

Transport equation

$$\rho_t + (c\rho)_x = 0$$

Derived from conservation of mass. We may also consider

$$\rho_t + (c\rho)_x = f(x, u, t)$$

where f represents a source term.

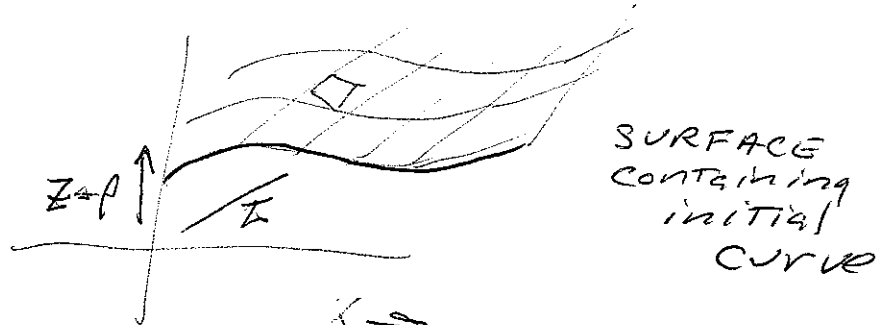
In the constant case $c = \text{constant}$ we have the solution

$$\rho(x, t) = f(x - ct)$$

Consider the general case

$$a\rho_t + b(\rho, x, t)\rho_x = c(\rho, x, t)$$

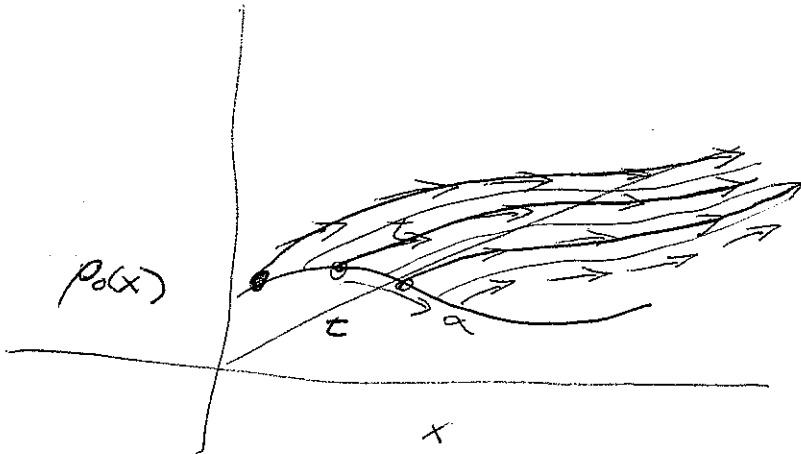
Look at the graph $Z = \rho(x, t)$



TANGENT plane spanned $(1, 0, \rho_x)$ $(0, 1, \rho_x)$
 normal $(-\rho_x, -\rho_x, 1)$

Consider vector field $\vec{V}(x, \tau, z) = (a(x, \tau, z), b(x, \tau, z), c(x, \tau, z))$

$\vec{V} \cdot \vec{n} = 0 \Rightarrow$ vector field lies in tangent plane



Find family of curves tangent to vector field \vec{V}

$$\vec{X} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ \tau \\ z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{d\vec{X}}{ds} = \vec{V}(\vec{X})$$

\leftarrow gives one curve for each initial point

$$\vec{X}(0) = (0, \alpha, p_0(\alpha))$$

E:

parametric representation

$$x = x(\alpha, s)$$

$$\tau = \tau(\alpha, s)$$

$$p = p(\alpha, s)$$

eliminate α, s

$$p = p(x, \tau)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ p_x & p_\tau & k \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(-p_x, -p_\tau, 1)$$

Example: $\rho_t + \rho_x = 0$

$$\rho(x, t) = \rho_0(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 1 \\ b &= 1 \\ c &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

initial curve $t=0$

$$x = \alpha$$

$$z = \rho_0(\alpha)$$

$$\frac{dt}{ds} = 1$$

$$t = s + \alpha$$

$$\frac{dx}{ds} = 1$$

$$x = s + \alpha$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} t = s + \alpha \\ x = s + \alpha \end{array} \right\} \alpha = x - t$$

$$\frac{dz}{ds} = 0$$

$$z = \rho_0(\alpha)$$

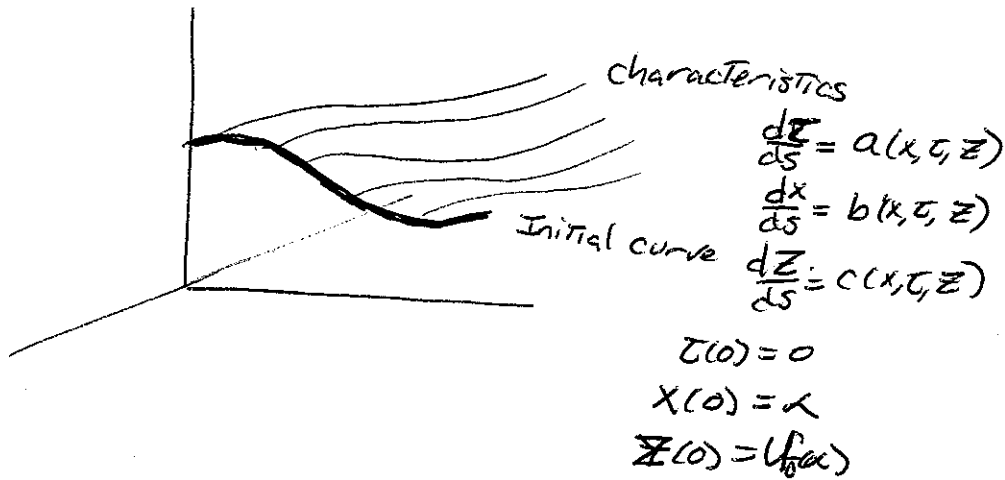
$$z = \rho_0(x - t)$$

MATH 553 LECTURE #3

EXAMPLES: METHOD OF CHARACTERISTICS

$$a(x, t, u)u_t + b(x, t, u)u_x = c(x, t, u)$$

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x)$$



$$u_t + uu_x = 0$$

$$\frac{dz}{ds} = 1 \quad \frac{dx}{ds} = z \quad \frac{dz}{ds} = 0$$

$$z = s \quad x = zs + \alpha \quad z = u_0(\alpha)$$

$$= u_0(\alpha)s + \alpha$$

$$u = u_0(x - uz) \quad \leftarrow \text{defined implicitly}$$

Solvability $F(u, x, t) = 0$ Find $u = u(x, t)$ if $\frac{\partial F}{\partial u} \neq 0$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial u} = 1 + z u_0'(x - uz)$$

when does this first vanish? If $u_0' \geq 0$, then it never does so. If u_0' is somewhere negative, then it vanishes @

$$z = -\frac{1}{u_0'(\alpha)} = -\frac{1}{\min u_0'}$$

The first such time is

Physically this corresponds to wave breaking or overturning

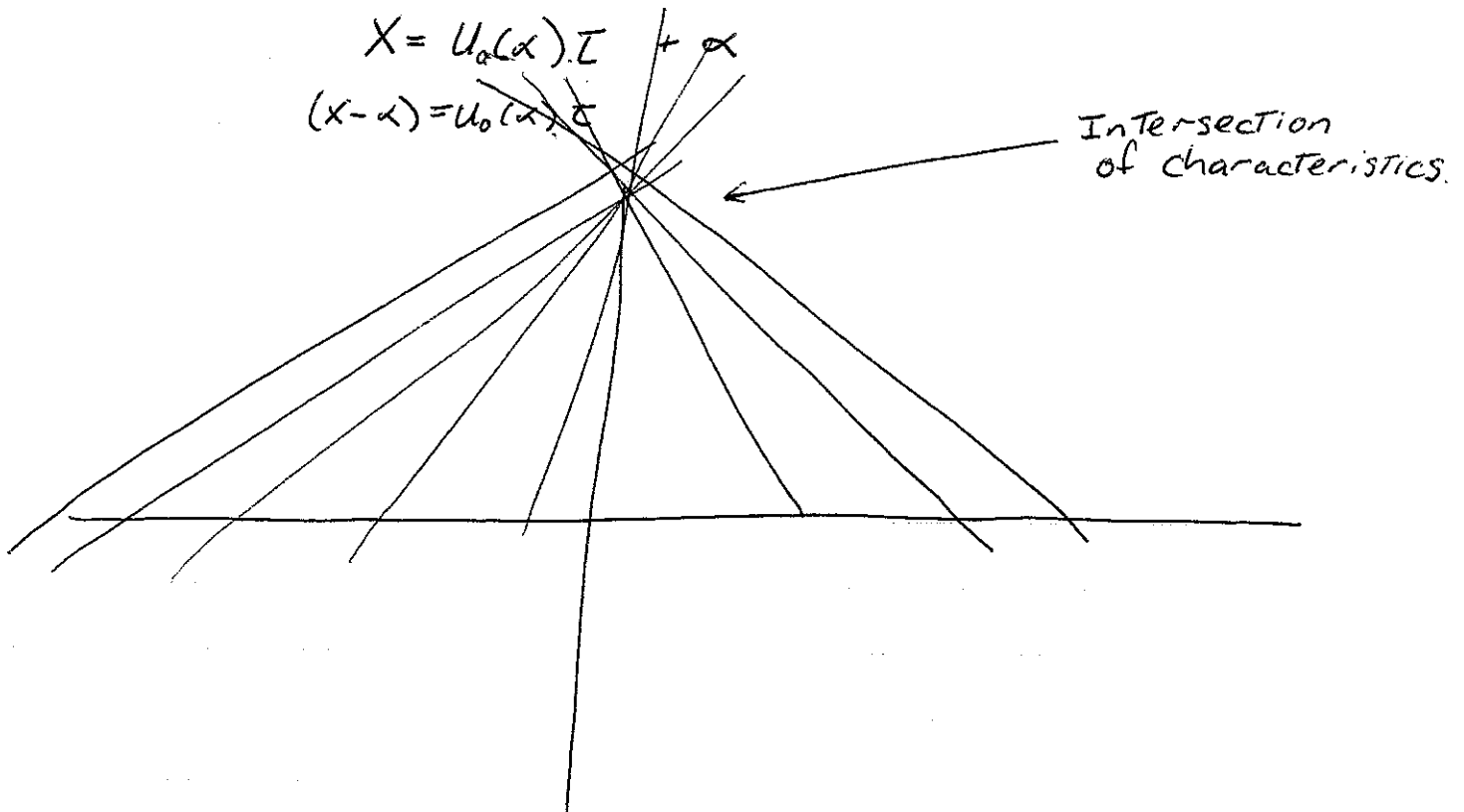


For example if $u_0 = -\tanh x$
 $= \frac{-\sinh x}{\cosh x}$

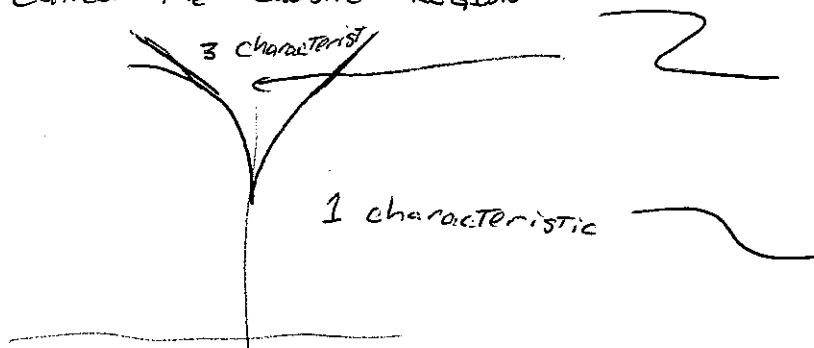
$u_0' = -1 + \frac{\sinh^2 x}{\cosh^2 x} = \frac{-1}{\cosh^2 x}$
 $u_0'' = \frac{2 \sinh x}{\cosh^3 x}$
 $\min_x u_0' = -1 \text{ (@ } x=0)$

Time of first breaking is $\tau = 1$

PICTURE Characteristics are a one parameter family of lines parameterized by α



THE REGION WHICH IS (TRIPLY) COVERED by characteristics
is called The "CAUSTIC" REGION



NOTE: FROM POINT OF VIEW OF A SURFACE THERE IS NOTHING WRONG
LATER WE'LL DISCUSS HOW TO "REGULARIZE" RESOLUTION.

CLOSED CHARACTERISTICS

Example: $x \partial_y u - y \partial_x u = u$ $u(x,0) = u_0(x)$ $x \geq 0$

characteristics

$$\frac{dy}{ds} = x \quad \frac{dx}{ds} = -y$$

$$\frac{dz}{ds} = z$$

Data specified

$$\frac{d^2 y}{ds^2} = \frac{dx}{ds} = -y$$

$$y = A \sin s + B \cos s$$
$$x = A \cos s - B \sin s$$

$$y(0) = 0$$

$$y = \alpha \sin s$$

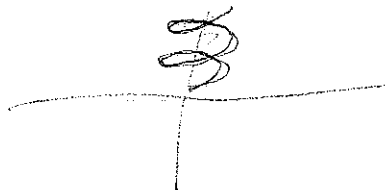
$$\alpha = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = r$$

$$x(0) = \alpha$$

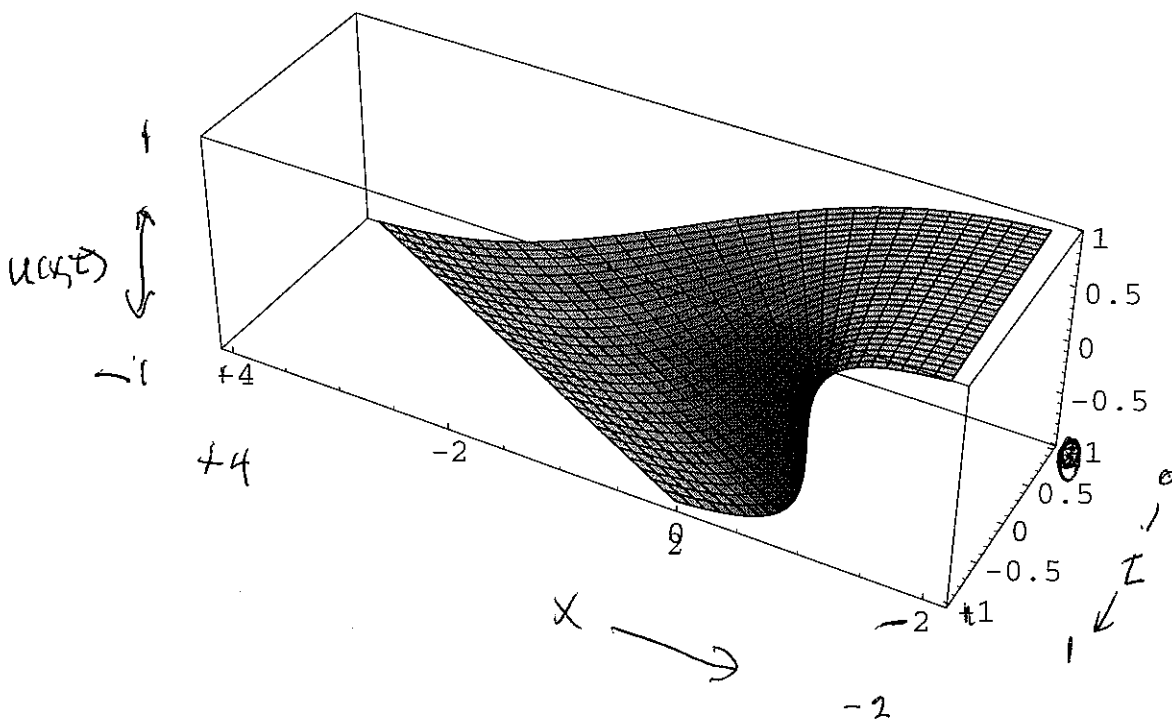
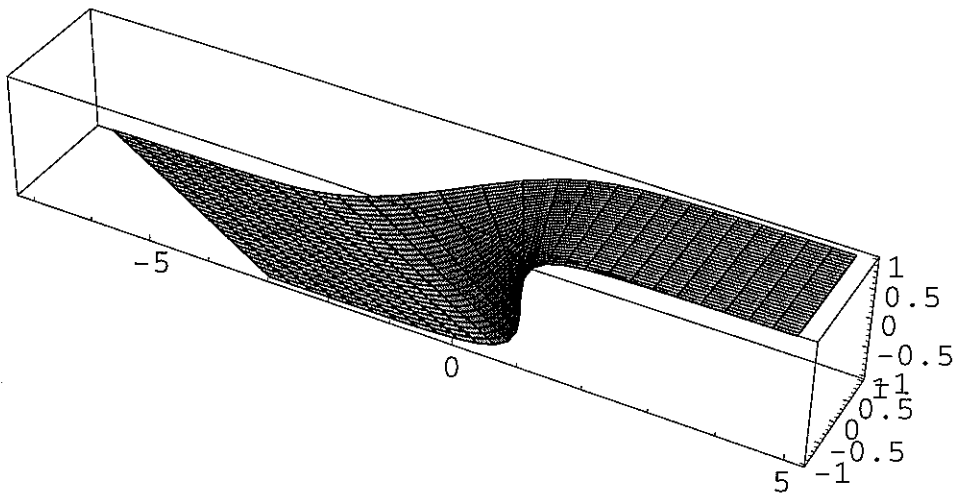
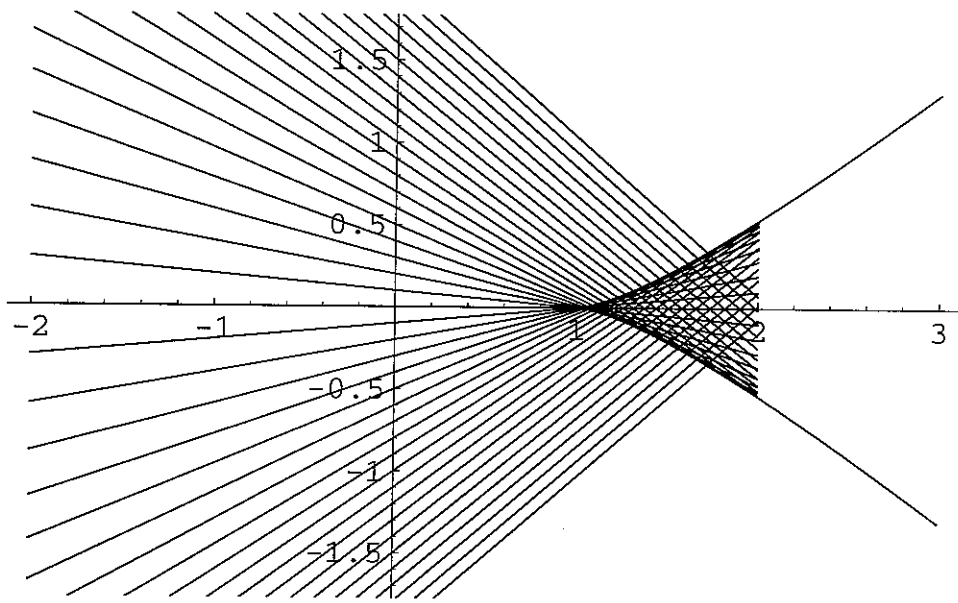
$$x = \alpha \cos s$$

$$\frac{dz}{ds} = z \Rightarrow z = u_0(x) e^s$$

$$u = u(r) e^\theta \leftarrow \text{NOT single valued!}$$



Exponential Helix



The top figure shows the characteristics for the Burgers equation with $u_0(x) = -\tanh(x)$ initial data. Note for $t < 1$ the $x - t$ plane is singly covered by characteristics, while at $t = 1$ a region which is triply covered by characteristics is formed.

The second and third figures show the graph of $u(x, t)$ in the $x - t$ plane. Note the steepening of the curve and the formation of infinite slope at $t = 1$.