

## THE 3D FOURIER EQUATION WITH THE ROBIN'S BOUNDARY CONDITION USING THE FINITE DIFFERENCE METHOD

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**Abstract.** This article is a continuation of the discussion on the two-dimensional Fourier equation with Robin's boundary condition. In the paper the Finite Difference Method is applied.

**Keywords:** *block matrices, determinant, Fourier equation, boundary condition*

### Introduction

In this paper we consider the heat flow in the three-dimensional area described by the Fourier equation, supplemented by the third boundary condition. The paper presents the exact solution of the problem.

### Solution of the problem

We consider the 3D Fourier equation [1-3]

$$\lambda \left( \frac{\partial^2 T(x, y, z, t)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T(x, y, z, t)}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T(x, y, z, t)}{\partial z^2} \right) = \rho c \frac{\partial T(x, y, z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (1)$$

where  $\lambda$  is a thermal conductivity [W/mK],  $c$  is a specific heat [J/kgK],  $\rho$  is a mass density [kg/m<sup>3</sup>],  $T$  is temperature [K],  $x, y, z$  denote the geometrical co-ordinates and  $t$  is time [s].

The second differential partial derivatives using FDM are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Delta^2 T}{\Delta x^2} &= \frac{T_{i-1,j,k,l} - 2T_{i,j,k,l} + T_{i+1,j,k,l}}{(\Delta x)^2}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m-1 \\ \frac{\Delta^2 T}{\Delta y^2} &= \frac{T_{i,j-1,k,l} - 2T_{i,j,k,l} + T_{i,j+1,k,l}}{(\Delta y)^2}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n-1 \\ \frac{\Delta^2 T}{\Delta z^2} &= \frac{T_{i,j,k-1,l} - 2T_{i,j,k,l} + T_{i,j,k+1,l}}{(\Delta z)^2}, \quad 1 \leq k \leq p-1 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

and the first differential derivative of the time has a form

$$\frac{\Delta T}{\Delta t} = \frac{T_{i,j,k,l} - T_{i,j,k,l-1}}{\Delta t}, \quad 1 \leq l \leq q \quad (3)$$

The initial condition has the following form

$$T_{i,j,k,0} = T_{ini}, \quad 0 \leq l \leq q \quad (4)$$

where  $T_{ini}$  is the initial temperature.

The system of equations containing the Fourier equation with the Robin conditions [2] is presented

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda \frac{T_{1,j,k,l} - T_{env}}{2\Delta x} = \alpha (T_{0,j,k,l} - T_{env}) \\ \lambda \frac{T_{i,1,k,l} - T_{env}}{2\Delta y} = \alpha (T_{i,0,k,l} - T_{env}) \\ \lambda \frac{T_{i,j,1,l} - T_{env}}{2\Delta z} = \alpha (T_{i,j,0,l} - T_{env}) \\ \lambda \left( \frac{\Delta^2 T}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{\Delta^2 T}{\Delta y^2} + \frac{\Delta^2 T}{\Delta z^2} \right) = \rho c \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta t} \end{array} \right. \quad (5)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the heat transfer coefficient and  $T_{env}$  is the ambient temperature of environment.

Now we consider the systems of equations corresponding to the eight vertices and six lateral planes of our cube.

In the first vertex of the cube (for  $i = 0, j = 0, k = 0$ ) we have

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda \frac{T_{1,0,0,l} - T_{env}}{2\Delta x} = \alpha (T_{0,0,0,l} - T_{env}) \\ \lambda \frac{T_{0,1,0,l} - T_{env}}{2\Delta y} = \alpha (T_{0,0,0,l} - T_{env}) \\ \lambda \frac{T_{0,0,1,l} - T_{env}}{2\Delta z} = \alpha (T_{0,0,0,l} - T_{env}) \\ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{env} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{0,0,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{1,0,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{env} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{0,0,0,l} + \\ + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{0,1,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{env} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{0,0,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{0,0,1,l} = \rho c \frac{T_{0,0,0,l} - T_{0,0,0,l-1}}{\Delta t} \end{array} \right. \quad (6)$$

Therefore we obtain the system of equations

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha T_{0,0,0,l} - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta x} T_{1,0,0,l} = \left( \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta x} \right) T_{env} \\ \alpha T_{0,0,0,l} - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta y} T_{0,1,0,l} = \left( \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta y} \right) T_{env} \\ \alpha T_{0,0,0,l} - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta z} T_{0,0,1,l} = \left( \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta z} \right) T_{env} \\ \left[ \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} + \frac{\rho c}{\Delta t} \right] T_{0,0,0,l} \\ - \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{1,0,0,l} - \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{0,1,0,l} - \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{0,0,1,l} = \\ = \left[ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} \right] T_{env} + \frac{\rho c}{\Delta t} T_{0,0,0,l-1} \end{array} \right. \quad (7)$$

The main matrix system above has the form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \frac{-\lambda}{2\Delta x} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha & 0 & \frac{-\lambda}{2\Delta y} & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{-\lambda}{2\Delta z} \\ \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} + \frac{\rho c}{\Delta t} & -\frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} & -\frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} & -\frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

Using the determinant of the matrix  $A$  we obtain the limitations on the steps of the differential grid [4]

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta x} > 0 \\ \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta y} > 0 \\ \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2\Delta z} > 0 \\ \det A > 0 \end{array} \right. \quad (9)$$

So

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\lambda}{2\alpha} < \Delta x < \frac{\lambda}{\alpha} \\ \frac{\lambda}{2\alpha} < \Delta y < \frac{\lambda}{\alpha} \\ \frac{\lambda}{2\alpha} < \Delta z < \frac{\lambda}{\alpha} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

The determinant of the matrix  $A$  is given by the following formula

$$\det A = \frac{\lambda^3}{4\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} \left[ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} + \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t} - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right) \right] \quad (11)$$

Next, we calculate the determinant corresponding to the variable  $T_{0,0,0,l}$

$$\det A_{T_{0,0,0,l}} = \frac{\lambda^3}{4\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} \left\{ \left[ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right) \right] T_{env} + \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t} T_{0,0,0,l-1} \right\} \quad (12)$$

The temperature of node  $(0, 0, 0)$  at the time  $l$  is as follows

$$T_{0,0,0,l} = \frac{\left[ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right) \right] T_{env} + \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t} T_{0,0,0,l-1}}{\frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right) + \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t}} \quad (13)$$

According to following notation

$$a = \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2}, b = \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2}, c = \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2}, d = \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right), e = \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t} \quad (14)$$

we have

$$T_{0,0,0,l} = \frac{(a+b+c-d)T_{env} + eT_{0,0,0,l-1}}{a+b+c-d+e} \quad (15)$$

or

$$T_{0,0,0,l} = \frac{a-b}{a-b+d} T_{env} + \frac{d}{a-b+d} T_{0,0,0,l-1} \quad (16)$$

We proceed for the other vertices, similarly.

Then we repeat the procedure for each edge.

And so, on the edge  $(i, 0, 0)$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq m-1$ ,  $j=0$ ,  $k=0$  we receive

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda \frac{T_{i+1,0,0,l} - T_{i-1,0,0,l}}{2\Delta x} = \alpha(T_{i,0,0,l} - T_{env}) \\ \lambda \frac{T_{i,1,0,l} - T_{env}}{2\Delta y} = \alpha(T_{i,0,0,l} - T_{env}) \\ \lambda \frac{T_{i,0,1,l} - T_{env}}{2\Delta z} = \alpha(T_{i,0,0,l} - T_{env}) \\ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i-1,0,0,l} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i,0,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i+1,0,0,l} + \\ + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{env} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{i,0,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{i,1,0,l} + \\ + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{env} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{i,0,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{i,0,1,l} = \rho c \frac{T_{i,0,0,l} - T_{i,0,0,l-1}}{\Delta t} \end{array} \right. \quad (17)$$

Therefore

$$\det A = \frac{\lambda^3}{4\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} \left[ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} + \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t} - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right) \right] \quad (18)$$

$$\det A_{T_{i,0,0,l}} = \frac{\lambda^3}{4\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} \cdot \left\{ \left[ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right) \right] T_{env} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i-1,0,0,l} + \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t} T_{i,0,0,l-1} \right\} \quad (19)$$

Ultimately, the temperature on the edge  $(i, 0, 0)$   $1 \leq i \leq m-1$ ,  $j=0$ ,  $k=0$  at the moment  $l$  is given by the formula

$$\begin{aligned} T_{i,0,0,l} &= \\ &= \frac{\left[ \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right) \right] T_{env} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i-1,0,0,l} + \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t} T_{i,0,0,l-1}}{\frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{\Delta y} + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \right) + \frac{\rho c}{2\Delta t}} \quad (20) \end{aligned}$$

Assuming markings (14) we obtain

$$T_{i,0,0,l} = \frac{b+c-d}{a+b+c-d+e} T_{env} + \frac{a}{a+b+c-d+e} T_{i-1,0,l} + \frac{e}{a+b+c-d+e} T_{i,0,l-1} \quad (21)$$

Analogously we calculate the temperature for the other edge points.

Next, on the plane  $(i, j, 0)$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq m-1$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n-1$ ,  $k=0$  we receive

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i-1,j,0,l} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i,j,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i+1,j,0,l} + \\ & + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{i,j-1,0,l} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{i,j,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{i,j+1,0,l} + \\ & + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{env} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{i,j,0,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{i,j,1,l} = \\ & = \frac{\rho c}{\Delta t} T_{i,j,0,l} - \frac{\rho c}{\Delta t} T_{i,j,0,l-1} \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

In the case of other planes of the cube we proceed similarly.

The system of equations in the internal points of the area takes the following form

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i-1,j,k,l} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i,j,k,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta x)^2} T_{i+1,j,k,l} + \\ & + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{i,j-1,k,l} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{i,j,k,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta y)^2} T_{i,j+1,k,l} + \\ & + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{i,j,k-1,l} - \frac{2\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{i,j,k,l} + \frac{\lambda}{(\Delta z)^2} T_{i,j,k+1,l} = \\ & = \frac{\rho c}{\Delta t} T_{i,j,k,l} - \frac{\rho c}{\Delta t} T_{i,j,k,l-1} \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

## Conclusions

Both this article and the previous one [3] are the introduction to the discussion on the boundary-initial problem for  $n$ -dimensional heat flow described by the Fourier equation.

## References

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