

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(0, y) = 0 &\Rightarrow X(0)Y(y) = 0 \Rightarrow X(0) = 0 \\
 u(a, y) = 0 &\Rightarrow X(a)Y(y) = 0 \Rightarrow X(a) = 0 \\
 u(x, 0) = 0 &\Rightarrow X(x)Y(0) = 0 \Rightarrow Y(0) = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

So we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} + \lambda X &= 0 & \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} - \lambda Y &= 0 \\
 X(0) &= 0 & Y(0) &= 0 \\
 X(a) &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

That's same eigenvalue problem!

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

Eigenfunctions:  $X_n(x) = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a}$

What is the  $Y_n$ -partner for  $X_n$ ?

$$\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{a}\right)^2 \quad \text{so } Y_n \text{ satisfies } \frac{d^2 Y_n}{dy^2} - \left(\frac{n\pi}{a}\right)^2 Y_n = 0$$

characteristic eqn  $r^2 - \left(\frac{n\pi}{a}\right)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm \frac{n\pi}{a}$

$$\text{so } Y_n(y) = C_1 e^{\frac{n\pi y}{a}} + C_2 e^{-\frac{n\pi y}{a}}$$

We can now use the condition  $Y(0) = 0$ :

$$0 = Y_n(0) = C_1 e^0 + C_2 e^0 = C_1 + C_2$$

Thus  $C_2 = -C_1$ , and we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
 Y_n &= C_1 \left( e^{\frac{n\pi y}{a}} - e^{-\frac{n\pi y}{a}} \right) = 2C_1 \left( \frac{e^{\frac{n\pi y}{a}} - e^{-\frac{n\pi y}{a}}}{2} \right) \\
 &= 2C_1 \sinh\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right) \quad \text{hyperbolic sine.}
 \end{aligned}$$