

Notes for Applied PDEs

Wenge Huang

February 1, 2023

1 Lecture1

Let's consider the 2nd order PDEs. The most general form of a 2nd order PDE with two variables is:

$$Au_{xx} + Bu_{xy} + Cu_{yy} + Du_x + Eu_y + Fu = G \quad (1)$$

where A, B, \dots, G are constants or given functions of x and y .

1.1 Types of PDEs

All linear PDEs in the form of Eq(1) can be classified into three types: **hyperbolic**, **parabolic** and **elliptic**.

The hyperbolic type: e.g. the wave equation

$$\Delta(x, y) = B^2(x, y) - 4A(x, y)C(x, y) > 0 \quad (2)$$

The parabolic type: e.g. the heat equation

$$\Delta(x, y) = B^2(x, y) - 4A(x, y)C(x, y) = 0 \quad (3)$$

The elliptic type: e.g. the Laplace equation

$$\Delta(x, y) = B^2(x, y) - 4A(x, y)C(x, y) < 0 \quad (4)$$

1.2 Superposition principle

If u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n , are the solutions to the linear homogeneous PDE $Lu = 0$, and $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in R$. Here L is a linear differential operator. Then the linear combination of $\sum_1^n c_i u_i$ is also the solution of the PDE.

Let S_h be the set of all solutions to the homogeneous problem

$$Lu = 0$$

Then we consider the inhomogeneous problem

$$Lu = f$$

The set of all solutions to this inhomogeneous problem is given by

$$S_i = \{u_i + u_h | u_h \in S_h\}$$

Here u_i is a particular solution to the inhomogeneous problem and S_i is the translation of S_h by u_i .

2 Lecture2

2.1 ODE

Let's consider the 2nd ODE first.

$$ax''(t) + bx'(t) + cx(t) = 0 \quad (5)$$

where a, b and $c \in R$ and $a \neq 0$.

We consider the characteristic equation first:

$$a\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c = 0 \quad (6)$$

with two solution λ_1 and λ_2 .

Case I, when $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$, we have the independent solutions:

$$\begin{cases} x_1(t) = e^{\lambda_1 t} \\ x_2(t) = e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{cases}$$

Case II, when have the same roots $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$, we have the solution:

$$\begin{cases} x_1(t) = e^{\lambda_1 t} \\ x_2(t) = te^{\lambda_2 t} \end{cases}$$

Case III, we have complex conjugate pairs of roots $\lambda_1 = \alpha + \beta i$ and $\lambda_2 = \alpha - \beta i$. The two independent solutions are:

$$\begin{cases} x_1(t) = e^{\alpha t} \cos(\beta t) \\ x_2(t) = e^{\alpha t} \sin(\beta t) \end{cases}$$

With initial conditions given, we'll search solution with a linear combination of the independent solutions

$$x(t) = C_1x_1(t) + C_2x_2(t) \quad (7)$$

where C_1 and $C_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

This is called the general solution of the homogeneous problem Eq(5).

Then for the inhomogeneous version,

$$ax''(t) + bx'(t) + cx(t) = f(t) \quad (8)$$

we need to use the **variable of parameter formula** to find a particular solution.

3 Heat equation

Let's consider the 1D heat equation on the interval $(0, L)$ and subject to some initial conditions (IBVP).

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} & x \in (0, L), t > 0 \\ u(0, t) = 0, u(L, t) = 0 & t > 0 \\ u(x, 0) = f(x) & 0 \leq x \leq L \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

3.1 Separation of variable

We are looking for non-trivial solutions. We assume:

$$u(x, t) = V(x)T(t) \quad x \in (0, L), t > 0$$

Plugging it into the Eq(9), we can obtain

$$\frac{T'}{T} = \frac{V''}{V} = \beta \quad \forall x \in (0, L), t > 0$$

Thus, we get

$$\begin{cases} T'(t) = \beta T(t) \\ V''(t) = \beta V(t) \end{cases}$$

we successfully transfer the PDE to ODEs.

Considering the boundary conditions $u(0, t) = 0, u(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$ we have $V(0) = 0$ and $V(L) = 0$.

$$\begin{cases} V''(t) = \beta V(t) & , x \in (0, L) \\ V(0) = 0 \\ V(L) = 0 \end{cases}$$

In this case, the characteristic equation is:

$$\lambda^2 - \beta = 0$$

we have three cases for β . And we can check that only when $\beta < 0$, the solution is non-trivial.

When $\beta > 0$ we have two distinguished real roots

$$\begin{cases} V_1(x) = e^{-\sqrt{\beta}x} \\ V_2(x) = e^{\sqrt{\beta}x} \end{cases}$$

Then $V(x) = C_1V_1(x) + C_2V_2(x)$ with the boundary conditions $V(0) = 0$ and $V(L) = 0$. As a result $C_1 = C_2 = 0$.

When $\beta = 0$, we have $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$. Thus we can find that $V_1(x) = 1$ and $V_2(x) = x$. Considering the boundary conditions, the coefficients are also should be 0, *i.e.* $C_1 = C_2 = 0$. When $\beta < 0$, the solutions of the characteristic function is

$$\lambda = \pm\sqrt{-\beta}i$$

As a result, we find that $V_1(x) = \cos(\sqrt{-\beta}x)$ and $V_2(x) = \sin(\sqrt{-\beta}x)$. With the boundary condition given $V(0) = 0$ and $V(L) = 0$, we have that:

$$C_1 + 0 = 0$$

$$C_1\cos(\sqrt{-\beta}L) + C_2\sin(\sqrt{-\beta}L) = 0$$

For non-trivial solutions, we need to have $\sin(\sqrt{-\beta}L) = 0$ and

$$\beta_n = -\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, \quad n \in N$$

Thus we find the eigenvalues and the eigenfunctions:

$$\begin{cases} \beta_n = -\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \\ V_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \end{cases}, n \in N \quad (10)$$

Now for each β we have the solution for $T(t)$:

$$T'(t) = \beta_n T(t), \quad n \in N$$

$$T(t) = e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \quad n \in N$$

We find the solution:

$$u_n(x, t) = V_n(x)T_n(t) = e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \quad n \in N \quad (11)$$

From the above calculation, we know that each u_n satisfies the following homogeneous BVP:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} & x \in (0, L), t > 0 \\ u(0, t) = 0, u(L, t) = 0 & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

We look for the solution of the form:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n u_n(x, t) \quad (13)$$

We need to utilize the initial conditions to find the coefficient. The initial condition is:

$$u(x, 0) = f(x) \quad x \in [0, L]$$

With $t = 0$, we have $T(0) = 1$ and also:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) = f(x) \quad (14)$$

This is exactly the problem of finding the **Fourier sine expansion** of the given function f .

To find the coefficient C_n , we use the fact that V_n are orthogonal to each other in the sense that:

$$\int_0^L V_n(x) V_m(x) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \neq n \\ \frac{L}{2} & \text{if } m = n \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

Now multiply both side of Eq(14) by V_m and integrate from 0 to L .

$$\int_0^L \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n V_n(x) V_m(x) dx = \int_0^L f(x) V_m(x) dx$$

Assume we can switch \int_0^L with $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}$, we get

$$C_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx \quad n \in N$$

With known the coefficient, we finally obtain the complete solution of the IBVP Eq(9):

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x') \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x'\right) dx' e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \quad n \in N, t > 0, x \in [0, L] \quad (16)$$

3.2 Source term

Now we are trying to solve the heat equation with the source term:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + g(x, t) & x \in (0, L), t > 0 \\ u(0, t) = 0, u(L, t) = 0 & t > 0 \\ u(x, 0) = f(x) & 0 \leq x \leq L \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

First we recall the homogeneous BVP

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} & x \in (0, L), t > 0 \\ u(0, t) = 0, u(L, t) = 0 & t > 0 \end{cases}$$

We know the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions:

$$\begin{cases} \beta_n = -\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \\ V_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \end{cases}, n \in \mathbb{N}$$

We are looking for the solution of the form:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{T}_n(t) V_n(x) \quad (18)$$

Plugging Eq(31) into the source term Eq(17), we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dt}(\tilde{T}_n(t)) V_n(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{T}_n(t) \frac{d^2}{dx^2}(V_n(x)) + g(x, t)$$

with knowing that

$$V''(x) = \beta V(x)$$

Now using the orthogonal property, we multiply both sides by V_m and integrate from 0 to L :

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dt}(\tilde{T}_n(t)) \int_0^L V_n(x) V_m(x) dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{T}_n(t) \beta_n \int_0^L V_n(x) V_m(x) dx + \int_0^L g(x, t) V_m(x) dx$$

Using Eq(15)

$$\int_0^L V_n(x) V_m(x) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \neq n \\ \frac{L}{2} & \text{if } m = n \end{cases}$$

We have

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\tilde{T}_m(t)) = \beta_m \tilde{T}_m(t) + \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L g(x, t) V_m(x) dx$$

we get an ODE

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\tilde{T}_n(t)) = \beta_n \tilde{T}_n(t) + h_n(t)$$

Then we consider the initial condition $u(x, 0) = f(x)$:

$$u(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{T}_n(0) V_n(x) = f(x)$$

Like before, we multiply both sides by V_m and integrate from 0 to L :

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{T}_n(0) \int_0^L V_n(x) V_m(x) dx = \int_0^L f(x) V_m(x) dx$$

$$\tilde{T}_n(0) = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) V_n(x) dx = \omega_n$$

Now we have the IVP for $\tilde{T}_n(t)$:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} \tilde{T}_n(t) = \beta_n \tilde{T}_n(t) + h_n(t) \\ \tilde{T}_n(0) = \omega_n \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

where

$$h_n(t) = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L g(x, t) V_n(x) dx$$

$$\omega_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) V_n(x) dx$$

Now we need to solve the IVP problem with the variation of parameter formula:

$$\tilde{T}_n(t) = \omega_n e^{\beta_n t} + \int_0^t e^{\beta_n(t-s)} h_n(s) ds$$

Finally we find the complete solution of the heat equation with source term:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) = & \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x') \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x'\right) dx' e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right) \\ & + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\int_0^t e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 (t-s)} \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L g(x, s) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right) ds \right] \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$