

# Open-source landscape for 3D CSEM modelling

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## ABSTRACT

*I will draft a first abstract after the manuscript has been reviewed by everyone once.*

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and for inline comments, use:

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We will have to decide on a Journal. Current suggestions:

- GMD: Geoscientific Model Development
- SIG: Surveys in Geophysics
- SE: Solid Earth
- GJI: Geophysical Journal International
- GP: Geophysical Prospecting
- GEO: Geophysics
- CAG: Computers and Geosciences

I think *Geoscientific Model Development* and *Surveys in Geophysics* were the favourite ones when we discussed it ones. I personally would be very interested in GMD. What do you think? But also interesting would be the GJI, because the MT comparison was published there, so it would be in the same place. I just had a very bad experience with GP, so I am not inclined on that at all.

[RR]: GMD looks very interesting, my only concern is that it might not be in the scope of EM modelers, but we can probably reach modelers from other communities as well.

## INTRODUCTION

Controlled-source electromagnetic (CSEM) measurements are a frequently applied method in various geophysical exploration fields, such as geothermal and groundwater, oil and gas, mining, civil engineering, or geo-hazards. Modelling these electromagnetic fields is therefore of great interest to design survey layouts, understand the measured data and inversion purposes. Publications regarding 3D modelling in electromagnetic methods started to appear as early as the 1970's and 1980's. These early publications were integral equation (IE) methods, having an anomaly embedded within a layered medium, mostly for loop-loop type transient EM measurements (Raiche, 1974; Hohmann, 1975; Das and Verma, 1982; Newman et al., 1986) and magnetotelluric (MT) measurements (Wannamaker et al., 1984).

In the 1990's, computer became sufficiently powerful that 3D modelling gained traction, which resulted amongst other publications in the book *Three-Dimensional Electromagnetics* by the SEG (Oristaglio and Spies, 1999). Often cited publications from that time are Mackie et al. (1994), 3D MT computation; Druskin and Knizhnerman (1994), frequency- and time-domain modelling using a Yee grid and a global Krylov subspace approximation; and Alumbaugh et al. (1996); Newman and Alumbaugh (1997), low-to-high frequency computation on massively parallel computers.

The continuous improvement of computing power and the CSEM boom in the early 2000's in the hydrocarbon industry led to a wealth of developed numerical solutions and according publications. The most common applied methods to solve Maxwell's equation are the IE method (Raiche, 1974; Hursán and Zhdanov, 2002; Zhdanov et al., 2006; Tehrani and Slob, 2010; Kruglyakov et al., 2016; Kruglyakov and Bloshanskaya, 2017) and different variations of the differential equation (DE) method, such as finite differences (FD) (Yee, 1966; Wang and Hohmann, 1993; Mackie et al., 1994; Druskin and Knizhnerman, 1994; Streich, 2009; Sommer et al., 2013), finite elements (FE) (Schwarzbach et al., 2011; Commer and Newman, 2004; da Silva et al., 2012; Puzyrev et al., 2013; Grayver et al., 2013; Zhang and Key, 2016), and finite volumes (FV) (Madsen and Ziolkowski, 1990; Haber and Heldmann, 2007; Jahandari and Farquharson, 2014; Clemens and Weiland, 2001; Mulder, 2006). There are also many different types of discretisation, where the most common ones are regular grids (Cartesian, rectilinear), mostly using a Yee grid (Yee, 1966) or a Lebedev grid (Lebedev, 1964), but also unstructured tetrahedral grids (Zhang and Key, 2016; Cai et al., 2017), hexagonal meshes (Cai et al., 2014), or OcTree meshes (Haber and Heldmann, 2007). Very well written overviews about the different approaches to 3D EM modelling are given by Avdeev (2005) and Börner (2010).

In the last 15 years, the publications with regards to 3D EM modelling grew tremendously, driven by the ever increasing computing power. One reason why there are so many reports about this topic results from the variety of solution techniques for the systems of linear equations. They can be distinguished between direct solvers (Streich, 2009; Grayver and Kolev, 2015; Chung et al., 2014; Jaysaval et al., 2014; Oh et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2018), indirect solvers (Mulder, 2006; Jaysaval et al., 2015), or a combination of both, so-called hybrid solvers (Liu et al., 2018). The solvers often use preconditioners such as the multigrid method (Aruliah and Ascher, 2002; Mulder, 2006; Jaysaval et al., 2016).

Probably the main reason for the numerous amount of code developments was already outlined by Avdeev (2005), who finished his review with the following statement: «*The most important challenge that faces the EM community today is to convince software developers to put their 3-D EM forward and inverse solutions into the public domain, at least after some time. This would have a strong impact on the whole subject and the developers would benefit from feedback regarding the real needs of the end-users.*» Some major exploration service companies as well as certain research consortia and research groups own their 3D CSEM codes, but how about codes that are open-source? Academic codes were traditionally often available upon request by authors. Codes distributed that way were often provided with the request to not share the code, and they often come without a license attached which means that they are not open-source. Also, at times there can be significant hurdles to install a code.

The meaning of the term open-source evolved rapidly in the last two decades. Today, open-source generally not only means that a code is available (with a proper license), but also that the code is hosted online, is under version control, has the possibility to file issues and make pull requests to fix bugs. These are important requirements for reproducible research «*to provide the means by which the reader can verify the validity of the results and make use of them in further research*» (Broggini et al., 2017). Well maintained codes often have continuous integration that includes testing of the code base and online hosted documentation, often including examples and tutorials. As such, the term has shifted from purely open-source codes to developments in the open with increasingly building a global

community. Related projects within the realm of geophysical exploration are e.g., pyGIMLi (Rücker et al., 2017) or Fatiando (Uieda, 2018).

We continue addressing the topic of open-source developments by introducing and comparing four recent projects with focus on 3D CSEM modeling. All presented codes are in the Python ecosystem and use either the finite-difference method on structured grids or the finite-element method on unstructured tetrahedral meshes. As newer package-management systems such as Conda, Docker, or pip significantly help developers to make their codes easily available and installable, each one can be downloaded and installed with a single command.

Furthermore, we deal with the topic of verification. New codes are generally verified against analytical solutions. However, analytical and semi-analytical solutions only exist for very simple models. There is no possibility to check how good a computed response is, expect for comparing results from different modellers. If different discretisations and implementations of Maxwell's equations yield the same result, it gives confidence in their accuracy. We simulate EM fields for a layered background model with vertical transverse isotropy, containing three blocks, and a realistic, complex marine 3D model. These two model designs as well as the corresponding results from four different codes provide a benchmark for new codes to be compared to and validated with.

It is worth mentioning that there are many more 3D EM codes developed in other fields than geophysics such as communication systems (antennas, radar, satellites), medical imaging, or civil engineering. There are various open-source codes in these fields too, e.g., Elmer

[DW]: Add 2-3 proper references

([csc.fi/elmer](https://csc.fi/elmer), couldn't find a publication, just a poster). While these codes could potentially be used for the same goals as presented here we restrict our review to codes purpose-built and ready without further adjustments for geophysical applications.

[RR]: I thought a lot about this but I just think the previous paragraph is not required in our introduction and haven't find a location where it fits considering different logical structures. I think it is also not important for this paper to tell "that there are more codes in EM than only geophysics", that's quite obvious. Maybe delete or shorten to 1 sentences to add Elmer and place this sentence somewhere else? I think, an appropriate list of all non-geophysical open-source EM codes should be very long anyway, we just don't know them or at least I'm not familiar with them.

In the following section we introduce the codes under consideration. Afterwards, we present the modeling result of the two model cases. Finally, we discuss, conclude.

[DW]: Others coming to your mind?

[RR]: no thoughts about geophysics, but there are many projects for related topics such as gmt, gis, mesh-gen

[RR]: structure of the paper can be written if we are completely clear about this and the rest of the introduction.

## CODES

The four codes under consideration are, in alphabetical order, `custEM` (Rochlitz et al., 2019), `emg3d` (Werthmüller et al., 2019), `PETGEM` (Castillo-Reyes et al., 2019), and `SimPEG` (Cockett et al., 2015). All four codes have their user-facing routines written in Python; all of them make heavy use of NumPy (van der Walt et al., 2011) and SciPy (Virtanen et al., 2020). The four of them are “modern” open-source projects, meaning that they not only come with an open-source license, but they are also in an online-hosted version-control system with feedback and tracking possibilities (raising issues, filing pull requests), have extensive online documentation including many examples, have continuous integration to some degree, and also importantly are all easily installable, without any user-side compilations.

In the following a quick rundown of the codes. It is, however, beyond the scope of this article to go into every detail of the different modellers, and we refer to their documentations for more details. An overview comparison of the different codes is given in Table 1. All codes have in common that they solve the weak formulation of Maxwell’s equation in its differential form (DE) under the quasistatic or diffusive approximation, hence neglecting displacement currents. The machines on which the different codes were run are listed in Table 2, together with the responsible operator.

Each code should be briefly summarized by three points:

- Brief intro
- Main selling point
- Planned features

I think in a first round **everyone should just write what they want to write and think is important for their code**. In a second round we should then homogenize it, such that all codes have more or less the same length/weight and also similar topic/layout.

[DW]: are we all using the weak form?

[DW]: are we all using the diff. approx?

	<code>custEM</code>	<code>emg3d</code>	<code>PETGEM</code>	<code>SimPEG</code>
Home	<a href="http://custem.rtd.io">custem.rtd.io</a>	<a href="https://empymod.github.io">empymod.github.io</a>	<a href="http://petgem.bsc.es">petgem.bsc.es</a>	<a href="http://simpeg.xyz">simpeg.xyz</a>
License	GPL-3.0	Apache-2.0	GPL-3.0	MIT
Installation	<code>pip</code> ; <code>conda</code>	<code>pip</code> ; <code>conda</code>	<code>conda</code>	<code>pip</code> ; <code>conda</code>
Comp. Dom.	frequency & time	frequency	frequency	frequency & time
Method	FE	FV	FE	FV
Mesh	tetrahedral	rectilinear	tetrahedral	recti- & curvilinear
BC	PMC; PEC	PEC	PEC	PEC; PMC
Solver	MUMPS	<code>emg3d</code>	PETSc; MUMPS	PARDISO; MUMPS

Table 1: All codes solve the weak form of Maxwell’s equations in its differential form (DE) under the quasistatic approximation. Note that `emg3d` is a solver on its own, while the other codes implement third-package solvers such as PETSc (Abhyankar et al., 2018), MUMPS (Amestoy et al., 2001), or PARDISO (Schenk and Gärtner, 2004).

Code	Computer and Operating System	Operator
<b>custEM</b>	PowerEdge R940 server; 144 Xeon Gold 6154 CPU @2.666 GHz; 3 TB DDR4 RAM; Ubuntu 18.04	Raphael Rochlitz
<b>emg3d</b>	Laptop; i7-6600U CPU@2.6 GHz x4; 16 GB of memory, Ubuntu 18.04	Dieter Werthmüller
<b>PETGEM</b>	Marenostrum4. Intel Xeon Platinum from Skylake generation; 2 sockets Intel Xeon Platinum 8160 CPU with 24 cores each @2.10GHz for a total of 48 cores per node; 386 Gb DDR4 RAM per node; SuSE Linux Enterprise	Octavio Castillo-Reyes
<b>SimPEG</b>	???	Lindsey Heagy

Table 2: List of computer and operating system (hardware and software) on which the different codes were run, together with the operator.

**custEM**

TODO

**emg3d**

The 3D CSEM modeller **emg3d** is a multigrid ([Fedorenko, 1964](#)) solver for 3D electromagnetic diffusion following [Mulder \(2006\)](#), with tri-axial electrical anisotropy, isotropic electric permittivity, and isotropic magnetic permeability. The matrix-free solver can be used as main solver or as preconditioner for one of the Krylov subspace methods implemented in SciPy, and the governing equations are discretized on a staggered grid by the finite-integration technique ([Weiland, 1977](#)), which is a finite-volume generalization of a Yee grid. The code is written completely in Python using the NumPy and SciPy stacks, where the most time- and memory-consuming parts are sped up through jitted (just-in-time compiled) functions using Numba ([Lam et al., 2015](#)). The code computes the electric field due to an electric source in the frequency-domain, which is its main application (frequency-domain CSEM). However, there are also routines to obtain the magnetic field due to an electric source, to obtain the electric and magnetic fields due to a magnetic source, and to obtain time-domain responses.

The multigrid method is characterized by almost linear scaling both in terms of runtime (CPU) and memory (RAM) usage, and it is therefore a comparably low-memory consumption solver. It is also minimal in terms of requirements, only NumPy, SciPy, and Numba are required, with Python 3.7+. The current development is focused on adding basic inversion capabilities, and a further plan is to implement a hook in order to use **emg3d** as a frequency-domain CSEM solver within the grander **SimPEG** framework.

**PETGEM**

TODO

**SimPEG**

TODO

## NUMERICAL VERIFICATIONS

In this numerical section we compute the responses for two different models to verify that these different 3D codes yield the same electromagnetic responses. The first model is a simple one consisting of a layered, anisotropic background, in which three blocks are embedded, and the second model is a very complex, realistic model.

### Block Model

Miensopust et al. (2013) published a review of two workshops dealing with the verification of magnetotelluric forward and inversion codes, hence a similar exercise to what we do here for CSEM codes. The block model is a derivation of the *Dublin Test Model 1*, a model from their first workshop. We took the same layout of the blocks but adjusted the dimensions and resistivities to a typical, marine CSEM problem, as shown in Figure 1. We additionally added a layered background with vertical transverse isotropy (VTI).

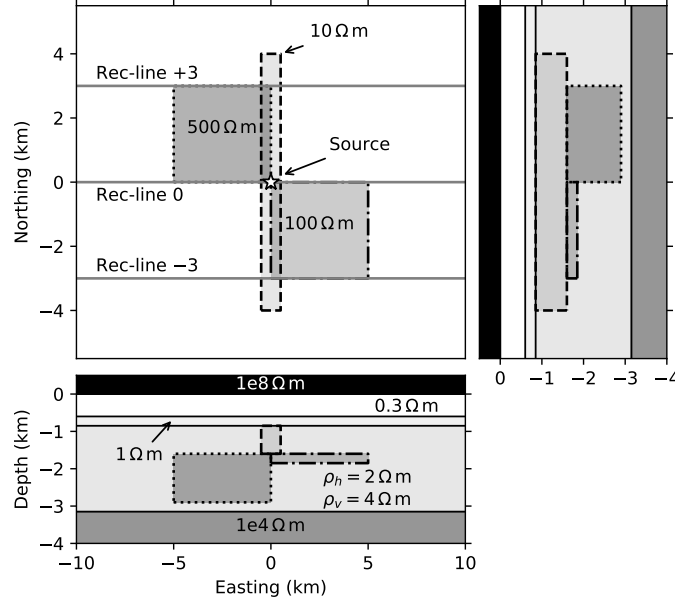


Figure 1: Sketch of the block model. The layered model consists of an air layer, a water layer, a thin top-layer followed by a thick, anisotropic background layer, and at the bottom a resistive basement layer. All three blocks are embedded in the thick background layer, which has VTI with  $\lambda = \sqrt{2}$ .

The layered model consists of an upper halfspace of air, a 600 m deep water layer, followed by a 150 m thick, isotropic layer of  $1 \Omega \text{m}$ , a 3.3 km thick, anisotropic layer of  $\rho_h = 2 \Omega \text{m}$  and  $\rho_v = 4 \Omega \text{m}$ , and finally a resistive basement consisting of a lower halfspace of  $1000 \Omega \text{m}$ . The 200 m long,  $x$ -directed source is located 50 m above the seafloor from  $x = -50$  to  $x = 50$  m in  $x$ -direction, at  $y = 0$  m. The  $x$ -directed receivers are placed on the seafloor every 200 m from  $x = -10$  km to  $x = +10$  km in three lines for  $y = -3, 0, 3$  km.

In a first step we compare the layered background to the semi-analytical solutions of a 1D code, for which we use `empymod` (Werthmüller, 2017). Figures 2 and 3 show the

actual responses in the top rows, and the relative error in the bottom rows for receiver line  $y = 0$  km and  $y = -3$  km, respectively (for the layered background the responses for the two receiver-lines of  $y = \pm 3$  km are identical, so we only show one here).

Figure 2 shows in the top-row the inline responses for offsets  $r > 0.5$  km. As all codes compute the same we only show the semi-analytical result for the real and imaginary amplitudes, and then in the bottom row the relative error of the 3D codes. The results show that the codes are literally yielding the same result, the relative error is for big parts below 1 %, and for almost all parts below a few percent. Some differences are due to the chosen discretizations. E.g., **emg3d** is less precise close to the 200 m long source. This could be improved by choosing smaller cell sizes, at the cost of computation time. At large offsets, on the other hand, **emg3d** seems to do a very good job.

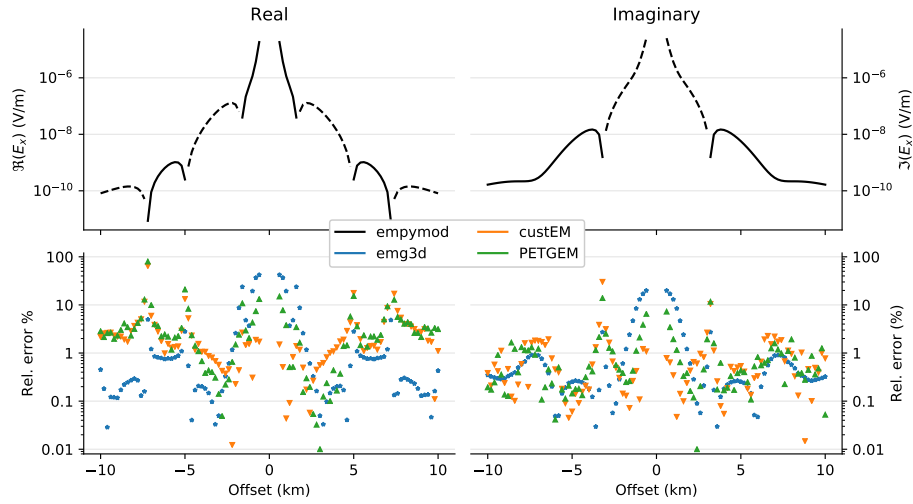


Figure 2: Comparison of the layered model for the inline receivers ( $y = 0$  km). Top row shows the semi-analytical responses from **empymod**, and bottom row shows the relative error (%) of **custEM**, **emg3d**, **PETGEM**, and **SimPEG**.

The corresponding broadside responses for  $y = -3$  km is shown in Figure 3, and the required CPU and RAM is shown in Table 3.

Three resistive blocks are added in the 3.3 km-thick, anisotropic background layer, as

Code	CPU (s)	#Procs	RAM (GiB)	#Cells
<b>custEM</b>	0.0	0	0.0	0
<b>emg3d</b>	0.0	0	0.0	0
<b>PETGEM</b>	0.0	0	0.0	0
<b>SimPEG</b>	0.0	0	0.0	0

Table 3: Comparison of used CPU and RAM and of number of cells used to discretize the layered model.

[DW]: I will fill this table out once we all submitted the final versions of the results.



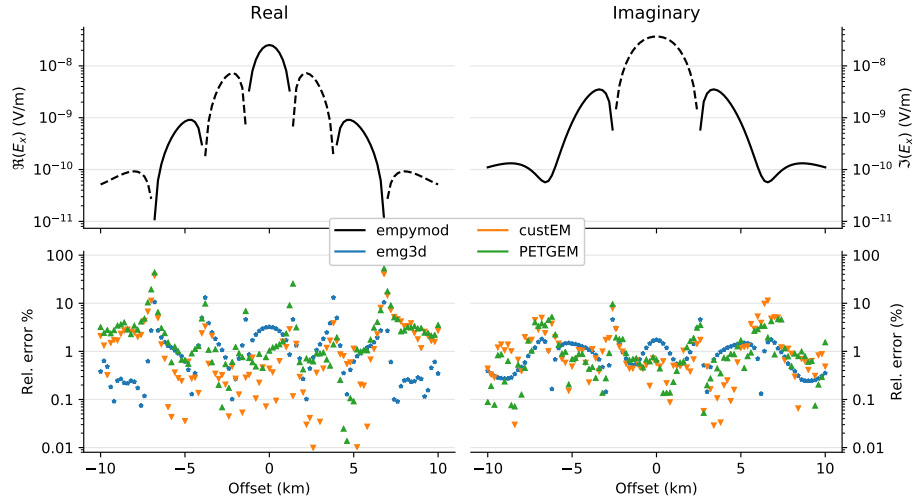


Figure 3: Comparison of the layered model for the broadside receivers ( $y = -3$  km). Top row shows the semi-analytical responses from **empymod**, and bottom row show the relative error (%) of **custEM**, **emg3d**, **PETGEM**, and **SimPEG**.

shown in Figure 1. They have resistivities of  $\rho = 10 \Omega \text{ m}$  (shallow beam perpendicular to survey lines),  $\rho = 100 \Omega \text{ m}$  (thin plate, South-East),  $\rho = 500 \Omega \text{ m}$  (cube, North-West). As there are no analytical solutions for this model we show the normalized difference between different codes, instead of the relative error, where the normalized difference of two responses  $p$  and  $q$  is given by

$$\text{NRMSD (\%)} = 200 \frac{|p - q|}{|p| + |q|} . \quad (1)$$

[DW]: NRMSD: Comparing all codes to all would make the figures too cluttered, and I don't think it would add a lot insights. My idea is therefore to compare **emg3d/SimPEG** (the two FV ones), **custEM/PETGEM** (the two FE ones), and **emg3d/custEM** (a cross-comparison). What do you think?

The results for the three receiver lines  $y = -3, 0, 3$  km are shown in Figures 4, 5, and 6, respectively, and the corresponding CPU and RAM in Table 4. What we can conclude from the NRMSD is that similar codes have a smaller NRMSD than cross-comparison, hence **emg3d** and **SimPEG** are very similar, as well as are **custEM** and **PETGEM**.

The difference becomes only significant at offsets larger than 8 km. However, this is due to a practical difference in the meshing: This simple block model is advantageous for FV codes, as it consists of rectangular blocks and horizontal layers, simple geometric objects. While having a very thin, shallow layer is straight-forward for FV codes, it requires many cells for a FE code. The thin layer was therefore limited in its horizontal extent to ????. This is the reason for the increased NRMSD at large offsets, and it has nothing to do with the accuracy of the computation itself.

[DW]: Write in detail when all results are available

[DW]: Raphael, to what x/y exactly?

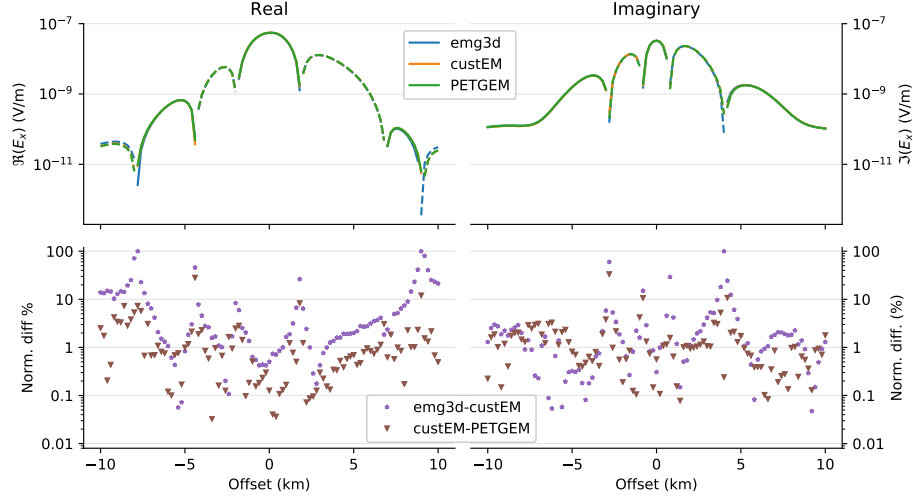


Figure 4: Comparison of the block model for the broadside receivers at  $y = -3$  km. Top row shows the responses and bottom row the NRMSDs (%) between **emg3d**-**custEM**, **custEM**-**PETGEM**, and **emg3d**-**SimPEG**.

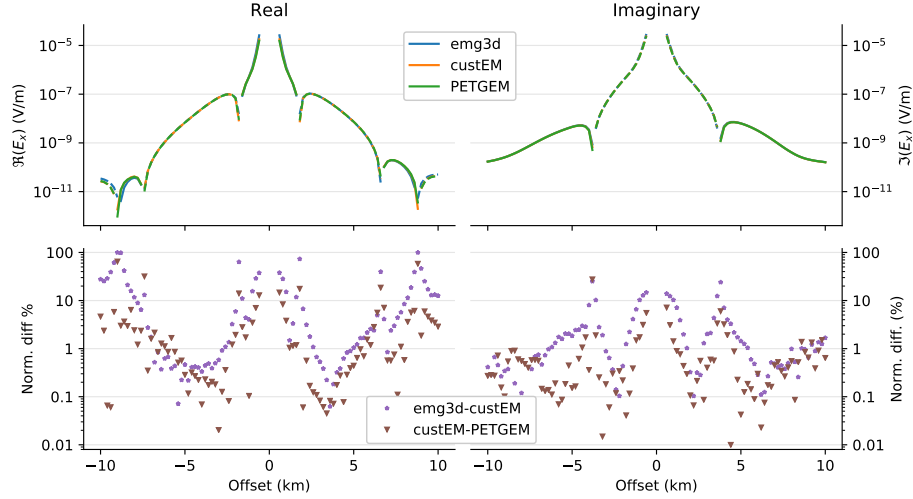


Figure 5: Comparison of the block model for the inline receivers at  $y = 0$  km. Top row shows the responses and bottom row the NRMSDs (%) between **emg3d**-**custEM**, **custEM**-**PETGEM**, and **emg3d**-**SimPEG**.

Code	CPU (s)	#Procs	RAM (GiB)	#Cells
<b>custEM</b>	0.0	24	0.0	0
<b>emg3d</b>	0.0	1	0.0	0
<b>PETGEM</b>	0.0	48	0.0	0
<b>SimPEG</b>	0.0		0.0	0

Table 4: Comparison of used CPU and RAM and of number of cells used to discretize the block model.

[DW]: I will fill this table out once we all submitted the final versions of the results.

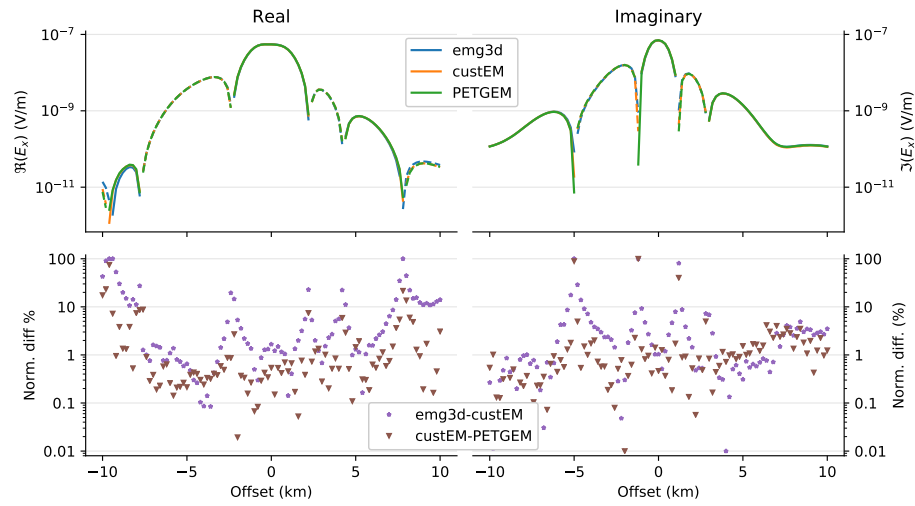


Figure 6: Comparison of the block model for the broadside receivers at  $y = +3$  km. Top row shows the responses and bottom row the NRMSDs (%) between **emg3d**–**custEM**, **custEM**–**PETGEM**, and **emg3d**–**SimPEG**.

## Marlim R3D

The Marlim oil field is a giant reservoir in a turbidite sandstone horizon in the north-eastern part of the Campos Basin, offshore Brazil, which was discovered in 1985. [Carvalho and Menezes \(2017\)](#) created from seismic data and well log data a realistic resistivity model with vertical transverse isotropy (VTI), Marlim R3D (MR3D), which they released under an open-source license. Using this model [Correa and Menezes \(2019\)](#) computed CSEM data for six frequencies from 0.125 Hz to 1.25 Hz, which they also released under an open-source license. To compute the data they used a state-of-the-art code from the industry ([Maaø, 2007](#)). It is therefore an ideal case to verify our open-source codes against, as it is a complex, realistic model, and the data were computed by an industry-proofed code. Additionally, that code is a time-domain code, whereas the four codes under consideration here compute the results all in the frequency-domain.

The detailed reservoir model consists of 1022 by 371 by 1229 cells, totalling to almost 466 million cells, where each cell has dimensions of 25 by 75 by 5 m. For the computation the model is upscaled to 515 by 563 by 310 cells, totalling to almost 90 million cells, where each cell has dimensions of 100 by 100 by 20 m.

The published data set consists of a regular grid of receivers of 20 in eastern direction by 25 in northern direction, 500 receivers in total, with 1 km spacing located on the irregular seafloor. 45 source-towlines were located on the same grid, 50 m above the seafloor, with shots every 100 m. In [Correa and Menezes \(2019\)](#) the actual responses for one receiver with the corresponding East-West inline and one East-West broadside acquisition line are shown, which is the data we chose for our comparison. The cross-section of the resistivity model along the chosen inline acquisition line is shown in Figure 7, together with the acquisition information.

We computed all all six frequencies for all components ( $E_x$ ,  $E_y$ ,  $E_z$ ) for both inline and broadside acquisition lines. However, we show here only the three frequencies and the responses with the strongest amplitudes (which are generally used in processing), which are  $E_x$  inline and broadside and  $E_y$  broadside. The comparison is shown in Figure 8.

[DW]: There are some interesting features we should highlight. But again, we first need all results. E.g.

- 0.125 Hz: on the left side, `custEM` and `emg3d` are almost identical, but very different from MR3D. So there I actually trust more our calculation, or there is a difference in the model that we did not take into account.
- 0.125 Hz: on the right side, `custEM` is very similar to MR3D, whereas `emg3d` is off.
- 0.125 Hz and 0.5 Hz: on the right side, `custEM` seems to very similar to MR3D.

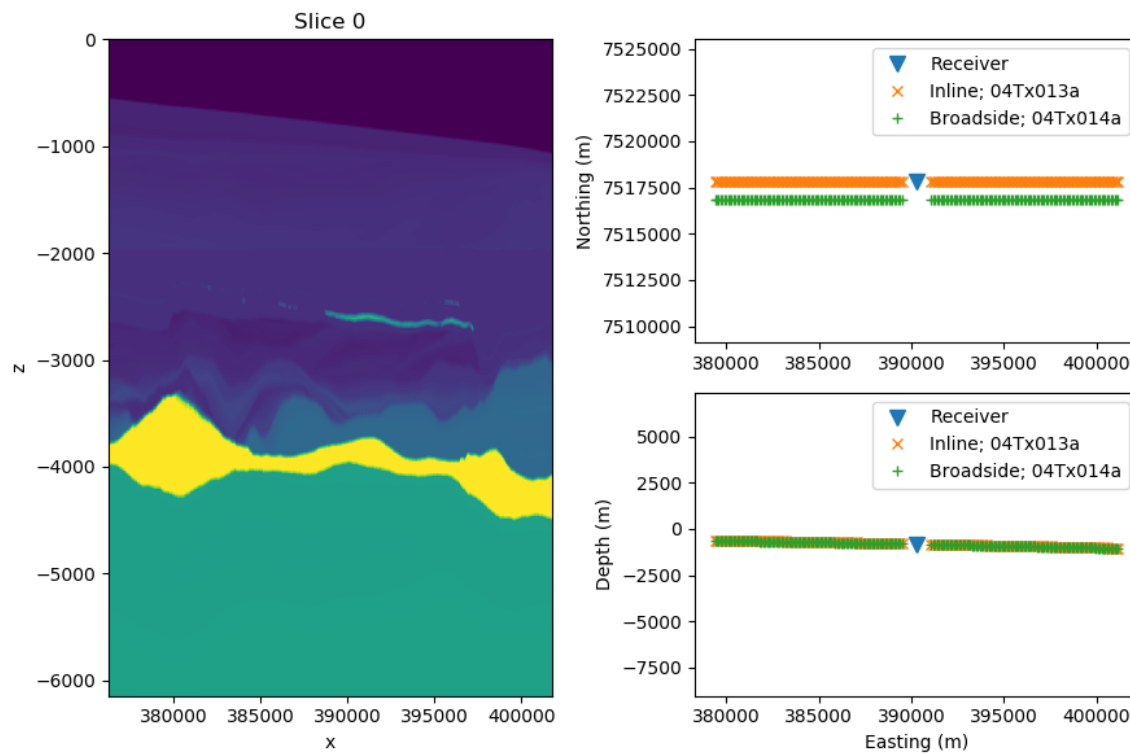


Figure 7: This figure obviously needs to be improved massively (at least a colorbar). What would you like to show from the actual data here? A nice figure would be Figure 2 in [Correa and Menezes \(2019\)](#); however, note that the drawn survey line in that figure are plainly wrong. If someone is familiar with GMT and happy to make a make that would be great. Also, the cross-section is currently heavily vertically exaggerated.

Code	CPU (s)	#Procs	RAM (GiB)	#Cells
custEM	0.0	0	0.0	0
emg3d	0.0	0	0.0	0
PETGEM	0.0	0	0.0	0
SimPEG	0.0	0	0.0	0

Table 5: Comparison of used CPU and RAM and of number of cells used to discretize the Marlim R3D model.

[DW]: I will fill this table out once we all submitted the final versions of the results.

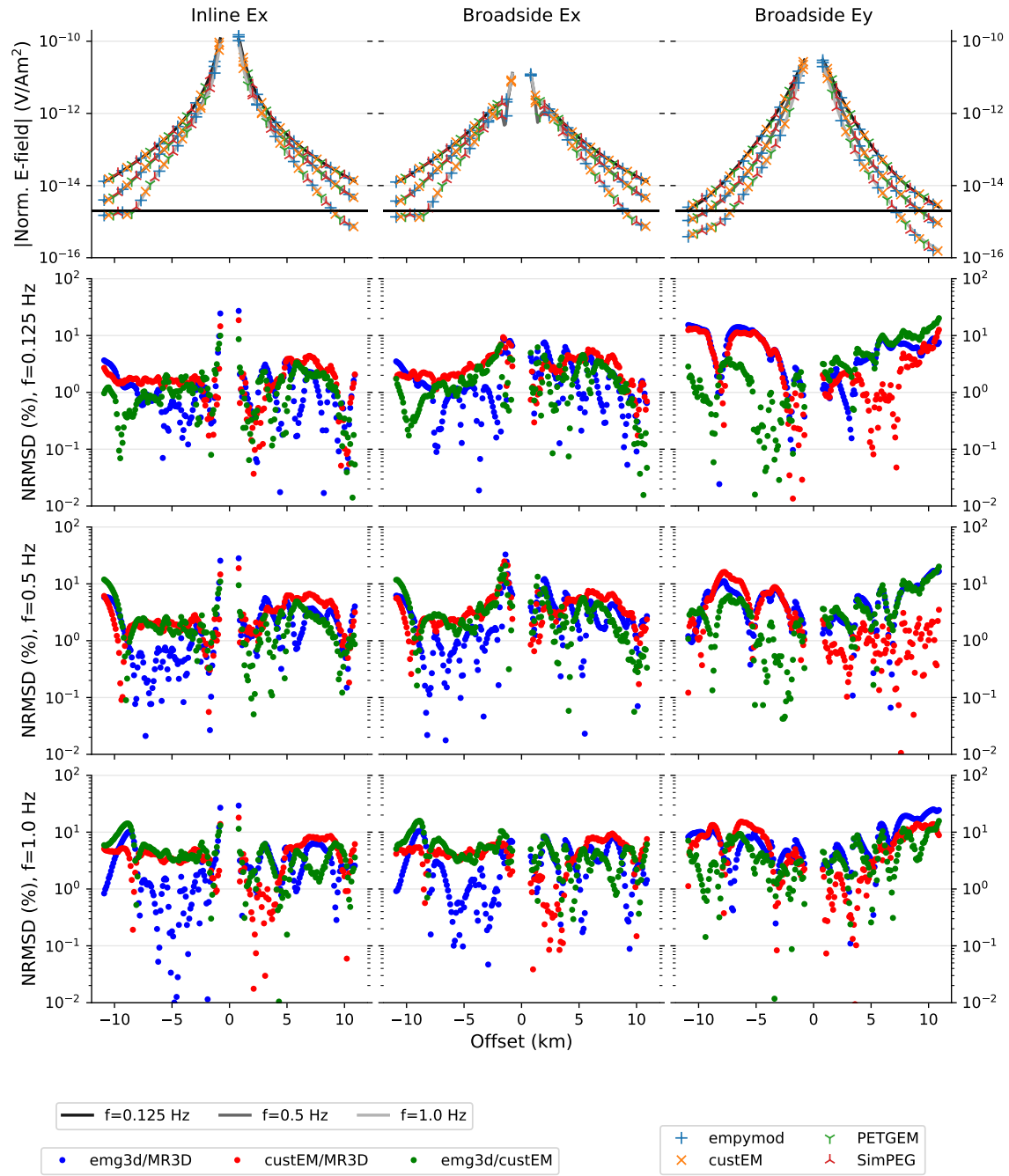


Figure 8: This is one heck of a figure. Just an idea, please make suggestions how to improve it (currently, PETGEM data is a copy of custEM data, and SimPEG data is a copy of emg3d data).

## DISCUSSION

[DW]: Maybe we should create a Google-Doc for working on the Discussion collaboratively at the same time?

We compared four different, open-source 3D CSEM modellers by computing responses for (a) a layered, anisotropic model without and with three resistive blocks, and (b) a realistic 3D model. The comparison shows that the codes do yield the same responses. As such we could verify the accuracy of these four codes.

This is a very important insight. The possibilities to verify the accuracy of 3D CSEM codes are limited. One can compare them to analytical and semi-analytical solutions, but they only exist for very simple models. For complex models comparisons to other codes is the only possibility. It is therefore really important to have more test models, and importantly, for various scenarios, and that they are easily accessible. Our data should also make it very easy for new codes to have a readily available data set to test against and verify.

A similar exercise has been done for magnetotelluric (MT) 3D modelling and inversion by Miensoopust et al. (2013), but we are not aware of anything like this for CSEM data. However, we do hope that more comparisons will emerge in the future, particularly with the current increase in open-source codes as well as open-source data.

The codes under consideration consisted of finite element and finite differences. However, it has to be noted that the chosen models are better suited for finite differences codes. The first model for obvious reasons, as it is a layered background containing blocks, all aligned in Cartesian coordinates. The second model, Marlim R3D, could be an ideal case for FE codes, as it comes with lithological horizons from seismic data. However, the corresponding, published resistivity model uses a Cartesian grid. An extension of this work could be to use a complex model tailored for a FE code, and compare how the FD codes cope with it.

The codes under consideration use direct and indirect solvers, ... blabla say something. Having calculated in each model only one source favours in the runtime comparison the iterative solver and therefore `emg3d`. For the iterative solvers additional sources would come at almost no cost, whereas for `emg3d` it would come at the same cost as the first source. This is something to keep in mind when choosing the appropriate modeller for a problem at hand.

[DW]: I would like to capture as many as possible of the (I) differences, (II) difficulties, (III) advantages, and (IV) disadvantages, that we encountered in this exercise. This includes differences from direct to iterative solver and differences from FE to FD codes etc. Please just jot down things that come to your mind.

Finally, the comparison in our study is limited to marine CSEM cases in the frequency-domain. We hope that similar studies will be carried out for land CSEM data and for time-domain data as well.

We see this only as the start. Much more comparisons and examples are required. 3D CSEM modelling is a difficult task, which requires many considerations: It starts with the selection of the right code for the problem; then the meshing is particularly difficult, choosing cells small enough to appropriately represent the model yet to be as coarse as possible still achieving the desired precision; the required model extent, particularly for shallow and marine cases where the airwave has to be considered. The tricky part is that

even if the result is not correct it may look completely valid. The only options to verify results are (a) by comparing different discretizations, and (b) by comparing different codes.



## CONCLUSIONS

[DW]: Maybe we should create a Google-Doc for working on the Conclusions collaboratively at the same time?

[DW]: I obviously haven't really done this section, just a few thoughts that I noted over time. I think the discussion (as the abstract) has to be tackled once the rest is at least in a draft status and all data is ready.

The landscape in 3D CSEM modelling greatly changed in the last five years or so. While before there were only closed-source codes owned by companies or consortia, or codes that you had to obtain from the authors, often without much documentation, there was recently a wave of openly released codes.

What is missing for these emerging codes is a comparison and verification suite, test models beyond the usual, analytical fullspace and halfspace models and the semi-analytical layered Earth models. We hope that our efforts help to the confidence in the available open-source codes...

Also, the runtime and memory consumption comparison together with the meshing differences should help to decide which modeller is used best for which tasks, as there is not one method which is best for all problems.

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[DW]: Write here your fundings; and potentially also minor contributors etc.

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## DATA

All files to rerun the different models with the four codes and reproduce the shown results are available at . . . .

Put up on Zenodo, [link here](#).

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