Type	New Variables		Normal Form
Hyperbolic	$v = \Phi$	$w = \Psi$	$u_{vw} = F_1$
Parabolic	$v = x$	$w = \Phi = \Psi$	$u_{ww} = F_2$
Elliptic	$v = \frac{1}{2}(\Phi + \Psi)$	$w = \frac{1}{2i}(\Phi - \Psi)$	$u_{vv} + u_{ww} = F_3$

Here, $\Phi = \Phi(x, y), \Psi = \Psi(x, y), F_1 = F_1(v, w, u, u_v, u_w)$, etc., and we denote u as function of v, w again by u, for simplicity. We see that the normal form of a hyperbolic PDE is as in d'Alembert's solution. In the parabolic case we get just one family of solutions $\Phi = \Psi$. In the elliptic case, $i = \sqrt{-1}$, and the characteristics are complex and are of minor interest. For derivation, see Ref. [GenRef3] in App. 1.

EXAMPLE 1 D'Alembert's Solution Obtained Systematically

The theory of characteristics gives d'Alembert's solution in a systematic fashion. To see this, we write the wave equation $u_{tt} - c^2u_{xx} = 0$ in the form (14) by setting $y = ct$. By the chain rule, $u_t = u_y y_t = cu_y$ and $u_{tt} = c^2u_{yy}$. Division by c^2 gives $u_{xx} - u_{yy} = 0$, as stated before. Hence the characteristic equation is $y'^2 - 1 = (y' + 1)(y' - 1) = 0$. The two families of solutions (characteristics) are $\Phi(x, y) = y + x =$ const and $\Psi(x, y) = y - x =$ const. This gives the new variables $v = \Phi = y + x = ct + x$ and $w = \Psi = y - x = ct - x$ and d'Alembert's solution $u = f_1(x + ct) + f_2(x - ct)$. ■

PROBLEM SET 12.4

1. Show that c is the speed of each of the two waves given by (4).
2. Show that, because of the boundary conditions (2), Sec. 12.3, the function f in (13) of this section must be odd and of period $2L$.
3. If a steel wire 2 m in length weighs 0.9 nt (about 0.20 lb) and is stretched by a tensile force of 300 nt (about 67.4 lb), what is the corresponding speed of transverse waves?
4. What are the frequencies of the eigenfunctions in Prob. 3?

5–8 GRAPHING SOLUTIONS

Using (13) sketch or graph a figure (similar to Fig. 291 in Sec. 12.3) of the deflection $u(x, t)$ of a vibrating string (length $L = 1$, ends fixed, $c = 1$) starting with initial velocity 0 and initial deflection (k small, say, $k = 0.01$).

5. $f(x) = k \sin \pi x$
6. $f(x) = k(1 - \cos \pi x)$
7. $f(x) = k \sin 2\pi x$
8. $f(x) = kx(1 - x)$

9–18 NORMAL FORMS

Find the type, transform to normal form, and solve. Show your work in detail.

9. $u_{xx} + 4u_{yy} = 0$
10. $u_{xx} - 16u_{yy} = 0$
11. $u_{xx} + 2u_{xy} + u_{yy} = 0$
12. $u_{xx} - 2u_{xy} + u_{yy} = 0$
13. $u_{xx} + 5u_{xy} + 4u_{yy} = 0$
14. $xu_{xy} - yu_{yy} = 0$
15. $xu_{xx} - yu_{xy} = 0$
16. $u_{xx} + 2u_{xy} + 10u_{yy} = 0$
17. $u_{xx} - 4u_{xy} + 5u_{yy} = 0$
18. $u_{xx} - 6u_{xy} + 9u_{yy} = 0$
19. **Longitudinal Vibrations of an Elastic Bar or Rod.** These vibrations in the direction of the x-axis are modeled by the wave equation $u_{tt} = c^2u_{xx}, c^2 = E/\rho$ (see Tolstov [C9], p. 275). If the rod is fastened at one end, $x = 0$, and free at the other, $x = L$, we have $u(0, t) = 0$ and $u_x(L, t) = 0$. Show that the motion corresponding to initial displacement $u(x, 0) = f(x)$ and initial velocity zero is

$$u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n \sin p_n x \cos p_n ct,$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{L}\int_0^L f(x) \sin p_n x \, dx, \qquad p_n = \frac{(2n+1)\pi}{2L}.$$

20. **Tricomi and Airy equations.**[2] Show that the *Tricomi equation* $yu_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$ is of mixed type. Obtain the **Airy equation** $G'' - yG = 0$ from the Tricomi equation by separation. (For solutions, see p. 446 of Ref. [GenRef1] listed in App. 1.)

[2]Sir GEORGE BIDELL AIRY (1801–1892), English mathematician, known for his work in elasticity. FRANCESCO TRICOMI (1897–1978), Italian mathematician, who worked in integral equations and functional analysis.