1 9/5 PDE terminology & philosophy

PDE: equation for a multivariate function that involves its partial derivatives.

Example: $u_y = x$.
Example: $(yu)_y = 1$.

General solution of a PDE.

Formally: PDE: $F(u, x_i, u_{x_i}, u_{x_i x_j}, \dots) = 0$

Order of a pde
Linear PDE.
Linear homogeneous PDE.

What are the order and linearality of the following PDEs?
$u_x + u_{yyx} = 1$, $uu_x + u = 0$, $u_x + (x^2 + y^2)u_{yy} = 1$.

Some PDEs we will focus on later:

Heat: $u_t = u_{xx}$: (heat transmission, diffusion)
Laplace: $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$: (static electric field, Newton's gravity, equilibrium of random walk)
Wave: $u_{tt} = u_{xx}$: (sound wave, other waves in physics)

Other important linear PDEs:

Dispersive wave equations: $u_{tt} = u_{xx} - ku_{xxxx}$ (stiff string)
Cauchy-Riemann equation: $u_x = v_y$, $u_y = -v_x$

Non-linear PDEs you may see in later classes:
Navier-Stokes
Nonlinear Schrodinger: $iu_t = -\Delta u + k|u|^2 u$
KdV: $u_t + u_{xxx} + 6uu_x = 0$, etc.

Example: growth of bacteria. Baseline: GMCF (geodesic mean curvature flow) $u_t = A\frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \cdot \nabla u + B|\nabla u|\nabla \cdot \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|}$.

Types of problems:
Evolution model (with time): Boundary condition. Initial condition. Initial value problem. Initial-boundary value problem.
Steady state model (no time): boundary value problem.

Typical questions in the theory of PDE:
Existence
Uniqueness
Regularity
Continuous dependency on boundary

Typical strategy: integral transform: $(Tu)(y) = \int u(x)K(x,y)dx$, then $T(u_x) = \int u_x(x)K(x,y)dx = -\int u(x)K_x(x,y)dx$, assume some decay conditions on the boundary (or infinity).

Problem: Is such a transform well defined?

Connection with harmonic analysis.

Use of symmetry (method of mirror images, spherical symmetry etc.)
Example: solve $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 1$, where $u = 0$ on the unit circle.

Example: $u_x = u_t$, $u_x = u_t + 1$.

2 9/7 Review of ODE, Advection and Diffusion

Review of ODE & multivatiable calculus topics:

- $u' + p(t)u + q(t) = 0$
- $u''' + Au'' + Bu' + Cu = 0$
- Chain rule: Example: $u_{xx} = u_{tt}$, what happens with change-of-variable $y = x + t$, $w = x - t$?
- Fubini's theorem.
- Differentiating an integral. Example: $\frac{d}{dt} \int_0^{t^2} \sin(ts)ds$.
  Solution: Let $x = t, y = t$, then $\frac{d}{dt} \int_0^{t^2} e^{-ts^2}ds = \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^{x^2} e^{-ys^2}ds = (\int_0^{x^2} e^{-ys^2}ds)_x + (\int_0^{x^2} e^{-ys^2}ds)_y = 2x \cdot e^{-y(x^2)^2} + \int_0^{x^2} (e^{-ys^2})_y ds = 2xe^{-y(x^2)^2} - \int_0^{x^2} s^2 e^{-ys^2}ds = 2te^{-t^5} - \int_0^{t^2} s^2 e^{-ts^2}ds$.
- Example: $u_{tt} = u_{xx} + u_{yy}$, $u(x, y, t) = \sin(x \cos\theta + y \sin\theta + t)$ are solutions, hence $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin(x \cos\theta + y \sin\theta + t)d\theta$ is also a solution.

PDE from conservation laws, 1-dimensional case:

Consider the flow of some material whose total quantity remain unchanged, along a thin tube with section area $A(x)$. Then, conservation means:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b u(x, t)A(x)dx = A(a)\phi(a, t) - A(b)\phi(b, t) + \int_a^b f(x, t)A(x)dx$$

ϕ: *flux*. f: *source*.

Differentiate w.r.t. b one gets: $Au_t = -A\phi_x - A'\phi + fA$.

- $\phi = u$: e.g. cars which travels at the same speed, age distribution etc.
- $\phi = -u_x$: heat conduction etc.
- $\phi = u - u_x$: contaminated flow etc.
- $f = -u$: decay.

Relationship with random motion: see $u(\cdot, t)$ as the probability distribution.

Example: $u_t = u_x - u$. Decay vs. "widening".

Example: u has two components (e.g. mass, momentum): wave equation.

3 9/12 Method of characteristics

Question: first order linear PDE in 2 dimension: $u_t + fu_x + gu + h = 0$

First consider the case when $g = h = 0$. Recall that for 1st order ODE, there is a concept of *first integral*: the solution of $x'F_x + F_t = 0$ are the level curves of $F(x,t)$. Hence, the level curves of u are exactly the solutions of $x' = f$, which are called *characteristics*.

Example: $u_t = xu_x - u$.

Example: $u_t = u_x + u_y$.

Example: $u_t = \sin tu_x + 1$.

Non-linear advection: $u_t = f(u)u_x$: level curves are straight lines of slope $f(c)$. Breaking time.
Example: $u_t = (1-u)u_x$.

4 9/14 Diffusion, fundamental solutions

Review of method of characteristics: $u_t + cu_x = x$.

Fick's law: $\phi = -Du_x$, which results in $u_t = Du_{xx}$. Simple observation:

1. Steady state solution: $u = ax + b$.
2. Loss of information: should study initial value problem: $u_t = u_{xx}$, $u(x,0) = f(x)$ on region $t > 0$.
3. Time scale: remains unchanged under $t = c^2t'$, $x = cx'$.
4. Conservation of the "total heat": $\int udx$ remain unchanged.

One could expect solution whose "shape" remain unchanged as one scales as in (3). However the integral in (4) changes under this scaling, so one should expect a factor of $t^{-1/2}$. Let $u = t^{-1/2}v(x^2/t)$, then v can be chosen as $v = Ce^{-s/4}$. One can normalize it into $u = \frac{1}{4\pi Dt}e^{-x^2/4t}$.

This is called the *fundamental solution* of heat equation in one dimension. δ distribution.

Alternative interpretation of the fundamental solution: discretize, then use central limit theorem. General solution: Convolution.

Fundamental solution of heat equations in higher dimensions?

$u_t = u_x + u_{xx}$

Method of mirrors: IBV problem.

5 9/18 Wave equation

$$u_{tt} = u_{xx}$$

Model 1: String vibration: u_{tt} proportional to force which is characterized by u_{xx}.

Model 2: Sound wave in 1-dimension: $\rho_t = -(\rho v)_x$, $(\rho v)_t = -(\rho v^2)_x - p_x$, $p = k\rho^\gamma$.

Review: general solution.

Solution for initial value problem.

Sound speed.

Initial-boundary value problems with one boundary (mirror), initial-boundary value problems with 2 boundaries, periodicity.

(Optional) Sepherical waves in higher dimensions.

6 9/21 Wave equation, boundary conditions, review of multivariable calculus

Correction: derivation of the general solution of 1-D wave equation:

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$$
$$(\partial_t + c\partial_x)(\partial_t - c\partial_x)u = 0$$
$$(\partial_t + c\partial_x)u = f(x+ct)$$
$$u = G_1(x-ct) + \int_o^t f(cs + (x-ct) + cs)ds$$
$$F_1' = f$$
$$u = G_1(x-ct) + (F_1(x+ct) - F_1(x-ct))/c = (G_1 - F_1/c)(x-ct) + (F_1/c)(x+ct)$$

Now let $G = G_1 - F_1/c$, $F = F_1/c$.

Boundary conditions: Dirichlet, Neumann, Robin.

Homogeneous boundary condition.

Example: $u_{tt} = u_{xx}$, $u(0,t) = 0$, $u_X(1,t) = 0$, general solution?

Example: non-homogeneous boundary and non-homogeneous equations

Example: $u_{tt} = u_{xx} + \sin x$.

Vector field in 3 dimension: $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^3$. *grad*, *div* and *curl*. Stokes theorem in $\mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{R}^2$, $\mathbb{R}^3$.

7 9/26 Heat equation in high dimension, Laplace equation

Mass balance in high dimension: $u_t + div\phi = 0$. Heat: $\phi = -kgrad(u)$.

Steady-state: Laplace equation.

Maximal principle, uniqueness.

Example of solutions. Fundamental solution.

Variational principle.

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Laplacian in sepherical coordinates. Sepherical harmonics.

8 9/28 Types of PDEs

Consider 2nd order equation $Au_{xx}+Bu_{xy}+Cu_{yy}+f(u,u_x,u_y,x,y)=0$. It is called elliptic/parabolic/hyperbolic iff $Ax^2+Bxy+Cy^2$ is positive or negative definite/degenerate/indefinite.

Canonical forms: $u_{xx}+u_{yy}+\cdots=0$, $u_{xy}+\cdots=0$, $u_{xx}+\cdots=0$
Example: different types at different places.

Example: type remains unchanged under coordinate change: polar coordinate.

9 10/3 Heat equation

Formula for the Green's function/fundamental solution $G(x,t)$.

Properties: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(x,t)dx = 1$, $\lim_{t\to 0^+}\int_{|x|>c>0} G(x,t)dx = 0$, $G_t = kG_{xx}$.

Poisson integration formula: is a solution: linearality; initial condition: the properties above.

Non-uniqueness of the solution: Tychonov 1935

Higher dimension.

Theorem (Poisson integration): If f is a bounded continuous function, then a solution of $u_t = ku_{xx}$ when $t > 0$, $u(x,0) = f(x)$ is:

$$u = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(y)G(x-y,t)dy$$

Proof: By computation we know that:

1. $\int_{\mathbb{R}} G(x,t)dx = 1$
2. For any $c > 0$, $\int_{x\notin[-c,c]} G(x,t)dx \to 0$ as $t \to 0$.
3. $G_t = kG_{xx}$

$u_t = ku_{xx}$ follows from 3. and the fact that all infinite integrals involves converges absolutely. Now we need to show the initial condition, i.e. that $u(x,t) \to f(x)$ as $t \to 0^+$. Let M be a bound of $|f(x)|$.

For any $c > 0$,

$$|u(x,t) - f(x)|$$

$$\leq |\int_{x-c}^{x+c} f(x)G(x-y,t)dy - f(x)| + |\int_{x-c}^{x+c} (f(y)-f(x))G(x-y,t)dy| + |\int_{y\notin[x-c,x+c]} f(y)G(x-y,t)dy|$$

$$\leq |f(x)\int_{y\notin[-c,c]} G(y,t)dy| + \sup_{x-c<y<x+c} |f(y)-f(x)| + M|\int_{y\notin[-c,c]} G(y,t)dy|$$

Now, for any $\epsilon > 0$, let c be small enough so that $\sup_{x-c<y<x+c} |f(y)-f(x)| < \epsilon/2$, t be small enough so that $|\int_{y\notin[-c,c]} G(y,t)dy| < \epsilon/4M$, then $|u(x,t)-f(x)| < \epsilon$. Hence $u(x,t) \to f(x)$ as $t \to 0$. Furthermore, because any continuous function is absolutely continuous when restricted to a bounded closed neighborhood, the convergence is uniform when x is restricted to any bounded interval. Hence u is continuous on $t = 0$.

10 10/5 Examples, Poisson problem for wave equation

$u_t = u_{xx}$, $u(x,0) = \chi_{[-1,1]}$

$u_t = u_{xx}$, $u(x,0) = e^{-x^2}$

erf function: $erf(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt$

d'Alembert from change of variable: $u_{tt} = k^2 u_{xx}$, $p = x + kt$, $q = x - kt$, then $u_{pq} = 0$, $u = F(p) + G(q)$. Now $u(x,0) = f(x)$, $u_t(x,0) = g(x)$, which in p,q-coordinate means $F(x) + G(x) = f$, $kF'(x) - kG'(x) = 0$. Solve for F and G then one gets the d'Alembert formula.

Negative and positive characteristics, domain of influence and domain of dependence

11 Review for Midterm I

The following may appear in the first midterm:

- Simplify PDE by substitution
- Prove properties of the solution by chain rules, fundamental theorem of calculus, and divergence theorem
- Solve PDE by reducing it to ODE either through restriction to a curve or through the use of symmetry.
- Obtain particular solution from the general solution by applying boundary condition.
- Method of characteristics
- General solution of 1-dimensional wave equations
- Poisson integration representation for initial value problem of the heat equation
- Can recognize elliptic, parabolic and hyperbolic 2nd-order equations

Practice problems:

1. Solve the initial value problem $u_t + \sin t u_x = 1$, $u(x, 0) = \sin x$.
Solution: By method of characteristics, the general solution is $u(x,t) = t + F(x + \cos t)$, so $u(x,t) = t + \sin(x + \cos t - 1)$.

2. Find the steady state solution of $u_t = u_{xx} + xu_x$.
Solution: The steady state solution satisfies $u_{xx} + xu_x = 0$, hence $u = A\int_0^x e^{-t^2/2}dt + B$. You can also write it using the erf function.

3. Consider the equation: $u_{tt} = u_{xx} + u_{yy}$. If a solution satisfy $u = \sin t v(x,y)$, what is the PDE v satisfies? Can you find a solution when v depends only on y?
Solution: By product law, we get $v_{xx} + v_{yy} + v = 0$. If v depends only on y then $v = A\cos y + B\sin y$.

4. Consider the boundary value problem $u_{tt} = u_{xx} - u_t$, $u(0,t) = u(1,t) = 0$. Show that the function $\int_0^1 u_t^2 + u_x^2 dx$ is decreasing. What's the limit of u as $t \to \infty$?
Solution: $\frac{d}{dt}\int_0^1 u_t^2 + u_x^2 dx = \int_0^1 2u_t u_{tt} + 2u_x u_{xt} dx = 2(u_t u_x)|_0^1 - 2\int_0^1 u_t^2 dx \leq 0$. As $t \to \infty$, the energy $\int_0^1 u_t^2 + u_x^2 dx$ will decay towards 0, and the limit will be 0.

12 10/10 Well posed problem, review

Some known solutions of IVP:

- $u_t = u_x$, $u(x,0) = f(x)$
  Answer: $u(x,t) = f(x+t)$.

- $u_{tt} = u_{xx}$, $u(x,0) = f(x)$, $u_t(x,0) = g(x)$
  Answer: $u(x,t) = \frac{1}{2}(f(x+t) + f(x-t)) + \frac{1}{2}\int_{x-t}^{x+t} g(s)ds$.

- $u_t = u_{xx}$, $u(x,0) = f(x)$, u bounded. (or $\leq Ce^{Cx^2}$)
  Answer: $u(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(s)G(x-s)ds$.

In all cases, we have: (1) solution exist. (2) solution is unique. (3) solution depends on the initial condition continuously. Hence we call them **well posed** problems.

Example of non-well-posed problems:

Nonlinear advection.
Reverse heat equation.
$u_{xx} + u_{tt} = 0$.

Review:
1. $u_t = tu_x$, $u(x,0) = x^2$.

2. $u_{tt} = u_{xx} - u$: steady state?