

# *Mathematical Methods*

## *for Engineers*



**Stu Blair**  
**Mighty Goat Press**



WHEN IN DOUBT, MULTIPLY BOTH SIDES BY AN ORTHOGONAL FUNCTION  
AND INTEGRATE.

P.L. CHEBYSHEV

THE PURPOSE OF COMPUTING IS INSIGHT, NOT PICTURES.

L.N. TREFETHEN

NEVER DO A CALCULATION UNTIL YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.

J.A. WHEELER



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

# MATHEMATICAL METHODS FOR ENGINEERS

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# Preface

The purpose of this text is to provide a concise reference for engineering students who would like to strengthen their conceptual understanding and practical proficiency in analytical and numerical methods in engineering. The material is based on a sequence of two courses taught at the United States Naval Academy.

## *Analytical Methods*

The first course is focused on analytical methods for linear ordinary and partial differential equations. All students come into the course having taken a three-semester sequence of calculus along with a course in ordinary differential equations. The analytical methods portion briefly reviews methods for constant coefficient linear equations and proceeds to methods for non-constant coefficient ODEs including Cauchy-Euler equations, power series methods, and the method of Frobenius. After a review of Fourier Series methods and an introduction to Fourier-Legendre and Fourier-Bessel expansions we thoroughly explore solutions to second-order, linear, partial differential equations. Since many students are also studying nuclear engineering, there is a heavy focus on addressing boundary value problems in cylindrical and spherical coordinate systems that are applicable to other topics of interest such as reactor physics. There is also heavy emphasis on heat transfer applications that students will see later on in their undergraduate curriculum.

The materials presented are based heavily on Professor Dennis Zill's excellent book.<sup>1</sup> We lightly select from chapters 1-3 for review; chapter 5 for series solution methods; and chapters 12-14 for Fourier Series and solutions to linear boundary value problems.

What distinguishes this course from Prof Zill's work is the explicit incorporation of computational tools in the solution process. These "semi-analytical methods" are presented here in MATLAB<sup>2</sup> owing to the students preparation with that tool. Other open-source tools like Octave<sup>3</sup> and Python,<sup>4</sup> of course, could be used.

<sup>1</sup> Dennis G Zill. *Advanced Engineering Mathematics*. Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Inc. The Math Works. Matlab, v2022a, 2022. URL <https://www.mathworks.com/>

<sup>3</sup> John W. Eaton, David Bateman, Søren Hauberg, and Rik Wehbring. *GNU Octave version 5.2.0 manual: a high-level interactive language for numerical computations*, 2020. URL <https://www.gnu.org/software/octave/doc/v5.2.0/>

<sup>4</sup> Guido Van Rossum and Fred L. Drake. *Python 3 Reference Manual*. CreateSpace, Scotts Valley, CA, 2009. ISBN 1441412697

*Numerical Methods*

This portion of the textbook is not complete. This section of the preface will be updated when everything is in place.

## **Part I**

# **Introduction and Review**



# *Lecture 1 - Introduction, Definitions and Terminology*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Provide an overview of course content.
- Define basic terms related to differential equations.
- Provide examples of classification schemes for differential equations.

## *Course Introduction*

This course is intended as a one-semester introduction to partial differential equations. It is assumed that all students have a thorough background in single- and multi-variable calculus as well as differential equations. The first few lectures comprise a review of the portions of differential equations on which this course most heavily relies. This is followed by a treatment of power series methods and the method of Frobenius. These are needed so that students will understand the origins of Legendre polynomials and Bessel functions that will be used in the solution of boundary value problems in spherical and cylindrical coordinates respectively.

THE MAIN BODY of material deals with the solution of (mostly homogeneous) boundary value problems—wave equation, heat equation, and Laplace equation—in rectangular, polar/cylindrical, and spherical coordinate systems. For this, a preparatory review of Fourier series expansions along with Fourier-Legendre and Fourier-Bessel expansions is included along with a leavening of Sturm-Liouville theory in boundary value problems. The rest is a problem-by-problem tour of methods and analysis with heavy emphasis on heat transfer and nuclear engineering applications.

## Classification of Differential Equations

It is important to be able to classify differential equations. In this class we will learn a variety of techniques to find a function that satisfies a differential equation along with its boundary or initial conditions.<sup>1</sup> The techniques we learn in this class are tailored for specific classes of problems; you classify the problem and that tells you what method to use. If you improperly classify the equation, you will likely use an inappropriate method and may have trouble figuring out why you cannot solve the problem.

### Classification by Type and Order

We shall start with the easiest classification categories: type and order. There are two *types* of differential equations that we will consider: *ordinary differential equations* and *partial differential equations*.

IN AN ORDINARY differential equation, there is only one independent variable. In a *partial* differential equation, there are multiple independent variables and consequently derivatives of the dependent variable will require partial derivatives.

THE ORDER OF a differential equation is the order of the highest derivative in the equation. This is typically not confusing for students. If anything needs to be added here it is to be mindful of the difference between a higher order derivative and an exponent. For example, in the second order, non-linear, ordinary differential equation shown below,

$$\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + 5 \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right)^3 - 4u = e^x$$

it isn't *too* hard to realize that the "3" is an exponent and the "2" denotes a second derivative. Still, be mindful.

### Classification by Linearity

An  $n^{\text{th}}$  order ordinary differential equation is said to be *linear* when it can be written in the form shown in Equation 1:

$$a_n(x)u^{(n)} + a_{n-1}(x)u^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1(x)' + a_0(x)u = g(x) \quad (1)$$

The key features that you should note in the form of Equation 1 are:

1. The *dependent variable* and *all of its derivatives* are of the first degree; that is, the power of each term involving  $u$  is 1.

<sup>1</sup> Consider the differential equation:  $\frac{du}{dx} = ux$ . The variable  $u$  stands for the function,  $u(x)$ , that satisfies the equation;  $u$  is also referred to as the **dependent variable**. The variable  $x$  is the **independent variable**. By convention we will use the variables  $x, y, z$  and  $r, \theta, \phi$  as spatial independent variables and  $t$  as an independent variable for time-dependent problems. We will use many other letters to denote dependent variables but most commonly  $u, f, g, h, v$  and  $\psi$ . When working through the separation of variables process we will also use  $F, G$ , and sometimes  $H$ .

**Example ODE:**

$$\frac{d^2u}{dt^2} + t \frac{du}{dt} = 3e^{-t}$$

There is one independent variable,  $t$

**Example PDE:**

$$\frac{\partial^2u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2u}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

There are two independent variables,  $x$ , and  $y$ .

**Note:** The notation  $u^{(n)}$  and  $u^{(n-1)}$  refer to the  $n^{\text{th}}$  and  $(n-1)^{\text{th}}$  derivative of  $u$  respectively.

2. The coefficients of each term,  $a_n(x)$ , depend at most on the *independent* variable(s).

A lot of students struggle with discriminating between linear and nonlinear ODEs but it really is as simple as checking these two features. If both conditions are satisfied: the equation is linear. If not, the equation is nonlinear. As examples, Equation 2 violates the first criterion; Equation 3 violates the second.

$$\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + u^2 = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{d^3u}{dx^3} - 5u\frac{du}{dx} = x \quad (3)$$

### Verification of an Explicit Solution

A solution in which the dependent variable is expressed solely in terms of the independent variable and constants is said to be an *explicit* solution. Otherwise, the solution is *implicit*.

IN THIS CLASS we will mainly be interested in finding explicit solutions to differential equations that we are given or have derived. There are some cases, however, where we are given a function and we wish to verify that it is a solution to a given differential equation. To do this, we simply “plug” the equation into the differential operator and verify that an identity is derived.

**Example:** Verify that  $u = \frac{6}{5} - \frac{6}{5}e^{-20t}$  is a solution to:

$$\frac{du}{dt} + 20u = 24$$

**Solution:** Since  $\frac{du}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{6}{5} - \frac{6}{5}e^{-20t}\right) = 24e^{-20t}$ , we can see that:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{du}{dt} + 20u &= 24e^{-20t} + 20\left(\frac{6}{5} - \frac{6}{5}e^{-20t}\right) \\ &= 24e^{-20t} + 24 - 24e^{-20t} \\ &= 24 \end{aligned}$$

which is the expected identity.

**Why is this important?** Most of the techniques we will learn in this course *depend* upon the fact that the equation we are trying to solve is *linear*. In “*the wild*” you may be presented with (or, more likely *derive*) an equation and may not be explicitly told whether or not the equation is linear. If the equation is **not** linear you will find that most of the tools you learn in this course will not be applicable; you will most likely need to use a numerical method. You need to be able to tell the difference so you know what tools to use.

**Example explicit solution:**  $u(x) = f(x)$ .

**Example implicit solution:**  $G(x, u) = 0$



# Lecture 2 - Separable and Linear 1st order Equations

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Define and describe the solution procedure for *separable* first order equations.
- Define and demonstrate the solution procedure for *linear* first order equations.

## Separable Equations

A first order differential equation of the form shown below:

$$\frac{du}{dx} = g(u)h(x) \quad (4)$$

is said to be *separable* or have *separable variables*.

**Note:** There is **no** requirement that the 1st order equation be *linear*. This is the only technique that we will study in this course that can be applied to nonlinear equations.

THE SOLUTION METHOD for separable equations is, in principle, simple. For the separable differential equation given in Equation 4 we would separate and integrate:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{du}{dx} &= g(u)h(x) \\ \frac{du}{g(u)} &= h(x)dx \\ \int \frac{1}{g(u)} du &= \int h(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

Generally speaking, one of your first checks for a first order equation should be: is it separable? If so, you should separate the variables and solve. The examples below are intended to illustrate the method. Note that in the final example, the integral cannot be done analytically.

**Note:** There are at least two complications here:

1. The solution you thus derive may be either implicit or explicit. An implicit solution is, as a practical matter, fairly inconvenient to deal with; and
2. It may not be possible to carry out the integrals analytically.

Nonetheless, we shall carry on and give it a try anyway.

Solve the following separable, first order differential equations .

**Example 1:**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{du}{dx} &= \frac{u}{1+x} \\ \frac{du}{u} &= \frac{dx}{1+x} \\ \int \frac{d}{u} &= \int \frac{dx}{1+x} \\ \ln |u| + c_1 &= \ln |1+x| + c_2 \\ |u| &= e^{[\ln |1+x| + c_3]} \\ u(x) &= c|1+x|\end{aligned}$$

**Example 2:**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{du}{dx} &= -\frac{x}{u} \\ \int u \, du &= - \int x \, dx \\ \frac{u^2}{2} &= -\frac{x^2}{2} + c \\ u(x) &= \sqrt{c - x^2}\end{aligned}$$

**Example 3:** Solve the first order initial value problem shown

below:

$$\frac{du}{dx} = e^{-x^2}, \quad u(2) = 6, \quad 2 \leq x < \infty$$

$$\begin{aligned}du &= e^{-x^2} \, dx \\ \int_2^x \frac{du}{dt} \, dt &= \int_2^x e^{-t^2} \, dt \\ u(x) - u(2) &= \int_2^x e^{-t^2} \, dt \\ u(x) &= 6 + \int_2^x e^{-t^2} \, dt\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the dummy variable  $t$  in the integrals; the last integral will need to be evaluated numerically.

## Linear Equations

A first-order differential equation of the form:

$$a_1(x) \frac{du}{dx} + a_0(x)u = g(x) \quad (5)$$

is said to be a first order *linear equation* in the dependent variable  $u$ .

When  $g(x) = 0$ , the first-order linear equation is said to be *homogeneous*; otherwise it is *non-homogeneous*.

WHEN SOLVING equations of this type it is customary to express it in the **standard form**:

$$\frac{du}{dx} + P(x)u = f(x) \quad (6)$$

The method for solving this equation makes use of the *linearity* property and we express the solution in the following way:  $u(x) = u_c(x) + u_p(x)$ . Inserting this into Equation 6 gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}[u_c + u_p] + P(x)[u_c + u_p] &= \\ \left[ \frac{du_c}{dx} + P(x)u_c \right] + \left[ \frac{du_p}{dx} + P(x)u_p \right] &= f(x) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where  $u_c(x)$  is the solution to the *associated homogeneous problem*:

$$\frac{du_c}{dx} + P(x)u_c = 0 \quad (8)$$

and  $u_p(x)$  is a solution to:

$$\frac{du_p}{dx} + P(x)u_p = f(x) \quad (9)$$

We can see that Equation 8 is separable:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{du_c}{dx} + P(x)u_c &= 0 \\ \frac{du_c}{u_c} &= -P(x) dx \\ \ln u_c + C &= - \int P(x) dx \\ u_c(x) &= e^{- \int P(x) dx + C_1} \\ u_c(x) &= e^{- \int P(x) dx} e^{C_1} \\ u_c(x) &= C e^{- \int P(x) dx} \end{aligned}$$

where  $C = e^{C_1}$ .

**Note:** it is sometimes customary to write the differential equation in *operator form* where the differential operator,  $\mathcal{L} = a_1(x) \frac{d}{dx} + a_0(x)$ , is applied to the function  $u(x)$  to get  $g(x)$ ;  $\mathcal{L}u(x) = g(x)$

Notice that  $g(x)$  is the only term in Equation 5 that does **not** include  $u$  or any of its derivatives.

When we say an operator is **linear**, what we mean is that the following relationships must hold:

1.  $\mathcal{L}(\alpha u) = \alpha \mathcal{L}(u)$
  2.  $\mathcal{L}(u + v) = \mathcal{L}(u) + \mathcal{L}(v)$
- for functions  $u, v$  and scalar constant  $\alpha$ . Think of this as a *definition* of linearity.

The linear operator here is:  $\mathcal{L} = \frac{d}{dx} + P(x)$ . Equation 8 says  $\mathcal{L}u_c = 0$ ; Equation 9 says  $\mathcal{L}u_p = f(x)$ ; Equation 7 says that  $\mathcal{L}(u_c + u_p) = 0 + f(x) = f(x)$ .

What might trouble you now is: if we have  $u_p$ , is this not a solution to Equation 6? Why do we need  $u_c$ ? The next thing that should trouble you is that if  $u_p$  is a solution, by the linearity property of  $\mathcal{L}$ , so is  $u_p$  plus *any* constant multiple of  $u_c$ . The solution is not *unique*.

This will all be resolved when we recall that  $u_c$  will have an arbitrary constant through which we will be able to say that  $u = u_c + u_p$  is a function describing *all* possible solutions of Equation 6 and the arbitrary constant(s) in  $u_c$  will be set so as to uniquely satisfy a given initial/boundary condition.

**Note:** Going forward, we will desist in making such peddling distinctions between constants.  $C_1$  is an arbitrary constant,  $e^{C_1}$  is still an arbitrary constant. There is no real difference between  $C_1$  and  $C$  and, in this author's humble opinion, they do not rate different symbols.

We NEED TO FIND a solution  $u_p(x)$  to Equation 9. The technique we will use is called *variation of parameters*. It consists of looking for a solution in the form  $y_p(x) = v(x)u_1(x)$ , where  $u_1(x) = e^{-\int P(x) dx}$  which is  $u_c(x)$  with the arbitrary constant set to 1 and  $v(x)$  might be thought of as some kind of weighting or *variational* function.

We will insert this proposed form of  $y_p(x)$  into Equation 9:

$$\frac{d(vu_1)}{dx} + P(x)[v(x)u_1(x)] = f(x)$$

We apply the product rule to the first term and re-arrange to get:

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(x)\frac{dv}{dx} + v(x)\frac{du_1}{dx} + P(x)[v(x)u_1(x)] &= f(x) \\ v(x)\underbrace{\left[\frac{du_1}{dx} + P(x)u_1(x)\right]}_{=0} + u_1(x)\frac{dv}{dx} &= f(x) \\ u_1(x)\frac{dv}{dx} &= f(x) \end{aligned}$$

In the last line we can observe that the equation is *separable* and thus solve accordingly:

$$\begin{aligned} v(x) &= \int \frac{f(x)}{u_1(x)} dx \\ &= \int e^{\int P(x) dx} f(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

Now that we know what  $v(x)$  must be, we can combine this with  $u_1(x)$  to get  $u_p(x)$ :

$$u_p(x) = e^{-\int P(x) dx} \left[ \int e^{\int P(x) dx} f(x) dx \right] \quad (10)$$

Equation 10 is messy and perhaps a bit scary but given definitions of  $P(x)$  and  $f(x)$  we might hope we can solve it anyway. We now have expressions for both  $u_c$  and  $u_p$  and we combine them to form the solution for the first-order linear equation:

$$u(x) = Ce^{-\int P(x) dx} + e^{-\int P(x) dx} \left[ e^{\int P(x) dx} f(x) dx \right] \quad (11)$$

### *Method of Solution*

In summary, once we have identified a problem to be first-order and linear, we will solve the problem using the following steps:

1. Write the equation in standard form (Equation 6)
2. Determine the integrating factor  $\mu = e^{-\int P(x) dx}$ .

3. Solve for the general solution  $u(x)$  using Equation 11.
4. Apply initial/boundary condition if given.

**Example:** Solve the problem:

$$\frac{du}{dx} + u = x, \quad u(0) = 4$$

**Step #1:** The equation is already in standard form.

**Step #2:** Find the integrating factor  $\mu$ .

$$mu = e^{-\int P(x) dx} = e^{-\int 1 dx} = e^{-x}$$

**Step #3:** Solve for the general solution  $u(x)$  using Equation 11

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= Ce^{-x} + e^{-x} \int e^x x dx \\ &= Ce^{-x} + e^{-x} [xe^x - e^x] \\ &= Ce^{-x} + x - 1 \end{aligned}$$

← For the integral  $\int e^x x dx$  we need to use integration by parts.

**Step #4:** Apply initial/boundary conditions if given

$$\begin{aligned} u(0) &= Ce^0 + 0 - 1 \\ &= C - 1 = 4 \\ \Rightarrow C &= 5 \\ u(x) &= 5e^x + x - 1 \end{aligned}$$



# *Assignment #1*

State the order of the given ordinary differential equation and indicate if it is linear or non-linear.

1.  $(1-x)u'' - 4xu' + 5u = \cos x$

2.  $t^5u^{(4)} - t^3u'' + 6u = 0$

Verify the indicated function is an explicit solution of the given differential equation.

3.  $2u' + u = 0, \quad u = e^{-x/2}$

4.  $u'' - 6u' + 13u = 0, \quad u = e^{3x} \cos 2x$

Solve the given differential equation by separation of variables.

5.  $\frac{du}{dx} = \sin 5x$

6.  $dx + e^{3x}du = 0$

7.  $\frac{dS}{dr} = kS$

8.  $\frac{du}{dx} = x\sqrt{1-u^2}$

Find an explicit solution of the given initial-value problem.

9.  $x^2 \frac{du}{dx} = u - xu, \quad u(-1) = -1$

Find the general solution of the given differential equation.

$$10. \frac{du}{dx} + u = e^{3x}$$

$$11. u' + 3x^2u = x^2$$

$$12. x\frac{du}{dx} - u = x^2 \sin x$$

# Lecture 3 - Theory of Linear Equations

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Introduce several theoretical concepts relevant to initial value problems and boundary value problems.
- Demonstrate use of the Wronskian to determine linear independence of solutions.
- Present some important theorems and definitions relevant to the theory of linear ordinary differential equations.

## Initial Value Problems

For a linear differential equation, an  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order initial value problem (IVP) is given by the following governing equation and initial conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Governing Equation: } & a_n(x) \frac{d^n u}{dx^n} + a_{n-1} \frac{d^{n-1} u}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots \\ & + a_1(x) \frac{du}{dx} + a_0(x)u = g(x) \quad (12) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions: } u(x_0) = u_0, u'(x_0) = u_1, \dots, u^{(n-1)}(x_0) = u_{n-1} \quad (13)$$

WE SEEK A function defined on some interval containing  $x_0$  that satisfies the differential equation with  $n$  conditions applied. The theorem below, which we will use by *citing* rather than *proving*, gives us assurance that, subject some fairly reasonable assumptions, such a solution will exist.

**Note:** For an initial value problem, all of the initial conditions are provided at the same value of  $x$ ; in accordance with custom we call this  $x_0$ . The name *initial* condition gives the implication that these conditions are at some “end” of the interval (beginning, left side, whatever) and in all examples and exercises in this text this is indeed the case. It is not, however, a requirement. Generally for an  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order IVP you will need  $n$  conditions.

**Theorem 1 (Existence and Uniqueness for IVPs)**

If  $a_n(x), a_{n-1}(x), \dots, a_1(x), a_0(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are continuous on an interval  $\mathcal{I}$ , and if  $a_n(x) \neq 0$  for every  $x \in \mathcal{I}$ , and if  $x_0$  is any point in this interval, then a solution  $u(x)$  of the IVP exists on the interval and it is unique.

FOR THIS CLASS we will adopt a fairly operational definition of continuity: if you can draw the function throughout the specified interval without picking up your pencil or without diverging to infinity, then the function is continuous.

Consider, as an example, the following initial value problem:

$$u'' - 4u = 12x, \quad u(0) = 4, \quad u'(0) = 1 \quad (14)$$

This IVP satisfies the conditions of Theorem 1 since all of the coefficients and  $g(x)$  are continuous and  $a_2$  is constant and nonzero; hence a unique solution exists on any interval and that solution is unique.

Here is an IVP that does *not* satisfy the criteria of Theorem 1:

$$x^2u'' - 2xu' + 2u = 6, \quad u(0) = 3, \quad u'(0) = 1 \quad (15)$$

In this case, the coefficients and  $g(x)$  are all continuous but  $a_2(x)$  is equal to zero at  $x = 0$ . This might not be a problem—i.e. if  $x = 0$  is not in the interval of interest for the IVP then we are okay—but since  $x_0 = 0$ ,  $x = 0$  *must* be in the domain for the theorem to apply. So we have no assurances that a solution exists or, if a solution does exist, it may not be unique.

Take a moment to verify that  $u(x) = 3e^{2x} + e^{-2x} - 3x$  satisfies both the governing equation and initial conditions given in Equation 14 and thus is *the* unique solution to this IVP.

You should take a moment to verify that  $u(x) = cx^2 + x + 3$  is a solution for the IVP given in Equation 15 for *any* choice of parameter  $c$ .

**Boundary Value Problems**

For this section let us, without undue loss of generality, consider a 2<sup>nd</sup>-order boundary value problem (BVP):

$$\text{Governing Equation: } a_2(x) \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + a_1(x) \frac{du}{dx} + a_0(x)u = g(x) \quad (16)$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions: } y(a) = y_0, \quad y(b) = y_1, \quad a \neq b \quad (17)$$

DEPENDING ON THE boundary conditions, BVPs may have no solutions, one unique solution, or infinitely many solutions.

**Example:** The equation  $u'' + 16u = 0$  has the general solution  $u(t) = c_1 \cos(4t) + c_2 \sin(4t)$ . Consider the three different sets of boundary conditions provided below:

- a)  $u(0) = 0, \quad u(\pi/2) = 0$ . Application of the first boundary condition gives us  $c_1(1) + c_2(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0$ . The second boundary condition is  $c_2 \sin(2\pi) = 0$ , which is true for *any* value of  $c_2$ . Therefore there problem has infinitely many solutions.

Almost all of the applications we will consider for this class will involve 2<sup>nd</sup>-order operators. The way we derive important boundary-value problems from underlying physical laws like conservation of mass and conservation of energy lead to them being 2<sup>nd</sup>-order. You should think about this while you are sitting in your fluid dynamics class and equations are being derived for conservation of mass and momentum for viscous incompressible fluid flow or when you are sitting in heat transfer class and the heat equation is being derived from conservation of energy principles. Probably the most obvious counterexample is beam theory which involves a 4<sup>th</sup>-order operator.

- b)  $u(0) = 0, u(\pi/8) = 0$ . The first boundary condition again gives us  $c_1 = 0$ ; the second condition  $c_2 \sin(4\frac{\pi}{8}) = 0$  is only satisfied if  $c_2 = 0$ . Thus  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ ; only the trivial solution,  $u = 0$ , satisfies both the differential equation and boundary conditions. This is not a very interesting solution but at least it is a solution so we will take this as an example of a BVP having a unique solution.
- c)  $u(0) = 0, u(\pi/2) = 1$ . In this case, again  $c_1 = 0$  from the first boundary condition. This leaves the second boundary condition:  $c_2 \sin(4\frac{\pi}{2}) = c_2(0) = 1$  which cannot be satisfied for any value of  $c_2$ . In this case no solution exists.

For applications, we will generally be only interested in *non-trivial* solutions; that is, solutions that are not identically equal to zero.

### *Superposition and Linear Dependence*

In this section some important theorems regarding IVPs and BVPs will be presented. No attempt will be made to prove these theorems; we will simply take these theorems as facts that are relevant for this course that you should try to understand as best you can.

#### **Theorem 2 (Superposition Principle for Homogeneous Equations)**

Let  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k$  be solutions of a homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order linear differential equation. Then any linear combination of those solutions

$$u = c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \cdots + c_k u_k$$

where  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k$  are arbitrary constants, is also a solution.

As an example, If we denote the linear homogeneous differential equation as  $\mathcal{L}$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(u_i) = 0$  for any  $i \in [1, 2, \dots, k]$ . By the linearity property of  $\mathcal{L}$ , for any constants  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\alpha u_i + \beta u_j) &= \alpha \mathcal{L}(u_i) + \beta \mathcal{L}(u_j) \\ &= \alpha(0) + \beta(0) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

thus  $\alpha u_i + \beta u_j$  is a solution.

#### **Theorem 3 (Linear Dependence / Independence of Functions)**

A set of functions  $f_1(x), f_2(x), \dots, f_k(x)$  is said to be linearly dependent on an interval  $\mathcal{I}$  if there exist constants  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k$ , not all of which are zero, such that

$$c_1 f_1(x) + c_2 f_2(x) + \cdots + c_k f_k(x) = 0$$

for every  $x \in \mathcal{I}$ . If the set of functions is not linearly dependent, it is linearly independent.

**Note:** It is essential that both the governing equation and conditions (boundary or initial) for the linear differential equation are homogeneous. As a reminder, this means that all terms in the governing equation and boundary conditions must either a) involve the dependent variable or one of its derivatives; or b) be equal to zero.

**Question:** What if a member of the set of functions is  $f(x) = 0$ ?

**Answer:** The set will no longer be linearly independent. The trivial function  $f(x) = 0$  is not linearly independent from anything.

Repeatedly throughout this course we will want to clarify whether or not two or more functions are linearly independent of each other. I think most engineers have a general idea of what it is we *mean* when we say two functions are linearly independent or dependent but Theorem 3 specifies what these things mean *mathematically*.

WE NEED A TEST to help us determine whether or not the members of a set are linearly independent. This will be especially important as we evaluate solutions to a linear homogeneous differential equation. Even if you are the sort of savant who can, by inspection, always detect linear dependence, you might have a hard time convincing your friends that your assessment is always correct. Luckily, there is a theorem that provides a suitable test that can serve as irrefutable evidence of the state of linear dependence/independence of functions.

#### Theorem 4 (Criterion for Linearly Independent Solutions)

*Let  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  be solutions of a homogeneous linear  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order differential equation defined on an interval  $\mathcal{I}$ . Then the set of solutions is linearly independent on the interval if and only if the Wronskian of the solution is non-zero for every  $x \in \mathcal{I}$ .*

The Wronskian is a function that takes functions as arguments and returns a scalar numeric quantity and is defined in Equation 18:

$$W(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) = \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & \cdots & u_n \\ u'_1 & u'_2 & \cdots & u'_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_1^{(n-1)} & u_2^{(n-1)} & \cdots & u_n^{(n-1)} \end{vmatrix} \quad (18)$$

where  $|\cdot|$  denotes the matrix determinant. For large values of  $n$  this is difficult to calculate but, for the case  $n = 2$ , engineering students should be familiar with the formula:

$$W(u_1, u_2) = \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ u'_1 & u'_2 \end{vmatrix} = u_1 u'_2 - u'_1 u_2 \quad (19)$$

Students of this class should also be able to find determinants for  $3 \times 3$  matrices. If you have forgotten that formula, consult your favorite textbook or online resource for a reminder.

**Example:** Show that the functions  $u_1 = e^{3x}$  and  $u_2 = e^{-3x}$  are linearly independent solutions to the homogeneous linear equation  $u'' - 9u = 0$  for every  $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ .

**Solution:** The Wronskian is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \begin{vmatrix} e^{3x} & e^{-3x} \\ 3e^{3x} & -3e^{-3x} \end{vmatrix} \\ &= e^{3x}(-3e^{-3x}) - 3e^{3x}(e^{-3x}) \\ &= 3e^{3x-3x} - 3e^{3x-3x} \\ &= 3 - 3 \\ &= 6 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $6 \neq 0$  for all  $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$  the solutions are linearly independent.

**Definition 1 (Fundamental Set of Solutions)**

Any set  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  of  $n$  linearly independent solutions of the homogeneous linear  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order differential equation on an interval is said to be a fundamental set of solutions on an interval  $\mathcal{I}$ .

**Theorem 5 (Existence of a Fundamental Set)**

There exists a fundamental set of solutions for the homogeneous linear  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order differential equation on an interval  $\mathcal{I}$ .

**Definition 2 (General Solution—Homogeneous Equation)**

Let  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  be a fundamental set of solutions to the homogeneous linear  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order differential equation defined on an interval  $\mathcal{I}$ , then the general solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1u_1(x) + c_2u_2(x) + \cdots + c_nu_n(x)$$

IT IS IMPORTANT to understand from the above that:

- Any possible solution to the homogeneous, linear,  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order differential equation can be constructed by setting the coefficients of the general solution; and
- there is **no** solution that can be constructed from functions that are linearly independent from the general solution.

*General Solution for a Non-homogeneous Problem*

Recall: “non-homogeneous” for a linear  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order differential equation means that  $g(x) \neq 0$ . If  $u_p$  is any particular solution to the non-homogeneous, linear,  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order ODE on an interval  $\mathcal{I}$  and  $u_c = c_1u_1(x) + c_2u_2(x) + \cdots + c_nu_n(x)$  is the general solution to the associated homogeneous ODE (called the *complementary* solution) then the general solution to the non-homogeneous ODE is:

$$u = u_c + u_p$$

The reader should verify that both  $u_1 = e^{3x}$  and  $u_2 = e^{-3x}$  satisfy the given differential equation.

**Note:** This is different than saying that a BVP or IVP has a solution. This theorem is only referring to the differential equation; not the boundary or initial conditions.

**Example:** By substitution it can be seen that  $u_p = -\frac{11}{12} - \frac{1}{2}x$  is a particular solution to  $u''' - 6u'' + 11u' - 6u = 3x$ . The general solution to the associated homogeneous problem is  $u_c = c_1e^x + c_2e^{2x} + c_3e^{3x}$ . Consequently, the general solution to the linear non-homogeneous problem is:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= u_c + u_p \\ &= c_1e^x + c_2e^{2x} + c_3e^{3x} - \frac{11}{12} - \frac{1}{2}x \end{aligned}$$

You are, again, strongly encouraged to verify that  $u_p$  satisfies the given equation and that  $u_c$  satisfies the associated homogeneous equation.

# Lecture 4 - Homogeneous Linear Equations with Constant Coefficients

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Review the solution methodology for homogeneous linear equations with constant coefficients.
- Illustrate this method with several examples.

## Introduction

In this lecture we will review the well-trod ground of your differential equations class and remind ourselves how to solve linear, constant coefficient, homogeneous,  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order differential equations.

These equations have the general form shown in Equation 20:

$$a_n u^{(n)} + a_{n-1} u^{(n-1)} + \cdots + a_1 u' + a_0 u = 0 \quad (20)$$

where the coefficients are real and constant and  $a_n \neq 0$ .

THE BASIC STRATEGY is to assume the solution is of the form:  $u(x) = e^{mx}$ . For the case of 2<sup>nd</sup>-order equations, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} a_2 m^2 e^{mx} + a_1 m e^{mx} + a_0 e^{mx} &= 0 \\ e^{mx} (a_2 m^2 + a_1 m + a_0) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where the last line above is called the auxiliary equation:

$$am^2 + bm + c = 0 \quad (21)$$

From the well-known quadratic equation, solutions are:  $m = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

Solution of this equation gives the following three cases:

1. **Distinct Real Roots** In this case  $m_1 \neq m_2$  and the general solution is of the form:

$$u(x) = c_1 \underbrace{e^{m_1 x}}_{u_1(x)} + c_2 \underbrace{e^{m_2 x}}_{u_2(x)} \quad (22)$$

If  $u(x) = e^{mx}$  then, of course,  $u' = me^{mx}$  and  $u'' = m^2 e^{mx}$ .

Here we re-name the constants so Equation 21 takes a familiar form.

Using tools from the last lecture you should recognize that  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  are linearly independent for all  $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ , and thus form a fundamental set of solutions.

AN IMPORTANT SPECIAL CASE is when  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are roots of a positive real number and thus  $m_1 = -m_2$ . This happens when the governing equation is of the form:

$$u'' - k^2 u = 0 \quad (23)$$

The general solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1 e^{-kx} + c_2 e^{kx} \quad (24)$$

For reasons that will become clear later in the course, it is sometimes useful to re-express the solution shown in Equation 24 in terms of the functions  $\cosh()$  and  $\sinh()$ . These functions are defined as linear combinations of exponentials as shown below and plotted in Figure 1.

$$\begin{aligned}\cosh x &= \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2} \\ \sinh x &= \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}\end{aligned}$$

2. **Real Repeated Roots** In this case  $m_1 = m_2$ . One solution is:

$$u_1(x) = e^{m_1 x} \quad (25)$$

The other solution so derived is, of course, the same and thus we do not have two linearly independent solutions as required to form a fundamental set of solutions for a 2<sup>nd</sup>-order linear homogeneous equation.

IT CAN BE SHOWN that a second linearly independent solution can be formed by multiplying  $u_1(x)$  by the independent variable,  $x$ :

$$u_2(x) = xu_1(x) = xe^{mx}$$

and thus the general solution for this case is:

$$u(x) = c_1 e^{mx} + c_2 x e^{mx} \quad (26)$$

3. **Conjugate Complex Roots** In this case the discriminant,  $b^2 - 4ac$ , is negative so its square root is imaginary. This results in  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  being complex conjugates which we will express as:  $m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$  and  $m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$ .

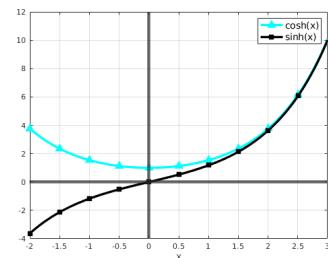


Figure 1: Plot of  $\cosh x$  and  $\sinh x$

When applying boundary conditions and resolving unknown constants in a general solution to a differential equation, it is helpful that  $\sinh 0 = 0$ . In contrast, neither  $e^x$  nor  $e^{-x}$  is equal to zero for finite values of  $x$ .

i.e. from the quadratic equation,  $b^2 - 4ac = 0$

This result is derived using a technique referred to as *reduction of order*. We will not take the time to cover it in this class (or in this book) but is concisely described in section 3.2 of Zill. At a minimum you might at least confirm for yourself that a)  $xu_1(x)$  is a solution to the equation; and b) use the Wronskian to confirm that it is linearly independent from  $u_1(x)$ .

The general solution is:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= c_1 e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} + c_2 e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x} \\ &= e^{\alpha x} \left( c_1 e^{i\beta x} + c_2 e^{-i\beta x} \right) \end{aligned}$$

The complex exponentials in the last equation can be re-expressed using the Euler Formula:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{i\beta x} &= \cos \beta x + i \sin \beta x \\ e^{-i\beta x} &= \cos \beta x - i \sin \beta x \end{aligned}$$

which is slightly more convenient insofar as the solutions are no longer expressed as complex exponentials; this expression also breaks the solutions down into their real and complex parts. It can be shown that both the real and imaginary parts of the solution must satisfy the differential equation *independently*. This fact allows us yet again to re-express the solution in a still more simple form that does not involve complex numbers at all:

$$u(x) = e^{\alpha x} (c_1 \cos \beta x + c_2 \sin \beta x) \quad (27)$$

ANOTHER IMPORTANT special case is when the solution is *pure imaginary* (i.e.  $\alpha = 0$ ) so the solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1 \cos \beta x + c_2 \sin \beta x \quad (28)$$

These solutions arise when the governing equation is as shown in Equation 29:

$$u'' + k^2 u = 0 \quad (29)$$

The roots are  $m_{1,2} = \pm ik$  and the general solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1 \cos kx + c_2 \sin kx \quad (30)$$

This equation will be revisited throughout the course as it repeatedly comes up in applications.

### Three Examples

The cases described above will be illustrated with three examples:

**Example #1:** Find the general solution to  $2u'' - 5u' - 3u = 0$ . Inserting  $u = e^{mx}$  into the equation gives us the auxiliary equation:

$$2m^2 - 5m - 3 = (2m + 1)(m - 3)$$

with roots:  $m_1 = -\frac{1}{2}$  and  $m_2 = 3$ . These are real, distinct roots so the general solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1 e^{-x/2} + c_2 e^{3x}$$

**Example #2:** Find the general solution to  $u'' - 10u' + 25u = 0$ . The auxiliary equation is:

$$m^2 - 10m + 25 = (m - 5)(m - 5)$$

with (repeated) roots:  $m_1 = 5$  and  $m_2 = 5$ . These are real, repeated roots so the general solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1 e^{5x} + c_2 x e^{5x}$$

**Example #3:** Find the general solution to  $4u'' + 4u' + 17u = 0$ ,  $u(0) = -1$ ,  $u'(0) = 2$ .

This is an initial value problem with continuous (and constant) coefficients and with  $a_2(x) \neq 0$  for all values of  $x$ . We know from Theorem 1 that a unique solution exists. We will first find the general solution, then apply the initial conditions to resolve the unknown coefficients to reveal the solution.

The auxiliary equation is:

$$4m^2 + 4m + 17 = 0$$

using the quadratic equation, gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 4(4)(17)}}{2(4)} &= -\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{-256}}{8} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{-16}{8} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \pm 2i \end{aligned}$$

We can see that it must be an *initial* value problem because the conditions are both given at the same location,  $x_0 = 0$ .

This gives us complex conjugate roots and the general solution is:

$$u(x) = e^{-x/2} (c_1 \cos 2x + c_2 \sin 2x)$$

Applying the initial condition  $u(0) = -1$  gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} u(0) &= e^0 (c_1 \cos 0 + c_2 \sin 0) \\ &= 1(c_1(1) + c_2(0)) \\ &= c_1 = -1 \end{aligned}$$

To apply the second initial condition we need to use the chain-rule and product rule to differentiate the general solution. This gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} u'(x) &= -\frac{1}{2}e^{-x/2}c_1 \cos 2x - 2e^{-x/2}c_1 \sin 2x + \\ &\quad -\frac{1}{2}e^{-x/2}c_2 \sin 2x + 2e^{-x/2}c_2 \cos 2x \end{aligned}$$

Evaluating  $u'(0)$  and substituting  $c_1 = -1$  gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} u'(0) &= -\frac{1}{2}(1)(-1)(1) + (1)(2)c_2(1) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} + 2c_2 = 2 \\ \Rightarrow 2c_2 &= \frac{3}{2} \\ c_2 &= \frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Both constants are now known and the unique solution is:

$$u(x) = e^{-x/2} \left( -\cos 2x + \frac{3}{4} \sin 2x \right)$$



# Lecture 5 - Non-homogeneous Linear Equations with Constant Coefficients

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Describe the Method of Undetermined Coefficients for solving non-homogeneous linear equations with constant coefficients.
- Carry out some examples to illustrate the methods.

## Background

In this lecture we will review a method for finding solutions to non-homogeneous linear equations with constant coefficients.

### CONSIDER THE EQUATION

$$a_n u^{(n)} + a_{n-1} u^{(n-1)} + \cdots + a_1 u' + a_0 u = g(x) \quad (31)$$

where:

- the coefficients  $a_i$ ,  $i \in [1, 2, \dots, n]$  are constants; and
- the function  $g(x)$  is a constant, a polynomial function, exponential function, sine or cosine, or finite sums or products of these functions.

The general solution,  $u(x)$ , can be constructed as  $u_c(x) + u_p(x)$  where:

- $u_c(x)$  is the complementary solution which, as you should recall, is the general solution to the associated homogeneous problem—i.e. Equation 31 with  $g(x) = 0$ ; and
- $u_p(x)$  is (any) particular solution—that is, a not-necessarily-unique function that satisfies Equation 31.

We spent the last lecture describing how to find  $u_c(x)$ . The question this lecture will hope to answer is: “How do I find  $u_p(x)$ ?”

To be perfectly honest, we spend very little time in this class dealing with non-homogeneous equations of any kind. Many of those types of equations are beyond our ability to solve analytically so we turn to numerical methods instead. Nonetheless there is value in reminding ourselves how to construct solutions for those cases where we can.

### Method of Undetermined Coefficients

One method for finding  $u_p(x)$  is called the Method of Undetermined Coefficients.<sup>1</sup>

THERE ARE THREE rules that comprise this technique:

1. **Basic Rule:** Based on the terms in  $g(x)$ , select the appropriate form for  $u_p(x)$  using Table 1.

Term in $g(x)$	Choice for $u_p(x)$
$ke^{\gamma x}$	$Ae^{\gamma x}$
$kx^n, (n = 0, 1, \dots)$	$K_n x^n + K_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + K_1 x + K_0$
$k \cos \omega x$	$\} K \cos \omega x + M \sin \omega x$
$k \sin \omega x$	
$ke^{\alpha x} \cos \omega x$	$\} e^{\alpha x} (K \cos \omega x + M \sin \omega x)$
$ke^{\alpha x} \sin \omega x$	

2. **Modification rule:** If  $u_p(x)$  obtained by the **Basic Rule** happens to be a solution to the associated homogeneous equation, multiply  $u_p(x)$  from the table by  $x$  (or  $x^2$  if needed).<sup>2</sup>
3. **Sum rule:** If  $g(x)$  is a linear combination of terms from the left-hand column, construct  $u_p(x)$  from a linear combination of the corresponding entries in the right-hand column.

For the remainder of this lecture, we will practice applying these rules to example problems.

**Example:** Solve  $u'' + 4u' - 2u = 2x^2 - 3x + 6$ .

**Step #1:** Find the general solution to the associated homogeneous equation.

The auxiliary equation is:  $m^2 + 4m - 2 = 0$ . Using the quadratic equation gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{16 - (4)(1)(-2)}}{2(1)} \\ &= -2 \pm \frac{\sqrt{24}}{2} \\ &= -2 \pm \sqrt{6} \end{aligned}$$

so  $u_c(x) = c_1 e^{(-2+\sqrt{6})x} + c_2 e^{(-2-\sqrt{6})x}$ .

<sup>1</sup> Some people lovingly refer to this technique as "The Method of Guessing."

Table 1: Forms of  $u_p(x)$  for given terms in  $g(x)$

<sup>2</sup> It's a bad example but consider:

$$u'' = 3$$

where  $u_c(x) = c_1 x + c_2$ . Since  $g(x)$  is a constant, the basic rule (second row) dictates that  $u_p(x)$  should also be a constant,  $K_0$ . That will not work in this case since a constant term is also part of  $u_c(x)$ . If we multiply by  $x$ , then we still have a part of  $u_c(x)$ . If we multiply by  $x^2$ , the method will work. Of course in this case the equation is separable and we would solve it by separating and integrating but hopefully this clarifies the need for the Modification rule.

Here you are expected to examine the associated homogeneous problem as  $u'' + 4u' - 2u = 0$ , identify it as constant coefficient and linear, and solve by assuming  $u = e^{mx}$  and thus deriving the auxiliary equation shown without further prompting.

**Step #2:** Apply the method of undetermined coefficients to construct a candidate  $u_p(x)$ .

Since  $g(x)$  is a second-order polynomial, the table tells us  $u_p(x)$  is in the general form of a second-order polynomial.

$$u_p(x) = K_2x^2 + K_1x + K_0$$

We insert this into the governing equation and this gives us:

$$2K_2 + 4(2K_2x + K_1) - 2(K_2x^2 + K_1x + K_0) = 2x^2 - 3x + 6$$

Now we need to equate the coefficient for each power of  $x$ :

$$\begin{array}{lll} x^2: & -2K_2 & = 2 \\ x: & 8K_2 - 2K_1 & = -3 \\ 1: & 2K_2 + 4K_1 - 2K_0 & = 6 \end{array}$$

Luckily for us, this system of equations is structured such that it can easily be solved. We see by inspection that  $K_2 = 2 / -2 = -1$ ; this can be plugged into the second equation to find  $K_1 = -5/2$  and then we can solve the last equation to find that  $K_0 = -9$ .

Thus the particular solution is:

$$u_p(x) = -x^2 - \frac{5}{2}x - 9$$

**Step #3:** Construct the general solution:  $u(x) = u_c(x) + u_p(x)$ .

We now have both the complementary solution and a particular solution. We form the general solution to the equation by adding them together.

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= u_c(x) + u_p(x) \\ &= c_1e^{(-2+\sqrt{6})x} + c_2e^{(-2-\sqrt{6})x} - x^2 - \frac{5}{2}x - 9 \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** Solve  $u'' - 5u' + 4u = 8e^x$ .

**Step #1:** Find the general solution to the associated homogeneous problem.

The auxiliary equation is  $m^2 - m + 4 = 0$  the left side of which can easily be factored to give  $(m - 4)(m - 1) = 0$ ; the roots of which are  $m_1 = 4, m_2 = 1$ . The complementary solution is:

$$u_c(x) = c_1e^{4x} + c_2e^x$$

In general you cannot expect this to go so nicely. What you *can* hope for is that the equations you derive will have a unique solution. We could re-write the system in the form of a matrix-vector equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 8 \\ -2 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} K_0 \\ K_1 \\ K_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

If the solution of such a matrix cannot be done by inspection and simple algebra as it was in this case, we could use tools like MATLAB to solve the linear system of equations. This topic and much more is covered in the numerical methods portion of this text.

**Question:** Why, again, do we need the constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ ?

**Answer:** Because we have not yet applied initial/boundary conditions. If those conditions are provided—two conditions for a 2<sup>nd</sup>-order problem—then we can resolve the constants.

**Step #2:** Apply the method of undetermined coefficients to construct  $u_p(x)$ .

Inspecting Table 1 we see that  $u_p(x)$  should be of the form  $Ae^x$ . If that function seems vaguely familiar it may be because  $e^x$  is part of the complementary solution.

**Question:** If you plug  $Ae^x$  into your governing equation, without doing any calculations, what value should you get?

**Answer:** You will get zero! Why? Because  $e^x$  is one of the two linearly independent solutions to the associated homogeneous problem.

**Question:** What do I do now?

**Answer:** Invoke the Modification Rule—this is, after all, the reason why the rule exists—and multiply  $u_p$  by  $x$ . We now have  $u_p(x) = Axe^x$ .

We insert this function for  $u_p(x)$  into the equation and we get:

$$2Ae^x + Axe^x - 5(Ae^x + Axe^x) + 4Axe^x = 8e^x$$

Combine terms and solve for  $A$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 2Ae^x - 5Ae^x &= 8e^x \\ -3Ae^x &= 8e^x \\ A &= -\frac{8}{3} \end{aligned}$$

So the particular solution is:

$$u_p(x) = -\frac{8}{3}xe^x$$

**Step #3:** Construct the general solution:  $u(x) = u_c(x) + u_p(x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= u_c(x) + u_p(x) \\ &= c_1e^{4x} + c_2e^x - \frac{8}{3}xe^x \end{aligned}$$

**Note:** If any of this seems at all sketchy to you, the good news is that you need not worry if your proposed  $u_p(x)$  is any good; you can just plug it into the differential equation and find out!

THIS LAST EXAMPLE illustrates the use of the Sum Rule; it also includes an initial condition so the unique solution to the initial value problem can be found.

**Example:** Solve the initial value problem:  $u'' + u = 4x + 10 \sin x$  with initial conditions  $u(\pi) = 0$ ,  $u'(\pi) = 2$ .

**Step #1:** Find the general solution to the associated homogeneous problem.

The auxiliary equation is:  $m^2 + 1 = 0$ , therefore  $m = \pm i$  and  $u_c(x)$  can be found as:

$$u_c(x) = c_1 \cos x + c_2 \sin x$$

**Step #2:** Apply the method of undetermined coefficients to construct  $u_p(x)$ .

For this problem,  $g(x) = 4x + 10 \sin x$  has two terms, so we will construct  $u_p(x)$  using one term at a time;  $u_{p_1}(x)$  using  $4x$  and  $u_{p_2}(x)$  using  $10 \sin x$ .

It's the linearity property of  $\mathcal{L} = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + 1$  that makes this possible. If  $\mathcal{L}(u_{p_1}) = 4x$  and  $\mathcal{L}(u_{p_2}) = 10 \sin x$  then  $\mathcal{L}(u_{p_1} + u_{p_2}) = 4x + 10 \sin x$ .

**Step #2.a:** Find  $u_{p_1}(x)$ .

According to Table 1, when  $g(x) = 4x$ , we should select  $u_{p_1} = K_1 x + K_0$ . Inserting this into the differential equation gives us:  $K_1 x + K_0 = 4x$ . By inspection we can see that  $K_0 = 0$  and  $K_1 = 4$  so  $u_{p_1}(x) = 4x$ .

**Step #2.b:** Find  $u_{p_2}(x)$ .

According to Table 1, when  $g(x) = 10 \sin x$ , we should select  $u_{p_2} = K \cos x + M \sin x$ . Now that we have done this a couple of times we should be on the alert for portions of the complementary solution cropping up in our guesses for  $u_p(x)$ . We thus immediately see that we need to multiply  $u_{p_2}$  by  $x$ . If we do this and insert  $Kx \cos x + Mx \sin x$  into the differential equation we get:

$$\begin{aligned} &(-2K - Mx) \sin x + (2M - Kx) \cos x + \dots \\ &Kx \cos x + Mx \sin x = 10 \sin x \end{aligned}$$

Matching coefficients for  $\sin x$  and  $\cos x$  on both sides of the above equation leads us to conclude that  $M = 0$  and  $-2K = 10$ . Therefore  $K = -5$  and  $u_{p_2}(x) = -5x \cos x$ .

**Step #3:** Construct the general solution:  $u(x) = u_c(x) + u_p(x)$ .

Again, there is no harm in testing your proposed  $u_{p_2}(x)$  to see if it does indeed produce the expected result.

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= u_c(x) + u_p(x) \\ &= u_c(x) + u_{p_1}(x) + u_{p_2}(x) \\ &= c_1 \cos x + c_2 \sin x + 4x - 5x \cos x \end{aligned}$$

All that remains is to apply the initial conditions.

$$\begin{aligned} u(\pi) &= c_1(-1) + c_2(0) + 4\pi - 5(\pi)(-1) \\ &= -c_1 + 9\pi = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 9\pi \end{aligned}$$

Applying the initial condition  $u' = 2$ :

$$u'(\pi) = -9\pi(0) + c_2(-1) + 4 - 5(-1) + 5\pi(0) = 2$$

Solving for  $c_2$  gives us:  $c_2 = 7$ ; folding this into the general solution:

$$u(x) = 9\pi \cos x + 7 \sin x + 4x - 5x \cos x$$

## Assignment #2

The given family of functions is the general solution of the differential equation on the indicated interval. Find a member of the family (i.e. find the values for the constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ ) that is a solution of the initial-value problem.

1.  $u = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{-x}; \quad u'' - u = 0, \quad u(0) = 0, \quad u'(0) = 1$

2.  $u = c_1 x + c_2 x \ln x, \quad (0, \infty), \quad x^2 u'' - xu' = 0, \quad u(1) = 3, \quad u'(1) = -1$

The given two-parameter family is a solution of the indicated differential equation on the interval  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . Determine if a member of the family can be found that satisfies the boundary conditions.

3.  $u = c_1 e^x \cos x + c_2 e^x \sin x; \quad u'' - 2u' + 3u = 0$

- (a)  $u(0) = 1, \quad u'(\pi) = 0$
- (b)  $u(0) = 1, \quad u(\pi) = -1$
- (c)  $u(0) = 1, \quad u(\pi/2) = 1$
- (d)  $u(0) = 0, \quad u(\pi) = 0$

Determine if the given set of functions is linearly dependent or linearly independent on the interval  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .

4.  $f_1(x) = x, \quad f_2(x) = x^2, \quad f_3(x) = 4x - 3x^2$

5.  $f_1(x) = 1 + x, \quad f_2(x) = x, \quad f_3(x) = x^2$

Verify that the given two-parameter family of functions is the general solution of the non-homogeneous differential equation on the indicated interval.

6.  $u'' - 7u' + 10u = 24e^x, \quad u = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{5x} + 6e^x, \quad (-\infty, \infty)$

Find the general solution to the given second-order differential equation.

7.  $4u'' + u' = 0$

8.  $u'' - u' - 6u = 0$

9.  $u'' + 8u' + 16u = 0$

10.  $u'' + 9u = 0$

Solve the given initial-value problem.

11.  $u'' + 16u = 0, \quad u(0) = 2, \quad u'(0) = -2$

12.  $u'' - 4u' - 5u = 0, \quad u(1) = 0, \quad u'(1) = 2$

13.  $u'' + u = 0, \quad u'(0) = 0, \quad u'(\pi/2) = 0$

Solve the given differential equation using the Method of Undetermined Coefficients.

14.  $u'' - 10u' + 25u = 30x + 3$

15.  $u'' + 3u = -48x^2e^{3x}$

Solve the given initial-value problem.

16.  $5u'' + u' - 6x, \quad u(0) = 0, \quad u'(0) = -10$

Solve the given boundary-value problem.

17.  $u'' + u = x^2 + 1, \quad u(0) = 5, \quad u(1) = 0$

Solve the given initial-value problem in which the input function  $g(x)$  is discontinuous. (**Hint:** Solve the problem on two intervals and then find a solution so that  $u$  and  $u'$  are continuous at the boundary of the interval.)

18.  $u'' + 4u = g(x), \ u(0) = 1, \ u'(0) = 2$

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} \sin x & 0 \leq x \leq \pi/2 \\ 0 & x > \pi/2 \end{cases}$$



# Lecture 6 - Cauchy-Euler Equations

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Introduce Cauchy-Euler equations and demonstrate a method of solution.
- Carry out some examples to illustrate the methods for 2<sup>nd</sup>-order, homogeneous Cauchy-Euler equations.

## Cauchy-Euler Equations

A linear differential equation of the form:

$$a_n x^n \frac{d^n u}{dx^n} + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} \frac{d^{n-1} u}{dx^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_1 x \frac{du}{dx} + a_0 u = g(x) \quad (32)$$

is called a Cauchy-Euler equation.

TAKE NOTE OF the relationship between the exponent of  $x$  in the coefficients and the order of the differential operators. This correspondence between the decreasing power of  $x$  in the coefficient and the decreasing order of the differential operator is characteristic of this type of equation and is the way you should recognize it.

Also observe that this equation is *linear*; if  $g(x) = 0$  it is homogeneous, otherwise it is non-homogeneous. For this lecture we will focus our attention on the homogeneous, 2<sup>nd</sup>-order Cauchy-Euler equation:

$$ax^2 \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} + bx \frac{du}{dx} + cu = 0 \quad (33)$$

Lastly you should be alert to the fact that the coefficient for the highest order derivative is zero at  $x = 0$ ; consequently we will restrict the interval of interest for these equations to  $x \in (0, \infty)$ .

It is the corresponding *change* in power/order that matters. The equation:  $a \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x^2} u = 0$  is also a Cauchy-Euler equation since the power of  $x$  in the coefficient goes from 0 to -2 while the order of the differential operator goes from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 0.

**Reminder:** The notation  $(0, \infty)$  means that the interval is *open* and that we do *not* include the endpoints. A *closed* interval—where we *do* include the endpoints—is denoted with square brackets such as  $[a, b]$ .

THE BASIC STRATEGY in solving these equations is to try a solution in the form  $u(x) = x^m$ . When we substitute this solution into the equation we get:

$$\begin{aligned} am(m-1)x^2x^{m-2} + bmxx^{m-1} + cx^m &= 0 \\ x^m [am(m-1) + bm + c] &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

That last part in the brackets is referred to as the “auxiliary equation”:

$$am^2 + (b-a)m + c = 0 \quad (34)$$

We will look for values of  $m$  that satisfy this quadratic equation; those values will be the exponents for our solutions.

AS IS THE CASE for any other quadratic equation, there are three possible outcomes for the auxiliary equation:

1. **Distinct Real Roots.** In this case  $m_1 \neq m_2$  and the general solution is of the form:

$$u(x) = c_1x^{m_1} + c_2x^{m_2} \quad (35)$$

**Example:** Find the general solution for  $x^2 \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} - 2x \frac{du}{dx} - 4u = 0$ .

Referring to Equation 34,  $a = 1$ ,  $b = -2$ ,  $c = -4$  so the auxiliary equation is:

$$\begin{aligned} m^2 - 3m - 4 &= 0 \\ (m-4)(m+1) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

By inspection the roots are  $m_1 = 4$  and  $m_2 = -1$ . The general solution is  $u(x) = c_1x^4 + c_2x^{-1}$ .

If  $u(x) = x^m$  then, of course,  $u' = mx^{(m-1)}$  and  $u'' = m(m-1)x^{m-2}$ .

2. **Real Repeated Roots.** In this case,  $m_1 = m_2$ . We have one solution,  $u_1(x) = c_1x^{m_1}$ . Clearly we need to take some kind of action if we hope to get another linearly independent solution. It can be shown that if we form the second solution by multiplying the first solution by  $\ln x$ —i.e.  $u_2(x) = \ln(x)u_1(x)$ —then  $u_2(x)$  will satisfy the equation and also be linearly independent from  $u_1(x)$ .

**Example:** Find the general solution for  $4x^2 \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + 8x \frac{du}{dx} + u = 0$ .

The auxiliary equation in this case is:  $4m^2 + 4m + 1 = 0$ . This can be factored to give  $(2m+1)^2 = 0$  so we have a case of repeated roots where  $m_1 = m_2 = -\frac{1}{2}$ .

The solution is:  $u(x) = c_1x^{-1/2} + c_2x^{-1/2} \ln x$ .

Be careful with these coefficients. In contrast to the case with constant coefficient linear equations, we do not plug these coefficients directly into the quadratic equation. Instead we put them in the auxiliary equation and then solve *that* with the quadratic equation.

The first one or two times you solve these problems, you should verify both of those assertions. Namely that:

- (a)  $u_2(x) = \ln(x)u_1(x)$  is a solution to the equation; and
- (b)  $u_2(x)$  is linearly independent from  $u_1(x)$ .

3. **Complex Conjugate Roots.** This case is analogous with the previous cases vis-à-vis linear constant coefficient equations. The roots are  $m_{1,2} = \alpha \pm i\beta$  and the general solution is:

$$u(x) = x^\alpha [c_1 \cos(\beta \ln x) + c_2 \sin(\beta \ln x)] \quad (36)$$

**Example:** Solve:  $4x^2u'' + 17u = 0$ ,  $u(1) = -1$ ,  $u'(1) = -1/2$ .

The auxiliary equation is  $4m^2 - 4m + 17 = 0$ . Using the quadratic formula the roots are found to be:

$$\begin{aligned} m_{1,2} &= \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 4(4)(17)}}{8} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{-256}}{8} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{16i}{8} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \pm 2i \\ &\quad \alpha \qquad \beta \end{aligned}$$

So the general solution is:

$$u(x) = x^{1/2} [c_1 \cos(2 \ln x) + c_2 \sin(2 \ln x)]$$

We can apply the first boundary condition,  $u(1) = -1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} u(1) &= 1 [c_1 \cos 0 + c_2 \sin 0] \\ &= c_1(1) + c_2(0) = -1 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

The calculus is a bit more tedious for the second boundary condition:

$$\begin{aligned} u'(x) &= -\frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2} \cos(2 \ln x) + 2x^{-1/2} \sin(2 \ln x) + \dots \\ &\quad c_2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2} \sin(2 \ln x) + 2x^{-1/2} \cos(2 \ln x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Evaluating this at  $x = 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} u'(1) &= -\frac{1}{2}(1)(1) + 2(1)(0) + c_2[0 + 2(1)(1)] \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} + 2c_2 = -\frac{1}{2} \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

So the solution is:  $u(x) = -x^{1/2} \cos(2 \ln x)$ .

### *Non-homogeneous Cauchy-Euler Equations*

Sadly, the method of undetermined coefficients will not work with Cauchy-Euler equations, a limitation of that method being that the coefficients need to be constant. Interested students can investigate a method called *variation of parameters* that can be used to address this problem analytically. Otherwise, we will plan to use numerical methods to solve non-homogeneous problems of this type.

### *Derivation of the Solution to Cauchy-Euler Equations*

It would be hard not to notice the similarity in the solution methods of Cauchy-Euler equations and constant coefficient linear equations. This is not a coincidence. In this section I want to briefly show you that, through a change of variables, Cauchy-Euler equations are, in some sense, equivalent to constant coefficient linear equations.

#### *Change of Independent Variable*

What we will do, is change the independent variable from  $x$  to  $e^t$ .<sup>1</sup> If  $x = e^t$ , that means that  $t = \ln x$  and  $\frac{dt}{dx} = \frac{1}{x} = e^{-t}$ .

If we consider, again, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-order Cauchy-Euler equation,

$$ax^2 \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + bx \frac{du}{dx} + cu = 0$$

every appearance of  $x$  needs to be converted into its equivalent in terms of  $t$  and every derivative with respect to  $x$  needs to be converted into a derivative with respect to  $t$ .

It's easy enough to replace  $x$  with  $e^t$ ; converting the derivatives takes a bit more work. We will use the chain rule as shown below:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{du}{dx} &= \frac{du}{dt} \frac{dt}{dx} \\ &= u_t e^{-t}\end{aligned}$$

where we use the subscript notation to denote derivatives with respect to  $t$  and use the substitution  $\frac{dt}{dx} = e^{-t}$  as determined above.

We do it again, to convert the second derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} &= \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right) \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right) \frac{dt}{dx} \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} (u_t e^{-t}) e^{-t} \\ &= (u_{tt} e^{-t} - u_t e^{-t}) e^{-t} \\ &= e^{-2t} (u_{tt} - u_t)\end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup> Think of this as "stretching" the  $x$ -axis.

We are now ready to make our substitutions into the differential equation:

$$\frac{a}{x^2} e^{2t} \left[ \frac{\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2}}{e^{-2t}} \right] + b \frac{e^t}{x} \left[ \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{e^{-t}} \right] + cu = 0$$

Combining terms to simplify gives us Equation 37 which is now, under this change of variables, a 2<sup>nd</sup>-order linear constant coefficient equation.

$$au_{tt} + (b - a)u_t + cy = 0 \quad (37)$$

If we solve this using our standard method, the resulting auxiliary equation is the same as what is shown in Equation 34.

IN THE CASE of constant coefficient linear equations, the solutions were of the form  $u = e^{mx}$  which, according to the exponentiation rules, the same as  $u = e^{x^m}$ . But now, our independent variable is  $t$ , where  $t = \ln x$ . With this substitution:

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) &= e^{(\ln x)^m} \\ &= x^m \end{aligned}$$

which is the assumed form of solution for Cauchy-Euler equations.



## **Part II**

# **Power Series Methods**



# *Lecture 7 - Review of Power Series*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Review definitions and basic properties of power series.
- Illustrate important basic operations on power series.

## *Introduction and Review*

The methods that we have discussed so far have largely been a review of your differential equations class. With this handful of methods we have found that we can solve a variety of simple problems. We can solve constant coefficient linear equations, and variable coefficient linear equations if they happen to be Cauchy-Euler equations. We can solve many first-order linear equations but if an equation is nonlinear we are sunk unless it happens to be separable. This leaves out a lot of interesting equations. In this sequence of lectures we will discuss how to solve linear equations with variable coefficients (other than Cauchy-Euler equations). To do this we will need to use power series.

YOU LEARNED ABOUT power series back in calculus class, but you weren't ready to use them for this important application. Now you are ready and now this is what we shall do. We will begin this section with some definitions that will be needed as we describe the use of power series in the solution of differential equations.

## *Definitions*

### **Definition 3 (Sequence)**

A sequence is a list of numbers (or other mathematical objects, like functions) written in a definite order.

$$\{c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots, c_n\}$$

**Definition 4 (Limit of a Sequence, convergence, divergence)**

A sequence has a limit ( $L$ ) if we can make the terms  $c_n$  arbitrarily close to  $L$  by taking  $n$  sufficiently large. If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n$  exists, we say the sequence converges; otherwise, we say the sequence diverges or is divergent.

There are mathematical tools available for determining if an infinite sequence converges or diverges without needing to examine every element. We will discuss one of them as part of our treatment of infinite series.

**Definition 5 (Series, infinite series)**

A series is the sum of a sequence. For example,  $S_0 = c_0$ ;  $S_1 = c_0 + c_1$ ;  $S_n = c_0 + c_1 + \dots + c_n$ . If the sequence is infinite, we call the sum an infinite series.

**Definition 6 (Series Convergence)**

Given a series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s_i = s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_n + \dots$ , let  $s_n$  denote its  $n^{\text{th}}$  partial sum. If the sequence  $\{s_n\}$  is convergent then the series is convergent to the same limit. Otherwise the series is divergent.

We will use the notation:  $s_n \rightarrow \infty$  to indicate that a partial sum is unbounded.

**Definition 7 (Power Series)**

A series of the form  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x - a)^n = c_0 + c_1(x - a) + \dots$  is called a power series. The constant,  $a$ , is referred to as the center of the power series.

For almost all of the power series we will work with in this class, the series will be centered on  $a = 0$  and will be denoted  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$ .

**Definition 8 (Interval of Convergence, Radius of Convergence)**

The interval of convergence is the set of all real numbers  $x$  for which the series converges. This interval can also be expressed as a radius of convergence ( $R$ ). The series converges for all  $(a - R) < x < (a + R)$ .

**Ratio Test**

We should have at least one test that we can use to decide whether or not a series, or at least a power series, converges. The test we will use is called the *ratio test*; so named because it involves the ratio of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  and  $(n + 1)^{\text{th}}$  term in a power series. The ratio test is shown in Equation 38.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}(x - a)^{(n+1)}}{c_n(x - a)^n} \right| = |x - a| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}}{c_n} \right| = L \quad (38)$$

The following cases are considered:

- If  $L < 1$  then the series converges absolutely.
- If  $L = 1$  then the test is inconclusive; some other test must be used; and
- if  $L > 1$  then the series diverges.

**Note:** *Absolute convergence* means that the series converges irrespective of the signs of each term—i.e. whether or not all terms are positive, negative, or a mix of both positive and negative.

**Example:** Find the radius of convergence and associated interval of convergence for the following power series:

$$1. \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^n$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}(x-a)^{n+1}}{c_n(x-a)^n} \right| &= |x-a| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}}{c_n} \right| = L < 1, \quad a = 0, \quad c_n = (-1)^n \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x^{n+1}}{x^n} \right| &< 1 \\ |x| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |1| &< 1 \\ \Rightarrow |x| &< 1 \end{aligned}$$

The radius of convergence  $R = 1$  and the interval of convergence is  $x \in (-1, 1)$ .

Here I have purposely avoided analyzing the end-points to see if we could use a closed or partially-closed interval instead. Since we specified  $L < 1$ , we only have the radius of absolute convergence. If we wanted to be picky, we could allow  $L = 1$  and use some other test to determine if the series converges. If we did that in this case we would find that the series diverges at both endpoints.

$$2. \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^n}{n(n+1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}(x-a)^{n+1}}{c_n(x-a)^n} \right| &= |x-a| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}}{c_n} \right| = L < 1, \quad a = 0, \quad c_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{n(n+1)} \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)(n+1+1)} \frac{n(n+1)}{x^n} \right| &< 1 \\ |x| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{n}{n+2} \right| &< 1 \\ |x| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{n}{n+2} \right| &\nearrow 1 \\ |x| &< 1 \end{aligned}$$

Once again, the radius of convergence  $R = 1$  and the interval of convergence is  $x \in (-1, 1)$ .

$$3. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2n}}{2^n n^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}(x-a)^{n+1}}{c_n(x-a)^n} \right| &= |x-a| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}}{c_n} \right| = L < 1, \quad a = 0, \quad c_n = \frac{1}{2^n n^2} \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x^{2n+2}}{2^{n+1}(n+1)^2} \frac{2^n n^2}{x^{2n}} \right| &< 1 \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x^2}{2} \frac{n^2}{(n+1)^2} \right| &< 1 \\ \frac{|x^2|}{2} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{n^2}{(n+1)^2} \right| &\xrightarrow{1} 1 \\ |x^2| &< 2 \\ |x| &< \sqrt{2}\end{aligned}$$

In this case the radius of convergence  $R = \sqrt{2}$  and the interval of convergence is  $x \in (-\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2})$ .

In this case, more detailed analysis shows that this series converges at both endpoints so a closed interval could be used instead.

$$4. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(x-2)^n}{3^n}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}(x-a)^{n+1}}{c_n(x-a)^n} \right| &= |x-a| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}}{c_n} \right| = L < 1, \quad a = 2, \quad c_n = \frac{1}{3^n} \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(x-2)^{n+1}}{3^{n+1}} \frac{3^n}{(x-2)^n} \right| &= L < 1 \\ \frac{|x-2|}{3} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |1| &< 1 \\ |x-2| &< 3\end{aligned}$$

We see that for this example the radius of convergence is  $R = 3$  centered at  $x = 2$ ; the interval of convergence is  $x \in (-1, 5)$ .

### Properties of Convergent Series

Within the radius of convergence, a power series defines a function and the function so defined is:

- continuous
- differentiable (term-by-term); and
- integrable (term-by-term).

For the interested reader, it can be shown that this series is divergent at both endpoints so it should remain an open interval.

If  $x$  is not within the interval of convergence for a series or if the series is divergent then *none* of these properties hold true. This is why it is important to be able to find the interval/radius of convergence.

**Definition 9 (Identity Property for a Power Series)**

If  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x-a)^n = 0$ ,  $R > 0$ , for all numbers  $x$  in the interval of convergence then  $c_n = 0$  for all  $n$ .

**Definition 10 (Analytic Function)**

A function  $f$  is analytic at a point,  $a_0$ , if it can be represented by a power series in  $x - a_0$  with a positive radius of convergence.

*Some Common Power Series*

You have probably had some exposure to power series in your previous mathematical courses. As a reminder, the power series representations of some important/common functions are shown below:

1.  $\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots$
2.  $\cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots$
3.  $\ln x = \frac{x-1}{x} + \frac{(x-1)^2}{2x^2} + \frac{(x-1)^3}{3x^3} + \dots$
4.  $e^x = 1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots$

*Combining Power Series*

This is a practical “utility skill” that you will need to master to be successful during this portion of the course. What we need to be able to do is combine multiple power series into a single power series.

FOR EXAMPLE, consider the two power series below that we want to write as a single power series:

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+1}$$

If I want to combine these series, I need to overcome two issues:

1. The powers of  $x$  in each term in both summations need to be “in phase”—that is the corresponding terms need to have the same power of  $x$ . The first term in the first summation is constant ( $x^0$ ) while the first term in the second summation is linear ( $x^1$ ).
2. The first summation index starts at  $n = 2$  while the second summation index starts at  $n = 0$ .

WE WILL ADDRESS these issues one at a time, starting with the first one. We will leave the summation whose first term is higher order

Hopefully this definition seems obvious to you. You will find that most of what we do when using power series to solve homogeneous linear differential equations is carry out the necessary algebra to ensure that the coefficients for some series all are equal to zero.

This is just a vocabulary term that you should know. It will come up again later when distinguishing between ordinary points and singular points of a differential equation, and between regular and irregular singular points of a singular differential equation.

It is not only the first term that is important but if you can get the summations in phase for the first term, and if the power of  $x$  increases by one with each consecutive term, then if the first term is correct, they will all be correct.

as-is; for all other summations—i.e. if there are more than two—we will “peel-off” any lower-order summation terms.

In this case that means we will leave the second series as-is, since its first term is of higher order ( $x^1$  compared to  $x^0$ ), while we will “peel-off” the constant term from the first summation:

$$(2)(1)c_2x^0 + \underbrace{\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2}}_{\text{constant term now } n=3} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^{n+1}}_{\text{Same as before}}$$

Notice that the summation index for the first summation now starts at  $n = 3$ ; this is because we’ve separated out the first term corresponding to  $n = 2$ . The two remaining summations are “in phase” since all of the terms now have the same power of  $x$ .

**THE SECOND PROBLEM** will be fixed by establishing a new common index,  $k$ , and re-write the existing indices ( $n$  for both summations) in terms of  $k$ . In each case we will set  $k$  equal to the exponent of  $x$  appearing in the summation.

- For the first summation— $\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2}$ —we set  $k = n - 2$  because that is the exponent for  $x$ . We need to eliminate each occurrence of  $n$  in the summation and replace it with its equivalent expression in terms of  $k$ . From our definition of  $k$  for this summation,  $n = k + 2$ . Our summation now can be written:

$$\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2} \xrightarrow{n=k+2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+2-1)c_{k+2}x^k$$

- For the second summation— $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^{n+1}$ —we set  $k = n + 1$  because that is the exponent for  $x$  in this summation. This means  $n = k - 1$ ; substituting that expression in our summation gives us:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^{n+1} \xrightarrow{n=k-1} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{k-1}x^k$$

With these changes our original summation can be written:

$$2c_2 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2}x^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{k-1}x^k \quad (39)$$

The two summations are now ready to be joined into one as shown in Equation 40:

$$2c_2 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} [(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} + c_{k-1}] x^k \quad (40)$$

Everywhere you see an  $n$  in the original summation, replace it with a  $k + 2$  and simplify.

Notice that I’ve made some obvious simplifications in the constant term and first summation.

# Lecture 8 - Power Series Solutions at Ordinary Points

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Introduce some definitions and concepts relevant for power series solutions of differential equations.
- Do some example problems.

## Introduction

In this section we will restrict our attention to second-order, linear, homogeneous differential equations in standard form as shown in Equation 41.

$$u'' + P(x)u' + Q(x)u = 0 \quad (41)$$

### Definition 11 (Ordinary Points and Singular Points)

A point  $x_0$  is said to be an ordinary point of a differential equation if both  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$  in the standard form are analytic at  $x_0$ . A point that is not an ordinary point is a singular point.

### Theorem 6 (Existence of Power Series Solutions)

If  $x = x_0$  is an ordinary point of the differential equation, we can always find two linearly independent solutions in the form of a power series centered at  $x_0$ . A series solution converges at least on some interval defined by  $|x - x_0| < R$  where  $R$  is the distance from  $x_0$  to the closest singular point.

Let us emphasize: this theorem applies only to second-order, linear, homogeneous differential equations.

The basic strategy we will use to find power series solutions for linear differential equations with variable coefficients where  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$  are analytic in the domain of interest is:

1. Find solutions in the form of a power series by substituting  $u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$  into the differential equation.
2. Solve for the values of the coefficients by equating the coefficients on the left of Equation 41 with those on the right (e.g. zero for homogeneous equations); and

3. The equations (often 2- or 3-term recurrence relations) for the series coefficients *defines* the function that is the solution of the differential equation.

### Examples

**Example #1:** Solve  $u'' + u = 0$  using the power series method; compare with the known solution  $u(x) = c_0 \cos x + c_1 \sin x$ .

In accordance with our strategy, we will assume that the solution is of the form:  $u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$ . This means that  $u' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n x^{n-1}$  and  $u'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) c_n x^{n-2}$ . Plugging this into our differential equation gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} u'' + u &= 0 \\ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) c_n x^{n-2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

We need to combine the two summations. It is clear that the summation indexes start at different values but we are lucky in that the summations are already “in phase” since the first term in each summation is a constant ( $x^0$ ) term.

$$\underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) c_n x^{n-2}}_{\substack{k=n-2 \\ n=k+2}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n}_{\substack{k=n \\ n=k}} = 0$$

For the first summation  $k = n - 2$ , so  $n = k + 2$ ; we will use these definitions to re-write the first summation. For the second summation,  $k = n$  so all we need to do for the second summation is replace all the  $n$ 's with  $k$ 's. The results of these substitutions and the combined summation are shown below:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2}x^k + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k x^k &= 0 \\ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{[(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} + c_k]}_{\text{coefficients for new power series}} x^k &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

THE EXPRESSION,  $[(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} + c_k]$ , is now a formula for the coefficients of a new power series. This power series, according to the equation, is equal to zero so that means, per Definition 9, all of the coefficients must be equal to zero:

$$(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} + c_k = 0, \quad \text{for all } k \in [0, 2, 3, \dots]$$

**Important:** The series “solution” is only valid if the series so-derived has a non-zero radius of convergence.

It is not *required* that a problem have variable coefficients in order to use the Power Series method; only that  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$  are analytic on the domain of interest. Constants are always analytic over the entire real number line so you can always use the Power Series method on linear, constant-coefficient differential equations.

Note that the  $n = 0$  term in  $u'$  is omitted as is the  $n = 0$  and  $n = 1$  term in  $u''$ . These terms are zero due to having taken the first- and second-derivative on the constant ( $x^0$ ) and linear ( $x^1$ ) terms of the power series.

This is called a *two-term recurrence* since the expression involves two terms;  $c_{k-2}$  and  $c_k$ .

By convention, we will re-write this recurrence relation to solve for the *higher*-index coefficients in terms of the *lower*-index coefficients.

We do this in Equation 42:

$$c_{k+2} = -\frac{c_k}{(k+2)(k+1)} \quad (42)$$

As we **should** expect, there are two unknown constants in this general solution— $c_0$  and  $c_1$ . The first value of  $k$  from the summation in our solution is  $k = 0$  which gives us an expression for  $c_2$  in terms of  $c_0$ . The second value,  $k = 1$ , will give us an expression for  $c_3$  in terms of  $c_1$ . Simplified equations for the first few coefficients are presented in the table below.

$k = 0$	$k = 2$	$k = 4$
$c_2 = \frac{-c_0}{(1)(2)}$	$c_4 = \frac{-c_2}{(3)(4)} = \frac{c_0}{4!}$	$c_6 = \frac{-c_4}{(5)(6)} = \frac{-c_0}{6!}$
$k = 1$	$k = 3$	$k = 5$
$c_3 = \frac{-c_1}{(2)(3)}$	$c_5 = \frac{-c_3}{(4)(5)} = \frac{c_1}{5!}$	$c_7 = \frac{-c_5}{(6)(7)} = \frac{-c_1}{7!}$

Each cell in the table above is a formula for the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -coefficient of our power series solution. Organizing this into a formula for our power series solution gives us:

$$u(x) = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + c_4 x^4 + c_5 x^5 + c_6 x^6 + c_7 x^7 + \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= c_0 \left( 1 + \frac{c_2}{c_0} x^2 + \frac{c_4}{c_0} x^4 + \frac{c_6}{c_0} x^6 + \dots \right) + c_1 \left( x + \frac{c_3}{c_1} x^3 + \frac{c_5}{c_1} x^5 + \frac{c_7}{c_1} x^7 + \dots \right) \\ u(x) &= c_0 \left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots \right) + c_1 \left( x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

where in the last line we have substituted the formulas for coefficients  $c_2$  through  $c_7$  in terms of  $c_0$  and  $c_1$ .

Recall from the Lecture 7 the power series representations of  $\cos x$  and  $\sin x$ ; we should be able to see them again here.

$$u(x) = c_0 \underbrace{\left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots \right)}_{\cos x} + c_1 \underbrace{\left( x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots \right)}_{\sin x}$$

$$u(x) = c_0 \cos x + c_1 \sin x$$

Which is exactly what we would have determined using our methods for constant coefficient linear equations.

We expect the general solution for any second order differential equation to have two unknown constants that can only be resolved by adding initial- or boundary-conditions.

Notice how the even-numbered coefficients are all dependent on  $c_0$  and all of the odd-numbered coefficients are dependent on  $c_1$ .

In general you are not expected to, nor will you be able to, identify common functions from a power series solution. This is a special case.

**Example #2:** Find the general solution to  $u'' - xu = 0$ .

Notice first that while this equation is linear and homogeneous it is not constant-coefficient. It is also not a Cauchy-Euler equation. We will use the power series method to solve this problem. Assuming  $u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$  and inserting this into the governing equation gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} u'' - xu &= 0 \\ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n &= 0 \\ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+1} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The equation is separable but, in this case, the solution is not so easy to obtain using that method either.

We want to combine these summations but we see that they are both “out of phase” and the summation index,  $n$ , starts at different values for each summation.

$$\underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2}}_{\text{for } n=2, \ x^0} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+1}}_{\text{for } n=0, \ x^1} = 0$$

So we must separate out the first term in the first summation to get the summations in phase.

$$(2)(1)c_2 x^0 + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+1} = 0$$

Next we must combine our indices using  $k = n - 2$  for the first summation and  $k = n + 1$  for the second summation.

$$2c_2 x^0 + \underbrace{\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2}}_{\substack{k=n-2 \\ n=k+2}} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+1}}_{\substack{k=n+1 \\ n=k-1}} = 0$$

Doing this gives us:

$$2c_2 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} [(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} - c_{k-1}] x^k = 0$$

**Reminder:** We take our definition of  $k$  from the exponent for  $x$  in each summation term.

Do not forget the minus sign in front of the second summation. It is easy to miss.

In order to solve the differential equation, the coefficient for every power of  $x$  needs to be zero. To do this:

$$\Rightarrow c_2 = 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \underbrace{[(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} - c_{k-1}]}_{\text{must equal zero}} x^k = 0$$

Our corresponding two-term recurrence relation is:

$$c_{k+2} = \frac{c_{k-1}}{(k+2)(k+1)}$$

We expect two arbitrary constants,  $c_0$  and  $c_1$  and we know from the work above that  $c_2 = 0$  so we will start solving for constants starting with  $k = 1$ :

$k = 1$	$k = 4$
$c_3 = \frac{c_0}{(3)(2)}$	$c_6 = \frac{c_3}{(6)(5)} = \frac{c_0}{(2)(3)(5)(6)}$
$k = 2$	$k = 5$
$c_4 = \frac{c_1}{(3)(4)}$	$c_7 = \frac{c_4}{(6)(7)} = \frac{c_1}{(3)(4)(6)(7)}$
$k = 3$	$k = 6$
$c_5 = \frac{c_2}{(5)(4)} = 0$	$c_8 = \frac{c_5}{(8)(7)} = 0$
$k = 7$	$k = 8$
$c_9 = \frac{c_6}{(9)(8)} = \frac{c_0}{(2)(3)(5)(6)(8)(9)}$	$c_{10} = \frac{c_7}{(10)(9)} = \frac{c_1}{(3)(4)(6)(7)(9)(10)}$

Organizing the coefficients from the table into an equation we get:

$$u(x) = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + c_4 x^4 + c_5 x^5 + c_6 x^6 + c_7 x^7 + c_8 x^8 + c_9 x^9 + c_{10} x^{10} + \dots$$

$$u(x) = c_0 \left( 1 + \frac{c_3}{c_0} x^3 + \frac{c_6}{c_0} x^6 + \frac{c_9}{c_0} x^9 + \dots \right) + c_1 \left( x + \frac{c_4}{c_1} x^4 + \frac{c_7}{c_1} x^7 + \frac{c_{10}}{c_1} x^{10} + \dots \right)$$

which can be written:

$$u(x) = c_0 \left( 1 + \frac{x^3}{(2)(3)} + \frac{x^6}{(2)(3)(5)(6)} + \frac{x^9}{(2)(3)(5)(6)(8)(9)} + \dots \right) + \\ c_1 \left( x + \frac{x^4}{(3)(4)} + \frac{x^7}{(3)(4)(6)(7)} + \frac{x^{10}}{(3)(4)(6)(7)(9)(10)} + \dots \right)$$

The equation we solved is known as Airy's Equation. The power series solution is not pretty, but is a perfectly adequate representation of the function provided that we have the wherewithal to evaluate the function for a reasonable number of terms.

**Reminder:** We should define our recurrence relation to give higher-order coefficients in terms of lower-order coefficients.



## Assignment #3

Find the general solution to the following differential equations.

1.  $x^2u'' - 2u = 0$

2.  $xu'' + u' = 0$

3.  $x^2u'' - 3xu' - 2u = 0$

Find the solution to the given initial value problem.

4.  $x^2u'' + 3xu' = 0, \quad u(1) = 0, \quad u'(1) = 4$

Use MATLAB to plot the solution for  $x \in [1, 10]$ .

5. A very long cylindrical shell is formed by two concentric circular cylinders of different radii. A chemically reactive fluid fills the space between the concentric cylinders. The inner cylinder has a radius of 1 and is thermally insulated, while the outer cylinder has a radius of 2 and is maintained at a constant temperature  $T_0$ . The rate of heat generation in the fluid due to the chemical reaction is proportional to  $T/r^2$ , where  $T(r)$  is the temperature of the fluid within the space bounded between the cylinders defined by  $1 < r < 2$ . Under these conditions the temperature of the fluid is defined by the following boundary value problem:

$$\frac{d^2T}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{dT}{dr} = -\frac{1}{r}T, \quad 1 < r < 2,$$

$$\left. \frac{dT}{dr} \right|_{r=1} = 0, \quad T(2) = T_0$$

Solve the boundary value problem to find the temperature of the fluid within the cylindrical shell.

For the following problems, find the radius and interval of convergence. For the intervals of convergence, you do not need to check the endpoints (unless you want to!).

6.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{n} x^n$

7.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{10^n} (x - 5)^n$

Rewrite the given expression as a single power series whose general term involves  $x^k$ .

8.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2nc_n x^{n-1} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 6c_n x^{n+1}$

Find two power series solutions of the given differential equation.

9.  $u'' - 2xu' + u = 0$

# Lecture 9 - Power Series Solutions with MATLAB

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Illustrate the solution of a linear IVP (with a 3-term recurrence) using power series.
- Demonstrate a way to analyze these solutions using MATLAB; and
- demonstrate some expected elements of MATLAB style for this course.

## Solution of an IVP using Power Series

Consider the following IVP:

$$\text{Governing Equation: } u'' - (1+x)u = 0, \quad u \in [0, 5]$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions: } u(0) = 5, \quad u'(0) = 1$$

Inserting our assumed power series solution into the governing equation gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2} - (1+x) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^n &= 0 \\ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^{n+1} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

We need to evaluate the order of  $x$  for the first term in each summation to determine if the summations are in phase:

$$\underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2}}_{x^0} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^n}_{x^0} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^{n+1}}_{x^1} = 0$$

To get the three summations in phase we need to strip off the first terms in the first and second summations so that all three summations start at  $x^1$ . This gives us:

$$2c_2 + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2} - c_0 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_nx^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^{n+1} = 0$$

As before, we will assume  $u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^n$ .

This means that  $u' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nc_nx^{n-1}$ , and  
 $u'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2}$ .

Note the effect of distributing  $-(1+x)$  through the second summation.

$$2c_2 - c_0 + \underbrace{\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2}}_{\substack{k=n-2 \\ n=k+2}} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x^n}_{\substack{k=n \\ n=k}} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+1}}_{\substack{k=n+1 \\ n=k-1}} = 0$$

Substituting within each summation and combining terms gives us:

$$(2c_2 - c_0)x^0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} [(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} - c_k - c_{k-1}] x^k = 0$$

As usual, in order to satisfy this equation, the coefficients for each power of  $x$  must be equal to zero. For  $x^0$  this means  $2c_2 - c_0 = 0$ . For all the other powers of  $x$ , a *three-term recurrence* involving  $c_{k-1}$ ,  $c_k$ , and  $c_{k+2}$  must be satisfied:

$$c_{k+2} = \frac{c_k + c_{k-1}}{(k+2)(k+1)}$$

To help manage the complexity we will adopt the following strategy:

- Case 1: Arbitrarily set  $c_0 \neq 0$ , set  $c_1 = 0$  and derive a solution.
- Case 2: Arbitrarily set  $c_0 = 0$ , set  $c_1 \neq 0$  and derive a second solution.

These two solutions will be linearly independent since the first will not have a linear term (proportional to  $x$ ) and the second solution will not have a constant term (proportional to 1).

### Case 1: $c_0 \neq 0, c_1 = 0$

Since  $c_0 \neq 0$ , we get  $c_2 = \frac{c_0}{2}$ . The coefficients derived for the first few values of  $k$  are shown in the table to the right.

The solution we thus derive is shown below:

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + c_4 x^4 + c_5 x^5 + \dots \\ u_1 &= c_0 \left( 1 + \frac{c_1^0}{c_0} x + \frac{c_2}{c_0} x^2 + \frac{c_3}{c_0} x^3 + \frac{c_4}{c_0} x^4 + \frac{c_5}{c_0} x^5 + \dots \right) \\ u_1 &= c_0 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2} x^2 + \frac{1}{6} x^3 + \frac{1}{24} x^4 + \frac{1}{30} x^5 + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

### Case 1:

$$\begin{array}{l|l} k=1 & k=2 \\ c_3 = \frac{c_0+c_1^0}{(2)(3)} = \frac{c_0}{6} & c_4 = \frac{c_1^0+c_2}{(3)(4)} = \frac{c_0/2}{12} = \frac{c_0}{24} \\ \hline k=3 & \\ c_5 = \frac{c_2+c_3}{(4)(5)} = \frac{c_0/2+c_0/6}{20} = \frac{c_0}{30} & \end{array}$$

### Case 2: $c_0 = 0, c_1 \neq 0$

Since  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = \frac{c_1}{2}$ ,  $c_2 = 0$ . The coefficients derived for the first few values of  $k$  are shown in the table.

The solution we thus derive is shown below:

$$\begin{aligned} u_2 &= c_0^0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + c_4 x^4 + c_5 x^5 + \dots \\ u_2 &= c_1 \left( x + \frac{c_2^0}{c_1} x^2 + \frac{c_3}{c_1} x^3 + \frac{c_4}{c_1} x^4 + \frac{c_5}{c_1} x^5 \dots \right) \\ u_2 &= c_1 \left( x + \frac{1}{6} x^3 + \frac{1}{12} x^4 + \frac{1}{120} x^5 + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

### Case 2:

$$\begin{array}{l|l} k=1 & k=2 \\ c_3 = \frac{c_0^0+c_1}{(2)(3)} = \frac{c_1}{6} & c_4 = \frac{c_1^0+c_2}{(3)(4)} = \frac{c_1}{12} \\ \hline k=3 & \\ c_5 = \frac{c_2^0+c_3}{(4)(5)} = \frac{c_1/6}{20} = \frac{c_1}{120} & \end{array}$$

We now have two linearly independent solutions to the governing equation:

$$u(x) = u_1(x) + u_2(x) = c_0 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{6}x^3 + \frac{1}{24}x^4 + \frac{1}{30}x^5 + \dots \right) + \\ c_1 \left( x + \frac{1}{6}x^3 + \frac{1}{12}x^4 + \frac{1}{120}x^5 + \dots \right)$$

We are now ready to apply the initial conditions:

$$u(0) = c_0 = 5 \\ u'(0) = c_1 = 1$$

So the final solution is:

$$u(x) = 5 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{6}x^3 + \frac{1}{24}x^4 + \frac{1}{30}x^5 + \dots \right) + \\ \left( x + \frac{1}{6}x^3 + \frac{1}{12}x^4 + \frac{1}{120}x^5 + \dots \right)$$

### *Generating and Plotting Solutions with MATLAB*

Most of the problems that we will solve in this class are derived from physical conservation laws and describe systems of interest to engineers. We solve the equations so we can get insight into how these systems will perform.

THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS that I hope to address with this section:

1. It is both tedious and error-prone to generate the coefficients for the series solution. We worked hard to construct a small portion of the power series solutions and we hope that we did it without any errors. With a modest amount of programming effort, we will write a script that can build a series solution with as many terms as we would like. With conscientious debugging we can be sure that, floating point round-off errors aside, the calculations are done correctly and without undue tedium.
2. We may get more insight if we can visualize the solution; usually via a simple plot. If the plot can easily be made with the same computing tools used to generate the solution, we can get this insight with very little extra work.

We will use MATLAB to generate and plot the solutions. We start our MATLAB script in the same way we will start *all* of our MATLAB scripts, with the following three lines:

```
clear
clc
close 'all'
```

This is done in accordance with MATLAB Style Rule #1. The MATLAB Style Rules are listed in the Appendices and I will try to exemplify the rules in the code I provide as examples in the lectures.

Next we will specify the number of terms that we will retain from the infinite series and allocate arrays in which the coefficients will be stored.

```
n=25;
C1 = nan(1,n); % coefficients for u1(x)
C2 = nan(1,n); % coefficients for u2(x)
```

Recall that for  $u_1(x)$  we applied our strategy for “case 1” in which we assumed that  $c_0 \neq 0$  and  $c_1 = 0$ . This implied that  $c_2 = c_1/2$  while the recurrence relation was used for all of the other coefficients. When we applied the initial conditions we found that  $c_0 = 5$  for  $u_1(x)$ . The code snippet below accomplishes these tasks.

```
C1_0 = 5; % c_0 for u1(x), handled separately since MATLAB array
% indices start at 1
C1(1) = 0; % c_1 for u1(x)
C1(2) = C1_0/2; % c_2 for u1(x)

% handle the k=1 case separately since it involves the term C1_0
k = 1;
C1(k+2) = (C1(k) + C1_0)/((k+1)*(k+2));

for k=2:(n-2)
    C1(k+2) = (C1(k) + C1(k-1))/((k+1)*(k+2));
end
```

Now we have calculated all of the desired coefficients, we are ready to construct the first solution.

```
u1 = @(x) C1_0;
for k = 1:n
    u1 = @(x) u1(x) + C1(k)*x.^k;
end
```

We continue in this same vein to construct  $u_2(x)$  as we did in our “case 2” strategy and construct the solution  $u(x) = u_1(x) + u_2(x)$ .

```
C2_0 = 0; % c_0 for u2(x)
C2(1) = 1; % from the initial condition
C2(2) = C2_0/2; % just adding for consistency's sake

k=1;
C2(k+2) = (C2(k) + C2_0)/((k+1)*(k+2));
for k = 2:(n-2)
    C2(k+2) = (C2(k) + C2(k-1))/((k+1)*(k+2));
end

u2 = @(x) C2_0;
for k = 1:n
    u2 = @(x) u2(x) + C2(k)*x.^k;
end

u = @(x) u1(x) + u2(x);
```

We will use two arrays to store the coefficients; one for  $u_1(x)$  and the other for  $u_2(x)$ . Pre-allocation in this way is done in accordance with MATLAB Style Rule #7, and the comments are in accordance with Rule #2. Use of short but meaningful variable names is prescribed in Rule #3.

Note how each line of MATLAB in this listing is terminated with a semicolon. This is to suppress the output to the command line that would otherwise happen each time we make an assignment to a variable. While this output might be helpful during debugging, during any other time it is distracting (drowning out other, more useful output) and slows code execution. The extensive, non-readable output that would result from omitting the semi-colons is indicative of a violation of MATLAB Style Rule #4.

Here  $u_1(x)$  is created as an *anonymous* function. We begin with the constant term on line 28 and build up the function term-by-term within the *for* loop on line 30. The indentation you see in these code blocks has been done automatically by the “smart indentation” feature of MATLAB’s built-in editor. This is retained in accordance with MATLAB Style Rule #6.

NOW THAT WE have a MATLAB representation of the solution, let us create a plot. One way to make such a plot is shown in the listing below; the output is shown in Figure 2.:

```

xMin = 0; xMax = 5;
figure(1)
fplot(u,[xMin, xMax], 'linewidth',2);
title_str = sprintf('Lecture 9 Series n = %d',n);
title(title_str , 'fontsize',18,'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('X', 'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('U(X)', 'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
set(gca, 'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
grid on

```

A FEW MORE details are worth noting:

1. We know our solution is inexact since we truncated the infinite power series and used finite-precision arithmetic while calculating the coefficients for those terms we *did* bother to include. Still, we might want to know *how wrong* the solution is.
2. Taking a more positive tack, we might ask how much *better* the solution gets when we add more terms to our solution.

To answer either of these questions, we will need access to the solution of the IVP. For this lecture, we will take a numeric solution generated using MATLAB's built-in IVP-solving tool *ODE45* as "the solution."

Power series results for various values of  $n$  are compared to the numerical solution in Figure 3. Some things to notice:

1. The solution gets worse the further one gets from zero; and
2. The solution gets better for larger values of  $n$ .

Neither of these observations should be surprising but there is value to seeing it in your results. It adds confidence to the proposition that your (approximate) solution is correct.

AS A LAST NOTE it should be pointed out that, while plots like that shown in Figure 3 gives a good qualitative feel for how the solution is improving as the number of power series terms increases, a quantitative measure for correctness is preferable. In Figure 4 a quantitative measure—the relative error in the 2-norm—is used to quantify the difference between different power series solutions and the solution generated using *ODE45*. Details of this error measure will be discussed in future lectures.

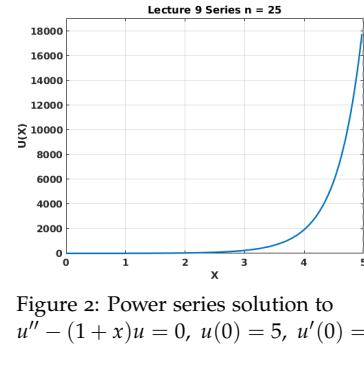


Figure 2: Power series solution to  $u'' - (1+x)u = 0$ ,  $u(0) = 5$ ,  $u'(0) = 1$ .

**Note:** Pay particular attention to the formatting details of the plot. There is a title along with axis-labels for both the x- and y-axis; fonts are bold and sized in a systematic way. Grid lines are also used to make the graph more readable. These details have all been added in observance of MATLAB Style Rule #4.

The variables *xMin* and *xMax* on line 39 has been included in accordance with Rule #8. The fact that both variables are initialized on the same line is a common exception to Rule #9.

Use of tools such as *ODE45* will be treated in the numerical methods section.

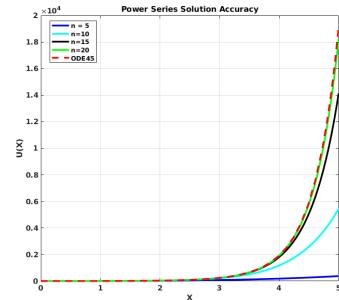


Figure 3: Power series solution with different values of  $n$ .

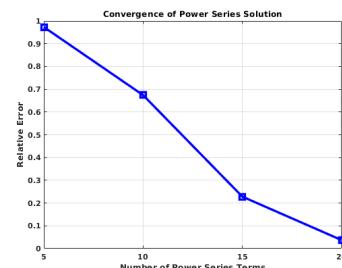


Figure 4: Convergence of the power series solution to the numeric solution.



# Lecture 10 - Legendre's Equation

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Illustrate the use of the power series method to solve Legendre's equation.
- Introduce some of the properties of Legendre polynomials.

## Legendre's Equation

The following 2<sup>nd</sup>-order linear, homogeneous ODE is known as Legendre's equation:

$$(1-x^2) u'' - 2xu' + m(m+1)u = 0 \quad (43)$$

where  $m$  is a constant.

FIRST WE WILL put Equation 43 into standard form:

$$u'' - \frac{2x}{(1-x^2)} u' + \frac{m(m+1)}{(1-x^2)} u = 0$$

We should immediately note that  $P(x) = \frac{2x}{(1-x^2)}$  and  $Q(x) = \frac{m(m+1)}{(1-x^2)}$  are singular (and thus not analytic) at  $x = \pm 1$ . Recall from Theorem 6 that  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$  must be analytic for power series solutions to exist.

WE WILL RESTRICT our attention to the interval  $x \in (-1, 1)$  and use the power series method to find a solution. Inserting our assumed power series solution into Equation 43 gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} (1-x^2) \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - 2x \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nc_n x^{n-1} + m(m+1) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n &= 0 \\ \underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2}}_{x^0} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^n}_{x^2} - \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2nc_n x^n}_{x^1} + \underbrace{m(m+1) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n}_{x^0} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where we see that all terms with order lower than  $x^2$  need to be pulled outside of their summations so all four can be in phase.

$$(2)(1)c_2 + (3)(2)c_3x + \underbrace{\sum_{n=4}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2}}_{\substack{k=n-2 \\ n=k+2}} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_nx^n}_{\substack{k=n \\ n=k}} - (2)(1)c_1x - \underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} 2nc_nx^n}_{\substack{k=n \\ n=k}} + \dots$$

$$m(m+1)(c_0 + c_1x) + m(m+1)\underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_nx^n}_{\substack{k=n \\ n=k}} = 0$$

Combining terms outside of the summations and making the indicated substitutions to combine the summations we get:

$$[m(m+1)c_0 + 2c_2] + \underbrace{[(m(m+1)-2)c_1 + 6c_3]}_{(m-1)(m+2)}x + \dots$$

$$\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} [(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} - \underbrace{k(k-1)c_k - 2kc_k + m(m+1)c_k}_{(m-k)(m+k+1)c_k}]x^k = 0$$

Applying the indicated algebraic simplifications leads us finally to:

$$[m(m+1)c_0 + 2c_2] + [(m+1)(m+2)c_1 + 6c_3]x + \dots$$

$$\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} [(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} + (m-k)(m+k+1)c_k]x^k = 0$$

**Note:** Obviously this is a tedious business. Be careful and make sure you understand each manipulation.

The next steps are to find formulas for the power series coefficients,  $c_n$ , so that the combined coefficient for each power of  $x$  in the equation above equals zero. For the constant term ( $x^0$ ) we have:

$$c_2 = \frac{-m(m+1)c_0}{2}$$

For the linear term ( $x^1$ ) we get:

$$c_3 = \frac{-(m-1)(m+2)}{6}c_1$$

For all other powers of  $x$ , we get a 2-term recurrence:

$$c_{k+1} = \frac{-(m-k)(m+k+1)}{(k+2)(k+1)}c_k$$

$$k = 2 \\ c_4 = \frac{-(m-2)(m+3)}{(4)(3)}c_2 = \frac{(m-2)(m+3)m(m+1)}{(4)(3)(2)}c_0 \\ k = 3 \\ c_5 = \frac{-(m-3)(m+4)}{(5)(4)}c_3 = \frac{(m-3)(m+4)(m-1)(m+2)}{(5)(4)(3)(2)}c_1$$

Organizing these into two solutions we get:

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(x) &= c_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{c_2}{c_0} x^2 + \frac{c_4}{c_0} x^4 + \dots \right] \\ &= c_0 \left[ 1 - \frac{m(m+1)}{2!} x^2 + \frac{(m-2)(m+3)m(m+1)}{4!} x^4 + \dots \right] \\ u_2(x) &= c_1 \left[ x + \frac{c_3}{c_1} x^3 + \frac{c_5}{c_1} x^5 + \dots \right] \\ &= c_1 \left[ x - \frac{(m-1)(m+2)}{3!} x^3 + \frac{(m-3)(m+4)(m-1)(m+2)}{5!} x^5 + \dots \right] \end{aligned}$$

So far what we have is messy but, when dealing with power series solutions, messiness is the order of the day. One point that we have quietly left to the side is whether or not we expect this (so called) power series solution to converge.

One way that we can permanently leave these questions behind us is if  $m$  is an integer. Notice that if  $m = 0$  or is an even integer,  $u_1(x)$  terminates with a finite number of terms.<sup>1</sup> Similarly with  $u_2(x)$  in the case that  $m$  is an odd integer.

**Reminder:** If the power series that we purport to be a solution to the differential equation is divergent than we really have nothing.

<sup>1</sup> i.e. If  $m$  is even then  $u_1(x)$  is a polynomial.

THESE POLYNOMIAL SOLUTIONS, where  $m$  is an integer, are referred to as Legendre polynomials. Legendre polynomials have several important applications; our primary use for them will be when solving equations in spherical coordinate systems.

### Important Properties of Legendre Polynomials

Legendre polynomials are solutions to Legendre's equation where  $m$  is an integer:

$$(1 - x^2) u'' - 2xu' + m(m+1)u = 0$$

By convention the leading coefficients are chosen such that Legendre polynomials have a maximum value of 1 on the interval  $x \in [-1, 1]$ .

The first few Legendre Polynomials are shown in the Table 2. Higher order Legendre polynomials can be constructed using a three-term recurrence relation shown in Equation 44:

$$(n+1)P_{n+1}(x) - (2n+1)xP_n(x) + nP_{n-1}(x) = 0 \quad (44)$$

$P_0(x) = 1$	$P_1(x) = x$
$P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$	$P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x)$

Table 2: The first four Legendre Polynomials

Some other properties include:

$$\begin{aligned} P_n(-x) &= (-1)^n P_n(x) \\ P_n(1) &= 1 \\ P_n(-1) &= (-1)^n \\ P_n(0) &= 0 \text{ for } n \in \text{odd} \\ P'_n(0) &= 0 \text{ for } n \in \text{even} \end{aligned}$$

A plot of the first few Legendre Polynomials is shown in Figure 5.

THE LAST PROPERTY that we will mention here, and that we will make use of extensively in this course, is the *orthogonality* property of Legendre polynomials. Legendre polynomials are orthogonal over the interval  $x \in [-1, 1]$ . This mean that Equation 45 holds:

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_n(x) P_m(x) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & n \neq m \\ \frac{2}{n+1}, & n = m \end{cases} \quad (45)$$

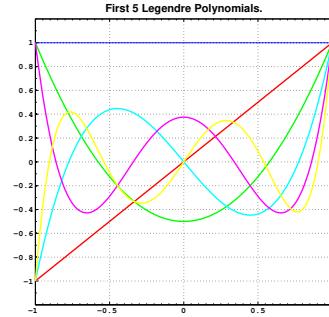


Figure 5: Legendre Polynomials of order 0 through 5.

Orthogonality of functions is analogous to orthogonality of vectors. Two functions,  $f_1(x)$  and  $f_2(x)$  are orthogonal on an interval  $x \in [a, b]$  if  $\int_a^b f_1(x) f_2(x) dx = 0$ .

# Lecture 11 - Solutions about Singular Points

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Define regular and irregular singular points and give examples of their classification.
- Describe the extended power series method (method of Frobenius).
- Do an example problem.

## Definitions

Consider a linear, homogeneous, second-order differential equation in standard form as shown below:

$$u'' + P(x)u' + Q(x)u = 0$$

### Definition 12 (Singular Point)

A singular point,  $x_0$ , is a point where  $P(x)$  or  $Q(x)$  are not analytic.

### Definition 13 (Regular/Irregular Singular Point)

A singular point  $x_0$  is said to be a regular singular point of the differential equation if the functions  $p(x) = (x - x_0)P(x)$  and  $q(x) = (x - x_0)^2Q(x)$  are both analytic at  $x_0$ . If a singular point is not regular, it is irregular.

**Example:** Classify the singular points of  $(x^2 - 4)^2u'' + 3(x - 2)u' + 5u = 0$ .

In standard form,  $P(x) = \frac{3(x-2)}{(x^2-4)^2} = \frac{3(x-2)}{(x+2)^2(x-2)^2}$ ; and  $Q(x) = \frac{5}{(x+2)^2(x-2)^2}$ . There are two singular points: -2 and 2. Work is shown in the margin for  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$ . From the work in the margin it should be clear for this problem that  $q(x)$  is analytic at both  $x = -2$  and  $x = 2$  but, since  $p(x)$  is not analytic at  $x_0 = -2$ ,  $x_0 = -2$  is an irregular singular point;  $x_0 = 2$  is a regular singular point.

$x_0 = 2$ :  $p(x) = \frac{(x-2)3(x-2)}{(x+2)^2(x-2)^2}$ , so  $p(x) = \frac{3}{(x+2)^2}$  which is analytic at  $x = 2$ .  
 $q(x) = \frac{(x-2)^25}{(x+2)^2(x-2)^2}$ , so  $q(x) = \frac{5}{(x+2)^2}$  which is analytic at  $x = 2$ .

$x_0 = -2$ :  $p(x) = \frac{(x+2)3(x-2)}{(x+2)^2(x-2)^2}$  so  
 $p(x) = \frac{3(x-2)}{(x+2)(x-2)}$  which is not analytic  
at  $x = -2$ .  $q(x) = \frac{(x+2)^25}{(x+2)^2(x-2)^2}$ , so  
 $q(x) = \frac{5}{(x-2)^2}$  which is analytic at  
 $x = -2$ .

**Theorem 7 (Frobenius' Theorem)**

If  $x = x_0$  is a regular singular point then there exists at least one non-zero solution of the form:

$$u(x) = (x - x_0)^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x - x_0)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x - x_0)^{n+r}$$

where  $r$  is to be determined. The series will converge at least on some radius of convergence defined by:  $0 < x - x_0 < R$ .

*Method of Frobenius*

The definitions and theorems provided above lead us to the method of Frobenius which we will illustrate through example.

**Example:** Find a series solution to:  $3xu'' + u' - u = 0$ .

Per Theorem 7, this equation should have a solution of the form:  $u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}$  where  $r$  is constant. Taking the first and second derivatives we get:

$$\begin{aligned} u' &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1} \\ u'' &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-2} \end{aligned}$$

We insert these expressions into the differential equation and will combine the summations to derive recurrence relations.

$$\begin{aligned} 3x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} &= 0 \\ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 3(n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-1} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$x^r \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 3(n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n-1}}_{\text{for } n=0 \atop x^{-1}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n-1}}_{\text{for } n=0 \atop x^{-1}} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n}_{\text{for } n=0 \atop x^0} \right] = 0$$

We can see now that one term must be “peeled off” from the first two summations in order to get the summations in phase.

You should verify that this equation has a regular singular point at  $x_0 = 0$ .

Notice in this case that the summations for  $u'$  and  $u''$  start at  $n = 0$  while for the power series solution method the starting index for  $u'$  was  $n = 1$  and the starting index for  $u''$  was  $n = 2$ .

The reason for this is that, for the power series method, the constant term of  $u$ , corresponding to  $n = 0$ , becomes zero for  $u'$ ; so we omit that term and start with  $n = 1$ . Both the constant and linear term in  $u$ , corresponding to  $n = 0$  and  $n = 1$ , are zero for  $u''$ . So the series for  $u''$  starts at  $n = 2$ .

The factor  $x^r$  included in the method of Frobenius means there may not be any constant terms in the series at all—i.e. if  $r$  is not an integer. Therefore there is no reason to omit terms for  $u'$  or  $u''$ .

$$x^r \left[ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 3(n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n-1} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n \right] + \dots$$

$\underbrace{x^r [3r(r-1) + r] c_0 x^{-1}}_{\substack{\text{first terms from} \\ \text{first two summations}}} = 0 \quad (46)$

Let us focus for a moment on the last term on the left-hand side of Equation 46. We know from our experience with the power series solution process that, in order to *solve* the equation, the coefficient for each power of  $x$  needs to be zero. Consider now specifically the coefficient for  $x^{r-1}$ . That coefficient needs to be zero and there are a couple of ways that it can be set to zero which are discussed in the margin note.

THE CUSTOMARY PROCEDURE for the method of Frobenius dictates that we go with option #2. We refer to  $-3r(r-1) + r = 0$ —as the *indicial equation* and the roots of the indicial equation are known as the *indicial roots*.<sup>1</sup>

FOR THIS CASE, the indicial equation can be factored:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 3r(r-1) + r \\ &= 3r^2 - 3r + r \\ &= 3r^2 - 2r \\ &= r(3r - 2) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

so the roots are  $r_1 = 0$ , and  $r_2 = 2/3$ . So long as  $r$  is chosen to be one of those values, the coefficient for  $x^{r-1}$  will be zero. Let us refocus our attention on the remaining terms:

$$x^r \left[ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 3(n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n-1} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n \right] = 0$$

The summations are all in phase—recall that is how we obtained the indicial equation—but we need to combine the three summations under a common index.

$$x^r \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 3(n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n-1}}_{\substack{k=n-1 \\ n=k+1}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n-1}}_{\substack{k=n-1 \\ n=k+1}} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n}_{\substack{k=n \\ n=k}} \right] = 0$$

$$x^r [3r(r-1) + r] c_0 x^{-1} = 0$$

**Option #1** set  $c_0 = 0$ ;

**Option #2** set  $r$  to a root of  $3r(r-1) + r = 0$ .

<sup>1</sup> For second-order problems, the form of the indicial equation will be a quadratic.

Making the indicated substitution in each summation gives us:

$$x^r \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left[ \underbrace{3(k+1+r)(k+r)c_{k+1}}_{(k+1+r)(3(k+r)+1)c_{k+1}} + \underbrace{(k+1+r)c_{k+1}}_{(k+1+r)(3(k+r)+1)c_{k+1}-c_k} - c_k \right] x^k \right\} = 0$$

The resulting recurrence relation for the coefficient of  $x^{k+r}$  is:

$$c_{k+1} = \frac{c_k}{(k+1+r)(3k+3r+1)}$$

We have two cases: one for  $r = 0$ ; the other for  $r = 2/3$ .

$r = 0$ :

$$c_{k+1} = \frac{c_k}{(k+1)(3k+1)}$$

Coefficients are shown in the table in the margin; the resulting solution is:

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(x) &= x^0 \left( c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + \dots \right) \\ &= c_0 \left( 1 + \frac{c_1}{c_0} x + \frac{c_2}{c_0} x^2 + \frac{c_3}{c_0} x^3 + \dots \right) \\ &= c_0 \left( 1 + x + \frac{1}{8} x^2 + \frac{1}{168} x^3 + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

$r = 2/3$ :

$$\begin{aligned} c_{k+1} &= \frac{c_k}{(k+1+\frac{2}{3})(3k+3(\frac{2}{3})+1)} \\ &= \frac{c_k}{(k+\frac{5}{3})(3k+3)} \\ &= \frac{c_k}{(3k+5)(k+1)} \end{aligned}$$

Coefficients are shown in the table in the margin; the resulting solution is:

$$\begin{aligned} u_2(x) &= x^{2/3} \left( c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + \dots \right) \\ &= c_0 x^{2/3} \left( 1 + \frac{c_1}{c_0} x + \frac{c_2}{c_0} x^2 + \frac{c_3}{c_0} x^3 + \dots \right) \\ &= c_0 x^{2/3} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{5} x + \frac{1}{80} x^2 + \frac{1}{264} x^3 + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

case 1, r = 0
$k = 0$
$c_1 = \frac{c_0}{(1)(1)} = c_0$
$k = 1$
$c_2 = \frac{c_1}{(2)(4)} = \frac{c_0}{8}$
$k = 2$
$c_3 = \frac{c_2}{(3)(7)} = \frac{c_0}{(3)(7)(8)}$

case 2, r = 2/3
$k = 0$
$c_1 = \frac{c_0}{(5)(1)} = \frac{c_0}{5}$
$k = 1$
$c_2 = \frac{c_1}{(8)(2)} = \frac{c_0}{(2)(5)(8)}$
$k = 2$
$c_3 = \frac{c_2}{(11)(3)} = \frac{c_0}{(2)(3)(5)(8)(11)}$

A QUICK INSPECTION of  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  should be sufficient to convince you that the solutions are linearly independent. The general solution to the differential equation comprises a linear combination of  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$ .

### *Indicial Equation*

It turns out that we could have determined the indicial roots before setting out upon the method of Frobenius. Recall that we use the method of Frobenius on differential equations with regular singular points; also recall that a regular singular point is one where  $p(x) = xP(x)$  and  $q(x) = x^2Q(x)$  are both analytic. By definition, if  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are analytic, that means that they can be represented as a convergent power series. Suppose we did that, and expressed  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  as a power series; if we did they could be written as:

$$p(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots$$

$$q(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n = b_0 + b_1 x + b_2 x^2 + \dots$$

It can be shown that the indicial equation that we derive from the Method of Frobenius will be equal to:

$$r(r-1) + a_0 r + b_0 = 0$$

where  $a_0 = p(0)$  and  $b_0 = q(0)$ . Applying this equation to our last example where  $p(x) = xP(x) = 1/3$  and  $q(x) = x^2Q(x) = -x/3$ . We can see  $a_0 = p(0) = 1/3$  and  $b_0 = q(0) = 0$ . Inserting these numbers into the indicial equation gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} r(r-1) + \frac{1}{3}r + 0 &= 0 \\ r^2 - r + \frac{1}{3}r &= 0 \\ r^2 - \frac{2}{3}r &= 0 \\ r(r - \frac{2}{3}) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

which has the roots:  $r = 0$ , and  $r = 2/3$ .

**Example:** Use the indicial equation to determine the indicial roots to:

$$2xu'' - (3+2x)u' + u = 0$$

We see that  $P(x) = -\frac{(3-2x)}{2x}$ , so  $p(x) = xP(x) = -\frac{(3-2x)}{2}$ , and  $p(0) = -3/2$ . By inspection  $q(x) = x^2Q(x) = \frac{x}{2}$ , so  $q(0) = 0$ . The

indicial equation is:

$$\begin{aligned} r(r-1) - \frac{3}{2}r + 0 &= 0 \\ r^2 - r - \frac{3}{2}r &= 0 \\ r^2 - \frac{5}{2}r &= 0 \\ r \left( r - \frac{5}{2} \right) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

so the indicial roots are:  $r = 0$ , and  $r = 5/2$ .

IN GENERAL, OF COURSE, the indicial equation is just a quadratic equation, so the roots may be real and repeated, real and distinct or complex conjugates. There are three cases that will be of immediate interest to us:

1. Two distinct real roots that do *not* differ by an integer. In this case it can be shown that there exist two linearly independent solutions:  $u_1 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r_1}$ , and  $u_2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r_2}$ .
2. Two distinct real roots that differ by an integer. In this case there exist two linearly independent solutions of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r_1}, \quad c_0 \neq 0 \\ u_2(x) &= C u_1(x) \ln x + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^{n+r_2}, \quad b_0 \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

In this case, the constant  $C$  *might* be zero.

3. If both roots are real and  $r_1 = r_2$  then there exist two linearly independent solutions of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r_1}, \quad c_0 \neq 0 \\ u_2(x) &= u_1(x) \ln x + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^{n+r_2}, \quad b_0 \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Additional Notes:

- When the difference between the indicial roots is equal to an integer, find the solution with the smaller root first.
- The indicial equation could, in principle, have complex roots. We will avoid those cases for this class.
- If  $x_0$  is an irregular singular point, the Frobenius theorem does not apply and we may not be able to find any solution to the differential equation using this method.

In both of these cases we implicitly assume that  $c_0 \neq 0$ .

**Note:** The goal in this treatment of method of Frobenius is not to make you a "Frobenius Genius." The goal is to provide a sufficiently thorough introduction so that you can understand where Bessel functions and other such mathematical objects come from. For this reason, we will emphasize systems that fall into case 1.

For ordinary differential equations that fall into the last two categories, do not fret: numerical methods are always available that are more than adequate for finding solutions to the equations.

## *Assignment #4*

Find two power series solutions of the given differential equation.

1.  $u'' + x^2 u' + xu = 0$

2.  $u'' - (x + 1)u' - u = 0$

3. Solve the given initial value problem. Use MATLAB to represent the power series. Make 2 plots; for the first plot compare the partial sum of the power series with 5 terms to the exact solution which is  $u = 8x - 2e^x$ ; for the second plot compare the partial sum of the power series with 15 terms to the exact solution. Submit the “published” version of your MATLAB script (PDF format) along with your written solution.

$$(x - 1)u'' - xu' + u = 0, \quad u(0) = -2, \quad u'(0) = 6$$

Determine the singular points for the differential equation. Classify each singular point as irregular or regular.

4.  $(x^2 - 9)^2 u'' + (x + 3)u' + 2u = 0$

5.  $x^3 (x^2 - 25) (x - 2)^2 u''' + 3x(x - 2)u' + 7(x + 5)u = 0$

Use the general form of the indicial equation to find the indicial roots.

6.  $x^2 u'' + \left(\frac{5}{3}x + x^2\right) u' - \frac{1}{3}u = 0$

Use the method of Frobenius to obtain two linearly independent series solutions:

7.  $3xu'' + (2 - x)u' - u = 0$



# Lecture 12 - Bessel's Equation and Bessel Functions

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Introduce Bessel's equation and solve it using the method of Frobenius.
- Discuss Bessel functions of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> kind and use them to solve instances of Bessel's equation.

## Bessel's Equation

Bessel's equation is given in Equation 47:

$$x^2 u'' + xu' + (x^2 - \nu^2) u = 0 \quad (47)$$

where  $\nu$  is a constant.<sup>1</sup> You should spend a moment to verify that this equation has a singular point at  $x_0 = 0$  and that it is a regular singular point. Therefore we should use the method of Frobenius to find solutions and that is what we shall do.

As a REMINDER, we will make the following substitutions into Equation 47:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} \\ u'(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1} \\ u''(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-2} \end{aligned}$$

which gives us:

$$x^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-2} + x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1} + (x^2 - \nu^2) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} = 0$$

<sup>1</sup> Let me warn you for the first time here that, if  $\nu = 0$ , Bessel's equation bears a striking resemblance to the Cauchy-Euler equation. Notice the difference and try not to fall into that trap.

or, if we distribute terms through the sums:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r+2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \nu^2 c_n x^{n+r} = 0$$

Let us inspect the first term in each summation and see what needs to be done to get the summations in phase.

$$\underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r}}_{n=0, x^r} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r}}_{n=0, x^r} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r+2}}_{n=0, x^{r+2}} - \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \nu^2 c_n x^{n+r}}_{n=0, x^r} = 0$$

For reasons that (hopefully) will become apparent, we are going to go through this process in two steps. For  $n = 0$ , we will separate out all terms that are proportional to  $x^r$ .

$$\begin{aligned} r(r-1)c_0 x^r + x^r \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^n + r c_0 x^r + x^r \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^n + \dots \\ x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+2} - \nu^2 c_0 x^r - x^r \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \nu^2 c_n x^n = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Now let us collect the terms outside of the summations and re-write the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{indicial equation} \\ & \overbrace{[r(r-1) + r - \nu^2]} c_0 x^r + \dots \\ & x^r \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \underbrace{[(n+r)(n+r-1) + (n+r) - \nu^2]}_{\text{combined 3 of 4 summations}} c_n x^n + x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+2} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

From the indicial equation:

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

we see that, to ensure the coefficient for  $x^r = 0$ ,  $r = \pm\nu$ . To simplify the discussion to follow, let us take  $r = \nu$  and continue with the solution. Our equation is now:

$$\begin{aligned} & x^\nu \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \underbrace{(n+\nu)(n+\nu-1) + (n+\nu) - \nu^2}_{n^2 + 2n\nu + \nu^2 - \nu^2} \right] c_n x^n + x^\nu \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+2} = 0 \\ & x^\nu \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \underbrace{[n(n+2\nu)] c_n x^n}_{n=1, x^1} + x^\nu \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{c_n x^{n+2}}_{n=0, x^2} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The first line of the equation is the indicial equation for this problem; we use it to determine allowable values of  $r$ . In the second line of the equation we have combined the first, second, and fourth summation because they were in phase and had a common index. The remaining summation needs to be put in phase before we can combine everything under a single summation.

**Reminder:** We need to ensure the coefficient for  $x^r$  is equal to zero. By convention we assume  $c_0 \neq 0$ . We could allow  $c_0 = 0$  but then we would just need to derive another indicial equation for some other power of  $x$ . We adopt the convention  $c_0 \neq 0$  so that our choices for indicial roots will be unique.

The two summations are out of phase, so we need to separate out the first term of the first summation.

$$\underbrace{(1)(1+2\nu)c_1}_{\text{coefficient for } x^{\nu+1}} x^{\nu+1} + \underbrace{x^\nu \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_n [n(n+2\nu)] x^n}_{n=2, x^{\nu+2}} + \underbrace{x^\nu \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+2}}_{n=0, x^{\nu+2}} = 0$$

In order to satisfy the equation, we need the coefficient for  $x^{\nu+1}$  to be equal to zero; the only way to do this is to set  $c_1 = 0$ .<sup>2</sup>

The summations in the equation above are in-phase so we need to combine under a common index.

$$\underbrace{x^\nu \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_n [n(n+2\nu)] x^n}_{\substack{k=n \\ n=k}} + \underbrace{x^\nu \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+2}}_{\substack{k=n+2 \\ n=k-2}} = 0$$

$$x^\nu \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \underbrace{[k(k+2\nu)c_k + c_{k-2}]}_{\text{coefficient for } x^{\nu+k}} x^k = 0$$

In order to set the coefficients for  $x^{\nu+k}$  to zero, we derive the following two-term recurrence:

$$c_k = \frac{-c_{k-2}}{k(k+2\nu)}, \quad k = 2, 3, 4, \dots \quad (48)$$

Since we have already determined that  $c_1 = 0$ , Equation 48 tells us that  $c_3 = c_5 = \dots = 0$ ; all the odd-numbered coefficients must be zero. To simplify the notation further, we will thus assume that  $k = 2n$  and re-write our recurrence as:

$$c_{2n} = \frac{-c_{2n-2}}{2n(2n+2\nu)}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$= \frac{-c_{2n-2}}{2^2 n(n+\nu)}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Expressions for the first few terms is given in Table 3. From this pattern you should be able to see that the general form of the coefficients is as shown in Equation 49.

$$c_{2n} = \frac{(-1)^n c_0}{2^{2n} n! (1+\nu)(2+\nu) \cdots (n+\nu)}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (49)$$

IT MAY BE WORTHWHILE to take a step back and summarize what we have found so far. We are solving Bessel's equation and we looked for solutions of the form  $u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}$ . We found that  $r$  must be equal to  $\pm\nu$  and, for the case  $r = \nu$ , derived a perfectly acceptable expression for the coefficients of this solution in Equation 49. What follows is a bit of, what we will call, "mathematical grooming" which we will do so that we can derive solutions to Bessel's equation in a form that appears elsewhere in the literature and that, it turns out, you will use for the remainder of this course.

<sup>2</sup> **Reminder:** We do not control what  $\nu$  is; that is part of the equation.

$n = 1$	
$c_2 = \frac{-c_0}{2^2(1)(1+\nu)}$	
$n = 2$	
$c_4 = \frac{-c_2}{2^2(2)(2+\nu)} = \frac{c_0}{2^4(1)(2)(1+\nu)(2+\nu)}$	
$n = 3$	
$c_6 = \frac{-c_4}{2^2(3)(3+\nu)} = \frac{-c_0}{2^6(1)(2)(3)(1+\nu)(2+\nu)(3+\nu)}$	

Table 3: First few coefficients in solution to Bessel's Equation.

We will deal with the case  $r = -\nu$ , albeit in a perfunctory manner, below.

### Gamma Function

The gamma function is defined in Equation 50.

$$\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt \quad (50)$$

One property of the gamma function is that  $\Gamma(x+1) = x\Gamma(x)$  for any real argument  $x$ . If  $x$  is an integer, this makes the gamma function equivalent to a factorial:

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(1) &= \int_0^\infty t^{1-1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-t} dt \\ &= -e^{-t} \Big|_0^\infty \\ &= -[0 - 1] \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

**Note:** The gamma function is also defined when a complex argument is used, but that is beyond the scope of this class.

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(2) &= \Gamma(1+1) = 1\Gamma(1) = 1 \\ \Gamma(3) &= \Gamma(2+1) = 2\Gamma(2) = 2 \\ \Gamma(4) &= \Gamma(3+1) = 3\Gamma(3) = 6\end{aligned}$$

Put differently, the Gamma function is a *generalization* of a factorial.

Therefore, in general for  $x \in \mathbb{I}$ ,  $\Gamma(x) = (x-1)!$ .

IN THE CONTEXT of our solution to Bessel's equation, we use the gamma function represent the term  $(1+\nu)(2+\nu)\cdots(n+\nu)$  in the denominator of Equation 49 in a compact way:

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(1+\nu+1) &= (1+\nu)\Gamma(1+\nu) \\ \Gamma(1+\nu+2) &= (2+\nu)\Gamma(2+\nu) = (2+\nu)(1+\nu)\Gamma(1+\nu) \\ \Gamma(1+\nu+3) &= (3+\nu)\Gamma(3+\nu) = (3+\nu)(2+\nu)(1+\nu)\Gamma(1+\nu) \\ &\vdots \\ \Gamma(1+\nu+n) &= (n+\nu)\cdots(1+\nu)\Gamma(1+\nu)\end{aligned}$$

### Bessel Function of the First Kind of order $\nu$

We will use everything that we have done thus far to define a Bessel function of the first kind of order  $\nu$ . We will start with our series solution  $u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+\nu}$  and the formula for the non-zero (even) coefficients given in Equation 49 and take a couple of steps:

1. We will set  $c_0 = \frac{1}{2^\nu \Gamma(1+\nu)}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} c_{2n} &= \frac{(-1)^n c_0}{2^{2n} n! (1+\nu)(2+\nu) \cdots (n+\nu)}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ &= \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n} n! (1+\nu)(2+\nu) \cdots (n+\nu)} \frac{1}{2^\nu \Gamma(1+\nu)} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n+\nu} n! (1+\nu) \cdots (n+\nu) \Gamma(1+\nu)} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n+\nu} n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} \end{aligned}$$

2. Combining this new expression for  $c_{2n}$  into the solution gives us the standard definition for a Bessel function of the first kind:

$$J_\nu(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu} \quad (51)$$

We can similarly handle the case where  $r = -\nu$ :

$$J_{-\nu} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1-\nu+n)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n-\nu}$$

We will not prove this, but if  $\nu$  is *not* an integer, then  $J_\nu$  and  $J_{-\nu}$  are linearly independent. In that case, the solution (at long last) to Bessel's equation is just a linear combination of  $J_\nu(x)$  and  $J_{-\nu}(x)$  as shown in Equation 52.

$$u(x) = c_1 J_\nu(x) + c_2 J_{-\nu}(x) \quad (52)$$

### Bessel Function of the Second Kind of order $\nu$

If  $\nu$  is an integer, then  $J_\nu(x)$  and  $J_{-\nu}(x)$  are *not* linearly independent so we need to find another solution to Bessel's equation. To this end, we define the Bessel function of the second kind of order  $\nu$ , given in Equation 53:

$$Y_\nu(x) = \frac{\cos \nu \pi J_\nu(x) - J_{-\nu}(x)}{\sin \nu \pi} \quad (53)$$

which is linearly independent of  $J_\nu$  even if  $\nu$  is an integer. The solution to Bessel's equation can thus alternately be expressed:

$$u(x) = c_1 J_\nu(x) + c_2 Y_\nu(x)$$

NOW THAT WE KNOW a pair of linearly independent solutions to Bessel's equation, we no longer need to go through the rigmarole of *actually solving* the equation; we can simply *use* the solution we have derived.

Remember  $c_0$  is just an arbitrary constant. This decision allows us, with the help of gamma functions, to express the coefficients to the solution in a compact form. The resulting solution can then be multiplied by *another* arbitrary constant if needed to satisfy a given initial/boundary condition.

It can be shown that if  $\nu \geq 0$  the series converges for all  $x$ .

We were sly about it, but we quietly added the  $n = 0$  term to the summation. A more verbose expression would be:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= c_0 x^0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{2n} x^{2n+\nu} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^\nu \Gamma(1+\nu)} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n+\nu} n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} x^{2n+\nu} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{2(0)+\nu} 0! \Gamma(1+\nu+0)} + \cdots \\ &\quad \cdots \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n+\nu} n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} x^{2n+\nu} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n+\nu} n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} x^{2n+\nu} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu} \end{aligned}$$

I recommend that you always use  $J_\nu$  and  $Y_\nu$ . It's not hard to decide if  $\nu$  is an integer or not but consistency has its benefits.

**Example:** Find the general solution to:

$$x^2 u'' + xu' + \left(x^2 - \frac{1}{9}\right) u = 0$$

We recognize the given equation as Bessel's equation of order  $\nu = 1/3$ .

Therefore the general solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1 J_{1/3}(x) + c_2 Y_{1/3}(x)$$

Alternatively we could, of course, have used:  $u(x) = c_1 J_{1/3}(x) + c_2 J_{-1/3}(x)$ .

**Example:** Find the general solution to:

$$xu'' + u' + xu = 0$$

To the uninitiated this may not look like Bessel's equation but with practice you will learn to automatically see the above equation as:

$$\begin{aligned} & xu'' + u' + xu = 0, \quad \text{multiply by } x \\ & x^2 u'' + xu' + x^2 u = 0 \\ & x^2 u'' + xu' + \left(x^2 - 0^2\right) u = 0 \end{aligned}$$

and recognize it to be Bessel's equation of order zero. The general solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1 J_0(x) + c_2 Y_0(x)$$

# Lecture 13 - Solving ODEs Reducible to Bessel's Equation

## Objectives

Demonstrate reducing an ODE to Bessel's Equation by:

- changing the dependent variable;
- changing the independent variable; and
- changing both the dependent and independent variables.

IF WE HAVE LEARNED one thing over the course of the last couple of lectures it is that using the method of Frobenius—whether we are solving Bessel's equation or some other differential equation with regular singular points—is tedious and error-prone. The good news is that if we are trying to solve a problem and recognize that the problem is Bessel's equation of some order, we can simply write down the solution in terms of Bessel functions.<sup>1</sup> Of course, if the equation is *not* Bessel's equation, this ability offers little benefit.

In this and the next lecture we will learn some techniques by which a broad range of differential equations can be transformed into or expressed as Bessel's equation, thereby expanding the range of equations for which we may write the solution in terms of Bessel functions. The best way to learn is by doing, so we will simply start with the examples.

**Example:** Find the general solution to the following differential equation by applying the given transformation to the dependent variable:  
 $u = v/x^2$ .

$$xu'' + 5u' + xu = 0$$

<sup>1</sup> Let me reiterate that this was the point to learning how to solve Bessel's equation.

You can think of this as cleverly distorting the  $y$ -axis in order to make the problem easier.

We need to replace all appearances of  $u$  with the equivalent in terms of  $v$ .

$$\begin{aligned} xu'' &= \frac{v''}{x} - \frac{4v'}{x^2} + \frac{6v}{x^3} \\ 5u' &= \frac{5v'}{x^2} - \frac{10v}{x^3} \\ xu &= \frac{v}{x} \end{aligned}$$

Combining these terms together gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} xu'' + 5u' + xu &= 0 \\ \frac{v''}{x} - \frac{4v'}{x^2} + \frac{6v}{x^3} + \frac{5v'}{x^2} - \frac{10v}{x^3} + \frac{v}{x} &= 0, \quad \text{combine like terms} \\ \frac{v''}{x} + \frac{v'}{x^2} + \left(\frac{1}{x} - \frac{4}{x^3}\right)v &= 0, \quad \text{multiply by } x^3 \\ x^2v'' + xv' + (x^2 - 4)v &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where on the last line we recognize the ODE as Bessel's equation of order  $\nu = 2$ . The solution is:

$$v(x) = c_1 J_2(x) + c_2 Y_2(x)$$

Of course, we were trying to solve for  $u(x)$  so we must undo the transformation to the dependent variable:

$$u(x) = \frac{v(x)}{x^2} = \frac{1}{x^2} [c_1 J_2(x) + c_2 Y_2(x)]$$

**Example:** Find the general solution to the following differential equation by applying the given transformation to the independent variable:  $\sqrt{x} = z$ .

$$4xu'' + 4u' + u = 0$$

In this case we need to change occurrences of  $x$  into its equivalent in terms of  $z$  and we need to change all derivatives with respect to  $x$  to derivatives with respect to  $z$ . We are given  $\sqrt{x} = z$  which is, of course, equivalent to  $x = z^2$ . For the derivatives we have:

$$\begin{aligned} u' &= \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{du}{dz} \frac{dz}{dx} = u_z \frac{d}{dx} (z^{1/2}) = \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{z^{-1/2}}_{z^{-1}} u_z \\ &= \frac{1}{2z} u_z \\ u'' &= \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right) = \frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right) \frac{dz}{dx} \\ &= \frac{d}{dz} \left[ \frac{1}{2z} u_z \right] \frac{1}{2z} = \left[ -\frac{1}{2z^2} u_z + \frac{1}{2z} u_{zz} \right] \frac{1}{2z} \\ &= \frac{1}{4z^2} u_{zz} - \frac{1}{4z^3} u_z \end{aligned}$$

Using the product rule:

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \frac{v}{x^2} \\ u' &= \frac{-2v}{x^3} + \frac{v'}{x^2} \\ u'' &= \frac{6v}{x^4} - \frac{2v'}{x^3} - \frac{2v''}{x^2} + \frac{v''}{x^2} \\ &\quad \underbrace{-\frac{4v'}{x^3}}_{x^3} \end{aligned}$$

where  $dv/dx = v'$ .

Seeing the necessary transformations comes with practice; that is what homework is for.

This is like cleverly distorting the  $x$ -axis with the goal of making the problem easier.

**Note:** It is important that you purge all expressions including  $x$  out of these derivatives. For example, when computing the equivalent of  $u'$  it was essential that we make the substitution  $x^{-1/2} = z^{-1}$ . When we used that result in calculating  $u''$  and took derivatives with respect to  $z$ , any occurrence of  $x$  needed to be replaced with its equivalent in  $z$  or the derivative would have been wrong.

We now substitute these results into the original equation:

$$\begin{aligned} 4xu'' &= 4z^2 \left[ \frac{1}{4z^2} u_{zz} - \frac{1}{4z^3} u_z \right] \\ 4u' &= 4 \left[ \frac{1}{2z} u_z \right] \end{aligned}$$

So the transformed equation is:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{zz} - \frac{1}{z} u_z + \frac{2}{z} u_z + u &= 0, \quad \text{combine like terms} \\ u_{zz} + \frac{1}{z} u_z + u &= 0, \quad \text{multiply by } z^2 \\ z^2 u_{zz} + zu_z + \underbrace{z^2}_{(z^2-0^2)} u &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

and we can immediately recognize this as Bessel's equation of order  $\nu = 0$ . The general solution is:

$$\begin{aligned} u(z) &= c_1 J_0(z) + c_2 Y_0(z), \quad \text{undo transformation: } z \rightarrow x \\ u(x) &= c_1 J_0(\sqrt{x}) + c_2 Y_0(\sqrt{x}) \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** Find the general solution to the equation below by transforming the dependent variable  $u = v\sqrt{x}$ , and the independent variable  $\sqrt{x} = z$ .

In this case we are distorting *both* the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axis to "simplify" the problem.

$$x^2 u'' + \frac{1}{4} \left( x + \frac{3}{4} \right) u = 0$$

We will first transform the dependent variable:  $u = v\sqrt{x} = x^{1/2}v$ . As before we will replace all appearances of  $u$  with the equivalent in terms of  $v$ . Using the product rule:

$$\begin{aligned} u &= x^{1/2}v \\ u' &= \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}v + x^{1/2}v' \\ u'' &= -\frac{1}{4}x^{-3/2}v + \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}v' + \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}v' + x^{1/2}v'' \\ &\quad \underbrace{x^{-1/2}v'}_{x^{-1/2}v'} \end{aligned}$$

and inserting into our equation gives us:

$$x^2 \left[ x^{1/2}v'' + x^{-1/2}v' - \frac{1}{4}x^{-3/2}v \right] + \frac{1}{4} \left[ x + \frac{3}{4} \right] x^{1/2}v = 0$$

Now we transform the independent variable  $\sqrt{x} = z$ , which is the same transformation that we did for the last example so we will not repeat the work.

From the last example:

$$\begin{aligned} v' &= \frac{1}{2z} v_z \\ v'' &= \frac{1}{4z^2} v_{zz} - \frac{1}{4z^3} v_z \end{aligned}$$

Inserting these expressions for  $v'$  and  $v''$  into the equation and if we also add the following identities:  $x^{1/2} = z$ ,  $x = z^2$ , and  $x^2 = z^4$  we get:

$$\begin{aligned} z^4 \left[ z \left( \frac{1}{4z^2} v_{zz} - \frac{1}{4z^3} v_z \right) + \frac{1}{z} \left( \frac{1}{2z} v_z \right) - \frac{1}{4} z^{-3} v \right] + \dots \\ \dots \frac{1}{4} \left( z^3 + \frac{3}{4} \right) zv = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Distributing the  $z$ 's and grouping terms gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{z^3}{4} v_{zz} + \left( -\frac{z^2}{4} + \frac{z^2}{2} \right) v_z + \left( -\frac{z}{4} + \frac{z^3}{4} + \frac{3z}{16} \right) v = 0, \text{ combining like terms} \\ \frac{z^3}{4} v_{zz} + \frac{z^2}{4} v_z + \left( \frac{z^3}{4} - \frac{z}{16} \right) v = 0, \text{ multiply by } 4/z \\ z^2 v_{zz} + z v_z + \left( z^2 - \frac{1}{4} \right) v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

which, at long last, we recognize as Bessel's equation of order  $\nu = 1/2$ .

The solution, by inspection, is:

$$v(z) = c_1 J_{1/2}(z) + c_2 Y_{1/2}(z), \text{ un-transform the dependent variable.}$$

$$u(z) = \sqrt{x} (c_1 J_{1/2}(z) + c_2 Y_{1/2}(z)), \text{ un-transform the independent variable.}$$

$$u(x) = \sqrt{x} (c_1 J_{1/2}(\sqrt{x}) + c_2 Y_{1/2}(\sqrt{x}))$$

### Notes:

- Obviously, one would need to have spectacular insight to know in advance what transformations should be made in order to convert a given differential equation into Bessel's equation.
- In the next lecture we will make use of some tools that have been developed to simplify these transformations.

# Lecture 14 - Modified Bessel Function and Parametric Modified Bessel Function

## Objectives

- Show how to use the parametric Bessel equation of order  $\nu$ .
- Describe the modified Bessel equation and, their solutions, modified Bessel functions.
- Introduce and illustrate a tool for solving second-order ODEs in terms of Bessel functions.

Many differential equations can be solved in terms of Bessel functions. This lecture will introduce some relatively simple and powerful tools for doing so.

## Parametric Bessel Equation of Order $\nu$

The parametric Bessel equation of order  $\nu$  has the form given in Equation 54:

$$x^2 u'' + xu' + \left(\alpha^2 x^2 - \nu^2\right) u = 0 \quad (54)$$

Rather than state the solution outright, let us take a different shortcut and apply the well-known transformation that will convert Equation 54 into Bessel's equation that we can solve, by inspection, with Bessel functions.

THE TRANSFORMATION IS  $t = \alpha x$ . This, of course, means that  $x = t/\alpha$  and the derivatives of  $u$  with respect to  $t$  are shown in the margin.

Applying these substitutions gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 u'' + xu' + \left(\alpha^2 x^2 - \nu^2\right) u &= 0 \\ \frac{t^2}{\alpha^2} \alpha^2 u_{tt} + \frac{t}{\alpha} \alpha u_t + \left(\alpha^2 \frac{t^2}{\alpha^2} - \nu^2\right) u &= 0 \\ t^2 u_{tt} + tu_t + \left(t^2 - \nu^2\right) u &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The derivatives of  $u$  with respect to  $t$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dt}{dx} &= \alpha \\ u' &= \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{du}{dt} \frac{dt}{dx} = \alpha u_t \\ u'' &= \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right) = \dots \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right) \frac{dt}{dx} = \dots \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} (\alpha u_t) \alpha = \alpha^2 u_{tt} \end{aligned}$$

The last line is, of course, Bessel's equation and the solution is:

$$u(t) = c_1 J_\nu(t) + c_2 Y_\nu(t)$$

Undoing the change of independent variables to express the answer in terms of  $x$  gives us the solution shown in Equation 55.

$$u(x) = c_1 J_\nu(\alpha x) + c_2 Y_\nu(\alpha x) \quad (55)$$

**Example:** Use the parametric Bessel equation to find the general solution to:

$$x^2 u'' + xu' + \left(36x^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right) u = 0$$

We recognize the equation as a parametric Bessel equation; the parameter  $\alpha = \sqrt{36} = 6$  and  $\nu^2 = 1/4 \Rightarrow \nu = 1/2$ . The solution is:

$$u(x) = c_1 J_{1/2}(6x) + c_2 Y_{1/2}(6x)$$

### Modified Bessel Equations and Bessel Functions

A subtle but non-trivial variation to Bessel's equation is when we flip one crucial sign as shown in Equation 56:

$$x^2 u'' + xu' - \left(x^2 + \nu^2\right) u = 0 \quad (56)$$

This equation can be converted into Bessel's equation by transforming the dependent variable— $u = i^{-\nu} v$ —and independent variable— $t = ix$ . We will omit these details and instead simply give the solution as shown in Equation 57 which includes modified Bessel functions of the first<sup>1</sup> and second kind<sup>2</sup>:

$$u(x) = c_1 I_\nu(x) + c_2 K_\nu(x) \quad (57)$$

The modified Bessel's equation also has a parametric form as shown in Equation 58:

$$x^2 u'' + xu' - \left(\alpha^2 x^2 + \nu^2\right) u = 0 \quad (58)$$

with the general solution given in Equation 59.

$$u(x) = c_1 I_\nu(\alpha x) + c_2 K_\nu(\alpha x) \quad (59)$$

At this point in the course you should be developing a list, of sorts, of differential equations that you recognize and know how to analyze. Call it something like: "A Field Guide to Differential Equations I Know How To Solve". This list should include:

- first-order linear equations
- separable equations
- linear constant-coefficient equations
- linear equations with variable coefficients, including:
  - Cauchy-Euler equations
  - Legendre's equation
  - Bessel's equation; and now
  - parametric Bessel's equation.

For these last problem types you "solve" them by recognizing the equation and writing down the solution.

**Note:** for the example, instead of using  $Y_{1/2}(6x)$  as the second linearly independent solution, we could have used  $J_{-1/2}(6x)$ ; it is entirely up to you.

<sup>1</sup> Modified Bessel functions of the first kind are defined as:

$$I_\nu(x) = i^{-\nu} J_\nu(ix)$$

<sup>2</sup> Modified Bessel functions of the second kind, analogous to Bessel functions of the second kind, are defined in terms of modified Bessel functions of the first kind:

$$K_\nu(x) = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{I_\nu(x) - I_\nu(-x)}{\sin \nu \pi}$$

## Tool for Solving Second-Order ODEs

A more general-purpose tool for solving linear, homogeneous, second-order ODEs in terms of Bessel functions is presented in Zill<sup>3</sup> and shown below in Equation 60.

<sup>3</sup> Dennis G Zill. *Advanced Engineering Mathematics*. Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2020

$$u'' + \frac{1-2a}{x}u' + \left( b^2c^2x^{2c-2} + \frac{a^2-p^2c^2}{x^2} \right) u = 0, \quad p \geq 0 \quad (60)$$

The general solution for equations of this form is given in Equation 61.

$$u = x^a [c_1 J_p(bx^c) + c_2 Y_p(bx^c)] \quad (61)$$

Using this tool requires you to solve four non-linear equations as shown below:

$$u'' + \frac{\boxed{1-2a}}{x}u' + \left( \boxed{\frac{b^2c^2}{2}}x^{\boxed{2c-2}} + \frac{\boxed{a^2-p^2c^2}}{x^2} \right) u = 0, \quad p \geq 0$$

**Example:** Use Equation 60 to find the general solution to the following differential equation:

$$x^2u'' + (x^2 - 2)u = 0$$

Re-writing the equation in the form of Equation 60 gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} x^2u'' + (x^2 - 2)u &= 0 \\ u'' + \frac{x^2-2}{x^2}u &= 0 \\ u'' + 0u' + \left(1x^0 + \frac{-2}{x^2}\right)u &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Now we solve the four equations:

- ①  $1-2a = 0 \Rightarrow a = 1/2$
- ③  $2c-2 = 0 \Rightarrow c = 1$
- ②  $b^2c^2 = 1, b^2(1) = 1, \Rightarrow b = 1$
- ④  $a^2-p^2c^2 = -2$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - p^2(1)^2 &= -2 \\ p^2 &= \frac{1}{4} + 2 = \frac{9}{4} \\ \Rightarrow p &= \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Using Equation 61 the general solution is:

$$u(x) = x^{1/2} [c_1 J_{3/2}(x) + c_2 Y_{3/2}(x)]$$

Probably the most challenging or, at least, error-prone part of this process is writing a given ODE in the form of Equation 60.



## *Assignment #5*

Find the general solution to the following differential equations in terms of Bessel Functions:

1.  $4x^2u'' + 4xu' + (4x^2 - 25)u = 0$

2.  $x^2u'' + xu' + (9x^2 - 4)u = 0$

3.  $x^2u'' + xu' - \left(16x^2 + \frac{4}{9}\right)u = 0$

Use the indicated change of variables to find the general solution of the given differential equation.

4.  $x^2u'' + 2xu' + \alpha^2x^2u = 0, \quad u = x^{-1/2}v(x)$

Use Equation 6o to find the general solution of the following differential equation in terms of Bessel functions.

5.  $xu'' + 2u' + 4u = 0$



## *Review Problems #1*

Solve the following differential equations:

1.  $6x^2u'' + 5xu' - u = 0$

2.  $x^2u'' - 7xu' + 12u = 0, \quad u(0) = 0, \quad u(1) = 0$

Use the method of power series to solve the following initial value problem:

3.  $u'' + xu' + 2u = 0, \quad u(0) = 3, \quad u'(0) = -2$

Use the method of Frobenius to solve the following differential equation:

4.  $2xu'' + u' + u = 0$

Find the general solution of the given differential equation in terms of Bessel functions:

5.  $4x^2u'' + 4xu' + (64x^2 - 9)u = 0$



## **Part III**

# **Orthogonal Functions and Fourier Series**



# Lecture 15 - Introduction to Orthogonal Functions

## Objectives

- Define orthogonal functions, weighted orthogonality, function norms, and complete sets of orthogonal functions.
- Provide analogies of these concepts as applied to vectors and functions.

IN PREVIOUS LECTURES we were able to solve some differential equations by representing the solution in the form of an infinite series. For second-order, homogeneous, linear, variable coefficient ODEs where  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$  are analytic throughout the domain of interest, we used power series:

$$u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$$

For equations with regular singular points in the domain of interest, we used the method of Frobenius and expressed the solutions:

$$u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}$$

It should be stressed that, if you calculate the coefficients ( $c_n$ ) in exact arithmetic and if you sum *all* of the terms ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ), the representation is *exact*. Each term in the series is linearly independent from all other terms, so as we keep adding terms to the representation of  $u(x)$ , greater accuracy is achieved.

OUR NEXT IDEA is to generalize this approach by representing our solution,  $u(x)$ , as a linear combination of *orthogonal functions*.

## Inner Product and Orthogonality of Functions

From previous courses in calculus, you should be familiar with the concept of orthogonality of vectors. We test for orthogonality by

Recall that ODEs of this type can be expressed in standard form as:

$$u'' + P(x)u' + Q(x)u = 0$$

**Emphasis:** For power series and method of Frobenius, each term in the series is a monomial. Going forward we will use series solutions where each term is an orthogonal function.

taking the “dot product” or *inner product*; if the inner product is equal to zero, the vectors are orthogonal, otherwise they are not.

Orthogonality can also be defined for functions. Consider two functions  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  defined on an interval  $x \in [a, b]$ . The inner product of  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  is defined in Equation 62.

$$(u_1, u_2) = \int_a^b u_1(x)u_2(x) dx \quad (62)$$

If  $(u_1, u_2) = 0$  then  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  are said to be *orthogonal* on interval  $x \in [a, b]$ .

**Example:** Show that the functions  $u_1(x) = x^2$  and  $u_2(x) = x^3$  are orthogonal on the interval  $x \in [-1, 1]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (u_1, u_2) &= \int_{-1}^1 x^2 x^3 dx \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 x^5 dx = \frac{1}{6}x^6 \Big|_{-1}^1 \\ &= \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{6} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

A SLIGHT GENERALIZATION is *weighted* orthogonality, where we apply a *weight function*,  $p(x)$ , to the inner product:

$$(u_1, u_2) = \int_a^b u_1(x)u_2(x)p(x) dx \quad (63)$$

where if  $(u_1, u_2) = 0$  then we say  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  are orthogonal with respect to weight function  $p(x)$ .

WE CAN ASSEMBLE a set of orthogonal functions on a specified interval. If  $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \dots, \phi_n\}$  is a set of orthogonal functions on the interval  $x \in [a, b]$ , then:

$$(\phi_i, \phi_j) = \int_a^b \phi_i \phi_j dx = 0, \text{ if } i \neq j$$

We can then use a linear combination of the members of this set of orthogonal functions to represent practically *any* continuous, or piecewise-continuous function on the interval. This concept will be used *extensively* later in this course.

WHEN DEALING WITH vectors, it is sometimes the case that we want to work with *unit vectors*.<sup>1</sup> Even if we are not in need of unit vectors it is often the case that we need some standard definition of the *size* of a vector. Such a measure is referred to as a *norm*.<sup>2</sup> Norms are

Vector dot/inner product:

$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{a}, \vec{b}) &= \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i)(b_i) \\ \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} &= a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + \dots + a_n b_n \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup> Example *unit vectors* include the classic Cartesian basis vectors of  $\hat{i} = (1, 0, 0)$ ,  $\hat{j} = (0, 1, 0)$  and  $\hat{k} = (0, 0, 1)$ .

<sup>2</sup> A norm is a functional that assigns a measure to a mathematical object like a vector or a function. To qualify as a norm, the functional must satisfy three basic properties:

1.  $\|f\| \geq 0$ , and  $\|f\| = 0$  if and only if  $f = 0$
  2.  $\|\alpha f\| = |\alpha| \|f\|$  for any constant  $\alpha$ ; and
  3.  $\|f + g\| \geq \|f\| + \|g\|$
- where  $f$  and  $g$  are mathematical objects subject to the norm.

denoted  $\|\cdot\|$ —i.e. the norm of  $f(x)$  is  $\|f(x)\|$ —and several types of norms have been defined for vectors, matrices, and functions. The norm we will use for this class is defined in Equation 64.

$$\|f(x)\|^2 = \int_a^b f(x)^2 dx \quad (64)$$

**Example:** Find the norm of the functions  $f_0(x) = 1$  and  $f_n(x) = \cos nx$  on the interval  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_0(x)\|^2 &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (1)(1) dx = x \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= 2\pi \\ \Rightarrow \|f_0\| &= \sqrt{2\pi} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_n(x)\|^2 &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2 nx dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (1 + \cos 2nx) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{2n} \sin 2nx \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= \pi \\ \Rightarrow \|f_n\| &= \sqrt{\pi} \end{aligned}$$

Recall the “double-angle” identity:  
 $\cos 2x = 2\cos^2 x - 1$ .

WE CAN APPLY norms to define *orthonormal* sets of functions, where  $\{\phi_0, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_n\}$  are orthonormal if the following is true:

$$(\phi_n, \phi_m) = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq m \\ 1 & n = m \end{cases}$$

Now, instead of expanding  $u(x)$  in a power series or an extended power series, we could expand  $u(x)$  in terms of orthonormal functions:

$$u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \phi_n = c_0 \phi_0 + c_1 \phi_1 + \dots$$

were  $\phi_n(x)$  are members of an orthogonal set of functions.<sup>3</sup> Suppose we wished to expand  $u(x)$  in terms of an infinite set of orthogonal functions  $\{\phi_0, \phi_1, \dots\}$  on the interval  $x \in [a, b]$ :

$$u(x) = c_0 \phi_0 + c_1 \phi_1 + c_2 \phi_2 + \dots + c_n \phi_n + \dots$$

This is analogous to a (possibly) familiar operation in vector analysis. Suppose the vector  $u$  is expanded as a linear combination of three orthogonal vectors  $v_1, v_2$ , and  $v_3$ :

$$u = c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + c_3 v_3$$

Suppose we know  $u$  and know  $v_1, v_2$ , and  $v_3$ ; we merely wish to find the coefficients  $c_1, c_2$ , and  $c_3$ . We can find them by using the inner product for vectors:

$$\begin{aligned} (u, v_1) &= c_1 \overbrace{(v_1, v_1)}^{||v_1||^2} + c_2 \overbrace{(v_2, v_1)}^0 + c_3 \overbrace{(v_3, v_1)}^0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= \frac{(u, v_1)}{||v_1||^2} \end{aligned}$$

Generalizing for all three coefficients:

$$u = \sum_{n=1}^3 \frac{(u, v_n)}{||v_n||^2} v_n$$

<sup>3</sup> The orthogonal set of functions may be—in fact, in many cases *is*—infinite as is indicated here.

To get individual coefficient values,  $c_n$ , take the inner product—i.e. multiply both sides by the orthogonal function,  $\phi_n$ , and integrate:

$$\begin{aligned}(u, \phi_n) &= \int_a^b u(x)\phi_n(x) dx \\&= \int_a^b c_0\phi_0\phi_n + c_1\phi_1\phi_n + \cdots + c_n\phi_n\phi_n + \cdots dx \\&= c_n\|\phi_n\|^2 \\&\Rightarrow c_n = \frac{(u, \phi_n)}{\|\phi_n\|^2}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore we can construct or expansion as shown in Equation 65.

$$u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(u, \phi_n)}{\|\phi_n\|^2} \phi_n \quad (65)$$

As was the case with power series and extended power series: subject to some fairly lenient restrictions on  $u(x)$ , the expansion shown in Equation 65 is *exact*. Sadly, some practical matters will sully this pristine mathematical paradise. The obvious example is that we will not *actually* be able to sum all of the terms and we will not be able to calculate all of the coefficients,  $c_n$ , exactly. In particular, we will favor the use of numeric integration to compute the inner products specified in Equation 65.

**Note:** If  $\phi$  is an orthonormal function,  $\|\phi_n\|^2 = 1$ .

It takes a while to add an infinite number of terms.

# Lecture 16 - Fourier Series

## Objectives

- Review trigonometric series.
- Derive/show the formulas for expansion of a function as a trigonometric (Fourier) series.
- Discuss periodic extensions of non-periodic functions, sine/cosine expansions, and convergence behavior.

## Review of Fourier Series

In the last lecture we learned about orthogonal functions and sets of orthogonal functions. We stated that most any function can be expressed as a linear combination of those orthogonal functions:

$$u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \phi_n$$

where  $\phi_n$  are members of a set of orthogonal functions and  $c_n$  are determined by:

$$c_n = \frac{(u, \phi_n)}{||\phi_n||^2}$$

You should already have experience with expansions such as this from your previous classes in differential equations in the form of Fourier series expansions. In that case the orthogonal functions,  $\phi_n(x)$ , were:

$$\left\{ 1, \cos \frac{\pi x}{p}, \cos \frac{2\pi x}{p}, \dots, \sin \frac{\pi x}{p}, \sin \frac{2\pi x}{p}, \dots \right\}$$

where  $p$  indicates the period.<sup>1</sup>

It can be directly shown that members of this set of functions are all mutually orthogonal. We will demonstrate this for the members of the form  $\phi_n(x) = \cos n\pi x/p$ ; other cases are left for homework exercises.

The function  $\phi(x) = 1$  could also be written:  $\cos \frac{0\pi x}{p}$ .

<sup>1</sup> Reminder that a function,  $f(x)$ , is periodic with period  $p$  if  $f(x + p) = f(x)$ .

**Example:** Show that functions of the form  $\phi_n(x) = \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p}$  are orthogonal over the interval  $x \in [-p, p]$ :

Consider two functions,  $\phi_n(x)$  and  $\phi_m(x)$  where  $m, n$  are integers and  $m \neq n$ . The functions are orthogonal on the interval  $x \in [-p, p]$  if  $(\phi_n, \phi_m) = 0$ . From the definition of the inner product:

$$\begin{aligned} (\phi_n, \phi_m) &= \int_{-p}^p \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p} \cos \frac{m\pi x}{p} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-p}^p \cos(n+m)\frac{\pi x}{p} + \cos(n-m)\frac{\pi x}{p} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{n+m} \frac{p}{\pi} \sin(n+m)\frac{\pi x}{p} \Big|_{-p}^p + \frac{1}{n-m} \frac{p}{\pi} \sin(n-m)\frac{\pi x}{p} \Big|_{-p}^p \right] \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where the last terms are zero since we are evaluating the sine function at integer multiples of  $\pi$ . This shows, at least, all of the cosine members are orthogonal. For the case  $m = n$  we get:

$$\begin{aligned} (\phi_n, \phi_n) &= \int_{-p}^p \cos \left( \frac{n\pi x}{p} \right)^2 dx \\ &= \frac{p}{n\pi} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \frac{n\pi x}{p} + \frac{1}{4} \sin \frac{2n\pi x}{p} \right] \Big|_{-p}^p \\ &= \frac{p}{2} - \frac{-p}{2} \\ &= p \end{aligned}$$

WE CAN USE this infinite set of orthogonal functions to represent (nearly) any other continuous function over the interval  $[-p, p]$ . In your differential equations class you did this by using Equation 66:

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{p} \right] \quad (66)$$

We can solve for the coefficients  $a_0$ ,  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  one at a time by multiplying both sides of Equation 66 by the corresponding orthogonal function, and integrating.<sup>2</sup> The orthogonal function corresponding to  $a_0$  is 1; so to find  $a_0$  we multiply both sides of Equation 66 by 1 and

Here we use the identity:  $\cos(\alpha \pm \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta \mp \sin \alpha \sin \beta$ . So that:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(\alpha + \beta) &= \cos \alpha \cos \beta - \sin \alpha \sin \beta \\ + \cos(\alpha - \beta) &= \cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta \\ &= 2 \cos \alpha \cos \beta \end{aligned}$$

and therefore:

$$\cos \alpha \cos \beta = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\alpha + \beta) + \cos(\alpha - \beta)].$$

Rather than derive this rigorously, we will combine a tabulated result of standard integrals:  $\int \cos^2 u du = \frac{1}{2}u + \frac{1}{4} \sin 2u + C$ , with  $u$  substitution.

You might be wondering at this point why you would ever want to represent a function  $f(x)$  as a linear combination of orthogonal functions. The answer is that the members of the set of orthogonal functions are solutions to a linear homogeneous boundary value problem and the function  $f(x)$  will be a boundary condition for a partial differential equation that we are trying to solve.

<sup>2</sup> In more formal mathematical terms: we take the *inner product* of both sides with respect to the orthogonal function, but of course that means the same thing.

integrate:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{p} \right] \\
 \int_{-p}^p f(x)(1) dx &= \int_{-p}^p \frac{a_0}{2}(1) dx + \underbrace{\int_{-p}^p \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{p} \right] (1) dx}_{=0 \text{ due to orthogonality}} \\
 \int_{-p}^p f(x) dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} 2p + 0 \\
 \Rightarrow a_0 &= \frac{1}{p} \int_{-p}^p f(x) dx
 \end{aligned}$$

To get the value of  $a_1$ , we multiply both sides by  $\cos \frac{\pi x}{p}$  and integrate:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{-p}^p f(x) \cos \frac{\pi x}{p} dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{-p}^p (1) \cos \frac{\pi x}{p} dx + \dots \\
 &\quad \underbrace{a_1 \int_{-p}^p \cos \frac{\pi x^2}{p} dx}_{=p} + b_1 \int_{-p}^p \sin \frac{\pi x}{p} \cos \frac{\pi x}{p} dx + a_2 \int_{-p}^p \cos \frac{2\pi x}{p} \cos \frac{\pi x}{p} dx + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Solving for  $a_1$  we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{-p}^p f(x) \cos \frac{\pi x}{p} dx &= a_1 p \\
 \Rightarrow a_1 &= \frac{1}{p} \int_{-p}^p f(x) \cos \frac{\pi x}{p} dx
 \end{aligned}$$

We repeat the process for  $b_1$  by multiplying both sides by  $\sin \frac{\pi x}{p}$ .

In general, for  $a_n$  we use  $\cos n\pi x/p$  and for  $b_n$ ,  $\sin n\pi x/p$ . The resulting formulas for the coefficients are given in Equation 67.

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_0 &= \frac{1}{p} \int_{-p}^p f(x) dx \\
 a_n &= \frac{1}{p} \int_{-p}^p f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p} dx \\
 b_n &= \frac{1}{p} \int_{-p}^p f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{p} dx
 \end{aligned} \tag{67}$$

Since this is an infinite series, we need to concern ourselves with convergence. The theorem below provides us assurance of convergence for continuous and piece-wise continuous functions on the interval  $[-p, p]$ .

### Theorem 8 (Convergence of Fourier Series)

If  $f$  and  $df/dx$  are piece-wise continuous on an interval  $[-p, p]$ , then for all  $x$  in the interval  $[-p, p]$  the Fourier series converges to  $f$  at points where the function is continuous; at points of discontinuity, the Fourier series converges to:

$$\frac{f(x^-) + f(x^+)}{2}$$

where  $f(x^-)$  and  $f(x^+)$  denote the limit of  $f(x)$  from the left and right at the point of discontinuity.

In the next few lectures we will define other orthogonal function expansions similar to the Fourier series. Nonetheless, for periodic functions defined on a finite interval, the Fourier series provides the best representation of a function. There are some special cases, however, where we can take advantage of structural properties of  $f(x)$  to reduce the amount of work we need to do in carrying out the Fourier series expansions.

### Even Functions and Odd Functions

When doing a Fourier series expansion it is sometimes helpful to consider whether a function is *even* or *odd*.

#### Definition 14 (Even Function)

A function is even if, for all real values  $x$ ,  $f(-x) = f(x)$ .

An example of an even function is shown in Figure 6.

#### Definition 15 (Odd Function)

A function is odd if, for all real values  $x$ ,  $f(-x) = -f(x)$ .

An example of an odd function is shown in Figure 7.

SOME PROPERTIES of even and odd functions include:<sup>3</sup>

1. An even function times an even function results in an even function.
2. An odd function times an odd function results in an even function.
3. An even function times an odd function results in an odd function.
4. Adding or subtracting two even functions results in an even function.
5. Adding or subtracting two odd functions results in an odd function.
6.  $\int_{-p}^p f_{\text{even}}(x) dx = 2 \int_0^p f_{\text{even}}(x) dx$  and  $\int_{-p}^p f_{\text{odd}}(x) dx = 0$ .

In coming lectures and when doing assignments you will see that issues of continuity of  $f$  and  $df/dx$  have obvious visible influence on the convergence behavior of Fourier series.

When we say "best" representation, we (more or less) mean two things:

1.  $\|\tilde{f}_n - f\|$ , where  $\tilde{f}_n$  is the power series representation of  $f$  up to  $n$  terms, gets smaller with fewer terms than other series expansions; and
2. calculation of the coefficients  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  can be carried out with greater numeric stability than for other expansions.

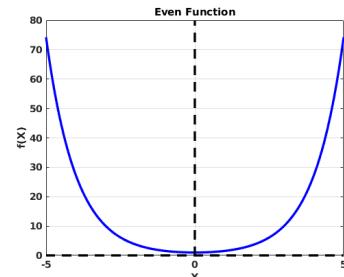


Figure 6: An example even function.

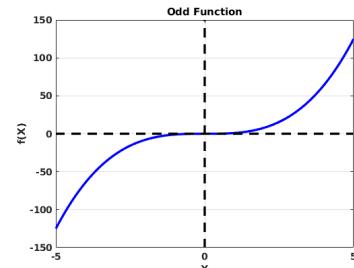


Figure 7: An example odd function.

<sup>3</sup> Students are welcome to prove these assertions.

The “even-ness” or “odd-ness” of a function is relevant to Fourier series expansions. If you expand an *even* function in a Fourier series you will find that all of the  $b_n$  coefficients are zero. If you expand an *odd* function in a Fourier series you will find that  $a_0$  and  $a_n$  terms are all zero.

You can still use the formulas presented in Equation 67 when expanding even or odd functions. Alternatively, you can use the formulas for the Cosine expansion or Sine expansion below for even or odd functions respectively.

### Cosine series:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p} \\ a_0 &= \frac{2}{p} \int_0^p f(x) dx \\ a_n &= \frac{2}{p} \int_0^p f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p} dx \end{aligned} \quad (68)$$

### Sine series:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{p} \\ b_n &= \frac{2}{p} \int_0^p f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{p} dx \end{aligned} \quad (69)$$

The cosine and sine series expansions are sometimes referred to as “half-wave” expansions since the calculations, as shown in the formulas, only involve the portion of the wave in the interval  $[0,p]$ —the positive half-wave.



# Lecture 17 - Generating and Plotting Fourier Series in MATLAB

## Objectives

- Demonstrate how to carry out Fourier series expansions using MATLAB.
- Give a qualitative demonstration of convergence behavior of Fourier series.
- Demonstrate Cosine and Sine series expansions.

In this lecture, we will illustrate the process of Fourier series expansions with three examples.

**Example #1:** Carry out the Fourier series expansion of the function given in Equation 70, illustrated in Figure 8:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -\pi \leq x < 0 \\ \pi - x, & 0 \leq x \leq \pi \end{cases} \quad (70)$$

We wish to represent this function as:

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{p} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{p} \right]$$

where, in this case,  $p = \pi$ . Even though we are only interested in the function in the interval  $[-\pi, \pi]$ , since the Fourier series represents the function in terms of a constant and an infinite linear combination of periodic functions, we should think of the function that we are representing as periodic.<sup>1</sup>

We have everything we need; it is just a matter of calculating the coefficients from Equation 67. Rather than carrying out the calculations with pencil and paper we will use MATLAB. In the listing below we will step through the code necessary to calculate Fourier coefficients through  $N=5$ .

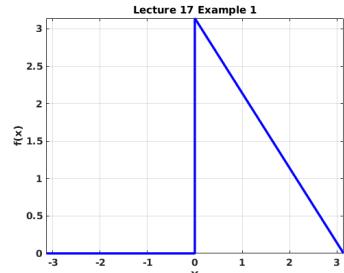


Figure 8: Example #1  $f(x)$ .

<sup>1</sup> This outlook will help us understand the convergence behavior of the Fourier series; especially at the boundaries.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 N = 5; % specify number of coefficients
5
6 f = @(x) ex1(x);
7 p = pi; % specifiy period
8

```

We start, as always, by clearing out the workspace memory and command-prompt output and closing any open figures. We also need to represent  $f(x)$  in MATLAB; we will do this with a local function named  $\text{ex1}(x)$ .<sup>2</sup>

The integrals needed to determine the Fourier coefficients will be evaluated numerically with the MATLAB built-in function `integral()`.<sup>3</sup> Let us start with  $a_0$  which, as a reminder, is computed by:

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{p} \int_{-p}^p f(x) dx$$

```

9 ao = (1/p)*integral(f,-p,p);
10 FF = @(x) ao/2;

```

The first line of the listing numerically evaluates  $a_0$ ; the second line creates an anonymous function and initializes it to the first term in the Fourier expansion.

We will use a loop to construct the remaining terms in the Fourier expansion.

```

11 for n = 1:N
12     an = (1/p)*integral(@(x) f(x).*cos(n*pi*x/p),-p,p);
13     bn = (1/p)*integral(@(x) f(x).*sin(n*pi*x/p),-p,p);
14     FF = @(x) FF(x) + an*cos(n*pi*x/p) + bn*sin(n*pi*x/p);
15 end

```

Note in the last line where we append the newly computed terms to the Fourier series expansion  $\text{FF}(x)$ . Now we have a function,  $\text{FF}(x)$ , that represents the Fourier series expansion with  $N = 5$  terms. In the next listing we add the code to plot the function and verify that it makes sense.

```

16 Nx = 1000;
17 X = linspace(-p,p,Nx);
18
19 plot(X,f(X),'-b',...
20      X,FF(X),'—r',...
21      'LineWidth',3)
22 title_str = sprintf('Example 1, n = %d',n);❶
23 title(title_str,'FontSize',16,...
24      'FontWeight','bold');
25 xlabel('X','FontSize',14,... ❷
26      'FontWeight','bold');
27 ylabel('f(X)','FontSize',14,...
28      'FontWeight','bold');

```

<sup>2</sup> Since local functions must appear after all of the other code in a MATLAB script file, the code for  $\text{ex1}(x)$  will be presented last.

<sup>3</sup> This function has default signature `Q = integral(FUN,A,B)` and it approximates the integral of the function `FUN` over the interval `A` to `B` using global adaptive quadrature. The error tolerances for this numeric integration algorithm can be specified by the user; in most cases we will use default values. There are several standard algorithms for numerically computing integrals—called quadrature—that the interested student can read about in the numerical methods portion of this text.

Recall:

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

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

Note how you can practically read the equation directly from the MATLAB code.

Referring to the annotations:

❶ Using `sprintf()` allows us to combine the variable `n` in the title string.

❷ Optional name-value pairs such as '`LineWidth`',<sup>3</sup> '`FontSize`',<sup>16</sup>, and '`FontWeight`',<sup>'bold'</sup> help make the plot and labels more readable.

```

grid on
legend('f(x)', 'FF(x)')❸
set(gca, 'FontSize', 12, ...
    'FontWeight', 'bold');❹

```

The resulting Fourier series expansion is shown in Figure 9. If we want to increase the number of Fourier series terms in the expansion, we need only change N. Figure 10 shows the series expansion with N=15 terms.

Some things to note about the resulting Fourier series representation of  $f(x)$ :

1. As n increases, FF(x) generally “looks more like”  $f(x)$ .
2. At the discontinuity in  $f(x)$ , the Fourier series representation appears to be converging on the midpoint between  $f(x^-)$  and  $f(x^+)$  as the theory says it should.
3. The Fourier series representation near the point of discontinuity has “wigginess” that doesn’t go away as n increases.
4. In particular, note the undershoot and overshoot of  $f(x)$  to the left and right respectively of  $f(0)$ . This is called “Gibbs phenomena” and it does not go away as n increases but it moves closer to the point of discontinuity.

As Figure 11 shows, as N is increased, we can make FF(x) arbitrarily close to  $f(x)$  with the exception of the perturbations at the point of discontinuity.

AN IMPORTANT MATTER that we have not yet dealt with is how to represent piece-wise continuous functions like  $f(x)$  in MATLAB.<sup>4</sup> As stated previously, we will use a *local function* to do this. The code is shown in the listing below.

```

%% Local functions
function y = ex1(x)
[m,n] = size(x); ❶
y = nan(m,n); ❷
for i = 1:length(x) ❸
    if (x(i) >= -pi) && (x(i) < 0)
        y(i) = 0;
    elseif (x(i) >= 0) && (x(i) <= pi) ❹
        y(i) = pi - x(i);
    end
end
end

```

Some notes on the annotations for this listing:

- ❶ We use the MATLAB built-in function `size()` to get the dimensions of the input vector. The return values [m,n] give the number of rows

❸ Make a habit of using legends for graphs that include multiple data series. Once again, this makes the plot more readable.

❹ The argument `gca` means “get current axis.” Calling the `set()` function with name-value pairs `'FontSize',10` and `'FontWeight','bold'` sets the font size and weight for the axis markings.

In general it is important that your plots look good.

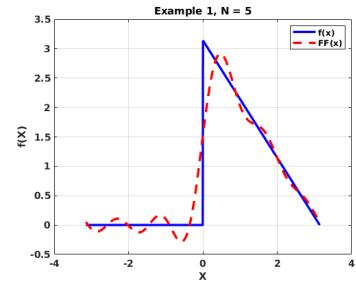


Figure 9: Fourier series expansion with N=5.

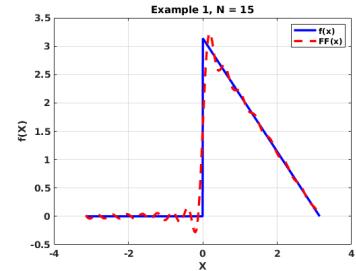


Figure 10: Fourier series expansion with N=15.

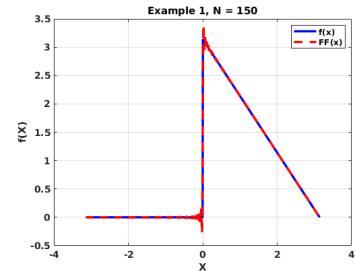


Figure 11: Fourier series expansion with N=150.

<sup>4</sup> For whatever reason, piece-wise continuous functions are intensively used in *textbooks* on partial differential equations—I am not so sure that they are as important in real-life applications.

and columns of  $x$  respectively. For this function we are implicitly expecting  $x$  to be a vector, but it can be either a row-vector or a column vector.

**②** We construct the output vector  $y$  using the `nan()` function. This line makes the vector  $y$  the same size and shape as the input vector  $x$ .

**③** We use the built-in function `length()` to get the number of elements of  $x$ . This is a bit of a hack since, if  $x$  were *not* a vector, `ex1(x)` would no longer work properly.<sup>5</sup>

**④** The symbol `&&` is “element-wise and.” Pay attention to use of `>=` and `<=` operators to get the details of the intended function correct.

**Example #2:** Carry out the Fourier series expansion of the function given in Equation 71, illustrated in Figure 12.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -1, & -\pi \leq x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 \leq x \leq \pi \end{cases} \quad (71)$$

Fourier series expansions of this function are shown in Figures 13 through 15.

Some notes:

1. As with the first example, the function has the Gibbs phenomena near the discontinuity at  $x = 0$ .
2. Also, as with the first example, the Gibbs phenomena does not go away as  $N$  increases, but it gets more “peaked” and closer to the origin.
3. Unlike the first example, we get the Gibbs phenomena and wiggliness at the ends also. This is because the Fourier series representation is periodic; the periodic extension of this function has discontinuities at the endpoints since  $f(-\pi) \neq f(\pi)$ .
4. You should also note that this function is *even*. That means we expect  $a_0$  and all values of  $a_n$  to be equal to zero. If we modify the for-loop to output values for the  $a_n$  coefficients we get all zeros.

```

for n = 1:N
    an = (1/p)*integral(@(x) f(x).*cos(n*pi*x/p),-p,p);
    fprintf('a_%d = %g\n',n,an);
    bn = (1/p)*integral(@(x) f(x).*sin(n*pi*x/p),-p,p);
    FF = @(x) FF(x) + an*cos(n*pi*x/p) + bn*sin(n*pi*x/p);
end

```

<sup>5</sup> It would be a good idea to verify that the input  $x$  is actually a vector. MATLAB, like most other languages, includes features to enforce assumptions like this. The code: `assert(min(size(x)) == 1, 'x must be a vector')` would raise an error in MATLAB if the minimum dimension of  $x$  is anything other than 1. That would be one way to ensure  $x$  is a vector.

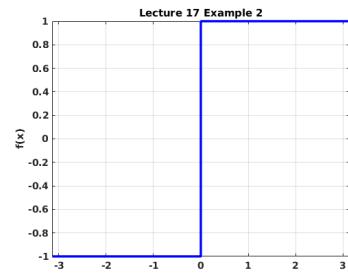


Figure 12: Example #2  $f(x)$ .

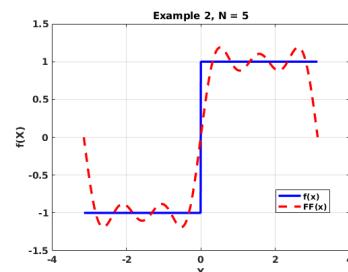


Figure 13: Fourier series expansion with  $N=5$ .

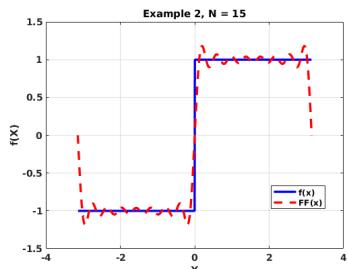


Figure 14: Fourier series expansion with  $N=15$ .

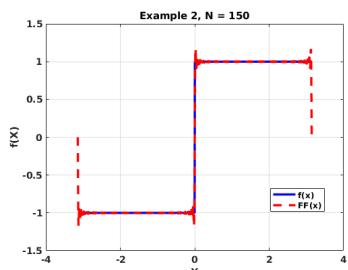


Figure 15: Fourier series expansion with  $N=150$ .

**Example #3:** Construct the Fourier series expansion of the function given in Equation 72.

$$f(x) = x^2, \quad x \in [0, 2] \quad (72)$$

This function is not periodic and, unlike the previous examples, does not even span a symmetric interval about the origin. In this case we will still use the same Fourier series formulas but we will construct a “reflection” about the origin. This reflection can be *even-*, *odd-*, or it can be an *identity-reflection* with respect to the y-axis; these correspond to the Cosine expansion, Sine expansion and the full Fourier series expansions. These different expansion options are shown in Figure 16.

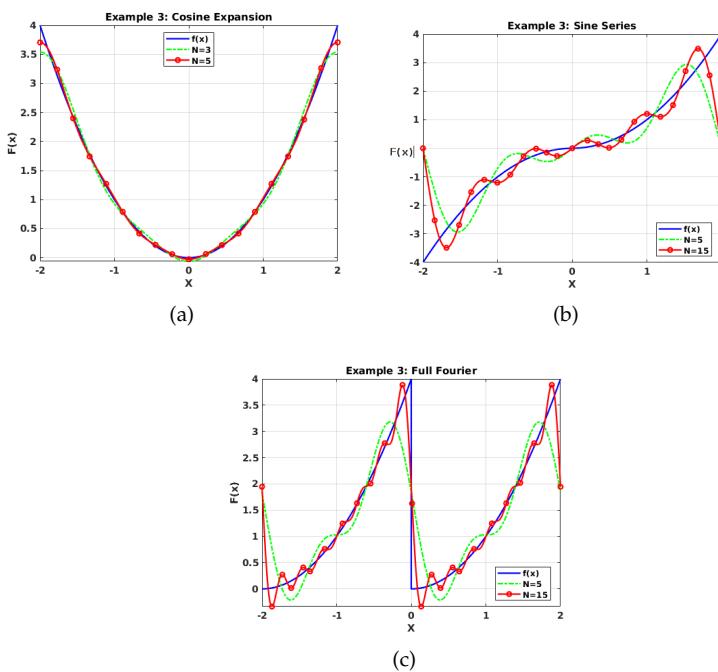


Figure 16: Even-, odd- and identity-reflection for  $f(x) = x^2$ .

Note that the convergence behavior for the Fourier expansion is different for each case.

- For the even-reflection Cosine expansion convergence is very rapid. Both  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$  are continuous throughout the interval  $x \in (-2, 2)$ . The function itself is continuous at the end-points but notice that the derivative is not. If you were to draw an additional period on the left and right-hand side of the cosine expansion,  $f'(x)$  would have a discontinuity; that explains the (relatively) poor convergence of the series at the end-points.
- For the odd-reflection Sine expansion the function and derivative are continuous throughout the domain. The derivative of the func-

As you can see, in cases where you can choose which expansion you use, some choices are good and some are bad. As we will see in coming chapters, we often do not have a choice in which set of orthogonal functions we will use to do our expansion so, sadly, we cannot pick one that we think will be best. What we *can* do is analyze the expansion that we *do* get and understand the convergence behavior by examining the continuity of the functions and derivatives of functions that we are representing.

tion is continuous at the periodic end-points but  $f(x)$  itself is not. This explains why the Sine series expansion converges to zero at both end-points.

- The identity-reflection full Fourier series has discontinuities in  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$  at both endpoints and at  $x = 0$ . The convergence behavior is correspondingly bad.

## Assignment #6

Show that the given functions are orthogonal on the given interval.

1.  $f_1(x) = e^x, f_2(x) = xe^{-x} - e^{-x}, \quad x \in [0, 2]$

2.  $f_1(x) = x, f_2(x) = \cos 2x, \quad x \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$

Show that the given set of functions is orthogonal on the indicated interval. Find the norm of each function in the set.

3.  $\{\sin x, \sin 3x, \sin 5x, \dots\}, \quad x \in [0, \pi/2]$

Use MATLAB to verify by numeric integration that the functions are orthogonal with respect to the indicated weight function on the given interval.

4.  $H_0(x) = 1, H_1(x) = 2x, H_2(x) = 4x^2 - 2; \quad w(x) = e^{-x^2}, \quad x \in (-\infty, \infty)$

**Note:** use the built-in function `integral()` to do the numeric integration. In MATLAB,  $-\infty$  and  $\infty$  are represented by `-inf` and `inf` respectively.

Use MATLAB to construct the Fourier series expansion of the given function  $f(x)$  on the given interval.

For each problem create a plot that shows: a)  $f(x)$  along with b) the truncated Fourier series of  $f(x)$  with  $N=5$  and c)  $N=15$  terms. Also give the number to which the Fourier series expansion converges at any point(s) of discontinuity in  $f(x)$ .

5.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$

$$6. f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ x^2, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$$

$$7. f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -2 < x < 0 \\ -2, & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 0, & 1 \leq x < 2 \end{cases}$$

Determine whether the given function is even, odd, or neither.

$$8. f(x) = x^2 + x$$

$$9. f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & -1 < x < 0 \\ -x^2, & 0 \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$$

Use MATLAB to expand the given function in an appropriate cosine or sine series. For each function create a plot showing: a)  $f(x)$  along with b) the truncated Fourier series of  $f(x)$  with  $N=5$  and; c)  $N=15$  terms.

$$10. f(x) = |x|, \quad -\pi < x < \pi$$

$$11. f(x) = \begin{cases} x - 1, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ x + 1, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$$

$$12. f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & -2 < x < -1 \\ -x, & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 1, & 1 \leq x < 2 \end{cases}$$

$$13. f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & 0 < x < \pi/2 \\ \pi - x, & \pi/2 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$$

# Lecture 18 - Sturm-Liouville Problems

## Objectives

- Define regular/singular Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problems and give properties of their solutions.
- Do an example problem for finding eigenvalues and eigenfunctions.
- Do an example problem for transforming a linear, second-order, homogeneous boundary value problem into self-adjoint form.

## Regular Sturm-Liouville Eigenvalue Problem

We have solved several differential equations in this class. All of the boundary value problems that we have solved so far are special cases of a more general framework called Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problems. That is what we wish to discuss in this lecture.

For the regular Sturm-Liouville Eigenvalue problem we hope to solve:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [r(x)u'] + (q(x) + \lambda p(x)) u = 0, \quad x \in (a, b) \quad (73)$$

subject to the boundary conditions:

$$A_1 u(a) + B_1 u'(a) = 0, \text{ where } A_1, \text{ and } B_1 \text{ are not both zero.}$$

$$A_2 u(b) + B_2 u'(b) = 0, \text{ where } A_2, \text{ and } B_2 \text{ are not both zero.}$$

Note that these boundary conditions are referred to as *homogeneous*. The same rule that we use to decide if a differential equation is homogeneous apply in the same way to the boundary conditions. For a boundary value problem to be homogeneous, *both* the differential equation and boundary conditions must be homogeneous.

**Note:** for Equation 73,  $r(x)$ ,  $r'(x)$ ,  $q(x)$ , and  $p(x)$  must be real-valued and continuous on the interval  $x \in (a, b)$ . Also  $p(x) > 0$  and  $r(x) > 0$  for all  $x \in (a, b)$ . These are important conditions that should be verified each time you encounter a new problem. The constant  $\lambda$  is referred to as an *eigenvalue*.

For ODEs that we solved in earlier lectures, we routinely dealt with problems having non-homogeneous boundary conditions. As we go forward to solve linear partial differential equations using separation of variables, it will be *essential* that the boundary conditions are homogeneous. So you should be sure that you know how to check/verify that condition.

Properties of the Regular Sturm-Liouville problem:

1. There exist an infinite number of real eigenvalues that can be arranged in increasing order. (e.g.  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \lambda_3 < \dots < \lambda_n < \dots$ )
2. For each eigenvalue,  $\lambda_n$ , there is exactly one eigenfunction,  $u_n(x)$ , that is a solution to the problem.
3. Eigenfunctions corresponding to different eigenvalues are linearly independent.
4. The set of eigenfunctions is orthogonal with respect to  $p(x)$  on the interval  $[a, b]$ . In other words:  $\int_a^b u_n(x)u_m(x)p(x) dx = 0$  if  $n \neq m$ .
5. The set of eigenfunctions is complete on the interval  $[a, b]$ . In other words, for any (reasonable)  $f(x)$ , we can represent  $f(x)$  as a linear combination of those eigenfunctions:  $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n u_n(x)$ .<sup>1</sup>

If  $r(x)$  in Equation 73 is zero at either boundary, the problem is said to be a singular boundary value problem. If  $r(a) = r(b)$ , with suitable boundary conditions, the problem is said to be a periodic boundary value problem.

**Example:** Find the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the following boundary value problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Equation:} & u'' + \lambda u = 0, \quad x \in [0, 1] \\ \text{BCs:} & u(0) = 0, \quad u(1) + u'(1) = 0 \end{array}$$

To fully analyze this problem we will have to consider three cases for  $\lambda$ :  $\lambda < 0$ ,  $\lambda = 0$ , and  $\lambda > 0$ .

$\lambda = 0$ : In this case, the differential equation reduces to:

$$u'' = 0$$

with general solution:  $u(x) = c_1(x) + c_2$ . If we apply the boundary condition  $u(0) = 0$ , this implies that  $u(0) = c_1(0) + c_2 = c_2 = 0$ . So the solution is simplified to  $u(x) = c_1(x)$ . The second boundary condition:  $u(1) + u'(1) = c_1(1) + c_1 = 2c_1 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0$ . The only solution that satisfies the equation and boundary conditions for  $\lambda = 0$  is the trivial solution  $u(x) = 0$ .<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Another way of saying this is that no function,  $f(x)$ , can be orthogonal to *all* of the eigenfunctions,  $u_n(x)$ , on the interval  $[a, b]$ .

To obtain values for the coefficients,  $c_n$ , we need only take the inner product with the corresponding eigenfunction,  $u_n$ . i.e. multiply both sides by an orthogonal function and integrate.

Note that this problem is not presented in self-adjoint form. Have faith that it is, indeed, a Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problem and could be presented in self-adjoint form. We will practice making this transformation later in the lecture.

<sup>2</sup> The trivial solution,  $u(x) = 0$  will always satisfy a homogeneous boundary value problem and, in general, is of little interest to us. What we take from this part of the analysis is that we will rule out  $\lambda = 0$  since there are no *interesting* solutions in that case.

$\lambda < 0$ : For this case we will assume  $\lambda = -\alpha^2$  where  $\alpha > 0$ . The differential equation reduces to:

$$u'' - \alpha^2 u = 0$$

This equation has the general solution of:

$$u(x) = c_1 e^{-\alpha x} + c_2 e^{\alpha x}$$

or:

$$u(x) = c_1 \cosh \alpha x + c_2 \sinh \alpha x$$

Since this problem is posed on a bounded interval, we will choose the second form above. Applying the first boundary condition gives us:  $u(0) = c_1 \cosh 0 + c_2 \sinh 0 = c_1(1) + c_2(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0$ . Applying the second boundary condition to the current solution gives us:  $u(1) + u'(1) = c_2 \sinh 1 + c_2 \cosh 1 = 0$ .

We recall that both  $\sinh x$  and  $\cosh x$  are strictly positive on  $x \in (0, 1)$  so the only way the second boundary condition can be met is for  $c_2 = 0$ . Consequently only the trivial solution,  $u(x) = 0$ , satisfies the governing equation and boundary conditions for the case that  $\lambda < 0$ .

$\lambda > 0$ : For this case we will assume  $\lambda = \alpha^2$  where  $\alpha > 0$ . The differential equation reduces to:

$$u'' + \alpha^2 u = 0$$

This equation has the general solution of  $u(x) = c_1 \cos \alpha x + c_2 \sin \alpha x$ . Applying the first boundary condition gives us:  $u(0) = c_1 \cos 0 + c_2 \sin 0 = c_1(1) + c_2(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0$ . Applying the second boundary condition to the current solution gives us:  $u(1) + u'(1) = c_2 \sin \alpha + \alpha c_2 \cos \alpha = 0$ , or:

$$u(x) = c_2 [\sin \alpha + \alpha \cos \alpha] = 0 \quad (74)$$

This equation can be satisfied simply by setting  $c_2 = 0$ , but we will resist that temptation since that would then imply that there are *no* values of  $\lambda$  that admit a non-trivial solution for this problem. Instead we will look for values of  $\alpha$  such that:

$$\sin \alpha + \alpha \cos \alpha = 0 \quad (75)$$

We can see from Figure 17 that there are values of  $\alpha$  that satisfy this condition.<sup>3</sup> We will denote these eigenvalues  $\alpha_1^2 = \lambda_1, \alpha_2^2 = \lambda_2, \dots, \alpha_n^2 = \lambda_n$  and the corresponding eigenfunctions are denoted:  $u_n(x) = \sin \alpha_n x$ .

Recall that these two solutions are equivalent. We will generally use the first form on *unbounded* intervals; the second form on *bounded* intervals.

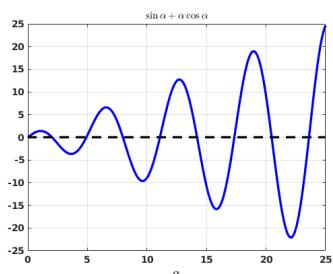
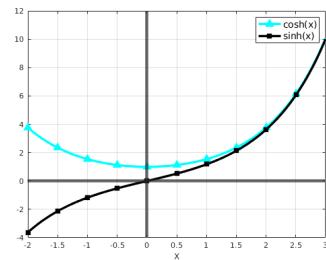


Figure 17: Plot of  $\sin \alpha + \alpha \cos \alpha$ .

<sup>3</sup> We probably should not assume as much by looking at the plot in Figure 17 but it turns out that there are infinitely many zeros.

WE WILL DEFER, for the moment, the problem of finding the roots to Equation 75. Suffice it to say that there are infinitely many distinct roots yielding the infinitely many eigenvalues to go with the infinitely many eigenfunctions. They can be found with a non-linear equation solver (“root-finder”) for which there are several reliable algorithms.

### Transforming Equations to Self-Adjoint Form

Apart from sharing some theoretical tid-bits regarding Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problems, the *point* of this lecture is to highlight: a) the eigenfunctions that solve the eigenvalue problem; and b) their property of weighted orthogonality. Recalling the last two lectures where we used an infinite set of trigonometric functions for functional expansion in a Fourier series, we will want to use *other* functions for such expansions. Those other functions will be the set of eigenfunctions associated with a Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problem.

As previously mentioned, the eigenfunction solutions are linearly independent and orthogonal with respect to weight function  $p(x)$ . We need to know what that weight function is in order to carry out an orthogonal function expansion like Fourier series.

CONSIDER THE LINEAR, homogeneous, second-order boundary value problem shown in Equation 76:

$$a(x)u'' + b(x)u' + (c(x) + \lambda d(x))u = 0 \quad (76)$$

where  $a(x) \neq 0$  and  $a(x)$ ,  $b(x)$ ,  $c(x)$ , and  $d(x)$  are continuous. We will convert to the self-adjoint form:  $\frac{d}{dx} [r(x)u'] + [q(x) + \lambda p(x)]u = 0$  by determining the functions  $r(x)$ ,  $q(x)$ , and  $p(x)$  as follows:

$$1. \ r(x) = e^{\int b(x)/a(x) dx}$$

$$2. \ q(x) = \frac{c(x)}{a(x)}r(x)$$

$$3. \ p(x) = \frac{d(x)}{a(x)}r(x)$$

The sines and cosines used in Fourier series fit within this theory. It turns out that the weight function  $p(x)$  in that case is  $p(x) = 1$ .

**Example:** Express the following equation, which has solutions  $P_n(x)$  in self-adjoint form and give the orthogonality relation.

$$\underbrace{(1-x^2)}_{a(x)} u'' \underbrace{-2x u'}_{b(x)} + \underbrace{\lambda n(n+1)}_{c(x)} u = 0, \quad x \in (-1, 1)$$

From the equation,  $a(x)$  and  $b(x)$  are annotated;  $c(x) = 0$  and  $d(x) = 1$ . We first compute  $r(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} r(x) &= e^{\int \frac{-2x}{(1-x^2)} dx} \\ &= e^{\int \frac{1}{u} du} \\ &= e^{\ln u} \\ &= u \\ &= 1-x^2 \end{aligned}$$

Now we compute  $q(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} q(x) &= \frac{c(x)}{a(x)} r(x) \\ &= \frac{0}{(1-x^2)} (1-x^2) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Then  $p(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= \frac{d(x)}{a(x)} r(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{(1-x^2)} (1-x^2) \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the boundary value problem in self-adjoint form is:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[ (1-x^2) u' \right] + \lambda_n u = 0 \quad (77)$$

where  $\lambda_n = n(n+1)$ . As given in the problem statement, the eigenfunctions are  $P_n(x)$  and the weight function  $p(x) = 1$ . The orthogonality relation is:

$$(P_m, P_n) = \int_{-1}^1 P_m(x) P_n(x) (1) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ \frac{2}{2n+1}, & m = n \end{cases}$$

This is Legendre's equation that we solved in a previous lecture.  $P_n(x)$  is standard notation for Legendre polynomials of order  $n$ .

Here we use a  $u$ -substitution:

$$\begin{aligned} u &= (1-x^2) \\ du &= -2x dx \\ \text{so } e^{\int \frac{-2x}{(1-x^2)} dx} &= e^{\int \frac{1}{u} du} \text{ following this substitution.} \end{aligned}$$

**Note:** You will not be expected to know, by inspection, the value of  $(P_n, P_n)$  but it is provided here for your information.



# Lecture 19 - Fourier-Bessel Series Expansions

## Objectives

- Present the parametric Bessel equation as a Sturm-Liouville problem and derive the orthogonality relation.
- Do an example to show a Fourier-Bessel expansion of a function.
- Demonstrate use of the MATLAB function `besselzero()`.

## Parametric Bessel Equation

The parametric Bessel equation is a second-order linear, homogeneous differential equation that also fits within Sturm-Liouville theory. As a reminder, the equation is:

$$x^2 u'' + xu' + (\alpha^2 x^2 - \nu^2) u = 0$$

and the general solution is given by:

$$u(x) = c_1 J_\nu(\alpha x) + c_2 Y_\nu(\alpha x)$$

The solutions,  $J_\nu(\alpha x)$  and  $Y_\nu(\alpha x)$  are, of course, linearly independent but they also are orthogonal with respect to some weight function  $p(x)$ . We can use them to construct an orthogonal function expansion in exactly the same way we did with Fourier series. That is what we will do in this lecture. To accomplish this we want to put the parametric Bessel equation in self-adjoint form and we will proceed in this effort just as we did in the last lecture.

Let us first put the parametric Bessel equation in standard form:

$$\begin{aligned} a(x)u'' + b(x)u' + [c(x) + \lambda d(x)]u &= 0 \\ x^2 u'' + xu' + [-\nu^2 + \alpha^2 x^2]u &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

so,  $a(x) = x^2$ ,  $b(x) = x$ ,  $c(x) = -\nu^2$ , and  $d(x) = x^2$ .

It may not be clear immediately that  $\lambda$  corresponds to values of  $\alpha$  but that is the correct inference; when we do the orthogonal function expansion with Bessel functions it will be more clear why that is the case.

Next we will compute  $r(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} r(x) &= e^{\int \frac{b(x)}{a(x)} dx} \\ &= e^{\int \frac{x}{x^2} dx} \\ &= e^{\int \frac{1}{x} dx} \\ &= e^{\ln x} \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

Now we compute  $q(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} q(x) &= \frac{c(x)}{a(x)} r(x) \\ &= \frac{-\nu^2}{x^2} x \\ &= -\frac{\nu^2}{x} \end{aligned}$$

Then  $p(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= \frac{d(x)}{a(x)} r(x) \\ &= \frac{x^2}{x^2} x \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

So the self-adjoint form of the parametric Bessel equation is:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [xu'] + \left( -\frac{\nu^2}{x} + \alpha^2 x \right) u = 0$$

The corresponding orthogonality relation is shown in Equation 78:

$$\int_a^b J_\nu(\alpha_n x) J_\nu(\alpha_m x) x dx = 0, \quad n \neq m \quad (78)$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are the bounds of the interval on which orthogonality is expressed.

**Example:** Expand  $f(x) = x$ ,  $0 < x < 3$ , in a Fourier-Bessel series, using Bessel functions of order  $\nu = 1$  that satisfy the boundary condition  $J_1(3\alpha) = 0$ .

So what we want is:

$$f(x) = x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n J_1(\alpha_n x)$$

Note that we omit Bessel functions of the second kind,  $Y_n(x)$ , because as is shown in the figure, they diverge to negative infinity as  $x$  goes

Admittedly, the real reason why we want to do this is to obtain the weight function  $p(x)$  which, in this case is  $p(x) = x$ .

Like other Sturm-Liouville problems we will find that there are infinitely many distinct eigenvalues,  $\lambda_n$ , which for this equation we will refer to as  $\alpha_n$ . Note the weight function  $x$  now appears in the inner product.

Remember that it is the *boundary conditions* that allow us to determine the eigenvalues.

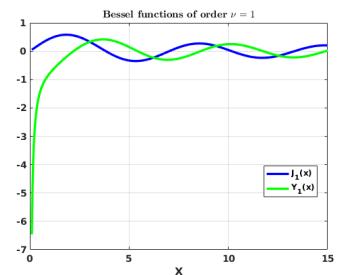


Figure 18: Bessel functions of order 1.

to zero. This *implicit boundary condition*, where one solution of the differential equation diverges at the problem boundary, often needs to be considered when solving boundary value problems.

The other boundary condition applies at  $x = 3$ :  $J_1(3\alpha_n) = 0$  or, put differently, we select the values of  $\alpha_n$  such that  $3\alpha_n$  is a root of  $J_1(x)$ . While our plot of  $J_1(x)$  does not extend out to infinity, it turns out that  $J_1(x)$  has infinitely many roots and we need to find them.

### *Interlude on Open-Source Software*

At some point in time in your life as an engineer it is inevitable that a problem will arise that you are not prepared to tackle yourself. The tools you have been given to do your job do not fully answer to the task at hand. This is one such occasion. We need to find the roots of  $J_1(x)$ . You know those values exist but you do not know what they are and it turns out that MATLAB does not (at this time) have any built-in functions to give you the roots of such functions either.<sup>1</sup>

Some options available to you include:

1. Go to the library and check out a book that tabulates some roots of  $J_1(x)$ —possibly also including scads of additional Bessel function lore<sup>2</sup>—and enter the desired roots by hand into your MATLAB code.
2. Implement an algorithm to find the roots of  $J_1(x)$ , possibly using a root-finding tool in MATLAB such as `fzero()` or `fsolve()`.
3. Find a third-party function or library that has already been written that solves the problem.

In this case we will take the last option since, it turns out, someone *has* already solved this problem for us and it is a safe bet that they did a better job than what we would be prepared to do. The MATLAB file exchange is an online repository where people can freely share code that they find useful and other users can look there in search of helpful code when needed.<sup>3</sup>

WE HAVE A LOT of experience with proprietary software. From operating systems like Microsoft Windows or Apple's iOS to office productivity tools like Microsoft Word or Excel, to valuable and important engineering tools like MATLAB or COMSOL. We also have experience with free software, such as many applications that you download onto your smartphones. I want to write a few words in hopes of dispelling any negative connotations that you may have developed in relation to open-source software in comparison to proprietary software.

<sup>1</sup> MATLAB *does* have built-in functions to represent several types of Bessel functions;  $J_\nu(x)$  and  $Y_\nu(x)$  are represented, respectively, by `besselj(nu,x)` and `bessely(nu,x)`. We will learn about more Bessel functions in future lectures.

<sup>2</sup> Frank Bowman. *Introduction to Bessel functions*. Courier Corporation, 2012

The Fourier-Bessel expansion that we are learning about in this lecture is a standard element in the analytical methods repertoire; *of course* someone else has already figured out how to find the roots of Bessel functions.

<sup>3</sup> Note that a (free) MathWorks account is required to use the MATLAB file exchange.

- Scientists and engineers of all types—not just computer scientists—write and share software. Sometimes this software is open-source. Online repositories like GitHub and GitLab are meant expressly for developing open-source software in a collaborative way and then sharing the results freely.
- “Open-source” ensures the source code is available. Sometimes the code is also free but that is not the essential part.<sup>4</sup>
- Open-source software is a *hugely* important contribution to science. Some free and open-source tools include:
  - The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X typesetting tools and almost all of the other software installed on the computer used to prepare this manuscript, including the Linux operating system.<sup>5</sup>
  - Programming languages that have been a part of the scientific computing landscape for generations. Some examples are Python, C++, Java and FORTRAN among others.
  - OpenMC<sup>6</sup> - a powerful particle transport simulation tool similar to MCNP.
  - MOOSE - Multi-physics Object-Oriented Simulation Environment which combines the open-source finite element library libMesh<sup>8</sup> and the Portable, Extensible Toolkit for Scientific Computation (PETSc)<sup>9</sup> along with a host of other free, open-source libraries to create an enormously powerful and flexible tool-set that is used to create *the majority of all new multi-physics nuclear analysis codes in the United States*.<sup>10</sup>
- As the previous item should help illustrate, open-source software can be of very high quality. The developers of MOOSE-based applications at the Department of Energy labs are highly trained scientists following nuclear quality assurance standards to ensure that the resulting software tools work correctly and do what they are supposed to do.

If you have any interest in scientific computing, now is a good time to also develop an interest in open-source software.

### *Back to the Example*

We want to expand  $f(x) = x$  for  $0 < x < 3$  in a Fourier-Bessel series expansion using Bessel functions of the first kind of order 1 that satisfy the boundary condition:  $J_1(3\alpha_n) = 0$ . We will use MATLAB along with the function `besselzero()` that we obtained from the MATLAB file exchange to carry out this task. In particular we

<sup>4</sup> To paraphrase the famous open-source software icon, Richard Stallman: free software means “free speech,” not “free beer.” But sometimes it is a lot more like free beer.

<sup>5</sup> MATLAB is a notable exception to this list. There is a free and open-source alternative called Octave. <https://octave.org/>

<sup>6</sup> OpenMC: A state-of-the-art Monte Carlo code for research and development. *Annals of Nuclear Energy*, 82: 90–97, 2015

<sup>7</sup> Alexander D. Lindsay et al. 2.0 - MOOSE: Enabling massively parallel multiphysics simulation. *SoftwareX*, 20: 101202, 2022. ISSN 2352-7110

<sup>8</sup> Benjamin S Kirk, John W Peterson, Roy H Stogner, and Graham F Carey. libMesh: a C++ library for parallel adaptive mesh refinement/coarsening simulations. *Engineering with Computers*, 22:237–254, 2006

<sup>9</sup> Balay et al. PETSc/TAO Users Manual. Technical Report ANL-21/39 - Revision 3.19, Argonne National Laboratory, 2023

<sup>10</sup> For a list of current applications tracked by the MOOSE development team see: [https://mooseframework.inl.gov/application\\_usage/tracked\\_apps.html](https://mooseframework.inl.gov/application_usage/tracked_apps.html). Not all of these codes are open-source, but they have all been created with open-source tools.

will compute the truncated expansion with  $N = 15$  terms:

$$f(x) = x = \sum_{n=1}^{15} c_n J_1(\alpha_n x)$$

1. Use `besselzero()` to get  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_N$  for our expansion.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

N = 15; % number of eigenvalues
a = 0; b = 3; % bounds of the domain
nu = 1; kind = 1;
k = besselzero(nu,N,kind); % get roots ❶
alpha = k/b; ❷

```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

❶ `besselzero()` takes up to three arguments; the first,  $\nu$ , is mandatory and refers to the order of the Bessel function; the second is the number of roots requested. This argument defaults to 5 if omitted. The third argument is to indicate the *kind*—first or second—of Bessel function for which you want the roots (indicated by `kind=1` or `kind=2`); default is 1 for first kind.

❷ since  $J_1(\alpha_n 3) = k_n$ , where  $k_n$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of  $J_1$ ,  $\alpha_n$  must be equal to  $k_n/3$ .

Now we have the first  $N=15$  values of  $\alpha_n$ .

2. Compute the coefficients of the expansion  $c_n$ . As with the Fourier series, we do this by multiplying both sides of our equation by an orthogonal function *and the weight function*,  $p(x) = x$ , and integrating. For example, to get  $c_1$ , we do the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= x = c_1 J_1(\alpha_1 x) + c_2 J_1(\alpha_2 x) + \dots \\
 \int_0^3 x J_1(\alpha_1 x) x \, dx &= c_1 \int_0^3 J_1(\alpha_1 x)^2 x \, dx + c_2 \int_0^3 J_1(\alpha_2 x) J_1(\alpha_1 x) x \, dx + \dots \\
 &\quad \boxed{= 0 \text{ by orthogonality}} \\
 \Rightarrow c_1 &= \frac{\int_0^3 x J_1(\alpha_1 x) x \, dx}{\int_0^3 J_1(\alpha_1 x)^2 x \, dx}
 \end{aligned}$$

For the calculation of  $c_1$ , all of the remaining terms are zero due to the weighted orthogonality of the eigenfunctions  $J_1(\alpha_n x)$ . We repeat the process for all values of  $c_n$  and, in MATLAB, we implement this process in the form of a loop.

```

f = @(x) x;
cn = nan(N,1); % store the coefficients (optional)
FB = @(x) 0; % initialize the Fourier-Bessel expansion
for n = 1:N
    % compute the i-th coefficient
    cn(n) = ...
        integral(@(x) f(x).*besselj(nu,alpha(n)*x).*x,a,b) ./ ... ❸
        integral(@(x) x.*besselj(nu,alpha(n)*x).^2,a,b);
    % update the Fourier-Bessel expansion
    FB = @(x) FB(x) + cn(n)*besselj(nu,alpha(n)*x);
end
end

```

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

❸ these three lines are actually one long line of MATLAB that calculates the coefficients:

$$c_n = \frac{\int_0^3 x J_1(\alpha_1 x) x \, dx}{\int_0^3 J_1(\alpha_1 x)^2 x \, dx}$$

We are now ready to plot the resulting Fourier expansion.

```

Nx = 1000;
X = linspace(a,b,Nx); ❹

```

22  
23

❹ Create a vector to represent the  $x$ -axis.

```

figure(1)
plot(X,FB(X), '-b', 'LineWidth', 3);
xlabel('X', 'fontsize', 14, 'fontweight', 'bold');
ylabel('f(X)', 'fontsize', 14, 'fontweight', 'bold');
titlestr = sprintf('Fourier-Bessel expansion, N = %d', N);
title(titlestr, 'fontsize', 16, 'fontweight', 'bold');
grid on
set(gca, 'fontsize', 12, 'fontweight', 'bold');

```

The Fourier-Bessel expansion of  $f(x) = x$  with  $N = 15$  is shown in Figure 19. Note that the expansion for  $N = 15$  looks pretty rough. There are many wiggles through the domain and the expansion drops suddenly to zero as the function approaches  $x = 3$ . The reason for this is that it had to. We are building the expansion with orthogonal functions that are all equal to zero at  $x = 3$ . Of course  $f(x) = x$  is equal to 3 at  $x = 3$  so something had to give.

We can improve the quality of the expansion by taking more terms. Luckily, since we are using a computer, it is no problem at all to simply increase  $N$ ; the computer does the same thing, just more of it. The result is shown in Figure 20 where the wigginess remains—including the Gibbs phenomena we saw with Fourier series—but overall the representation is much more exact.

### Measuring Expansion Accuracy

There is a straight-forward way to be more precise when we speak of the accuracy of an orthogonal function expansion. A frequently used relative error measure is shown in Equation 79:

$$\text{Relative error} = \frac{(f(x) - FB(x), f(x) - FB(x))}{(f(x), f(x))} = \dots$$

$$\frac{\int_a^b (f(x) - FB(x))^2 dx}{\int_a^b f(x)^2 dx} \quad (79)$$

MATLAB code for quantitatively measuring the relative error as the number of terms increases is shown below. From Figure 21 we can see that, as expected, the relative error steadily goes down.<sup>11</sup>

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

N = 500; % number of eigenvalues
a = 0; b = 3; % bounds of the domain
nu = 1; kind = 1;
k = besselzero(nu,N,kind); % get roots
alpha = k/b;

f = @(x) x;

```

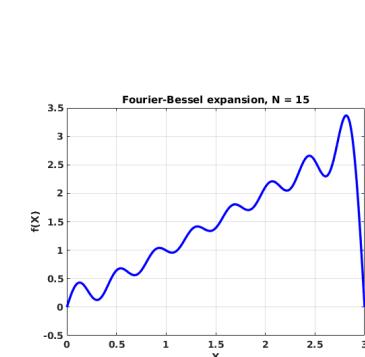


Figure 19: Fourier-Bessel expansion of  $f(x) = x$ .

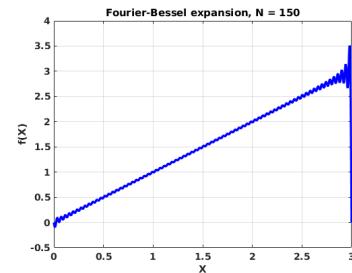


Figure 20: Fourier-Bessel expansion of  $f(x) = x$ .

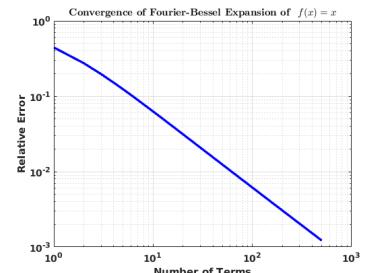


Figure 21: Convergence of the Fourier-Bessel expansion of  $f(x) = x$ .

<sup>11</sup> Note that it is conventional to show convergence graphs such as this on a log-log plot. Eventually, we should expect errors in the determination of Bessel function roots and/or errors in carrying out the numeric integration to prevent further reduction in relative error.

```

cn = nan(N,1); % store the coefficients (optional)
rel_err = nan(N,1);

FB = @(x) o; % initialize the Fourier-Bessel expansion
for n = 1:N
    % compute the i-th coefficient
    cn(n) = ...
        integral(@(x) f(x).*besselj(nu,alpha(n)*x).*x,a,b) ./ ...
        integral(@(x) x.*besselj(nu,alpha(n)*x).^2,a,b);
    % update the Fourier-Bessel expansion
    FB = @(x) FB(x) + cn(n)*besselj(nu,alpha(n)*x);

    % calculate square norm of the relative "error"
    err_fn = @(x) FB(x) - f(x);
    rel_err(n) = integral(@(x) err_fn(x).^2,a,b) ./ ...
        integral(@(x) f(x).^2,a,b);
end

figure(1)
loglog(1:N,rel_err,'-b',...
    'LineWidth',3);
title('Convergence of Fourier-Bessel Expansion of f(x)=x^3',...
    'Interpreter','latex');
ylabel('Relative Error','FontSize',14,...
    'FontWeight','bold');
xlabel('Number of Terms','FontSize',14,...
    'FontWeight','bold');
grid on
set(gca,'FontSize',12,'FontWeight','bold');

```



# Lecture 20 - Fourier-Legendre Series Expansion

## Objectives

- Revisit the Legendre equation as a Sturm-Liouville problem and give its orthogonality relation.
- Give an example to show the expansion of a function in terms of Legendre polynomials.

## Orthogonality with Legendre Polynomials

We have some experience with Legendre's equation and their solutions, Legendre polynomials. As a recap, however, Legendre's equation is shown in Equation 80.

$$(1-x^2) u'' - 2xu' + n(n+1)u = 0, \quad x \in (-1,1) \quad (80)$$

The general solution is  $u(x) = c_n P_n(x)$  where  $P_n(x)$  is the Legendre polynomial of order  $n$ .

As demonstrated in Lecture 18, the self-adjoint form for Legendre's equation is given in Equation 81.

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[ (1-x^2) u' \right] + \overbrace{n(n+1)}^{\lambda} u = 0 \quad (81)$$

The orthogonality relation is shown below:

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_m(x) P_n(x) (1) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ \frac{2}{2n+1}, & m = n \end{cases}$$

If we need to represent a function  $f(x)$  in terms of Legendre polynomials, we can carry out a *Fourier-Legendre* expansion as shown below:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n P_n(x) \quad (82)$$

where:

$$c_n = \frac{(f(x), P_n(x))}{(P_n(x), P_n(x))} = \frac{\int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx}{2/2n+1} \quad (83)$$

As a reminder the first few Legendre polynomials are:  $P_0(x) = 1$ ,  $P_1(x) = x$ ,  $P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$ , and  $P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x)$ .

Recall that for Legendre's equation, the weight function  $p(x)$  is equal to 1. Also recall that  $(P_n, P_n) = 2/2n+1$ .

As usual we can derive the formulas for the coefficients  $c_n$  of Equation 83 by multiplying both sides of Equation 82 by  $P_n(x)$  and integrating.

The convergence behavior of Fourier-Legendre series expansions is similar to that for the Fourier series expansion using trigonometric polynomials. This behavior is recapitulated in the next theorem.

**Theorem 9 (Convergence of Fourier-Legendre Series)**

Let  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$  be piece-wise continuous on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ . Then for all  $x$  in the interval, the Fourier-Legendre series of  $f$  converges to  $f(x)$  at a point where  $f(x)$  is continuous and to the average:

$$\frac{f(x^+) + f(x^-)}{2}$$

at points where  $f(x)$  is discontinuous.

This also happens to be true for Fourier-Bessel expansions.

**Example:** Construct the Fourier-Legendre expansion of:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -1 < x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$$

Since the tools we need to use have largely been introduced already, I will simply present the necessary MATLAB code in a single listing.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'
4
5
6 f = @(x) ex1(x);
7
8 N = 15; % number of terms
9 a = -1; b = 1; % boundaries
10
11 % handle P0 coefficient separately
12 co = (1/2)*integral(@(x) f(x),a,b); ❶
13 cn = nan(N-1,1);
14 error_norm = nan(N,1);
15
16 FL = @(x) co;
17
18 % calculate relative error
19 err_fn = @(x) FL(x) - f(x);
20 error_norm(1) = integral(@(x) err_fn(x).^2,a,b) ./ ...
21     integral(@(x) f(x).^2,a,b);
22
23 for n = 1:(N-1)
24     % compute the n'th coefficient ❷
25     cn(n) = ((2*n+1)/2)*integral(@(x) f(x).*legendreP(n,x),a,b);
26     FL = @(x) FL(x) + cn(n)*legendreP(n,x); %update the
27     expansion
28
29     % compute the error.
30     err_fn = @(x) FL(x) - f(x);
31     error_norm(n+1) = integral(@(x) err_fn(x).^2,a,b) ./ ...
32         integral(@(x) f(x).^2,a,b); % normalize error by size of
33         function.
34 end

```

❶ Recall that  $P_0(x) = 1$  and, according to our formula,

$$\begin{aligned} (P_0(x), P_0(x)) &= \frac{2}{2n+1} \\ &= \frac{2}{2(0)+1} \\ &= 2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} c_0 &= \frac{(f(x), P_0)}{(P_0, P_0)} \\ &= \frac{\int_{-1}^1 f(x)(1) dx}{2} \end{aligned}$$

❷ In addition to using the formula for  $(P_n(x), P_n(x))$  we use the built-in MATLAB function for constructing  $P_n(x)$ : `legendreP(n,x)`.

```

%% Plot the result
Nx = 1000;
X = linspace(a,b,Nx);

figure(1)
plot(X,FL(X),'-g',...
      X,f(X),'--b',...
      'LineWidth',3);
grid on
xlabel('X','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('f(X)','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
titlestr = ...
    sprintf('Fourier-Legendre expansion, N = %d',N);
title(titlestr,'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');

%% Plot the error
figure(2)
loglog(1:N,error_norm,'-ok','linewidth',3);
title('Convergence behavior','fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
grid on
xlabel('Number of Fourier-Legendre Terms','fontsize',14,...
      'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('Relative Error','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');

%% Local functions
function y = ex1(x)
[m,n] = size(x);
% expect vector inputs.
assert(min(m,n) == 1,'Bad input for ex1'); ③
% construct y so that it has the same shape as x
y = nan(m,n);
for i = 1:length(x)
    if (x(i) > -1) && (x(i) < 0)
        y(i) = 0;
    elseif (x(i) >= 0) && (x(i) < 1)
        y(i) = 1;
    end
end
end

```

③ Here we used an assert() function to enforce the requirement that inputs to ex1(x) be scalars or vectors but not a matrix. Any time you write a piece of code that relies on some kind of assumption—the input  $x$  must be a vector, for example—you really should add something like this assert() function to ensure that your assumption really is true. For larger software projects this sort of small-scale testing is essential for code reliability and maintainability.

A PLOT OF the Fourier-Legendre expansion is shown in Figure 22 and the convergence behavior is shown in Figure 23. Several things should be noted.

1. Clearly we can see from Figure 22 that the Fourier-Legendre expansion is converging to the average value at the point of discontinuity at  $x = 0$ .
2. Like other Fourier expansions, perturbations (“wigglyness”) is introduced by that discontinuity and this is something that we should learn to expect.
3. Also note that from Figure 23 we see that the expansion improves when we add the  $c_0$  term, the  $c_1$  term,  $c_3$  term, and all

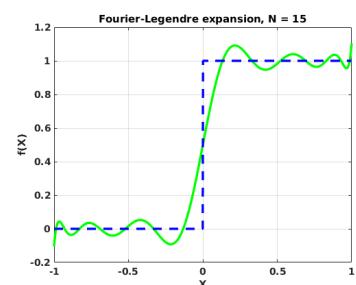


Figure 22: Fourier-Legendre expansion with  $N = 15$ .

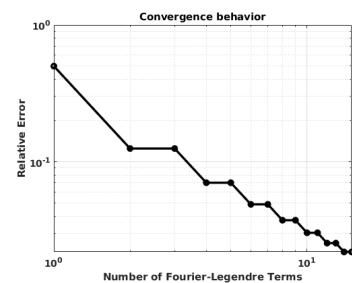


Figure 23: Convergence of Fourier-Legendre expansion

odd-numbered terms but the relative error does not change for the even-numbered terms  $c_2, c_4, \dots, c_{14}$ . Looking at  $f(x)$  it should be apparent that, in some sense anyway, the function is *odd*—or at least “odd-ish”; you could make it odd by subtracting out a constant term (i.e.  $f(x) - 0.5$  is odd and the  $c_0$  coefficient is equal to that 0.5). The even-order Legendre polynomials are even and orthogonal to  $f(x)$ .

## Assignment #7

Find the eigenfunctions and the equation that defines the eigenvalues for the boundary-value problem. Use MATLAB to estimate the first 4 eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ , and  $\lambda_4$ . Give the eigenfunctions corresponding to these eigenvalues and find the square norm of each eigenfunction.

1.  $u'' + \lambda u = 0, \quad u'(0) = 0, \quad u(1) + u'(1) = 0$

2. Consider  $u'' + \lambda u = 0$  subject to  $u'(0) = 0, u'(L) = 0$ . Show that the eigenfunctions are:

$$\left\{ 1, \cos \frac{\pi x}{L}, \cos \frac{2\pi x}{L}, \dots \right\}$$

This set, which is orthogonal on  $x \in [0, L]$ , is the basis for the Fourier cosine series.

3. Consider the following boundary value problem:

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 u'' + xu' + \lambda u &= 0, \quad x \in (1, 5) \\ u(1) &= 0, \quad u(5) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

(a) Find the (non-trivial) eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the boundary value problem. Note: this is a Cauchy-Euler equation with solutions of the form  $u = x^m$ .

(b) Put the differential equation into self-adjoint form.

(c) Give the orthogonality relation. Use MATLAB to verify the orthogonality relation for the first two eigenfunctions.

4. Consider Laguerre's differential equation defined on the semi-infinite interval  $x \in (0, \infty)$ :

$$xu'' + (1-x)u' + \frac{\lambda}{n}u = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

This equation has polynomial solutions  $L_n(x)$ . Put the equation into self-adjoint form and give an orthogonality relation.

For the next two problems, please use MATLAB along with the provided function `besselzero(nu,n,kind)` as shown in class.

5. Find the first four  $\alpha_n > 0$  defined by  $J_1(3\alpha) = 0$ .
6. Expand  $f(x) = 1$ ,  $0 < x < 2$ , in a Fourier-Bessel series using Bessel functions of order zero that satisfy the boundary condition:  $J_0(2\alpha) = 0$ . Make a plot in MATLAB of the given function and the Fourier-Bessel expansion of the function with the first four terms.

For the next problem, use the MATLAB built-in function `legendreP(n,x)` to represent Legendre Polynomials for Fourier-Legendre expansions.

7. Use MATLAB to calculate and print out the value of the first five non-zero terms in the Fourier-Legendre expansion of the given function. Make a plot in MATLAB of the given function and the Fourier-Legendre partial sum with five (non-zero) terms.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -1 < x < 0 \\ x, & 0 < x < 1 \end{cases}$$

## **Part IV**

# **Boundary Value Problems in Rectangular Coordinates**



# Lecture 21 - Introduction to Separable Partial Differential Equations

## Objectives

- Review description of linear second-order, Partial Differential Equations (PDEs).
- Introduce a classification scheme for second-order linear PDEs.
- Illustrate the use of separation of variables to find solutions to some PDEs.

## Linear Partial Differential Equations

Consider the linear, second-order, partial differential equation in two independent variables shown in Equation 84:

$$A \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + B \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + C \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + D \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + E \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + Fu = G \quad (84)$$

where coefficients  $A$  through  $G$  are constants or functions of the *independent* variables  $x$  and/or  $y$  only.<sup>1</sup> If  $G = 0$  then the equation is *homogeneous*, otherwise the equation is *non-homogeneous*.

<sup>1</sup> If the coefficients are functions of the dependent variable  $u$  or any of its partial derivatives, the equation would, of course, be non-linear.

## Classification of Linear 2<sup>nd</sup>-Order PDEs

The solution of a PDE is a *function* of two (or more) independent variables that satisfies the PDE and boundary/initial conditions in some region of the space defined by the independent variables. Some important qualitative features of the solutions can be anticipated by using the following classification scheme for linear second-order PDEs.

### Hyperbolic: $B^2 - 4AC > 0$

Hyperbolic differential equations are characteristic of wave-type phenomena. In the linear homogeneous case, waves travel through

the domain without distortion until a boundary is encountered. We will examine problems such as vibrating strings and membranes that are governed by hyperbolic PDEs and will exhibit this wave-type behavior.

**Parabolic:**  $B^2 - 4AC = 0$

Parabolic differential equations are characteristic of *diffusive* phenomena like transient heat conduction. The time evolution of the solution of these equations typically has a “smoothing” behavior. Even if the initial data is only piece-wise smooth, as time evolves the solution tends to diffuse into a smooth function.

**Elliptic:**  $B^2 - 4AC < 0$

Elliptic differential equations are characteristic of *steady-state* phenomena like static electrical potential and the steady-state heat equation.

**Example:** Classify the following linear partial differential equations.

$$1. \ 3\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

$$2. \ \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}$$

$$3. \ \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

### Separation of Variables

The basic technique we will use to solve second-order, linear, homogeneous PDEs is called separation of variables. Once again, I will illustrate this method by way of doing an example.

**Example:** use separation of variables to find product solutions of:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = 4\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \quad (85)$$

**Step #1:** Assume a solution can be expressed as a product of functions—one function for each independent variable.

$$u(x, y) = F(x)G(y)$$

There is an important first-order PDE that does not conform to this classification scheme but is considered hyperbolic. A typical example is the scalar linear advection equation:

$$u_t + a \cdot \nabla u = f(x, y)$$

This equation exhibits similar wave-type behavior.

A common non-linear variation is:

$$u_t + \nabla \cdot f(u) = 0$$

where  $f(u)$  is called a *flux function*. This equation plays a role in modeling a variety of physical conservation laws often associated with transport phenomena. These equations are known for being capable of producing shocks—discontinuities in the solution—even when the initial condition is smooth.

**Step #2:** Insert the proposed solution into the governing equation.

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} [F(x)G(y)] = 4 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [F(x)G(y)]$$

$$F_{xx}G = 4FG_y$$

Here we will use subscript notation to denote partial derivatives.

**Step #3:** Separate variables and introduce a separation constant. In this example we will separate variables by dividing both sides of the equation by  $4FG$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{F_{xx}G}{4FG} &= \frac{4FG_y}{4FG} \\ \frac{F_{xx}}{4F} &= \frac{G_y}{G}\end{aligned}$$

In this last equation, the terms on the left are only a function of  $x$ ; the terms on the right are only a function of  $y$ . The left- and right-hand side of the equality must be the same for *all* values of  $x$  and  $y$ . The only way this can be expected to be true is if *both* sides are equal to a *constant*. We will denote this constant:  $-\lambda$ .

$$\frac{F_{xx}}{4F} = \frac{G_y}{G} = -\lambda$$

We can now decompose the partial differential equation in two independent variables into two ordinary differential equations:

$$F_{xx} + 4\lambda F = 0$$

$$G_y + \lambda G = 0$$

This bit of reasoning is a key element of separation of variables.

You might wonder why we chose  $-\lambda$  rather than  $\lambda$ . In honesty there is no good answer to this question; let us chalk it up to a bias towards having a plus-sign in the separated equations.

**Step #4:** Form product solutions for all possible values of  $\lambda$ .

$\lambda = 0$ :

$$F_{xx} = 0 \Rightarrow F(x) = c_1 + c_2x$$

$$G_y = 0 \Rightarrow G(x) = c_3$$

$$\begin{aligned}u(x, y) &= F(x)G(x) = (c_1 + c_2x)c_3 \\ &= A_1 + B_1x\end{aligned}$$

$\lambda < 0$ : For this case we will let  $\lambda = -\alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ .

$$F_{xx} - 4\alpha^2 F = 0 \Rightarrow F(x) = c_1 \cosh 2\alpha x + c_2 \sinh 2\alpha x$$

$$G_y - \alpha^2 G = 0 \Rightarrow G(y) = c_3 e^{\alpha^2 y}$$

$$\begin{aligned}u(x, y) &= F(x)G(y) = (c_1 \cosh 2\alpha x + c_2 \sinh 2\alpha x)c_3 e^{\alpha^2 y} \\ &= (A_2 \cosh 2\alpha x + B_2 \sinh 2\alpha x)e^{\alpha^2 y}\end{aligned}$$

The “possible values” of  $\lambda$  can be put into three familiar categories:  $\lambda$  can be *positive*, *negative*, or *zero*.

Note how in this case and the cases to follow, we will simply write down the general solution to the separated ODEs with little/no to-do over deriving that solution. By this point in the course you *need* to be able to quickly recognize those equations. In most cases you should be able to write down the solutions by inspection.

We will assume, for this problem, that the  $x$ -dimension is bounded and thus it is convenient to use the  $\cosh 2\alpha x$  and  $\sinh 2\alpha x$  form of the solution. If the domain is unbounded you would use  $e^{2\alpha x}$  and  $e^{-2\alpha x}$ . It will be up to you to make this determination.

$\lambda > 0$ : For this case we will let  $\lambda = \alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} + 4\alpha^2 F = 0 &\Rightarrow F(x) = c_1 \cos 2\alpha x + c_2 \sin 2\alpha x \\ G_y + \alpha^2 G = 0 &\Rightarrow G(y) = c_3 e^{-\alpha^2 y} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y) = F(x)G(y) &= (c_1 \cos 2\alpha x + c_2 \sin 2\alpha x) c_3 e^{-\alpha^2 y} \\ &= (A_3 \cos 2\alpha x + B_3 \sin 2\alpha x) e^{-\alpha^2 y} \end{aligned}$$

**Notes:**

- There is no assurance that a linear 2<sup>nd</sup>-order PDE will be separable. We will spend a lot of time in this course in dealing with equations that happen to be separable. In reality, many are not, in particular if the problem is non-homogeneous. It is a good idea to check to see if an equation is homogeneous before launching down the separation-of-variables path.
- This example is a bit of an anomaly. We will usually not attempt to find *general* solutions to PDEs, but only *particular* solutions. Therefore a problem statement will not be fully meaningful without boundary/initial conditions by which we will be able to derive particular solutions.
- Specific values of  $\lambda$  that result in non-trivial solutions will depend on the boundary conditions.
- Since the PDEs are linear, the *superposition principle* will apply. That is, if  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k$  are solutions of a linear homogeneous PDE (including boundary conditions) then a linear combination:

In this equation  $c_i$  are constants.

$$u = c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \cdots + c_k u_k$$

is also a solution.

# Lecture 22 - Classical PDEs and BVPs

## Objectives

- Describe three important PDEs: heat equation, wave equation, and Laplace equation.
- Describe the physical meaning of common boundary conditions.
- Discuss important modifications to the three equations to incorporate additional physical phenomena.

## The Heat Equation

The time-dependent heat equation in one spatial dimension is given in Equation 86:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad a < x < b \quad (86)$$

where  $\alpha^2$  corresponds to thermal diffusivity which, in turn is given in Equation 87:

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{k}{\rho c_p} \quad (87)$$

where  $k$  is thermal conductivity,  $\rho$  is the density, and  $c_p$  is the specific heat at constant pressure and the dependent variable  $u$  is the temperature. All of these material properties must be positive for physically meaningful materials and, for the time being at least, we will consider all of these properties to be constant.<sup>1</sup>

WE WILL NOT delve into the derivation of Equation 86; this is left for your class in heat transfer. Suffice it to say here that the equation is a mathematical expression of conservation of energy. The following assumptions are incorporated into this expression:

1. Heat is flowing in one spatial direction only. This is the reason why the equation is only a function of  $x$ . Think of this as heat flowing in a wire.

<sup>1</sup> This is a very important assumption mathematically and it is also untrue for relevant materials. The thermal conductivity of most materials is temperature dependent as is the density and specific heat. If we allowed for this bit of realism to slip into our mathematical analysis, however, the differential equation would become nonlinear— $\alpha$  would become a function of the dependent variable  $u$ —and we would not be able to solve it with methods taught in this class. Tools based on the finite element method such as MOOSE and COMSOL are specifically designed to deal with this sort of nonlinearity.

2. Since heat is assumed to only flow in the  $x$ -direction, you should assume that the lateral surfaces of this wire are insulated.
3. We assume that no heat is generated in the domain.
4. We assume that the material is homogeneous.
5. We also assumed a particular relationship between heat flow and the temperature gradient:

$$q = -k \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \quad (88)$$

where  $q$  is the *heat flux*. Relationships such as given in Equation 88 are referred to as *constitutive* relationships.

To BE FULLY meaningful as an initial boundary value problem (IBVP), Equation 86 must be accompanied by an initial condition—say an initial temperature profile,  $u(x, 0) = f(x)$ —and two boundary conditions. We categorize the boundary conditions into three types:

**Type 1:** These are also called *Dirichlet boundary conditions*.<sup>2</sup> These conditions apply to the dependent variable itself. For example:

$$u(a) = T_a, \quad u(b) = f(t)$$

**Type 2:** These are also called *Neumann boundary conditions* and they apply to the *derivative* of the dependent variable. For example:

$$\left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_{x=a} = 0$$

For the heat equation a homogeneous boundary condition of this type would indicate insulation at a boundary.<sup>3</sup>

**Type 3:** These are called *mixed* or *Robin* boundary conditions and they apply to *both* the dependent variable and its derivative. For example:

$$\left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_{x=b} = -h(u(b, t) - u_m), \quad h > 0$$

where, in this case,  $u_m$  is a constant reference temperature of the surrounding medium and  $h$  is a convective heat transfer coefficient. This boundary condition would correspond to convective heat transfer at the boundary in which the heat flux is proportional ( $h$  being the proportionality constant) to the difference in temperature between the boundary surface and the surrounding medium.

Strictly speaking, Equation 88 should reference an outward-pointing unit-normal vector. In a more generic case we would express the relationship as:

$$q = -k \nabla u \cdot \hat{n}$$

where  $\hat{n}$  is the outward-pointing unit normal on the surface through which the heat flux flows and, of course,  $\nabla u$  is the temperature gradient. In a one-dimensional problem like this,  $\nabla u$  reduces to  $\partial u / \partial x$ . To get the physics right (or, more specifically, to get the sign of the heat flux correct) for a particular problem, however, one will need to remember the dot-product with the outward-pointing unit normal.

<sup>2</sup> Named after the German mathematician Peter Gustav Lejeune Dirichlet who was known as a popular instructor at the Prussian Military Academy in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. He is also famous for having first established the convergence proofs that we have cited for Fourier series and he also studied and proved a unique solution for the first boundary value problem. That, to the best of my knowledge, is why this boundary condition type is named for him.

<sup>3</sup> Insulation implies no heat transfer through a surface—i.e. no heat flux. Since heat flux is proportional to  $\nabla u \cdot \hat{n}$  this implies, for one-dimensional problems, that  $\partial u / \partial x = 0$ .

## Wave Equation

The wave equation is given by Equation 89:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad a < x < b \quad (89)$$

where  $\alpha^2 = \frac{T}{\rho}$  and  $T$  is tension and  $\rho$  is density.<sup>4</sup> The dependent variable  $u$  refers to lateral displacement of the string and  $t$  is time.

This equation is derived as a mathematical expression of mechanical equilibrium of an elastic string held under tension. The assumptions built-in to this derivation include:

1. The string is “perfectly flexible.”
2. The string is homogeneous.
3. Displacements in the string are small relative to the string length.
4. Tension is constant; and
5. there are no other forces acting on the string.

A properly stated boundary value problem based on the wave equation will have two boundary conditions. For this course we will usually apply Dirichlet boundary conditions but others are possible. Since the equation is second-order in time we also need two temporal boundary conditions. Typically these are given as the initial displacement,  $u(x, 0) = f(x)$ , and initial velocity,  $u_t(x, 0) = g(x)$ .

## Laplace Equation

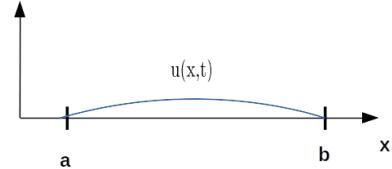
The Laplace equation in two dimensions in a Cartesian coordinate system is given by Equation 90:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0 \quad (90)$$

The Laplace equation arises in studies of *steady state* phenomena involving potentials such as: electrostatic potential, gravitational potential, velocity, and heat conduction. The meaning of the dependent variable  $u$ , of course, depends upon what is being modeled.

Equation 90 can more concisely and generically be expressed using the Laplace operator  $\nabla^2$ . Using this notation, Equation 90 could be written:  $\nabla^2 u = 0$ . This same expression is valid for 1-, 2-, or 3-dimensional Cartesian coordinates but it is also valid for polar, cylindrical and spherical coordinates. The specialization comes in the definition of  $\nabla$ . We will address this further when we examine problems in those coordinate systems.

<sup>4</sup> The variable  $\alpha$  is also often referred to as the *wave speed*.



The Laplace operator  $\nabla^2$  is short-hand for:

$$\nabla^2 = \nabla \cdot \nabla$$

where in Cartesian coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla &= \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle \\ \nabla \cdot \nabla &= \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle \cdot \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle \\ &= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \end{aligned}$$

also expressed as:

$$\nabla^2 = \Delta$$

### Boundary Value Problems

In all of the above cases, a full statement of the boundary value problem must include:

1. The partial differential equation,
2. all boundary conditions, and
3. initial conditions for time-dependent problems.

**Example:** Wave Equation Boundary Value Problem.

$$\text{PDE} \quad \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{BCs: } u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{ICs: } u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = g(x), \quad 0 < x < L$$

Note that, technically speaking, the PDE does not apply at the domain boundaries or at  $t = 0$ .

### Important Variations to Classic BVPs

Both the heat equation and the wave equation incorporated several assumptions in the derivation. If these assumptions are modified or eliminated we can still derive an equation but the form of the equation will change. Some important variations are described here.

IN EQUATION 91 we show the heat equation in the case where there is an internal heat source and convection from lateral surfaces to a surrounding medium maintained at a constant temperature  $u_m$ :

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + S(x, t) \underbrace{-h(u - u_m)}_{\substack{\text{convection from} \\ \text{lateral surfaces}}} \quad (91)$$

where  $h$  is the convective heat transfer coefficient.

IN EQUATION 92 we show the wave equation in a case where we have an external force, damping and restoring forces.

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + f(x, t) \underbrace{-c \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}}_{\substack{\text{damping}}} \underbrace{-ku}_{\substack{\text{restoring} \\ \text{force}}} \quad (92)$$

AN IMPORTANT SKILL that an engineer needs to develop is the ability to translate a description of a physical system into a properly formulated boundary value problem that you can solve. The *point* is to be able to describe a system mathematically so that, by solving the math problem, you gain *insight* into the behavior of the physical system. Here are a couple of examples to get started.

**Example:** Consider a rod of length  $L$  that is insulated along its lateral surfaces. There is heat transfer from the left end of the rod into a surrounding medium at temperature  $20^\circ$  and the right end is insulated. The initial temperature is  $f(x)$  throughout. We would like to know what the temperature distribution is as a function of time and space. The corresponding BVP is:

$$\text{PDE: } \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{BCs: } \left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} = -h(u(0,t) - 20), \quad \left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_{x=L} = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{IC: } u(x,0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < L$$

This is something that students in this class often struggle with.

**Example:** Consider a string of length  $L$  held in tension. The ends are secured to the  $x$ -axis, and the string is initially at rest on that axis. An external vertical force proportional to the horizontal distance from the left end acts on the string for  $t > 0$ . The corresponding BVP is:

$$\text{PDE: } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + hx, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{BCs: } u(0,t) = 0, \quad u(L,t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{ICs: } u(x,0) = 0, \quad u_t(x,0) = 0, \quad 0 < x < L$$

**Example:** Consider a semi-infinite plate coinciding with the region  $0 \leq x \leq \pi, y \geq 0$ . The left end is held at temperature  $e^{-y}$ , and the right end is held at temperature  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for  $0 < y \leq 1$  and  $0^\circ\text{C}$  for  $y > 1$ . The bottom of the plate,  $y = 0$ , is held at temperature  $f(x)$ . The corresponding BVP is:

$$\text{PDE: } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0, \quad 0 < x < \pi, \quad y > 0$$

$$\text{BCs: } u(0,y) = e^{-y}, \quad y > 0, \quad u(\pi,y) = \begin{cases} 100 & 0 < y \leq 1 \\ 0 & y > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$u(x,0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < \pi$$

One implicit constraint that may need to be applied in this cases is:  
 $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} u(x,y) < \infty$ .



## Assignment #8

Use separation of variables to find, if possible, product solutions for the given partial differential equations. Be sure to consider cases for all possible values of the separation constant.

1.  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$

2.  $\alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - u = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \alpha > 0$

Note: for this problem, when separating variables, divide by  $\alpha^2 X(x)T(t)$  and keep all terms with  $\alpha^2$  together.

Classify the given partial differential equation as hyperbolic, parabolic, or elliptic.

3.  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$

4.  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = 0 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y}$

5.  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - 6 \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 0$

Show that the given partial differential equation possesses the indicated product solution.

6.  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right), u(r, t) = e^{-k\alpha^2 t} (c_1 J_0(\alpha r) + c_2 Y_0(\alpha r))$

For the following problems, a rod of length  $L$  coincides with the interval  $[0, L]$  on the x-axis. Set up the boundary-value problem for the temperature  $u(x, t)$ .

7. The left end is held at temperature zero and the right end is insulated. The initial temperature is  $f(x)$  throughout.

8. The left end is at temperature  $\sin(\pi t/L)$ , the right end is held at zero, and there is heat transfer from the lateral surface of the rod into the surrounding medium held at temperature zero. The initial temperature is  $f(x)$  throughout.

For the following problems a string of length  $L$  coincides with the interval  $[0, L]$  on the x-axis. Set up the boundary-value problem for the displacement  $u(x, t)$ .

9. The ends are secured to the x-axis. The string is released from rest from the initial displacement  $u(x, 0) = x(L - x)$ .
10. The left end is secured to the x-axis but the right end moves in a transverse manner according to  $\sin(\pi t)$ . The string is released from rest from the initial displacement  $f(x)$ . For  $t > 0$  the transverse vibrations are damped with a force proportional to the transverse velocity of the string.

For the next problem, set up the boundary-value problem for a steady-state temperature  $u(x, y)$ .

11. A thin rectangular plate coincides with the region in the xy-plane defined by:  $0 \leq x \leq 4$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 2$ . The left end and the bottom of the plate are insulated. The top of the plate is held at temperature zero, and the right end of the plate is held at a temperature  $f(y)$ .

# Lecture 23 - The Heat Equation

## Objectives

- Demonstrate use of separation of variables to solve the heat equation.
- Show the code for a MATLAB implementation of an example problem.

## Analytic Solution

Consider the following boundary value problem based on the heat equation:

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < L$$

This boundary value problem models transient heat conduction in a one-dimensional bar. The ends of the bar are held at a constant temperature of zero degrees and there is an initial temperature distribution described by  $f(x)$ .

We will follow the steps to find the solution using separation of variables.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution:

$$u(x, t) = F(x)G(t)$$

**Step #2:** Insert proposed solution into the governing equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [F(x)G(t)] &= \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} [F(x)G(t)] \\ FG_t &= \alpha^2 F_{xx}G \end{aligned}$$

**Note:** once again we will use subscripts to denote partial derivatives.

**Step #3:** Separate variables:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{FG_t}{\alpha^2 FG} &= \frac{\alpha^2 F_{xx} G}{\alpha^2 FG} \\ \frac{G_t}{\alpha^2 G} &= \frac{F_{xx}}{F} = -\lambda \\ G_t + \alpha^2 \lambda G &= 0, \quad F_{xx} + \lambda F = 0\end{aligned}$$

On the middle line we see that  $\frac{G_t}{\alpha^2 G}$  is only a function of  $y$ ;  $\frac{F_{xx}}{F}$  is only a function of  $x$  and yet they must be equal to each other for all values of  $x$  and  $y$ . The only way this makes sense is if they are both, in fact, constant. We will denote this constant  $-\lambda$ .

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s).

The boundary conditions must be applied to the separated equation for  $F(x)$ .<sup>1</sup>

$$F_{xx} + \lambda F = 0, \quad F(0) = 0, \quad F(L) = 0, \quad 0 < x < L$$

We need to examine all possible values of  $\lambda$ .

$\lambda = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned}F_{xx} &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 x + c_2 \\ F(0) &= c_1(0) + c_2 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \\ F(L) &= c_1(L) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup> The only way  $G(t)$  can satisfy the homogeneous spatial boundary conditions would be for us to set  $G(t) = 0$ . Thus the product solution would be  $u(x, t) = F(x)G(t) = F(x)(0) = 0$ . Obviously a trivial solution,  $u(x, t) = 0$ , is not what we are looking for.

Thus we will disregard  $\lambda = 0$  since only the trivial solution satisfies the governing equation and boundary conditions in that case.

$\lambda < 0$ : Here we will set  $\lambda = -\nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}F_{xx} - \nu^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cosh \nu x + c_2 \sinh \nu x \\ F(0) &= c_1 \cosh 0 + c_2 \sinh 0 \\ F(0) &= c_1 + 0 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \\ F(L) &= c_2 \sinh \nu L = 0\end{aligned}$$

Note again that we use the  $\cosh()$  and  $\sinh()$  form of the solution since the domain is bounded.

Here we have to recall that  $\sinh x$  is strictly positive for  $x > 0$ . Therefore  $c_2 = 0$  and, again, only the trivial solution satisfies the governing equation and boundary conditions for the case  $\lambda < 0$  so we will discard this possibility.

$\lambda > 0$ : Here we will set  $\lambda = \nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} + \nu^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cos \nu x + c_2 \sin \nu x \\ F(0) &= c_1 \cos 0 + c_2 \sin 0 \\ F(0) &= c_1 + 0 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \\ F(L) &= c_2 \sin \nu L = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Finally we have something we can work with! Rather than setting  $c_2 = 0$ , we can observe that  $\sin \nu L = 0$  whenever  $\nu L = n\pi$ , and  $n$  is a positive integer. Thus there are infinitely many values—which we will designate  $\nu_n$ —that satisfy the condition:  $\nu_n = n\pi/L$  with  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .<sup>2</sup>

For  $\lambda = \nu^2$  we can now also solve the separated equation for  $G(t)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} G_t + \alpha^2 \nu^2 G &= 0 \\ G(t) &= c_3 e^{-(\alpha \nu)^2 t} \end{aligned}$$

We combine these values of  $\nu_n$  with  $F(x)$  and  $G(x)$ —which we will now call eigenfunctions:

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_n^2 &= \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \\ F_n(x) &= c_2 \sin \frac{\nu_n x}{L} = c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\ G_n(t) &= c_3 e^{-(\alpha \nu_n)^2 t} = c_3 e^{-(\alpha \frac{n\pi}{L})^2 t} \end{aligned}$$

Recall that there are an infinite number of eigenfunctions; the solution will be formed by a linear combination of *all* of them. So our product solution is:

$$u(x, t) = F(x)G(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} e^{-(\alpha \frac{n\pi}{L})^2 t}$$

**Step #5:** Satisfy the initial condition.

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} e^{-(\alpha \frac{n\pi}{L})^2 0} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} = f(x) \end{aligned}$$

On the left we have an infinite series of eigenfunctions; on the right we have  $f(x)$ . Our job is to find the values of  $c_n$  so that they are equal. This is *exactly* the reason why we spent time learning about

Note that we exclude the case where  $n = 0$  since that implies  $\nu L = 0$  but we stipulated that  $\nu > 0$ .

<sup>2</sup> Traditionally, in mathematical literature,  $\mathbb{Z}$  denotes the set of all integers. The notation  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  is used here to denote the set of all positive integers.

Here we implicitly take  $c_2$  and  $c_3$  from the separated solutions and combine them into  $c_n$ .

Fourier series and orthogonal function expansions. We will multiply both sides by our (orthogonal) eigenfunctions and integrate.

For  $c_1$  we will do this explicitly:

$$u(x, 0) = c_1 \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)^2 dx + c_2 \int_0^L \sin\frac{2\pi x}{L} \sin\frac{\pi x}{L} dx + \dots = \dots$$

$\int_0^L f(x) \sin\frac{\pi x}{L} dx$

= 0, by orthogonality

The only non-zero term on the left will be the one corresponding to  $\sin\frac{\pi x}{L}$ ; all others will be zero due to the orthogonality of the set of functions  $\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L}$ .

By orthogonality of the eigenfunctions  $F_n(x)$  we can find the coefficients,  $c_n$ , one at a time by using the formula:

$$c_n = \frac{\int_0^L f(x) \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx}{\int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)^2 dx} \quad (93)$$

You might recognize Equation 93; it is the same as the Sine series expansion given in Lecture 16. In particular the value of  $\int_0^L \sin n\pi x/L^2 dx$  is equal to  $L/2$  so the formula for the coefficients can be stated more concisely as:

$$c_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

In summary, the solution to our boundary value problem is:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} e^{-(\alpha\frac{n\pi}{L})^2 t}$$

$$c_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

To GET QUANTITATIVE information, we need to specify values for the length of the bar ( $L$ ), the thermal diffusivity ( $\alpha$ ), and the initial temperature distribution,  $f(x)$ . But we can consider some qualitative aspects of the solution before we start computing.

1. What will the temperature profile look like as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ?
2. What will the solution look like initially if the temperature profile is piece-wise linear with discontinuities in the interval  $[0, L]$ ?
3. What will happen to the solution as time evolves for temperature profiles that are initially discontinuous?

Answers:

1. Owing to the exponential term in the solution,  $u(x, t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
2. Recalling our experience from Fourier series expansions of functions with discontinuities, the representation will be "wiggly."
3. Since the heat equation is a parabolic equation characteristic of diffusive phenomena, we expect the solution to "smooth-out" over time. This should jibe with our own personal intuition and experience with heat transfer.

### MATLAB implementation

To demonstrate the answer to these questions and help build more insight into the behavior of the transient 1-D heat equation, let us define  $L$ ,  $\alpha^2$ , and  $f(x)$ , compute and plot the solution.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 %% Set parameters and define eigenfunctions
5 L = 1; % length of the domain
6 alpha_sq = 0.1; % thermal diffusivity ❶
7
8 N = 25; % number of terms to the series solution ❷
9
10 F = @(x,n) sin(n.*pi.*x./L); ❸
11 G = @(t,n) exp(-((n.*pi./L).^2)*alpha_sq.*t);
12
13 f(x) = @(x) x.*(1-x);
14

```

Note from Figure 24 that the initial condition is smooth and satisfies the boundary conditions.

To build the solution we combine the eigenfunctions along with the coefficients calculated using Equation 93.

```

15 %% Compute the solution
16 % initialize my series solution
17 u = @(x,t) 0;
18 for n = 1:N
19     % essentially doing the sine-series half-wave expansion
20     % compute the coefficient
21     cn = (2/L)*integral(@(x) f(x).*F(x,n),0,L);
22
23     % add the term to the series solution
24     u = @(x,t) u(x,t) + cn*F(x,n).*G(t,n);
25 end
26
27 %% plot the result
28 figure(1)
29 plot(X,u(X,0),'-b',...
30      X,u(X,0.1),'-g',...
31      X,u(X,0.5),'-r','LineWidth',3);
32 title_str = sprintf('Heat Equation Example, N=%d',N);
33 title(title_str,'FontSize',16,'FontWeight','bold');
34 title('Lecture #23 Example','FontSize',16,'FontWeight','bold');
35 xlabel('X','FontSize',14,'FontWeight','bold');
36 ylabel('u(X,t)','FontSize',14,'FontWeight','bold');
37 grid on
38 set(gca,'FontSize',12,'FontWeight','bold');
39 legend('t = 0','t = 0.1','t = 0.5');
40

```

THE PLOT IS SHOWN in Figure 25. As is expected, the temperature is going down over time. As time goes to infinity, the solution will be zero everywhere. Recalling that the heat equation is simply a mathematical representation of conservation of energy, you should

❶ Strictly speaking we should include units for this quantity. For perspective, the thermal diffusivity of copper at room temperature is approximately  $1.20 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ ; for steel approximately  $0.20 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ ; and for adobe brick around  $0.003 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ .

❷ We also need to choose the number of Fourier coefficients to calculate; we obviously cannot calculate them all.

❸ Be sure you understand how to define anonymous functions with multiple variables.

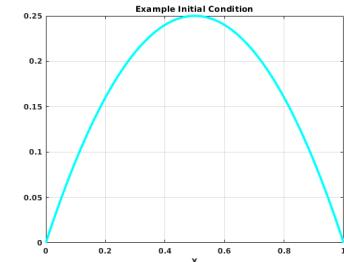


Figure 24: Smooth initial condition.

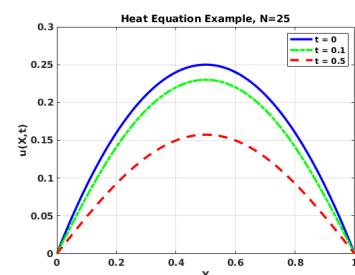


Figure 25: Solution for smooth initial condition.

ask yourself the question: where is the energy going? The answer is that the energy is flowing out of the left and right side of the bar and will continue to do so as long as the temperature of the bar is higher than the temperature at the boundary which, for this problem, is set to zero.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF** we increase the thermal diffusivity? Answer: the heat flows “faster.” Since the thermal diffusivity shows up in the equation  $G(t)$ , the answer should look like time “sped up.” Testing this hypothesis out on our MATLAB solution, we change thermal diffusivity to 1.2. The results are shown in Figure 26.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF** we have a much less smooth initial condition? Admittedly, it would be odd for the initial temperature distribution to be discontinuous, but given our experience with Fourier series expansions, we should have some idea as to what the Fourier series expansions of discontinuous functions should look like. To test this, suppose the initial temperature distribution were given by:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & 0 < x < \frac{L}{4} \\ 1, & \frac{L}{4} \leq x < \frac{L}{2} \\ 0, & \frac{L}{2} \leq x < \frac{3L}{4} \\ L - x, & \frac{3L}{4} \leq x < L \end{cases}$$

and shown in Figure 27. The solution (for  $\alpha^2 = 0.1$ ) is shown in Figure 28.

Note the “wigginess” of the Fourier series representation of the initial condition; note also how that “wigginess” goes away almost immediately. This is due to the diffusive nature of the heat equation.

In much the same way as we could improve our resolution of functions represented by a Fourier series by computing more terms, we can do the same thing here. In Figure 29 we show the solution computed with  $N = 100$  terms in the Fourier series.

### Insulated Boundaries

As an exercise, let us consider what happens when we change the problem by insulating the boundary at  $x = L$ .

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(0, t) = 0, \quad \frac{du}{dx}(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < L$$

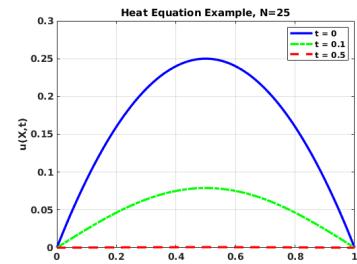


Figure 26: Solution with high thermal diffusivity.

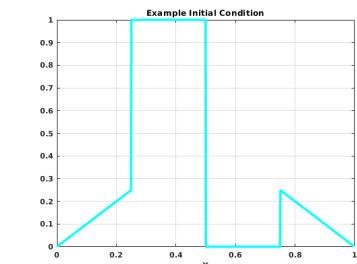


Figure 27: Example with discontinuous initial condition.

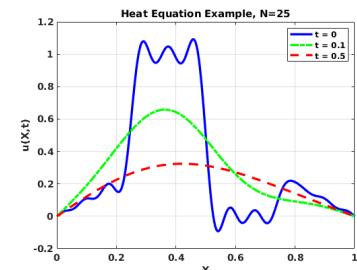


Figure 28: Solution with discontinuous initial condition,  $N = 25$ .

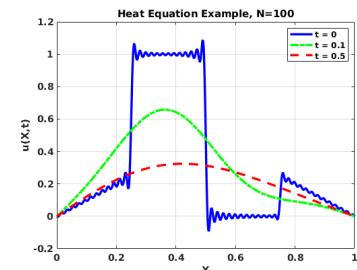


Figure 29: Solution with discontinuous initial condition,  $N = 100$ .

Before we do any analysis we should think about what we *expect* the solution to look like.<sup>3</sup> Mathematically we implement the insulated boundary condition by setting the temperature gradient at that boundary equal to zero. Conceptually, we know this means that heat will no longer flow out of that boundary. Heat may or may not flow *towards* the right boundary depending on the temperature distribution within the domain but any heat reaching the right boundary will stay there until it can flow out towards the *left* boundary.

The details are left to the reader<sup>4</sup> but application of separation of variables to the new boundary value problem yields the following solution:

$$\nu_n = \frac{(2n-1)\pi}{2L}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \nu_n x e^{-(\alpha \nu_n)^2 t}$$

$$c_n = \frac{\int_0^L f(x) \sin \nu_n x \, dx}{\int_0^L \sin (\nu_n x)^2 \, dx}$$

A plot of the solution when  $N = 25$ ,  $L = 1$ , and  $\alpha^2 = 1.5$  is shown in Figure 30.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF** both boundaries are insulated? Physically, when we insulate something, that means we want to keep heat from coming in or out of the domain. Does this mean heat will not diffuse *within* the domain? Of course not; heat will simply flow as it must while driven by temperature gradients in the domain. When will the diffusion stop? When there is no more temperature gradient to drive heat flow and that will happen when the temperature is uniform.

Mathematically, this means that we again change the boundary conditions so that the temperature gradient is zero at *both* boundaries. The details of this solution will be left to exercises but it is hoped by this point that you already know what the solution *must* look like; namely that heat will diffuse within the domain until a uniform temperature is reached that is equal to the *average* initial temperature.

<sup>3</sup> This is important. Do not let yourself get stuck inside analytic blinders that prevent you from seeing the big picture. Eventually you will need to be prepared to critically scrutinize your answer and decide, on your own, whether or not it is reasonable and/or correct. To do this, you need to know *in advance* what you *expect* the solution to look like.

<sup>4</sup> **Hint:** When we apply the insulated boundary condition, we will be left with  $F_x(L) = \nu c_2 \cos \nu L = 0$  which we can satisfy if  $\nu L$  is an odd integer multiple of  $\pi/2$ . So  $\nu_n L = \frac{(2n-1)\pi}{2}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , and therefore  $\nu_n = \frac{(2n-1)\pi}{2L}$ .

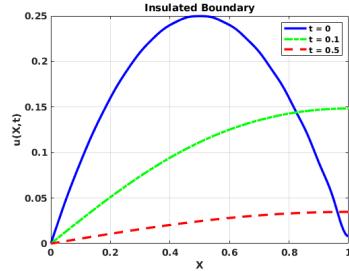


Figure 30: Solution with an insulated boundary at  $x = L$ .



# Lecture 24 - The Wave Equation

## Objectives

- Use separation of variables method to solve the Wave Equation.
- Illustrate the example solution with MATLAB.

## Analytic Solution

Consider the following boundary value problem based on the wave equation:

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad a < x < b$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = g(x), \quad 0 < x < L$$

This boundary value problem models a flexible string fixed on both ends with a specified initial displacement,  $f(x)$ , and initial velocity,  $g(x)$ .

We will follow the steps to find the solution using separation of variables.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution:

$$u(x, t) = F(x)G(t)$$

**Step #2:** Insert proposed solution into the governing equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} [F(x)G(t)] &= \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} [F(x)G(t)] \\ FG_{tt} &= \alpha^2 F_{xx}G \end{aligned}$$

**Step #3:** Separate variables:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{FG_{tt}}{\alpha^2 FG} &= \frac{\alpha^2 F_{xx} G}{\alpha^2 FG} \\ \frac{G_{tt}}{\alpha^2 G} &= \frac{F_{xx}}{F} = -\lambda \\ G_{tt} + \alpha^2 \lambda G &= 0, \quad F_{xx} + \lambda F = 0\end{aligned}$$

We assume that  $F(x)$  and  $G(t)$  are not identically zero throughout the domain, thus dividing by  $F(x)G(t)$  is mathematically acceptable.

On the middle line we see that  $\frac{G_{tt}}{\alpha^2 G}$  is only a function of  $y$ ;  $\frac{F_{xx}}{F}$  is only a function of  $x$  and yet they must be equal to each other for all values of  $x$  and  $y$ . The only way this makes sense is if they are both, in fact, constant. We will denote this constant  $-\lambda$ .

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s).

The boundary conditions must be applied to the separated equation for  $F(x)$ .<sup>1</sup>

$$F_{xx} + \lambda F = 0, \quad F(0) = 0, \quad F(L) = 0, \quad 0 < x < L$$

We need to examine all possible values of  $\lambda$ .

$\lambda = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned}F_{xx} &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 x + c_2 \\ F(0) &= c_1(0) + c_2 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \\ F(L) &= c_1(L) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Thus we will disregard  $\lambda = 0$  since, in that case, only the trivial solution satisfies the governing equation and boundary conditions.

$\lambda < 0$ : Here we will set  $\lambda = -\nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}F_{xx} - \nu^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cosh \nu x + c_2 \sinh \nu x \\ F(0) &= c_1 \cosh 0 + c_2 \sinh 0 \\ F(0) &= c_1 + 0 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \\ F(L) &= c_2 \sinh \nu L = 0\end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup> As with the heat equation in Lecture 23, the only way  $G(t)$  can satisfy the homogeneous spatial boundary conditions would be for us to set  $G(t) = 0$ . Thus the product solution would be  $u(x,t) = F(x)G(t) = F(x)(0) = 0$ . Obviously a trivial solution  $u(x,t) = 0$  is not what we are looking for.

This analysis is identical to what we carried out in the last lecture for the heat equation. It is worth doing this a few times just to make sure you know what you are doing. After that, you may decide that it is okay to skip to the answer. It can be risky to "skip to the answer" so do not let me tempt you away from the straight-and-narrow path of always thoroughly looking for valid eigenvalues.

Note again that we use the  $\cosh()$  and  $\sinh()$  form of the solution since the domain is bounded.

We once again recall that  $\sinh x$  is strictly positive for  $x > 0$ . Therefore  $c_2 = 0$  and, again, only the trivial solution satisfies the governing equation and boundary conditions for the case  $\lambda < 0$ . Therefore we will discard this possibility.

$\lambda > 0$ : Here we will set  $\lambda = \nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} + \nu^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cos \nu x + c_2 \sin \nu x \\ F(0) &= c_1 \cos 0 + c_2 \sin 0 = 0 \\ F(0) &= c_1 + 0 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \\ F(L) &= c_2 \sin \nu L = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Again we see that  $\lambda > 0$  bears fruit; our eigenvalues are  $\nu_n = \frac{n\pi}{L}$  and eigenfunctions are  $F_n(x) = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ . This should not be surprising. If we have the same separated equation and the same boundary conditions (at least in  $x$ -direction) we should expect the same eigenvalues and eigenfunctions.

In this case, the separated equation for  $G(t)$  is now:

$$\begin{aligned} G_{tt} + \alpha^2 \nu^2 G &= 0 \\ G(t) &= c_1 \cos \alpha \nu t + c_2 \sin \alpha \nu t \end{aligned}$$

We combine these values of  $\nu_n$  with  $F(x)$  and  $G(x)$  to get our product solution:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= F(x)G(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos \alpha \nu_n t + b_n \sin \alpha \nu_n t) \sin \nu_n t \\ u(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \alpha \frac{n\pi t}{L} + b_n \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi t}{L} \right) \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} \end{aligned}$$

As before, we are combining all of the constants that we can. Since each solution to  $G(t)$  had two unknown constants, we the unknown constant in  $F(x)$  into both of them.

### Step #5: Satisfy the initial conditions.

We now have two infinite sets of unknowns: the coefficients  $a_n$  and  $b_n$ . We will resolve these constants through the initial conditions.

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

Again we find ourselves with an infinite linear combination of orthogonal functions on the left and a function on the right. Our task is to determine the values of  $a_n$  such that they are actually equal. How do we do this? We multiply both sides by a member of the set of orthogonal functions and integrate. This time we will do this explicitly

for  $a_2$ .

$$\underbrace{a_1 \int_0^L \sin \alpha \frac{\pi x}{L} \sin \alpha \frac{2\pi x}{L} dx}_{0} + a_2 \int_0^L \sin \left( \alpha \frac{2\pi x}{L} \right)^2 dx + \dots \text{ all zeros} = \int_0^L f(x) \sin \alpha_n \frac{2\pi x}{L} dx$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{\int_0^L f(x) \sin \alpha_n \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx}{\int_0^L \sin \left( \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right)^2 dx} \\ &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \alpha_n \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \end{aligned}$$

This defines the values for all  $a_n$ . We still need to deal with the  $b_n$  so we apply the other initial condition:

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

Alas we are in familiar territory now. To find the values of  $b_n$  we multiply both sides of the equation by  $\sin \alpha_n \frac{n\pi x}{L}$  and integrate.

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{\int_0^L g(x) \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx}{\alpha \frac{n\pi}{L} \int_0^L \sin \left( \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right)^2 dx} \\ &= \frac{\int_0^L g(x) \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx}{\alpha \frac{n\pi}{L} \frac{L}{2}} \\ &= \frac{2}{\alpha n \pi} \int_0^L g(x) \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \end{aligned}$$

Do **not** forget to include the additional constants we gained through taking the derivative of the solution with respect to  $t$ .

In summary, our solution to the wave equation is:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \alpha \frac{n\pi t}{L} + b_n \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi t}{L} \right) \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\ a_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \alpha_n \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \\ b_n &= \frac{2}{\alpha n \pi} \int_0^L g(x) \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \end{aligned}$$

## MATLAB Implementation

As with the heat equation, we really cannot extract much insight by inspecting the solution formulas. We need to make a plot and to do so we will use MATLAB to represent an approximate solution. The MATLAB code is given below:

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 %% Example Problem
5 L = 3;
6 alpha_sq = 1;% T/rho
7 alpha = sqrt(alpha_sq);
8 N = 50;

9 f = @(x) ex1(x,L);
10 g = @(x) x.*0;

11 for n = 1:N
12 % compute an
13 an = (2/L)*integral(@(x) f(x).*sin(n*pi*x./L),0,L);
14 % compute bn
15 bn = ...
16 (2/(alpha*n*pi))*...
17 integral(@(x) g(x).*sin(n*pi*x./L),0,L);

18 % update the approximate solution
19 u = @(x,t) u(x,t) + ...
20 (an*cos(alpha.*n*pi*t./L) + ...
21 bn*sin(alpha.*n*pi*t./L)).*sin(n*pi*x./L);
22
23 end

24 %% Fixed Plot, single time step
25 ts = 3.0;
26 figure(3)
27 plot(X,u(X,ts),'-b','LineWidth',3);
28 title_str = ...
29 sprintf('Lecture 24 Example, t = %g',ts);
30 title(title_str,'fontsize',16,'fontWeight','bold');
31 xlabel('X','fontsize',14,'fontWeight','bold');
32 ylabel('u(X,T)','fontsize',14,'fontWeight','bold');
33 grid on
34 set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontWeight','bold');
35 axis([0 L -2.0 2.0]);
36
37 %% Local functions
38 function y = ex1(x,L)
39 [m,n] = size(x);
40 y = nan(m,n);
41 for i = 1:length(x)
42 if (x(i)>0)&&(x(i) < L/2)
43 y(i) = (2/3).*x(i);
44 elseif(x(i) >= L/2) && (x(i)<L)
45 y(i) = (2/3)*(L - x(i));
46 end
47 end
48 end
49
50
51
52

```

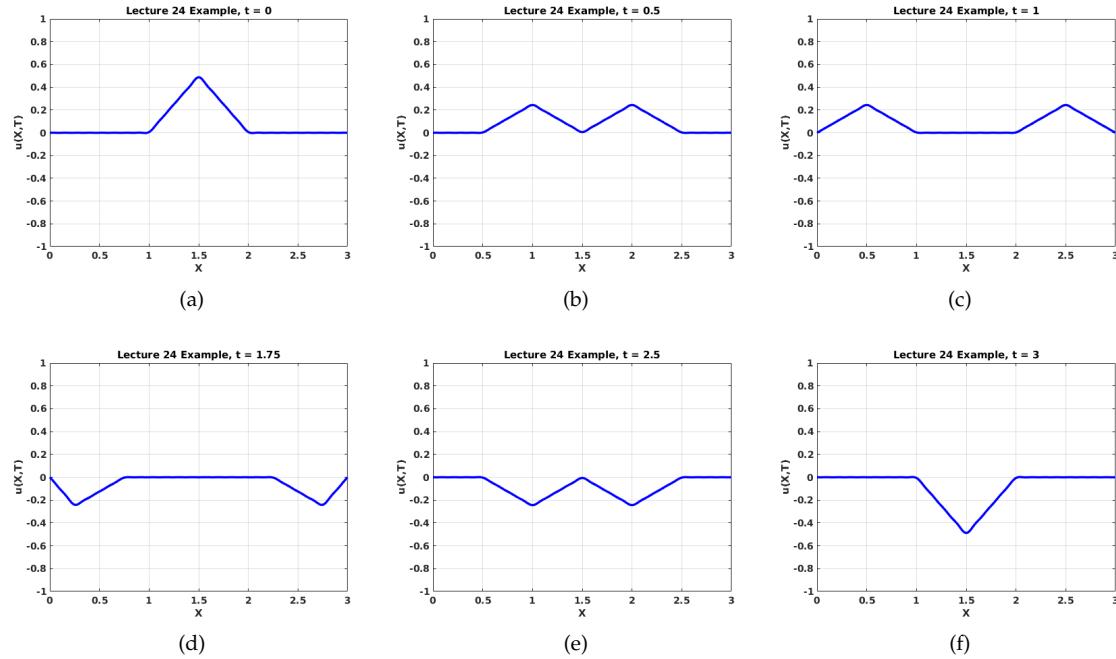
For this example we will set the wave speed  $\alpha = 1$ , the length  $L = 3$  and the initial conditions as:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{3}x, & 0 < x < \frac{3}{2} \\ \frac{2}{3}(3-x), & \frac{3}{2} \leq x < 3 \end{cases}$$

$$g(x) = 0$$

The resulting solution is plotted in Figure 31.

Figure 31: Wave equation solution from  $t = 0$  to  $t = 3$ .



# Lecture 25 - Heat and Wave Equation with MATLAB

## Objectives

- Describe the details of how to use MATLAB to construct approximate solutions to the heat and wave equations.
- Illustrate how to create an animation with MATLAB; and
- show an effective method for creating 2D plots with MATLAB.

## Introduction

In the past two lectures we have invested considerable time in the solution of two boundary value problems using the method of separation of variables. When I teach this course I find that, during those lectures, there is little time available to spend going into the details of the MATLAB code created, essentially, to visualize the solution. Nonetheless it is often the case that a large fraction of the students have only modest proficiency in using MATLAB. In this lecture we focus on the MATLAB details. The hope is that students will come away with at least an introduction to the bare-minimum of MATLAB tools that will allow them to complete homework assignments.

Proficiency levels vary: students have as much as two years experience using MATLAB to as little as two or three weeks.

## Example Heat Equation

**Problem Statement:** Find the temperature  $u(x, t)$  of a bar of silver of length 10 cm. The density is 10.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, thermal conductivity is 1.04 cal/cm-s-°C, and the specific heat is 0.056 cal/g-°C. The bar is perfectly insulated laterally with ends kept at 0°C. The initial temperature is given by:  $f(x) = 4 - 0.8|x - 5|^\circ\text{C}$ . From this physical description of the problem, we formulate the following boundary value problem:

Take a moment to consider the units used in this boundary value problem. If you believe the units provided for density, thermal conductivity, and specific heat, simple “unit arithmetic” shows that the thermal diffusivity should have units of cm<sup>2</sup>/s. What are the units of  $\partial^2 u / \partial x^2$ ? Answer: °C/cm<sup>2</sup>. What are the units of  $\partial u / \partial t$ ? Answer: °C/s. From this it should be clear that, indeed, the units are the same on the left and right side of the governing equation—as it *must* be in order to be correct. My point is that it does not take a tremendous amount of mathematical skill to check these things but you should *always* check them. If you do so, then you will definitely increase your confidence that you know what is going on; you may also save yourself from an embarrassing error.

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $0 < x < 10$ ,  $t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(0, t) = 0$ ,  $u(10, t) = 0$ ,  $t > 0$

Initial Conditions :  $u(x, 0) = f(x) = 4 - 0.8|x - 5|$ ,  $0 < x < 10$

Being able to translate this kind of a description of a problem into a properly formulated boundary value problem that you can solve is a key skill you should develop from this course.

### Analytic Solution:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{10} e^{-\left(\frac{an\pi}{10}\right)^2 t} \quad (94)$$

where  $\alpha^2 = \frac{k}{\rho c_p} = \frac{1.04}{(10.6)(0.056)} \text{cm}^2/\text{s}$  and the coefficients  $c_n$  are given by:

$$c_n = \frac{2}{10} \int_0^{10} (4 - 0.8|x - 5|) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{10} dx$$

### MATLAB tasks:

1. Construct an approximate representation of the solution in MATLAB including  $N = 50$  terms of the infinite series.
2. Create a plot of the solution at  $t = 0, 1$ , and  $10$  seconds.
3. Create an animation of the time-dependent temperature profile that you can save and incorporate, for example, in a presentation.
4. Visualize the time-dependent temperature profile using a 2D surface plot.

We will tackle these tasks one at a time.

**Task #1:** Construct an approximate representation of the solution in MATLAB including  $N = 50$  terms of the infinite series.

In this section of the code we clean out the workspace and provide basic given input data.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

%% Heat Equation BVP & Solution
L = 10; % cm
alpha_sq = 1.752; % cm^2/s, thermal diffusivity of silver. ❶
N = 50;

F = @(x,n) sin(n.*pi.*x./L); ❷
G = @(t,n) exp(-((n.*pi./L).^2)*alpha_sq.*t);
f = @(x) 4 - 0.8*abs(x - 5);

```

❶ It is a good idea to include units and a brief statement indicating what a variable represents. It may be easy to remember that, for instance,  $L=10$ ,  $\text{cm}$  refers to the length but it is less easy to remember that  $\alpha_{sq}$  refers to the thermal diffusivity.

❷ Make sure you fully understand how these anonymous functions work. The snippet:  $F = @(x,n) \dots$  should be read: "F is a function of x and n..." The "L" that appears on the right hand side is the same "L" defined as a parameter. The fact that this works is one of the benefits of using anonymous functions. Remember to write these anonymous functions so that they can accept vector inputs for  $x$  and  $n$ . Built-in functions like `integral()` will fail if the function you supply to be integrated *cannot* accept vector inputs.

Next we will initialize and build—term by term—a truncated version of the infinite series.

```

16 u = @(x,t) o;❸
17 for n = 1:N
18     % essentially doing the sine-series half-wave expansion
19     % compute the coefficient
20     cn = (2/L)*integral(@(x) f(x).*F(x,n),0,L);
21
22     % add the term to the series solution
23     u = @(x,t) u(x,t) + cn*F(x,n).*G(t,n);
24 end

```

At this point, our first task is done. The variable  $u$  represents the truncated series solution and we can evaluate the function at any point  $x$  or  $t$  to get the solution.<sup>1</sup>

**Task #2:** Create a plot of the solution at  $t=0$ ,  $1$ , and  $10$  seconds.

Code to complete this is presented in the listing below.

```

%% Plot the result for fixed times ❶
% make a discrete X-axis
Nx = 1000;
X = linspace(0,L,Nx);
figure(1)
plot(X,u(X,0),'-ob',...  

    X,u(X,1),'-g',... ❷  

    X,u(X,10),'-r','MarkerIndices',1:50:Nx,'linewidth',3); ❸
title('Lecture #25 Example','fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('X [cm]','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('u(X,t) [^\circ C]',... ❹
    'fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
grid on
set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
legend('t = 0','t = 1','t = 10'); ❺

```

❶ The string snippet ' $^\circ \text{C}$ ' is  $\text{\LaTeX}$ mark-up and is rendered by MATLAB as  $^\circ \text{C}$ . While not strictly necessary, use of such mark-up can make a plot more attractive.

❷ Obviously use of a legend makes a plot easier to read. MATLAB also includes an optional argument named '`location`' that can be used with values such as: '`northwest`', '`southwest`', '`northeast`', '`southeast`', '`best`' ...etc—that allow you to place a legend such that it does not interfere with reading the plot. Consult the MATLAB documentation for more information about legends.

A plot created by the code snippet above is shown in Figure 32.

**Task #3:** Create an animation of the time-dependent temperature profile that you can save and incorporate, for example, in a presentation.

For this task we will first create a simple time-dependent plot that you might use for a homework assignment, independent research

❸ On the surface, this does not do much: it simply creates a variable  $u$  that is a handle to a function of two variables and sets its initial value to zero. If we did not have this, however, we would have to create a special case in the `for ... end` loop to create it on the first trip through.

<sup>1</sup> Sadly, there isn't anything you can do to prevent a user from evaluating the function at invalid/inappropriate values of  $x$  or  $t$ . For example,  $u(1994, -25)$  is perfectly legal MATLAB code.

❶ The `%%` separates MATLAB code into sections that can be executed independently. Breaking scripts into sections like this can simplify debugging and helps improve code readability.

❷ Familiarize yourself with these "LineSpec" strings. For plots with multiple data series you should try to make it easy to tell the difference between different data series even if the plot is viewed in black and white.

❸ Using the '`MarkerIndices`' argument allows you to specify which data indices get annotated with a marker (when the line specification includes a marker). The value `1:50:Nx` in this case results in 1 out of every 50 data points having a marker applied. Experiment with this and see what the plot looks like if you omit this name-value pair.

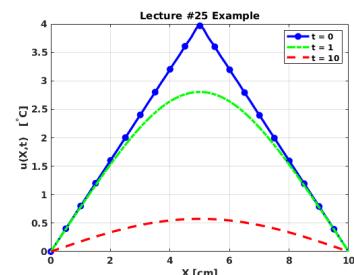


Figure 32: Plot of heat equation example at  $t=0, 1$ , and  $10$  seconds

project, or for your capstone. The goal is to gain understanding of the transient behavior of this physical system.

```
%>> Simple time-dependent plot
Tmax = 15; % s
NT = 30;
T = linspace(0,Tmax,NT); ❶
figure(2)
for n = 1:NT
    plot(X,u(X,T(n)),'-b','linewidth',2)
    title_str = sprintf('Lecture #25 Example, t = %5.3g',T(n)); ❷
    title(title_str,'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
    xlabel('X','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    ylabel('u(X,T)','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    grid on
    set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
    axis([0 L -0.2 4.5]); ❸
    pause(Tmax/(NT-1)); ❹
end
```

❶ This command causes MATLAB to pause slightly before starting the next iteration in the for-loop. The argument to the pause() function is the duration (in seconds) of the pause. For some systems this pause also allows the graphics system a chance to update between iterations in the for-loop. (i.e. if you omit the pause, you may not see your plot update until the very end and miss all of the transient behavior.)

THIS PLOT IS GOOD for routine homework or analysis that you do not intend to present publicly. Sometimes you *do* want to show a time-dependent plot of a system you are analyzing but you do not want to run the MATLAB script that created the plot during the presentation. A good option is to create a movie that can be played from most computers and/or can be embedded in a presentation. The next code block accomplishes this task.

```
%>> Save the time-dependent plot as a Movie
FRAMES(NT) = struct('cdata',[],'colormap',[]); ❺
figure(3)
for n = 1:NT
    plot(X,u(X,T(n)),'-b','linewidth',3);
    title_str = ...
        sprintf('Lecture #25 Example, t = %g ',T(n));
    title(title_str,'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
    xlabel('X','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    ylabel('u(X,T)','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    grid on
    set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
    axis([0 L -0.2 4.5]);
    drawnow % ensures graphics pipeline is complete/"flushed"
    FRAMES(n).cdata = getframe(gcf); ❻
end

%>> play the movie
fig = figure(4);
```

❶ Discretize time as desired.

❷ The sprintf() allows you to create formatted strings for the title. In this case, we include the time, in seconds. The snippet '%5.3g' is a formatting string; in this case the value returned from T(n) is placed here in a field 5 digits wide with up to 3 digits to the right of the decimal point. The character 'g' tells MATLAB to render the number either in fixed-point notation (e.g. 3.14) or scientific notation (e.g. 1.6e9) whichever is more compact.

❸ This sets the axis limits axis ([xmin xmax ymin ymax]). The default behavior is to re-scale the plot to fit the max/min plotted values. For transient simulations this can make changes to the temperature profile harder to understand. Try running this script without this command to better understand the effect.

❺ This creates an array of structures; each structure has two fields, one for the color-data 'cdata', and one for the color-map 'colormap'. A structure is a data-type that we use infrequently for this course. If you wanted, for instance, to access the 3<sup>rd</sup> frame color-data you would use the command:

FRAMES(3).cdata

❻ the command gcf means: "get current frame." In this line, the n<sup>th</sup> frame of the animation is saved to the n<sup>th</sup> FRAMES structure.

```

movie(fig,FRAMES,10); % last argument is frames-per-second
%% Write frames to AVI file
v = VideoWriter('TransientHeat.avi'); ⑦
open(v);
for n = 1:NT
    writeVideo(v,FRAMES(n));
end
close(v); ⑧

```

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⑦ This function creates and opens an AVI file to which the `writeVideo()` function can write a video frame-by-frame. See MATLAB documentation for other supported video file types.

⑧ Be a good leader and close any files you open for writing.

**Task #4:** Visualize the time-dependent temperature profile using a 2D surface plot.

Animations are nice but sometimes the splashy graphics are not needed and you just want to see how the temperature across the domain changes over time in a static image. A surface plot is an excellent way to do this; the MATLAB built-in function that does the job is cunningly named `surf()` and is shown in the listing below.

```

%% Plot the temperature vs time in a 2D plot using the surf
% function
[XX,TT] = meshgrid(X,T); ①
figure(5)
surf(XX,TT,u(XX,TT), 'edgecolor','none'); ②
title('Lecture 25 Surface Plot Example',...
    'fontsize',18,'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('X [cm]', 'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('T [s]', 'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
zlabel('u(X,T) [^\circ C]', 'fontsize',16,...
    'fontweight','bold');

```

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① The `meshgrid()` function outputs 2D grid coordinates corresponding to the vector inputs for each dimension. The output arrays `XX` and `TT` are suitable for use in the `surf()` function.

② The `surf(XX,YY,ZZ)` function takes at least three arguments. In this case the first two are used by the output of `meshgrid()` and the last is created by supplying the `xx` and `tt` arrays to our approximate solution—`u(x,y)`—which serves as the height (or z-coordinate) of the surface plot at each point. The name-value pair: `'edgecolor','none'` suppresses the (by default) black grid lines that delineate the mesh created with `xx` and `tt`. For high-resolution meshes these grid lines would obscure the color-map used to highlight the solution. (Try omitting this name-value pair and observe the effect.)

The resulting surface plot is shown in Figure 33.

### Example Wave Equation

For this we will consider the wave equation example analyzed in Lecture 24. The code may be familiar by this point, but since we did not take the time to go through the MATLAB implementation in detail before, we will take the time here.

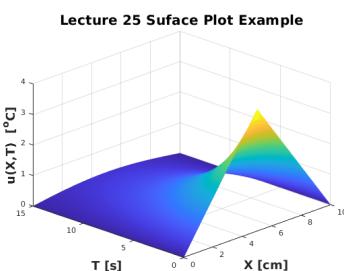


Figure 33: Surface plot of heat equation example.

The boundary value problem is given as: where the length is given

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad a < x < b$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = g(x), \quad 0 < x < L$$

by  $L = 3$ , wave speed is 1, and the initial conditions are given by:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{3x}, & 0 < x < \frac{3}{2} \\ \frac{2}{3}(3-x), & \frac{3}{2} \leq x < 3 \end{cases}$$

$$g(x) = 0$$

The analytic solution is:

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

$$a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \alpha_n \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{\alpha n \pi} \int_0^L g(x) \sin \alpha \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

We begin, again, by cleaning out the workspace and command window and closing all figure windows; then we declare basic problem parameters.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

% Example Problem
L = 3;
alpha_sq = 1;% T/rho
alpha = sqrt(alpha_sq); ❶
N = 50;

f = @(x) ex1(x,L);❷
g = @(x) x.*o; ❸

```

❶ Recall that  $\alpha^2 = T/\rho$  where  $T$  is the tension (force) and  $\rho$  is the density. Unit analysis shows that  $\alpha^2$  has units of:  $m^L/t^2/m/L^3 = L^2/s^2$  where  $m$  is mass,  $L$  is length, and  $t$  is time. Thus  $\alpha$  has units of  $L/s$  and we call it the “wave speed”. Now is also a good time to examine the governing equation of the boundary value problem and confirm to yourself that the units make sense.

❷ Notice that the  $L$  from the parameter list is used for the second argument of  $ex1(x,L)$ .

❸ At first glance it would appear to be easier to simply make the assignment:  $g = o;$ . We do it this way so that the follow-on code can be written in a way that assumes that  $g$  is a function of  $x$ —i.e. the code  $integral(@(x) g(x).*sin(n*pi*x./L,o,L))$  does not result in an error. In the future, if we replace  $g(x) = 0$  with a non-trivial function of  $x$ , for example  $g(x) = \sin x$ , everything will work as expected.

Next we will initialize our approximate solution and built it up term-by-term.

```

u = @(x,t) o;
for n = 1:N
    % compute the coefficients
    an = (2/L)*integral(@(x) f(x).*sin(n*pi*x./L),o,L);
    bn = ...
        (2/(alpha*n*pi))*...
        integral(@(x) g(x).*sin(n*pi*x./L),o,L);
    % update the approximate solution
    u = @(x,t) u(x,t) + ...
        (an*cos(alpha.*n*pi*t./L) + ...
        bn*sin(alpha.*n*pi*t./L)).*sin(n*pi*x./L);
end

```

This equation has two expansion coefficients:  $a_n$  and  $b_n$ , unlike the heat equation which had only one but incorporation of that added complexity in MATLAB is straightforward.

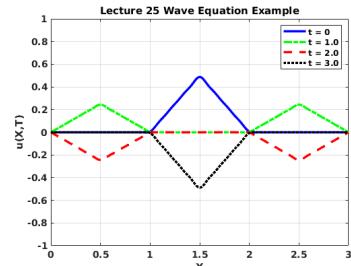
Now that the approximate solution has been computed, we can plot the results. We may, if we wish, create a dynamic plot much like we did with the heat equation so that we can see the wave behavior in action.

```

%% make discrete space and time space vectors
Tmax = 3;
NT = 50;
T = linspace(0,Tmax,NT);
Nx = 500;
X = linspace(0,L,Nx);

%% create time-dependent plot
figure(1)
for n = 1:NT
    plot(X,u(X,T(n)),'-b','linewidth',3);
    title_str = sprintf('Lecture 24 Example, t = %g ',T(n));
    title(title_str,'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
    xlabel('X','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    ylabel('u(X,T)','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    grid on
    set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
    axis([0 L -1.5 1.5]);
    pause(Tmax/(NT-1));
end

```



Or we can make a single plot with multiple data-series as shown in Figure 34:

```

%% fixed plot, multiple data series
figure(2)
plot(X,u(X,0),'-b',...
    X,u(X,1.0),'-g',...
    X,u(X,2.0),'-r',...
    X,u(X,3.0),'-k','linewidth',3);
title('Lecture 25 Wave Equation Example',...
    'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('X','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('u(X,T)','fontsize',14,...
    'fontweight','bold');
grid on
set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');

```

Figure 34: Plot of wave equation example problem at  $t=0, 1.0, 2.0$ , and  $3.0$  sec.

```

axis([0 L -1.0 1.0]);
legend('t = 0','t = 1.0','t = 2.0','t = 3.0',...
'location','best');

```

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Lest we forget, we also need to define the function  $\text{ex1}(x, L)$ . We choose to do this as a *local function* which means that it has to be placed *at the end* of the script file.

```

%% Local functions
function y = ex1(x,L)
[m,n] = size(x);
y = nan(m,n);
for i = 1:length(x)
    if (x(i)>0) && (x(i) < L/2)
        y(i) = (2/3).*x(i);
    elseif(x(i) >= L/2) && (x(i)<L)
        y(i) = (2/3)*(L - x(i));
    end
end
end

```

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# Assignment #9

1. Consider the heat equation given in the following boundary value problem:

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$

Initial Conditions :  $u(x, 0) = f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 < x < L/2 \\ 0, & L/2 \leq x < L \end{cases}, \quad 0 < x < L$

Solve this boundary value problem using separation of variables. Use MATLAB to represent the solution of this equation for  $\alpha^2 = 1$  and  $L = 1$ . Truncate the series solution at  $N = 25$  terms. Plot the solution with separate lines for the solution at  $t=0$ ,  $t=0.1$ , and  $t=0.5$ .

2. Solve the heat equation using separation of variables and find the temperature  $u(x, t)$  in a rod of length  $L$  with thermal diffusivity  $\alpha^2$ , if the initial temperature is  $f(x)$  throughout and if the ends  $x = 0$  and  $x = L$  are insulated.
3. Suppose heat is lost from the lateral surface of a thin rod of length  $L$  into a surrounding medium at temperature zero. If the linear law of heat transfer applies, then the heat equation takes on the form:

$$\alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - hu = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$$

where  $h$  is a constant. Use separation of variables and find the temperature  $u(x, t)$  if the initial temperature is  $f(x)$  throughout and the ends  $x = 0$  and  $x = L$  are insulated. **Note:** when separating variables, keep  $h$  with the time-dependent part of the equation.

4. Solve the heat equation using separation of variables subject to the following boundary and initial conditions:

$$u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(100, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$u(x, 0) = \begin{cases} 0.8x, & 0 \leq x \leq 50 \\ 0.8(100 - x), & 50 < x \leq 100 \end{cases}$$

Use MATLAB to represent the solution of this equation for  $\alpha^2 = 1.6352$  and  $L = 100$ . Truncate the series solution at  $N = 25$  terms. Plot the solution with separate data series for the solution at  $t=0$ ,  $t=10$ , and  $t=50$  seconds. Create a surface plot (use the MATLAB built-in function `surf()` with  $0 \leq x \leq 100$  as one dimension and  $0 \leq t \leq 200$  as the other.

5. Solve the wave equation using separation of variables subject to the given conditions:

$$u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(\pi, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$u(x, 0) = 0, \quad u_t(x, 0) = \sin x, \quad 0 < x < \pi$$

6. Use separation of variables to solve the wave equation subject to the following conditions:

$$u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(1, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$u(x, 0) = x(1 - x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = x(1 - x), \quad 0 < x < 1$$

Use MATLAB to represent this solution. Truncate the series solution at  $N = 25$  terms. Make a plot that shows the position  $u(x, t)$  for  $t = 0, 1, 5$ , and  $10$ .

## *Review Problems #2*

### *List of topics*

1. Orthogonal Functions and Fourier Series
  - (a) Orthogonal Functions
  - (b) Fourier series
  - (c) Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problems
  - (d) Fourier-Bessel and Fourier-Legendre expansions
2. Boundary Value Problems in Rectangular Coordinates
  - (a) Finding product solutions of separable partial differential equations.
  - (b) Classifying partial differential equations.
  - (c) Solving the heat equation and wave equation with various boundary/initial conditions.

### *Review Problems*

1. Suppose the function  $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ ,  $0 < x < 3$ , is expanded in a Fourier series, a cosine series, and a sine series. Draw a sketch of each expansion from  $-3 < x < 3$  and indicate the value to which the expansion converges at  $x = 0$  in each case.
2. The product of an odd function  $f(x)$  with an odd function  $g(x)$  is an \_\_\_\_\_ function.
3. To you were to expand  $f(x) = |x| + 1$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$ , in a trigonometric series, the series that would converge most quickly would be a \_\_\_\_\_ series expansion.
4. Consider Chebyshev's differential equation:

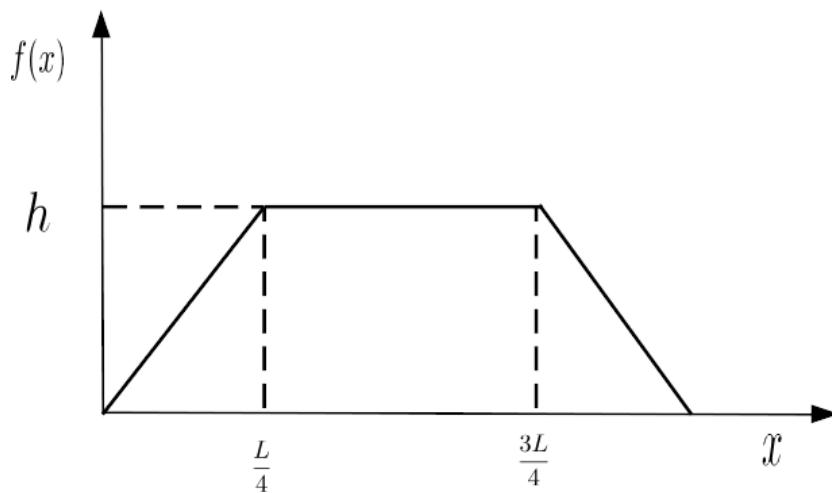
$$(1 - x^2) u'' - xu' + n^2 u = 0, \quad -1 < x < 1$$

which for integer  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , have polynomial solutions called Chebyshev polynomials which are denoted  $T_n(x)$ . Express Chebyshev's equation in self-adjoint form and write the orthogonality relation for Chebyshev polynomials.

5. Consider a rod of length  $L$  coinciding with the interval  $[0, L]$  on the  $x$ -axis. Set up the boundary-value problem for the temperature  $u(x, t)$  where there is heat transfer from the left end into a surrounding medium which is maintained at a temperature of  $20^\circ$ , and the right end is insulated. The initial temperature throughout the rod is  $f(x)$ .
6. Solve the wave equation subject to the conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} u(0, t) &= 0, \quad u(\pi, t) = 0, \quad t > 0 \\ u(x, 0) &= 0.01 \sin 3x, \quad u_t(x, 0) = 0, \quad 0 < x < \pi \end{aligned}$$

7. Consider a string of length  $L = 4$  and  $h = 1$  fixed at both ends with initial displacement as shown in the sketch below.



Using MATLAB syntax, complete the local function shown in the space below:

```
%% Local Function to implement IC
function y = ICfun(x)
```

```
[m,n] = size(x);
```

```
y = nan(m,n);
```

```
for i = 1:length(x)
```

```
end
end
```

# Lecture 26 - Laplace's Equation

## Objectives

- Solve a boundary value problem based on Laplace's equation representing steady-state temperature in a rectangular domain.
- Show how to use the superposition principle to solve Laplace's equation with multiple non-homogeneous boundary conditions.

## Laplace Equation Example

Consider the system depicted in Figure 35 and described by the following boundary value problem based on Laplace's equation.

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0, \quad 0 < x < a, \quad 0 < y < b$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Boundary Conditions : } & u(x,0)=0 \quad u_x(0,y)=0 \\ & u(x,b)=f(x) \quad u_x(a,y)=0 \end{array}$$

We will find the solution to this boundary value problem using separation of variables.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution.

$$u(x,y) = F(x)G(y)$$

**Step #2:** Insert proposed solution into the governing equation.

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} [F(x)G(y)] + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} [F(x)G(y)] = 0$$

$$F_{xx}G + FG_{yy} = 0$$

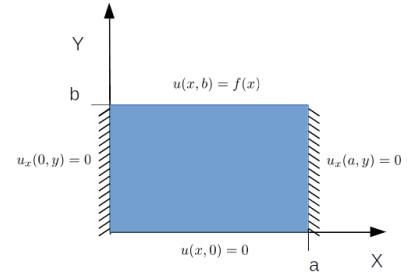


Figure 35: Schematic of example Laplace's equation problem.

**Step #3:** Separate variables by dividing by  $F(x)G(y)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{F_{xx}G}{FG} + \frac{FG_{yy}}{FG} &= 0 \\ \frac{F_{xx}}{F} + \frac{G_{yy}}{G} &= 0 \\ \frac{F_{xx}}{F} = -\frac{G_{yy}}{G} &= -\lambda \\ F_{xx} + \lambda F &= 0 \\ G_{yy} - \lambda G &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

This gives us two separated boundary value problems to solve.

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s).

In order to determine allowable values for  $\lambda$ , we find solutions to the separated boundary value problem that has *all homogeneous boundary conditions*.<sup>1</sup> So we will examine  $F_{xx} + \lambda F = 0$ . As usual, we will have to check for all possible values of  $\lambda$ .

$\lambda = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 x + c_2 \\ \Rightarrow F_x &= c_1 \\ F_x(0) &= c_1 = 0 \\ F_x(a) &= 0 \text{ (satisfied)} \end{aligned}$$

We see that, while  $c_1$  must be zero,  $F(x) = c_2$  satisfies both boundary conditions for any value of  $c_2$ . Thus  $\lambda = 0$  is an acceptable eigenvalue and the corresponding eigenfunction is a constant.

$\lambda < 0$ : To ensure  $\lambda$  is negative we will set  $\lambda = -\alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} - \alpha^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cosh \alpha x + c_2 \sinh \alpha x \\ F_x(x) &= \alpha c_1 \sinh \alpha x + \alpha c_2 \cosh \alpha x \\ F_x(0) &= \alpha c_1(0) + \alpha c_2(1) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \\ F_x(a) &= \alpha c_1 \sinh a\alpha = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore only the trivial solution  $F(x) = 0$  satisfies the separated equation and boundary conditions if  $\lambda < 0$ .

Once again we assume that neither  $F(x)$  nor  $G(y)$  are identically equal to zero throughout the domain, therefore it is mathematically acceptable for them to appear in the denominator.

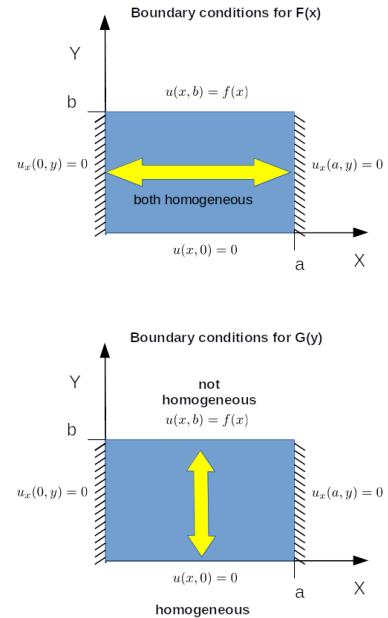


Figure 36: Pairs of boundary conditions for Laplace's equation.

<sup>1</sup> If neither separated boundary value problem has all homogeneous boundary conditions, you will need to solve the problem in multiple phases and use the superposition principle to obtain an answer. This is discussed in the last section of this lecture.

Since the domain is bounded between  $0 < x < a$ , we will use the  $\cosh$  and  $\sinh$  form of the solution.

For this last two lines, recall that  $\sinh x$  is positive for all  $x > 0$ .

$\lambda > 0$ : To insure  $\lambda$  is positive we will set  $\lambda = \alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} + \alpha^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cos \alpha x + c_2 \sin \alpha x \\ F_x(x) &= -\alpha c_1 \sin \alpha x + \alpha c_2 \cos \alpha x \\ F_x(0) &= -\alpha c_1(0) + \alpha c_2(1) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \\ F_x(a) &= -\alpha c_1 \sin \alpha a = 0 \end{aligned}$$

This last condition,  $\sin \alpha a = 0$ , will be satisfied whenever  $\alpha a$  is an integer multiple of  $\pi$ , therefore the eigenvalues are:  $\alpha_n = n\pi/a$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . The corresponding eigenfunctions are:  $F_n(x) = c_1 \cos \alpha_n x$ .

Note that we do not include  $n = 0$  since  $\alpha > 0$ .

In summary, non-trivial eigenfunctions exist when  $\lambda = 0$  and when  $\lambda > 0$ . We need to find the corresponding solutions to  $G(y)$  for these cases.

$\lambda = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} G_{yy} &= 0 \\ G(y) &= c_3 y + c_4 \\ G(0) &= c_3(0) + c_4 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_4 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Apply the homogeneous boundary condition on  $G(y)$ .

So the product solution for the case  $\lambda = 0$  is:  $F(x)G(y) = c_1 c_3 y = c_0 y$

$\lambda = \alpha_n^2$ ,  $\alpha_n = n\pi/a$ .

$$\begin{aligned} G_{yy} - \alpha_n^2 G &= 0 \\ G(y) &= c_3 \cosh \alpha_n y + c_4 \sinh \alpha_n y \\ G(0) &= c_3(1) + c_4(0) \\ \Rightarrow c_3 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow G_n(y) &= c_4 \sinh \alpha_n y \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the product solution for the case  $\lambda > 0$  is:  $F_n(x)G_n(y) = c_n \cos \alpha_n x \sinh \alpha_n y$ .

We combine all previous constants for each eigenfunction into  $c_n$ .

The full product solution is, therefore:

$$u(x, y) = c_0 y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} \sinh \frac{n\pi y}{a}$$

**Step #5:** Apply (remaining) boundary condition to determine unknown coefficients.

The boundary condition that we have not yet used is the non-homogeneous condition applied at  $u(x, b)$ . We must find suitable values for  $a_0$  and  $a_n, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  such that:

$$u(x, b) = a_0 b + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} \sinh \frac{n\pi b}{a} = f(x)$$

We will find the coefficients the same way we always have: multiply both sides by an orthogonal function and integrate. The eigenfunctions identified above comprise our set of orthogonal functions.

For  $n = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} c_0 b (1) \int_0^a dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \left[ \int_0^a (1) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx \right] \sinh \frac{n\pi b}{a} &= \int_0^a f(x) (1) dx \\ c_0 (b)(a) &= \int_0^a f(x) dx \\ c_0 &= \frac{1}{ab} \int_0^a f(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

For  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  the process is similar, we will show the calculation explicitly for  $n = 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} c_0 b \int_0^a \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx + c_1 \left[ \int_0^a \cos \left( \frac{\pi x}{a} \right)^2 dx \right] \sinh \frac{\pi b}{a} &+ \\ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left[ \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} \cos \frac{\pi x}{a} dx \right] \sinh \frac{n\pi b}{a} &= \int_0^a f(x) \cos \frac{\pi x}{a} dx \\ \Rightarrow c_1 \left( \frac{a}{2} \right) \sinh \frac{\pi b}{a} &= \int_0^a f(x) \cos \frac{\pi x}{a} dx \\ c_1 &= \frac{2 \int_0^a f(x) \cos \frac{\pi x}{a} dx}{a \sinh \frac{\pi b}{a}} \end{aligned}$$

and, in general:

$$c_n = \frac{2 \int_0^a f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx}{a \sinh \frac{n\pi b}{a}}$$

In summary, the solution to this boundary value problem is:

$$u(x, y) = c_0 y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} \sinh \frac{n\pi y}{a}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} c_0 &= \frac{1}{ab} \int_0^a f(x) dx \\ c_n &= \frac{2 \int_0^a f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx}{a \sinh \frac{n\pi b}{a}} \end{aligned}$$

Some notes on this process:

1. The eigenfunctions are solutions to the separated equation for  $F(x)$  and they are orthogonal over the range  $x \in [0, a]$ ; that is why the integrals are all from 0 to  $a$ .
2.  $F_0(x) = 1$  is orthogonal to  $F_n(x) = \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a}$  so all of the terms in the summation are equal to zero.

You should confirm that:  
 $\int_0^a \cos \left( \frac{n\pi x}{a} \right)^2 dx = \frac{a}{2}$ .

## *Implementation in MATLAB*

To actually calculate and plot a solution we need to specify values for  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $f(x)$  as well as choose a finite number of terms to the infinite series solution. For this example we will set  $a = 3$ ,  $b = 5$ , and we will use  $N = 25$  terms of the infinite series and we will define the type 1 boundary condition at  $y = b$  to be:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & 0 < x < 3/2 \\ (3/2)^2, & 3/2 \leq x < 3 \end{cases}$$

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'
4
5 %% Set Parameters
6 a = 5;
7 b = 3;
8 N = 15;
9
10 f = @(x) ex1(x,a);
11
12 %% define the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions
13 alpha = @(n) n.* pi./a;
14 F = @(x,n) cos(alpha(n).*x);
15 G = @(y,n) sinh(alpha(n).*y);
16
17 %% Compute coefficients
18 % compute Ao
19 co = (1/(a*b))*integral(@(x) f(x),0,a);
20
21 % initialize solution
22 u = @(x,y) co.*y;
23 for n = 1:N
24     % compute An
25     cn = (2./(a*G(b,n))).*...
26           integral(@(x) f(x).*F(x,n),0,a);
27     % update the approximate solution
28     u = @(x,y) u(x,y) + cn*F(x,n).*G(y,n);
29 end

```

Since this is a two-dimensional geometry, a surface plot is appropriate for visualizing the solution.

```

%% Make discrete spatial coordinate axes
Nx = ceil(100*a); % "ceil" rounds up to next highest integer
Ny = ceil(100*b);
X = linspace(0,a,Nx);
Y = linspace(0,b,Ny);

[XX,YY] = meshgrid(X,Y);

%% Plot the solution in a 2D plot using surf
figure(1)
surf(XX,YY,u(XX,YY), 'edgecolor', 'none');
title("Lecture 26 Laplace's Equation Example", ...❶

```

① Since the string used for the title includes an apostrophe, double-quotes must be used to enclose the string.

```

'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('X','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('Y','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
zlabel('u(X,Y)','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');

```

42  
43  
44  
45  
46

We have saved the definition for  $\text{ex1}(x)$  until last since, as usual, we have implemented it as a local function and it must come at the end of the script file.

```

%% Local functions
function y = ex1(x,a)
[m,n] = size(x);
y = nan(m,n);
for i = 1:length(x)
    if(x(i)>= 0) && (x(i)<a/2)
        y(i) = x(i)^2;
    elseif(x(i) >= a/2) && (x(i)<a)
        y(i) = (a/2)^2;
    end
end
end

```

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The resulting plot is shown in Figure 37. Readers are strongly encouraged to run this script in MATLAB and examine the output carefully and satisfy yourself that it, at a minimum, meets the specified boundary conditions.

### Superposition Principle

In the last example problem, all of the boundary conditions were homogeneous except for along the top edge of the rectangular domain at  $y = b$ . We were able to use separation of variables and find a solution because there was one spatial dimension along which *both boundaries were homogeneous*. Specifically, the boundaries at  $x = 0$  and  $x = a$  had homogeneous type 2 boundary conditions.

What if, instead, we had boundary conditions as depicted by Figure 38. If these were boundary conditions for Laplace's equation, we would carry out separation of variables to derive the two separated boundary value problems just as before.

$$F_{xx} + \lambda F = 0$$

$$G_{yy} - \lambda G = 0$$

Suppose we assumed  $\lambda = 0$  and tried to find solutions for  $F(x)$ , we would get:

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= c_1 x + c_2 \\ F(0) &= c_1(0) + c_2 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \\ F(a) &= c_1(a) = g(y) \leftarrow \text{Problem!!} \end{aligned}$$

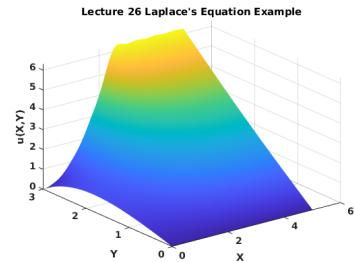


Figure 37: Surface plot of solution to example problem.

In all of the boundary value problems we have solved so far, this condition has always been met. In the heat equation and wave equation boundary value problems, there were always homogeneous boundary conditions in the separated boundary value problem for the spatial independent variable ( $x$ ). The separated boundary value problem for the temporal independent variable ( $t$ ) had non-homogeneous boundary (initial) conditions.

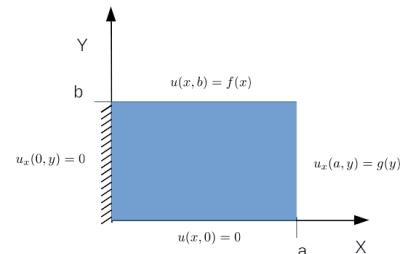


Figure 38: Neither spatial dimension has all homogeneous boundary conditions.

Everything is going fine until we have the condition  $c_1(a) = g(y)$ . Unless  $g(y)$  is a constant: a) no value of  $c_1$  will satisfy  $g(y)$  for all values of  $y \in [0, b]$ ; and b) there is nothing we can do about it. We are simply stuck. The same problem would occur if  $\lambda$  were non-zero or if we did the same analysis on  $G(y)$ . We need to do something different.

**WHAT WE WILL DO** is this: decompose the problem into two boundary value problems: Problem A and Problem B as is illustrated in Figure 39. Each boundary value problem in this decomposition will have one dimension for which there are homogeneous boundary conditions on both boundaries.

	Problem A	Problem B
Governing Equation	$\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} = 0$	$\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} = 0$
Boundary Conditions	$v_x(0,y)=0, v(x,0)=0$ $v_x(a,y)=0, v(x,b)=f(x)$	$w_x(0,y)=0, w(x,0)=0$ $w_x(a,y)=g(x), w(x,b)=0$

We then solve each boundary value problem to get  $v(x, y)$  and  $w(x, y)$ . The solution to the original problem is the *superposition* (or just: sum) of the solutions to the sub-problems:

$$u(x, y) = v(x, y) + w(x, y)$$

### Notes:

1. This superposition method *requires* that the governing equation and boundary conditions for the boundary value problem all be linear.
2. The method also depends on the fact that the governing equation is homogeneous.
3. You should break the problem up into as many sub-problems as is required so that, in each sub-problem, there is one dimension (spatial or temporal) that has homogeneous conditions at all boundaries.

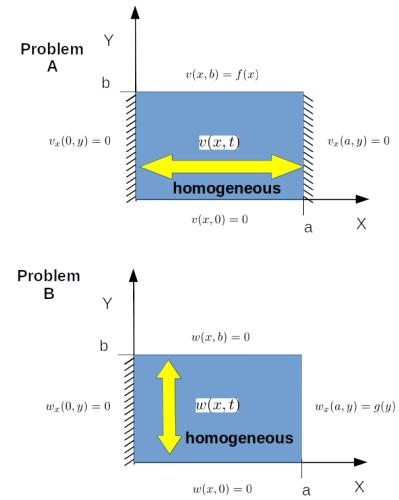


Figure 39: Superposition of two BVPs each with homogeneous boundary conditions in one dimension.



# Lecture 27 - Non-homogeneous Problems

## Objectives

- Demonstrate a method for solving some non-homogeneous BVPs of the following type:
  1. Non-homogeneous term in the PDE that is a function of no more than one independent variable; and/or
  2. constant non-homogeneous term in a boundary condition.
- Do an example problem.

## Time-Independent PDEs and BCs

Consider the following BVP based on the heat equation:

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + S(x), \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(0, t) = u_0, \quad u(L, t) = u_1, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < L$$

where  $u_0$  and  $u_1$  are constants. In this boundary value problem both the governing equation and the boundary conditions are non-homogeneous.

Since the governing equation is non-homogeneous, it is not separable. In order to see why, let us begin the separation process:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= F(x)G(t) \\ \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} [F(x)G(t)] + S(x) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [F(x)G(t)] \\ \alpha^2 F_{xx}G + S &= FG_t \\ \frac{\alpha^2 F_{xx}G}{\alpha^2 FG} + \frac{S}{\alpha^2 FG} &= \frac{FG_t}{\alpha^2 FG} \\ \frac{F_{xx}}{F} + \underbrace{\frac{S}{\alpha^2 FG}}_{\text{Problem!}} &= \frac{G_t}{\alpha^2 G} \end{aligned}$$

Here we carry out the steps of separation of variables just as we did in Lecture 23.

The term  $S/\alpha^2 FG$  is a function of both  $x$  and  $t$  and cannot be separated.

The non-homogeneous boundary conditions are also a problem.

Suppose we were able to complete the separation process and derive separated boundary value problems for  $F(x)$  and  $G(t)$ . We then try to apply the spatial boundary conditions to  $F(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} u(0, t) &= F(0)G(t) = u_0 \\ u(L, t) &= F(L)G(t) = u_1 \end{aligned}$$

If we had homogeneous boundary conditions and  $u_0 = 0$ —like we have always had before—we could just require  $F(0) = 0$  and be done with it.<sup>1</sup> But if  $u_1 \neq 0$  we are stuck. We cannot simply say:  $F(0) = u_0/G(t)$ ; even if we knew what  $G(t)$  was it could only work in the case that  $u_0/G(t)$  were a constant. The same problem applies to the boundary at  $x = L$ . If we are to use separation of variables, we need to find a way to make both the governing equation and the boundary conditions homogeneous.

### Approach:

1. Assume a solution of the form:  $u(x, t) = v(x, t) + \psi(x)$ . Inserting this solution into our governing equation gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [v(x, t) + \psi(x)] &= \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} [v(x, t) + \psi(x)] + S(x) \\ v_t + \psi_t &\stackrel{0}{=} \alpha^2 v_{xx} + \alpha^2 \psi_{xx} + S(x) \end{aligned}$$

The boundary conditions become:

$$\begin{aligned} u(0, t) &= v(0, t) + \psi(0) = u_0 \\ u(L, t) &= v(L, t) + \psi(L) = u_1 \end{aligned}$$

and the initial condition becomes:

$$u(x, 0) = v(x, 0) + \psi(x) = f(x)$$

2. Decompose the original boundary value problem into a new, homogeneous boundary value problem for  $v(x, t)$  and non-homogeneous boundary value problem for  $\psi(x)$ :

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $v(0, t) = 0, \quad v(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$

Initial Conditions :  $v(x, 0) = f(x) - \psi(x), \quad 0 < x < L$

<sup>1</sup> Zero is special because if  $F(0) = 0$ , it does not matter what  $G(t)$  is, we still satisfy the condition.

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha^2 \psi_{xx} + S(x) &= 0 \\ \psi(0) = u_0, \quad \psi(L) &= u_1\end{aligned}$$

where the non-homogeneous terms from the governing equation and boundary conditions have been absorbed in the equation for  $\psi(x)$ . The initial condition for  $v(x, t)$  remains non-homogeneous but is modified to account for  $\psi(x)$ .

We solve for  $\psi(x)$ , then solve for  $v(x, t)$  and add the results together to get  $u(x, t)$ .

**Example:** Consider the following boundary value problem:

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + S, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(L, t) = u_1, \quad t > 0$

Initial Conditions :  $u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < L$

where  $S$  and  $u_1$  are constants, as are  $\alpha^2$  and  $L$ ; and  $f(x)$  is a given function.

**Step #1:** Substitute  $u(x, t) = v(x, t) + \psi(x)$ .

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $v(0, t) = 0, \quad v(L, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$

Initial Conditions :  $v(x, 0) = f(x) - \psi(x), \quad 0 < x < L$

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha^2 \psi_{xx} + r &= 0 \\ \psi(0) = 0, \quad \psi(L) &= u_1\end{aligned}$$

**Step #2:** Solve for  $\psi(x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha^2 \psi_{xx} + r &= 0 \\ \psi_{xx}(x) &= -\frac{r}{\alpha^2} \\ \psi_x(x) &= -\frac{r}{\alpha^2} x + c_1 \\ \psi(x) &= -\frac{r}{2\alpha^2} x^2 + c_1 x + c_2\end{aligned}$$

Readers are strongly encouraged to look at the boundary value problems for  $v(x, t)$  and  $\psi(x)$  and see that if you "add them up" you recover the original boundary value problem for  $u(x, t)$ .

apply boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(0) &= c_2 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \\ \psi(L) &= -\frac{r}{2\alpha^2}L^2 + c_1L = u_1 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= \frac{1}{L} \left( u_1 + \frac{rL^2}{2\alpha^2} \right) \\ \Rightarrow \psi(x) &= -\frac{r}{2\alpha^2}x^2 + \frac{1}{L} \left( u_1 + \frac{rL^2}{2\alpha^2} \right) x\end{aligned}$$

**Step #3:** Solve for  $v(x, t)$ .

We have already solved this problem in Lecture 23 and we will not repeat the details here. The solution is:

$$\begin{aligned}v(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} e^{-(\alpha \frac{n\pi}{L})^2 t} \\ c_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L [f(x) - \psi(x)] \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx\end{aligned}$$

**Step #4:** Construct  $u(x, t)$  from solutions for  $v(x, t)$  and  $\psi(x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}u(x, t) &= \psi(x) + v(x, t) \\ u(x, t) &= -\frac{r}{2\alpha^2}x^2 + \frac{1}{L} \left( u_1 + \frac{rL^2}{2\alpha^2} \right) x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} e^{-(\alpha \frac{n\pi}{L})^2 t}\end{aligned}$$

In this particular case, while we know from the boundary conditions, that  $v(x, t)$  goes to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , the function  $\psi(x)$  remains constant with time. Conceptually we can think of  $\psi(x)$  as being the *steady state* part of the solution while  $v(x, t)$  is the *transient* part.

$$u(x, t) = \underbrace{-\frac{r}{2\alpha^2}x^2 + \frac{1}{L} \left( u_1 + \frac{rL^2}{2\alpha^2} \right) x}_{\text{steady state}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} e^{-(\alpha \frac{n\pi}{L})^2 t}}_{\text{transient}}$$

A plot for the case:  $\alpha^2 = 0.5$ ,  $L = 1$ ,  $r = 150$ ,  $u_1 = 100$ , and  $f(x) = 300x(1-x)$  is shown in Figure 40. Think about the physics for a minute: we have a rod that is heated from a uniform source,  $r$ , which gives the roughly parabolic temperature profile throughout the rod except at the ends; the left-hand side is maintained at 0 degrees and the right-hand side is held steady at 100 degrees. Hopefully the answer you see in the plot matches, more-or-less, your expectations as to what the temperature profile *should* look like.

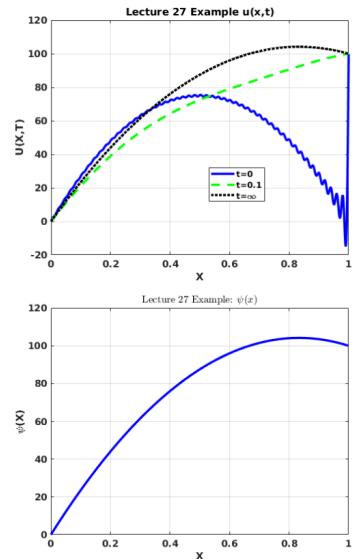


Figure 40: The solution,  $u(x, t)$  at various times and the steady-state solution  $\psi(x)$ .

Take note of how, since the initial condition,  $f(x)$ , does not match the boundary condition at  $x = 1$  there is "wigginess" in the Fourier series representation that "diffuses away" almost immediately. Note also how  $u(x, \infty)$  matches  $\psi(x)$  as expected.

# Lecture 28 - Orthogonal Series Expansion

## Objectives

- Apply separation of variables and solve boundary value problems that have solutions in the form of orthogonal series expansions (other than Fourier series).
- Show examples with the heat and wave equation.

For some sets of boundary conditions, the solution to the heat equation is an infinite series that is not a Fourier series. We will show that, apart from details regarding identifying eigenvalues, the implications of this are not large and will have little impact on how you go about computing the solution. All of this is most easily clarified with a couple of examples.

**Example #1:** Consider the boundary value problem below based on the heat equation.

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(0, t) = 0, \quad u_x(1, t) = -hu(1, t), \quad h > 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } u(x, 0) = 1, \quad 0 < x < 1$$

A schematic of this problem is shown in Figure 41. On the right end of the domain we have a type 3 boundary condition representing convective heat transfer to an environment maintained at a temperature of  $0^\circ$ .

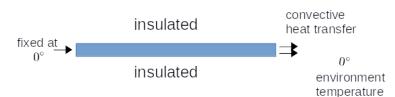


Figure 41: Schematic of Example #1.

Note that we have not established any physical units on this system. If it helps, consider all temperatures given to be in degrees Celsius.

We will solve this boundary value problem using separation of variables. Since we have already carried out the separation process for the heat equation numerous times, we will skip ahead and write down the separated equations:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x,t) &= F(x)G(t) \\ F_{xx} + \lambda F &= 0 \\ G_t + \alpha^2 \lambda G &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

We need to find values of  $\lambda$  for which non-trivial solutions to the equations can satisfy the boundary conditions. Since  $F(x)$  is the spatial variable to which the boundary conditions apply, and both boundary conditions are homogeneous, we will focus our attention on the equation for  $F(x)$ .

$\lambda = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 x + c_2 \\ F(0) = c_1(0) + c_2 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \\ F_x(1) = c_1 &= -hc_1(1) \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

So we will rule out  $\lambda = 0$  since only the trivial solution  $F(x) = 0$  applies.

$\lambda < 0$ :  $\lambda = -\nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} - \nu^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cosh \nu x + c_2 \sinh \nu x \\ F(0) = c_1(1) + c_2(0) &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0 \\ F_x(1) = \nu c_2 \cosh \nu &= -hc_2 \sinh \nu \\ \frac{\nu}{h} c_2 &= -c_2 \tanh \nu \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\nu > 0$  and  $h > 0$ , and, as shown by Figure 42  $\tanh \nu$  is also positive,  $c_2$  must also be equal to zero.<sup>1</sup>

Since  $h > 0$ , the only way that  $c_1 = -hc_1$  is if  $c_1 = 0$ . If  $c_1$  were not zero, the last line would imply that  $h = -1$  which, since  $h > 0$ , is a contradiction.

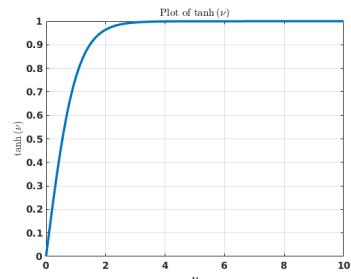


Figure 42: Plot of  $\tanh(\nu)$ .

<sup>1</sup> By this time, the reader should be getting pretty good at making these kinds of observations.

$\lambda > 0$ :  $\lambda = \nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} + \nu^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cos \nu x + c_2 \sin \nu x \\ F(0) &= c_1(1) + c_2(0) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0 \\ F_x(1) &= \nu c_2 \cos \nu = -h c_2 \sin \nu \\ c_2 \tan \nu &= -\frac{\nu}{h} \end{aligned}$$

Of course  $c_2 = 0$  would satisfy this condition but we are looking for non-trivial solutions. We see from Figure 43 that the plot of  $\tan \nu$  intersects the plot of  $-\nu/h$  infinitely many times.<sup>2</sup> The values of  $\nu$  where this happens will be used to find our eigenvalues,  $\nu_n^2$ , and the eigenfunctions will be  $F_n(x) = c_n \sin \nu_n x$ . Applying these eigenvalues to our separated equation  $G(t)$  gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} G_t + \alpha^2 \nu^2 G &= 0 \\ G_n(t) &= c_3 e^{-(\alpha \nu_n)^2 t} \end{aligned}$$

and the product solution is:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin(\nu_n x) e^{-(\alpha \nu_n)^2 t}$$

Now we must apply the initial condition:

$$u(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin(\nu_n x) \overset{1}{\cancel{e^0}} = f(x)$$

On the left side of the equation above we have an infinite series with unknown coefficients  $c_n$ ; on the right side we have a given function  $f(x)$ . Our job is to find the values  $c_n$  so that the two sides are, in fact, equal. To do this we will multiply both sides of the equation by our orthogonal functions— $\sin(\nu_n x)$ —and integrate over the interval  $x \in [0, 1]$ .<sup>3</sup> At this point we still have not nailed down the numeric values of  $\nu_n$  but we *do* know that, since the separated boundary value problem for  $F(x)$  from which we obtained  $\nu_n$  and  $\sin(\nu_n x)$  fall within the realm of Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue theory, the eigenfunctions are mutually orthogonal with respect to the weight function,  $p(x)$  which, in this case, can be shown to be  $p(x) = 1$ .

The coefficients are given by:

$$c_n = \frac{(f(x), \sin(\nu_n x))}{(\sin(\nu_n x), \sin(\nu_n x))} = \frac{\int_0^1 f(x) \sin(\nu x) dx}{\int_0^2 \sin(\nu x)^2 dx}$$

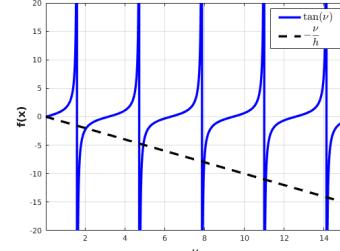


Figure 43: Plot of  $\tan \nu$  and  $-\nu/h$  vs  $\nu$  for  $h = 1$ .

<sup>2</sup> This is the sort of claim for which a mathematician might reasonably expect a proof but, as engineers, we will simply not provide one. We know  $\tan \nu$  is periodic and the pattern will continue indefinitely and the straight line  $-\nu/h$  will intersect each period no matter the value of  $h$  and that will be good enough for us.

<sup>3</sup> We should hasten to add—"and weight function"—to this phrase. It is an important detail that is easy to forget. When we move on to problems in polar and cylindrical coordinates we will need to be more strict about this.

WE WILL USE MATLAB to construct our solution to this boundary value problem. As usual, we will start by clearing out the MATLAB workspace, specify our constants and initial conditions and determine the number of terms to use in our infinite series for  $u(x, t)$ .

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

%% Parameters
alpha_sq = 0.1; % thermal diffusivity
h = 10; % convective heat transfer coefficient
L = 1;
f = @(x) 1; % initial condition

N = 25; % number of eigenfunctions

```

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3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11

Next we must find numeric values for  $\nu_n$ . To do this, we will observe from Figure 41 that there is exactly one intersection of  $\tan \nu$  and  $-\nu/h$  in the interval  $\nu \in [\pi/2, 3\pi/2]$  and another intersection in the interval  $\nu \in [3\pi/2, 5\pi/2]$  etcetera. We keep looking in intervals  $[n\pi/2, (n+2)\pi/2]$ ,  $n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$ . This is done using the MATLAB built-in function `fzero()`.

```

%% Find the desired number of eigenvalues
ev_fun = @(x) tan(x) + x./h; ①

nu = nan(N,1);
delta = 1e-8; ②
xo = [pi/2+delta ,3*pi/2-delta];
for i = 1:N
    [x,fval,exit_flag] = fzero(ev_fun,xo); ③
    nu(i) = x;
    xo = xo + pi;
end
% do some crude error checking
assert(min(diff(nu))>0,...)
'Error! Something is wrong with your eigenvalues!';④

```

14  
15  
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① `fzero()` is a root-finding function so we need to re-formulate  $\tan \nu = -\nu/h$  so a root-finder can get the values of  $\nu$ .

② We do not want to evaluate our function at the ends of the search interval since those correspond to asymptotes of  $\tan x$ . We move our search boundaries “in” a little bit (towards the interior of the interval) to avoid those asymptotes.

③ In this instance `fzero()` has two arguments and returns three values. The variable `ev_fun` is a handle<sup>4</sup> to the function to which we are looking for roots and `xo` is the interval where we are searching for the roots. Of the return arguments: `x` is the root; `fval` is the numeric value of `ev_fun` evaluated at the root `x`; and `exit_flag` is a value returned by `fzero()` to indicate if the function was successful or not.<sup>5</sup>

④ This is a modest bit of error checking to ensure that, at a minimum, the roots we find are distinct.

The remainder of the MATLAB script is typical of what we have been doing so far.

```

%% Construct solution
Fn = @(x,n) sin(nu(n).*x);
Gn = @(t,n) exp(-(nu(n).^2).*alpha_sq.*t);

```

29  
30  
31  
32

<sup>4</sup> A variable that, when evaluated, returns a function is often referred to as a *handle* to the function. This is similar to the variable `gca` which can be thought of as a handle to the current axis.

<sup>5</sup> See the documentation for a description of the possible values for `exit_flag`. Several built-in MATLAB functions use this output variable and a value of `exit_flag=1` normally indicates success. As you can see, we do not check the value of `exit_flag` in this script (and we also ignore `fval`) but readers are encouraged to make use of this kind of feedback from MATLAB functions when the reliability of their results is important.

```

u = @(x, t) 0;
for n = 1:N
    ef_mag = integral(@(x) Fn(x, n).*Fn(x, n), 0, L);
    cn = integral(@(x) f(x).*Fn(x, n), 0, L)./ef_mag;
    u = @(x, t) u(x, t) + cn*Fn(x, n).*Gn(t, n);
end

```

❸ We have not bothered to try and derive a closed-form solution for  $\int_0^1 \sin(\nu_n x) dx$  so we do it numerically.

The solution for the parameters we have selected, plotted at various times, is shown in Figure 44.

Some questions that you should make sure that you can answer:

1. What is the final steady-state temperature? Answer: zero since all of the energy from the initial condition is transferred out via the left or right boundaries.
2. Why is the initial condition so “wiggly”? Answer: because the initial condition does not match the boundary condition at  $x = 0$  and the discontinuity causes perturbations typical of Fourier series.
3. What happens if  $\alpha^2$  is increased or decreased?
4. What happens if  $h$  is increased or decreased?

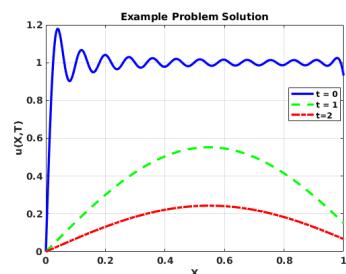


Figure 44: Solution for Example #1.

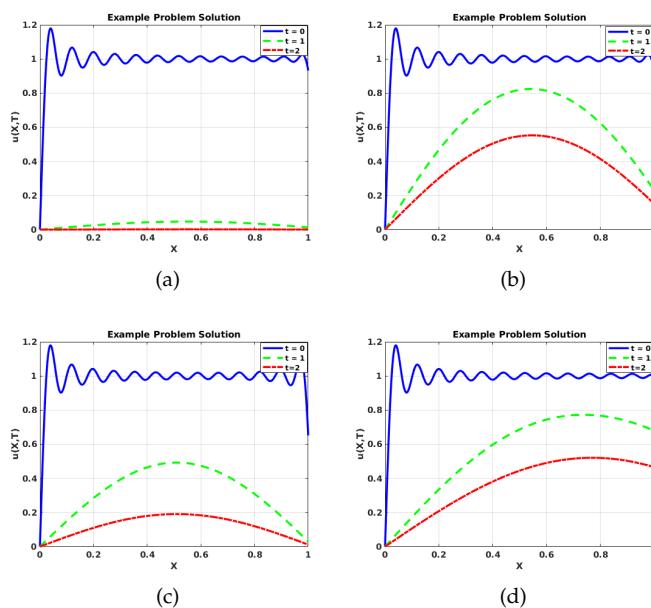


Figure 45: Variations in  $\alpha$  and  $h$  for example problem.

Answers to the last two questions are illustrated in Figure 45. Images a) and b) illustrate how the solution changes when thermal diffusivity is increased or decreased, respectively. Images c) and d) illustrate how the solution changes when the convective heat transfer coefficient,  $h$ , is increased and decreased.

**Example #2:** The twist angle  $\theta(x, t)$  of a torsionally vibrating shaft is given by the wave equation

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial t^2}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } \theta(0, t) = 0, \quad \theta_x(1, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } \theta(x, 0) = x, \quad \theta_t(x, 0) = 0, \quad 0 < x < 1$$

OF COURSE WE will also use separation of variables for this boundary value problem and, again, since we have already carried out the separation process for the wave equation numerous times, we will again skip ahead and write down the separated equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta(x, t) &= F(x)G(t) \\ F_{xx} + \lambda F &= 0 \\ G_{tt} + \alpha^2 \lambda G &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

We need to find values of  $\lambda$  for which non-trivial solutions to the equations can satisfy the boundary conditions. As with the first example,  $F(x)$  is the spatial variable to which the boundary conditions apply and both boundary conditions are homogeneous. Thus we will again focus our attention on the equation for  $F(x)$ .

$\lambda = 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 x + c_2 \\ F(0) &= c_1(0) + c_2 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_2 &= 0 \\ F_x(0) &= c_1 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

We see that for  $\lambda = 0$  only the trivial solution can satisfy the boundary conditions.

$\lambda < 0$ :  $\lambda = \nu^2, \nu > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} - \nu^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cosh \nu x + c_2 \sinh \nu x \\ F(0) &= c_1(1) + c_2(0) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0 \\ F_x(1) &= \nu c_2 \cosh \nu = 0 \end{aligned}$$

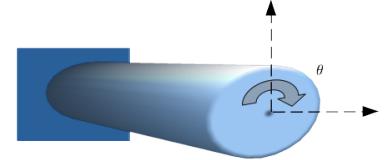


Figure 46: Schematic of Example #2.

For the last conditions, since  $\cosh \nu$  is always positive for  $\nu > 0$ ,  $c_2 = 0$  and, again, only the trivial solution can satisfy the boundary conditions.

$$\lambda > 0: \lambda = \nu^2, \nu > 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xx} + \nu^2 F &= 0 \\ F(x) &= c_1 \cos \nu x + c_2 \sin \nu x \\ F(0) &= c_1(1) + c_2(0) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0 \\ F_x(1) &= \nu c_2 \cos \nu = 0 \end{aligned}$$

By this point in time, this analysis may begin to feel quite repetitive. That is because it *is* repetitive. Nonetheless, resist the tendency to rush and/or become complacent. It is worth your while to patiently and carefully work through each of these cases every time.

We can satisfy this boundary condition for any value of  $c_2$  provided that  $\nu$  is a root of  $\cos(\nu)$ . This happens when  $\nu$  is an odd-integer multiple of  $\pi/2$ . Thus:

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_n &= (2n-1)\frac{\pi}{2}, n = 1, 2, 3 \dots \\ F_n(x) &= c_n \sin \nu_n x \end{aligned}$$

The corresponding solution to  $G(t)$  is:

$$\begin{aligned} G_{tt} + \alpha^2 \nu_n^2 G &= 0 \\ G(t) &= a_n \cos(\alpha \nu_n t) + b_n \sin(\alpha \nu_n t) \end{aligned}$$

and the product solution is:

$$u(x, t) = F(x)G(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n \cos(\alpha \nu_n t) + b_n \sin(\alpha \nu_n t)] \sin(\nu_n x)$$

To **SOLVE FOR** the remaining constants  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  we need to apply the initial conditions.

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n(1) + b_n(0)] \sin(\nu_n x) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin(\nu_n x) = x \end{aligned}$$

To solve for  $a_n$ , we now only need to multiply both sides by our orthogonal function— $\sin(\nu_n x)$ —and integrate. The resulting formula for  $a_n$  is:

$$a_n = \frac{(x, \sin(\nu_n x))}{(\sin(\nu_n x), \sin(\nu_n x))} = \underbrace{\frac{\int_0^1 x \sin(\nu_n x) dx}{\int_0^1 \sin(\nu_n x)^2 dx}}_{1/2}$$

This really *looks* like a Fourier series, but technically it is not since the expansion functions are not  $\sin(n\pi x/L)$  or  $\cos(n\pi x/L)$ .

The other boundary condition is applied to get  $b_n$ :

$$u_t(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [-\alpha \nu_n a_n(0) + \alpha \nu_n b_n(1)] \sin(\nu_n x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow b_n = 0, \quad n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$$

In summary, the solution is:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(\alpha \nu_n t) \sin(\nu_n x)$$

$$a_n = 2 \int_0^1 x \sin(\nu_n x) dx$$

THE MATLAB CODE to construct and visualize the solution for this problem is shown in the listing below.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 %% Parameters
5 alpha_sq = 5;
6 L = 1;
7 N = 30;

8 nu = @(n) (2*n-1)*pi/2;
9 Fn = @(x,n) sin(nu(n).*x);
10 Gn = @(t,n) cos(alpha_sq*nu(n).*t);
11 f = @(x) x; % initial displacement
12 u = @(x,t) 0; % initial velocity

13 for n = 1:N
14     ef_mag = integral(@(x) Fn(x,n).^2,0,L);
15     an = integral(@(x) f(x).*Fn(x,n),0,L)./ef_mag;
16     u = @(x,t) u(x,t) + an.*Fn(x,n).*Gn(t,n);
17 end

18 %% Plot the solution
19 Nx = 1000;
20 X = linspace(0,L,Nx);

21 Tmax = 5;
22 Nt = 50;
23 T = linspace(0,Tmax,Nt);

24 figure(2)
25 for t = 1:Nt
26     plot(X,u(X,T(t)), '-b', 'linewidth', 3);
27     title_str = sprintf('Lecture 28 Example 2, t = %g ', T(t));
28     title(title_str, 'fontsize', 16, 'fontweight', 'bold');
29     xlabel('X', 'fontsize', 14, 'fontweight', 'bold');
30     ylabel('U(X,T) Angular Displacement', 'fontsize', 14, ...
31         'fontweight', 'bold');
32     grid on
33     set(gca, 'fontsize', 12, 'fontweight', 'bold');
34     axis([0 L -L L]);
35     pause(Tmax/(Nt-1));
36 end
37
38
39
40
41
42

```

# Assignment #10

1. Solve the boundary value problem below using separation of variables.

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0, \quad 0 < x < a, \quad 0 < y < b$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(x,0)=0 \quad u(0,y)=0$   
 $u(x,b)=f(x) \quad u(a,y)=0$

2. Solve the boundary value problem below using separation of variables.

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0, \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad 0 < y < 1$

Boundary Conditions :  $u_y(x,0)=0 \quad u(0,y)=0$   
 $u_y(x,1)=0 \quad u(1,y)=1-y$

Symbolically solve the problem and set up, but do not evaluate analytically, the Fourier coefficients.  
Use MATLAB to numerically find the solution using  $N = 15$  eigenmodes. Plot the solution using the MATLAB built-in function `surf()` and print out the value of the solution at  $u(0.5, 0.5)$ .

3. Solve the non-homogeneous boundary value problem below.

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + Ae^{-\beta x}, \quad \alpha > 0, \beta > 0, \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(0,t) = 0, \quad u(1,t) = 0, \quad t > 0$

Initial Conditions :  $u(x,0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < L$

4. Find a steady-state solution  $\psi(x)$  of the non-homogeneous boundary value problem below.

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - h(u - u_0), \quad \alpha > 0, h > 0, \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(0, t) = u_0, \quad u(1, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$

Initial Conditions :  $u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < L$

5. Solve the boundary value problem below using separation of variables.

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0, \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad 0 < y < 1$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(x, 0) = 0, \quad u_x(0, y) = 0$   
 $u_y(x, 1) = 0, \quad u(1, y) = u_0$

Solve the equation symbolically. Use MATLAB to represent the solution for  $N = 15$  eigenmodes with  $u_0 = 0.25$ . Plot the solution using MATLAB's built-in function `surf()`.

# Lecture 29 - Fourier Series in Two Variables

## Objectives

- Present Fourier series expansions in two (or more) independent variables.
- Show an example application in the solution to the heat equation in two spatial dimensions.

## Fourier Series Expansion in Two Variables

Consider the function  $f(x, y)$ ,  $0 < x < a$ ,  $0 < y < b$ . Suppose we want to represent the function in the form of a *double* Fourier series as follows:

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{b} \quad (95)$$

1. Should we expect this to be possible? **Answer:** Of course! Fourier series have shown themselves to be a perfectly adequate tool for representing a variety of functions. There is no problem in adding another spatial dimension.
2. How will we determine the appropriate values for  $A_{mn}$ ? **Answer:** We will multiply both sides by orthogonal functions and integrate, as usual.

$$\int_0^b \int_0^a f(x, y) \sin \frac{m' \pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n' \pi y}{b} dx dy = \dots$$

$$\int_0^a \int_0^b A_{mn} \sin \frac{m \pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n \pi y}{b} \sin \frac{m' \pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n' \pi y}{b} dx dy$$

where, if  $m' = m$  and  $n' = n$  then:

$$\int_0^b \int_0^a f(x, y) \sin \frac{m' \pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n' \pi y}{b} dx dy = \dots$$

$$A_{mn} \underbrace{\left[ \int_0^a \sin \left( \frac{m \pi x}{a} \right)^2 dx \right]}_{=\frac{a}{2}} \underbrace{\left[ \int_0^b \sin \left( \frac{n \pi y}{b} \right)^2 dy \right]}_{=\frac{b}{2}}$$

Again, these sets of functions— $\sin \frac{m \pi x}{a}$  and  $\sin \frac{n \pi y}{b}$ —are orthogonal with respect to a weight function  $p(x) = 1$  and we should not forget it even if we leave it out of the equations and fail to mention it in the discussion.

Of course, if  $m' \neq m$  or  $n' \neq n$  then the respective integral is zero by orthogonality.

So that

$$A_{mn} = \frac{4}{ab} \int_0^b \int_0^a f(x,y) \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} dx dy \quad (96)$$

### *MATLAB Implementation*

Implementing this expansion in MATLAB is mostly straight-forward.  
We will start by defining parameters:

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

%% Parameters
a = 4;
b = 3;

N = 20;

ex_select = 1;
% 1 smooth
% 2 not smooth

switch ex_select
    case 1
        f = @(x,y) x.* (a-x).*y.* (b-y);

    case 2
        f = @(x,y) ex1(x,y,a,b);

    otherwise
        error('Invalid Example Choice!');
end

```

❶ Here we use a `switch ... case` selection structure. For the in-class demonstration I like to choose between different functions for which the double Fourier expansion will be used. The parameter `ex_select` is set to either 1 or 2; the `case` statements allow me to assign a function handle to `f` accordingly. The `otherwise` statement allows me to gracefully deal with having specified an invalid value for `ex_select`.

Next we will visualize the function that we hope to represent with a double Fourier series.

```

Nx = 250;
Ny = 250;

X = linspace(0,a,Nx);
Y = linspace(0,b,Ny);

[XX,YY] = meshgrid(X,Y);

figure(1)
surf(XX,YY,f(XX,YY),'edgecolor','none');
title('f(x,y)', 'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('X', 'fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('Y', 'fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
zlabel('f(X,Y)', 'fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
set(gca, 'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');

```

Plots of the two example functions along with their double Fourier series expansions are shown in Figure 47.

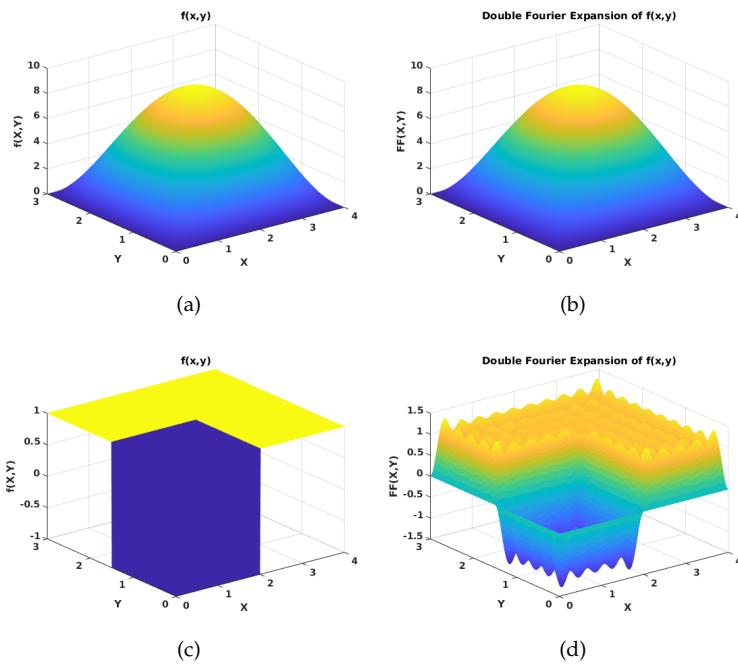


Figure 47: Plots of example functions and their double Fourier series expansions.

Note the “wigginess” present in the double Fourier expansion in the presence of discontinuities.

The MATLAB code needed to calculate the Fourier coefficients and plot the resulting expansion are provided below:

```
%>> % Double Fourier Expansion
Xn = @(x,n) sin(n.* pi.* x./a);
Yn = @(y,n) sin(n.* pi.* y./b);

A = nan(N,N); ②
FF = @(x,y) 0;

for m = 1:N
    for n = 1:N
        A(m,n) = integral2(@(x,y) f(x,y).*Xn(x,m).*Yn(y,n), ...
            0,a,0,b)./③
            integral2(@(x,y) (Xn(x,m).^2).* (Yn(y,n).^2), ...
            0,a,0,b); %(same as formula - 4/(a*b) above)
        FF = @(x,y) FF(x,y)+A(m,n).*Xn(x,m).*Yn(y,n);
    end
end

figure(2)
surf(XX,YY,FF(XX,YY), 'edgecolor', 'none');
title('Double Fourier Expansion of f(x,y)', 'fontsize',16,
      'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('X', 'fontsize',14, 'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('Y', 'fontsize',14, 'fontweight','bold');
zlabel('FF(X,Y)', 'fontsize',14, 'fontweight','bold');
set(gca, 'fontsize',12, 'fontweight','bold');
```

**②** The Fourier coefficients are conveniently stored in a two-dimensional matrix.

**③** We use a double-nested loop to do the calculations. Note in this implementation we do not make use of the known value of the magnitude of the eigenfunctions.

Lastly we need to define the local function for  $\text{ex1}(x)$ . This example is presented to illustrate that the convergence behavior for a double Fourier series is similar to a regular (single) Fourier series. This

function is piece-wise continuous and is defined as:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -1, & x < \frac{a}{2} \text{ and } y < \frac{b}{2} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

```
%// Local functions
function z = ex1(x,y,a,b)
[mx,nx] = size(x); % write your function to expect vector inputs
[my,ny] = size(y);
% for this implementation, I will expect x and y to have the
% same size
assert((mx==my) && (nx == ny), ...
    'error: x and y must have same size');
z = nan(mx,nx); % construct z to be the same as X and Y

% there are fancier ways to do this, but we will use a very
% simple
% implementation
for i = 1:mx
    for j = 1:nx
        if (x(i,j) < a/2) && (y(i,j) < b/2)
            z(i,j) = -1;
        else
            z(i,j) = 1;
        end
    end
end
end
```

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④ Note the use of an assertion to enforce my expectation that the same number of Fourier modes will be used for the expansion in  $x$  as is used in the expansion in  $y$ .

## Application to Solving a BVP

In this section we will carry out an example problem that calls for use of a double Fourier series expansion. Consider the boundary value problem below based on the heat equation.

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right), \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < x < a, \quad 0 < y < b, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(x,0,t)=0 \quad u(0,y,t)=0 \quad t > 0$   
 $u(x,b,t)=0 \quad u(a,y,t)=0$

Initial Conditions :  $u(x,y,0) = f(x,y), \quad 0 < x < a, \quad 0 < y < b$

We will solve this problem using separation of variables.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution.

$$u(x,y,t) = F(x)G(y)H(t)$$

**Note:** Think about the physics that this boundary value problem represents. It is the time-dependent heat equation on a rectangular domain. An initial temperature distribution is specified but all of the boundaries are held at a temperature of 0. Over time, we expect *all* of the energy to exit the domain via the boundaries so the final steady-state temperature is zero everywhere.

**Step #2:** Insert proposed solution into the governing equation.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [F(x)G(y)H(t)] = \alpha^2 \left\{ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} [F(x)G(y)H(t)] + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} [F(x)G(y)H(t)] \right\}$$

$$FGH_t = \alpha^2 (F_{xx}GH + FG_{yy}H)$$

**Step #3a:** Separate variables (partially:  $x$  from  $y$  and  $t$ ).

$$\frac{FGH_t}{\alpha^2 FGH} = \frac{\alpha^2 F_{xx}GH}{\alpha^2 FGH} + \frac{\alpha^2 FG_{yy}H}{\alpha^2 FGH}$$

$$\frac{H_t}{\alpha^2 H} = \frac{F_{xx}}{F} + \frac{G_{yy}}{G}$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{F_{xx}}{F}}_{\text{function of } x} = -\underbrace{\frac{G_{yy}}{G}}_{\text{function of } y,t} + \frac{H_t}{\alpha^2 H} = -\lambda$$

$$F_{xx} + \lambda F = 0$$

$$\frac{G_{yy}}{G} = \frac{H_t}{\alpha^2 H} + \lambda$$

In this line, the function of  $x$  will, in general, only be equal to a function of  $y$  and  $t$  if they are both equal to some constant.

**Step #3b:** Separate remaining variables— $t$  from  $y$ .

$$\frac{G_{yy}}{G} = \frac{H_t}{\alpha^2 H} + \lambda = -\mu$$

$$G_{yy} + \mu G = 0$$

$$H_t + \alpha^2 \gamma H = 0, \text{ where: } \gamma = \lambda + \mu$$

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s). We have solved problems with these boundary conditions many times so, in the interest of brevity, we will simply state the following:

$$\lambda > 0, \quad \lambda = \beta_m^2, \quad \beta_m = \frac{m\pi}{a}$$

$$\mu > 0, \quad \mu = \beta_n^2, \quad \beta_n = \frac{n\pi}{b}$$

$$F_m(x) = \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a}$$

$$G_n(y) = \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b}$$

$$H_{mn}(t) = e^{-\alpha^2 \left[ \left( \frac{m\pi}{a} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{n\pi}{b} \right)^2 \right] t}$$

Please do not let me tempt you off the virtuous path of analyzing these conditions carefully. You will find the analysis to be similar to what you have done before.

The product solution is given in Equation 97.

$$u(x, y, t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{b}\right) e^{-\alpha^2 \left[\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2\right]t} \quad (97)$$

**Step #5:** Satisfy the initial condition.

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y, 0) &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{b}\right) e^{0 \cdot t} = f(x, y) \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{b}\right) = f(x, y) \end{aligned}$$

This is the double Fourier series that we started the lecture with. The coefficients are given by Equation 98.

$$A_{mn} = \frac{4}{ab} \int_0^b \int_0^a f(x, y) \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} dx dy \quad (98)$$

A problem requiring use of the double Fourier series will be included in the homework.

## **Part V**

# **Boundary Value Problems in Polar, Cylindrical and Spherical Coordinates**



# Lecture 30 - Laplacian in Polar Coordinates

## Objectives

- Discuss the derivation of the Laplacian operator in polar coordinates.
- Do an example in which we solve Laplace's equation (steady-state heat equation) in polar coordinates.

## Laplacian Operator in Polar Coordinates

In past lectures we have used the Laplacian operator ( $\nabla^2$  or  $\Delta$ ) which is shown for rectangular coordinates below.

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla &= \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle \\ \nabla \cdot \nabla &= \nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \\ &= \Delta\end{aligned}$$

The operator notation is convenient insofar as it is agnostic regarding coordinate system. We can use the Laplacian in a differential equation—e.g.  $\nabla^2 u = 0$ —without immediate regard as to whether the domain will be described in a rectangular (Cartesian), polar, cylindrical or spherical coordinate system. Still, at some point in time before we can hope to solve such a differential equation, we need to select a coordinate system. Once we have done that, we need to have an expression of the Laplacian available with the appropriate independent variables.

WE WILL START with polar coordinates. The standard schematic of the cylindrical coordinate system is shown in Figure 48; polar coordinates are just cylindrical coordinates without the  $z$ -dimension. To derive an expression for the Laplacian operator in polar coordinates, we need to be able to express the independent variables for polar

**Question:** How do you pick a coordinate system? **Answer:** You select a coordinate system that makes *the boundary of the domain easy to describe*.

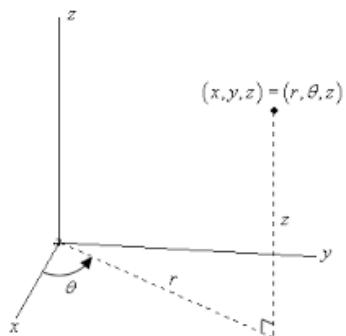


Figure 48: Cylindrical coordinate system.

coordinates— $r$  and  $\theta$ —in terms of the independent variables for rectangular coordinates— $x$  and  $y$ . The relations between the respective coordinates are given in the margin.

Therefore, to express the Laplacian in polar coordinates, we need to express:

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

in terms of  $r$  and  $\theta$ . We have done changes of variables like this before; we will follow the same process.

Starting with the first derivatives, using the chain rule and product rule we have:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x}$$

or, using subscript notation:

$$u_x = u_r r_x + u_\theta \theta_x$$

We need to replace every occurrence of  $x$  with its equivalent in terms of  $r$  and  $\theta$ .

$$\begin{aligned} r &= (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2} \\ r_x &= 2x \frac{(x^2 + y^2)^{-1/2}}{2} \\ &= \frac{2(r \cos \theta)}{2r} \\ &= \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} r^2 = x^2 + y^2 & x = r \cos \theta \\ \theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x) & \text{or} \\ & y = r \sin \theta \end{array}$$

Here we use:

$$x = r \cos \theta$$

and

$$(x^2 + y^2)^{-1/2} = 1/r$$

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= \tan^{-1}(y/x) \\ \theta_x &= -\frac{y}{x^2} \left( \frac{1}{1 + y^2/x^2} \right) \\ &= -\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} \\ &= \frac{-r \sin \theta}{r^2} \\ &= -\frac{\sin \theta}{r} \end{aligned}$$

Here we use the product rule and the not-so-familiar fact that:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1}(u) = \frac{1}{1+u^2}$$

$$y = r \sin \theta$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

So:

$$\begin{aligned} u_x &= u_r r_x + u_\theta \theta_x \\ u_x &= u_r \cos \theta - u_\theta \frac{\sin \theta}{r} \end{aligned}$$

Repeating the process to find the equivalent of  $u_{xx}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} u_{xx} &= (u_x)_x \\ &= (u_x)_r r_x + (u_x)_\theta \theta_x \\ &= \left( u_r \cos \theta - u_\theta \frac{\sin \theta}{r} \right)_r \cos \theta - \left( u_r \cos \theta - u_\theta \frac{\sin \theta}{r} \right)_\theta \frac{\sin \theta}{r} \end{aligned}$$

We would then start all over again to find  $u_y$  and  $u_{yy}$ . Balancing mathematical tedium with conceptual understanding, we will omit these details. Interested readers are encouraged to finish the job.<sup>1</sup>

AFTER MUCH TEDIOUS work and simplification you can arrive at the expression of the Laplacian in polar coordinates given in Equation 99.

$$\nabla^2 u = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} \quad (99)$$

We are now ready to solve Laplace's equation in polar coordinates.

**Example:** Solve the boundary value problem below based on the steady-state heat equation on a circular plate of radius  $c$ .

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0, \quad 0 < r < c, \quad 0 < \theta < 2\pi$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(c, \theta) = f(\theta), \quad 0 < \theta < 2\pi$

You can confirm that the equation is linear and homogeneous. As usual, we will use separation of variables to solve the problem.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution.

$$u = F(r)G(\theta)$$

**Step #2:** Insert the product solution into the governing equation.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} [F(r)G(\theta)] + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} [F(r)G(\theta)] + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} [F(r)G(\theta)] &= 0 \\ F_{rr}G + \frac{1}{r}F_rG + \frac{1}{r^2}FG_{\theta\theta} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Step #3:** Separate variables.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{F_{rr}G}{FG} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_rG}{FG} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{FG_{\theta\theta}}{FG} &= 0 \\ \frac{F_{rr}}{F} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_r}{F} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{G_{\theta\theta}}{G} &= 0 \\ \underbrace{\frac{r^2 F_{rr} + r F_r}{F}}_{\text{function of } r} &= -\underbrace{\frac{G_{\theta\theta}}{G}}_{\text{function of } \theta} = \lambda \\ r^2 F_{rr} + r F_r - \lambda F &= 0 \\ G_{\theta\theta} + \lambda G &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup> Unlike most other hazing rituals, deriving the Laplacian operator for polar coordinates has some (small) redeeming benefits.

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s). There is only one boundary condition explicitly given in this problem and it applies to the spatial variable  $r$ . In this problem, however, there are some important implicit boundary conditions:

1. The solution must be periodic in  $\theta$ . This will be needed so that all the eigenfunctions in  $\theta$  can be used; and
2. The solution must be finite everywhere. In particular, it will be important that  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} F(r) < \infty$ .

$\lambda = 0$ :

We will start with  $G(\theta)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\theta\theta} &= 0 \\ G(\theta) &= c_1 + c_2\theta \end{aligned}$$

Since the solution must be periodic, with period  $2\pi$ ,  $c_2 = 0$ . Consequently  $G(\theta) = c_1$  is a non-trivial eigenfunction.

Checking solutions for  $F(r)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 F_{rr} + rF_r &= 0 \\ F(r) &= c_3 + c_4 \ln r \end{aligned}$$

In order to satisfy our other implicit boundary condition,  $c_4 = 0$ . So  $F(r) = c_3$  is also a valid eigenfunction. Looking ahead, our product solution will include a constant term for the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 0$ .

$\lambda < 0$ : where we set  $\lambda = -\nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ .

For  $G(\theta)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\theta\theta} - \nu^2 G &= 0 \\ G(\theta) &= c_1 \cosh \nu\theta + c_2 \sinh \nu\theta \end{aligned}$$

Neither  $\cosh()$  nor  $\sinh()$  are periodic so we must conclude that  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$  and that there are no non-trivial eigenfunctions for  $\lambda < 0$ .

$\lambda > 0$ : where we set  $\lambda = \nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ .

For  $G(\theta)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\theta\theta} + \nu^2 G &= 0 \\ G(\theta) &= c_1 \cos \nu\theta + c_2 \sin \nu\theta \end{aligned}$$

which is periodic, with period  $2\pi$ , if  $\nu$  is an integer  $n$ .

For  $F(r)$ :

$$r^2 F_{rr} + rF_r - n^2 F = 0$$

**Reminder:** This is a Cauchy-Euler equation. Recall from the beginning of the course that we seek solutions of the form  $r^m$ . Inserting  $r^m$  into the equation gives us:  $r^2[m(m-1)r^{m-2} + mr^m] = 0$  which can be simplified to:  $r^m[m(m-1) + m] = 0$  which is only true if  $m^2 = 0$ . Recall how to deal with this double-root by applying a factor of  $\ln r$  to the first solution.

This is a Cauchy-Euler equation. Inserting  $F = r^m$  into the equation gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} r^2[m(m-1)]r^{m-2} + rmr^{m-1} - n^2r^m &= 0 \\ r^m[m(m-1) + m - n^2] &= 0 \\ m^2 - n^2 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow m &= \pm n, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$

This yields the general solution:  $F(r) = c_3r^n + c_4r^{-n}$ . In order to satisfy the requirement that  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} F(r) < \infty$ , we must stipulate that  $c_4 = 0$ . Thus, for  $\lambda > 0$ , the product solution is of the form:

$$u_n(r, \theta) = F_n(r)G_n(\theta) = r^n(a_n \cos n\theta + b_n \sin n\theta)$$

Summarizing from all of the eigenvalues, the product solution is given in Equation 100.

$$u(r, \theta) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^n(a_n \cos n\theta + b_n \sin n\theta) \quad (100)$$

Be careful not to forget the eigenfunction that you found for  $\lambda = 0$  which was just a constant.

**Step #5:** Apply the boundary condition to solve for unknown constants. The explicit boundary condition that we have applies at  $r = c$ .

$$u(c, \theta) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c^n(a_n \cos n\theta + b_n \sin n\theta) = f(\theta)$$

On the left, we have an infinite series; on the right, we have a function that we want to represent with the infinite series. We need to determine how to set the unknown constants  $a_0$ ,  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  so that they are equal. How do we do this? Answer: we multiply both sides by an orthogonal function and integrate. Our orthogonal functions are:

$$\{1, \cos \theta, \cos 2\theta, \cos 3\theta, \dots, \sin \theta, \sin 2\theta, \sin 3\theta, \dots\}$$

This set of functions is orthogonal on the domain  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$  with respect to weight function  $p(\theta) = 1$ . Carrying this out explicitly for the constant term:<sup>2</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^{2\pi} a_0(1) d\theta + \dots \\ &\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c^n \left( \int_0^{2\pi} a_n \cos n\theta (1) d\theta + \int_0^{2\pi} b_n \sin n\theta (1) d\theta \right)^0 = \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta)(1) d\theta \end{aligned}$$

so

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) d\theta$$

<sup>2</sup> i.e. We multiply both sides by a constant—1—and integrate. It does not matter what the value of the constant is, it is still orthogonal to all of the other eigenfunctions.

Carrying out the same process using  $\cos n\theta$  and  $\sin n\theta$  gives us:

$$a_n = \frac{1}{c^n \pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \cos n\theta \, d\theta \quad (101)$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{c^n \pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \sin n\theta \, d\theta \quad (102)$$

Readers can confirm that:  
 $\int_0^{2\pi} \cos(n\theta)^2 \, d\theta = \pi$  and  
 $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin(n\theta)^2 \, d\theta = \pi$

### MATLAB Implementation

As usual, it is helpful to implement a solution in MATLAB so you can visualize the results. We start by clearing out the MATLAB workspace and setting relevant parameters.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

%% Parameters
c = 2;
N = 50;

fx_pick = 2;
%[1 | 2]
switch fx_pick
    case 1
        f = @(x) x;
    case 2
        f = @(x) ex1(x);
    otherwise
        error('Invalid case!');
end

```

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Next we find the solution using the equations developed above.

```

%% solve the problem
Ao = (1./(2*pi))*integral(@(theta) f(theta),0,2*pi);

U = @(r,theta) Ao;

reltol = 1e-15;
for n = 1:N

    An = (1/((c.^n)*pi))*integral(@(theta) f(theta).*cos(n.*theta),...
        0,2*pi,'RelTol',reltol);    ❶
    Bn = (1/((c.^n)*pi))*integral(@(theta) f(theta).*sin(n.*theta),...
        0,2*pi,'RelTol',reltol);

    U = @(r,theta) U(r,theta)+ (r.^n).* (An*cos(n.*theta)+Bn*sin(n.*theta));

end

```

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❶ The built-in function `integral()` has some name-value pairs to customize the function behavior. The name '`RelTol`' sets the *relative tolerance* parameter to the value provided. We will not go into great details here but, suffice it to say, a smaller value for '`RelTol`' gives a more precise result for the numeric integration.

Having constructed a representation of the solution, we make a plot so we can see if the solution makes sense.

```
%% Make a Plot
NR = 100;
NT = 100;
R = linspace(0,c,NR);
THETA = linspace(0,2*pi,NT);
[RR,TT] = meshgrid(R,THETA);
UUp = U(RR,TT);

% plot in cartesian coordinates
XX = RR.*cos(TT); % get cartesian coordinate equivalents
YY = RR.* sin(TT);

figure(1)
surf(XX,YY,UUp, 'edgecolor', 'none');
colormap('jet');%<-- consider alternate colormaps
c = colorbar;%<-- add a colorbar
c.Label.String = 'Temperature';%<-- give colorbar a label
title('Lecture 30 Example', 'fontsize',16, 'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('X', 'fontsize',14, 'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('Y', 'fontsize',14, 'fontweight','bold');
zlabel('U', 'fontsize',14, 'fontweight','bold');
grid on
set(gca, 'fontsize',12, 'fontweight','bold');
```

The resulting plot is shown in Figure 49. The code for the local function  $f(x) = \text{ex1}(x)$  is provided below.

```
%% Local functions
function y = ex1(theta)
[m,n] = size(theta);
y = nan(m,n);
for i = 1:length(theta)
    if(theta(i)>= 0 && (theta(i)< pi/2)
        y(i) = 1;
    else
        y(i) = 0;
    end
end
end
```

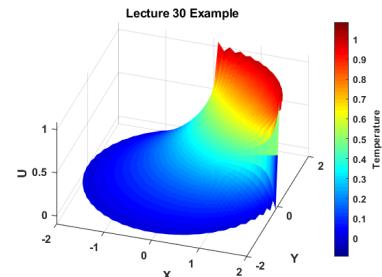


Figure 49: Solution for the case where  $f(x) = \text{ex1}(x)$ .

Note the “wigginess” in the solution at the points of discontinuity.



# Lecture 31 - Polar Coordinates with Angular Symmetry

## Objectives

- Carry out the separation of variables processes to solve the wave equation in polar coordinates.
- Show an example implementation in MATLAB.

## Wave Equation in Polar Coordinates

In a few past lectures we have dealt with the wave equation on a line as shown in Equation 103.

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \quad (103)$$

This is actually a quite specific articulation of the wave equation, tailored only for a one-dimensional wave. Waves happen in more than one dimension, however, and we would like to describe those also. Equation 104 gives a more general expression of the wave equation using the Laplacian operator that is valid for any number of dimensions over finite or infinite domains.

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \nabla^2 u \quad (104)$$

If we specialize the Laplacian operator for 1D Cartesian coordinates then we recover Equation 103.

IN THIS LECTURE we will solve the wave equation in polar coordinates. Specializing the Laplacian for polar coordinates and inserting into the wave equation gives us:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} \right) \quad (105)$$

We will use this equation to model radial vibrations in a circular membrane for which the membrane is fixed (no displacement) all around the periphery at  $r = c$ . We will also assume that the initial

displacement and velocity of the membrane are functions of radius only. Because the boundary condition and both initial conditions are constant for all angular positions, we should expect that *the solution* will also be constant for all angular positions; in particular, we expect  $\partial u / \partial \theta$  and  $\partial^2 u / \partial \theta^2$  to equal zero.<sup>1</sup> The boundary value problem for this is given below.

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right), \quad \alpha > 0, \quad 0 < r < c, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Condition : } u(c, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } u(r, 0) = f(r), \quad u_t(r, 0) = g(r), \quad 0 < r < c$$

<sup>1</sup> Conversely, if either the boundary or initial conditions were a function of angular position,  $\theta$ , this assumption would not be true and we would need to use the full form of the wave equation in polar coordinates given in equation 105.

WE WILL SOLVE this boundary value problem using separation of variables.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution.

$$u(r, t) = F(r)G(t)$$

**Step #2:** Insert the product solution into the governing equation.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} [F(r)G(t)] &= \alpha^2 \left\{ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} [F(r)G(t)] + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} [F(r)G(t)] \right\} \\ FG_{tt} &= \alpha^2 \left( F_{rr}G + \frac{1}{r} F_r G \right) \end{aligned}$$

**Step #3:** Separate variables.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{FG_{tt}}{\alpha^2 FG} &= \frac{\alpha^2 \left( F_{rr}G + \frac{1}{r} F_r G \right)}{\alpha^2 FG} \\ \frac{G_{tt}}{\alpha^2 G} &= \frac{F_{rr} + \frac{1}{r} F_r}{F} = -\lambda \end{aligned}$$

So the separated equations are:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{rr} + \frac{1}{r} F_r + \lambda F &= 0 \\ G_{tt} + \alpha^2 \lambda G &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to find non-trivial solutions.

We will take a short-cut here by assuming that the separated solution  $G(\theta)$  must be periodic and, having done this before, we know that

this implies  $\lambda > 0$ . Setting  $\lambda = \nu^2$ ,  $\nu > 0$ , we get:

$$\begin{aligned} G_{tt} + \alpha^2 \nu^2 G &= 0 \\ r^2 F_{rr} + r F_r + \alpha^2 \nu^2 F &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where, to put the equation for  $F(r)$  in a more familiar form, we multiplied through by  $r^2$ . The general solution for both equations is:

$$\begin{aligned} F(r) &= c_1 J_0(\nu r) + c_2 Y_0(\nu r) \\ G(t) &= c_3 \cos(\nu \alpha t) + c_4 \sin(\nu \alpha t) \end{aligned}$$

IN THE  $r$ -COORDINATE we have only one explicit boundary condition. There is, however, another condition of which we must always be mindful, particularly in polar coordinates when  $r = 0$  is part of the domain and that is:  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} u(r, \theta) < \infty$ . Once again, drawing upon our knowledge of Bessel functions, we know that  $Y_0(r)$  diverges to negative infinity as  $r$  goes to zero. Thus we must set  $c_2 = 0$  and the radial equation simplifies to:

$$F(r) = c_1 J_0(\nu r)$$

WE ALSO NEED to satisfy the boundary condition at  $r = c$ :

$$F(c) = c_1 J_0(\nu c) = 0$$

which implies that  $\nu c$  needs to be a positive root of  $J_0(r)$ . As we learned in lecture 19,  $J_0(r)$  has infinitely many positive roots and we can find them with the assistance of the function `besselzero()` that we obtained from the MATLAB file exchange. If we denote the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of  $J_0$  as  $k_{0,n}$ , then our eigenvalues must be equal to:

$$\nu_n = \frac{k_{0,n}}{c}$$

so the full product solution will be:

$$u(r, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} J_0(\nu_n r) [a_n \cos \alpha \nu_n t + b_n \sin \alpha \nu_n t]$$

**Step #5:** Satisfy the initial conditions.

WE NOW HAVE two infinite sets of unknowns:  $a_n$  and  $b_n$ . We will resolve these constants through the initial conditions as applied below:

$$\begin{aligned} u(r, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos 0 + b_n \sin 0 \right) J_0(\nu_n r) = f(r) \\ &\quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n J_0(\nu_n r) = f(r) \end{aligned}$$

Alert readers who remember the analysis from Lecture 30 will note that  $\lambda = 0$  should also be included since, the corresponding eigenfunction in time  $G(t) = c_1$ , meets the periodicity requirement. If we followed that path we would find that, for  $\lambda = 0$ , the separated equation in the  $r$ -direction is the Cauchy-Euler equation. You will find that only the trivial solution,  $F(r) = 0$ , will satisfy the equation and the homogeneous Dirichlet boundary condition at  $r = c$ . In Lecture 31 the boundary condition at  $r = c$  was not homogeneous so the  $\lambda = 0$  eigenvalue had a non-trivial eigenfunction.

On the left, we have an infinite linear combination of eigenfunctions,  $J_0(\nu_n r)$ , on the right we have a function we are trying to represent,  $f(r)$ . We need to determine the values  $a_n$  so that the two are equal. How do we do this? We multiply both sides by an orthogonal function—and weight function—and integrate. As we learned previously, the weight function is  $p(r) = r$ . Doing this explicitly for  $a_1$  gives us:

$$a_1 \int_0^c J_0(\nu_1 r)^2 r dr + a_2 \underbrace{\int_0^c J_0(\nu_2 r) J_0(\nu_1 r) r dr}_{\text{0 by orthogonality}} + \dots = \int_0^c f(r) J_0(\nu_1 r) r dr$$

All terms other than the first one on the left hand side is zero due to orthogonality of  $J_0(\nu r)$  on the interval  $r \in [0, c]$  with respect to weight function  $p(r) = r$ .

and, in general,  $a_n$  is given by:

$$a_n = \frac{\int_0^c f(r) J_0(\nu_n r) r dr}{\int_0^c J_0(\nu_n r)^2 r dr} \quad (106)$$

WE USE THE OTHER initial condition to solve for  $b_n$ :

$$u_t(r, o) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-a_n \alpha \nu_n \sin(0) + b_n \alpha \nu_n \cos 0) J_0(\nu_n r) = g(r)$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \alpha \nu_n J_0(\nu_n r) = g(r)$$

As before we will multiply by our orthogonal functions and weight function to find the coefficients  $b_n$ :

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\alpha \nu_n} \frac{\int_0^c g(r) J_0(\nu_n r) r dr}{\int_0^c J_0(\nu_n r)^2 r dr} \quad (107)$$

In summary, the solution is:

$$u(r, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n \cos \alpha \nu_n t + b_n \sin \alpha \nu_n t] J_0(\nu_n r) \quad (108)$$

where  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  are given by equation 106 and 107 respectively.

### *Implementation in MATLAB*

The MATLAB that we will use should begin to look routine by now, but since this is the first time we used Fourier-Bessel expansions in solving a boundary value problem, the code will be listed here.

We start by clearing the workspace and defining problem parameters.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

%% Parameters
N = 50; % number of modes
c = 1; % radius of the circle
a_sq = 1.0; % "stiffness" parameter
a = sqrt(a_sq);

example = 2;
%example = [1 | 2]
switch example
    case 1
        f = @(r) ex1(r,c); % initial position
        g = @(r) o.*r; % initial velocity
    case 2
        b = 0.2;
        f = @(r) o.*r;
        g = @(r) ex2(r,b);
    otherwise
        error('Unexpected example number!!');
end

```

Next we use besselzero() to get the roots of  $J_0$ , compute the coefficients  $a_n$  and  $b_n$ , and build the solution  $u(r,t)$ .

```

%% Get eigenvalues
k = besselzero(o,N,1); ❶
nu = k./c;

F = @(r,n) besselj(o,nu(n).*r);

U = @(r,t) o;

for n = 1:N
    % compute An
    an = integral(@(r) r.*f(r).*F(r,n),o,c) / ...
        integral(@(r) r.*(F(r,n).^2),o,c);
    % compute Bn
    bn = integral(@(r) r.*g(r).*F(r,n),o,c) / ...
        (a.*nu(n).*integral(@(r) r.*F(r,n).^2,o,c));
    % add the term to our solution
    U = @(r,t) U(r,t) + (an*cos(a*nu(n).*t) + ...
        bn*sin(a*nu(n).*t)).*F(r,n);
end

```

❶ Reminder that in order to use besselzero() in a script, you need to have a copy of besselzero.m in the current folder or otherwise on the MATLAB path.

We can make a dynamic plot if we like:

```

%% Plot the solution
NR = 20;
NTHETA = 20;
Tmax = 10;
NT = 50;
R = linspace(o,c, NR);
THETA = linspace(o, 2*pi, NTHETA);
[RR,TT] = meshgrid(R,THETA);
XX = RR.*cos(TT);
YY = RR.*sin(TT);

```

```

T = linspace(0,Tmax,NT);

for t = 1:NT
    UUp = U(RR,T(t));
    surf(XX,YY,UUp,'facecolor','none'); ❷
    title_str = sprintf('Lecture 31 example, t = %g \n',T(t));
    title(title_str,'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
    xlabel('X','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    ylabel('Y','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    zlabel('U','fontsize',14,'fontweight','bold');
    set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
    axis([-c+1 c+1 -(c+1) c+1 -2 2]); ❸
    pause(0.5*Tmax/(NT-1));
end

```

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62  
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64  
65  
66  
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69

❷ Use the argument 'facecolor' and value 'none' to get a plot resembling a wire mesh.

❸ Using the axis command here allows you to fix the axis size and prevent re-scaling with each time step which would make the wave-like motion harder to see and interpret.

And the local functions, as always, are placed at the end of the script.

```

%% Local functions
function y = ex1(r,c)
[m,n] = size(r);
y = nan(m,n);
for i = 1:length(r)
    if (r(i) < c/3)
        y(i) = 1;
    else
        y(i) = 0;
    end
end
end

function y = ex2(r,b)
[m,n] = size(r);
y = nan(m,n);
vo = 10;
for i = 1:length(r)
    if (r(i) < b)
        y(i) = -vo;
    else
        y(i) = 0;
    end
end
end

```

70  
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Plots of the solution at various times with boundary conditions selected for example 2 are shown in Figure 50.

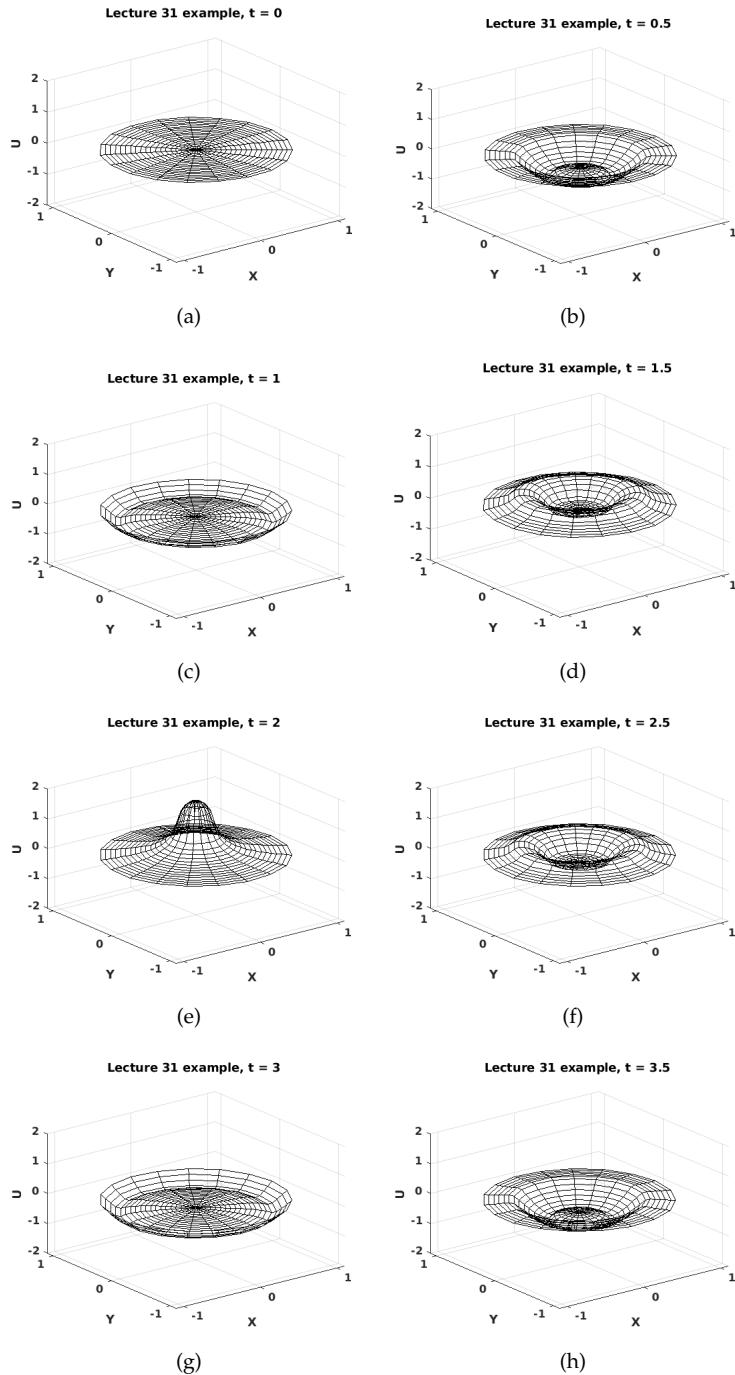


Figure 50: Plots solution with boundary conditions selected for example 2.



# Assignment #11

1. Solve the following boundary value problem

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \alpha^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right), \quad \alpha > 0, \quad \begin{matrix} 0 < x < \pi \\ 0 < y < \pi \end{matrix}$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(0,y,t)=0, \quad u(\pi,y,t)=0, \quad t > 0$   
 $u(x,0,t)=0, \quad u(x,\pi,t)=0'$

Initial Conditions :  $u(x,y,0)=xy(x-\pi)(y-\pi), \quad 0 < x < \pi, \quad 0 < y < \pi$   
 $u_t(x,0)=0$

where  $\alpha^2 = 1$ . Compute the first 10 modes in  $x$  and  $y$  with MATLAB. Create a surface plot of the solution at  $t = 10$  and save the plot in \*.png format. Include the published version of your MATLAB code and the saved figure in your submission.

2. Solve the following boundary value problem:

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = 0, \quad \begin{matrix} 0 < x < a \\ 0 < y < b \\ 0 < z < c \end{matrix}$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(0,y,z)=0, \quad u(a,y,z)=0$   
 $u(x,0,z)=0, \quad u(x,b,z)=0$   
 $u(x,y,0)=0, \quad u(x,y,c)=f(x,y)$

3. If the boundaries  $\theta = 0$  and  $\theta = \pi$  of a semicircular plate of radius 2 are insulated, we then have:

$$u_\theta(r, 0) = 0, \quad u_\theta(r, \pi) = 0, \quad 0 < r < 2$$

Find the steady-state temperature,  $u(r, \theta)$ , if:

$$u(2, \theta) = \begin{cases} u_0, & 0 < \theta < \pi/2 \\ 0, & \pi/2 < \theta < \pi \end{cases}$$

where  $u_0$  is a constant. Solve the Laplace equation for this case. [Note: contrary to the typical case, the analytic evaluation of the integral for Fourier coefficients is straight-forward in this problem; you should actually do the integration analytically.]

4. Solve the following BVP to find the steady-state temperature in a quarter circular plate.

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0, \quad 0 < r < c, \quad 0 < \theta < \pi/2$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(r, 0) = 0, \quad u(r, \pi/2) = 0, \quad 0 < r < c$   
 $u(c, \theta) = f(\theta), \quad 0 < \theta < \pi/2$

# Lecture 32 - Laplace Equation in Cylindrical Coordinates

## Objectives

- Solve the steady-state heat equation (Laplace equation) in cylindrical coordinates for two cases.
- Revisit modified Bessel functions of the first and second kind.

## Steady-State Temperature in a Circular Cylinder - Case I

Consider the boundary value problem below based on the steady-state heat equation in cylindrical coordinates. A schematic of the problem is shown in Figure 51.

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0, \quad 0 < r < 2, \quad 0 < z < 4 \\ 0 < \theta < 2\pi$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(r, 0) = 0, \quad u(r, 4) = u_0, \quad u(2, z) = 0$$

Based on the boundary conditions provided for the problem—none of which are dependent on  $\theta$ —we can expect that the solution also will be independent of  $\theta$  and so the governing equation can be simplified to:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

As is becoming the usual, we will solve this problem using separation of variables.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution:

$$u(r, z) = F(r)G(z)$$

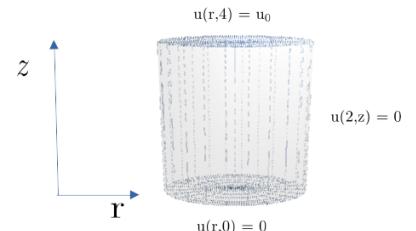


Figure 51: Schematic of Case I

**Step #2:** Insert the product solution into the governing equation.

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} [F(r)G(z)] + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} [F(r)G(z)] + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} [F(r)G(z)] = 0$$

$$F_{rr}G + \frac{1}{r}F_rG + FG_{zz} = 0$$

**Step #3:** Separate the variables.

$$\frac{F_{rr}G}{FG} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_rG}{FG} + \frac{FG_{zz}}{FG} = 0$$

$$\frac{F_{rr}}{F} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_r}{F} + \frac{G_{zz}}{G} = 0$$

$$\frac{F_{rr}}{F} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_r}{F} = -\frac{G_{zz}}{G} = -\lambda$$

Thus the separated equations are:

$$r^2 F_{rr} + rF_r + \lambda r^2 F = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad G_{zz} - \lambda G = 0$$

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s):

In the  $z$ -direction we have only one homogeneous boundary condition whereas in the  $r$ -direction, the only boundary condition we have is homogeneous. Therefore we should analyze the equation of  $F(r)$  to determine values of  $\lambda$  that will admit non-trivial solutions.

$\lambda = 0$ :

In this case the boundary value problem for  $F(r)$  is a Cauchy-Euler equation:

$$r^2 F_{rr} + rF_r = 0$$

$$r^2[m(m-1)r^{m-2}] + rmr^{m-1} = 0$$

$$r^m[m(m-1) + m] = 0 \Rightarrow m^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow F(r) = c_1 + c_2 \ln r$$

We must set  $c_2 = 0$  so that  $F(r)$  will remain bounded as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . Since  $u(2, z) = 0$ , we must stipulate that  $F(2) = c_1 = 0$  so that only the trivial solution will satisfy the boundary conditions if  $\lambda = 0$ .

$\lambda < 0$ : where  $\lambda = -\alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ .

In this case the boundary value problem for  $F(r)$  is:

$$r^2 F_{rr} + rF_r - \alpha^2 r^2 F = 0$$

Which we recognize as the parametric modified Bessel's equation of order zero. The general solution is:

$$F(r) = c_1 I_0(\alpha r) + c_2 K_0(\alpha r)$$

Again, here we multiply the equation for  $F(r)$  by  $r^2$  to change the equation into a familiar form.

**Reminder:** For a Cauchy-Euler equation, we assume the solution is of the form  $F(r) = r^m$ . In this case, where the resulting auxiliary equation has a double-root— $m = 0, 0$ —the first solution is a constant ( $c_1$ ) and the second solution is a constant times  $\ln r$  so that it is linearly independent.

**Reminder:** The parametric modified Bessel's equation is of the form:

$$r^2 F_{rr} + rF_r - (\alpha^2 r^2 + v^2)F = 0$$

where  $v$  is the order of the equation.

In case one is not familiar with modified Bessel functions of the first and second kind of order zero— $I_0(r)$  and  $K_0(r)$ , respectively—the reader might be relieved to be informed that MATLAB has built-in functions available: `besseli()` and `besselk()`. A plot of these functions is shown in Figure 52.

The salient facts about these functions are that  $K_0(\alpha r)$  diverges to infinity as  $r \rightarrow 0$  and that  $I_0(\alpha r)$  is strictly positive for  $\alpha r > 0$ . Thus  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$  and only the trivial solution satisfies the boundary conditions in the case  $\lambda < 0$ .

$\lambda > 0$ : where  $\lambda = \alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ .

In this case the boundary value problem for  $F(r)$  is:

$$r^2 F_{rr} + r F_r + \alpha^2 r^2 F = 0$$

Which we recognize as the parametric Bessel's equation of order zero. The general solution is:

$$F(r) = c_1 J_0(\alpha r) + c_2 Y_0(\alpha r)$$

Since  $Y_0(\alpha r)$  diverges to negative infinity as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , we must set  $c_2 = 0$ . In order to satisfy the boundary condition at  $r = 2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} F(2) &= c_1 J_0(2\alpha) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow \alpha_n &= \frac{k_{0,n}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

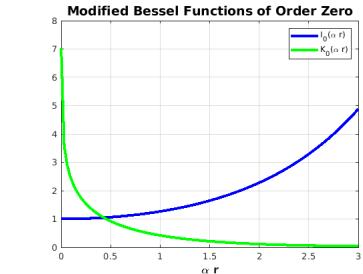


Figure 52: Plots of  $I_0(\alpha r)$  and  $K_0(\alpha r)$  for  $\alpha r > 0$ .

Use the MATLAB function `besselzero()` to get the roots to  $J_0(\alpha r)$

where we have, on the fly, adopted the notation  $\alpha_n$ —the  $n^{\text{th}}$  eigenvalue—and  $k_{0,n}$  as the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of the Bessel Function of the first kind of order zero.

For  $\lambda = \alpha^2$ , the boundary value problem in the  $z$ -direction is:

$$G_{zz} - \alpha^2 G = 0$$

Where the general solution is:

$$G(z) = c_3 \cosh \alpha z + c_4 \sinh \alpha z$$

Applying the homogeneous boundary condition at  $z = 0$  we get:

$$\begin{aligned} G(0) &= c_3 \cosh 0 + c_4 \sinh 0 = 0 \\ &= c_3(1) + c_4(0) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The solution in the  $z$ -direction is, therefore:

$$G(z) = c_4 \sinh \alpha_n z$$

After combining constants, as usual, the full product solution is:

$$u(r, z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n J_0(\alpha_n r) \sinh \alpha_n z \quad (109)$$

where  $\alpha_n = k_{0,n}/2$ .

**Step #5:** Apply the remaining boundary condition to determine unknown coefficients.

The boundary condition that we have not yet used is the non-homogeneous condition applied at the top of the cylinder:  $u(r, 4) = u_0$ . We must find suitable values of  $a_n$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  such that:

$$u(r, 4) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n J_0(\alpha_n r) \sinh 4\alpha_n = u_0$$

Once again we have an infinite linear combination of eigenfunctions on the left and on the right we have a given function—in this case a constant,  $u_0$ . We want them to be equal; our job is to determine  $a_n$  such that they are equal. How do we do this? We multiply both sides by our orthogonal function, and weight function, and integrate. The resulting equation for  $a_n$  is given in Equation 110.

$$a_n = \frac{u_0 \int_0^2 J_0(\alpha_n r) r dr}{\sinh 4\alpha_n \int_0^2 J_0(\alpha_n r)^2 r dr} \quad (110)$$

We can create a MATLAB script to construct an approximate solution for a specified value of  $u_0$  and a finite number of eigenmodes. The code for  $u_0 = 5$  and  $N = 25$  is shown in the listing below.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

%% Parameters
R = 2; Z = 4;
Uo = 5; % given temperature on top surface of the cylinder
N = 25;
k = besselzero(0,N,1); % get first n zeros of Jo    ①
alpha = k/R;

%% Construct Solution
A = nan(N,1);
u = @(r,z) 0; % initialize the series
for n = 1:N
    A(n) = (Uo/(sinh(Z*alpha(n)))).*...
        integral(@(r) besselj(0,alpha(n)*r).*r,o,R)./
        integral(@(r) besselj(0,alpha(n)*r).*...
            besselj(0,alpha(n)*r).*r,o,R);

    % update the series with the next term
    u = @(r,z) u(r,z) + ...
        A(n)*besselj(0,alpha(n)*r).*sinh(z*alpha(n));
end

```

Do not forget to include the constant  $\sinh 4\alpha_n$ ; it is easy to leave off when you are in a hurry.

① Recall that the first argument to `besselzero()` is the order of the Bessel function, the second argument is the number of desired roots, and the third argument is the *kind* of Bessel function—first or second.

```

%% Plot results
Rv = linspace(0,R,100);
Zv = linspace(0,Z,200);

[RR,ZZ] = meshgrid(Rv,Zv);
UU = u(RR,ZZ);

figure(1)
surf(Rv,Zv,UU, 'edgecolor', 'none');
title('Laplacian in a Cylinder: Case 1',...
      'fontsize',18,'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('R', 'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('Z', 'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
zlabel('U', 'fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');
view([65 10]); ②

```

② The `view()` function allows you to rotate the plotted image to change the azimuth and elevation. It is best to experiment a bit with different arguments to find a view that best presents the results.

A cross-section of the temperature distribution is shown in Figure 53.

As we have come to expect, the approximate solution has a certain amount of “wigginess” at points of discontinuity. In this case, the issue is along the outer rim of the top of the cylinder; on the top of the cylinder, the solution is constant at  $u_0 = 5$ ; on the outer surface of the cylinder the solution is fixed at  $u = 0$ . Along the outer rim of the top is where these conflicting solutions come together and the “wigginess” is the result. If we increase the number of eigenmodes a more sharp solution can be obtained. A plot with  $N = 100$  eigenmodes is shown in Figure 54.

### *Steady-State Temperature in a Circular Cylinder - Case II*

Consider another boundary value problem similar to the first except, in this case, there are homogeneous boundary conditions on the top and bottom while the side of the cylinder is maintained at a prescribed temperature. A schematic is shown in Figure 55.

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0, \quad 0 < r < 1, \quad 0 < z < 1 \\ 0 < \theta < 2\pi$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(r,0) = 0, \quad u(r,1) = 0, \quad u(1,z) = 1 - z$$

As with Case I, the boundary conditions are all independent of  $\theta$  so we expect the solution to be independent of  $\theta$  also, and we can simplify the governing equation to:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

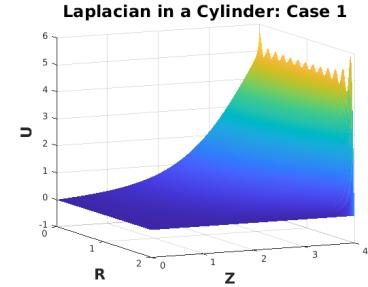


Figure 53: Cross section of Case I solution for  $N=25$ .

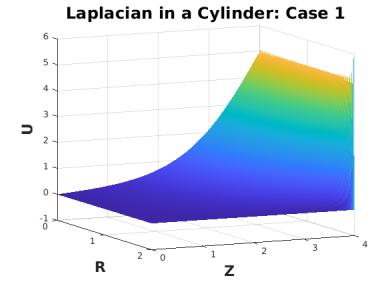


Figure 54: Cross section of Case I solution for  $N=100$ .

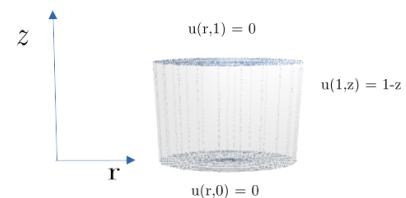


Figure 55: Schematic of domain and boundary conditions for Case I.

THE DETAILS OF Steps #1 through #3 of separation of variables are exactly the same for this case. The separated equations are, again:

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 F_{rr} + rF_r + \lambda r^2 F &= 0 \\ G_{zz} - \lambda G &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

What makes this case different is the boundary conditions. Specifically, in the  $r$ -direction we no longer have a homogeneous boundary condition but in the  $z$ -direction, we do. Therefore we will use the equation for  $G(z)$  to determine values of  $\lambda$  that admit non-trivial solutions.

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s).

We have seen this combination of boundary value problem and boundary conditions numerous times before.  $G_{zz} - \lambda G = 0$  and  $G(0) = G(1) = 0$ . If  $\lambda = 0$  we know the solution is linear, but the only line that is zero at both ends is  $G(z) = 0$  so we can discard that case quickly. If  $\lambda > 0$ , or  $\lambda = \alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ , then we have

$$G_{zz} - \alpha^2 G = 0$$

with general solution:  $G(z) = c_1 \cosh \alpha z + c_2 \sinh \alpha z$ . The condition  $G(0) = 0$  implies that  $c_1 = 0$ . The condition  $G(1) = 0$  means that  $c_2 \sinh \alpha = 0$  but, as we have seen before,  $\sinh \alpha$  is never zero for  $\alpha > 0$ . Thus we have no choice but to also set  $c_2 = 0$ .

Consequently, our only remaining option is  $\lambda < 0$ , where we set  $\lambda = -\alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ . This gives us:

$$G_{zz} + \alpha^2 G = 0$$

with general solution:  $G(z) = c_1 \cos \alpha z + c_2 \sin \alpha z$ .

When we apply the boundary conditions we get:

$$\begin{aligned} G(z) &= c_1 \cos \alpha z + c_2 \sin \alpha z \\ G(0) &= c_1(1) + c_2(0) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 &= 0 \\ G(1) &= c_2 \sin \alpha = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The last condition is satisfied if  $\alpha_n = n\pi$  with  $n$  a positive integer.

With  $\lambda = -\alpha^2$ , the equation for  $F(r)$  is:

$$r^2 F_{rr} + rF_r - \alpha^2 r^2 F = 0$$

We recognize this as the parametric modified Bessel's equation of order zero. The general solution is:  $F(r) = c_3 I_0(\alpha r) + c_4 K_0(\alpha r)$ . This

is fresh in our mind, so we immediately conclude that  $c_4 = 0$  since  $K_0(\alpha r)$  diverges as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . The product solutions for this problem are, therefore:

$$u(r, z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n I_0(n\pi r) \sin n\pi z \quad (111)$$

**Step #5:** Apply the remaining boundary condition to determine the unknown coefficients.

The boundary condition that we have not yet used is the non-homogeneous condition applied on the outer surface of the cylinder:  $u(1, z) = 1 - z$ .

We must find suitable values of  $c_n$  such that:

$$u(1, z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n I_0(n\pi) \sin n\pi z = 1 - z$$

Here again, of course, we need to multiply both sides by an orthogonal function (and weight function) and integrate. In this case, however, the orthogonal set of functions is  $\sin n\pi z$  and the weight function is  $p(z) = 1$ . Carrying out this (by now routine) task, we obtain the expression for  $c_n$  as:

$$c_n = \frac{\int_0^1 (1-z) \sin n\pi z \, dz}{I_0(n\pi) \int_0^1 \sin(n\pi z)^2 \, dz} \quad (112)$$

In summary, for Case II, the solution is given by Equation 111 with the coefficients given by Equation 112. A plot of the solution for  $N=150$  is given in Figure 56.

THE MATLAB CODE needed to construct this solution is shown in the listing below.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

%% Case 2
R = 1; Z = 1;
g = @(z) 1-z; % temperature boundary condition
N = 150;

c = nan(N,1);
u = @(r,z) 0; % initialize the series
for n = 1:N
    c(n) = (1./besselj(0,n*pi)).*...
        integral(@(z) g(z).*sin(n*pi*z),0,Z)./...
        integral(@(z) sin(n*pi*z).*sin(n*pi*z),0,Z);

    % update the series with the next term
    u = @(r,z) u(r,z) + ...
        c(n)*besselj(0,n*pi*r).*sin(n*pi*z);
end

```

Students sometimes struggle with determining which term is the orthogonal function. The key is to realize that  $I_0(n\pi)$  is not really a function at all but a constant—albeit a tricky one to evaluate.

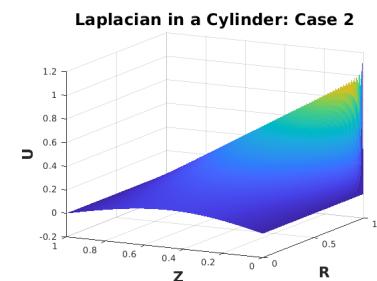


Figure 56: Solution for Case II with  $N=150$ .

```
%% make surface plot  
Rv = linspace(0,R,100);  
Zv = linspace(0,Z,200);  
  
[RR,ZZ] = meshgrid(Rv,Zv);  
UU = u(RR,ZZ);  
  
figure(1)  
surf(Rv,Zv,UU,'edgecolor','none');  
title('Laplacian in a Cylinder: Case 2',...  
    'fontsize',18,'fontweight','bold');  
xlabel('R','fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');  
ylabel('Z','fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');  
zlabel('U','fontsize',16,'fontweight','bold');  
view([-63 15]);
```

# Lecture 33 - Introduction to the Neutron Diffusion Equation in Cylindrical Coordinates

## Objectives

- Describe the neutron diffusion equation.
- Solve the neutron diffusion equation for a bare, homogeneous, finite, cylindrical reactor.

## Background and Introduction

In a nuclear reactor, power is produced by neutron-induced fission in fuel materials in the core. To analyze this phenomena, we need to have a model of neutron transport and interaction. The dependent variable in this analysis is the *neutron flux* ( $\phi$ ) which is the product of neutron density—number of neutrons per unit volume—and the average speed of the neutrons.<sup>1</sup> Since almost all operating reactor cores are arranged as a nearly cylindrical array of fuel assemblies, we will idealize the geometry of a reactor core as a smooth finite cylinder. To make the calculations amenable to analytical methods, we will make the following additional assumptions:

1. The neutron flux is at steady state and equal to zero at the core boundary.<sup>2</sup> The exterior of the core is assumed to be *bare* with no reflector materials present.
2. Since the flux is assumed to be zero at the core boundary it will be natural to also assume that the neutron flux is constant with respect to variations in angular position within the cylinder.
3. The fuel, cladding, coolant, and surrounding structural materials are assumed to be a homogeneous medium.
4. Variation in neutron energy will be ignored and their individual direction of travel will also be ignored.<sup>3</sup> Thus neutron flux will be a function of radial and axial position only— $\phi(r, z)$ .

<sup>1</sup> Equivalently, the neutron flux can be understood as the total distance traveled by all neutrons per unit volume and per unit time. The units for flux are:  $\frac{\text{neutrons}}{\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{s}}$  although “neutrons” are not technically a unit.

<sup>2</sup> This is referred to as a *vacuum boundary condition*. The flux is not actually zero at the boundary but is *assumed* to be zero a certain distance outside the boundary, referred to as the *extrapolation distance* ( $d$ ). For students studying reactor physics you will learn that the extrapolation distance is assumed to be proportional to the diffusion coefficient:  $d = 2.13D$ . If  $D$  is small, as is the case for some reactors,  $d \approx 0$  is not a terrible approximation.

<sup>3</sup> Instead of accounting for neutron direction of travel we will assume that the population of neutrons *diffuse*, like heat or perfume, from high concentration to low.

## Neutron Diffusion Equation

Collectively, the above assumptions lead us to use the *Diffusion Theory approximation* for neutron transport. The general form of the neutron diffusion equation is given in Equation 113.

$$D\nabla^2\phi - \Sigma_a\phi + \nu\Sigma_f = 0 \quad (113)$$

where  $D$  is the diffusion coefficient,<sup>4</sup>  $\Sigma_a$  and  $\Sigma_f$  are the macroscopic absorption and fission cross sections for the core material,<sup>5</sup> and  $\nu$  is the average number of neutrons released per fission event.

If we specify the form of the Laplacian operator for cylindrical coordinates with angular symmetry and define  $B^2 = \frac{\nu\Sigma_f - \Sigma_a}{D}$ ,<sup>6</sup> the boundary value problem can be expressed as follows:

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial z^2} + B^2\phi = 0, \quad 0 < r < R, \quad -H/2 < z < H/2$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } \phi(r, -H/2) = \phi(r, H/2) = 0, \quad \phi(R, z) = 0$$

In addition to angular symmetry, this problem is symmetric in the axial direction; the top-half and bottom-half are the same. Thus we will only model the top-half of the domain and impose a *symmetry* boundary condition at  $z = 0$ ; specifically we will assert:  $\phi_z(r, 0) = 0$ . Consequently, we will no longer need to enforce the condition  $\phi(r, -H/2)$  for this problem.

There is another condition that  $\phi(r, z)$  needs to satisfy, and that is it must be *non-negative*. Since flux is the product of neutron speed times the neutron density—two quantities that must be positive to be physically realistic—the flux itself must be positive everywhere in the domain. We will see the impact of this condition as we solve the problem.

LET US NOW turn ourselves to the task of solving this boundary value problem using, as usual, separation of variables.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution:

$$\phi(r, z) = F(r)G(z)$$

**Step #2:** Insert the product solution into the governing equation.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}[F(r)G(z)] + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}[F(r)G(z)] + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}[F(r)G(z)] + B^2F(r)G(z) &= 0 \\ F_{rr}G + \frac{1}{r}F_rG + FG_{zz} + B^2FG &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>4</sup> The diffusion coefficient is a material property that is proportional to the average distance a neutron can travel in a medium without interaction with the atoms of a material. If a neutron is expected to travel only a short distance before interaction then  $D$  is small; if a long distance,  $D$  is large.

<sup>5</sup> Like  $D$ ,  $\Sigma_a$  and  $\Sigma_f$  are related to the distance a neutron is expected to travel before an interaction (absorption for  $\Sigma_a$  and fission for  $\Sigma_f$ ) except in this case it is an inverse proportionality. For example, if a neutron is likely to be absorbed after traveling only a short distance, that means  $\Sigma_a$  is large.

<sup>6</sup>  $B^2$  is generically referred to as “buckling” or, since it is defined in terms of material properties, it is sometimes called “material buckling.”

**Step #3:** Separate the variables.

$$\frac{F_{rr}G}{FG} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_r G}{FG} + \frac{F G_{zz}}{FG} + B^2 \frac{F G}{FG} = 0$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{F_{rr}}{F} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_r}{F} + \frac{G_{zz}}{G}}_{\text{function of } r} = -B^2 = -\lambda_1 - \lambda_2$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{F_{rr}}{F} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_r}{F} + \lambda_1}_{\text{function of } r} = -\underbrace{\frac{G_{zz}}{G} - \lambda_2}_{\text{function of } z} = \lambda_3$$

Here we split up  $B^2$  so part of it can be used in each equation.

The separated equations are:

$$\frac{F_{rr}}{F} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{F_r}{F} + \underbrace{\lambda_1 - \lambda_3}_{\nu^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{G_{zz}}{G} + \underbrace{\lambda_2 + \lambda_3}_{\kappa^2} = 0$$

Note that  $\nu^2 + \kappa^2 = (\lambda_1 - \lambda_3) + (\lambda_2 + \lambda_3) = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = B^2$ .

or, equivalently:

$$r^2 F_{rr} + r F_r + \nu^2 r^2 F = 0$$

$$G_{zz} + \kappa^2 G = 0$$

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s):

We actually have homogeneous conditions on *every* boundary for this problem, so it does not matter which equation we start with. Also, some readers may have noticed, by the way we defined the separation constants— $\nu^2$  and  $\kappa^2$ —we have also quietly implied that they will both be *positive*. With these boundary conditions, this is indeed what we would have found to be the case anyway.

IN THE  $z$ -DIRECTION the general solution is:

$$G(z) = c_1 \cos \kappa z + c_2 \sin \kappa z$$

Applying the boundary condition at  $z = 0$  gives us:

$$G_z(0) = -\kappa c_1 \sin 0 + \kappa c_2 \cos 0 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_2 = 0$$

Applying the boundary condition at  $z = H/2$  gives us:

$$G(H/2) = c_1 \cos \kappa \frac{H}{2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \kappa \frac{H}{2} = \frac{n\pi}{2}, \quad n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \kappa = \frac{n\pi}{H}, \quad n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$$

There are an infinite number of values of  $\kappa$  that allow non-trivial solutions to  $G(z)$  but, it turns out, *only one* of them—corresponding to  $n = 1$  and  $\kappa = \pi/H$ —is admissible. This is because the neutron flux must be non-negative. If the higher eigenmodes were allowed, then  $G(z)$  would become negative in portions of the domain and thus  $\phi(r, z)$  would become negative.<sup>7</sup> Thus  $G(z) = c_1 \cos \frac{\pi z}{H}$ .

IN THE  $r$ -DIRECTION the general solution is:

$$F(r) = c_3 J_0(\nu r) + c_4 Y_0(\nu r)$$

Since  $Y_0(\nu r)$  diverges to negative infinity as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , we must set  $c_4 = 0$ . The boundary condition at  $r = R$  gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} F(c) &= c_3 J_0(\nu R) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow \nu &= \frac{k_{0,n}}{R} \end{aligned}$$

where  $k_{0,n}$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of  $J_0$ . Recalling from previous experience with Bessel functions of the first kind of order zero,  $J_0$  oscillates infinitely many times so there are infinitely many roots. As was the case in the  $z$ -direction, we really are only interested in the first eigenmode  $\nu_1 \approx 2.405/R$ . This is because all higher eigenmodes would result in  $F(r)$  being negative in some parts of the domain, which owing to the nature of  $\phi(r, z)$ , we cannot allow.

PUTTING TOGETHER THE results from the  $z$ - and  $r$ -directions gives us the product solution as shown in Equation 114.

$$\phi(r, z) = A J_0\left(\frac{2.405r}{R}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi z}{H}\right) \quad (114)$$

**Step #5:** Apply the remaining boundary conditions to determine the unknown coefficients.

On the plus-side, we only have one unknown constant remaining; on the minus-side, we actually do not have any more boundary conditions to apply to determine the unknown constant. It turns out that a problem of this type—it is not a wave equation, heat equation, or Laplace equation but a so-called *eigenvalue equation*<sup>8</sup>—was destined to have this problem from the start. We can solve for the flux shape, but we cannot nail down its magnitude. Luckily, we have a different way of specifying the unknown constant.

Let us assume that the purpose of this nuclear reactor is to create power. Each fission event releases a tiny amount of heat—approximately  $3.2 \times 10^{-11}$  Joules,<sup>9</sup> a quantity we denote  $E_R$ . The *rate* of fissions ( $R_f$ ) occurring in the reactor is proportional to the flux—specifically

<sup>7</sup> We will dismiss as unworkable the assumption that  $F(r)$  and  $G(z)$  could somehow be contrived to be of the same sign everywhere in the domain and thereby get around this conclusion.

We combine both constants from  $G(z)$  and  $F(r)$  into  $A$ .

<sup>8</sup> So-called because one may re-arrange the governing equation:

$$\nabla^2 \phi + \frac{B^2}{k} \phi = 0$$

to

$$\nabla^2 \phi = -\frac{B^2}{k} \phi$$

where, in this form, the term  $1/k$  has been added and represents the *eigenvalue*. A more complete description is relegated to a course in reactor physics.

<sup>9</sup> This number is specific for fission induced by a thermal neutron incident upon Uranium-235 but the recoverable energy released for other fission reactions is similar.

$R_f = \Sigma_f \phi(r, z)$ . If we integrate the fission rate over the volume of the core, we get the total fission rate; multiplying by the energy released per fission, we get the total core power. Let us take the total reactor power to be a known parameter:  $P$ . Converting the words of this paragraph into math gives us:

$$P = E_R \Sigma_f 2\pi \underbrace{\int_{-H/2}^{H/2} \int_0^R A J_0\left(\frac{2.405r}{R}\right) \cos \frac{\pi z}{H} r dr dz}_{\int \int_V \phi dV} \quad (115)$$

Therefore

$$A = \frac{P}{E_R \Sigma_f 2\pi \int \int_V \phi dV} \quad (116)$$

In summary, the solution of the neutron diffusion equation in a finite, homogeneous, bare cylindrical reactor is given by Equation 114 where the constant is determined by specifying the reactor thermal power and evaluating Equation 116.

### A Note on Buckling

In order to wrap up all of the details about solving the neutron diffusion equation for a finite, bare, homogeneous cylinder, we should take a moment to consider what happened to  $B^2$ . As you may recall, during the separation of variables process, we parsed out pieces of  $B^2$  to the equation both for the  $z$ -component and the  $r$ -component. It turned out that  $B^2$ , which you can easily verify is equal to  $\nu^2 + \kappa^2$ , was found to be numerically equal to  $\left(\frac{2.405}{R}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\pi}{H}\right)^2$ . Even though the initial definition of  $B^2$  in the boundary value problem statement was based on  $\Sigma_a$ ,  $\Sigma_f$ , and  $D$ —all of which are *material properties*—we determined in the separation of variables process that  $B^2$  must be a numerical value related to the *geometric properties* of the problem. We sometimes denote  $B^2$  as  $B_g^2$  and call it *geometric buckling* whereas the quantity  $\frac{\nu \Sigma_f - \Sigma_a}{D}$  is more often called the “material buckling.” For a critical—i.e. steady state—reactor, the two are equal.

What does this observation tell you? For one thing, it means that if either  $R$  or  $H$  is very small—if the reactor is like a thin rod or if it is flat like a pancake—the geometric buckling will be large. Thus for a reactor of this geometry to become critical, materials must be loaded in the core that increase  $\Sigma_f$  relative to  $\Sigma_a$ . The main way this can be done is to increase the concentration of fissile isotopes like  $^{235}\text{U}$  or  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ —an undertaking that is possible but expensive and, for sufficiently high fuel enrichment, subject to regulatory hurdles. On the other hand, a reactor with  $R$  and  $H$  both larger has lower

buckling. These considerations should be kept in mind when you are specifying the geometry of a reactor that you are designing.

## *Assignment #12*

1. Find the steady-state temperature  $u(r, z)$  in a cylinder if the boundary conditions are:

$$u(2, z) = 0, \quad 0 < z < 4$$

$$u(r, 0) = u_0, \quad 0 < r < 2$$

**Hint:** For the differential equation  $G_{zz} - \alpha^2 G = 0$ , the solution for  $\alpha > 0$  can be expressed as  $G(z) = c_1 \cosh \alpha z + c_2 \sinh \alpha z$ , but it can also be expressed as:  $G(z) = c_1 \cosh [\alpha(k - z)] + c_2 \sinh [\alpha(k - z)]$  for any constant  $k$ —a fact that you should confirm for yourself. This is equivalent to shifting the location of the  $z$ -origin by  $k$  units. For this problem, it is very useful to use the latter form with  $k = 4$ .

2. Find the steady-state temperature  $u(r, z)$  in a finite cylinder defined by  $0 \leq r \leq 1$ ,  $0 \leq z \leq 1$  if the boundary conditions are given as:

$$u(1, z) = z, \quad 0 < z < 1$$

$$u_z(r, 0) = 0, \quad 0 < r < 1$$

$$u_z(r, 1) = 0, \quad 0 < r < 1$$

3. The temperature in a circular plate of radius  $c$  is determined from the boundary value problem:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) &= \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \quad 0 < r < c, \quad t > 0 \\ u(c, t) &= 0, \quad t > 0 \\ u(r, 0) &= f(r), \quad 0 < r < c\end{aligned}$$

- (a) Solve for  $u(r, t)$ .  
 (b) Implement your solution in MATLAB using the following parameter values:  $\alpha^2 = 0.1$ ,  $c = 2$ , and  $f(r)$  defined as follows:

$$f(r) = \begin{cases} 1+r, & 0 < r \leq 1 \\ 0, & 1 < r \leq 2 \end{cases}$$

and carry out the following tasks:

- i. Plot  $u(r, 0)$  using  $N = 15$  modes.
- ii. State the value to which  $u(1, 0)$  converges and explain why.
- iii. Briefly describe what the final steady-state solution looks like.

4. A circular plate is a composite of two different materials in the form of concentric circles. The temperature  $u(r, t)$  in the plate is determined from the boundary value problem:

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \quad 0 < r < 2, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Condition : } u(2, t) = 100, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Condition : } u(r, 0) = \begin{cases} 200, & 0 < r < 1 \\ 100, & 1 < r < 2 \end{cases}$$

Use the substitution:  $u(r, t) = v(r, t) + \psi(r)$  to solve the boundary value problem.

# Lecture 34 - Laplace's Equation in Spherical Coordinates

## Objectives

- Solve Laplace's equation in spherical coordinates.
- Introduce spherical harmonics.

## Boundary Value Problem

In this lecture we will consider the problem of steady-state temperature in a sphere. We will define our spherical coordinates as shown in Figure 57. The relationship between  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  and  $r$ ,  $\theta$ , and  $\phi$  are shown in the margin.

Laplace's equation could be stated generically enough as  $\nabla^2 u = 0$ , of course, but we need to adapt the definition of the Laplacian operator for spherical coordinates. This is shown in Equation 117.

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\cot \theta}{r^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} = 0 \quad (117)$$

In order to make the complexity a little more manageable, we will assume a boundary condition that is only a function of  $\theta$ :

$$u(c, \theta) = f(\theta)$$

Thus the solution will only be a function of  $r$  and  $\theta$  and all derivatives of  $u$  with respect to  $\phi$  can be eliminated from the Laplacian. The governing equation will therefore be:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\cot \theta}{r^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} = 0 \quad (118)$$

Despite all appearances, Equation 118 is a linear, homogeneous, second-order boundary value problem so we will use separation of variables as usual.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution.

$$u(r, \theta) = F(r)G(\theta)$$

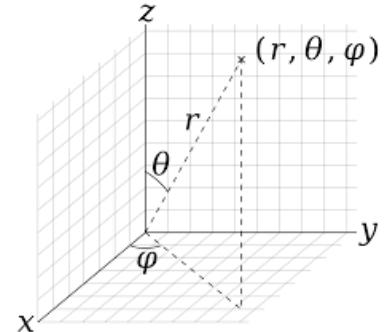


Figure 57: Spherical coordinate system.

$$\begin{aligned} x &= r \sin \theta \cos \phi & 0 < r < c \\ y &= r \sin \theta \sin \phi & 0 < \phi < 2\pi \\ z &= r \cos \theta & 0 < \theta < \pi \end{aligned}$$

**Step #2:** Insert the product solution into the governing equation.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} [F(r)G(\theta)] + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} [F(r)G(\theta)] + \dots \\ \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} [F(r)G(\theta)] + \frac{\cot \theta}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} [F(r)G(\theta)] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_{rr}G + \frac{2}{r}F_rG + \frac{1}{r^2}FG_{\theta\theta} + \frac{\cot \theta}{r^2}FG_\theta = 0 \\ r^2F_{rr}G + 2rF_rG + FG_{\theta\theta} + \cot \theta FG_\theta = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Here we multiply through by  $r^2$  to simplify the upcoming separation process.

**Step #3:** Separate the variables.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{r^2F_{rr}G}{FG} + \frac{2rF_rG}{FG} + \frac{FG_{\theta\theta}}{FG} + \frac{\cot \theta FG_\theta}{FG} = 0 \\ \frac{r^2F_{rr}}{F} + \frac{2rF_r}{F} + \frac{G_{\theta\theta}}{G} + \frac{\cot \theta G_\theta}{G} = 0 \\ \frac{r^2F_{rr}}{F} + \frac{2rF_r}{F} = -\frac{G_{\theta\theta}}{G} - \frac{\cot \theta G_\theta}{G} = \lambda \end{aligned}$$

So the separated equations are:

$$\begin{aligned} r^2F_{rr} + 2rF_r - \lambda F = 0 \\ G_{\theta\theta} + \cot \theta G_\theta + \lambda G = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We can readily recognize the equation for  $F(r)$  as a Cauchy-Euler equation. The equation for  $G(\theta)$ , on the other hand, looks like nothing we have ever seen.

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s).

WE WILL FIND, eventually, that we can change the equation for  $G(\theta)$  into something recognizable if we make the following transformation to the independent variable:  $\cos \theta = x$ . Since  $\theta$  goes from 0 to  $\pi$  and  $x = \cos \theta$ ,  $x$  will go from -1 to 1. Let us set out on the process to replace all derivatives of  $G$  with respect to  $\theta$  to derivatives with respect to  $x$ . Using the chain rule:

$$\begin{aligned} G_\theta &= \frac{d}{dx}(G) \frac{dx}{d\theta} \\ &= -(1-x^2)^{1/2} G_x \end{aligned}$$

Here we use:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{d\theta} &= -\sin \theta \\ &= -(1-x^2)^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

An important detail here is that:  $-\sin \theta = -(1-x^2)^{1/2}$  since  $\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$  and therefore  $\sin \theta = (1-\cos^2 \theta)^{1/2}$ .

Repeating to find an expression for  $G_{\theta\theta}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\theta\theta} &= \frac{d}{dx}(G_\theta) \frac{dx}{d\theta} \\ &= \frac{d}{dx} \left[ -(1-x^2)^{1/2} G_x \right] \left[ -(1-x^2)^{1/2} \right] \\ &= \left[ -\frac{1}{2}(1-x^2)^{-1/2}(-2x)G_x - (1-x^2)^{1/2}G_{xx} \right] \left[ -(1-x^2)^{1/2} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(-2x)G_x + (1+x^2)G_{xx} \end{aligned}$$

Inserting these expressions into our equation for  $G(\theta)$  gives us:

$$\overbrace{-xG_x + (1-x^2)G_{xx}}^{G_{\theta\theta}} + \underbrace{\frac{x}{1-x^2}}_{\cot\theta}^{1/2} \overbrace{[-1(1-x^2)^{1/2}G_x]}^{G_\theta} + \lambda G = 0$$

$$= \frac{\cos\theta}{\sin\theta}$$

which, upon simplification is:

$$(1-x^2)G_{xx} - 2xG_x + \lambda G = 0$$

Which is, at long last, Legendre's equation. Recall that Legendre's equation has polynomial solutions for  $\lambda = n(n+1)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  and these solutions are called Legendre polynomials,  $P_n(x)$ . Substituting now  $x = \cos\theta$ , we get the solution for  $G(\theta)$ :

$$G(\theta) = c_1 P_n(\cos\theta)$$

The functions  $P_n(\cos\theta)$  are sometimes called *spherical harmonics*.

NOW THAT WE have solutions for  $G(\theta)$  as well as our allowed eigenvalues, we circle back to solve  $F(r)$ . Following the usual procedure for Cauchy-Euler equations, we assume a solution of the form  $F(r) = r^m$  and find values of  $m$  that satisfy the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 F_{rr} + 2rF_r - n(n+1)F &= 0 \\ r^2 \left[ m(m-1)r^{m-2} \right] + 2mr^{m-1} - n(n+1)r^m &= 0 \\ r^m \left[ m^2 - m + 2m - n(n+1) \right] &= 0 \\ m^2 + m - n(n+1) &= 0 \\ (m-n)(m+(n+1)) &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow m &= n, -(n+1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the general solution for  $F(r)$  is:

$$F(r) = c_2 r^n + c_3 r^{-(n+1)}$$

Functions that are solutions to Laplace's equation are called *harmonics*. Spherical harmonics solve Laplace's equation in spherical coordinates.

In order to ensure that  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} F(r) < \infty$ , we must set  $c_3 = 0$ . The product solution is given in Equation 119.

$$u(r, \theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n r^n P_n(\cos \theta) \quad (119)$$

**Step #5:** Apply the remaining boundary conditions to determine the unknown coefficients.

The last boundary condition we have to apply is on the outside surface of the sphere:

$$u(R, \theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n R^n P_n(\cos \theta) = f(\theta)$$

On the left of the last equality we have an infinite linear combination of orthogonal functions; on the right we have a function. We want to know the values of  $c_n$  so that they will be equal. How do we do this? We multiply both sides by an orthogonal function, and weight function, and integrate.

THIS CASE is a bit different than the last time we met Legendre polynomials, however, insofar as the argument for  $P_n$  is now  $\cos \theta$  and not  $x$ . Suppose we pretended, temporarily, that we were dealing with  $P_n(x)$ ; what would we do? The equation for  $c_n$  would look something like:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-1}^1 c_n R^n P_n(x)^2 dx &= \int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx \\ \Rightarrow c_n &= \frac{1}{R^n} \frac{\int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx}{\int_{-1}^1 P_n(x)^2 dx} \end{aligned}$$

But in our case, we have  $P_n(\cos \theta)$ ; we need to change variables, again, to reflect  $x = \cos \theta$ , and  $dx = -\sin \theta d\theta$ . We must also make substitutions in the limits of integration: if  $x = \cos \theta$ , when  $x = -1$ ,  $\theta = \pi$ ; also  $x = \cos \theta$  when  $x = 1$ , corresponds to  $\theta = 0$ . Making these substitutions into our expression gives us the formula for our coefficients in Equation 120.

$$c_n = \frac{\int_0^\pi f(\theta) P_n(\cos \theta) \sin \theta d\theta}{R^n \int_0^\pi P_n(\cos \theta)^2 \sin \theta d\theta} \quad (120)$$

### MATLAB Implementation

In the code listings below we will construct the solution for  $R = 2$  and  $f(\theta)$  given by:

$$f(\theta) = \begin{cases} 10(\pi/2 - \theta), & 0 \leq \theta < \pi/2 \\ 0, & \pi/2 \leq \theta \leq \pi \end{cases}$$

Admittedly, this is the only boundary condition that we have applied so far for this problem. We latched on to the eigenvalues  $\lambda = n(n + 1)$ , for non-negative integer  $n$ , and did not explore what would happen if  $n$  is negative. In the interest of time and space in this lecture, I ask that we leave well-enough alone and defer that exploration for another day.

With the given substitutions, the formula for  $c_n$  becomes:

$$c_n = \frac{\int_\pi^0 f(\theta) P_n(\cos \theta) (-\sin \theta) d\theta}{R^n \int_\pi^0 P_n(\cos \theta)^2 (-\sin \theta) d\theta}$$

In Equation 120 we flipped the bounds of integration and removed the minus sign from  $(-\sin \theta)$ .

We start, as usual, by clearing out the workspace and setting problem parameters.

```
clear
clc
close 'all'
%% Set Parameters
R = 2;
N = 4;
f = @(theta) ex1(theta);
```

Next we construct the solution for the specified number of eigenfunctions.

```
%% Construct the Solution
c = nan(N,1);
u = @(r,theta) 0; % initialize the series
% start for n = 0
n = 0;
co = integral(@(th) f(th).*...
    legendreP(n,cos(th)).*sin(th),0,pi)./...
    integral(@(th) (R^n).*...
    (legendreP(n,cos(th)).^2).*sin(th),0,pi);

u = @(r,theta) u(r,theta) + co*(r.^n).*legendreP(n,cos(theta));

for n = 1:N
    % get the next coefficient
    c(n) = integral(@(th) f(th).*...
        legendreP(n,cos(th)).*sin(th),0,pi)./...
        integral(@(th) (R^n).*...
        (legendreP(n,cos(th)).^2).*sin(th),0,pi);

    % update the approximation
    u = @(r,theta) u(r,theta) + ...
        c(n)*(r.^n).*legendreP(n,cos(theta));
end
```

Next we would like to visualize the results. At the time of this writing, MATLAB has limited capability for visualizing three-dimensional data. For the example, we will tabulate the solution on a regular mesh comprising a cube that contains the sphere of interest. The tabulated solution will be written to a VTK<sup>1</sup> data file that can be visualized with software tools such as ParaView.<sup>2</sup>

```
%% Process Result for Plotting
Nx = 50;
Xv = linspace(-R,R,Nx);
Yv = linspace(-R,R,Nx);
Zv = linspace(-R,R,Nx);
dx = Xv(2)-Xv(1); % need this for VTK file
[XX,YY,ZZ] = meshgrid(Xv,Yv,Zv);

RR = sqrt(XX.^2+YY.^2+ZZ.^2);
PP = acos(ZZ./RR);
UU = u(RR,PP);
% set region outside the sphere to nan
UU(RR>R) = nan;
```

<sup>1</sup> VTK stands for "Visualization Toolkit" and a VTK data file is one of several standard data formats used for storing scientific data as it is prepared for visualization.

<sup>2</sup> A. Henderson. ParaView Guide, A Parallel Visualization Application. Technical report, Kitware Inc., 2007

```
%>% Write the data to a file
filename = 'solution.vtk';
dataname = 'U';
origin = [-R -R -R];
spacing = [dx dx dx];
save_scalarStructuredPoints3D_VTK_binary(filename ,...
    dataname,UU,origin ,spacing);
```

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Lastly, let us show the local functions used to represent the boundary condition and to write the resulting data into a properly formatted VTK file.

```
%% Local functions
function u = ex1(theta)
[n,m] = size(theta);
u = nan(n,m);
ind_a = theta<=(pi/2);
ind_b = theta>(pi/2);
u(ind_a) = 10*((pi/2)-theta(ind_a));
u(ind_b) = 0;
end

function save_scalarStructuredPoints3D_VTK_binary(filename ,... ❶
    dataname,data_set,origin,spacing)

[nx,ny,nz]=size(data_set);

% open the file
fid = fopen(filename , 'w');

% ASCII file header
fprintf(fid , '# vtk DataFile Version 3.0\n');
fprintf(fid , 'VTK from Matlab\n');
fprintf(fid , 'BINARY\n\n');
fprintf(fid , 'DATASET STRUCTURED_POINTS\n');
fprintf(fid , 'DIMENSIONS %d %d %d \n',nx,ny,nz);
fprintf(fid , 'ORIGIN %4.3f %4.3f %4.3f \n' ,...
    origin(1),origin(2),origin(3));
fprintf(fid , 'SPACING %4.3f %4.3f %4.3f \n' ,...
    spacing(1),spacing(2),spacing(3));
fprintf(fid , '\n');
fprintf(fid , 'POINT_DATA %d \n',nx*ny*nz);
fprintf(fid , strcat('SCALARS ','\t',dataname,' float ', '\n'));
fprintf(fid , 'LOOKUP_TABLE default \n');

% write the data
fwrite(fid , reshape(data_set,1,nx*ny*nz) , 'float' , 'b');
% close the file
fclose(fid);

end
```

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❶ This local function, as the name suggests, saves the scalar data—which is organized in a three-dimensional regular grid—into a binary data file. The ASCII file header is a specified format and is used to describe the structure of the data so that software like ParaView can be used to visualize the data. We refer to this as a “binary data file” since the actual data is stored in binary form. Alternatively the data could be stored in plain text but that would make the file much larger.

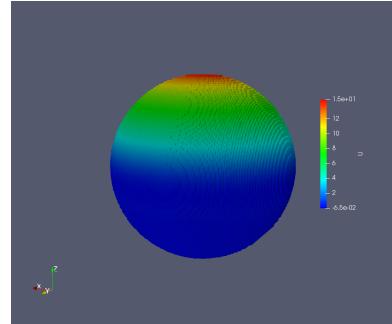


Figure 58: Plot of solution using ParaView.

The solution for this case is shown in Figure 58.

# Lecture 35 - Non-homogeneous Problem in Spherical Coordinates

## Objectives

- Solve the time-dependent heat equation in spherical coordinates.
- Provide another example illustrating how non-homogeneous boundary conditions can be treated.
- Show another MATLAB solution.

## Non-homogeneous Heat Equation on a Sphere

Consider the time-dependent temperature within a unit sphere as described by the following boundary value problem:

$$\text{Governing Equation : } \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r}, \quad 0 < r < 1, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } u(1, t) = 100, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } u(x, 0) = 0, \quad 0 < r < 1$$

Notice that we have omitted portions of the Laplacian, in spherical coordinates, containing derivatives of  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ . Besides the usual uniformity of material properties, this is owing to the boundary conditions and initial conditions that are constants.<sup>1</sup> Thus we have considerably simplified the equation. Having said that you should also notice that the boundary condition at  $r = 1$  is non-homogeneous. We will not be able to solve this problem using separation of variables without dealing with that boundary condition first.

READERS MAY RECALL from Lecture 27 that we were able to deal with (some types of) non-homogeneous terms in the governing equation and boundary conditions by assuming a solution of the form:  $u(x, t) = v(x, t) + \psi(x)$ . The boundary value problem that we derived

<sup>1</sup> We have omitted the thermal diffusivity, so you should assume  $\alpha^2 = 1$ .

for  $\psi(x)$  absorbed all of the non-homogeneous terms leaving a homogeneous boundary value problem for  $v(x, t)$  that we could solve using separation of variables. We will pursue a similar strategy in this lecture. What we will do is:

1. Verify that  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r}$ —from the governing equation, can be expressed as:  $\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(ru)$ . This is easily verified:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(ru) &= \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(ru) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} [u + ru_r] \\ &= \frac{1}{r} [u_r + u_r + ru_{rr}] \\ &= u_{rr} + \frac{2}{r} u_r\end{aligned}$$

and

2. Let  $ru(r, t) = v(r, t) + \psi(r)$  where  $\psi(r)$  will once again be used to absorb the nonhomogeneities. In this case we will also need to take care to only use solutions  $u(r, t) = \frac{1}{r}v(r, t) + \frac{1}{r}\psi(r)$  that remain bounded as  $r \rightarrow 0$ .

LET US NOW restate the boundary value problem in terms of  $ru(r, t) = v(r, t) + \psi(r)$ . The governing equation becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} [v(r, t) + \psi(r)] &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ \frac{1}{r} v(r, t) + \frac{1}{r} \psi(r) \right] \\ \frac{1}{r} [v_{rr} + \psi_{rr}] &= \frac{1}{r} v_t\end{aligned}$$

The boundary condition becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}u(1, t) &= 100 \\ \frac{1}{1} v(1, t) + \frac{1}{1} \psi(1) &= 100 \\ v(1, t) + \psi(1) &= 100\end{aligned}$$

The boundary condition in the new form is  $\frac{1}{r} v(r, t) \Big|_{r=1} + \frac{1}{r} \psi(r) \Big|_{r=1}$

And the initial condition is:

$$\begin{aligned}u(r, 0) &= 0 \\ \frac{1}{r} v(r, 0) + \frac{1}{r} \psi(r) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

We will take the boundary value problem for  $\psi(r)$  therefore to be:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{r} \psi_{rr} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \psi_{rr} &= 0 \\ \psi(1) &= 100\end{aligned}$$

and the boundary value problem for  $v(r, t)$  to be:

$$\text{Governing Equation : } v_{rr} = v_t, \quad 0 < r < 1, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Boundary Conditions : } v(1, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

$$\text{Initial Conditions : } v(r, 0) = -\psi(r), \quad 0 < r < 1$$

LET US FIRST solve for  $\psi(r)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(r) &= 0 \\ \psi(1) &= 100\end{aligned}$$

The general solution is  $\psi(r) = c_1 r + c_2$ . Applying the boundary condition we get:  $\psi(1) = c_1(1) + c_2 = 100$ . There are infinitely many values for  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  that could satisfy this condition but we need to remember that  $\frac{1}{r}\psi(r)$  must remain bounded as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . Thus we will choose to set  $c_2 = 0$  and  $c_1 = 100$  so that:

$$\psi(r) = 100r \quad (121)$$

NOW WE WILL TURN to the solution of the boundary value problem for  $v(r, t)$  using separation of variables.

**Step #1:** Assume a product solution.

$$v(r, t) = F(r)G(t)$$

**Step #2:** Insert the product solution into the governing equation.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} [F(r)G(t)] &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [F(r)G(t)] \\ F_{rr}G &= FG_t\end{aligned}$$

**Step #3:** Separate variables.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{F_{rr}G}{FG} &= \frac{FG_t}{FG} \\ \frac{F_{rr}}{F} &= \frac{G_t}{G} = -\lambda\end{aligned}$$

So the separated equations are:

$$\begin{aligned}F_{rr} + \lambda F &= 0 \\ G_t + \lambda G &= 0\end{aligned}$$

**Step #4:** Apply boundary conditions to determine non-trivial product solution(s).

For this problem, our boundary conditions are that  $v(1, t) = 0$  and that  $\frac{1}{r}v(r, t)$  should remain finite as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . Rather than go through the analysis exhaustively, for this lecture we will claim that  $\lambda > 0$  and set  $\lambda = \alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ . This means that:

$$\begin{aligned} F(r) &= c_3 \cos \alpha r + c_4 \sin \alpha r \\ G(t) &= c_5 e^{-\alpha^2 t} \end{aligned}$$

In order to satisfy the requirement as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , we will set  $c_3 = 0$  since  $\frac{1}{r} \cos \alpha r$  diverges as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . As for the rest of  $F(r)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} F(1) &= c_4 \sin \alpha = 0 \\ \Rightarrow \sin \alpha &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \alpha &= n\pi, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$

So the product solution is:

$$v(r, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin(\alpha_n r) e^{-\alpha_n^2 t} \quad (122)$$

**Step #5:** Satisfy the initial condition.

$$\begin{aligned} v(r, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin(\alpha_n r)(1) = -\psi(r) \\ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin(\alpha_n r) &= -100r \end{aligned}$$

On the left we have an infinite linear combination of eigenfunctions, on the right we have a function. We need to determine the values of the constants  $c_n$  so that the two are equal. How do we do this? We will multiply both sides by an orthogonal function and integrate. The result is:

$$c_n = \frac{\int_0^1 -100r \sin(\alpha_n r) dr}{\int_0^1 \sin(\alpha_n r)^2 dr} \quad (123)$$

THE LAST STEP will be to combine the solutions for  $\psi(r)$  and  $v(r, t)$  to form  $u(r, t)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} ru(r, t) &= v(r, t) + \psi(r) \\ u(r, t) &= \frac{1}{r} [v(r, t) + \psi(r)] \\ u(r, t) &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{r} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin(\alpha_n r) e^{-\alpha_n^2 t}}_{\text{transient}} + \underbrace{100}_{\text{steady state}} \end{aligned}$$

where the formula for the coefficients is given in Equation 123.

Interested readers should show that for  $\lambda < 0$  or  $\lambda = 0$  there are no non-trivial solutions that will both satisfy the boundary condition and not diverge as  $r \rightarrow 0$ .

As in Lecture 27, we find that  $v(x, t)$  corresponds to the transient solution, and  $\psi(r)$  is the steady-state solution.

### *MATLAB Implementation*

The code to construct this solution is straight-forward and presented in its entirety in the listing below.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 %% Parameters
5 N = 50;
6
7 c = 1; % radius of sphere
8 Psi = @(r) 100.*r;
9 R = @(r,n) sin(n.*pi.*r);
10 T = @(t,n) exp(-((n.*pi).^2).*t);
11
12 V = @(r,t) 0; % initialize my approximation for V
13
14 for n = 1:N
15   % compute coefficient
16   cn = 2*integral(@(r) -Psi(r).*R(n,r),0,c);
17
18   % update solution to V
19   V = @(r,t) V(r,t) + cn.*R(r,n).*T(t,n);
20
21 end
22
23 % construct solution U
24 U = @(r,t) (1./r).*(V(r,t)+Psi(r));

```

Plots of the solution at various time,  $t$ , are presented below.

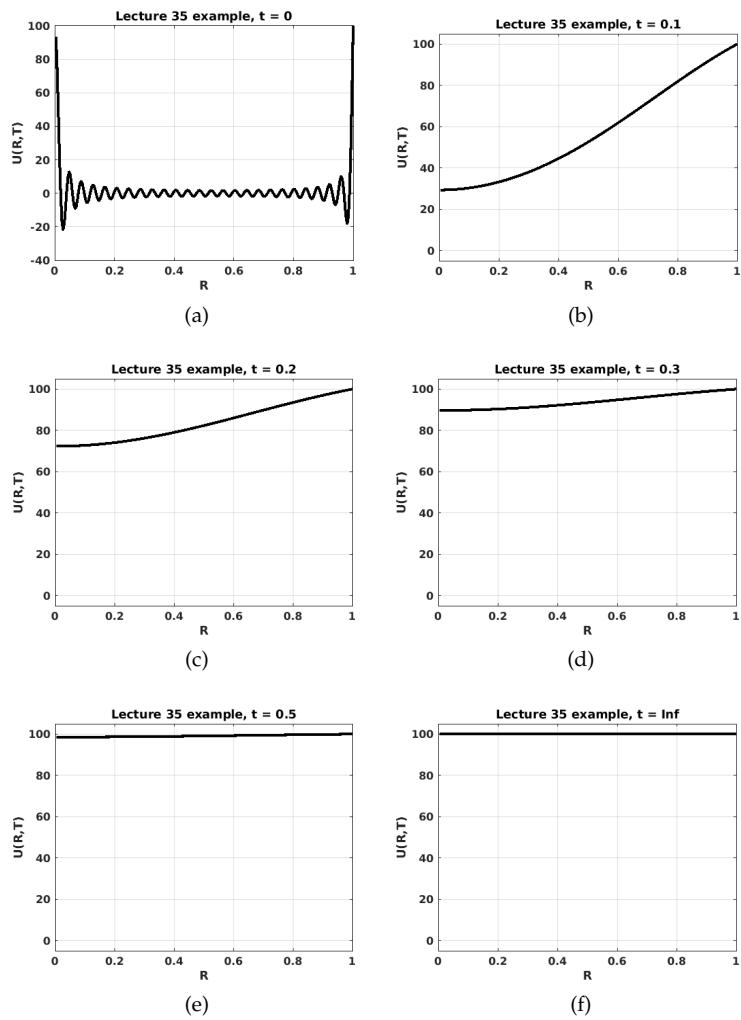


Figure 59: Plots solution at various times.

# Assignment #13

- Find the steady-state temperature  $u(r, \theta)$  in a sphere described by the boundary value problem below.

Governing Equation :  $u_{rr} + \frac{2}{r}u_r + \frac{1}{r^2}u_{\theta\theta} + \frac{\cot\theta}{r^2}u_\theta = 0, \quad 0 < r < c, \quad 0 < \theta < \pi$

Boundary Condition :  $u(c, \theta) = \begin{cases} 50, & 0 < \theta < \pi/2 \\ 0, & \pi/2 < \theta < \pi \end{cases}$

This problem was solved in Lecture 34. You need not repeat the analysis except to the extent that you want to remind yourself of the details. Implement the solution in MATLAB where the radius of the sphere is  $c = 1$ . Use MATLAB to print out enough coefficients of the first four non-zero terms to the series solution.

- Solve the boundary value problem involving spherical vibrations:

Governing Equation :  $\alpha^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2}, \quad 0 < r < c, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Conditions :  $u(c, t) = 0, \quad t > 0$

Initial Conditions :  $u(r, 0) = f(r), \quad u_t(r, 0) = g(r), \quad 0 < r < c$

**Hint:** Write the left side of the partial differential equation as  $\alpha^2 \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(ru)$ . Let  $v(r, t) = ru(r, t)$ .



## *Review Problems #3*

### *List of topics*

1. Boundary Value Problems in Rectangular Coordinates.
  - (a) Laplace's Equation
  - (b) Non-homogeneous Boundary Value Problem
  - (c) Orthogonal Series Expansions
  - (d) Fourier Series in Two Variables
2. Boundary Value Problems in Polar, Cylindrical and Spherical Coordinates.
  - (a) Problems in Polar Coordinates
  - (b) Problems in Cylindrical Coordinates
  - (c) The Neutron Diffusion Equation in Cylindrical Coordinates
  - (d) Problems in Spherical Coordinates

### *Review Problems*

1. Solve the following boundary value problem:

Governing Equation :  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad t > 0$

Boundary Condition :  $u(0, t) = u_0, \quad u_x(1, t) = -u(1, t) + u_1, \quad t > 0$

Initial Condition :  $u(x, 0) = u_0, \quad 0 < x < 1$

where  $u_0$  and  $u_1$  are constants.

2. Solve the boundary value problem below based on Laplace's equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = 0, \quad 0 < x < a, \quad 0 < y < b, \quad 0 < z < c$$

for the unit cube ( $a = b = c = 1$ ) with top ( $z = 1$ ) and bottom ( $z = 0$ ) kept at constant temperatures  $u_0$  and  $-u_0$  respectively, and the remaining temperatures kept at  $u = 0$ .

3. Find the steady-state temperature  $u(r, \theta)$  in a semicircular plate of radius 1 if the boundary conditions are given as:

$$\begin{aligned} u(1, \theta) &= u_0(\pi\theta - \theta^2), \quad 0 < \theta < \pi \\ u(r, 0) &= 0, \quad u(r, \pi) = 0, \quad 0 < r < 1 \end{aligned}$$

4. Find the steady-state temperature  $u(r, z)$  in a cylinder if the lateral side ( $r = 2$ ) is kept at temperature  $u = 0$ ; the top ( $z = 4$ ) is kept at  $u = 50$ , and the base, ( $z = 0$ ) is insulated.

**Part VI**

**Numerical Methods**

**Introduction**



# *Lecture 1 - Course Introduction and Numeric Preliminaries*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are:

- Introduce the course objectives.
- Describe how numbers are represented on computers.
- Outline sources of errors in numerical methods relative to analytical methods.

## *Course Introduction*

This course is intended to be an introduction and overview of numerical methods. The target audience comprises undergraduate students of engineering who have already taken a full sequence of calculus and differential equations courses. Some students may also have taken the analytical methods course described earlier in this book. All students are expected to have some proficiency in the MATLAB programming environment.

## *Objectives*

THE OBJECTIVES for this course are as follows:

1. Students will understand the fundamentals of numerical methods with an emphasis on the most essential algorithms and methods.
2. Students will have enhanced their scientific computing skills and further developed their proficiency in using the MATLAB environment to implement algorithms and have learned to critically evaluate their results.

**Question:** What are numerical methods?

**Answer:** Numerical methods (or numerical analysis) is the study of *algorithms* for the problems of *continuous* mathematics.

3. Students will understand the fundamentals of the finite element method (FEM) and have attained an introductory-level proficiency in using the COMSOL software package to carry out a multi-physics analysis of a relevant physical model.
4. Students will have developed the ability to formulate a problem of interest, apply numerical methods and computational tools to analyze the problem, and communicate pertinent results to others.

### *Course Topics*

The specific topics we will cover include:

1. Methods for solving non-linear equations
  - (a) Bisection method
  - (b) Newton's method
  - (c) Secant method
2. Methods for solving linear equations
  - (a) Gauss elimination and related methods like LU- and Cholesky factorization
  - (b) Iterative solution methods for sparse linear systems of equations<sup>1</sup>
3. Curve fitting
  - (a) Least squares algorithms
  - (b) Curve fitting with Lagrange polynomials
4. Numeric differentiation
  - (a) Finite difference methods
  - (b) Lagrange polynomials
5. Numeric integration
  - (a) A variety of Newton-Cotes methods
  - (b) Gauss Quadrature
6. Initial- and Boundary-value problems <sup>2</sup>
  - (a) Runge-Kutta methods for initial value problems<sup>3</sup>
  - (b) Shooting method for boundary value problems
  - (c) Finite element method<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> We will also discuss some preconditioners.

<sup>2</sup> This section will prominently include MATLAB built-in methods; particularly for boundary value problems.

<sup>3</sup> We will not extensively cover either explicit or implicit multi-step methods, giving preference to the wide variety of very effective RK methods.

<sup>4</sup> There will be a simple MATLAB demonstration with application to one-dimensional boundary value problems. The majority of FEM coverage will be related to the use of COMSOL.

## Representation of Numbers on a Computer

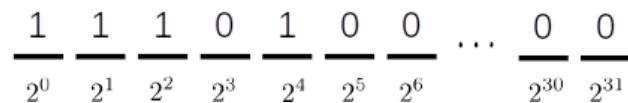
Every engineer who uses computational tools in their work should have a basic understanding of how numbers are represented on a computer. The essential take-aways from this section are:

1. Since the computer is a finite machine, only a finite set of numbers can be exactly represented on the computer. All other numbers are approximated.
2. Computers store integers and non-integers differently and the limits to what numbers can be represented or how exactly they are represented are also different.
3. The fact that numbers, in general, are represented inexactly on the computer has an impact on how algorithms are developed.

## Integers

Integers are represented exactly on a computer, but only a finite subset of all integers can be represented. There are a number of integer types that are supported by common computer architectures and language compilers. For the purposes of this class we will focus on two types: *unsigned integers* and *signed integers*. To further focus the discussion we will only consider 32-bit representations of signed and unsigned integers.

PERHAPS THE EASIEST integer representation to understand is the 32-bit unsigned integer.<sup>5</sup> In this format 32 binary digits corresponding to  $2^0$  to  $2^{31}$  are stored in memory. Numbers in binary work the same way our normal decimal number work: just base 2 instead of base 10. For example, the 32-bit unsigned integer representation of the number 23 is shown in Figure 6o.



With 32-bit unsigned integers the computer can exactly represent all integers between 0 and  $2^{32} - 1$ . Negative integers and integers greater than  $2^{31}$  are not represented at all.

THREE ARE FEWER applications for which *signed integers* will be used for this course, but they are, naturally, important. Perhaps the most obvious way that a computer might represent signed integers would be to just use the same format as unsigned integers except to reserve

Some of the integer data types specified by the C++ language standard include:

1. `signed char` (8 bits)
2. `short int` (16 bits)
3. `int` (at least 16 bits – usually 32 bits)
4. `long int` (at least 32 bits)
5. `long long int` (at least 64 bits)

Each of these categories includes a signed and unsigned variant.

Even within these categories there is fuzziness—e.g. “*at least 16 bits*”—that allows for variations between different compiler implementations and computer hardware (e.g. Intel vs. AMD CPU).

**Note:** The word *bit* is taken to be synonymous with the words *binary digit*.

<sup>5</sup> You can create a 32-bit unsigned integer in MATLAB by typing:

`x = uint32(1994)`

Variables with other data types can be constructed using similar syntax; see the MATLAB documentation for details.

Figure 6o: The number 23 in unsigned integer format.

one bit for the sign. This is not, however, the way it is normally done. For one thing, this approach results in there being two different bit-patterns for zero. This might seem like a trivial inconvenience but it is not the sort of thing that passes without notice in computer engineering circles. Another, perhaps more significant, issue with this approach is that special logic would be needed when adding or subtracting a mixture of positive and negative integers. (i.e. you would not be able to use the same circuitry on the microprocessor for adding positive and negative numbers together as you would for adding two positive numbers.)

The format that is normally used today for representing signed integers is called *two's complement*. If you want to write a positive number in two's complement format, you do the same thing as you would normally do for an unsigned integer.<sup>6</sup> If you need to write a negative number, you start by expressing the positive number, then you *take the complement of each binary digit* and, when you are done with that, you *add one*. A demonstration of this number representation, shortened to 5-bits to make it more compact, is shown in Figure 61.

This representation has the advantages that: a) there is only a single representation for zero; and b) the same hardware is used for both addition and subtraction (i.e. to subtract you simply add a negative number.)

### Floating Point Numbers

In general, binary floating point numbers are given in the form shown in Equation 124:

$$1. \underbrace{\text{fff...f}}_{\text{mantissa}} \times 2^{\underbrace{\text{eee...e}}_{\text{exponent}}} \quad (124)$$

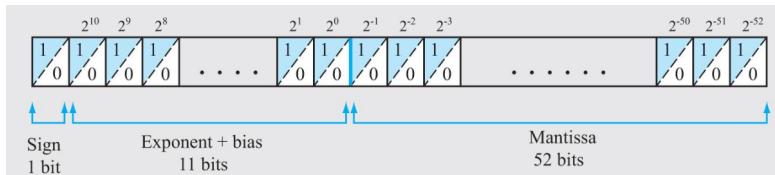
where a number of digits available are divided between the fraction, or *mantissa*, and *exponent*. In any finite machine, there will be a limit to the number of total digits available. Thus an engineering decision needs to be made to determine how many digits will be allocated to the mantissa and how many for the exponent. If you have more digits in the mantissa, you will be able to represent numbers that are closer together—the *precision* of your representation will increase. If you allocate more digits to the exponent, you will be able to represent numbers that are larger (for large positive exponents) or smaller (large negative exponents)—the *range* of your representation will be wider. The implications of these decisions should be clear: if you devote fewer bits to the mantissa, there will be more rounding errors in your calculations as real numbers are mapped, in some way, to

<sup>6</sup> Except, as it turns out, the largest positive 32-bit signed integer will only half as large as the corresponding largest signed integer.

$\begin{array}{r} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$	Start with 23 in binary.
$\begin{array}{r} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	Flip the digits.
$\begin{array}{r} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	Add one to get -23.
$\begin{array}{r} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$	"carried" ones
$\begin{array}{r} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	23
$\begin{array}{r} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	+ -23
$\begin{array}{r} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	0

Figure 61: Demonstration of two's-complement: adding 23 and -23 in 5-bit representation.

the best floating point representation; if you devote fewer bits to the exponent, really large numbers and really small numbers will not be represented at all. In earlier days of computing, different computer vendors made different decisions as to how floating point numbers would be represented.<sup>7</sup> This caused problems when scientists tried to run the same code on different computers and got different results. In 1985, the IEEE-754 standard was approved and, since then, has been adopted by essentially all computer manufacturers. As a result, the menagerie of floating point formats and implementations have been tamed. Scientists and engineers could run their codes on different machines and expect to get the same results.



The IEEE-754 standard provides specification of several floating point number formats. For this class, we will be concerned primarily with the *double precision* floating point format which is illustrated in Figure 62. This format uses a single sign bit (1 for negative, 0 for positive), 11 bits for the exponent which is encoded as an unsigned integer with bias,<sup>8</sup> and 52 bits for the mantissa.<sup>9</sup> In the double precision format, the smallest positive number that can be represented is  $2^{-1022}$  which is approximately equal to  $2.2 \times 10^{-308}$ . The smallest interval between numbers that can be represented is called *machine epsilon*. The size of this limit is driven by the number of bits in the mantissa. For IEEE-754 double precision floating point numbers this is approximately  $2.22 \times 10^{-16}$ .<sup>10</sup>

THE PROCEDURE TO encode real numbers in the double precision floating point format will be illustrated with an example.

**Example:** Write the number -10.5 using the IEEE-754 double precision format.

**Step #1:** Determine the mantissa and the exponent. To do this, we normalize the number by dividing by  $2^e$  where  $e$  is the largest power of 2 that is *less* than the magnitude of the number you are encoding.

In this case,  $e = 3$  since 10.5 is greater than  $2^3$  but less than  $2^4$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{-10.5}{2^3} &= -1.3125 \\ \Rightarrow -10.5 &= -1.3125 \times 2^3 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>7</sup> Cleve Moler. Floating Point Numbers, 2014. URL <https://blogs.mathworks.com/cleve/2014/07/07/floating-point-numbers/>. Accessed on July 12, 2023

Figure 62: IEEE-754 double precision number format.

<sup>8</sup> For double precision numbers, the bias is 1023.

<sup>9</sup> Note: The number 1 shown in Equation 124 is not stored but is implicitly included in all *normalized* floating point numbers. This is done so that all numbers will have a *unique* floating point representation.

MATLAB includes built-in functions to report the smallest and largest representable floating point numbers. The functions `realmin(precision)` and `realmax(precision)` will return the smallest or largest positive floating point number for "single" or "double" precision floating point precision.

In MATLAB, machine epsilon is provided with the function: `eps(precision)` for "single" and "double" precision.

<sup>10</sup> Sometimes computational scientists refer to this as "16 digits of precision."

Therefore the mantissa will need to encode 0.3215, and the exponent will need to encode 3 plus the bias of 1023, or 1026.

**Step #2:** Set the sign bit. As the number is negative, the sign bit is: 1.

**Step #3:** Calculate the 11 exponent bits.

$$\begin{aligned} 1026 &= 1024 + 2 \\ &= 1 \times 2^{10} + 1 \times 2^1 \end{aligned}$$

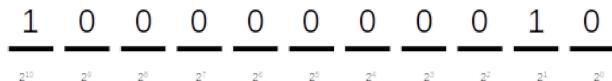


Figure 63: Exponent:  $3+1023 = 1026$  in 11-bit binary.

**Step #4:** Calculate the 52 mantissa bits to represent 0.3125. The result is shown in Figure 64.

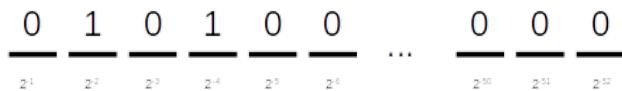


Figure 64: Mantissa:  $0.25 + 0.0625 = 0.3125$ .

Where the calculations might be done as shown below:

$$0.3125 - 0 \times 2^{-1} = 0.3125$$

$$0.3125 - 1 \times 2^{-2} = 0.0625$$

$$0.0625 - 0 \times 2^{-3} = 0.0625$$

$$0.0625 - 1 \times 2^{-4} = 0$$

and all other entries are, of course, zero.

### Sources of Error

When using numerical methods there are several sources of error that you, as an engineer, should be aware of. We have just discussed the details of double precision numbers so *round-off error* is at the top of our mind. Real numbers are not represented exactly on a computer but instead as floating point numbers. The floating point number *closest* to the real number gets used in its place. Error due to this round-off accumulates with mathematical operations. Quantitative analysis of the accumulation of round-off-error is a tedious (albeit important) business that we will avoid in this class. Nonetheless, engineers need to be aware that it is happening and, in a few instances, we will take steps to mitigate this build-up of error.

The second source of error that we will mention here is something that should be familiar to students who have taken the course in analytical methods: *truncation error*. In the analytical methods course we suffered from truncation error every time we shortened our infinite series solution to a finite number of terms. We reduced this error by increasing the number of terms we retained, but there was no way to make it go away completely. In this course we will see further instances of truncation error in most every algorithm we implement. Derivatives and integrals that could, in principle, be done exactly, will be done approximately as we truncate the Taylor series expansion or limit the order of polynomials used to represent the exact derivative or integral. We can reduce the magnitude of these errors, but we cannot make them go away entirely.

The third source of error mentioned here is *modeling error*. Modeling errors are reflected in the differences between observed physical phenomena and the corresponding mathematical model of the phenomena. There are a couple of reasons for these differences and these include:

1. Linearization of non-linear processes. Instances where you may already have done this, in your heat transfer or fluid dynamics class, include:
  - (a) Assumption of constant thermal conductivity for heat conduction problems. This assumption linearizes the heat equation and, for simple geometry, renders the problem amenable to analytical methods. This assumption is retained for many numerical methods when solving the heat equation on more complex geometry. The modeling error resulting from linearization remains.
  - (b) Assumption of constant drag coefficient for external flow calculations. Once again, this assumption simplifies the calculations at the cost of model fidelity.
2. De-coupling of physical processes. Nature does not specialize its behavior by academic subjects. Consequently the air flowing over the control surfaces of a fighter jet is both a fluid dynamics and structural dynamics problem when the wing responds to forces imposed by the air. Water flowing through a pressurized water reactor core is heated by forced convection and radiation that you might calculate in heat transfer class, but the resulting change in water properties also affect the neutron economy and power production rate that you might calculate in reactor physics which, in turn, will have further effect on the heat transfer problem. We de-couple these processes so the analysis is more manageable but as a result the solution we arrive at is in error.

Scientists and engineers need to be aware of all of these sources of errors and take steps to mitigate them where possible.

# Lecture 2 - Linear Algebra Background

## Objective

The objective of this lecture is to:

- Provide an overview of essential linear algebra concepts.

## Definitions

In this course we will regularly make use of vectors and matrices. These mathematical objects are widely used and probably familiar to readers from previous courses. Nonetheless we will review some concepts so that we can all go forward with a common understanding or, at least, a common vocabulary. We begin with the following definitions:

### Definition 16 (Vector)

*A vector is row or column of numbers. From our perspective, the significance of such a row vector or column vector is that the numbers so presented are a discrete representation of a function.*

### Definition 17 (Matrix)

*In many contexts, it is suitable to view a matrix as: any rectangular array of numbers.<sup>1</sup> For this class, and as a computational engineer, a more specific definition of a matrix that is often appropriate would be: a discrete representation of a differential operator.*

These are intended to be operational definitions; not technically complete or correct but adequate for our present purposes. More than that, the definitions are intended to highlight why, as an engineer, *you should care* about vectors, matrices, and mathematical operations done with them.

In this course, when we numerically solve the heat equation to find temperature, say, in a cylindrical rod, the function that we find as the solution will be represented as a vector. If we take the derivative of the temperature so that we can calculate heat flux, for instance, the function that is the derivative of the temperature will also

<sup>1</sup> **Note:** Unless otherwise indicated we will assume any matrix to be two-dimensional. Higher-dimensional generalizations of a matrix exist, but they are not within the scope of this class.

be stored as a vector. Representing functions is the main thing that vectors are *used for* in this class.

There are instances in this class where we will store a rectangular array of numbers and call it a matrix. An example would be the “Runge-Kutta matrix” that stores coefficients used in various Runge-Kutta algorithms for solving initial value problems. But a more representative example of what we use matrices for applies when we are solving boundary value problems using the finite difference or finite element method. Consider, as an example, the case of a numeric solution of Poisson’s equation:

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \right) u(x) = f(x)$$

$$Au = f$$

In this expression the matrix  $A$  in the second row is a discrete representation of the  $\partial^2/\partial x^2$  operator and the vectors  $u$  and  $f$  are discrete representations of the functions  $u(x)$  and  $f(x)$ . We solve this discrete form of the differential equation by solving the matrix-vector equation using linear algebra.

## *Operations with Matrices*

### *Matrix Equality*

Consider two matrices,  $A$  and  $B$ . We say  $A$  and  $B$  are *equal* and write:

$$A = B$$

if  $a_{i,j} = b_{i,j}$  for all  $i, j$  and if  $A$  and  $B$  are the same size.<sup>2</sup> Where, in this context, we use the word *size* to refer to the number of rows and columns in a matrix.

### *Multiplication by a Scalar*

Any matrix,  $A$ , can be multiplied by a scalar,  $\alpha$ :

$$B = \alpha A$$

where  $b_{i,j} = \alpha a_{i,j}$  for all values  $i, j$  and the output matrix  $B$  is the same size as  $A$ .

### *Addition of Two Matrices*

Matrices of the same size can be added:

$$C = A + B$$

<sup>2</sup> Here we use the notation  $a_{i,j}$  and  $b_{i,j}$  to refer to the element of  $A$  or  $B$  in the  $i$ -th row and  $j$ -th column. For a two-dimensional matrix, the MATLAB built-in function [m,n]=size(A) returns the number of rows, m, and columns, n, of  $A$ .

**Note:** In MATLAB this operation would be encoded exactly as written:  $C = A + B$ .

The output matrix  $C$  is the same size as  $A$  and  $B$ . This operation is not defined if  $A$  and  $B$  are not the same size.

### Matrix Multiplication

Multiplication of two matrices is denoted:

$$C = AB$$

The output matrix  $C$  has the same number of rows as  $A$  and the same number of columns as  $B$ . This operation is only defined if  $A$  has the same number of columns as  $B$  has rows.<sup>3</sup> Each element,  $c_{i,j}$ , of  $C$  is equal to the *dot product* of row  $i$  of  $A$  with column  $j$  of  $B$ . More explicitly, suppose  $A$  has  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns,  $B$  has  $n$  rows and  $p$  columns, The  $c_{i,j}$  element of  $C$  is calculated:

$$c_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{i,k} b_{k,j}$$

where  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $j = 1, \dots, p$ .<sup>4</sup>

Note that matrix multiplication, in general, is not commutative. The operations:  $C = AB$  and  $D = BA$  may or may not both be defined but they are only equal under very specific circumstances.<sup>5</sup>

### Matrix Transpose

The matrix transpose is an operation where the rows and columns of a matrix are interchanged. For example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

This operation is usually only needed to support the semantics of linear algebraic operations which we will discuss later in the text.

### Special Matrix Structure

There are several matrices that are special owing to very specific structural properties. These include:

1. *Square matrix.* A matrix is square if it has the same number of rows as it has columns.
2. *Symmetric matrix.* A matrix is symmetric if it is equal to its own transpose:  $A = A^T$ .
3. *Zero matrix.* This is a matrix where all of the elements are zero. This special matrix serves as the additive identity in matrix algebra.

<sup>3</sup> Matrices  $A$  and  $B$  with this property are said to be *conformable*.

<sup>4</sup> **Important Note:** In MATLAB this operation would be written:  $C = A*B$ . Notice that we do *not* use the  $.*$  notation in this case because that would imply element-by-element multiplication which: a) may not be possible since  $A$  and  $B$  do not necessarily have the same number of elements; and b) is not the same mathematical operation as matrix multiplication.

<sup>5</sup> If  $A$  is of size  $[m, n]$  and  $B$  is  $[p, q]$ :

1.  $C = AB$  is valid if  $n = p$ .  $C$  will be of size  $[m, q]$ .
2.  $D = BA$  is valid if  $q = m$ .  $D$  will be of size  $[p, n]$ .
3. If  $A$  and  $B$  are *square*—same number of rows as columns—and both are the same size, then  $C$  and  $D$  are both valid are both the same size as  $A$  and  $B$ .
4. If  $C$  and  $D$  are both valid and the same size,  $C \neq D$  unless both  $A$  and  $B$  are *diagonal*.

The following definitions of structural properties apply only to *square matrices*.

4. *Diagonal matrix.* A diagonal matrix is one that is zero except along the main diagonal. In mathematical notation:  $a_{i,i} \neq 0$  and  $a_{i,j} = 0$  where  $i \neq j$ .
5. *Identity matrix.* The identity matrix, denoted  $I$ , is a diagonal matrix with ones along the main diagonal. This matrix serves as the multiplicative identity in matrix algebra. For example, for  $n = 3$ , the identity matrix is:

$$I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and, for any  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$ :

$$AI = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} \end{bmatrix} = A$$

**Note:** It is also true that  $IA = A$ .

6. *Lower/Upper triangular matrix.* A lower triangular matrix is non-zero only for entries at or below the main diagonal. If the main diagonal is also zero, the matrix is referred to as *strictly lower triangular*. An upper triangular matrix is defined similarly: non-zero only on the main diagonal or above; if the main diagonal is zero, then the matrix is called *strictly upper triangular*.

### Matrix Properties

We have already mentioned some of the structural properties of a matrix. There are other important properties not solely related to its size, zero-structure, or symmetry of entries.

1. *Rank.* The matrix rank is the number of rows or columns of a matrix that are *linearly independent*. If  $a_i$  denotes the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row or column of matrix  $A$ , then the rows/columns are linearly independent if:

$$\alpha_1 a_1 + \alpha_2 a_2 + \cdots + \alpha_n a_n = 0, \iff \alpha_i = 0, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

Which means that a linear combinations of the rows/columns can only be equal to zero (a vector of all zeros) *if, and only if, all* of the coefficients in the linear combination are equal to zero.<sup>6</sup>

**Example:** The matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Note:** The mathematical notation  $\iff$  should be read "if and only if", and  $\forall$  means "for all." Consequently,  $\iff \alpha_i = 0, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  means: "if and only if  $\alpha_i$  equals zero for all  $i$  in the set 1 to n."

<sup>6</sup> This is completely analogous to the concept of linear independence of functions described in Lecture 3 of the analytical methods part of this text.

is of rank 2 since column 3 is equal to the difference between column 1 and column 2.

**Example:** The diagonal matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

is full rank since no linear combination of the rows or columns is equal to the zero vector.

If  $A$  is an  $[m, n]$  matrix, the matrix rank is *at most* the minimum of  $m$ , and  $n$ . If  $A$  is a square matrix and  $\text{rank} = m$ , we say the matrix is *full rank*. If  $A$  is a rectangular  $[m, n]$  matrix and  $\text{rank} = \min(m, n)$ , then  $A^T A$  is full rank.

2. *Invertibility.* If the square matrix  $A$  is invertible, there exists a square matrix of the same size, denoted  $A^{-1}$ , such that:

$$AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I$$

where  $I$  is the identity matrix of the same size as  $A$ . If  $A$  is *square* and is *full rank* then  $A$  is invertible.

A conceptual use of the matrix inverse is in solving a linear system of equations. If  $A$  is an invertible matrix with  $n$  rows, and  $b$  is a given vector of length  $n$ , then we can solve the system of equations:

$$Ax = b$$

by applying the inverse of  $A$ :

$$\begin{aligned} A^{-1}Ax &= A^{-1}b \\ Ix &= A^{-1}b \\ \Rightarrow x &= A^{-1}b \end{aligned}$$

While we will not use the matrix inverse in this way, it is still conceptually important to know when a matrix inverse exists.

3. *Matrix eigenvalues.* Consider the equation below:

$$Au = \lambda u$$

for the matrix  $A$  and vector  $u$  where  $A$  and  $u$  are conformable in multiplication and  $\lambda$  is a constant. This is called an *eigenvalue equation*. The vector  $u$  is called an *eigenvector* and the constant  $\lambda$  is called an *eigenvalue*.

If  $A$  is an invertible matrix with  $m$  rows and columns then it has a full set of  $m$  linearly independent eigenvectors; if  $A$  is symmetric then the eigenvectors are orthogonal.<sup>7</sup> In either case, all of the

**Note:** The identity matrix works with vectors also, so long as the vector is conformable for multiplication. If  $I$  is conformable with the vector  $x$ , then  $Ix = x$ .

<sup>7</sup> Students who have taken the analytical methods class should find this language to be eerily familiar: exchange *eigenvector* with *eigenfunction* and replace  $A$  with “*a linear differential operator*” and you would be forgiven for thinking we have accidentally skipped back to lecture 18 from the analytical methods class.

eigenvalues are non-zero. Most square matrices can be “*diagonalized*” in this way:

$$A = U\Lambda U^{-1}$$

in which  $U$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix where each column is an eigenvector and  $\Lambda$  is a diagonal matrix with the eigenvalues along the diagonal. Square matrices that cannot be diagonalized in this way are said to be *defective*.<sup>8</sup>

There is at least one matrix property related to the eigenvalues that students should be aware of. A symmetric matrix is said to be *positive definite* if the following equation holds:

$$x^T Ax \geq 0, \text{ and } x^T Ax = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$$

If this equation is true, it implies that all of the eigenvalues of  $A$  are positive. Apart from implying that  $A$  is thus invertible (all eigenvalues non-zero), and square (only square matrices are invertible), if a matrix is positive definite there are significant impacts in which methods one should use to solve a system of equations involving that matrix. We will revisit this property when discussing solution methods for linear systems of equations.

4. *Matrix determinant.* The determinant is a useful property of a matrix.<sup>9</sup>  
The operation of taking the determinant is denoted:

$$\det(A) = |A|$$

There is also a relationship between the determinant of a matrix and the eigenvalues of a matrix:

$$|A| = \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i$$

where  $\lambda_i$  are the eigenvalues of  $A$ . Since, as previously mentioned, all of the eigenvalues of an invertible matrix are non-zero, the determinant of an invertible matrix is non-zero.

<sup>8</sup> The language used in this should indicate to you how important it is for a matrix to have a full set of eigenvectors and able to be diagonalized in this way.

<sup>9</sup> **Personal aside:** As a young ensign in the navy nuclear power training program I remember being taught an operational definition of (the thermodynamic property) entropy. “*entropy: a useful thermodynamic property.*” A determinant is like that: nobody wants to get into exactly what it means, but it is useful and you may need to calculate it.

## **Part VII**

# **Solving Non-Linear Equations**



# Lecture 3 - The Bisection Method

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Introduce the problem of solving non-linear equations.
- Describe the bisection method.
- Discuss error estimates and stopping criteria.
- Illustrate the bisection method with an example.

## Solving Non-Linear Equations

Engineers often need to solve non-linear equations. An equation of one variable can be written in the form:

$$f(x) = 0 \quad (125)$$

A solution to such an equation is called a *root*. In past lectures, in the analytical methods portion of this text, we frequently needed to find the root(s) of linear and non-linear equations. We also encountered several cases where we were not able to find the roots analytically.<sup>1</sup> The case that this lecture will address is when such roots cannot be found analytically. As an example, suppose we wish to find the area marked  $A_s$  as shown in Figure 65 which is given in Equation 126.

$$A_s = \frac{1}{2}r^2(\theta - \sin\theta) \quad (126)$$

where  $A_s$  and  $r$  are given. This is a non-linear equation and we wish to solve it numerically.

THERE ARE TWO general approaches with numerical methods to solve non-linear equations:

1. bracketing methods; and
2. open methods.

<sup>1</sup> As a quick re-cap:

- In lecture 19 we needed to find the roots of  $J_0(x)$ . We did not write our own routine for doing this but, at its heart, `besselzero()` had to solve a non-linear equation. We used these tools again in lectures 31, 32, and 33 along with several homework problems.
- In lecture 28 we needed to find roots of  $f(x) = \tan x + x/h$  for a given value of  $h$ .

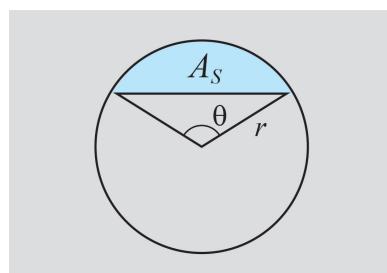


Figure 65: Schematic of example.

In bracketing methods, we start with an interval in which we know a root to lie. Each step of the algorithm seeks to reduce the size of the interval while always maintaining the root inside. When the interval is small enough, we have effectively found the root. In open methods no such bounding interval is maintained. We start with an estimate of the root and, through successive iterations of the algorithm, attempt to improve our estimate. The iteration stops when our estimation of the root meets a specified termination criterion.

### Bisection Method

The bisection method is a bracketing method for finding a root of a *continuous* function when it is known that the root lies within a specified interval:  $x \in [a, b]$ . The bisection method consists of the following steps:

1. Find an interval  $[a, b]$  in which a root exists. One way to find such an interval is to identify an  $a$  and  $b$  for which  $f(a)f(b) < 0$ . As is illustrated in Figure 66, if  $f(x)$  is continuous, this is a sufficient condition for a root to exist in  $[a, b]$ .<sup>2</sup>
2. Calculate an estimate of the numerical solution from Equation 127:

$$x_{\text{NS}} = \frac{(a + b)}{2} \quad (127)$$

3. Determine whether the root is in  $[a, x_{\text{NS}}]$  or in  $[x_{\text{NS}}, b]$  using the following method:
  - If  $f(a)f(x_{\text{NS}}) < 0$ , the root is in  $[a, x_{\text{NS}}]$ .
  - If  $f(x_{\text{NS}})f(b) < 0$ , the root is in  $[x_{\text{NS}}, b]$ .

Except in the edge case that  $f(x_{\text{NS}}) = 0$ , only one of the above conditions will be true.<sup>3</sup>

4. Select the subinterval that contains the solution—either  $[a, x_{\text{NS}}, b]$  or  $[x_{\text{NS}}, b]$  as determined in step 3—as the new  $a$  and  $b$  and return to step 2.

Three iterations of the bisection method are illustrated in Figure 67.

HERE WE OFFER some comments on the bisection method.

1. If  $f(x)$  is continuous and exactly one root is contained in the initial interval  $[a, b]$ , the bisection method is guaranteed to converge with the error in  $x_{\text{NS}}$  reduced by a factor of two with each iteration of the algorithm.

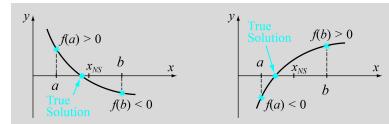


Figure 66: Solution of  $f(X) = 0$  must lie in  $[a, b]$  if  $f(a)f(b) < 0$ .

<sup>2</sup> Note: How one goes about determining a suitable  $a$  and  $b$  is not part of the algorithm.

<sup>3</sup> Health Warning: You should definitely test this edge case.

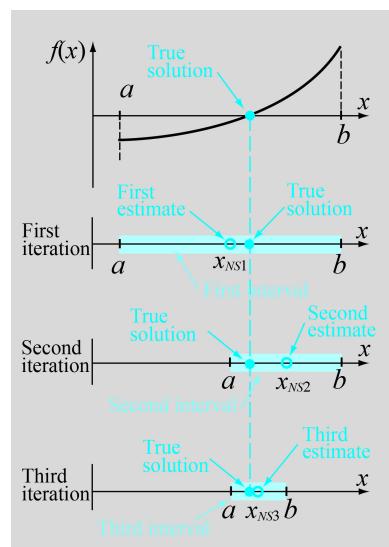


Figure 67: First three iterations of the bisection method.

2. The convergence rate is steady but slow relative to other methods.<sup>4</sup>
3. The test  $f(a)f(b) < 0$  is a *sufficient* condition for a root to exist between  $[a, b]$  but is not a *necessary* condition. For example, the function  $f(x) = (x - 3)^2$  has two roots at  $x = 3$ , but with  $a = 1$  and  $b = 4$ , we find that  $f(1)f(4) > 0$  and the test fails.
4. The algorithm is tailored to find just one root. If multiple roots are desired, one must change the algorithm accordingly.

<sup>4</sup> Since the error is reduced by a constant fraction with each iteration, the bisection method is said to exhibit *linear convergence*.

We will do an example problem, but before we get to that, a quick discussion of error estimation is in order.

### Error Estimates and Stopping Criteria

Error estimation plays an essential role in bracketing algorithms.

After all:

1. Such algorithms do not really “find” the root; instead the algorithm starts with an interval in which the root lies and steps of the algorithm are carried out to make the interval arbitrarily small, all while keeping the root within the interval. In this sense, while the precise real number that is the root of the equation is not found, we place the root within a range that is as small as is desired.
2. Indeed, if  $f(x)$  is a non-linear equation, and  $f(x^*) = 0$ , there is no reason to expect that  $x^*$  can be exactly represented on the computer using double-precision floating point numbers.

**Note:** We use the notation  $x^*$  to denote the *exact solution*. In places we will also use the notation:  $x_{\text{TS}}$  to denote the exact or *true* solution.

Consequently, no matter what result is produced from a bracketing method, we know it is in error. Our job is to be mindful of this error and be sure that it is kept to within acceptable bounds. In addition to controlling the magnitude of the error, bracketing algorithms customarily use error estimates as stopping criteria. We stop the algorithm when the estimated error is reduced below a pre-defined threshold.

There are several standard error estimates that we will consider.

1. True error. This is given by Equation 128.

$$\text{True error} = x^* - x_{\text{NS}} \quad (128)$$

This is not often used as a stopping criterion since, except in special testing cases, we generally do not know what the true solution,  $x^*$ , is.

2. Tolerance in  $f(x)$  given by Equation 129.

$$\text{TOL} = |f(x^*) - f(x_{\text{NS}})| = |0 - \epsilon| = |\epsilon| \quad (129)$$

where  $\epsilon$  is an error tolerance chosen by the user, e.g.  $10^{-6}$ . The value of  $f(x_{\text{NS}})$  is sometimes referred to as the *residual*. Use of this stopping criterion is generally only satisfactory if  $f'(x) \approx 1$  in the vicinity of the root.

3. Tolerance in the solution. If  $x_{\text{NS}} = a + b/2$ , then:

$$\text{TOL} = \left| \frac{b - a}{2} \right|$$

which is half the subinterval. This is a reasonable stopping criterion for the bisection method or any other bracketing method.<sup>5</sup>

4. Relative error. For most numerical algorithms, if not necessarily the bisection method, the *estimated relative error* is usually a good technique and is shown in Equation 130.

$$\text{Estimated Relative Error} = \frac{|x_{\text{NS}}^{(n)} - x_{\text{NS}}^{(n-1)}|}{|x_{\text{NS}}^{(n-1)}|} \quad (130)$$

where  $x_{\text{NS}}^{(n)}$  is the estimated numeric solution at iteration  $n$ , and  $x_{\text{NS}}^{(n-1)}$  is the estimated numeric solution at iteration  $n - 1$ . This error estimate has the advantage that it is a *relative error measure* and takes into account the magnitude of  $x_{\text{NS}}$ . A technical disadvantage arises if  $x_{\text{NS}}$  is close to zero at any iteration.

Refinements on these stopping criteria will be discussed, as appropriate, throughout the course.

### MATLAB Implementation

**Example:** You are tasked to estimate the pressure drop in a 0.1-m long section of a tube ( $D = 4.0$  mm diameter) that is used to transfer air with an average velocity of 50 m/s. Under these conditions, the Reynolds number (Re) of the air in the tube is approximately 13,700. Assume the drawn tubing has an equivalent roughness ( $\epsilon$ ) of 0.0015 mm. As the first step, you plan to use the Colebrook equation to estimate the friction factor. The Colebrook equation is given by:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{f}} = -2.0 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\epsilon/D}{3.7} + \frac{2.51}{\text{Re}\sqrt{f}} \right)$$

We will start by clearing out the MATLAB workspace and encoding given data.

<sup>5</sup> Obviously, it is not suitable for non-bracketing algorithms since  $a$  and  $b$  would then be unknown.

**Note:** Reynolds number is a non-dimensional parameter that relates the relative magnitude of inertial and viscous forces. It is used to predict fluid flow patterns. The value of the Reynolds number is given by the equation:

$$\text{Re} = \frac{\rho \bar{v} D_c}{\mu}$$

where  $\rho$  is fluid density,  $\bar{v}$  is a characteristic—e.g. average—velocity,  $D_c$  is some characteristic length, such as in this case the diameter of the tube, and  $\mu$  is the fluid viscosity. Higher Reynolds numbers (such as is given in this example) correspond to turbulent flow fields, low Reynolds number correspond to laminar flow.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

e = 0.0015; % mm, equivalent roughness
D = 4.0; % mm, tube diameter
Re = 13700; % Reynolds number

```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7

Next we encode the nonlinear function whose roots we seek and select an initial interval in which we expect the root to reside.

```

F = @(f) 1./sqrt(f) + 2.0*log10((e/D)/3.7 + 2.51/(Re*sqrt(f)));

a = 0.001; b = 1; % initial interval
imax = 20; tol = 0.0001; % stopping criteria ❶

Fa = F(a); Fb = F(b);

% verify that Fa*Fb > 0
if (Fa*Fb > 0)
    error('Error: The function has the same sign at a and b'); ❷
end

```

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Now we are ready to commence the bisection method. In this listing we provide code necessary to provide outputs to the command window to update the user on the progress of the algorithm.

```

fprintf('iter      a          b          xNS        f(xNS)\n'
       '      Tol\n');
for i = 1:imax
    xNS = (a + b)/2; ❸
    toli = (b - a)/2;
    FxNS = F(xNS);
    fprintf('%3i %11.6f %11.6f %11.6f %11.6f\n', ...
            i,a,b,xNS,FxNS,toli);

    if FxNS == 0
        fprintf('Exact solution x = %11.6f was found\n',xNS); ❹
        break;
    end
    if toli < tol
        fprintf('Success!! x = %11.6f \n',xNS); ❺
        break; % end the loop since I meet my error tolerance
    end
    % if toli > tol and i == imax, stop iteration.
    if i == imax
        fprintf('Solution not obtained in %i iterations\n',imax); ❻
        break
    end
    % update bracket
    if (F(a)*FxNS < 0)
        b = xNS;
    else
        a = xNS; ❼
    end
end

```

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❶ For the bisection method, these two stopping criteria may conflict. We will use the tolerance in the solution criteria which, per the bisection algorithm, is halved with every iteration. At the same time we are limiting the maximum number of iterations. If the maximum number of iterations is too small, depending on the initial choice of  $a$  and  $b$ , it may be impossible to satisfy the tolerance. The smallest tolerance you can satisfy is:  $TOL_{min} = \left\lceil \frac{b-a}{2^{imax}} \right\rceil$ . With the given choices of  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $tol$ , we should never reach the maximum specified number of iterations. Still, it is okay to be conservative to guard against bugs.

❷ Alternatively you might try to implement some routine that may automatically find an interval that spans a root.

❸ This is step #2 of the bisection method.

❹ Check the edge case where the root was exactly at the midpoint of the interval.

❺ If the tolerance in the solution at iteration  $i$  meets the stopping criterion, stop the iteration. The keyword `break` results in an immediate exit from the `for ... end` loop.

❻ Here we warn the user that the algorithm is about to be stopped based on maximum iterations. Since the specified tolerance in the solution was never met, the user might want to re-start with a new (smaller) bracket, increase the tolerance, or increase the maximum allowed number of iterations.

❼ This is step #3 and step #4 of the bisection method.

For this example problem the iteration succeeds and finds an estimated root at  $x = 0.029109$  after 14 iterations.

*Summary*

The bisection method discussed in this lecture is useful. It is both simple to implement in code and reliably converges to a root provided that a suitable initial interval is established. The convergence rate is slow compared to the methods that we will explore in the next lecture. This slow convergence is not a significant problem for the problem types you are likely to encounter in a typical classroom environment; computers are fast and they do not mind working a little bit longer. The convergence rate becomes an issue when evaluation of the function (to which we are finding a root) is computationally expensive. Still, the bisection method is sufficient for most purposes. In upcoming lectures we will explore improved algorithms. One bracketing method we will discuss is called the regular falsi method. It is introduced primarily as a way to show how one can try to make a good algorithm, like bisection method, better.

# *Assignment #1*

1. Write the number 38.8125 as a 64-bit double-precision string using the IEEE-754 standard.
2. In single precision (IEEE-754 standard), 8 bits are used for storing the exponent (the bias is 127), and 23 bits are used for storing the mantissa. What (approximately) are the smallest and largest positive numbers that can be stored in single precision?
3. The value of  $\pi$  can be calculated with the series:

$$\pi = 4 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{1}{2n-1} = 4 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{11} + \dots \right)$$

Write a MATLAB script that calculates the value of  $\pi$  by using  $n$  terms of the series and calculate the corresponding true relative error. Calculate  $\pi$  and the true relative error for  $n = 10, 20$ , and  $40$ . **Note:** Implement the partial series summation as a *local function* named `piApprox` that takes one argument—the number of terms ( $n$ )—and returns the estimated value of  $\pi$  and the true relative error. Use MATLAB's built-in constant `pi` for the "true" value of  $\pi$ .

4. Using a hand calculator, determine the root of  $f(x) = x - 2e^{-x}$  with the bisection method. Start with  $a = 0$  and  $b = 1$ , and carry out the first three iterations to determine an estimated root and bracket within which the root lies.

5. Write a MATLAB user-defined function that solves for a root of a nonlinear equation  $f(x) = 0$  using the bisection method. Implement the function as a *local function* that takes three arguments: `fun`, `a`, and `b`, where `fun` is a handle to the nonlinear function for which a root is to be found and `a` and `b` bracket the root. The bisection iterations should stop when  $f(x_{NS}) \leq 0.0000001$  where  $x_{NS}$  is the midpoint of the current bracket. The function should also check if points `a` and `b` do indeed bracket a root; if not, the function should return an error message. Use your function to find the root of  $f(x) = x - 2e^{-x}$ .
6. The van der Waals equation gives a relationship between the pressure  $P$  (in atm.), volume  $V$  (in liters), and temperature  $T$  (in K) for a real gas:

$$P = \frac{nRT}{V - nb} - \frac{n^2a}{V^2} \quad (131)$$

where  $n$  is the number of moles,  $R = 0.08206$  (L-atm)/(mole-K) is the gas constant, and  $a$  (in L<sup>2</sup>-atm/mole<sup>2</sup>) and  $b$  (in L/mole) are material constants. Consider 1.5 moles of nitrogen ( $a=1.39$  L<sup>2</sup>-atm/mole<sup>2</sup>) at 25°C stored in a pressure vessel. Use the function you created for problem #5 to determine the volume of the vessel if the pressure is 13.5 atm.

# *Lecture 4 - Newton's Method and Secant Method*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Describe and demonstrate Newton's method for solving non-linear equations.
- Illustrate the convergence properties of Newton's method and highlight convergence issues.
- Introduce and demonstrate the secant method.

## *Introduction*

The bisection method described in the previous lecture had at least two issues:

1. End-points for the bracket  $[a, b]$  in which a root is contained needed to be determined. There is no cut-and-dried sure-fire way to accomplish this task. Luckily, a suitable bracket can often be found even if such a method is hard to automate and may feel a bit "clunky."
2. The convergence rate is "slow"—although we have not yet described any competing methods that are "faster" such that a proper perspective can be gained.

The open methods to be described in this lecture eliminate the first drawback of bracketing methods; open methods need no bracket containing a root, only an initial starting point. Also, it will be shown, that the open methods described in this note converge more quickly than bracketing methods such as the bisection algorithm thereby clarifying the impact of the second drawback.

On the other hand, these open methods will introduce additional complications that offset some of their advantages. These issues will be described and options for mitigating these complications will be presented.

### Newton's Method

Newton's method, also called the Newton-Raphson method, is a classic method for finding roots of equations that are *continuous* and *differentiable*. Given an initial estimate of the solution  $x_1$ , the second estimate is determined by taking the tangent line to  $f(x)$  at the point  $[x_1, f(x_1)]$  and finding the intersection of the tangent line with the  $x$ -axis. A schematic of the first four iterations of Newton's method is shown in Figure 68. Successive estimates are found in the same way. The slope of the tangent line at  $x_1$  is denoted  $f'(x_1)$ . The point  $x_2$  is determined from Equation 132.

$$x_2 = x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)} \quad (132)$$

This process can be generalized for finding solutions  $x_{i+1}$  from  $x_i$  as shown in Equation 133.

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)} \quad (133)$$

The algorithm for Newton's method can be stated as follows:

1. Choose a point  $x_1$  as an initial guess of the solution.
2. For  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , until the error is smaller than a specified tolerance, use Equation 133 to find  $x_{i+1}$  and repeat.

SINCE THIS IS NOT a bracketing method, we do not have a "bracket" to use in estimating the solution error like we did in the bisection method. There are a couple of stopping criteria that could be used:

1. Tolerance in  $f(x)$ . Recall from the last lecture, this means we will stop the iteration when, for some specified tolerance  $\delta$ , the following relation is satisfied:

$$|f(x_i)| \leq \delta \quad (134)$$

On the surface this is a sensible error measure—if  $f(x_i)$  is close to zero, then it stands to reason that  $x_i$  is close to the exact solution,  $x^*$ . It turns out, however, this is only true if  $f'(x_i) \approx 1$  in the vicinity of  $x^*$ . To see why, consider the equation below:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x_i) &\approx \frac{f(x^*) - f(x_i)}{x^* - x_i} \\ &\Rightarrow x^* - x_i \approx \frac{-f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)} \end{aligned}$$

If  $f'(x_i) \approx 1$ , then  $|x^* - x_i| \approx |f(x_i)| \leq \delta$  which is what we want. But if  $f'(x_i) \ll 1$ , then  $|x^* - x_i|$  is much greater than  $\delta$  so we are not as close to  $x^*$  as we want to be.<sup>1</sup>

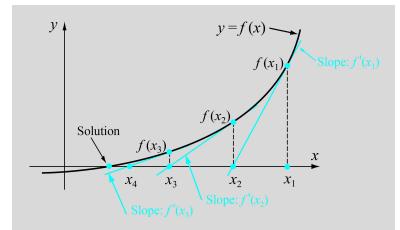


Figure 68: The first four iterations of Newton's method.

**Note:** The expression for  $x_2$  given in Equation 132 is obtained from:

$$f'(x_1) = \frac{f(x_1) - 0}{x_1 - x_2}$$

<sup>1</sup> Remember that:

$$x^* - x_i = \frac{-f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)}$$

Thus, as  $f'(x_i) \rightarrow 0$ , then  $x^* - x_i \rightarrow \infty$ .

2. Estimated relative error. For Newton's method we will use the *estimated relative error* as our measure of convergence. Specifically, the iterations will be stopped when, for some specified tolerance  $\epsilon$ , the following relation is met:

$$\left| \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{x_i} \right| \leq \epsilon \quad (135)$$

### Convergence Rate of Newton's Method

To help illustrate the convergence rate of Newton's method, let us do an example. We will find the positive root of the function:  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$ , which we know is equal to  $\sqrt{2}$ . MATLAB code to implement the algorithm is shown in the listing below:

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

% find the square root of two
F = @(x) x.^2 - 2; ❶
dF = @(x) 2*x;

Xest = 1.; % initial guess ❷

Err = 1e-15;
imax = 5;
fprintf('Exact solution = %16.15f \n',sqrt(2));❸

for i = 1:imax
    Xi = Xest - F(Xest)/dF(Xest);

    if abs((Xi - Xest)/Xest) < Err
        xNS = Xi;
        break;
    end

    fprintf('After %i iterations , Xi = %16.15f \n',i,Xi);

    Xest = Xi;
end

```

❶ We implement  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$  and its derivative as in-line functions.

❷ We do not need an initial bracket but we do need an initial guess. For some problems it may be essential that the initial guess is close to the solution.

❸ We will use the value of  $\sqrt{2}$  to full double-precision to approximate the "exact solution."

An assessment of the output is shown below with the correct digits of the estimates solution shown in bold:

$\sqrt{2} \approx 1.414213562373095$   
 $x_1 = 1.500000000000000$   
 $x_2 = 1.416666666666667$   
 $x_3 = 1.414215686274510$   
 $x_4 = 1.414213562374690$   
 $x_5 = 1.414213562373095$

Note that between iteration 2 and 3, and between iteration 3 and 4, the number of correct digits doubles each time. By the time that the 5th iteration is arrived at, the estimated solution is correct to full double precision. It can be shown<sup>2</sup> that the relative error in Newton's method can be approximated as:

$$e_{i+1} \approx \frac{f''(x^*)}{2f'(x^*)} e_i^2$$

In words: the relative error at step  $i + 1$  is proportional to the error at step  $i$  squared. This is referred to as *quadratic convergence*.

### Convergence Issues with Newton's Method

Alas, not all is well with Newton's method. When the method works, it converges very rapidly. Frequently, however, the method does not converge. Convergence problems can happen when:

1. When the value of  $f'(x)$  is close to zero in the vicinity of the solution. When that happens, the update from  $x_i$  to  $x_{i+1}$  as given by Equation 133 is very large. If  $x_i$  was close to the solution initially,  $x_{i+1}$  may be very far from the solution. Depending on how  $f(x)$  varies between  $x_i$  and  $x_{i+1}$  this may result in convergence to a different root, for example, or other unpredictable behavior.
2. When the function has a local minimum (i.e.  $f' \approx 0$ ) in which case, again, the next iteration can be projected very far from the current value of  $x_i$ . This condition is illustrated in Figure 69.
3. An inflection point can result in the iteration scheme entering into a cycle. A schematic of this diabolical (and, thankfully, relatively uncommon) state of affairs is shown in Figure 70.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, it is possible to show that Newton's method will converge if the function,  $f(x)$ , and its first and second derivatives are all *continuous*, and if the first derivative is not zero at the solution, and if the starting value,  $x_1$ , is "near" the exact solution.<sup>3</sup>

ANOTHER ISSUE WITH Newton's method, not directly related to convergence, is that to use the method you need both the function as well as its derivative. The derivative is not always easy to obtain. In some cases the "function" to be solved is not available in the form of an equation but rather a complex computational routine that does not admit to analytical differentiation. Combined with the convergence difficulties, there is plenty of motivation to come up with a different algorithm.

<sup>2</sup> GW Stewart. *Afternotes on Numerical Analysis*. University of Maryland at College Park, 1993

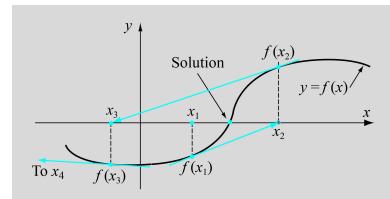


Figure 69: Newton's method convergence issue due to a local minimum.

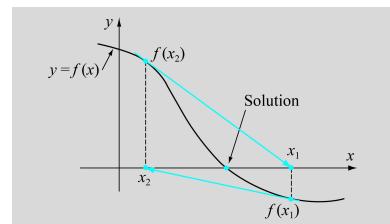


Figure 70: Newton's method failure to converge due to inflection points in vicinity of solution.

<sup>3</sup> Whatever the hell "near" is supposed to mean.

### Secant Method

The secant method is another open scheme for finding a numerical solution to a non-linear equation. Unlike Newton's method, the secant method does not require an expression for  $f'(x)$ . With the secant method we instead approximate this derivative by using the *secant line* between *two* initially provided points. This is illustrated in Figure 71 where it is also shown that it does not matter if  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  bracket the root or not.

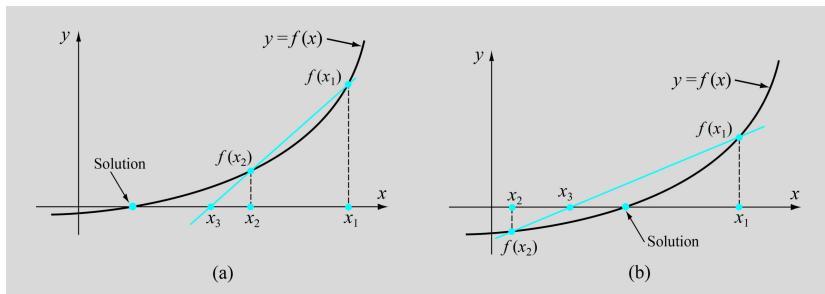


Figure 71: Schematic of the secant method.

The slope of the secant line is given by:

$$\frac{f(x_1) - f(x_2)}{x_1 - x_2} = \frac{f(x_2) - 0}{x_2 - x_3}$$

$$x_3 = x_2 - \frac{f(x_2)(x_1 - x_2)}{f(x_1) - f(x_2)}$$

Once  $x_3$  is determined, it is used along with  $x_2$  to find  $x_4$  and so it goes. We generalize this iteration in Equation 136.

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)(x_{i-1} - x_i)}{f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)} \quad (136)$$

Successive iterations of the secant method are illustrated in Figure 72.

**WHILE THE SECANT** method does not rely on an expression for  $f'(x)$ , it does require additional evaluations of  $f(x)$ . If each evaluation of  $f(x)$  is computationally expensive then the programmer who is implementing the method would be wise to minimize or eliminate any extraneous evaluations of  $f(x)$ . While this point probably seems obvious, it is worth mentioning that this consideration amounts to a design trade-off. Program complexity and the number of additional variables that you may store to avoid re-evaluating a function can add up. Sometimes it pays to simply re-compute  $f(x)$  whenever you need it; sometimes it does not. Keep this in mind when you design your own implementation.

**Note:** We can slightly re-arrange Equation 136 to get:

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{\frac{f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)}{(x_{i-1} - x_i)}}$$

This may help emphasize the similarity between the secant method and Newton's method. If  $x_{i-1}$  and  $x_i$  are sufficiently close together:

$$\frac{f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)}{x_{i-1} - x_i} \approx f'(x_i)$$

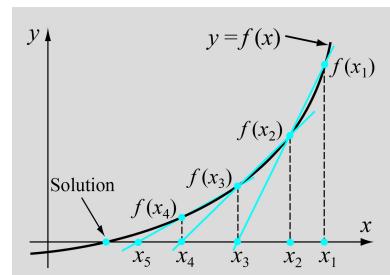


Figure 72: Secant method in action.

### Convergence of Secant Method

The MATLAB code for testing the convergence of the secant method is provided in the listing below. Again we solve the equation:  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$ . We use the starting points,  $x_1 = 0$  and  $x_2 = 2$ .

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'
4
5 % find the square root of two
6 F = @(x) x.^2 - 2;
7
8 Xa = 0;
9 Xb = 2;
10
11 Err = 1e-16;
12 imax = 15;
13 fprintf('Exact solution = %16.15f \n',sqrt(2));
14 for i = 1:imax
15     FXb = F(Xb);
16     Xi = Xb - FXb*(Xa - Xb)/(F(Xa) - FXb);
17
18     if abs((Xi - Xb)/Xb) < Err
19         xNS = Xi;
20         break;
21     end
22     Xa = Xb;
23     Xb = Xi;
24
25 fprintf('After %i iterations , Xi = %16.15f \n',i,Xi);
26 end

```

Results are as shown below:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sqrt{2} &\approx 1.414213562373095 \\
x_1 &= 1.000000000000000 \\
x_2 &= 1.333333333333333 \\
x_3 &= 1.428571428571429 \\
x_4 &= 1.413793103448276 \\
x_5 &= 1.414211438474870 \\
x_6 &= 1.414213562688870 \\
x_7 &= 1.414213562373095
\end{aligned}$$

Clearly the convergence rate for the secant method is inferior to Newton's method<sup>4</sup> and yet, it is still better than bisection method.

### Wrap-up

In this lecture we investigated open root-finding methods that, using the derivative of a function or, in the case of the secant method, an estimate of the derivative of a function, to find the root of a non-linear

<sup>4</sup> It should be noted that the exact convergence behavior depends, to some extent, on the values chosen for  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ .

equation. We found that, for the expense of using the derivative, or estimate of a derivative, of a function, we were able to get quadratic convergence. If you need to get a very precise solution and/or individual function evaluations are computationally expensive, these methods have strong advantages over bisection.

THERE ARE AT LEAST two questions that you should be asking yourself:

1. Can I get even faster convergence if I also make use of the *second* derivative of the function? The answer is: **yes**. The algorithm that takes this approach is called Halley's method<sup>5</sup> and the error after each iteration is proportional to the error after the previous step *cubed*.
2. Can I get convergence faster than the bisection method while retaining the reliability of the bisection method? The answer is also **yes**. The Brent method combines techniques based on the secant method, bisection method, and inverse quadratic interpolation to converge *at least* as fast as bisection—often much faster—while retaining the robust reliability of bisection. Theoretical details of the Brent method are available in the literature<sup>6</sup> and a straightforward example implementation is given in a popular Numerical Recipes<sup>7</sup> book. MATLAB's built-in non-linear equation solver `fsolve` is based on Brent's method.

Homework problems will be assigned that will help you explore the practical details of implementing these algorithms and observing the convergence properties.

<sup>5</sup> Walter Gander. On Halley's iteration method. *The American Mathematical Monthly*, 92(2):131–134, 1985

<sup>6</sup> George Elmer Forsythe, Cleve B Moler, and Michael A Malcolm. *Computer methods for mathematical computations*. Prentice-Hall, 1977

<sup>7</sup> William H Press, Saul A Teukolsky, William T Vetterling, and Brian P Flannery. *Numerical recipes in C*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2nd edition, 1992



# Lecture 5 - MATLAB Functions for Root Finding

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Describe the goals for more advanced root-finding algorithms and generally how they may be achieved.
- Discuss MATLAB's built-in function `fzero` for finding roots of non-linear functions.
- Illustrate how to use the advanced features of `fzero`.

## Goals for Advanced Root-Finding Algorithms

The bisection method that we studied in Lecture 3 is reliable but convergence is slow. In particular it exhibits linear convergence where:

$$e_{i+1} = \frac{1}{2}e_i \quad (137)$$

Newton's method, that we learned about in Lecture 4, converges fast when everything works as hoped, but is relatively unreliable. What we want, of course, is an algorithm that converges *superlinearly* and *almost* never fails.

## Regula Falsi Method

The regula falsi method is a simple alternative to the bisection method that holds the promise (potentially) for faster convergence. The method starts with a bracket  $[a, b]$  like the bisection method but, instead of using the midpoint of the bracket for the next estimate of the solution, the regula falsi method uses the point in  $[a, b]$  where the secant line between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  is equal to zero. A schematic of the first two iterations is illustrated in Figure 73.

The straight line connecting  $f(a)$  to  $f(b)$  is given by Equation 138:

$$y = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}(x - b) + f(b) \quad (138)$$

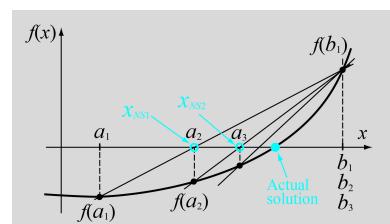


Figure 73: The first two iterations of the regula falsi method.

The point where the line intersects the  $x$ -axis is found by setting  $y = 0$  and solving for  $x$ , giving us:

$$x_{\text{NS}} = \frac{af(b) - bf(a)}{f(b) - f(a)} \quad (139)$$

The algorithm for the regula falsi method is as follows:

1. Find an interval  $[a, b]$  in which a root exists. One way to find such an interval is to identify an  $a$  and  $b$  for which  $f(a)f(b) < 0$ .
2. Use Equation 139 to find the new estimate of the numerical solution.
3. Determine whether the root is in  $[a, x_{\text{NS}}]$  or in  $[x_{\text{NS}}, b]$  using the following method:
  - If  $f(a)f(x_{\text{NS}}) < 0$ , the root is in  $[a, x_{\text{NS}}]$ .
  - If  $f(x_{\text{NS}})f(b) < 0$ , the root is in  $[x_{\text{NS}}, b]$ .
4. Select the subinterval that contains the solution—either  $[a, x_{\text{NS}}, b]$  or  $[x_{\text{NS}}, b]$  as determined in step 3—as the new  $a$  and  $b$  and return to step 2.

The iteration should be stopped when the estimated error is smaller than the pre-determined tolerance. Some notes on this method:

- Like the bisection method, the regula falsi method *will* converge. One can hope that, given the small added complexity, the rate of convergence would be somewhat faster using the regula falsi method.
- For a given function, it is typically the case that only one endpoint will “move towards” the solution. Modifications to the algorithm can be made to address this issue and will be considered in the assignments. An example of this, that will be included in the homework assignment, is to combine a step of the bisection method along with the regula falsi method. This measure helps ensure that the interval around the root is consistently reduced from both directions.
- Newton’s method, the secant method, and regula falsi method all, in one way or another, use linear interpolation to estimate the location of the root. We might hope to get a better approximation of the root if we used a higher-order interpolant.<sup>1</sup> Brent’s method combines root-bracketing, secant method, and *inverse quadratic interpolation* methods and is the basis of MATLAB’s `fzero` function.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is an idea that we will return to in our lectures on interpolation.

<sup>2</sup> George Elmer Forsythe, Cleve B Moler, and Michael A Malcolm. *Computer methods for mathematical computations*. Prentice-Hall, 1977

## MATLAB's *fzero*

MATLAB's built-in function *fzero* is the basic, bread-and-butter, root finding function that you should use in a MATLAB environment. The basic usage is:

```
x = fzero(f, xo)
```

where *x* is the root, *fun* is a handle to the non-linear function, and *xo* is either a point (close to the solution) or a vector *xo* = [a b] whose entries indicate the left and right boundary of an interval that brackets a solution.<sup>3</sup>

You can specify options and get more information about the solution by using optional input and output variables as shown below:

<sup>3</sup> MATLAB checks to see if [a b] contains a root—i.e. by checking  $f(a)f(b) < 0$ —and returns an error if it does not.

```
[x, fval, exitflag, output] = fzero(f, xo, options)
```

where, in addition to the root, *x*, the function returns:

- *fval*: which is the value of  $f(x)$  at the root.
- *exitflag*, which is a variable encoding the reason why *fzero* stopped iterations. Below is a table showing the meaning of various *exitflag* values:

Value	Meaning
1	Function converged to a solution.
-1	Algorithm was terminated by the output function or plot function.
-3	Nan or Inf function value was encountered while searching for an interval containing a sign change.
-4	Complex function value was encountered while searching for an interval containing a sign change.
-5	Algorithm might have converged to a singular point.
-6	<i>fzero</i> did not detect a sign change.

Notice that all of these conditions are bad except for *exitflag*=1.

- a variable called `output` which is a *struct*<sup>4</sup> containing fields describing performance of `fzero` on this particular invocation.

The `output` struct contains the following fields:

Field Name	Meaning
<code>intervaliterations:</code>	Number of iterations taken to find an interval containing a root.
<code>iterations:</code>	Number of zero-finding iterations.
<code>funcCount:</code>	Number of function evaluations.
<code>algorithm:</code>	Name(s) of algorithm(s) used.
<code>message:</code>	An exit message. (e.g. "Zero found in the interval [a,b]"")

The additional input variable, `options`, is also a struct. Users typically construct this object using the MATLAB function `optimset` with a collection of name-value pairs pertaining to input options available to `fzero`. See the MATLAB documentation for full details but a typical usage might be something like:

```
options = optimset('Display','iter','TolX',1e-15);
```

where '`Display`', '`iter`' causes MATLAB to display output at each iteration, and '`TolX`',  $10^{-15}$  sets the termination tolerance on  $x$  to be equal to  $10^{-15}$ .

<sup>4</sup> A struct is a composite data type that facilitates a logically grouped list of variables under one name. Each variable is referred to as a *field* of the struct. Different fields can have different data types.

## *Assignment #2*

1. Determine the fourth root of 200 by finding the numerical solution of the equation  $f(x) = x^4 - 200 = 0$ . Use Newton's method (by hand). Start at  $x = 8$  and carry out the first five iterations.
2. Create a function to carry out Newton's method for finding a root for a nonlinear equation. The function should have the signature: `Xs=NewtonSol(Fun,FunDer,Xest)` where, `Xs` is a root, `Fun` and `FunDer` are handles to the function to be solved and its derivative, and `Xest` is an initial starting guess for the root. Your function should use the estimated relative error as a stopping criterion with a threshold value of  $10^{-9}$ . The number of iterations should be limited to 100; if the solution is not found in 100 iterations the program should stop and display an error message. Use your function to solve the equation given in Problem #1.
3. Steffensen's method is a scheme for finding a numerical solution of an equation of the form  $f(x) = 0$  that is like Newton's method but does not require the derivative of  $f(x)$ . The solution process starts by choosing a point  $x_1$ , near the solution, as the first estimate for the root. The subsequent estimates of the solution,  $x_{i+1}$ , are calculated by:

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)^2}{f(x_i + f(x_i)) - f(x_i)}$$

Write a MATLAB function that solves a nonlinear equation with Steffensen's method. The function signature should be: `Xs = SteffensenRoot(Fun,Xest)` where `Xs` is a root, `Fun` is a handle to the function you wish to solve, and `Xest` is the estimated root. Use your function to find the root of  $f(x) = x - 2e^{-x}$ . Use 2 as an initial starting point. As termination criteria, use the estimated relative error with  $10^{-9}$  as a tolerance, and maximum iterations with a limit of 100.

4. A simply-supported I-beam is loaded with a distributed load, as shown in the figure. (need to add the figure) The deflection,  $y$ , of the centerline of the beam as a function of the position,  $x$ , is given by the equation:

$$y = \frac{w_0 x}{360EI} (7L^4 - 10L^2x^2 + 3x^4)$$

where  $L = 4$  m is the length,  $E = 70$  GPa is the elastic modulus,  $I = 52.9 \times 10^{-6}$  m<sup>4</sup> is the moment of inertia, and  $w_0 = 20$  kN/m is the distributed load.

Find the position  $x$  where the deflection of the beam is maximum and determine the deflection at this point. [Hint: The maximum deflection is at the point where  $y_x = 0$ .]

- (a) Write a MATLAB function that solves this non-linear equation using the secant method. The function signature should be  $x_s = \text{SecantRoot}(\text{Fun}, \text{Xa}, \text{Xb}, \text{Err}, \text{imax})$  where Err is the estimated relative error, a tolerance for which you should set at  $10^{-9}$ . Use 1.5 for Xa and 2.5 for Xb.
- (b) Repeat the solution of this equation with NewtonSol and SteffensonRoot.

# *Lecture 6 - Newton's Method for Systems of Non-Linear Equations*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Describe Newton's method for finding roots to systems of non-linear equations.
- Do an example problem.
- Describe MATLAB functions for solving a system of non-linear equations.

## *Newton's Method for Systems of Non-Linear Equations*

In Lecture 4 we derived Newton's method for finding the root to a single non-linear equation. The basic iteration procedure was to update our estimate of the root according to the equation:

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)}$$

The idea on which this was derived was to project a line tangent to  $f(x_i)$  to the  $x$ -axis.

AN ALTERNATIVE WAY to derive this update relation is based on the Taylor series expansion. In a Taylor series expansion, given a function evaluated at some point,  $f(x_1)$ , we estimate the value of the function evaluated at some *other* point,  $x_2$ , using the equation below:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_2) &= f(x_1) + \frac{f'(x_1)}{1!}(x_2 - x_1) + \frac{f''(x_1)}{2!}(x_2 - x_1)^2 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(x_1)}{n!}(x_2 - x_1)^n \end{aligned}$$

If we ignore terms proportional to  $f''(x_1)$  and higher, and if we suppose that  $x_2$  is a root, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_2) &= 0 = f(x_1) + f'(x_1)(x_2 - x_1) \\ x_2 - x_1 &= \frac{-f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)} \\ \Rightarrow x_2 &= x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)} \end{aligned}$$

which is the same as what we started with.

WE WOULD NOW like to generalize Newton's method to find roots for a *system* of two or more equations. We will use the formulation based on the Taylor series expansion to do this.

Consider the case of 2 non-linear functions of 2 variables:

$$f_1(x, y) = 0, \quad f_2(x, y) = 0$$

If  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  are the true (unknown) solution to the equations, and  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  are points sufficiently close to the solution then:

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x_2, y_2) &= 0 = f_1(x_1, y_1) + (x_2 - x_1) \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_1, y_1} + (y_2 - y_1) \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \Big|_{x_1, y_1} \\ f_2(x_2, y_2) &= 0 = f_2(x_1, y_1) + \underbrace{(x_2 - x_1)}_{\Delta x} \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_1, y_1} + \underbrace{(y_2 - y_1)}_{\Delta y} \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} \Big|_{x_1, y_1} \end{aligned}$$

where higher order terms are neglected. This set of linear equations can be expressed in a matrix-vector format as shown in Equation 140.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_1, y_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \Big|_{x_1, y_1} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_1, y_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} \Big|_{x_1, y_1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x \\ \Delta y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -f_1(x_1, y_1) \\ -f_2(x_1, y_1) \end{bmatrix} \quad (140)$$

The unknown quantities are  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$ . The matrix in Equation 140 is referred to as the *Jacobian*. We can solve this linear system of equations<sup>1</sup> to find  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$  and thus get  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  from Equation 141.

$$x_2 = x_1 + \Delta x, \quad y_2 = y_1 + \Delta y \quad (141)$$

<sup>1</sup> Actually we have not covered how to do that yet in this class. Students can probably solve this  $2 \times 2$  system of equations based on their experience in high school math, but we will thoroughly study methods for solving linear systems of equations in the next section of the text.

IN SUMMARY, Newton's method for solving a system of non-linear equations is made up of the following steps:

1. Start with an initial guess,  $x_1, y_1$ .
2. Form and solve the linear system of equations given in Equation 140 to obtain  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$ .
3. compute  $x_{i+1}$  and  $y_{i+1}$  from:  $x_{i+1} = x_i + \Delta x$ , and  $y_{i+1} = y_i + \Delta y$ .
4. Repeat steps #2 and #3 until  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$  are within some specified error tolerance.<sup>2</sup>

**Example:** The equations of the catenary curve and the ellipse, which are shown in Figure 74, are given by:

$$\begin{aligned}f_1(x, y) &= y - \frac{1}{2} \left( e^{x/2} + e^{-x/2} \right) \\f_2(x, y) &= 9x^2 + 25y^2 - 225\end{aligned}$$

Use Newton's method to determine the point of intersection of the curves that resides in the first quadrant of the coordinate system.

The Jacobian for this system of equations is given by:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{4} \left( e^{x/2} + e^{-x/2} \right) & 1 \\ 18x & 50y \end{bmatrix}$$

We begin by clearing out the workspace and defining the given functions and the Jacobian:

```
clear
clc
close 'all'

F1 = @(x,y) y - 0.5*(exp(x./2) + exp(-x./2));
F2 = @(x,y) 9*x.^2 + 25*y.^2 - 225;

dF1x = @(x,y) -0.25*(exp(x./2) - exp(-x./2));
dF1y = @(x,y) 1;

dF2x = @(x,y) 18*x;
dF2y = @(x,y) 50*y;

Jac = @(x,y) [dF1x(x,y) dF1y(x,y); dF2x(x,y) dF2y(x,y)];
```

Next we will define  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  and specify our stopping criteria.

```
xi = 2.5; yi = 2;
Err = 1e-10; imax = 10;
```

<sup>2</sup> We will use a relative error tolerance that will be illustrated in the example code.

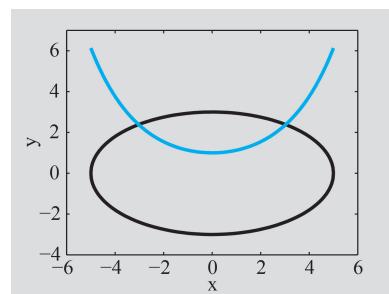


Figure 74: Example system of non-linear equations.

Note that we do not plan on making many iterations. If Newton's method works, it will very quickly converge.

Now we implement Newton's method:

```

for i = 1:imax
    J = Jac(xi,yi);
    F = -[F1(xi,yi); F2(xi,yi)];
    dp = J\F; ❶
    xip = xi + dp(1);
    yip = yi + dp(2);
    Err_x = abs((xip - xi)/xi); ❷
    Err_y = abs((yip - yi)/yi);

    fprintf('i = %i x = %-.7.4f y = %-.7.4f Error in x = %-.7.4g
    Error in y = %-.7.4g \n',...
        i,xip,yip,Err_x,Err_y);

    if (Err_x < Err) && (Err_y < Err) ❸
        break
    else
        xi = xip; yi = yip;
    end

end

```

❶ We use MATLAB's built-in "back-slash" operator to solve the linear system of equations. This will be discussed in Section VIII of this text.  
❷ Here we compare  $\Delta x/x$  and  $\Delta y/y$  for our relative error tolerance. We are really not computing the error, we are computing how small our updates are to  $x$  and  $y$ .  
❸ The operator `&&` is the logical *and* operator.

This script converges to the solution  $x = 3.0311553917$  and  $y = 2.38586565356$  in 5 iterations.

### *Implementation with FSOLVE*

The primary MATLAB built-in function you should use for solving a system of non-linear equations is `fsolve`. The basic syntax for using `fsolve` is:

```
x = fsolve(fun,x0);
```

A more complete syntax that provides additional output information and an interface for passing options to the algorithm is:

```
[x, fval, exitflag, output, jacobian] = ...
    fsolve(fun,x0,options);
```

The values of `x` and `fval` are similar to what one obtains when using `fzero` except, of course they are now both vectors. Values for `exitflag` and `output` are different—interested readers should consult the MATLAB documentation—but `exitflag=1` still means success. As with `fzero`, a function is used to construct an appropriate options structure; when using `fsolve` you should use the `optimoptions` function for this purpose. An example usage of `optimoptions` is included in the MATLAB listing below.

```

1
2
3
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clear
clc
close 'all'

F = @(x) ex3p5(x);
Xo = [2.5, 2.0];

option_set = 2;
% 1 = no outputs
% 2 = detailed outputs

switch option_set      ❸

    case 1
        options = optimoptions('fsolve','Display','none');

    case 2
        options = optimoptions('fsolve','Display',...
            'iter-detailed','MaxIterations',1000,...
            'StepTolerance',1e-10);

    otherwise % default options
        options = optimoptions('fsolve');

end

[x,fval,exitflag,output] = fsolve(F,Xo,options);

fprintf('Root found at x = %8.7g, y = %8.7g \n',...
    x(1),x(2));
fprintf('fval = \n'); disp(fval);
fprintf('exitflag = %d \n',exitflag);

%% Local Function
function out = ex3p5(x) ❹
[m,n] = size(x); % expect scalar or vector input
assert(min(m,n)==1,...)
    'Error! Vector input expected for x! \n';
out = nan(m,n); % construct output

out(1) = x(2) - 0.5*(exp(x(1)./2) + exp(-x(1)./2));
out(2) = 9*x(1).^2 + 25*x(2).^2 - 225;

end

```

❸ Here we use a `switch ... case` structure to select between sets of options for purposes of demonstration. The options specified in `option_set=1` amount to telling `fsolve()` to quietly solve the problem with no output to the command window. The options specified in `option_set=2` specify detailed output on each iteration and provides non-default values for the '`MaxIterations`' and '`StepTolerance`' parameters. Consult the MATLAB documentation on `fsolve` for more details.

❹ The first argument to `fsolve` has to be a (single) handle to a function. This local function implements the system of two equations from the example. The first argument to `ex3p5` is a vector; one element for each equation in our system of equations.



## **Part VIII**

# **Solving Linear Equations**



# Lecture 7 - Introduction to Linear Algebra and Gauss Elimination

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Provide background and describe why engineers what to solve systems of linear equations.
- Describe and demonstrate the Gauss elimination algorithm.
- Do an example in MATLAB.

## Background

Linear systems of equations arise in a variety of contexts. For example, consider a simple analysis of a truss structure as shown in Figure 75. If you are to conduct a simple static analysis of this structure, you would need to derive equilibrium equations to show that the sum of forces at each point—A, B, C, D, E, and F—in the  $x$ - and  $y$ -direction equals zero. A total of eight equations are derived in this way and shown below.

$$\begin{array}{lll} -F_{AB} - 0.3846F_{AC} = 3625 & 0.9231F_{AC} = 1690 & \sum F_x, \sum F_y \text{ at A} \\ F_{AB} - 0.7809F_{BC} = 0 & 0.6247F_{BC} - F_{BD} = 0 & \sum F_x, \sum F_y \text{ at B} \\ -0.3846F_{AC} - 0.7809F_{BC} - F_{CD} + 0.3846F_{CE} = 0 & & \sum F_x \text{ at C} \\ 0.9231F_{AC} + 0.6247F_{BC} - 0.9231F_{CE} = 0 & & \sum F_y \text{ at C} \\ F_{CD} + 0.8575F_{DE} = 0 & F_{BD} - 0.5145F_{DE} - F_{DF} = 0 & \sum F_x, \sum F_y \text{ at D} \end{array}$$

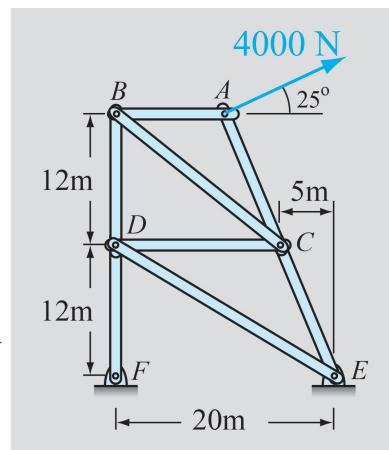


Figure 75: Two-dimensional truss structure.

We cannot, in general, solve these equations individually, the unknown values—the tension in each of the eight truss elements—are distributed among all of the equations. In general we must solve the equations simultaneously; the resulting linear equations are shown in matrix-vector form in Equation 142.

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -0.3846 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.9231 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -0.7809 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.6247 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -0.3846 & -0.7809 & 0 & -1 & 0.3846 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.9231 & 0.6247 & 0 & 0 & -0.9231 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0.8575 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -0.5145 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F_{AB} \\ F_{AC} \\ F_{BC} \\ F_{BD} \\ F_{CD} \\ F_{CE} \\ F_{DE} \\ F_{DF} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3625 \\ 1690 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (142)$$

A second, and perhaps more generally relevant case, is when a linear differential operator is represented in a discrete form. Consider the boundary value problem expressed in Equation 143.

$$\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} = f(x), \quad 0 < x < L, \quad u(0) = u(L) = 0 \quad (143)$$

As we will study later in this course, the spatial domain  $x \in [0, L]$  can be discretized into uniform segments, the differential operator  $d^2/dx^2$ , the solution  $u(x)$ , and the input function  $f(x)$  can all be expressed in a discrete form and assembled into a system of linear equations. This is shown in Equation 144:

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{h^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ \vdots & \cdots & \ddots & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\frac{d^2}{dx^2}, \quad u(0)=u(L)=0} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} u(x_0) \\ u(x_1) \\ \vdots \\ u(x_{n-1}) \\ u(x_n) \end{bmatrix}}_{u(x)} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ f(x_1) \\ \vdots \\ f(x_{n-1}) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{f(x) \text{ with BC}} \quad (144)$$

where  $h = x_{i+1} - x_i$ . Depending on how accurate of a solution is desired, the system illustrated in Equation 144 can have thousands of equations or more. For a known  $f(x)$ , we can use the methods we will describe in this and the next few lectures to solve the equations to find  $u(x)$ .

### Gauss Elimination

Gauss elimination is the most basic *direct* method<sup>1</sup> for solving systems of linear equations. When it succeeds, the system of equations is solved within a pre-determined number of mathematical operations.

THE BASIC PROCEDURE is done in two steps. First we start with a

In this expression we use the second-order central difference approximation to  $d^2u/dx^2$  which is:

$$\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} = \frac{u(x_{i-1}) - 2u(x_i) + u(x_{i+1})}{h^2}$$

and a matrix is formed from the resulting system of equations. The first and last row of the matrix along with the first and last element of  $f(x_i)$  are modified to satisfy the given boundary conditions. These techniques will be discussed more fully when we present finite difference methods for solving boundary value problems.

<sup>1</sup> In later lectures we will describe *iterative* methods for solving linear systems of equations. In iterative methods we start with an initial guess of the solution vector and iteratively improve upon it. Eventually a solution is obtained but the number of operations required cannot be determined in advance.

system of equations that includes a square, invertible matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

and convert it to an upper-triangular matrix using a process called *forward elimination*.

**Example:** Carry out the process of forward elimination for the  $4 \times 4$  system of equations shown.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

In this process, the first row is unchanged and, for the first step, is referred to as the *pivot equation*. The coefficient  $a_{11}$  is called the *pivot*. We subtract  $m_{21} = a_{21}/a_{11}$  of equation (row) 1 from equation (row) 2:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + a_{23}x_3 + a_{24}x_4 &= b_2 && \leftarrow \text{row 2} \\ -\underbrace{\frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}}}_{m_{21}}(a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + a_{13}x_3 + a_{14}x_4) &= m_{21}b && \leftarrow -m_{21} \times \text{row 1} \end{aligned}$$

which equals:

$$0 + \underbrace{(a_{22} - m_{21}a_{12})}_{a'_{22}}x_2 + \underbrace{(a_{23} - m_{21}a_{13})}_{a'_{23}}x_3 + \underbrace{(a_{24} - m_{21}a_{14})}_{a'_{24}}x_4 = b_2 - \underbrace{m_{21}b_1}_{b'_1}$$

The term  $a'_{21} = a_{21} - a_{21}/a_{11}a_{11} = 0$ .

thereby eliminating the first term in the second row. This leaves us:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ 0 & a'_{22} & a'_{23} & a'_{24} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix and vector entries that get modified are annotated with a ('). Additional primes are added for subsequent modifications.

We do the same elimination for subsequent rows to put zeros in the entire first column.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ 0 & a'_{22} & a'_{23} & a'_{24} \\ 0 & a'_{32} & a'_{33} & a'_{34} \\ 0 & a'_{42} & a'_{43} & a'_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b'_3 \\ b'_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

We will repeat the process for the next column and rows and continue until all entries below the main diagonal are set to zero in this process.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ 0 & a'_{22} & a'_{23} & a'_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & a''_{33} & a''_{34} \\ 0 & a'_{42} & a'_{43} & a'_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b''_3 \\ b'_4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ 0 & a'_{22} & a'_{23} & a'_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & a''_{33} & a''_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & a''_{43} & a''_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b''_3 \\ b''_4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ 0 & a'_{22} & a'_{23} & a'_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & a''_{33} & a''_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & a'''_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b''_3 \\ b'''_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

eliminate  $a_{32}$  by subtracting  $m_{32} = a_{32}/a_{22}$   
of 2<sup>nd</sup> row from 3<sup>rd</sup> row

eliminate  $a_{42}$  by subtracting  $m_{42} = a_{42}/a_{22}$   
of 2<sup>nd</sup> row from 4<sup>th</sup> row

eliminate  $a_{43}$  by subtracting  $m_{43} = a_{43}/a_{33}$   
of 3<sup>rd</sup> row from 4<sup>th</sup> row

The first phase of Gauss Elimination is complete and the system of equations is in upper triangular form.

THE SECOND STEP of Gauss elimination is back substitution. With the equations in upper triangular form, we can solve the system of equations one variable at a time starting with the last variable,  $x_4$ :

$$x_4 = \frac{b'''}{a'''_{44}}$$

Next we can solve for  $x_3$ :

$$\frac{b''_3 - a''_{34}x_4}{a'_{33}}$$

followed by  $x_2$ :

$$x_2 = \frac{b'_2 - (a'_{23}x_3 + a'_{24}x_4)}{a'_{22}}$$

and lastly  $x_1$ :

$$x_1 = \frac{b_1 - (a_{12}x_2 + a_{13}x_3 + a_{14}x_4)}{a_{11}}$$

Hopefully, if you have been following closely, the pattern is clear.<sup>2</sup> If we had a larger system of equations, we would do the same thing, just more of it.

<sup>2</sup> The pattern is, for an  $n \times n$  matrix:

$$x_i = \frac{b_i - \sum_{j=i+1}^n a_{ij}x_j}{a_{ii}}$$

Note that the second term in the numerator can be expressed as a vector dot-product.

## MATLAB Implementation

Let us create a MATLAB script to use Gauss elimination to solve the following  $4 \times 4$  system of linear equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 & -3 & 6 \\ -6 & 7 & 6.5 & -6 \\ 1 & 7.5 & 6.25 & 5.5 \\ -12 & 22 & 15.5 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ -6.5 \\ 16 \\ 17 \end{bmatrix}$$

We start by clearing out the workspace and providing the problem data.

```
clear
clc
close 'all'

% System to be solved
A = [4, -2, -3, 6;
      -6, 7, 6.5, -6;
      1, 7.5, 6.25, 5.5;
      -12, 22, 15.5, -1];

% right hand side
b = [12;
      -6.5;
      16;
      17];
```

We will implement the Gauss elimination algorithm as a local function, so that part will come last. This next listing will show the code to call our local function and compare our solution result to MATLAB's built-in function for solving linear equations—the backslash operator: \.<sup>3</sup>

```
x = Gauss(A,b);

fprintf('Solution with local function Gauss: \n');
disp(x);

fprintf('Solution with backslash: \n');
x_gold = A\b;
disp(x_gold);

rel_error = norm(x-x_gold,2)/norm(x_gold,2); ❶
fprintf('Relative difference: %g \n', rel_error);
```

**❶** In this calculation of the relative error, we make use of a MATLAB built-in function: `norm(v,p)` where `v` is a vector. We do not have space to go into detail here, but a vector norm has the same purpose as a function norm described in Lecture 15 in Section III of this book. The

<sup>3</sup> This operator is shorthand for the built-in function `mldivide(A,b)`, where `A` is the matrix and `b` is the right hand side.

**Note:** Sometimes it is very helpful to write the code you will use to test your function, before you write the function. For one thing, it will help clarify in your mind the interface to your function—i.e. what you will provide as inputs and what you will get as output. It also takes care of the necessary, but sometimes tedious, task of providing a test to confirm that your function works correctly. I cannot overstate the importance of code testing. It is a sad fact that we cannot include in this course a detailed treatment of testing frameworks that are used for large-scale software projects. This is something that, I think, is often missing from the training of undergraduate engineers.

argument  $p$  specifies which norm to use. Our choice of  $p=2$  results in use of the Euclidian norm, which many engineers are familiar with as the vector magnitude.

Finally we are ready to implement the Gauss elimination algorithm as a local function. We will start with the function entry through the forward elimination phase.

```
%>> Local function implementing Gauss Elimination
function x = Gauss(A,b)
[n,c] = size(A);
assert(n==c,'Error! A must be square!'); ②

% forward elimination phase
for j = 1:n-1 ③
    for i = (j+1):n
        m = A(i,j)/A(j,j); % calculate pivot
        A(i,j:n) = A(i,j:n) - m*A(j,j:n); ④
        b(i) = b(i) - m*b(j); % update the right hand side
    end
end
```

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37  
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39  
40

② We assume that  $A$  is square. This is an assumption that we should check.

③ This loop ends on the second-to-last row since the last row is not a pivot row for any eliminatin operations.

④ This is a little bit tricky but not too hard to understand provided you understand the notation:  $A(j,j:n)$  which refers to the  $j^{\text{th}}$  row of  $A$ , columns  $j$  through  $n$ .

At this point, the matrix  $A$  should be in upper-triangular form. Now we commence back-substitution.

```
%>> back substitution phase
x = nan(n,1); ⑤
for i = n:-1:1 ⑥
    x(i) = (b(i) - ...
        A(i,(i+1):n)*x((i+1):n))/A(i,i);
end

assert(sum(isnan(x))==0,... ⑦
    'Error! An element of x is NaN!');

end
```

41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51

⑤ The variable  $x$  is constructed as a *column vector*. This is important since it is required for the semantics of the matrix-vector multiplication carried out in line 45 to be correct.

⑥ Notice that this `for ... end` loop steps *backward*. Obviously that is required to carry out the back-substitution as described.

⑦ Look at this notation carefully. It is a concise articulation of:

$$x_i = \frac{b_i - \sum_{j=i+1}^n a_{ij}x_j}{a_{ii}}$$

Note that for  $i=R$ , when we index  $x((i+1):n)$  *nothing* is returned since, for  $i=n$ ,  $i+1=n+1$  and thus equivalent to  $(n+1):n$  which MATLAB constructs as an empty vector.

⑧ It turns out that a lot can go wrong in the update of  $x(i)$  and, when everything is done, it is worth checking to see that all members of  $x$  have been updated and that none of them are '`NaN`'. Throwing an error may be a bit heavy-handed but it is sure, at least, to get the user's attention.

For this example, the script finds and returns the correct solution:

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 2.0 \\ 4.0 \\ -3.0 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

IT IS WORTH asking: “*what can go wrong*” with Gauss elimination?

1. If  $A(j,j) = 0$  then the pivots, calculated on line 35 will be ‘NaN’. It may seem that this is an unlikely problem; how likely is it, after all, to have a zero element along the diagonal? As it turns out, in general: quite likely. Most of the matrices that we will be interested in are mostly zeros; only a handful of entries in each row will be non-zero. It so happened that all of the diagonal entries of the matrix shown in Equation 142 are non-zero but that is only because I chose to order the equations and arrange the unknowns such that the diagonals would be non-zero. But the order of the equations is arbitrary as is the ordering of the unknowns so we easily could have a zero in the first row and first column causing Gauss elimination to fail on the first step of elimination.

I hasten to add that the values of the pivots, other than the first one, are not apparent right away since, in general, the values of the soon-to-be-pivots change with each step of forward elimination. You cannot usually tell if a pivot will be zero just by looking at a matrix. Thus, zero-pivots can pop up unexpectedly like a land-mine and derail the algorithm.

2. A pivot does not have to be zero to cause problems. Pivots that are *much smaller* than other entries in a matrix can exacerbate floating point roundoff. It can be shown that collectively these errors can cause the Gauss elimination procedure to be numerically unstable.<sup>4</sup>

A resolution to both of these issues will be presented in the next lecture.

<sup>4</sup> Lloyd N Trefethen and David Bau. *Numerical Linear Algebra*. SIAM, 2022



# *Lecture 8 - Gauss Elimination*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Describe Gauss elimination with pivoting algorithm and provide a rationale for its use.
- Produce a detailed examination of the MATLAB code to implement the algorithm.
- Introduce the “Matrix Market” as a source for relevant test matrices.
- Run examples illustrating the benefits of this new algorithm.

## *Gauss Elimination with Pivoting*

One problem with the basic Gauss elimination algorithm presented in the last lecture is the possibility that the pivot will be zero. In the event of such a pivot, the algorithm will fail and we need to find a way to prevent it from happening if at all possible. A problem that may appear to be less serious, but nonetheless worthy of our attention, is the case where the pivot is much smaller than other entries in its row and/or column. Consider the following linear system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.0003 & 12.34 \\ 0.4321 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12.343 \\ 5.321 \end{bmatrix}$$

For the first step of forward-elimination, the pivot element is: 0.0003 and  $m_{21} = 0.4321/0.0003 = 1,440.33$ . When I eliminate the  $a_{21}$  entry and update the entry for  $a_{22}$  and  $b_2$ :

$$A(i, j : n) = A(i, j : n) - m * A(j, j : n)$$

the value of  $m$  is very large compared to any entry in  $A$ , and, for lack of a more precise way of putting it, this aggravates roundoff errors in the result.

The basic idea is: if the pivot is small or zero, why not just exchange the pivot row with a different row? In order to avoid undoing any of the forward elimination steps, the row to be exchanged must be “below” the current pivot row. Also, if we want to execute such an exchange, we need to have some criteria by which to decide which row we want to exchange. The criteria we will use is this: *select the row corresponding to the element in the pivot column with the largest absolute value*. This is most easily clarified with an example.

Consider the linear system of equations below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 & -3 & 6 \\ -6 & 7 & 6.5 & -6 \\ 1 & 7.5 & 6.25 & 5.5 \\ -12 & 22 & 15.5 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ -6.5 \\ 16 \\ 17 \end{bmatrix}$$

The pivot column is  $A(1:4,1)$  and the entry with the largest magnitude is, -12, in row 4. We would, therefore, *swap row 1 and 4*. The system of equations is now:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -12 & 22 & 15.5 & -1 \\ -6 & 7 & 6.5 & -6 \\ 1 & 7.5 & 6.25 & 5.5 \\ 4 & -2 & -3 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ -6.5 \\ 16 \\ 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

Notice we also had to switch the entries for  $b(1)$  and  $b(4)$ . We use this pivot to eliminate all of the entries in the first column below the first row. The resulting system of equations is shown below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -12 & 22 & 15.5 & -1 \\ 0 & -4.0 & -1.25 & -5.5 \\ 0 & 9.333 & 7.542 & 5.417 \\ 0 & 5.333 & 2.167 & 5.667 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ -15 \\ 17.417 \\ 17.667 \end{bmatrix}$$

The pivot column for the next step of forward elimination is now  $A(2:4,2)$  and the element with the largest magnitude is 9.333 in row 3. We thus swap row 2 and 3 and eliminate the entries in column 2 below row 2.

For step i of forward elimination,  $A(i,i)$  is the pivot.  $A(i,i:n)$  is the pivot row, and  $A(i:n,i)$  is the pivot column.

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -12 & 22 & 15.5 & -1 \\ 0 & 9.333 & 7.542 & 5.417 \\ 0 & -4.0 & -1.25 & -5.5 \\ 0 & 5.333 & 2.167 & 5.667 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Swapped rows 2 and 3.}} = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ 17.417 \\ -15 \\ 17.667 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -12 & 22 & 15.5 & -1 \\ 0 & 9.333 & 7.542 & 5.417 \\ 0 & 0 & -1.982 & -3.189 \\ 0 & 0 & -2.143 & 2.571 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Eliminate entries below the pivot.}} = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ 17.417 \\ -7.536 \\ 7.714 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now we have one more entry to eliminate, but, before we do, we will swap the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> row to obtain the largest magnitude pivot.

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -12 & 22 & 15.5 & -1 \\ 0 & 9.333 & 7.542 & 5.417 \\ 0 & 0 & -2.143 & 2.571 \\ 0 & 0 & -1.982 & -3.189 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Swap 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> row.}} = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ 17.417 \\ 7.714 \\ -7.536 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -12 & 22 & 15.5 & -1 \\ 0 & 9.333 & 7.542 & 5.417 \\ 0 & 0 & -2.143 & 2.571 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -0.8 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Eliminate the } a_{4,3} \text{ entry.}} = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ 17.417 \\ 7.714 \\ -0.4 \end{bmatrix}$$

At this time, we are ready for the back-substitution phase of the algorithm which is unchanged from regular Gauss elimination and, for a small matrix such as in this example, the answer is essentially the same.

### MATLAB Implementation

Since the only difference lies in the pivoting, we will restrict our attention to the forward elimination phase of the algorithm.

```
function x = GaussPivot(A,b)
[m,n] = size(A);
assert(m==n, 'Error! A must be square!');

for j = 1:n-1
    % select pivot from remaining rows in column j
    [~,j_piv] = max(abs(A(j:n,j))); ①

    % correct row index returned by max()
    j_piv = j_piv + (j-1);          ②

    % swap row j and j_piv, b(j) and b(j_piv)
    % save row to be over-written
    a_row_tmp = A(j,:); b_tmp = b(j); ③
    % over-write with new pivot row
    A(j,:) = A(j_piv,:); b(j) = b(j_piv);
    % replace row
    A(j_piv,:) = a_row_tmp; b(j_piv) = b_tmp;
```

❶ The built-in function `max()` takes a vector and returns the largest element along with its index. Of course the built-in function `abs()` returns a vector in which all of the elements are converted to their absolute value. The first return argument to `max()` is the actual maximum value but we actually do not need the value; we just need to know which row it is in, which is provided by the return argument `j_piv`. We need both arguments on the right hand side—`~,j_piv`—but since we never use the first one, instead of storing the result in a variable, we replace the variable with a tilde (`~`). If we assigned the first argument to a variable but then never used it, MATLAB's code analyzer would issue a warning. This usage avoids such a warning.

❷ Since we only used a portion of the column of `A` in our call to `max`, we need to adjust the value of `j_piv` to reflect the true row index of the maximum value in the pivot column.

❸ This—`save, over-write, and replace`—idiom for copying/swapping elements frequently appears in algorithms for scientific computing.

```

% introduce zeros in column j below pivot
for i = (j+1):n
    m = A(i,j)/A(j,j);
    A(i,j:n) = A(i,j:n) - m*A(j,j:n); ❸
    b(i) = b(i) - m*b(j);
end
end

```

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❸ This part of the algorithm is the same as the non-pivoting version.

SOME QUESTIONS THAT you might have right now include:

1. “Is ‘row swapping’ really a valid matrix operation?” The answer is: yes. We can effect a row swap operation, such as for example swapping the first and fourth rows, by multiplying both sides of our linear system of equations by a *permutation matrix*. The details of this matrix will be discussed in the next lecture. While we are on that topic, the operation of “*subtracting*” a factor of one row from another can also be expressed as a matrix multiplication operation. This will also be discussed in the next lecture.
2. “Isn’t it a lot of work to swap the rows?” The answer is: it can be, but it is worth it. Some high performance libraries manage to replicate the *effect* of swapping the rows without doing all of the work—e.g. by permuting row indices and accessing matrix elements indirectly via such a permuted array of indices. Whatever the case, it turns out that, for real matrices of interest, it is worthwhile to do the extra work because, if we do not, the answer we get will often be entirely wrong.

### Matrix Market Test Repository

The Matrix Market is an online repository of matrices that can be used to test and benchmark algorithms for solving linear systems of equations.<sup>1</sup> Example matrices that we have used so far are helpful in illustrating an algorithm and performing simple tests to make sure everything is working. MATLAB also has tools for generation of random matrices that can also be helpful. But, if you want to know if the algorithm you have developed will work well on *relevant* matrices, you need a resource like the Matrix Market. With the Matrix Market you can browse through and select from a selection of hundreds of *actual* linear systems of equations created as part of a real system. The Matrix Market also includes information about test matrices such as whether or not it is symmetric, positive definite, has real or complex entries, and for sparse matrices, the total number of non-zero entries. Matrix Market provides utility routines to allow automatically loading matrix data into the MATLAB environment.

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Standards and Technology. Matrix Market. URL <https://math.nist.gov/MatrixMarket/>. Accessed on July 18, 2023

We WILL USE some matrices obtained from the Matrix Market to compare the performance of the Gauss elimination and Gauss elimination with pivoting algorithms. The metric we will use to measure performance will be the *relative residual*. The residual is calculated from Equation 145.

$$r = b - Ax \quad (145)$$

The *relative residual* is just the residual divided by the norm of  $b$ .

$$\text{Relative Residual} = \frac{\|b - Ax\|_2}{\|b\|_2} \quad (146)$$

If you have the exact solution,  $x^*$ , the residual will be zero:

$$Ax^* = b \Rightarrow r = b - Ax^* = 0$$

In general, however, we do not get the exact solution. This is because the elements of  $A$  and  $b$  are represented with double precision floating point numbers which, in general, are not exact. Each mathematical operation we do with these inexact numbers, incurs additional errors that accumulate throughout the algorithm. We claimed that Gauss elimination without pivoting incurred more of these errors; we will use samples from the Matrix Market to see how differently the algorithms perform on relevant matrices.

1.  $A = \text{rand}(50,50)$ . Lest you think that tools like Matrix Market might be unnecessary, we will start by using a random  $50 \times 50$  matrix generated by MATLAB. We compare the relative residual of the solution using three different solvers. The results are shown in Table 4.

Note that, while the relative residual is small in all cases, the relative residual for Gauss elimination without pivoting is *roughly 100 times* as big as that for Gauss elimination with pivoting.

2.  $A = \text{rand}(150,150)$ . We will try again with a slightly larger matrix and see what happens. The results are shown in Table 5.

Again we see that the relative residual is small, but there is a marked difference in the result with and without pivoting. Let us now use matrices from real applications.

3. LNS 131. This matrix is from the Harwell-Boeing Collection. It is a  $131 \times 131$  sparse, unsymmetric matrix with real entries that was derived from a simple fluid flow modeling problem. The results are shown in Table 6.

What you see in the table is not a typo. The relative residual from the answer we obtained from Gauss elimination without pivoting

Algorithm	Relative Residual
Gauss Elim.	4.931e-13
Gauss Pivot	3.115e-15
Backslash	2.617e-15

Table 4: Comparison for random  $50 \times 50$  matrix.

Algorithm	Relative Residual
Gauss Elim.	2.482e-12
Gauss Pivot	2.284e-14
Backslash	2.803e-14

Table 5: Comparison for random  $150 \times 150$  matrix.

Algorithm	Relative Residual
Gauss Elim.	3.119
Gauss Pivot	1.486e-7
Backslash	1.118e-7

Table 6: Comparison for LNS 131 from the Matrix Market.

is greater than one. This means our answer is essentially worthless. The relative residual from Gauss elimination with pivoting and backslash are nearly the same and 8 orders of magnitude smaller. This is a relevant matrix and this should help illustrate why pivoting is so essential.

4. LNS 511. This matrix is also from the Harwell-Boeing Collection. It is, as you may guess, a  $511 \times 511$  unsymmetric matrix with real entries. The results are shown in Table 7.

You can see from the last two examples that the performance of both Gauss elimination with pivoting and the backslash operator are worse for the bigger matrices. As we will discuss in future lectures, the issue is not that the matrices are bigger, although that does not help; the issue is related to the *condition number* of the respective matrices. The condition number of LNS131 is  $9.8 \times 10^9$ ; the condition number for LNS 511 is  $5.2 \times 10^{10}$ . We will learn that a higher condition number is related to the accuracy that we can obtain with a numeric solution represented in floating point numbers. A higher condition number means the solution will be less accurate. We see that trend in the last two test cases and we can see that, without the benefits obtained by pivoting, the answer we get from Gauss elimination is essentially worthless for relevant matrices.

Algorithm	Relative Residual
Gauss Elim.	1.276
Gauss Pivot	9.045e-5
Backslash	5.460e-5

Table 7: Comparison for LNS 511 from the Matrix Market.

## Assignment #3

1. Consider a non-linear system of equations comprising the following functions:

$$\begin{aligned}f(x, y) &= x^2 + y^2 - 25 = 0 \\g(x, y) &= x^2 - y - 2 = 0\end{aligned}$$

Create a function to carry out Newton's method for finding a root for this system of non-linear equations. The function should have the signature: `Xs = NewtonSystemSol(Fun, Jac, Xo, Tol, MaxIt)` where `Xs` is a root, `Fun` and `Jac` are handles to the system of functions to be solved and the Jacobian matrix, respectively. `Xo` is an initial estimate of the root, `Tol` is the error tolerance and `MaxIt` is the maximum number of iterations to perform.

The error tolerance should be based on the relative change of each component of the estimated root. `Tol` should be set to  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ , `MaxIt` should be set to 25, and you should use `Xa = [2.5, 2.5]` to find the root in the upper right-hand quadrant of the coordinate system.

2. A coating on a panel surface is cured by radiant energy from a heater. The temperature of the coating is determined by radiative and convective heat transfer processes. If the radiation is treated as diffuse and gray, the following non-linear system of equations determine the unknowns:  $J_h$ ,  $T_h$ ,  $J_c$ , and  $T_c$ .

$$\begin{aligned}5.67 \times 10^{-8} T_c^4 + 17.41 T_c - J_c &= 5188.18 \\J_c - 0.71 J_h + 7.46 T_c &= 2352.71 \\5.67 \times 10^{-8} T_h^4 + 1.865 T_h - J_h &= 2250 \\J_h - 0.71 J_c + 7.46 T_h &= 11093\end{aligned}$$

Use MATLAB's built-in function `fsolve` to find values of  $J_h$ ,  $T_h$ ,  $J_c$  and  $T_c$  that satisfy this system of equations. Use `optimoptions()` to set the maximum iterations at 50, and the '`StepTolerance`' to  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ . For a starting value, use  $T_c = T_h = 298$ ,  $J_c = 3000$  and  $J_h = 5000$ .

3. Referring to Problem #2 above, if you were to solve that system of equations using Newton's method, you would need to determine the Jacobian matrix. Write down a symbolic version of the Jacobian matrix.

4. Solve the following system of equations using the Gauss elimination method.

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 + x_2 - x_3 &= 1 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 &= 8 \\ -x_1 + x_2 - x_3 &= -5 \end{aligned}$$

5. The axial force,  $F_i$ , in each of the 13-members of the pin-connected truss (add figure) can be calculated by solving the following system of 13 equations:

$$\begin{aligned} F_2 + 0.707F_1 &= 0 \\ F_3 - 0.797F_1 - 2000 &= 0 \\ 0.7071F_1 + F_4 + 6229 &= 0 \\ -F_2 + 0.659F_5 + F_6 &= 0 \\ -F_4 - 0.753F_5 - 600 &= 0 \\ -F_3 - 0.659F_5 + F_7 &= 0 \\ 0.753F_5 + F_8 &= 0 \\ -F_6 + 0.659F_9 + F_{10} &= 0 \\ -F_8 - 0.753F_9 - 800 &= 0 \\ -F_7 - 0.659F_9 + F_{11} &= 0 \\ 0.753F_9 + F_{12} - 2429 &= 0 \\ -F_{10} + 0.707F_{13} &= 0 \\ -F_{12} - 0.7071F_{13} - 600 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

# *Lecture 9 - LU Factorization*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Quantify the computational work of Gauss elimination.
- Describe the LU factorization.
- Demonstrate how to use the LU factorization for solving systems of equations.

## *Computational Work of Gauss Elimination*

Throughout this course we have taken a rather crass approach to the amount of work done by the computer. This reflects, in part, a basic reality that for many undergraduate students of engineering, most of the computer-based work comprises time that students spend writing and debugging code. The amount of time that the computer actually spends executing the program, in many cases, is trivial.

Looking ahead to some of the numerical methods that will be learned in this course, the situation will change. Programs that analyze initial boundary value problems based on the finite difference method or finite element method will need to solve large systems of linear or non-linear equations. These systems of equations are often large—it is not unusual to have millions of equations and unknowns—and the time that the computer spends assembling and solving these equations becomes significant. Applications of this type are so important that modern high performance computing systems are regularly benchmarked based on how fast they can solve such problems.<sup>1</sup>

In this section will will undertake a high-level analysis of the computational work required to perform Gauss elimination. We will break this analysis into two parts: a) the forward elimination phase; and b) the back-substitution phase.

<sup>1</sup> University of Tennessee, Knoxville. HPL Benchmark. URL <https://icl.utk.edu/hpl/index.html>. Accessed on July 19, 2023; and Top500. The Top 500 List. URL <https://top500.org/>. Accessed on July 19, 2023

### Forward Elimination

MATLAB code for the forward elimination phase is shown in the listing below:

```

for j = 1:n-1 ❶
    for i = (j+1):n ❷
        m = A(i,j)/A(j,j); % calculate pivot ❸
        A(i,j:n) = A(i,j:n) - m*A(j,j:n); ❹

        b(i) = b(i) - m*b(j); % update the right hand side ❺
    end
end

```

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- ❶** The outer loop, `for j=1:n-1...end`, will be traversed  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  times.<sup>2</sup>
- ❷** The inner loop, `for i=(j+1):n ... end`, also will be traversed  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  times.
- ❸** This line performs one floating point operation (FLOP) to calculate the pivot.
- ❹** This line performs  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  floating point operations. These include multiplication of a vector by a scalar and vector addition.
- ❺** This line performs two FLOPs: scalar multiplication and scalar addition.

Overall the forward-elimination part of the algorithm requires:  $\mathcal{O}(n) \times \mathcal{O}(n) \times \mathcal{O}(n)$  operations to traverse the two nested loops and carry out the operations inside. The asymptotic operation count is thus:  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ .

<sup>2</sup> Here we adopt “Big oh” notation. It is used to characterize the complexity and running time of an algorithm in asymptotic fashion. So in this case,  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  means that, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the running time of this part of the code increases linearly with  $n$ . Small details like constant factors are ignored. It also means that lower order terms get ignored. For example, a function that requires  $n^3 + n^2 + n$  calculations would be characterized as  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$  since, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the  $n^2$  and  $n$  terms become insignificant relative to  $n^3$ .

### Back-Substitution

MATLAB code for the back-substitution phase is shown in the listing below:

```

x = nan(n,1);
for i = n:-1:1      ❻
    x(i) = (b(i) - ...
              A(i,(i+1):n)*x((i+1):n))/A(i,i);
end

```

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- ❻** This loop is traversed  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  times.
- ❼** This line performs  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  FLOPS for vector dot product, scalar addition and division.

Overall, the back-substitution part of the algorithm requires:  $\mathcal{O}(n) \times \mathcal{O}(n)$  operations; the asymptotic operation count is therefore:  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .

TAKEN TOGETHER, the entire Gauss elimination algorithm requires  $\mathcal{O}(n^3) + \mathcal{O}(n^2)$  operations for a total asymptotic complexity of:  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ . For large enough matrices, if you double the matrix size, the computer will need to perform a factor of  $\approx 2^3$  more floating point operations and, roughly speaking, can be expected to take  $2^3$  times as long. This is shown in Figure 76.

### LU Factorization

One problem with the Gauss elimination algorithm as described so far is this: if you want to repeat the solution with a different right-hand-side, you would need to repeat all of the work you had just done. We will not cover it in this class, but one possible solution to this problem is to devise an algorithm like Gauss elimination<sup>3</sup> that, in addition to solving the problem for the unknown vector  $x$ , also finds  $A^{-1}$ , the inverse of  $A$ . With the inverse, we could find  $x$  for a new right hand side with a simple matrix-vector multiplication.

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= b \\ A^{-1}Ax &= A^{-1}b \\ Ix &= A^{-1}b \\ \Rightarrow x &= A^{-1}b \end{aligned}$$

As asymptotic analysis will readily show, matrix multiplication has  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  complexity, so we can re-compute  $x$  for any new  $b$  in a small fraction of the time that it would take to re-perform Gauss elimination. We will not do this, however. Instead we will perform a *factorization* of  $A$  in such a way that we can solve the linear system,  $Ax = b$ , with  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  operations, for any new right hand side,  $b$ . This is called the *LU factorization* and it is both faster and more-accurate (in floating point arithmetic) than finding the matrix inverse.<sup>4</sup>

The LU factorization decomposes an invertible matrix into:

- A lower triangular matrix  $L$ ; and
- an upper triangular matrix  $U$

such that  $A = LU$ . It turns out that, while carrying out the Gauss elimination algorithm we actually computed the elements of the LU

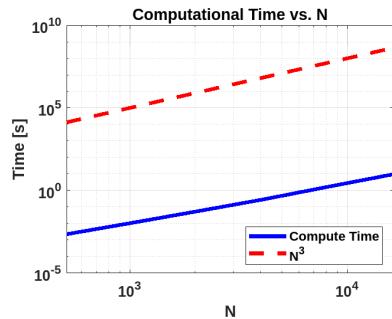


Figure 76: Computing time vs.  $n$  for Gauss elimination.

<sup>3</sup> The Gauss-Jordan elimination does this.

<sup>4</sup> Nick Higham. What is the Matrix Inverse? URL <https://nhigham.com/2022/03/28/what-is-the-matrix-inverse/>. Accessed on July 19, 2023

factorization:

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{bmatrix}}_A = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ m_{21} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ m_{31} & m_{32} & 1 & 0 \\ m_{41} & m_{42} & m_{43} & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_L \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ 0 & a'_{22} & a'_{23} & a'_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & a''_{33} & a''_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & a'''_{44} \end{bmatrix}}_U$$

Where the pivots comprise the elements of  $L$  and the transformed coefficient matrix after Gauss elimination is  $U$ . In a sense, all we have to do is “write down what we are doing” during the forward elimination portion of Gauss elimination in order to obtain the LU factorization. This is illustrated in the MATLAB code below:

```

function [L,U] = LU_Factor(A)
% LU factorization without pivoting

[m,n] = size(A); % get rows and columns of A
U = A; ❶
L = eye(m,n); % constructor for identity matrix.

for k = 1:(m-1)
    for j = (k+1):m
        L(j,k) = U(j,k)/U(k,k); ❷
        U(j,k:m) = U(j,k:m) - L(j,k)*U(k,k:m); ❸
    end
end
end

```

- ❶ Initialize  $U = A$ . Carry out operations on  $U$  just as you did for  $A$  in forward elimination phase of Gauss elimination.
- ❷ Compute the pivot and store in  $L$ .
- ❸ Carry out elimination step on  $U$ .

Now that we have the LU factorization, suppose we want to solve a new linear system with the same matrix  $A$  but a new right hand side:  $c$ .

$$Ax = c$$

$$LUx = c$$

Let us denote  $y = Ux$  and solve:

$$Ly = c$$

Since  $L$  is lower triangular, we can solve for  $y$  using *forward substitution*. MATLAB code for forward substitution is presented below:

```

function y = ForwardSub(L,c)
n = length(c);
y(1,1) = c(1)/L(1,1);
for i = 2:n
    y(i,1)=(c(i)-L(i,1:(i-1))*y(1:(i-1),1))./L(i,i);
end
end

```

Then we can obtain  $x$  by solving  $Ux = y$  with backward substitution.  
MATLAB code for backward substitution is presented below:

```
function x = BackwardSub(U,y)
n = length(y);
for i = n:-1:1
    x(i,1)=(y(i)-U(i,(i+1):n)*x((i+1):n,1))/U(i,i);
end
end
```

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which you should recognize as being the same as the backward substitution step used in Gauss elimination.

The MATLAB listing below puts this all together for a simple example:

```
A = [4, -2, -3, 6;
      -6, 7, 6.5, -6;
      1, 7.5, 6.25, 5.5;
      -12, 22, 15.5, -1];
b = [12;
      -6.5;
      16;
      17];
[L,U] = LU_Factor(A);
y = ForwardSub(L,b);
x = BackwardSub(U,y);

%% Local functions
function [L,U] = LU_Factor(A)
% LU factorization without pivoting
[m,n] = size(A); % get rows and columns of A
U = A;
L = eye(m,n); % constructor for identity matrix.

for k = 1:(m-1)
    for j = (k+1):m
        L(j,k) = U(j,k)/U(k,k);
        U(j,k:m) = U(j,k:m) - L(j,k)*U(k,k:m);
    end
end

function y = ForwardSub(L,c)
n = length(c);
y(1,1) = c(1)/L(1,1);
for i = 2:n
    y(i,1)=(c(i)-L(i,1:(i-1))*y(1:(i-1),1))./L(i,i);
end
end

function x = BackwardSub(U,y)
n = length(y);
for i = n:-1:1
    x(i,1)=(y(i)-U(i,(i+1):n)*x((i+1):n,1))/U(i,i);
end
end
```

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### *LU Factorization with Pivoting*

As we saw in the last lecture, pivoting is an essential operation if you want to accurately solve relevant matrices. Pivot operations can be captured in a *permutation matrix*. Switching rows in a vector or a matrix is equivalent to multiplying by the identity matrix with columns switched. For example, when pivoting is performed on the matrix example from Lecture 8, the final permuted row ordering is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{Swapped } 1\&4} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{Swapped } 2\&3} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{Swapped } 3\&4} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

We can represent this as a permutation matrix,  $P$ , constructed as the identity matrix with columns correspondingly reordered.

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

To solve a system of equations with LU-factoring with pivoting:

$PA = LU$	Perform LU factorization on $PA$ .
$b_p = Pb$	Permute $b$ .
$Ly = b_p$	Forward solve for $y$ .
$Ux = y$	Backward solve for $x$ .

In MATLAB code:

```
[L,U] = LU_Factor(P*A);
bp = P*b;
y = ForwardSub(L,bp);
x_p = BackwardSub(U,y);
```

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In this class we will not implement our own LU-factorization with pivoting and, instead, use MATLAB built-in functions for this task.

# Lecture 10 - MATLAB Built-in Methods and Error Estimates

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Describe the most important MATLAB built-in method for finding the direct solution to linear systems of equations.
- Define matrix norms and condition number.
- Introduce an error estimate for solution of linear systems of equations.

## MATLAB Built-in Methods

For most applications, the MATLAB function to use for solving linear systems of equations is `mldivide(A,b)` which is most conveniently accessed via the “backslash” operator \.

MATLAB’s function `mldivide(A,b)` selects from an array of algorithms depending on the structure of A. A portion of the logic is shown in Figure 77.

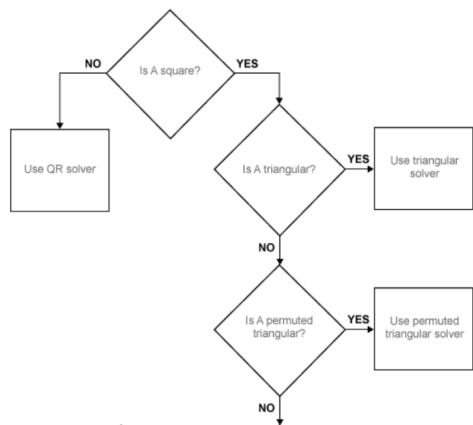


Figure 77: Logic tree for `mldivide()`, part 1.

Most algorithms require A to be square. If A is not square, then A is not invertible and the problem is more aptly described as a least-squares linear fit that we will discuss in later lectures. A “QR solver” carries out the decomposition  $A=QR$ , where Q is the same size as A but with orthonormal columns; R is  $[n \times n]$  and upper triangular.

If A is triangular or permuted triangular, back- or forward- substitution should be used instead of full Gauss elimination or LU factorization.

The remaining logic tree for `mldivide(A,b)` is shown in Figure 78.

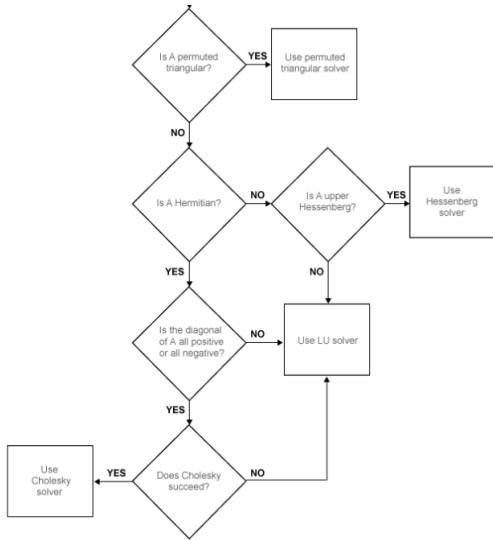


Figure 78: Logic tree for `mldivide()`, part 2.

A *Hermitian* matrix satisfies the equality  $A^* = A$  where  $A^*$  denotes the transpose and complex conjugate of  $A$ . Think of a Hermitian matrix as a symmetric matrix generalized for complex numbers.

If a matrix is Hermitian and if the matrix is positive definite (all positive or all negative entries along the diagonal being a hint that this property is true) then a Cholesky factorization is possible that is roughly twice as fast as an LU factorization. Otherwise an LU factorization is used.

If  $A$  is not Hermitian, MATLAB checks if it, perchance, is upper Hessenberg. A matrix is *upper Hessenberg* if it has non-zero entries on the upper triangular portion of  $A$  plus is non-zero on the first diagonal below the main diagonal. Matrices of this structure are formed as an intermediate step in matrix eigenvalue calculations. A Hessenberg solver will take advantage of the zeros below the first sub-diagonal and find a solution more expeditiously than a general LU solver.

<sup>1</sup> Lloyd N Trefethen and David Bau. *Numerical Linear Algebra*. SIAM, 2022

As SHOULD BE APPARENT, a *lot* of technology is crammed into the innocent-looking `mldivide` function. We cannot hope to investigate all of these methods in this course. I refer interested readers to an outstanding text by one of my favorite mathematical authors for a more thorough (and rigorous) overview of methods of numerical linear algebra.<sup>1</sup> Instead, I offer the following advice:

1. If the full matrix fits in memory and you only need to solve it once, use `mldivide(A,b)`—or just '`A\b`'.
2. Use a factorization, or *decomposition*, if you must solve the system for multiple times for different values of  $b$ . MATLAB offers a built-in function to do this: `decomposition(A,type)`, where the second (optional) argument is a string to specify the type of decomposition that is desired. These types include: '`lu`', '`qr`', '`chol`', and '`auto`' among others.<sup>2</sup> An example listing using this feature is given below.

```

n = 5;
A = rand(n,n);
b1 = rand(n,1); b2 = rand(n,1);

Ad = decomposition(A, 'auto');

x1 = Ad\b1;
x2 = Ad\b2;
  
```

<sup>2</sup> When you select `type='auto'`, which also happens to be the default if no type is specified, MATLAB determines which decomposition is best.

3. If the matrix is very large, consider an iterative method that we will discuss in the next lecture. In applications, large matrices tend

to be *sparse*—most of the elements are zero. The decomposition of large sparse matrices is often dense, however, so these methods may not be practical. We will focus on this issue in the next lecture.

### Matrix Norms and Condition Number

A norm is a real number assigned to a matrix or vector that satisfies the following four properties:

1.  $\|x\| \geq 0$  and  $\|x\| = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$ .
2.  $\|\alpha x\| = |\alpha| \|x\|$  for any constant  $\alpha$ .
3.  $\|Ax\| \leq \|A\| \|x\|$  where  $A$  is a matrix and  $x$  is a vector of dimensions conformable with  $A$ .
4. For any two vectors  $x$ , and  $y$ :  $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$ . This is referred to as the “triangle inequality.”

Some common vector and matrix norms are defined in Table 8. The

Vector Norms	Matrix Norms
$\ x\ _\infty = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n}  x_i $	$\ A\ _\infty = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sum_{j=1}^n  a_{ij} $ max sum of row absolute value
$\ x\ _1 = \sum_{i=1}^n  x_i $	$\ A\ _1 = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \sum_{i=1}^n  a_{ij} $ max sum of column absolute value
$\ x\ _2 = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n  x_i ^2 \right)^{1/2}$	$\ A\ _2 = \max \left( \frac{\ Ax\ _2}{\ x\ _2} \right)$ over all vectors $x$

matrix 2-norm— $\|A\|_2$ —is *induced* from the vector 2-norm. It is meant to characterize the *action* of the matrix  $A$  on some vector  $x$ . For this book, the most important norm is the vector 2-norm and the induced matrix 2-norm. If the type of norm is not mentioned, you should assume it is a 2-norm.

### Matrix Condition Number

The condition number is a useful property of a matrix. It is defined by Equation 147:

$$\kappa(A) = \|A\| \|A^{-1}\| \quad (147)$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  refers to any valid matrix norm. Some important condition number facts<sup>3</sup> include:

1. The condition number of the identity matrix (of any size) is 1.

Table 8: Common vector and matrix norms.

A generalization of the vector norms presented is the  $p$ -norm:

$$\|x\|_p = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

As  $p$  increases, the value of  $\max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |x_i|^p$  gets large relative to all of the other values of  $|x_i|^p$ ; in the limit of  $p \rightarrow \infty$  only the largest value  $|x_i|^p$  matters and thus we get the “infinity norm”:  $\|x\|_\infty$ . A less common matrix norm is the Frobenius norm or “taxi-cab” norm:

$$\|A\|_F = \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

which, if nothing else, has a fun name.

<sup>3</sup> If you find this to be boring, Google “Chuck Norris Facts” instead.

2. All other matrices have a condition number of 1 or greater.
3. The numerical value of  $\kappa(A)$  depends on the norm used in calculating it but, generally speaking, a matrix that has a very large condition number is said to be *ill conditioned*.
4. In the matrix 2-norm, the matrix condition number is equal to:

$$\kappa(A) = \frac{\sigma_{\max}}{\sigma_{\min}}$$

where  $\sigma$  are singular values. For real, symmetric matrices, the singular values are equal to the absolute values of the eigenvalues.

### Relative Error Bounds

We can use the condition number of a matrix to derive error bounds on the solution to a linear system of equations. As a reminder, for a numeric solution to a linear system of equations, we can define the residual as:

$$r = Ax^{NS} - b$$

where  $x^{NS}$  is the numeric solution. The relative residual is:

$$\text{relative residual} = \frac{\|r\|}{\|b\|}$$

Also recall that we define the error as:

$$e = x^* - x^{NS}$$

where  $x^*$  is the exact solution. The relative error is:

$$\text{relative error} = \frac{\|e\|}{\|x^*\|}$$

We would like to know what the relative error is but, in general, we do not know the exact solution. What we *can* do is obtain a bound on the relative error based on the condition number and relative residual; both of which we can compute. This error bound is given in Equation 148.

$$\frac{1}{\kappa(A)} \frac{\|r\|}{\|b\|} \leq \frac{\|e\|}{\|x^*\|} \leq \kappa(A) \frac{\|r\|}{\|b\|} \quad (148)$$

We can use this expression to predict an error bound and quantify the impact of attempting to solve an ill conditioned system of equations.

The singular value decomposition (SVD) of a matrix  $A$  is given by:

$$A = U\Sigma V^*$$

where  $U$  and  $V^*$  are orthonormal matrices in which the columns are referred to as left singular vectors and right singular vectors respectively and  $\Sigma$  is a diagonal matrix with the singular values of  $A$ . The SVD of a real symmetric matrix is related to the eigenvalue decomposition:

$$A^* A = V \Sigma^* \Sigma V^*$$

where  $\Sigma$  is a diagonal matrix with the eigenvalues along the diagonal.

# *Lecture 11 Sparse Matrices and Iterative Methods*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Describe sparse matrices and their importance in scientific computing.
- Introduce iterative solution methods.

## *Introduction*

Up to this point we have discussed a handful of methods for solving linear systems of equations. We studied Gauss elimination with and without pivoting; LU factorization which, to be sure, is basically the same as Gauss elimination. We also learned a little bit about the array of solution methods that are used in MATLAB's built-in tools for linear equations such as the QR factorization and LDL and Cholesky factorizations. These are fundamental methods that should be in the toolbox of every engineer.

There are practical situations where these direct solution methods for linear equations are not suitable. Physical conservation laws that are encoded in partial differential equations, discretized and solved using methods like the finite element method (FEM) and finite volume method (FVM) result in large systems of linear equations. A high-resolution simulation will routinely require upwards of  $10^5$  degrees of freedom<sup>1</sup> to adequately resolve the physics of interest such as: the flow field around an automobile to estimate drag forces; stress and strain distribution within a complex structural component to ensure material failure limits are not exceeded; or the component temperature in the vicinity of a weld process.

Just *storing* the matrices used to represent these linear systems—something, for example, like a  $10^5 \times 10^5$  matrix<sup>2</sup>—requires us to take a new approach from what we have described up to now. Likewise solving the systems to find the unknown vectors—whether the vector

<sup>1</sup> In this context, the number of *degrees of freedom* can be interpreted to refer to the length of a vector describing the unknown function.

<sup>2</sup> Such a matrix has  $10^{10}$  entries. If each entry is represented with a double-precision floating point number (8 bytes each), that adds up to roughly 80 Gigabytes of memory just to *store* the matrix.

represents temperature, pressure, a velocity component, or a component of material displacement—requires new techniques.

### Sparse Matrices

Matrices that arise as part of a finite difference method or finite element method are almost always *sparse*. This means that for every row of the matrix, corresponding to a linear equation pertaining to a single degree of freedom, most of the entries are equal to zero.

As an example, consider a finite element discretization of the transient heat equation on a domain that is rectangular in shape, but with a hole in the middle. The mesh is depicted in Figure 79. The governing equation is shown in Equation 149:

$$\frac{k}{\rho c_p} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 u + S \quad (149)$$

where  $k$  is the thermal conductivity,  $\rho$  is density,  $c_p$  is the specific heat,  $S$  corresponds to a constant uniform heat source,  $u$  is the temperature, and  $t$  is time. In the finite element method, this equation and specified boundary conditions are translated into a linear system of equations:

$$Au = b$$

The non-zero structure of this system of equations can be observed using MATLAB's built-in function `spy(A)`, and the result is shown in Figure 80. The system of equations has 9824 nodes, each with a single degree of freedom. The resulting  $9824 \times 9824$  matrix  $A$  has a total of 67,904 non-zero entries; an average of about 8 non-zero elements per equation.<sup>3</sup> This pattern, which is typical for such matrices, can be exploited by only storing and carrying out arithmetic with the non-zero entries of the matrix.

There are a number of sparse-matrix storage formats in use. MATLAB uses the compressed-sparse-column (CSC) storage format.<sup>4</sup> If there are  $nnz$  non-zero entries in a  $n \times n$  sparse array, MATLAB stores one (double precision) vector of length  $nnz$  with the non-zero values—call this vector: `ENTRY`; another vector of integers of length  $nnz$ —call this vector: `ROW`—with the row-number for each non-zero; and a third vector of integers of length  $n + 1$ —call this vector: `COL`—that stores the index (from the `ENTRY` array) of the first non-zero from each column and terminated with  $nnz + 1$ . An example of this format is shown in Figure 81.

The total storage required is  $nnz \times 8$  bytes for the `ENTRY` array +  $nnz \times 4$  bytes for the `ROW` array +  $(n + 1) \times 4$  bytes for the `COL` array. In asymptotic notation,  $\mathcal{O}(nnz + n)$  bytes of storage are required. Contrast this with  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  for dense matrices. If  $nnz \ll n$  the savings

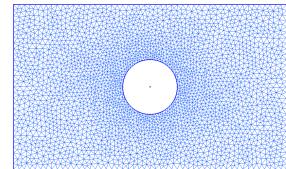


Figure 79: A triangular mesh for a finite element method analysis of the transient heat equation.

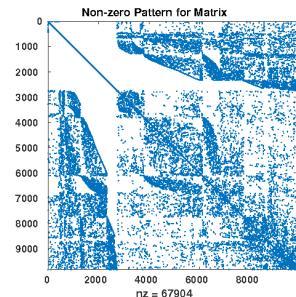


Figure 80: Non-zeros in linear system for transient heat conduction.

<sup>3</sup> Bottom Line Up Front: this number of non-zeros per row is typical for two-dimensional systems with linear, triangular elements. The number of non-zeros per equation for the FEM or FVM depends on a number of factors: a) number of degrees of freedom per node; b) the number of spatial dimensions; c) the number of internal degrees of freedom for each finite element, among other factors. This will be discussed in detail in later lectures on finite element methods.

<sup>4</sup> John R Gilbert, Cleve Moler, and Robert Schreiber. Sparse matrices in matlab: Design and implementation. *SIAM journal on matrix analysis and applications*, 13(1):333–356, 1992

Matrix:	$\begin{bmatrix} 8 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 16 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$
ENTRY:	$\begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 16 \\ 2 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$
ROW:	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$
COL:	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$

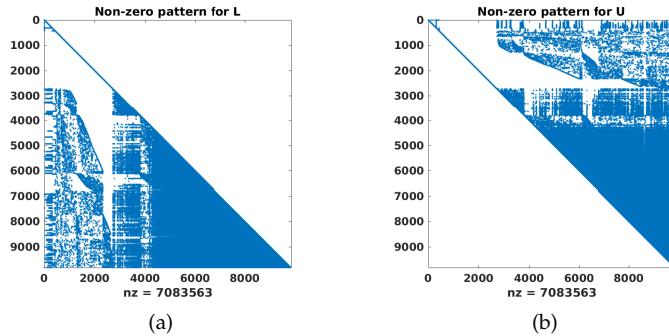
Figure 81: Example sparse matrix in Compressed Sparse Column format.

with sparse matrices is huge. The key issues to keep in mind are these:

1. Exploiting the sparsity of these matrices is not a performance enhancement, it is a necessity. Simulations of practical interest often result in systems of equations that can *only* be stored as a sparse matrix.
2. The resulting matrix, if it is to be solved, *cannot* be solved by Gauss elimination related algorithms like LU-factorization.

The reason for the second point is that, even for matrices that are sparse, the LU-factorization (or modified coefficient array for Gauss elimination) for that matrix usually is not sparse. The forward elimination process common to both of the aforementioned techniques systematically destroys the sparsity pattern. This effect is shown in Figure 82.

In terms of FLOPs, sparse matrix calculations are slower. Dense matrix algorithms are heavily optimized to make best use of the memory hierarchy of common computer architectures resulting in high computational intensity—calculations performed for each byte loaded from memory—and consequently achieve high performance. Sparse matrix algorithms have lower computational intensity and the memory access patterns are harder to optimize for multi-threaded execution. As a result, sparse matrix operations are relatively slow. Readers are encouraged to experiment with MATLAB to get a better feel for the relative performance of dense and sparse matrix operations.



For the larger systems of equations that we want to solve for more interesting problems, this kind of fill-in defeats any benefit obtainable through use of sparse matrices.

### *Iterative Solution Methods*

The fundamental idea of iterative methods for solving linear systems of equations is this: given an estimate of the solution,  $x^{(k)}$ , find a method to generate a new estimate,  $x^{(k+1)}$ , that is easy to compute and that ultimately converges to the solution of  $Ax = b$ . Some of the methods that we will discuss in this lecture all involve *splitting* the matrix  $A$  into a decomposition  $A = M - K$  with  $M$  non-singular and

very easy to invert. If this is done, the iterative scheme is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= b \\ (M - K)x &= b \\ \rightarrow Mx &= Kx + b \\ \rightarrow x &= M^{-1}(Kx + b) \\ &= \underbrace{M^{-1}K}_{R}x + \underbrace{M^{-1}b}_{c} \end{aligned}$$

The resulting iterative method is shown in Equation 150:

$$x^{(k+1)} = Rx^k + c \quad (150)$$

where  $k$  is the iteration number.

Instead of solving a system of equations by factoring the coefficient matrix, we create what we hope to be a convergent sequence of approximations to the solution by repeated matrix-vector multiplication. Each matrix-vector multiplication operation takes, for dense matrices,  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  operations. Since the matrix  $R$  is sparse and operations with zero entries of the matrix are eliminated, each matrix-vector multiplication takes only  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  operations.

### Jacobi Iteration

In this method,  $M$  is defined to be the diagonal of  $A$ , and  $K$  is the sum of the strictly lower and upper triangular portion of  $A$ .<sup>5</sup>

$$M = \text{diag}(A) \quad (151)$$

$$K = \tilde{L} + \tilde{U} \quad (152)$$

**Note:** The matrix  $R$  plays an important part in the mathematical theory of iterative methods. One relevant result is that if

$$\|R\| < 1$$

in some matrix norm, then the iterative method will converge. To the best of my knowledge, this is *why* we carry out this business with splitting.

<sup>5</sup> James W Demmel. *Applied numerical linear algebra*. SIAM, 1997

where  $-\tilde{L}$  is the strictly lower triangular part of  $A$  and  $-\tilde{U}$  is the strictly upper triangular part of  $A$  so that:

$$A = M - (\tilde{L} + \tilde{U})$$

For a diagonal matrix, the inverse is just the same matrix with the diagonal elements inverted:

$$M^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{a_{11}} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \frac{1}{a_{nn}} \end{bmatrix}$$

The iterative method is thus expressed:

$$\begin{aligned} x^{(k+1)} &= Rx^{(k)} + c \\ &= M^{-1}(\tilde{L} + \tilde{U})x^{(k)} + M^{-1}b \\ &= M^{-1}b - M^{-1}\tilde{L}x^{(k)} - M^{-1}\tilde{U}x^{(k)} \\ &= M^{-1}[b - \tilde{L}x^{(k)} - \tilde{U}x^{(k)}] \end{aligned}$$

We have manipulated the matrix equations to arrive at a more familiar form of the equation for Jacobi iteration, which is shown in Equation 153:

$$x_i^{(k+1)} = \frac{1}{a_{ii}} \left[ b_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} a_{ij} x_j^{(k)} - \sum_{j=i+1}^n a_{ij} x_j^{(k)} \right] \quad (153)$$

where we express the solution for one element of  $x^{(k+1)}$  at a time and the matrix-vector products are shown explicitly. A simple implementation of Equation 153 in MATLAB is shown in the following listing where  $x_{\text{in}}$  refers to  $x^{(k)}$  and  $x_{\text{new}}$  refers to  $x^{(k+1)}$ :

```
for i = 1:rows
    x_new(i) = (1/A(i,i))*(b(i)) - ... ❶
    A(i,1:(i-1))*x_in(1:(i-1)) - ... ❷
    A(i,(i+1):n)*x_in((i+1):n); ❸
end
```

❶  $x(i) = M^{-1}(b - \dots)$   
 ❷  $\dots Lx - \dots$   
 ❸  $\dots \tilde{U}x)$

The Jacobi method will converge to a solution provided that  $A$  is *diagonally dominant*.<sup>6</sup> A matrix is diagonally dominant if the following relation is true:

$$|a_{ii}| > \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n |a_{ij}|$$

The main advantages of the Jacobi method are that:

1. it is easy to implement; and
2. it is easy to parallelize. In principle, the elements of  $x^{(k+1)}$  can be updated in any order or all at the same time.

In the listing above, we do not take advantage of the ability to parallelize the Jacobi iteration. If we were to do this in MATLAB, we would need to structure the iteration so as to maximize Matrix-vector operations rather than element-wise operations so heavily used above. An improved implementation is shown below:

```
K = -(A - diag(diag(A))); ❹
M_inv = sparse(diag(1./diag(A))); ❺
(Code to set-up and start iteration)

x_new = M_inv*(K*x_in + b);
```

❹ The MATLAB function `diag(A)` returns a vector with just the elements on the main diagonal of  $A$ . The expression `diag(diag(A))` returns a square, diagonal matrix with only the elements on the main diagonal of  $A$ .

❺ This line provides a sparse matrix equivalent to  $M^{-1}$ .

Both  $K$  and  $M_{\text{inv}}$  are represented as sparse matrices.

The performance improvement from using the vectorized implementation will depend on  $A$  but for large matrices, each iteration will run much faster. A performance comparison is shown in Figure 83 for  $900 \times 900$  matrix run on a typical workstation using MATLAB R2022a. The vectorized version obtains the same answer but was more than 700 times faster. An important take-away from this example is: *how you write your MATLAB code can greatly impact performance*.

```
Command Window
Test matrix with 900 rows, 900 cols
Calculation with simple Jacobi iteration
Iteration: 500, relative update:0.000167804.
Iteration: 1000, relative update:3.47462e-06.
Iterative solution successful!
Residual norm: 7.93753e-07, after 1459 iterations.
Calculation with vectorized Jacobi iteration
Iteration: 500, relative update:0.000167804.
Iteration: 1000, relative update:3.47462e-06.
Iterative solution successful!
Residual norm: 7.93753e-07, after 1459 iterations.
Relative error: 1.29142e-05

Time for simple Jacobi: 16.116 sec
Time for vectorized Jacobi: 0.020949 sec
f1 >> |
```

Figure 83: Jacobi method performance comparison for  $900 \times 900$  test matrix.

The main disadvantage of the Jacobi method is *slow convergence*; compared to other methods, it typically takes many iterations to achieve a solution within a specified error tolerance.

### MATLAB Implementation of Jacobi Method

In this section we will present a full implementation of the Jacobi method.

As usual, we start by clearing out the workspace memory and command window output and close any figures. We use a `switch ... case` construct to allow selection between different linear systems.

```
%> Example: Jacobi Method Demonstration
clear
clc
close 'all'

sys_choice = 2;

switch sys_choice

    case 1
        A = [9 -2 3 2;
              2 8 -2 3;
              -3 2 11 -4;
              -2 3 2 10];
        b = [54.5;
              -14;
              12.5;
              -21];
        rows = 4; cols = 4;
        x_in = zeros(cols,1); %②
        show_x = 1; %③

    case 2
        [A,rows,cols,entries] = mmread('gr_30_30.mtx'); %④
        fprintf('Test matrix with %d rows, %d cols \n', ...
                rows,cols);
        b = rand(cols,1);
        x_in = zeros(rows,1);
        figure
        spy(A)
        title('Sparsity Pattern of Test Matrix')
        show_x = 0;

    otherwise
        error('Invalid system choice!\n');
end
```

❶ A diagonally dominant test matrix.

❷ We customarily use a zero vector for  $x^{(0)}$ . In more complex schemes a simple alternative method is used to obtain a low-order approximation of the solution that can thus be used for  $x^{(0)}$ . This, unsurprisingly results in faster convergence than the naive choice used here.

❸ Here we use `show_x` as a flag to indicate whether or not we want to show the answer in the command window. If I set `show_x=1`, that indicates I want the solution,  $x$ , to be output to the MATLAB command window. If `show_x=0` then  $x$  is not output. If  $x$  is a vector with only a few elements, it is worthwhile to visually inspect the result and see that it is correct. If  $x$  has hundreds or thousands of elements, such exercises are useless.

❹ This is a  $900 \times 900$  symmetric, positive definite matrix that has *weak* diagonal dominance. Weak diagonal dominance relaxes the requirement that the magnitude of the diagonal entry be greater than the sum of the absolute values of the off-diagonal entries; it can also be *equal* to the sum of the off-diagonal elements.

We need to specify stopping criteria. For iterative methods such as those under consideration in this lecture, one possible stopping criteria is shown in Equation 154.

$$\text{Estimated Relative Error} = \frac{\|x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)}\|_\infty}{\|x^{(k)}\|_\infty} \quad (154)$$

This stopping criteria has the disadvantage that it does not provide any real assurance that  $x^{(k+1)}$  is close to  $x^*$ . It only says that  $x^{(k+1)}$  is close to  $x^{(k)}$ . When evaluating the solution, you should also verify that the residual is small.<sup>7</sup>

The code listing below sets stopping criteria, invokes the Jacobi solver, and evaluates performance.

```
%> Solve using Jacobi Iteration
%
% set stopping criteria
imax = 1500; % max iterations
tol = 1e-7; % estimated relative error tolerance

fprintf('Calculation with simple Jacobi iteration \n');
tic;
[x_jac, norm_res, num_iter, exit_code] = ... ❸
    jacobi_solver(A,b,x_in,tol,imax);
time_jac = toc;

if exit_code == 1 ❹
    fprintf('Iterative solution converged!\n');
    fprintf('Residual norm: %g, after %d iterations.\n',...
        norm_res, num_iter);
end

if show_x
    fprintf('x = \n'); disp(x_jac); ❺
end

fprintf('Calculation with vectorized Jacobi iteration \n');
tic;
[x_jac_v, norm_res_v, num_iter_v, exit_code_v] = ...
    jacobi_solver_v(A,b,x_in,tol,imax);
time_jacv = toc;

if exit_code_v == 1
    fprintf('Iterative solution converged!\n');
    fprintf('Residual norm: %g, after %d iterations.\n',...
        norm_res_v, num_iter_v);
end

if show_x
    fprintf('x = \n'); disp(x_jac_v);
end
```

As previously discussed, even if the iterative scheme converges, we should check the relative residual to see if we have converged to something like the correct solution. Code to do this is in the next listing.

```
%> Check Relative Residual
%
fprintf('Relative residual Jacobi: %g \n',norm_res); ❻
fprintf('Relative residual vectorized Jacobi: %g \n',...
    norm_res_v);
```

Finally we present the full implementation of the Jacobi iteration. The basic version is in the listing below:

<sup>7</sup> You might ask: why not just use the relative residual,  $\|Ax^{(k+1)} - b\|/\|b\|$ , as a stopping criteria? My wan answer is: a lot of people use estimated relative error instead. A somewhat better reason is that if the estimated relative error from Equation 154 is very small, then  $x^{(k)}$  is changing only slightly with more iterations and, if the answer is bad at that point, it probably will not get better any time soon. My only advice is that you should check the relative residual when you are done to make sure your iteration did not converge to a garbage solution.

❸ The MATLAB functions tic and toc act as a simple timing tool. The call to tic starts the clock; when we call toc the clock is stopped and the elapsed time (in seconds) is returned and, in this case, assigned to the variable time\_jac.

❹ Here we make use of the exit\_code returned from our function. If exit\_code =1, that means the iterative solver stopped based on the estimated relative error.

❺ Here we make use of the show\_x variable. In this context, if show\_x is *not* equal to zero, the Boolean expression if show\_x evaluates as true and the if ... end block is executed; in this case, displaying x to the MATLAB command window.

❻ The relative residual calculation is implemented as part of the iterative schemes. It is not used as a stopping criterion but is passed back as a return argument.

```

%% Local functions
function [x_new,norm_res,num_iter,exit_code] = ...
    jacobi_solver(A,b,x_in,tol,imax)
[n,~] = size(A);
rel_update = inf;
x_new = x_in; % initialize x_new
for iter = 1:imax
    if (iter > 1) && (mod(iter,500) == 0)
        fprintf('Iteration: %d, relative update:%g.\n',...
            iter,rel_update);
    end
    for i = 1:n
        x_new(i) = (1/A(i,i))*(b(i) - ...
            A(i,1:(i-1))*x_in(1:(i-1)) - ...
            A(i,(i+1):n)*x_in((i+1):n));
    end
    if norm(x_in,"inf") ~= 0 % prevent nan
        rel_update = ...
            norm(x_new - x_in,"inf")/norm(x_in,"inf");
    end
    % check exit criteria
    if rel_update < tol
        exit_code = 1; % success
        break; % "break out" of the for loop
    end
    if iter == imax
        % maximum iterations reached
        exit_code = 0;
    end
    x_in = x_new;
end
norm_res = norm(A*x_new - b,2)/norm(x_new,2);
num_iter = iter;
end

```

And the, slightly different, vectorized version:

```

function [x_new,norm_res,num_iter,exit_code] = ...
    jacobi_solver_v(A,b,x_in,tol,imax)
rel_update = inf;
x_new = x_in; % initialize x_new
K = -(A - diag(diag(A)));
M_inv = sparse(diag(1./diag(A)));

for iter = 1:imax
    if (iter > 1) && (mod(iter,500) == 0)
        fprintf('Iteration: %d, relative update:%g.\n',...
            iter,rel_update);
    end
    x_new = M_inv*(K*x_in + b);

    if norm(x_in,"inf") ~= 0 % prevent nan
        rel_update = ...
            norm(x_new - x_in,"inf")/norm(x_in,"inf");
    end
    % check exit criteria
    if rel_update < tol
        exit_code = 1; % success
        break; % "break out" of the for loop
    end
end

```

```

if iter == imax
    % maximum iterations reached
    exit_code = 0;
end
x_in = x_new;

end
norm_res = norm(A*x_new - b,2)/norm(x_new,2);
num_iter = iter;
end

```

59  
 60  
 61  
 62  
 63  
 64  
 65  
 66  
 67  
 68

### Gauss-Seidel Method

The Gauss-Seidel method is a minor modification of the Jacobi method. Recall the basic update scheme for the Jacobi iteration:

$$x_i^{(k+1)} = \frac{1}{a_{ii}} \left[ b_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} a_{ij}x_j^{(k)} - \sum_{j=i+1}^n a_{ij}x_j^{(k)} \right]$$

and notice that, when we are computing the update for  $x_i^{(k+1)}$ , if we are indeed carrying out these calculations sequentially for increasing values of  $i$ , we already have updated values of  $x_j^{(k+1)}$  on-hand for  $1 \leq j < i$ . Why not use them? Answer: there is no reason why not; let us use them. The update scheme for Gauss Seidel is given in Equation 155.

$$x_i^{(k+1)} = \frac{1}{a_{ii}} \left[ b_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} a_{ij}x_j^{(k+1)} - \sum_{j=i+1}^n a_{ij}x_j^{(k)} \right] \quad (155)$$

The good news is that use of updated values in this way results in the Gauss-Seidel method converging in roughly half as many iterations as the Jacobi method. The bad news is that the order in which we calculate  $x_i^{(k+1)}$  matters; we cannot do them in parallel like we could with the Jacobi method.<sup>8</sup> Still, the performance improvement from the vectorized implementation of Jacobi was *heavily* dependent on the fact that we are working in a MATLAB environment. It would be quite difficult to replicate an equivalent implementation if you were using, for example, C++ or FORTRAN. So, if you *could not* make use of the inherent parallelism of the Jacobi method, Gauss-Seidel would offer you a significant performance benefit.

### Method of Successive Over-Relaxation

If using updated values of  $x^{(k+1)}$  as we do in Gauss-Seidel provides some convergence benefit, maybe we could get more benefit if we used *more* of the updated value. The method of successive over-

<sup>8</sup> And, perhaps it does not need to be mentioned, given that the vectorized Jacobi method is hundreds of times faster than the non-vectorized version, one may be hard-pressed to give up such an advantage.

relaxation (SOR) does this as shown in Equation 156:

$$x_i^{(k+1)} = (1 - \omega)x_i^{(k)} + \frac{\omega}{a_{ii}} \left[ b_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} a_{ij}x_j^{(k+1)} - \sum_{j=i+1}^n a_{ij}x_j^{(k)} \right] \quad (156)$$

where  $\omega$  is called a *relaxation parameter*. It can be shown that, in order to converge,  $0 < \omega < 2$ ; if  $\omega < 1$ , the iteration is referred to as *under-relaxation*; if  $1 < \omega < 2$ , the iteration is referred as *over-relaxation*.<sup>9</sup>

The convergence benefits obtained through SOR is heavily dependent upon properties of the matrix  $A$  of the linear system you are trying to solve. Readers are encouraged to work through the exercises in the next assignment to get some hands-on experience with this behavior.

<sup>9</sup> If  $\omega = 1$ , then SOR is equivalent to Guass-Seidel.

# Lecture 12 Preconditioning and MATLAB Built-in Methods

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Further discuss required conditions for convergence of iterative methods based on matrix splitting.
- Discuss preconditioning and its importance for iterative solution methods.
- Describe MATLAB built-in methods for solving sparse systems of equations using iterative methods.

## Conditions for Convergence

In the last lecture we discussed three iterative methods based on a matrix splitting:  $A = M - K$  where  $M$  is non-singular and relatively easy to compute. We used this splitting to try and find solutions to a linear system of equations:  $Ax = b$  in an iterative fashion:

$$x^{(k+1)} = \underbrace{M^{-1}K}_{R} x^{(k)} + \underbrace{M^{-1}b}_{c}$$

where  $x^{(0)}$  is an initial guess.

It will probably not come as a surprise to learn that we cannot hope to do this successfully for just any matrix  $A$ , resulting  $R$ , or initial guess  $x^{(0)}$ .

In the last lecture we learned that if a matrix is strictly row diagonally dominant:

$$|a_{ii}| > \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|$$

then Jacobi and Gauss Seidel would converge. This was presented as a *sufficient* condition for convergence—i.e. if true, the method would converge; if not true, the method *might* converge. A more rigorous convergence criterion is based on the spectral radius of  $R = M^{-1}K$ .<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> James W Demmel. *Applied numerical linear algebra*. SIAM, 1997

**Definition 18 (Spectral Radius)**

The spectral radius of  $R$  is  $\rho(R) = \max |\lambda|$ , where the maximum is taken over all the eigenvalues,  $\lambda$ , of  $R$ .

**Theorem 10 (Convergence of Splitting-Based Iterative Method)**

The iteration  $x^{(k+1)} = Rx^{(k)} + c$  converges to the solution of  $Ax = b$  for all starting vectors  $x^{(0)}$  and for all  $b$  if and only if  $\rho(R) < 1$ .

It can further be shown that the *rate of convergence*,  $r(R)$ , giving the increase in the number of correct decimal places in the solution per iteration, can be given by:

$$r(R) = -\log_{10} \rho(R) \quad (157)$$

To quickly summarize the results of this section:

1. For a given splitting-based iterative method, like the Jacobi method, convergence is only assured if:  $\rho(R) < 1$ ; and
2. convergence will require fewer iterations the smaller  $\rho(R)$  is.

This begs the question: is there anything we can do if  $\rho(R) \geq 1$ ? For less dire conditions: if  $\rho(R)$  is less than 1 but the rate of convergence is maddeningly slow, is there anything we can do about it? The answer to both questions is: *yes*, and we describe how in the next section.

*Preconditioning*

The basic idea of preconditioning is to transform  $A$  so that  $\rho(R)$  is made smaller. For any non-singular  $n \times n$  matrix  $P$ , the systems below have the same solution:

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= b \\ P^{-1}Ax &= P^{-1}b \end{aligned}$$

And so we ask: what choices of  $P$  would make  $\rho(R)$  smaller? As an extreme choice, set  $P = A^{-1}$ ; then by definition:  $P^{-1}A = I$ . If this is the case, our matrix splitting is:  $P^{-1}A = I = M - K$ , where  $M = I$ ,  $M^{-1} = I$  and  $K = 0$ . The corresponding iteration would be:

$$\begin{aligned} x^{(k+1)} &= Rx^{(k)} + c \\ &= M^{-1}Kx^{(k)} + M^{-1}Pb \\ &= \underbrace{I[0]}_{R=0} x^{(k)} + \underbrace{IA^{-1}b}_{A^{-1}b=x} \end{aligned}$$

The spectral radius of  $R$  is zero and we converge in one step for any choice of  $x^{(0)}$ .

Obviously this is not a practical method; if we knew what  $A^{-1}$  was, we would not be playing with an iterative method. A more practical approach is to find a  $P$  that is *nearly* equal to  $A^{-1}$  but easier to compute and store. When working in a MATLAB environment, our main choice for preconditioner will be the *incomplete LU factorization* given by the built-in function `ilu(A,options)`.

As the name suggests, the incomplete LU factorization creates an approximate LU factorization of sparse matrix  $A$ . Recall that the reason why we avoid such factorization for sparse matrices is that it results in undesired “fill-in” of the non-zero elements of  $A$ . But suppose we carried out the LU factorization but only allowed non-zeros in locations where  $A$  is non-zero. In this case,  $A \neq LU$  but  $U^{-1}L^{-1} \approx A^{-1}$  and this can serve as a basis for an iterative method.

### *LU and Incomplete LU Preconditioning in MATLAB*

To demonstrate preconditioning, we will use a test matrix obtained from the Matrix Market—*BCSSTK15*—which is a real, symmetric, positive definite matrix based on the structural analysis of an offshore oil platform.<sup>2</sup> The sparsity pattern is shown in Figure 84.

This matrix is not diagonally dominant<sup>3</sup> so we might want to check the spectral radius to determine if the Jacobi method might succeed. MATLAB code to determine spectral radius is provided in the listing below:

```
K = -(A - diag(diag(A)));
M_inv = sparse(diag(1./diag(A)));

rho = abs(eigs(M_inv*K,1)); ❶
fprintf('Spectral radius of R: %g \n',rho);
```

For *BCSSTK15*,  $\rho(A) \approx 3.17$ , so we expect the un-preconditioned Jacobi method to fail—and, indeed, it does.

Suppose we take an extreme approach and use the complete LU factorization as a preconditioner.

```
[L,U] = lu(A);
nnzL = nnz(L); nnzU = nnz(U);

PA = U\(\L\A); Pb = U\(\L\b); ❷

[x_jac2 , norm_res2 , num_iter2 , exit_code2] = ...
    jacobi_solver(PA,Pb,x_in,tol,imax);
if exit_code2 == 1
    fprintf('Preconditioned Jacobi solution successful! \n');
    fprintf('Number of iterations: %d \n',num_iter2);
    fprintf('tol = %g \n',norm_res2);
end
```

The output is shown in Figure 85. Note the spectral radius of  $R$  is near zero and we converged to the solution right away.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> This matrix can be obtained at <https://math.nist.gov/MatrixMarket/data/Harwell-Boeing/bcsstruc2/bcsstk15.html>.

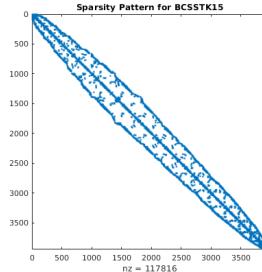


Figure 84: Sparsity pattern for BCSSTK15.

<sup>3</sup> You can visit the URL on the Matrix Market for BCSSTK15 to see a variety of matrix properties; diagonal dominance is one such property. You can, of course, alternatively write your own function to determine whether or not a matrix is diagonally dominant.

**❶** The built-in function `eigs(A,k)` returns the  $k$ -largest eigenvalues of input (sparse) matrix  $A$ .

**❷**  $U(LA)$  is equivalent to  $U^{-1}L^{-1}A$  and  $U(Lb)$  is equivalent to  $U^{-1}L^{-1}b$ . Recall, if  $A = LU$ ,  $A^{-1} = U^{-1}L^{-1}$ .

<sup>4</sup> The only reason 2 iterations were used is because the stopping criterion was based on  $|x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)}|$  and  $x^{(0)}$  was far from the solution.

```
Spectral radius of R: 6.56054e-14
Preconditioned Jacobi solution successful!
Number of iterations: 2
tol = 2.39397e-17
```

Figure 85: Output for preconditioning with *complete* LU factorization.

The bad news for this example is that, while  $A$  has 117,816 non-zero entries,  $L$  and  $U$  both have on the order of a million non-zeros. On top of that, we just performed a full LU factorization of  $A$  so time spent on Jacobi iterations were wasted.

Let us now, instead us an incomplete LU factorization.

```

1 opts_ilu.type='ilutp';
2 opts_ilu.droptol=1e-4; ④
3 opts_ilu.uddiag=1;
4 [iL,iU] = ilu(A,opts_ilu);
5 nnz_iL = nnz(iL); nnz_iU = nnz(iU);
6
7 iPA = iU\ (iL\A); iPb = iU\ (iL\b); ④
8
9 [x_jac3,norm_res3,num_iter3,exit_code3] = ...
10 jacobi_solver(iPA,iPb,x_in,tol,imax);
11 if exit_code3 == 1
12   fprintf('Preconditioned Jacobi solution successful! \n');
13   fprintf('Number of iterations: %d \n',num_iter3);
14   fprintf('tol = %g \n',norm_res3);
15 end

```

④ This is done for illustration purposes only. Even if  $iL$  and  $iU$  are sparse with a low number of non-zeros,  $iPA$  and  $iPb$  will be full. Built-in methods can use  $iL$  and  $iU$  without sparsity-destroying operations like this. The output is shown in Figure 86. In this case, the spectral radius of  $R$  is higher but still less than 1 and, as expected, the number of required iterations to satisfy our solution tolerance is also higher. Unlike as was the case with the complete LU factorization, the output matrices  $iL$  and  $iU$  are much more sparse, with a total number of roughly 600,000 non-zeros.

If we *increase* the drop tolerance to  $\text{opts\_ilu.droptol}=5e-4$  we can further reduce the number of non-zeros in  $iL$  and  $iU$  to about 400,000 at the expense of increasing the spectral radius to 0.98 and, as expected, increasing the number of iterations required to reach our stopping criterion to 344.

### MATLAB Built-In Iterative Solvers

There are numerous iterative solvers built into MATLAB. We will mention only two of them and, sadly, treat them essentially as black-boxes.

1. pcg - preconditioned conjugate gradient method.
2. gmres - generalized minimum residuals method.

Both of these algorithms are examples of Krylov subspaces methods, the details of which are beyond the scope of this class. We will use pcg for linear systems that are symmetric and positive definite. We will use gmres for all other methods.

④ Use these options for  $\text{ilu}(A,\text{options})$ . The type='ilutp' refers to incomplete LU with *threshold* and *pivoting* which improves the reliability of the algorithm. The droptol is the *drop tolerance* of the incomplete LU factorization. The *higher* your value of droptol, the *more sparse* the resulting  $L$  and  $U$  will be; if droptol is lower,  $L$  and  $U$  will be less sparse. In the limit, if droptol=0, then the complete LU factorization is produced. Setting udiag=1 results in replacing zero diagonal entries of  $U$  with the local drop tolerance. Selection of this option makes the ilu algorithm more reliable. See the MATLAB documentation for  $\text{ilu}$  for a more complete description of all available options.

```

Spectral radius of R: 0.855869
Preconditioned Jacobi solution successful!
Number of iterations: 55
tol = 6.16349e-07

```

Figure 86: Output for Jacobi iteration with incomplete LU preconditioning.

### Preconditioned Conjugate Gradient

The preconditioned conjugate gradient algorithm is one of the most competitive methods for use with sparse, symmetric matrices that are positive definite. An excellent and easy to read description is readily available in the open literature.<sup>5</sup> Since A is symmetric, we can use a slightly more efficient algorithm to construct the preconditioning matrix—the incomplete Cholesky factorization: `ichol(A,options)`. An example in its use is shown in the listing below:

```
%> preconditioned conjugate gradient
opts.type = 'ict';
opts.droptol = 1e-4; ⑥
opts.michol = 'on';
L = ichol(A,opts);
[x1,f1,r1,it1,rv1] = pcg(A,b,tol,imax,L,L'); ⑦

if f1 == 0
    fprintf('pcg with ichol preconditioner solution successful!\n');
    fprintf('Residual norm: %g, after %d iterations.\n',...
            r1,it1);
end
```

<sup>5</sup> Jonathan Richard Shewchuk. Conjugate gradient method without the agonizing pain. *School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, 1994*

⑥ See the MATLAB documentation for `ichol` for more information on these options. The option: `type='ict'` directs usage of the incomplete Cholesky with threshold dropping. This option along with `droptol` affects the extent to which non-zeros in L are dropped or retained. As with `ilu()`, `droptol=0` results in a full Cholesky factorization. The option `michol='on'` indicates that the modified incomplete Cholesky factorization is to be performed, use of which improves the reliability of the algorithm.

⑥ Several of MATLAB's built-in preconditioners use *left* and *right* preconditioners. As we have described them so far, we have always use a *left* preconditioner. A right preconditioner works the same way but the matrix is applied to the right:

$$APx = bP$$

A preconditioning matrix  $P$  can be broken up into a left and right preconditioning matrix:  $P = P_L P_R'$  and applied:

$$P_L A P_R' x = P_L b P_R'$$

The last two arguments for `pcg` correspond to the left and right preconditioning matrix respectively.

Readers are encouraged to experiment with the preconditioned conjugate gradient built-in function with different options settings to solve a sparse, symmetric, positive definite, linear system of their choice.

### Generalized Minimum Residuals

You should use GMRES for systems that are square and non-singular. Since the input matrix is not necessarily symmetric or positive definite, you should use `ilu` to generate the preconditioning matrices. An example usage is shown in the listing below.

```
%> GMRES with Incomplete LU Preconditioner
opts_ilu.type='ilutp';
```

1  
2

```
opts_ilu.droptol=1e-3;
restart = [];
maxit = min(imax,size(A,1));
[L,U] = ilu(A,opts_ilu);
[x4,f14,rr4,it4,rv4] = ...
gmres(A,b,[],tol,maxit,L,U);
```

7 Please see the MATLAB documentation for explanation regarding the arguments to gmres

3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

## *Assignment #4*

1. Determine the LU decomposition of the matrix below by hand.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 5 & 1 \\ 6 & -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Carry out (by hand) the first three iterations of the solution of the following system of equations using the Gauss-Seidel iterative method. For the first guess of the solution, take the value of all unknowns to be zero.

$$8x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 51$$

$$2x_1 + 5x_2 + x_3 = 23$$

$$-3x_1 + x_2 + 6x_3 = 20$$

3. Consider the linear system given below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 5 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 32 \\ 19 \\ 14 \\ -2 \\ 41 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (a) Find the solution using the built-in MATLAB function  $[L,U,P] = \text{lu}(A)$ —be sure to get and use the permutation matrix  $P$ .
- (b) Find the relative residual for your solution.
- (c) Find the inverse of the matrix,  $A^{-1}$ , using the built-in MATLAB function  $\text{inv}(A)$ , and compute the 2-norm of  $A$  and  $A^{-1}$  using the built-in MATLAB function  $\text{norm}(A,p)$ , where  $p$  should be set to 2 for the 2-norm.
- (d) Calculate the size of the error bound:

$$\frac{1}{\kappa(A)} \frac{\|r\|}{\|b\|} \leq \frac{\|e\|}{\|x^*\|} \leq \kappa(A) \frac{\|r\|}{\|b\|}$$

where  $\kappa(A)$  is the condition number of  $A$ , and  $r$  is the residual.

- (e) Repeat steps a) through d) for the test matrix BCSSTK26 from the Matrix Market. Once you have read the matrix into MATLAB, convert the matrix to a “full” (non-sparse) format using the MATLAB built-in function  $A_{\text{full}} = \text{full}(A_{\text{sparse}})$ . or the right-hand-side vector  $b$ , use a vector of all ones. Note how different the error bound is in this case.

4. Using Jacobi, Gauss-Seidel, and SOR ( $\omega = 1.4$ ) iterative methods, write and run code to solve the following linear system of equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 7 & 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 3 & 8 & 1 & -4 \\ -1 & 1 & 4 & -1 \\ 2 & -4 & -1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The stopping criterion should be the relative change of the estimated solution in the 2-norm:

$$\text{tolerance} = \frac{\|x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)}\|_2}{\|x^{(k)}\|_2}$$

with tolerance set to  $10^{-9}$ . Compare the number of iterations required in each case.

5. For this problem we will compare two iterative methods to solve BCSSTK26—a test matrix derived from a seismic simulation of a nuclear power plant structure. For the right-hand-side vector  $b$ , use a vector of all ones.
- Use the SOR method with an estimated relative error tolerance of  $10^{-3}$ . Vary the relaxation parameter over the range  $\omega \in [1.25, 2.0]$ . Make a plot of the number of iterations required as a function of  $\omega$  and approximate the best value of  $\omega$  for this system.
  - Use the MATLAB built-in function gmres without a preconditioner to solve this problem.
  - Use gmres again but with an incomplete LU preconditioner. Use `opts_ilu.type='ilutp'` and `opts_ilu.droptol = dtol` and vary the value of  $dtol$  over the range  $dtol \in [10^{-7}, 10^{-3}]$ . What happens as  $dtol$  gets larger?  
*Hint: Use the built-in function spy(L) to show the sparsity pattern of L and note the number of non-zeros of L. How does nna(L) change as dtol is changed?*
  - This is a relatively small sparse system and can be solved using direct methods. Use the MATLAB built-in function timeit to estimate the time required to solve the system of equations using the built-in mldivide()—“backslash”—function.

Organize your findings from part a), b) and c) into a short written document. A couple of paragraphs should be sufficient. Include the plot you created from part a) and any other graphics/tables that you find helpful to communicate what you observed in parts b) through d).



# *Review #1*

## *List of Topics*

1. Mathematical preliminaries:
  - (a) Number representation.
    - i. Unsigned integer representations.
    - ii. IEEE-754 floating point representation.
  - (b) Sources of error.
  - (c) Background of Linear Algebra.
    - i. matrix/vector operations.
    - ii. matrix properties.
2. Solution of Non-linear Equations.
  - (a) Bisection method.
  - (b) Newton's method (single equation and system of equations).
  - (c) Secant method.
  - (d) Steffen's method.
  - (e) MATLAB built-in methods (single equation and system of equations).
3. Solution of Linear System of Equations.
  - (a) Gauss elimination with and without pivoting.
  - (b) LU factorization with and without pivoting.
  - (c) MATLAB built-in methods.
  - (d) Error bounds for solution of linear systems of equations.
  - (e) Iterative methods:
    - i. Jacobi, Gauss-Seidel, SOR.
    - ii. MATLAB built-in methods including: pcg and gmres with preconditioning.

## *Review Questions*

1. Write down the sign bit, exponent bits, and first 6 bits of the mantissa for IEEE-754 double precision floating point representation of the number 2023.

2. Write down the number 81 in 32-bit unsigned integer format (little-endian layout).
  3. Carry out 2 iterations of the secant method to find the root of  $f(x) = x - 2e^{-x}$  starting with  $x_1 = 0$  and  $x_2 = 1$ . (i.e. find  $x_3$  and  $x_4$ )

4. Consider the following system of nonlinear equations:

$$\begin{aligned}-2x^3 + 3y^2 + 42 &= 0 \\ 5x^2 + 3y^3 - 69 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Using Newton's method for a system of equations and starting at  $x = y = 1$  write the linear system of equations you would need to solve to find  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$  to update the estimated solution.

5. Using MATLAB's built-in function:  $[L,U,P] = \text{lu}(A)$  function, find the solution to the linear system of equations shown below:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 3 & 8 & -5 & -1 & 6 \\ 3 & 12 & -4 & 8 & 5 & -2 \\ 8 & 0 & 0 & 10 & -3 & 7 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -6 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 & -6 \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \\ x_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 34 \\ 20 \\ 45 \\ 36 \\ 60 \\ 28 \end{bmatrix}$$



## **Part IX**

# **Curve Fitting and Interpolation**



# Lecture 13 Least Squares Curve Fitting

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Derive the basic formulas for least squares curve fitting.
- Do an example using MATLAB.

## Introduction

As an engineer, it is very likely that at some point in time during your career, you will be called upon to examine and interpret experimental data. Two common needs in such analysis are to take a set of experimental data and either:

1. develop a model to represent the data. i.e. find a best fit line (or other function) through the data; or
2. evaluate the data to determine how well it agrees with some previously defined model. i.e. fit model parameters to the data and assess how well the experimentally determined values conform to model expectations.

As an example, we will perform a data-fitting analysis of some wind-tunnel results as presented in a popular numerical methods textbook.<sup>1</sup> The behavior that we will explore is the dissipation of vortices shed from the tips and trailing edges of an airfoil in the wind tunnel. For this example, the tangential velocity ( $V_\theta$ ) of a vortex is measured as it travels down the axis of a wind-tunnel. The data is non-dimensionalized by dividing the tangential velocity of the vortex by the free-stream velocity ( $V_\infty$ ) and by dividing the vortex position ( $R$ ) relative to the airfoil by the chord-length ( $C$ ) of the airfoil. This non-dimensionalization process will allow experimenters to correlate the results from one particular experiment to larger scale tests on geometrically similar prototypes. The raw data is given in Table 9 and is shown graphically in Figure 87.

<sup>1</sup> Amos Gilat and Vish Subramaniam. *Numerical Methods for Engineers and Scientists: an Introduction with Applications Using MATLAB*. Hoboken. NJ: Wiley, 2011

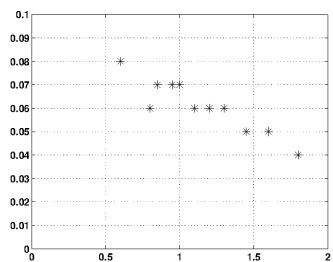


Figure 87: Experimental data from wind tunnel testing. The  $y$ -axis is the ratio of the tangential velocity of a vortex to the free stream flow velocity ( $y = V_\theta/V_\infty$ ). The  $x$ -axis is the ratio of the distance from the vortex core to the chord of an aircraft wing. ( $x = R/C$ ).

$x = V_\theta/V_\infty$	0.6	0.8	0.85	0.95	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.45	1.6	1.8
$y = R/C$	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04

In the following sections, we will explore ways in which curves can be fit through this data which, in some sense, are the “best”-fit curves.

### “Guessed”-fit Curves

It is entirely reasonable, and completely in accord with time honored engineering tradition, to take experimental data as presented in the previous section, use careful judgment and intuition and draw a line that seems to fit the data reasonably well. We will call this the *Guessed-fit* curve and an example of this is shown in Figure 88.

From this carefully drawn line we may conclude that experimental results show a linear relationship between tangential velocity and distance downstream from the airfoil. Obviously, this model is not perfect; most data-points are off the line. Still, we may reasonably decide that overall, this is not a bad representation of what the data are telling us and leave well enough alone.

### Measure of Fitness

A hand-drawn curve may be well enough for rough analysis, but for the purposes of this lecture, let us assume that we would like to know how good our roughly drawn curve is and wonder if there may be a way to do better. We have a good fit; but how good is it? In this section we will answer that question. We will define a *measure of fitness* so that we may quantitatively determine how “good” a candidate curve is in representing the data.

For this purpose, we define the *residual*. In words, the residual ( $r_i$ ) is the difference, at each experimental data point ( $x_i$ ), between the  $y$ -value given from experimental data ( $y_i$ ) and the  $y$ -value computed from our linear “guessed” fit curve ( $y_{\text{guessed}}$ ). The mathematical expression for this is given in Equation 158.

$$r_i = y_i - \underbrace{(b + Mx_i)}_{y_{\text{guessed}}} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (158)$$

where  $b$  is the  $y$ -intercept of this linear fit and  $M$  is the slope of the linear fit through the data and  $n$  is the number of data points.

With an eye towards a more general approach, we will re-state

Table 9: Numerical data from wind-tunnel experiment.

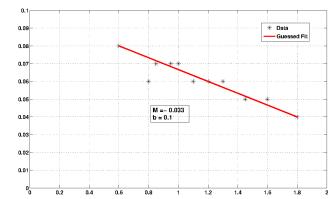


Figure 88: *Guessed-fit* linear estimation of the experimental data.  $M = -0.033$  is the measured slope of the estimated line and  $b = 0.1$  is the  $y$ -intercept.

Equation 158 using matrix-vector notation in Equation 159.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{r} &= \mathbf{y} - \underbrace{\left( b \cdot \mathbf{x}^0 + M \cdot \mathbf{x}^1 \right)}_{\mathbf{y}_{\text{guessed}}} \\
 &= \mathbf{y} - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^0 & \mathbf{x}^1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b \\ M \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Xc}
 \end{aligned} \tag{159}$$

To be clear, please note that  $x^k$  refers to element-wise exponentiation and in particular,  $\mathbf{x}^0$  means: “each element of  $\mathbf{x}$  raised to the power of zero,” and  $\mathbf{x}^1$  means: “each element of  $\mathbf{x}$  raised to the first power.”

In order to determine how well a given curve fits the data, the residual given in Equation 159 is not quite satisfactory; it is a vector, not a number. The usual solution to this problem is to use the Euclidean length of the residual as shown in Equation 160:

$$\begin{aligned}
 ||\mathbf{r}|| &= \sqrt{\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{r}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n r_i \cdot r_i}
 \end{aligned} \tag{160}$$

For historical reasons, we will depart from this convention and use the “Euclidean length squared,” or simply the square of the residual. We show this in Equation 161 where we also explicitly expand  $\mathbf{r}$  as defined in Equation 159 to show the residual in terms of the given data  $\mathbf{y}$ , the matrix  $\mathbf{X}$  of our fitting curve and parameter vector  $\mathbf{c}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{r}^2 &= \mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{r} \\
 &= (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Xc})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Xc}) \\
 &= \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{y} - 2\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Xc}
 \end{aligned} \tag{161}$$

The error measure given in Equation 161 now is a single non-negative number that will in general be zero only if the fitted line passes exactly through all data points. This is the measure of fitness that we will use. Using the given values of  $\mathbf{y}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  for the “guessed”-fit curve, we find that  $(\mathbf{r}_{\text{guessed}})^2 = 0.0152$ .

### *Method of Least Squares*

So far we have naively attempted to fit the data as best as we can by guessing a linear function that might in some way represent the data.

We have defined an error measure that confirms our suspicion that our linear curve fit is not perfect. It is natural to wonder: is there a line that *best* fits the data<sup>2</sup> and if so, how do we find it? The answer is “*yes, there is a way to find the best fit line*” and the method to find it is called the method of least squares.

### Algebraic Derivation

The standard algebraic derivation of the method of least squares starts with the squared residual given in Equation 161. As you should take a moment to confirm, once we have selected a linear estimator<sup>3</sup>  $\mathbf{X}$ , the only free parameter in Equation 161 are the coefficients that make up  $\mathbf{c}$ . The goal is to figure out how to choose  $\mathbf{c}$  such that the error given in Equation 161 is as small as possible.

Recall from your introductory calculus courses that the way to minimize a function is to take the first and second derivative of the function; solve for the values of the free parameter ( $\mathbf{c}$ ) so that the first derivative is equal to zero; and verify that the second derivative is positive. When the first derivative is zero, the function is at an extremum; when the second derivative is positive, that extremum is a minimum.

Carrying out this idea, we will take the derivative of Equation 161 and set the first derivative equal to zero:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dc} r^2 &= 0 - 2\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} + \underbrace{\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}} = 2(-\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c}) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow -\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c} = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} \end{aligned} \quad (162)$$

We now have to ask: can we find a unique vector  $\mathbf{c}$  such that the last line in Equation 162 is satisfied? The answer is: yes—provided only that the columns of  $\mathbf{X}$  are linearly independent,<sup>4</sup>  $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$  will be positive-definite and thus non-singular.<sup>5</sup> This means that a unique value of  $\mathbf{c}$  will exist and that it will be non-zero:

$$\mathbf{c} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}) \quad (163)$$

MATLAB code to carry out this process is given below:

```
x = [0.6 0.8 0.85 0.95 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.45 1.6 1.8];
y = [0.08 0.06 0.07 0.07 0.07 0.06 0.06 0.06 0.05 0.05 0.04];

X = nan(length(x), 2);
X(:, 1) = (x') .^ 0;
X(:, 2) = (x') .^ 1;

c = (X' * X) \ (X' * y');
```

<sup>2</sup> At least “best” by some error measure. Different error measures sometimes yield different answers as to what constitutes “the best.”

<sup>3</sup> i.e. we have chosen what functions will be used to make up the columns of  $\mathbf{X}$ —for the time being we decided it would be composed of the  $0^{\text{th}}$  and  $1^{\text{st}}$  powers of  $x$

<sup>4</sup> If the columns of  $\mathbf{X}$  are linearly independent, this means—by definition—that  $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{y} = 0$  if and only if  $\mathbf{y} = 0$ .

<sup>5</sup> When a matrix— $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ —is positive definite, that means that  $\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y} = 0$  if and only if  $\mathbf{y} = 0$ . So  $\mathbf{y} \neq 0$  and if the columns of  $\mathbf{X}$  are linearly independent ( $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{y} \neq 0$ ), then  $\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{y} \geq 0$  and can only be equal to zero if  $\mathbf{y} = 0$ . As is discussed in previous lectures, positive-definiteness is a sufficient condition for a solution to Equation 162 to exist.

Executing this code with our given data we solve for  $\mathbf{c}$  which gives us the  $y$ -intercept and slope of a different linear curve for the data which we will tentatively call the “best” linear fit. The resulting line is presented along with the previous “guessed”-fit curve for comparison in Figure 89. Using Equation 161, we find that the squared residual of this solution is: 0.0140 which is slightly better than our previous “guessed” estimate of 0.0152.

The second step is to prove that the coefficient array  $\mathbf{c}$  really is a minimum and not a maximum or saddle-point. One answer is to say that if we, once again, take the derivative of Equation 162, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2}{dc^2} \mathbf{r}^2 &= \frac{d}{dc} (-\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c}) \\ &= \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \end{aligned} \quad (164)$$

The problem with this, is that the last line of Equation 164 is not simply a number; it is a matrix. It turns out that if the columns of  $\mathbf{X}$  are linearly independent, then the square matrix  $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$  is symmetric and positive definite. The property of a matrix: “symmetric, positive definite” carries with it some implications:

1. all of the eigenvalues of the matrix are real and positive; and
2. the matrix is invertible

Though it may smack of hand-waving, the author requests your indulgence and accept that these properties carry the same implications as a positive second derivative for the residual function. The curve found via the method of least squares is, in fact, the curve with the minimum residual; not an inflection point and definitely not the maximum.<sup>6</sup>

Based on the mathematical results of this section we can assert that no *linear* estimator of this data set can achieve a squared residual error of less than 0.0140.

### *Linear Least Squared with Non-Linear Estimator*

So far, we have accomplished much, but what do we do in the case where we do not expect the  $x$  and  $y$  data that we collected in our experiment to be linearly related? The answer is a straight-forward extension of the method of least squares presented in the preceding section.

Suppose we would like to find the best quadratic fit through the data? That is, we are seeking some function:  $c_1 + c_2 x + c_3 x^2$  such that the squared residual is as small as possible. All that we need to do is

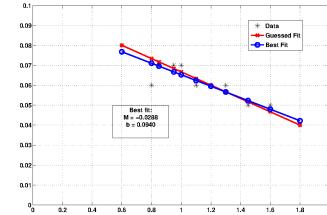


Figure 89: Best fit linear estimation of the experimental data.  $M = -0.0288$  is the measured slope of the estimated line and  $b = 0.0940$  is the  $y$ -intercept.

<sup>6</sup> The existence of the “guessed”-fit curve with a higher residual than the curve found using the method of least squares should be convincing proof that the method of least squares, at least, does not find the curve with the maximum residual.

to re-define  $\mathbf{c}$  to accommodate the extra parameter and re-define  $\mathbf{X}$  to incorporate the extra functional dependence on  $x$ . Specifically:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{c} &= \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{bmatrix}^T \\ \mathbf{X} &= \begin{bmatrix} x^0 & x^1 & x^2 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}\quad (165)$$

We use this newly defined  $\mathbf{X}$  and solve for the corresponding values of  $\mathbf{c}$  using Equation 163 *exactly as before*.(!!) Nothing in the process need change because, just as with the linear estimator, all that is required is that the columns of  $\mathbf{X}$  be linearly independent. To highlight how general this concept is, we will again change our notation slightly and write  $\mathbf{X}$  as:

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(\mathbf{x}) & f_2(\mathbf{x}) & \cdots & f_k(\mathbf{x}) \end{bmatrix} \quad (166)$$

where here  $k$  is the index of the columns of  $\mathbf{X}$ . For the linear case,  $f_1(\mathbf{x}) = 1, f_2(\mathbf{x}) = x$ . For the quadratic case, we simply add  $f_3(\mathbf{x}) = x^2$ . Each of the functions:  $f_1, f_2$  and  $f_3$  are linearly independent.<sup>7</sup> Taking this a step further, we could use *any* set of linearly independent functions and Equation 163 would still have a unique solution that would provide the parameter vector  $\mathbf{c}$  such that the squared residual will be as small as possible.

The process of using high order polynomials to fit data is so common, that MATLAB has a built-in function—polyfit—to automate least-squares estimation with polynomial estimators. The code block below does this for second order, third order and sixth order polynomials. The resulting estimators are given in Figure 90.

```
x = [0.6 0.8 0.85 0.95 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.45 1.6 1.8];
y = [0.08 0.06 0.07 0.07 0.07 0.06 0.06 0.06 0.05 0.05 0.04];
cSecond = polyfit(x,y,2);
ySecond = cSecond(1)*x.^2 + cSecond(2)*x + ...
    cSecond(3);
cThird = polyfit(x,y,3);
yThird = cThird(1)*x.^3 + cThird(2)*x.^2 + ...
    cThird(3)*x + cThird(4);
cSixth = polyfit(x,y,6);
ySixth = cSixth(1)*x.^6 + cSixth(2)*x.^5 + ...
    cSixth(3)*x.^4 + cSixth(4)*x.^3 + cSixth(5)*x.^2 + ...
    cSixth(6)*x + cSixth(7);
```

### Model Estimators

As can be seen from Figure 90, it is possible to find estimators that greatly reduce the squared residual.<sup>8</sup> As higher order estimators are used, the resulting curve through the data becomes problematic. For example, how would one justify the “curvy” nature of the 6th-order

<sup>7</sup> Here again a definition is worthwhile. For a set of functions to be linearly independent it implies that for scalar values  $c_1, c_1f_1(\mathbf{x}) + \cdots + c_kf_k(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  if and only if  $c_1 = \cdots = c_k = 0$ . All of the monomials:  $1, x, x^2$ , etc... as easily seen to be linearly independent.

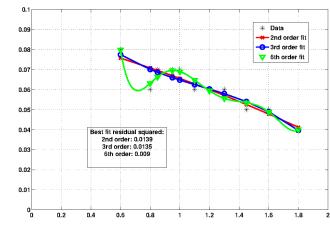


Figure 90: Best fit linear estimation of the experimental data using 2nd order, 3rd order and 6th order estimators.

<sup>8</sup> In general it is possible to find a polynomial that exactly interpolates any number of data points with the resulting residual equal to zero. It turns out, doing this with polynomial interpolants is usually a very bad idea—at least with ordinary monomials and with equally spaced data points—and when using non-exact floating point arithmetic, and a large number of data points is involved, it is practically impossible. Better interpolation methods with non-equally-spaced points are almost always used where very accurate interpolation is necessary (for example: when implementing high order finite element methods).

approximator? If we re-performed the experiment with improved instrumentation and made our measurements more carefully, do we *actually* expect the data to follow the 6th order curve? Probably not.

It is also worthwhile to consider that the purpose of doing all of this least squares estimation is *not* always to find some curve that comes close to interpolating all of the data. Rather, the purpose may be to fit the data to a rational scientific model where the experimental data either confirms and strengthens the proposed model for the phenomena under consideration, or serves as the basis for creation of a new model.<sup>9</sup>

For this example, it turns out that theoretical models do exist regarding the expected vortex velocity as it travels downstream from an airfoil in a wind-tunnel. This model predicts that the relationship between  $y$ —the ratio between the vortex tangential velocity and the free-stream velocity—and  $x$ —the ratio of the distance from the vortex core to the chord of the airfoil section—should have the form of Equation 167.

$$y = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{Be^{-2x^2}}{x} \quad (167)$$

As before, we can develop an estimator that conforms with this model in exactly the same way we did for the polynomial estimators. MATLAB code accomplishing this is provided in the code block below:

```
X = nan(length(x),2);
f1 = @(t) (1./t); % functional form of first term
f2 = @(t) exp(-2*t.^2)./t; % functional form of second term
X(:,1) = f1(x');
X(:,2) = f2(x');
cModel = X\y';
```

Please note a couple of differences between this code and code previously provided:

1. Anonymous functions are used to simplify the construction of  $\mathbf{X}$ . This is a stylistic choice but could be useful for cases where you want automate this process.
2. The usual “backslash” left division operator was used instead of the formula specified in Equation 163. The reason this works is because MATLAB automatically checked and noted that  $\mathbf{X}$  was not a square matrix (normally a requirement for left matrix division); seeing it was not square, then it checked to see if each column of  $\mathbf{X}$  is linearly independent; MATLAB determined that they were and used the equivalent of Equation 163 to solve for  $\mathbf{c}$ .<sup>10</sup>

The resulting curve, along with the linear estimator is shown in Figure 91.

<sup>9</sup> Approximation Theory and Approximation Practice. Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Philadelphia, PA, 2013

<sup>10</sup> The normal equations is the easiest method to derive, but actually solving the normal equations directly turns out not to be the very best way of finding  $\mathbf{c}$ .

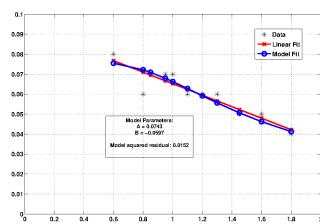


Figure 91: Best fit curve with theoretical model parameters. The linear Least Squares estimator is shown for reference.

As we can see, the residual squared for the theoretical model estimator is larger than the residual squared for the linear estimator shown previously. Remember, the purpose of fitting a curve through the data points in this context is to gain insight as to how well the recorded experimental data can fit against a known (or proposed) theoretical model. If we wanted a residual of zero, we could have gotten it through the mechanical process of providing an exact interpolant through the data; but that would hardly yield a reasonable model. Even though the residual of this new model is higher than for a linear estimator, we gain the benefit of seeing how well the theoretical model stands up in the face of experimental evidence.

### MATLAB Example

In an electrophoretic fiber-making process, the diameter of the fiber,  $d$ , is related to the current flow,  $I$ . The following measurements are made during production:

$I$ (nA)	300	300	350	400	400	500	500	650	650
$d$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	22	26	27	30	34	33	33.5	37	42

Table 10: Process data from electrophoretic fiber-making process.

1. Use linear least-squares regression to determine the coefficients  $m$  and  $b$  in the function  $y = mx + b$  that best fits the data.
2. Use least-squares regression to determine the coefficients  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  in the function  $y = a + bx + cx^2$ .
3. Use least-squares regression to determine the coefficients  $a$  and  $b$  in the function  $y = a + b\sqrt{I}$ .

We start, as always, by clearing out the workspace and command window and closing any open figure windows. We will also input the given data.

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

%% Input Data
I = [300 300 350 400 400 500 500 650 650]';
d = [22 26 27 30 34 33 33.5 37 42]';

```

The linear least-squares regression is carried out in the following code; the best fit line is shown in Figure 92

```

X = [ I.^0 I.^1];
b = d;
c = (X'*X)\(X'*b);
linEst = @(x) c(1) + c(2)*x;

```

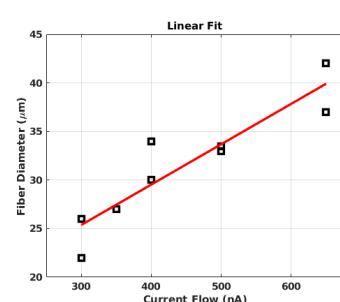


Figure 92: Linear fit,  $m = 0.416$ ,  $b = 12.913$ .

A least-squares regression to fit a second-order polynomial to the data is carried out in the next listing.

```
X = [I.^0 I.^1 I.^2];
b = d;

c = (X'*X)\(X'*b);

quadEst = @(x) c(1) + c(2)*x + c(3)*x.^2;
```

A plot of the resulting estimator is shown in Figure 93.

Using an estimator like  $y = a + b\sqrt{I}$  is accommodated in exactly the same way; there is a constant term—proportional to  $I^0$ —and a term proportional to  $I^{1/2}$ . The MATLAB code is shown in the listing below and the resulting estimator, along with the previously found estimators, is shown in Figure 94.

```
X = [I.^0 I.^0.5];
b = d;
c = (X'*X)\(X'*b);

est3 = @(x) c(1) + c(2)*x.^0.5;
```

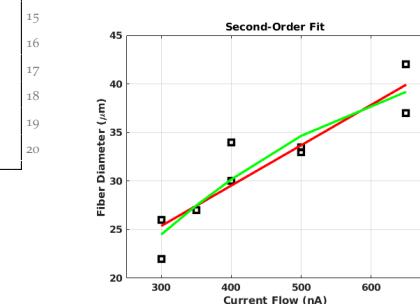


Figure 93: Second-order polynomial fit.  $a = 0.436$ ,  $b = 0.0979$ , and  $c = -5.89e - 5$ .

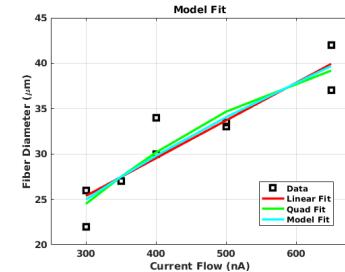


Figure 94: Model fit of data.  $a = -6.20$ ,  $b = 1.80$ .



# Lecture 14 Curve Fitting with Non-linear Functions

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Explain how to carry out least squares curve fitting with a nonlinear equation.
- Do an example using MATLAB.

## Curve Fitting with Nonlinear Equation

The method of least squares requires the estimator to be a linear combination of functions—although, in most cases the individual functions are not linear. If the estimator is non-linear, then you need to linearize it, if possible, through an appropriate transformation. A variety of useful transforms are presented in Table 11.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Amos Gilat and Vish Subramaniam. *Numerical Methods for Engineers and Scientists: an Introduction with Applications Using MATLAB*. Hoboken. NJ: Wiley, 2011

Table 11: Transforming nonlinear equations to linear form.

Nonlinear equation	Linear Form	Relationship to $Y = a_1X + a_0$	Values for linear least-squares regression
$y = bx^m$	$\ln(y) = m \ln(x) + \ln(b)$	$Y = \ln(y), X = \ln(x), a_1 = m, a_0 = \ln(b)$	$\ln(x_i)$ and $\ln(y_i)$
$y = be^{mx}$	$\ln(y) = mx + \ln(b)$	$Y = \ln(y), X = x, a_1 = m, a_0 = \ln(b)$	$x_i$ and $\ln(y_i)$
$y = b10^{mx}$	$\log(y) = mx + \log(b)$	$Y = \log(y), X = x, a_1 = m, a_0 = \log(b)$	$x_i$ and $\log(y_i)$
$y = \frac{1}{mx+b}$	$\frac{1}{y} = mx + b$	$Y = \frac{1}{y}, X = x, a_1 = m, a_0 = b$	$x_i$ and $\frac{1}{y_i}$
$y = \frac{mx}{b+x}$	$\frac{1}{y} = \frac{b}{m} \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{m}$	$Y = \frac{1}{y}, X = \frac{1}{x}, a_1 = \frac{b}{m}, a_0 = \frac{1}{m}$	$\frac{1}{x_i}$ and $\frac{1}{y_i}$

We will use these transformations in the examples that follow.

**Example #1:** Data are provided in the table below.

$x$	1	2	3	5	8
$y$	0.8	1.9	2.2	3	3.5

Table 12: Table of data for Example #1.

Determine the coefficients  $m$  and  $b$  in the function  $y = [m\sqrt{x} + b]^{1/2}$  that best fits the data.

**Solution:** Here, right off the bat, we have a case that is not represented in Table 11. Nonetheless, we will persevere and notice without too much difficulty that if I make the transformation  $p = y^2$ , then the estimator for  $p$  is given by:  $p = m\sqrt{x} + b$ . MATLAB code to load the data and calculate the coefficients of the, now, linearized, estimator is provided below.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 % data
5 x = [1 2 3 5 8]';
6 y = [0.5 1.9 2.2 3 3.5]';

7 % linearized estimator
8 p = y.^2;
9 X = [x.^0 x.^0.5];

10 C = (X'*X)\(X'*p);

11 %remember to "undo" the linearizing transformation
12 est1 = @(x) sqrt(C(1) + C(2)*sqrt(x));
13
14
15
16

```

Notice how we needed to apply the inverse of the linearizing transformation to recover the desired estimator. Results are shown in Figure 95.

**Example #2:** Consider the following given data.

$x$	-2	-1	0	1	2
$y$	1.5	3.2	4.5	3.4	2

**Note:** Both of the vectors for  $x$  and  $y$  are constructed so as to be *column vectors*. We follow this practice for the other examples as well so that we can employ the same MATLAB equations for carrying out least squares regression and satisfy the semantics of each linear algebraic operation.

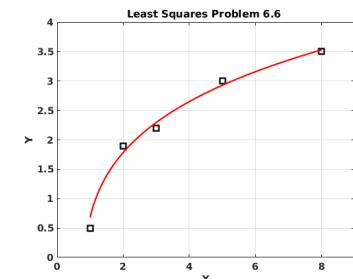


Figure 95: Plot of least squares estimator for Example #1.

Table 13: Table of data for Example #2.

Determine the coefficients  $a$  and  $b$  in the function  $y = \frac{a}{x^2+b}$  that best fit the data.

**Solution:** The form of this non-linear estimator is similar to that

presented in the 4<sup>th</sup> row of Table 11.

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \frac{1}{y} \\ &= \frac{x^2 + b}{a} \\ &= \frac{x^2}{a} + \frac{b}{a} \\ &= c_1 x^2 + c_2 \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_1 = 1/a$  and  $c_2 = b/a$ . We implement the linear least squares in MATLAB in the, by now, familiar style:

```

clear
clc
close 'all'

% data
x = [-2 -1 0 1 2]';
y = [1.5 3.2 4.5 3.4 2]';

% linearized estimator
X = [x.^2 x.^0];
b = y.^(-1);

C = (X'*X)\(X'*b);

% remember to "undo" the linearizing transformation
a = 1./C(1); ❶
b = C(2)*a; ❷

```

❶ Since  $c_1 = 1/a$ , then  $a = 1/c_1$ .

❷ Here  $c_2 = \frac{b}{a}$  so

$$\begin{aligned} c_2 a &= \frac{b}{a} a \\ &= b \end{aligned}$$

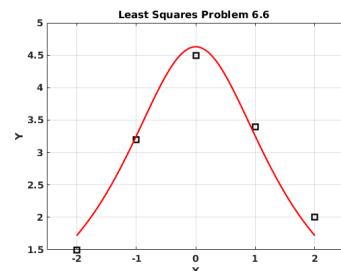


Figure 96: Plot of least squares estimator for Example #2.

A plot of the resulting estimator is shown in Figure 96.

**Example #3:** Water solubility in jet fuel,  $W_s$ , is a function of temperature,  $T$ , and can be modeled by an exponential function of the form:

$$W_s = b e^{mT}$$

Table 14 presents measured values of water solubility over a range of temperatures.

$T$ ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	-40	-20	0	20	40
$W_s$ (%wt.)	0.0012	0.002	0.0032	0.006	0.0118

Table 14: Table of data for Example #3.

Using linear least squares, determine the constants  $m$  and  $b$  that best fit the data.

**Solution:** The form of this non-linear estimator is similar to that presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row of Table 11. To linearize the estimator we

first take the natural log of both sides:

$$\begin{aligned}\ln W_s &= \ln b e^{mT} \\ \ln W_s &= \ln b + \ln e^{mT} \\ &= \ln b + mT \\ &= c_1 T^0 + c_2 T^1\end{aligned}$$

where  $c_1 = \ln b$  and  $c_2 = m$ . We carry out the linear least squares process as usual.

```
clear
clc
close 'all'

% data
T = [-40 -20 0 20 40]';
W = [0.0012 0.002 0.0032 0.006 0.0118]';

X = [T.^0 T.^1];
p = log(W);

C = (X'*X)\(X'*p);

b = exp(C(1)); ❸
m = C(2);

est3 = @(x) b*exp(m*x);
```

❸ Since  $c_1 = \ln b$  we undo the transformation by exponentiating both sides.

The resulting estimator is plotted against the given data in Figure 97.

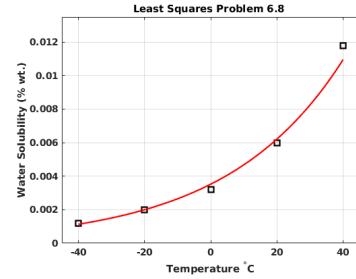


Figure 97: Plot of least squares estimator for Example #3.

## Assignment #5

1. Create a user-defined function for linear regression. The signature should be: [a,Er] = LinReg(x,y). In addition to determining the constants  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  for a linear least-squares fit to the data, the function should also calculate the squared residual:

$$Er = \sum_{i=1}^n [y_i - (a_1 x_i + a_0)]^2$$

The input arguments  $x$ , and  $y$  are vectors with the values of the data points. Use the function to find the coefficients for a linear least squares fit to the following data and find the error.

$x$	1	3	4	6	9	12	14
$y$	2	4	5	6	7	8	11

2. The following are measurements of the rate coefficient,  $k$ , for the reaction  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{O} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3 + \text{OH}$  at different temperatures  $T$ .

$T$ (K)	595	623	761	849	989	1076	1146	1202	1382	1445	1562
$k \times 10^{20}$ ( $\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{s}$ )	2.12	3.12	14.4	30.6	80.3	131	186	240	489	604	868

Use the method of least squares to best fit a function of the form:

$$\ln(k) = A + b \ln(T) - \frac{E_a}{RT}$$

This is derived as a linearization of the Arrhenius equation:

$$k = AT^b e^{-E_a/RT}$$

where  $A$  and  $b$  are constants,  $R = 8.314 \text{ J/mole/K}$  is the universal gas constant, and  $E_a$  is the activation energy for the reaction. Determine the values of  $A$  ( $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ ) and  $E_a$  (J/mole) in the Arrhenius expression.

3. The following data is given:

$x$	0.2	0.5	1	2	3
$y$	3	2	1.4	1	0.6

By hand, determine the coefficients  $m$  and  $b$  in the function  $y = \frac{1}{mx+b}$  that best fit the data using linear least squares fit.

4. The resistance,  $R$ , of a tungsten wire as a function of temperature can be modeled with the equation:

$$R = R_0 [1 + \alpha (T - T_0)]$$

where  $R_0$  is the resistance corresponding to temperature  $T_0$ , and  $\alpha$  is the temperature coefficient of resistance. Determine  $R_0$  and  $\alpha$  such that the equation will best fit the data presented below. Use  $T_0 = 20^\circ \text{C}$ .

$T (\text{ }^\circ\text{C})$	20	100	180	260	340	420	500
$R (\Omega)$	500	676	870	1060	1205	1410	1565

5. In a uni-axial tension test, a dog-bone-shaped specimen is pulled in a machine. During the test, the force applied to the specimen,  $F$ , and the length of a gage section,  $L$ , are measured. The true stress,  $\sigma_t$ , and the true strain,  $\epsilon_t$ , are defined by:

$$\sigma_t = \frac{F}{A_0} \frac{L}{L_0} \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon_t = \ln \frac{L}{L_0}$$

where  $A_0$  and  $L_0$  are the initial cross-sectional area and gage length, respectively. The true stress-strain curve in the region beyond the yield stress is often modeled by:

$$\sigma_t = K \epsilon_t^m$$

The following are values of  $F$  and  $L$  measured in an experiment. Determine the values of the coefficients  $K$  and  $m$  that best fit the data. The initial cross-sectional area and gage length are  $A_0 = 1.25 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2$ , and  $L_0 = 0.0125 \text{ m}$ .

$F (\text{kN})$	24.6	29.3	31.5	33.3	34.8	35.7	36.6	37.5	38.8	39.6	40.4
$L (\text{mm})$	12.58	12.82	12.91	12.95	13.05	13.21	13.35	13.49	14.08	14.21	14.48

# Lecture 15 Interpolation with Lagrange Polynomials

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Discuss the problem of interpolation and illustrate how it can be done with linear least squares.
- Introduce Lagrange polynomials as a preferable strategy for interpolation.
- Illustrate the techniques with a MATLAB example.

## Interpolation with Least Squares

Interpolation is a lot like curve fitting except that we expect the estimator to be *exact* at the given data points. In principle this can be done with linear least squares. For any given  $n$  data points, we can construct a polynomial interpolant of degree  $n - 1$  that matches the given data exactly.

**Example:** Create a 4<sup>th</sup> order interpolant for the following 5 data points using linear least squares.

$x$	1	4	7	10	13
$y$	2	6	4	8	10

MATLAB code to carry out this process is provided in the listing below:

```
clear
clc
close 'all'
% Data
x = [1 4 7 10 13]';
y = [2 6 4 8 10]';
% Create least squares interpolant
N = length(x);
X = x.^([0:N]); ①
c = (X'*X)\(X'*y);
nthInterp = @(x) (x.^([0:N]))*c; ②
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11

**①** This is slightly tricky but the effect is to create a matrix,  $X$ , whose columns comprise  $x^n$  for  $n \in [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]$ .

**②** This is also tricky; note, in particular, that the  $x$  in this line of code is different from the  $x$  in the data section. The effect is to create an interpolant of the form:

$$\text{nthInterp}(x) = c(1) + c(2)x^1 + \cdots + c(n)x^{n-1}$$

The data and least squares interpolant are presented in Figure 98.

Notice that, while the interpolant—as required—manages to pass through all of the data points, it is not an altogether great representation of the overall trend of the data.<sup>1</sup> Some other problems that are inherent to this approach:

1. As  $n$  increases, the columns of  $X$  are more “like” each other. As a result, the condition number of  $(X^T X)$  increases and, as we learned in Lecture 10, there is, as a consequence, greater numerical error in solving the linear system to find the coefficients. In fact, when I execute this code in MATLAB, an error is issued due to the high condition number of  $(X^T X)$ :

```
Command Window
Warning: Matrix is close to singular or badly scaled. Results
may be inaccurate. RCOND =  5.746925e-24.
fx >>
```

2. Solving a set of linear equations for the interpolating coefficients is inconvenient for some applications. Working in a MATLAB environment we might forget that, generally speaking, solving a linear system of equations is complicated.

For applications later in the course, such as finite element methods, we will be very picky about the quality of interpolation functions and we will not be particularly interested in solving systems of linear equations on each domain that we hope to use such interpolations. Luckily, there are better methods that avoid both of these problems.

### Lagrange Polynomial Interpolation

Suppose we have 3 data points— $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ , and  $x_3$ —and we want to derive a 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial interpolant, and we specify the polynomial as follows:

$$f(x) = y = a_1(x - x_2)(x - x_3) + a_2(x - x_1)(x - x_3) + a_3(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$$

Notice the form of this polynomial; when we evaluate  $f(x)$  at  $x_1$ , the first term on the right is the only non-zero term; when we evaluate  $f(x_2)$ , only the second term on the right is non-zero and similarly for when we evaluate  $f(x_3)$ . This makes it easy to find values for  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$  and  $a_3$ . This process is shown below for finding  $a_1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_1) &= y_1 \\ &= a_1(x_1 - x_2)(x_1 - x_3) + a_2(x_1 \cancel{- x_1})^0(x_1 - x_3) + a_3(x_1 \cancel{- x_1})^0(x_1 - x_2) \\ \Rightarrow a_1 &= \frac{y_1}{(x_1 - x_2)(x_1 - x_3)} \end{aligned}$$

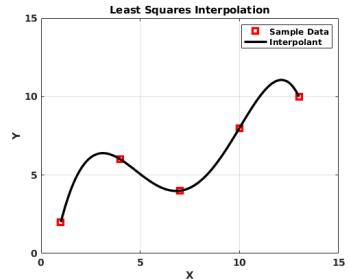


Figure 98: Least squares interpolation of data points.

<sup>1</sup> I suspect that you would not want to really use this interpolant to estimate values between the data points.

Figure 99: Warning issued by MATLAB due to the high condition number of  $(X^T X)$ .

We can derive equations for  $a_2$  and  $a_3$  in the same way:

$$a_2 = \frac{y_2}{(x_2 - x_1)(x_2 - x_3)}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{y_3}{(x_3 - x_1)(x_3 - x_2)}$$

Thus we have specified, what we will call, a Lagrange polynomial through these points:

$$f(x) = \frac{(x - x_2)(x - x_3)y_1}{(x_1 - x_2)(x_1 - x_3)} + \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_3)y_2}{(x_2 - x_1)(x_2 - x_3)} + \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_2)y_3}{(x_3 - x_1)(x_3 - x_2)}$$

In general, we construct the Lagrange polynomial as shown in Equation 168:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i L_i(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \underbrace{\prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n \frac{(x - x_j)}{(x_i - x_j)}}_{\text{Lagrange function}} \quad (168)$$

While this formulation avoids the aforementioned problems, it still can result in a low-quality interpolant. It turns out that the quality of the interpolant depends on the number of points one hopes to interpolate and *the spacing* of these points. In particular, uniformly spaced interpolating points results in low quality interpolants.

Consider, as an example, following function:

$$f(x) = \frac{8a^3}{x^2 + 4a^2}$$

where  $a$  is a parameter. This is the so-called Witch of Agnesi<sup>2</sup> problem and it is a classic test case for interpolation schemes.<sup>3</sup> If we set  $a = 0.15$  and construct a Lagrange interpolant with uniformly spaced points, we get the result shown in Figure 100. The interpolation improves as  $n$  increases everywhere except near the endpoints of the domain. At the endpoints, the interpolation becomes worse.

If instead of using uniformly spaced points, we choose particular set of non-uniformly spaced points, the quality of the interpolation is much improved. In Figure 101 we select *Chebyshev nodes* for interpolation.<sup>4</sup> To be sure, there are many contexts in which the analyst, who is devising the interpolation scheme, is not at liberty to choose the sample points. In cases where you can choose the sample points, know that how you choose your points makes a difference.

### Matlab Example

In this example, we will illustrate a case where the user does *not* have a choice in the sample points. Nonetheless, it will be worthwhile to

<sup>2</sup> Witch of Agnesi. URL [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch\\_of\\_Agnesi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch_of_Agnesi)

<sup>3</sup> Approximation Theory and Approximation Practice. Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Philadelphia, PA, 2013

<sup>4</sup> Chebyshev nodes, on the interval  $x \in [-1, 1]$  are given by:

$$x_k = \cos\left(\frac{2k-1}{2n}\pi\right), k = 1, \dots, n$$

or for an arbitrary interval  $x \in [a, b]$  via the following mapping:

$$x_k = \frac{1}{2}(a+b) + \frac{1}{2}(b-a)\cos\left(\frac{2k-1}{2n}\pi\right), k = 1, \dots, n$$

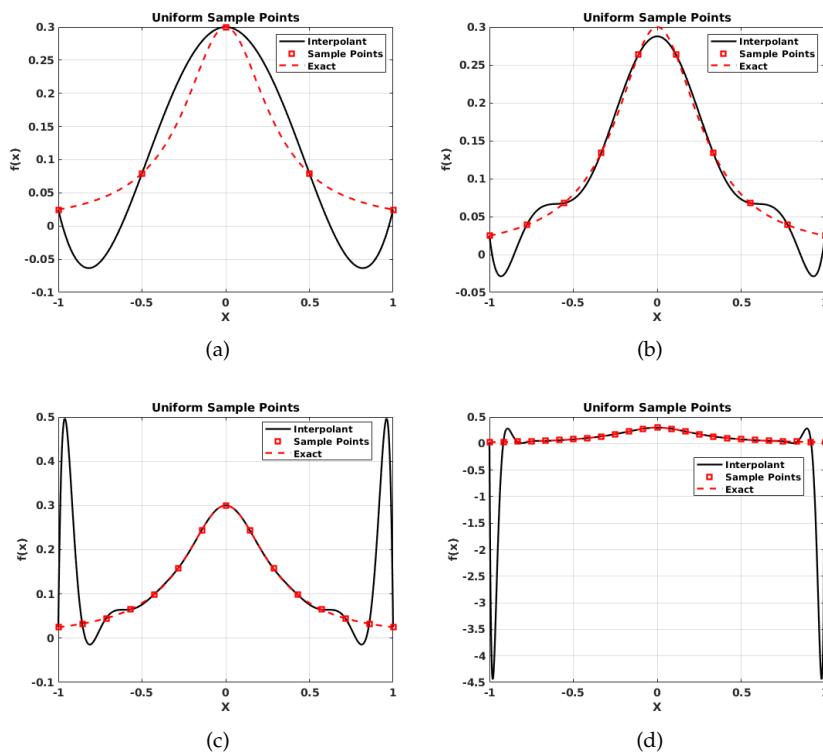


Figure 100: Lagrange interpolation with  $n = 5, n = 10, n = 15$ , and  $n = 20$  uniformly spaced points.

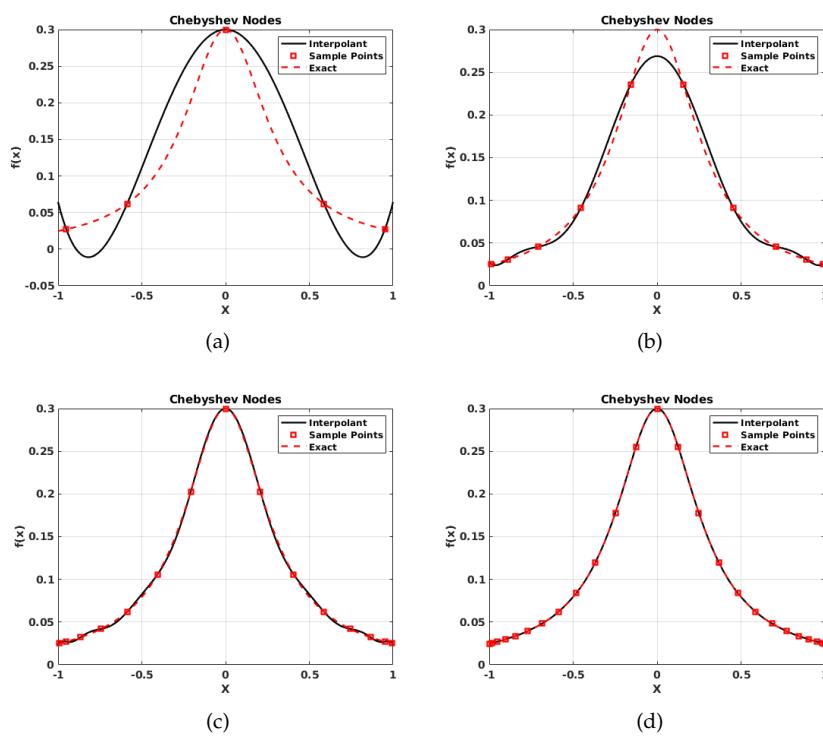


Figure 101: Lagrange interpolation with  $n = 5, n = 10, n = 15$ , and  $n = 20$  points placed at Chebyshev nodes.

show the MATLAB code so you can adapt it to a case of interest to you.

We will start by clearing out the workspace and loading the data we wish to interpolate.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 %% Load data
5 Strain = [0 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 2.0 2.4 2.8 3.2...
6     3.6 4.0 4.4 4.8 5.2 5.6 6.0]';% dimensionless
7 Stress = [0 3.0 4.5 5.8 5.9 5.8 6.2 7.4 9.6...
8     15.6 20.7 26.7 31.1 35.6 39.3 41.5]'; % MPa
9

```

Once the data is defined, we can create interpolations with both monomials and Lagrange polynomials.

```

10 %% N-th order Interpolation (monomials)
11 N = length(Strain);
12 X = Strain.^0:N;
13 c = (X'*X)\(X'*Stress);
14 nthInterp = @(x) (x.^0:N)*c;
15
16 %% Lagrange Interpolation
17 F = genLagrangePolyInterp(Strain , Stress);
18

```

Of course, all of the work for the Lagrange polynomial interpolation is packaged into the local function `genLagrangePolyInterp(X,Y)`. The MATLAB code to make that happen is shown next.

```

19 %% Local function for Lagrange polynomial
20 function F = genLagrangePolyInterp(X,Y)
21 % function F = genLagrangePoly(X,Y) generates a Lagrange
22 % polynomial that may be used to interpolate a function
23 % inputs
24 % X = x-values of a function
25 % Y = f(X) for some function
26 %
27 % Outputs
28 % F - a function handle with the Lagrange interpolant
29
30 n = length(X);
31
32 F = @(x) 0; % initialize the interpolant
33
34 for i = 1:n
35     L = @(x) Y(i); % initialize the Lagrange Function
36     for j = 1:n
37         if j ~= i
38             L = @(x) L(x).*((x - X(j))./(X(i) - X(j)));
39         end
40     end
41     F = @(x) F(x)+L(x);
42 end
43 end

```

We can plot the resulting interpolants; these are shown in Figure 102 and Figure 103 for monomial and Lagrange interpolation respectively. As can be seen, the Lagrange interpolant is not great. Nonetheless, the use of Lagrange polynomials for interpolation is a valuable tool, particularly for cases where the analyst can select the sample points for the interpolant.

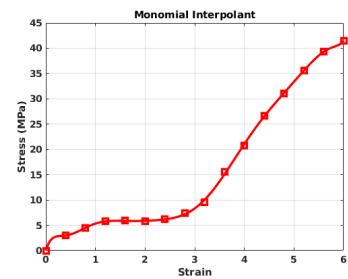


Figure 102: Monomial interpolant for stress-strain data.

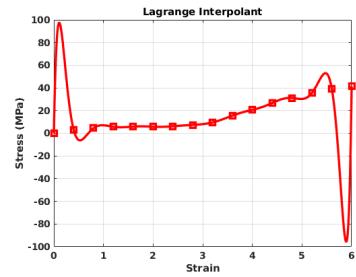


Figure 103: Lagrange interpolant for stress-strain data.

# *Lecture 16 - Curve Fitting and Interpolation with Built-in MATLAB Tools*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Demonstrate the use of MATLAB built-in tools for polynomial curve fitting.
- Demonstrate the use of MATLAB built-in interpolation functions.

## *Polynomial Curve Fitting in MATLAB*

MATLAB has an easy-to-use tool for polynomial curve fitting:  $p = \text{polyfit}(x,y,m)$ . In this function,  $x$  and  $y$  are vectors describing the data to be fit and  $m$  is the order of the polynomial fit desired. The function returns a vector  $p$  which is a vector of length  $(m + 1)$  and stores the coefficients for the polynomial fit:

$$f(x) = p(1)x^m + p(2)x^{m-1} + \cdots + p(m+1)x^0$$

This might seem awkward and/or unexpected, but do not despair, MATLAB provides a convenient function to evaluate this polynomial:  $\text{polyval}(p,x)$ .

**Example:** The percent of households that own at least one computer in selected years from 1981 to 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, is listed in Table 15.

Table 15: Percentage of U.S. households that own at least one computer.

Year	1981	1984	1989	1993	1997	2000	2001	2003	2004	2010
% w/computers	0.5	8.2	15	22.9	36.6	51	56.3	61.8	65	76.7

Use MATLAB built-in functions to create a 3<sup>rd</sup>-order polynomial interpolant and estimate the percent ownership of computers in 2008 and 2013.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 base_year = 1981;
5 year = [1981,1984, 1989, 1993, 1997, ...
6 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2010];
7
8 pct_w_comp = [0.5, 8.2, 15, 22.9, 36.6, 51, ...
9 56.3, 61.8, 65, 76.7];
10
11 year = year-base_year; ❶
12 m = 3;
13 p = polyfit(year,pct_w_comp,m);
14
15 x1 = 2008 - base_year;
16 x2 = 2013 - base_year;
17
18 fprintf('Estimated percent ownership in %d is %g percent.\n',...
19 x1+base_year, polyval(p,x1));
20 fprintf('Estimated percent ownership in %d is %g percent.\n',...
21 x2+base_year, polyval(p,x2));
22

```

**❶** Translating the variable years in this way provides a better conditioned system of equations. Readers are encouraged to eliminate this translation and observe the result.

The resulting polynomial fit is shown in Figure 104. The estimated percent computer ownership in 2008 is 74.25% and in 2013 is 80.00%.

### Interpolation with MATLAB

Although we have thoroughly covered curve fitting and extended that application to interpolation, we really have not yet discussed any methods that can be reliably used for data interpolation. Readers may find this somewhat confusing since they almost certainly have carried out simple linear interpolation at some point in their lives. There are, of course, more sophisticated and reliable algorithms for data interpolation but we will not cover them in detail in this text. Instead, we will rely on built-in MATLAB tools that are readily available. The workhorse function for one-dimensional interpolation is: `interp1(x,y,x_q,method)`. The first two inputs comprise the data to be interpolated. The third input variable, `x_q`, is a vector of *query points* where interpolated data is desired.

MATLAB provides several methods including:

1. '`linear`': This method requires at least 2 points in the data vectors and produces a piece-wise-linear interpolant.
2. '`nearest`': As the name implies this method will interpolate elements of the query vector to the nearest neighbor in the data vector. This results in a piece-wise-constant interpolation.
3. '`next`' or '`previous`': Produces a piece-wise-constant interpolation, as the name implies, to the data point after or before the query point along the  $x$  axis.

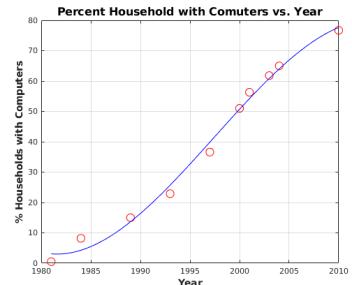


Figure 104: A 3<sup>rd</sup>-order polynomial fit using `polyval()` and `polyfit()`.

4. A handful of higher-order and spline interpolants:

- (a) 'cubic'
- (b) 'pchip' and
- (c) 'spline'

to list a few.

Readers seeking more details should, of course, consult the MATLAB documentation. An example usage is shown below.

**Example:** The following data shows the power of a diesel engine at different engine speeds.

Engine RPM	1200	1500	2000	2500	3000	3250	3500	3750	4000	4400
Engine Power (hp)	65	130	185	225	255	266	275	272	260	230

Use MATLAB to create an interpolation of the data. Plot the estimated engine power from 1200 to 4400 RPM. Estimate the engine power at 2300 RPM.

The MATLAB code needed to do this is presented in the listing below.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'

4 x = [1200, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, ...
5     3250, 3500, 3750, 4000, 4400];
6 y = [65, 130, 185, 225, 255, 266, ...
7     275, 272, 260, 230];

8 method = 'pchip';

9 f_int = @(xi) interp1(x,y,xi,method);

10 xMin = min(x); xMax = max(x); Nx = 1000;
11 X_space = linspace(xMin, xMax, Nx);

12 figure(4)
13 plot(x,y, 'ro', ...
14     X_space, f_int(X_space), '-b', ...
15     'linewidth', 3);
16 title('MATLAB Interpolation', 'fontsize', 16, ...
17     'fontweight', 'bold');
18 xlabel('Engine Speed [RPM]', 'fontsize', 14, 'fontweight', 'bold');
19 ylabel('Power [hp]', 'fontsize', 14, 'fontweight', 'bold');
20 grid on;
21 set(gca, 'fontsize', 12, 'fontweight', 'bold');
22 axis([xMin xMax 0.5*min(y) 1.25*max(y)]);

23 x1 = 2300;
24 fprintf('Estimated hp at %d rpm: %g \n', ...
25     x1, f_int(x1));
26
27
28
29
30
31

```

A plot of the interpolation is shown in Figure 105. The estimated engine power at 2300 RPM is 210.43 horsepower using this interpolation method. Readers are encouraged to experiment with alternative interpolation methods to see how each performs.

### Interpolation in 2D and 3D

It is often necessary to carry out interpolation on surfaces and in volumes. Perhaps the most important application is in data visualization. A numeric simulation based on the finite difference or finite element method can be used, for example, to find the temperature on a surface or a volume. The temperature, being a function, is usually represented as a vector. In many formulations the temperature vector corresponds to the temperature at discrete points within the surface or volume. What we *want* as engineers is the ability to see a smooth representation of the temperature throughout the domain; perhaps we also carry out some kind of calculation based on the integral or derivatives of that temperature field. The way much of this is done, is via interpolation. We create an interpolant to represent the function throughout the domain and it is the interpolant that is subjected to the differentiation or integration processes. Data *post processing* of this sort is an essential activity that allows us to gain insight from our numerical solutions.

Consider a rectangular domain discretized as part of the finite element method shown in Figure 106. When the analysis is completed, we want to represent the temperature throughout the domain as a smooth function. As is shown in the MATLAB listing below, we can use the built-in function—scatteredInterpolant()—to create the smooth interpolated representation shown in Figure 107.

```

1 clear
2 clc
3 close 'all'
4 % load data from FEM analysis
5 load('fem_data.mat');
6 % create an interpolant over the 2D domain
7 TempField = scatteredInterpolant(gcoord(:,1),gcoord(:,2),T);
8 xMin = min(gcoord(:,1)); xMax = max(gcoord(:,1));
9 yMin = min(gcoord(:,2)); yMax = max(gcoord(:,2));
10 % make a smooth plot of temperature over the domain
11 Nx = 200; Ny = 200;
12 X = linspace(xMin,xMax,Nx); Y = linspace(yMin,yMax,Ny);
13 [XX,YY] = meshgrid(X,Y);
14 figure(1)
15 surf(XX,YY,TempField(XX,YY), 'edgecolor','none');
16 title('Temperature Field', 'fontSize',16,...)
17     'fontWeight','bold')
18 xlabel('X', 'fontSize',14, 'fontWeight','bold');
19 ylabel('Y', 'FontSize',14, 'FontWeight','bold');
20 zlabel('T ^{\circ}C', 'FontSize',14, 'FontWeight','bold');

```

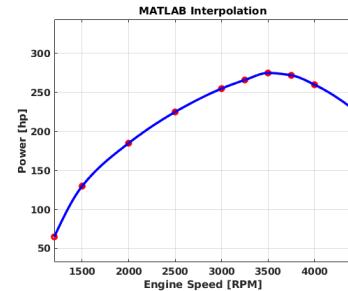


Figure 105: Interpolated curve of engine power versus engine speed.

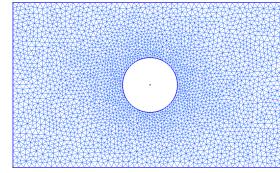


Figure 106: A discretized domain for a finite element method.

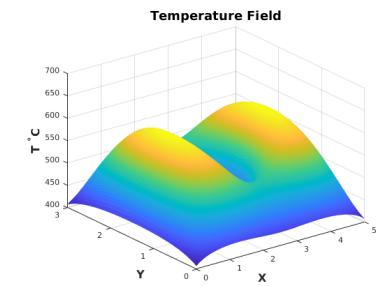


Figure 107: Interpolated temperature data.

## **Part X**

# **Numeric Differentiation and Integration**



# Lecture 17 - Numeric Differentiation with Finite Difference Formulas

## Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Derive basic differentiation formulas using Taylor series expansions.
- Express the differentiation operation in matrix form.

## Introduction

Numeric differentiation plays an important role in scientific computing. In the last lecture, we learned to use interpolation to visualize the temperature distribution on a surface as computed in a FEM-based analysis. Suppose we wanted also to calculate the heat flux along a boundary of the domain? As was discussed in the analytic methods portion of this text, the heat flux is related to the derivative of the temperature field:

$$q'' = -k\nabla T$$

where  $k$  is the thermal conductivity. In one spatial dimension, this simplifies to:  $q'' = -k dT/dx$ . In this lecture we will discuss methods for estimating derivatives of a function,  $f(x)$ , where the function is represented as a vector. This family of methods is referred to as *finite difference* methods.

## First Derivative

Consider a function defined on a discrete grid as shown in Figure 108. For simplicity of the following analysis, we will assume that the grid points are all equally spaced:  $\Delta x = h$ . Suppose we know the value of the function,  $f(x_i)$ , at all grid points,  $x_i$ , and we wish to

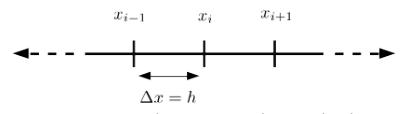


Figure 108: A discrete grid on which a function may be defined.

estimate the first derivative,  $f'(x_i)$ . From the Taylor series expansion we have:

$$f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + f'(x_i) \overbrace{(x_{i+1} - x_i)}^h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2!} \overbrace{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2}^{h^2} + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(x_i)}{n!} \overbrace{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^n}^{h^n} + \dots$$

If we solve for  $f'(x_i)$ , we obtain a two-point *forward difference* formula:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x_i) &= \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)}{h} - \text{higher order terms} \\ f'(x_i) &= \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)}{h} - \frac{f''(\xi)}{2!} h \end{aligned}$$

in which it can be shown that the higher order terms are equal to  $\frac{f''(\xi)}{2!} h$  with  $\xi \in [x_i, x_{i+1}]$ . We can more generically characterize that error term using asymptotic notation:  $\mathcal{O}(h)$ .

We can similarly define a two-point backward difference formula:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_{i-1}) &= f(x_i) - f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2!} h^2 - \dots \\ \Rightarrow f'(x_i) &= \frac{f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})}{h} + \mathcal{O}(h) \end{aligned}$$

These equations are simple to use and effective, however they have a significant drawback in that the error term is proportional to  $h$ . For every extra decimal place we need to gain in accuracy, we need to reduce  $h$  by a factor of 10. This adds up quickly. The good news is that we can do better.

For first derivative formulas, we can try a centered difference scheme:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_{i+1}) &= f(x_i) + f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2!} h^2 + \mathcal{O}(h^3) \\ f(x_{i-1}) &= f(x_i) - f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2!} h^2 - \mathcal{O}(h^3) \\ f'(x_i) &= \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_{i-1})}{2h} + \underbrace{\frac{\mathcal{O}(h^3)}{2h}}_{\mathcal{O}(h^2)} \end{aligned}$$

Here we subtract the first equation from the second and solve for  $f'(x_i)$ .

This results in second-order convergence. We can also get second-order convergence if we use more data points in the derivation. We will skip the messy algebraic details but three-point, second-order forward and backward differentiation formulas are given in Equation 169, and Equation 170.

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{-3f(x_i) + 4f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_{i+2})}{2h} \quad (169)$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i-2}) - 4f(x_{i-1}) + 3f(x_i)}{2h} \quad (170)$$

**Example:** Use the 2- and 3-point finite difference formulas to numerically differentiate  $\cos x$ .

In this listing, we carry out the differentiation with 2-point difference methods.

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clear
clc
close 'all'

f = @(x) cos(x);

n = 7;
Nx = 2^n;
xMin = 0; xMax = pi;
X = linspace(xMin,xMax,Nx);
h = X(2) - X(1);

% initialize the derivative array
df_numeric = nan(1,Nx);

% use fwd difference at left end
df_numeric(1) = (1/h)*(f(X(2))- f(X(1)));

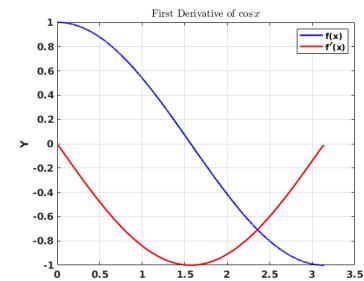
% use backward difference at right end
df_numeric(end) = (1/h)*(f(X(end)) - f(X(end-1)));

% use centered difference everywhere else
i = 2:(Nx-1); ip = i+1; im = i-1; ❶
df_numeric(2:(end-1)) = (1/(2*h))*(f(X(ip))-f(X(im)));

% plot the function and its derivative
Xp = linspace(xMin,xMax,10000);
figure(1)
plot(Xp,f(Xp),'-b',...
    X,df_numeric,'-r','linewidth',2);
grid on;
title('First Derivative of $\cos{x}$',...
    'fontsize',14,...
    'fontweight','bold',...
    'Interpreter','latex');
xlabel('X','fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('Y','fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
legend('f(x)', 'f^(prime)(x)');
set(gca,'fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');

❶ here we use these vectors to index
df_numeric and f in a "vectorized"
fashion rather than one equation at a
time.

```



In the next listing a method for carrying out a convergence analysis is shown.

```

%% Get Convergence Rate
N = 5:15;
rel_err = nan(1,length(N));
h_err = nan(1,length(N));

for s = 1:length(N)
    Nx = 2^N(s);
    xMin = 0; xMax = pi;

```

Figure 109: A plot of  $\cos x$  and its first derivative calculated numerically.

```

X = linspace(xMin,xMax,Nx);
h = X(2) - X(1);
h_err(s) = h;

df_numeric = nan(1,Nx);
% use fwd difference at left end
df_numeric(1) = (1/h)*(f(X(2))- f(X(1)));
% use backward difference at right end
df_numeric(end) = (1/h)*(f(X(end)) - f(X(end-1)));
% use centered difference everywhere else
i = 2:(Nx-1); ip = i+1; im = i-1;
df_numeric(i) = (1/(2*h))*(f(X(ip))-f(X(im)));

% estimate the relative error
x_err = 1:Nx; % include the end points
%x_err = 2:(Nx-1); % exclude the end points

rel_err(s) = norm(df_numeric(x_err) - df(X(x_err)),2) ...
/norm(df(X(x_err)),2);
end

% add gauge lines for convergence
c1 = 0;
h1 = h_err + c1;

c2 = 0;
h2 = h_err.^2 + c2;

figure(2)
loglog(h_err,rel_err,'-b',...
h_err,h1,'—r',...
h_err,h2,'—g','linewidth',3);
title('Convergence Behavior','fontsize',14,...
'fontweight','bold');
xlabel('h','fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
ylabel('Relative Error','fontsize',12,'fontweight','bold');
grid on
set(gca,'fontsize',10,'fontweight','bold');
legend('Estimate','h^1 convergence','h^2 convergence',...
'location','best');

```

We use the 2<sup>nd</sup>-order accurate centered difference equation through most of the domain but, as Figure 110 shows, the first-order accurate 2-point formulas at the end-points are enough to spoil convergence.

If we use the 2<sup>nd</sup>-order 3-point forward and backward differentiation formulas, we can get convergence at 2<sup>nd</sup>-order as shown in Figure 111.

### Second Derivative Formulas

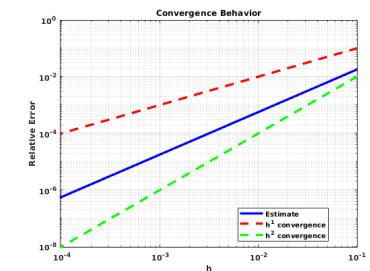


Figure 110: Convergence behavior using 2-point finite difference formulas.

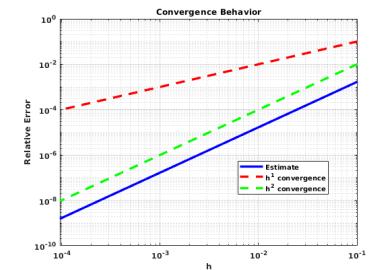


Figure 111: Convergence behavior using 2<sup>nd</sup>-order finite difference equations throughout the domain.

**Part XI**

**Back Matter**



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# **Appendices**



# *Matlab Style Rules*

1. **Rule:** All scripts will start with the commands: `clear`, `clc`, and `close 'all'`

**Rationale:** No script should depend upon any data visible in the MATLAB workspace when the script starts. By omitting these commands, residual data within the workspace may hide errors.

2. **Rule:** Your code must be documented with enough details such that a reader unfamiliar with your work will know what you are doing.

**Rationale:** Code documentation is a habit. For more significant projects readers may need help in deciding what the author of the code intended. For your own code, the most likely reader is you—a few months into the future.

3. **Rule:** Function and variable names must be meaningful and reasonable in length.

**Rationale:** Failing to do either make code harder to read and maintain.

4. **Rule:** All outputs from the code must be meaningful; numbers should be formatted, part of a sentence, and include units. Graphs should be readable and axis labels should make sense and include units.

**Rationale:** Code output is a form of communication. It is important that this communication be clear and unambiguous.

5. **Rule:** Do not leave warnings from the Code Analyzer undressed.

**Rationale:** Sometimes Code Analyzer warnings can be safely ignored. Most of the time the warning points to a stylistic error that would be unacceptable in software that you use. Occasionally these warnings are indicative of a hidden error.

6. **Rule:** Use the “smart indentation tool” to format the indentation of your code.

- Rationale:** This tool improves code readability. It will also occasionally point out errors that you did not see before.
7. **Rule:** Pre-allocate arrays; if possible initialize with **NaN** values.  
**Rationale:** Pre-allocation improves performance and helps readability. Initialization with **NaN** helps avoid a range of potential logical errors.
  8. **Rule:** Avoid “magic numbers” — i.e. hard-coded constants.  
**Rationale:** Constants included in your code tend to hide your program logic. Also, “magic numbers” make code maintenance more difficult and error prone.
  9. **Rule:** Only write one statement per line.  
**Rationale:** Multi-statement-lines hurt code readability in almost all cases.
  10. **Rule:** Do not write excessively long lines of code; use the line continuation “...” and indentation to spread long expressions over several lines.  
**Rationale:** Following this rule improves code readability.

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