

Title: 14/15 PSI - Green Functions

Date: Sep 02, 2014 09:00 AM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/14090033>

Abstract:

## Plan of the course "Green's function"

- \* GF for differential equations; self-adjoint differential operators
- \* Sturm-Liouville problem and boundary conditions; eigenfunction expansion
- \* Fourier transform and its properties
- \* Causal GF



Differential operators

; eigenfunction expansion

\* GF for partial differential equations

\* Diffusion equation and heat kernel

\* Laplace and Poisson equations

\* Maxwell's equations, retarded potentials

\* Propagators in quantum field theory



Consider differential operator  $L$  acting on  $L^2[a,b]$

$L =$

↳ set of square  
integrable functions  
defined  $a \leq x \leq b$



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$$L = p_0(x) \frac{d^n}{dx^n} + p_1(x) \frac{d^{n-1}}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + p_n(x)$$

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$$y = L^{-1} f, \quad (L^{-1})_x = G(x, \xi), \quad \text{so that}$$

$$L_x G(x, \xi) = \delta(x - \xi)$$



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Question. How to find  $G(x, \xi)$



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Question. How to find  $G(x, \xi)$ ?



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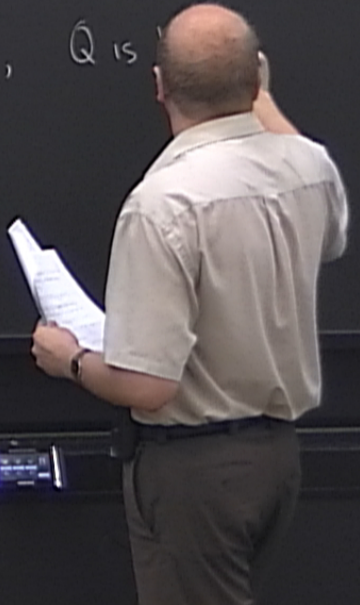
$$\underline{L_x G(x, \xi) = \delta(x - \xi)}$$

Question: How to find  $G(x, \xi)$ ?

Self-adjoint differential operators

We have  $L$  and real, positive weight function  $w(x)$ . Define  $L^*$  such that for any differentiable  $u(x)$  and  $v(x)$

$$(*) \quad w(x) (u^* L v - v L^* u) = \frac{d}{dx} Q[u, v], \quad Q \text{ is}$$





# Self-adjoint differential operators

We have  $L$  and real, positive weight function  $w(x)$ . Define  $L^+$

$$(*) \quad w(x) (u^* | L v - v | L^+ u^*) = \frac{d}{dx} Q[u, v], \quad Q \text{ is}$$

adjoint



tors }

Define  $L^+$  such that for any differentiable  $u(x)$  and  $v(x)$

$[u, v]$   $Q$  is bilinear in  $u$  and  $v$  and its derivatives



$$\int_a^b L(x, y, y') dx = \int_a^b L(x, y, y')$$

### Self-adjoint differential operators

Let  $L$  and real, positive weight function  $w(x)$ . Define  $L^+$  such that for any differentiable functions  $u$  and  $v$

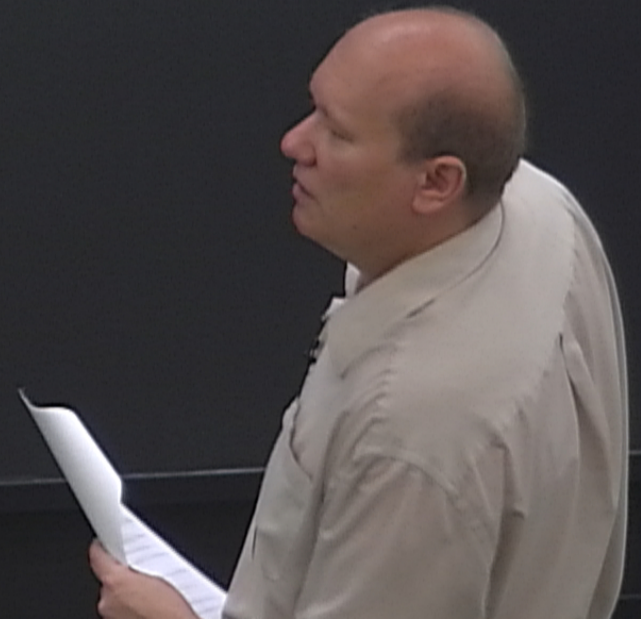
$$(*) \quad \underline{w(x) (u^* L v - v L^+ u^*) = \frac{d}{dx} Q[u, v]} \quad , \quad Q \text{ is bilinear in } u \text{ and } v \text{ and } u'$$

adjoint to  $L$

Lagrange's identity



If  $Q[u, v]$  is such that  $Q[u, v]|_a^b = 0$ , then  $\int_a^b w$

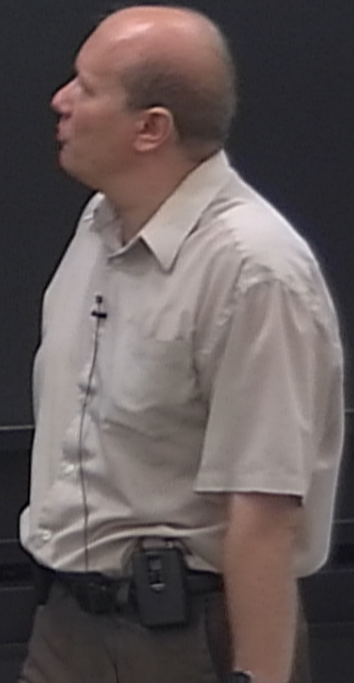




If  $Q[u, v]$  is such that  $Q[u, v] \Big|_a^b = 0$ , then  $\int_a^b w u^* L v dx = \int_a^b w v L^* u^* dx$

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If  $L = L^*$  then  $L$  is self-adjoint





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IF  $L = L^*$  then  $L$  is self-adjoint

Sturm-Liouville problem

$L$  is self-adjoint if and only if  $P_0' = P_1$  and  $L =$

$$L = P_0 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + P_1 \frac{d}{dx} + P_2.$$



that  $Q[u, v] \Big|_a^b = 0$ , then  $\int_a^b w u^* L v dx = \int_a^b w v L^* u^* dx$

$L$  is self-adjoint

the problem

$L$  is self-adjoint if and only if  $p_0' = p_1$  and  $L = \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) + p_2$

$p_2$ .



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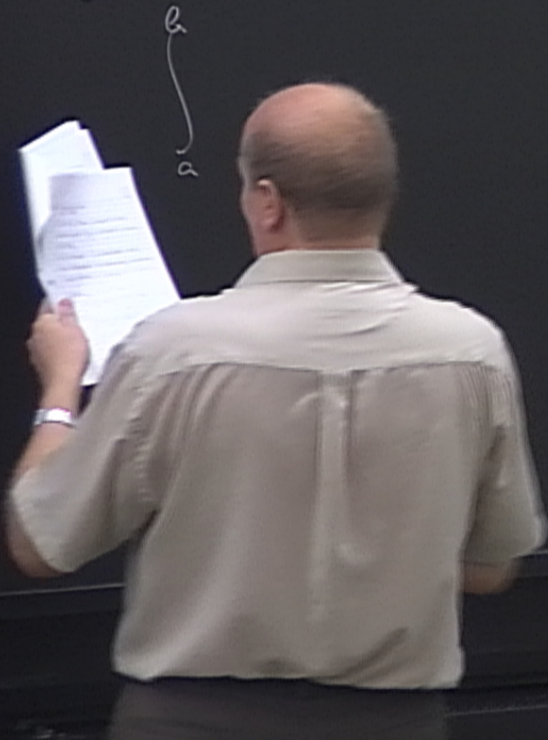


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int  
L is self-adjoint if and only if  $p_0' = p_1$  and  $L_1 = \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) + p_2$  ← self-adjoint with respect to  $w(x)=1$



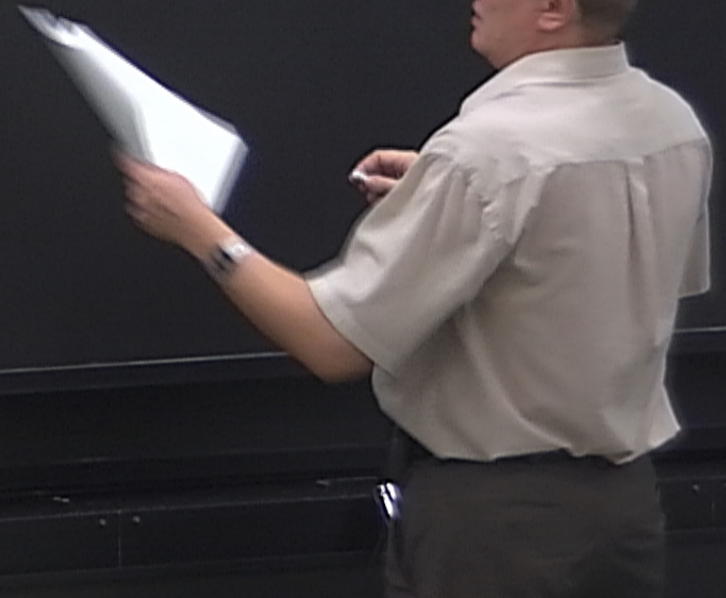
$$\int_a^b u^* L v \, dx - \int_a^b v L^+ u^* \, dx = \int_a^b u^* \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) v + p_2 v \right] dx - \int_a^b \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) u^* + p_2 u^* \right] \cdot v \, dx =$$





$$\int_a^b u^* L v \, dx - \int_a^b v L^+ u^* \, dx = \int_a^b u^* \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) v + p_2 v \right] dx - \int_a^b \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) u^* + p_2 u^* \right] \cdot v \, dx =$$

$$\int_a^b \frac{d}{dx} \left[ u^* p_0 v' - v p_0 u^{*'} \right] dx - \int_a^b p_0 v' u^{*'} dx + \int_a^b p_0 u^{*'} v' dx =$$





Sturm-Liouville problem

$$L = p_0 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + p_1 \frac{d}{dx} + p_2$$

$L$  is self-adjoint if and only if  $p_0' = p_1$  and  $L = \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) + p_2$  ← self-adjoint with respect to  $w(x) = 1$

$$\int_a^b u^* L v \, dx - \int_a^b v L^* u^* \, dx = \int_a^b u^* \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) v + p_2 v \right] \, dx - \int_a^b \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) u^* + p_2 u^* \right] \cdot v \, dx =$$

$$\int_a^b \frac{d}{dx} [u^* p_0 v' - v p_0 u^{*'}] \, dx - \int_a^b p_0 v' u^{*'} \, dx + \int_a^b p_0 u^{*'} v' \, dx = \frac{p_0(a) [u^*(a) v'(a) - v'(a) u^{*'}(a)] - p_0(b) [u^*(b) v'(b) - v'(b) u^{*'}(b)]}{|_a^b}$$

$$\frac{u^{*'}(a)}{v'(a)}$$



$$\int_a^b u^* L v \, dx - \int_a^b v L^+ u^* \, dx = \int_a^b u^* \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) v + p_2 v \right] dx - \int_a^b \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) u^* + p_2 u^* \right] v \, dx$$

$$\int_a^b \frac{d}{dx} \left[ u^* p_0 v' - v p_0 u^{*'} \right] dx - \int_a^b p_0 v' u^{*'} dx + \int_a^b p_0 u^{*'} v' dx = p_0(b)$$

$$\left[ \frac{u^{*'}(a)}{u^*(a)} = \frac{v'(a)}{v(a)} \right], \quad \left[ \frac{u^{*'}(b)}{u^*(b)} = \frac{v'(b)}{v(b)} \right]$$



$$\int_a^b \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) u^* + p_2 u^* \right] \cdot v \, dx =$$

$$p_0(b) \left[ u^*(b) v'(b) - v(b) u^{*'}(b) \right] - p_0(a) \left[ u^*(a) v'(a) - v(a) u^{*'}(a) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_a y(a) + \beta_a y'(a) &= 0 \\ \alpha_b y(b) + \beta_b y'(b) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$





$$\int_a^b \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) u^* + p_2 u^* \right] \cdot v \, dx =$$

$$p_0(b) [u^*(b) v'(b) - v(b) u^{*'}(b)] - p_0(a) [u^*(a) v'(a) - v(a) u^{*'}(a)]$$

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_a y(a) + \beta_a y'(a) = 0 \\ \alpha_b y(b) + \beta_b y'(b) = 0 \end{cases}$$

homogeneous boundary conditions



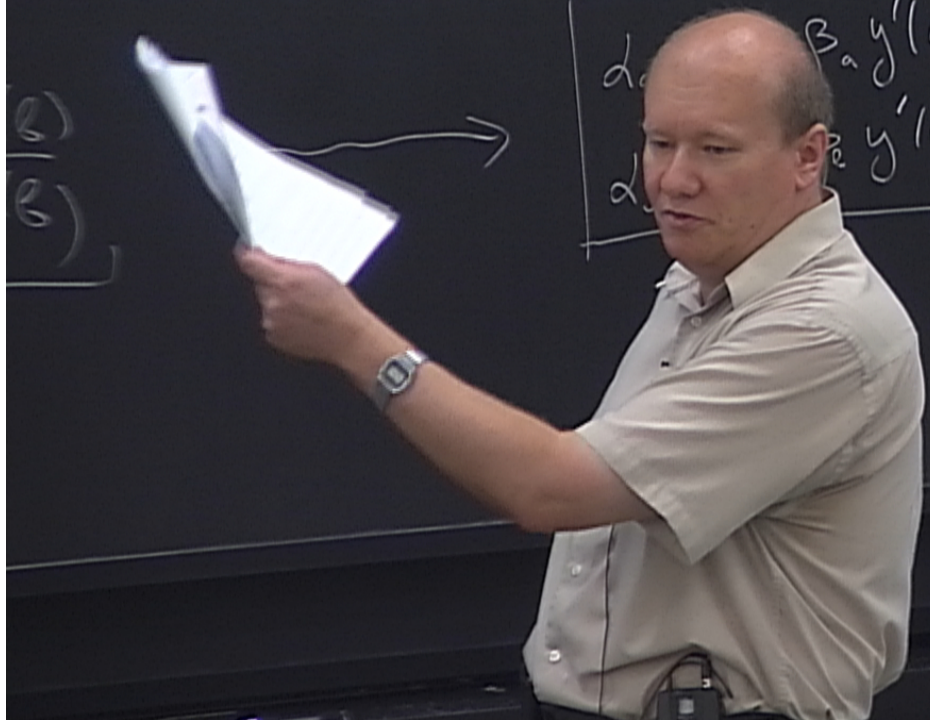
$$\int_a^b \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( p_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) u^* + p_2 u^* \right] \cdot v \, dx =$$

$$p_0(b) \left[ u^*(b) v'(b) - v(b) u^{*'}(b) \right] - p_0(a) \left[ u^*(a) v'(a) - v(a) u^{*'}(a) \right]$$

$$\beta_0 y'(a) = 0$$

$$\beta_1 y'(b) = 0$$

homogeneous boundary conditions





How to construct  $G(x, \xi)$  for a self-adjoint  $L$ ?

$$L_x G(x, \xi) = 0 \quad \text{away from } x = \xi$$





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- (i) For  $x < \xi$ ,  $G_L(x, \xi) = A(\xi) y_1(x) + B(\xi) y_2(x)$
- (ii) For  $x > \xi$ ,  $G_R(x, \xi) = C(\xi) y_1(x) + D(\xi) y_2(x)$



$$(iii) \quad d_a G_c(a, \xi) + \beta_a G_c'(a, \xi) = 0$$

$$(iv) \quad d_b G_c(b, \xi) + \beta_b G_c'(b, \xi) = 0$$



at  $\xi$ ?

$$(iii) \quad \alpha_a G_c(a, \xi) + \beta_a G_c'(a, \xi) = 0$$

$$(iv) \quad \alpha_b G_c(b, \xi) + \beta_b G_c'(b, \xi) = 0$$

$$(v) \quad \text{At } x = \xi, \quad G_c(\xi, \xi) = G_c'(\xi, \xi)$$



$$\frac{u'(a)}{v(a)} = \frac{u'(b)}{v(b)}$$

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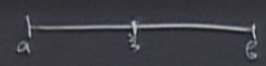


$$\alpha u(b) + \beta u'(b) = 0$$

Conditions

How to construct  $G(x, \xi)$  for a self-adjoint  $L$

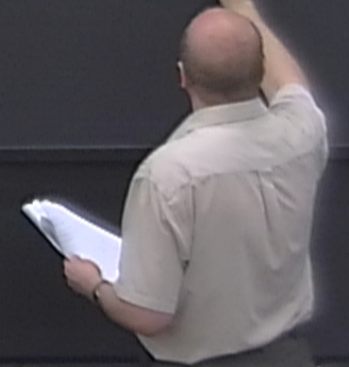
$L_x G(x, \xi) = 0$  away from  $x = \xi$



- (i) For  $x < \xi$ ,  $G_L(x, \xi) = A(\xi)y_1(x) + B(\xi)y_2(x)$
- (ii) For  $x > \xi$ ,  $G_R(x, \xi) = C(\xi)y_1(x) + D(\xi)y_2(x)$

- (iii)  $\alpha_a G_L(a, \xi) + \beta_a G_L'(a, \xi) = 0$
- (iv)  $\alpha_b G_R(b, \xi) + \beta_b G_R'(b, \xi) = 0$

- (v) At  $x = \xi$ ,  $G_R(\xi, \xi) = G_L(\xi, \xi)$
- (vi) At  $x = \xi$ ,  $G_R'(\xi, \xi) - G_L'(\xi, \xi) = 1$

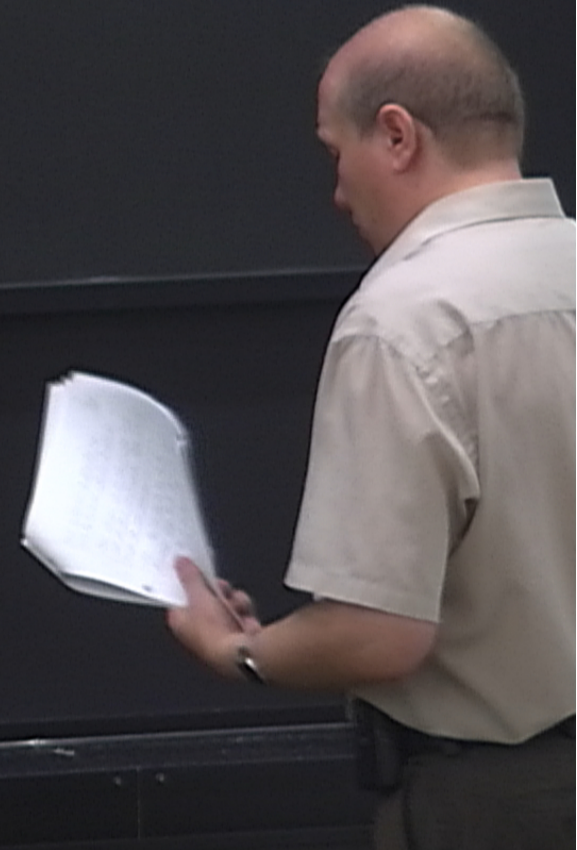




$$(i) \text{ For } x < \xi, \quad G_L(x, \xi) = A(\xi) y_1(x) + B(\xi) y_2(x)$$

$$(ii) \text{ For } x > \xi, \quad G_R(x, \xi) = C(\xi) y_1(x) + D(\xi) y_2(x)$$

$$\int_a^b \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( P_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) G(x, \xi) + P_2 G(x, \xi) \right] = \int_a^b \delta(x - \xi)$$





$$(v) \text{ At } x = \xi, \quad G_{\rightarrow}(\xi, \xi) = G_{\leftarrow}(\xi, \xi)$$

$$(vi) \text{ At } x = \xi, \quad G'_{\rightarrow}(\xi, \xi) - G'_{\leftarrow}(\xi, \xi) = \frac{1}{p_0(\xi)}$$



$$(i) \text{ For } x < \xi, \quad G_L(x, \xi) = A(\xi) y_1(x) + B(\xi) y_2(x)$$

$$(ii) \text{ For } x > \xi, \quad G_R(x, \xi) = C(\xi) Y_1(x) + D(\xi) Y_2(x)$$

$$\int_{\xi-0}^{\xi+0} \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( P_0 \frac{d}{dx} \right) G(x, \xi) + P_2 G(x, \xi) \right] dx = 1$$



How to construct  $G(x, \xi)$  for a self-adjoint  $L$

$$L_x G(x, \xi) = 0 \quad \text{away from } x = \xi$$



(i) For  $x < \xi$ ,  $G_L(x, \xi) = A(\xi) y_1(x) + B(\xi) y_2(x)$

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$$\underline{L_x G(x, \xi) = \delta(x - \xi)}$$

$$y(x) = \int_a^b G(x, \xi) f(\xi) d\xi = y_1(x) \int_a^c A(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_2(x) \int_c^b B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + Y_1(x) \int_a^c C(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + Y_2(x) \int_c^b D(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$



$$y(x) = \int_a^b G(x, \xi) f(\xi) d\xi = y_1(x) \int_x^b A(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_2(x) \int_x^a B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$



$$y_2(x) \int_x^b B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_1(x) \int_a^x C(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_2(x) \int_a^x D(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$



$$y(x) = \int_a^b G(x, \xi) f(\xi) d\xi = y_1(x) \int_a^c A(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_2(x) \int_c^b B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$

Note 1: We constructed the solution of  $\mathcal{L}y = f$  for homogeneous boundary



$$y_2(x) \int_x^b B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_1(x) \int_a^x C(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_2(x) \int_a^x D(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$

homogeneous boundary conditions. What if the bc are inhomogeneous, e.g.

$$y(a) = A$$

$$y(b) = B$$



$y = L^{-1}f$ ,  $(L^{-1})_x = G(x, \xi)$ , so that

$$\underline{L_x G(x, \xi) = \delta(x - \xi)}$$

Question: How to find  $G(x, \xi)$ ?

$$y(x) = \int_a^b G(x, \xi) f(\xi) d\xi = y_1(x) \int_a^a A(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_2(x) \int_a^b B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_3(x) \int_a^a C(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_4(x) \int_a^a D(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$

Note 1: We constructed the solution of  $Ly = f$  for homogeneous boundary conditions. What if the bc are inhomogeneous, e.g.

$$y(a) = A$$
$$y(b) = B$$



$$y(x) = \int_a^b G(x, \xi) f(\xi) d\xi = y_1(x) \int_a^x A(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_2(x) \int_x^b B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$

Step 1: We constructed the solution of  $Ly = f$  for homogeneous boundary conditions.

Construct  $y_H(x)$ :  $Ly_H = 0$ , and  $y_H(a) = A$ ,  $y_H(b) = B$ . The general solution is



$$y_2(x) \int_x^b B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + Y_1(x) \int_a^x C(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + Y_2(x) \int_a^x D(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$

homogeneous boundary conditions. What if the bc are inhomogeneous, e.g.

The general solution  $y(x) = y_s(x)$

$$y(a) = A$$

$$y(b) = B$$



$$y_2(x) \int_x^b B(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_1(x) \int_a^x C(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi + y_2(x) \int_a^x D(\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$

homogeneous boundary conditions. What if the bc are inhomogeneous, e.g.

The general solution  $y(x) = y_s(x) + y_h(x)$

$y(a) = A$   
 $y(b) = B$



Note 2: Fredholm alternative

Question: Does solution to  $Ly=f$  exist and if it does, is it unique?



Note 2: Fredholm alternative

Question: Does solution to  $Ly=f$  exist and if it does,

$L$  is a differential operator ( $n$ -th order) supplemented by  $n$  homogeneous boundary conditions

(I) Either i)  $Ly=f$



$L$  is a differential operator ( $n$ -th order) supplemented by  $n$  homogeneous boundary conditions

(I) Either i)  $Ly=f$  has a unique solution

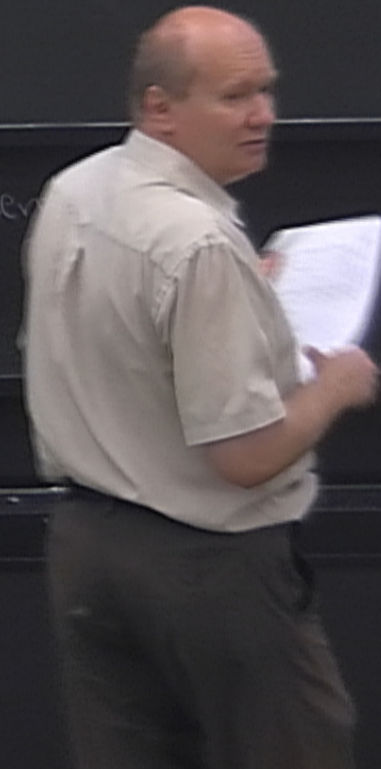
or

ii)  $Ly=0$  has a non-trivial solution

(II)  $\Rightarrow Ly=0$  has  $n$  linearly independent solutions;  
then so does  $L^*y=0$

adjoint to  $L$

Lagrange's identity





ed by  $n$  homogeneous boundary conditions

III) If alternative (ii) holds, then  $Ly=f$  has  
no solution unless

solutions

Lagrange identity



ed by  $n$  homogeneous boundary conditions

III) If alternative (i) holds, then  $Ly=f$  has  
no solution unless  $f$  is orthogonal to all  
solutions of  $Ly=0$

solutions

Lagrange's identity



... exist and if it does, it is unique.

homogeneous boundary conditions

III) If alternative (ii) holds then  $Ly=f$  has no solution unless  $f$  is orthogonal to all solutions of  $Ly_H=0$

$$\int_a^b f(x) y_H(x) dx = 0$$

's identity



n so does  $\mathcal{L}y=0$

Eigenfunctions expansion

Self-adjoint operators  $\mathcal{L}$  possess a complete set of orthonormal eigenfunctions

$$\mathcal{L}\phi_n(x) = \lambda_n \phi_n(x), \quad \int_a^b \phi_m^*(x) \phi_n(x) dx = \delta_{mn}$$



Self-adjoint operators  $L$  possess a complete set of orthonormal eigenfunctions

$$L\phi_n(x) = \lambda_n\phi_n(x), \quad \int_a^b \phi_m^*(x)\phi_n(x)dx = \delta_{nm} \leftarrow \text{orthonormality}$$



Self-adjoint operators  $L$  possess a complete set of orthonormal eigenfunctions

$$L \phi_n(x) = \lambda_n \phi_n(x), \quad \int_a^b \phi_m^*(x) \phi_n(x) dx = \delta_{mn} \leftarrow \text{orthonormality}$$

$$\sum_n \phi_n(x) \phi_n^*(\xi) = \delta(x-\xi)$$



# Eigenfunctions expansion

$$G(x, \bar{x}) = \sum_n \frac{\phi_n(x) \phi_n^*(\bar{x})}{\lambda_n}$$

Self-adjoint operators  
orthonormal eigenfun

$$\int \phi_n(x) = \lambda_n \phi_n(x)$$





Eigenfunctions expansion

SelS-adj

orthon

$L\phi_n(x) =$

$$G(x, \xi) = \sum_n \frac{\phi_n(x)\phi_n^*(\xi)}{\lambda_n}$$

Proof:  $L_x \left( \sum_n \frac{\phi_n(x)\phi_n^*(\xi)}{\lambda_n} \right) = \sum_n \frac{\overbrace{[L_x \phi_n(x)]}^{\lambda_n} \phi_n^*(\xi)}{\lambda_n} =$

$$= \sum_n \phi_n(x)\phi_n^*(\xi) = \delta(x-\xi)$$