

3. The combustion equation

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = -e^u$$

arises in the study of self-propagating exothermic oxidative chemical reactions in thermochemistry.

Find all possible values of the triple (a, b, c) of constants for which the function

$$u(x, y) = a \ln(bx^2 + by^2 + c)$$

satisfies the combustion equation for all (x, y) with $x^2 + y^2 < 1$ as well as the condition $u(x, y) = 0$ for all (x, y) with $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

$$u_x = a \cdot \frac{1}{bx^2 + by^2 + c} \cdot 2bx$$

$$u_{xx} = a \cdot \frac{-1}{(bx^2 + by^2 + c)^2} \cdot (2bx)^2 + a \cdot \frac{1}{bx^2 + by^2 + c} \cdot 2b$$

Similarly:

$$u_{yy} = a \cdot \frac{-1}{(bx^2 + by^2 + c)^2} \cdot (2by)^2 + a \cdot \frac{1}{bx^2 + by^2 + c} \cdot 2b$$

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = \frac{-4ab^2(x^2 + y^2) + 4ab(bx^2 + by^2 + c)}{(bx^2 + by^2 + c)^2} = \frac{4abc}{(bx^2 + by^2 + c)^2}$$

$$e^u = \exp(a \ln(bx^2 + by^2 + c)) = (bx^2 + by^2 + c)^a$$

Hence: $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = -e^u$ for all $x^2 + y^2 < 1 \Leftrightarrow a = -2$ and $4abc = -1 \Leftrightarrow a = -2$ and $bc = \frac{1}{8}$

As $a \neq 0$, $u(x, y) = 0$ for all $x^2 + y^2 = 1 \Leftrightarrow a \ln(b+c) = 0 \Leftrightarrow b+c = 1$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} bc = \frac{1}{8} \Rightarrow c = \frac{1}{8b} \\ b+c = 1 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow b + \frac{1}{8b} = 1 \Rightarrow b^2 - b + \frac{1}{8} = 0 \Rightarrow b = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$c = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

Hence, $(a, b, c) = \left(-2, \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right), \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right)$ and $\left(-2, \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right), \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right)$

are the only triples satisfying the conditions.