

# Chapter 7: Approximate Riemann

## Solvers

- Idea:
- Godunov-type methods are computationally expensive, as one must solve a Riemann problem at every cell interface at each time step.
    - Riemann problem is most demanding task in the method

However, all that is needed about the local solution to the Riemann problem is the solution along the ray  $\frac{x}{t} = 0$  ( $v^n(x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, t^n) = \text{const.}$ ) along the ray, i.e. on  $[t^n, t^{n+1}]$ , in order to compute the flux  $f(v^n(x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, t^n))$ .

- complicated iterative procedure for little information!
- replace "exact" Riemann solver by an "approximate" (cheaper) Riemann solver.
  - gives rise to class of Godunov-type methods

## 6.1 Roe's Riemann solver

Idea: replace actual Riemann problem by an (approximate) linearized problem defined locally at each cell interface

Def (Riemann solver of Roe):

Replace the RP  $u_t + f(u)_x = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty)$

$$u(x, 0) = \begin{cases} u_L & x < 0 \\ u_R & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

by the linear problem

$$\begin{aligned} w_t + A_{LR} w_x &= 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty) \\ (\star) \quad w(x, 0) &= \begin{cases} w_L & x < 0 \\ w_R & x \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

where  $A_{LR} = A(u_L, u_R) \in \text{Mat}(\mathbb{R}^{m \times m})$  satisfies the conditions

(i)  $f(v) - f(w) = A(v, w)(v - w)$

(conservation across discontinuities)

(ii)  $\|A(v, w) - Df(v)\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $\|w - v\| \rightarrow 0$

(consistency with exact Jacobian)

(iii)  $A(v, w)$  has only real eigenvalues  
and has a complete set of eigenvectors  
(system is hyperbolic and RP thus solvable)

The Roe scheme is defined by replacing the exact solution of the local RP in Godunov's method by the exact solution to (R).

### Motivation:

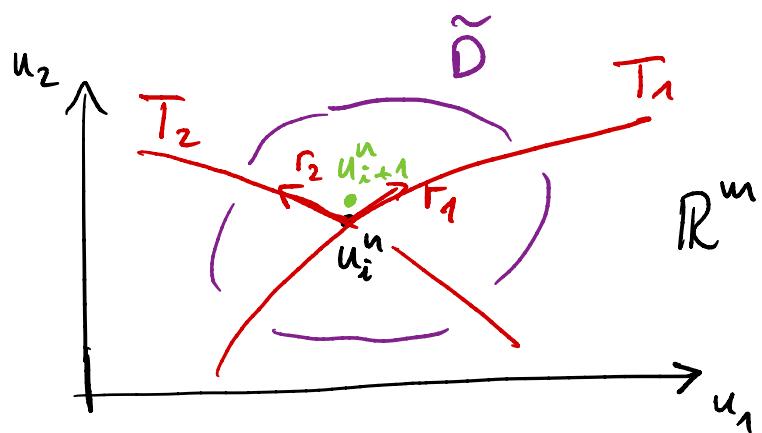
- linearized problem justified at most cell interfaces

$$\|u_{i+1}^n - u_i^n\| \sim O(\Delta x)$$

$$Df(u_{i+1}) \approx Df(u_i) \quad \begin{matrix} \text{constant matrix} \\ \text{appropriate} \\ \text{average state} \end{matrix} \quad \bar{u} = \bar{u}(u_{i+1}, u_i)$$

$$u_t + f(u)_x = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u_t + Df(\bar{u})u_x = 0$$

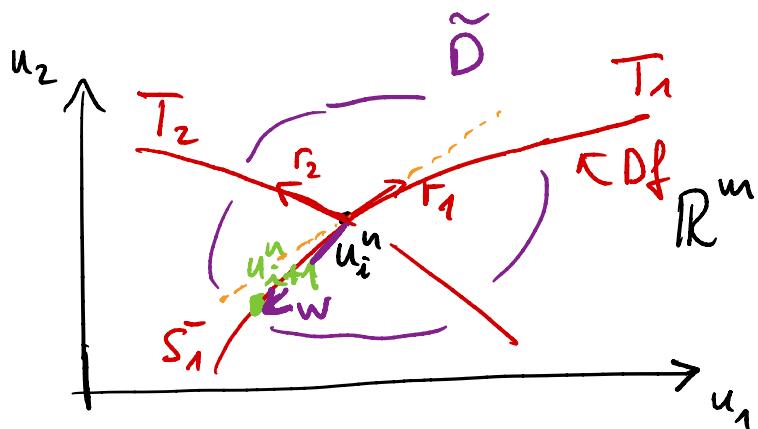
State space: integral curves & shock sets needed  
to connect  $u_{i+1}^n, u_i^n$  are nearly  
straight lines



$$u_{i+1}^n - u_i^n = \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha_k r_k$$

infinitesimal  
(linearized)  
Riemann problem

- near shocks:  $u_{i+1}^n, u_i^n$  may be separated far in state space at least in one direction  $k=k_s$  along a shock set  $S_{k_s}$ .



and make  
 $w \equiv u_{i+1}^n - u_i^n$   
an eigenvalue  
of  $A(u_i, u_{i+1})$   
instead of  $r_1$

Note:  $u_{i+1}^n$  cannot be on more than one shock set at a time. For all other families  $k \neq k_s$   $u_{i+1}^n$  is "close" to  $u_i^n$   $\rightarrow$  "there is at most one strong wave"

$\rightarrow$  need to make sure that the corresponding single shock wave

$w = u_{i+1}^n - u_i^n$  is an eigenvector of  $A(u_{i+1}^n, u_i^n)$ , so that the linearized problem "captures" the shock "outside of the linear domain"

RH jump conditions:  $f(v) - f(w) = s(v-w)$

Require:  $A(v,w)(v-w) \stackrel{!}{=} s(v-w) = f(v) - f(w)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  requirement (i)

Construction of  $A(v,w)$ :

- Consider the line integral along the path

$$u(\xi) = u_i^n + (u_{i+1}^n - u_i^n)\xi, \quad 0 \leq \xi \leq 1$$

$$f(u_{i+1}) - f(u_i) = \int_0^1 \frac{df(u(\xi))}{d\xi} d\xi = \int_0^1 Df(u(\xi)) u'(\xi) d\xi$$

$$= (u_{i+1}^n - u_i^n) \underbrace{\int_0^1 Df(u(\xi)) d\xi}_{A(u_i, u_{i+1})}$$

$\rightarrow A(u_i, u_{i+1})$  satisfies (i) & (ii), but (iii)  
is not guaranteed.

Also: integral difficult to evaluate in general (closed form may not exist)

- Roe (1981): introduce coordinate transformation  $z(u)$

$$\text{path: } z(\xi) = z_i + (z_{i+1} - z_i) \xi, \quad z_i = z(u_i)$$

$$\text{and } f(u_{i+1}) - f(u_i) = \int_0^1 \frac{df(z(\xi))}{d\xi} d\xi$$

$$= (z_{i+1} - z_i) \int_0^1 Df_z(z(\xi)) d\xi$$

↑ Jacobian  
wrt.  $z = z(u)$

$$u_{i+1} - u_i = \int_0^1 \frac{du(z(\xi))}{d\xi} d\xi \quad \equiv C(u_i, u_{i+1})$$

$$= \int_0^1 \frac{du(z(\xi))}{dz} z'(\xi) d\xi$$

$$= (z_{i+1} - z_i) \int_0^1 \frac{du(z(\xi))}{dz} d\xi \quad \equiv B(u_i, u_{i+1})$$

$$\text{and } A(u_i, u_{i+1}) = C(u_i, u_{i+1}) B(u_i, u_{i+1})$$

Harten, Lax, van Leer (1983): this procedure guarantees (iii) if the system has a (convex) entropy function  $\Phi$  we choose  $z(u) = \nabla \Phi(u)$   
 and  $A = A_{HLL}$  is similar to  
 a symmetric matrix and hence  
 has real eigenvalues  $\rightarrow$  symmetric  
 hyperbolic

Proposition: Assume that there exists a matrix  $A(v, w)$  as in the previous definition. Then the Roe scheme as defined above can be written in conservative form

$$w_i^{n+1} = w_i^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} [g(w_i^n, w_{i+1}^n) - g(w_{i-1}^n, w_i^n)]$$

where the numerical flux  $g$  is given by

$$g(v, w) = \frac{1}{2} [f(v) - f(w)] - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^m |\lambda_k| \alpha_k \Gamma_k$$

with  $(\lambda_k, \Gamma_k)$  being the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $A(v, w)$ . The coefficients ("wave strengths")  $\alpha_k$  are determined by

$$w - v = \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha_k \Gamma_k$$

Proof: see Kroener lemma 4.4.8 p.342  
 Toro Sec. 11.1.3

Remarks: 1) Note that the exact solution to the linearized RP can be easily written

down:

$$w(x,t) = \begin{cases} u_e & \frac{x}{t} < \lambda_1 \\ u_k & \lambda_k \leq \frac{x}{t} < \lambda_{k+1}, k \in \{1, \dots, m-1\} \\ u_r & \lambda_m \leq \frac{x}{t} \end{cases}$$

where  $u_k = u_e + \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j r_j$  and  $\alpha_j$  are given

$$\text{by } u_r - u_e = \sum_{j=1}^m \alpha_j r_j.$$

2) In general, the Roe scheme does not approximate the entropy solution (see counterexample Remark 4.4.9)

Kroener  
p.345

→ additional entropy "fixes" required

see Toro Sec. 11.4, Leveque Sec. 15.3

3) Construction of  $A(vw)$  is complicated and expensive in general

→ Roe-Pike method (Toro Sec. 11.3)

offers approach to compute all quantities needed for flux computation etc. without actually constructing  $A(u, v)$

### Roe's scheme for the Euler equations:

Consider Euler's eqns in conservative form

$$u_t + f(u)_x = 0$$

Roe (1981):  $z = \frac{u}{\sqrt{s}}$  and find that

$$A(u_e, u_r) = Df(\bar{u}), \text{ where}$$

$$\bar{u} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\rho} \\ \bar{s}\bar{u} \\ \bar{e} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \text{wrt. to } u \end{matrix}$$

$$\bar{s} = \sqrt{s_e s_r}$$

$$\bar{u} = \frac{\sqrt{s_e} u_e + \sqrt{s_r} u_r}{\sqrt{s_e} + \sqrt{s_r}}$$

$$\bar{H} = \frac{\sqrt{s_e} H_e + \sqrt{s_r} H_r}{\sqrt{s_e} + \sqrt{s_r}}, \quad H = \frac{e + p}{s} \quad \text{specific enthalpy}$$

"Roe mean values"

then  $A(u_e, u_r)$  satisfies conditions (i)-(iii).

Remark: For the Roe-scheme with mean values as defined above the density and pressure may become negative

$\rho < 0, p < 0$  (see Kroener Lemma 4.4.14  
p. 350)

disadvantageous for problems where low densities are expected!

→ additional fixes are required

see Einfeldt et al. J. Comp. Phys. 92, 273 (1991)

→ Einfeldt et al. show that for certain Riemann problems there is no linearization that preserves positivity of  $\rho, e$ !