ANTI-DIFFUSIVE FINITE DIFFERENCE WENO METHODS FOR
SHALLOW WATER WITH TRANSPORT OF POLLUTANT

Zhengfu Xu
(Department of Mathematics, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA)
Chi-Wang Shu
(Division of Applied Mathematics, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912, USA)

Dedicated to the 70th birthday of Professor Lin Qun

Abstract

In this paper we further explore and apply our recent anti-diffusive flux corrected high
order finite difference WENO schemes for conservation laws [18] to compute the Saint-
Venant system of shallow water equations with pollutant propagation, which is described
by a transport equation. The motivation is that the high order anti-diffusive WENO
scheme for conservation laws produces sharp resolution of contact discontinuities while
keeping high order accuracy for the approximation in the smooth region of the solution.
The application of the anti-diffusive high order WENO scheme to the Saint-Venant system
of shallow water equations with transport of pollutant achieves high resolution

Key words: Anti-diffusive flux correction, Sharpening contact discontinuity, High order ac-
ccuracy, Finite difference WENO scheme, Saint-Venant system of shallow water, Transport
of pollutant.

1. Introduction

In this paper, we are interested in computing the transport of a passive pollutant in the
flow modeled by the Saint-Venant system, given in the one dimensional case by

\[
\begin{aligned}
    h_t + (hu)_x &= S \\
    (hu)_t + (hu^2 + \frac{gh}{2})_x &= -ghB_x
\end{aligned}
\]  

(1.1)

which is introduced in [16] and regularly used as a simplified model to describe shallow water
flows. Here \( h \) is the depth, \( u \) is the velocity of water, \( g \) is the gravity constant, \( S \) is the
pollutant source term, and \( B(x) \) is the bottom topography. We are interested in locating the
exact position and the correct concentration of the pollutant which is decided by a transport
equation

\[
(hT)_t + (uhT)_x = T_xS
\]  

(1.2)

where \( T \) is the pollutant concentration, and \( T_x \) is the concentration of the pollutant at the
source. This model is used for the computation in [3] with a finite-volume particle (FVP)
method. The FVP method is a hybrid method as a combination of two methods. For the
shallow water equation (1.1), the finite volume method is used, and for the transport equation (1.2), the particle method is deployed. In [3], the authors also applied filters on the FVP method to smooth out the oscillations introduced by a combination of two different mechanisms.

The equation (1.2), which describes the transport of pollutant, is a linear equation for the variable $h_T$ for a given velocity $u$, thus the solution involving the pollutant will contain a contact discontinuity when initially $h_T$ is discontinuous. To locate the exact location and concentration of the pollutant, we need to resolve well the contact discontinuity in the solution, which is a difficult task as contact discontinuities, unlike shocks, are easily smeared by a shock capturing numerical method. There have been a lot of efforts in the literature to overcome the problem of the smearing of contact discontinuities. We refer, e.g., to [5, 6, 19] and the references therein.

Recently, Desprès and Lagoutière [4] proposed a new approach called limited downwind scheme, much akin to a class of flux limiters by Sweby [17], to prevent the smearing of contact discontinuities while keeping nonlinear stability. Their scheme is identical with the Superbee scheme developed by Roe [11] in the case of linear advection. By introducing an anti-diffusive flux, it gives remarkably sharp profiles of contact discontinuities in both one dimensional scalar and system cases. More importantly, they observe numerically and prove theoretically that their scheme adopts a class of moving traveling wave solutions exactly. This has an important implication that the smearing of contact discontinuities will not be progressively more severe for longer time, but will be stabilized for all time. A later paper by Bouchut [1] further modifies this scheme to satisfy entropy conditions and also gives a simple explicit formula for this limited downwind anti-diffusive flux.

In [18], we generalized the downwind flux correction idea to two dimensions and we developed a class of anti-diffusive high order finite difference WENO schemes to resolve contact discontinuities for conservation law equations. By going to high order accuracy, we were able to remove the unpleasant stairs in smooth regions when a first order anti-diffusive scheme is used. Ample numerical results in [18] indicate that our scheme can resolve well the contact discontinuities and at the same time maintains the stability and accuracy of regular high order WENO schemes for shocks and smooth structures of the solution. In this paper, we would like to further explore and apply the high order anti-diffusive finite difference WENO schemes in [18] to solve the equations (1.1) and (1.2) as a system, with the objective of obtaining sharp resolution of the contact discontinuities of the pollutant propagation.

High order finite difference WENO schemes in [9] were developed based on the successful ENO schemes [7, 14, 15] and third order finite volume WENO schemes [10], and have been quite successful in computational fluid dynamics and other applications. They are especially suitable for problems containing both shocks and complicated smooth flow features. For more details, we refer to the lecture notes [12] and the survey paper [13], and the references therein.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we briefly review the techniques developed and applied in [18] for the conservation law equation

\[ u_t + f(u)_x = 0 \]

with the assumption $f'(u) > 0$, for simplicity. The scheme for the other case $f'(u) < 0$ can be

2. Flux Corrections for High Order Finite Difference WENO Schemes for Conservation Laws

In this section, we briefly review the techniques developed and applied in [18] for the conservation law equation

\[ u_t + f(u)_x = 0 \]

(2.1)