

# Fourier Series and PDEs Notes

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# 1 Review of 2341 and Preliminaries

## Lecture 1

We can write an ordinary differential equation to find the temperature at any point on a rod of length  $L$ ;  $T(x)$  could represent the temperature, where  $x$  is length. However, we know that the temperature at each point also depends on time, so we have to expand our model to cover two variables.

We need partial derivatives. For our temperature function  $T = f(x, t)$ , we'll be concerned with  $\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial T}{\partial t}$ .

We have **heat equation in one dimension**,

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2}$$

which can also be written as  $T_t = T_{xx}$ . This equation has *no general solution*. However, we can solve it using Fourier series.

**Wave equation in one dimension** measures displacement  $u(x, t)$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

**Maxwell's equation**, which is used in communication.

**Navier-Stokes equation** which is used in weather forecasting.

In ordinary differential equations, a *general solution always exists*. In PDEs, there are *no general solutions*.

## 1.1 Review of MATH 2341

**First order separable differential equations** take the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)g(y)$$

with solution

$$\int \frac{1}{g(y)} dy = \int f(x) dx$$

yielding  $G(y) = F(x) + C$  which is the implicit general solution, and can typically be rearranged to isolate  $y$  and yield an explicit general solution.

Example:  $y' = xy$  which yields the explicit solution  $|y| = e^{\frac{x^2}{2} + C}$ , typically written as  $Ce^{\frac{x^2}{2}}$ , so  $y$  equals either  $Ce^{\frac{x^2}{2}}$  or  $-Ce^{\frac{x^2}{2}}$ .

We also have **first-order linear differential equations** (some of which are separable!).  $y' + p(x)y = q(x)$ . We find the integrating factor  $I(x) = e^{\int p(x)dx}$ . Multiplying both sides by  $I(x)$  yields  $I(x)y' + p(x)I(x)y = I(x)q(x)$ ; the left side resembles the product rule of  $(I(x)y)'$ . So we integrate  $I(x)y = \int I(x)q(x)dx + C$ .

Example:  $y' - \frac{1}{x}y = 2x + 1$  for  $x > 0$ . We set  $p(x) = -\frac{1}{x}$  and get  $I(x) = e^{-\ln(x)} = \frac{1}{x}$ . We then have  $\frac{1}{x}y' - \frac{1}{x^2}y = (\frac{1}{x}y)' = 2 + \frac{1}{x}$ . Integrating yields  $\frac{1}{x}y = 2x + \ln(x) + C$  so  $y = 2x^2 + x \ln(x) + Cx$ .

**Second order constant-coefficient differential equations** take the form  $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$  for  $a \neq 0$ . The solution is  $y = e^{rx} \rightarrow y' = re^{rx} \rightarrow y'' = r^2e^{rx}$  where each  $r$  is the roots of the characteristic equation (polynomial)  $at^2 + bt + c = 0$ .

- If  $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ ,  $r_1 \neq r_2$  and both are real. Our solution is  $y = C_1e^{r_1x} + C_2e^{r_2x}$ , which we call a **superposition**
- If  $b^2 = 4ac$  then  $r_1 = r_2$  and our solution is  $y = C_1e^{r_1x} + xe^{r_1x}$
- Finally, if  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ , both  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are complex. Setting  $q = 4ac - b^2$ , our solution take the form

$$y(x) = e^{\beta x} [c_1 \cos(qx) + c_2 \sin(qx)]$$

If  $p > 0$ , the sine wave's amplitude increases; if  $p < 0$ , it decreases.

We also should summarize some basic facts about the trigonometric functions:

- $\sin(x)$  has period  $2\pi$  radians with zeroes located at  $n\pi$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- In general,  $\sin(\beta x)$  and  $\cos(\beta x)$  have period  $\frac{2\pi}{\beta}$ .
- For  $L > 0$  and real, if we have  $\sin(\frac{n\pi x}{L})$  and  $\cos(\frac{n\pi x}{L})$ , the period is  $\frac{2\pi}{\frac{n\pi}{L}} = \frac{2L}{n}$  so  $2L$  is the common period for any function of this form.

If we want to compute

$$I = \int_{-L}^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

integrating by parts<sup>1</sup> with

$$\begin{aligned}
u &= \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \\
dv &= \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) \\
du &= -\frac{n\pi}{L} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \\
v &= \int \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \frac{L}{m\pi} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) \\
I &= uv \Big|_{-L}^L - \frac{L}{m\pi} \int_{-L}^L \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) \frac{-n\pi}{L} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\
&= \frac{n}{m} \int_{-L}^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \frac{n}{m} \int_{-L}^L u dv \\
&= \frac{n^2}{m^2} \int_{-L}^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \frac{n^2}{m^2} I
\end{aligned}$$

So  $I = \frac{n^2}{m^2} I$  implying  $(m^2 - n^2)I = 0$ . Either  $m = n$  or  $I = 0$ , so

$$\int_{-L}^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx = 0$$

for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ,  $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , and  $m \neq n$

## 2 Fourier Series

$$f(x) \sim \frac{a_0}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}$$

## 3 Sturm-Liouville Problems

### 3.1 Four Standard Cases

- 1.
- 2.

---

<sup>1</sup> $\int u dv = uv - \int v du$

3.

4.

## 4 The 1-D Homogeneous Heat Equation

$$u_t = ku_{xx}$$

### 4.1 Derivation

### 4.2 Solution

## 5 n-Dimensional Heat Equation

$$u_t = k(\Delta u)$$

where  $\Delta$  is the Laplacian operator given by

$$(\Delta v)(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n v_{x_i x_i}$$

## 6 The Wave Equation

### 6.1 1-Dimensional Case

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx} + q(x, t)$$

#### 6.1.1 Derivation

#### 6.1.2 Homogeneous Solution

When  $q(x, t)$  is identically zero, we have the homogeneous equation

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$$

#### 6.1.3 Non-homogeneous Solution

When  $q(x, t)$  is not identically zero, the solution to

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx} + q(x, t)$$

is

## 6.2 On a Circular Membrane

### 6.2.1 Solution

## 6.3 n-Dimensional Case

$$u_{tt} =$$

### 6.3.1 Solution

## 7 The Laplace Equation

### 7.1 2-Dimensional Case

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$$

#### 7.1.1 Derivation

#### 7.1.2 Homogeneous Solution

#### 7.1.3 Non-homogeneous Solution

### 7.2 n-Dimensional Case

#### 7.2.1 Solution

## 8 Other Equations

### 8.1 Brownian Motion

$$u_t(x, t) = au_{xx}(x, t) - bu_x(x, t)$$

### 8.2 Diffusion-Convection Problems

$$u_t(x, t) = ku_{xx}(x, t) - au_x(x, t)bu(x, t)$$

### 8.3 Black-Scholes Equation

$$V_t(S, t) + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 V_{SS}(S, t) + rSV_S(S, t) - rV(S, t) = 0$$

## 8.4 Schrödinger Equation

Evolution of a Quantum State

$$i\hbar\psi_t(x,t) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}$$

## 8.5 Klein-Gordon Equation

Motion of a Quantum Scalar Field

$$\psi_{tt}(x,y,z,t) = c^2\Delta\psi(x,y,z,t) - \frac{m^2c^4}{\hbar^2}\psi(x,y,z,t)$$

With  $i^2 = -1$  and  $c$  being the speed of light. In one dimension,

$$u_{tt}(x,t) = c^2u_{xx}(x,t) - au(x,t)$$

for constant  $a > 0$ .

## 8.6 Telegraph Equation

$$au_{tt}(x,t) + bu_t(x,t) + cu(x,t) = u_{xx}(x,t)$$

## 8.7 Dissipative Waves

$$u_{tt}(x,t) + au_t(x,t) + bu(x,t) = c^2u_{xx}(x,t) - du_x(x,t)$$

$a, b, d \geq 0$  not all 0 and  $c > 0$

## 8.8 Transverse Vibrations of a Rod

$$u_{tt}(x,t) + c^2u_{xxxx}(x,t) = 0$$

## 8.9 Helmholtz Equation

$$\Delta u(x,y,z) + k^2u(x,y,z) = 0$$

$$\Delta u(x,y,z) - k^2u(x,y,z) = 0$$



### 8.10 Steady-state Connective Heat

$$\Delta u(x, y) - au_x(x, y) - bu_y(x, y) + cu(x, y) = 0$$

### 8.11 Plane Problems in Continuum Mechanics

$$\Delta \Delta u(x, y) = u_{xxxx}(x, y) + 2u_{xxyy}(x, y) + u_{yyyy}(x, y) = 0$$

### 8.12 Euler-Tricomi Equation

Plane Transonic Flow

$$u_{xx}(x, t) = xu_{xx}(x, t)$$

where  $u(x, t)$  is a function of speed.

### 8.13 Fisher Equation

Advance of advantageous genes in a population

$$u_t(x, t) = Du_{xx}(x, t) + ru(x, t)(1 - u(x, t))$$

### 8.14 Boussinesq Equation

Fluid dynamics

$$\eta_{tt}(x, t) - gh\eta_{xx}(x, t) - gh \left( \frac{2}{3h}\eta^2(x, t) + \frac{h^2}{3}\eta_{xx}(x, t) \right)_{xx} = 0$$

### 8.15 Navier-Stokes Fluid Flow Equations

The Navier-Stokes fluid-flow equations are the system of partial differential equations given by

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot u &= 0 \\ \rho \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + (u \cdot \nabla)u \right) &= -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 u + \rho F \end{aligned}$$

which model every known fluid. The first equation in the system represents the conservation of mass, and the second represents the conservation of momentum.

**Millenium Problem (Navier-Stokes Existence and Smoothness)**

Prove or give a counterexample to the following statement: in three space dimensions and time, given an initial velocity field, there exists a vector velocity and a scalar pressure field, which are both smooth and globally defined, that solve the Navier-Stokes equations.

## 9 The Laplace Transform

The Laplace transform can be used to “suppress” the time variable  $t > 0$  in a PDE; for one-dimensional equations, this yields an ordinary differential equation in  $U(x, s)$  where  $s$  is a constant.

## 10 The Fourier Transform

The Fourier transform can be used to “suppress” spatial variables  $-\infty < x, y, z, \dots < \infty$  much the same way that the Laplace transform “suppresses” the time variable.

## 11 The Method of Green’s Functions