

# Further Mathematical Methods: II

In this lecture ...

- Double Integration
  - Introduction and examples
  - Applications to joint probability distributions
  - The gamma function
- Fourier Transforms
  - Definition and standard results

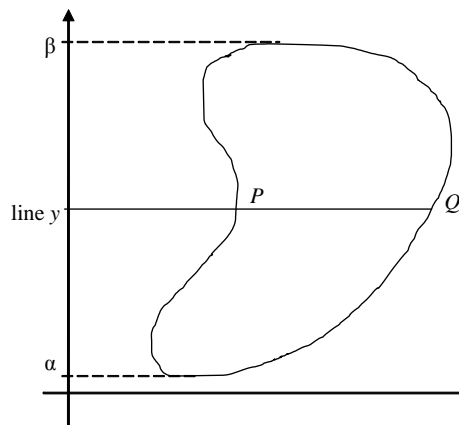
- Application to the heat equation
- Power series solutions of Ordinary Differential Equations

# 1 Double Integration

Evaluation of

$$\iint_A f(x, y) dx dy$$

where  $A$  is the region drawn below.

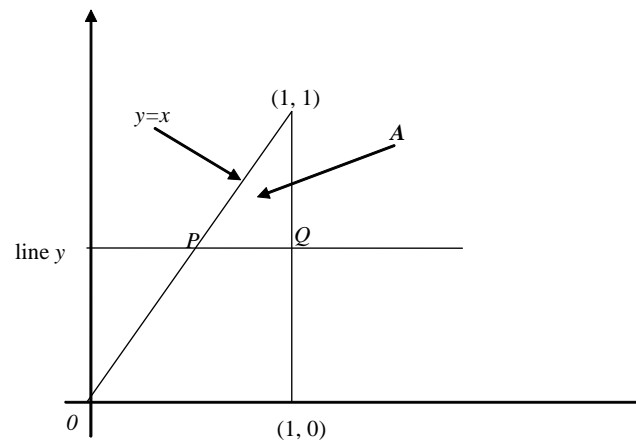


So limits are given by:  $\int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \left\{ f(x, y) \Big|_{x_P(y)}^{x_Q(y)} dx \right\} dy$

**Example:** Evaluate

$$\iint_A (x + y) \, dx \, dy$$

where  $A$  is the  $\Delta$  in the following diagram:



$$x_P = y \quad P(y, y)$$

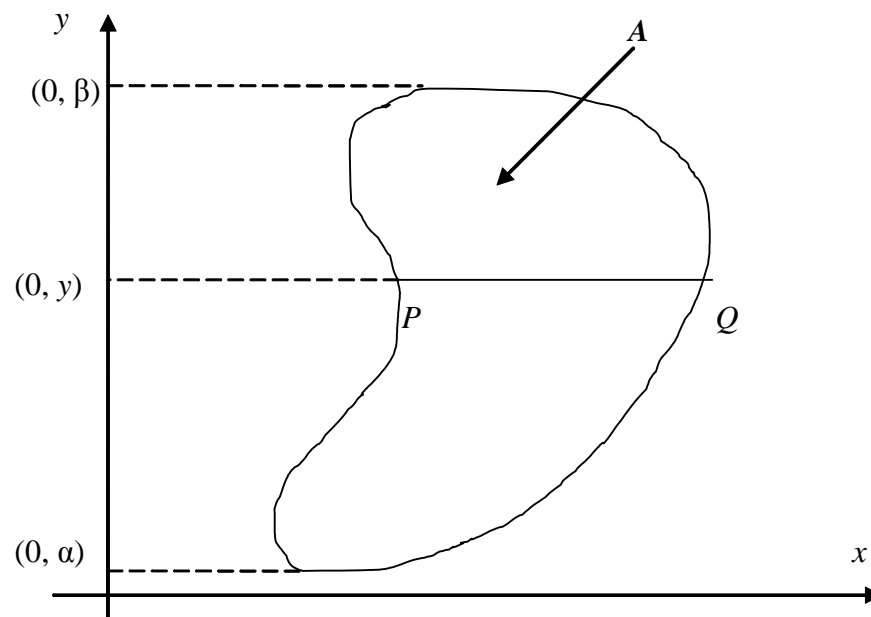
$$x_Q = 1 \quad Q(1, y)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
I &= \int_{y=0}^{y=1} (x+y)|_{x_P=y}^{x_Q=1} dx dy \\
\int_y^1 (x+y) dx &= \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} + xy \right]_y^1 = \left( \frac{1}{2} + y \right) - \left( \frac{y^2}{2} + y^2 \right) \\
I &= \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{2} + y - \frac{3y^2}{2} \right) dy = \left( \frac{y}{2} + \frac{y^2}{2} - \frac{y^3}{2} \right)_0^1 \\
&= \frac{1}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

So generally

$$\iint_A f(x, y) dx dy$$

where  $A$  is defined as



$x_P, x_Q$  are functions of  $y$

$$= \underbrace{\int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \left\{ \int_{x_P}^{x_Q} f(x, y) \right\} dy}_{\text{repeated integral}}$$

We note in passing that

$$\iint_A f \, dx \, dy = \iint_{A_1} f \, dx \, dy + \iint_{A_2} f \, dx \, dy$$

$A$ :  $A_1 + A_2$

The main problem lies in obtaining the limits. We consider the following examples —

## Examples:

### 1. A Rectangle

$$a \leq x \leq b$$

$$\alpha \leq y \leq \beta$$

Here  $x_P = a, x_Q = b$

$$\alpha \leq y \leq \beta$$

$\therefore$

$$\iint_A f \, dx \, dy = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \left\{ \int_a^b f \, dx \right\} dy$$

### 2. A Triangle



with sides

$$x + y = 0$$

$$x - y = 0$$

$$y = 2$$

In this case

$$x_P = -y; \quad x_Q = y$$

$$\alpha = 0; \quad \beta = 2$$

$$\iint_A f \, dx \, dy = \int_0^2 \left\{ \int_{-y}^y f \, dx \right\} dy$$

3  $A$  is the region defined by

$$x^2 + y^2 \leq 1, \quad x, y \geq 0$$

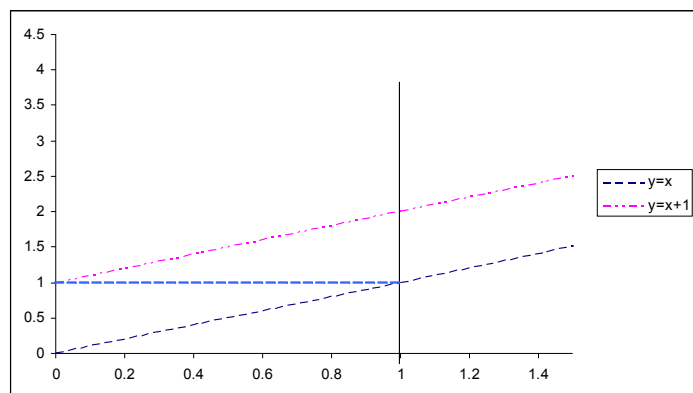
$$\iint_A f \, dx \, dy = \int_0^1 \left\{ \int_0^{\sqrt{1-y^2}} f \, dx \right\} dy$$

**Difficulty:** A parallelogram

For this  $A$  we do not have a simple value for  $x_P$  (or  $x_Q$ )

For  $A_1$        $x_P = 0, \quad x_Q = y$

For  $A_2$        $x_P = y - 1, \quad x_Q = 1$



So

$$\iint_A f \, dx \, dy = \iint_{A_1} f \, dx \, dy + \iint_{A_2} f \, dx \, dy$$

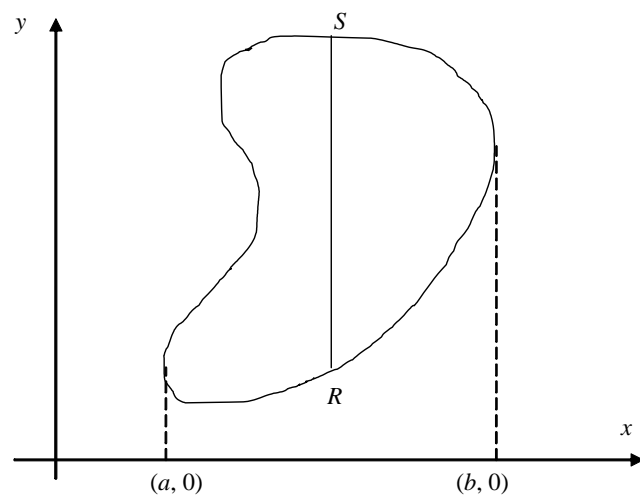
$$\iint_{A_1} = \int_0^1 \left\{ \int_0^y f \, dx \right\} dy \quad (0 \leq y \leq 1 \text{ in } A_1)$$

$$\iint_{A_2} = \int_1^2 \left\{ \int_{y-1}^1 f \, dx \right\} dy \quad (1 \leq y \leq 2 \text{ in } A_2)$$

Sometimes, then, we want to do the  $y$ –integration first:

$$\iint_A f \, dx \, dy =$$

$$\iint_A f \, dy \, dx = \int_a^b \left\{ \int_{y_R}^{y_S} f \, dy \right\} dx$$



Here  $y_R$ ,  $y_S$  depend on  $x$

### Example:

$A$  is the parallelogram discussed earlier

$$y_R = x \quad a = 0$$

$$y_S = x + 1 \quad b = 1$$

$$\iint_A f \, dx \, dy = \int_0^1 \left\{ \int_x^{x+1} f(x, y) \, dy \right\} dx$$

## 1.1 Uses of Double Integration

### AREAS

#### Theorem

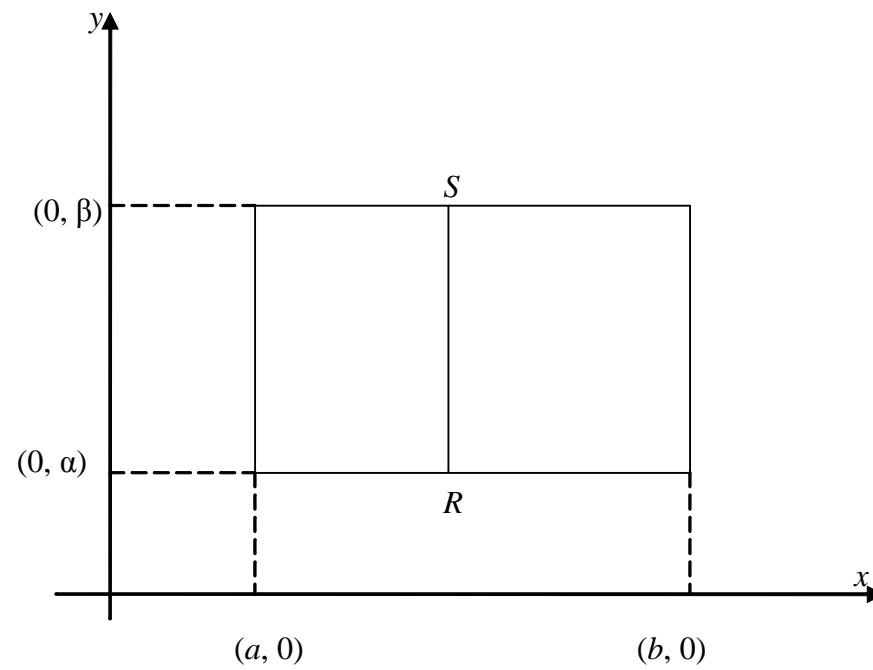
$$\iint_A 1 \, dx \, dy = \text{area of } A$$

Here we have  $f(x, y) = 1 \, \forall (x, y) \text{ in } A$

#### Example

A rectangle  $a \leq x \leq b, \alpha \leq y \leq \beta$

$$\text{area} = \iint_A \mathbf{1} \cdot dx dy = \int \left\{ \int \mathbf{1} \, dy \right\} dx$$





$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_a^b [y]_\alpha^\beta dx = \int_a^b (\beta - \alpha) dx = (\beta - \alpha) [x]_a^b \\
&= (\beta - \alpha) (b - a)
\end{aligned}$$

## 1.2 Changing to Plane Polars

If

$$x = r \cos \theta$$

$$y = r \sin \theta$$

then

$$\iint_A f(x, y) dx dy = \iint_{A'} F(r, \theta) r dr d\theta$$

where

1.  $F(r, \theta) = f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$
2.  $A'$  is the region  $A$  described in  $(r, \theta)$  coordinates.

To prove

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\pi}$$

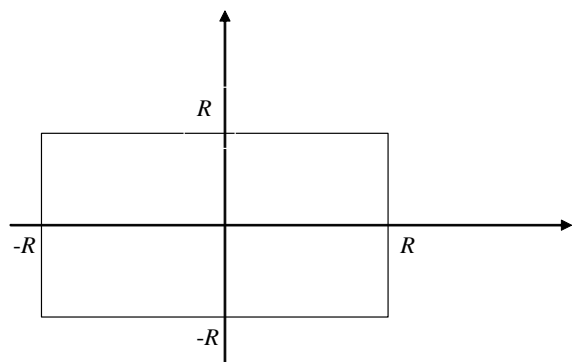
Let

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} I^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx \times \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2} dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(x^2+y^2)} dx dy \end{aligned}$$

This region can be thought of as the square area as  $R \longrightarrow \infty$  in

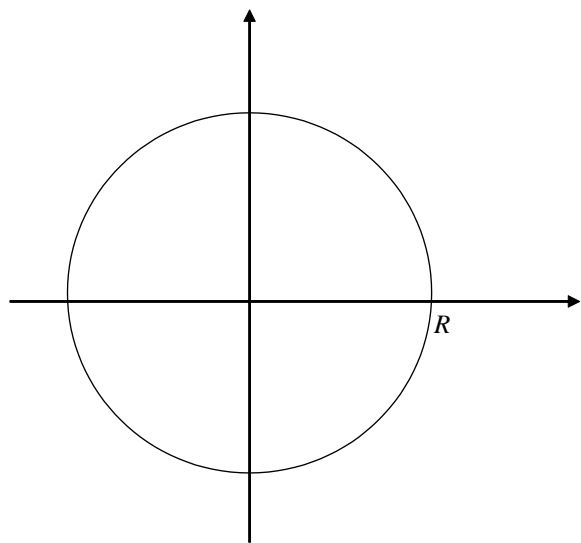


Now put

$$x = r \cos \theta$$

$$y = r \sin \theta$$

for  $r = R$  and  $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ , where  $R \longrightarrow \infty$



So the integral becomes

$$I^2 = \int_{\theta=0}^{2\pi} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} e^{-r^2} r dr d\theta$$

$$\int_{r=0}^{\infty} e^{-r^2} r dr = \frac{1}{2}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} I^2 &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\theta=0}^{2\pi} d\theta = \pi \\ I &= \sqrt{\pi} \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx &= \sqrt{\pi} \\ \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi} \end{aligned}$$

## 1.3 General Change of Variable in Double Integrals

Plane polars provide us with a useful change of variable technique when  $A$  has a circular boundary. For more general shapes we need a robust and generalised method. We know the double integral of a function  $z = f(x, y)$  is

$$\iint_A f dx dy$$

If  $f(x, y)$  is difficult to integrate, simplify the problem by making a change of variables  $u$  and  $v$ , given by

$$\iint_A f(x, y) dx dy = \iint_{A'} F(u, v) |J| du dv$$

where

1.  $F(u, v) = f(x(u, v), y(u, v))$

2.  $A'$  is region  $A$  in terms of new coordinates

3. The *Jacobian*  $J$  is defined by the determinant

$$J = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{vmatrix}$$

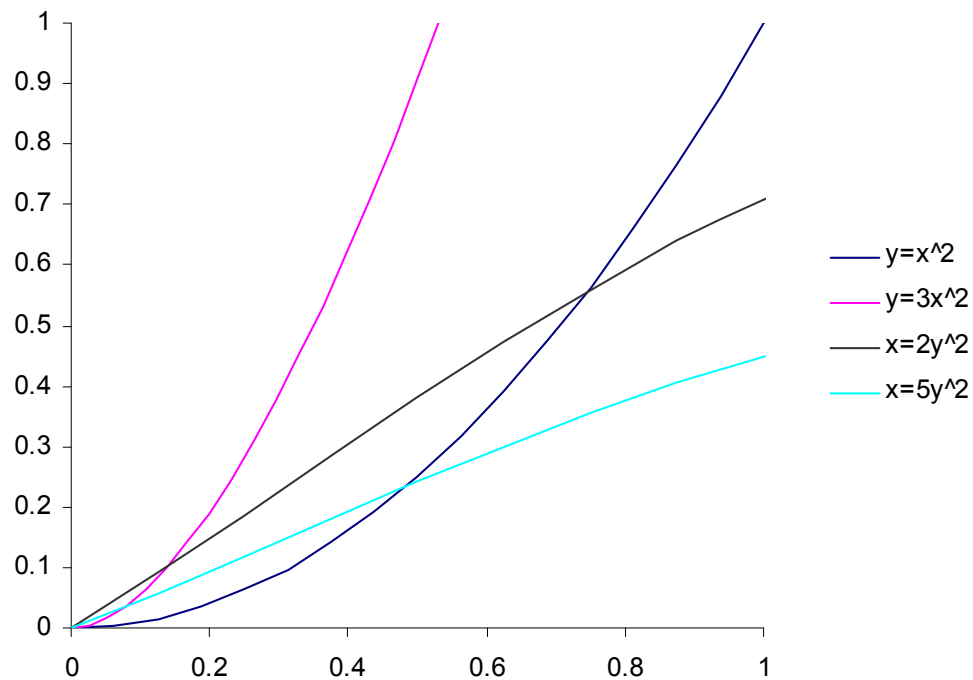
we assume  $J \neq 0$ .

**Example:** Evaluate the integral

$$\iint_A xy dx dy$$

where  $A$  is the finite region in the first quadrant bounded by the four curves

$$y = x^2, \quad y = 3x^2; \quad x = 2y^2, \quad x = 5y^2$$





Introduce new variables  $u, v$  by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{y}{x^2} &= u \\ \frac{x}{y^2} &= v \end{aligned} \right\} \longrightarrow \left. \begin{aligned} y &= ux^2 \\ x &= vy^2 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

combining these gives  $x(u, v)$  and  $y(u, v)$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= u^{-2/3}v^{-1/3} \\ y &= u^{-1/3}v^{-2/3} \end{aligned}$$

Now calculate the Jacobean  $J =$

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{array} \right| &= \left| \begin{array}{cc} -\frac{2}{3}u^{-5/3}v^{-1/3} & -\frac{1}{3}u^{-2/3}v^{-4/3} \\ -\frac{1}{3}u^{-4/3}v^{-2/3} & -\frac{2}{3}u^{-1/3}v^{-5/3} \end{array} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{3u^2v^2} \end{aligned}$$

The integrand is  $f(x, y) = xy$

$$F(u, v) = \underbrace{\left(u^{-2/3}v^{-1/3}\right)}_x \underbrace{\left(u^{-1/3}v^{-2/3}\right)}_y = 1/uv$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned}\iint_A xy dx dy &= \iint_{A'} (1/uv) \frac{1}{3u^2v^2} du dv \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \iint_{A'} \frac{1}{u^3v^3} du dv\end{aligned}$$

Now turn to  $A'$ . The parabolas

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} y = x^2 \\ y = 3x^2 \end{array} \right\} \text{ or } \left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{y}{x^2} = 1 \\ \frac{y}{x^2} = 3 \end{array} \right\}$$

become straight lines  $u = 1$ ,  $u = 3$  in the  $u - v$  plane.

In a similar way

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x = 2y^2 \\ x = 5y^2 \end{array} \right\} \text{ or } \left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{x}{y^2} = 2 \\ \frac{x}{y^2} = 5 \end{array} \right\}$$

become straight lines  $v = 2$ ,  $v = 5$  in the  $u - v$  plane.

This very nicely takes a somewhat complex region in  $x - y$  to a rectangular area in  $u - v$ , and our problem simplifies to

$$\frac{1}{3} \int_2^5 \int_1^3 \frac{1}{u^3 v^3} du dv.$$

**Example:** Calculate the area of the finite region bounded by  $y = x$  and  $y = x^2$ , between  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$ . Doing this as a simple A-level maths problem yields a value of  $1/6$ .

Here we will construct a double integral of the form  $\iint_A 1 dx dy$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^1 \int_{x=y}^{x=\sqrt{y}} 1 dx dy &= \int_0^1 (\sqrt{y} - y) dy = \frac{2}{3}y^{3/2} - \frac{1}{2}y^2 \Big|_0^1 = 1/6 \\ \int_0^1 \int_{y=x^2}^{y=x} 1 dy dx &= \int_0^1 (x - x^2) dx = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{3}x^3 \Big|_0^1 = 1/6\end{aligned}$$

So 3 different methods of solution all arriving at the same answer!

## 1.4 Joint PDF for Continuous Random Variables

Recall that the cumulative distribution function  $F(x)$  of a RV  $X$  is

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x p(s) ds$$

$F(x)$  is related to the PDF  $p(x)$  by

$$p(x) = \frac{dF}{dx}.$$

Consider the pair  $(X, Y)$  with joint pdf  $p_{XY}(x, y)$  and cdf  $F_{XY}(x, y)$ . They are related through a similar fashion

$$p_{XY}(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} F_{XY}(x, y).$$

Integrating this (as before) gives the cdf as

$$F_{XY}(x, y) = \int_{-\infty}^x \int_{-\infty}^y p_{XY}(s, t) dt ds$$

which allows us to calculate the probability

$$\mathbb{P}(X \leq x, Y \leq y).$$

We can extend the simple properties of  $p_{XY}(x, y)$  to two dimensions:

- $p_{XY}(x, y) \geq 0$
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p_{XY}(x, y) dx dy = 1$
- $\iint_R p_{X, Y}(x, y) dx dy = \mathbb{P}((X, Y) \in R)$  for all regions  $R$
- $\mathbb{P}(a < X < b, c < Y < d) = \int_c^d \int_a^b p_{XY}(x, y) dx dy$

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent random variables the cdf can be expressed in separable form

$$F_{XY}(x, y) = F_X(x) F_Y(y).$$

Then differentiating gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 F_{XY}(x, y)}{\partial x \partial y} &= \frac{\partial F_X}{\partial x} \frac{\partial F_Y}{\partial y} \\ p_{XY}(x, y) &= p_X(x) p_Y(y). \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** Consider the joint pdf defined by  $p_{XY}(x, y) = e^{-(x+y)}$ . To calculate  $\mathbb{P}(1 < X < 2, 0 < Y < 2)$  we solve

$$\begin{aligned}\int_1^2 \int_0^2 e^{-(x+y)} dx dy &= \int_1^2 e^{-x} dx \int_0^2 e^{-y} dy \\ &= (e^{-1} - e^{-2}) (1 - e^{-2}) = 0.2\end{aligned}$$



## 1.5 The Gamma Function Revisited

The Gamma Function  $\Gamma(x)$  is defined as

$$\Gamma(x) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt \quad (x > 0)$$

The condition on  $x$  is a convergent criterion.

**Theorem**

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^{2m-1} \theta \sin^{2n-1} \theta d\theta = \frac{\Gamma(m) \Gamma(n)}{2\Gamma(m+n)}$$

**Proof** Start with the definition of the gamma function

$$\Gamma(m) = \int_0^{\infty} t^{m-1} e^{-t} dt$$

and make the substitution  $t = x^2 \longrightarrow dt = 2x dx$  which gives

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(m) &= \int_0^\infty (x^2)^{m-1} \exp(-x^2) \cdot 2x dx \\ &= 2 \int_0^\infty x^{2m-1} \exp(-x^2) dx\end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\Gamma(n) = 2 \int_0^\infty y^{2n-1} \exp(-y^2) dy$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(m) \Gamma(n) &= 4 \left( \int_0^\infty x^{2m-1} \exp(-x^2) dx \right) \left( \int_0^\infty y^{2n-1} \exp(-y^2) dy \right) \\ &= 4 \int \int_A x^{2m-1} y^{2n-1} e^{-(x^2+y^2)} dx dy\end{aligned}$$

where  $A$  is the region of integration defined by the first (positive) quadrant.

Introduce polar coordinates

$$x = r \cos \theta$$

$$y = r \sin \theta$$

to transform the integrand to

$$r^{2m+2n-2} \cos^{2m-1} \theta \sin^{2n-1} \theta \exp(-r^2)$$

and  $dx dy \longrightarrow r dr d\theta$

$$\Gamma(m) \Gamma(n) = 4 \underbrace{\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^{2m-1} \theta \sin^{2n-1} \theta d\theta}_{\text{integral we want}} \underbrace{\int_0^{\infty} r^{2(m+n)-1} e^{-(r^2)} dr}_{\frac{1}{2}\Gamma(m+n)}$$

so rearranging gives the result

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^{2m-1} \theta \sin^{2n-1} \theta d\theta = \frac{\Gamma(m) \Gamma(n)}{2\Gamma(m+n)}$$

**Example** Calculate  $\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^4 \theta \sin^3 \theta d\theta$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} 2m - 1 &= 4 \longrightarrow m = 5/2 \\ 2n - 1 &= 3 \longrightarrow n = 2 \end{aligned}$$

so integral equals

$$\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2}\right) \Gamma(2)}{2\Gamma\left(\frac{9}{2}\right)} = \frac{\frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \cdot 1}{2\left(\frac{7}{2} \cdot \frac{5}{2} \cdot \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}\right)} = \frac{2}{35}$$

**Example**  $I = \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^6 \theta \, d\theta$

$$2m - 1 = 6 \longrightarrow m = 7/2$$

$$2n - 1 = 0 \longrightarrow n = 1/2$$

Hence  $I =$

$$\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{7}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{2\Gamma(4)} = \frac{\frac{5}{2} \cdot \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \cdot \sqrt{\pi}}{2(3 \cdot 2)} = \frac{5\pi}{32}$$

## 2 The Fourier Transform

If  $f = f(x)$  then consider

$$\hat{f}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{ix\omega} dx.$$

If this integral converges, it is called the *Fourier Transform* of  $f(x)$ . Similar to the case of Laplace Transforms, it is denoted as  $\mathcal{F}(f)$ , i.e.

$$\mathcal{F}(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{ix\omega} dx = \hat{f}(\omega).$$

The *Inverse Fourier Transform* is then

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{f}(\omega)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(\omega) e^{-ix\omega} d\omega = f(x).$$

The convergent property means that  $\hat{f}(\omega)$  is bounded and we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)| dx < \infty.$$

Functions of this type  $f(x) \in L_1(-\infty, \infty)$  and are called *square integrable*.

We know from integration (basic property of Riemann integral) that

$$\left| \int_a^b f(x) dx \right| \leq \int_a^b |f(x)| dx.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} |\hat{f}(\omega)| &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{ix\omega} dx \right| \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(x) e^{ix\omega}| dx \end{aligned}$$

and Euler's identity  $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$  implies that  $|e^{i\theta}| = \sqrt{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} = 1$ , therefore

$$|\hat{f}(\omega)| \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(x)| dx < \infty.$$

In addition to the boundedness of  $\hat{f}(\omega)$ , it is also continuous (requires a  $\delta - \epsilon$  proof).

**Example:** Obtain the Fourier transform of  $f(x) = e^{-|x|}$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{f}(\omega) &= \mathcal{F}(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{ix\omega} dx \\&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-|x|} e^{ix\omega} dx \\&= \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{-|x|} e^{ix\omega} dx + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-|x|} e^{ix\omega} dx \\&= \int_{-\infty}^0 e^x e^{ix\omega} dx + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x} e^{ix\omega} dx = \\&\quad \int_{-\infty}^0 \exp[(1 + i\omega)x] dx + \int_0^{\infty} \exp[-(1 - i\omega)x] dx \\&= \frac{1}{(1 + i\omega)} \exp[(1 + i\omega)x] \Big|_{-\infty}^0 - \frac{1}{(1 - i\omega)} \exp[-(1 - i\omega)x] \Big|_0^{\infty} \\&= \frac{1}{(1 + i\omega)} + \frac{1}{(1 - i\omega)} = \frac{2}{(1 + \omega^2)}\end{aligned}$$



Our interest in differential equations continues, hence the reason for introducing this transform. We now look at obtaining Fourier transforms of derivative terms. We assume that  $f(x)$  is continuous and  $f(x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$ . Consider

$$\mathcal{F}\{f'(x)\} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f'(x) e^{ix\omega} dx$$

which is simplified using integration by parts

$$f(x) e^{ix\omega} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} - i\omega \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{ix\omega} dx$$

so

$$\mathcal{F}\{f'(x)\} = -i\omega \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{ix\omega} dx = -i\omega \hat{f}(\omega).$$

We can obtain the Fourier transform for the second derivative by performing integration by parts (twice) to give

$$\mathcal{F}\{f''(x)\} = (-i\omega)^2 \mathcal{F}\{f(x)\} = -\omega^2 \hat{f}(\omega).$$

$$\mathcal{F}\{f'(x)\} = -i\omega \hat{f}(\omega)$$

$$\mathcal{F}\{f''(x)\} = -\omega^2 \hat{f}(\omega)$$

**Example:** Solve the diffusion equation problem

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad t > 0 \\ u(x, 0) &= e^{-|x|}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty \end{aligned}$$

Here  $u = u(x, t)$ , so we begin by defining

$$\mathcal{F}\{u(x, t)\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(x, t) e^{ix\omega} dx = \hat{u}(\omega, t).$$

Now take Fourier transforms of our PDE, i.e.

$$\mathcal{F}\left\{\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\right\} = \mathcal{F}\left\{\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}\right\}$$

to obtain

$$\frac{d\hat{u}}{dt} = -\omega^2 \hat{u}(\omega, t).$$

We note that the second order PDE has been reduced to a first order equation of type variable separable. This has general solution

$$\hat{u}(\omega, t) = Ce^{-\omega^2 t}.$$

We can find the constant  $C$  by transforming the initial condition

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}\{u(x, 0)\} &= \mathcal{F}\{e^{-|x|}\} \\ \hat{u}(\omega, 0) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-|x|} e^{ix\omega} dx = \frac{2}{(1 + \omega^2)}.\end{aligned}$$

Applying this to the solution  $\hat{u}(\omega, t)$  gives

$$\hat{u}(\omega, 0) = C = \frac{2}{(1 + \omega^2)},$$

hence

$$\hat{u}(\omega, t) = \frac{2}{(1 + \omega^2)} e^{-\omega^2 t}.$$

We now use the inverse transform to get  $u(x, t) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{u}(\omega, t))$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{u}(\omega, t) e^{-ix\omega} d\omega \\ &= 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 + \omega^2)} e^{-\omega^2 t} e^{-ix\omega} d\omega \\ &= 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 + \omega^2)} e^{-\omega^2 t} (\cos x\omega - i \sin x\omega) d\omega \\ &= 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 + \omega^2)} e^{-\omega^2 t} \cos x\omega d\omega - 2i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 + \omega^2)} e^{-\omega^2 t} \sin x\omega d\omega. \end{aligned}$$

This now simplifies nicely because  $\frac{1}{(1 + \omega^2)} e^{-\omega^2 t} \sin x\omega$  is an odd function,

hence

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 + \omega^2)} e^{-\omega^2 t} \sin x\omega \, d\omega = 0.$$

Therefore

$$u(x, t) = 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 + \omega^2)} e^{-\omega^2 t} \cos x\omega \, d\omega.$$

In order to solve this we now need to use *Residues* (Complex Analysis).

# 3 Power Series Solutions

## 3.1 Introduction

The Euler equation has a nice structure, i.e.

$$ax^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + bx \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$$

where the order of each derivative term and power of its coefficient in  $x$  is the same. The next step is to move away from this "nice pattern" and consider a more general equation of the form

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + p(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + q(x) y = 0 \tag{1}$$

We look for solutions in the neighbourhood of  $x = 0$ .

We say that  $x = 0$  is an *ordinary point* of the differential equation (1) if both  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  have Taylor expansions about  $x = 0$ .

i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= p_0 + p_1x + p_2x^2 + O(x^3) \\ q(x) &= q_0 + q_1x + q_2x^2 + O(x^3) \end{aligned}$$

with both  $p_i, q_i \sim O(1)$  where  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ .

If either or both  $p(x), q(x)$  do not have Taylor expansions about  $x = 0$ , then  $x = 0$  is a *singular point* for the D.E.

Regular Singular Point:  $xp(x)$  and  $x^2p(x)$  have Taylor expansions about  $x = 0$ .

Irregular Singular Point: all other points.

Examples:

$$1. \quad x \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x^3 \frac{dy}{dx} + xy = 0$$

This can be written in standard form as  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0 \Rightarrow p(x) = x^2$  &  $q(x) = 1$  which both have Taylor expansions about  $x = 0$ .

Therefore  $x = 0$  is an ordinary point of the differential equation.



$$2. \quad x^3 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + 2x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 5x^2 y = 0$$

which becomes  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + \frac{2}{x} \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{5}{x} y = 0$  and  $p(x) = \frac{2}{x}$  &  $q(x) = \frac{5}{x}$  do not have a Taylor expansion about  $x = 0$  - however  $x p(x) = 2$  &  $x^2 q(x) = 5x$  do.

Therefore  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point of the differential equation.

$$3. \quad \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} - \frac{1}{x^2} \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{4}{x^3} y = 0$$

$$p(x) = O\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right) \quad \& \quad x p(x) = O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right); \quad q(x) = O\left(\frac{1}{x^3}\right) \quad \& \quad x^2 q(x) = O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$$

None of these expressions have a Taylor expansion about  $x = 0$ .

Therefore  $x = 0$  is an irregular singular point of the given differential equation.

## 3.2 Ordinary Point

Assume a solution of (1) of the form

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n x^n \quad (A_0 \neq 0) \quad (2)$$

with  $A_n$  constant and  $A_{-n} = 0$ .

Since no boundary conditions are imposed, the general solution involves two arbitrary constants - else the constants can be determined.

Substitute (2) into the equation given by (1) and equate to zero the coefficients of various powers of  $x$ .

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n x^n \rightarrow q(x) y \sim (q_0 + q_1 x + q_2 x^2) (A_0 + A_1 x + A_2 x^2)$$

$$y'(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n A_n x^{n-1} \rightarrow p(x) y' \sim (p_0 + p_1 x + p_2 x^2) (A_1 + 2A_2 x + 3A_3 x^2)$$

$$y''(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n(n-1) A_n x^{n-2} \rightarrow y'' \sim 2A_2 + 6A_3 x + 12A_4 x^2$$

$$2A_2 + 6A_3 x + (p_0 + p_1 x)(A_1 + 2A_2 x) + (q_0 + q_1 x)(A_0 + A_1 x) = 0$$

$$O(1) : \quad A_0 q_0 + A_1 p_0 + 2A_2 = 0$$

$$O(x) : \quad q_0 A_1 + 2p_0 A_2 + p_1 A_1 + q_1 A_0 + 6A_3 = 0$$

All coefficients can be expressed in terms of  $A_0$  and  $A_1$  which can be arbitrary.

### Example

Obtain the general solution of

$$y'' - 2xy' + y = 0$$

about the ordinary point  $x = 0$ .

We assume a solution of the form  $y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n x^n$  and substitute the expression and its derivatives into the ODE to yield

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n(n-1) A_n x^{n-2} - 2x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n A_n x^{n-1} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n x^n = 0$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n(n-1) A_n x^{n-2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1-2n) A_n x^n = 0$$

We require a recurrence relation for which a "trick" is used in the summation. In the second summation above, the  $n$  term is changed to  $(n - 2)$  to give

$$\sum_{n-2=0}^{\infty} (1 - 2(n - 2)) A_{n-2} x^{n-2} \text{ which is equivalent to having } \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \dots$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n(n - 1) A_n x^{n-2} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (1 - 2(n - 2)) A_{n-2} x^{n-2} = 0$$

We are still unable to write the lhs of the expression above as one term of  $O(x^{n-2})$ , because the lower limit of the first summation starts at  $n = 0$ , whilst the other begins at  $n = 2$ . This minor problem can be easily overcome by writing

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n(n - 1) A_n x^{n-2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (5 - 2n) A_{n-2} x^{n-2} = 0 \quad (\dagger)$$

because  $A_{-2} = A_{-1} = 0$  and  $A_0 \neq 0$ , and  $(\dagger)$  can now be expressed as

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \{n(n-1)A_n + (5-2n)A_{n-2}\} x^{n-2} = 0.$$

Collecting coefficients of  $x^{n-2}$  :

$$A_n = \frac{(2n-5)}{n(n-1)}A_{n-2} \quad (n \geq 2)$$

or

$$A_{n+2} = \frac{(2n-1)}{(n+2)(n+1)}A_n$$

which gives us the recurrence relationship which we sought.

$$n = 0 : \quad A_2 = -\frac{1}{2}A_0; \quad n = 1 : \quad A_3 = \frac{1}{6}A_1 = \frac{1}{3!}A_1$$

So we see that all terms  $A_{2k}$  will be in terms of  $A_0$  and odd ones  $A_{2k}$  in terms of  $A_1$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
n = 2: \quad A_4 &= \frac{3}{4 \cdot 3} A_2 = -\frac{3}{4 \cdot 3} \frac{1}{2} A_0 = -\frac{3}{4!} A_0 \\
n = 3: \quad A_5 &= \frac{5}{5 \cdot 4} A_3 = \frac{5}{5 \cdot 4} \frac{1}{3!} A_1 = \frac{5}{5!} A_1 \\
n = 4: \quad A_6 &= \frac{7}{6 \cdot 5} A_4 = -\frac{7}{6 \cdot 5} \frac{3}{4!} A_0 = -\frac{21}{6!} A_0 \\
n = 5: \quad A_7 &= \frac{9}{7 \cdot 6} A_5 = \frac{9}{7 \cdot 6} \frac{5}{5!} A_1 = \frac{45}{7!} A_1
\end{aligned}$$

The solution is

$$\begin{aligned}
y(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n x^n = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( A_{2k} x^{2k} + A_{2k+1} x^{2k+1} \right) \\
&= A_0 \underbrace{\left[ 1 - \frac{1}{2!} x^2 - \frac{3}{4!} x^4 - \frac{21}{6!} x^6 + O(x^8) \right]}_{=y_1} + \\
&\quad A_1 \underbrace{\left[ x + \frac{1}{3!} x^3 - \frac{5}{5!} x^5 + \frac{45}{7!} x^7 + O(x^9) \right]}_{=y_2} \\
&= A_0 y_1(x) + A_1 y_2.
\end{aligned}$$



The linear combination  $A_0 y_1(x) + A_1 y_2$  becomes the general solution of the equation. The terms  $A_0$  ,  $A_1$  are arbitrary.

# Appendix

$$\int_0^{\infty} r^{2(m+n)-1} e^{-(r^2)} dr = \frac{1}{2} \Gamma(m+n)$$

Put

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 &= t \longrightarrow 2r dr = dt \\ dr &= \frac{1}{2r} dt = \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} dt \end{aligned}$$

the integral

$$\int_0^{\infty} r^{2(m+n)-1} e^{-(r^2)} dr$$

becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^\infty t^{(m+n)} t^{-1/2} e^{-t} \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty t^{(m+n)-1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \Gamma(m+n) \end{aligned}$$