2-2. Solve the following differential equations:

$$(a)\frac{d^{2}y}{dx^{2}} - 4y = 0 \qquad y(0) = 2 \qquad \frac{dy}{dx}\Big|_{x=0} = 4$$
  
$$(b)\frac{d^{2}y}{dx^{2}} - 5\frac{dy}{dx} + 6y = 0 \qquad y(0) = -1 \qquad \frac{dy}{dx}\Big|_{x=0} = 0$$
  
$$(c)\frac{dy}{dx} - 2y = 0 \qquad y(0) = 2$$

2-3. Prove that  $x(t) = \cos \omega t$  oscillates with a frequency  $v = \omega/2\pi$ . Prove that  $x(t) = A\cos \omega t + B\sin \omega t$  oscillates with the same frequency,  $\omega/2\pi$ .

2-7. This problem develops the idea of a classical harmonic oscillator. Consider a mass m m attached to a spring, as shown in Figure 2.11. Suppose there is no gravitational force acting on m so that the only force is from the spring. Let the relaxed or undistorted length of the spring be  $x_0$ . Hooke's law says that the force acting on the mass m is f = -k(x - x0), where k is a constant characteristic of the spring and is called the force constant of the spring. Note that the minus sign indicates the direction of the force: to the left if  $x > x_0$  (extended) and to the right if  $x < x_0$  (compressed). The momentum of the mass is:

$$p = m\frac{dx}{dt} = m\frac{d(x - x_0)}{dt}$$

Newton's second law says that the rate of change of momentum is equal to a force:

$$\frac{dp}{dt} = f$$

Replacing f(x) by Hooke's law, show that:s

$$m\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -k(x - x_0)$$

Upon letting  $\xi = x - x_0$  be the displacement of the spring from its undistorted length, then:

$$m\frac{d^2\xi}{dt^2} + k\xi = 0$$

Given that the mass starts at  $\xi = 0$  with an initial velocity  $v_0$ , show that the displacement is given by

$$\xi(t) = v_0 (\frac{m}{k})^{1/2} \sin[(\frac{k}{m})^{1/2} t]$$

Interpret and discuss this solution. What does the motion look like? What is the frequency? What is the amplitude?



2-8. Modify Problem 2-7 to the case where the mass is moving through a viscous medium with a viscous force proportional to but opposite the velocity. Show that the equation of motion is:

$$m\frac{d^2\xi}{dt^2} + \gamma\frac{d\xi}{dt} + k\xi = 0$$

where  $\gamma$  is the viscous drag coefficient. Solve this equation and discuss the behavior of  $\xi(t)$  for various values of  $m, \gamma, k$ . This system is called a damped harmonic oscillator.

2-10. We will see in Chapter 3 that the Schrödinger equation for a particle of mass m that is constrained to move freely along a line between 0 and a is:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = E\psi \qquad (\hbar = h/2\pi)$$

with the boundary condition:

$$\psi(0) = \psi(a) = 0$$

In this equation, E is the energy of the particle and  $\psi(x)$  is its wave function. Solve this differential equation for  $\psi(x)$ , apply the boundary conditions, and show that the energy can have only the values:

$$E_n = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2 n^2}{2ma^2} \quad (n = 1, 2, 3...)$$

or that the energy is quantized.

2-17. Prove that  $\mu_n(x,t)$ , the nth normal mode of a vibrating string (Equation 2.23), can be written as the superposition of two similar traveling waves moving in opposite directions. (Let  $\phi_n = 0$  in Equation 2.25.)

B-2. A discrete probability distribution that is commonly used in statistics is the Poisson distribution:

$$f_n = \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} e^{-\lambda} \qquad (n = 0, 1, 2, ...)$$

where  $\lambda$  is a positive constant. Prove that  $f_n$  is normalized. Evaluate  $\langle n \rangle$  and  $\langle n^2 \rangle$  and show that  $\sigma^2 > 0$ . Recall that

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

B-3. An important continuous distribution is the exponential distribution:

$$p(x)dx = ce^{-\lambda x}dx \quad 0 \le x < \infty$$

Evaluate c, < x > and  $\sigma^2$ , and the probability that x > a.