

AMATH 503: Homework 2

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(a) Assuming a solution of the form $u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$ we have the following, with K being an arbitrary constant.

$$\frac{T''(t)}{T(t)} = \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} = K \quad (1)$$

If we suppose $K = 0$ we quickly get a trivial solution:

$$X''(x) = 0$$

$$X(x) = Ax + B$$

$$X(0) = A(0) + B = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$B = 0, X(\pi) = A(\pi) = 0$$

$$A = 0$$

Similarly, if $K > 0$ we have solutions of the form:

$$\begin{aligned}X(x) &= Ae^{\sqrt{x}} + Be^{-\sqrt{x}} \\X(0) &= A + B = 0 \\B &= -A \\X(\pi) &= Ae^{\sqrt{\pi}} - Ae^{-\sqrt{\pi}} = 0 \\A &= 0\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

These trivial solutions have been covered quite a bit, but I include them here for later reference. We now proceed with $-\lambda^2 = K < 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}X(x) &= A\sin(\lambda x) + B\cos(\lambda x) \\X(0) &= B = 0 \\X(\pi) &= A\sin(\lambda\pi) \\ \lambda\pi &= \pi n \\ \lambda &= n \\X_n(x) &= A_n\sin(nx)\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

We combine this with the T equation to get a general solution, consolidating the arbitrary constant from the X equation, and then applying the ICs:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_n(t) &= A_n \sin(nt) + B_n \cos(nt) \\
 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [A_n \sin(nt) + B_n \cos(nt)] \sin(nx) \\
 u(x, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin(nx) = 1 \\
 B_n &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(nx) dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \left[\frac{-\cos(nx)}{n} \right]_0^{\pi} \\
 B_n &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left(\frac{-\cos(n\pi) + 1}{n} \right) \\
 B_n &= \frac{2 - 2(-1)^n}{\pi n}
 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

To apply the other IC we need the time derivative:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_t(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [A_n n \cos(nt) - B_n n \sin(nt)] \sin(nx) \\
 u_t(x, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin(nx) = 0
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

It has been asserted in class and office hours without proof that for a series of this form to be equal to zero, the coefficient must be zero, thus we have $A_n = 0$.

Combining these we have the complete solution:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{n} \cos(nt) \sin(nx) \tag{7}$$

(b) We can observe from sections **(2)** and **(3)** above that the addition of the coefficient of 2 in this problem will not change the triviality of solutions with $K = 0$ and $K > 0$, therefore we move directly to solutions with $K < 0$. Given

the formula,

$$\frac{T''(t)}{2T(t)} = \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} = -\lambda^2 \quad (8)$$

we can see that the $X(x)$ equation will be identical to (4). We therefore move on to the $T(t)$ equation, again using the ansatz from the notes and the fact that $\lambda = n$:

$$T_n(t) = A_n \sin(\sqrt{2}nt) + B_n \cos(\sqrt{2}nt) \quad (9)$$

The resulting general solution before applying ICs is thus:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[A_n \sin(\sqrt{2}nt) + B_n \cos(\sqrt{2}nt) \right] \sin(nx) \quad (10)$$

Now applying the first IC:

$$u(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin(nx) = 0 \quad (11)$$

For the reasons given near (6) above $B_n = 0$, we now take the time derivative and apply the other IC:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin(\sqrt{2}nt) \sin(nx) \\ u_t(x, t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n\sqrt{2}A_n \cos(\sqrt{2}nt) \sin(nx) \\ u_t(x, 0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n\sqrt{2}A_n \sin(nx) = 1 \\ n\sqrt{2}A_n &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(nx) dx \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

We can recover the result of this integral from (5) above, giving:

$$\begin{aligned} n\sqrt{2}A_n &= \frac{2 - 2(-1)^n}{\pi n} \\ A_n &= \frac{2 - 2(-1)^n}{\sqrt{2}\pi n^2} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Thus we have the full solution:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{2}{\pi\sqrt{2}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1 - (-1)^n}{n^2} \sin(\sqrt{2}nt) \right] \sin(nx) \quad (14)$$