

Finite Volume Methods for Hyperbolic Problems

Linear Hyperbolic Systems

- General form, coefficient matrix, hyperbolicity
- Scalar advection equation
- Linear acoustics equations
- Eigen decomposition
- Characteristics and general solution
- Boundary conditions

Linear hyperbolic systems

Linear system of m equations: $q(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ for each (x, t) and

$$q_t + Aq_x = 0, \quad -\infty < x, \infty, \quad t \geq 0.$$

A is $m \times m$ matrix (constant for now, independent of x, t)

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Eigenvalues are **wave speeds**.

Eigenvectors used to split arbitrary data into waves.

So matrix of eigenvectors must be **nonsingular**.

Advection equation as a linear system

$$q_t + uq_x = 0$$

with u a constant (real) velocity. (1×1 diagonalizable, $\lambda^1 = u$)

Initial condition:

$$q(x, 0) = \overset{\circ}{q}(x), \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

The solution to this Cauchy problem is:

$$q(x, t) = \overset{\circ}{q}(x - ut)$$

It is constant along each **characteristic curve**

$$X(t) = x_0 + ut$$

Characteristics for advection

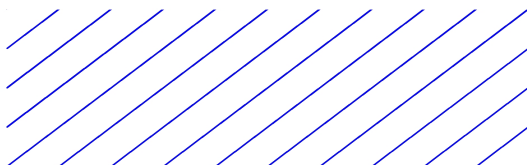
$$q(x, t) = \overset{\circ}{q}(x - ut) \implies q \text{ is constant along lines}$$

$$X(t) = x_0 + ut, \quad t \geq 0.$$

Can also see that q is constant along $X(t)$ from:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}q(X(t), t) &= q_x(X(t), t)X'(t) + q_t(X(t), t) \\ &= q_x(X(t), t)u + q_t(X(t), t) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

In x - t plane:



Diagonalization of linear system

Consider **constant coefficient linear** system $q_t + Aq_x = 0$.

Suppose **hyperbolic**:

- Real eigenvalues $\lambda^1 \leq \lambda^2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda^m$,
- Linearly independent eigenvectors r^1, r^2, \dots, r^m .

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Let $R = [r^1 | r^2 | \dots | r^m]$ $m \times m$ **matrix of eigenvectors**.

Then $Ar^p = \lambda^p r^p$ means that $AR = R\Lambda$ where

$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda^1 & & & \\ & \lambda^2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda^m \end{bmatrix} \equiv \text{diag}(\lambda^1, \lambda^2, \dots, \lambda^m).$$

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$$AR = R\Lambda \implies A = R\Lambda R^{-1} \text{ and } R^{-1}AR = \Lambda.$$

Similarity transformation with R diagonalizes A .

Diagonalization of linear system

Consider **constant coefficient linear** system $q_t + Aq_x = 0$.

Multiply system by R^{-1} :

$$R^{-1}q_t(x, t) + R^{-1}Aq_x(x, t) = 0.$$

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Use $R^{-1}AR = \Lambda$ and define $w(x, t) = R^{-1}q(x, t)$:

$$w_t(x, t) + \Lambda w_x(x, t) = 0. \quad \text{Since } R \text{ is constant!}$$

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This **decouples** to m independent **scalar advection equations**:

$$w_t^p(x, t) + \lambda^p w_x^p(x, t) = 0. \quad p = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Solution to Cauchy problem

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The solution to the decoupled equation $w_t^p + \lambda^p w_x^p = 0$ is

$$w^p(x, t) = w^p(x - \lambda^p t, 0) = \overset{\circ p}{w}(x - \lambda^p t).$$

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Putting these together in vector gives $w(x, t)$ and finally

$$q(x, t) = R w(x, t).$$

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We can rewrite this as

$$q(x, t) = \sum_{p=1}^m w^p(x, t) r^p = \sum_{p=1}^m \overset{\circ}{w}^p(x - \lambda^p t) r^p$$

Linear acoustics

Example: Linear acoustics in a 1d gas tube

$$q = \begin{bmatrix} p \\ u \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} p(x, t) = \text{pressure perturbation} \\ u(x, t) = \text{velocity} \end{array}$$

Equations:

$$\begin{array}{ll} p_t + K_0 u_x &= 0 \quad \text{Change in pressure due to compression} \\ \rho_0 u_t + p_x &= 0 \quad \text{Newton's second law, } F = ma \end{array}$$

where K_0 = bulk modulus, and ρ_0 = unperturbed density.

Hyperbolic system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} p \\ u \end{bmatrix}_t + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & K_0 \\ 1/\rho_0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p \\ u \end{bmatrix}_x = 0.$$

Eigenvectors for acoustics

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & K_0 \\ 1/\rho_0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvectors:

$$r^1 = \begin{bmatrix} -\rho_0 c_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad r^2 = \begin{bmatrix} \rho_0 c_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Check that $A r^p = \lambda^p r^p$, where

$$\lambda^1 = -c_0, \quad \lambda^2 = +c_0.$$

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Let $Z_0 = \rho_0 c_0 = \sqrt{K_0 \rho_0} = \text{impedance}$.

Physical meaning of eigenvectors

Eigenvectors for acoustics:

$$r^1 = \begin{bmatrix} -\rho_0 c_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad r^2 = \begin{bmatrix} \rho_0 c_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Consider a pure 1-wave (simple wave), at speed $\lambda^1 = -c_0$,

If $\overset{\circ}{q}(x) = \bar{q} + \overset{\circ}{w}^1(x)r^1$ then

$$q(x, t) = \bar{q} + \overset{\circ}{w}^1(x - \lambda^1 t)r^1$$

Variation of q , as measured by q_x or $\Delta q = q(x + \Delta x) - q(x)$ is proportional to eigenvector r^1 , e.g.

$$q_x(x, t) = \overset{\circ}{w}_x^1(x - \lambda^1 t)r^1$$

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In a simple 1-wave (propagating at speed $\lambda^1 = -c_0$),

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_x \\ u_x \end{bmatrix} = \beta(x) \begin{bmatrix} -Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The pressure variation is $-Z_0$ times the velocity variation.

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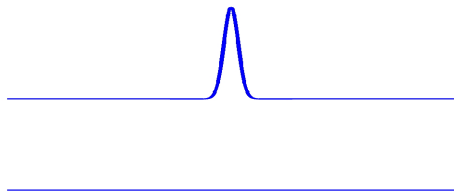
Similarly, in a simple 2-wave ($\lambda^2 = c_0$),

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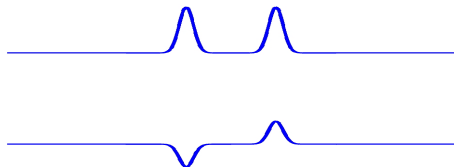
Acoustic waves

$$\begin{aligned} q(x, 0) = \begin{bmatrix} p(x) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} &= -\frac{p(x)}{2Z} \begin{bmatrix} -Z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{p(x)}{2Z} \begin{bmatrix} Z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= w^1(x, 0)r^1 + w^2(x, 0)r^2 \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} p(x)/2 \\ -p(x)/(2Z) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} p(x)/2 \\ p(x)/(2Z) \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$



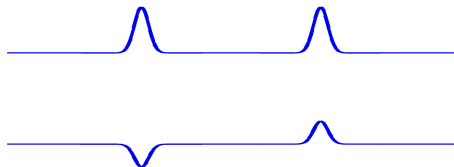
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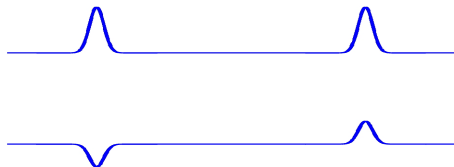
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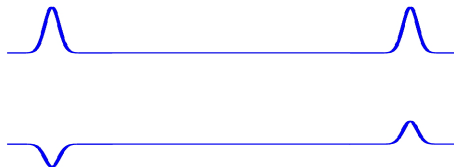
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Solution by tracing back on characteristics

The general solution for acoustics:

$$\begin{aligned}q(x, t) &= w^1(x - \lambda^1 t, 0)r^1 + w^2(x - \lambda^2 t, 0)r^2 \\ &= w^1(x + c_0 t, 0)r^1 + w^2(x - c_0 t, 0)r^2\end{aligned}$$

Recall that $w(x, 0) = R^{-1}q(x, 0)$, i.e.

$$w^1(x, 0) = \ell^1 q(x, 0), \quad w^2(x, 0) = \ell^2 q(x, 0)$$

where ℓ^1 and ℓ^2 are rows of R^{-1} .

$$R^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \ell^1 \\ \ell^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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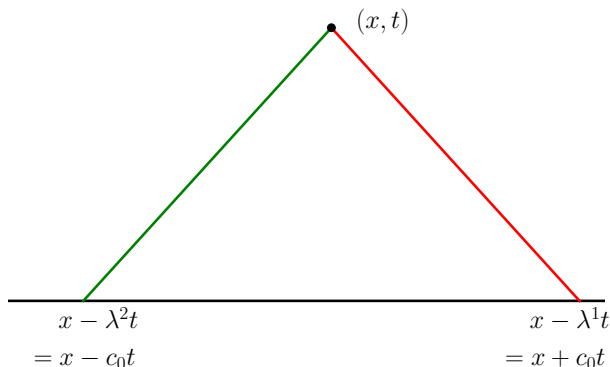
Note: ℓ^1 and ℓ^2 are left-eigenvectors of A :

$$\ell^p A = \lambda^p \ell^p \quad \text{since } R^{-1}A = \Lambda R^{-1}.$$

Solution by tracing back on characteristics

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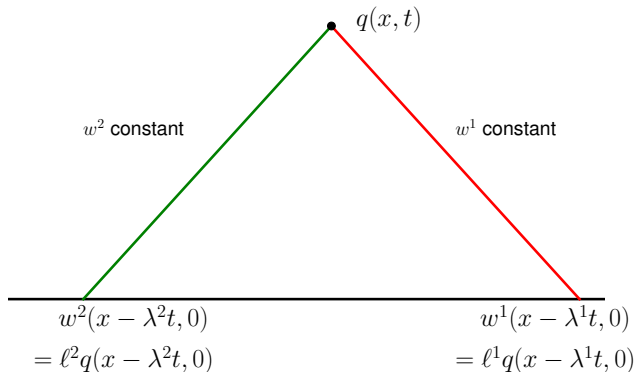
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Solution by tracing back on characteristics

The general solution for acoustics:

$$q(x, t) = w^1(x - \lambda^1 t, 0)r^1 + w^2(x - \lambda^2 t, 0)r^2$$



Linear acoustics

Example: Linear acoustics in a 1d gas tube,
linearized about $p = p_0$, $u = u_0$

$$q = \begin{bmatrix} p \\ u \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} p(x, t) = \text{pressure perturbation} \\ u(x, t) = \text{velocity perturbation} \end{array}$$

Equations include advective transport at speed u_0 :

$$\begin{array}{ll} p_t + u_0 p_x + K_0 u_x &= 0 \quad \text{Change in pressure due to compression} \\ \rho_0 u_t + p_x + u_0 u_x &= 0 \quad \text{Newton's second law, } F = ma \end{array}$$

where K_0 = bulk modulus, and ρ_0 = unperturbed density.

Hyperbolic system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} p \\ u \end{bmatrix}_t + \begin{bmatrix} u_0 & K_0 \\ 1/\rho_0 & u_0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p \\ u \end{bmatrix}_x = 0.$$

Eigenvectors for acoustics

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Eigenvectors:

$$r^1 = \begin{bmatrix} -\rho_0 c_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad r^2 = \begin{bmatrix} \rho_0 c_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Check that $A r^p = \lambda^p r^p$, where

$$\lambda^1 = u_0 - c_0, \quad \lambda^2 = u_0 + c_0.$$

with $c_0 = \sqrt{K_0/\rho_0} \implies K_0 = \rho_0 c_0^2$.

Eigenvectors for acoustics

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Note: Eigenvectors are independent of u_0 .

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Initial–boundary value problem (IBVP) for advection

Advection equation on finite 1D domain:

$$q_t + uq_x = 0 \quad a < x < b, \quad t \geq 0,$$

with initial data

$$q(x, 0) = \eta(x) \quad a < x < b.$$

and boundary data at the inflow boundary:

If $u > 0$, need data at $x = a$:

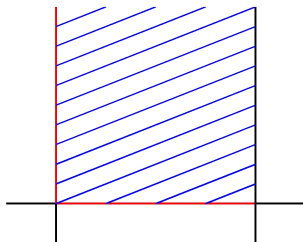
$$q(a, t) = g(t), \quad t \geq 0,$$

If $u < 0$, need data at $x = b$:

$$q(b, t) = g(t), \quad t \geq 0,$$

Characteristics for IBVP

In $x-t$ plane for the case $u > 0$:



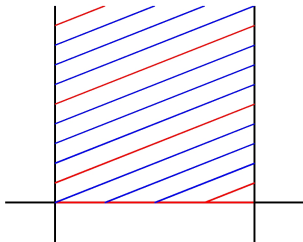
Solution:

$$q(x, t) = \begin{cases} \eta(x - ut) & \text{if } a \leq x - ut \leq b, \\ g((x - a)/u) & \text{otherwise} . \end{cases}$$

Periodic boundary conditions

$$q(a, t) = q(b, t), \quad t \geq 0.$$

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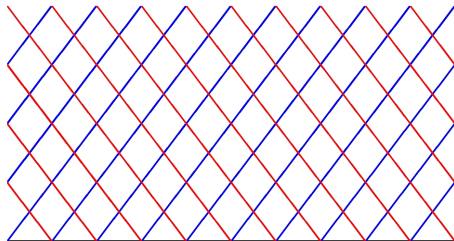
Solution:

$$q(x, t) = \eta(X_0(x, t)),$$

where $X_0(x, t) = a + \text{mod}(x - ut - a, b - a)$.

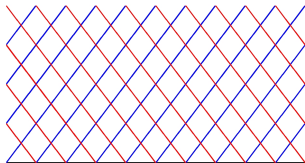
Linear acoustics — characteristics

$$\begin{aligned} q(x, t) &= w^1(x + ct, 0)r^1 + w^2(x - ct, 0)r^2 \\ &= \frac{-\overset{\circ}{p}(x + ct)}{2Z_0} \begin{bmatrix} -Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{\overset{\circ}{p}(x - ct)}{2Z_0} \begin{bmatrix} Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$



For IBVP on $a < x < b$, must specify one incoming boundary condition at each side: $w^2(a, t)$ and $w^1(b, t)$

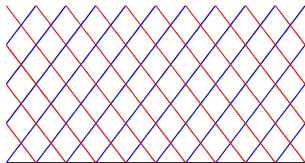
Acoustics boundary conditions



Outflow (non-reflecting, absorbing) boundary conditions:

$$w^2(a, t) = 0, \quad w^1(b, t) = 0.$$

Acoustics boundary conditions



Outflow (non-reflecting, absorbing) boundary conditions:

$$w^2(a, t) = 0, \quad w^1(b, t) = 0.$$

Periodic boundary conditions:

$$w^2(a, t) = w^2(b, t), \quad w^1(b, t) = w^1(a, t),$$

or simply

$$q(a, t) = q(b, t).$$

Acoustics boundary conditions

Solid wall (reflecting) boundary conditions:

$$u(a, t) = 0, \quad u(b, t) = 0.$$

which can be written in terms of characteristic variables as:

$$w^2(a, t) = -w^1(a, t), \quad w^1(b, t) = -w^2(a, t)$$

since $u = w^1 + w^2$.

$$q(a, t) = w^1(a, t) \begin{bmatrix} -Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + w^2(a, t) \begin{bmatrix} Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} p(a, t) \\ u(a, t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (-w^1(a, t) + w^2(a, t))Z_0 \\ w^1(a, t) + w^2(a, t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2w^1(a, t)Z_0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Figure 3.1

Figure 3.1 illustrates the acoustics solution with $u(x, 0) \equiv 0$.

An animation can be found in the **Clawpack Gallery**

[Gallery of fvmbook applications](#) → [Chapter 3](#)

→ **animation of Pressure and Velocity**

Shows solution computed numerically on a fine grid, with:

- Solid wall boundary condition at the left,
- Outflow boundary condition at the right.