

7.5 Green's Formula. Self-adjoint operators and multidimensional EVP's.

For the 1-D Sturm-Liouville operator

$$L(u) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(p(x) \frac{du}{dx} \right) + qu$$

We obtained two important formulas:

a) Lagrange's identity:

$$uLv - vLu = \frac{d}{dx} \left[p \left(u \frac{dv}{dx} - v \frac{du}{dx} \right) \right]$$

b) Green's formula:

$$\int_a^b [uLv - vLu] dx = p \left(u \frac{dv}{dx} - v \frac{du}{dx} \right) \Big|_a^b$$

For the 2-D or 3-D multidimensional EVP defined by the Laplace operator, $L \equiv \nabla^2$. There are similar formulas:

Divergence Theorem.

Concept of Region:- An open set containing all or some of the points forming its boundary.

Def:- A closed surface $\partial\Omega$ that consists of a finite number of smooth pieces joined together at the boundaries (curves defining boundaries) is called piecewise-smooth surface.

Def:- By a smooth surface S , we mean

$$S: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(u, v), \quad (u, v) \in D.$$

Such that $\vec{r}(u, v)$ is continuously differentiable and its unit normal vector $\hat{n}(\vec{x}_s)$ is continuous on S .

Theorem:- a) Ω is a bounded region.

b) $\partial\Omega$ is the closed piecewise smooth surface of Ω .

c) $F(\vec{x})$ is continuous on $\Omega \cup \partial\Omega$.

d) $F(\vec{x})$ is continuously differentiable in Ω .

e) $\hat{n}(\vec{x}_s)$ is the unit outer normal vector to Ω at $\vec{x}_s$.

Then,

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \vec{F}(\vec{x}) dV = \iint_{\partial\Omega} (\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n})(\vec{x}_s) dS.$$

$$\nabla \cdot (f \vec{G}) = \nabla \cdot (fg_1, fg_2, fg_3) =$$

$$\frac{\partial (fg_1)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial (fg_2)}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial (fg_3)}{\partial z} =$$

$$= f \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} + f \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial y} + f \frac{\partial g_3}{\partial z} + g_1 \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + g_2 \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + g_3 \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$$

$$= \underline{f \nabla \cdot \vec{G} + \vec{G} \cdot \nabla f}.$$

Multidimensional Version of Lagrange's identity:

a)
$$\boxed{u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u = \nabla \cdot (u \nabla v - v \nabla u)} \quad (2.1)$$

b) Green's formula:



2-D:
$$\iint_{\Omega} [u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u] d\tau = \oint_{\partial\Omega} [u \nabla v - v \nabla u] \cdot \hat{n} ds \quad (2.2)$$

Ω is a volume bounded by a sufficiently smooth surface $\partial\Omega$. Also, u and v are continuous together with their first derivatives inside $\Omega \cup \partial\Omega$ and they have conts. Second derivatives in Ω .

3-D:
$$\iiint_{\Omega} [u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u] d\tau = \iint_{\partial\Omega} [u \nabla v - v \nabla u] \cdot \hat{n} ds. \quad (2.3)$$



Derivation of (2.1): *Work on this proof in class*

$$\nabla \cdot (u \nabla v) = u \nabla^2 v + \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \Rightarrow u \nabla^2 v = \nabla \cdot (u \nabla v) - \nabla u \cdot \nabla v$$

$$\nabla \cdot (v \nabla u) = v \nabla^2 u + \nabla v \cdot \nabla u \Rightarrow v \nabla^2 u = \nabla \cdot (v \nabla u) - \nabla v \cdot \nabla u$$

$$u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u = \nabla \cdot (u \nabla v) - \nabla \cdot (v \nabla u)$$

or
$$\boxed{u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u = \nabla \cdot (u \nabla v - v \nabla u)}$$

Derivation of Green's Formula:

3D: Integrating (2.1)

$$\iiint_{\Omega} [u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u] d\vec{x} = \iiint_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot (u \nabla v - v \nabla u) d\vec{x} \quad (2.3)$$

Gauss or Divergence Thm

$$\iint_{\partial\Omega} (u \nabla v - v \nabla u) \cdot \hat{n} ds$$

2D:

$$\iint_{\Omega} (u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u) d\vec{x} = \iint_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot (u \nabla v - v \nabla u) d\vec{x} \quad (2.2)$$

Diverg. thm 2D

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} (u \nabla v - v \nabla u) \cdot \hat{n} dl$$

Notice the following:

i) If u and v and their derivatives are continuous on $\Omega \cup \partial\Omega$.

ii) If they have continuous 2nd derivatives in Ω .

iii) If They satisfy boundary conditions of the regular Sturm-Liouville type:

$$\beta_1 u + \beta_2 \nabla u \cdot \hat{n}(\hat{x}_s) = 0, \quad \hat{x}_s \in \partial\Omega.$$

$$\beta_1, \beta_2 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Then,

$$\iint_{\partial\Omega} (u \nabla v - v \nabla u) \cdot \hat{n} \, ds = 0$$

(Proof in the next page.)

Therefore, (2.3) and (2.2) reduce to

$$\iiint_{\Omega} (u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u) \, d\vec{x} = 0$$

$$\iint_{\Omega} (u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u) \, ds = 0.$$

We have said before, that if u and v satisfy

$$\beta_1 w + \beta_2 \nabla u \cdot \hat{n}(\vec{x}_s) = 0, \quad \vec{x}_s \in \partial\Omega.$$

$$w = u \text{ or } w = v.$$

$$\Rightarrow \iint_{\partial\Omega} (u \nabla v - v \nabla u) \cdot \hat{n} \, ds = 0. \quad (4.1)$$

Proof. -

If ① $\beta_2 = 0$ Dirichlet BC's.
 $\beta_1 \neq 0 \Rightarrow u(\vec{x}_s) = 0, \quad v(\vec{x}_s) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \iint_{\partial\Omega} (u \nabla v - v \nabla u) \cdot \hat{n} \, ds = 0$$

If ② $\beta_2 \neq 0$ $\Rightarrow$ Neumann cond.
 $\beta_1 = 0$ $\nabla u \cdot \hat{n}(\vec{x}_s) = 0$
 $\nabla v \cdot \hat{n}(\vec{x}_s) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \iint_{\partial\Omega} [u \nabla v \cdot \hat{n} - v \nabla u \cdot \hat{n}] \, ds = 0$$

If ③ $\beta_1 \neq 0, \beta_2 \neq 0. \Rightarrow \begin{cases} u = \frac{-\beta_2}{\beta_1} \nabla u \cdot \hat{n} \\ v = \frac{-\beta_2}{\beta_1} \nabla v \cdot \hat{n} \end{cases}$

$$\Rightarrow \iint_{\Omega} [u \nabla v \cdot \hat{n} - v \nabla u \cdot \hat{n}] \, ds =$$

$$= \iint_{\Omega} \left[\left(\frac{-\beta_2}{\beta_1} \nabla u \cdot \hat{n} \right) \nabla v \cdot \hat{n} - \left(\frac{-\beta_2}{\beta_1} \nabla v \cdot \hat{n} \right) \nabla u \cdot \hat{n} \right] \, ds = 0 \quad \text{clearly}$$

work also in BC's. where $\beta_2 \neq 0$ on part of $\partial\Omega$ and $\beta_2 = 0$ on another part.

Summarizing the differential operator

" ∇^2 ", applied to u and v sufficiently smooth on $\Omega \cup \partial\Omega$.

and u and v satisfying BCs of the regular Sturm-Liouville type,

satisfies the equation:

$$\iiint_{\Omega} (u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u) d\vec{x} = 0.$$

So " ∇^2 " is a particular case of Self-adjoint operators that are defined in the next page.

Self-adjoint Operator

Consider a ^{linear} differential operator "L" acting on certain space of functions with given regularity.

$$L : \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Space of} \\ \text{functions} \\ \text{sufficiently} \\ \text{smooth.} \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Another} \\ \text{Space of} \\ \text{functions} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} u(\vec{x}) & \longrightarrow & Lu(\vec{x}) \\ v(\vec{x}) & \longrightarrow & Lv(\vec{x}) \end{array}$$

Where the functions $u(\vec{x})$ and $v(\vec{x})$ are defined in a ^{closed} region $\Omega \cup \partial\Omega$ and they satisfy certain boundary conditions (BCs) on $\partial\Omega$.
 $\downarrow$ interior $\downarrow$ boundary

Definition. The operator L with its corresponding BCs is Self-adjoint if

$$\iiint_{\Omega} (uLv - vLu) dV = 0.$$

Compare "L" Self-adjoint with a symmetric matrix.

Regular Sturm-Liouville Eigenvalue Problem. in 2D or 3D

for Laplace Equation

$$\begin{cases} \nabla^2 u + \lambda u = 0 & \bar{x} \in \Omega. \quad (4.2) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \beta_1 u + \beta_2 \nabla u \cdot \hat{n}(\bar{x}_s) = 0, & \bar{x}_s \in \partial\Omega \quad (4.3) \end{cases}$$

We want to show that eigenfunctions corresponding to different eigenvalues are orthogonal with weight $\sigma=1$.

It means if $\phi_1(\bar{x})$ and $\phi_2(\bar{x})$ satisfy

$$\begin{cases} \nabla^2 \phi_1 + \lambda_1 \phi_1 = 0 \\ \beta_1 \phi_1 + \beta_2 \nabla \phi_1 \cdot \hat{n} = 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} \nabla^2 \phi_2 + \lambda_2 \phi_2 = 0 \\ \beta_1 \phi_2 + \beta_2 \nabla \phi_2 \cdot \hat{n} = 0 \end{cases}$$

then $\iiint_{\Omega} \phi_1(\bar{x}) \phi_2(\bar{x}) d\tau = 0$ if $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$.

Orthogonality

44

Idea: Use Green's Formula.

Proof. - Replacing $u = \phi_1$ and $v = \phi_2$

into the Green's formula

$$\iiint_{\Omega} [\phi_1 \nabla^2 \phi_2 - \phi_2 \nabla^2 \phi_1] dv = \iint_{\partial\Omega} [\phi_1 \nabla \phi_2 - \phi_2 \nabla \phi_1] \cdot \hat{n} ds$$

Now, from previous discussion in pages 3-4, (equ. (4.1))
we know that for S-L regular Type BCs,

$$\iint_{\partial\Omega} [\phi_1 \nabla \phi_2 - \phi_2 \nabla \phi_1] \cdot \hat{n} ds = 0.$$

then,

$$\iiint_{\Omega} [\phi_1 \nabla^2 \phi_2 - \phi_2 \nabla^2 \phi_1] dv = 0$$

or equivalently,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \iiint_{\Omega} [\phi_1 (-\lambda_2 \phi_2) - \phi_2 (-\lambda_1 \phi_1)] dv \\ &= (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \iiint_{\Omega} \phi_1(\vec{x}) \phi_2(\vec{x}) dv \end{aligned}$$

Since $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$, then

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \phi_1(\vec{x}) \phi_2(\vec{x}) dv = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

7.6 Rayleigh Quotient and Laplace's Equation.

Consider the Sturm-Liouville multidimensional equation:

$$\nabla^2 \phi + \lambda \phi = 0, \quad \vec{x} \in \Omega$$

multiplying by ϕ and integrating over Ω .

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \phi \nabla^2 \phi \, d\tau + \iiint_{\Omega} \lambda \phi^2 \, d\tau = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda = \frac{-\iiint_{\Omega} \phi \nabla^2 \phi \, d\tau}{\iiint_{\Omega} \phi^2 \, d\tau}} \quad (5.1)$$

Integration by parts for multidimensional functions:

$$(1-D) \quad \frac{d}{dx} (fg) = f \frac{dg}{dx} + \frac{df}{dx} g$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2-D \text{ or } 3-D) \quad & \text{If } f: \mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ & (x, y, z) \rightarrow f(x, y, z) \end{aligned} \quad \vec{G}: \mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow (g_1(x, y, z), g_2(x, y, z), g_3(x, y, z))$$

$$\nabla \cdot (f \vec{G}) = f \nabla \cdot \vec{G} + \nabla f \cdot \vec{G} \quad (\text{ask for a proof in class})$$

If $f = \phi$ and $\vec{G} = \nabla \phi$, then

$$\boxed{\nabla \cdot (\phi \nabla \phi) = \phi \nabla \cdot (\nabla \phi) + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \phi = \phi \nabla^2 \phi + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \phi}$$

or

$$\boxed{\nabla \cdot (\phi \nabla \phi) = \phi \nabla^2 \phi + |\nabla \phi|^2} \quad (6.1)$$

Solving for $\phi \nabla^2 \phi$

$$\phi \nabla^2 \phi = \nabla \cdot (\phi \nabla \phi) - |\nabla \phi|^2$$

Therefore, $\iiint_{\Omega} \phi \nabla^2 \phi \, dv \stackrel{\text{I.B.P.}}{=} \iiint_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot (\phi \nabla \phi) \, dv - \iiint_{\Omega} |\nabla \phi|^2 \, dv$

Green's Theorem

$$\iint_{\partial \Omega} \phi \nabla \phi \cdot \hat{n} \, ds - \iiint_{\Omega} |\nabla \phi|^2 \, dv$$

Substitution in (5.1).

$$\boxed{\lambda = \frac{-\iint_{\partial \Omega} \phi \nabla \phi \cdot \hat{n} \, ds + \iiint_{\Omega} |\nabla \phi|^2 \, dv}{\iiint_{\Omega} \phi^2 \, dv}} \quad (6.1)$$

Application of Rayleigh Quotient

7

Theorem. The EVP

$$\nabla^2 \phi + \lambda \phi = 0, \quad \vec{x} \in \Omega \quad (7.1)$$

with Dirichlet
B.C.

$$\phi(\vec{x}_s) = 0, \quad \vec{x}_s \in \partial\Omega. \quad (7.2)$$

has only positive eigenvalues.

Substituting the B.C. $\phi=0$ in (6.1). results

$$\lambda = \frac{\iiint_{\Omega} |\nabla \phi|^2 d\tau}{\iiint_{\Omega} \phi^2 dx} \geq 0$$

If $\lambda=0$, then $\nabla \phi = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = 0, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = 0$

$\Rightarrow \phi(\vec{x}) \equiv K(\text{const})$, but $\phi(\vec{x}_s) = 0, \vec{x}_s \in \partial\Omega$

$\Rightarrow \phi(\vec{x}) \equiv 0. \Rightarrow \phi(\vec{x})$ is not an eigenfunction and $\lambda=0$
cannot be an eigenvalue.

Therefore, the BVP:

$$\begin{cases} \nabla^2 \phi = 0, & \text{on } \Omega \\ \phi(\vec{x}_s) = 0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

has only the trivial solution.

Corollary.

The BVP $\begin{cases} \nabla^2 W = 0, & \text{on } \Omega \end{cases} \quad (8.1)$

$\begin{cases} W(\vec{x}_s) = 0, & \vec{x}_s \in \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \quad (8.2)$

has only the trivial solution.

Proof.

The BVP (8.1)-(8.2) and (7.1)-(7.2) with $\lambda = 0$ are identical. Therefore only possible soln. for (8.1)-(8.2) is

$$W(x) \equiv 0.$$

Corollary. The BVP for $u \in C^2(\Omega) \cap C(\bar{\Omega})$.

Satisfying $\begin{cases} \nabla^2 u(\vec{x}) = f(\vec{x}), & \vec{x} \in \Omega \end{cases} \quad (8.3)$

$\begin{cases} u(\vec{x}_s) = g(\vec{x}_s), & \vec{x} \in \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (8.4)$

has a unique solution.

Proof. If $u_1(\vec{x})$ and $u_2(\vec{x})$ are two solutions of (8.3)-(8.4) then,

$w(\vec{x}) = u_1(\vec{x}) - u_2(\vec{x})$ is a solution of (8.1)-(8.2)

$$u_1(x) - u_2(x) \equiv 0 \Rightarrow u_1(\vec{x}) = u_2(\vec{x}) \text{ in } \Omega.$$

Compare with similar result for invertible matrices $A_{n \times n}$ in linear algebra

$$A\hat{x} = \hat{b} \rightarrow A\hat{x} = \vec{0} \rightarrow A\hat{x} = \lambda\hat{x}. \quad \text{Relationship btw them?}$$

$$f(x, y) \sim \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{nm} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}. \quad (7.4.11)$$

5. **Orthogonality of eigenfunctions.** We will show that the multidimensional orthogonality of the eigenfunctions, as expressed by (7.4.5) for any two different eigenfunctions, can be used to determine the generalized Fourier coefficients in (7.4.4).¹ We will do this in exactly the way we did for one-dimensional Sturm–Liouville eigenfunction expansions. We simply multiply (7.4.4) by ϕ_{λ_i} and integrate over the entire region R :

$$\iint_R f \phi_{\lambda_i} dx dy = \sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda} \iint_R \phi_{\lambda} \phi_{\lambda_i} dx dy. \quad (7.4.12)$$

Since the eigenfunctions are all orthogonal to each other (with weight 1 because $\nabla^2 \phi + \lambda \phi = 0$), it follows that

$$\iint_R f \phi_{\lambda_i} dx dy = a_{\lambda_i} \iint_R \phi_{\lambda_i}^2 dx dy, \quad (7.4.13)$$

or, equivalently,

$$a_{\lambda_i} = \frac{\iint_R f \phi_{\lambda_i} dx dy}{\iint_R \phi_{\lambda_i}^2 dx dy}. \quad (7.4.14)$$

There is no difficulty in forming (7.4.14) from (7.4.13) since the denominator of (7.4.14) is necessarily positive.

For the special case that occurs for a rectangle with fixed zero boundary conditions, (7.4.7), the generalized Fourier coefficients a_{nm} are given by (7.4.14):

$$a_{nm} = \frac{\int_0^H \int_0^L f(x, y) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H} dx dy}{\int_0^H \int_0^L \sin^2 \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin^2 \frac{m\pi y}{H} dx dy}. \quad (7.4.15)$$

The integral in the denominator may be easily shown to equal $(L/2)(H/2)$ by calculating two one-dimensional integrals; in this way we rederive (7.3.30). In this case, (7.4.11), the generalized Fourier coefficient a_{nm} can be evaluated in two equivalent ways:

- (a) Using one two-dimensional orthogonality formula for the eigenfunctions of $\nabla^2 \phi + \lambda \phi = 0$
- (b) Using two one-dimensional orthogonality formulas

¹If there is more than one eigenfunction corresponding to the same eigenvalue, then we assume that the eigenfunctions have been made orthogonal (if necessary by the Gram–Schmidt process).

- 4b. **Convergence.** As with any Sturm–Liouville eigenvalue problem (see Section 5.10), a *finite* series of the eigenfunctions of $\nabla^2\phi + \lambda\phi = 0$ may be used to approximate a function $f(x, y)$. In particular, we could show that if we measure error in the mean-square sense,

$$E \equiv \iint_R \left(f - \sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda} \phi_{\lambda} \right)^2 dx dy, \quad (7.4.16)$$

with weight function 1, then this mean-square error is minimized by the coefficients a_{λ} being chosen by (7.4.14), the generalized Fourier coefficients. It is known that the approximation improves as the number of terms increases. Furthermore, $E \rightarrow 0$ as all the eigenfunctions are included. We say that the series $\sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda} \phi_{\lambda}$ **converges in the mean** to f .

EXERCISES 7.4

- 7.4.1. Consider the eigenvalue problem

$$\nabla^2\phi + \lambda\phi = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x}(0, y) = 0, \quad \phi(x, 0) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x}(L, y) = 0, \quad \phi(x, H) = 0.$$

- *(a) Show that there is a doubly infinite set of eigenvalues.
- (b) If $L = H$, show that most eigenvalues have more than one eigenfunction.
- (c) Show that the eigenfunctions are orthogonal in a two-dimensional sense using two one-dimensional orthogonality relations.

- 7.4.2. Without using the explicit solution of (7.4.7), show that $\lambda \geq 0$ from the Rayleigh quotient, (7.4.6).

- 7.4.3. If necessary, see Section 7.5:

- (a) Derive that $\iint (u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u) dx dy = \oint (u \nabla v - v \nabla u) \cdot \hat{n} ds$.
- (b) From part (a), derive (7.4.5).

- 7.4.4. Derive (7.4.6). If necessary, see Section 7.6. [Hint: Multiply (7.4.1) by ϕ and integrate.]

7.5 GREEN'S FORMULA, SELF-ADJOINT OPERATORS, AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL EIGENVALUE PROBLEMS

Introduction. In this section we prove some of the properties of the multidimensional eigenvalue problem:

$$\nabla^2\phi + \lambda\phi = 0$$

(7.5.1)