

The following exercise can be found on p. 283 of the textbook [Applied Functional Analysis and Partial Differential Equations](#), by Milan Miklavčič, and it demonstrates nonuniqueness for semilinear parabolic equations under many definitions of a solution that are currently being used.

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10. Show that

$$u(x, t) = \left( c + \frac{\pi^2}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-2(n^2+m^2)t}}{n^2 + m^2} \right)^{-1/4} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin kx}{k} e^{-k^2 t}$$

satisfies, for every  $c \geq 0$ ,

$$u_t(x, t) = u_{xx}(x, t) + \left( \int_0^{\pi} |u_x(s, t)|^2 ds \right)^2 u(x, t) \quad \text{for } t > 0, 0 \leq x \leq \pi$$

$$u(0, t) = u(\pi, t) = 0 \quad \text{for } t \geq 0$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \sup_{0 \leq x \leq \pi} |u(x, t)| = 0.$$

(*Hint:* evaluate the Fourier sine series of  $\pi - x$  and see Exercise 16 in Chapter 4.) Show that the PDE can be set as a semilinear parabolic equation in  $L^2(0, \pi)$ , with  $\alpha = 1/2$  (see also Exercise 7) and that the uniqueness fails in this case because

$$\int_0^1 \left( \int_0^{\pi} |u_x(x, t)|^2 dx \right)^2 dt = \infty.$$


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This example, in more abstract form, was first published by the author in [Pacific J. Math.](#) **118**(1985), pp. 199-214. In response to the article, Dan Henry sent to the author an example similar to the above one.