

VARIATIONAL APPROXIMATION  
FOR A DIRICHLET-NEUMANN PROBLEM  
OF THE HEAT CONDUCTION THROUGH  
RECTANGULAR PLATES

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1. BASIC EQUATIONS

a) *The boundary value problem.* The differential problem with non-homogeneous mixed boundary conditions (Dirichlet-Neumann) is considered on the rectangular domain  $\Omega = (0, a) \times (0, b)$ , with the boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , with respect to the unknown function  $U$  (Fig. 1):

$$(1.1) \quad LU \equiv -\left(\lambda_1 \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial x^2} + \lambda_2 \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial y^2}\right) = f_1(x, y), \quad (x, y) \in \Omega$$

$$U(x, y) = 1 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_1 \equiv \overline{OA}$$

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial N} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_2' \equiv \overline{OC} \cup \overline{CB}$$

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial N} = -1 - g_1(y) \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_2'' \equiv \overline{AB}$$

where:  $\partial\Omega = \partial\Omega_1 \cup \partial\Omega_2$ ,  $\partial\Omega_2 = \partial\Omega_2' \cup \partial\Omega_2''$ ;  $1 + g_1(y) \equiv g(y)$ ,  $f_1$  are given functions [ $g_1(0) = 0$ ,  $g_1(b) = 0$ ];  $\lambda_i$  (const.)  $> 0$  are given and  $\partial U/\partial N$  is the derivative along the conormal on  $\partial\Omega$ . The boundary value problem models either heat conduction in a plate (if  $U$  is the temperature in a rectangle of conducting material with one edge at unit temperature, two edges thermal insulated and the fourth having a heat flux;  $f_1$  - source function of the heat) or the flow of an inviscid fluid (if  $U$  is the velocity potential,  $\lambda_i = 1, f_1 = 0$ ).

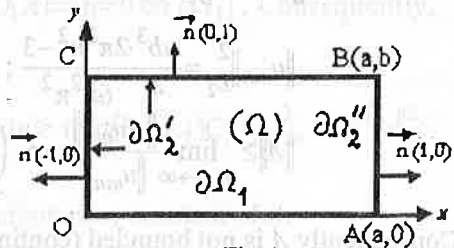


Fig. 1

b) *Operatorial equation (homogeneous boundary conditions)*. The boundary differential problem can be written in the operational form:

$$(1.2) \quad Au = f, f \in H$$

where

$A: H \rightarrow H$  ( $H = L_2(\Omega)$ ) - Hilbert space) is a linear differential operator, with

$$(1.3) \quad D(A) = \left\{ u \in C^2(\Omega) \cap C^1(\bar{\Omega}) \mid Au \in L_2(\Omega), u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1, \frac{\partial u}{\partial N} = \bar{n}^T \cdot Q\nabla u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_2 \right\}$$

$$Au = -\nabla \cdot (Q\nabla u), Q = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix}, \nabla = \begin{bmatrix} \partial/\partial x \\ \partial/\partial y \end{bmatrix}, \bar{n} = \begin{cases} n_1 = \cos(\bar{n}, x) \\ n_2 = \cos(\bar{n}, y) \end{cases}$$

$$u = U - (1 + \psi), \psi(x, y) = h(x, y) \frac{\omega(x, y)}{|\nabla \omega|} - \frac{1}{\lambda_1} \frac{x^2}{2a} g_1(y),$$

$$h(x, y) = \frac{1}{\lambda_1} \frac{x(b-y)}{ab-xy}, \omega(x, y) = xy(a-x)(b-y); \nabla \omega \neq 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1, \partial\Omega_2, \partial\Omega_2^*;$$

$$f(x, y) = f_1(x, y) + \lambda_1 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \lambda_2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2}$$

*Remarks.* 1°. The function  $\psi$  has been determined as follows: first, the function  $\omega$  ( $\omega = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ ) is defined, the normalized function  $\omega/|\nabla\omega|$  is introduced (in the sense of the  $R$ -functions theory, [4]) and then  $\psi$  is calculated as shown in (1.3).

2°. From a theoretical point of view, the introduction of the homogeneous boundary conditions is a useful result. In this case, the definition domain  $D(A)$  of operator  $A$  is a linear subspace of space  $H = L_2(\Omega)$  and the theory of linear operators on the Hilbert space  $H$  can be employed in order to study equation (1.2).

c) *The properties of the operator  $A: D(A) \subset L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow L_2(\Omega)$ .*

1. Operator  $A$  is unbounded on  $D(A)$  [ $D(A)$  is dense in  $L_2(\Omega)$ ]. This is verified by considering the function sequence  $(u_{mn}) \subset D(A): u_{mn}(x, y) = (b-y) \cos \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b}, (x, y) \in \Omega; m, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . We obtain

$$\|u_{mn}\|_{L_2}^2 = \frac{ab^3 2\pi^2 n^2 - 3}{4 \cdot 6n^2 \pi^2};$$

$$\|A\| \geq \lim_{m, n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|Au_{mn}\|}{\|u_{mn}\|} = \infty, \left( \|Au_{mn}\|_{L_2} \rightarrow \infty \text{ for } m, n \rightarrow \infty \right)$$

Consequently  $A$  is not bounded (continuous) [3], [7].

2. The operator  $A$  is pre-closed (it possesses closed extension).

Indeed, with  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega), v_{mn} \in D(A) \rightarrow 0$  and  $(Av_{mn}) \rightarrow w \in L_2(\Omega)$  we have

$$(1.4) \quad (Av_{mn}, \varphi)_{L_2(\Omega)} = - \iint_{\Omega} v_{mn} \nabla \cdot Q \nabla \varphi \, dx \, dy \quad (\rightarrow 0 \text{ for } m, n \rightarrow \infty)$$

$$(1.5) \quad \lim_{m, n \rightarrow \infty} (Av_{mn}, \varphi)_{L_2(\Omega)} = (w, \varphi)_{L_2(\Omega)} = 0 \Rightarrow w \perp \varphi, \forall \varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$$

$$\Rightarrow w = 0 \quad (\text{the set } C_0^\infty(\Omega) \text{ is dense in } L_2(\Omega)).$$

This proves (in accordance with the definition) that  $A$  is pre-closed, [7].

3. The operator  $A$  is symmetrical. For the operator  $A$  (unbounded) we have

1°)  $D(A)$  is dense in  $H = L_2(\Omega)$

$$(1.6) \quad 2^\circ) \quad \forall u, v \in D(A), (Au, v)_{L_2} = \iint_{\Omega} \nabla^T v \cdot (Q \nabla u) \, dx \, dy =$$

$$= - \iint_{\Omega} u \nabla \cdot (Q \nabla v) \, dx \, dy = (u, Av)_{L_2}$$

4. The symmetrical operator  $A$  is positive definite on  $D(A)$ , i.e.  $\exists \alpha^2 (\text{const.}) > 0$  so that  $(Au, u)_{L_2(\Omega)} \geq \alpha^2 (u, u)_{L_2(\Omega)}, \forall u \in D(A)$ .

*Proof.* From (1.6) we obtain

$$(1.7) \quad (Au, u)_{L_2(\Omega)} = \iint_{\Omega} \nabla^T u \cdot Q \nabla u \, dx \, dy$$

Now, the Friedrichs generalized inequality is applied. According to this, [2], for a domain  $\Omega$  that a boundary  $\partial\Omega$  with part of it  $\partial\Omega_1$  (open) of Lebesgue positive measure  $m(\partial\Omega_1) > 0$ , there exists a constant  $C_F > 0$  (depending only of  $\Omega$  and  $\partial\Omega_1$ ) so that

$$(1.7) \quad \forall u \in H^1(\Omega), \|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 \leq C_F \left[ \iint_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \, dx \, dy + \int_{\partial\Omega_1} u^2 \, ds \right]$$

where  $H^1(\Omega)$  is Sobolev space and  $\|u\|_{H^1} \geq \|u\|_H$ . If  $u \in D(A)$  we have  $u \in H^1(\Omega)$

and (1.7) can also be applied on  $D(A)[u \in D(A) \Rightarrow u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1]$ . Consequently,  $\forall u \in D(A)$ ,

$$(1.8) \quad (Au, u)_{L_2} \geq \min(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) \iint_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \, dx \, dy \geq \min(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) C_F^{-1} \|u\|_{H^1}^2 \geq \alpha^2 \|u\|_{L_2}^2$$

where  $\alpha^2 = \frac{1}{C_F} \min(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  is the positive definiteness constant of  $A$ .

## 2. APPLICATION OF THE RITZ VARIATIONAL METHOD TO PROBLEM (1.1)

a) The variational functional and the variational formulation associated to the boundary value problem. The energy variational functional  $F$ , which has a minimum value on the solution of (1.2), can be connected to the operatorial equation (1.2) [according to the properties of operator  $A$  defined on  $D(A)$  – dense in  $H = L_2(\Omega)$  ( $\equiv L_2$ )]:

$$(1^\circ) \quad F(u) = (Au, u)_{L_2} - 2(f, u)_{L_2}, \quad u \in D(A); (f \in C(\bar{\Omega}))$$

or

$$(2^\circ) \quad F(u) = \iint_{\Omega} \nabla^T u \cdot Q \nabla u \, dx \, dy - 2 \iint_{\Omega} f u \, dx \, dy$$

$$u \in D(F) = D_0(F) \text{ or } u \in D(F) = H_{01}^1(\Omega)$$

where  $D_0(F) = \{u \in C^2(\Omega) \cap C(\bar{\Omega}) \mid u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1\}$  and  $H_{01}^1(\Omega)$  is the linear space

$$H_{01}^1(\Omega) = \{u \in H^1(\Omega) \mid u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1\}$$

with the norm

$$\|u\|_{H_{01}^1} = \|u\|_1 = \left( \iint_{\Omega} (u^2 + |\nabla u|^2) \, dx \, dy \right)^{1/2}$$

as  $\partial u / \partial N$  on  $\partial\Omega_2$  is a natural condition; it is eliminated from the boundary conditions for  $F$  [here  $H^1(\Omega)$  is the Sobolev space  $\Rightarrow u \in C(\bar{\Omega})$ ].

- Since, here,  $f$  is a function that will render the calculations of the Ritz method more complicated [see (1.3)], it is recommendable that we return to the unknown function  $U = U(x, y)$ ,  $(x, y) \in \Omega$ . For this purpose, we put  $U = u + v$  where  $v = 1 + \psi$  is a given function which verifies the boundary conditions of  $U$  ( $v$  is not subject to variation, it is a "variational constant":  $\delta v = 0$ ). The energy functional becomes (the index  $L_2(\Omega)$  is eliminated):

$$(2.1) \quad F(U) = (AU, U) - 2(f, U) + (Av, U) - (AU, v) + C_1(v), \quad U \in D(L)$$

where  $C_1(v)$  is a "variational constant" that can be eliminated ( $\delta C_1(v) = 0$ ,  $v$  fixed). By using Green's formula, the following equalities can be inferred:

$$(Av, U) - (AU, v) = \int_{\partial\Omega_1} \frac{\partial u}{\partial N} \, ds + \int_{\partial\Omega_2} gU \, ds + C_2(v)$$

$$(AU, U) = \iint_{\Omega} \nabla^T U \cdot Q \nabla U \, dx \, dy - \int_{\partial\Omega_1} \frac{\partial u}{\partial N} \, ds + \int_{\partial\Omega_2} gU \, ds$$

Subsequently, with the help of these equalities, we determine from (2.1) the energy functional [given below in (2.2)]. According to the theorem of the minimum of the energy functional, the variational problem equivalent (in generalized sense) with (1.1) is ( $U = 1 + u$ ):

(Pv) Find the function  $\tilde{u} \in \tilde{D}(F)$  so that  $F(\tilde{u}) = \min_{u \in \tilde{D}(F)} F(u)$  where  $F$  has

the following expression

$$(2.2) \quad F(u) = \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\Omega} (\nabla^T u \cdot Q \nabla u - 2fu) \, dx \, dy + \int_{\partial\Omega_2} g u \, dy, \quad u \in \tilde{D}(F)$$

$$\tilde{D}(F) = \tilde{H}_{01}^1(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in H_{01}^1(\Omega) \mid \|u\|_A = \left( \iint_{\Omega} \nabla^T u \cdot Q \nabla u \, dx \, dy \right)^{1/2} < \infty \right\} \equiv H_A$$

$$(\exists \tilde{c}_1, \tilde{c}_2 > 0, \tilde{c}_1 \|u\|_1 \leq \|u\|_A \leq \tilde{c}_2 \|u\|_1)$$

where  $\tilde{H}_{01}^1(\Omega)$  is the Sobolev space  $H_{01}^1(\Omega)$  supplied with the energetic norm  $\|\cdot\|_A$ ; this is the energetic space  $H_A$  (the completion of the linear space  $D_0(F)$  in the energetic norm  $\|\cdot\|_A$ ). We have  $D_0(F) \subset H_A \subset H = L_2(\Omega)$  with  $\|\cdot\|_H \leq \|\cdot\|_{H^1} \leq c \|\cdot\|_A$  [ $D_0(F)$  is dense both in  $H_A$  and  $H$ ;  $H_A \subset H$  is a dense imbedding]. The generalized solution  $\tilde{u}$  is determined approximately by:

b) The Ritz Algorithm. From  $\tilde{D}(F)$ , a linearly independent and complete in  $\tilde{H}_{01}^1(\Omega)$  system of trial functions  $\{\varphi_i\}$  is chosen [finite (non-orthogonal) basis in  $D(F)$ ] and it is supposed that the  $n$ -order Ritz approximation for the exact solution  $u$  of the problem (Pv) is:

$$(2.3) \quad u_n(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^n c_k \varphi_k(x, y), \quad c_k \text{ (unknown)} \in R^1; \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

that belongs to the set of functions  $v_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \varphi_k(x, y)$ ,  $\forall a_k \in R^1$ ; this set represents a linear subspace  $H_n$  so that the sequence  $\{H_n\} = \{H_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}^*\}$  is dense in the energetic space  $H_A = \tilde{H}_{01}^1(\Omega)$ . Then, the conditions  $\frac{\partial F(u_n)}{\partial c_i} = 0$ ,  $i = 1, n$ ,



are necessarily satisfied. These stationarity conditions of  $F$  on  $R^n$  at point  $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)$  are transformed into Ritz algebraic system:

$$(2.4) \quad \sum_{j=1}^n K_{ij} c_j = b_i - g_i; \left[ \text{or } (u_n, \varphi_i)_A = (f_1 - g, \varphi_i)_{L_2} \right]; i = \overline{1, n}$$

where  $c_j, j = \overline{1, n}$  are unknown and

$$K_{ij} = (\varphi_i, \varphi_j)_A = \iint_{\Omega} \nabla^T \varphi_i \cdot Q \nabla \varphi_j \, dx \, dy, \quad b_i = \iint_{\Omega} f_1 \varphi_i \, dx \, dy, \quad g_i = \int_{\partial \Omega_2} g \varphi_i \, dy$$

The notation is changed. The solution (2.3) and the system (2.4) are written in the form

$$(2.5) \quad u_n(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{m=1}^n c_{km} w_{km}(x, y), \quad c_{km} \in R^1$$

$$(2.6) \quad \sum_{k,m=1}^n (w_{km}, w_{rs})_A c_{km} = (f_1, w_{rs})_{L_2(\Omega)} - (g_1, w_{rs})_{L_2(\partial \Omega_2)}$$

where the coefficients of the Ritz system have the values:

$$(2.7) \quad \begin{aligned} K_{kmrs} &= (w_{km}, w_{rs})_A = \iint_{\Omega} \nabla^T w_{km} \cdot Q \nabla w_{rs} \, dx \, dy = \\ &= \iint_{\Omega} \left( \lambda_1 \frac{\partial w_{km}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_{rs}}{\partial x} + \lambda_2 \frac{\partial w_{km}}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_{rs}}{\partial y} \right) dx \, dy; \end{aligned}$$

$$b_{rs} = (f_1, w_{rs})_{L_2(\Omega)} = \iint_{\Omega} f_1 w_{rs} \, dx \, dy;$$

$$g_{rs} = (g, w_{rs})_{L_2(\partial \Omega_2)} = \int_{\partial \Omega_2} g w_{rs}(a, y) \, dy$$

### c) The choice of trial functions and the solving of the Ritz system.

1. *Trigonometric polynomials.* A system of trial functions  $w_{km} \in H_{01}^1(\Omega)$  [ $w_{km} \in D_0(F)$ ] of the following form is chosen:

$$(2.8) \quad w_{km}(x, y) = \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{ab}} \left[ \frac{a}{k\pi} \sin \frac{k\pi x}{a} - (x+a) \right] \left[ \frac{b}{m\pi} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{b} + y \right]; k, m = 1, 3, 5, \dots$$

These functions verify the boundary condition for  $y=0$  [ $w_{km}(x, 0) = 0$ ] but according to the theory, verification of natural conditions is not obligatory (on  $\overline{OC}$ ,  $\overline{CB}$  and  $\overline{AB}$ ). However, here  $\partial w_{km}(0, y) / \partial x = 0$  ( $k, m = 1, 3, \dots$ ) but the condition on  $\overline{AB}$  is not verified. The Ritz solution only verifies it approximately.

*The properties of the trial function system.* Let us consider the trigonometric functions

$$(2.9) \quad \varphi_k(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin \frac{k\pi x}{a}, \quad \psi_m(y) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{b}$$

The function system  $\{v_{km}\}$ :

$$v_{km}(x, y) = \varphi_k(x) \psi_m(y), \quad (x, y) \in \Omega; k, m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

has the properties:

1°.  $\{v_{km}\}$  belongs to the linear subspace  $\tilde{D}(F) \subset L_2(\Omega)$

2°.  $\{v_{km}\}$  is orthonormal (i.e. linearly independent) in  $L_2(\Omega)$ :

$$(v_{ij}, v_{km})_{L_2(\Omega)} = 0 \text{ if } i \neq k \text{ or } j \neq m \text{ and } (v_{ij}, v_{km})_{L_2(\Omega)} = 1 \text{ if } i = k, j = m$$

3°.  $\{v_{km}\}$  is complete in  $L_2(\Omega)$ : the Parseval equality holds, [2]:

$$(2.10) \quad \sum_{k,m=1}^{\infty} \left| (u, v_{km})_{L_2(\Omega)} \right|^2 = \|u\|_{L_2(\Omega)}^2, \quad \forall u \in C(\overline{\Omega}) \text{ (dense in } L_2(\Omega))$$

4°.  $\{v_{km}\}$  is orthogonal in  $H_A^0$  (linearly independent) but it is not orthonormal in  $H_A^0(\Omega)$ . Here  $H_A^0[\equiv H_A^0(\Omega)]$  is the space  $D_0(F)$  supplied with the energetic product  $(\cdot, \cdot)_A$  and energetic norm defined by the following equalities ( $A$  is positive definite)

$$(2.11) \quad (u, v)_A = \iint_{\Omega} \nabla^T u \cdot Q \nabla v \, dx \, dy; u, v \in D_0(F)$$

$$\|u\|_A = \sqrt{(u, u)_A}; u \in D_0(F)$$

Indeed, simple calculations lead to the equalities and the orthonormalized system  $\{\bar{v}_{km}\}$

$$(v_{km}, v_{rs})_A = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } k \neq r, m \neq s \\ \frac{\pi^2}{a^2 b^2} (\lambda_1 k^2 b^2 + \lambda_2 m^2 a^2) \left( = \|v_{km}\|_A^2 \right) & , \text{ if } k = r, m = s \end{cases}$$

$$\bar{v}_{km} = \frac{v_{km}}{\|v_{km}\|_A}$$

5°. The system  $\{v_{km}\}$  is also complete with respect to the energetic norm in the energetic Hilbert space  $H_A$  - the completion of the subspace  $H_A^0$  with respect to the convergence in energy. Indeed, according to the theorem:  $A$  - positive definite on  $D(A)$ ,  $\varphi_k \in D(A)$  - dense in  $H_A$  and  $\{A\varphi_k\}$  - complete in  $H$  implies  $\{\varphi_k\}$  - complete in  $H_A$ , a simple calculus shows that

$$Av_{km} = -\nabla \cdot (Q\nabla v_{km}) = \pi(\lambda_1 k^2 a^{-2} + \lambda_2 m^2 b^{-2})v_{km}$$

Consequently, since  $\{v_{km}\}$  is complete in  $L_2(\Omega)$ ,  $\{Av_{km}\}$  is complete in  $H = L_2(\Omega)$  [multiplication with a constant ( $\neq 0$ ) maintains completion] and then,  $\{v_{km}\}$  is complete in energetic norm (in  $H_A$ ).

*Remark.* Taking into account the system  $\{\tilde{\varphi}_k\}$  in which  $\tilde{\varphi}_k(x, y) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} y \sin \frac{k\pi x}{a}$ ,

we have

$$(\tilde{\varphi}_k, \tilde{\varphi}_m)_A = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } k \neq m \\ \frac{1}{3} b^3 \lambda_1 \left(\frac{k\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \lambda_2 \quad (\equiv \|\tilde{\varphi}_k\|_A^2) & , \text{ if } k = m \end{cases}$$

and hence  $\{\tilde{\varphi}_k\}_1^\infty$  is orthogonal in  $H_A^0$ .

Now, using (2.8), the scalar products (2.7) have the expressions:

$$(2.12) \quad K_{kmrs} = (w_{km}, w_{rs})_A = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{4} \left[ 5\lambda_1 b^2 \frac{1}{m^2} - 11\lambda_2 a^2 \frac{1}{k^2} + \frac{2\pi^2}{3} (\lambda_1 b^2 + 7\lambda_2 a^2) \right] & ; k = r, m = s \\ \lambda_1 b^2 \frac{m^2 + s^2}{m^2 s^2} - 3\lambda_2 a^2 \frac{k^2 + r^2}{k^2 r^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{3} (\lambda_1 b^2 + 7\lambda_2 a^2) & ; k \neq r, m \neq s \\ \frac{3}{2} \lambda_1 b^2 \frac{m^2 + s^2}{m^2 s^2} - \frac{11}{2} \lambda_2 a^2 \frac{1}{k^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{3} \left( \frac{3}{2} \lambda_1 b^2 + 7\lambda_2 a^2 \right) & ; k = r, m \neq s \\ \frac{5}{2} \lambda_1 b^2 \frac{1}{m^2} - \frac{9}{2} \lambda_2 a^2 \frac{k^2 + r^2}{k^2 r^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{3} \left( \lambda_1 b^2 + \frac{21}{2} \lambda_2 a^2 \right) & ; k \neq r, m = s \end{cases}$$

$$(f_1, w_{rs})_{L_2(\Omega)} = \int_0^a \int_0^b f_1(x, y) w_{rs}(x, y) dx dy$$

$$(g, w_{rs})_{L_2(\partial\Omega_2)} = \int_0^b g w_{rs}(a, y) dy = -\pi g b \sqrt{ab} \left[ \left(\frac{2}{s\pi}\right)^2 + 1 \right]$$

These values are introduced into the Ritz system (2.6) which becomes a Cramer system with a unique solution  $c_{km} = c^*_{km}$  ( $k, m = 1, 3, 5, \dots$ ); the matrix of (2.6) is nonsingular, symmetrical and positive definite like the operator  $A$ .

*Numerical application* ( $n=3$ ). We choose the values  $a=2, b=1, f_1=0, \lambda_1=\lambda_2=1, g=-1$ , [ $\partial u/\partial x = 1$  on  $\overline{AB}$  indicates a heat flux on  $\overline{AB}$  towards the inside of the plate]. The Ritz solution has the form

$$(2.13) \quad u_3(x, y) = \sum_{k,m=1}^3 c_{km} w_{km}(x, y) = c_{11} w_{11} + c_{31} w_{31} + c_{13} w_{13} + c_{33} w_{33}$$

The coefficients of the Ritz system are ( $\pi = 3.14$ )

$$(w_{11}, w_{11})_A = 113.8592638; \quad (w_{13}, w_{14})_A = 76.71777661$$

$$(w_{31}, w_{11})_A = 123.9643297; \quad (w_{33}, w_{11})_A = 83.18395365$$

$$(w_{13}, w_{13})_A = 110.5259305; \quad (w_{31}, w_{13})_A = (w_{33}, w_{11})_A$$

$$(w_{33}, w_{13})_A = 121.7421075; \quad (w_{31}, w_{31})_A = 143.1927971$$

$$(w_{33}, w_{31})_A = 96.27333217; \quad (w_{33}, w_{33})_A = 139.8592638$$

$$(-1, w_{11}) = (-1, w_{31}) = 6.24351557; \quad (-1, w_{13}) = (-1, w_{33}) = 4.642953231$$

By means of the Gauss method, the following solution has been found for the Ritz system

$$(2.14) \quad \begin{aligned} c_{11} &= -0.125130; \quad c_{13} = -0.004312 \\ c_{31} &= -0.068856; \quad c_{33} = -0.002417 \end{aligned}$$

with the residual error of the solution  $c_{km}$  of the  $4 \cdot 10^{-9}$  (only six exact decimals have been considered in the (2.14)).

The Ritz solution in the 3rd order approximation is

$$(2.15) \quad \begin{aligned} u_3(x, y) &= \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ c_{11} \left( \frac{2}{\pi} \sin \frac{\pi x}{2} - x - 2 \right) \left( \frac{1}{\pi} \sin \pi y + y \right) + \right. \\ &+ c_{13} \left( \frac{2}{\pi} \sin \frac{\pi x}{2} - x - 2 \right) \left( \frac{1}{3\pi} \sin 3\pi y + y \right) + \\ &+ c_{31} \left( \frac{2}{3\pi} \sin \frac{3\pi x}{2} - x - 2 \right) \left( \frac{1}{\pi} \sin \pi y + y \right) + \\ &\left. + c_{33} \left( \frac{2}{3\pi} \sin \frac{3\pi x}{2} - x - 2 \right) \left( \frac{1}{3\pi} \sin 3\pi y + y \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$



For example, we obtain the values ( $U_3(x, y) = 1 + u_3(x, y)$ ):

$$u_3(2; 1/2) = 0.43274; u_3(1; 1/2) = 0.15123; u_3(0; 1/2) = 0.2163; u_3(1, 1) = 0.20549$$

The polynomial type trial functions. Chebyshev polynomials. The Chebyshev polynomials  $T_i(x)$ ,  $x \in R^1$  are determined by recurrence relation

$$T_{n+1}(x) = 2xT_n(x) - T_{n-1}(x), \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\left( \text{with } T_0(x) = 1, T_1(x) = x; (u, v)_{2, \rho} = \int_{-1}^1 \rho(x) uv dx, \rho(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \right)$$

These polynomials can be introduced by means of the Schmidt orthogonalization of the linearly independent system  $\{x^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  with respect to the scalar product  $L_{2, \rho(-1,1)}$ . In the space  $L_{2, \rho(-1,1)}$  the system  $\bar{T}_n = \sqrt{2/\pi} T_n(x)$  is orthonormal [and complete:  $\forall u \in C^2(-1,1), (u, T_i)_{2, \rho} = 0 \Rightarrow u(x) \equiv 0$ ]

In the two-dimensional case the Chebyshev polynomials  $p_k(x, y)$  can be introduced by means of the formulas

$$(2.16) \quad p_k(x, y) = T_i(x)T_j(y), \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\text{with } k = \frac{1}{2}(i+j)(i+j+1) + j + 1; \quad i, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

The first polynomials are:

$$p_1(x, y) = T_0(x)T_0(y) = 1, p_2(x, y) = x, p_3(x, y) = y, p_4(x, y) = 2x^2 - 1$$

$$p_5(x, y) = xy, p_6(x, y) = 2y^2 - 1, \dots, p_{10}(x, y) = 4y^3 - 3y, \dots$$

We consider the arbitrary  $u \in C^2(\Omega)$  on the domain  $\Omega = (-1, 1) \times (-1, 1)$  of the plane  $Oxy$ . We notice that the implication holds:

$$0 = (u, p_k(x, y))_{2, \rho} = \int_{-1}^1 T_j(y) \left( \int_{-1}^1 \rho u T_i dx \right) dy = \int_{-1}^1 T_j(u, T_i(x))_{2, \rho} dy \Rightarrow \\ \Rightarrow (u, T_i)_{2, \rho} = 0 \Rightarrow u(x, y) \equiv 0, (x, y) \in \Omega$$

Therefore  $\{p_k\}$  is a complete orthogonal system on  $\Omega$ .

The fourth order Ritz approximation ( $n=4; a=2, b=1, \lambda_1=\lambda_2=1, f_1=0, g=-1; \partial u/\partial x=1$  on  $x=2$ ). The Ritz solution is chosen, for the variational problem (Pv), in the form

$$u_4(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^4 c_k \varphi_k(x, y), \quad \varphi_k(x, y) = y p_k(x, y), \quad k = \overline{1, 4}$$

The coefficients  $K_{ij}, b_i$  given in formulas (2.7) are calculated exactly and have the values:

$$K_{11} = 2; K_{12} = 2; K_{13} = 2; K_{14} = \frac{10}{3}; K_{22} = \frac{10}{3};$$

$$K_{23} = 2; K_{24} = \frac{26}{3}; K_{33} = \frac{8}{3}; K_{34} = \frac{10}{3}; K_{44} = \frac{1402}{45}$$

$$g_1 = \frac{1}{2}, g_2 = 1, g_3 = \frac{1}{3}, g_4 = \frac{7}{4}$$

We solve the Ritz system (2.4) by means of the Gauss method:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|ccc|c} 2 & 2 & 2 & 10/3 & 1/2 \\ \hline 2 & 10/3 & 2 & 26/3 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 8/3 & 10/3 & 1/3 \\ \hline 10/3 & 26/3 & 10/3 & 1402/45 & 7/2 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{(1)} \left[ \begin{array}{c|cc|c} 8/3 & 0 & 32/3 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 4/3 & 0 & -1/3 \\ \hline 32/3 & 0 & 256/5 & 16/3 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{(2)} \\ \xrightarrow{(2)} \left[ \begin{array}{c|c|c} 32/9 & 0 & -8/9 \\ \hline 0 & 1024/45 & 32/9 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{(3)} \left( \frac{32}{9} \right)^2 \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} 32 \\ 5 \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array} \right]$$

The Ritz system has the solution

$$(2.18) \quad c_4 = \frac{5}{32} = 0.15625; c_3 = c_2 = -\frac{1}{4} = -0.25000; c_1 = 0.48958$$

We obtain the values:

$$(2.19) \quad u_4(2; 1/2) = 0.4791; u_4(1; 1/2) = 0.13542; \\ u_4(0; 1/2) = 0.1041; u_4(1, 1) = 0.14583$$

Solving on the computer. A TURBO-PASCAL computer program has been used in order to perform the calculations of the Ritz algorithm (The program is presented in [8]). The program is applied to the approximation of the boundary value problem (1.1) by means of the Chebyshev polynomials. The numerical

results (the values of the solution  $c_k^{(n)}$  of the Ritz system) are given up to the  $n = 28$  approximation (see Table 1). Only four decimals are considered for the values. We notice that in the case  $n = 4$  the values in Table 1 coincide with those calculated (without programming) and given in (2.18)

By using Table 1 the following values for  $u_n(1, 1/2)$  are obtained (Table 2).

Table 1

The solutions  $c_k = c_k^{(n)}$

| k/n | 3       | 5       | 6       | 10      | 15      | 20      | 25      | 28      |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1   | 0.1250  | 0.4896  | 0.1496  | 0.1370  | 0.1824  | 0.0136  | -0.7197 | 0.0146  |
| 2   | 0.3750  | -0.2499 | 0.0900  | 0.0071  | -0.1734 | 0.0226  | 1.2913  | -0.0452 |
| 3   | -0.2500 | -0.2500 | 0.1386  | -0.1062 | -0.0102 | 0.1782  | 1.5583  | 0.3174  |
| 4   |         | 0.1563  | 0.1089  | 0.1089  | 0.0880  | -0.1062 | -0.4244 | -0.0506 |
| 5   |         |         | -0.3886 | 0.1971  | 0.2111  | 0.0483  | 2.3159  | -0.0522 |
| 6   |         |         |         | -0.0837 | 0.0677  | -0.1734 | -0.9311 | -0.1989 |
| 7   |         |         |         | 0.0349  | 0.0473  | 0.0374  | -0.0938 | -0.1009 |
| 8   |         |         |         | -0.2045 | -0.2561 | 0.2401  | 0.9188  | 0.2869  |
| 9   |         |         |         | 0.0837  | 0.0299  | 0.0555  | 1.3163  | -0.0309 |
| 10  |         |         |         | 0.0000  | 0.0068  | -0.0739 | 0.4780  | 0.2041  |
| 11  |         |         |         |         | -0.0085 | 0.0259  | 0.0382  | 0.0391  |
| 12  |         |         |         |         | 0.1130  | -0.0618 | 0.1212  | 0.1314  |
| 13  |         |         |         |         | -0.0299 | -0.2061 | -0.5339 | -0.1582 |
| 14  |         |         |         |         | 0.0000  | 0.1754  | -0.7432 | -0.2282 |
| 15  |         |         |         |         |         | -0.0080 | -0.0076 | 0.0392  |
| 16  |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0008  | 0.0096  | 0.0096  |
| 17  |         |         |         |         |         | -0.0356 | -0.0609 | -0.0622 |
| 18  |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0923  | -0.0785 | -0.0822 |
| 19  |         |         |         |         |         | -0.0609 | 0.3740  | 0.2294  |
| 20  |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0080  | 0.0076  | -0.0874 |
| 21  |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0000  | 0.0035  |
| 22  |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0001  | 0.0000  |
| 23  |         |         |         |         |         |         | -0.0131 | -0.0131 |
| 24  |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0563  | 0.0568  |
| 25  |         |         |         |         |         |         | -0.0716 | -0.0717 |
| 26  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0290  |
| 27  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | -0.0035 |
| 28  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0000  |

Table 2

| n                     | 3      | 4      | 5      | 10     | 15     | 20     | 25     | 28     |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| $U_n(1, \frac{1}{2})$ | 1.1875 | 0.1355 | 0.1355 | 0.1156 | 0.1203 | 0.1270 | 0.1269 | 0.1270 |

c) The error in the energetic norm of the Ritz approximate solution  $u_n(\in D(A))$ . We put  $Au_n = f_n$  and  $u_n = \tilde{u}_n$ , where  $\tilde{u}_n$  is the generalized solution for  $Au = f_n$ .

If  $\tilde{u}(\in H_A)$  is the generalized solution for  $Au = f$  ( $A$ -positive definite;  $H_A$ -energetic space) and the Riesz theorem is used on  $H_A$  ( $H_A$ -Hilbert space) we have ( $u \in H_A$ )

$$(2.20) \quad A\tilde{u}_n = f_n \Rightarrow (\tilde{u}_n, u)_A = (f_n, u)_{L_2}; (\tilde{u}, u) = (f, u)_{L_2}; \|u\|_{L_2} \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \|u\|_A$$

If we use (2.20), the following relations can be written

$$(a) \quad (\tilde{u}_n - \tilde{u}, u)_A = (f_n - f, u)_{L_2}, \forall u \in H_A; (b) \quad \|u\|_A \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \|f\|_{L_2}$$

From (a) it results that  $\tilde{v} = \tilde{u}_n - \tilde{u}$  is a generalized solution for the equation  $A_v = f_n - f$  and, if (b) is further considered, we get the estimation

$$(2.21) \quad \|\tilde{u}_n - \tilde{u}\|_A \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \|Au_n - f\|_{L_2}$$

If  $\tilde{u} \in D(A)$  [then  $\tilde{u} = u_0$  is the classical solution:  $Au_0 = f$ ] and if  $f = 0$ , from (2.21), we obtain the estimation (the error)

$$(2.22) \quad \|u_n - u_0\|_A \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \|Au_n\|_{L_2}, \alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{C_F}}, u_n \in D_0(F)$$

where  $C_F$  is Friederichs' constant (1.8).

Remark. It is known that for an orthonormalized trial function system  $\{\varphi_k\} (\subset D(A))$  we have  $\|Au_n - f\|_{L_2} \rightarrow 0$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and that the Ritz algorithm is stable [2], [1].

Approximation by trigonometric trial functions. For  $n = 3$  ( $u_3 \in D_0(F)$ ):

$$\|Au_3\|_{L_2}^2 = \iint_{\Omega} [\nabla u_3(x, y)]^2 dx dy = \sum_{k,m=1}^3 \sum_{r,s=1}^3 c_{km} c_{rs} I_{kmrs}$$

where  $(k, m, r, s \neq 2)$

$$I_{kmrs} = \int_0^2 \int_0^1 \nabla w_{km} \nabla w_{rs} dx dy =$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{5k^2}{16m^2} - \frac{11m^2}{k^2} - \frac{15}{2} + \pi^2 \left( \frac{k^2}{24} + \frac{14m}{3} \right), & k=r, m=s \\ \pi^2 \left( \frac{1}{8m^2} + \frac{1}{8s^2} - \frac{5}{k^2} + \frac{1}{24} \pi^2 \right), & k=r, m \neq s \\ -m^2 \left( \frac{2}{k^2} + \frac{2}{r^2} + \frac{7}{m^2} - \frac{14}{3} \pi^2 \right), & k \neq r, m=s \\ -12, & k \neq r, m \neq s \end{cases}$$

Then we have

$$(2.23) \quad \|Au_3\|_{L_2}^2 \approx 0.2691 \text{ and } \|u_3 - u_0\|_A \leq 0.519\sqrt{C_F}$$

*Approximation by Chebyshev polynomials.* In this case, we have

$$u_n \in D_0(F), \|Au_n\|_{L_2}^2 = \iint_{\Omega} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n c_k \left( y \nabla p_k + 2 \frac{\partial p_k}{\partial y} \right) \right]^2 dx dy$$

For  $n = 4$  we obtain

$$(2.24) \quad \|Au_4\|_{L_2}^2 \approx 0.135417 \text{ and } \|u_4 - u_0\|_A \leq 0.368\sqrt{C_F}$$

*Remark.* With the Chebyshev polynomials the error is smaller than the resulting from the employment of the trigonometric functions.

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