

L4

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1 Method of characteristics

$$a(x, y)u_x + b(x, y)u_y = c(x, y) \quad (1)$$

$x, y \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$

Transport $= u_t + au_x = 0$. look at $\mathbf{v} = (a, 1)^t$

$$au_x + u_t = \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_{u,t} u = 0$$

∇u perpendicular to \mathbf{v} , also, ∇u is perpendicular to level lines of u on which u is constant $\implies u$ is a constant on lines parallel to v .

Figure missing

consider $u(t, k + at)$, $\frac{d}{dt}u(t, k + at) = (u_t + au_x)(t, k + at) = 0$.

Step2: $u(t, k + at) = u(0, k)$ which is usually assigned

Step3: $u(t, x) = u(0, at - x)$ if $u(0, x) = f(x)$ given, then $u(t, x) = f(at - x)$.

Figure missing

How to assign an initial datum? Assign it on a curve $\gamma(\tau)$, $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\gamma(\tau)$ intercept the characteristics curves only once for each k .

In general, $a(x, y)u_x + b(x, y)u_y = c(x, y)$, $x, y \in \Omega$, $\gamma(\tau) = (\gamma_1(\tau), \gamma_2(\tau))^t$.

Figure missing

Assumption:

1. $a, b, c \in C^1(\Omega)$ $a^2 + b^2 \neq 0 \forall x, y$.

2. $f \in C^1$

3. $\gamma \in C^1$, $|\gamma'| \neq 0$.

Procedure

1. Compute characteristic curves

2. Solve along characteristic curves

3. Reconstruct solutions (if possible)

Step 1: they are curves $\alpha_1(s) = (\alpha_1(s), \alpha_2(s))^T$. Such that $u(\alpha_1(s), \alpha_2(s))$ satisfies

$$\frac{du(\alpha(s))}{ds} = \alpha_1(s)u_x + \alpha_2'(s)u_y := a(\alpha(s))u_x + b(\alpha(s))u_y = c(\alpha(s)) \quad (2)$$

Definition 1.1 (Characteristic system). Characteristic system was defined as

$$\begin{cases} \alpha'_1(s) = a(\alpha(s)) \\ \alpha'_2(s) = b(\alpha(s)) \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Initial condition was defined as

$$\begin{cases} \alpha'_1(s) = \gamma_1(\tau) \\ \alpha'_2(0) = \gamma_2(\tau) \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

By ODE, $\exists! a, b$ are C^1 , $\gamma \in C^1$, $\exists!$ local solution for characteristic systems.

Step2: Solve on characteristics

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{ds} u(\alpha(s)) &= c(\alpha(s)) \text{ integrate in } s \\ u(\alpha(s)) - u(\alpha(0)) &= \int_0^s c(\alpha(\sigma)) d\sigma \\ u(\alpha(s)) - f(\tau) &= \int_0^s c(\alpha(\sigma)) d\sigma \end{aligned}$$

Precisely

$$u(\alpha(\tau, s)) = f(\tau) + \int_0^s c(\alpha(\tau, \sigma)) d\sigma \quad (5)$$

Step3: Reconstruct solution

$$x = \alpha_1(\tau, s), y = \alpha_2(\tau, s) \quad (6)$$

I want this to be invertible near $\gamma(\tau)$, or $s = 0$.

Implicit function theorem tells me that the determinant of Jacobian

$$\det \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial (\tau, s)} \Big|_{s=0} \neq 0 \quad (7)$$

, then τ is invertible.