

# Nonlinear Conservation

Laws : Godunov method

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Let's consider the nonlinear conservation law

$$q_t + \left( \underset{\text{flux function}}{\uparrow} f(q) \right)_x = 0 \quad \begin{cases} \text{new} \\ \text{notation} \end{cases}$$

where  $q$  does not have to be scalar. Famous examples include:

- a) Burger's equation  $f(q) = \frac{q^2}{2}$
- b) Euler's equations of inviscid fluid dynamics (aerodynamics)
- c) Shallow water equations (geofluids)

(1)

To ensure consistency with weak form of PDE it is crucial to use a conservative FV method (Lax-Wendroff theorem):

$$\bar{q}_i^{n+1} = \bar{q}_i^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \left[ f_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2}(\bar{q}) - f_{i-1/2}^{n+1/2}(\bar{q}) \right]$$

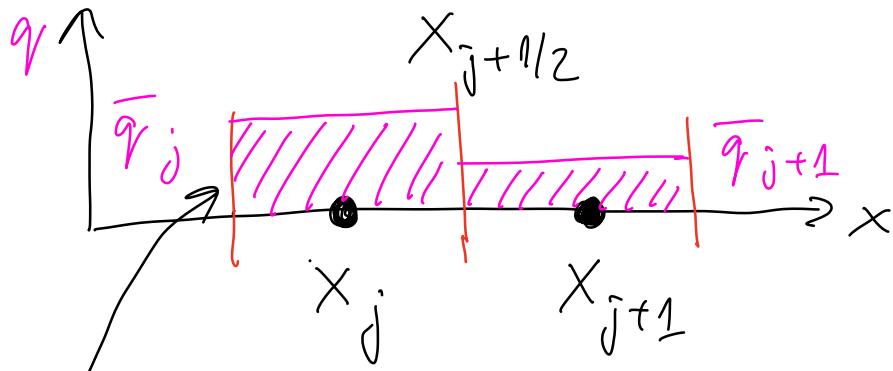
where

$$f_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2}(\bar{q}) \approx \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} f(q(x_{i+1/2}, t)) dt$$

What is the equivalent of upwind & the 2<sup>nd</sup> order methods we did for advection for this more general case?

(2)

For upwind we used a



Piecewise constant reconstruction

$$q(x_{j-1/2} < x < x_{j+1/2}) = \bar{q}_j + O(h^2)$$

At every face  $x_{i+1/2}$  we need to compute a flux. If

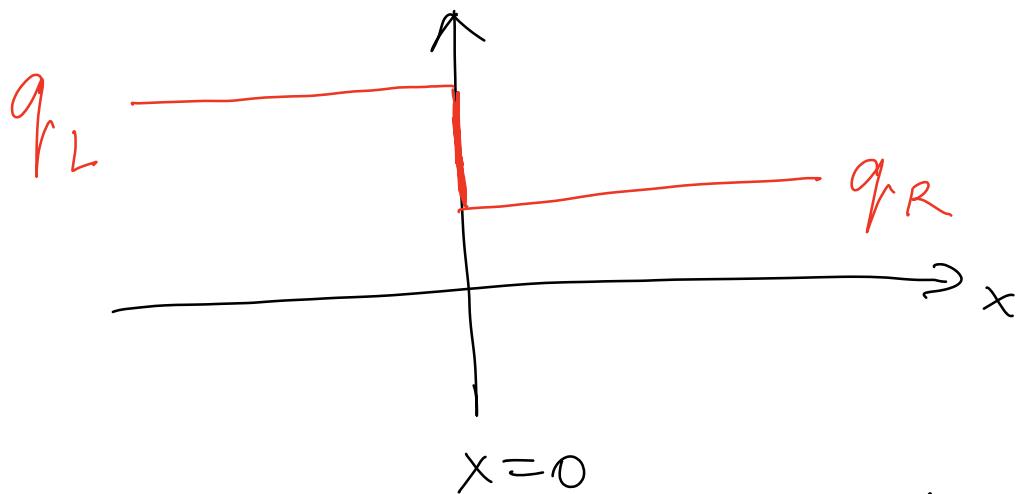
we satisfy a Courant condition:

characteristics emanating from cell faces at  $t_n$  don't reach other faces until time  $t_{n+1}$ ,

then we can focus on a single face to estimate flux

(3)

At each interface we have  
a so-called **Riemann Problem**



$$q(x, t=0) = \begin{cases} q_L & \text{if } x < 0 \\ q_R & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

Observe that this IC has  
no intrinsic length scale: If  
we rescale space by a factor  
and also rescale time by the  
same factor, we get the same  
solution!

(4)

$\Rightarrow q(x, t) = q(x/t)$  for  
Riemann problem

This means in particular that

$$q(x=0, t) = q(x/t=0) = \text{const}$$

$$q_{\text{Riemann}}(x=0, t) = q^{\downarrow}(q_L, q_R)$$

for  $t_n \leq t < t_{n+1}$

And therefore the flux across  
the interface  $x=0$  is  
constant for  $t_n \leq t < t_{n+1}$  and  
therefore trivial to integrate  
over the time step!

Note: For advection

$$q^{\downarrow} = \begin{cases} q_L & \text{if } a > 0 \\ q_R & \text{if } a < 0 \end{cases}$$

(5)

$$f_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = f(q_i^{\downarrow}(\bar{q}_i, \bar{q}_{i+1}))$$

↑

Godunov flux

(or Godunov method)

comes from

**Riemann solver**

We see that for linear advection Godunov's method is simple upwinding, so it is the natural generalization of upwinding conservation laws to nonlinear

It is only first-order accurate but typically the most robust method, i.e. in most cases it converges to a suitable solution of the PDE, though this is HARD to prove.

⑥

All of the complexity lies in the Riemann solver, and that requires a lot of hyperbolic PDE theory, which we won't go into here. In fact, the Riemann problem has been solved exactly only for a few equations in 1D and it can get very complicated. In practice, codes typically use approximate Riemann solvers, e.g., based on linearizing the PDE (can fail for certain types of solutions). Here, for brevity, we will illustrate on simple 1D PDE and assume a Riemann solver exists otherwise (7)

Burgers equation  
or similar scalar

$$q_t + (f(q))_x = q_t + \left(\frac{q^2}{2}\right)_x = 0$$

Do NOT use the chain rule

$$q_t + f'(q) q_x = 0$$

since this destroys weak formulation.

Assume convex (or concave)  
flux,  $f''(q)$  has same sign  
over range of  $q$ 's.

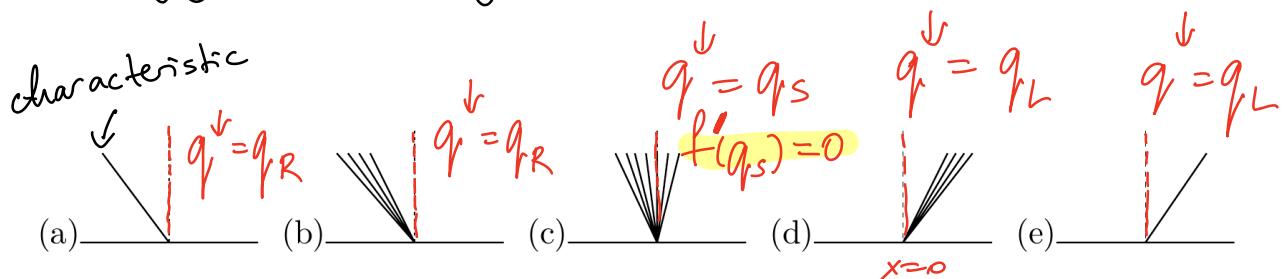


Fig. 12.1. Five possible configurations for the solution to a scalar Riemann problem between states  $Q_{i-1}$  and  $Q_i$ , shown in the  $x-t$  plane: (a) left-going shock,  $Q_{i-1/2}^\downarrow = Q_i$ ; (b) left-going rarefaction,  $Q_{i-1/2}^\downarrow = Q_i$ ; (c) transonic rarefaction,  $Q_{i-1/2}^\downarrow = q_s$ ; (d) right-going rarefaction,  $Q_{i-1/2}^\downarrow = Q_{i-1}$ ; (e) right-going shock,  $Q_{i-1/2}^\downarrow = Q_{i-1}$ .

$$q_i^\downarrow = \begin{cases} q_L & \text{or } q_R \\ \emptyset & \text{or for Burgers} \end{cases} \quad \textcircled{8}$$

Reminder: For Burgers,

$$q_t + q(q_x) = 0$$

(when smooth) so slope of straight characteristics is  $q$ , i.e.  
 $q_L$  for left characteristics,  
 $q_R$  for right characteristics.

Turns out for convex flux

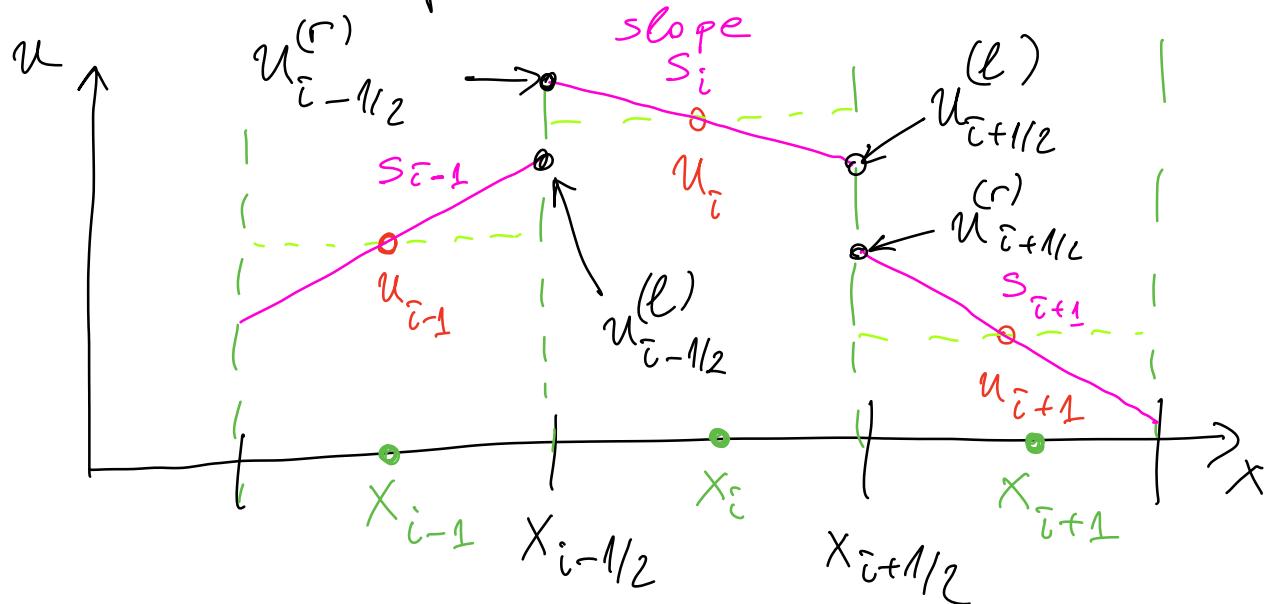
$$f_{j+1/2}^{n+1/2} = \begin{cases} \min & f(\theta) \\ \bar{q}_j^n \leq \theta \leq \bar{q}_{j+1}^n & \text{if } \bar{q}_j^n < \bar{q}_{j+1}^n \\ \max & f(\theta) \text{ otherwise} \\ \bar{q}_{j+1}^n \leq \theta \leq \bar{q}_j^n & \end{cases}$$

For Burgers, we get  $f_{j+1/2}^{n+1/2}$  is either  $q_j^{1/2}$ ,  $q_{j+1}^{1/2}$ , or  $\emptyset$ . (9)

How do we get 2<sup>nd</sup> order accuracy? I will only show one method (not guaranteed to converge but often works ok) that generalizes what we did for advection.

Recall for advection we went to

**higher-order reconstruction,** for example linear:



[Or quadratic reconstruction for  
mol 3<sup>rd</sup> order.]

(10)

$$q(x_{i-1/2} < x < x_{i+1/2}) = \bar{q}_i^n + O(h^2)$$

$\bar{q}_i^n$  ← conservation  
 $S_i^n (x - x_i)$   
 ↴  
 slope, potentially limited using  
 something like MC limiter.

If  $q$  is a vector, do  
 separately for each component  
 (this makes the method not quite  
 consistent with characteristics but  
 makes it simple)

This gives at each face:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{q}_{i+1/2, L}^n = \bar{q}_i^n + \frac{\Delta x}{2} S_i \\ \bar{q}_{i+1/2, R}^n = \bar{q}_{i+1}^n - \frac{\Delta x}{2} S_{i+1} \end{array} \right.$$

(11)

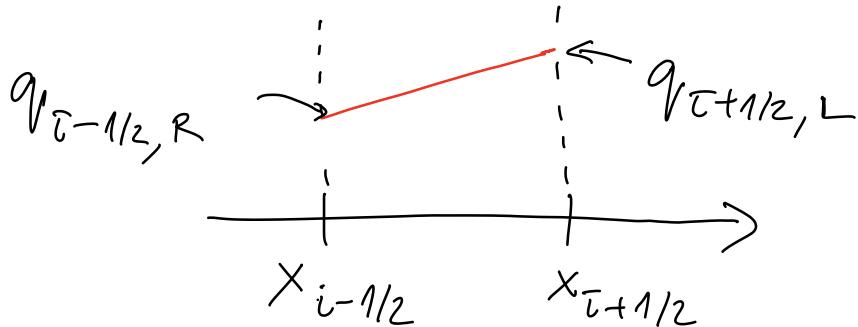
Now, we also want to estimate state at midpoint in time to get 2<sup>nd</sup> order accuracy, using

Taylor series

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} q_{i+1/2, L}^{n+1/2} = \bar{q}_{i+1/2, L}^n + \frac{\Delta t}{2} (u_t)_i^n \\ q_{i+1/2, R}^{n+1/2} = \bar{q}_{i+1/2, R}^n + \frac{\Delta t}{2} (u_t)_{i+1}^n \end{array} \right.$$

where time derivative estimate

$$(u_t)_i^n = \frac{f(q_{i+1/2, L}^n) - f(q_{i-1/2, R}^n)}{\Delta x}$$



(12)

Note that limiting and extrapolation to faces at midpoint in time (skip this for MOL schemes) is done cell by cell, once initial slope are estimated (centered ala Froum):

$$(S_i^n)_{\text{not limited}} = \frac{\bar{q}_{i+1}^n - \bar{q}_{i-1}^n}{2 \Delta x}$$

Now, we use the Riemann solver

$$f_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = f(q_i^n (q_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2}, q_{i+1/2,R}^{n+1/2}))$$

Standard Riemann solver for piecewise constant initial data, not necessary to solve Riemann problem for linear reconstruction

(13)