

Math 2930 Worksheet  
Final Exam Review

Week 14  
May 3rd, 2019

**Question 1.** Solve the initial value problem

$$y' - y = 2xe^x, \quad y(0) = 1$$

**Question 2.** Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$\left(\frac{y}{x} + 6x\right) + (\ln(x) - 2)\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

**Question 3.** Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x - y}$$

**Question 4.** Consider the differential equation:  $y' = y - y^3$ .

- (a) Find the equilibrium solutions and determine which of these solutions are asymptotically stable, semistable, and unstable.
- (b) Draw the phase line and sketch several solution curves in the  $ty$ -plane for  $t > 0$ .
- (c) Assuming that the solution  $y(t)$  has the initial value  $y(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$ , compute the limit of  $y(t)$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ .

**Question 5.** Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$y'' - ty' + y = 0$$

given that one solution is  $y_1 = t$ .

(It's OK to leave part of your answer in the form of an integral.)

**Question 6.** Find the general solution to the following ODE:

$$\frac{d^4 y}{dt^4} + 4 \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} = t^2$$

**Question 7.** A thin wire coinciding with the interval  $[-L, L]$  is bent into the shape of the circle so that the ends  $x = -L$  and  $x = L$  are joined. Under certain conditions, the temperature  $u(x, t)$  in the wire satisfies the boundary-value problem:

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &= \alpha^2 u_{xx}, & -L < x < L, \ t > 0 \\ u(-L, t) &= u(L, t), & t > 0 \\ u_x(-L, t) &= u_x(L, t), & t > 0 \\ u(x, 0) &= f(x), & -L < x < L \end{aligned}$$

Find the solution to this problem using the method of separation of variables.

**Question 8.** The Neumann problem for the Laplace equation in the interior of the circle  $r = a$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned}u_{rr} + \frac{1}{r}u_r + \frac{1}{r^2}u_{\theta\theta} &= 0, & 0 \leq r < a, & \quad 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi \\u_r(a, \theta) &= f(\theta), & & \quad 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi\end{aligned}$$

- (a) Using the method of separation of variables, find the solution to this problem.
- (b) What condition should one impose on the function  $f(\theta)$  for this problem to be solvable?

**Answer to Question 1.** This is a first-order linear equation, so we can solve it using integrating factors. (You could also use something like method of undetermined coefficients, but this would be harder).

We have the equation

$$y' - y = 2xe^x$$

Multiplying both sides by  $e^{\int -1dx} = e^{-x}$ ,

$$e^{-x}y' - e^{-x}y = 2x$$

and then using the product rule,

$$(e^{-x}y)' = 2x$$

Integrating both sides and then solving for  $y$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\int (e^{-x}y)' dx &= \int 2x dx \\ e^{-x}y &= x^2 + C \\ y &= x^2e^x + Ce^x\end{aligned}$$

Now we plug in the initial condition to find  $C$ :

$$\begin{aligned}y(0) &= 0^2(1) + C(1) = 1 \\ C &= 1\end{aligned}$$

so the final answer is:

$$\boxed{y = x^2e^x + e^x}$$

**Answer to Question 2.** We are given the equation

$$\left(\frac{y}{x} + 6x\right) + \left(\ln(x) - 2\right)\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

We can check this equation for exactness. Since

$$M(x, y) = \frac{y}{x} + 6x, \quad N(x, y) = \ln(x) - 2$$

We compute that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[ \frac{y}{x} + 6x \right] = \frac{1}{x} \\ \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [\ln(x) - 2] = \frac{1}{x}\end{aligned}$$

Since  $M_y = N_x$ , this equation is exact.

Now, for the solution we want to find a function  $\Phi(x, y)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} &= M(x, y) = \frac{y}{x} + 6x \\ \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} &= N(x, y) = \ln(x) - 2\end{aligned}$$

Integrating the first equation with respect to  $x$  and the second equation with respect to  $y$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(x, y) &= \int \left( \frac{y}{x} + 6x \right) dx = y \ln(x) + 3x^2 + g(y) \\ \Phi(x, y) &= \int (\ln(x) - 2) dy = y \ln(x) - 2y + f(x)\end{aligned}$$

(Remember that because we are "undoing" partial derivatives, we get  $+f(x)$  or  $+g(y)$  instead of  $+C$ .) Combining those two equations for  $\Phi$ , we see that

$$\Phi(x, y) = y \ln(x) + 3x^2 - 2y$$

So our final answer is

$$\boxed{y \ln(x) + 3x^2 - 2y = C}$$

**Answer to Question 3.** We want to find the general solution of the following differential equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x - y}$$

**Method 1: "Flip" the variables**

If we "flip" both sides of the equation by taking the reciprocal, we get the equation:

$$\frac{dx}{dy} = x - y$$

The clever part of this method is realizing that this is actually a first-order linear ODE for finding  $x$  as a function of  $y$ . Rearranging things into standard form:

$$\frac{dx}{dy} - x = -y$$

Since it's a first order linear ODE, we can solve it using an integrating factor of:

$$\mu(y) = e^{\int -1 dy} = e^{-y}$$

Multiplying the entire equation by this integrating factor, we get

$$e^{-y} \frac{dx}{dy} - e^{-y} x = -y e^{-y}$$

The left hand side is an expression that comes from a product rule, so this can be written

$$(e^{-y} x)' = -y e^{-y}$$

Integrating both sides (this requires integration by parts for the right hand side),

$$e^{-y} x = \int -y e^{-y} dy = (y + 1) e^{-y} + C$$

Then multiplying both sides by  $e^y$  to solve for  $x$  as a function of  $y$ , we get the general solution:

$$\boxed{x = y + 1 + C e^y}$$

**Method 2: Integrating factor to make exact**



We can start with the original equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x-y}$$

We can rearrange it into something that looks like an exact equation:

$$\begin{aligned}(x-y)\frac{dy}{dx} &= 1 \\ -1 + (x-y)\frac{dy}{dx} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Unfortunately, when we check if this is exact, we get:

$$\begin{array}{ll}M = -1 & N = x - y \\ M_y = 0 & N_x = 1\end{array}$$

So we see that  $M_y \neq N_x$ , so this equation is not exact as written. Since

$$\frac{N_x - M_y}{M} = \frac{0 - 1}{-1} = 1$$

is a function of  $y$  (and more importantly, *not* a function of  $x$ ), we can find an integrating factor of the form  $\mu = \mu(y)$ .

If we multiply both sides of the equation by  $\mu(y)$ , we get

$$-\mu + \mu \cdot (x-y)\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

So in order for this to be exact, we would need

$$\begin{array}{ll}M = -\mu(y) & N = (x-y)\mu(y) \\ M_y = -\frac{d\mu}{dy} & N_x = \mu(y)\end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}-\frac{d\mu}{dy} &= \mu(y) \\ \frac{d\mu}{dy} &= -\mu(y)\end{aligned}$$

This last line is a separable equation for  $\mu(y)$ . Which has a solution of:

$$\mu(y) = e^{-y}$$

So this means that if we multiply our original equation by  $e^{-y}$ , yielding:

$$-e^{-y} + (x-y)e^{-y}\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

which is now an exact equation. That means we want to find a function  $\Phi(x, y)$  with the following partial derivatives:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = -e^{-y} & \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} = (x-y)e^{-y} \\ \Phi = \int -e^{-y} dx & \Phi = \int (x-y)e^{-y} dy \\ \Phi = -xe^{-y} + f(y) & \Phi = -xe^{-y} - \int ye^{-y} dy \\ \Phi = -xe^{-y} + f(y) & \Phi = -xe^{-y} + (y+1)e^{-y} + g(x)\end{array}$$

So in order for  $\Phi(x, y)$  to match both of these, we must have  $f(y) = (y + 1)e^{-y}$  and  $g(x) = 0$ . This yields a general solution of:

$$\Phi(x, y) = \boxed{-xe^{-y} + (y + 1)e^{-y} = C}$$

This can be algebraically rearranged to be in the format of the other answers:

$$\boxed{x = y + 1 + Ce^y}$$

### ***Method 3: Substitution***

Starting with

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x - y}$$

use the substitution:

$$\begin{aligned} v &= x - y \\ \frac{dv}{dx} &= 1 - \frac{dy}{dx} \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= 1 - \frac{dv}{dx} \end{aligned}$$

Turning the original equation into

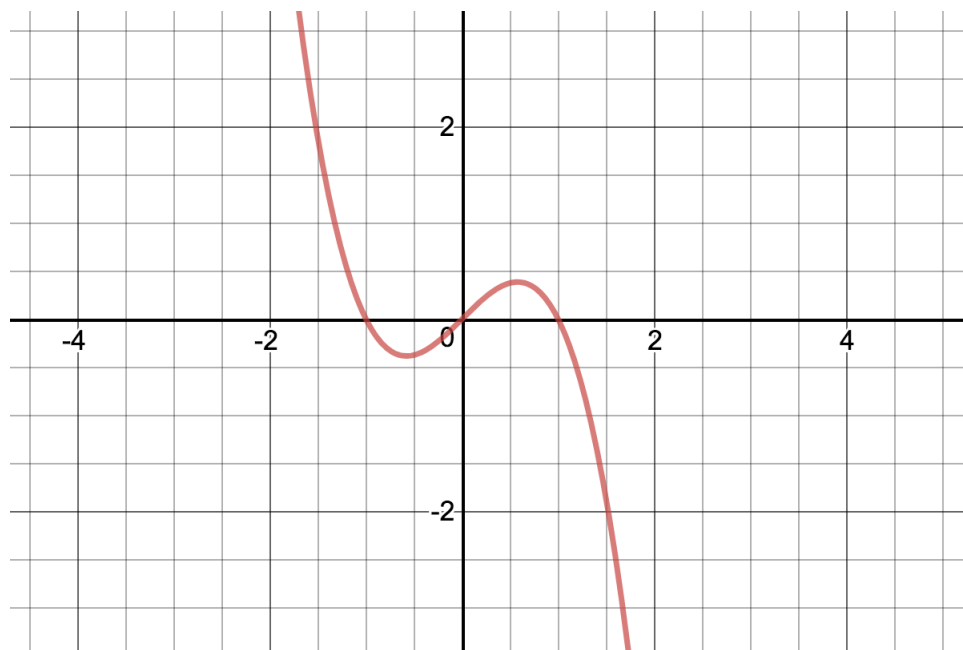
$$1 - \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{v}$$

This equation is separable:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv}{dx} &= \frac{-1}{v} + 1 = \frac{v - 1}{v} \\ \int \frac{v}{v - 1} dv &= \int dx \\ \int 1 + \frac{1}{v - 1} dv &= x + C \\ v + \ln(v - 1) &= x + C \\ x - y + \ln(x - y - 1) &= x + C \\ \ln(x - y - 1) &= y + C \\ x - y - 1 &= Ce^y \\ \boxed{x = y + 1 + Ce^y} \end{aligned}$$

**Answer to Question 4.**

(a) Since this is an autonomous equation, we'll first look at the graph of  $\frac{dy}{dt}$  (vertical axis) vs  $y$  (horizontal axis):



The equilibria occur where this graph crosses the horizontal axis, these are the values of  $y$  where  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0$ . Solving for them,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dt} &= y - y^3 = 0 \\ y(1 - y^2) &= y(1 - y)(1 + y) = 0 \\ y &= 0, \quad 1, \quad -1\end{aligned}$$

To figure out whether these equilibrium solutions are stable, unstable, or semistable, we will look at the sign of  $\frac{dy}{dt}$  nearby.

For  $y = -1$ , we see that for values of  $y$  less than  $-1$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt}$  is positive, so solutions are increasing. For values of  $y$  slightly greater than  $-1$ , we see  $\frac{dy}{dt}$  is negative, so solutions are decreasing. Since solutions below  $y = -1$  are increasing and solutions above are decreasing, we get that

$$y = -1 \text{ is a } \textit{stable} \text{ equilibrium}$$

For  $y = 0$ , solutions slightly below are decreasing and solutions slightly above are increasing, so

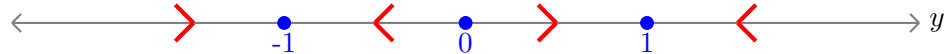
$$y = 0 \text{ is an } \textit{unstable} \text{ equilibrium}$$

For  $y = 1$ , solutions slightly below are increasing and solutions slightly above are decreasing, so

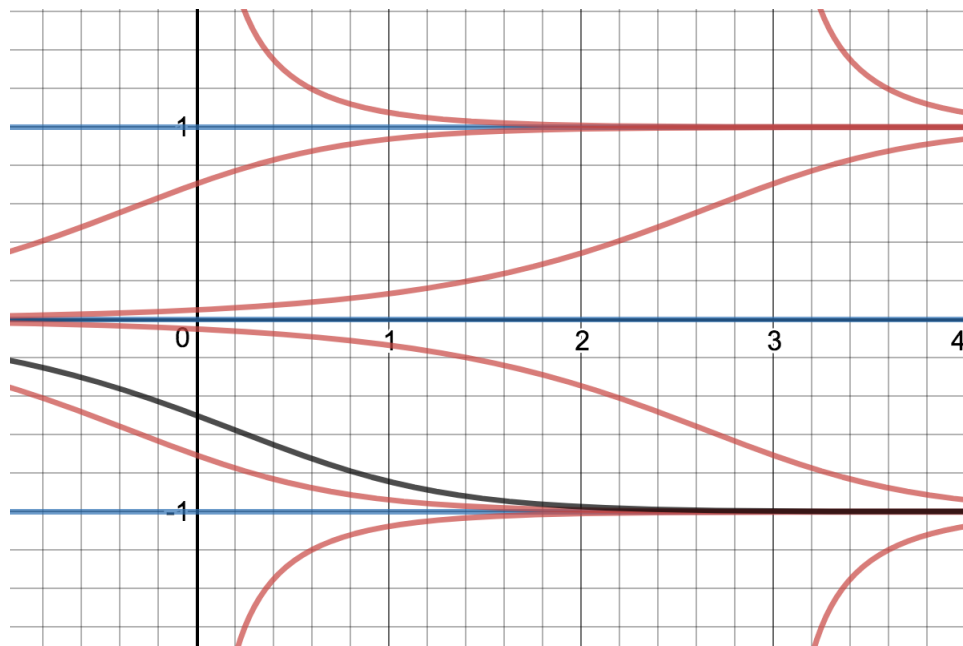
$$y = 1 \text{ is a } \textit{stable} \text{ equilibrium}$$

(b)

The phase line looks like:



and the solutions look like:



Here the equilibria are in blue, and solutions are in red and black.

(c) If the initial condition is  $y(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$ , then the solution  $y(t)$  will approach the nearest stable equilibrium at  $y = -1$ .

This specific solution  $y(t)$  is the one graphed in black above.

**Answer to Question 5.** We want to find the general solution of

$$y'' - ty' + y = 0$$

given that  $y_1 = t$  is a solution.

This is a *reduction of order* problem, which means that we will look for a general solution of the form

$$y(t) = y_1(t)v(t) = tv(t)$$

Taking derivatives,

$$\begin{aligned}y &= tv \\y' &= v + tv' \\y'' &= 2v' + tv''\end{aligned}$$

Plugging this back into the original equation,

$$\begin{aligned}y'' - ty' + y &= 0 \\tv'' + 2v' - t(v + tv') + tv &= 0 \\tv'' + (2 - t^2)v' &= 0 \\\frac{v''}{v'} &= t - \frac{2}{t}\end{aligned}$$

If we define a new variable  $u = v'$ , then we have

$$\frac{1}{u} \frac{du}{dt} = t - \frac{2}{t}$$

Multiplying both sides by  $t$  and integrating,

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{1}{u} du &= \int \left( t - \frac{2}{t} \right) dt \\\ln(u) &= \frac{t^2}{2} - 2\ln(t) + C_1\end{aligned}$$

Exponentiating both sides, and replacing  $u$  with  $v'$ ,

$$u = v' = \frac{C_1 e^{t^2}}{t^2}$$

Integrating,

$$v = C_1 \int \frac{e^{t^2}}{t^2} dt + C_2$$

And multiplying both sides by  $t$ ,

$$\boxed{y = tv = C_1 t \int \frac{e^{t^2}}{t^2} dt + C_2 t}$$

**Answer to Question 6.** First, we want to find the solution  $y_c$  of the homogeneous equation:

$$y^{(4)} + 4y'' = 0$$

We do this by solving for the roots of the characteristic equation,

$$\begin{aligned}y^{(4)} + 4y'' &= 0 \\r^4 + 4r^2 &= 0 \\r^2(r^2 + 4) &= 0 \\r &= 0, 0, \pm 2i\end{aligned}$$

So the complementary solution is

$$y_c(t) = c_1 + c_2 t + c_3 \cos(2t) + c_4 \sin(2t)$$

Now for the particular solution  $Y$ . Based on the method of undetermined coefficients, our guess for the particular solution will be

$$Y = (A + Bt + Ct^2) t^2$$

where the  $A + Bt + Ct^2$  term is based on the right hand side of the original equation, and the  $t^2$  term shows up because we have a double root of  $r = 0$  in the characteristic equation. Multiplying this out and taking derivatives,

$$\begin{aligned}Y &= At^2 + Bt^3 + Ct^4 \\Y' &= 2At + 3Bt^2 + 4Ct^3 \\Y'' &= 2A + 6Bt + 12Ct^2 \\Y''' &= 6B + 24Ct \\Y^{(4)} &= 24C\end{aligned}$$

Plugging this back into the original equation,

$$\begin{aligned}Y^{(4)} + 4Y'' &= t^2 \\24C + 4(2A + 6Bt + 12Ct^2) &= t^2 \\48Ct^2 + 24Bt + (8A + 24C) &= t^2\end{aligned}$$

Comparing like terms, we get a system of three equations for  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ :

$$\begin{aligned}48C &= 1 \\24B &= 0 \\8A + 24C &= 0\end{aligned}$$

The solution to this system of equations is:

$$A = \frac{-1}{16}, \quad B = 0, \quad C = \frac{1}{48}$$

so the particular solution is

$$Y(t) = -\frac{t^2}{16} + \frac{t^4}{48}$$

Then the general solution is the combination of the complementary and particular solutions:

$$\boxed{y = y_c + Y = c_1 + c_2t + c_3 \cos(2t) + c_4 \sin(2t) - \frac{t^2}{16} + \frac{t^4}{48}}$$

### Answer to Question 7.

Let  $u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$ . Then  $u_t = XT'$ ,  $u_{xx} = X''T$ .

Plugging them into the PDE, we get

$$XT' = \alpha^2 X''T$$

Dividing both sides by  $\alpha^2 XT$ ,

$$\frac{T'}{\alpha^2 T} = \frac{X''}{X}$$

Since the left hand side depends on  $t$  only, and the right hand side depends on  $x$  only, both sides must be equal to the same constant, which I will call  $-\lambda$ :

$$\frac{T'}{\alpha^2 T} = \frac{X''}{X} = -\lambda$$

From this, we get two ODEs, which are:

$$\begin{aligned} T' + \alpha^2 \lambda T &= 0 \\ X'' + \lambda X &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Also, from the first boundary condition:

$$\begin{aligned} u(-L, t) &= u(L, t) \\ X(-L) &= X(L) \end{aligned}$$

and from the second boundary condition:

$$\begin{aligned} u_x(-L, t) &= u_x(L, t) \\ X'(-L) &= X'(L) \end{aligned}$$

Thus we get the eigenvalue problem:

$$\begin{aligned} X'' + \lambda X &= 0 \\ X(-L) &= X(L), \quad X'(-L) = X'(L) \end{aligned}$$

**Case 1:**  $\lambda < 0$

Let  $\lambda = -\mu^2$ , where  $\mu > 0$ . Then our general solution is

$$X(x) = c_1 \cosh(\mu x) + c_2 \sinh(\mu x)$$

and its derivative is

$$X'(x) = \mu c_1 \sinh(\mu x) + \mu c_2 \cosh(\mu x)$$

Plugging in the first boundary condition  $X(L) = X(-L)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} X(L) &= X(-L) \\ c_1 \cosh(\mu L) + c_2 \sinh(\mu L) &= c_1 \cosh(-\mu L) + c_2 \sinh(-\mu L) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\sinh()$  is an odd function and  $\cosh()$  is an even function, we can rearrange this as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 \cosh(\mu L) + c_2 \sinh(\mu L) &= c_1 \cosh(\mu L) - c_2 \sinh(\mu L) \\ 2c_2 \sinh(\mu L) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

We note that  $\sinh(\mu L) = 0$  if and only if  $\mu L = 0$ , which is not the case since we have defined  $\mu$  to be positive. This means  $c_2 = 0$ . Plugging in the second boundary condition  $X'(L) = X'(-L)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} X'(L) &= X'(-L) \\ \mu c_1 \sinh(\mu L) + \mu c_2 \cosh(\mu L) &= \mu c_1 \sinh(-\mu L) + \mu c_2 \cosh(-\mu L) \end{aligned}$$

which similarly simplifies as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu c_1 \sinh(\mu L) + \mu c_2 \cosh(\mu L) &= -\mu c_1 \sinh(\mu L) + \mu c_2 \cosh(\mu L) \\ 2c_1 \sinh(\mu L) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

which by the same reasoning as before requires that  $c_1 = 0$ . Therefore we have both  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ , so we only get the trivial solution.

**Case 2:**  $\lambda = 0$

For this case we have  $X'' = 0$ , so the general solution is:

$$X(x) = c_1 + c_2x$$

Plugging in the first boundary condition,

$$\begin{aligned} X(L) &= X(-L) \\ c_1 + c_2L &= c_1 - c_2L \\ 2c_2L &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

So  $c_2 = 0$ . For this case, the second boundary condition is actually always satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned} X'(L) &= X'(-L) \\ c_2 &= c_2 \end{aligned}$$

But this places no restrictions on  $c_1$ , which can be arbitrary.

Thus we have an eigenvalue of  $\lambda = 0$ , with eigenfunction  $X_0(x) = 1$ .

For this value of  $\lambda$ , we also get that  $T' = 0$ , so  $T_0(t)$  is also an arbitrary constant.

**Case 3:**  $\lambda > 0$

For this case, the general solution is:

$$X(x) = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}x)$$

Taking its derivative,

$$X'(x) = -c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}x) + c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x)$$

Plugging in the first boundary condition,

$$\begin{aligned} X(L) &= X(-L) \\ c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) &= c_1 \cos(-\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sin(-\sqrt{\lambda}L) \\ c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) &= c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}L) - c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) \\ 2c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

And plugging in the second boundary condition,

$$\begin{aligned} X'(L) &= X'(-L) \\ -c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}L) &= -c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(-\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos(-\sqrt{\lambda}L) \\ -c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}L) &= c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) + c_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}L) \\ 2c_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Combining both of these conditions, the only we can get a nontrivial solution is if:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}L) &= 0 \\ \sqrt{\lambda}L &= n\pi, & n &= 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ \lambda &= \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, & n &= 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$



So these are our eigenvalues  $\lambda$ . In this case, both  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary, so the corresponding eigenfunctions are:

$$X_n(x) = c_1 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$$

For these eigenvalues, the ODE for  $T(t)$  becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} T' + \alpha^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 T &= 0 \\ T' &= -\left(\frac{\alpha n\pi}{L}\right)^2 T \end{aligned}$$

the solution to which is:

$$T_n(t) = e^{-\left(\frac{\alpha n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t}$$

Relabelling the constants for convenience, our fundamental solutions are:

$$u_0(x, t) = X_0(x)T_0(t) = \frac{a_0}{2}$$

and

$$u_n(x, t) = X_n(x)T_n(t) = e^{-\left(\frac{\alpha n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \left( a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \right)$$

and the general solution is a linear combination of the fundamental solutions:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-\left(\frac{\alpha n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \left( a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \right)$$

Now for the initial conditions. Plugging in  $t = 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= u(x, 0) \\ f(x) &= a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \end{aligned}$$

from which we see that the coefficients  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  should be the coefficients of the Fourier series expansion of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $[-L, L]$ . Therefore the complete answer is:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-\left(\frac{\alpha n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \left( a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \right)$$

where

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx$$

**Answer to Question 8. (a)** For the method of separation of variables, we look for solutions of the form:

$$u(r, \theta) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)$$

Plugging this into Laplace's equation in polar coordinates,

$$\frac{R''}{R} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{R'}{R} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = 0$$

Separating variables,

$$\frac{r^2 R''}{R} + \frac{r R'}{R} = -\frac{\Theta''}{\Theta}$$

Since the left hand side depends only on  $r$ , and the right hand side only on  $\theta$ , they both must be equal to the same constant  $\lambda$ :

$$\frac{r^2 R''}{R} + \frac{r R'}{R} = -\frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = \lambda$$

We can use this to get the following ODEs for  $R(r)$  and  $\Theta(\theta)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\Theta'' + \lambda\Theta &= 0 \\ r^2 R'' + r R' - \lambda R &= 0\end{aligned}$$

In order for our solution to be well-defined in polar coordinates, we want to make sure that our solution is the same when we increase  $\theta$  by  $2\pi$ , as this is just traveling around a circle back to the same point. This means that  $u(r, \theta)$  should be periodic in  $\theta$  with period  $2\pi$ .

More precisely, we need that for all angles  $\theta$ :

$$\begin{aligned}u(r, \theta) &= u(r, \theta + 2\pi) \\ R(r)\Theta(\theta) &= R(r)\Theta(\theta + 2\pi) \\ \Theta(\theta) &= \Theta(\theta + 2\pi)\end{aligned}$$

This will serve in the role of boundary conditions for our ODE for  $\Theta(\theta)$ . In other words, we are looking for non-trivial solutions to:

$$\Theta'' + \lambda\Theta = 0, \quad \Theta(\theta) = \Theta(\theta + 2\pi)$$

For  $\lambda < 0$ , our solutions for  $\Theta$  are of the form:

$$\Theta(\theta) = c_1 e^{\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} + c_2 e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}\theta}$$

In order for this to be periodic,

$$\begin{aligned}\Theta(\theta) &= \Theta(\theta + 2\pi) \\ c_1 e^{\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} + c_2 e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} &= c_1 e^{\sqrt{\lambda}(\theta+2\pi)} + c_2 e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}(\theta+2\pi)} \\ c_1 e^{\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} + c_2 e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} &= c_1 e^{\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} e^{2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}} + c_2 e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}\theta} e^{-2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}}\end{aligned}$$

and matching like terms, we would need that:

$$c_1 = c_1 e^{2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}} \quad \text{and} \quad c_2 = c_2 e^{-2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}}$$

This only happens when  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ , which is the trivial solution.

For  $\lambda = 0$ , our solutions for  $\Theta$  are of the form:

$$\Theta(\theta) = c_1 + c_2\theta$$

In order for this to be periodic,

$$\begin{aligned}\Theta(\theta) &= \Theta(\theta + 2\pi) \\ c_1 + c_2\theta &= c_1 + c_2(\theta + 2\pi) \\ c_1 + c_2\theta &= c_1 + c_2(2\pi) + c_2\theta \\ 0 &= c_2(2\pi) \\ c_2 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

So  $c_2 = 0$ , but  $c_1$  could be any constant. This means that  $\Theta_0(\theta) = c_1$  works for any constant  $c_1$ . When  $\lambda = 0$ , the equation for  $R$  is:

$$r^2 R'' + rR' = 0$$

This is an Euler equation, so looking for solutions of the form  $R = r^m$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}m(m-1) + m &= 0 \\ m^2 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

So we have a repeated root at  $m = 0$ . This corresponds to a solution of:

$$R_0(r) = c_1 + c_2 \ln(r)$$

Since the natural logarithm is not defined at the origin  $r = 0$ , if we want our solution  $u$  to be defined at  $r = 0$ , we need to set  $c_2 = 0$ , leaving:

$$R_0(r) = c_1$$

So for  $\lambda = 0$ , we have that  $R$  can also be any constant. Thus we have an eigenvalue-eigenfunction pair of:

$$\lambda = 0, \quad u_0(r, \theta) = \frac{c_0}{2}$$

where  $c_0$  could be any constant (I'm writing it this way since it will end up being useful later). For  $\lambda > 0$ , our solutions for  $\Theta$  are of the form:

$$\Theta(\theta) = A \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta) + B \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta)$$

In order for this to be periodic,

$$\begin{aligned}\Theta(\theta) &= \Theta(\theta + 2\pi) \\ A \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta) + B \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta) &= A \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}(\theta + 2\pi)) + B \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}(\theta + 2\pi))\end{aligned}$$

Using the angle addition trig identities, the right hand side becomes:

$$= A \left[ \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta) \cos(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) - \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta) \sin(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) \right] + B \left[ \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta) \cos(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) + \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta) \sin(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) \right]$$

Grouping together the terms by  $\theta$ ,

$$= \left[ A \cos(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) + B \sin(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) \right] \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta) + \left[ B \cos(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) - A \sin(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) \right] \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}\theta)$$

Comparing like terms,  $A$  and  $B$  should satisfy the equations:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= A \cos(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) + B \sin(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) \\ B &= B \cos(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) - A \sin(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) \end{aligned}$$

This is always true for  $A = B = 0$ , but this corresponds to the trivial solution. However, for values of  $\lambda$  where the cosine term above is 1 and the sine term is 0, this would be true for any  $A$  and  $B$ . More precisely, we want the values of  $\lambda$  where:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) &= 1 & \implies & 2\pi\sqrt{\lambda} = 2\pi n, & n &= 1, 2, 3... \\ \sin(2\pi\sqrt{\lambda}) &= 0 & \implies & 2\pi\sqrt{\lambda} = \pi n, & n &= 1, 2, 3... \end{aligned}$$

Since we want *both* to be true, we take the more restrictive condition that:

$$\begin{aligned} 2\pi\sqrt{\lambda} &= 2\pi n, & n &= 1, 2, 3... \\ \sqrt{\lambda} &= n, & n &= 1, 2, 3... \\ \lambda &= n^2, & n &= 1, 2, 3... \end{aligned}$$

So these are our eigenvalues, and they have corresponding eigenfunctions:

$$\Theta_n(\theta) = A \cos(n\theta) + B \sin(n\theta), \quad n = 1, 2, 3...$$

Now we want to solve for  $R(r)$  at these eigenvalues ( $\lambda = n^2$ ). We get an Euler equation:

$$r^2 R'' + r R' - n^2 R = 0$$

Looking for solutions of the form  $R = r^m$ , we plug this in and solve for  $m$ :

$$\begin{aligned} m(m-1) + m - n^2 &= 0 \\ m^2 - n^2 &= 0 \\ m^2 &= n^2 \\ m &= \pm n \end{aligned}$$

So  $R(r)$  looks like:

$$R_n(r) = Ar^n + Br^{-n}$$

However, because we want  $R$  to be defined at  $r = 0$ , we then take  $B = 0$ , leaving:

$$R_n(r) = Ar^n$$

Putting this all together (and renaming some constants), our general solution is of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} u(r, \theta) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} R_n(r) \Theta_n(\theta) \\ u(r, \theta) &= \frac{c_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^n [A_n \cos(n\theta) + B_n \sin(n\theta)] \end{aligned}$$

Now we still have to apply the Neumann boundary conditions. Taking the partial derivative with respect to  $r$ ,

$$u_r(r, \theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n r^{n-1} [A_n \cos(n\theta) + B_n \sin(n\theta)]$$

Plugging in  $r = a$ , and setting it equal to  $f(\theta)$

$$u_r(a, \theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a^{n-1} [A_n \cos(n\theta) + B_n \sin(n\theta)] = f(\theta), \quad 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$$

This means that we want  $u_r(a, \theta)$  to match the Fourier series for  $f(\theta)$  on the interval  $[0, 2\pi]$ . Using the formula for Fourier series coefficients, we get the following equations for  $A_n$  and  $B_n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} n a^{n-1} A_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \cos(n\theta) d\theta \\ n a^{n-1} B_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \sin(n\theta) d\theta \end{aligned}$$

So our solution to the problem is:

$$u(r, \theta) = \frac{c_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^n [A_n \cos(n\theta) + B_n \sin(n\theta)]$$

where the coefficients are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} A_n &= \frac{1}{n a^{n-1} \pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \cos(n\theta) d\theta \\ B_n &= \frac{1}{n a^{n-1} \pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \sin(n\theta) d\theta \\ c_0 &= \text{any constant} \end{aligned}$$

**(b)** In our solution to part **(a)**, when we were enforcing the boundary conditions on  $u_r$ , we got to an equation of the form:

$$u_r(a, \theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a^{n-1} [A_n \cos(n\theta) + B_n \sin(n\theta)] = f(\theta), \quad 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$$

and then went on to take a Fourier series expansion of  $f(\theta)$ . However, Fourier series usually have a constant term  $\frac{c_0}{2}$ . While our formula for  $u(r, \theta)$  had this, when we took the derivative, this then makes sure that  $u_r(r, \theta)$  does *not* have a constant term.

So for this problem to be solvable, we would need the  $\frac{c_0}{2}$  constant term of the Fourier series for  $f(\theta)$  to be zero. Rephrasing this in terms of a condition on  $f$ ,

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) d\theta = 0$$