

goal: learn language / basic techniques for the study of

## PDE

### Partial Differential Equations

recall: Ordinary Differential Equations

an equation whose unknown is a function of one indep. variable

$$F(t, u(t), u'(t), \dots, u^{(k)}(t)) = 0 \quad u(t)$$

↑  
k: order of the equation

Example: Newton's law

$$u''(t) = f(t, u(t), u'(t))$$

Cauchy pb.

$$(*) \begin{cases} u''(t) = f(t, u(t), u'(t)) \\ u(t_0) = u_0 \\ u'(t_0) = u_1 \end{cases}$$

Adding! also on unknown of the pb.

→ Cauchy-Lipschitz theo.: has a unique (local) sol.  
i. e.  $\exists$  open interval  $I \ni t_0$  and  $u \in C^2(I, \mathbb{R}^d)$   
solving (\*). Physical interpretation: classical mechanics is deterministic.

Informally: if we don't specify initial position and velocity we get an "infinite family of solutions"  
(2d-dimensional vector space of solutions)

A case study: ( $\omega > 0$ )

$$u'' + \omega^2 u = 0$$

classical harmonic oscillator

characteristic  
root



$$\lambda^2 + \omega^2 = 0$$

$$\lambda = \pm i\omega$$

general sol.  $u(t) = A \cos(\omega t) + B \sin(\omega t)$   
( $\forall A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ )

a possible Cauchy pb. : we specify  $t_0 = 0$

$$u(0) = b$$

$$u'(0) = 0$$

then we single out one solution as follows:

$$u(0) = b = A \implies \boxed{A = b}$$

$$u'(0) = 0 = \omega B \implies \boxed{B = 0}$$

$$u'(t) = -\omega A \sin(\omega t) + \omega B \cos(\omega t)$$

$$\implies \boxed{u(t) = b \cos(\omega t)}$$

## Partial Differential Equations

an equation whose unknown is a function of  $n \geq 1$  indep. variables

$$F(x, u(x), \partial u(x), \partial^2 u(x), \dots, \partial^k u(x)) = 0 \quad u(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$k$ : order of the equation

Examples : 3 2<sup>nd</sup> order equ. w/ constant coefficients.

① Laplace eq.  $\Delta u = 0$

$$\Delta u := \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i^2}$$

steady / static configurations.

② Heat eq.  $u_t - \Delta u = 0$

(r.u.k.  $u = u(t, x)$ )

diffusion / fast evolutions & bs.

③ Wave eq.  $u_{tt} - \Delta u = 0$

(r.u.k.  $u = u(t, x)$ )

In this course we'll focus on a class  $\mathcal{L}$  of PDE that includes all 3 above

2<sup>nd</sup> order linear PDE  
w/ constant coefficients

So:  $\mathcal{L}u = g \quad (\#)$

where, if  $u = u(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

$$\mathcal{L}u = \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij} \partial_{ij}^2 u + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \partial_i u + cu$$

- if  $g=0$  then  $(\#)$  is called homogeneous  
else  $(\#)$  is called inhomogeneous

• linear means (cf. linear algebra)

$$\mathcal{L}(\alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2) = \alpha_1 \mathcal{L}u_1 + \alpha_2 \mathcal{L}u_2$$

Remark: if I have an equation like  $(\#)$  that is linear and homogeneous ( $g=0$ )

then "sum of solutions is a solution"

in Physics: SUPERPOSITION PRINCIPLE

Reality check: what is  $\mathcal{L}$  in the 3 examples above?

① Laplace

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2}$$

② Heat

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2}$$

③ Wave

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2}$$

## Canonical classification

In the case of functions of 2 independent variables

$$u(x, y)$$

(but the variables could be  $(t, x)$  or whatever...)

2nd order linear eq. take the form

$$A u_{xx} + B u_{xy} + C u_{yy} + D u_x + E u_y + F = G \quad (\$)$$

we have the following terminology:

(\\$) is parabolic if  $B^2 - 4AC = 0$

→ heat equation

(\\$) is hyperbolic if  $B^2 - 4AC > 0$

→ wave equation

(\\$) is elliptic if  $B^2 - 4AC < 0$

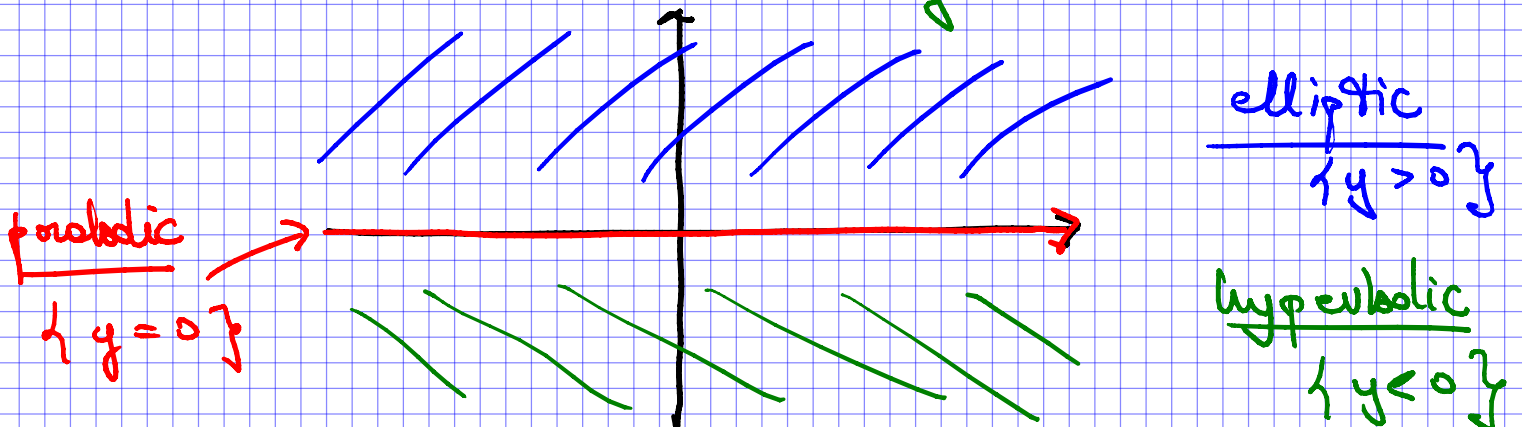
→ Laplace equation

Note: in general (i.e. if  $A, B, C$  are not constant) the type of the equation will depend on  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

Example:  $y u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$

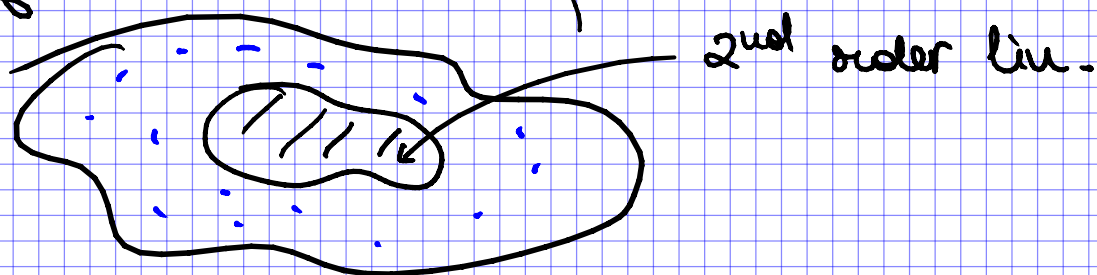
→  $A = y \quad B = 0 \quad C = 1$

$$B^2 - 4AC = -4y$$



Remark. one can give similar definitions for 2<sup>nd</sup> order linear equations in any number of variables  
 ( ) elliptic / parabolic / hyperbolic

Remark. there are lots of PDE that do not fall in the class of 2<sup>nd</sup> order linear pbs



for instance:

*nonlinear*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta u - e^u = 0 \quad \text{Liouville} \\ \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{\nabla u}{\sqrt{1 + |\nabla u|^2}} \right) = 0 \quad \text{Minimal surface eq.} \\ \det(\nabla^2 u) = 0 \quad \text{Poisson-Ampere eq.} \end{array} \right.$$

$$u_{tt} - u_{xxx} - 6u u_x = 0 \quad \text{KdV}$$

$$u_t - k u_x = 0 \quad \text{transport}$$

$$- \dots - \quad \text{Cordery-Nirenberg}$$



# Syllabus of the course

• two general techniques to solve (linear) PDEs

① Fourier series  $\oplus$  separation of variables

② Fourier transform

• basic facts about the 3 model eqns above

Diffusion type p.h.	Ch. 2
Hyperbolic type p.h.	Ch. 3
Elliptic type p.h.	Ch. 4

## Hierarchy of Resources

primary  
(abs. necessary)

Lectures

Exercise  
Classes

Homework

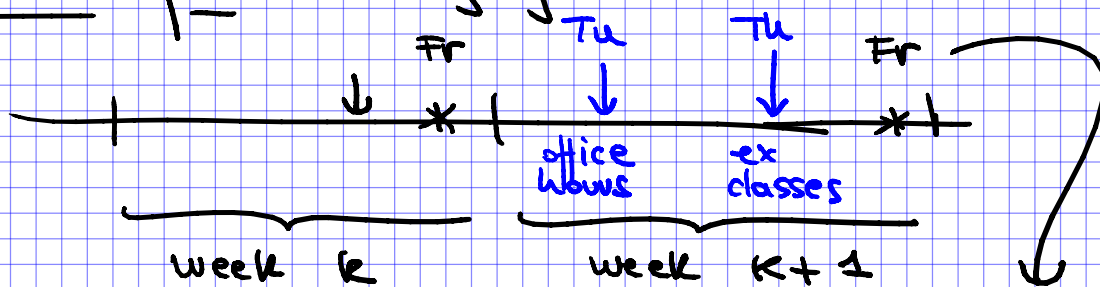
secondary

Textbook

Forum

Office Hours

Additional info: weekly cycle



course coordinator: Federico Glaudo

→ in class  
→ mail box  
→ email

Exam: 120 min, written