

1. Solve the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d^4 u}{dt^4} + \frac{d^2 u}{dt^2} = e^{-t}, \\ u(0) = \frac{du}{dt}(0) = \frac{d^2 u}{dt^2}(0) = \frac{d^3 u}{dt^3}(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

2. Consider the complex function

$$F(z) = \frac{z+1}{z^4 + 5z^2 + 4}.$$

- (a) Compute the inverse Laplace transform of  $F$  using the integral formula (you can also verify that you got the correct result by alternatively computing the inverse Laplace transform using the properties of  $\mathcal{L}[\cdot]$  and Laplace transforms of known examples).
- (b) Restricting  $F$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  (i.e. think of  $F$  as a function from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{C}$ ), compute the inverse Fourier transform of  $F$ .

3. For the functions  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given below, compute its expansion into a Fourier series

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 + \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}} (a_n \cos(2\pi nx) + b_n \sin(2\pi nx)).$$

- (a)  $f(x) = \sin^2(2\pi x)$ ,
- (b)  $f(x) = x \sin(2\pi x)$ ,
- (c)  $f(x) = e^{-x}$ .

4. Consider the initial value problem for the modified heat equation on  $x \in [0, 1]$  for some  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  with Dirichlet conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, t) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(x, t) - au(x, t) = e^{-2x} & \text{for } t > 0, x \in (0, 1), \\ u(x, 0) = 0, \\ u(0, t) = u(1, t) = 0 & \text{for } t > 0. \end{cases}$$

Find an expression for the solution  $u$ .

5. Let us consider the same initial value problem as in Exercise 4 but with Neumann boundary conditions instead (in the case of the heat equation, these model an *insulated* endpoint):

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, t) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(x, t) - au(x, t) = e^{-2x} & \text{for } t > 0, x \in (0, 1), \\ u(x, 0) = 0, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(0, t) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(1, t) = 0 & \text{for } t > 0. \end{cases}$$

Find an expression for the solution  $u$ . (*Hint: You might want to extend your functions as even 2-periodic functions in  $x$  before decomposing in Fourier modes.*)

- 6 (Extra). The  $n$ -moment of a function  $f : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is defined by

$$\mu_n = \int_0^{+\infty} t^n f(t) dt,$$

provided, of course, this integral converges. Show that, if all  $n$ -moments of  $f$  converge and

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_0^{+\infty} t^n |f(t)| dt < +\infty,$$

then

$$\mathcal{L}[f](z) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \mu_n z^n.$$

In particular, it follows from the above that  $\mathcal{L}[f](z)$  in this case extends holomorphically at  $z = 0$  and the moments of  $f$  can be calculated in terms of the coefficients of the Taylor expansion of  $\mathcal{L}[f](z)$  at  $z = 0$ .

## Solutions

### Problem 1

#### Laplace Transform

We apply the Laplace transform to the differential equation. We denote the Laplace transform of a function  $u(t)$  by  $\mathcal{L}[u(t)](z) = U(z)$ . The Laplace transforms of the derivatives are:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\left[\frac{d^4 u}{dt^4}\right](s) &= s^4 U(s) - s^3 u(0) - s^2 \frac{du}{dt}(0) - s \frac{d^2 u}{dt^2}(0) - \frac{d^3 u}{dt^3}(0) = s^4 U(s), \\ \mathcal{L}\left[\frac{d^2 u}{dt^2}\right] &= s^2 U(s) - su(0) - \frac{du}{dt}(0) = s^2 U(s). \end{aligned}$$

The Laplace transform of  $e^{-t}$  is:

$$\mathcal{L}[e^{-t}](s) = \frac{1}{s+1}.$$

Substituting these into the differential equation, we get:

$$s^4 U(s) + s^2 U(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}.$$

Factoring out  $U(s)$ , we have:

$$U(s)(s^4 + s^2) = \frac{1}{s+1}.$$

Solving for  $U(s)$ , we get:

$$U(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s^4 + s^2)} = \frac{1}{s^2(s^2 + 1)(s+1)}.$$

We decompose  $U(s)$  into partial fractions:

$$\frac{1}{s^2(s^2 + 1)(s+1)} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s^2} + \frac{Cs + D}{s^2 + 1} + \frac{E}{s+1}.$$

Multiplying both sides by the denominator  $s^2(s^2 + 1)(s+1)$ , we get:

$$1 = As(s^2 + 1)(s+1) + B(s^2 + 1)(s+1) + (Cs + D)s^2(s+1) + Es^2(s^2 + 1).$$

Expanding and combining like terms, we have:

$$1 = As^4 + As^3 + As^2 + As + Bs^3 + Bs^2 + Bs + B + Cs^4 + Cs^3 + Ds^3 + Ds^2 + Es^4 + Es^2.$$

Grouping the terms by powers of  $s$ , we get:

$$1 = (A + C + E)s^4 + (A + B + C + D)s^3 + (A + B + D + E)s^2 + (A + B)s + B.$$

Equating the coefficients of corresponding powers of  $s$  on both sides, we obtain the system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} A + C + E &= 0, \\ A + B + C + D &= 0, \\ A + B + D + E &= 0, \\ A + B &= 0, \\ B &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Solving this system, we find:

$$B = 1,$$

$$\begin{aligned} A + 1 = 0 &\implies A = -1, \\ -1 + C + E = 0 &\implies C + E = 1, \\ -1 + 1 + C + D = 0 &\implies C + D = 0, \\ -1 + 1 + D + E = 0 &\implies D + E = 0. \end{aligned}$$

From  $C + D = 0$  and  $D + E = 0$ , we get  $C = -D$  and  $E = -D$ . Substituting  $C = -D$  into  $C + E = 1$ , we get:

$$-D - D = 1 \implies -2D = 1 \implies D = -\frac{1}{2}, C = -D = \frac{1}{2}, E = -D = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Thus, the partial fraction decomposition is:

$$U(s) = -\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s^2} + \frac{\frac{1}{2}s - \frac{1}{2}}{s^2 + 1} + \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{s + 1} = -\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s^2} + \frac{s - 1}{2(s^2 + 1)} + \frac{1}{2(s + 1)}.$$

We now find the inverse Laplace transform of each term:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[-\frac{1}{s}\right] &= -1, \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s^2}\right] &= t, \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{s - 1}{2(s^2 + 1)}\right] &= \frac{1}{2}\left(\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{s}{s^2 + 1}\right] - \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s^2 + 1}\right]\right) = \frac{1}{2}(\cos t - \sin t), \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{2(s + 1)}\right] &= \frac{1}{2}e^{-t}. \end{aligned}$$

Combining these, we get the solution:

$$u(t) = -1 + t + \frac{1}{2}(\cos t - \sin t) + \frac{1}{2}e^{-t}.$$

**Final Answer**

$$u(t) = -1 + t + \frac{1}{2}(\cos t - \sin t) + \frac{1}{2}e^{-t}$$

## Problem 2

### Part (a)

Given the function:

$$F(z) = \frac{z + 1}{z^4 + 5z^2 + 4},$$

the poles of  $F(z)$  are the roots of the denominator  $z^4 + 5z^2 + 4 = 0$ . Factoring, we get:

$$z^4 + 5z^2 + 4 = (z^2 + 1)(z^2 + 4)$$

So, the poles are  $z = \pm i$  and  $z = \pm 2i$ . All of them are simple poles.

The inverse Laplace transform is given by the following integral (also known as Bromwich integral):

$$f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(z)\} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma-i\infty}^{\gamma+i\infty} e^{zt} F(z) dz,$$

where  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$  is chosen such that all the singularities of  $F(z)$  lie to the left of the line  $\operatorname{Re}(z) = \gamma$ . In this case, we can choose any  $\gamma > 0$ .

As we have seen this class, the way to compute this integral is schematically as follows: In order to compute  $\int_{\gamma-iR}^{\gamma+iR} e^{zt} F(z) dz$  as  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ , we close the loop using a half circle to the left (i.e. the curve  $\theta \rightarrow Re^{i\theta}$  for  $\theta \in [\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}]$ ), and then we compute the integral over the closed loop using the residue theorem (note that this loop will contain, when  $R$  is large, all the poles of  $e^{tz}F(z)$ ). As  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ , the integral over the half circle goes to 0 (this is why we chose to close the loop on the left, since  $e^{tz}$  is uniformly bounded in the region  $\operatorname{Re}(z) \leq \gamma$  when  $t \geq 0$ ), leaving us with

$$f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(z)\} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma-i\infty}^{\gamma+i\infty} e^{zt} F(z) dz = \sum_{z_k: \text{poles of } F} \operatorname{Res}_{z=z_k} (e^{tz} F(z)),$$

## Residue Calculation

We calculate the residues at each pole.

- Residue at  $z = i$ :

$$\operatorname{Res}_{z=i}(e^{zt}F(z)) = \lim_{z \rightarrow i} (z - i) e^{zt} \frac{z + 1}{(z^2 + 1)(z^2 + 4)} = e^{it} \frac{i + 1}{(2i)(3)} = \frac{e^{it}(i + 1)}{6i}$$

- Residue at  $z = -i$ :

$$\operatorname{Res}_{z=-i}(e^{zt}F(z)) = \lim_{z \rightarrow -i} (z + i) e^{zt} \frac{z + 1}{(z^2 + 1)(z^2 + 4)} = e^{-it} \frac{-i + 1}{(-2i)(3)} = \frac{e^{-it}(i - 1)}{6i}$$

- Residue at  $z = 2i$ :

$$\operatorname{Res}_{z=2i}(e^{zt}F(z)) = \lim_{z \rightarrow 2i} (z - 2i) e^{zt} \frac{z + 1}{(z^2 + 1)(z^2 + 4)} = e^{2it} \frac{2i + 1}{(-3)(4i)} = \frac{e^{2it}(2i + 1)}{-12i}$$

- Residue at  $z = -2i$ :

$$\operatorname{Res}_{z=-2i}(e^{zt}F(z)) = \lim_{z \rightarrow -2i} (z + 2i) e^{zt} \frac{z + 1}{(z^2 + 1)(z^2 + 4)} = e^{-2it} \frac{-2i + 1}{(-3)(-4i)} = \frac{e^{-2it}(-2i + 1)}{12i}$$

Summing the residues, we get:

$$f(t) = \left( \frac{e^{it}(i+1)}{6i} + \frac{e^{-it}(i-1)}{6i} + \frac{e^{2it}(2i+1)}{-12i} + \frac{e^{-2it}(-2i+1)}{12i} \right)$$

Combining the terms and using Euler's formula  $e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta)$ , we finally obtain:

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{3} \cos t + \frac{1}{3} \sin t - \frac{1}{3} \cos 2t - \frac{1}{6} \sin 2t$$

## Part (b)

We compute the inverse Fourier transform of

$$F(\xi) = \frac{\xi + 1}{(\xi^2 + 1)(\xi^2 + 4)},$$

so

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i\xi x} \frac{\xi + 1}{(\xi^2 + 1)(\xi^2 + 4)} d\xi.$$

The integrand

$$G_x(\xi) = e^{i\xi x} \frac{\xi + 1}{(\xi^2 + 1)(\xi^2 + 4)}$$

has simple poles at  $\xi = \pm i$  and  $\xi = \pm 2i$ .

We have seen how to compute the above integral before, as an application of the residue theorem. We need to distinguish two cases, based on the sign of  $x$ :

- When  $x \geq 0$ , the function  $e^{ix\xi}$  is bounded on the upper half plane  $\text{Im}(\xi) \geq 0$ . In this case, in order to compute the integral  $\int_{-R}^{+R} e^{i\xi x} \frac{\xi+1}{(\xi^2+1)(\xi^2+4)} d\xi$  as  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ , we close the loop with a half circle on the *upper* half plane, namely the half circle  $\theta \rightarrow Re^{i\theta}$ ,  $\theta \in [0, \pi]$ . This loop is counter-clockwise oriented and will include only the poles at  $+i$  and  $+2i$ . So applying the residue theorem (and using the fact that the integral over the half circle goes to 0 as  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ ), we get:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} G_x(\xi) d\xi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} 2\pi i (\text{Res}_{z=i}(G_x(z)) + \text{Res}_{z=2i}(G_x(z))).$$

Computing the residues similarly as in the case of part (a), we obtain for  $x \geq 0$ :

$$f(x) = \sqrt{2\pi} i \left( \frac{e^{-x}(i+1)}{6i} + \frac{e^{-2x}(2i+1)}{-12i} \right) = 2\pi \left( \frac{1+i}{6} e^{-x} - \frac{1+2i}{12} e^{-2x} \right).$$

- When  $x < 0$ , the function  $e^{ix\xi}$  is bounded on the lower half plane  $\text{Im}(\xi) \leq 0$ . In this case, in order to compute the integral  $\int_{-R}^{+R} e^{i\xi x} \frac{\xi+1}{(\xi^2+1)(\xi^2+4)} d\xi$  as  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ , we close the loop with a half circle on the *lower* half plane, namely following the half circle  $\theta \rightarrow Re^{-i\theta}$ ,  $\theta \in [0, \pi]$ . This loop

is *clockwise oriented* and will include only the poles at  $-i$  and  $-2i$ . So applying the residue theorem (and using the fact that the integral over the half circle goes to 0 as  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ ), we get (note the minus sign coming from the clockwise orientation):

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} G_x(\xi) d\xi = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} 2\pi i (\operatorname{Res}_{z=-i}(G_x(z)) + \operatorname{Res}_{z=-2i}(G_x(z))).$$

Computing the residues similarly as before, we obtain for  $x < 0$  (note in this case  $x = -|x|$ ):

$$f(x) = -\sqrt{2\pi} i \left( \frac{e^x(i-1)}{6i} + \frac{e^{2x}(-2i+1)}{12i} \right) = 2\pi \left( \frac{1-i}{6} e^{-|x|} + \frac{-1+2i}{12} e^{-2|x|} \right).$$

So, overall:

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}[F](x) = \begin{cases} 2\pi \left( \frac{1+i}{6} e^{-x} - \frac{1+2i}{12} e^{-2x} \right), & x \geq 0, \\ 2\pi \left( \frac{1-i}{6} e^{-|x|} - \frac{1-2i}{12} e^{-2|x|} \right), & x \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

### Problem 3

For each of the following functions  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , compute its Fourier series expansion in the form:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 + \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}} (a_n \cos(2\pi nx) + b_n \sin(2\pi nx))$$

**(a)**  $f(x) = \sin^2(2\pi x)$

Use the trigonometric identity:

$$\sin^2(2\pi x) = \frac{1 - \cos(4\pi x)}{2}$$

So, the Fourier series is:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos(4\pi x)$$

Hence:

$$a_0 = 1, \quad a_2 = -1, \quad a_n = 0 \text{ for } n \neq 2, \quad b_n = 0 \text{ for all } n$$

**(b)**  $f(x) = x \sin(2\pi x)$

We compute the Fourier coefficients:

**Cosine coefficients  $a_n$ :** Using the identity:

$$\sin A \cos B = \frac{1}{2}[\sin(A + B) + \sin(A - B)]$$

we compute:

$$a_n = 2 \int_0^1 x \sin(2\pi x) \cos(2\pi n x) dx = \int_0^1 x [\sin(2\pi(n+1)x) + \sin(2\pi(1-n)x)] dx$$

Using:

$$\int_0^1 x \sin(2\pi k x) dx = -\frac{1}{2\pi k}$$

(which follows simply by integrating by parts in  $\sin(2\pi k x) = -\frac{1}{2\pi k} \frac{d}{dx} \cos(2\pi k x)$ ), we get:

$$a_n = -\frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{1-n} \right) = \frac{2n}{\pi(n^2-1)} \quad \text{for } n \neq 1$$

For  $n = 1$ :

$$a_1 = \int_0^1 x \sin(4\pi x) dx = -\frac{1}{4\pi}$$

**Sine coefficients  $b_n$ :** Using:

$$\sin A \sin B = \frac{1}{2}[\cos(A - B) - \cos(A + B)]$$

we find:

$$b_n = 2 \int_0^1 x \sin(2\pi x) \sin(2\pi n x) dx = \int_0^1 x [\cos(2\pi(n-1)x) - \cos(2\pi(n+1)x)] dx$$

Since:

$$\int_0^1 x \cos(2\pi k x) dx = 0 \quad \text{for integer } k \neq 0$$

we have  $b_n = 0$  for  $n \neq 1$ . For  $n = 1$ :

$$b_1 = 2 \int_0^1 x \sin^2(2\pi x) dx = \int_0^1 x(1 - \cos(4\pi x)) dx = \frac{1}{2}$$

**Final Fourier series for (b):**

$$f(x) = x \sin(2\pi x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n \cos(2\pi n x) + \frac{1}{2} \sin(2\pi x)$$

with:

$$a_1 = -\frac{1}{4\pi}, \quad a_n = \frac{2n}{\pi(n^2-1)} \quad \text{for } n \neq 1, \quad b_n = 0 \quad \text{for } n \neq 1$$



(c)  $f(x) = e^{-x}$

Zeroth coefficient:

$$a_0 = \int_0^1 e^{-x} dx = 1 - e^{-1}$$

Cosine coefficients:

$$a_n = 2 \int_0^1 e^{-x} \cos(2\pi nx) dx = \frac{2(1 - e^{-1})}{1 + (2\pi n)^2}$$

Sine coefficients:

$$b_n = 2 \int_0^1 e^{-x} \sin(2\pi nx) dx = \frac{4\pi n(1 - e^{-1})}{1 + (2\pi n)^2}$$

Final Fourier series for (c):

$$f(x) = \frac{1 - e^{-1}}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \frac{2(1 - e^{-1})}{1 + (2\pi n)^2} \cos(2\pi nx) + \frac{4\pi n(1 - e^{-1})}{1 + (2\pi n)^2} \sin(2\pi nx) \right]$$

## Problem 4

Consider the initial value problem for the modified heat equation:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, t) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(x, t) - au(x, t) = e^{-2x}, & t > 0, x \in (0, 1) \\ u(x, 0) = 0, & x \in (0, 1) \\ u(0, t) = u(1, t) = 0, & t > 0 \end{cases}$$

## Separation of Variables and Expansion

We seek a solution of the form:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \sin(n\pi x)$$

(this form satisfies the homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions; the justification for seeking such an expression, as usual, is that we extend our functions as odd, 2-periodic functions of  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , such functions have only the sinuses terms present in the corresponding trigonometric expansion).

After extending the source term  $f(x) = e^{-2x}$  as an odd, 2-periodic function of  $x$ , we expand it in a sine series:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n \sin(n\pi x), \quad f_n = 2 \int_0^1 e^{-2x} \sin(n\pi x) dx$$

The integral can be computed easily, by integrating by parts twice:

$$f_n = 2 \int_0^1 e^{-2x} \sin(n\pi x) dx = \frac{2\pi n}{\pi^2 n^2 + 4} (1 - e^{-2} \cos(\pi n))$$

## Substitute into the PDE

We substitute into the PDE:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b'_n(t) \sin(\pi n x) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \pi^2 n^2 \sin(\pi n x) - a \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \sin(\pi n x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n \sin(\pi n x)$$

This gives for each  $n$ :

$$b'_n(t) + (\pi^2 n^2 - a) b_n(t) = f_n.$$

Recall also that, since our initial condition was  $u(x, 0) = 0$ , we have

$$b_n(0) = 0.$$

Solving the above (and noting that  $f_n$  is constant in  $t$ , since  $f$  was constant in  $t$ ), we get

$$b_n(t) = \int_0^t e^{-(\pi^2 n^2 - a)(t-s)} f_n ds = f_n \cdot \frac{1 - e^{-(\pi^2 n^2 - a)t}}{\pi^2 n^2 - a}$$

Putting everything together:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2\pi n}{\pi^2 n^2 + 4} \left(1 - e^{-2} \cos(\pi n)\right) \cdot \frac{1 - e^{-(\pi^2 n^2 - a)t}}{\pi^2 n^2 - a} \cdot \sin(\pi n x)$$

## Problem 5

### Fourier Cosine Series Expansion

Since the boundary conditions are Neumann, we choose to extend our function  $u(x, t)$  and our source term  $f(x) = e^{-2x}$  as **even**, 2-periodic functions of  $x$ . This is because a  $C^1$ , even and 2 periodic function  $h(x)$  will automatically satisfy the Neumann boundary conditions  $h'(0) = 0 = h'(1)$ . In this case, the trigonometric expansion of those functions will only contain cosine terms:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{a_0(t)}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(t) \cos(n\pi x)$$

(note that the basis elements, namely  $\cos(n\pi x)$ , automatically satisfy the Neumann conditions at the boundary).

The source term  $f(x) = e^{-2x}$ , when extended as above, is expanded in a cosine series as follows:

$$f(x) = \frac{f_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

with coefficients:

$$f_n = 2 \int_0^1 e^{-2x} \cos(n\pi x) dx \quad \text{for } n \geq 0.$$

Using the series for  $u(x, t)$  and  $f(x)$ , we substitute into the PDE and equate coefficients:

$$\frac{1}{2} (a'_0(t) - aa_0(t)) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a'_n(t) + (\pi^2 n^2 - a)a_n(t)) \cos(\pi n x) = \frac{f_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n \cos(\pi n x).$$

Equating the corresponding coefficients of  $\cos(n\pi x)$  for any  $n \geq 0$ , we get

$$a'_n(t) + (\pi^2 n^2 - a)a_n(t) = f_n.$$

Since our initial condition is that  $u(x, 0) = 0$ , we have

$$a_n(0) = 0.$$

Solving the above first-order ODE, we get:

$$a_n(t) = \frac{f_n}{\pi^2 n^2 - a} (1 - e^{-(\pi^2 n^2 - a)t}).$$

## Problem 6 (Extra)

The  $n$ -moment of a function  $f : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is defined by:

$$\mu_n = \int_0^{\infty} t^n f(t) dt,$$

provided this integral converges.

Assume that all  $n$ -moments of  $f$  converge and

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_0^{\infty} t^n |f(t)| dt < +\infty.$$

We aim to prove that:

$$\mathcal{L}[f](z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \mu_n z^n.$$

The Laplace transform of  $f$  is defined as:

$$\mathcal{L}[f](z) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-zt} f(t) dt.$$

For any  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , the Taylor expansion of  $e^{-zt}$  reads:

$$e^{-zt} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-z)^n t^n}{n!}.$$

Substituting the above expression in the Laplace transform, we get

$$\mathcal{L}[f](z) = \int_0^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-z)^n}{n!} t^n f(t) dt.$$

Interchanging the sum with the integral, we get

$$\mathcal{L}[f](z) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(-z)^n}{n!} t^n f(t) dt = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-z)^n}{n!} \int_0^{+\infty} t^n f(t) dt = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \mu_n z^n,$$

which is the required result.

**Remark:** The reason that we were able to exchange the sum and the integral was precisely our assumption that

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_0^{\infty} t^n |f(t)| dt < +\infty.$$

This allows us to apply the so-called dominated convergence theorem. Moreover, in this case, since  $\sup_n \mu_n < +\infty$ , the series  $\mathcal{L}[f](z) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \mu_n z^n$  has infinite radius of analyticity; therefore,  $\mathcal{L}[f](z)$  is defined on the whole of the complex plane.