

## APPLICATION OF A NEW TVD SONIC FIX FOR THE TÓTH MAGNETOGASDYNAMIC PROBLEM

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**Abstract.** The computational magnetogasdynamics is an important tool for the development of the interdisciplinary technologies for aerospace design. In this work is presented a modification of the original Harten-Yee TVD scheme by incorporating a new sonic fix for the acoustic causality points using the finite volume technique. The proposed sonic fix was previously implemented to solve time-dependent, two-dimensional, ideal magnetogasdynamics equations. In this paper a new test case is simulated: 2.5D Tóth magnetogasdynamics Riemann problem. The numerical results obtained using the new sonic fix has shown to reduce the oscillations compared with the results calculated by the traditional Harten-Yee TVD scheme. The results also show that the new scheme is robust.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Magnetogasdynamics (MGD) flows have applications in aerospace technologies, astrophysics, geophysics, interstellar gas masses dynamics, etc. A MGD model is generally based on the assumption that plasma can be regarded as a continuum and thus may be characterized by relatively few macroscopic quantities. A revision about the physical models used in aerospace applications is given in (D'Ambrosio and Giordano, 2004). The ideal MGD equations constitute a hyperbolic partial differential system. This system presents non-convex singularities and the wave structure is more complicated than for the Euler equations (Kantrowitz and Petschek, 1966). The nonlinear coupling of these waves plays an important role in determining physical phenomena and in the numerical solution (Leveque *et al.*, 1998).

In ideal MGD the numerical simulations are a very important tool, by reducing expensive, and sometimes unviable, experimental parametric studies. However, the numerical simulations always are limited by the ability to analyze and to solve accurately the hyperbolic non-linear differential equations system. To solve the ideal MGD equations system is convenient to use a conservative form because it allows obtaining the correct jump conditions at discontinuities and shocks (Leveque, 1992; Toro, 2009). The utilization of the numerical conservative scheme is desirable because ensures that mass, momentum, and energy are indeed conserved. Several schemes has been proposed and implemented to solve the ideal MGD equations (Balbas *et al.*, 2004; Myong and Roe, 1998; Udea, 1999); in this work, a modification of the Harten-Yee TVD technique is used (Yee *et al.*, 1985; Maglione *et al.*, 2011). The Harten-Yee TVD scheme has proven to be accurate and reliable for the simulation of supersonic flows of gases (Yee, 1989; Elaskar, *et al.*, 2000; Falcinelli, *et al.*, 2008). This technique is implemented here, with a modification to numerically solve ideal MGD flows.

Between the difficulties to reach accurate numerical solutions for the ideal MGD equations we can note the acoustic causality points where a new wave structure can be produced by the non-linear wave interaction (Courant and Friedrich, 1999). In ideal MGD there are sonic points and points where non-convexity appears, these points are called points of acoustic causality (Serna, 2009) and it is necessary to implement an entropy corrector scheme introducing the necessary artificial viscosity.

The main objective of this work is to prove the new sonic fix capacity to solve the 2.5D Tóth magnetogasdynamics flow. The proposed sonic fix had been successful implemented for the 2D Riemann magnetogasdynamics problem proposed by Brio and Wu (Maglione and Elaskar, 2010; Maglione *et al.*, 2011).

The numerical approach uses an approximate Riemann solver with a high resolution TVD technique. The eight-wave technique introduced by Powell (Powell, 1995) and the eigenvectors are normalized according to Zachary, *et al.* (1994) and Roe (1996) are implemented.

## 2 MAGNETOGASDYNAMICS EQUATIONS

The equations of non-dimensional transient real MGD in conservative form are given by (Goldston and Rutherford, 2003; D'Ambrosio and Giordano, 2004).

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \rho \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{B} \\ e \end{bmatrix} + \nabla \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \rho \mathbf{u} \\ \rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{I} \left( p + \frac{1}{2} B^2 \right) \\ \mathbf{u} \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B} \mathbf{u} \\ \left( e + p + \frac{B^2}{2} \right) \mathbf{u} - (\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix} = \nabla \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{\boldsymbol{\tau}}{R_e A_l} \\ \frac{\mathbf{E}_r}{L_u A_l} \\ \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}}{R_e A_l} - \frac{[\boldsymbol{\eta} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B})] \times \mathbf{B}}{L_u A_l} + \frac{\mathbf{k} \cdot \nabla T}{P_e A_l} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho$ ,  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $e$ ,  $p$ ,  $T$  are the density, velocity, total energy, pressure and temperature of plasma respectively.  $\mathbf{B}$  is the magnetic field,  $K$  thermal conductivity,  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$  electrical resistive and  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  viscous stress.  $R_e$ ,  $A_l$ ,  $L_u$ ,  $P_e$  are the Reynolds, Alfvén, Lundquist and Peclet numbers.

The ideal MGD equations accurately describe the macroscopic dynamics of perfectly conducting plasma. This system expresses conservation of mass, momentum, energy, and magnetic flux and conform a nonlinear conservative system of eight partial differential equations. The equations of non-dimensional ideal one-fluid MGD in conservative form are given by (D'Ambrosio and Giordano, 2004);

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \rho \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{B} \\ e \end{bmatrix} + \nabla \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \rho \mathbf{u} \\ \rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{I} \left( p + \frac{1}{2} B^2 \right) \\ \mathbf{u} \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B} \mathbf{u} \\ \left( e + p + \frac{1}{2} B^2 \right) \mathbf{u} - (\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (2)$$

To close de system, is introduced perfect gas state equation, so the specific internal energy depends on temperature only. Then for the total energy results as,

$$e = \frac{p}{\gamma - 1} + \rho \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{2} + \frac{\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}}{2} \quad (3)$$

Using a Cartesian coordinate system the Eq. (2) can be written, for two dimensions in quasi-linear form, as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} + [A_c] \frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial x} + [B_c] \frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial y} = \mathbf{0} \quad (4)$$

with the state vector

$$\mathbf{U} = \left( \rho, \rho u_x, \rho u_y, \rho u_z, B_x, B_y, B_z, e \right)^T \quad (5)$$

where  $[A_c]$  y  $[B_c]$  are the Jacobian matrices. The evaluation of the eigenvalues and the eigenvectors is simpler using the conservative variables:

$$\mathbf{W} = \left( \rho, u_x, u_y, u_z, B_x, B_y, B_z, p \right)^T \quad (6)$$

To overcome the difficulties introduced by the null eigenvalue of the Jacobian matrices, the eight-wave technique introduced by Powell (1995) is used in this work. The modified Jacobian matrix  $[A_p]$  (using primitive variables) is:

$$[A_p] = \begin{bmatrix} u_x & \rho & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & u_x & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{B_y}{\rho} & \frac{B_z}{\rho} & \frac{1}{\rho} \\ 0 & 0 & u_x & 0 & 0 & -\frac{B_x}{\rho} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & u_x & 0 & 0 & -\frac{B_x}{\rho} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & u_x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & B_y & -B_x & 0 & 0 & u_x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & B_z & 0 & -B_x & 0 & 0 & u_x & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma p & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & u_x \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

The eigenvectors are normalized according to Zachary *et al.* (1994) and Roe (1996). The resulting eigenvalues representing MGD waves are: “entropy wave”, “Alfvén waves”, “fast magneto-acoustic waves”, “slow magneto-acoustic waves” and “magnetic flux wave”. The expressions for these are:

-Entropy wave:  $\lambda_e = u_x$

$$r_e = \begin{Bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix} \quad l_e = \begin{Bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -\frac{1}{c^2} \end{Bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

-Alfvén waves:  $\lambda_a = u_x \pm c_a$

$$r_a^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -\beta_z \\ \beta_y \\ 0 \\ \pm\sqrt{\rho}\beta_z \\ \mp\sqrt{\rho}\beta_y \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix} \quad l_a^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -\beta_z \\ \beta_y \\ 0 \\ \pm\frac{\beta_z}{\sqrt{\rho}} \\ \mp\frac{\beta_y}{\sqrt{\rho}} \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

-Fast magneto-acoustic waves:  $\lambda_f = u_x \pm c_f$

$$r_f^\pm = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \rho \alpha_f \\ \pm \alpha_f c_f \\ \mp \alpha_s c_s \beta_y \operatorname{sgn}(B_x) \\ \mp \alpha_s c_s \beta_z \operatorname{sgn}(B_x) \\ 0 \\ \alpha_s \sqrt{\rho c} \beta_y \\ \alpha_s \sqrt{\rho c} \beta_z \\ \alpha_f \gamma p \end{array} \right\} \quad l_f^\pm = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \pm \frac{\alpha_f c_f}{2c^2} \\ \mp \frac{\alpha_s}{2c^2} c_s \beta_y \operatorname{sgn}(B_x) \\ \mp \frac{\alpha_s}{2c^2} c_s \beta_z \operatorname{sgn}(B_x) \\ 0 \\ \frac{\alpha_s}{2\sqrt{\rho c}} \beta_y \\ \mp \frac{\alpha_s}{2\sqrt{\rho c}} \beta_z \\ \frac{\alpha_f}{2\rho c^2} \end{array} \right\} \quad (10)$$

-Slow magneto-acoustic waves:  $\lambda_s = u_x \pm c_s$

$$r_s^\pm = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \rho \alpha_s \\ \pm \alpha_s c_s \\ \pm \alpha_f c_f \beta_y \operatorname{sgn}(B_x) \\ \pm \alpha_f c_f \beta_z \operatorname{sgn}(B_x) \\ 0 \\ -\alpha_f \sqrt{\rho c} \beta_y \\ -\alpha_f \sqrt{\rho c} \beta_z \\ \alpha_s \gamma p \end{array} \right\} \quad l_s^\pm = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \pm \frac{\alpha_s c_s}{2c^2} \\ \pm \frac{\alpha_f}{2c^2} c_f \beta_y \operatorname{sgn}(B_x) \\ \pm \frac{\alpha_f}{2c^2} c_f \beta_z \operatorname{sgn}(B_x) \\ 0 \\ -\frac{\alpha_f}{2\sqrt{\rho c}} \beta_y \\ \frac{\alpha_f}{2\sqrt{\rho c}} \beta_z \\ \frac{\alpha_s}{2\rho c^2} \end{array} \right\} \quad (11)$$

-Magnetic flux wave:  $\lambda_d = u_x$

$$r_d = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad l_d = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

Where:  $c_{A,n} = \frac{|B_x|}{\sqrt{\rho}}$ ;

$$c_{f,s}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\gamma p + B^2}{\rho} \pm \sqrt{\left( \frac{\gamma p + B^2}{\rho} \right)^2 - 4 \frac{\gamma p B_x^2}{\rho^2}} \right)$$

$$\beta_y = \begin{cases} \frac{B_y}{B_\perp} & B_\perp \neq 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & B_\perp = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\beta_z = \begin{cases} \frac{B_z}{B_\perp} & B_\perp \neq 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & B_\perp = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\beta_\perp = \sqrt{B_y^2 + B_z^2}$$

The Alfvén, entropy wave and magnetic flux waves, are linearly degenerate; hence the flow velocity is constant throughout the wave. The magneto-acoustic waves are nonlinear and can be shock or rarefaction waves. However, under particular relations between the magnetic field and the sound velocity these waves may be locally non-convex (Serna, 2009).

### 3 FINITE VOLUME FORMULATION

To obtain the numerical solution of the system described by Eq.(2), a finite volume scheme has been implemented using a structured mesh, together an approximate Riemann solver to calculate the fluxes with an explicit finite-differences scheme for the evaluation of the time evolution.

The numerical flows are evaluated by means of the Harten-Yee TVD technique, which allows the capturing of discontinuities, simultaneously achieving a second order approach (Yee, 1989).

The explicit TVD-finite volume scheme can be expressed as, see Fig. (1),

$$\mathbf{U}_{ij}^{n+1} = \mathbf{U}_{ij}^n - \Delta t \left[ \frac{\overline{\mathbf{F}}_{i+\frac{1}{2};j}^n - \overline{\mathbf{F}}_{i-\frac{1}{2};j}^n}{\Delta x} + \frac{\overline{\mathbf{G}}_{i;j+\frac{1}{2}}^n - \overline{\mathbf{G}}_{i;j-\frac{1}{2}}^n}{\Delta y} \right] \quad (13)$$

where the function that determines the second-order numerical flux is defined as

$$\overline{\mathbf{F}}_{i+\frac{1}{2};j}^n = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbf{F}_{i+1}^n + \mathbf{F}_i^n + \left( \sum_m \mathbf{R}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m \Phi_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m \right)^{(n)} \right) \quad (14)$$

The limiter function used is one of minmod type,

$$\Phi_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m = (g_{i+1}^m + g_i^m) - \sigma (\lambda_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m + \gamma_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m) \alpha_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m \quad (15)$$

$$g_i^m = \text{sgn}(\lambda_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m) \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \\ \min \left[ \begin{array}{l} \sigma_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m |\alpha_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^m| \\ \sigma_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^m \frac{\text{sgn}(\lambda_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m)}{2} \alpha_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^m \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\}; \quad \sigma_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m = \sigma(\lambda_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m) \quad (16)$$

$$\gamma_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\alpha_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m} (g_{i+1}^m - g_i^m) & \alpha_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m \neq 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m = 0 \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

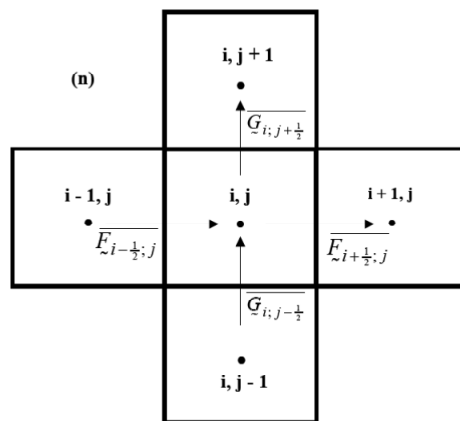


Fig. 1 Adjacent cells of the two-dimensional domain.

Approximate Roe-type Riemann solver produces only shock waves so a physically correct smooth rarefaction wave is replaced by a rarefaction shock wave that violates the entropy condition. An alternative to correct this non-physical solution is using a “sonic entropy fix” that smoothes out eigenvalues in the vicinity around zero. Harten (1982) suggested an entropy fix for Roe’s method, which has widespread use:

$$\psi(z) = \begin{cases} |z| & |z| \geq \delta \\ \frac{1}{2\delta}(z^2 + \delta^2) & |z| < \delta \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

The function  $\psi$  in Eq. (18) is an entropy correction to  $z$ , whereas  $\delta$  is generally a small and constant value that needs to be calibrated for each problem. A proper choice of the entropy parameter  $\delta$  for higher Mach number flows not only helps in preventing nonphysical solutions but can act, in some sense, as a control in the convergence rate and in the sharpness of shocks (Yee, 1989).

For time-accurate calculations in explicit numerical algorithms

$$\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \psi(z) - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} z^2 \right] \quad (19)$$

and the wave strength of the  $m$ -th wave is

$$\alpha^m = \mathbf{L}^m \cdot (\mathbf{W}_{i+1} - \mathbf{W}_i) \quad (20)$$

where  $\mathbf{L}^m$  is the left eigenvector for the  $m$ -th wave and  $\mathbf{W}$  represents the primitive variable vector.

#### 4 NEW FIX SONIC

If we apply to Eq. (2) the traditional Harten-Yee scheme, developed for gas dynamics equations, the sonic fix, given by Eq. (15), acts only on sonic point, but it does not act on non-convex point; because the gasdynamics flows do not present non-convex points.

To obtain "proper" numerical results for the Brio and Wu two dimensional MGD problem, the entropy correction of Harten scheme, Eq. (18), needs to be calibrated with relatively big values of  $\delta$  (Maglione *et al.*, 2003). For gasdynamics hypersonic flows, a variable  $\delta$  depending on the spectral radius of the Jacobian matrices of fluxes is very helpful in terms of stability and convergence rate (Yee, 1989). However, numerical tests show that this technique does not provide satisfactory results on the coplanar Riemann MGD problem. The use of a constant value, for 2D simulations, equal to the average in absolute value of the eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrices of fluxes show satisfactory results for short time only (Maglione *et al.*, 2007), also this technique introduces too much numerical viscosity around a large vicinity of the sonic point. As a result of this scheme the solutions are not particularly satisfactory for long computation time.

In order to obtain a method that does not need  $\delta$  calibration for each MGD problem, it is convenient to improve the Van Leer technique (Van Leer *et al.*, 1989), vastly applied for gases.

$$\delta_{GD} = \max \left[ \left| \lambda_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m - \lambda_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^m \right|, 0 \right] \quad (21)$$

$$\delta_k^{MGD} = \begin{cases} \max \left[ \left| \lambda_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m - \lambda_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^m \right| \right] & \text{If } \lambda_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m \text{ cuts across zero} \\ \min \left| \lambda_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^m \right| & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases} \quad k = 1, \dots, 8 \quad (22)$$

For increasing the accuracy of the previous schemes and to avoid the spurious oscillations,



a new entropy correction function was proposed (Maglione and Elaskar, 2010; Maglione *et al.*, 2011). The new entropy correction function introduces high numerical viscosity only restricted to the proximity of the acoustic points,

$$\psi(z) = \begin{cases} |z| & \text{others} \\ \frac{z^2}{\delta^2} + \frac{\delta-2}{\delta}|z|+1 & \text{acoustic points} \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

A comparison between Harten's original sonic entropy fix, Eq. (18) and the new proposed fix Eq. (23), is shown in Fig. (2). The new function is a continuously differentiable approximation to  $|z|$ , fulfilling,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(\delta^-) &= \psi(\delta^+) \\ \psi(0) &= 1 \\ \psi'(\delta^-) &= \psi'(\delta^+) \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

The necessity to introduce a new sonic fix for 2-D MGD flow and not for the 1-D MGD occurs because the number of the eigenvalues crossing over zero, when the modified Van Leer's technique is used, is increasing for the two-dimensional test with respect the one-dimensional case. This effects it is specially note for the compound wave (Maglione *et al.*, 2011).

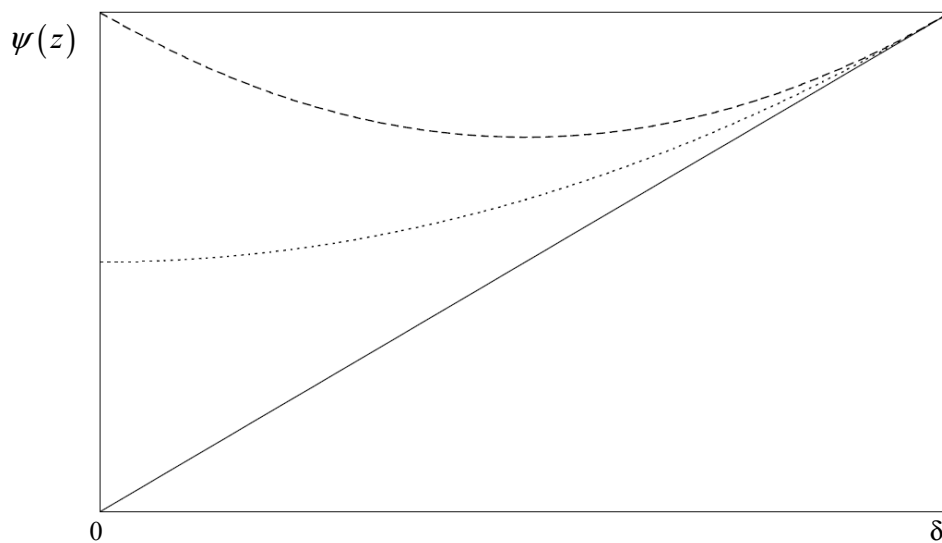


Fig. 2 Comparison between the new sonic fix and Harten's original (Dotted line: Original sonic fix, Long Dash line: Proposed Sonic fix).

## 5 2.5D TÓTH MAGNETOGASDYNAMIC FLOW

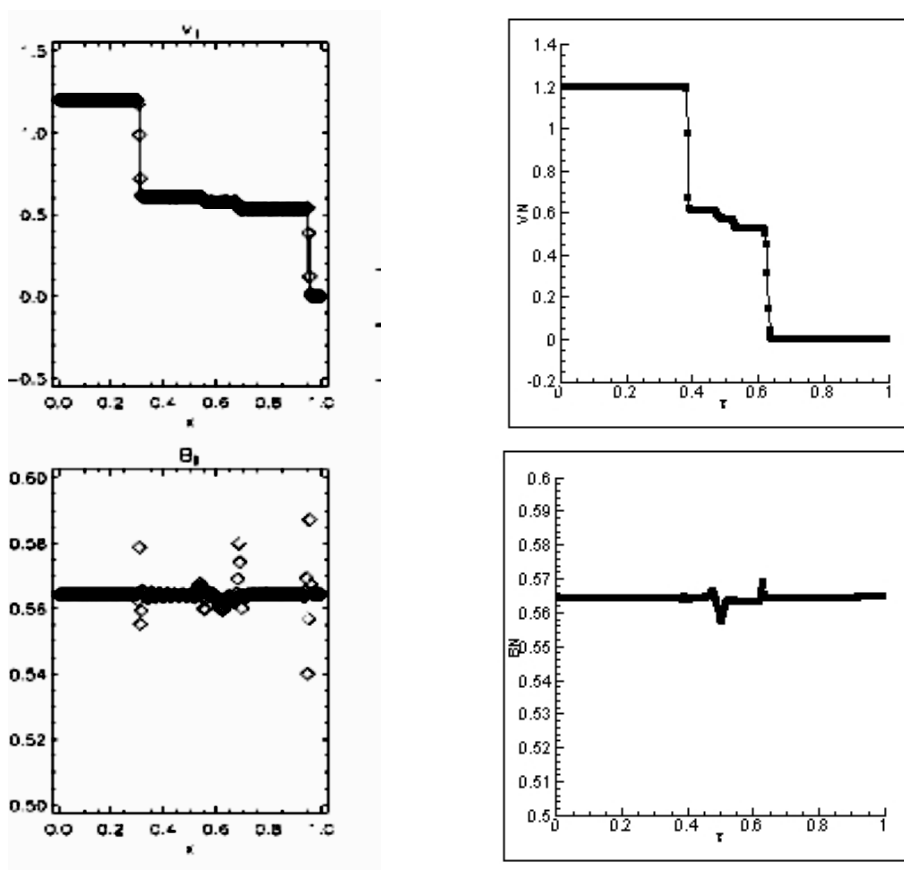
To check the robustness of the new scheme we simulate the 2.5D shock tube test presented by Tóth, (Tóth, 2000). The benchmark of this section, a one dimensional problem, which can be solved very accurately with a 1D simulation, is rotated to test the capabilities of the scheme to maintain the zero divergence of the magnetic field. This rotated shock tube problem is a 2.5D test since all three components of the velocity and magnetic fields are non zero. This is an important difference with respect to the Brio and Wu problem solved above, (Maglione and Elaskar, 2010; Maglione *et al.*, 2011), where the transversal velocity 2 and the transversal

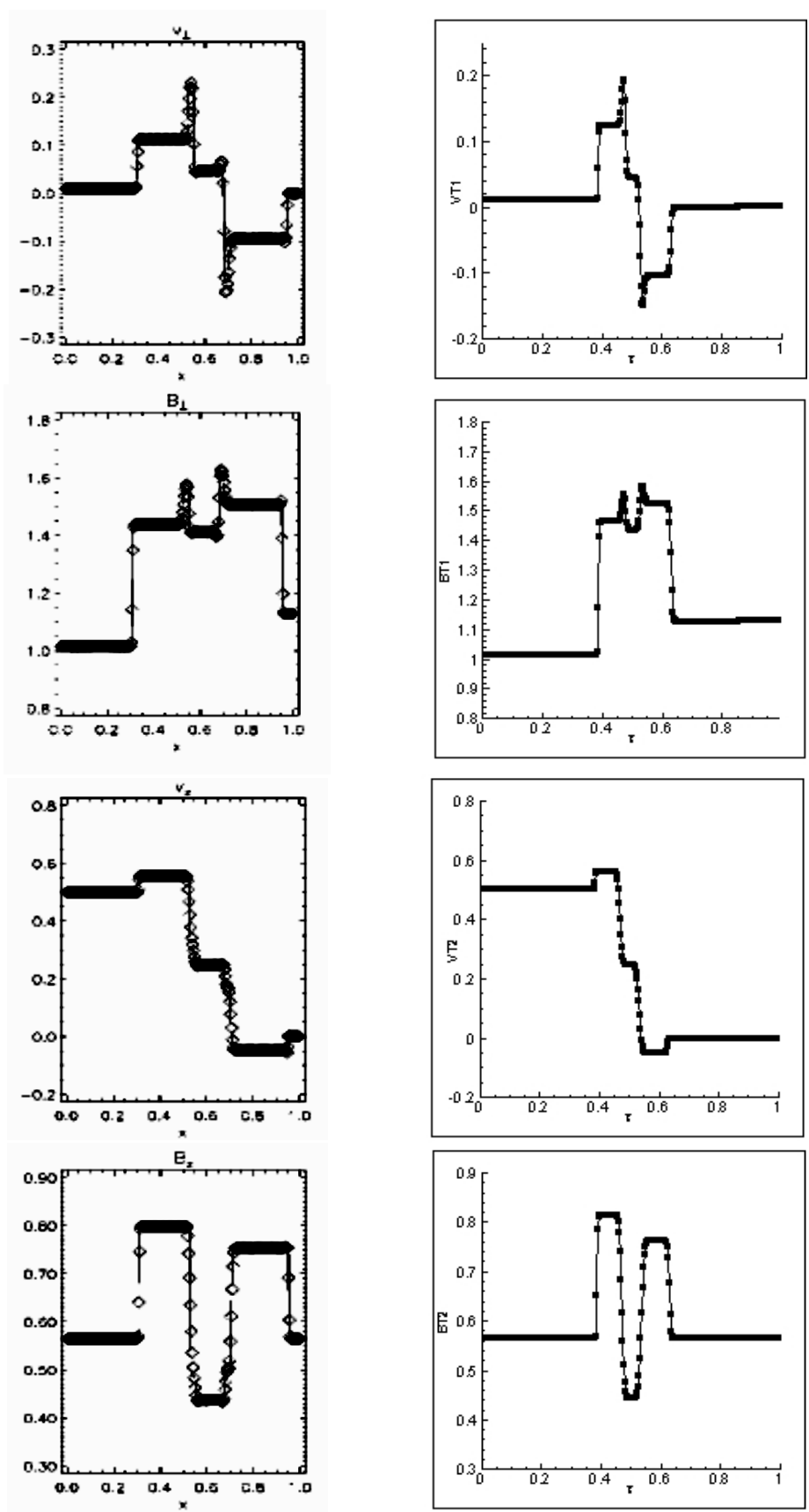
magnetic field 2 are identically zero. The initial left and right states of this Riemann problem are:

$$W_l = \left( 1.08, 1.2, 0.01, 0.5, \frac{2}{\sqrt{4\pi}}, \frac{3.6}{\sqrt{4\pi}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{4\pi}}, 0.95 \right)^T$$

$$W_r = \left( 1, 0, 0, 0, \frac{2}{\sqrt{4\pi}}, \frac{4}{\sqrt{4\pi}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{4\pi}}, 1 \right)^T$$
(25)

On the right side of Fig. (3) are indicated, normal velocity, normal magnetic field, transversal velocity 1, transversal magnetic field 1, transversal velocity 2, transversal magnetic field 2, density and pressure respectively. The solution of reference is showed on the left side of Fig. (3), (Tóth, 2000). In the 2.5D shock tube problem the theoretical solution for the normal magnetic field is a constant value equal to 0.5642, while the numerical solution are variations around 0.5642. Is possible to observe in the Fig. (3) that the numerical error for the normal magnetic field is less with the proposed technique.





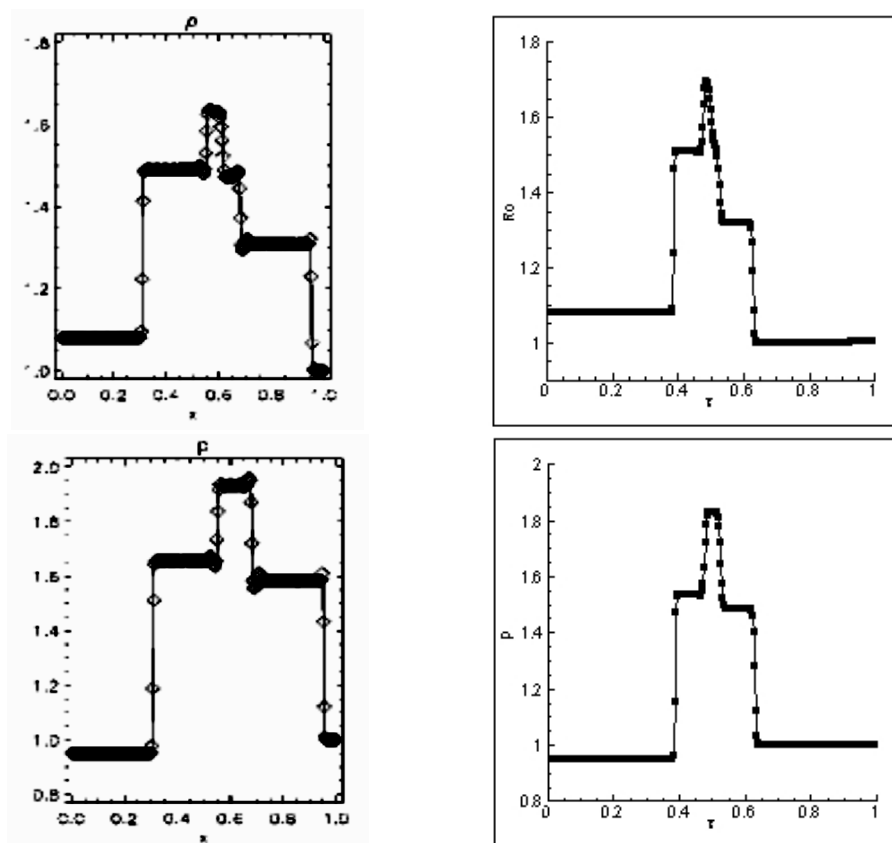


Fig. (3). On the right side primitive variables for the 2.5D shock tube problem with the new scheme and on the left side the solution of reference obtained from (Tóth, 2000).

## 6 CONCLUSION

In this paper the new sonic fix introduced for the TVD Harten-Yee's scheme is used to solve a high nonlinear flow: the 2.5D Tóth Riemann problem. The advantages found in the previous applications (Maglione *et al.*, 2011), such as the sonic fix does not need particular calibration (for example as function of the eigenvalues of the jacobian matrix), the numerical oscillations near of the waves are reduced and the numerical viscosity is increasing only in the proximity of the acoustic causality points are also verified for the Tóth problem.

The new method has proven to be robust because it captures correctly the wave velocities and intensities.

We note that the error introduced by numerical dissipation in the evaluation of the normal magnetic field is clearly reduced using the new scheme.

Finally we consider necessary to develop more tests using long time integration to analyze the waves evolution in a sophisticated benchmark as the 2.5D Tóth problem.

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