

Section 1.4

7. The population density of zooplankton in a deep lake varies as a function of depth $x > 0$ and time t ($x = 0$ is the surface). Zooplankton diffuse vertically with diffusion constant D and buoyancy effects cause them to migrate toward the surface with an advection speed of αg , where g is the acceleration due to gravity. Ignore birth and death rates. Find a PDE model for the population density of zooplankton in the lake, along with the appropriate boundary conditions at $x = 0$ and $x = +\infty$. Find the steady-state population density for zooplankton as a function of depth, and sketch its graph. Note that the flux is advective and diffusive.

Solution. Applying the conservation law $u_t + \phi_x = f$, we first see that f must be equal to zero since we are told to ignore birth and death rates. Our flux term $\phi = -Du_x - cu$ since it consists of both diffusion and advection. We subtract the advection term cu since the flow of the zooplankton is in the negative x direction. We are also given that the constant $c = \alpha g$ where α is the gravitational constant. So our model is

$$u_t = Du_{xx} + \alpha gu_x$$

Next we solve the simpler steady state case where the density has quit changing with respect to time. We also apply our boundary conditions to solve for u . The equation and boundary conditions are:

$$\begin{aligned} Du_{xx} + \alpha gu_x &= 0, \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u(x) &= 0, \\ \phi(0) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

We first solve for u by solving the characteristic equation $m^2 + \frac{\alpha g}{D}m = 0$. We find that $m = 0$ and $m = -\frac{\alpha g}{D}$. Thus, $u = A + Be^{-\frac{\alpha g}{D}x}$. We then find that as x tends towards infinity, we get,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u(x) = A, \\ &\Rightarrow A = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Now that we have our function u , we take the first and second derivatives with respect to x to solve for ϕ .

$$\begin{aligned} u_x &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[Be^{-\frac{\alpha g}{D}x} \right] \\ &= -\frac{B\alpha g}{D} e^{-\frac{\alpha g}{D}x} \end{aligned}$$

So our equation $Du_x + \alpha gu = 0$ becomes,

$$-(B\alpha g)e^{-\frac{\alpha g}{D}x} + (B\alpha g)e^{-\frac{\alpha g}{D}x} = 0$$

Since this equation is satisfied for all x , we do not further solve for the constant B . Thus, our equation is

$$u = Be^{-\frac{\alpha g}{D}x}$$

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11. Muskrats were accidentally introduced in Europe in 1905 and the biological invasion spread approximately radially in all directions. Let u_f define a predetermined magnitude of the population density on a circle of radius $r = r_f(t)$ as the front spreads. Use a diffusion-growth model to show that the speed of the wave front is approximately constant for large times t .

Solution. We take the given fundamental solution for the diffusion equation for a 2-dimensional radial symmetry problem and then multiply by the growth term, $e^{\gamma t}$ to get,

$$u(r, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi Dt} e^{-\frac{r(t)^2}{4Dt} + \gamma t}$$

Since we want the rate of change of the radius with respect to time, we will take the log of both side and solve for $r(t)$.

$$\begin{aligned} 4\pi Dtu &= e^{-\frac{r(t)^2}{4Dt} + \gamma t} \\ \ln(4\pi Dtu) &= -\frac{r(t)^2}{4Dt} + \gamma t \\ \frac{r(t)^2}{4Dt} &= -\ln(4\pi Dtu) + \gamma t \\ r(t)^2 &= 4D\gamma t^2 - 4D \ln(4\pi Dtu)t \\ r(t)^2 &\approx 4D\gamma t^2 && \text{(after a sufficiently long time } t) \\ r(t) &\approx 2\sqrt{D\gamma}t \\ \Rightarrow r'(t) &\approx 2\sqrt{D\gamma} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have shown that after a sufficiently long time has passed, then $r(t)$ will be a function of just some constant times t . Thus, the derivative of r with respect to t is constant.

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Section 1.5

2. Repeat the derivation in this section when the vertical motion of the string is retarded by a damping force proportional to the velocity of the string. Obtain the **damped wave equation**:

$$u_{tt} = c_0(x)^2 u_{xx} - ku_t$$

Solution. We start by letting $u(x, t)$ be the displacement of the string from its resting position. Let $\rho(x)$ be the density of the string at x . Let $T(x, t)$ be the tension of the string at position x and at time t . We also make the following assumptions to simplify this problem:

1. The string only oscillates vertically.
2. The density of the string $\rho(x)$ is constant.
3. The string is perfectly flexible. We do not consider the force due to resistance to bending.
4. The horizontal tension applied to the string $T(x, t)$ equals some constant τ .
5. The displacement u of the string is very small relative to length of string. This implies $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}[u] \ll 1$.

To derive the wave equation, we will apply Newton's second law, $F = ma$. On the right side of this equation we have mass times acceleration. Mass becomes the density of the string ρ times some length h . We need this length h because a density without an accompanying spatial dimension is not equal to mass. Acceleration is the second derivative of the position of the string, u . So $ma = \rho \cdot h \cdot u_{tt}$.

Next we look at the left side of the equation, the net forces on the string. We will look at some arbitrary section of string between x and $x + h$ for some small $h > 0$. We observe that the tension $T(x, t)$, which pulls in the direction tangential to the string, has both horizontal and vertical components. To find these component vectors we draw a horizontal line at the x value in which we are taking the derivative and take the angle θ between the horizontal line and the tangent line. We can see when plotting this that the horizontal components of tension are $-T(x, t) \cos \theta(x, t)$ and $T(x + h, t) \cos \theta(x + h, t)$ and the vertical components are $-T(x, t) \sin \theta(x, t)$ and $T(x + h, t) \sin \theta(x + h, t)$.

We now apply our assume that the horizontal tension applied to the string is constant, thus:

$$-T(x, t) \cos \theta(x, t) = T(x + h, t) \cos \theta(x + h, t) = \tau$$

Similarly, we find that the vertical forces on the string must be

$$-T(x, t) \sin \theta(x, t) + T(x + h, t) \sin \theta(x + h, t) - Ku_t$$

(Where Ku_x is the damping force due to gravity. We find that since Ku_t must have units of mass times length divided time squared, then K must have units of mass over time.)

With a little rearrangement of the first two vertical force terms, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} -T(x, t) \sin \theta(x, t) + T(x + h, t) \sin \theta(x + h, t) &= -T(x, t) \sin \theta(x, t) \frac{\cos \theta(x, t)}{\cos \theta(x, t)} + T(x + h, t) \sin \theta(x + h, t) \frac{\cos \theta(x + h, t)}{\cos \theta(x + h, t)} - Ku_t \\ &= -T(x, t) \cos \theta(x, t) \tan \theta(x, t) + T(x + h, t) \cos \theta(x + h, t) \tan \theta(x + h, t) - Ku_t \\ &= \tau \tan \theta(x + h, t) - \tau \tan \theta(x, t) - Ku_t \\ &= \tau (\tan \theta(x + h, t) - \tan \theta(x, t)) - Ku_t \\ &= \tau (u_x(x + h, t) - u_x(x, t)) - Ku_t \end{aligned}$$

(For sufficiently small h , we get that $\tan \theta(x, t) = u_x$ as discussed in class)

Putting everything together, we have $F = ma$ becomes, (we notice K has units mass/time which equals density times length over time so we let k equal the density over time portion of K . Thus, $K = kh$.)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tau(u_x(x+h, t) - u_x(x, t)) - Ku_t &= \rho h u_{tt} \\
 \tau(u_x(x+h, t) - u_x(x, t)) &= \rho h u_{tt} + k h u_t \\
 \frac{\tau(u_x(x+h, t) - u_x(x, t))}{h} &= \frac{\rho h u_{tt} + k h u_t}{h} \\
 \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tau(u_x(x+h, t) - u_x(x, t))}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \rho u_{tt} \\
 \tau u_{xx} &= \rho u_{tt} + k u_t \\
 u_{xx} &= \frac{\rho}{\tau} u_{tt} + \frac{k}{\tau} u_t \\
 u_{xx} &= c_0(x)^2 u_{tt} + k_2 u_t
 \end{aligned}$$

Where $c_0(x) = \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{\tau}}$ and $k_2 = \frac{k}{\tau}$. Note: the reason we can let $c_0(x)$ equal the square root of $\frac{\rho}{\tau}$ is because we found that τ was found to be a positive constant and ρ was found to be positive as well.

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