## §10.4, end; Partial differential equations (beginning)

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O. Costin: §10.4-5

Extension of functions defined on $[0, L]$

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If we only want to calculate a sufficiently nice function on, say $[0, L]$, it does not have to be periodic. We can just extend it periodically. Eg, we extend it by zero on $[-L, 0]$ and then repeat it periodically.
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Better suited, especially if we want a pure sine decomposition is the odd extension:
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$\leftrightarrow \triangleleft \diamond \bullet \bullet \leftarrow \rightarrow$

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But maybe your function, in reality, followed the blue path instead. The Fourier series, calculated by this method, will give the red function, nonetheless.

## PDEs

## The Heat Equation.


(picture from Wikipedia) We start by considering the following physical problem: a rod of length $L$ is placed between two ice cubes, so that the temperature $u$ at the endpoints is zero.

At $t=0 u(x, 0)=f(x)$ in the rod, on $(0, L)$ Say the whole rod was at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. What is the temperature distribution at time $t$ ?

Note that now there are two variables, $t$ and $x$. Whatever equation is applicable, it has to involve both $x$ and $t$. It is a differential equation, and since there are two independent variables, it involves partial derivatives.

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The applicable PDE is the heat conduction equation, in short the heat equation,

$$
u_{t}=\alpha^{2} u_{x x}
$$

The whole problem is

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u_{t}=\alpha^{2} u_{x x}, \quad u(0, t)=u(L, t)=0, u(x, 0)=f(x)
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$\alpha^{2}$ is a constant, depending only on the material of the rod, and it is called thermal diffusivity. See textbook for common values of $\alpha$. This is a linear PDE.

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O. Costin: §10.4-5

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that is in a product form, product of two functions each solely depending on one variable. In this sense the variables are separated. But we cannot hope to find the solution to the whole problem in exactly this form. Why should the variation in temperature not depend on $x$ ?It must be faster near the endpoints and slower in the middle, farther from the ice cubes.

But the problem

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u_{t}=\alpha^{2} u_{x x}, u(0, t)=u(L, t)=0
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Now, we can hope to find sufficiently many solutions $u_{1}, u_{2}$, etc. so that, when we add $u_{1}+u_{2}+u_{3}+\ldots$ we get the actual solution.

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Now, we can hope to find sufficiently many solutions $u_{1}, u_{2}$, etc. so that, when we add $u_{1}+u_{2}+u_{3}+\ldots$ we get the actual solution.

This really works for the heat equation and other simple linear problems and it is known as the method of separation of variables.
O. Costin: §10.4-5

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Then $u_{t}=X(x) T^{\prime}(t) ; u_{x x}=X^{\prime \prime}(x) T(t)$.

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X(x) T^{\prime}(t)=\alpha^{2} X^{\prime \prime}(x) T(t) \text { so } \underbrace{\frac{T^{\prime}(t)}{\alpha^{2} T(t)}}_{\text {depends on } t \text { alone }}=\underbrace{\frac{X^{\prime \prime}(x)}{X(x)}}_{\text {depends on } x \text { alone }}
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How can a function of $x$ exactly match a function of $t$ ?

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How can a function of $x$ exactly match a function of $t$ ? These are independent variables. Thus they can be changed independently. One is fixed, say $t$ and we change $x$. If $\frac{X^{\prime \prime}(x)}{X(x)}$ changes, then we have a contradiction, since $\frac{T^{\prime}(t)}{\alpha^{2} T(t)}$ does not change, since it does not depend on $x$.

Thus $\frac{X^{\prime \prime}(x)}{X(x)}$ is simply a constant, say $-\lambda$.
O. Costin: §10.4-5

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We arrive at a pair of ODEs:

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\frac{T^{\prime}(t)}{\alpha^{2} T(t)}=-\lambda
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\end{align*}
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\begin{align*}
& \frac{T^{\prime}(t)}{\alpha^{2} T(t)}=-\lambda  \tag{1}\\
& \frac{X^{\prime \prime}(x)}{X(x)}=-\lambda \tag{2}
\end{align*}
$$

Now, (1) is an initial value problem (since $T(0)$ is given), while (2) is a boundary value problem since it is subject to the conditions $X(0)=0, X(L)=0$ (where the ice cubes lie).

$$
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O. Costin: §10.4-5

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{T^{\prime}(t)}{\alpha^{2} T(t)} & =-\lambda  \tag{3}\\
\frac{X^{\prime \prime}(x)}{X(x)} & =-\lambda
\end{align*}
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O. Costin: §10.4-5

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\begin{align*}
& \frac{T^{\prime}(t)}{\alpha^{2} T(t)}=-\lambda  \tag{3}\\
& \frac{X^{\prime \prime}(x)}{X(x)}=-\lambda \tag{4}
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$$

Note that the boundary value problem (4) is an eigenvalue problem!

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Note that the boundary value problem (4) is an eigenvalue problem! Indeed, it is

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X^{\prime \prime}(x)=-\lambda X(x) ; \quad X(0)=0, X(L)=0
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\begin{equation*}
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\end{equation*}
$$

where we seek nonzero solutions! (a zero solution would not help much here).

$$
X^{\prime \prime}(x)=-\lambda X(x) ; \quad X(0)=0, \quad X(L)=0
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
X^{\prime \prime}(x)=-\lambda X(x) ; \quad X(0)=0, \quad X(L)=0 \tag{6}
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O. Costin: §10.4-5

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We studied (6) before. Look at that section. The general solution is sine + cosine of $\sqrt{\lambda}$; only $\sin (0)=0$, thus it is a pure sine, but to vanish at $L$ we need $\sqrt{\lambda} L=n \pi$ and thus all the eigenvalues for this problem are

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\lambda_{n}=n^{2} \pi^{2} / L^{2}, n=1,2,3, \ldots
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and the eigenfunctions are

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X_{n}=\left(c_{n}\right) \sin (n \pi x / L)
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We found infinitely many solutions!
O. Costin: $\S 10.4-5$

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$$
\frac{T_{n}^{\prime}(t)}{\alpha^{2} T_{n}(t)}=-\lambda_{n} \quad \text { that is } T_{n}^{\prime}(t)=\left(-n^{2} \pi^{2} / L^{2}\right) \alpha^{2} T_{n}(t), n=1,2,3, \ldots
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$$

Putting $X_{n}$ and $T_{n}$ together -remember,

$$
\begin{gathered}
u_{n}(x, t)=X_{n}(x) T_{n}(t) \quad \text { we have: } \\
u_{n}(x, t)=c_{n} \exp \left(-n^{2} \alpha^{2} \pi^{2} t / L^{2}\right) \sin (n \pi x / L)
\end{gathered}
$$

Now we really have many solutions, as desired.
O. Costin: §10.4-5

Now we really have many solutions, as desired. Then, by the linearity and homogeneity of the equation

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u(x, t)=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{n} \exp \left(-n^{2} \pi^{2} \alpha^{2} t / L^{2}\right) \sin (n \pi x / L)
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is also a solution of the problem.
Indeed, $u(0, t)=u(L, t)=0$,
How about the initial condition, $u(x, 0)=f(x)=20$ on ( $0, L$ )? Can it be fitted by (9)?

Let's try.

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$$
f(x)=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{n} \exp \left(-n^{2} \pi^{2} \alpha^{2} 0 / L^{2}\right) \sin (n \pi x / L)=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{n} \sin (n \pi x / L)
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$$

But this is a Fourier sine decomposition, on $[-L, L]$ (because of " $n \pi x / L$ ", the argument of $\sin$.

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But this is a Fourier sine decomposition, on $[-L, L]$ (because of " $n \pi x / L$ ", the argument of sin. So, we will extend $f$, initially defined on $(0, L)$ as an odd function (to be able to get a pure sine Fourier series). The function to be worked with is thus:

$$
f(x)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
-20 \text { for } x \in(-L, 0) \\
20 \text { for } x \in(0, L)
\end{array}\right.
$$

Let's try.

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f(x)=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{n} \exp \left(-n^{2} \pi^{2} \alpha^{2} 0 / L^{2}\right) \sin (n \pi x / L)=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{n} \sin (n \pi x / L)
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20 \text { for } x \in(0, L)
\end{array}\right.
$$

Since this is indeed an odd function, the coefficients $c_{n}$ are

## given by

O. Costin: §10.4-5
$4<\diamond \gg \leftarrow \rightarrow$
given by

$$
\frac{1}{L} \int_{0}^{L} f(x) \sin (n \pi x / L) d x=\frac{1}{L} \int_{0}^{L} 20 \sin (n \pi x / L) d x=40 \frac{1-(-1)^{n}}{n \pi}
$$

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$$

The complete solution is thus

$$
u(x, t)=40 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1-(-1)^{n}}{n \pi} \exp \left(-n^{2} \pi^{2} \alpha^{2} t / L^{2}\right) \sin (n \pi x / L)
$$

given by

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\frac{1}{L} \int_{0}^{L} f(x) \sin (n \pi x / L) d x=\frac{1}{L} \int_{0}^{L} 20 \sin (n \pi x / L) d x=40 \frac{1-(-1)^{n}}{n \pi}
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O. Costin: §10.4-5

