

So far we've looked at PDEs in Cartesian coordinates:

The heat equation:

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

Laplace's equation

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

The wave equation:

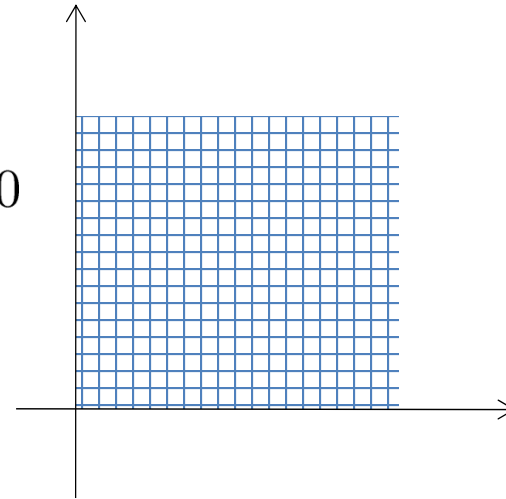
$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

We would also like to solve equations in different coordinate systems,
and in 3 dimensions.

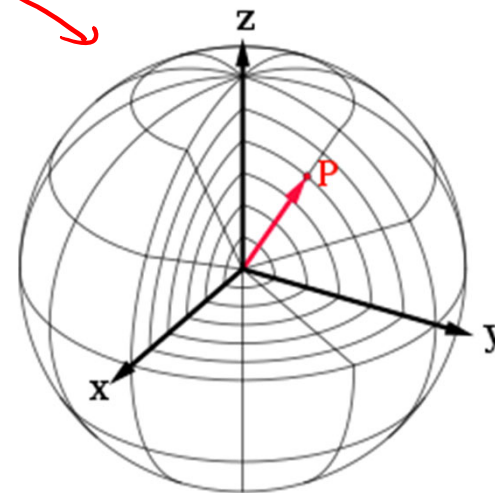
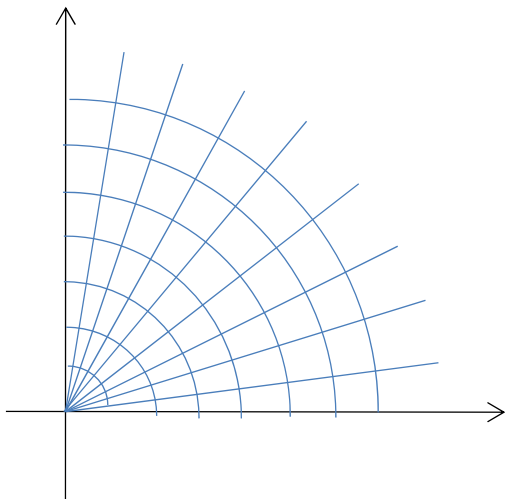
$$\nabla^2 \psi = 0$$



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



$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \theta^2} = 0$$



The steps for solving using separation of variables remain the same

1. Separate variables
2. Identify the Sturm-Liouville problem and compute the eigenfunctions
3. Use an infinite series to match the boundary conditions.

However we often have to introduce Special Functions to express the solution.

Before we begin, we will need to look at
Periodic boundary conditions for S-L problems

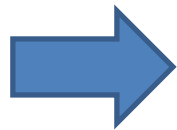
Consider the 1-D eigenvalue problem defined on the domain $D = \{x \mid 0 \leq x \leq d\}$

$$\mathcal{L}\phi = \lambda\phi \quad \text{on } D$$

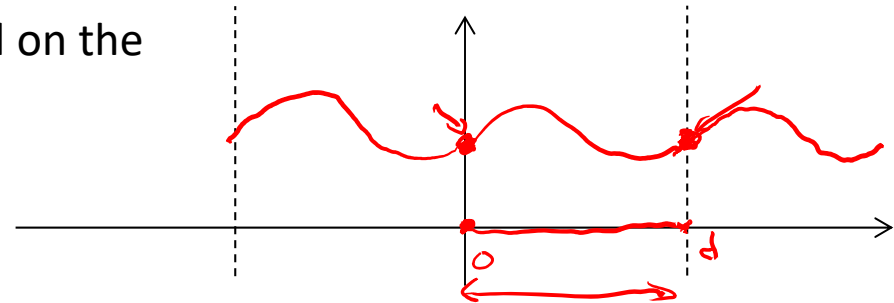
with boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(0) &= \phi(d) \\ \phi'(0) &= \phi'(d) \end{aligned} \quad \Bigg|$$

This problem has *all the properties of a Sturm-Liouville problem*.



We find a *countably infinite set* of eigenfunctions and eigenvalues where the \dots_q are all real and positive, and the eigenfunctions are all orthogonal.



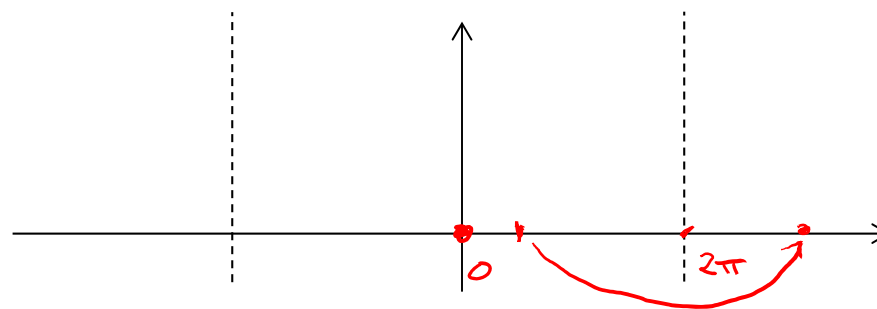
Example: Consider the periodic S-L problem

$$-\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\phi = \lambda\phi$$

defined on the domain $|x| < \pi$, with

$$\phi(0) = \phi(2\pi)$$

$$\phi'(0) = \phi'(2\pi)$$



This has eigenfunctions:

$$\phi_m = e^{\pm imx}$$

With eigenvalues:

$$\lambda_m = m^2$$

Why? Subbing in:

$$-\frac{d^2}{dx^2}(e^{\pm imx}) = -\frac{d}{dx}(\pm im e^{\pm imx})$$

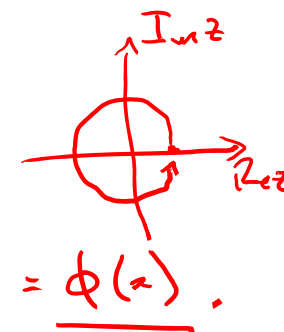
$$= -(\pm im)(\pm im)e^{\pm imx} = -i^2 m^2 e^{\pm imx} = m^2 e^{\pm imx}$$

$$= \lambda \phi$$

Also

$$\phi_m(x+2\pi) = e^{\pm im(x+2\pi)}$$

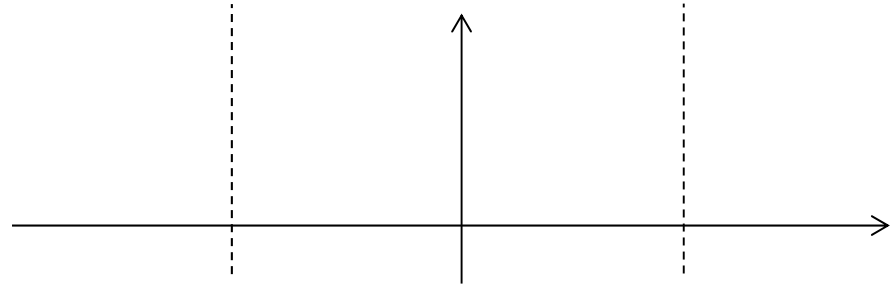
$$= e^{\pm imx} e^{\pm im2\pi} \leftarrow \text{arg} = m2\pi = e^{\pm imx} = \phi(x)$$



We have two sets of eigenfunctions:

$$\phi_m = \underline{e^{imx}} \quad \phi_m = \underline{e^{-imx}}$$

where $m = \underline{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots}$



By letting m take negative values as well as positive values, we can write the general solution instead as

$$\underline{\phi_m = e^{imx}} \quad \text{where } \underline{m = \dots - 2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots}$$

This allows the solutions to be written more compactly.

It is straightforward to check orthogonality:

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{\langle \phi_n, \phi_m \rangle} &= \int_0^{2\pi} \underline{\phi_n^*(x) \phi_m(x)} dx \\&= \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-inx} e^{imx} dx \\&= \int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(m-n)x} dx = \int_0^{2\pi} e^0 dx = 2\pi \quad \text{if } m=n. \\&= \left[\frac{e^{i(m-n)x}}{m-n} \right]_0^{2\pi} \quad \text{if } m \neq n. \\&= \frac{1}{m-n} \left(\underbrace{e^{i(m-n)2\pi}}_{=1} - \underbrace{e^{-i(m-n)2\pi}}_{=1} \right) \\&= 0\end{aligned}$$

The 2D Laplacian in polar coordinates

Consider the Laplacian operator $\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}$

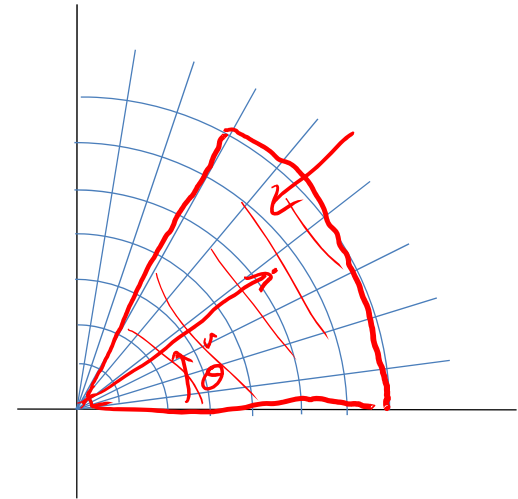
In polar coordinates, this is

$$\nabla^2 \psi = \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \theta^2}$$

We would like to find the solution of problems of the type

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0$$

in polar coordinates, in some 2D domain.



We first try to find the general solution to

$$\left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \right] \psi(r, \theta) = 0$$

We use the *separation Ansatz*:

$$\psi(r, \theta) = \underset{\uparrow}{R(r)} \underset{\uparrow}{\Theta(\theta)}$$

Subbing in to the PDE:

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \right) \underline{R \Theta} = 0$$

$$\Theta \frac{\partial^2 R}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \Theta \frac{\partial R}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} R \frac{\partial^2 \Theta}{\partial \theta^2} = 0$$

$$\text{or, } \Theta R'' + \frac{1}{r} \Theta R' + \frac{1}{r^2} R \Theta'' = 0$$

Divide by ΘR , multiply by r^2 :

$$\overset{\rightarrow \text{So}}{r^2 \frac{\cancel{\Theta} R''}{\cancel{\Theta} R} + r \frac{\cancel{\Theta} R'}{\cancel{\Theta} R} + \frac{R \cancel{\Theta}''}{\cancel{\Theta} R} = 0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{r^2 \frac{R''}{R} + r \frac{R'}{R}}_{\text{depends on } r} + \underbrace{\frac{\Theta''}{\Theta}}_{\text{depends on } \theta} = 0$$

depends on r

depends on θ

So we have separated the problem into

$$\underline{r^2 \frac{R''}{R} + r \frac{R'}{R}} = - \underline{\frac{\Theta''}{\Theta}} = \pm \lambda$$

We can put the problem for θ in the form:

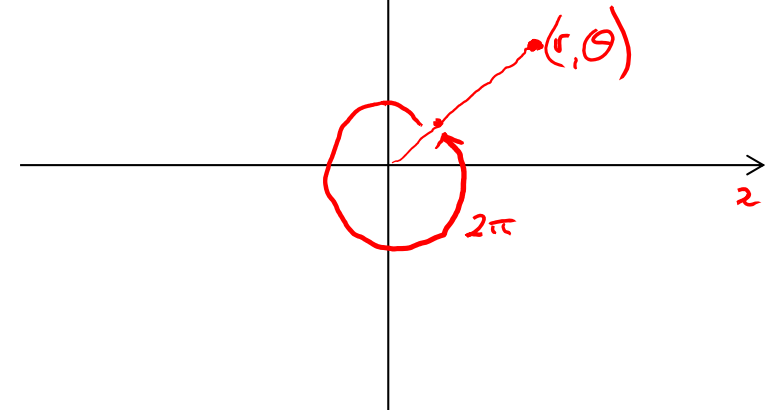
$$\frac{-\Theta''}{\Theta} = \lambda \Rightarrow -\Theta'' = \lambda \Theta$$

We also have that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Theta(0) &= \Theta(2\pi) \\ \Theta'(0) &= \Theta'(2\pi) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\underline{-\frac{d^2}{dz^2} \Theta = \lambda \Theta}$$

Because Θ must be single-valued if we go around a full circle.



The eigenfunctions are

$$\Theta_m = e^{im\theta}$$

with eigenvalues:

$$\lambda_m = m^2$$

The problem for $R(r)$ is then

$$r^2 \frac{R''}{R} + r \frac{R'}{R} = m^2$$

Case $m = 0$:

$$r^2 \frac{R''}{R} + r \frac{R'}{R} = 0$$

Multiply by R :

where

$$m = \dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$m \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$r^2 R'' + r R' = 0$$

divide by r :

$$r \frac{d^2 R}{dr^2} + \frac{dR}{dr} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left[r \frac{dR}{dr} \right] = 0$$

$$= r \frac{d^2 R}{dr^2} + \frac{dR}{dr} \frac{dr}{dr}$$

$$\text{so } r \frac{dR}{dr} = B_0 \leftarrow \text{constant}$$

$$\text{Then } \frac{dR}{dr} = \frac{B_0}{r}$$

$$\Rightarrow R = \int \frac{B_0}{r} dr$$

$$= B_0 \ln |r| + A_0$$

Case $m \neq 0$:

$$\underline{r^2 R''} + \underline{r R'} - m^2 R = 0 \leftarrow$$

Solutions are

$$R(r) = A r^{|m|}$$

$$R(r) = B r^{-|m|}$$

Try the Ansatz $\begin{cases} R(r) = r^\alpha \\ r R'(r) = \alpha r^\alpha \\ r^2 R''(r) = \alpha(\alpha-1) r^\alpha \end{cases}$

$$\alpha(\alpha-1) r^\alpha + \alpha r^\alpha - m^2 r^\alpha = 0$$

$$[\alpha(\alpha-1) + \alpha - m^2] r^\alpha = 0$$

$$[\cancel{\alpha^2} - \cancel{\alpha} + \cancel{\alpha} - m^2] r^\alpha = 0$$

$$[\alpha^2 - m^2] r^\alpha = 0$$

$$\alpha^2 = m^2$$

$$\alpha = \pm m = \pm |m|$$

So

$$R(r) = A r^{\pm |m|}$$

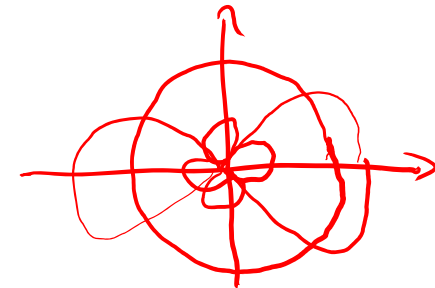
So we have found:

$$\Theta_m(\theta) = e^{im\theta}$$

$$R_m(r) = \begin{cases} A_0 + B_0 \log|r| & \text{for } m = 0 \\ \underline{A r^{|m|} + B r^{-|m|}} & \text{for } m \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

The general solution to Laplace's equation in polar coordinates is therefore

$$\psi(r, \theta) = A_0 + B_0 \ln|r| + \sum_{\substack{m=-\infty \\ m \neq 0}}^{\infty} (A_m r^{|m|} + B_m r^{-|m|}) e^{im\theta}$$



Example: Solve Laplace's equation on the domain $r \leq a$, with a Dirichlet condition $\psi = \sin(2\theta)$ defined on the boundary of the domain.

$$\nabla^2 \psi = 0$$

The general solution is

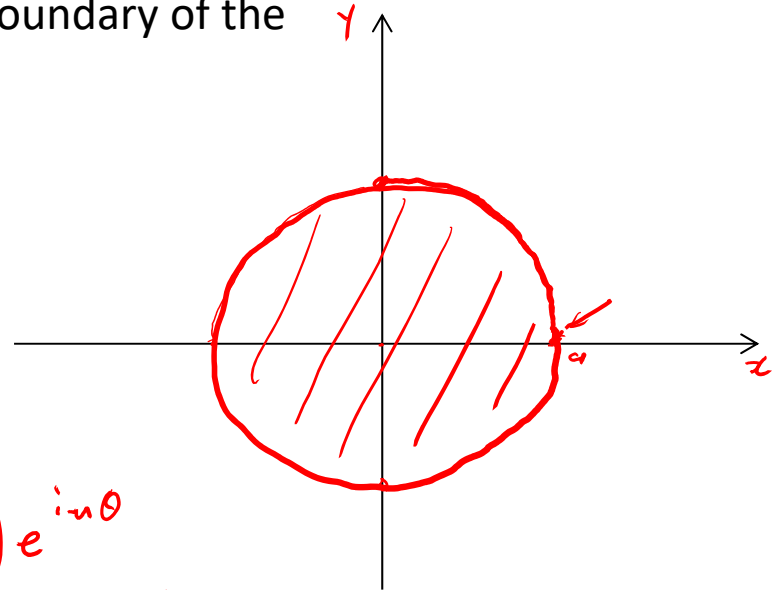
$$\psi(r, \theta) = B_0 \ln r + A_0 + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (A_n r^{|n|} + B_n r^{-|n|}) e^{in\theta}$$

The solution has to be finite at $r=0$,
so $B_n = 0 \forall n$. So

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(r, \theta) &= A_0 + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} A_n r^{|n|} e^{in\theta} \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} A_n r^{|n|} e^{in\theta} \end{aligned}$$

We want

$$\psi(a, \theta) = \sin(2\theta) = \underbrace{\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} A_n a^{|n|} e^{in\theta}}_{f(\theta)}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \psi(r, \theta) &= A_2 r^2 e^{2i\theta} \\ &\quad + A_{-2} r^2 e^{-2i\theta} \end{aligned}$$

$$f(\theta) = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} A_m a^{|m|} \underbrace{e^{im\theta}}_{\phi_m(\theta)}.$$

Take the inner product with $\phi_n = e^{in\theta}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi_n, f \rangle &= \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} A_m a^{|m|} \langle \phi_n, \phi_m \rangle \\ &= A_n a^{|n|} \int_0^{2\pi} \underbrace{e^{-in\theta} e^{in\theta}}_{=1} d\theta \\ &= A_n a^{|n|} 2\pi \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} A_n &= \frac{1}{2\pi a^{|n|}} \langle \phi_n, f \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi a^{|n|}} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-in\theta} \sin(2\theta) d\theta. \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi a^{|n|}} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-in\theta} \frac{1}{2i} (e^{i2\theta} - e^{-i2\theta}) d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2\pi a^{|n|} 2i} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-i(n-2)\theta} d\theta \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2\pi a^{|n|} 2i} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-i(n+2)\theta} d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

$$A_2 = \frac{1}{2\pi i a} 2\pi \frac{1}{2i a^2}.$$

Recall

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta &= \frac{1}{2i} (e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}) \\ \cos \theta &= \frac{1}{2} (e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}). \end{aligned}$$

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

$$e^{-i\theta} = \cos \theta - i \sin \theta$$

The Helmholtz equation

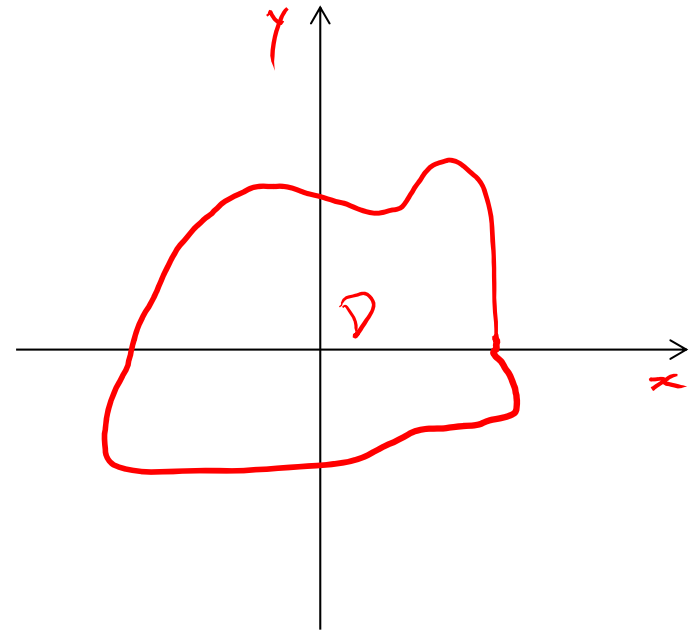
Consider the 2D problem with the 2D Laplacian as the differential operator:

$$\boxed{-\nabla^2 \phi = \lambda \phi} \quad \leftarrow \quad \nabla^2 \phi = -\nabla \cdot \nabla \phi \quad \left(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \phi \right)$$

on the domain D , where D is a finite domain in 2D, and with homogeneous Dirichlet conditions

$$\underline{\phi = 0}$$

on the boundary of D .



Although the operator is 2D, we can show that this is also a Sturm-Liouville problem.

This form of the PDE is often known as the Helmholtz equation.

$$\underline{\nabla^2 \phi + k^2 \phi = 0}$$

We now attempt to solve this problem using separation of variables:

$$\begin{cases} -\nabla^2 \phi = \lambda \phi & \text{on } D \\ \phi = 0 & \text{on } \partial D \end{cases}$$

Use the separation ansatz

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

Subbing in, we find

$$-\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2}\right) R \Theta = \lambda R \Theta$$

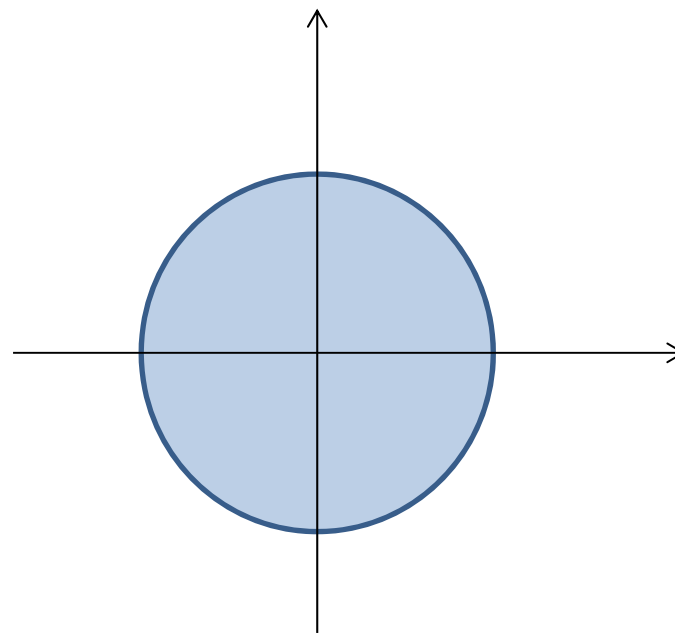
$$+ R'' \Theta + \frac{1}{r} R' \Theta + \frac{1}{r^2} R \Theta'' = -\lambda R \Theta$$

Divide by $R \Theta$:

$$\frac{R''}{R} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{R'}{R} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = -\lambda$$

multiply by r^2 :

$$r^2 \frac{R''}{R} + r \frac{R'}{R} + \lambda r^2 + \frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = 0$$



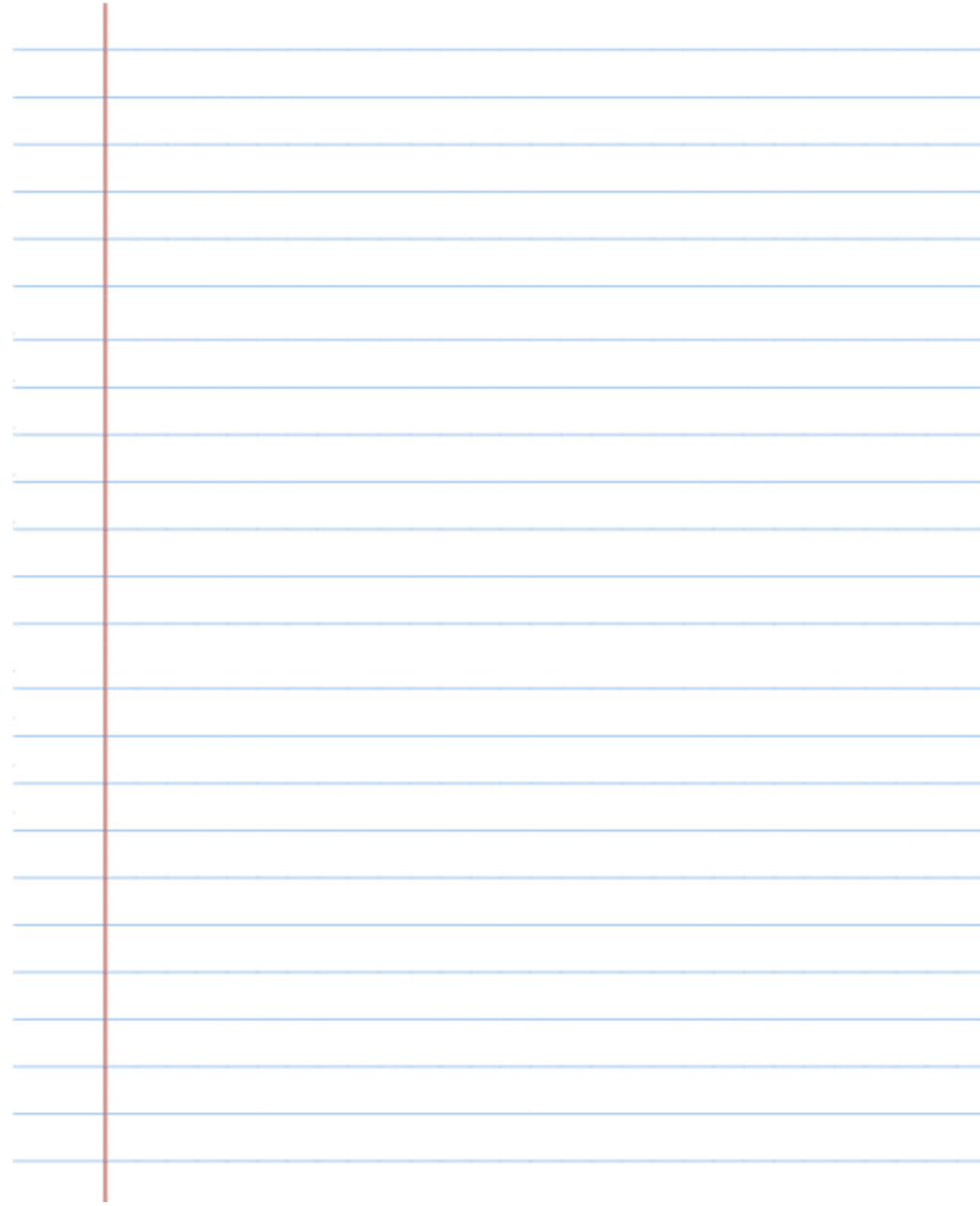
$$-\frac{\Theta''}{\Theta} = \mu \quad \leftarrow \text{SL-problem}$$

$$r^2 \frac{R''}{R} + r \frac{R'}{R} + \lambda r^2 - \mu = 0$$

The problem for Θ has solutions

$$\Theta = e^{in\theta}$$

$$\mu_n = n^2$$



The problem for $R(r)$ is

$$\underline{r^2 R'' + r R' + (\lambda r^2 - m^2) R = 0.}$$

$$r^2 \frac{d^2 R}{dr^2} + r \frac{dR}{dr} + (\lambda r^2 - m^2) R = 0.$$

This is a special differential equation known as Bessel's equation.

The solutions to this equation are known as Bessel functions, and
There are two types:

$$\underline{J_m(z)}$$

↑
1st kind

$$\underline{Y_m(z)}$$

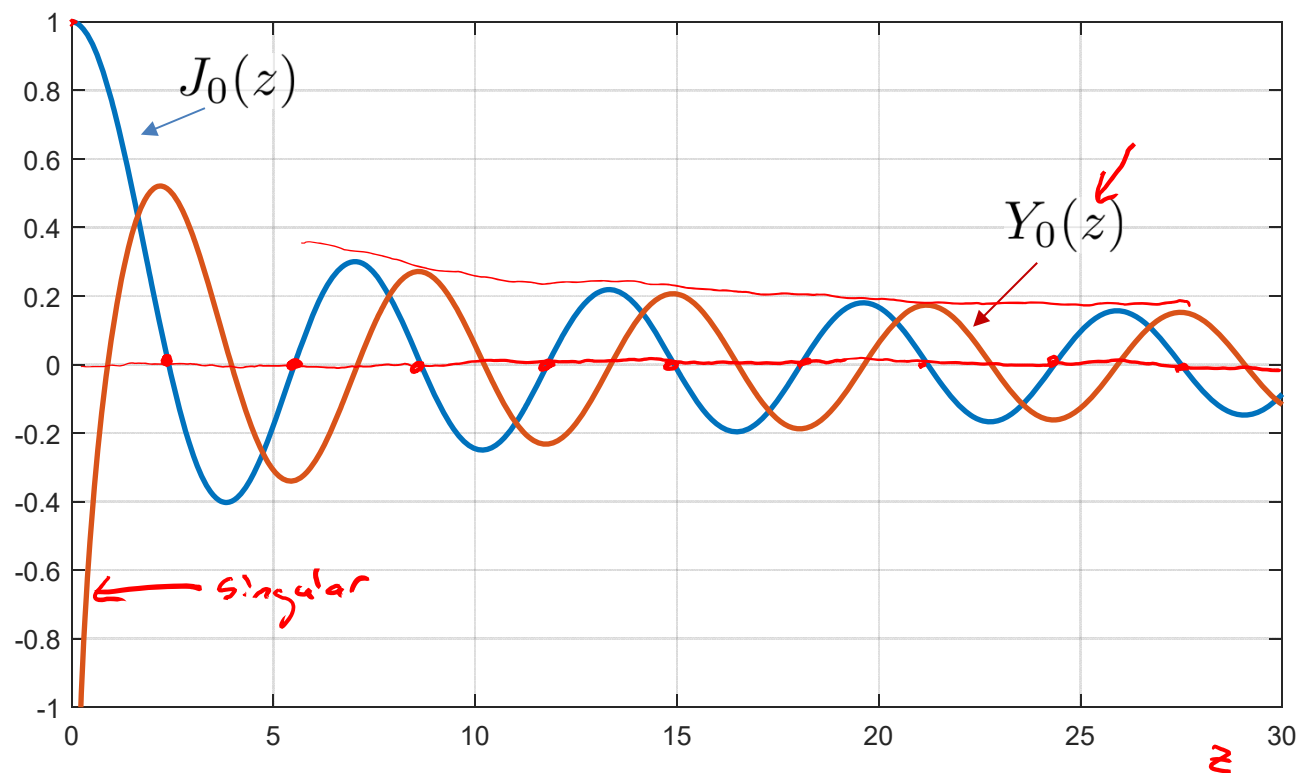
↑
2nd kind

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = -y$$

These functions are analogous to sine and cosine for polar coordinates.

Properties of Bessel functions:

- They are normally expressed as *infinite series*
- They oscillate, but decay slowly to zero
- J's are finite at the origin, Y's are singular



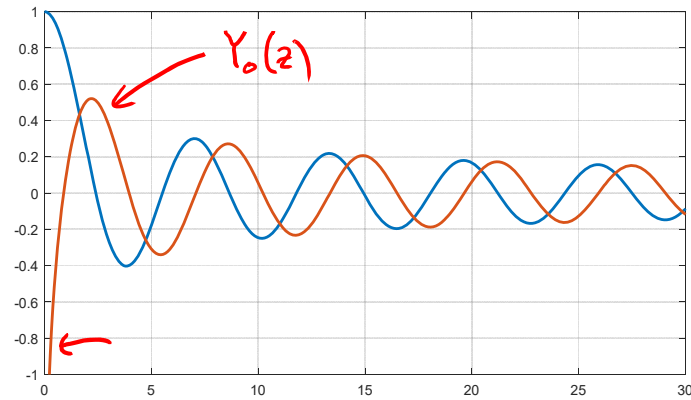
Bessel's equation is:

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

And this has solutions

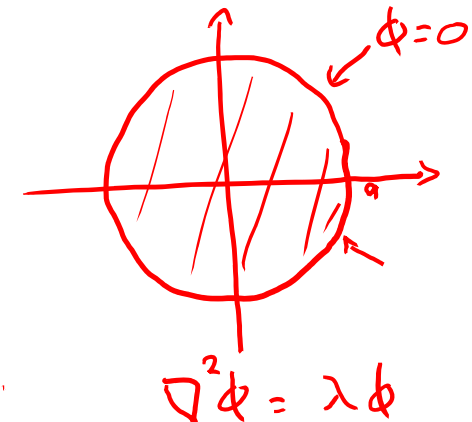
$$\underline{J_m(z)}$$

$$Y_m(z)$$



And our problem for R is

$$r^2 \frac{d^2 R}{dr^2} + r \frac{dR}{dr} + (\lambda^2 r^2 - m^2) R = 0.$$



The general solution is therefore

$$z^2 = \lambda r^2$$

$$z = \sqrt{\lambda} r$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \lambda \phi$$

$$J_m(\sqrt{\lambda} r)$$

$$\underline{Y_m(\sqrt{\lambda} r)}$$

$$\uparrow \text{singular}$$

We would like the solution to be a) non-singular at the origin, and b) have $R(a) = 0$.

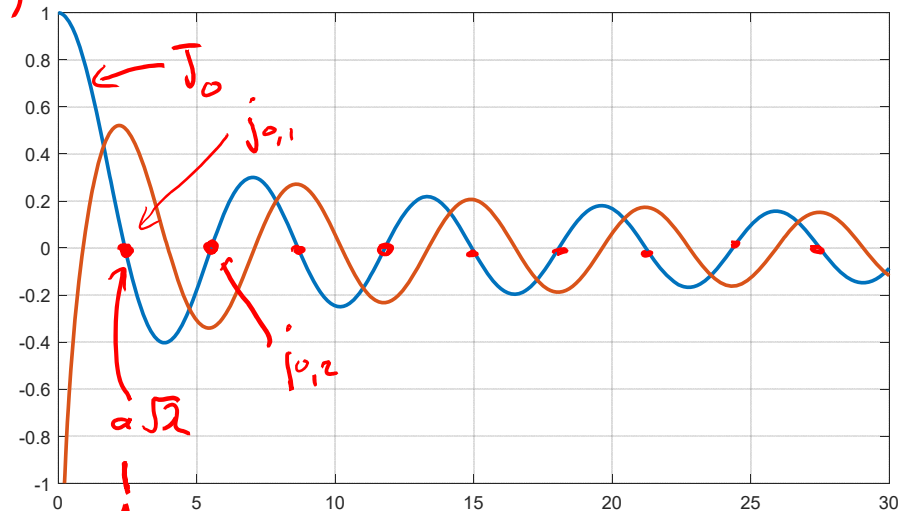
So the general expression for the eigenfunctions is

$$\phi_m(r, \theta) = \underbrace{J_m(\sqrt{\lambda}r)}_R e^{im\theta}$$

By choosing $a\sqrt{\lambda}$ to be a zero of $J_m(z)$, we can satisfy $\phi(a, \theta) = 0$.

Letting $j_{m,n}$ denote the n^{th} zero of the m^{th} order Bessel function, we then have

$$a\sqrt{\lambda} = j_{m,n} \Rightarrow \lambda = \left(\frac{j_{m,n}}{a}\right)^2$$



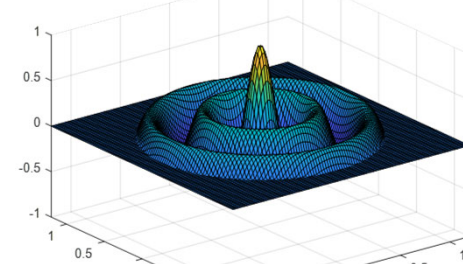
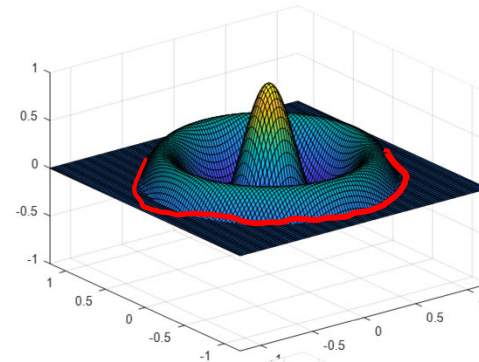
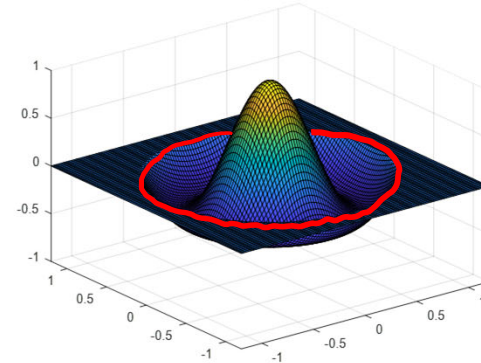
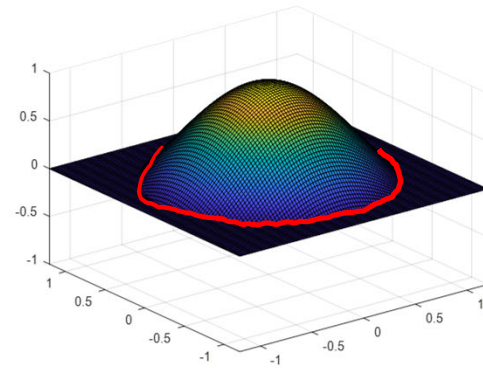
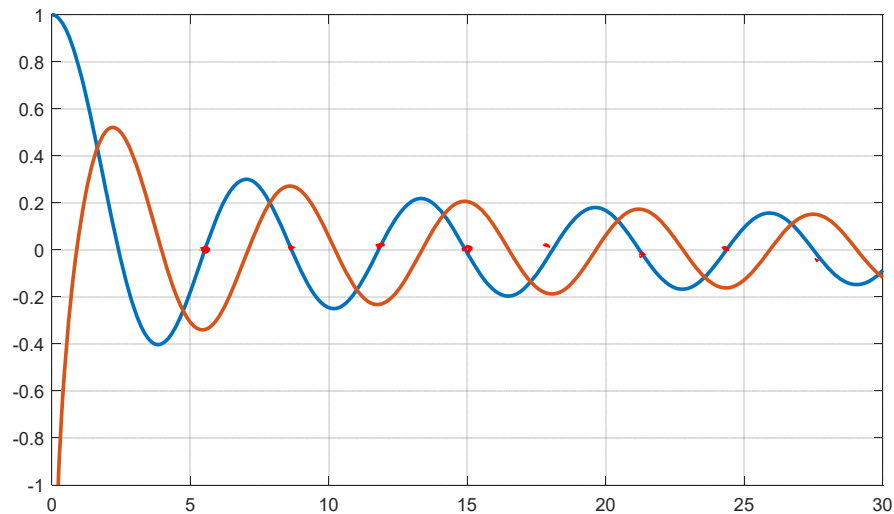
We then obtain an infinite number of eigenfunctions for each m and n :

$$\phi_{m,n}(r, \theta) = J_m(j_{m,n} \frac{r}{a}) e^{im\theta}$$

$$\lambda_{m,n} = \left(\frac{j_{m,n}}{a}\right)^2$$

All of these functions satisfy the SL problem.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\nabla^2 \phi = \lambda \phi & \text{on } D \\ \phi = 0 & \text{on } \partial D \end{array} \right.$$



Waves and the wave equation

The wave equation for a function $\psi(x,y,z)$ is

$$\rightarrow \nabla^2 \psi - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

where c is the *phase velocity* of the wave.

The wave equation can be *separated* using the ansatz

$$\Psi(x,y,z,t) = U(x,y,z)T(t)$$

Subbing in

$$\nabla^2 U T - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} T(t) U = 0$$

$$T \nabla^2 U - \frac{1}{c^2} U T'' = 0$$

Divide

$$c^2 \frac{\nabla^2 U}{U} = \frac{T''}{T} = -\omega^2$$

separation constant $\omega = 2\pi f$.

Problem for time $T(t)$:

$$\underline{\frac{dT^2}{dt^2} = -\omega^2 T}$$

$$T(t) = e^{\pm i\omega t}$$
$$= \cos(\omega t) \pm i \sin(\omega t)$$

Problem for $\underline{u(x,y,z)}$:

$$\underline{c^2 \nabla^2 u = -\omega^2 u}$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$-\nabla^2 u = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} u$$
$$\uparrow$$
$$= \lambda u \quad (\text{confusing})$$
$$= k^2 u \quad k = \frac{\omega}{c}$$

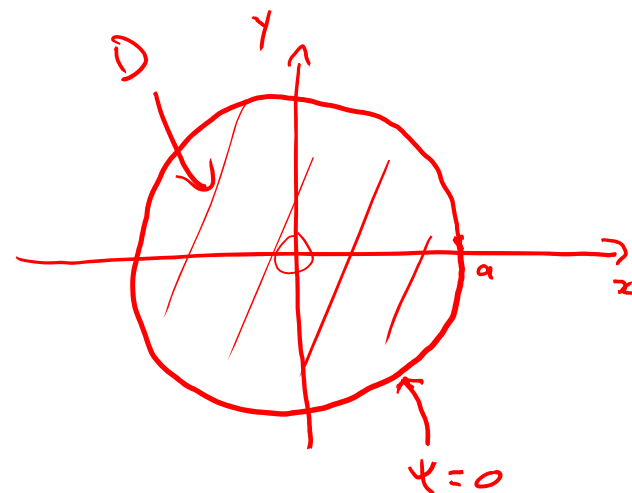
$$\nabla^2 u + k^2 u = 0$$

Helmholtz equation

Example: Solve the wave equation

$$\nabla^2 \psi - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = 0 \quad |$$

defined on the domain $r < a$, together with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions $\psi = 0$ on the boundary $r = a$ and initial conditions $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = 0$ and



$\psi(r, \theta) = e^{-r^2}$ at $t = 0$.

Now let

$$\psi(r, \theta, t) = u(r, \theta) T(t)$$

where $T(t) = A e^{i\omega t} + B e^{-i\omega t}$ and

$u(r, \theta)$ solve the problem

$$\text{S-L problem} \rightarrow \begin{cases} -\nabla^2 u = k^2 u & \text{on } D \\ u = 0 & \text{on the boundary} \end{cases}$$

Then we solved:

The eigenfunctions are

$$\phi_{m,n}(r, \theta) = J_m(j_{m,n} \frac{r}{a}) e^{in\theta}$$

So the general solution for ψ can be written

$$\underbrace{\psi(r, \theta, t)} = \sum_{m,n} \phi_{m,n} e^{i\omega t} a_{m,n} + \sum_{m,n} \phi_{m,n} e^{-i\omega t} b_{m,n} \quad \left. \vphantom{\sum_{m,n}} \right\} \leftarrow$$

Now $\partial\psi/\partial t = 0$ at $t=0$, so

$$\partial\psi/\partial t = \sum_{m,n} (a_{m,n} \phi_{m,n} i\omega e^{i\omega t} + b_{m,n} \phi_{m,n} (-i\omega) e^{-i\omega t})$$

$$\text{At } t=0, \quad \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = \sum_{m,n} (a_{m,n} - b_{m,n}) \phi_{m,n} i\omega.$$

This condition is satisfied if $a_{m,n} = b_{m,n}$.

So

$$\psi(r, \theta, t) = \sum_{m, n} a_{m, n} \phi_{m, n}(r, \theta) \underbrace{(e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t})}_{2 \cos(\omega t)}$$

$$= \sum_{m, n} a_{m, n} \phi_{m, n} 2 \cos(\omega t) \quad \leftarrow$$

We want

that, at $t=0$, $\psi(r, \theta, 0) = e^{-r^2} = f(r)$.

That is,

$$f(r) = 2 \sum_{m, n} a_{m, n} \phi_{m, n}$$

Take the inner product with $\phi_{m', n'}$

$$\langle \phi_{m', n'}, f \rangle = 2 \sum_{m, n} a_{m, n} \underbrace{\langle \phi_{m', n'}, \phi_{m, n} \rangle}$$

$$= 2 a_{m', n'} \|\phi_{m, n}\|^2.$$

So

$$a_{m, n} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\langle \phi_{m, n}, f \rangle}{\|\phi_{m, n}\|^2}$$

So

$$\psi(r, \theta, t) = \sum_{m, n} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\langle \phi_{m, n}, f \rangle}{\|\phi_{m, n}\|^2} \phi_{m, n}(r, \theta) e^{i \cos(\omega t)}$$

$$\langle \phi_{m, n}, f \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^a \phi_{m, n}^*(r, \theta) f(r, \theta) r dr d\theta$$

