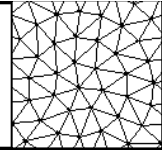


Numerical methods



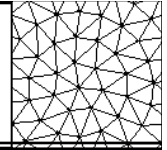
Specific methods:

- Finite differences
- Pseudospectral methods
- Finite volumes

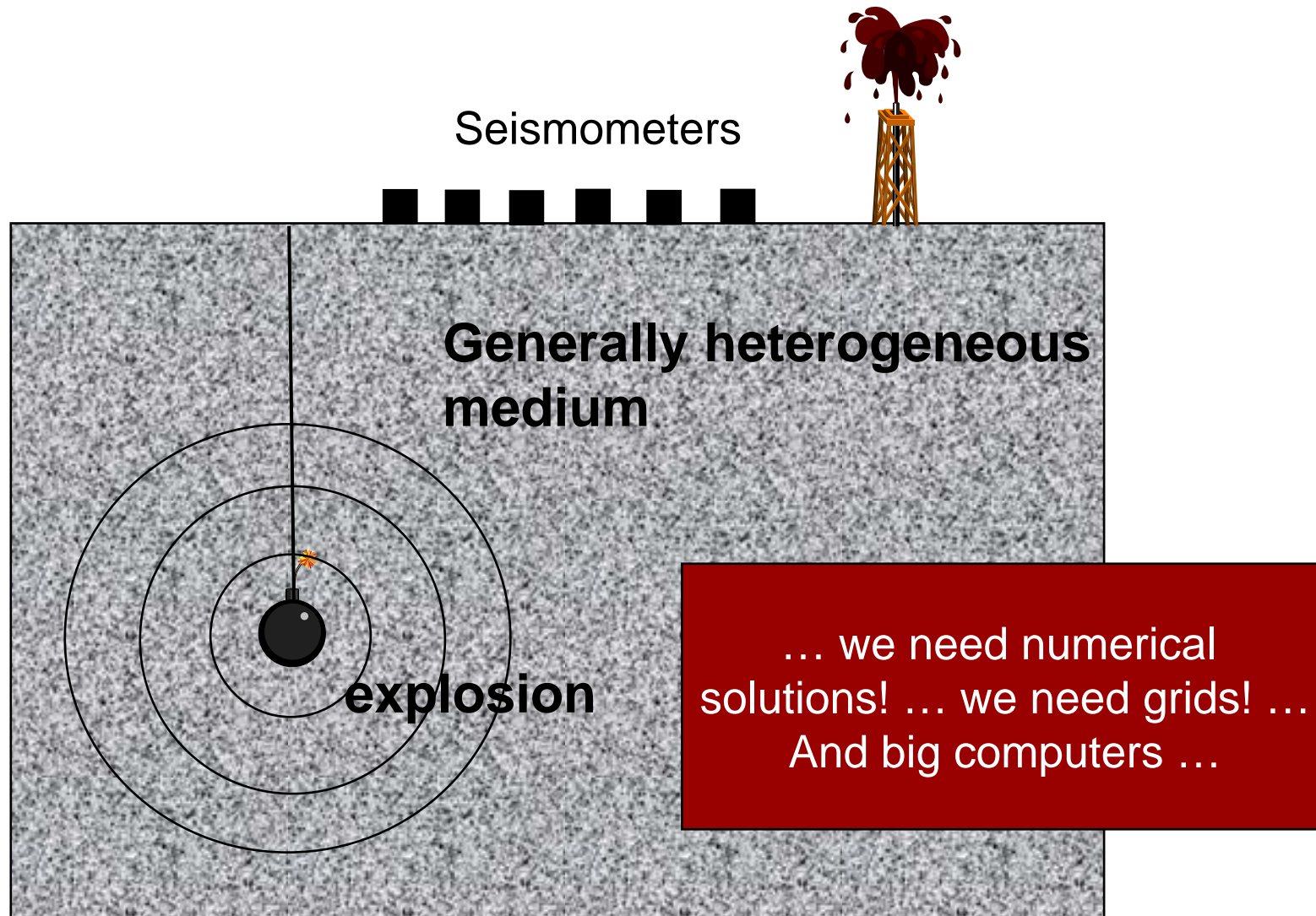
... applied to the acoustic wave equation ...

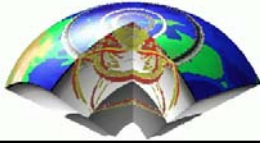


Why numerical methods

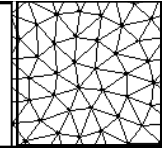


Example: seismic wave propagation





Partial Differential Equations in Geophysics



$$\partial_t^2 p = c^2 \Delta p + s$$
$$\Delta = (\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2 + \partial_z^2)$$

p	pressure
c	acoustic wave speed
s	sources

The acoustic wave equation

- seismology
- acoustics
- oceanography
- meteorology

$$\partial_t C = k \Delta C - \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla C - RC + p$$

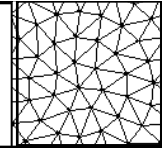
C	tracer concentration
k	diffusivity
\mathbf{v}	flow velocity
R	reactivity
p	sources

Diffusion, advection, Reaction

- geodynamics
- oceanography
- meteorology
- geochemistry
- sedimentology
- geophysical fluid dynamics



Numerical methods: properties



Finite differences

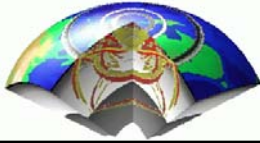
- time-dependent PDEs
- seismic wave propagation
- geophysical fluid dynamics
- Maxwell's equations
- Ground penetrating radar
- > **robust, simple concept, easy to parallelize, regular grids, explicit method**

Finite elements

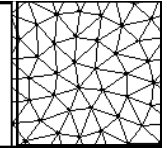
- static and time-dependent PDEs
- seismic wave propagation
- geophysical fluid dynamics
- all problems
- > **implicit approach, matrix inversion, well founded, irregular grids, more complex algorithms, engineering problems**

Finite volumes

- time-dependent PDEs
- seismic wave propagation
- mainly fluid dynamics
- > **robust, simple concept, irregular grids, explicit method**



Other Numerical methods:



Particle-based methods

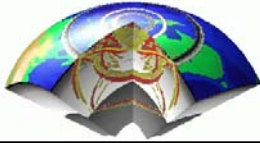
- lattice gas methods
- molecular dynamics
- granular problems
- fluid flow
- earthquake simulations
- > **very heterogeneous problems, nonlinear problems**

Boundary element methods

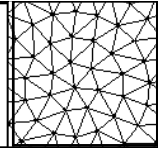
- problems with boundaries (rupture)
- based on analytical solutions
- only discretization of planes
- > **good for problems with special boundary conditions (rupture, cracks, etc)**

Pseudospectral methods

- orthogonal basis functions, special case of FD
- spectral accuracy of space derivatives
- wave propagation, GPR
- > **regular grids, explicit method, problems with strongly heterogeneous media**



What is a finite difference?



Common definitions of the derivative of $f(x)$:

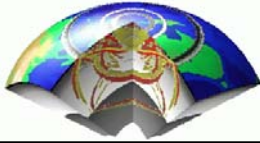
$$\partial_x f = \lim_{dx \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + dx) - f(x)}{dx}$$

$$\partial_x f = \lim_{dx \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x) - f(x - dx)}{dx}$$

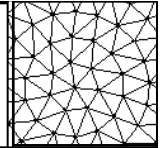
$$\partial_x f = \lim_{dx \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + dx) - f(x - dx)}{2dx}$$

These are all correct definitions in the limit $dx \rightarrow 0$.

But we want dx to remain **FINITE**



What is a finite difference?



The equivalent **approximations** of the derivatives are:

$$\partial_x f^+ \approx \frac{f(x + dx) - f(x)}{dx}$$

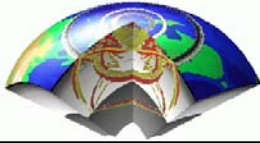
forward difference

$$\partial_x f^- \approx \frac{f(x) - f(x - dx)}{dx}$$

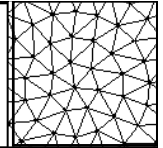
backward difference

$$\partial_x f \approx \frac{f(x + dx) - f(x - dx)}{2dx}$$

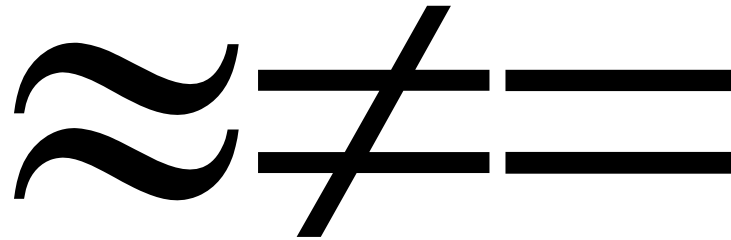
centered difference



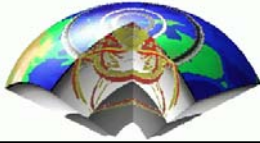
The **big** question:



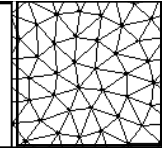
How good are the FD approximations?



This leads us to Taylor series....



Our first FD algorithm (ac1d.m) !



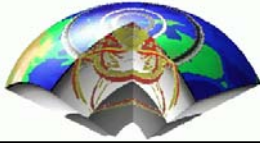
$$\partial_t^2 p = c^2 \Delta p + s$$
$$\Delta = (\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2 + \partial_z^2)$$

P pressure
c acoustic wave speed
s sources

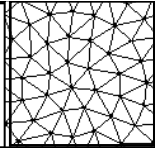
Problem: Solve the 1D acoustic wave equation using the finite Difference method.

Solution:

$$p(t + dt) = \frac{c^2 dt^2}{dx^2} [p(x + dx) - 2p(x) + p(x - dx)]$$
$$+ 2p(t) - p(t - dt) + s dt^2$$



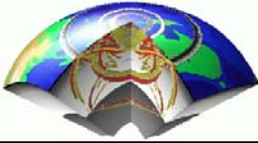
Problems: Stability



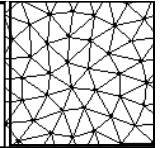
$$p(t + dt) = \frac{c^2 dt^2}{dx^2} [p(x + dx) - 2p(x) + p(x - dx)] + 2p(t) - p(t - dt) + sdt^2$$

Stability: Careful analysis using harmonic functions shows that a stable numerical calculation is subject to special conditions (conditional stability). This holds for many numerical problems.

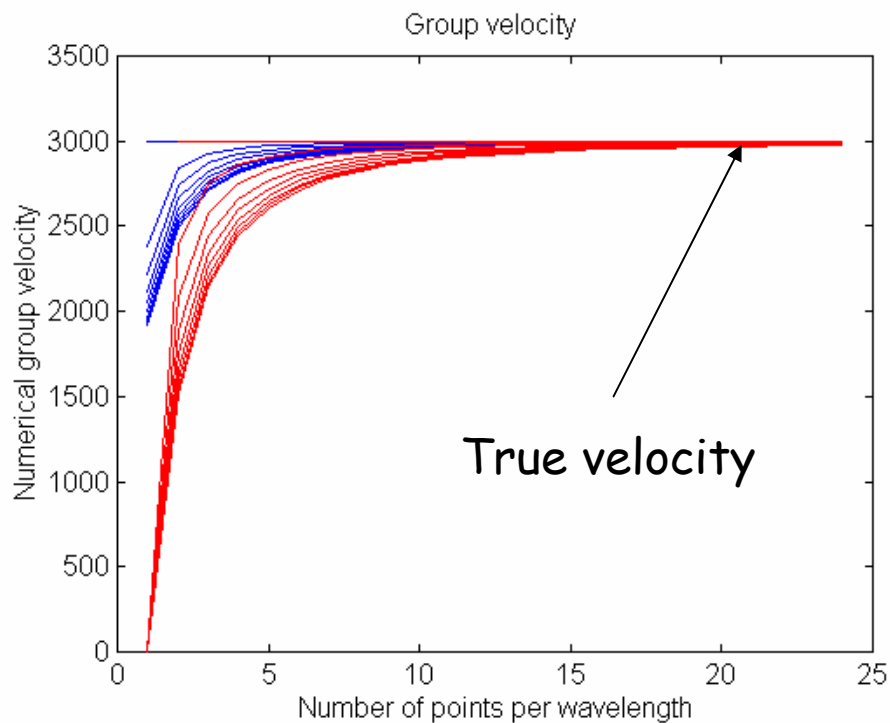
$$c \frac{dt}{dx} \leq \varepsilon \approx 1$$



Problems: Dispersion



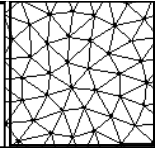
$$p(t + dt) = \frac{c^2 dt^2}{dx^2} [p(x + dx) - 2p(x) + p(x - dx)] + 2p(t) - p(t - dt) + sdt^2$$



Dispersion: The numerical approximation has artificial dispersion, in other words, the wave speed becomes frequency dependent. You have to find a frequency bandwidth where this effect is small. The solution is to use a sufficient number of **grid points per wavelength**.



Our first FD code!



$$p(t + dt) = \frac{c^2 dt^2}{dx^2} [p(x + dx) - 2p(x) + p(x - dx)] + 2p(t) - p(t - dt) + sdt^2$$

```
% Time stepping
for i=1:nt,

    % FD

    disp(sprintf(' Time step : %i',i));

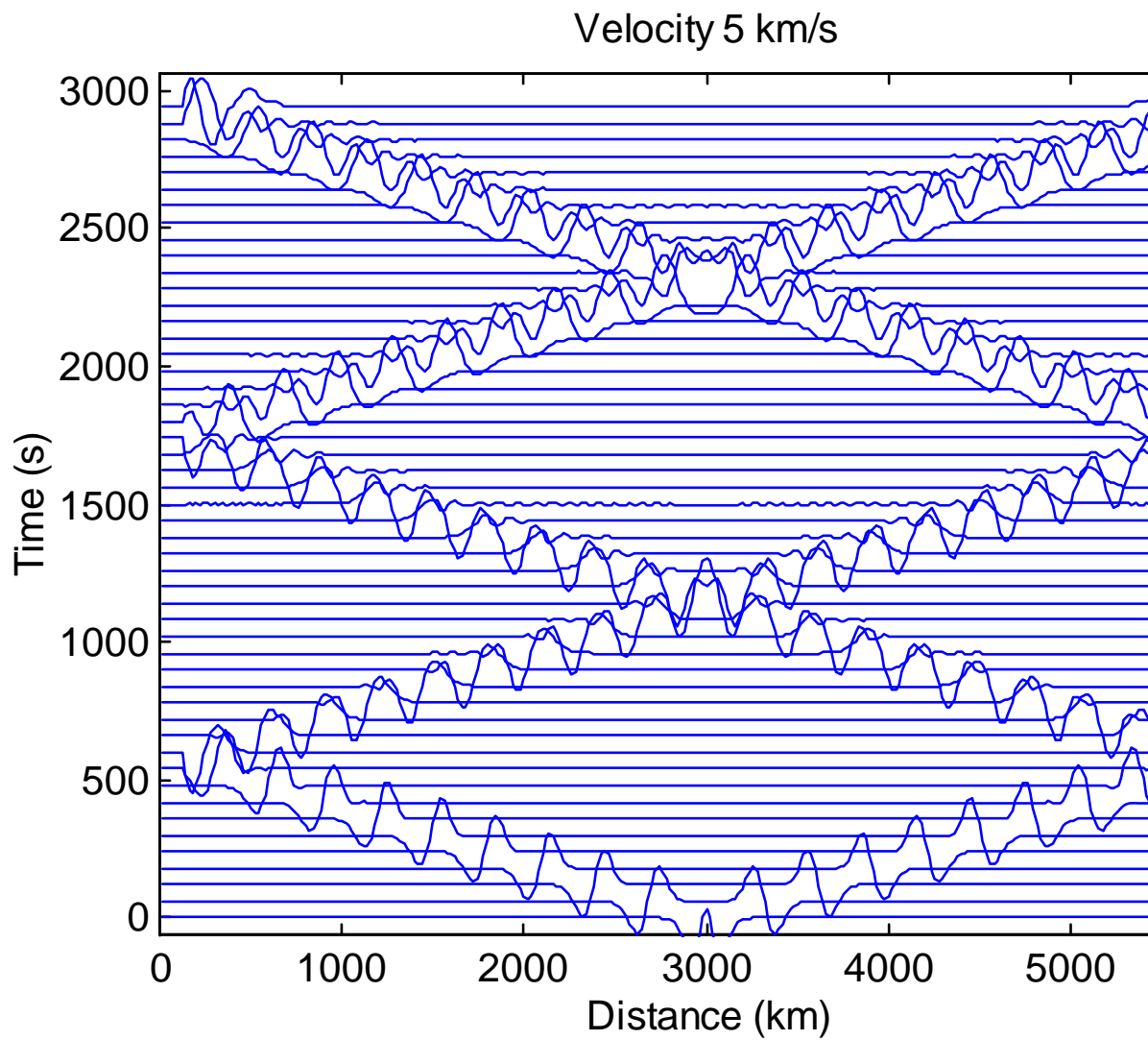
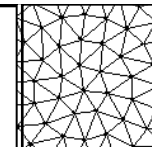
    for j=2:nx-1
        d2p(j)=(p(j+1)-2*p(j)+p(j-1))/dx^2; % space derivative
    end
    pnew=2*p-pold+d2p*dt^2;                % time extrapolation
    pnew(nx/2)=pnew(nx/2)+src(i)*dt^2;    % add source term
    pold=p;                               % time levels
    p=pnew;
    p(1)=0;                               % set boundaries pressure free
    p(nx)=0;

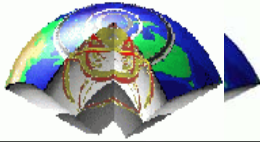
    % Display
    plot(x,p,'b-')
    title(' FD ')
    drawnow

end
```

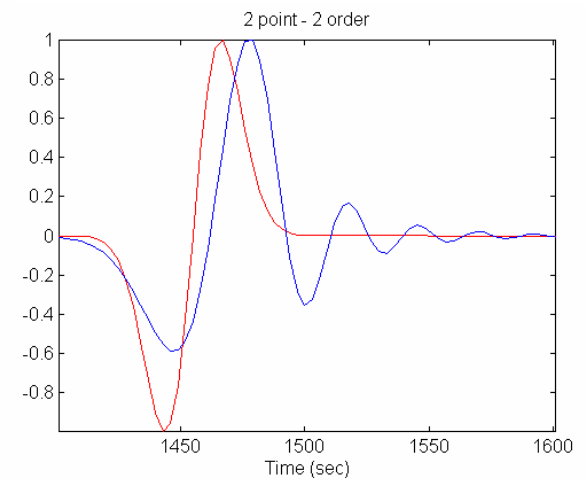
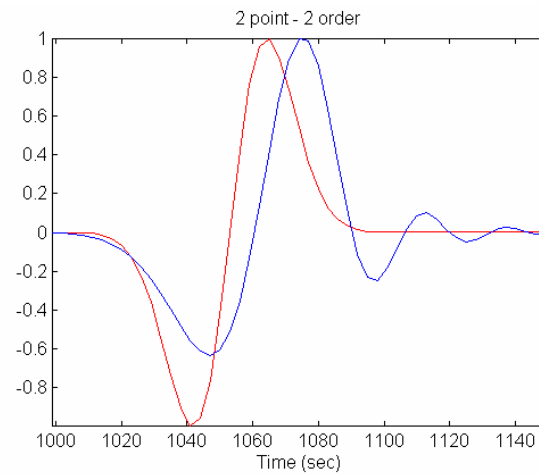
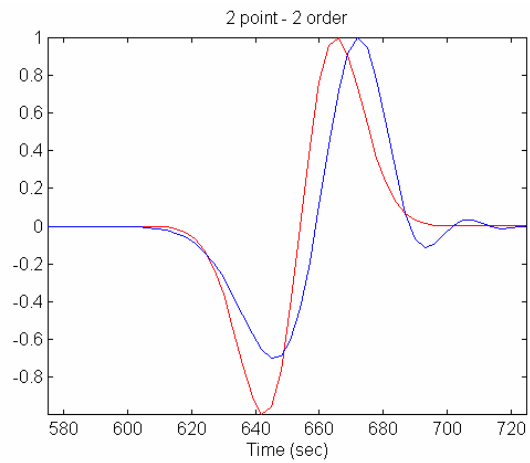
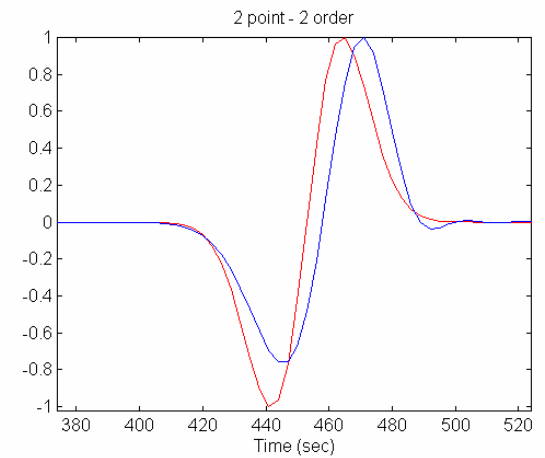
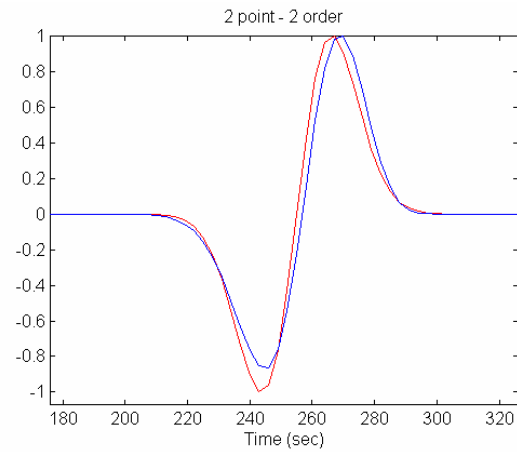
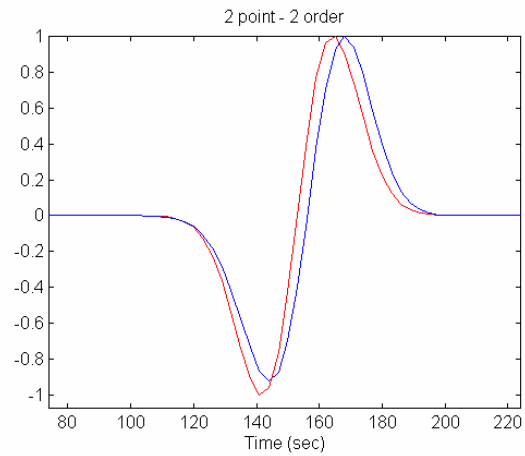
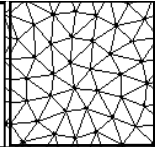


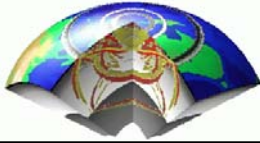
Snapshot Example



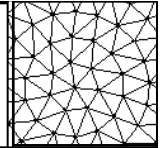


Seismogram Dispersion

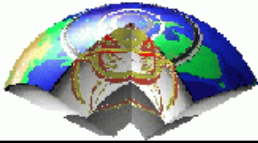




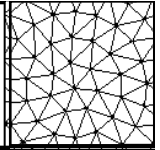
Finite Differences - Summary



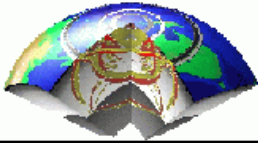
- Conceptually the most **simple** of the numerical methods and can be learned quite quickly
- Depending on the physical problem FD methods are **conditionally stable** (relation between time and space increment)
- FD methods have difficulties concerning the accurate implementation of **boundary conditions** (e.g. free surfaces, absorbing boundaries)
- FD methods are usually **explicit** and therefore very easy to implement and efficient on **parallel computers**
- FD methods work best on regular, rectangular grids



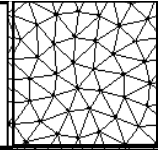
The Fourier Method



- What is a *pseudo*-spectral Method?
- Fourier Derivatives
- The Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)
- The Acoustic Wave Equation with the Fourier Method
- Comparison with the Finite-Difference Method
- Dispersion and Stability of Fourier Solutions

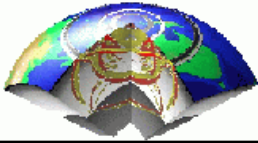


What is a *pseudo*-spectral Method?

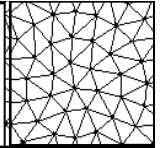


Spectral solutions to time-dependent PDEs are formulated in the frequency-wavenumber domain and solutions are obtained in terms of spectra (e.g. seismograms). This technique is particularly interesting for geometries where partial solutions in the ω - k domain can be obtained analytically (e.g. for layered models).

In the **pseudo**-spectral approach - in a finite-difference like manner - the PDEs are solved pointwise in physical space (x - t). However, the space derivatives are calculated using orthogonal functions (e.g. Fourier Integrals, Chebyshev polynomials). They are either evaluated using matrix-matrix multiplications or the fast Fourier transform (FFT).



Fourier Derivatives

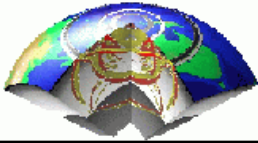


.. let us recall the definition of the derivative using Fourier integrals ...

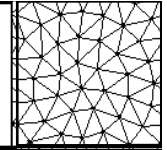
$$\begin{aligned}\partial_x f(x) &= \partial_x \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(k) e^{-ikx} dk \right) \\ &= - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} ik F(k) e^{-ikx} dk\end{aligned}$$

... we could either ...

- 1) perform this calculation in the space domain by convolution
- 2) actually transform the function $f(x)$ in the k -domain and back



The Fast Fourier Transform

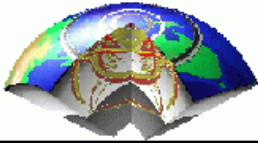


... the latter approach became interesting with the introduction of the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT). **What's so fast about it ?**

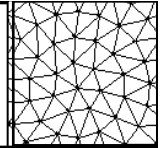
The FFT originates from a paper by Cooley and Tukey (1965, Math. Comp. vol 19 297-301) which revolutionised all fields where Fourier transforms were essential to progress.

The discrete Fourier Transform can be written as

$$\hat{u}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u_j e^{-2\pi i k j / N}, k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$
$$u_k = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \hat{u}_j e^{2\pi i k j / N}, k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$



The Fast Fourier Transform

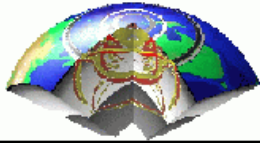


... this can be written as matrix-vector products ...
for example the inverse transform yields ...

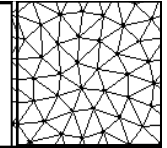
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & \omega & \omega^2 & \omega^3 & \dots & \omega^{N-1} \\ 1 & \omega^2 & \omega^4 & \omega^6 & \dots & \omega^{2N-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & & & & \vdots \\ 1 & \omega^{N-1} & \dots & \dots & \dots & \omega^{(N-1)^2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{u}_0 \\ \hat{u}_1 \\ \hat{u}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \hat{u}_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_0 \\ u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ u_{N-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

.. where ...

$$\omega = e^{2\pi i / N}$$



The Fast Fourier Transform



... the **FAST** bit is recognising that the full matrix - vector multiplication can be written as a few sparse matrix - vector multiplications (for details see for example Bracewell, the Fourier Transform and its applications, MacGraw-Hill) with the effect that:

Number of multiplications

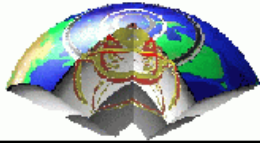
full matrix

$$N^2$$

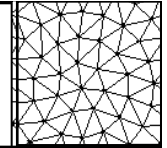
FFT

$$2N \log_2 N$$

this has enormous implications for large scale problems.
Note: the factorisation becomes particularly simple and effective when N is a highly composite number (power of 2).



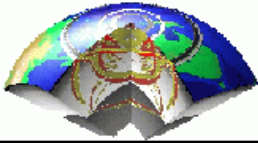
The **F**ast Fourier Transform



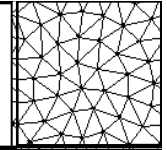
Number of multiplications

Problem	full matrix	FFT	Ratio full/FFT
1D (nx=512)	2.6×10^5	9.2×10^3	28.4
1D (nx=2096)			94.98
1D (nx=8384)			312.6

.. the right column can be regarded as the speedup of an algorithm when the FFT is used instead of the full system.



Acoustic Wave Equation - Fourier Method



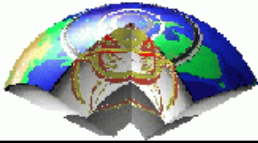
let us take the acoustic wave equation with variable density

$$\frac{1}{\rho c^2} \partial_t^2 p = \partial_x \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x p \right)$$

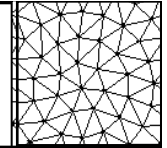
the left hand side will be expressed with our standard centered finite-difference approach

$$\frac{1}{\rho c^2 dt^2} [p(t + dt) - 2p(t) + p(t - dt)] = \partial_x \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x p \right)$$

... leading to the extrapolation scheme ...



Acoustic Wave Equation - Fourier Method



$$p(t + dt) = \rho c^2 dt^2 \partial_x \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x p \right) + 2p(t) - p(t - dt)$$

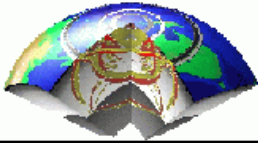
where the space derivatives will be calculated using the Fourier Method.
The highlighted term will be calculated as follows:

$$P_j^n \rightarrow \text{FFT} \rightarrow \hat{P}_v^n \rightarrow ik_v \hat{P}_v^n \rightarrow \text{FFT}^{-1} \rightarrow \partial_x P_j^n$$

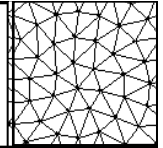
multiply by $1/\rho$

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x P_j^n \rightarrow \text{FFT} \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x \hat{P} \right)_v^n \rightarrow ik_v \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x \hat{P} \right)_v^n \rightarrow \text{FFT}^{-1} \rightarrow \partial_x \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x P_j^n \right)$$

... then extrapolate ...



Acoustic Wave Equation - 3D

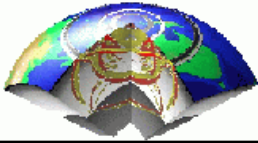


$$p(t + dt) =$$

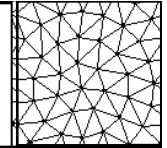
$$\rho c^2 dt^2 \left(\partial_x \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x p \right) + \partial_y \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_y p \right) + \partial_z \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_z p \right) \right) + 2p(t) - p(t - dt)$$

.. where the following algorithm applies to each space dimension ...

$$P_j^n \rightarrow \text{FFT} \rightarrow \hat{P}_v^n \rightarrow ik_v \hat{P}_v^n \rightarrow \text{FFT}^{-1} \rightarrow \partial_x P_j^n$$
$$\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x P_j^n \rightarrow \text{FFT} \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x \hat{P} \right)_v^n \rightarrow ik_v \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x \hat{P} \right)_v^n \rightarrow \text{FFT}^{-1} \rightarrow \partial_x \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_x P_j^n \right)$$



Comparison with finite differences - Algorithm



let us compare the core of the algorithm - the calculation of the derivative
(Matlab code)

```
function df=fder1d(f,dx,nop)
% fDER1D(f,dx,nop) finite difference
% second derivative

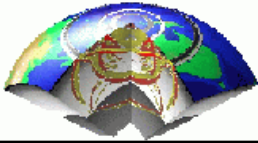
nx=max(size(f));

n2=(nop-1)/2;

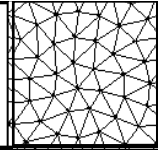
if nop==3; d=[1 -2 1]/dx^2; end
if nop==5; d=[-1/12 4/3 -5/2 4/3 -1/12]/dx^2; end

df=[1:nx]*0;

for i=1:nop;
df=df+d(i).*cshift1d(f,-n2+(i-1));
end
```



Comparison with finite differences - Algorithm



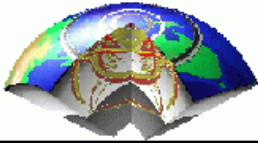
... and the first derivative using FFTs ...

```
function df=sder1d(f,dx)
% SDER1D(f,dx) spectral derivative of vector
nx=max(size(f));

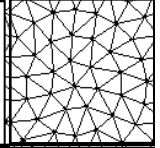
% initialize k
kmax=pi/dx;
dk=kmax/(nx/2);
for i=1:nx/2, k(i)=(i)*dk; k(nx/2+i)=-kmax+(i)*dk; end
k=sqrt(-1)*k;

% FFT and IFFT
ff=fft(f); ff=k.*ff; df=real(ifft(ff));
```

.. simple and elegant ...



Fourier Method - Dispersion and Stability



... with the usual *Ansatz*

$$p_j^n = e^{i(kjdx - n\omega dt)}$$

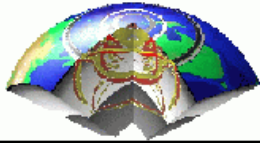
we obtain

$$\partial_x^2 p_j^n = -k^2 e^{i(kjdx - \omega ndt)}$$

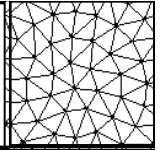
$$\partial_t^2 p_j^n = -\frac{4}{dt^2} \sin^2 \frac{\omega dt}{2} e^{i(kjdx - \omega ndt)}$$

... leading to

$$k = \frac{2}{cdt} \sin \frac{\omega dt}{2}$$



Fourier Method - Dispersion and Stability



$$k = \frac{2}{cdt} \sin \frac{\omega dt}{2}$$

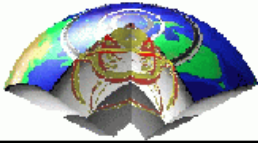
$$\omega = \frac{2}{dt} \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{kcdt}{2} \right)$$

What are the consequences?

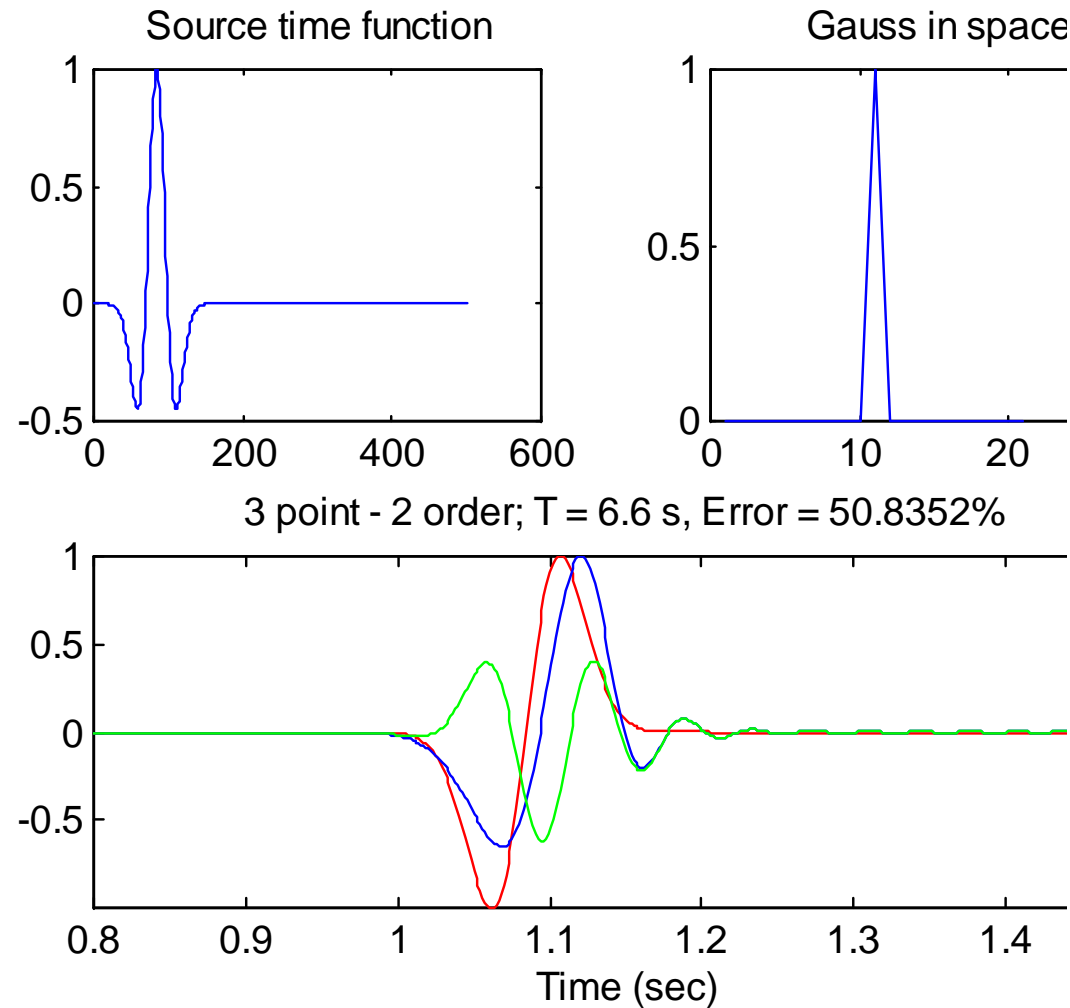
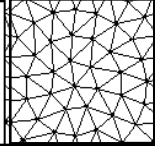
- a) when $dt \ll 1$, $\sin^{-1}(kcdt/2) \approx kcdt/2$ and $w/k=c$
-> practically no dispersion
- b) the argument of asin must be smaller than one.

$$\frac{k_{\max} cdt}{2} \leq 1$$

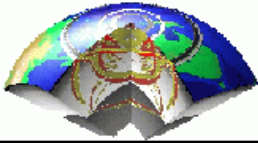
$$cdt / dx \leq 2 / \pi \approx 0.636$$



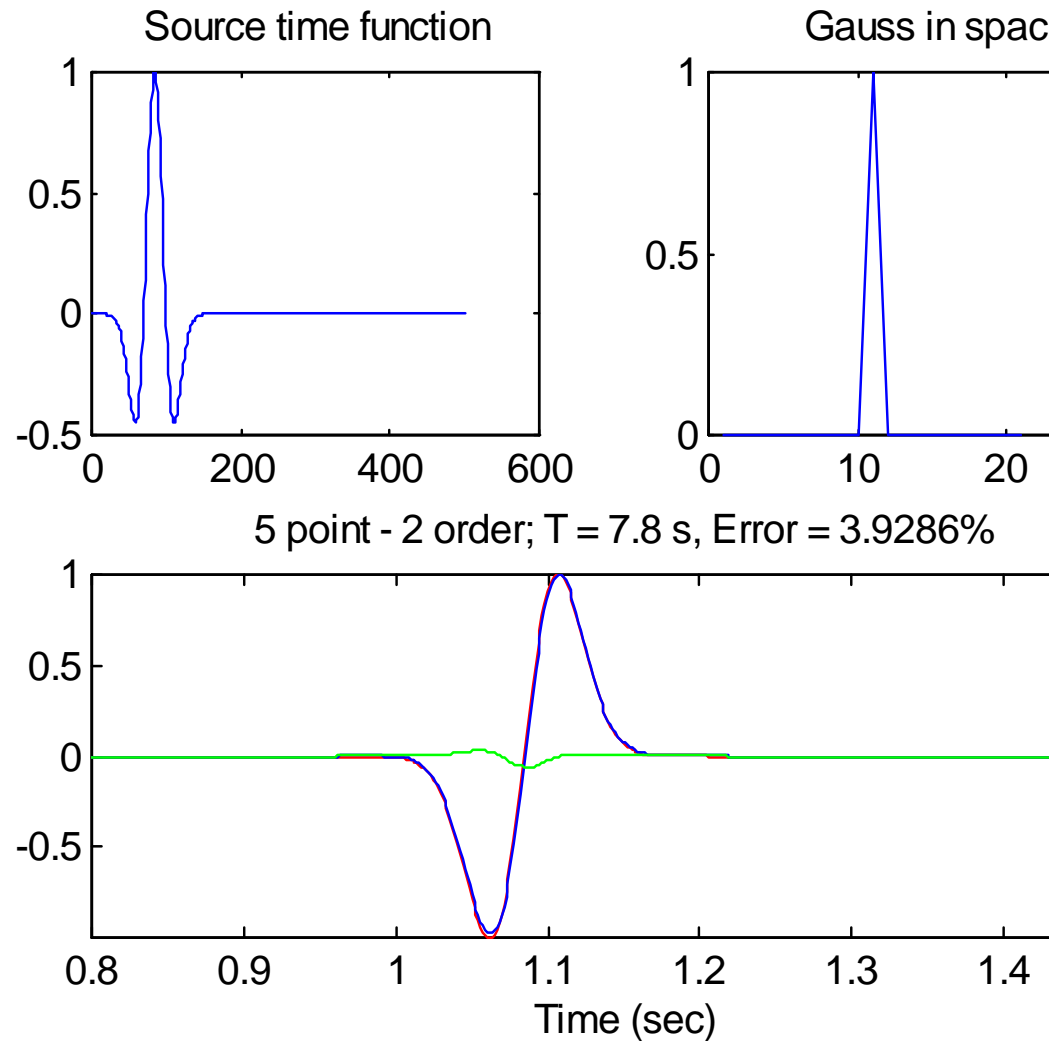
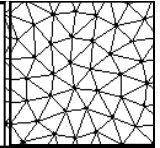
Fourier Method - Comparison with FD - 10Hz



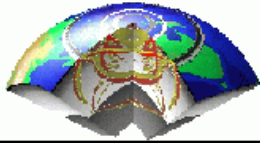
Example of acoustic 1D wave simulation.
FD 3-point operator
red-analytic; blue-numerical; green-difference



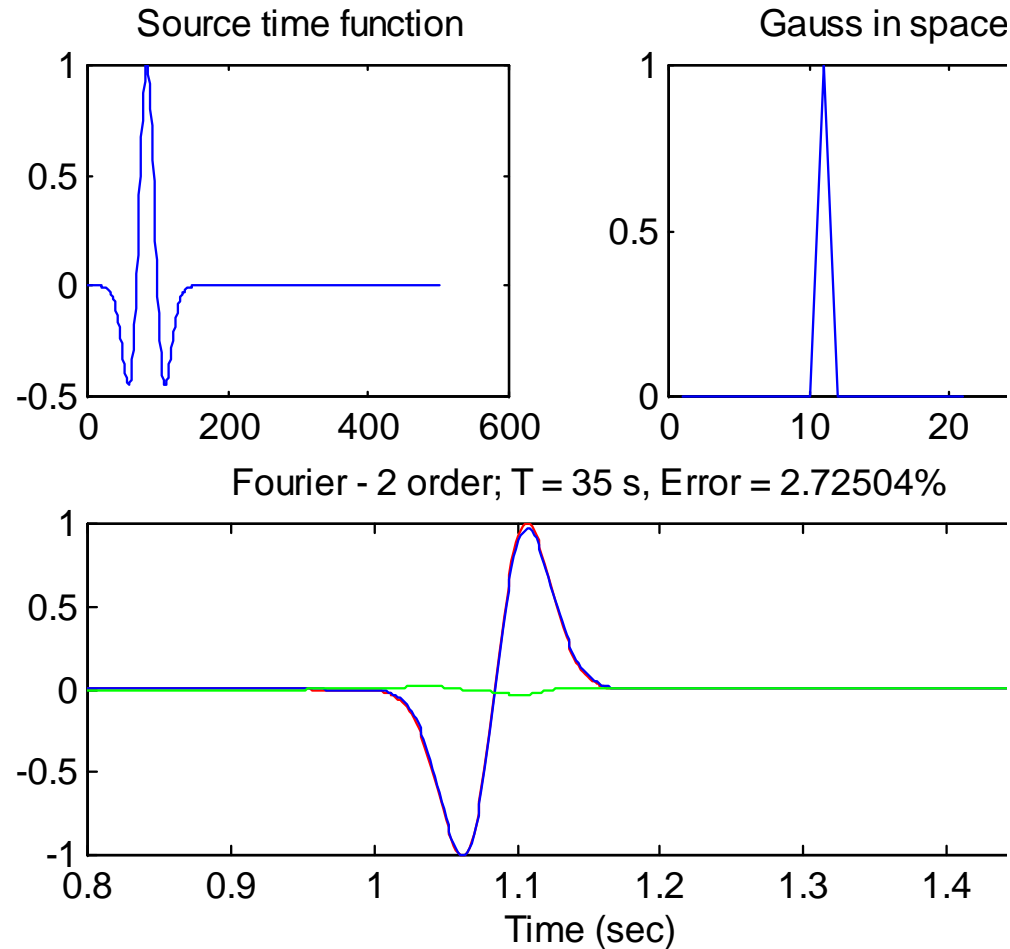
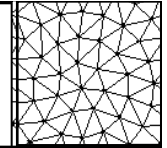
Fourier Method - Comparison with FD - 10Hz



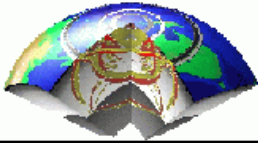
Example of acoustic 1D wave simulation.
FD 5 -point operator
red-analytic; blue-numerical; green-difference



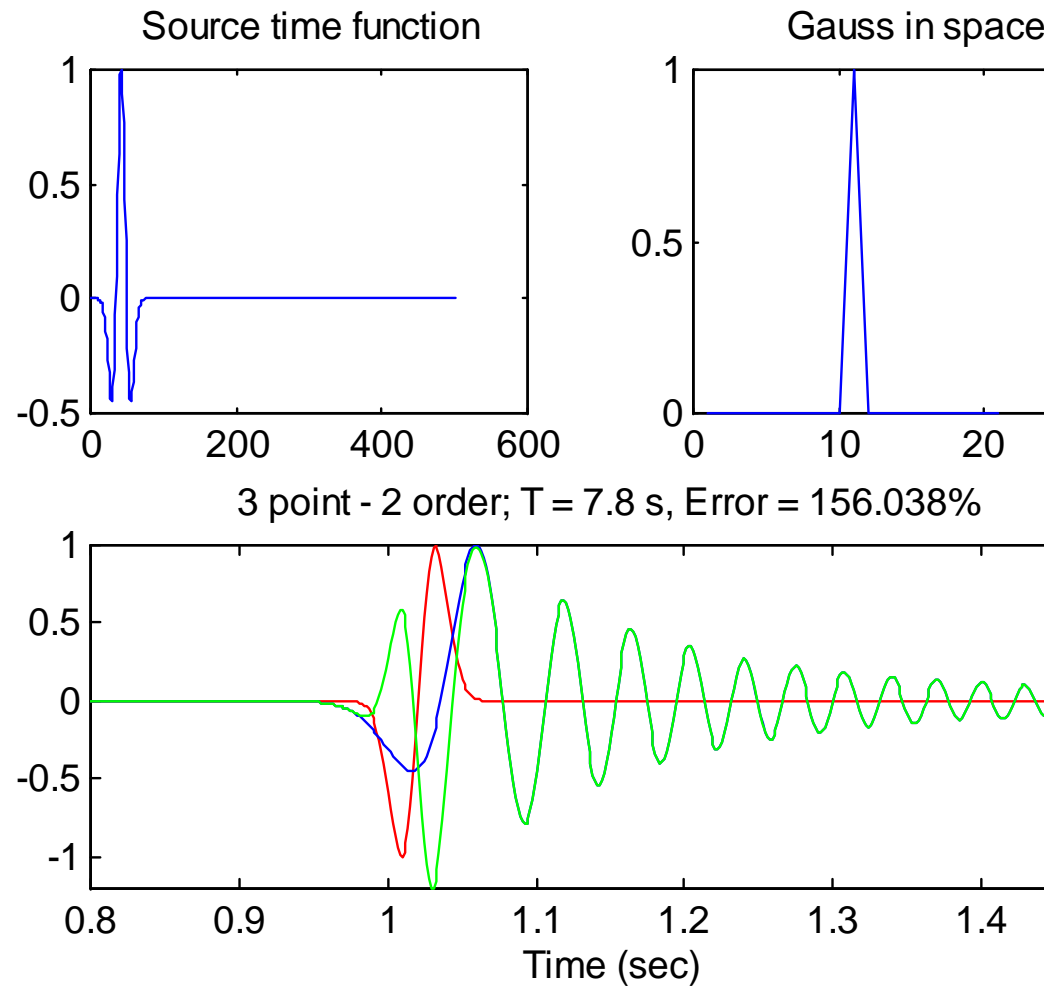
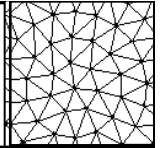
Fourier Method - Comparison with FD - 10Hz



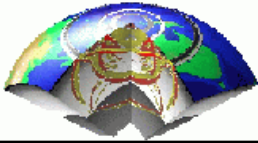
Example of acoustic 1D wave simulation.
Fourier operator
red-analytic; blue-numerical; green-difference



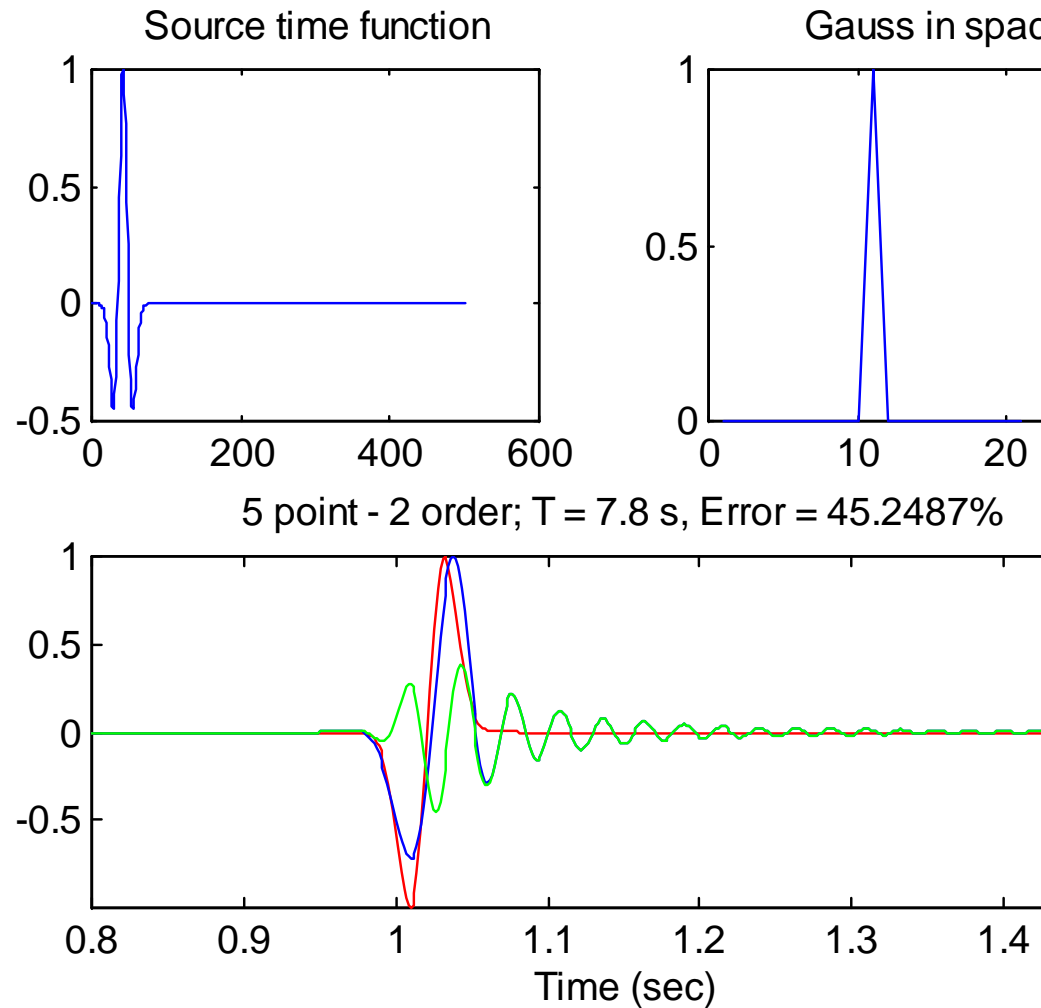
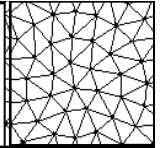
Fourier Method - Comparison with FD - 20Hz



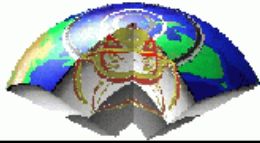
Example of acoustic 1D wave simulation.
FD 3-point operator
red-analytic; blue-numerical; green-difference



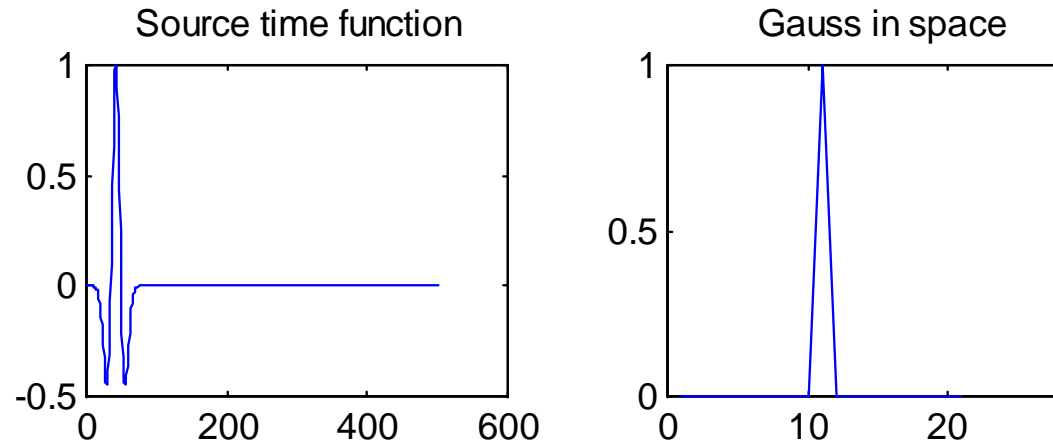
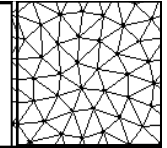
Fourier Method - Comparison with FD - 20Hz



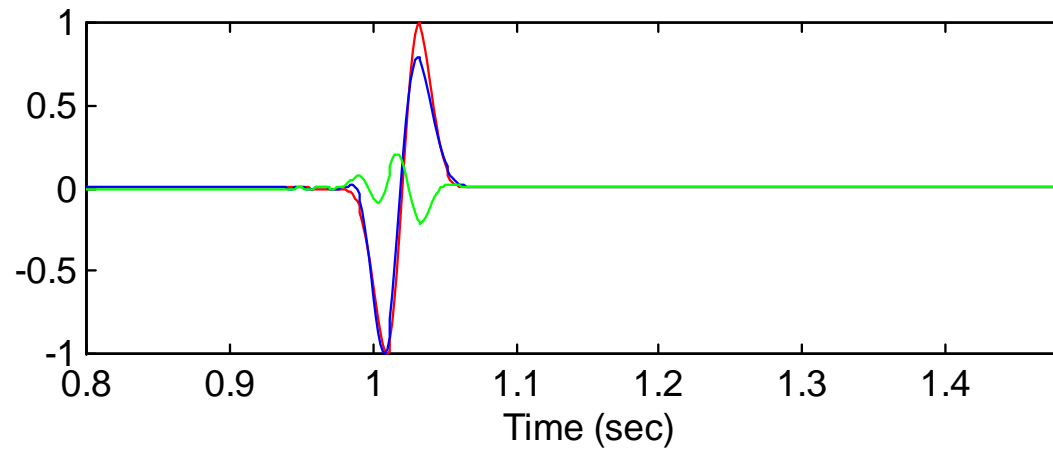
Example of acoustic 1D wave simulation.
FD 5 -point operator
red-analytic; blue-numerical; green-difference



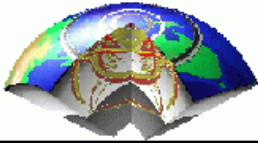
Fourier Method - Comparison with FD - 20Hz



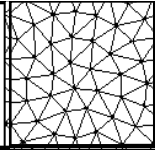
Fourier - 2 order; $T = 34$ s, Error = 18.0134%



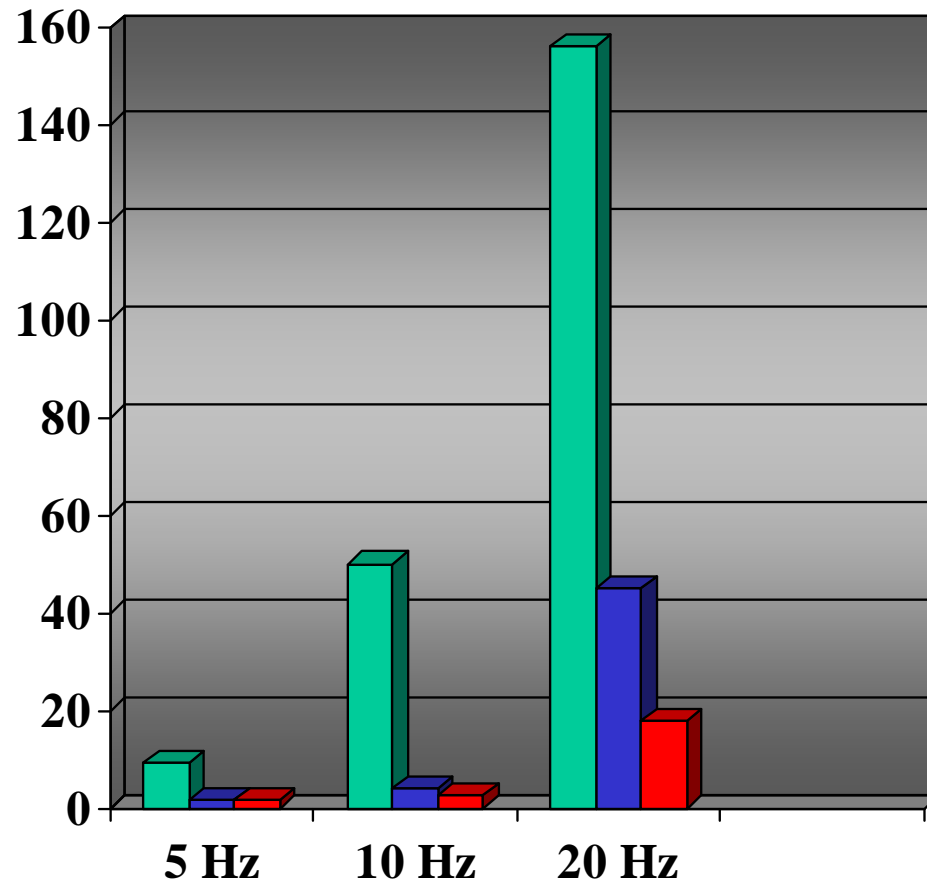
Example of acoustic 1D wave simulation.
Fourier operator
red-analytic; blue-numerical; green-difference



Fourier Method - Comparison with FD - Table



Difference (%) between numerical and analytical solution
as a function of propagating frequency



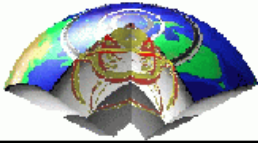
3 point
5 point
Fourier

Simulation time

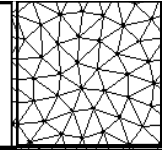
5.4s

7.8s

33.0s



Numerical solutions and Green's Functions



The concept of Green's Functions (impulse responses) plays an important role in the solution of partial differential equations. It is also useful for numerical solutions. Let us recall the acoustic wave equation

$$\partial_t^2 p = c^2 \Delta p$$

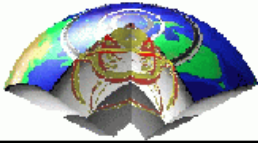
with Δ being the Laplace operator. We now introduce a delta source in space and time

$$\partial_t^2 p = \delta(\underline{x})\delta(t) + c^2 \Delta p$$

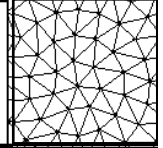
the formal solution to this equation is

$$p(\underline{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi c^2} \frac{\delta(t - |\underline{x}|/c)}{|\underline{x}|}$$

(Full proof given in Aki and Richards, Quantitative Seismology, Freeman+Co, 1981, p. 65)



Numerical solutions and Green's Functions

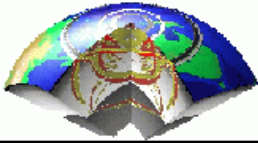


$$p(\underline{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi c^2} \frac{\delta(t - |\underline{x}|/c)}{|\underline{x}|}$$

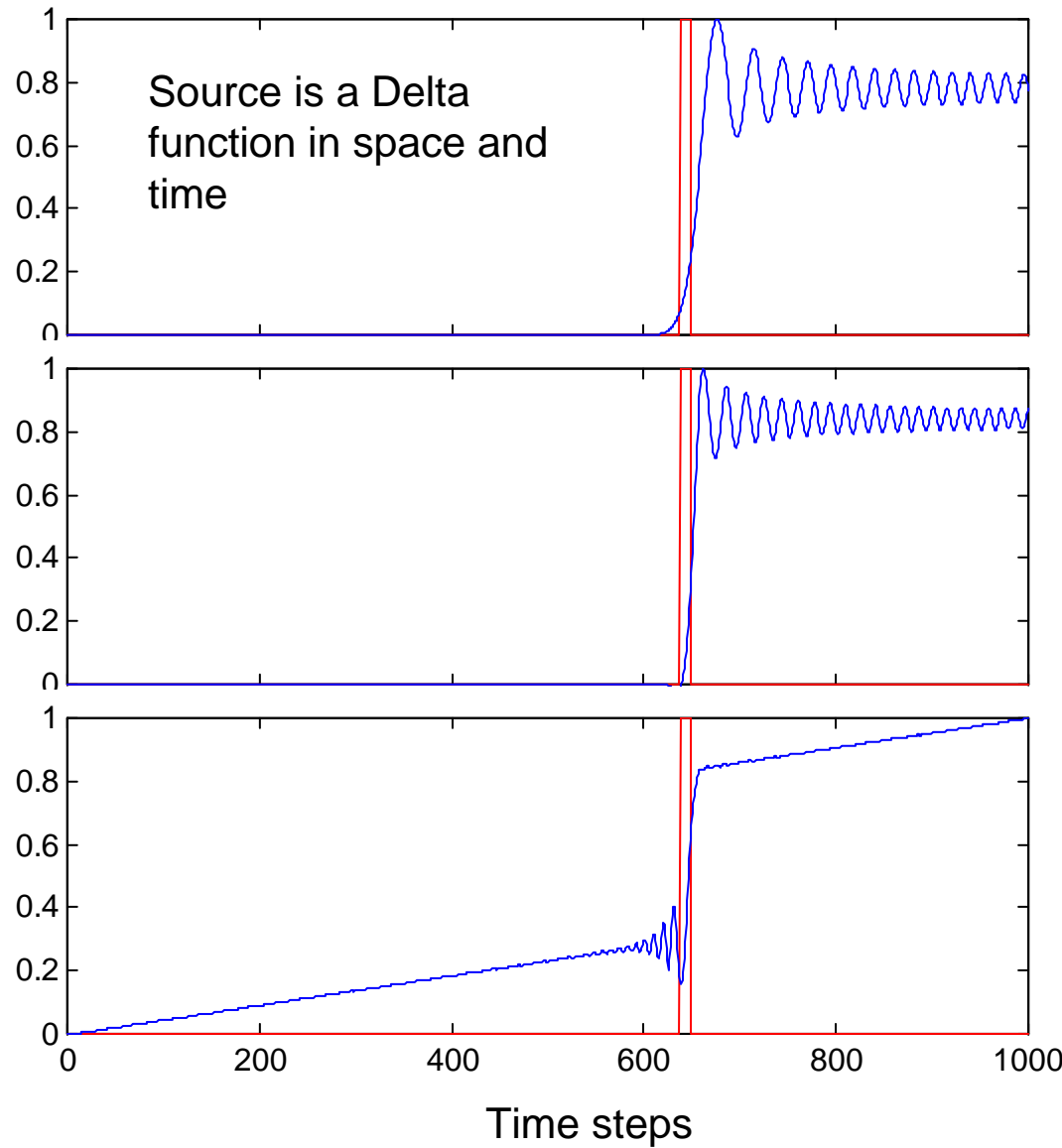
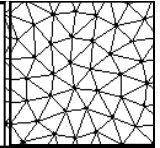
In words this means (in 1D and 3D but not in 2D, **why?**) , that in homogeneous media the same source time function which is input at the source location will be recorded at a distance r , but with amplitude proportional to $1/r$.

An arbitrary source can evidently be constructed by summing up different delta - solutions. Can we use this property in our numerical simulations?

What happens if we solve our numerical system with delta functions as sources?



Numerical solutions and Green's Functions



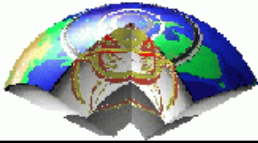
3 point operator

5 point operator

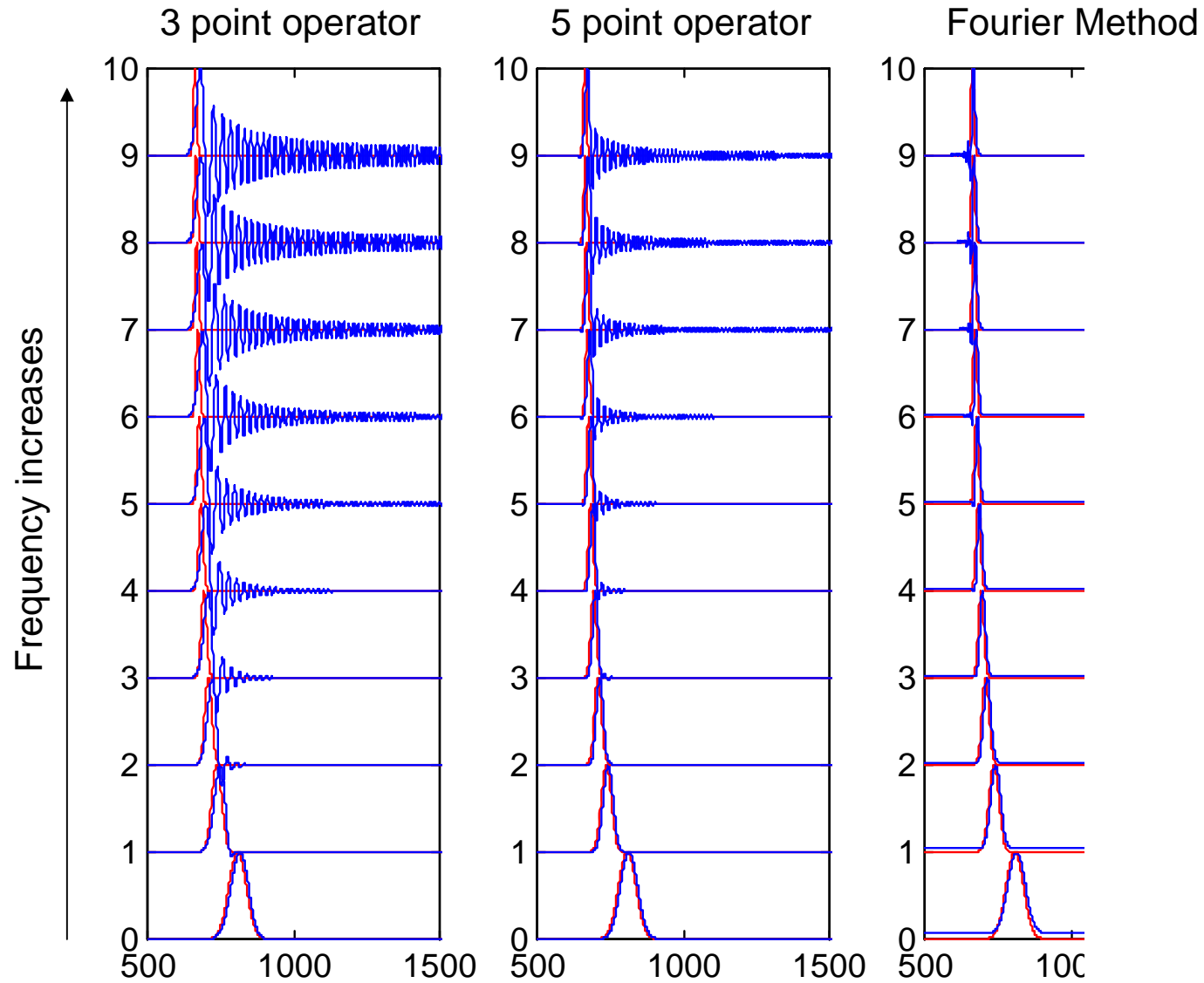
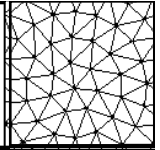
Fourier Method

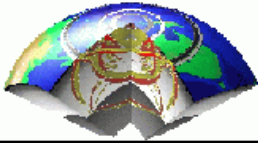
Impulse response (analytical)

Impulse response (numerical)

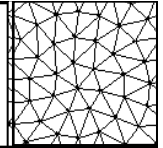


Numerical solutions and Green's Functions





Fourier Method - Summary

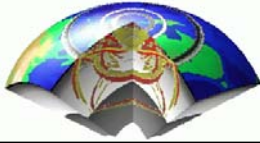


The **Fourier Method** can be considered as the limit of the finite-difference method as the length of the operator tends to the number of points along a particular dimension.

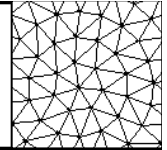
The space derivatives are calculated in the wavenumber domain by multiplication of the spectrum with ik . The inverse Fourier transform results in an exact space derivative up to the Nyquist frequency.

The use of Fourier transform imposes some constraints on the smoothness of the functions to be differentiated. Discontinuities lead to **Gibb's phenomenon**.

As the Fourier transform requires periodicity this technique is particularly useful where the physical problems are **periodical** (e.g. angular derivatives in cylindrical problems).

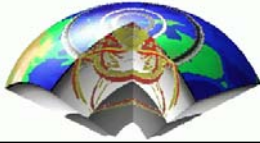


Finite Elements - the concept

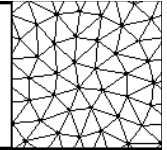


How to proceed in FEM analysis:

- Divide structure into **pieces** (like LEGO)
- Describe behaviour of the physical quantities in each **element**
- **Connect** (assemble) the **elements** at the nodes to form an approximate system of equations for the whole structure
- Solve the **system of equations** involving unknown quantities at the nodes (e.g. displacements)
- **Calculate** desired quantities (e.g. strains and stresses) at selected elements



Finite Elements - Why?



FEM allows discretization of bodies with **arbitrary shape**.
Originally designed for problems in static elasticity.

FEM is the most widely applied computer simulation method in **engineering**.

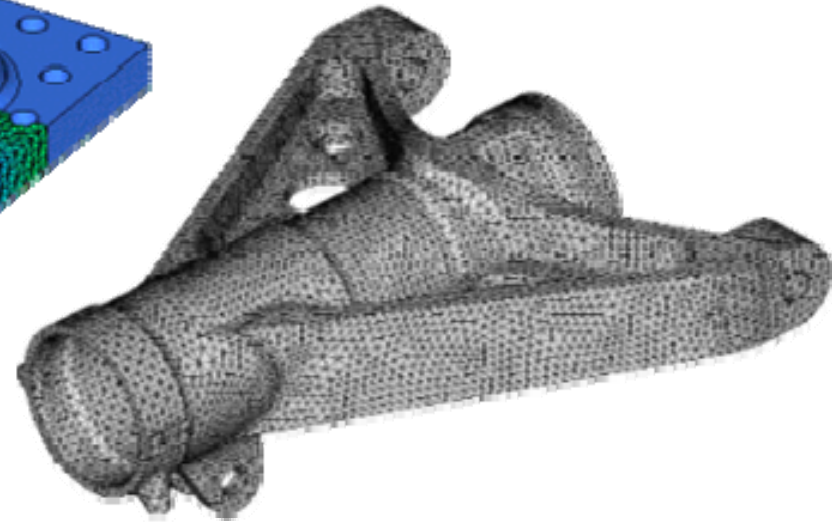
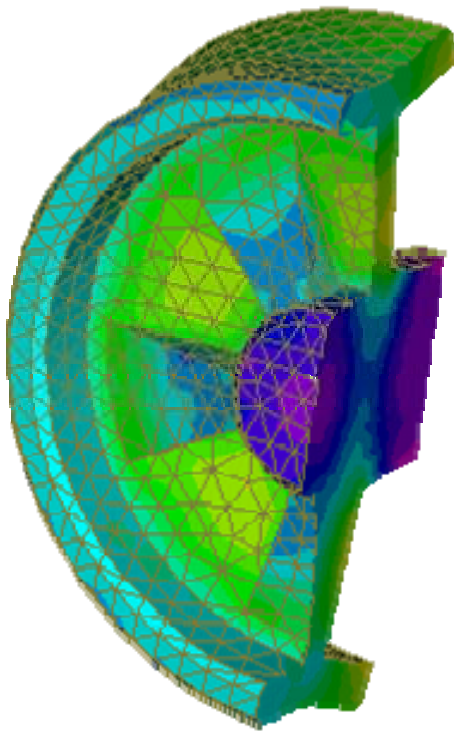
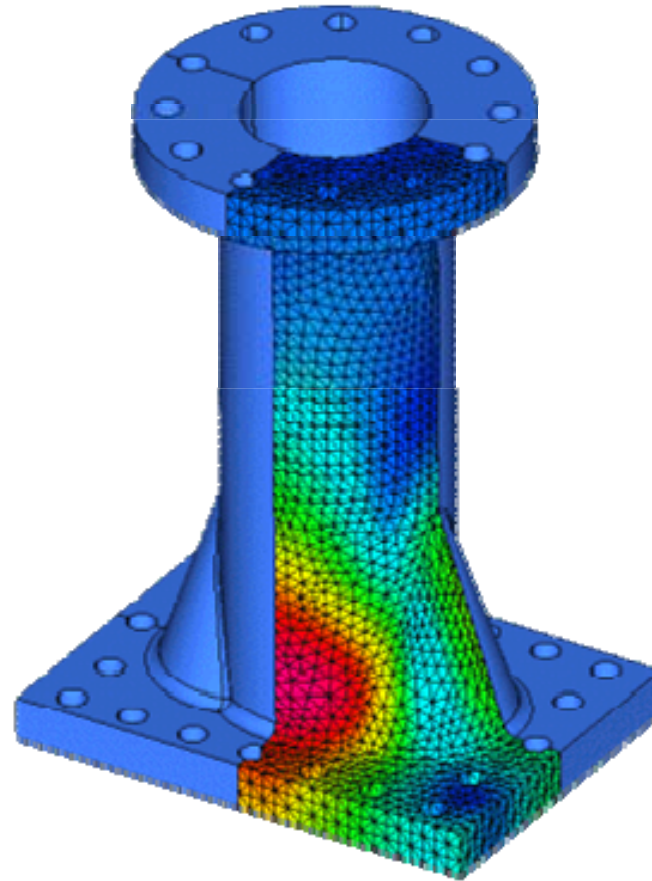
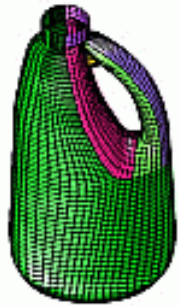
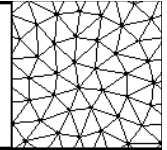
Today **spectral elements** is an attractive new method with applications in seismology and geophysical fluid dynamics

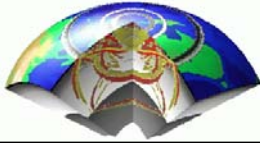
The required grid generation techniques are interfaced with graphical techniques (CAD).

Today a large number of commercial FEM software is available (e.g. **ANSYS, SMART, MATLAB, ABACUS, etc.**)

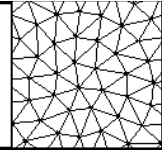


Finite Elements - Examples





Discretization - finite elements



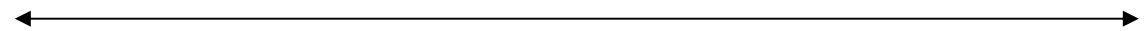
As we are aiming to find a numerical solution to our problem it is clear we have to discretize the problem somehow. In FE problems - similar to FD - the functional values are known at a discrete set of points.

... regular grid ...

+ +

... irregular grid ...

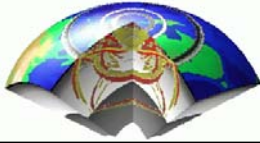
+ ++++ # +++ + + + + ++ + ++



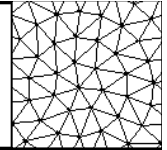
Domain D

The key idea in FE analysis is to approximate all functions in terms of basis functions φ , so that

$$u \approx \tilde{u} = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i \varphi_i$$



Finite elements - basic formulation



Let us start with a simple linear system of equations

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b} \quad | * \mathbf{y}$$

and observe that we can generally multiply both sides of this equation with \mathbf{y} without changing its solution. Note that \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} and \mathbf{b} are vectors and \mathbf{A} is a matrix.

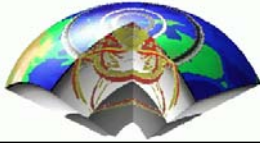
$$\rightarrow \mathbf{yAx} = \mathbf{yb} \quad \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{R}^n$$

We first look at Poisson's equation (e.g., wave equation without time dependence)

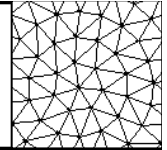
$$-\Delta u(x) = f(x)$$

where u is a scalar field, f is a source term and in 1-D

$$\Delta = \nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}$$



Formulation - Poisson's equation



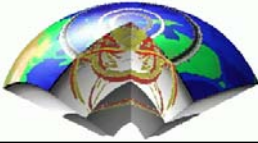
We now multiply this equation with an arbitrary function $v(x)$, (dropping the explicit space dependence)

$$-\Delta uv = fv$$

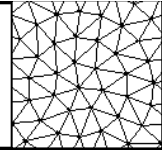
... and integrate this equation over the whole domain. For reasons of simplicity we define our physical domain D in the interval $[0, 1]$.

$$\begin{aligned} -\int_D \Delta uv &= \int_D fv \\ -\int_0^1 \Delta uv dx &= \int_0^1 f v dx \end{aligned}$$

... why are we doing this? ... be patient ...



Partial Integration



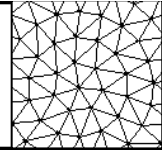
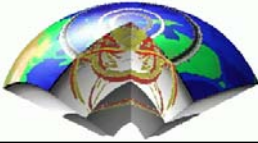
... partially integrate the left-hand-side of our equation ...

$$-\int_0^1 \Delta u v dx = \int_0^1 f v dx$$

$$-\int_0^1 \Delta u v dx = [\nabla u v]_0^1 + \int_0^1 \nabla v \nabla u dx$$

we assume for now that the **derivatives** of u at the boundaries vanish so that for our particular problem

$$-\int_0^1 \Delta u v dx = \int_0^1 \nabla v \nabla u dx$$



... so that we arrive at ...

$$\int_0^1 \nabla u \nabla v dx = \int_0^1 f v dx$$

... with u being the unknown function. This is also true for our approximate numerical system

$$\int_0^1 \nabla \tilde{u} \nabla v dx = \int_0^1 f v dx$$

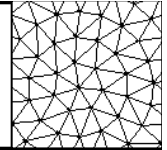
... where ...

$$\tilde{u} = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i \varphi_i$$

was our choice of approximating u using basis functions.



The basis functions



we are looking for functions φ_i
with the following property

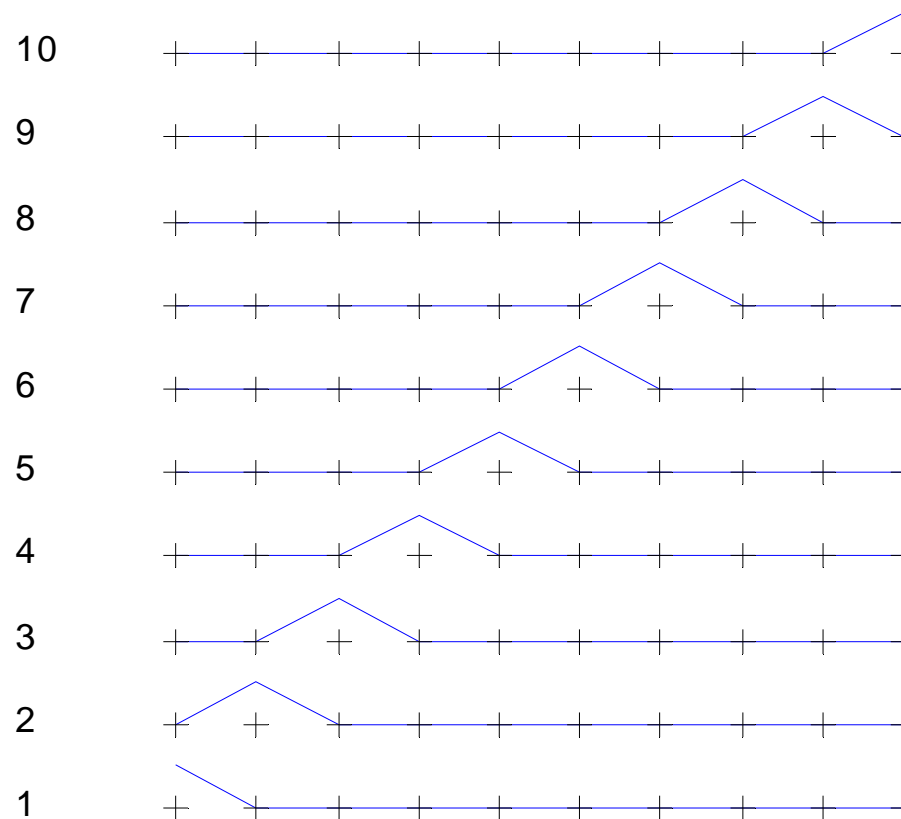
$$\varphi_i(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } x = x_i \\ 0 & \text{for } x = x_j, j \neq i \end{cases}$$

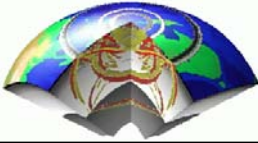
... otherwise we are
free to choose any
function ...

The simplest choice
are of course linear
functions:

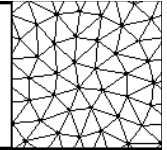
+ grid nodes

blue lines - basis
functions φ_i





The discrete system



The ingredients:

$$v = \varphi_k$$

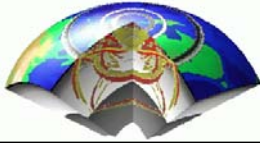
$$\tilde{u} = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i \varphi_i$$

$$\int_0^1 \nabla \tilde{u} \nabla v dx = \int_0^1 f v dx$$

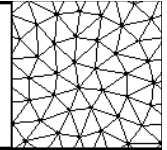


$$\int_0^1 \nabla \left(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \varphi_i \right) \nabla \varphi_k dx = \int_0^1 f \varphi_k dx$$

... leading to ...



The discrete system



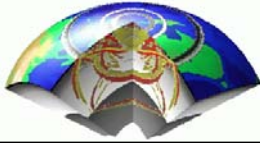
... the coefficients c_k are constants so that for one particular function φ_k this system looks like ...

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \int_0^1 \nabla \varphi_i \nabla \varphi_k dx = \int_0^1 f \varphi_k dx$$

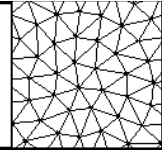
... probably not to your surprise this can be written in matrix form

$$b_i A_{ik} = g_k$$

$$A_{ik}^T b_i = g_k$$



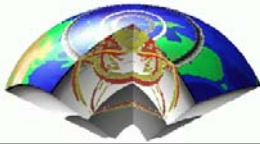
The solution



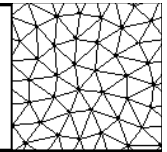
... with the even less surprising solution

$$b_i = \left(A_{ik}^T \right)^{-1} g_k$$

remember that while the b_i 's are really the coefficients of the basis functions these are the actual function values at node points i as well because of our particular choice of basis functions.

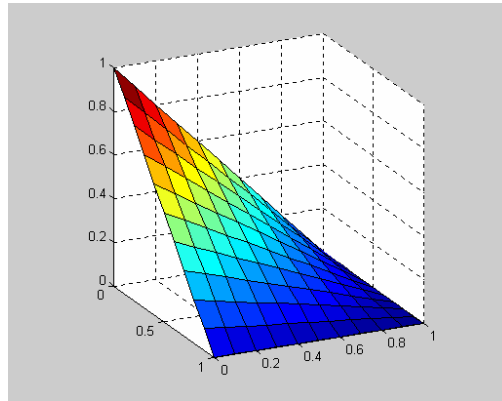


Basis functions and element

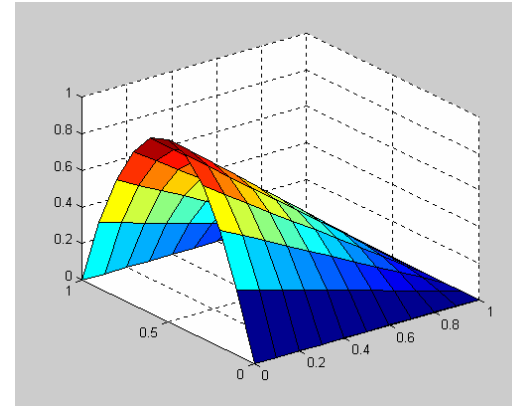


Triangles

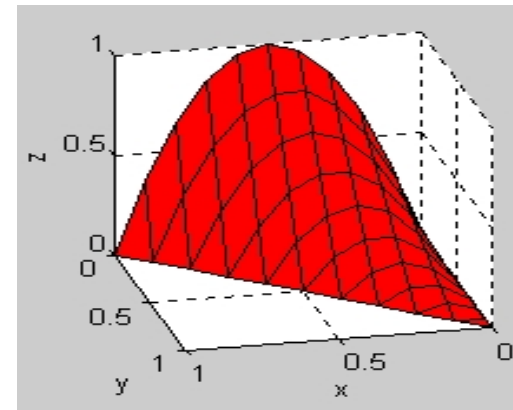
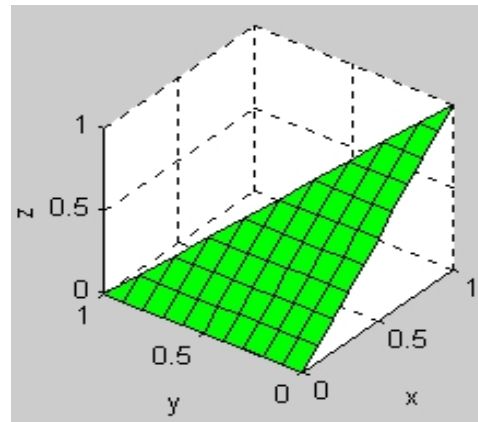
Linear

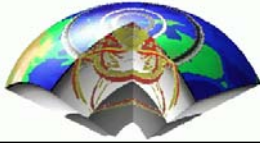


Quadratic

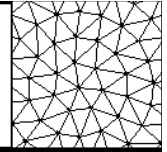


Quadrangles





The Acoustic Wave Equation 1-D



How do we solve a time-dependent problem such as the acoustic wave equation?

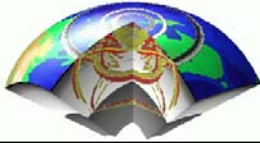
$$\partial_t^2 u - v^2 \Delta u = f$$

where v is the wave speed.

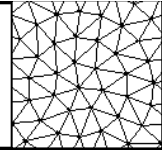
using the same ideas as before we multiply this equation with an arbitrary function and integrate over the whole domain, e.g. $[0,1]$, and after partial integration

$$\int_0^1 \partial_t^2 u \varphi_j dx - v^2 \int_0^1 \nabla u \nabla \varphi_j dx = \int_0^1 f \varphi_j dx$$

.. we now introduce an approximation for u using our previous basis functions...



The Acoustic Wave Equation 1-D



$$u \approx \tilde{u} = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i(t) \varphi_i(x)$$

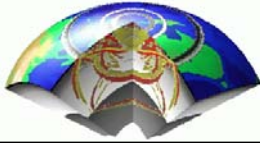
note that now our coefficients are time-dependent!
... and ...

$$\partial_t^2 u \approx \partial_t^2 \tilde{u} = \partial_t^2 \sum_{i=1}^N c_i(t) \varphi_i(x)$$

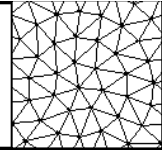
together we obtain

$$\left[\sum_i \partial_t^2 c_i \int_0^1 \varphi_i \varphi_j dx \right] + v^2 \left[\sum_i c_i \int_0^1 \nabla \varphi_i \nabla \varphi_j dx \right] = \int_0^1 f \varphi_j$$

which we can write as ...



Time extrapolation



$$\left[\sum_i \partial_t^2 c_i \int_0^1 \varphi_i \varphi_j dx \right] + v^2 \left[\sum_i c_i \int_0^1 \nabla \varphi_i \nabla \varphi_j dx \right] = \int_0^1 f \varphi_j$$

↑
M

mass matrix

↑
A

stiffness matrix

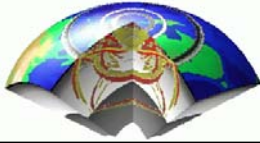
↑
b

... in Matrix form ...

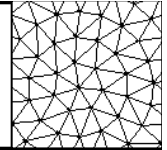
$$M^T \ddot{c} + v^2 A^T c = g$$

... remember the coefficients c correspond to the actual values of u at the grid points for the right choice of basis functions ...

How can we solve this time-dependent problem?



FD extrapolation



$$M^T \ddot{c} + v^2 A^T c = g$$

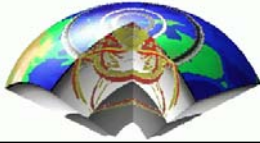
... let us use a finite-difference approximation for the time derivative ...

$$M^T \left(\frac{c_{k+1} - 2c_k + c_{k-1}}{dt^2} \right) + v^2 A^T c_k = g$$

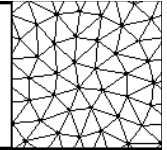
... leading to the solution at time t_{k+1} :

$$c_{k+1} = \left[(M^T)^{-1} (g - v^2 A^T c_k) \right] dt^2 + 2c_k - c_{k-1}$$

we already know how to calculate the matrix A but
how can we calculate matrix M?



Matrix assembly



M_{ij}

```
% assemble matrix Mij

M=zeros(nx);

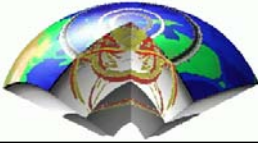
for i=2:nx-1,
    for j=2:nx-1,
        if i==j,
            M(i,j)=h(i-1)/3+h(i)/3;
        elseif j==i+1
            M(i,j)=h(i)/6;
        elseif j==i-1
            M(i,j)=h(i)/6;
        else
            M(i,j)=0;
        end
    end
end
```

A_{ij}

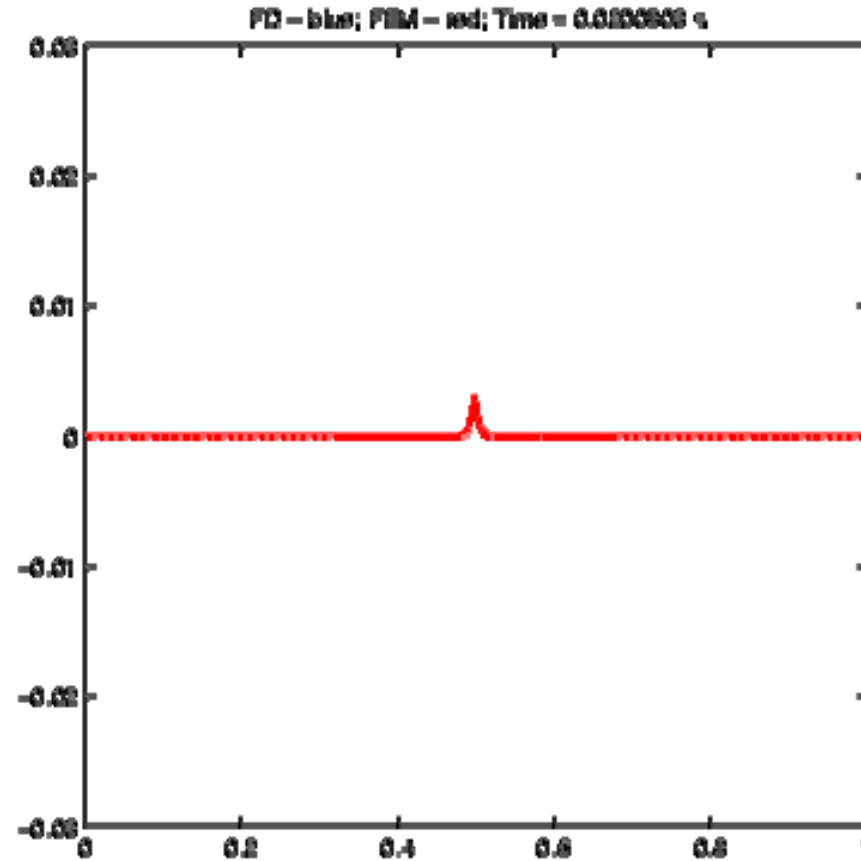
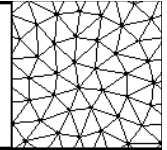
```
% assemble matrix Aij

A=zeros(nx);

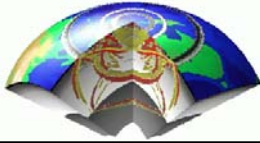
for i=2:nx-1,
    for j=2:nx-1,
        if i==j,
            A(i,j)=1/h(i-1)+1/h(i);
        elseif i==j+1
            A(i,j)=-1/h(i-1);
        elseif i+1==j
            A(i,j)=-1/h(i);
        else
            A(i,j)=0;
        end
    end
end
```



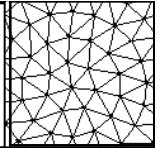
Numerical example - regular grid



This is a movie obtained with the sample Matlab program: femfd.m



Finite Elements - Summary



- FE solutions are based on the “**weak form**” of the partial differential equations
- FE methods lead in general to a **linear system of equations** that has to be solved using matrix inversion techniques (sometimes these matrices can be diagonalized)
- FE methods allow rectangular (hexahedral), or triangular (tetrahedral) elements and are thus more **flexible** in terms of grid geometry
- The FE method is **mathematically and algorithmically more complex than FD**
- The FE method is well suited for **elasto-static and elasto-dynamic problems** (e.g. crustal deformation)