## 6 Method of characteristics

**Question 80:** (a) Show that the PDE  $u_y = 0$  in the half plane  $\{x > 0\}$  has no solution which is  $\mathcal{C}^1$  and satisfies the boundary condition  $u(y^2, y) = y$ .

**Solution:** The PDE implies that  $u(x, y) = \phi(x)$  where  $\phi$  is any  $C^1$  function. The boundary condition implies  $\phi(1) = u(1,-1) = -1$  and  $\phi(1) = u(1,1) = 1$ , which is impossible. The reason for this happening is that the characteristics lines ( $x = c$ ) cross the boundary curve (the parabola of equation  $x=y^2$ ) twice.

(b) Find the  $\mathcal{C}^1$  function that solves the above PDE in the quadrant  $\{x > 0, 0 > y\}$  (beware the sign of  $y$ ).

**Solution:** The PDE implies  $u(x, y) = \phi(x)$  and the boundary condition implies  $\phi(y^2) = u(y^2, y) =$  $y = -|y|$  since  $y$  is negative. Then  $u(x, y) = \phi(x) = -\sqrt{x}$ .

Question 81: Let  $\Omega = \{x > 0, y > 0\}$  be the first quadrant of the plane. Let  $\Gamma$  be the line defined by the following parameterization  $\Gamma = \{x = s, y = 1/s, s > 0\}$ . Solve the following PDE:

$$
xu_x + 2yu_y = 0, \text{ in } \Omega,
$$
  

$$
u(x, y) = x \text{ on } \Gamma.
$$

**Solution:** The characteristics are  $X(\tau,s) = se^{\tau}$ ,  $Y(\tau,s) = s^{-1}e^{2\tau}$ . Upon setting  $u(X(\tau,s), Y(\tau,s)) =$  $w(\tau,s)$ , we obtain  $w(\tau,s) = w(0,s)$ . Then the boundary condition implies  $w(0,s) = u(s,\frac{1}{s}) = s.$ In other words  $u(x, y) = (x^2y^{-1})^{1/3}$ .

Question 82: (a) Solve the quasi-linear PDE  $3u^2u_x + 3u^2u_y = 1$  in the plane by using the method of Lagrange (that is, show that u solves the nonlinear equation  $c(a(x, y, u), b(x, y, u)) =$ 0 where c is an arbitrary function and  $a, b$  are polynomials of degree 3 that you must find.)

**Solution:** The auxiliary equation is  $3z^2\phi_x + 3z^2\phi_y + \phi_z = 0$ . Define the plane  $\Gamma = \{x = s, y = 0\}$  $s', z = 0$ } and enforce  $\phi(x, y, z) = \phi_0(s, s')$  on  $\Gamma$ , where  $\phi_0$  is an arbitrary  $\mathcal{C}^1$  function. The characteristics are  $X(\tau,s,s') = \tau^3 + s Y(\tau,s,s') = \tau^3 + s'$ ,  $Z(\tau,s,s') = \tau$ . Then  $\phi(x,y,z) = \tau^3 + s'$  $\phi_0(s,s')$  where  $s=x-z^3$  and  $s'=y-z^3$ . Then  $\phi(x,y,z)=\phi_0(x-z^3,y-z^3)$ . Hence,  $u$  solves  $\phi_0(x-u^3, y-u^3)=0.$ 

(b) Find a solution to the above PDE that satisfies the boundary condition  $u(x, 2x) = 1$ .

**Solution:** We want  $\phi_0(x-1, 2x-1) = 0$ . Take  $\phi_0(\alpha, \beta) = 2\alpha - \beta + 1$ . Then  $2(x-u^3) - (y-u^3) + 1 = 0$ 0, that is  $u(x,y) = (1 + 2x - y)^{1/3}$ .

Question 83: We want to solve the following PDE:

$$
\partial_t w + 3\partial_x w = 0, \quad x > -t, \ t > 0
$$
  
\n
$$
w(x, t) = w_\Gamma(x, t), \text{ for all } (x, t) \in \Gamma \text{ where}
$$
  
\n
$$
\Gamma = \{(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ s.t. } x = -t, \ x < 0\} \cup \{(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ s.t. } t = 0, \ x \ge 0\}
$$
  
\nand  $w_\Gamma$  is a given function.

(a) Draw a picture of the domain  $\Omega$  where the PDE must be solved, of the boundary Γ, and of the characteristics.

Solution:

(b) Define a one-to-one parametric representation of the boundary Γ.

**Solution:** For negative s we set  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$ ; clearly we have  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = -t_{\Gamma}(s)$  for all s < 0. For positive s we set  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$ . The map  $\mathbb{R} \in s \mapsto (x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)) \in \Gamma$  is one-t-one.

(c) Give a parametric representation of the characteristics associated with the PDE.

**Solution:** (i) We use  $t$  and  $s$  to parameterize the characteristics. The characteristics are defined by

$$
\partial_t X(t,s) = 3
$$
, with  $x(t) \Gamma(s), s) = x_{\Gamma}(s)$ .

This yields the following parametric representation of the characteristics

$$
X(t,s) = 3(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)) + x_{\Gamma}(s),
$$

where  $t \geq 0$  and  $s \in (-\infty, +\infty)$ .

(d) Give an implicit parametric representation of the solution to the PDE.

**Solution:** (i) Now we set  $\phi(t, s) = w(X(t, s), t(t, s))$  and we insert this ansatz in the equation. This gives  $\frac{d\phi}{dt}(t,s)=0$ , i.e.,  $\phi(t,s)$  does not depend on  $t.$  In other words

$$
w(X(t, s), t(t, s)) = \phi(t, s) = \phi(0, s) = w(x(0, s), t(0, s)) = w_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s))
$$

A parametric representation of the solution is given by

$$
X(t,s) = 3(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)) + x_{\Gamma}(s),
$$
  

$$
w(X(t,s), t(t,s)) = w_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)).
$$

(e) Give an explicit representation of the solution.

**Solution:** (i) We have to find the inverse map  $(x, t) \mapsto (t, s)$ . Clearly  $x - 3t = x_0(s) - 3t_0(s)$ . Then, there are two cases depending on the sign of s.

case 1: If  $s < 0$ , then  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$ . That means  $x - 3t = 4s$ , which in turns implies  $s = \frac{1}{4}(x - 3t)$ . Then

$$
w(x,t) = w_{\Gamma}(\frac{1}{4}(x-3t), -\frac{1}{4}(x-3t)), \quad \text{if } x - 3t < 0.
$$

case 2: If  $s > 0$ , then  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$ . That means  $x - 3t = s$ . Then

 $w(x, t) = w_{\Gamma}(x - 3t, 0), \text{ if } x - 3t > 0.$ 

Note that the explicit representation of the solution does not depend on the choice of the parameterization.

Question 84: Solve the following PDE by the method of characteristics:

 $\partial_t w + 3\partial_x w = 0, \quad x > 0, t > 0$  $w(x, 0) = f(x), \quad x > 0, \quad \text{and} \quad w(0, t) = h(t), \quad t > 0.$  **Solution:** First we parameterize the boundary of  $\Omega$  by setting  $\Gamma = \{x = x_{\Gamma}(s), t = t_{\Gamma}(s); s \in \mathbb{R}\}\$ with

$$
x_\Gamma(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s < 0, \\ s, & \text{if } s \geq 0. \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad t_\Gamma(s) = \begin{cases} -s & \text{if } s < 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } s \geq 0. \end{cases}
$$

The we define the characteristics by

$$
\partial_t X(s,t) = 3
$$
, with  $X(s,t_\Gamma(s)) = x_\Gamma(s)$ .

The general solution is  $X(s,t) = 3(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)) + x_{\Gamma}(s)$ . Now we make the change of variable  $\phi(s,t) = w(X(s,t),t)$  and we compute  $\partial_t \phi(s,t)$ ,

$$
\partial_t \phi(s,t) = \partial_t w(X(s,t),t) + \partial_x w(X(s,t),t) \partial_t X(s,t) = \partial_t w(X(s,t),t) + 3\partial_x w(X(s,t),t) = 0.
$$

This means that  $\phi(s,t) = \phi(s,t_\Gamma(s))$ . In other words

$$
w(X(s,t),t) = w(X(s,t_{\Gamma}(s)),t_{\Gamma}(s)) = w(x_{\Gamma}(s),t_{\Gamma}(s)).
$$

Case 1: If  $s < 0$ , then  $X(s,t) = 3(t - t<sub>\Gamma</sub>(s))$ . This implies  $t<sub>\Gamma</sub>(s) = t - X/3$ . The condition  $s < 0$ and the definition  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$  imply  $t - X/3 \geq 0$ . Moreover we have

$$
w(X,t) = w(0, t_{\Gamma}(s)) = h(t_{\Gamma}(s)).
$$

In conlusion

$$
w(X,t) = h(t - X/3), \quad \text{if} \quad 3t > X.
$$

Case 2: If  $s \geq 0$ , then  $X(s,t) = 3t + x_{\Gamma}(s)$ . This implies  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = X - 3t$ . The condition  $s \geq 0$ and the definition  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  imply  $X - 3t \geq 0$ . Moreover we have

$$
w(X,t) = w(x_{\Gamma}(s),0) = f(x_{\Gamma}(s)).
$$

In conlusion

$$
w(X,t) = f(X - 3t), \quad \text{if} \quad X \ge 3t.
$$

Question 85: Let  $\Omega = \{(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^2; x + 2t \geq 0\}$ . Solve the following PDE in explicit form with the method of characteristics:

$$
\partial_t u(x,t) + 3\partial_x u(x,t) = u(x,t)
$$
, in  $\Omega$ , and  $u(x,t) = 1 + \sin(x)$ , if  $x + 2t = 0$ .

**Solution:** (i) First we parameterize the boundary of  $\Omega$  by setting  $\Gamma = \{x = x_0(s), t = t_0(s); s \in \mathbb{R}\}$  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = -2s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = s$ . This choice implies

$$
u(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)) := u_{\Gamma}(s) := 1 + \sin(-2s).
$$

(ii) We compute the characteristics

$$
\partial_t X(t,s) = 3, \quad X(t_\Gamma(s),s) = x_\Gamma(s).
$$

The solution is  $X(t, s) = 3(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)) + x_{\Gamma}(s)$ .

(iii) Set  $\Phi(t, s) := u(X(t, s), t)$  and compute  $\partial_t \Phi(t, s)$ . This gives

$$
\partial_t \Phi(t,s) = \partial_t u(X(t,s),t) + \partial_x u(X(t,s),t) \partial_t X(t,s)
$$
  
= 
$$
\partial_t u(X(t,s),t) + 3\partial_x u(X(t,s),t) = u(X(t,s),t) = \Phi(t,s).
$$

The solution is  $\Phi(t,s) = \Phi(t_{\Gamma}(s),s)e^{t-t_{\Gamma}(s)}$ .

(iv) The implicit representation of the solution is

$$
X(t,s) = 3(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)) + x_{\Gamma}(s) \quad u(X(t,s)) = u_{\Gamma}(s)e^{t - t_{\Gamma}(s)}.
$$

(v) The explicit representation is obtained by using the definitions of  $-t<sub>Γ</sub>(s)$ ,  $x<sub>Γ</sub>(s)$  and  $u<sub>Γ</sub>(s)$ .

$$
X(s,t) = 3(t - s) - 2s = 3t - 5s,
$$

which gives

$$
s = \frac{1}{5}(3t - X).
$$

The solution is

$$
u(x,t) = (1 + \sin(\frac{2}{5}(x - 3t)))e^{t - \frac{1}{5}(3t - x)}
$$
  
=  $(1 + \sin(\frac{2(x - 3t)}{5}))e^{\frac{x + 2t}{5}}$ .

Question 86: Let  $\Omega = \{(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^2; x \geq 0, t \geq 0\}$ . Solve the following PDE in explicit form

$$
\partial_t u(x,t) + t \partial_x u(x,t) = 2u(x,t)
$$
, in  $\Omega$ , and  $u(0,t) = t$ ,  $u(x,0) = x$ .

**Solution:** (i) First we parameterize the boundary of  $\Omega$  by setting  $\Gamma = \{x = x_0(s), t = t_0(s); s \in \mathbb{R}\}$ R} with  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$  if  $s > 0$  and  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$  if  $s \le 0$ . This choice implies

$$
u(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)) := u_{\Gamma}(s) := \begin{cases} s & \text{if } s > 0 \\ -s & \text{if } s \leq 0 \end{cases}.
$$

(ii) We compute the characteristics

$$
\partial_t X(t,s) = t, \quad X(t_\Gamma(s),s) = x_\Gamma(s).
$$

The solution is  $X(t,s) = \frac{1}{2}t^2 - \frac{1}{2}t_{\Gamma}^2(s) + x_{\Gamma}(s)$ .

(iii) Set  $\Phi(t, s) := u(X(t, s), t)$  and compute  $\partial_t \Phi(t, s)$ . This gives

$$
\partial_t \Phi(t,s) = \partial_t u(X(t,s),t) + \partial_x u(X(t,s),t) \partial_t X(t,s)
$$
  
= 
$$
\partial_t u(X(t,s),t) + t \partial_x u(X(t,s),t) = 2u(X(t,s),t) = 2\Phi(t,s).
$$

The solution is  $\Phi(t,s) = \Phi(t_\Gamma(s),s)e^{2(t-t_\Gamma(s))}.$ 

(iv) The implicit representation of the solution is

$$
X(t,s) = \frac{1}{2}t^2 - \frac{1}{2}t^2\Gamma(s) + x\Gamma(s), \quad u(X(t,s)) = u\Gamma(s)e^{2(t-t\Gamma(s))}, \quad u\Gamma(s) = \begin{cases} s & \text{if } s > 0 \\ -s & \text{if } s \le 0 \end{cases}.
$$

(v) We distinguish two cases to get the explicit form of the solution:

Case 1: Assume  $s > 0$ , then  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$  and  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$ . This implies  $X(t, s) = \frac{1}{2}t^2 + s$ , meaning  $s = X - \frac{1}{2}t^2$ . The solution is

$$
u(x,t) = (x - \frac{1}{2}t^2)e^{2t}
$$
, if  $x > \frac{1}{2}t^2$ .

<u>Case 2</u>: Assume  $s \le 0$ , then  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$  and  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$ . This implies  $X(t, s) = \frac{1}{2}t^2 - \frac{1}{2}s^2$ , meaning  $s=-\sqrt{t^2-2X}$ . The solution is

$$
u(x,t) = \sqrt{t^2 - 2x} e^{2(t - \sqrt{t^2 - 2x})}
$$
, if  $x \le \frac{1}{2}t^2$ .

Question 87: Let  $\Omega = \{(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : t > 0, x \geq t\}$ . Let  $\Gamma$  be defined by the following parameterization  $\Gamma = \{x = x_{\Gamma}(s), t = t_{\Gamma}(s), s \in \mathbb{R}\},\$  with  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$  if  $s \leq 0$ ,  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$  if  $s \geq 0$ . Solve the following PDE (give the implicit and explicit representations):

$$
u_t + 3u_x + 2u = 0, \quad \text{in } \Omega, \qquad u(x,t) = u_\Gamma(x,t) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t = 0 \\ 2 & \text{if } x = t \end{cases} \quad \text{for all } (x,t) \text{ in } \Gamma.
$$

Solution: We define the characteristics by

$$
\frac{dx(t,s)}{dt} = 3, \quad x(t_{\Gamma}(s),s) = x_{\Gamma}(s).
$$

This gives  $x(t, s) = x_{\Gamma}(s) + 3(t - t_{\Gamma}(s))$ . Upon setting  $\phi(t, s) = u(x(t, s), t)$ , we observe that  $\partial_t \phi(t, s) + 2\phi(t, s) = 0$ , which means

$$
\phi(t,s) = ce^{-2t}.
$$

The initial condition implies  $\phi(t_\Gamma(s),s)=u_\Gamma(x_\Gamma(s),t_\Gamma(s))$ ; as a result  $c=u_\Gamma(x_\Gamma(s),t_\Gamma(s))e^{2t_\Gamma(s)}.$ 

$$
\phi(t,s) = u_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s))e^{2(t_{\Gamma}(s)-t)}.
$$

The implicit representation of the solution is

$$
u(x(t,s),t) = u_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s),t_{\Gamma}(s))e^{2(t_{\Gamma}(s)-t)}, \qquad x(t,s) = x_{\Gamma}(s) + 3(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)).
$$

Now we give the explicit representation.

Case 1: If  $s \le 0$ ,  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$ ,  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$ , and  $u_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)) = 2$ . This means  $x(t, s) =$  $-s+3(t+s)$  and we obtain  $s=\frac{1}{2}(x-3t)$ , which means

$$
u(x,t) = 2e^{-2(\frac{1}{2}(x-3t)-t)} = 2e^{t-x}, \quad \text{if } x - 3t < 0.
$$

Case 2: If  $s \geq 0$ ,  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$ ,  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$ , and  $u_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)) = 1$ . This means  $x(t, s) = s + 3t$  and we obtain  $s = x - 3t$ , which means

$$
u(x,t) = e^{-2t}
$$
, if  $x - 3t > 0$ .

Question 88: Let  $\Omega = \{(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : t > 0, x \geq -\sqrt{t}\}\)$ . Let  $\Gamma$  be defined by the following parameterization  $\Gamma = \{x = x_{\Gamma}(s), t = t_{\Gamma}(s), s \in \mathbb{R}\},\$  with  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = s^2$  if  $s \leq 0$ ,  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$  if  $s \ge 0$ . Solve the following PDE (give the implicit and explicit representations):

 $u_t + 2u_x + 3u = 0$ , in  $\Omega$ ,  $^{-t_{\Gamma}(s)-x_{\Gamma}(s)}, \quad \forall s \in (-\infty, +\infty).$ 

Solution: We define the characteristics by

$$
\frac{dX(t,s)}{dt} = 2, \quad X(t_{\Gamma}(s),s) = x_{\Gamma}(s).
$$

This gives  $X(t, s) = x_{\Gamma}(s) + 2(t - t_{\Gamma}(s))$ . Upon setting  $\phi(t, s) = u(X(t, s), t)$ , we observe that  $\partial_t \phi(t, s) + 3\phi(t, s) = 0$ , which means

$$
\phi(t,s) = ce^{-3t}.
$$

The initial condition implies  $\phi(t_\Gamma(s),s)=u(x_\Gamma(s),t_\Gamma(s))=e^{-t_\Gamma(s)-x_\Gamma(s)}=ce^{-3t_\Gamma(s)};$  as a result  $c = e^{2t_{\Gamma}(s) - x_{\Gamma}(s)}$  and

$$
\phi(t,s) = e^{2t_\Gamma(s) - x_\Gamma(s) - 3t}.
$$

The implicit representation of the solution is

$$
u(X(t,s),t) = e^{2t_{\Gamma}(s) - x_{\Gamma}(s) - 3t}, \qquad X(t,s) = x_{\Gamma}(s) + 2(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)).
$$

Now we give the explicit representation.

We observe the following:

$$
2t_{\Gamma}(s) - x_{\Gamma}(s) = 2t - X(t, s),
$$

which gives

$$
u(X(t,s),t) = e^{2t - X(t,s) - 3t} = e^{-X(t,s) - t}.
$$

In conclusion, the explicit representation of the solution to the problem is the following:

$$
u(x,t) = e^{-x-t}.
$$

Question 89: Let  $\Omega = \{(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : t > 0, x \ge -t\}$ . Let  $\Gamma$  be defined by the following parameterization  $\Gamma = \{x = x_{\Gamma}(s), t = t_{\Gamma}(s), s \in \mathbb{R}\},\$  with  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$  if  $s \leq 0$ ,  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$  if  $s \ge 0$ . Solve the following PDE (give the implicit and explicit representations):

$$
u_t + 2u_x + u = 0, \quad \text{in } \Omega, \qquad u(x,t) = u_\Gamma(x,t) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x > 0 \\ 2 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{for all } (x,t) \text{ in } \Gamma.
$$

**Solution:** We define the characteristics by

$$
\frac{dx(t,s)}{dt} = 2, \quad x(t_{\Gamma}(s),s) = x_{\Gamma}(s).
$$

This gives  $x(t, s) = x_{\Gamma}(s) + 2(t - t_{\Gamma}(s))$ . Upon setting  $\phi(t, s) = u(x(t, s), t)$ , we observe that  $\partial_t \phi(t, s) + \phi(t, s) = 0$ , which means

$$
\phi(t,s) = ce^{-t}.
$$

The initial condition implies  $\phi(t_\Gamma(s),s)=u_\Gamma(x_\gamma(s),t_\Gamma(s))$ ; as a result  $c=u_\Gamma(x_\Gamma(s),t_\Gamma(s))e^{t_\Gamma(s)}.$ 

$$
\phi(t,s) = u_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s))e^{t_{\Gamma}(s)-t}.
$$

The implicit representation of the solution is

$$
u(x(t,s),t) = u_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s))e^{t_{\Gamma}(s)-t}, \qquad x(t,s) = x_{\Gamma}(s) + 2(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)).
$$

Now we give the explicit representation.

Case 1: If  $s \le 0$ ,  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$ ,  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = -s$ , and  $u_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)) = 2$ . This means  $x(t, s) = s + 2(t + s)$ and we obtain  $s = \frac{1}{3}(x - 2t)$ , which means

$$
u(x,t) = 2e^{-\frac{1}{3}(x-2t) - t}, \quad \text{if } x - 2t < 0.
$$

Case 2: If  $s \geq 0$ ,  $x_{\Gamma}(s) = s$ ,  $t_{\Gamma}(s) = 0$ , and  $u_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)) = 1$ . This means  $x(t, s) = s + 2t$  and we obtain  $s = x - 2t$ , which means

$$
u(x,t) = e^{-t}
$$
, if  $x - 2t > 0$ .

Question 90: Let  $\Omega = \{(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid t > 0, x \ge \frac{1}{t}\}.$  Solve the following PDE in explicit form with the method of characteristics: (Solution:  $u(x,t) = (2 + \cos(s))e^{\frac{1}{s} - t}$  with  $s = \frac{1}{2}[(x - 2t) +$  $\sqrt{(x-2t)^2+8}$ 

 $\partial_t u(x, t) + 2\partial_x u(x, t) = -u(x, t), \text{ in } \Omega, \text{ and } u(x, t) = 2 + \cos(x), \text{ if } x = 1/t.$ 

**Solution:** (i) First we parameterize the boundary of  $\Omega$  by setting  $\Gamma = \{x = x_0(s), t = t_0(s); s \in \mathbb{R}\}$  $\mathbb{R}$ } with  $x_{\Gamma}(s)=s$  and  $t_{\Gamma}(s)=\frac{1}{s}$  . This choice implies

$$
u(x_{\Gamma}(s), t_{\Gamma}(s)) := u_{\Gamma}(s) := 2 + \cos(s).
$$

(ii) We compute the characteristics

$$
\partial_t X(t,s) = 2, \quad X(t_\Gamma(s),s) = x_\Gamma(s).
$$

The solution is  $X(t, s) = 2(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)) + x_{\Gamma}(s)$ .

(iii) Set  $\Phi(t, s) := u(X(t, s), t)$  and compute  $\partial_t \Phi(t, s)$ . This gives

$$
\partial_t \Phi(t,s) = \partial_t u(X(t,s),t) + \partial_x u(X(t,s),t) \partial_t X(t,s)
$$
  
= 
$$
\partial_t u(X(t,s),t) + 2\partial_x u(X(t,s),t) = u(X(t,s),t) = -\Phi(t,s).
$$

The solution is  $\Phi(t,s) = \Phi(t_{\Gamma}(s),s)e^{-t+t_{\Gamma}(s)}$ .

(iv) The implicit representation of the solution is

$$
X(t,s) = 2(t - t_{\Gamma}(s)) + x_{\Gamma}(s),
$$
  $u(X(t,s)) = u_{\Gamma}(s)e^{-t + t_{\Gamma}(s)}.$ 

(v) The explicit representation is obtained by using the definitions of  $-t<sub>\Gamma</sub>(s)$ ,  $x<sub>\Gamma</sub>(s)$  and  $u<sub>\Gamma</sub>(s)$ .

$$
X(s,t) = 2(t - \frac{1}{s}) + s = 2t - \frac{2}{s} + s
$$

which gives the equation

$$
s^2 - s(X - 2t) - 2 = 0
$$

The solutions are  $s_{\pm}~=~\frac{1}{2}\left((X-2t)\pm\sqrt{(X-2t)^2+8}\right)$ . The only legitimate solution is the positive one: 1

$$
s = \frac{1}{2} \left( (X - 2t) + \sqrt{(X - 2t)^2 + 8} \right)
$$

The solution is

$$
u(x,t) = (2 + \cos(s))e^{\frac{1}{s} - t}
$$
  
with  $s = \frac{1}{2}((x - 2t) + \sqrt{(x - 2t)^2 + 8})$