



Overview

- Polar coordinates
- Cylindrical coordinates



- $x = r \cos \theta, y = r \sin \theta, r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \theta = \arctan(y/x)$
- Lamé (metric) coefficients:
 - In Cartesian coordinates dx, dy correspond to actual traversed distances

$$ds^2 = dx^2 + dy^2 = [dx \ dy] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{bmatrix}$$

- In Polar coordinates traversed distances are $dr, r d\theta$

$$ds^2 = dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2 = [dr \ d\theta] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & r^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} dr \\ d\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

- Nabla operator:

$$\text{Cartesian } \nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{e}_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{e}_y \quad \text{Polar } \nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{\partial}{r \partial \theta} \mathbf{e}_\theta$$



- Gradient of scalar function $f(r, \theta)$

$$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{\partial f}{r \partial \theta} \mathbf{e}_\theta = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}, \frac{\partial f}{r \partial \theta} \right)$$

- Divergence of vector function $\mathbf{V}(r, \theta) = (u(r, \theta), v(r, \theta))$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (ru) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (v) \right] = \lim_{|S| \rightarrow 0} \frac{\oint_S \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS}{|S|}$$

- Laplacian of scalar function $f(r, \theta)$

$$\Delta f = \nabla^2 f = \nabla \cdot \nabla f = \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial f}{r \partial \theta} \right) \right] = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \theta^2}$$



Laplace equation in polar coordinates

- Dirichlet problem: find $u(r, \theta)$ in a disk of radius a

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0 \text{ for } r < a, u(a, \theta) = f(\theta)$$

- Separation of variables: $u(r, \theta) = R(r)\Theta(\theta) \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{R''}{R} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{R'}{R} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = 0 \Rightarrow r^2 \left(\frac{R''}{R} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{R'}{R} \right) = -\frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = \alpha^2$$

- Solution is periodic w.r.t θ , $\Theta(\theta) = c_1 \cos \alpha \theta + c_2 \sin \alpha \theta$ iff $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$, say $\alpha = n$
- Along r : $r^2 R'' + r R' - n^2 R = 0$ with solution $R(r) = c_3 r^n + c_4 r^{-n}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$
 - as $r \rightarrow 0$, $r^{-n} \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow c_4 = 0$
 - at $r = a$, $R(r) = c r^n$
- For $n = 0$: $r^2 R'' + r R' = 0$ with solution $R(r) = c_5 \cdot 1 + c_6 \ln r \Rightarrow R(r) = c_5$



Series solution for Laplace equation in polar coordinates

- Construct series

$$u(r, \theta) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^n [A_n \cos(n\theta) + B_n \sin(n\theta)]$$

- Find constants $A_0, A_1, \dots, B_1, B_2, \dots$ from Dirichlet B.C. $u(a, \theta) = f(\theta)$

$$f(\theta) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^n [A_n \cos(n\theta) + B_n \sin(n\theta)]$$

- Apply orthogonal Fourier series formulas $A_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) d\theta$

$$A_n = \frac{1}{\pi a^n} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \cos(n\theta) d\theta, B_n = \frac{1}{\pi a^n} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \sin(n\theta) d\theta$$

- Gradient of scalar function $f(r, \theta, z)$

$$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{\partial f}{r \partial \theta} \mathbf{e}_\theta + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \mathbf{e}_z = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}, \frac{\partial f}{r \partial \theta}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$$

- Divergence of vector function $\mathbf{V}(r, \theta, z) = (u(r, \theta, z), v(r, \theta, z), w(r, \theta, z))$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (ru) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (v) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (rw) \right] = \lim_{|V| \rightarrow 0} \frac{\oint_V \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{n} dV}{|V|}$$

- Laplacian of scalar function $f(r, \theta)$

$$\Delta f = \nabla^2 f = \nabla \cdot \nabla f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$$



Laplace equation in cylindrical coordinates

- Dirichlet problem: find $u(r, \theta, z)$ in a cylinder of radius a , height H

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = 0 \text{ for } r < a,$$

$$u(a, \theta, z) = f(\theta, z), u(r, \theta, 0) = g(r, \theta), u(r, \theta, H) = h(r, \theta)$$

- Separation of variables: $u(r, \theta, z) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)Z(z) \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{R''}{R} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{R'}{R} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} + \frac{Z''}{Z} = 0$$



Two stages of separation of variables

- Separation of variables: $u(r, \theta, z) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)Z(z) \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{R''}{R} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{R'}{R} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = -\frac{Z''}{Z} = -\alpha^2$$

$$Z'' - \alpha^2 Z = 0 \Rightarrow Z(z) = c_1 \cosh \alpha z + c_2 \sinh \alpha z = c_7 e^{\alpha z} + c_8 e^{-\alpha z}$$

$$\alpha = 0 \Rightarrow Z(z) = c_9 + c_{10} z$$

- Remaining equation

$$\frac{R''}{R} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{R'}{R} = -\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} - \alpha^2 \Rightarrow r^2 \left(\frac{R''}{R} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{R'}{R} + \alpha^2 \right) = -\frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = n^2$$

$$\Theta'' + n^2 \Theta = 0 \Rightarrow \Theta(\theta) = c_3 \cos n\theta + c_4 \sin n\theta, n \in \mathbb{N}_+$$

$$r^2 R'' + r R' + (\alpha^2 r^2 - n^2) R = 0 \Rightarrow R(r) = c_5 J_n(\alpha r) + c_6 Y_n(\alpha r)$$



- Series solution for finite length cylinder with constant Dirichlet conditions on cylinder faces

$$u(r, \theta, z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \cos n\theta + B_n \sin n\theta) J_n(\alpha r)(1 + C_n z)$$

- Series solution for infinite cylinder

$$u(r, \theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \cos n\theta + B_n \sin n\theta) J_n(\alpha r)$$

- General series solution for finite length cylinder

$$u(r, \theta, z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{\alpha} (A_{n,\alpha} \cos n\theta + B_{n,\alpha} \sin n\theta) J_n(\alpha r) (\cosh \alpha z + C_{n,\alpha} \sinh \alpha z)$$