

MATH 245 Homework 5

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2024-04-10

Problem 1: Inhomogeneous Heat Equation

Using the method of separation of variables, solve the inhomogeneous heat equation:

$$\begin{cases} u_t - ku_{xx} = x \cos t & 0 < x < \pi, \quad t > 0 \\ u(0, x) = \sin(\pi x) & 0 < x < \pi \\ u(t, 0) = t^2, \quad u(t, \pi) = 2t & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Step 1

We will use the principle of superposition and write $u(t, x) = v(t, x) + w(t, x)$, so $v = u - w$. Then for $v(t, x)$, we have

$$\begin{cases} v_t - kv_{xx} = x \cos t - w_t + kw_{xx} & 0 < x < \pi, \quad t > 0 \\ v(0, x) = u(0, x) - w(0, x) = \sin(\pi x) - w(0, x) & 0 < x < \pi \\ v(t, 0) = u(t, 0) - w(t, 0) = t^2 - t^2 = 0 & t > 0 \\ v(t, \pi) = u(t, \pi) - w(t, \pi) = 2t - 2t = 0 & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

So we want a function $w(t, x)$ such that $w(t, 0) = t^2$ and $w(t, \pi) = 2t$. The following function satisfies these requirements, and also has the convenient properties that $w_{xx}(t, x) = 0$ and $w(0, x) = 0$.

$$w(t, x) = t^2 + \frac{2t - t^2}{\pi}x$$
$$w_t(t, x) = 2t + \frac{2 - 2t}{\pi}x$$

Thus, set $H(t, x) = x \cos t - 2t - \frac{2-2t}{\pi}x$, and our problem simplifies to

$$\begin{cases} v_t - kv_{xx} = H(t, x) & 0 < x < \pi, \quad t > 0 \\ v(0, x) = \sin(\pi x) & 0 < x < \pi \\ v(t, 0) = 0 & t > 0 \\ v(t, \pi) = 0 & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Step 2

Assume (3) has a separated solution $v(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$. Based on the Dirichlet BCs, we will assume the solution takes the form

$$v(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \sin (nx)$$

Where the π in the numerator cancels with $L = \pi$ in the denominator of $\sin \left(\frac{n\pi x}{L} \right)$. Now we substitute this into the PDE in (3):

$$H(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [b_n''(t) + kn^2 b_n(t)] \sin (nx) \quad (4)$$

Step 3

For each fixed t , we write $H(t, x)$ as the Fourier sine series

$$H(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q_n(t) \sin (nx) \quad (5)$$

Such that

$$\begin{aligned} q_n(t) &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L H(t, x) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) dx \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} H(t, x) \sin (nx) dx \end{aligned}$$

Step 4

By (4) and (5), we get

$$b_n''(t) + kn^2 b_n(t) = q_n(t)$$

$$\mu(t) = \exp \left(\int_0^t kn^2 ds \right) = e^{kn^2 t}$$

$$b_n(t) = \frac{1}{\mu(t)} \left[\int_0^t \mu(s) q_n(s) + b_n(0) \right]$$

$$b_n(t) = e^{-kn^2 t} b_n(0) + \int_0^t e^{kn^2 (s-t)} q_n(s) ds$$

Step 5

To find $b_n(0)$, we use the IC from (3):

$$v(0, x) = \sin (\pi x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(0) \sin (nx)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
b_n(0) &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \sin(\pi x) \cos(nx) dx \\
&= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \sin(x(\pi+n)) + \sin(x(\pi-n)) dx \\
&= \left[\frac{-\cos(x(\pi+n))}{\pi(\pi+n)} \right]_0^\pi + \left[\frac{-\cos(x(\pi-n))}{\pi(\pi-n)} \right]_0^\pi \\
&= \left[\frac{1 - \cos(\pi(\pi+n))}{\pi(\pi+n)} \right] + \left[\frac{1 - \cos(\pi(\pi-n))}{\pi(\pi-n)} \right] \\
&= 2 \left[\frac{1 + \cos(\pi^2)(-1)^{n+1}}{\pi(\pi+n)} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Where we used $\cos(\alpha + \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta - \sin \alpha \sin \beta$ to find that

$$\cos(\pi^2 + n\pi) = \cos(\pi^2) \cos(n\pi) - \sin(\pi^2) \sin(n\pi) = \cos(\pi^2)(-1)^n$$

$$\cos(\pi^2 - n\pi) = \cos(\pi^2) \cos(n\pi) + \sin(\pi^2) \sin(n\pi) = \cos(\pi^2)(-1)^n$$

Step 6

Solution

The solution of (1) is then

$$u(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[b_n(t) \sin(nx) \right] + t^2 + \frac{2t - t^2}{\pi} x$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
b_n(t) &= 2e^{-kn^2 t} \left[\frac{1 + \cos(\pi^2)(-1)^{n+1}}{\pi(\pi+n)} \right] + \int_0^t e^{kn^2(s-t)} q_n(s) \\
q_n(t) &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi H(t, x) \sin(nx) dx, \quad H(t, x) = x \cos t - 2t - \frac{2-2t}{\pi} x
\end{aligned}$$

Problem 2: Inhomogeneous Wave Equation

Using the method of separation of variables, solve the inhomogeneous wave equation:

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} - c^2 u_{xx} = F(t, x) & 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0 \\ u(0, x) = \phi(x) & 0 < x < L \\ u_t(0, x) = \psi(x) & 0 < x < L \\ u_x(t, 0) = h(t), \quad u_x(t, L) = g(t) & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

Step 1

We will use the principle of superposition and write $u(t, x) = v(t, x) + w(t, x)$, so $v = u - w$. Then for $v(t, x)$, we have

$$\begin{cases} \square v = F(t, x) - \square w = F(t, x) - w_{tt} + c^2 w_{xx} = H(t, x) & 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0 \\ v(0, x) = u(0, x) - w(0, x) = \phi(x) - w(0, x) = \Phi(x) & 0 < x < L \\ v_t(0, x) = u_t(0, x) - w_t(0, x) = \psi(x) - w_t(0, x) = \Psi(x) & 0 < x < L \\ v_x(t, 0) = u_x(t, 0) - w_x(t, 0) = h(t) - h(t) = 0 \\ v_x(t, L) = u_x(t, L) - w_x(t, L) = g(t) - g(t) = 0 & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{cases} \square v = H(t, x) & 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0 \\ v(0, x) = \Phi(x) & 0 < x < L \\ v_t(0, x) = \Psi(x) & 0 < x < L \\ v_x(t, 0) = 0 \\ v_x(t, L) = 0 & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

and for w , we have

$$\begin{cases} w_{xx} = 0 \\ w_x(t, 0) = h(t) \\ w_x(t, L) = g(t) \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

For $w(t, x)$, we will use a function of the form

$$w(t, x) = \left(x - \frac{x^2}{2L}\right) h(t) + \frac{x^2}{2L} g(t)$$

$$w_x = h(t) - \frac{x}{L} h(t) + \frac{x}{L} g(t)$$

$$w_{xx} = \frac{1}{L} (g(t) - h(t))$$

So that we will have $w_x(t, 0) = h(t)$, $w_x(t, L) = g(t)$.

Step 2: Solve (8)

Assume (8) has the separated solution $v(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$ and consider the following eigenvalue problem

$$\begin{cases} x'' + \lambda X = 0 \\ X'(0) = X'(L) = 0 \end{cases}$$

We know that the solution to this eigenvalue problem is

$$\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2, \quad X_n(x) = \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Step 3

Now, let's write $v(t, x)$ as

$$v(t, x) = a_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(t) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

and substitute this into the PDE of (8).

$$\begin{aligned}
v_{tt}(t, x) &= a_0''(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n''(t) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \\
c^2 v_{xx}(t, x) &= - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{n\pi c}{L}\right)^2 a_n(t) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \\
H(t, x) &= a_0''(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[a_n''(t) + \left(\frac{n\pi c}{L}\right)^2 a_n(t) \right] \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

Step 4

For a fixed t , we write $H(t, x)$ as the Fourier cosine series

$$H(t, x) = q_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q_n(t) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \tag{11}$$

Such that

$$\begin{aligned}
q_n(t) &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L H(t, x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\
q_0(t) &= \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L H(t, x) dx
\end{aligned}$$

Step 5

Variation of Parameters

Consider an ODE

$$(*) \quad y'' + a(x)y' + b(x)y = c(x)$$

and assume $\{y_1(x), y_2(x)\}$ are fundamental solutions of the associated homogeneous equation

$$(**) \quad y'' + a(x)y' + b(x)y = 0$$

Then the general solution of $(**)$ is $y_h(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x)$ for $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ and the solution of $(*)$ is the sum of the general and particular solutions, $y = y_h + y_p$, where

$$y_p = -y_1(x) \int \frac{y_2(s)c(s)}{W(y_1, y_2)} ds + y_2(x) \int \frac{y_1(s)c(s)}{W(y_1, y_2)} ds$$

where

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix}$$

Combine (10) and (11):

$$\begin{aligned}
q_0(t) &= a_0''(t) \\
q_n(t) &= a_n''(t) + \left(\frac{n\pi c}{L}\right)^2 a_n(t)
\end{aligned}$$

First we find the fundamental solution of

$$a_0''(t) = 0$$

$$a_0^H = A_0 t + B_0$$

for $A_0, B_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Call $y_1 = 1, y_2 = t$.

$$W(1, t) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1$$

$$a_0^P(t) = - \int_0^t s q_n(s) ds + t \int_0^t q_n(s) ds = \int_0^t (t-s) q_n(s) ds$$

$$a_0(t) = A_0 t + B_0 + \int_0^t (t-s) q_n(s) ds$$

Now we find the fundamental solutions of

$$a_n''(t) + \left(\frac{n\pi c}{L} \right)^2 a_n(t) = 0$$

This has the characteristic equation $r^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi c}{L} \right)^2 = 0$, giving us $\{y_1, y_2\} = \left\{ \cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right), \sin\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right) \right\}$. Thus, the general solution to the homogeneous problem is

$$a_n^H(t) = A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right) + B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right)$$

for $A_n, B_n \in \mathbb{R}, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$W(y_1, y_2)(s) = \begin{vmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi cs}{L}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{n\pi cs}{L}\right) \\ -\frac{n\pi c}{L} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi cs}{L}\right) & \frac{n\pi c}{L} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi cs}{L}\right) \end{vmatrix} = \frac{n\pi c}{L}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_n^P(t) &= -\cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right) \int_0^t \frac{\sin\left(\frac{n\pi cs}{L}\right) q_n(s)}{W(y_1, y_2)} ds + \sin\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right) \int_0^t \frac{\cos\left(\frac{n\pi cs}{L}\right) q_n(s)}{W(y_1, y_2)} ds \\ &= \int_0^t \frac{\sin\left(\frac{n\pi c}{L}(t-s)\right) q_n(s)}{W(y_1, y_2)} ds \\ &= \int_0^t \frac{\sin\left(\frac{n\pi c}{L}(t-s)\right) q_n(s)}{\frac{n\pi c}{L}} ds \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $a_n(t) = a_n^H(t) + a_n^P(t)$, but the A_n, B_n in $a_n^H(t)$ and the A_0, B_0 in $a_0^H(t)$ are still unknown.

Step 6

To find A_0, B_0, A_n, B_n , we use the initial conditions from (8).

$$\Phi(x) = v(0, x) = a_0(0) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(0) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) = B_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$\Psi(x) = v_t(0, x) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n\pi c}{L} B_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$A_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \Psi(x) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
B_0 &= \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \Phi(x) dx \\
A_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \Phi(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\
\frac{n\pi c}{L} B_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \Psi(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx
\end{aligned}$$

Step 7: Solution

Solution

The solution of (6) is then

$$u(t, x) = a_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(t) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) + \left(x - \frac{x^2}{2L}\right) h(t) + \frac{x^2}{2L} g(t)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
a_0(t) &= \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L [t \Psi(x) + \Phi(x)] dx + \int_0^t (t-s) q_n(s) ds \\
a_n(t) &= A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right) + B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{L}\right) + \int_0^t \frac{\sin\left(\frac{n\pi c}{L}(t-s)\right) q_n(s)}{\frac{n\pi c}{L}} ds \\
A_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \Phi(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx, \quad B_n = \frac{2}{n\pi c} \int_0^L \Psi(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\
q_n(t) &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L H(t, x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\
H(t, x) &= F(t, x) - w_{tt} + c^2 w_{xx} \\
&= F(t, x) - \left[\left(x - \frac{x^2}{2L}\right) h''(t) + \frac{x^2}{2L} g''(t) \right] + \frac{c^2}{L} (g(t) - h(t)) \\
\Phi(x) &= u(0, x) - w(0, x) \\
&= \phi(x) - w(0, x) \\
&= \phi(x) - \left(x - \frac{x^2}{2L}\right) h(0) - \frac{x^2}{2L} g(0) \\
\Psi(x) &= u_t(0, x) - w_t(0, x) \\
&= \psi(x) - w_t(0, x) \\
&= \psi(x) - \left(x - \frac{x^2}{2L}\right) h'(0) - \frac{x^2}{2L} g'(0)
\end{aligned}$$

Problem 3: Damped Heat Equation

Using the method of separation of variables, solve the damped heat equation:

$$\begin{cases} u_t + au = ku_{xx} & -\pi < x < \pi, \quad t > 0 \\ u(0, x) = \phi(x) & -\pi < x < \pi \\ u(t, \pi) = u(t, -\pi) & t > 0 \\ u_x(t, \pi) = u_x(t, -\pi) & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

for constants a and $k > 0$

Assume (12) has a separated solution $u(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$.

From our boundary conditions, $X(\pi)T(t) = X(-\pi)T(t)$ and $X'(\pi)T(t) = X'(-\pi)T(t)$. Since we do not want the trivial solution $T(t) = 0 \rightarrow u(t, x) = 0$, we must have $X(\pi) = X(-\pi)$, $X'(\pi) = X'(-\pi)$.

Plugging $u(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$ into the PDE in (12), we get

$$X(x)T'(t) + aX(x)T(t) = kX''(x)T(t)$$

$$\frac{T'}{kT} + \frac{a}{k} = \frac{X''}{X} = -\lambda$$

This gives us the following (eigenvalue) time problem:

$$\begin{cases} X'' + \lambda X = 0 \\ X(\pi) = X(-\pi) \\ X'(\pi) = X'(-\pi) \end{cases}$$

Case 1: Zero eigenvalues, $\lambda = 0$

$X'' = 0$ implies that $X(x)$ is of the form $Ax + B$. Now plugging in our initial conditions: $X(\pi) = A\pi + B = -A\pi + B = X(-\pi)$ means we must have $A = 0$, so that $X(x) = B$.

From our time equation, we would get $\frac{T'}{T} = -a$, meaning that $T(t) = e^{-at}$.

$u(t, x) = Be^{-at}$. $u(0, x) = B = \phi(x)$. $u(t, x) = \phi e^{-at}$. $-a\phi e^{-at} + a\phi e^{-at} = 0$ so this satisfies our PDE and BCs, but I don't think it satisfies the IC because B is not a function of x .

Case 2: Negative eigenvalues, $-\lambda^2 < 0$

This case gives us the characteristic equation: $r^2 - \beta^2 = 0$. Since our characteristic equation has distinct real roots $r = \pm\beta$, our solutions take the form

$$X(x) = Ae^{\beta x} + Be^{-\beta x}$$

From our BCs, $X(\pi) = Ae^{\beta\pi} + Be^{-\beta\pi}$ must equal $X(-\pi) = Ae^{-\beta\pi} + Be^{\beta\pi}$ and $X'(\pi) = \beta Ae^{\beta\pi} - \beta Be^{-\beta\pi}$ must equal $X'(-\pi) = \beta Ae^{\beta\pi} - \beta Be^{\beta\pi}$. Since we have assumed $\beta \neq 0$, we can divide by it to give the following system of equations:

$$\begin{cases} Ae^{\beta\pi} + Be^{-\beta\pi} = Ae^{-\beta\pi} + Be^{\beta\pi} \\ Ae^{\beta\pi} - Be^{-\beta\pi} = Ae^{-\beta\pi} - Be^{\beta\pi} \end{cases}$$

Solve for $Ae^{\beta\pi}$ in the first equation:

$$Ae^{\beta\pi} = Ae^{-\beta\pi} + Be^{\beta\pi} - Be^{-\beta\pi}$$

Plug it into the second equation:

$$Ae^{-\beta\pi} + Be^{\beta\pi} - Be^{-\beta\pi} - Be^{-\beta\pi} = Ae^{-\beta\pi} - Be^{\beta\pi}$$

This simplifies to $Be^{\beta\pi} = Be^{-\beta\pi}$, which for non-zero β only holds when $B = 0$. If $B = 0$, our boundary conditions then indicate $Ae^{\beta\pi} = Ae^{-\beta\pi}$ and so A is similarly zero, meaning we have only the trivial solution and we do not have any negative eigenvalues.

Case 3: Positive eigenvalues, $\lambda^2 > 0$

We will get the characteristic equation $r^2 + \beta^2 = 0$. Since our characteristic equation has complex roots $r = \pm i\beta$, our solutions take the form

$$X(x) = A \sin(\beta x) + B \cos(\beta x)$$

Differentiating, we find that

$$X'(x) = \beta A \cos(\beta x) - \beta B \sin(\beta x)$$

$$X(\pi) = A \sin(\beta\pi) + B \cos(\beta\pi)$$

$$X(-\pi) = A \sin(-\beta\pi) + B \cos(-\beta\pi)$$

$$= -A \sin(\beta\pi) + B \cos(\beta\pi)$$

So we have

$$A \sin(\beta\pi) + B \cos(\beta\pi) = -A \sin(\beta\pi) + B \cos(\beta\pi)$$

$$2A \sin(\beta\pi) = 0$$

This is only true if $A = 0$ or $\beta = n$. Let $A = 0$. Then

$$X(x) = B \cos(\beta x), \quad X'(x) = -B \sin(\beta x)$$

$$X'(\pi) = -B \sin(\beta\pi), \quad X'(-\pi) = B \sin(\beta\pi)$$

$$2B \sin(\beta\pi) = 0$$

Since if $\sin(\beta\pi) = 0$ we would not be able to determine anything about A , if $A = 0$ we must also have $B = 0$, giving us just the trivial solution. Thus, we have found $\sin(\beta\pi) = 0$ so $\beta = n$.

$$\lambda_n = \beta^2 = n^2, \quad X_n(x) = A \cos(nx) + B \sin(nx)$$

Now we return to our time problem.

$$\frac{T'}{kT} + \frac{a}{k} = -\lambda$$

$$\int \frac{T'}{T} dt = \int (-\lambda k - a) dt$$

$$T_n(t) = e^{-(kn+a)t}$$

$$u_n(t, x) = e^{-(kn+a)t} [A_n \cos(nx) + B_n \sin(nx)], \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Solution

$$u(t, x) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-(kn+a)t} [A_n \cos(nx) + B_n \sin(nx)]$$

From from our initial condition $u(0, x) = \phi(x)$ and the equations for the coefficients of Fourier series, we find that:

$$\begin{aligned} A_0 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \phi(x) dx \\ A_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \phi(x) \cos(nx) dx \\ B_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \phi(x) \sin(nx) dx \end{aligned}$$

Problem 4: Beam Equation

Using the method of separation of variables, solve the beam equation:

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xxxx} & 0 < x < L, \quad t > 0 \\ u(0, x) = \phi(x) & 0 < x < L \\ u_t(0, x) = \psi(x) & 0 < x < L \\ u(t, 0) = u(t, L) = 0 & t > 0 \\ u_{xx}(t, 0) = u_{xx}(t, L) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Suppose we have a separated solution of the form $u(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$.

If we plug this into the homogeneous Dirichlet BCs for u , we find $u(t, 0) = T(t)X(0) = 0, u(t, L) = T(t)X(L) = 0$. In order for both of these to be true, we must have either $T(t) = 0$ or $X(0) = X(L) = 0$. But if $T(t) = 0$, then $u(t, x) = 0$ for all x , which contradicts our ICs. Thus, we must have $X(0) = X(L) = 0$. Similarly, from our other BCs we find that

$$X''(0) = X''(L) = 0$$

.

Plugging our expression $u(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$ into the PDE in (13), it becomes

$$\begin{aligned} T''(t)X(x) &= c^2 T(t)X^{(4)}(x) \\ \frac{T''(t)}{c^2 T(t)} &= \frac{X^{(4)}(x)}{X(x)} = \lambda \\ X^{(4)} - \lambda X &= 0 \\ r^4 - \lambda &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Case 1: Zero eigenvalues, $\lambda = 0$

By the PDE, $X^{(4)}(x) = 0$ implies that $u_{xxxx} = 0$, and thus that $X(x)$ is of the form $Ax^3 + Bx^2 + Cx + D$. Now plugging in our initial conditions:

$$X(0) = 0 \implies D = 0$$

$$X''(x) = 6Ax + 2B \implies X''(0) = 2B = 0 \implies B = 0$$

$$X''(l) = 6Al = 0 \implies A = 0$$

$$X(l) = Cl = 0 \implies C = 0$$

Therefore, we would have $X(x) = 0$, so there are no eigenfunctions $X(x)$ that satisfy $X^{(4)} + \lambda X = 0$ when $\lambda = 0$ and hence no zero eigenvalues.

Case 2: Negative eigenvalues, $\lambda = -\beta^4 < 0$

We will use Green's second identity to show that we cannot have any negative eigenvalues. Start with $X^{(4)} = \lambda X$, multiply by \bar{X} , and integrate both sides from 0 to l :

$$\begin{aligned} X^{(4)} &= \lambda X \\ \int_0^l X^{(4)} \bar{X} \, dx &= \lambda \int_0^l X \bar{X} \, dx \\ &= \lambda \int_0^l |X|^2 \, dx \end{aligned}$$

Now Green's second identity states that for any $u, v \in C^2[a, b]$, we have

$$\int_a^b v u'' \, dx = \int_a^b u v'' \, dx + [v u' - u v']_{x=a}^{x=b}$$

Letting $u = X^{(4)}$ and $v = \bar{X}$,

$$\int_0^l X^{(4)} \bar{X} \, dx = \int_0^l |X''|^2 \, dx + \left[\bar{X} X^{(5)} - X^{(4)} \bar{X}' \right]_{x=0}^{x=l}$$

But since $X(0) = X(l) = 0$, the boundary terms disappear and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^l |X''|^2 \, dx &= \lambda \int_0^l |X|^2 \, dx \\ \lambda &= \frac{\int_0^l |X''|^2 \, dx}{\int_0^l |X|^2 \, dx} \implies \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have only positive eigenvalues.

Case 3: Positive eigenvalues, $\lambda = \beta^4 > 0$

This case gives us the characteristic equation: $r^4 - \beta^4 = 0$, or $r^2 = \pm\beta^2, r = \pm\beta, \pm\beta i$

$$\begin{aligned} X(x) &= Ae^{\beta x} + Be^{-\beta x} + C \sin(\beta x) + D \cos(\beta x) \\ X(0) &= A + B + D = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

$$X''(x) = \beta^2 Ae^{\beta x} + \beta^2 Be^{-\beta x} - \beta^2 C \sin(\beta x) - \beta^2 D \cos(\beta x)$$

Since we are in a case where we defined β to be non-zero, we can divide by it to find that

$$X''(0) = \beta^2 A + \beta^2 B - \beta^2 D = 0 \implies A + B = D$$

Combining this with (14), we find that $D = 0$.

$$X(L) = Ae^{\beta L} + Be^{-\beta L} + C \sin(\beta L) = 0$$

$$X''(L) = \beta^2 Ae^{\beta L} + \beta^2 Be^{-\beta L} - \beta^2 C \sin(\beta L) = 0$$

$$C \sin(\beta L) = -C \sin(\beta L), \quad 2C \sin(\beta L) = 0$$

Either $C = 0$ or $\sin(\beta L) = 0$. Say $C = 0$, then $X(0) = A + B = 0$ implies $A = -B$. Then the boundary condition gives

$$X(L) = Be^{\beta L} - Be^{-\beta L} = 0, \quad B(e^{\beta L} - e^{-\beta L}) = 0$$

Since $e^{\beta L}$ and $e^{-\beta L}$ are only equal when $L = 0$ and we defined $L > 0$, we must have $B = A = 0$, which would imply that $X(x) = 0$, the trivial solution. Therefore, we must have $\sin(\beta L) = 0$, such that $\beta = \frac{n\pi}{L}$.

Returning to our boundary conditions,

$$X(0) = Ae^0 + Be^0 + C \sin 0 = 0$$

$$A + B = 0, \quad A = -B$$

$$X(L) = Ae^{(\frac{n\pi}{L})L} - Ae^{-(\frac{n\pi}{L})L} + C \sin\left(\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)L\right) = 0$$

$$X(L) = Ae^{n\pi} - Ae^{-n\pi} + C \sin(n\pi) = 0$$

$$Ae^{n\pi} = Ae^{-n\pi}$$

But for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, this is only true if $A = 0$, which means B is also zero.

Thus, we have eigenvalues of $\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^4$ with eigenfunctions

$$X_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right), \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Now we return to the time equation,

$$T''(t) - \lambda c^2 T(t) = 0$$

$$T'' - \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^4 c^2 T = 0$$

$$r^2 - \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^4 c^2 = 0$$

$$T_n(t) = Ae^{\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 ct} + Be^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 ct}$$

$$u_n(t, x) = \left[Ae^{\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 ct} + Be^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 ct} \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right), \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Check if this actually satisfies our PDE:

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xxxx}$$

$$u \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^4 c^2 = c^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^4 u$$

Now we can use the principle of superposition to find our general solution:

$$u(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[Ae^{\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 ct} + Be^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 ct} \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$u(0, x) = \phi(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [A + B] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$A + B = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$u_t(0, x) = \psi(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 c [A - B] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$A - B = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \frac{2c}{L} \int_0^L \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$-2B + \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \frac{2c}{L} \int_0^L \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx - \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \frac{c}{L} \int_0^L \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \left[\phi(x) - c \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \psi(x) \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$A = -B + \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

Therefore, our solution to (13) is:

Solution

$$u(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[A e^{\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 ct} + B e^{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 ct} \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right), \quad \text{where}$$

$$B = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \left[\phi(x) - c \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \psi(x) \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$A = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \left[\phi(x) + c \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \psi(x) \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

Problem 5: Radioactive Decay Problem

Using the method of separation of variables, solve the radioactive decay problem, for constants $A, a > 0$.

$$\begin{cases} u_t - u_{xx} = A e^{-ax} \\ u(0, x) = \sin x \\ u(t, 0) = u(t, \pi) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

We want to find a separated solution of the form $u(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$. Recall that for the analogous homogeneous PDE with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions, we consider the following eigenvalue problem $X'' + \lambda X = 0$, $X(0) = X(l) = 0$, which we have shown to have the eigenvalues and eigenvectors

$$\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2, \quad X_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right), \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Giving us the Fourier sine series

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) \quad (16)$$

where

$$b_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx$$

Now, we assume that our solution to (15) will take a similar form as (16), where $l = \pi$ and $f(t, x) = A e^{-ax}$:

$$u(t, x) = b_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \sin(nx)$$

We can differentiate this and plug it into (15) as follows:

$$u_t(t, x) = b'_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b'_n(t) \sin(nx)$$

$$u_{xx}(t, x) = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) n^2 \sin(nx)$$

$$b'_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b'_n(t) \sin(nx) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) n^2 \sin(nx) = A e^{-ax} \quad (17)$$

For each fixed t , we write Ae^{-ax} as a Fourier sine series:

$$Ae^{-ax} = q_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q_n(t) \sin(nx) \quad (18)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} q_0(t) &= \frac{1}{l} \int_0^l f(t, x) dx \\ &= \frac{A}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} dx \\ &= \frac{-A}{a\pi} [e^{-ax}]_0^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{-A}{a\pi} (e^{-a\pi} - 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} q_n(t) &= \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(t, x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx \\ &= \frac{2A}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \sin(nx) dx \end{aligned}$$

Now we do integration by parts twice on $\int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \sin(nx) dx$

First with $u = \sin(nx)$, $du = n \cos(nx) dx$, $dv = e^{-ax} dx$, $v = \frac{-1}{a} e^{-ax}$,

and the second time with $u = n \cos(nx)$, $du = -n^2 \sin(nx) dx$, $dv = \frac{1}{a} e^{-ax} dx$, $v = \frac{-1}{a^2} e^{-ax}$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \sin(nx) dx &= \left[\frac{-\sin(nx)}{a} e^{-ax} \right]_0^{\pi} + \frac{n}{a} \int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx \\ &= 0 - 0 + \frac{n}{a} \int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \cos(nx) dx \\ &= \left[\frac{-n \cos(nx)}{a^2} e^{-ax} \right]_0^{\pi} - \frac{n^2}{a^2} \int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \sin(nx) dx \end{aligned}$$

Then moving the integrals to the same side,

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 + \frac{n^2}{a^2}\right) \int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \sin(nx) dx &= \left[\frac{-n \cos(nx)}{a^2} e^{-ax} \right]_0^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{-n \cos(n\pi)}{a^2} e^{-a\pi} + \frac{n}{a^2} \\ (n^2 + a^2) \int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \sin(nx) dx &= n(-1)^{n+1} e^{-a\pi} + n \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\int_0^{\pi} e^{-ax} \sin(nx) dx = \frac{n(-1)^{n+1} e^{-a\pi} + n}{n^2 + a^2}$$

Which means that

$$q_n = \frac{2A}{\pi} \frac{n(-1)^{n+1} e^{-a\pi} + n}{n^2 + a^2}$$

Now, by (17) and (18), we get the following equations:

$$\begin{cases} b'_0(t) = q_0(t) \\ b'_n(t) + b_n(t)n^2 = q_n(t) \end{cases}$$

From $b'_0(t) = q_0(t)$ we get

$$b_0(t) = \int_0^t q_0(s) ds$$

Since $q_0 = \frac{-A}{a\pi} (e^{-a\pi} - 1)$, this means

$$b_0(t) = \frac{-At}{a\pi} (e^{-a\pi} - 1) + b_0(0)$$

On the other hand, we have $b'_n(t) + b_n(t)n^2 = q_n(t)$, which we solve as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(t) &= \exp \left(\int_0^t n^2 ds \right) = \exp(n^2 t) \\ b_n(t) &= \frac{1}{\mu(t)} \left[\int_0^t \mu(s) q_n(s) ds + b_n(0) \right] \\ b_n(t) &= b_n(0) \mu(t)^{-1} + \int_0^t \frac{\mu(s)}{\mu(t)} q_n(s) ds \\ b_n(t) &= e^{-n^2 t} b_n(0) + \int_0^t \frac{\exp(n^2 s)}{\exp(n^2 t)} q_n(s) ds \\ b_n(t) &= e^{-n^2 t} b_n(0) + \int_0^t e^{n^2(s-t)} q_n(s) ds \\ u(0, x) &= \sin x = b_0(0) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(0) \sin(nx) \end{aligned}$$

so using our equations to find the coefficients of a Fourier sine series,

$$\begin{aligned} b_0(0) &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(nx) dx \\ &= \frac{-2}{n\pi} \cos(nx) \Big|_0^{\pi} = \frac{2}{n\pi} (1 + (-1)^{n+1}) \\ b_n(0) &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(x) \sin(nx) dx \end{aligned}$$

We evaluate this integral using the following trigonometric identity:

$$\sin \alpha \sin \beta = \frac{\cos(\alpha - \beta) - \cos(\alpha + \beta)}{2} \implies \sin(x) \sin(nx) = \frac{\cos(-x) - \cos(3x)}{2}$$

$$b_n(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \cos(x) - \cos(3x) dx = 0$$

Because $\sin 0, \sin \pi$, and $\sin 3\pi$ all equal zero.

Therefore, our solution to (15) is:

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(t, x) &= b_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \sin(nx), \quad \text{where} \\
 b_n(t) &= \int_0^t e^{n^2(s-t)} q_n \, ds, \\
 q_n &= \frac{2A}{\pi} \frac{n(-1)^{n+1} e^{-a\pi} + n}{n^2 + a^2}, \\
 b_0(t) &= \frac{-At}{a\pi} (e^{-a\pi} - 1) + b_0(0), \\
 b_0(0) &= \frac{2}{n\pi} (1 + (-1)^{n+1})
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 6: Telegraph Equation

Using the method of separation of variables, solve the telegraph equation:

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} + au_t + bu = c^2 u_{xx} & 0 < x < l, \quad t > 0 \\ u(0, x) = \phi(x) & 0 \leq x \leq l \\ u_t(0, x) = \psi(x) & 0 \leq x \leq l \\ u(t, 0) = u(t, l) = 0 & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

for constants $a, b > 0$. Only find the solution when the characteristic equation of the time problem has real roots. Define the following energy:

$$E(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^l (u_t^2 + c^2 u_x^2 + bu^2) \, dx$$

Show that $E(t) \leq E(0)$ for all $t > 0$. Then prove that the telegraph equation has a unique solution.

Suppose we have a separated solution of the form $u(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$.

If we plug this into the homogeneous Dirichlet BCs, we find $u(t, 0) = T(t)X(0) = 0, u(t, l) = T(t)X(l) = 0$. In order for both of these to be true, we must have either $T(t) = 0$ or $X(0) = X(l) = 0$.

But if $T(t) = 0$, then $u(t, x) = 0$ for all x , which contradicts our ICs. Thus, we must have $X(0) = X(l) = 0$.

Plugging our expression $u(t, x) = X(x)T(t)$ into the PDE in (19), it becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 T''(t)X(x) + aT'(t)X(x) + bT(t)X(x) &= c^2 T(t)X''(x) \\
 -\frac{T''(t) + aT'(t) + bT(t)}{c^2 T(t)} &= -\frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} = \lambda
 \end{aligned}$$

Based on our assumptions thus far and the IBVP (19), we have three problems:

Spatial problem

$$\begin{cases} X'' + \lambda X = 0 \\ X(0) = X(l) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Time problem

$$T'' + aT' + (b + \lambda c^2)T = 0 \quad (20)$$

IVP

$$u(0, x) = T(0)X(x) = \phi(x)$$

The spatial problem is an eigenvalue problem with homogenous Dirichlet BCs, which we already know has the eigenvalues and eigenvectors

$$\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2, \quad X_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right), \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Now moving to the time problem, the equation (20) becomes the characteristic equation $r^2 + ar + (b + \lambda c^2) = 0$. From the Pythagorean Theorem, the roots of this equation are

$$\frac{-a \pm \sqrt{a^2 - 4(b + \lambda c^2)}}{2}$$

In order for the characteristic equation of the time problem to have only real roots, we must have $a^2 - 4(b + \lambda c^2) \geq 0$, or

$$\lambda \leq \frac{a^2 - 4b}{4c^2}$$

For each λ_n associated with the spatial problem, we get a solution to the time problem:

$$T_n(t) = C_n \exp\left[\frac{t}{2}(-a - a^2 - 4b - 4\lambda_n c^2)\right] + D_n \exp\left[\frac{t}{2}(-a + a^2 - 4b - 4\lambda_n c^2)\right]$$

where $C_n, D_n \in \mathbb{R}$

Therefore, the following are solutions of the PDE in (19): $u_n(t, x) = X_n(x) T_n(t)$, $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

By the principle of superposition,

$$\begin{aligned} u(t, x) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c'_n u_n(t, x) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c'_n T_n(t) X_n(x) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \exp\left[\frac{t}{2}(-a - a^2 - 4b - 4\lambda_n c^2)\right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) + \\ &\quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \exp\left[\frac{t}{2}(-a + a^2 - 4b - 4\lambda_n c^2)\right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) \end{aligned}$$

where $A_n = c'_n C_n$ and $B_n = c'_n D_n$, with $A_n, B_n \in \mathbb{R}$.

We can get rid of these arbitrary constants by using our initial conditions, and . First, let us simplify the notation by defining $\gamma = \frac{t}{2}(-a - a^2 - 4b - 4\lambda_n c^2)$ and $\zeta = \frac{t}{2}(-a + a^2 - 4b - 4\lambda_n c^2)$.

Using our first initial condition, $u(0, x) = \phi(x)$:

$$u(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n e^{\gamma t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n e^{\zeta t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$$

$$u(0, x) = \phi(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n + B_n) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$$

We can use the equation for the coefficients inside a Fourier sine series to find $A_n + B_n$

$$A_n + B_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx$$

Now repeating for our second initial condition, $u_t(0, x) = \psi(x)$:

$$u_t(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \gamma A_n e^{\gamma t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \zeta B_n e^{\zeta t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$$

$$u_t(0, x) = \psi(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\gamma A_n + \zeta B_n) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$$

$$(\gamma A_n + \zeta B_n) = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx$$

Which can be rearranged as

$$A_n = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left[-\zeta B_n + \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx \right]$$

Now we can solve for B_n :

$$\frac{-\zeta B_n}{\gamma} + \frac{2}{\gamma l} \int_0^l \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx = -B_n + \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx$$

$$B_n - \frac{\zeta B_n}{\gamma} = \left(1 - \frac{\zeta}{\gamma}\right) B_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx - \frac{2}{\gamma l} \int_0^l \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx$$

Therefore, our solution to (19) is:

Solution

$$u(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n e^{\gamma t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n e^{\zeta t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right), \quad (21)$$

$$\text{where } A_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx - B_n$$

$$B_n = \frac{2\gamma}{(\gamma - \zeta)l} \int_0^l \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx - \frac{2(\gamma - \zeta)}{l} \int_0^l \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx,$$

$$\gamma = \frac{t}{2}(-a - a^2 - 4b - 4\lambda_n c^2)$$

$$\zeta = \frac{t}{2}(-a - a^2 - 4b - 4\lambda_n c^2)$$

$$\lambda_n = \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Now we use an energy argument to show that the telegraph equation has a unique solution. We start with the given energy equation and differentiate:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt}E(t) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^l \frac{d}{dt}(u_t^2 + c^2 u_x^2 + bu^2) dx \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^l (2u_t u_{tt} + 2c^2 u_x u_{xt} + 2bu u_t) dx \\
&= \int_0^l u_t u_{tt} + \int_0^l c^2 u_x u_{xt} + \int_0^l bu u_t \\
&= \int_0^l c^2 u_x u_{xt} dx = c^2 u_x u_t \Big|_0^l - \int_0^l c^2 u_t u_{xx} dx
\end{aligned}$$

The term $c^2 u_x u_t \Big|_0^l$ disappears because of our boundary conditions, so we now have

$$\frac{d}{dt}E(t) = \int_0^l u_t u_{tt} + bu u_t - c^2 u_t u_{xx} dx = \int_0^l u_t (u_{tt} + bu - c^2 u_{xx}) dx$$

But our PDE, $u_{tt} + au_t + bu = c^2 u_{xx}$, can be re-written as $u_{tt} + bu - c^2 u_{xx} = -au_t$, which means

$$\frac{d}{dt}E(t) = - \int_0^l a(u_t^2) dx$$

Since a and u_t^2 are necessarily non-negative, $\int_0^l a(u_t^2) dx \geq 0$ which means that

$$\frac{d}{dt}E(t) = - \int_0^l a(u_t^2) dx \leq 0$$

.

Since we just showed that the derivative of $E(t)$ is less than or equal to zero for all t , we have that $E(t) \leq E(0)$ for all $t > 0$.

Let u and v be two solutions to (19) and define $w = u - v$. Then w satisfies the problem

$$\begin{cases} w_{tt} + aw_t + bw = c^2 w_{xx} & 0 < x < l, \quad t > 0 \\ w(0, x) = 0 & 0 \leq x \leq l \\ w_t(0, x) = 0 & 0 \leq x \leq l \\ w(t, 0) = w(t, l) = 0 & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

$$E(0) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^l (w_t(0, x))^2 + c^2 (w_x(0, x))^2 + b(w(0, x))^2 dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^l (0 + 0 + 0) dx = 0$$

So $E(t) \leq E(0)$ for all $t > 0$ but $E(0) = 0$ for our solution $w(t, x)$, which means that

$$E(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^l (w_t^2 + c^2 w_x^2 + bw^2) dx \leq 0$$

Since all of the terms under the integrand are non-negative, this is only possible if $w_t = w_x = w = 0$ for all $t > 0$. Thus, $w = u - v = 0 \Rightarrow u = v$, meaning any solution to (19) is in fact the unique solution.