

## 1.2.2 Modeling

Derivation of most basic transport equation  $u_t + cu_x = 0$

- 1) Consider water flowing through a horizontal pipe of fixed cross section in the positive  $x$  direction (right) at a constant rate  $c$  centimeter/second. A substance, say salt or any other pollutant, is suspended in the water. Assume diffusion is negligible. Let  $u(x, t)$  be its concentration in grams/centimeter at time  $t$ . Derive a PDE model to describe the transport of the pollutant.
- 2) Let's take a look at the pollutant in the section of the pipe from 0 to  $x$  for an arbitrary  $x$ .
- 3) What's the amount of pollutant in  $[0, x]$  at time  $t$ ?
- 4)  $M = \int_0^x u(\xi, t) d\xi$

## Derivation of most basic transport equation

- 5) What happen to these molecules of pollutant at a later time  $t + h$ ?
- 6) Move right by  $ch$  centimeters!
- 7) Thus,  $M = \int_0^x u(\xi, t)d\xi = \int_{ch}^{x+ch} u(\xi, t + h)d\xi$
- 8) Using fundamental theorem of calculus
- 9) Differentiate both sides with respect to  $x$ , we get  
 $u(x, t) = u(x + ch, t + h)$
- 10) Differentiate both sides of the previous equation with respect to  $h$  via the chain rule, to obtain  
 $0 = cu_x(x + ch, t + h) + u_t(x + ch, t + h)$

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- 11) Let  $h \rightarrow 0$ . Then  $0 = cu_x(x, t) + u_t(x, t)$
- 12) Since  $x$  and  $t$  are arbitrary, then  $cu_x + u_t = 0$
- 13) The general solution  $u(x, t) = f(x - ct)$