

9.6 Wave Equation (part 3)

last time: $y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} \quad 0 < x < L$

$$y(0, t) = y(L, t) = 0 \quad \text{fixed ends}$$

$$y(x, 0) = 0 \quad \text{no initial displacement}$$

$$y_t(x, 0) = g(x) \quad \text{initial velocity}$$

$$\text{solution: } y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

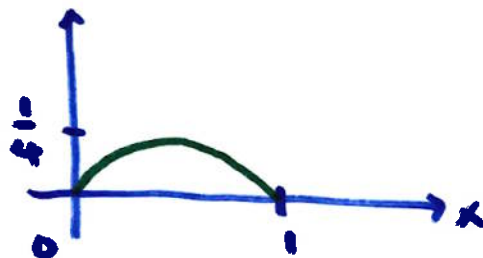
$$B_n = \frac{2}{n\pi a} \int_0^L g(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

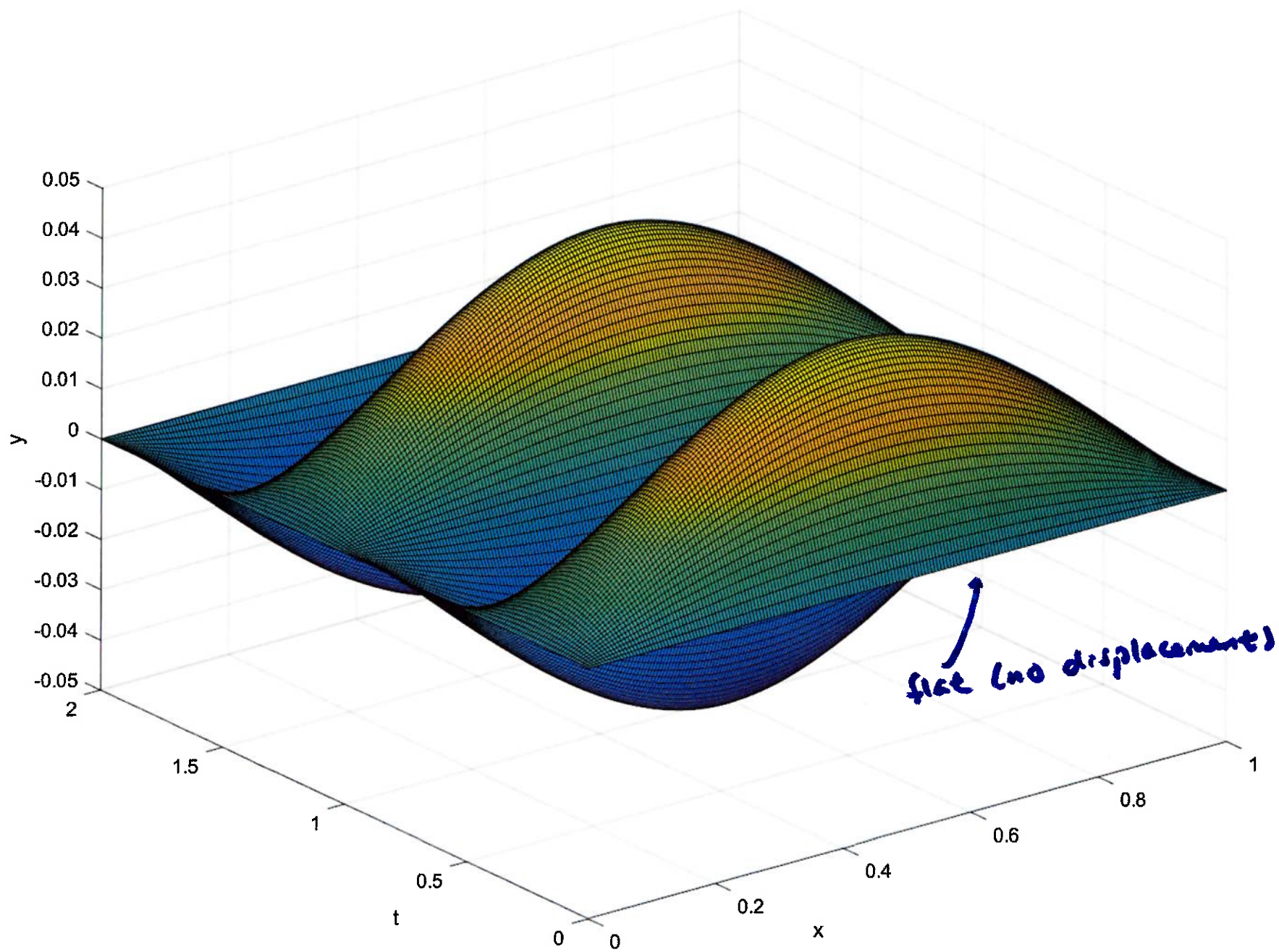
example : $y_{tt} = 4 y_{xx} \quad 0 < x < 1 \quad a=2, L=1$

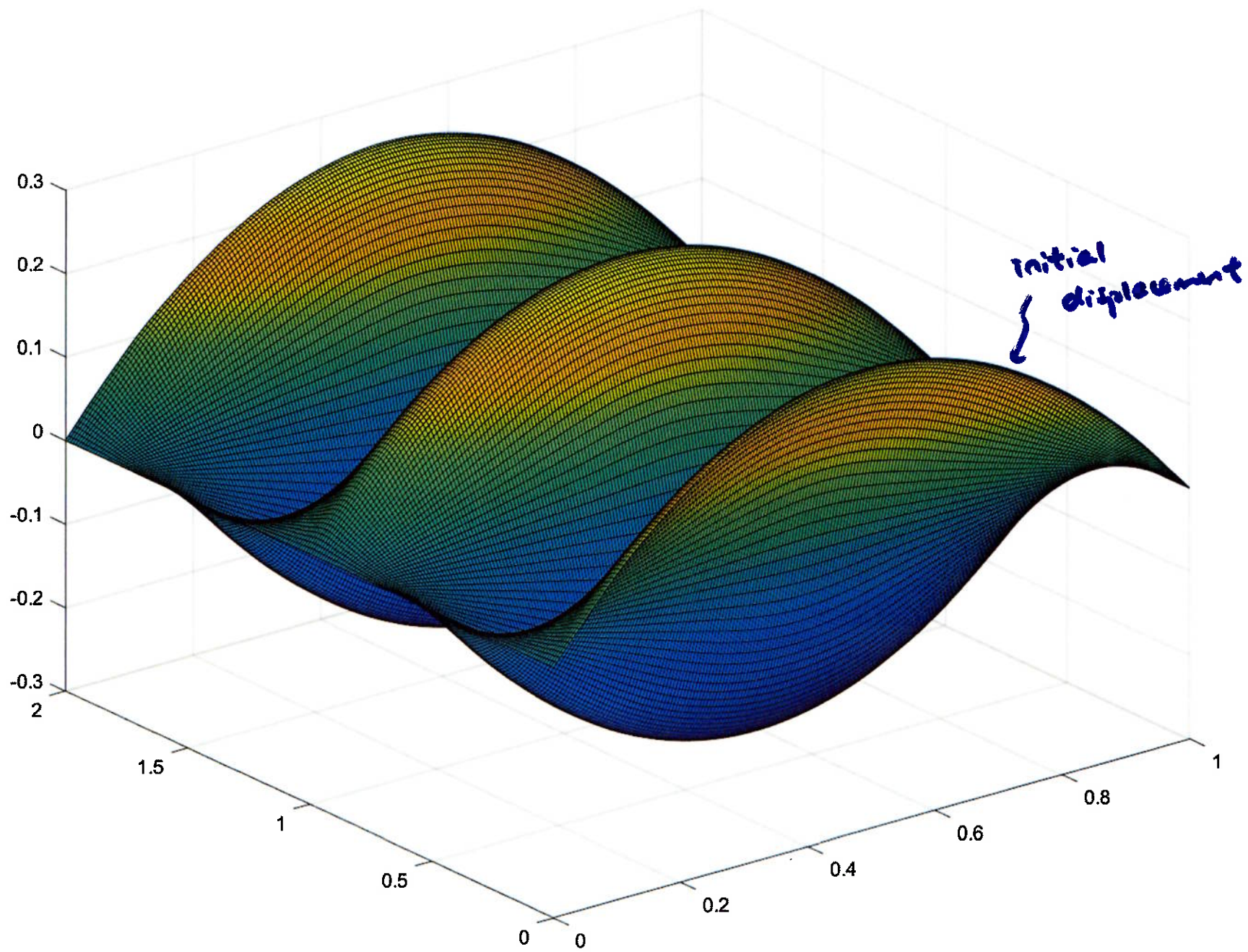
$$y(0, t) = y(1, t) = 0$$

$$y(x, 0) = 0$$

$$y_t(x, 0) = x(1-x)$$







$$B_n = \frac{1}{n\pi} \int_0^1 x(1-x) \sin(n\pi x) dx$$

$$= \dots = \frac{2}{n^3\pi^3} (1 - (-1)^n) = \begin{cases} 0 & n \text{ even} \\ \frac{4}{n^3\pi^3} & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

Solution: $y(x,t) = \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \underbrace{\frac{4}{n^3\pi^3} \sin(2n\pi t)}_{\text{time solution}} \underbrace{\sin(n\pi x)}_{\text{space solution}}$

compare to if $y(x,0) = x(1-x)$

$y_t(x,0) = 0$ (problem A)

$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos(2n\pi t) \sin(n\pi x)$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{1} \int_0^1 x(1-x) \sin(n\pi x) dx$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & n \text{ even} \\ \frac{8}{n^3\pi^3} & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

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

general case: non zero initial displacement and non zero initial velocity

the equation is linear: $y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx}$
no dependent variable
in coefficients

so the principle of superposition applies: general = prob. A + prob. B

$$y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} \quad 0 < x < L$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$y(0, t) = y(L, t) = 0$$

$$B_n = \frac{2}{n\pi a} \int_0^L g(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$y(x, 0) = f(x)$$

$$y_t(x, 0) = g(x)$$

$$y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

animation showed two traveling waves



we can see this mathematically

Prob A: $y = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$

Identity: $2 \sin A \cos B = \sin(A+B) + \sin(A-B)$

$$y = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}(x+at)\right) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}(x-at)\right)$$

wave that
initially travels
right

wave to the
left

D'Alembert solution (actually older than separation method)