Partial Differential Equations



Figure 8.1

Finite Difference: Elliptic Equations

Solution Technique

- Elliptic equations in engineering are typically used to characterize steady-state, boundary value problems.
- For numerical solution of elliptic PDEs, the PDE is transformed into an algebraic difference equation.
- Because of its simplicity and general relevance to most areas of engineering, we will use a heated plate as an example for solving elliptic PDEs.

Figure 8.2



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The Laplacian Difference Equations/



Holds for all interior points

Figure 8.3



0°C

- In addition, boundary conditions along the edges must be specified to obtain a unique solution.
- The simplest case is where the temperature at the boundary is set at a fixed value, *Dirichlet boundary condition*.
- A balance for node (1,1) is:

$$T_{21} + T_{01} + T_{12} + T_{10} - 4T_{11} = 0$$

$$T_{01} = 75$$

$$T_{10} = 0$$

$$-4T_{11} + T_{12} + T_{21} = 0$$

• Similar equations can be developed for other interior points to result a set of simultaneous equations.

• The result is a set of nine simultaneous equations with nine unknowns: