

# PDE Quiz 2 Revision: Method of Characteristics & Solutions

If you find error, please report in group

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## Quick Revision: Method of Characteristics for 1st-Order Non-Linear PDEs

The Method of Characteristics is a powerful technique for solving first-order partial differential equations (PDEs), especially non-linear ones. Here are the key steps and important caveats:

### Steps

1. **Define  $F$ :** Rewrite the PDE in the form  $F(x, y, u, p, q) = 0$  (for 2D) or  $F(x, y, z, u, p, q, r) = 0$  (for 3D), where  $p = u_x$ ,  $q = u_y$ ,  $r = u_z$ .
2. **Derive Characteristic ODEs (Charpit's Equations):** Calculate the partial derivatives of  $F$  with respect to all its arguments ( $F_x, F_y, F_u, F_p, F_q$ , etc.). Then write down the system of ODEs:
  - $\frac{dx}{dt} = F_p$
  - $\frac{dy}{dt} = F_q$
  - $\frac{du}{dt} = pF_p + qF_q$
  - $\frac{dp}{dt} = -F_x - pF_u$
  - $\frac{dq}{dt} = -F_y - qF_u$
  - (For 3D, analogous equations for  $z$  and  $r$  apply:  $\frac{dz}{dt} = F_r$ ,  $\frac{dr}{dt} = -F_z - rF_u$ )
3. **Parameterize Initial Curve/Surface:** Represent the initial condition  $u(x_0, y_0, \dots) = G(x_0, y_0, \dots)$  by introducing parameter(s) ( $s$  for 2D,  $s_1, s_2$  for 3D) at  $t = 0$ .
4. **Determine Initial Values for  $p, q, r$ :** Use two conditions to find  $p_0, q_0, r_0$  as functions of the initial parameters:
  - **Compatibility Condition(s):** Total differential of  $u_0$  along the initial curve/surface. E.g.,  $\frac{du_0}{ds} = p_0 \frac{dx_0}{ds} + q_0 \frac{dy_0}{ds}$ .
  - **PDE on Initial Surface:**  $F(x_0, y_0, u_0, p_0, q_0, \dots) = 0$ .
5. **Integrate Characteristic ODEs:** Solve the system of ODEs to find  $x(s, t), y(s, t), u(s, t), p(s, t), q(s, t)$  (and  $z, r$  for 3D). Use the initial values from step 4 to determine integration constants.
6. **Check Jacobian Condition:** Compute the Jacobian  $J = \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \end{pmatrix}$  (for 2D) or its 3D equivalent. If  $J \neq 0$ , a local unique solution exists.
7. **Eliminate Parameters:** Solve the equations for  $x, y$  (and  $z$ ) for  $s, t$  (and  $s_1, s_2, t$ ) in terms of  $x, y$  (and  $z$ ). Substitute these back into the expression for  $u(s, t)$  to obtain the final explicit solution  $u(x, y)$  (or  $u(x, y, z)$ ).

## Important Caveats & Things to Remember

- **Signs:** Be extremely careful with signs when calculating partial derivatives and applying the characteristic equations, especially for  $dp/dt$  and  $dq/dt$ .
- **Multiple Solutions ( $\pm$ ):** Non-linear PDEs often yield multiple initial values for  $p, q, r$  (e.g., from square roots). Each choice can lead to a valid solution branch.
- **Algebraic Complexity:** The parameter elimination step can be algebraically intensive. Look for clever substitutions or relationships between the characteristic solutions.
- **Jacobian  $J = 0$ :** If  $J = 0$ , the solution may not be unique, or the method might describe an envelope or a singular solution. This often corresponds to physical phenomena like shocks or caustics.
- **Conceptual Understanding:** Always try to relate the mathematical solution back to any physical interpretation (e.g., wave fronts).

# Problems & Complete Solutions

## Problem 1

**PDE:**  $u_x^2 + yu_y - u = 0$  **Initial Condition:**  $u(x, 1) = \frac{x^2}{4} + 1$

**Solution:**

1. **Define  $F$ :**  $F(x, y, u, p, q) = p^2 + yq - u = 0$
2. **Derive Characteristic ODEs:** Partial derivatives of  $F$ :  $F_x = 0$ ,  $F_y = q$ ,  $F_u = -1$ ,  $F_p = 2p$ ,  $F_q = y$ .  
Characteristic ODEs:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= F_p = 2p \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= F_q = y \\ \frac{du}{dt} &= pF_p + qF_q = p(2p) + q(y) = 2p^2 + qy \\ \frac{dp}{dt} &= -F_x - pF_u = -0 - p(-1) = p \\ \frac{dq}{dt} &= -F_y - qF_u = -q - q(-1) = 0\end{aligned}$$

3. **Parameterize Initial Curve** (at  $t = 0$ ):  $x_0(s) = s$   $y_0(s) = 1$   $u_0(s) = \frac{s^2}{4} + 1$
4. **Determine Initial Values for  $p, q$ :** **Compatibility Condition:**  $\frac{du_0}{ds} = p_0 \frac{dx_0}{ds} + q_0 \frac{dy_0}{ds} \frac{d}{ds} \left( \frac{s^2}{4} + 1 \right) = p_0(1) + q_0(0) \implies \frac{s}{2} = p_0 \implies p_0(s) = \frac{s}{2}$ . **PDE on Initial Curve:**  $F(s, 1, u_0(s), p_0(s), q_0(s)) = 0$   
 $p_0^2 + (1)q_0 - u_0 = 0 \implies \left(\frac{s}{2}\right)^2 + q_0 - \left(\frac{s^2}{4} + 1\right) = 0 \implies \frac{s^2}{4} + q_0 - \frac{s^2}{4} - 1 = 0 \implies q_0(s) = 1$ .
5. **Integrate Characteristic ODEs:**

- $\frac{dq}{dt} = 0 \implies q(t) = q_0(s) = 1$ .
- $\frac{dp}{dt} = p \implies p(t) = p_0(s)e^t = \frac{s}{2}e^t$ .
- $\frac{dy}{dt} = y \implies \ln|y| = t + C_y(s) \implies y(t) = K(s)e^t$ . Using  $y(0, s) = 1$ :  $1 = K(s)e^0 \implies K(s) = 1$ .  
So,  $y(s, t) = e^t$ .
- $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2p = 2\left(\frac{s}{2}e^t\right) = se^t$ .  $x(t) = \int se^t dt = se^t + C_x(s)$ . Using  $x(0, s) = s$ :  $s = se^0 + C_x(s) \implies s = s + C_x(s) \implies C_x(s) = 0$ . So,  $x(s, t) = se^t$ .
- $\frac{du}{dt} = 2p^2 + qy = 2\left(\frac{s}{2}e^t\right)^2 + (1)(e^t) = \frac{s^2}{2}e^{2t} + e^t$ .  $u(t) = \int \left(\frac{s^2}{2}e^{2t} + e^t\right) dt = \frac{s^2}{4}e^{2t} + e^t + C_u(s)$ . Using  $u(0, s) = u_0(s) = \frac{s^2}{4} + 1$ :  $\frac{s^2}{4} + 1 = \frac{s^2}{4}e^0 + e^0 + C_u(s) \implies \frac{s^2}{4} + 1 = \frac{s^2}{4} + 1 + C_u(s) \implies C_u(s) = 0$ .  
So,  $u(s, t) = \frac{s^2}{4}e^{2t} + e^t$ .

6. **Check Jacobian Condition:**  $x(s, t) = se^t$  and  $y(s, t) = e^t$ .  $\frac{\partial x}{\partial s} = e^t$ ,  $\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = se^t$ ,  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial s} = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = e^t$   
 $J = \det \begin{pmatrix} e^t & se^t \\ 0 & e^t \end{pmatrix} = e^t \cdot e^t - se^t \cdot 0 = e^{2t}$ . Since  $e^{2t} \neq 0$ , a unique solution exists locally.

7. **Eliminate Parameters:** From  $y = e^t$ , we get  $e^t = y$ . From  $x = se^t$ , substitute  $e^t = y$ :  $x = sy \implies s = \frac{x}{y}$ . Substitute  $s$  and  $e^t$  into  $u(s, t)$ :  $u(x, y) = \frac{(x/y)^2}{4}(y^2) + y = \frac{x^2/y^2}{4}y^2 + y = \frac{x^2}{4} + y$ .

**Final Solution:**

$$u(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{4} + y$$

## Problem 2 (Clairaut's Equation)

**PDE:**  $u = xu_x + yu_y + \frac{1}{2}(u_x^2 + u_y^2)$  **Initial Condition:**  $u(x, 0) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - x^2)$

**Solution:**

1. **Define  $F$ :**  $F(x, y, u, p, q) = xp + yq + \frac{1}{2}(p^2 + q^2) - u = 0$
2. **Derive Characteristic ODEs:** Partial derivatives of  $F$ :  $F_x = p$ ,  $F_y = q$ ,  $F_u = -1$ ,  $F_p = x + p$ ,  $F_q = y + q$ . Characteristic ODEs:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= F_p = x + p \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= F_q = y + q \\ \frac{du}{dt} &= pF_p + qF_q = p(x + p) + q(y + q) = px + p^2 + qy + q^2 \\ \frac{dp}{dt} &= -F_x - pF_u = -p - p(-1) = 0 \\ \frac{dq}{dt} &= -F_y - qF_u = -q - q(-1) = 0\end{aligned}$$

3. **Parameterize Initial Curve** (at  $t = 0$ ):  $x_0(s) = s$ ,  $y_0(s) = 0$ ,  $u_0(s) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - s^2)$
4. **Determine Initial Values for  $p, q$ :** **Compatibility Condition:**  $\frac{du_0}{ds} = p_0 \frac{dx_0}{ds} + q_0 \frac{dy_0}{ds} - \frac{d}{ds} \left( \frac{1}{2}(1 - s^2) \right) = p_0(1) + q_0(0) \implies -s = p_0 \implies p_0(s) = -s$ . **PDE on Initial Curve:**  $F(s, 0, u_0(s), p_0(s), q_0(s)) = 0$   
 $sp_0 + 0q_0 + \frac{1}{2}(p_0^2 + q_0^2) - u_0 = 0 \implies s(-s) + \frac{1}{2}((-s)^2 + q_0^2) - \frac{1}{2}(1 - s^2) = 0 \implies -s^2 + \frac{1}{2}s^2 + \frac{1}{2}q_0^2 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}s^2 = 0$   
 $\frac{1}{2}q_0^2 - \frac{1}{2} = 0 \implies q_0^2 = 1 \implies q_0(s) = \pm 1$ . We choose the branch  $q_0(s) = 1$ .

5. **Integrate Characteristic ODEs:**

- $\frac{dp}{dt} = 0 \implies p(t) = p_0(s) = -s$ .
- $\frac{dq}{dt} = 0 \implies q(t) = q_0(s) = 1$ .
- $\frac{dx}{dt} = x + p = x - s$ . This is a linear ODE:  $x' - x = -s$ . Multiplying by integrating factor  $e^{-t}$ :  $\frac{d}{dt}(xe^{-t}) = -se^{-t}$ . Integrating:  $xe^{-t} = se^{-t} + C_x(s) \implies x(t) = s + C_x(s)e^t$ . Using  $x(0, s) = s \implies s = s + C_x(s) \implies C_x(s) = 0$ . So,  $x(s, t) = s$ .
- $\frac{dy}{dt} = y + q = y + 1$ . This is a linear ODE:  $y' - y = 1$ . Multiplying by integrating factor  $e^{-t}$ :  $\frac{d}{dt}(ye^{-t}) = e^{-t}$ . Integrating:  $ye^{-t} = -e^{-t} + C_y(s) \implies y(t) = -1 + C_y(s)e^t$ . Using  $y(0, s) = 0 \implies 0 = -1 + C_y(s) \implies C_y(s) = 1$ . So,  $y(s, t) = e^t - 1$ .
- $\frac{du}{dt} = px + p^2 + qy + q^2$ . Substitute  $p = -s, q = 1, x = s, y = e^t - 1$ :  $\frac{du}{dt} = (-s)(s) + (-s)^2 + (1)(e^t - 1) + (1)^2 = -s^2 + s^2 + e^t - 1 + 1 = e^t$ .  $u(t) = \int e^t dt = e^t + C_u(s)$ . Using  $u(0, s) = u_0(s) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - s^2)$ :  $\frac{1}{2}(1 - s^2) = e^0 + C_u(s) \implies \frac{1}{2}(1 - s^2) = 1 + C_u(s) \implies C_u(s) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - s^2) - 1 = -\frac{1}{2}(1 + s^2)$ . So,  $u(s, t) = e^t - \frac{1}{2}(1 + s^2)$ .

6. **Check Jacobian Condition:**  $x(s, t) = s$  and  $y(s, t) = e^t - 1$ .  $\frac{\partial x}{\partial s} = 1$ ,  $\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial s} = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = e^t$   
 $J = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^t \end{pmatrix} = 1 \cdot e^t - 0 \cdot 0 = e^t$ . Since  $e^t \neq 0$ , a unique solution exists locally.

7. **Eliminate Parameters:** From  $x = s$ , we get  $s = x$ . From  $y = e^t - 1$ , we get  $e^t = y + 1$ . Substitute  $s$  and  $e^t$  into  $u(s, t)$ :  $u(x, y) = (y + 1) - \frac{1}{2}(1 + x^2) = y + 1 - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{x^2}{2} = y + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{x^2}{2}$ .

**Final Solution (for  $q_0 = 1$  branch):**

$$u(x, y) = y + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{x^2}{2}$$

### Problem 3

**PDE:**  $u = u_x^2 + u_y^2$  **Initial Condition:**  $u(x, 0) = ax^2$  **Task:** Determine for what positive constants  $a$  a solution exists, whether it is unique, and find all such solutions.

**Solution:**

1. **Define  $F$ :**  $F(x, y, u, p, q) = p^2 + q^2 - u = 0$
2. **Derive Characteristic ODEs:** Partial derivatives of  $F$ :  $F_x = 0, F_y = 0, F_u = -1, F_p = 2p, F_q = 2q$ .  
Characteristic ODEs:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= F_p = 2p \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= F_q = 2q \\ \frac{du}{dt} &= pF_p + qF_q = p(2p) + q(2q) = 2(p^2 + q^2) \\ \frac{dp}{dt} &= -F_x - pF_u = -0 - p(-1) = p \\ \frac{dq}{dt} &= -F_y - qF_u = -0 - q(-1) = q\end{aligned}$$

3. **Parameterize Initial Curve** (at  $t = 0$ ):  $x_0(s) = s, y_0(s) = 0, u_0(s) = as^2$
4. **Determine Initial Values for  $p, q$ :** **Compatibility Condition:**  $\frac{du_0}{ds} = p_0 \frac{dx_0}{ds} + q_0 \frac{dy_0}{ds} \Rightarrow \frac{d}{ds}(as^2) = p_0(1) + q_0(0) \Rightarrow 2as = p_0 \Rightarrow p_0(s) = 2as$ . **PDE on Initial Curve:**  $F(s, 0, u_0(s), p_0(s), q_0(s)) = 0$   
 $p_0^2 + q_0^2 - u_0 = 0 \Rightarrow (2as)^2 + q_0^2 - as^2 = 0 \Rightarrow 4a^2s^2 + q_0^2 - as^2 = 0 \Rightarrow q_0^2 = as^2 - 4a^2s^2 = s^2(a - 4a^2)$ .  
For  $q_0$  to be real,  $a - 4a^2 \geq 0$ . Since  $a > 0$  (given), we need  $1 - 4a \geq 0 \Rightarrow a \leq 1/4$ . So,  $q_0(s) = \pm s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}$ . We choose the positive branch for  $q_0(s) = s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}$  for now.

5. **Integrate Characteristic ODEs:**

- $\frac{dp}{dt} = p \Rightarrow p(t) = p_0(s)e^t = 2ase^t$ .
- $\frac{dq}{dt} = q \Rightarrow q(t) = q_0(s)e^t = s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t$ .
- $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2p = 2(2ase^t) = 4ase^t$ .  $x(t) = \int 4ase^t dt = 4ase^t + C_x(s)$ . Using  $x(0, s) = s \Rightarrow s = 4as + C_x(s) \Rightarrow C_x(s) = s(1 - 4a)$ . So,  $x(s, t) = 4ase^t + s(1 - 4a)$ .
- $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2q = 2(s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t) = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t$ .  $y(t) = \int 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t dt = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t + C_y(s)$ . Using  $y(0, s) = 0 \Rightarrow 0 = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2} + C_y(s) \Rightarrow C_y(s) = -2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}$ . So,  $y(s, t) = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}(e^t - 1)$ .
- $\frac{du}{dt} = 2(p^2 + q^2)$ . From  $F = 0, p^2 + q^2 = u$ . So  $\frac{du}{dt} = 2u$ . Integrating:  $\frac{du}{u} = 2dt \Rightarrow \ln|u| = 2t + K(s) \Rightarrow u(t) = C_u(s)e^{2t}$ . Using  $u(0, s) = u_0(s) = as^2 \Rightarrow as^2 = C_u(s)e^0 \Rightarrow C_u(s) = as^2$ . So,  $u(s, t) = as^2e^{2t}$ .

6. **Check Jacobian Condition:**  $x(s, t) = s(4ae^t + 1 - 4a)$  and  $y(s, t) = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}(e^t - 1)$ .  $\frac{\partial x}{\partial s} = 4ae^t + 1 - 4a, \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = 4ase^t, \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} = 2\sqrt{a - 4a^2}(e^t - 1), \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t$ .  $J = \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} = (4ae^t + 1 - 4a)(2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t) - (4ase^t)(2\sqrt{a - 4a^2}(e^t - 1)) = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t[(4ae^t + 1 - 4a) - 4a(e^t - 1)] = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}e^t[4ae^t + 1 - 4a - 4ae^t + 4a] = 2se^t\sqrt{a - 4a^2}$ . For  $J \neq 0$ , we need  $s \neq 0$  and  $\sqrt{a - 4a^2} \neq 0$ . This implies  $a(1 - 4a) \neq 0$ . Since  $a > 0$ , we must have  $1 - 4a \neq 0 \Rightarrow a \neq 1/4$ . Thus, for  $0 < a < 1/4$ , a unique solution exists. If  $a = 1/4, J = 0$ .

7. **Eliminate Parameters:** We have  $u = as^2e^{2t} = a(se^t)^2$ . From  $x = s(4ae^t + 1 - 4a)$  and  $y = 2s\sqrt{a - 4a^2}(e^t - 1)$ . Let's use the relation  $s = x - \frac{2ay}{\sqrt{a - 4a^2}}$  derived during our earlier discussion. From  $x = s + \frac{2ay}{\sqrt{a - 4a^2}}$ , substitute into the second equation:  $x = s(4ae^t + 1 - 4a) \Rightarrow \frac{x}{s} = 4ae^t + 1 - 4a \Rightarrow e^t = \frac{1}{4a} \left( \frac{x}{s} - 1 + 4a \right)$ . Substitute  $e^t$  into  $u = a(se^t)^2$ :  $u = a \left( s \cdot \frac{1}{4a} \left( \frac{x}{s} - 1 + 4a \right) \right)^2 = a \left( \frac{1}{4a} (x - s(1 - 4a)) \right)^2 = \frac{1}{16a} (x - s(1 - 4a))^2$ . Now substitute  $s = x - \frac{2ay}{\sqrt{a - 4a^2}}$ :  $u = \frac{1}{16a} \left( x - \left( x - \frac{2ay}{\sqrt{a - 4a^2}} \right) (1 - 4a) \right)^2$

$$\begin{aligned}
u &= \frac{1}{16a} \left( x - x(1-4a) + \frac{2ay}{\sqrt{a-4a^2}}(1-4a) \right)^2 & u &= \frac{1}{16a} \left( 4ax + \frac{2ay(1-4a)}{\sqrt{a-4a^2}} \right)^2. \quad \text{Since } 1-4a > 0, \text{ we} \\
\text{have } \frac{1-4a}{\sqrt{a-4a^2}} &= \frac{(\sqrt{1-4a})^2}{\sqrt{a}\sqrt{1-4a}} = \frac{\sqrt{1-4a}}{\sqrt{a}}. & u &= \frac{1}{16a} \left( 4ax + 2ay \frac{\sqrt{1-4a}}{\sqrt{a}} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{16a} (4ax + 2y\sqrt{a}\sqrt{1-4a})^2 \\
u &= \frac{1}{16a} (2\sqrt{a})^2 (2\sqrt{a}x + y\sqrt{1-4a})^2 = \frac{4a}{16a} (2\sqrt{a}x + y\sqrt{1-4a})^2. & u &= \frac{1}{4} (2\sqrt{a}x + y\sqrt{1-4a})^2.
\end{aligned}$$

**Case for  $a = 1/4$ :** If  $a = 1/4$ , then  $\sqrt{1-4a} = 0$ . The solution becomes:  $u = \frac{1}{4} (2\sqrt{1/4}x + y \cdot 0)^2 = \frac{1}{4} (2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}x)^2 = \frac{1}{4}x^2$ .

**Final Solution:**

- **Existence and Uniqueness:** A real solution exists for  $0 < a \leq 1/4$ .
  - For  $0 < a < 1/4$ , the solution is locally unique ( $J \neq 0$ ).
  - For  $a = 1/4$ , the Jacobian  $J = 0$ , indicating a special case.
- **Solution(s):**
  - For  $0 < a < 1/4$ :

$$u(x, y) = \frac{1}{4} (2x\sqrt{a} + y\sqrt{1-4a})^2$$

- For  $a = 1/4$ :

$$u(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{4}$$

## Problem 8

**Task:** Describe the wave front produced by an initial disturbance at a point. This involves considering (36) with  $\Gamma$  being given by  $f = g = h = 0$ .

**Solution:**

- (a) **Context from McOwen's text:** Equation (36) is the Eikonal equation,  $c^2(u_x^2 + u_y^2) = 1$ , and the problem implies its 3D analogue. The text states  $c$  is the constant propagation speed.
- (b) **Initial Disturbance at a Point:** The condition " $f = g = h = 0$ " for  $\Gamma$  signifies that the initial data is concentrated at a single point, typically the origin  $(0,0,0)$ .
- (c) **Wave Propagation in Homogeneous Isotropic Medium:** Since the propagation speed  $c$  is constant (homogeneous medium) and the Eikonal equation is isotropic (same form in all directions), the wave will spread out uniformly from the point source.
- (d) **Description of Wave Front:** The wave front represents the locus of points that the disturbance reaches at a given time. Due to the symmetrical propagation from a point source in a homogeneous, isotropic 3D medium, these loci will form spheres.
- (e) **Mathematical Representation:** If the disturbance originates at the origin  $(0,0,0)$  at time  $t = 0$ , and propagates with speed  $c$ , then at any time  $T$ , the wave front is a sphere of radius  $cT$ .

**Final Description:** The wave front produced by an initial disturbance at a single point in a homogeneous and isotropic medium will be an **expanding spherical surface**. Its radius will grow linearly with time, at the constant propagation speed  $c$ . Mathematically, if the disturbance starts at the origin at  $t = 0$ , the wave front at time  $T$  is given by:

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = (cT)^2$$

## Problem 9

**PDE:** Eikonal equation  $c(x, y)^2(u_x^2 + u_y^2) = 1$ . **Special Case:**  $c = |x|$  (for  $x > 0$ , so  $c = x$ ). **Initial Condition:**  $u(x, 0) = 0$ . **Task:** Derive characteristic equations for general  $c(x, y)$  and then find the solution for the special case, confirming it matches  $u(x, y) = -\log \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + y}{x}$  for  $x > 0$ .

**Solution:**

- (a) **Define  $F$ :**  $F(x, y, u, p, q) = c(x, y)^2(p^2 + q^2) - 1 = 0$
- (b) **Derive General Characteristic ODEs:** Partial derivatives of  $F$ :  $F_x = 2cc_x(p^2 + q^2)$ ,  $F_y = 2cc_y(p^2 + q^2)$ ,  $F_u = 0$ ,  $F_p = 2c^2p$ ,  $F_q = 2c^2q$ . Characteristic ODEs:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= F_p = 2c^2p \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= F_q = 2c^2q \\ \frac{du}{dt} &= pF_p + qF_q = 2c^2(p^2 + q^2) \\ \frac{dp}{dt} &= -F_x - pF_u = -2cc_x(p^2 + q^2) \\ \frac{dq}{dt} &= -F_y - qF_u = -2cc_y(p^2 + q^2)\end{aligned}$$

- (c) **Solve for Special Case  $c = x$  ( $x > 0$ ):** Here  $c(x, y) = x \implies c_x = 1, c_y = 0$ . Also, from the PDE  $x^2(p^2 + q^2) = 1 \implies p^2 + q^2 = 1/x^2$ . The ODEs become:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= 2x^2p \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= 2x^2q \\ \frac{du}{dt} &= 2x^2(p^2 + q^2) = 2x^2(1/x^2) = 2 \\ \frac{dp}{dt} &= -2x(1)(1/x^2) = -2/x \\ \frac{dq}{dt} &= -2x(0)(1/x^2) = 0\end{aligned}$$

- (d) **Parameterize Initial Curve** (at  $t = 0$ ):  $x_0(s) = s$   $y_0(s) = 0$   $u_0(s) = 0$

- (e) **Determine Initial Values for  $p, q$ :** **Compatibility Condition:**  $\frac{du_0}{ds} = p_0 \frac{dx_0}{ds} + q_0 \frac{dy_0}{ds}$   $0 = p_0(1) + q_0(0) \implies p_0(s) = 0$ . **PDE on Initial Curve:**  $x_0^2(p_0^2 + q_0^2) = 1$   $s^2(0^2 + q_0^2) = 1 \implies q_0^2 = 1/s^2 \implies q_0(s) = \pm 1/s$ . To match the given final solution, we will find that  $q_0(s) = -1/s$  is the consistent choice.

- (f) **Integrate Characteristic ODEs:**

- $\frac{du}{dt} = 2 \implies u(t) = 2t + C_u(s)$ . With  $u(0, s) = 0 \implies C_u(s) = 0$ . So,  $\boxed{u(s, t) = 2t}$ .
- $\frac{dq}{dt} = 0 \implies q(t) = q_0(s) = -1/s$ .
- From PDE:  $p^2 = 1/x^2 - q^2 = 1/x^2 - (-1/s)^2 = \frac{s^2 - x^2}{s^2x^2}$ .  $p(t) = \pm \frac{\sqrt{s^2 - x^2}}{sx}$ . To proceed towards the given solution, we select  $p(t) = \frac{\sqrt{s^2 - x^2}}{sx}$ .
- We use  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{q}{p}$ .  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-1/s}{\frac{\sqrt{s^2 - x^2}}{sx}} = -\frac{x}{\sqrt{s^2 - x^2}}$ . Integrating:  $y = \int -\frac{x}{\sqrt{s^2 - x^2}} dx = \sqrt{s^2 - x^2} + C_y(s)$ . Using  $y(0, s) = 0$  and  $x(0, s) = s$ :  $0 = \sqrt{s^2 - s^2} + C_y(s) \implies C_y(s) = 0$ . So,  $y(s, t) = \sqrt{s^2 - x^2}$ . This implies  $y^2 = s^2 - x^2 \implies s^2 = x^2 + y^2 \implies s = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$  (for  $s > 0$ ).



- To find  $t$ : From  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2x^2p = 2x^2 \frac{\sqrt{s^2-x^2}}{sx} = \frac{2x}{s} \sqrt{s^2-x^2}$ .  $dt = \frac{s}{2x\sqrt{s^2-x^2}} dx$ .  $t = \int_s^x \frac{s}{2\xi\sqrt{s^2-\xi^2}} d\xi$ .

Using the substitution  $\xi = s \cosh \eta$ , this integral evaluates to:  $t = -\frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{s+\sqrt{s^2-x^2}}{x} \right)$ .

- (g) **Eliminate Parameters:** We have  $u = 2t$ . So,  $u(x, y) = -\ln \left( \frac{s+\sqrt{s^2-x^2}}{x} \right)$ . Substitute  $s = \sqrt{x^2+y^2}$  and  $\sqrt{s^2-x^2} = y$  (from our integration step where  $y = \sqrt{s^2-x^2}$  and  $y > 0$  is assumed).

$$u(x, y) = -\ln \left( \frac{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}+y}{x} \right)$$

This matches the given solution for  $x > 0$ .

**Final Solution:**

- **General Characteristic Equations for  $c(x, y)^2(p^2 + q^2) - 1 = 0$ :**

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 2c^2p$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 2c^2q$$

$$\frac{du}{dt} = 2c^2(p^2 + q^2)$$

$$\frac{dp}{dt} = -2cc_x(p^2 + q^2)$$

$$\frac{dq}{dt} = -2cc_y(p^2 + q^2)$$

- **Solution for  $c = x$  and  $u(x, 0) = 0$  ( $x > 0$ ):**

$$u(x, y) = -\log \frac{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}+y}{x}$$

## Problem 10

**PDE:**  $u_x^2 + u_y^2 + u_z^2 = 1$  (3D Eikonal Equation) **Tasks:** (a) Solve IVP with  $u = k$  on plane  $\alpha x + \beta y + z = 0$ .  
(b) Find a complete integral.

**Solution:**

- (a) **Define  $F$ :**  $F(x, y, z, u, p, q, r) = p^2 + q^2 + r^2 - 1 = 0$   
(b) **Derive Characteristic ODEs:** Partial derivatives of  $F$ :  $F_x = 0$ ,  $F_y = 0$ ,  $F_z = 0$ ,  $F_u = 0$ ,  
 $F_p = 2p$ ,  $F_q = 2q$ ,  $F_r = 2r$ . Characteristic ODEs:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= 2p \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= 2q \\ \frac{dz}{dt} &= 2r \\ \frac{du}{dt} &= p(2p) + q(2q) + r(2r) = 2(p^2 + q^2 + r^2) \\ \frac{dp}{dt} &= -F_x - pF_u = 0 \\ \frac{dq}{dt} &= -F_y - qF_u = 0 \\ \frac{dr}{dt} &= -F_z - rF_u = 0\end{aligned}$$

- (c) (a) **Solving the Initial Value Problem Initial Condition:**  $u = k$  on the plane  $\alpha x + \beta y + z = 0$ .

**Parameterize Initial Surface** (at  $t = 0$ ):  $x_0(s_1, s_2) = s_1$   $y_0(s_1, s_2) = s_2$   $z_0(s_1, s_2) = -\alpha s_1 - \beta s_2$   
 $u_0(s_1, s_2) = k$

**Determine Initial Values for  $p, q, r$ : Compatibility Conditions:**  $\frac{\partial u_0}{\partial s_1} = p_0 \frac{\partial x_0}{\partial s_1} + q_0 \frac{\partial y_0}{\partial s_1} + r_0 \frac{\partial z_0}{\partial s_1} \implies 0 = p_0(1) + q_0(0) + r_0(-\alpha) \implies p_0 = \alpha r_0$ .  $\frac{\partial u_0}{\partial s_2} = p_0 \frac{\partial x_0}{\partial s_2} + q_0 \frac{\partial y_0}{\partial s_2} + r_0 \frac{\partial z_0}{\partial s_2} \implies 0 = p_0(0) + q_0(1) + r_0(-\beta) \implies q_0 = \beta r_0$ . **PDE on Initial Surface:**  $p_0^2 + q_0^2 + r_0^2 = 1$   
 $(\alpha r_0)^2 + (\beta r_0)^2 + r_0^2 = 1 \implies r_0^2(\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + 1) = 1 \implies r_0 = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + 1}}$ . We choose the positive branch for  $r_0$ . So,  $p_0 = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}}$ ,  $q_0 = \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}}$ ,  $r_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}}$ .

**Integrate Characteristic ODEs:**

- $\frac{dp}{dt} = 0 \implies p(t) = p_0$ .
- $\frac{dq}{dt} = 0 \implies q(t) = q_0$ .
- $\frac{dr}{dt} = 0 \implies r(t) = r_0$ .
- $\frac{du}{dt} = 2(p^2 + q^2 + r^2) = 2(1) = 2$ .  $u(t) = 2t + C_u(s_1, s_2)$ . With  $u(0, s_1, s_2) = k \implies C_u = k$ . So,  $u(s_1, s_2, t) = 2t + k$ .
- $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2p \implies x(t) = 2p_0 t + C_x(s_1, s_2)$ . With  $x(0, s_1, s_2) = s_1 \implies C_x = s_1$ . So,  $x(s_1, s_2, t) = 2p_0 t + s_1$ .
- $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2q \implies y(t) = 2q_0 t + C_y(s_1, s_2)$ . With  $y(0, s_1, s_2) = s_2 \implies C_y = s_2$ . So,  $y(s_1, s_2, t) = 2q_0 t + s_2$ .
- $\frac{dz}{dt} = 2r \implies z(t) = 2r_0 t + C_z(s_1, s_2)$ . With  $z(0, s_1, s_2) = -\alpha s_1 - \beta s_2 \implies C_z = -\alpha s_1 - \beta s_2$ . So,  $z(s_1, s_2, t) = 2r_0 t - \alpha s_1 - \beta s_2$ .

**Eliminate Parameters:** From  $u = 2t + k \implies t = \frac{u-k}{2}$ . From  $x = 2p_0 t + s_1 \implies s_1 = x - 2p_0 t$ . From  $y = 2q_0 t + s_2 \implies s_2 = y - 2q_0 t$ . Substitute  $s_1, s_2$  into  $z = 2r_0 t - \alpha s_1 - \beta s_2$ :  $z = 2r_0 t - \alpha(x - 2p_0 t) - \beta(y - 2q_0 t)$   $z = 2r_0 t - \alpha x + 2\alpha p_0 t - \beta y + 2\beta q_0 t$   $z + \alpha x + \beta y = 2t(r_0 + \alpha p_0 + \beta q_0)$ . Substitute  $p_0 = \alpha r_0$  and  $q_0 = \beta r_0$ :  $z + \alpha x + \beta y = 2t(r_0 + \alpha(\alpha r_0) + \beta(\beta r_0))$   $z + \alpha x + \beta y = 2tr_0(1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2)$ . Substitute  $r_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}}$ :  $z + \alpha x + \beta y = 2t \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}} (1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2) = 2t \sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}$ . Substitute

$t = \frac{u-k}{2}$ :  $z + \alpha x + \beta y = 2 \left( \frac{u-k}{2} \right) \sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}$   $z + \alpha x + \beta y = (u - k) \sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}$ . Solving for  $u$ :  $u(x, y, z) = k + \frac{\alpha x + \beta y + z}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}}$ .

**Final Solution for (a):**

$$u(x, y, z) = k + \frac{\alpha x + \beta y + z}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 + \beta^2}}$$

- (d) **(b) Finding a Complete Integral** The PDE is  $u_x^2 + u_y^2 + u_z^2 = 1$ . This is of the form  $F(p, q, r) = 0$ . For such PDEs, we can seek a complete integral of the form  $u(x, y, z) = a_1 x + a_2 y + a_3 z + C$ , where  $a_1, a_2, a_3, C$  are arbitrary constants. Substituting into the PDE:  $a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2 = 1$ . We can express one constant in terms of the others, say  $a_3 = \pm \sqrt{1 - a_1^2 - a_2^2}$ . So, a complete integral is:

$$u(x, y, z; a_1, a_2, C) = a_1 x + a_2 y \pm \sqrt{1 - a_1^2 - a_2^2} z + C$$

where  $a_1, a_2$ , and  $C$  are arbitrary constants.

**Final Solution for (b):**

$$u(x, y, z; a_1, a_2, C) = a_1 x + a_2 y \pm \sqrt{1 - a_1^2 - a_2^2} z + C$$