

1. (10 marks) Find the solution of the inhomogeneous wave equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = x^2 t^2$$

in the region $x \geq 0$, $t \geq 0$, subject to the initial conditions

$$u(x, 0) = 0 ; u_t(x, 0) = 0$$

and the boundary condition

$$u(0, t) = 0 .$$

Ans: $c = 2$.

Using the integral formula, we have the particular solution

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= -\frac{c}{2} \int_0^t \tau^2 d\tau \int_{x-c(t-\tau)}^{x+c(t-\tau)} \sigma^2 d\sigma \\ &= -\int_0^t \tau^2 d\tau \left[\frac{1}{3} (x + 2(t - \tau))^3 - \frac{1}{3} (x - 2(t - \tau))^3 \right] \\ &= -\int_0^t \tau^2 d\tau \left[4x^2(t - \tau) + \frac{16}{3} (t - \tau)^3 \right] \\ &= -4x^2 \int_0^t (t\tau^2 - \tau^3) d\tau - \frac{16}{3} \int_0^t (t^3\tau^2 - 3t^2\tau^3 + 3t\tau^4 - \tau^5) d\tau \\ &= -4x^2 t^4 \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \right) - \frac{16}{3} t^6 \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{5} - \frac{1}{6} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{3} x^2 t^4 - \frac{4}{45} t^6 \end{aligned}$$

This solution satisfies the homogeneous initial conditions, and is the required solution for $x > 2t$.

When $x = 0$, the particular solution is $-\frac{4}{45}t^6$, therefore to satisfy the boundary condition we add $\frac{4}{45}(t - \frac{1}{2}x)^6$ in the region $0 < x < 2t$.

$$u(x, t) = \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{3}x^2t^4 - \frac{4}{45}t^6 & x > 2t \\ \frac{4}{45}((t - \frac{1}{2}x)^6 - t^6) - \frac{1}{3}x^2t^4 & 0 < x < 2t \end{cases}$$

2. (5 marks) Derive the adjoint operator \mathcal{L}^* to the operator

$$\mathcal{L}(y) = p_2(x) \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + p_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + p_0(x)y$$

on the interval $a \leq x \leq b$.

Under what condition is $\mathcal{L}^* = \mathcal{L}$?

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b v \mathcal{L}(y) dx &= \int_a^b [(vp_2)y'' + (vp_1)y' + (vp_0)y] dy \\ &= [(vp_2)y' + (vp_1)y]_a^b \\ &\quad + \int_a^b [-(vp_2)'y' - (vp_1)'y + (vp_0)y] dx \\ &= [(vp_2)y' + (vp_1)y - (vp_2)'y]_a^b \\ &\quad + \int_a^b [(vp_2)''y - (vp_1)'y + (vp_0)y] dx \\ &= [(vp_2)y' + (vp_1)y - (vp_2)'y]_a^b \\ &\quad + \int_a^b y[p_2v'' + (2p_2' - p_1)v' + (p_2'' - p_1' + p_0)v] dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^*(v) = p_2v'' + (2p_2' - p_1)v' + (p_2'' - p_1' + p_0)v$$

If $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}^*$,

$$\begin{aligned} p_2 &= p_2 \\ 2p_2' - p_1 &= p_1 ; p_1 = p_2' \\ p_2'' - p_1' + p_0 &= p_0 ; p_1' = p_2'' \end{aligned}$$

which is satisfied if $p_1 = p_2'$.

3. (15 marks) Find the solution of Laplace's equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

in the square $0 \leq x \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$, subject to the boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, 0) &= 0 ; u(x, 1) = 0 \\ u(0, y) &= 0 ; u(1, y) = y(1 - y) \end{aligned}$$

Ans Consider the separated solution $X(x)Y(y)$ where $Y(0) = Y(1) = 0$.

The eigenfunctions $Y(y)$ satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} Y'' + \omega^2 Y &= 0 ; Y(0) = Y(1) = 0 \\ Y &= A \sin(\omega x) + B \cos(\omega x) \\ Y(0) &= B = 0 \\ Y(1) &= A \sin(\omega) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

so that for non-trivial solution

$$\begin{aligned} \omega &= \omega_n = n\pi ; n = 1, 2, \dots \\ Y_n(y) &= \sin(n\pi y) \end{aligned}$$

The corresponding amplitudes $X_n(x)$ satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} X_n'' - (n\pi)^2 X_n &= 0 \\ X_n &= a_n \sinh(n\pi x) + b_n \cosh(n\pi x) \end{aligned}$$

If we look for a solution in the form

$$u(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \sinh(n\pi x) + b_n \cosh(n\pi x)) \sin(n\pi y)$$

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then

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(0, y) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(n\pi y) = 0 \\
 b_n &= 0 \quad \forall n \\
 u(1, y) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sinh(n\pi) \sin(n\pi y) = y(1 - y) \\
 a_n \sinh(n\pi) \int_0^1 \sin^2(n\pi y) dy &= \int_0^1 y(1 - y) \sin(n\pi y) dy \\
 \frac{1}{2} \sinh(n\pi) a_n &= -\frac{1}{n\pi} y(1 - y) \cos(n\pi y) \Big|_0^1 + \frac{1}{n\pi} \int_0^1 (1 - 2y) \cos(n\pi y) dy \\
 &= \frac{1}{n^2 \pi^2} (1 - 2y) \sin(n\pi y) \Big|_0^1 + \frac{2}{n^2 \pi^2} \int_0^1 \sin(n\pi y) dy \\
 &= \frac{2}{n^3 \pi^3} (\cos(0) - \cos(n\pi)) = \frac{2}{n^3 \pi^3} (1 - (-1)^n) \\
 a_n &= \begin{cases} 0 & n = 2m \\ \frac{8}{\sinh((2m+1)\pi)} \frac{1}{\pi^3 (2m+1)^3} & n = 2m + 1 \end{cases} \\
 u(x, y) &= \frac{8}{\pi^3} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2m+1)^3} \frac{\sinh((2m+1)\pi x)}{\sinh((2m+1)\pi)} \sin((2m+1)\pi y)
 \end{aligned}$$