

Partial Differential Equations  
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Winter Semester 2020/2021

Lecture notes T<sub>E</sub>Xed by Thomas Eingartner

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, 16:00

# Contents

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

A differential equation is an equation of a function and its derivatives.

**Example 1.1** (Linear ODE) Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\begin{cases} f'(t) = af(t) \text{ for all } t \geq 0, a \in \mathbb{R} \\ f(0) = a_0 \end{cases}$$

is a linear ODE (Ordinary differential equation). The solution is:  $f(t) = a_0 e^{at}$  for all  $t \geq 0$ .

**Example 1.2** (Non-Linear ODE)  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{cases} f'(t) = 1 + f^2(t) \\ f(0) = 1 \end{cases}$$

A PDE (Partial Differential Equation) is an equation of a function of 2 or more variables and its derivatives. Recall  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}\}$  open,

$$\partial_{x_1} f(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + he_1) - f(x)}{h}, e_1 = (0, 0, 1, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$D^\alpha f(x) = \partial_{x_1}^{\alpha_1} \cdots \partial_{x_d}^{\alpha_d} f(x), |\alpha| = \sum_{i=1}^d |\alpha_i|$$

$$Df = \nabla f = \text{gradient of } f = (\partial_{x_1} \dots \partial_{x_d})$$

$$\Delta f = \partial_{x_1}^2 + \cdots + \partial_{x_d}^2 f$$

$$D^k f = (D^\alpha f)_{|\alpha|=k}$$

$$D^2 f = (\partial_{x_i} \partial_{x_j} f)_{1 \leq i, j \leq d}$$

Goals: For *solving a PDE* we want to

- Find an explicit solution! In many cases, it is impossible
- Prove a *well-posed theory* (existence of solutions, uniqueness of solutions, continuous dependence of solutions on the data)

We have two notations of solution:

$\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  Navier-Stokes equation:

$$\begin{cases} d_t u + u \nabla u - \Delta u = \nabla f, & f \text{ is known} \\ \operatorname{div}(u) = \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u_i(x) = 0 \end{cases}$$

open in 3D, exists smooth solution. In this course we will investigate

- Laplace / Poisson Equation:  $-\Delta u = f$
- Heat Equation:  $\partial_t u - \Delta u = f$
- Wave Equation:  $\partial_t^2 u - \Delta u = f$
- Schrödinger Equation:  $i\partial_t u - \Delta u = f$

When  $f = f(x)$  *leadsto* linear equation  $\rightsquigarrow$  we will form on that!  
 $f = f(x, u, \Delta u)$   $\rightsquigarrow$  nonlinear equation

## Chapter 2

# Laplace / Poisson Equation

$-\Delta u = 0$  (Laplace) or  $-\Delta u = f(x)$  (Poisson).

**Theorem 2.1** (Gauss-Green Theorem)

$$\int_{\partial V} F \vec{n} \, dS(x) = \int_V \operatorname{div}(F) \, dx$$

Thus

$$0 = \int_{\partial V} \nabla u \vec{n} \, dS(x) = \int_V \operatorname{div}(\nabla u) \, dx = \int_V \Delta u(x) \, dx$$

for any  $V \subseteq \Omega$  open.

**Exercise 2.2** Let  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  open, let  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous. Prove that if  $\int_B f(x) \, dx = 0$ , then  $u \equiv 0$  in  $\Omega$ .

**Theorem 2.3** (Fundamental Lemma of Calculus of Variations) Let  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  open, let  $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ . If  $\int_B f(x) \, dx = 0$  for all  $x \in B_r(x) \subseteq \Omega$ , then  $f(x) = 0$  a.e. (almost everywhere)  $x \in \Omega$ .

**Remark 2.4** (Solving Laplace Equation)

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_i} (\sqrt{x_1^2 + \cdots + x_d^2}) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_1^2 + \cdots + x_d^2}} (2x_i) = \frac{x_i}{r}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{x_i} u &= \partial_{x_i} v = (\partial_r v) \frac{\partial r}{\partial x_i} = v'(r) \frac{x_i}{r} \\ \partial_{x_i}^2 u &= \partial_{x_i} (v(r)' \frac{x_i}{r}) = \partial_{x_i} (v(r)') \frac{x_i}{r} + v'(r) \partial_{x_i} (\frac{x_i}{r}) = \partial_r (v'(r)) (\frac{dr}{\partial x_i}) \frac{x_i}{r} + v'(r) \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{x_i}{r^2} (\partial_{x_i} r) \right) = v'(r) \frac{x_i^2}{r^2} + v' r(r) \end{aligned}$$

So we have  $\Delta u = \left( \sum_{i=1}^d \partial_{x_i}^2 \right) u = v''(r) + v'(r) \left( \frac{d}{r} - \frac{1}{r} \right)$

Thus  $\Delta u = v''(r) + v'(r) \frac{d-1}{r}$ . We consider  $d \geq 2$ . Laplace operator  $\Delta u = 0$  now becomes  $v''(r) + v'(r) \frac{d-1}{r} = 0$

$$\Phi(x) = \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2\pi} \log(|x|) & , d = 2 \\ \frac{1}{4\pi|x|} & , d = 3 \\ \frac{1}{(d-2)d|B_1|} \frac{1}{|x|^{d-2}} & , d \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

Where  $|B_1|$  is the Volume of the ball  $B_1(0) = B(0, 1) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ .

**Remark 2.5**  $\Delta\Phi(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $x \neq 0$ .