

PDF available online at: [people.tamu.edu/~granthelmreich/exercise2.4.1](http://people.tamu.edu/~granthelmreich/exercise2.4.1)

2.4.1 (a) Solve the equation,

$$\frac{\delta u}{\delta t} = k \frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2}, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad 0 < t \quad (1)$$

Given boundary conditions,

$$\frac{\delta u}{\delta x}(0, t) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\delta u}{\delta x}(L, t) = 0 \quad (3)$$

And initial conditions,

$$u(x, 0) = f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \dots x < L/2 \\ 1 & \dots x > L/2 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

By separation of variables, we assume based on experience that the solution is of form,

$$u(x, t) = \phi(x)G(t) \quad (5)$$

Now by taking partial differentials with respect to  $t$  and  $x$  and substitution into equation 1,

$$\frac{\phi''(x)}{\phi(x)} = \frac{G'(t)}{kG(t)} \quad (6)$$

Equation 6 then directly implies,

$$\frac{\delta G}{\delta t} = -\lambda k G \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\delta^2 \phi}{\delta x^2} = -\lambda \phi \quad (8)$$

Equation 7 is a simple ODE with a standard solution,

$$G(t) = ce^{-\lambda kt} \quad (9)$$

By recognizing that this problem uses Neumann boundary conditions, experience shows that equation 8 implies,

$$\phi(x) = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x) = c_1 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \quad (10)$$

$$\lambda = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \quad (11)$$

Substitution into the equation 5 yields,

$$u(x,t) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-(n\pi/L)^2 kt} \quad (12)$$

$$A_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx \quad (13)$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad (14)$$

Substitution of equation 4 for  $f(x)$  yields,

$$A_0 = \frac{1}{L} \left( L - \frac{L}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \quad (15)$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{L} \left( -\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right) \frac{L}{n\pi} \right) = -\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right) \frac{2}{n\pi} \quad (16)$$

Combining equations 12, 15, and 16 yields the final solution for  $u(x,t)$ ,

$$u(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ -\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right) \frac{2}{n\pi} \right] \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-(n\pi/L)^2 kt} \quad (17)$$

2.4.1 (b) Solve the equation,

$$\frac{\delta u}{\delta t} = k \frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2}, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad 0 < t \quad (1)$$

Given boundary conditions,

$$\frac{\delta u}{\delta x}(0, t) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\delta u}{\delta x}(L, t) = 0 \quad (3)$$

And initial conditions,

$$u(x, 0) = f(x) = 6 + 4 \cos\left(\frac{3\pi x}{L}\right) \quad (4)$$

By separation of variables, we assume based on experience that the solution is of form,

$$u(x, t) = \phi(x)G(t) \quad (5)$$

Now by taking partial differentials with respect to  $t$  and  $x$  and substitution into equation 1,

$$\frac{\phi''(x)}{\phi(x)} = \frac{G'(t)}{kG(t)} \quad (6)$$

Equation 6 then directly implies,

$$\frac{\delta G}{\delta t} = -\lambda k G \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\delta^2 \phi}{\delta x^2} = -\lambda \phi \quad (8)$$

Equation 7 is a simple ODE with a standard solution,

$$G(t) = ce^{-\lambda kt} \quad (9)$$

By recognizing that this problem uses Neumann boundary conditions, experience shows that equation 8 implies,

$$\phi(x) = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x) = c_1 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \quad (10)$$

$$\lambda = \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 \quad (11)$$

Substitution into the equation 5 yields,

$$u(x, t) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-(n\pi/L)^2 kt} \quad (12)$$

$$A_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx \quad (13)$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad (14)$$

Substitution of equation 4 for  $f(x)$  yields,

$$A_0 = \frac{1}{L} \left[ \left( 6L + \frac{4L}{3\pi} \sin(3\pi) \right) - \left( 0 + \frac{4L}{3\pi} \sin(0) \right) \right] = 6 \quad (15)$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \left[ 6 + 4 \cos\left(\frac{3\pi x}{L}\right) \right] \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad (16)$$

At this point, orthogonality conditions show that  $A_n$  is zero for all values except  $n = 3$ . Solving at this value of  $n$  yields,

$$A_3 = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \left[ 6 \cos\left(\frac{3\pi x}{L}\right) + 4 \cos^2\left(\frac{3\pi x}{L}\right) \right] dx = \frac{2}{L} \left[ \frac{2L}{\pi} \sin\left(\frac{3\pi x}{L}\right) + \frac{4x}{2} + \frac{L}{3\pi} \sin\left(\frac{6\pi x}{L}\right) \right] \quad (17)$$

$$A_3 = \frac{2}{L} [(0 + 2L + 0) - (0 + 0 + 0)] = 4 \quad (18)$$

Combining equations 12, 15, and 18 yields the final solution for  $u(x, t)$ ,

$$u(x, t) = 6 + 4 \left[ \cos\left(\frac{3\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-(3\pi/L)^2 kt} \right] \quad (19)$$