SOLVING GENERAL SOLUTION OF PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION (PDE)

WEEK 12: SOLVING GENERAL SOLUTION OF PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION (PDE) 12.1 GENERAL SOLUTION & PARTICULAR SOLUTION OF PDE

In the differential equation chapter, you have learned how to differentiate between ODE and PDE and how to classify them in terms of the order, linearity, and homogeneity. In simple, PDE is an equation that involves partial derivatives (i.e. ∂ symbol). Recall that a linear PDE is *homogeneous* if each of its terms contains either *or* one of its partial derivatives on LHS while RHS=0. Otherwise, it is a *nonhomogeneous* PDE. In this study, we will only focus on solving the 2nd order linear homogeneous PDE problem with constant coefficients.

The general equation is given below:

$$
A\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + B\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial t} + C\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + D\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + E\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + Fu = 0
$$
, where $A - F$ are constants.

- (i) The general PDE solution, i.e. $u(x,t)$ in terms of unknown coefficients can be obtained by using separable of variable method. For example: $u_{total}(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{3,n} cos(n\pi t) (sin(n\pi x))$
- (ii) The particular PDE solution, i.e. $u(x,t)$ in terms of known coefficients can be obtained by applying all the initial & boundary conditions, as well as the Fourier series expansion method. For example: $u_{total}(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} -\frac{2n\pi sin n\pi + 4cos n\pi - 4}{n^3\pi^3}$ $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} -\frac{2n\pi sin n\pi + 4cos n\pi -4}{n^3\pi^3}cos(n\pi t)(sin(n\pi x))$

Notation of PDE:

Note that $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \neq u''$ for $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \neq u'$ for PDE as it has more than 1 possibility. For example, u' can be $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$ or $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ while u'' can be $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$ $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$, $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial t}$, or $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2}$ $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t^2}$.

Thus, instead of writing u' or u'' for PDE, there is another alternative.

(i) Derivative and second derivative of $u(x,t)$ with *respect to t*

$$
u_t = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \{ u(x, t) \}, \quad u_{tt} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \{ u(x, t) \}
$$

(ii) Derivative and second derivative of $u(x,t)$ with *respect to x*

$$
u_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \{u(x, t)\}, \quad u_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \{u(x, t)\}
$$

(iii) Derivative of $u(x,t)$ with *respect to t and x*

$$
u_{tx} \text{ or } u_{xt} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial t} \{ u(x, t) \}
$$

Thus, we can rewrite and simplify the previous PDE using this notation:

 $Au_{xx} + Bu_{xt} + Cu_{tt} + Du_x + Eu_t + Fu = 0$, where $A - F$ are constants.

12.2 CATEGORIES OF 2ND ORDER LINEAR HOMOGENEOUS PDE

Based on the $B^2 - 4AC$, the PDE can be categorized into 3 types:

Note: $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ = Time variant (change with time) or transient behavior

Time invariant means that the physical quantity will not change with time or steady state behavior

Note that solving non-homogeneous PDE problem is out of scope in this study.

For example: The non-zero RHS function, $f(x, y)$ or $f(x, t) \neq 0$

12.3 SEPARATION OF VARIABLE METHOD

For the 2nd order linear homogeneous PDE problem with constant coefficients:

$$
A\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + B\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + C\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + D\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + E\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + Fu = 0
$$

We assume that our solution to be:

$$
u(x,y) = \underbrace{X(x)Y(y)}_{\text{can be separated into } x \text{ function and } y \text{ function respectively}}
$$

Differentiate it,

$$
\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial x(x)}{\partial x} Y(y) = X'Y \qquad ; \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = X(x) \frac{\partial Y(y)}{\partial y} = XY'
$$

$$
\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 x(x)}{\partial x^2} Y(y) = X''Y \qquad ; \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = X(x) \frac{\partial^2 Y(y)}{\partial y^2} = XY'' \; ; \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial x(x)}{\partial x} \frac{\partial Y(y)}{\partial y} = X'Y'
$$

$$
AX''Y + BX'Y' + CXY'' + DX'Y + EXY' + FXY = 0
$$

$$
Y(AX'' + DX' + FX) + Y'(BX' + EX) + Y''(CX) = 0
$$

If the PDE can be simplified to $C = 0$; $B & E = 0$; or $A, D & F = 0$. The problem can be simplified to a separable differential equation. For example,

• If $C = 0$ >> $Y(AX'' + DX' + FX) + Y'(BX' + EX) = 0$

Rearrange the equation, we get the separation of variable result:

$$
\frac{Y'}{Y} = \frac{-(AX'' + DX' + FX)}{(BX' + EX)} = -\lambda
$$

By assuming it is equal to a separation constant of −λ, we success to convert it into 2 ODE equations.

Hint: Based on experience, separation constant of −λ can solve the problem easier. In fact, let *separation constant of λ* can also solve the problem with same answer but longer procedure.

The separation constant, λ may be (i) zero, (ii) negative or (iii) positive. We can get three PDE solutions from these 3 cases.

Recall for the 2nd order linear homogeneous ODE:

$$
aX'' + bX' + cX = 0
$$

Assume solution, $X = e^{rx}$, Let $r =$ root

Characteristic equation: $ar^2 + br + c = 0$

Root of the characteristic equation, $r = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a}$

 $\frac{2a}{2a}$ (Note: you get 2 roots for 2nd order ODE)

Note that the same method can be used to solve 1st order linear homogeneous ODE:

 $bX' + cX = 0$

Assume solution, $X = e^{rx}$, Let $r =$ root

Characteristic equation: $br + c = 0$

Root of the characteristic equation, $r = \frac{-c}{h}$ $\frac{1}{b}$ (Note: you get 1 root for 1st order ODE)

Example: Solve the general solution of PDE below by using the separation of variable method

$$
\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = 4 \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}
$$

• **Step 1:** Using separation of variable method: Let $u(x, y) = X(x)Y(y)$

$$
X^{\prime\prime}Y=4XY^\prime
$$

• *Step 2: Obtain 2 ODE equations*

$$
\frac{X^{\prime\prime}}{4X}=\frac{Y^{\prime}}{Y}=-\lambda
$$

 $(Hint:$ Calculation is easier with the coefficient = 1 for the numerator components)

$$
Y' + \lambda Y = 0 \quad \text{---} \text{(ODE #1)}
$$

$$
X'' + 4\lambda X = 0 \quad \text{---} \text{(ODE #2)}
$$

• *Step 3: 3 cases of* λ

 3.1 Case #1 $(λ=0)$

<u>3.2 Case #2 (λ= $-\alpha^2$), $\alpha > 0$ </u>

<u>3.3 Case #3 (λ= + α²), α > 0</u>

$Y' + \alpha^2 Y = 0$	$X'' + 4\alpha^2 X = 0$
Let $r =$ root	Let $r =$ root
Characteristic equation: $r + \alpha^2 = 0$	Characteristic equation: $r^2 + 4\alpha^2 = 0$
$r=-\alpha^2$	$r = \pm \sqrt{-4\alpha^2}$
$\therefore Y(y) = c_7 e^{-\alpha^2 y}$	Complex conjugate root case:
	$r_1 = +2\alpha i, r_2 = -2\alpha i$
	$\therefore X(x) = c_8 e^{2\alpha x i} + c_9 e^{-2\alpha x i}$
PDE solution in Case #3:	
$\therefore u_3 = X_3(x)Y_3(y) = (c_8e^{2\alpha x i} + c_9e^{-2\alpha x i})(c_7e^{-\alpha^2 y})$	
$u_3 = e^{-\alpha^2 y} (A_3 e^{2\alpha x i} + B_3 e^{-2\alpha x i})$ where $A_3, B_3 = constant$	

• *Step 4: Using superposition principle to find the general PDE solution*

 $u(x, y) = A_1 x + B_1$ Case 1 solution + $e^{\alpha^2 y}$ ($A_2 e^{2\alpha x}$ + $B_2 e^{-2\alpha x}$) Case 2 solution + $e^{-\alpha^2 y}$ $(A_3 e^{2\alpha x i} + B_3 e^{-2\alpha x i})$ Case 3 solution

12.4 EXPRESSION OF PDE SOLUTION IN TERMS OF COS/SINE OR COSH/SINH

Previously in ODE chapter, we have learned that the exponential of complex conjugate roots can be expressed in terms of cos and sin via Euler formula.

 $(A_3e^{2\alpha x i} + B_3e^{-2\alpha x i}) = (C_3cos(2\alpha x) + D_3sin(2\alpha x))$

Similarly, exponential of distinct real roots can be expressed in terms of cosh and sinh via Euler formula. These two expressions are useful to find the particular solution for the PDE later.

 $(A_2e^{2\alpha x} + B_2e^{-2\alpha x}) = (C_2cosh(2\alpha x) + D_2sinh(2\alpha x))$

Derivation by using Euler Formula is given below:

Thus, the previous PDE solution can be expressed in the cos/sine & cosh/sinh formats:

 $u(x, y) = A_1 x + B_1$ Case 1 solution $+e^{\alpha^2 y}\left(C_2 \cosh(2\alpha x)+D_2 \sinh(2\alpha x)\right)$ Case 2 solution $+e^{-\alpha^2 y}\left(C_3cos(2\alpha x)+D_3sin(2\alpha x)\right)$ Case 3 solution

Important Characteristics of Sine, Cosine, Hyperbolic Sine & Hyperbolic Cosine:

12.5 INITIAL/ BOUNDARY CONDITION OF PDE PROBLEM

Previously, we solve the following PDE: $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = 4 \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$ and obtain the general solution with a lot of unknowns $(A_1, B_1, A_2, B_2, A_3, B_3)$. By using initial or/and boundary conditions of the problem, we can continue to solve those unknowns and obtain the particular solution of the PDE.

Thus, it is important to formulate the initial/ boundary condition from a given problem. The three conditions that are found to occur most regularly are

Note: A boundary C is said to be closed if conditions are specified on the whole of it, or open if conditions are only specified on part of it. Naming of the type of conditions is out of scope, it is sufficient as long as student is able to formulate the equations for the initial/ boundary conditions.

Example of **formulating the initial/ boundary condition** from Elliptic PDE, Parabolic PDE, and Hyperbolic PDE are given below:

i. **Elliptic PDE**: Set up the boundary value problem for the steady-state temperature *u*(*x*, *y*) for a thin rectangular plate coincides with the region defined by $0 \le x \le 4$, $0 \le y \le 2$. The left end and the bottom of the plate are insulated. The top of the plate is held at temperature zero, and the right end of the plate is held at temperature *f*(*y*). The PDE that governs the problem is given: 2D Laplace Equation $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$.

Solution: Stable temperature distribution of 2D plate, $u(x, y)$

Note: The heat flux can't flow in the x-direction, $q_x = 0$ if there is insulation on the left end. Since $q_x = -k$ ∂u ∂x Temperature gradient = 0, thus $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\Big|_{x=0} = 0$ indicates insulation on left end which blocks

the heat flux to flow in the x-direction.

ii. **Parabolic PDE:** A rod of length *L* coincides with the interval [0, *L*] on the *x*-axis. Set up the boundary value problem for the temperature *u*(*x*, *t*) when the left end is held at temperature zero, and the right end is insulated. The initial temperature is *f*(*x*) throughout. The PDE that governs the problem is given: 1D Heat Equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$ where c = constant. Formulate the initial/ boundary condition.

Solution: Temperature of the 1D bar that changes over time, $u(x,t)$

iii. **Hyperbolic PDE:** *A string of length L coincides with interval [0, L] on the x-axis. Set up the boundary value problem for the displacement u(x, t) when the ends are secured to the x-axis. The string is released from rest from the initial displacement* $x(L - x)$ *. The PDE that governs the problem is* given: 1D Wave Equation $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$ $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x^2}$ where c = constant. Formulate the initial/ boundary condition.

Solution: Vibration of the 1D string over time, $u(x,t)$

