# Tutorial sheet 8

The exercise marked with a star is homework.

**Discussion topics:** What is a sound wave? How do you derive the corresponding equation of motion? How is the speed of sound defined? What happens when the wave amplitude becomes large? What is the effect of viscous effects?

## *22. One-dimensional "similarity flow"

Consider a perfect fluid at rest in the region $x \geq 0$ with pressure $\mathcal{P}_0$ and mass density $\rho_0$; the region $x < 0$ is empty ($\mathcal{P} = 0$, $\rho = 0$). At time $t = 0$, the wall separating both regions is removed, so that the fluid starts flowing into the region $x < 0$. The goal of this exercise is to solve this instance of *Riemann's problem* by determining the flow velocity $\mathsf{v}(t, x)$ for $t > 0$. It will be assumed that the pressure and mass density of the fluid remain related by

$$\frac{\mathcal{P}}{\mathcal{P}_0} = \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right)^{\gamma}, \qquad \text{with } \gamma > 1$$

throughout the motion. This relation also gives you the speed of sound $c_s(\rho)$.

**i.** Assume that the dependence on $t$ and $x$ of the various fields involves only the combination $u \equiv x/t$.[1] Show that the continuity and Euler equations can be recast as

$$\begin{aligned} \big[u - \mathsf{v}(u)\big]\, \rho'(u) &= \rho(u)\, \mathsf{v}'(u) \\ \rho(u)\big[u - \mathsf{v}(u)\big]\, \mathsf{v}'(u) &= c_s^2(\rho(u))\, \rho'(u), \end{aligned}$$

where $\rho'$ resp. $v'$ denote the derivative of $\rho$ resp. $\mathsf{v}$ with respect to $u$.

**ii.** Show that the velocity is either constant, or obeys the equation $u - \mathsf{v}(u) = c_s(\rho(u))$, in which case the squared speed of sound takes the form $c_s^2(\rho) = c_s^2(\rho_0)(\rho/\rho_0)^{\gamma-1}$.

**iii.** Show that the results of **i.** and **ii.** lead to the relation

$$\mathsf{v}(u) = a + \frac{2}{\gamma - 1}\, c_s(\rho(u)),$$

where $a$ denotes a constant whose value is fixed by the condition that $\mathsf{v}(u)$ remain continuous inside the fluid. Show eventually that in some interval for the values of $u$, the norm of $\mathsf{v}$ is given by

$$|\mathsf{v}(u)| = \frac{2}{\gamma + 1}\big[c_s(\rho_0) - u\big].$$

**iv.** Sketch the profiles of the mass density $\rho(u)$ and the streamlines $x(t)$ and show that after the removal of the separation at $x = 0$ the information propagates with velocity $2c_s(\rho_0)/(\gamma - 1)$ towards the negative-$x$ region, while it moves to the right with the speed of sound $c_s(\rho)$.

## 23. Inviscid Burgers equation

The purpose of this exercise is to show how an innocent-looking—yet non-linear—partial differential equation with a smooth initial condition may lead after finite amount of time to a discontinuity, i.e. a shock wave.

Neglecting the pressure term in the one-dimensional Euler equation leads to the so-called *inviscid Burgers equation*

$$\frac{\partial \mathsf{v}(t, x)}{\partial t} + \mathsf{v}(t, x)\frac{\partial \mathsf{v}(t, x)}{\partial x} = 0.$$

[1]... which is what is meant by "self-similar".

**i.** Show that the solution with (arbitrary) given initial condition $\mathsf{v}(0,x)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ obeys the implicit equation $\mathsf{v}(0,x) = \mathsf{v}\big(t, x + \mathsf{v}(0,x)\,t\big)$.

*Hint*: `http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burgers'_equation`

**ii.** Consider the initial condition $\mathsf{v}(0,x) = \mathsf{v}_0\,\mathrm{e}^{-(x/x_0)^2}$ with $\mathsf{v}_0$ and $x_0$ two real numbers. Show that the flow velocity becomes discontinuous at time $t = \sqrt{\mathrm{e}/2}\,x_0/\mathsf{v}_0$, namely at $x = x_0\sqrt{2}$.