

**Ex. 2(a)** Solve the boundary value problem  $\partial^2 u / \partial x^2 = (1/k) (\partial u / \partial t)$  satisfying the conditions  $u(0, t) = u(l, t) = 0$  and  $u(x, 0) = lx - x^2$ .

[Himachal 2007, 12; Meerut 2010; Delhi 2007]

**(b)** Solve the boundary value problem  $\partial^2 u / \partial x^2 = (1/k) (\partial u / \partial t)$  satisfying the conditions  $u(0, t) = u(l, t) = 0$  and  $u(x, 0) = x$  when  $0 \leq x \leq l/2$ ;  $u(x, 0) = l - x$  when  $l/2 \leq x \leq l$ .

[Meerut 1998, 2000]

**Sol.** We can prove that the solution of heat equation

$$k(\partial^2 u / \partial x^2) = \partial u / \partial t \quad \dots (1)$$

subject to the boundary conditions  
and the initial condition

$$u(0, t) = u(a, t) = 0 \text{ for all } t \quad \dots (2)$$

$$u(x, 0) = f(x), 0 < x < a \quad \dots (3)$$

is given by

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \sin(n\pi x / a) e^{-C_n^2 t} \quad \dots (4)$$

where

$$E_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) \sin(n\pi x / a) dx, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad \dots (5)$$

and

$$C_n^2 = (n^2 \pi^2 k) / a^2 \quad \dots (6)$$

**Part (a) :** Comparing the given boundary value problem with the boundary value problem given by (1), (2) and (3), we have  $k = k$ ,  $a = l$  and  $f(x) = lx - x^2$ . Hence, (5) reduces to

$$\begin{aligned} E_n &= \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l (lx - x^2) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx \\ &= \frac{2}{l} \left[ (lx - x^2) \left\{ \frac{-\cos(n\pi x / l)}{(n\pi) / l} \right\} - (l - 2x) \left\{ \frac{-\sin(n\pi x / l)}{(n\pi)^2 / l^2} \right\} + (-2) \left\{ \frac{\cos(n\pi x / l)}{(n\pi)^3 / l^3} \right\} \right]_0^l \end{aligned}$$

[Using the chain rule of integration by parts]

$$= (2/l) \{ (-2l^3 / n^3 \pi^3) \cos n\pi + (2l^3 / n^3 \pi^3) \} = (4l^2 / n^3 \pi^3) \{ 1 - (-1)^n \}$$

$$\therefore E_n = \begin{cases} (8l^2) / (2m-1)^3 \pi^3, & \text{if } n = 2m-1 \text{ (odd) and } m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ 0, & \text{if } n = 2m \text{ (even) where } m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{cases}$$

Then, by (6),  $C_n^2 = \{(2m-1)^2 \pi^2 k\} / l^2$  and so from (4) the required solution is given by

$$u(x, t) = \frac{8l^2}{\pi^3} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2m-1)^3} \sin \frac{(2m-1)\pi x}{l} e^{-\{(2m-1)^2 \pi^2 k t\} / l^2}.$$

**Part (b) :** Comparing the given boundary value problem with the boundary value problem given by (1), (2) and (3), we have  $k = k$ ,  $a = l$  and

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & \text{when } 0 \leq x \leq l/2 \\ l - x, & \text{when } l/2 \leq x \leq l \end{cases} \quad \dots (6)$$

$$\therefore (5) \Rightarrow E_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx = \frac{2}{l} \left[ \int_0^{l/2} f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx + \int_{l/2}^l f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx \right]$$

$$= \int_0^{l/2} \frac{2x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx + \int_{l/2}^l \frac{2}{l} (l-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

$$= \left[ \left( \frac{2x}{l} \right) \left( -\frac{\cos(n\pi x/l)}{(n\pi)/l} \right) - \left( \frac{2}{l} \right) \left( -\frac{\sin(n\pi x)}{(n\pi)^2/l^2} \right) \right]_0^{l/2} + \left[ \left( \frac{2(l-x)}{l} \right) \left( -\frac{\cos(n\pi x/l)}{(n\pi)/l} \right) - \left( -\frac{2}{l} \right) \left( -\frac{\sin(n\pi x/l)}{(n\pi)^2/l^2} \right) \right]_{l/2}^l$$

[Using chain rule of integration by parts]

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

$$\therefore E_n = \frac{4l}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n = 2m \text{ and } m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ 4l/(2m-1)^2\pi^2, & \text{if } n = 2m-1 \text{ and } m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{cases}$$

Then,  $(6) \Rightarrow C_n^2 = \{(2m-1)^2\pi^2 k\}/l^2$

$\therefore$  From (4),

$$u(x, t) = \frac{4l}{\pi^2} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2m-1)^2} \sin \frac{(2m-1)\pi x}{l} e^{-\{(2m-1)^2\pi^2 k t\}/l^2}$$

**Ex. 2 (c)** Solve  $\partial u / \partial t = \partial^2 u / \partial x^2$ ,  $0 < x < l$ ,  $t > 0$  given that  $u(0, t) = u(l, t) = 0$  and  $u(x, 0) = x(l-x)$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq l$ .

**Sol.** Refer solved Ex. 2(a). Here  $k = 1$  and hence the solution reduces to

[I.A.S. 2002]

$$u(x, t) = \frac{8l^2}{\pi^3} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2m-1)^3} \sin \frac{(2m-1)\pi x}{l} e^{-\{(2m-1)^2\pi^2 t\}/l^2}$$

**Ex. 3.** A homogeneous rod of conducting material of length  $a$  has its ends kept at zero temperature. The temperature at the centre is  $T$  and falls uniformly to zero at the two ends. Find the temperature function  $u(x, t)$ .

**Sol.** We know that  $u(x, t)$  is the solution of heat equation

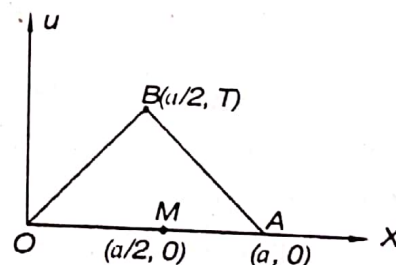
$$\partial^2 u / \partial x^2 = (l/k)(\partial u / \partial t). \text{ Here the boundary conditions are}$$

$u(0, t) = u(a, t) = 0$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . Let  $OA$  be the given rod and  $M$  be its middle point. Given that the temperature at the centre  $M$  is  $T$  and falls uniformly to zero at the two ends  $O$  and  $A$  of the rod. Hence, the temperature distribution at  $t = 0$  is as given in the adjoining figure. The equations of straight lines  $OB$  and  $BA$  respectively are given by

$$u-0 = \frac{T-0}{(a/2)-0} (x-0)$$

and

$$u-0 = \frac{T-0}{(a/2)-a} (x-a) \quad \dots (i)$$



We can prove that the solution of heat equation

$$k(\partial^2 u / \partial x^2) = \partial u / \partial t \quad \dots (1)$$

subject to the boundary conditions  $u(0, t) = u(a, t) = 0$ , for all  $t$   $\dots (2)$

and the initial condition  $u(x, 0) = f(x)$ ,  $0 < x < a$   $\dots (3)$

is given by

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \sin(n\pi x/a) e^{-C_n^2 t} \quad \dots (4)$$

where

$$E_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) \sin(n\pi x/a) dx, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots (5)$$

and

$$C_n^2 = (n^2\pi^2 k)/a^2 \quad \dots (6)$$

Comparing the given boundary value problem with the boundary value problem given by (1), (2) and (3), we have  $k = k$ ,  $a = a$ . Also, from (i), we have

$$u(x, 0) = f(x) = \begin{cases} (2Tx)/a, & \text{where } 0 \leq x \leq a/2 \\ \{2T(a-x)\}/a, & \text{where } a/2 \leq x \leq a \end{cases} \quad \dots (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore (5) \Rightarrow E_n &= \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx = \frac{2}{a} \left[ \int_0^{a/2} f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx + \int_{a/2}^a f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{a} \int_0^{a/2} \frac{2Tx}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx + \frac{2}{a} \int_{a/2}^a \frac{2T(a-x)}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx, \text{ using (7)} \\ &= \int_0^{a/2} \frac{4Tx}{a^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx + \int_{a/2}^a \frac{4T(a-x)}{a^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx \\ &= \left[ \left( \frac{4Tx}{a^2} \right) \left( -\frac{\cos(n\pi x)/a}{(n\pi)/a} \right) - \left( \frac{4T}{a^2} \right) \left( -\frac{\sin(n\pi x)/a}{(n\pi)^2/a^2} \right) \right]_0^{a/2} \\ &\quad + \left[ \left( \frac{4T(a-x)}{a^2} \right) \left( -\frac{\cos(n\pi x)/a}{(n\pi)/a} \right) - \left( -\frac{4T}{a^2} \right) \left( -\frac{\sin(n\pi x)/a}{(n\pi)^2/a^2} \right) \right]_{a/2}^a \\ &= -(2T/n\pi) \cos(n\pi/2) + (4T/n^2\pi^2) \sin(n\pi/2) + (2T/n\pi) \cos(n\pi/2) + (4T/n^2\pi^2) \sin(n\pi/2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore E_n = \frac{8T}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n = 2m \text{ and } m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ \{8(-1)^{m+1}T\}/(2m-1)^2\pi^2, & \text{if } n = 2m-1 \text{ and } m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{cases}$$

Then, by (6),  $C_n^2 = \{(2m-1)^2\pi^2 k\}/a^2$  and so from (4), the required solution is given by

$$u(x, t) = \frac{8T}{\pi^2} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+1}}{(2m-1)^2} \sin \frac{(2m-1)\pi x}{a} e^{-\{(2m-1)^2\pi^2 k t\}/a^2}$$

**Ex. 4.** Solve the one-dimensional diffusion equation  $\partial^2 u / \partial x^2 = (l/k) (\partial u / \partial t)$  in the range  $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi, t \geq 0$  subject to the boundary conditions :  $u(x, 0) = \sin^3 x$  for  $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$  and  $u(0, t) = u(2\pi, t) = 0$  for  $t \geq 0$  [Meerut 2008; Delhi Maths (H), 2004, 06, 09]

**Sol.** Proceed upto equation (18) as in Art. 2.3 A by taking  $a = 2\pi$  and  $f(x) = \sin^3 x$ . Then, equation (18) for the present problem reduces to

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \sin \left( \frac{nx}{2} \right) e^{-(n^2 kt)/4}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad \dots (i)$$

Putting  $t = 0$  in (i) and using given condition  $u(x, 0) = \sin^3 x$ , we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \sin(nx/2) = \sin^3 x = (3/4) \times \sin x - (1/4) \times \sin 3x$$

$$[\because \sin 3x = 3 \sin x - 4 \sin^3 x \Rightarrow \sin^3 x = (1/4) \times (3 \sin x - \sin 3x)]$$

or

$$E_1 \sin(x/2) + E_2 \sin x + E_3 \sin(3x/2) + E_4 \sin 2x + E_5 \sin(5x/2) + E_6 \sin 3x + E_7 \sin(7x/2) + \dots = (3/4) \times \sin x - (1/4) \times \sin 3x \quad \dots (ii)$$

Equating the coefficients of the like terms on both sides of (ii), we get



$E_2 = 3/4$ ,  $E_6 = -1/4$  and  $E_n = 0$  when  $n \neq 2$  or  $n \neq 6$ . Substituting these values in (i), the required solution is

$$u(x, t) = E_2 \sin x e^{-kt} + E_6 \sin 3x e^{-9kt} = (1/4) \times [3 \sin x e^{-kt} - \sin 3x e^{-9kt}].$$

Ex. 5. Determine  $u$  such that  $\partial^2 u / \partial x^2 = (1/k)(\partial u / \partial t)$  and satisfy the conditions (i)  $u \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  (ii)  $u = \sum_n c_n \cos nx$  for  $t = 0$ .

[Delhi Maths (H) 2004]

Sol. Given

$$\partial^2 u / \partial x^2 = (1/k)(\partial u / \partial t). \quad \dots (1)$$

Also given that

$$u \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad t \rightarrow \infty. \quad \dots (2)$$

and

$$u(x, 0) = \sum_n c_n \cos nx. \quad \dots (3)$$

Let a solution of (1) be

$$u(x, t) = X(x) T(t), \quad \dots (4)$$

where  $X(x)$  is a function of  $x$  alone and  $T(t)$  is a function of  $t$  alone.

Substituting (4) in (1), we get

$$(1/X)X'' = (1/kT)T' \quad \dots (5)$$

Since the L.H.S of (5) is a function of  $x$  alone and the R.H.S. of (6) is a function of  $t$  alone, hence the two sides of (6) can be equal only if each side is equal to a constant,  $\lambda$  say. In view of condition (2), we choose  $\lambda = -n^2$ , where  $n$  is a non-zero constant. Then (6) gives

$$(1/X)X'' = -n^2 \quad \text{so that} \quad (D^2 + n^2)X = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad D \equiv d/dx.$$

and

$$(1/kT)T' = -n^2 \quad \text{so that} \quad (1/t)dT = -n^2 k dt.$$

Solving these

$$X_n(x) = a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx$$

and

$$T_n(t) = e_n e^{-n^2 kt}$$

Keeping (3) and (4) in view, the most general solution of (1) may be written as

$$u(x, t) = \sum_n u_n(x, t) = \sum_n X_n(x) T_n(t) \quad \text{or} \quad u(x, t) = \sum_n (c_n \cos nx + d_n \sin nx) e^{-n^2 kt}. \quad \dots (1)$$

where  $c_n (= a_n e_n)$  and  $d_n (= b_n e_n)$  are new arbitrary constants.

Putting  $t = 0$  in (1) and using (3), we have  $\sum_n c_n \cos nx = \sum_n (c_n \cos nx + d_n \sin nx)$ ,

showing that for the present problem  $d_n \equiv 0$ . Then, from (1) the required solution is

$$u(x, t) = \sum_n c_n \cos nx e^{-n^2 kt}$$

Ex. 6. A uniform rod 20 cm in length is insulated over its sides. Its ends are kept at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . Its initial temperature is  $\sin(\pi x / 20)$  at a distance  $x$  from an end. Find temperature  $u(x, t)$  at time  $t$ .

Given that  $\partial u / \partial t = a^2 (\partial^2 u / \partial x^2)$ .

[Nagpur 1996]

Sol. Given

$$\partial u / \partial t = a^2 (\partial^2 u / \partial x^2). \quad \dots (1)$$

Boundary Conditions (B.C.) :

$$u(0, t) = u(20, t) = 0 \quad \text{for all } t \quad \dots (2)$$

Initial Conditions (I.C.) :

$$u(x, 0) = \sin(\pi x / 20), \quad 0 \leq x \leq 20 \quad \dots (3)$$

Let a solution of (1) be

$$u(x, t) = X(x) T(t). \quad \dots (4)$$

Substituting this value of  $u$  in (1), we have

$$X T' = a^2 X'' T \quad \text{or} \quad X'' / X = T' / a^2 T. \quad \dots (5)$$

$$u(x, t) = (E \cos \lambda x + F \sin \lambda x) e^{-\lambda^2 kt}, \quad \dots (14)$$

where  $A = a_1 a_3$ ,  $B = a_2 a_3$ ,  $C = b_1 b_3$ ,  $D = b_2 b_3$ ,  $E = c_1 c_3$  and  $F = c_2 c_3$ .  
Now, the condition (2) demands that  $u$  should remain finite as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . We therefore reject solution (13).

Next, in view of B.C. (3), solution (12) gives  $0 = A \cdot 0 + B$  and  $0 = A \cdot \pi + B$ . These give  $A = B = 0$  and hence from (12),  $u = 0$  for all  $t$ . This is a trivial solution. Since we are looking for a non-trivial solution, we reject the solution (12) also. Thus, the only possible solution satisfying the condition (2) is given by (14).

Putting  $x = 0$  in (4) and using B.C.  $u(0, t) = 0$  given by (3), we obtain  $E = 0$ . Then, (14) is simplified as

$$u(x, t) = F \sin \lambda x e^{-\lambda^2 kt} \quad \dots (15)$$

Putting  $x = \pi$  in (15) and using the BC  $u(\pi, t) = 0$  given by (3), we obtain

$$0 = F \sin \lambda \pi e^{-\lambda^2 kt} \quad \text{giving} \quad F \sin \lambda \pi = 0 \quad \dots (16)$$

Now, in view of  $E = 0$  we must take  $F \neq 0$  in order to obtain a non-trivial solution of (1). Accordingly (16) yields

$$\sin \lambda \pi = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda \pi = n\pi \quad \text{so that} \quad \lambda = n, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Thus, from (15), we arrive at a solution of the form

$$u_n(x, t) = F_n \sin nx e^{-n^2 kt}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Noting that the diffusion equation (1) is linear, its most general solution is obtained by applying the principle of superposition. Thus, the general solution of (1) is given by

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n \sin nx e^{-n^2 kt} \quad \dots (17)$$

Putting  $t = 0$  in (17), we have

$$u(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n \sin nx, \quad \dots (18)$$

which is a half-range Fourier-sine series and, hence

$$\begin{aligned} F_n &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} u(x, 0) \sin nx \, dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ \int_0^{\pi/2} u(x, 0) \sin nx \, dx + \int_{\pi/2}^{\pi} u(x, 0) \sin nx \, dx \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} x \sin nx \, dx + \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\pi/2}^{\pi} (\pi - x) \sin nx \, dx, \quad \text{using (5)} \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ (x) \left( -\frac{\cos nx}{n} \right) - (1) \left( -\frac{\sin nx}{n^2} \right) \right]_0^{\pi/2} + \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ (\pi - x) \left( -\frac{\cos nx}{n} \right) - (-1) \left( -\frac{\sin nx}{n^2} \right) \right]_{\pi/2}^{\pi} \\ &\quad \text{[Using the chain rule of Integrating by parts]} \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ -\frac{\pi}{2n} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{n^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \right] + \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ \frac{\pi}{2n} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{n^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore F_n = \frac{4}{\pi n^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n = 2m \text{ and } m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ 4(-1)^{m+1} / \pi(2m-1)^2, & \text{if } n = 2m-1 \text{ and } m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{cases}$$

Substituting the above value of  $F_n$  in (17), the required solution is

$$u(x, t) = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+1}}{(2m-1)^2} \sin(2m-1)x e^{-(2m-1)^2 kt}$$

Ex. 9. Make use of the method of separating variables to solve

$$\partial u / \partial t = c^2 (\partial^2 u / \partial x^2), t > 0, 0 \leq x \leq 1 \quad \dots (1)$$

$$u(0, t) = 2, \quad u(1, t) = 3 \quad \dots (2)$$

$$u(x, 0) = x(1-x) \quad \dots (3)$$

$$g(x) = c_1 x + c_2 \quad \dots (4)$$

Sol. Let

$$g(0) = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad g(1) = 3. \quad \dots (5)$$

that

Using (5), (4) reduces to  $2 = c_2$  and  $3 = c_1 + c_2$ , so that  $c_1 = 1$  and  $c_2 = 2$ . Then (4) becomes

$$g(x) = x + 2 \quad \dots (6)$$

Let

$$v(x, t) = u(x, t) - g(x) = u(x, t) - x - 2. \quad \dots (7)$$

Using (7), (1), (2) and (3) respectively may be re-written as

$$\partial v / \partial t = c^2 (\partial^2 v / \partial x^2) \quad \dots (8)$$

$$v(0, t) = 0, \quad v(1, t) = 0 \quad \dots (9)$$

$$v(x, 0) = x(1-x) - x - 2 = -(x^2 + 2). \quad \dots (10)$$

Proceed as Art. 2.3B taking  $u = v$ ,  $a = 1$ ,  $k = c^2$ ,  $C_n^2 = n^2 \pi^2 c^2$  and  $f(x) = -(x^2 + 2)$

$$v(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \sin n\pi x e^{-n^2 \pi^2 c^2 t} \quad \dots (11)$$

$$E_n = -2 \int_0^1 (x^2 + 2) \sin n\pi x \, dx = 2 \left[ (x^2 + 2) \left( -\frac{\cos n\pi x}{n\pi} \right) - (2x) \left( -\frac{\sin n\pi x}{n^2 \pi^2} \right) + (2) \left( \frac{\cos n\pi x}{n^3 \pi^3} \right) \right]_0^1$$

[Using the chain rule of integration by parts].

$$= -2 \left[ -\frac{3(-1)^n}{n\pi} + \frac{2(-1)^n}{n^3 \pi^3} + \frac{2}{n\pi} - \frac{2}{n^3 \pi^3} \right] \quad \dots (12)$$

Using (11), (7) gives the required solution

$$u(x, t) = v(x, t) + x + 2$$

$$u(x, t) = x + 2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \sin n\pi x e^{-n^2 \pi^2 c^2 t}, \quad \text{where } E_n \text{ is given by (12)}$$

**4A. General solution of heat equation when both the ends of a bar are insulated and the initial temperature is prescribed. (Meerut 2002)**

If both the ends of a bar of length  $a$  are insulated and the initial temperature  $f(x)$  is prescribed, then to find the temperature at a subsequent time  $t$ .

Sol. Here the temperature  $u(x, t)$  in the given bar is governed by one dimensional heat equation

$$k(\partial^2 u / \partial x^2) = \partial u / \partial t \quad \dots (1)$$

Physical experiments show that the rate of heat flow is proportional to the gradient  $\partial u / \partial x$  of temperature  $u(x, t)$ . Hence if the ends  $x = 0$  and  $x = a$  of the bar are insulated, so that no heat can flow through the ends, we have

the boundary conditions:

$$u_x(0, t) = u_x(a, t) = 0 \text{ for all } t \quad \dots (2)$$



## 2.4 C. Solved examples based on Art. 2.4 A and Art 2.4 B

**Ex. 1 (a)** Solve  $k(\partial^2 u / \partial x^2) = \partial u / \partial t$  for  $0 < x < \pi, t > 0$ , if  $u_x(0, t) = u_x(\pi, t) = 0$  and  $u(x, 0) = \sin x$ . [I.A.S., 2002]

(b) Find the temperature in a laterally insulated bar of length  $a$  whose ends are insulated assuming that the initial temperature is  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } 0 < x < a/2 \\ a-x, & \text{if } a/2 < x < a \end{cases}$

**Sol.** We can prove that (prove is examination for complete solution) that the solution of heat equation .

$$k(\partial^2 u / \partial x^2) = \partial u / \partial t$$

(1)

subject to the boundary conditions  $u_x(0, t) = u_x(a, t) = 0$  for all  $t$

and the initial condition

$$u(x, t) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < a$$

is given by

$$u(x, t) = \frac{E_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} e^{-C_n^2 t} \quad \dots (4)$$

where

$$E_0 = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) dx, \quad E_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad \dots (5)$$

and

$$C_n^2 = (n^2 \pi^2 k) / a^2 \quad \dots (6)$$

(a) Comparing the given boundary value problem with the boundary value problem given by (1), (2) and (3), we have  $k = k$ ,  $a = \pi$  and  $f(x) = \sin x$ . Hence, from (5), we get

$$E_0 = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin x dx = \frac{2}{\pi} [-\cos x]_0^{\pi} = \frac{2}{\pi} \times 2 = \frac{4}{\pi} \quad \dots (7)$$

and

$$E_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin x \cos nx dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \{\sin(n+1)x - \sin(n-1)x\} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ -\frac{\cos(n+1)x}{n+1} + \frac{\cos(n-1)x}{n-1} \right]_0^{\pi} = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ -\frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(n+1)} + \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n-1} + \frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{1}{n-1} \right]$$

Thus,

$$E_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \frac{1 - (-1)^{n+1}}{n+1} + \frac{(-1)^{n-1} - 1}{n-1} \right] \quad \dots (8)$$

If  $n = 2m - 1$  (odd) with  $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , then  $E_n = 0$ , by (8)

If  $n = 2m$  (even) with  $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , then from (8), we get

$$E_{2m} = \frac{2}{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{2m+1} - \frac{1}{2m-1} \right) = -\frac{4}{\pi(4m^2 - 1)}, \quad m = 1, 2, 3 \quad \dots (9)$$

Also, from (6),

$$C_{2m}^2 = \{(2m)^2 \times \pi^2 \times k\} / \pi^2 = 4m^2 \pi^2$$

Substituting the values of  $E_0$  and  $E_{2m}$  given by (7) and (9) in (4), the required solution is

$$u(x, t) = \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{4}{\pi} \sum \frac{\cos 2mx}{4m^2 - 1} e^{-4m^2 \pi^2 t}$$

(b) Comparing the given boundary value problem with boundary value problem given by (1), (2) and (3), we have  $k = k$ ,  $a = a$  and

$$u(x, 0) = f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } 0 < x < a/2 \\ a-x, & \text{if } a/2 < x < a \end{cases} \quad \dots (7)$$

From (5) and (7), we have

$$\begin{aligned} E_0 &= \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) dx = \frac{2}{a} \left[ \int_0^{a/2} f(x) dx + \int_{a/2}^a f(x) dx \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{a} \left[ \int_0^{a/2} x dx + \int_{a/2}^a (a-x) dx \right] = \frac{2}{a} \left\{ \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^{a/2} + \left[ ax - \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_{a/2}^a \right\} \\ &= (2/a) \times \left\{ a^2/8 + (a^2/2 - 3a^2/8) \right\} = (2/a) \times (a^2/4) = a/2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_n &= \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx = \frac{2}{a} \left[ \int_0^{a/2} f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx + \int_{a/2}^a f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{a} \int_0^{a/2} x \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx + \frac{2}{a} \int_{a/2}^a (a-x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx, \text{ using (7)} \\ &= \frac{2}{a} \left[ (x) \frac{\sin(n\pi x/a)}{(n\pi/a)} - (1) \left( -\frac{\cos(n\pi x/a)}{(n^2\pi^2/a^2)} \right) \right]_0^{a/2} + \frac{2}{a} \left[ (a-x) \frac{\sin(n\pi x/a)}{(n\pi/a)} - (-1) \left( -\frac{\cos(n\pi x/a)}{(n^2\pi^2/a^2)} \right) \right]_{a/2}^a \end{aligned}$$

[Using chain rule of integrating by parts]

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{2}{a} \left[ \frac{a}{2} \times \frac{a}{n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{a^2}{n^2\pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{a^2}{n^2\pi^2} \right] + \frac{2}{a} \left[ -\frac{a^2}{n^2\pi^2} \cos n\pi - \frac{a}{2} \times \frac{a}{n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{a^2}{n^2\pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{a} \left[ \frac{2a^2}{n^2\pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{a^2}{n^2\pi^2} - \frac{a^2}{n^2\pi^2} \cos n\pi \right] = \frac{2a}{n^2\pi^2} \left( 2 \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - \cos n\pi - 1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Also, from (6), we have

$$C_n^2 = (n^2\pi^2 k) / a^2$$

Substituting the above values of  $E_0$ ,  $E_n$  and  $C_n^2$  in (4), the required solution is given by

$$u(x, t) = \frac{a}{4} + \frac{2a}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \left( 2 \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - \cos n\pi - 1 \right) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} e^{-(n^2\pi^2 k t) / a^2}$$

or

$$u(x, t) = \frac{a}{4} - \frac{8a}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{1}{2^2} \cos \frac{2\pi x}{a} e^{-(4\pi^2 k t) / a^2} + \frac{1}{6^2} \cos \frac{6\pi x}{a} e^{-(36\pi^2 k t) / a^2} + \dots \right)$$

**Ex. 2.** Find the solution of the one-dimensional diffusion equation  $k(\partial^2 u / \partial x^2) = \partial u / \partial t$  satisfying the following boundary conditions : (i)  $u$  is bounded as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  (ii)  $u_x(0, t) = 0$ ,  $u_x(a, t) = 0$  for all  $t$  (iii)  $u(x, 0) = x(a-x)$ ,  $0 < x < a$ . (Himanchal 2007)

**Sol.** We know that the bounded solution the diffusion equation

$$k(\partial^2 u / \partial x^2) = \partial u / \partial t \quad \dots (1)$$

subject to the boundary conditions

$$u_x(0, t) = u_x(a, t) = 0 \text{ for all } t \quad \dots (2)$$



and the initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = f(x), 0 < x < a$$

is given by

$$u(x, t) = \frac{E_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} e^{-C_n^2 t} \quad \dots (3)$$

where  $E_0 = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) dx,$

$$E_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad \dots (4)$$

and

$$C_n^2 = (n^2 \pi^2 k) / a^2 \quad \dots (5)$$

Comparing the given boundary value problem with the boundary value problem given by (1), (2) and (3), we have  $k = k, a = a$  and  $f(x) = ax - x^2$ . So from (5), we have

$$E_0 = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a (ax - x^2) dx = \frac{2}{a} \left[ \frac{ax^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^a = \frac{a^2}{3}$$

$$E_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a (ax - x^2) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a} dx$$

$$= \frac{2}{a} \left[ (ax - x^2) \frac{\sin(n\pi x/a)}{(n\pi/a)} - (a - 2x) \left( -\frac{\cos(n\pi x/a)}{n^2 \pi^2 / a^2} \right) + (-2) \left( -\frac{\sin(n\pi x/a)}{n^3 \pi^3 / a^3} \right) \right]_0^a$$

[Using chain rule of integrating by parts]

$$= \frac{2}{a} \left[ -a \times \frac{a^2}{n^2 \pi^2} (-1)^n - a \times \frac{a^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \right] = -\frac{2a^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \{1 + (-1)^n\}$$

Hence, if  $n = 2m$  (even), then

$$E_n = E_{2m} = -(a^2 / m^2 \pi^2)$$

and

if  $n = 2m-1$  (odd), then

$$E_n = E_{2m-1} = 0.$$

Also, from (6),

$$C_n^2 = (n^2 \pi^2 k) / a^2 = (4m^2 \pi^2 k) / a^2, \text{ if } n = 2m$$

Substituting the above values of  $E_0, E_n$  and  $C_n^2$  in (4), the required solution is given by

$$u(x, t) = \frac{a^2}{6} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left( -\frac{a^2}{m^2 \pi^2} \right) \cos \frac{2m\pi x}{a} e^{-(4m^2 \pi^2 k t) / a^2}$$

or

$$u(x, t) = \frac{a^2}{6} - \frac{a^2}{\pi^2} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^2} \cos \frac{2m\pi x}{a} e^{-(4m^2 \pi^2 k t) / a^2}$$

## 2.5. Solution of heat equation when one end is insulated

While finding the solution of heat equation when one end is insulated while the other end is kept at a constant temperature, we proceed as explained in the following example.

**Example:** Obtain temperature distribution  $y(x, t)$  in a uniform bar of unit length whose one end is kept at  $10^\circ \text{C}$  and the other end is insulated. Further it is given that  $y(x, 0) = 1 - x, 0 < x < 1$ .

**Sol.** Suppose the bar be placed along the  $x$ -axis with its one end (which is at  $10^\circ \text{C}$ ) at origin and the other end at  $x = 1$  (which is insulated so that flux  $-K(\partial y / \partial x)$  is zero there,  $K$  being the thermal conductivity). Then we are to solve heat equation

$$\partial y / \partial t = k(\partial^2 y / \partial x^2) \quad \dots (1)$$