

Question
 Solution 1) Given Laplace eq. is:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Let $u = XY$ where X is a function of x only and Y is a function of y only.

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = Y \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2}$$

and $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = X \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2}$

from eq. (1)

$$Y \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} + X \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2}$$

Case i) $\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} = 0$

$$\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} = 0$$

and $\frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} = 0$

$$X = C_1 x + C_2, \quad Y = C_3 y + C_4$$

At $y=0, Y=0 \Rightarrow C_4=0$

Also $y=b, Y=0 \Rightarrow C_3=0$

$\therefore Y=0$

Thus $u = XY = X(0)$
 $u = 0$ (not possible)

Case ii) $-\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} = k^2$ (say)

$$\frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} + k^2 X = 0$$

and $\frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} - k^2 Y = 0$

$$X = C_1 \cos kx + C_2 \sin kx, \quad Y = C_3 e^{ky} + C_4 e^{-ky}$$

if $y=0, Y=0$
 $C_3 + C_4 = 0$

and $Y=0$ at $y=b$
 $0 = C_3 e^{kb} - C_4 e^{-kb}$

$$C_3 (e^{kb} - e^{-kb}) = 0$$

$C_3 = 0, C_4 = 0, Y = 0$ (not possible)

Case ii) $-\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} = -k^2$ (say)

$$X = C_1 e^{kx} + C_2 e^{-kx}$$

$$Y = C_3 \cos ky + C_4 \sin ky$$

At $y=0, Y=0, C_3=0$

$$Y = C_4 \sin ky$$

At $y=b, Y=0$

$$0 = C_4 \sin kb$$

$$\sin kb = 0$$

$$kb = n\pi$$

Thus $u = (C_1 e^{kx} + C_2 e^{-kx}) C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b}$

At $x=0, u=0$

$$0 = (C_1 + C_2) C_4 \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b}$$

$$C_1 + C_2 = 0$$

$$C_2 = -C_1$$

from eq. (2) $u = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n C_4 (e^{kx} - e^{-kx}) \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b}$

$$u = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \left(\frac{e^{kx} - e^{-kx}}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi y}{b} \right) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Let $b_n = \frac{2 C_n C_4}{2}$

At $x=a, u=f(y)$

from eq. (3)

$$f(y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \left(\frac{e^{ka} - e^{-ka}}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi y}{b} \right)$$

$$f(y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sinh \left(\frac{n\pi a}{b} \right) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi y}{b} \right)$$

$$b_n \sinh \left(\frac{n\pi a}{b} \right) = \frac{2}{b} \int_0^b f(y) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi y}{b} \right) dy$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{b \sinh \left(\frac{n\pi a}{b} \right)} \int_0^b f(y) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi y}{b} \right) dy \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Thus $u = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sinh \left(\frac{n\pi x}{b} \right) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi y}{b} \right)$

where b_n is given by eq. (4)