

18.306 : Advanced PDE with Applications

Handout 5 : Review of 1st-order PDE

I. General Theory for solutions

The main idea in solving a 1st-order PDE is to reduce it to a system of ODE along certain curves called characteristics. For the sake of clarity (and convenience), I review two major cases of PDE.

(A) Quasi-linear 1st-order PDE : $a(x,y,u) \cdot u_x + b(x,y,u) \cdot u_y = c(x,y,u)$ (1)
[Of course, this case may include linear 1st-order PDE.]

The characteristics are viewed as curves in the (3-dimensional) (x,y,u) space. The desired system of ODE is written in the form

$$\frac{dx}{a} = \frac{dy}{b} = \frac{du}{c} \quad (2)$$

In solving this system, you may want to make one of the following choices:

(i) Start with a pair in (2) that finally, i.e., after mutual cancellations, involves only two variables and their differentials and therefore leads to a self-contained ODE.

Example : $xu_x + yu_y = 9x^2 + y^2$ (3)

CHAR : $\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dy}{y} = \frac{du}{9x^2 + y^2}$ (4)

Note that it is not a good idea to start with a pair that involves du . For instance, taking $\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{du}{9x^2 + y^2}$ will not lead anywhere since you have to deal with all 3 variables (and you need to solve an ODE, with 2 variables!)

A good choice is:

$$\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dy}{y} \Leftrightarrow d(\ln x) = d(\ln y) \Leftrightarrow y = C_1 x, \quad C_1 = \text{const.}$$

Then, you can replace y by $C_1 x$ and determine u as a function of x :

$$\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{du}{9x^2 + (C_1 x)^2} \Leftrightarrow du = (9x + C_1^2 x) dx \Leftrightarrow u = \frac{9}{2} x^2 + \frac{y^2}{2} + C_2$$

General solution: $u - \frac{9}{2} x^2 - \frac{1}{2} y^2 = F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$, or $u - \frac{9}{2} x^2 - \frac{1}{2} y^2 = G\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$, (5)

F, G : arbitrary.

- END-EXAMPLE -

(ii) Combine terms in (2) so that you can define new variables, as combinations of x, y, u , that enable you to identify and solve a self-contained ODE (involving 2 variables).

Example [Prob. 1(a) of Prac. Set 2] : $(y+u)u_x + (x+u)u_y = x+y$. (6)

CHAR: $\frac{dx}{y+u} = \frac{dy}{x+u} = \frac{du}{x+y}$. (7) Note: No single pair gives a self-contained ODE.

One can make use of the identity $\frac{a_1}{b_1} = \frac{a_2}{b_2} = \frac{a_3}{b_3} = \frac{a_1+a_2+a_3}{b_1+b_2+b_3} = \frac{a_1-a_2}{b_1-b_2} = \frac{a_2-a_3}{b_2-b_3}$

if $\frac{a_1}{b_1} = \frac{a_2}{b_2} = \frac{a_3}{b_3}$.

Hence, (7) gives: $\frac{d(x+y+u)}{(y+u)+(x+u)+(x+y)} = \frac{d(y-u)}{(x+u)-(x+y)} \Leftrightarrow \frac{d(x+y+u)}{2(x+y+u)} = -\frac{d(u-y)}{u-y}$

So, treat $x+y+u$ and $u-y$ as new variables:

$$\frac{1}{2} d \ln |x+y+u| = -d \ln |u-y| \Leftrightarrow |x+y+u|^{1/2} = \frac{C_1'}{|u-y|} \Leftrightarrow x+y+u = \frac{C_1}{(u-y)^2}. \quad (8)$$

Further, (7) gives: $-\frac{d(y-u)}{y-u} = -\frac{d(x-u)}{x-u} \Leftrightarrow y-u = C_2 \cdot (x-u)$ (9)

From (8) and (9), one way to write the general solution is:

$$u = \frac{y - C_2 x}{1 - C_2} = \frac{y - x \cdot G[(x+y+u)(u-y)^2]}{1 - G[(x+y+u)(u-y)^2]} \quad \text{or, altern., } (x+y+u)(u-y)^2 = F\left(\frac{u-x}{u-y}\right)$$

arbitrary

— END EXAMPLE —

An extension of case (A) considers the PDE

$$a(x,y,z,u)u_x + b(x,y,z,u)u_y + c(x,y,z,u)u_z = d(x,y,z,u), \quad (10)$$

where the characteristics are viewed as curves in the 4-dimensional (x,y,z,u) space.

CHAR: $\frac{dx}{a} = \frac{dy}{b} = \frac{dz}{c} = \frac{du}{d}$ (11)

Example: $xu_x + yu_y + uu_z = 0$

CHAR: $\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dy}{y} = \frac{dz}{u} = \frac{du}{0}$ (12)

$\Rightarrow du = 0 \Rightarrow u = C_1 = \text{const.}$

$\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dy}{y} \Rightarrow y = C_2 x$

$\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dz}{u} \Rightarrow z = C_1 \ln x + C_3 \Leftrightarrow x = C_3 e^{z/u}$

General solution:

$$u = F\left(\frac{y}{x}, x e^{-z/u}\right) \quad (13)$$

↳ fcn of 2 variables

[Think: u is $C_1 = \text{const.}$ when $\frac{y}{x} = C_2 = \text{const}$ and $x e^{-z/u} = C_3 = \text{const.}$

So, to each (C_2, C_3) there corresponds $u = C_1$ etc.]

— END EXAMPLE —

(B) General 1st-order PDE: $H(x, y, u, p, q) = 0$; $p \equiv u_x, q \equiv u_y$. (14)

Charpit's eqns: $\frac{dx}{H_p} = \frac{dy}{H_q} = \frac{du}{pH_p + qH_q} = \frac{-dp}{H_x + H_u p} = \frac{-dq}{H_y + H_u q}$. (15)

In this case, the characteristics are viewed as curves in the 5-dim. space (x, y, u, p, q) .

Example [Prob. 4 of Prac. Set 2] $H = p - q - apq$; $p = u_x, q = u_y$. (16)

Charpit's eqns: $\frac{dx}{1-aq} = \frac{dy}{-(1+ap)} = \frac{du}{p(1-aq) - q(1+ap)} = \frac{-dp}{0} = \frac{-dq}{0}$. (17)

It follows that $p = C_1 = \text{const}$ and $q = C_2 = \text{const}$ along CHAR. (18)

$\frac{dx}{1-aC_2} = \frac{dy}{-(1+aC_1)} \Leftrightarrow -(1+aC_1)x + C_3 = (1-aC_2)y$

$\Leftrightarrow (1-aq)y = -(1+ap)x + C_3$. (19)

$\frac{dx}{1-aC_2} = \frac{du}{C_1 - C_2 - 2aC_1C_2} \Leftrightarrow (1-aC_2)u = (C_1 - C_2 - 2aC_1C_2)x + C_4$

$\Leftrightarrow (1-aq)u = (p - q - 2apq)x + C_4$ (20)

The general solution to (16) is described (in terms of arbitrary constants C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4) by Eqs (18) - (20); this form is called a complete integral of (16).

If initial data is given for u , we can determine C_1, C_2, C_3 and C_4 in terms of data parameters and then find the solution to (16) either explicitly or in an implicit form $f(x, y, u) = 0$. -END EXAMPLE-

Example : Solve $H = p - q - apq = 0$ with $u(x, 0) = x$.

Parametrize data ($x=s$): $u(s, 0) = s \Rightarrow p = 1$.

$$H=0 \Rightarrow q = \frac{p}{1+ap} = \frac{1}{1+a}$$

From p. 4, we express C_1, C_2, C_3 and C_4 in terms of s :

$$C_1 = 1, \quad C_2 = \frac{1}{1+a} \quad (21)$$

$$(19) : \left(1 - \frac{a}{1+a}\right) \cdot 0 = -(1+a)s + C_3 \Rightarrow C_3 = (1+a)s \quad (22)$$

$$(20) : \left(1 - \frac{a}{1+a}\right) \cdot s = \left(1 - \frac{1}{1+a} - 2a \frac{1}{1+a}\right) s + C_4 \Rightarrow C_4 = s.$$

$$So, (19) : \frac{1}{1+a} y = -(1+a)x + (1+a)s \Leftrightarrow s = x + \frac{y}{(1+a)^2} \quad (23)$$

$$(20) : \frac{u}{1+a} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{1+a} - \frac{2a}{1+a}\right) x + s \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow u(x, y) = x + \frac{y}{1+a} \quad (24)$$

- END EXAMPLE -

II. Shocks and shock conditions

• In the particular case where the PDE takes the form of a conservation law,

$$p_t + q_x = 0, \quad p: \text{"density"}, \quad q: \text{"flux"}, \quad (25)$$

we showed in class that $p = p(x, t)$ may become multiple-valued. This situation is remedied, within (25), by allowing for a discontinuous solution, called "shock".

The "shock condition" on the shock speed $U = x_{sh}(t)$, if a shock develops, is

$$U = \frac{q^+ - q^-}{p^+ - p^-} \quad (26)$$

important; remember this!

where q^\pm, p^\pm are ^{the} values of q and p left (-) and right (+) of the shock.

[Recall: In order to derive (26) we used the integrated form of (25), viz.,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{x_2}^{x_1} dx p(x,t) = q(x_2,t) - q(x_1,t), \quad \text{where } x_2 < x_{sh} < x_1;$$

so no explicit assumption has to be made about the specific form of $q(x,t)$.]

• More particularly, when $q = Q(p)$ (as in traffic flow), (26) reads

$$u = \frac{Q(p^+) - Q(p^-)}{p^+ - p^-} \quad (27)$$

By defining $F(\xi) \equiv c(p(\xi,0))$ where $c(p) \equiv Q'(p)$ and $p(x,0)$ is the initial density (at $t=0$), $p(x,t)$ starts to develop a shock when ξ parametrizes the initial data!

$$t = t_B = \frac{1}{|F'(\xi)|_{\max}} \quad (\text{earliest breaking time}). \quad (28)$$

The condition for a shock to occur is

$$\boxed{F'(\xi) < 0} \quad \text{somewhere.} \quad (29)$$

Then, p_x and p_t become infinite when

$$p_x, p_t \rightarrow \infty : \quad \underline{1 + F'(\xi) \cdot t = 0}, \quad (30)$$

where ξ parametrizes the value $p(\xi,0)$ of the initial data corresponding to this time t .

Remark: Eq. (28) may even account for the case of discontinuous $p(x,0)$; just consider $\sqrt[p]{p(x,0)}$ as the limit of a smooth $p(x,0)$ with the slope $|F'(\xi)|$ becoming infinitely large!
 $\Rightarrow t_B \rightarrow 0^+$

III. PDE systems

With $u_j = u_j(x, t)$ and $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, an $n \times n$ system of PDE for u_j is

$$A_{ij} u_{j,t} + a_{ij} u_{j,x} + b_i = 0, \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad (31)$$

where $\underbrace{A_{ij}, a_{ij}}_{\text{matrices}}$ and $\underbrace{b_i}_{\text{vector}}$ may depend on u_j, x, t but not on $u_{j,x}$ and $u_{j,t}$.

To find the characteristics of (31) satisfying

$$\delta x = \alpha \cdot \epsilon, \quad \delta t = \beta \cdot \epsilon, \quad (32)$$

i.e., in order to determine the characteristic directions (α, β) , it suffices to find (α, β) so that the system of linear equations

$$\ell_i (\alpha A_{ij} - \beta a_{ij}) = 0 \quad (33)$$

has non-trivial (non-zero) solutions. Hence,

$$\det [\alpha A_{ij} - \beta a_{ij}] = 0. \quad (34)$$

The system (31) is called hyperbolic if (33) is solved by n linearly independent vectors $\underline{\ell}^{(k)} = (\ell_1^{(k)}, \ell_2^{(k)}, \dots, \ell_n^{(k)})$, where $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and the corresponding $(\alpha^{(k)}, \beta^{(k)})$ are real with $\alpha^{(k)2} + \beta^{(k)2} \neq 0$.

[If ~~there~~ exist non-real (complex) solutions (α, β) of (34), then the system (31) is called elliptic. More about this in class...]

If we assume that $\beta \neq 0$, (34) gives

$$\det [a_{ij} - \kappa A_{ij}] = 0, \quad (34')$$

where $\kappa \equiv \frac{\alpha}{\beta}$. In the case where t is time, the ratio $\kappa = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} = \frac{\delta x}{\delta t} \rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt}$ is denoted by $c = \frac{dx}{dt}$: characteristic speed of system (31).

Problems - Examples

1 (P.6 of P.Set 1) $yu_x - xu_y = 0, \quad x = \rho \cos \varphi, \quad y = \rho \sin \varphi.$

Hint: Express $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ in terms of ρ, φ ; $\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad \varphi = \tan^{-1}(\frac{y}{x}).$:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} + \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} = \frac{x}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} + \left(-\frac{y}{x^2} \cdot \frac{x^2}{\rho^2}\right) \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} = \cos \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} - \sin \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} ;$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} + \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} = \frac{y}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} + \left(\frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{x^2}{\rho^2}\right) \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} = \sin \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} + \cos \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} .$$

PDE in ρ, φ : $\rho \sin \varphi \left[\underbrace{\cos \varphi \frac{\partial u}{\partial \rho} - \sin \varphi \frac{\partial u}{\partial \varphi}}_{u_x} \right] - \rho \cos \varphi \left[\underbrace{\sin \varphi \frac{\partial u}{\partial \rho} + \cos \varphi \frac{\partial u}{\partial \varphi}}_{u_y} \right] = 0$

$$\Leftrightarrow -(\sin^2 \varphi + \cos^2 \varphi) \frac{\partial u}{\partial \varphi} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial u}{\partial \varphi} = 0 \quad !$$

2 (P. 8 of P.Set 1) $yu_x + xu_y = 2xy.$

(a) CHAR: $\frac{dx}{y} = \frac{dy}{x} = \frac{du}{2xy}$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \textcircled{1}: \quad x dx = y dy \Leftrightarrow x^2 - y^2 = C_1 = \text{const.} \\ \textcircled{2}: \quad dy = \frac{du}{2y} \Leftrightarrow u = y^2 + C_2 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{arbitrary} \\ u(x,y) = y^2 + F(x^2 - y^2) \\ \text{(general solution)} \end{array}$$

(b) $u = y$ on $x^2 + y^2 = 1 \Rightarrow y^2 = 1 - x^2$, or $x^2 = 1 - y^2$.

From general solution: $y = y^2 + F(1 - 2y^2) \Leftrightarrow F(1 - 2y^2) = y - y^2.$

Set $w = 1 - 2y^2 \Rightarrow y = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(1-w)} : F(w) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(1-w)} - \frac{1}{2}(1-w).$

↑ please check algebra!

Put back to general solution (and replace w by $x^2 - y^2$!):

$$u(x,y) = y^2 + \left[\pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(1-x^2+y^2)} - \frac{1}{2}(1-x^2+y^2) \right] \text{ etc.}$$

This solution ^{representation} is valid for $1-x^2+y^2 > 0 \Leftrightarrow x^2-y^2 < 1$. (bec. of sq. root)

A better way to write this solution stems from eliminating the square root:

$$u = y^2 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{y^2}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(1-x^2+y^2)} \Leftrightarrow u - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{y^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(1-x^2+y^2)}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{\left(u - \frac{x^2+y^2-1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{1-x^2+y^2}{2}}$$

, which represents a surface in (x,y,u) .

(no restriction is posed on x,y)

3 (P. 10 of Pr. Set 1) $u_x + u_y = u^2$

CHAR: $\frac{dx}{1} = \frac{dy}{1} = \frac{du}{u^2}$

①: $y-x = C_1 = \text{const.}$

②: $d(-\frac{1}{u}) = dx \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{u} = -x + C_2$

Hence, $u = \frac{1}{F(y-x) - x}$: general solution ; F : arbitrary

$u=x$ on $y=-x$: $\frac{u}{-y} = \frac{1}{F(2y)+y} \Leftrightarrow F(2y)+y = \frac{-1}{y} \Leftrightarrow F(2y) = \frac{-1}{y} - y$

Thus; $u = \frac{1}{\frac{-2}{y-x} - \frac{y-x}{2} - x} = \frac{2(x-y)}{4+(x-y)^2 - 2x(x-y)}$

Where does $u \rightarrow \infty$?
For what (x,y)

4 (P.6 of Pr. Set 2) Hint:

By definition of μ , if we multiply the ODE by μ ,

$$\mu a dx + \mu b dy = 0,$$

the ODE should be in the form

$$P dx + Q dy = 0; \quad P = \mu a, \quad Q = \mu b,$$

where the LHS should be the exact differential of some R :

$$dR = P dx + Q dy = 0,$$

i.e., $P = \frac{\partial R}{\partial x}$ and $Q = \frac{\partial R}{\partial y}$. Therefore, the condition on μ is

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial(\mu a)}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial(\mu b)}{\partial x}.$$

$$\text{PDE for } \mu: \quad b\mu_x - a\mu_y = a_y\mu - b_x\mu$$

$$\text{CHAR:} \quad \frac{dx}{b} = \frac{dy}{-a} = \frac{d\mu}{\mu(a_y - b_x)}$$

$$\text{For } a = 3xy + 2y^2, \quad b = 3xy + 2x^2 \Rightarrow a_y - b_x = (3x + 4y) - (3y + 4x) = -x + y.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{3xy + 2x^2} = \frac{dy}{-(3xy + 2y^2)} = \frac{d\mu}{-\mu(x-y)}$$

$$\text{From first two equations:} \quad \frac{d(x+y)}{2(x^2 - y^2)} = \frac{dx}{3xy + 2x^2} = \frac{dy}{-(3xy + 2y^2)} = \frac{d\mu}{-\mu(x-y)}$$

①

$$\textcircled{1}: \quad \frac{d(x+y)}{2(x-y)(x+y)} = \frac{d\mu}{-\mu(x-y)} \Leftrightarrow d\ln|x+y| = -2d\ln|\mu| \Leftrightarrow \mu = \frac{C_1}{(x+y)^{1/2}}$$

(new variable: $x+y$)

$$\text{For } \underline{C_1 = 1} \text{ we get } \boxed{\mu = \frac{1}{(x+y)^{1/2}}} \dots \text{(CONTINUE!)}$$

5 (Problem from gas dynamics; similar to Prob. 10 Prac. Set 2)

The density ρ , velocity u , entropy S and pressure p of a gas satisfy the PDE system

$$\begin{cases} \rho_t + u\rho_x + \rho u_x = 0 \\ u_t + uu_x + \frac{1}{\rho} P_x = 0 \\ S_t + uS_x = 0 \end{cases}$$

where $p = p(\rho, S)$ must be eliminated through:
$$P_x = \rho_x \underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial \rho}\right)}_{\equiv a^2} + S_x \underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial S}\right)}_{\equiv b^2}$$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{\partial p}{\partial \rho} > 0 \text{ (by assumption)}$$

Hence, the system takes the matrix form

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{[A_{ij}]} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \rho_t \\ u_t \\ S_t \end{pmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} u & p & 0 \\ a^2/\rho & u & b^2/\rho \\ 0 & 0 & u \end{pmatrix}}_{[a_{ij}]} \begin{pmatrix} \rho_x \\ u_x \\ S_x \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$

The characteristic speeds $c = \frac{dx}{dt}$ are found via solving

$$\det[A - cA] = 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{vmatrix} u-c & p & 0 \\ a^2/\rho & u-c & b^2/\rho \\ 0 & 0 & u-c \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Leftrightarrow (u-c) \cdot [(u-c)^2 - a^2] = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} c = u \\ c = u \pm a \end{cases} \quad \text{(taking } a > 0, \text{ with } \frac{\partial p}{\partial \rho} \equiv a^2 > 0 \text{)}.$$

To find the characteristic equations, i.e., the combinations of variations of ρ, u, S that remain 0 along the characteristics in this case, one must solve for l_i :

$$l_i \cdot (a_{ij} - cA_{ij}) = 0 \quad \text{for } c = u, c = u \pm a$$

Answers (see also Ex. 8, p.121 of Whitham; only answers are given there too):

$$(i) \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = c = u: \quad (l_1 \ l_2 \ l_3) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & p & 0 \\ a^2/p & 0 & b^2/p \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} l_1 = 0 \\ l_2 = 0 \\ l_3: \text{arbitrary} \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Combination of eqns:} \quad 0 \cdot (p_t + up_x + pu_x) + 0 \cdot (u_t + uu_x + \frac{1}{p} p_x) + l_3 \cdot (p_t + up_x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{p_t + u p_x}_{\frac{dx}{dt}} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{ds}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{along CHAR} \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = u.$$

$$(ii) \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = u+a: \quad (l_1 \ l_2 \ l_3) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -a & p & 0 \\ a^2/p & -a & b^2/p \\ 0 & 0 & -a \end{pmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} l_1 = a^2 \leftarrow \text{set} \\ \rightarrow l_2 = ap \\ \rightarrow l_3 = b^2 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{It follows that} \quad \frac{dp}{dt} + ap \frac{du}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{along} \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = u+a$$

$$(iii) \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = u-a \quad (a \leftrightarrow -a): \quad \frac{dp}{dt} - ap \frac{du}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{along CHAR.}$$

Is the system hyperbolic or not? Explain.