

# HW #3 Solns

## Sec 2.2

#3: Suppose  $u$  solves the wave equation  $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$ .

Then so does:

a. any translate  $u(x-y, t)$  for  $y$  fixed.

Pf: If  $v(x, t) = u(x-y, t)$  then

$$v_{tt}(x, t) = u_{tt}(x-y, t) = c^2 u_{xx}(x-y, t) = c^2 v_{xx}(x, t)$$

b. any derivative of  $u$ .

Pf: E.g. if  $v = u_x$ , then (assuming  $u$  has continuous partial derivatives up to order three) we have

$$(u_x)_{tt} = (u_{tt})_x = (c^2 u_{xx})_x = c^2 (u_x)_{xx}.$$

c. any dilation  $u(ax, at)$  for a constant  $a$ .

Pf: If  $v(x, t) = u(ax, at)$  then by the chain rule,

$$v_{tt}(x, t) = u_{tt}(ax, at) \cdot \frac{\partial^2 (at)}{\partial t^2} = u_{tt}(ax, at) \cdot a^2.$$

Likewise,  $v_{xx}(x, t) = u_{xx}(ax, at) a^2$ ,

$$v_x(x, t) = u_x(ax, at) \cdot a$$

$$v_{xx}(x, t) = u_{xx}(ax, at) \cdot a^2, \quad \text{and}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_{tt}(x, t) &= a^2 u_{tt}(ax, at) = a^2 (c^2 u_{xx}(ax, at)) \\ &= c^2 (a^2 u_{xx}(ax, at)) = c^2 v_{xx}(x, t). \end{aligned}$$

#5: For the damped string equation  
 $U_{tt} - c^2 U_{xx} + r U_t = 0$ ,  $r > 0$ ,

we show that the energy decreases.

Note that  $c = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho}}$  where  $T, \rho$  are constants. Further, we assume that  $U$  is zero outside a bounded interval at time  $t=0$ . By causality,  $U$  is zero outside a (larger) bounded interval for any later time. Hence  $U_t, U_x$  are also zero for  $|x|$  large enough.

We have  $KE = \frac{1}{2} \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} U_t^2 dx$ , so

$$\frac{dKE}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dt} U_t^2 dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 2 U_t U_{tt} dx \quad (\text{using chain rule})$$

$$= \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} U_t \left( \left( \frac{T}{\rho} \right) U_{xx} - r U_t \right) U_t dx \quad (\text{using PDE})$$

$$= T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} U_t U_{xx} dx - r \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} U_t^2 dx \quad (\text{Int by parts})$$

$$= T \left( U_t U_x \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} U_x U_{xt} dx \right) - r \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} U_t^2 dx$$

$$= 0 - \frac{T}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dt} U_x^2 dx - r \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} U_t^2 dx$$

(since  $U_t, U_x$  vanish for  $|x|$  large, and  $\frac{d}{dt} U_x^2$

$$= 2 U_x U_{xt})$$

$$PE = \frac{T}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u_x^2 dx, \quad \text{so}$$

$$\frac{dPE}{dt} = \frac{T}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u_x^2 dx. \quad \text{Then}$$

$$E = KE + PE \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{dKE}{dt} + \frac{dPE}{dt}$$

$$= \left( -\frac{T}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u_x^2 dx - r\rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u_t^2 dx \right)$$

$$+ \left( \frac{T}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u_x^2 dx \right)$$

$$= -r\rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u_t^2 dx \leq 0$$

since  $r, \rho > 0$  and  $u_t^2$  is nonnegative.

### Sec 2.3

#2: Suppose  $u$  solves  $u_t = u_{xx}$  in the strip  $\{0 \leq x \leq l, 0 \leq t < \infty\}$ .

a. Let  $M(T) = \max$  of  $u(x,t)$  in the closed rectangle  $\{0 \leq x \leq l, 0 \leq t \leq T\}$ . Then  $M$  is an increasing function of  $T$ . To see this, suppose  $T_1 \leq T_2$ . The Maximum Principle says that for a rectangle of height  $T$ ,  $u$  takes its max on the bottom or lateral sides. Let  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  denote the ~~old~~

Union of these three sides for the rectangles of heights  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , respectively. Then

$M(T_1) = \max U(x,t)$  for points  $(x,t)$  in  $S_1$ ,

$M(T_2) = \max U(x,t)$  for points  $(x,t)$  in  $S_2$ .

Since  $S_2$  contains  $S_1$ , the second maximum must be at least as large as the first, so  $M(T_1) \leq M(T_2)$ , i.e.  $M$  is increasing.

b. Let  $m(T) = \min U$  in the rectangle of height  $T$ . Then  $m$  is decreasing: for  $T_1 \leq T_2$ , define  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  as above. Then by the minimum principle,

$m(T_1) = \min U(x,t)$  for points  $(x,t)$  in  $S_1$ ,

$m(T_2) = \min U(x,t)$  for points  $(x,t)$  in  $S_2$

Again,  $S_2$  contains  $S_1$ , so the second minimum is at least as small as the first, so  $m(T_1) \geq m(T_2)$ , i.e.  $m$  is decreasing.

~~#5~~

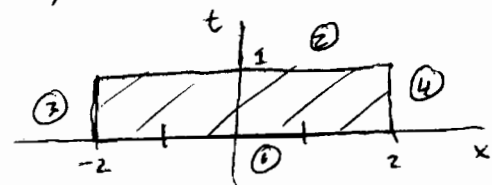
#5: We show that the max principle fails for the eqn  $u_t = x u_{xx}$

a: Let  $u = -2xt - x^2$ . Note that

$$u_t = -2x \quad \text{and} \quad u_{xx} = -2, \quad \text{so}$$

$u_t = -2x = x u_{xx}$ . We find the max of  $u$  on the rectangle  $\{-2 \leq x \leq 2, 0 \leq t \leq 1\}$ .

To do this, we compute the max of  $u$  on the four sides of the rectangle, and on the interior.



① For the side

$t=0$ , we have  $u(x,0) = -x^2$ . For  $-2 \leq x \leq 2$ , the max value occurs at  $x=0$  so  $u(0,0) = 0$ .

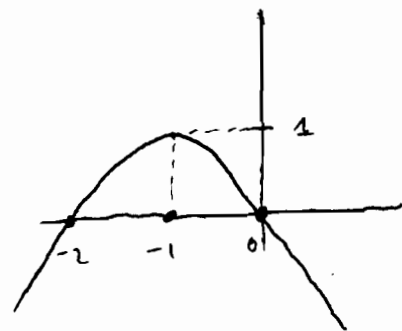
② For the side  $t=1$  we have

$$u(x,1) = -2x - x^2 = -x(2+x)$$

This is a parabola opening downwards w/ zeros at  $x=0$  and  $x=-2$ ,

so the max value occurs halfway in between, at  $x=-1$ . The max

$$\text{value is } u(-1,1) = 1$$



③ For the side  $x=-2$ ,  $u(-2,t) = 4t - 4$ .

For  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ , the max value occurs at  $t=1$ ,

$$\text{and the max is } u(-2,1) = 0.$$

④ For the side  $x = 2$ ,  
 $u(2, t) = -4t - 4$ , which has its  
maximum when  $t = 0$ ; the max is  $u(2, 0) = -4$

For the interior, a <sup>(local)</sup> maximum can only occur  
at the critical points, i.e. points  $(x, t)$   
satisfying  $u_x(x, t) = 0$  and  $u_t(x, t) = 0$ .

We have  $u_x = -2t - 2x$ ,  $u_t = -2x$ ,

$u_t = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$  and then  $u_x = -2t -$   
 $2(0) = 0 \Leftrightarrow t = 0$ . ~~So there is only~~

Since ~~the~~  $(0, 0)$  is not an interior point,  
there are no critical points.

So the max of  $u$  on the rectangle  
~~occurs~~ is the largest of the four values  
found in ① - ④, namely  $u(-1, 1) = 1$ .

~~So~~ So the max does not occur on the  
three sides specified by the max  
principle.

b We show where the proof of the  
Maximum principle would break down if applied  
to the equation  $u_t = xu_{xx}$ . (You should

should glance at the proof for context). The proof examines

the quantity  $v_t - \kappa v_{xx}$ . It is shown that  $v_t - \kappa v_{xx} = -2\varepsilon\kappa$ , and since  $\varepsilon, \kappa > 0$ , this yields the "diffusion inequality"

$v_t - \kappa v_{xx} < 0$ . If we replace  $\kappa$  with  $x$ , it is still true that  $v_t - x v_{xx} = -2\varepsilon x$ , but the latter quantity is only negative for  $x > 0$ , but we consider  $x$  in the range  $-2 \leq x \leq 2$ . So the diffusion inequality is no longer valid.

#6 See Midterm 1 solutions, problem #3.

Sec 2.4

#4 We solve  $u_t = \kappa u_{xx}$  with initial condition  $\phi(x) = e^{-x}$  for  $x > 0$ ,  $\phi(x) = 0$  for  $x < 0$ . We can apply the formula. Since  $\phi = 0$  for  $x < 0$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} u(x,t) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\kappa t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4\kappa t}} \phi(y) dy \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\kappa t}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4\kappa t}} e^{-y} dy. \end{aligned}$$

Combining the exponentials and completing the square (see section 2.4 example #2) gives

$$u(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi kt}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(y+2kt-x)^2}{4kt} + kt-x} dy$$

Make the substitution  $p = \frac{y+2kt-x}{\sqrt{4kt}}$  to

$$\text{obtain } u(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{kt-x} \int_{\frac{2kt-x}{\sqrt{4kt}}}^{\infty} e^{-p^2} dp$$

This is apparently as far as we can go, although we can write the last integral in terms of the error function

$$\text{Erf}(x) = \int_0^x e^{-p^2} dp :$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\frac{2kt-x}{\sqrt{4kt}}}^{\infty} e^{-p^2} dp &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-p^2} dp - \int_0^{\frac{2kt-x}{\sqrt{4kt}}} e^{-p^2} dp \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} - \text{Erf}\left(\frac{2kt-x}{\sqrt{4kt}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Where the first integral is computed using exercise #6. Hence

$$u(x,t) = \frac{e^{kt-x}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} - \text{Erf}\left(\frac{2kt-x}{\sqrt{4kt}}\right) \right)$$

#9: We solve  $u_t = k u_{xx}$ ,  $u(x,0) = x^2$  (\*)

Suppose  $u$  is a solution to (\*).

Then  $u_{xxx}$  also satisfies the diffusion



Equation (the proof is similar to exercise #3 of section 2.2). Moreover, since  $u(x,0) = x^2$ , differentiating three times shows that  $u_{xxx}(x,0) = 0$ . According to section 2.4,  $u_{xxx}$  is the unique solution to this new PDE + IC problem, so we must have  $u_{xxx} = 0$  for any solution  $u$  of (\*). Integrating with respect to  $x$  gives  $u_{xx} = A(t)$  for an arbitrary function  $A(t)$ . Integrating two more times gives

$$u = \frac{A(t)}{2} x^2 + B(t)x + C(t).$$

Then  $u_t = \frac{A'(t)}{2} x^2 + B'(t)x + C'(t)$

$$u_{xx} = A(t)$$

and the diffusion equation gives

$$\frac{A'(t)}{2} x^2 + B'(t)x + C'(t) = \kappa A(t).$$

This is an equality of polynomials in the variable  $x$ . Equating coefficients gives

$$\frac{A'(t)}{2} = B'(t) = 0, \quad C'(t) = \kappa A(t). \quad \text{So}$$

there are constants  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  with

$$A(t) = c_1, \quad B(t) = c_2, \quad C(t) = \kappa c_1 t + c_3,$$

and so  $u(x,t) = \frac{c_1}{2} x^2 + c_2 x + \kappa c_1 t + c_3$ .

Since  $u(x,0) = x^2$ , we have

$$x^2 = \frac{c_1}{2} x^2 + c_2 x + c_3 \Rightarrow c_1 = 2, \quad c_2 = 0, \quad c_3 = 0,$$

so  $u(x,t) = x^2 + 2\kappa t$ .

#10: a. We solve exercise #9 using the general formula:

$$u(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\kappa t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4\kappa t}} y^2 dy$$

Let  $p = \frac{x-y}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}$ . Then  $y = x - \sqrt{4\kappa t} p$

$$\text{and } u(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{+\infty}^{-\infty} e^{-p^2} (x - \sqrt{4\kappa t} p)^2 (-dp).$$

Cancel the minus sign by switching the limits of integration and expand and distribute the square to obtain

$$u(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[ x^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-p^2} dp - 2\sqrt{4\kappa t} x \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p e^{-p^2} dp + 4\kappa t \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p^2 e^{-p^2} dp \right]$$

The first integral converges to  $\sqrt{\pi}$ . The second integral is zero since  $p e^{-p^2}$  is an odd function and the two integrals  $\int_0^{\infty}$  and  $\int_{-\infty}^0$  converge. So  $u(x,t) = x^2 + \frac{4\kappa t}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p^2 e^{-p^2} dp$ .

b. From exercise #9, we must have

$$x^2 + \frac{4\kappa t}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p^2 e^{-p^2} dp = x^2 + 2\kappa t,$$

so  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p^2 e^{-p^2} dp = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}.$

#16: We solve  $u_t - \kappa u_{xx} + bu = 0$  for  $-\infty < x < \infty$  with  $u(x, 0) = \phi(x)$ ,  $b > 0$ .

Set  $v(x, t) = e^{bt} u(x, t)$ . Then

$$v_t = be^{bt} u + e^{bt} u_t$$

$$v_{xx} = e^{bt} u_{xx}$$

$$v_t - \kappa v_{xx} = e^{bt} (bu + u_t - \kappa u_{xx}) = 0$$

$$v(x, 0) = (1) u(x, 0) = \phi(x).$$

Applying the solution formula gives

$$u(x, t) = e^{-bt} v(x, t)$$

$$= e^{-bt} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\kappa t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4\kappa t}} \phi(y) dy.$$

#18: We solve  $u_t - \kappa u_{xx} + Vu_x = 0$  for  $-\infty < x < \infty$ ,  $u(x, 0) = \phi(x)$ .

Set  $y = x - Vt$ , so that  $x = y + Vt$ , and define  $w(y, t) := u(y + Vt, t)$ . Then

$$w_t = u_x(y + Vt, t) \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = u_x(y + Vt, t) \cdot V$$

$$w_y = u_x(y + Vt, t), \quad w_{yy} = u_{xx}(y + Vt, t)$$

$$w_t(y, t) = U_x(y + vt, t) \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + U_t(y + vt, t) \\ = U_x(y + vt, t) \cdot v + U_t(y + vt, t).$$

$$w_y = U_x(y + vt), \quad w_{yy} = U_{xx}(y + vt); \quad \text{so}$$

$w_t - \kappa w_{yy} = v U_x + U_t - \kappa U_{xx} = 0$  using the PDE. Also,

$$w(y, 0) = U(y + v(0), 0)$$

$$= U(y, 0) \quad \text{[crossed out terms]} \\ \text{[crossed out terms]} = \phi(x).$$

$$= \phi(y).$$

So we can use the solution formula to obtain

$$w(y, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\kappa t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(y-z)^2}{4\kappa t}} \phi(z) dz$$

Since  $w(x - vt, t) = U((x - vt) + vt, t) \\ = U(x, t)$  we have

$$U(x, t) = w((x - vt), t)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\kappa t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{[(x - vt) - z]^2}{4\kappa t}} \phi(z) dz$$