



Simulation numérique de l'équation de Richards : une stratégie de Galerkin discontinue adaptative pour des applications exigeantes

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Context

Groundwater dynamics in sedimentary beaches controls various processes:

- Exchanges of fresh/salt water between ocean and coastal aquifers
- Diffusion of dissolved materials (nutrients, pollutants)
- Biogeochemical cycles
- Sediment transport

Relevant questions in the context of global warming (sea level rise) and coastal urbanization:

- **Sandy beaches** represent around 33% of coastline
- **Erosion** affects around 25% of sandy beaches
- Important benefits (tourism and ecosystem services)

[Luijendijk et al. 2018](#), [Vousdoukas et al. 2020](#)



Waikiki beach, Hawaii



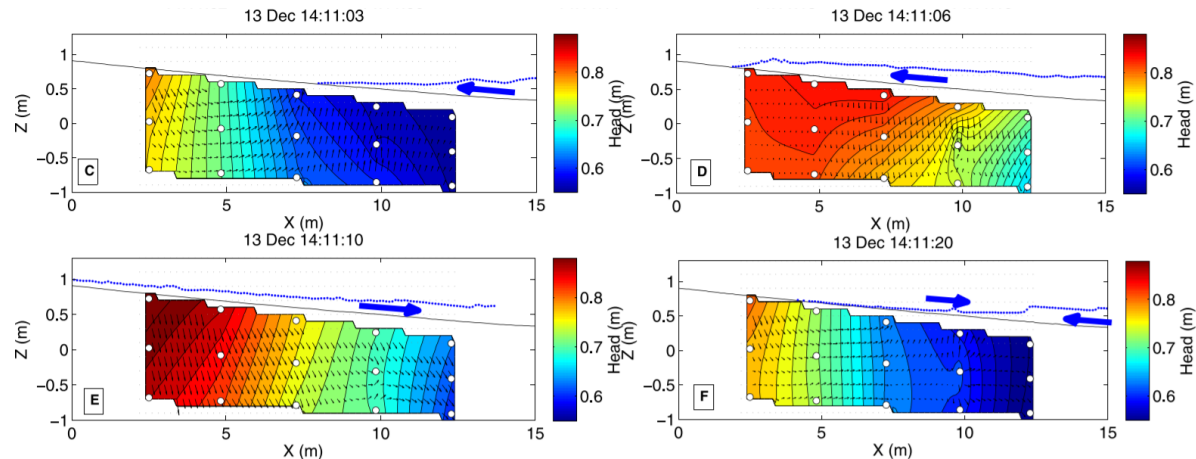
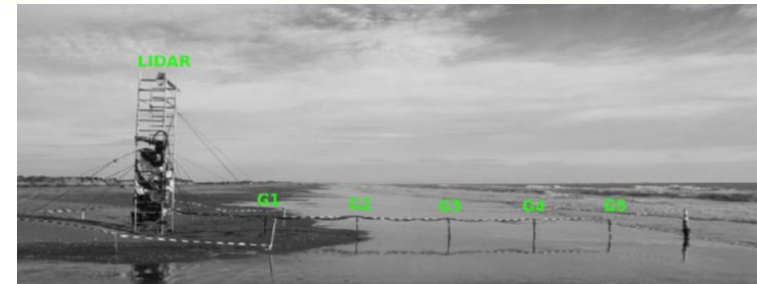
Daytona beach, Florida



Motivations

Modelling starting point:

- Recent but **good experimental understanding**
Steenhauer *et al.* 2016, Turner *et al.* 2016, Heiss *et al.* 2015
- Experimental limitations** and **few models** Li *et al.* 2002, Malott *et al.* 2016



Experiment in Rousty beach, France, [Sous *et al.* 2016, 2017](#)

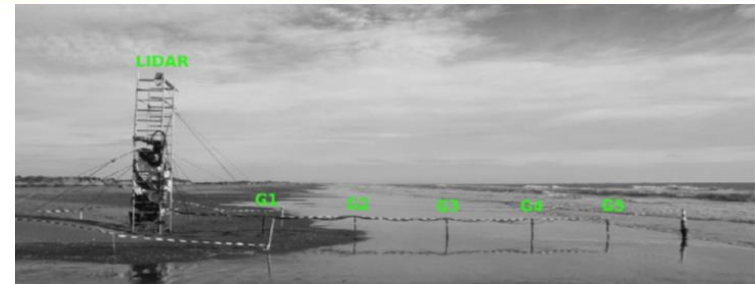
Velocity magnitudes are between 10^{-4} and 10^{-6} m/s



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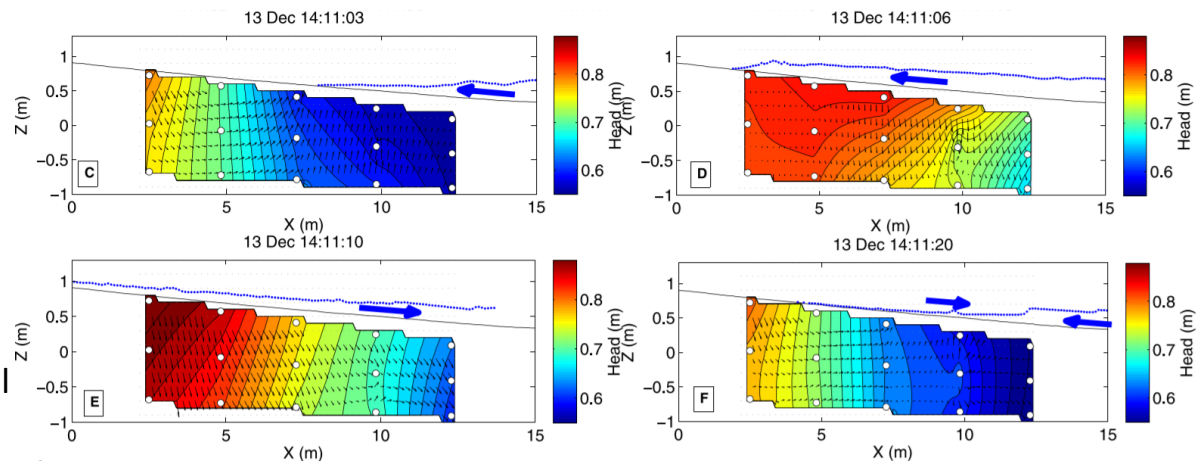
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Numerical starting point:

- 3D hyperbolic solver for wave propagation and wave breaking
- Saint-Venant + bifluid Euler + Serre-Green-Naghdi + FSI
- Coupling, interface sharpening, etc
- Unstructured finite volume (MUSL, Riemann solver, Godunov scheme)
- 2nd order RK, Adams-Bashforth, local time stepping
- Block-based adaptive mesh refinement
- Domain decomposition, parallel computing

[Ersoy et al. 2013](#), [Golay et al. 2015](#)



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Li and Raichlen experiment

Yasuda test-case



Outline

I. Modelling

- Richards' equation
- Derivation
- Hydraulic properties
- Seepage
- Challenges and solving strategy

III. Adaptation

- Adaptive mesh refinement (AMR)
- *A posteriori* error estimates
- Weighted discontinuous Galerkin (WDG) methods

II. Numerical methods

- Discontinuous Galerkin (DG) methods
- Backward differentiation formula (BDF) methods
- Linearization

IV. Numerical results

- Polmann's test-case
- Tracy's benchmark
- Simulation of La Verne dam wetting
- Simulations for BARDEX II

Conclusion

- Summary
- Perspectives



Modelling

- Richards' equation
- Derivation
- Hydraulic properties
- Seepage
- Challenges and solving strategy



Richards' equation

Richards' equation is a classic **nonlinear parabolic** equation to describe flow in variably-saturated porous media Richardson 1922, Richards 1931

$$\partial_t(\theta(\psi)) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbb{K}(\psi) \nabla(\psi + z)) = 0$$

Mixed form of Richards' equation:

- Pressure head ψ (m)
- Water content θ

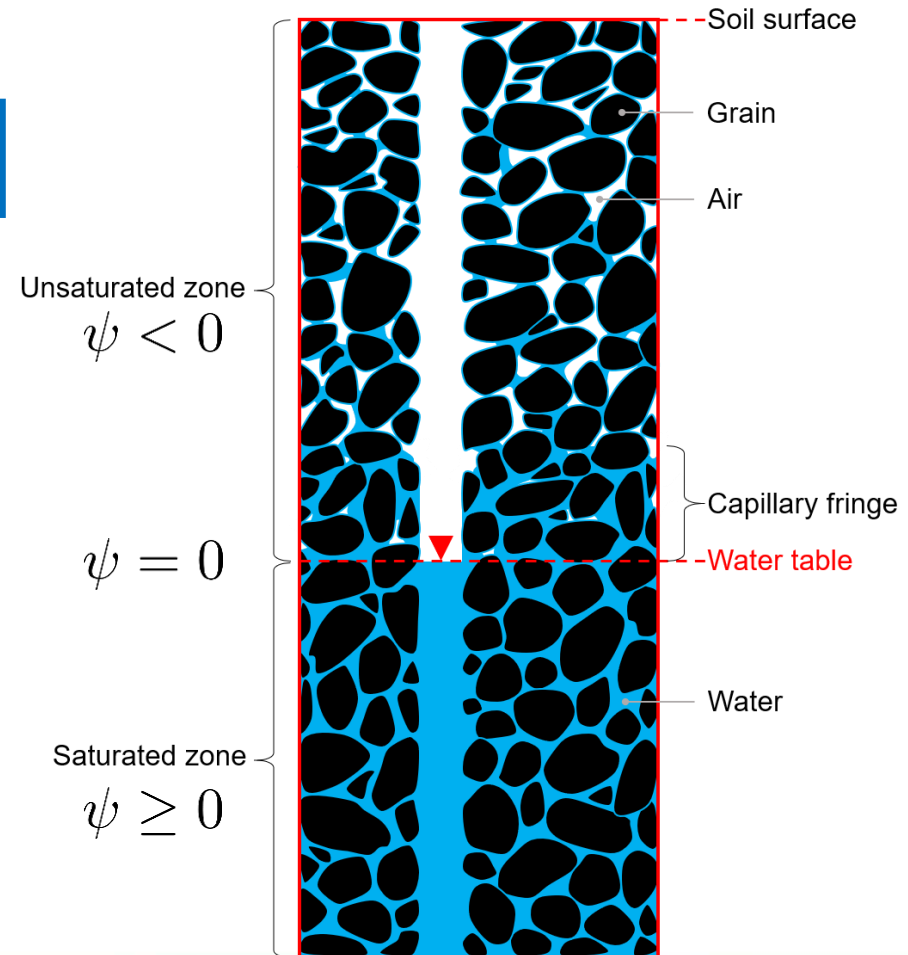
Elevation z (m)

Hydraulic conductivity tensor \mathbb{K} (m/s)

Hydraulic head $h = \psi + z$ (m)

Darcy flux $\mathbf{q} = -\mathbb{K}(\psi) \nabla h$ (m/s)

Farthing and Ogden 2017, Zha *et al.* 2019





Modelling assumptions

Mass conservation principle applied on a two-phase flow in porous medium:

- Flux modelled by empiric observations [Darcy 1851](#), [Buckingham 1907](#)
- Theoretical derivations of flux are possible but problem-dependant (homogenization, volume averaging)

$$\alpha \in \{\text{air; water}\}, \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t(\rho_\alpha \Phi S_\alpha) + \nabla \cdot (\rho_\alpha \mathbf{q}_\alpha) = 0 \\ \mathbf{q}_\alpha = -\frac{\mathbb{k}(S_\alpha)}{\mu_\alpha} \nabla(p_\alpha + \rho_\alpha g z) \end{cases}$$

ρ_α density [$\text{M} \cdot \text{L}^{-3}$]

S_α saturation

μ_α dynamic viscosity [$\text{M} \cdot \text{L}^{-1} \cdot \text{T}^{-1}$]

\mathbf{q}_α Darcy velocity [$\text{M} \cdot \text{T}^{-1}$]

t time [T]

Φ porosity

p_α pressure [$\text{M} \cdot \text{L}^{-1} \cdot \text{T}^{-2}$]

\mathbb{k}_α tensor of permeability [L^2]

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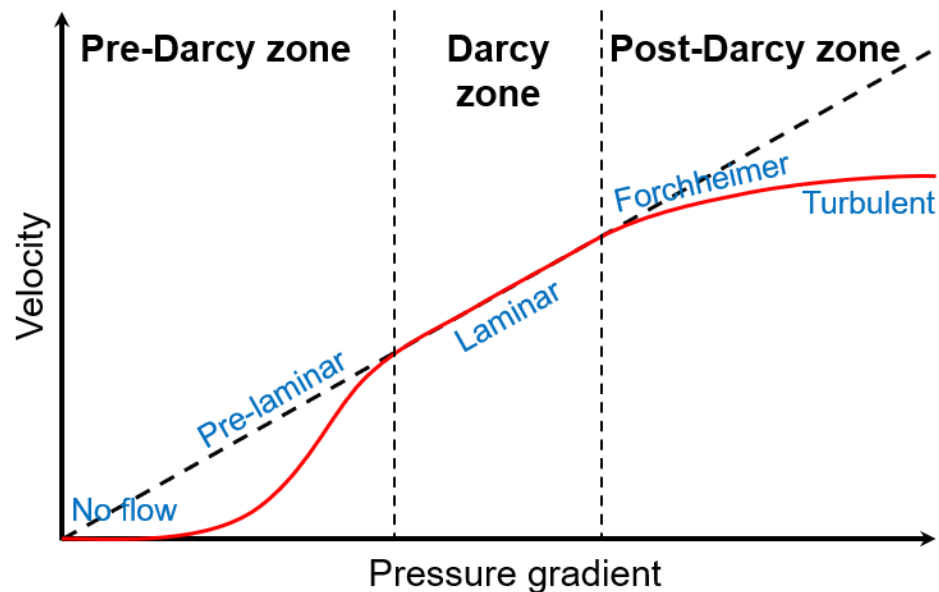
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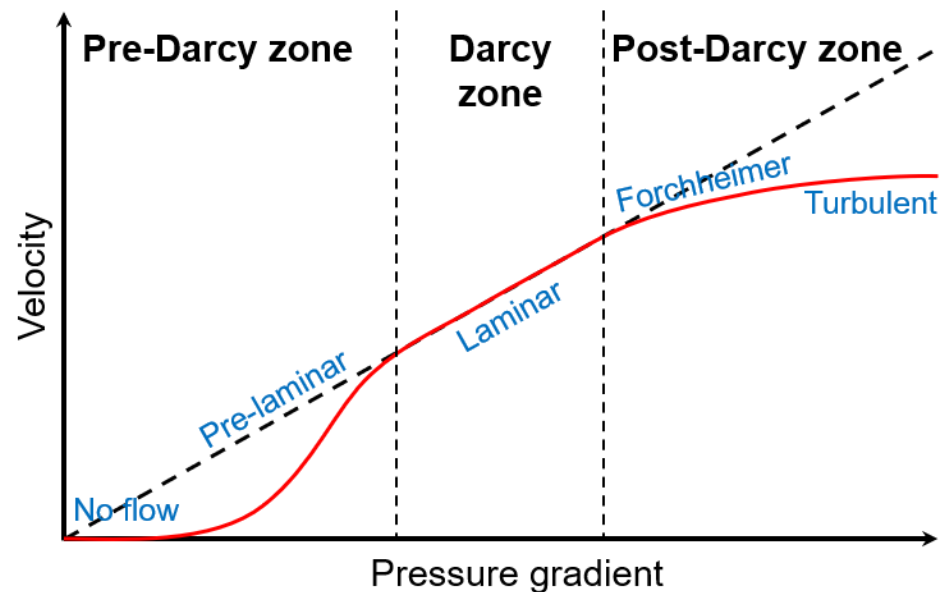
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→ 2 equations for 4 unknowns

➤ Two closure conditions:
$$\begin{cases} S_{\text{air}} + S_{\text{water}} = 1, & \text{by definition} \\ p_{\text{air}} - p_{\text{water}} = P_c(S_{\text{water}}) \end{cases}$$

Capillary pressure: empiric **invertible** function



Derivation of Richards' equation

Main hypothesis

- Air viscosity smaller than water viscosity so air pressure balances faster = hydrostatic

$$\nabla(p_{\text{air}} + \rho_{\text{air}}gz) = 0$$

$$\iff p_{\text{air}} = p_0 - \rho_{\text{air}}gz$$



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- (H1) Homogeneous water $\nabla\rho = 0$
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$$\partial_t(\Phi S) - \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\rho g}{\mu} \mathbb{k}(S) \nabla \left(\frac{p}{\rho g} + z \right) \right) = 0$$

Szymkiewicz 2013, Baron PhD 2015



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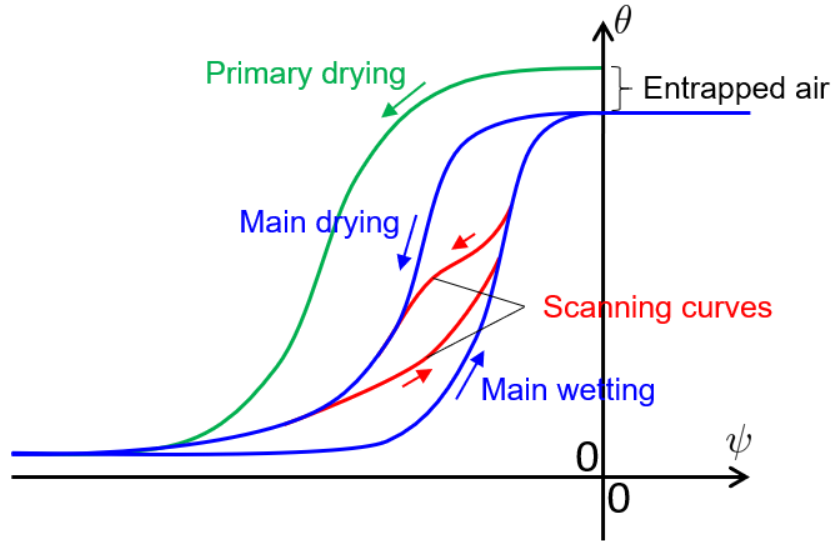
Mixed-form

Szymkiewicz 2013, Baron PhD 2015



Hydraulic properties

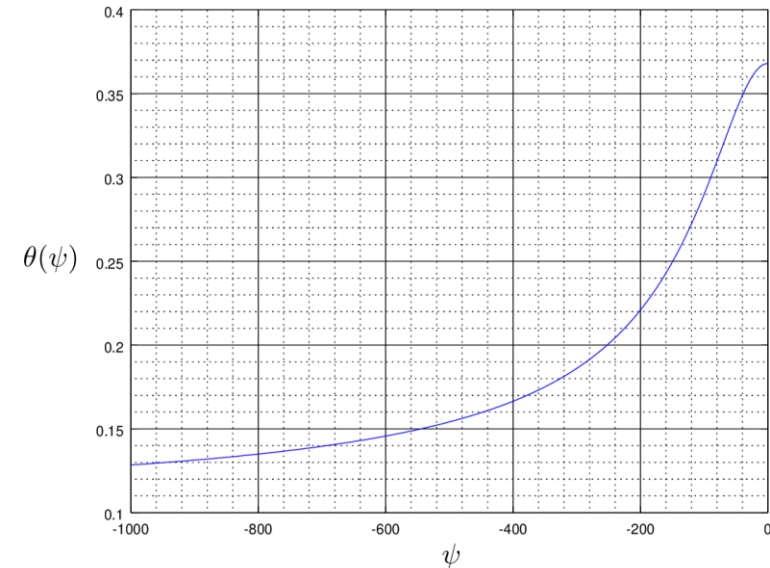
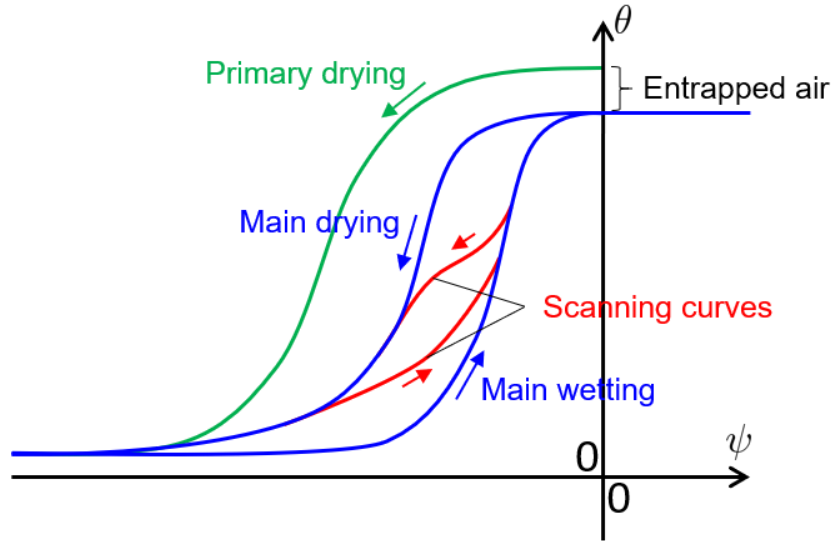
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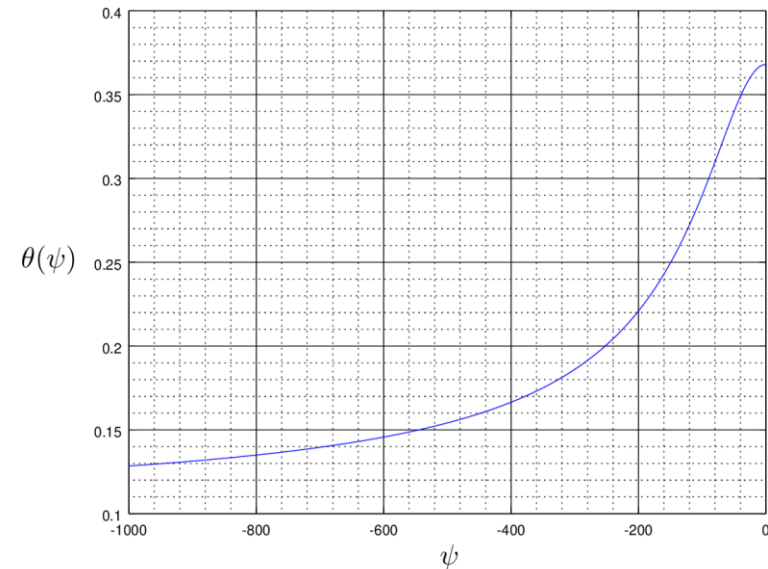
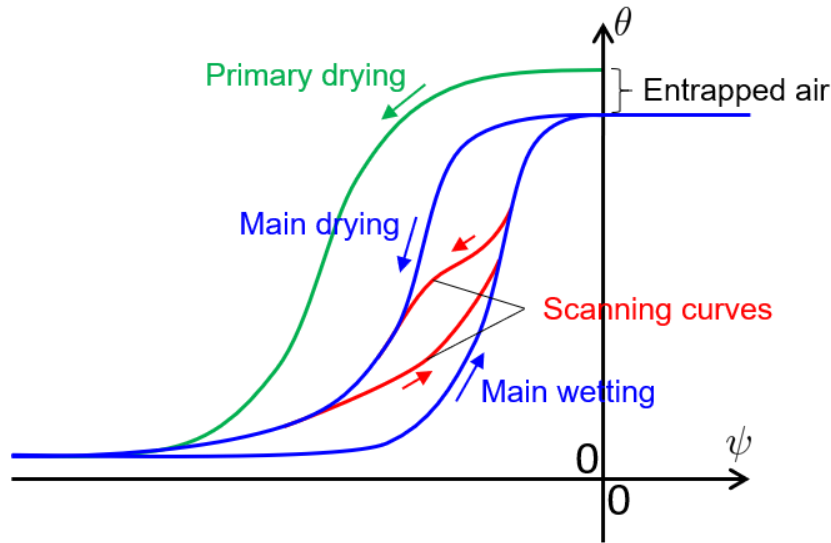
$$\mathbb{K}(\psi) = \mathbb{K}_s K_r(\psi)$$

$$S_e(\psi) = \frac{\theta(\psi) - \theta_r}{\theta_s - \theta_r}$$



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Name	Expression	Parameters
------	------------	------------

Van Genuchten-Mualem relations
(1980)

$$S_e = (1 + (\alpha|\psi|)^n)^{-m}$$

$$K_r = S_e^l \left(1 - \left(1 - S_e^{\frac{1}{m}}\right)^m\right)^2$$

$l = \begin{cases} 0.5 & \text{for Mualem} \\ 1 & \text{for Burdine} \end{cases}$: pore connectivity [-]
 α : parameter linked to air entry pressure inverse [L^{-1}]
 $n > 1$: pore-size distribution [-]
 $m = 1 - \frac{1}{n}$: pore-size distribution [-]

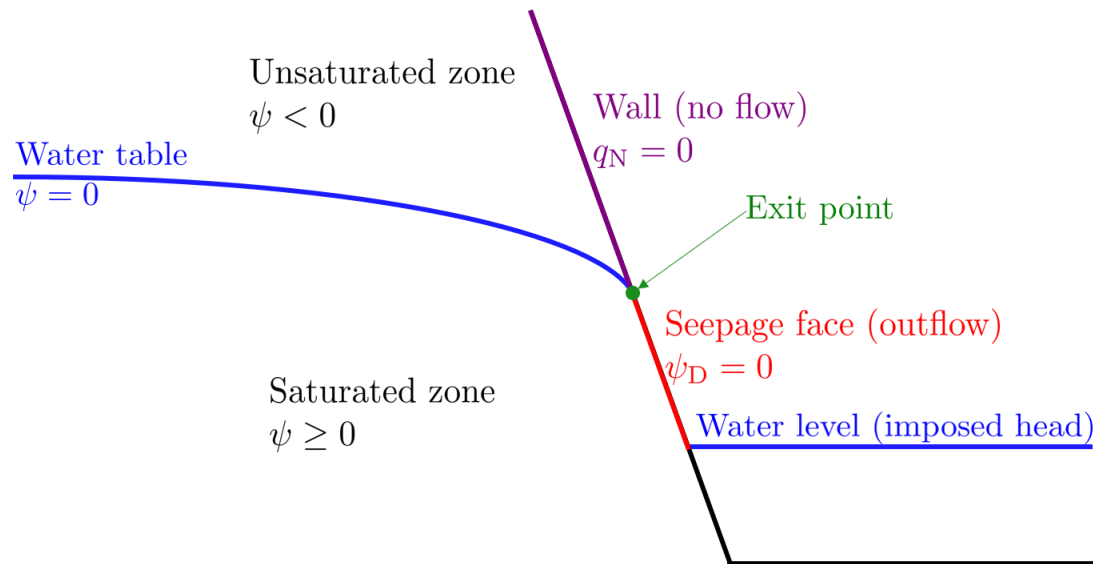


Seepage boundary condition

- **Seepage boundary condition** Scudeler *et al.* 2017

= mix of Neumann and Dirichlet boundary conditions

= outflow boundary condition
$$\begin{cases} h = z & \text{if } h \geq z \text{ and } -\mathbb{K}(h - z)\nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n} > 0 \\ -\mathbb{K}(h - z)\nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



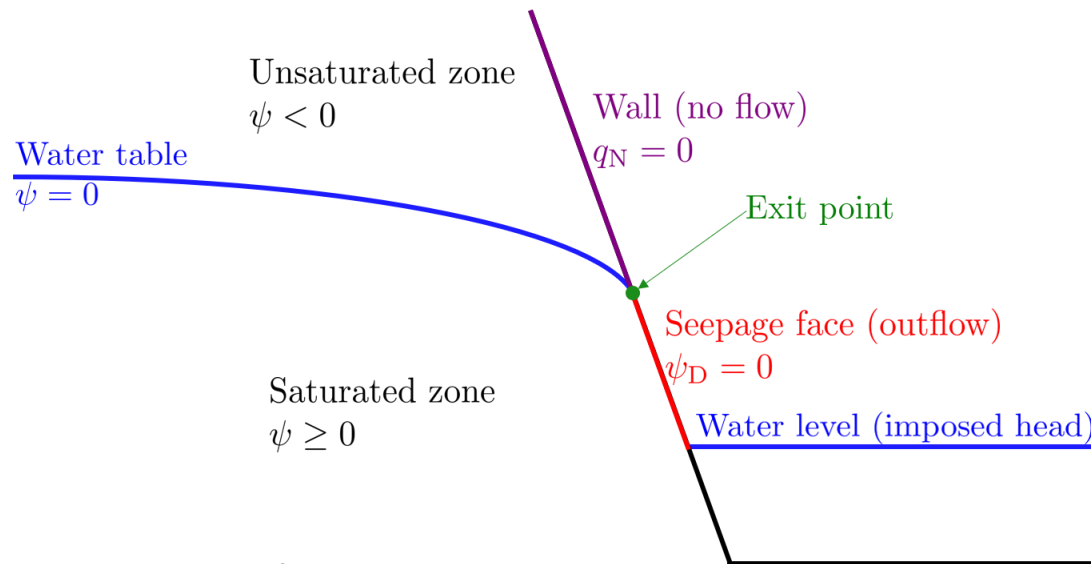


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Nonlinear Robin boundary condition for a compact writing:

$$\mathbb{1}_S(h)(h - z) - (1 - \mathbb{1}_S(h))\mathbb{K}(h - z)\nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$$

where $\mathbb{1}_S: \Gamma_S \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

$$h \mapsto \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } h \geq z \text{ and } -\mathbb{K}(h - z)\nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n} > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



Behaviours and challenges

$$\partial_t(\theta(\psi)) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbb{K}(\psi) \nabla(\psi + z)) = 0$$

Degeneracy possibilities:

- **Complete saturation** $\rightarrow \theta$ and \mathbb{K} are constant \rightarrow elliptic equation \rightarrow **fast diffusion**
- Almost **complete unsaturation** $\rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ and θ go to 0 rapidly \rightarrow **stopped diffusion**
- For $\psi \rightarrow 0^- \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ and θ can exhibit very **steep gradients**



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Other strong nonlinearities could happen due to:

- Steep or dynamic boundary conditions
- Steep initial condition
- Heterogeneous porous medium
- **Seepage boundary condition (\approx nonlinear Robin boundary condition)**



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Groundwater flow features:

- **Wetting front** moving dynamically and possibly very sharp \leftrightarrow nonlinear varying diffusivity
- **Internal layer** is static and linked to a discontinuity \leftrightarrow heterogeneous and anisotropic diffusivity
- **Spurious oscillations** = non-physical effect (undershoot/overshoot)



Issues and solving strategy

$$\partial_t(\theta(\psi)) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbb{K}(\psi) \nabla(\psi + z)) = 0$$

Richards' equation:

- Extremely sharp fronts (spatial smoothness)
- Stiff partial differential equation (time discretization)
- Nonlinear solver can fail to converge (linearization)

How to get an **accurate** (*physical*), **efficient** (*cost-effective*) and **robust** (*convergent*) simulation?



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Chosen strategy :

- High-order adaptive mesh refinement
- Implicit time scheme
- Iterative nonlinear process with adaptive time stepping + stopping criteria
- Flexible discrete approximation



Numerical methods

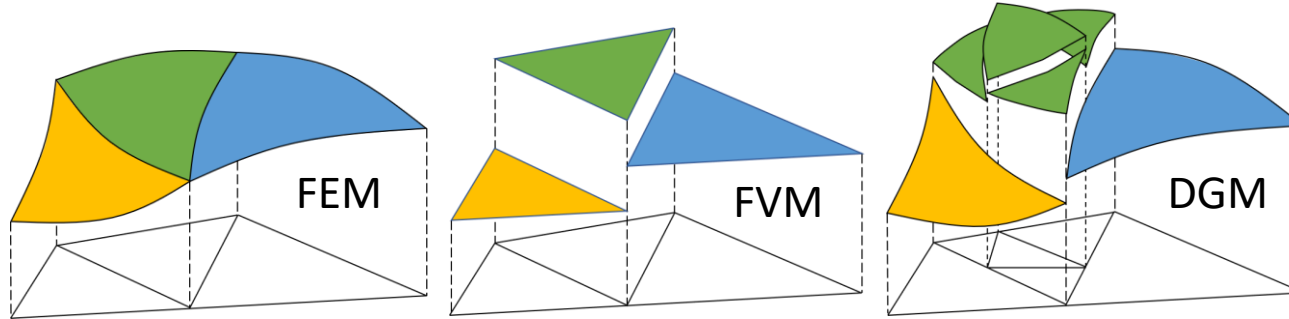
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Discontinuous Galerkin methods

DG methods: Reed & Hill 1971, Di Pietro, Cockburn/Arnold, Dolejší/Feistauer, Rivière

- Based on **variational formulation** as in Finite Element Methods (FEM)
- Designed in an **element-wise fashion** as in Finite Volume Methods (FVM)

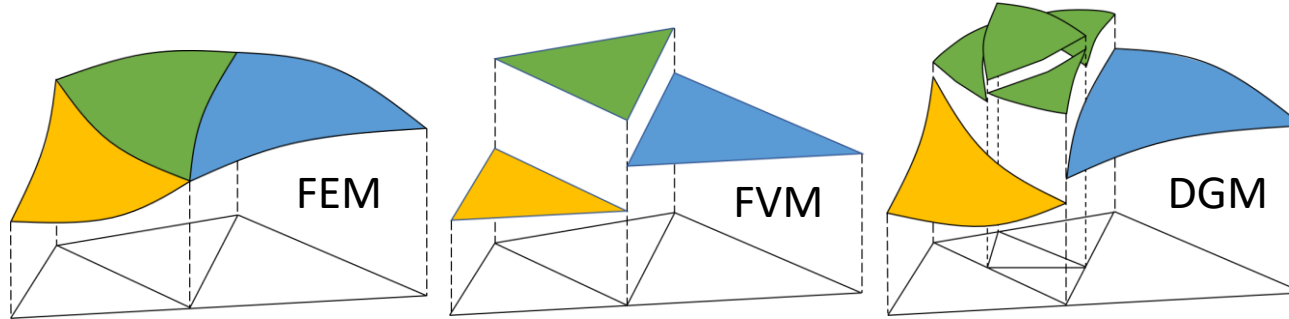




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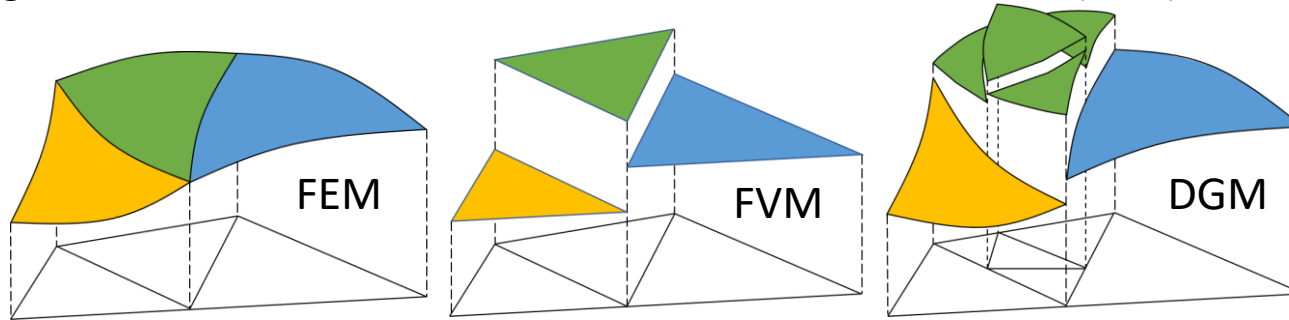
- Compact stencil → **high-order** approximation
- Element-wise formulation
 - Possible discontinuity
 - Unstructured, **non-conforming** and hybrid mesh → **mesh adaptation**
- **Weak** formulation → **boundary condition**, analysis
- **Local mass balance**
- Algebraic system of decoupled equations
 - **Sparse structure** by blocks (solving)
 - **Parallelization**



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Drawbacks:

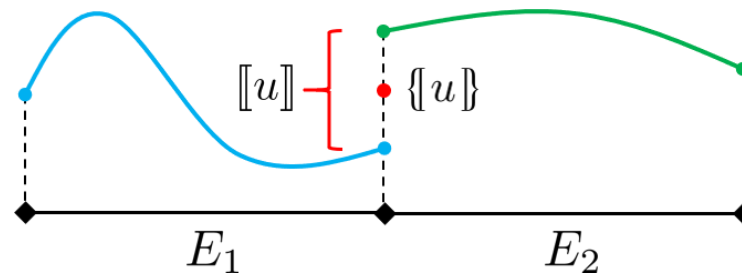
- **Oscillations** (lack of robustness)
 - Stability by penalty parameters
 - Dispersion at discontinuity
- **Computational cost** → more DoF
- **Implementation** may be **difficult**
 - Quadrature formula
 - Visualization
 - Less available codes
 - DoF with no physical meaning
- Still **gaps in theoretical analysis**



Space semidiscretization: DG methods

Find $h(\mathbf{x}, t) : \Omega \times (0, T) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \partial_t \theta(h - z) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h) = 0, & \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T) \\ h = h_0, & \text{in } \Omega \times \{0\} \\ h = h_D, & \text{on } \Gamma_D \times (0, T) \\ -\mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n} = q_N, & \text{on } \Gamma_N \times (0, T) \\ \mathbb{1}_S(h)(h - z) - (1 - \mathbb{1}_S(h))\mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0, & \text{on } \Gamma_S \times (0, T) \end{array} \right.$$



Weak formulation:

- Multiply the problem by a test function
- Integrate on each element
- Use Green's theorem
- Sum over all elements

Rivière 2008

Dolejší and Feistauer 2015



Penalization

Find $h \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$ such that $\forall v \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$,

$$m_{\mathfrak{h},n}(\partial_t \theta(h - z), v) + a_{\mathfrak{h},n}(h, v) = l_{\mathfrak{h},n}(v)$$

$$m_{\mathfrak{h},n}(\partial_t \theta(h - z), v) = \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_h} \int_E \partial_t \theta(h - z) v \, dE$$

$$a_{\mathfrak{h},n}(h, v) = \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_h} \int_E \mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \nabla v \, dE$$

Volume

Interior face

Boundary faces

Dirichlet face

Neumann face

Seepage face



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$$a_{\mathfrak{h},n}(h, v) = \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_h} \int_E \mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \nabla v \, dE - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^I} \int_F \{ \mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F \} [v] \, dF$$

$$- \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^D} \int_F \mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F v \, dF - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^S} \int_F \mathbb{1}_S(h) \mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F v \, dF$$

$$l_{\mathfrak{h},n}(v) = - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^N} \int_F q_N v \, dF$$



Penalization

Find $h \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$ such that $\forall v \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$,
 $m_{\mathfrak{h},n}(\partial_t \theta(h - z), v) + a_{\mathfrak{h},n}(h, v) = l_{\mathfrak{h},n}(v)$

Volume

Boundary faces

Dirichlet face

Neumann face

Seepage face

Interior face

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$$- \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^D} \int_F \mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F v \, dF - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^S} \int_F \mathbb{1}_S(h) \mathbb{K}(h - z) \nabla h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F v \, dF$$

Penalty for continuity constraint

$$l_{\mathfrak{h},n}(v) = - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^N} \int_F q_N v \, dF$$

$$\varrho_F^I := \frac{\sigma_F^I \gamma_F}{\mu_F}$$

$$\mu_F := \frac{\mathfrak{h}_F^\beta}{p_F^2}$$



Penalization

Find $h \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$ such that $\forall v \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$,
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Penalty for continuity constraint

$$+ \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^D} \int_F \varrho_F^D h v \, dF + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^S} \int_F \varrho_F^D \mathbb{1}_S(h) h v \, dF$$

$$l_{\mathfrak{h},n}(v) = - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^N} \int_F q_N v \, dF$$

Penalty for Dirichlet and seepage boundary conditions

$$+ \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^D} \int_F \varrho_F^D h_D v \, dF + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^S} \int_F \varrho_F^D \mathbb{1}_S(h) z v \, dF$$

$$\varrho_F^I := \frac{\sigma_F^I \gamma_F}{\mu_F}$$

$$\mu_F := \frac{\mathfrak{h}_F^\beta}{p_F^2}$$



Symmetrization

Find $h \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$ such that $\forall v \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$,

$$m_{h,n}(\partial_t \theta(h - z), v) + a_{h,n}(h, v) = l_{h,n}(v)$$

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		Symmetrization		
		$\Theta = -1$	$\Theta = 0$	$\Theta = 1$
Penalization	$\forall F \in \mathcal{F}_h, \sigma_F^I = \sigma_F^D = 0$	OBB method	-	global element method
	$\forall F \in \mathcal{F}_h, \sigma_F^I \neq 0, \sigma_F^D \neq 0$	NIPG	IIPG	SIPG

Epshteyn and Rivière 2006

Dolejší 2008

NIPG: Non-symmetric Interior Penalty Galerkin

IIPG: Incomplete Interior Penalty Galerkin

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Chosen method: (primal) IIPG

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DG for Richards' equation:

1D LDG [Li et al. 2007](#)

2D mixed SIPG [Sochala 2009](#)

2D STDG [Dolejší et al. 2019](#)

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[Epshteyn and Rivière 2006](#)
[Dolejší 2008](#)



DG solution representation

$$\forall t \in (0, T), \forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \quad h(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_E} \sum_{l=1}^{N_{\text{dof}}^E} \chi_k^l(t) \Phi_k^l(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{where} \quad \Phi_k^l(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \phi_k^l(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



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Choice of the polynomial basis:

- Orthogonal (numerical property)
- Hierarchical (adaptation)

Nodal basis:

- Difficulty to adapt for high-order
- DoF have physical meaning
- Examples : **Lagrange**, Hermite

Modal basis:

- Easy implementation
- DoF are just coefficients in the DG expansion
- Examples : **monomial**, Taylor, Legendre, Dubiner



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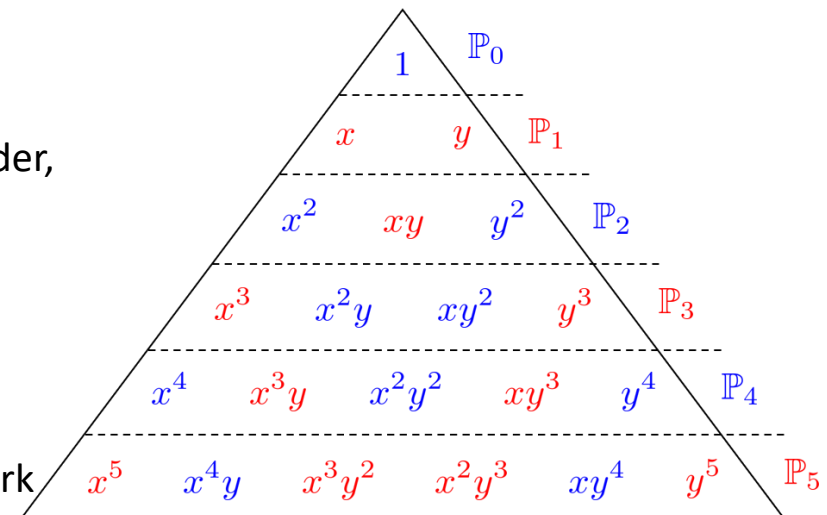
DG numerical approximation:

What is the relation with the number of DoF, basis order, element shape?

What is computational cost?

Monomial basis = each stage

Tensorized monomial basis = each coloured V-shaped mark





Time discretization: Backward Differentiation Formula

BDF methods: Dolejší *et al.* 2008, Hay *et al.* 2015

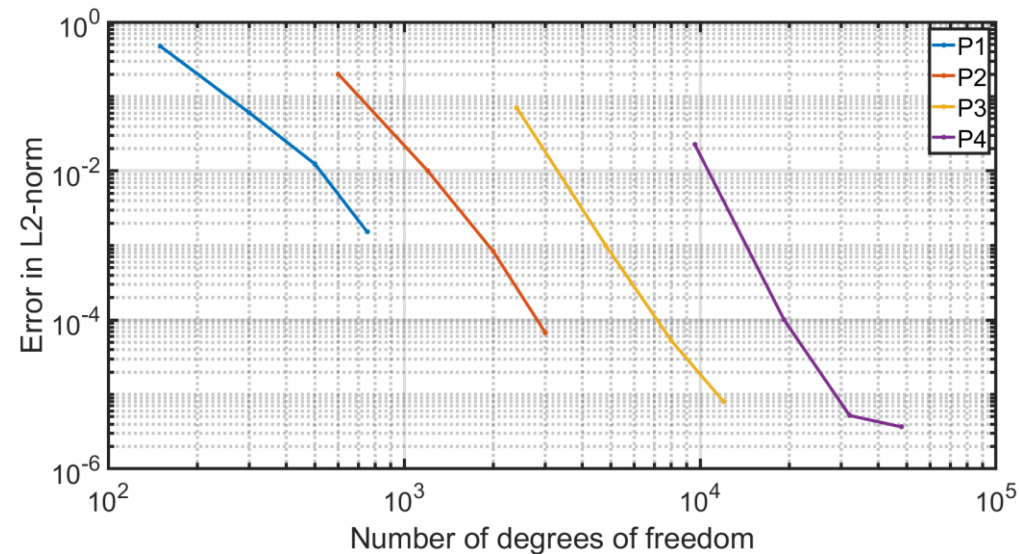
- **Multistep implicit schemes**
- **High-order** (up to 6)
- **Good stability** properties for stiff equations
- Divided differences for adaptive time stepping
- Implicit Euler scheme = 1-order BDF method

Find a sequence of $(h^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}_+} \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n)$ such that

$$\begin{cases} h^0 = h_0 \\ \forall v \in S_p(\mathcal{E}_h^n), \quad m_{h,n} \left(\sum_{k=0}^q \frac{\alpha_{q,k}}{\tau^n} \theta(h^{n+1-k} - z), v \right) + a_{h,n}(h^{n+1}, v) = l_{h,n}(v, t^{n+1}) \end{cases}$$

Convergence for Tracy's benchmark

$$\|e\|_{L^2} \approx c_h h^p + c_\tau \tau^q$$





Linearization: Newton-Raphson method and adaptive time step

Newton-Raphson method \rightarrow Fixed-point iteration

$$r_{h,n}(h^{n+1}, v) := m_{h,n} \left(\sum_{k=0}^q \frac{\alpha_{s,k}}{\tau^n} \theta(h^{n+1-k} - z), v \right) + a_{h,n}(h^{n+1}, v) - l_{h,n}(v; t^{n+1})$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dr_{h,n}(h^{n+1,m}, v)}{dh^{n+1,m}} \delta_h^{n+1,m} = -r_{h,n}(h^{n+1,m}, v) \\ h^{n+1,m+1} = h^{n+1,m} + \delta_h^{n+1,m} \end{cases}$$

Paniconi & Putti 1994
Lehmann & Ackerer 1998
List & Radu 2016

Relaxation and stopping criteria:

- Damped Newton-Raphson method possibly in combination with fixed-point iteration
- Two convergence criteria: residual and incremental

$$\frac{\|r_{h,n}(h^{n+1,m}, v)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}}{\|a_{h,n}(h^{n+1,m}, v)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}} < \varepsilon_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\|\delta_h^{n+1,m}\|_{L^2(\Omega)}}{\|h^{n+1,m}\|_{L^2(\Omega)}} < \varepsilon_2$$



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Adaptive time stepping → nonlinear iterations (heuristic methods)

$$\begin{cases} \tau^{n+1} = \begin{cases} \lambda_{\text{amp}} \tau^n & \text{if } N_{\text{it}} \leq m_{\text{it}} \\ \tau^n & \text{if } m_{\text{it}} < N_{\text{it}} \leq M_{\text{it}} \\ \lambda_{\text{red}} \tau^n & \text{if } M_{\text{it}} < N_{\text{it}} \leq W_{\text{it}} \end{cases} \\ \tau^n = \lambda_{\text{red}} \tau^n \text{ if } W_{\text{it}} < N_{\text{it}} \text{ or if the solver has failed (time step is started again)} \end{cases}$$

Convergence is strengthened but not guaranteed. What about performance?



Adaptation

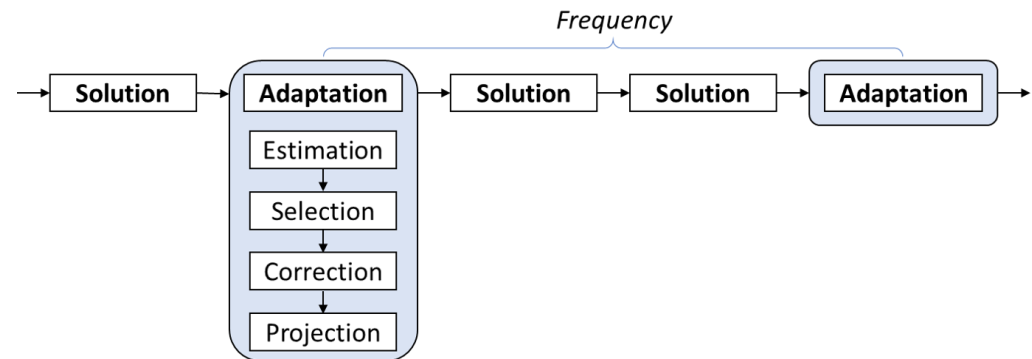
- Adaptive mesh refinement (AMR)
- *A posteriori* error estimates
- Weighted discontinuous Galerkin (WDG) methods



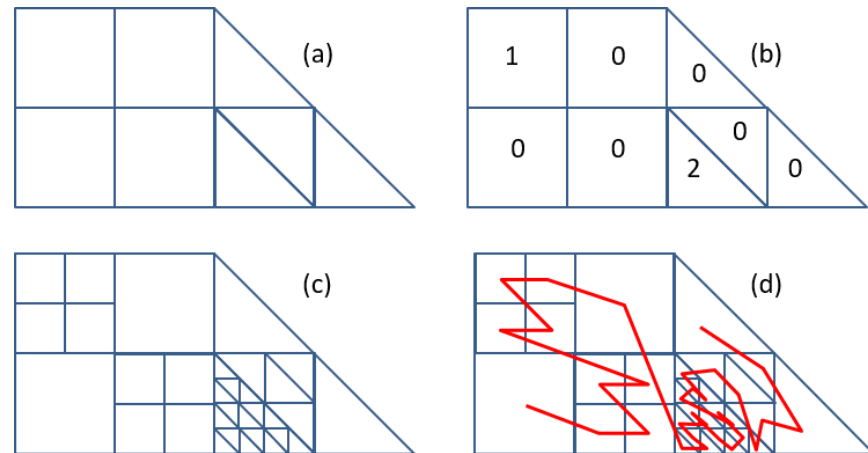
Adaptive mesh refinement (AMR)

Adaptivity:

- Block-based AMR
- Sequential process
- Threshold values for selection
- Projection by local DG problem



- (a) Block mesh
 (b) Refinement level
 (c) Mesh generation using quadtree
 (d) Morton numbering



BB AMR [Altazin et al. 2016](#), [Pons & Ersoy 2019](#)

hp [Mitchell 2014](#)

Richards' [Li et al. 2006/2007](#), [Miller et al. 2006](#), [Šolín & Kuraz 2011](#),
[Dolejší 2019](#)



A posteriori error estimate

Nonlinear parabolic FEM [Verfürth 2013](#)
hp elliptic FEM [Melenk & Wohlmuth 2001](#)
hp (steady) convection-diffusion DG
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A *posteriori* error estimate

Error indicator based on *a posteriori* estimation

Energy norm $\|u\|_{\mathcal{E}(E)}^2 := \|u\|_{R(E)}^2 + \sum_{F \in \partial E} \|u\|_{J(F)}^2$

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Volume residual $(\eta_{E,R}^n)^2 = \frac{h_E^2}{p_E^2 \lambda_m(\mathbb{K})} \left\| \frac{\theta(u_b^{n+1}) - \theta(u_b^n)}{\tau^n} - \nabla \cdot (\mathbb{K}(u_b^{n+1}) \nabla u_b^{n+1}) \right\|_{L^2(E)}^2$

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Face residual (flux jump) $(\eta_{E,F}^n)^2 = \sum_{F \in \partial E \cap \mathcal{F}_b^I} \frac{h_F}{2p_F \kappa_m} \left\| \left[\mathbb{K}(u_b^{n+1}) \nabla u_b^{n+1} \cdot \mathbf{n} \right] \right\|_{L^2(F)}^2$
 $+ \sum_{F \in \partial E \cap \mathcal{F}_b^N} \frac{h_F}{p_F \kappa_l} \left\| q_N - \mathbb{K}(u_b^{n+1}) \nabla u_b^{n+1} \cdot \mathbf{n} \right\|_{L^2(F)}^2$

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A posteriori error estimate

Error indicator based on *a posteriori* estimation

Energy norm $\|u\|_{\mathcal{E}(E)}^2 := \|u\|_{R(E)}^2 + \sum_{F \in \partial E} \|u\|_{J(F)}^2$

“Residual derivation”

$$(\eta_E^n)^2 = (\eta_{E,R}^n)^2 + (\eta_{E,F}^n)^2 + (\eta_{E,J}^n)^2$$

$$\|u\|_{R(E)}^2 := \left\| (\mathbb{K}(u))^{\frac{1}{2}} \nabla u \right\|_{L^2(E)}^2$$

$$\|u\|_{J(F)}^2 := \varrho_F \| [u] \|_{L^2(F)}^2$$

$$\kappa_1 := \min(\kappa_1, \kappa_T)$$

Volume residual $(\eta_{E,R}^n)^2 = \frac{\mathfrak{h}_E^2}{p_E^2 \lambda_m(\mathbb{K})} \left\| \frac{\theta(u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1}) - \theta(u_{\mathfrak{h}}^n)}{\tau^n} - \nabla \cdot (\mathbb{K}(u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1}) \nabla u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1}) \right\|_{L^2(E)}^2$

Face residual (flux jump) $(\eta_{E,F}^n)^2 = \sum_{F \in \partial E \cap \mathcal{F}_{\mathfrak{h}}^I} \frac{\mathfrak{h}_F}{2p_F \kappa_m} \left\| \left[\mathbb{K}(u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1}) \nabla u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1} \cdot \mathbf{n} \right] \right\|_{L^2(F)}^2$

$$+ \sum_{F \in \partial E \cap \mathcal{F}_{\mathfrak{h}}^N} \frac{\mathfrak{h}_F}{p_F \kappa_1} \left\| q_N - \mathbb{K}(u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1}) \nabla u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1} \cdot \mathbf{n} \right\|_{L^2(F)}^2$$

Solution jump $(\eta_{E,J}^n)^2 = \sum_{F \in \partial E \cap \mathcal{F}_{\mathfrak{h}}^I} \frac{1}{2} \left(\varrho_F^I + \frac{\mathfrak{h}_F}{p_F \kappa_m} \right) \left\| [u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1}] \right\|_{L^2(F)}^2$

$$+ \sum_{F \in \partial E \cap \mathcal{F}_{\mathfrak{h}}^D} \left(\varrho_F^D + \frac{\mathfrak{h}_F}{p_F \kappa_1} \right) \left\| u_D - u_{\mathfrak{h}}^{n+1} \right\|_{L^2(F)}^2$$

Nonlinear parabolic FEM [Verfürth 2013](#)
hp elliptic FEM [Melenk & Wohlmuth 2001](#)
hp (steady) convection-diffusion DG
[Houston et al. 2007](#)
[Schötzchau & Zhu 2009/2010](#)



Weighted DG framework

How to avoid **spurious oscillations** without use of demanding techniques (slope limiters)? **WDG!**

- developed for convection-diffusion equation
- heterogeneous diffusivity matching the mesh

It is not expected to work for nonlinear diffusivity...

Ern & Proft 2006

Proft & Rivière 2006/2009

Ern/Di Pietro 2008



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Two key ingredients:

- **Weighted averages** to decide the amount of diffusive flux $\{u\}_\omega := \omega_l u_l + \omega_r u_r$

$$\omega_l + \omega_r := 1 \quad \begin{cases} \omega_l = \frac{\kappa_r}{\kappa_l + \kappa_r}, & \omega_r = \frac{\kappa_l}{\kappa_l + \kappa_r} & \text{if } \kappa_l + \kappa_r \neq 0, \\ \omega_l = \omega_r = \frac{1}{2} & & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



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- **Relaxation of penalty** to enforce continuity: a **discontinuity** should approximate better **sharp fronts**.

$$\gamma_F = \{\kappa\}_\omega = \frac{2\kappa_l \kappa_r}{\kappa_l + \kappa_r}$$

$$\varrho_F^I := \frac{\sigma_F^I \gamma_F}{\mu_F}$$

$$\mu_F := \frac{\mathfrak{h}_F^\beta}{p_F^2}$$



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AMR and WDG are (ideally) working in **synergy** through the **estimation-based error indicator**:

- **AMR** is used as a **capturing technique**
- **WDG** adjusts the **local numerical smoothness** (oscillations are reduced)



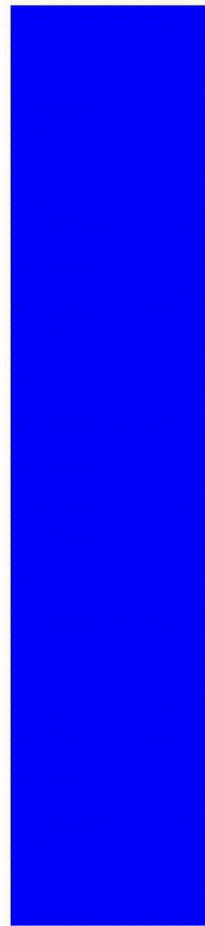
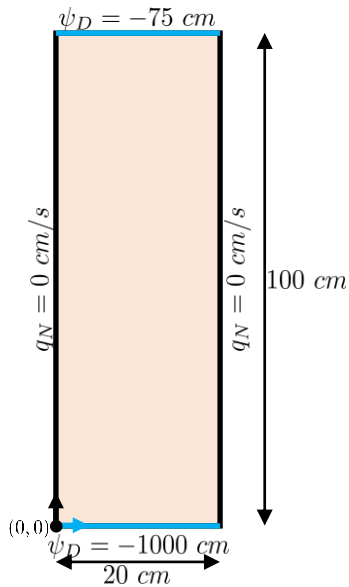
Numerical results

- Polmann's test-case
- Tracy's benchmark
- Simulation of La Verne dam wetting
- Simulation of an idealized beach
- Simulation of one case from BARDEX II

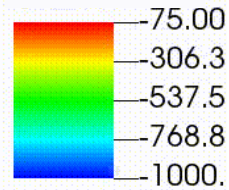


Polmann's test-case

1D vertical infiltration into a soil column (Van Genuchten-Mualem relations)



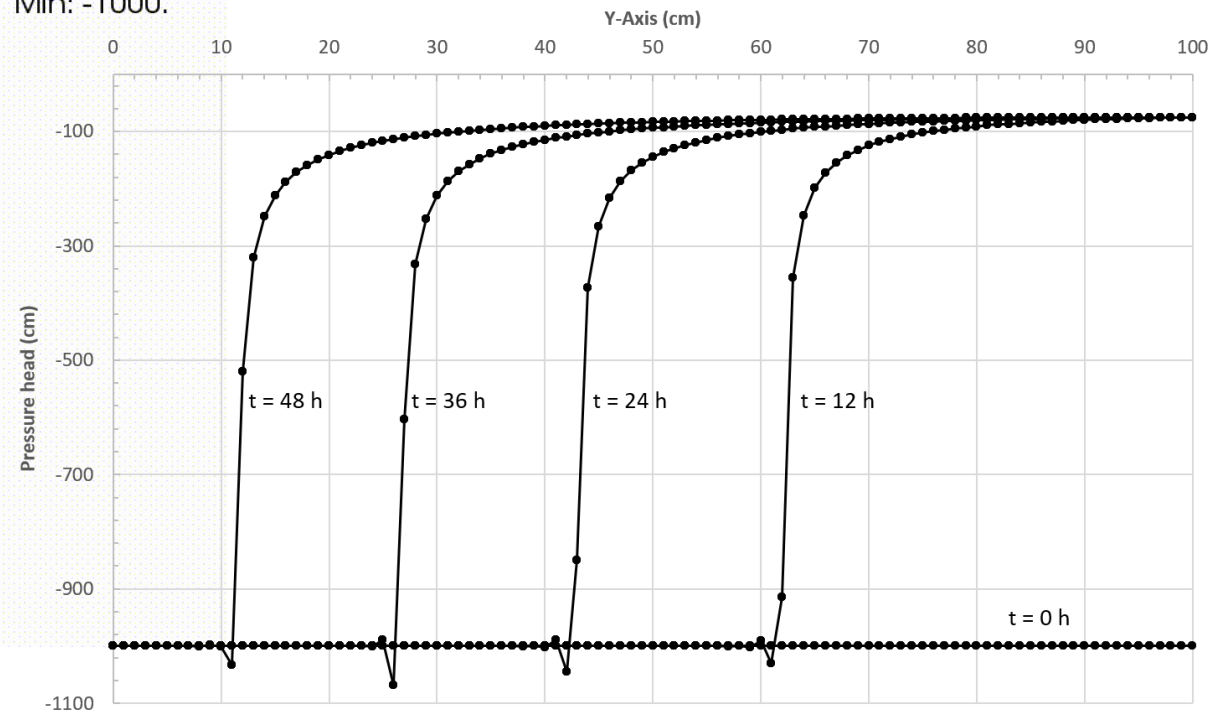
Pressure head (cm)



Max: -1000.
Min: -1000.

Computations:

- M100 = mesh with 100 elements
- M1000 = mesh with 1000 elements
- AMR (211 elements)
- WDG (100 elements)

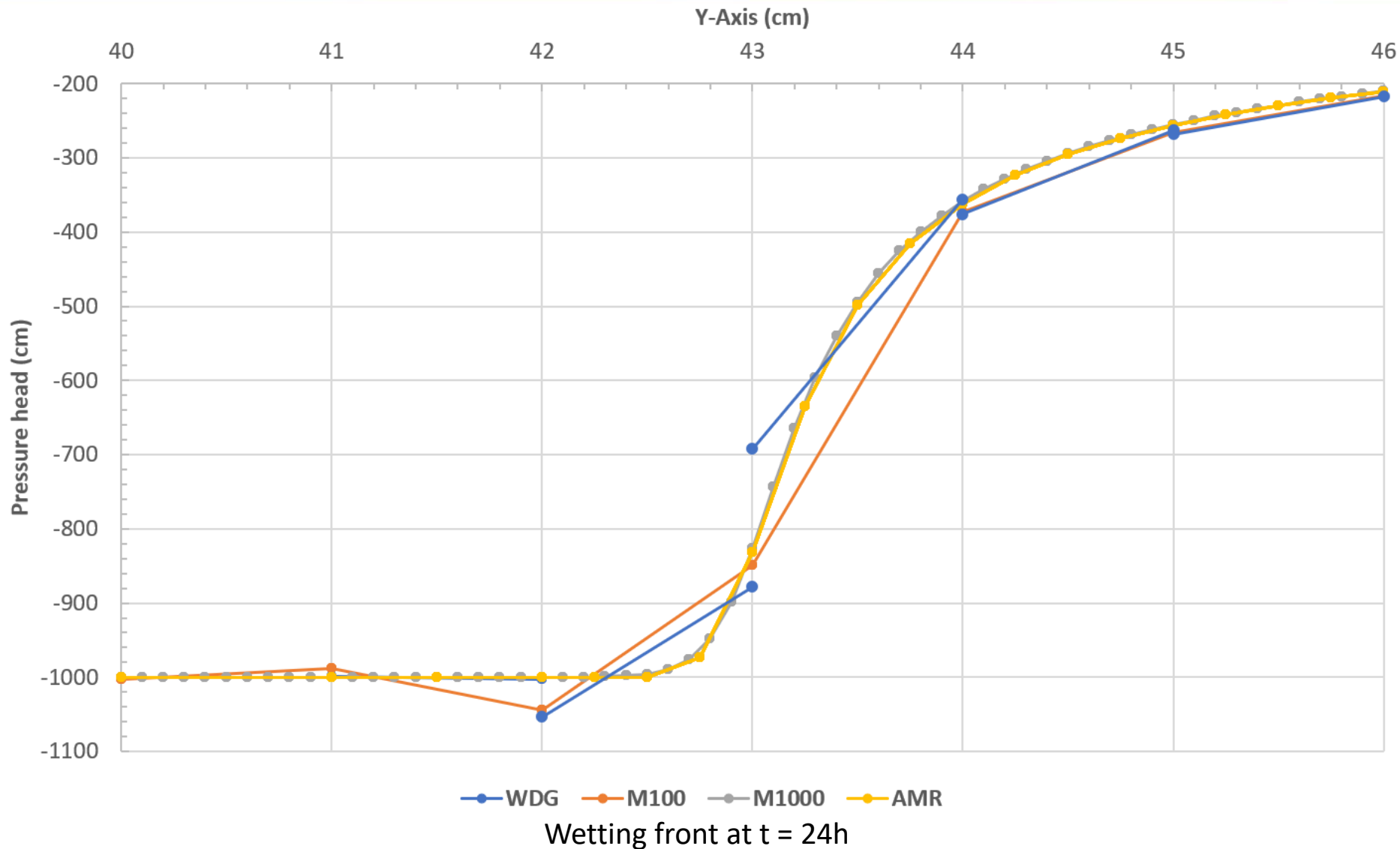


M100 computation: **spurious oscillation at the wetting front**

Polmann *et al.* 1988
Celia *et al.* 1990
Manzini & Ferraris 2004
Sochala 2008



Polmann's test-case comparison



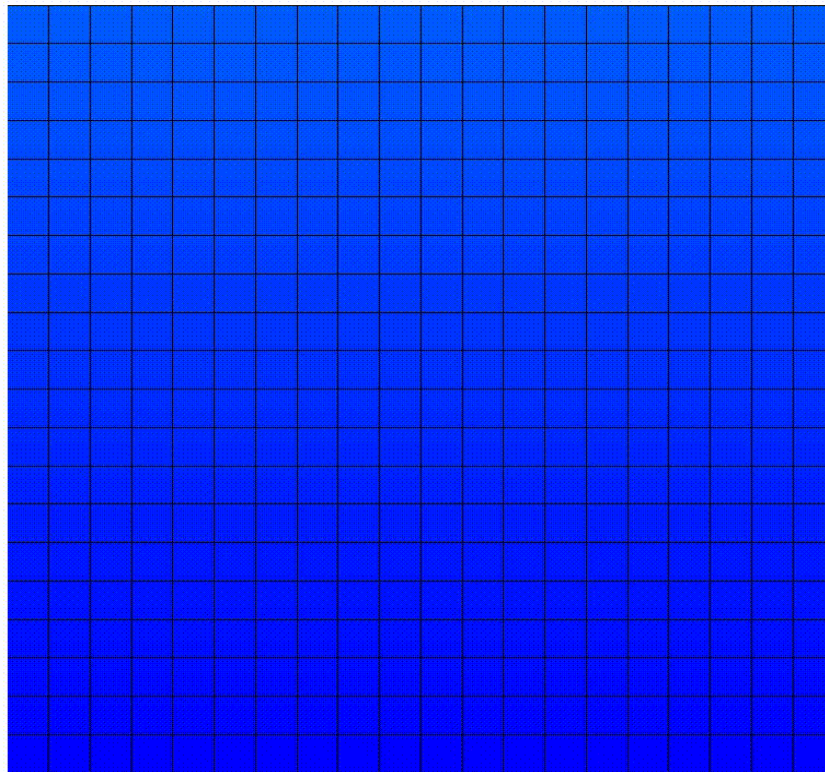


Tracy's benchmark

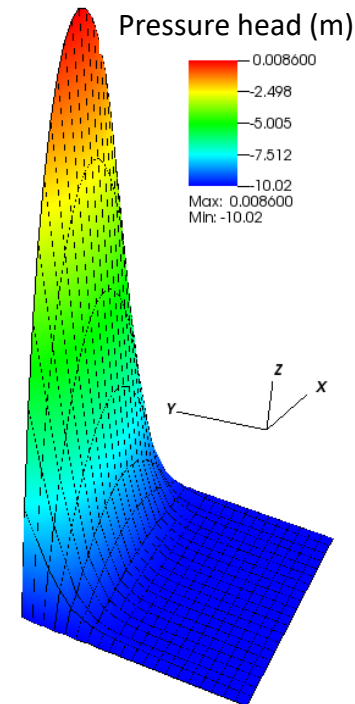
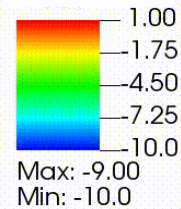
Analytical solution is known [Tracy 2006](#):

- Steep top boundary condition
- Inconsistency between boundary condition and initial condition

$$\psi_D = \frac{1}{\alpha} \log \left(e^{\alpha \psi_r} + (1 - e^{\alpha \psi_r}) \sin \left(\frac{\pi x}{a} \right) \right)$$



Hydraulic head (m)

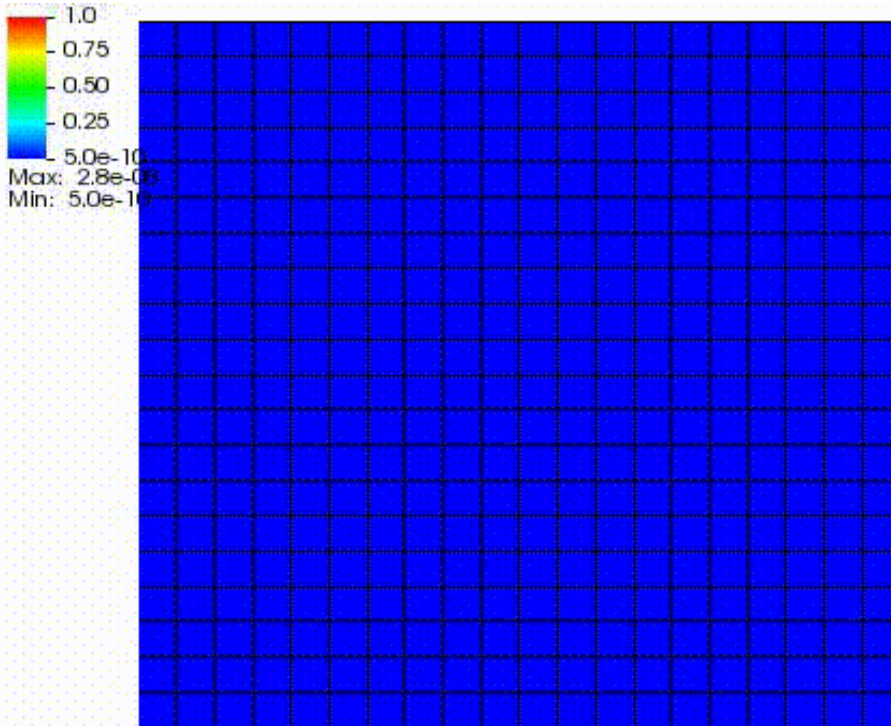


Šolín & Kuraz 2011
Dolejší *et al.* 2019

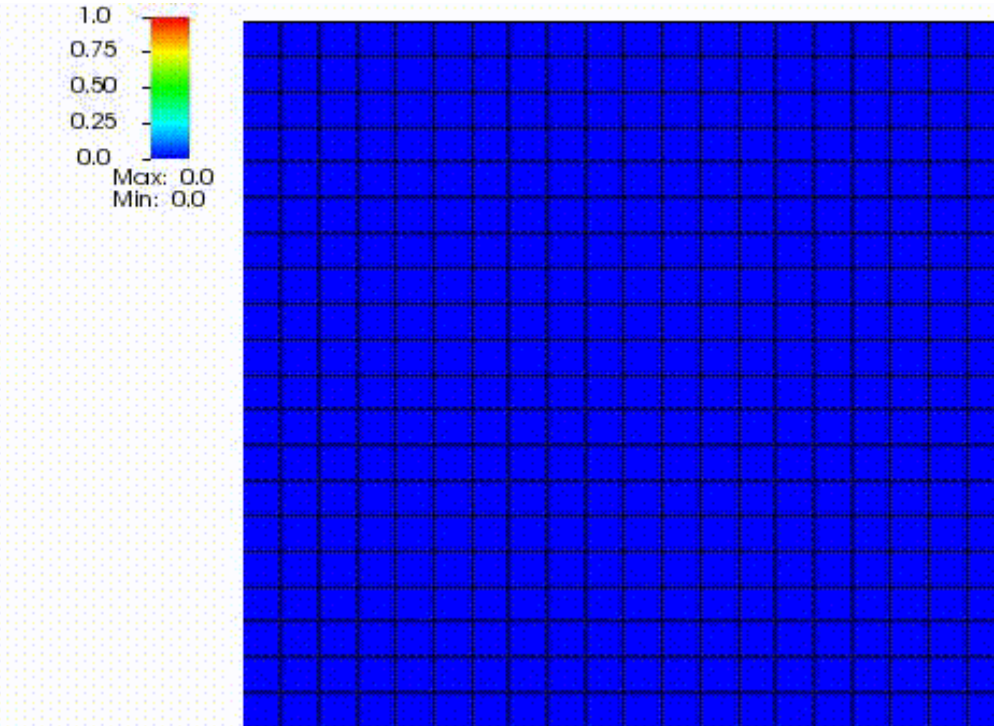


Error indicator effectivity

True error in energy norm $\|e\|_{\mathcal{E}(E)}$



Estimation-based error indicator η_E^n





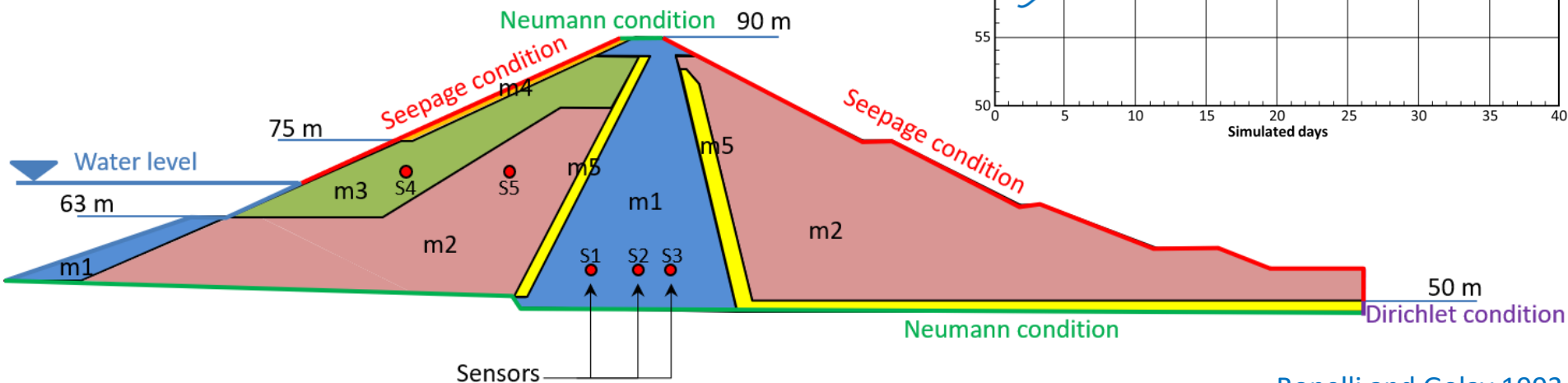
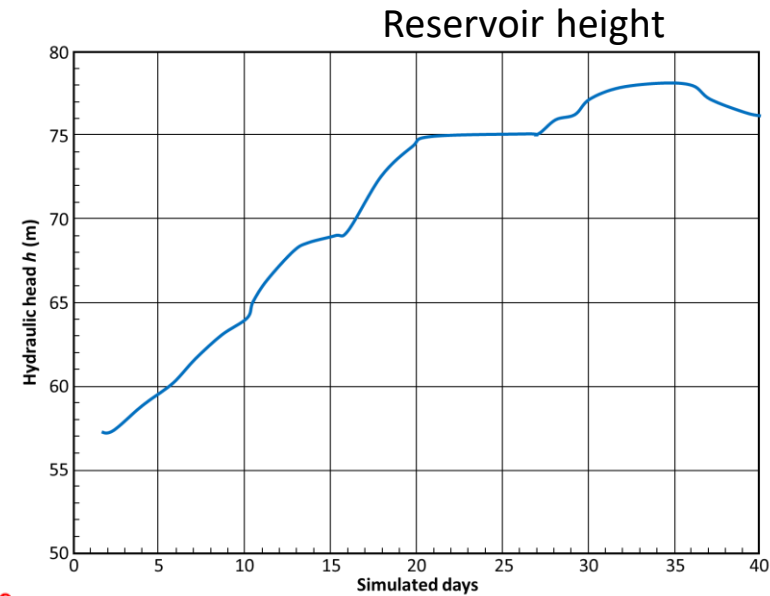
Wetting of La Verne dam

La Verne dam is an earth-filled dam:

- 40 days of reservoir impoundment (**dynamic forcing**)
- **Experimental data** available
- **Multi-materials** configuration (Vachaud's and Van Genuchten-Mualem relations)
- **Seepage**

Challenging simulation:

- 1-order BDF and quadratic approximation
- AMR and WDG



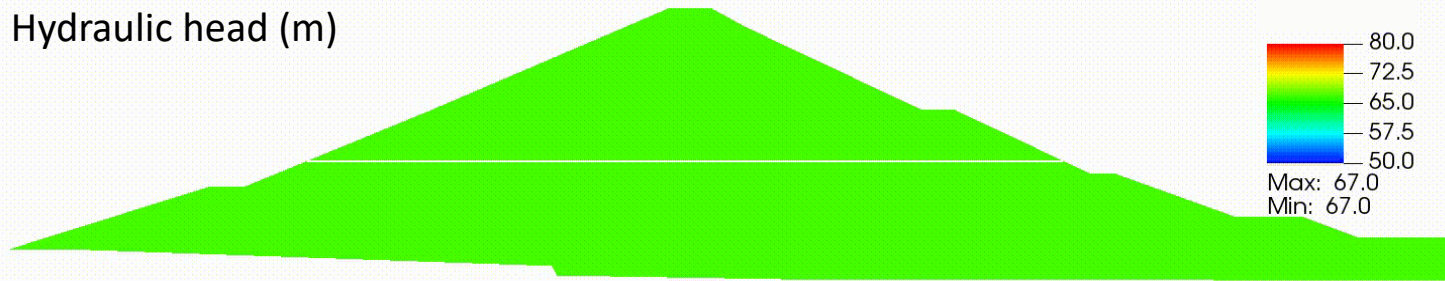
Bonelli and Golay 1993
Fleureau and Fry 1991



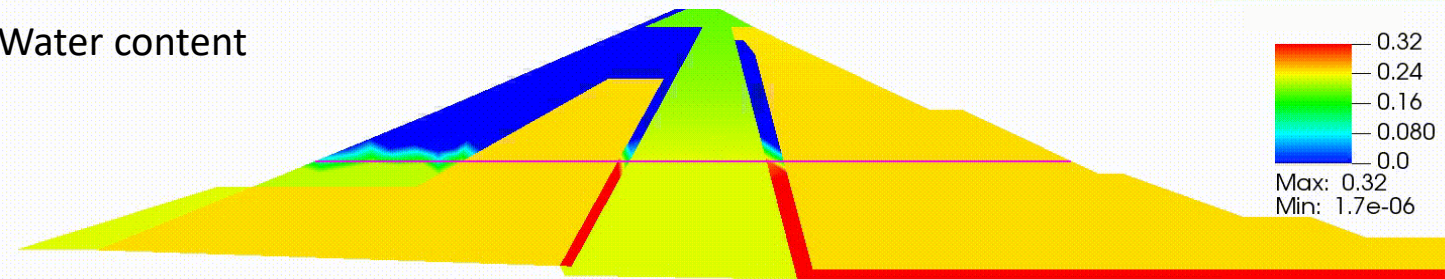
Results of La Verne dam simulation

T = 40 days

Hydraulic head (m)

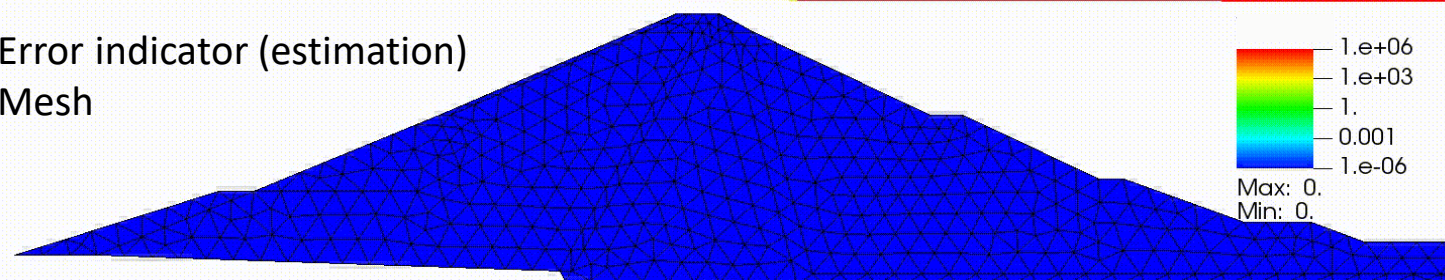


Water content

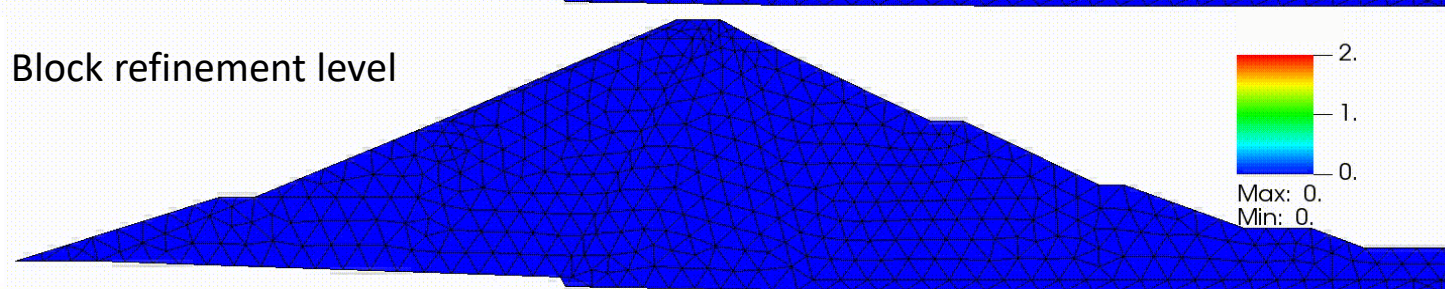


Error indicator (estimation)

Mesh



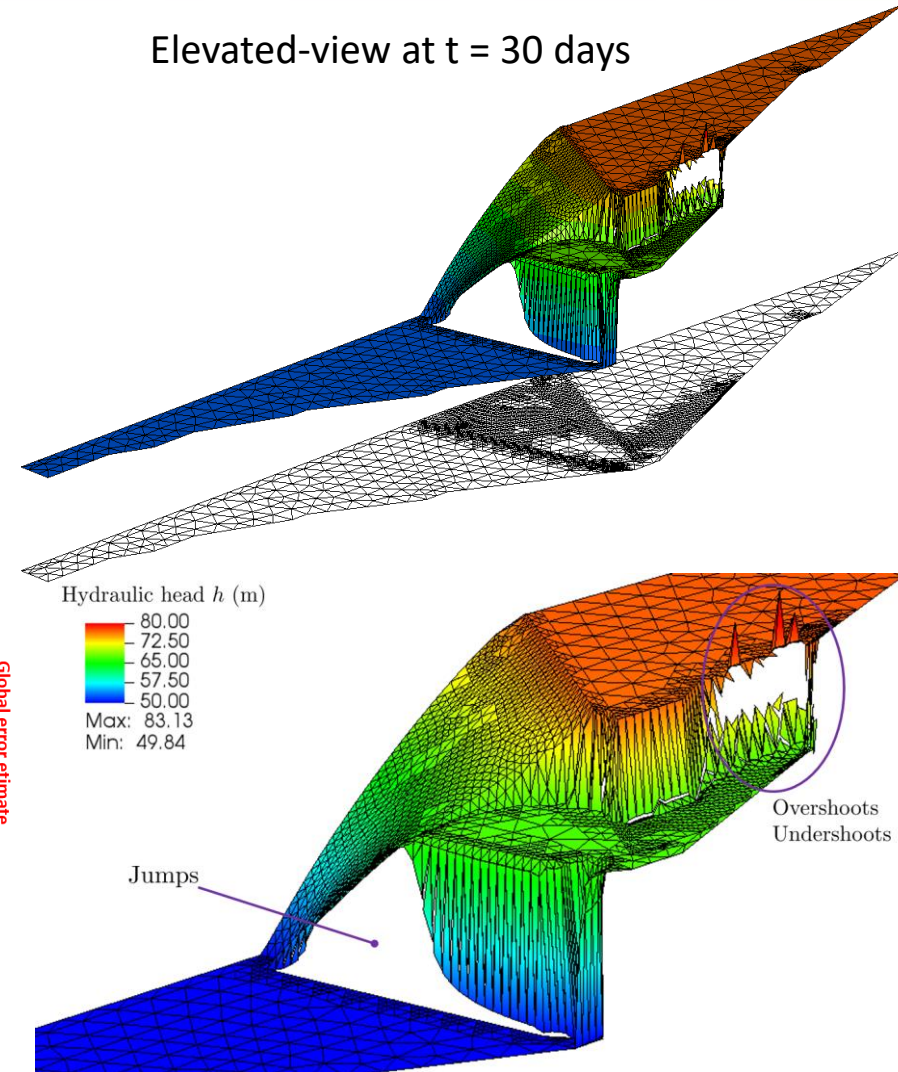
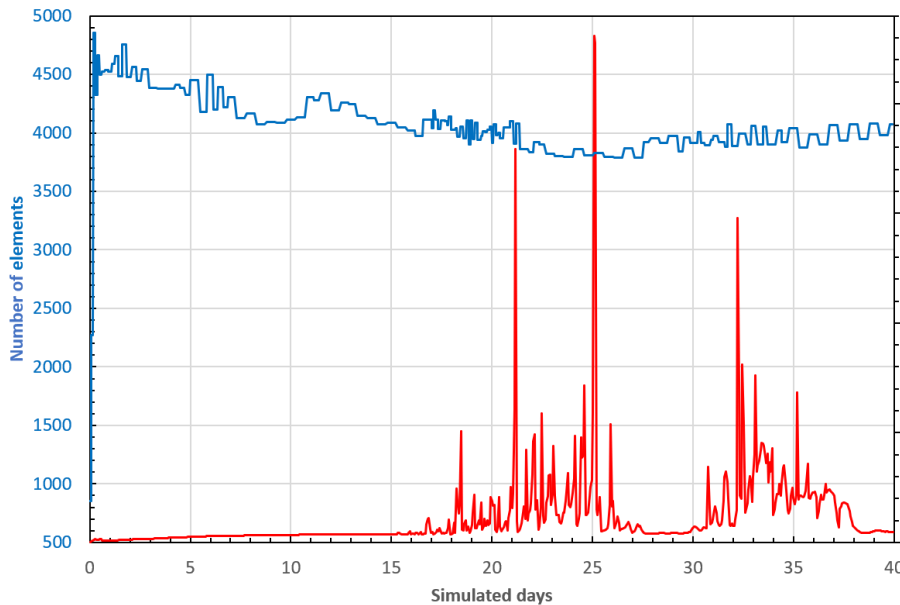
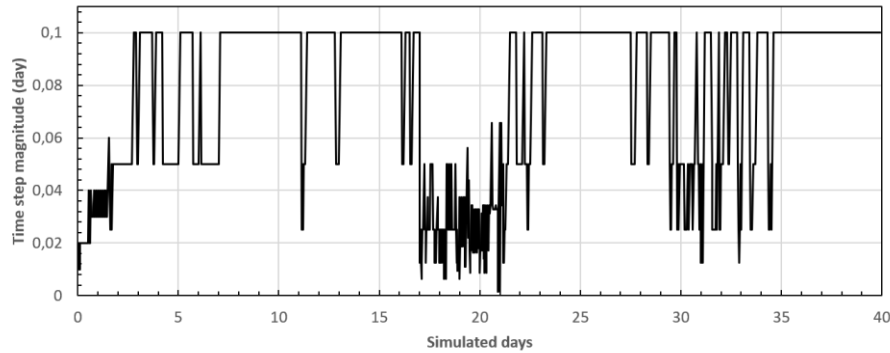
Block refinement level





Discussion

Elevated-view at $t = 30$ days





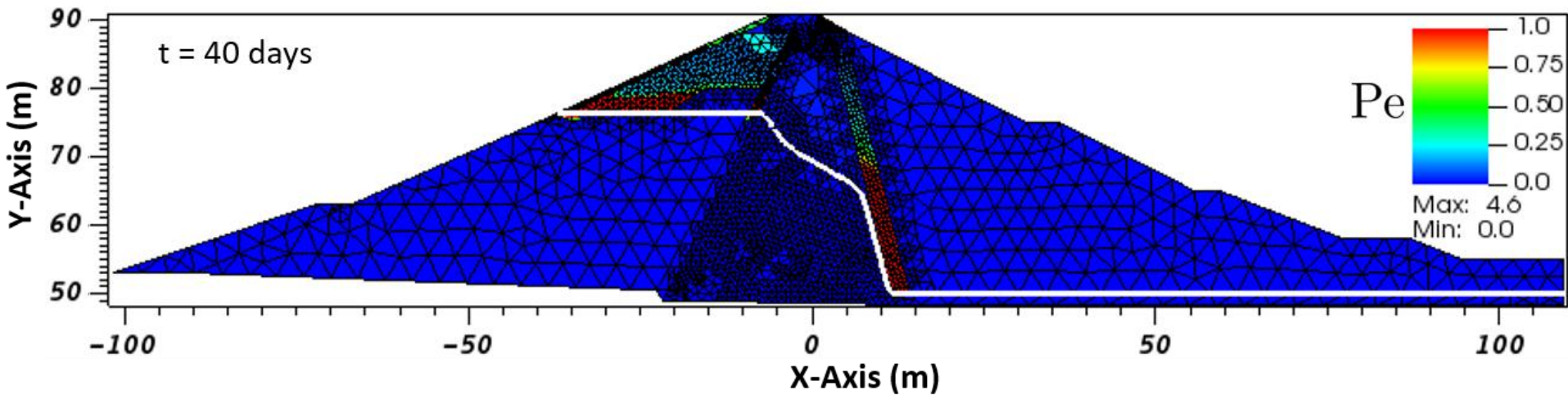
Some background analysis

$$\partial_t \theta(\psi) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbb{K}(\psi) \nabla(\psi + z)) = 0$$

- Developed saturation-based Richards equation:

$$\partial_t \theta \quad \underbrace{-\nabla \cdot (\mathbb{K}(\theta) \nabla z)}_{\text{gravitational effects (advection)}} \quad \underbrace{-\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\mathbb{K}(\theta)}{C(\theta)} \nabla \theta \right)}_{\text{capillary effects (diffusion)}} = 0$$

$$Pe = \frac{\|\mathbb{K}(\theta)\|L}{\|\mathbb{D}(\theta)\|\theta} = \frac{C(\theta)L}{\theta}$$



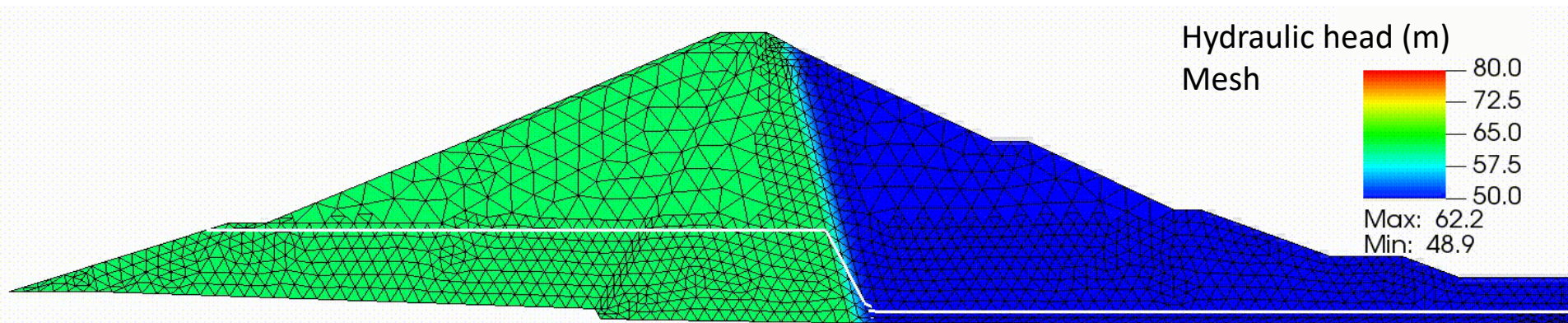


Investigation

An *augmented* simulation:

- No WDG
- Finer discretization in permeable materials
- Refinement for both gradient- and estimation-based error indicators
- Refinement around water table
- 4-order BDF

No spurious oscillations! But 13.5 times longer than the previous simulation... (Intel Xeon CPU 2.4 GHz)
→ 42h37min VS 3h11min



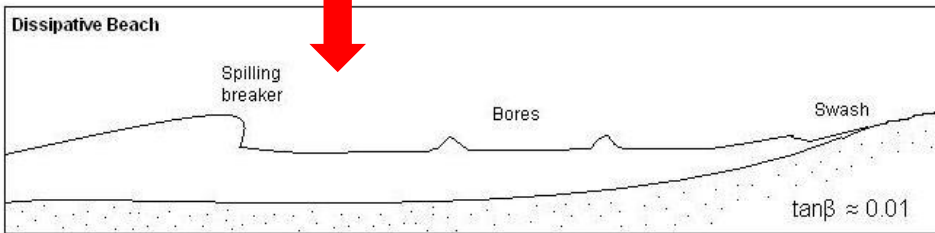


Wave-forced beach groundwater dynamics

Scope of the study:

- **Sedimentary beaches** (sand, loamy sand) with gentle slope
- **Long infragravity waves** + large fluctuations
- Low groundwater velocity, mainly pressure waves, **wide range of saturation**

Seven Mile beach, Australia





Wave-forced beach groundwater dynamics

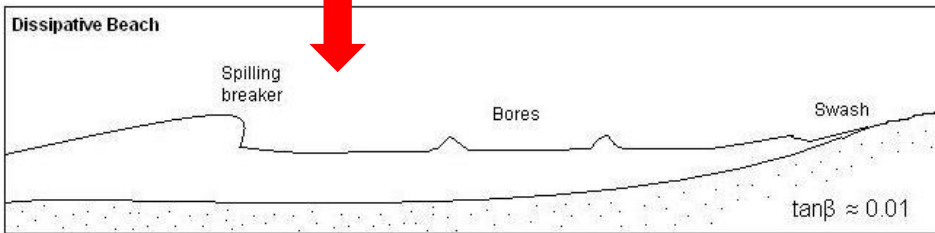
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Issues on beach response to swash event:

- **Global/local space scale + Time-averaged/resolved scale**
- Infiltration/exfiltration (coupling), **seepage**
- Sediment transport (accretion/erosion)
- Morphodynamics (hydroporomechanics) ... and more!

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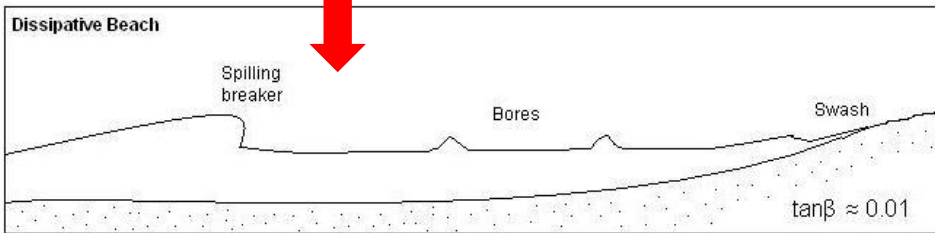
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Seven Mile beach, Australia



Dissipative Beach



Swash: "uprush"



Swash: "backwash"



Slea Head beach, Ireland



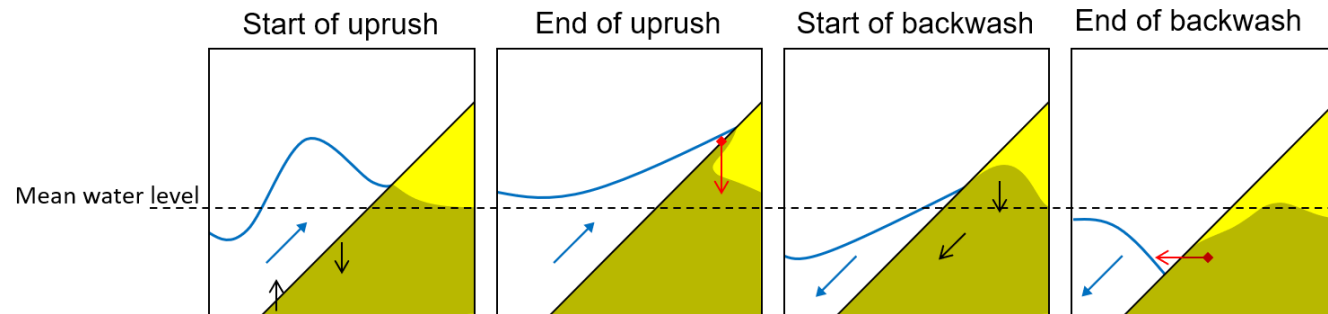
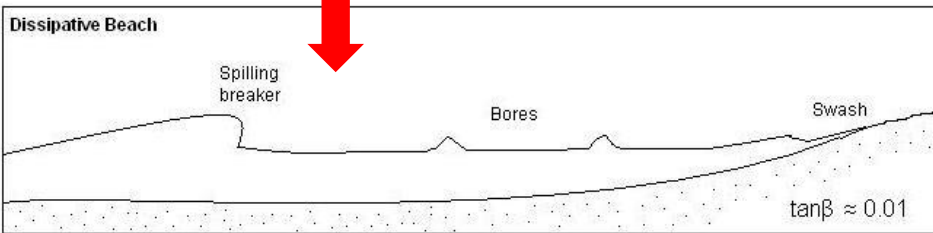
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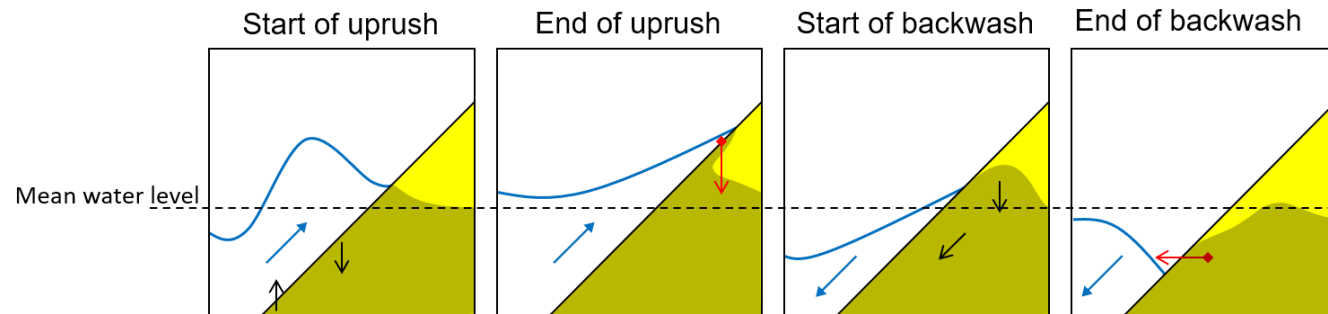
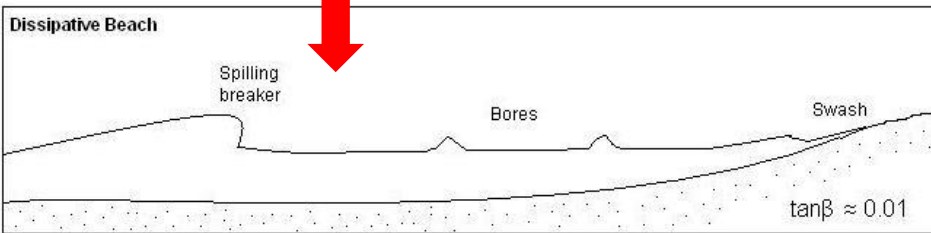
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Slea Head beach, Ireland

Shallow water equations! (SWASH code, Zijlema *et al.* 2011)
Darcy's law/Dupuit-Forchheimer? → Richards' equation
Coupling? → Forcing



Large-scale experiment: BARDEX II

BARDEX = BARrier Dynamics EXperiment II at Delta Flume, Netherlands, 2012:

- Sand barrier of 95 m (flume \approx 140 m) whose crest reaches 4.5 m
- Van Genuchten-Mualem relations taken for medium-sized sand
- $T = 750$ s

Turner *et al.* 2016



Video from Hachem Kassem (2015, YouTube ©)



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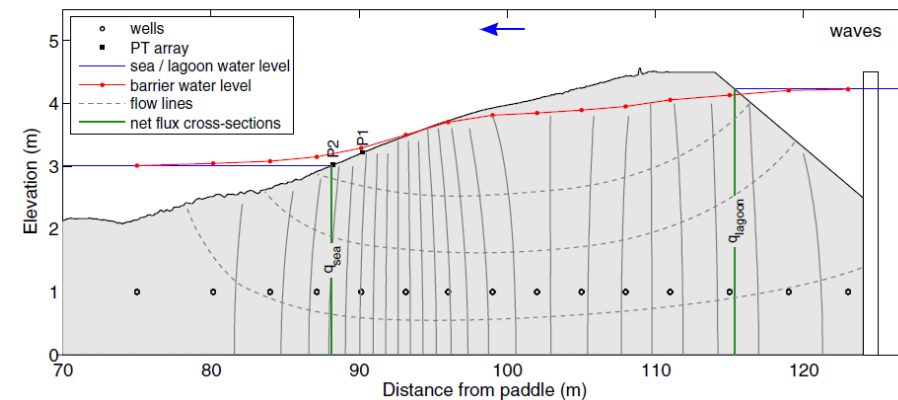
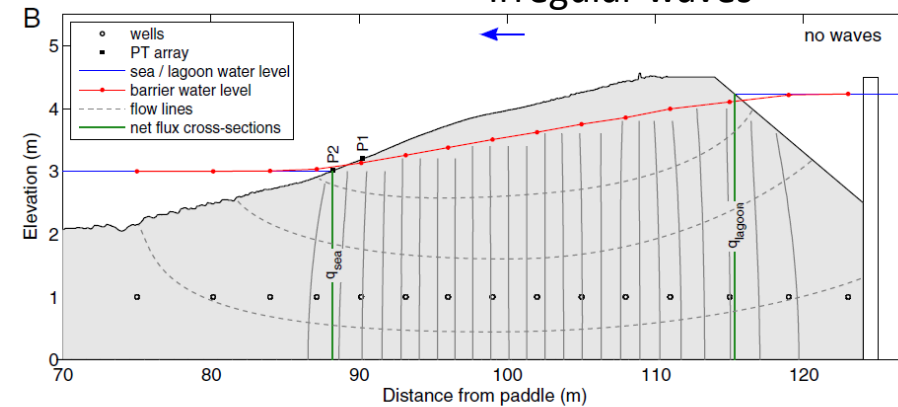
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For each case, two conditions:

- No wave
- Irregular waves

Study of hydro- and morphodynamic effects for a sand barrier:

- **Case A2: Sea < lagoon**
- Case A4: Sea > lagoon
- Case A6: Sea = lagoon



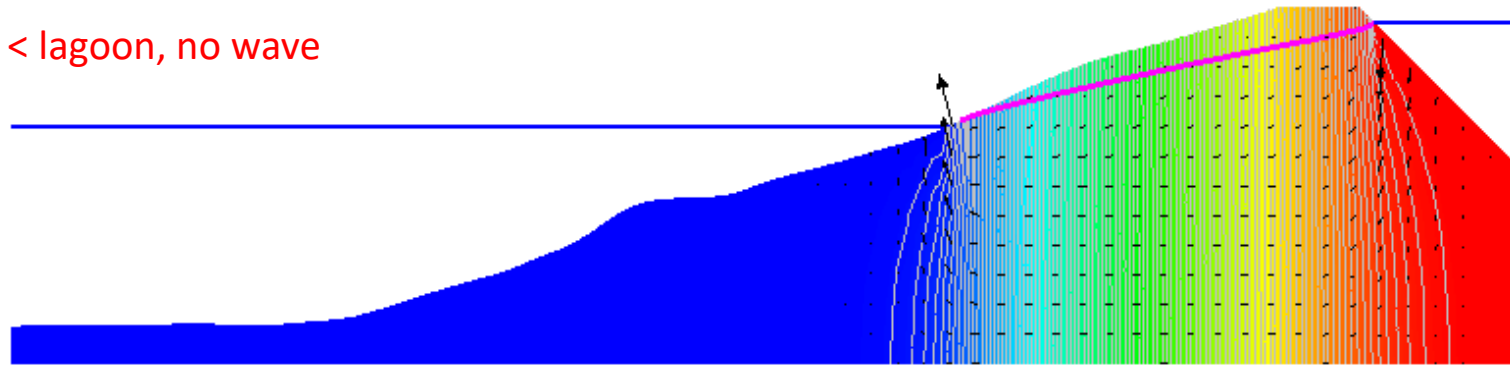
Video from Hachem Kassem (2015, YouTube ©)



Simulation of case A2 from BARDEX II

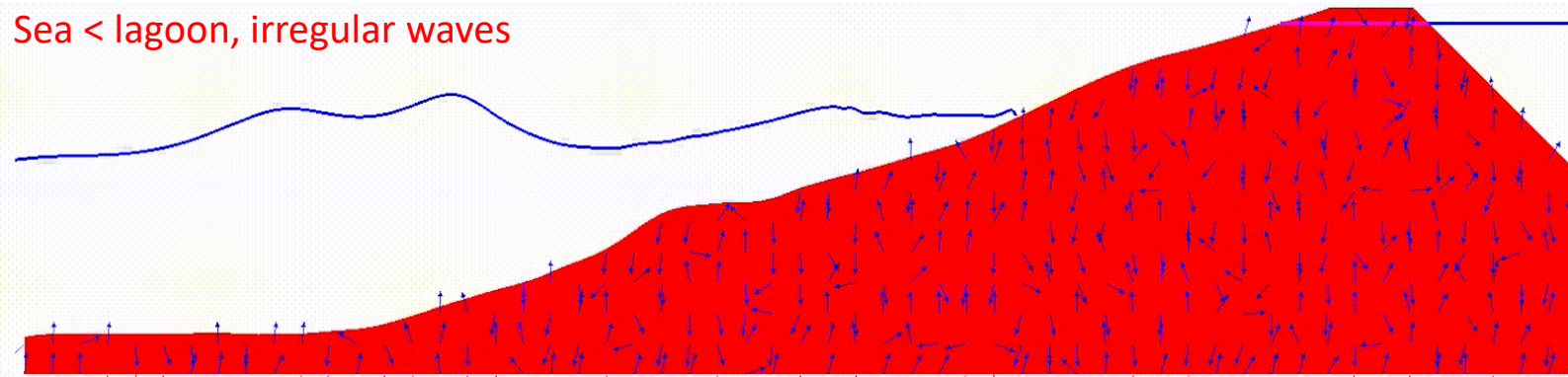
Sea < lagoon, no wave

Hydraulic head
(m)
Flux (m/s)

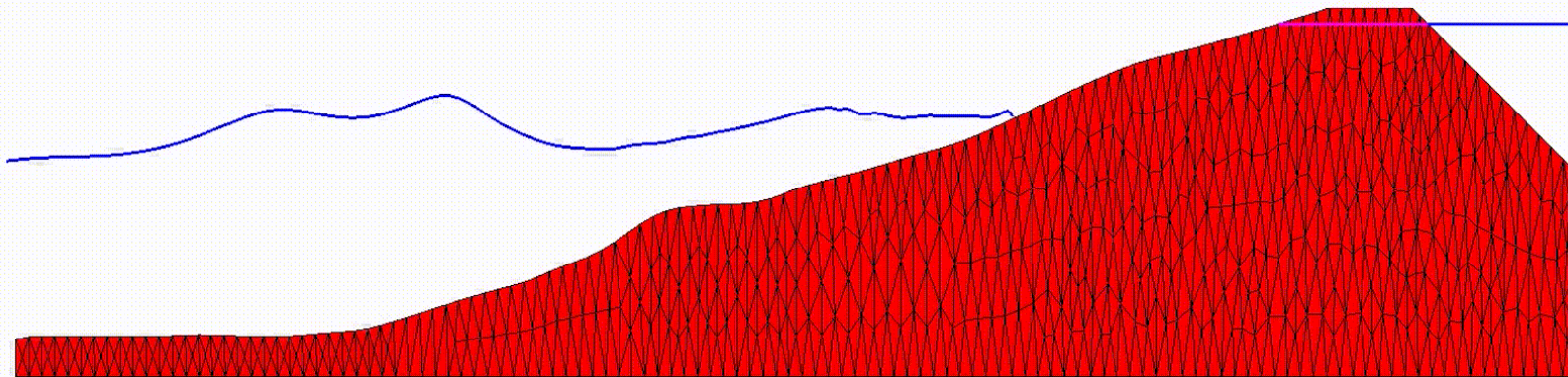


Sea < lagoon, irregular waves

Hydraulic head
(m)
Flux (m/s)



Mesh

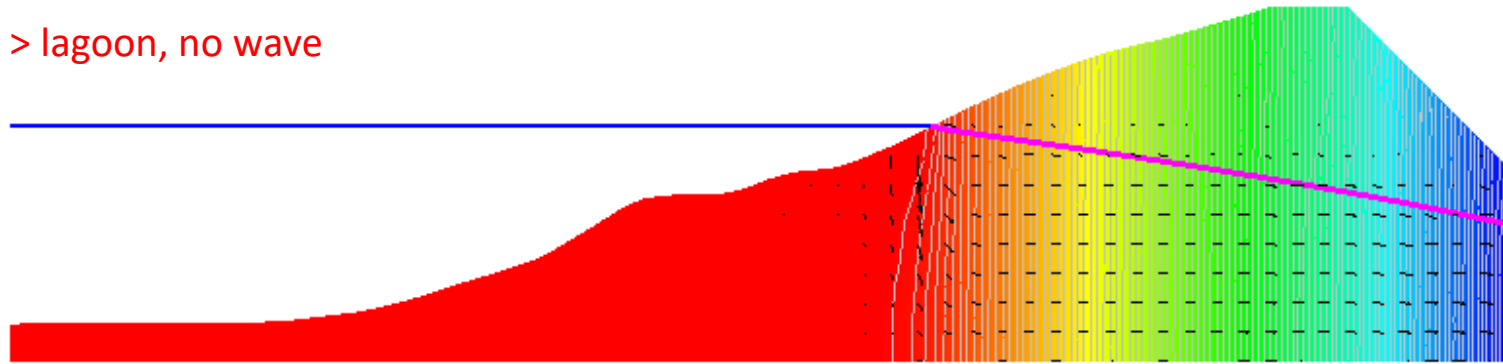




Simulation of case A4 from BARDEX II

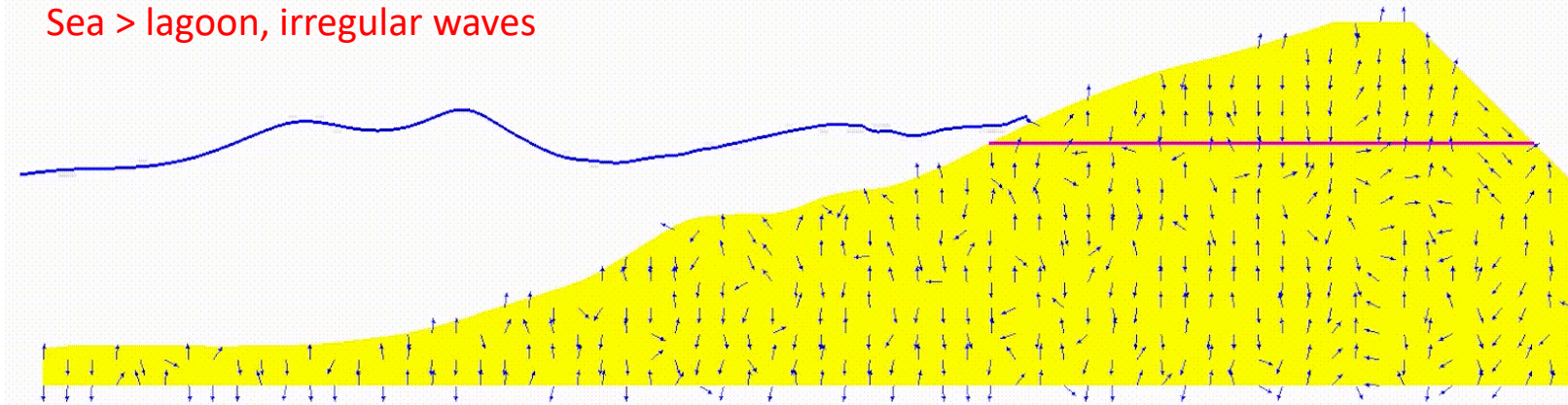
Sea > lagoon, no wave

Hydraulic head
(m)
Flux (m/s)



Sea > lagoon, irregular waves

Hydraulic head
(m)
Flux (m/s)





Simulation of case A6 from BARDEX II

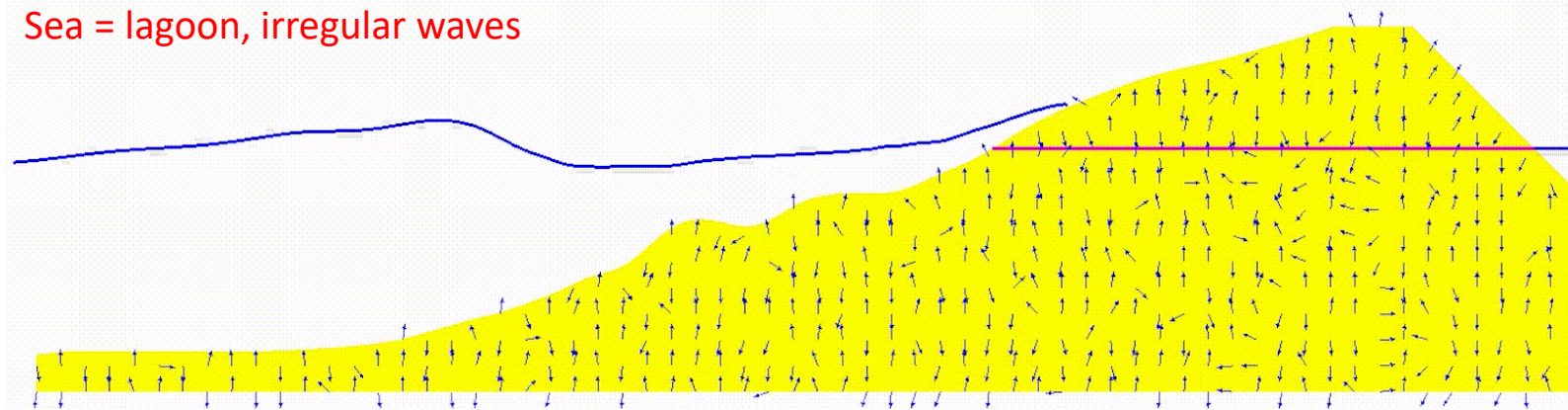
Sea = lagoon, no wave

Hydraulic head
(m)
Flux (m/s)



Sea = lagoon, irregular waves

Hydraulic head
(m)
Flux (m/s)





Conclusion

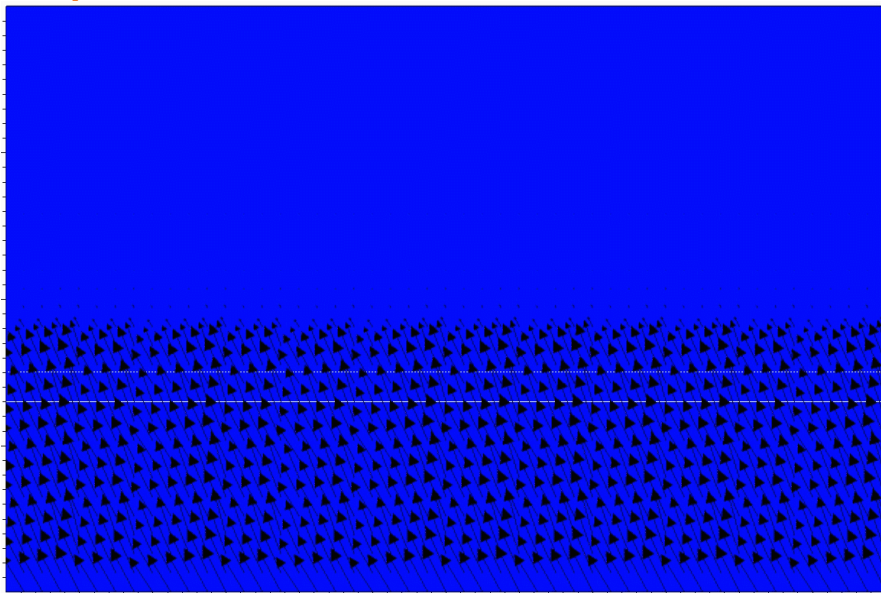
- Summary
- Perspectives



Summary

Richards' equation:

- Model for groundwater flows in **variably-saturated** porous media
- **Capillary** and **gravity** effects but no air-phase
- **Seepage**
- Numerical solution can be troublesome because of **nonlinearities, degeneracies, multiple space-time scales** leading to **convergence problems** and **spurious oscillations**



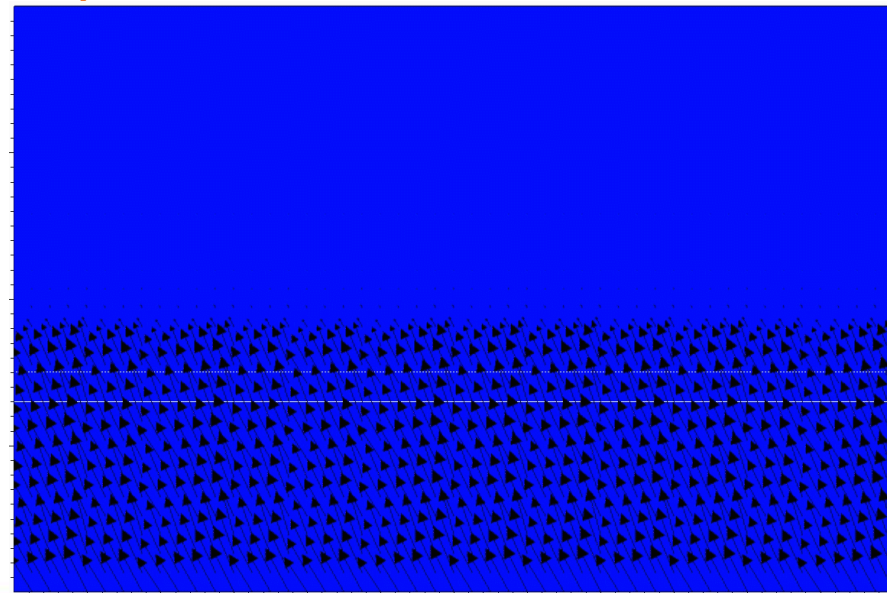
Water table recharge (Vauclin *et al.* 1979)



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High-order adaptive DG strategy: my thesis (HAL) + Clément et al., Advances in Water Resources, 2021

- **High-order** method (*hp*-adaptation + BDF)
- Nonlinear robustness with adaptive time stepping
- Unstructured **non-conforming** hybrid mesh
- Local mass balance
- **Flexibility by weak penalization** to enforce continuity, stability, boundary conditions, projection
- **Block-based AMR** (capturing techniques) and **WDG** (smoothness adjustment) work in synergy through **error indicator to resolve sharp fronts/layers**
- **Heuristic parameters of adaptation** should be investigated. **Improvement** is supported by the *augmented* simulation.

Water table recharge (Vauclin *et al.* 1979)



Perspectives

Simulations:

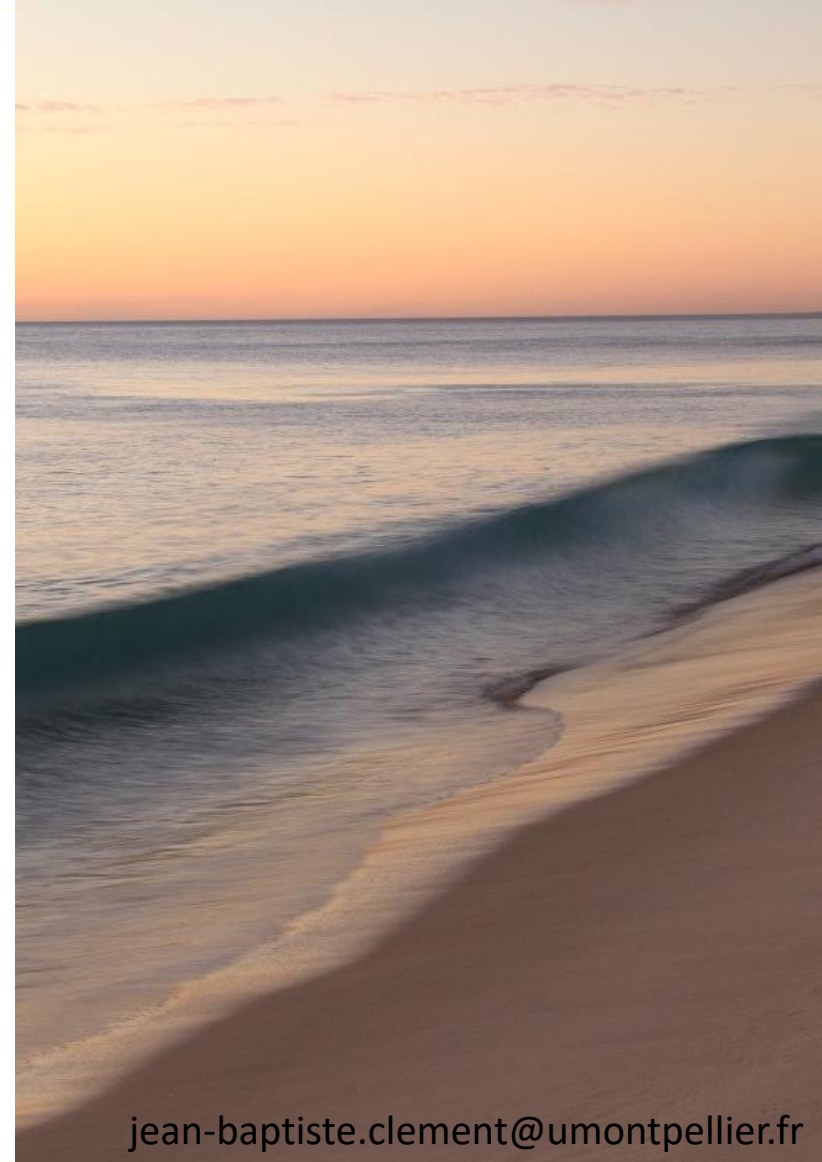
- **Confrontation** with **beach groundwater experiments** (BARDEX II, Rousty beach)

Mathematical modelling and numerical methods:

- **Coupling** of surface/groundwater flow (iterative coupling and/or enhanced interface boundary condition)
- **Improvements**
 - **Nonlinear convergence**: robustness and speed by relaxations/accelerations (scheme) or regularizations (Richards' equation)
 - **Adaptivity algorithm** (threshold values, refinement level, frequency, blocks, solution process)
 - **And more with DG?** Penalty values, flux schemes, interpolation basis
- **hp-Adaptation**, error estimation

Programming for *Rivage* code:

- Optimization, parallelization, domain decomposition
- 3D
- DG hyperbolic solver for Saint-Venant's equation + two-fluid equation



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