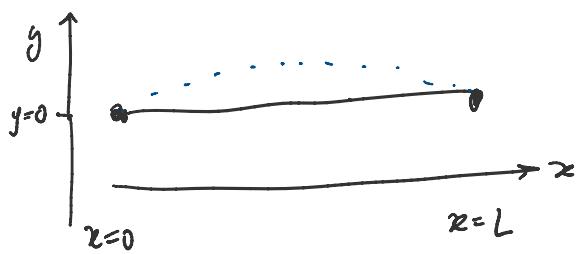


Vibrating Strings & the 1D Wave Equation



L string length

fixed ends

$y(x)$ - displacement from equilibrium

1D-Wave Equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{or} \quad y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx}$$

where $a^2 = \frac{\text{tension}}{\text{density}} > 0$

physical intuition

$y_{tt} \rightarrow$ acceleration of string

$y_{xx} \rightarrow$ curvature



$$y_{xx} < 0$$



$$y_{xx} > 0$$

$y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} \rightarrow$ means y_{tt} has the same sign as y_{xx}

$$y_{tt} < 0$$

acceleration downward

$$y_{tt} > 0$$

acceleration upwards

string wants to restore to equilibrium

BVP for vibrating string:



$$(1) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} \quad 0 < x < L, t > 0 \\ y(0,t) = y(L,t) = 0 \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{fixed endpoints} \\ \text{displacement} \end{array}$$

$$(*) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} \\ y(0,t) = y(L,t) = 0 \\ y(x,0) = f(x) \\ y_t(x,0) = g(x) \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{fixed endpoints} \\ \text{initial displacement} \\ \text{initial velocity} \end{array}$$

To solve — Separation of Variables

But first, let's simplify this problem by separating (*) into 2 easier problems

Problem A

$$\begin{aligned} y_{tt} &= a^2 y_{xx} \\ y(0,t) &= y(L,t) = 0 \\ y(x,0) &= f(x) \\ y_t(x,0) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

solution

$$y_A(x,t)$$

Problem B

$$\begin{aligned} y_{tt} &= a^2 y_{xx} \\ y(0,t) &= y(L,t) = 0 \\ y(x,0) &= 0 \\ y_t(x,0) &= g(x) \end{aligned}$$

solution
 $y_B(x,t)$

Since the wave eqn is linear, we can write the general soln (*) as $y(x,t) = y_A(x,t) + y_B(x,t)$

Solve Problem A first:

$$(A) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} \\ y(0,t) = y(L,t) = 0 \\ y(x,0) = f(x) \\ y_t(x,0) = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

Assumption $y(x,t) = X(x) T(t)$

$$y_{tt} = X T''$$

\therefore

$$y_{xx} = X'' T \quad 2. \sqrt{\lambda} T$$

$$y_{tt} = X_1 T'' \quad \text{from}$$

$$\text{so } X T'' = a^2 X'' T$$

$$\frac{T''}{a^2 T} = \frac{X''}{X} = -\lambda \quad (\text{separation constant})$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \\ \swarrow & & \searrow \\ X'' + \lambda X = 0 & & T'' + a^2 \lambda T = 0 \end{array}$$

Endpoint BC

$$y(0,t) = 0 = X(0)T(t) \rightarrow X(0) = 0$$

$$y(L,t) = 0 = X(L)T(t) \rightarrow X(L) = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} X'' + \lambda X = 0 \\ X(0) = X(L) = 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{same eqn for } X \text{ as} \\ \text{the heat equation} \end{matrix}$$

$$\text{eigenvalues } \lambda_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2}$$

$$\text{eigenfunctions } X_n = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \quad n=1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Now, let's solve the T eqn

$$T'' + a^2 \lambda T = 0 \quad \lambda_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2}$$

$$T'' + a^2 \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2} T = 0$$

$$\text{BC: } \begin{aligned} y(x,0) &= f(x) = X(x)T(0) \\ y_t(x,0) &= 0 = X(x)T'(0) \rightarrow T'(0) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{cases} T'' + a^2 \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2} T = 0 \\ T'(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \\ T'(0) = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

Solution:

$$T(t) = C_1 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right) + C_2 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right)$$

$$T'(t) = -\frac{n\pi a}{2} C_1 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right) + \frac{n\pi a}{2} C_2 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right)$$

$$T'(0) = \frac{n\pi a}{2} C_2 \cos(0) \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \Rightarrow C_2 = 0$$

so then eigenfunction

$$T_n = \cos\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right) \quad \text{for } n=1, 2, 3, \dots$$

So the solution for each n

$$y_n(x, t) = \cos\left(\frac{n\pi a t}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

General solution is:

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

where BC: $y|_{x=0} = f(x)$

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \quad \text{Fourier sine series}$$

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

Now let's solve Problem B:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} \\ y(0, t) = y(L, t) = 0 \\ y(x, 0) = 0 \\ \dots = g(x) \end{array} \right.$$

$$\begin{cases} y(x, 0) = 0 \\ y_t(x, 0) = g(x) \end{cases}$$

Again let's assume $y(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$

$$\frac{X''}{X} = \frac{T''}{aT} = -\lambda$$

The X solution is the same as Problem A

$$X_n = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \quad \lambda_n = \frac{n^2\pi^2}{L^2}$$

The T equation is:

$$\begin{cases} T'' + \frac{a^2 n^2 \pi^2}{L^2} T = 0 \\ T(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

similarly, we find

$$T_n = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi at}{L}\right)$$

$$y_B(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi at}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$\text{Apply BC } y_t(x, 0) = g(x)$$

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

$$\frac{\partial y_B}{\partial t}(x, 0) = g(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \frac{n\pi a}{L} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

Fourier
sine
series

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

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

The solution to (*) $y = y_A + y_B$

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

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

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

Ex: $\begin{cases} y_{tt} = 4y_{xx} & 0 < x < \pi, \quad t > 0 \\ y(0,t) = y(\pi,t) = 0 \\ y(x,0) = \frac{1}{10} \sin(2x) \\ y_t(x,0) = 0 \end{cases}$ ← Problem A

Here $L = \pi$, $f(x) = \frac{1}{10} \sin(2x)$, $g(x) = 0$, $a = 2$

$$B_n = 0 \quad \text{since } g(x) = 0$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{1}{10} \sin(2x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{\pi}\right) dx$$

$$= \frac{2}{10\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(2x) \sin(nx) dx \quad \leftarrow \text{use orthogonality}$$

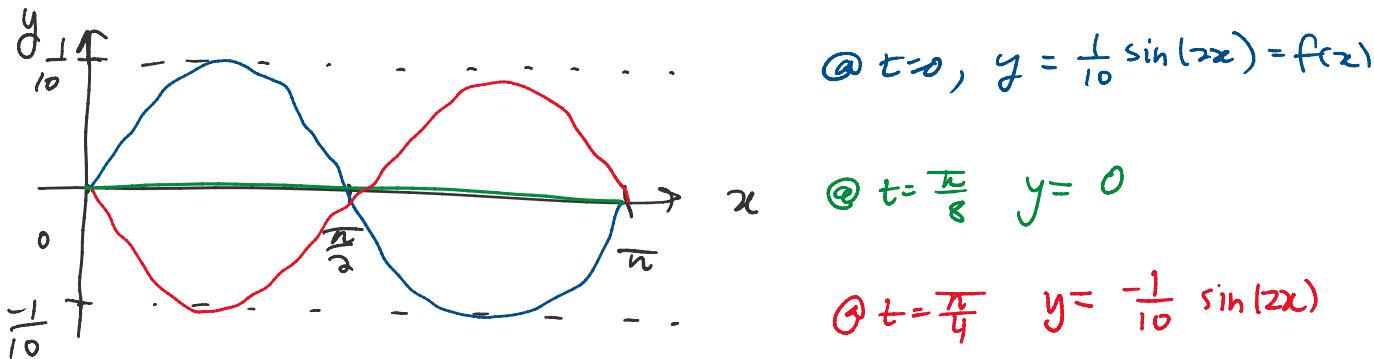
$$= \frac{2}{10\pi} \begin{cases} \frac{\pi}{2} & \text{if } n=2 \\ 0 & \text{if } n \neq 2 \end{cases}$$

$$A_2 = \frac{1}{10} \quad A_n = 0 \quad \text{for all } n \neq 2$$

$$y(x,t) = A_2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi a t}{\pi}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\pi}\right)$$

$$\boxed{y(x,t) = \frac{1}{10} \cos(4t) \sin(2x)}$$

$$y(x,t) = \frac{1}{10} \cos(4t) \sin(2x)$$



The amplitude $A(t) = \frac{1}{10} \cos(4t)$ oscillates between $-\frac{1}{10}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$ with a period $P = \frac{\pi}{2}$ in time

Ex: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_{tb} = y_{xx} \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad t > 0 \\ y(0,t) = y(1,t) = 0 \\ y(x,0) = -3 \\ y_t(x,0) = 5 \sin(3\pi x) \end{array} \right.$

Here $L=1$, $a=1$, $f(x) = -3$, $g(x) = 5 \sin(3\pi x)$

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

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_n &= \frac{2}{1} \int_0^1 (-3) \sin(n\pi x) dx \\ &= -6 \left[-\frac{\cos(n\pi x)}{n\pi} \right]_0^1 \\ &= \frac{6}{n\pi} [\cos(n\pi) - \cos(0)] = \frac{6}{n\pi} [(-1)^n - 1] \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{-12}{n\pi} & \text{if } n \text{ odd} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{cases} -\frac{12}{n\pi} & \text{if } n \text{ odd} \\ 0 & \text{if } n \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

where

$$B_n = \frac{2}{n\pi(1)} \int_0^1 5 \sin(3\pi x) \sin(n\pi x) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \pi x \\ du &= \pi dx \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{10}{n\pi^2} \int_0^\pi \sin(3u) \sin(nu) du$$

orthogonality

$$= \frac{10}{n\pi^2} \begin{cases} \frac{\pi}{2} & n=3 \\ 0 & n \neq 3 \end{cases}$$

$$B_3 = \frac{10\pi}{2n\pi^2} = \frac{5}{n\pi} \quad B_n = 0 \text{ if } n \neq 3$$

So the full solution is

$$y(x,t) = -\frac{12}{\pi} \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \frac{1}{n} \cos(n\pi t) \sin(n\pi x) + \frac{5}{n\pi} \sin(3\pi t) \sin(3\pi x)$$