

**MTH 166**

**Lecture-20**

**Solution of Wave Equation**

**Topic:**

Solution of Partial Differential Equations

**Learning Outcomes:**

- 1.** To solve one dimensional Wave Equation
- 2.** D' Alembert's solution of infinitely long wave

**Problem.** Solve  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = C^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$  [1D-Wave Equation];  $c^2$  is Diffusivity constant.

**Solution.** The given one dimensional wave equation is:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = C^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

(1)  $0 \leq x \leq l$  (length),  $t > 0$  (time)

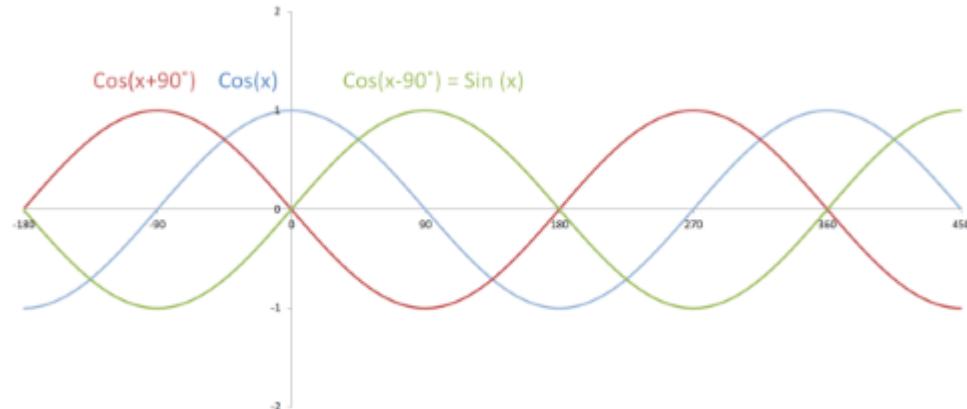
Let solution be:  $u(x, t) = XT$

(2) where  $X = f(x), T = g(t)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = XT'' \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = X''T$$

Equation (1) becomes:  $XT'' = C^2 X''T$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{X''}{X} = \frac{1}{C^2} \frac{T''}{T} = k \quad (\text{Say})$$



As  $k$  can take three values: zero, positive or negative, so we have following three cases.

**Case 1.** When  $k = 0$

$$\frac{X''}{X} = k \quad \Rightarrow \frac{X''}{X} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow X'' = 0 \quad \Rightarrow X = ax + b$$

Also  $\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{T''}{T} = k \quad \Rightarrow \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{T''}{T} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow T'' = 0 \quad \Rightarrow T = ct + d$

Required solution of equation (1) is:

$$u(x, t) = XT = (ax + b)(ct + d)$$

**Case 2.** When  $k = p^2$  (Positive)

$$\frac{X''}{X} = k \quad \Rightarrow \frac{X''}{X} = p^2 \quad \Rightarrow X'' - p^2X = 0$$

S.F.  $(D^2 - p^2)X = 0$

A.E.  $(D^2 - p^2) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow D = \pm p$

$$\therefore X = ae^{px} + be^{-px}$$

Also  $\frac{1}{C^2} \frac{T''}{T} = k \Rightarrow \frac{1}{C^2} \frac{T''}{T} = p^2 \Rightarrow T'' - C^2 p^2 T = 0$

S.F.  $(D^2 - C^2 p^2)T = 0$

A.E.  $(D^2 - C^2 p^2) = 0 \Rightarrow D = \pm Cp$

$$\therefore T = ce^{Cpt} + de^{-Cpt}$$

Required solution of equation (1) is:

$$u(x, t) = XT = (ae^{px} + be^{-px})(ce^{Cpt} + de^{-Cpt})$$

or

$$u(x, t) = XT = (a \cosh px + b \sinh px)(c \cosh Cpt + d \sinh Cpt)$$

**Case 3.** When  $k = -p^2$  (Negative)

$$\frac{X''}{X} = k \Rightarrow \frac{X''}{X} = -p^2 \Rightarrow X'' + p^2 X = 0$$

S.F.  $(D^2 + p^2)X = 0$

A.E.  $(D^2 + p^2) = 0 \Rightarrow D = \pm ip$

$$\therefore X = e^{0x}(a \cos px + b \sin px)$$

Also  $\frac{1}{C^2} \frac{T''}{T} = k \Rightarrow \frac{1}{C^2} \frac{T''}{T} = -p^2 \Rightarrow T'' + C^2 p^2 T = 0$

S.F.  $(D^2 + C^2 p^2)T = 0$

A.E.  $(D^2 + C^2 p^2) = 0 \Rightarrow D = \pm iCp$

$$\therefore T = e^{0t}(c \cos Cpt + d \sin Cpt)$$

Required solution of equation (1) is:

$$u(x, t) = XT = (a \cos px + b \sin px)(c \cos Cpt + d \sin Cpt)$$

This is the most suitable and practically feasible solution of wave equation.

**Note:** For Wave Equation

Equation:  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = C^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$

Nature: Hyperbolic

Solution: 1.  $u(x, t) = (ax + b)(ct + d)$

2.  $u(x, t) = (ae^{px} + be^{-px})(ce^{Cpt} + de^{-Cpt})$

or

$$u(x, t) = (a \cosh px + b \sinh px)(c \cosh Cpt + d \sinh Cpt)$$

3.  $u(x, t) = XT = (a \cos px + b \sin px)(c \cos Cpt + d \sin Cpt)$  (Most suitable one)

## **D'Alembert's Solution of Infinitely long wave (string)**

Let given wave equation be:  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = C^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$  (1)

such that  $-\infty < x < \infty, t > 0$

with initial displacement =  $f(x)$  and initial velocity =  $g(x)$

Then. D'Alembert's solution of equation (1) is given by:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} [f(x + Ct) + f(x - Ct)] + \frac{1}{2C} \int_{x-Ct}^{x+Ct} g(s) ds$$

**Find D'Alembert's solution of following:**

**Problem 1.**  $f(x) = \sin x, g(x) = a$

**Solution.**  $f(x + ct) = \sin(x + ct), f(x - ct) = \sin(x - ct), g(s) = a$

D'Alembert's solution is given by:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} [f(x + Ct) + f(x - Ct)] + \frac{1}{2C} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} g(s) ds$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} [\sin(x + ct) + \sin(x - ct)] + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} a ds$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} [\sin x \cos ct + \cos x \sin ct + \sin x \cos ct - \cos x \sin ct] + \frac{a}{2c} [x + ct - x + ct]$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} [2 \sin x \cos ct] + \frac{a}{2c} [2ct]$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = \sin x \cos ct + at \quad \text{Answer.}$$

**Find D'Alembert's solution of following:**

**Problem 2.**  $f(x) = 0, g(x) = \cos x$

**Solution.**  $f(x + ct) = 0, f(x - ct) = 0, g(s) = \cos s$

D'Alembert's solution is given by:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} [f(x + ct) + f(x - ct)] + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} g(s) ds$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} [0 + 0] + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} \cos s ds$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2c} [\sin s]_{x-ct}^{x+ct} = \frac{1}{2c} [\sin(x + ct) - \sin(x - ct)]$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2c} [\sin x \cos ct + \cos x \sin ct - \sin x \cos ct + \cos x \sin ct]$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x, t) = \frac{1}{c} [\cos x \sin ct] \quad \text{Answer.}$$



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