Multimaterial Simulations using the Ghost Fluid Method

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Abstract

The unsteady, compressible Euler equations for multimaterial flow in one dimension have been solved numerically by employing level-set based tracking of fronts and two versions of the Ghost Fluid Method. Equations of state for stiffened ideal gases are supported, to allow simulations with water. An exact Riemann solver is demonstrated, in addition to usage of both centered and upwind higher-order time-marching schemes, namely MUSCL-Hancock with HLLC and SLIC. Results from several varied test cases show that the implementation works in accordance with that presented in previous literature.

1. Introduction

Leonhard Euler first presented the momentum and continuity equations in 1757[1], which were completed by the adiabatic condition presented by Laplace in 1816[2]. The energy balance equation, which is the last of what is now called the Euler equations, was not properly incorporated until the late nineteenth century[3], and although the much more general Navier-Stokes equations have been developed[4,5], the continued interest for and usefulness of the Euler equations is undisputable. They provide a robust framework for analyzing ideal fluids when viscuous effects are negligible, but cannot generally be solved analytically. Applications of the Euler equations include aerodynamics[6–8], atmospheric modelling and weather forecasts[9,10], astrophysics[11] and detonations and explosives[12–14], to name a few. Accordingly, precise and efficient methods for solving these non-linear, hyperbolic partial differential equations on arbitrary domains has been, and still is, a major field in modern computational fluid dynamics.

The Euler equations govern adiabatic and inviscid flow of a fluid. In the Froude limit (no external body forces) in one dimension, with density ρ, velocity u, total energy E and pressure p, they are given by

$$\partial_t \mathbf{U} + \partial_x \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = 0\,, \tag{1}$$

where the vector of conserved quantities $\mathbf{U}$ and their fluxes $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$ are given by

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \rho u \\ E \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{F} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho u \\ \rho u^2 + p \\ u(E+p) \end{bmatrix}.$$

It is sometimes convenient to work in terms of the primitive variables $\mathbf{W} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho, & u, & p \end{pmatrix}^T$. The total energy is the sum of the kinetic and potential energy of the system, i.e.

$$E = \frac{1}{2}\rho u^2 + \rho e\,, \tag{2}$$

where e is the internal energy, related to the other variables through the equation of state. For an ideal gas, the equation of state is

$$e = \frac{p}{(\gamma - 1)\rho}\,, \tag{3}$$

where γ denotes the ratio of specific heats for the gas. Several other fluids can be approximated by a so-called stiffened ideal gas equation of state,

$$e = \frac{p + \gamma p_\infty}{(\gamma - 1)\rho}\,. \tag{4}$$

Here, a material-dependent stiffening parameter p_∞ has been introduced. Note that Eq. (4) reduces to Eq. (3) for materials with $p_\infty = 0$.

Many important milestones have led us to the current state of the art of solving the Euler equations numerically. Riemann identified and worked on the initial value problem for Eq. (1) with discontinuous initial conditions as early as 1860[15], but the first exact solution did not arrive until Godunov proposed an iterative scheme a century later[16]. Today, efficient approximate solvers such as HLLC (Harten-Lax-van Leer-Contact)[17] and Rotated-hybrid Riemann solvers[18] are readily available. The development

of numerical analysis methods for partial differential equations got its first proper boost after the famous paper by Courant, Friedrichs and Lewis[19], but local Riemann problems[16], conservative methods[20] and finite volume formulations[21] were necessary before the first proper, three-dimensional simulations of the Euler equations could be performed in the 1980s[22]. After the Monotonic Upstream-centered Scheme for Conservation Laws (MUSCL)[23] was introduced by van Leer as the first higher-order Total Variation Diminishing (TVD) scheme in 1979, several others have been developed, notably Toro's Weighted Average Flux (WAF)[24] and Flux/Slope LImiter Centred (SLIC/FLIC)[25] schemes.

Considerations of multimaterial interactions and flow are among the more recent (less than twenty year old) developments within numerical solutions for the Euler equations. It is the goal of this report to demonstrate some techniques available for multimaterial simulations of the Euler equations in one dimension. Different fluids are characterized by their material properties, such as γ, and thus special care must be taken in the treatment of boundaries separating different fluids.

Firstly, the location of the boundary must be tracked as time evolves. The most common way of doing this is by the use of level set methods, as proposed by Osher and Sethian[26]. The level set function for a region is initiated such that it is negative inside the region, positive outside it and zero on the boundary. By taking into consideration the convection of the fluids under consideration, the level set function is then evolved so that its zeros move with the domain boundary. Osher and Fedkiw[27] provide an excellent overview of level set methods and their applications.

Secondly, the interaction between different fluids across the material interfaces must be modelled accurately. In order to do so, Fedkiw *et al.* developed the Original Ghost Fluid Method (OGFM)[28]. In ghost fluid methods, each material has ghost cells on the side of the boundary where the other material exists. In the OGFM, the pressures and velocities at these ghost cells are similar to that of the other material, and the densities are calculated by enforcing constant entropy across the interface. This worked well for cases except when there were strong shock waves, since the entropy condition does not apply. As a response, the Modified Ghost Fluid Method (MGFM) was developed[29,30]. It is based on the realization that Riemann problems do not in general require the states on each side of the discontinuity to correspond to the same material. The cells in the ghost fluid are therefore updated by solving a local Riemann problem. A further development is the real Ghost Fluid Method (rGFM)[31], in which a more accurate interfacial boundary condition is applied. The implementation of the rGFM is outside the scope of this report.

The numerical methods which have been employed are explained in section 2, before several test cases and their results are discussed in section 3. Section 4 concludes the report.

2. Numerical methods

2.1. Riemann solvers

Given a conservation equation and two sets of piecewise constant states separated by a single discontinuity, the initial value problem of evolving this system in time is called a Riemann problem. It is very useful in the study of the Euler equations for two reasons. Firstly, it allows for exact (up to an arbitrary accuracy) solutions for systems obeying Eq. (1) which have a single contact discontinuity. The other benefit of Riemann solvers is that the discretization of space which is inevitable in computational schemes for solving differential equations, allows for precise solvers of conservation equations based on the solutions of many local Riemann problems.

For the Euler equations and initial conditions

$$\mathbf{W}(x, t = 0) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{W}_L, & x \leq 0 \\ \mathbf{W}_R, & x > 0 \end{cases},$$

typical states the system can have are shown in Figure 1, in addition to characteristics for waves propagating in space-time. There are two types of resultant waves that propagate through space, in addition to the contact wave (dashed). The first is a shock wave, depicted as a thick line on the left, while the second is a rarefaction wave, shown as several gradually decaying lines on the right. Four different combinations of shock and rarefaction waves can occur on the left and right sides of the contact discontinuity, and the result is only dependent on $\mathbf{W}(x, 0)$.

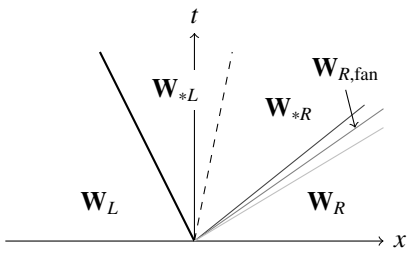

Figure 1: Possible wave configurations for the Riemann problem for Euler's equations in one dimension.

As seen from Figure 1, there are (up to) four unknown states for the Riemann problem: the left and right star states $\mathbf{W}_{*K}$ located between the left and right waves, and additionally the states inside rarefaction waves $\mathbf{W}_{K,\text{fan}}$. Note that the density in the K star state depends on whether the corresponding wave is of shock of rarefaction type. One must therefore be able to compute all these states, and also determine which of them is the correct one based on the speeds of the waves.

2.1.1. Exact solver

The exact solver, as first introduced by Godunov[16], has been implemented following Chapter 4 of Toro's comprehensive overview of Riemann solvers and their uses[32], but extended to take into consideration that different (stiffened) ideal gases may be present on each side of the discontinuity.

It can be proven that the pressure in the star states p_* is given by the root of the nonlinear function

$$f(p) = f_L(p) + f_R(p) - (u_L - u_R)\,. \tag{5}$$

Here,

$$f_K(p) = \begin{cases} \frac{2a_K}{\gamma_K - 1}\left[\left(\frac{p+p_{\infty,K}}{p_K+p_{\infty,K}}\right)^{\frac{\gamma_K-1}{2\gamma_K}} - 1\right], & p \le p_K \\ (p-p_K)\left(\frac{A_K}{B_K+p}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, & p > p_K \end{cases},$$

where $a_K = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma(p_K+p_{\infty,K})}{\rho_K}}$ is the speed of sound and

$$A_K = \frac{2}{(\gamma_K+1)\rho_K}\,, \quad B_K = \frac{(\gamma_K-1)p_K + 2\gamma_K p_{\infty,K}}{\gamma_K+1}\,.$$

In the exact solver, the pressure in the star region is found by applying an iterative scheme to Eq. (5). Due to the nature of $f(p)$, it is well-suited for iterative schemes, but it is important to ensure that the pressure stays positive. For this project, Newton-Raphson iterations were implemented, taking the initial guess as $\frac{1}{2}(p_L + p_R)$. After finding p_*, the velocity in the star region is computed as

$$u_* = \frac{u_L + u_R - [f_L(p_*) - f_R(p_*)]}{2}\,. \tag{6}$$

When the pressure and velocity in the star region have been computed, one can calculate the wave speeds (one per shock wave, two per rarefaction wave and one for the contact discontinuity) and use this to sample the state at a given point $S = x/t$ in space-time. Pseudocode for this procedure is given in Algorithm 1. Formulas for wave speeds and densities in different states have been left out for brevity, but they in general depend on the initial conditions (including material properties).

Data: S, $\mathbf{W}_L$, $\mathbf{W}_R$, p_*, u_*, material properties
Result: $\mathbf{W}(S)$
if $S \le$ speed of contact discontinuity **then**
  if left wave is rarefaction **then**
    if $S \le$ speed of rarefaction head **then**
      return $\mathbf{W}_L$;
    else
      if $S >$ speed of rarefaction tail **then**
        return $\mathbf{W}_{*L,\text{fan}}$;
      else
        return $\mathbf{W}_{L,\text{fan}}$;
      end
    end
  else
    if $S \le$ speed of shock wave **then**
      return $\mathbf{W}_L$;
    else
      return $\mathbf{W}_{*L}$;
    end
  end
else
  perform similar analysis for sampling point on right side of contact discontinuity;
end

Algorithm 1: Sample exact solution of Riemann problem given pressure and velocity in star states.

2.1.2. HLLC

By far the most computationally expensive part of the exact solver is the iterative root finding procedure for finding p_*. Since most modern schemes require the solutions of local Riemann problems between all points in the computational domain, high gains in terms of computational efficiency can be achieved by employing exact solvers instead. One such solver is the Harten-Lax-van Leer-Contact (HLLC) solver, which has been implemented for this project.

When compared to the exact solver, the main simplifications in HLLC are that the pressure in the star region is approximated instead of found by iterative schemes; that states inside rarefactions are not taken into consideration, and that wave speeds are estimations, either direct or pressure-based. In this contribution, the pressure is estimated as

$$p_* \approx \frac{1}{2}(p_L + p_R) + \frac{1}{8}(u_L - u_R)(\rho_L + \rho_R)(a_L + a_R)\,, \tag{7}$$

and set equal to zero if the approximation is negative. Based on the approximation for p_*, the wave speeds S_K of the left and right travelling waves are computed, with

the type of wave taken into consideration. The speed of the contact discontinuity is then approximated as

$$S_* \approx \frac{\rho_L u_L (S_L - u_L) - \rho_R u_R (S_R - u_R) - (p_L - p_R)}{\rho_L (S_L - u_L) - \rho_R (S_R - u_R)} . \tag{8}$$

There are four possible states, separated by the three (approximated) wave speeds. Contrary to the exact solver, where the output is the state $\mathbf{W}(S)$, the HLLC solver outputs a flux $\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{HLLC}}$ based on the state corresponding to $S = 0$. This is because the flux at the intermediate point between cells is the quantity employed in the update formula as introduced in Subsection 2.2. For an overview of the approximate states and the flux calculation employed in the HLLC solver, see Chapter 9 of Toro's book[32].

2.2. Schemes for the Euler equations

The Euler equations as given in Eq. (1) are said to be a system of conservation equations in differential form. In integral form, on a spatial domain $[x_L, x_R]$, the same system of equations can be written

$$\int_{x_L}^{x_R} \mathbf{U}(x, t_2)\mathrm{d}x = \int_{x_L}^{x_R} \mathbf{U}(x, t_1)\mathrm{d}x - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}(x_R, t))\mathrm{d}t + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}(x_L, t))\mathrm{d}t . \tag{9}$$

From Eq. (9), it is straightforward to discretize the Euler equations to produce a conservative time-marching scheme through the Finite Volume Method (FVM). Let the spatial domain $x \in [0, 1]$ be divided into N equal cells of width $\Delta x = 1/N$. We denote by x_i the center of the i-th cell, *i.e.* $x_i = (i + 1/2)\Delta x$. Temporal discretization is done with variable time step Δt^n, so that $t^n = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \Delta t^i$.

We write the discrete approximation of $\mathbf{U}(x_i, t^n)$ as $\mathbf{U}_i^n$, and let it be the weighted average of $\mathbf{U}(x, t^n)$ in the cell with boundaries at $x_{i-1/2}$ and $x_{i+1/2}$:

$$\mathbf{U}_i^n \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x} \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} \mathbf{U}(x, t^n)\mathrm{d}x \tag{10}$$

Similarly, the fluxes at each interface are approximated as

$$\mathbf{F}_{i+1/2}^n \approx \frac{1}{\Delta t^n} \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}(x_{i+1/2}, t))\mathrm{d}t . \tag{11}$$

By applying Eq. (9) on each cell $[x_{i-1/2}, x_{i+1/2}]$, and by inserting the discrete approximations in Eqns. (10) and (11), a conservative, time-marching scheme for evolving the Euler equations in time is

$$\mathbf{U}_i^{n+1} = \mathbf{U}_i^n - \frac{\Delta t^n}{\Delta x} \left(\mathbf{F}_{i+1/2}^n - \mathbf{F}_{i-1/2}^n \right) . \tag{12}$$

All the most common schemes used for solving conservation laws are of the same form as Eq. (12), and the difference between them is in the evaluation of the fluxes $\mathbf{F}_{i\pm1/2}^n$.

Explain difference between centered and RP-based schemes.

2.2.1. MUSCL-Hancock

2.2.2. SLIC

2.3. Level-set method

2.4. Ghost Fluid Methods

2.4.1. Original Ghost Fluid Method

2.4.2. Modified Ghost Fluid Method

3. Results

3.1. Moving contact discontinuity

3.2. Simple ghost fluid tests

3.3. Multimaterial shock tubes for gases

3.4. Water-gas shock tube test

4. Conclusions

Everythings went better as expectance!

Acknowledgements

Thanks Steve.

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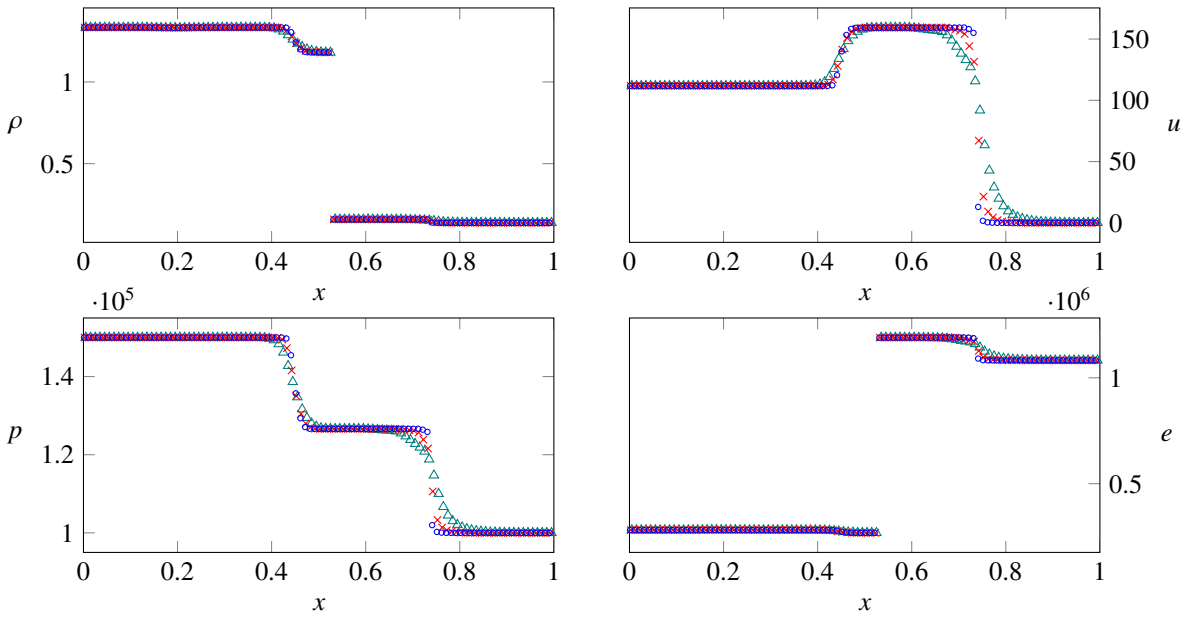

Figure 2: Original Ghost Fluid method for test C. △$N = 100$ ×$N = 200$ ○$N = 400$

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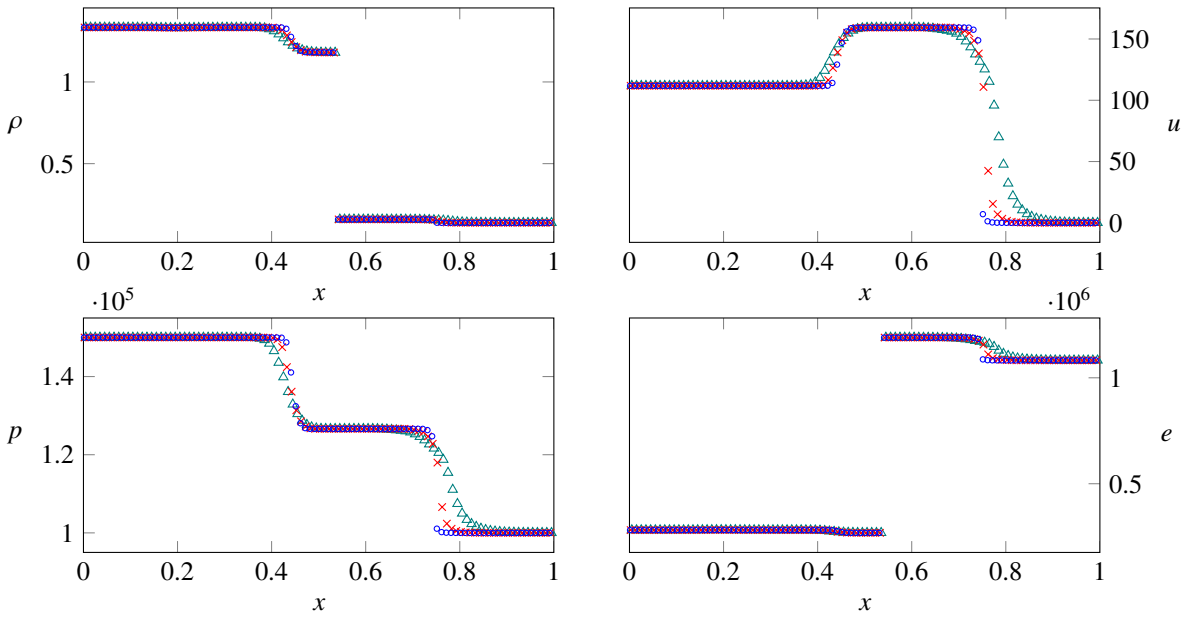

Figure 3: Riemann Ghost Fluid method for test C. △$N = 100$ ×$N = 200$ ○$N = 400$

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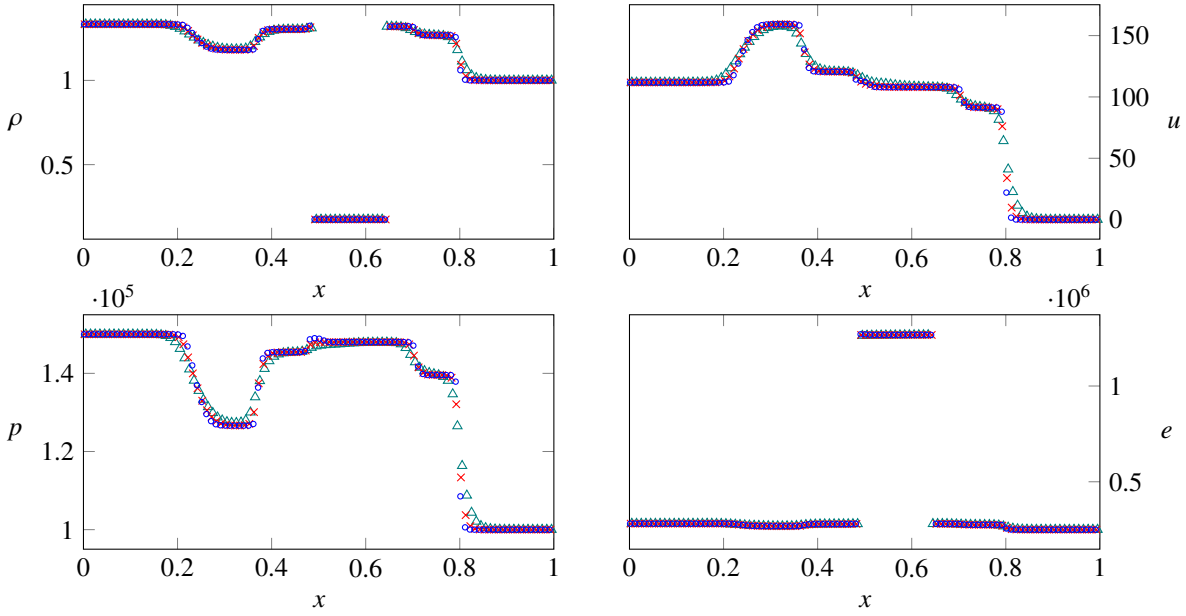

Figure 4: Original Ghost Fluid method for test D. △$N = 100$ ×$N = 200$ ○$N = 400$

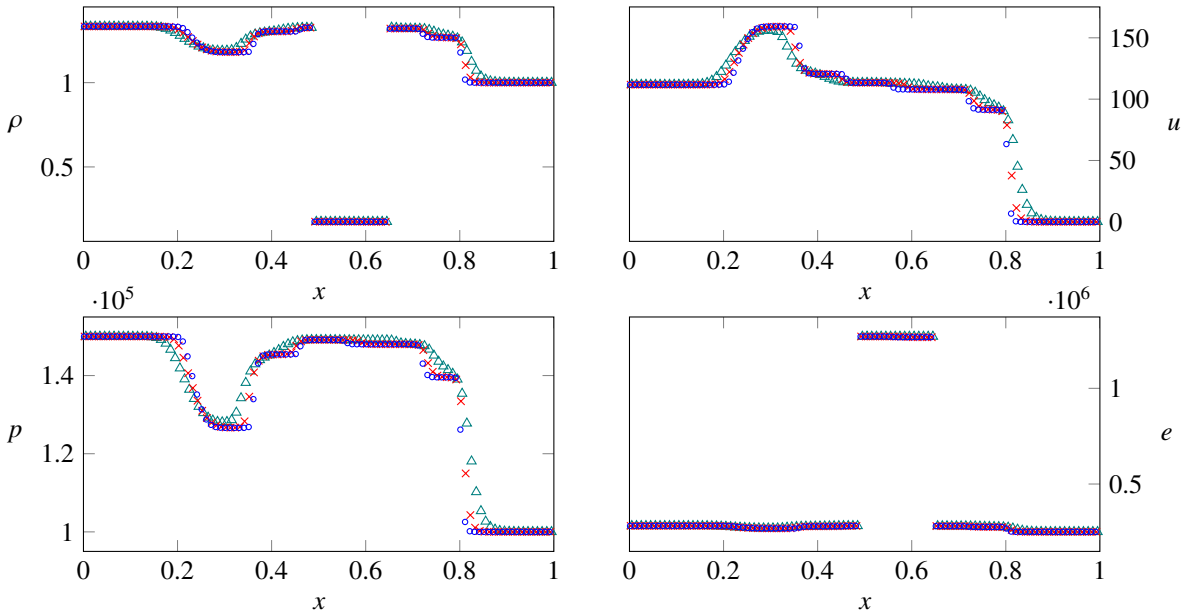

Figure 5: Riemann Ghost Fluid method for test D. △$N = 100$ ×$N = 200$ ○$N = 400$

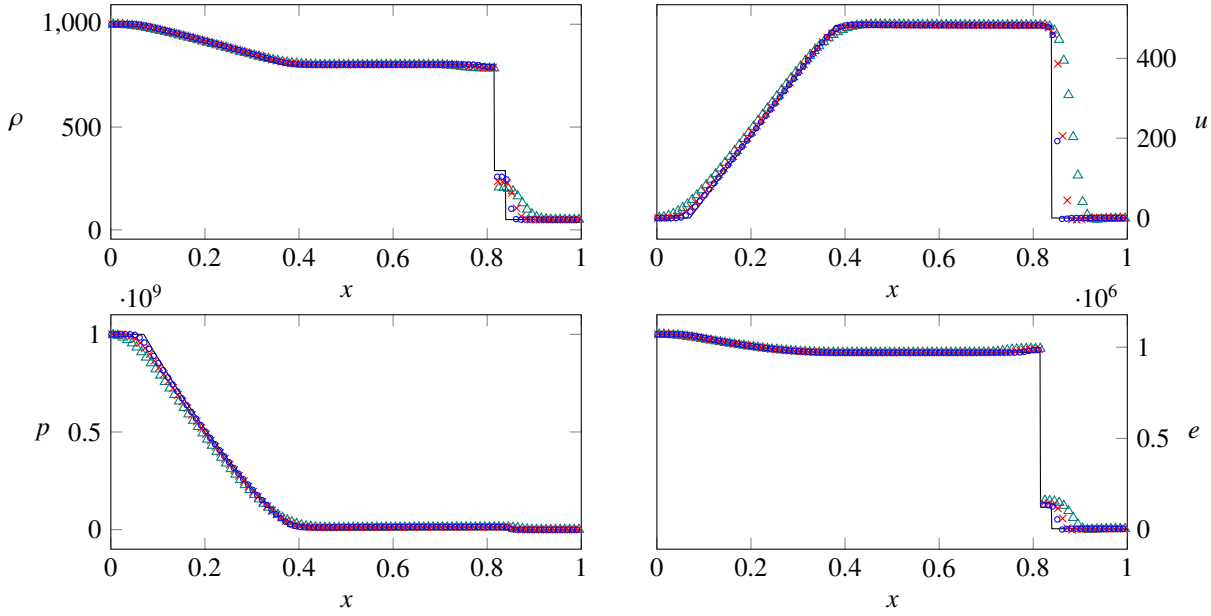

Figure 6: Riemann Ghost Fluid method for test E. △$N = 100$ ×$N = 200$ ○$N = 400$

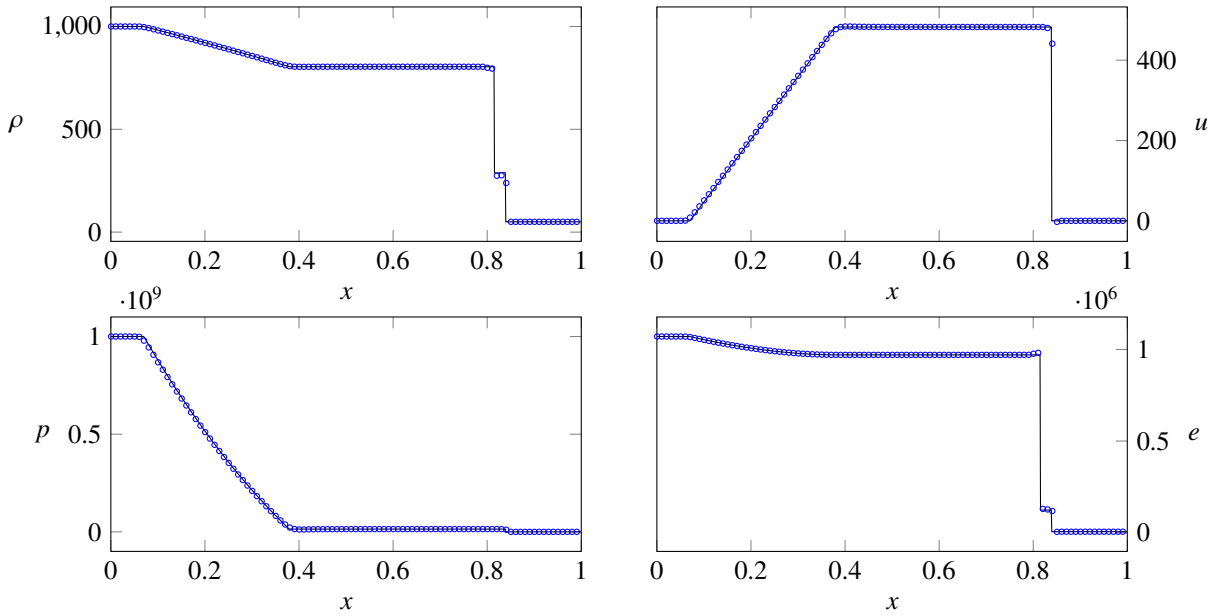

Figure 7: Riemann Ghost Fluid method for test E with higher accuracy ($N = 1000$).