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Geometric parameters for a 2D-Numerical Wave Tank

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Aim

This poster aims to be a storyboard on the realisation of a 2D-Numerical Wave Tank (2D-NWT), simulating numerically a wave-tank and its experiments.

Context

In the atmosphere of after the COP21 and its 2°C agreement, ORE shows even more its potential. But, engineering design and survivability of devices are still critical, and consist of a key point to insure the sector development.



Tools

➔ **OpenFOAM**, an open-source software made of a set of C++ libraries written on text files, allowing customization

➔ **Waves2FOAM**, a library allowing generation and absorption of waves.

Physics and equations

➔ **Physics**: two incompressible viscous fluids

➔ **Mathematical model**: Navier-Stokes for incompressible fluids

Continuity equation $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{U} = 0$

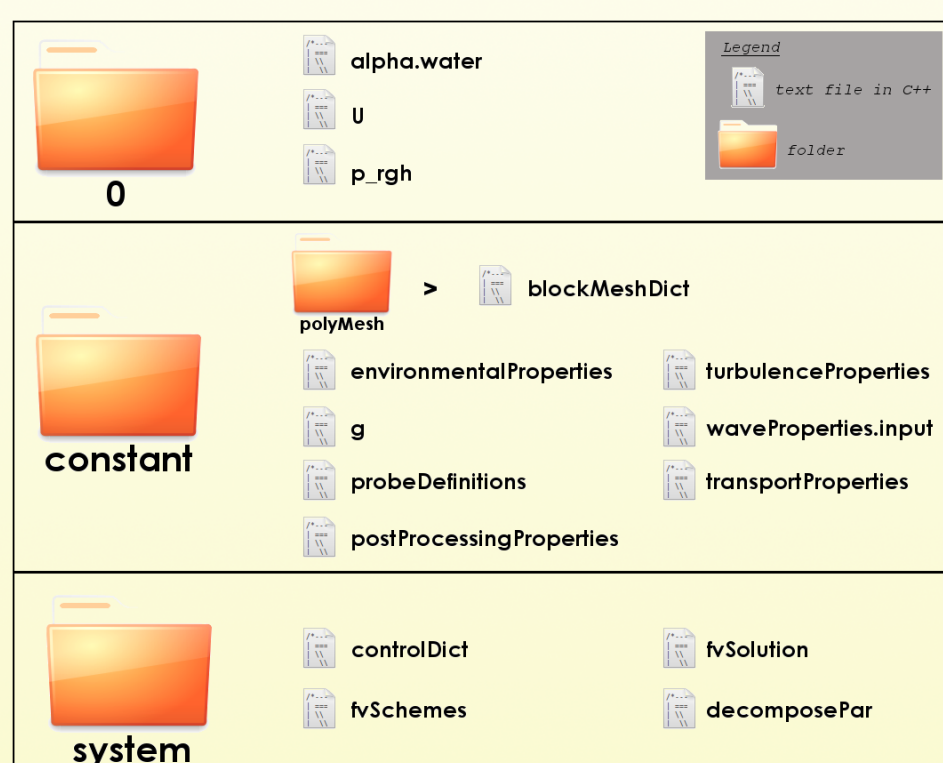
Mass conservation
$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{U} \mathbf{U}) - \nabla \cdot (\mu_{eff} \nabla \mathbf{U}) = -\nabla p^* - g * X \nabla \rho + \nabla \mathbf{U} \cdot \nabla \mu_{eff} + \sigma \kappa \nabla \alpha$$

➔ **Numerical method**: Finite Volume Method for space and time discretisation

➔ **Interface air/water**: Volume of Fluid (VoF) Method - a fraction $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ at each cell (0 is pure air, 1 is pure water)

➔ **Unknowns**:
 U (velocity)
 p (pressure - is $p/\rho * g * h$ in OpenFOAM)
 α_{water} (water proportion)

OpenFOAM architecture



Case directory

OpenFOAM is set up with lots of different classes - C++ special names - use to define different parameters

Using the terminal in the case directory:
➔ **blockMesh**: generate the mesh according to blockMeshDict
➔ **waveGaugesNProbes**: generate wave-gauges
➔ **setWaveParameters**: set wave input
➔ **setWaveFields**: set wave and fields (α_{water} , U , p_{rgh})
➔ **waveFoam**: run solver
➔ **paraFoam**: visualise results

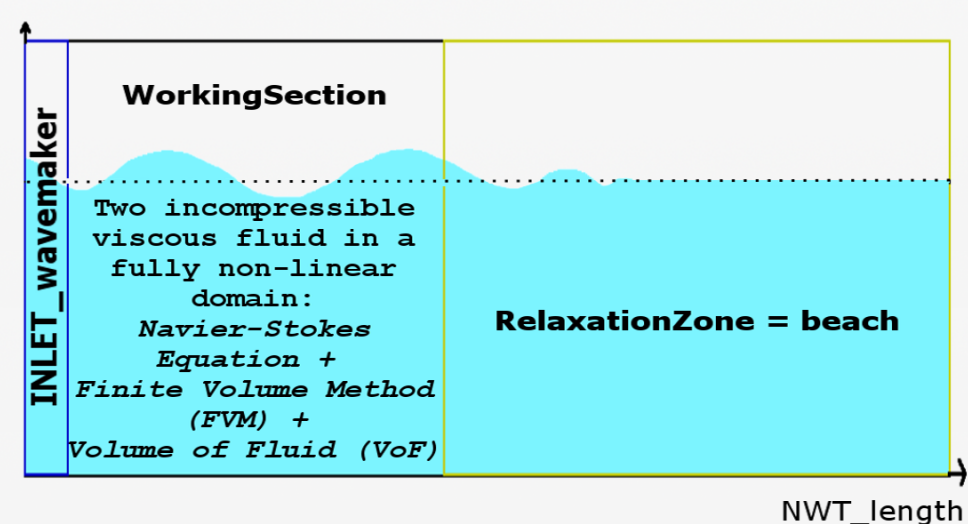
Setup

Like a Physical Wave Tank (PWT), the 2D-NWT is composed of three parts:

➔ **INLET_wavemaker**
non-physically-realistic area where waves2Foam allows different wave types to be generated (regular, irregular, combined) through a *relaxationZone*.

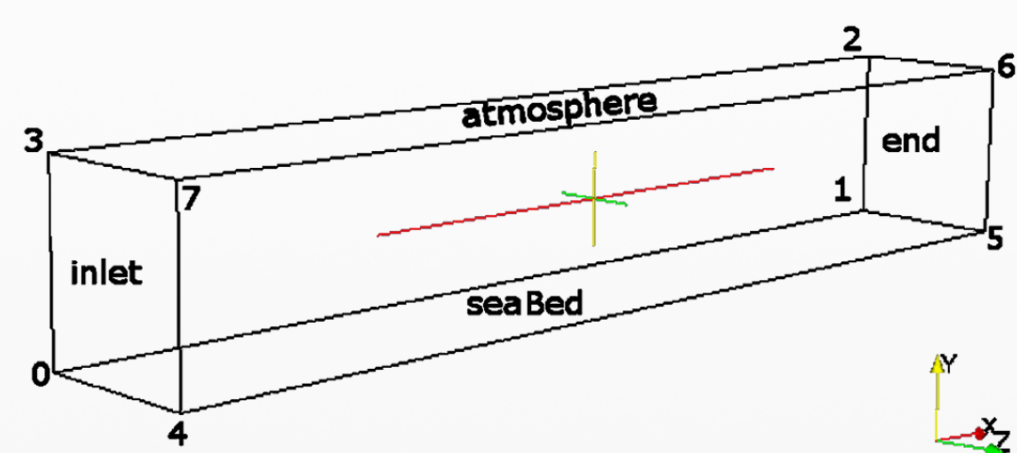
➔ **WorkingSection**
where simulation matches experiment

➔ **BEACH**
non-physically-realistic area where waves2Foam absorbs the incoming wave and prevents from reflection.



Boundaries

2D-NWT = 3D-NWT with one-cell thickness in the third direction, plus two boundaries type *empty* for both left and right sides.



Using classes, each boundary is then defined

Name	Geometry	Boundaries
inlet	points (0,4,7,3)	patch
seaBed	points (0,1,5,4)	patch
end	points (1,5,6,2)	patch
atmosphere	points (3,7,6,2)	patch
left	points (0,1,2,3)	empty
right	points (4,5,6,7)	empty

Table 1: Geometry and Boundaries definition

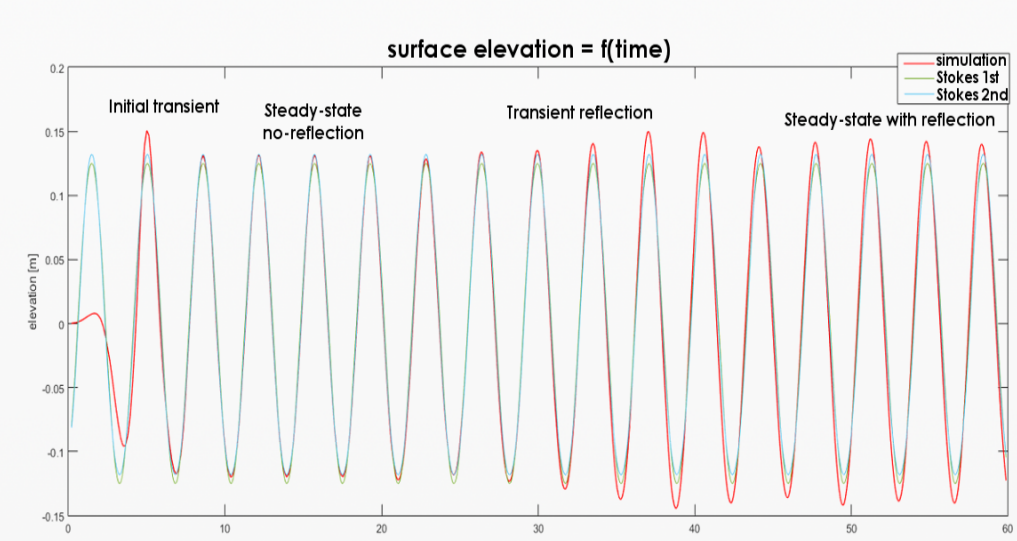
waves2Foam defines the INLET_wavemaker by the keywords: *waveAlpha* and *waveVelocity* allowing wave generation.

Reflection issue

Even in NWT and whatever the length of the beach, some reflections will happen!

A simulation in a 60m long non-optimised NWT shows four distinct behaviours:

- ➔ Initial transient
- ➔ Steady-state no-reflection
- ➔ Transient reflection
- ➔ Steady-state with reflection



Simulation in a non-optimised 60m NWT

➔ In this NWT, simulations with different beach length show that the reflection phenomenon always takes place at the same time (21s). So the reflection occurs at the end of the NWT.

➔ But it goes faster - $(2*60-6)/21=5.4m/s$ - for a 4.3m/s input waves.

Process

The depth is fixed to 2.8m according to Plymouth University Ocean Basin, and the three parameters left to define are:

- ➔ NWT length
- ➔ Beach length
- ➔ Cell-size

First, the cell-size, as it has mirror influence on both other parameters.

INLET is fixed to 1m according to previous work - [3] and [4].

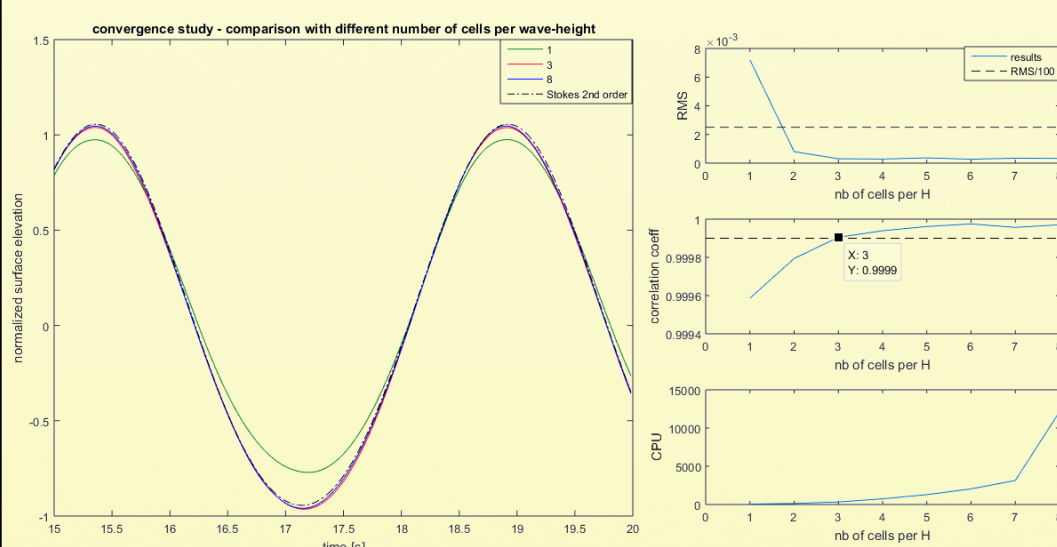
WorkingSection is here fixed to 6m, for the future experiments.

Cell-size & Mesh

➔ Full square cells mesh: better physical representation in both directions

➔ No reflection effect: 60m NWT with a 53m long beach, and only the 20s will be considered (before reflexion occurs).

➔ Stokes 2nd order, $T = 3.56s$ $H=0.25m$ (for a bigger wave)



Comparison of simulations using an increasing number of cells per wave-height

$$RMS < \frac{H}{100} \text{ \& } corrcoeff > 0.9999$$

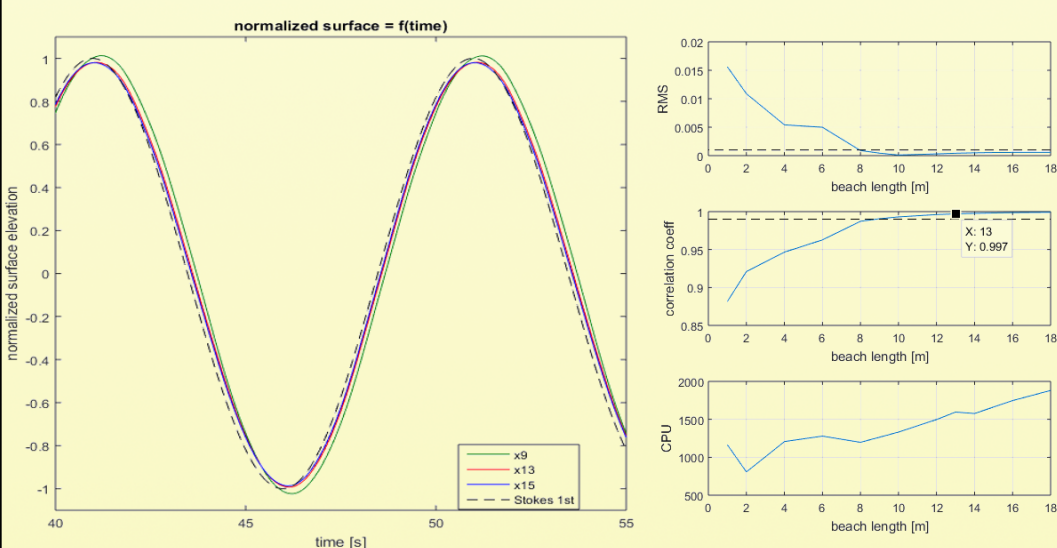
➔ **Cell-size = 3 cells per wave-height**

Beach

The longer the input wave-length, the longer the beach should be. Plymouth University Ocean Basin generates waves from 0.1Hz to 2Hz

➔ **Most restrictive**: 10s period wave.

➔ **Process**: Increase NWT_length with beach_length, to reach compromise

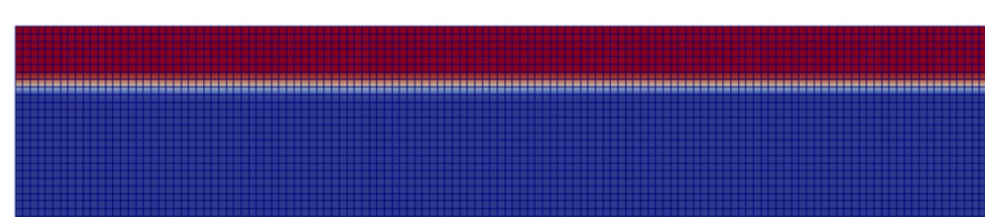


Comparison of simulations using an increasing beach length

$$RMS < \frac{H}{100} \text{ \& } corrcoeff > 0.999 \text{ \& } \frac{d(corrcoeff)}{d(x)} < 0.001$$

➔ **Beach_length = 13m**

Final NWT



INLET [m]	Working Section [m]	Beach [m]	cells per wave-height
1	7	13	3

Table 2: NWT characteristics

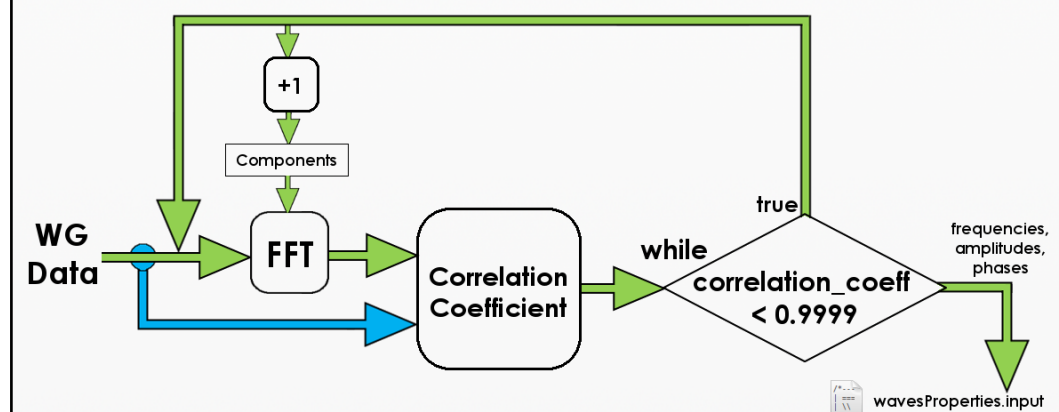
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Application

Plymouth University Ocean Basin data:

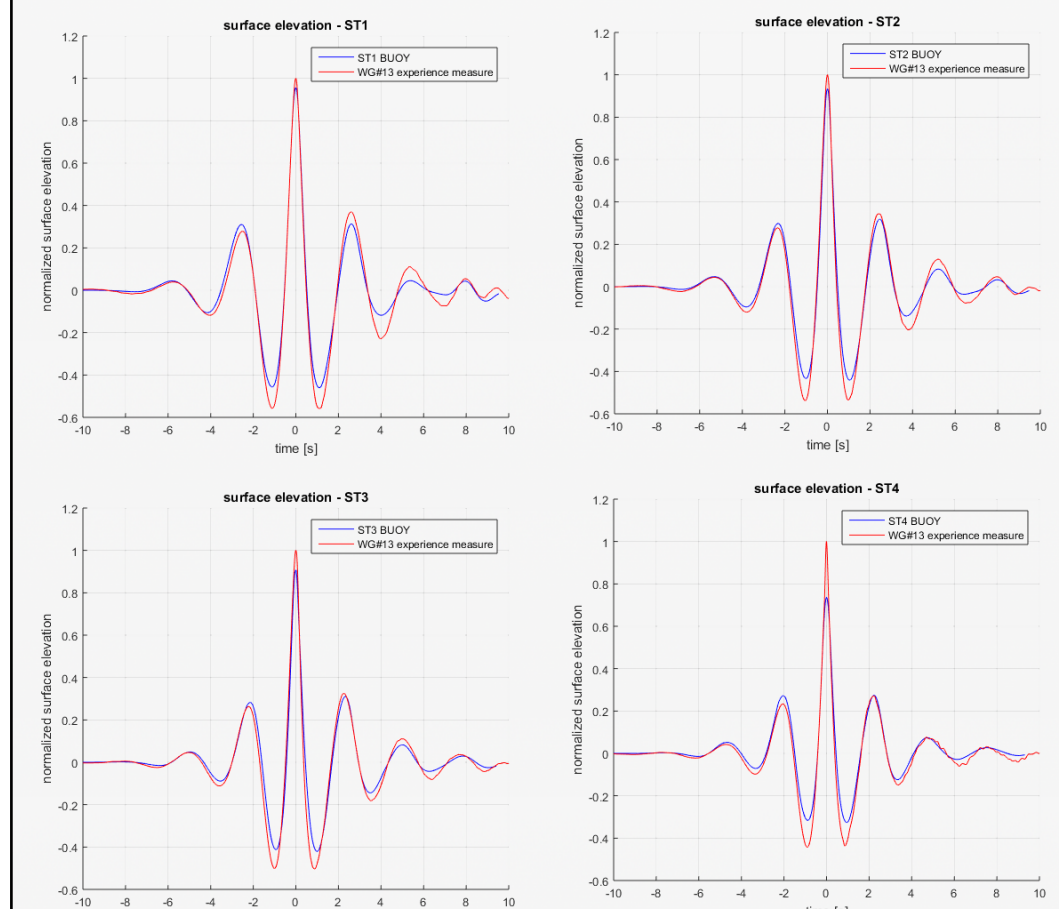
- ➔ Time-series of surface-elevation at different position
- ➔ Extreme events (NewWave)
- ➔ Time-series of loads
- ➔ Time-series of model movement
- ➔ Several models or without

4 cases with increasing steepness and non-linearity were simulated using a wave-gauge (WG) time-series.



From raw experimental data to readable input for INLET_wavemaker (*combinedWave*)

combinedWave in *wavesProperties.input* allows a linear addition of Stokes 1st order.



Surface elevation with increasing steepness time-series

The NWT proves its ability to generate any experiment using the surface-elevation time-series as input.

Future development

This NWT is indeed a solid basis for future development:

- ➔ Go 3D
- ➔ Fixed structure
- ➔ Single taunt moored buoy
- ➔ Multi-body

And as part of WaveDyn development:

- ➔ Comparison with WaveDyn
- ➔ Coupling with WaveDyn

OpenFOAM community and its development will be very helpful: a moored buoy, a multi-body floating device, a water-turbine...

<http://www.ccp-wsi.ac.uk/>



References

- [1] N. G. Jacobsen, D. R. Fuhrman and J. Fredsøe, A wave generation toolbox for the open-source CFD library: OpenFoam®, Int. J. Numer. Meth. Fluids, 2012; 70:1073–1088.
- [3] T. Vyzikas, E. Ransley, M. Hann, D. Magagna, D. Simmonds, V. Magar, and D. Conley. Integrated Numerical Modelling System for Extreme Wave Events at the Wave Hub Site, in Proceedings of Institue of Civil Engineering (ICE): Coasts, Marine structures and Breakwaters, 18-20 September 2013: Edinburgh, UK.
- [4] E. Ransley, Survivability of Wave Energy Converter and Mooring Coupled System using CFD. Phd Thesis, September 2012: Plymouth University, UK.
- [5] M. Hann, D. Greaves, and A. Raby. Snatch loading of a single taut moored floating wave energy converter due to focussed wave groups, Ocean Engineering, 2015; 96:258–271.

Acronyms

RMS : Root Mean Square difference between results and theory
corrcoeff : correlation coefficient - MATLAB script
NWT: Numerical Wave Tank
PWT: Physical Wave Tank