

"GREEN'S FUNCTIONS in LINEAR ALGEBRA"

$$A |\psi\rangle = |s\rangle \quad \Leftrightarrow \underline{A} \underline{x} = \underline{y}$$

\uparrow dynamics \uparrow state \uparrow source
 $\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{EFFECT}} \quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{CAUSE}}$

given a "disturbance" $|s\rangle$, what happens to $|\psi\rangle$?

$|\psi\rangle$ is s.t. $A|\psi\rangle = |s\rangle$ is true.

A encodes physics, independent of source.
implicit: the relation btwn $|s\rangle$ & $|\psi\rangle$ is linear

if $|\psi_0\rangle$ is the effect of $|s_0\rangle$, then

$$2|\psi_0\rangle \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad 2|s_0\rangle$$

this is not a truth in nature, it is just true of the kinds of dynamics that we can solve most conveniently

\hookrightarrow this is worth thinking about!
 IF NATURE IS NOT LINEAR... WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT LINEAR LIMIT?

if we only do linear part, what do we miss?

SOLUTION:

$$|\psi\rangle = A^{-1} |s\rangle$$

\uparrow if you know A , you can probably calculate A^{-1}

... tedious, but doable

$$A^{-1}A = \mathbb{I}_{N \times N}$$

\uparrow N^2 unknowns
 \uparrow N^2 known (given)
 \nwarrow N^2 known values

LHS: N^2 elements
 RHS: N^2 elements

\Rightarrow can solve N^2 coupled linear sys of eqs.

L.H.
 A TRANSFORMATION ENCODES (most literally) WHAT IT DOES TO BASIS VECTORS.

$$\underline{B} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \quad \Bigg| \quad B^i; |i\rangle\langle j|$$

means: $\underline{B}|1\rangle = a|1\rangle + c|2\rangle$ $\leftarrow B^2, \dots$

$$\underline{B}|2\rangle = b|1\rangle + d|2\rangle$$

$$\Leftrightarrow B \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ c \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{;} \quad B \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ d \end{pmatrix}$$

knowing the action on basis vectors \Leftrightarrow knowing the transformation

if I tell you: $(A^{-1})|1\rangle = x|1\rangle + y|2\rangle$
 $(A^{-1})|2\rangle = z|1\rangle + w|2\rangle$

then you know what (A^{-1}) is.
 ASSUMING \mathbb{R}^2 IS YOUR VECTOR SPACE.

if I give you (A^{-1}) AND S^1, S^2
 then you know what $|\psi\rangle$ is.

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\psi\rangle &= A^{-1}|s\rangle = A^{-1}(S^1|1\rangle + S^2|2\rangle) \\
 &= S^1 A^{-1}|1\rangle + S^2 A^{-1}|2\rangle \\
 &= S^1(x|1\rangle + y|2\rangle) + S^2(z|1\rangle + w|2\rangle) \\
 &= (S^1x + S^2z)|1\rangle + (S^1y + S^2w)|2\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

Physics example



charged cat



discretized charged cat

Basis "BLOCKS" OF UNIT CHARGE W/ SOME COEFFICIENT ρ

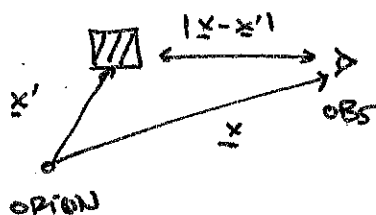
call it $|\underline{x}'\rangle$
↑ position of block

for simplicity, assume each block has unit "charge" $\rho_0 dV$

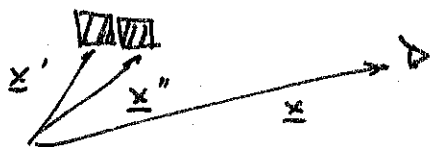
ELECTROSTATICS: given source distribution, want the electrostatic potential

$$\nabla^2 \phi(\underline{x}) = -\rho(\underline{x}) \quad \leftarrow \epsilon_0 = 1 \text{ in my units}$$

BUT I KNOW THAT THE POTENTIAL FROM A UNIT CHARGE is



$$\phi(\underline{x}) = \frac{-1}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\underline{x} - \underline{x}'|}$$



$$\phi(\underline{x}) = \frac{-1}{4\pi} \left(\frac{1}{|\underline{x} - \underline{x}'|} + \frac{1}{|\underline{x} - \underline{x}''|} \right)$$

evidently: $\phi(\underline{x}) = -(\nabla^2)^{-1} \rho$
GREEN'S FUNCTION

linear: $\phi(\underline{x}) = -(\nabla^2)^{-1} (\rho_1 + \rho_2)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{of } \sum_i \psi^i |i\rangle &= \sum_{i,j} (A^{-1})^i_j \sum_k S^k |k\rangle \\
 &\quad |i\rangle \langle j| \quad \downarrow \sum_k \langle j|k\rangle = \delta^k_j \\
 &= \sum_{i,j} (A^{-1})^i_j S^j |i\rangle \\
 &\quad \Downarrow \text{ (l on both sides)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\psi^l = \sum_j (A^{-1})^l_j S^j}$$

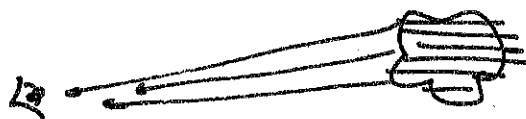
in continuum, POSITIONS are the indices

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi(x) &= \sum_{x'} \underbrace{\frac{-1}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|x-x'|}}_{= G(x, x')} \underbrace{P(x')}_{\substack{\uparrow \text{ analog of } S^j \\ P(x') = \begin{cases} p_0 & \text{if "on"} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}}} dV
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow \int d^3x' G(x, x') P(x')$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sim \phi^l &= \sum_j \underbrace{G^l_j}_{(A^{-1})} P^j \\
 &\quad \uparrow \\
 &\quad (A^{-1}) \text{ where } A = \nabla^2
 \end{aligned}$$

G is the Green's function. ALSO OFTEN CALLED A PROPAGATOR.



$$\sum_{x'} G(x, x') P(x')$$

↑
PROPAGATES information P
at x' to the
observation point x .

⇒ in the case where the information propagation is linear.

DOUBLE THE $P(x')$, double
the contribution from that
term in the Green's function
sum.

We've written this down in SOME basis

... but $|\psi\rangle = \underbrace{(A^{-1})}_A |\phi\rangle$

is true in any basis.

(eg position space, momentum space,
spherical harmonics, Fourier, ...)