

Set 5

(Q1) Find the possible general solution of two dimensional Laplace eqn using method of separation of variables.

Soln

Laplace eqn in two dimension is given by

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

let $u = xy$ --- (2)

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = x''y$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = xy''$$

Substituting in eq (1)

$$x''y + xy'' = 0$$

$$\frac{x''}{x} = -\frac{y''}{y} = k(\text{const}) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial x^2} - kx = 0 \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial y^2} + ky = 0$$

solving eq (4) we get.

(i) When k is positive & $k = p^2$

$$x = C_1 e^{px} + C_2 e^{-px}$$

$$y = C_3 \cos py + C_4 \sin py$$

(ii) When k is negative & $k = -p^2$

$$x = C_1 \cos px + C_2 \sin px, \quad y = C_3$$

$$y = C_3 e^{py} + C_4 e^{-py}$$

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viii) when $k=0$

$$x = C_1 x + C_2,$$

$$y = C_3 y + C_4$$

Thus, the various possible solⁿ of Laplace eqⁿ (2) are

$$u = (C_1 e^{px} + C_2 e^{-px})(C_3 \cos py + C_4 \sin py) \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

$$u = (C_1 \cos px + C_2 \sin px)(C_3 e^{py} + C_4 e^{-py}) \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

$$u = (C_1 x + C_2)(C_3 y + C_4) \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

From these three solutions, we have to choose that solⁿ which is consistent with the physical of the problem & the given boundary conditions.