Partial Differential Equations I

January 8, 2024

Homework

Assigned exercises and concept maps. Graded by completion.

Presentations

Assigned topics; responsible for giving a class.

Definition: Partial Differential Equation(s) (PDE)

An identity relating an uknown function, its partial derivatives and its variables.

$$F(D^k u, \dots, D^2 u, Du, u, x) = 0, \quad x \in U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$$

where U is an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$, $u : U \subset \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$, $Du = (\partial_{x_1} u_1, \dots, \partial_{x_n} u)$.
Then $F : \mathbb{R}^{n^k} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$, where F is given.
$x = (x_1 \dots, x_n)$ is (are) the independent variable(s).
u is the unknown function or dependent variable.
k is the order of the PDE.

Goal

Given a PDE, we consider

- Existence
- Uniqueness
- Stability

Recall: Multiindex Notation

$\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ a vector such that $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.
Then we say that α is a multiindex with order $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_n$.

Notation

$u : U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$, $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$.
$u^\alpha := D^\alpha u = \partial_{x_n}^{\alpha_n} \cdots \partial_{x_1}^{\alpha_1} u$, where $\partial^0 u = u$.

Definition: Linear Partial Differential Equation

A linear PDE of order k is of the form

$$(*) \sum_{|\alpha| = k} a_\alpha(x) D^\alpha u = f(x)$$

Remark

This means that F is multilinear in the first $n^k + n^{k-1} + \cdots$ variables.

Definition: Homogeneous Linear Partial Differential Equation

A linear given by $(*)$ is homogeneous if $f(x) \equiv 0$.
Otherwise, it is non-homogeneous.

Example 1: Linear Transport Equation

$$\nabla u \cdot (1, b) = u_t + b \cdot Du = f(t, x)$$

This is a linear PDE of order 1 on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \equiv \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ where (t, x) are independent variables and u is dependent.
Here, x is the spatial variable while t is time and Du represents the gradient.
$\nabla u = (\partial_t u, \nabla u)$, $b \cdot Du = \sum_{i=1}^{n} b_i \partial_{x_i} u$, $(b_1, \ldots, b_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is fixed.

Example 2: Laplace Equation

$$\Delta u := \sum_{i=1}^{n} \partial_{x_i} u = 0$$

This is a linear, homogeneous PDE of order 2.

Example 3: Poisson Equation

$-\Delta u := f(u)$
This is a nonlinear PDE of order 2.
Consider $f(u) = u^2$.

Example 4: Heat Equation (Diffusion Equation)

$$u_t - \Delta u = 0$$

This is a linear, homogeneous PDE of order 2.

Example 5: Wave Equation

$$u_{tt} - \Delta u = 0$$

This is a linear, homogeneous PDE of order 2.

Transport Equation

$u : \mathbb{R}^n (0, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$u_t + b \cdot Du = 0, \quad b \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

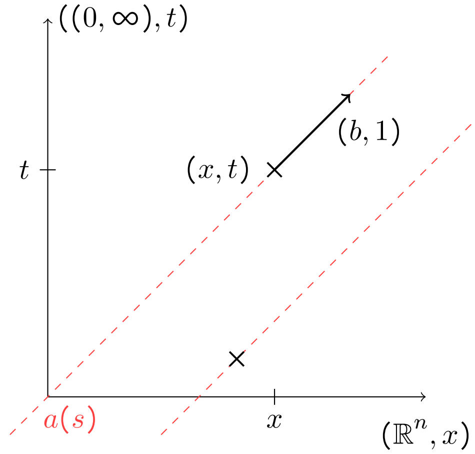
In order to get a solution, first assume that ther exists a “nice” (e.g. smooth, C^1, differentiable, etc.) solution.

Step 1

Notice that the PDE is equivalent to

$$\nabla u \cdot (b, 1) = 0$$

IMAGE HERE - Plane, ((0,∞),t) is y axis; ($\mathrm{R}^{\mathrm{n,x}}$) is x axis; vanishing on line through (x,t) labled α—S—; arrow vector from (x,t) towards (b,1); parallel line through separate point



Step 2

Consider a curve on $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ with velocity $(1,b)$ which passes through (x,t). i.e.

$$\alpha(s) = (x+sb, t+s)$$

Notice $\alpha'(s) = (b,1)$.
Then, let us study u along the curve $\alpha(s)$.

$$z(s) := u(\alpha(s))$$

Taking the derivative with respect to s,

$$z'(s) := \frac{d}{ds}(u \circ \alpha(s)) = \nabla u|_{\alpha(s)} \cdot \alpha'(s) = \nabla u|_{\alpha(s)} \cdot (b,1) = 0$$

That is $z'(s) = 0$, $z(s)$ is constant, and u along $\alpha(s)$ is constant.

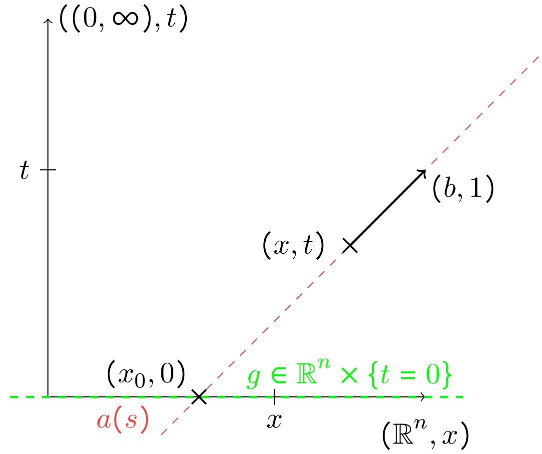
Conclusion

If we know some value of u along $\alpha(s)$, then we know all values along $\alpha(s)$.
If we have some value of u along every $\alpha(s)$, then we know u on $\mathbb{R}^n \times (0,\infty)$.

Transport Equation - Homogeneous Initial Value Problem

$$(*) \begin{cases} \nabla u \cdot (b,1) = 0, & \mathbb{R}^n \times (0,\infty) \\ u = g, & \mathbb{R}^n \times \{t=0\} \end{cases}$$

IMAGE HERE - same graph as before; base line is g and $\mathrm{R}^{\mathrm{n}\times}$\t=0\; (x,t) point on plane; α(s) line passing through (x,t); labeled intersection with base lin at $(\mathrm{x}_{0,0})$



Here, $g : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is given.
Consider (x,t); we want to find $(x_0, 0)$.
We know $\alpha(s) = (x + sb, t + s) = (x_0, 0)$, therefore

$$\begin{cases} x + sb = x_0 & (1) \\ t + s = 0 \implies s = -t & (2) \end{cases}$$

Then, by replacing (2) in (1),

$$x_0 = x - tb$$

Then from the conclusion

$$u(x,t) = u(x_0, 0) = g(x_0) = g(x - tb)$$

Therfore, $u(x,t) := g(x - tb)$ (♥).

Remark

1. If there exists a regular (differentiable or C^1) solution u for $*$, then u should look like ♥.
2. If g is (differentiable or C^1), then u defined by ♥ is a (differentiable or C^1) solution for my problem.

Homework

Show that ♥ satisfies $*$.

Transport Equation - Non-homogeneous Initial Value Problem

$$(*) \begin{cases} \nabla u \cdot (b,1) = f(x,t), \quad \mathbb{R}^n \times (0,\infty) \\ u = g, \quad \mathbb{R}^n \times \{t = 0\} \end{cases}$$

Where $g : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ and $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times (0,\infty) \to \mathbb{R}$ are given.

Solution

Notice that the PDE is equivalent to

$$\nabla u \cdot (b, 1) = f(x, t)$$

Define the "characteristic curve"

$$\alpha(s) = (x + sb, t + s)$$

and

$$z(s) := u(\alpha(s))$$

Taking $\frac{d}{ds}$,

$$z'(s) = \nabla u|_{\alpha(s)} \cdot (b, 1) = f(\alpha(s)) \implies z'(s) = f(x + sb, t + s) \ (c)$$

Notice that c is an ordinary differential equation. Integrating from $-t$ to 0.

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-t}^{0} z'(s)\, ds &= \int_{-t}^{0} f(x + sb, t + s)\, ds \\ z(0) - z(-t) &= \int_{-t}^{0} f(x + sb, t + s)\, ds\end{aligned}$$

Notice that $z(0) = u(x, t)$ and $z(-t) = u(\alpha(-t)) = u(x - tb, 0)$.

$$u(x, t) = u(x - tb, 0) + \int_{-t}^{0} f(x + sb, t + s)\, ds$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}u(x, t) &= g(x - tb, 0) + \int_{-t}^{0} f(x + sb, t + s)\, ds \\ &\underset{\overline{s}=s+t}{=} g(x - tb, 0) + \int_{0}^{t} f(x + (\overline{s} - t)b, \overline{s})\, d\overline{s} \\ &= g(x - tb, 0) + \int_{0}^{t} f(x + (s - t)b, s)\, ds\end{aligned}$$

Remark: Method of Characteristics

Try to vert the PDE into an ODE and solve using characteristic curves.