

Lecture 10: Heat equation

Heat equation:
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0$$

$\mathcal{E} = \sigma(x) u(t, x)$ energy density

↑
density \times heat capacity

thermal conductivity

$w = -\kappa(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$ Fourier's law of cooling
(energy flux)

Heat
Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\sigma u) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\kappa(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + h(t, x)$$

$a < x < b$

↑
internal source

$$u(t_0, x) = f(x), \quad a < x < b$$

Robin boundary condition: $u_x(t, a) + \beta(t) u(t, a) = \tau(t)$.

$u(t, a) = \alpha(t)$ temperature specified (Dirichlet)

$u_x(t, a) = \tau(t)$ flux specified (Neumann)
($\tau=0 \Rightarrow$ insulated)

Also: periodic.

Really we will mostly deal with case with constants.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \gamma \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \quad \gamma = \frac{\kappa}{\sigma}$$

Simple problem: bar (1D) of length l , zero temp at ends

$$u(t, 0) = u(t, l) = 0, \quad t \geq 0$$

$$u(0, x) = f(x), \quad 0 \leq x \leq l$$

Put $u(t, x) = e^{-\lambda t} v(x)$ (anticipate sign of λ)

$$\gamma v'' + \lambda v = 0, \quad v(0) = v(l) = 0.$$

Find $v(x) = a \cos \omega x + b \sin \omega x$, $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\gamma}}$.

B.C. at $x=0 \Rightarrow a=0$

B.C. at $x=l \Rightarrow \omega l = n\pi$, $0 < n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Eigenfunctions are: $u_n(t, x) = \exp\left(-\frac{\gamma n^2 \pi^2 t}{l^2}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$.

Assemble into series:

$$u(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n u_n(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n e^{-\alpha n^2 \pi^2 t / l^2} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$$

$$u(0, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) = f(x).$$

Fourier sine series on $[0, l]$. This is because solution is not periodic, but rather has 0 endpoints. Automatically satisfied by periodic odd function on $[-l, l]$.

$$b_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx, \quad n > 0$$

For example, consider an isothermal initial condition $f(x) = f_0$, $0 < x < \pi$. Does not satisfy BC but ok: like making contact with a hot heating element.

$$\text{Then } b_n = \frac{2}{l} f_0 \int_0^l \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx$$

$$= \frac{2f_0}{l} \frac{l}{n\pi} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) \Big|_0^l = \frac{2f_0}{n\pi} (1 - (-1)^n).$$

$$u(t, x) = \frac{4f_0}{\pi} \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \frac{e^{-\alpha n^2 \pi^2 t / l^2}}{n} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right).$$

A few remarks:

- If $f(x)$ is integrable, it has bounded Fourier coeffs:

$$|b_n| \leq \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l |f(x) \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{l})| dx \leq \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l |f(x)| dx = M$$

This property holds even for noisy initial data.

$$\text{But then } |b_n e^{-\gamma n^2 \pi^2 t / l^2} \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{l})| \leq M e^{-\gamma n^2 \pi^2 t / l^2}$$

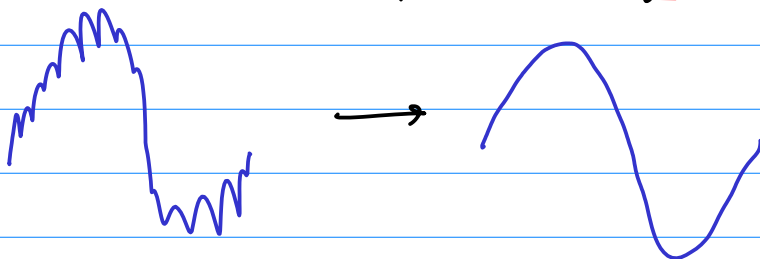
Hence $u(t, x) \rightarrow 0$ exponentially fast (uniform temp.)

- For large t , keep only the slowest-decaying exponential, typically $n=1$ (when $b_1 \neq 0$).

$$\text{Then } u(t, x) \sim \frac{4f_0}{\pi} e^{-\gamma \pi^2 t / l^2} \sin(\frac{\pi x}{l}), \quad t \rightarrow \infty$$

So ultimately almost any initial condition settles into the $\sin(\frac{\pi x}{l})$ eigenfunction.

- Initial fluctuations disappear rapidly.
This can be used for denoising a signal



For t not too large!

- The Fourier coeff decay exponentially with n for $t > 0$.
So solution is C^∞ even if $f(x)$ isn't.
- This also implies the backward heat equation

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

is ill-posed for $t > 0$. & C^∞

Indeed, assume we evolve an integrable $f(x)$ backward in time to $t = -t_0$, $t_0 > 0$.

But then evolving this back forward from $-t_0$ to 0 should recover $f(x)$. But this would imply $f \in C^\infty$, which we assumed it didn't.

The problem is that high-frequency noise grows as $e^{2n^2\pi^2 t / l^2}$ when evolved backward! So there is no convergence.

- In practice, what if you actually need to solve the eq'n backwards? (i.e., time of death on CSI!)

OK, but truncate Fourier series.

Can also be used in image sharpening