
Homework 8

Partial Differential Equations, Spring 2023

David Yang

HW 9 Problems

Chapter 4.1 Problem 5

Consider heat flow in a rod of length l where the heat is lost across the lateral boundary is given by Newton's law of cooling. The model is

$$\begin{aligned}u_t &= ku_{xx} - hu, \quad 0 < x < l, \\u &= 0 \text{ at } x = 0, x = l, \text{ for all } t > 0, \\u &= f(x) \text{ at } t = 0, 0 \leq x \leq l,\end{aligned}$$

where $h > 0$ is the heat loss coefficient.

Solve by adapting the method of 3.1 (also reviewed in 4.1) to find a Fourier series solution for the PDE.

Fourier coefficients for functions defined on the interval $[0, l]$ are given on page 148.

Chapter 3.2 Problem 3(a)

Let $f(x) = 0$ for $0 < x < 1$ and $f(x) = 1$ for $1 < x < 3$.

a) **Find the first 4 nonzero terms of the Fourier cosine series of f .**

Solution. By definition, the Fourier cosine series of f is

$$\frac{b_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{3}\right),$$

where

$$b_0 = \int_0^3 f(x) dx = \int_1^3 1 dx = \frac{2}{3}$$

and

$$b_n = \frac{2}{3} \int_0^3 f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{3}\right)$$

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Chapter 3.2 Problem 6

If c_n are Fourier coefficients of f and f_n is an orthonormal set, show that

$$\left(\sum_{n=1}^N c_n f_n, f - \sum_{n=1}^N c_n f_n \right) = 0.$$

Also answer for this problem: Why does this formula makes sense? In your (very brief) answer, you can relate this formula to a result you may have learned in linear algebra if you studied orthogonal projection and orthogonal decomposition. If you did not discuss orthogonal projection in linear algebra, you can say "I did not cover orthogonal projection in linear algebra."