

Homework #12 Solutions  
 Math 182, Spring 2009  
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**A** Solve Laplace's equation  $\Delta u = 0, 0 < x < L, 0 < y < H$  subject to

1.  $u_x(0, y) = 0, u_x(L, y) = 0, u(x, 0) = 0, u(x, H) = f(x)$

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 \\ u_x(0, y) = u_x(L, y) = 0 \\ u(x, 0) = 0 \\ u(x, H) = f(x) \end{cases}$$

Let  $u(x, y) = \phi(x) G(y)$

Then  $\frac{d^2 \phi(x)}{dx^2} G(y) + \phi(x) \frac{d^2 G(y)}{dy^2} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \left( \frac{d^2 \phi(x)}{dx^2} G(y) = -\phi(x) \frac{d^2 G(y)}{dy^2} \right) \frac{1}{\phi(x) G(y)}$$

$$\frac{1}{\phi(x)} \frac{d^2 \phi(x)}{dx^2} = -\frac{1}{G(y)} \frac{d^2 G(y)}{dy^2} = -\lambda$$

So  $\phi''(x) = -\lambda \phi(x)$  and  $G''(y) = \lambda G(y)$

Solve for  $\phi(x)$ :  $\phi'' + \lambda \phi = 0$

$\phi'(0) = 0, \phi'(L) = 0$  (since  $0 = u_x(0, y) = \phi'(0) G(y) \Rightarrow \phi'(0) = 0$ )  
 Similarly for  $\phi'(L) = 0$ .

From our work with the heat equation, we know

$\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, \phi_n(x) = \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right), n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$\lambda_0 = 0, \phi_0(x) = 1$

Solve for  $G(y)$ :  $G'' - \lambda G = 0, G(0) = 0$  (since  $0 = u(x, 0) = \phi(x) G(0)$ )

$\lambda = 0$ :  $G = c_1 + c_2 y$

$G(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \Rightarrow G_0(y) = y$  (let  $c_2 = 1$ )

$\lambda > 0$ :  $G_n = c_1 \cosh(\sqrt{\lambda} y) + c_2 \sinh(\sqrt{\lambda} y)$

$G(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \Rightarrow G_n = \sinh(\sqrt{\lambda} y) = \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} y\right)$  (let  $c_2 = 1$ )

So, by superposition:  $u(x, y) = A_0 y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} y\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right)$

$u(x, H) = f(x) \Rightarrow f(x) = A_0 H + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} H\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right)$

$A_0$ : Integrate from 0 to L:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^L f(x) dx &= \int_0^L A_0 H dx + \int_0^L \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} H\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right) \right) dx \\ &= A_0 H L + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} H\right) \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right) dx \\ &= A_0 H L \\ \Rightarrow A_0 &= \frac{1}{HL} \int_0^L f(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

$A_n$ : Multiply by  $\cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L} x\right)$  and integrate from 0 to L

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L} x\right) dx &= \int_0^L A_0 H \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L} x\right) dx + \int_0^L \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} H\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L} x\right) \right) dx \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} H\right) \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L} x\right) dx \\ &= A_m \sinh\left(\frac{m\pi}{L} H\right) \cdot \frac{L}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow A_m = \frac{2}{L \sinh\left(\frac{m\pi}{L} H\right)} \cdot \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L} x\right) dx$$

$$\text{So } u(x,y) = A_0 y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} y\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right), \text{ where } A_0 = \frac{1}{HL} \int_0^L f(x) dx \text{ and } A_n = \frac{2}{L \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} H\right)} \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right) dx$$

2.  $u(0,y) = 0, u(L,y) = 0, u(x,0) - u_y(x,0) = 0, u(x,H) = f(x)$

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 \\ u(0,y) = u(L,y) = 0 \\ u(x,0) - u_y(x,0) = 0 \\ u(x,H) = f(x) \end{cases}$$

Let  $u(x,y) = \phi(x)G(y)$

Then, in the same way as #1, we get

$$\frac{1}{\phi(x)} \frac{d^2 \phi(x)}{dx^2} = -\lambda \quad \frac{d^2 G(y)}{dy^2} = -\lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi''(x) = -\lambda \phi(x) \text{ and } G''(y) = \lambda G(y)$$

Solve for  $\phi(x)$ :  $\phi'' + \lambda \phi = 0, \phi(0) = \phi(L) = 0$

From our work with the heat equations

$$\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, \phi_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right), n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Solve for  $G(y)$ :  $G'' - \lambda G = 0, G(0) - G'(0) = 0$  (From the boundary condition)

$$\lambda_n > 0 \Rightarrow G_n = c_1 \cosh(\sqrt{\lambda} y) + c_2 \sinh(\sqrt{\lambda} y)$$

$$G'(y) = \sqrt{\lambda} c_1 \sinh(\sqrt{\lambda} y) + \sqrt{\lambda} c_2 \cosh(\sqrt{\lambda} y)$$

$$G(0) - G'(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 - \sqrt{\lambda} c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = \sqrt{\lambda} c_2$$

$$= \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right) c_2$$

Let  $c_2 = 1 \Rightarrow c_1 = \frac{n\pi}{L}$

$\Rightarrow G_n(y) = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right) \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}y\right) + \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}y\right)$

By superposition,  $u(x,y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \Phi_n(x) G_n(y)$   
 $= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n L \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right) [\cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}y\right) + \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}y\right)] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$

$u(x,H) = f(x)$

$\Rightarrow f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n G_n(H) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$

Multiply by  $\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$  and integrate from 0 to L:

$\int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx = \int_0^L \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n G_n(H) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)\right) dx$   
 $= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n G_n(H) \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx$   
 $= B_n G_n(H) \cdot \frac{L}{2}$

$B_n = \frac{2}{L G_n(H)} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx$

So  $u(x,y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right) [\cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}y\right) + \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}y\right)]$ , where  
 $B_n = \frac{2}{L \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right) [\cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}H\right) + \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}H\right)]} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx$

3.  $u_x(0,y) = 0, u_x(L,y) = 0, u(x,0) = \begin{cases} 0, & x > L/2 \\ 1, & x < L/2 \end{cases}, u_y(x,H) = 0$

$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 \\ u_x(0,y) = u_x(L,y) = 0 \\ u(x,0) = \begin{cases} 0, & x > L/2 \\ 1, & x < L/2 \end{cases} \\ u_y(x,H) = 0 \end{cases}$

Let  $u(x,y) = \Phi(x) G(y)$

Then, as before, we obtain:  $\frac{1}{\Phi(x)} \frac{d^2\Phi}{dx^2} = -\frac{1}{G(y)} \frac{d^2G}{dy^2} = -\lambda$

$\Rightarrow \Phi'' = -\lambda \Phi(x), G''(y) = \lambda G(y)$

Solve for  $\Phi(x)$ :  $\Phi'' + \lambda \Phi = 0, \Phi'(0) = \Phi'(L) = 0$

$\Rightarrow \lambda_0 = 0, \Phi_0(x) = 1$  (see #1)

$\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, \Phi_n(x) = \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right), n = 1, 2, \dots$

Solve for  $G(y)$ :  $G'' - \lambda G = 0, G'(H) = 0$

$\lambda > 0$ :  $G = c_1 \cosh(\sqrt{\lambda}(y-H)) + c_2 \sinh(\sqrt{\lambda}(y-H))$

$G' = \sqrt{\lambda} c_1 \sinh(\sqrt{\lambda}(y-H)) + \sqrt{\lambda} c_2 \cosh(\sqrt{\lambda}(y-H))$

$G'(H) = 0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{\lambda} c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = 0$

$$\text{So } \theta = c_1 \cosh(\alpha x (y-H))$$

$$\text{let } c_1 = 1 \Rightarrow \theta_n = \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}(y-H)\right)$$

$$\lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \theta = c_1 + c_2 y$$

$$\theta' = c_2$$

$$\text{So } \theta'(H) = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = 0$$

$$\theta = c_1 \text{ let } c_1 = 1 \Rightarrow \theta_0 = 1$$

$$\text{So } u(x, y) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}(y-H)\right)$$

$$u(x, 0) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}H\right) = \begin{cases} 0 & x > L/2 \\ 1 & x < L/2 \end{cases}$$

Find  $A_0$ : Integrate from 0 to  $L$

$$\int_0^L u(x, 0) dx = \int_0^L A_0 dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}H\right) \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx$$

$$\int_0^{L/2} 1 dx = A_0 L + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}H\right) \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) dx$$

$$L/2 = A_0 L \Rightarrow A_0 = 1/2$$

Find  $A_n$ : Multiply by  $\cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right)$  and integrate from 0 to  $L$

$$\int_0^L u(x, 0) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) dx = \int_0^L A_0 \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) dx$$

$$+ \int_0^L \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}H\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) \right) dx$$

$$\int_0^{L/2} \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) dx$$

$$\frac{L}{m\pi} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}x\right) \Big|_0^{L/2} = A_m \cosh\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}H\right) \cdot \frac{L}{2}$$

$$\frac{L}{m\pi} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{2}\right) = A_m \cdot \frac{L}{2} \cosh\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}H\right)$$

$$A_m = \frac{2}{m\pi \cosh\left(\frac{m\pi}{L}H\right)} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{2}\right)$$

$$\text{So } \boxed{u(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}(y-H)\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \text{ where } A_n = \frac{2}{n\pi \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}H\right)} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right)}$$

[3] 7.11 Solve Laplace's equation  $\Delta u = 0$  in the domain  $x^2 + y^2 > 4$ , subject to the boundary condition  $u(x, y) = y$  on  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$  and the decay condition  $\lim_{|x|+|y| \rightarrow \infty} u(x, y) = 0$ .

Transform to polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  where  $0 \leq r < \infty$  and  $-\pi \leq \theta < \pi$

$$\left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} \right) = 0 \quad (a)$$

$$\begin{cases} u(2, \theta) = 2 \sin \theta & (b) \\ u(r, -\pi) = u(r, \pi) & (c) \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta}(r, -\pi) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta}(r, \pi) & (d) \\ \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} u(r, \theta) = 0 \end{cases}$$

We seek solutions of the form  $u(r, \theta) = \Phi(\theta)G(r)$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta u = \frac{\Phi}{r} \frac{d}{dr} (r G'(r)) + \frac{G}{r^2} \Phi''(\theta) = 0$$

Divide by  $G\Phi/r^2$  to obtain:

$$\frac{r}{G} \frac{d}{dr} (r \frac{dG}{dr}) = -\frac{1}{\Phi} \frac{d^2 \Phi}{d\theta^2} = -\lambda$$

(c) + (d) give  $\Phi(-\pi) = \Phi(\pi)$ ,  $\Phi'(-\pi) = \Phi'(\pi)$

So, we must solve:

$$\begin{cases} \Phi'' = -\lambda \Phi, & -\pi < \theta < \pi \\ \Phi(-\pi) = \Phi(\pi) \\ \Phi'(-\pi) = \Phi'(\pi) \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{cases} r(rG')' = \lambda G, & 0 \leq r < \infty \\ \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} G(r) = 0 \end{cases}$$

1) From class, we know:  $\lambda_0 = 0 \Rightarrow \Phi_0 = 1$

$$\lambda_n = n^2, \quad \Phi_n = \cos(n\theta), \quad \Psi_n = \sin(n\theta)$$

2)  $r(rG')' = \lambda G$

$$r^2 G'' + rG' - \lambda G = 0$$

Try  $G = r^p$

$$\Rightarrow r^p (p(p-1) + p - \lambda) = 0$$

$$p^2 - \lambda = 0$$

$$\lambda \neq 0: p^2 - n^2 = 0 \Rightarrow p = \pm n$$

$$\text{So } G(r) = C_1 r^n + C_2 r^{-n}$$

$$\text{But, need } \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} G(r) = 0 \Rightarrow C_1 = 0 \quad \text{So } G = C_2 r^{-n} \Rightarrow G_n = r^{-n}$$

$$\lambda = 0: r(rG')' = 0$$

$$r(rG') = 0$$

$$rG' = C_1$$

$$G' = C_1/r \Rightarrow G = C_1 \ln r + C_2$$

$$\text{Need } \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} G(r) = 0 \Rightarrow C_1 = 0 \text{ and } C_2 = 0$$

$$\text{So } G = C_2 \Rightarrow G_0 = 0$$

Use superposition:

$$u(r, \theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n r^{-n} \cos(n\theta) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n r^{-n} \sin(n\theta)$$

$$u(2, \theta) = 2 \sin \theta = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n 2^{-n} \cos(n\theta) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n 2^{-n} \sin(n\theta)$$

Find  $A_n, B_n$ :

$$A_n = \frac{1}{\pi \cdot 2^{-n}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} 2 \sin(\theta) \cos(n\theta) d\theta = 0$$

$$B_n = \frac{1}{\pi \cdot 2^{-n}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} 2 \sin(\theta) \sin(n\theta) d\theta = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq 1 \\ 4 & n = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{So } u(r, \theta) = 4 r^{-1} \sin(\theta)$$

$$\text{or, in cartesian coordinates } \left( \frac{4}{r} \sin(\theta) = \frac{4r \sin \theta}{r^2} \right)$$

$$u(x, y) = \frac{4y}{x^2 + y^2}$$