

# Math 136 (Partial Differential Equations)

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These are my lecture notes for Math 136 (Partial Differential Equations) taught by Marcus Roper. The main textbook for this class is *Partial Differential Equations: An Introduction* by Walter Strauss.

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# 1 Mar 28, 2022

## 1.1 Motivation

Motivating example: Suppose we want to describe where the gas molecules are in a room.

Approach 1: Label every gas molecule and give  $x, y, z$  coordinates for each.

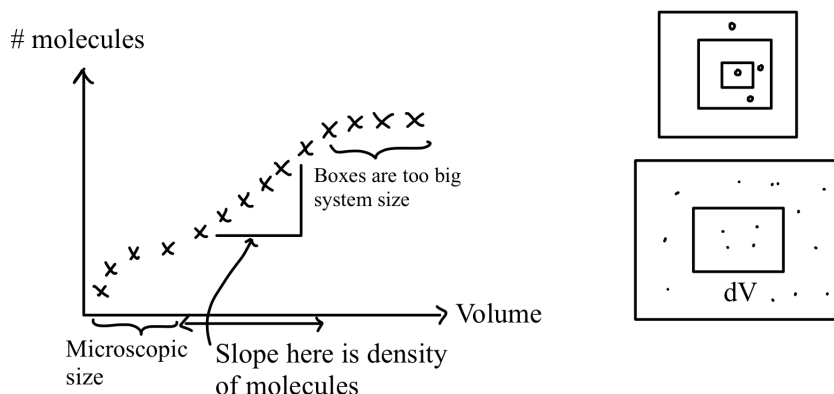
- Too much data.

Approach 2: Divide the room up into small volumes (boxes). Count the number of molecules in each volume.

- Number of molecules depends on the size of the box
- Take density/concentration:

$$\frac{\# \text{ molecules in the box}}{\text{volume of the box}}$$

We assume the distribution of molecules obeys the Continuum Hypothesis.



We assume our box sizes are in a region in which the number of molecules or volume, so density is well-defined. We defined. We define a **field**  $u(\mathbf{x}, t)$  that describes the density of molecules.

At each point  $u$  counts molecules at  $(\mathbf{x}, t)$ ; in the sense that if I make a box, volume  $dV$ , at  $(\mathbf{x}, t)$ ; the number of molecules in box is:  $u(\mathbf{x}, t)dV$ .

**Note 1.1:**  $u$  is dependent variable, and there are multiple independent variables;  $x, y, z, t$

$u$  (density) is one example of a field - a dependent variable that is defined at different points:

$$u: \mathbb{R}^3 \subset D \times \underbrace{[0, T]}_{\text{time interval}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$u: (\mathbf{x}, t) \mapsto u(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

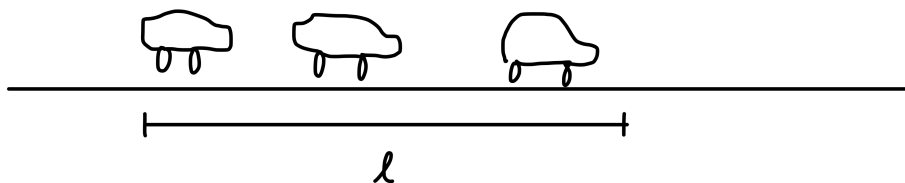
Other examples:

- Velocity (vector field);  $\mathbf{v}: D \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$
- temperature (scalar field);  $\theta: D \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- Electric field/magnetic field
- Distribution/density of cars
- Displacement of the ocean surface

We will derive (and solve) Partial Differential Equations (PDEs) as mathematical models for scalar and vector fields that depend on position (and in many cases, time).

## 1.2 Example of a PDE

We are modeling the density/distribution of cars on a freeway (looking at only one direction).



Count number of cars in some length  $\ell$  of freeway.

$$\text{density of cars} = \frac{\# \text{ in length } \ell}{\ell}$$

e.g. if  $\ell = 1$  km; and 1 count 30 cars  $\implies u = 30/\text{km}$  given this density.

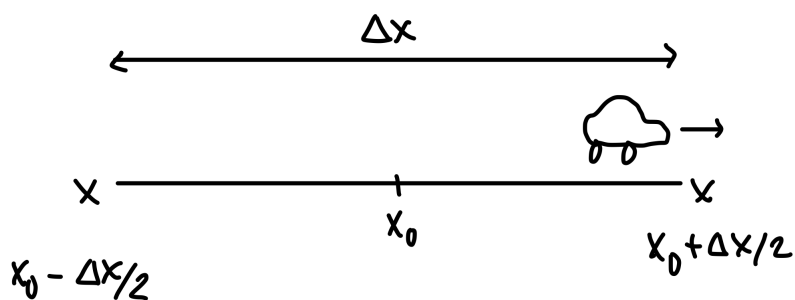
If  $\ell = 500\text{m}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \# &= 30 \text{ km} \times 500 \text{ m} \\ &= 30/\text{km} \times 0.5 \text{ km} \\ &= 15 \text{ cars} \end{aligned}$$

$u \equiv u(x, t)$ ;  $u$  depends on  $x$  (distance along freeway) and  $t$  (time).

I will assume (Continuum-Hypothesis) that densities calculated at each poinn in the freeway give rise to a  $C^1$  (continuously differentiable) field  $u$ . I want to derive an equation for  $u$ .

Calculus idea: If I know  $u(x, t)$ , I want to calculate the density shortly after;  $u(x, t + \Delta t)$ . If I can do this then I can calculate  $u(x, t + 2\Delta t), u(x, t + 3\Delta t), \dots$ . Imagine that all cars drive at the same speed,  $c$ . Consider  $\#$  cars in some interval.



At time  $t$ , there are  $u(x_0, t)\Delta x$  cars in the interval.

$$\begin{aligned} \# \text{ cars at time } t + \Delta t = & \# \text{ cars at time } t + \# \text{ entering at } x_0 - \Delta x/2 \\ & - \# \text{ leaving at } x_0 + \Delta x/2 \end{aligned}$$

This is the word statement of conservation of mass/cars.

## 2 Mar 30, 2022

### 2.1 Example of a PDE (Cont'd)

#### Recall 2.1

$$\begin{aligned} \# \text{ cars at time } t + \Delta t &= \# \text{ cars at time } t + \# \text{ entering at } x_0 - \Delta x/2 \\ &\quad - \# \text{ leaving at } x_0 + \Delta x/2 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$u(x_0, t + \Delta t)\Delta x = u(x_0, t)\Delta x + \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Let's fill in the # cars entering or leaving.

Consider station at  $x = x_0 + \Delta x/2$ , how many cars pass this station in time  $\Delta t$ ?

All of the cars to my left, that are within distance  $c\Delta t$  of me, will pass in time  $\Delta t$ . In time  $\Delta t$  a car travels distance  $c\Delta t$ , so # cars in the interval is

$$\underbrace{u(x_0 + \Delta x/2, t)}_{\text{density}} \times \underbrace{c\Delta t}_{\text{length}}$$

We will show it doesn't change anything if we use  $u(x_0 + \frac{\Delta x}{2} - \frac{1}{2}c\Delta t, t)$  instead.

Returning to conservation of cars:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x_0, t + \Delta t)\Delta x &= u(x_0, t)\Delta x + \underbrace{u(x_0 - \Delta x/2, t)c\Delta t}_{\# \text{ entering}} - \underbrace{u(x_0 + \Delta x/2, t)c\Delta t}_{\# \text{ leaving}} \\ (u(x_0, t + \Delta t) - u(x_0, t))\Delta x &= -(u(x_0 + \Delta x/2, t) - u(x_0 - \Delta x/2, t))c\Delta t \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

Recall

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, t) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{u(x, t + h) - u(x, t)}{h} \right)$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x, t) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{u(x + h, t) - u(x, t)}{h} \right) \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{u(x + h/2, t) - u(x - h/2, t)}{h} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Now dividing (2.1) by  $\Delta x \Delta t$

$$\frac{u(x_0, t + \Delta t) - u(x_0, t)}{\Delta t} = -c \left( \frac{u(x_0 + \Delta x/2, t) - u(x_0 - \Delta x/2, t)}{\Delta x} \right)$$

let  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0, \Delta t \rightarrow 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= -c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

$u$  is a dependent variable, it depends on  $x$  and  $t$  as independent variables.

There is also a constant, parameter  $c$ .

**Notation 2.2:** Other notations are used for partial derivatives.

$$\underbrace{u_t + cu_x = 0}_{\text{Strauss}} \quad \text{or} \quad \underbrace{u_{,t} + cu_{,x}}_{\text{Roper}}$$

There are some solutions of (2.2).

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} \sin(x - ct) \\ u &= \frac{1}{2}(x - ct)^2 \\ u &= e^{-x+ct} \end{aligned}$$

We can check these are solutions

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= e^{-x+ct} \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= ce^{-x+ct} \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} &= -e^{-x+ct} \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = ce^{-x+ct} + c(-e^{-x+ct}) = 0$$

Compare with ODEs:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y$$

has solution  $y(x) = Ce^x$  which has a constant of integration.

## 2.2 Linearity

In ODEs we use initial conditions to find our constants. To solve a PDE completely, we need both the PDE and an auxiliary or side condition. That is, we need either initial conditions or boundary conditions (or both) on  $u$ . (2.2) is an example of a PDE.

### Definition 2.3 (Operator)

Most generally, a PDE takes the form:

$$\mathcal{L}[u] = 0$$

We call  $\mathcal{L}$  an operator.

In this case:

$$\mathcal{L}[u] = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

$\mathcal{L}$  includes derivatives of  $u$ , more derivatives are possible: e.g.:

$$\mathcal{L}[u] = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

**Definition 2.4** (Linear operator)

We say an operator is linear if it has the following properties:

1. If  $\mathcal{L}[u] = 0$  and  $a$  is constant, then  $\mathcal{L}[au] = 0$ .
2. If  $u_1, u_2$  solve the PDE,  $\mathcal{L}[u_1] = 0, \mathcal{L}[u_2] = 0$ , then  $v = u_1 + u_2$  also solves the PDE  $\mathcal{L}[u_1 + u_2] = 0$ .

For (2.2),

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}[u_1 + u_2] &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(u_1 + u_2) + c \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(u_1 + u_2) \\
 &= u_{1,t} + u_{2,t} + c(u_{1,x} + u_{2,x}) \\
 &= (u_{1,t} + cu_{1,x}) + (u_{2,t} + cu_{2,x}) \\
 &= \mathcal{L}[u_1] + \mathcal{L}[u_2]
 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2.5**

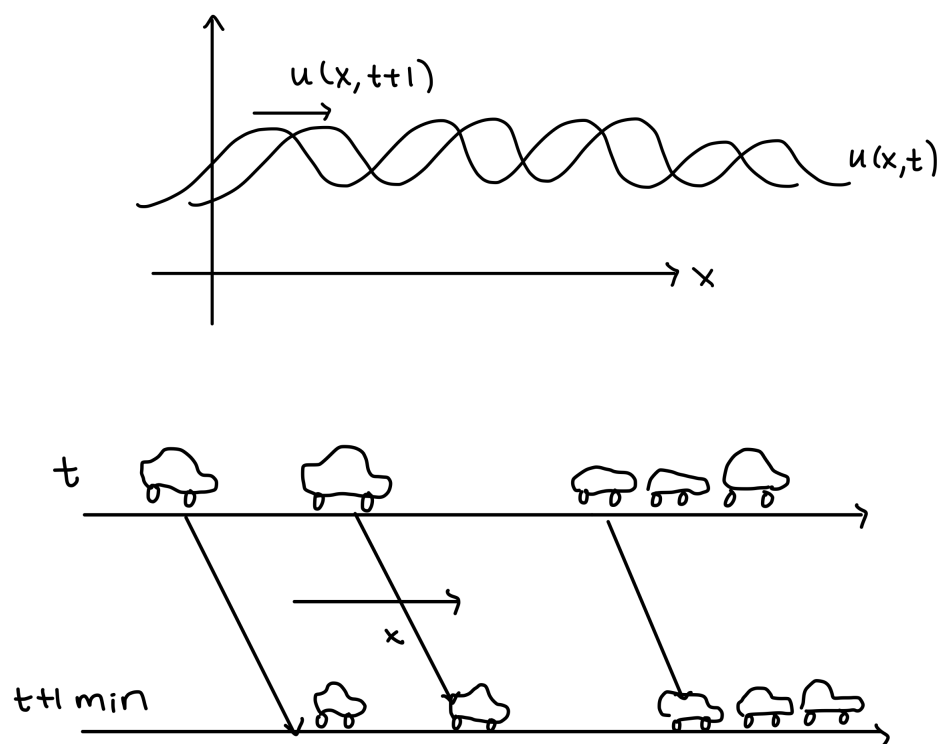
Examples of linear versus non-linear PDEs

1.  $\mathcal{L}[u] = u_{,x} + xu_{,y}$  (linear)
2.  $\mathcal{L}[u] = u_{,t} + \underbrace{u_{,xxx}}_{\partial^3 u / \partial x^3}$  (linear)
3.  $\mathcal{L}[u] = u_{,x} + \alpha u_{,y}, \alpha$  is a constant. (linear)
4.  $\mathcal{L}[u] = u_{,x} + \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} e^{-x} u_{,y}$  (linear)
5.  $\mathcal{L}[u] = u_{,x} + \sqrt{x^2 + u^2} u_{,xx}$  (non-linear)

1)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}[au] &= au_{,x} + xau_{,y} \\
 &= a(u_{,x} + xu_{,y}) \\
 &= a\mathcal{L}[u] \\
 \mathcal{L}[u_1 + u_2] &= (u_1 + u_2)_{,x} + x(u_1 + u_2)_{,y} \\
 &= (u_{1,x} + xu_{1,y}) + (u_{2,x} + xu_{2,y}) \\
 &= \mathcal{L}[u_1] + \mathcal{L}[u_2]
 \end{aligned}$$





The solution of the PDE is a traveling/shifting copy of  $u(x, t)$ ; we call these solutions **traveling waves**.

## 3 Apr 1, 2022

### 3.1 Characteristics

We are studying the PDE:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0 \quad (3.1)$$

Based on our understanding of how cars move, if all travel at same speed  $c$ , then the solution will be a traveling wave. So, if at time  $t = 0$ ,  $u(x, 0) = g(x)$ , we expect  $u(x, t)$  to be the same graph shifted by  $ct$  units to the right.

**Recall 3.1** If  $y = f(x)$  has a certain graph  $y = f(x - a)$  is the same graph shifted by  $a$  to the right.

So

$$u(x, t) = g(x - ct) \quad (3.2)$$

E.g. if  $u(x, 0) = e^{-x}$  then at time  $t$ ,  $u(x, t) = e^{-(x-ct)} = e^{-x+ct}$ . We can check that any function of the form (3.2) solves our PDE.

$$u_{,t} = -cg'(x - ct)$$

$$u_{,x} = (1)g'(x - ct)$$

Hence,

$$u_{,t} + cu_{,x} = -cg' + cg' = 0$$

To understand, mathematically, why (3.1) has traveling wave solutions, we need to study the **advective derivative**.

Given a field  $\theta(x, t)$  derivatives give us information about the rate of change of  $\theta$ . E.g.

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = \text{time rate of change at fixed } x \text{ (Eulerian derivative)}$$

Another derivative comes from sampling  $\theta$  at different points and times (time rate of change according to a moving observer).

Moving observer has a location  $x(t)$ , their rate of change is given by the **advective derivative** or **Lagrangian derivative**

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\theta(x(t), t)) = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt}}_{\text{new term}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t}}_{\text{Eulerian derivative}} \quad (3.3)$$

#### Example 3.2

$\theta(x, t)$  is temperature,  $x$  is distance.

$\theta(x, t) = mx + b$  for some  $m$  and  $b$  constants.

Now imagine an observer enters room, and walks along  $x$ , at speed  $v$  so  $\frac{dx}{dt} = v$ . The time rate of change of temperature is

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = mv + 0 = mv$$

Compare (3.3)

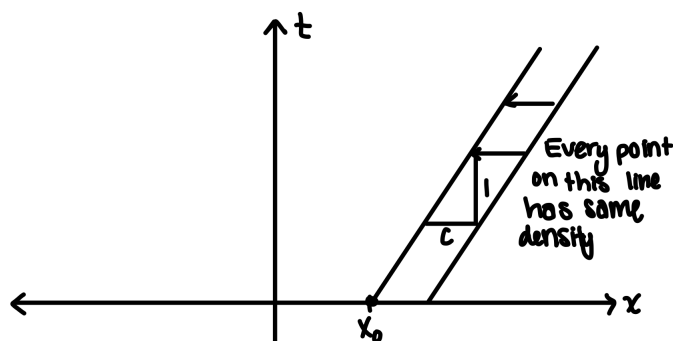
$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial t} + \left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right) \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial x}$$

with (3.1)

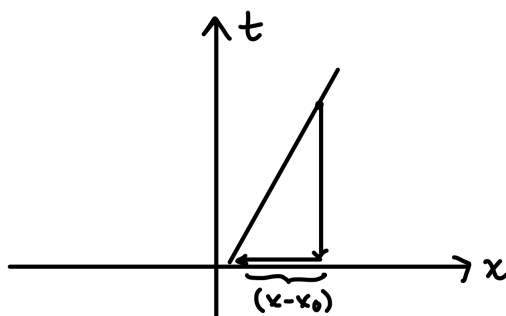
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

(3.1) says that  $\frac{du}{dt} = 0$  if  $\frac{dx}{dt} = c$ . In other words, according to an observer moving at speed  $\frac{dx}{dt} = c$ , the time rate of change is  $\frac{du}{dt} = 0$ . So  $u$  is constant according to this observer.

Suppose we know  $u(x, 0)$ , the initial density. I can draw a space-time diagram.



According to an observer moving at speed  $c$ , the density is constant. Similarly line starting at  $x = x_1$ . These lines called **characteristics** must be level curves / contours / isocontours of  $u(x, t)$ . Using characteristics, we can solve our equation.



Given  $(x, t)$  what is  $u(x, t)$ ?

I need the PDE and some initial condition or boundary condition, suppose I know  $u(x, 0) = g(x)$ .

$(x, t)$ , where I want density, lies on a characteristic, every point on characteristic has the same density.

Follow the characteristic back to the  $x$ -axis  $u(x, t) = u(x_0, 0)$  where  $x_0$  is where the characteristic hits the  $x$ -axis  $u(x, t) = g(x_0)$ .

Given  $(x, t)$ , I need to find  $x_0$ . From the picture,

$$\begin{aligned}(x - x_0) &= ct \\ x_0 &= x - ct\end{aligned}$$

hence

$$u(x, t) = g(x_0) = g(x - ct)$$

## 3.2 Using Characteristics to Solve More PDEs

Method of characteristics solves PDEs by tracing characteristics; lines or curves on which  $u$  is a constant. It can be used to solve PDEs of the form:

$$a(t, x)u_t + b(t, x)u_x = 0$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are any functions. Or,

$$a(x, y)u_x + b(x, y)u_y = 0$$

**Note 3.3:** Now we are using  $x$  and  $y$  for independent variables.

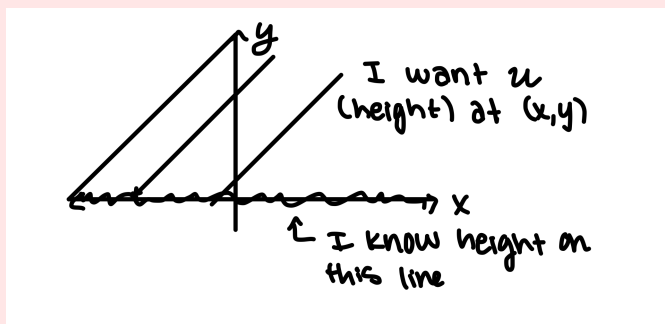
This is a linear PDE. it is also called **first order** (only one partial derivative in each term). To use it, start with example:

**Example 3.4**

We have

$$au_{,x} + bu_{,y} = 0$$

where  $a, b$  are both constants ( $a, b$  are not both 0). Solution is  $u(x, y)$ .



Assume I know  $u(x, 0)$ .

$$au_{,x} + bu_{,y} = 0 \iff (a, b)^T \cdot \nabla u = 0$$

i.e. the directional derivative of  $u$ , along  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$  is equal to 0, i.e.  $u$  is constant in the direction  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ .

Characteristics point in the direction of  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ .

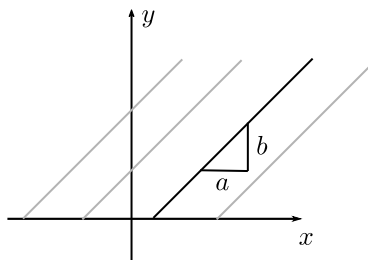
## 4 Apr 4, 2022

### 4.1 Using Characterizations to Solve More PDEs (Cont'd)

For the PDE:

$$au_{,x} + bu_{,y} = 0$$

Method #1: The lines parallel to  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$  are characteristics.



Characteristics are lines  $y = \frac{b}{a}x + c$  where  $c$  is a constant. Hence the characteristics are lines  $ay - bx = ac = C$ . Each value of  $C$  gives a different straight line, and  $u \equiv f(C)$  or  $u \equiv f(ay - bx)$ . Any function  $u \equiv f(ay - bx)$  is a solution of the PDE. E.g.

$$u(x, y) = \sin(ay - bx)$$

$$u(x, y) = (ay - bx)^2$$

Apply the auxiliary condition to find out what  $f$  is.

#### Example 4.1

Solve  $2u_{,x} + 3u_{,y} = 0$  with an auxiliary condition  $u(0, y) = y^3$  ( $u$  is known on the  $x$ -axis).

Theory above says

$$u(x, y) = f(2y - 3x)$$

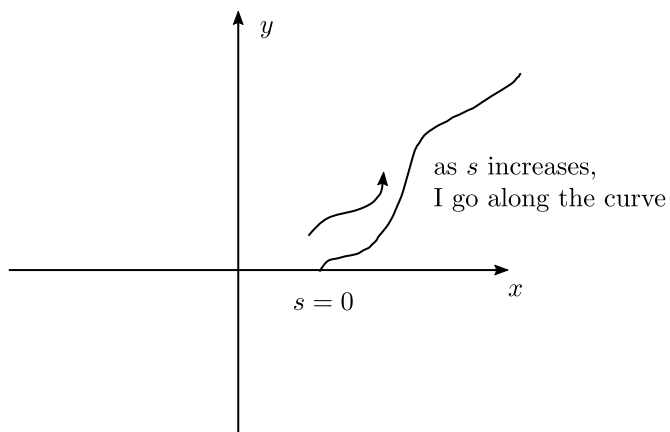
to satisfy the auxiliary condition:

$$\begin{aligned} u(0, y) &= y^3 \\ \implies f(2y) &= y^3 \\ \implies f(z) &= \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^3 \\ \implies f(y) &= \left(\frac{y}{2}\right)^3 \end{aligned}$$

So

$$u(x, y) = f(2y - 3x) = \left(\frac{2y - 3x}{2}\right)^3$$

Method #2: If we didn't explicitly use the equation of a straight line, we know that the characteristics are parallel to  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ . If a characteristic is a curve  $(x(s), y(s))$ .



Where,

$$\frac{dx}{ds} = a \quad \frac{dy}{ds} = b$$

Chain rule says

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{ds}}{\frac{dx}{ds}} = \frac{b}{a}$$

Hence,

$$y = \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)x + c$$

We can follow Method #2, even when  $a$  and  $b$  are not constants.

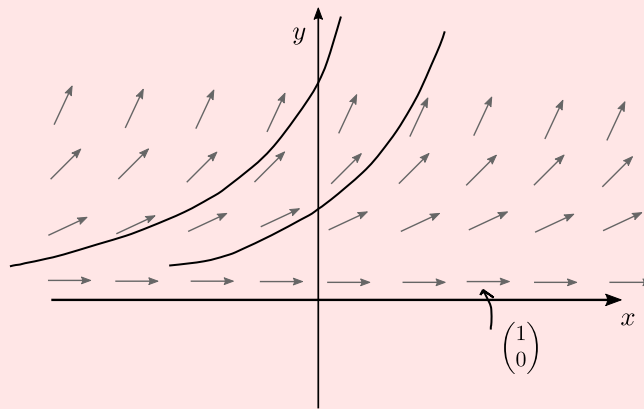
**Example 4.2**

Solve  $u_{,x} + yu_{,y} = 0$  with an auxiliary condition  $u(0, y) = 5y$ .

Our PDE gives:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ y \end{pmatrix} \cdot \nabla u = 0$$

which implies  $\nabla u$  is perpendicular to  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ . In other words, I can define characteristics (on which  $u$  is constant) that are always parallel to  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ .



The equation of any characteristic is:

$$\frac{dx}{ds} = 1 \qquad \frac{dy}{ds} = y$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{ds}}{\frac{dx}{ds}} = y$$

So the characteristics are lines  $y(x) = Ce^x$ . Different values of  $C$  give different characteristics, and therefore different values of  $u$ .

$$u = f(C)$$

$$u = f(ye^{-x})$$

$$\implies \begin{cases} u(x, y) = (ye^{-x})^2 \\ u(x, y) = \sinh(ye^{-x}) \end{cases}$$

Appeal to the auxiliary condition

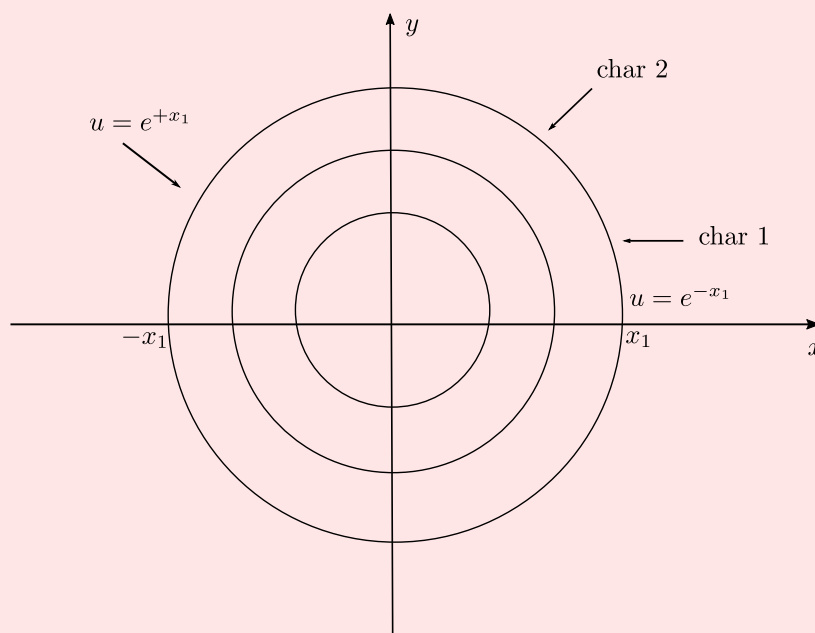
$$u(0, y) = 5y \implies \begin{cases} f(y) = 5y \\ f(z) = 5z \end{cases}$$

Hence,  $u(x, y) = f(ye^{-x}) = 5ye^{-x}$ .



**Example 4.3**

Solve  $y u_{,x} - x u_{,y} = 0$  with auxiliary condition  $u(x, 0) = e^{-x^2}$ .



$u$  is constant on characteristics

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{ds} &= y \\ \frac{dy}{ds} &= -x \end{aligned} \right\} \implies \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-x}{y}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \int y dy &= 2 \int -x dx \\ y^2 &= -x^2 + C \\ \implies x^2 + y^2 &= C \text{ on characteristics} \end{aligned}$$

So  $u \equiv f(x^2 + y^2)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, 0) &= f(x^2) = e^{-x^2} \\ f(z) &= e^{-z} \end{aligned}$$

hence  $u(x, y) = e^{-x^2 - y^2}$ .

**Note 4.4:** Each point  $(x, y)$  lies on  $\begin{cases} \text{a characteristic that meets the } x\text{-axis in 2 places} \\ \text{2 characteristics} \end{cases}$ .

This can be a problem for some kinds of auxiliary conditions. E.g. if  $u(x, 0) = e^{-x}$ .

## 4.2 PDE Models

We met

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

as an example of conservation of mass. This is an example of a transport model. Other examples start from the following idea:

$$u \text{ changes in an interval } \left( x_0 - \frac{\Delta x}{2}, x_0 + \frac{\Delta x}{2} \right)$$

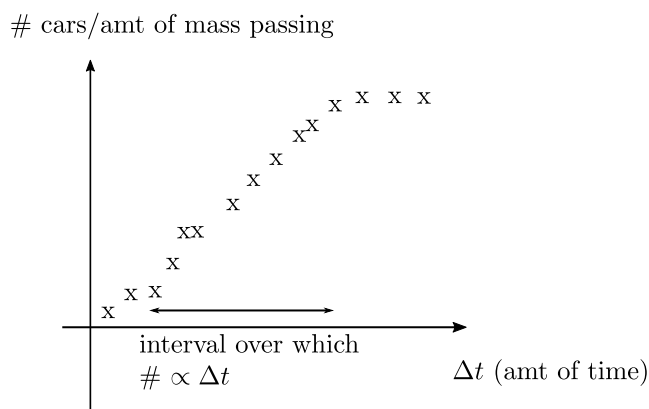
due to flows at either end of the interval. We model these flows through a field  $q$ .  $q(x, t)$  is the rate at which mass (e.g. cars) pass a station  $x$ .

$$q = \frac{\# \text{ cars} / \text{amount of mass passing } x}{\text{time counted over}}$$

## 5 Apr 6, 2022

### 5.1 PDE Models (Cont'd)

We can think of  $q(x, t)$  as being a new field, governed by the Continuum Hypothesis in the sense that.



Conservation of mass on an interval  $(x_0 - \Delta x/2, x_0 + \Delta x/2)$  gives

$$u(x_0, t + \Delta t) = u(x_0, t) + \text{amount entering at } x = x_0 - \Delta x/2 \\ - \text{amount leaving at } x = x_0 + \Delta x/2 \quad (5.1)$$

By default, I assume positive  $q$  means flow is from left to right.

$$q = \frac{\text{amount flowing left to right} - \text{amount flowing right to left}}{\text{time observed over}}$$

Returning to (5.1):

$$u(x_0, t + \Delta t)\Delta x = u(x_0, t)\Delta x + q\left(x_0 - \Delta\frac{x}{2}, t\right)\Delta t - q\left(x_0 + \Delta\frac{x}{2}, t\right)\Delta t$$

On rearranging, dividing by  $\Delta x \Delta t$  and letting  $\Delta x, \Delta t \rightarrow 0$  we obtain the **Conservation of mass law**:

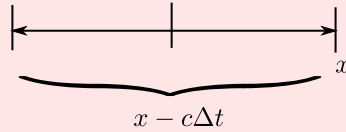
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \quad (5.2)$$

We arrive at the PDEs of Math 136, typically by starting (5.2) and then doing more modeling to find how  $q$  is related to  $u$ .

**Examples 5.1**

1. Traffic flow with constant speed. Claim that  $q = cu$ .

Amount passing station  $x$  in time  $\Delta t$  is



amt contained in interval of size  $c\Delta t$

$$\begin{aligned} q(x, t)\Delta t &= u\left(x - \frac{1}{2}c\Delta t, t\right) \Delta x \\ &= u\left(x - \frac{1}{2}c\Delta t, t\right) c\Delta t \end{aligned}$$

Now dividing by  $\Delta t$ , let  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} q(x, t) &= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \left[ cu\left(x - \frac{1}{2}c\Delta t, t\right) \right] \\ &= cu(x, t) \end{aligned}$$

2. Lighthill - Whitham Richards model for traffic flow.

$$q(x, t) = c(u)u(x, t)$$

that is, the velocity of cars depends on how dense the traffic is.

(1) and (2) both may be written as a PDE

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} &= 0 \\ \implies \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \overbrace{c \cdot u}^q &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

In (1)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

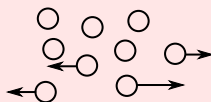
In (2)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{dq}{du} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

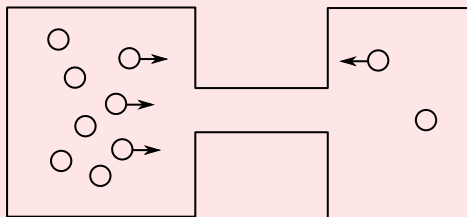
More examples,

**Example 5.2** 1. Random motion or diffusion.

A lot of matter moves around randomly. E.g. bacteria swimming around.



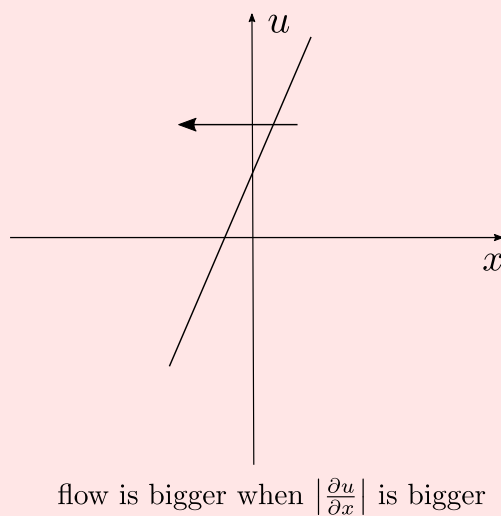
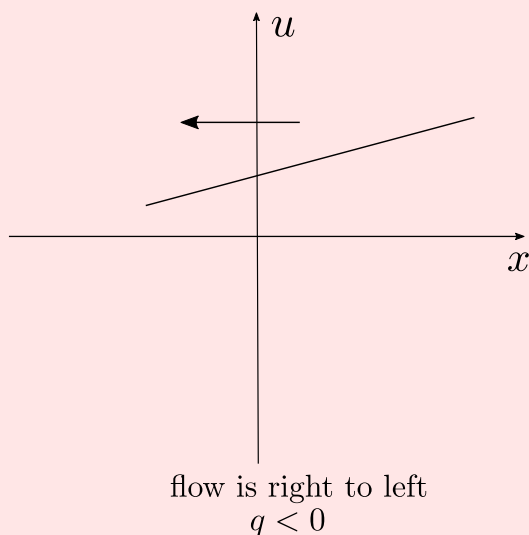
Follow random “run & tumble” paths. Consider a pair of linked boxes.



more flow left-to-right if  
more bacteria in left box

We expect the flow to take bacteria on net out of regions where they are very dense/concentrated into regions where they are sparse/dilute. We posit that

$$q \propto -\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \quad (\text{Fick's Law})$$



$$q = -D \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

$D$ , the constant of proportionality is known as the **diffusivity**.

Consider units:

$$[u] = \# / m$$

$$[q] = \# / s$$

$$\left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right] = \frac{[u]}{[x]} = \# / m^2$$

$$[D] = \left[ -\frac{q}{\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}} \right] = \frac{\# / s}{\# / m^2} = m^2 / s$$

Hence matter that is diffusing obeys a PDE

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( -D \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = 0$$

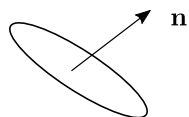
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = 0 \quad (5.3)$$

assume  $D$  is a constant. This is a second order linear equation called the **diffusion equation** / **heat equation**.

We often are interested in quantities with multiple space-dimensions. Define  $u$  density per volume.

$u(\mathbf{x}, t) dV =$  amount of matter in a small volume,  $dV$  located at  $(\mathbf{x}, t)$

$q(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} dS =$  flow of matter across an element of surface, area  $dS$



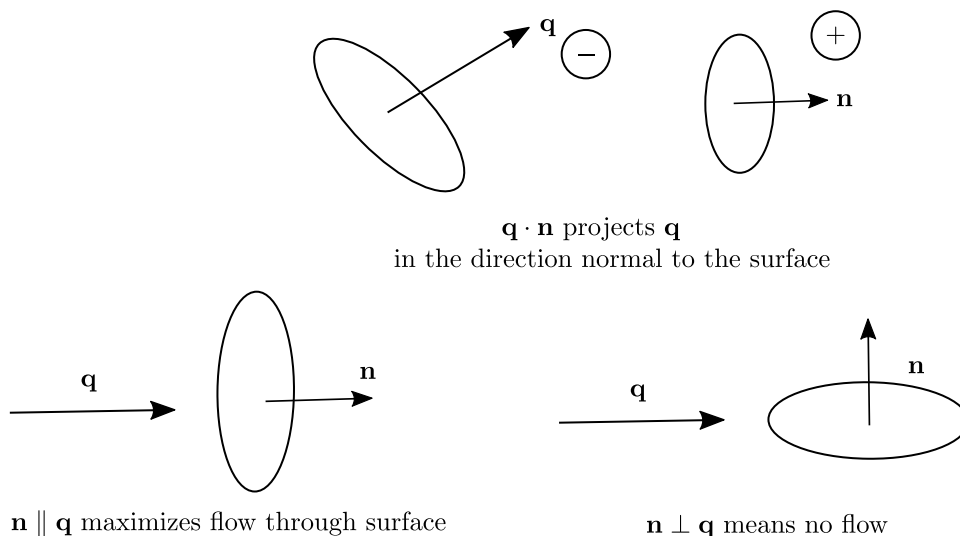
## 6 Apr 8, 2022

### 6.1 PDE Models (Cont'd)

We introduce a vector field  $q(\mathbf{x}, t)$ . Vector  $q$  represents the amount of flow of matter at a point  $\mathbf{x}$ . Vector  $q$  gives how much flow crosses a surface  $\mathbf{n}dS$  in time  $\Delta t$  as

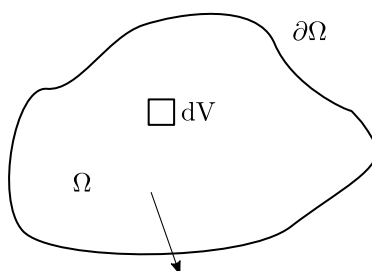
$$q(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}dS\Delta t.$$

This is the net flow from the  $\ominus$  side to the  $\oplus$  side.



Amount of flow through surface is proportional to  $dS$  (area) and is proportional to  $\Delta t$  (time of observation).

To derive a PDE for conservation of mass, consider an arbitrary volume (called control volume)  $\Omega$ , with piecewise differentiable and orientable boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , consider conservation of mass in  $\Omega$ .



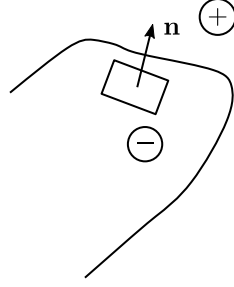
Total amount of matter in  $\Omega$  is  $\int u \cdot dV$  (divide  $\Omega$  into boxes  $dV$ , amount in each box is  $u(\mathbf{x}, t)dV$ , sum up boxes and take  $dV \rightarrow 0$ ). Change in matter in time  $t \rightarrow \Delta t$  is

$$\int_{\Omega} u(\mathbf{x}, t + \Delta t) dV = \int_{\Omega} u(\mathbf{x}, t) dV + \text{amt gained by flow through } \partial\Omega$$

(+ amt of matter created – amt of matter destroyed)

Divide boundary into surface elements  $\mathbf{n}dS$ . Flow through surface element in time  $\Delta t$  is

$$q(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}dS\Delta t.$$



Total flow out of  $\Omega$  (assuming  $\mathbf{n}$  points out of  $\Omega$ ) through entire of  $\partial\Omega$  is

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} q(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} dS \Delta t$$

summing all surface elements and letting  $dS \rightarrow 0$ . Amount gained in time  $\Delta t$  is:

$$- \int_{\partial\Omega} q(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} dS \Delta t$$

Hence,

$$\int_{\Omega} (u(\mathbf{x}, t + \Delta t) - u(\mathbf{x}, t)) dV = - \int_{\partial\Omega} q(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} dS \Delta t$$

Divide by  $\Delta t$ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{(u(\mathbf{x}, t + \Delta t) - u(\mathbf{x}, t))}{\Delta t} dV = - \int_{\partial\Omega} q(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} dS$$

let  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dV &= - \int_{\partial\Omega} q(\mathbf{x}, t) \mathbf{n} dS \\ &= - \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} dV \end{aligned}$$

Use divergence theorem so that both sides are same type of integral. Now,

$$\int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} \right) dV = 0$$

This integral vanishes for any choice of  $\Omega$ , so the integrand must be 0. Hence

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = 0 \tag{6.1}$$

everywhere. In 1D,

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} = 0$$

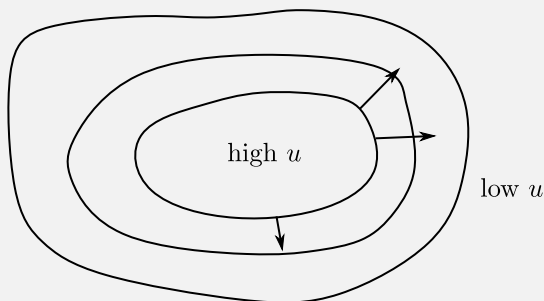
To turn this into a PDE we can solve, we need to do additional modeling on  $\mathbf{q}$ .



**Recall 6.1** The diffusion equation in 1D said

$$q = -D \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

in  $n$  dimensions, visualize  $u$  through level surfaces.  $q \propto -\nabla u$  (Fick's Law)



So

$$\begin{aligned} q &= -D \nabla u \\ \implies \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-D \nabla u) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

from (6.1)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - D \nabla \cdot (\nabla u) \equiv \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - D \nabla^2 u = 0 \quad (6.2)$$

which is the **diffusion/heat equation**.

We are often interested in the steady state / equilibrium distribution of matter, in (6.2) we may consider what happens when  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 0$ , then

$$-D \nabla^2 u = 0 \quad \text{i.e.} \quad -\nabla^2 u = 0 \quad (6.3)$$

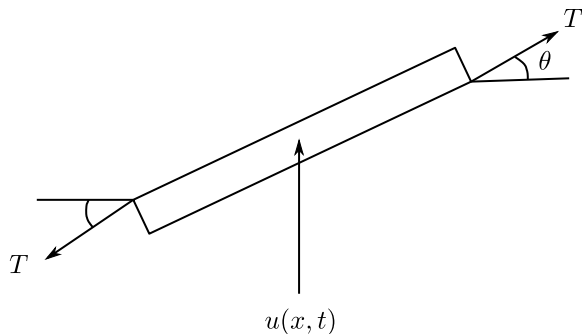
called **Laplace's equation**.

## 6.2 Wave Equation

Imagine a plucked string.



The string vibrates, define a field  $u(x, t)$  that measures the displacement of the string (assumed planar). Consider a force balance on a piece of string of length  $\Delta x$ .



If the mass of unit length of string is  $\rho$ , then the mass of  $\Delta x$  length is  $\rho\Delta x$ .

mass  $\times$  acceleration = net force

$$\begin{aligned}\rho\Delta \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} &= T \sin \theta(x + \Delta x/2, t) - T \sin \theta(x - \Delta x/2, t) \\ &= T \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \sin \theta \cdot \Delta x\end{aligned}$$

$\theta$  is the angle between the tension in the string and the  $x$ -axis,  $\theta(x, t)$  is a field, so at each point  $T$  points along the tangent direction.



The string is at  $(x, u(x, t))$  so the tangent vector is

$$\mathbf{t} = \frac{(1, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x})}{\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)^2}}$$

Geometrically,

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}}{\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)^2}}$$

which is approximately  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$  if  $\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)^2 \ll 1$  (small slope)

$$\rho\Delta x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = T \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \sin \theta \Delta x$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \left(\frac{T}{\rho}\right) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \quad (6.4)$$

Which is the **wave equation**.

# 7 Apr 11, 2022

## 7.1 Wave Equation (Cont'd)

**Note 7.1:** Notes on the wave equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \frac{T}{\rho} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

for

$$\begin{aligned} u: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ (x, t) &\mapsto u(x, t) \end{aligned}$$

or equivalently,

$$u_{,tt} = c^2 u_{,xx} \quad \text{where} \quad c = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho}}$$

is the **wave speed**. Consider units:

$$\begin{aligned} [u_{,tt}] &= ms^{-2} \\ [u_{,xx}] &= \frac{m}{m^2} = m^{-1} \\ \implies [c^2] &= \left[ \frac{u_{,tt}}{u_{,xx}} \right] = \frac{ms^{-2}}{m^{-1}} = (ms^{-1})^2 \end{aligned}$$

$c$  has units of velocity.

**Note 7.2:** In  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $u \equiv u(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , the wave equation is

$$u_{,tt} = c^2 \nabla^2 u (\equiv c^2 \Delta u)$$

where  $\nabla^2$  is the Laplacian. (see Math 272A)

**Note 7.3:** Compare Wave Equation and Diffusion Equation.  $u(\mathbf{x}, t)$  solves

$$u_{,t} = D \nabla^2 u \quad (\text{Diffusion})$$

$$u_{,tt} = c^2 \nabla^2 u \quad (\text{Wave})$$

## 7.2 Summary

Transport PDE:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{,t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{c}u) &= 0 \\ \text{in } \mathbb{R}^1 \quad u_{,t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\mathbf{c}u) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Diffusion equation:

$$u_{,t} = D \nabla^2 u$$

Wave equation:

$$u_{,tt} = c^2 \nabla^2 u$$

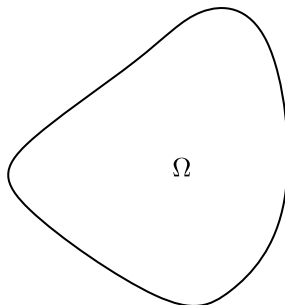
In both diffusion equation and heat equation, if the system reaches equilibrium, then:

$$-\nabla^2 u = 0 \quad (\text{Laplace's equation})$$

Each equation can have forcing or reaction terms added to it. E.g. in the diffusion equation, we start with:

$$u_{,t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = 0 \quad (\text{conservation of mass})$$

(in homework # 3) we will add a reaction/source term.



$$u_{,t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = s$$

$s$  is the function representing creation of new matter.  $s(\mathbf{x}, t)dV$  is the amount of new matter created in volume  $dV$  in one unit of time. Diffusion equation may become:

$$u_{,t} - D \nabla^2 u = s(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

which  $s$  is some function. This is the **forced diffusion equation**. In the equilibrium limit:

$$-\nabla^2 u = \frac{s(\mathbf{x}, t)}{D}$$

which is **forced Laplace's equation** or **Poisson's equation**.

### 7.3 Auxiliary Conditions

For first order PDEs, we need to know  $u$  on some lines in space time, i.e. we need some initial condition or we need some boundary conditions or both.

#### Example 7.4

If we are solving a model for traffic flow on  $0 < x < L$  then we need

$$u(x, 0) \quad (\text{IC})$$

and either

$$u(0, t) \quad \text{or} \quad u(L, t) \quad (\text{BC})$$

**Example 7.5**

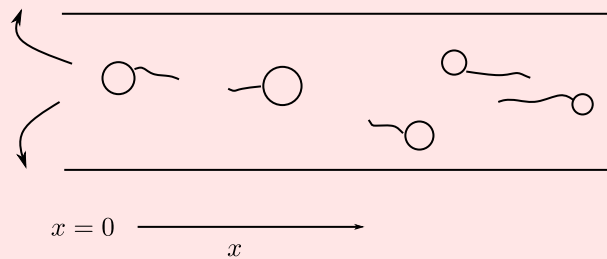
Given the diffusion equation:

$$u_t = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{on } 0 < x < L$$

We need  $u(x, 0)$  and  $\left. \begin{matrix} u(0, t) \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(0, t) \end{matrix} \right\}$  or  $\left. \begin{matrix} u(L, t) \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(L, t) \end{matrix} \right\}$  or.

We need either need the density at the boundary or the flux there.

$$q = -D \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$



What do bacteria do when they arrive at  $x = 0$ ?

Possibility # 1: Bacteria leave; (become extremely dilute)

$$u(0, t) = 0$$

which is the **Dirichlet boundary condition**

Possibility # 2: End of tube is sealed.



Bacteria reaching end of tube reverse course. Since There is no net flow from right to left or conversely

$$q(0, t) = 0$$

$$-D \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(0, t) = 0$$

which is the **Neumann boundary condition**.

## 7.4 Main Types of 2nd Order Linear PDE

There are 3 main types of 2nd order linear PDE:

1. **Elliptic**
2. **Parabolic** and
3. **Hyperbolic**

We restrict to PDEs in 2 variables

$$u(x, y)$$

solves

$$a_{11}(x, y)u_{,xx} + 2a_{12}u_{,xy} + a_{22}u_{,yy} + u_{,yy} \\ \left( + \text{first order and 0th order terms} \right) \\ \text{e.g. } c_1u_{,x} + c_2u_{,y}$$

We can rewrite our PDE as

$$0 = a_{11} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{a_{12}}{a_{11}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)^2 u + \left( a_{22} - \frac{a_{12}^2}{a_{11}} \right) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \\ = a_{11} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{2a_{12}}{a_{11}} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{a_{12}^2}{a_{11}^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \text{first \& 0th order terms} \right)$$

If we do the right change of variables, we rewrite our PDE as:

$$0 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u + \left( a_{22} - \frac{a_{12}^2}{a_{11}} \right) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \text{other terms}$$

Wave equation: in  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$

$$u_{,xx} - \frac{u_{,tt}}{c^2} = 0$$

Laplace's equation: in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

$$u_{,xx} + u_{,yy} = 0$$

So,

**Definition 7.6** (Hyperbolic vs. elliptic vs. parabolic)

If

$$a_{22} - \frac{a_{12}^2}{a_{11}} < 0 \iff a_{12}^2 > a_{11}a_{22}$$

then our transformed equation looks like the wave equation. We call it hyperbolic.

If

$$a_{22} - \frac{a_{12}^2}{a_{11}} > 0 \iff a_{12}^2 < a_{11}a_{22}$$

then it looks like Laplace's equation. We call it elliptic.

If

$$a_{12}^2 = a_{11}a_{22}$$

then it looks like

$$D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - u_{,t} = 0$$

the diffusion equation, we call it parabolic.

## 7.5 Wave Equation

Wave equation in 1D has the form:

$$u_{,tt} = c^2 u_{,xx}$$

In Homework 2, you showed a special case of the formula that:

$$u(x, t) = f(x - ct) + g(x + ct)$$

solves this PDE for any twice differentiable  $f$  and  $g$ . Solution is made up of two traveling waves, one going left at speed  $c$  and one going right at speed  $c$ .