

1. Let $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = (4x^3y^2 - 2xy^3)\mathbf{i} + (2x^4y - 3x^2y^2 + 4y^3)\mathbf{j}$.
 a). Show that $\mathbf{F}(x, y)$ is conservative by finding the potential curves.

Solution

Firstly we check with the necessary condition of conservative field: $\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial x}$. In fact,

$$\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial(4x^3y^2 - 2xy^3)}{\partial y} = 8x^3y - 6xy^2 = \frac{\partial(2x^4y - 3x^2y^2 + 4y^3)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial x}.$$

So, the vector field $\mathbf{F}(x, y)$ might be conservative. Now we are looking for a potential curve $\phi(x, y)$ such that $\nabla\phi = \mathbf{F}$, so then $\mathbf{F}(x, y)$ is conservative. Let ϕ be:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} = F_1 = 4x^3y^2 - 2xy^3 & \dots\dots\dots (1) \\ \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} = F_2 = 2x^4y - 3x^2y^2 + 4y^3 & \dots\dots\dots (2) \end{cases}$$

Integrating (1) with respect to x yields

$$\phi(x, y) = \int (4x^3y^2 - 2xy^3)dx = x^4y^2 - x^2y^3 + C_1(y), \quad \text{for some integral constant } C_1(y).$$

Differentiating the above equation with respect to y , we have

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} = 2x^4y - 3x^2y^2 + C_1'(y).$$

Comparing it with (2), we have $C_1'(y) = 4y^3$, which gives $C_1(y) = y^4 + C$. Thus, the potential curves are

$$\phi(x, y) = x^4y^2 - x^2y^3 + y^4 + C,$$

which are smooth in x and y , Therefore, the vector field is conservative.

- b). Calculate $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$, where C is the curve given by $\mathbf{r}(t) = (t + \sin \pi t) \mathbf{i} + (2t + \cos \pi t) \mathbf{j}$ for $0 \leq t \leq 1$.

Solution

Since the vector field is conservative, so the line integral is independent of the path, namely

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_C \nabla\phi dt = \phi(x(1), y(1)) - \phi(x(0), y(0)) \\ &= (x^4y^2 - x^2y^3 + y^4)(t = 1) - (x^4y^2 - x^2y^3 + y^4)(t = 0) \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $\langle x(1), y(1) \rangle = \langle 1, 1 \rangle$ and $\langle x(0), y(0) \rangle = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$.

2. a). Find $\text{curl } \mathbf{F}$ and $\text{div } \mathbf{F}$, if $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = e^{-x} \sin y \mathbf{i} + e^{-y} \sin z \mathbf{j} + e^{-z} \sin x \mathbf{k}$.

Solution

$$\text{curl } \mathbf{F} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \partial_x & \partial_y & \partial_z \\ e^{-x} \sin y & e^{-y} \sin z & e^{-z} \sin x \end{bmatrix} = -e^{-y} \cos z \mathbf{i} - e^{-z} \cos x \mathbf{j} - e^{-x} \cos y \mathbf{k}.$$

$$\text{div } \mathbf{F} = \partial_x(e^{-x} \sin y) + \partial_y(e^{-y} \sin z) + \partial_z(e^{-z} \sin x) = -e^{-x} \sin y - e^{-y} \sin z - e^{-z} \sin x.$$

- b). Show that there is no vector field \mathbf{G} such that $\text{curl } \mathbf{G} = 2x \mathbf{i} + 3yz \mathbf{j} - xz^2 \mathbf{k}$.

Solution

If there is some vector field \mathbf{G} such that $\text{curl } \mathbf{G} = 2x \mathbf{i} + 3yz \mathbf{j} - xz^2 \mathbf{k}$, then

$$\nabla \cdot \text{curl } \mathbf{G} = \partial_x(2x) + \partial_y(3yz) + \partial_z(-xz^2) = 2 + 3z - 2xz \neq 0.$$

However, by the identity: $\nabla \cdot \text{curl } \mathbf{G} = 0$ for any vector field \mathbf{G} , it is a contradiction. So, there is no vector field \mathbf{G} such that $\text{curl } \mathbf{G} = 2x \mathbf{i} + 3yz \mathbf{j} - xz^2 \mathbf{k}$.

3. If f is a harmonic function, that is, $\nabla^2 f = f_{xx} + f_{yy} = 0$, show that the line integral $\int_C f_y dx - f_x dy$ is independent of path C in any simple region D .

Solution 1

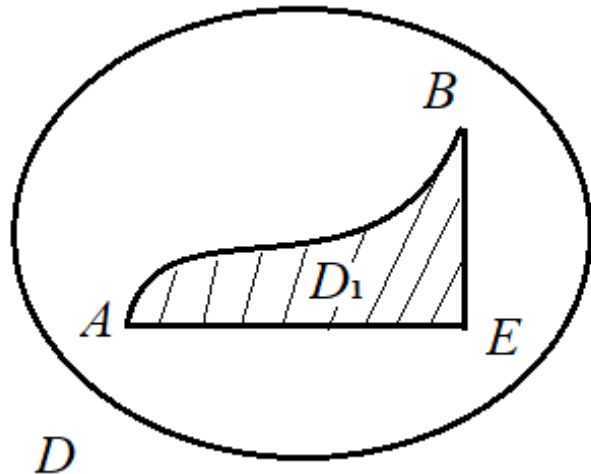
Let C be any path from point $A(x_1, y_1)$ to point $B(x_2, y_2)$ in any simple region D , and $C_2 = \overline{BE} + \overline{EA}$ be the lines with the vertical line $\overline{BE} = \{x = x_2, y_1 \leq y \leq y_2\}$ and the horizontal line $\overline{EA} = \{y = y_1, x_1 \leq x \leq x_2\}$, and D_1 be the region bounded by the curves C and C_2 . See the graph below. Note that f is a harmonic function: $\nabla^2 f = f_{xx} + f_{yy} = 0$, by Green's Theorem, we have

$$\int_{C \cup C_2} f_y dx - f_x dy = \iint_{D_1} [\partial_x(-f_x) - \partial_y(f_y)] dA = - \iint_{D_1} [f_{xx} + f_{yy}] dA = 0.$$

This gives

$$\int_C f_y dx - f_x dy = \int_{-C_2} f_y dx - f_x dy = \text{constant}$$

Since C is arbitrarily given, the above line integral is independent of path C in any simple region D .



Solution 2

Let C be a given path in any simple region D . We rewrite

$$\int_C f_y dx - f_x dy = \int_C \langle f_y, -f_x \rangle \cdot \langle dx, dy \rangle = \int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$

where $\mathbf{F} = \langle f_y, -f_x \rangle$ is the vector field. Now we are going to prove it to be conservative by finding its potential curves, so then the line integral $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$ is independent of the path C .

First of all, we check with the necessary condition. Note that

$$\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial(f_y)}{\partial y} = f_{yy}, \quad \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial(-f_x)}{\partial x} = -f_{xx}$$

and $f_{xx} + f_{yy} = 0$, i. e., $f_{yy} = -f_{xx}$, then $\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial x}$.

Now we are looking for a smooth function $\phi(x, y)$ such that $\nabla\phi = \mathbf{F}$.

Let us solve the system

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} = F_1 = f_y \\ \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} = F_2 = -f_x \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

By integrating the first equation with respect to x , we have

$$\phi(x, y) = \int^x f_y(x, y) dx + C_1(y) \quad (2)$$

Differentiating (2) with respect to y , we have

$$\partial_y\phi = \int^x f_{yy}(x, y) dx + C_1'(y) \quad (3)$$

Comparing (3) with the second equation of (1), we have

$$\int^x f_{yy}(x, y) dx + C_1'(y) = -f_x = \int^x (-f_x)_x dx = \int^x -f_{xx} dx.$$

So,

$$C_1'(y) = - \int^x f_{yy} dx + \int^x (-f_x)_x dx = - \int^x (f_{yy} + f_{xx}) dx = 0,$$

Namely, $C_1(y) = C_1 = \text{Constant}$. Thus, we derive the potential curves of \mathbf{F} :

$$\phi(x, y) = \int^x f_y(x, y) dx + C_1 = - \int^y f_x(x, y) dy + C_2.$$

Therefore, \mathbf{F} is conservative, and the line integral $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$ is independent of the path C .

4. Evaluate $\int_C \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 2xy dy$, where C is the triangle with vertices $(0,0)$, $(1,0)$, $(1,3)$.

Solution 1

Since $\int \sqrt{1+x^3} dx$ cannot be explicitly integrated, we have to use Green's Theorem to evaluate it. The region D of the triangle with vertices $(0,0)$, $(1,0)$ and $(1,3)$ is expressed as

$$D = \{(x, y) | 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 3x.\}$$

So, the line integral is:

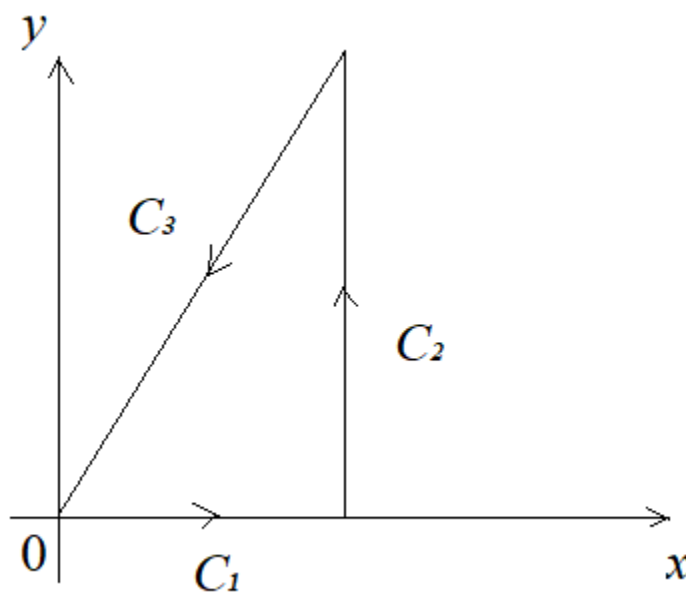
$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 2xy dy &= \iint_D [\partial_x(2xy) - \partial_y(\sqrt{1+x^3})] dA \\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^{3x} 2y dy dx = 3. \end{aligned}$$

Solution 2

Notice that $C = C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3$, where C_1 is the line from the point $(0,0)$ to $(1,0)$ with $y = 0, 0 \leq x \leq 1$,

C_2 is the line from the point $(1,0)$ to $(1,3)$ with $x = 1, 0 \leq y \leq 3$, and C_3 is the line from the point $(1,3)$ to $(0,0)$ with $y = 3x, 0 \leq x \leq 1$. So, the line integral is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 2xy dy &= \int_{C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3} \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 2xy dy \\ &= \int_{C_1} \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 2xy dy + \int_{C_2} \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 2xy dy + \int_{C_3} \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 2xy dy \\ &= \int_0^1 \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + \int_0^3 2 \cdot 1 \cdot y dy + \int_1^0 \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 2x(3x) 3dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + y^2 \Big|_{(y=0)}^{(y=3)} - \int_0^1 \sqrt{1+x^3} dx - \int_0^1 18x^2 dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \sqrt{1+x^3} dx + 9 - \int_0^1 \sqrt{1+x^3} dx - 6 \\ &= 3. \end{aligned}$$



5. Evaluate $\iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$, where $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = x^2 \mathbf{i} + xy \mathbf{j} + z \mathbf{k}$ and S is the part of paraboloid $z = x^2 + y^2$ below the plane $z = 1$ with upward orientation.

Solution

The 3-dimensional region D bounded by the paraboloid $z = x^2 + y^2$ below the plane $z = 1$ is

$$D = \{(x, y, z) | z = x^2 + y^2, \quad 0 \leq z \leq 1\} = \{(r, \theta, z) | 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, \quad 0 \leq r \leq 1, \quad z = r^2\}.$$

By Divergence Theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= \iiint_D \operatorname{div} \mathbf{F} \, dV = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 \int_0^{r^2} [\partial_x(x^2) + \partial_y(xy) + \partial_z(z)] r \, dz \, dr \, d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 \int_0^{r^2} [3x + 1] r \, dz \, dr \, d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 \int_0^{r^2} [3r \cos \theta + 1] r \, dz \, dr \, d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 [3r^4 \cos \theta + r^3] \, dr \, d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} \left[\frac{3}{5} \cos \theta + \frac{1}{4} \right] d\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

6. Evaluate $\iint_S \text{curl } \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$, where $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = x^2yz \mathbf{i} + yz^2 \mathbf{j} + z^3 e^{xy} \mathbf{k}$ and S is the part of sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 5$ that lies above the plane $z = 1$ and S is oriented upward.

Solution

Let C be the boundary of the surface $S: x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 5$ on the plane $z = 1$, namely, $x^2 + y^2 = 4$, $z = 1$, which can be represented in the vector form $\mathbf{r}(\theta) = \langle 2 \cos \theta, 2 \sin \theta, 1 \rangle$, and $d\mathbf{r} = \langle -2 \sin \theta, 2 \cos \theta, 0 \rangle d\theta$. By Stokes' Theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_S \text{curl } \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= \oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \langle x^2yz, yz^2, z^3 e^{xy} \rangle \cdot \langle -2 \sin \theta, 2 \cos \theta, 0 \rangle d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} [-2^4 \cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \theta + 4 \sin \theta \cos \theta] d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} [-2^2 \sin^2 2\theta + 2 \sin 2\theta] d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} [2(\cos 4\theta - 1) + 2 \sin 2\theta] d\theta \\ &= -4\pi. \end{aligned}$$

7. Evaluate $\iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$, where $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = x^3 \mathbf{i} + y^3 \mathbf{j} + z^3 \mathbf{k}$ and S is the surface of the solid bounded by the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ and the planes $z = 0$, $z = 2$.

Solution

The 3-dimensional region D bounded by cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ and the planes $z = 0$, $z = 2$ is

$$D = \{(x, y, z) \mid 0 \leq x^2 + y^2 \leq 1, 0 \leq z \leq 2\} = \{(r, \theta, z) \mid 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq r \leq 1, 0 \leq z \leq 2\}.$$

By Divergence Theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= \iiint_D \operatorname{div} \mathbf{F} \, dV = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 \int_0^2 [\partial_x(x^3) + \partial_y(y^3) + \partial_z(z^3)] r \, dz \, dr \, d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 \int_0^2 3(r^3 + z^2 r) \, dz \, dr \, d\theta = 11\pi. \end{aligned}$$

8. a). Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors: $y'' + \lambda y = 0, y'(0) = 0, y'(L) = 0$.

Solution

Let $y = e^{\gamma x}$, then we have the following characteristic equation: $\gamma^2 + \lambda = 0$.

When $\lambda < 0$, the solution is $y = C_1 e^{\sqrt{|\lambda|x}} + C_2 e^{-\sqrt{|\lambda|x}}$. From the boundary condition $y'(0) = 0, y'(L) = 0$, we have $C_1 = C_2 = 0$, namely $y = 0$, the trivial solution, which is not the case we look for.

When $\lambda = 0$, the solution is $y = C_1 x + C_2$. The boundary $y'(0) = 0, y'(L) = 0$ implies $C_1 = 0$, and $y = C_2$ for arbitrary constant C_2 . So, $\lambda = 0$ is one of the eigenvalues, and the corresponding eigenfunction is $\phi_0(x) = 1$.

When $\lambda > 0$, the solution is $y = C_1 \cos \sqrt{\lambda} x + C_2 \sin \sqrt{\lambda} x$. From the boundary condition $y'(0) = 0, y'(L) = 0$, we have

$$-C_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin \sqrt{\lambda} x + C_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos \sqrt{\lambda} x = 0 \text{ for } x = 0,$$

$$-C_1 \sqrt{\lambda} \sin \sqrt{\lambda} x + C_2 \sqrt{\lambda} \cos \sqrt{\lambda} x = 0 \text{ for } x = L,$$

which give $C_2 = 0$, and

$$\lambda = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2}, \quad \phi(x) = \cos \frac{n\pi}{L} x, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Summary:

Eigenvalues: $\lambda_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Eigenfunctions: $\phi_0(x) = 1, \text{ and } \phi_n(x) = \cos \frac{n\pi}{L} x, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

8. b). Find the Fourier series for the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 2, & -2 \leq x < 0, \\ 2 - x, & 0 \leq x < 2; \end{cases} \quad f(x + 4) = f(x).$$

Solution

The Fourier series is

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[a_n \cos \frac{n\pi}{L} x + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi}{L} x \right].$$

Note that $f(x)$ is even, namely $f(-x) = f(x)$. So, $b_n = 0$, for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, and

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx = \frac{2}{2} \int_0^2 (2 - x) dx = 2,$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi}{L} x dx = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi}{L} x dx = \frac{2}{2} \int_0^2 (2 - x) \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} x dx$$

$$= (2 - x) \frac{2}{n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} x \Big|_0^2 - \int_0^2 (-1) \frac{2}{n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} x dx$$

$$= (2 - x) \frac{2}{n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} x \Big|_0^2 - \frac{2^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} x \Big|_0^2$$

$$= -\frac{2^2}{n^2 \pi^2} [\cos n\pi - 1] = -\frac{2^2}{n^2 \pi^2} [(-1)^n - 1] = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } n = \text{even} \\ \frac{8}{n^2 \pi^2}, & \text{for } n = \text{old.} \end{cases}$$

So,

$$f(x) = 1 + \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} \cos \frac{(2n-1)\pi}{2} x.$$

9. Solve the following initial-boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t = 5u_{xx}, & 0 \leq x \leq \pi, & t > 0, \\ u(0, t) = 10, & u(\pi, t) = 20, & t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) = \cos 2x - \cos 4x, & x \in [0, \pi]. \end{cases}$$

Solution

Since the boundary is non-homogeneous, we introduce a function

$$v(x) = \frac{10}{\pi} x + 10, \text{ satisfying the boundary condition } v(0) = 10 \text{ and } v(\pi) = 20.$$

Let $w = u - v$, then w satisfies

$$\begin{cases} w_t = 5w_{xx}, & 0 \leq x \leq \pi, & t > 0, \\ w(0, t) = 0, & w(\pi, t) = 0, & t > 0, \\ w(x, 0) = \cos 2x - \cos 4x - \frac{10}{\pi} x - 10 =: f(x), & x \in [0, \pi]. \end{cases}$$

Its solution is

$$w(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \exp\left(-\frac{n^2 \pi^2 \alpha^2}{L^2} t\right) \sin \frac{n\pi}{L} x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n e^{-5n^2 t} \sin n x,$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} c_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi}{L} x \, dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \left[\cos 2x - \cos 4x - \frac{10}{\pi} x - 10 \right] \sin n x \, dx \\ &= -\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \left[\frac{10}{\pi} x + 10 \right] \sin n x \, dx = \frac{20}{n\pi} [2(-1)^n - 1]. \end{aligned}$$

So, the solution for the original IBVP is

$$u(x, t) = v(x) + w(x, t) = \frac{10}{\pi} x + 10 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{20}{n\pi} [2(-1)^n - 1] e^{-5n^2 t} \sin n x.$$

10. Consider the initial-value problem to the wave equation

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} = a^2 u_{xx}, & -\infty < x < \infty, & t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) = f(x), & -\infty < x < \infty, \\ u_t(x, 0) = 0, & -\infty < x < \infty, \end{cases}$$

which can be reduced to the form $u_{\xi\eta} = 0$ by the change of variables $\xi = x - at$, $\eta = x + at$.

a). Show that the solution can be written as

$$u(x, t) = \phi(\xi) + \psi(\eta) = \phi(x - at) + \psi(x + at),$$

where ϕ and ψ are the functions satisfying

$$\phi(x) + \psi(x) = f(x), \quad -\phi'(x) + \psi'(x) = 0.$$

Solution

Let $u = u(\xi, \eta)$ with $\xi = x - at$, $\eta = x + at$. Then

$$u_t = u_\xi \partial_t(\xi) + u_\eta \partial_t(\eta) = -au_\xi + au_\eta,$$

$$u_{tt} = \partial_t(-au_\xi + au_\eta) = \partial_\xi(-au_\xi + au_\eta)\partial_t\xi + \partial_\eta(-au_\xi + au_\eta)\partial_t\eta = a^2(u_{\xi\xi} - 2u_{\xi\eta} + u_{\eta\eta}),$$

$$u_x = u_\xi \partial_x(\xi) + u_\eta \partial_x(\eta) = u_\xi + u_\eta,$$

$$u_{xx} = \partial_x(u_\xi + u_\eta) = \partial_\xi(u_\xi + u_\eta)\partial_x\xi + \partial_\eta(u_\xi + u_\eta)\partial_x\eta = u_{\xi\xi} + 2u_{\xi\eta} + u_{\eta\eta},$$

So, we have

$$0 = u_{tt} - a^2 u_{xx} = a^2(u_{\xi\xi} - 2u_{\xi\eta} + u_{\eta\eta}) - a^2(u_{\xi\xi} + 2u_{\xi\eta} + u_{\eta\eta}) = -4a^2 u_{\xi\eta},$$

namely,

$$u_{\xi\eta} = 0.$$

Integrating it with respect to η , we have $u_\xi = C_1(\xi)$ for some integral constant $C_1(\xi)$. Integrating $u_\xi = C_1(\xi)$ both sides with respect to ξ , we then obtain

$$u(\xi, \eta) = \int C_1(\xi) d\xi = \phi(\xi) + \psi(\eta),$$

where $\phi'(\xi) = C_1(\xi)$ and $\psi(\eta)$ is the integral constant. Thus, we have

$$u(x, t) = u(\xi, \eta) = \phi(\xi) + \psi(\eta) = \phi(x - at) + \psi(x + at)$$

satisfying the initial value conditions

$$u(x, 0) = \phi(x) + \psi(x) = f(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = -a\phi'(x) + a\psi'(x) = 0.$$

10. b). By solving ϕ and ψ in part a), thereby show the following D'Alembert formula:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} [f(x - at) + f(x + at)].$$

Solution

Since $-\phi'(x) + \psi'(x) = 0$, by integrating it with respect to x , we have

$$-\phi(x) + \psi(x) = C, \text{ for some constant } C.$$

Combining it with $\phi(x) + \psi(x) = f(x)$, we have

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{2} [f(x) - C], \text{ and } \psi(x) = \frac{1}{2} [f(x) + C].$$

So, we have

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= \phi(x - at) + \psi(x + at) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [f(x - at) - C] + \frac{1}{2} [f(x + at) + C] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [f(x - at) + f(x + at)]. \end{aligned}$$