

Partial Differential Equations - Class Notes

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Conservation Laws

Recall how we mentioned heat is conserved, accumulated heat is heat in - heat out.

1-D Conservation:

- $u(x, t)$: Quantity that is conserved: energy, mass, momentum, ...

$$g(x, t) = \text{flux} = f(u(x, t)) \quad (1)$$

Here, flux is dependent on the gradient. Before, we have:

$$g(x, t) = g(u_x(x, t)) \quad (2)$$

This was our gradient.

Conservation Law

Accumulation = in - out

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_1} u(x, t_1) dx - \int_{x_0}^{x_1} u(x, t_0) dx = u(x_0, t) \quad (3)$$

$$\int_{x_0}^x [u(x, t_1) - u(x, t_0)] dx = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} [q(x_0, t) - q(x_1, t)] dt \quad (4)$$

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_1} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} q_t(x, t) dt dx = - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{x_0}^{x_1} q_x(x, t) dx dt \quad (5)$$

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{x_0}^{x_1} [u_t(x, t) + u_x(x, t)] dx dt = - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{x_0}^{x_1} q_x(x, t) dx dt \quad (6)$$

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_{x_0}^{x_1} [u_t(x, t) + q_x(x, t)] dx dt = 0 \quad (7)$$

Here, $u_t + q_x = 0$ if u_t and q_x are continuous.

Since $q = f(u)$, we get

$$u_t + [f(u)]_x = 0 \quad (8)$$

This is considered the conservation law. This is non-linear, first order.

Ex: Burger's Equation: For gas flow down a pipe.

$$u_t + \left(\frac{u^2}{2} \right)_x = \epsilon u_{xx} \quad (9)$$

Here, ϵ is the viscosity and u is the momentum. The viscosity of gases tend towards zero, therefore let us consider $\epsilon = 0$.

$$u_t + \left(\frac{u^2}{2} \right)_x = 0 \quad (10)$$

Here, let $f(u) = \frac{u^2}{2}$:

$$u_t + uu_x = 0 \quad (11)$$

Domain: $x \in (-\infty, \infty), t \in [0, \infty)$

Initial condition: $u(x, 0) = g(x)$

Recall: Transport equation: $u_t = cu_x \Rightarrow u_t - cu_x = 0, u(x, 0) = g(x)$.