

# Lecture 3

## The ELIMINATION Problem

**Jan C. Willems**

University of Leuven, Belgium

Minicourse ECC 2003

Cambridge, UK, September 2, 2003

# Problematique

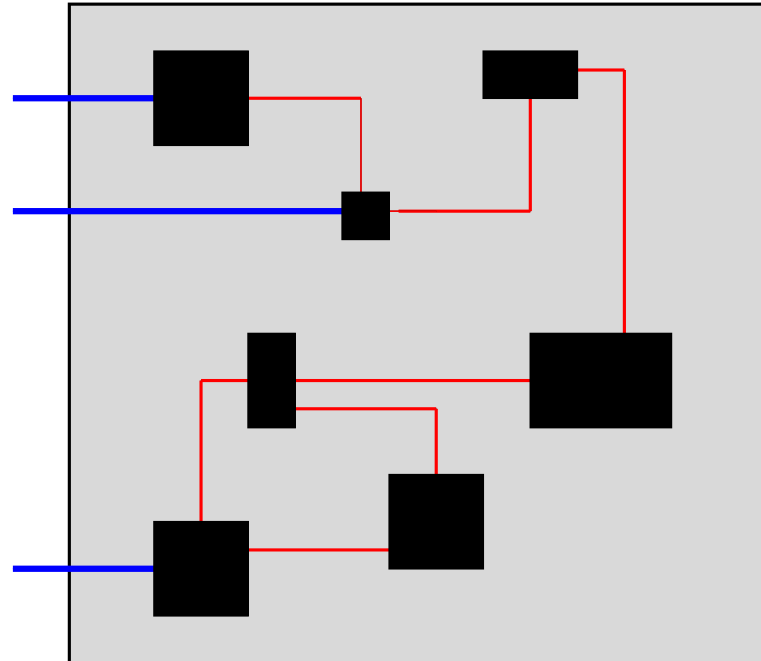
Develop a theory and algorithms  
for **eliminating** latent variables

# Introduction

First principles model  $\rightsquigarrow$  **auxiliary, latent** variables

e.g.

- interconnection variables
- ‘theoretical’ latent variables:  
momenta, potentials, driving noise, . . .
- state variables
- . . .



Given the behavioral eq'ns for the components,  
*how do those of the interconnected system look like?*

Recall the definitions:

A dynamical system with latent variables =

$$\Sigma_L = (\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{W}, \mathbb{L}, \mathcal{B}_{\text{full}})$$

$\mathbb{T} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , the *time-axis*

$\mathbb{W}$ , the *signal space*

$\mathbb{L}$ , the *latent variable space*

$$\mathcal{B}_{\text{full}} \subseteq (\mathbb{W} \times \mathbb{L})^{\mathbb{T}} : \text{the full behavior}$$

Recall the definitions:

A dynamical system with latent variables =

$$\Sigma_L = (\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{W}, \mathbb{L}, \mathcal{B}_{\text{full}})$$

$\mathbb{T} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , the *time-axis* (= the set of relevant time instances).

$\mathbb{W}$ , the *signal space* (= the variables that the model aims at).

$\mathbb{L}$ , the *latent variable space* (= *auxiliary* modeling variables).

$$\mathcal{B}_{\text{full}} \subseteq (\mathbb{W} \times \mathbb{L})^{\mathbb{T}} : \text{the full behavior}$$

(= the pairs  $(w, \ell) : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{W} \times \mathbb{L}$

that the model declares possible).

# The manifest behavior

Call the elements of  $\mathbb{W}$  **'manifest' variables**,

those of  $\mathbb{L}$  **'latent' variables**.

The latent variable system  $\Sigma_L = (\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{W}, \mathbb{L}, \mathcal{B}_{\text{full}})$  induces the **manifest system**  $\Sigma = (\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{W}, \mathcal{B})$ , with **manifest behavior**

$$\mathcal{B} = \{w : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{W} \mid \exists \ell : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{L} \text{ such that } (w, \ell) \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{full}}\}$$

# The manifest behavior

Call the elements of  $\mathbb{W}$  **'manifest' variables**,

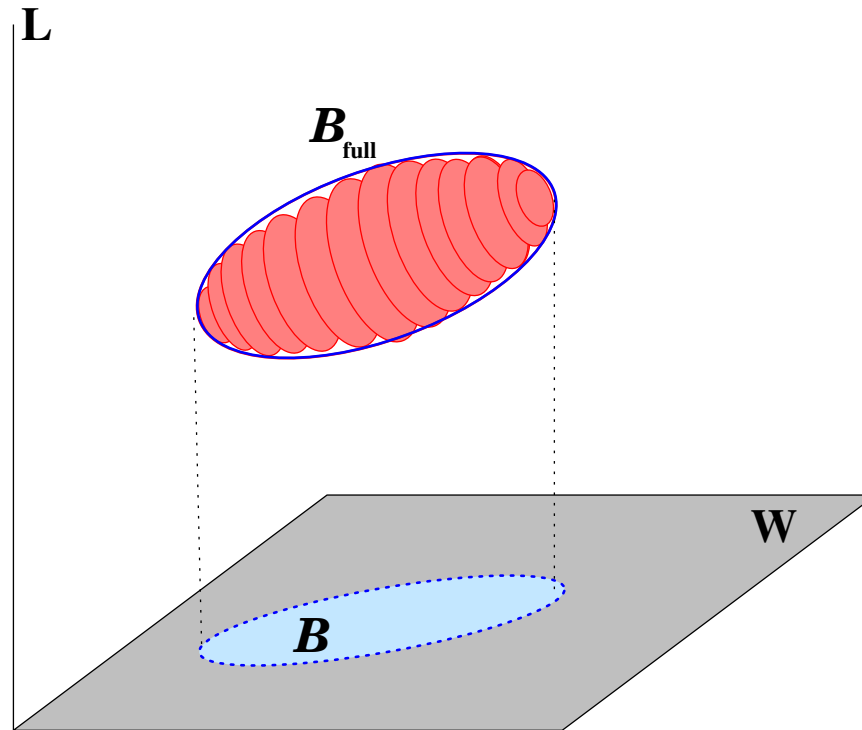
those of  $\mathbb{L}$  **'latent' variables**.

The latent variable system  $\Sigma_L = (\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{W}, \mathbb{L}, \mathcal{B}_{\text{full}})$  induces the **manifest system**  $\Sigma = (\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{W}, \mathcal{B})$ , with **manifest behavior**

$$\mathcal{B} = \{w : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{W} \mid \exists \ell : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{L} \text{ such that } (w, \ell) \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{full}}\}$$

In convenient equations for  $\mathcal{B}$ , the latent variables are **'eliminated'**.  
But how do these equations look like, and how are they obtained?





Given mathematical structure for  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{full}}$ ,

what mathematical structure for  $\mathcal{B}$  emerges?

# Examples

1. The projection of a **linear subspace** is again a **linear subspace**.

# Examples

1. The projection of a **linear subspace** is again a **linear subspace**.

2. The projection of an **algebraic variety** is, in general, not an **algebraic variety**:



$$w_1^2 + w_2^2 + \ell^2 = 1 \rightsquigarrow w_1^2 + w_2^2 \leq 1$$



$$w * \ell = 1 \rightsquigarrow w \neq 0$$

## Examples

1. The projection of a **linear subspace** is again a **linear subspace**.
2. The projection of an **algebraic variety** is, in general, not an **algebraic variety**:
3. How about the projection of (the sol'n set of) a **smooth differential equation**?

$$f\left(w, \frac{d}{dt}w, \dots, \frac{d^n}{dt^n}w, \ell, \frac{d}{dt}\ell, \dots, \frac{d^n}{dt^n}\ell\right) = 0$$

Again a **differential eq'n ??**

# Examples

1. The projection of a **linear subspace** is again a **linear subspace**.
2. The projection of an **algebraic variety** is, in general, not an **algebraic variety**:
3. How about the projection of (the sol'n set of) a **smooth differential equation**?
4. How about the projection of a **constant coefficient linear differential equation**?

$$R\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)w = M\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)\ell$$

?? Again a **constant coefficient linear differential eq'n** ??

# Elimination

**First principle models**  $\rightsquigarrow$  **latent variables.**

**For systems described by linear constant coefficient ODE's:**  $\rightsquigarrow$

$$R\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)w = M\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)l$$

with  $R, M \in \mathbb{R}^{\bullet \times \bullet}[\xi]$ .

# Elimination

**First principle models**  $\rightsquigarrow$  **latent variables.**

**For systems described by linear constant coefficient ODE's:**  $\rightsquigarrow$

$$R\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)w = M\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)\ell$$

with  $R, M \in \mathbb{R}^{\bullet \times \bullet}[\xi]$ .

This is the natural model class to start a study of finite dimensional linear time-invariant systems! **Much more** so than

$$\frac{d}{dt}x = Ax + Bu, \quad y = Cx + Du.$$

Is it(s manifest behavior) also a differential system ??

Consider  $R\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)w = M\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)l$ .



**Is it(s manifest behavior) also a differential system ??**

Consider  $R\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)w = M\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)l$ .

**Full behavior:**

$$\mathcal{B}_{\text{full}} = \{(w, l) \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^{w+l}) \mid \dots\}.$$

belongs to  $\mathcal{L}_n^{w+l}$ , by definition.

Its **manifest behavior** equals

$$\mathcal{B} = \{w \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^w) \mid \exists l \text{ such that } \dots\}.$$

Does  $\mathcal{B}$  belong to  $\mathcal{L}^W$  ?

Does  $\mathcal{B}$  belong to  $\mathcal{L}^W$  ?

Theorem: It does!

Proof: The 'fundamental principle'.

Does  $\mathfrak{B}$  belong to  $\mathcal{L}^W$  ?

Theorem: It does!

Proof: The ‘fundamental principle’.

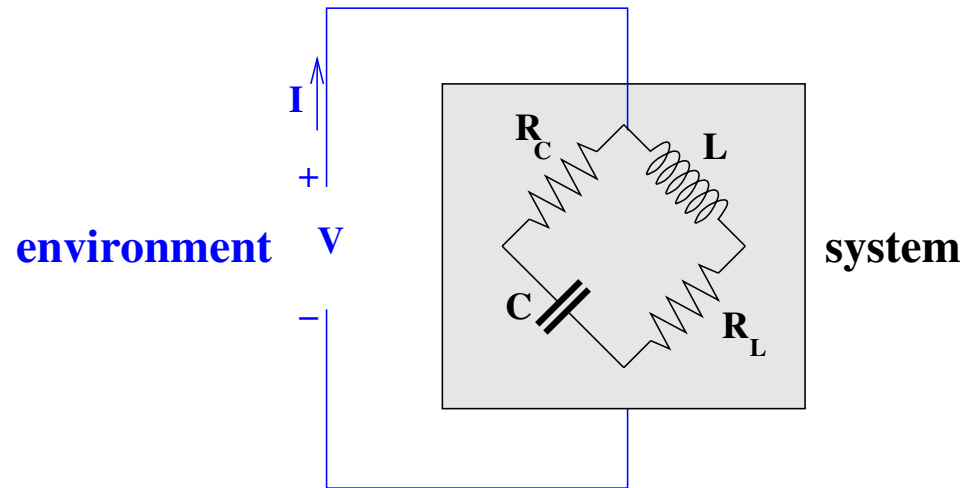
The fundamental principle (for PDE’s) states that

$$F\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}\right)x = y$$

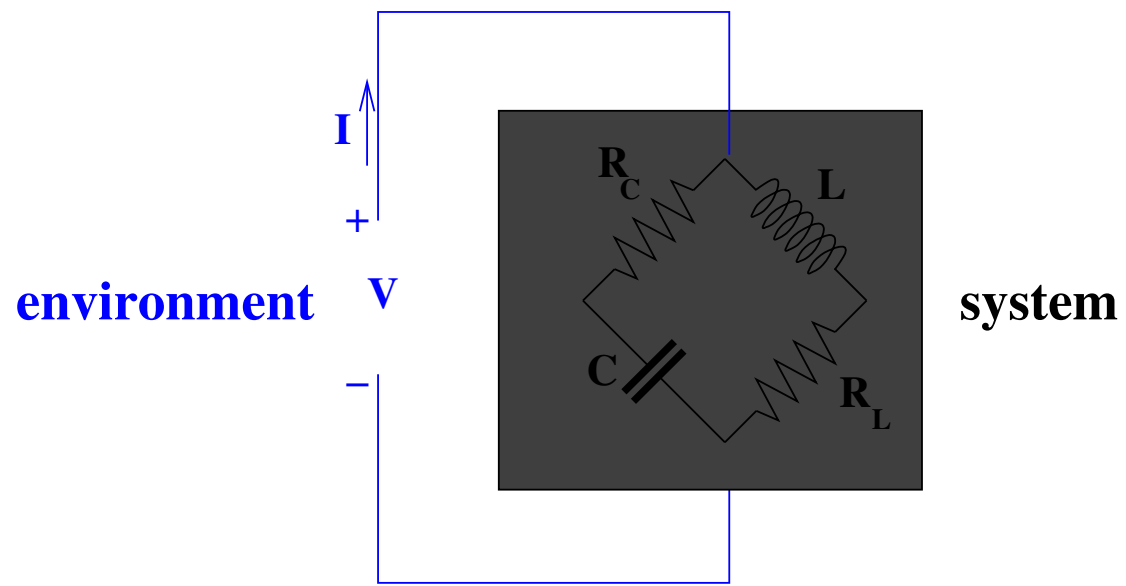
$F \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}[\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n], y \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^{n_1})$  is solvable for  $x \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^{n_2})$  iff

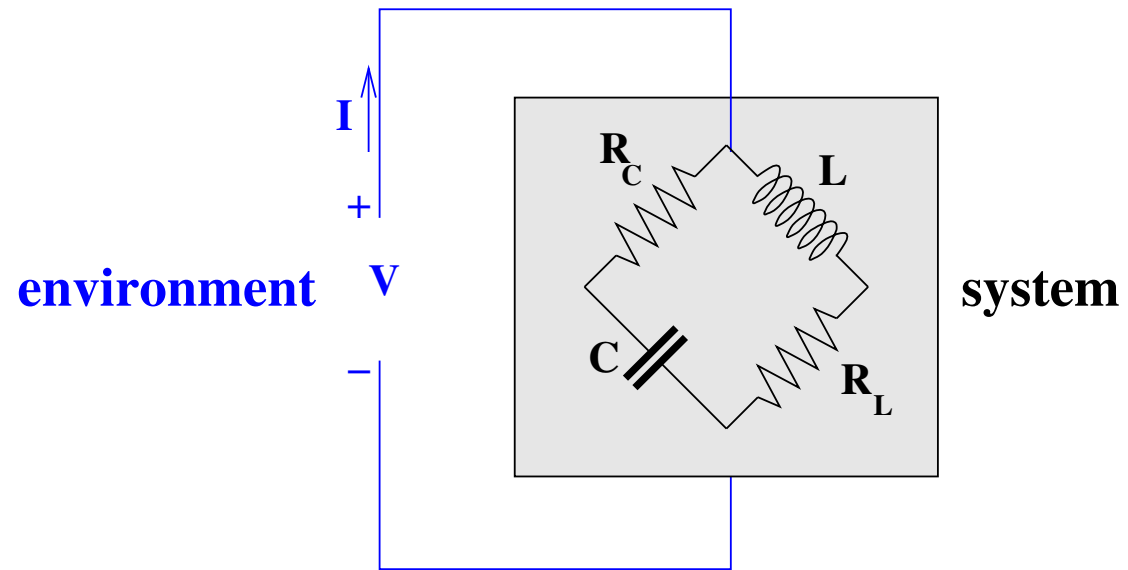
$$n \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1}[\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n] \wedge n^\top F = 0 \Rightarrow n^\top \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}\right)y = 0.$$

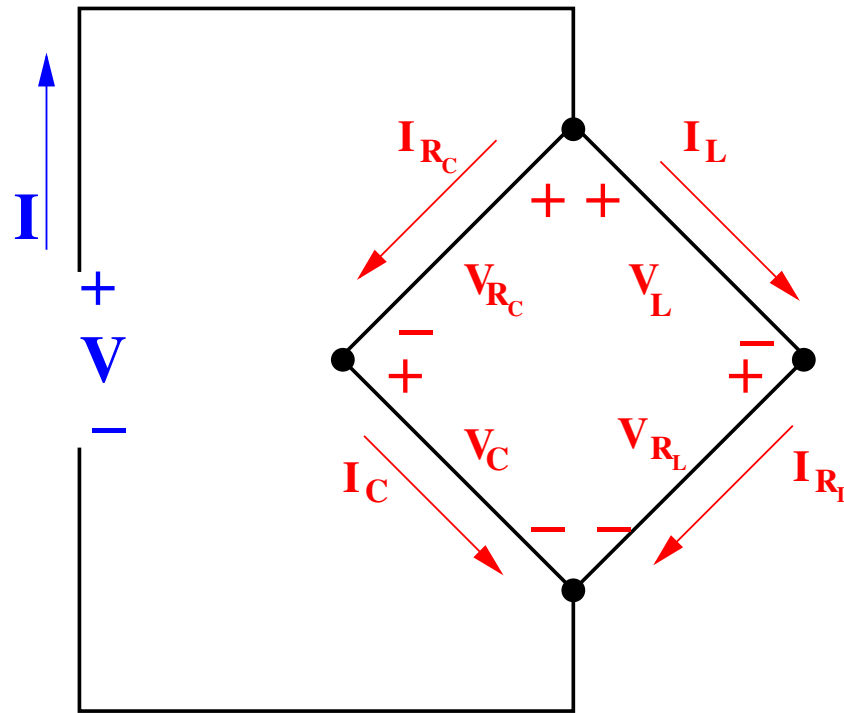
Example: Consider once again our electrical RLC - circuit:



**!! Model the relation between manifest  $V$  and  $I$  !!**







The circuit graph

Introduce the latent variables:

the **voltage across** and the **current in** each branch:

$V_{R_C}, I_{R_C}, V_C, I_C, V_{R_L}, I_{R_L}, V_L, I_L.$



# System equations

Constitutive equations (CE):

$$V_{R_C} = R_C I_{R_C}, \quad V_{R_L} = R_L I_{R_L}, \quad C \frac{d}{dt} V_C = I_C, \quad L \frac{d}{dt} I_L = V_L$$

Kirchhoff's voltage laws (KVL):

$$V = V_{R_C} + V_C, \quad V = V_L + V_{R_L}, \quad V_{R_C} + V_C = V_L + V_{R_L}$$

Kirchhoff's current laws (KCL):

$$I = I_{R_C} + I_L, \quad I_{R_C} = I_C, \quad I_L = I_{R_L}, \quad I_C + I_{R_L} = I$$

After elimination, we obtain the following explicit differential equation the between  $V$  and  $I$ :

Case 1:  $CR_C \neq \frac{L}{R_L}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{R_C}{R_L} + \left(1 + \frac{R_C}{R_L}\right) CR_C \frac{d}{dt} + CR_C \frac{L}{R_L} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \right) V \\ = \left(1 + CR_C \frac{d}{dt}\right) \left(1 + \frac{L}{R_L} \frac{d}{dt}\right) R_C I. \end{aligned}$$

After elimination, we obtain the following explicit differential equation the between  $V$  and  $I$ :

Case 1:  $CR_C \neq \frac{L}{R_L}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{R_C}{R_L} + \left(1 + \frac{R_C}{R_L}\right) CR_C \frac{d}{dt} + CR_C \frac{L}{R_L} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \right) V \\ = \left(1 + CR_C \frac{d}{dt}\right) \left(1 + \frac{L}{R_L} \frac{d}{dt}\right) R_C I. \end{aligned}$$

Case 2:  $CR_C = \frac{L}{R_L}$ .

$$\left( \frac{R_C}{R_L} + CR_C \frac{d}{dt} \right) V = \left(1 + CR_C \frac{d}{dt}\right) R_C I$$

These are the exact relations between  $V$  and  $I$  !

First principles modeling ( $\cong$  CE's, KVL, & KCL)

$\rightsquigarrow$  15 behavioral equations.

Include both the **port** and the **branch** voltages and currents.

First principles modeling ( $\cong$  CE's, KVL, & KCL)

$\rightsquigarrow$  15 behavioral equations.

Include both the **port** and the **branch** voltages and currents.

**Why can the port behavior be described by a system of linear constant coefficient differential equations?**

First principles modeling ( $\cong$  CE's, KVL, & KCL)

$\rightsquigarrow$  15 behavioral equations.

Include both the **port** and the **branch** voltages and currents.

**Why can the port behavior be described by a system of linear constant coefficient differential equations?**

Because:

1. The CE's, KVL, & KCL are all linear constant coefficient differential equations.
2. The elimination theorem<sup>†</sup>.

<sup>†</sup> capacitor  $\rightarrow \frac{1}{C_s}$ , inductor  $\rightarrow Ls$ , series, parallel, may give erroneous results

First principles modeling ( $\cong$  CE's, KVL, & KCL)

$\rightsquigarrow$  15 behavioral equations.

Include both the **port** and the **branch** voltages and currents.

**Why can the port behavior be described by a system of linear constant coefficient differential equations?**

**Because:**

1. The CE's, KVL, & KCL are all linear constant coefficient differential equations.
2. The elimination theorem<sup>†</sup>.

**Why is there *exactly one* equation? Passivity!**

**Remarks:**

- ▶ **Number of equations after elimination (constant coeff. lin. ODE's)  
 $\leq$  number of variables.  
Elimination  $\Rightarrow$  fewer, higher order equations.**



## Remarks:

- ▶ Number of equations after elimination (constant coeff. lin. ODE's)  
 $\leq$  number of variables.
- ▶  $\exists$  effective computer algebra/Gröbner bases type algorithms for elimination

$$(R, M) \mapsto R'$$

## Remarks:

- ▶ Number of equations after elimination (constant coeff. lin. ODE's)  
 $\leq$  number of variables.
- ▶  $\exists$  effective computer algebra/Gröbner bases type algorithms for elimination
- ▶ Depends on sol'n smoothness!  
 $\nexists$  elimination theorem on  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}^\infty$  with compact support):

$$\frac{d}{dt}w = f \rightsquigarrow \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} w(t) dt = 0$$

## Remarks:

- ▶ Number of equations after elimination (constant coeff. lin. ODE's)  
 $\leq$  number of variables.
- ▶  $\exists$  effective computer algebra/Gröbner bases type algorithms for elimination
- ▶ Depends on sol'n smoothness!
- ▶ Not generalizable to smooth nonlinear systems.

**Why are differential equations models so prevalent?**

## Remarks:

- ▶ Number of equations after elimination (constant coeff. lin. ODE's)  
 $\leq$  number of variables.
- ▶  $\exists$  effective computer algebra/Gröbner bases type algorithms for elimination
- ▶ Depends on sol'n smoothness!
- ▶ Not generalizable to smooth nonlinear systems.
- ▶ Generalizable to linear constant coefficient PDE's.

# Example: Maxwell's equations



$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \vec{E} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho, \\ \nabla \times \vec{E} &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{B}, \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{B} &= 0, \\ c^2 \nabla \times \vec{B} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{E}.\end{aligned}$$

## Example: Maxwell's equations



$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \vec{E} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho, \\ \nabla \times \vec{E} &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{B}, \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{B} &= 0, \\ c^2 \nabla \times \vec{B} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{E}.\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$  (time and space),

$w = (\vec{E}, \vec{B}, \vec{j}, \rho)$

(electric field, magnetic field, current density, charge density),

$\mathbb{W} = \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}$ ,

$\mathcal{B} =$  set of solutions to these PDE's.

## Example: Maxwell's equations



$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \vec{E} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho, \\ \nabla \times \vec{E} &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{B}, \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{B} &= 0, \\ c^2 \nabla \times \vec{B} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{E}.\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$  (time and space),

$w = (\vec{E}, \vec{B}, \vec{j}, \rho)$

(electric field, magnetic field, current density, charge density),

$\mathbb{W} = \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}$ ,

$\mathcal{B} =$  set of solutions to these PDE's.

**Note:** 10 variables, 8 equations!  $\Rightarrow \exists$  free variables.

Which PDE's describe  $(\rho, \vec{E}, \vec{j})$  in Maxwell's equations ?



Which PDE's describe  $(\rho, \vec{E}, \vec{j})$  in Maxwell's equations ?

Eliminate  $\vec{B}$  from Maxwell's equations

Which PDE's describe  $(\rho, \vec{E}, \vec{j})$  in Maxwell's equations ?

Eliminate  $\vec{B}$  from Maxwell's equations  $\rightsquigarrow$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \vec{E} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho, \\ \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \cdot \vec{E} + \nabla \cdot \vec{j} &= 0, \\ \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \vec{E} + \epsilon_0 c^2 \nabla \times \nabla \times \vec{E} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{j} &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Which PDE's describe  $(\rho, \vec{E}, \vec{j})$  in Maxwell's equations ?

Eliminate  $\vec{B}$  from Maxwell's equations  $\rightsquigarrow$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \vec{E} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho, \\ \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \cdot \vec{E} + \nabla \cdot \vec{j} &= 0, \\ \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \vec{E} + \epsilon_0 c^2 \nabla \times \nabla \times \vec{E} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{j} &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Elimination theorem  $\Rightarrow$

this exercise is exact & successful (+ gives algorithm).

It follows from all this that  $\mathcal{L}^\bullet$  has very nice properties. It is **closed** under:

- **Intersection:**  $(\mathfrak{B}_1, \mathfrak{B}_2 \in \mathcal{L}^w) \Rightarrow (\mathfrak{B}_1 \cap \mathfrak{B}_2 \in \mathcal{L}^w)$ .
- **Addition:**  $(\mathfrak{B}_1, \mathfrak{B}_2 \in \mathcal{L}^w) \Rightarrow (\mathfrak{B}_1 + \mathfrak{B}_2 \in \mathcal{L}^w)$ .
- **Projection:**  $(\mathfrak{B} \in \mathcal{L}^{w_1+w_2}) \Rightarrow (\Pi_{w_1} \mathfrak{B} \in \mathcal{L}^{w_1})$ .
- **Action of a linear differential operator:**  
 $(\mathfrak{B} \in \mathcal{L}^{w_1}, P \in \mathbb{R}^{w_2 \times w_1}[\xi])$   
 $\Rightarrow (P(\frac{d}{dt})\mathfrak{B} \in \mathcal{L}^{w_2})$ .
- **Inverse image of a linear differential operator:**  
 $(\mathfrak{B} \in \mathcal{L}^{w_2}, P \in \mathbb{R}^{w_2 \times w_1}[\xi])$   
 $\Rightarrow (P(\frac{d}{dt}))^{-1}\mathfrak{B} \in \mathcal{L}^{w_1})$ .

**The elimination theorem (and the related algorithms) is one of the nice, important, **new** problems that have emerged from the behavioral theory.**

The elimination theorem (and the related algorithms) is one of the nice, important, **new** problems that have emerged from the behavioral theory.

Equally important as **elimination** is **introducing** convenient latent variables:

- **state** models, first order equations
- **image representations** and controllability
- . . .

**End of Lecture 3**