

**PHY 711 Classical Mechanics and  
Mathematical Methods**  
**10-10:50 AM MWF Olin 103**

**Plan for Lecture 19:**

**Read Chapter 7 & Appendices A-D**

Generalization of the one dimensional wave equation →  
various mathematical problems and techniques including:

1. Sturm-Liouville equations
2. Eigenvalues; orthogonal function expansions
3. Green's functions methods
4. Laplace transformation
5. Contour integration methods

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Date	F&W Reading	Topic	Assignment Due	
1 Mon, 8/27/2018	Chap. 1	Introduction	#1	9/7/2018
Wed, 8/29/2018	No class			
2 Fri, 8/31/2018	Chap. 1	Scattering theory	#2	9/7/2018
3 Mon, 9/03/2018	Chap. 1	Scattering theory		
4 Wed, 9/05/2018	Chap. 1	Scattering theory	#3	9/10/2018
5 Fri, 9/07/2018	Chap. 2	Non-inertial coordinate systems	#4	9/12/2018
6 Mon, 9/10/2018	Chap. 3	Calculus of Variation	#5	9/12/2018
7 Wed, 9/12/2018	Chap. 3	Calculus of Variation	#6	9/17/2018
Fri, 9/14/2018	No class	University closed due to weather.		
8 Mon, 9/17/2018	Chap. 3	Lagrangian Mechanics	#7	9/19/2018
9 Wed, 9/19/2018	Chap. 3 and 6	Lagrangian Mechanics and constraints	#8	9/24/2018
10 Fri, 9/21/2018	Chap. 3 and 6	Constants of the motion		
11 Mon, 9/24/2018	Chap. 3 and 6	Hamiltonian formalism	#9	9/28/2018
12 Wed, 9/26/2018	Chap. 3 and 6	Liouville theorem	#10	10/3/2018
13 Fri, 9/28/2018	Chap. 3 and 6	Canonical transformations		
14 Mon, 10/1/2018	Chap. 4	Small oscillations about equilibrium	#11	10/5/2018
15 Wed, 10/3/2018	Chap. 4	Normal modes of vibration		
16 Fri, 10/5/2018	Chap. 1-4, 6	Review		
17 Mon, 10/8/2018	Chap. 7	Strings		
18 Wed, 10/10/2018	Chap. 7	Wave equation		
Fri, 10/12/2018	No class	Fall break		
19 Mon, 10/15/2018	Chap. 7	Wave equation		

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Remember:  
Mid term exam due tomorrow (Tuesday) --

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Estimation of the lowest eigenvalue – continued:

From the eigenfunction equation, we know that

$$S(x)\tilde{h}(x) = S(x)\sum_n C_n f_n(x) = \sum_n C_n \lambda_n \sigma(x) f_n(x).$$

It follows that:

$$\langle \tilde{h} | S | \tilde{h} \rangle = \int_a^b \tilde{h}(x) S(x) \tilde{h}(x) dx = \sum_n |C_n|^2 N_n \lambda_n.$$

It also follows that:

$$\langle \tilde{h} | \sigma | \tilde{h} \rangle = \int_a^b \tilde{h}(x) \sigma(x) \tilde{h}(x) dx = \sum_n |C_n|^2 N_n,$$

Therefore 
$$\frac{\langle \tilde{h} | S | \tilde{h} \rangle}{\langle \tilde{h} | \sigma | \tilde{h} \rangle} = \frac{\sum_n |C_n|^2 N_n \lambda_n}{\sum_n |C_n|^2 N_n} \geq \lambda_0.$$

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Rayleigh-Ritz method of estimating the lowest eigenvalue

$$\lambda_0 \leq \frac{\langle \tilde{h} | S | \tilde{h} \rangle}{\langle \tilde{h} | \sigma | \tilde{h} \rangle},$$

Example:  $-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f_n(x) = \lambda_n f_n(x)$  with  $f_n(0) = f_n(a) = 0$

trial function  $f_{\text{trial}}(x) = x(x-a)$

Exact value of  $\lambda_0 = \frac{\pi^2}{a^2} = \frac{9.869604404}{a^2}$

Rayleigh-Ritz estimate:  $\frac{\langle x(a-x) | -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} | x(a-x) \rangle}{\langle x(a-x) | x(a-x) \rangle} = \frac{10}{a^2}$

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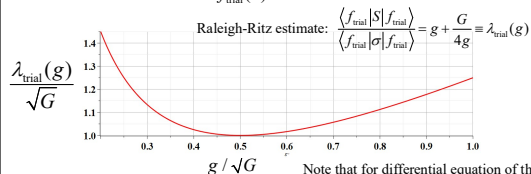
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Rayleigh-Ritz method of estimating the lowest eigenvalue

$$\lambda_0 \leq \frac{\langle \tilde{h} | S | \tilde{h} \rangle}{\langle \tilde{h} | \sigma | \tilde{h} \rangle},$$

Example:  $-\frac{d^2 f_n(x)}{dx^2} + Gx^2 f_n(x) = \lambda_n f_n(x)$  with  $f_n(-\infty) = f_n(\infty) = 0$

trial function  $f_{\text{trial}}(x) = e^{-gx^2}$



$g_0 = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{G}$   $\lambda_{\text{trial}}(g_0) = \sqrt{G}$

Note that for differential equation of the  
Schoedinger equation of the harmonic oscillator  
 $\sqrt{G} = \frac{m\omega}{\hbar}$   $\lambda_{\text{trial}} = \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} E_0 \Rightarrow E_0 = \frac{\hbar\omega}{2}$

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Recap -- Rayleigh-Ritz method of estimating the lowest eigenvalue

Example from Schroedinger equation for one-dimensional harmonic oscillator:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2 f_n(x)}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2 f_n(x) = E_n f_n(x) \quad \text{with } f_n(-\infty) = f_n(\infty) = 0$$

Trial function  $f_{\text{trial}}(x) = e^{-gx^2}$

$$\text{Rayleigh-Ritz estimate: } \frac{\langle f_{\text{trial}} | S | f_{\text{trial}} \rangle}{\langle f_{\text{trial}} | \sigma | f_{\text{trial}} \rangle} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( g + \frac{m^2 \omega^2}{4g} \right) \equiv E_{\text{trial}}(g)$$

$$g_0 = \frac{m\omega}{\hbar} \quad E_{\text{trial}}(g_0) = \frac{1}{2} \hbar \omega \quad \leftarrow \text{Exact answer}$$

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Comment on "completeness" of set of eigenfunctions

It can be shown that for any reasonable function  $h(x)$ , defined within the interval  $a < x < b$ , we can expand that function as a linear combination of the eigenfunctions  $f_n(x)$

$$h(x) \approx \sum_n C_n f_n(x),$$

$$\text{where } C_n = \frac{1}{N_n} \int_a^b \sigma(x') h(x') f_n(x') dx'.$$

These ideas lead to the notion that the set of eigenfunctions  $f_n(x)$  form a "complete" set in the sense of "spanning" the space of all functions in the interval  $a < x < b$ , as summarized by the statement:

$$\sigma(x) \sum_n \frac{f_n(x) f_n(x')}{N_n} = \delta(x - x').$$

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Some details --

$$\text{suggested that: } h(x) \approx \sum_n C_n f_n(x),$$

$$\text{where } C_n = \frac{1}{N_n} \int_a^b \sigma(x') h(x') f_n(x') dx'.$$

Minimize:

$$\chi(\{C_n\}) = \int_a^b dx \sigma(x) \left( h(x) - \sum_n C_n f_n(x) \right)^2$$

Necessary condition for minimum:

$$\frac{d\chi}{dC_n} = 0 \quad \int_a^b dx 2\sigma(x) \left( h(x) - \sum_m C_m f_m(x) \right) f_n(x) = 0$$

$$\text{Note that: } \int_a^b \sigma(x') f_m(x') f_n(x') dx' = N_n \delta_{mn}$$

$$\Rightarrow C_n = \frac{1}{N_n} \int_a^b \sigma(x') h(x') f_n(x') dx'$$

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## Green's function solution methods

Suppose that we can find a Green's function defined as follows:

$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) G_\lambda(x, x') = \delta(x - x')$$

Among other things, this is useful for solving inhomogeneous equations of the type:

$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) \psi(x) = F(x)$$

where  $F(x)$ ,  $\tau(x)$ ,  $v(x)$ ,  $\lambda$ , and  $\sigma(x)$  are known, and  $\psi(x)$  is to be determined according to:

$$\psi(x) = \int_a^b dx' G(x, x') F(x')$$

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## Green's function solution methods

Suppose that we can find a Green's function defined as follows:

$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) G_\lambda(x, x') = \delta(x - x')$$

Completeness of eigenfunctions:

Recall:

$$\sigma(x) \sum_n \frac{f_n(x) f_n(x')}{N_n} = \delta(x - x')$$

In terms of eigenfunctions:

$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) G_\lambda(x, x') = \sigma(x) \sum_n \frac{f_n(x) f_n(x')}{N_n}$$

$$\Rightarrow G_\lambda(x, x') = \sum_n \frac{f_n(x) f_n(x') / N_n}{\lambda_n - \lambda}$$

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## Solution to inhomogeneous problem by using Green's functions

Inhomogeneous problem for  $0 \leq x \leq L$ :

$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) \phi(x) = F(x)$$

Green's function :

$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) G_\lambda(x, x') = \delta(x - x')$$

Formal solution:

$$\phi_\lambda(x) = \phi_{\lambda 0}(x) + \int_0^L G_\lambda(x, x') F(x') dx'$$

↙ Solution to homogeneous problem

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Example Sturm-Liouville problem:

Example:  $\tau(x)=1$ ;  $\sigma(x)=1$ ;  $v(x)=0$ ;  $a=0$  and  $b=L$

$$\lambda = 1; \quad F(x) = F_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)$$

Inhomogeneous equation :

$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} - 1\right)\phi(x) = F_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)$$

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Eigenvalue equation :

$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\right)f_n(x) = \lambda_n f_n(x)$$

Eigenfunctions

$$f_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

Eigenvalues :

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

Completeness of eigenfunctions :

$$\sigma(x) \sum_n \frac{f_n(x)f_n(x')}{N_n} = \delta(x-x')$$

In this example :  $\frac{2}{L} \sum_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x'}{L}\right) = \delta(x-x')$

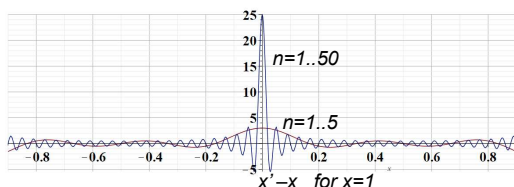
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Example:  $\frac{2}{L} \sum_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x'}{L}\right) = \delta(x-x')$

For  $L=2$



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Green's function :

$$\left(-\frac{d}{dx}\tau(x)\frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda\sigma(x)\right)G_\lambda(x, x') = \delta(x - x')$$

Green's function for the example :

$$G(x, x') = \sum_n \frac{f_n(x)f_n(x')/N_n}{\lambda_n - \lambda} = \frac{2}{L} \sum_n \frac{\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x'}{L}\right)}{\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 - 1}$$

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Using Green's function to solve inhomogenous equation :

$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} - 1\right)\phi(x) = F_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$\phi(x) = \phi_0(x) + \int_0^L G(x, x') F_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x'}{L}\right) dx'$$

$$= \phi_0(x) + \frac{2}{L} \sum_n \left[ \frac{\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)}{\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 - 1} \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x'}{L}\right) F_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x'}{L}\right) dx' \right]$$

$$= \phi_0(x) + \frac{F_0}{\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 - 1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)$$

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Alternate Green's function method:

$$G(x, x') = \frac{1}{W} g_a(x) g_b(x')$$

$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} - 1\right)g_s(x) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow g_a(x) = \sin(x); \quad g_b(x) = \sin(L - x);$$

$$W = g_a(x) \frac{dg_b(x)}{dx} - g_b(x) \frac{dg_a(x)}{dx} = \sin(L - x) \cos(x) + \sin(x) \cos(L - x) = \sin(L)$$

$$\phi(x) = \phi_0(x) + \frac{\sin(L - x)}{\sin(L)} \int_0^L \sin(x') F_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x'}{L}\right) dx' + \frac{\sin(x)}{\sin(L)} \int_x^L \sin(L - x') F_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x'}{L}\right) dx'$$

$$\phi(x) = \phi_0(x) + \frac{F_0}{\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 - 1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \quad \text{(after some algebra)}$$

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General method of constructing Green's functions using homogeneous solution

Green's function :

$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) G_{\lambda}(x, x') = \delta(x - x')$$

Two homogeneous solutions

$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) g_i(x) = 0 \quad \text{for } i = a, b$$

Let

$$G_{\lambda}(x, x') = \frac{1}{W} g_a(x_{<}) g_b(x_{>})$$

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For  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{x'-\epsilon}^{x'+\epsilon} dx \left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) G_{\lambda}(x, x') &= \int_{x'-\epsilon}^{x'+\epsilon} dx \delta(x - x') \\ \int_{x'-\epsilon}^{x'+\epsilon} dx \left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} \right) \frac{1}{W} g_a(x_{<}) g_b(x_{>}) &= 1 \\ -\frac{\tau(x)}{W} \left( \frac{d}{dx} g_a(x_{<}) g_b(x_{>}) \right) \Big|_{x'-\epsilon}^{x'+\epsilon} &= \frac{\tau(x')}{W} \left( g_a(x') \frac{d}{dx} g_b(x') - g_b(x') \frac{d}{dx} g_a(x') \right) \\ \Rightarrow W &= \tau(x') \left( g_a(x') \frac{d}{dx} g_b(x') - g_b(x') \frac{d}{dx} g_a(x') \right) \end{aligned}$$

Note --  $W$  (Wronskian) is constant, since  $\frac{dW}{dx'} = 0$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Useful Green's function construction in one dimension:

$$G_{\lambda}(x, x') = \frac{1}{W} g_a(x_{<}) g_b(x_{>})$$

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$$\left( -\frac{d}{dx} \tau(x) \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) - \lambda \sigma(x) \right) \phi(x) = F(x)$$

Green's function solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{\lambda}(x) &= \phi_{\lambda 0}(x) + \int_{x_l}^{x_u} G_{\lambda}(x, x') F(x') dx' \\ &= \phi_{\lambda 0}(x) + \frac{g_b(x)}{W} \int_{x_l}^x g_a(x') F(x') dx' + \frac{g_a(x)}{W} \int_x^{x_u} g_b(x') F(x') dx' \end{aligned}$$

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