

now we turn to systems

First Order Systems

From ODEs, recall that

$$y'' = f(x, y, y')$$

can be reduced to a first order system by setting $u_1 = y, u_2 = y'$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{pmatrix}' = \begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ f(x, u_1, u_2) \end{pmatrix}$$

ex Consider the wave equation

$$u_{xx} - u_{yy} = 0 \quad (*)$$

Let $u = (u_1, u_2)$ where $u_1 = u_x, u_2 = u_y$. Since $(u_1)_y = (u_2)_x$ and $(u_2)_y = u_{yy} = u_{xx} = (u_1)_x$. Therefore (*) can be written as

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{pmatrix}_y + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{pmatrix}_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

back to general

In order to define "characteristics" for a first-order system, we consider the more general

$$A(x, y)u_x + B(x, y)u_y = c(x, y, u)$$

where u and c are n -vectors, and A and B are $n \times n$ -matrices. From experience, define a characteristic to be a curve γ in \mathbb{R}^2 for which Cauchy data $u|_\gamma$ does not determine u_x and u_y uniquely along γ .

(*) \rightarrow ie if $\gamma: (x, \varphi(x))$

and if $u(x, \varphi(x)) = f(x)$ is the Cauchy data then

(1) $\begin{cases} Au_x + Bu_y = c \end{cases}$

(2) $\begin{cases} u_x + \varphi' u_y = f' \end{cases}$ \leftarrow diff. Cauchy data along γ

Now (1) - $A\varphi'(2)$ gives

$$(B - \varphi'A)u_y = c - Af'$$

$$\left(\frac{dy}{dx} = \varphi'(x)\right)$$

We will not be able to solve uniquely for u_y if

$$\det(B - \frac{dy}{dx}A) = 0 \quad \text{--- (characteristic equation)}$$

We define the principal part of the PDE system to be

$$A(x, y)u_x + B(x, y)u_y$$

and the principal symbol to be the $n \times n$ -matrix

$$\sigma(\xi) = \sigma(x, y; \xi) = A(x, y)\xi_1 + B(x, y)\xi_2$$

$$\left(\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2)\right)$$

definition of characteristic for systems

Hence γ is characteristic at (x, y) if and only if the principal symbol matrix is singular on the vector ξ normal to γ .

2013 09 27

Consider an IVP where γ is the curve $t=0$. In this case the normal vector ξ is $(0, \xi_2)$ and γ is non-characteristic provided $\det(B(x, 0)) \neq 0 \forall x$.

By continuity, this ~~is~~ guarantees that $\det(B(x, t)) \neq 0$

for t sufficiently small. Therefore B is invertible (for small t).

Multiplying through by $B^{-1}(x, t)$:

we will write
A for \tilde{A}

$$u_t + \tilde{A}(x, t)u_x = \tilde{C}(x, t, u) \quad (*)$$

near $t=0$, and the characteristic equation takes simpler form:

$$\det\left(I \frac{dx}{dt} - A\right) = 0.$$

So for $\gamma: (x(t), t)$ to be a characteristic, we should have

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \lambda(x, t)$$

where $\lambda(x, t)$ is an eigenvalue of $A(x, t)$.

Thus we define for a first order $n \times n$ system of the form $(*)$ to be:

strictly hyperbolic if the $n \times n$ matrix has n real distinct eigenvalues

(in this case, the associated eigenvectors are linearly independent);

hyperbolic if A has n real eigenvalues and a basis of eigenvectors;

parabolic if A has n real eigenvalues but less than n linearly independent eigenvectors;

elliptic if A has no real eigenvalues.

For a hyperbolic system, we can use eigenvalues and eigenvectors to diagonalize A to simplify the LHS of $(*)$. If

$$P = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \quad \leftarrow \text{(eigenvectors)}$$

and

$$P^{-1}AP = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} =: \Lambda$$

$$\Delta = \nabla^2$$

then introduce \underline{v} such that $\underline{u} = P\underline{v}$. Now the original system becomes

$$\underline{v}_t + A\underline{v}_x = d(x,t,\underline{v})$$

where $d(x,t,\underline{v}) = P^{-1}(\underline{c}(x,t,\underline{u}) - P_t\underline{v} - AP_x\underline{v})$. Furthermore, the IC becomes

$$\underline{v}(x,0) - \underline{g}(x) = P^{-1}\underline{f}(x).$$

Well-posedness (1923) (Hadamard):

A problem is well-posed if:

- (1) a solution exists;
- (2) the solution is unique;
- (3) the solution is stable wrt perturbations of the input data.

Consider the Dirichlet problem:

Find a function u such that

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } S = \{(x,y,z); x^2+y^2+z^2 < 1\} \\ u|_{\partial S} = 1 \end{cases}$$

Clearly any $u(x,y,z) = \begin{cases} \alpha x + \beta y + \gamma z & \text{in } S \\ 1 & \text{on } \partial S \end{cases}$

satisfies the BVP. However, if we require u to be continuous in $\bar{S} = S \cup \partial S$ then the only admissible solution is $u \equiv 1$

math 101 chapter 2, 10.1

Chapter 2: Elliptic Equations

Laplace's Equation: $\Delta u = 0$ in $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ — (1)

Poisson's Equation: $\Delta u = f$ in $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ — (2)

Solutions to (1) are known as harmonic functions. The Cauchy problems for (1) and (2) are not well-posed.

Dirichlet problem: $u = g$ on $\partial\Omega$,

Neumann problem: $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = h$ on $\partial\Omega$

Robin problem: $\alpha u + \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = h_i$ on $\partial\Omega$

(mixed)
arbitrary

as well as
(1) or (2)