

Assignment #6

Due on Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Section 3.1 on *Modeling Traffic Flow* in the class lecture notes at <http://pages.pomona.edu/~ajr04747/>.

Do the following problems

1. Find a solution to the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0, & x \in \mathbf{R}, t > 0; \\ u(x, 0) = f(x), & x \in \mathbf{R}, \end{cases}$$

where $f(x) = 1 - x^2$ for $-1 \leq x \leq 1$, $f(x) = 0$ for $|x| > 1$. For various values of t , sketch the solution u as a function of x .

2. Find an implicit solution to the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - xu \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0, & x \in \mathbf{R}, t > 0; \\ u(x, 0) = x, & x \in \mathbf{R}. \end{cases}$$

3. In this problem we consider the equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$, where c is a real constant not equal to 0, in the region of the xt -plane determined by $x > 0$ and $t > 0$, and subject to the boundary condition

$$\begin{cases} u(x, 0) = f(x) & x > 0 \\ u(0, t) = g(t) & t > 0, \end{cases}$$

where f and g are given continuous functions of a single variable.

- (a) Show that the boundary curve is not a characteristic of the equation.
- (b) If $c > 0$, determine a solution of the problem.
- (c) Show that if $c < 0$, then the problem in general cannot be solved.

4. Solve the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 1, & x \in \mathbf{R}, t > 0; \\ u(x, 0) = e^x, & x \in \mathbf{R}. \end{cases}$$

5. Find the general solution to the linear partial differential equation

$$t \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = nu$$

where n is a positive integer.