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# ADVECTION - DIFFUSION EQUATIONS

based on book by Hundsdoerfer / Verwer

AD :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} u(x,t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [a(x,t)u(x,t)] = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [d(x,t)u(x,t)]$$

conservation law
advective flux
diffusive flux

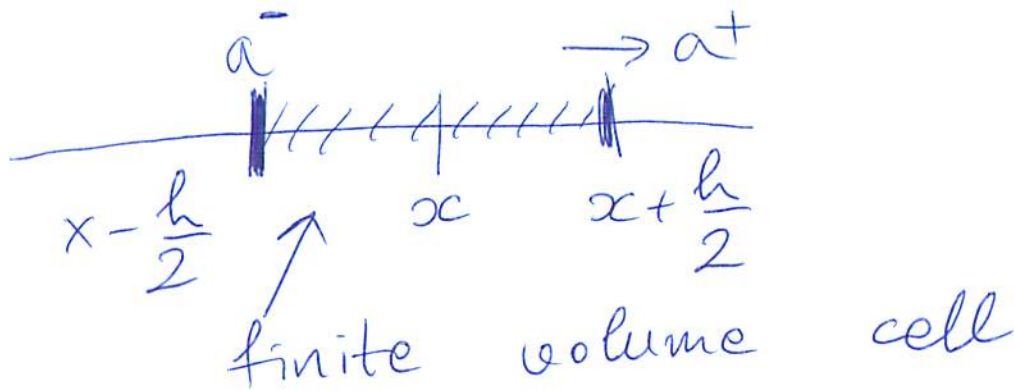
In this equation,  $a(x,t)$  is a given advection velocity, and  $d(x,t)$  is a given diffusion coefficient

$$u_t + (au)_x = (du_x)_x + f(u) \quad (*)$$

Concentration of ions, pollutant, etc. (transported quantity)
forcing (reactions)

(2)

The adv-diff equation is an expression of conservation of mass



$$\bar{u}^x = \frac{1}{h} \int_{x-h/2}^{x+h/2} u(x,t) dx$$

$$h \frac{\partial \bar{u}^x}{\partial t} = - \left[ a(x+\frac{h}{2}) u(x+\frac{h}{2}) - a(x-\frac{h}{2}) u(x-\frac{h}{2}) \right]$$

exact!  $\rightarrow$   $+ \left[ d(x+\frac{h}{2}) u_x(x+\frac{h}{2}) - d(x-\frac{h}{2}) u_x(x-\frac{h}{2}) \right]$

(not a discretization)

$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0}$  gives (\*)  
 Fick's law (constitutive relation)  
 from microscopic physics

③ For ~~the~~ dimensions higher than one

(typically  $\dim=2$  or  $\dim=3$ )

nabla notation

$$\nabla = (\partial_x, \partial_y, \partial_z)^T = \text{grad}$$

$$\Delta = \nabla \cdot \nabla = \text{div grad} = \partial_{xx} + \partial_{yy} + \partial_{zz}$$

∴ prefer  $\nabla^2$  instead of  $\Delta$

$$u_t + \nabla \cdot (\underline{a} u) = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla u)$$

$$\underline{a} \in \mathbb{R}^{\dim}, \quad D \in \mathbb{R}^{\dim \times \dim} \succcurlyeq 0 \text{ (SPD)}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\underline{a} u) = \partial_\alpha (a_\alpha u) = \quad (\alpha=1, 2, \dots, \dim)$$

$$(\partial_\alpha a_\alpha) u + a_\alpha \partial_\alpha u =$$

$$(\nabla \cdot \underline{a}) u + \underline{a} \cdot \nabla u = \underline{a} \cdot \nabla u$$

if  $\boxed{\nabla \cdot \underline{a} = 0}$  solenoidal  
or incompressible

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$$u_t + \underline{a} \cdot \nabla u = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla u)$$

advection term (non-conservative in general)

Another way in which advection term can arise:

$$\begin{cases} u_t + \nabla \cdot (\underline{a} u) = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla u) & \leftarrow \text{density of pollutant} \\ \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\underline{a} \rho) = 0 & \leftarrow \text{true mass density (does NOT diffuse)} \end{cases}$$

Define  $c = \frac{u}{\rho}$  as concentration

$$u = \rho c \Rightarrow u_t = \rho c_t + c \rho_t \Rightarrow$$

$$\rho c_t + c \nabla \cdot (\underline{a} \rho) + \nabla \cdot (\underline{a} u) = \rho (c_t + \underline{a} \cdot \nabla c)$$

$$\begin{cases} \text{Note } \nabla \cdot (\underline{a} \rho c) = \\ = c \nabla \cdot (\underline{a} \rho) + \rho \underline{a} \cdot \nabla c \end{cases}$$

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$$\rho(c_t + \underline{a} \cdot \nabla c) = \nabla \cdot (\rho \nabla u)$$

Correct Physics usually  $\nabla \cdot (\rho \nabla c)$

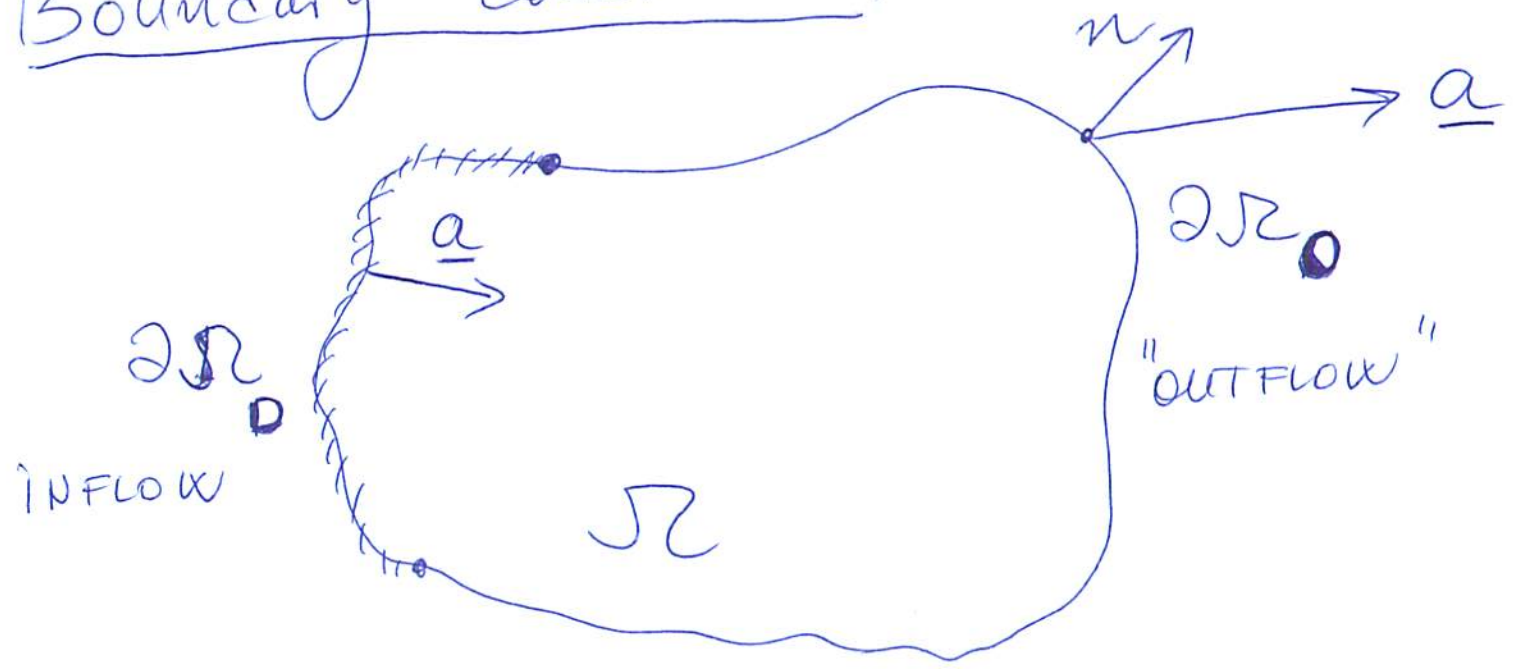
$$\boxed{D_t c = c_t + \underline{a} \cdot \nabla c}$$

advective or material derivative

$$= \rho^{-1} \nabla \cdot (\rho \nabla c)$$

Notice only conservative if  $\rho = \text{const.}$

Boundary conditions:



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$$\partial\Omega = \partial\Omega_D \cup \partial\Omega_0$$

$$\underline{n} \cdot \underline{a} < 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega_D$$

↑  
normal vector (outward)

$$\underline{n} \cdot \underline{a} \geq 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega_0$$

a) For pure advection,

Dirichlet BC is sufficient  $\boxed{u = \varphi_D}$  on  $\partial\Omega_D$

b) For diffusion or ad-diff, one needs BCs on  $\partial\Omega_0$  as well, e.g.

Neumann BC :

$$\boxed{\underline{n} \cdot \nabla u = \varphi_N}$$

↑  
(in) homogeneous on  $\partial\Omega_N$

Robin or zero flux BC :

$$\boxed{\underline{n} \cdot (\underline{a}u - D \nabla u) = \varphi_M}$$
 on  $\partial\Omega_M$

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We see that adding diffusion dramatically changes the character of the problem!

$$u_t + \nabla \cdot (\underline{a} u) = 0 \quad \text{is a pure hyperbolic eq.}$$

$$u_t = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla u) \quad \text{is a pure parabolic eq.}$$

steady state  $u_t = 0 = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla u)$  is a pure elliptic eq.

In reality most equations have mixed character, but often problems are advection-dominated or diffusion-dominated and behave alike the limiting cases.