

# LINEAR SYSTEMS

Paul Taylor (Trinity)

We're concerned with linear operators,  $L$ , on a vector space of functions on an interval  $(a, b)$  with certain differentiability and boundary conditions. For example  $L = D = d/dx$  is linear since  $(\lambda f + \mu g)' = \lambda f' + \mu g'$ . In a finite-dimensional space we're familiar with matrices and summation over the coordinates: here certain linear operators will be given by transfer functions,  $K(x, x')$ , so  $(Kf)(x) = \int_a^b K(x, x') f(x') dx'$ . Often we have an inner product,  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_a^b f(x) g(x) dx$  (sometimes with a weight function), hence also length,  $\|f\| = \langle f, f \rangle^{1/2}$ , angle and perpendicularity:  $f \perp g$  iff  $\langle f, g \rangle = 0$ . An orthonormal base (or basis) is one whose vectors have unit length and are mutually perpendicular.

Example: the response of an ammeter to a varying current  $I(t)$  is given by  $\int_{-\infty}^t e^{-(t-t')/t_0} I(t') dt'$ , where  $1/t_0$  is the decay constant. This is an example of a convolution, where  $K(x, x') = g(x-x')$  and  $g(x-x') = 0$  for  $x \leq x'$ . Here  $g(x) = e^{-x/t_0}$  for  $x > 0$ . We write  $(g \circ f)(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t g(t-t') f(t') dt'$ .

Another useful tool is the Wronskian (note spelling), given by

$$W[f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n](x) = \det$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} f_1(x) & f_2(x) & \dots & f_n(x) \\ f_1'(x) & f_2'(x) & \dots & f_n'(x) \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ f_1^{(n-1)}(x) & f_2^{(n-1)}(x) & \dots & f_n^{(n-1)}(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n$  are linearly dependant,  $W(x) = 0$ , but not conversely.

A very important linear operator is the Fourier transform, together with its inverse for suitable  $f$  (differentiable will do); note the different signs.

$$\tilde{f}(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx} f(x) dx \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ikx} \tilde{f}(k) dk$$

The functions  $e^{ikx}/\sqrt{2\pi}$  for various values of  $k$  are orthonormal, and moreover we have Parseval's theorem,  $\langle \tilde{f}, \tilde{g} \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle$ , that the inner product is preserved. In particular for Fourier series,  $f(t) = \frac{1}{2} a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nt + b_n \sin nt)$ , the length is the same:

$$\|f\| = \left[ \int_0^{2\pi} f(t)^2 dt \right]^{1/2} = \left[ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n^2 + b_n^2) \right]^{1/2} = \|\tilde{f}\|$$

This means that the power content of a signal is given by the sum of the power contents of each component frequency. Finally we have the convolution theorem,  $\tilde{f}\tilde{g} = \tilde{f \circ g}$ , ie

$$\left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx} f(x) dx \right] \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx'} g(x') dx' \right] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx} dx \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x-x') g(x') dx'$$

Note that if  $f(x)$  is real,  $\tilde{f}(-k) = \tilde{f}^*(k)$ , that if  $f(x)$  is real and even, so also is  $\tilde{f}(k)$ , and that if  $f(x)$  is real and odd,  $\tilde{f}(k)$  is imaginary and odd. The behaviour of  $\tilde{f}(k)$  for large  $k$  (frequency) relates to the smoothness of  $f(x)$ ; if  $f(x)$  is only piecewise continuous, the inversion formula gives the average,  $\frac{1}{2}[f(x-) + f(x+)]$  at the discontinuity. We have the following results, but note that the last one is proved in the IB Mathematical Methods.

$$g(x) = f(x-a) : \tilde{g}(k) = e^{-ika} \tilde{f}(k) \qquad g(x) = e^{ax} f(x) : \tilde{g}(k) = \tilde{f}(k+ia)$$

$$g(x) = f'(x) : \tilde{g}(k) = ik \tilde{f}(k) \qquad g(x) = x f(x) : \tilde{g}(k) = -i \tilde{f}'(k)$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-ax} & (x > 0) \\ 0 & (\text{otherwise}) \end{cases} : \tilde{f}(k) = \frac{1}{a+ik} \qquad f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & (-a < x < a) \\ 0 & (\text{otherwise}) \end{cases} : \tilde{f}(k) = \frac{2 \sin ak}{k}$$

$$f(x) = e^{-a|x|} : \tilde{f}(k) = \frac{a\sqrt{2\pi}}{a^2+k^2} \qquad f(x) = \frac{1}{a^2+x^2} : \tilde{f}(k) = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{a} e^{-a|k|}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 x^2} : \tilde{f}(k) = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\lambda} e^{-\frac{1}{2}k^2/\lambda^2}$$

Ordinary differential equations write  $Ly = f(D)y$  for  $y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1y' + a_0y$  where  $D = d/dx$  and  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}$  are constants. We aim to solve the homogeneous equation  $Ly = 0$  and the corresponding inhomogeneous equation  $Ly = g(x)$ . The solutions of the former form an  $n$ -dimensional vector space,  $V$ , the kernel of  $L$ ; moreover if  $y_0$  is any solution to the latter, the general solution is of the form  $\{y_0 + y : y \in V\} = y_0 + y$ .  $y_0$  is a particular integral and  $y$  a complementary function.

If  $\lambda$  is a root of the polynomial equation  $f(t) = 0$ ,  $y = e^{\lambda x}$  is a solution of  $Ly = 0$ . In the degenerate case where  $\lambda$  is a repeated root, so  $(t-\lambda)^m$ , say, divides  $f(t)$ , then  $x e^{\lambda x}, x^2 e^{\lambda x}, \dots, x^{m-1} e^{\lambda x}$  are also solutions, giving the full set of  $n$  linearly independent functions (since the Wronskian doesn't vanish). For it can be shown that if the  $a_i$  are constant (or even analytic) and  $y = y' = \dots = y^{(n-1)} = 0$  at  $x = x_0$  then

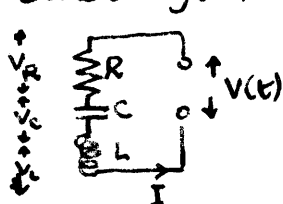
$Ly=0$  has only the solution  $y=0$ . As such, this is an example of a well-posed problem.

In the second order case let  $Ly = y'' + 2py' + qy = g(x)$ . For  $g=0$  the general solution is

$$y(x) = \begin{cases} ae^{-\lambda x} \sin(\omega_0 x + \theta) & \text{if } \omega_0^2 = q - p^2 > 0 \text{ [underdamped]} \\ (a + bx)e^{-\lambda x} & \text{if } q - p^2 = 0 \text{ [critically damped]} \\ ae^{-\lambda x} + be^{-\mu x} & \text{if } q - p^2 < 0 \text{ [overdamped]} \end{cases}$$

where  $a, b$  and  $\theta$  are arbitrary constants and  $\lambda, \mu = -p \pm \sqrt{q - p^2}$  in the last case. If  $g=c$ , a constant, a particular integral is  $y(x) = c/q$ . Finally if  $g(x) = r \sin \omega x$  it is  $R \sin(\omega x - \varepsilon)$  if  $\omega \neq \omega_0$  or  $p \neq 0$  and  $-\frac{1}{2}rx \cos \omega x$  if  $\omega = \omega_0$  and  $p=0$ . The amplitude,  $R = r / \sqrt{[(p^2 + (\omega^2 - \omega_0^2))^2 + 4p^2\omega_0^2]}$ , is greatest at resonance,  $\omega = \omega_0$ . The phase shift is  $\varepsilon = \tan^{-1}[2p\omega / \sqrt{q - \omega^2}]$ . If, as usual,  $p > 0$  we have damping, in which case the (decaying) complementary function is said to be transient.

Examples of this case include springs with frictive or viscous terms:  $my'' + 2\eta y' + ky = g(t)$ , where  $m$  is the mass,  $\eta$  the friction,  $k$  the spring constant and  $g(t)$  the applied force; also LCR-circuits



$$V_L = LI \quad I = \dot{Q} \quad V_C = Q/C \quad V_R = IR$$

$$\text{so } \ddot{Q} + \frac{R}{L}\dot{Q} + \frac{1}{LC}Q = V(t)$$

and the critical (resonant) frequency is  $\omega = (L/C - R^2)^{1/2} / L$ .

A general system of linear ODEs may always be reduced to a system of  $n$  first order linear ODEs where  $n$  is the total order. For instance put  $y_k = y^{(k)}$ , so  $Dy_k - y_{k+1} = 0$  ( $k=0, 1, \dots, n-2$ ) and

$$Dy_{n-1} + a_{n-1}y_{n-1} + a_{n-2}y_{n-2} + \dots + a_1y_1 + a_0y_0 = g(x).$$

This may then be expressed as a matrix:

$Dy_i = \sum a_{ij}y_j + b_i g$ . The roots  $\lambda_i$  are the eigenvalues of this matrix,  $A = (a_{ij})$ . If, by changing the

basis to consist of eigenvectors, we can diagonalise the matrix, so  $a_{ij} = \lambda_i \delta_{ij}$ , we can solve it easily by  $y_i = e^{\lambda_i x}$ . In the degenerate case diagonalisation is not possible and we need the Jordan canonical form from Algebra III. In the second order case above,  $\omega^2 = \det A$ , the determinant of the matrix of coefficients.

This is the method for solving coupled systems of equations: reduce them to the matrix form and diagonalise by a change of basis. The solutions obtained thus are the normal modes of the system.

ODEs: some more tricks.

1: Reduction of order may be achieved if we know one solution, say  $u$ , to the equation  $Ly=0$ . For example if  $Ly=y''+2py'+qy=0$ , put  $y=uv$ . Then  $(u''+2pu'+qu)v + 2u'v'+uv''+2puv'=0$ , so another (linearly independent) solution is  $u \int u^{-2} e^{-2\int p dx} dx$ .

2: Abel's equation. Let  $w(x)$  be the  $n^{th}$  order Wronskian of a system of solutions to  $y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_0(x)y=0$ ; then we find that  $w'(x) + a_{n-1}(x)w(x)=0$ , so in particular if  $a_{n-1}(x)$  is constant so is  $w(x)$ . Thus if we have  $n-1$  solutions we may find the last by solving this equation for it.

3: Euler type equations. To solve  $\sum a_r x^r y^{(r)}=0$  where  $a_r = \text{const.}$ , try  $y=x^k$ ,  $y^{(i)} = (k!/(k-i)!)x^{k-i}$ , to get a polynomial equation for  $k$ . Eg  $x^2y''+2pxy'+qy=0$ , then  $k(k-1)+2pk+q=0$ , so  $k = -p + \frac{1}{2} \pm \sqrt{(p-\frac{1}{2})^2 - q}$ . If equal roots use either (1) or (2) above: in this case general solution is  $(A+B \log x)x^{-p+\frac{1}{2}}$ .

4: First order.  $y'+py=q$ . Multiply by  $e^{\int p dx}$  to give "perfect differential", so  $[e^{\int p dx} y]' = e^{\int p dx} q$ , and  $y = e^{-\int p dx} \int e^{\int p dx} q dx$ . There is unfortunately no analogue for simultaneous systems.

5: Fourier transform with constant coefficients. Take Fourier transform of both sides, remembering  $\widehat{y^{(r)}} = (ik)^r \tilde{y}$ . This reduces to a linear algebraic equation for  $\tilde{y}$ . eg  $y''+2py'+qy=g$  becomes  $(-k^2+2ipk+q)\tilde{y}=\tilde{g}$ . Get  $y$  by inverse transformation or  $\tilde{g}/f(ik)$ : note zeroes correspond to normal mode solutions,  $x^r e^{-\lambda x}$ , found before. Usually need contour integration (IB Mathematical Methods) for all but trivial  $g(x)$ .

6: Fourier transform with polynomial coefficients of degree  $\leq (n-1)$  in  $x$ . Here the Fourier transform leads to another linear ODE, for  $\tilde{y}$ , of lower degree since  $\widehat{x\tilde{y}} = -i\tilde{y}'$ , which may be easier to solve.

$\delta$ -function When we express linear operators (which are sometimes called "functionals") as transfer functions, thus

$$f(x) \longmapsto (Kf)(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} k(x, x') f(x') dx',$$

to what does the identity operator correspond? It's called the  $\delta$ -function,  $\delta(x-x') = K(x, x')$ , but since  $\delta(x-x') = 0$  for all  $x \neq x'$  and yet  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x-x') dx' = 1$  it is not a function, but a generalised function, or distribution. It only has a meaning when it's integrated with a function which is continuous at its "spike", thus

$$\int_{x-\varepsilon}^{x+\varepsilon} \delta(x-x') f(x') dx' = f(x)$$

The formal definition of such "functions" is not undertaken in this course, but they may be defined in terms of the dual space (see Algebra II) of the given space of functions, i.e. in fact as linear operators. When it appears on the right of an inhomogeneous equation,  $Ly = \delta(x)$ , it represents physically an instantaneous impulsive "kick" to the system of unit strength. Thus an impulsive force is written  $I\delta(t)$ , a point charge  $q\delta^3(\underline{x}) = q\delta(x)\delta(y)\delta(z)$ , where  $\delta^3(\underline{x})$  is the vector  $\delta$ -function.

The function  $H(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \delta(x') dx'$  is called the step function.  $H(x) = 0$  for  $x < 0$  and  $H(x) = 1$  for  $x > 0$ . If the probability that some random variable is less than  $x$  is  $F(x)$  (so  $F(-\infty) = 0$ ,  $F(\infty) = 1$  and  $F$  is increasing), then  $f(x) = F'(x)$  is the probability distribution. So if  $F(x) = H(x)$ ,  $f(x) = \delta(x)$  and there is a finite probability (certainty) that the random variable takes the value exactly zero.

If  $\delta(x)$  represents a charge,  $\delta'(x)$  represents a dipole; we have  $\delta'(x) = 0$  for  $x \neq 0$  and

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x') \delta'(x-x') dx' = f'(x)$$

if  $f$  is differentiable at  $x$ . The fourier transforms of  $\delta(x)$ ,  $H(x)$  and  $\delta'(x)$  are  $1/\sqrt{2\pi}$ ,  $-ik/\sqrt{2\pi}$  and  $i/k\sqrt{2\pi}$  respectively.

$\delta(x)$  may be thought of as a "limit" of a sequence of functions, eg

$$(i) f_n(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2n} & (-1/n < x < 1/n) \\ 0 & (\text{otherwise}) \end{cases}$$

$$(ii) f_n(x) = \frac{n}{\pi(1+n^2x^2)}$$

(iii)  $f_n(x) = \frac{1}{2} n e^{-n|x|}$

(iv)  $f_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{n}{\pi}} e^{-nx^2}$  (cf diffusion equation)

(v)  $f_n(x) = \frac{\sin nx}{\pi x}$

Mathematically we may view the  $\delta$ -function as giving a "coordinate basis" for our space of functions, because analogously to  $\underline{y} = v_1 \hat{x} + v_2 \hat{y} + v_3 \hat{z}$  we can write  $f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x') \delta(x-x') dx'$ , and just as we might solve  $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$  first for  $\underline{b} = (1, 0, 0)$ ,  $(0, 1, 0)$  and  $(0, 0, 1)$ , in this case we solve  $Ly = g(x)$  for  $Ly = \delta(x-x')$  and get the general solution by integration.

To solve the boundary value problem  $Ly = \delta(x-x_0)$  in an interval  $[a, b]$  where  $y$  and its derivatives are prescribed at the endpoints and  $a < x_0 < b$ , we solve it in stead separately in  $[a, x_0]$  and  $[x_0, b]$ .

Now if  $y$  is a solution which, together with its first  $n-1$  derivatives, is bounded near  $x_0$ , we have  $\int_{x_0-\epsilon}^{x_0+\epsilon} (Ly)(x) dx = 1$ , and  $(Ly)(x) = y^{(n)}(x) + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)}(x) + \dots + a_0y(x)$

and  $\int_{x_0-\epsilon}^{x_0+\epsilon} y^{(n)}(x) dx = \Delta y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} y^{(n-1)}(x_0+\epsilon) - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} y^{(n-1)}(x_0-\epsilon)$ .

But  $|\int_{x_0-\epsilon}^{x_0+\epsilon} a_{n-i}y^{(n-i)}(x) dx| \leq |a_{n-i}| \cdot 2\epsilon \cdot \sup |y^{(n-i)}(x)| \rightarrow 0$  ( $i \geq 1$ )

as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , so we have  $\Delta y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = 1$  and  $\Delta y^{(i)}(x_0) = 0$  ( $i=0, 1, \dots, n-2$ ). This gives the required  $n$  extra boundary conditions to solve the equation.

The solution,  $y(x)$ , of course depends also on  $x_0$ , and so we write  $y(x) = G(x, x_0)$ , which is called the Green's function for the problem. Since the original inhomogeneous equation was linear,

$y(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(x, x') g(x') dx'$  is a solution of

$Ly = g(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x-x') g(x') dx' = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (LG)(x, x') g(x') dx$ .

Thus remembering that  $\delta(x-x')$  was our "identity" transform,  $I$ , we have  $LG = I$ , so we may regard  $G$  as an inverse operator,  $L^{-1}$ , to  $L$ . Thus  $Ly = g$  is solved by  $y = L^{-1}g = Gg$ . Note that Green's or transfer functions may sometimes also be called kernel functions, but don't confuse this with the algebraic meaning. If the independant variable is time,  $t$ , and the coefficients are constant,  $G$  is causal:  $G(x, x') = 0$  for  $x < x'$ , ie the output of

the system depends only on the input at earlier times ; in fact  $G(x, x') = h(x - x')$ , a convolution.

If the system is an electrical circuit with constant capacitors, resistors and inductors, it has a governing equation  $RI = V$ , where  $R$  (or  $L$  or  $C$ ) is a differential operator called resistance or reactance,  $V(t)$  is the applied potential and  $I(t)$  is the output current. If  $I$  is sinusoidal,  $I = \tilde{I} \sin \omega t$ , where  $\omega$  is a fixed frequency,  $X$  becomes the familiar complex reactance  $X = R + i\omega L - i/\omega C$ . This is the same as taking the Fourier transform, giving  $X(\omega) \tilde{I}(\omega) = \tilde{V}(\omega)$ . The reciprocal,  $Y(\omega) = 1/X(\omega)$ , is called the admittance and is the Fourier transform of the Green's function of the equation. The circuit is a high- or low-pass filter if  $Y(\omega)$  has its peak at high or low values of  $\omega$ , respectively.

The Diffusion equation,  $\partial T / \partial t = c \partial^2 T / \partial x^2$ , governs the temperature,  $T(x, t)$ , in a metal bar, where  $c > 0$  is a constant. To solve this we try separation of variables, ie put  $T(x, t) = u(x)v(t)$ . Then  $cu''/u = v'/v$ , where the LHS is independent of  $t$  and the RHS of  $x$ , so both sides are constant,  $-\lambda$ , say. Then if  $\alpha^2 = \lambda/c$ ,  $T(x, t) = Ae^{-\lambda t} \sin \alpha(x - x_0)$ .

Suppose now  $T(x, 0) = g(x)$  is given, and also  $T(\pm a, t) = 0$ . Then we have odd and even solutions

$$T_{2n+1}(x, t) = e^{-\lambda_{2n+1} t} \sin \alpha_{2n+1} x \quad T_{2n}(x, t) = e^{-\lambda_{2n} t} \cos \alpha_{2n} x$$

where  $\lambda_m = (m+1)^2 \pi^2 c / 4a^2$  and  $\alpha_m = \pi(m+1) / 2a$ . If we express  $g(x)$  as a Fourier series, also in terms of  $\sin \alpha_{2n+1} x$  and  $\cos \alpha_{2n} x$ , the same coefficients give the coefficients of  $T_m(x, t)$  in the general solution.

If we now put  $k = 2n\pi/a$  and let  $a \rightarrow \infty$ , choosing  $g(x) = \delta(x)$ , the coefficients become unity and we have a solution

$$E(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-k^2 ct + ikx} dk = \sqrt{2\pi} e^{-x^2/4ct} = 2\pi \operatorname{erf} \frac{x}{\sqrt{2ct}}$$

We can also get this by taking the Fourier transform of the equation,  $\partial \tilde{T} / \partial t = -ck^2 \tilde{T}$ , so  $\tilde{T}(k, t) = \tilde{T}(k, 0) e^{-ck^2 t}$ . Note the behaviour of  $E(x, t)$  for various values of  $t \geq 0$ : it has a  $\delta$ -function "spike" at  $t=0$ , which diffuses (as in example (iv) of the functions "converging" to  $\delta(x)$ ) as  $t$  increases. As before the general solution is obtained by integration:

$$T(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E(x', t) g(x') dx'$$

Here  $E(x', t)$  is the transfer function taking the temperature distribution at time 0 to that at time  $t$ .

With the wave equation,  $\partial^2 \phi / \partial x^2 - 1/c^2 \partial^2 \phi / \partial t^2 = 0$ , we may use

1: separation of variables:  $\phi(x, t) = u(x)v(t)$ , whence  $u(x) = \sin kx$ ,  $v(x) = \sin \omega t$ , etc., with  $k = \omega/c$ .

2: Fourier transforms,  $-k^2 \tilde{\phi} - 1/c^2 \partial^2 \tilde{\phi} / \partial t^2 = 0$ , so  $\tilde{\phi}(k, t) = \sin kct$ .

3: change of coordinates:  $\phi(x, t) = \psi(x-ct, x+ct) = \psi(u, v)$ , so  $\partial^2 \phi / \partial u \partial v = 0$ , whence  $\psi(u, v) = f(u) + g(v)$ . This trick is not possible in more dimensions.

The first two methods reduce to looking for normal modes:  $\phi(x, t) = \psi(x) e^{i\omega t}$  ( $\omega = \text{const}$ ). Then get eigenvalue equation,  $\psi'' + \omega^2/c^2 \psi = 0$ . The boundary conditions usually restrict  $\lambda = -\omega^2/c^2$  to a countable set of eigenvalues,  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$ . If these are distinct, the solution space (for  $\psi$ ) has an orthonormal basis of eigenvectors (or eigenfunctions),  $\psi_n$ , when a suitable weight function (usually corresponding physically to a mass or density of some kind) is taken. Then if initial conditions are  $\phi(x, 0) = g(x)$ , general solution is  $\phi(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle \psi_n, g \rangle \psi_n(x) e^{i\omega_n t}$ , where  $\langle \psi_n, g \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_n(x) g(x) dx$ .

Take a string with fixed ends, so  $\rho \partial^2 \phi / \partial t^2 + T \partial^2 \phi / \partial x^2 = f(x, t)$ , where  $\rho$  and  $T$  are the density and tension,  $\phi$  is the displacement and  $F$  the applied force (put  $F=0$ ).

$\phi(\pm a, t) = 0$  is the boundary condition, so  $\psi_n(x)$  are trigonometric functions as before with  $\omega_n = n\omega$ .

If the string is plucked, it is given an initial displacement  $\phi(x, 0) = \delta(x)$ , so  $\phi(x, t) =$

If it is struck, it is given an initial velocity,  $\phi_t(x, 0) = \delta(x)$ , so  $\phi(x, t) =$

Note that here the second time derivative is involved, so we must specify both the initial displacement and the initial velocity.