

Chapter 9: Green's function

Fei Lu

Department of Mathematics, Johns Hopkins

Section: 9.2 1D heat equation

Section 9.3 Green's function and ODE-BVP

9.2 1D Heat equation

Exe 9.2.1: (a) Solve the IBVP using Green's formula instead of TBTD;

(b) consider BC $u(0, t) = A(t)$, $u(L, t) = B(t)$.

$$\partial_t u = \kappa \partial_{xx} u + Q(x, t),$$

$$u(0, t) = 0 = u(L, t)$$

$$u(x, 0) = g(x)$$

Outline:

1. Operator $L = \kappa \partial_{xx}$ and BC. \rightarrow Sturm-Liouville Theorem $\{(\lambda_n, \phi_n)\}$

2. MEE: $u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(t) \phi_n(x)$, where $\{\phi_n\}$ is a complete basis.

Solve $a_m(t)$ from DE:

$$\partial_t \langle u, \phi_m \rangle = \langle \kappa \partial_{xx} u, \phi_m \rangle + \langle Q, \phi_m \rangle,$$

where Green's formula: $\int_a^b (u L v - v L u) = p(uv' - u'v) \Big|_a^b \Rightarrow$

$$\langle \partial_{xx} u, \phi_m \rangle = \langle u, \phi_m'' \rangle + (u \phi_m' - \phi_m \partial_x u) \Big|_a^b$$

Homogeneous HE:

$$\partial_t u = \kappa \partial_{xx} u, \quad x \in (0, L)$$

$$u(0, t) = 0 = u(L, t)$$

$$u(x, 0) = g(x)$$

Non-homogeneous HE:

$$\partial_t u = \kappa \partial_{xx} u + Q(x, t), \quad x \in (0, L)$$

$$u(0, t) = 0 = u(L, t)$$

$$u(x, 0) = g(x)$$

Solution: $a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L g(x_0) \sin \frac{n\pi x_0}{L} dx_0$

Solution: $a_n(t) = \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n e^{-\lambda_n \kappa t} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\ &= \int_0^L g(x_0) G(x, t; x_0, 0) dx_0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(t) e^{-\lambda_n \kappa t} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\ &= \int_0^L g(x_0) G(x, t; x_0, 0) dx_0 \\ &\quad + \int_0^L \int_0^t g(x_0) G(x, t-s; x_0, 0) ds dx_0 \end{aligned}$$

Green's function for HE:

$$G(x, t; x_0, 0) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{L} e^{-\lambda_n \kappa t} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x_0}{L}$$

1. Causality principle: $u(x, t)$ depends on the past, not the future.
2. Depend on $t - s$

9.3 Green's function and BVP-ODE

A. Deviation using 1D steady-state of HE

Suppose $Q(x, t) = Q(x)$.

$$u_E(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(x, t).$$

Then, $0 = \kappa \partial_{xx} u_E + Q(x)$.

$$\partial_{xx} u_E = f(x) = -Q(x)/\kappa,$$

$$u_E(0) = 0 = u_E(L)$$

$$G(x, y) = \frac{2}{L} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n^{-1} \phi_n(x) \phi_n(y)$$

with $\lambda_n = (\frac{n\pi}{L})^2$, $\phi_n(x) = \sin(\frac{n\pi}{L}x)$

$$u_E(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(x, t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^L g(y) G(x, t; y, 0) dy \\ &+ \int_0^L \int_0^t [-\kappa f(y)] G(x, t; y, s) dy ds \\ &= \int_0^L f(y) G(x, y) dy \end{aligned}$$

Green's function for the DE

$\partial_{xx} u = f$; $u(0) = u(L) = 0$:

$$u(x) = \int_0^L f(y) G(x, y) dy$$

for all continuous f .

B: Derive Green's function by variation of parameters for the DE.

C. Green's function for general self-adjoint operator

Derivation by Method of Eigen-function Expansion:

$$Lu = f \text{ with homo-BC.}$$

Suppose that L has eigenpairs $\{(\lambda_n, \phi_n)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$

$$\lambda_n > 0, \forall n \geq 1$$

Show that the Green's function is

$$G(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\langle \phi_n, \phi_n \rangle} \lambda_n^{-1} \phi_n(x) \phi_n(y)$$

or $G = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\langle \phi_n, \phi_n \rangle} \lambda_n^{-1} \phi_n \otimes \phi_n$

- ▶ From $u(x) = \langle f, G(x, \cdot) \rangle = \int f(y) G(x, y) dy$
- ▶ Example: $\partial_{xx} u = f; u(0) = u(L) = 0$
- ▶ Q: Explicit function expression of G ?

D. Dirac Delta function and Green's function

Dirac Delta function $\delta(x - x_0)$

Definition: a generalized function

$$\delta(x - x_0) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \neq x_0 \\ \infty & x = x_0 \end{cases}$$

in the sense that $\forall f$ continuous,

$$f(x_0) = \int f(x)\delta(x - x_0)dx.$$

It is NOT a “function”, but an “action”.

- ▶ $\int \delta(x - x_0)dx = 1.$
- ▶ $\delta(x - x_0) = \delta(x_0 - x).$
- ▶ derivative of Heaviside function
 $\delta(x - x_0) = H'(x - x_0)$

Green's function $G(x, x_0)$

$Lu = f$ with homo-BCs.

$$u(x) = \int f(y)G(x, y)dy.$$

Formally, if $f(x) = \delta(x - x_0)$, then

$$u(x) = \int \delta(x - x_0)G(x, y)dy = G(x, x_0)$$

$$LG(x, x_0) = \delta(x - x_0)$$

Q: δ is not a function,
what does the equation mean?

DE for Green's function

$$LG(x, x_0) = \delta(x - x_0), \quad x, x_0 \in (a, b)$$

- weak form: for all $v \in C_b^2$,

$$\langle LG(\cdot, x_0), v \rangle = \langle \delta(x - x_0), v \rangle$$

- Green's formula: $\langle LG(\cdot, x_0), v \rangle = [Gv' - \partial_x Gv] \Big|_a^b - \langle G(\cdot, x_0), Lv \rangle \leftarrow$
 G is continuous, $\partial_x G(x, x_0)$ exists and $\partial_x G(x, x_0) \Big|_{x_0^-}^{x_0^+} = 1$.

Example: find the Green's function by solving

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} G(x, x_0) = \delta(x - x_0),$$

$$G(0, x_0) = 0 = G(L, x_0)$$

$$G(x, x_0) = \begin{cases} -\frac{L-x_0}{L}x, & x < x_0; \\ -\frac{x_0}{L}(L-x), & x > x_0. \end{cases}$$

E. Non-homogeneous BC

Exe: Solve $\partial_{xx}u = f$; $u(0) = \alpha$, $u(L) = \beta$ using the Green's function.

- By Green's formula

$$\int_0^L [u(x)\partial_{xx}G(x, x_0) - G(x, x_0)\partial_{xx}u]dx = u\partial_xG(x, x_0) - \partial_xuG(x, x_0) \Big|_0^L$$

- Applying the Eq. and BC:

$$\int_0^L [u(x)\delta(x - x_0) - G(x, x_0)f(x)]dx = \beta\partial_xG(L, x_0) - \alpha\partial_xG(0, x_0)$$

$$u(x_0) - \int_0^L f(x)G(x, x_0)dx = g(x_0)$$

- Recall $\partial_xG(L, x_0) = \frac{x_0}{L}$, $\partial_xG(0, x_0) = \frac{x_0-L}{L}$.

$$u(x_0) = \int_0^L f(x)G(x, x_0)dx + \beta\frac{x_0}{L} - \alpha\frac{x_0-L}{L}, \quad \forall x_0 \in (0, L)$$

9.4 Fredholm Alternative and Generalized Green's functions

$Lu = f$ with homo-BC.

Suppose that L has eigenpairs $\{(\lambda_n, \phi_n)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$

$$\lambda_n > 0, \forall n \geq m, \quad \lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_m = 0$$

The generalized Green's function is a solution to

$$LG(x, x_0) = \delta(x - x_0) - \sum_{n=1}^m c_n \frac{1}{\langle \phi_n, \phi_n \rangle} \phi_n(x) \phi_n(x_0)$$

$$G(x, y) = \sum_{n=m+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\langle \phi_n, \phi_n \rangle} \lambda_n^{-1} \phi_n(x) \phi_n(y) + \sum_{n=1}^m c_n \frac{1}{\langle \phi_n, \phi_n \rangle} \phi_n(x) \phi_n(y)$$

or $G = \sum_{n=m+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\langle \phi_n, \phi_n \rangle} \lambda_n^{-1} \phi_n \otimes \phi_n + \sum_{n=1}^m c_n \frac{1}{\langle \phi_n, \phi_n \rangle} \phi_n \otimes \phi_n$