

Lecture 24: Solving the

Heat Equation!

Thurs. Off. Hrs 12-2pm 736 Evans

Fri. Quiz through 9.6

Next week: Reviews during
lecture times

Warmup 1) Find general soln of
heat eqn for $u = u(x, t)$

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

that are independent of t .

2) Solve BVP for u with

$$u(0, t) = u_0$$

$$u(L, t) = u_L$$

with u as above.

Soln 1) u indep of t means $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 0$.

$$\text{So } 0 = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

Thus general soln is

$$u = ax + b$$

$$2) \quad u(0) = a \cdot 0 + b = u_0$$

$$\text{So } b = u_0$$

$$u(L) = a \cdot L + u_0 = u_L$$

$$\text{So } a = \frac{u_L - u_0}{L}$$

$$\text{Thus } u = \left(\frac{u_L - u_0}{L} \right) x + u_0$$

Solves BVP

Let's solve heat eqn in general!

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

$$\underline{\text{IVP}}: u(x, 0) = f(x)$$

$$\underline{\text{BVP}}: u(0, t) = 0$$

$$u(L, t) = 0$$

Method Separation of Variables

Hope for soln $u(x,t) = X(x)T(t)$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = X(x)T'(t)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = X''(x)T(t)$$

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

implies

$$X(x)T'(t) = \beta X''(x)T(t)$$

Thus

$$\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{T'(t)}{T(t)} = \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)}$$

↑ indep of x

↑ indep of t

So we conclude

$$\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{T'(t)}{T(t)} = -\lambda = \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)}$$

Some
constant

We arrive at decoupled ODEs

$$T'(t) + \lambda \beta T(t) = 0 \quad X''(x) + \lambda X(x) = 0$$

Return to BVP and see what
is implied: $u(x,t) = X(x)T(t)$

$$u(0,t) = 0 = u(L,t)$$

"

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$$X(0)T(t)$$

$$X(L)T(t)$$

To find a nontriv soln, let's
impose:

$$X(0) = 0 = X(L)$$

Now solve ODE (homogeneous)

$$X''(x) + \lambda X(x) = 0$$

given Boundary Values

$$X(0) = 0 = X(L)$$

Three cases: $\lambda > 0$, $\lambda = 0$, $\lambda < 0 \dots$

Only $\lambda > 0$ leads to nontriv soln.

$$X(x) = C_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda} \cdot x) + C_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda} \cdot x)$$

This is general soln
before imposing boundary values

Boundary values imply

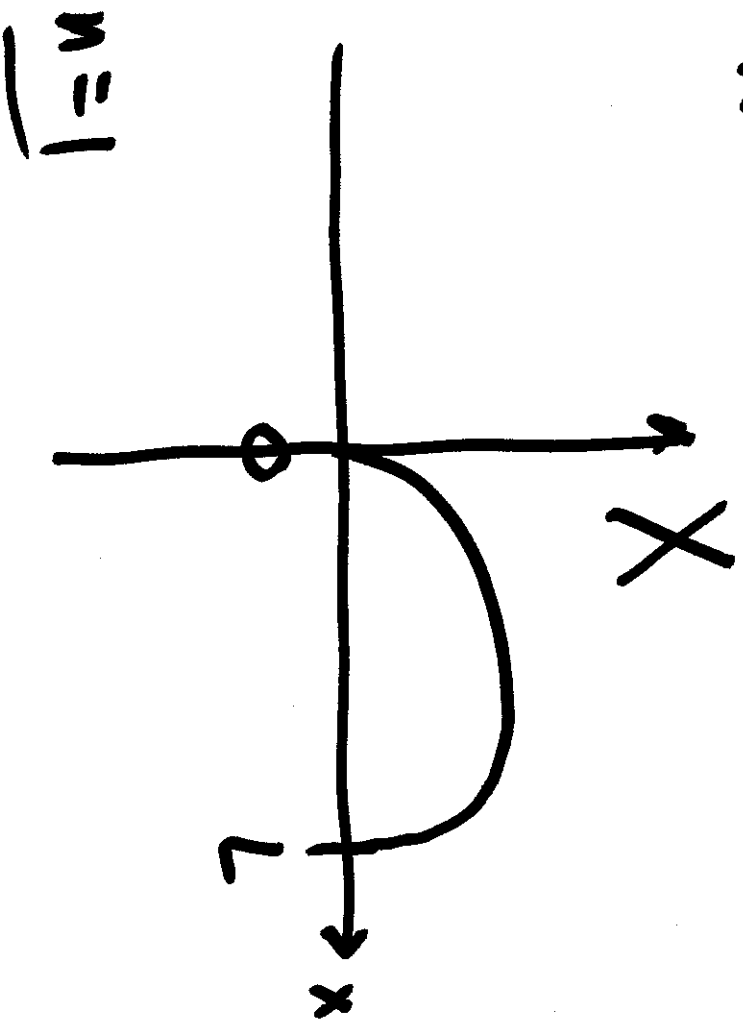
$$X(x) = C_2 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \cdot x\right) \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\left(\sqrt{\lambda} = \frac{n\pi}{L}\right)$$

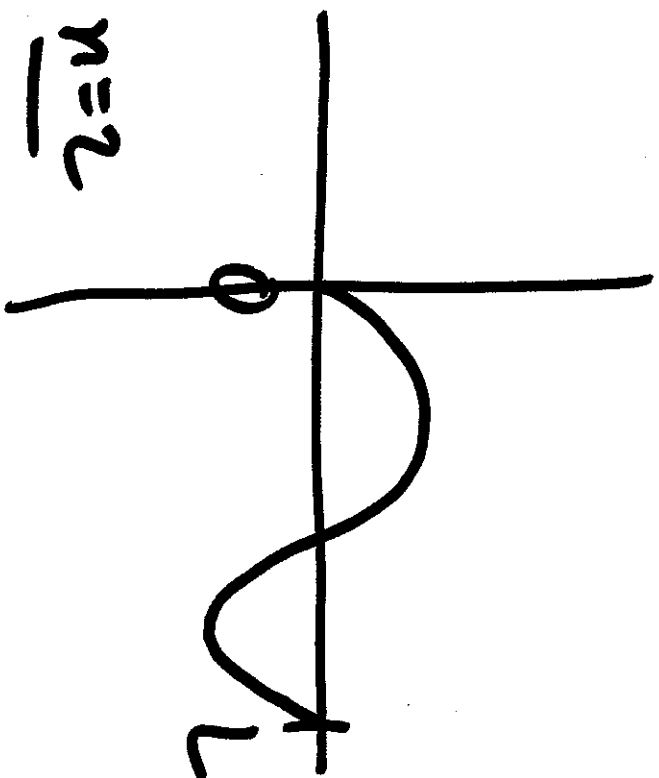
Define $X_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \cdot x\right)$

for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

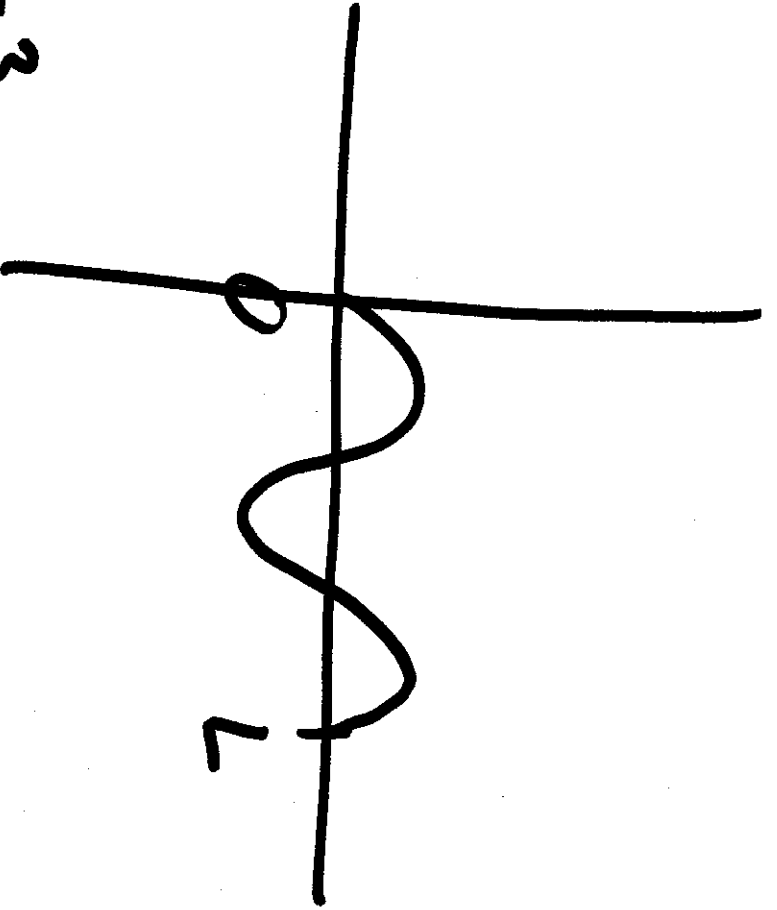
What do these solns look like?



$$X_1(x) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{L}x\right)$$



$$X_2(x) = \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}x\right)$$



$$\underline{n=3}$$

$$X_3(x) = \sin\left(\frac{3\pi}{L} \cdot x\right)$$

Now back to other ODE

$$T'(t) + \beta \lambda T(t) = 0$$

We've found already $\lambda = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2$

$$-\beta \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \cdot t$$

Define $T_n(t) = e$
for $n=1,2,3,\dots$

These are solns of above ODE

Collecting our work, we find
a list of solns

$$u_n(x,t) = X_n(x) T_n(t)$$

$$= \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \cdot x\right) e^{-\beta\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \cdot t}$$

for $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

Remaining missing ingredient:

given initial value $u(x,0) = f(x)$

Suppose our soln is a "lin comb"

$$u(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n u_n(x,t)$$

This implies

$$f(x) = u(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n u_n(x, 0)$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \cdot x\right)$$

Next time: make precise

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \cdot x\right)$$

and find coeffs c_n , $n=1, 2, \dots$