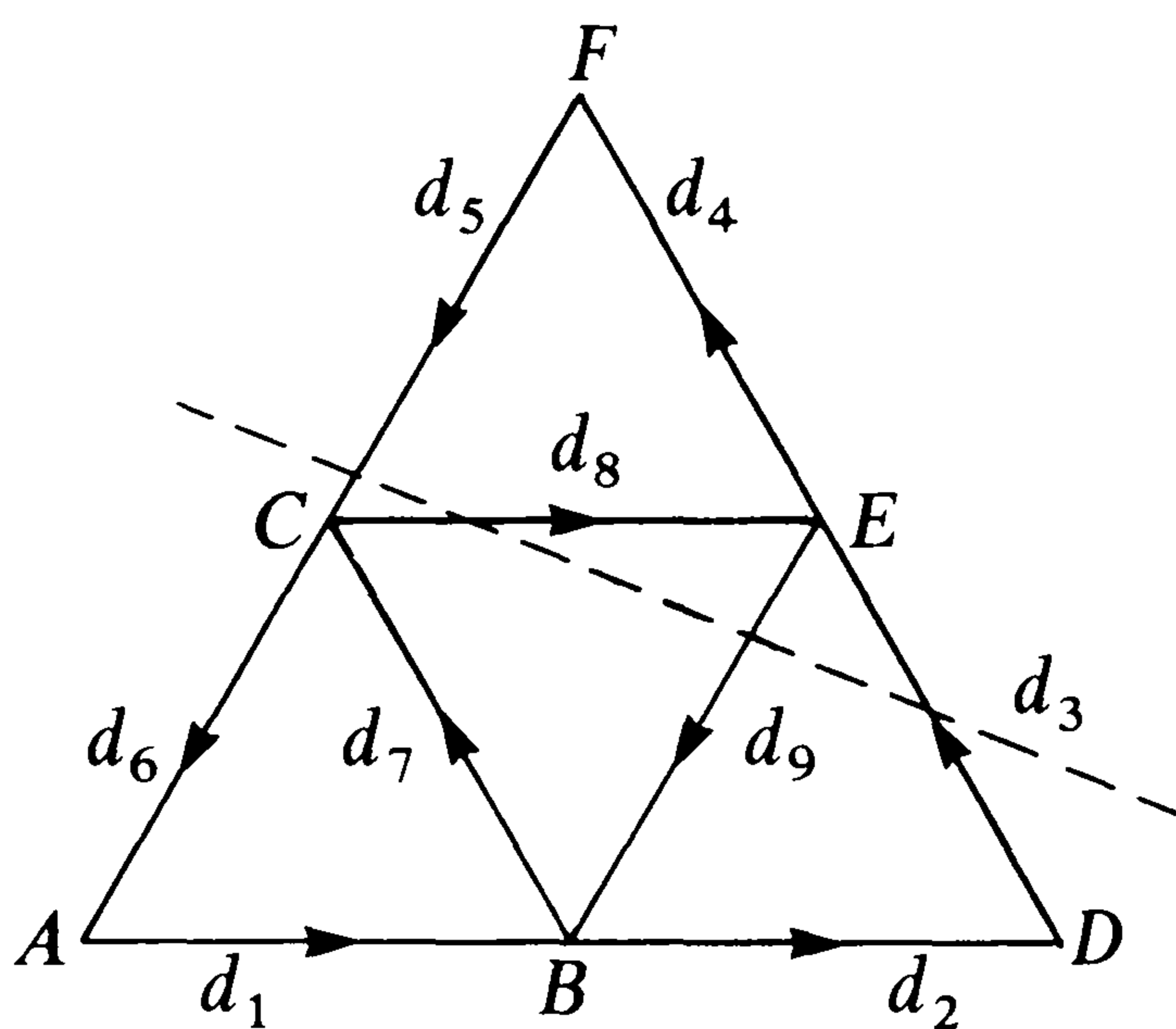
(b) Do the same for  $s = 4x^3y - 4xy^3$ , and explain where this comes in the list of polynomial solutions.

(c) Substitute  $x = \cos \theta$  and  $y = \sin \theta$  in  $s$  and simplify to an expression involving  $4\theta$ .

**3.3.2** Verify that  $u = e^x \cos y$  and  $s = e^x \sin y$  both satisfy Laplace's equation, and sketch the equipotentials  $u = \text{constant}$  and the streamlines  $s = \text{constant}$ .

**3.3.3** *Discrete divergence theorem:* Why is the flow across the “cut” in the figure equal to the sum of the flows from the individual nodes  $A, B, C, D$ ? *Note:* This is true even if flows like  $d_1 - d_6$  from nodes like  $A$  are nonzero. If the current law holds and each node has zero net flow, then the exercise says that the flow across every cut is zero.

**3.3.4** *Discrete Stokes theorem:* Why is the voltage drop around the large triangle equal to the sum of the drops around the small triangles? *Note:* This is true even if voltage drops like  $d_1 + d_7 + d_6$  around triangles like  $ABC$  are nonzero. If the voltage law holds and the drop around each small triangle is zero, then the exercise says that  $d_1 + d_2 + d_3 + d_4 + d_5 + d_6 = 0$ .



**3.3.5** On a graph the analogue of the gradient is the edge-node incidence matrix  $A_0$ . The analogue of the curl is the loop-edge matrix  $R$  with a row for each independent loop and a column for each edge. Draw a graph with four nodes and six directed edges, write down  $A_0$  and  $R$ , and confirm that  $RA_0 = 0$  in analogy with  $\text{curl grad} = 0$ .

**3.3.6** Why does the flow rate  $w = (\partial s / \partial y, -\partial s / \partial x)$  satisfy  $\text{div } w = 0$  for any “stream function”  $s(x, y)$ ?

**3.3.7** If the density is  $c = 1$  then

$$w = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial s}{\partial y} \\ -\frac{\partial s}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix} \text{ is equal to } v = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Show from these Cauchy-Riemann equations  $\partial u/\partial x = \partial s/\partial y$  and  $\partial u/\partial y = -\partial s/\partial x$  that both  $u$  and  $s$  satisfy Laplace's equation.

**3.3.8** The curves  $u(x,y) = \text{constant}$  are orthogonal to the family  $s(x,y) = \text{constant}$  if  $\text{grad } u$  is perpendicular to  $\text{grad } s$ . These gradient vectors are at right angles to the curves, which can be equipotentials and streamlines. Construct a suitable  $s(x,y)$  from the geometry and verify

$$(\text{grad } u)^T (\text{grad } s) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial s}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial s}{\partial y} = 0 \text{ if}$$

- (a)  $u(x,y) = y$ : equipotentials are parallel horizontal lines
- (b)  $u(x,y) = x - y$ : equipotentials are parallel  $45^\circ$  lines
- (c)  $u(x,y) = \log(x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}$ : equipotentials are concentric circles.

**3.3.9** A differential equation like  $dy/dx = f(x,y)$  gives a family of curves depending on the initial value  $y(0)$ , and  $dy/dx = -1/f(x,y)$  gives the orthogonal curves. (The product of the slopes is  $-1$ , the usual condition for a right angle; the gradients are in the orthogonal directions  $(1,f)$  and  $(1,-1/f)$ .) Solve  $y' = -1/f$  for the second family if the first family is

- (a)  $y = e^x + \text{constant}$ , from  $dy/dx = e^x = f$
- (b)  $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \text{constant}$ , from  $dy/dx = x = f$
- (c)  $xy = \text{constant}$ , from  $dy/dx = -y/x = f$ .

**3.3.10** In Stokes' law (8), let  $v_1 = -y$  and  $v_2 = 0$  to show that the area of  $S$  equals the line integral  $-\int_C y dx$ . Find the area of an ellipse ( $x = a \cos t$ ,  $y = b \sin t$ ,  $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$ ).

**3.3.11** By computing  $\text{curl } v$ , show that  $v = (y^2, x^2)$  is not the gradient of any function  $u$  but that  $v = (y^2, 2xy)$  is such a gradient and find  $u$ .

**3.3.12** By computing  $\text{div } w$ , show that  $w = (x^2, y^2)$  does not have the form  $(\partial s/\partial y, -\partial s/\partial x)$  for any function  $s$ . Show that  $w = (y^2, x^2)$  does have that form, and find the "stream function"  $s$ .

**3.3.13** If  $u = x^2$  in the square  $S = \{-1 < x, y < 1\}$ , verify the divergence theorem (11) when  $w = \text{grad } u$ :

$$\iint_S \text{div grad } u \, dx \, dy = \int_C n \cdot \text{grad } u \, ds.$$

If a different  $u$  satisfies Laplace's equation in  $S$ , what is the net flow through  $C$ ?

**3.3.14** What potential has the gradient  $v = (u_x, u_y) = (2xy, x^2 - y^2)$ ? Sketch the equipotentials and streamlines for flow into a  $30^\circ$  wedge (Fig. 3.7 was  $45^\circ$ ), and show that  $v \cdot n = 0$  on the upper boundary  $y = x/\sqrt{3}$ . The streamlines have  $s = xy^2 - \frac{1}{3}x^3 = \text{constant}$ .

**3.3.15** Solve Poisson's equation  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 4$  by trial and error if  $u = 0$  on the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ .

**3.3.16** Find a quadratic solution to Laplace's equation if  $u = 0$  on the axes  $x = 0$  and  $y = 0$  and  $u = 3$  on the curve  $xy = 1$ .

**3.3.17** Laplace's equation in polar coordinates is

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0.$$

Show that  $u = r \cos \theta + r^{-1} \cos \theta$  is a solution, and express it in terms of  $x$  and  $y$ . Find  $v = (u_x, u_y)$  and verify that  $v \cdot n = 0$  on the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ . This is the velocity of flow past a circle.

**3.3.18** Show that  $u = \log r$  satisfies Laplace's equation except at  $r = 0$ .

**3.3.19** Suppose  $\delta P / \delta u = \iint \left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} - fv \right] dx dy$ . Use Green's formula, changing the  $u$  in (17) to  $v$  and changing  $w$  to  $\text{grad } u$ , to write

$$\frac{\delta P}{\delta u} = \iint_S v [?] dx dy + \int_C v [??] ds.$$

If this is zero for all  $v$ , find the differential equation and the natural boundary condition satisfied by  $u$ .