The Open University of Sri Lanka

B.Sc. Degree Programme (Level 05) 2010/11

Final Examination — Fundamentals of Geophysics PHU 3159/PHE 5159



Date: 5th July 2011

Duration: 2 ½ Hours (1.30pm - 4.00pm)

Answer FOUR (04) questions. SHORT ANSWERS ARE PREFERRED. Answers should be illustrated with sketch maps and diagrams where appropriate. Each question is allocated 25 points, and the marking scheme is given in brackets. Non-programmable calculators are permitted.

1. (i) Define the term 'potential difference' as used in resistivity method.

(5 points)

- (ii) How can you map the electric field produced when a current is passed through the ground?

 (5 points)
- (iii) "The resistivity method can be successfully applied to interpret the subsurface geological formations though most of the earth materials are considered as insulators". Discuss the above statement. (15 points)
- 2. A Resistivity profiling was carried out using Schlumberger array at point 'P' (center point). The distance from 'P' to any current electrode (L/2) and the distance from 'P' to any potential electrode (1/2) is given in the Table below. Calculate
 - (i) the geometric constant (K) and resistivity values (p) for each electrode separation and construct the resistivity curve. (15 points)
 - (ii) According to the results of above (i), how many subsurface layers are present in the profiling area? (10 points)

L/2 (m)	l /2 (m)	K (m)	R(Ω)	ρ(Ωm)
1.5	0.5		79.62	
2	0.5		39.05	
3	0.5		13.10	
4.5	0.5		1.91	
6	0.5		0.53	
8	0.5		0.17	
10	0.5		0.10	
12.5	2		0.23	
15	2		0.14	
20	2		0.08	
25	2		0.05	

(The geometric constant for the Schlumberger array is given as, $K = \frac{\pi(l^2 - l^2)}{4l}$)



3. (i) List the main segments of the GIS

(5 points)

- (ii) GIS is considered as a real-time information system. Give the reasons. (5 points)
 - (iii) List the advantages of such real-time information systems compared to the conventional information systems such as drawings, maps, aerial photographs etc.

(15 points)

4. (i) Define magnetic susceptibility.

(5 points)

- (ii) How can magnetic susceptibility data be used to determine bedding or foliation directions in rock samples?
- (iii) Name the main components of the geomagnetic field.

(5 points)

- (iv) "Igneous rocks can be used to interpret the changes of the Earth's magnetic field over geologic time periods". Support the above statement. (10 points)
- (5) (i) What is Newton's law of gravitation? Give the meaning of each variable or (3 points) constant in its mathematical expression.
 - (ii) Given that $G=6.672 \times 10^{-11} \text{m}^2 \text{kg}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$, that $g=9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$, and that the radius of the earth is 6366 km, calculate the mass of the earth.

(5 points)

(iii) What is the difference in the value of gravity on top of Mountain Everest compared to that at sea level? Peak of Everest is 8850 m above sea level.

(5 points)

(iv) At birth assume that you (weight of 3kg) were delivered by a Doctor with a mass of 75 kg, and that the Doctor's center of mass was 0.5 m from yours. Also assume that at that very point in time, Mars was closest to the earth or about 78 \times 10⁶ km from your center of mass. The mass of Mars is approximately 6.42 x 10²³ kg. Determine the acceleration due to the gravitational field of the doctor and of Mars.

(12 points)

6. (i) Describe the Snell's law in seismic method.

(5 points)

Describe the four basic modes (or "seismic rays") used in seismic investigations.

(5 points)

(iii) What is a seismograph?

(5 points)

Derive travel-time equation of reflected seismic wave arrivals (two-layer case,

horizontal interface): $T(x) = \sqrt{\frac{X_V}{V}} + \frac{2d_V}{V}$

(10 points)