

Math 412-501

Theory of Partial Differential Equations

**Lecture 2-6: Heat and wave equations  
in box-shaped regions.**

## Heat conduction in a rectangle

Initial-boundary value problem:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, y, 0) = f(x, y) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(0, y, t) = u(L, y, t) = 0 \quad (0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, 0, t) = u(x, H, t) = 0 \quad (0 < x < L).$$

We are looking for solutions to the boundary value problem with separated variables.

Separation of variables:  $u(x, y, t) = \phi(x)h(y)G(t)$ .  
Substitute this into the heat equation:

$$\phi(x)h(y)\frac{dG}{dt} = k \left( \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2}h(y)G(t) + \phi(x)\frac{d^2h}{dy^2}G(t) \right).$$

Divide both sides by

$$k \cdot \phi(x)h(y)G(t) = k \cdot u(x, y, t):$$

$$\frac{1}{kG} \cdot \frac{dG}{dt} = \frac{1}{\phi} \cdot \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{h} \cdot \frac{d^2h}{dy^2}.$$

It follows that  $\frac{1}{\phi} \cdot \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} = -\lambda$ ,  $\frac{1}{h} \cdot \frac{d^2h}{dy^2} = -\mu$ ,

$\frac{1}{kG} \cdot \frac{dG}{dt} = -\lambda - \mu$ , where  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are **separation constants**.

The variables have been separated:

$$\frac{dG}{dt} = -(\lambda + \mu)kG,$$
$$\frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} = -\lambda\phi, \quad \frac{d^2h}{dy^2} = -\mu h.$$

**Proposition** Suppose  $G$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $h$  are solutions of the above ODEs for the same values of  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ .

Then  $u(x, y, t) = \phi(x)h(y)G(t)$  is a solution of the heat equation.

Boundary conditions  $u(0, y, t) = u(L, y, t) = 0$  hold if  $\phi(0) = \phi(L) = 0$ .

Boundary conditions  $u(x, 0, t) = u(x, H, t) = 0$  hold if  $h(0) = h(H) = 0$ .

**1st eigenvalue problem:**  $\phi'' = -\lambda\phi$ ,  $\phi(0) = \phi(L) = 0$ .

Eigenvalues:  $\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$

Eigenfunctions:  $\phi_n(x) = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ .

**2nd eigenvalue problem:**  $h'' = -\mu h$ ,  $h(0) = h(H) = 0$ .

Eigenvalues:  $\mu_m = \left(\frac{m\pi}{H}\right)^2$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$

Eigenfunctions:  $h_m(y) = \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}$ .

**Dependence on  $t$ :**

$$G'(t) = -(\lambda + \mu)kG(t) \implies G(t) = C_0 e^{-(\lambda + \mu)kt}$$

Solution of the boundary value problem:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y, t) &= e^{-(\lambda_n + \mu_m)kt} \phi_n(x) h_m(y) \\ &= \exp\left(-\left(\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m\pi}{H}\right)^2\right)kt\right) \cdot \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cdot \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}. \end{aligned}$$

We are looking for the solution of the initial-boundary value problem as a superposition of solutions with separated variables.

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} C_{n,m} e^{-(\lambda_n + \mu_m)kt} \phi_n(x) h_m(y) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} C_{n,m} \exp\left(-\left(\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m\pi}{H}\right)^2\right)kt\right) \cdot \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cdot \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H} \end{aligned}$$

How do we find coefficients  $C_{n,m}$ ?

From the initial condition  $u(x, y, 0) = f(x, y)$ .

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} C_{n,m} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}$$

**(double Fourier sine series)**

How do we solve the heat conduction problem?

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, y, 0) = f(x, y) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(0, y, t) = u(L, y, t) = 0 \quad (0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, 0, t) = u(x, H, t) = 0 \quad (0 < x < L).$$

- Expand  $f$  into the double Fourier sine series:

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_{n,m} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}.$$

- Write the solution:  $u(x, y, t) =$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_{n,m} \exp\left(-\left(\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m\pi}{H}\right)^2\right)kt\right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}.$$

How do we expand  $f$  into the double Fourier sine series?

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_{n,m} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}.$$

For simplicity, assume that  $f$  is smooth and vanishes on the boundary of the rectangle  $[0, L] \times [0, H]$ .

Fix any  $y \in [0, H]$ . Then  $g(x) = f(x, y)$  is a smooth function on  $[0, L]$  and  $g(0) = g(L) = 0$ .

Hence  $g(x)$  can be expanded into the Fourier sine series on  $[0, L]$ :

$$g(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}.$$

Note that each  $B_n$  depends on  $y$ ;  $B_n = B_n(y)$ .



$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n(y) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

Can we expand  $B_n(y)$  into the Fourier sine series on  $[0, H]$ ?

$$B_n(y) = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x, y) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

It follows that  $B_n(y)$  is smooth and  $B_n(0) = B_n(H) = 0$ .

$$B_n(y) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_{n,m} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}$$

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_{n,m} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_{n,m} &= \frac{2}{H} \int_0^H B_n(y) \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H} dy \\ &= \frac{2}{H} \int_0^H \left( \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x,y) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right) \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H} dy \\ &= \frac{4}{LH} \int_0^L \int_0^H f(x,y) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H} dx dy. \end{aligned}$$

How do we solve the heat conduction problem?

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, y, 0) = f(x, y) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(0, y, t) = u(L, y, t) = 0 \quad (0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, 0, t) = u(x, H, t) = 0 \quad (0 < x < L).$$

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Solution:  $u(x, y, t) =$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_{n,m} \exp\left(-\left(\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m\pi}{H}\right)^2\right)kt\right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H},$$

where

$$b_{n,m} = \frac{4}{LH} \int_0^L \int_0^H f(x, y) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H} dx dy.$$

## Vibrating rectangular membrane

Initial-boundary value problem:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, y, 0) = f(x, y),$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, y, 0) = g(x, y) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(0, y, t) = u(L, y, t) = 0 \quad (0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, 0, t) = u(x, H, t) = 0 \quad (0 < x < L).$$

We are looking for solutions to the boundary value problem with separated variables.

Separation of variables:  $u(x, y, t) = \phi(x)h(y)G(t)$ .

Substitute this into the wave equation:

$$\phi(x)h(y)\frac{d^2G}{dt^2} = c^2 \left( \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2}h(y)G(t) + \phi(x)\frac{d^2h}{dy^2}G(t) \right).$$

Divide both sides by  $c^2\phi(x)h(y)G(t) = c^2u(x, y, t)$ :

$$\frac{1}{c^2G} \cdot \frac{d^2G}{dt^2} = \frac{1}{\phi} \cdot \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{h} \cdot \frac{d^2h}{dy^2}.$$

It follows that  $\frac{1}{\phi} \cdot \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} = -\lambda$ ,  $\frac{1}{h} \cdot \frac{d^2h}{dy^2} = -\mu$ ,

$\frac{1}{c^2G} \cdot \frac{d^2G}{dt^2} = -\lambda - \mu$ , where  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are separation constants.

The variables have been separated:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2G}{dt^2} &= -(\lambda + \mu)c^2G, \\ \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} &= -\lambda\phi, & \frac{d^2h}{dy^2} &= -\mu h.\end{aligned}$$

**Proposition** Suppose  $G$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $h$  are solutions of the above ODEs for the same values of  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ .

Then  $u(x, y, t) = \phi(x)h(y)G(t)$  is a solution of the heat equation.

Boundary conditions  $u(0, y, t) = u(L, y, t) = 0$  hold if  $\phi(0) = \phi(L) = 0$ .

Boundary conditions  $u(x, 0, t) = u(x, H, t) = 0$  hold if  $h(0) = h(H) = 0$ .

1st eigenvalue problem:  $\phi'' = -\lambda\phi$ ,  $\phi(0) = \phi(L) = 0$ .

Eigenvalues:  $\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$

Eigenfunctions:  $\phi_n(x) = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ .

2nd eigenvalue problem:  $h'' = -\mu h$ ,  $h(0) = h(H) = 0$ .

Eigenvalues:  $\mu_m = \left(\frac{m\pi}{H}\right)^2$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$

Eigenfunctions:  $h_m(y) = \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}$ .

Dependence on  $t$ :  $G''(t) = -(\lambda + \mu)c^2 G(t)$

$\implies G(t) = C_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda + \mu} \cdot ct) + C_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda + \mu} \cdot ct)$

Solution of the boundary value problem:

$u(x, y, t) =$

$= (C_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda_n + \mu_m} ct) + C_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda_n + \mu_m} ct)) \phi_n(x) h_m(y).$

We are looking for the solution of the initial-boundary value problem as a superposition of solutions with separated variables.

$$u(x, y, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left( C_{n,m} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda_n + \mu_m} ct) + D_{n,m} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda_n + \mu_m} ct) \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}$$

How do we find coefficients  $C_{n,m}$  and  $D_{n,m}$ ?

From initial conditions  $u(x, y, 0) = f(x, y)$  and  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, y, 0) = g(x, y)$ .

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} C_{n,m} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}$$

$$g(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sqrt{\lambda_n + \mu_m} c D_{n,m} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}$$



*How do we solve the initial-boundary value problem?*

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, y, 0) = f(x, y),$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, y, 0) = g(x, y) \quad (0 < x < L, 0 < y < H),$$

$$u(0, y, t) = u(L, y, t) = 0 \quad (0 < y < H),$$

$$u(x, 0, t) = u(x, H, t) = 0 \quad (0 < x < L).$$

- Expand  $f$  and  $g$  into the double Fourier sine series:

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{n,m} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H},$$

$$g(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_{n,m} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H}.$$

- Write the solution:

$$u(x, y, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left( a_{n,m} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda_n + \mu_m} ct) + b_{n,m} \frac{\sin(\sqrt{\lambda_n + \mu_m} ct)}{\sqrt{\lambda_n + \mu_m} c} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H},$$

where  $\lambda_n + \mu_m = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m\pi}{H}\right)^2$ ,

$$a_{n,m} = \frac{4}{LH} \int_0^L \int_0^H f(x, y) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H} dx dy,$$

$$b_{n,m} = \frac{4}{LH} \int_0^L \int_0^H g(x, y) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{H} dx dy.$$