# THE NONCONVEX MULTI-DIMENSIONAL RIEMANN PROBLEM FOR HAMILTON-JACOBI EQUATIONS* 

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#### Abstract

Simple inequalities are presented for the viscosity solution of a Hamilton-Jacobi equation in $N$ space dimension when neither the initial data nor the Hamiltonian need be convex (or concave). The initial data are uniformly Lipschitz and can be written as the sum of a convex function in a group of variables and a concave function in the remaining variables, therefore including the nonconvex Riemann problem. The inequalities become equalities wherever a "maxmin" equals a "minmax" and thus a representation formula for this problem is then obtained, generalizing the classical Hopf's formulas.


Key words. Hamilton-Jacobi equations, viscosity solutions, Riemann problem, Godunov's scheme, Hopf's representation formulas

AMS(MOS) subject classifications. 35L99, 35L65, 65M15, 65M10

1. Introduction. We are concerned with viscosity solutions (see Crandall and Lions [3], Crandall, Evans, and Lions [2], Lions [12]) to the following partial differential equation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi_{t}+H\left(D_{x} \varphi\right)=0 \quad \text { in } \mathbb{R}^{N} \times(0, \infty), \tag{H-J}
\end{equation*}
$$

satisfying the initial data

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi(x, 0)=\varphi_{0}(x) \quad \text { in } \mathbb{R}^{N}, \tag{IC}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $H \in C\left(\mathbb{R}^{N}\right), D_{x} \varphi=\left(\varphi_{x_{1}}, \cdots, \varphi_{x_{N}}\right)$ is the spatial gradient of $\varphi$, and $\varphi_{0}$ is at least uniformly continuous. This Cauchy problem has, for any $T>0$, a unique viscosity solution $\varphi(x, t)$ in the space $U C_{x}\left(\mathbb{R}^{N} \times[0, T]\right)$ of the continuous functions which are uniformly continuous in $x \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$ uniformly in $t \in[0, T]$, see Ishii [10] or Crandall and Lions [5].

We are interested in giving explicit pointwise upper and lower bounds for the solution, providing in some cases a representation formula for $\varphi$, for some special initial data but without extra assumptions on the Hamiltonian $H$.

Some general representation formulas for viscosity solutions of Cauchy problems for Hamilton-Jacobi equations are due to Evans [6] and Evans and Souganidis [7]. However, they either involve an infinite number of max-min operations over $\mathbb{R}^{N}$ [6], or a single max-min operation over infinite-dimensional sets of "controls" and "strategies" [7]. Two simpler formulas solving almost everywhere (H-J)(IC), one dual of the other, were derived by Hopf [9] for two special cases. The first one holds for convex Hamiltonians and general (Lipschitz) initial data, and it is well known in the theory of conservation laws in the case $N=1$ (it is often called the Lax formula). It was shown to give the viscosity solution to the problem by Lions [12], Evans [6], Bardi and Evans [1], with different proofs and slightly different assumptions. The second

[^0]Hopf's formula is valid for general Hamiltonians and convex or concave (Lipschitz) initial data $\varphi_{0}$, and it is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi(x, t)=\sup _{v \in \mathbb{R}^{N}}\left\{x \cdot v-\varphi_{0}^{*}(v)-t H(v)\right\} \tag{1.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

for $\varphi_{0}$ convex, and

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi(x, t)=\inf _{v \in \mathbb{R}^{N}}\left\{x \cdot v-\varphi_{0}^{*}(-v)-t H(v)\right\} \tag{1.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

for $\varphi_{0}$ concave, where $\varphi_{0}^{*}$ is the Legendre transform (or Fenchel conjugate) of $\varphi_{0}$, that is

$$
\varphi_{0}^{*}(v):=\sup _{\mathrm{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathrm{N}}}\left\{\mathrm{x} \cdot \mathrm{v}-\varphi_{0}(\mathrm{x})\right\} \leqq+\infty
$$

for $\varphi_{0}$ convex, while for $\varphi_{0}$ concave it is

$$
\varphi_{0}^{*}(v):=-\left(-\varphi_{0}\right)^{*}(v)=\inf _{x \in \mathbb{R}^{N}}\left\{-x \cdot v-\varphi_{0}(x)\right\} \geqq-\infty .
$$

Osher [14] rederived for the viscosity solution of (H-J) the special case of formula (1.1) occurring when the initial data are of Riemann type (and convex), i.e., they are piecewise affine with one jump in the derivative across a plane. Bardi and Evans [1] showed the connection between Osher's formulas for convex Riemann data and Hopf's formulas, and proved that (1.1) and (1.2) give the viscosity solution of (H-J)(IC) in the general case. Lions and Rochet [13] gave a different proof under slightly more general assumptions.

We are now going to describe our main result. Let $j$ be an integer, $0 \leqq j \leqq N$, and for any $v \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$ set

$$
v=\left(v_{A}, v_{B}\right), \quad v_{A}:=\left(v_{1}, \cdots, v_{j}\right) \in \mathbb{R}^{j}, \quad v_{B}:=\left(v_{j+1}, \cdots, v_{N}\right) \in \mathbb{R}^{N-j} .
$$

Theorem 1. Assume $H \in C\left(\mathbb{R}^{N}\right), \varphi_{1}: \mathbb{R}^{j} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ uniformly Lipschitz and convex, $\varphi_{2}: \mathbb{R}^{N-j} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ uniformly Lipschitz and concave. Then the unique viscosity solution $\varphi \in$ $U C_{x}\left(\mathbb{R}^{N} \times[0, T]\right)$ of (H-J) taking on the initial data

$$
\varphi(x, 0)=\varphi_{1}\left(x_{A}\right)+\varphi_{2}\left(x_{B}\right)
$$

satisfies for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$ and $t \geqq 0$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sup _{v_{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{j}} \inf _{v_{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-j}} G(v, x, t) \leqq \varphi(x, t) \leqq \inf _{v_{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-j}} \sup _{v_{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{j}} G(v, x, t), \tag{1.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
G(v, x, t):=x \cdot v-\varphi_{1}^{*}\left(v_{A}\right)-\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(-v_{B}\right)-t H(v) .
$$

Note that the pointwise estimate (1.3) gives a representation formula for the solution whenever the first and last terms are equal (as they are for $t=0$ ). A trivial case where this occurs is for $j=N$ or $j=0$, because (1.3) reduces to Hopf's formulas (1.1) or (1.2). A more interesting case occurs when the Hamiltonian separates the variables $v_{A}$ and $v_{B}$, that is,

$$
H(v)=H_{1}\left(v_{A}\right)+H_{2}\left(v_{B}\right) .
$$

In this case we get

$$
\varphi(x, t)=\sup _{v_{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{j}}\left\{x_{A} \cdot v_{A}-\varphi_{1}^{*}\left(v_{A}\right)-t H_{1}\left(v_{A}\right)\right\}+\inf _{v_{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-j}}\left\{x_{B} \cdot v_{B}-\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(-v_{B}\right)-t H_{2}\left(v_{B}\right)\right\},
$$

which is the superposition of the solutions to the problems

$$
\varphi_{t}+H_{i}\left(D_{x} \varphi\right)=0, \quad \varphi(\cdot, 0)=\varphi_{i}
$$

for $i=1,2$.
Next we specialize formula (1.3) to a particular class of (Riemann) initial data. Let $A, u_{i}^{+}, u_{i}^{-}$be constants and define

$$
u_{i}(x):= \begin{cases}u_{i}^{+} & \text {if } x_{i}>0 \\ u_{i}^{-} & \text {if } x_{i}<0\end{cases}
$$

for $i=1, \cdots, N$. Then take

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi_{0}(x)=A+\sum_{i=1}^{N} x_{i} u_{i}(x)=A+x \cdot u(x) \tag{1.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

These data correspond to a Riemann problem for the system of conservation laws satisfied (formally) by the spatial gradient of $\varphi$; see Remark 2.2. Let, for $i=1, \cdots, N$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \Omega_{i}:=\left\{s \mid \min \left(u_{i}^{+}, u_{i}^{-}\right) \leqq s \leqq \max \left(u_{i}^{+}, u_{i}^{-}\right)\right\}, \\
& \chi_{i}:=\operatorname{sign}\left(u_{i}^{+}-u_{i}^{-}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

and reorder the indices, without loss of generality, so that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\chi_{i}=1 \quad \text { for } i=1, \cdots, j ; \quad \chi_{i}=-1 \quad \text { for } i=j+1, \cdots, N \tag{1.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

$(0 \leqq j \leqq N)$. Finally set

$$
\Omega_{A}:=\Omega_{1} \times \cdots \times \Omega_{j} ; \quad \Omega_{B}:=\Omega_{j+1} \times \cdots \times \Omega_{N} ; \quad \Omega:=\Omega_{A} \times \Omega_{B} .
$$

Corollary 2. The viscosity solution to (H-J)(IC) with the initial data given by (1.4) under the convention (1.5) satisfies

$$
\begin{equation*}
A+\max _{v_{A} \in \Omega_{A}} \min _{v_{B} \in \Omega_{B}}\{x \cdot v-t H(v)\} \leqq \varphi(x, t) \leqq A+\min _{v_{B} \in \Omega_{B}} \max _{v_{A} \in \Omega_{A}}\{x \cdot v-t H(v)\} . \tag{1.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In § 2, as motivation, we show how formula (1.6) was first (formally) derived in connection with numerical approximation schemes for Hamilton-Jacobi equations and for conservation laws. In § 3 we give the proofs of Theorem 1 and Corollary 2, which are quite different from the previous derivation, and rather simple, in that they make use only of Hopf's formulas (1.1), (1.2) and a comparison argument.
2. A derivation of (1.6) by means of Godunov's Hamiltonians. The purpose of this section is to motivate Corollary 2 and to explain its connection with approximation schemes for (H-J). The rigorous proofs will be given in § 3 . We assume that the solutions of ( $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{J}$ ) have the following properties:
(P1) The solution $\varphi(x, t)$ is a nondecreasing function of the initial data.
(P2) The partial derivatives $\varphi_{x_{i}}$ satisfy a maximum principle at points of continuity, i.e., for $i=1, \cdots, N$ :

$$
\min \left(u_{i}^{-}, u_{i}^{+}\right) \leqq \varphi_{x_{i}} \leqq \max \left(u_{i}^{-}, u_{i}^{+}\right) .
$$

(P3) The speed of propagation is finite.
(P4) If $\psi\left(x_{2}, \cdots, x_{N}, t\right)$ is a viscosity solution of

$$
\psi_{t}+H\left(v_{1}, \psi_{x_{2}}, \cdots, \psi_{x_{N}}\right)=0
$$

for a constant $v_{1}$ then

$$
\varphi(x, t)=v_{1} x_{1}+\psi\left(x_{2}, \cdots, x_{N}, t\right)
$$

is a viscosity solution to ( $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{J}$ ).

It is easy to see formally that the solution to the Cauchy problem (H-J)(IC), with

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi(x, t)=\operatorname{tg}\left(\frac{x}{t}\right)+A=\operatorname{tg}(\zeta)+A \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $g$ satisfies:

$$
\begin{equation*}
g=\zeta \cdot D_{\xi} g-H\left(D_{\zeta} g\right) \tag{2.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

whenever $D_{\zeta} g$ is continuous.
In (H-J), we let $\tau=t, y_{i}=x_{i}-\zeta_{i} t$ for $\zeta$ fixed. (H-J) becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi_{\tau}+H\left(D_{y} \varphi\right)-\zeta D_{y} \varphi=\varphi_{\tau}+H^{1}\left(D_{y} \varphi\right)=0 \quad\left(\text { defining } H^{1}\left(D_{y} \varphi\right)\right) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

with the same initial data (1.4).
Thus, by (2.2), to evaluate $g(\zeta)$ we need only evaluate $-H^{1}\left(D_{y}(g(y))\right)$ at $y=0$ for any $t>0$. From (P2) above we know that ( $\left.D_{y} g\right)_{y=0}$ lies in $\Omega$ for $t>0$. Moreover, if we integrate $(\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{J})^{1}$ from $\tau=0$ to $\tau=\Delta t$ we have

$$
\begin{align*}
\varphi(0, \Delta t)= & A-\Delta t H^{1}\left(\left(D_{y} g\right)_{y=0}\right) \\
= & \varphi_{0}(0)-\Delta t \tilde{H}^{1}\left(D_{+}^{x_{1}} \varphi_{0}(0), D_{-}^{x_{1}} \varphi_{0}(0) ; D_{+}^{x_{2}} \varphi_{0}(0), D_{-}^{x_{2}} \varphi_{0}(0) ; \cdots\right.  \tag{2.3}\\
& \left.\quad \cdots ; D_{+}^{x_{N}} \varphi_{0}(0), D_{-}^{x_{N}} \varphi_{0}(0)\right) .
\end{align*}
$$

Here

$$
\begin{equation*}
D_{ \pm}^{x_{i}} \varphi_{0}(0)= \pm \frac{\left(\varphi_{0}\left( \pm h e_{i}\right)-\varphi_{0}(0)\right)}{h}=u_{i}^{ \pm} \tag{2.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $e_{i}=\{0,0, \cdots, 1,0, \cdots\}$, the $i$ th unit vector, and $\tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-} ; u_{2}^{+}, u_{2}^{-} ; \cdots\right.$; $u_{N}^{+}, u_{N}^{-}$) is determined by (2.3).

This formula can be interpreted as a numerical algorithm. Suppose we are given a grid

$$
x_{j_{i}}^{i}=j_{i} h, \quad i=1, \cdots, N ; \quad j_{i}=0, \pm 1, \cdots
$$

and values of a discrete function $\psi_{j}=\psi_{j_{1} j_{2} \cdots j_{N}}$. Then for each $j$, we construct the piecewise affine function which, in each of the $2^{N}$ orthants centered at $j$, interpolates $\psi_{j}$ and its $N$ nearest neighbors, $\psi_{j \pm e_{i}}$ for $i=1, \cdots, N$. From (P3), if
(CFL)

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\Delta t}{h} \max _{\substack{v \in \Omega^{j(j)} \\ i=1, \cdots, N}}\left|H_{u_{i}}^{1}\right| \leqq \frac{1}{N^{1 / 2}}, \tag{2.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\Omega^{(j)}$ is the same as $\Omega$ with each $u_{i}^{-}, u_{i}^{+}$replaced by $D_{-}^{x_{i}} \psi_{j}, D_{+}^{x_{i}} \psi_{j}$, then the solution to the initial value problem ( $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{J}^{1}$ ) with the above affine initial data in the diamond centered at $j$ when evaluated at $x=x_{j}$ and $t=\Delta t$ is independent of the values of the initial data outside of this diamond.

Thus (2.3) (with $\varphi_{0}(0)$ replaced by $\psi_{j}^{n}$ and $\varphi(0, \Delta t)$ by $\psi_{j}^{n+1}$ ), gives us a monotone finite difference scheme approximating ( $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{J}^{1}$ ) which is in differenced form with numerical Hamiltonian $\tilde{H}^{1}$. These concepts were introduced in [4]. The scheme is monotone, which means that the right side of (2.3) is an increasing function of all the $\varphi_{j \pm e_{i}}$, because of property (P1). The function $\tilde{H}^{1}$ is called Godunov's Hamiltonian by analogy with the definition of Godunov's scheme for conservation laws in one space dimension [8]. The scheme is consistent, which means

$$
\tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}, u_{1} ; u_{2}, u_{2} ; \cdots ; u_{N}, u_{N}\right)=H^{1}\left(u_{1}, u_{2}, \cdots, u_{N}\right)
$$

Monotonicity implies that

$$
\tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-} ; u_{2}^{+}, u_{2}^{-} ; \cdots ; u_{N}^{+}, u_{N}^{-}\right)
$$

is a nonincreasing function of all the $u_{i}^{+}$and a nondecreasing function of all the $u_{i}$. In particular, for $N=1$, this means for any $v_{1} \in \Omega=\Omega_{1}$ :

$$
\begin{align*}
& \operatorname{sgn}\left(u_{1}^{+}-u_{1}^{-}\right)\left[\tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-}\right)-H^{1}\left(v_{1}\right)\right]=\operatorname{sgn}\left(u_{1}^{+}-v_{1}\right)\left[\tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-}\right)-\tilde{H}^{1}\left(v_{1}, u_{1}^{-}\right)\right] \\
&+\operatorname{sgn}\left(v_{1}-u_{1}^{-}\right)\left[\tilde{H}^{1}\left(v_{1}, u_{1}^{-}\right)-\tilde{H}^{1}\left(v_{1}, v_{1}\right)\right] \tag{2.6}
\end{align*}
$$

$$
\leqq 0 .
$$

But, by (P2), $\tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-}\right)=H^{1}\left(\tilde{u}_{1}\right)$ for some $\tilde{u}_{1}$ in $\Omega$. Thus we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-}\right)=\chi_{1} \min _{v_{1} \in \Omega_{1}} \chi_{1} H^{1}\left(v_{1}\right) . \tag{2.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

(This formula was obtained earlier in [14].) Now we proceed inductively. Suppose, for $N \leqq M-1$, we have

$$
\begin{align*}
& \max _{v_{j+1} \in \Omega_{j+1}} \cdots \max _{v_{N} \in \Omega_{N}} \min _{v_{1} \in \Omega_{1}} \cdots \min _{v_{j} \in \Omega_{j}} H^{1}\left(v_{1}, v_{2}, \cdots, v_{N}\right) \\
& \quad \leqq \tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-} ; u_{2}^{+}, u_{2}^{-} ; \cdots ; u_{N}^{+}, u_{N}^{-}\right)  \tag{2.8}\\
& \quad \leqq \min _{v_{1} \in \Omega_{1}} \cdots \min _{v_{j} \in \Omega_{j}} \max _{v_{j+1} \in \Omega_{j+1}} \cdots \max _{v_{N} \in \Omega_{N}} H^{1}\left(v_{1}, v_{2}, \cdots, v_{N}\right),
\end{align*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\chi_{i}=1, & i=1, \cdots, j, \\
\chi_{i}=-1, & i=j+1, \cdots, N .
\end{array}
$$

Next we have, $N=M$ and for any $v_{1} \in \Omega_{1}$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\chi_{1}\left[\tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-} ; u_{2}^{+}, u_{2}^{-} ; \cdots ; u_{M}^{+}, u_{M}^{-}\right)-\tilde{H}^{1}\left(v_{1}, v_{1} ; u_{2}^{+}, u_{2}^{-} ; \cdots ; u_{M}^{+}, u_{M}^{-}\right)\right] \leqq 0 \tag{2.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

using the same argument as in (2.6).
Now, for any fixed $v_{1}, \tilde{H}^{1}\left(v_{1}, v_{1} ; u_{2}^{+} u_{2}^{-}, \cdots ; u_{M}^{+}, u_{M}^{-}\right)$is Godunov's Hamiltonian when the initial data for ( $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{J}^{1}$ ) has a constant $x_{1}$ derivative,

$$
\frac{\partial \varphi_{0}}{\partial x_{1}}(x) \equiv v_{1} .
$$

Then it follows from (P4) that

$$
g\left(\frac{x}{t}\right)=\frac{x_{1}}{t} v_{1}+\tilde{g}\left(\frac{x_{2}}{t}, \frac{x_{3}}{t}, \cdots, \frac{x_{M}}{t}\right)
$$

(where $\tilde{g}$ also depends on $v_{1}$ ).
By the induction hypothesis, this means we have

$$
\begin{align*}
\chi_{1} \tilde{H}^{1} & \left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-} ; u_{2}^{+}, u_{2}^{-} ; \cdots ; u_{M}^{+}, u_{M}^{-}\right) \\
& \leqq \chi_{1} \tilde{H}^{1}\left(v_{1}, v_{1} ; u_{2}^{+}, u_{2}^{-} ; \cdots ; u_{M}^{+}, u_{M}^{-}\right) \\
& =-\chi_{1} \tilde{g}(0,0, \cdots, 0)  \tag{2.10}\\
& \leqq \chi_{1} \chi_{2} \min _{v_{2} \in \Omega_{2}} \chi_{2} \cdots \chi_{M} \min _{v_{M} \in \Omega_{M}} \chi_{M} H^{1}\left(v_{1}, v_{2} \cdots v_{M}\right) \\
& =\chi_{1} H^{1}\left(v_{1}, \tilde{v}_{2}, \cdots, \tilde{v}_{M}\right)
\end{align*}
$$

where the extrema is taken on at $\tilde{v}_{2}, \cdots, \tilde{v}_{M}$, which depends on $v_{1}$. The vector $\left(v_{1}, \tilde{v}_{2}, \cdots, \tilde{v}_{N}\right) \in \Omega_{1}$, where $v_{1} \in \Omega_{1}$ is arbitrary. We next take $\min _{v_{1}}$ of the expression in (2.10). If all the $\chi_{i} \equiv 1$ or all the $\chi_{i} \equiv-1$ we have equality by (P2). Otherwise, $\chi_{i} \equiv 1$, $1 \leqq i \leqq j, \chi_{i} \equiv-1, j+1 \leqq i \leqq M$, and we have the right-hand inequality in (2.8). Next we have, for any $v_{j+1} \in \Omega_{j+1}$, following the argument above:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-} ; u_{2}^{+}, u_{2}^{-} ; \cdots ; u_{M}^{+}, u_{M}^{-}\right) \\
& \quad \geqq \tilde{H}^{1}\left(u_{1}^{+}, u_{1}^{-} ; \cdots ; v_{j+1} ; \cdots ; u_{M}^{+}, u_{M}^{-}\right) \\
& \quad \geqq \chi_{j+2} \min _{v_{j+2} \in \Omega_{j+2}} \chi_{j+2} \cdots \chi_{M} \min _{v_{M} \in \Omega_{M}} \chi_{M} \chi_{1} \min _{v_{1} \in \Omega_{1}} \chi_{1} \cdots \chi_{j}  \tag{2.11}\\
& \quad \quad \min _{v_{j} \in \Omega_{j}} \chi_{j} H^{1}\left(v_{1}, v_{2}, \cdots, v_{M}\right) .
\end{align*}
$$

We next take the $\max _{v_{j+1}}$ of the expression in (P4) which gives us the left-hand inequality in (2.8).

We have now obtained formula (2.8) for any $N$; using (2.1) and (2.2) gives us our intuitive derivation of (1.6).

Remark 2.1. We note that (2.8) validates the conjecture about Godunov's Hamiltonian in [15] when the inequalities in (2.10) and (2.11) become equalities. That paper also discusses the high-order accurate nonoscillatory numerical solution of ( $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{J}$ ) in some detail. See also [16] for a further discussion of these issues.

Remark 2.2. If we take the space gradient of (H-J) and call $u_{1}=\varphi_{x_{1}}, u_{2}=\varphi_{x_{2}}$, etc., we arrive at the system of conservation laws

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(u_{i}\right)_{t}+\frac{\partial}{\partial_{x_{i}}} H\left(u_{1}, \cdots, u_{N}\right)=0, \quad i=1, \cdots, N \tag{2.12}
\end{equation*}
$$

with initial data:

$$
u_{i}(x, 0)=\left\{\begin{array}{ll}
u_{i}^{+} & \text {if } x_{i}>0 \\
u_{i}^{-} & \text {if } x_{i}<0,
\end{array} \quad i=1, \cdots, N .\right.
$$

Thus (1.6) gives us information about the solution to this special Riemann problem for a special system of conservation laws.

## 3. Proofs.

Proof of Theorem 1. Since $\varphi_{2}$ can be written as the Legendre transform of its Legendre transform

$$
\varphi_{2}\left(x_{B}\right)=\inf _{v_{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N}}\left\{-x_{B} \cdot v_{B}-\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(v_{B}\right)\right\},
$$

we will first solve (H-J) with the initial data

$$
\begin{equation*}
\psi_{0}\left(v_{B}, x\right)=\varphi_{1}\left(x_{A}\right)-x_{B} \cdot v_{B}-\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(v_{B}\right), \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

and then take the infimum as $v_{B}$ varies in $\mathbb{R}^{N-j}$. Since the initial data $\psi_{0}$ are convex in $x$ for each choice of $v_{B}$, we can write Hopf's formula for the solution $\psi\left(v_{B}, x, t\right)$ of ( $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{J}$ ) plus

$$
\psi\left(v_{B}, x, 0\right)=\psi_{0}\left(v_{B}, x\right) \quad \text { for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^{N}
$$

To do this we compute the Legendre transform with respect to $x$ of $\psi_{0}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
\psi_{0}^{*}\left(v_{B}, y\right) & =\sup _{x \in \mathbb{R}^{N}}\left\{x_{A} \cdot y_{A}+x_{B} \cdot\left(y_{B}+v_{B}\right)-\varphi_{1}\left(x_{A}\right)+\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(v_{B}\right)\right\} \\
& = \begin{cases}+\infty & \text { if } y_{B} \neq-v_{B}, \\
\varphi_{1}^{*}\left(y_{A}\right)+\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(v_{B}\right) & \text { if } y_{B}=-v_{B},\end{cases}
\end{aligned}
$$

and then apply (1.1) to get

$$
\begin{aligned}
\psi\left(v_{B}, x, t\right) & =\sup _{y_{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{j}}\left\{x_{A} \cdot y_{A}-x_{B} \cdot v_{B}-\varphi_{1}^{*}\left(y_{A}\right)-\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(v_{B}\right)-t H\left(y_{A},-v_{B}\right)\right\} \\
& =\sup _{v_{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{j}} G(-v, x, t) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Since $\psi\left(v_{B}, \cdot, \cdot\right) \in U C_{x}\left(\mathbb{R}^{N} \times[0, T]\right)$ for all $v_{B}$ and $\psi\left(v_{B}, x, 0\right) \geqq \varphi(x, 0)$, a standard comparison theorem for unbounded viscosity solutions [10], [5] gives

$$
\psi\left(v_{B}, x, t\right) \geqq \varphi(x, t) \quad \text { for all }(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^{N} \times[0, T], \quad v_{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-j}
$$

Then

$$
\inf _{v_{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-j}} \sup _{v_{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{j}} G(v, x, t)=\inf _{v_{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-j}} \psi\left(v_{B}, x, t\right) \geqq \varphi(x, t),
$$

which is the second inequality in (1.3).
The first inequality is proved in a similar way. We apply Hopf's formula (1.2) to compute the solution $\psi\left(v_{A}, x, t\right)$ of (H-J) with the concave initial condition

$$
\psi\left(v_{A}, x, 0\right)=\varphi_{2}\left(x_{B}\right)+x_{A} \cdot v_{A}-\varphi_{1}^{*}\left(v_{A}\right) \leqq \varphi(x, 0) .
$$

Since

$$
\psi^{*}\left(v_{A}, y, 0\right)= \begin{cases}-\infty & \text { if } y_{A} \neq-v_{A} \\ \varphi_{1}^{*}\left(v_{A}\right)+\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(y_{B}\right) & \text { if } y_{A}=-v_{B}\end{cases}
$$

we get

$$
\psi\left(v_{A}, x, t\right)=\inf _{v_{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-j}} G(v, x, t)
$$

and, as before, we conclude by means of a comparison theorem.
Remark 3.1. The first and the third member of (1.3) coincide with $\varphi$ at $t=0$, but in general it is not clear whether they are continuous. However, they are anyway respectively a subsolution and a supersolution of (H-J) in the generalized viscosity sense of Ishii [11]. This follows from Proposition 2.4 in [11], because they are, respectively, a supremum and an infimum of solutions of (H-J).

Proof of Corollary 2. We set

$$
\varphi_{1}\left(x_{A}\right)=A+x_{A} \cdot u\left(x_{A}\right), \quad \varphi_{2}\left(x_{B}\right)=x_{B} \cdot u\left(x_{B}\right),
$$

and compute the Legendre transforms

$$
\begin{aligned}
\varphi_{1}^{*}\left(v_{A}\right) & =-A+\sup _{x_{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{j}} x_{A} \cdot\left(v_{A}-u\left(x_{A}\right)\right) \\
& =\left\{\begin{array}{lll}
+\infty & \text { if } v_{i}>u_{i}^{+} \text {or } v_{i}<u_{i}^{-} & \text {for some } 1 \leqq i \leqq j, \\
-A & \text { if } u_{i}^{-} \leqq v_{i} \leqq u_{i}^{+} & \text {for all } i=1, \cdots, j
\end{array}\right. \\
& =\left\{\begin{array}{lll}
+\infty & \text { if } v_{A} \notin \Omega_{A}, \\
-A & \text { if } v_{A} \in \Omega_{A} ;
\end{array}\right. \\
\varphi_{2}^{*}\left(-v_{B}\right) & =\left\{\begin{array}{lll}
-\infty & \text { if } v_{B} \notin \Omega_{B}, \\
0 & \text { if } v_{B} \in \Omega_{B} ;
\end{array}\right.
\end{aligned}
$$

which substituted in (1.3) give immediately (1.6).

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[^0]:    * Received by the editors January 30, 1989; accepted for publication February 6, 1990.
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