

IRREGULAR MOVEMENT OF GROUND WATERS  
WITH EVAPORATION

N. N. Kochina

The problem of variation in the level of ground waters between two vertical channels is examined, taking into account the evaporation, which is nonlinearly dependent on the level of the ground waters. The problem is reduced to integration of a diffusion equation with a right-hand side which is nonlinearly dependent on the unknown function and is solved by a method of successive approximations. When a certain inequality is achieved, which depends on the magnitudes entering the conditions of the problem, the method of successive approximations converges.

We will examine a problem of variation in the level of ground waters between two vertical channels, which are at a distance  $L$  from each other, taking evaporation into account. We will suppose that the intensity of evaporation of  $\sigma f(h)$  is a given nonlinear function which is continuous with its derivative. We will also consider that at the initial moment of time the water levels in the channels suddenly become equal to  $H_1$  and  $H_2$ .

This problem is reduced to integration of the diffusion equation with the nonlinear right-hand part

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} + f(h) \quad \left( a^2 = \frac{\nu H_*}{\sigma} \right) \quad (1)$$

boundary conditions

$$h(0, t) = H_1, \quad h(L, t) = H_2 \quad (2)$$

and the initial condition

$$h(x, 0) = H_0, \quad (0 < x < L) \quad (3)$$

Here  $h$  is the level of the ground waters,  $\sigma$  is the inadequacy of saturation or water delivery,  $H_*$  is the average depth of the ground flow, and  $\nu$  is the filtration coefficient.

For a particular form of the function  $f(h)$  the problem described by Eqs. (1)-(3) is examined in [1].

Hence it is assumed that the function  $f(h)$  is constant or depends linearly on the difference  $h-h_0$  if  $h > h_0$ , where  $h_0$  is a certain critical level of ground waters, and if the ground waters occur sufficiently deeply ( $h < h_0$ ), then  $f(h) \equiv 0$  (this can be neglected with evaporation).

We will assume below that the level of the ground waters exceeds the critical level  $h_0$  ( $h > h_0$ ).

Let  $h_0(x)$  be the steady-state solution of Eq. (1) with boundary conditions (2), i.e., the solution of the problem

$$a^2 \frac{d^2 h_0}{dx^2} + f(h_0) = 0, \quad h_0(0) = H_1, \quad h_0(L) = H_2 \quad (4)$$

---

Moscow. Translated from Zhurnal Prikladnoi Mekhaniki i Tekhnicheskoi Fiziki, No. 4, pp. 102-105, July-August, 1970. Original article submitted April 8, 1970.

© 1973 Consultants Bureau, a division of Plenum Publishing Corporation, 227 West 17th Street, New York, N. Y. 10011. All rights reserved. This article cannot be reproduced for any purpose whatsoever without permission of the publisher. A copy of this article is available from the publisher for \$15.00.

It is easily seen that the function  $h_0(x)$  is determined by the relation

$$x = \pm \int_{H_1}^{h_0} \frac{du}{\sqrt{c - J(u)}} \quad \left( J(u) = \frac{2}{a^2} \int_{H_1}^u f(v) dv \right) \quad (5)$$

where  $c$  is the root of the equation

$$L = \pm \int_{H_1}^{H_2} \frac{du}{\sqrt{c - J(u)}} \quad (6)$$

Introducing a new function  $z$  for  $h(x, t)$ :

$$h(x, t) = h_0(x) + z(x, t) \quad (7)$$

on considering (4), we reduce the problem (1) to (3) to the following problem in the same region  $0 < x < L$ :

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} + f[h_0(x) + z] - f[h_0(x)] \quad (8)$$

$$z(0, t) = z(L, t) = 0, \quad z(x, 0) = H_0 - h_0(x) \quad (9)$$

The solution of this problem will be sought by a method of successive approximations.

The following inequalities are established:

$$|f(u)| \leq M, \quad |f'(u)| \leq M \quad (10)$$

We demonstrate the convergence of the method of successive approximations in the case of

$$2/3 ML^2 / a^2 = q < 1 \quad (11)$$

Designating for brevity

$$\Phi(z, x) = f[h_0(x) + z] - f[h_0(x)], \quad \Omega(x) = H_0 - h_0(x) \quad (12)$$

we examine the succession of the approximations  $z_n(x, t)$  determined on considering (8) and (9) by the relationships

$$\frac{\partial z_{n+1}}{\partial t} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 z_{n+1}}{\partial x^2} + \Phi(z_n, x), \quad z_{n+1}(0, t) = z_{n+1}(L, t) = 0 \\ z_{n+1}(x, 0) = \Omega(x) \quad (13)$$

We will find the solution of the linear problem (13) in the form of the summation

$$z_{n+1} = u + v_{n+1} \quad (14)$$

Here  $u$  is the solution of the diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0 \\ u(x, 0) = \Omega(x) \quad (15)$$

and  $v_{n+1}$  is the solution of the inhomogeneous equation with the homogeneous boundary and initial conditions

$$\frac{\partial v_{n+1}}{\partial t} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 v_{n+1}}{\partial x^2} + \Phi(z_n, x), \quad v_{n+1}(0, t) = v_{n+1}(L, t) = 0 \\ v_{n+1}(x, 0) = 0 \quad (16)$$

We will look for the solution  $u$  of Eq. (15) with boundary conditions in the form

$$u = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} C_k \exp \frac{-\pi^2 a^2 k^2 t}{L^2} \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L} \quad (17)$$

Here the coefficients  $C_k$  are determined from the initial condition (15). We obtain

$$C_k = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \Omega(x) \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L} dx \quad (18)$$

The function  $v_{n+1}$  will be sought in the form of the series

$$v_{n+1} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} D_k^{(n)}(t) \exp \frac{-\pi^2 a^2 k^2 t}{L^2} \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L} \quad (19)$$

It is seen from this formula that the boundary conditions (16) are satisfied. It follows from the initial conditions (16) that the unknown functions  $D_k^{(n)}(t)$  must fulfill the conditions

$$D_k^{(n)}(0) = 0 \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots) \quad (20)$$

We will expand the function  $\Phi(z_n, x)$  into the Fourier sine series

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k^{(n)}(t) \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L}, \quad f_k^{(n)}(t) = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \Phi[z_n(y, t), y] \sin \frac{\pi k y}{L} dy \quad (21)$$

Substituting into Eq. (16) the series (19) and (21), we obtain

$$\frac{dD_k^{(n)}}{dt} = f_k^{(n)}(t) \exp \frac{\pi^2 a^2 k^2 t}{L^2} \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots) \quad (22)$$

Integrating Eq. (22) and taking into account the condition (20), we find

$$D_k^{(n)}(t) = \int_0^t f_k^{(n)}(\tau) \exp \frac{\pi^2 a^2 k^2 \tau}{L^2} d\tau \quad (23)$$

Now, substituting Eq. (23) in Eq. (19) and taking the expression (21) into account for  $f_k^{(n)}(t)$ , we find the final equation for determining the function  $v_{(n+1)}(x, t)$ :

$$v_{n+1}(x, t) = \frac{2}{L} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \int_0^t \int_0^L \Phi[z_n(y, \tau), y] \exp \frac{-\pi^2 a^2 k^2 (t-\tau)}{L^2} \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L} \sin \frac{\pi k y}{L} dy d\tau \quad (24)$$

It is easy to see that the series (24) converges uniformly (its general term does not exceed the magnitude  $4ML^2/\pi^2 a^2 k^2$ ).

Assuming that the  $n$ th-approximation  $z_n(x, t)$  is known,  $(n+1)$ th approximation will be determined by Eqs. (14), (17), (18), and (24) using the designations (12).

We will demonstrate that all the approximations  $v_n(x, t)$  are limited by the same constant.

On considering (10), the inequality follows from (24) (the range of the continuous functions  $C$  is examined):

$$\|v_{n+1}(x, t)\| \leq q, \quad q = \frac{4MSL^2}{\pi^2 a^2} \left( S = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \right) \quad (25)$$

As is already known [2], the sum  $S = (1/6)\pi^2$ . Consequently (11) results from Eq. (25).

We will demonstrate the convergence of the method of successive approximations in the case  $q < 1$ .

For the difference of two consequent approximations, we obtain from (24) the following expression:

$$v_{n+1}(x, t) - v_n(x, t) = \frac{2}{L} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \int_0^t \int_0^L \{ \Phi[z_n(y, \tau), y] - \Phi[z_{n-1}(y, \tau), y] \} \times \exp \frac{-\pi^2 a^2 k^2 (t-\tau)}{L^2} \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L} \sin \frac{\pi k y}{L} dy d\tau \quad (26)$$

According to the mean value theorem,

$$\Phi[z_n(y, \tau), y] - \Phi[z_{n-1}(y, \tau), y] = \Phi'_\theta[\theta, y] (z_n(y, \tau) - z_{n-1}(y, \tau)) \quad (27)$$

where  $\theta$  is situated between  $z_{n-1}$  and  $z_n$ . From (27), (26), and (10) and also using (14), we consequently find

$$\|v_{n+1} - v_n\| \leq q \|z_n - z_{n-1}\|, \quad \|v_{n+1} - v_n\| \leq q \|v_n - v_{n-1}\| \quad (28)$$

From (28) it is seen that in the case  $q < 1$ , the series converges uniformly. The evaluation

$$\|v_{n+1} - v_n\| \leq q^n \|v_1 - v_0\|, \quad \|z_{n+1} - z_n\| \leq q^n \|z_1 - z_0\| \quad (29)$$

follows from the inequalities (28).

The level of the ground waters  $h(x, t)$  is determined on considering (7), (14), and (24) by the relationship

$$h(x, t) = h_0(x) + u(x, t) + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} v_n(x, t) \quad (30)$$

where  $u(x, t)$  is given by the relationships (17) and (18) and  $v_{n+1}(x, t)$  is given by Eq. (24).

It is easily seen that if the intensity of evaporation is a constant magnitude  $f(h) = -\alpha$ , then the depth of the ground flow  $h(x, t)$  is represented by the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned} h(x, t) &= h_0(x) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \exp \frac{-\pi^2 a^2 k^2 t}{L^2} \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L} \\ h_0(x) &= \frac{\alpha}{2a^2} x^2 + \left( \frac{H_2 - H_1}{L} - \frac{\alpha L}{2a^2} \right) x + H_1 \\ a_k &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left\{ \frac{H_0 - H_1 + (-1)^k (H_2 - H_0)}{k} + \frac{\alpha L^2 [1 - (-1)^k]}{a^2 k^3} \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Now let  $f(h) = -\beta h$  (the intensity of evaporation is a linear function of the depth of the ground flow, calculated from the bottom of the reservoir).

Using the Eqs. (17), (24), (5), (12), and (18) and approaching the limit in Eq. (30), we find the relationship between the level of ground waters and  $x$  and  $t$ :

$$\begin{aligned} h(x, t) &= h_0(x) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k \exp \left[ - \left( \beta + \frac{\pi^2 a^2 k^2}{L^2} \right) t \right] \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L} \\ h_0(x) &= \frac{H_1 \operatorname{sh} \lambda (L-x) + H_2 \operatorname{sh} \lambda x}{\operatorname{sh} \lambda L} \quad \left( \lambda = \frac{\sqrt{\beta}}{a} \right) \\ b_k &= \frac{2}{\pi k} \left\{ H_0 - H_1 + (-1)^k (H_2 - H_0) + \frac{\beta [H_1 - (-1)^k H_2]}{\beta + \pi^2 a^2 k^2 / L^2} \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

The direct integration of Eq. (1), in which  $f(h) = -\beta h$ , with boundary conditions (2) and the initial condition (3) leads to the same result (32), which is known in the theory of filtration.

#### LITERATURE CITED

1. N. N. Kochina, "A solution of the diffusion equation with a nonlinear right-hand part," *Zh. Prikl. Mekhan. i Tekh. Fiz.*, No. 4 (1969).
2. I. S. Gradshteyn and I. M. Ryzhik, *Tables of Integrals, Sums, Series, and Products* [in Russian], Fizmatgiz, Moscow (1962).