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# Physical Modelling of Musical Instruments for Real-Time Applications

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Ph.D. Dissertation  
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# Curriculum Vitae

Silvin Willemsen



Here is the CV text.

## Curriculum Vitae

# Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my mom..

## Chapter 0. Acknowledgements

# List of Publications

Listed below, are the publications that came

grouped by X: the main papers which are also included in Part IX fx. [C4]

## Main Publications

- [A1] S. Willemsen, N. Andersson, S. Serafin, and S. Bilbao, “Real-time control of large-scale modular physical models using the sensel morph,” in *Proceedings of the 16th Sound and Music Computing (SMC) Conference*, 2019, pp. 275–280.
- [A2] S. Willemsen, S. Bilbao, N. Andersson, and S. Serafin, “Physical models and real-time control with the sensel morph,” in *Proceedings of the 16th Sound and Music Computing (SMC) Conference*, 2019, pp. 95–96.
- [A3] S. Willemsen, S. Bilbao, M. Ducceschi, and S. Serafin, “Dynamic grids for finite-difference schemes in musical instrument simulations,” in *Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Digital Audio Effects (DAFx2020)*, 2021.
- [A4] —, “A physical model of the trombone using dynamic grids for finite-difference schemes,” in *Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Digital Audio Effects (DAFx2020)*, 2021.
- [A5] S. Willemsen, S. Bilbao, and S. Serafin, “Real-time implementation of an elasto-plastic friction model applied to stiff strings using finite difference schemes,” in *Proceedings of the 22nd International Conference on Digital Audio Effects (DAFx-19)*, 2019, pp. 40–46.
- [A6] S. Willemsen, A.-S. Horvath, and M. Nascimben, “Digidrum: A haptic-based virtual reality musical instrument and a case study,” in *Proceedings of the 17th Sound and Music Computing (SMC) Conference*, 2020, pp. 292 – 299.
- [A7] S. Willemsen, R. Paisa, and S. Serafin, “Resurrecting the tromba marina: A bowed virtual reality instrument using haptic feedback and accurate

physical modelling,” in *Proceedings of the 17th Sound and Music Computing (SMC) Conference*, 2020, pp. 300 – 307.

- [A8] S. Willemsen, S. Serafin, S. Bilbao, and M. Ducceschi, “Real-time implementation of a physical model of the tromba marina,” in *Proceedings of the 17th Sound and Music Computing (SMC) Conference*, 2020, pp. 161 – 168.

### **Publications with a Supervisory Role**

- [B1] R. S. Alecu, S. Serafin, S. Willemsen, E. Parravicini, and S. Lucato, “Embouchure interaction model for brass instruments,” *Proceedings of the 17th Sound and Music Computing (SMC) Conference*, 2020, pp. 153 – 160, 2020.

### **Other Publications**

- [C1] J. M. Hjerrild, S. Willemsen, and M. G. Christensen, “Physical models for fast estimation of guitar string, fret and plucking position,” *IEEE Workshop on Applications of Signal Processing to Audio and Acoustics (WASPAA)*, pp. 155–159, 2019.
- [C2] R. Nordahl, N. C. Nilsson, A. Adjorlu, E. Magalhaes, S. Willemsen, N. S. Andersson, J. Wang, and S. Serafin, “12 hours in virtual reality: Two cases of long-term exposure to consumer-grade virtual reality,” *IEEE VR Workshop on Immersive Sickness Prevention*, 2019.
- [C3] K. Prawda, S. Willemsen, S. Serafin, and V. Välimäki, “Flexible real-time reverberation synthesis with accurate parameter control,” *Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Digital Audio Effects (DAFx-20)*, 2020.
- [C4] S. Willemsen, “Extended virtual analog plate reverb plugin,” <https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/68471-extended-virtual-analog-plate-reverb-plugin>, 2018, retrieved April 26, 2021.



# Abstract

English abstract

## Abstract

# Resumé

Danish Abstract

## Resumé

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## Contents

# Preface

Starting this PhD, I did not have a background in mathematics, physics or computer science, which were three equally crucial components in creating the result of this project. This is why I decided to write this thesis a bit more pedagogical than what could be expected. As I felt that the literature lacks a lot of intuition I wanted to give that to the reader. Some basic calculus knowledge is assumed.

I wanted to show my learning process and (hopefully) explain topics such as *Energy Analysis*, *Stability Analysis*, etc. in a way that others lacking the same knowledge will be able to understand.

Make physical modelling more accessible to the non-physicist.

*Interested in physically impossible manipulations of now-virtual instruments.*

Silvin Willemsen  
Aalborg University, April 26, 2021

## Preface

## **Part I**

# **Introduction**



# Chapter 1

## Physical Modelling of Musical Instruments

The history of physical modelling of musical instruments

Exciter-resonator approach.

The time-evolution of dynamic systems can be conveniently described by differential equations. Examples of a dynamic systems are a guitar string, a drum-membrane, or a concert hall; three very different concepts, but all based on the same types of equations of motion.

Though these equations are very powerful, only few have a closed-form solution. What this means is that in order for them to be implemented, they need to be approximated. There exist different approximation techniques to do this

### 1.1 Physical Modelling Techniques

- Modal Synthesis
- Finite-difference Time-domain methods
- Digital waveguides
- Mass-spring systems
- Functional transformation method
- State-space
- Wave-domain
- Energy-based

Advantages of finite-difference methods

## 1.2 Thesis Objectives and Main Contributions

The main objective of this thesis is to implement existing physical models in real time using FDTD methods. Many of the physical models and methods presented in this thesis are taken from the literature and it is thus not Secondly, to combine the existing physical models to get complete instruments and be able to control them in real time.

As FDTD methods are quite rigid, changing parameters on the fly, i.e., while the instrument simulation is running, is a challenge. Other techniques, such as modal synthesis, are much more suitable for this, but come with the drawbacks mentioned in Section 1.1. Therefore, a novel method was devised to smoothly change parameters over time, introducing this to FDTD methods.

## 1.3 Thesis Outline

- Physical models
  - Resonators
  - Exciters
  - Interactions
- Dynamic Grids
- Real-Time Implementation and Control
- Complete instruments
  - Large-scale physical models
  - Tromba Marina
  - Trombone

## Notes

- Think about how to define real-time.
- Create an intuition for different parts of the equation
- Talk about input and output locations and how that affects frequency content (modes).



### 1.3. Thesis Outline

One over number  $\rightarrow$  reciprocal of number

Example: When the waveform consists entirely of harmonically related frequencies, it will be periodic, with a period equal to the reciprocal of the fundamental frequency (from An Introduction to the Mathematics of Digital Signal Processing Pt 2 by F. R. Moore)



## Chapter 2

# An Introduction to FDTD Methods

This chapter introduces some important concepts needed to understand the physical models presented later on in this document. By means of a simple mass-spring system and the 1D wave equation, the notation (and terminology) used throughout this document will be explained, together with some important analysis techniques. Before we dive into the mathematics, let us go over some useful terminology.

### Differential equations

*“Since Newton, mankind has come to realize that the laws of physics are always expressed in the language of differential equations” - Steven Strogatz*  
(<https://youtu.be/O85OWBJ2ayo?t=44>)

As mentioned in Chapter 1 differential equations are used to describe the motion of dynamic systems. A characteristic feature of these equations is that, rather than the absolute position (or displacement, or state) of an object, the time derivative of its position – its velocity – or the second-order time derivative – its acceleration – is described. From this, the state of the system can be computed.

This state is usually described by the letter  $u$  which is (nearly) always a function of time, i.e.,  $u = u(t)$ . If the system is distributed in space,  $u$  also becomes a function of space, i.e.,  $u = u(x, t)$ , or with two spatial dimensions,  $u = u(x, y, t)$ , etc. Though this work only describes systems of up to two spatial dimensions, one could potentially extend to systems of infinite spatial dimensions evolving over time!

If  $u$  is only a function of time, the differential equation that describes the motion of this system is called an *ordinary differential equation* (ODE). If  $u$  is also

a function of at least one spatial dimension, the equation of motion is called a *partial differential equation* (PDE).

The literature uses different types of notation for taking (continuous-time) partial derivatives. Applied to a  $u$  these can look like

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} \quad (\text{classical notation})$$

$$u_{tt} \quad (\text{subscript notation})$$

$$\partial_t^2 u \quad (\text{operator notation})$$

all of which mean a second-order derivative with respect to time  $t$ , i.e.,  $u$ 's acceleration. In this remainder of this document, the operator notation will be used. Often-used partial derivatives and their interpretation are shown below

$$\partial_t^2 u \quad (\text{acceleration})$$

$$\partial_x^2 u \quad (\text{curvature})$$

$$\partial_t u \quad (\text{velocity})$$

$$\partial_x u \quad (\text{slope})$$

Note: difference between 1D, 2D spatial, and 1D, 2D displacement (polarisation).  
Transverse displacement of 1D wave here

Now that an equation has been established, how

## Discretisation using FDTD methods

Finite-difference time-domain (FDTD) methods essentially subdivide a continuous equation in discrete points in time and space, a process called *discretisation*. Once an ODE or PDE is discretised using these methods it is now called a *Finite-Difference Scheme* (FDS).

We start by defining a discrete *grid* over time and space which we will use to approximate our continuous equations. A system  $u = u(x, t)$  defined over time  $t$  and one spatial dimension  $x$ , can be approximated using a *grid function*  $u_l^n$ .

To summarise

$$u(x, t) \approx u_l^n \quad \text{with} \quad x = lh \quad \text{and} \quad t = nk \quad (2.1)$$

It is important to note that a FDS is an *approximation* to a PDE, not a sampled version of it. This means that the resulting schemes are rarely an exact solution to the original continuous equation

The continuous-time operators listed above

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t^2 u &\approx \delta_{tt} u_l^n \\ \partial_t u &\approx \begin{cases} \delta_{t+} u_l^n \\ \delta_{t-} u_l^n \\ \delta_{t \cdot} u_l^n \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

maybe not yet  
as this is super  
general still

grid figure

## 2.1. The Mass-Spring System

$$\partial_x^2 u \quad (\text{curvature})$$

$$\partial_x u \quad (\text{slope})$$

### Implementation

In the following

- Continuous-time
- Discrete-time
- Implementation (update equation)

Something something newton's second law

## 2.1 The Mass-Spring System

Though a complete physical modelling field on its own (see Chapter 1), mass-spring systems are also sound-generating systems themselves.

### Continuous-time

The ODE of a simple mass-spring system is defined as

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dt^2} = -\omega_0^2 u \quad (2.2)$$

### Discrete-time

The  $u$  is approximated using

$$u(t) \approx u^n \quad (2.3)$$

where  $t = nk$

### Implementation

## 2.2 The 1D Wave Equation

The simplest and arguably the most important PDE in the field is the 1D wave equation

### Continuous-time

The state of the system  $u = u(x, t)$  meaning that is on top of being defined in time  $t$  it is distributed over space  $x$ . The 1D wave equation is defined as follows

$$\partial_t^2 u = c^2 \partial_x^2 u. \quad (2.4)$$

## Discrete-time

### Boundary Conditions

When a system is distributed in space,

### Matrix form

#### 2.2.1 Operators in Matrix Form

Finite-difference operators, such as  $\delta_{x+}$ ,  $\delta_{x-}$  and  $\delta_{x\cdot}$  can be written in matrix form:

$$\mathbf{D}_{x+} = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & \ddots & & & 0 \\ & -1 & 1 & & \\ & & -1 & 1 & \\ & & & -1 & 1 \\ & & & & -1 & \ddots \\ 0 & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{D}_{x-} = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & & 0 \\ \ddots & 1 & & & \\ & -1 & 1 & & \\ & & -1 & 1 & \\ & & & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{D}_{x\cdot} = \frac{1}{2h} \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & \ddots & & & 0 \\ \ddots & 0 & 1 & & \\ & -1 & 0 & 1 & \\ & & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ & & & -1 & 0 & \ddots \\ 0 & & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

The matrices  $\mathbf{D}_{x+}$  and  $\mathbf{D}_{x-}$  can be multiplied to get  $\mathbf{D}_{xx}$ :

$$\mathbf{D}_{xx} = \mathbf{D}_{x+} \mathbf{D}_{x-} = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & \ddots & & & 0 \\ \ddots & -2 & 1 & & \\ & 1 & -2 & 1 & \\ & & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ & & & 1 & -2 & \ddots \\ 0 & & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.5)$$

## 2.2. The 1D Wave Equation

and two  $D_{xx}$ 's to get

$$D_{xx}D_{xx} = D_{xxxx} = \frac{1}{h^4} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -4 & 1 & & & \mathbf{0} \\ -4 & 6 & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ 1 & \ddots & \ddots & -4 & 1 & \\ & \ddots & -4 & 6 & -4 & \ddots \\ & & 1 & -4 & \ddots & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots & 6 & -4 \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & 1 & -4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.6)$$

which is used for a stiff string with a simply supported boundary condition.

Averaging operators  $\mu_{x+}$ ,  $\mu_{x-}$  and  $\mu_{x\cdot}$  are defined in a similar way:

$$M_{x+} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & \ddots & & \mathbf{0} \\ & 1 & 1 & \\ & & 1 & 1 \\ & & & 1 & 1 \\ & & & & 1 & \ddots \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \quad M_{x-} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & \mathbf{0} \\ \ddots & 1 & & \\ & 1 & 1 & \\ & & 1 & 1 \\ & & & 1 & 1 \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{x\cdot} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & \ddots & & \mathbf{0} \\ \ddots & 0 & 1 & \\ & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ & & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ & & & 1 & 0 & \ddots \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

Note the multiplication by  $1/2$  rather than  $1/h$  (or  $1/2h$ ) for all operators.

Only spatial operators are written in this matrix form and then applied to state vectors at different time steps ( $n+1$ ,  $n$  and  $n-1$ ), examples of which can be found below.

### Output sound

After the system is excited (see III), one can listen to the output

## 2.3 Energy Analysis

Debugging physical models.

### 2.3.1 Mathematical tools

#### Continuous-time

For two functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  and  $x \in \mathcal{D}$  their inner product is defined as

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{\mathcal{D}} = \int_{\mathcal{D}} f g dx \quad \text{and} \quad \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}} = \sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle_{\mathcal{D}}} \quad (2.7)$$

#### Discrete-time

Inner product of any time series  $f^n$  and  $g^n$  and the discrete counterpart to (2.7) is

$$\langle f^n, g^n \rangle_{\mathcal{D}} = \sum_{l \in \mathcal{D}} h f_l^n g_l^n \quad (2.8)$$

where the multiplication by  $h$  is the discrete counterpart of  $dx$  the continuous definition.

## 2.4 Stability Analysis

Finding stability condition

Sin identity:

$$\sin(x) = \frac{e^{jx} - e^{-jx}}{2j} \implies \sin^2(x) = \frac{e^{j2x} - 2e^{jx-jx} + e^{-j2x}}{-4} = \frac{e^{j2x} + e^{-j2x}}{-4} + \frac{1}{2}. \quad (2.9)$$

Cos identity:

$$\cos(x) = \frac{e^{jx} + e^{-jx}}{2} \implies \cos^2(x) = \frac{e^{j2x} + 2e^{jx-jx} + e^{-j2x}}{4} = \frac{e^{j2x} + e^{-j2x}}{4} + \frac{1}{2}. \quad (2.10)$$

## 2.5 Modal Analysis

This section will show how to obtain the modes for an FD scheme implementing the 1D wave equation as done in Section . We start with Eq. (6.34)

$$\delta_{tt}u = \gamma^2 \delta_{xx}u, \quad (2.11)$$



## 2.6. Dispersion analysis

which can be written in matrix form as

$$\frac{1}{k^2} (\mathbf{u}^{n+1} - 2\mathbf{u}^n + \mathbf{u}^{n-1}) = \gamma^2 \mathbf{D}_{xx} \mathbf{u} \quad (2.12)$$

Following [1] we assume a solution of the form  $\mathbf{u} = \phi z^n$ . Substituting this into Eq. (2.12) yields the characteristic equation

$$(z - 2 + z^{-1})\phi = \gamma^2 k^2 \mathbf{D}_{xx} \phi. \quad (2.13)$$

This is an eigenvalue problem where the  $p$ 'th solution is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} z_p - 2 + z_p^{-1} &= \gamma^2 k^2 \text{eig}_p(\mathbf{D}_{xx}) \\ z_p + (-2 - \gamma^2 k^2 \text{eig}_p(\mathbf{D}_{xx})) + z_p^{-1} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

where  $\text{eig}_p(\cdot)$  denoting the  $p$ th eigenvalue of ' $\cdot$ '. **If the CFL condition for the scheme is satisfied, the roots will lie on the unit circle.** Furthermore we can substitute a test solution  $z_p = e^{j\omega_p k}$  solve for the eigenfrequencies:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{j\omega_p k} + e^{-j\omega_p k} - 2 - \gamma^2 k^2 \text{eig}_p(\mathbf{D}_{xx}) &= 0 \\ \frac{e^{j\omega_p k} + e^{-j\omega_p k}}{-4} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\gamma^2 k^2}{4} \text{eig}_p(\mathbf{D}_{xx}) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Then using Eq. (2.9) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sin^2(\omega_p k/2) + \gamma^2 k^2 \text{eig}_p(\mathbf{D}_{xx}) &= 0 \\ \sin(\omega_p k/2) &= \gamma k \sqrt{-\text{eig}_p(\mathbf{D}_{xx})} \\ \omega_p &= \frac{2}{k} \sin^{-1} \left( \gamma k \sqrt{-\text{eig}_p(\mathbf{D}_{xx})} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

which is Eq. (6.53) in [1].

## 2.6 Dispersion analysis



# **Part II**

# **Resonators**



# Resonators

Though the physical models described in the previous part are also considered resonators, they are *ideal* cases. In other words, you would not be able to find these “in the wild” as they do not include effects such as losses or dispersion in the case of the 1D wave equation.

- Bars and Stiff Strings
- 2D Models
- Brass



## Chapter 3

# Stiff string

Stiff string and stuff

Boundary conditions need to be extended...

### 3.1 Adding Losses

## Chapter 3. Stiff string



## **Chapter 4**

# **2D Systems**

**4.1 2D Wave Equation**

**4.2 Thin plate**

**4.3 Stiff membrane**



# Chapter 5

## Brass

This will be the first appearance of a first-order system.



# **Part III**

## **Exciters**



# Exciters

Now that a plethora of resonators have been introduced in part II, different mechanisms to excite them will be introduced here. First, different examples of

- Simple pluck ((half) raised-cos)
- Hammer
- Bow Models
- Lip reed





# Chapter 6

## Unmodelled Excitations

Different title  
here?

### 6.1 Initial conditions

#### Hammer

Full raised cosine

#### Pluck

- Cut-off raised cosine
- Triangle (for string)

### 6.2 Signals

#### 6.2.1 Pulse train

For brass

#### 6.2.2 Noise

Noise input



# Chapter 7

## Modelled Excitations

### 7.1 Hammer

Hammer modelling

### 7.2 The Bow

The bow...

#### 7.2.1 Static Friction Models

In static bow-string-interaction models, the friction force is defined as a function of the relative velocity between the bow and the string only. The first mathematical description of friction was proposed by Coulomb in 1773 [?] to which static friction, or *stiction*, was added by Morin in 1833 [?] and viscous friction, or velocity-dependent friction, by Reynolds in 1886 [?]. In 1902, Stribeck found a smooth transition between the static and the coulomb part of the friction curve now referred to as the Stribeck effect [?]. The latter is still the standard for static friction models today.

#### 7.2.2 Dynamic Friction Models

As opposed to less complex bow models, such as the hyperbolic [source] and exponential [source] models, the elasto-plastic bow model assumes that the friction between the bow and the string is caused by a large quantity of bristles, each of which contributes to the total amount of friction.

## **7.3 Lip-reed**

Lip-reed model

### **7.3.1 Coupling to Tube**

# **Part IV**

## **Interactions**



The models described in part II already sound quite convincing on their own. However, these are just individual components that can be combined to approximate a fully functional (virtual) instrument. The following chapters will describe different ways of interaction between individual systems. Chapter 8 describes ways to connect different systems and Chapter 9 describes collision interactions between models.

$\varepsilon$

Newtons third law (action reaction)

Somewhere in this Chapter have a section about fretting and how to generate different pitches using only one string

Interpolation and spreading operators

Using  $l_c = \lfloor x_c/h \rfloor$  and  $\alpha_c = x_c/h - l_c$  is the fractional part the location of interest.

$$I_0(x_c) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } l = l_c, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (7.1)$$

$$I_1(x_c) = \begin{cases} (1 - \alpha_c), & \text{if } l = l_c \\ \alpha_c, & \text{if } l = l_c + 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (7.2)$$

$$I_3(x_c) = \begin{cases} \dots \end{cases} \quad (7.3)$$

The following identity is very useful when solving interactions between components:

$$\langle f, J_p(x_c) \rangle_{\mathcal{D}} = I_p(x_c) f \quad (7.4)$$





# Chapter 8

## Connections

Something about connections

### 8.1 Rigid connection

The simplest connection is Forces should be equal and opposite.

If component  $a$  is located ‘above’ component  $b$ , and their relative displacement is defined as  $\eta = a - b$ , then a positive  $\eta$  is going to have a negative effect on  $a$  and a positive effect on  $b$  and vice-versa. This is important for the signs when adding the force terms to the schemes.

### 8.2 Spring-like connections

#### 8.2.1 Connection with rigid barrier (scaled)

Consider the (scaled) 1D wave equation with an additional force term  $F^n$

$$\delta_{tt}u_l^n = \gamma^2 \delta_{xx}u_l^n + J(x_c)F^n \quad (8.1)$$

where

$$F^n = -\omega_0^2 \mu_t \cdot \eta^n - \omega_1^4 (\eta^n)^2 \mu_t \cdot \eta^n - 2\sigma_\times \delta_t \cdot \eta^n \quad (8.2)$$

and

$$\eta^n = I(x_c)u_l^n. \quad (8.3)$$

To obtain  $F^n$ , an inner product of scheme (8.1) needs to be taken with  $J(x_c)$  over domain  $\mathcal{D}$  which, using identity (7.4) yields

$$\delta_{tt}I(x_c)u_l^n = \gamma^2 I(x_c)\delta_{xx}u_l^n + \underbrace{I(x_c)J(x_c)}_{\|J(x_c)\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2} F^n. \quad (8.4)$$

As  $u$  is connected to a rigid barrier according to (8.3), a shortcut can be taken and Eqs. (8.2) and (8.3) can be directly substituted into Eq. (8.4) to get

$$\delta_{tt}\eta^n = \gamma^2 I(x_c) \delta_{xx} u_l^n + \|J(x_c)\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 (-\omega_0^2 \mu_t \cdot \eta^n - \omega_1^4 (\eta^n)^2 \mu_t \cdot \eta^n - 2\sigma_{\times} \delta_t \cdot \eta^n). \quad (8.5)$$

and solved for  $\eta^{n+1}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(1 + \|J(x_c)\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 k^2 [\omega_0^2/2 + \omega_1^4 (\eta^n)^2/2 + \sigma_{\times}/k]\right) \eta^{n+1} \\ &= 2\eta^n - \left(1 + \|J(x_c)\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 k^2 [\omega_0^2/2 + \omega_1^4 (\eta^n)^2/2 - \sigma_{\times}/k]\right) \eta^{n-1} \\ &+ \gamma^2 k^2 I(x_c) \delta_{xx} u_l^n \end{aligned} \quad (8.6)$$

This can then be used to calculate  $F^n$  in (8.2) and can in turn be used to calculate  $u_l^{n+1}$  in (8.1).

## 8.2.2 String-plate connection

In this example, let's consider a string connected to a plate using a nonlinear damped spring. This could be interpreted as a simplified form of how guitar string would be connected to the body.

### Continuous

The systems in isolation are as in (??) and (??), but with an added force term:

$$\partial_t^2 u = c^2 \partial_x^2 u - \kappa_s^2 \partial_x^4 u - 2\sigma_{0,s} \partial_t u + 2\sigma_{1,s} \partial_t \partial_x^2 u - \delta(x - x_c) \frac{f}{\rho_s A} \quad (8.7a)$$

$$\partial_t^2 w = -\kappa_p^2 \Delta \Delta w - 2\sigma_{0,p} \partial_t w + 2\sigma_{1,p} \partial_t \partial_x^2 w + \delta(x - x_c, y - y_c) \frac{f}{\rho_p H} \quad (8.7b)$$

where

$$f = f(t) = K_1 \eta + K_3 \eta^3 + R \dot{\eta} \quad (8.8)$$

and

$$\eta = \eta(t) = u(x_c, t) - w(x_c, y_c, t) \quad (8.9)$$

### Discrete

System (8.7) can then be discretised as

$$\delta_{tt} u_l^n = c^2 \delta_{xx} u_l^n - \kappa_s^2 \delta_{xxxx} u_l^n - 2\sigma_{0,s} \delta_t \cdot u_l^n + 2\sigma_{1,s} \delta_{t-} \delta_{xx} u_l^n - J_s(x_c) \frac{f^n}{\rho_s A}, \quad (8.10)$$

$$\delta_{tt} w_l^n = -\kappa_p^2 \delta_{\Delta} \delta_{\Delta} w_l^n - 2\sigma_{0,p} \delta_t \cdot w_l^n + 2\sigma_{1,p} \delta_{t-} \delta_{xx} w_l^n + J_p(x_c, y_c) \frac{f^n}{\rho_p H}, \quad (8.11)$$

## 8.2. Spring-like connections

where

$$f^n = K_1 \mu_{tt} \eta^n + K_3 (\eta^n)^2 \mu_t \eta^n + R \delta_t \eta^n, \quad (8.12)$$

and

$$\eta^n = I(x_c) u_l^n - I(x_c, y_c) w_l^n. \quad (8.13)$$

### Expansion

System (8.10) can be expanded at the connection location  $x_c$  by taking an inner product of the schemes with their respective spreading operators.

### 8.2.3 Solving for $f$

### 8.2.4 Non-dimensional

The scaled system can be written as:

$$\partial_t^2 u = \gamma^2 \partial_x^2 u - \kappa_s^2 \partial_x^4 u - 2\sigma_{0,s} \partial_t u + 2\sigma_{1,s} \partial_t \partial_x^2 u - \delta(x - x_c) F \quad (8.14)$$

$$\partial_t w = -\kappa_p^2 \Delta \Delta w - 2\sigma_{0,p} \partial_t w + 2\sigma_{1,p} \partial_t \partial_x^2 w + \delta(x - x_c, y - y_c) F \quad (8.15)$$

where

$$F = F(t) = \omega_1^2 \eta + \omega_3^4 \eta^3 + \sigma_c \dot{\eta} \quad (8.16)$$

and

$$\eta = \eta(t) = u(x_c, t) - w(x_c, y_c, t) \quad (8.17)$$

$$I(x_c) \delta_{tt} u_l^n = c^2 (I(x_c) \delta_{xx} u_l^n) + I(x_c) J(x_c) F \quad (8.18)$$

## Chapter 8. Connections

# Chapter 9

## Collisions

Something about collisions

### **9.1 Classic models**

Note that when using Eq. (7.37) in [1]

### **9.2 Michele's tricks**

## Chapter 9. Collisions

**Part V**

**Dynamic Grids**





# Chapter 10

## Dynamic Grids

*Often in math, you should view the definition not as a starting point, but as a target. Contrary to the structure of textbooks, mathematicians do not start by making definitions and then listing a lot of theorems, and proving them, and showing some examples. The process of discovering math typically goes the other way around. They start by chewing on specific problems, and then generalising those problems, then coming up with constructs that might be helpful in those general cases, and only then you write down a new definition (or extend an old one). - Grant Sanderson (AKA 3Blue1Brown) <https://youtu.be/O85OWBJ2ayo?t=359>*

### 10.1 Background and Motivation

Simulating musical instruments using physical modelling – as mentioned in Part I – allows for manipulations of the instrument that are impossible in the physical world. Examples of this are changes in material density or stiffness, cross-sectional area (1D), thickness (2D) and size. Apart from being potentially sonically interesting, there are examples in the physical world where certain aspects of the instrument are manipulated in real-time.

check if is still true

Tension in a string is changed when tuning it

Some artists even use this in their performances [3, 4]

The hammered dulcimer is another example where the strings are tensioned over a bridge where one can play the string at one side of the bridge, while pushing down on the same string on the other side [2].

1D:

- Trombone
- Slide whistle
- Guitar strings

- Fretting finger pitch bend
- Above the nut [4]
- Tuning pegs directly [3]
- Hammered dulcimer [2]
- Erhu?

2D:

- Timpani
- Bodhrán: <https://youtu.be/b9HyB5yNS1A?t=146>
- Talking drum (hourglass drum): <https://youtu.be/B4oQJZ2TEVI?t=9>
- Flex-a-tone (could also be 1D tbh.): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEW1aG8XJQ>

A more relevant example is that of the trombone, where the size of the instrument is changed in order to play different pitches. Modelling this using FDTD methods would require

In his thesis, Harrison points out that in order to model the trombone, grid points need to be introduced

Something about time-dependent variable coefficient Stokes flow: <https://arxiv.org/abs/10>

Time-varying propagation speed in waveguides: <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/p/pod/idx/fractional-delay-application-time-varying-propagation-speed.pdf?c=icmc;idno=bbp2372>.

Special boundary conditions (look at!): Modeling of Complex Geometries and Boundary Conditions in Finite Difference/Finite Volume Time Domain Room Acoustics Simulation ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260701231\\_Modeling\\_of\\_Complex\\_Geometries\\_and\\_Boundary\\_Conditions\\_in\\_Finite\\_DifferenceFinite\\_Volume\\_Time\\_Domain\\_Room\\_Acoustics\\_Simulation](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260701231_Modeling_of_Complex_Geometries_and_Boundary_Conditions_in_Finite_DifferenceFinite_Volume_Time_Domain_Room_Acoustics_Simulation))

## 10.2 Method

Iterations have been:

- Interpolated boundary conditions
- Linear interpolation

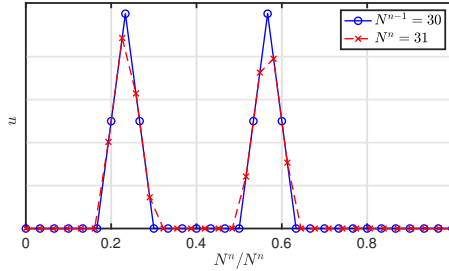
In this appendix, some iterations done over the course of this project will be shown in more detail. In the following, the 1D wave equation with a wave speed of  $c = 1470$  m/s, a length of  $L = 1$  m, Dirichlet boundary conditions and a sample rate of  $f_s = 44100$  Hz is considered, and – through Eq. (??) – satisfies the CFL condition with equality. These values result in  $N = 30$ , or a

These sections are taken from the JASA appendix

grid of 31 points including the boundaries. Then, the wave speed is decreased to  $c \approx 1422.6$  m/s, i.e., the wave speed that results in  $N = 31$  and satisfies the stability condition with equality again.

### 10.2.1 Full-Grid Interpolation

One way to go from one grid to another is performing a full-grid interpolation [?, Chap. 5]. If the number of points changes according to Eq. (??), i.e., if  $N^n \neq N^{n-1}$  the full state of the system ( $u_l^n, u_l^{n-1} \forall l$ ) can be interpolated to the new state. See Figure 10.1.



**Fig. 10.1:** Upsampling  $u$  (with an arbitrary state) using (linear) full-grid interpolation with  $N^{n-1} = 30$  and  $N^n = 31$ . The horizontal axis is normalised with respect to  $N^n$ .

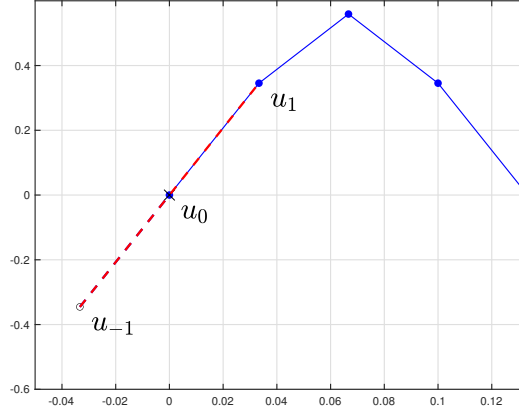
An issue that arises using this method is that the Courant number  $\lambda$  will slightly deviate from the CFL condition as  $c$  changes. Using Eq. (??) with  $L/ck$  approaching 31 (from below), the minimum value of  $\lambda \approx 30/31 \approx 0.9677$ . This, employing Eq. (??), has a maximum frequency output of  $f_{\max} \approx 18,475$  Hz. The Courant number will deviate more for higher values of  $c$  and thus lower values for  $N$  – for instance, if  $N$  approaches 11 (from below),  $\lambda \approx 10/11 \approx 0.9091$  and  $f_{\max} \approx 16,018$  Hz.

Another problem with full-grid interpolation, is that it has a low-passing effect on the system state, and thus on the output sound. Furthermore, this state-interpolation causes artefacts or ‘clicks’ in the output sound as the method causes sudden variations in the states.

All the aforementioned issues could be solved by using a (much) higher sample rate and thus more grid points, but this would render this method impossible to work in real time.

### 10.2.2 Adding and removing Points at the Boundary

To solve the issues exhibited by a full-grid interpolation, points can be added and removed at a single location and leave most points unaffected by the parameter changes. A good candidate for a location to do this is at a fixed



**Fig. 10.2:** The simply supported boundary condition: both the state and the curvature at the boundary – at  $l = 0$  – should be 0.

(Dirichlet) boundary. The state  $u$  at this location is always 0 so points can be added smoothly.

As  $c$  decreases,  $h$  can be calculated according to Eq. (??) and decreases as well.

This has a physical analogy with tuning a guitar string. Material enters and exits the neck (playable part of the string) at the nut, which in discrete time means grid points appearing and disappearing at one boundary.

To yield smooth changes between grid configurations, an interpolated boundary has been developed, the possibility of which has been briefly mentioned in [?, p. 145]. The Dirichlet condition in Eq. (??) can be extended to be the simply supported boundary condition:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{where} \quad x = 0, L, \quad (10.1)$$

or, when discretised,

$$u_l^n = \delta_{xx} u_l^n = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad l = 0, N. \quad (10.2)$$

This means that on top of that the state of the boundary should be 0, the curvature around it should also be 0. One can again solve for the virtual grid points at the boundary locations, yielding

$$u_{-1}^n = -u_1^n \quad \text{and} \quad u_{N+1}^n = -u_{N-1}^n. \quad (10.3)$$

This is visualised in Figure 10.2.

## 10.2. Method

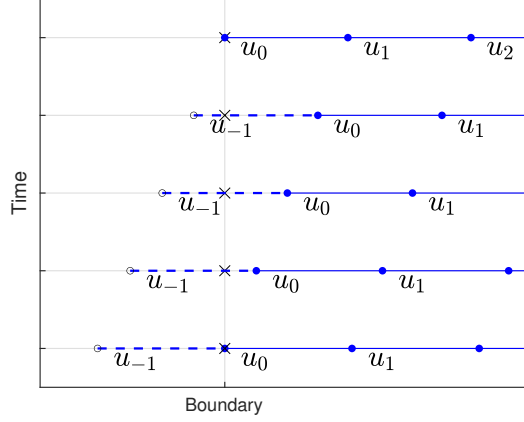


Fig. 10.3: The grid changing over time

If the flooring operation in Eq. (??) is removed this introduces a fractional number of grid points.

The by-product of using a fractional  $N$  this is that the CFL condition in (??) can now always be satisfied with equality no matter what the wave speed is.

An issue with this method is that removing points is much harder than adding.

their interactions change through a change in the grid spacing and wave speed. This interaction, though, is defined by  $\lambda$  which

### 10.2.3 Cubic interpolation

### 10.2.4 Sinc interpolation

### 10.2.5 Displacement correction

The displacement correction can be interpreted as a spring force pulling  $u_M^n$  and  $w_0^n$  to the average displacement.

$$\begin{aligned} u_M^{n+1} &= 2u_M^n + \lambda^2(u_{M-1}^n - 2u_M^n + u_{M+1}^n) - K \left( u_M^n - \frac{u_M^n + w_0^n}{2} \right) \\ w_0^{n+1} &= 2u_M^n + \lambda^2(w_{-1}^n - 2w_0^n + w_1^n) - K \left( w_0^n - \frac{u_M^n + w_0^n}{2} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (10.4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_M^{n+1} &= 2u_M^n + \lambda^2(u_{M-1}^n - 2u_M^n + u_{M+1}^n) + \frac{K}{2}(w_0^n - u_M^n) \\ w_0^{n+1} &= 2u_M^n + \lambda^2(w_{-1}^n - 2w_0^n + w_1^n) - \frac{K}{2}(w_0^n - u_M^n) \end{aligned} \quad (10.5)$$

with  $K = K(\alpha)$

$$K = (1 - \alpha)^\epsilon. \quad (10.6)$$

## 10.3 Analysis and Experiments

### 10.3.1 Interpolation technique

### 10.3.2 Interpolation range

### 10.3.3 Location

... where to add and remove points

Using the whole range, we can still add/remove points at the sides.

## 10.4 Discussion and Conclusion

## **Part VI**

# **Real-Time Implementation and Control**





# Real-Time Implementation and Control

It's all fun and dandy with all these physical models, but what use are they if you can't control them in real time?!



# Chapter 11

## Real-Time Implementation

JUCE Give overall structure of code

Implementation of the physical models using FDTD methods

As mentioned in Chapter 1, FDTD methods are used for high-quality and accurate simulations, rather than for real-time applications. This is due to their lack of simplifications.

Usually, **MATLAB** is used for simulating

Here, we define an application as being real-time when

*Control of the application generates or manipulates audio with no noticeable latency.*

Also the application needs to be controlled continuously



# **Chapter 12**

## **Control**

### **12.1 Sensel Morph**

150 Hz

### **12.2 Phantom OMNI**



**Part VII**

**Complete Instruments**





# Complete Instruments

This part will give several examples of full instrument models that have been developed during the PhD. Chapter ?? shows a three instrument-inspired case-studies using a large-scale modular environment, Chapter 14 describes the implementation of the tromba marina and Chapter 15 that of the trombone.



## Chapter 13

# Large Scale Modular Physical models

In the paper "Real-Time Control of Large-Scale Modular Physical Models using the Sensel Morph" [?] we presented a modular physical modelling environment using three instruments as case studies.

### 13.1 Bowed Sitar

- Stiff String
- Thin Plate
- Pluck
- Bow
- Non-linear spring connections

### 13.2 Dulcimer

- Stiff String
- Thin Plate
- Hammer (simple)
- Non-linear spring connections

## 13.3 Hurdy Gurdy

- Stiff String
- Thin Plate
- Pluck
- Bow
- Non-linear spring connections

# **Chapter 14**

## **Tromba Marina**

### **14.1 Introduction**

### **14.2 Physical Model**

#### **14.2.1 Continuous**

#### **14.2.2 Discrete**

### **14.3 Real-Time Implementation**

#### **14.3.1 Control using Sensel Morph**

#### **14.3.2 VR Application**

## Chapter 14. Tromba Marina

# Chapter 15

## Trombone

### 15.1 Introduction

Interesting read: <https://newt.phys.unsw.edu.au/jw/brassacoustics.html>

### 15.2 Physical Model

Most has been described in Chapter 5

#### 15.2.1 Continuous

Just to save the conversation with Stefan about Webster's equation:

Using operators  $\partial_t$  and  $\partial_x$  denoting partial derivatives with respect to time  $t$  and spatial coordinate  $x$ , respectively, a system of first-order PDEs describing the wave propagation in an acoustic tube can then be written as

$$\frac{S}{\rho_0 c^2} \partial_t p = -\partial_x (Sv) \quad (15.1a)$$

$$\rho_0 \partial_t v = -\partial_x p \quad (15.1b)$$

with acoustic pressure  $p = p(x, t)$  (in N/m<sup>2</sup>), particle velocity  $v = v(x, t)$  (in m/s) and (circular) cross-sectional area  $S(x)$  (in m<sup>2</sup>). Furthermore,  $\rho_0$  is the density of air (in kg/m<sup>3</sup>) and  $c$  is the speed of sound in air (in m/s). System (15.1) can be condensed into a second-order equation in  $p$  alone, often referred to as Webster's equation [?]. Interesting! In NSS it is the acoustic potential right? Can you go from that to a second-order PDE in  $p$ ? There is a time-derivative hidden there somewhere right? (Just wondering :) Yes, the form in  $p$  alone is the one you usually see. You get it by differentiating the first equation, giving you a  $\dot{v}$  on the RHS, and then you can substitute the second

equation in...I used the velocity potential one because it has direct energy balance properties. Right. So Webster's eq. in  $p$  and  $\Psi$  are identical (will exhibit identical behaviour), except for the unit of the state variable..?yes that's right...using the velocity potential allows you to do all the energy analysis easily, in terms of physical impedances. But the scheme you get to in the end is the same, just one derivative down. Alright cool! Thanks for the explanation :) For simplicity, effects of viscothermal losses have been neglected in (15.1). For a full time domain model of such effects in an acoustic tube, see, e.g. [?].

## 15.2.2 Discrete

## 15.3 Real-Time Implementation

Unity??

## 15.4 Discussion

more for your info, don't think I want to include this: To combat the drift, experiments have been done involving different ways of connecting the left and right tube. One involved alternating between applying the connection to the pressures and the velocity. Here, rather than adding points to the left and right system in alternating fashion, points were added to pressures  $p$  and  $q$  and velocities  $v$  and  $w$  in an alternating fashion. Another experiment involved a "staggered" version of the connection where (fx.) for one system (either left or right), a virtual grid point of the velocity was created from known values according to (??), rather than both from pressures. This, however, showed unstable behaviour. No conclusory statements can be made about these experiments at this point. ← which is exactly why I don't want to include this section

As the geometry varies it matters a lot where points are added and removed as this might influence the way that the method is implemented. speculative section coming up The middle of the slide crook was chosen, both because it would be reasonable for the air on the tube to "go away from" or "go towards" that point as the slide is extended or contracted, and because the geometry does not vary there. Experiments with adding / removing grid points where the geometry varies have been left for future work. even more speculative.. → It could be argued that it makes more sense to add points at the ends of the inner slides as "tube material" is also added there. This would mean that the system should be split in three parts: "inner slide", "outer slide" and "rest", and would complicate things even more.



## 15.4. Discussion

## Chapter 15. Trombone

# References

- [1] S. Bilbao, *Numerical Sound Synthesis: Finite Difference Schemes and Simulation in Musical Acoustics*. John Wiley & Sons, 2009.
- [2] T. L. Glenn, “Amazing hammered dulcimer musician - joshua messick,” 2014, [Online]. Available: <https://youtu.be/veuGTnzgNRU?t=215>.
- [3] J. Gomm, “Passionflower,” 2011, [Online]. Available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY7GnAq6Znw>.
- [4] J. Mayer, “Gravity (live in l.a.),” 2008, [Online]. Available: <https://youtu.be/dBFW8OvciIU?t=284>.

## References

# **Part VIII**

## **Appendix**





# Appendix A

## List of Symbols

Symbol	Description	Unit
$A$	Cross-sectional area	$\text{m}^2$
$c$	Wave speed	$\text{m/s}$
$E$	Young's Modulus	$\text{Pa} (\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-2})$
$f_s$	Sample rate	$\text{s}^{-1}$
$F_\alpha$	Connection force string	$\text{N} (\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-2})$
$F_\beta$	Connection force plate	$\text{N}$
$h$	Grid spacing	$\text{m}$
$H$	Plate thickness	$\text{m}$
$I$	Area moment of inertia [?]	$\text{m}^4$
$l$	Spatial index to grid function	-
$L$	String length	$\text{m}$
$k$	Time step ( $1/f_s$ )	$\text{s}$
$K_1$	Linear spring coefficient	$\text{N/m}$
$K_3$	Non-linear spring coefficient	$\text{N}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$
$n$	Sample index to grid function	-
$N$	Number of points string	-
$T$	String tension	$\text{N}$
$u$	State variable ( $u(x, t)$ or $u(x, y, t)$ )	$\text{m}$ (displacement)
$\gamma$	Scaled wave speed	$\text{s}^{-1}$
$\kappa$	Stiffness coefficient	$\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ (string) $\text{m}^4\cdot\text{s}^{-2}$ (plate)
$\lambda$	Courant number for the wave equation	$\text{m/s}$
$\mu$	Similar to courant number but for plate	$\text{m/s}$
$\nu$	Poisson's ratio	-
$\eta$	Relative displacement spring	$\text{m}$
$\rho$	Material density	$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$





## Appendix A. List of Symbols

# Appendix B

## List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
FDS	Finite-difference scheme
FDTD	Finite-difference time-domain

## Appendix B. List of Abbreviations

# **Part IX**

# **Papers**



# Paper A

## Paper Errata

Here, some errors in the published papers will be listed:

**Tromba marina paper:**

- The minus sign in Eq. (28) (and thus Eqs. (31) and (35)) should be a plus sign.
- $\sigma_{1,s}$  in Eq. (21) should obviously be  $\sigma_{1,p}$
- the unit of the spatial Dirac delta function  $\delta$  should be  $\text{m}^{-1}$

**DigiDrum:**

- $\sigma_0$  and  $\sigma_1$  should be multiplied by  $\rho H$  in order for the stability condition to hold.
- stability condition is wrong. Should be:

$$h \geq \sqrt{c^2 k^2 + 4\sigma_1 k + \sqrt{(c^2 k^2 + 4\sigma_1 k)^2 + 16\kappa^2 k^2}} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

- Unit for membrane tension is N/m.