

1 Harmonic Function

A real valued function $h = \phi(x, y)$ of two variables is said to be *Harmonic function* in a certain domain of xy-plane if it has continuous partial derivatives of the first and second order and satisfies the Laplace's equation $\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = 0$

Theorem 1:

If a function $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ is analytic in a domain D , then its component functions u and v are harmonic in D .

Proof:

Given that $f(z)$ is analytic so that two functions $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$ have continuous partial derivatives of all orders at that point and satisfying the relations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \quad (1)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \quad (2)$$

Differentiating eqⁿ (1) partially with respect to x , we get

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} \quad (3)$$

Now,

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} - \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y \partial x}$$

Since v is continuous, partial derivatives exist. Hence,

$$\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y \partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$$