

**SEMESTER-IV**  
**LECTURE NOTES ON**  
**PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS**  
**<sup>1ST</sup> PART**

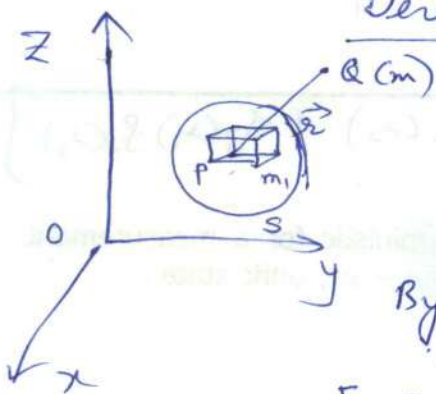
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REFERENCE BOOK: **PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL  
EQUATIONS BY SANKARA RAO**

# Derivation of Laplace Eqn

(1)



Let  $\exists$  2 particles  $m$  at  $Q$  and  $m_1$  at  $P$

$$\vec{PQ} = \vec{r}$$

By Newton's gravitational law,

$$F = |\vec{F}| = G \frac{m_1 m}{r^2} \quad \text{where } r = |\vec{r}|$$

$G \rightarrow$  gravitational constant

If  $m = 1$  and  $\vec{PQ} = \vec{r}$  and  $G = 1$  then the force at  $Q$  due to mass  $m_1$  at  $P$  is given by

$$\vec{F} = -\frac{m_1}{r^2} \frac{\vec{r}}{r} = -\frac{m_1}{r^3} \vec{r} = \vec{\nabla} \left( \frac{m_1}{r} \right)$$

which is called intensity of the gravitational force. (-ve sign as force is attractive in nature)  $\text{---} \textcircled{1}$

Now, Let a particle of unit mass moves under the attraction of a particle of mass  $m_1$  at  $P$  from  $\infty$  to  $Q$ .

$$\therefore \text{work done by } \vec{F} \text{ is } = \int_{\infty}^r \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{\infty}^r \vec{\nabla} \left( \frac{m_1}{r} \right) \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$= m_1 \int_{\infty}^r \left( \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \left( \frac{r^{-1}}{r} \right) \cdot (dx \hat{i} + dy \hat{j} + dz \hat{k})$$

$$= m_1 \int_{\infty}^r \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (r^{-1}) dx + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (r^{-1}) dy + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (r^{-1}) dz \right)$$

$$W = m_1 \int_{\infty}^r d(r^{-1}) = \frac{m_1}{r} \quad \text{---} \textcircled{2}$$

This work done ( $W$ ) is defined to be the potential  $V$  at  $Q$  due to particle at  $P$  and conventionally denoted as

$$V = -W = -\frac{m_1}{r} \quad \text{---} \textcircled{3}$$

eqn  $\textcircled{1}$  becomes  $\vec{F} = -\vec{\nabla} V$ .

### Case-I.

Now considering a system of particles of masses  $m_i$  at dist  $r_i$  ( $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ ) from  $Q$ , then the force of attraction / mass at  $Q$  is  $\textcircled{0}$  -



$$\vec{F} = \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla \left( \frac{m_i}{r_i} \right) = \nabla \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_i}{r_i} \right) \quad (2)$$

∴ work done by the force acting on the particle is:-

$$V = - \int_{\infty}^r \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_i}{r_i} \quad (\text{Using eqn } (2))$$

$$\therefore \nabla^2 V = \nabla \cdot (\nabla V) = \nabla \cdot \nabla \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_i}{r_i} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla^2 \left( \frac{m_i}{r_i} \right) = 0 \quad (\text{in } r_i)$$

$$\text{where } \nabla^2 = \nabla \cdot \nabla = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \quad (4)$$

Case-II Continuous distribution of matter of density  $\rho$  in a volume  $\tau$ .

Here,  $V(x, y, z) =$  Potential at a point  $Q(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  due to elementary mass at any pt  $P(x, y, z)$  inside the volume  $\tau$  is given by

$$V(x, y, z) = \iiint_{\tau} \frac{\rho(x_1, y_1, z_1)}{r} d\tau \quad \text{where } r = |\vec{r}| = \left[ (x-x_1)^2 + (y-y_1)^2 + (z-z_1)^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

$$\therefore \nabla^2 V = \nabla \cdot (\nabla V) = \iiint_{\tau} \nabla^2 \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \rho(x_1, y_1, z_1) d\tau \quad (\because (x_1, y_1, z_1) \text{ fixed; constant point})$$

$$= 0$$

$$\therefore \nabla^2 \left( \frac{1}{\left[ (x-x_1)^2 + (y-y_1)^2 + (z-z_1)^2 \right]^{1/2}} \right) = \nabla_1^2 \left( \frac{1}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{1/2}} \right)$$

$$\text{(where } \nabla_1 = \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \text{)}$$

$$= \nabla_1^2 \left( \frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$= 0$$

$$\therefore \nabla^2 V = 0 \quad [\text{Laplace Eqn}]$$

Now proving  $\nabla^2 \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) = 0$ .

$$\nabla^2 \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) = \nabla \cdot \left( \nabla \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$\text{Consider } \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left( (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \frac{2x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{3x^2}{2(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{5/2}} = \frac{2x^2 - y^2 - z^2}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{5/2}}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) = \frac{2y^2 - x^2 - z^2}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{5/2}}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) = \frac{2z^2 - x^2 - y^2}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{5/2}}$$

$$\therefore \nabla^2 \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) = \frac{2x^2 - y^2 - z^2 + 2y^2 - x^2 - z^2 + 2z^2 - x^2 - y^2}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{5/2}} = 0$$

## 4.1 OCCURRENCE OF THE WAVE EQUATION

One of the most important and typical homogeneous hyperbolic differential equations is the wave equation. It is of the form

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \nabla^2 u$$

where  $c$  is the wave speed. This differential equation is used in many branches of Physics, Engineering and is seen in many situations such as transverse vibrations of a string, a membrane, longitudinal vibrations in a bar, propagation of sound waves, electromagnetic waves, sea waves, elastic waves in solids, and surface waves as in earthquakes. The solution of a wave equation is called a *wave function*.

An example for inhomogeneous wave equation is

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \nabla^2 u = F$$

where  $F$  is a given function of spatial variables and time. In physical problems  $F$  represents an external driving force such as gravity force. Another related equation is

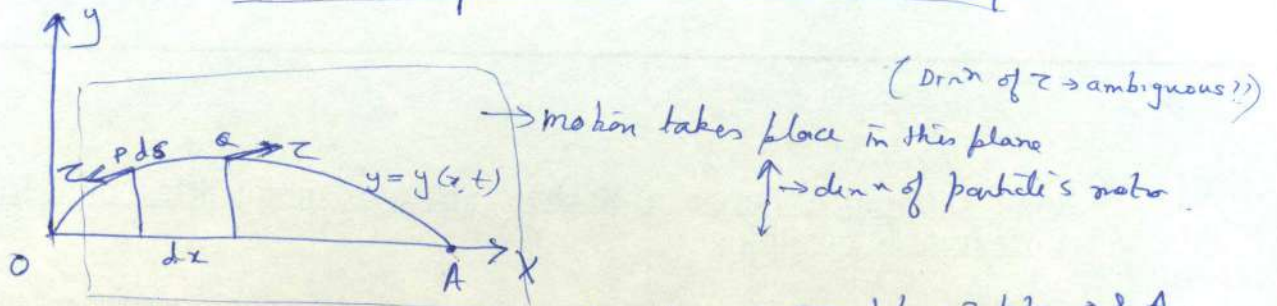
$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + 2\gamma \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - c^2 \nabla^2 u = F$$

where  $\gamma$  is a real positive constant. This equation is called a damped wave equation. The term, the amplitude of which decreases exponentially as  $t$  increases. In Section 4.2 we derive the partial differential equation describing the transverse vibration of a string.



(4) (3 → Pg 187 § 1.1)

## Derivation of one-dimensional wave eq<sup>n</sup>



Let a flexible string is stretched under tension  $\tau$  b/w 2 pts  $O$  &  $A$ .

Assumptions ① Motion takes place in one plane only & in this plane each particle moves in a dir<sup>n</sup>  $\perp^r$  to the eqm position of the string.

②  $\tau$  is constant. ③ Gravitational force is neglected as compared with  $\tau$ . ④ Slope of deflection curve is small.

Let  $O, A \rightarrow$  2 fixed pts of the string  $A \equiv (L, 0)$ .  $O, A$  lies along the  $x$ -axis in its eqm position.

[~~idea~~ <sup>theory</sup> used: -  $\delta$  (Hamiltonian) = 0  $\Rightarrow$  Hamiltonian  $\rightarrow$  stationary. For Hamiltonian is reqd  $T - V$  i.e.  $T, V$ . So  $T, V$  to be calculated & for  $V \rightarrow$  elongation of the string reqd]

Let  $PQ$  be an infinitesimal segment  $PQ$  of the string.

Let  $\rho \rightarrow$  mass/length of the string.

If the string is set vibrating in the  $xy$  plane,  $y \rightarrow$  subsequent displacement of any pt  $P$  of the string from the eqm position of the string (i.e.  $x$ -axis)

Clearly  $y \equiv y(x, t)$ .

Now calculating elementary elongation  $dL$

Under  $\tau$ ,  $dx$  stretched to  $ds$ . Now  $ds = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2} \approx \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2\right] dx$  (Taylor's expansion)

$\therefore$  elementary elongation  $dL = ds - dx$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2 dx$$

Pot Energy/Work Done Calculation

$\therefore$  work done by this element  $dL$  against  $\tau = \frac{1}{2} \tau \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2 dx$

$\therefore$  total work done  $W$  (for whole string) is  $= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \tau \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2 dx$  — (1)

$\therefore V \rightarrow$  Potential energy of the string  $= W = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \tau \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2 dx$

Now, Kinetic energy of the string  $(T) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \tau \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)^2 dx$  — (2)  
 $\hookrightarrow$  (velocity)<sup>2</sup>.



Using ~~Hamilton's~~ Hamilton's Principle  $\delta \int_{t_0}^{t_1} (T - V) dt = 0$  (5)

$\Rightarrow \int_{t_0}^{t_1} (T - V) dt$  is stationary.

$\therefore \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \left[ \rho \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)^2 - \tau \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)^2 \right] dx dt$  is stationary.  $\rho$  &  $\tau$  is of the form

$\iint F(x, y, t, y_x, y_t) dx dt$ . ( $x, t \Rightarrow$  indep variables)

By Euler-Ostrogradsky eqn,

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial y_t} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial y_x} \right) = 0 \quad (3)$$

where  $F = \frac{1}{2} \rho \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)^2 - \tau \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)^2$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial F}{\partial y_t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial y_t} \right) - 0 = \rho \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y_x} = \tau \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right), \text{ and } \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = 0.$$

$\therefore$  eqn (3) becomes

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \rho \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \tau \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right) = 0 \quad (4)$$

If the string is homogeneous, then  $\rho$  &  $\tau$  are constants

$\therefore$  eqn (4) becomes

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = \tau \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} \quad (5)$$

where  $c^2 = \tau / \rho$

### 4.3 SOLUTION OF ONE-DIMENSIONAL WAVE EQUATION BY CANONICAL REDUCTION

The one-dimensional wave equation is

$$u_{tt} - c^2 u_{xx} = 0 \quad (4.6)$$

Choosing the characteristic lines

$$\xi = x - ct, \quad \eta = x + ct \quad (4.7)$$

the chain rule of partial differentiation gives

$$u_x = u_\xi \xi_x + u_\eta \eta_x = u_\xi + u_\eta$$

$$u_t = u_\xi \xi_t + u_\eta \eta_t = c(u_\eta - u_\xi)$$

In the operator notation we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} = c \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \right)$$

Thus, we get

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \right)^2 u = u_{\xi\xi} + 2u_{\xi\eta} + u_{\eta\eta} \quad (4.8)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 (u_{\xi\xi} - 2u_{\xi\eta} + u_{\eta\eta}) \quad (4.9)$$

Substituting Eqs. (4.8) and (4.9) into Eq. (4.6), we obtain

$$4u_{\xi\eta} = 0 \quad (4.10)$$

Integrating, we get

$$u(\xi, \eta) = \phi(\xi) + \psi(\eta),$$

where  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are arbitrary functions. Replacing  $\xi$  and  $\eta$  as defined in Eq. (4.7), we have the general solution of the wave equation (4.6) in the form

$$u(x, t) = \phi(x - ct) + \psi(x + ct) \quad (4.11)$$



### Interpreting Soln

$$u(x, t) = \phi(x - ct) \quad \text{or} \quad u(x, t) = \phi(x + ct)$$

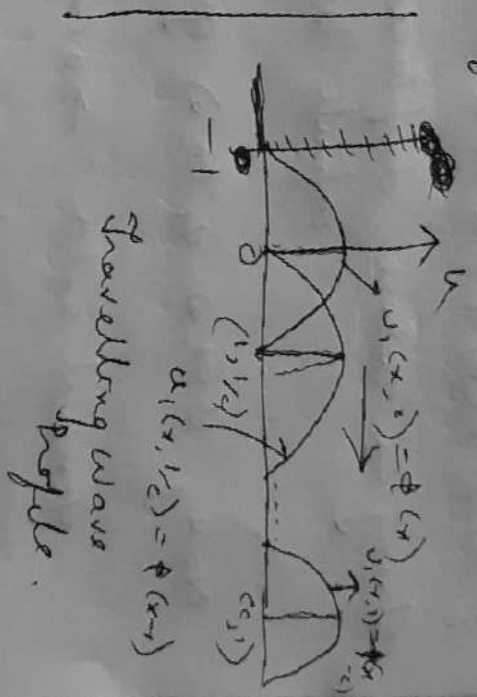
↳ Represents a travelling wave which is moving to the right (the dir<sup>n</sup> of x-axis) with speed  $c$ . Its slope given by function  $\phi$ . <sup>steady</sup> slope remains unchanged (as  $u_1 = \phi(x - ct)$ ) for all time  $t$ . ~~only the~~ same profile (given by  $\phi$ ) shifts to the right in course of time.

But  $t = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \dots$

$$u_1(x, 0) = \phi(x)$$

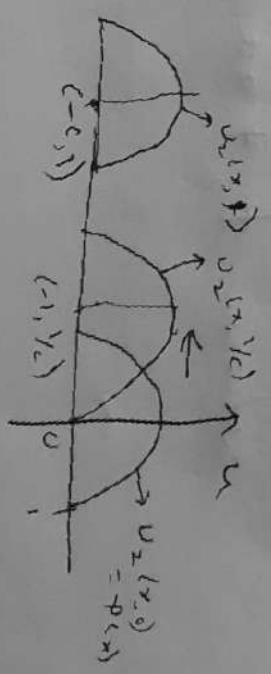
$$u_1(x, \frac{1}{2}) = \phi(x - c)$$

$$u_1(x, 1) = \phi(x - 2c)$$



### Similarity

$u_2 = \phi(x + ct)$   
 Represents a wave travelling along -ve dir<sup>n</sup> of X-axis (towards left)



④

Initial Value Problem: D'Alembert's soln

Cauchy type

$$\rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} U_{tt} - c^2 U_{xx} = 0 \quad - \infty < x < \infty, t \geq 0 \\ \text{Initial condition: } U(x, 0) = \eta(x); U_t(x, 0) = v(x) \end{array} \right. \begin{array}{l} \text{--- (1)} \\ \text{--- (2)} \end{array}$$

Curves  $U(x, 0)$ ,  $U_t(x, 0)$  on which the initial data  $\eta(x)$  and  $v(x)$  are prescribed are  $x$ -axis

$\eta(x)$  &  $v(x) \rightarrow$  2 times continuously diff'ble.

String  $\rightarrow$  whose displacement given by  $(x, t)$  has infinite length.

Now,  $U(x, 0)$   $U_t(x, 0)$  give <sup>initial</sup> displacement & velocity

General soln:  $\rightarrow U(x, t) = \phi(x+ct) + \psi(x-ct)$

where  $\phi, \psi$  are arbitrary functions. --- (3)

$$\therefore U_t(x, 0) = v[\phi'(x) - \psi'(x)] = \eta(x) \quad (\text{by } \textcircled{2}) - (3)$$

$$\text{Also } \phi(x) + \psi(x) = \eta(x) \quad (\text{by } \textcircled{2}) - (4)$$

Integrating eqn (3) we have

$$\phi(x) - \psi(x) = \frac{1}{c} \int_0^x v(\xi) d\xi. \quad - (5)$$



Adding & subtracting eqn (5) & eqn (4)

$$\phi(x) = \frac{\eta(x)}{2} + \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^x v(\xi) d\xi \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

$$\psi(x) = \frac{\eta(x)}{2} - \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^x v(\xi) d\xi. \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

Using (6) & (7) in eqn (3) we get; ~~suppl. adm.~~

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \eta(x+ct) + \eta(x-ct) \right] + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} v(\xi) d\xi.$$

D'Alembert's solution ~~of~~ of one-dimensional

wave Eq<sup>n</sup>.

Clearly, if string is released from rest i.e.  $u_t(x, 0) = 0$   
i.e.,  $v(x) = c$