

What is the solution to the initial-value problem

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{PDE} & u_{tt} = u_{xx} & -\infty < x < \infty & 0 < t < \infty \\ \text{ICs} & \begin{cases} u(x, 0) = e^{-x^2} \\ u_t(x, 0) = 0 \end{cases} & -\infty < x < \infty & \end{array}$$

What does the solution look like for various values of time?

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= \frac{1}{2} [f(x - ct) + f(x + ct)] + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} g(\xi) d\xi \\ f(x) &= e^{-x^2} \\ g(x) &= 0 \\ c &= \pm 1 \\ u(x, t) &= \frac{1}{2} [e^{-(x \mp t)^2} + e^{-(x \pm t)^2}] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [e^{-(x-t)^2} + e^{-(x+t)^2}] = \frac{1}{2} [e^{-(x+t)^2} + e^{-(x-t)^2}] \end{aligned}$$

