

Q7 — Consider a rotation of the coordinate system from (x, y) to $u = x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta$ and $v = x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta$

For proving that the Laplacian operator (∇^2) is rotationally invariant we ~~can~~ have to show that

$$f_{xx} + f_{yy} = f_{uu} + f_{vv} \quad (\nabla^2 f(x, y) = \nabla^2 f(u, v))$$

$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \quad (\text{Chain rule})$$

$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \cos \theta + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \sin \theta$$

$$f_{xx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_x = \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial u} (\cos \theta f_u + \sin \theta f_v) \cos \theta + \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (\cos \theta f_u + \sin \theta f_v) \sin \theta$$

(Assuming $f_{uv} = f_{vu}$)

$$f_{xx} = f_{uu} \cos^2 \theta + 2 f_{uv} \cos \theta \sin \theta + f_{vv} \sin^2 \theta \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}$$

$$f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} (-\sin \theta) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \cos \theta = -f_u \sin \theta + f_v \cos \theta$$

$$f_{yy} = \frac{\partial (f_y)}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}$$

$$f_{yy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} (-f_u \sin \theta + f_v \cos \theta) (-\sin \theta) + \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (-f_u \sin \theta + f_v \cos \theta) \cos \theta$$

$$f_{yy} = +f_{uu} \sin^2 \theta - 2f_{uv} \sin \theta \cos \theta + f_{vv} \cos^2 \theta \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

① + ② gives

$$f_{xx} + f_{yy} = f_{uu} (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) + f_{vv} (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta)$$

$$f_{xx} + f_{yy} = f_{uu} + f_{vv}$$

Hence the laplacian operator is rotationally invariant