

**Numerical Methods for Partial  
Differential Equations  
(16.920J/2.097J/SMA5212)**

# Course Outline

- Overview of PDE's (1)
- Finite differences methods (6)
- Finite volume methods (3)
- Finite element methods (7)
- Boundary integral methods (6)
- Solution methods (3)

Total : 26 lectures

# Assessment

Four Problem Sets/Mini-projects:

Finite Differences	25 %
Hyperbolic Equations	20 %
Finite Elements	25 %
Boundary Integral Methods	20 %

Class Interaction 10 %

# **Partial Differential Equations: An Overview**

## **Lecture 1**

## Model Equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \mathbf{U} \cdot \nabla u = \kappa \nabla^2 u + f$$

N1

$$\nabla \equiv \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right), \quad \nabla^2 \equiv \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}$$

$\mathbf{U}$ ,  $\kappa > 0$ ,  $f$ , given functions of  $(x, y)$

**Scalar, Linear, Parabolic equation**

N2

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \mathbf{U} \cdot \nabla u = \kappa \nabla^2 u + f$$

If  $u$  is ...

- Temperature → **Heat Transfer**
- Pollutant Concentration → **Coastal Engineering**
- Probability Distribution → **Statistical Mechanics**
- Price of an Option → **Financial Engineering**
- ...

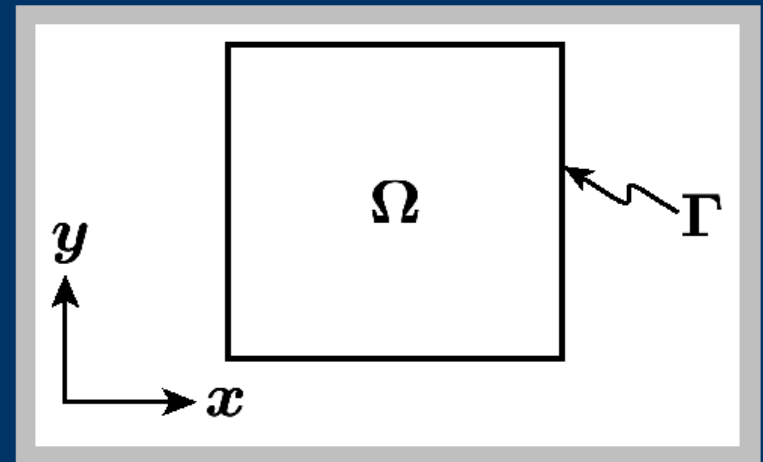
## Limiting Cases

### Poisson Equation

$$-\kappa \nabla^2 u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

### Convection-Diffusion

$$U \cdot \nabla u = \kappa \nabla^2 u \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

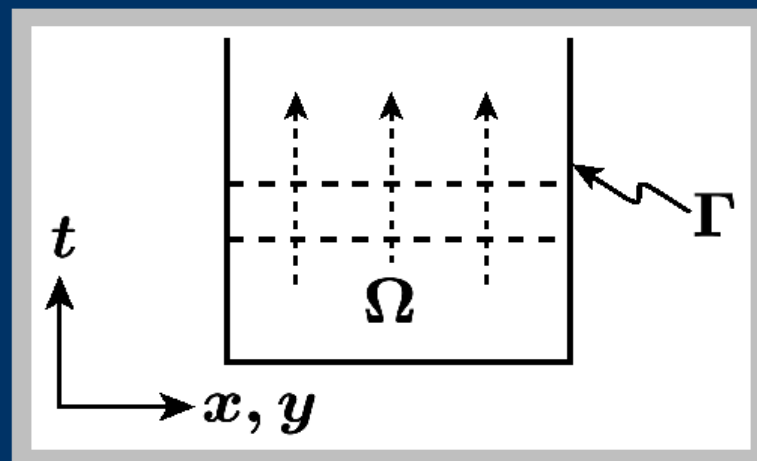


- “Smooth” solutions
- The domain of dependence of  $u(x, y)$  is  $\Omega$

## Limiting Cases

### Heat Equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \kappa \nabla^2 u + f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$



- “Smooth” solutions
- The domain of dependence of  $u(x, y, T)$  is  $(x, y, t < T)$

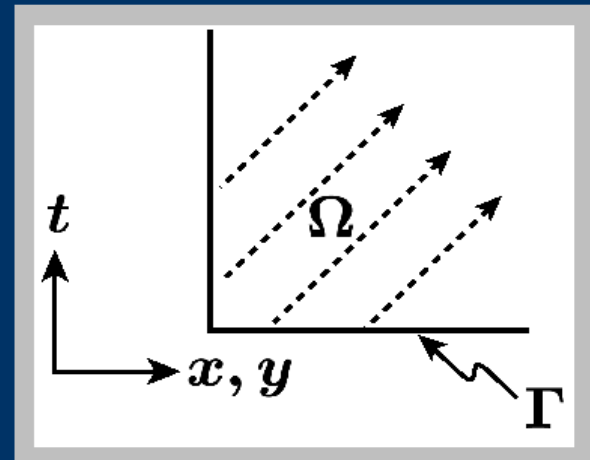


## Limiting Cases

### Wave Equation (First order)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + U \cdot \nabla u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

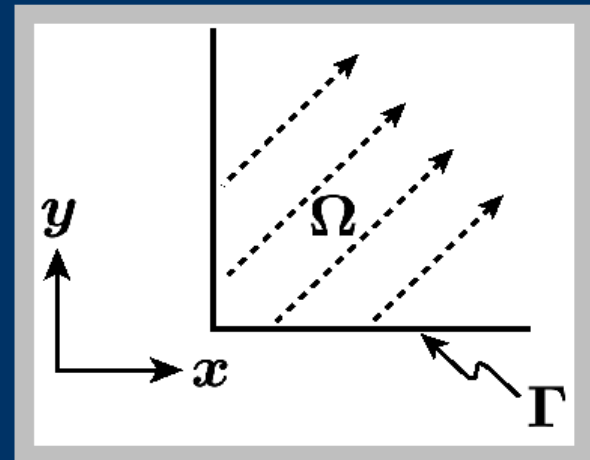
- Non-smooth solutions
- Characteristics :  $\frac{d\mathbf{x}_c}{dt} = U(\mathbf{x}_c(t))$
- The domain of dependence of  $u(\mathbf{x}, T)$  is  $(\mathbf{x}_c(t), t < T)$



## Limiting Cases

### Convection Equation

$$U \cdot \nabla u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$



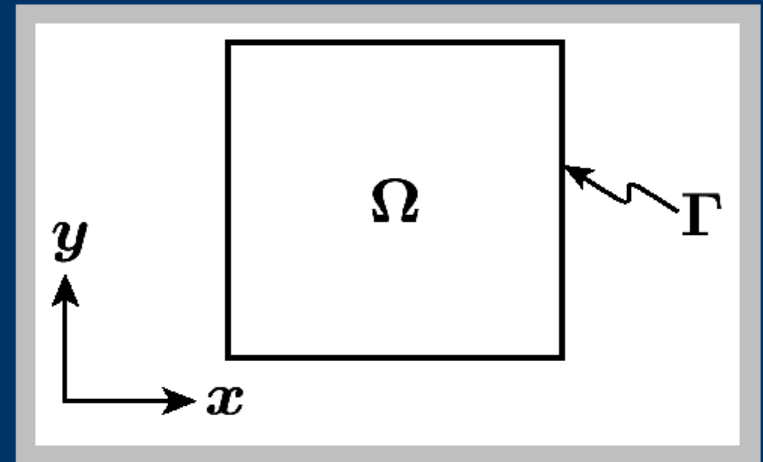
- Non-smooth solutions
- Characteristics are streamlines of  $U$ , e.g.  $\frac{d\mathbf{x}_c}{ds} = U$
- The domain of dependence of  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is  $(\mathbf{x}_c(s), s < 0)$

## Limiting Cases

Find non-trivial pairs  $(u, \lambda)$

$$\kappa \nabla^2 u + \lambda u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

with **homogeneous** conditions on  $\Gamma$



- Non-linear
- “Closely” related to other problems

## Limiting Cases

Unknown	Equation
$u(x)$ :	$-u_{xx} = f$
$u(x)$ :	$Uu_x = \kappa u_{xx}$
$u(x, t)$ :	$u_t = \kappa u_{xx}$
$u(x, t)$ :	$u_t + Uu_x = 0$
$(u(x), \lambda)$ :	$u_{xx} + \lambda u = 0$

## Fourier Analysis

Let  $g(x)$  be an “arbitrary” periodic real function with period  $2\pi$

N3

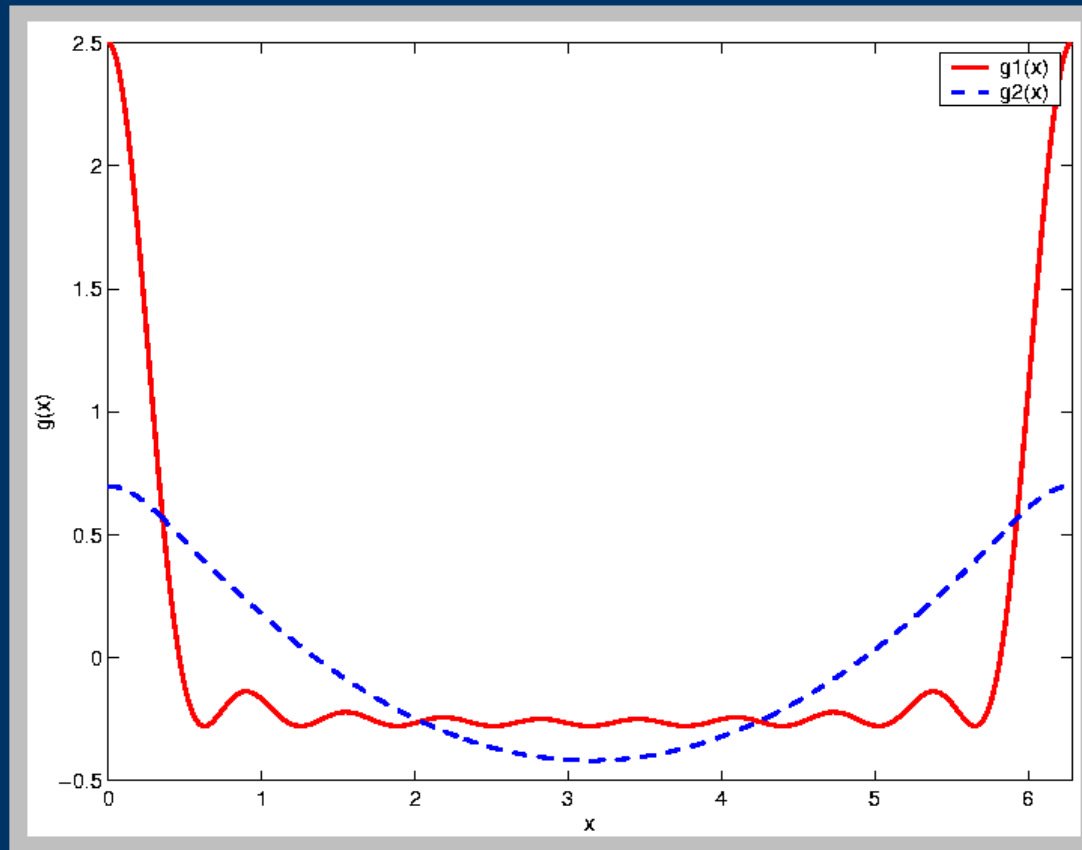
$$g(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} g_k e^{ikx} \quad (k \text{ integer}) .$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} e^{ikx} e^{-ik'x} dx = 2\pi \delta_{kk'} \quad (\text{orthogonality})$$

$$g_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} g(x) e^{-ikx} dx$$

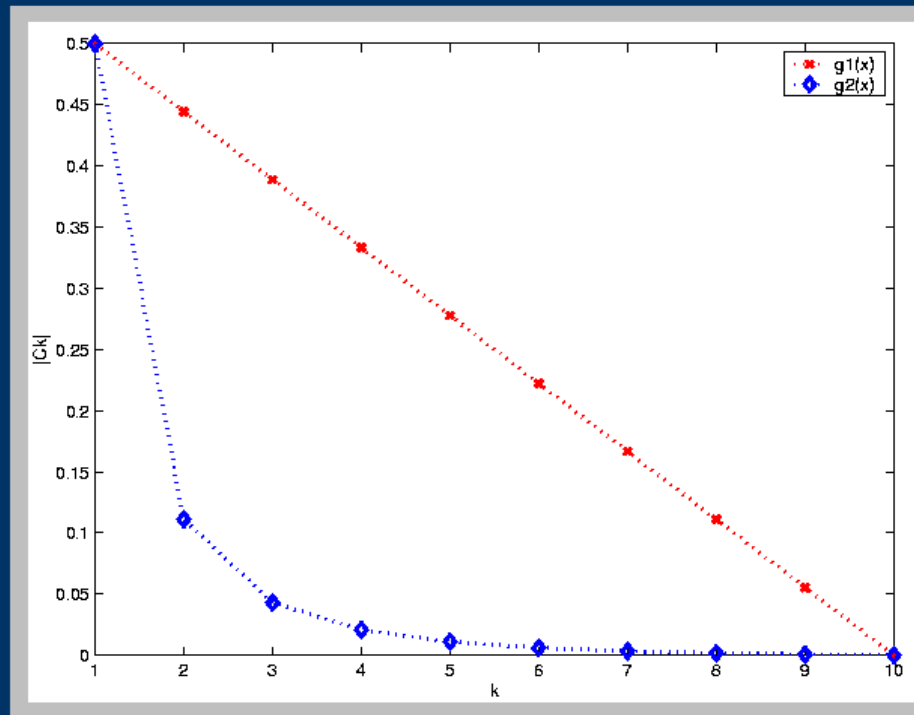
# Example

# Fourier Analysis



# Example

## Fourier Analysis



Rate at which  $|g_k| \rightarrow 0$  for  $|k|$  large determines **smoothness**

## Fourier Analysis

$$u(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k e^{ikx} \quad \text{or} \quad u(x, t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k(t) e^{ikx}$$

$$\frac{\partial^n u}{\partial x^n} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (ik)^n u_k e^{ikx} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{du_k}{dt} e^{ikx}$$

$$n = 2m \quad \rightarrow \quad (ik)^n = (-1)^m k^{2m} \quad (\text{real})$$

$$n = 2m - 1 \quad \rightarrow \quad (ik)^n = -i(-1)^m k^{2m-1} \quad (\text{imaginary})$$



# Fourier Analysis

## Poisson Equation

$$-u_{xx} = f \quad x \in (0, 2\pi)$$

with

$$u(0) = u(2\pi),$$

$$u_x(0) = u_x(2\pi),$$

and

$$\int_0^{2\pi} u \, dx = 0, \quad \int_0^{2\pi} f \, dx = 0$$

N4

## Fourier Analysis

$$u = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k e^{ikx}, \quad f = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} f_k e^{ikx} \quad (f_0 = 0)$$

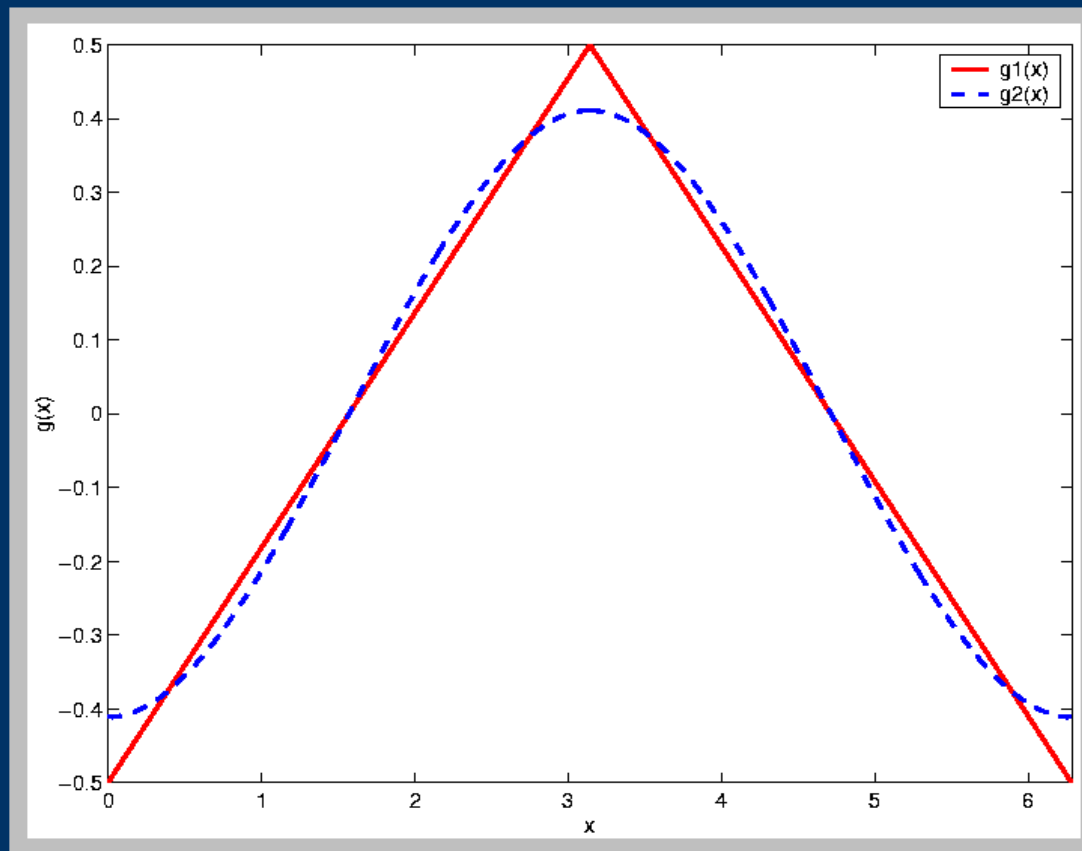
$$-u_{xx} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} k^2 u_k e^{ikx} \quad \rightarrow \quad \boxed{u_k = \frac{f_k}{k^2}} \quad (u_0 = 0)$$

$\Rightarrow$  – the solution  $u$  is **smoother** than  $f$

# Fourier Analysis

## Poisson Equation

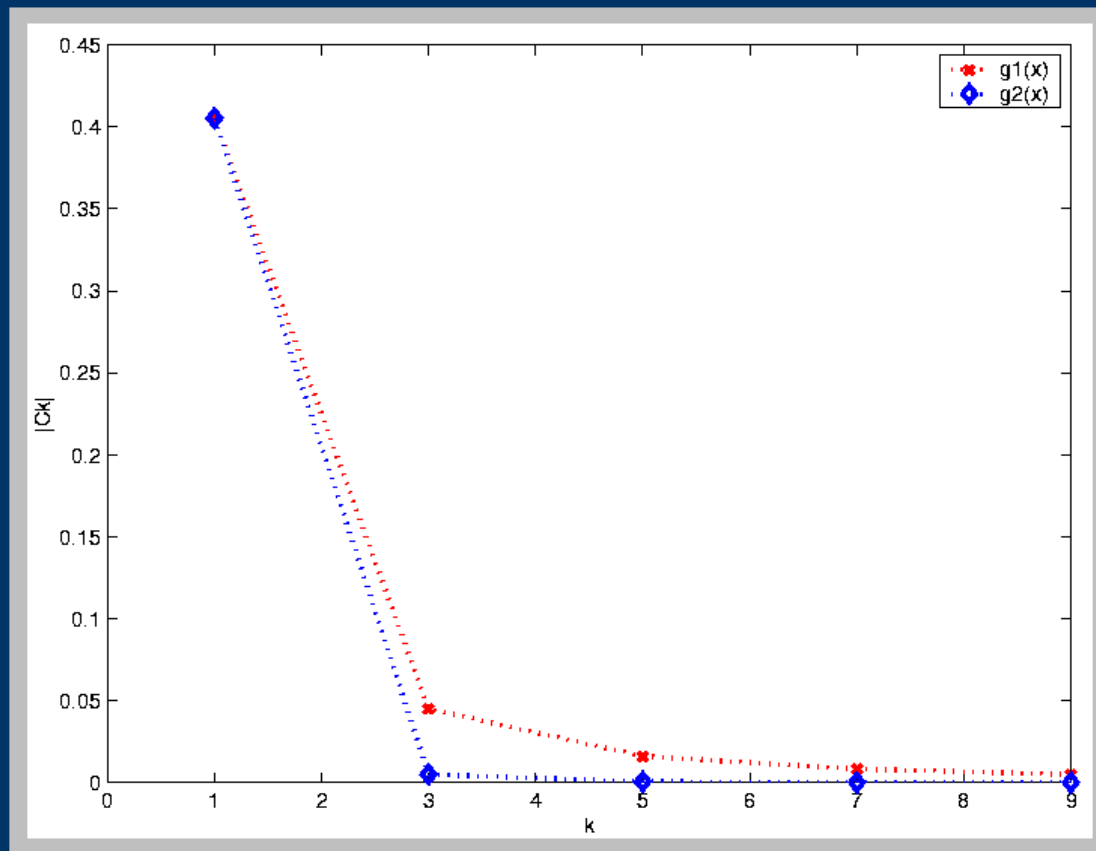
### Example...



# Fourier Analysis

## Poisson Equation

### ...Example



## Fourier Analysis

$$u_t = \kappa u_{xx} \quad x \in (0, 2\pi)$$

with

$$u(0, t) = u(2\pi, t),$$

$$u_x(0, t) = u_x(2\pi, t),$$

$$u(x, 0) = u^0(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k^0 e^{ikx}$$

## Fourier Analysis

$$u = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k(t) e^{ikx}$$

$$u_t = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{du_k}{dt} e^{ikx}, \quad u_{xx} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} -k^2 u_k e^{ikx}$$

$$\frac{du_k}{dt} = -\kappa k^2 u_k$$

## Fourier Analysis

$$\frac{du_k}{dt} = -\kappa k^2 u_k, \quad u_k(t=0) = u_k^0, \quad \Rightarrow \quad u_k(t) = u_k^0 e^{-\kappa k^2 t}$$

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k^0 e^{-\kappa k^2 t} e^{ikx}$$

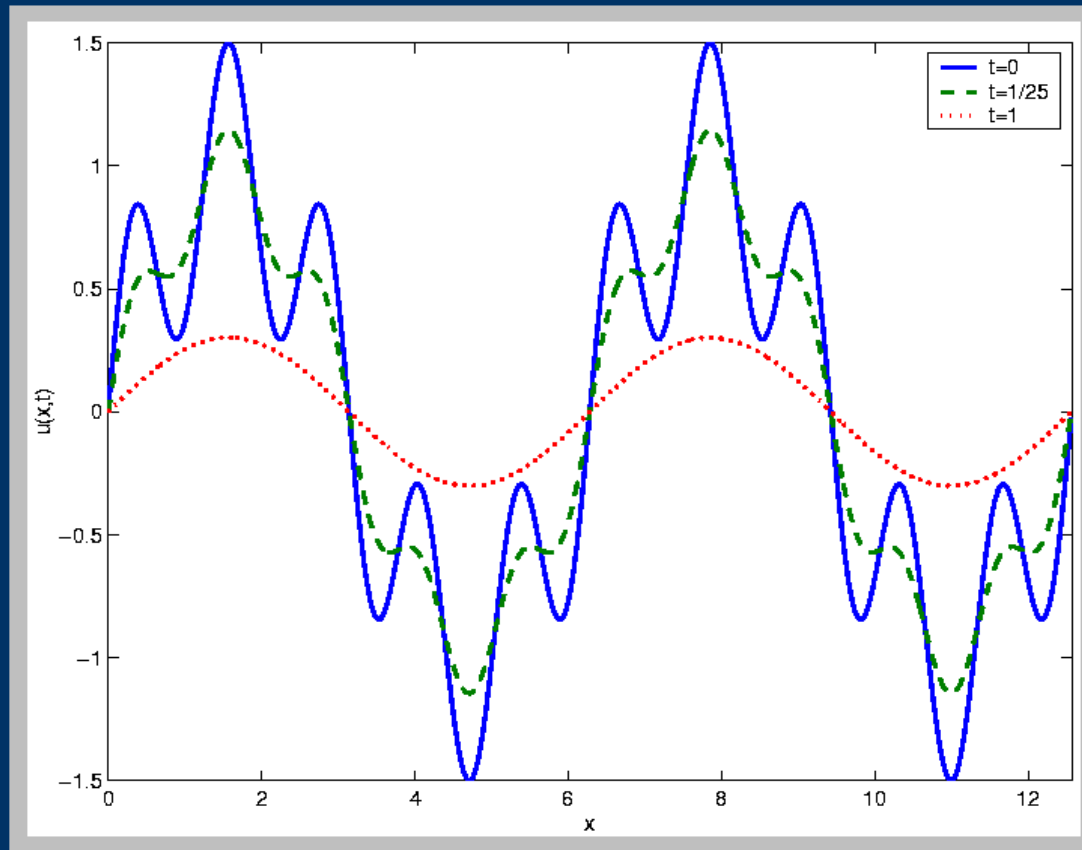
⇒

- exponential decay of initial condition (**dissipation**)
- higher decay for “higher modes” (larger  $k$ ) ≡ **smoothness**

# Fourier Analysis

## Heat Equation

### Example





## Fourier Analysis

$$u_t + Uu_x = 0 \quad x \in (0, 2\pi)$$

with

$$u(0, t) = u(2\pi, t),$$

$$u(x, 0) = u^0(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k^0 e^{ikx}$$

## Fourier Analysis

$$u = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k(t) e^{ikx}$$

$$u_t = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{du_k}{dt} e^{ikx}, \quad u_x = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} iku_k e^{ikx}$$

$$\frac{du_k}{dt} = -iUk u_k$$

## Fourier Analysis

$$\frac{du_k}{dt} = -iUku_k, \quad u_k(0) = u_k^0 \Rightarrow u_k(t) = u_k^0 e^{-iUkt}$$

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k^0 e^{-iUkt} e^{ikx} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k^0 e^{ik(x-Ut)} = u^0(x - Ut)$$

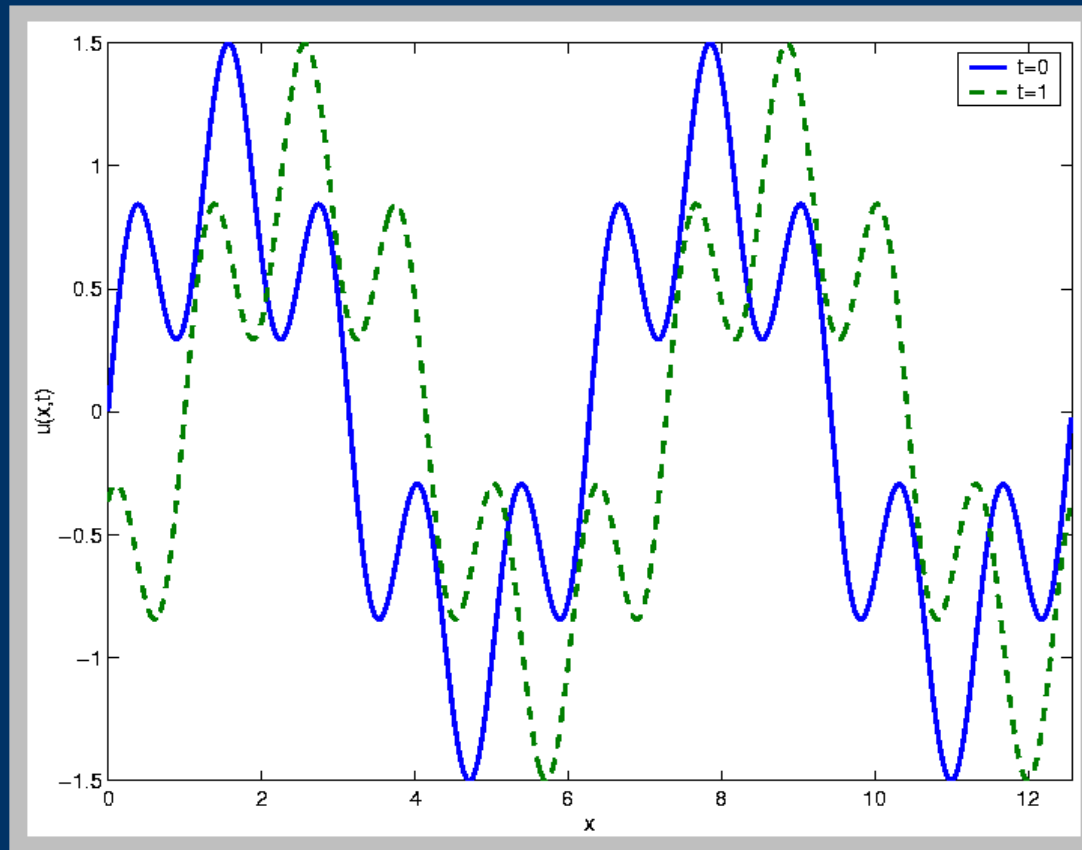
⇒

- no decay, **propagation** with wave speed  $c = U$
- no **dispersion** ( $c$  constant)  $\equiv$  invariant shape

# Wave Equation

## Fourier Analysis

### Example



## Fourier Analysis

$$u_t = \frac{\partial^n u}{\partial x^n} \quad x \in (0, 2\pi)$$

with

$$u(0, t) = u(2\pi, t),$$

$$u_x(0, t) = u_x(2\pi, t),$$

$$\vdots$$

$$u_x^{(n-1)}(0, t) = u_x^{(n-1)}(2\pi, t),$$

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

## Fourier Analysis

$$u = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k(t) e^{ikx}$$

$$u_t = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{du_k}{dt} e^{ikx},$$

$$u_x^{(n)} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (ik)^n u_k e^{ikx}$$

$$\frac{du_k}{dt} = \sigma u_k$$

$$\sigma = (ik)^n$$

## Fourier Analysis

$n$	$\sigma$	Feature
1	$ik$	Propagation, $c = -\sigma/ik = -1$ (no Dispersion)
2	$-k^2$	Decay
3	$-ik^3$	Propagation, $c = +k^2$ (and Dispersion)
4	$k^4$	Growth ( $-u_{xxxx}$ much faster Decay than $u_{xx}$ )
.	.	

N5

# Fourier Analysis

## Eigenvalue Problem

$$u_{xxx} + \lambda u = 0 \quad x \in (0, 2\pi)$$

with

$$u(0) = u(2\pi),$$

$$u_x(0) = u_x(2\pi)$$

Need to determine non-trivial pairs  $(u^n(x), \lambda^n)$



It can be easily verified that the eigenvalues are:

$$\lambda^n = n^2, \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2, \dots$$

The eigenvectors associated with  $\lambda^n$  are:

$$u_1^n(x) = e^{inx}, \quad u_2^n(x) = e^{-inx}, \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2, \dots$$

**Eigenmodes  $\equiv$  Fourier modes**

# Eigenvalue Expansions

## Formal Extension

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \mathcal{L}u$$

with homogeneous boundary conditions

N6

$$u(x, y, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(t) u^n(x, y)$$

$(u^n, \lambda^n)$  solution of  $\mathcal{L}u - \lambda u = 0$

# Eigenvalue Expansions

## Formal Extension

$$\mathcal{L}u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda^n a_n u^n, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{da_n}{dt} u^n$$

$$\frac{da_n}{dt} = \lambda^n a_n \quad \Rightarrow \quad a_n(t) = a_n^0 e^{\lambda^n t}$$

$$u(x, y, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n^0 e^{\lambda^n t} u^n(x, y)$$

# Eigenvalue Expansions

## Formal Extension

Eigenvalues determine temporal evolution of the associated time-dependent problem.

