

# ELCIRC: overview of formulation

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**2nd ELCIRC User Group Meeting**

# Physical model

- Continuity equation

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0, \quad (\mathbf{u} = (u, v))$$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \int_{-h}^{\eta} \mathbf{u} dz = 0$$

- Momentum equations

$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \mathbf{f} - g\nabla\eta + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \nu \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} \right); \quad \mathbf{f} = -f\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{u} + \alpha g\nabla\psi - \frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla p_A - \frac{g}{\rho_0} \int_z^{\eta} \nabla \rho d\zeta + \nabla \cdot (\mu \nabla \mathbf{u})$$

- Vertical b.c.:

$$\begin{cases} \nu \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_w & \text{at } z = \eta \\ \nu \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} = C_D |\mathbf{u}_b| \mathbf{u}_b, & \text{at } z = -h \end{cases}$$

- Equation of state

$$\rho = \rho(p, S, T)$$

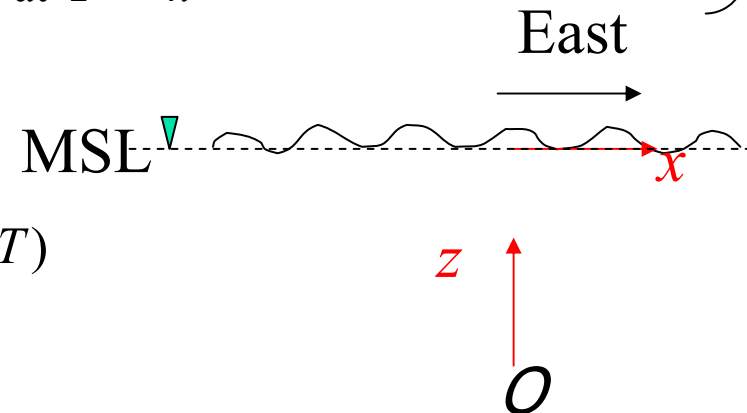
- Transport of salt and temperature

$$\frac{Dc}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \kappa \frac{\partial c}{\partial z} \right) + \frac{\dot{Q}}{\rho_0 C_p}, \quad c = (S, T)$$

- Turbulence closure: Umlauf and Burchard 2003

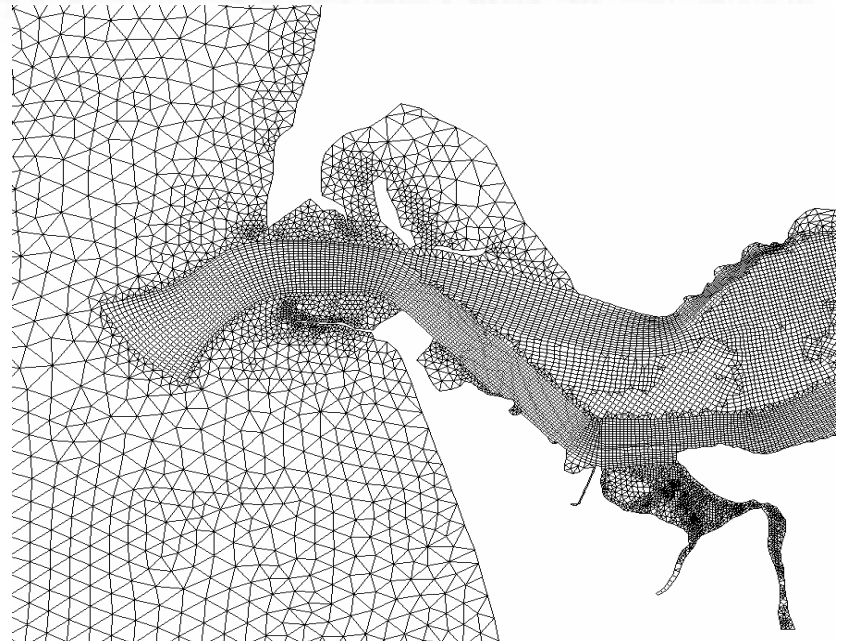
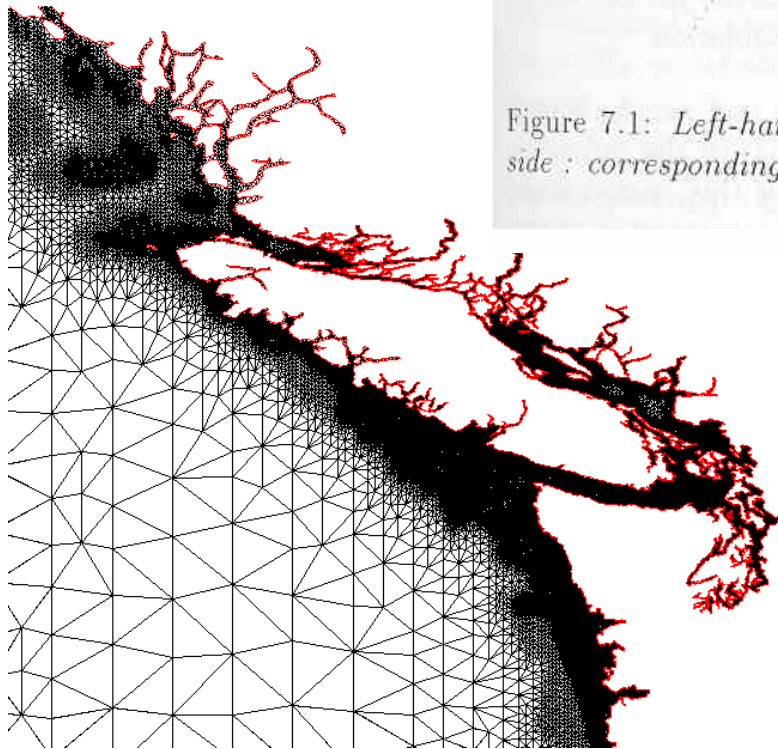
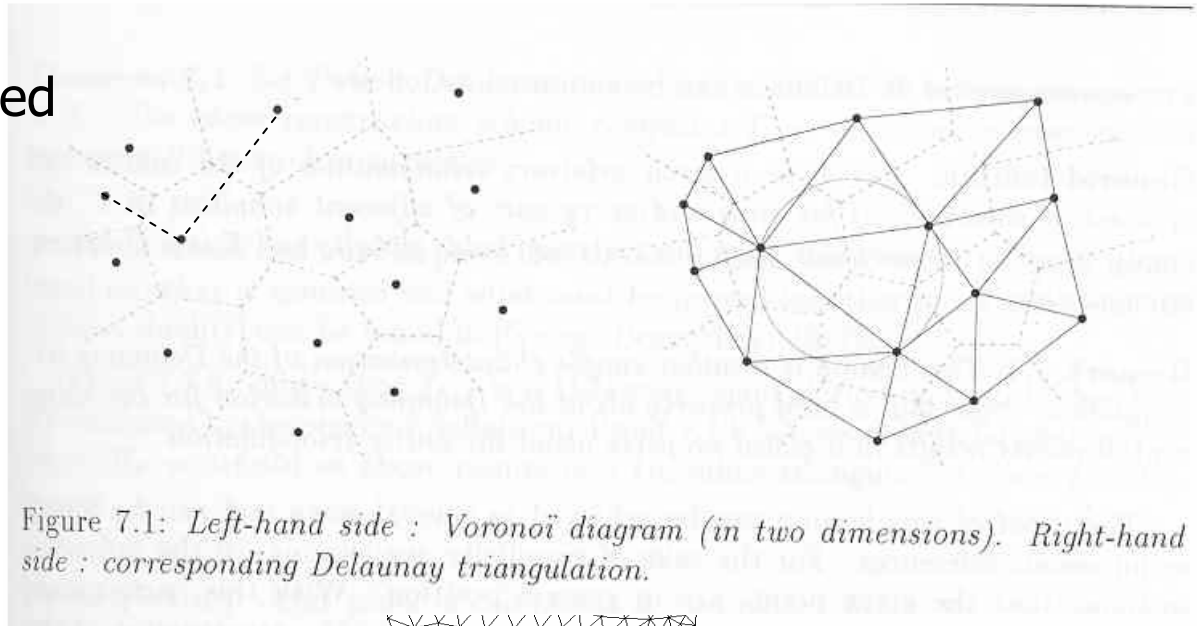
$$\frac{Dk}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \nu_k^\psi \frac{\partial k}{\partial z} \right) + \overbrace{K_{mv} M^2}^{\text{shear}} + \overbrace{K_{hv} N^2}^{\text{stratification}} - \varepsilon$$

$$\frac{D\psi}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \nu_\psi \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \right) + \frac{\psi}{k} (c_{\psi 1} K_{mv} M^2 + c_{\psi 3} K_{hv} N^2 - c_{\psi 2} F_{wall} \varepsilon) \quad \psi = (c_\mu^0)^p k^m \ell^n,$$

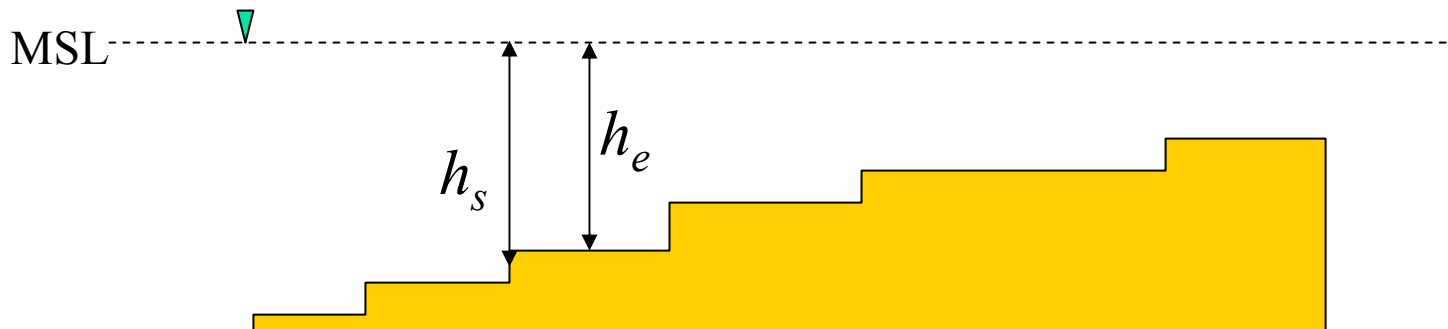
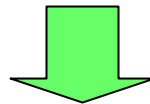
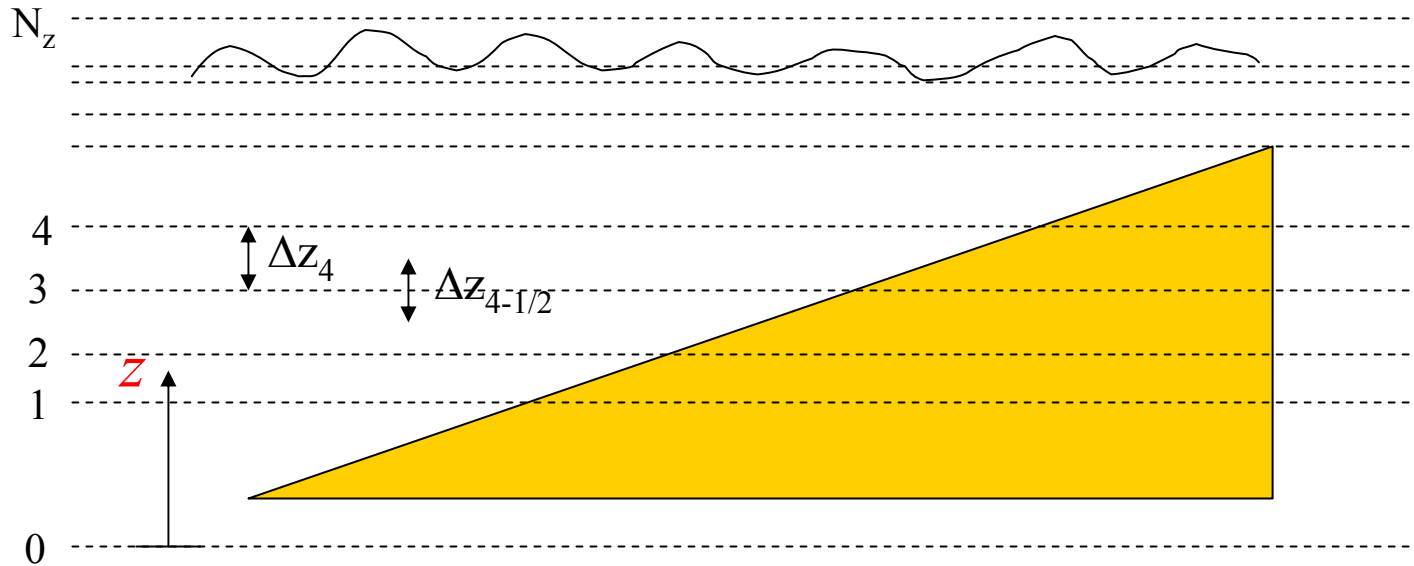


# Numerical Scheme: horizontal grid

Orthogonal unstructured



# Numerical Scheme: vertical grid

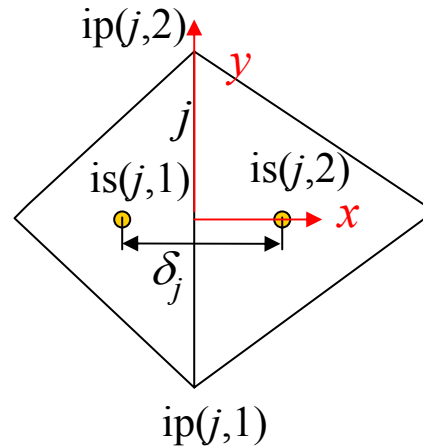
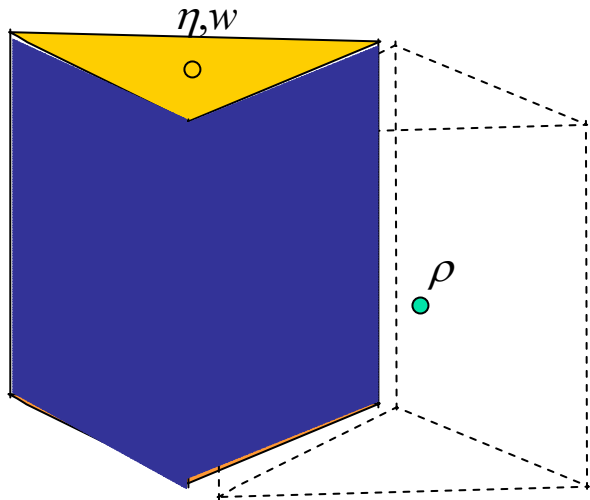


# Numerical Scheme: notations

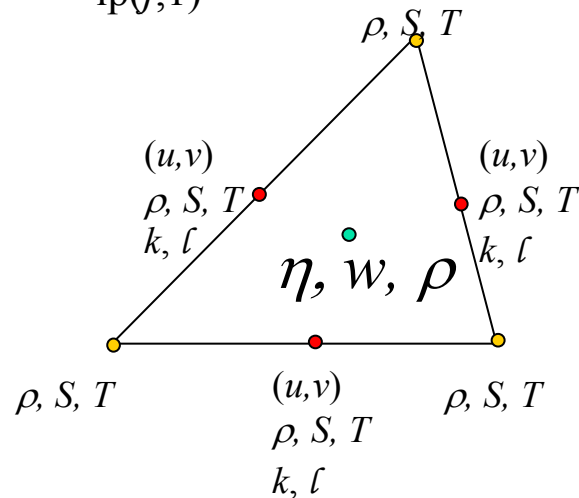
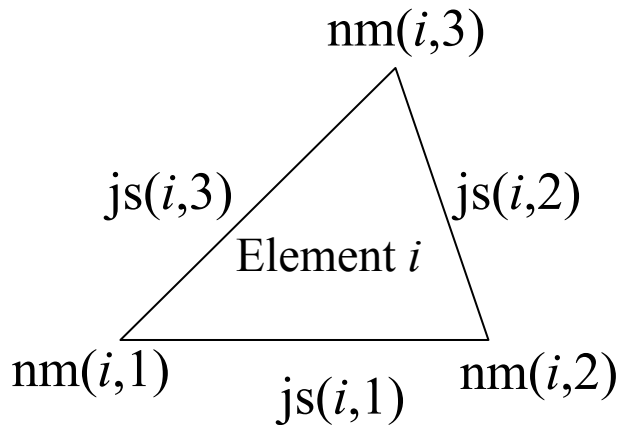
Primary unknowns:

$\eta, u, v, w, \rho, S, T$   
 $K_{mv}, K_{hv}, v_{\psi}, k, \ell$

$$u \equiv u_n, v \equiv u_t$$

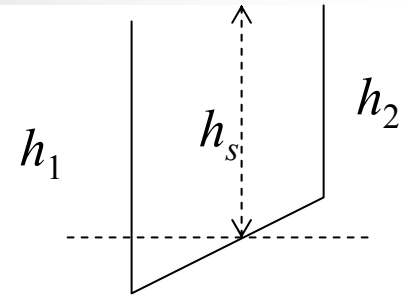


$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \Big|_j = \frac{\eta_{is(j,2)} - \eta_{is(j,1)}}{\delta_j}$$

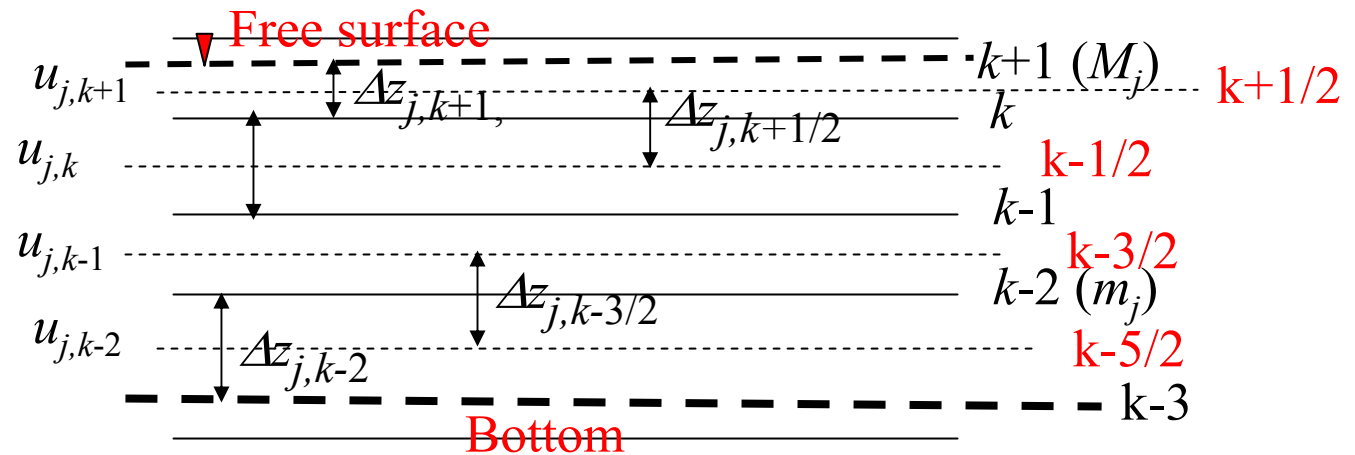


# Vertical structure of variables

1. Depth at a side:  $h_s = (h_1 + h_2)/2$ ;
2. Depth at an element:  $h_e = \max(h_{s1}, h_{s2}, h_{s3}, h_{s4})$
3. Inconsistencies of indices



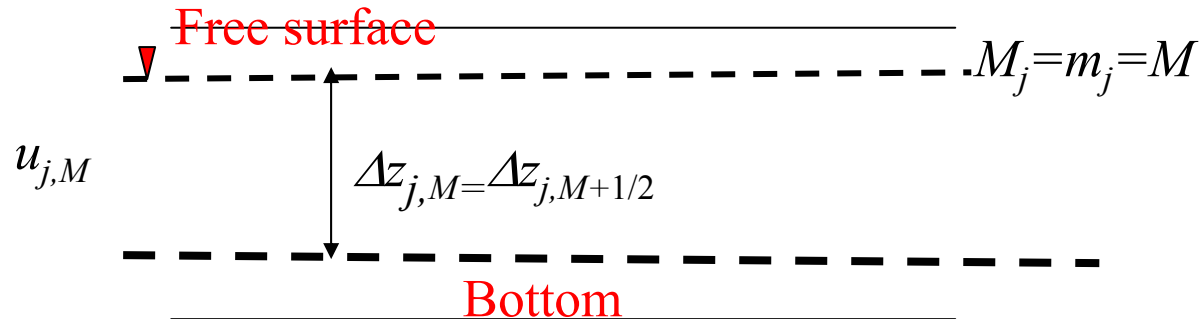
From one *side*'s (side  $j$ ) perspective:



Define  $\Delta z_{M_j+1/2} = \Delta z_{M_j}$ ,  $\Delta z_{m_j-1/2} = \Delta z_{m_j}$

# A special case

- When there is only one layer:



- Discretized 3D equations automatically become 2D depth averaged version

Not for SELFE!

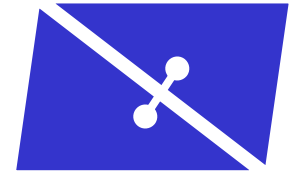
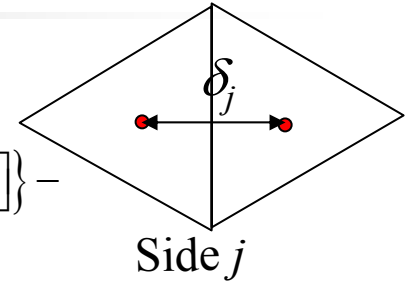
# Discretized momentum equation

- Finite difference applied to **face center**  $(j,k)$  ( $m_j \leq k \leq M_j$ ):

$$\frac{u_{j,k}^{n+1} - u_{j,k}^n}{\Delta t} = f_j v_{j,k}^n - \frac{g \omega_j}{\delta_j} \left\{ \alpha \left[ \eta_{is(j,2)}^{n+1} - \eta_{is(j,1)}^{n+1} \right] + (1 - \alpha) \left[ \eta_{is(j,2)}^n - \eta_{is(j,1)}^n \right] \right\} -$$

$$\frac{g}{\rho_0 \delta_j} \left\{ \sum_{l=k}^{M_j} \Delta z_{j,l}^n \left[ \rho_{is(j,2),l}^n - \rho_{is(j,1),l}^n \right] - \Delta z_{j,k}^n \left[ \rho_{is(j,2),k}^n - \rho_{is(j,1),k}^n \right] / 2 \right\} +$$

$$\frac{1}{\Delta z_{j,k}^n} \left[ E_{j,k}^v \frac{u_{j,k+1}^{n+1} - u_{j,k}^{n+1}}{\Delta z_{j,k+1/2}^n} - E_{j,k-1}^v \frac{u_{j,k}^{n+1} - u_{j,k-1}^{n+1}}{\Delta z_{j,k-1/2}^n} \right]$$



- Vertical boundary conditions:

$$E_{j,m_j-1}^v \frac{u_{j,m_j}^{n+1} - u_{j,m_j-1}^{n+1}}{\Delta z_{j,m_j-1/2}^n} = \tau_b u_{j,m_j}^{n+1},$$

$$E_{j,M_j}^v \frac{u_{j,M_j+1}^{n+1} - u_{j,M_j}^{n+1}}{\Delta z_{j,M_j+1/2}^n} = \tau_{wind}^x / \rho_0.$$

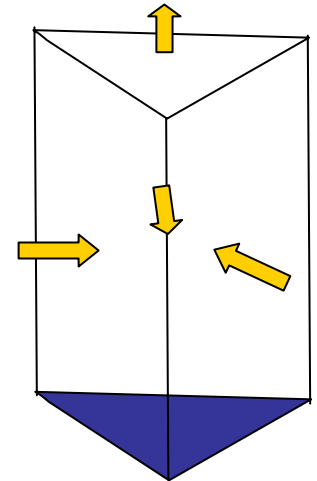
- Similar for  $v$

- FV approximation for the continuity eq. at **element centers**:

$$\int_{\Omega_i} \left( \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \int_{-h}^{\eta} \mathbf{u} dz \right) d\Omega_i = 0 \Rightarrow \int_{\Omega_i} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} d\Omega_i + \int_{\Gamma_i} d\Gamma_i \int_{-h}^{\eta} u_n dz = 0$$

$$P_i \frac{\eta_i^{n+1} - \eta_i^n}{\Delta t} + \alpha \sum_{l=1}^3 s_{i,l} \lambda_{j_{sl}} \sum_{k=m_{j_{sl}}}^{m_{j_{sl}}} \Delta z_{j_{sl},k}^n u_{j_{sl},k}^{n+1} + (1 - \alpha) \sum_{l=1}^3 s_{i,l} \lambda_{j_{sl}} \sum_{k=m_{j_{sl}}}^{m_{j_{sl}}} \Delta z_{j_{sl},k}^n u_{j_{sl},k}^n = 0$$

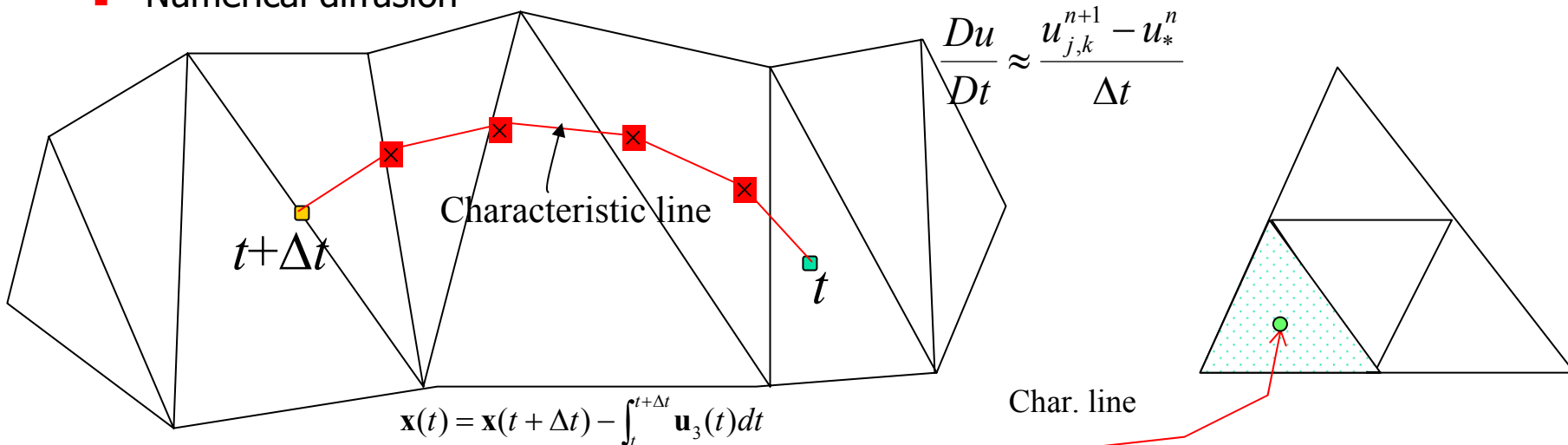
$$j_{sl} = js(i,l), \quad s_{i,l} = \frac{is(j_{sl},1) + is(j_{sl},2) - 2i}{is(j_{sl},2) - is(j_{sl},1)}, \quad \lambda_{j_{sl}} = \text{length of side } j_{sl}$$





# Backtracking (Eulerian-Lagrangian method)

- ELM: takes advantage of both Lagrangian and Eulerian methods
  - Grid is fixed in time, and time step is not limited by CFL condition
  - Advections are evaluated by following a particle that starts at certain point at time  $t$  and ends right at a pre-given point at time  $t+\Delta t$ .
  - The process of finding the starting point of the path (foot of characteristic line) is called backtracking, which is done by integrating  $d\mathbf{x}/dt=\mathbf{u}_3$  backward in time.
  - To better capture the particle movement, the backward integration is often carried out in small sub-time steps ( $\Delta t/M$ ).
    - Simple backward Euler method as the standard option
    - 5<sup>th</sup>-order embedded R-K method as an alternative
    - Interpolation-ELM does not preserve mass
- Numerical diffusion



# Formal substitution

- Momentum and wave-continuity equations in matrix form:

$$\mathbf{A}_j \mathbf{U}_j^{n+1} = \mathbf{G}_j^n - \alpha g \frac{\omega_j \Delta t}{\delta_j} \left[ \eta_{is(j,2)}^{n+1} - \eta_{is(j,1)}^{n+1} \right] \Delta \mathbf{Z}_j^n, \quad j = 1, \dots, N_s,$$

$$\mathbf{A}_j \mathbf{V}_j^{n+1} = \mathbf{F}_j^n - \alpha g \frac{\omega'_j \Delta t}{\lambda_j} \left[ \eta_{ip(j,2)}^{n+1} - \eta_{ip(j,1)}^{n+1} \right] \Delta \mathbf{Z}_j^n, \quad j = 1, \dots, N_s,$$

$$\eta_i^{n+1} = \eta_i^n - \frac{\alpha \Delta t}{P_i} \sum_{l=1}^3 s_{i,l} \lambda_{j_{sl}} \left[ \Delta \mathbf{Z}_{j_{sl}}^n \right]^T \mathbf{U}_{j_{sl}}^{n+1} - \frac{(1-\alpha) \Delta t}{P_i} \sum_{l=1}^3 s_{i,l} \lambda_{j_{sl}} \left[ \Delta \mathbf{Z}_{j_{sl}}^n \right]^T \mathbf{U}_{j_{sl}}^n, \quad i = 1, \dots, N_e$$

$$\mathbf{U}_j^{n+1} = \begin{bmatrix} u_{j,M_j}^{n+1} \\ \vdots \\ u_{j,m_j}^{n+1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Delta \mathbf{Z}_j^n = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta z_{j,M_j}^n \\ \vdots \\ \Delta z_{j,m_j}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad \boxed{\mathbf{A}_j, \mathbf{G}_j}$$

- Substitution of the first to third equation leads to:

$$\mathbf{U}_j^{n+1} = \mathbf{A}_j^{-1} \mathbf{G}_j^n - \alpha g \frac{\omega_j \Delta t}{\delta_j} \left[ \eta_{is(j,2)}^{n+1} - \eta_{is(j,1)}^{n+1} \right] \mathbf{A}_j^{-1} \Delta \mathbf{Z}_j^n, \quad (j = 1, \dots, N_s)$$

$$\eta_i^{n+1} - \frac{g \alpha^2 \Delta t^2}{P_i} \sum_{l=1}^3 \frac{s_{i,l} \lambda_{j_{sl}}}{\delta_{j_{sl}}} \left[ \eta_{is(j_{sl},2)}^{n+1} - \eta_{is(j_{sl},1)}^{n+1} \right] \left[ \Delta \mathbf{Z}_{j_{sl}}^n \right]^T \mathbf{A}_{j_{sl}}^{-1} \Delta \mathbf{Z}_{j_{sl}}^n =$$

$$\eta_i^n - \frac{(1-\alpha) \Delta t}{P_i} \sum_{l=1}^3 s_{i,l} \lambda_{j_{sl}} \left[ \Delta \mathbf{Z}_{j_{sl}}^n \right]^T \mathbf{U}_{j_{sl}}^n - \frac{\alpha \Delta t}{P_i} \sum_{l=1}^3 s_{i,l} \lambda_{j_{sl}} \left[ \Delta \mathbf{Z}_{j_{sl}}^n \right]^T \mathbf{A}_{j_{sl}}^{-1} \mathbf{G}_{j_{sl}}^n, \quad (i = 1, \dots, N_e)$$

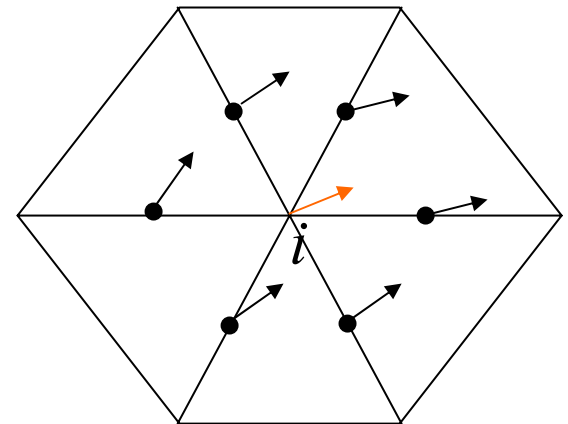
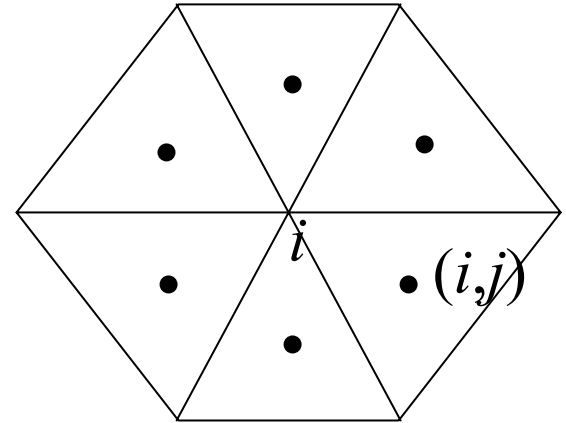
# Tangential velocity

- Elevations at nodes:

$$\mathbf{A}_j \mathbf{V}_j^{n+1} = \mathbf{F}_j^n - \alpha g \frac{\omega'_j \Delta t}{\lambda_j} [\eta_{ip(j,2)}^{n+1} - \eta_{ip(j,1)}^{n+1}] \Delta \mathbf{Z}_j^n,$$

$$\eta_i^{n+1} - \eta_i^n = \frac{\sum_j P_{(i,j)} [\eta_{(i,j)}^{n+1} - \eta_{(i,j)}^n]}{\sum_j P_{(i,j)}}$$

- Averaging around the ball

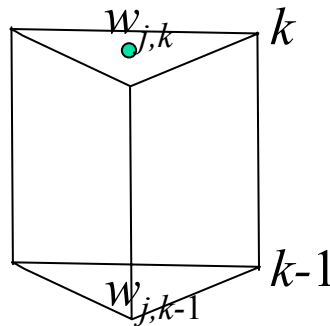


# Vertical velocity

- Serves primarily as a diagnostic variable for mass conservation
- Generally small, but if not treated with care, it can lead to excessive vertical mixing for  $S, T$ .
- Finite Volume Method for continuity equation:

$$w_{i,k}^{n+1} = w_{i,k-1}^n - \frac{1}{P_i} \sum_{j=1}^3 s_{i,j} \lambda_{jsj} \Delta z_{jsj,k} u_{jsj,k}^{n+1} \quad (k = m, \dots, M; jsj = js(i, j));$$

$$w_{i,m-1}^n = 0 \quad (\text{b.c.})$$



# Transport equation

- Finite difference method

$$\frac{c_{j,k}^{n+1} - c_{j,k}^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{\Delta z_{j,k}^n} \left[ e_{j,k}^v \frac{c_{j,k+1}^{n+1} - c_{j,k}^{n+1}}{\Delta z_{j,k+1/2}^n} - e_{j,k-1}^v \frac{c_{j,k}^{n+1} - c_{j,k-1}^{n+1}}{\Delta z_{j,k-1/2}^n} \right] + Q_{j,k}^{n+1} \quad (j = 1, \dots, N_s \text{ or } N_p)$$

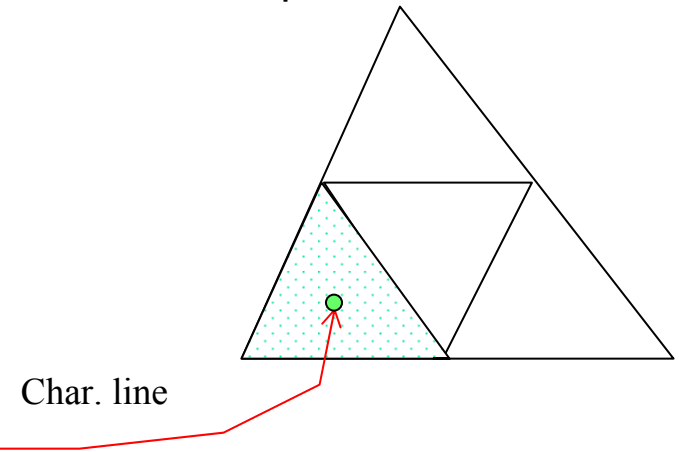
- Numerical diffusion (subdivision of elements)

- Open boundary condition (o.b.c):

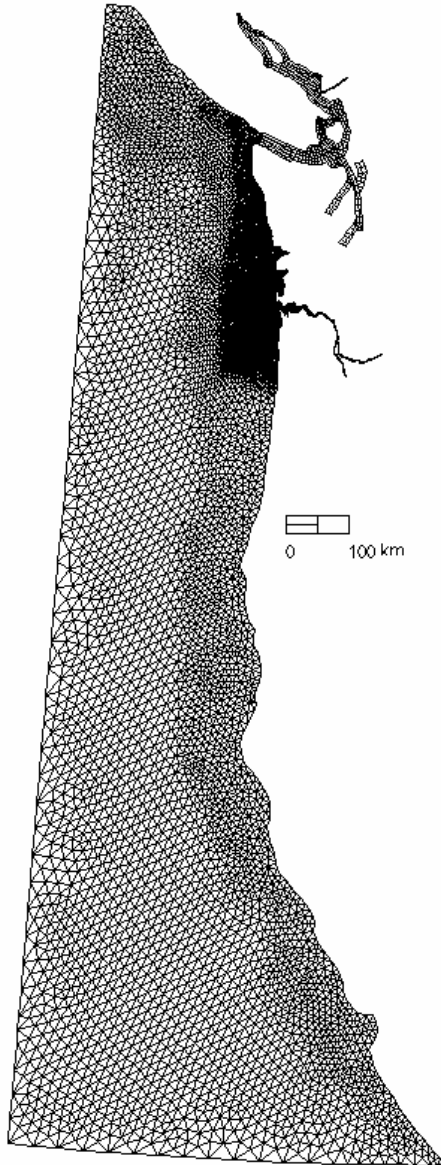
- $S, T$  are allowed to leave the domain unhindered for outflow condition, and are specified for inflow.
- With backtracking, this can be easily done

- Heat budget:

- At the air water interface, total heat flux is the sum of upward radiation flux, heat loss due to latent heat of evaporation, and upward turbulent heat flux
- In addition, solar radiation serves as a heat (body) source for temperature



# Computational performance

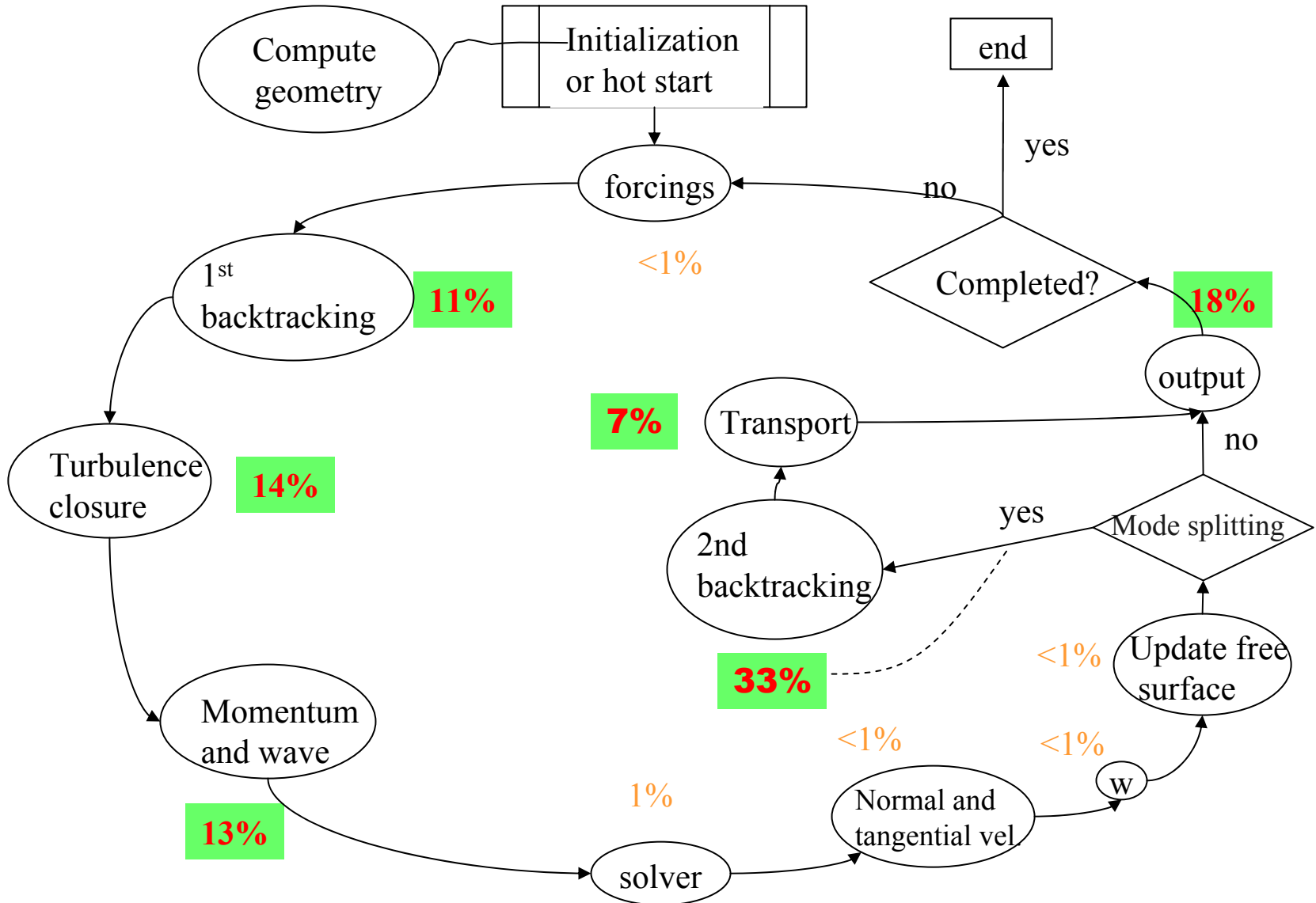


## Forecast grid specifications:

- 62  $z$ -levels
- 50,622 horizontal elements
- ~2.3m prism faces
- 2.3x faster than real time on a single CPU Intel Xeon
- ~5GB hvel.64 per week

# Serial ELCIRC flow chart

All numbers are based on a most recent CORIE run



# Preparing an Elcirc run

<http://www.ccalmr.ogi.edu/CORIE/modeling/elcirc/>

- Inputs:
  - \*.gr3 : grid files;
  - \*.bp: build point files;
  - \*.th: time history files;
  - \*.ic: initial conditions;
  - \*.in: vgrid; parameters etc.
- Create a horizontal grid and open and land boundaries with xmgredit5
- Create vertical grid file (vgrid.in)
- Create param.in (parameter option file)
- Run pre-processor (ipre=1) to get obe.out (needed in param.in), centers.bp, and sidecenters.bp;
- Get all external forcings
  - Tides
  - Wind & heat exchange
  - Time history input at boundaries (river discharge etc.)
- Create additional input files if necessary
  - Initial condition input: salt.ic & temp.ic;
  - Bottom friction input: drag.bp
- Reset pre-processor flag to 0 and run ELCIRC
- Analyze the results (xmvis6)



# Grid generation: XMGREDIT5 (Turner et al.)

- Most useful functions:

- Build

- Circular/rectangular spread
    - Automatic placement
    - Triangulate build points

- Boundaries

- Compute boundary

- gridDEM

- Load bathymetry
    - Create open/land boundaries

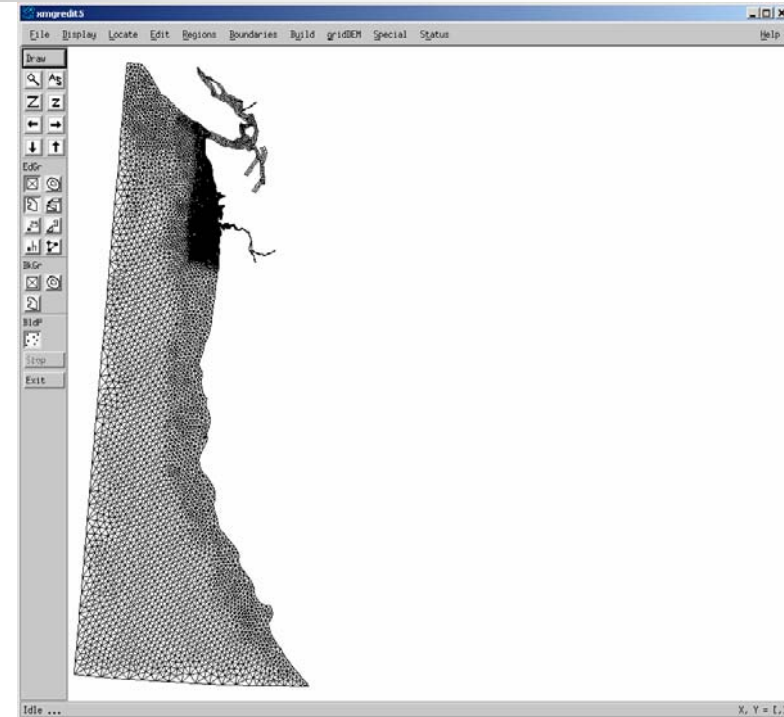
- Edit

- Edit over grid/regions→evaluate; conversion between triangles and quads
    - Edit triangles→ move nodes, delete elements ...

- Display

- Isolines of bathymetry (edit/background grid)

- Example of horizontal grid file



# Sample \*.gr3

grid05142004; min depth=-10m

50622 34190

1 346712.890917 286491.506150 9.185

2 346709.710000 286589.787120 8.358

3 346661.996250 286494.484361 9.374

4 346172.135083 286702.959145 9.319

7 .....

1 3 1 2 3

2 3 4 5 6

3 4 7 8 9 130

4 3 10 11 12

....

4 = Number of open boundaries

94 = Total number of open boundary nodes

85 = Number of nodes for open boundary 1

23878

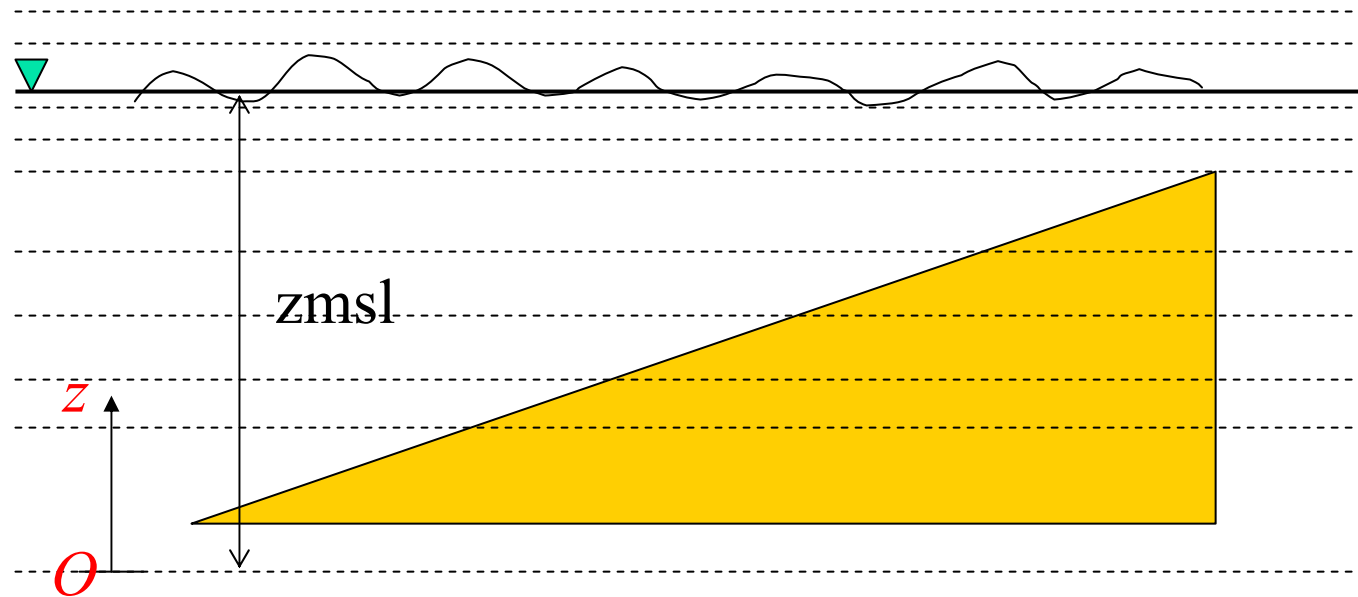
23867

23868

....

# Sample vgrid.in

```
62 4825.1 ←zmsl
1 2627.00 2627.00
2 1000.00 3627.00
3 500.00 4127.00
4 200.00 4327.00
.....
59 0.80 4826.60
60 1.00 4827.60
61 2.00 4829.60
62 36.40 4866.00
```



# Param.in

QUARTER ANNULAR TEST EXAMPLE 1

ELCIRC

1 NSCREEN

0 iforecast

0 IHOT

1 ICS

0.0 0.0 SLAM0,SFEA0

1.0

1 0 baroclinic/barotropic

4. 30. 0. 33.

5. RNDAY

1 2.

2095.872 1047.936 Dt

2 nsubfl

5 90 NDELTA

1 nadv

0.01 h0

0 ntau

0. Cd

0 NCOR

0.0 CORI

**2 3600. NWS ← hdf**

**1 0.5**

**1 0 heat**

0 turbulence closure

1.e-2 1.e-4

0 ihorcon

0.

0

0. 0.

1 1 i.c.

1 !NBFR

M2

0.000140525700000 1.0 0.0

8

M2

0.3048 0.00

.....

10 960

1 elevation: iof,touts,toutf,spool

.....

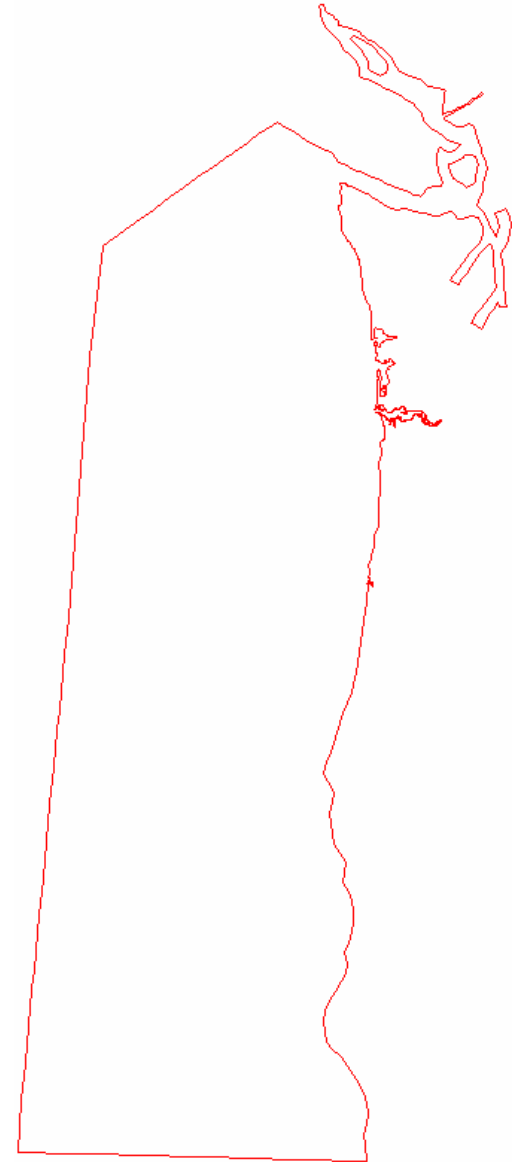
1 NHSTAR

1 1000 0 5.e-6 1.e-13

0 0 iflux ihcheck

1 iwmode

1 nsplit



← b.c.

# Visualization: XMvis6 (Turner et al.)

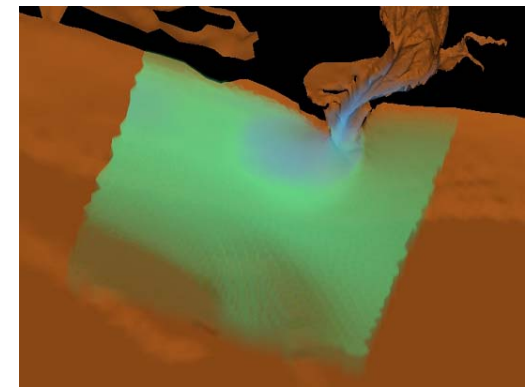
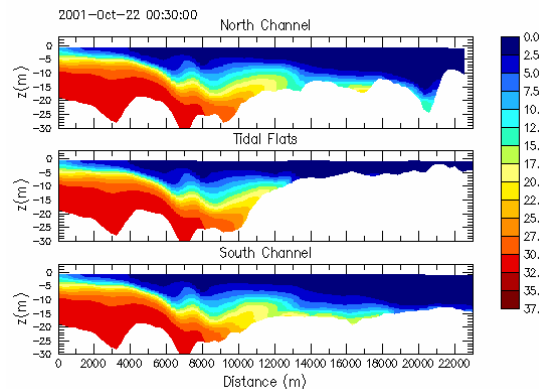
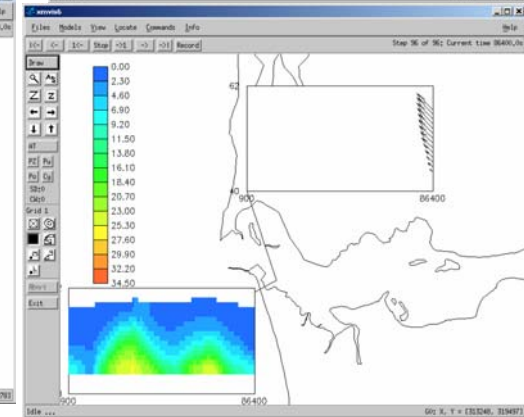
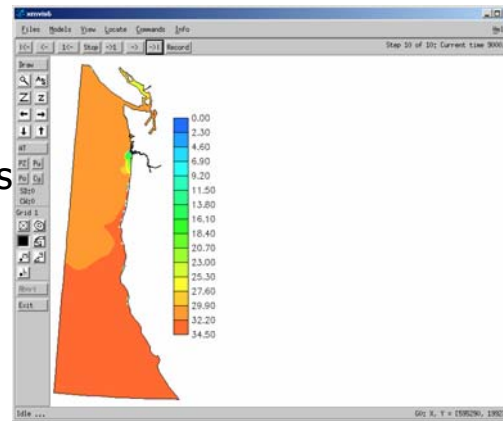
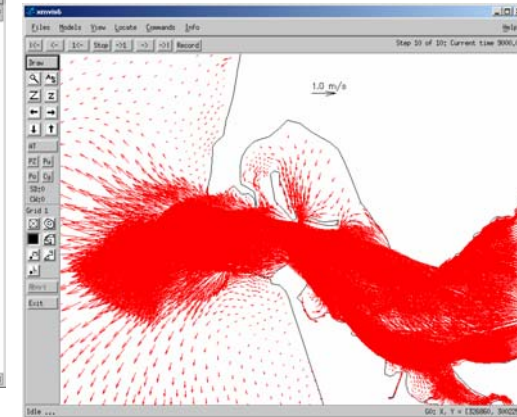
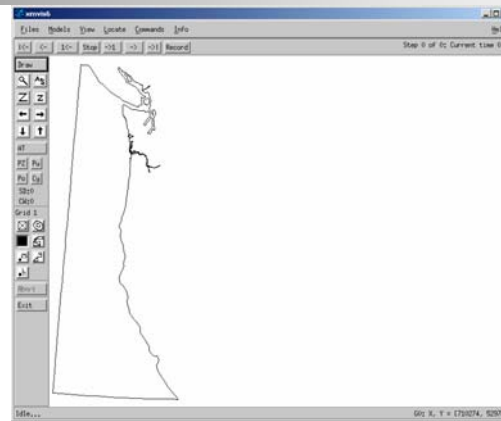
## Main global binary outputs:

- \*.61: 2D scalars (1\_elev.61)
- \*.62: 2D vectors (3\_wind.62)
- \*.63: 3D scalars (2\_salt.63)
- \*.64: 3D vectors (7\_hvel.64)

## Most useful functions:

- Files
  - ELCIRC slabs ← horizontal levels
  - ELCIRC samples ← vertical profiles
  - ELCIRC surface/bottom
  - ELCIRC transects
- Models
  - Time histories
- Locate

## G3



# Practical issues

- Horizontal grid
  - Orthogonal vs. non-orthogonal elements
  - Triangles vs quads
  - Use uniform quads and general triangles
- Vertical grid
  - Adequate resolution for baroclinic applications
- Parameters
  - $$\Delta t = \Delta x / \sqrt{g'h}$$
  - Baroclinic time step: optimal near
  - Implicitness factor: 0.6
  - Turbulence closure (GLS): may need to impose mixing limits for different regions
  - Bottom friction has limited influence
- Nudging for S,T: implemented in version 02k
  - Found to accelerate the time to reach “equilibrium”
  - Parallel runs for long-term simulation (b.c.)

# ELCIRC: the good, the bad, and the ugly

- Summary of main features
  - Semi-implicit finite-difference/finite-volume method
    - Unstructured grid in horizontal;  $z$ -coordinates in the vertical
    - Semi-implicit in time
      - Stability is guaranteed for  $0.5 < \theta < 1$ .
    - Finite difference for momentum, transport and turbulence closure equations
    - Finite volume for continuity eq
      - Volume conservation is strictly enforced locally and globally
    - No splitting between the external and internal modes
  - Treatment of advection: Eulerian-Lagrangian (ELM)
    - CFL restriction from baroclinicity only  $\rightarrow$  large time steps  $\rightarrow$  efficiency
  - Wetting and drying is treated naturally by the FV formulation
- The good
  - Robust, efficient, flexible, volume conservative
- The bad
  - Low order; Staircase bottom; orthogonality; numerical diffusion/dissipation
- The ugly
  - Inconsistencies and ambiguities of indices



# MPI ELCIRC

---

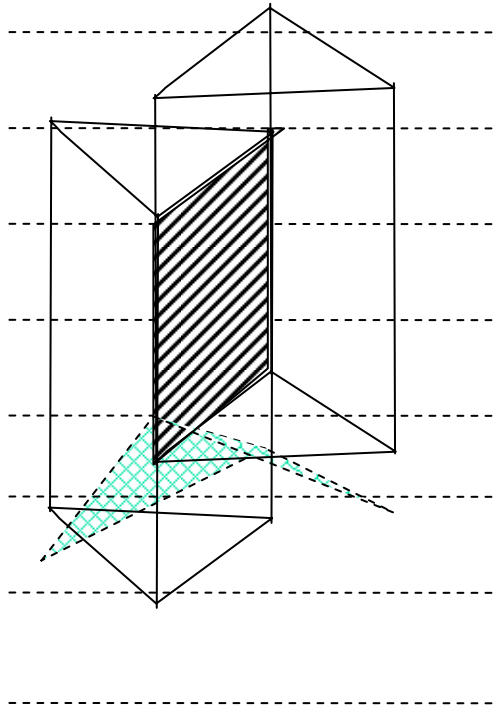
- Developed by Tim Campbell at NRL
- Use ParMeTiS and MeTiS graph partitioning libraries for domain-decomposition
  - Load-balancing is done for 3D domain but the continuity equation is solved along horizontal direction
- Parallel Jacobi preconditioned Conjugate Gradient solver
- Most changes in the backtracking part
- Implemented on various platforms: Intel; IBM; NOAA Beowulf cluster
  - Efficiency on our Intel cluster is about 50%; higher on Tim's 64-bit IBM cluster
- Work in progress
  - Load balancing
  - I/O
  - MPI SELF





END

# Side and element indices



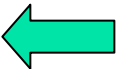
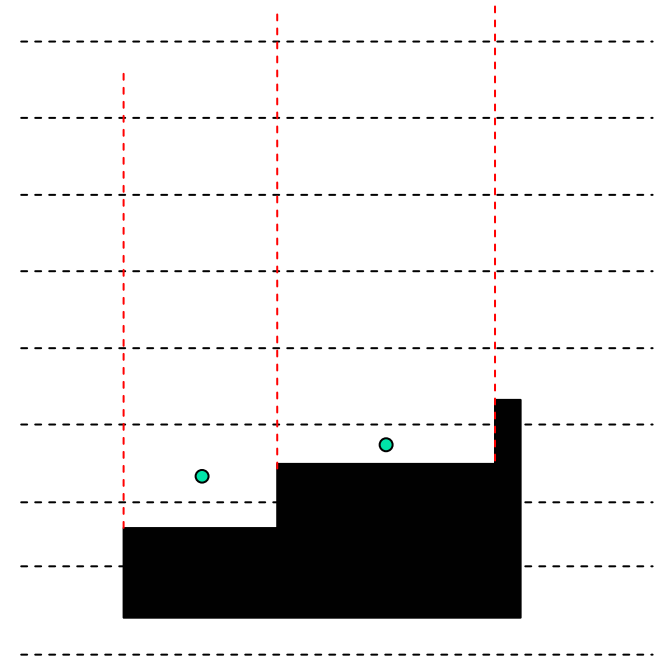
For a wet side  $j$

$$1 \leq m'_{is(j,l)} \leq m_j \leq M_j \leq M'_{is(j,l)} \quad (l=1,2)$$

For a dry side  $j$

$$M_j = 0, \quad M_{is(j,l)} = 0$$

Baroclinic gradient



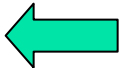
# Matrices **A** and **G**

$$\mathbf{A}_j = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta z_{j,M_j} + a_{j,M_j-1/2} & -a_{j,M_j-1/2} & \dots & 0 \\ -a_{j,M_j-1/2} & \Delta z_{j,M_j-1} + a_{j,M_j-1/2} + a_{j,M_j-3/2} & -a_{j,M_j-3/2} \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & \dots & -a_{j,m_j+1/2} & \Delta z_{j,m_j-1} + a_{j,m_j+1/2} + \tau_b \Delta t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$a_{j,k\pm 1/2} = E_{k\pm 1/2-1/2}^v \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta z_{j,k\pm 1/2}^n}$$

$$\mathbf{G}_j = \begin{pmatrix} g_{j,M_j}^n + \tau_{wind}^x \Delta t / \rho_0 \\ g_{j,M_j-1}^n \\ \vdots \\ g_{j,m_j}^n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g_{j,k}^n = \Delta z_{j,k}^n \left\{ f_j v_{j,k}^n \Delta t + u_{j,k}^* - \frac{g \omega_j \Delta t}{\delta_j} (1 - \alpha) [\eta_{is(j,2)}^n - \eta_{is(j,1)}^n] - \dots \right\}$$





---

# SELFIE: model formulation



## Semi-implicit Eulerian-Lagrangian Finite Element (SELFE)

- A formal semi-implicit finite-element framework
- Unstructured grid in the horizontal
- Hybrid *SZ* in the vertical
- Eulerian-Lagrangian method (ELM) for advection
- Treats inundation/drying in a natural way
- A key step is to decouple the continuity and momentum equations through the bottom boundary layer
- Volume conservation is not enforced numerically
- Numerical efficiency: semi-implicit time stepping; ELM
  - Mild stability constraint: Coriolis, horizontal viscosity, baroclinic pressure
  - Moderately more expensive than ELCIRC
- Convergence rate: 2<sup>nd</sup> order for uniform grid; 1<sup>st</sup> order otherwise

# Governing equations

- Continuity equation

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0, \quad (\mathbf{u} = (u, v))$$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \int_{-h}^{\eta} \mathbf{u} dz = 0$$

- Momentum equations

$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \mathbf{f} - g\nabla\eta + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \nu \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} \right); \quad \mathbf{f} = -f\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{u} + \alpha g \nabla \hat{\psi} - \frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla p_A - \frac{g}{\rho_0} \int_z^{\eta} \nabla \rho d\zeta + \nabla \cdot (\mu \nabla \mathbf{u})$$

- Vertical b.c.:

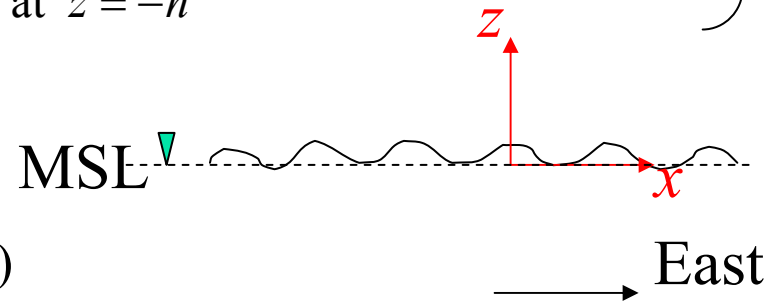
$$\begin{cases} \nu \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_w & \text{at } z = \eta \\ \nu \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} = C_D |\mathbf{u}_b| \mathbf{u}_b, & \text{at } z = -h \end{cases}$$

- Equation of state

$$\rho = \rho(p, S, T)$$

- Transport of salt and temperature

$$\frac{Dc}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \kappa \frac{\partial c}{\partial z} \right) + \frac{\dot{Q}}{\rho_0 C_p}, \quad c = (S, T)$$



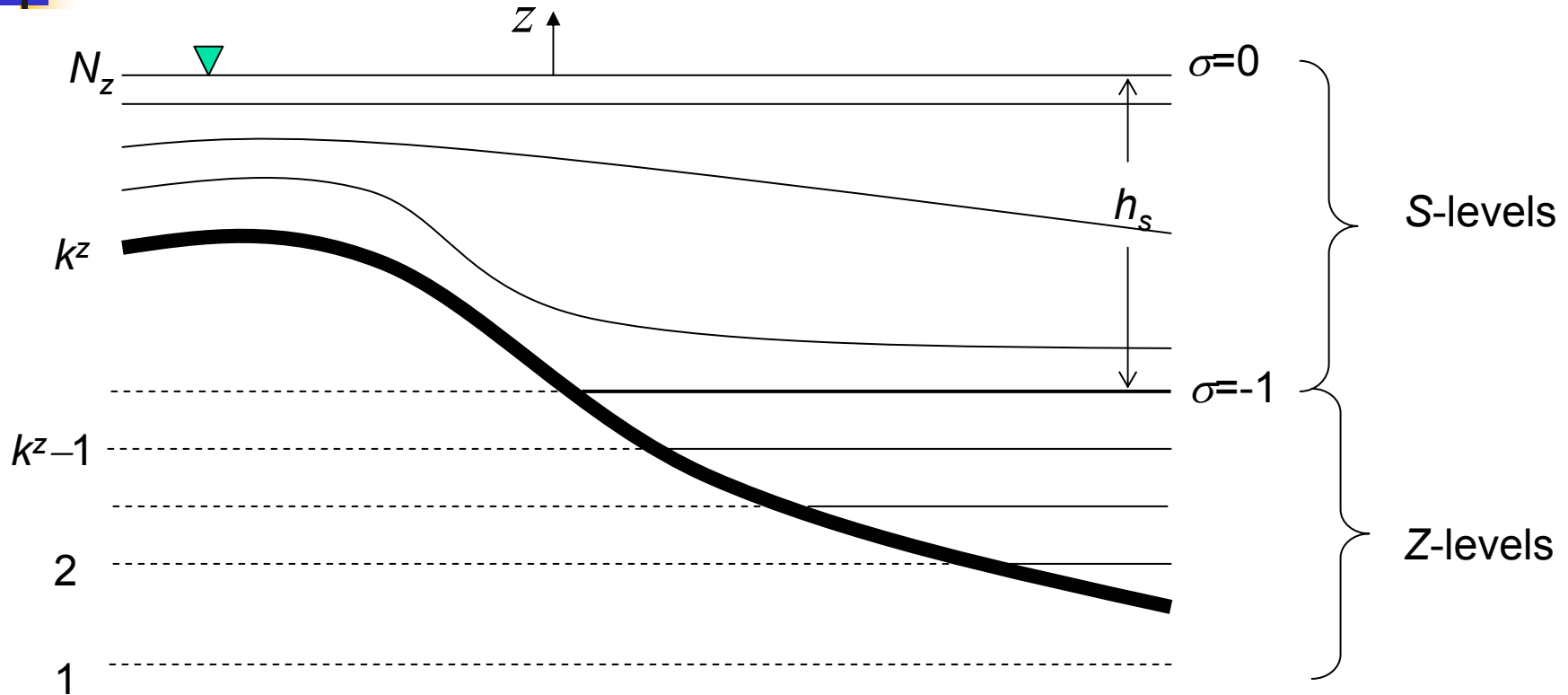
- Turbulence closure: Umlauf and Burchard 2003

$$\frac{Dk}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \nu_k^\psi \frac{\partial k}{\partial z} \right) + \overbrace{K_{mv} M^2}^{\text{shear}} + \overbrace{K_{hv} N^2}^{\text{stratification}} - \varepsilon$$

$$\frac{D\psi}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \nu_\psi \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \right) + \frac{\psi}{k} (c_{\psi 1} K_{mv} M^2 + c_{\psi 3} K_{hv} N^2 - c_{\psi 2} F_{wall} \varepsilon)$$

$$\psi = (c_\mu^0)^p k^m \ell^n,$$

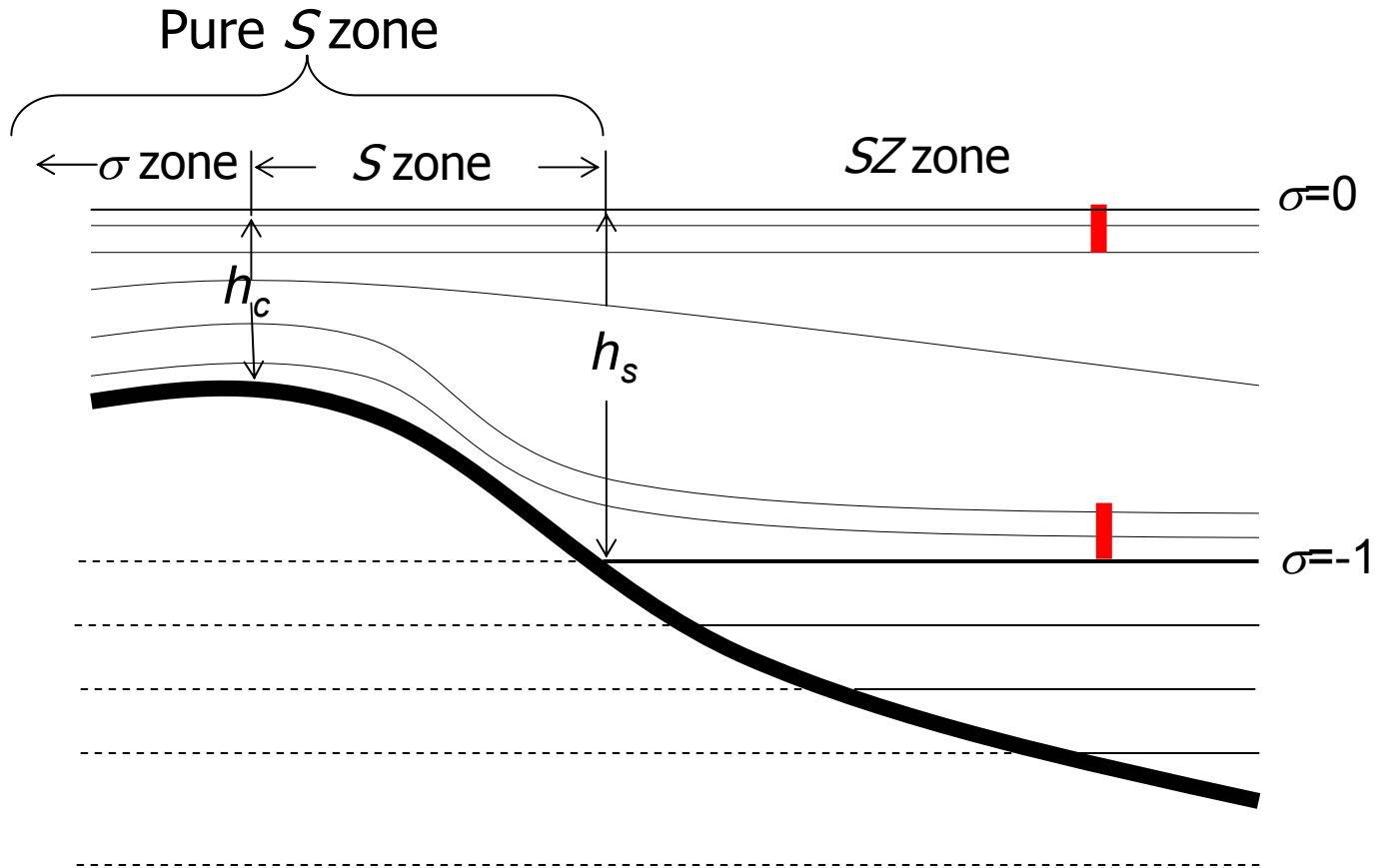
# Vertical grid (1)



$$\begin{cases} z = \eta(1 + \sigma) + h_c \sigma + (\tilde{h} - h_c)C(\sigma) & (-1 \leq \sigma \leq 0) \\ C(\sigma) = (1 - \theta_b) \frac{\sinh(\theta_f \sigma)}{\sinh \theta_f} + \theta_b \frac{\tanh[\theta_f(\sigma + 1/2)] - \tanh(\theta_f/2)}{2 \tanh(\theta_f/2)} & (0 \leq \theta_b \leq 1; 0 < \theta_f \leq 20) \end{cases}$$

$\tilde{h} = \min(h, h_s)$

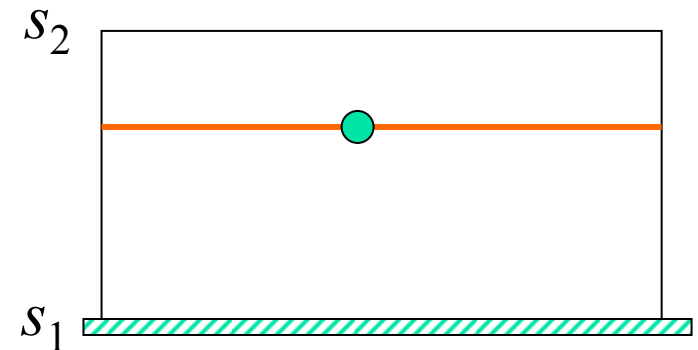
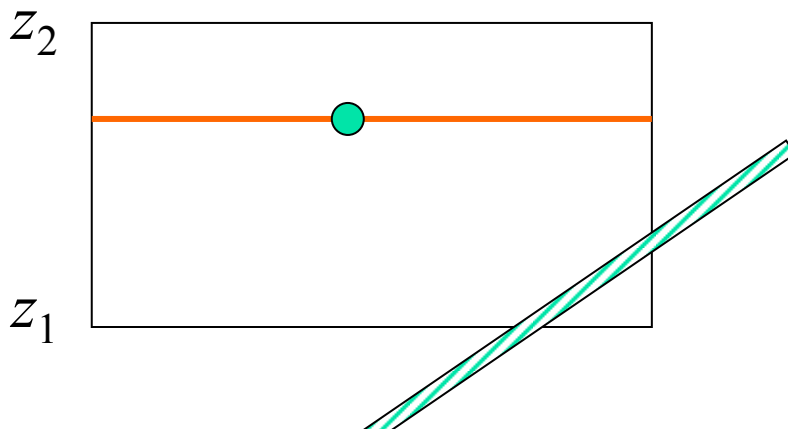
# Vertical grid (2)





# Vertical grid (3)

- $S$ -coordinates (Song and Haidvogel 1994) are ideal for shallow region
- $Z$ -coordinates are necessary to “stabilize” the deep region
- $\sigma$ -coordinates are used where  $S$ -coordinates are invalid
- Equations are not transformed into  $S$ - or  $\sigma$ -coordinates, but solved in their original form
- Interpolation mode: along  $Z$  or  $S$  (in pure  $S$  region)
- Hydrostatic consistency:  $\int_z^{\eta} \nabla \rho d\zeta$ 
  - pressure Jacobian with higher-order integration
  - $Z$ -method



# Finite-element formulation

- A Galerkin weighted residual statement for the continuity equation:

$$\int_{\Omega} \phi_i \frac{\eta^{n+1} - \eta^n}{\Delta t} d\Omega + \theta \left[ -\int_{\Omega} \nabla \phi_i \cdot \mathbf{U}^{n+1} d\Omega + \int_{\Gamma_v} \phi_i \hat{U}_n^{n+1} d\Gamma_v + \int_{\bar{\Gamma}_v} \phi_i U_n^{n+1} d\bar{\Gamma}_v \right] +$$

$$(1 - \theta) \left[ -\int_{\Omega} \nabla \phi_i \cdot \mathbf{U}^n d\Omega + \int_{\Gamma} \phi_i U_n^n d\Gamma \right] = 0, \quad (i = 1, \dots, N_p; \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 1)$$

$\phi_i$  : shape functions;  $\Gamma = \partial\Omega = \Gamma_v + \bar{\Gamma}_v$ ;  $\theta$ : implicitness factor;

$$\mathbf{U} = \int_{-h}^{\eta} \mathbf{u} dz$$

- Vertical integration of the momentum equation:

$$\mathbf{U}^{n+1} = \mathbf{G}^n - g\theta H^n \Delta t \nabla \eta^{n+1} - \chi^n \Delta t \mathbf{u}_b^{n+1}$$

$$H = h + \eta; \quad \chi^n = C_D |\mathbf{u}_b^n|; \quad \mathbf{G} : \text{explicit terms}$$

$\mathbf{u}_b$  : bottom velocity

- Momentum equation applied to the bottom boundary layer:

$$\frac{\mathbf{u}_b^{n+1} - \mathbf{u}_b^{*n}}{\Delta t} = \mathbf{f}_b^n - g\theta \nabla \eta^{n+1} - g(1 - \theta) \nabla \eta^n + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \nu^n \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}^{n+1}}{\partial z} \right), \quad \text{at } z = \delta_b - h$$

# Bottom boundary layer

- Logarithmic law:

$$\mathbf{u} = \frac{\ln[(z+h)/z_0]}{\ln(\delta_b/z_0)} \mathbf{u}_b, \quad (z_0 - h \leq z \leq \delta_b - h)$$

$z_0$  : bottom roughness

- Reynolds stress:

$$\nu \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} = \frac{\nu}{(z+h) \ln(\delta_b/z_0)} \mathbf{u}_b$$

- Turbulence closure:

$$\nu = \sqrt{2} s_m K^{1/2} l,$$

$$s_m = g_2,$$

$$K = \frac{1}{2} B_1^{2/3} C_D |\mathbf{u}_b|^2$$

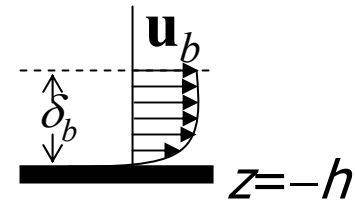
$$l = \kappa_0 (z+h)$$

- Reynolds stress:

$$\nu \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} = \frac{\kappa_0}{\ln(\delta_b/z_0)} C_D^{1/2} |\mathbf{u}_b| \mathbf{u}_b, \quad (z_0 - h \leq z \leq \delta_b - h)$$

- Drag coefficient:

$$C_D = \left( \frac{1}{\kappa_0} \ln \frac{\delta_b}{z_0} \right)^{-2}$$



# Finite-element formulation (cont'd)

- Vertically integrated velocity becomes:

$$\mathbf{U}^{n+1} = \hat{\mathbf{G}}^n - g\theta\hat{H}^n\Delta t\nabla\eta^{n+1},$$

$$\hat{H}^n = H^n - \chi^n\Delta t$$

- Finally, one equation for elevations:

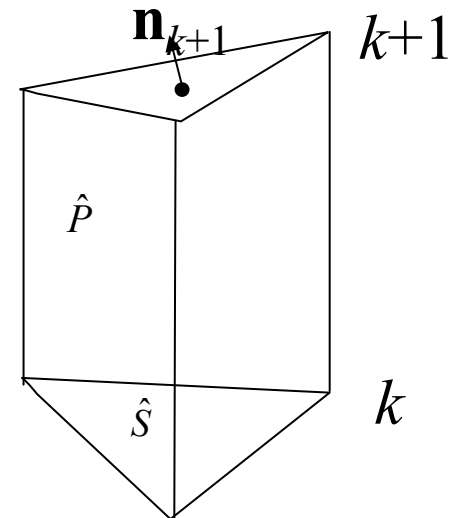
$$\int_{\Omega} \left[ \phi_i \eta^{n+1} + g\theta^2 \Delta t^2 \hat{H}^n \nabla \phi_i \cdot \nabla \eta^{n+1} \right] d\Omega - g\theta^2 \Delta t^2 \int_{\bar{\Gamma}_v} \phi_i \hat{H}^n \frac{\partial \eta^{n+1}}{\partial n} d\bar{\Gamma}_v + \theta \Delta t \int_{\Gamma_v} \phi_i \hat{U}_n^{n+1} d\Gamma_v = I^n$$

$$I^n = \int_{\Omega} \left[ \phi_i \eta^n + (1-\theta)\Delta t \nabla \phi_i \cdot \mathbf{U}^n + \theta \Delta t \nabla \phi_i \cdot \hat{\mathbf{G}}^n \right] d\Omega - (1-\theta)\Delta t \int_{\Gamma} \phi_i U_n^n d\Gamma - \theta \Delta t \int_{\bar{\Gamma}_v} \phi_i \mathbf{n} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{G}}^n d\bar{\Gamma}_v$$

- FE for other equations:

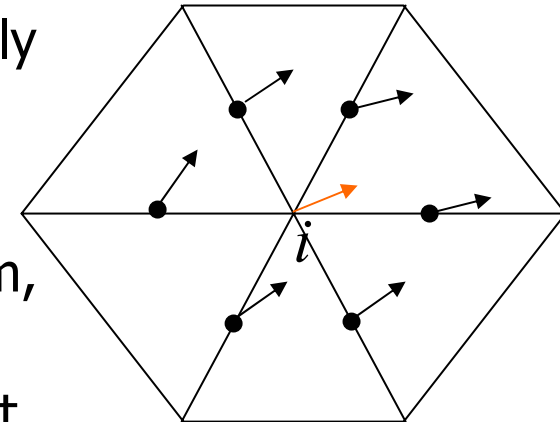
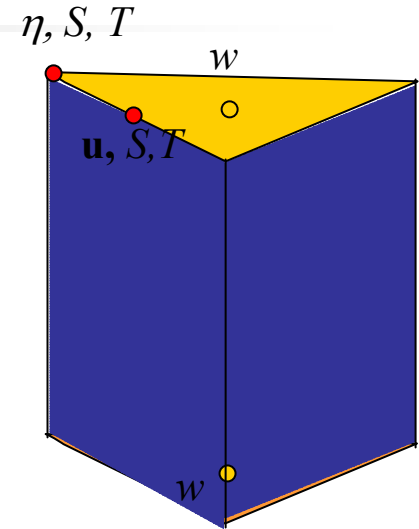
$$\int_{-h}^{\eta} \psi_l \frac{T^{n+1} - T_*^n}{\Delta t} dz = \int_{-h}^{\eta} \psi_l \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \kappa \frac{\partial T^{n+1}}{\partial z} \right) + \frac{\dot{Q}^{n+1}}{\rho_0 C_p} \right] dz, \quad (l=1, \dots, N_z)$$

- Vertical velocity using Finite Volume



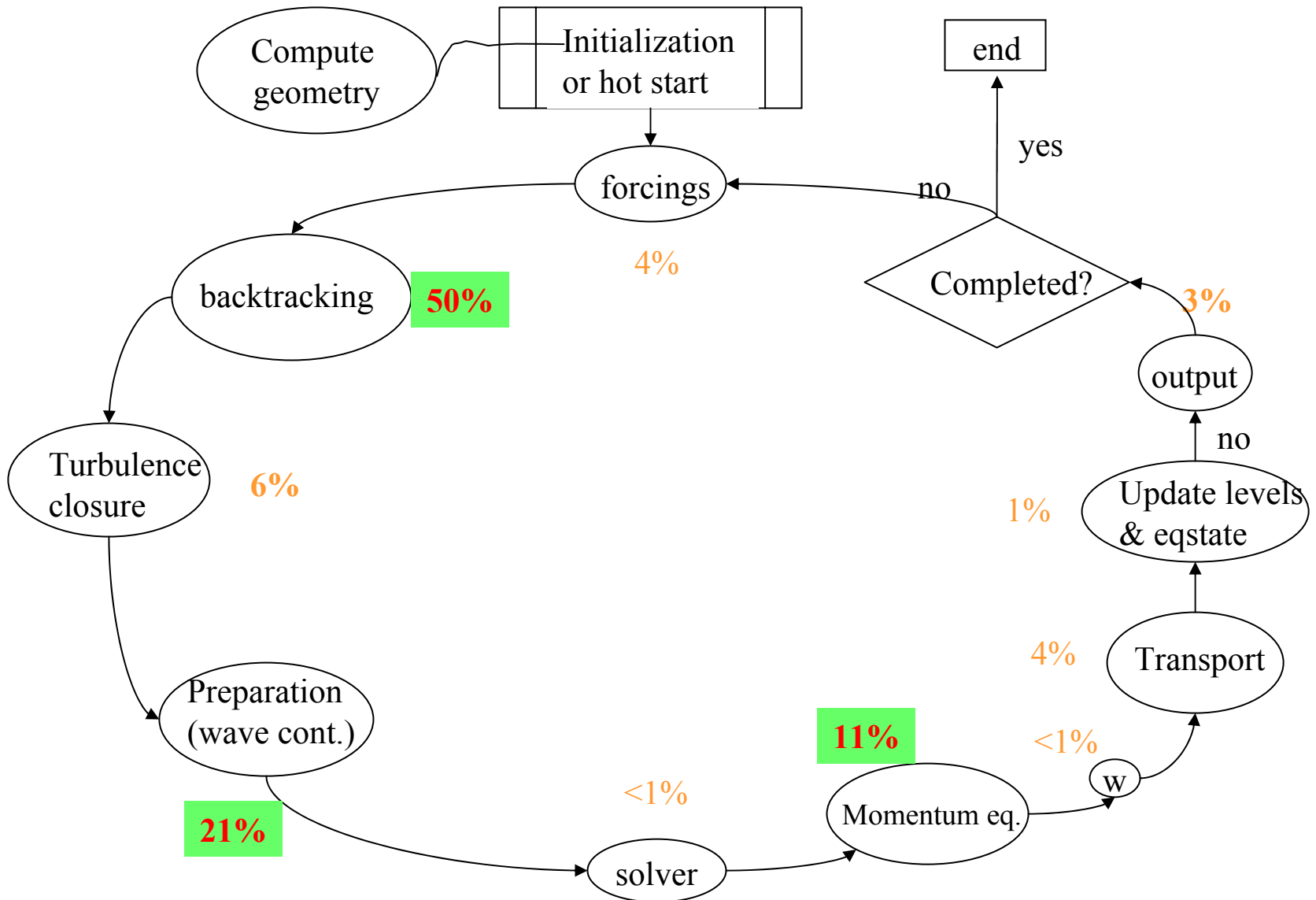
# Numerical details

- Variable locations
- Horizontal velocity at nodes
- Mass lumping used for transport equations; alternatively with ELAD iteration
- Turbulence closure
  - Advection neglected
  - Production and buoyancy terms treated implicitly or explicitly
- Compared to other FE models:
  - Mass conservation not enforced in the algorithm, but in practice very good
  - No spurious oscillation problem, despite the fact that the primitive equations are solved
- Computational efficiency
  - ~50% more expensive than ELCIRC



# Serial SELFE flow chart

All numbers are based on a most recent CORIE run





# Summary

	ELCIRC	SELFE
Time stepping	Semi-implicit	Semi-implicit
Horizontal grid	Orthogonal unstructured	unstructured
Vertical grid	Z-coordinates	Hybrid <i>SZ</i> -coordinates
Numerical algorithm	Finite difference/finite volume	Finite element
Convergence rate for uniform grid (continuity/momentum)	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>
Convergence rate for non-uniform grid	Divergence	1 <sup>st</sup>
Advection	ELM	ELM
Volume conservation	Enforced	Not enforced
Wetting/drying	Yes	Yes

# Preparation of a SELFE run

- Important parameters
  - Vertical grid
    - Constants in  $S$ -coordinates
    - Demarcation depth:  $h_s$ 
      - Try pure  $S$  first
    - Try different combinations (ipre=1 in param.in)
    - An example
  - Horizontal grid
    - Don't forget to make your estuary long enough!
  - param.in
    - Tidal amplitude/phases at boundary nodes
    - Wetting/drying parameter: ihhat
    - Order of integration for baroclinic pressure (mmm)
    - Tracking method (Euler or 5<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta)



# Inputs

- diffmax.gr3
- diffmin.gr3
- drag.gr3
- hvis.gr3
- interpol.gr3 (1: along  $Z$ ; 2: along  $S$ )
- lq\_s.gr3 (1: linear; 2: quadratic)
- s\_nudge.gr3 & t\_nudge.gr3
- xlfs.gr3
- River discharge b.c. (cp. ELCIRC)
- 3D time history inputs (elev3D.th; salt3D.th; temp3D.th)



# Open source release

[an error occurred while processing this directive]

[CORIE Modeling -SELFE](#)

[Concept](#)   [Models](#)   [Hindcasts](#)   [Forecast](#)   [Benchmarks](#)   [Data Sources](#)

SELFE (Semi-implicit Eulerian-Lagrangian Finite Element) is a new circulation model developed by Joseph Zhang and Antonio Baptista at Oregon Health & Science University. This page serves as a temporary site for exchanging information about SELFE between the developers and beta users.

**References**

Several papers describing SELFE and its early applications are currently submitted or in preparation. References or links to electronic versions of these papers will be available here, as papers get accepted.

- Zhang, Y.-L. and Baptista, A.M. (2005) "A semi-implicit Eulerian-Lagrangian finite-element model for cross-scale ocean circulation, with hybrid vertical coordinates", submitted to Int. J. Num. Fluids. [\(1\) text](#), [\(2\) figures](#)

**Downloading software**

We recommend that you download both SELFE and compatible pre- and post-processor software. The following software is available:

1. SELFE Description: 3D baroclinic circulation model  
Reference version: v1.3i5  
Date of release: June 2005  
Note: More recent versions of SELFE exist.  
[Source code bundle \(gzip'ed\)](#)  
[User manual](#)  
Version history: v1.2i
2. Code to read output binary files  
[readoutput](#)

[Main](#)   [Observations](#)   [Modeling](#)   [Applications](#)   [R&D](#)   [Education](#)   [Contact Us](#)

<http://www.ccalmr.ogi.edu/CORIE/modeling/selfe>  
<http://www.ccalmr.ogi.edu/CORIE/modeling/elcerc>

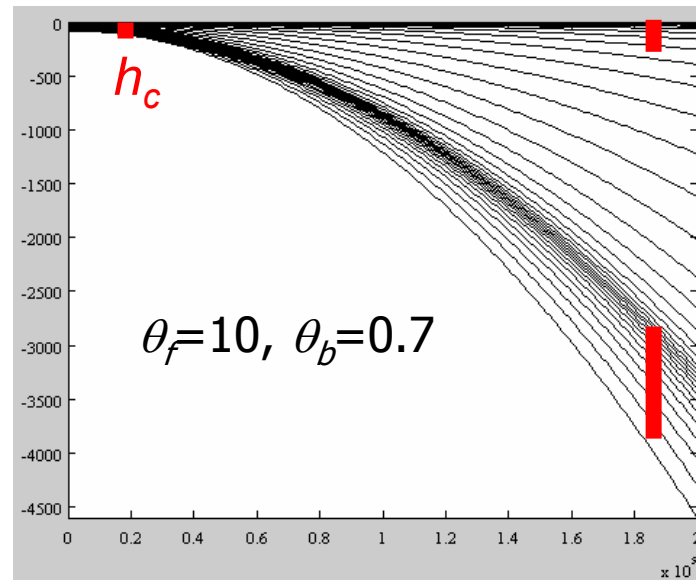
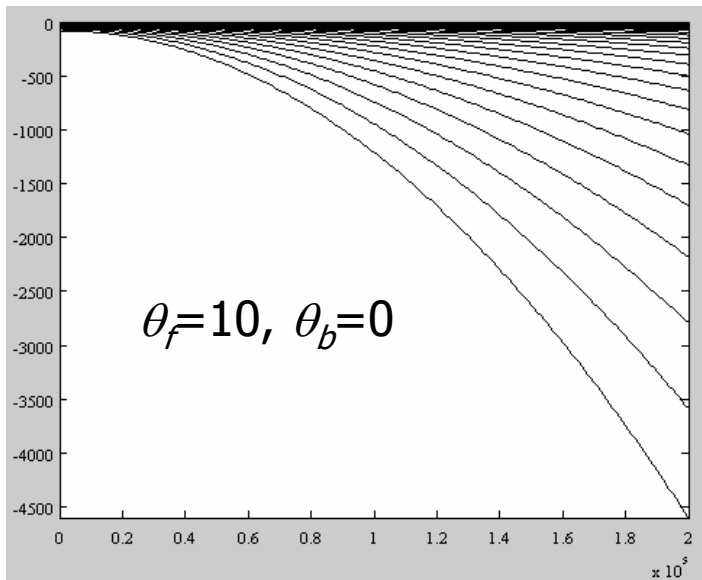
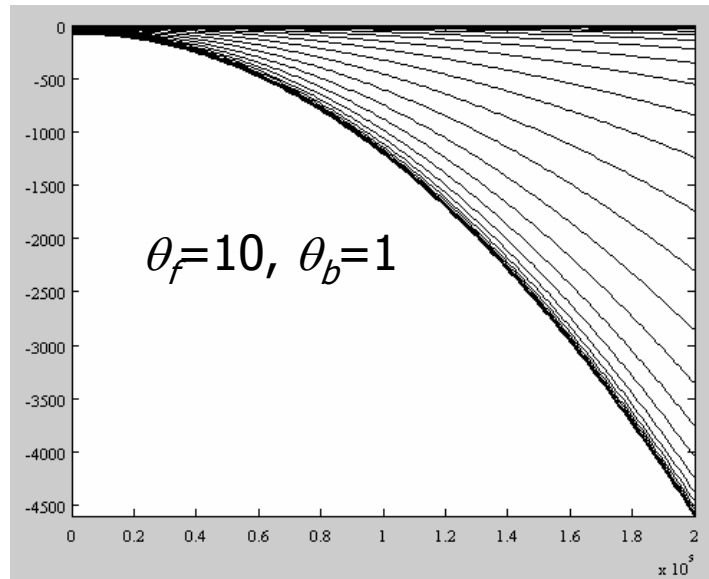
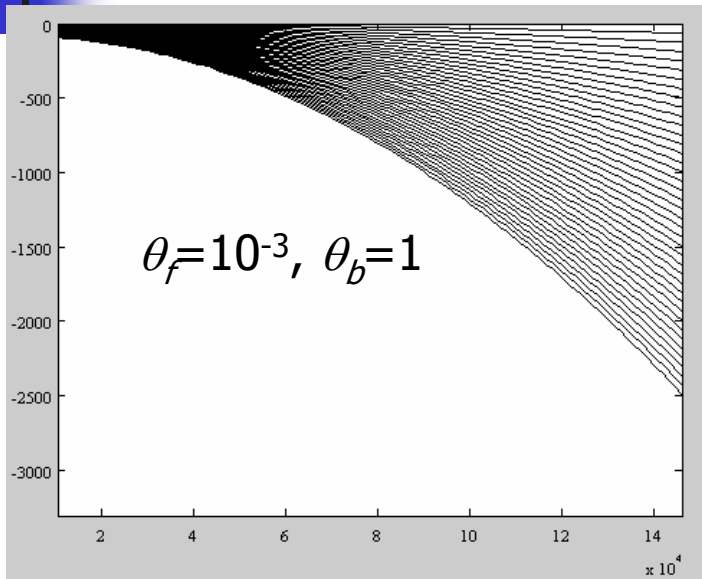


# Future work

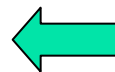
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- FCT transport
- MPI version
- .....

# S-coordinates



$h_s$





# vgrid.in

---

28 18 100. ! $h_s$

Z levels

1 -5000.

2 -3000.

.....

18 -100.00

S levels

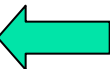
30. 0.9 10. ! $h_c, \theta_b, \theta_f$

18 -1

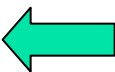
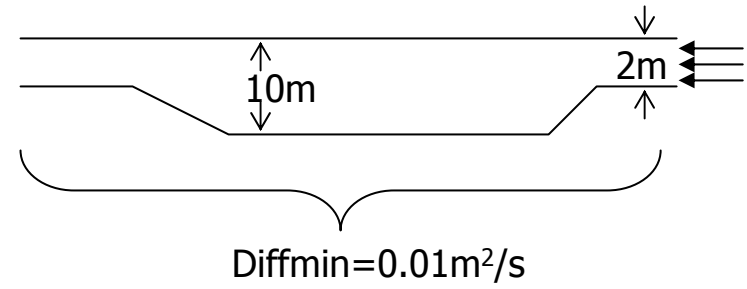
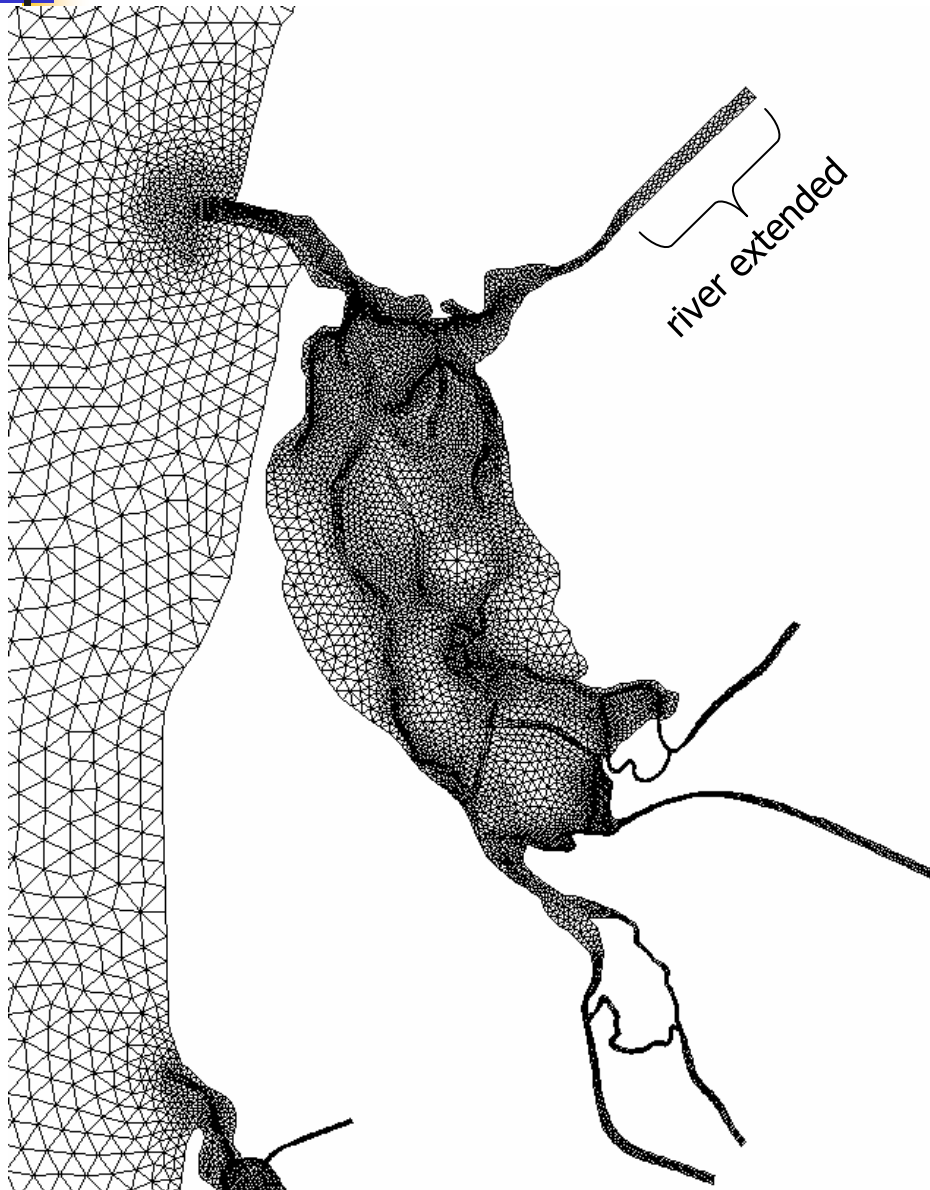
19 -0.9

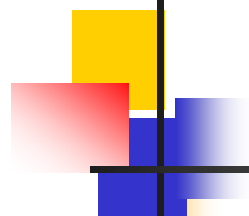
.....

28 0.



# Tide-dominated estuaries

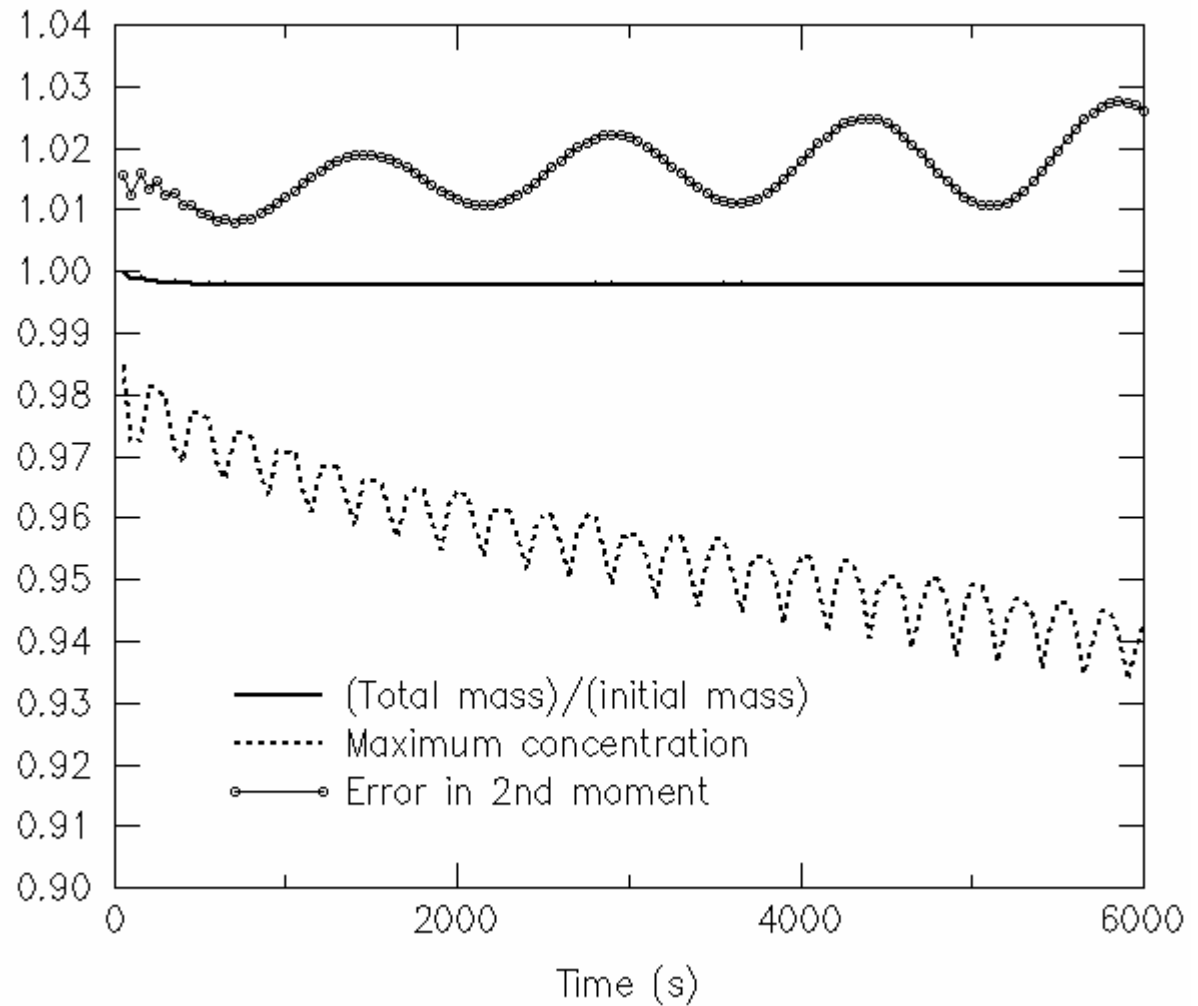
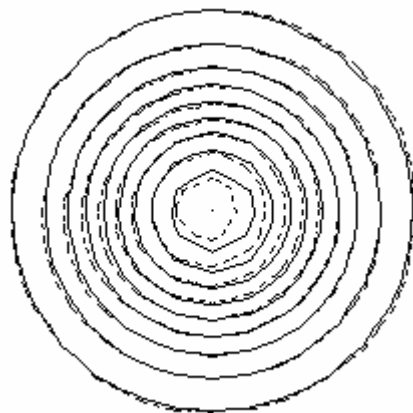
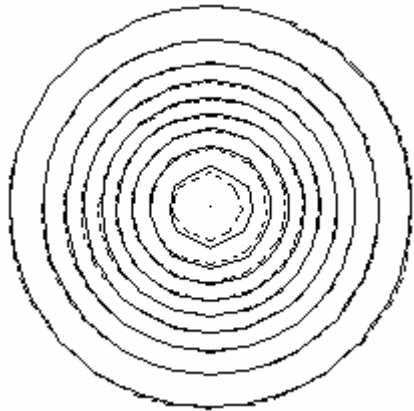




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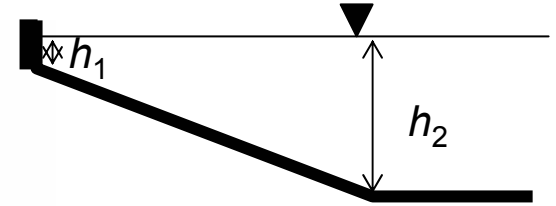
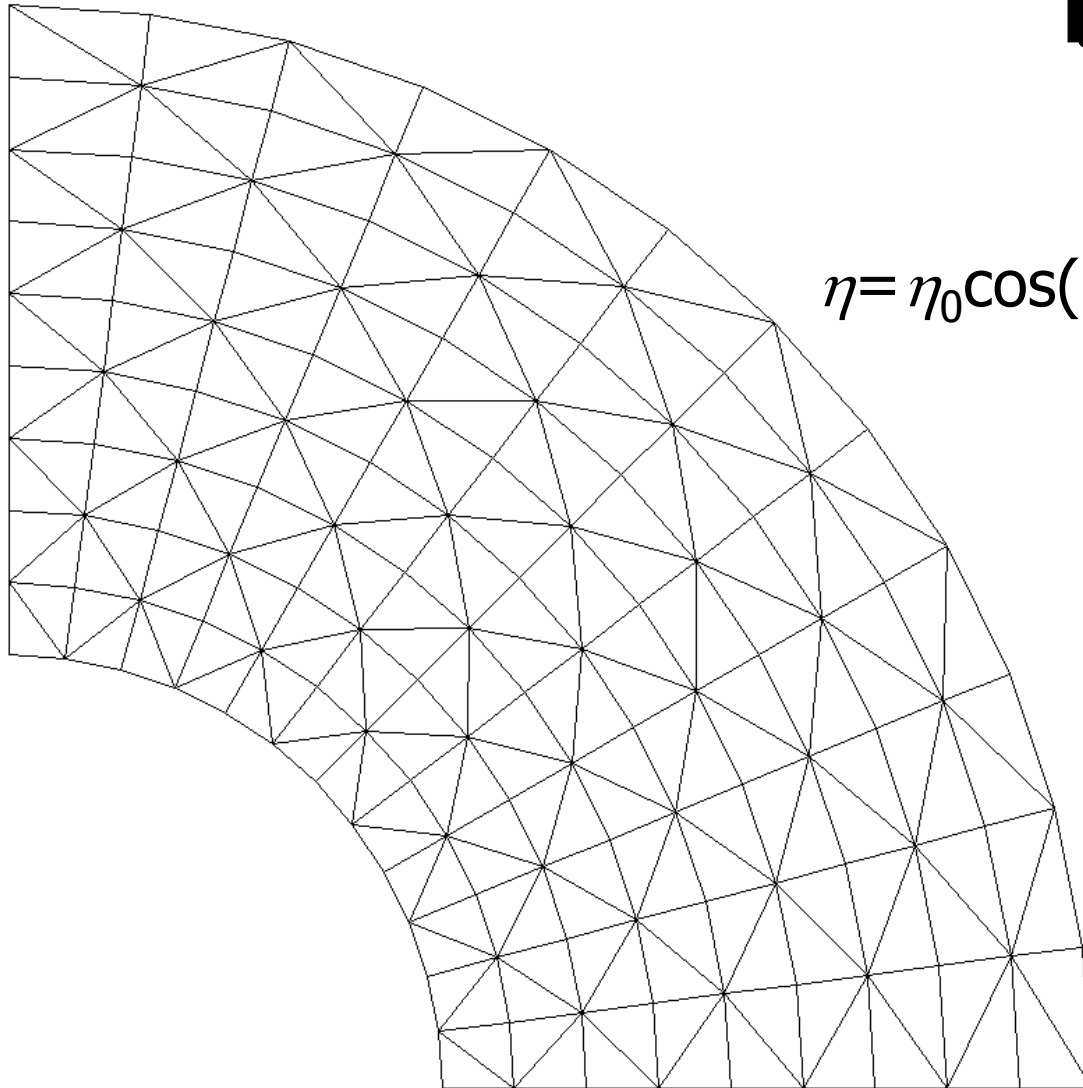
# SELFIE: Benchmarks and applications

# Rotating Gauss hill



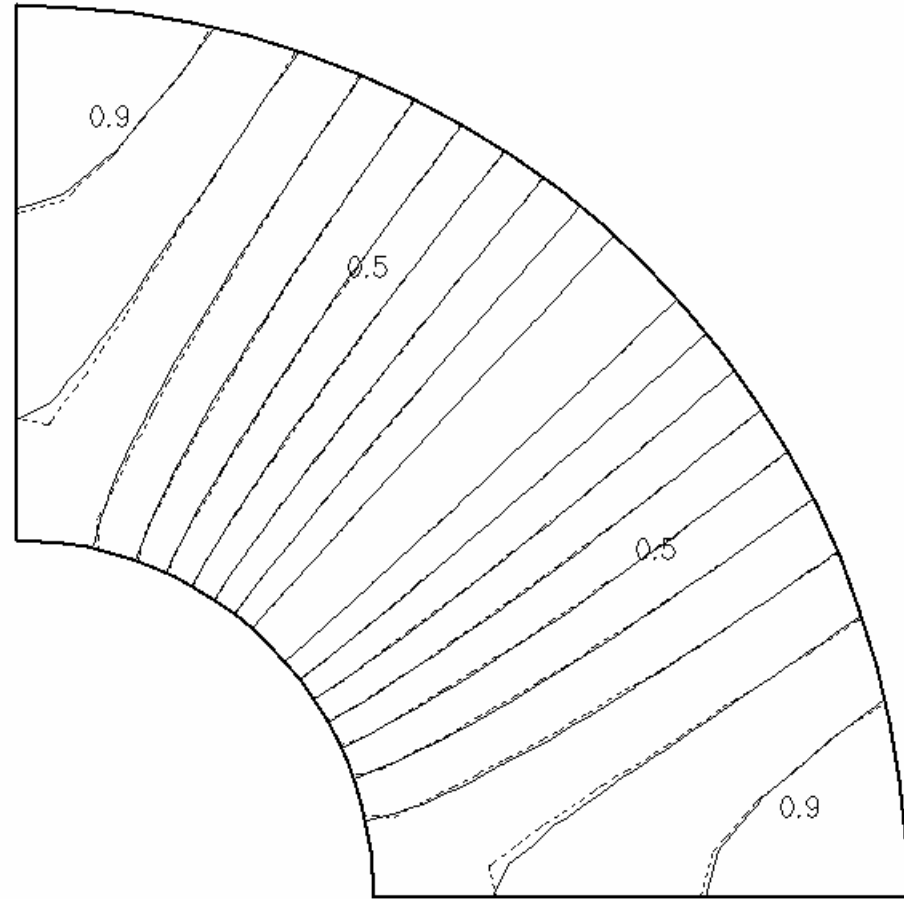


# 3D quarter annulus test

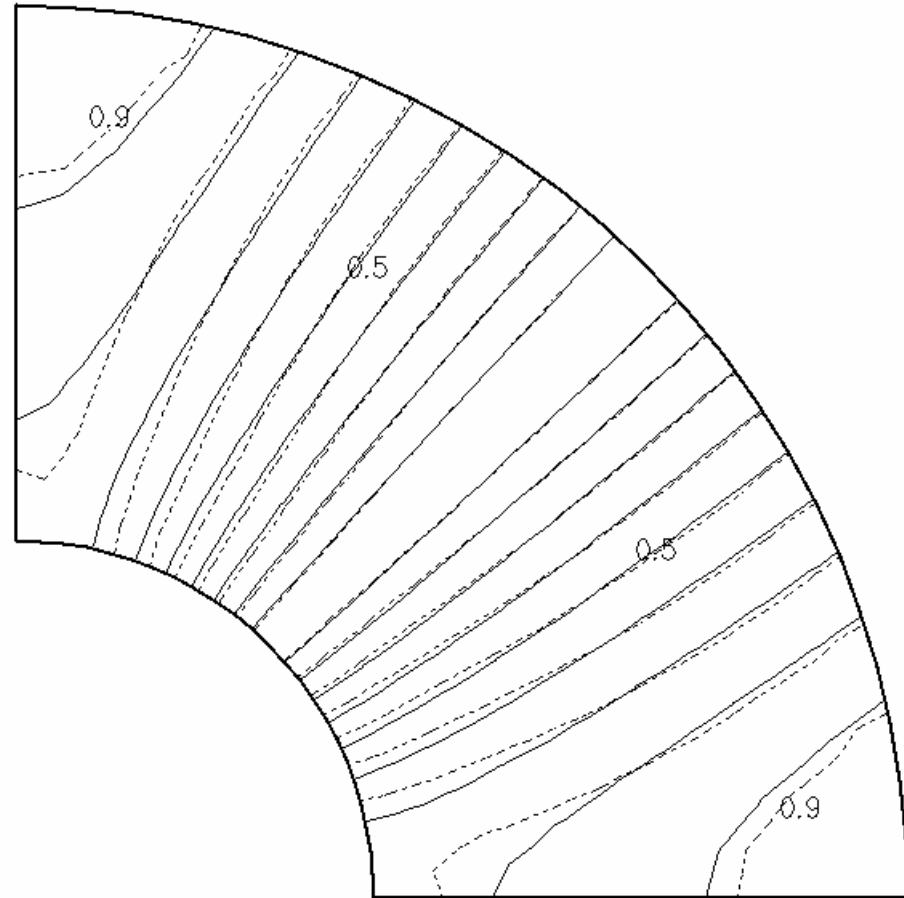


$$\eta = \eta_0 \cos(2\theta)$$

# Elevation comparison

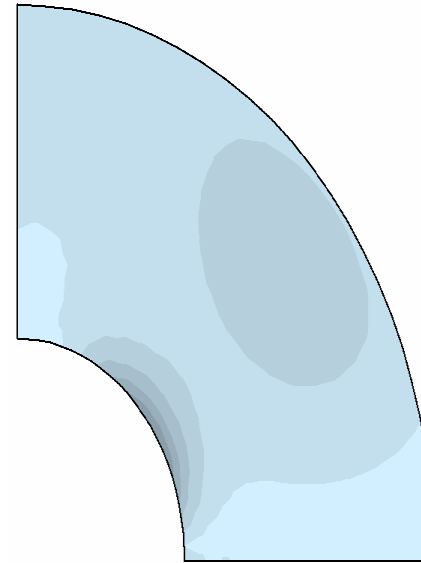
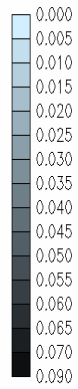
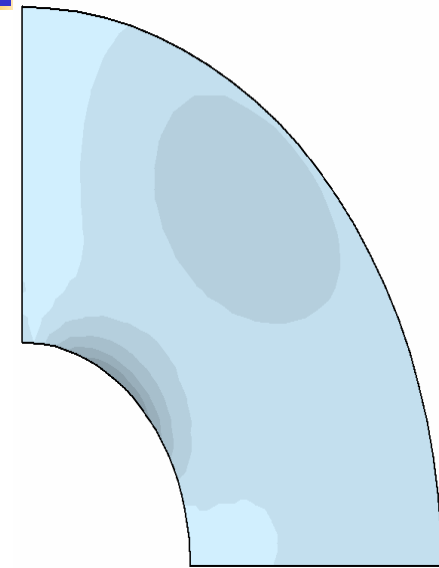


**SELFE**

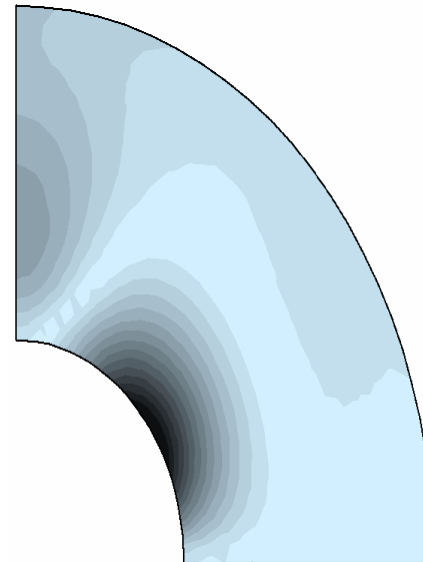
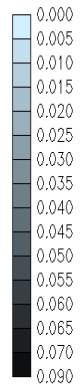
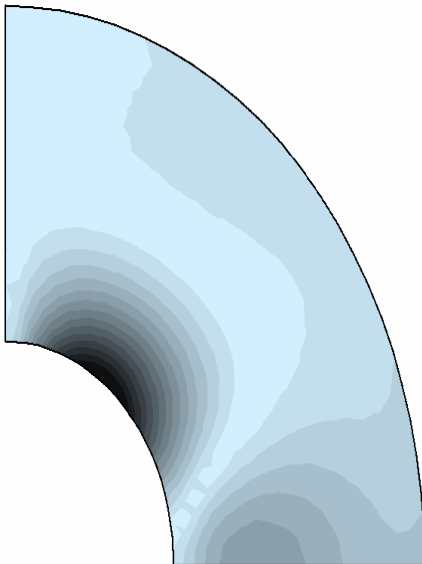


**ELCIRC**

# Velocity comparison

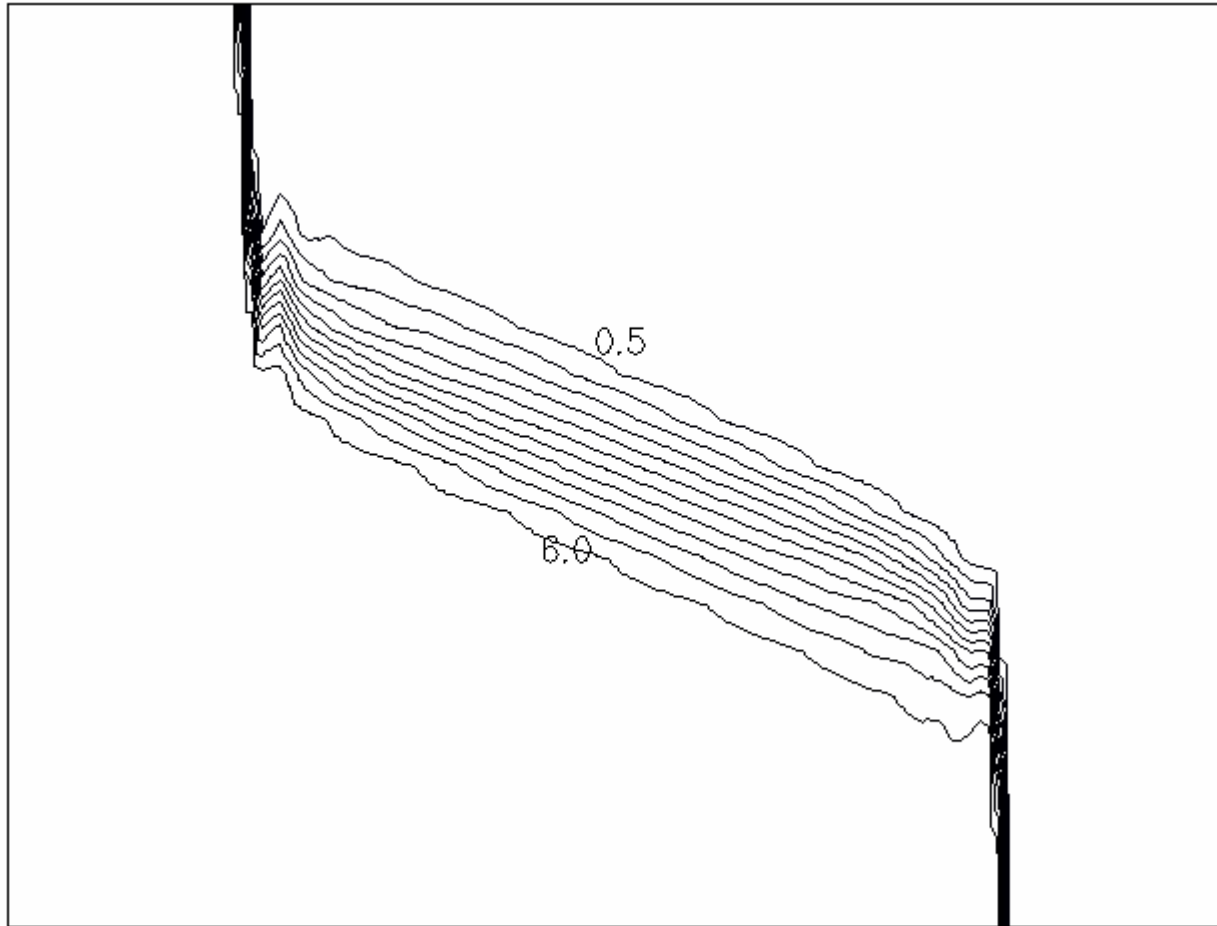


SELFE



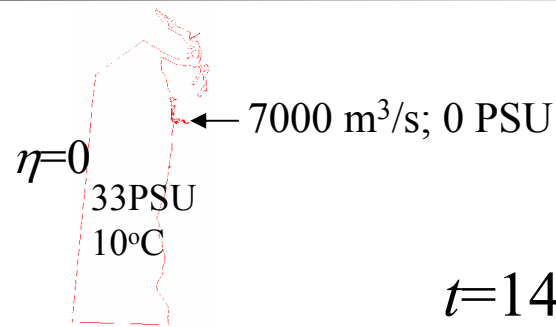
ELCIRC

# Lock exchange test

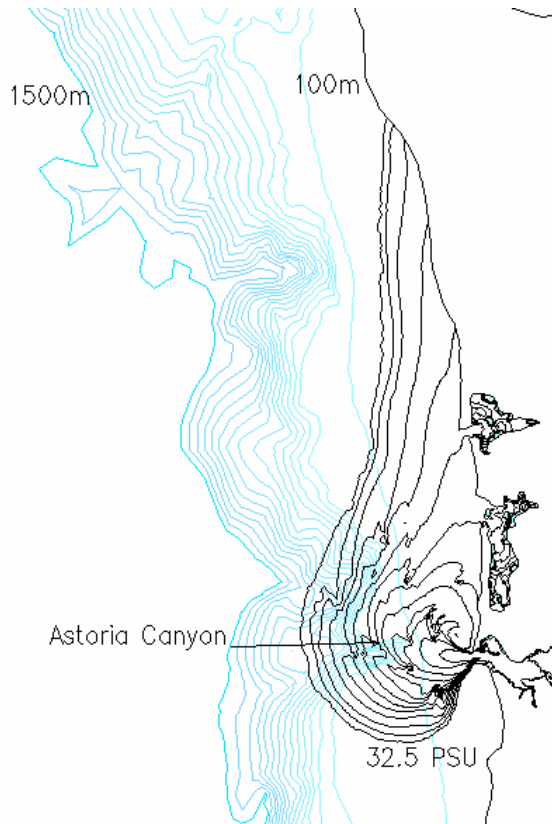


$t=12\text{hr}$

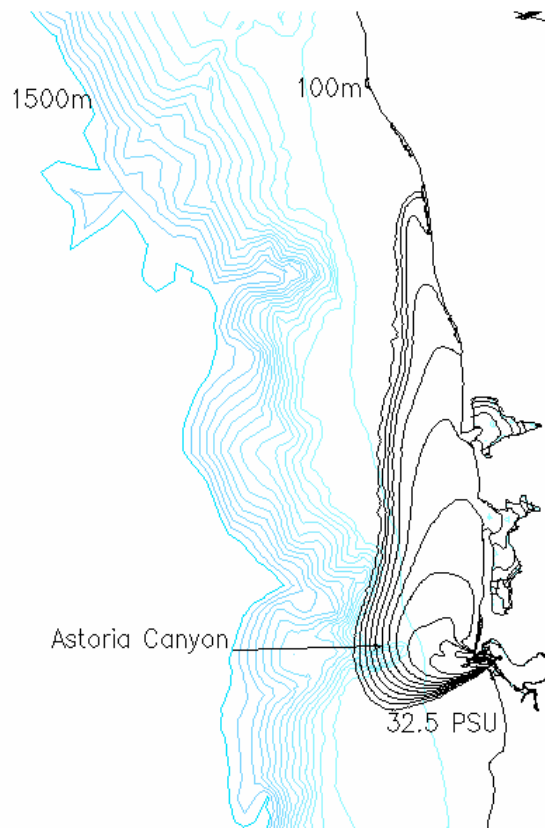
# Benchmarks: unforced river plume test



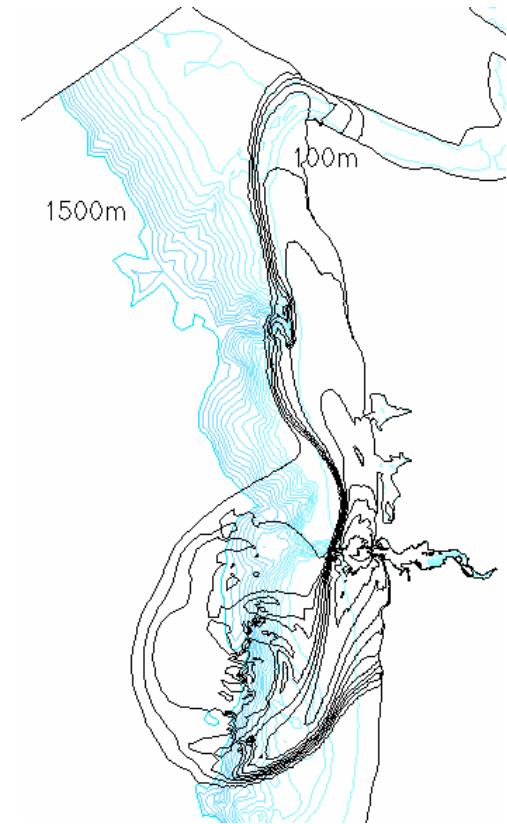
$t=14$  days



SELFE (37S+18Z)

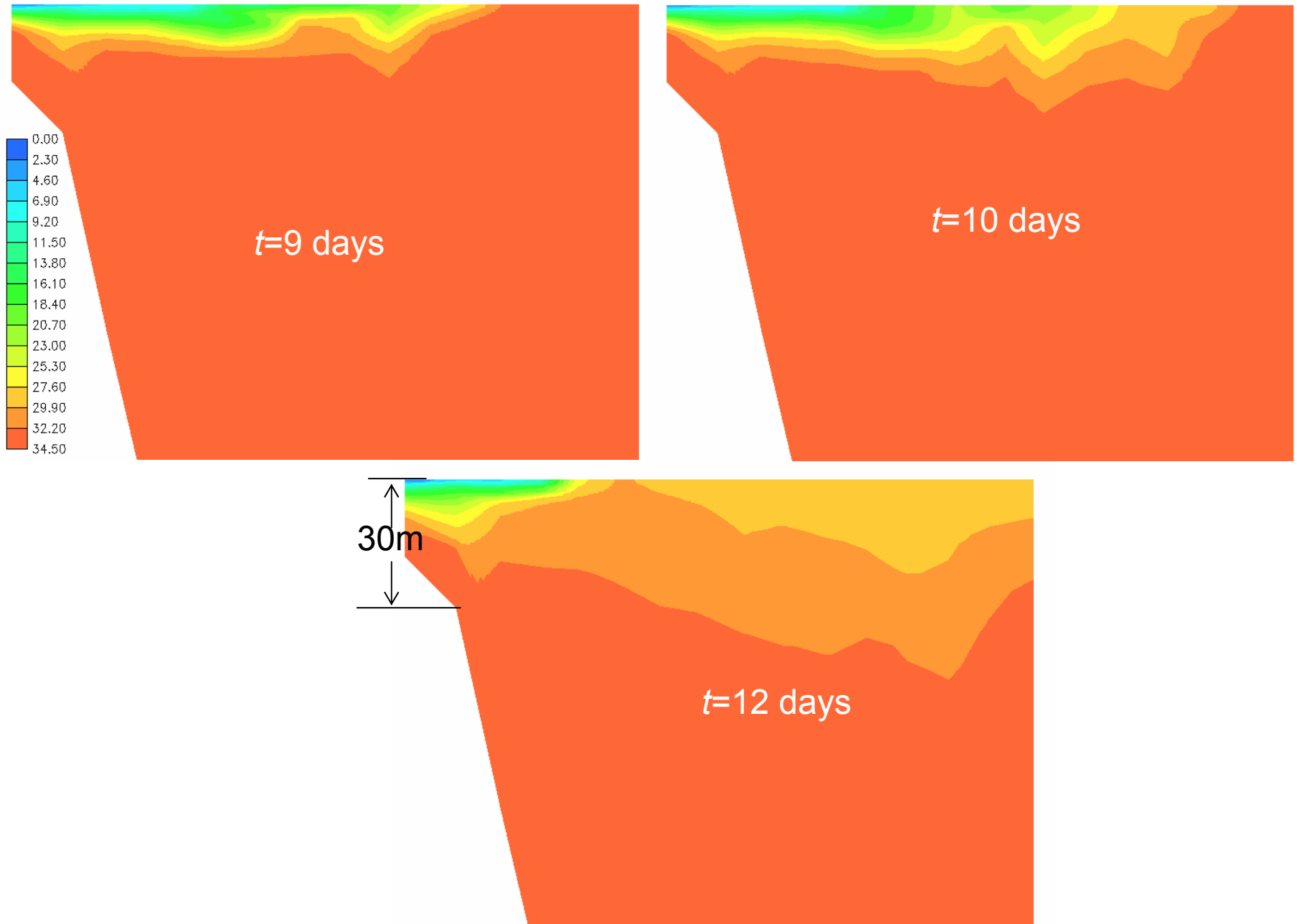


ELCIRC (62Z)

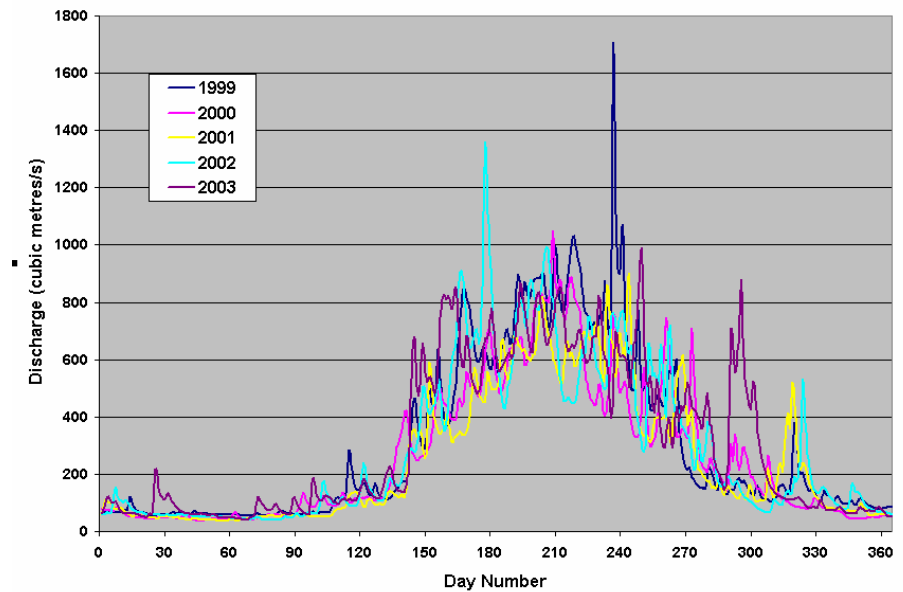
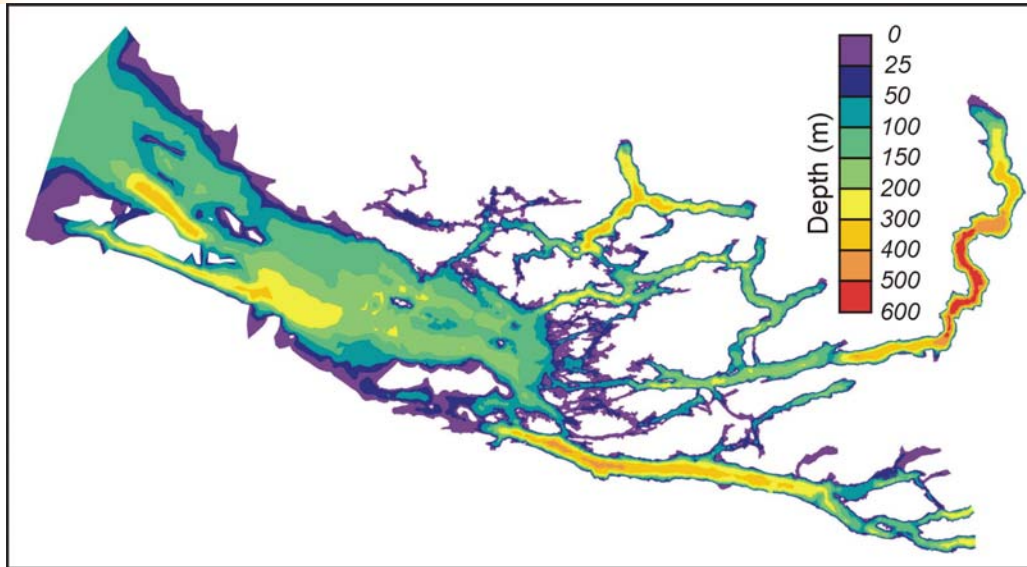


SELFE-S (61S)

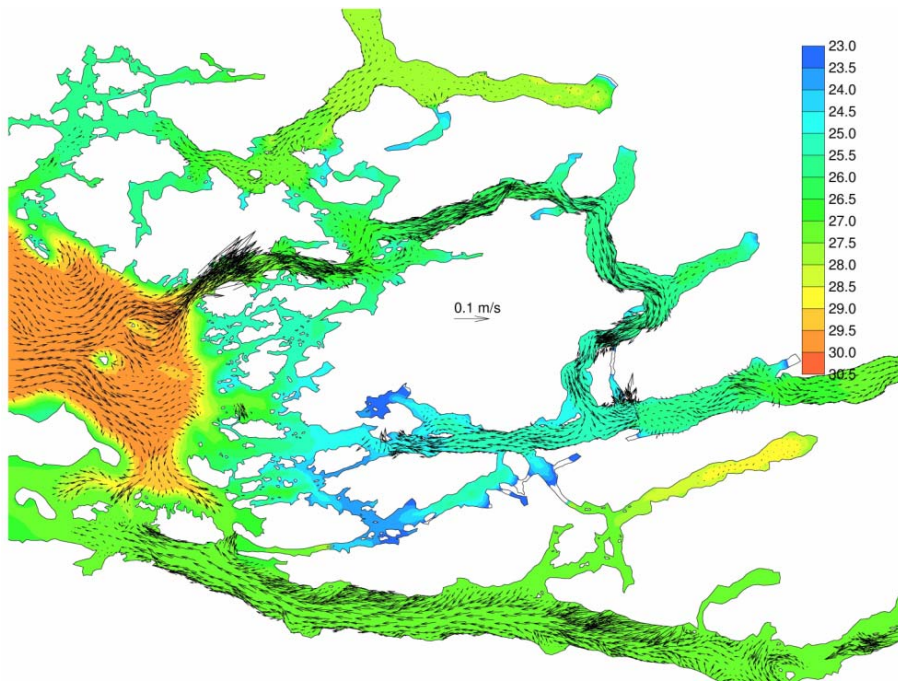
# Vertical structure from "pure $S$ " SELFE



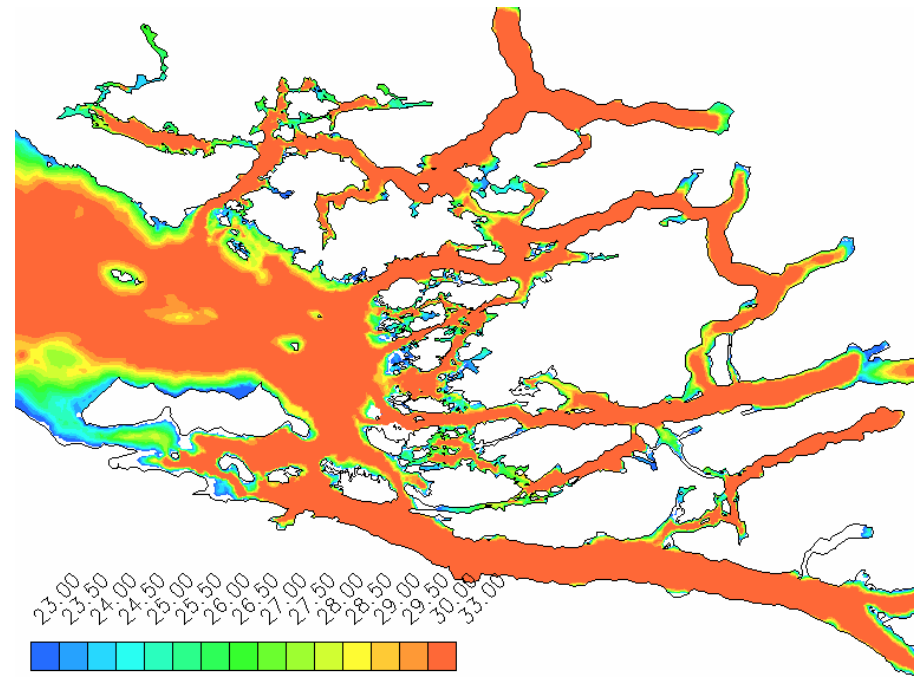
# Broughton Archipelago Model



# Low-pass filtered results



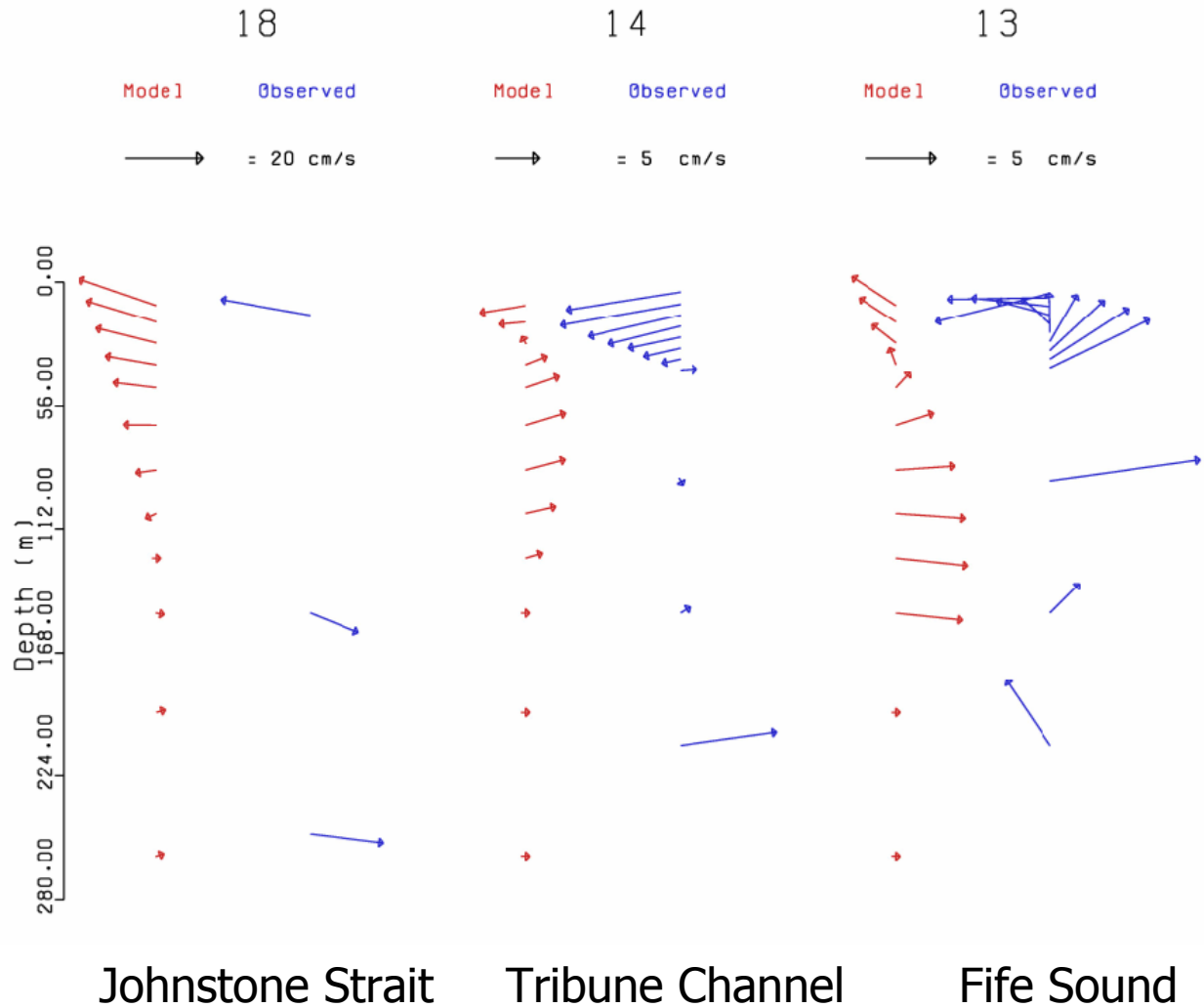
@bottom on the last day of a fifty day ELCIRC simulation



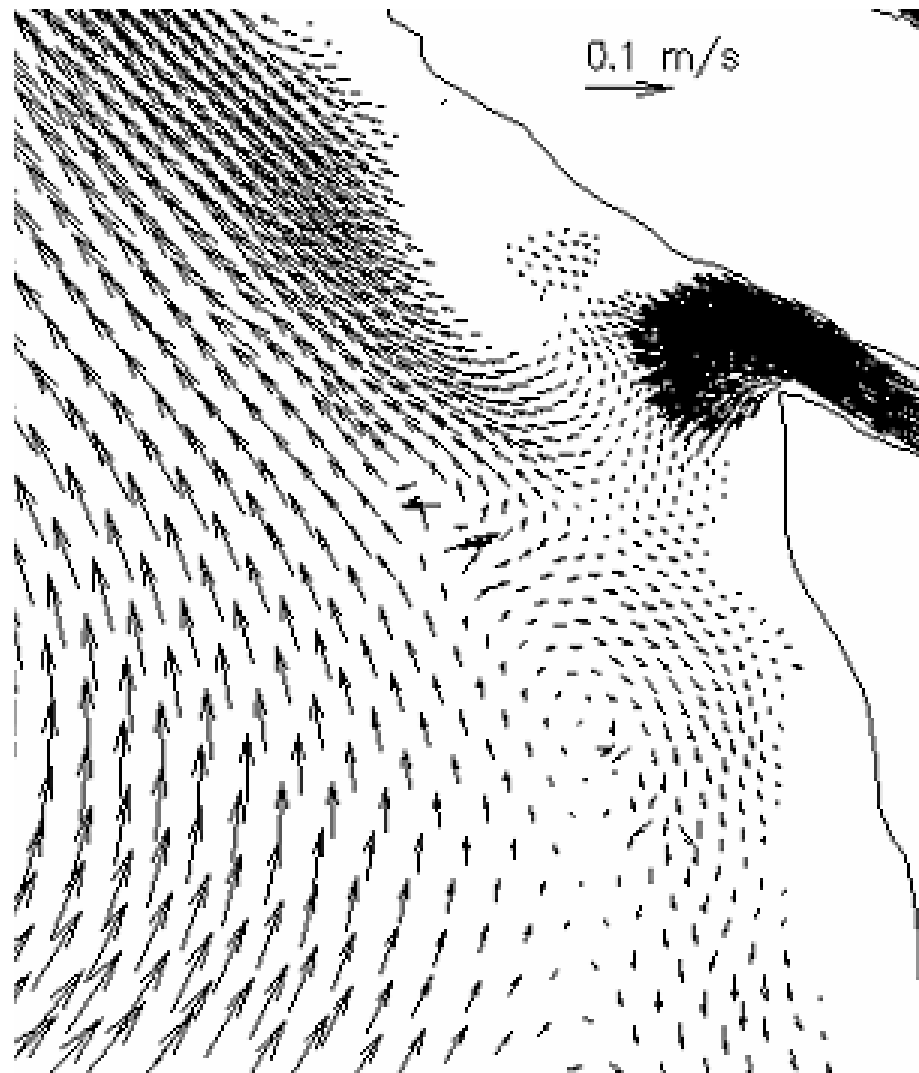
@bottom on the last day of a 28 day SELFE simulation



# Mean flow



# Juan de Fuca Eddy



# Coos Bay

