

1. Show that sound waves may be treated using a potential ϕ satisfying the wave equation $\phi_{tt} - c^2 \nabla^2 \phi = 0$ with velocity $\mathbf{u} = \nabla \phi$ and pressure $p = -\rho_0 \phi_t$. Here $c^2 = dp/d\rho(\rho_0)$. Find the potential of the three-dimensional, spherically symmetric sound field emitted by an oscillating sphere. Assume oscillations are of amplitude a about a radius r_0 , where $a \ll r_0$, so the boundary condition to be satisfied is

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r}(r_0, t) = a \sin \omega t = a \operatorname{Im}(e^{i\omega t})$$

approximately. (Why is the last expression approximately correct?) Assume also that only outgoing waves appear in the solution. From your expression for ϕ compute (best to do this in the complex form) the radial velocity field $u_r = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} = \phi_r$. Your expression will involve the dimensionless parameter $\Omega = \omega r_0/c$. (The frequency of the standard note A above middle C is 440 Hertz, or cycles per second, in which case $\omega = 880\pi$. Taking $r_0 = 1\text{cm}$ and $c = 350\text{m/sec}$ we get $\omega r_0/c \approx .08$. We may take the parameter to be of order unity.) The length scale $R = c/\omega \approx 12\text{cm}$ separates the “near” and “far” fields of the sound pattern. Discuss the r -variation of $u_r \phi_r$ in the two cases $r_0 + a < r \ll R$ cm and $r \gg R$.

2. A semi-infinite tube is closed at the end $x = 0$. Gas is confined in the region $L < x < 2L$ at pressure, density, and temperature p_1, ρ_1, T_0 . Elsewhere the ambient state is p_0, ρ_0, T_0 . The gas is a perfect gas. At $t = 0$ the barriers at $x = L, 2L$ are broken. If $p_1 = 1.1p_0$, and the approximation of acoustics is used, what is the pressure distribution in the tube at time $t = 7L/4c_0$? (Hint: The domain may be extended to the real line by making pressure even, velocity odd, in x .)

3. Establish uniqueness of the solution of the IVP for the wave equation in N dimensions using the energy method, in the following case:

(a) Show that if u is twice continuously differentiable and $u_{tt} - c^2 \nabla^2 u = 0$, for $t > 0$, all \mathbf{x} , with $\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} + \dots + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_N^2}$, and also either u or u_t is identically zero outside a sphere of some large radius R centered at the origin, then the energy

$$E(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (u_t^2 + c^2 (\nabla u)^2) dx_1 \dots dx_N$$

is constant in time. Use the fact that then the range of influence of the initial data lies inside the sphere of radius $R + ct$ at time t .

(b) Then obtain uniqueness by considering the null initial conditions $u_t = 0, u = 0$.

4. (a) Find the solution of Burger's wave equation $u_t + uu_x = 0$ with the initial conditions $u(x, 0) = 0, x < 0; = x^2, 0 \leq x \leq 1; = 1, x > 1$.

5. Let $B(\eta)$ be a given function differentiable function, $B' \neq 0$. Show that if $u(x, t)$ is defined implicitly by $u = B(x - ut)$, so $u(x, 0) = B(x)$, then $u(x, t)$ satisfies Burgers' equation $u_t + uu_x = 0$ for $t > 0$.

6. For the viscous Burgers equation derived in class, let $U = (\gamma + 1)u/2$ and $\epsilon = 2\mu/3 = \text{constant}$ to get $U_t + UU_x - \epsilon U_{xx}$. The *Cole-Hopf* transformation is given by $U = -2\epsilon \frac{\psi_x}{\psi}$. Show that under this transformation, Burgers' equation reduces to

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{\psi_t}{\psi} - \epsilon \frac{\psi_{xx}}{\psi} \right] = 0.$$

Hence show that a solution of Burgers' equation is generated by taking

$$\psi = 1 + t^{-1/2} e^{-\frac{x^2}{4\epsilon t}}.$$

Describe this solution by sketching $U \sqrt{t/\epsilon}$ as a function of $\eta = \frac{x}{2\sqrt{\epsilon t}}$ for various t .