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Second-Order Parabolic Partial Differential Equations > Heat Equation with a Power-Law Nonlinearity

$$1. \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} = a \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(w^m \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right).$$

Heat equation with a power-law nonlinearity. This equation occurs in nonlinear problems of heat and mass transfer and flows in porous media.

1°. Solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} w(x, t) &= (\pm kx + k\lambda t + A)^{1/m}, \quad k = \lambda m/a, \\ w(x, t) &= \left[\frac{m(x - A)^2}{2a(m+2)(B-t)} \right]^{\frac{1}{m}}, \\ w(x, t) &= \left[A|t+B|^{-\frac{m}{m+2}} - \frac{m}{2a(m+2)} \frac{(x+C)^2}{t+B} \right]^{\frac{1}{m}}, \\ w(x, t) &= \left[\frac{m(x+A)^2}{\varphi(t)} + B|x+A|^{\frac{m}{m+1}} |\varphi(t)|^{-\frac{m(2m+3)}{2(m+1)^2}} \right]^{\frac{1}{m}}, \quad \varphi(t) = C - 2a(m+2)t, \end{aligned}$$

where A, B, C , and λ are arbitrary constants. The second solution for $B > 0$ corresponds to blow-up regimes (the solution increases without bound on a finite time interval).

2°. There are solutions of the following forms:

$$\begin{aligned} w(x, t) &= (t+C)^{-1/m} F(x) && \text{multiplicative separable solution;} \\ w(x, t) &= t^\lambda G(\xi), \quad \xi = xt^{-\frac{m\lambda+1}{2}} && \text{self-similar solution;} \\ w(x, t) &= e^{-2\lambda t} H(\eta), \quad \eta = xe^{\lambda mt} && \text{generalized self-similar solution;} \\ w(x, t) &= (t+C)^{-1/m} U(\zeta), \quad \zeta = x + \lambda \ln(t+C), \end{aligned}$$

where C, β , and λ are arbitrary constants.

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