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Problems on Vibrating String with Zero initial velocity :

- ① A uniform string is stretched and fastened to two points $x=0$ and $x=l$ apart. Motion is started by displacing the string into the form of the curve $y = kx(l-x)$ & then released from this position at time $t=0$. Derive the expression for the displacement of any point on the string at a distance 'x' from one end at time t.

Solution:

Step 1: The wave equation is,

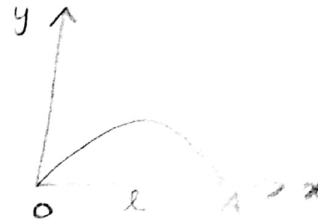
$$\text{Step 2: } \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$$

B.c (i) : $y(0, t) = 0$ for all $t > 0$

B.c (ii) : $y(l, t) = 0$ for all $t > 0$

I.c (iii) : $\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)_{(x,0)} = 0, 0 < x < l$ (\because initial velocity is zero)

I.c (iv) : $y(x, 0) = kx(l-x), 0 < x < l$ (initial displacement)



Step 3: The suitable solution which satisfies our boundary conditions are given by,

$$y(x, t) = (c_1 \cos px + c_2 \sin px) (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

Step 4: Applying condition (i) in eqn $\textcircled{1}$, we get

$$y(0, t) = (c_1 + 0) (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) = 0.$$

Here $(c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) \neq 0$, since it is defined for all $t > 0$.

$$\therefore \boxed{c_1 = 0}$$

Subs $c_1 = 0$ in eqn $\textcircled{1}$, we get,



$$y(x, t) = c_2 \sin px (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) \rightarrow (2)$$

Step 5:
Applying condition (ii) in eqn (2), we get

$$y(l, t) = c_2 \sin pl (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) = 0.$$

Here $(c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) \neq 0$, since it is defined for all $t > 0$.

Therefore either $c_2 = 0$ or $\sin pl = 0$.

If we take $c_2 = 0$ we get a trivial solution.

\therefore Take $\sin pl = 0$.

$$\sin pl = \sin n\pi \quad (\because \sin n\pi = 0)$$

$$pl = n\pi$$

$$p = \frac{n\pi}{l}, \text{ where } n \text{ is an integer.}$$

Substituting $p = \frac{n\pi}{l}$ in eqn (2), we get

$$y(x, t) = c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left(c_3 \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} + c_4 \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l} \right)$$

Step 6:

Diff (3) w.r.t 't' partially, we get,

$$\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)_{(x,t)} = c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left(-c_3 \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l} + c_4 \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} \right) \rightarrow (3)$$

Now applying condition (iii), we get

$$\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)_{(x,0)} = c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left(0 + c_4 \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_2 c_4 \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = 0$$

Here $c_2 \neq 0$, $\sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \neq 0$ \because it is defined for all x and $\frac{n\pi a}{l} \neq 0$ since all are constants.



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$$\therefore C_4 = 0$$

Subs $C_4 = 0$ in eqn (3), we get

$$y(x,t) = C_2 C_3 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi t}{l}$$

$$y(x,t) = C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi t}{l} \rightarrow (4)$$

where $C_n = C_2 C_3$.

Step 7: The most general solution is,

$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi t}{l} \rightarrow (5)$$

Step 8:

Applying B.C (iv) in eqn (5), we have

$$y(x,0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = kx(l-x) \rightarrow (6)$$

Step 9:

To find C_n :

Expand $kx(l-x)$ in a half range Fourier sine series in the interval $(0,l)$.

$$kx(l-x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \rightarrow (7) \text{ where}$$

$$\text{From (6) \& (7) } b_n = C_n \quad b_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

$$\therefore C_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l kx(l-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

$$\therefore C_n = \frac{2}{l} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int_0^l (klx - kx^2) \frac{1}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx \\ + (kl - 2kx) \frac{l^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \\ - 2k \cdot \frac{l^3}{n^3 \pi^3} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} \end{array} \right\}_0^l$$

$$u = klx - kx^2$$

$$u' = kl - 2kx$$

$$u'' = -2k$$

$$V = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l}$$

$$V_1 = -\cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} / \frac{n\pi}{l}$$

$$V_2 = -\sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} / \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{l^2}$$

$$V_3 = \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} / \frac{n^3 \pi^3}{l^3}$$

$$C_n = \frac{2}{l} \left\{ -2k \frac{l^3}{n^3 \pi^3} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right\}_0^l$$

$$= -\frac{4kl^2}{n^3 \pi^3} \left\{ \cos n\pi - \cos 0 \right\}$$

$$C_n = \frac{4kl^2}{n^3 \pi^3} [1 - (-1)^n]$$

$$C_n = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ \frac{8kl^2}{n^3 \pi^3}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

Step 10: subs the value of C_n in eqn (5), we get

$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n=\text{odd}}^{\infty} \frac{8kl^2}{n^3 \pi^3} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l}$$

$$y(x,t) = \frac{8kl^2}{\pi^3} \sum_{n=\text{odd}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l}$$

③ A tightly stretched string with fixed end points $x=0$ and $x=l$ is initially in a position given by $y(x,0) = y_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l}$. If it is released from rest from

this position find the displacement y at any distance x from one end at any time t .

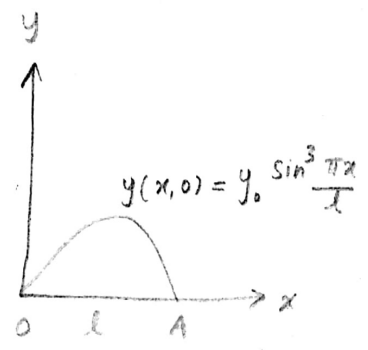
Solution:

Step 1: The wave equation is

Step 2:
$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$$

The boundary conditions are

- (i) $y(0,t) = 0$ for all $t > 0$
- (ii) $y(l,t) = 0$ for all $t > 0$
- (iii) $\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)_{(x,0)} = 0$, $0 < x < l$ (initial velocity is zero)
- (iv) $y(x,0) = y_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l}$, $0 < x < l$.



Step 3: The suitable solution which satisfies our boundary conditions are given by,

$$y(x,t) = (c_1 \cos px + c_2 \sin px) (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

Step 4: Applying condition (i) in eqn ①, we get,

$$y(0,t) = (c_1 \cos p \cdot 0 + c_2 \sin p \cdot 0) (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) = 0$$

$$c_1 (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) = 0$$

Here $c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat \neq 0$, since it is defined for all $t > 0$.

$$\therefore \boxed{c_1 = 0}$$

Subs $c_1 = 0$ in eqn ①, we get,

$$y(x,t) = c_2 \sin px (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) \rightarrow \textcircled{2}$$

Step 5:

Applying condition (ii) in eqn (2), we get,

$$y(l, t) = c_2 \sin pl (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) = 0.$$

Here $(c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) \neq 0$, since it is defined for all $t > 0$.

Therefore either $c_2 = 0$ or $\sin pl = 0$.

If we take $c_2 = 0$ we get a trivial solution.

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Subs $p = \frac{n\pi}{l}$ in eqn (2), we get,

$$y(x, t) = c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left(c_3 \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} + c_4 \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l} \right)$$

Step 6:

Diff (3) w.r.t 't' partially, we get, $\rightarrow (3)$

$$\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right) = c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left(-c_3 \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l} + c_4 \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} \right)$$

Now applying condition (iii), we get

$$\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)_{(x,0)} = c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left(0 + c_4 \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_2 c_4 \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = 0$$

Here $c_2 \neq 0$, $\sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \neq 0$ \because it is defined for all x

and $\frac{n\pi a}{l} \neq 0$ since all are constants.

$$\therefore \boxed{c_4 = 0}$$

Subs $c_4 = 0$ in eqn (3), we get

$$y(x, t) = c_2 c_3 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} \quad (13)$$

$$y(x, t) = c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} \rightarrow (4)$$

where $c_n = c_2 c_3$.

Step 7: The most general solution is,

$$y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} \rightarrow (5)$$

Step 8: Now applying condition (iv) in (5),

$$y(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = y_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = \frac{y_0}{4} \left(3 \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} - \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l} \right)$$

$$[\because \sin^3 x = \frac{1}{4} (3 \sin x - \sin 3x)]$$

$$\therefore c_1 \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} + c_2 \sin \frac{2\pi x}{l} + c_3 \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l} + \dots = \frac{y_0}{4} \left(3 \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} - \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l} \right)$$

Equating like coefficients on either side, we have, $c_1 = \frac{3y_0}{4}$, $c_2 = 0$, $c_3 = -\frac{y_0}{4}$, $c_4 = 0$, $c_5 = 0$, \dots

\therefore Eqn (5) gives

$$y(x, t) = c_1 \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{\pi at}{l} + c_2 \sin \frac{2\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{2\pi at}{l} + c_3 \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{3\pi at}{l} + \dots \rightarrow (6)$$

Step 9:

Subs the values of c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots in (6),

$$y(x, t) = \frac{3y_0}{4} \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{\pi at}{l} - \frac{y_0}{4} \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{3\pi at}{l}$$

Note: $\sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l}$ contains only two terms. Hence we need not expand $\sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l}$ in a half range sine series.