Quiz 9 (Notes, books, and calculators are not authorized)

Show all your work in the blank space you are given on the exam sheet. Always justify your answer. Answers with **no justification will not be graded**.

Question 1: Consider the equation $\partial_t u + \partial_x(u^4) = 0$, where $x \in (-\infty, +\infty)$, $t > 0$, with initial data $u_0(x) = 0$ if $x < 0$, $u_0(x) = x^{\frac{1}{3}}$ if $0 < x < 1$, and $u_0(x) = 0$ if $1 < x$. There is a shock moving to the right. The solution is $u(x,t) = (\frac{x}{1+4t})^{\frac{1}{3}}$ on the left of the shock and $u(x,t) = 0$ on the right. Give the position of the shock as a function of t.

There is a shock starting at $x = 1$ (this is visible when one draws the characteristics).

Solution 1: The speed of the shock is given by the Rankin-Hugoniot formula

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x_s(t)}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{u_+^4 - u_-^4}{u_+ - u_-}, \qquad \text{and } x_s(0) = 1,$$

where $u_+(t) = 0$ and $u_-(t) = \left(\frac{x_s(t)}{1+4t}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$. This gives

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x_s(t)}{\mathrm{d}t} = u_-(t)^3 = \frac{x_s(t)}{1+4t},$$

which we re-write as follows:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\log(x_s(t))}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{1}{1+4t} = \frac{1}{4}\frac{\mathrm{d}\log(1+4t)}{\mathrm{d}t}.$$

Applying the fundamental of calculus between 0 and t gives

$$\log(x_s(t)) - \log(1) = \frac{1}{4}(\log(1+4t) - \log(1)).$$

This give

$$x_s(t) = (1+4t)^{\frac{1}{4}}.$$

Solution 2: Another (equivalent) way of solving this problem, that does not require to solve the Rankin-Hugoniot relation, consists of writing that the value of u_- is such that the total mass is conserved:

$$\int_0^{x_s(t)} u(x,t)\mathrm{d}x = \int_0^{x_s(0)} u_0(x)\mathrm{d}x = \int_0^1 x^{\frac{1}{3}}\mathrm{d}x = \frac{3}{4}$$

i.e., using the fact that $u(x,t) = (x/(1+4t))^{\frac{1}{3}}$ for all $0 \le x \le x_s(t)$, we have

$$\frac{3}{4} = (1+4t)^{-\frac{1}{3}} \int_0^{x_s(t)} x^{\frac{1}{3}}\mathrm{d}x = (1+4t)^{-\frac{1}{3}}\frac{3}{4}x_s(t)^{\frac{4}{3}}.$$

This again gives

$$x_s(t) = (1+4t)^{\frac{1}{4}}.$$

Conclusion: The solution is finally expressed as follows:

$$u(x,t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ \left(\frac{x}{1+4t}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} & \text{if } 0 < x < (1+4t)^{\frac{1}{4}} \\ 0 & \text{if } (1+4t)^{\frac{1}{4}} < x \end{cases}$$

Question 2: Consider the conservation equation with flux $q(\rho) = \rho^4$. Assume that the initial data is $\rho_0(x) = 2$, if $x < 0$, $\rho_0(x) = 1$, if $0 < x < 1$, and $\rho_0(x) = 0$, if $1 < x$. (i) Draw the characteristics

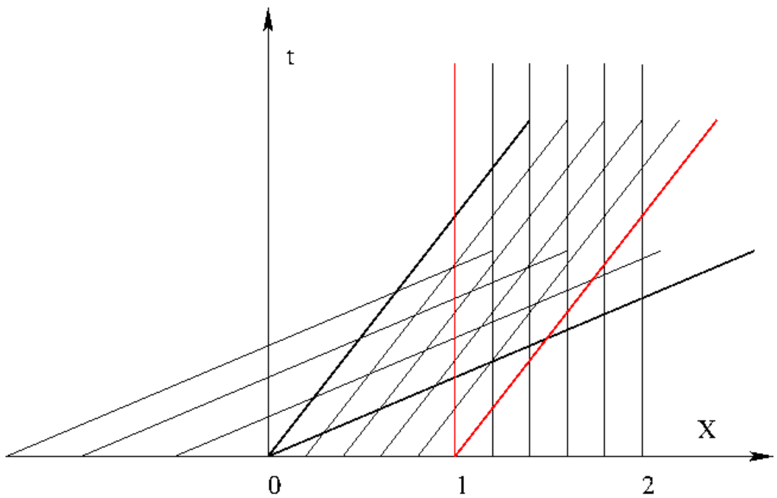
There are three families of characteristics.

Case 1: $s < 0$, $X(s,t) = 32t + s$. In the x-t plane, these are lines with slope $\frac{1}{32}$.

Case 2: $0 < s < 1$, $X(s,t) = 4t + s$. In the x-t plane, these are lines with slope $\frac{1}{4}$.

Case 3: $1 < s$, $X(s,t) = s$. In the x-t plane, these are verical lines.

One shock forms between the two black characteristics and another forms between the two red characteristic (see figure).



(ii) Describe qualitatively the nature of the solution.

We have two shocks moving to the right. One shock forms between the two black characteristics and another forms between the two red characteristic (see figure).

(iii) When does the left shock catch up with the right one?

The speeds of the shocks are

$$\frac{dx_1(t)}{dt} = \frac{2^4 - 1}{2 - 1} = 15, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dx_2(t)}{dt} = \frac{1 - 0}{1 - 0} = 1.$$

The location of the left shock at time t is $x_1(t) = 15t$ and that of the right shock is $x_2(t) = t + 1$. The two shocks are at the same location when $15t = t + 1$, i.e., $t = \frac{1}{14}$.

(iv) What is the speed of the shock when the two shocks have merged and what is the position of the shock as function of time?

When the shocks have merged the left state is $\rho = 2$ and the right state is $\rho = 0$; as a result the speed of the shock is

$$\frac{dx_3(t)}{dt} = \frac{2^4 - 0}{2 - 0} = 8,$$

and the shock trajectory is $x_3(t) = 8(t - \frac{1}{14}) + \frac{15}{14}$.