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# Computational Astrophysics 4

## The Godunov method

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# Outline

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- Hyperbolic system of conservation laws
- Finite difference approximation
- The Modified Equation
- The Upwind scheme
- Von Neumann Analysis
- The Godunov Method
- Riemann solvers
- 2D Godunov schemes

# HS of CL

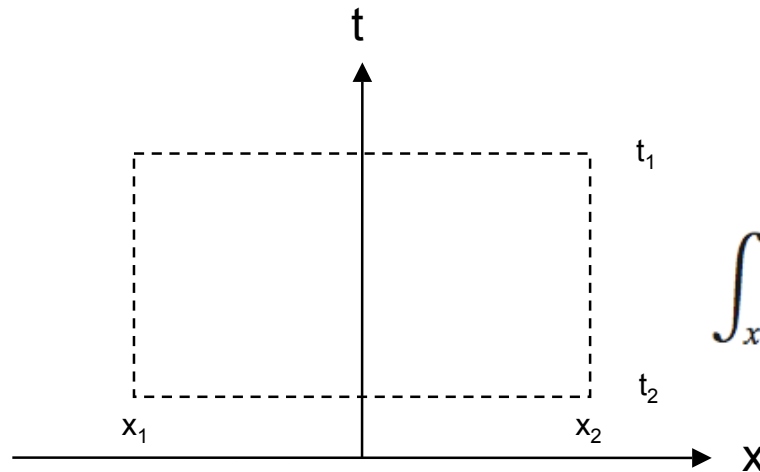
System of conservation laws

$$\partial_t \mathbf{U} + \partial_x \mathbf{F} = 0$$

- Vector of conservative variables  ${}^T \mathbf{U} = (\rho, \rho u, E)$

- Flux function  ${}^T \mathbf{F} = (\rho u, \rho u^2 + P, (E + P)u)$

Integral form

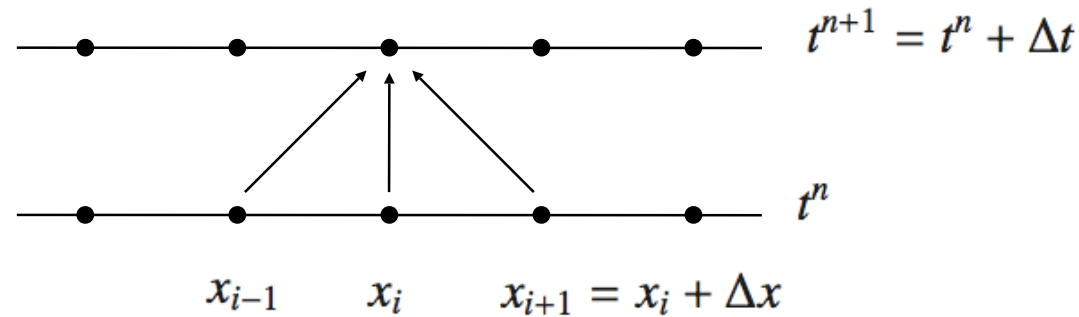


$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dx dt (\partial_t \mathbf{U} + \partial_x \mathbf{F}) = 0$$

$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx (\mathbf{U}(t_2) - \mathbf{U}(t_1)) + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt (\mathbf{F}(x_2) - \mathbf{F}(x_1)) = 0$$

$$\mathcal{U}(t_2) - \mathcal{U}(t_1) + \mathcal{F}(x_2) - \mathcal{F}(x_1) = 0$$

## Finite difference scheme



$$u_i^n = u(x_i, t^n) \quad \partial_x u \simeq \frac{u_{i+1}^n - u_{i-1}^n}{2\Delta x} \quad \partial_t u \simeq \frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t}$$

Finite difference approximation of the advection equation

$$\partial_t u + a \partial_x u = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} + a \frac{u_{i+1}^n - u_{i-1}^n}{2\Delta x} = 0$$

## The Modified Equation

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} + a \frac{u_{i+1}^n - u_{i-1}^n}{2\Delta x} = 0$$

Taylor expansion in time up to second order

$$u_i^{n+1} = u_i^n + \Delta t \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right) + \frac{(\Delta t)^2}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} \right)$$

Taylor expansion in space up to second order

$$u_{i+1}^n = u_i^n + \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

$$u_{i-1}^n = u_i^n - \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

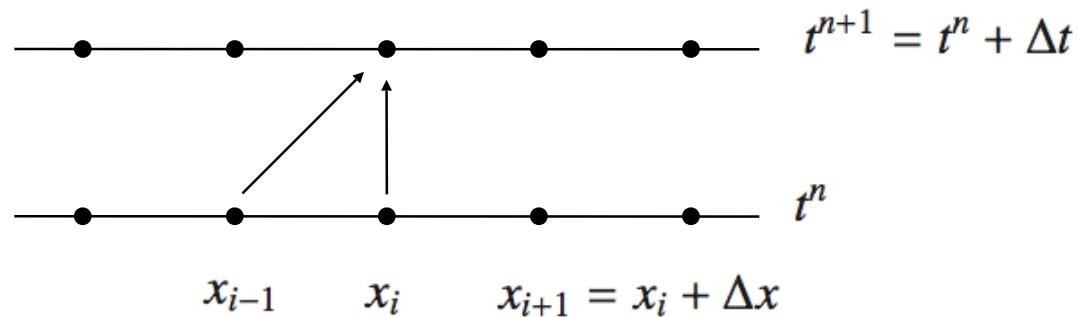
The advection equation becomes the advection-diffusion equation

$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right) + a \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = -\frac{\Delta t}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} \right) + O(\Delta t^2, \Delta x^2)$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right) + a \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = -a^2 \frac{\Delta t}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) + O(\Delta t^2, \Delta x^2)$$

Negative diffusion coefficient: the scheme is *unconditionally unstable*

## The Upwind scheme



$a > 0$ : use only upwind values, discard downwind variables

$$\partial_x u \simeq \frac{u_i^n - u_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} + a \frac{u_i^n - u_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x} = 0$$

Taylor expansion up to second order:

$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right) + a \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = -\frac{\Delta t}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} \right) + a \frac{\Delta x}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) + O(\Delta t^2, \Delta x^2)$$

Upwind scheme is stable if  $C < 1$ , with  $C = a \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}$

$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right) + a \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = a \frac{\Delta x}{2} (1 - C) \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) + O(\Delta t^2, \Delta x^2)$$

## Von Neumann analysis

Fourier transform the current solution:  $u_i^n = \sum_k A_k^n \exp(-ikx_i)$

Evaluate the amplification factor of the 2 schemes.

Fromm scheme:  $u_i^{n+1} = u_i^n - \frac{C}{2}u_{i+1}^n + \frac{C}{2}u_{i-1}^n$

$$A_k^{n+1} = A_k^n \left( 1 - \frac{C}{2} \exp(-ik\Delta x) + \frac{C}{2} \exp(ik\Delta x) \right)$$

$$\omega^2 = \frac{|A_k^{n+1}|^2}{|A_k^n|^2} = 1 + C^2 \sin^2(k\Delta x)$$

$\omega > 1$ : the scheme is unconditionally unstable

Upwind scheme:  $u_i^{n+1} = u_i^n(1 - C) + Cu_{i-1}^n$

$$A_k^{n+1} = A_k^n (1 - C + C \exp(ik\Delta x))$$

$$\omega^2 = \frac{|A_k^{n+1}|^2}{|A_k^n|^2} = 1 - 2C(1 - C)(1 - \cos(k\Delta x))$$

$\omega < 1$  if  $C < 1$ : the scheme is stable under the Courant condition.

# The advection-diffusion equation

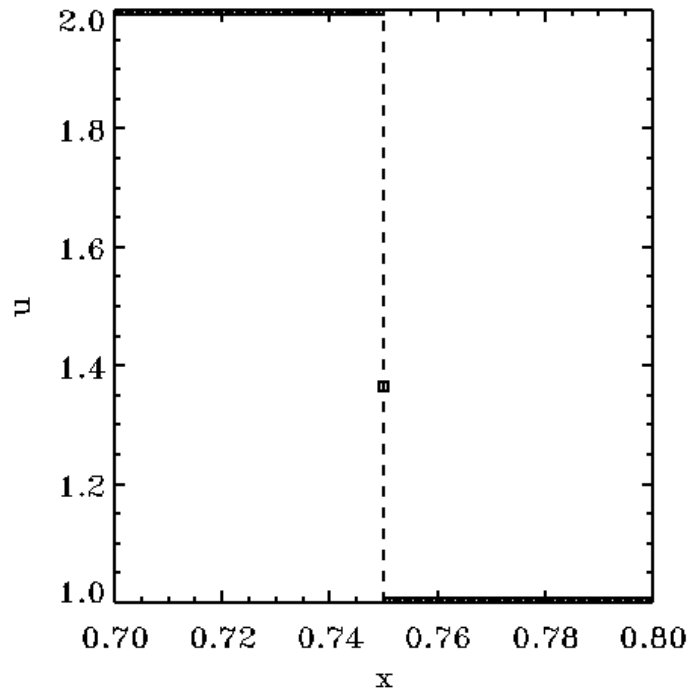
Finite difference approximation of the advection equation:

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\right) + a \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right) = \eta \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}\right)$$

Central differencing unstable:  $\eta < 0$

Upwind differencing is stable:  $\eta > 0$      $\eta = a \frac{\Delta x}{2} (1 - C)$

Smearing of initial  
discontinuity:  
“numerical diffusion”



Thickness increases  
as  $\sqrt{\eta t}$



# The Godunov method

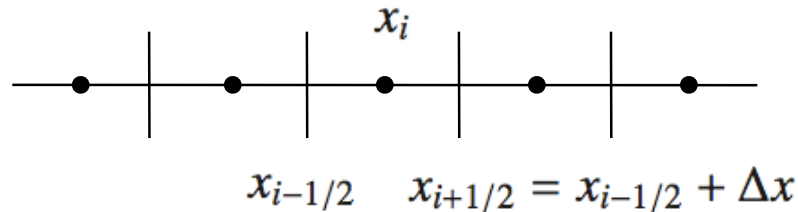
**Sergei Konstantinovich Godunov**



Sergei Konstantinovich Godunov

**Born** 17th July, 1929  
Moscow

## Finite volume scheme



Finite volume approximation of the advection equation:

$$u_i^n = \frac{1}{\Delta x} \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} u(x, t^n) dx$$

Use integral form of the conservation law:

$$\int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} dx dt (\partial_t u + a \partial_x u) = 0$$

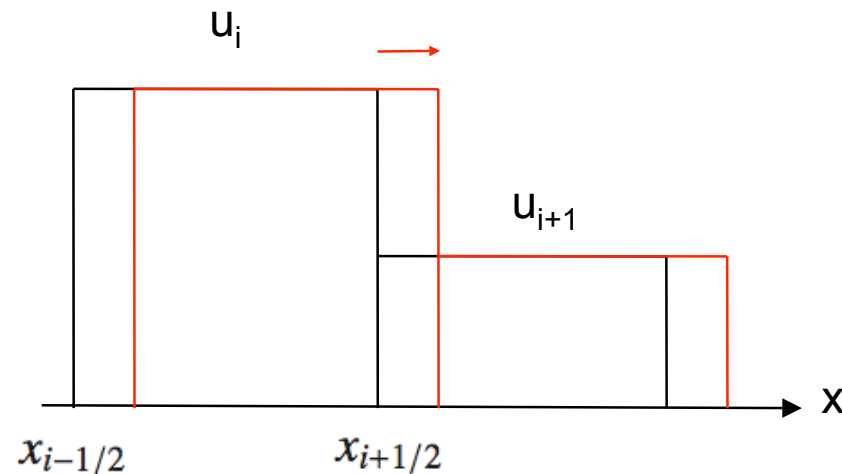
Exact evolution of volume averaged quantities:

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} + a \frac{u_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} - u_{i-1/2}^{n+1/2}}{\Delta x} = 0$$

Time averaged flux function:  $u_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} u(x_{i+1/2}, t) dt$

## Godunov scheme for the advection equation

The time averaged flux function:  $u_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} u(x_{i+1/2}, t) dt$   
is computed using the solution of the Riemann problem defined  
at cell interfaces with piecewise constant initial data.



For all  $t > 0$ :

$$u(x_{i+1/2}, t) = u_i^n \quad \text{if } a > 0$$
$$u(x_{i+1/2}, t) = u_{i+1}^n \quad \text{if } a < 0$$

The Godunov scheme for the advection equation is identical to  
the upwind finite difference scheme.

# Godunov scheme for hyperbolic systems

The system of conservation laws

$$\partial_t \mathbf{U} + \partial_x \mathbf{F} = 0$$

is discretized using the following integral form:

$$\frac{\mathbf{U}_i^{n+1} - \mathbf{U}_i^n}{\Delta t} + \frac{\mathbf{F}_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} - \mathbf{F}_{i-1/2}^{n+1/2}}{\Delta x} = 0$$

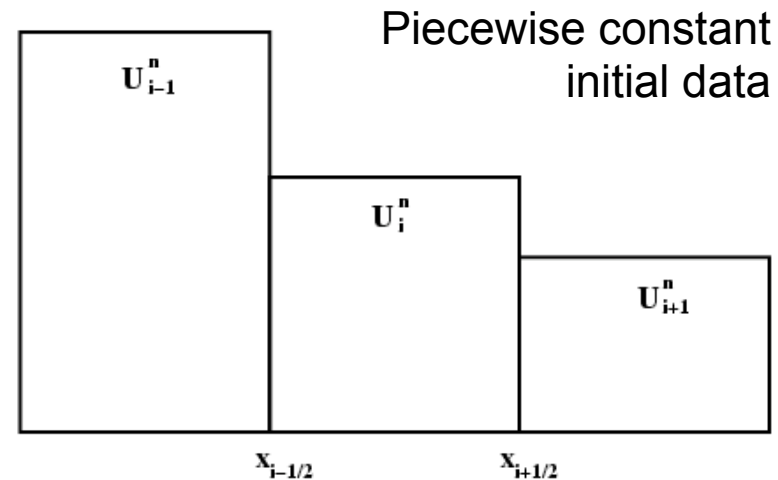
The time average flux function is computed using the self-similar solution of the inter-cell Riemann problem:

$$\mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^*(x/t) = \mathcal{RP} [\mathbf{U}_i^n, \mathbf{U}_{i+1}^n]$$

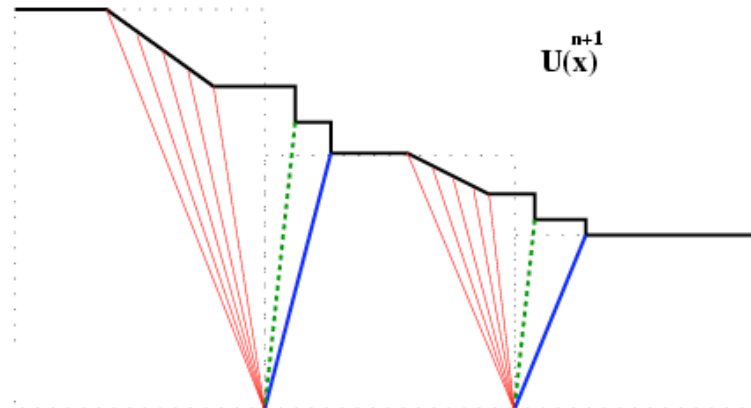
$$\mathbf{F}_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^*(0))$$

This defines the Godunov flux:

$$\mathbf{F}_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = \mathbf{F}^*(\mathbf{U}_i^n, \mathbf{U}_{i+1}^n)$$



- Godunov, S. K. (1959), A Difference Scheme for Numerical Solution of Discontinuous Solution of Hydrodynamic Equations, *Math. Sbornik*, **47**, 271-306, translated US Joint Publ. Res. Service, JPRS 7226, 1969.



Advection: 1 wave, Euler: 3 waves, MHD: 7 waves

## Higher Order Godunov schemes

Godunov method is stable but very diffusive. It was abandoned for two decades, until...

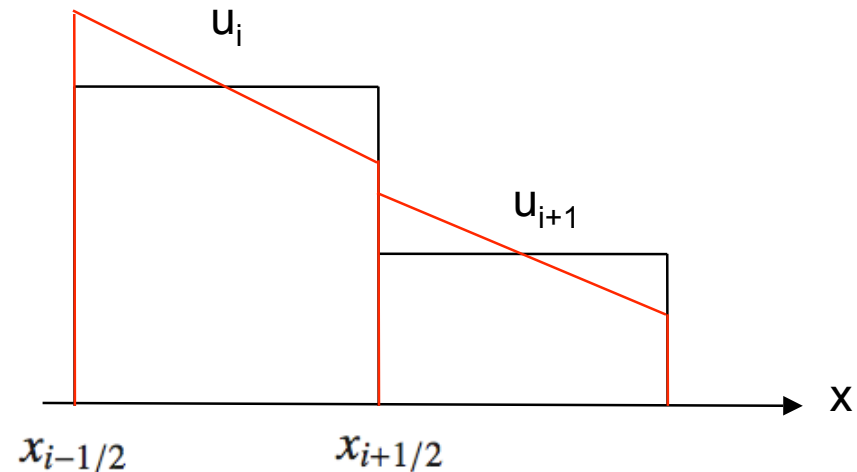


Bram Van Leer

- **van Leer, B.** (1979), Towards the Ultimate Conservative Difference Scheme, V. A Second Order Sequel to Godunov's Method, *J. Com. Phys.*, 32, 101–136.

## Second Order Godunov scheme

Piecewise linear approximation of the solution:



The linear profile introduces a length scale: the Riemann solution is not self-similar anymore:

$$\mathbf{F}_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} \neq \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^*(0))$$

The flux function is approximated using a *predictor-corrector* scheme:

$$\mathbf{F}_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \mathbf{F}(x_{i+1/2}, t) dt \longrightarrow \mathbf{F}_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} \simeq \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^*(\frac{\Delta t}{2}))$$

The *corrected* Riemann solver has now *predicted* states as initial data:

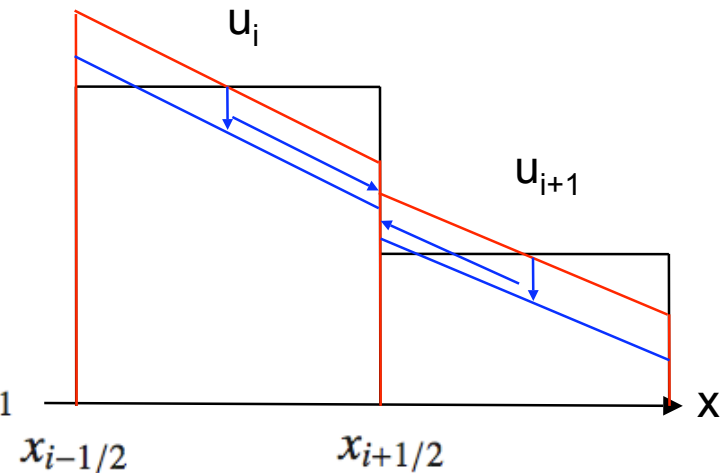
$$\mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^*(x/t) = \mathcal{RP} [\mathbf{U}_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{U}_{i+1/2,R}^{n+1/2}]$$

## Predictor Step for the advection equation

The predicted states are computed using a Taylor expansion in space and time:

$$u_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2} = u_i^n + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)_i + \frac{\Delta x}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i$$

$$u_{i+1/2,R}^{n+1/2} = u_{i+1}^n + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)_{i+1} - \frac{\Delta x}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_{i+1}$$



Second order predicted states are the new initial conditions for the Riemann solver:

$$u_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2} = u_i^n + (1 - C) \frac{\Delta x}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i \quad u_{i+1/2,R}^{n+1/2} = u_{i+1}^n - (1 + C) \frac{\Delta x}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_{i+1}$$

The *corrected* flux function is the *upwind* predicted state:

$$f_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = au_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2} \quad \text{if } a > 0 \quad f_{i+1/2}^{n+1/2} = au_{i+1/2,R}^{n+1/2} \quad \text{if } a < 0$$

## Modified equation for the second order scheme

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} + a \frac{u_i^n - u_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x} + \frac{a}{2}(1 - C) \left[ \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i - \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_{i-1} \right] = 0$$

Taylor expansion in space and time up to third order:

$$u_i^{n+1} = u_i^n + \Delta t \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right) + \frac{(\Delta t)^2}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} \right) + \frac{(\Delta t)^3}{6} \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial t^3} \right)$$
$$u_{i-1}^n = u_i^n - \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) - \frac{(\Delta x)^3}{6} \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)$$
$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_{i-1} = \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i - \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) + \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)$$

We obtain a *dispersive term* as leading-order error.

Von Neumann analysis says the scheme is stable for  $C < 1$ .

$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right) + a \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = a \frac{\Delta x^2}{6} (1 - C) \left( \frac{1}{2} - C \right) \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^3, \Delta x^3)$$



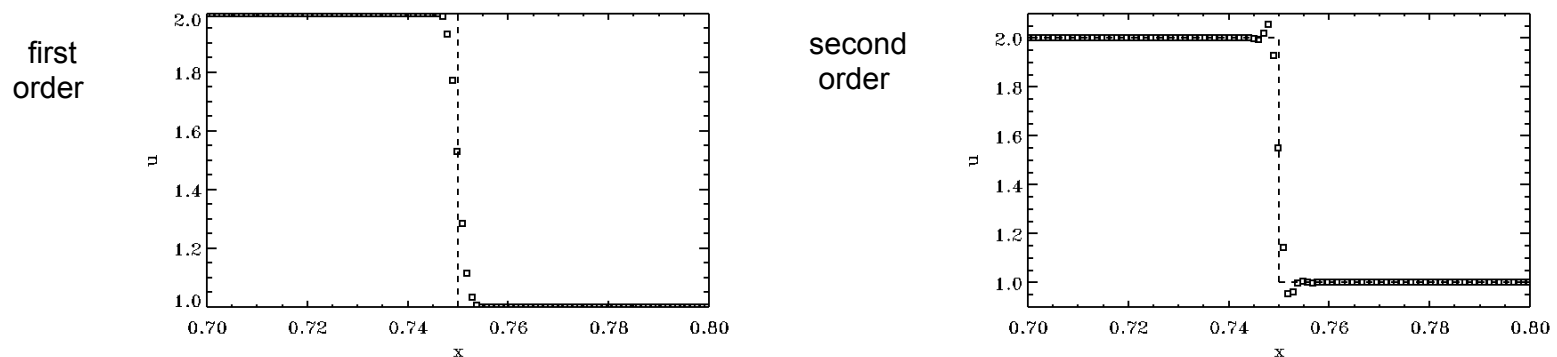
## Monotonicity preserving schemes

We use the central finite difference approximation for the slope:

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_i = \frac{\Delta u_i}{\Delta x} = \frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2}$$

Second order linear scheme.

In this case, the solution is oscillatory, and therefore non physical.



Oscillations are due to the *non monotonicity* of the numerical scheme.

A scheme is monotonicity preserving if:

- No new local extrema are created in the solution
- Local minimum (maximum) non decreasing (increasing) function of time.

**Godunov theorem:** only first order linear schemes are monotonicity preserving !

## Slope limiters

Harten introduced the Total Variation of the numerical solution:

$$TV^n = \sum_i^n |u_{i+1} - u_i|$$

**Harten's theorem:** a Total Variation Diminishing (TVD) scheme is monotonicity preserving.

$$TV^{n+1} \leq TV^n$$

Design non-linear TVD second order scheme using slope limiters:

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_i = \frac{\Delta u_i}{\Delta x} = \lim(u_{i-1}, u_i, u_{i+1}) \left(\frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2}\right)$$

where the slope limiter is a non-linear function satisfying:

$$0 \leq \lim(u_{i-1}, u_i, u_{i+1}) \leq 1$$

- Harten, Ami (1983), "High resolution schemes for hyperbolic conservation laws", *J. Comput. Phys* **49**: 357-393, [doi:10.1006/jcph.1997.5713](https://doi.org/10.1006/jcph.1997.5713)

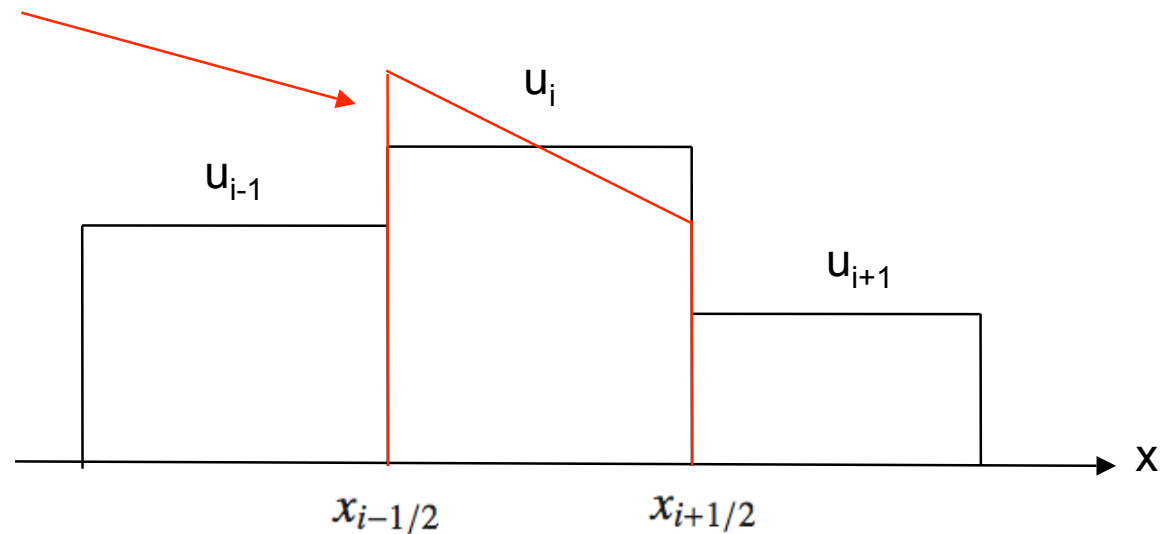
## No local extrema

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_i = \frac{\Delta u_i}{\Delta x} = \lim(u_{i-1}, u_i, u_{i+1}) \left(\frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2}\right)$$

We define 3 local slopes: left, right and central slopes

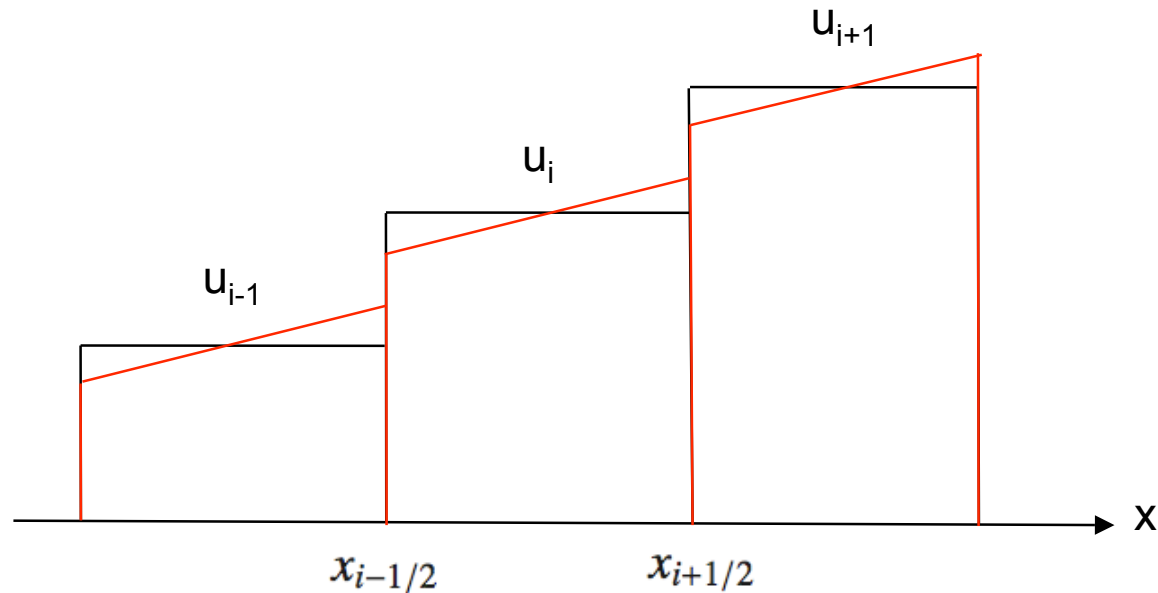
$$\Delta u_L = u_i - u_{i-1} \quad \Delta u_R = u_{i+1} - u_i \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta u_C = \frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2}$$

New maximum !



**For all slope limiters:**  $\Delta u_i = 0$  if  $\Delta u_L \Delta u_R < 0$

## The *minmod* slope



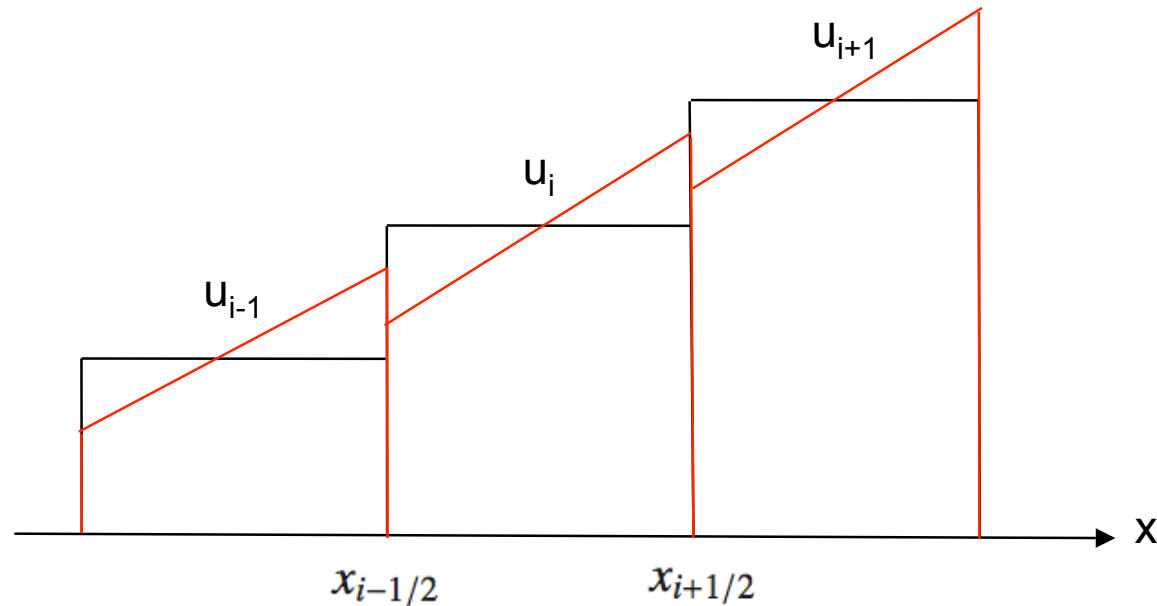
Linear reconstruction is monotone at time  $t^n$

$$u_{i+1/2,L}^n = u_i^n + \frac{\Delta u_i}{2} \quad u_{i-1/2,R}^n = u_i^n - \frac{\Delta u_i}{2}$$

Minmod slope limiting is never truly second order !

$$u_{i+1/2,L}^n \leq u_{i+1/2,R}^n \quad \Delta u_i = \min(\Delta u_L, \Delta u_R)$$

## The moncen slope



Extreme values must be bounded by the *initial average* states.

$$u_{i-1/2,R}^n = u_i^n - \frac{\Delta u_i}{2}$$

$$u_{i+1/2,L}^n = u_i^n + \frac{\Delta u_i}{2}$$

$$u_{i-1}^n \leq u_{i-1/2,R}^n \leq u_i^n$$

$$u_i^n \leq u_{i+1/2,L}^n \leq u_{i+1}^n$$

$$\Delta u_i = \min(2\Delta u_L, \Delta u_C, 2\Delta u_R)$$

## The *superbee* slope

Predicted states must be bounded by the initial average states.

$$u_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2} = u_i^n + (1 - C) \frac{\Delta u_i}{2}$$

$$u_{i+1/2,R}^{n+1/2} = u_{i+1}^n - (1 + C) \frac{\Delta u_{i+1}}{2}$$

TVD constraint is preserved by the Riemann solver.

$$u_i^n \leq u_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2} \leq u_{i+1}^n$$

$$u_{i-1}^n \leq u_{i-1/2,R}^{n+1/2} \leq u_i^n$$

The Courant factor now enters the slope definition.

$$\Delta u_i = \min\left(\frac{2}{1 + C} \Delta u_L, \frac{2}{1 - C} \Delta u_R\right)$$

## The ultrabee slope

Use the final state to compute the slope limiter.

$$u_i^{n+1} = u_i^n(1 - C) + u_{i-1}^n C - \frac{C}{2}(1 - C)(\Delta u_i - \Delta u_{i-1}) = 0$$

Upwind Total Variation constraint.

$$u_{i-1}^n \leq u_i^{n+1} \leq u_i^n$$

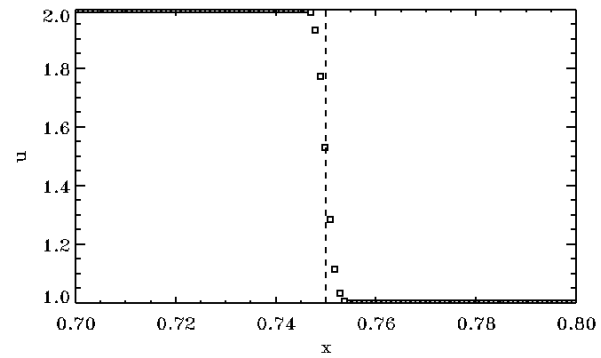
Strict Total Variation preserving limiter.

$$\text{if } C > 0 \quad \Delta u_i = \min\left(\frac{2}{C}\Delta u_L, \frac{2}{1-C}\Delta u_R\right)$$

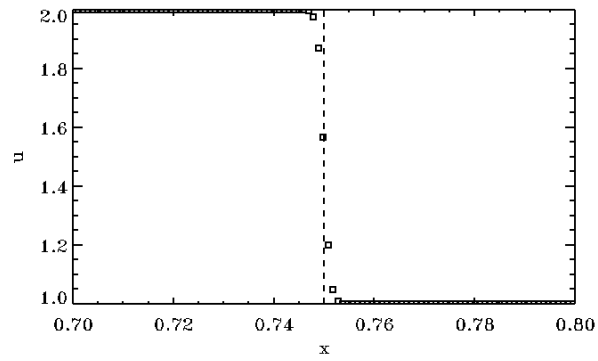
$$\text{if } C < 0 \quad \Delta u_i = \min\left(\frac{2}{1+C}\Delta u_L, \frac{2}{-C}\Delta u_R\right)$$

# Summary: slope limiters

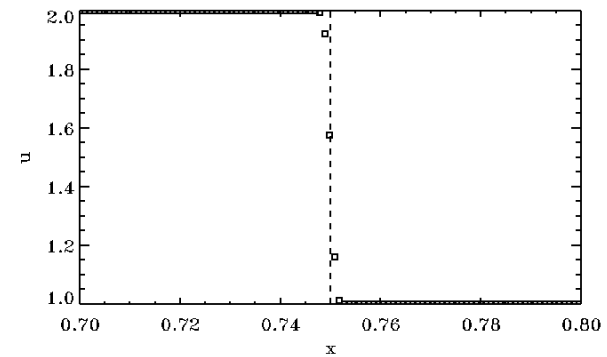
first order



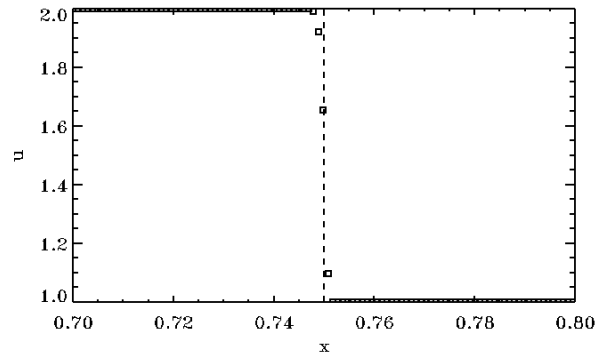
minmod



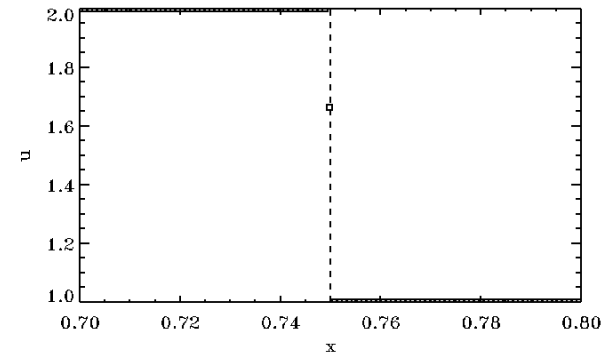
moncen



superbee



ultrabee

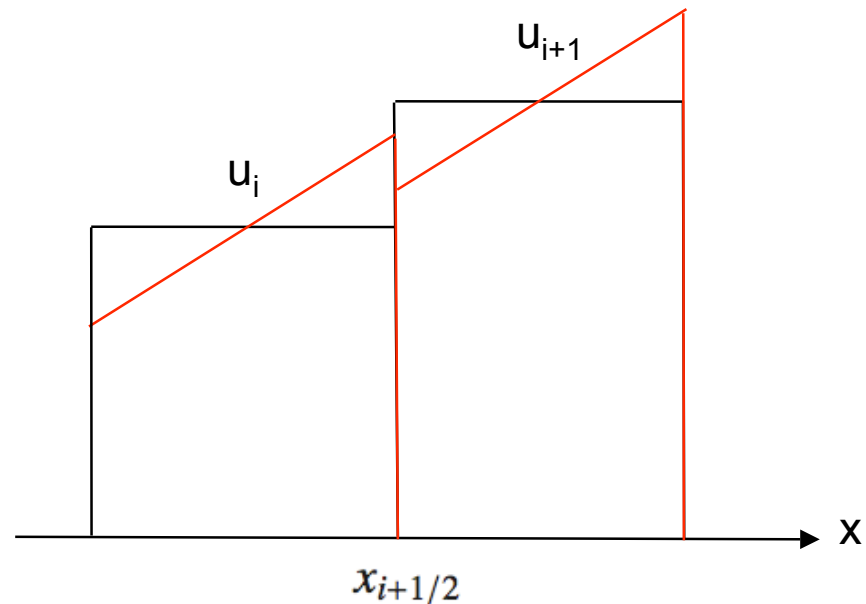




## Summary: slope limiters

The previous analysis is valid only for the advection equation.

Non-linear systems: the wave speeds depend on the initial states (L and R).

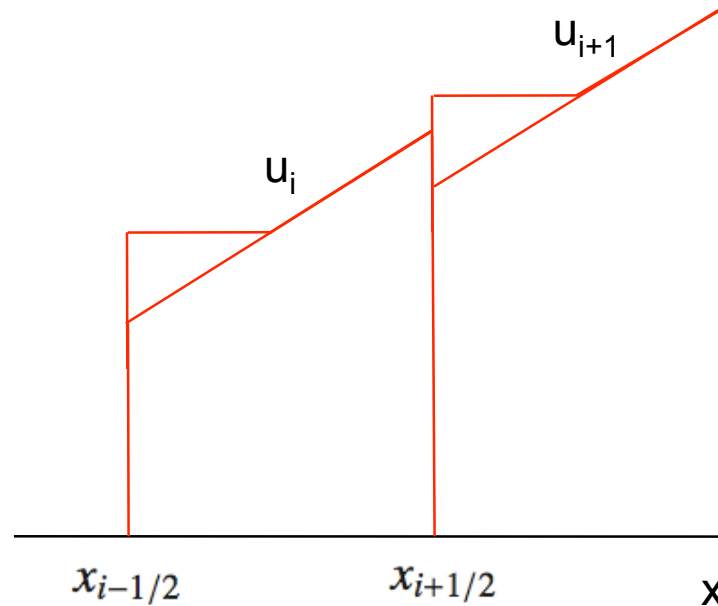


MinMod is the only monotone slope limiter before the Riemann solver !

Superbee and Ultrabee must not be used for non-linear systems !

MonCen can be used, but with care: the characteristics tracing method.

## Non-linear systems: characteristics tracing.



Non-linear Riemann problems: waves speeds depend on the input states.

TVD schemes are not necessary monotone.

Modify the predictor step according to the local Riemann solution: Piecewise Linear Method (PLM) and Piecewise Parabolic Method (PPM).

$$\text{If } (C_k)_i > 0 \quad (\alpha_k)_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2} = (\alpha_k)_i^n + (1 - (C_k)_i) \frac{(\Delta\alpha_k)_i}{2}$$

$$\text{else} \quad (\alpha_k)_{i+1/2,L}^{n+1/2} = (\alpha_k)_i^n$$

$$C_- = (u - a) \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}$$

$$C_0 = u \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}$$

$$C_+ = (u + a) \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}$$

$$\text{If } (C_k)_{i+1} < 0 \quad (\alpha_k)_{i+1/2,R}^{n+1/2} = (\alpha_k)_{i+1}^n - (1 + (C_k)_{i+1}) \frac{(\Delta\alpha_k)_i}{2}$$

$$\text{else} \quad (\alpha_k)_{i+1/2,R}^{n+1/2} = (\alpha_k)_{i+1}^n$$

- Colella, P. and Woodward, P., "The Piecewise parabolic Method (PPM) for Gasdynamical Simulations", J. Comput. Phys., **54**, 174-201 (1984).