

REVIEW

TWO POINT BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS

- A two point boundary value problem (bvp) is typically of the form

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$$

$$y(\alpha) = y_0 \quad y(\beta) = y_1$$

where α and β are two points on the domain.

- The important thing to note is that instead of specifying y and y' at the **same** point, we specify **only** y but at **two different** points.
- A 2-point bvp is *homogeneous*, if $g(t) = 0$ and $y_0 = y_1 = 0$, otherwise it is *non-homogeneous* (note that unlike before, the definition also depends on the boundary values).
- Consider the homogeneous 2 point bvp

$$y'' + \lambda y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0 \quad y(\pi) = 0$$

- $y = 0$ is called a *trivial solution* and every other solution is called *nontrivial*.
- If for some value of λ , there is a *nontrivial* solution y , then we say that λ is an *eigenvalue* and y is an *eigenfunction*.
- If $\lambda > 0$, the eigenvalues are n^2 and the eigenfunctions are $\sin(nx)$ respectively (n is a natural number). Thus there are infinitely many eigenvalues and eigenfunctions
- If $\lambda \leq 0$, there are no eigenvalues or eigenvectors.

FOURIER SERIES

- A function, f is *periodic* with *period* $T > 0$ if for any x :

$$f(x + T) = f(x).$$

- The *fundamental period* of a periodic function is the smallest T with the above property.
- Let f and g be two functions on $[-L, L]$. The *inner product* of f and g , denoted (f, g) is

$$(f, g) = \int_{-L}^L f(x)g(x)dx$$

- If $(f, g) = 0$, we say that f and g are *orthogonal*.
- The functions $\cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right)$ and $\sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right)$ are very important to us.
- $\cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right)$ and $\cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$ are orthogonal (except when $m = n$):

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

- $\sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right)$ and $\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$ are orthogonal (except when $m = n$):

$$\int_{-L}^L \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & m \neq n \\ L & m = n \end{cases}$$

- $\cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right)$ and $\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$ are orthogonal for all m and n :

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

- Let f be a function on $[-L, L]$. Its *Fourier series* is given by

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left[a_m \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) + b_m \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) \right]$$

- the constants, a_n, b_k with $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ are given by:

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx \quad b_k = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{k\pi}{L}x\right) dx$$

PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. Find the first four terms in the Fourier series (a_0, b_1, a_1, b_2) of the following functions on the interval $[-\pi, \pi]$:

(a) $f(x) = 1$ (constant function)

(b) $f(x) = x$

(c) $f(x) = \cos(x)$

2. Either solve the bvp

$$y'' + 4y = \cos x \quad y'(0) = 0 \quad y'(\pi) = 0$$

or show that it has no solution. (Notice that instead of specifying y at the two points, we specified y' , but this is still a 2-point bvp)

3. Find all the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the bvp:

$$y'' + \lambda y = 0 \quad y'(0) = 0 \quad y'(\pi) = 0.$$

(assuming all eigenvalues are real).