

Problem 1: A string is stretched and fastened at two points  $x=0$  and  $x=l$  apart. Motion is started by displacing the string into the form  $y = k(lx - x^2)$  from which it is released at time  $t=0$ . Find the displacement of any point on the string at a distance of  $x$  from one end at time  $t$ .

Solution:

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

Step 1: Boundary conditions:

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

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

c)  $\frac{\partial y(x, 0)}{\partial t} = 0$  ( $\because$  initial velocity is zero)

d)  $y(x, 0) = k(lx - x^2)$

Step 2: choose the solution

The solution which satisfies the boundary conditions ~~are~~ is

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

Step 3: Applying (a) in (1)

$y(0, t) = 0$       sub  $x=0; t=t$

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

$$\Rightarrow (c_1(1) + c_2(0)) (c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat) = 0$$

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

$$c_1 = 0 \text{ and } c_3 \cos pat + c_4 \sin pat \neq 0$$

put  $c_1 = 0$  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)

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

$$C_2 \sin pl (C_3 \cos pat + C_4 \sin pat) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow C_2 \sin pl = 0 \text{ and } C_3 \cos pat + C_4 \sin pat \neq 0$$

( $\because$  it is defined for all  $t$ )

Either  $C_2 = 0$  (or)  $\sin pl = 0$

If  $C_2 = 0$ , we get a trivial solution

$\therefore$  We choose  $\sin pl = 0$

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

$$\boxed{p = \frac{n\pi}{l}} \quad n \text{ being an integer}$$

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

$$y(x, t) = C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi}{l} x \left( C_3 \cos \frac{n\pi}{l} at + C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi}{l} at \right)$$

(3)

Step 5: Applying c) in (3)

diff (3) w.r. to 't' partially,

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x, t) = C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi}{l} x \left( -C_3 \left( \frac{n\pi}{l} a \right) \sin \frac{n\pi}{l} at + C_4 \left( \frac{n\pi}{l} a \right) \cos \frac{n\pi}{l} at \right)$$

Now,  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x, 0) = 0$

$$C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi}{l} x \left( -C_3 \left( \frac{n\pi}{l} a \right) \sin \frac{n\pi}{l} a \cdot 0 + C_4 \left( \frac{n\pi}{l} a \right) \cos \frac{n\pi}{l} a \cdot 0 \right) = 0$$

$$C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left( C_A \frac{n\pi a}{l} \cos(0) \right) = 0$$

$$C_2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left( C_A \frac{n\pi a}{l} \right) = 0$$

$$\therefore C_2 \neq 0 \Rightarrow C_A \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \neq 0 \quad (\because \text{it is defined for all } x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n\pi x}{l} \neq 0$$

$$\therefore C_A \frac{n\pi a}{l} = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{C_A = 0}$$

Step 6:

Substituting  $C_A = 0$  in (3) we get

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

$$y(x, t) = C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l} \quad \text{where } C_n = C_2 C_3$$

(4)

$\therefore$  The most general solution of (4) is

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

Step 7:

Applying the boundary conditions (d) in (5) we get

$$y(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos(0) = k(lx - x^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = k(lx - x^2) \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

To find  $C_n$  expand  $k(lx - x^2)$  in a half-range Fourier Sine Series in the interval  $(0, l)$

$$k(lx - x^2) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

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

} from half-range Fourier Sine Series

from (6) and (7) we have  $C_n = b_n$



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

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

$$u = lx - x^2$$

$$du = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

$$u' = l - 2x$$

$$v = -\cos \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{\frac{n\pi}{l}} \right] = \frac{l}{n\pi} \cos \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right)$$

$$u'' = -2$$

$$v_1 = \frac{-l^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \sin \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right)$$

$$u''' = 0$$

$$v_2 = \frac{+l^3}{n^3 \pi^3} \cos \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right)$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

Substituting  $C_n$  in (5), we get

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

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

**Problem-2:** A tightly stretched flexible string has its ends fixed at  $x=0$  and  $x=l$ . At time  $t=0$ , the string is given a shape defined by  $f(x) = kx^2(l-x)$ , where  $k$  is a constant and then released from rest. Find the displacement of any point  $x$  of the string at any time  $t > 0$ .

Solution: Same as problem ① till step 6

Step 7:

Applying (d) in (5) we get

$$y(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = kx^2(l-x) \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

To find  $C_n$  expand  $kx^2(l-x)$  in a half-range Fourier sine series in  $(0, l)$ .

$$kx^2(l-x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \quad \text{where } b_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) dx$$

From (6) & (7) we have

$$\boxed{C_n = b_n}$$

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

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

$$u = x^2(l-x) = lx^2 - x^3 \quad dv = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

$$u' = 2xl - 3x^2$$

$$v = -\frac{l}{n\pi} \cos \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right)$$

$$u'' = 2l - 6x$$

$$v_1 = \frac{-l^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right)$$

$$u''' = -6$$

$$v_2 = \frac{+l^3}{n^3\pi^3} \cos \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right)$$

$$v_3 = \frac{l^4}{n^4\pi^4} \sin \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right)$$

$$\therefore C_n = \frac{2k}{l} \left[ (lx^2 - x^3) \left( \frac{-1}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) - (2lx - 3x^2) \left( \frac{-1}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) \right. \\ \left. + (2l - 6x) \left( \frac{l^3}{n^3\pi^3} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) - (-6) \left( \frac{l^4}{n^4\pi^4} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) \right]_0^l$$

$$C_n = \frac{2k}{l} \left[ (0 - 0 - 4l \left( \frac{l^3}{n^3\pi^3} (-1)^n \right) + 0) \right. \\ \left. - \left( 0 - 0 + 2l \left( \frac{l^3}{n^3\pi^3} \right) \cdot (1) \right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{2k}{l} \left[ \frac{l^3}{n^3\pi^3} (-4l(-1)^n - 2l) \right]$$

$$C_n = \frac{-2k l^3 2l}{l n^3 \pi^3} [2(-1)^n + 1] \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

Substituting  $C_n$  (8) in (5) we get

$$y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{-4k l^3}{n^3 \pi^3} \right) (2(-1)^n + 1) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l}$$

$$y(x, t) = \frac{-4k l^3}{\pi^3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3} (1 + 2(-1)^n) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l}$$

↑ is the solution,



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: Same till step 6.  $y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{l}$

Step 7: Applying (d) in (5) we get,

$$y(x,0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} = y_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l} \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

We know that,  $\sin^3 \theta = \frac{1}{4} (3 \sin \theta - \sin 3\theta)$

$$y_0 \sin^3 \frac{\pi x}{l} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l}$$

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

$$\frac{3y_0}{4} \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} - \frac{y_0}{4} \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l} = C_1 \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} + C_2 \sin \frac{2\pi x}{l} + C_3 \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l}$$

On comparing the coefficients on either side.

$$C_1 = \frac{3y_0}{4}; C_2 = 0; C_3 = -\frac{y_0}{4}; C_4 = C_5 = C_6 = 0.$$

Sub  $C_1, C_2, C_3$  in (6)

$$\therefore y(x,t) = \frac{3y_0}{4} \sin \frac{\pi x}{l} + 0 + \left( -\frac{y_0}{4} \right) \sin \frac{3\pi x}{l}$$

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

is the solution of the eqn.