Preliminary Exam Partial Differential Equations 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Friday, Aug. 28, 2020 Room: ECCR 244

Student ID (do NOT write your name):

#	possible	score
1	25	
2	25	
3	25	
4	25	
5	25	
Total	100	

There are five problems. Solve four of the five problems. Each problem is worth 25 points.

A sheet of convenient formulae is provided.

1. Quasilinear first order equations. The density of cars $\rho(x, t)$ in a traffic model satisfies the continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\rho(1-\rho) \right] = 0, \qquad t > 0, -\infty < x < \infty$$

with initial conditions

$$\rho(x,0) = \rho_0(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} 1 - x^2, & -1 < x < 1, \\ 0, & |x| \ge 1. \end{array} \right.$$

- (a) (15 points) Find $\rho(x,t)$ for times t less than the time at which a shock forms.
- (b) (10 points) Find the time at which a shock forms.

Solution:

(a) The PDE can be rewritten as

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + (1 - 2\rho)\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} = 0.$$
(1)

The characteristics are determined by the equations

$$\frac{dt}{d\tau} = 1,\tag{2}$$

$$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = 1 - 2\rho,\tag{3}$$

$$\frac{d\rho}{d\tau} = 0. \tag{4}$$

Inserting the initial conditions t(0) = 0, $\rho(0) = \rho_0(x_0)$, $x(0) = x_0$, we find that ρ is constant along the characteristics

$$x = x_0 + [1 - 2\rho_0(x_0)]t.$$

Therefore the density ρ at (x, t), provided no shock has formed, satisfies

$$\rho = \rho_0(x_0) = \rho_0(x - [1 - 2\rho_0(x_0)]t).$$

For (x,t) such that $x_0 < -1$ or $x_0 > 1$, $\rho = 0$. These correspond to x < -1 + t and x > 1 + t, respectively. For (x,t) such that $|x_0| < 1$, we have

$$\rho = \rho_0(x_0) = 1 - (x - [1 - 2\rho]t)^2.$$

Solving the quadratic, we get

$$\rho(x,t) = \frac{4t^2 - 4tx - 1 \pm \sqrt{8t^2 + 8tx + 1}}{8t^2}.$$

Choosing the positive sign so that $\lim_{(x,t)\to(0,0)} \rho(x,t) = \rho_0(0) = 1$, we obtain that provided no shock has formed,

$$\rho(x,t) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < -1 + t \text{ or } x > 1 + t \\ \frac{4t^2 - 4tx - 1 + \sqrt{8t^2 + 8tx + 1}}{8t^2}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

(b) When $x_0 < -1$ the slope of the characteristics is +1 and when x = 1 the slope is -1, so characteristics will cross at some point and there will be a shock (see Figure). To find the time at which the shock forms, we can proceed by taking a partial x derivative of (1):

$$\rho_{xt} - 2\rho_x^2 + (1 - 2\rho)\rho_{xx} = 0.$$

Along characteristics, $\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + [1 - 2\rho_0(x_0)] \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$, so $\rho_{xt} + (1 - 2\rho)\rho_{xx} = d\rho_x/dt$. Letting $y = \rho_x$, we get

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 2y^2$$

Solving this ODE with the initial conditions $y(0) = \rho_x(x_0)$ we get

$$y(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{-2x_0}{1+4tx_0}, & -1 < x < 1, \\ 0, & |x| \ge 1. \end{cases}$$
(6)

The time at which y(t) diverges is $t = -1/(4x_0)$, which is minimized at $x_0 = -1$. Therefore the shock forms at t = 1/4. (You can also directly use the formula $t = -1/(2\min(\rho'_0))$.)



Figure 1: Characteristics given by $x = x_0 + [1 - 2\rho_0(x_0)]t$

2. Heat Equation. Consider the heat equation in an infinite rod

$$w_t = w_{xx}, \qquad -\infty < x < \infty, t > 0$$
$$w(x, 0) = f(x),$$

where $f(x) \in C(\mathbb{R})$ is zero for |x| > L.

(a) (13 points) Show that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} w dx$$

is independent of time.

(b) (12 points) Show that

$$q_n(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2n} w dx$$

is a polynomial of degree n in t for $n \ge 0$.

Solution:

(a) We first show that $q_0 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} w dx$ is independent of time. Taking a time derivative, we get

$$\frac{dq_0}{dt} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} w_t dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} w_{xx} dx = w_x \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty}.$$

The solution w and its spatial derivative w_x can be expressed in terms of the fundamental solution as

$$w = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4t}} f(y) dy,$$
(7)

$$w_x = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{-2(x-y)}{4t\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4t}} f(y) dy,$$
(8)

and since f(y) = 0 for |y| > L, we have that for x > L and larger than the value at which $(x - L) \exp(-(x - L)^2/4t)$ is maximized

$$|w_x| \le \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{2|x-y|}{4t} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4t}} |f(y)| dy < \frac{2(x+L)}{4t} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-\frac{(x-L)^2}{4t}} \int_{-L}^{L} |f(y)| dy.$$

Since $f \in C([-L, L])$ and the function multiplying the integral goes to zero as $x \to \infty$ for any fixed t, $\lim_{x\to\infty} |w_x| = 0$. Similarly, $\lim_{x\to-\infty} |w_x| = 0$, so

$$\frac{dq_0}{dt} = 0,$$

and $q_0(t)$ is a constant, i.e., a polynomial of degree 0.

(b) We proceed by induction. The case n = 0 was shown in (a). For the inductive step, assume $q_n(t)$ is a polynomial of degree n in t. Now let's calculate $\frac{dq_{n+1}}{dt}$:

$$\frac{dq_{n+1}}{dt} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2n+2} w_t dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2n+2} w_{xx} dx$$

Integrating by parts twice,

Like before, one can show that $x^{2n+2}w_x\Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} - (2n+2)x^{2n+1}w\Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} = 0$, and so

$$\frac{q_{n+1}}{dt} = (2n+1)(2n+2)q_n,$$

which using the induction hypothesis is a polynomial of degree n in t. Integrating with respect to t, we find that q_{n+1} is a polynomial of degree n + 1 in t.



3. Wave Equation. Consider the following initial boundary value problem

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}, \quad x > 0, \quad t > 0,$$

 $u(x, 0) = 0, \quad u_t(x, 0) = g(x),$
 $u_x(0, t) = 0.$

(a) (10 points) Find all solutions to the above IBVP that lie in x > 0, t > 0. Solution: By d'Alembert's approach, we know for x > ct,

$$u(x,t) = \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} g(y) dy,$$

but for x < ct, consider the interaction of the initial condition with the boundary. To do so, note the solutions take the form $u(x,t) \equiv F(x+ct) + G(x-ct)$, so F(x) + G(x) = 0 and cF'(x) - cG'(x) = g(x) and F'(ct) + G'(-ct) = F'(x) + G'(-x) = 0. Integrating the 2nd and 3rd expressions yields

$$F(x) - G(x) = \frac{1}{c} \int_0^x g(y) dx + F(0) - G(0)$$

$$F(x) - G(-x) = F(0) - G(0).$$

Applying the 1st expression (G(x) = -F(x)) to integrated 2nd expression yields

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^x g(y) dy + F(0).$$

Rearranging the last expression then implies

$$G(x) = F(-x) - 2F(0) = \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^{-x} g(y) dy - F(0).$$

Thus, for x < ct,

$$u(x,t) = F(x+ct) + G(x-ct) = \frac{1}{2c} \left[\int_0^{x+ct} g(y) dy + \int_0^{ct-x} g(y) dy \right].$$

(b) (10 points) Using an energy functional, show if a solution to the IBVP exists, it is unique, given adequate assumptions. State these needed assumptions.

Solution: Define the following energy functional $E(t) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty u_t^2(x,t) + c^2 u_x^2(x,t) dx$ and assume there are two solutions to the IBVP, u and v and take $w \equiv u - v$. First, note by linearity, w solves the same IBVP:

$$w_{tt} = c^2 w_{xx}, \quad w(x,0) \equiv w_t(x,0) \equiv 0, \quad w_x(0,t) \equiv 0$$

Thus, passing w(x,t) through the energy functional and differentiating with respect to time, we obtain

$$E'(t) \equiv \frac{d}{dt} \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty w_t^2(x,t) + c^2 w_x^2(x,t) dx = \int_0^\infty w_t(x,t) w_{tt}(x,t) dx + c^2 \int_0^\infty w_{xt}(x,t) w_x(x,t) dx$$
$$= \int_0^\infty w_t(x,t) [w_{tt}(x,t) - c^2 w_{xx}(x,t)] dx = 0,$$

following from integration by parts and the IBVP for w. Thus, since E(0) = 0 by initial conditions, $E(t) \equiv 0$, which implies $w_t(x,t) \equiv w_x(x,t) \equiv 0$ as long as $w \in C^1$, bounded, and integrable. This implies $w \equiv 0$ since w vanishes on the boundaries, implying $u \equiv v$, indicating uniqueness.

(c) (5 points) Determine the region of influence of the segment $x \in [1, 2]$ of the initial condition function g(x). You may draw this in the upper right quadrant or write corresponding inequalities with respect to x and t.

Solution: The region of influence is bounded by the lines t = 0, x = 0, 1 - x = ct, and x - 2 = ct

4. Poisson's Equation/Green's Functions.

(a) (8 points) Consider Poisson's equation with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions in the half 2D ball:

$$-\Delta u(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}), \qquad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x_2 > 0 \& ||\mathbf{x}|| < 1\},\$$
$$u(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{x}), \qquad \mathbf{x} \in \partial \Omega.$$

Determine the associated Green's function $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ in terms of the fundamental solution $\Phi(|\mathbf{x}|) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \log |\mathbf{x}|$, and write the solution to the above boundary value problem.

Solution: Define $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = (x_1, -x_2), \, \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}/||\mathbf{x}||^2, \, \text{and} \, \mathbf{x}^* = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}/||\mathbf{x}||^2$ then

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \Phi(|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|) - \Phi(|\tilde{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{y}|) - \Phi(||\mathbf{x}|| \cdot |\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{y}|) + \Phi(||\mathbf{x}|| \cdot |\mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{y}|)$$

The solution to the boundary value problem is then

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\Omega} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) f(\mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y} - \int_{\partial \Omega} \frac{\partial G}{\partial n}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) g(\mathbf{y}) dS_{\mathbf{y}}$$

(b) (8 points) Use the maximum principle to prove the uniqueness of the solution in part (a). Solution: Assume u and v both solve the BVP, then w = u - v solves

$$-\Delta w(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega$$
$$w(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega.$$

By the maximum principle, since Ω is simply connected, any smooth solution to the BVP has its maximum and minimum on $\partial \Omega$ which is zero throughout, so $w \equiv 0$, implying $u \equiv v$.

(c) (9 points) Assume $f \equiv 0$ in the above BVP and prove for any ball $B_r(\mathbf{x})$ of radius r in Ω :

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{|\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})|} \int_{\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})} u(\mathbf{y}) dS_{\mathbf{y}} \text{ for all } B_r(\mathbf{x}) \subset \Omega$$

Hint: Show that the function $h(r) = \frac{1}{|\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})|} \int_{\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})} u(\mathbf{y}) dS_{\mathbf{y}}$ is constant in r. Solution: Let

$$h(r) := \frac{1}{|\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})|} \int_{\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})} u(\mathbf{y}) dS_{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{1}{|\partial B_1(0)|} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} u(\mathbf{x} + r\mathbf{z}) dS_{\mathbf{z}}$$

Then

$$h'(r) = \frac{1}{|\partial B_1(0)|} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} \mathbf{z} \cdot \nabla u(\mathbf{x} + r\mathbf{z}) dS_{\mathbf{z}} = \frac{1}{|\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})|} \int_{\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})} \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{r} \cdot \nabla u(\mathbf{y}) dS_{\mathbf{y}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{|\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})|} \int_{\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} dS_{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{1}{|\partial B_r(\mathbf{x})|} \int_{B_r(\mathbf{x})} \Delta u(\mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y} = 0,$$

where ν is the unit normal and by the divergence theorem. This implies the given integral is constant for all r. In the limit as $r \to 0$, note $h(r) \to u(\mathbf{x})$ for a smooth function u.

5. Separation of Variables. Consider Laplace's equation in the sector $W = \{(r, \theta) : 1 < r < a, 0 < \theta < \alpha\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$

$$\Delta u = 0, \qquad x \in W,$$

with boundary conditions

$$u(r, 0) = u(r, \theta_0) = 0,$$

$$u(1, \theta) = 0,$$

$$u(a, \theta) = f(\theta).$$

- (a) (17 points) Find a formal solution u(r,t) of the above boundary value problem in terms of f.
- (b) (8 points) Find nontrivial conditions on g that guarantee that the solution you found is a classical solution u in $C^2(\bar{W})$.

Solution:

(a) In polar coordinates, we have

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0.$$

Using separation of variables we set $u(r,t) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)$ and obtain

$$R''\Theta + \frac{1}{r}R'\Theta + \frac{1}{r^2}R\ddot{\Theta} = 0,$$

where prime and dot are derivatives with respect to r and θ , respectively. Separating variables we get

$$r^2 R'' + rR' = aR, (9)$$

$$\ddot{\Theta} = -a\Theta. \tag{10}$$

First consider the angular equation. If a < 0 we get $\Theta(\theta) = Ae^{\sqrt{-a}\theta} + Be^{-\sqrt{-a}\theta}$, and from the boundary conditions $\Theta(0) = \Theta(\alpha) = 0$ we get A = B = 0. If a = 0 we get $\Theta(\theta) = A + B\theta$ and again we obtain A = B = 0. To avoid a trivial solution, a must be positive, and we get $\Theta(\theta) = A\sin(\sqrt{a}\theta) + B\cos(\sqrt{a}\theta)$. The boundary condition $\Theta(0) = 0$ gives B = 0, and $\Theta(\alpha) = 0$ gives $\sqrt{a} = 2n\pi/\alpha$, with $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. So we obtain the solutions

$$\sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right), \qquad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$
 (11)

Now consider the radial equation. We have $r^2 R'' + rR' - aR = 0$. Inserting the ansatz $R = r^{\mu}$ we get $\mu(\mu - 1) + \mu - a = 0$, and so $\mu = \pm \sqrt{a} = \pm 2n\pi/\alpha$. Therefore we obtain the solutions

$$C_n r^{2n\pi/\alpha} + D_n r^{-2n\pi/\alpha}$$

Now we construct the general solution as

$$u(r,\theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right) \left[C_n r^{2n\pi/\alpha} + D_n r^{-2n\pi/\alpha}\right].$$
 (12)

(Note that n = 0 does not contribute and n < 0 are redundant).

Now we need to choose C_n and D_n to satisfy the boundary conditions at r = 1 and r = a. At r = 1

$$u(1,\theta) = 0 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right) \left[C_n + D_n\right].$$

Since this is true for all θ in $[0, \alpha]$, by orthogonality of $\{\sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right)\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ in $[0, \alpha]$ we must have

$$C_n + D_n = 0.$$

Therefore the solution is

$$u(r,\theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right) \left[r^{2n\pi/\alpha} - r^{-2n\pi/\alpha}\right].$$
 (13)

Finally, we use the boundary condition at r = a to find the coefficients C_n :

$$u(a,\theta) = f(\theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right) \left[a^{2n\pi/\alpha} - a^{-2n\pi/\alpha}\right].$$
 (14)

Multiplying by $\sin\left(\frac{2\pi k\theta}{\alpha}\right)$ and integrating from 0 to α we get

$$C_k = \left[a^{2k\pi/\alpha} - a^{-2k\pi/\alpha}\right]^{-1} \frac{2}{\alpha} \int_0^\alpha f(\theta) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi k\theta}{\alpha}\right) d\theta.$$
(15)

(b) It is enough that $f(0) = f(\alpha)$, $f''(0) = f''(\alpha)$, $f \in C^4(\overline{W})$ for the solution to be a classical solution. To show this, we need to show that the solution (12) with coefficients (15) can be differentiated termwise as needed. We have

$$u_{\theta\theta} = -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha}\right)^2 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right) \left[r^{2n\pi/\alpha} - r^{-2n\pi/\alpha}\right],$$

$$u_r = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right) \left[r^{2n\pi/\alpha-1} + r^{-2n\pi/\alpha-1}\right],$$

$$u_{rr} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n\theta}{\alpha}\right) \left[\left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} - 1\right)r^{2n\pi/\alpha-2} - \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} + 1\right)r^{-2n\pi/\alpha-2}\right].$$

If these series converge absolutely and uniformly, we can differentiate termwise. To show this, we use Weierstrass' M-test, and note that for 1 < r < a

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} \right)^2 \sin \left(\frac{2\pi n \theta}{\alpha} \right) \left[r^{2n\pi/\alpha} - r^{-2n\pi/\alpha} \right] \right| \le \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} \right)^2 \left[a^{2n\pi/\alpha} + 1 \right],$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} \right) \sin \left(\frac{2\pi n \theta}{\alpha} \right) \left[r^{2n\pi/\alpha - 1} + r^{-2n\pi/\alpha - 1} \right] \right| \le \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} \right) \left[a^{2n\pi/\alpha - 1} + 1 \right],$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} \right) \sin \left(\frac{2\pi n \theta}{\alpha} \right) \left[\left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} - 1 \right) r^{2n\pi/\alpha - 2} - \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} + 1 \right) r^{-2n\pi/\alpha - 2} \right] \right| \le$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| C_n \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} \right) \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\alpha} + 1 \right) \left[a^{2n\pi/\alpha - 2} + 1 \right].$$
(16)

Therefore, it is enough to show that $|C_n|(a^{2n\pi/\alpha-2}+1) \leq \frac{M}{n^4}$ for some constant M. Integrating (15) by parts twice and using $f(0) = f(\alpha)$ we get

$$C_k \left[a^{2k\pi/\alpha} - a^{-2k\pi/\alpha} \right] = -\frac{2}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2\pi k} \right)^2 \int_0^\alpha f''(\theta) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi k\theta}{\alpha} \right) d\theta.$$
(17)

Integrating by parts twice again and using $f''(0) = f''(\alpha)$ we get

$$C_k \left[a^{2k\pi/\alpha} - a^{-2k\pi/\alpha} \right] = \frac{2}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2\pi k} \right)^4 \int_0^\alpha f'''(\theta) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi k\theta}{\alpha} \right) d\theta.$$
(18)

Using $f \in C^4(\overline{W})$, we find, letting $E = \max_{[0,\alpha]} |f''''|$

$$|C_k| \le \left[a^{2k\pi/\alpha} - a^{-2k\pi/\alpha}\right]^{-1} \frac{2}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2\pi k}\right)^4 \alpha E,\tag{19}$$

and so

$$|C_n|(a^{2n\pi/\alpha - 2} + 1) \le \frac{a^{2n\pi/\alpha - 2} + 1}{a^{2n\pi/\alpha} - a^{-2n\pi/\alpha}} \frac{2}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2\pi n}\right)^4 \alpha E \le \frac{M}{n^4},$$
(20)

and the formal solution can be differentiated termwise as required.