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① We take the ansatz that $f(x, y, t)$ is separable, namely f is of the form

$$f(x, y, t) = X(x)Y(y)T(t) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} f_{xx} = X''(x)Y(y)T(t) \\ f_{yy} = X(x)Y''(y)T(t) \\ f_t = X(x)Y(y)T'(t) \end{cases}$$

Substituting into our PDE, we obtain:

$$\frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} + \frac{Y''(y)}{Y(y)} = \frac{T'(t)}{T(t)}$$

As these are functions of independent variables, we may fix two of them to obtain an ODE in terms of the third. For example

$$\frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} + \frac{Y''(y_0)}{Y(y_0)} = \frac{T'(t_0)}{T(t_0)} \Rightarrow X''(x) = X(x) \left[\frac{T'(t_0)}{T(t_0)} - \frac{Y''(y_0)}{Y(y_0)} \right] = \alpha X(x)$$

Thus, we obtain by analogy the system of homogeneous ODEs:

$$\begin{cases} X''(x) - \alpha X(x) = 0 & X'(0) = X'(L_x) = 0 \\ Y''(y) - \beta Y(y) = 0 & Y'(0) = Y'(L_y) = 0 \\ T'(t) - \gamma T(t) = 0 & \text{by Neumann BCs} \end{cases}$$

We proceed case-wise and WLOG consider the X part explicitly

- $\alpha = 0$: $X''(x) = 0$ & $X'(0) = X'(L_x) = 0 \Rightarrow X(x) = a, a \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\alpha > 0$: $X''(x) - \alpha X(x) = 0$ & $X'(0) = X'(L_x) = 0$
 which has general solution of the form
 $X(x) = c_1 e^{\sqrt{\alpha}x} + c_2 e^{-\sqrt{\alpha}x}$; $X'(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = c_2$
 $X'(L_x) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \Rightarrow X(x) = a, a \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\alpha < 0$: $X''(x) - \alpha X(x) = 0$ & $X'(0) = X'(L_x) = 0$
 which has general solution of the form (taking $\alpha = |\alpha|$ below)
 $X(x) = c_1 e^{i\sqrt{\alpha}x} + c_2 e^{-i\sqrt{\alpha}x} = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\alpha}x) + i c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\alpha}x)$
 $X'(x) = -c_1 \sqrt{\alpha} \sin(\sqrt{\alpha}x) + i c_2 \sqrt{\alpha} \cos(\sqrt{\alpha}x)$
 $X'(0) = i c_2 \sqrt{\alpha} = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{c_2 = 0}$

$$X'(L_x) = -c_1 \sqrt{\alpha} \sin(\sqrt{\alpha} L_x) = 0, \text{ with } c_1 \& \alpha \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\alpha_n = \left(\frac{\pi n}{L_x}\right)^2}, n \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\therefore X(x) = c_1 \cos\left(\frac{\pi n}{L_x} x\right)$$

And by analogy:

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\beta_m = \left(\frac{\pi m}{L_y}\right)^2}, m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\therefore Y(y) = d_1 \cos\left(\frac{\pi m}{L_y} y\right)$$

$$\text{Thus, } \Phi_{nm} = k \cos\left(\frac{\pi n}{L_x} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi m}{L_y} y\right) \& \lambda_{nm} = \left(\frac{\pi n}{L_x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\pi m}{L_y}\right)^2 \checkmark$$

In $T(t)$ we have:

$$T'(t) = T(t) \left[\frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} + \frac{Y''(y)}{Y(y)} \right] = T(t) [-\lambda_{nm}]$$

$$\Rightarrow T(t) = e^{-\lambda_{nm} t}; \text{ therefore smallest } \lambda_{nm} \text{ dominate solution}$$

For $L_x = \frac{1}{2} L_y$, the 6 leading eigenvectors are

$$\begin{matrix} n=1 \\ m=1 \end{matrix} \Phi_{11} e^{-\lambda_{11} t} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2L_x} y\right) e^{-1.25\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x}\right)^2 t}$$

$$\begin{matrix} n=1 \\ m=2 \end{matrix} \Phi_{12} e^{-\lambda_{12} t} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x} y\right) e^{-2\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x}\right)^2 t}$$

$$\begin{matrix} n=1 \\ m=3 \end{matrix} \Phi_{13} e^{-\lambda_{13} t} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{2L_x} y\right) e^{-3.25\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x}\right)^2 t}$$

$$\begin{matrix} n=2 \\ m=1 \end{matrix} \Phi_{21} e^{-\lambda_{21} t} = \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{L_x} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2L_x} y\right) e^{-4.25\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x}\right)^2 t}$$

$$\begin{matrix} n=2 \\ m=2 \end{matrix} \Phi_{22} e^{-\lambda_{22} t} = \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{L_x} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x} y\right) e^{-5\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x}\right)^2 t}$$

$$\begin{matrix} n=2 \\ m=3 \end{matrix} \Phi_{23} e^{-\lambda_{23} t} = \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{L_x} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{2L_x} y\right) e^{-6.25\left(\frac{\pi}{L_x}\right)^2 t}$$