

Relative Entropy in Compressible Multi-Phase Flows

Motivation

We study compressible liquid-vapor flows described by diffuse interface models. Such a description is computationally advantageous as only one system of PDEs needs to be solved on the whole computational domain. Its solution contains the position of the phase boundary. A disadvantage of this approach is that the associated energy functional is non-convex creating difficulties in analysis and numerics.

Classical stability results for compressible flows are based on the relative entropy [1], requiring convexity of the energy. Higher order 'capillarity' effects in the model at hand allow us to compensate for the non-convex energy and to derive relative entropy based stability results.

Mathematical Setting

We consider a one dimensional model problem

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_t - v_x &= 0 \\ v_t - W'(\tau)_x &= \mu v_{xx} - \gamma \tau_{xxx} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where τ is the specific volume, v is the velocity, $\mu \geq 0$ is the viscosity parameter, $\gamma > 0$ is the capillarity parameter, and W is the energy density given by a (non-convex) constitutive relation. We consider (1) on the flat torus, denoted by \mathbb{T} .

Solutions of (1) satisfy the energy inequality

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{T}} W(\tau) + \frac{1}{2} v^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} (\tau_x)^2 dx = - \int_{\mathbb{T}} \mu (v_x)^2 dx \leq 0. \quad (2)$$

Relative Entropy

The relative entropy between two solutions (τ, v) and $(\bar{\tau}, \bar{v})$ of (1) is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \eta \left(\begin{pmatrix} \tau \\ v \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\tau} \\ \bar{v} \end{pmatrix} \right) &:= \int_{\mathbb{T}} W(\tau) - W(\bar{\tau}) - W'(\bar{\tau})(\tau - \bar{\tau}) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} (v - \bar{v})^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} (\tau_x - \bar{\tau}_x)^2 dx. \end{aligned}$$

The rate of change of relative entropy between any two strong solutions can be controlled. As W is non-convex this is insufficient for controlling the difference between the solutions. Removing the W terms from the relative entropy we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \frac{1}{2} (v - \bar{v})^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} (\tau_x - \bar{\tau}_x)^2 dx \\ \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} (v - \bar{v})(W'(\tau) - W'(\bar{\tau}))_x dx. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Combining Gronwall's and Poincaré's inequalities we obtain:

Lemma: Let (τ, v) , $(\bar{\tau}, \bar{v})$ be solutions of (1) with initial data $\tau_0, \bar{\tau}_0 \in H^3(\mathbb{T})$ and $v_0, \bar{v}_0 \in H^2(\mathbb{T})$ with τ_0 and $\bar{\tau}_0$ having the same mean value. Then, there exists some $C > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tau(t, \cdot) - \bar{\tau}(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2} + \|\tau(t, \cdot) - \bar{\tau}_0(t, \cdot)\|_{H^1} \\ \leq \left(\|v_0 - \bar{v}_0\|_{L^2} + \|\tau_0 - \bar{\tau}_0\|_{H^1} \right) \exp(Ct/\gamma). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Non-Local Model

We consider a family of models in which capillarity is modeled by non-local terms. Its solutions are parametrised in $\varepsilon > 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_t^\varepsilon - v_x^\varepsilon &= 0 \\ v_t^\varepsilon - (W'(\tau^\varepsilon))_x &= \mu v_{xx}^\varepsilon - (\phi_\varepsilon * \tau^\varepsilon - \tau^\varepsilon)_x, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where ϕ is a symmetric, non-negative mollification kernel with compact support satisfying

$$\phi_\varepsilon(\cdot) := \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \phi\left(\frac{\cdot}{\varepsilon}\right), \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}} \phi(s) ds = 1, \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}} \phi(s) s^2 ds = 2\gamma.$$

Solutions of (5) satisfy the energy inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{T}} W(\tau^\varepsilon) + \frac{1}{2} (v^\varepsilon)^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} (\phi_\varepsilon * \tau^\varepsilon - \tau^\varepsilon)^2 dx \\ = - \int_{\mathbb{T}} \mu (v_x^\varepsilon)^2 dx \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Model Convergence

Using semi-group theory we can prove that, provided the initial data are sufficiently regular, (1) and (5) have strong solutions for arbitrarily long times. Using a modified relative entropy analogous to (3) we can prove:

Theorem: Let $T, \mu, \gamma > 0$ be given. Let (τ, v) and $(\tau^\varepsilon, v^\varepsilon)$ be solutions to (1) and (5), respectively, with identical initial data in $H^3(\mathbb{T}) \times H^2(\mathbb{T})$. Then, the following estimate holds uniformly for all $t \in (0, T)$:

$$\|\tau^\varepsilon(t, \cdot) - \tau(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2} + \|v^\varepsilon(t, \cdot) - v(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{1/4}),$$

i.e., solutions of (5) converge to solutions of (1) for $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

References

- [1] C. M. Dafermos. The second law of thermodynamics and stability. *Arch. Rational Mech. Anal.*, 70(2):167–179, 1979.
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 - Compressible Multi-Phase Flows
 - Hyperbolic Conservation Laws