

Partial Differential Equations

Introduction:

The differential eqⁿ which involve two or more independent variables and partial derivatives of the dependent variable(s) with respect to those independent variables are called partial differential eqⁿ. Thus an eqⁿ relating partial derivatives is called partial differential eqⁿ.

The order of a p.d. eqⁿ is the highest ~~height~~ partial differential coefficient appearing in it. The degree of such eqⁿ is the greatest exponent of the height

In the theory of p.d. eqⁿ a variable Z is a function of more than one independent variable. In case there are

independent variables, we take those as x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n . However, the study is generally contained to when z is a function of variables x and y or we write

$$z = f(x, y)$$

We adopt the following notation throughout the study of p.d. eqn.

$$p = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}, \quad q = \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}, \quad r = \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2}$$

$$s = \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y}, \quad t = \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2}$$

Sometimes p.d. are also denoted by making use of suffixes then we write

$$u_x = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \quad u_y = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, \quad u_{xy} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y}, \\ u_{yy} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}$$

A first order p.d. eqn with z as dependent variable and x, y as independent variables can be written in symbolic

form as $f(x, y, z, p, q) = 0$

A common form of 2nd order p.d. eqⁿ in two independent variables x, y, z

$$Rr + Ss + Tt + Pp + Qq + f(x, y, z) = 0$$

where R, S, T, P, Q are function of x, y , and

f is a prescribed function of x, y, z

The general form of 2nd order p.d. eqⁿ

$$\text{is } F(x, y, z, p, q, r, s, t) = 0$$

Again partial differential eqⁿ may be classified into two broad classes

linear p.d. eqⁿ and non linear p.d. eqⁿ,

The degree of a p.d. eqⁿ is the exponent of the highest order, such an eqⁿ is called linear if it is of the 1st degree in the dependent variable and its partial derivatives that is the power and/or product of the dependent variables and gives partial derivatives must be absent. An eqⁿ which is not linear is called a non-linear

partial differential equation

Ex $\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = 0 \rightarrow$ linear partial differential equation of two independent variables x and t

$6 \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}\right)^3 + \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = 0 \rightarrow$ non linear p.d. eqn of order one (of two independent variables x and t)

A partial differential eqn is said to be quasi-linear if it is linear in the highest order derivatives of the unknown function

Ex $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + cu \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} = 0 \rightarrow$ KdV eqn.

Article origin of P.D. eqn

The p.d. eqn may be obtained in the following ways

- I. Elimination of arbitrary constant
- II. Elimination of arbitrary function.

I. Elimination of Arbitrary constant.

Let there be any function

$$f(x, y, z, a, b) = 0 \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

where a, b are arbitrary constant.

Differentiating (i) partially with respect to x and y in turn we get respectively

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{--- (iii)}$$

Here $\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = 0 = \frac{\partial x}{\partial y}$ since x and y are independent and $\frac{\partial x}{\partial x} = 1 = \frac{\partial y}{\partial y}$, $p = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$, $q = \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$

So the eqn (ii) and (iii) become

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \cdot p = 0 \quad \text{--- (iv)}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \cdot q = 0 \quad \text{--- (v)}$$

In general, the arbitrary constants a and b may be ~~it~~ eliminated from the eqn. (i) ~~(ii)~~ (iv)

and (v), then we get a partial differential eqn of first order

$$f(x, y, z, p, q) = 0 \quad \text{--- (vi)}$$

The eqn (vi) is often called the eliminant of the eqn (i)