

Sec. 4.2, p. 90.

#1. Solve the diffusion equation  $u_t - k u_{xx} = 0$  for  $0 < x < l$  and  $0 < t < \infty$  with the mixed boundary conditions  $u(0, t) = u_x(l, t) = 0$  for  $t \geq 0$ .

We seek nontrivial solutions via the method of separation of variables. Let  $u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$ . Then substituting in the PDE produces  $X T' - k X'' T = 0$

or

$$\frac{T'}{kT} = \frac{X''}{X} = \text{constant} = \lambda.$$

Hence

$$\begin{cases} T' - \lambda k T = 0, \\ X'' - \lambda X = 0, \quad X(0) = 0 = X'(l). \end{cases}$$

Case  $\lambda > 0$ , say  $\lambda = \beta^2$ : The solution to the ODE is  $X(x) = c_1 \cosh(\beta x) + c_2 \sinh(\beta x)$ . The B.C.'s yield:

$$\begin{cases} 0 = X(0) = c_1 \cdot 1 + c_2 \cdot 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \\ 0 = X'(l) = \beta c_1^0 \sinh(\beta l) + \beta c_2 \cosh(\beta l) \Rightarrow c_2 = 0 \end{cases} \left. \vphantom{\begin{cases} 0 = X(0) \\ 0 = X'(l) \end{cases}} \right\} \text{Trivial solution.}$$

Case  $\lambda = 0$ : The solution to the ODE is  $X(x) = c_1 x + c_2$ . The B.C.'s yield

$$\begin{cases} 0 = X(0) = c_1 \cdot 0 + c_2 \Rightarrow c_2 = 0 \\ 0 = X'(l) = c_1 \end{cases} \left. \vphantom{\begin{cases} 0 = X(0) \\ 0 = X'(l) \end{cases}} \right\} \text{Trivial solution.}$$

Case  $\lambda < 0$ , say  $\lambda = -\beta^2$ : The solution to the ODE is

$X(x) = c_1 \cos(\beta x) + c_2 \sin(\beta x)$ . The B.C.'s yield

$$0 = X(0) = c_1 \cdot 1 + c_2 \cdot 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0$$

$$0 = X'(l) = -\beta c_1^0 \sin(\beta l) + \beta c_2 \cos(\beta l) \Rightarrow \beta = \beta_n = \frac{(2n+1)\pi}{2l} = \frac{(n+\frac{1}{2})\pi}{l} \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots)$$

Thus  $\lambda_n = -\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \frac{\pi^2}{l^2}$  ( $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ) are the eigenvalues and

$X_n(x) = c_n \sin\left(\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{\pi x}{l}\right)$  ( $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ) are the corresponding eigenfunctions.

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#2. (cont.)

(a) Let  $u(x,t) = X(x)T(t)$ . Then  $u_{tt} = X(x)T''(t)$  and  $u_{xx} = X''(x)T(t)$   
so the PDE becomes  $T''X = c^2 X''T \Rightarrow \frac{T''}{c^2 T} = \frac{X''}{X} = -\lambda$ .

Therefore 
$$\begin{cases} T'' + \lambda c^2 T = 0 \\ \boxed{X'' + \lambda X = 0} \end{cases}$$

The B.C.'s are  $X'(0)T(t) = 0 = X(l)T(t)$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . Since  $T(t) \neq 0$ , it must happen that  $\boxed{X(l) = X'(0) = 0}$ .

Case  $\lambda > 0$  (say  $\lambda = \beta^2 > 0$ ):  $X(x) = c_1 \cos(\beta x) + c_2 \sin(\beta x)$  is the general solution to the ODE.  $X'(x) = -\beta c_1 \sin(\beta x) + \beta c_2 \cos(\beta x)$ .  
 $\therefore X'(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \beta c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = 0$ . Thus  $X(x) = c_1 \cos(\beta x)$ .  
 $X(l) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 \cos(\beta l) = 0 \Rightarrow \cos(\beta l) = 0 \Rightarrow \beta l = (n + \frac{1}{2})\pi$   
 $\Rightarrow \boxed{\beta_n = \frac{(n + \frac{1}{2})\pi}{l}}$  (for some integer  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ). The eigenfunctions are  
 $X_n(x) = \cos(\beta_n x) = \boxed{\cos\left(\frac{(n + \frac{1}{2})\pi x}{l}\right)}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Case  $\lambda = 0$ :  $X(x) = c_1 x + c_2$  is the general solution to the ODE.  
 $0 = X'(0) = c_1 \Rightarrow X(x) = c_2$ .  $0 = X(l) = c_2 \Rightarrow X(x) \equiv 0$ .  
that is, 0 is not an eigenvalue.

Case  $\lambda < 0$  (say  $\lambda = -\beta^2 < 0$ ):  $X(x) = c_1 \cosh(\beta x) + c_2 \sinh(\beta x)$  is the general solution to the ODE.  $X'(x) = \beta c_1 \sinh(\beta x) + \beta c_2 \cosh(\beta x)$ .  
 $\therefore 0 = X'(0) = \beta c_2 \Rightarrow c_2 = 0$ . Therefore  $X(x) = c_1 \cosh(\beta x)$ .  
 $0 = X(l) = c_1 \cosh(\beta l) \Rightarrow c_1 = 0$  because  $\cosh(t) \neq 0$  for all real  $t$ .  
Therefore  $X(x) \equiv 0$ ; that is, there are no eigenvalues in this case.

sec. 4.2, #2, p.90 (cont.)

(b) The eigenvalues are  $\lambda_n = \beta_n^2 = (n + \frac{1}{2})^2 \pi^2 / l^2$  ( $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ), so the ODE for  $T$  is  $T'' + \beta_n^2 c^2 T = 0$ . The general solution is  $T_n(t) = a_n \cos(\beta_n c t) + b_n \sin(\beta_n c t)$ . Thus, the formal series expansion for a solution  $u = u(x, t)$  is

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{\left[ a_n \cos\left(\frac{(n + \frac{1}{2})\pi c t}{l}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{(n + \frac{1}{2})\pi c t}{l}\right) \right]}_{T_n(t)} \underbrace{\cos\left(\frac{(n + \frac{1}{2})\pi x}{l}\right)}_{X_n(x)}$$