
Homework #5

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Problem 1

Suppose that $p : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuously differentiable function such that $p > 0$ and $q, r : [a, b]$ are continuous functions such that $r > 0, q \geq 0$. Define a weighted inner product on $L^2(a, b)$ by

$$\langle u, v \rangle_r = \int_a^b r(x) \overline{u(x)} v(x) dx.$$

Let $A : D(A) \subset L^2(a, b) \rightarrow L^2(a, b)$ by

$$A = \frac{1}{r(x)} \left[-\frac{d}{dx} p(x) \frac{d}{dx} + q(x) \right]$$

with Dirichlet boundary conditions and domain

$$D(A) = \{u \in H^2(a, b) : u(a) = 0 = u(b)\}.$$

(a) Show that

$$\langle u, Av \rangle_r = \langle Au, v \rangle_r \quad \text{for all } u, v \in D(A),$$

meaning that A is self-adjoint with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_r$.

Denote the real and complex parts of a function u by u_r and u_i , respectively. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u, Av \rangle_r &= \int_a^b r \overline{u} \frac{1}{r} [-(pv')' + qv] dx \\ &= \int_a^b r u_r \frac{1}{r} [-(pv')' + qv] dx - i \int_a^b r u_i \frac{1}{r} [-(pv')' + qv] dx \\ &= \int_a^b u_r [-(pv')' + qv] dx - i \int_a^b u_i [-(pv')' + qv] dx \end{aligned}$$

By Homework 4 number 3,

$$\langle u, Av \rangle_r = [p((u'_r v - u_r v') - i(u'_i v - u_i v'))]_a^b + \langle r A u_r, v \rangle - i \langle r A u_i, v \rangle$$

where $\langle u, v \rangle$ is the unweighted innerproduct of u and v . The Dirichlet boundary condition $u(a) = u(b) = 0$ implies $u_r(a) = u_r(b) = u_i(a) = u_i(b) = 0$. If we assume the adjoint boundary condition on v ,

$$v_r(a) = v_r(b) = v_i(a) = v_i(b) = 0$$

then

$$\langle u, Av \rangle_r = \langle r A u_r, v \rangle - i \langle r A u_i, v \rangle = \langle r A u, v \rangle$$

since inner products are conjugate-linear in the first term. However, since $r > 0$, then

$$\langle r u, v \rangle = \int_a^b r \overline{u} v dx = \int_a^b r \overline{u} v dx = \langle u, v \rangle_r$$

which proves

$$\langle u, Av \rangle_r = \langle r A u, v \rangle = \langle A u, v \rangle_r$$

Thus, A is self-adjoint with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_r$.

(b) Show that the eigenvalues λ of the weighted Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problem

$$-(pu')' + qu = \lambda ru, \quad u(a) = 0 = u(b)$$

are real and positive and eigenfunctions associated with different eigenvalues are orthogonal with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_r$.

Eigenvalues λ of $-(pu')' + qu = \lambda ru$; $u(a) = 0 = u(b)$ are eigenvalues of

$$Au = \lambda u, \quad u(a) = 0 = u(b)$$

where A is defined above. We showed A is self-adjoint with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_r$ in part (a). Thus if $Au = \lambda u$,

$$\langle Au, u \rangle_r = \langle \lambda u, u \rangle_r = \lambda \langle u, u \rangle_r \quad \text{and} \quad \langle u, Au \rangle_r = \langle u, \lambda u \rangle_r = \lambda \langle u, u \rangle_r$$

Thus $\lambda = \bar{\lambda}$ or $u = 0$, i.e. $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ if λ is an eigenvalue. Note

$$\lambda = \frac{\langle u, Au \rangle_r}{\langle u, u \rangle_r}$$

implies $\lambda > 0$ since $u \neq 0$ and inner-products are positive-definite.

Now consider eigenfunctions of A , ϕ_n, ϕ_m with eigenvalues λ_n and λ_m , respectively ($\lambda_n \neq \lambda_m$). Then

$$A\phi_n = \lambda_n \phi_n \quad \text{and} \quad A\phi_m = \lambda_m \phi_m$$

By multiplying the left equation by ϕ_m and the right equation by ϕ_n , and subtracting the two equations, we see

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_m A\phi_n - \phi_n A\phi_m &= (\lambda_n - \lambda_m) \phi_n \phi_m \\ \implies \langle \phi_m, A\phi_n \rangle_r - \langle A\phi_m, \phi_n \rangle_r &= \int_a^b (\lambda_n - \lambda_m) \phi_n \phi_m dx \end{aligned}$$

Then since A is self-adjoint,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \frac{1}{r} 0 &= (\lambda_n - \lambda_m) \int_a^b \phi_n \phi_m dx \\ \implies 0 &= \int_a^b \phi_n \phi_m r dx \\ &= \langle \phi_n, \phi_m \rangle_r \end{aligned}$$

and thus ϕ_n and ϕ_m are orthogonal.

Problem 2

A nonuniform string of length one with wave speed $c_0(x) = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho_0(x)}} > 0$ is fixed at each end, with zero initial

displacement and nonzero initial velocity. The transverse displacement $y = u(x, t)$ of the string satisfies the IBVP

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt} &= c_0^2(x) u_{xx}, & 0 < x < 1, & \quad t > 0, \\ u(0, t) &= 0, & u(1, t) &= 0, & \quad t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) &= 0, & 0 < x < 1, & \\ u_t(x, 0) &= g(x), & 0 < x < 1, & \end{aligned}$$

Find the solution in terms of the eigenvalues λ_n and eigenfunctions $\phi_n(x)$ of the weighted Sturm-Liouville problem

$$-c_0^2 \phi_n'' = \lambda_n \phi_n, \quad \phi_n(0) = 0, \quad \phi_n(1) = 0, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Suppose $u(x, t) = F(x)G(t)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} F(x)G''(t) &= c_0^2(x)F''(x)G(t) \\ \left(\frac{G''}{G}\right)(t) &= \left(\frac{F''c_0^2}{F}\right)(x) = -\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

since the left hand side is a function of t and the right hand side is a function of x . Then

$$-c_0^2(x)F''(x) = \lambda F(x)$$

By Problem 1 ($p \equiv 1$, $q \equiv 0$, and $r \equiv \frac{1}{c_0^2}$) this implies the eigenfunctions $\phi_n(x)$ are orthogonal and its eigenvalues λ_n are real and $\lambda_n > 0$ for all n . Then

$$\begin{aligned} G'' &= -\lambda G & \lambda > 0 \\ \Rightarrow G(t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[a_n \cos(\sqrt{\lambda_n} t) + b_n \sin(\sqrt{\lambda_n} t) \right] \\ \Rightarrow u(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \left[a_n \cos(\sqrt{\lambda_n} t) + b_n \sin(\sqrt{\lambda_n} t) \right] \phi_n(x) \right\} \\ \Rightarrow 0 = u(x, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n \phi_n(x)] \\ \Rightarrow a_n &= 0 \text{ for } n = 1, 2, \dots & \text{because } \{\phi_n\}_n \text{ is a linearly independent set} \\ \Rightarrow u(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \left[b_n \sin(\sqrt{\lambda_n} t) \right] \phi_n(x) \right\} \\ \Rightarrow u_t(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \sqrt{\lambda_n} b_n \cos(\sqrt{\lambda_n} t) \phi_n(x) \right\} \\ \Rightarrow g(x) = u_t(x, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\sqrt{\lambda_n} b_n \phi_n(x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Thus the coefficients $\sqrt{\lambda_n} b_n$ are Fourier coefficients with respect to the weighted norm $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{c_0^2}$, i.e.

$$\sqrt{\lambda_n} b_n = \langle g(x), \phi_n(x) \rangle_{c_0^2(x)}$$

So,

$$u_t(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \langle g(x), \phi_n(x) \rangle_{c_0^2(x)} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda_n} t) \phi_n(x) \right\}$$

Problem 3

The Fourier solution of the initial value problem

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt} &= u_{xx}, & 0 < x < 1, & \quad t > 0, \\ u(0, t) &= 0, & u(1, t) &= 0, & \quad t > 0 \\ u(x, 0) &= \begin{cases} 2x & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ 2(1-x) & \text{if } \frac{1}{2} < x < 1 \end{cases}, \\ &= u_t(x, 0) = 0, & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

is given by

$$u(x, t) = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)^2} \sin[(2n-1)\pi x] \cos[(2n-1)\pi t]$$

- (a) Show that the Fourier series converges to a continuous function. How many spacial (weak) L^2 -derivatives does $u(x, t)$ have?

For a fixed t , it suffices to show the partial sums u_N converge to a function in H^k for $k < \frac{3}{2}$ (and $u \notin H^k$ for $k \geq \frac{3}{2}$) where H^k is the Sobolev space of order k . Then by the Sobolev Embedding Theorem, u converges to a continuous function. Thus, that continuous function has a weak spacial L^2 derivative $u' \notin H^{\frac{1}{2}}$, and so u does not have two weak spacial derivatives.

To show this is true, fix t and denote $c_t = \cos[(2n-1)\pi t] \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the Fourier coefficients \hat{u}_n are proportional to the following (we do not say equal since we want to consider the standard Fourier basis $\{e^{inx}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ as opposed to the basis $\{1, \sin nx, \cos nx\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$).

$$|\hat{u}_n| \propto \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \hat{u}_n^2 \propto \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^4}$$

which converges. Then the Fourier coefficients of the weak derivative are proportional to the following:

$$|\hat{u}'_n| = |n\hat{u}_n| \propto \frac{n}{(2n-1)^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \hat{u}'_n{}^2 \propto \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$$

which also converges. However,

$$|\hat{u}''_n| = |n^2\hat{u}_n| \propto \frac{n^2}{(2n-1)^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \hat{u}''_n{}^2 \propto \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1$$

which diverges.

- (b) Verify from the Fourier solution that

$$\int_0^1 [u_t^2(x, t) + u_x^2(x, t)] dx = \text{constant} \quad \text{for } -\infty < t < \infty.$$

First note

$$u_x(x, t) = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)^2} (2n-1)\pi \cos((2n-1)\pi x) \cos((2n-1)\pi t), \quad \text{and}$$

$$u_t(x, t) = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n-1)^2} (2n-1)\pi \sin((2n-1)\pi x) \sin((2n-1)\pi t)$$

and since

$$\int_0^1 \cos((2n-1)\pi x) \cos((2m-1)\pi x) dx = \int_0^1 \sin((2n-1)\pi x) \sin((2m-1)\pi x) dx = \frac{1}{2} \delta_{n,m} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } n = m \\ 0 & \text{if } n \neq m \end{cases}$$

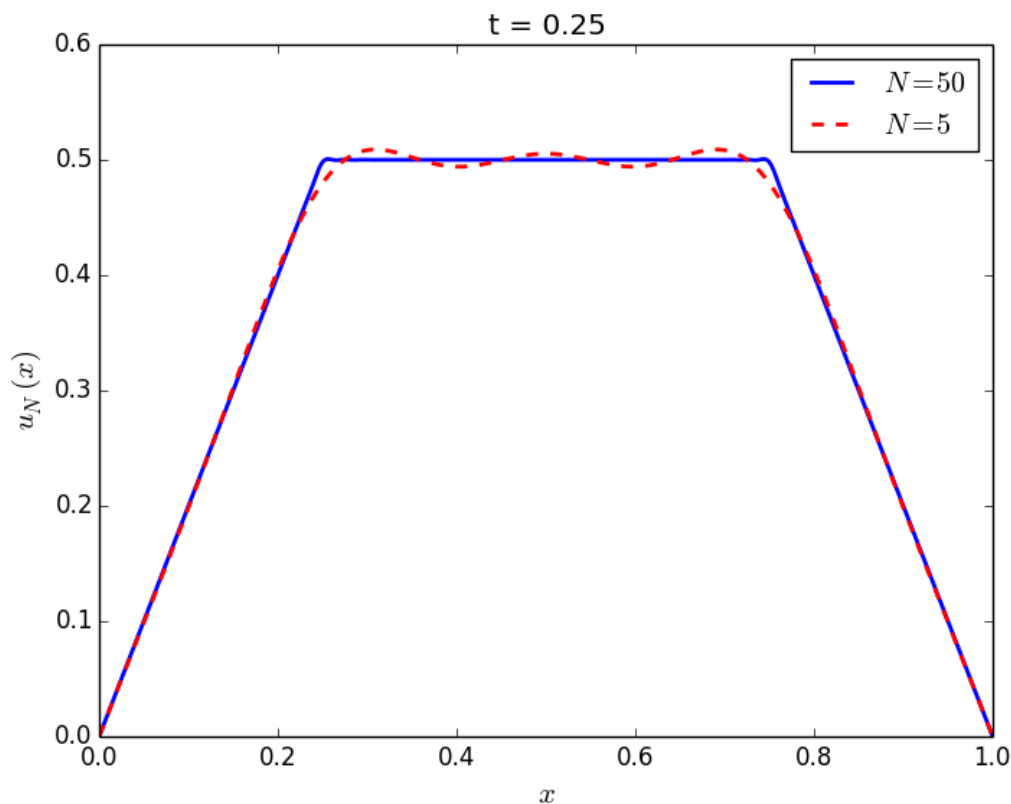
then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx &= \frac{64}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} \sin^2((2n-1)\pi t) \int_0^1 \sin^2((2n-1)\pi x) dx, \quad \text{and} \\ \int_0^1 u_x^2 dx &= \frac{64}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} \cos^2((2n-1)\pi t) \int_0^1 \cos^2((2n-1)\pi x) dx \\ \Rightarrow \int_0^1 [u_t^2 + u_x^2] dx &= \frac{64}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} \left[\sin^2((2n-1)\pi t) \int_0^1 \sin^2((2n-1)\pi x) dx + \cos^2((2n-1)\pi t) \int_0^1 \cos^2((2n-1)\pi x) dx \right] \\ &= \frac{32}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} [\sin^2((2n-1)\pi t) + \cos^2((2n-1)\pi t)] \\ &= \frac{32}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} \\ &= \frac{32}{\pi^2} \cdot \frac{\pi^2}{8} \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

(c) Use MATLAB (or another program) to compute the partial sum

$$u_N(x, t) = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)^2} \sin[(2n-1)\pi x] \cos[(2n-1)\pi t]$$

at $t = 0.25$ for $N = 5$ and $N = 50$.



- (d) Use the addition formula for sines to show that the Fourier solution can be written in the form of the d'Alembert solution as

$$u(x, t) = F(x - t) + F(x + t)$$

for a suitable function $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. What is F ?

Define \tilde{F} as half the initial data, i.e.

$$\tilde{F}(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 - x & \text{if } \frac{1}{2} < x < 1 \end{cases}$$

Let F be its odd 2-periodic expansion,

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } n - \frac{1}{2} \leq x \leq n + \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 - x & \text{if } n + \frac{1}{2} < x < n + \frac{3}{2} \end{cases} \quad \frac{n}{2} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

and note its Fourier series representation:

$$F(x) = \frac{4}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)^2} \sin((2n-1)\pi x)$$

Then note $F(x - t) + F(x + t) = u(x, t)$ because

$$F(x - t) + F(x + t) = \frac{4}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)^2} \sin((2n-1)\pi(x - t)) + \frac{4}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)^2} \sin((2n-1)\pi(x + t))$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)^2} \frac{1}{2} [\sin((2n-1)\pi(x-t)) + \sin((2n-1)\pi(x+t))] \\
&= \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)^2} \sin((2n-1)\pi x) \cos((2n-1)\pi t) \\
&= u(x, t)
\end{aligned}$$

Problem 4

Suppose that $u(x, t)$ is a smooth solution of the wave equation

$$u_{tt} = c_0^2 \Delta u,$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the wave speed $c_0 > 0$ is a constant.

(a) Show that u satisfies the energy equation

$$\frac{1}{2} (u_t^2 + c_0^2 |\nabla u|^2)_t - \nabla \cdot (c_0^2 u_t \nabla u) = 0.$$

(b) For $T > 0$, let $\Omega_T \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be the space-time cone

$$\Omega_T = \{(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : |x| < c_0(T-t), 0 < t < T\},$$

and for $0 \leq t \leq T$, let $B(T-t)$ be the spatial cross-section of Ω_T at time t

$$B(T-t) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| < c_0(T-t)\}.$$

Define

$$e_T(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{B(T-t)} (u_t^2 + c_0^2 |\nabla u|^2) dx,$$

and show that $e_T(t) \leq e_T(0)$.

HINT. Apply the divergence theorem in space-time to the equation in (a) over the truncated cone $\{(x, t') \in \Omega_T : 0 < t' < t\}$,

and note that the space-time normal to the side of the cone Ω_T is $N = \frac{(\hat{x}, c_0)}{\sqrt{1+c_0^2}}$ where $\hat{x} = \frac{x}{|x|}$.

Let $F : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ by

$$\begin{aligned}
F(\vec{x}, t) &= \left\langle -c_0^2 u_t \nabla u, \frac{1}{2} (u_t^2 + c_0^2 |\nabla u|^2) \right\rangle \\
\Rightarrow \nabla \cdot F &= (-c_0^2 u_t \nabla u)_{\vec{x}} + \frac{1}{2} (u_t^2 + c_0^2 |\nabla u|^2)_t \\
&= \nabla(-c_0^2 u_t \nabla u) + \frac{1}{2} (u_t^2 + c_0^2 |\nabla u|^2)_t
\end{aligned}$$

For ease, denote $\Omega_{T,t}$ to be the truncated cone, i.e.

$$\Omega_{T,t} = \{(x, t') \in \Omega_T : 0 < t' < t\}$$

and denote the curved “side” part of the boundary of the cone as

$$\partial\Omega_{T,t,\text{side}} = \{x \in \partial\Omega_{T,t} : \vec{n} \neq (0, 1) \text{ or } \vec{n} \neq (0, -1)\}$$

Thus by the divergence theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_{\Omega_{T,t}} \nabla \cdot F dV \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega_{T,t}} F \cdot \vec{n} ds \\ &= \int_{B(T)} F \cdot \langle 0, -1 \rangle ds + \int_{B(T-t)} F \cdot \langle 0, 1 \rangle ds + \int_{\partial\Omega_{T,t,\text{side}}} F \cdot \frac{\langle \hat{x}, c_0 \rangle}{\sqrt{1+c_0^2}} ds \\ &= -e_T(0) + e_T(t) + \int_{\partial\Omega_{T,t,\text{side}}} \left[-\frac{c_0^2 u_t \nabla u \cdot \hat{x}}{\sqrt{1+c_0^2}} + \frac{\frac{1}{2}(u_t^2 + c_0^2 |\nabla u|^2) c_0}{\sqrt{1+c_0^2}} \right] ds \end{aligned}$$

Since the integrand is always positive, then

$$0 \leq e_T(t) \leq e_T(0)$$

(c) Suppose that u_1, u_2 are smooth solutions of the wave equation such that

$$u_i(x, 0) = f_i(x), \quad u_{it}(x, 0) = g_i(x), \quad i = 1, 2$$

where $f_i = g_i$ in $|x| \leq c_0 T$. Show that $u_1 = u_2 \in \Omega_T$.

HINT. Consider $u = u_1 - u_2$.

Let $u = u_1 - u_2$. Then since u is a linear combination of solutions of the wave equation then u is a solution of the wave equation. Then note $u(x, 0) = u_1(x, 0) - u_2(x, 0) = 0$ and $u_t(x, 0) = u_{1t}(x, 0) - u_{2t}(x, 0) = 0$. Also, since u is sufficiently smooth, then

$$(\nabla u)(x, 0) = \nabla(u(x, 0)) = \nabla 0 = 0$$

for all x . Then fix $t \in [0, T]$ and note that by part (b),

$$0 \leq e_T(t) \leq e_T(0) = \int_{B(T)} [u_t^2(x, 0) + c_0^2 |\nabla u(x, 0)|^2] dx$$

However, initial conditions $u_t(x, 0) = \nabla u(x, 0) = 0$, and so

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq e_T(t) &\leq \int_B (T) \left[u_t^2(x, 0) + c_0^2 |\nabla u(x, 0)|^2 \right] = 0 \\ &\implies e_T(t) = 0 \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \end{aligned}$$

Since $u_t^2 \geq 0$ and $|\nabla u|^2 \geq 0$, then $u_t = 0$ and $\nabla u = 0$ for all $t \in [0, T]$. This shows u is constant, i.e.

$$u(x, t) = K \in \mathbb{R}$$

but $u(x, 0) = 0 \implies K = 0$, i.e. $u \equiv 0$, or

$$u_1 = u_2.$$