

Solve the wave equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \nabla^2 u \quad (1)$$

in a circular region subject to the boundary condition

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}(a, \theta, t) = 0$$

with initial conditions

$$u(r, \theta, 0) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(r, \theta, 0) = \beta(r, \theta)$$

First we define the domain in polar coordinates and use separation of variables,

$$u(r, \theta, y) = \phi(r, \theta)h(t) \quad \text{in } \Omega = [0, a] \times [-\pi, \pi]$$

$$\phi(r, \theta)h''(t) = c^2 (\nabla^2 \phi(r, \theta)) h(t)$$

$$\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{h''(t)}{h(t)} = \frac{\nabla^2 \phi(r, \theta)}{\phi(r, \theta)} = -\lambda$$

so, we have an equation for time and space,

$$\begin{cases} h''(t) + c^2 \lambda h(t) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{cases} \nabla^2 \phi(r, \theta) + \lambda \phi(r, \theta) \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r}(a, \theta) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

$$\quad (5)$$

Next, we separate  $\phi(r, \theta)$  so we get the form

$$u(r, \theta, t) = f(r)g(\theta)h(t)$$

We expand (7) in polar coordinates,

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial \theta^2}$$

So (7) becomes

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{dr} (r f'(r)) g(\theta) + f(r) \frac{1}{r} g''(\theta) + \lambda f(r) g(\theta) = 0$$

or,

$$-\frac{g''(\theta)}{g(\theta)} = \frac{r \frac{d}{dr} (r f'(r))}{f(r)} + \lambda r^2 = \mu$$

This gives us a differential equation for  $f(r)$  and  $g(\theta)$ ,

$$\begin{cases} g''(\theta) + \mu g(\theta) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{cases} r \frac{d}{dr} (r f'(r)) + (\lambda r^2 - \mu) f(r) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{cases} f'(a) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

$$\quad (9)$$

and because  $f(0)$  is finite, we can say

$$|f(0)| < \infty \quad (10)$$

Since  $g(\theta)$  is a second order equation, we will need two boundary conditions. Since the domain is circular, we can assume,

$$\begin{cases} g(-\pi) = g(\pi) \\ \frac{dg}{d\theta}(-\pi) = \frac{dg}{d\theta}(\pi) \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

$$\quad (12)$$

Solving for  $g(\theta)$ ,

$$g(\theta) = C_1 \cos(\sqrt{\mu}\theta) + C_2 \sin(\sqrt{\mu}\theta)$$

From the boundary conditions, we find that if  $\sin(\sqrt{\mu}\pi) \neq 0$ , we will have a trivial solution, so we determine

$$\mu_m = m^2, \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

so,

$$\boxed{g_m(\theta) = a_m \cos(m\theta) + b_m \sin(m\theta)}$$

Then, we solve for  $f(r)$ ,

$$r \frac{d}{dr} \left( r \frac{df(r)}{dr} \right) + (\lambda r^2 - m^2) f(r) = 0, \quad (13)$$

Rearranging the equation, we find

$$r^2 \frac{d^2 f(r)}{dr^2} + r \frac{df(r)}{dr} + (\lambda r^2 - m^2) f(r) = 0$$

Defining  $s^2 = \lambda r^2$ , we change (13) to the form

$$s^2 \frac{d^2 f(s)}{ds^2} + s \frac{df(s)}{ds} + (s^2 - m^2) f(s) = 0 \quad (14)$$

with boundary conditions

$$f(\sqrt{\lambda}a) = 0 \quad |f(0)| < \infty$$

To solve this, we introduce the Bessel function, which gives the solution

$$f(s) = C_1 J_m(s) + C_2 Y_m(s)$$

Because  $Y_m(0)$  is unbounded, we are left with

$$f(s) = C_m J_m(s)$$

and converting back,

$$f(r) = C_m J_m(\sqrt{\lambda}r)$$

Applying the boundary condition in (10), we can state

$$f_{mn}(r) = c_m J_m(\sqrt{\lambda}r) \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

Hence, we can now define  $\phi(r, \theta)$ ,

$$\boxed{\phi_{mn}(r, \theta) = a_m c_m J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \cos(m\theta) + b_m c_m J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \sin(m\theta)} \quad (15)$$

We then solve for  $h(t)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} h''_{mn}(t) + c^2 \lambda_{mn} h(t) &= 0 \\ h_{mn}(t) &= D_1 \sin(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t) + D_2 \cos(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t) \end{aligned}$$

Evaluating the first initial condition,

$$u(r, \theta, 0) = f(r)g(\theta)h(0) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad h(0) = 0$$

so,

$$\boxed{h_{mn}(t) = D_1 \sin(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t)} \quad (16)$$

Finally, we solve for the solution,

$$u_{mn}(r, \theta, t) = A_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \cos(m\theta) \sin(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t) + B_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \sin(m\theta) \sin(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t)$$

or,

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} u(r, \theta, t) &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \cos(m\theta) \sin(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t) \\ &+ \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \sin(m\theta) \sin(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t) \end{aligned}} \quad (17)$$

Evaluating the initial conditions,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(r, \theta, t) &= - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \cos(m\theta) \cos(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t) \\ &+ \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \sin(m\theta) \cos(c\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(r, \theta, 0) = \beta(r, \theta) = - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \cos(m\theta) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_{mn} J_m(\sqrt{\lambda_{mn}} r) \sin(m\theta)$$