

Conservation law in 1D

The density of the conserved entity ϕ is ρ ; i.e. $[\rho] = \frac{[\phi]}{\text{Volume}}$

The flux density \vec{j} , $[\vec{j}] = \frac{[\phi]}{\text{time} \cdot \text{area}}$, defines the flux through an oriented surface D by

$$\iint_D \vec{j} \cdot \vec{n} \, dS$$

where \vec{n} is the unit normal vector of the oriented surface.

Q is the source density, meaning that $\iiint_R Q \, dV$ is the rate ϕ enters the model (source) from the domain R . $Q < 0$ means the source is a sink.

Conservation of ϕ in any region R is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \iiint_R \rho \, dV + \iint_{\partial R} \vec{j} \cdot \vec{n} \, dS = \iiint_R Q \, dV, \quad (1)$$

where \vec{n} points out of R . Under general conditions

(1) is equivalent to

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} = Q \quad (2)$$

In 1 spatial dimension, (1) and (2) reduces to

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b \rho(t, x) \, dx + j(t, b) - j(t, a) = \int_a^b Q(t, x) \, dx \quad (3)$$

and

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \frac{d}{dx} \psi = Q \quad (4)$$

(2)

In 1-D we have $[\rho] = \frac{[\psi]}{\text{length}}$, $[\psi] = \frac{[\psi]}{\text{time}}$, $[Q] = \frac{[\psi]}{\text{length} \cdot \text{time}}$

If $\psi = \psi(t, x, \rho)$, then (4) becomes

$$\left(\frac{d\rho}{dt}\right) + \frac{d\psi}{dx} + \frac{d\psi}{d\rho} \left(\frac{d\rho}{dx}\right) = Q \quad (5)$$

(ψ also has x -dependence through $\rho(t, x)$).

Method of characteristics

(5) fits into the class of partial differential equations called quasi-linear 1. order equations

$$u_t + a(t, x, u) u_x = b(t, x, u) \quad (6)$$

where a and b are given functions.

In addition, we assume the initial conditions are

$$\text{given by } u(0, x) = u_0(x). \quad (7)$$

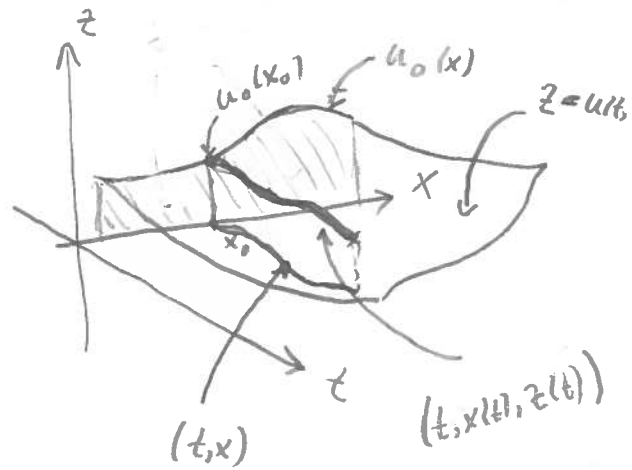
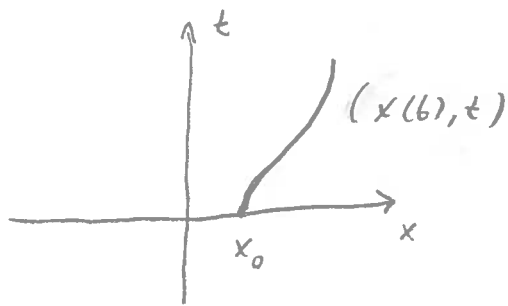
The idea is to transform the initial value problem (6)+(7) to a system of ordinary differential equations.

We find that the left hand side of (6) is the time derivative of

$$z(t) = u(t, x(t)) \quad (u(t, x) \text{ is the solution of (6)+(7)})$$

$$\text{if } x'(t) = a(t, x, z).$$

Then $z'(t) = b(t, x, z) = \underline{\text{right hand side of (6)}}$. (3)



So, for each x_0 we seek a curve $(t, x(t), z(t))$, $t \geq 0$, starting at

$$(0, x(0), z(0)) = (0, x_0, u_0(x_0)) \quad \text{and satisfying}$$

$$x' = a(t, x, z)$$

$$z' = b(t, x, z)$$

If we can solve this set of equations giving

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x(t, x_0) && \text{(use } x_0 \text{ in the notation} \\ z &= z(t, x_0) && \text{where the curve starts)} \end{aligned}$$

then we can in principle solve for x_0 in

$$x = x(t, x_0)$$

giving $x_0 = x_0(t, x)$ (i.e. $x_0(t, x)$ gives the start point $(0, x_0(t, x))$ for the curve passing through (t, x)).

Finally, since $z(t) = u(t, x(t))$, we have

$$u(x, t) = z(t, x_0(t, x)) \quad \text{as the solution.}$$

The curve $(t, x(t; x_0))$, $t \geq 0$ is called a characteristic.

Example

(4)

$$u_t + 3u_x = u^2, \quad u(0, x) = u_0(x)$$

Then $a(t, x, u) = 3$ and $b(t, x, u) = u^2$. Thus

$$x' = 3, \quad x(0) = x_0$$

$$z' = z^2, \quad z(0) = u_0(x_0)$$

Gives $x = 3t + x_0 \Leftrightarrow \underline{x_0 = x - 3t}$, while

$$z' = z^2 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dz}{z^2} = dt \Rightarrow -\frac{1}{z} = t - C, \quad C \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \underline{z = \frac{1}{C-t}} \quad z(0) = u_0(x_0) \text{ gives } C = \frac{1}{u_0(x_0)}$$

$$\Rightarrow z = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{u_0(x_0)} - t} = \frac{u_0(x_0)}{1 - t u_0(x_0)}$$

$$\text{Finally } u(t, x) = z(t, x_0(t, x)) = \frac{u_0(x-3t)}{\underline{\underline{1 - t u_0(x-3t)}}}$$

The Riemann problem

We will assume now that in (6)

$$\underline{a = j(u)}, \quad \underline{b = 0}$$

Let $J'(u) = j(u)$. Then (6) is

$$u_t + (j(u))_x = 0 \Leftrightarrow u_t + j'(u)u_x = 0$$

which is a conservation law with flux density $j(u)$.

A Riemann problem is an initial value problem of

(5)

the form

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u_t + j(u) u_x &= 0 \\ u_0(x) = u(0, x) &= \begin{cases} u_- & \text{for } x < 0 \\ u_+ & \text{for } x > 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \right\} (8)$$

The method of characteristics give

$$x' = j(z) \quad x(0) = x_0$$

$$z' = 0 \quad z(0) = u_0(x_0)$$

Thus, $z(t) = z(0) = u_0(x_0)$ for $t > 0$

$$\Rightarrow j(z) = j(u_0(x_0)) = \text{const.} \Rightarrow$$

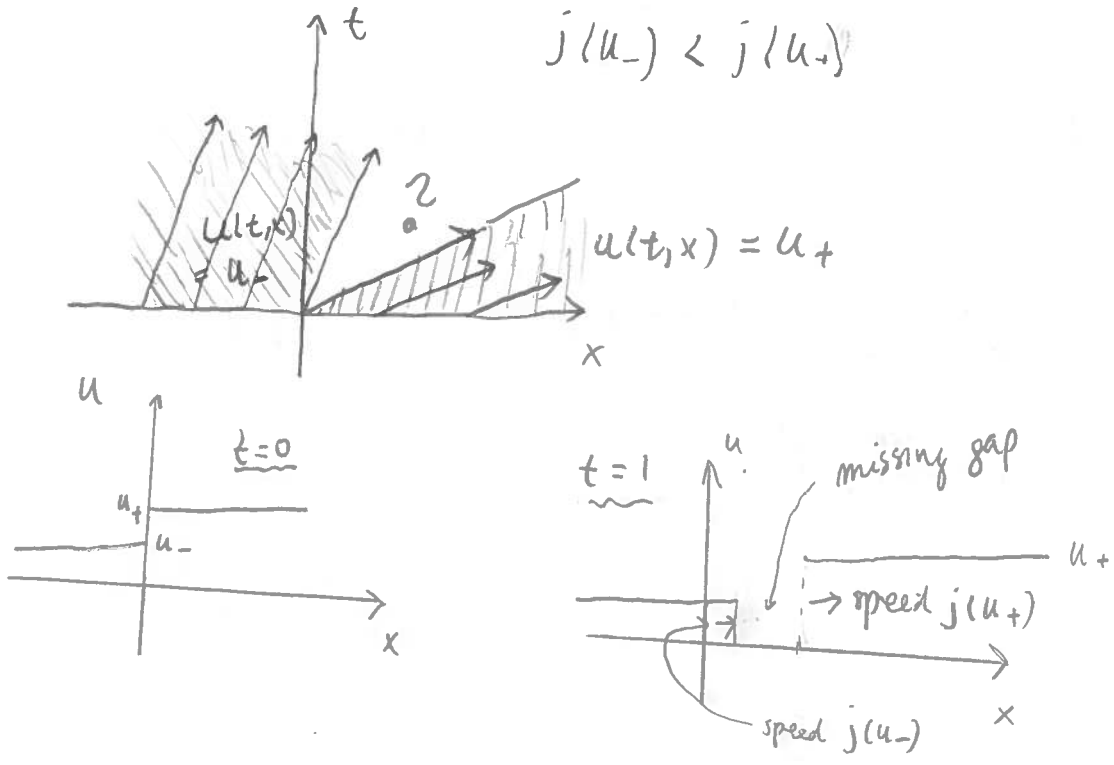
$$\underline{x = j(u_0(x_0))t + x_0}$$

We see that the characteristics are straight lines, and on this straight line u is constant and equal to $u_0(x_0)$.

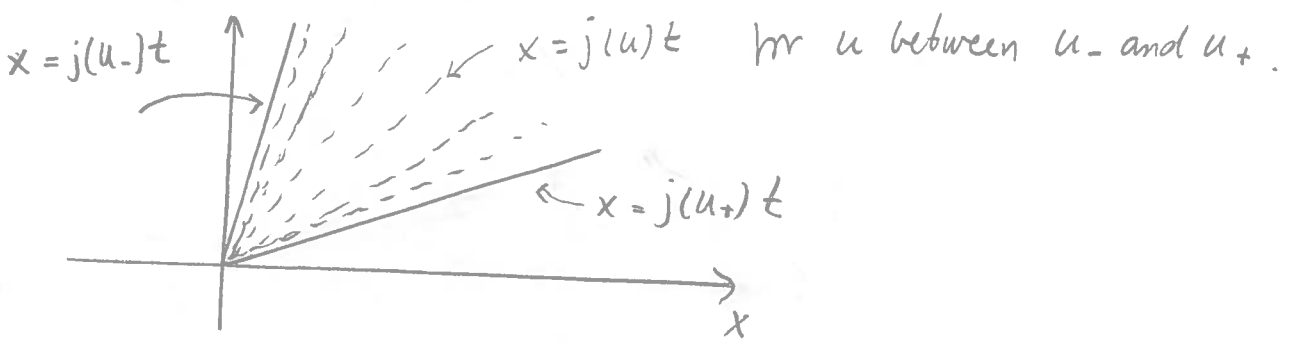
Rarefaction, $j(u_-) < j(u_+)$

Since $j(u_0(x_0)) = \frac{dx}{dt}$ is the speed the constant value $u_0(x_0)$ moves in (t, x) plane, $j(u_-) < j(u_+)$ means that characteristics "move faster" for $x > 0$ than they do for $x < 0$. It is very useful to draw characteristics in the (t, x) plane:

$$j(u_-) < j(u_+)$$



For this case $j(u_-) < j(u_+)$ we see that we get gap due to different speed. This gap is filled with a so-called rarefaction wave connecting u_- part of the solution to the u_+ part of the solution as long as $j(u)$ increases continuously monotonically as u moves from u_- to u_+ .



So, in the rarefaction wave, each value u between u_- and u_+ moves with a speed $j(u)$ along the line $x = j(u)t$.

Therefore $j(u) = x/t \Leftrightarrow u = j^{-1}(x/t)$ gives the solution for $j(u_-)t < x < j(u_+)t$.

We can also demonstrate that $u(x,t) = j^{-1}(x/t)$ solves the

equation for $\eta(s) = j^{-1}(s)$. Insert $u = \eta(\frac{x}{t})$ in

(7)

$u_t + j(u)u_x = 0$ to obtain

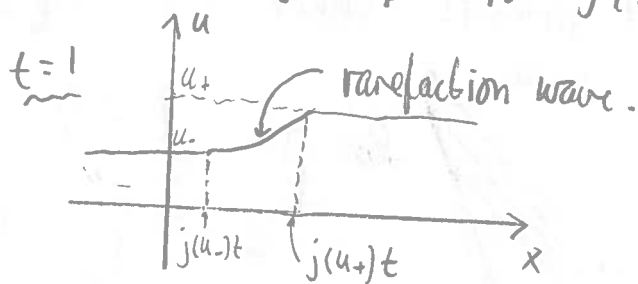
$$-\eta'(\frac{x}{t}) \left(-\frac{x}{t^2}\right) + j(\eta(\frac{x}{t})) \eta'(\frac{x}{t}) \frac{1}{t} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \eta'(\frac{x}{t}) \frac{1}{t} \left[-\frac{x}{t} + j(\eta(\frac{x}{t}))\right] = 0$$

Thus $j(\eta(\frac{x}{t})) = \frac{x}{t} \Leftrightarrow \eta(\frac{x}{t}) = j^{-1}(\frac{x}{t})$.

To sum up: If $j(u_-) < j(u_+)$ and j increases monotonically as u passes from u_- to u_+ , then

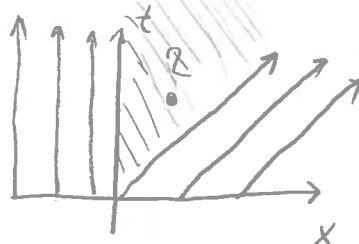
$$u(t, x) = \begin{cases} u_- & \text{for } x < j(u_-)t \\ j^{-1}(\frac{x}{t}) & \text{for } j(u_-)t < x < j(u_+)t \\ u_+ & \text{for } j(u_+)t < x \end{cases}$$



Example $u_t + u^2 u_x = 0$ $u_0(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x < 0 \\ 1 & \text{for } x > 0 \end{cases}$

Characteristics

$$x = u_0^2(x_0)t + x_0 = \begin{cases} x_0 & \text{for } x_0 < 0 \\ t + x_0 & \text{for } x_0 > 0 \end{cases}$$



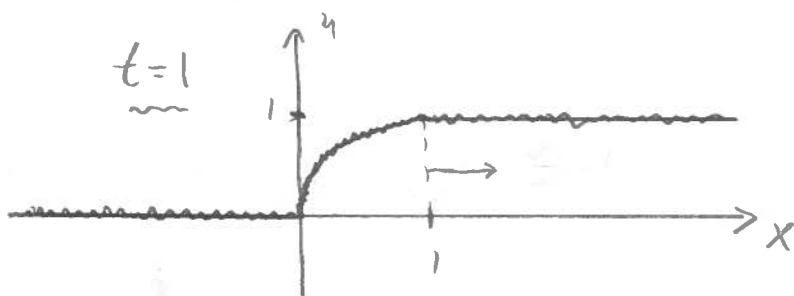
Put $u(x, t) = \eta(\frac{x}{t})$ in the equation to obtain $\eta' \frac{1}{t} \left[-\frac{x}{t} + u^2\right] = 0$

$$\Rightarrow u^2 = \frac{x}{t} \Rightarrow u = \sqrt{\frac{x}{t}} \quad (\text{want the positive sign since } u = \sqrt{\frac{x}{t}}) \quad (8)$$

connects $u=0$ with $u=1$ as x goes from 0 to t .

The solution to the Riemann problem is consequently

$$u(x,t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x < 0 \\ \sqrt{x/t} & \text{for } 0 < x < t \\ 1 & \text{for } x > t \end{cases}$$



Note that the solution is not differentiable for $x=0$ and $x=t$. However, it is continuous, even though $u_0(x)$ was not

Shocks

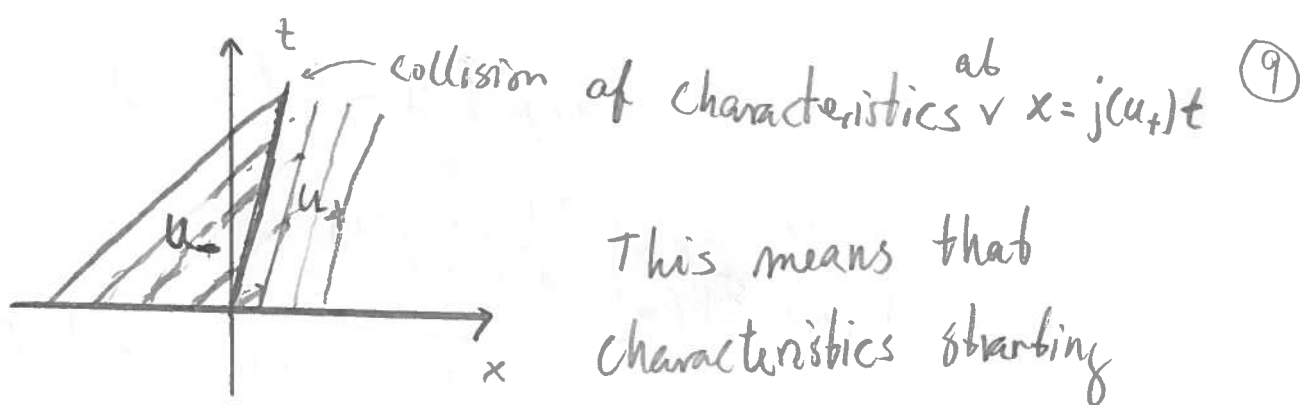
As mentioned, when the speeds of the characteristics increase as x_0 (start value for characteristic) increases, the characteristics will not cross one another.

When this is not the case, the solution develops shocks, that is, discontinuities. Such discontinuities travel with a certain speed, that may depend on time. Let us consider the Riemann problem

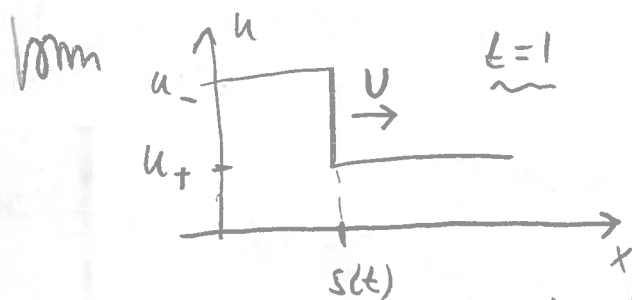
$$u_t + j(u) u_x = 0$$

$$u(0,x) = \begin{cases} u_-, & x < 0 \\ u_+, & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

where this time $j(u_-) > j(u_+)$



This means that characteristics starting from $x_0 < 0$ will cross the characteristic $x = j(u_+)t$ starting at $x_0 = 0$, where $u = u_-$ on one side and $u = u_+$ on the other side of the shock. Thus, we picture a solution of the



where the discontinuity travels at some speed U .

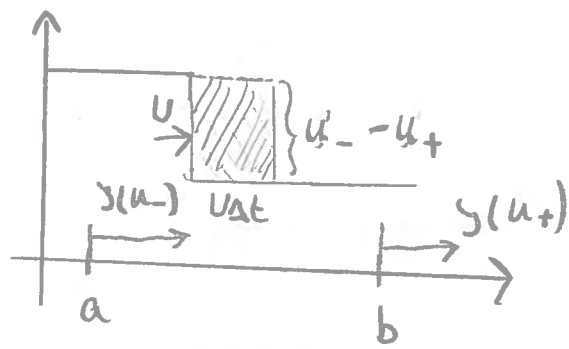
The speed U is related to how big the discontinuity is, and what flux densities are on each side of the discontinuity.

Let $J'(u) = j(u)$, so $J(u)$ is the flux density.

For an interval $[a, b]$, conservation on integral

form is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b u \, dx = J(u(t, a)) - J(u(t, b))$$



During $[t, t + \Delta t]$, the net increase of the conserved entity in $[a, b]$ is $\Delta t (y(u_-) - y(u_+))$

The net increase of this entity due to moving discontinuity is area of shaded region in the figure
 $(u_- - u_+) U \Delta t$ (U speed of discont.)

Thus $(u_- - u_+) U = y(u_-) - y(u_+)$

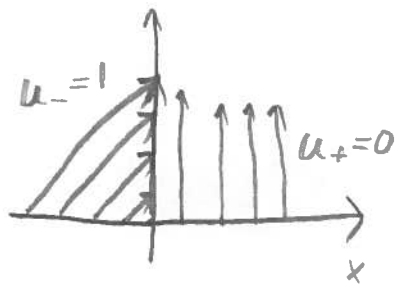
$$\Rightarrow U = \frac{y(u_+) - y(u_-)}{u_+ - u_-} \quad (9)$$

which is the Rankine-Hugoniot condition, defining the speed of the discontinuity or shock.

Example $u_t + u^2 u_x = 0$

$$u(0, x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x < 0 \\ 0 & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

Characteristics: $x(t) = \begin{cases} x_0 + t & \text{for } x_0 < 0 \\ x_0 & \text{for } x_0 > 0 \end{cases}$



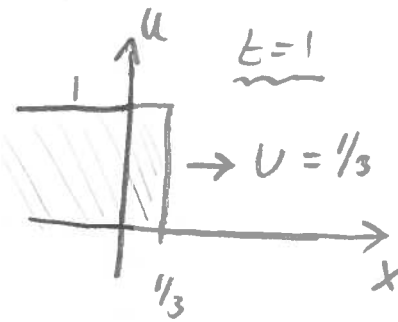
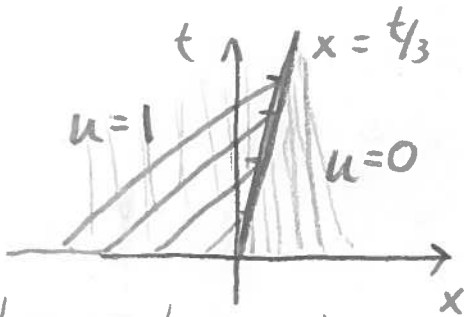
Shock develops at $x=0$.

Since $J'(u) = u^2 = j(u)$

we have $J(u) = \frac{1}{3}u^3$ (integration constant not important)

Thus (9) gives
$$U = \frac{\frac{1}{3}0^3 - \frac{1}{3}1^3}{0 - 1} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Thus we have a shock for $x = s(t) = \frac{1}{3}t$



Comments on next example

In the next example (next page), we will look at a "double" Riemann problem where u_- varies in time after a while (when $t > t_m$, where t_m can be calculated). Consequently, the shock speed will not be constant in time.

The solution at a given time is illustrated with an Excel sheet (see link where you found these notes). Be sure to see the connection between the solution for various t and the analysis on the next page.

Example "Double" Riemann problem

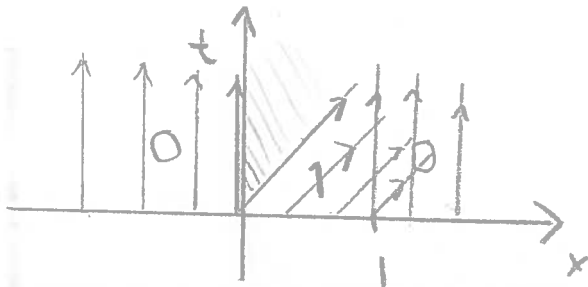
For $p > 0$ consider

$$(1) \quad u_t + u^p u_x = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, t \geq 0$$

$$u(0, x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x < 0 \text{ and } x > 1 \\ 1 & \text{for } 0 < x < 1 \end{cases}$$

Characteristics are

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} x_0 & \text{for } x_0 < 0 \text{ and } x_0 > 1 \\ x_0 + t & \text{for } 0 < x_0 < 1 \end{cases}$$



The characteristics tell us 3 things:

- 1) For $x < 0$ $u(t, x) = 0$ for all $t > 0$
- 2) We have a rarefaction wave for $0 < x < t$
- 3) A shock develops at $x = 1$

We know that $u(t, x) = \varphi\left(\frac{x}{t}\right)$ for the rarefaction wave,

Inserted into (1) gives

$$\varphi'\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) \frac{1}{t} \left[-\frac{x}{t} + \varphi^p\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \varphi\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) = \left(\frac{x}{t}\right)^{1/p} = u(t, x) \text{ for } 0 < x < t.$$

To find the position of the shock at time t , $x = s(t)$, ⁽¹³⁾
 we know that

$$U = s'(t) = \frac{J(u_+) - J(u_-)}{u_+ - u_-},$$

where $J(u) = \frac{1}{p+1} u^{p+1}$, since $J'(u) = u^p$.

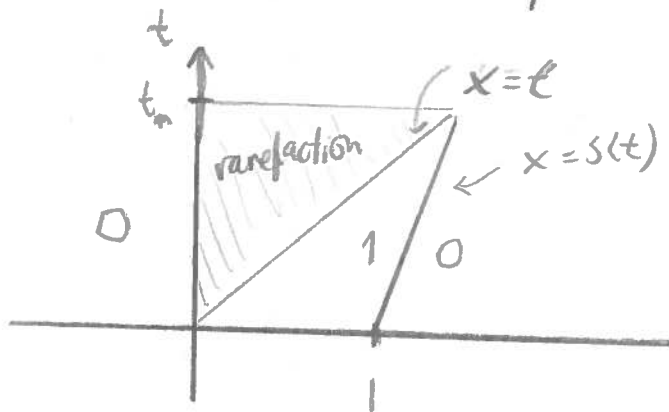
We have (for sufficiently small t)

$$u_- = 1, \quad u_+ = 0,$$

$$\text{Thus } U = s'(t) = \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{0^{p+1} - 1^{p+1}}{0 - 1} = \frac{1}{p+1}.$$

Since $s(0) = 1$ we get

$$s(t) = 1 + \frac{t}{1+p}$$



We see that $u_- = 1$ and $u_+ = 0$ on each side of the shock as long as $t < t_m$, where $t = t_m$ gives the intersection of $x = t$ and $x = s(t)$, i.e.

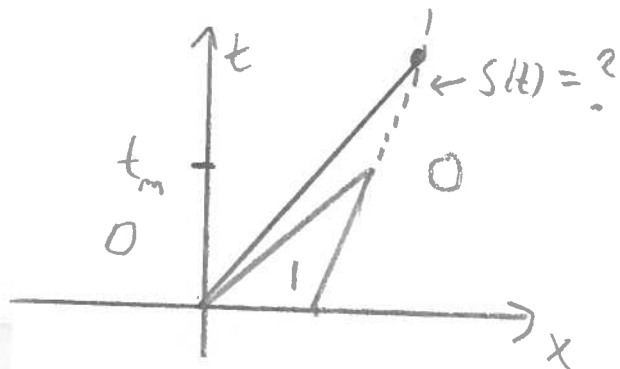
$$t = s(t) \Leftrightarrow t = 1 + \frac{t}{1+p} \Leftrightarrow t = t_m = \underline{\underline{\frac{1+p}{p}}}$$

Thus the solution for $t < t_m$ is

(14)

$$u(t, x) = \begin{cases} 0 & , x < 0 \\ \left(\frac{x}{t}\right)^{1/p} & , 0 < x < t \\ 1 & , t < x < s(t) \\ 0 & , x > s(t) \end{cases}$$

For $t > t_m$ we see that no longer is $u_- = 1$



We see that u_- is given by $u(t, x) = u(t, s(t))$

when the shock is at position $x = s(t)$, where

$$u(t, x) = \left(\frac{x}{t}\right)^{1/p}, \text{ i.e. } u_- = \left(\frac{s(t)}{t}\right)^{1/p} \text{ and } u_+ = 0.$$

Also the speed of the shock is $U = s'(t)$.

Thus, the Rankine-Hugoniot condition is

$$U = s' = \frac{J(u_+) - J(u_-)}{u_+ - u_-} \quad (*)$$

$$s' = \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{0 - \left(\left(\frac{s}{t}\right)^{1/p}\right)^{1+p}}{0 - \left(\frac{s}{t}\right)^{1/p}} = \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{s}{t} \quad (2)$$

This is a separable 1-order differential equation for $s(t)$, with initial condition

$$s(t_m) = t_m.$$

Solving (2) we obtain

$$s(t) = c t^{\frac{1}{1+p}}, \quad c \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$t_m = \frac{1+p}{p}, \text{ and } s(t_m) = t_m \Leftrightarrow$$

$$c \left(\frac{1+p}{p}\right)^{\frac{1}{1+p}} = \left(\frac{1+p}{p}\right)^1 \Leftrightarrow c = \left(\frac{1+p}{p}\right)^{1 - \frac{1}{1+p}}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow c = \left(\frac{1+p}{p}\right)^{\frac{p}{1+p}}. \text{ Thus}$$

$$s(t) = \left(\frac{1+p}{p}\right)^{\frac{p}{1+p}} t^{\frac{1}{1+p}} \quad \text{for } t > \frac{1+p}{p}.$$

The solution for $t > \frac{1+p}{p}$ is consequently

$$u(t, x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ \left(\frac{x}{t}\right)^{1/p}, & 0 < x < s(t) \\ 0, & x > s(t) \end{cases}$$