

Partial Differential Equations - 1
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Lecture 37
One Dimensional Wave Equation

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Inhomogeneous Equation. Duhamel's principle

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u_{tt} - c^2 u_{xx} &= f(x,t), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, t > 0 \\ u(x,0) &= u_0(x), \quad u_t(x,0) = u_1(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned} \right\} \textcircled{4}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} v_{tt} - c^2 v_{xx} &= 0 \\ v(x,0) &= u_0(x), \quad v_t(x,0) = u_1(x) \end{aligned} \right\} \textcircled{5}$$

↓
D'Alembert's formula

$$\left. \begin{aligned} w_{tt} - c^2 w_{xx} &= f(x,t) \\ w(x,0) &= 0, \quad w_t(x,0) = 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \textcircled{6}$$

Then, $u = v + w$

Consider $U_{tt} - c^2 U_{xx} = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, t > s$

$$U(x,s) = 0, \quad U_t(x,s) = f(x,s), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Here $s > 0$ is fixed, but arbitrary.

By D'Alembert's formula,

$$U(x,t;s) = \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-c(t-s)}^{x+c(t-s)} f(\eta,s) d\eta$$

So welcome back, and now we will complete, we write down the formula for the solution of this problem 6. So let me write once again, that formula. So that w is given in terms of this U , so just you remember this U , U is the solution of this homogeneous equation with these initial conditions.

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$$W(x,t) = \int_0^t U(x,t;s) ds$$

$$= \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^t \int_{x-c(t-s)}^{x+c(t-s)} f(\eta,s) d\eta ds$$

= integration over the characteristic triangle

So W is given by integral 0 to t , U of xt , remember there is an s , and now you integrate with respect to s . So using the formula for the U , we can write this as 0 to t , and U is 1 by $2c$, that is a constant, that comes out. And let me write what the formula is, so just have a look there. This is x minus ct minus s , x plus c , t minus s , f of η s , d η .

So this is U xt s , and now we are integrating with respect to s . So it is double integral as you can easily verify, so this is nothing but integration, double integration over the characteristic triangle. So let me write that what that is, I will just show you that. So what is this characteristic triangle? So a point xt is given, so t is positive, and we want to evaluate that solution at that point.

So what you do is you just take these characteristics, so this is the x axis that stay equal to 0 line, so this is x plus ct 0 and this is x minus ct 0. So these two sides of the triangle are characteristics and this integrally nothing but, so first you are integrating along the horizontal lines. That is integration with respect to η and then you are integrating from 0 to t .

So that is this integral, so integral over this characteristic time, 0 to t. So it is not immediately clear why this w is solution of problem 6. So remember, problem 6 is, so it is inhomogeneous wave equation with 0 initial data. So now we will quickly verify that the formula given by this double integral is indeed solution of the problem 6.

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Verification

Clearly $w(x,0) = 0$

$$w(x,t) = \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^t (f(x+c(t-s),s) + f(x-c(t-s),s)) ds$$

$\Rightarrow w(x,0) = 0$

$$w_{xt}(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} (f_x(x,t) + f_x(x,t)) + \frac{1}{2} c \left(\int_0^t \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x+c(t-s),s) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x-c(t-s),s) \right) ds$$

$$= f_x(x,t) + \frac{c}{2} \int_0^t (\quad) ds$$

So verification, it is a quick verification. So just remember, look at the formula for the w, t is inside the integrant as well as it appears in the limits of the integral. So we have carefully do the differentiation with respect to t, as well as with respect to x. So again, just remember that, this formula. So if I put t equal to 0, so this integral vanishes, so certainly that is 0.

So clearly, w x0 is 0. So this is one of the initial conditions. So we want w tx 0 is also 0, so for that we have to compute wt, so differentiation with respect to t, so as I say, t appears both in the integrant and in the limit, so we have to use appropriate formula from calculus. So this is differentiation and that the integral sign, so let me write that.

So this is 1 by 2c, that is constant. And then the c comes from the differentiation of the integrant, so this is f of x plus ct minus s plus, you do carefully, you see these terms come there, s the whole thing, ds. So after first differentiation, the integration with respect to Eta variable disappears. So this again immediately gives us, so this c, c goes away, so you have half there. That does not matter, x0 is 0, because this integral is just 0, 0, so it just becomes 0 again.

So let us compute the next one, wtt, so this half is there, so c has gone there. So if I differentiate with respect to limit this t, so I simply get f of, you just put s equal to t here, so you get x,t and another one there. And another term, now I differentiate the integrand, so that is 0 to t, because t is also sitting there, so del f by del x, the arguments are different.

So you have to pay attention to that. So x plus c, t minus s, s and when I differentiate with respect to t, there is c coming, that c is there. And if I differentiate the second one, there is minus c. So that makes it minus del f by del x, x minus c, t minus s, s ds and there is a c coming. And this just, let me write it, f of xt plus c by 2, that integral. So let me not repeat that because there is no change there, so this whole term comes here.

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The image shows a whiteboard with handwritten mathematical derivations. At the top, there is an integral equation for the second derivative of w with respect to x. Below it, an arrow points to a boxed wave equation. Underneath the wave equation, the initial conditions for w and its time derivative are given. At the bottom, a boxed statement specifies the continuity requirements for the function f and its partial derivative with respect to x.

$$\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^t \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x+c(t-s), s) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x-c(t-s), s) \right) ds$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{w_{tt} - c^2 w_{xx} = f(x,t)}$$

$$w(x,0) = 0, \quad w_t(x,0) = 0$$

$$\boxed{f, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \text{ are cont. fns of } x, t}$$

Verification

Clearly $w(x,0) = 0$

$$w_t(x,t) = \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^t (f(x+c(t-s),s) + f(x-c(t-s),s)) ds$$

$$\Rightarrow w_t(x,0) = 0$$

$$w_{tt}(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} (f_{xx}(x,t) + f_{xx}(x,t)) + \frac{1}{2} c \left(\int_0^t \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} (f(x+c(t-s),s)) - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} (f(x-c(t-s),s)) ds \right)$$

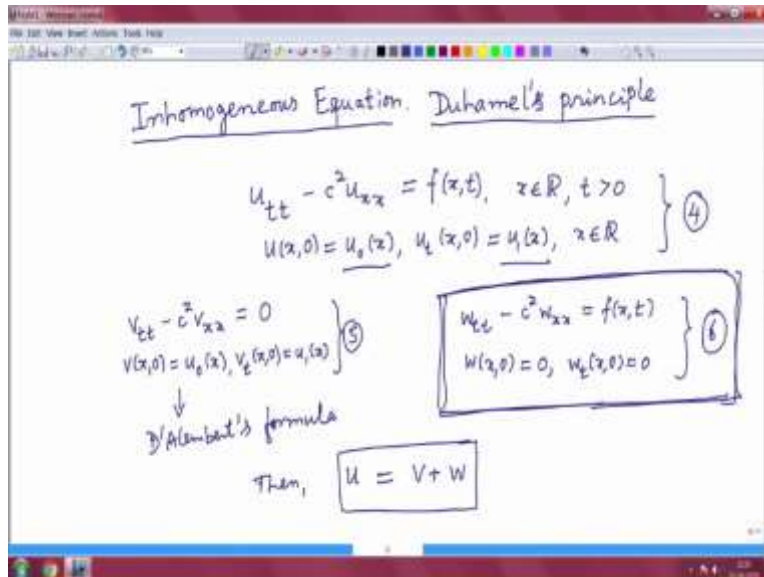
$$= f_{xx}(x,t) + \frac{c}{2} \int_0^t (\quad) ds$$

So similarly, $\partial_x f$, I write directly, because x is only in the integrand, so there is not much difficulty here, so just we get 1 by $2c$ integral 0 to t , same thing, $\partial_x f$ by $\partial_x x$, x plus c , t minus s , s minus $\partial_x f$ by $\partial_x x$, x minus c , t minus s , s ds . So using this computation, so you immediately, it is not f , it is w del square term.

So let me show you that, so w_{tt} is f_{xx} plus c by 2 , this integral and w_{xx} , the second derivative with respect to x . There is no f_{tt} term here, so immediately we see that w_{tt} minus c square, w_{xx} , so this square term will produce c by 2 and there is a c by 2 term here also, there is a c by 2 term here also, so that gets canceled and what remains is only f of x,t . So indeed w given by this Duhamel's formula from the Duhamel's principle, this namely, this formula satisfies equation 6 and with the initial conditions.

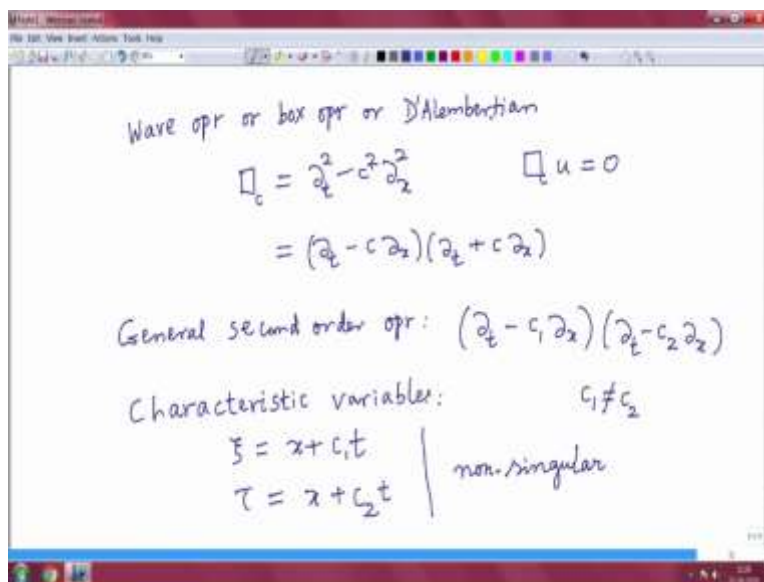
So let me just write again, once again, $w(x,0)$ equal to 0 , $w_t(x,0)$ equal to 0 . So if you look at the verification, so what we require on the inhomogeneous term, so we require, so these are conditions on f , and it is first derivative with respect to x are continuous functions of x and t . This is hypothesis on f , so with this hypothesis, so we can write down the solution of the inhomogeneous problem 3, so this is finally we would like to do that.

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So this is problem 4. So one part comes from D'Alembert's formula and another part comes from the Duhamel's principle. So now we can write down the complete solution for the equation 4.

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So now we quickly take a small digression and describe general second order equations. So this, we will use some notations, so these are again standard notations we will be using given in later. So this is just like Laplace operator, so we have here wave operator or it is also called box operator because it is denoted by box or D'Alembertian.

So all these are used in literature, different authors use different terminology, D'Alembertian. So what is this? So this is denoted by just like Laplacian, so it is just box. So this is the operator, partial differential operator, $c^2 \Delta x^2$. So wave equation was just nothing but, so we can rewrite, so this is the wave equation, homogeneous wave equation.

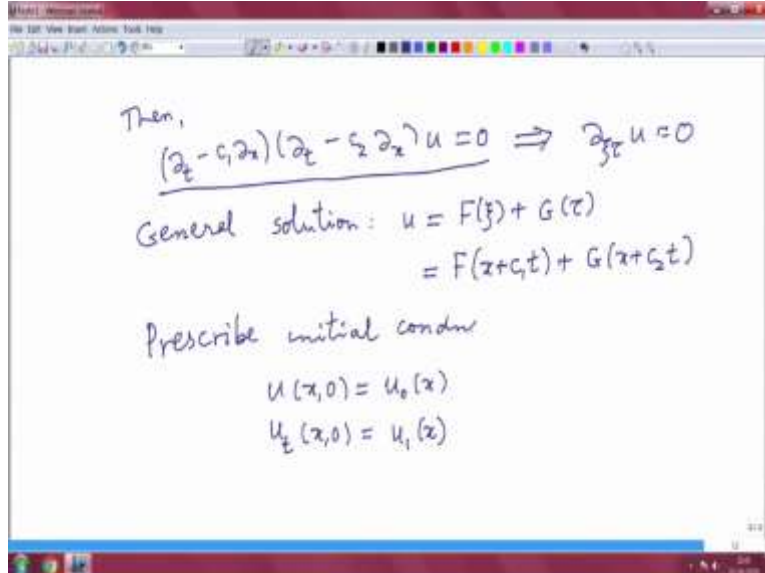
So the advent is, since c is a constant, so this we can split into linear factors. So if c is not a constant, we cannot write this, you can easily verify this. You take any c^2 function and operate this on that c^2 function, you see that this is same as this. So this suggests us to consider a general second-order equation operator, second-order operator with linear factors.

So namely, so instead of plus c minus c , now I consider $c_1 \Delta x$, so where we take c_1 not equal to c_2 . In this setup, when you consider this general second-order operator, so there is no constraint on the signs of c_1 and c_2 , c_1 , c_2 can be of the same sign, both positive or both negative, or they can be of different signs. So c_1 maybe positive and c_2 maybe negative, and in fact one can be 0, as long as c_1 is different from c_2 .

The analysis is same for this operator also, so here the characteristic roots are again c_1 and c_2 , so you see the characteristic variables, because this we have done for the wave operator, so similar computation, variables. So this is also hyperbolic. There are two real and distinct characteristics, so they are given by $x + c_1 t$ and $x + c_2 t$ equal to constant, $x + c_1 t$ equal to constant.

So we again introduce the characteristic variables $c_1 t$, τ is equal to $x + c_2 t$. So since we are assuming c_1 not equal to c_2 , so this is again non-singular change of variables, so that is important. So whenever you want to make change of variables, first you have to verify that it is non-singular, so you can simply compute the Jacobian and verify yourself that it is non-0 because c_1 is different from c_2 .

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Then,
$$\frac{(\partial_t - c_1 \partial_x)(\partial_t - c_2 \partial_x)u = 0 \Rightarrow \partial_{\xi\tau} u = 0$$

General solution: $u = F(\xi) + G(\tau)$
 $= F(x + c_1 t) + G(x + c_2 t)$

Prescribe initial condns
 $u(x, 0) = u_0(x)$
 $u_x(x, 0) = u_1(x)$

So similar computation, what we did earlier, so then $\partial_t u - c_1 \partial_x u = 0$, $\partial_t u - c_2 \partial_x u = 0$, u equal to 0 implies $\partial_{\xi\tau} u = 0$. So this equation in the characteristic variables reduces to this second-order equation. So again we can easily integrate that, so general solution we can write down, general solution. So u is equal to, so first let me write in the ξ, τ variables, so this is the general solution of this equation. So once we go, then we will go back to the x, t variables, where F and G are arbitrary C^2 functions.

So, you can easily verify that u is solution of this equation, and any solution of this equation is given by this. So again, if I prescribe initial conditions, $u(x, 0) = u_0(x)$. And now you plug in these initial conditions in this general formula, and determine F and G . So I am omitting some computations, but they are easy ones, just like we did for the D'Alembert's formula.

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D'Alembert's formula generalises to:

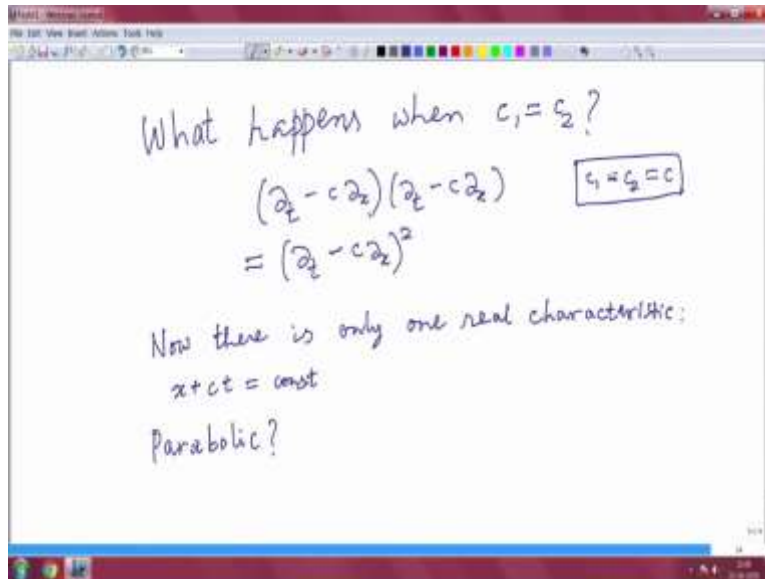
$$u(x,t) = \left(\frac{c_1}{c_1 - c_2} u_0(x + c_2 t) - \frac{c_2}{c_1 - c_2} u_0(x + c_1 t) \right) + \frac{1}{c_1 - c_2} \int_{x + c_2 t}^{x + c_1 t} u_1(\eta) d\eta$$

If $c_2 = -c_1 = -c$, this reduces to D'Alembert's formula

D'Alembert's formula generalizes to, so let me write down the solution, $u(x,t)$ is equal to $\frac{c_1}{c_1 - c_2} u_0(x + c_2 t) - \frac{c_2}{c_1 - c_2} u_0(x + c_1 t) + \frac{1}{c_1 - c_2} \int_{x + c_2 t}^{x + c_1 t} u_1(\eta) d\eta$. So this is the first term and then the integral term is given by $\frac{1}{c_1 - c_2} \int_{x + c_2 t}^{x + c_1 t} u_1(\eta) d\eta$.

So similar to D'Alembert's formula there is one just algebraic expression and one integral term. Of course, if c_2 , this is special case, if it takes c_2 equal to $-c_1$ equal to $-c$, this reduces to D'Alembert's formula.

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Now an interesting case happens here, so in this general setup when you take a second-order operator with 2 speeds, so next question is what happens when c_1 equal to c_2 ? So what the operator we get, the equation, so this c_1 equal to c_2 equal to c , so that is $c \partial x$, this is the operator. So c_1 equal to c_2 equal to c , I am putting it, c .

So this we rate it as $c \delta x$, so this is also a second-order operator. But now there is only one real characteristic that corresponding characteristic family is given by x plus ct equal to constant. These are the characteristic lines. Should we call it a parabolic, this is parabolic or not, that is a question, because in the classification, if there is one real root of the characteristic equation, that is usually called parabolic.

In this case, should we call it parabolic or not? That is the question. So we will continue the discussion on this double characteristic problem in the next class. So thank you.