

# Understanding the Equations

MATHEMATICS AS THE LANGUAGE OF PHYSICS

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## 1.From complicated to simple equations

- 1.Changing coordinates
- 2.Characteristic Lines
- 3.Fundamental Solutions

## 2.Understanding the equations and systems of equations

- 1.What determines the solution properties?
- 2.Heat equation, Waves equation and Poisson equation revisited

## 3.Towards the discretization

- I don't know if it's better to mix everything and explain it all together when it naturally appears.
- I mean, why not using an equation to introduce a concept and then go back to study the equation properties?
  - This would help transmit the use of each and every concept.
  - Things can become messy and inaccurate.

# Heat transfer in an anisotropic medium

## Problem statement:

Find  $\varphi(\mathbf{x}, t)$

$$(\mathbf{x}; t) \in D \times T; \quad D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3; \quad T \subseteq [0, \infty]$$

Such that  $\forall \Omega \subseteq D$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\Omega} \varphi \delta \Omega = \int_{\partial \Omega} \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n} \delta \sigma$$

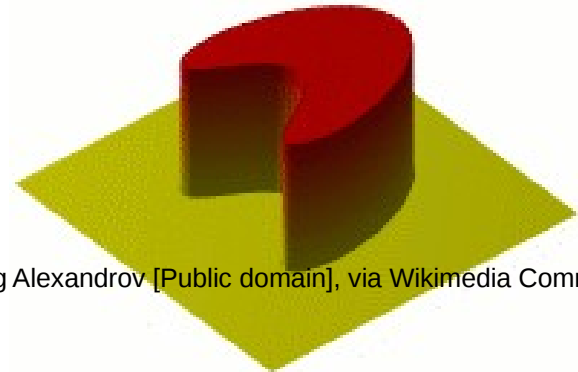
$$\mathbf{q} = -A(\mathbf{x}; t) \nabla \varphi; \quad A(\mathbf{x}; t) \geq 0$$

$$\varphi(\mathbf{x}, 0) = \varphi_0$$

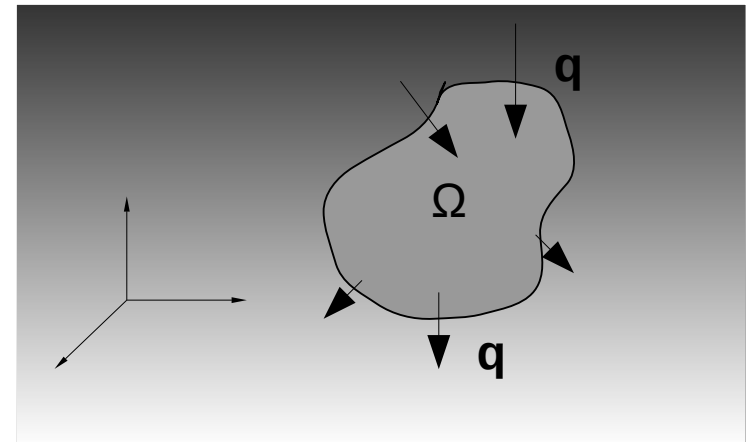
$$\Psi(\varphi, \nabla \varphi)(\mathbf{x}_b, t) = 0; \quad \forall (\mathbf{x}_b, t) \in \partial D \times T$$

~~Positive Semidefinite Matrix~~

**TENSOR!**



By Oleg Alexandrov [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons



## Heat transfer in an anisotropic medium

### TENSORS

Tensors are geometric objects that describe linear relations between geometric vectors, scalars, and other tensors. ← LOL

When changing coordinates, TENSORS change in a very specific manner.

e.g. Viscosity tensor  $A(\mathbf{x}, t)$ .  $A$  is defined such that

$$\mathbf{q} = -A(\mathbf{x}; t) \nabla \varphi \quad \text{or} \quad q^i = A_j^i (\nabla \varphi)^j$$

Suppose we change coordinates  $\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\xi}$

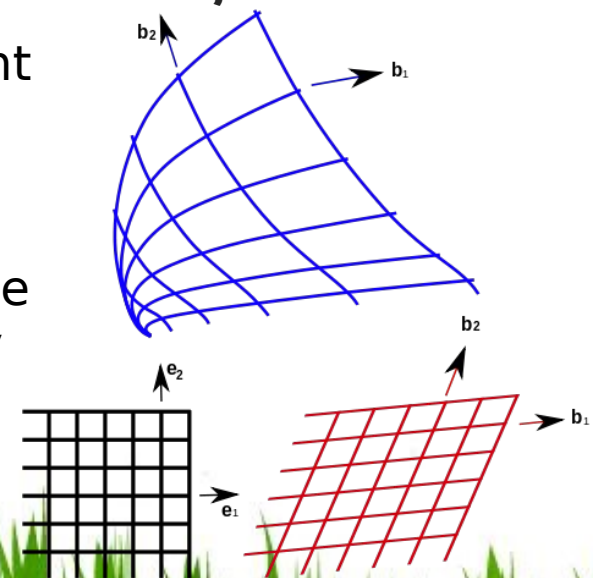
Hence, even if we changed coordinates, the heat flux **vector** should be the same at the corresponding position.

$$q^i = -A(\mathbf{x}; t)_j^i (\nabla \varphi)_x^j = -A(\boldsymbol{\xi}(\mathbf{x}); t)_j^i \left( \frac{\partial \xi_k}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial \xi_k} \right) = \dots$$

$$\dots = -A(\boldsymbol{\xi}(\mathbf{x}); t)_j^i \frac{\partial \xi_k}{\partial x_j} (\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \varphi)^k$$

This is the “jth” coordinate of  $\mathbf{q}$  in the frame reference of  $\mathbf{x}$  as a function of the derivatives of  $\varphi$  with respect to the  $\boldsymbol{\xi}$  coordinates.

Now, I want to change the reference frame to be defined by  $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ .





# Heat transfer in an anisotropic medium

$$\boldsymbol{\xi} = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3);$$

The vector following the growth of  $\xi_i$  is easily calculated.

$$\mathbf{e}_{\xi_i} = \frac{\partial \xi_i}{\partial x_1} \mathbf{e}_1 + \frac{\partial \xi_i}{\partial x_2} \mathbf{e}_2 + \frac{\partial \xi_i}{\partial x_3} \mathbf{e}_3$$

Or, more compactly:

$$\mathbf{e}_{\xi_i} = \frac{\partial \xi_i}{\partial x_j} \mathbf{e}_j$$

We can write the same the other way around:

$$\mathbf{e}_i = \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial \xi_j} \mathbf{e}_{\xi_j}$$

And the heat flux vector does not depend on the coordinates we are using

$$\mathbf{q} = q^i \mathbf{e}_i = q^i \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial \xi_j} \mathbf{e}_{\xi_j} = q^{\xi_j} \mathbf{e}_{\xi_j}$$

Since  $\mathbf{e}_{\xi_j}$  is a basis, we can equalize the coordinates multiplying each of its vectors  $\mathbf{e}_{\xi_i}$  in the former equation.

$$q^{\xi_i} = \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial \xi_i} q^j$$

We calculated  $q^j$  in the previous slide.

$$q^i = -A(\mathbf{x}; t)^{ij} \varphi_{x_j} = -A(\boldsymbol{\xi}(\mathbf{x}); t)^i_j \frac{\partial \xi_k}{\partial x_j} (\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \varphi)^k$$

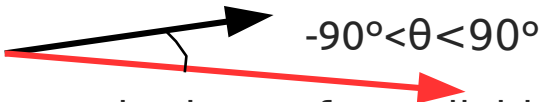
So finally,

$$q^{\xi_i} = \frac{-\partial x_p}{\partial \xi_i} A(\boldsymbol{\xi}(\mathbf{x}); t)^p_q \left( \frac{\partial \xi_k}{\partial x_q} \varphi_{\xi_k} \right) = -A'(\boldsymbol{\xi}(\mathbf{x}); t)^i_k (\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \varphi)^k$$

Is  $A'$  Symmetric?

## Heat transfer in an anisotropic medium

What does this equation actually mean?

- Define an infinitesimal volume around each point of the domain.
- Compute  $A \nabla \varphi$  at all the points in the boundary of this infinitesimal volume. **REMARK:**  
 $A \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (\nabla \varphi)^T A (\nabla \varphi) \geq 0 \quad \forall \nabla \varphi$ 

- Integrate in the surface, divide by the volume.
- The scalar  $\varphi$  will evolve to reduce the average of heat fluxes in the infinitesimal volume surface. This happens in all points of the domain.

In the differential form:

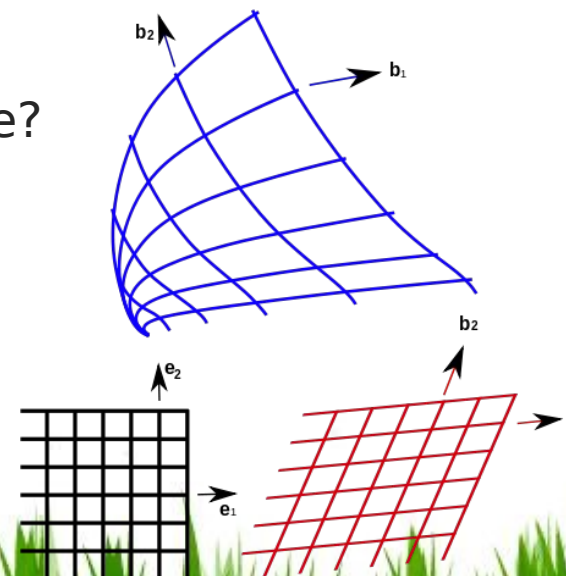
$$\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (A \nabla \varphi)$$

I would like to have the equation of the previous lecture to use the Separation of Variables method.

$$\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = -\alpha \nabla^2 \varphi$$

Can this be done?

Maybe,  
changing the  
reference frame  
 $\mathbf{X} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\xi}$   
to a curvilinear  
one.



## Heat transfer in an anisotropic medium

### Changing coordinates and differential operators

Well constructed operators return the same value regardless of the spatial variables. e.g.

$f(x,y) \rightarrow f(r, \theta)$  with

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}; \quad \theta = \arctg(y/x)$$

Or

$$x = r \cos(\theta); \quad y = r \sin(\theta)$$

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2}$$

e.g.  $f = \sin(r^2) r \cos(\theta)$

If the operator defines an scalar, a vector or a tensor, this is true. The reason lies in the behavior of these entities when changing coordinates.

In fact, the Laplacian operator is defined over any curvilinear coordinates system as:

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\det g}} \frac{\partial}{\partial u^i} \left( \sqrt{\det g} g^{ij} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^j} \right)$$

Where  $g_{ij}$  is the covariant metric tensor of the coordinates system, if

$$\text{if } \mathbf{e}_i = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_j}{\partial u_i} \mathbf{e}_j$$

$$\text{then } g_{ij} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_k}{\partial u_i} \mathbf{e}_k \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_m}{\partial u_j} \mathbf{e}_m \right) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_k}{\partial u_i} \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_m}{\partial u_j} \delta_{km}$$

$$\text{and } g^{ij} = (g_{ij})^{-1}$$

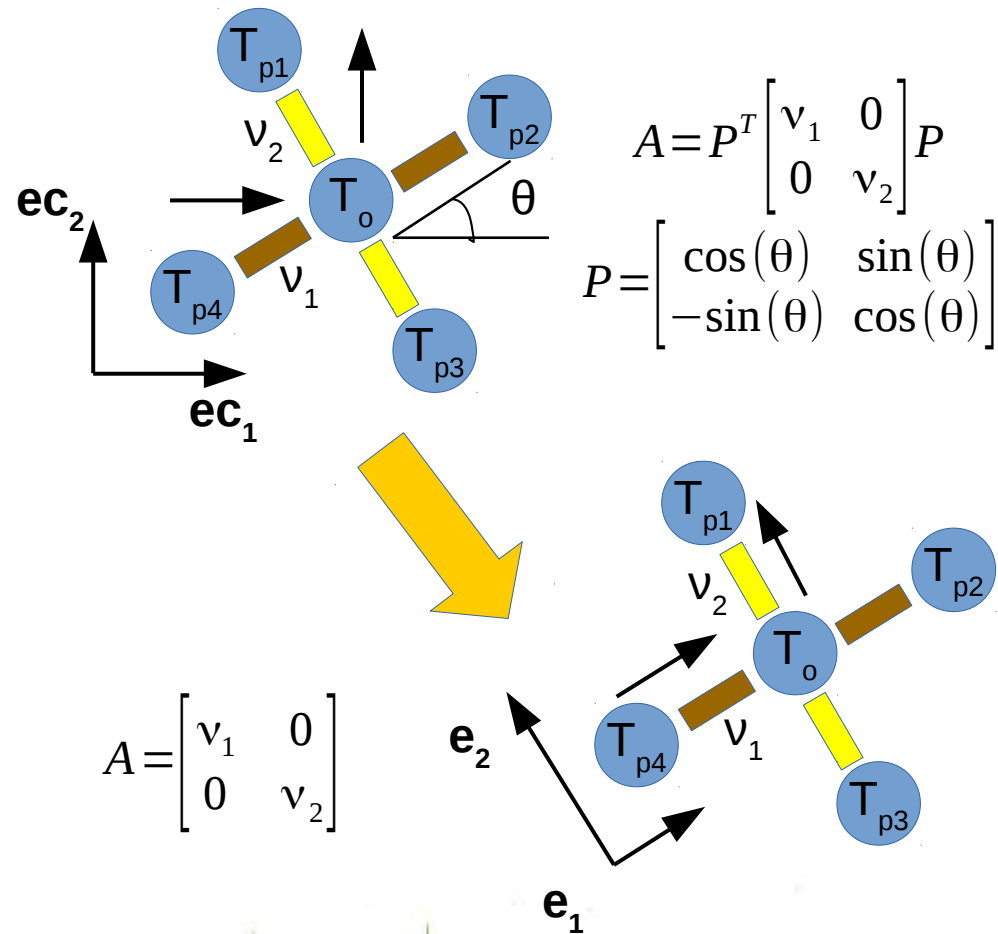


## Heat transfer in an anisotropic medium

**Our original spatial euclidean coordinates are not the problem “natural coordinates”.**

There was a coordinates system in which  $g$  for heat flux vectors was the identity and the problem was canonical, moving from it to the euclidean space,  $g$  changed,  $A$  appeared and everything got more complicated. But that ideal system exists and in it we can use Separation of Variables.

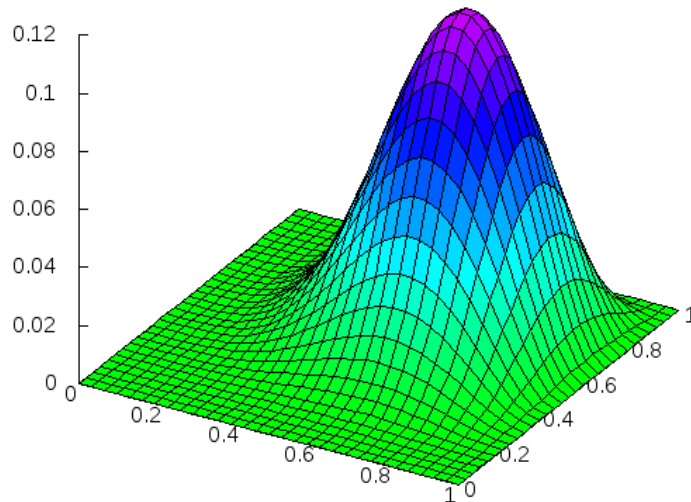
**The coordinates system is a choice**



## Heat transfer in an anisotropic medium

Initial Conditions

### Eigenvalue analysis



$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left| \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} &= \alpha \nabla^2 \theta \\ \theta|_{\partial \Omega} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right. \rightarrow \begin{aligned} \theta &= T(t) S(\vec{s}) \\ \mu_m &\in I \\ \nu_n &\in I \\ \tau_{mn} &\in \mathbb{R} < 0 \end{aligned} \\
 & \tau_{mn} = \alpha (\mu_m^2 + \nu_n^2) \\
 & \theta = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} a_{mn} e^{(-\tau_{mn} t)} e^{(\nu_n x + \mu_m y)}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Heat transfer in an anisotropic medium

So equations like  $\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (A \nabla \varphi)$   
are equivalent to  $\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = -\alpha \nabla^2 \varphi$

We don't know the coordinates  
change that makes it, but we know  
that

$$\varphi = \sum_{m,n} k(m,n) \exp(-\lambda^2 t) F_{m,n}(\xi)$$

with  $F_{m,n}$  orthogonal functions

Example of known  $F_{m,n}$ :

Bessel Functions



**Can we generalize the  
diffusion equation result to  
more general equations?**

e.g.  $\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (B \nabla (\nabla \cdot (A \nabla \varphi)))$   
 $\{A, B\} \geq 0$

The real question is:

What conditions are necessary for  
an equation to have a solution like  
that of the diffusion equation?

**Symmetric OPERATOR**



## Convection in a non-uniform velocity field

Problem statement:

Find  $\varphi(\mathbf{x}, t)$

$(\mathbf{x}; t) \in D \times T; D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3; T \subseteq [0, \infty]$

Such that

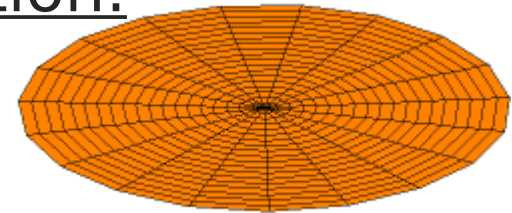
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\Omega} \varphi \delta \Omega = - \int_{\partial \Omega} \varphi \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \delta \sigma$$

$$\varphi(\mathbf{x}, 0) = \varphi_0$$

$$\Psi(\varphi, \nabla \varphi)(\mathbf{x}_b, t) = 0; \forall (\mathbf{x}_b, t) \in \partial D \times T$$

Waves equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial t^2} = c \nabla^2 \varphi$$



Convection In the differential form:

$$\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\varphi \mathbf{u}) \text{ and } \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

Would I like to have the equation of the previous lecture ( $\mathbf{u}$  was constant) and use the separation of variables? Not necessarily

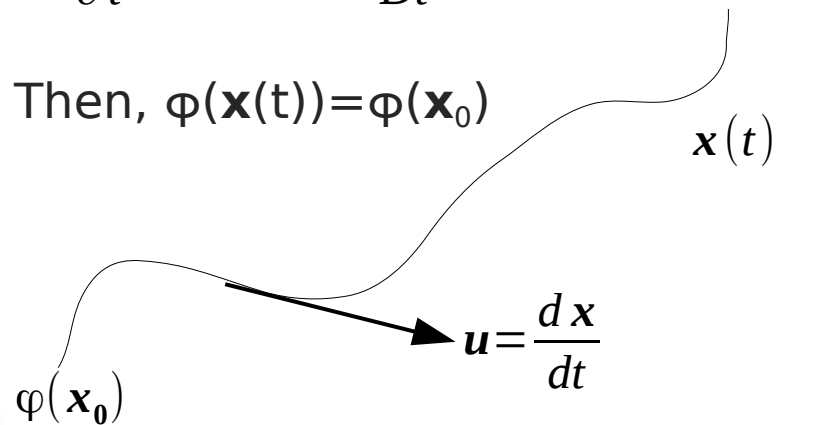
# Convection in a non-uniform velocity field

## The concept of characteristic lines

Suppose that exists a  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  parametrization such that

$$\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\varphi \mathbf{u}) = \frac{D\varphi}{Dt} = 0 \quad \varphi = \varphi(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

Then,  $\varphi(\mathbf{x}(t)) = \varphi(\mathbf{x}_0)$



**Do characteristic lines exist for other types of equations like Diffusion equation?**



## Poisson equation

Resolve  $\varphi$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2 \varphi &= f \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ \Psi(\varphi, \nabla \varphi) &= 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \partial \Omega\end{aligned}$$

What does  $\nabla^2 \varphi$  actually mean?

-Calculus of variations:

It is a comparison between the node position and the average of neighbours with changed sign.

$$\nabla^2 \varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h^2} \sum_{p \in N_o} \varphi_p - \varphi_o$$

$$\nabla^2 \varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\varphi(\mathbf{x} + d\mathbf{x}) + \varphi(\mathbf{x} - d\mathbf{x}) - 2\varphi(\mathbf{x})}{h^2} + \frac{\varphi(\mathbf{x} + d\mathbf{y}) + \varphi(\mathbf{x} - d\mathbf{y}) - 2\varphi(\mathbf{x})}{h^2}$$

## Poisson equation

### Fundamental solution:

The solution of an equation on an unbounded domain when the forcing term is delta Dirac.

- GENERAL Solution

In Laplace's equation,

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2 F &= \delta \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega = \mathbb{R}^n \\ F &\rightarrow 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \partial \Omega\end{aligned}$$

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$$



Typical transport PDE in conservation form

$$\frac{\partial \vec{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{F}(\vec{U}) = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \vec{U}}{\partial t} + J \cdot \nabla \vec{U} = 0$$
$$M^{-1} \vec{U} = \vec{W} \quad M^{-1} J = \Lambda$$

Chain rule!

Diagonalization of the Jacobian?

NOTE:  $J = \frac{\partial \vec{F}}{\partial \vec{U}}$

1D, 3 variables example. Euler equations:

$$\vec{U} = (\rho \quad u \quad e)^T \quad \vec{F} = (\rho u \quad \rho u^2 + P \quad \rho u e)^T$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_t \rho \\ \partial_t u \\ \partial_t e \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x(\rho u) \\ \partial_x(\rho u^2 + P) \\ \partial_x(\rho u e) \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \partial_t \rho \\ \partial_t u \\ \partial_t e \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} u & \rho & 0 \\ u^2 + C_s^2 & 2\rho & 0 \\ u e & \rho e & \rho u \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x \rho \\ \partial_x u \\ \partial_x e \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

So far:  $P = f(\rho) \quad \frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho} = C_s^2$  Equation of state!!



Diagonalization:

$$\partial_t \vec{U} + J \nabla \vec{U} \rightarrow \partial_t \vec{W} + \Lambda \nabla \vec{W}$$

After diagonalization:

$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} u - Cs & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & u + Cs \end{pmatrix}$$

CONCLUSION:

The system evolves as 3 separate transport equations!

**HYPERBOLIC SYSTEM OF EQUATIONS**

Incompressible case:

$$\vec{U} = (\rho \quad u \quad 0)^T \quad \vec{F} = (\rho u \quad \rho u^2 + P \quad u)^T$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_t \rho \\ \partial_t u \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x(\rho u) \\ \partial_x(\rho u^2 + P) \\ \partial_x u \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \partial_t \rho \\ \partial_t u \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} u & \rho & 0 \\ u^2 & 2\rho & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x \rho \\ \partial_x u \\ \partial_x P \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

NOTE: P is not a state function anymore!

Diagonalization:

$$\partial_t \vec{U} + J \nabla \vec{U} \rightarrow \partial_t \vec{W} + \Lambda \nabla \vec{W}$$

Diagonalization is not possible! Jordan Form:

$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} u & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

CONCLUSION:

The system is coupled! → You will always have a coupling  
ELLIPTIC SYSTEM OF EQUATIONS



So far:

- Physical solution lies in an infinite dimensional space
- Analytical solution involves an infinite sum of functions
- Numerical solution is the truncation of this infinite summation

How are we supposed to handle an infinite dimensional space?

**NUMERICAL METHODS!**

We can project over ANY base functions we like  
PROJECTION is performed thanks to the DOT PRODUCT  
Instead of:

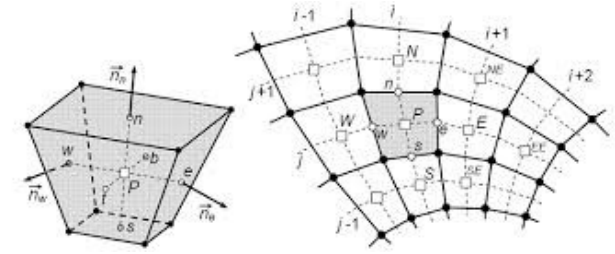
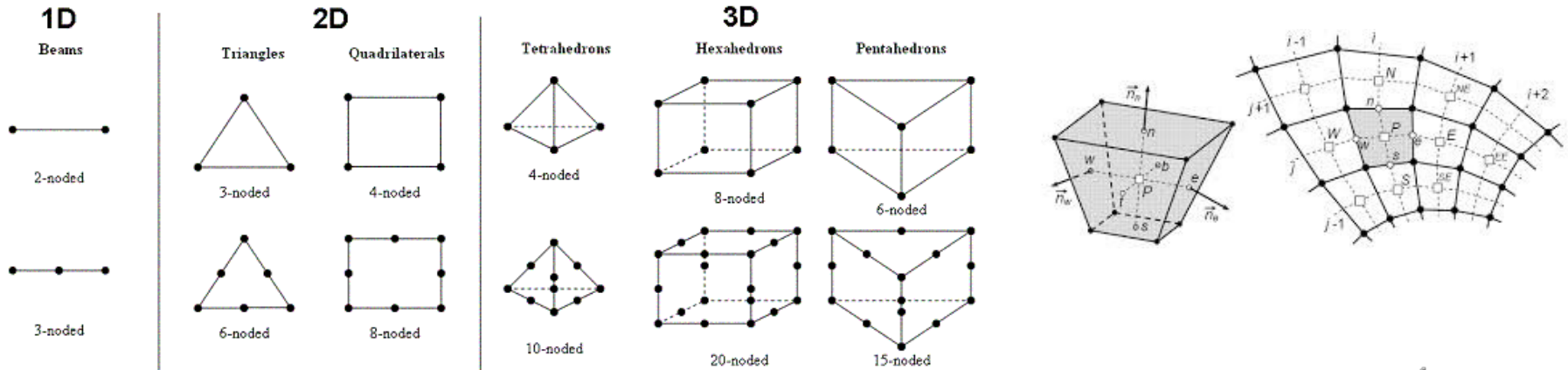
$$\theta = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} a_n T_n(t) S_n(\vec{s})$$
$$\theta = \sum_{n=0}^N T_n(t) B(\vec{s})$$

We are CHANGING the BASE of SOLUTION SPACE

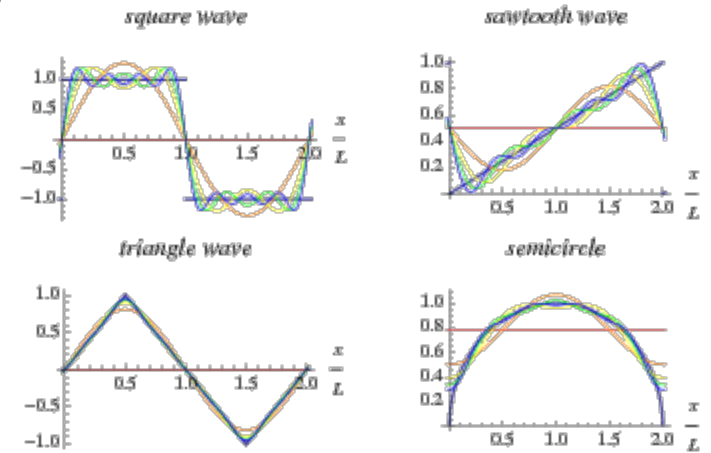
What are then  $B(\vec{s})$  ?



# NUMERICAL METHODS: TYPES



$$B(\vec{s}) = \begin{cases} \delta_{xp} \rightarrow FDM \\ H_{xv} \rightarrow FVM \\ \sum_v w_v(x) \delta_{xp} \rightarrow FEM \\ \sin(k_p x) \rightarrow SPECTRAL \end{cases}$$



NOTHING else changes! (FSM, LES, Level-Set, etc)