

**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 Rayleigh 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  $\lambda_n$  that can be ordered as  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots$  with  $\lambda_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .  
Hint: Think graphically.
4. Estimate  $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$ , and  $\lambda_3$ .
5. Come up with a formula that gives approximate values of  $\lambda_n$  for large values of  $n$ .
6. Find the eigenfunctions.