A smoothness indicator for numerical solutions to the Ripa model

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Abstract. The Ripa model is the system of shallow water equations taking the water temperature fluctuations into account. For one-dimensional case, the Ripa model consists of three partial differential equations relating to three primitive variables, namely water depth, velocity, and temperature. The Ripa model is hyperbolic, and its solution can be discontinuous. When the Ripa model is solved using a conservative numerical method, the solution is usually diffusive around discontinuities. The diffusion at rough regions (around discontinuities, such as contact and shock discontinuities) makes the solution inaccurate. In practice, we want to know the places where the solution is accurate, and where it is inaccurate. That is, we want to know where the solution is smooth, and where it is rough. In this paper we propose the numerical entropy production to detect the smoothness of numerical solutions to the Ripa model. Numerical results show that the numerical entropy production is a robust smoothness indicator for numerical solutions to the Ripa model.

1. Introduction
Ripa [22, 23] studied shallow water waves with the water temperature fluctuations taken into account in the dynamics. The resulting model is an extension of the Saint-Venant system of shallow water equations. The model is hyperbolic system of partial differential equations. This model has now been in the interest of a number of researchers due to its applications [1, 3, 24, 25].

As any other hyperbolic system, the Ripa model is challenging to be solved. The system admits discontinuous solutions even when the initial condition is continuous. Standard numerical methods, such as finite volume method, are generally diffusive at around discontinuities [6, 7]. Smooth regions are easier to be well-solved by standard numerical methods. Some numerical treatments to improve the accuracy of numerical solutions are needed at around rough regions. Therefore a good smoothness indicator is desired to detect the positions where solutions are smooth and where they are rough.

The numerical entropy production (NEP) has been successful as a smoothness indicator for various problems of conservation laws. It performs quite well for gas dynamics [4, 5] and the standard Saint-Venant system [8, 15]. The NEP is promising to be implemented in conservative numerical schemes, as discussed by Puppo [19, 20] as well as Puppo and Semplice [21]. Therefore, in this paper we propose the use of the NEP as a smoothness indicator for solutions to the Ripa model. Numerical tests shall confirm if the NEP gives better indication of the smoothness of
numerical solutions to the Ripa model than a weak local residual formulation of the entropy equation.

The paper is organised as follows. We recall the equations of the Ripa model in Section 2. Numerical methods and results are presented in Section 3 and Section 4 respectively. Some concluding remarks are drawn in Section 5.

2. Ripa model

In this section we recall the Ripa model [22, 23] and its entropy relation following the work of Sánchez-Linares et al. [24].

The Ripa model is an extended system of shallow water equations involving horizontal temperature gradients. In one dimension, the Ripa model takes the form

\[
\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (hu)}{\partial x} = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial (hu)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (hu^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2\theta)}{\partial x} = -gh\theta \frac{dz}{dx},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial (h\theta)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (h\theta u)}{\partial x} = 0.
\]

Here \( h = h(x,t) \) represents the water depth, \( u = u(x,t) \) denotes the velocity, \( z = z(x) \) is the bottom topography function, \( g \) is the acceleration due to gravity, and \( \theta = \theta(x,t) \) represents the potential temperature field. In the Ripa model, \( hu \) is the water discharge and \( \frac{1}{2}gh^2\theta \) is the pressure which is dependent on the water temperature. When \( \theta = 1 \), the Ripa model becomes the one-dimensional shallow water equations [10, 11, 13, 14]. An extension to two dimensions [12, 16] is possible, but is not discussed in this paper.

The Ripa model can be rewritten as a balance law

\[
\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f(q)}{\partial x} = s(q) \frac{dz}{dx}
\]

where the vectors of conserved quantities, fluxes, and sources are respectively given by

\[
q = \begin{bmatrix} h \\ hu \\ h\theta \end{bmatrix}, \quad f(q) = \begin{bmatrix} hu \\ hu^2 + \frac{1}{2}g\theta h^2 \\ h\theta u \end{bmatrix}, \quad s(q) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -g\theta h \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.
\]

As long as \( h\theta > 0 \), the Ripa model is hyperbolic. The Jacobian matrix \( \mathbf{J}(q) = \partial f(q)/\partial q \) of the flux function \( \mathbf{F}(q) \) has three eigenvalues, namely \( u \pm \sqrt{g\theta h} \) and \( u \).

Entropy solutions of the Ripa model must satisfy the entropy inequality

\[
\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \leq 0
\]

in the weak sense for all entropies. When the solution is smooth, the relation (6) is an equation. When the solution is rough (discontinuous), the relation (6) is a strict inequality. We consider the entropy pair

\[
\eta(q) = h \frac{u^2}{2} + \frac{g}{2} h\theta (h + z),
\]

\[
\psi(q) = hu \left( \frac{u^2}{2} + \theta (h + z) \right)
\]

as the entropy function and the entropy flux function.
3. Numerical method

In this section we present a finite volume scheme for the NEP formulation of the Ripa model.

In simulations we carry in this paper, we focus on horizontal topography. A semi-discrete finite volume scheme for the homogeneous Ripa model is

\[ \Delta x_j \frac{d}{dt} Q_j + F(Q_{j+1}) - F(Q_{j-1}, Q_j) = 0 \]  

(9)

where \( F \) is a numerical flux function consistent with the homogeneous Ripa model. Here \( \Delta x_j \) is the cell-width of the \( j \)th cell.

We continue discretising the semi-discrete scheme (9) using the first order Euler method for ordinary differential equations. We obtain the fully-discrete scheme

\[ Q_j^{n+1} = Q_j^n - \lambda_j^n \left( F_{j+\frac{1}{2}}^n - F_{j-\frac{1}{2}}^n \right). \]

(10)

Variable \( \Delta t^n \) represents the time step at the \( n \)th iteration. The notation \( Q_j^n \) is an approximation of the integral averaged exact quantity \( q_j(x, t^n) \) in the \( j \)th cell at the \( n \)th iteration. Here \( \lambda_j^n = \Delta t^n / \Delta x_j \).

In addition \( F_{j+\frac{1}{2}}^n := F(Q_{j+1}^n, Q_j^n) \) and \( F_{j-\frac{1}{2}}^n := F(Q_{j-1}^n, Q_j^n) \) are numerical fluxes of the conserved quantities computed at \( x_{j+1/2} \) and \( x_{j-1/2} \) in such a way that the method is stable.

We consider two numerical flux formulations. The first is the local Lax-Friedrichs flux formulation, which is also known as the Rusanov method (flux). The second is the central-upwind flux formulation. When we solve Ripa problems, either one of these fluxes is used.

When we implement the Rusanov method, we note as follows. The Rusanov flux takes the form

\[ F_{j+\frac{1}{2}}^n = \frac{1}{2} \left[ f(Q_{j+1}^n) + f(Q_j^n) - \alpha_{j+\frac{1}{2}}^n (Q_{j+1}^n - Q_j^n) \right], \]

(11)

and

\[ F_{j-\frac{1}{2}}^n = \frac{1}{2} \left[ f(Q_j^n) + f(Q_{j-1}^n) - \alpha_{j-\frac{1}{2}}^n (Q_j^n - Q_{j-1}^n) \right]. \]

(12)

Here

\[ \alpha_{j+\frac{1}{2}}^n = \max \left\{ \left| u_{j+1}^n + \sqrt{g(h\theta)_{j+1}^n} \right|, \left| u_j^n + \sqrt{g(h\theta)_{j}^n} \right| \right\}, \]

(13)

and

\[ \alpha_{j-\frac{1}{2}}^n = \max \left\{ \left| u_j^n + \sqrt{g(h\theta)_{j}^n} \right|, \left| u_{j-1}^n + \sqrt{g(h\theta)_{j-1}^n} \right| \right\}. \]

(14)

To make the meaning of our notations clearer, we note that \( Q_j^n = [h_j^n (hu)_j^n (h\theta)_j^n]^T \), where \( h_j^n \) is an approximation of the integral averaged water height \( h \) in the \( j \)th cell at the \( n \)th time step. The notations \( (hu)_j^n \) and \( (h\theta)_j^n \) are understood similarly. To compute the NEP, first we store the entropy value \( \eta_j^n = \psi(Q_j^n) \) at the \( n \)th iteration. Then we compute

\[ \eta_j^{n+1} = \eta_j^n - \lambda_j^n \left( \Psi_{j+\frac{1}{2}}^n - \Psi_{j-\frac{1}{2}}^n \right). \]

(15)

The local Lax–Friedrichs flux for the entropy evolution is

\[ \Psi_{j+\frac{1}{2}}^n = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \psi(Q_{j+1}^n) + \psi(Q_j^n) - \alpha_{j+\frac{1}{2}}^n \left[ \eta(Q_{j+1}^n) - \eta(Q_j^n) \right] \right], \]

(16)

and

\[ \Psi_{j-\frac{1}{2}}^n = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \psi(Q_j^n) + \psi(Q_{j-1}^n) - \alpha_{j-\frac{1}{2}}^n \left[ \eta(Q_j^n) - \eta(Q_{j-1}^n) \right] \right]. \]

(17)
The NEP is the local truncation error of the entropy:

$$\text{NEP} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \left| \eta_{j}^{n+1} - \eta(Q_{j}^{n+1}) \right|,$$

(18)

where \(\eta_{j}^{n+1}\) is found from equation (15), and \(\eta(Q_{j}^{n+1})\) is the entropy function value for the quantity \(Q_{j}^{n+1}\) in the \(j\)th cell at the \((n+1)\)th iteration.

When we implement central-upwind fluxes, we note as follows. The central-upwind flux for conserved quantities takes the form

$$F_{n+1}^{j} = \frac{a_{j+1/2}^{+} f(Q_{j}^{n}) - a_{j-1/2}^{-} f(Q_{j+1}^{n})}{a_{j+1/2}^{+} - a_{j-1/2}^{-}} + \frac{a_{j+1/2}^{+} a_{j+1/2}^{-}}{a_{j+1/2}^{+} - a_{j-1/2}^{-}} \left[ Q_{j+1}^{n} - Q_{j}^{n} \right]$$

(19)

and \(F_{n-1/2}^{j}\) is defined similarly. The largest and the smallest eigenvalues of the Jacobian \(\partial f/\partial q\) are [1]:

$$a_{j+1/2}^{+} = \max \left\{ u_{j+1} + \sqrt{g(h\theta)_{j+1}}, \ u_{j} + \sqrt{g(h\theta)_{j}}, \ 0 \right\},$$

(20)

$$a_{j+1/2}^{-} = \max \left\{ u_{j+1} - \sqrt{g(h\theta)_{j+1}}, \ u_{j} - \sqrt{g(h\theta)_{j}}, \ 0 \right\},$$

(21)

in which we have dropped the superscript \(n\). These eigenvalues represent one sided local speeds of propagation in the central-upwind flux (19). Furthermore, the central-upwind flux for the entropy has the form

$$\Psi_{j+1/2}^{n} = \frac{a_{j+1/2}^{+} \psi(Q_{j}^{n}) - a_{j-1/2}^{-} \psi(Q_{j+1}^{n})}{a_{j+1/2}^{+} - a_{j-1/2}^{-}} + \frac{a_{j+1/2}^{+} a_{j+1/2}^{-}}{a_{j+1/2}^{+} - a_{j-1/2}^{-}} \left[ \eta(Q_{j+1}^{n}) - \eta(Q_{j}^{n}) \right].$$

(22)

The numerical scheme for entropy is the same, that is, equation (15). The NEP is computed using the same formula, that is, formula (18).

The time step \(\Delta t\) is taken such that CFL (Courant–Friedrichs–Lewy) condition is satisfied. This means that we must take

$$\Delta t = \text{CFL} \frac{\Delta x}{\lambda_{\text{max}}},$$

(23)

where

$$\lambda_{\text{max}} = \max \left\{ \left| u + \sqrt{g(h\theta)} \right|, \ \left| u - \sqrt{g(h\theta)} \right| \right\},$$

(24)

with CFL \(\leq 1\). That the CFL condition is satisfied is necessary for stability of numerical methods.

4. Numerical results

In this section we present results of two simulation tests. Both tests are dam break over flat bottom. The first and the second tests use coarse and fine grids respectively. The tests are adapted from the paper of Sánchez-Linares et al. [24]. The performance of the NEP for the Ripa model is compared with a smoothness indicator based on the weak local residual of the entropy equation. We take the weak local residual formulated by Constantin and Kurganov [2], and denote by CK (Constantin–Kurganov) their smoothness indicator. We note that a similar weak local residual formulation has been successfully implemented in detecting the standard shallow water equations [18], and we extend the implementation here for the Ripa model.
Figure 1. Comparison results using the Rusanov method with 500 cells at time $t = 0.2$. The first subfigure is the water surface, the second is part of the NEP indicator, and the third is part of the CK weak local residual indicator.

Figure 2. Comparison results using the central-upwind method with 500 cells at time $t = 0.2$. The first subfigure is the water surface, the second is part of the NEP indicator, and the third is part of the CK weak local residual indicator.
Figure 3. Comparison results using the Rusanov method with 5000 cells at time $t = 0.2$. The first subfigure is the water surface, the second is part of the NEP indicator, and the third is part of the CK weak local residual indicator.

Figure 4. Comparison results using the central-upwind method with 5000 cells at time $t = 0.2$. The first subfigure is the water surface, the second is part of the NEP indicator, and the third is part of the CK weak local residual indicator.
We consider the initial condition

\[ q(x, t = 0) = \begin{cases} 
(5, 0, 15)^t & \text{if } x < 0, \\
(1, 0, 5)^t & \text{if } x > 0. 
\end{cases} \]  

We solve the Ripa model on the domain \([-2, 2]\). The acceleration due to gravity is set to be 1. Uniform space discretisation is used. At time \( t > 0 \) we obtain three waves, namely the rarefaction, contact, and shock waves.

For the first test we take uniform space grids with 500 cells with the CFL number is 1. We obtain that both NEP and CK indicators detect where rough regions are. However, NEP is better in this case, as CK is oscillatory at around the contact wave. An implementation of CK indicator for this case may give incorrect action when an adaptive method is used to recover the accuracy at around the contact wave. Representative plots of numerical results are given in Figure 1 for the Rusanov method and Figure 2 for the central-upwind method. These Figures 1 and 2 show the water surface and the smoothness indicators at time \( t = 0.2 \) simulated using the coarse grids (500 cells), where the smoothness indicators are plotted as their absolute values.

For the second test we take finer uniform space grids with 5000 cells with the CFL number is 1. Again both NEP and CK indicators indicate where rough positions are. However the NEP still performs better in this second case. The CK indicator decays very fast at around the contact wave, whereas the NEP is still able to give a clearer indication where the position of the contact wave is. These results are shown in Figure 3 for the Rusanov method and Figure 4 for the central-upwind method. These Figures 3 and 4 show the water surface and the smoothness indicators at time \( t = 0.2 \) simulated using the fine grids (5000 cells), where the smoothness indicators are plotted as their absolute values.

Next we discuss the behaviour of the NEP and CK indicators when the number of cells varies. We consider the same space domain and initial condition as before. We take the mesh ratio \( \Delta t/\Delta x = 0.1 \) and consider an increasing number of cells: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 and 3200. Then we have different values of \( \Delta t \) and \( \Delta x \). We find that the NEP has a stable behaviour and
the value of $\Delta x \cdot \max |NEP|$ is (about) constant. These results are consistent with the results of Puppo and Semplice [21]. We also find that the CK has a stable behaviour and the value of $\max |NEP|/\Delta x$ is (about) constant. This behaviour of CK indicator is a new finding; to the authors' knowledge, this behaviour has not been researched before. Therefore, this CK behaviour is open to research further. These results are obtained from simulations using the Rusanov as well as central-upwind methods. This means that the behaviour of the NEP and CK indicators are independent of the numerical method, as shown in Table 1 and Table 2.

Furthermore we discuss about the performance of the solving methods of the Ripa model. The central-upwind method is less diffusive than the Rusanov method. This is reflected in our simulations. Figure 2 has a sharper shock and a sharper contact wave than those in Figure 1. Furthermore, Figure 4 has a sharper shock and a sharper contact wave than those in Figure 3.

In this paper we have considered horizontal topography. Special numerical treatment is needed to deal with non-horizontal topography cases. To compute the NEP for the case of non-horizontal topography, we need to modify the numerical flux formulations, which can be adapted from the work of Mungkasi [9]. To compute the CK indicator for the case of non-horizontal topography, we need to have a well-balanced computation so that the CK indicator behaves correctly, as researched by Mungkasi and Roberts [17].

5. Conclusions
We have proposed the numerical entropy production as a smoothness indicator for numerical solutions to the one-dimensional Ripa model. Numerical results confirm that the performance of the numerical entropy production is better than that of a weak local residual. This suggests that the numerical entropy production is a good candidate for an adaptive indicator to be used in adaptive numerical methods to solve the Ripa model. For future direction, we will implement the numerical entropy production as the refinement indicator in an adaptive mesh finite volume method.

Acknowledgments
The authors thank the two anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments, which helped us to improve the paper.

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