On the ill-posed problem for the Poisson equation

A boundary value problem in a two-dimensional rectangular region for the Poisson equation is studied in the paper. The original ill-posed boundary value problem is transformed to the optimal control problem. The paper gives a brief overview of the problem under study, defines the formulation of the original boundary value problem and optimization problems, proves the existence of a solution to the regularized optimization problem, studies the optimality conditions, and presents the application of the variable separation method. The necessary and sufficient conditions of optimality in terms of the conjugate boundary value problem are established in the paper, and a strong criterion for the solvability of the ill-posed boundary value problem is obtained.

Boundary value problems for the Poisson equation arise in many sections of physics, mechanics, and other applied sciences. So, the stress function in the torsion problem of elastic rods is the solution of the Dirichlet problem, and the height of the liquid rise in the cylindrical capillary is the solution of the Neumann problem. But in many cases practitioners are interested in ill-posed problems for the Poisson equation and their solvability, which determines the relevance of the problem studied in the article.

**Keywords:** Poisson equation, ill-posed problem, optimal control, variational inequality, two-dimensional rectangular area.

**Introduction.** Recently among the experts on equations of mathematical physics interest in problems that are ill-posed by J. Hadamard has significantly increased [1]. Due to the ill-posed problems classic work by J. Hadamard [1], A.N. Tikhonov [2], M.M. Lavrent’ev [3] and many others can be noted, which have drawn the attention of researchers for ill-posed problems and have made a significant contribution to the development of this important area of mathematics. In this paper we study the ill-posed problem [1]–[8] for the Poisson equation in two-dimensional rectangular domain. The correctness criterion of homogeneous mixed Cauchy problem for the Poisson equation in a rectangular domain was established in the paper of T.Sh. Kalmenov, U.A. Iskakova [6]. In paper [8] the ill-posed problem for the heat equation is considered. The general regularization method for constructing an approximate solution of ill-posed problems of mathematical physics was proposed by A.N. Tikhonov [2]. In the book R. Lattes, J.-L. Lions [4] for regularization of ill-posed boundary value problems the quasiinversion method is proposed. Features and questions of the regularization of Cauchy problems for abstract differential equations with the operator coefficients are studied by I.V. Mel’nikova and U.A. Anufrieva [8].

**Statement of the problem.** We consider the boundary value problem

\[ y_{tt}(x,t) + y_{xx}(x,t) = f(x,t); \]
\[ y(0,t) = 0, \quad y(\pi,t) = 0; \] \hspace{1cm} (1)
\[ y(x, -1) = \varphi_1(x), \quad y(x, -1) = \varphi_2(x). \] \hspace{1cm} (2)

in the domain \( \Omega = \{ x, t \mid 0 < x < \pi, -1 < t < 1 \} \) with the additional condition

\[ y_t(x, 1) \in U_g, \quad \text{where} \ U_g \ \text{is a closed convex set of} \ L_2(0, \pi). \] \hspace{1cm} (3)

It is assumed that the data in the problem (1)–(3) satisfies the following conditions:

\[ f \in L_2(\Omega), \quad \varphi_1 \in H_0^1(0, \pi), \quad \varphi_2 \in L_2(0, \pi). \] \hspace{1cm} (4)

In the book R.Lattes, J.-L.Lions [4], it is indicated that problem (1)–(3) is ill-posed in the space \( L_2(\Omega) \).

In this paper for solving the ill-posed problem we apply methods of optimal control.
The optimization problem. For the investigation of the problem (1)–(4), we formulate according to it the following optimization problem:

\begin{align*}
    y_t(x, t) + y_{xx}(x, t) &= f(x, t); \\
    y(0, t) &= y(\pi, t) = 0; \\
    y_t(x, -1) &= \varphi_2(x), \quad y_t(x, 1) = \psi(x),
\end{align*}

with functional of optimality:

\[ \mathcal{J}(\psi) = \int_0^\pi |y_x(x, -1) - \varphi'_2(x)|^2 dx \to \min_{\psi \in U_\alpha}. \]  

We note, in optimization problem (6)–(9) the function \( \psi(x) \) plays the role of control function. In addition, further in the work it will be shown that boundary problem (6)–(8) is well-posed, namely it is uniquely solvable for any given functions \( \psi \in U_\alpha \subset L_2(0, \pi) \), \( f \in L_2(\Omega) \).

As it is known from the theory of optimal control optimization problem (6)–(9) is also ill-posed. The ill-posedness of this problem is shown in the following: functional to be minimized (9) is not strictly convex. Therefore, to small change of the value of the minimized functional (9) the significant change of the control \( y \) can correspond. For such optimization problems, there is an effective regularization method of Tikhonov [2]. To study our problem, we will use stabilizer of Tikhonov [2].

Regularized optimization problem. Effective tool is the method of regularization. In our case

\[ \alpha \int_0^\pi |\psi(x)|^2 dx \quad (\alpha > 0) \]

will serve as a stabilizer.

We consider the problem of minimizing the following functional

\[ \mathcal{J}_\alpha(y, \psi) = \int_0^\pi |y_x(x, -1) - \varphi'_2(x)|^2 dx + \alpha \int_0^\pi |\psi(x)|^2 dx \to \min_{\psi \in U_\alpha}. \]

Thus, we have the regularized optimization problem (6)–(8), (10). Due to the presence of the stabilizer the problem has become strictly convex, namely we get well-posed optimization problem. Therefore, for each value \( \alpha > 0 \) this problem has the unique optimal solution that delivers the minimum value to minimized functional (10). However, it does not exclude the fact that the minimum value problem of functional (10) can be strictly greater than zero.

For optimal control problem (6)–(8), (10) we will establish optimality conditions. We introduce the concept of optimal control.

Definition 1. An element \( \overline{\psi} \in L_2(0, \pi) \) which satisfies the condition

\[ \mathcal{J}_\alpha(\overline{\psi}) = \inf_{\psi \in U_\alpha} \mathcal{J}_\alpha(\psi) \]

is called the optimal control.

We denote the solution of problem (6)–(8) by \( y(x, t; \psi) \) corresponding to the given control \( \psi(x) \in U_\alpha \).

So \( y(x, t; 0) \) corresponds to the solution of problem (6)–(8) when \( \psi(x) \equiv 0 \). Then, we get

\[ \pi(\psi_1, \psi_2) = \int_0^\pi [y_x(x, -1; \psi_1) - y_x(x, -1; 0)] \times \]

\[ \times [y_x(x, -1; \psi_2) - y_x(x, -1; 0)] dx + \alpha \cdot \int_0^\pi \psi_1(x) \cdot \psi_2(x) dx; \]

\[ L(\psi_1) = \int_0^\pi [\varphi'_1(x) - y_x(x, -1; 0)][y_x(x, -1; \psi_1) - y_x(x, -1; 0)] dx. \]
Here, $\pi(\psi_1, \psi_2)$ is the bilinear functional on $U_0$, $L(\psi_1)$ is the continuous linear functional on admissible set of controls $U_0$, as it will be shown below, that the solution $y(x, t; \psi)$ of problem (6)–(8) is not only continuous but it is continuously differentiable on control $\psi$. Using the notation, functional (10) can be rewritten as

$$J_\alpha(\psi) = \pi(\psi, \psi) - 2L(\psi) + \int_0^\pi |y_x(x, -1; 0) - \psi_1'(x)|^2 dx.$$

The existence of solution of the regularized problem and the variational inequality. The following theorem holds [9].

**Theorem 1.** As $\pi(\psi, \psi)$ is the continuous symmetric quadratic functional on a $U_0$ and satisfies the condition

$$\pi(\psi, \psi) \geq c\|\psi\|^2, \quad (c = \text{const} > 0),$$

then for problem (6)–(8), (10) exists only $\bar{\psi} \in U_0$:

$$J_\alpha(\bar{\psi}) = \inf_{\psi \in U_0} J_\alpha(\psi).$$

The inequality (11) holds, as

$$\pi(\psi, \psi) = \int_0^\pi |y_x(x, -1; \psi) - y_x(x, -1; 0)|^2 dx + \alpha \cdot \int_0^\pi \psi^2(x) dx.$$

The solution of optimization problem (6)–(8), (10) we denote by

$$\bar{\psi}(x) = \arg \min_{\psi \in U_0} J_\alpha(\psi).$$

Further, according to the theory of strictly convex optimization problems the following optimality criterion formulated in terms of the directional derivative is valid.

**Proposition 1 (Variational inequality).** The function $\bar{\psi} \in U_0$ is a function of the optimal control if and only if the following inequality holds:

$$\langle J_\alpha', \psi - \bar{\psi} \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall \psi \in U_0,$$

namely we have

$$\int_0^\pi \left[ y_x(x, -1; \bar{\psi}) - \psi_1'(x) \right] \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( y_x(x, -1; \bar{\psi}) \cdot [\psi(x) - \bar{\psi}(x)] \right) dx +$$

$$+ \alpha \cdot \int_0^\pi \bar{\psi}(x) \cdot [\psi(x) - \bar{\psi}(x)] dx \geq 0, \quad \forall \psi \in U_0. \quad (12)$$

We now carry out the necessary further transformations of variational inequality (12). For this purpose, we rewrite the boundary value problem (6)–(8) in the operator form $A_0 \psi = F = \{ f, \varphi_2, \psi \}$. As for any admissible controls boundary value problem (6)–(8) is uniquely solvable, then its solution $y(x, t; \psi)$ can be written in the following form $y(x, t; \psi) = A^{-1}F = A_0^{-1}f + A_1^{-1}\varphi_2 + A_2^{-1}\psi$.

Next, we take the derivative of this solution in the direction of $\psi - \bar{\psi}$. We have

$$y_\psi(x, t; \bar{\psi}) \cdot [\psi - \bar{\psi}] = A^{-1}(\psi - \bar{\psi}) =$$

$$= A_0^{-1}f + A_1^{-1}\varphi_2 + A_2^{-1}\psi - [A_0^{-1}f + A_1^{-1}\varphi_2 + A_2^{-1}\bar{\psi}] = y(x, t; \psi) - y(x, t; \bar{\psi})$$

or

$$y_\psi(x, t; \bar{\psi}) \cdot [\psi - \bar{\psi}] = y(x, t; \psi) - y(x, t; \bar{\psi}).$$

Thus inequality (12) has the form:

$$\int_0^\pi \left[ y_x(x, -1; \bar{\psi}) - \psi_1'(x) \right] \cdot [y_x(x, -1; \psi) - y_x(x, -1; \bar{\psi})] dx +$$

$$+ \alpha \cdot \int_0^\pi \bar{\psi}(x) \cdot [y(x, t; \psi) - y(x, t; \bar{\psi})] dx \geq 0, \quad \forall \psi \in U_0.$$
we introduce the adjoint boundary value problem as the following proposition:

we rewrite expression (15) as follow

then from relation (13), we finally obtain the desired variational inequality

For its formal conclusion we consider the following expression

where \( \tilde{y}(x, t) = y(x, t; \psi) - y(x, t; \overline{\psi}) \).

We transform this expression, considering adjoint boundary value problem (14)

Thus, we obtain desired adjoint boundary problem (14).

Optimality conditions. By applying the equality

we rewrite expression (15) as follow

then from relation (13), we finally obtain the desired variational inequality

Thus, on the basis of Proposition 1 we have established the optimality conditions, which can be formulated as the following proposition:

Proposition 2. The element \( \overline{y}(x) \) is the optimal solution to the problem (6)–(8), (10), if and only if it satisfies boundary value problems (6)–(8), (14), and variational inequality (16).

Application of the method of separation of variables. For resolving the conditions of an optimality (6)–(8), (14) and (16) we use a method of separation of variables. We will search solutions of boundary value problems (6)–(8) and (14) in the form

\[
y(x, t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} y_k(t) X_k(x), \quad v(x, t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} v_k(t) X_k(x),
\]
where
\[ X_k(x) = \frac{\sin kx}{\sqrt{\pi/2}}, \quad \lambda_k = k^2, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, \] (17)
are systems orthonormalized eigenfunctions and eigenvalues for a spectral problem:
\[ X''(x) = \lambda \cdot X(x), \quad X(0) = X(\pi) = 0. \]

From (6)–(8), (14) and (16) we accordingly obtain
\[
\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
y''_k(t) - k^2 y_k(t) = f_k(t), \quad t \in (-1, 1); \\
y_k(-1) = \varphi_{2k}; \quad y_k(1) = \bar{\psi}_k; \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots;
\end{array} \right.
\]
\[
\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
v''_k(t) - k^2 v_k(t) = 0, \quad t \in (-1, 1); \\
v_k(-1) = k^2[\varphi_{1k} - \varphi_{1k}]; \quad v_k(1) = 0; \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots;
\end{array} \right.
\]
\[ [-v_k(1) + \alpha \cdot \bar{\psi}_k] \cdot [\psi_k - \bar{\psi}_k] \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } \psi_k, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, \] (20)
where \( f_k(t), \varphi_{1k}, \varphi_{2k}, \bar{\psi}_k, \psi_k, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots \) are Fourier-coefficients of functions \( f(x,t), \varphi_1(x), \varphi_2(x) \) and \( \bar{\psi}(x), \psi(x) \) on system (17).

Assume us write solutions of boundary value problems (18) and (19):
\[ y_k(t) = \bar{\psi}_k \cdot \frac{\cosh k(t + 1)}{\sinh 2k} - \varphi_{2k} \cdot \frac{\cosh k(1 - t)}{k \sinh 2k} + \frac{1}{-1} \int G_k(t, \tau) \cdot f_k(\tau) d\tau; \]
\[ v_k(t) = -[y_k(-1) - \varphi_{1k}] \cdot \frac{k \cosh k(1 - t)}{\sinh 2k}; \]
where
\[ G_k(t, \tau) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l}
-\frac{\cosh k(1 - t) \cdot \cosh k(1 + \tau)}{\sinh 2k}, \quad -1 < \tau < t < 1; \\
-\frac{\cosh k(1 - \tau) \cdot \cosh k(1 + t)}{\sinh 2k}, \quad -1 < t < \tau < 1.
\end{array} \right. \]

From (21)–(22) we find
\[ -v_k(1) = [y_k(-1) - \varphi_{1k}] \cdot \frac{k}{\sinh 2k}; \]
\[ y_k(-1) \bar{\psi}_k = -\varphi_{2k} \cdot \frac{\coth 2k}{k} + \bar{\psi}_k \cdot \frac{1}{\sinh 2k} + \frac{1}{-1} \int G_k(-1, \tau) f_k(\tau) d\tau, \]
\[ \left[ A_{k\alpha} \bar{\psi}_k - \varphi_{1k} - \varphi_{2k} \cdot \frac{\coth 2k}{k} + \frac{1}{-1} \int G_k(-1, \tau) f_k(\tau) d\tau \right] \cdot [\psi_k - \bar{\psi}_k] \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } \psi_k, \] (23)
where \( A_{k\alpha} = \frac{k + \alpha \sinh^2 2k}{k \sinh 2k}, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots. \)

Now we put, that \( U_0 \equiv L_2(0, \pi) \). Since the functions \( \psi(x) \) do not have any restrictions except for belonging to the space \( L_2(0, \pi) \), from (23) we can find the optimal values of Fourier coefficients \( \bar{\psi}_k, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots. \):
\[ \bar{\psi}_k = A_{k\alpha}^{-1} \left[ \varphi_{1k} + \varphi_{2k} \cdot \frac{\coth 2k}{k} - \frac{1}{-1} \int G_k(-1, \tau) f_k(\tau) d\tau \right]. \] (24)

Further, as \( \alpha \to 0 \) (21) and (24) imply that
\[ y_{k_0}(t) = \lim_{\alpha \to 0} y_k(t) = \varphi_{1k} \cosh k(1 + t) + \varphi_{2k} \frac{\sinh k(1 + t)}{k}. \]
On the ill-posed problem for the Poisson equation

\[-\cosh k(1 + t) \int_{-1}^{1} G_k(-1, \tau) f_k(\tau) d\tau + \int_{-1}^{1} G_k(t, \tau) \cdot f_k(\tau) d\tau; \]  

(25)

\[\overline{\psi}_{k0} = \lim_{\alpha \to 0} \overline{\psi}_k = \varphi_{1k} \sinh 2k + \varphi_{2k} \cosh 2k - \sinh 2k \int_{-1}^{1} G_k(-1, \tau) f_k(\tau) d\tau. \]  

(26)

Additionally, the solutions \(y_k(t)\) found under formula (21) according to optimal Fourier coefficients \(\overline{\psi}_k, k = 1, 2, \ldots\) (24) must satisfy to limiting relations: \(\lim_{\alpha \to 0} y_k(-1) = \varphi_{1k}\), which really hold. And it is coordinated with a condition \(y(x, -1) = \varphi_1(x)\) from (3).

Thus, for a finding of the exact solution of problem (6)–(8) according to (26) we construct the following series:

\[\overline{\psi}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sqrt{2/\pi} \sinh 2k \left[ \varphi_{1k} + \varphi_{2k} \coth 2k - \int_{-1}^{1} G_k(-1, \tau) f_k(\tau) d\tau \right] \sin kx\]

and for initial Cauchy-Dirichlet problem (1)–(3) we obtain the solution on the basis of formulas (25).

**Conclusion.** From equalities (25) and (26) the following directly holds:

Firstly, with growth of index \(k\) and at \(\alpha \to 0\) the Fourier-coefficients of the function \(\overline{\psi}(x)\) and, respectively, the solution \(y_k(t)\) can increase without limit if this growth is not be suppressed with corresponding more rapid decrease of the absolute values of the coefficients \(\varphi_{1k}, \varphi_{2k}\) and values of norms \(\|f_k(t)\|_{L^2(-1,1)}\).

Secondly, boundary problem (1)–(3) under conditions (5) has unique \(L_2\)-strong solution [10] if and only if

\[\left\{ \exp\{2k\} \cdot \varphi_{1k} \right\}_{k=1}^{\infty}, \quad \left\{ k^{-1} \exp\{2k\} \cdot \varphi_{2k} \right\}_{k=1}^{\infty}, \quad \left\{ \exp\{2k\} \cdot \|f_k(\tau)\|_{L^2(-1,1)} \right\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \subset l_2. \]  

(27)

Thus, it is clear not only the meaning of regularization in problem (6)–(8) and (10), but also the nature of incorrectness in Cauchy-Dirichlet problem (1)–(3) [6, 7]. And regularization allows us to find an approximate solution.

Thirdly, we consider the example of Hadamard [11; 37]. To receive analogue of the Hadamard example in problem (1)–(3) it is necessary to accept:

\[f(x, t) = 0, \quad \varphi_1(x) = 0, \quad \varphi_2(x) = \sqrt{2/\pi} \cdot k \cdot \exp\{-\sqrt{k}\} \sin kx, \quad k \in \mathbb{N} .\]

Really, the solution of Cauchy-Dirichlet problem for Laplace equation has the form:

\[y(x, t) = \sqrt{2/\pi} \cdot \exp\{-\sqrt{k}\} \sin kx \cdot \sinh k(t + 1), \quad k \in \mathbb{N} . \]  

(28)

Figure. Graph of solution \(y_k(x, t)\) at \(k = 1, 6\) of (28)
In Figure are shows the graphs of the solution \( y_k(x,t) \) at \( k = 1, 6 \) of (28). This solution of a problem in example of Hadamard considered by us is unique. Moreover, as \( k \to \infty \) the function \( \varphi_2(x) \) approaches uniformly zero and that not only, but also all its derivatives approach zero and it belongs to space \( L^2(0, \pi) \). However the solution (28) at any \( t > -1 \) has the form of a sinusoid with an arbitrarily large amplitude and does not belong to space \( L^2((0, \pi) \times (-1,1)) \).

In order to the function \( \varphi_2(x) \) satisfied to condition (27), it is necessary and sufficient, that the Fourier-coefficients \( \varphi_{2k} \) had the asymptotic behavior for large \( k \) of order \( \exp\{-(2 + \varepsilon)k\} \) where \( \varepsilon > 0 \).

References
О некорректной задаче для уравнения Пуассона

В работе рассмотрена краевая задача в двумерной прямоугольной области для уравнения Пуассона. Исследованная некорректная краевая задача сводится к задаче оптимального управления. Авторами дан краткий обзор исследуемой проблемы, определены постановка исходной краевой задачи и задачи оптимизации, доказано существование решения регуляризованной задачи оптимизации, определена постановка сопряженной краевой задачи, исследованы условия оптимальности, представлено применение метода разделения переменных. В работе установлены необходимые и достаточные условия оптимальности в терминах сопряженной краевой задачи, а также получен сильный критерий разрешимости некорректной краевой задачи. Краевые задачи для уравнения Пуассона возникают во многих разделах физики, механики и других прикладных наук. Так, функция напряжений в задаче о крушении упругих стержней является решением задачи Дирихле, а высота подъема жидкости в цилиндрическом капилляре — решением задачи Неймана. Во многих случаях практикуют интересуют некорректные задачи для уравнения Пуассона и вопросы их разрешимости, что определяет актуальность исследуемой в статье проблемы.

Ключевые слова: уравнение Пуассона, некорректная задача, сопряженная граничная задача, оптимальное управление, условия оптимальности, регуляризация, вариационное неравенство, двумерная прямоугольная область.

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