

Lectured By Dr. H. K. Yadav

Deptt. of Mathematics

Manwar College, Danbhanga

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Differential Calculus

Q.1. If $u = \log(x^2 + y^2)$, show that

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

Soln: we have, $u = \log(x^2 + y^2)$

Differentiating ~~with~~ partially w.r.t. x,
we get $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2} \cdot 2x = \frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2}$

Again differentiating partially w.r.t. x, we get

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{2[(x^2 + y^2) - 2x \cdot x]}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} = \frac{2[x^2 + y^2 - 2x^2]}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}$$

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

Similarly, diff. partially w.r.t. y, we get

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

Again, differentiating partially w.r.t. y, we get

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y^2} = \frac{2[(x^2 + y^2) - 2y \cdot y]}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} = \frac{2[x^2 + y^2 - 2y^2]}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} = \frac{2(x^2 - y^2)}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \quad \text{--- II}$$

Adding I and II

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

proved

Q.2. If $u = t^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}}$, prove that

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right)$$

Soln: We have, $u = t^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}}$ — (I)

Differentiating (I) partially w.r.t. t (keeping r constant), we get

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\frac{3}{2} t^{-\frac{5}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} + t^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} \left(-\frac{r^2}{4kt^2} \right) \left(-\frac{1}{t^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\frac{3}{2} t^{-\frac{5}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} + \frac{r^2}{4k} t^{-\frac{7}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} \quad \text{--- (II)}$$

Differentiating I partially w.r.t. r (keeping t as constant), we get

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = t^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} \left(-\frac{2r}{4kt} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = -\frac{t^{-\frac{3}{2}}}{2k} (r e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}}) \quad \text{--- (III)}$$

Differentiating III w.r.t. r (keeping t as constant), we get

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} = -\frac{t^{-\frac{5}{2}}}{2k} \left(e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} - \frac{2r^2}{4kt} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} \right) \quad \text{--- (IV)}$$

$$\text{R.H.S} = k \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} t^{-\frac{5}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} + \frac{r^2}{4k} t^{-\frac{7}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}}$$

$$= -\frac{3}{2} t^{-\frac{5}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}} + \frac{r^2}{4k} t^{-\frac{7}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4kt}}$$

$$= \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \text{L.H.S} \quad \underline{\underline{\text{proved}}}$$

Q.3. If $y = f(x+ct) + \phi(x-ct)$, show that
$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$$

Soln: We have $y = f(x+ct) + \phi(x-ct)$ — (I)
Differentiating partially with respect to t , we get

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = f'(x+ct) \cdot c + \phi'(x-ct) \cdot (-c)$$

Again, differentiating this partially w.r. to t , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} &= f''(x+ct) c^2 + \phi''(x-ct) (-c)^2 \\ &= c^2 [f''(x+ct) + \phi''(x-ct)] \quad \text{--- II} \end{aligned}$$

Differentiating (I) partially with respect to x , we get

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = f'(x+ct) \cdot 1 + \phi'(x-ct) \cdot 1$$

Again, differentiating this partially with respect to x , we get

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = f''(x+ct) + \phi''(x-ct) \quad \text{--- III}$$

From II and III, we find that

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{proved}$$

Q.4. If ∇^2 stands for the operator.

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \text{ prove that } \nabla^2 r = 0.$$

where $\frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$

Soln. We have, $\frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \quad \text{--- (I)}$

Differentiating (I) partially w.r. to x (keeping y and z as constants), we get

$$-\frac{1}{r^3} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r^3} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = -\frac{x}{r^3} \quad \text{--- (II)}$$

Again, differentiating (II) partially w.r. to x (keeping y and z as constants) we get

$$-\frac{1}{r^3} \left(\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{r^3} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial x^2} = -1$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{r^3} (-x/r)^2 + \frac{1}{r^3} \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial x^2} = -1 \quad [\text{from (II)}]$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{x^2}{r^5} + \frac{1}{r^3} \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial x^2} = -1 \quad \text{--- (III)}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } -\frac{y^2}{r^5} + \frac{1}{r^3} \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial y^2} = -1 \quad \text{--- (IV)}$$

$$\text{And } -\frac{z^2}{r^5} + \frac{1}{r^3} \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial z^2} = -1 \quad \text{--- (V)}$$

Adding (III), (IV) and (V), we get

$$-\frac{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}{r^5} + \frac{1}{r^3} \left(\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial z^2} \right) = -3$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{r^2}{r^5} + \frac{1}{r^3} \left(\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial z^2} \right) = -3 \quad [\text{from (I)}]$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{r^3} + \frac{1}{r^3} \nabla^2 r = -3$$

Hence, $\nabla^2 r = 0$ proved