

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

... (5)

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

... (6)

Step II. Compare the given problem with (1), (2) and (3) and find particular values of

Step III. Substitute the particular values of k , a and $f(x)$ in (5) and (6) to get E_n and C_n^2

Step IV. Substitute the values of coefficients E_n and C_n^2 obtained in step III in (4) to arrive at the desired solution of the given boundary value problem.

Solved example based on Art. 2.3 A and Art. 2.3 B

Ex. 1 (a) A rod of length l with insulated sides, is initially at a uniform temperature u_0 . Its ends are suddenly cooled to 0°C and are kept at that temperature. Find the temperature $u(x, t)$.

[Andhra 1997, 2003]

(b) A thin rod of length π is first immersed in boiling water so that its temperature is 100°C throughout. Then the rod is removed from water at $t = 0$ which is immediately put in ice so that the ends are kept at 0°C . Find $w(x, t)$ if heat equation is $a^2(\partial^2 w / \partial x^2) = \partial w / \partial t$.

[Nagpur 2002]

Sol. (a) We can prove (actually prove in examination) that the solution of the heat equation

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

subject to the boundary conditions

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

and the initial condition

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

given by

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \sin(n\pi x/a) e^{-C_n^2 t}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad \dots (4)$$

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

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

Comparing the given boundary value problem with the boundary value problem given by (1), (2) and (3), we have $k = k$, $a = l$ and $f(x) = u_0$. Hence, (5) reduces to

$$E_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l u_0 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx = \frac{2u_0}{l} \left[-\frac{l}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right]_0^l = \frac{2u_0}{n\pi} [1 - (-1)^n], \text{ as } \cos n\pi = (-1)^n$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n = 2m, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ 4u_0 / n\pi, & \text{if } n = 2m-1, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{cases}$$

Hence solution (4) reduces to

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} E_{2m-1} \sin \frac{(2m-1)\pi x}{l} e^{-C_{2m-1}^2 t} \text{ or } u(x, t) = \frac{4u_0}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2m-1)} \sin \frac{(2m-1)\pi x}{l} e^{-C_{2m-1}^2 t}$$

$$C_{2m-1}^2 = \{(2m-1)^2 \pi^2 k\} / l^2.$$

(b) Proceed as in part (a). Here $w = u$, $k = a^2$, $a = \pi$ and $u_0 = 100$.

Then, by (6), $C_n^2 = (2m-1)^2 a^2$ and so from (4) the required solution is

$$w(x, t) = \frac{400}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2m-1} \sin(2m-1)x e^{-(2m-1)^2 a^2 t}$$

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 $u(x, 0) = lx - x^2$. [Himanchal 2007; Meerut 2010; Delhi 2010]

(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

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

subject to the boundary conditions
and the initial condition

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

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

is given by

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

where

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

and

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

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

$$E_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l (lx - x^2) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

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

[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

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

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

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

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

[Using chain rule of integration by parts]

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

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

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

Then,

∴ 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 $u(x, 0) = x(l-x)$, $0 \leq x \leq l$.

[I.A.S. 2002]

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

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

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

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

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

$$\dots (2)$$

$$\dots (3)$$

$$u(x, 0) = f(x), \quad 0 < x < a \quad \dots (4)$$

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \sin(n\pi x/a) e^{-c_n^2 t} \quad \dots (5)$$

$$\dots (6)$$

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

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

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

