## §10.4, end; Partial differential equations (beginning)

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## Extension of functions defined on [0, L]



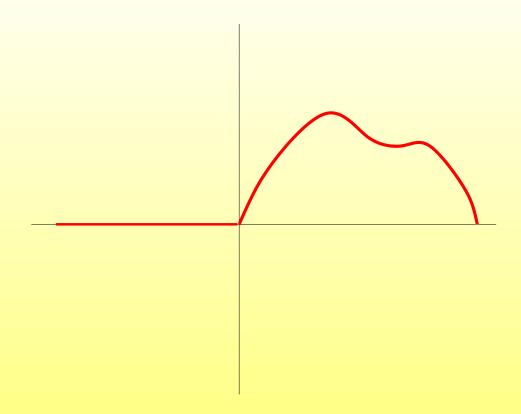
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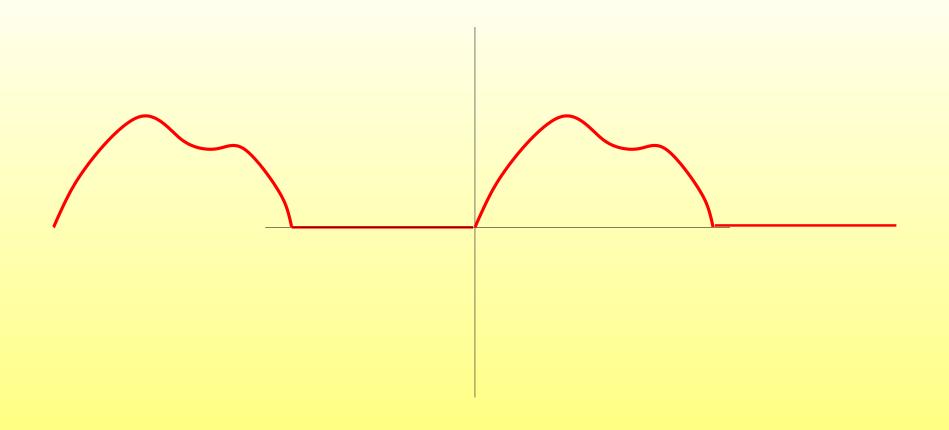
If we only want to calculate a sufficiently nice function on, say [0, L], it does not have to be periodic. We can just *extend* it periodically. Eg, we extend it by zero on [-L, 0] and then repeat it periodically.

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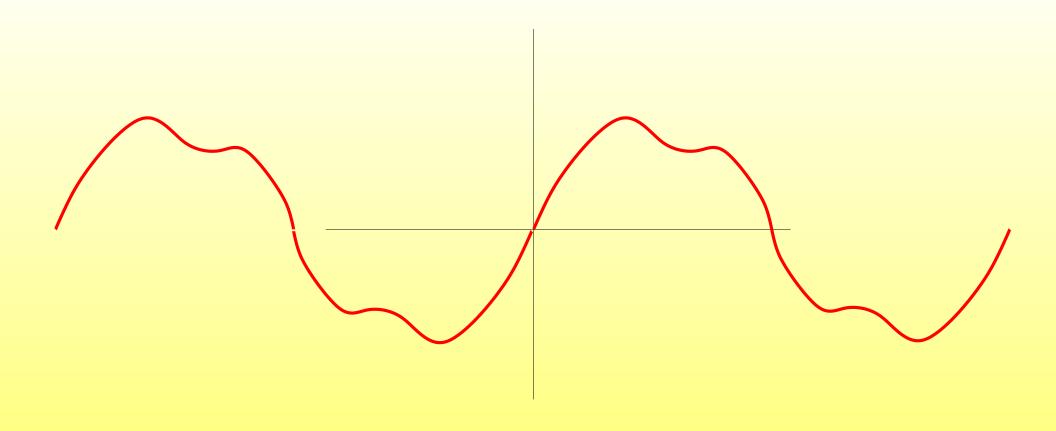


Better suited, especially if we want a pure sine decomposition is the odd extension:

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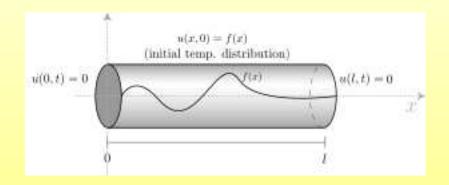


But maybe your function, in reality, followed the blue path instead. The Fourier series, calculated by this method, will give the red function, nonetheless.

## **PDEs**

#### The Heat Equation.

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(picture from Wikipedia) We start by considering the following physical problem: a rod of length L is placed between two ice cubes, so that the temperature u at the endpoints is zero.

At t = 0 u(x, 0) = f(x) in the rod, on (0, L) Say the whole rod was at  $20^{\circ}$ C. What is the temperature distribution at time t?

 $\blacktriangleleft$   $\triangleleft$   $\diamond$   $\blacktriangleright$   $\longleftarrow$   $\rightarrow$ 

Note that now there are two variables, t and x. Whatever equation is applicable, it has to involve both x and t. It is a differential equation, and since there are two independent variables, it involves partial derivatives.

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The applicable PDE is the heat conduction equation, in short the heat equation,

$$u_t = \alpha^2 u_{xx}$$



$$u_t = \alpha^2 u_{xx}, \quad u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0, u(x, 0) = f(x)$$



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 $\alpha^2$  is a constant, depending only on the material of the rod, and it is called **thermal diffusivity**. See textbook for common values of  $\alpha$ .

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 $\alpha^2$  is a constant, depending only on the material of the rod, and it is called **thermal diffusivity**. See textbook for common values of  $\alpha$ . This is a **linear PDE**.

 $\blacktriangleleft$   $\triangleleft$   $\diamond$   $\blacktriangleright$   $\longleftarrow$   $\rightarrow$ 

One simple way to solve **really simple**, **linear** PDEs is separation of variables.





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O. Costin: §10.4-5  $\longleftrightarrow$ 

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O. Costin: §10.4-5  $\longleftrightarrow$ 

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This really works for the heat equation and other simple linear problems and it is known as the method of separation of variables.

O. Costin: §10.4-5



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How can a function of x exactly match a function of t? These are independent variables. Thus they can be changed independently. One is fixed, say t and we change x. If  $\frac{X''(x)}{X(x)}$  changes, then we have a contradiction, since  $\frac{T'(t)}{\alpha^2 T(t)}$  does not change, since it does not depend on x.

 $\blacktriangleleft$   $\triangleleft$   $\diamond$   $\blacktriangleright$   $\longleftarrow$   $\rightarrow$ 

Thus  $\frac{X''(x)}{X(x)}$  is simply a constant, say  $-\lambda$ .



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Now, (1) is an initial value problem (since T(0) is given), while (2) is a **boundary value problem** since it is subject to the conditions X(0) = 0, X(L) = 0 (where the ice cubes lie).

O. Costin: §10.4-5



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where we seek **nonzero solutions!** (a zero solution would not help much here).

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We found infinitely many solutions!

 $\blacktriangleleft$   $\triangleleft$   $\diamond$   $\blacktriangleright$   $\longleftarrow$   $\rightarrow$ 



$$\frac{T_n'(t)}{\alpha^2 T_n(t)} = -\lambda_n$$
 that is  $T_n'(t) = (-n^2 \pi^2 / L^2) \alpha^2 T_n(t)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3, ...$ 

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which gives immediately

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Putting  $X_n$  and  $T_n$  together –remember,

$$u_n(x, t) = X_n(x)T_n(t)$$
 we have:

$$u_n(x, t) = c_n \exp(-n^2 \alpha^2 \pi^2 t/L^2) \sin(n\pi x/L)$$

 $\blacktriangleleft$   $\triangleleft$   $\diamond$   $\blacktriangleright$   $\longleftarrow$   $\rightarrow$ 

Now we really have many solutions, as desired.



$$u(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \exp(-n^2 \pi^2 \alpha^2 t/L^2) \sin(n\pi x/L)$$

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is also a solution of the problem.



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How about the initial condition, u(x,0) = f(x) = 20 on (0, L)? Can it be fitted by (9)?

 $\blacktriangleleft$   $\triangleleft$   $\diamond$   $\blacktriangleright$   $\longleftarrow$   $\rightarrow$ 



$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \exp(-n^2 \pi^2 \alpha^2 0/L^2) \sin(n\pi x/L) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin(n\pi x/L)$$

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$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -20 \text{ for } x \in (-L, 0) \\ 20 \text{ for } x \in (0, L) \end{cases}$$



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Since this is indeed an odd function, the coefficients  $c_n$  are

 $\blacktriangleleft$   $\triangleleft$   $\diamond$   $\blacktriangleright$   $\blacktriangleright$   $\longleftarrow$   $\rightarrow$ 



$$\frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin(n\pi x/L) dx = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L 20 \sin(n\pi x/L) dx = 40 \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{n\pi}$$

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The complete solution is thus

$$u(x,t) = 40 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{n \pi} \exp(-n^2 \pi^2 \alpha^2 t / L^2) \sin(n \pi x / L)$$

O. Costin: §10.4-5



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