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SOLUTION OF BOUNDARY-VALUE PROBLEMS OF
HEAT CONDUCTION FOR CYLINDRICAL REGIONS
WITH NONCIRCULAR BOUNDARIES

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We employ the principle of superposition to obtain the solution of stationary heat-conduction problems for cylindrical regions with a noncircular boundary.

We consider the problem of the stationary temperature distribution in an infinite cylinder with a non-circular contour

$$\rho = f(\theta), \quad (1)$$

where ρ , θ , and z are cylindrical coordinates (the z axis coincides with the axis of the cylinder). We assume the cylinder contour to be convex and smooth [the derivative $f'(\theta)$ is continuous]. The known surface temperature is constant along the contour; along a generator of the cylinder it varies as $\cos nz$.

Thus, we solve the following three-dimensional boundary-value problem of the theory of heat conduction: Find a function $u(\rho, \theta, z)$ satisfying Laplace's equation

$$\Delta u = 0 \quad (2)$$

and the boundary condition

$$u|_{\rho=f(\theta)} = \cos nz \quad (n = 1, 2, \dots). \quad (3)$$

To obtain such a solution we use the principle of superposition (see [1]). In the space of the coordinates x , y , and z we select a new system of coordinates X , Y , and z , which depends on the parameter λ and is defined by the expressions

$$\begin{cases} X = x \cos \lambda + y \sin \lambda, \\ Y = -x \sin \lambda + y \cos \lambda, \\ z = z. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

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In this variable coordinate system we obtain a solution of the following two-dimensional boundary-value problem: find a function $v(X, z)$, satisfying the equation

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) v = 0 \quad (5)$$

in the infinite strip $X = \pm a$, subject to boundary conditions analogous to the conditions (3), namely,

$$v_{,X=\pm a} = \cos nz. \quad (6)$$

Using the Fourier method, we readily find that

$$v(X, z) = \frac{\operatorname{ch} nX}{\operatorname{ch} na} \cos nz, \quad (7)$$

and, taking Eqs. (4) into account, we then have

$$v(x, y, \lambda) = \frac{\operatorname{ch} n(x \cos \lambda + y \sin \lambda)}{\operatorname{ch} na} \cos nz. \quad (8)$$

For every value of the parameter λ this function constitutes a solution of the three-dimensional Laplace equation (2) in Cartesian coordinates. Using the superposition principle (see [1]), we seek the solution of the problem (2), (3) in the form of an integral, with respect to the parameter λ , of the solution (7) of the two-dimensional problem:

$$u(x, y, z) = \cos nz \int_0^{2\pi} \psi(\lambda) v(x, y, \lambda) d\lambda \quad (9)$$

or

$$u(x, y, z) = \frac{\cos nz}{\operatorname{ch} na} \int_0^{2\pi} \psi(\lambda) \operatorname{ch} n(x \cos \lambda + y \sin \lambda) d\lambda. \quad (10)$$

It is readily seen that the expression (10) satisfies Eq. (2). In order to satisfy the boundary condition (3) we rewrite Eq. (10) in cylindrical coordinates:

$$u(\rho, \theta, z) = \cos nz \int_0^{2\pi} \psi(\lambda) \operatorname{ch} [n\rho \cos(\lambda - \theta)] d\lambda \quad (11)$$

[the unknown function $\psi(\lambda)$ in this expression is $\operatorname{cosh} na$ times less than the $\psi(\lambda)$ in Eq. (10)]. Substituting Eq. (11) into Eq. (3), we obtain a Fredholm integral equation of the first kind in the unknown function; thus,

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \operatorname{ch} [nf(\theta) \cos(\lambda - \theta)] \psi(\lambda) d\lambda = 1. \quad (12)$$

We employ numerical methods to find the function $\psi(\lambda)$ [2]. We put

$$\begin{aligned} K(\theta, \lambda) &= \operatorname{ch} [nf(\theta) \cos(\lambda - \theta)] = \sum_{r,s=0}^{\infty} a_{rs} \cos r\theta \cos s\lambda, \\ 1 &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} b_r \cos r\theta, \quad \psi(\lambda) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} c_r \cos r\lambda \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

and obtain the unknown coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} a_{rs} &= \frac{1}{\pi^2} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos r\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} \operatorname{ch} [nf(\theta) \cos(\lambda - \theta)] \cos s\lambda d\lambda \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos r\theta (-1)^s \cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right) J_s(nif(\theta)) \cos s\theta d\lambda = \frac{2}{\pi} (-1)^s \cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right) \int_0^{2\pi} J_s(nif(\theta)) \cos r\theta \cos s\theta d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

Here the factor $\cos(\pi s/2)$ is equal to zero when s is odd. Taking this fact into account, and taking note also of the relationship between the Bessel functions of real and imaginary arguments, namely, $J_s(iz) = i^s I_s(z)$ (see [3]), we obtain

$$a_{rs} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} I_s(nf(\theta)) \cos r\theta \cos s\theta d\theta$$

or

$$a_{rs} = \frac{n^s}{\pi 2^{s-1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^{2k} 2^{-2k}}{k!(k+s)!} \int_0^{2\pi} [f(\theta)]^{2k+s} \cos r\theta \cos s\theta d\theta, \quad (14)$$

$$r = 0, 1, 2, \dots, s = 0, 2, 4, \dots$$

As before, $f(\theta)$ is the equation of the contour of the cylinder in cylindrical coordinates. Further, we have

$$b_0 = 1, b_r = 0, r = 1, 2, \dots \quad (15)$$

Substituting Eqs. (13) into Eq. (12), we reduce the integral equation to an infinite system of linear equations in the unknowns c_s ; for computational purposes we replace this infinite system by the finite system

$$\sum_{s=0, 2, 4, \dots}^{2m} a_{rs} c_s = b_r, \quad r = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m. \quad (16)$$

The coefficients c_s obtained from the system (16) determine the unknown function $\psi(\lambda)$, which determines, in turn, through the expression (11), the temperature field inside the cylinder.

In the special case of a cylinder with a circular contour $\rho = R$, the method presented above leads to a known solution in closed form. We have $f(\theta) = R$. We put $\psi(\lambda) = A$ and evaluate the integral on the left side of Eq. (12):

$$A \int_0^{2\pi} \text{ch}[nR \cos(\lambda - \theta)] d\lambda,$$

which, after the substitutions $\lambda - \theta = t$, $\cos t = \zeta$, becomes

$$-4A \int_0^1 \frac{\text{ch}(nR\zeta) d\zeta}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} = -2A\pi I_0(nR).$$

From this we find

$$A = \frac{-1}{2\pi I_0(nR)}.$$

Substituting this value into Eq. (11), and again evaluating the same type of integral, we obtain

$$u(\rho, \theta, z) = \frac{I_0(n\rho)}{I_0(nR)} \cos nz,$$

which is the same as the solution obtained by the method of separating the variables.

NOTATION

ρ, θ, z , cylindrical coordinates; $u(\rho, \theta, z)$, temperature at point (ρ, θ, z) ; $v(X, z)$, infinite plate temperature; λ , continuous parameter; $J_s(nif(\theta))$, Bessel function of the s -th order; $i = \sqrt{-1}$; $\rho = f(\theta)$, equation for a cylinder contour; $I_s(z)$, Bessel function of the s -th order of imaginary argument; R , radius of a circular cylinder.

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