

Boundary Value Problems & Sturm-Liouville Theory

BCM ODEs

Defn: [Two point BVP]

The mathematical problem of solving the 2nd order equation

$$L(x) = x''(t) + p(t)x'(t) + q(t)x(t) = -f(t) \quad (1)$$

together with boundary condns

$$\left. \begin{aligned} B_1[x, t_1] &= b_{11}x(t_1) + b_{12}x'(t_1) = \alpha \\ B_2[x, t_2] &= b_{21}x(t_2) + b_{22}x'(t_2) = \beta \end{aligned} \right\} \dots (2)$$

is called a BVP, where b_{ij}, α, β are real constants.

NOTE :- In IVP, if $p(t), q(t), f(t)$ are continuous, then irrespective to the initial condition, the IVP has a unique solution. But this is NOT true for BVP.

Exm. $y'' + y = 1, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y(\pi) = 0$

The gen. soln is $y(x) = C_1 \cos x + C_2 \sin x + 1$.

Now, $y(0) = C_1 + 1 = 0$

$$y(\pi) = -C_1 + 1 = 0$$

which is impossible. So the BVP has no solution.

Exm. $y'' + y = 0$

i) $y(0) = 1$
 $y(\pi) = 0$

ii) $y(0) = 1$
 $y(\pi/2) = 1$

iii) $y(0) = 1$
 $y(\pi) = -1$

i) No solution

ii) Unique solution

iii) Infinite solutions.

Theorem 17.

Let, p, q, f are cont. on $[t_1, t_2]$. Then either the BVP (i)-(ii) has a unique solution for any α, β or else the associated homogeneous BVP

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Delta(x) &= 0 \\ B_1[x, t_1] &= 0, \quad B_2[x, t_2] = 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \textcircled{iii}$$

has a non-trivial solution.

Proof :-

Let, ϕ_1, ϕ_2 be solutions of

$$\Delta(\phi_1) = 0, \quad \phi_1(t_1) = b_{12}, \quad \phi_1'(t_1) = -b_{11}$$

$$\Delta(\phi_2) = 0, \quad \phi_2(t_2) = b_{22}, \quad \phi_2'(t_2) = -b_{21}$$

and $\psi(t)$ be a solution of

$$\Delta(\psi) = -f(t), \quad \psi(t_1) = 0 = \psi'(t_1)$$

Since, p, q, f are cont., the IVPs have unique solutions.

Define
$$\Phi(t) = c_1 \phi_1(t) + c_2 \phi_2(t) + \psi(t)$$

Clearly, $\Delta(\Phi) = -f(t)$. We will check under what conditions, the Boundary conditions (ii) are satisfied.

$$\alpha = B_1[\Phi, t_1] = c_1 B_1[\phi_1, t_1] + c_2 B_1[\phi_2, t_1] + B_1[\psi, t_1]$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= c_1 [b_{11} \phi_1(t_1) + b_{12} \phi_1'(t_1)] \\ &+ c_2 [b_{11} \phi_2(t_1) + b_{12} \phi_2'(t_1)] \\ &+ [b_{11} \psi(t_1) + b_{12} \psi'(t_1)] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_2 [\phi_1(t_1) \phi_2'(t_1) - \phi_2(t_1) \phi_1'(t_1)] = \alpha \quad \dots \textcircled{*}$$

ll. by,
$$\beta = B_2[\Phi, t_2]$$

$$\Rightarrow -c_1 [\phi_1(t_2) \phi_2'(t_2) - \phi_1'(t_2) \phi_2(t_2)] + B_2[\psi, t_2] = \beta.$$

... (**)

Case-I

ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are L.I.

$$(*) - (**) \Rightarrow$$

$$c_2 W(\phi_1, \phi_2; t_1) = \alpha$$
$$- c_1 W(\phi_1, \phi_2; t_2) + B_2[\psi, t_2] = \beta.$$

So, c_1 & c_2 are uniquely determined. So, the BVP ①-② has unique solution.

To prove that, the homogeneous BVP has only trivial solution.

Since, ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are L.I., any solution of $L(x)=0$ can be written as

$$x(t) = k_1 \phi_1(t) + k_2 \phi_2(t).$$

If it satisfies $B_1[x, t_1] = 0$, $B_2[x, t_2] = 0$, then

$$b_{11} k_1 \phi_1(t_1) + b_{12} k_2 \phi_2(t_1) + b_{12} k_1 \phi_1'(t_1) + k_2 b_{12} \phi_2'(t_1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow k_2 W(\phi_1, \phi_2; t_1) = 0 \Rightarrow k_2 = 0$$

Similarly, $k_1 = 0$

So, the solution is trivial.

Case-II

ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are L.D.

Then, c_1, c_2 are not uniquely determined from $(*) - (**)$. So, the BVP can not have unique solution.

Also, k_1 and k_2 can take non-zero values. So, the homogeneous BVP has non-trivial solution.

Exm:- $x'' + x = 1$

$$x(0) = 0 = x(\pi)$$

The soln of homogeneous BVP is

$$x(t) = c \sin t.$$

i.e. non-trivial soln.

$$x'' + x = 1$$

$$x(0) = 0 = x(\pi/2)$$

The BVP has unique soln:

$$x(t) = 1 - \cos t - \sin t.$$

And the homogeneous BVP has only trivial soln.

Adjoint Forms :-

Consider the linear equation:

$$L(x) = a_0(t)x'' + a_1(t)x' + a_2(t)x = 0, \quad t \in I.$$

Integrate $zL(x)$ over a to t , $a \in I$ (i)

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^t zL(x) dt &= \int_a^t [z a_0 x'' + z a_1 x' + z a_2 x] dt \\ &= [z a_0 x' + z a_1 x]_a^t - \int_a^t [(z a_0)' x' + (z a_1)' x - z a_2 x] dt \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\int_a^t (z a_0)' x' dt = [(z a_0)' x]_a^t - \int_a^t (z a_0)'' x dt$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^t zL(x) dt &= [(z a_0) x' - (z a_0)' x + z a_1 x]_a^t \\ &\quad + \int_a^t [(z a_0)'' - (z a_1)' + z a_2] x dt \end{aligned}$$

Define the operator

$$\begin{aligned} L^*(z) &:= (z a_0)'' - (z a_1)' + (z a_2) \\ &= a_0 z'' + (z a_0' - a_1) z' + (a_0'' - a_1' + a_2) z \end{aligned}$$

... (ii)

Then, we have

$$\int_a^t [zL(x) - xL^*(z)] dt = [a_0(x'z - xz') + (a_1 - a_0')xz]_a^t \quad \dots (iii)$$

The operator L^* is called the adjoint operator corresponding to L .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^*(z) &= a_0 z'' + (2a_0' - a_1) z' + (a_0'' - a_1' + a_2) z \\ &= b_0 z'' + b_1 z' + b_2 z, \text{ let.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now, } (\mathcal{L}^*)^*(x) &= b_0 x'' + (2b_0' - b_1) x' + (b_0'' - b_1' + b_2) x \\ &= a_0 x'' + (2a_0' - 2a_0' + a_1) x' + (a_0'' - 2a_0'' + a_1' \\ &\quad + a_0'' - a_1' + a_2) x \\ &= a_0 x'' + a_1 x' + a_2 x \\ &= \mathcal{L}(x). \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So, } (\mathcal{L}^*)^*(x) = \mathcal{L}(x).$$

Defn :- The 2nd order homogeneous linear equation $\mathcal{L}(x) = 0$ is called self-adjoint if

$$\mathcal{L}^*(x) \equiv \mathcal{L}(x).$$

NOTE: Then

$$\left. \begin{aligned} a_1 &= 2a_0' - a_1 \\ a_2 &= a_0'' - a_1' + a_2 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow a_1 = a_0'$$

Result :- Let $a_0 \in C^2$, $a_1 \in C^1$ and $a_2 \in C$ with $a_0(t) \neq 0$ on I . A necessary and sufficient condition that $\mathcal{L}(x) = 0$ be self-adjoint is that

$$a_0' = a_1, \text{ on } I.$$

If $\mathcal{L}(x) = 0$ is self-adjoint, then

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \frac{d}{dt} \left(a_0 \frac{dx}{dt} \right) + a_2 x = 0.$$

NOTE :- A general operator \mathcal{L} may not be self adjoint but it can be converted into a self-adjoint by multiplying a suitable function $h(t)$.

Lemma 5 The operator $h(t)\mathcal{L}(x)$ is self adjoint,

where

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{a_0(t)} \exp \left\{ \int^t \frac{a_1(s)}{a_0(s)} ds \right\}$$

In fact $h(t)\mathcal{L}(x) = 0$ can be written as:

$$[P(t)x'(t)]' + Q(t)x(t) = 0$$

with $P(t) = \exp \left\{ \int^t \frac{a_1(s)}{a_0(s)} ds \right\}$

$$Q(t) = \frac{a_2(t)}{a_0(t)} \exp \left\{ \int^t \frac{a_1(s)}{a_0(s)} ds \right\}$$

EXM:

Legendre: $(1-t^2)x'' - 2tx' + \alpha(\alpha+1)x = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} [(1-t^2)x'] + \alpha(\alpha+1)x = 0$$

Bessel: $x^2y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \alpha^2)y = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} [xy'] + \left(x - \frac{\alpha^2}{x}\right)y = 0$$

From (iii) \Rightarrow

$$\int_a^t [z\mathcal{L}(x) - x\mathcal{L}^*(z)] dt = \left[a_0(x'z - z'x) + (a_1 - a_0')xz \right]_a^t$$

Differentiating both sides w.r to t .

$$z\mathcal{L}(x) - x\mathcal{L}^*(z) = \frac{d}{dt} \left[a_0(x'z - z'x) + (a_1 - a_0')xz \right]$$

This is called Lagrange Identity.

If $t = b$, then, we get

$$\int_a^b [zL(x) - xL^*(z)] dt = [a_0(x'z - z'x) + (a_1 - a_0')xz]_a^b$$

This is called Green's Identity.

If L is self-adjoint, then

Green's Identity:

$$\int_a^b [zL(x) - xL(z)] dt = [a_0(x'z - xz')]_a^b$$

Lagrange Identity:

$$zL(x) - xL(z) = \frac{d}{dt} [a_0(x'z - xz')]$$

EXM :- 1. $xy'' + 2y' + x^2y = 0, x > 0$

$$h(x) = \frac{1}{x} \exp\left(\int \frac{2}{x} dx\right)$$

$$= x$$

So, the self-adjoint form is:

$$(x^2y')' + x^2y = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

2. $t^2x'' - 2tx' + 2x = 0$

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{t^2} e^{-\int \frac{2t}{t^2} dt}$$

$$= \frac{1}{t^2} \cdot e^{-\ln t^2} = \frac{1}{t^4}$$

Multiplying with $\frac{1}{t^4}$:

$$\frac{1}{t^2} x'' - \frac{2}{t^3} x' + \frac{2}{t^4} x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{t^2} x' \right) + \frac{2}{t^4} x = 0$$

Defn :- (Sturm - Liouville Problem)

The BVP consisting of

i) a second order homogeneous linear ODE

$$\frac{d}{dx} [P(x) y'] + [Q(x) + \lambda r(x)] y = 0 \quad (*)$$

where P, Q, r are real valued fns, with Q, r cont. and P continuously differentiable, and $P(x), r(x) > 0$ in $[a, b]$ and λ be a parameter.

ii) two BCs..

$$\left. \begin{aligned} b_{11} y(a) + b_{12} y'(a) &= 0 \\ b_{21} y(b) + b_{22} y'(b) &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \dots (**)$$

is called a SLP problem (regular).

Exm :-

1. $(1-t^2) x'' - 2tx' + (n+1)n x = 0$

$$\frac{d}{dt} [(1-t^2) x'] + n(n+1) x = 0$$

2. $t^2 x'' + tx' + (t^2 - \alpha^2) x = 0$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (tx') + \left(t - \frac{\alpha^2}{t}\right) x = 0$$

Defn :- A non-trivial soln $y(x)$ of $(*)$ - $(**)$, if it exists, is called an eigen-function and the corresponding value of λ is called the eigen-value of $(*)$ - $(**)$.

NOTE :- A BVP is called a singular SLP if

i) $p > 0$ on (a, b) & $p(a) = p(b) = 0$ and

ii) $r \geq 0$ on $[a, b]$.

ExM :- $y'' + \lambda y = 0$, $y(0) = 0 = y'(\pi)$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

For $\lambda < 0$ or $\lambda = 0$, $y(x) \equiv 0$ is the only solution. So, there are no negative or zero eigenvalues.

Let, $\lambda = \mu^2 > 0$.

Then, the general soln is

$$y(x) = A \cos(\mu x) + B \sin(\mu x)$$

$$\Rightarrow A = 0 \text{ and } B \cos(\mu \pi) = 0$$

So, for non-trivial soln, $\cos(\mu \pi) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \mu \pi = (2n+1) \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu_n = \frac{(2n+1)}{2}, \quad n=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Therefore, the eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_n = \frac{(2n+1)^2}{4}, \quad n=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

and the corresponding eigen functions are:

$$y_n(x) = B \sin\left(\frac{2n+1}{2} x\right), \quad n=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

ExM. $y'' + \lambda y = 0$, $y(0) - y(\pi) = 0$, $y'(0) - y'(\pi) = 0$

$\lambda < 0$ yields trivial soln.

$$\lambda = 0 \Rightarrow y(x) = A + Bx$$

So, $B = 0$ and A is arbitrary.

So, 0 is an eigen value with eigen function being any non-zero constant.

$$\lambda = \mu^2 > 0.$$

$$\text{Then, } y(x) = A \cos(\mu x) + B \sin(\mu x)$$

$$\text{So, } A \sin(\mu\pi) + B(1 - \cos(\mu\pi)) = 0$$

$$A(1 - \cos(\mu\pi)) - B \sin \mu\pi = 0$$

This has non-trivial soln if

$$\begin{vmatrix} \sin \mu\pi & 1 - \cos(\mu\pi) \\ 1 - \cos \mu\pi & -\sin \mu\pi \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\text{i.e. } \cos(\mu\pi) = 1 \Rightarrow \mu = 2n, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_n = 4n^2$$

and the corresponding eigenfunctions are:

$$y_n(x) = \cos(2nx), \quad z_n(x) = \sin(2nx), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Therefore, there are two L.I. eigenfunctions corresponding to each $\lambda_n = 4n^2$.

H.W. $x^2 y'' + xy' + \lambda y = 0, \quad 1 \leq x \leq e, \quad y(1) = 0 = y(e)$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(xy') + \frac{1}{x}\lambda y = 0$$

H.W $y'' + \lambda y = 0, \quad -\pi \leq x \leq \pi, \quad y(-\pi) = y(\pi)$
 $y'(-\pi) = y'(\pi)$

For $\lambda = \mu^2 > 0$,

$$y(x) = A \sin(\mu x) + B \cos(\mu x)$$

$$\text{So, } 2A \sin(\mu\pi) = 0 \quad \& \quad 2\mu B \sin(\mu\pi) = 0$$

For non-trivial soln, $\sin(\mu\pi) = 0, A \neq 0, B \neq 0$

$$\therefore \mu_n = n, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

So, the eigen-fn are

$$y_n(x) = \sin(nx), \quad z_n(x) = \cos(nx)$$

For $\lambda = 0$, the eigenfunction is: $y_n(x) = 1$

For $\lambda < 0$, there are no eigen functions.

Theorem 18 :

Let, the co-eff. p, q, r in SLP be cont. on $[a, b]$.

Let, ϕ_1 & ϕ_2 be two eigen functions corresponding to λ_1 & λ_2 . Then ϕ_1 & ϕ_2 are orthogonal w.r to the weight function r in $[a, b]$.

Proof :- Since ϕ_i , corresponding to λ_i satisfies the Sturm-Liouville equation, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx} (p\phi_i') + (q + \lambda_i r)\phi_i = 0, \quad i=1, 2.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) r \phi_1 \phi_2 &= \phi_2 \frac{d}{dx} (p\phi_1') - \phi_1 \frac{d}{dx} (p\phi_2') \\ &= \frac{d}{dx} [(p\phi_1')\phi_2 - (p\phi_2')\phi_1] \end{aligned}$$

and by integration,

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \int_a^b r \phi_1 \phi_2 dx &= p(b) [\phi_1'(b)\phi_2(b) - \phi_2'(b)\phi_1(b)] \\ &\quad - p(a) [\phi_1'(a)\phi_2(a) - \phi_2'(a)\phi_1(a)] \end{aligned}$$

The BCs of eigen functions are:

$$B_2[\phi_1, b] = 0, \quad B_2[\phi_2, b] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow b_{21}\phi_1(b) + b_{22}\phi_1'(b) = 0$$

$$\& b_{21}\phi_2(b) + b_{22}\phi_2'(b) = 0$$

$$\text{If } b_{22} \neq 0, \text{ then, } b_{22} [\phi_1'(b)\phi_2(b) - \phi_1(b)\phi_2'(b)] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_1'(b)\phi_2(b) - \phi_1(b)\phi_2'(b) = 0$$

Similarly, if $b_{12} \neq 0$, we have

$$\phi_1'(a)\phi_2(a) - \phi_2'(a)\phi_1(a) = 0.$$

$$\text{Hence, } (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \int_a^b r \phi_1 \phi_2 dx = 0$$

$$\text{If } \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2 \Rightarrow \int_a^b r \phi_1 \phi_2 dx = 0.$$

Theorem 19

All the eigen-values of a regular SLP are real.

Proof :-

Suppose there is a complex eigen-value

$\lambda_1 = \alpha + i\beta$ with eigen function $\phi_1 = u + iv$.

Since the coeff of SLP are real, the complex conjugate of λ_1 is also an eigen-value.

So, \exists an eigen function $\phi_2 = u - iv$ corresponding to the eigen value $\lambda_2 = \alpha - i\beta$.

Then, we have

$$(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \int_a^b r \phi_1 \phi_2 dx = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2i\beta \int_a^b r(u^2 + v^2) dx = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\beta \int_a^b r(u^2 + v^2) dx = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta = 0$$

So, all the eigen-values are real.

Lemma 6

If ϕ_1 & ϕ_2 are two solns of

$L(x) + \lambda r(x)x = 0$ on $[a, b]$, then

$p(t) W(\phi_1, \phi_2; t) = \text{constant}$.

Proof :-

We have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(p(t) \frac{d\phi_1}{dt} \right) + (q + \lambda r) \phi_1 = 0$$

$$\& \frac{d}{dt} \left(p \frac{d\phi_2}{dt} \right) + (q + \lambda r) \phi_2 = 0$$

Eliminating q, λ, r we get,

$$\phi_1 \frac{d}{dt} (p \phi_2') - \phi_2 \frac{d}{dt} (p \phi_1') = 0$$

Integrating we get,

$$\int_a^t \frac{d}{dt} (p\phi_1\phi_2' - p\phi_2\phi_1') dt = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow p(t) [\phi_1(t)\phi_2'(t) - \phi_2(t)\phi_1'(t)] = p(a) [\phi_1(a)\phi_2'(a) - \phi_1'(a)\phi_2(a)]$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{p(t) W(\phi_1, \phi_2; t) = \text{constant}}$$

Lemma 7 An eigen function of a regular SLP is unique upto a constant factor.

Proof :-

Let, ϕ_1 & ϕ_2 are two eigen functions corresponding to the eigen-value λ .

Then, by Lemma 6,

$$p(t) W(\phi_1, \phi_2; t) = k, \quad p(t) > 0.$$

So, if $W(\phi_1, \phi_2; t)$ vanishes at one point in $[a, b]$, it will vanish for all $t \in [a, b]$.

Now, ϕ_1, ϕ_2 satisfy:

$$B_1[\phi_1, a] = b_{11}\phi_1(a) + b_{12}\phi_1'(a) = 0$$

$$B_1[\phi_2, a] = b_{11}\phi_2(a) + b_{12}\phi_2'(a) = 0$$

Since, $(b_{11}, b_{12}) \neq (0, 0)$, so $W(\phi_1, \phi_2; a) = 0$.

Therefore, $W(\phi_1, \phi_2; t) = 0 \quad \forall t \in [a, b]$.

i.e. ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are L.D. $\Rightarrow \phi_2 = c\phi_1$ for some constant c .

Theorem 20. (Existence of Eigenfunctions)

The regular SLP $(*) - (**)$ has an infinite sequence of real eigen-values $\lambda_0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots$

with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_n = \infty$.

The eigenfunction ϕ_n corresponding to λ_n has exactly n zeros in (a, b) . Moreover, ϕ_n is unique upto a constant factor.

Proof:- For proof, see Coddington & Levinson / Tyn-Mint-U.

Exm:- $y'' + \lambda y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0 = y'(\pi)$

$$\lambda_n = \frac{(2n+1)^2}{4}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$y_n(x) = B_n \sin\left(\frac{2n+1}{2}x\right).$$

Fact:

- $\frac{1}{4} = \lambda_0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots$
& $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_n = \infty$
- $\phi_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{2n+1}{2}x\right)$ is an eigen fn. corresponding to $\lambda_n = \left(\frac{2n+1}{2}\right)^2$.
 $\phi_0(x) = \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)$ has no zeros in $(0, \pi)$
 $\phi_1(x) = \sin\left(\frac{3x}{2}\right)$ has only one zero at $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ in $(0, \pi)$
 \vdots
 $\phi_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{2n+1}{2}x\right)$ has n zeros at
 $x = \frac{2m\pi}{2n+1}, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots, n$ in $(0, \pi)$

Problems :-

1. Let, $h > 0$ be a real no. Find eigen-values and corresponding eigen-vectors of the SLP:

$$y'' + \lambda y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y(1) + h y'(1) = 0.$$

2. Verify theorem 20 for

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x y'] + \frac{\lambda}{x} y = 0$$

$$y'(1) = 0, \quad y'(e^{2\pi}) = 0$$

3. Verify theorem 20 for

$$y'' + \lambda y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0 = y(\pi).$$

4. Expand the function $f(x) = x$ using eigen functions of

$$y'' + \lambda y = 0, \quad y'(0) = 0, \quad y(1) = 0$$

i.e. $f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n y_n(x).$

5. Solve: $\frac{d}{dx} (e^x y') + \lambda e^x y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y(1) = 0$ for

non-trivial solutions.