

Optional Homework Assignment #12

1. $g(t) = H(T-t)$ for $T > 0$ fixed

$$u(x,t) = \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\pi D}} \int_0^t g(t-\tau) \frac{e^{-x^2/4D\tau}}{\tau^{3/2}} d\tau = \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\pi D}} \int_0^t g(t') \frac{e^{-x^2/4D(t-t')}}{(t-t')^{3/2}} dt'$$

$$= \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\pi D}} \int_0^t H(T-t') \frac{e^{-x^2/4D(t-t')}}{(t-t')^{3/2}} dt' = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\pi D}} \int_0^t \frac{e^{-x^2/4D\tau}}{\tau^{3/2}} d\tau & \text{if } t < T \\ \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\pi D}} \int_0^T \frac{e^{-x^2/4D\tau}}{\tau^{3/2}} d\tau & \text{if } t \geq T \end{cases}$$

Now $\frac{x}{2\sqrt{\pi D}} \int_0^t \frac{e^{-x^2/4D\tau}}{\tau^{3/2}} d\tau = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{\frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}}}^{\infty} e^{-r^2} dr = \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}}\right)$

$r = \frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \quad \downarrow \quad -4\sqrt{D} dr = \frac{dx}{\tau^{3/2}}$

so $u(x,t) = \begin{cases} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}}\right) & t < T \\ \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{x}{2\sqrt{DT}}\right) & t \geq T \end{cases}$

2. $U(r,s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} u(r,t) dt \rightarrow sU - u(r,0) = \frac{D}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial U}{\partial r} \right) \rightarrow$

$$r^2 \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial r^2} + r \frac{\partial U}{\partial r} - \frac{s}{D} r^2 U = 0, \text{ and } U(a,s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} dt = 1/s$$

Just like in the class example, U can be written as a linear combination of modified Bessel functions K_0, I_0 but because of the demand for boundedness, $U(r,s) = A K_0(r\sqrt{s/D})$.

Letting $r \rightarrow a$, $1/s = A K_0(a\sqrt{s/D}) \rightarrow$

$$U(r,s) = \frac{K_0(r\sqrt{s/D})}{s K_0(a\sqrt{s/D})}$$

Now for $s \gg 1$, $U \sim \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2a\sqrt{s/D}}} e^{-r\sqrt{s/D}}}{s \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2a\sqrt{s/D}}} e^{-a\sqrt{s/D}}} = \sqrt{\frac{a}{r}} \frac{1}{s} e^{-\sqrt{s}(r-a\sqrt{D})}$

Now $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{s} e^{-b\sqrt{s}}\right) = \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{t}}\right)$; here $b = \frac{r-a}{\sqrt{D}}$, so

for small t $u(r,t) \sim \sqrt{\frac{a}{r}} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{r-a}{2\sqrt{Dt}}\right)$.