

Chapter 2: Four Important Linear PDE

Author: Meng-Gen Tsai
Email: plover@gmail.com

Notes.

(1) (Equation (7))

$$|D\Phi(x)| \leq \frac{C}{|x|^{n-1}}, \quad |D^2\Phi(x)| \leq \frac{C}{|x|^n} \quad (x \neq 0)$$

for some constant $C > 0$. In fact,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \Phi(x) &= -\frac{1}{n\alpha(n)} x_i |x|^{-n}, \\ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \Phi(x) &= \frac{1}{n\alpha(n)} (nx_i x_j - |x|^2 \delta_{ij}) |x|^{-n-2}. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 2.1. Write down an explicit formula for a function u solving the initial-value problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t + b \cdot Du + cu = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty) \\ u = g & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n \times \{t = 0\}. \end{cases}$$

Here $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are constants.

Proof (Transport equation). Define

$$z(s) = u(x + sb, t + s) \quad (s \in \mathbb{R}).$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z}(s) &= Du(x + sb, t + s) \cdot b + u_t(x + sb, t + s) \\ &= -cu(x + sb, t + s) \\ &= -cz(s). \end{aligned}$$

Solve this ODE to get

$$\begin{aligned} z(s) &= z(0)e^{-cs} \implies u(x + sb, t + s) = u(x, t)e^{-cs} \\ &\implies u(x - tb, 0) = u(x, t)e^{ct} & (\text{Let } s = -t) \\ &\implies g(x - tb) = u(x, t)e^{ct} \\ &\implies u(x, t) = g(x - tb)e^{-ct}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 2.2. *Prove that Laplace's equation $\Delta u = 0$ is rotation invariant; that is, if O is an orthogonal $n \times n$ matrix and we define*

$$v(x) := u(Ox) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^n),$$

then $\Delta v = 0$.

Proof.

(1) Let $O = [O_{ij}]$. O is orthogonal if $OO^t = O^tO = I$, or

$$\sum_{i=1}^n O_{pi}O_{qi} = \delta_{pq}$$

where δ_{pq} is the Kronecker delta.

(2) Let $y = Ox$. So that

$$\begin{aligned} D_i v(x) &= \sum_{p=1}^n D_p u(y) O_{pi}, \\ D_{ij} v(x) &= \sum_{q=1}^n \sum_{p=1}^n D_{pq} u(y) O_{pi} O_{qj}, \\ \Delta v(x) &= \sum_{i=1}^n D_{ii} v(x) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{q=1}^n \sum_{p=1}^n D_{pq} u(y) O_{pi} O_{qi} \\ &= \sum_{q=1}^n \sum_{p=1}^n D_{pq} u(y) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n O_{pi} O_{qi} \right) \\ &= \sum_{q=1}^n \sum_{p=1}^n D_{pq} \delta_{pq} \\ &= \sum_{q=1}^n D_{qq} u(y) \\ &= \Delta u(y). \end{aligned}$$

(3) As $\Delta u(y) = 0$, $\Delta v(x) = 0$.

□

Problem 2.3. *Modify the proof of the mean value formulas to show for $n \geq 3$ that*

$$u(0) = \int_{\partial B(0,r)} g dS + \frac{1}{n(n-2)\alpha(n)} \int_{B(0,r)} \left(\frac{1}{|x|^{n-2}} - \frac{1}{r^{n-2}} \right) f dx,$$

provided

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = f & \text{in } B^0(0, r) \\ u = g & \text{on } \partial B(0, r). \end{cases}$$

Proof.

(1) ...

(2) ...

□

Problem 2.18. ...

Proof.

(1) ...

(2) ...

□