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**Numerical Methods for  
Differential Equations in Physics**

**HYPERBOLIC EQUATIONS**

## Classification of second order linear PDEs

$$au_{xx} + bu_{xy} + c_{yy} + du_x + eu_y + fu = g$$

Depends on coefficients  $a, b, c$ . Compare to quadratic functions:

$$ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey = g$$

$$\text{Elliptic: } b^2 - 4ac < 0$$

$$\text{Examples: Poisson} \quad (\partial_{xx} + \partial_{yy}) u = g$$

$$\text{Laplace} \quad (\partial_{xx} + \partial_{yy}) u = 0$$

$$\text{Helmholtz} \quad (\partial_{xx} + \partial_{yy} - k^2 I) u = 0$$

The domain is closed and the boundary conditions should be any of:

$$\text{Dirichlet (D):} \quad u = \gamma$$

$$\text{Neumann (N):} \quad \partial u / \partial n = \gamma$$

$$\text{Robin (R):} \quad \alpha u + \beta \partial u / \partial n = \gamma$$

$$\text{Periodic (P):} \quad u(0) = u(\ell) \quad \text{and} \quad \partial u / \partial x(0) = \partial u / \partial x(\ell)$$

(with additional specification of  $u$  at one point for N or P)

**Parabolic:**  $b^2 - 4ac = 0$

**Prototype:** Heat equation  $\partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u$

**Note:**  $y \rightarrow t$  time.

Domain of  $x$  may be open or closed. **D-N-R-P** conditions can be used.

Domain of  $t$  must be open in forward time. Initial **Dirichlet** conditions.

**Hyperbolic:**  $b^2 - 4ac > 0$

**Prototype:** Wave equation (2D)  $\partial_{tt} u = \partial_{xx} u$

**Note:**  $y \rightarrow t$  time.

Domain of  $x$  may be open or closed. **D-N-R-P** conditions can be used.

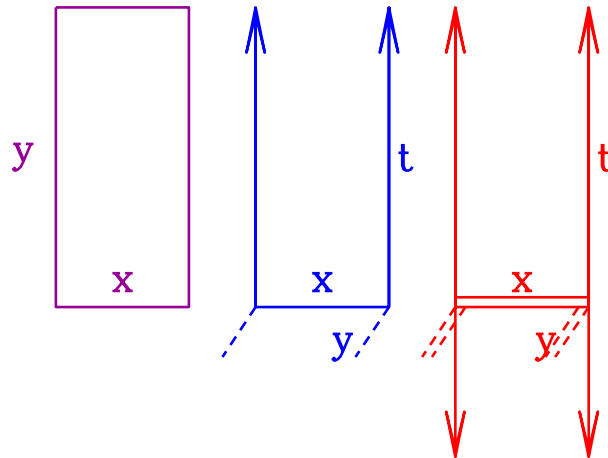
Domain of  $t$  must be open in either direction. Initial **Cauchy** conditions:

**Cauchy (C):**  $u = \gamma$  and  $\partial u / \partial n = \delta$

# Boundary and Initial Conditions

Can generalize to  $\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{Laplace} & 0 = \partial_{xx}u + \partial_{yy}u + \partial_{zz}u \\ \text{Heat} & \partial_t u = \partial_{xx}u + \partial_{yy}u \\ \text{Wave} & \partial_{tt}u = \partial_{xx}u + \partial_{yy}u \end{array} \right.$

elliptic   parabolic   hyperbolic



# Hyperbolic Equations

**General definition of hyperbolic equation in one dimension:**

$$\partial_t u = \partial_x f(u)$$

**First order wave equation has  $f(u) = cu$ .**

**Can generalize to  $x \in \mathcal{R}^d$ ,  $u \in \mathcal{R}^s$ ,  $f^j : \mathcal{R}^s \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^s$**

$$\partial_t u(x_1, \dots, x_d) = \sum_{j=1}^d \partial_{x_j} f^j(u(x_1, \dots, x_d)) = \nabla \cdot f(u)$$

**$d = 1, 2, 3$  is dimensionality of spatial domain.  $s$  is number of variables, e.g.  $(u, v, w)$  but also temperature, concentration.**

**Conservation law for scalar  $u$ :**

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} d\Omega \partial_t u(x, t) &= \int_{\Omega} d\Omega \nabla \cdot f(u) \\ \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} d\Omega u(x, t) &= \int_{\partial\Omega} f(u) \cdot \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$

**i.e.  $f(u)$  is the flux of  $u$  and change in quantity of  $u$  in domain is only due to flux in or out through boundary  $\partial\Omega$  (no source or sink terms in bulk).**

**Linear constant-coefficient system in one space dimension:**

$$\partial_t u = A \partial_x u + B u + F(x, t)$$

where  $x \in \mathcal{R}$  and  $u, F \in \mathcal{R}^s$  and  $A, B$  are matrices.

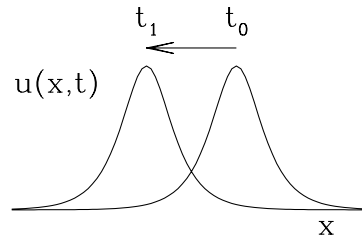
**System is hyperbolic if matrix  $A$  is diagonalizable with real eigenvalues.**

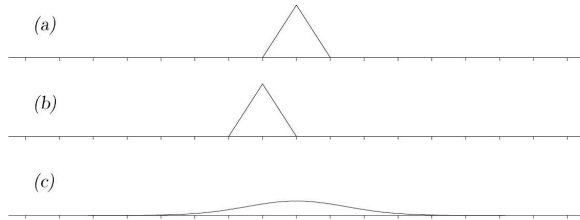
**First-order wave equation:**

$$\partial_t u = c \partial_x u$$

**Analytic solution: traveling wave**

$$u(x, t) = u(x + ct, 0)$$





## Initial condition

Soln of wave eq:  $\partial_t u = \partial_x u$

Soln of heat eq:  $\partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u$

**Hyperbolic PDE of order  $n$  is well-posed initial value problem for first  $n - 1$  derivatives.**

**For first order**

$$\partial_t u = c \partial_x u$$

**must specify  $u(x, t = 0)$**

**For second-order**

$$\partial_{tt} u = c^2 \partial_{xx} u$$

**must specify initial conditions  $u(x, t = 0)$  and  $\partial_t u(x, t = 0)$ .**

# Finite difference methods for solving hyperbolic problems

$$\partial_t u = \partial_x u$$

**Upwind:**

$$u^{\text{UP}}(x, t + \Delta t) = u^{\text{UP}}(x, t) + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u^{\text{UP}}(x + \Delta x, t) - u^{\text{UP}}(x, t))$$

**Leapfrog:**

$$u^{\text{LF}}(x, t + \Delta t) = u^{\text{LF}}(x, t - \Delta t) + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u^{\text{LF}}(x + \Delta x, t) - u^{\text{LF}}(x - \Delta x, t))$$

**Lax-Wendroff:**

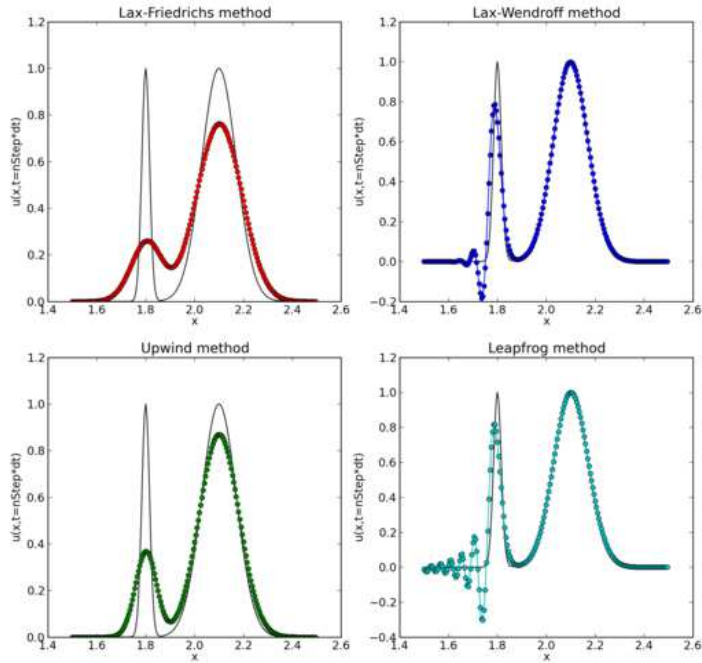
$$\begin{aligned} u^{\text{LW}}(x, t + \Delta t) &= u^{\text{LW}}(x, t) + \frac{\Delta t}{2\Delta x} (u^{\text{LW}}(x + \Delta x, t) - u^{\text{LW}}(x - \Delta x, t)) \\ &+ \frac{\Delta t^2}{2\Delta x^2} (u^{\text{LW}}(x + \Delta x, t) - 2u^{\text{LW}}(x, t) + u^{\text{LW}}(x - \Delta x, t)) \end{aligned}$$

**Lax-Friedrichs:**

$$\begin{aligned} u^{\text{LF}}(x, t + \Delta t) &= \frac{1}{2} (u^{\text{LF}}(x - \Delta x, t) + u^{\text{LF}}(x + \Delta x, t)) \\ &+ \frac{\Delta t}{2\Delta x} (u^{\text{LF}}(x + \Delta x, t) - u^{\text{LF}}(x - \Delta x, t)) \end{aligned}$$



Advection equation:  $\partial_t u + a \partial_x u = 0$



**Leapfrog suffers from spurious high-wavenumber oscillations.**  
**Lax-Wendroff damps these oscillations.**

# Accuracy of Leapfrog Method

$$u^{\text{LF}}(x, t + \Delta t) = u^{\text{LF}}(x, t - \Delta t) + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u^{\text{LF}}(x + \Delta x, t) - u^{\text{LF}}(x - \Delta x, t))$$

$$u(x, t - \Delta t) = (u - \Delta t u_t + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta t)^2 u_{tt} - \frac{1}{6}(\Delta t)^3 u_{ttt} + \dots) (x, t)$$

$$\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} u(x + \Delta x, t) = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u + \Delta x u_x + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta x)^2 u_{xx} + \frac{1}{6}(\Delta x)^3 u_{xxx} + \dots) (x, t)$$

$$-\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} u(x - \Delta x, t) = -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u - \Delta x u_x + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta x)^2 u_{xx} - \frac{1}{6}(\Delta x)^3 u_{xxx} + \dots) (x, t)$$

$$\text{Sum} = (u - \Delta t u_t + 2\Delta t u_x + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta t)^2 u_{tt} - \frac{1}{6}(\Delta t)^3 u_{ttt} + \frac{1}{3}\Delta t(\Delta x)^2 u_{xxx} \dots)$$

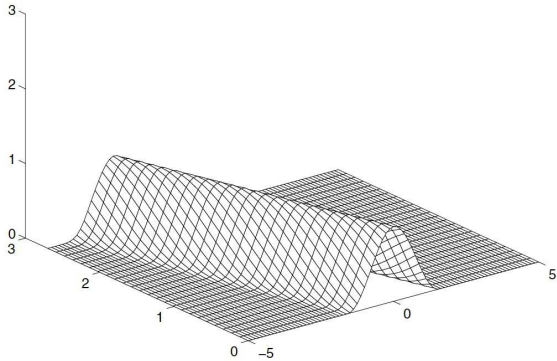
$$u(x, t + \Delta t) = (u + \Delta t u_t + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta t)^2 u_{tt} + \frac{1}{6}(\Delta t)^3 u_{ttt} \dots) (x, t)$$

$$\text{Difference} = 2\Delta t (u_t - u_x) + O(\Delta t^3, \Delta t \Delta x^2)$$

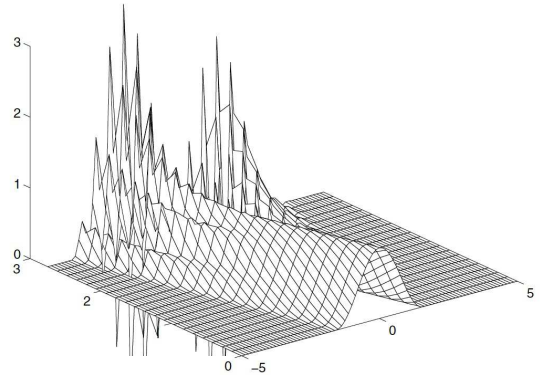
# Stability of Leapfrog Method

Leapfrog method used to solve  $\partial_t u = U \partial_x u$

with initial condition:  $u(x, t = 0) = \begin{cases} \cos^2 x & |x| \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 0 & |x| \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \end{cases}$



$$\frac{U \Delta t}{\Delta x} = 0.9$$



$$\frac{U \Delta t}{\Delta x} = 1.1$$

**Fourier or von Neumann stability analysis: insert  $e^{i\xi x}$**

$$u(j\Delta x, n\Delta t) = z^n e^{i\xi x_j} \quad \lambda \equiv U\Delta t/\Delta x$$

**Leapfrog:**  $z^{n+1} e^{i\xi x_j} = z^{n-1} e^{i\xi x_j} + \lambda (z^n e^{i\xi x_{j+1}} - z^n e^{i\xi x_{j-1}})$

$$z = z^{-1} + \lambda (e^{i\xi\Delta x} - e^{-i\xi\Delta x})$$

$$z - z^{-1} = 2i\lambda \sin(\xi\Delta x)$$

$$u^{\text{LF}}(x, t + \Delta t) = u^{\text{LF}}(x, t - \Delta t) + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u^{\text{LF}}(x + \Delta x, t) - u^{\text{LF}}(x - \Delta x, t))$$

**Upwind:**  $z^{n+1} e^{i\xi x_j} = z^n e^{i\xi x_j} + \lambda (z^n e^{i\xi x_{j+1}} - z^n e^{i\xi x_j})$

$$z = 1 + \lambda (e^{i\xi\Delta x} - 1)$$

**Lax-Wendroff:**  $z^{n+1} e^{i\xi x_j} = z^{n-1} e^{i\xi x_j} + \frac{1}{2} z^n \lambda (e^{i\xi x_{j+1}} - e^{i\xi x_{j-1}})$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \lambda^2 z^n (e^{i\xi x_{j+1}} - 2e^{i\xi x_j} + e^{i\xi x_{j-1}})$$

$$z = z^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \lambda (e^{i\xi\Delta x} - e^{-i\xi\Delta x}) + \frac{1}{2} \lambda^2 (e^{i\xi\Delta x} - 2 + e^{-i\xi\Delta x})$$

$$z = z^{-1} + \lambda i \sin(\xi\Delta x) + \lambda^2 (\cosh(\xi\Delta x) - 1)$$

$$z - z^{-1} = 2i\lambda \sin(\xi \Delta x)$$

$$0 = z^2 - 1 - z2i\lambda \sin(\xi \Delta x)$$

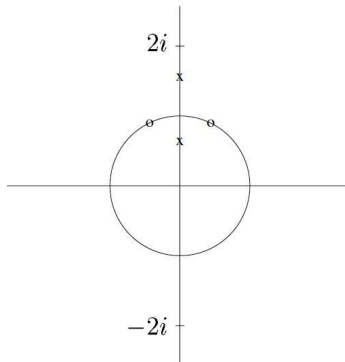
$$z = i\lambda \sin(\xi \Delta x) \pm \sqrt{1 - \lambda^2 \sin^2(\xi \Delta x)}$$

$$\lambda < 1 \implies 1 - \lambda^2 \sin^2(\xi \Delta x) > 0 \implies a = \sqrt{1 - \lambda^2 \sin^2(\xi \Delta x)} \quad \text{real}$$

$$|z|^2 = \lambda^2 \sin^2(\xi \Delta x) + 1 - \lambda^2 \sin^2(\xi \Delta x) = 1$$

$$\lambda > 1 \implies 1 - \lambda^2 \sin^2(\xi \Delta x) < 0 \implies a = \sqrt{1 - \lambda^2 \sin^2(\xi \Delta x)} \quad \text{imag}$$

$$|z|^2 = (i\lambda \sin(\xi \Delta x) + a)^2 > 1 \text{ for values of } \xi \Delta x \text{ surrounding } \pi/2$$



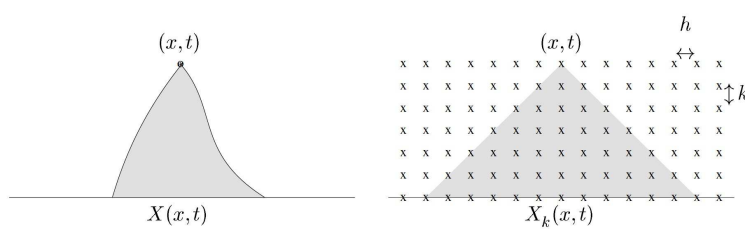
$|z| > 1 \implies$  **growth in time**

o  $\lambda = 0.9$

x  $\lambda = 1.1$

**CFL condition:**  $|U|\Delta t/\Delta x \leq 1$

# Domain of Dependence (Courant, Friedrichs, Lewy = CFL)



continuous system

discretized system

$X(x, t)$  is the set of all points  $x$  where the initial data  $u(x, t = 0)$  may have some effect on the solution  $u(x, t)$ .

In parabolic systems such as  $u_t = u_{xx}$ , information travels infinitely fast. Magnitude of influence of faraway data may decay exponentially with distance but influence will still be present.  $X(x, t)$  is the entire real line.

In hyperbolic systems such as  $u_t = u_x$  or  $u_{tt} = u_{xx}$ , perturbations travel at finite speed and so  $X(x, t)$  is finite for each  $x$  and  $t$ . Curves which bound  $X(x, t)$  are the characteristic curves.

For convergence of a numerical approximation of a PDE, the continuous domain of dependence must be contained in the limiting numerical domain of dependence as  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ .

# Dispersion Relations

**Linear time-dependent scalar PDE with constant coefficients on unbounded space domain admits plane wave solutions:**

$$u(x, t) = e^{i(kx + \omega t)}$$

**PDE  $\implies$  dispersion relation:**

$$\omega = \omega(k)$$

**General solution to such a PDE which is first-order in time:**

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(kx + \omega(k)t)} \hat{u}_0(k) dk$$

**where**

$$u(x, 0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ikx} \hat{u}_0(k) dk$$

## Four equations

**1st order wave equation:**

$$\partial_t u = \partial_x u$$

**2nd order wave equation:**

$$\partial_{tt} u = \partial_{xx} u$$

**Heat equation:**

$$\partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u$$

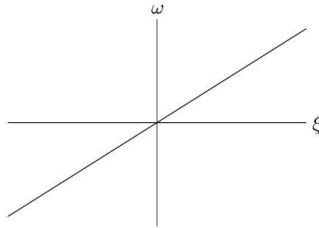
**Schrödinger equation:**

$$\partial_t u = i \partial_{xx} u$$



**1st-order  
wave equation**

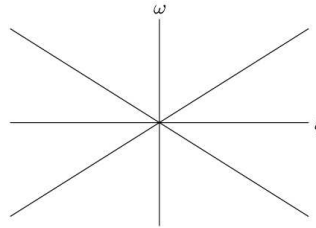
$$\partial_t u = \partial_x u$$
$$\omega = k$$



(a)  $u_t = u_x$

**2nd-order  
wave equation**

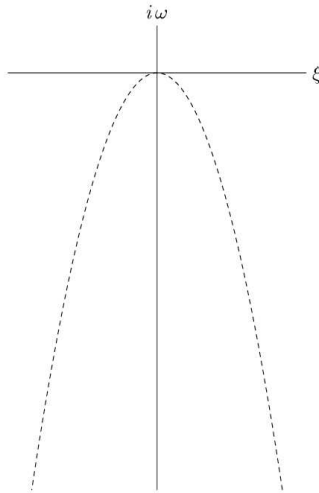
$$\partial u_{tt} = \partial_{xx} u$$
$$\omega^2 = k^2$$
$$\omega = \pm k$$



(b)  $u_{tt} = u_{xx}$

**Heat equation**

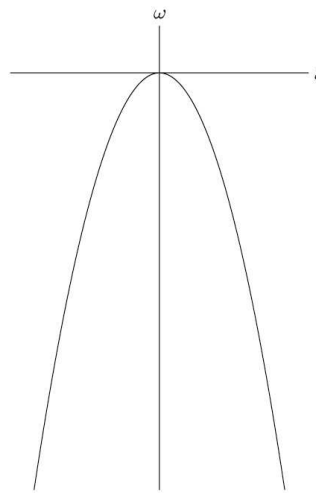
$$\partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u$$
$$i\omega = -k^2$$
$$\sigma = -k^2$$



(c)  $u_t = u_{xx}$

**Schrödinger  
equation**

$$\partial u_{tt} = i\partial_{xx} u$$
$$\omega = -k^2$$



(d)  $u_t = iu_{xx}$

## Discretize space via centered first or second order finite differences

### First-order wave equation

$$\begin{aligned}u_t &= u_x \approx \frac{1}{2\Delta x} (u(x + \Delta x) - u(x - \Delta x)) \\i\omega e^{i(kx+\omega t)} &= e^{i(kx+\omega t)} \frac{1}{2\Delta x} (e^{ik\Delta x} - e^{-ik\Delta x}) \\i\omega &= \frac{1}{2\Delta x} 2i \sin(k\Delta x) \\ \omega &= \frac{1}{\Delta x} \sin(k\Delta x) \rightarrow k \text{ for } \Delta x \rightarrow 0\end{aligned}$$

### Second-order wave equation

$$\begin{aligned}u_{tt} &= u_{xx} \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (u(x + \Delta x) - 2u(x) + u(x - \Delta x)) \\-\omega^2 e^{i(kx+\omega t)} &= e^{i(kx+\omega t)} \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (e^{ik\Delta x} - 2 + e^{-ik\Delta x}) \\-\omega^2 &= \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} \left( e^{ik\Delta x/2} - e^{-ik\Delta x/2} \right)^2 \\-\omega^2 &= \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} \left( 2i \sin \left( \frac{k\Delta x}{2} \right) \right)^2 \\ \omega^2 &= \left( \frac{2}{\Delta x} \sin \left( \frac{k\Delta x}{2} \right) \right)^2 \rightarrow k^2 \text{ for } \Delta x \rightarrow 0 \\ \omega &= \pm \frac{2}{\Delta x} \sin \left( \frac{k\Delta x}{2} \right) \rightarrow \pm k \text{ for } \Delta x \rightarrow 0\end{aligned}$$

## Heat equation

$$u_t = u_{xx} \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (u(x + \Delta x) - 2u(x) + u(x - \Delta x))$$
$$i\omega = - \left( \frac{2}{\Delta x} \sin \left( \frac{k\Delta x}{2} \right) \right)^2 \rightarrow -k^2 \text{ for } \Delta x \rightarrow 0$$

## Schrödinger Equation

$$u_t = i u_{xx} \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (u(x + \Delta x) - 2u(x) + u(x - \Delta x))$$
$$i\omega = -i \left( \frac{2}{\Delta x} \sin \left( \frac{k\Delta x}{2} \right) \right)^2$$
$$\omega = - \left( \frac{2}{\Delta x} \sin \left( \frac{k\Delta x}{2} \right) \right)^2 \rightarrow -k^2 \text{ for } \Delta x \rightarrow 0$$

The spatially-discretized and exact dispersion relations agree if

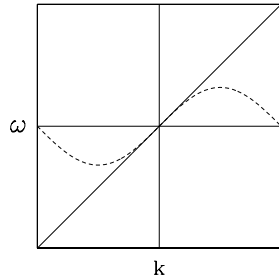
$$k\Delta x \ll 2\pi \iff \Delta x \ll 2\pi/k = \lambda$$

Many gridpoints per wavelength

### 1st-order wave equation

$$\omega_{\text{exact}} = k$$

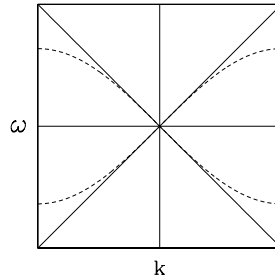
$$\omega_{\text{num}} = \frac{1}{\Delta x} \sin(k\Delta x)$$



### 2nd-order wave equation

$$\omega_{\text{exact}} = \pm k$$

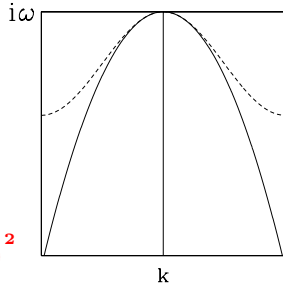
$$\omega_{\text{num}} = \pm \frac{2}{\Delta x} \sin\left(\frac{k\Delta x}{2}\right)$$



### Heat equation

$$i\omega_{\text{exact}} = -k^2$$

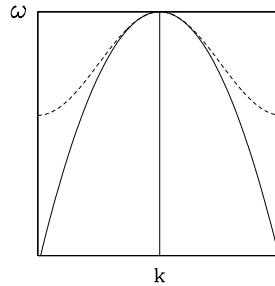
$$i\omega_{\text{num}} = -\left(\frac{2}{\Delta x} \sin\left(\frac{k\Delta x}{2}\right)\right)^2$$



### Schrödinger equation

$$\omega_{\text{exact}} = -k^2$$

$$\omega_{\text{num}} = -\left(\frac{2}{\Delta x} \sin\left(\frac{k\Delta x}{2}\right)\right)^2$$



## Discretize space and time (leapfrog scheme)

$$u_t = u_x$$

$$u^{\text{LF}}(x, t + \Delta t) = u^{\text{LF}}(x, t - \Delta t) + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u^{\text{LF}}(x + \Delta x, t) - u^{\text{LF}}(x - \Delta x, t))$$

$$e^{i(kx + \omega(t + \Delta t))} = e^{i(kx + \omega(t - \Delta t))} + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (e^{i(k(x + \Delta x) + \omega t)} - e^{i(k(x - \Delta x) + \omega t)})$$

$$e^{i\omega\Delta t} = e^{-i\omega\Delta t} + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (e^{ik\Delta x} - e^{-ik\Delta x})$$

$$2i \sin(\omega\Delta t) = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} 2i \sin(k\Delta x)$$

$$\sin(\omega\Delta t) = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \sin(k\Delta x)$$

Phase velocity:

$$c(k, \omega) = -\frac{\omega}{k}$$

$$f(x, t) = \exp(i(kx + \omega(k)t)) = \exp\left(ik\left(x + \frac{\omega(k)}{k}t\right)\right)$$

Group velocity: velocity of wavepackets and energy

$$c_g = -\frac{d\omega}{dk}$$

$$f(x, t) = \exp(i(k_1x + \omega(k_1)t)) + \exp(i(k_2x + \omega(k_2)t))$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, t) &= \exp\left(i\left(\frac{k_1 + k_2}{2}x + \frac{\omega(k_1) + \omega(k_2)}{2}t\right)\right) \\ &\times \left[ \exp\left(i\left(\frac{k_1 - k_2}{2}x + \frac{\omega(k_1) - \omega(k_2)}{2}t\right)\right) + \exp\left(-i\left(\frac{k_1 - k_2}{2}x + \frac{\omega(k_1) - \omega(k_2)}{2}t\right)\right) \right] \\ &= \exp\left(i\left(\frac{k_1 + k_2}{2}x + \frac{\omega(k_1) + \omega(k_2)}{2}t\right)\right) 2 \cos\left(\frac{k_1 - k_2}{2}x + \frac{\omega(k_1) - \omega(k_2)}{2}t\right) \\ &= \exp\left(i(\bar{k}x + \omega(\bar{k})t)\right) 2 \cos\left(\frac{\Delta k}{2}\left(x + \frac{\Delta \omega}{\Delta k}t\right)\right) \\ &\rightarrow \underbrace{\exp\left(i(\bar{k}x + \omega(\bar{k})t)\right)}_{\text{carrier wave}} \underbrace{2 \cos\left(\frac{\Delta k}{2}(x + c_g t)\right)}_{\text{envelope}} \end{aligned}$$

**For first-order wave equation**

$$\omega_{\text{exact}} = k \implies \frac{\omega}{k} = 1 \text{ and } \frac{d\omega}{dk} = 1$$

**Temporal leapfrog, spatial centered differences:**

$$\sin(\omega_{\text{num}}\Delta t) = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \sin(k\Delta x)$$

**Numerical group velocity obtained via implicit differentiation:  $d/dk$**

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(\omega_{\text{num}}\Delta t) \Delta t \frac{d\omega_{\text{num}}}{dk} &= \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \cos(k\Delta x) \Delta x \\ \frac{d\omega_{\text{num}}}{dk} &= \frac{\cos(k\Delta x)}{\cos(\omega_{\text{num}}\Delta t)} \\ &\rightarrow 1 \text{ for } \Delta x, \Delta t \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

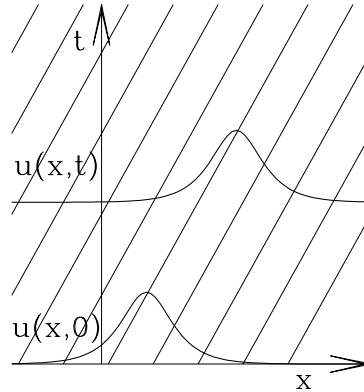
## Hyperbolic Equations: Characteristics

**First-order wave equation:**

$$u_t = cu_x$$

**Analytic solution: traveling wave**

$$u(x, t) = u(x + ct, 0)$$



**The wave equation carries the initial condition through time.**

$$\text{Generalization: } 0 = u_t + g(x, t, u)u_x$$

$$0 = u_t + \frac{dx}{dt}u_x$$

**$u$  is constant along curve  $x(t)$  such that  $\frac{dx}{dt} = g(x, t, u)$ :**

$$\frac{du}{dt} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} = 0$$



# Burger's equation: $u_t + uu_x = 0$

