

# Modified Green's function for Laplacian

Consider the following problem:

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u = f(x), & x \in \Omega \\ \partial_n u = h(x), & x \in \partial\Omega \\ \int_{\Omega} u = 0 \end{cases}$$

Q: What is the corresponding Green's function??

• If we try  $\begin{cases} \Delta G = -\delta(x-x_0) \\ \partial_n G = 0 \end{cases}$  then integrating over  $\Omega$   
we get  $\int_{\Omega} \Delta G = \int_{\Omega} 0 \cdot \partial G$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = - \int_{\Omega} \delta = -1$$

$$0 = -1$$

~~✗~~

$$= \int_{\partial\Omega} \underbrace{\partial_n G}_0 = 0$$

• Instead, we try:

$$\begin{cases} \Delta G + C = -\delta(x-x_0), & x \in \Omega \\ \partial_n G = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow C \int_{|\Omega|} 1 = -1 \Rightarrow C = -\frac{1}{|\Omega|}$$

where  $|\Omega| = \int_{\Omega} 1 \, dx$ .

So we define a Modified Green's function to satisfy:

$$(MG) \begin{cases} \Delta G(x, x_0) - \frac{1}{|\Omega|} = -\delta(x-x_0), & x \in \Omega \\ \partial_n G = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

Now recall that for any  $u, v \in C^2(\Omega)$ , we have:

$$\int_{\Omega} \Delta v u = \int_{\Omega} \Delta u v + \int_{\partial\Omega} (\partial_n v u - \partial_n u v)$$

Subbing in  $v = G$ , and  $u$  sol'n of (1), replacing  $\Omega$  by  $\Omega \setminus B_{\epsilon}(x_0)$  and taking limit  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we use the same argument as for Dirichlet B.C. to show that:

$$u(x_0) = - \int_{\Omega} G(x, x_0) f(x) dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} h(x) G(x, x_0) dS_x$$

### Modified Green's fn on Rectangle:

(3)

We wish to solve (MG) on  $\Omega = [0, L] \times [0, R]$ .

Let's use Fourier series.

Write  $\vec{x} = (x, y)$        $\vec{x}_0 = (x_0, y_0)$ .

Then  $\delta(\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0) = \delta(x - x_0) \delta(y - y_0)$

Since we have Neumann B.C. at  $x=0, L$   
 $y=0, R$ ,

we decompose in terms of  $\cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$ .

So we write  $\delta(x - x_0) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$ ;

$$a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \delta(x - x_0) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$= \frac{2}{L} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x_0}{L}\right)$$

and  $|\Omega| = LR$ ;

$$\Rightarrow -\delta(x - x_0) \delta(y - y_0) = -\frac{\delta(y - y_0)}{L} - \sum \delta(y - y_0) \frac{2}{L} \cos\frac{n\pi x_0}{L} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

(4)

Next, write

$$G(x, y, x_0, y_0) = u(x, y) = u_0(y) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n(y) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

Then  $\int_0^R u_0(y) dy \equiv 0$  since  $\int u = 0$ ;

and  $u_n'' - \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 u_n = -\frac{2}{L} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x_0}{L}\right) \delta(y - y_0)$ ,

and  $u_0'' - \frac{1}{LR} = -\frac{1}{L} \delta(y - y_0)$

and  $u_n'(0) = u_n'(R) = 0, \quad n \geq 0.$

To solve for  $u_n$ , first consider the following problem:

$$\begin{cases} v'' - \lambda^2 v = -\delta(y - y_0) & [\lambda = \frac{n\pi}{L}] \\ v'(0) = v'(R) = 0 \end{cases}$$

To satisfy BC, we write sol'n in the form:

$$v = \begin{cases} A \cosh(\lambda y) \cosh(\lambda(R - y_0)), & y < y_0 \\ A \cosh(\lambda y_0) \cosh(\lambda(R - y)), & y > y_0 \end{cases}$$

This also makes sure that  $v$  is continuous at  $y = y_0$ .

To find  $A$ , we integrate  $\int_{y_0^-}^{y_0^+} [v'' - \lambda^2 v = -\delta]$  over  $y_0$  to get:  $v' \Big|_{y_0^-}^{y_0^+} = -1$

$$\Rightarrow A \lambda \left( -\cosh \lambda y_0 \sinh(\lambda(R-y_0)) - \sinh \lambda_0 y_0 \cosh(\lambda(R-y_0)) \right) = \quad (5)$$

Now recall :

$$\cosh x = \cos(ix)$$

$$\sinh x = -i \sin(ix)$$

so that:

$$\begin{cases} \sinh(x \pm y) = \sinh x \cosh y \pm \sinh y \cosh x \\ \cosh(x \pm y) = \cosh x \cosh y \pm \sinh x \sinh y \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow A \lambda \sinh(\lambda R) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow v = \frac{1}{\lambda \sinh \lambda R} \begin{cases} \cosh \lambda y \cosh(\lambda(R-y_0)), & y < y_0 \\ \cosh \lambda y_0 \cosh(\lambda(R-y)), & y > y_0 \end{cases}$$

OR: using  $\cosh A \cosh B = \frac{\cosh(A+B) + \cosh(A-B)}{2}$

we can write

$$v = \frac{1}{2 \lambda \sinh \lambda R} \left[ \cosh \lambda(R - |y_0 - y|) + \cosh \lambda(R - (y + y_0)) \right]$$

Next, we solve:

$$\begin{cases} \omega'' - \frac{1}{R} = -\delta(y-y_0) \\ \omega'(0) = 0 = \omega'(R) \\ \int_0^R \omega = 0 \end{cases}$$

Imposing continuity of  $\omega$  at  $x=x_0$ , we write:

$$\omega = \begin{cases} A + \frac{y^2 + (y_0 - R)^2}{2R}, & y < y_0 \\ A + \frac{y_0^2 + (y - R)^2}{2R}, & y > y_0 \end{cases}$$

The jump condition  $\omega' \Big|_{y_0^-}^{y_0^+} = -1$  is then automatically satisfied.

Using  $\int_0^R \omega = 0$  we then get

$$A = -\frac{R}{6}$$

Note that  $\frac{y^2 + (y_0 - R)^2}{2R} = \frac{y_0^2 + y^2}{2R} - y + \frac{R}{2}$

$$\frac{y_0^2 + (y - R)^2}{2R} = \frac{y_0^2 + y^2}{2R} - y + \frac{R}{2}$$

$$\frac{y + y_0 + |y - y_0|}{2} = \begin{cases} y_0, & y < y_0 \\ y, & y > y_0 \end{cases}$$

So we get:

$$\omega = \frac{R}{3} + \frac{y^2 + y_0^2}{2R} - \frac{1}{2}(y + y_0 + |y - y_0|)$$

(7)

In summary, we obtain :

$$G(x, y, x_0, y_0) = u_0(y) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n(y) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$
$$u_0(y) = \frac{R}{3} + \frac{1}{L} \left\{ \frac{y^2 + y_0^2}{2R} - \frac{1}{2}(y + y_0 + |y - y_0|) \right\}$$
$$u_n(y) = + \frac{\cos\left(\frac{n\pi x_0}{L}\right)}{\pi n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi R}{L}\right)} \left[ \cosh \frac{\pi n}{L} (R - |y_0 - y|) + \cosh\left(\frac{\pi n}{L} R - |y_0 - y|\right) \right]$$

Resummation :

(8)

Recall that

$$G(\vec{x}, \vec{x}_0) \sim -\frac{1}{2\pi} \ln |\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0| \text{ as } x \rightarrow x_0$$

For example

Now set  $x_0 = \frac{L}{2}$ ,  $y_0 = \frac{R}{2}$

$$x = \frac{L}{2}, \quad y = \frac{R}{2} + \delta \quad \text{and let } \delta \rightarrow 0.$$

We have:

$$f(\delta) = G\left(\frac{L}{2}, \frac{R}{2} + \delta, \frac{L}{2}, \frac{R}{2}\right) = \frac{R}{2L} - \frac{1}{2L} |\delta| + O(\delta^2)$$

$$+ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \cos^2\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right) \frac{\cosh \frac{\pi n (R - |\delta|)}{L} + \cosh\left(\frac{\pi n \delta}{L}\right)}{n\pi \sinh \frac{n\pi R}{L}}$$

Question Where is the log???

I.E. we know that  $f(\delta) \sim -\frac{1}{2\pi} \ln |\delta| + R_0(\delta)$

as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$ . Can we compute  $R(\delta)$ ??

$$\left(\cos \frac{n\pi}{2}\right)^2 = (-1)^n + 1 = \begin{cases} 1, & n \text{ even} \\ 0, & n \text{ odd} \end{cases} \quad \text{so we} \quad (9)$$

rewrite the sum as

$$S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cosh\left(\frac{2\pi n}{L}(R-|s|)\right) + \cosh\left(\frac{2\pi n \delta}{L}\right)}{2\pi n \sinh\left(2\pi n \frac{R}{L}\right)}$$

So we consider first a sum of the type

$$\sum_1^{\infty} \frac{\cosh(na)}{n \sinh(nb)}, \quad |a| < b.$$

Now

$$\frac{\cosh na}{\cosh nb} = \frac{e^{na} + e^{-na}}{e^{nb} + e^{-nb}} = \frac{e^{n(a-b)} + e^{n(-a-b)}}{1 + e^{-2nb}}$$

$$= \left( e^{n(a-b)} + e^{n(-a-b)} \right) \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} e^{-2nbm} \right)$$

Thus

$$\sum \frac{\cosh na}{n \sinh nb} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left( e^{-2bm+a-b} \right)^n + \left( e^{-2bm-a-b} \right)^n}{n}$$

Assuming  $|a| < b$ , the partial series are absolutely convergent so we can interchange the summation signs so that

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}$$

Now  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{r^n}{n} = -\ln(1-r)$ ,  $|r| < 1$

So we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum \frac{\cosh na}{n \sinh nb} &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} -\ln(1 - e^{-2bm+a-b}) - \ln(1 - e^{-2bm-a}) \\ &= -\ln \prod_{m=0}^{\infty} (1 - e^{-2mb-b}) (2 \cosh a + e^{-2bm-b}) \\ &= -\ln \prod (1 - e^{-2mb+a-b}) (1 - e^{-2mb-a-b}) \end{aligned}$$

Back to  $S = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum \frac{\cosh na_1}{n \sinh ab} + \frac{\cosh na_2}{n \sinh b}$

where  $b = \frac{2\pi R}{L}$ ;  $a_1 = b - \frac{2\pi}{L} |\delta|$

$$a_2 = \frac{2\pi}{L} \delta$$

$$b - a_2 = \frac{2\pi}{L} |\delta|$$

$$b + a_1 \sim 2b$$

$$b \pm a_2 \sim b$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\pi S = -\ln \prod_{m=0}^{\infty} (1 - e^{-2mb-b})^2 (1 - e^{-2mb-2b}) \underbrace{(1 - e^{-2mb})}_e$$

$$\sim -\ln |\delta| - \ln \frac{2\pi}{L} - 2 \ln \prod_{m=1}^{\infty} (1 - e^{-mb})$$

So

$$R_0 = \frac{R}{12L} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \ln \frac{2\pi}{L} - \frac{1}{\pi} \ln \prod_{m=1}^{\infty} (1 - e^{-2m\pi \frac{R}{L}}) \quad (11)$$

Where

$$R_0 = \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0,y_0)} G + \frac{1}{2\pi} \ln |(x_0, y_0) - (x, y)|$$

$x_0 = \frac{L}{2}$   
 $y_0 = \frac{R}{2}$

Example:

• Take  $R = 0.5$ ,  $L = 2$  then partial product is

M=1:  $R_0 = -0.08717$

M=2:  $R_0 = -0.073$

3  $-0.070$

5  $-0.06952$

10  $-0.06949169925$

• Take  $R = 2$ ,  $L = 0.5$

M=1:  $R_0 = -0.0694916866$

M=2:  $R_0 = -0.0694916866$

Interesting identity: Since  $R_0$  is unchanged if we switch  $R, L$ :

$$\prod_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - e^{-2m\pi p})}{(1 - e^{-2m\pi p^{-1}})} = p^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{\frac{\pi}{12} (p - \frac{1}{p})}, \quad p > 0$$

## References

- S. L. Marshall, *A Rapidly Convergent Modified Green's Function for Laplace's Equation in a Rectangular Domain*, Proc. Roy. Soc. London A, 455, (1999), pp. 1739-1766.
- R. C. McCann, R. D. Hazlett, D. K. Babu, *Highly Accurate Approximations of Green's and Neumann Functions on Rectangular Domains*, Proc. Roy. Soc. London A, 457, (2001), pp. 767-772.
- T. Kolokolnikov, M.J. Ward and J. Wei, *Spot Self-Replication and Dynamics for the Schnakenburg Model in a Two-Dimensional Domain*, J. Nonlinear Science, Vol. 19, No. 1, (2009), pp. 1-56.