

Problems on Vibrating string with non-zero initial velocity.

Problem 1:

A tightly stretched string with fixed end points $x=0$ and $x=l$ is initially at rest in its equilibrium position. If it is set vibrating giving each point a velocity $\lambda x(l-x)$, then show that $y(x,t) = \frac{8\lambda l^3}{\pi^2 a} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \frac{\sin \frac{n\pi x}{l}}{1} \sin \frac{n\pi t}{l}$

Solution:

The wave equation is $\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$

Step 1:

The boundary conditions are

- (a) $y(0,t) = 0$ for all $t > 0$
- (b) $y(l,t) = 0$ for all $t > 0$
- (c) $y(x,0) = 0$ for all x in $(0,l)$

(\because The string when $t=0$ is in its equilibrium position and hence there is no displacement)

- (d) $\frac{\partial y(x,0)}{\partial t} = \lambda x(l-x)$ for every x in $(0,l)$.

Step 2: Choose the solution

$$y(x,t) = (C_1 \cos px + C_2 \sin px) (C_3 \cos pat + C_4 \sin pat) \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Step 3: Applying condition (a) in (1).

$$y(0,t) = 0 \quad \text{put } x=0; t=t.$$

$$y(0,t) = (C_1 \cos 0 + C_2 \sin 0) (C_3 \cos pat + C_4 \sin pat)$$

$$\Rightarrow C_1 (\cos pat + C_4 \sin pat) = 0$$

$$C_1 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \cos pat + C_4 \sin pat \neq 0$$

Sub $c_1 = 0$ in (1)

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

Step 4: Applying (b) in (2)

$$y(l,t) = 0 \quad x=l; t=t$$

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

$$\Rightarrow c_2 \sin pl = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat \neq 0$$

$$c_2 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \sin pl = 0$$

If $c_2 = 0$, the solution is trivial.

$$\therefore \sin pl = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow pl = n\pi \Rightarrow \boxed{p = \frac{n\pi}{l}}$$

Sub $p = \frac{n\pi}{l}$ in (2);

$$y(x,t) = c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} (c_3 \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} + c_4 \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l}) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Step 5: Applying (c) in (3).

$$y(x,0) = 0 \Rightarrow x=x; t=0$$

$$c_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} (c_3 \cos(0) + c_4 \sin(0)) = 0$$

$$c_2 c_3 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = 0$$

$$c_2 \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad c_3 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = 0$$

Here $\sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \neq 0$ (since it is defined for all x)

$$\therefore \boxed{c_3 = 0}$$

Sub $c_3 = 0$ in (3).

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

$$y(x,t) = c_2 c_4 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l}$$

$$y(x,t) = c_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Step 6: Applying condition (d) in (4).

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l} \right) = \lambda x(l-x)$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} = \lambda x(l-x)$$

put $x=a$ and $t=0$.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi a}{l} \cos(0) = \lambda a(l-a)$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi a}{l} = \lambda a(l-a) \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

To find C_n , expand $\lambda x(l-x)$ in a half-range Fourier sine series we get,

$$\lambda x(l-x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

$$\text{where } b_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx.$$

On comparing the eqns (5) + (6)

$$C_n \left(\frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi a}{l} = b_n \Rightarrow C_n = b_n \left(\frac{l}{n\pi a} \right) \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

$$C_n = b_n \left(\frac{1}{n\pi a} \right) \text{--- (6)}$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l \lambda x(l-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

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

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

$$= \frac{2\lambda}{l} \left[\left(0 - 0 - \frac{2l^3}{n^3\pi^3} (-1)^n \right) - \left(0 + 0 - \frac{2l^3}{n^3\pi^3} \right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{2\lambda}{l} \left[\frac{-2l^3}{n^3\pi^3} (-1)^n + \frac{2l^3}{n^3\pi^3} \right]$$

$$b_n = \frac{4\lambda l^3}{l n^3\pi^3} [-(-1)^n + 1] \quad \therefore n = \frac{4\lambda l^2}{n^3\pi^3} [1 - (-1)^n]$$

$$\therefore b_n = \begin{cases} \frac{8\lambda l^2}{n^3\pi^3}, & \text{when } n \text{ is odd,} \\ 0, & \text{when } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

\therefore sub b_n in (6),

$$C_n = \frac{8\lambda l^2}{n^3\pi^3} \frac{1}{n\pi a}$$

$$C_n = \frac{8\lambda l^2}{n^4\pi^4 a} \text{--- (7)}$$

Sub C_n in (4),

$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1,3,5}^{\infty} \frac{8\lambda l^2}{n^4\pi^4 a} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l}$$

$$\therefore y(x,t) = \frac{8\lambda l^2}{\pi^4 a} \sum_{n=1,3,5}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n^4} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{l}$$

(8)

2) If a string of length 'l' is initially at rest in its equilibrium position and each of its points is given the velocity

$$\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)_{t=0} = v_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l}, \quad 0 < x < l.$$

Determine the displacement function $y(x, t)$.

Solution: The Wave equation is $\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$

Step 1: The boundary conditions are

a) $y(0, t) = 0$ for every $t > 0$

b) $y(l, t) = 0$ for every $t > 0$

c) $y(x, 0) = 0$ for all x in $(0, l)$

d) $\frac{\partial y(x, 0)}{\partial t} = v_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l}$ for all x in $(0, l)$

Same as problem 1 as till step 5.

Step 6: $y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi a t}{l}$ — (4)

Applying condition (d) in (4)

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \frac{n\pi a}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi a t}{l}$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \frac{n\pi a}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} (1) = v_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \frac{n\pi a}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = v_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l} \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

$$C_1 \frac{\pi a}{l} \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} + C_2 \frac{2\pi a}{l} \sin \frac{2\pi x}{l} + C_3 \frac{3\pi a}{l} \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l}$$

$$= v_0 \left[\frac{1}{4} \left(3 \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} - \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l} \right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{3v_0}{4} \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} - \frac{v_0}{4} \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l}$$

On Equating like co. we get,

$$c_1 \frac{\pi a}{l} = \frac{3v_0}{4} \quad | \quad c_2 = 0 \quad | \quad c_3 \frac{3\pi a}{l} = -\frac{v_0}{4}$$

$$c_1 = \frac{3v_0 l}{4\pi a} \quad | \quad c_3 = -\frac{l v_0}{12\pi a}$$

Sub c_1 and c_2

$$y(x, t) = \frac{3v_0 l}{4\pi a} \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{\pi a t}{l} - \frac{v_0 l}{12\pi a} \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{3\pi a t}{l}$$

is the solution.

3) A string is stretched between two fixed points at a distance $2l$ apart and the points of the string are given initial velocities v where

$$v = \begin{cases} \frac{cx}{l}, & \text{in } 0 < x < l \\ \frac{c}{l}(2l-x), & \text{in } l < x < 2l \end{cases}$$

x being the distance from an end point. Find the displacement of the string at any time.

Solution:

$$\text{The wave eqn is } \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$$

Let $2l = L$ for convenience.

Step 1: The boundary conditions are

a) $y(0, t) = 0 \quad \forall t > 0$

b) $y(L, t) = 0 \quad \forall t > 0$

c) $y(x, 0) = 0 \quad \forall x \text{ in } (0, L)$

d) $\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x, 0) = \begin{cases} \frac{2cx}{L}, & 0 < x < \frac{L}{2} \\ \frac{2c}{L}(L-x), & \frac{L}{2} < x < L \end{cases}$

Step 2: choose the solution

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

Steps: $\Rightarrow c_1 = 0$

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

Step 4: Applying (b) condition (2)

$$y(L, t) = 0 \quad x = L \quad | \quad t = t$$

$$y(L, t) = C_2 \sin pL \left[C_3 \sin pat + C_4 \sin pat \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{p = \frac{n\pi}{L}}$$

put $p = \frac{n\pi}{L}$ in (2).

$$y(x, t) = C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \left(C_3 \cos \frac{n\pi at}{L} + C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L} \right) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Step 5: Applying (c) in (3)

$$y(x, 0) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad C_3 = 0$$

$$y(x, t) = C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L}$$

$$= C_2 C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L}$$

$$\therefore y(x, t) = C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

The most general solution is

$$y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L} \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

Step 6: Applying (d) in (5)

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{n\pi a}{L} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{L}$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x, t) = \quad \quad \quad = f(x)$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{n\pi a}{L} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{L} = f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2cx}{L} \\ \frac{2c}{L}(L-x) \end{cases}$$

--- (6)

To find C_n , expand $f(x)$ in a half range Fourier

Sine Series, $f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \quad \text{--- (7)}$

Step 4: Applying ^(b) condition ⁽²⁾

$$y(L, t) = 0 \quad x = L \quad t = t$$

$$y(L, t) = C_2 \sin pL [C_3 \sin pat + C_4 \cos pat] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{p = \frac{n\pi}{L}}$$

put $p = \frac{n\pi}{L}$ in ⁽²⁾

$$y(x, t) = C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \left(C_3 \cos \frac{n\pi at}{L} + C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L} \right) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Step 5: Applying ^(c) in ⁽³⁾

$$y(x, 0) = 0 \Rightarrow C_3 = 0$$

$$y(x, t) = C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L} \\ = C_2 C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L}$$

$$\therefore y(x, t) = C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

The most general solution is

$$y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L} \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

Step 6: Applying ^(d) in ⁽⁵⁾

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{n\pi a}{L} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{L}$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x, t) = \quad \quad \quad = f(x)$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{n\pi a}{L} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{L} = f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2cx}{L} \\ \frac{2c}{L}(L-x) \end{cases} \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

To find C_n , expand $f(x)$ in a half range Fourier

Sine Series, $f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \quad \text{--- (7)}$

From ⁽⁶⁾ & ⁽⁷⁾ we get

$$C_n \frac{n\pi a}{L} = b_n =$$

$$\text{Now, } b_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \\ = \frac{2}{L} \left[\int_0^{L/2} f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right]$$

$$= \frac{2}{L} \left[\int_0^{L/2} \frac{2cx}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^L \frac{2c}{L}(L-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right]$$

$$= \frac{4c}{L^2} \left[\int_0^{L/2} x \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^L (L-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right]$$

$u = x$	$u = L - x$	$dv = \sin$
$u' = 1$	$u' = -1$	$v = -\frac{\cos}{n\pi}$
$u'' = 0$	$u'' = 0$	$v_1 = -\frac{\cos}{n\pi}$

$$= \frac{4c}{L^2} \left[\left(x \left(-\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) + \int_{L/2}^L (L-x) \left(-\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) dx \right) \right]$$

$$+ \left((L-x) \left(-\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) - \int_{L/2}^L x \left(-\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) dx \right)$$

$$= \frac{4c}{L^2} \left[\left(\frac{L}{2} \left(-\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right) + \int_{L/2}^L (L-x) \left(-\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) dx \right) \right]$$

$$+ \left(0 + 0 - \left(\frac{L}{2} \left(-\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right) - \int_0^{L/2} x \left(-\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) dx \right) \right)$$

$$= \frac{4c}{L^2} \left[\frac{2L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \right]$$

$$= \frac{8c}{L^2} \frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} = C_n$$

From (6) & (7) we get

$$C_n \frac{n\pi a}{L} = b_n \Rightarrow C_n = \frac{b_n L}{n\pi a} \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

$$\text{Now, } b_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

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

$$= \frac{2}{L} \left[\int_0^{L/2} \frac{2Cx}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^L \frac{2C}{L} (L-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right]$$

$$= \frac{4C}{L^2} \left[\int_0^{L/2} x \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^L (L-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} u = x \\ u' = 1 \\ u'' = 0 \end{array} \quad \left| \quad \begin{array}{l} u = L-x \\ u' = -1 \\ u'' = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$$dv = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

$$v = \frac{-L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

$$v_1 = \frac{-L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

$$= \frac{4C}{L^2} \left[\left(x \left(\frac{-L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) + \frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) \Big|_0^{L/2} \right.$$

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

$$= \frac{4C}{L^2} \left[\left(\frac{L}{2} \left(\frac{-L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right) + \frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \right) - (0) \right.$$

$$\left. + \left(0 + 0 - \left(\frac{L}{2} \left(\frac{-L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right) + \frac{-L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \right) \right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{4C}{L^2} \left[\frac{2L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \right]$$

$$\therefore b_n = \frac{8C}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2}$$

$$= \frac{8C}{L^2} \frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \quad \text{sub } b_n \text{ in (8),}$$

$$C_n = \frac{8C}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \frac{L}{n\pi a} = \frac{8CL}{n^3\pi^3 a} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2}$$

Replace L by $2L$

$$C_n = \frac{16cl}{n^3 \pi^3 a} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \quad \text{--- (9)}$$

Sub (9) in (5),

$$y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{16cl}{n^3 \pi^3 a} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \cdot \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{L}$$

$$y(x, t) = \frac{16cl}{\pi^3 a} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2l} \sin \frac{n\pi at}{2l}$$

is the solution.