

①

Hint for 7) We seek solutions to  $u_t - k u_{xx} = 0$  of the form  $u(x,t) = v\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right)$

(You may let  $y = \frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}$  from where

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = -\frac{x}{2t\sqrt{t}}; \quad \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}; \quad \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = 0$$

Or you may proceed directly. Either way you have:

$$u_t(x,t) \Rightarrow -\frac{x}{2t\sqrt{t}} v'\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right)$$

$$u_x(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} v'\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right)$$

$$u_{xx}(x,t) = \frac{1}{t} v''\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right)$$

Hence  $u_t - k u_{xx} = 0$  gives

$$-\frac{x}{2t\sqrt{t}} v'\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right) - k \frac{1}{t} v''\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right) = 0$$

Multiply  
by  $-\frac{t}{k}$

$$\frac{x}{2k\sqrt{t}} v'\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right) + v''\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right) = 0$$

(2)

Which in terms of  $y$  would read

$$(†) \quad \frac{y}{2k} v'(y) + v''(y) = 0.$$

(or just use an integrating factor) Suppose we want to solve (†). Then it is easier to let  $w(y) = v'(y)$  whence (†) becomes

$$(††) \quad \frac{y}{2k} w(y) + w'(y) = 0$$

and a solution of (††) is

$$w(y) = c e^{-y^2/4k}$$

⇒ integrating get

$$v(y) = c_1 + c_2 \int^y e^{-y^2/4k} dy$$

or

$$v\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right) = c_1 + c_2 \int_{\frac{x}{\sqrt{4kt}}}^x e^{-z^2} dz$$

$$u(x,t) = c_1 + c_2 \operatorname{Erf}\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{4kt}}\right) \quad \#$$