

Exercise-7

Consider a function defined in the original coordinate system $f \equiv f(x, y)$. Now, we are transforming the coordinate system to (u, v) where $u = x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta$ and $v = x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta$.

Using the inverse of these transformations, given by $x = u \cos \theta + v \sin \theta$ and $y = -u \sin \theta + v \cos \theta$, the function can now be defined in the new coordinate system as $f \equiv f(u, v)$.

The first derivatives of $f(u, v)$ with respect to x and y can be computed as follows (keeping in mind that $\sin \theta$ and $\cos \theta$ are just constants):

$$\begin{aligned} f_x &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = f_u \cos \theta + f_v \sin \theta \\ f_y &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = -f_u \sin \theta + f_v \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

Now, computing the second derivative of these (again keeping in mind that $\sin \theta$ and $\cos \theta$ are constants):

$$\begin{aligned} f_{xx} &= \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial x} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f_u \cos \theta + f_v \sin \theta) \\ &= \frac{\partial f_u}{\partial x} \cos \theta + \frac{\partial f_v}{\partial x} \sin \theta \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial f_u}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_u}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) \cos \theta + \left(\frac{\partial f_v}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_v}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) \sin \theta \\ &= (f_{uu} \cos \theta + f_{uv} \sin \theta) \cos \theta + (f_{vu} \cos \theta + f_{vv} \sin \theta) \sin \theta \\ &= f_{uu} \cos^2 \theta + f_{uv} \sin \theta \cos \theta + f_{vu} \cos \theta \sin \theta + f_{vv} \sin^2 \theta \\ f_{yy} &= \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial y} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (-f_u \sin \theta + f_v \cos \theta) \\ &= -\frac{\partial f_u}{\partial y} \sin \theta + \frac{\partial f_v}{\partial y} \cos \theta \\ &= -\left(\frac{\partial f_u}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_u}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) \sin \theta + \left(\frac{\partial f_v}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_v}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) \cos \theta \\ &= -(-f_{uu} \sin \theta + f_{uv} \cos \theta) \sin \theta + (-f_{vu} \sin \theta + f_{vv} \cos \theta) \cos \theta \\ &= f_{uu} \sin^2 \theta - f_{uv} \cos \theta \sin \theta - f_{vu} \sin \theta \cos \theta + f_{vv} \cos^2 \theta \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the laplacian of f with respect to the old coordinates can now be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{xx} + f_{yy} &= (f_{uu} \cos^2 \theta + f_{uv} \sin \theta \cos \theta + f_{vu} \cos \theta \sin \theta + f_{vv} \sin^2 \theta) \\ &\quad + (f_{uu} \sin^2 \theta - f_{uv} \cos \theta \sin \theta - f_{vu} \sin \theta \cos \theta + f_{vv} \cos^2 \theta) \\ &= f_{uu} (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + f_{vv} (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) \\ &= f_{uu} + f_{vv} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we see that the Laplacian operator in the old coordinates is the same as the Laplacian operator in the new coordinates (generated through a rotation transformation). Hence, proved that the Laplacian is rotationally invariant.