

Chapter 1

Partial Differential Equations in Engineering

1.1 Fundamental Lemma of ODEs

If $\iiint_V f d\tau = 0$ and

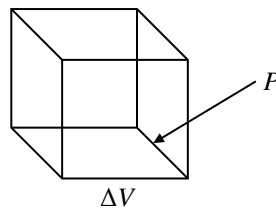
1. f is continuous
2. V is arbitrary.

Then $f = 0$ (take as fact).

Proof by contradiction:

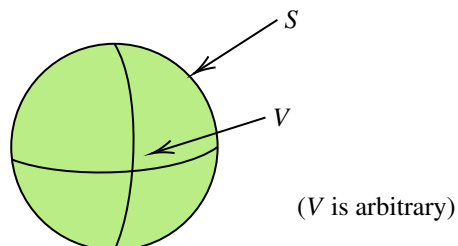
Assume $f \neq 0$ at a point P . Because f is continuous $f \neq 0$ in a volume V surrounding P . (Assume $f > 0$ instead of $f < 0$).

Thus, $\iiint_{\Delta V} f d\tau > 0$ (contradiction).



1.2 Fluid Flow

Let S be a closed surface bounding volume V :



Rate of change of mass in V is $\frac{dM}{dt}$

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = \text{Rate of entry/(exit)} + \text{Rate of generation/(absorption)}$$

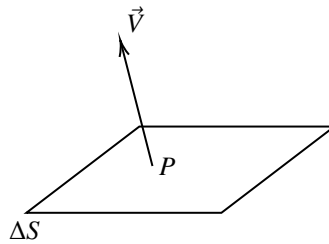
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$$M = \iiint_V \delta d\tau \text{ where } \delta \text{ is density.}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dM}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \iiint_V \delta d\tau = \iiint_V \frac{\partial \delta}{\partial t} d\tau. \text{ (Leibniz integral rule: can swap derivative and integral).}$$

$$(1) \oint_S \int \vec{v} \cdot \vec{n} dS = - \oint_S \delta \vec{v} \cdot \vec{n} dS \quad (\text{hand wavy - but } m' = \delta).$$

\uparrow \uparrow
 Velocity Surface element
 vector unit normal
 vector



(2) Let $Q(\vec{r}, t)$ be the rate at which fluid is generated/(absorbed). t is time, \vec{r} is the position vector. Unit of Q is (ie.) $g/cc/s$.

\therefore Net generation/(absorption) is.

$$(2) = \iiint_V Q(\vec{r}, t) d\tau.$$

$$\text{dell operator } \left(\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z} \right).$$

$$\text{By the Divergence Theorem: } \oint_S \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{S} = \iiint_V \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F} d\tau$$

$$\therefore (1) = - \iiint_V \vec{\nabla} \cdot \delta \vec{v} d\tau \quad \text{integration in (1) and (2) done over same volume. (arbitrary)}$$

$$\iiint_V \left[\frac{\partial \delta}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\delta \vec{v}) - Q \right] d\tau = \frac{dM}{dt} = 0$$

$$\therefore \text{By Fundamental Lemma: } \frac{\partial \delta}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\delta \vec{v}) - Q = 0 \text{ "Law of Conservation of Mass"}$$

This can be further simplified if special conditions are met.

$$\text{If incompressible (} \delta \text{ constant): } 0 + \delta \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = Q. \quad \therefore \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = Q/\delta$$

$$\text{If also irrotational (no swirling } \rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = \vec{0} \text{)}$$

$$\therefore \vec{\nabla} = \vec{\nabla} \psi \left(\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \right). \quad (\text{curl} = 0)$$

* See the water flowing down a hill analogy. ψ = "scalar potential".

$$\therefore \nabla^2 \psi = Q/\delta. \text{ } \} \text{"Poisson's Equation"}$$

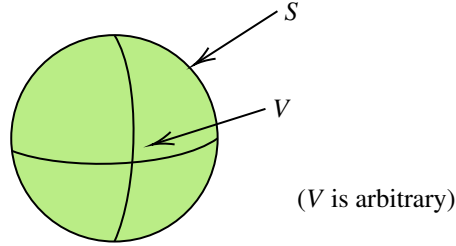
If also $Q = 0$ (no fluid generated/consumed).

$$\therefore \nabla^2 \psi = 0 \} \text{ "Laplace's Equation" (with } \vec{v} = \vec{\nabla} \psi \text{)}$$

1.3 Diffusion of Heat

$\psi(\vec{r}, t)$ is temperature at direction vector \vec{r} at time t .

Let S be a closed surface bounding volume V :



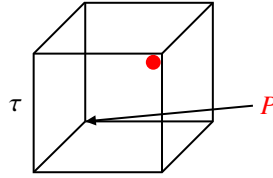
Rate of change of heat = Rate of entry/(exit) + Rate of generation/(absorption.).

* Like for fluid flow.

$$(3) = (1) + (2)$$

Solving for (3).

The amount of heat in a small mass element ($\Delta m = \delta \Delta \tau$) is: $\approx [c\psi(\vec{r}, t)\delta]_p \Delta \tau$

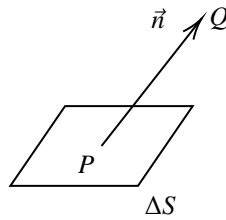


$\therefore H = \iiint_{\tau} c\delta\psi d\tau$ differentiate both sides and apply Leibniz' Rule.

$$\therefore \frac{dH}{dt} = \iiint_{\tau} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [c\delta\psi] d\tau \quad (3)$$

Solving for (1).

Heat flows from hot to cold (entropy).



I.e. heat will leave the surface if $\psi(P) > \psi(Q)$ (along normal)

Rate at which heat leaves ΔS is:

$$\approx - \left[K \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} \right]_p \Delta S$$

(K = conductivity).

This means that net heat exit if $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} < 0$ ($\psi(P) > \psi(Q)$). Net rate of heat entry is $\oint k \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} dS = (1)$

If (1) is positive, net heat in.

Solving for (2):

Simply, if $Q(\vec{r}, t)$ is rate of heat generation/(absorption) as cal/c.c./sec, then:

Net heat gen./(abs.) is

$$(2) = \iiint_V Q(\vec{r}, t) d\tau$$

Before combining, use Divergence Theorem on (1)

$$\oint k \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} dS = \oint K \nabla \vec{\psi} \cdot \vec{n} dS = \iiint_V \vec{\nabla} (K \nabla \vec{\psi}) d\tau \quad \text{Triple Integral, can combine.}$$

$$\iiint_{\tau} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [c \delta \psi] d\tau = \iiint_V \vec{\nabla} (K \vec{\nabla} \psi) d\tau + \iiint_V Q(\vec{r}, t) d\tau$$

Move everything to same side:

$$\underbrace{\iiint_{\tau} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [c \delta \psi] - \vec{\nabla} (K \vec{\nabla} \psi) - Q(\vec{r}, t) \right] d\tau}_{\text{Arbitrary}} = 0. \quad \text{Assume continuous}$$

By Fundamental Lemma: $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [c \delta \psi] - \vec{\nabla} (K \vec{\nabla} \psi) - Q(\vec{r}, t) = 0$.

If c, K, δ all constant: $c \delta \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} - K \nabla^2 \psi - Q(\vec{r}, t) = 0$

$\therefore \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} - \nabla^2 \psi = \frac{Q}{K}$ “Fourier Diffusion Equation” ($\alpha^2 = \frac{K}{\delta c}$, “diffusivity”)

If $Q = 0$: $\frac{1}{\alpha^2} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} - \nabla^2 \psi = 0 = \left[\frac{1}{\alpha^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \nabla^2 \right] \psi = 0$ For a Steady State, Temperature is time invariant. ($\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = 0$).

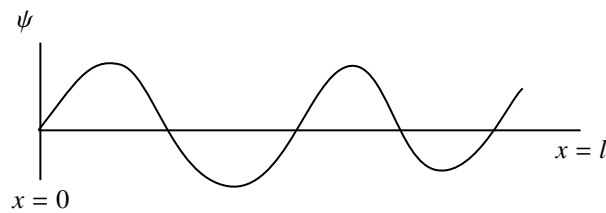
If steady state:

$\nabla^2 \psi = -Q/K$ “Poisson’s Equation”

If also $Q = 0$:

$\nabla^2 \psi = 0$ “Laplace’s Equation”

1.4 Vibrating String



Displacement ψ is a function of time and position

$$a^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = -F$$

$$F = \frac{\text{Force}}{\text{Mass}}, \quad a = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\delta}}$$

T = Tension

δ = Linear Density

General solution to the PDE is: $\psi = \underbrace{F(x-at)}_{\text{moving right}} + \underbrace{G(x+at)}_{\text{moving left}}$ “with speed a ”

* Derivation and solution in coursepack.

For an “infinite” string:

$$\psi(x, t) = \frac{f(x-at) + f(x+at)}{2} + \frac{1}{2a} \int_{x-at}^{x+at} g(\xi) d\xi, \text{ I.C. } \begin{cases} \psi(x, 0) = f(x) \\ \psi(t, 0) = g(x) \end{cases}$$

e.g $f(x) = \sin(x) \quad g(x) = xe^{-x^2}$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(x, t) &= \frac{\sin(x-at) + \sin(x+at)}{2} + \frac{1}{2a} \int_{x-at}^{x+at} \xi x e^{-\xi^2} d\xi \\ &= \sin(x) \cos(at) - \frac{1}{4a} \left[e^{-\xi^2} \right]_{x-at}^{x+at} \end{aligned}$$

1.5 Vibrating Membrane

$$F = ma \text{ and external forces} \Rightarrow \nabla^2 \psi$$

$$\text{Tension forces} \Rightarrow \nabla^2 \psi$$

$$\text{For static deflections: } \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

$$\text{strings (1D): } a \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} = -F$$

$$\text{membranes (2D): } \nabla^2 \psi = -F/a^2 \text{ “Poisson’s Equation”}$$

1.6 Three Fundamental Equations

There are three significant PDEs that govern many engineering systems

1. Poisson’s Equation

$$\nabla^2 \psi = -F \text{ if } 0, \text{ Laplace’s (special case of Poisson’s).}$$

2. Diffusion Equation

$$\nabla^2 \psi - \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -F$$

3. Wave Equation

$$a^2 \nabla^2 \psi - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = -F$$

Many (but not all) DE are governed by one of these 3 equations.

1.7 Solving PDEs

For the homogeneous Wave equation:

$$a^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = 0, \quad \text{we have a general solution.}$$

$$\psi(x, t) = F(x - at) + G(x + at)$$

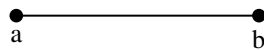
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eg. } f(z) &= z^2 = (x + iy)^2 \\ &= x^2 + 2ixy - y^2 \\ &= x^2 - y^2 + i(2xy) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u(x, y) &= x^2 - y^2 \\ v(x, y) &= 2xy \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \begin{aligned} \nabla^2 u &= 2 - 2 = 0 \\ \nabla^2 v &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The two functions generate two harmonics. This is common. For a well-posed problem, we need a unique solution

1. Dirichlet B.C.

Value of u is constant with time on boundary.



$$\begin{cases} u(a, t) = 0 \\ u(b, t) = 0 \end{cases} \quad \forall t.$$

2. Neumann B.C.

Spatial derivative of u is constant with time on boundary.



$$\begin{cases} u_x(a, t) = 0 \\ u_x(b, t) = 0 \end{cases} \quad \forall t$$

3. Robin B.C.

A linear combination of Dirichlet and Neumann.

$$Au(a, t) + Bu_x(a, t) = c, \quad \forall t$$

1.8 Uniqueness Theorems

“For Poisson’s Equation (or Laplace’s), the solution of a Dirichlet problem is unique, and Neumann problem is unique to an additive constant.”

Proof: Let ψ_1 and ψ_2 be two solutions to the same problem, i.e:

$$\nabla^2 \psi_1 = -F \text{ and } \nabla^2 \psi_2 = -F \quad \text{Goal: Prove } \psi_1 = \psi_2 \text{ for Dirichlet and } \psi_1 - \psi_2 = c \text{ for Neumann}$$

either $[\psi_1]_s = [\psi_2]_s$ (Dirichlet)

$$\text{or } \left[\frac{\partial \psi_1}{\partial n} \right]_s = \left[\frac{\partial \psi_2}{\partial n} \right]_s \text{ (Neumann)}$$

Let $U = \psi_1 - \psi_2$, then $\nabla^2 U = \nabla^2 \psi_1 - \nabla^2 \psi_2 = -F - (-F) = 0$ on τ .

Either $[u]_s = 0$ (Dirichlet) or.

$$\left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} \right]_s = 0 \text{ (Neumann)}$$

for this to hold true.

Consider $\oint_S u \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} dS = 0$, this is equal to $\oint_S U \vec{\nabla} U \cdot \vec{n} dS$ (Def. of nabla operator).

Applying Divergence Theorem:

$$0 = \iiint_{\tau} \vec{\nabla} \cdot [u \vec{\nabla} u] d\tau \quad \text{Apply vector identity (Product Rule) from Tutorial 1 .}$$

$$0 = \iiint_{\tau} \underbrace{\vec{\nabla} u \cdot \vec{\nabla} u}_{\|\vec{\nabla} u\|^2} d\tau + \iiint_{\tau} u \underbrace{\nabla^2 u}_{=0} d\tau$$

However, we may not automatically conclude $\|\vec{\nabla} u\|^2 = 0$ by the Fundamental Lemma since τ is not arbitrary.

Instead, we use the limit of a sum argument for integrals because $\|\vec{\nabla} u\|^2 \geq 0$.

$$\text{And } \iiint_{\tau} \underbrace{\|\vec{\nabla} u\|^2}_{\geq 0} d\tau = 0$$

$$\therefore \|\vec{\nabla} u\|^2 = 0 \text{ in } \tau$$

$$\therefore \vec{\nabla} u = 0 \Rightarrow u = \psi_1 - \psi_2 = c \text{ in } \tau.$$

This proves the Neumann part.

For Dirichlet, we have $[u]_s = 0$ and $[u]_{\tau} = c$

Since τ can be infinitesimally close to s , we can’t continuously go from 0 on S to c on τ , if $c \neq 0$. $\therefore c = 0 \Rightarrow \psi_1 = \psi_2$, which proves Dirichlet.

Note on arbitrary domains:

Consider $\int_{\tau} x dx$. This is clearly not always zero. However, if domain $\tau = x \in [-1, 1]$, then $\int_{-1}^1 x dx = 0$. This doesn’t mean x is zero, since the domain is not arbitrary. This is the definition of “arbitrary τ ” in the Fundamental Lemma. It can only be applied if the domain is arbitrary (and thus integral = 0 regardless of bounds).

“For Poisson’s Equation (or Laplace’s), the solution of a Robin problem is unique.

Proof: Let ψ_1 and ψ_2 be two solutions to the same problem, i.e:

$$\nabla^2 \psi_1 = -F \text{ and } \nabla^2 \psi_2 = -F \text{ in } \tau.$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi_1}{\partial n} + h\psi_1 = \frac{\partial \psi_2}{\partial n} + h\psi_2 \text{ on } s. \text{ the boundary of } \tau, \text{ with } h \text{ positive.}$$

Let $u = \psi_1 - \psi_2$, then $\nabla^2 u = 0$ in τ .

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial n} (\psi_1 - \psi_2) + h(\psi_1 - \psi_2) = 0 \text{ or } \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + hu = 0 \text{ on } s.$$

$$\text{Now, } \oint_s u \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} dS = - \oint_s hu^2 dS \quad \left(bc \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = -hu \right)$$

$$= \oint_s u \vec{\nabla} u \cdot \vec{n} dS \stackrel{\text{Divergence Theorem}}{=} \iiint_{\tau} \vec{\nabla} \cdot (u \vec{\nabla} u) d\tau$$

Only way for L.H.S. = R.H.S. is if both are 0.

$$\iiint_{\tau} \|\vec{\nabla} u\|^2 d\tau = 0 \Rightarrow u = \text{constant in } \tau.$$

$$\oint_s \underbrace{hu^2}_{\geq 0} ds = 0 \Rightarrow u = 0 \text{ on } s.$$

Hence by continuity, $u = \psi_1 - \psi_2 = 0$, thus $\psi_1 = \psi_2$.

Theorem 3: For the diffusion equation, solutions of Dirichlet and Neumann problems are unique if $\psi(\vec{r}, 0)$ is specified.

Theorem 4: For the wave equation, solutions of Dirichlet and Neumann problems are unique if $\psi(\vec{r}, 0)$ and $\psi_+(\vec{r}, 0)$ is specified.

(Proofs not needed).