

Use method of characteristics to solve.

$$(c) \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + t \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 1 \text{ with } w(x, 0) = f(x)$$

Since there is 1 here lets use t as the parameter...

$$x = x(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} w(x(t), t) = \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + x'(t) \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}$$

Use this identification to obtain 2 ODEs.

$$x'(t) = t \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dt} w(x(t), t) = 1$$

$$x(t) = \frac{1}{2}t^2 + x_0$$

$$w(x(t), t) = t + C.$$

$$\text{Therefore } w\left(\frac{1}{2}t^2 + x_0, t\right) = t + C$$

$$w(x_0, 0) = 0 + C \quad \text{so } C = w(x_0, 0) = f(x_0)$$

Thus

$$w\left(\frac{1}{2}t^2 + x_0, t\right) = t + f(x_0)$$

Change the variables $x = \frac{1}{2}t^2 + x_0, \quad x_0 = x - \frac{1}{2}t^2$

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

← answer...

Did it work? Check the answer?

$$\checkmark (c) \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + t \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 1 \text{ with } w(x, 0) = f(x)$$

Solution. $w(x,t) = t + f(x - \frac{1}{2}t^2)$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(t + f(x - \frac{1}{2}t^2) \right) = 1 + f'(x - \frac{1}{2}t^2) (-t)$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(t + f(x - \frac{1}{2}t^2) \right) = 0 + f'(x - \frac{1}{2}t^2)$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + t \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 1 - t f'(x - \frac{1}{2}t^2) + t \left(f'(x - \frac{1}{2}t^2) \right) = 1$$

so this satisfies the PDE

What about initial condition?

$$w(x,0) = 0 + f(x - \frac{1}{2}0^2) = f(x)$$

*12.2.6. Consider (if necessary, see Section 12.6):

$$1. \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + 2u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad u(x,0) = f(x).$$

Show that the characteristics are straight lines.

Try method of characteristics. Try a parameterization with respect to time...

$$x = x(t)$$

$$\frac{d u(x(t), t)}{dt} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + x'(t) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

With this identification we obtain the ODEs

$$x'(t) = 2u(x(t), t) \quad \frac{d u(x(t), t)}{dt} = 0$$

Note the ODEs are coupled, but if I solve them in the

correct order, it's still possible

$$\frac{d(u(x(t), t))}{dt} = 0$$

$$u(x(t), t) = \text{const}$$

$$u(x(0), 0) = f(x(0))$$

$$u(x(t), t) = f(x(0))$$

Now plug into the other ODE

$$x'(t) = 2u(x(t), t) = 2f(x(0))$$

$$x(t) = 2t f(x(0)) + x(0)$$

The characteristics are
 $(x(t), t)$

$$= (2t f(x_0) + x_0, t)$$

this is a
straight line.

Therefore, along the characteristics

$$u(\underbrace{2t f(x_0) + x_0}_x, t) = f(x_0)$$

$$\text{Let } x = 2t f(x_0) + x_0 \dots$$

How to solve for x_0 ?



need to know what f is to solve for x_0
and maybe this equation isn't even
invertible... note the invertibility may also
depend on what t is.

The reason this turned out different is because the PDE

$$1. \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + 2u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

is nonlinear...

this is a quadratic term in u ...

The solution may develop a shock, or discontinuity as
 t increases...

12.6 THE METHOD OF CHARACTERISTICS FOR QUASILINEAR PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} = Q,$$

where c and Q may be functions of x , t , and ρ .
 important to us when the coefficient c depends

Note c and Q don't have any derivatives in them.

$$1. \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + 2u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

my c is a function of u

plays the role of f .

Note
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)^2 = 0$$

not a quasilinear term.

Try solving this ...

$$(b) \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \rho \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} = t \quad \rho(x, 0) = f(x):$$

Method of characteristics.

$$x = x(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \rho(x(t), t) = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + x'(t) \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x}$$

We get two ODEs

$$x'(t) = p(x(t), t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} p(x(t), t) = t$$

this one first

Thus

$$\frac{d}{dt} p(x(t), t) = t$$

plug in
here

$$p(x(t), t) = \frac{1}{2} t^2 + p(x_0, 0)$$

$$p(x(t), t) = \frac{1}{2} t^2 + f(x_0)$$

$$x'(t) = \frac{1}{2} t^2 + f(x_0)$$

$$x(t) = \frac{1}{6} t^3 + t f(x_0) + x_0$$

const.

Therefore along the characteristics ...

$$p\left(\frac{1}{6} t^3 + t f(x_0) + x_0, t\right) = \frac{1}{2} t^2 + f(x_0)$$

$$\text{let } x = \frac{1}{6} t^3 + t f(x_0) + x_0$$

and try to solve for x_0 ... if this is possible will depend on t and f ,