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# FREEZE-OUT AND THE FAILURE OF RICHTMYER'S PRESCRIPTION

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In the standard Richtmyer-Meshkov<sup>1,2</sup> (RM) instability perturbations at a shocked interface grow after the passage of a shock. Freeze-out refers to the phenomenon whereby the perturbations do not grow, i.e., freeze-out, after the passage of a shock. This is fairly straightforward, at least theoretically (no experiments have been done so far) in a doubly shocked system: The first shock induces a growth which can be completely neutralized by a second shock, provided that the direction and the strength and timing of the second shock are properly chosen (see ref. 3). This type of double-shock freeze-out occurs in compressible as well as incompressible fluids, and is easy to understand.

Somewhat more subtle is single-shock freeze-out; in our pursuit of this phenomenon we found that in certain cases Richtmyer's prescription fails to give the correct growth rate.

Fig. 1 shows the system and our notation: An incident shock moves at speed  $W_i$  from fluid A into fluid B having densities  $\rho_A$  and  $\rho_B$  and specific heat ratios  $\gamma_A$  and  $\gamma_B$  respectively. The interface between A and B has a sinusoidal perturbation of wavelength  $\lambda$  and initial amplitude  $\eta_0 \equiv \eta_{\text{before}}$ . After the shock strikes the interface the perturbation  $\eta(t)$  grows linearly in time at a rate given by

$$\frac{\dot{\eta}}{\eta_0 \Delta v k} = \text{NGR} = A_{\text{effective}} \quad (1)$$

where  $\Delta v$  is the jump velocity of the interface ( $\Delta v = u_1 - u_2$  in Fig. 1),  $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ , and NGR stands for Normalized Growth rate, a dimensionless quantity. Eq. (1) is limited to the linear regime, i.e.,  $\eta k \ll 1$ , the regime considered by Richtmyer.

The question is: What is  $A_{\text{effective}}$ ? For incompressible fluids

$$A_{\text{effective}} = A_{\text{before}} = \frac{\rho_B - \rho_A}{\rho_B + \rho_A}. \quad (2)$$

Of course  $A_{\text{before}} = A_{\text{after}}$  and  $\eta_{\text{before}} = \eta_{\text{after}}$  for incompressible fluids, i.e., the Atwood number as well as the amplitude immediately after the shock are the same as before the shock: There is no compression. In this case freeze-out becomes completely trivial: the NGR in Eq. (1) vanishes if and only if  $\rho_B = \rho_A$ , i.e., for identical fluids. The same is true for the Rayleigh-Taylor instability also.

The situation is not so trivial for compressible fluids: One can have  $\rho_A = \rho_B$  with  $\gamma_A \neq \gamma_B$ . In fact Richtmyer's prescription for  $A_{\text{effective}}$  is:

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\text{effective}} &= A_{\text{after}} \times \text{Compression Factor} \\ &= \left( \frac{\rho_1 - \rho_2}{\rho_1 + \rho_2} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta v}{W_i} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

which he gave on the basis of three numerical examples.<sup>1</sup> His prescription was to use  $A_{\text{after}} \eta_{\text{after}}$  instead of  $A_{\text{before}} \eta_{\text{before}}$  in the classical incompressible result  $\eta = \Delta v k A \eta_0$  which he had obtained first by treating the shock as an instantaneous acceleration. In Eq. (3)  $A_{\text{after}} = (\rho_1 - \rho_2) / (\rho_1 + \rho_2)$  and the compression factor is  $\eta_{\text{after}} / \eta_0 = 1 - \Delta v / W_i$ .

Therefore, we should expect freeze-out **not** when  $A_{\text{before}} = 0$  (incompressible result), but when  $A_{\text{after}} = 0$ , according to Richtmyer's prescription. This is easy to achieve if fluid A is highly compressible (following Richtmyer we are considering cases where  $\rho_A < \rho_B$ ): a highly compressible low density fluid can be shocked to a density equal to or greater than the density of a less compressible fluid even though the latter is initially more dense. Referring to Fig. 1, one can start with  $\rho_A < \rho_B$  yet achieve  $\rho_1 = \rho_2$  (freeze-out) or even  $\rho_2 > \rho_1$  (Atwood number reversal) provided that fluid A is much more compressible than B.

An example with  $\gamma_A = 1.1$  and  $\gamma_B = 5/3$  is shown in Fig. 2 where we plot  $A_{\text{after}}$  and the compression factor as functions of  $\epsilon$  for various initial Atwood numbers:  $A_{\text{before}} = 0.0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75$ , and  $0.95$ . Here  $\epsilon$  is a measure of shock strength,

$$\epsilon = 1 - \frac{p_0}{p_3},$$

related to the Mach number of the shock via

$$M_s = \sqrt{1 + \frac{\gamma_A + 1}{2\gamma_A} \left( \frac{\epsilon}{1 - \epsilon} \right)}.$$

Clearly, for  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  the compression factor  $\rightarrow 1$  and  $A_{\text{after}} \rightarrow A_{\text{before}}$ . As  $\epsilon$  increases  $A_{\text{after}}$  decreases because fluid A compresses more than fluid B and  $A_{\text{after}}$ , in some cases, passes through zero and is indeed negative at higher  $\epsilon$ . The compression factor is always positive, as seen in Fig. 2b. If we concentrate on the case  $A_{\text{before}} = 0.5$ , we see from Fig. 2a that  $A_{\text{after}} \leq 0$  for  $\epsilon \geq 0.87$ . Therefore according to Richtmyer's prescription, Eq. (3), we should have freeze-out ( $\eta = 0$ ) at  $\epsilon = 0.87$ , and phase reversal ( $\eta < 0$ ) at higher  $\epsilon$ .

Direct numerical simulations, however, do not confirm this behaviour. In Figs. 3 and 4 we show the cases  $\epsilon = 0.87$  and  $\epsilon = 0.95$  respectively. Clearly, there is no freeze-out in Fig. 3 nor phase reversal in Fig. 4. The time scale, microseconds, in these figures follow from setting  $\rho_0 = \rho_{\text{atmosphere}}$  and  $p_0 = p_{\text{atmosphere}}$ , while the dimensions, centimeters, follow those of the CalTech shock-tube.<sup>4</sup> We should point out, however, that such strong shocks cannot be generated at the CalTech shock-tube.

These and other examples given in ref. 5 show that Richtmyer's prescription fails in certain cases. The cause of this failure is not clear, and we emphasize that it is not the strength of the shock. In fact the examples which Richtmyer considered were strong shock problems, and they all agree with his prescription, which we also verified. An example of a weak shock,  $\epsilon = 0.4$ , which does not agree with Richtmyer's prescription is given in ref. 5. For weak shocks his prescription can be written explicitly as

$$A_{\text{effective}} = A_{\text{before}} + \varepsilon F/\gamma_A + \text{terms of order } \varepsilon^2 + \dots \quad (4)$$

where

$$F = 2 \left[ 1 - R + 2 \frac{R(R-y^2)}{y(R+1)} \right] (R+1)^{-1} (y+1)^{-1}, \quad (5)$$

with the definitions  $R \equiv \rho_B/\rho_A$  and  $y \equiv (R\gamma_B/\gamma_A)^{1/2}$ .

In contrast, we found that an analysis of the RM problem given by Fraley<sup>6</sup> agreed with our simulations. Richtmyer's prescription and Fraley's analysis both give the correct limit,  $A_{\text{effective}} \rightarrow A_{\text{before}}$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , i.e., they both reproduce the expected leading term  $A_{\text{before}}$  in the expansion given in Eq. (4). The next term, however, is different; Fraley's expression for  $F$ , after correcting a misprint, is<sup>6</sup>

$$F = \left[ (y-1)^2 + 4 \frac{R^2+y^2}{y(R+1)} - 2R-2y \right] (R+1)^{-1} (y+1)^{-1} \quad (6)$$

to be compared with Eq. (5).

Two cases naturally come to mind in comparing Eq. (5) with Eq. (6): When  $\gamma_A = \gamma_B$ , Eq. (5) gives

$$F(\gamma_A = \gamma_B) = -2(\sqrt{R} - 1)/(R+1) \quad (7a)$$

while Eq. (6) gives

$$F(\gamma_A = \gamma_B) = -(\sqrt{R} - 1)/(R+1), \quad (7b)$$

i.e., half of Eq. (7a). One must remember, however, that  $F$  is the coefficient of the  $\varepsilon/\gamma_A$  term in Eq. (4) for small  $\varepsilon$  and therefore can be easily masked if the leading term  $A_{\text{before}}$  is large.

The second case is  $A_{\text{before}} = 0$ , i.e.,  $R = 1$ , for which Eq. (5) gives

$$F(\rho_A = \rho_B) = -1 + \frac{1}{y} \quad (8a)$$

while Eq. (6) gives

$$F(\rho_A = \rho_B) = \left( -1 + \frac{1}{y} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{y}{2} \right). \quad (8b)$$

Note that for  $y = 2$  Eq. (8a) gives -0.5 while Eq. (8b) gives 0. Since the leading term  $A_{\text{before}} = 0$ , we conclude that  $A_{\text{effective}}$  is negative according to Richtmyer's prescription while it is zero according to Fraley's analysis. Examples of this type are reported in ref. 5 where we did find freeze-out ( $\eta = 0$ ) for a case with  $A_{\text{before}} = 0$  but  $A_{\text{after}} \neq 0$ .

In summary, we found a case of freeze-out which, according to Richtmyer's prescription, should not have been there:  $\eta=0$  while  $A_{\text{after}} \neq 0$ . Conversely, freeze-out cases expected from Richtmyer's prescription, i.e.,  $A_{\text{after}}=0$ , did not exhibit freeze-out, an example of which is Fig. 3. Nor did the case of Atwood number reversal, Fig. 4, exhibit phase reversal. This lack of correlation between the sign of  $A_{\text{after}}$  and the sign of  $\eta$  is, we believe, definite proof that Richtmyer's prescription fails in certain cases. We should add that Fraley's analysis passed these tests, correctly showing where freeze-out should occur and where it should not. Equally if not more important is the fact that Richtmyer's prescription gives an accurate result in many cases, in particular for previous experiments, physical or numerical, starting of course with Richtmyer's own numerical experiments. There are 4 free variables in the RM problem:  $\rho_A/\rho_B$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\gamma_A$  and  $\gamma_B$ . Unfortunately we have no simple recipe for finding where in this 4-dimensional space Richtmyer's prescription is guaranteed to work. The combination of high Atwood numbers, weak shocks and high  $\gamma$ 's appears to be a safe bet.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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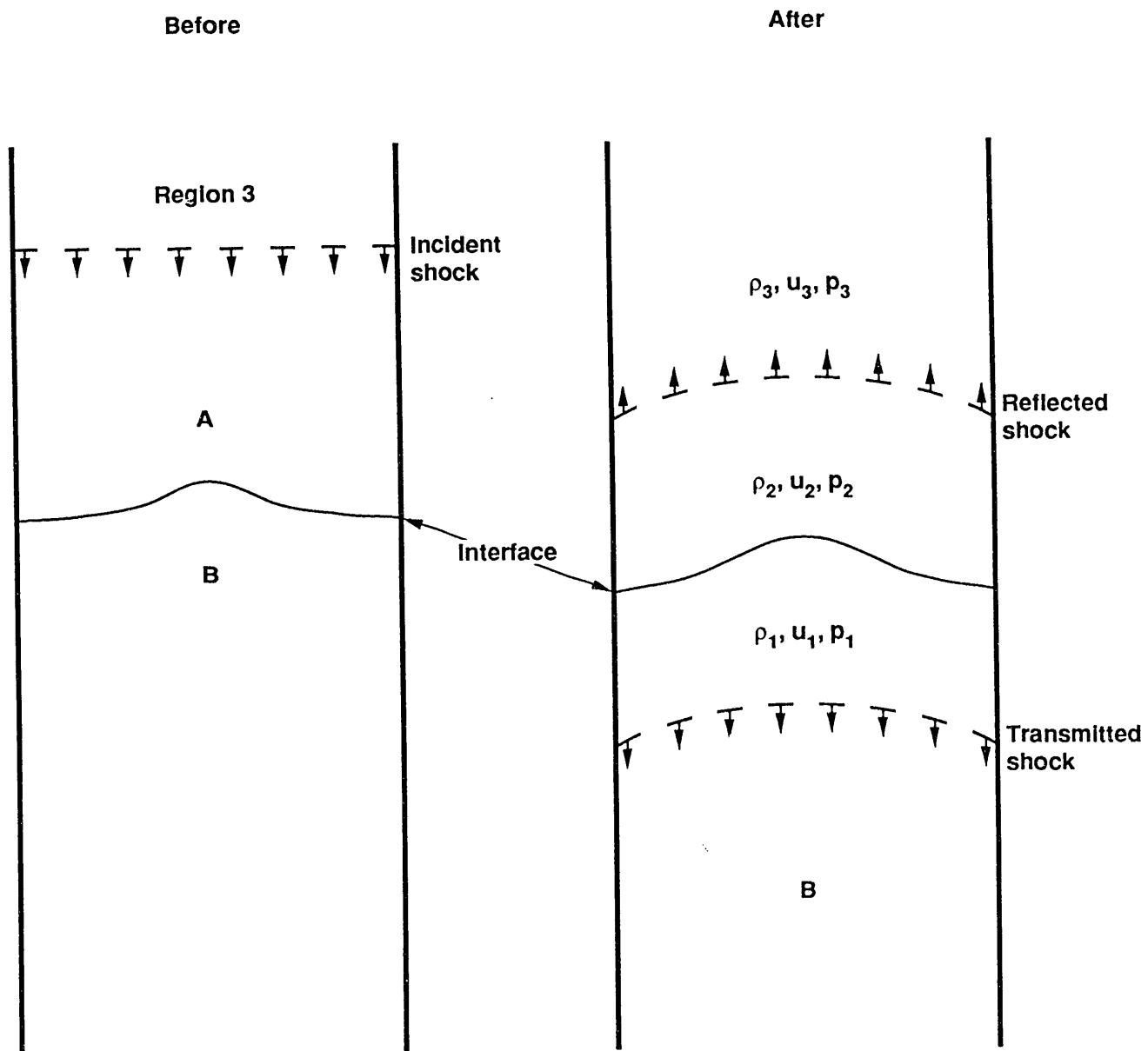


Fig. 1

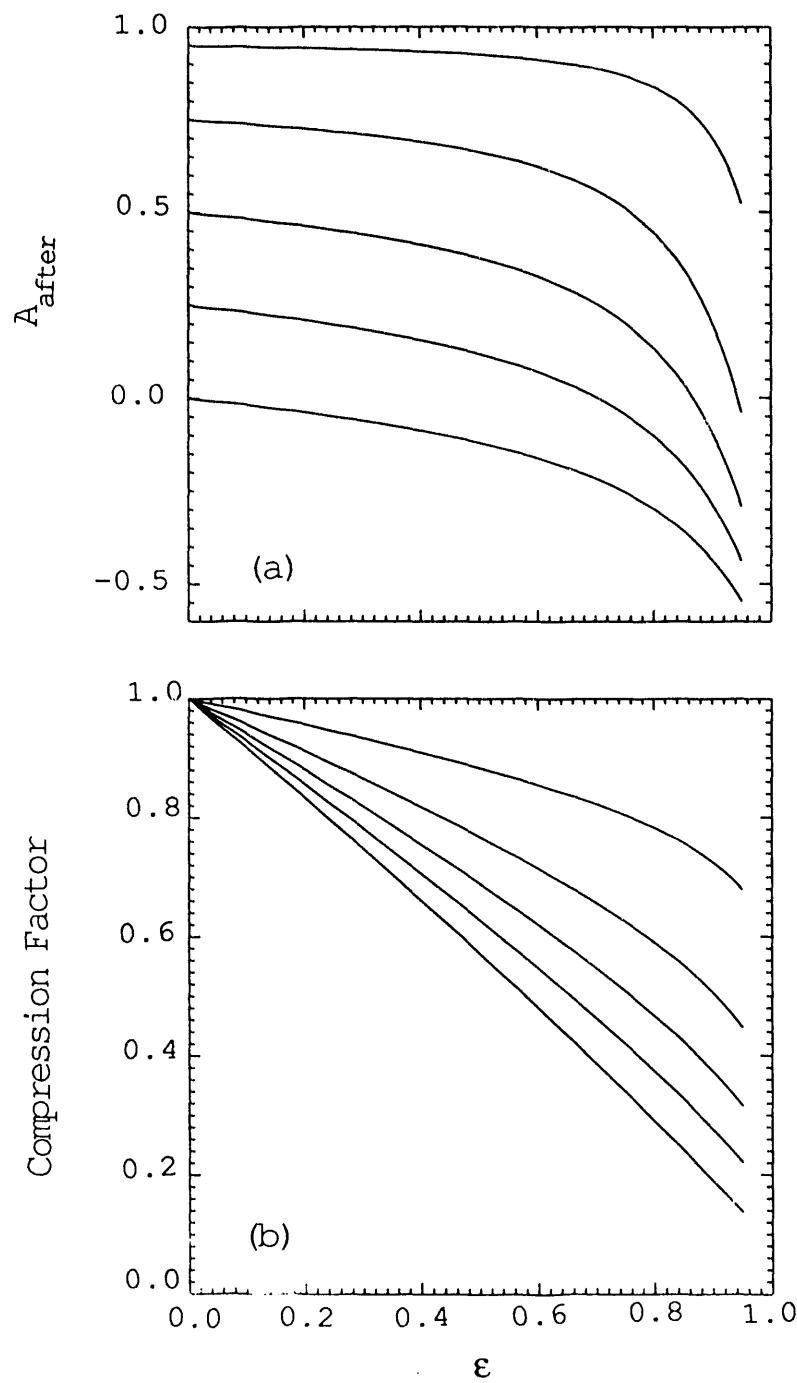


Fig. 2

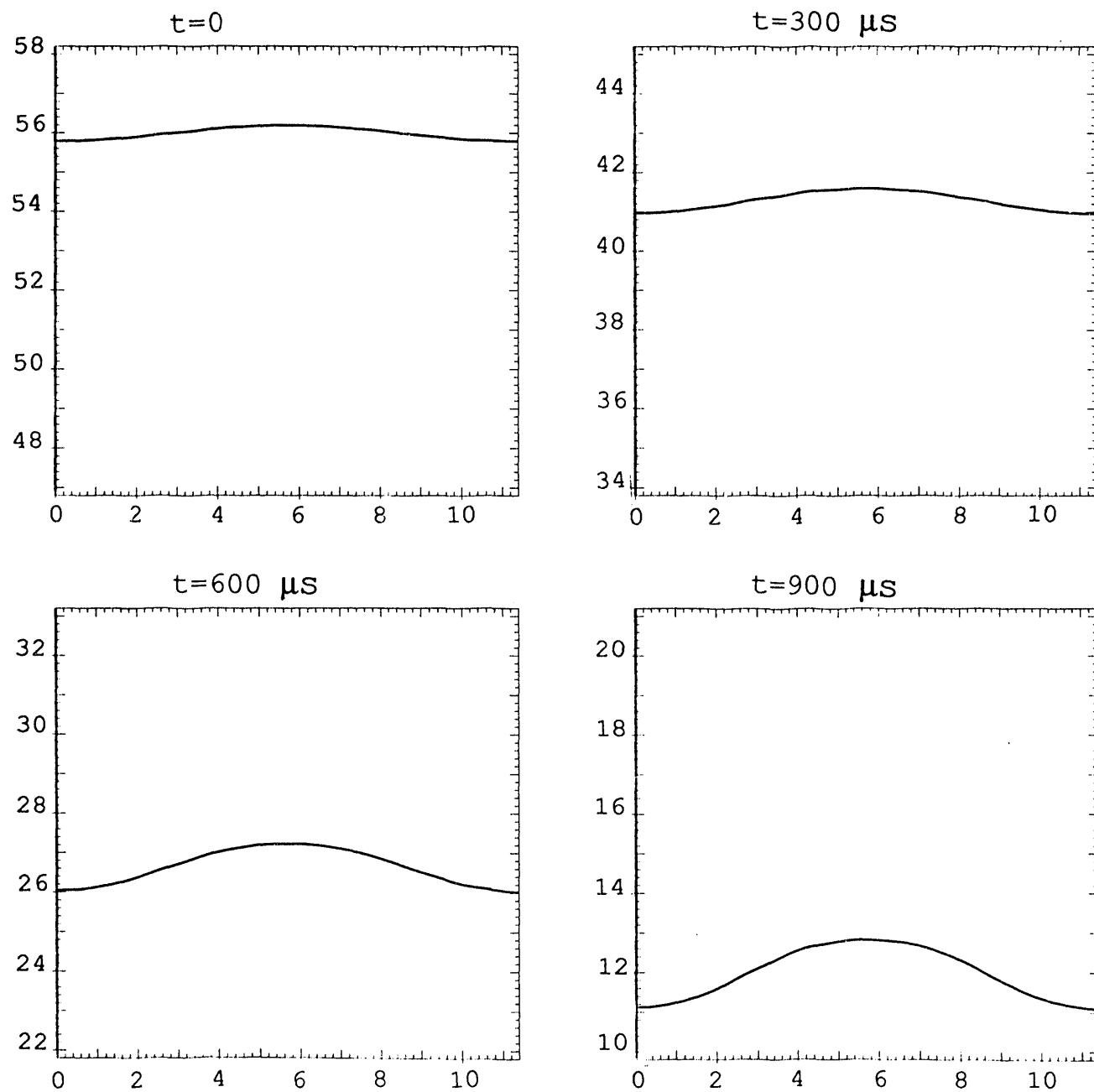


Fig. 3

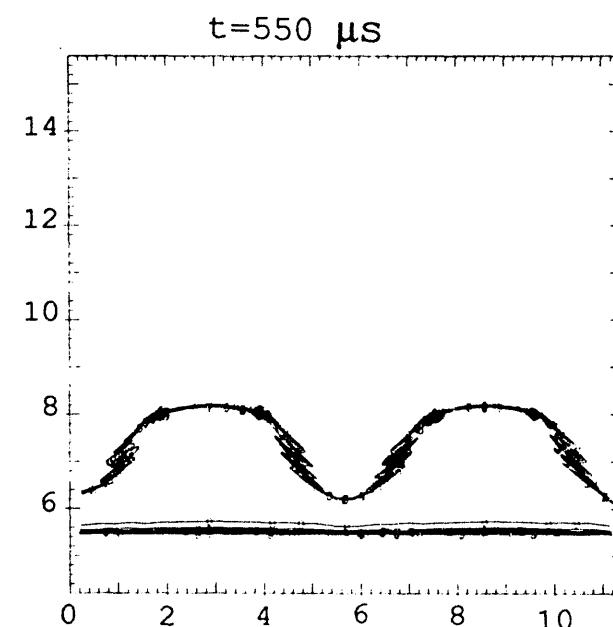
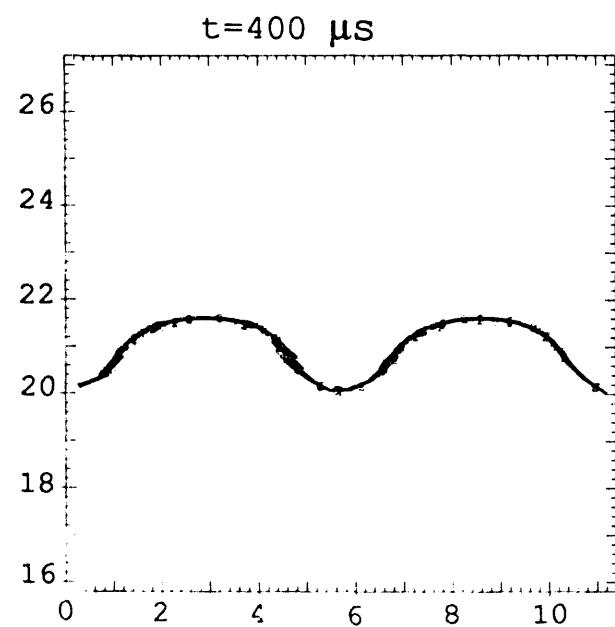
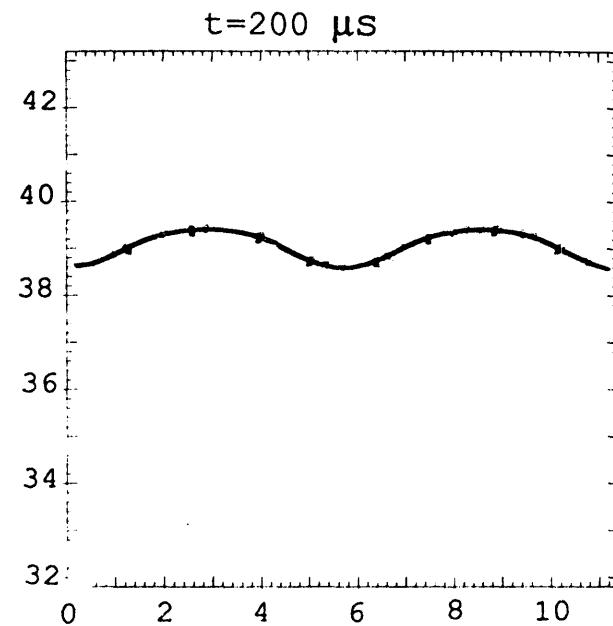
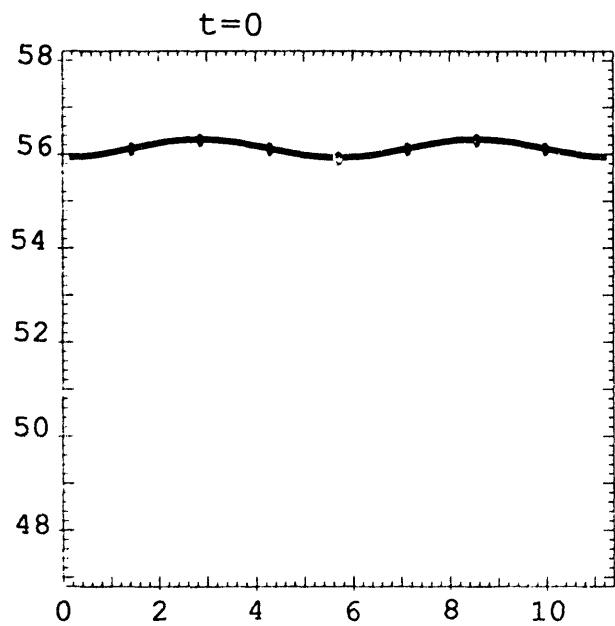


Fig. 4

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