



PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS  
SPRING 2023

ASSIGNMENT 3.1  
DUE JANUARY 31

**Exercise 1.** If  $u$  is a function of  $x$  and  $t$  with continuous second order partial derivatives, and we set

$$\alpha = ax + bt, \quad \beta = mx + nt$$

with  $an - bm \neq 0$ , use the chain rule to show that

$$u_{tt} = b^2 u_{\alpha\alpha} + 2bnu_{\alpha\beta} + n^2 u_{\beta\beta}.$$

[*Suggestion.* Apply the chain rule once to compute  $u_t$  in terms of  $u_\alpha$  and  $u_\beta$ , as we did in class. Then apply the chain rule again, in the exact same way, to compute  $(u_\alpha)_t$  and  $(u_\beta)_t$ .]

**Exercise 2.** Solve the 1-D wave equation (for an infinitely long string) subject to the given initial data.

- a.  $u(x, 0) = f(x), u_t(x, 0) = 0$       b.  $u(x, 0) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}, u_t(x, 0) = -2xe^{-x^2}$   
c.  $u(x, 0) = e^{-x^2}, u_t(x, 0) = \frac{x}{(1+x^2)^2}$

**Exercise 3.** If  $\lambda$  is a constant, verify that  $u(x, t) = \sin(\lambda x) \cos(\lambda ct)$  solves the 1-D wave equation  $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$ . For which values of  $\lambda$  does this function also satisfy the boundary conditions  $u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0$ ?

**Exercise 4.** Suppose that  $u(x, t)$  and  $v(x, t)$  have continuous second order partial derivatives and are related through the equations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -A \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = -B \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

for some positive constants  $A$  and  $B$ . Show that  $u$  and  $v$  are both solutions of the 1-D wave equation with  $c = \sqrt{AB}$ .