

Each eigenfunction yields a solution to the heat equation

$$X_n(x) = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \quad \lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2$$

What is the T counterpart for X_n ?

It should satisfy

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = -k\lambda_n T = -k\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 T$$

Therefore

$$T(t) = C e^{-k\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \quad C \text{ constant}$$

Put it together:

$$u(x,t) = T(t) X_n(x) = C e^{-k\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

Satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} & \text{heat eqn} \\ u(0,t) = 0 & \text{Boundary} \\ u(L,t) = 0 & \text{conditions} \end{cases}$$

Another type of boundary condition
"insulated ends"

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

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

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \text{heat flux} \right)$$

$$\frac{dX}{dx}(0) T(t) = 0$$

$$\frac{dX}{dx}(L) T(t) = 0$$

So $X(x)$ satisfies

$$\begin{cases} X'' + \lambda X = 0 \\ X'(0) = 0 \\ X'(L) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Eigenvalues: $\lambda_0 = 0$, $\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2$ $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Eigenfunctions: $X_0 = 1$, $X_n = \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Heat solutions: $u_0(x,t) = 1$, $u_n(x,t) = e^{-k\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$