

Solution formula for inhomogeneous wave equation:

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx} + f(x,t), & t > 0 \\ u(x,0) = \phi(x), u_t(x,0) = \psi(x) \end{cases}$$

$$u(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} [\phi(x-ct) + \phi(x+ct)] + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} \psi(y) dy + \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^t \left(\int_{x-c(t-s)}^{x+c(t-s)} f(y,s) dy \right) ds$$

Example: Solve

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} = 4u_{xx} + \cos x \\ u(x,0) = 0, u_t(x,0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Solution: } u(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} [0+0] + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} 0 dy$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^t \left(\int_{x-c(t-s)}^{x+c(t-s)} \cos y dy \right) ds = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^t \left(\int_{x-2(t-s)}^{x+2(t-s)} \sin y dy \right) ds$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \int_0^t (\sin(x+2(t-s)) - \sin(x-2(t-s))) ds$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \cos x \sin 2(t-s) ds = \cos x \cdot \left(\frac{1}{4} \cos 2(t-s) \right) \Big|_0^t = \cos x \cdot \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos 2t) = \frac{1}{2} \cos x \sin^2 t$$