

Midterm

Question 1:

For each of the following PDEs, decide if it is elliptic, parabolic, hyperbolic or of mixed type.

- (a) $e^{4t}u_{xx} + 2e^t u_{xt} - u_x = \sin(x)u - u_{tt}$
- (b) $5u_x + 32u_{yy} - 4u_y = 12u_{xx}$
- (c) $(\frac{47}{3} + \sin(x))u_{xy} - \cos(x)u_{xx} = u_x - (e^{4t} + 2)u_y$
- (d) $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = \frac{1}{5+x^4}u_x + 2\cos(3\pi)u_{xy}$

Solution:

We recall that for an equation of the form

$$Au_{xx} + Bu_{xy} + Cu_{yy} + Du_x + Eu_y + Fu = G,$$

we need to compute the sign of $B^2 - 4AC$.

In the first equation we have: $(2e^t)^2 - 4e^{4t} = 4e^{2t}(1 - e^{2t})$. In particular, it is hyperbolic when $t < 0$, elliptic when $t > 0$ and parabolic when $t = 0$.

We realized that it is not clear whether t ranges from $-\infty$ to ∞ , or if $t > 0$. Indeed, the first option can be assumed since there are no specifications on the range, and the second since we only considered PDEs with $t > 0$. For this reason, we accept both "mixed" and "elliptic" as correct solutions.

In the second equation we have $0 - 4(-12)32 > 0$. Thus is hyperbolic.

In the third equation we have $(\frac{47}{3} + \sin(x))^2 - 0 > 0$. Thus is hyperbolic.

In the last equation we have $(-2(-1))^2 - 4(1 \cdot 1) = 0$. Thus is parabolic.

Question 2:

Consider the following IBVP.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PDE:} \quad & u_t = 7u_{xx} && \text{for } t > 0, x \in (0, L) \\ \text{BC:} \quad & u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0 && \text{for } t > 0 \\ \text{IC:} \quad & u(x, 0) = \sin\left(\frac{15\pi}{3L}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{L}x\right) - \frac{1}{7} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}x\right) && \text{for } x \in [0, L]. \end{aligned}$$

- (a) Which of the following problems does the IBVP model?
- (i) ► The heat flow on a laterally insulated rod with the temperature fixed at both ends.
 - (ii) The heat flow on a completely insulated rod.
 - (iii) The heat flow on a circular wire.
 - (iv) The vibration of a finite string.
 - (v) The vibration of an infinite string.
- (b) Suppose that the solution $u(x, t)$ has the form:

$$u(x, t) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{c_n t} \left(a_n \cos \left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x \right) + b_n \sin \left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x \right) \right).$$

Decide which of the following are true and which are false.

- (i) $a_2 = \frac{5}{14}$ (ii) $b_8 = \frac{3}{5}$ (iii) $b_6 = 0$ (iv) $c_2 = -14 \left(\frac{2\pi}{L} \right)^2$ (v) $b_2 = \frac{5}{14}$

Solution:

We observe that $\sin \left(\frac{15\pi}{3L} x \right) = \sin \left(\frac{5\pi}{L} x \right)$.

From $\sin(\theta) \cos(\phi) = \frac{1}{2}(\sin(\theta + \phi) + \sin(\theta - \phi))$, we obtain

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sin \left(\frac{8\pi}{L} x \right) + \sin \left(\frac{2\pi}{L} x \right) \right) - \frac{1}{7} \sin \left(\frac{2\pi}{L} x \right).$$

Thus $\phi(x) = \frac{5}{14} \sin \left(\frac{2\pi}{L} x \right) + \frac{1}{2} \sin \left(\frac{8\pi}{L} x \right)$. Thus, $b_2 = \frac{5}{14}$, $b_8 = \frac{1}{2}$. All the a_n are zero, and $c_n = -7 \left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2$.

Question 3:

Consider the following IBVP.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{PDE:} & u_t = 9u_{xx} & \text{for } t > 0, x \in (-5, 5) \\ \text{BC:} & u(-5, t) = u(5, t) & \text{for } t > 0 \\ & u_x(-5, t) = u_x(5, t) & \text{for } t > 0 \\ \text{IC:} & u(x, 0) = \begin{cases} 1 - \cos \left(\frac{2\pi}{5} x \right) & \text{for } x \in [-5, 0] \\ 0 & \text{for } x \in [0, 5] \end{cases} \end{array}$$

- (a) Which of the following problems does the IBVP model?

- (i) The heat flow on a laterally insulated rod with the temperature fixed at both ends.
 - (ii) The heat flow on a completely insulated rod.
 - (iii) ► The heat flow on a circular wire.
 - (iv) The vibration of a finite string.
 - (v) The vibration of an infinite string.
- (b) Suppose that the solution $u(x, t)$ has the form:

$$u(x, t) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{c_n t} \left(a_n \cos \left(\frac{n\pi}{5} x \right) + b_n \sin \left(\frac{n\pi}{5} x \right) \right).$$

Decide which of the following are true and which are false.

- (i) $b_3 = \frac{8}{15\pi}$ (ii) $b_1 = 0$ (iii) $b_2 = 4\pi$ (iv) $c_2 = -9 \left(\frac{2\pi}{5} \right)^2$

Solution:

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{1}{5} \int_{-5}^5 \phi(x) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi}{5} x \right) dx = \\ &= \frac{1}{5} \left(\int_{-5}^0 \sin \left(\frac{n\pi}{5} x \right) dx - \int_{-5}^0 \cos \left(\frac{2\pi}{5} x \right) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi}{5} x \right) dx \right) = \\ &= \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{-5}{n\pi} \cos \left(\frac{n\pi}{5} x \right) \Big|_{-5}^0 \right) - \frac{1}{10} \left(\int_{-5}^0 \sin \left(\frac{(n+2)\pi}{5} x \right) dx + \int_{-5}^0 \sin \left(\frac{(n-2)\pi}{5} x \right) dx \right) = \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ -\frac{2}{n\pi} + \frac{1}{(n+2)\pi} + \frac{1}{(n-2)\pi} = \frac{8}{n(n-2)(n+2)\pi} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have $b_1 = -\frac{8}{3\pi}$, $b_2 = 0$, $b_3 = \frac{8}{15\pi}$. By $c_n = -\alpha^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2$, we get $c_2 = -9 \left(\frac{2\pi}{5} \right)^2$.

Question 4:

Consider the following IVP.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PDE: } & u_{tt} = u_{xx} && \text{for } t > 0, -\infty < x < \infty \\ \text{IC: } & u(x, 0) = \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} \cos(\pi x) && \text{for } -\infty < x < \infty \\ & u_t(x, 0) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } x \in [n, n + 1], n \text{ even,} \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

(a) Which of the following problems does the IVP model?

- (i) The heat flow on a laterally insulated rod with the temperature fixed at both ends.
- (ii) The heat flow on a completely insulated rod.
- (iii) The heat flow on a circular wire.
- (iv) The vibration of a finite string.
- (v) ► The vibration of an infinite string.

(b) Let $u(x, t)$ be a solution. Decide which of the following are true and which are false.

(i) $u(0, 0) = 0$ (ii) $u(1, 0) = -\frac{1}{2}$ (iii) $u(3, \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{16}{17}$ (iv) $u(5, 2) = \frac{47}{50}$

Solution:

Using d’Alambert formula we have

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\cos((x+t)\pi)}{(x+t)^2 + 1} + \frac{\cos((x-t)\pi)}{(x-t)^2 + 1} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{x-t}^{x+t} g(s) ds,$$

where $g(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } s \in [n, n + 1], n \text{ even,} \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$

Thus we get:

$$u(0, 0) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{1} \right) + 0 = 1$$

$$u(1, 0) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{-1}{2} + \frac{-1}{2} \right) + 0 = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$u(3, \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{1}{2}(0 + 0) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{2+\frac{1}{2}}^3 ds = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$u(5, 2) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{-1}{49+1} + \frac{-1}{9+1} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\int_4^5 ds + \int_6^7 ds \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{-6}{50} \right) + \frac{1}{2}(2) = \frac{50-3}{50} = \frac{47}{50}$$

Question 5:

Consider the following IBVP.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{PDE:} & u_{tt} = 9u_{xx} & \text{for } t > 0, x \in (0, \pi) \\
 \text{BC:} & u(0, t) = u(\pi, t) = 0 & \text{for } t > 0 \\
 \text{IC:} & u(x, 0) = f(x) & \text{for } x \in [0, \pi] \\
 & u_t(x, 0) = g(x) & \text{for } x \in [0, \pi].
 \end{array}$$

Let u_1 be the solution of the IBVP for $f(x) = \sin(x)$, $g(x) = \frac{9}{5} \cos\left(\log\left(\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}x\right)\right)\right)$, and let u_2 be the solution for $f(x) = \sin(x)$ and $g(x) = -\frac{9}{5} \cos\left(\log\left(\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}x\right)\right)\right)$. Decide which of the following are true and which are false.

- (i) $u_1 = -u_2$ (ii) $(u_1 + u_2)(1, 1) = \frac{1}{2}$
 (iii) $(u_1 + u_2)(2, \frac{2}{3}) = \sin(4)$ (iv) $(u_1 + u_2)(\pi, 2\pi) = 0$

Solution:

We observe that point (i) has to be false, since $u_1(x, 0) = u_2(x, 0)$ and there is a value x such that $u_1(x, 0) \neq 0$. The points (ii), (iii) and (iv) only involve $u_1 + u_2$. By the superposition principle, $u_1 + u_2$ satisfies the following IBVP:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{PDE:} & u_{tt} = 9u_{xx} & \text{for } t > 0, x \in (0, \pi) \\
 \text{BC:} & u(0, t) = u(\pi, t) = 0 & \text{for } t > 0 \\
 \text{IC:} & u(x, 0) = 2 \sin(x) & \text{for } x \in [0, \pi] \\
 & u_t(x, 0) = 0 & \text{for } x \in [0, \pi].
 \end{array}$$

Thus, $(u_1 + u_2)(x, t) = 2 \sin(x) \cos(3t)$. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (u_1 + u_2)(1, 1) &= 2 \sin(1) \cos(3) \\
 (u_1 + u_2)(2, \frac{2}{3}) &= 2 \sin(2) \cos(2) = \sin(4) \\
 (u_1 + u_2)(\pi, 2\pi) &= 2 \sin(\pi) \cos(3\pi) = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Question 6:

Consider the following IBVP.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PDE:} \quad & u_t = u_{xx} && \text{for } t > 0, x \in (0, \pi) \\ \text{BC:} \quad & u(0, t) = u_x(\pi, t) = 0 && \text{for } t > 0 \\ \text{IC:} \quad & u(x, 0) = \frac{1}{5} \left(\sin(2x) \cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \cos(2x) \right) && \text{for } x \in [0, \pi]. \end{aligned}$$

Note that in the BC we have $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(\pi, t) = 0$, and not $u(\pi, t) = 0$. Decide which of the following are true and which are false.

$$\text{(i)} u(1, \frac{5}{2}) = \frac{1}{5} e^{-\frac{25}{4}} \cos\left(\frac{5}{2}\right) \quad \text{(ii)} u(\frac{\pi}{5}, 4) = \frac{e^{-25}}{5} \quad \text{(iii)} u(\frac{2\pi}{5}, 6) = 0$$

Solution:

Using the Ansatz $u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$, we proceed as in the lecture to obtain

$$u(x, t) = \begin{cases} Ax + B \\ e^{\lambda^2 t} (Ae^{\lambda x} + Be^{-\lambda x}) \\ e^{-\lambda^2 t} (A \sin(\lambda x) + B \cos(\lambda x)). \end{cases}$$

It is easily verified that matching the initial condition $u(0, t) = 0$ provides respectively

$$\begin{aligned} B &= 0 \\ A &= -B \\ B &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Now consider the condition $u_x(0, \pi) = 0$. Computing the derivatives we obtain, respectively

$$\begin{aligned} A &= 0 \\ A &= B = 0 \\ A = 0 \text{ or } \cos(\lambda\pi) = 0 &\leftrightarrow \lambda = \frac{2n+1}{2} \text{ for some } n. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the only non-zero solution that we obtain is

$$u(x, t) = Ae^{-\left(\frac{2n+1}{2}\right)^2 t} \sin\left(\frac{2n+1}{2}x\right).$$

We want now to match the solution we found with our initial condition. We recall the trigonometric identity $\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \sin(\alpha)\cos(\beta) + \cos(\alpha)\sin(\beta)$. Thus we get $u(x, 0) = \frac{1}{5} \sin\left(2x + \frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{5} \sin\left(\frac{5}{2}x\right)$. Luckily, the initial condition is already of the

same form of the solution obtained with the Ansatz $u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$, choosing $A = \frac{1}{5}$ and $n = 2$. Thus we have that the solution of the IBVP is

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{5}e^{-\frac{25}{4}t} \sin\left(\frac{5}{2}x\right).$$

Hence:

$$u\left(1, \frac{5}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{5}e^{-\frac{125}{8}} \sin\left(\frac{5}{2}\right)$$

$$u\left(\frac{\pi}{5}, 4\right) = \frac{1}{5}e^{-25} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \frac{e^{-25}}{5}$$

$$u\left(\frac{2\pi}{5}, 6\right) = \frac{1}{5}e^{-\frac{75}{2}} \sin(\pi) = 0.$$