

MATH 241  
LECTURE 5

Method of Separation of Variables II.

(~ Sec. 2.4)

Last day:  $u_t = k u_{xx}, 0 < x < L, t > 0$  PDE  
 $u(0, t) = 0, t > 0$  BC  
 $u(L, t) = 0, t > 0$  BC  
 $u(x, 0) = f(x), 0 < x < L$  IC

Solution using the method of separation of variables:

$u(x, t) = G(t)\phi(x) \Rightarrow \frac{1}{k} \frac{G'(t)}{G(t)} = \frac{\phi'(x)}{\phi(x)} = -\lambda \rightarrow \begin{cases} G'(t) = -\lambda k G(t) \\ \phi''(x) + \lambda \phi(x) = 0 \end{cases}$

- Solve both ODEs for  $\lambda > 0, \lambda < 0, \lambda = 0$ .
- Use superposition principle:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-k\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t}$$

- Lastly, impose the initial condition:

$$[I] \quad f(x) = u(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right),$$

and find the constants  $B_n$  in terms of  $f(x)$  using the orthogonality property of  $\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$ :

$$\text{Orthogonality: } \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq m \\ L/2 & n = m \end{cases} \quad (n, m = 1, 2, \dots)$$

How to find the  $B_n$ ?

Multiply [I] by  $\sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right)$  and integrate from  $x=0$  to  $x=L$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \\ &= B_m \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \frac{L}{2} B_m \Rightarrow \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow B_m = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx.$$

• Thus, the final solution is

$$u(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-k\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \quad \text{with } B_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx.$$

• [Section 2.4]

2.4.11 Heat conduction in a rod with insulated ends.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u_t &= k u_{xx}, \quad 0 < x < L, t > 0 && \text{PDE} \\ u_x(0, t) &= 0 \\ u_x(L, t) &= 0, \quad t > 0 && \text{BC} \\ u(x, 0) &= f(x), \quad 0 < x < L && \text{IC} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Solution: Method of Separation of Variables

(since both the PDE and BC are linear and homogeneous)

Let  $u(x, t) = G(t)\phi(x)$ . Then, substitution into the PDE gives that

$$\textcircled{1} G'(t) = -\lambda k G \quad (\text{same as before}).$$

$$\textcircled{2} \phi''(x) = -\lambda \phi(x)$$

$$\textcircled{1} \Rightarrow G(t) = c e^{-\lambda k t}.$$

$\textcircled{2}$  We need to add the BC:

$$u_x(0, t) = 0 = G(t)\phi'(0) \Rightarrow \phi'(0) = 0$$

$$u_x(L, t) = 0 = G(t)\phi'(L) \Rightarrow \phi'(L) = 0$$

} so we need to

solve the BVP given by

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \phi'' = -\lambda \phi \\ \phi'(0) = 0 \\ \phi'(L) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{considering the cases } \lambda > 0, \lambda = 0, \lambda < 0, (\lambda \text{ complex}).$$

•  $\lambda > 0$ :  $\phi(x) = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}x)$

$$\hookrightarrow \phi'(x) = -c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}x) + c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x)$$

$$\phi'(0) = c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} = 0 \Rightarrow \underline{c_2 = 0}$$

$$\phi'(L) = -c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) = 0 \begin{array}{l} \nearrow c_1 = 0 \text{ (trivial sol)} \\ \searrow \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \lambda = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \end{array}$$

Thus,

$\lambda = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, n=1,2,\dots$  are eigenvalues with eigenfunctions

$$\phi(x) = c_1 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right).$$

The corresponding product solutions are

$$u(x,t) = A \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 kt}, n=1,2,\dots$$

- $\lambda = 0$ :  $\phi(x) = c_1 + c_2 x$

$$\phi'(x) = c_2 \rightarrow \phi'(0) = \phi'(L) = 0 = c_2.$$

Thus,  $\lambda = 0$  is an eigenvalue with eigenfunction  $\phi(x) = 1$ , and product solution  $u(x,t) = A_0$ .

- $\lambda < 0$ : Check that there are no negative eigenvalues.

- Once we have solved the BVP to find the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions, we use the superposition principle:

$$u(x,t) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 kt} =$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 kt}.$$

- Finally, impose the I.C. to find the  $A_n$ :

$$[I] \quad f(x) = u(x,0) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right).$$

We need the following orthogonality property:

• Proposition: Orthogonality of Cosines

$$\int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq m, \\ \frac{L}{2} & n = m \neq 0, \\ L & n = m = 0. \end{cases}$$

With this formula in mind, multiply [I] by  $\cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right)$  and integrate from  $x=0$  to  $x=L$ :

$$\int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$\text{If } m=0: \int_0^L f(x) dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx = L \cdot A_0 \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow A_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx //$$

$$\text{If } m \neq 0: \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = A_m \frac{L}{2} \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow A_m = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx //$$

Remark: Notice that the final solution is

$$u(x,t) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 kt} \quad \text{with}$$

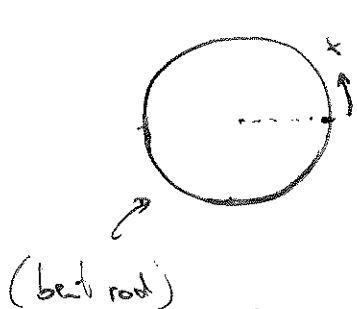
$$A_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx, \quad A_m = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad (m=1,2,\dots).$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(x,t) = A_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx, \quad \text{which coincides (of course)}$$

with the equilibrium solution of the problem.

### 2.4.11 Heat conduction in an insulated circular ring.



Let's assume length  $2L$ .

The variable  $x$  measures the length from  $-L$  to  $L$  (for convenience of notation).

PDE:  $u_t = k u_{xx}, \quad -L < x < L, \quad t > 0$

BC:  $u(-L,t) = u(L,t) \quad t > 0$

$u_x(-L,t) = u_x(L,t)$

IC:  $u(x,0) = f(x), \quad -L < x < L$

Periodic B.C.

(linear and homogeneous B.C.)

Solution:

$$u(x,t) = G(t)\phi(x) \rightarrow \begin{cases} G'(t) = -\lambda k G(t) \rightarrow G(t) = c e^{-\lambda k t} \\ \phi'' = -\lambda \phi \end{cases}$$

BVP:  $\phi'' + \lambda \phi = 0$

$$u(-L, t) = G(t)\phi(-L) = u(L, t) = G(t)\phi(L) \Rightarrow \phi(-L) = \phi(L)$$

$$u_x(-L, t) = G(t)\phi'(-L) = u_x(L, t) = G(t)\phi'(L) \Rightarrow \phi'(-L) = \phi'(L)$$

That is,

$$\begin{cases} \phi'' + \lambda \phi = 0 \\ \phi(-L) = \phi(L) \\ \phi'(-L) = \phi'(L) \end{cases}$$

•  $\lambda > 0$ :  $\phi(x) = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}x)$

$$\phi(-L) = \phi(L) \Leftrightarrow c_1 \cos(-\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sin(-\sqrt{\lambda}L) = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 2c_2 \sin(-\sqrt{\lambda}L) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \lambda = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, n=1, 2, \dots$$

$$\phi'(x) = -c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}x) + c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x)$$

$$\phi'(L) = \phi'(-L) \Leftrightarrow -c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) = c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}L) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \lambda = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, n=1, 2, \dots$$



Thus, positive eigenvalues  $\lambda = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2$ ,  $n=1, 2, \dots$ , with

$$\phi(x) = c_1 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right), \quad n=1, 2, \dots$$

and correspondingly

$$u(x, t) = \left( c_1 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \right) e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 kt}, \quad n=1, 2, \dots$$

•  $\lambda=0$ :  $\phi(x) = c_1 + c_2 x$

$$\phi(-L) = \phi(L) \Leftrightarrow c_1 + c_2 L = c_1 - c_2 L \Leftrightarrow c_2 = 0.$$

$$\phi'(-L) = \phi'(L) \Leftrightarrow c_2 = c_2 \checkmark.$$

Thus,

$\lambda=0$  is eigenvalue with  $\phi(x) = c_1$ .

• Superposition principle:

$$u(x, t) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 kt} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 kt}.$$

• Initial condition:

$$[I] \quad f(x) = u(x, 0) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right).$$

$A_n, B_n?$

We need the following property:

• Proposition: Orthogonality of Sines and Cosines.

$$\int_{-L}^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq m, \\ L & n = m \neq 0, \\ 2L & n = m = 0, \end{cases}$$

$$\int_{-L}^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq m, \\ L & n = m \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\int_{-L}^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = 0.$$

Then, write  $[f]$  in the form

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right),$$

multiply by  $\cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right)$  and integrate from  $x=0$  to  $L$  to solve for  $A_m$ .

Analogously, do the same with  $\sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right)$  to find  $B_m$ .

One finds that

$$\left| \begin{aligned} A_0 &= \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx, & A_m &= \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx, \\ B_m &= \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx, \end{aligned} \right. \quad (m=1, 2, \dots)$$