



NTNU

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

TMA4125 Matematikk 4N

Heat Equation

Ronny Bergmann

Department of Mathematical Sciences, NTNU.

March 29, 2022

Recap: Partial Differential Equations

We already discussed ODEs: Equations that include derivatives of (univariate) functions.

Definition. A **partial differential equation (PDE)** is an equation that involves one or more partial derivatives of an (multivariate, unknown) function u .

We often use $u(t, x)$, $u(t, x, y)$ or $u(t, x, y, z)$ for a function that depends on time (t) and space (1D, 2D, or 3D, respectively).

- ▶ the PDE is **linear** if it is of first degree in u and its derivatives.
- ▶ other wise it is called **nonlinear**.
- ▶ It is called **homogenous** if all terms include u or one of its partial derivatives
- ▶ otherwise it is called **nonhomogeneous**

Solutions of partial Differential Equations

A **solution** u of a PDE in some region $\Omega \subset D$ in the space of its variables $t, x (y, z)$ is a function whose partial derivatives (appearing in the PDE) exist in D and such that u fulfills the PDE on Ω .

Similar to ODEs, the set of solutions might be huge, so for a **unique** solution we additionally require for example

- ▶ that u is given on the boundary of the region Ω (boundary conditions)
- ▶ that u has some conditions for the start time $t = 0$ (initial conditions)

Theorem. (Superposition principle) If u_1 and u_2 are solutions of a **homogeneous linear PDE** on some Ω , then

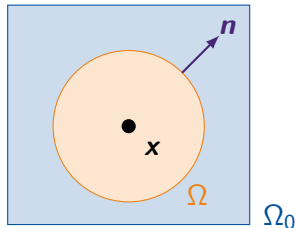
$$u = au_1 + bu_2, \quad \text{for some constants } a, b$$

is also a solution of that PDE in the region Ω .

The Heat Equation – Derivation

Goal.

Model the distribution of heat in a given area over time.



- ▶ an area (our lecture hall) Ω_0
- ▶ Consider an area Ω in our lecture hall
- ▶ At each boundary point: normal vector $\mathbf{n}$
- ▶ Let's look at one point $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega$.

We model/describe the

- ▶ **density of internal energy** $e(\mathbf{x}, t)$ (in $[J/m^3]$) at a point $\mathbf{x}$ at time t
- ▶ **heat flux** through a surface $\partial\Omega$ is a vector field $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ ($[J/(m^2s)]$)
- ▶ **power density** $p(\mathbf{x}, t)$ (in $[J/(m^3s)]$),
imagine e.g. a candle

Heat Equation – Step 1: Conservation of Energy

For any $\Omega \subset \Omega_0$ the **Conservation of energy** dictates

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} e(\mathbf{x}, t) dV = \int_{\Omega} p(\mathbf{x}, t) dV - \int_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) dS$$

Remember. Using Gauß (divergence) theorem we can rewrite

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) dS = \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) dV$$

Plugging this into our conservation of energy we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} e(\mathbf{x}, t) dV = \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} e(\mathbf{x}, t) dV = \int_{\Omega} \left(p(\mathbf{x}, t) - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \right) dV$$

Since this has to hold for any $\Omega \subset \Omega_0$ we obtain

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} e(\mathbf{x}, t) + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) = p(\mathbf{x}, t) \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_0 \text{ and } t > 0.$$

Heat Equation – Step 2: Constitutive Laws

Problem. We can not derive the internal energy **and** we are also only interested in the (absolute) temperature $T = T(\mathbf{x}, t)$ (e. g. in $[K]$).

But we can use **two empirical observations**.

The **first constitutive law** relates $e(\mathbf{x}, t)$ to T :

$$e = e_0 + \sigma(T - T_0) = e_0 + \sigma\vartheta, \quad \text{where}$$

- ▶ e_0 is the base energy density related to T_0 (e. g. $0^\circ K$)
- ▶ $\sigma = \sigma(\mathbf{x})$ ($[J/(m^3 K)]$) the specific heat capacity (at $\mathbf{x}$)
- ▶ $\vartheta := T - T_0$ relative temperature (we are actually interested in).

The **second constitutive law** (Fourier's law) relates T (or ϑ) to $\mathbf{F}$

$$\mathbf{F} = -\lambda \nabla \vartheta,$$

where $\lambda = \lambda(\mathbf{x})$ ($[J/(mKs)]$) is the **heat conductivity**.

The Heat Equation (finally!)

Plugging both constitutive laws ($e = e_0 + \sigma\vartheta$ and $\mathbf{F} = -\lambda\nabla\vartheta$) into the energy conservation yields the

heat equation.

$$\sigma \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vartheta - \nabla \cdot (\lambda \nabla \vartheta) = p \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_0 \text{ and } t > 0$$

If we assume that λ does not depend on $\mathbf{x}$ (e. g. a homogeneous material) we obtain

$$\sigma \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vartheta - \lambda \Delta \vartheta = p \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_0 \text{ and } t > 0$$

Or if we divide by σ and introduce $c^2 = \frac{\lambda}{\sigma} > 0$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vartheta = c^2 \Delta \vartheta + p \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vartheta - c^2 \Delta \vartheta = p$$

Boundary and Initial conditions

To finally determine the temperature ϑ we must also know

- ▶ the **initial** temperature $\vartheta_0(\mathbf{x}) = \vartheta(\mathbf{x}, 0)$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_0$
- ▶ whether or what kind of energy exchange occurs at the **boundary** $\partial\Omega_0$

Most common **boundary conditions** are (for the heat equation)

$$\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \kappa(\mathbf{x}, t)(\vartheta - \vartheta_a)$$

with some **ambient temperature** ϑ_a
and the **heat transfer coefficient** κ ($[J/(m^2 s K)]$)

$\Rightarrow$ Fourier's law:

$$-\lambda \nabla \vartheta \cdot \mathbf{n} = -\lambda \partial_{\mathbf{n}} \vartheta = \kappa(\vartheta - \vartheta_a)$$

Boundary Conditions

These conditions are called **Robin boundary conditions**

$$\lambda \partial_{\mathbf{n}} \vartheta + \kappa(\vartheta - \vartheta_a) = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_0$$

(Homogeneous) **Neumann condition**

$\kappa = 0$ is the limit case of perfect isolation and we obtain

$$\lambda \partial_{\mathbf{n}} \vartheta = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_0$$

(Inhomogeneous) **Dirichlet condition:** $\vartheta = \vartheta_a$

is the limit case $\kappa \rightarrow \infty$ is infinitely fast heat exchange

1. Solving the heat equation on a rod

Goal. Compute the temperature $u(t, x)$ of a (1D) rod or wire (infinitely thin, no heat source)



$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u - c^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u = 0 \\ u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0 \\ u(x, 0) = f(x) \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Dirichlet boundary conditions} \\ \text{initial conditions (at time 0)} \end{array}$$

Ansatz: Separation of variables

Ansatz. (or Idea: What if our) solution can be written as

$$u(x, t) = F(x)G(t)$$

We obtain

$$\frac{G'(t)}{c^2 G(t)} = -k = \frac{F''(x)}{F(x)} \quad \text{for some constant } k \in \mathbb{R}$$

(we choose $-k$ just such that the following derivations are nicer)

or in other words two ODEs

$$\begin{aligned} F''(x) + kF(x) &= 0 \\ G'(t) + c^2 kG(t) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Let's consider F first and distinguish different cases of k .

Case $k = 0$ in $F''(x) + kF(x) = 0$

Short summary of handwritten notes. Since $F''(x) = 0$ we have $F(x) = A + Bx$.

The boundary conditions $u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0$ yield $F(x) = 0$, so

$$u(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, t,$$

which is not an interesting solution.

Case $k < 0$ in $F''(x) + kF(x) = 0$

Short summary of handwritten notes. We have to solve a linear system starting from the linear combination of the fundamental solutions, but we also obtain $A = B = 0$ or $F(x) = 0$, so

$$u(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, t,$$

which is (again) not an interesting solution.

Case $k > 0$ in $F''(x) + kF(x) = 0$

Short summary of handwritten notes. We first obtain that for

$k = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2$, $0 < n \in \mathbb{N}$ we can choose $F(x) = B \sin(\sqrt{k}x)$

Plugging these into $G'(t) + c^2 G(t) = 0$ we obtain the general solutions

$$u_n(x, t) = F(x)G_n(t) = B_n e^{-\left(\frac{cn\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$$

Towards a solution to the heat equation on the rod

Every superposition (linear combination) of the $u_n(x, t)$ is also a solution, so the general form is

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n e^{-\left(\frac{cn\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$$

Question. How to determine the B_n ?

Use the initial conditions $u(x, 0) = f(x)$! We get

$$f(x) = u(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right)$$

Do you recognise this? A Fourier series! To be precise of the odd extension f_o of $f(x)$, $x \in [0, L]$!

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

The solution to the heat equation on the rod

Theorem. Let $L > 0$ be given. The (1D) heat equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u - c^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u = 0 \\ u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0 \\ u(x, 0) = f(x) \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Dirichlet boundary conditions} \\ \text{initial conditions (at time 0)} \end{array}$$

is solved by

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n e^{-\left(\frac{cn\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right)$$

with

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

2. Solution on an infinite rod

Let's consider

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u - c^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u = 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm \infty} u(x, t) = 0 \\ u(x, 0) = f(x) \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Dirichlet boundary conditions} \\ \text{initial conditions (at time 0) for } x \in \mathbb{R} \end{array}$$

Idea. Since Fourier series worked for the bonded interval $[0, L]$, use Fourier transform here.

Fourier transform in x on both sides yields

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{u}(\omega, t) = -c^2 \omega^2 \hat{u}(\omega, t)$$

Since for any fixed ω this is an ODE in t we get

$$\hat{u}(\omega, t) = A(\omega) e^{-c^2 \omega^2 t}$$

Initial conditions and Inverse Fourier Transform

Using

$$\hat{u}(\omega, t) = A(\omega)e^{-c^2\omega^2 t}$$

and the Fourier transform the initial conditions $f(x) = u(x, 0)$ we obtain

$$\hat{f}(\omega) = \hat{u}(\omega, 0) = A(\omega).$$

Thus we can compute $u(x, t)$ with the inverse Fourier transform

$$u(x, t) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{u}(\omega, t)) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(\omega) e^{-c^2\omega^2 t} e^{i\omega x} d\omega$$

Observation. for a certain $\hat{g}(\omega)$: **multiplication** in Fourier domain!

We obtain

$$u(x, t) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{f}\hat{g}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} f * \mathcal{F}^{-1}(e^{-c^2\omega^2 t})$$

Heat Kernel.

So we are left to compute $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(e^{-c^2\omega^2 t})$.

From previously we know $\mathcal{F}(e^{ax^2}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}}e^{-\omega^2 2a}$ we obtain with $a = \frac{1}{4c^2 t}$ that

$$g(x) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(e^{-c^2\omega^2 t}) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{c\sqrt{4t}}e^{-\frac{x^2}{4c^2 t}}$$

and hence

$$u(x, t) = f * \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{c\sqrt{4t}}e^{-\frac{x^2}{4c^2 t}} \right) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(v) \frac{1}{c\sqrt{4\pi t}}e^{-\frac{(x-v)^2}{4c^2 t}} dv$$

Definition. We define the [Heat kernel](#) by

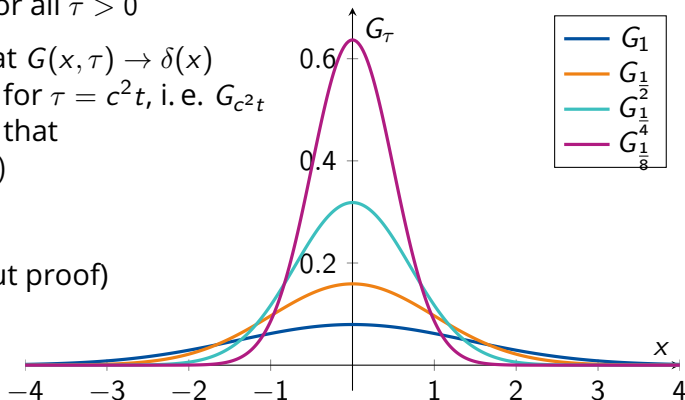
$$G_{\tau}(x) = G(x, \tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\tau}}e^{-\frac{x^2}{4\tau}}$$

then we can write in short $u(x, t) = (f * G_{c^2 t})(x)$.

Observations on the heat kernel

For the heat kernel $G_\tau = G(x, \tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\tau}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{4\tau}}$ we have

- ▶ $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(x, \tau) dx = 1$ for all $\tau > 0$
- ▶ For $\tau \rightarrow 0$ we get that $G(x, \tau) \rightarrow \delta(x)$
- ▶ The same of course for $\tau = c^2 t$, i. e. $G_{c^2 t}$
- ⇒ For $t \rightarrow 0$ we obtain that
 $u(x, t) = (f * G_{c^2 t})(x)$
 converges to
 $(f * \delta)(x) = f(x)$.
 (though here without proof)



Solution for the infinite rod.

Theorem. The heat equation on the x -axis

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u - c^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u = 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm \infty} u(x, t) = 0 \\ u(x, 0) = f(x) \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Dirichlet boundary conditions} \\ \text{initial conditions (at time 0) for } x \in \mathbb{R} \end{array}$$

can be solved by

$$u(x, t) = (f * G_{c^2 t})(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(v) \frac{1}{c\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-\frac{(x-v)^2}{4c^2 t}} dv$$

and we have that $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} u(x, t) = f(x)$

3. Laplace equation

Goal. Find an equilibrium state.

1. temperature will remain steady/not change over time

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0$$

and no need for initial conditions (in time)

2. Thus the temperature field u at equilibrium state satisfies the Laplace equation

$$-c^2 \Delta u = 0$$

If the right hand side is not 0 we obtain the Poisson problem.

For the case of a 2D problem (and $c = 1$) we obtain

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} u = 0$$

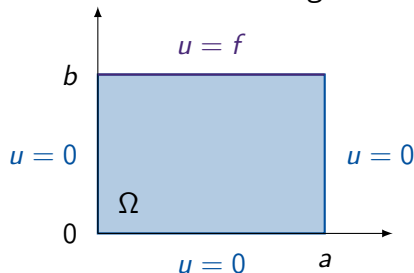
(+ boundary conditions)

4.1 The Laplace equation on a rectangular domain

We consider the Laplace equation

$$\Delta u = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} u = 0$$

on a bounded rectangular domain



- ▶ $\Omega = [0, a] \times [0, b]$
- ▶ $u(x, 0) = u(0, y) = u(a, y) = 0$
- ▶ $u(x, b) = f(x)$

Ansatz. Use (again) separation of variables:

$$u(\mathbf{x}, t) = u(\mathbf{x}) = F(x)G(y).$$

Solution of the Laplace equation on a rectangle

The solution to the Laplace equation on a bounded rectangle reads

$$u(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right)$$

where from the boundary condition $u(x, b) = f(x)$ we obtain that

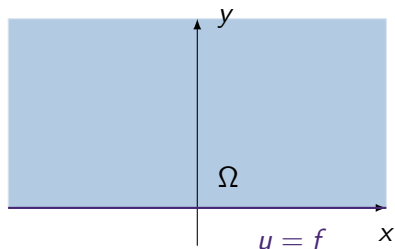
$$A_n = \left(\sinh \frac{n\pi b}{a}\right)^{-1} \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) dx.$$

The Laplace equation in the half-plane

We consider the Laplace equation

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} u = 0$$

on the half-plane



- ▶ $\Omega = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : y \geq 0\}$
- ▶ $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} u(x, y) = 0$ for any $y \geq 0$
- ▶ $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} u(x, y) = 0$ for any x
- ▶ $u(x, 0) = f(x)$

Idea. Use Fourier transform (w.r.t. x), we write $\mathcal{F}_x$ on our PDE

Towards the solution of the Laplace equation

$$\hat{u}(\omega, y) = \hat{f}(\omega)e^{-|\omega|y}$$

Using the inverse Fourier transform, we obtain

$$u(x, y) = \mathcal{F}_x^{-1}\left(\hat{f}(\omega)e^{-|\omega|y}\right)$$

Introducing a function $g(x) := \mathcal{F}_x^{-1}(e^{-|\omega|y})$ we can use the convolution theorem to see that

$$u(x, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} f * g$$

and since $\mathcal{F}_x^{-1}(e^{-|\omega|y}) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{y}{y^2 + x^2}$ we obtain

$$u(x, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} f * \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{y}{y^2 + x^2} \right) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \cdot \frac{1}{\pi} \cdot \frac{y}{y^2 + (x - t)^2} dt$$

The Poisson kernel

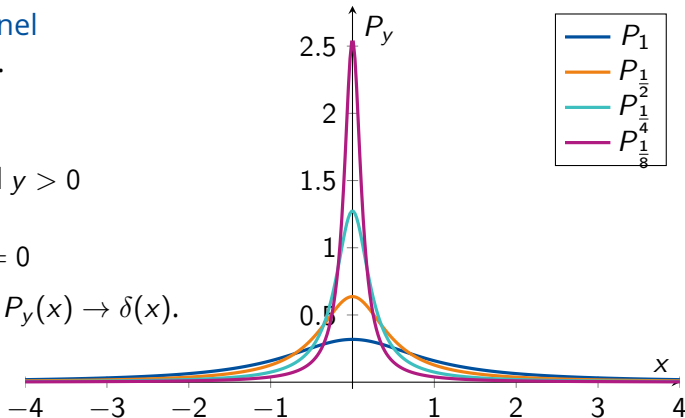
Definition. The function

$$P_y(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{y}{y^2 + x^2}$$

is called the **Poisson kernel** for the upper half space.

Observations.

- ▶ $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_y(x) dx = 1$ for all $y > 0$
- ▶ $\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \right) P_y(x) = 0$
- ▶ for $y \rightarrow 0$ we obtain $P_y(x) \rightarrow \delta(x)$.



$\Rightarrow$ we expect $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} u(x, y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} (f * P_y)(x) = (f * \delta)(x) = f(x)$.

Summary

heat equation

one-dimensional & time $u(x, t)$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} u - c^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u = 0$$

- ▶ boundary conditions (in x)
- ▶ initial conditions (in $t = 0$): $f(x)$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = (f * G_{c^2 t})(x)$$

- ▶ $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G_{c^2 t}(x) dx = 1$
- ▶ $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} G_{c^2 t}(x) = \delta(x)$
- ▶ $G_{c^2 t}(x)$ fulfils the heat equation

$\Rightarrow$ for both we convolve f a solution with the given PDE

Laplace equation

2D equilibrium $u(x, y)$

$$-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} u = 0$$

- ▶ boundary conditions (in x)
- ▶ boundary conditions in y : $f(x)$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, y) = (f * P_y)(x)$$

- ▶ $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_y(x) dx = 1$
- ▶ $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} P_y(x) = \delta(x)$
- ▶ $P_y(x)$ fulfils the Laplace equation