

Topic: - Wave Equation

Ex. Solve:

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} = 16 u_{xx}, & 0 < x < \pi, t > 0 \\ u(0,t) = u(\pi,t) = 0, & t > 0 \\ u(x,0) = \sin^2(x), & 0 < x < \pi \\ u_t(x,0) = 1 - \cos(x), & 0 < x < \pi \end{cases}$$

As usual, assume  $u(x,t) = X(x)T(t)$ .

If we plug this in, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T''X &= 16TX'' \\ \Leftrightarrow \frac{T''}{16T} &= \frac{X''}{X} = -\lambda \end{aligned}$$

So, we now solve:

$$\begin{cases} T'' = -16\lambda T \\ X'' = -\lambda X \end{cases}$$

Start with the equation for  $X$ . If

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda = 0, \quad X'' &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow X &= Ax + B. \end{aligned}$$

Then, our boundary conditions imply  $A=B=0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{If } \lambda < 0, \quad X(x) &= c_1 e^{r_1 x} + c_2 e^{r_2 x}, \\ \text{and boundary conditions} &\Rightarrow c_1 = c_2 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now, when } \lambda > 0, \quad r = \pm i\sqrt{\lambda}.$$

$$\text{Then, } X(x) = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}x).$$

$$\text{Then, } X(0) = c_1 = 0,$$

$$X(\pi) = c_2 \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}\pi)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \sqrt{\lambda}\pi &= n\pi, \quad \text{or} \\ \lambda_n &= n^2. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence, } X_n(x) = c_n \sin(nx).$$

Now, return to the equation for  $T$ .

$$\text{We have that } T_n'' = -16n^2 T_n$$

$$\text{So, } r = \pm i4n, \quad \text{and}$$

$$T_n(t) = a_n \cos(4nt) + b_n \sin(4nt)$$

Hence, our solution is:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x,t) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n(x) T_n(t) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin(nx) [a_n \cos(4nt) + b_n \sin(4nt)] \end{aligned}$$

We now solve for the coefficients using the initial conditions.

Assume  $c_n = 1$  (since  $c_n$  distributes to  $a_n$  and  $b_n$ , we are just relabelling coefficients).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then,} \\ u(x,0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin(nx) a_n \\ &= \sin^2(x). \end{aligned}$$

So, we want the sin series of  $\sin^2(x)$  on the interval  $(0, \pi)$ . So,

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin^2(x) \sin(nx) dx \quad \left( \text{This is not a fun time to integrate.} \right. \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ \frac{2((-1)^n - 1)}{n(n^2 - 4)} \right] \quad \left. \text{I won't write it here as it is longer} \right. \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \begin{cases} 0, & n \text{ even (do } n=2 \text{ case separately).} \\ \frac{-4}{n(n^2 - 4)}, & n \text{ odd.} \end{cases} \quad \left. \text{than the problem itself so far).} \right. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then,} \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x,0) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin(nx) \cdot b_n \\ &= 1 - \cos(x). \end{aligned}$$

So, we now want the sin series of  $1 - \cos(x)$  on  $(0, \pi)$ .

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

So, our final solution is:

$$u(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin(nx) [a_n \cos(4nt) + b_n \sin(4nt)],$$

with the coefficients found above.