

## Problems

In each of Problems 1 through 6, determine whether the method of separation of variables can be used to replace the given partial differential equation by a pair of ordinary differential equations. If so, find the equations.

1.  $xu_{xx} + u_t = 0$
2.  $tu_{xx} + xu_t = 0$
3.  $u_{xx} + u_{xt} + u_t = 0$
4.  $(p(x)u_x)_x - r(x)u_{tt} = 0$
5.  $u_{xx} + (x + y)u_{yy} = 0$
6.  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} + xu = 0$

7. Find the solution of the heat conduction problem

$$\begin{aligned} 100u_{xx} &= u_t, & 0 < x < 1, \quad t > 0; \\ u(0, t) &= 0, & u(1, t) &= 0, \quad t > 0; \\ u(x, 0) &= \sin(2\pi x) - \sin(5\pi x), & 0 \leq x \leq 1. \end{aligned}$$

8. Find the solution of the heat conduction problem

$$\begin{aligned} u_{xx} &= 4u_t, & 0 < x < 2, \quad t > 0; \\ u(0, t) &= 0, \quad u(2, t) = 0, & t > 0; \\ u(x, 0) &= 2 \sin(\pi x/2) - \sin(\pi x) + 4 \sin(2\pi x), & 0 \leq x \leq 2. \end{aligned}$$

Consider the conduction of heat in a rod 40 cm in length whose ends are maintained at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  for all  $t > 0$ . In each of Problems 9 through 12, find an expression for the temperature  $u(x, t)$  if the initial temperature distribution in the rod is the given function. Suppose that  $\alpha^2 = 1$ .

9.  $u(x, 0) = 50, \quad 0 < x < 40$
10.  $u(x, 0) = \begin{cases} x, & 0 \leq x < 20, \\ 40 - x, & 20 \leq x \leq 40 \end{cases}$
11.  $u(x, 0) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq x < 10, \\ 50, & 10 \leq x \leq 30, \\ 0, & 30 < x \leq 40 \end{cases}$
12.  $u(x, 0) = x, \quad 0 \leq x < 40$

24. In solving differential equations, the computations can almost always be simplified by the use of **dimensionless variables**.

a. Show that if the dimensionless variable  $\xi = x/L$  is introduced, the heat conduction equation becomes

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} = \frac{L^2}{\alpha^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \quad 0 < \xi < 1, \quad t > 0.$$

b. Since  $L^2/\alpha^2$  has the units of time, it is convenient to use this quantity to define a dimensionless time variable  $\tau = (\alpha^2/L^2)t$ . Then show that the heat conduction equation reduces to

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau}, \quad 0 < \xi < 1, \quad \tau > 0.$$

25. Consider the equation

$$au_{xx} - bu_t + cu = 0, \quad (25)$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are constants.

a. Let  $u(x, t) = e^{\delta t}w(x, t)$ , where  $\delta$  is constant, and find the corresponding partial differential equation for  $w$ .

b. If  $b \neq 0$ , show that  $\delta$  can be chosen so that the partial differential equation found in part a has no term in  $w$ . Thus, by a change of dependent variable, it is possible to reduce equation (25) to the heat conduction equation.

26. The heat conduction equation in two space dimensions is

$$\alpha^2(u_{xx} + u_{yy}) = u_t.$$

Assuming that  $u(x, y, t) = X(x)Y(y)T(t)$ , find ordinary differential equations that are satisfied by  $X(x)$ ,  $Y(y)$ , and  $T(t)$ .

27. The heat conduction equation in two space dimensions may be expressed in terms of polar coordinates as

$$\alpha^2 \left( u_{rr} + \frac{1}{r}u_r + \frac{1}{r^2}u_{\theta\theta} \right) = u_t.$$

Assuming that  $u(r, \theta, t) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)T(t)$ , find ordinary differential equations that are satisfied by  $R(r)$ ,  $\Theta(\theta)$ , and  $T(t)$ .