

**Problem 1. [Dealing with non-zero boundary conditions]**

Consider the initial-boundary value problem (IBVP) for the diffusion equation for the function  $u(x, t)$  on the spatial interval  $[0, L]$ , with non-zero Dirichlet BCs:

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &= \alpha^2 u_{xx} \ , \quad (x, t) \in [0, L] \times \mathbb{R}_+ \ , \\ u(0, t) &= a \ , \\ u(L, t) &= b \ , \\ u(x, 0) &= f(x) \ , \end{aligned}$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are constants. In class we learned how to solve this IBVP in the case  $a = 0$ ,  $b = 0$ . The IBVP with  $a \neq 0$ ,  $b \neq 0$  can easily be reduced to an IBVP with homogeneous (i.e., zero) BCs by the simple trick outlined below.

- (a) Let  $g(x) = \beta x + \gamma$  be a linear function on  $[0, L]$ . Choose values of the constants  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  such that

$$g(0) = a \ , \quad g(L) = b \ .$$

- (b) Introduce a new function  $v(x, t)$  by

$$u(x, t) =: v(x, t) + g(x) \ ,$$

where  $g$  is the function obtained in part (a). Derive the IBVP for the function  $v$  coming from the IBVP for  $u$ . Write clearly the PDE, BCs and IC satisfied by  $v$ .

**Problem 2. [Separation of variables in the heat equation in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  in a special case]**

The heat equation in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has the form  $u_t = \alpha^2 \Delta u$ , where  $u = u(\mathbf{x}, t)$ ,  $\alpha = \text{const} > 0$ , and

$$\Delta = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2}$$

is the Laplacian. In  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , if one uses polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$ , it can easily be shown that

$$\Delta u = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} \ .$$

Consider the heat equation in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and assume that the function  $u$  depends only on the radial coordinate and on the time, i.e.,  $u = u(r, t)$ . In this case the heat equation reads

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha^2 \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) \ .$$

Look for a solution of this equation of the form  $u(r, t) = R(r)T(t)$  and derive ordinary differential equations for the functions  $R$  and  $T$ . Do not forget that there should be a constant from the separation of variables (in class we called it  $\mu$ ). Do *not* attempt to solve the equations you obtained.

**Problem 3. [Equivalence of norms on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ]**

Two norms,  $\| \cdot \|$  and  $\| \cdot \|'$ , on the same vector space  $V$  are said to be *equivalent* if there exist positive constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  such that

$$C_1 \|\mathbf{u}\| \leq \|\mathbf{u}\|' \leq C_2 \|\mathbf{u}\| \quad \text{for any } \mathbf{u} \in V .$$

Consider the vector space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with the following norms defined on it:

$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_1 := \sum_{j=1}^n |u_j| , \quad \|\mathbf{u}\|_2 := \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |u_j|^2 \right)^{1/2} , \quad \|\mathbf{u}\|_\infty := \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} |u_j| .$$

- (a) Prove that the norms  $\| \cdot \|_1$  and  $\| \cdot \|_\infty$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are equivalent.
- (b) Directly from the definition of equivalence of norms, prove that if the norms  $\| \cdot \|$  and  $\| \cdot \|'$  are equivalent and the norms  $\| \cdot \|'$  and  $\| \cdot \|''$  are equivalent, then the norms  $\| \cdot \|$  and  $\| \cdot \|''$  are equivalent.

**Problem 4. [Unit disks in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  endowed with different norms]**

The *unit ball* (or the *unit disk* in case of two dimensions) in a normed linear space  $(V, \| \cdot \|)$  is defined as the set of vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  satisfying  $\|\mathbf{u}\| \leq 1$ .

- (a) Draw the unit disk in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  endowed with the norm  $\| \cdot \|_2$ . Explain briefly with an equation, i.e., write  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2)$ , so the vectors from the unit disk would satisfy  $\|\mathbf{u}\|_2 = \|(u_1, u_2)\|_2 = \sqrt{|u_1|^2 + |u_2|^2} = 1$ , and justify your drawing.
- (b) Draw the unit disk in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  endowed with the norm  $\| \cdot \|_1$ . Explain briefly with an equation.
- (c) Draw the unit disk in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  endowed with the norm  $\| \cdot \|_\infty$ . Explain briefly with an equation.

**Problem 5. [Bases and projections in a space of polynomials]**

In this problem, a “polynomial” means a polynomial  $P$  of a real variable with real coefficients (so that both  $x$  and  $P(x)$  are real numbers). As discussed in class, the polynomials of order no higher than  $n$  form a linear space with respect to the addition of polynomials and multiplication of a polynomial by a real number as follows: if  $P$  and  $Q$  are polynomials of degree  $\leq n$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , then the polynomials  $P + Q$  and  $\alpha P$  are defined as

$$(P + Q)(x) := P(x) + Q(x) , \quad (\alpha P)(x) := \alpha P(x) .$$

Let  $V_n(a, b; w(x))$  stand for the linear space of polynomials defined on the interval with left end  $a$  and right end  $b$  (at each end, the interval can be open or closed;  $a$  and  $b$  can be finite or infinite) of degree no greater than  $n$  endowed with the inner product with weight function  $w$ :

$$\langle P, Q \rangle = \int_a^b P(x) Q(x) w(x) dx .$$

Sanele defined a family of polynomials which he denoted (very modestly!) by  $S_0, S_1, S_2, \dots$ . These polynomials satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) the polynomial  $S_k$  is of degree  $k$ ;
- (ii) the coefficient of  $x^k$  in  $S_k$  is equal to 1 (such polynomials are called *monic*);
- (iii) the polynomials  $S_0, S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n$  form an orthogonal basis in the space of polynomials  $V_n(0, \infty; w(x) = e^{-x})$  on  $[0, \infty)$  of degree  $\leq n$ , with weight function  $w(x) = e^{-x}$ .

In the solution of this problem the following identity will be handy (by definition,  $0! = 1$ ):

$$\int_0^\infty x^k e^{-x} dx = k! , \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots .$$

- (a) Clearly,  $S_0(x) = 1$  for each  $x \in [0, \infty)$ . Find the only monic polynomial  $S_1$  of degree 1 that is orthogonal to  $S_0$  (i.e., such that  $\langle S_1, S_0 \rangle = 0$ ).  
*Hint:* Set  $S_1(x) = x + \alpha$  and compute the value of  $\alpha$  for which  $\langle S_1, S_0 \rangle = 0$ .
- (b) Find the only monic quadratic polynomial  $S_2(x) = x^2 + \beta x + \gamma$  that is orthogonal to both  $S_0$  and  $S_1$ .
- (c) Show that the polynomial  $P(x) = x^2 + 3$  can be represented as a linear combination of the polynomials  $S_0, S_1$  and  $S_2$  as follows:  $P = S_2 + 4S_1 + 5S_0$ .
- (d) Show by direct integration that  $\langle S_0, S_0 \rangle = 1, \langle S_1, S_1 \rangle = 1, \langle S_2, S_2 \rangle = 4$ .
- (e) Find the orthogonal projection,  $\text{proj}_{S_0+2S_1} P$ , of the polynomial  $P(x) = x^2 + 3$  onto the “straight line”

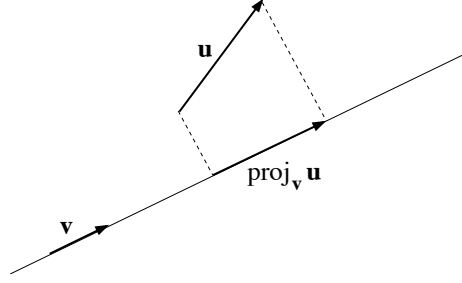
$$\ell := \{t(S_0 + 2S_1) \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

in the 3-dimensional inner product linear space  $V_2(0, \infty; e^{-x})$ . If you have solved parts (c) and (d), then finding this orthogonal projection should be easy.

*Hint:* If  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are vectors in the inner product linear space  $V$ , then the orthogonal projection of the vector  $\mathbf{u}$  onto the straight line in the direction of  $\mathbf{v}$  is the vector

$$\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u} = \frac{\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle} \mathbf{v}$$

– see the picture below.



- (f) Finally, construct an orthonormal basis  $\tilde{S}_k$  ( $k = 0, 1, 2$ ) in  $V_2(0, \infty; e^{-x})$  by setting  $\tilde{S}_k := \mu_k S_k$ , where  $\mu_k > 0$  is a constant (depending on  $k$ ) such that the norm,

$$\|\tilde{S}_k\| := \sqrt{\langle \tilde{S}_k, \tilde{S}_k \rangle} ,$$

of the polynomial  $\tilde{S}_k$  is 1. Find the explicit expressions for  $\tilde{S}_0(x)$ ,  $\tilde{S}_1(x)$ , and  $\tilde{S}_2(x)$ .

**Problem 6. [Antisymmetry of the differentiation operator]**

An operator  $A : V \rightarrow V$  in an inner product vector space  $(V, \langle \cdot \rangle)$  is said to be *antisymmetric* if

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, A\mathbf{v} \rangle = -\langle \mathbf{v}, A\mathbf{u} \rangle \quad \text{for any } \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in V .$$

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the vector space of smooth functions  $f : [0, L] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that vanish at the endpoints:

$$\mathcal{F} := \{f \in C^\infty([0, L]) : f(0) = 0, f(L) = 0\} .$$

Endow  $\mathcal{F}$  with the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle := \int_0^L f(x) g(x) dx , \quad f, g \in \mathcal{F} .$$

Let  $A := \frac{d}{dx} : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  be the differentiation operator: if  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , then

$$(Af)(x) := f'(x) .$$

As you know from elementary Calculus,  $(f + \alpha g)' = f' + \alpha g'$ , so  $A$  is a linear operator.

Use integration by parts to prove that  $A$  is an antisymmetric operator on  $\mathcal{F}$ , i.e., show that  $\langle f, Ag \rangle = -\langle g, Af \rangle$  for any  $f, g \in \mathcal{F}$ .

**Problem 7. [Symmetry of the operator  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ ]**

An operator  $S : V \rightarrow V$  in an inner product vector space  $(V, \langle \cdot \rangle)$  is said to be *symmetric* if

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, S\mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{v}, S\mathbf{u} \rangle \quad \text{for any } \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in V .$$

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the vector space of smooth functions  $f : [0, L] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that vanish at the left endpoint and whose first derivative vanishes at the right endpoint:

$$\mathcal{F} := \{f \in C^\infty([0, L]) : f(0) = 0, f'(L) = 0\} .$$

Endow  $\mathcal{F}$  with the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle := \int_0^L f(x) g(x) \, dx, \quad f, g \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Let  $S := \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$  be the second derivative (which, as you know, is a linear operator):

$$(Sf)(x) := f''(x).$$

- (a) Use integration by parts twice to show that, for any two smooth functions  $f$  and  $g$  defined on  $[0, L]$ , the following identity holds:

$$\int_0^L f g'' \, dx = (fg') \Big|_{x=0}^L - (f'g) \Big|_{x=0}^L + \int_0^L f'' g \, dx$$

or, written in more detail,

$$\int_0^L f(x) g''(x) \, dx = f(L)g'(L) - f(0)g'(0) - [f'(L)g(L) - f'(0)g(0)] + \int_0^L f''(x)g(x) \, dx.$$

This identity is sometimes called *Green's formula*.

- (b) Use the identity from part (a) to prove that  $S$  is a symmetric operator on  $\mathcal{F}$ , i.e., that  $\langle f, Sg \rangle = \langle g, Sf \rangle$  for any  $f, g \in \mathcal{F}$ .