## Study of Infinite Grid of Resistors and Problems Related

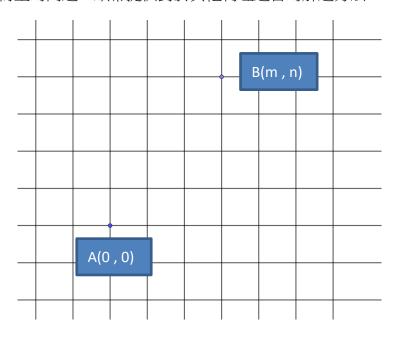
在 2019 年的 Physics Cup 競賽中有一道關於 infinite grid of resistors 的題目,其敘述如下:

Consider an **infinite square grid of resistors**. Let us introduce coordinates x and y so that all the nodes are at integer coordinates (n, m), with  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . For this grid of resistors, all the horizontal resistors, i.e. the resistors between node pairs [(n, m), (n + 1, m)], have the same resistance R; all the vertical resistors, i.e. the resistors between node pairs [(n, m), (n, m + 1)] have the same resistance r. It appears that for such a grid, the effective resistance Rnn between the nodes (0, 0) and (n, n) equals to

$$R_{nn} = \frac{2\sqrt{Rr}}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2k-1}$$

This formula can be used in your solution. By how much will change the effective resistance between the nodes (0, 0) and (1, 1) when the nodes (n, n) and (n + 1, n + 1) are connected with a piece of wire of negligibly small resistance? In other words, determine  $R'_{11} - R_{11}$ , where  $R'_{11}$  is the new effective resistance between the nodes (0, 0) and (1, 1) after short-circuiting the nodes (n, n) and (n + 1, n + 1). Assume that n > 1.

透過這個題目,本文將探討一個平面上的正方形無窮電阻網絡問題(上文中的情境),以及衍生的問題,順帶提供對於其他物理題目的解題方法。



首先,考慮如上圖的 infinite grid of resistor,圖中所有的電阻值均為r,並嘗試推導 A-B 兩點的等效電阻 $R_{mn}$ 。

假設電流I從 A 流入,B 流出,用V(k,l)和 I(k,l)來分別表示節點(k,l)的電壓和流入節點(k,l)的電流,因此我們得到:

$$I(k,l) = \begin{cases} I, for \ k = l = 0 \\ -I, for \ k = m, l = n \\ 0, else \end{cases}$$

以及:

$$\begin{split} \mathrm{I}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{l}) &= \frac{1}{r} [V(k,l) - V(k-1,l)] + \frac{1}{r} [V(k,l) - V(k+1,l)] \\ &+ \frac{1}{r} [V(k,l) - V(k,l-1)] + \frac{1}{r} [V(k,l) - V(k,l+1)] \end{split}$$

上式可簡寫為  $V(k,l) - \langle V(k,l) \rangle = \frac{r}{4}I(k,l)$ ,其中  $\langle V(k,l) \rangle = \frac{1}{4}[V(k-1,l) + V(k+1,l) + V(k,l-1) + V(k,l+1)]$ 。

因此欲求出的公式即為  $R_{mn} = \frac{1}{I}[V(0,0) - V(m,n)]$ 。

先求出  $V(k,l) - \langle V(k,l) \rangle = 0$  的 general solution,並且在其諸多解中選出所有 node 等電位的解:  $V^{(1)}(k,l) = V_0$ ,再求出 $V(k,l) - \langle V(k,l) \rangle = \frac{r}{4}I(k,l)$  的 particular solution;把該公式視為含有 $\alpha$ (某參數)的方程式:

$$V(k,l) = \frac{r}{4}I(k,l) + \alpha \langle V(k,l) \rangle$$
, where  $0 < \alpha < 1$ 

並取極限: α → 1。

接著尋找函數F(x,y),讓它在 $[-\pi,\pi]$ 上可以展開成二維傅立葉級數,以V(k,l)為其(k,l)級的傅立葉級數:  $F(x,y) = \sum_{k,l} V(k,l) e^{i(kx+ly)}$ ,where  $-\infty < k,l < \infty$ 。 將 $V(k,l) = \frac{r}{4} I(k,l) + \alpha \langle V(k,l) \rangle$ 帶入,得到:  $F(x,y) = \frac{r}{4} \sum_{k,l} I(k,l) e^{i(kx+ly)} + \alpha \sum_{k,l} \langle V(k,l) \rangle e^{i(kx+ly)}$ 。 結合I(k,l)和 $\langle V(k,l) \rangle$ 的公式,考慮到 $-\infty < k,l < \infty$ ,假設數列收斂,可用 k,1 取代 k+1,k-1,k,k,k 引:

$$F(x,y) =$$

$$\frac{rl}{4} \left[ 1 - e^{i(mx + ny)} \right] + \frac{\alpha}{4} \sum_{k,l} V(k,l) \left( e^{-ix} + e^{ix} \right) e^{i(kx + ly)} + \frac{\alpha}{4} \sum_{k,l} V(k,l) \left( e^{-iy} + e^{iy} \right) e^{i(kx + ly)} = \frac{rl}{4} \left[ 1 - e^{i(mx + ny)} \right] + \frac{\alpha}{2} (\cos x + \cos y) \sum_{k,l} V(k,l) e^{i(kx + ly)} = \frac{rl}{4} \left[ 1 - e^{i(mx + ny)} \right] + \frac{\alpha}{2} (\cos x + \cos y) F(x,y) \quad \circ$$

因此F(x,y)可以表示為:  $F(x,y) = \frac{rI}{2} \frac{1 - e^{i(mx + ny)}}{2 - \alpha(\cos x + \cos y)}$ 。

因為 $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,所以有:

$$\begin{cases} V(0,0)_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} F(x,y) dx \, dy \\ V(m,n)_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} F(x,y) e^{-i(mx+ny)} dx \, dy \end{cases}$$

前面提到的  $V(k,l) - \langle V(k,l) \rangle = \frac{r}{4}I(k,l)$  的 particular solution 在這裡為:

$$V^{(2)}(k,l) = \lim_{\alpha \to 1^{-}} V(k,l)_{\alpha} \quad \circ$$
 因此,

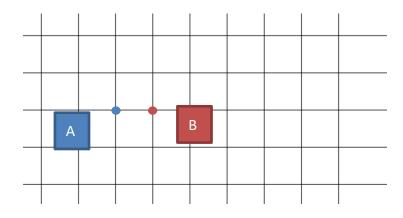
$$\begin{cases} V^{(2)}(0,0) = \frac{rI}{8\pi^2} \lim_{\alpha \to 1^-} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mx + ny)}{2 - \alpha(\cos x + \cos y)} dx dy = \frac{rI}{8\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mx + ny)}{2 - \cos x - \cos y} dx dy \\ V^{(2)}(m,n) = -\frac{rI}{8\pi^2} \lim_{\alpha \to 1^-} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mx + ny)}{2 - \alpha(\cos x + \cos y)} dx dy = -\frac{rI}{8\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mx + ny)}{2 - \cos x - \cos y} dx dy \end{cases}$$

得出 $V(k,l) - \langle V(k,l) \rangle = \frac{r}{4}I(k,l)$ 的 general solution:

$$\begin{cases} V(0,0) = V^{(1)}(0,0) + V^{(2)}(0,0) \\ V(m,n) = V^{(1)}(m,n) + V^{(2)}(m,n) \end{cases}$$

帶入
$$R_{mn} = \frac{1}{I}[V(0,0) - V(m,n)]$$
,得到  $R_{mn} = \frac{r}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mx + ny)}{2 - \cos x - \cos y} dx dy$ 

為了驗證此結論,考慮(m,n) = (0,1)或(1,0)的情況:



用電流的對稱性,分析出從 A 流到無限遠處的電流為 I,途中流經 AB 線段的分流為 I/4,電流 I 再從無限遠處流到 B,途中流經 AB 線段的分流為 I/4,所以:

$$V_{AB} = I(R_{01}) = \left(\frac{I}{4} + \frac{I}{4}\right)r \Rightarrow R_{01} = \frac{r}{2}(=R_{10})$$

而根據推導的公式,

$$\begin{cases} R_{10} = \frac{r}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos x}{2 - \cos x - \cos y} dx dy \\ R_{01} = \frac{r}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos y}{2 - \cos x - \cos y} dx dy \end{cases}$$

可看出兩者相等;相加後等於 $\frac{r}{4\pi^2}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}dx\;dy=r$ ,因此 $R_{01}=R_{10}=\frac{r}{2}$ ,公式計算的結果正確。

欲推導文章中最初的 Physics Cup 題目公式,即Rnn,則可用以下方式:

$$R_{nn} - R_{n-1 \, n-1} = \frac{2r}{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{2n-1} \right)$$

因此,

$$R_{\rm nn} = \frac{2r}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2k-1}$$

即原式中的 R 改成 r (符合此情境)。

若將此情境從二維拓展到三維空間,依然可用一樣的原理推導出

$$R_{mnl} = \frac{r}{8\pi^3} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mx + ny + lz)}{3 - \cos x - \cos y - \cos z} dx dy dz$$

此處也像二維情境的初步驗證方式一樣,假設三維空間的情境,電流從 A 流到相鄰的點 B。用電流的對稱性,分析出從 A 流到無限遠處的電流為 I,途中流經 AB 線段的分流為 I/6,電流 I 再從無限遠處流到 B,途中流經 AB 線段的分流為 I/6,所以:

$$V_{AB} = I(R_{001}) = \left(\frac{I}{6} + \frac{I}{6}\right)r \Rightarrow R_{001} = \frac{r}{3} (= R_{100} = R_{010})$$

而根據推導的公式,

$$\begin{cases} R_{100} = \frac{r}{8\pi^3} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos x}{3 - \cos x - \cos y - \cos z} dx \, dy \, dz \\ R_{010} = \frac{r}{8\pi^3} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos y}{3 - \cos x - \cos y - \cos z} dx \, dy \, dz \\ R_{001} = \frac{r}{8\pi^3} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos z}{3 - \cos x - \cos y - \cos z} dx \, dy \, dz \end{cases}$$

可看出三者相等;相加後等於 $\frac{r}{8\pi^3}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}dx\,dy\,dz=r$  ,因此 $R_{100}=R_{010}=$ 

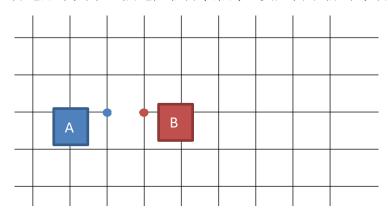
 $R_{001} = \frac{r}{3}$  ,公式計算的結果正確。此處也提供一個更 general 的公式: 假設每個

節點都有 2k 個相鄰點,彼此都以電阻值 r 的電阻相連,則可以得知:

$$R_{\text{mn...l}} = \frac{r}{(2\pi)^k} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \dots \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mu_1 + nu_2 + \dots + lu_k)}{k - \cos u_1 - \cos u_2 - \dots - \cos u_k} du_1 du_2 \dots du_k$$

其中 $1 \le i \le k$ ,  $u_i$  代指此 k 維空間的 k 個正交基底。

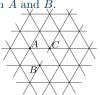
延伸探討: 若將電路中其中一個電阻移除(斷路),要如何求新的等效電阻?



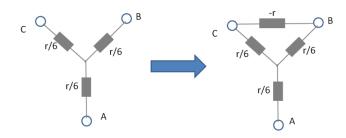
解法有很多種(暴力解、分割電路後重新計算…),此處提供一種思路: 把被斷路的線段等效成**電阻 r 並聯電阻-r**,即可快速得到新的結果:  $R_{AB} = \frac{\frac{r}{2} \cdot (-r)}{\frac{r}{2} + (-r)} = r$ 。此技術可應用在許多地方,這裡舉一個競賽題目(出處:《Electrical Circuit》, by Jaan

Kalda)當例子:

**pr 47.** There is an infinite triangular lattice; the edges of the lattice are made of wire, and the resistance of each edge is R. Let us denote the corners of a triangular lattice face by A, B, and C. The wire connecting B and C is cut off. Determine the resistance between A and B.



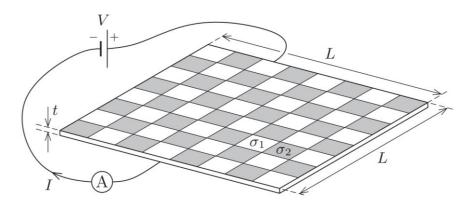
解題過程: 先考慮未遭斷路的情況。根據先前的電流對稱性原理,可得知  $R_{AB}=R_{AC}=R_{BC}=r/3$ ,因此可畫出以下等效電路:



有了等效模型,配合並聯電阻 - r 的算法,即可快速算出 $R'_{AB} = \frac{3}{8}r$ 。

受到 Physics Cup 無限電組網格題目的啟發,讓我想到另一個競賽難題(取題自《200 More Puzzling Physics Problems: With Hints and Solutions》,第 161 題)。 題目如下:

A normal  $8 \times 8$  chessboard is made from plates of two different metals, both of which are quite poor electrical conductors. The only other conducting elements in its construction are two thin terminal strips, which have very good conductivity. They are positioned one at each end of the board (but not shown in the figure). The common thickness t of the plates is much less than the length L of the board.



The conductivity of the light squares is  $\sigma_1$ , and that of the dark ones is  $\sigma_2$ . Find the current flowing through the chessboard, if a steady voltage V is applied across the terminals. Any interface resistances between the squares can be neglected

有鑑於此題難度太大,常規思路應該不足以解題;在經過探討 infinite grids 問題 後我想到該題與此西洋棋盤問題的關聯性:

Infinite Grid 題目中給的公式考慮到 x 方向的電阻值是 R , y 方向的為 r , 而先前的推導公式則考慮 x y 方向皆為 r , 於是有了以下的不同:

一個是 $\sqrt{R \cdot r}$ ,另一個是 $\sqrt{r \cdot r}$ ,若將 $\sqrt{R \cdot r}$  解讀成 R 和 r 在此電路布局中形成的等效電阻,以及考慮題目之情境: L  $\gg$  t,那在西洋棋盤中是否也可以猜測解為  $I = Vt\sqrt{\sigma_1\sigma_2}$  ? 更進一步假設,若將公式從二維( $R_{nn}$ )拓展到三維空間( $R_{nnn}$ ),則有以下形式:

$$R_{nnn} \propto \sqrt[3]{r_x r_y r_z}$$

更準確的說,

$$R_{mnl} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{r_x r_y r_z}}{8\pi^3} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mx + ny + lz)}{3 - \cos x - \cos y - \cos z} dx dy dz$$

其中 $r_x \cdot r_v \cdot r_z$  分別為沿著 x y z 三個方向的電阻。

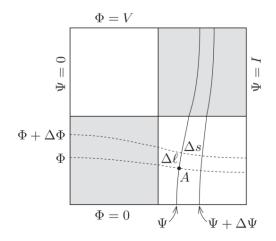
若延伸到先前提過的,每個節點都有 2k 個相鄰點,對於此 k 維空間的 k 個正交基底 ,令 $1 \le i \le k$  , $u_i$  代指此 k 維空間的 k 個正交基底,沿著每個正交基底的方向都分別以電阻值 $r_i$ 的電阻相連,則有:

 $R_{mn}$  1

$$= \frac{\sqrt[k]{r_1 r_2 \dots r_k}}{(2\pi)^k} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \dots \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 - \cos(mu_1 + nu_2 + \dots + lu_k)}{k - \cos u_1 - \cos u_2 - \dots - \cos u_k} du_1 du_2 \dots du_k$$

為了驗證猜解 $I = Vt\sqrt{\sigma_1\sigma_2}$ 是否正確,以下結合兩種方法佐證: 解析解(正規作法)和數值解(跑模擬)。

假設西洋棋盤是由同一種金屬組成,若電導為 $\sigma_1$ ,則  $I_1 = Vt\sigma_1$ ;若電導為 $\sigma_2$ ,則  $I_2 = Vt\sigma_2$ 。此題為兩種金屬相間,答案 $I = Vt\sqrt{\sigma_1\sigma_2}$ 為 $I_1$ 和 $I_2$ 的幾何平均值。 根據該書解答所述: "This statement (about the geometric mean giving the required current) is valid for any set of square plates of constant thickness that satisfy the following requirement: for a pair of points, A and B, which can be transformed into each other by rotating  $90^\circ$ , the product of the conductivities at those two points must have a value that is independent of how the point pair is chosen." 在本題情境中顯然符合該 requirement. 為了方便,以下僅討論 2x2 棋盤的模式。



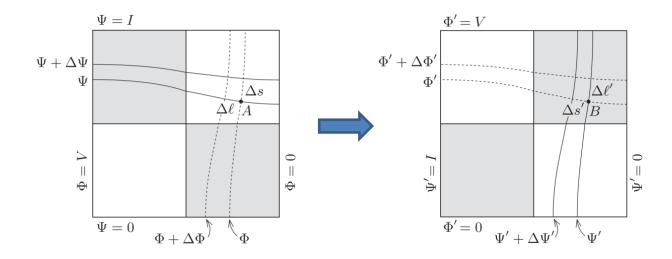
可以看出圖中的虛線(equipotential lines)和實線(current-streamlines)垂直,在此令 $\Phi$ 代表 voltage-potential, $\Psi$ 為 current-potential。在 A 點處電壓為 $\Phi$ ,電場 $E_A = \frac{\Delta\Phi}{\Delta l}$ ,

電流密度
$$j_A = \sigma_A E_A = \sigma_A \frac{\Delta \Phi}{\Delta l}$$
,其中 $\sigma_A$ 可以是 $\sigma_1$ 或 $\sigma_2$ 。因此得到 $j_A t \Delta s = \sigma_A \frac{\Delta \Phi}{\Delta l} t \Delta s =$ 

$$\Delta\Psi$$
,  $t\sigma_A \frac{\Delta\Phi}{\Delta l} = \frac{\Delta\Psi}{\Delta s}$ 

現在把它逆時針旋轉90°:

有: 
$$\Delta l' = \Delta s$$
,  $\Delta s' = \Delta l$ ;  $\Psi' = \frac{l}{V} \Phi$ ,  $\Phi' = \frac{V}{l} \Psi$  。



因此,
$$\sigma_A \sigma_B = \sigma_1 \sigma_2$$
, $t\sigma_B \frac{\Delta \Phi'}{\Delta l'} = \frac{\Delta \Psi'}{\Delta s'}$ ; $t\sigma_B \frac{V}{l} \frac{\Delta \Psi}{\Delta s} = t\sigma_B \frac{V}{l} t\sigma_A \frac{\Delta \Phi}{\Delta l}$ ,得到:  $I = Vt\sqrt{\sigma_A \sigma_B} = Vt\sqrt{\sigma_1 \sigma_2}$ 。

再來是數值解,採用 Matlab 模擬。 模擬原理:

滿足: 
$$\begin{cases} \text{Laplace Equation: } \nabla^2 V = 0 \\ \text{Boundary Conditions:} \end{cases}$$
垂直於 boundary:  $\frac{J_{1t}}{\sigma_1} = \frac{J_{2t}}{\sigma_2}$ 

以下解釋如何滿足Laplace Equation。下圖被框起來的程式碼,作用是把位於內部的點(把平面分成許多小格子)的電壓定義成周圍四個點的電壓的平均值(因為是二維平面,所以有4個 neighbours)。

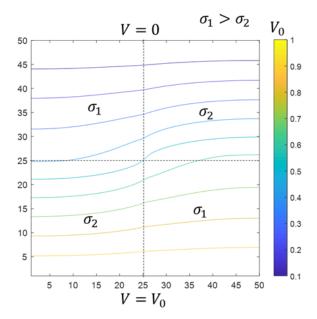
在二維條件下, $\nabla^2 V=0$  等同於  $\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2}+\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2}=0$ ,此為以下公式取 $\Delta x\to 0$ ,  $\Delta y\to 0$ 的結果:

$$\frac{\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}\Big|_{x+\Delta x} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}\Big|_{x}}{\Delta x} + \frac{\frac{\partial V}{\partial y}\Big|_{y+\Delta y} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial y}\Big|_{y}}{\Delta y} = 0$$

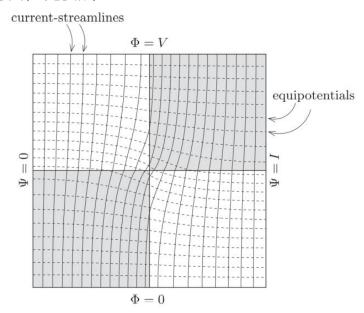
此公式可以化成:

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \left( V_{i,j+1} - V_{i,j} \right) - \left( V_{i,j} - V_{i,j-1} \right) \right] + \left[ \left( V_{i+1,j} - V_{i,j} \right) - \left( V_{i,j} - V_{i-1,j} \right) \right] &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow V_{i,j} = \frac{V_{i,j+1} + V_{i,j-1} + V_{i+1,j} + V_{i-1,j}}{4} \end{aligned}$$

## 2x2 棋盤模擬結果:



## 對照解答之示意圖(也是模擬):



## Reference:

《物理學難題集粹》,作者: 舒幼生

《Electrical Circuit》,作者: Jaan Kalda

《200 More Puzzling Physics Problems: With Hints and Solutions》,作者: Péter Gnädig,Gyula Honyek,Máté Vigh,Ken F. Riley