

Solve the heat equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \nabla^2 u$$

inside a circle of radius a with the entire boundary insulated, if initially

$$u(r, \theta, 0) = f(r, \theta).$$

Briefly analyze $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(r, \theta, t)$. Compare this to what you expect to occur using physical reasoning as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

We begin by separating variables, looking for a solution of the form:

$$u(r, \theta, t) = \phi(r, \theta)h(t).$$

Substituting the separated solution into our PDE gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi h' &= h k \nabla^2 \phi \\ \frac{1}{k} \frac{h'}{h} &= \frac{\nabla^2 \phi}{\phi} = -\lambda \end{aligned}$$

From which we can get our solution for $h(t)$:

$$h(t) = e^{-\lambda k t}$$

Rearranging the part of the equation that deals with ϕ ,

$$\nabla^2 \phi + \lambda \phi = 0.$$

Next, we look for a separated solution of the form

$$\phi(r, \theta) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)$$

Making this substitution gives:

$$\frac{\theta}{r} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r \frac{dR}{dr} \right) + \frac{R}{r^2} \frac{d^2 \Theta}{d\theta^2} + \lambda R \Theta = 0$$

Multiplying this by $\frac{r^2}{R\Theta}$ gives:

$$\begin{aligned} r \left(\frac{rR''}{R} + \frac{R'}{R} \right) + \frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} + \lambda r^2 &= 0 \\ \frac{r^2 R''}{R} + \frac{rR'}{R} + \lambda r^2 &= -\frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = \mu \end{aligned}$$

At this point we can form two equations:

$$r^2 R'' + rR' + (\lambda r^2 - \mu)R = 0 \quad \Theta'' = -\mu \Theta$$

We begin by focusing on the equation for Θ . The solution is:

$$\Theta_m = A_m \cos(\sqrt{\mu_m} \theta) + B_m \sin(\sqrt{\mu_m} \theta)$$

The boundary conditions are periodic:

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(-\pi) &= \Theta(\pi) \\ \Theta'(-\pi) &= \Theta'(\pi) \end{aligned}$$

In order for these conditions to be satisfied, $\sqrt{\mu_m} = m$, and integer. So, the Θ_m solutions are of the form:

$$\Theta_m = A_m \cos(m\theta) + B_m \sin(m\theta)$$

Next we turn to the equation for R and its boundary conditions:

$$r^2 R'' + rR' + (\lambda r^2 - m^2)R = 0$$

$$\frac{dR}{dr}(a) = 0$$

$$|R(0)| < \infty \text{ - boundedness}$$

To remove λ from the equation, we make the change of variable $z = \sqrt{\lambda}r$.

$$\frac{z^2}{\lambda} \frac{d^2 R}{dz^2} \left(\frac{dz}{dr} \right)^2 + \frac{z}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \frac{dR}{dz} \frac{dz}{dr} + (z^2 - m^2)R = 0$$

$$\frac{z^2}{\lambda} \frac{d^2 R}{dz^2} (\sqrt{\lambda})^2 + \frac{z}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \frac{dR}{dz} \sqrt{\lambda} + (z^2 - m^2)R = 0$$

$$z^2 \frac{d^2 R}{dz^2} + z \frac{dR}{dz} + (z^2 - m^2)R = 0$$

The solution to this differential equation is the linear combination of Bessel's functions:

$$R = c_1 J_m(z) + c_2 Y_n(z)$$

For our boundedness condition, we must choose $c_2 = 0$. We also reverse our change of variable to get:

$$R_m = c_1 J_m(\sqrt{\lambda}r)$$

We apply our other boundary condition to determine λ_{mn} :

$$\frac{dR}{dr}(a) = c_1 \sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} J'_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} a) = 0$$

Thus our λ_{mn} are determined by $J'_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} a) = 0$. ■

Before assembling our solutions, we must analyze the case when $m = 0$, which makes $\lambda_{mn} = 0$.

$$\Theta_m = A_m \cos(0) + B_m \sin(0) = A_m$$

$$R_m = c_1 J_0(\sqrt{\lambda}r) \approx 1$$

We reform R and Θ into our eigenfunctions:

$$\phi_{mn} = \begin{cases} A_{01} & ; m = 0, n = 1 \\ A_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \cos(m\theta) + B_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \sin(m\theta) & ; \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \blacksquare$$

Thus our solution is

$$u(r, \theta, t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \phi_{mn} e^{-k\lambda_{mn}t} \quad \blacksquare$$

Our arbitrary constants can be found from:

$$A_{01} = \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^a f(r, \theta) r dr d\theta}{\pi a^2} \quad \cdot$$

$$A_{mn} = \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^a f(r, \theta) \cos(m\theta) J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) r dr d\theta}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^a \cos(m\theta) J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) r dr d\theta} \quad \cdot$$

$$B_{mn} = \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^a f(r, \theta) \sin(m\theta) J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) r dr d\theta}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^a \sin(m\theta) J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) r dr d\theta} \quad \cdot$$