

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I. The Two Basic Blowup Mechanisms

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| A. The ODE mechanism | 2 |
| 1. Systems of ODE | 2 |
| 2. Strictly hyperbolic semilinear systems in the plane..... | 3 |
| 3. Semilinear wave equations..... | 6 |
| B. The geometric blowup mechanism | 9 |
| 1. Burgers' equation and the method of characteristics | 9 |
| 2. Blowup of a quasilinear system..... | 12 |
| 3. Blowup solutions | 14 |
| 4. How to solve the blowup system | 18 |
| 5. How ∇u blows up..... | 19 |
| 6. Singular solutions and explosive solutions | 20 |
| C. Combinations of the two mechanisms | 22 |
| 1. Which mechanism takes place first? | 22 |
| 2. Simultaneous occurrence of the two mechanisms..... | 23 |
| Notes | 24 |

CHAPTER II. First Concepts on Global Cauchy Problems ... 25

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 25 |
| 1. Short time existence | 26 |
| 2. Lifespan and blowup criterion | 27 |
| 3. Blowup or not? Functional methods..... | 30 |
| a. A functional method for Burgers' equation | 30 |
| b. Semilinear wave equation | 32 |
| c. The Euler system | 33 |
| 4. Blowup or not? Comparison and averaging methods | 36 |
| Notes | 39 |

CHAPTER III. Semilinear Wave Equations

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 40 |
| 1. Semilinear blowup criteria | 40 |
| 2. Maximal influence domain | 42 |
| 3. Maximal influence domains for weak solutions | 43 |
| 4. Blowup rates at the boundary of the maximal influence domain | 50 |
| 5. An example of a sharp estimate of the lifespan | 55 |
| Notes | 57 |

**CHAPTER IV. Quasilinear Systems in One
Space Dimension**

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 59 |
| 1. The scalar case | 60 |
| 2. Riemann invariants, simple waves, and L^1 -boundedness | 61 |
| 3. The case of 2×2 systems | 64 |
| 4. General systems with small data | 69 |
| 5. Rotationally invariant wave equations | 76 |
| Notes | 80 |

**CHAPTER V. Nonlinear Geometrical Optics
and Applications**

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 82 |
| 1. Quasilinear systems in one space dimension | 83 |
| 1.1. Formal analysis | 84 |
| 1.2. Slow time and reduced equations | 86 |
| 1.3. Existence, approximation and blowup | 89 |
| 2. Quasilinear wave equations | 93 |
| 2.1. Formal analysis | 93 |
| 2.2. Slow time and reduced equations | 95 |
| 2.3. Existence, null conditions, blowup | 97 |
| 3. Further results on the wave equation | 99 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 3.1. Formal analysis near the boundary of the light cone | 100 |
| 3.2. Slow time and reduced equations | 101 |
| 3.3. A local blowup problem | 102 |
| 3.4. Asymptotic lifespan for the two-dimensional wave equation | 104 |
| Notes | 105 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 107 |
| INDEX | 113 |