

A Sturm-Liouville problem

Consider the Sturm-Liouville problem

$$\begin{aligned}y''(x) &= -\lambda y(x) && \text{for } 0 < x < l \\y(0) &= 0 \\y(l) + y'(l) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

1. Use a Raleigh quotient (or energy) argument to bound the set of eigenvalues.
Hint: Multiply both sides of the ODE by y and then integrate both sides from $x = 0$ to $x = l$.
2. Find a “characteristic equation” for the eigenvalues.
3. Use your equation from 2 to argue that there are countably many eigenvalues λ_n that can be ordered as $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots$ with $\lambda_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
Hint: Think graphically.
4. Estimate λ_1 , λ_2 , and λ_3 .
5. Come up with a formula that gives approximate values of λ_n for large values of n .