

We are asked to solve the heat equation in a sphere with a Neumann boundary condition. The sphere has a radius  $a$ . We begin by stating the problem and conditions and then start solving the problem using separation of variables.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \nabla^2 u \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}(a, \theta, \varphi, t) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$u(r, \theta, \varphi, t) = F(r, \varphi) \sin(3\theta) \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{T'}{kT} = \frac{\nabla^2 u}{\text{TR}\varphi\theta} = -\omega \quad (4)$$

We can see that our function of theta must be a sin series by (3). Additionally, our time dependence is exponential as is always the case for the heat equation.

$$T = \exp(-\omega kt) \quad (5)$$

$$\theta = \sin(m\theta) \quad (6)$$

Using the Laplacian in spherical coordinates, we are left to solve two equations:

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) + (\omega r^2 - \mu) R = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\varphi} \left( \sin(\varphi) \frac{d\varphi}{d\varphi} \right) + \left( \mu \sin(\varphi) - \frac{m^2}{\sin(\varphi)} \right) \varphi = 0 \quad (8)$$

By making a change of variables,  $x = \cos(\varphi)$ , (8)'s solution can be seen as the famous Legendre functions for  $m > 0$  with eigenvalues  $\mu = n(n + 1)$ :

$$\varphi = P_n^m(\cos(\varphi)) \quad (9)$$

Given  $\mu$ , we can continue to solve (7). Recognizing that (7) is a spherical Bessel's function, we can see that the solution takes the form:

$$r^{-1/2} J_{n+1/2}(\omega r) \quad (10)$$

We find reciprocal relations for  $\omega$  using (2):

$$R' = r^{-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\left( J_{n-\frac{1}{2}}(\omega r) - J_{n+\frac{3}{2}}(\omega r) \right)}{2} - \frac{r^{-\frac{3}{2}}}{2} J_{n+\frac{1}{2}}(\omega r) = 0 \quad (11)$$

$$r \left( J_{n-\frac{1}{2}}(\omega r) - J_{n+\frac{3}{2}}(\omega r) \right) = J_{n+\frac{1}{2}}(\omega r) \quad (12)$$

We can then see the equation for  $u$ :

$$u(r, \theta, \varphi, t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} C_{nm} \sin(m\theta) P_n^m(\cos(\varphi)) r^{-1/2} J_{n+\frac{1}{2}}(\omega r) \exp(-\omega kt) \quad (13)$$

We then fully solve our problem using (3):

$$F(r, \varphi) = \frac{\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} C_{mn} \sin(m\theta) P_n^m(\cos(\varphi)) r^{-1/2} J_{n+\frac{1}{2}}(\omega r)}{\sin(3\theta)} \quad (14)$$

$$C_{mn} = \frac{\int \int F(r, \varphi) \sin(m\theta) P_n^m(\cos(\varphi)) r^{-1/2} J_{n+\frac{1}{2}}(\omega r) \sin(3\theta)}{\int \int \left[ \sin(m\theta) P_n^m(\cos(\varphi)) r^{-1/2} J_{n+\frac{1}{2}}(\omega r) \right]^2} \quad (14)$$