

# Canonical form of Partial Differential Equation

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## 1 General Second Order P.D.E.

1. **Definition:** A partial differential equation is said to be a second order semi-linear p.d.e. if it can be put in the form

$$R(x, y)u_{xx} + S(x, y)u_{xy} + T(x, y)u_{yy} + g(x, y, u_x, u_y) = 0 \quad (1)$$

where  $R^2 + S^2 + T^2 \neq 0$  and  $R, S$  and  $T$  are continuous function of  $x$  and  $y$ .

2. **Definition:** A function  $u = u(x, y)$  is said to be a regular solution of Equation (??) in a domain  $\mathbf{D} \subseteq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  if  $u \in \mathbf{C}^2(\mathbf{D})$ , and the function and its derivatives satisfy Equation (??) identically in  $x$  and  $y$  for  $(x, y) \in \mathbf{D}$ . **Example:** If  $f \in \mathbf{C}^2(\mathbb{R})$  then  $u = f(x + t)$  is solution of the second order p.d.e.

$$u_{xx} - u_{tt} = 0$$

3. **Analytic function of  $z$  :** If  $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$  is analytic in  $z (= x + iy)$ , then it is well known that  $u$  and  $v$  satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations

$$u_x = v_y \quad , \quad u_y = -v_x$$

Therefore

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$$

Similarly

$$v_{xx} + v_{yy} = 0$$

are known Laplace Equation.

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## 1.1 Classification of Second Order P.D.E. in Two variables

Consider the following second order semi-linear p.d.e.

$$Lu + g(x, y, u_x, u_y) = 0 \quad (2)$$

where

$$L = R(x, y) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + S(x, y) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} + T(x, y) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}$$

,  $R^2 + S^2 + T^2 \neq 0$  and  $R, S$  and  $T$  are continuous function of  $x$  and  $y$ . we further assumed that this functions posses partial derivatives with respect to  $x$  and  $y$ . We change the variables  $(x, y)$  to  $(\xi, \eta)$ .

$$\xi = \xi(x, y) \quad , \quad \eta = \eta(x, y)$$

**Note:** We assume that  $\xi_x \eta_y - \xi_y \eta_x \neq 0$  so that the transformation is invertible at least locally. it is easy that

$$\begin{aligned} u_x &= u_\xi \xi_x + u_\eta \eta_x \\ u_y &= u_\xi \xi_y + u_\eta \eta_y \\ u_{xx} &= u_{\xi\xi} \xi_x^2 + u_{\eta\xi} \eta_x \xi_x + u_{\xi\eta} \xi_x \eta_x + u_{\eta\eta} \eta_x^2 + u_{\eta\eta} \eta_{xx} + u_{\xi\xi} \xi_{xx} \\ u_{yy} &= u_{\xi\xi} \xi_y^2 + u_{\eta\xi} \eta_y \xi_y + u_{\xi\eta} \xi_y \eta_y + u_{\eta\eta} \eta_y^2 + u_{\eta\eta} \eta_{yy} + u_{\xi\xi} \xi_{yy} \\ u_{xy} &= u_{\xi\xi} \xi_x \eta_y + u_{\eta\xi} \eta_x \xi_y + u_{\xi\eta} \xi_x \eta_y + u_{\eta\eta} \eta_x \eta_y + u_{\eta\eta} \eta_{xy} + u_{\xi\xi} \xi_{xy} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} R(x, y) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + S(x, y) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} + T(x, y) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} = \\ u_{\xi\xi} \left( R \xi_x^2 + S \xi_x \xi_y + T \xi_y^2 \right) + u_{\xi\eta} \left[ 2R \xi_x \eta_x + S \left( \xi_x \eta_y + \xi_y \eta_x \right) + 2T \xi_y \eta_y \right] \\ + u_{\eta\eta} \left( R \eta_x^2 + S \eta_x \eta_y + T \eta_y^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore Equation (??) becomes.

$$A(\xi_x, \xi_y) u_{\xi\xi} + 2B(\xi_x, \xi_y; \eta_x, \eta_y) u_{\xi\eta} + A(\eta_x, \eta_y) u_{\eta\eta} = G(\xi, \eta, u; u_\xi, u_\eta) \quad (3)$$

where

$$A(u, v) = Ru^2 + Suv + Tv^2 \quad (4)$$

$$B(u_1, v_1; u_2, v_2) = Ru_1 u_2 + S(u_1 v_2 + u_2 v_1) + T v_1 v_2 \quad (5)$$

Then we show that

$$A(\xi_x, \xi_y) A(\eta_x, \eta_y) - B^2(\xi_x, \xi_y; \eta_x, \eta_y) = (4RT - S^2) (\xi_x \eta_y - \xi_y \eta_x) / 4 \quad (6)$$

Choose  $\xi$  and  $\eta$  takes simple form.

Case i. if  $S^2 - 4RT > 0$ , then p.d.e. is Hyperbolic type. For this we chosen  $\xi$  and  $\eta$  that coefficient of  $u_{\xi\xi}$  and  $u_{\eta\eta}$  in equation (??) vanish.

Consider  $R\alpha^2 + S\alpha + T = 0$ , This equation has two real distinct roots  $\lambda_1(x, y)$  and  $\lambda_2(x, y)$ .

We choose  $\xi$  and  $\eta$  such that

$$\frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} = \lambda_1 \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial y}, \quad \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} = \lambda_2 \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y}$$

This is first order p.d.e. for  $\xi$  and  $\eta$ . if  $f_1(x, y) = c_1$  and  $f_2(x, y) = c_2$  are solution of ordinary differential equation.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \lambda_1(x, y) = 0, \quad \frac{dy}{dx} + \lambda_2(x, y) = 0$$

respectively, then

$$\xi = f_1(x, y) \quad \eta = f_2(x, y)$$

For this choice of  $\xi$  and  $\eta$

$$A(\xi_x, \xi_y) = A(\eta_x, \eta_y) = 0$$

From equation (??), in this condition, we have  $B^2 > 0$ . Hence equation (??) reduce to

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} = \phi(\xi, \eta, u, u_\xi, u_\eta) \quad (7)$$

Eg:  $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$  is one dimensional wave equation. which is hyperbolic.

Case ii. If  $S^2 - 4RT = 0$ , then p.d.e. is Parabolic type. In this case roots of  $R\alpha^2 + S\alpha + T = 0$  coincide (say  $\lambda(x, y)$ ).

Define  $\xi = f(x, y)$ , where  $f(x, y) = c$  is solution of

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \lambda(x, y) = 0$$

Take  $\eta$  as arbitrary function of  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $\xi_x \eta_y - \xi_y \eta_x \neq 0$ . For this  $B = 0$  and  $A(\xi_x, \xi_y) = 0$ .

Since  $\eta$  is independent of  $\xi$ ,  $A(\eta_x, \eta_y) \neq 0$ . Then equation (??) becomes

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} = \phi(\xi, \eta, u, u_\xi, u_\eta) \quad (8)$$

Eg:  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k u_{xx}$  is Heat equation. which is parabolic.

Case iii.  $S^2 - 4RT < 0$

In **Case 1**. roots are complex conjugate. Assume

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2}(\xi - \eta) \quad \beta = \frac{i}{2}(\eta - \xi)$$

then equation (??) becomes

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \alpha^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \beta^2} = \phi(\alpha, \beta, u, u_\alpha, u_\beta) \quad (9)$$

is Elliptic.

Eg:  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$  Laplace equation.

**Canonical:** Equations (??), (??) and (??) are said to be canonical forms of hyperbolic, parabolic and elliptic type of second order partial differential equation (??).

**Example:1.** Reduce the equation  $u_{xx} - x^2 u_{yy} = 0$  to a Canonical form.

**Solution:** In this case  $R = 1$ ,  $S = 0$ ,  $T = -x^2$ .

Then

$$S^2 - 4RT = 4x^2 > 0, \quad \forall x \neq 0, \quad \text{hyperbolic type}$$

$$\text{Now } R\alpha^2 + S\alpha + T = 0, \quad \Rightarrow \quad \alpha^2 - x^2 = 0$$

$$\therefore \quad \alpha = x, \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha = -x$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = x, \quad \lambda_2 = -x$$

$$\text{then, } \frac{dy}{dx} + x = 0, \quad \frac{dy}{dx} - x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y + \frac{x^2}{2} = c_1 \quad \text{and} \quad y - \frac{x^2}{2} = c_2$$

$$\text{Therefore} \quad \xi = y + \frac{x^2}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \eta = y - \frac{x^2}{2} \quad (10)$$

Differentiating with respect to  $x$  and  $y$  of equation (??)

$$\xi_x = x \quad \xi_y = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \eta_x = -x \quad \eta_y = 1$$

$$u_x = u_\xi x - u_\eta y \quad u_y = u_\xi + u_\eta$$

$$u_{xx} = x^2 u_{\xi\xi} - 2x^2 u_{\xi\eta} + x^2 u_{\eta\eta} + u_\xi - u_\eta$$

$$u_{yy} = u_{\xi\xi} + 2u_{\xi\eta} + u_{\eta\eta}$$

$$\therefore u_{xx} - x^2 u_{yy} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_{\eta\eta} = \frac{1}{4x^2} (u_\xi - \eta) = \frac{1}{4(\xi - \eta)} (u_\xi - \eta)$$

which is required solution.

## 1.2 Classification of Second Order P.D.E. in $n$ - variables

Consider slandered second order semi-linear p.d.e. in the case of  $n$ -variables

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^i \partial x^j} = 0 \quad (11)$$

where  $a_{ij}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $(\forall i, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n)$

From concept of linear algebra equation (??) form a quadratic form. Character of (??) characterized by characteristic value (Eigenvalue ).

1. All eigenvalue of p.d.e. (??) has same sign then p.d.e.(??) will be **Elliptic** type.
2. AT least one pair of eigenvalue of p.d.e. (??) has opposite sign then p.d.e.(??) will be **Hyperbolic** type.
3. At least one eigenvalue of p.d.e. (??) is zero then p.d.e.(??) will be **parbolic** type .

**Example:2.**  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} + u_{zz} = 0$  is elliptic type p.d.e. Because this p.d.e. has associate matrix of order  $3 \times 3$  and

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ij} &= 0 & i \neq j & \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3. \\ a_{ij} &= 1 & i = j & \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, all eigenvalue is 1, which is positive. Hence given p.d.e. is elliptic type.

**Example:3.**  $u_t - k(u_{xx} + u_{yy} + u_{zz}) = 0$  is parabolic type p.d.e. Because this p.d.e. has associate matrix of order  $4 \times 4$  and

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ij} &= 0 & i \neq j & \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3, 4. \\ a_{ij} &= -1 & i = j & \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3. \\ a_{44} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, three eigenvalue is  $-1$  and one eigenvalue is  $0$ (zero). Hence given p.d.e. is parabolic type.

**Example:4.**  $u_{tt} - c^2(u_{xx} + u_{yy} + u_{zz}) = 0$  is hyperbolic type p.d.e. Because this p.d.e. has associate matrix of order  $4 \times 4$  and

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ij} &= 0 & i \neq j & \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3, 4. \\ a_{ij} &= -1 & i = j & \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3. \\ a_{44} &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, three eigenvalue is  $-1$  and one eigenvalue is  $1$ . one pair eigenvalue is opposite sign. Hence given p.d.e. is hyperbolic type.

**Example:5.** Determine the region where the following equation is hyperbolic, elliptic or parabolic type.

$$u_{xx} - 2x^2u_{xz} + u_{yy} + u_{zz} = 0.$$

**Ans. :** Hyperbolic if  $|x| > 1$ , parabolic if  $|x| = 1$  and elliptic if  $|x| < 1$ .

.....All the best.....