

Discretization of 2D FEM model

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The Equations

We start with the momentum equations and the continuity equation:

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + gH \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} + RU + X = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + gH \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} + RV + Y = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} = 0 \quad (3)$$

where x, y, t are the space coordinates and time, U, V the transports in x, y direction, ζ the water level, R the friction parameter, X, Y extra terms that can be treated explicitly in the following discretization, g the gravitational acceleration and H the total water depth.

The transports U, V can be obtained from the velocities by

$$U = \int u dz \quad V = \int v dz \quad (4)$$

where u, v are the current velocities.

The terms contained in X, Y are the non-linear advective terms, the Coriolis terms, the wind stress and the lateral eddy friction. They may be written as

$$X = U \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + V \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} - fV - \frac{\tau^x}{\rho_0} - A_H \left(\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (5)$$

$$Y = U \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + V \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + fU - \frac{\tau^y}{\rho_0} - A_H \left(\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (6)$$

where f is the Coriolis parameter, τ^x, τ^y the wind stress, ρ_0 the reference density of water and A_H the horizontal eddy viscosity.

Discretization of the Momentum Equation

We now chose weighting parameters for the discretization. These parameters are a_z for the transports in the continuity equation, a_m for the pressure term in the momentum equations and a_r for the friction term. Associated to these parameters are the parameters $\tilde{\alpha}_z, \tilde{\alpha}_m, \tilde{\alpha}_r$ that are defined as

$$\tilde{\alpha}_z = 1 - a_z \quad \tilde{\alpha}_m = 1 - a_m \quad \tilde{\alpha}_r = 1 - a_r. \quad (7)$$

All above parameters can take the values from 0 to 1 where 0 means an explicit treatment and 1 a complete implicit treatment.

Discretizing the x momentum equation one obtains

$$\frac{U^{(1)} - U^{(0)}}{\Delta t} + gH[\alpha_m \frac{\partial \zeta^{(1)}}{\partial x} + \tilde{\alpha}_m \frac{\partial \zeta^{(0)}}{\partial x}] + R[\alpha_r U^{(1)} + \tilde{\alpha}_r U^{(0)}] + X = 0 \quad (8)$$

where the total depth H and the extra terms X are always taken at the old time step.

Solving for $U^{(1)}$ and introducing the new parameter

$$\delta = \frac{1}{1 + \Delta t R \alpha_r} \quad (9)$$

we obtain

$$U^{(1)} = \delta(1 - \Delta t R \tilde{\alpha}_r)U - \Delta t \delta gH[\alpha_m \frac{\partial \zeta^{(1)}}{\partial x} + \tilde{\alpha}_m \frac{\partial \zeta^{(0)}}{\partial x}] - \Delta t \delta X. \quad (10)$$

Introducing two more auxiliary parameters

$$\gamma = \delta[1 - \Delta t R \tilde{\alpha}_r] \quad \beta = \Delta t \delta gH \quad (11)$$

we finally have for both momentum equations

$$U^{(1)} = \gamma U - \beta \alpha_m \frac{\partial \zeta^{(1)}}{\partial x} - \beta \tilde{\alpha}_m \frac{\partial \zeta^{(0)}}{\partial x} - \Delta t \delta X \quad (12)$$

$$V^{(1)} = \gamma V - \beta \alpha_m \frac{\partial \zeta^{(1)}}{\partial y} - \beta \tilde{\alpha}_m \frac{\partial \zeta^{(0)}}{\partial y} - \Delta t \delta Y \quad (13)$$

where the equation in y direction has been obtained in a similar way obtained in a similar way as the one in x direction.

Spatial Integration of the Momentum Equation

We integrate the momentum equations over one element. For this we multiply every term with the constant weighting function Ψ and integrate. Remember

that U, V are constant over an element, and ζ is varying linearly. The single terms give

$$\int \Psi U^{(1)} d\Omega = A_\Omega U^{(1)} \quad (14)$$

$$\int \Psi X d\Omega = \int X d\Omega \quad (15)$$

$$\int \frac{\partial \zeta^{(1)}}{\partial x} d\Omega = \int b_M \zeta_M^{(1)} d\Omega = A_\Omega b_M \zeta_M^{(1)} \quad (16)$$

$$\int \frac{\partial \zeta^{(1)}}{\partial y} d\Omega = \int c_M \zeta_M^{(1)} d\Omega = A_\Omega c_M \zeta_M^{(1)} \quad (17)$$

where Ω is the integration domain, A_Ω the area of the triangle and b_M, c_M are the constant derivatives of the linear form functions Φ

$$b_M = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \quad c_M = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y}. \quad (18)$$

We therefore obtain

$$U^{(1)} = \gamma U - \beta \alpha_m b_M \zeta_M^{(1)} - \beta \tilde{\alpha}_m b_M \zeta_M^{(0)} - \Delta t \delta \hat{X} \quad (19)$$

$$V^{(1)} = \gamma V - \beta \alpha_m c_M \zeta_M^{(1)} - \beta \tilde{\alpha}_m c_M \zeta_M^{(0)} - \Delta t \delta \hat{Y} \quad (20)$$

with

$$\hat{X} = \frac{1}{A_\Omega} \int X d\Omega \quad \hat{Y} = \frac{1}{A_\Omega} \int Y d\Omega. \quad (21)$$

Integration of the Continuity Equations

We first integrate the continuity equation over one element and obtain

$$\int \Phi \frac{\partial \zeta^{(1)}}{\partial x} d\Omega = \int b_M \zeta_M^{(1)} d\Omega = A_\Omega b_M \zeta_M^{(1)} \quad (22)$$