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## 1 Motivation

## 2 Solution on $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}$

In this Section we will demonstrate the method outlined in Section 1 where the solution is defined on a bounded interval on  $\mathbb{R}$ . In this case, we have the true solution to the diffusion equation. We will compare the asymptotic expansion to the true solution.

The PDE we will solve is the following BC/IC problem

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} q(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} q(x, t), \quad (1)$$

$$q(x, 0) = \delta_{x_0}(x), \quad (2)$$

$$q(a, t) = q(b, t) = 0. \quad (\text{i.e. } \Omega = [a, b]) \quad (3)$$

Without loss of generality we will assume

$$a = 0,$$

$$b = 1.$$

Problem (1) - (3) can be solved in a variety of ways. We will use the method of images, which repeatedly reflects the fundamental solution

$$q_{\text{fundamental}}(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2 t}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2 t} (x - x_0)^2 \right\}$$

about the boundary points  $a$  and  $b$ . The steps for the full solutions are as follows:

Step 1: Select a kernel  $f(x|t)$  for the basis expansion,

Step 2: Perform Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization on the polynomials basis,

Step 3: Compute the weight for each basis element,

Step 4: Profit.

### 2.1 A suitable kernel for the basis elements

As noted in the motivating Section 1, the kernel we will use must be in  $C^\infty(a, b)$ , and it must obey the boundary conditions. Moreover, the basis kernel must be chosen such that

i) derivatives  $f'(x)$  can be computed easily,

ii) integrals  $\int_{\Omega} x^m f(x|t)^2 dx$  can be computed easily

Consideration i) suggests that  $f(x|t)$  should be of polynomial form. Consideration ii) suggests that  $f(x|t)$  should be a known pdf over  $[a, b]$ , taking on zero at  $a$  and  $b$ . Given these requirements, the Beta distribution comes to mind:

$$f(x|t, \alpha, \beta) = \frac{1}{B(\alpha, \beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1},$$

where  $B(\alpha, \beta)$  is the beta function. Our choice for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  is not very restricted. However, we will outline a few heuristics by which we can choose these parameters. Note that there may exist an optimal choice for  $(\alpha, \beta)$  in terms of the accuracy of the asymptotic expansion with respect to the true solution  $q(x, t)$ . However, we will not prove anything in this vein here.

**First**, as long as

$$\alpha, \beta > 1, \quad (4)$$

the mode for the distribution is guaranteed to exist, so that the boundary conditions are met.

Aside from  $\alpha > 1$  and  $\beta > 1$ , we can pick any  $(\alpha, \beta)$  pair for our kernel. However, given that  $f(x|t)$  can be thought of as implicitly dependent upon  $t$ , and that the variance of the fundamental solution is  $\sigma^2 t$ , a first, reasonable guess for  $(\alpha, \beta)$  can be given by the solution to the equation:

$$\text{Var}[X] := \frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2(\alpha+\beta+1)} = \sigma^2 t, \quad (5)$$

$$p(X \in dx) = f(x|t, \alpha, \beta).$$

By the same logic, noting the mean for the fundamental solution, we can require

$$\mathbb{E}[X] := \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta} = x_0, \quad (6)$$

$$p(X \in dx) = f(x|t, \alpha, \beta).$$

Finally, we may require that  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}$ , since this will guarantee that

$$\frac{\partial^k}{\partial x^k} f(x|t, \alpha, \beta) = 0$$

for large enough  $k$ . [georgid: This may not prove important, but I will keep it here anyway]

Thus, to set  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , we simultaneously solve (5) and (6), then round  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  to the closest integer greater than or equal to 2. Since  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are dependent upon  $t$ , we will keep  $t$  in our notation for  $f$ , albeit implicitly. In other words, once we choose  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , we will not be able to take derivatives of  $f$  with respect to  $t$ . We will denote the kernel as  $f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)$ .

## 2.2 Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization on the polynomials basis

The family of (polynomial) functions  $\{x^m f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\}_{m=0}^\infty$  spans the space of  $L^2([a, b])$  functions. We generate the basis elements  $\{u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\}_{m=0}^\infty$  by setting

$$v_0(x|\alpha, \beta; t) = f(x|\alpha, \beta; t),$$

$$u_0(x|\alpha, \beta; t) = \frac{f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\|f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\|}, \quad (7)$$

$$\|f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\| \equiv \left( \int_{\Omega} f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)^2 dx \right)^{1/2}. \quad (8)$$

The integral in (8) is easy to compute because of the form we have chosen for the kernel  $f$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)^2 dx &= \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{B(\alpha, \beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1} \right)^2 dx, \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{B(\alpha, \beta)^2} x^{(2\alpha-1)-1} (1-x)^{(2\beta-1)-1} dx, \\ &= \frac{B(2\alpha-1, 2\beta-1)}{B(\alpha, \beta)^2}, \\ \left( \int_{\Omega} f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)^2 dx \right)^{1/2} &= \sqrt{\frac{B(2\alpha-1, 2\beta-1)}{B(\alpha, \beta)^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Next, for  $u_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t)$ ,

$$v_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t) = x f(x|\alpha, \beta; t) - \langle x f(x|\alpha, \beta; t) | u_0(x|\alpha, \beta; t) \rangle u_0(x|\alpha, \beta; t) \quad (9)$$

$$= \left( x - \frac{\langle x f(x|\alpha, \beta; t) | u_0(x|\alpha, \beta; t) \rangle}{\|f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\|} \right) f(x|\alpha, \beta; t) \quad (10)$$

$$\langle x f(x|\alpha, \beta; t) | u_0(x|\alpha, \beta; t) \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \frac{x f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)^2}{\|f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\|} = \frac{1}{\|f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\|} \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{B(\alpha, \beta)^2} x^{2\alpha-1} (1-x)^{(2\beta-1)-1} dx \quad (11)$$

$$u_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t) = \frac{v_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\|v_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\|} \quad (12)$$

$$\|v_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\| = \int_{\Omega} \left( x - \frac{\langle x f(x|\alpha, \beta; t) | u_0(x|\alpha, \beta; t) \rangle}{\|f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\|} \right)^2 f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)^2 dx \quad (13)$$

$$u_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t) = \frac{v_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\|v_1(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\|} = p_1(x) f(x|\alpha, \beta; t), \quad (14)$$

where  $p_1(x)$  is a first-order polynomial. In general,

$$v_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) = x^m f(x|\alpha, \beta; t) - \sum_{m'=0}^{m-1} \langle x^m f(x|\alpha, \beta; t) | u_{m'}(x|\alpha, \beta; t) \rangle u_{m'}(x|\alpha, \beta; t)$$

$$u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) = \frac{v_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\|v_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\|} \equiv p_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)$$

In finding the basis, we will have to perform two main types calculations:

- 1) polynomial multiplication:  $p_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) p_n(x|\alpha, \beta; t)$
- 2) integration of the form:  $\int_{\Omega} x^m f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)^2 dx$

In  $\mathbb{R}$ , the package `mpoly` will be used to handle 1). Calculation 2) can be performed relatively easily due to the form of  $f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)$ , as show in (15).

$$\int_{\Omega} x^m f(x|\alpha, \beta; t)^2 dx = \int_{\Omega} x^m \frac{1}{B(\alpha, \beta)^2} x^{2\alpha-2} (1-x)^{2\beta-2} dx = \frac{1}{B(\alpha, \beta)^2} \int_{\Omega} x^{2\alpha+m-2} (1-x)^{2\beta-2} dx = \frac{B(2\alpha+m-1, 2\beta-1)}{B(\alpha, \beta)^2} \quad (15)$$

### 2.3 Computing the Weights of the Basis Elements

Given the set of orthonormal functions  $\{u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t)\}_{m=0}^{\infty}$  spanning  $L^2([a, b])$ , and assuming that  $q(x, t) \in L^2([a, b])$ , we can write down

$$q(x, t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t), \quad (16)$$

$$\text{with } c_m = \int_{\Omega} q(x, t) u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) dx. \quad (17)$$

Since each  $u_m$  is the product of two polynomials,  $u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) \in C^{\infty}([a, b])$  and is square-integrable. Therefore, we can write

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial^k \delta_{x_0}(x)}{\partial x^2} u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) dx = (-1)^k \int_{\Omega} \delta_{x_0}(x) \frac{\partial^k u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\partial x^k} dx = (-1)^k \left. \frac{\partial^k u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\partial x^k} \right|_{x=x_0} \quad (18)$$

Equipped with (18) and that  $q(x, 0) = \delta_{x_0}(x)$ , we can compute the integrals in (17) by using the Taylor expansion of  $q(x, t)$  about  $t = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} c_m(t; \alpha, \beta, x_0) &= \int_{\Omega} q(x, t) u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) dx = \int_{\Omega} \left[ \underbrace{q(x, 0)}_{\delta_{x_0}(x)} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \left. \frac{\partial^k q(x, t)}{\partial t^k} \right|_{t=0} \right] u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \delta_{x_0}(x) u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) dx + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \int_{\Omega} \left. \frac{\partial^k q(x, t)}{\partial t^k} \right|_{t=0} u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \delta_{x_0}(x) u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) dx + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial^{2k} \delta_{x_0}(x)}{\partial x^{2k}} u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t) dx \\ &= u_m(x_0|\alpha, \beta; t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} (-1)^{2k} \int_{\Omega} \delta_{x_0}(x) \frac{\partial^{2k} u_m(x|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\partial x^{2k}} dx \\ &= u_m(x_0|\alpha, \beta; t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} (-1)^{2k} \frac{\partial^{2k} u_m(x_0|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\partial x^{2k}} \\ &= u_m(x_0|\alpha, \beta; t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \frac{\partial^{2k} u_m(x_0|\alpha, \beta; t)}{\partial x^{2k}}. \end{aligned}$$