

1. Find the fundamental period of the function $\cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$. (Circle only one)

(a) 2π

(b) $2L$

(c) $\frac{2L}{n}$

(d) $2n\pi$

$$\begin{aligned}\cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L} + 2\pi\right) &= \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \\ &= \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\left(x + \frac{2\pi L}{n\pi}\right)\right) \\ &= \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\left(x + \frac{2L}{n}\right)\right).\end{aligned}$$

2. Consider $y'' + \lambda y = 0$ with $y(0) = y(\pi) = 0$, where $0 < x < \pi$. We know only when $\lambda > 0$, the equation has nontrivial solutions. Find those eigenvalues for λ . (Circle only one)

(a) $\lambda = n^2$, for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

(b) $\lambda = \frac{(2n-1)^2}{4}$, for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

(c) $\lambda = n$, for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

(d) $\lambda = \frac{(2n-1)}{2}$, for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$$\lambda > 0: \quad r^2 + \lambda = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm \sqrt{\lambda} i$$

$$y = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda} x) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda} x)$$

$$y(0) = c_1 = 0, \quad y(\pi) = c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda} \pi) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin(\sqrt{\lambda} \pi) = 0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{\lambda} = n$$

$$\text{So } \lambda = n^2 \text{ for } n = 1, 2, \dots$$

3. Use the method of separation of variables to reduce the partial differential equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x^2}$ into a pair of ordinary differential equations. Here $u = u(x, t)$. (Your answer may involve a constant λ .)

$$\text{Let } u = X(x) T(t), \neq 0.$$

$$\text{So } X \cdot T'' = X'' \cdot T.$$

$$\text{Then } \frac{T''}{T} = \frac{X''}{X} = -\lambda \quad \text{Some constant.}$$

$$\text{So } T'' + \lambda T = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad X'' + \lambda X = 0.$$