MA 561 Problem set 2

1. Using characteristic coordinates, solve the initial value problem for the transport equation

$$\partial_t u(t,x) + 2\partial_x u(t,x) = 1, \ u(0,x) = e^{-x^2}$$

- **2.** A sensor situated at position x = 1 in a canal of swiftly-moving water monitors the concentration of a pollutant u(t, 1) as a function of t ($t \ge 0$). The pollutant is transported along the canal with wave speed c = 3. We would like to know the initial concentration of the pollutant. At what locations x can you determine the initial concentration u(0, x) from the sensor data at position u(t, 1)?
- **3.** Consider the homogenous wave equation in one spatial dimension.
 - (a) Does d'Alambert's factorization method work when the wave speed depends on the spatial position, c = c(x)? Explain why or why not.
 - (b) What about when the wave speed depends on time, c = c(t)? Explain why or why not.
- 4. Consider the periodically forced wave,

$$\partial_t^2 - c^2 \partial_x^2 = \sin(\omega t) \sin(kx)$$

with real ω and k and with zero initial displacement and velocity. What are the resonant frequencies of u?

5. Given a smooth solution u(t,x) to the (homogeneous) wave equation, let

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \left(u_t^2 + c^2 u_x^2 \right), \ P = u_t u_x$$

be the associated energy and momentum densities, respectively.

- (a) Show that $P_t = E_x$ and that $E_t = c^2 P_x$.
- (b) Show that E and P each also satisfy the wave equation.