EFFECTS OF VISCOSITY ON (BREAKING) WATER WAVES

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Assumptions in Water Waves



Assumptions in Water Waves



Numerical method

Navier-Stokes Lagrangian advection Finite Element Methods



Viscous Water Waves

Nondimensionalization

Nondimensional quantities are defined as follows

$$egin{aligned} & m{x} o h_0 m{x} \ & m{u} o \sqrt{gh_0} \cdot m{u} \ & p o
ho gh_0 \cdot p \end{aligned}$$

This allows to define the **Reynolds number** *Re*,

$$Re = \frac{\rho h_0 \sqrt{g h_0}}{\mu}$$



Viscous Water Waves

Navier-Stokes equation

Incompressible, non-dimensional, Navier-Stokes equation in $\Omega(t)$:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \boldsymbol{u} + (\boldsymbol{u} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{u} &= -\nabla p + \frac{1}{Re} \Delta \boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{g} \\ \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} &= 0 \end{cases}$$

Navier boundary conditions on Γ_b ,

$$oldsymbol{u}\cdotoldsymbol{n}=0$$
 ; $oldsymbol{t}\cdot[
ablaoldsymbol{u}+(
ablaoldsymbol{u})^t]\cdotoldsymbol{n}=0$

Stress-free boundary condition on $\Gamma_i(t)$,

$$p\boldsymbol{n} - \frac{1}{Re} \cdot \left[\nabla \boldsymbol{u} + (\nabla \boldsymbol{u})^t \right] \cdot \boldsymbol{n} = 0$$



Interface advection

Lagrangian scheme

Interface is a parametrised curve $\gamma(s,t)\in \mathbb{R}^2$ whose evolution is given by

$$\frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial t}(s,t) = \boldsymbol{u}\Big(t,\gamma(s,t)\Big)$$

i.e. points on the interface have the same velocity as the fluid particles.



Initial conditions

Theory of linear waves

Linear wave of (small) amplitude *a*,

$$\begin{split} \gamma_0(t,x) &= h_0 + a \cos(kx - \omega t) \quad \text{with} \quad \omega = \sqrt{gk \tanh(kh_0)} \\ \phi_0(t,x,y) &= \frac{a\omega}{k} \frac{\cosh(ky)}{\sinh(kh_0)} \cdot \sin(kx - \omega t) + \mathcal{O}(ka) \end{split}$$

The small amplitude velocity is then

$$\boldsymbol{u}_0(t,x,y) = \nabla \phi_0 = \frac{a\omega}{\sinh(kh_0)} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cosh(ky)\cos(kx-\omega t)\\ \sinh(ky)\sin(kx-\omega t) \end{bmatrix}$$



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The finite amplitude velocity is then

$$\boldsymbol{u}_0(t,x,y) = \nabla \phi_0 = \frac{a\omega}{\sinh(kh_0)} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cosh(kh_0)\cos(kx-\omega t) \\ \sinh(kh_0)\sin(kx-\omega t) \end{bmatrix}$$



Finite Elements discretization

We use the FreeFem finite elements library 📑 Hecht (2012) for

- Mesh generation and handling
- Matrices computations and handling
- Interface with PETSc





 $4\,000$ points on the interface, initially $\approx 200\,000$ triangles, $\approx 10^6$ degrees of freedom.

Mesh advection scheme

Let w the velocity of the mesh. At each time step, we numerically solve the problem

 $\left\{ \begin{array}{rrrr} \Delta \boldsymbol{w} &=& 0 & \mbox{in } \Omega(t) \\ \boldsymbol{w} &=& \boldsymbol{u} & \mbox{on } \Gamma_i(t) \\ \boldsymbol{w} &=& 0 & \mbox{on } \Gamma_b \end{array} \right.$

And each point of the mesh is advected with velocity w. Points on the interface are thus purely Lagrangian!

This is called the Arbitrary Lagrangian Eulerian method (ALE).



Viscosity and Breaking Waves

Flat Topography Navier-Stokes ↔ Euler





If the video does not play, click here.

Mesh at $Re = 10^{6}$





 $Re = +\infty$ simulations (i.e. Euler solution) computed with the numerical methods of Dormy & Lacave (2024).



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Where does a fluid dissipates energy?

Link with vorticity

The kinetic energy equation can be obtained multiplying Navier-Stokes by u_i ,

$$\frac{\mathrm{D}}{\mathrm{D}t}\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{u}^2}{2}\right) = \boldsymbol{g}\cdot\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{u}\cdot\nabla p - \frac{1}{Re}\Big[\nabla\cdot\left(\boldsymbol{u}\times\omega\right) + \omega^2\Big]$$

where $\omega = \nabla \times \boldsymbol{u}$ is the vorticity.

This shows that the fluid **dissipates energy** where $\omega \neq 0$!

Viscous dissipation



Viscous dissipation



Viscosity and (Breaking) Water Waves

Viscous dissipation



Is irrotationality well motivated?

Non-flat topography Navier-Stokes ↔ Euler



Rectangular step

No slip condition on the bottom,

$$\boldsymbol{u} = 0$$
 on Γ_b



Vortices at $Re = 10^5$



If the video does not play, click here.

Comparing the interfaces



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Streamlines $Re = 10^4$



What about a smooth edge?



What about a smooth edge?



What about a smooth edge?



Conclusion Can we assume that the flow is inviscid and irrotational?

		Inviscid & Irrotational
Shallow Water	with flat topography with curved topography	√ be cautious!
Deep Water	······	not discussed

Merci !

Viscosity and Breaking Waves: A. R. & E. Dormy (2024) Numerical study of a viscous breaking water wave and the limit of vanishing viscosity, J. Fluid Mech. (Rapids) 984, R5

Irrotationality: A. R. & E. Dormy (2024) Irrotationality of Water Waves and Topography, Submitted. arXiv:2411.09291 [physics.flu-dyn]