

# Backstepping boundary control and state estimation for reaction-diffusion PDEs on arbitrary-dimensional balls

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# Outline

- Reaction-diffusion equation on an  $n$ -dimensional ball
- Control design: Spherical harmonics & backstepping
- Stability (sketch of proof)
- Observer design
- Extensions & open problems: non-constant coefficients
- Application to motion planning problems

## Reaction-diffusion equation on an $n$ -dimensional ball

Let the state  $u = u(t, \vec{x})$ , with  $\vec{x} = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]^T$ , verify

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \varepsilon \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_1^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_2^2} + \dots + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_n^2} \right) + \lambda u = \varepsilon \Delta_n u + \lambda u,$$

for constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\lambda(r, \vec{\theta})$ , and for  $t > 0$ , in the  $n$ -ball  $B^n(R)$  defined as

$$B^n(R) = \{\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\vec{x}\| < R\},$$

with b.c. on the boundary of  $B^n(R)$ , the  $(n-1)$ -sphere  $S^{n-1}(R)$ :

$$S^{n-1}(R) = \{\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\vec{x}\| = R\}.$$

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The b.c. is of Dirichlet type:

$$u(t, \vec{x}) \Big|_{\vec{x} \in S^{n-1}(R)} = U(t, \vec{x})$$

where  $U(t, \vec{x})$  is the actuation variable.

# Reaction-diffusion equation on an $n$ -dimensional ball

Ball geometry is the **simplest possible  $n$ -dimensional geometry**, appears in applications (typically  $n = 2, 3$ ).

**Unstable system** for large values of  $\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}$

Objective: find an **explicit** stabilizing feedback law

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Ball geometry is the **simplest possible  $n$ -dimensional geometry**, appears in applications (typically  $n = 2, 3$ ).

**Unstable system** for large values of  $\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}$

Objective: find an **explicit** stabilizing feedback law

Inspiration: The backstepping method stabilizes the 1-D problem

$$u_t = \varepsilon u_{xx} + \lambda u, \quad x \in [0, L], \quad u(t, 0) = 0, \quad u(t, L) = U(t)$$

with feedback law (Smyshlyaev&Krstic 2002, published in IEEE TAC 2004)

$$U(t, x) = \int_0^L -\xi \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (L^2 - \xi^2) \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (L^2 - \xi^2)} u(t, \xi) d\xi$$

**Can we obtain a similar result?**

## Can we obtain an explicit feedback law?

Utility of an explicit control law:

- Understanding the structure of the control law
- Understanding the dependence with respect to parameters of the plant
- Very easy and precise to implement (rare commodity in PDEs)
- Adaptive control!

Explicit solutions are possible for this case (constant coefficients  $\varepsilon$  and  $\lambda$ , arbitrary dimension)!

# Ultraspherical coordinates

The  $n$ -ball domain is well described in  $n$ -dimensional spherical coordinates, also known as ultraspherical coordinates:

- one radial coordinate  $r$ ,  $r \in [0, R)$ .
- $n - 1$  angular coordinates:  $\vec{\theta} = [\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_{n-1}]^T$ , with  $\theta_1 \in [0, 2\pi)$  and  $\theta_i \in [0, \pi]$  for  $2 \leq i \leq n - 1$ .

Definition:

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= r \cos \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \sin \theta_3 \dots \sin \theta_{n-1}, \\x_2 &= r \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \sin \theta_3 \dots \sin \theta_{n-1}, \\x_3 &= r \cos \theta_2 \sin \theta_3 \dots \sin \theta_{n-1}, \\&\vdots \\x_{n-1} &= r \cos \theta_{n-2} \sin \theta_{n-1}, \\x_n &= r \cos \theta_{n-1}.\end{aligned}$$



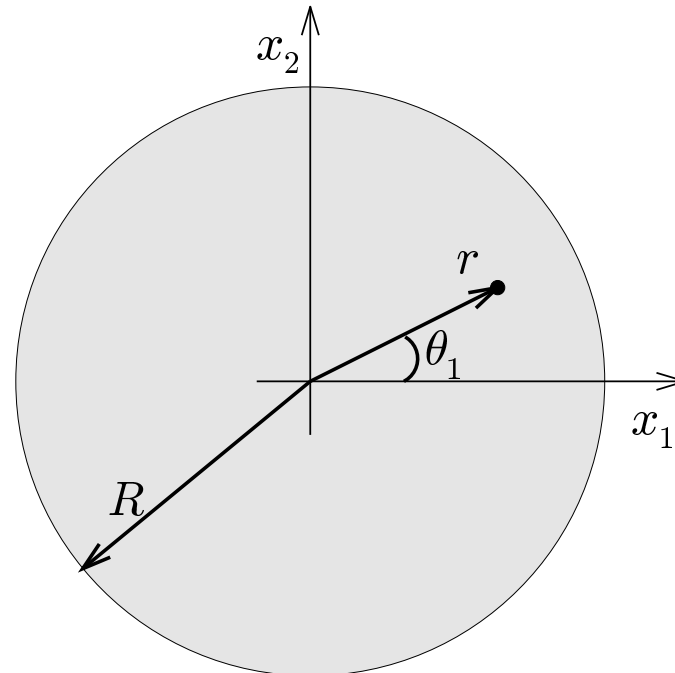
# Ultraspherical coordinates: Examples

$n=2$

Polar coordinates:  $r \in [0, R)$ ,  $\theta_1 \in [0, 2\pi)$ .

$$x_1 = r \cos \theta_1$$

$$x_2 = r \sin \theta_1$$



# Ultraspherical coordinates: Examples

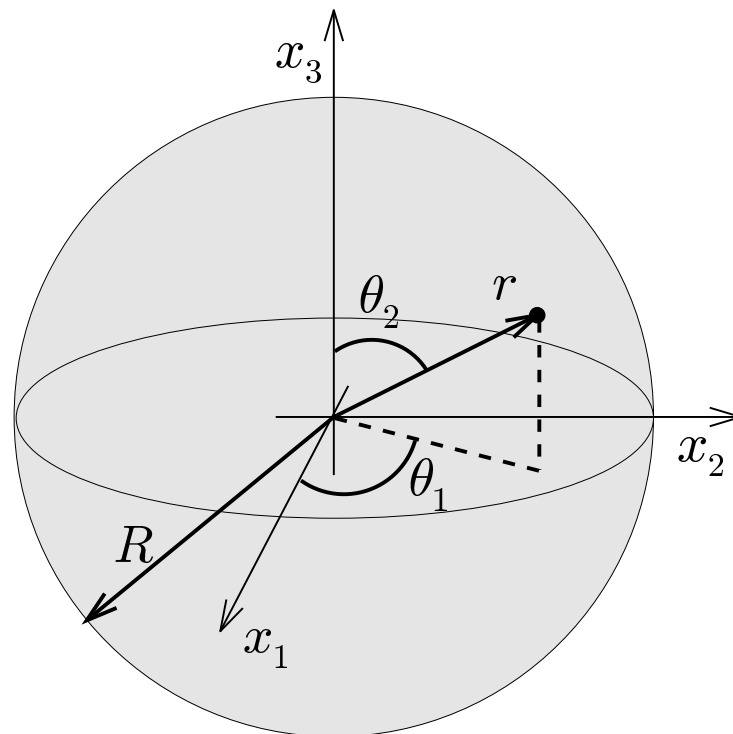
$n=3$

Spherical coordinates:  $r \in [0, R)$ ,  $\theta_1 \in [0, 2\pi)$ ,  $\theta_2 \in [0, \pi]$

$$x_1 = r \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2$$

$$x_2 = r \sin \theta_1 \cos \theta_2$$

$$x_3 = r \sin \theta_2$$



# Laplacian in ultraspherical coordinates

Writing the reaction diffusion equation in [ultraspherical coordinates](#)

$$u_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r u \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_{n-1}^* u + \lambda u,$$
$$u(t, R, \vec{\theta}) = U(t, \vec{\theta}),$$

where  $\Delta_{n-1}^*$  is called the Laplace-Beltrami operator and represents the Laplacian over the  $(n-1)$ -sphere.

It is defined recursively as

$$\Delta_1^* = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta_1^2},$$
$$\Delta_n^* = \frac{1}{\sin^{n-1} \theta_n} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_n} \left( \sin^{n-1} \theta_n \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_n} \right) + \frac{\Delta_{n-1}^*}{\sin^2 \theta_n},$$

Example:

$$\Delta_2^* = \frac{1}{\sin \theta_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_2} \left( \sin \theta_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_2} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta_2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta_1^2}.$$

## Designing a boundary feedback law

- Exploit **periodicity** in  $\vec{\theta}$  by using **Spherical Harmonics**
- Apply the **backstepping** method to each harmonic coefficient
- Solve the **backstepping** kernel equations to find a feedback law for each harmonic
- Re-assemble the feedback law in **Spherical Harmonics** back to physical space

# Spherical Harmonics

Develop  $u$  and  $U$  in term of Spherical Harmonics coefficients  $u_l^m$  and  $U_l^m$ :

$$u(t, r, \vec{\theta}) = \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} u_l^m(r, t) Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}), \quad U(t, \vec{\theta}) = \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} U_l^m(t) Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}),$$

$N(l, n)$ : number of (linearly independent)  $n$ -dimensional spherical harmonics of degree  $l$

$$N(l, n) = \frac{2l + n - 2}{l} \binom{l + n - 3}{l - 1}, \quad l > 0; \quad N(0, n) = 1$$

$Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta})$ :  $m$ -th order  $n$ -dimensional spherical harmonic of degree  $l$

Coefficients are defined as:

$$u_l^m(r, t) = \int_0^\pi \dots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} u(t, r, \vec{\theta}) \bar{Y}_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \sin^{n-2} \theta_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \theta_{n-2} \dots \sin \theta_2 d\vec{\theta},$$

$$U_l^m(t) = \int_0^\pi \dots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} U(t, \vec{\theta}) \bar{Y}_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \sin^{n-2} \theta_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \theta_{n-2} \dots \sin \theta_2 d\vec{\theta},$$

( $d\vec{\theta} = d\theta_{n-1} d\theta_{n-2} \dots d\theta_2 d\theta_1$ ,  $\bar{Y}_{lm}^n$  is the complex conjugate of  $Y_{lm}^n$ )

# Spherical Harmonics

The  $n$ -dimensional spherical harmonics are **eigenfunctions** for the Laplacian  $\Delta_{n-1}^*$ :

$$\Delta_{n-1}^* Y_{lm}^n = -l(l+n-2)Y_{lm}^n.$$

Thus, each harmonic coefficient  $u_l^m(t, r)$  for  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $0 \leq m \leq N(l, n)$ , verifies

$$\partial_t u_l^m = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r u_l^m \right) - l(l+n-2) \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} u_l^m + \lambda u_l^m,$$

evolving in  $r \in [0, R]$ ,  $t > 0$ , with boundary conditions

$$u_l^m(t, R) = U_l^m(t),$$

**The PDEs for the harmonics are not coupled:** we can independently design each  $U_l^m$  and later assemble all of the them to find an expression for  $U$ .

# Backstepping control of Spherical Harmonics coefficients

To design  $U_l^m(t)$  seek transformation of

$$\partial_t u_l^m = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r u_l^m \right) - l(l+n-2) \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} u_l^m + \lambda u_l^m$$

into the (stable) target system

$$\partial_t w_l^m = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r w_l^m \right) - l(l+n-2) \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} w_l^m$$

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$$w_l^m(t, R) = 0$$

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with boundary conditions

$$w_l^m(t, R) = 0$$

The transformation is

$$w_l^m(t, r) = u_l^m(t, r) - \int_0^r K_{lm}^n(r, \rho) u_l^m(t, \rho) d\rho$$

with kernels  $K_{lm}^n$  to be found.



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Substituting at  $r = R$  we find  $U_l^m(t)$  as

$$U_l^m(t) = \int_0^R K_{lm}^n(R, \rho) u_l^m(t, \rho) d\rho$$

## Kernel equation

The control kernels  $K_{lm}^n(r, \rho)$  are found, for a given  $n \geq 2$  and each  $l, m$ , from

$$\frac{1}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r K_{lm}^n \right) - \partial_\rho \left( \rho^{n-1} \partial_\rho \left( \frac{K_{lm}^n}{\rho^{n-1}} \right) \right) - l(l+n-2) \left( \frac{1}{r^2} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right) K_{lm}^n = \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} K_{lm}^n.$$

with BC

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda + 2\varepsilon \frac{d}{dr} (K_{lm}^n(r, r)) &= 0 \\ K_{lm}^n(r, 0) &= 0 \\ (n-2) \partial_\rho K_{lm}^n(r, \rho) |_{\rho=0} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

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The first BC integrates (using  $K_{lm}^n(0, 0) = 0$ ) to

$$K_{lm}^n(r, r) = - \int_0^r \frac{\lambda}{2\varepsilon} d\rho = -\frac{\lambda r}{2\varepsilon}$$

## Solving the kernel equation

To solve

$$\frac{1}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r K_{lm}^n \right) - \partial_\rho \left( \rho^{n-1} \partial_\rho \left( \frac{K_{lm}^n}{\rho^{n-1}} \right) \right) - l(l+n-2) \left( \frac{1}{r^2} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right) K_{lm}^n = \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} K_{lm}^n$$

$$K_{lm}^n(r, r) = -\frac{\lambda r}{2\varepsilon}$$

$$K_{lm}^n(r, 0) = 0$$

$$(n-2) \partial_\rho K_{lm}^n(r, \rho) \Big|_{\rho=0} = 0$$

define  $K_{lm}^n(r, \rho) = G_{lm}^n(r, \rho) \rho \left(\frac{\rho}{r}\right)^{l+n-2}$ . The two last BCs are automatically verified, and writing the kernel equation in terms of  $G_{lm}^n$

$$\partial_{rr} G_{lm}^n + (3-n-2l) \frac{\partial_r G_{lm}^n}{r} - \partial_{\rho\rho} G_{lm}^n + (1-n-2l) \frac{\partial_\rho G_{lm}^n}{\rho} = \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} G_{lm}^n$$

$$G_{lm}^n(r, r) = -\frac{\lambda}{2\varepsilon}$$

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$$\partial_{rr}G_{lm}^n + (3 - n - 2l)\frac{\partial_r G_{lm}^n}{r} - \partial_{\rho\rho}G_{lm}^n + (1 - n - 2l)\frac{\partial_\rho G_{lm}^n}{\rho} = \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}G_{lm}^n$$
$$G_{lm}^n(r, r) = -\frac{\lambda}{2\varepsilon}$$

assume a solution of the form  $G_{lm}^n(r, \rho) = \Phi\left(\left(\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(r^2 - \rho^2)\right)^{1/2}\right)$ , where  $\Phi(s)$  is to be found (independent of  $n, l$  and  $m!$ ).

We find, calling  $x = \left(\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(r^2 - \rho^2)\right)^{1/2}$ ,

$$\Phi''(x) + \frac{3}{x}\Phi'(x) - \Phi(x) = 0$$
$$\Phi(0) = -\frac{\lambda}{2\varepsilon}$$

Note that  $n, l$  and  $m$  do not appear in the equation.

Note that we have gone from a PDE to an ODE.

## Solving the kernel equation

To solve

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi''(x) + \frac{3}{x}\Phi'(x) - \Phi(x) &= 0 \\ \Phi(0) &= -\frac{\lambda}{2\varepsilon}\end{aligned}$$

call  $\Psi(x) = x\Phi(x)$ :

$$\left(\frac{\Psi''}{x} - 2\frac{\Psi'}{x^2} + 2\frac{\Psi}{x^3}\right) + \frac{3}{x}\left(\frac{\Psi'}{x} - \frac{\Psi}{x^2}\right) - \frac{\Psi}{x} = 0$$

which cross-multiplied by  $x^3$  gives

$$x^2\Psi'' + x\Psi' - (1 + x^2)\Psi = 0$$

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Bessel's modified differential equation of order 1, whose bounded solution is

$$\Psi(x) = C_1 \mathbf{I}_1(x)$$

where  $\mathbf{I}_1$  is the first-order modified Bessel function of the first kind.

## Solving the kernel equation

Undoing all the transformations:

$$\Phi(x) = C_1 \frac{I_1(x)}{x}$$

since  $\Phi(0) = -\frac{\lambda}{2\varepsilon}$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{I_1(x)}{x} = 1/2$  we obtain  $C_1 = -\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}$



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Thus

$$\Phi(x) = -\frac{\lambda I_1(x)}{\varepsilon x}$$

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therefore

$$G_{lm}^n(r, \rho) = -\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2) \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2)}$$

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and finally

$$K_{lm}^n(r, \rho) = -\rho \left( \frac{\rho}{r} \right)^{l+n-2} \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(r^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(r^2 - \rho^2)}}$$

## Explicit feedback law

The feedback law for each spherical harmonic is

$$U_l^m(t) = \int_0^R K_{lm}^n(R, \rho) u_l^m(t, \rho) d\rho = \int_0^R -\rho \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(R^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(R^2 - \rho^2)}} u_l^m(t, \rho) d\rho$$

Summing to obtain the physical-space feedback law

$$\begin{aligned} U(t, \vec{\theta}) &= \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} U_l^m(t) Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} \int_0^R -\rho \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(R^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(R^2 - \rho^2)}} u_l^m(t, \rho) d\rho Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \end{aligned}$$

Formally exchanging the integral with the infinite sum (it can be proved correct)

$$U(t, \theta) = \int_0^R -\rho \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(R^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}(R^2 - \rho^2)}} \left[ \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} u_l^m(t, \rho) Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \right] d\rho$$

## Explicit feedback law

In the term in brackets, inserting the definition of  $u_l^m$  in terms of  $u$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} u_l^m(t, \rho) Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \\ = & \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} u(t, r, \vec{\phi}) \bar{Y}_{lm}^n(\vec{\phi}) \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \cdots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\phi} Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \end{aligned}$$

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The Addition Theorem for Spherical Harmonics states:

$$\sum_{m=0}^{N(l,n)-1} Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\Theta}) \bar{Y}_{lm}^n(\vec{\phi}) = \frac{N(l,n)}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} P_{l,n}(\cos \omega)$$

where  $P_{l,n}$  is the Legendre polynomial of degree  $l$  in  $n$  dimensions,  $\text{Area}(S^{n-1}) = \frac{2\pi^{\frac{n}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})}$  is the surface area of the unit  $(n-1)$ -sphere, and  $\omega$  is the **geodesic distance** between the points given by  $\vec{\Theta}$  and  $\vec{\phi}$  on the unit  $(n-1)$ -sphere:

$$\begin{aligned} \omega = & \cos^{-1} \{ \cos \phi_{n-1} \cos \theta_{n-1} + \sin \phi_{n-1} \sin \theta_{n-1} \times [\cos \phi_{n-2} \cos \theta_{n-2} + \sin \phi_{n-2} \sin \theta_{n-2} \\ & \times [\dots [\cos \phi_2 \cos \theta_2 + \sin \phi_2 \sin \theta_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \phi_1)] \dots]] \}. \end{aligned}$$

## Explicit feedback law

Thus, the term in brackets is

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} u_l^m(t, \rho) Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \\ = & \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} u(t, r, \vec{\phi}) \frac{N(l, n) P_{l, n}(\cos \omega)}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \cdots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\phi} \end{aligned}$$

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 = & \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} u(t, r, \vec{\phi}) \frac{N(l, n) P_{l, n}(\cos \omega)}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \cdots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\phi}
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, the Poisson identity states

$$\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} N(l, n) s^l P_{l, n}(t) = \frac{1 - s^2}{(1 + s^2 - 2st)^{n/2}}$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{l=0}^{l=\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{m=N(l,n)-1} \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{l+n-2} u_l^m(t, \rho) Y_{lm}^n(\vec{\theta}) \\
 = & \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} u(t, r, \vec{\phi}) \frac{\rho^{n-2}}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \frac{R^2 - \rho^2}{(R^2 + \rho^2 - 2\rho R \cos \omega)^{n/2}} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \cdots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\phi}
 \end{aligned}$$



## Explicit feedback law

The function

$$P(R, \rho, \vec{\theta}, \vec{\phi}) = \frac{1}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \frac{R^2 - \rho^2}{(R^2 + \rho^2 - 2\rho R \cos \omega)^{n/2}}$$

is the **Poisson kernel for an  $n$ -ball**

- Used to express the solution for the [Laplace problem in an  \$n\$ -ball](#) as an integral:

$$\Delta v(r, \vec{\theta}) = 0, \quad v(R, \vec{\theta}) = F(\vec{\theta})$$

can be explicitly solved as

$$v(r, \vec{\theta}) = \int_0^\pi \dots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} P(R, r, \vec{\theta}, \vec{\phi}) F(\vec{\phi}) R^{n-2} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \dots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\phi}$$

- Tends to a **Dirac delta**  $\delta(\vec{\theta} - \vec{\psi})$  when  $r$  goes to  $\rho$

## Explicit feedback law

Thus we obtain finally our explicit feedback law

$$\begin{aligned}
 U(t, \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= - \int_0^R \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \rho^2)}} P(R, \rho, \vec{\boldsymbol{\theta}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) \\
 &\quad \times u(t, \rho, \vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) \rho^{n-1} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \dots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}} d\rho \\
 &= - \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \int_0^R \rho \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \rho^2)}} \\
 &\quad \times \left[ \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} P(R, \rho, \vec{\boldsymbol{\theta}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) u(t, \rho, \vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) \rho^{n-1} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \dots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \right] d\rho
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 &\quad \times u(t, \rho, \vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) \rho^{n-1} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \cdots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}} d\rho \\
 &= - \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \int_0^R \rho \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \rho^2)}} \\
 &\quad \times \left[ \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} P(R, \rho, \vec{\boldsymbol{\theta}}, \vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) u(t, \rho, \vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) \rho^{n-1} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \cdots \sin \phi_2 d\vec{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \right] d\rho
 \end{aligned}$$

Compare with the explicit backstepping controller for 1-D reaction-diffusion equation:

$$U(t, x) = - \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \int_0^L \rho \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (L^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (L^2 - \rho^2)}} u(t, \rho) d\rho$$

## Explicit feedback law in rectangular coordinates

Noticing that

$$\rho^{n-1} \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \dots \sin \phi_2$$

is the “volume” element for an  $n$ -ball, we can write the control law back in rectangular coordinates

$$U(t, \vec{x}) = -\frac{1}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} \int_{B^n(R)} \mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \|\vec{\xi}\|^2)} \right] \frac{\sqrt{R^2 - \|\vec{\xi}\|^2}}{\|\vec{x} - \vec{\xi}\|^n} u(t, \vec{\xi}) d\vec{\xi},$$

where the integral is extended to the complete  $n$ -ball  $B^n(R)$  and  $\vec{x} \in S^{n-1}(R)$ .

## The transformation in physical coordinates

To get additional insight the backstepping transformation can be expressed in physical coordinates.

We have found a transformation from

$$u_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \left( r^{n-1} u_r \right)_r + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_{n-1}^* u + \lambda u,$$

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into

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$$w_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \left( r^{n-1} w_r \right)_r + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_{n-1}^* w$$

as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} w(t, r, \vec{\theta}) &= u(t, r, \vec{\theta}) - \int_0^r \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} K(r, \rho, \vec{\theta}, \vec{\phi}) \\ &\quad \times u(t, \rho, \vec{\phi}) \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \cdots \sin \phi_2 d\phi_1 d\phi_2 \cdots d\phi_{n-1}, \end{aligned}$$

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where

$$K(r, \rho, \vec{\theta}, \vec{\phi}) = -\frac{\rho^{n-1}}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2) \right]}{\sqrt{r^2 - \rho^2}} P(r, \rho, \vec{\theta}, \vec{\phi}),$$



## Stability result ( $L^2$ )

### Theorem

Consider the following PDE on the  $n$ -ball  $B^n(R)$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u(t, \vec{x})}{\partial t} &= \varepsilon \Delta_n u(t, \vec{x}) + \lambda u(t, \vec{x}) \\ u(t, \vec{x}) \Big|_{\vec{x} \in S^{n-1}(R)} &= U(t, \vec{x}),\end{aligned}$$

with initial conditions  $u_0(\vec{x})$  and

$$U(t, \vec{x}) = -\frac{1}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} \int_{B^n(R)} \mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \|\vec{\xi}\|^2)} \right] \frac{\sqrt{R^2 - \|\vec{\xi}\|^2}}{\|\vec{x} - \vec{\xi}\|^n} u(t, \vec{\xi}) d\vec{\xi},$$

Assume in addition that  $u_0 \in L^2(B^n(R))$ .

Then the closed-loop system has a unique  $C([0, \infty); L^2(B^n(R)))$  solution, and the equilibrium profile  $u \equiv 0$  is exponentially stable in the  $L^2(B^n(R))$  norm, i.e., there exists  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  such that

$$\|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(B^n(R))} \leq c_1 e^{-c_2 t} \|u_0\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}.$$

# Stability result ( $H^1$ )

## Theorem

For the previous PDE, assume in addition that  $u_0 \in H^1(B^n(R))$  and the compatibility condition

$$u_0(\vec{x}) \Big|_{\vec{x} \in S^{n-1}(R)} = -\frac{1}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} \int_{B^n(R)} \mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \|\vec{\xi}\|^2)} \right] \frac{\sqrt{R^2 - \|\vec{\xi}\|^2}}{\|\vec{x} - \vec{\xi}\|^n} u_0(\vec{\xi}) d\vec{\xi},$$

Then the closed-loop system has a unique  $C([0, \infty); H^1(B^n(R)))$  solution, and the equilibrium profile  $u \equiv 0$  is exponentially stable in the  $H^1(B^n(R))$  norm, i.e., there exists  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  such that

$$\|u(t, \cdot)\|_{H^1(B^n(R))} \leq c_1 e^{-c_2 t} \|u_0\|_{H^1(B^n(R))}.$$

## Sketch of proof

The strategy of the proof (for both  $L^2$  and  $H^1$  norms) is as follows.

1. We start from a well-known well-posedness and stability open-loop result on the  $n$ -ball for a Sobolev space  $W(B^n(R))$ , apply to the target system.

$$\begin{aligned} w_t(t, \vec{x}) &= \varepsilon \Delta_n w(t, \vec{x}), & t > 0, \vec{x} \in B^n(R) \\ w(t, \vec{x}) \Big|_{\vec{x} \in S^{n-1}(R)} &= 0, \\ w(0, \vec{x}) &= w_0(\vec{x}), & w_0 \in W(B^n(R)). \end{aligned}$$

(this might require **compatibility conditions** )

and deduce the stability result for the target system (using e.g. known energy estimates or Lyapunov analysis)

$$\|w(t, \cdot)\|_W \leq b_1 e^{-b_2 t} \|w_0\|_W.$$

with  $b_1, b_2 > 0$ .

## Sketch of proof

2. We then show that the backstepping transformation is a map from  $W(B^n(R))$  to  $W(B^n(R))$ :

$$w(t, \vec{x}) = u(t, \vec{x}) - \int_{B^n(\|\vec{x}\|)} K(\vec{x}, \vec{\xi}) u(t, \vec{\xi}) d\xi = \mathcal{K}[u(t, \vec{x})](\vec{x}).$$

In particular we need to show  $\|w(t, \cdot)\|_W \leq K \|u(t, \cdot)\|_W$  for  $K > 0$

Thus, if the initial conditions in  $u$  coordinates ( $u_0$ ) are in  $W(B^n(R))$ , then the corresponding  $w_0 = \mathcal{K}[u_0]$  are in  $W(B^n(R))$  as well, and  $\|w_0(\cdot)\|_W \leq K \|u_0(\cdot)\|_W$

## Sketch of proof

3. We show that the backstepping transformation is invertible:

$$u(t, \vec{x}) = w(t, \vec{x}) + \int_{B^n(\|\vec{x}\|)} L(\vec{x}, \vec{\xi}) w(t, \vec{\xi}) d\xi = \mathcal{L}[w(t, \vec{x})](\vec{x}).$$

and the inverse transformation is again a map from  $W(B^n(R))$  to  $W(B^n(R))$ , i.e.

$$\|u(t, \cdot)\|_W \leq L \|w(t, \cdot)\|_W \text{ for } L > 0.$$

Therefore the  $u$  system inherits the well-posedness properties of the target system.

## Sketch of proof

4. Having shown well-posedness of the closed-loop system, we can now finally state the desired results, namely, well-posedness and stability properties which are expressed as exponential decay with time of the Sobolev norm of the state.

In particular:

$$\begin{aligned}\|u(t, \cdot)\|_W &\leq L\|w(t, \cdot)\|_W \\ &\leq Lb_1e^{-b_2t}\|w_0\|_W \\ &\leq Lb_1Ke^{-b_2t}\|u_0\|_W\end{aligned}$$

## Sketch of proof

Example for  $L^2$ :

1. For the PDE

$$\begin{aligned} w_t(t, \vec{x}) &= \varepsilon \Delta_n w(t, \vec{x}), & t > 0, \vec{x} \in B^n(R) \\ w(t, \vec{x}) \Big|_{\vec{x} \in S^{n-1}(R)} &= 0, \\ w(0, \vec{x}) &= w_0(\vec{x}), & w_0 \in W(B^n(R)). \end{aligned}$$

we have (see any standard textbook such as Brezis, "Functional Analysis, Sobolev Spaces, and Partial Differential Equations") that  $u \in C^1((0, \infty); L^2(B^n(R)))$ .

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we have (see any standard textbook such as Brezis, "Functional Analysis, Sobolev Spaces, and Partial Differential Equations") that  $u \in C^1((0, \infty); L^2(B^n(R)))$ .

The stability result can be found, as usual, from using the definition  $\|w(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}^2 = \int_{B^n(R)} w^2(t, \vec{x}) d\vec{x}$ , and then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{1}{2} \|w(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}^2 = \varepsilon \int_{B^n(R)} w(t, \vec{x}) \Delta_n w(t, \vec{x}) d\vec{x} = -\varepsilon \int_{B^n(R)} (\nabla_n w(t, \vec{x}))^2 d\vec{x} \leq -c_0 \varepsilon \|w(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}^2$$

therefore finding

$$\|w(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(B^n(R))} \leq e^{-b_2 t} \|w_0\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}$$



## Sketch of proof

Example for  $L^2$ :

2. We next need to show  $\|w(t, \cdot)\|_W \leq K \|u(t, \cdot)\|_W$

$$\begin{aligned} |w_{lm}|^2 &= \left| u_{lm}(r) - \int_0^r K_{lm}^n(r, \rho) u_{lm}(\rho) d\rho \right|^2 \\ &\leq 2|u_{lm}|^2 + 2 \left| \int_0^r K_{lm}^n(r, \rho) u_{lm}(\rho) d\rho \right|^2 \\ &\leq 2|u_{lm}|^2 + 2C_1^2 \left( \int_0^r \rho \left( \frac{\rho}{r} \right)^{l+n-2} d\rho \right) \left( \int_0^r \rho \left( \frac{\rho}{r} \right)^{l+n-2} |u_{lm}(\rho)|^2 d\rho \right) \\ &\leq 2|u_{lm}|^2 + C_1^2 r^{4-n} \left( \int_0^r \rho^{n-1} |u_{lm}(\rho)|^2 d\rho \right), \end{aligned}$$

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and therefore

$$\|w_{lm}\|_{L^2}^2 = \int_0^R r^{n-1} |w_{lm}(r)|^2 dr \leq \left( 2 + \frac{R^4 C_1^2}{4} \right) \|u_{lm}^2\|_{L^2} = K \|u_{lm}^2\|_{L^2}$$

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 &\leq 2|u_{lm}|^2 + 2 \left| \int_0^r K_{lm}^n(r, \rho) u_{lm}(\rho) d\rho \right|^2 \\
 &\leq 2|u_{lm}|^2 + 2C_1^2 \left( \int_0^r \rho \left(\frac{\rho}{r}\right)^{l+n-2} d\rho \right) \left( \int_0^r \rho \left(\frac{\rho}{r}\right)^{l+n-2} |u_{lm}(\rho)|^2 d\rho \right) \\
 &\leq 2|u_{lm}|^2 + C_1^2 r^{4-n} \left( \int_0^r \rho^{n-1} |u_{lm}(\rho)|^2 d\rho \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

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so finally

$$\|w\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}^2 = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{N(l,n)-1} \|w_{lm}\|_{L^2}^2 \leq K \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{N(l,n)-1} \|u_{lm}\|_{L^2}^2 = K \|u\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}^2$$

## Sketch of proof

Example for  $L^2$ :

3. We show that the backstepping transformation is **invertible**. Pose an inverse transform:

$$u_{lm}(t, r) = w_{lm}(t, r) + \int_0^r L_{lm}^n(r, \rho) w_{lm}(t, \rho) d\rho,$$

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and as before we find the following kernel equations for  $L_{lm}^n$ :

$$L_{lmrr}^n + (n-1) \frac{L_{lmr}^n}{r} - L_{lm\rho\rho}^n + (n-1) \frac{L_{lm\rho}^n}{\rho} - (n-1) \frac{L_{lm}^n}{\rho^2} - l(l+n-2) \left( \frac{1}{r^2} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right) L_{lm}^n = -\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} L_{lm}^n$$

$$L_{lm}^n(r, 0) = (n-2) L_{lm\rho}^n(r, 0) = 0,$$

$$L_{lm}^n(r, r) = -\frac{\lambda r}{2\varepsilon},$$

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$$L_{lm}^n(r, r) = -\frac{\lambda r}{2\varepsilon},$$

same as for  $K_{lm}^n$  but substituting  $\lambda$  by  $-\lambda$  and changing sign! We thus find:

$$L_{lm}^n(r, \rho) = -\rho \left( \frac{\rho}{r} \right)^{l+n-2} \frac{\lambda J_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2) \right]}{\varepsilon \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2)}.$$

## Sketch of proof

Example for  $L^2$ :

3. We show that the backstepping transformation is invertible. Pose an inverse transform:

$$u_{lm}(t, r) = w_{lm}(t, r) + \int_0^r L_{lm}^n(r, \rho) w_{lm}(t, \rho) d\rho,$$

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$$L_{lm}^n(r, 0) = (n-2) L_{lm\rho}^n(r, 0) = 0,$$

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same as for  $K_{lm}^n$  but substituting  $\lambda$  by  $-\lambda$  and changing sign. We thus find:

$$L_{lm}^n(r, \rho) = -\rho \left( \frac{\rho}{r} \right)^{l+n-2} \frac{\lambda J_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2) \right]}{\varepsilon \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2)}.$$

and as before  $\|u\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}^2 \leq \left( 2 + \frac{R^4 C_2^2}{4} \right) \|w\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}^2 = L \|w\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}^2$

## Sketch of proof

4. We finish finally:

$$\begin{aligned}\|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(B^n(R))} &\leq L\|L^2(B^n(R))(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(B^n(R))} \\ &\leq Le^{-b_2 t}\|L^2(B^n(R))_0\|_{L^2(B^n(R))} \\ &\leq LKe^{-b_2 t}\|u_0\|_{L^2(B^n(R))}\end{aligned}$$



## Further remarks about stability

- For  $n = 2$  it is possible to prove exponential stability in the  $H^p(B^n(R))$  space, for any positive integer  $p$ , under suitable compatibility conditions. Thus any degree of smoothness is possible (even  $C^\infty$ !).
- The critical step is proving  $\|w(t, \cdot)\|_{H^p(B^n(R))} \leq K_p \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{H^p(B^n(R))}$ .
- The main idea of the proof is taking derivatives of the backstepping transformation and then integrating by parts to pass the derivatives in the kernel to derivatives in the state.
- This idea does not seem to generalize for  $n > 2$ . So far, no more than  $H^1(B^n(R))$  has been proved for  $n > 2$ .

## Observer design

Consider now the same equation

$$u_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r u \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_{n-1}^* u + \lambda u,$$
$$u(t, R, \vec{\theta}) = U(t, \vec{\theta}),$$

but now our objective is to estimate  $u(r, \vec{\theta})$  from [measurements at the boundary](#). In particular,  $u_r(t, R, \vec{\theta})$  is measured.

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but now our objective is to estimate  $u(r, \vec{\theta})$  from **measurements at the boundary**. In particular,  $u_r(t, R, \vec{\theta})$  is measured.

The following observer produces a **convergent estimate**  $\hat{u}(r, \vec{\theta})$ :

$$\hat{u}_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \left( r^{n-1} \hat{u}_r \right)_r + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_{n-1}^* \hat{u} + \lambda \hat{u} + \mathcal{P} \left[ u_r(t, R, \vec{\theta}) - \hat{u}_r(t, R, \vec{\theta}) \right] (r, \vec{\theta})$$

$$\hat{u}(t, R, \vec{\theta}) = U(t, \vec{\theta}).$$

where  $\mathcal{P}$  is defined:

$$\mathcal{P}[\Psi(\vec{\theta})](r, \vec{\theta}) = - \frac{R^{n-1} \sqrt{\lambda \varepsilon}}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (R^2 - r^2) \right]}{\sqrt{R^2 - r^2}} \int_0^\pi \cdots \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi(\vec{\phi}) P(r, \rho, \vec{\theta}, \vec{\phi})$$

$$\times \sin^{n-2} \phi_{n-1} \sin^{n-3} \phi_{n-2} \cdots \sin \phi_2 d\phi_1 d\phi_2 \cdots d\phi_{n-1} d\rho$$

## Observer design

Expressing the observer equation in rectangular coordinates, we obtain

$$\hat{u}_t = \varepsilon \Delta_n \hat{u} + \lambda \hat{u} - \frac{\sqrt{\lambda \varepsilon}}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \|\vec{x}\|^2)} \right] \sqrt{R^2 - \|\vec{x}\|^2} \int_{S^{n-1}(R)} \frac{u_r(t, \vec{\xi}) - \hat{u}_r(t, \vec{\xi})}{\|\vec{x} - \vec{\xi}\|^n} d\vec{\xi}$$

with BC

$$\hat{u}(t, \vec{x}) \Big|_{\vec{x} \in S^{n-1}(R)} = U(t, \vec{x})$$

We can show  $\|u(t, \cdot) - \hat{u}(t, \cdot)\|$  goes to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  exponentially, in both  $L^2$  and  $H^1$  norms.

## Observer design

The idea is the same as for the controller. Starting with the plant expressed in spherical harmonics:

$$\begin{aligned}u_{lmt} &= \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \left( r^{n-1} u_{lmr} \right)_r - l(l+n-2) \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} u_{lm} + \lambda u_{lm}, \\u_{lm}(t, R) &= U_{lm}(t),\end{aligned}$$

We assume **we measure**  $u_{lmr}(t, R)$  and wish to estimate the state  $u_{lm}$  inside the domain.

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Construct our observer as a copy of the plant plus **output injection terms**:

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We need to design  $p(r)$ .

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We need to design  $p(r)$ .

Define the observer error as  $\tilde{u} = u - \hat{u}$ . The observer error dynamics are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{u}_{lmt} &= \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \left( r^{n-1} \tilde{u}_{lmr} \right)_r - l(l+n-2) \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} \tilde{u}_{lm} + \lambda \tilde{u}_{lm} - p_{lm}^n(r) \tilde{u}_{lmr}(t, R), \\ \tilde{u}_{lm}(t, R) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

## Observer design

Need to make the dynamics of  $\tilde{u}$  stable with  $p_{lm}^n(r)$ . Our approach to design  $p_{lm}^n(r)$  is to seek a mapping that transforms  $\tilde{u}$  into the following target system

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{w}_{lmt} &= \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \left( r^{n-1} \tilde{w}_{lmr} \right)_r - l(l+n-2) \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} \tilde{w}_{lm}, \\ \tilde{w}_{lm}(t, R) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$



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The transformation is defined as follows:

$$\tilde{u}_{lm}(t, r) = \tilde{w}_{lm}(t, r) - \int_r^R P_{lm}^n(r, \rho) \tilde{w}_{lm}(t, \rho) d\rho$$

and then  $p_{lm}^n(r)$  will be found from the transformation kernel  $P_{lm}^n$ .

## Observer design

The following kernel equation is found:

$$P_{lmrr}^n + (n-1)\frac{P_{lmr}^n}{r} - P_{lm\rho\rho}^n + (n-1)\frac{P_{lm\rho}^n}{\rho} - (n-1)\frac{P_{lm}^n}{\rho^2} - l(l+n-2)\left(\frac{1}{r^2} - \frac{1}{\rho^2}\right)P_{lm}^n = -\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}P_{lm}^n$$

$$P_{lm}^n(0, \rho) = P_{lm\rho}^n(0, \rho) = 0,$$

$$P_{lm}^n(r, r) = -\frac{\lambda r}{2\varepsilon},$$

and once the kernel is found  $p_{lm}^n(r) = \varepsilon P_{lm}^n(r, R)$

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It turns out this equation can be solved by the control kernel found previously , by defining

$$P_{lm}^n(r, \rho) = \frac{\rho^{n-1}}{r^{n-1}} K_{lm}^n(\rho, r)$$

Then, by summing the spherical harmonics we reach again a Poisson kernel-like function times a Bessel function.

## Output feedback design

Consider now the output feedback problem. For

$$u_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r u \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_{n-1}^* u + \lambda u,$$
$$u(t, R, \vec{\theta}) = U(t, \vec{\theta}),$$

design  $U$  to stabilize  $u(r, \vec{\theta})$ , but only using measurement  $u_r(t, R, \vec{\theta})$ .

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design  $U$  to stabilize  $u(r, \vec{\theta})$ , but only using measurement  $u_r(t, R, \vec{\theta})$ .

The solution is a **combination of the controller and observer design**. Use the control law that we found but using the observer estimates

$$U = -\frac{1}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} \int_{B^n(R)} \mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \|\vec{\xi}\|^2)} \right] \frac{\sqrt{R^2 - \|\vec{\xi}\|^2}}{\|\vec{x} - \vec{\xi}\|^n} \hat{u}(t, \vec{\xi}) d\vec{\xi},$$

$$\hat{u}_t = \varepsilon \Delta_n \hat{u} + \lambda \hat{u} - \frac{\sqrt{\lambda \varepsilon}}{\text{Area}(S^{n-1})} \mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} (R^2 - \|\vec{x}\|^2)} \right] \sqrt{R^2 - \|\vec{x}\|^2} \int_{S^{n-1}(R)} \frac{u_r(t, \vec{\xi}) - \hat{u}_r(t, \vec{\xi})}{\|\vec{x} - \vec{\xi}\|^n} d\vec{\xi}$$

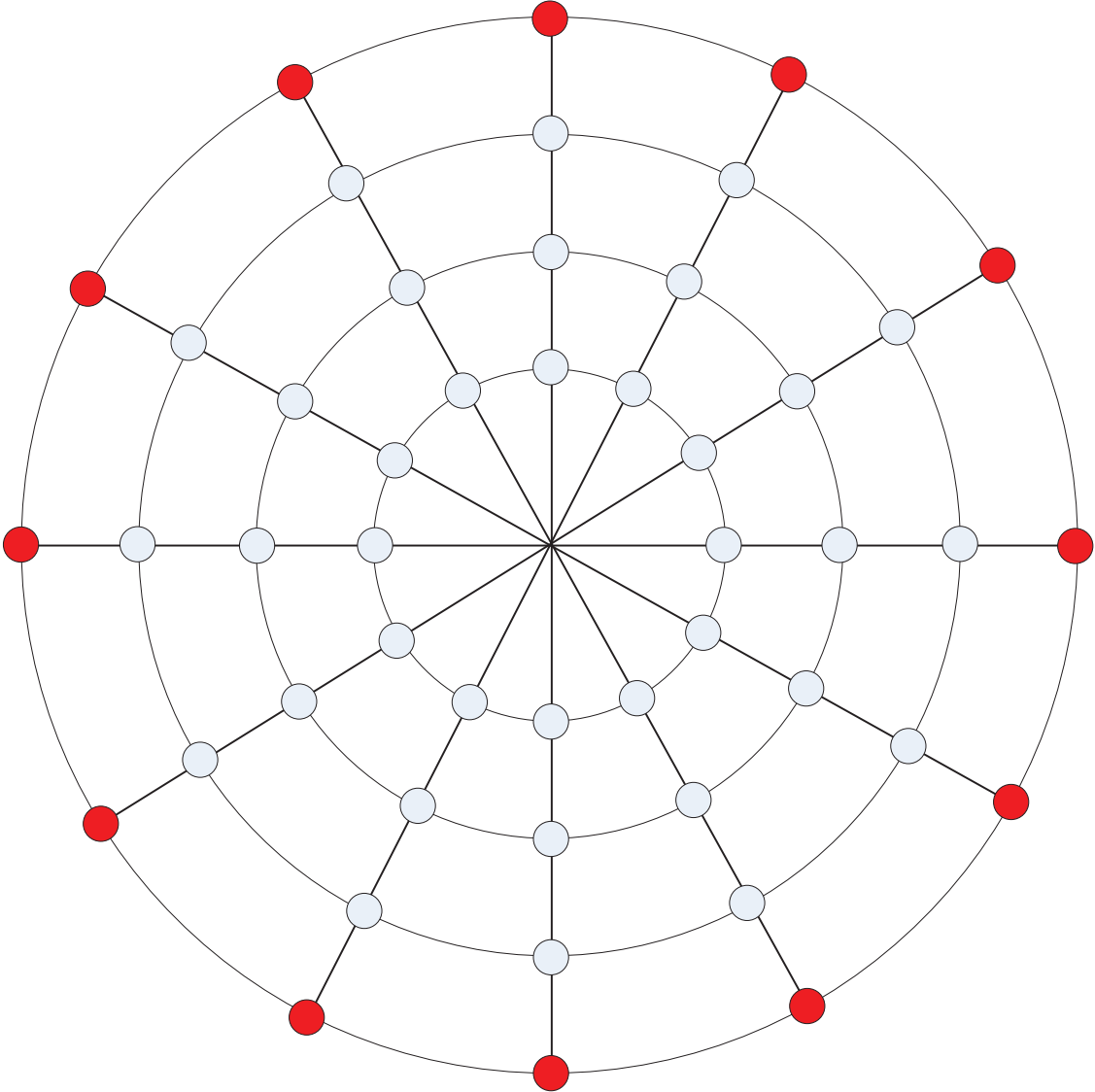
It can be proved that (provided some compatibility conditions are fulfilled) the states  $(u, \hat{u})$  exponentially converge to zero in the  $H^1$  norm.

# Application

Application to motion planning: Multi-agent deployment using unstable PDEs

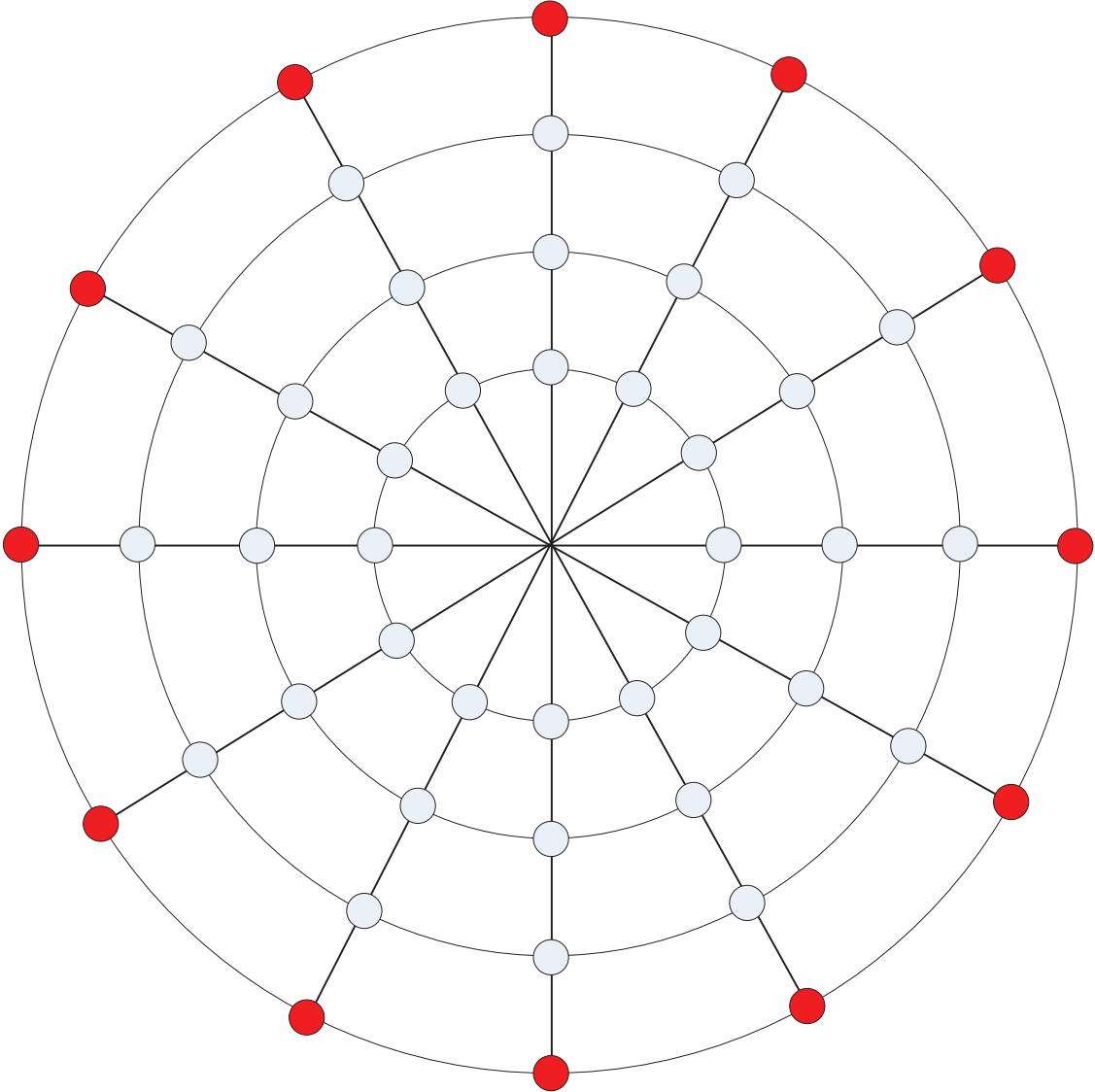
Joint work with Jie Qi (Donghua Univ., Shanghai, China)

Communication topology (polar/disk)



Communication topology (polar/disk)

(actuated agents in red)





Typical model of inter-agent interaction: heat PDE

Limited—can achieve only equidistant deployment (in Cartesian topology)

( $u$  = agent's complex-valued position)

$$u_t(t, r, \theta) = \frac{\varepsilon}{r} (ru_r(t, r, \theta))_r + \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} u_{\theta\theta}(t, r, \theta)$$

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**Reaction-diffusion model of inter-agent interaction:**

( $u$  = agent's complex-valued position)

$$u_t(t, r, \theta) = \frac{\varepsilon}{r} (ru_r(t, r, \theta))_r + \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} u_{\theta\theta}(t, r, \theta) + \lambda u(t, r, \theta)$$

$\varepsilon, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$

Rich deployment shapes but **unstable**

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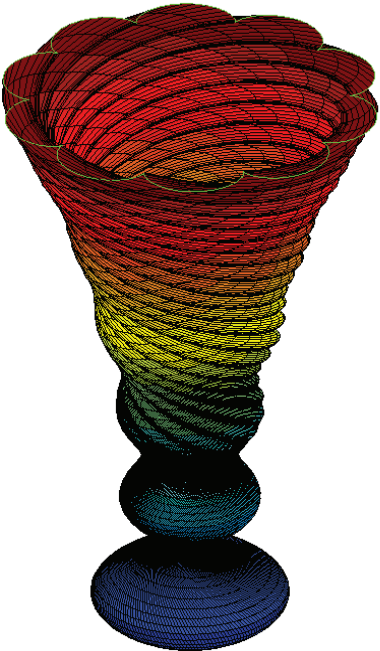
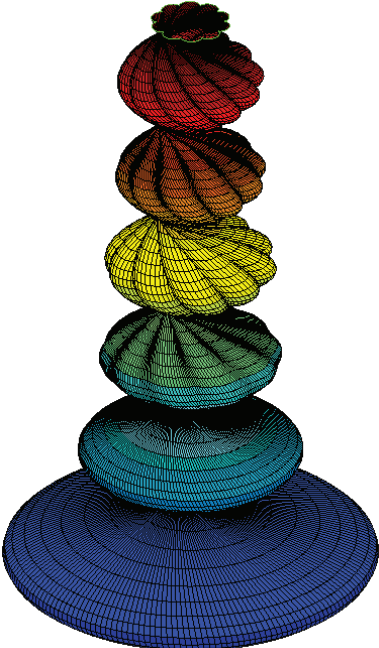
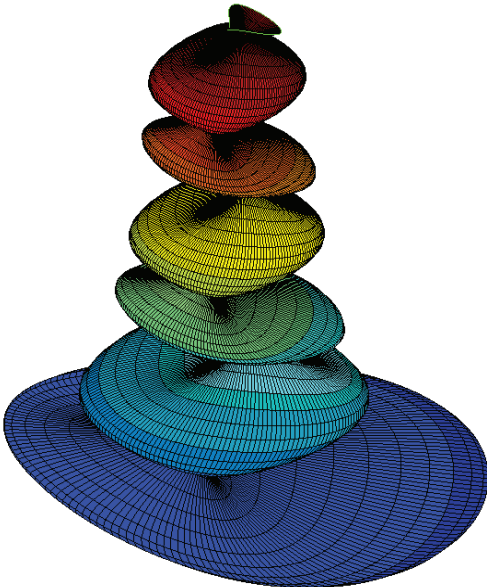
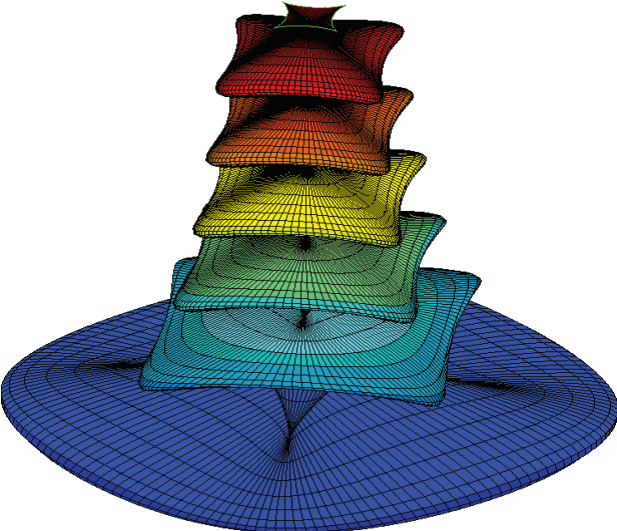
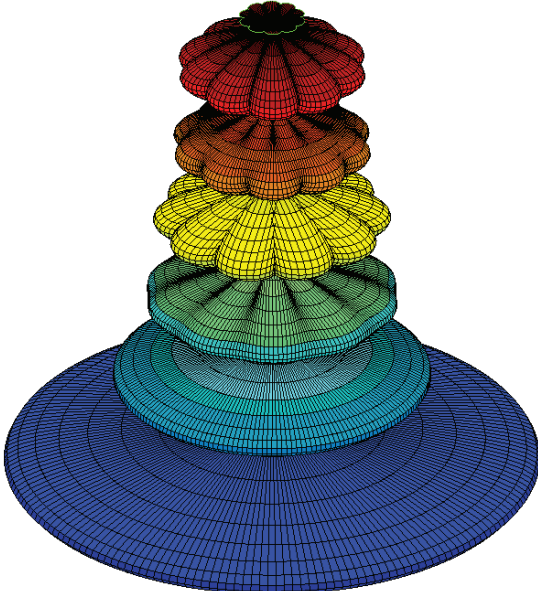
$\varepsilon, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$

Rich deployment shapes but unstable

**Follower agents'** deployment positions as a function of **leader agents'** positions:

$$\bar{u}(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{J_n \left( \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} r \right)}{J_n \left( \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} R \right)} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{jn(\theta-\vartheta)} \bar{U}(\vartheta) d\vartheta$$

Deployment examples



Backstepping controller:

$$U(t, \theta) = \bar{U}(\theta) - \mathcal{K}\{\bar{u}\}(\theta) + \mathcal{K}\{u\}(t, \theta)$$

$$\mathcal{K}\{u\}(t, \theta) = -\frac{\lambda}{4\pi^2\varepsilon} \int_0^R \underbrace{\rho \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}}(R^2 - \rho^2) \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}}(R^2 - \rho^2)}}_{\text{Smyshlyaev kernel}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \underbrace{\frac{1 - \frac{\rho^2}{R^2}}{1 + \frac{\rho^2}{R^2} - 2\frac{\rho}{R} \cos(\theta - \psi)}}_{\text{Poisson kernel}} u(t, \rho, \psi) d\psi d\rho$$

## Extensions and open problems

Consider now the same problem but with spatially-varying coefficient  $\lambda$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \varepsilon \Delta_n u + \lambda(\vec{x})u, \\ u(t, \vec{x}) \Big|_{\vec{x} \in S^{n-1}(R)} &= U(t, \vec{x}) \end{aligned}$$

the question is: what can be done?

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the question is: what can be done?

Consider two cases:

- General  $\lambda(\vec{x})$
- Radially-varying  $\lambda(\|\vec{x}\|)$ .

We will concentrate in the  $2 - D$  and/or  $3 - D$  cases, to simplify:

## 2-D case—general $\lambda(r, \theta)$

$$u_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r} (ru_r)_r + \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} u_{\theta\theta} + \lambda(r, \theta)u,$$

It is not possible to use spherical harmonics (they are no longer eigenfunctions that decouple the problem).

Pose a physical-space transformation:

$$w = u - \int_0^r \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} K(r, \rho, \theta, \psi) u(\rho, \psi) d\psi d\rho,$$

to transform the  $u$  equation into the target system

$$w_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r} (rw_r)_r + \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} w_{\theta\theta},$$



## 2-D case—general $\lambda(r, \theta)$

The kernel verifies the **ultrahyperbolic** equation

$$K_{rr} + \frac{K_r}{r} - K_{\rho\rho} + \frac{K_\rho}{\rho} - \frac{K}{\rho^2} - \frac{K_{\theta\theta}}{r^2} + \frac{K_{\psi\psi}}{\rho^2} = \frac{\lambda(\rho, \psi)}{\varepsilon} K$$

with BC

$$K(r, \rho, 0, \psi) = K(r, \rho, \pi, \psi)$$

$$K(r, \rho, \theta, 0) = K(r, \rho, \theta, \pi)$$

$$K(r, 0, \theta, \psi) = 0,$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} K(r, r, \theta, \psi) u(r, \psi) d\psi = - \int_0^r \frac{\lambda(\rho, \theta)}{2\varepsilon} d\rho u(r, \theta),$$

and the second boundary condition can be verified if

$$\lim_{\rho \rightarrow r} K(r, \rho, \theta, \psi) = -\delta(\theta - \psi) \int_0^r \frac{\lambda(\rho, \theta)}{2\varepsilon} d\rho.$$

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We don't know how to solve, only know there is a solution for constant  $\lambda$ !

$$K(r, \rho, \theta, \psi) = -\rho \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2) \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2)} \frac{r^2 - \rho^2}{r^2 + \rho^2 - 2r\rho \cos(\theta - \psi)}$$

## 2-D case—radially-varying $\lambda(r)$

Now

$$u_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r} (ru_r)_r + \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} u_{\theta\theta} + \lambda(r)u,$$

and we can apply Spherical Harmonics (Fourier series in 2-D) to try to solve the problem.

Kernel equations are

$$K_{nrr} + \frac{K_{nr}}{r} - K_{n\rho\rho} + \frac{K_{n\rho}}{\rho} - \frac{K_n}{\rho^2} - n^2 \left( \frac{1}{r^2} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right) K_n = \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{\varepsilon} K_n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

with BC

$$\begin{aligned} K_n(r, 0) &= 0, \\ K_n(r, r) &= - \int_0^r \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{2\varepsilon} d\rho, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

Due to the singular terms, we don't know how to prove this equation is solvable (or how to solve it), except for a very special case:  $n = 0$ .

## 2-D and 3-D cases, $n = 0$ —totally symmetric problem

The  $n = 0$  case is of some physical interest: if the initial conditions are symmetric (do not depend on the angle or angles in 3-D), this is the only mode that plays a role. It is a typical engineering simplification.

Then the equation is, in 2-D:

$$u_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r} (ru_r)_r + \lambda(r)u$$

and in 3-D:

$$u_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{r^2} (r^2 u_r)_r + \lambda(r)u$$

We apply the method as before but only one kernel (corresponding to the constant Fourier mode or Spherical Harmonic) is needed.

### 3-D case—totally symmetric problem

Kernel equation is:

$$K_{rr} + 2\frac{K_r}{r} - K_{\rho\rho} + 2\frac{K_\rho}{\rho} - 2\frac{K}{\rho^2} = \frac{\lambda(r)}{\varepsilon}K$$
$$K(r, 0) = K_\rho(r, 0) = 0,$$
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Define  $K(r,\rho) = \frac{\rho}{r}\bar{K}(r,\rho)$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{K}_{rr} - \bar{K}_{\rho\rho} &= \frac{\lambda(r)}{\varepsilon}\bar{K} \\ \bar{K}(r,0) &= 0, \\ \bar{K}(r,r) &= -\frac{\lambda r}{2\varepsilon},\end{aligned}$$

which is the 1-D backstepping equation! Can be proved solvable by successive approximations (classical backstepping papers).

### 3-D case—totally symmetric problem

For instance if  $\lambda$  is constant we directly get:

$$K(r, \rho) = \frac{\rho}{r} \bar{K}(r, \rho) = \frac{\rho^2 c}{r \varepsilon} \frac{I_1 \left[ \sqrt{\frac{c}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2) \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{c}{\varepsilon}} (r^2 - \rho^2)}$$

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Interestingly, the 2-D case is harder than the 3-D case. Kernel equations are

$$\begin{aligned}K_{rr} + \frac{K_r}{r} - K_{\rho\rho} + \frac{K_\rho}{\rho} - \frac{K}{\rho^2} &= \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{\varepsilon}K, \\K(r, 0) &= 0, \\K(r, r) &= -\int_0^r \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{2\varepsilon}d\rho\end{aligned}$$



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$$\begin{aligned}K_{rr} + \frac{K_r}{r} - K_{\rho\rho} + \frac{K_\rho}{\rho} - \frac{K}{\rho^2} &= \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{\varepsilon}K, \\K(r, 0) &= 0, \\K(r, r) &= -\int_0^r \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{2\varepsilon}d\rho\end{aligned}$$

Define  $G = \sqrt{\frac{r}{\rho}}K$ . Then, for  $G$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned}G_{rr} - G_{\rho\rho} + \frac{G}{4r^2} - \frac{G}{4\rho^2} &= \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{\varepsilon}G \\G(r, 0) &= 0, \\G(r, r) &= -\int_0^r \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{2\varepsilon}d\rho.\end{aligned}$$

and we can try to prove existence & uniqueness of a solution by using the classical successive approximation method.

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Define new variables  $\alpha = r + \rho$ ,  $\beta = r - \rho$ . The  $G$  equations become

$$\begin{aligned}4G_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{G}{(\alpha + \beta)^2} - \frac{G}{(\alpha - \beta)^2} &= \frac{\lambda\left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2}\right)}{\varepsilon} G \\ G(\beta, \beta) &= 0, \\ G(\alpha, 0) &= - \int_0^{\alpha/2} \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{2\varepsilon} d\rho.\end{aligned}$$

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Define new variables  $\alpha = r + \rho$ ,  $\beta = r - \rho$ . The  $G$  equations become

$$\begin{aligned}4G_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{G}{(\alpha + \beta)^2} - \frac{G}{(\alpha - \beta)^2} &= \frac{\lambda\left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2}\right)}{\varepsilon} G \\ G(\beta, \beta) &= 0, \\ G(\alpha, 0) &= -\int_0^{\alpha/2} \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{2\varepsilon} d\rho.\end{aligned}$$

This can be transformed into the (singular) integral equation

$$\begin{aligned}G(\alpha, \beta) &= -\int_{\beta/2}^{\alpha/2} \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{2\varepsilon} d\rho + \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \frac{\lambda\left(\frac{\eta - \sigma}{2}\right)}{4\varepsilon} G(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta \\ &\quad + \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \frac{\eta\sigma}{(\eta^2 - \sigma^2)^2} G(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta\end{aligned}$$

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Try the successive approximations scheme, by defining

$$G_0(\alpha, \beta) = - \int_{\beta/2}^{\alpha/2} \frac{\lambda(\rho)}{2\varepsilon} d\rho$$

and for  $k > 0$ ,

$$G_k(\alpha, \beta) = \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \frac{\lambda\left(\frac{\eta-\sigma}{2}\right)}{4\varepsilon} G_{k-1}(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta + \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \frac{\eta\sigma}{(\eta^2 - \sigma^2)^2} G_{k-1}(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta$$

then, the solution to the integral equation would be

$$G = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G_k(\alpha, \beta)$$

if the series converges.

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

$$\text{Call } \bar{\lambda} = \max_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{T}'} \left| \frac{\lambda \left( \frac{\alpha - \beta}{2} \right)}{4\varepsilon} \right|.$$

Then one clearly obtains  $|G_0(\alpha, \beta)| \leq \bar{\lambda}(\alpha - \beta)$ .

However when trying to substitute in  $G_1$  even the first integral is not so easy to perform.

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

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Then one clearly obtains  $|G_0(\alpha, \beta)| \leq \bar{\lambda}(\alpha - \beta)$ .

However when trying to substitute in  $G_1$  even the first integral is not so easy to perform. We use an alternative approach based on the following Lemma:

Define, for  $n \geq 0, k \geq 0$ ,

$$F_{nk}(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{\bar{\lambda}^{n+1} \alpha^n \beta^n}{n!(n+1)!} (\alpha - \beta) \frac{\log^k \left( \frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha - \beta} \right)}{k!}.$$

and  $F_{nk} = 0$  if  $n < 0$  or  $k < 0$ . Then  $F_{nk}$  is well-defined and nonnegative in the integration domain for all  $n, k$ ,  $F_{nk}(\beta, \beta) = 0$  for all  $n$  and  $k$ ,  $F_{nk}(\alpha, 0) = 0$  if  $n \geq 1$  or  $k \geq 1$  and  $F_{00}(\alpha, 0) = \alpha$ , and we have the following identity valid for  $n \geq 1$  or  $k \geq 1$ .

$$F_{nk} = \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \bar{\lambda} F_{(n-1)k}(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta + 4 \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \frac{\eta\sigma}{(\eta^2 - \sigma^2)^2} \left( F_{n(k-1)}(\eta, \sigma) - F_{n(k-2)}(\eta, \sigma) \right) d\sigma d\eta$$

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

We use the lemma to try to find estimates for the terms in the successive approximation series:

$$|G_0| \leq F_{00}$$

next

$$|G_1| \leq \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \bar{\lambda} F_{00}(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta + \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \frac{\eta\sigma}{(\eta^2 - \sigma^2)^2} F_{00}(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta = F_{10} + \frac{F_{01}}{4}$$

where we have used the formulas of the lemma. The next term is

$$\begin{aligned} |G_2| &\leq \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \bar{\lambda} \left( F_{10} + \frac{F_{01}}{4} \right) d\sigma d\eta + \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \frac{\eta\sigma}{(\eta^2 - \sigma^2)^2} \left( F_{10} + \frac{F_{01}}{4} \right) d\sigma d\eta \\ &= F_{20} + \frac{F_{11}}{4} + \frac{F_{01} + F_{02}}{16} \end{aligned}$$

If we keep going we find

$$|G_3| \leq F_{30} + \frac{F_{21}}{4} + \frac{F_{11} + F_{12}}{16} + \frac{2F_{01} + 2F_{02} + F_{03}}{64}$$

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

The key to find these numbers is the following. Call:

$$I_1[F] = \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \bar{\lambda} F(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta$$

$$I_2[F] = \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} \int_0^{\beta} \frac{\eta\sigma}{(\eta^2 - \sigma^2)^2} F(\eta, \sigma) d\sigma d\eta$$

For instance, to find a bound on  $G_4$  we find the following:

$$\begin{aligned} I_1[F_{30}] &= F_{40} \\ I_2[F_{30}] + \frac{I_1[F_{21}]}{4} &= \frac{F_{31}}{4} \\ \frac{I_2[F_{21}]}{4} + \frac{I_1[F_{11} + F_{12}]}{16} &= \frac{F_{21} + F_{22}}{16} \\ \frac{I_2[F_{11} + F_{12}]}{16} + \frac{I_1[2F_{01} + 2F_{02} + F_{03}]}{64} &= \frac{2F_{11} + 2F_{12} + F_{13}}{64} \\ \frac{I_2[2F_{01} + 2F_{02} + F_{03}]}{64} &= \frac{5F_{01} + 5F_{02} + 3F_{03} + F_{04}}{256} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$|G_4| \leq F_{40} + \frac{F_{31}}{4} + \frac{F_{21} + F_{22}}{16} + \frac{2F_{11} + 2F_{12} + F_{13}}{64} + \frac{5F_{01} + 5F_{02} + 3F_{03} + F_{04}}{256}$$



## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Based on this structure, we propose the following recursive formula for  $n > 0$ :

$$|G_n| \leq F_{n0} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n-i} \frac{C_{(n-i)j}}{4^{n-i}} F_{ij}$$

where  $C_{ij}$  verifies  $C_{ij} = C_{(i-1)(j-1)} + C_{i(j+1)}$ , taking  $C_{11} = 1$ ,  $C_{i0} = 0$ , and  $C_{ij} = 0$  if  $j > i$ , for all  $i$ . This set of numbers, known as the “Catalan’s Triangle”, verifies many interesting properties.

In particular it can be shown

$$C_{ii} = 1.$$
$$C_{ij} = \sum_{k=j-1}^{i-1} C_{(i-1)k}.$$

which allows us to write the recursive formula

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Let us show in a table the first few numbers.

$C_{ij}$	$j = 1$	$j = 2$	$j = 3$	$j = 4$	$j = 5$	$j = 6$	$j = 7$	$j = 8$	$j = 9$	$j = 10$
$i = 1$	1									
$i = 2$	1	1								
$i = 3$	2	2	1							
$i = 4$	5	5	3	1						
$i = 5$	14	14	9	4	1					
$i = 6$	42	42	28	14	5	1				
$i = 7$	132	132	90	48	20	6	1			
$i = 8$	429	429	297	165	75	27	7	1		
$i = 9$	1430	1430	1001	572	275	110	35	8	1	
$i = 10$	4862	4862	3432	2002	1001	429	154	44	9	1

Catalan's Triangle

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Now, since the solution verifies

$$|G| \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |G_n(\alpha, \beta)|$$

and we found

$$|G_n| \leq F_{n0} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n-i} \frac{C_{(n-i)j}}{4^{n-i}} F_{ij}$$

We get

$$|G| \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_{n0} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n-i} \frac{C_{(n-i)j}}{4^{n-i}} F_{ij}$$

and we only need to prove convergence of this series.

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

First term of the series:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_{n0} = \frac{\bar{\lambda}^{n+1} \alpha^n \beta^n}{n!(n+1)!} (\alpha - \beta) = \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}}}{2} (\alpha - \beta) \frac{I_1 \left[ 2\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}\alpha\beta} \right]}{2\sqrt{\alpha\beta}}$$

For the next term, we use the fact that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} H(n, i) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} H(l+i, i)$$

Therefore

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n-i} \frac{C_{(n-i)j}}{4^{n-i}} F_{ij} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{l+i} \frac{C_{lj}}{4^l} F_{ij} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{l=j}^{\infty} \frac{C_{lj}}{4^l} \right) F_{ij}$$

It turns out that the parenthesis can be calculated and gives an exact sum for each  $j$ .

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

To find the sum, consider first the generating function of the Catalan numbers  $C_{l1}$ :

$$f_1(x) = \frac{2}{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4x}}$$

Remember that a generating function of a sequence of number is a function such that the coefficients of its power series is exactly those of the sequence of numbers.

Thus,

$$f_1(x) = C_{11} + C_{21}x + C_{31}x^2 + \dots = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} C_{l1}x^{l-1}$$

Therefore if we evaluate the function at  $x = 1/4$  we find that

$$f_1\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} C_{l1} \frac{1}{4^{l-1}}$$

thus we find

$$\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{C_{l1}}{4^l} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{C_{lj}}{4^{l-1}} = \frac{f_1\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$$

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Following the previous argument, it is clear that

$$\sum_{l=j}^{\infty} \frac{C_{lj}}{4^l} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{l=j}^{\infty} \frac{C_{lj}}{4^{l-1}} = \frac{f_j(\frac{1}{4})}{4}$$

where we define the generating function  $f_j$  as

$$f_j(x) = \sum_{l=j}^{\infty} C_{lj} x^{l-1}$$

Now since  $C_{l2} = C_{l1}$  but obviously  $C_{12} = 0$ , it is clear that  $f_2 = f_1 - C_{11} = f_1 - 1$ . Thus  $f_2(1/4) = 1$  and we find

$$\sum_{l=2}^{\infty} \frac{C_{l2}}{4^l} = \frac{f_2(\frac{1}{4})}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

To find successive generating functions we use the properties of the Catalan's Triangle and make the following claim:

$$f_n(x) = f_{n-1}(x) - x f_{n-2}(x)$$

Based on this fact, we can now prove that

$$\sum_{l=j}^{\infty} \frac{C_{lj}}{4^l} = \frac{1}{2^j}$$

Thus we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |G| &\leq \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}}}{2}(\alpha - \beta) \frac{I_1 \left[ 2\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}\alpha\beta} \right]}{2\sqrt{\alpha\beta}} + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{F_{ij}}{2^j} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}}}{2}(\alpha - \beta) \frac{I_1 \left[ 2\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}\alpha\beta} \right]}{2\sqrt{\alpha\beta}} + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\bar{\lambda}^{i+1} \alpha^i \beta^i}{i!(i+1)!} (\alpha - \beta) \frac{\log^j \left( \frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha - \beta} \right)}{2^j j!} \end{aligned}$$

## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Summing the series

$$|G| \leq \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}}}{2}(\alpha - \beta) \frac{I_1 \left[ 2\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}\alpha\beta} \right]}{2\sqrt{\alpha\beta}} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{\log^j \left( \frac{\alpha+\beta}{\alpha-\beta} \right)}{2^j j!} \right),$$

therefore

$$|G| \leq \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}}}{2}(\alpha - \beta) \frac{I_1 \left[ 2\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}\alpha\beta} \right]}{2\sqrt{\alpha\beta}} e^{\log \left( \sqrt{\frac{\alpha+\beta}{\alpha-\beta}} \right)} = \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}}}{2} \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \beta^2} \frac{I_1 \left[ 2\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}\alpha\beta} \right]}{2\sqrt{\alpha\beta}}$$

In physical variables  $r$  and  $\rho$ :

$$|G| \leq \sqrt{\bar{\lambda}} \sqrt{r\rho} \frac{I_1 \left[ 2\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}(r^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{2\sqrt{r^2 - \rho^2}}$$



## 2-D case—totally symmetric problem

Finally, going back to the original  $K$ , we find

$$|K(r, \rho)| \leq \rho \sqrt{\bar{\lambda}} \frac{I_1 \left[ 2\sqrt{\bar{\lambda}(r^2 - \rho^2)} \right]}{2\sqrt{r^2 - \rho^2}}$$

Thus, we have shown that the successive approximation series converges, with the solution  $K$  verifying the above bound. Uniqueness can be proved easily from the successive approximation series.

Unfortunately, this approach does not seem to be extensible for other Fourier coefficients.

## Final remarks

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Open problems: higher regularity for  $n > 2$ , space-varying  $\lambda(r, \vec{\theta})$  (partial solution for radially-varying  $\lambda$ ), more complicated domains



# Merci!

## Questions?

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