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**Math 4567. Homework Set # 5**

**March 12, 2010**

Chapter 3 (page 79, problems 1,2), (page 82, problems 1,2), (page 86, problems 2,3), Chapter 4 (page 93, problems 2,3), (page 98, problems 1,2), (page 102, problems 1,2,3).

**Chapter 3, page 79, Problem 1 a.** Let  $z(\rho)$  be the static transverse displacements in a membrane, stretched between circles  $\rho = 1$  and  $\rho = \rho_0 > 1$ , the first circle in the plane  $z = 0$  and the second in the plane  $z = z_0$ .

a. Show that the boundary problem can be written as

$$\frac{d}{d\rho} \left( \rho \frac{dz}{d\rho} \right) = 0, \quad 1 < \rho < \rho_0,$$
$$z(1) = 0, \quad z(\rho_0) = z_0.$$

b. Obtain the solution

$$z(\rho) = z_0 \frac{\ln \rho}{\ln \rho_0}, \quad 1 \leq \rho \leq \rho_0.$$

**Solution:**

a. The wave equation for the vibrating membrane is  $z_{tt} = a^2(z_{xx} + z_{yy})$ . In polar coordinates  $x = \rho \cos \phi$ ,  $y = \rho \sin \phi$  this equation reads

$$z_{tt} = a^2 \left( \frac{d}{d\rho} \left( \rho \frac{dz}{d\rho} \right) + \frac{z_{\phi\phi}}{\rho^2} \right)$$

. Steady state means that  $z_t = 0$  and the rotational symmetry of the problem means that  $z_\phi = 0$ . Thus the equation for  $z(\rho)$  reduces to  $\frac{d}{d\rho} \left( \rho \frac{dz}{d\rho} \right) = 0$ ,  $1 < \rho < \rho_0$ , with boundary conditions  $z(1) = 0$ ,  $z(\rho_0) = z_0$ .

- b. Since  $\frac{d}{d\rho} \left( \rho \frac{dz}{d\rho} \right) = 0$ , we must have  $\rho \frac{dz}{d\rho} = c_1$  where  $c_1$  is a constant. Thus  $\frac{dz}{d\rho} = c_1/\rho$ . Integrating again we have  $z(\rho) = c_1 \ln \rho + c_2$ . Since  $z(1) = 0$  we have  $c_2 = 0$ . Since  $z(\rho_0) = z_0$  we have  $z_0 = c_1 \ln \rho_0$ . Thus  $c_1 = z_0/\ln \rho_0$  and

$$z(\rho) = z_0 \frac{\ln \rho}{\ln \rho_0}, \quad 1 \leq \rho \leq \rho_0.$$

**Chapter 3, page 79, Problem 2** Show that the steady-state temperatures  $u(\rho)$  in an infinitely long hollow cylinder  $1 \leq \rho \leq \rho_0$ ,  $-\infty < z < \infty$  also satisfy the boundary value Problem 1 if  $u = 0$  on the inner cylindrical surface and  $u = z_0$  on the outer one.

**Solution:** Here the heat equation is  $u_t = k(u_{xx} + u_{yy})$ . In polar coordinates  $x = \rho \cos \phi$ ,  $y = \rho \sin \phi$  this is

$$u_t = k \left( \frac{d}{d\rho} \left( \rho \frac{du}{d\rho} \right) + \frac{u_{\phi\phi}}{\rho^2} \right).$$

Steady state means that  $u_t = 0$ , and axial symmetry means that  $u_{\phi} = 0$ . Thus the equation for  $u(\rho)$  reduces to  $\frac{d}{d\rho} \left( \rho \frac{du}{d\rho} \right) = 0$ ,  $1 < \rho < \rho_0$ , with boundary conditions  $u(1) = 0$ ,  $u(\rho_0) = z_0$ .

**Chapter 3, page 82, Problem 1** Use the general solution of the wave equation to solve the boundary value problem

$$y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad t > 0,$$

$$y(x, 0) = 0, \quad y_t(x, 0) = g(x), \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

**Solution:** The general solution of the wave equation is

$$y(x, t) = \phi(x + at) + \psi(x - at)$$

for arbitrary twice differentiable functions  $\phi, \psi$ . We impose the boundary conditions on this general solution:

$$y(x, 0) = 0 = \phi(x) + \psi(x),$$

$$y_t(x, 0) = g(x) = a(\phi'(x) - \psi'(x)).$$

Thus  $\psi(x) = -\phi(x)$  and  $\phi'(x) = \frac{1}{2a}g(x)$ . Integrating, we have

$$\phi(x) = C + \int_0^x \phi'(s) ds = C + \frac{1}{2a} \int_0^x g(s) ds,$$

$$\psi(x) = -\phi(x) = -C - \frac{1}{2a} \int_0^x g(s) ds = -C + \frac{1}{2a} \int_x^0 g(s) ds.$$

Thus

$$y(x, t) = \phi(x + at) + \psi(x - at) = \frac{1}{2a} \int_{x-at}^{x+at} g(s) ds.$$

**Chapter 3, page 82, Problem 2** Let  $Y(x, t)$  be d'Alembert's solution

$$Y(x, t) = \frac{1}{2}(f(x + at) + f(x - at))$$

of the boundary value problem solved in Section 27 and let  $Z(x, t)$  denote the solution found in Problem 1. Verify that  $y(x, t) = Y(x, t) + Z(x, t)$  solves the problem

$$y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad t > 0,$$

$$y(x, 0) = f(x), \quad y_t(x, 0) = g(x), \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

**Solution:** We have that  $Z(x, t) = \frac{1}{2a} \int_{x-at}^{x+at} g(s) ds$  solves the problem

$$y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad t > 0,$$

$$y(x, 0) = 0, \quad y_t(x, 0) = g(x), \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

whereas  $Y(x, t)$  solves the problem

$$y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad t > 0,$$

$$y(x, 0) = f(x), \quad y_t(x, 0) = 0, \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

Thus by linearity,  $y(x, t) = Y(x, t) + Z(x, t)$  solves the full initial value problem and yields the solution

$$y(x, t) = \frac{1}{2}(f(x + at) + f(x - at)) + \frac{1}{2a} \int_{x-at}^{x+at} g(s) ds.$$

**Chapter 3, page 86, Problem 2** Consider the equation

$$Ay_{xx} + By_{xt} + Cy_{tt} = 0, \quad B^2 - 4AC > 0, \quad AC \neq 0,$$

where  $A, B, C$  are constants.

1. Use the transformation  $u = x + \alpha t, v = x + \beta t, \alpha \neq \beta$ , to derive the equation

$$(A+B\alpha+C\alpha^2)y_{uu}+[2A+B(\alpha+\beta)+2C\alpha\beta]y_{uv}+(A+B\beta+C\beta^2)y_{vv} = 0.$$

2. Show that  $y_{uv} = 0$  if  $\alpha, \beta$  have the values

$$\alpha_0 = \frac{-B + \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2C}, \quad \beta_0 = \frac{-B - \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2C}.$$

3. Conclude from the last result that the general solution of the original equation is  $y = \phi(x + \alpha_0 t) + \psi(x + \beta_0 t)$  where  $\phi, \psi$  are twice differentiable. Then verify that the solution of the wave equation  $y_{tt} - a^2 y_{xx} = 0$  follows as a special case.

**Solution:**

1. We have

$$\partial_t = \alpha \partial_u + \beta \partial_v, \quad \partial_x = \partial_u + \partial_v.$$

thus

$$y_{xx} = (\partial_u + \partial_v)(y_u + y_v) = y_{uu} + 2y_{uv} + y_{vv}$$

$$y_{xt} = (\partial_u + \partial_v)(\alpha y_u + \beta y_v) = \alpha(y_{uu} + (\alpha + \beta)y_{uv} + \beta y_{vv}),$$

$$y_{tt} = (\alpha \partial_u + \beta \partial_v)(\alpha y_u + \beta y_v) = \alpha^2 y_{uu} + 2\alpha\beta y_{uv} + \beta^2 y_{vv}.$$

Substituting into equation

$$Ay_{xx} + By_{xt} + Cy_{tt} = 0$$

we obtain the desired result

$$(A+B\alpha+C\alpha^2)y_{uu}+[2A+B(\alpha+\beta)+2C\alpha\beta]y_{uv}+(A+B\beta+C\beta^2)y_{vv} = 0.$$

2. The roots of the quadratic equation  $A + B\alpha + C\alpha^2 = 0$  are  $\alpha = \frac{-B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2C}$ . Thus  $\alpha = \alpha_0$  is a root. The roots of the quadratic equation  $A + B\beta + C\beta^2 = 0$  are again  $\beta = \frac{-B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2C}$ . Thus  $\beta = \beta_0$  is a root. With these substitutions the equation becomes

$$[2A + B(\alpha_0 + \beta_0) + 2C\alpha_0\beta_0]y_{uv} = 0$$

or

$$(2A + \frac{-B^2}{C} + 2C \frac{B^2 - B^2 + 4AC}{4C^2})y_{uv} = \frac{4AC - B^2}{C}y_{uv} = 0,$$

so  $y_{uv} = 0$ .

3. Since  $y_{uv} = 0$ , the general solution of this equation is  $y = \phi(u) + \psi(v)$ . Passing to the original variables  $x, t$  we have

$$y(x, t) = \phi(x + \alpha_0 t) + \psi(x + \beta_0 t)$$

as the general solution. In the special case of the equation  $y_{tt} - a^2 y_{xx} = 0$  we have  $A = -a^2$ ,  $B = 0$  and  $C = 1$ , so  $B^2 - 4AC > 0$ ,  $AC \neq 0$  and  $\alpha_0 = a$ ,  $\beta_0 = -a$ . Thus we recover the solution

$$y(x, t) = \phi(x + at) + \psi(x - at).$$

**Chapter 3, page 86, problem 3** Show that with the transformation  $u = x$ ,  $v = \alpha x + \beta t$  for  $\beta \neq 0$ , the equation of Problem 2 becomes

$$Ay_{uu} + (2A\alpha + B\beta)y_{uv} + (A\alpha^2 + B\alpha\beta + C\beta^2)y_{vv} = 0.$$

Then show that the new equation reduces to (a)  $y_{uu} + y_{vv} = 0$  when  $B^2 - 4AC < 0$  and

$$\alpha = \frac{-B}{\sqrt{4AC - B^2}}, \quad \beta = \frac{2A}{\sqrt{4AC - B^2}};$$

(b)  $y_{uu} = 0$  when  $B^2 - 4AC = 0$  and  $\alpha = -B$ ,  $\beta = 2A$ .

**Solution:**

1. We have

$$\partial_t = \beta\partial_v, \quad \partial_x = \partial_u + \alpha\partial_v,$$

so

$$y_{xx} = (\partial_u + \alpha\partial_v)(y_u + \alpha y_v) = y_{uu} + 2\alpha y_{uv} + \alpha^2 y_{vv},$$

$$y_{xt} = (\partial_u + \alpha\partial_v)(\beta y_v) = \beta y_{uv} + \alpha\beta y_{vv},$$

$$y_{tt} = (\beta\partial_v)\beta y_v = \beta^2 y_{vv}.$$

Thus the original equation transforms to

$$Ay_{uu} + (2A\alpha + B\beta)y_{uv} + (A\alpha^2 + B\alpha\beta + C\beta^2)y_{vv} = 0.$$

2. Suppose  $B^2 - 4AC < 0$  and

$$\alpha = \frac{-B}{\sqrt{4AC - B^2}}, \quad \beta = \frac{2A}{\sqrt{4AC - B^2}}.$$

Then  $2A\alpha + B\beta = \frac{-2AB + 2AB}{\sqrt{4AC - B^2}} = 0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} A\alpha^2 + B\alpha\beta + C\beta^2 &= \frac{AB^2 - 2AB^2 + 4A^2C}{4AC - B^2} \\ &= \frac{-AB^2 + 4A^2C}{4AC - B^2} = A \neq 0, \end{aligned}$$

because  $4AC > B^2 \geq 0$ . Thus we can divide by  $A$  to get  $y_{uu} + y_{vv} = 0$ .

3. Suppose  $B^2 - 4AC = 0$  and  $\alpha = -B$ ,  $\beta = 2A$ . Then

$$2A\alpha + B\beta = -2AB + 2AB = 0,$$

$$A\alpha^2 + B\alpha\beta + C\beta^2 = AB^2 - 2AB^2 + 4A^2C = A(4AC - B^2) = 0.$$

Thus the equation reduces to  $Ay_{uu} = 0$  or  $y_{uu} = 0$  unless the equation is vacuous.

**Chapter 4, page 93, Problem 2** Use the operators  $L = x$  and  $M = \partial_x$  to illustrate that  $LM$  and  $ML$  are not always the same.

**Solution:** Let  $u(x)$  be a continuously differentiable function. Then  $Lu = xu(x)$  and

$$M(Lu) = M(xu(x)) = \partial_x(xu(x)) = u(x) + xu'(x).$$

But

$$LMu = L(Mu) = L(u'(x)) = xu'(x).$$

so  $ML \neq LM$ .

**Chapter 4, page 93, Problem 3** Verify that each of the functions

$$u_0 = y, \quad u_n = \sinh ny \cos nx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

satisfies Laplace's equation

$$u_{xx}(x, y) + u_{yy}(x, y) = 0, \quad 0 < x < \pi, \quad 0 < y < 2,$$

and the three boundary conditions

$$u_x(0, y) = u_x(\pi, y) = 0, \quad u(x, 0) = 0.$$

Then use the superposition principle to show, formally, that the series

$$u(x, y) = A_0 y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh ny \cos nx$$

satisfies the differential equation and boundary conditions.

**Solution:**

1.

$$(\partial_{xx} + \partial_{yy})u_0 = (\partial_{xx} + \partial_{yy})y = 0,$$

$$\partial_x u_0(0, y) = \partial_x y = 0, \quad \partial_x(u_0(\pi, y)) = \partial_x y = 0, \quad u_0(x, 0) = 0,$$

$$(\partial_{xx} + \partial_{yy})u_n = -n^2 \sinh ny \cos nx + n^2 \sinh ny \cos nx = 0,$$

$$\partial_x u_n(0, y) = -n \sinh ny \sin 0 = 0,$$

$$\partial_x u_n(\pi, y) = -n \sinh ny \sin n\pi = 0, \quad u_n(x, 0) = \sinh 0 \cos nx = 0.$$

2. Since the equation is linear and the boundary conditions are homogeneous, an arbitrary linear combination of these special solutions also satisfies the equation and boundary conditions, formally, Thus

$$u(x, y) = A_0 y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh ny \cos nx$$

satisfies the differential equation and boundary conditions.

**Chapter 4, page 98, Problem 1** Consider the boundary value problem

$$u_{xx}(x, y) + u_{yy}(x, y) = 0, \quad 0 < x < \pi, \quad 0 < y < 2,$$

with homogeneous boundary conditions

$$u_x(0, y) = u_x(\pi, y) = 0, \quad u(x, 0) = 0.$$

Use separation of variables  $u = X(x)Y(y)$  and the results of Section 31 to show how the functions

$$u_0 = y, \quad u_n = \sinh ny \cos nx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

can be discovered. Proceed formally to derive the solution of the problem with nonhomogeneous condition  $u(x, 2) = f(x)$  as

$$u(x, y) = A_0 y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh ny \cos nx,$$

where

$$A_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx, \quad A_n = \frac{2}{\pi \sinh 2n} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

**Solution:**

1. Set  $u = X(x)Y(y)$ , Substituting into the differential equation and separating variables, we have

$$\frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} = -\frac{Y''(y)}{Y(y)} = -\lambda.$$



Thus the Sturm-Liouville problems are

$$(a) \quad X'' + \lambda X = 0, \quad X'(0) = X'(\pi) = 0,$$

$$(b) \quad Y'' - \lambda Y = 0, \quad Y(0) = 0.$$

Working on (a), we see that if  $\lambda = -a^2 < 0$  then  $X(x) = Ae^{ax} + Be^{-ax}$ , so  $X'(x) = a(Ae^{ax} - Be^{-ax})$ . Thus  $X'(0) = a(A - B) = 0$  implies  $A = B$ , so  $X'(\pi) = aB(e^{a\pi} + e^{-a\pi})$  which implies  $B = 0$ . Thus we can't satisfy the boundary conditions if  $\lambda < 0$ .

If  $\lambda_0 = 0$  then  $X(x) = Ax + b$ .  $X'(0) = X'(\pi) = 0$  implies  $A = 0$ . Thus  $\lambda_0 = 0$  is an eigenvalue and we can take the eigenfunction as  $X_0(x) = 1$ .

If  $\lambda = a^2 > 0$  with  $a > 0$  then  $X(x) = A \cos ax + B \sin ax$ . Since  $X'(x) = -Aa \sin ax + Ba \cos ax$  we have the requirement  $X'(0) = Ba = 0$  so  $B = 0$ . The requirement  $X'(\pi) = -Aa \sin a\pi = 0$  means that  $a = n$ . Thus the eigenvalues are  $\lambda_n = n^2$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  with eigenfunctions  $X_n(x) = \cos nx$ .

For (b) we need consider only  $\lambda \geq 0$ . For  $\lambda_0 = 0$  we have  $Y(t) = Ay + B$  and the boundary condition  $Y(0) = 0$  implies  $B = 0$ . Thus we have  $Y_0(y) = y$ .

For  $\lambda_n = n^2$  we have  $Y(y) = A \sinh ny + B \cosh ny$ . The boundary condition  $Y(0) = B = 0$  implies that the eigenfunctions are  $Y_n(y) = \sinh ny$ .

We conclude that the special solutions are

$$u_0 = y, \quad u_n = \cos nx \sinh ny, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

2. Taking, formally, a linear combination of the special solutions  $u_0, u_n$  we get

$$u(x, y) = A_0 y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh ny \cos nx.$$

The inhomogeneous condition  $u(x, 2) = f(x)$  imposes the requirement

$$f(x) = 2A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sinh 2n \cos nx.$$

This is a Fourier Cosine series on the interval  $[0, \pi]$ , so we must have

$$4A_0 = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi f(x) dx, \quad A_n \sinh 2n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi f(x) \cos nx \, dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

from which we can obtain  $A_0, A_n$ .

**Chapter 4, page 98, Problem 2** Show that if in Section 31 we had written

$$\frac{T'(t)}{T(t)} = k \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} = -\lambda$$

to separate variables, we would still have obtained the same results.

**Solution:** Here  $u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$  and the boundary conditions are

$$u_x(0, t) = 0, \quad u_x(c, t) = 0, \quad t > 0.$$

Thus the Sturm-Liouville problem is

$$X'' + \frac{\lambda}{k}X = 0, \quad X'(0) = X'(c) = 0,$$

and there is the additional equation

$$T' + \lambda T = 0.$$

If  $\lambda/k = 0$  then  $X(x) = Ax + B$ , and the conditions  $X'(0) = X'(c) = 0 = A$  imply  $A = 0$ . Thus  $\lambda_0 = 0$  is an eigenvalue with eigenfunction  $X_0(x) = 1$ . The corresponding solution for  $T$  is  $T_0(t) = 1$ .

If  $\lambda/k = \alpha^2 > 0$  where  $\alpha > 0$  then  $X(x) = A \sin \alpha x + B \cos \alpha x$ . The condition  $X'(0) = 0 = A\alpha$  implies  $A = 0$ . The condition  $X'(c) = 0 = -B\alpha \sin \alpha c$  implies  $\alpha c = n\pi$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . Thus there are eigenvalues  $\lambda_n = kn^2\pi^2/c^2$  with corresponding eigenfunctions

$$X_n(x) = \cos \frac{n\pi x}{c}, \quad T_n(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{kn^2\pi^2 t}{c^2}\right).$$

If  $\lambda/k = -\alpha^2 < 0$  where  $\alpha > 0$  then  $X(x) = Ae^{\alpha x} + Be^{-\alpha x}$ . The condition  $X'(0) = 0 = \alpha(A - B)$  implies  $B = A$ . The condition

$X'(c) = 0 = A(e^{\alpha c} - e^{-\alpha c})$  implies  $A = 0$  Thus there are no eigenvalues for this case.

We conclude that the separated solutions are

$$u_0 = 1, \quad u_n = \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{kn^2\pi^2 t}{c^2}\right), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

just as before.

**Chapter 4, page 102, Problem 1** By assuming a product solution obtain conditions

$$\begin{aligned} X'' + \lambda X &= 0, \quad X(0) = X(c) = 0, \\ T'' + \lambda a^2 T &= 0, \quad T'(0) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

from the homogeneous conditions

$$\begin{aligned} y_{tt} &= a^2 y_{xx}, \quad 0 < x < c, \quad t > 0, \\ y_t(0, t) &= 0, \quad y(c, t) = 0, \quad y_t(x, 0) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

**Solution:** Assume  $y(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$  satisfies the wave equation. Then  $XT'' = a^2X''T$  so we have

$$\frac{X''}{X} = \frac{T''}{a^2T} = -\lambda.$$

Thus

$$X'' + \lambda X = 0, \quad T'' + \lambda a^2 T = 0.$$

The boundary condition  $y_t(0, t) = 0 = T'(t)X(0)$  implies  $X(0) = 0$  since we never have  $T'(t) \equiv 0$  even for  $\lambda = 0$ . The boundary condition  $y(c, t) = 0 = X(c)T(t)$  implies  $X(c) = 0$ . The initial condition  $y_t(x, 0) = 0 = T'(0)X(x)$  implies  $T'(0) = 0$ .

**Chapter 4, page 102, Problem 2** Derive the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the Sturm-Liouville problem

$$X'' + \lambda X = 0, \quad X(0) = X(c) = 0.$$

**Solution:** If  $\lambda = 0$  then  $X(x) = Ax + B$ . Since  $X(0) = 0 = B$  we

have  $B = 0$ . Since  $X(c) = 0 = Ac$  we have  $A = 0$ , so  $\lambda = 0$  is not an eigenvalue.

If  $\lambda = -a^2$  with  $a > 0$  we have  $X(x) = Ae^{ax} + Be^{-ax}$ . The condition  $X(0) = 0 = A + B$  implies  $B = -A$ . The condition  $X(c) = 0 = A(e^{ac} - e^{-ac})$  implies  $A = 0$ . Thus no such  $\lambda < 0$  is an eigenvalue.

If  $\lambda = a^2$  with  $a > 0$  we have  $X(x) = A \sin ax + B \cos ax$ . The condition  $X(0) = 0 = B$  implies  $B = 0$ . The condition  $X(c) = 0 = A \sin ac$  implies  $a = n\pi/c$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . Thus the possible eigenvalues are  $\lambda_n = n^2\pi^2/c^2$  with eigenfunctions  $X_n(x) = \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{c})$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ .

**Chapter 4, page 102, Problem 3** Point out how it follows from expression

$$y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{c} \cos \frac{n\pi at}{c},$$

that for each fixed  $x$ , the displacement function  $y(x, t)$  is periodic in  $t$  with period  $T_0 = \frac{2c}{a}$ .

**Solution:** From the expansion above, if you replace  $t$  by  $t + \frac{2c}{a}$  then

$$\cos\left(\frac{n\pi a(t + \frac{2c}{a})}{c}\right) = \cos\left(\frac{n\pi at}{c} + 2\pi n\right) = \cos \frac{n\pi at}{c},$$

so  $y(x, t + T_0) = y(x, t)$ . Thus  $y$  is periodic in  $t$  with period  $T_0$ .