

# Eigenvalue problems

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = \lambda u & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 \end{cases}$$



$$\Delta = \nabla \cdot \nabla$$

1D Guitar string



sounds nice 220 Hz

110 Hz

2D Drum



sounds bad

Schrödinger

$$-\Delta u + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{wave function}}} V u = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{energy}}} \lambda u$$

Weak form: find  $0 \neq \phi \in V := H_0^1(\Omega)$

and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$a(\phi, v) = (\nabla \phi, \nabla v) = \lambda(\phi, v) \quad \forall v \in V$$

We could consider  $Au = -\nabla \cdot a \nabla u + cu$

Thm 6.1  $\lambda$  are real and positive.

Two eigenfunctions corresponding to different eigenvalues are orthogonal in  $L^2$  and  $H^1$ .

Proof: Let  $\{\lambda, \phi\}$  be an eigenpair

$$\text{Then } \lambda(\phi, \phi) = a(\phi, \phi) \geq a_0 \|\phi\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2$$

$$\lambda \|\phi\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \geq \overset{\uparrow \phi=\phi}{a_0} \|\phi\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 \rightarrow \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda > 0$$

Let  $\{\lambda_1, \phi_1\}$  and  $\{\lambda_2, \phi_2\}$  be two eigenpairs

$$\lambda_1(\phi_1, \phi_2) = a(\phi_1, \phi_2) = a(\phi_2, \phi_1) = \lambda_2(\phi_2, \phi_1)$$

$$\overset{\uparrow \phi_2}{\lambda_1} (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\phi_1, \phi_2) = 0 \Rightarrow (\phi_1, \phi_2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a(\phi_1, \phi_2) = 0 \leftarrow H^1 \quad \uparrow L^2 \quad \blacksquare$$

## Existence of eigenpairs

We say that a set  $M \subset L^2(\Omega)$  is pre-compact if every sequence  $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \subset M$  contains a strongly convergent subsequence  $\|u_n - u\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .  
If  $M$  is closed it is compact.

### Lemma 6.2 (Rellich)

A bounded set  $M$  of  $H^1(\Omega)$  is pre-compact in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

Lemma (Parallelogram Law)

Let  $v, w \in V$ , where  $V$  is a Hilbert space.  
Then  $\|v+w\|^2 + \|v-w\|^2 = 2\|v\|^2 + 2\|w\|^2$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}\|v+w\|^2 + \|v-w\|^2 &= (v+w, v+w) + (v-w, v-w) \\ &= 2\|v\|^2 + 2\|w\|^2 \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

Thm 6.2

The infimum

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_1 &= \inf \{ a(v, v) : v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \|v\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 1 \} \\ &= \inf_{0 \neq v \in H_0^1(\Omega)} \frac{a(v, v)}{(v, v)}\end{aligned}$$



is attained for a function  $\phi_1 \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ . <sup>Rayleigh quotient</sup>  
 $\phi_1$  is the eigenfunction corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$  i.e.  $a(\phi_1, v) = \lambda_1(\phi_1, v) \forall v \in V$ .

Proof: We take a sequence  $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in H_0^1(\Omega)$

such that  $\| \nabla u_n \|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 = a(u_n, u_n) \rightarrow \lambda_1, \|u_n\| = 1$

This sequence is bounded in  $H^1(\Omega)$

therefore there exists a subsequence

that is strongly convergent in  $L^2(\Omega)$  (Rellich)

We call this subsequence  $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$

$u_n \rightarrow \phi_1$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$

We want to show  $\{u_n\}$  converges in  $H^1_0(\Omega)$ .

$$\|\nabla(u_n - u_m)\|^2 = 2\|\nabla u_n\|^2 + 2\|\nabla u_m\|^2 - 4\|\frac{1}{2}\nabla(u_n + u_m)\|^2$$

$$\leq \left\{ \|\frac{1}{2}\nabla(u_n + u_m)\|^2 \geq \lambda_1 \|\frac{1}{2}(u_n + u_m)\|^2 \right\}$$

$$\leq 2\|\nabla u_n\|^2 + 2\|\nabla u_m\|^2 - 4\lambda_1 \|\frac{1}{2}(u_n + u_m)\|^2$$

$\nwarrow \lambda_1$        $\nearrow \lambda_1$        $\rightarrow \phi_1$   
 and  $\|\phi_1\| = 1$

$$\|\nabla(u_n - u_m)\|^2 \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n, m \rightarrow \infty$$

i.e. a Cauchy sequence in  $H^1_0(\Omega)$

$\Rightarrow$  Converges to  $\phi_1 \in H^1_0(\Omega)$ .

$$\lambda_1 = \|\nabla \phi_1\|^2 \text{ with } \|\phi_1\| = 1.$$

We want to show  $a(\phi_1, v) = \lambda_1(\phi_1, v) \forall v \in H^1_0(\Omega)$

$$\text{For any } w \in H^1_0(\Omega) \quad \frac{a(w, w)}{(w, w)} \geq \lambda_1$$

for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\lambda_1 \leq \frac{a(\phi_1 + \alpha v, \phi_1 + \alpha v)}{(\phi_1 + \alpha v, \phi_1 + \alpha v)} = \frac{\lambda_1 + 2\alpha a(\phi_1, v) + \alpha^2 a(v, v)}{1 + 2\alpha(\phi_1, v) + \alpha^2 \|v\|^2}$$



$$\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_1\alpha(\phi_1, v) + \lambda_1\alpha^2\|v\|^2 \leq \lambda_1 + 2\alpha a(\phi_1, v) + \alpha^2 a(v, v)$$

$$\text{or } 2\alpha(a(\phi_1, v) - \lambda_1(\phi_1, v)) + \alpha^2(a(v, v) - \lambda_1(v, v)) \geq 0$$

If  $a(\phi_1, v) \neq \lambda_1(\phi_1, v)$  we can pick  $\alpha$  small enough with appropriate sign to violate the inequality. i.e. contradiction i.e.  
 $a(\phi_1, v) = \lambda_1(\phi_1, v) \quad \forall v \in V.$  ■

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$$\lambda_2 = \inf \{ a(v, v) : v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \|v\|=1, (\phi_1, v)=0 \}$$

$\lambda_2 \geq \lambda_1$  and the inf is attained

for  $\phi_2 \in H_0^1(\Omega)$   $(\phi_1, \phi_2) = 0$ . Furthermore

$$a(\phi_2, v) = \lambda_2(\phi_2, v) \quad \forall v \in \{ v \in H_0^1(\Omega) : (v, \phi_1) = 0 \}$$

$$\text{But } a(\phi_1, \phi_2) = \lambda_1(\phi_1, \phi_2) = 0$$

and any  $v = \alpha\phi_1 + w$  with

$$w \in \{ v \in H_0^1(\Omega) : (w, \phi_1) = 0 \}$$

$$\Rightarrow a(\phi_2, v) = \lambda_2(\phi_2, v) \quad \forall v \in V$$

Similarly

$$\lambda_n = \inf \{ a(v, v) : v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \|v\|=1, (\phi_j, v)=0 \}_{j=1, \dots, n-1}$$

The number of eigenpairs is finite.

Thm 6.3 It holds  $\lambda_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

Proof: Compactness. Let  $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  orthonormal eigenvectors and assume  $\|\nabla u_n\|^2 = \lambda_n \leq C, n \geq 1$

Then there is a subsequence  $\{u_{n_k}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  that converges in  $L^2(\Omega)$  (Rellich)

But by orthogonality

$$\|u_n - u_m\|^2 = \|u_n\|^2 + \|u_m\|^2 = 2 \text{ contradiction}$$

If  $\lambda_n < \lambda_{n+1} = \dots = \lambda_{n+m} < \lambda_{n+m+1}$

we say  $\lambda_{n+1}$  has multiplicity  $m$

Ex:  $\boxed{\begin{matrix} + \\ - \end{matrix}} \quad \boxed{\begin{matrix} + \\ - \end{matrix}}$

Thm 6.4 The eigenfunctions  $\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  form an orthonormal basis of  $L^2(\Omega)$  and any  $v \in L^2(\Omega)$   $v = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (v, \phi_i) \phi_i$

Furthermore  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lambda_j (v, \phi_j)^2$  is convergent iff  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$   $\|\nabla v\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 = a(v, v) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lambda_j (v, \phi_j)^2$

Thm 6.5 We have

$$\lambda_n = \min_{V_n \subset H_0^1(\Omega)} \max_{v \in V_n} \frac{a(v, v)}{(v, v)}$$

where  $V_n$  varies over all subspaces of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  of dimension  $n$ .

Proof: Let  $E_n = \text{span}(\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^n)$

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{v \in E_n} \frac{a(v,v)}{(v,v)} &= \max_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n} \frac{a(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \phi_i, \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \phi_j)}{(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \phi_i, \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \phi_j)} \\ &= \max_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j^2 \lambda_j}{\sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j^2} = \lambda_n \end{aligned}$$

It remains to show for any  $V_n \neq 0$  that  $\max_{v \in V_n} \frac{a(v,v)}{(v,v)} \geq \lambda_n$ . We pick  $w \in V_n$

such that  $(w, \phi_j) = 0 \quad \forall j=1, \dots, n-1$

Otherwise  $V_n$  can not have dim  $n$  all members of  $V_n$  would be linear combinations of  $\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^{n-1}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since } \lambda_n &= \min_{\substack{(v, \phi_i) = 0, \\ i=1, \dots, n-1}} \frac{a(v,v)}{(v,v)} \leq \frac{a(w,w)}{(w,w)} \\ &\leq \max_{v \in V_n} \frac{a(v,v)}{(v,v)} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 6.1 Let  $\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  be an orthonormal basis in  $L^2(\Omega)$ . Then the best approximation of  $v \in L^2(\Omega)$  by a linear combination of

$$\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^N \text{ is } v_N = \sum_{i=1}^N (v, \phi_i) \phi_i.$$

Proof:  $\|v - \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \phi_i\|^2 = \|v\|^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i (v, \phi_i) + \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i^2$   
 $= \|v\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N (\alpha_i - (v, \phi_i))^2 - \sum_{i=1}^N (v, \phi_i)^2$

which is minimal when  $\alpha_i = (v, \phi_i), i=1, \dots, N$   $\square$

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Parseval  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (v, \phi_i)^2 = \|v\|^2$

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(f)  $a(u, v) = (a \nabla u, \nabla v) + (c u, v) = \lambda(u, v)$

and  $0 < a_0 \leq a \leq a_1, 0 \leq c \leq c_1$

$$\lambda_1 = \min_{v \in H_0^1(\Omega)} \frac{(a \nabla v, \nabla v) + (c v, v)}{(v, v)}$$