

# Solving the fully non-linear weakly dispersive Serre equations for flows over dry beds.

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## Abstract

A numerical method for solving the Serre equations that can model flows over dry bathymetry is described. The method solves the Serre equations in conservation law form with a finite volume method. A finite element method is used to solve the auxiliary elliptic equation for the depth-averaged horizontal velocity. The numerical method is validated against the lake at rest analytic solution, demonstrating that it is well-balanced. The method is further validated and its convergence rate established using forced solutions containing the wetting and drying of bathymetry. The use of forced solutions extends previous validations performed for Serre equation solvers involving flows over dry bathymetry. Finally, the method is validated against experimental results for the run-up of a solitary wave on a sloped beach.

**Keywords:** Serre equations, dry bed

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## 1. Introduction

Dispersion is an important phenomenon of waves in intermediate water depths; where the water depth is not much larger than the wavelengths of the waves. Our understanding of the effect of dispersion on water surface profiles is continually improving [1]. However, what is not well understood is the behaviour of these waves as they approach and inundate the coastline.

There is a family of wave equations that can be used to model the behaviour of dispersive waves as they inundate a dry bed [2]. The Serre equations [3] are an important member of this family of dispersive wave equations, as they do not make assumptions about the wave amplitude and thus are fully non-linear. For this reason they are considered the most appropriate model of dispersive waves as they approach and then inundate the coastline [2].

There are many numerical methods for solving the Serre equations that are capable of modelling flows over dry beds [4–7]. The most popular approach is to split the

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15 Serre equations into their hyperbolic part given by the Shallow Water Wave Equations  
16 (SWWE) and their dispersive part [4, 6, 7]. These splitting schemes employ a modifi-  
17 cation to simulate wave-breaking; where only the SWWE are solved when some local  
18 wave breaking criteria is met.

19 Currently, there are no known analytic solutions to the Serre equations that include  
20 wetting and drying of a non-horizontal bed. Hence, numerical methods in the literature  
21 have relied on experimental results to demonstrate their validity when modelling inun-  
22 dation [4–7]. These validation tests are extended in this paper by using forced solutions  
23 of the Serre equations. Forced solutions allow the ability of the method to accurately  
24 solve problems containing the wetting and drying of bathymetry to be tested without  
25 relying on analytic solutions. Furthermore, to demonstrate the order of accuracy of  
26 the method for complicated problems a convergence analysis can be performed using  
27 forced solutions.

28 This paper also describes a new Finite Element Volume Method (FEVM) extension  
29 of the Finite Difference Volume Methods (FDVM) of Zoppou et al. [8]. In the FEVM  
30 a Finite Element Method (FEM) is used to solve the auxiliary elliptic equations instead  
31 of the finite difference methods used by the FDVM, leading to a more robust numerical  
32 method.

33 The Serre equations and their conservation properties are presented in the next sec-  
34 tion. Followed by a description of the FEVM. The numerical scheme will be validated  
35 against the lake at rest analytic solution, demonstrating that it is well-balanced. The  
36 method will then be validated for the wetting and drying of the bed using forced so-  
37 lutions to the Serre equations. Finally, the numerical method is validated against the  
38 experimental results of Synolakis [9] for the run-up of a solitary wave on a dry beach  
39 with a constant slope.

## 40 2. Serre Equations

41 The Serre equations are a system of partial differential equations that describe the  
42 free-surface waves of fluids whose motion is dominated by gravitational forces. The  
43 primitive variables of the Serre equations are the height of the free-surface  $h(x, t)$  above  
44 the bed  $b(x)$  and the depth-averaged horizontal velocity of a column of water  $u(x, t)$ .  
45 These variables are shown in Figure 1. The absolute location of the free surface is  
46 given by  $w(x, t) = h(x, t) + b(x)$ .

The Serre equations can be written in conservation law form with a source term [8]

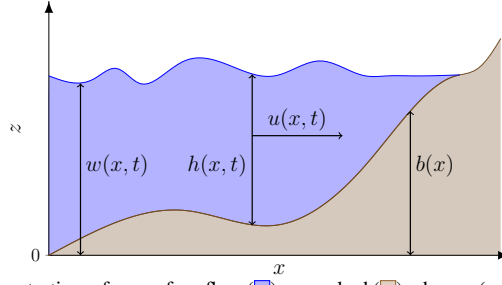


Figure 1: Diagram demonstrating a free surface flow (blue) over a bed (brown) where  $w(x, t)$  is the absolute location of the free surface,  $h(x, t)$  is the height of a column of fluid,  $u(x, t)$  is the depth-averaged horizontal velocity of a column of fluid and  $b(x)$  is the stationary bed profile.

as

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(uh)}{\partial x} = 0, \quad (1a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial G}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( uG + \frac{gh^2}{2} - \frac{2h^3}{3} \left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right]^2 + h^2 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \right) \\ + \underbrace{\frac{uh^2}{2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2} - hu^2 \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2} + gh \frac{\partial b}{\partial x}}_{\text{source term}} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (1b)$$

with the conserved quantity

$$G = uh \left( 1 + \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} + \frac{h}{2} \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2} + \left[ \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \right]^2 \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{h^3}{3} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right). \quad (2)$$

### 2.1. Conservation Properties

Since the Serre equations can be written in conservation law form with a source term for  $h$  and  $G$ , these quantities should be conserved in a closed system, as long as the contribution of the source term is zero. Here conservation of a quantity  $q$  means that the total amount of  $q$  in a system occurring on the interval  $[a, b]$  at time  $t$

$$C_q(t) = \int_a^b q(x, t) dx$$

remains constant for all  $t$ . Additionally, the Serre equations conserve the momentum  $uh$  and the energy

$$\mathcal{H}(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left( gh(h + 2b) + hu^2 + \frac{h^3}{3} \left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right]^2 + u^2 h \left[ \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \right]^2 - uh^2 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \right)$$

with  $\mathcal{H}$  being a sum of the gravitational potential and kinetic energy throughout the depth of water. An equivalent set of equations in one-dimension was derived by Green and Naghdi [11] through conservation of the energy  $\mathcal{H}$ .

### 3. Description of Numerical Method

The Serre equations (1) are solved over a spatial domain that is partitioned into  $m$  cells  $[x_{j-1/2}, x_{j+1/2}]$  of uniform length  $\Delta x$ . While time is discretised into time levels,  $t^n$  separated by a constant duration  $\Delta t$ .

Since the Serre equations can be written in conservation law form with a source term as follows

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F(\mathbf{Q})}{\partial x} + S(\mathbf{Q}) = 0$$

with the conserved quantities  $\mathbf{Q} = [h \ G]$ , they can be solved using a Finite Volume Method (FVM) with a source term approximation. The finite volume formulation for the  $j^{th}$  cell is given by

$$\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_j^{n+1} = \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_j^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (F_{j+1/2}^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n) - F_{j-1/2}^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n)) + \Delta t S_j^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n) \quad (3)$$

which employs first-order forward Euler time integration. The term  $\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_j^n$  is the average of the conserved quantities in the  $j^{th}$  cell at time  $t^n$ . The approximations to the flux across the right and left boundaries of the cell are  $F_{j+1/2}^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n)$  and  $F_{j-1/2}^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n)$  respectively and  $S_j^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n)$  is the approximation to the source terms contribution to the cell from time  $t^n$  to  $t^{n+1}$ . Second-order accurate time stepping is achieved using a Strong Stability Preserving Runge-Kutta method [12] which employs a convex combination of (3).

To approximate the intercell fluxes  $F_{j+1/2}^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n)$  and  $F_{j-1/2}^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n)$  the method of Kurganov et al. [13] was used. While the source term is approximated with the well-balancing modifications proposed by Audusse et al. [14].

To achieve a second-order accurate method using (3), second-order accurate approximations to  $h$ ,  $u$ ,  $G$ ,  $\partial u / \partial x$ ,  $\partial b / \partial x$ ,  $\partial^2 b / \partial x^2$  inside a cell are required. The conserved quantities  $h$  and  $G$  are reconstructed from the cell averages, using a linear approximation to  $h$  and  $G$  over the cell. The bed,  $b$  is reconstructed using a cubic polynomial to ensure that the approximation to  $\partial^2 b / \partial x^2$  in the source term (1) is second-order accurate.

The depth-averaged velocity  $u$  is obtained by solving (2) with a FEM given the reconstructions of  $h$ ,  $G$  and  $b$  over the cell. Thus all the required approximations are obtained allowing the use of (3) to solve (1) producing the second-order scheme.

#### 3.1. Flux Approximation

The method of Kurganov et al. [13] was employed because it can handle discontinuities across the cell boundaries and only requires an estimate of the maximum and minimum wave speeds, which are known for the Serre equations [8].

Only the calculation of the flux term  $F_{j+1/2}^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n)$  is demonstrated as the process to calculate the flux term  $F_{j-1/2}^n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^n)$  is identical but involves different cells. For a general quantity  $q$  the approximation of the flux term given by Kurganov et al. [13] is

$$F_{j+1/2}^n(q) = \frac{a_{j+1/2}^+ f(q_{j+1/2}^-) - a_{j+1/2}^- f(q_{j+1/2}^+)}{a_{j+1/2}^+ - a_{j+1/2}^-} + \frac{a_{j+1/2}^+ a_{j+1/2}^-}{a_{j+1/2}^+ - a_{j+1/2}^-} (q_{j+1/2}^+ - q_{j+1/2}^-) \quad (4)$$

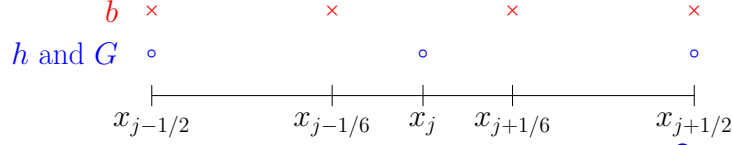


Figure 2: The conserved quantities  $h$  and  $G$  are reconstructed at  $x_{j-1/2}$ ,  $x_j$  and  $x_{j+1/2}$  (○) from their cell average values with a linear function over the cell. The bed,  $b$  is reconstructed at the equally spaced points  $x_{j-1/2}$ ,  $x_{j-1/6}$ ,  $x_{j+1/6}$  and  $x_{j+1/2}$  (×) from the nodal values with a cubic polynomial over the cell.

where  $a_{j+1/2}^+$  and  $a_{j+1/2}^-$  are given by bounds on the wave speed. With all the quantities on the right hand side representing their respective quantities at time  $t^n$ . Applying the wave speed bounds [8] then

$$a_{j+1/2}^- = \min \left\{ 0, u_{j+1/2}^- - \sqrt{gh_{j+1/2}^-}, u_{j+1/2}^+ - \sqrt{gh_{j+1/2}^+} \right\}, \quad (5a)$$

$$a_{j+1/2}^+ = \max \left\{ 0, u_{j+1/2}^- + \sqrt{gh_{j+1/2}^-}, u_{j+1/2}^+ + \sqrt{gh_{j+1/2}^+} \right\}. \quad (5b)$$

84

The flux functions  $f(q_{j+1/2}^-)$  and  $f(q_{j+1/2}^+)$  across the cell edge  $x_{j+1/2}$  are evaluated using the reconstructed values  $q_{j+1/2}^-$  from the  $j^{\text{th}}$  cell and  $q_{j+1/2}^+$  from the  $(j+1)^{\text{th}}$  cell. For the continuity equation (1a)

$$f(h_{j+1/2}^\pm) = u_{j+1/2}^\pm h_{j+1/2}^\pm \quad (6)$$

and for  $G$ , (1b)

$$\begin{aligned} f(G_{j+1/2}^\pm) = & u_{j+1/2}^\pm G_{j+1/2}^\pm + \frac{g}{2} (h_{j+1/2}^\pm)^2 - \frac{2}{3} (h_{j+1/2}^\pm)^3 \left[ \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_{j+1/2}^\pm \right]^2 \\ & + (h_{j+1/2}^\pm)^2 u_{j+1/2}^\pm \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_{j+1/2}^\pm \left( \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \right)_{j+1/2}^\pm. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

85 The quantities  $h_{j-1/2}^+$ ,  $h_{j+1/2}^-$ ,  $G_{j-1/2}^+$ ,  $G_{j+1/2}^-$  and  $(\partial b / \partial x)_{j+1/2}^\pm$  are given by the re-  
 86 constructions. While  $u_{j+1/2}^\pm$  and  $(\partial u / \partial x)_{j+1/2}^\pm$  are obtained by the FEM.

### 87 3.2. Reconstruction

88 The quantities,  $h$  and  $G$  are reconstructed using piecewise linear functions over a  
 89 cell generated from the neighbouring cell averages. While  $b$  is reconstructed from the  
 90 nodal values of the neighbouring cells  $j-2$ ,  $j-1$ ,  $j+1$  and  $j+2$  using a cubic polynomial  
 91 over those cells. The cubic polynomial ensures that the approximation to  $\partial^2 b / \partial x^2$  is  
 92 second-order accurate in cell  $j$ . The location of the reconstructed values of  $h$ ,  $G$  and  
 93  $b$  are given in Figure 2, with their corresponding reconstruction functions being the  
 94 polynomials that pass through their values at these locations. The bed is reconstructed  
 95 at the cell edges and at  $x_{j\pm 1/6}$  as these locations are equally spaced within the cell.

96 *3.2.1. The conserved quantities,  $h$  and  $G$*

Since  $h$  and  $G$  use the same reconstruction operators, the reconstruction operators will be described for a general quantity  $q$ . The values of  $q$  are reconstructed at  $x_{j-1/2}$ ,  $x_j$  and  $x_{j+1/2}$  from the cell averages  $\bar{q}_j$  using the generalised minmod limiter [15]

$$q_{j-1/2}^+ = \bar{q}_j^n - \frac{\Delta x}{2} d_j, \quad q_j = \bar{q}_j^n, \quad q_{j+1/2}^- = \bar{q}_j^n + \frac{\Delta x}{2} d_j \quad (8)$$

97 where

$$d_j = \text{minmod} \left( \theta \frac{\bar{q}_j^n - \bar{q}_{j-1}^n}{\Delta x}, \frac{\bar{q}_{j+1}^n - \bar{q}_{j-1}^n}{2\Delta x}, \theta \frac{\bar{q}_{j+1}^n - \bar{q}_j^n}{\Delta x} \right) \quad (9)$$

98 with  $\theta \in [1, 2]$ . Although  $h$  and  $G$  have three reconstruction locations in Figure 2,  
99 the resultant reconstructed function is a linear polynomial with the reconstructed nodal  
100 value at  $x_j$  being the average of the cell edge values.

101 *3.2.2. Bed profile*

The bed profile is reconstructed from the nodal values at the equally spaced locations  $x_{j-1/2}$ ,  $x_{j-1/6}$ ,  $x_{j+1/6}$  and  $x_{j+1/2}$  in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  cell shown in Figure 2. To do this an interpolating cubic polynomial for  $b$  over the  $j^{\text{th}}$  cell

$$C_j(x) = c_0 (x - x_j)^3 + c_1 (x - x_j)^2 + c_2 (x - x_j) + c_3$$

that passes through the adjacent cell nodal values  $x_{j-2}$ ,  $x_{j-1}$ ,  $x_{j+1}$  and  $x_{j+2}$  is used. This interpolating cubic has the coefficients

$$c_0 = \frac{-b_{j-2} + 2b_{j-1} - 2b_{j+1} + b_{j+2}}{12\Delta x^3}, \quad c_1 = \frac{b_{j-2} - b_{j-1} - b_{j+1} + b_{j+2}}{6\Delta x^2},$$

$$c_2 = \frac{b_{j-2} - 8b_{j-1} + 8b_{j+1} - b_{j+2}}{12\Delta x}, \quad c_3 = \frac{-b_{j-2} + 4b_{j-1} + 4b_{j+1} - b_{j+2}}{6}.$$

For the weak form of (2) to be valid, the bed profile must be continuous. To force a continuous bed profile the two possible values for  $b$  at the cell edges are averaged. Hence the reconstructions for  $b$  take the following values

$$b_{j\pm 1/2} = \frac{1}{2} (C_j(x_{j\pm 1/2}) + C_{j\pm 1}(x_{j\pm 1/2})), \quad b_{j\pm 1/6} = C_j(x_{j\pm 1/6}). \quad (10)$$

From these reconstruction values the reconstructed cubic polynomial for the bed profile

$$P_j^b(x) = p_0^b (x - x_j)^3 + p_1^b (x - x_j)^2 + p_2^b (x - x_j) + p_3^b$$

passes through the values (10) and has the following coefficients

$$p_0^b = \frac{-9b_{j-1/2} + 27b_{j-1/6} - 27b_{j+1/6} + 9b_{j+1/2}}{2\Delta x^3}, \quad p_1^b = \frac{9b_{j-1/2} - 9b_{j-1/6} - 9b_{j+1/6} + 9b_{j+1/2}}{4\Delta x^2},$$

$$p_2^b = \frac{b_{j-1/2} - 27b_{j-1/6} + 27b_{j+1/6} - b_{j+1/2}}{8\Delta x}, \quad p_3^b = \frac{-b_{j-1/2} + 9b_{j-1/6} + 9b_{j+1/6} - b_{j+1/2}}{16}.$$

The bed derivatives in (7) are approximated as follows

$$\left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial x}\right)_{j+1/2}^- = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} P_j^b(x_{j+1/2}), \quad \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial x}\right)_{j+1/2}^+ = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} P_{j+1}^b(x_{j+1/2}). \quad (11)$$

### 3.3. Calculating $u$ and $\partial u/\partial x$

To calculate  $u$  and  $\partial u/\partial x$  a FEM is used to solve (2) for  $u$  given  $h$ ,  $G$  and  $b$ . The FEM begins with the weak form of (2) using a test function  $v$  over the spatial domain  $\Omega$  resulting in

$$\int_{\Omega} uh \left(1 + \left[\frac{\partial b}{\partial x}\right]^2\right) v - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{3} h^3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right) v + uh \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2} h \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2}\right) v dx = \int_{\Omega} Gv dx.$$

Integrating by parts with zero Dirichlet boundary conditions gives

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} uh \left(1 + \left[\frac{\partial b}{\partial x}\right]^2\right) v dx + \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{3} h^3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} dx \\ - \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} uh^2 \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} dx - \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} h^2 \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} v dx = \int_{\Omega} Gv dx. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

In the weak formulation a derivative on  $h^3/3 (\partial u/\partial x)$  is removed and the double derivative of the bed is reduced to a single derivative.

By assuming that time is fixed so that all the functions only vary in space, this formulation implies that by ensuring that  $G$ ,  $h$ ,  $b$  and  $\partial b/\partial x$  have finite integrals over  $\Omega$ , then  $u$  and  $\partial u/\partial x$  must have finite integrals as well. To approximate the flux and the source terms in (1) requires  $\partial u/\partial x$  to be well defined and thus have finite integrals. Therefore, it is assumed that at time  $t$ ,  $h$  and  $G$  are square integrable functions and  $b$  is in the Sobolev space  $\mathbb{H}^1(\Omega)$ , where  $b$  and its first derivative are square integrable functions so that  $u$  is also a member of  $\mathbb{H}^1(\Omega)$ .

To approximate (12) the integration is performed over the cells and then summed together to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^m \left( \int_{x_{j-1/2}}^{x_{j+1/2}} \left[ \left( uh \left(1 + \left[\frac{\partial b}{\partial x}\right]^2\right) - \frac{1}{2} h^2 \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) v \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \left( \frac{1}{3} h^3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{2} uh^2 \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right] dx \right) = \sum_{j=1}^m \left( \int_{x_{j-1/2}}^{x_{j+1/2}} Gv dx \right) \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

over the entire domain for all test functions  $v$ . The next step is to replace the functions for  $h$ ,  $G$ ,  $b$ ,  $v$  and  $u$  with their corresponding basis function approximations.

For  $h$  and  $G$  the basis functions  $\psi$  are linear inside a cell and zero elsewhere, resulting in approximations that are square integrable, as required. For  $u$  and  $v$  the basis functions  $\phi$  are quadratic inside the cell and continuous across the cell edges, therefore their approximations are in  $\mathbb{H}^1(\Omega)$ . The basis functions of  $u$  are quadratics to allow for a second-order approximation to  $\partial u/\partial x$  in (7). Finally, for  $b$  the basis functions  $\gamma$  are

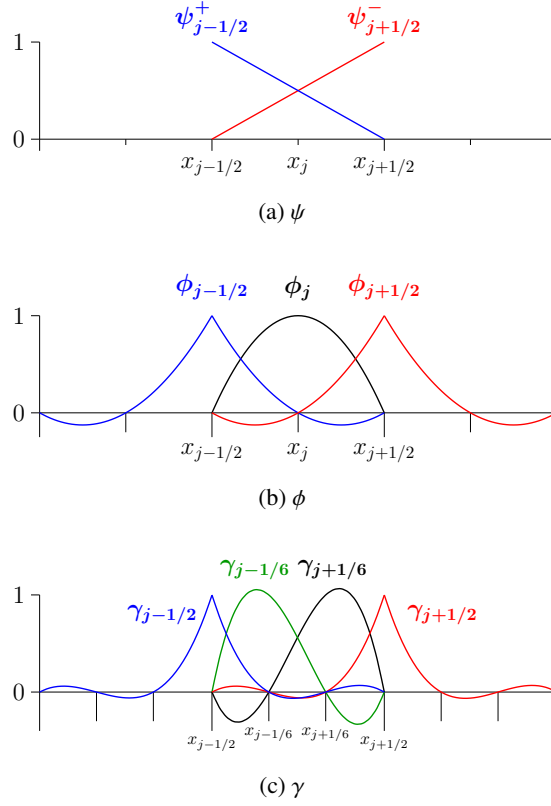


Figure 3: Support of the basis functions  $\psi$ ,  $\phi$  and  $\gamma$  which are non-zero over the  $j^{\text{th}}$  cell.

used, they are cubic polynomials inside the cell and continuous across the cell edges so that the approximation to  $b$  is in the appropriate function space. Cubic polynomials are used for  $b$  as a second-order approximation to  $\partial^2 b / \partial x^2$  is required for the source term in (1). Examples of the basis functions  $\psi$ ,  $\phi$  and  $\gamma$  for the  $j^{\text{th}}$  cell are given in Figure 3, from which their equations can be derived.

The basis function approximation to  $h$  and  $G$  in the FEM written for a generic quantity  $q$  is

$$q = \sum_{j=1}^m (q_{j-1/2}^+ \psi_{j-1/2}^+ + q_{j+1/2}^- \psi_{j+1/2}^-) \quad (14a)$$

while for  $u$  it is

$$u = u_{1/2} \phi_{1/2} + \sum_{j=1}^m (u_j \phi_j + u_{j+1/2} \phi_{j+1/2}) \quad (14b)$$

and finally for  $b$  it is

$$b = b_{1/2} \gamma_{1/2} + \sum_{j=1}^m (b_{j-1/6} \gamma_{j-1/6} + b_{j+1/6} \gamma_{j+1/6} + b_{j+1/2} \gamma_{j+1/2}). \quad (14c)$$



128 Substituting all the functions in (13) with their corresponding basis function approxi-  
 129 mations (14) the integral equation becomes a matrix equation. Assembling these ma-  
 130 trices results in

$$\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{g} \quad (15)$$

131 where  $\mathbf{A}$  is the stiffness matrix given by the integrals that contain  $u$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$  is the vector  
 132 containing the cell edge and nodal values of  $u$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  is given by the integral of  $Gv$ .  
 133 This is a penta-diagonal matrix equation which can be solved by direct banded matrix  
 134 solution techniques such as those of Press et al. [16] to obtain  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$  and thus  $u_{j+1/2}^\pm$  as  
 135 desired. Note that  $u_{j+1/2}^\pm = u_{j+1/2}$  since  $u$  is continuous across the cell edges.

To calculate  $(\partial u / \partial x)_{j+1/2}^\pm$  the derivative of (14b) is taken. Since only  $\phi_{j-1/2}$ ,  $\phi_j$  and  
 $\phi_{j+1/2}$  are non-zero over the  $j^{\text{th}}$  cell then

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_{j+1/2}^- = u_{j-1/2} \frac{\partial \phi_{j-1/2}}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_{j+1/2}} + u_j \frac{\partial \phi_j}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_{j+1/2}} + u_{j+1/2} \frac{\partial \phi_{j+1/2}}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_{j+1/2}}, \quad (16a)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_{j+1/2}^+ = u_{j+1/2} \frac{\partial \phi_{j+1/2}}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_{j+1/2}} + u_{j+1} \frac{\partial \phi_{j+1}}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_{j+1/2}} + u_{j+3/2} \frac{\partial \phi_{j+3/2}}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_{j+1/2}} \quad (16b)$$

136 where the subscript on the vertical line denotes that the derivatives of the basis func-  
 137 tions  $\phi$  are evaluated at  $x_{j+1/2}$ .

### 138 3.4. Source Term Approximation

139 To evolve the Serre equations using (3) requires an approximation to  $S_j^n(\bar{\mathcal{Q}}^n)$ . Equa-  
 140 tion (1a) has no source term, therefore only the calculation of the source term for equa-  
 141 tion (1b) is presented.

142 Since (3) is first-order accurate in time the source term approximation

$$S_j^n(\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n) = -\frac{1}{2} (h_j^n)^2 u_j^n \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_j^n \left(\frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2}\right)_j^n + h_j^n (u_j^n)^2 \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial x}\right)_j^n \left(\frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2}\right)_j^n - g h_j^n \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial x}\right)_j^n \quad (17)$$

is sufficient. The quantities  $h_j^n$  and  $u_j^n$  are given by (8) and (15) respectively. To calcu-  
 late the derivatives of  $b$  and  $u$  the approximations outlined in (11) and (14b) respectively  
 are used to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\partial b}{\partial x}\right)_j &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} P_j^b(x_j) = p_2^b, & \left(\frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2}\right)_j &= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} P_j^b(x_j) = 2p_3^b, \\ \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_j &= u_{j-1/2} \frac{\partial \phi_{j-1/2}}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_j} + u_j \frac{\partial \phi_j}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_j} + u_{j+1/2} \frac{\partial \phi_{j+1/2}}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_j} \end{aligned}$$

143 Hence, all the approximations required to perform the FVM (3) are obtained, producing  
 144 an approximation to (1) which is second-order accurate in space and first-order accurate  
 145 in time.

### 146 3.5. Courant-Frederichs-Lewy Condition

147 To ensure the stability of the FVM (3) the Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) condi-  
 148 tion [17] is used. The CFL condition is necessary for stability and ensures that time  
 149 steps are small enough so that information is only transferred between neighbouring  
 150 cells. For the Serre equations the CFL condition is

$$\Delta t \leq \frac{Cr}{\max_j \{a_{j+1/2}^\pm\}} \Delta x \quad (19)$$

151 where  $a_{j+1/2}^\pm$  are the wave-speed bounds used in the flux approximation (5) and  $0 \leq$   
 152  $Cr \leq 1$  is the Courant number. Typically, the conservative  $Cr = 0.5$  value is used in  
 153 the numerical experiments.

### 154 3.6. Time-Stepping

To increase the order of accuracy in time the second-order SSP Runge-Kutta method  
 [12] is employed, which is a convex combination of first-order forward Euler time steps  
 (3) in the following way

$$\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^{(1)} = \bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (F_{j+1/2}^n(\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n) - F_{j-1/2}^n(\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n)) + \Delta t S_j^n(\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n), \quad (20a)$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^{(2)} = \bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^{(1)} - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (F_{j+1/2}^{(1)}(\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^{(1)}) - F_{j-1/2}^{(1)}(\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^{(1)})) + \Delta t S_j^{(1)}(\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^{(1)}), \quad (20b)$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n + \bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^{(2)}). \quad (20c)$$

155 This results in a time stepping method that preserves the stability of the first-order  
 156 method and is second-order accurate in time. Since all the spatial approximations are  
 157 second-order accurate, the FEVM should be a second-order accurate solver for the  
 158 Serre equations.

### 159 3.7. Well Balancing Modifications

160 To ensure that the method is well-balanced the work of Audusse et al. [14] is fol-  
 161 lowed. This method was originally designed for the SWWE but was shown to apply  
 162 equally well to the Serre equations [18].

163 The well balancing approach makes two changes to the method outlined above.  
 164 The well-balancing modifications produce a different reconstruction of  $h$  which is used  
 165 in the flux terms (6) and (7). Additionally, correction terms are added to the source  
 166 term approximation (17). These changes ensure that the numerical approximations to  
 167 the hydrostatic pressure term in the flux and the source term cancel for the lake at rest  
 168 problem, where a still lake with a horizontal water surface remains stationary.

#### 169 3.7.1. Modified Reconstruction of $h$

The modified reconstruction of  $h$ ,  $\bar{h}$  depends on the reconstructions  $w_{j+1/2}^\pm$  of  $w$  at  
 the cell edge, which is calculated from its cell average values in the same way as  $h$  and  
 $G$ , (9). From these reconstructions the bed values

$$\tilde{b}_{j+1/2}^- = w_{j+1/2}^- - h_{j+1/2}^-, \quad \tilde{b}_{j+1/2}^+ = w_{j+1/2}^+ - h_{j+1/2}^+$$

are calculated. Because  $w_{j+1/2}^\pm$  and  $h_{j+1/2}^\pm$  are discontinuous across the cell edges,  $\tilde{b}_{j+1/2}^\pm$  may also be discontinuous across the cell edges unlike the previous reconstruction of the bed profile in (10). Given the maximum of these reconstructed bed values

$$\bar{\bar{b}}_{j+1/2} = \max \{ \tilde{b}_{j+1/2}^-, \tilde{b}_{j+1/2}^+ \}$$

the reconstruction  $\bar{\bar{h}}$  at the cell edges is given by

$$\bar{\bar{h}}_{j+1/2}^- = \max \{ 0, w_{j+1/2}^- - \bar{\bar{b}}_{j+1/2} \}, \quad \bar{\bar{h}}_{j+1/2}^+ = \max \{ 0, w_{j+1/2}^+ - \bar{\bar{b}}_{j+1/2} \}. \quad (21)$$

170 These reconstructions  $\bar{\bar{h}}_{j+1/2}^\pm$  replace  $h_{j+1/2}^\pm$  in the flux terms (6) and (7).

### 171 3.7.2. Modified Source Term

The source term is modified by adding the corrective interface source terms  $S_{j+1/2}^- (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n)$  and  $S_{j-1/2}^+ (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n)$  to obtain

$$S_j^n (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n) = \frac{1}{\Delta x} S_{j+1/2}^- (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n) + S_{ci} (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n) + \frac{1}{\Delta x} S_{j-1/2}^+ (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n).$$

The term  $S_{ci} (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n)$  is the source term approximation given in (17) with the approximation to  $\partial b / \partial x$  altered to depend on  $\tilde{b}_{j+1/2}^\pm$  like so

$$\left( \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \right)_j = \frac{\tilde{b}_{j+1/2}^- - \tilde{b}_{j-1/2}^+}{\Delta x}.$$

The corrective interface source terms are calculated in the following way

$$S_{j+1/2}^- (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n) = \frac{g}{2} (\bar{\bar{h}}_{j+1/2}^-)^2 - \frac{g}{2} (h_{j+1/2}^-)^2, \quad S_{j-1/2}^+ (\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_j^n) = \frac{g}{2} (h_{j-1/2}^+)^2 - \frac{g}{2} (\bar{\bar{h}}_{j-1/2}^+)^2.$$

172 These corrective terms ensure that when  $u = 0$  and the water surface is horizontal,  
173 that  $S_j^n = (F_{j+1/2}^n - F_{j-1/2}^n) / \Delta x$ , ensuring that the method is well-balanced. The cor-  
174 rection terms make use of  $h_{j+1/2}^\pm$  obtained from the reconstruction (8) and the other  
175 reconstructions  $\bar{\bar{h}}_{j+1/2}^\pm$  from (21).

### 176 3.8. Dry Bed Handling Modifications

177 Dry beds present two issues for the FEM; (i) when  $h$  and  $G$  are small then small  
178 errors in  $h$  and  $G$  can produce large errors in  $u$  leading to instabilities and (ii) when  
179  $h = 0$  the stiffness matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , (15) becomes singular.

Issue (i), where large errors in  $u$  are produced when  $h$  is small also arises when solving the SWWE due to  $u = (uh)/h$  being undefined as  $uh$  and  $h$  vanish. For the Serre equations with horizontal beds, from (2) when  $h \ll 1$

$$G = uh + O(h^3).$$

180 Since  $h \ll 1$  the  $O(h^3)$  terms can be neglected, and thus when  $h$  is small  $G$  is ap-  
181 proximately equal to the momentum  $uh$ . Hence, the challenges posed by  $h \rightarrow 0$  for

the SWWE and the Serre equations are similar. Therefore, dry bed handling techniques from the SWWE, such as the desingularisation transformations of Kurganov and Petrova [19] can be applied to the Serre equations.

These desingularisation transforms act by modifying the calculation of  $u$  given  $h$  and  $uh$  to avoid the singularity as the numerator and denominator approach zero, hence their name. The simplest such transformation is

$$u = \frac{(uh)h}{h^2 + \epsilon} \quad (22)$$

where  $\epsilon$  is some small chosen parameter. The error introduced by this transformation is smallest when  $\epsilon$  is smallest. However, as noted by Kurganov and Petrova [19] small values of  $\epsilon$  lead to large numerical errors in the calculation of  $u$ . To avoid such errors  $\epsilon$  can be made larger or following Kurganov and Petrova [19] a different desingularisation transformation can be employed. For the validations described later the simpler transformation with small values of  $\epsilon$  was found to be more useful.

The desingularisation transformation for  $u$ , (22) produces an equivalent transformation of  $h$

$$\frac{1}{h} \rightarrow \frac{h}{h^2 + \epsilon}. \quad (23)$$

Therefore, the reconstructed values of  $h$  in the FEM are transformed as follows

$$\frac{1}{h_{j-1/2}^\pm} = \frac{h_{j-1/2}^\pm}{(h_{j-1/2}^\pm)^2 + \epsilon} \quad (24)$$

where on the right hand side are the reconstructed values of  $h$  from (8) and the left hand side are the values of  $h$  used to defined the basis functions of the FEM (14a). In the numerical experiments in this paper,  $\epsilon = 10^{-8}$ . The transformation (24) is applied to all terms containing  $h$  in the FEM, avoiding the singularity as  $h \rightarrow 0$ .

To resolve issue (ii), where  $\mathbf{A}$  becomes singular when  $h$  vanishes, (15) is solved for  $u$  in wet cells only. Wet and dry cells are identified using the cell average  $\bar{h}$ . A cell is considered dry when  $\bar{h}_j \leq h_{tol}$  and wet otherwise. For dry cells

$$\begin{aligned} h_{j-1/2}^+ &= 0, & G_{j-1/2}^+ &= 0, & w_{j-1/2}^+ &= b_{j-1/2}, \\ h_j &= 0, & G_j &= 0, & w_j &= b_j, \\ h_{j+1/2}^- &= 0, & G_{j+1/2}^- &= 0, & w_{j+1/2}^- &= b_{j+1/2}, \\ u_j &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

and if the neighbouring cells are dry then the velocity at the cell edges vanish so that

$$\begin{aligned} u_{j-1/2} &= 0 \quad \text{when} \quad \bar{h}_{j-1} \leq h_{tol}, \\ u_{j+1/2} &= 0 \quad \text{when} \quad \bar{h}_{j+1} \leq h_{tol}. \end{aligned}$$

For the numerical experiments in this paper  $h_{tol} = 10^{-12}$ .

To ensure that the matrix solution of (15) is robust in the presence of small values of  $h$ , an LU decomposition with partial pivoting [16] is used. The pivot tolerance value for this matrix solution algorithm was  $p_{tol} = 10^{-20}$  and any pivot values below  $p_{tol}$  were made equal to  $p_{tol}$ .

## 206 4. Validation

207 To confirm that the numerical method has the appropriate order of accuracy, is  
 208 well-balanced and can handle dry-beds an analytic solution, forced solution and ex-  
 209 perimental results were used. Firstly, the convergence and conservation properties of  
 210 the method for the lake at rest analytic solution are established. Secondly, the conver-  
 211 gence rate of the numerical method is confirmed using a forced solution of the Serre  
 212 equations. Finally, a numerical solution is compared to the experimental results of  
 213 Synolakis [9], which involves a solitary wave travelling up a sloping beach.

### 214 4.1. Measures of Error

The  $L_2$  vector norm was used to measure the error between a numerical solution at  
 the cell nodes  $\mathbf{q}^*$  and the analytic or forced solution at the cell nodes  $\mathbf{q}$  using

$$L_2(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}^*) = \begin{cases} \frac{\|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{q}\|_2}{\|\mathbf{q}\|_2} & \|\mathbf{q}\|_2 > 0 \\ \|\mathbf{q}^*\|_2 & \|\mathbf{q}\|_2 = 0. \end{cases}$$

215 By investigating the behaviour of  $L_2(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}^*)$  for numerical solutions with various  $\Delta x$   
 216 values the convergence rate of the method was established.

The conservation properties of the method are studied using the conservation error

$$C^*(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}^*) = \begin{cases} \frac{|C^*(\mathbf{q}^*) - C^*(\mathbf{q})|}{|C^*(\mathbf{q})|} & |C^*(\mathbf{q})| > 0 \\ |C^*(\mathbf{q}^*)| & |C^*(\mathbf{q})| = 0. \end{cases}$$

217 The conservation error  $C^*(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}^*)$  compares the total amount of  $q$  in the numerical solu-  
 218 tion at the end of the simulation  $C^*(\mathbf{q}^*)$  to the total amount of  $q$  in the initial conditions  
 219  $C^*(\mathbf{q})$ . The total amount of a quantity is calculated numerically by summing the total  
 220 amount of  $q$  in each cell. Fifth-order accurate Gaussian quadrature of a quartic inter-  
 221 polation of  $q$ , using the neighbouring nodal values is used to calculate the total amount  
 222 of  $q$  in a cell.

### 223 4.2. Lake at Rest Solution Validation

224 The lake at rest is a stationary analytic solution of the Serre equations where a still  
 225 lake has a horizontal water surface over any bathymetry. This solution is maintained  
 226 due to the balance of the hydrostatic pressure and the forcing of the bed slope. A well-  
 227 balanced numerical method should accurately reproduce this lake at rest stationary  
 228 solution.

To test whether the method is well-balanced the following lake at rest solution

$$\begin{aligned} h(x, t) &= \max \{a_0 - b(x), 0\}, & b(x) &= a_1 \sin(a_2 x), \\ u(x, t) &= 0, & G(x, t) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

229 was used. To demonstrate the capability of the method in the presence of dry and  
 230 wet regions of the bed, the parameter values  $a_0 = 0m$ ,  $a_1 = 1m$  and  $a_2 = 2\pi/50m^{-1}$

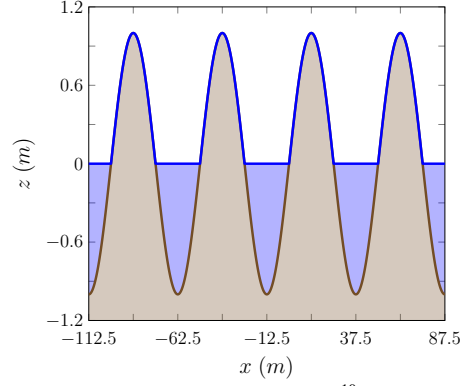


Figure 4: Numerical solution for  $w$  (blue line) and  $b$  (brown shaded area) with  $\Delta x = 100/2^{10}m$  for the lake at rest problem at  $t = 10s$ .

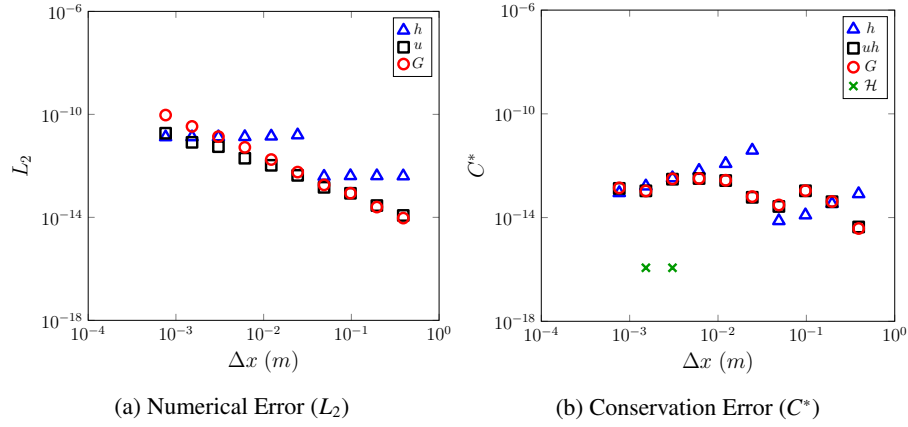


Figure 5: The numerical error ( $h$ ,  $u$  and  $G$ ) and conservation error ( $h$ ,  $uh$ ,  $G$   $\mathcal{H}$ ) against  $\Delta x$  for the lake at rest problem at  $t = 10s$ .

231 were chosen. These parameter values result in lakes with a horizontal free surface  
 232 surrounded by dry regions.

233 For the numerical solutions the spatial domain was  $x \in [-112.5m, 87.5m]$  and the  
 234 final time was  $t = 10s$ , with the standard gravitational acceleration  $g = 9.81m/s^2$ . The  
 235 spatial resolution of the method was varied so that  $\Delta x = 100/2^k m$  with  $k \in [8, \dots, 17]$   
 236 and the CFL condition (19) was satisfied by having  $\Delta t = Cr \Delta x / \sqrt{g}$  with condition  
 237 number  $Cr = 0.5$ . The generalised limiter parameter  $\theta = 1.2$  was used in (9). Dirichlet  
 238 boundary conditions were used at both ends as the analytic solution is stationary.

239 The numerical method is assessed by comparing the numerical solution at  $t = 10s$   
 240 to the analytic solution, which are the initial conditions.

241 An example numerical solution with  $\Delta x = 100/2^{10}m \approx 0.0977m$  at  $t = 10s$  is given  
 242 in Figure 4. The numerical solution in this Figure is indistinguishable from the analytic  
 243 solution at this scale and so the analytic solution has been omitted.

244 Examination of the  $L_2$  errors depicted in Figure 5(a) reveals that the method repro-

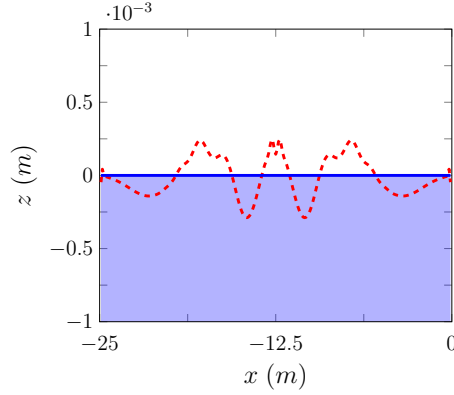


Figure 6: Numerical solution for  $w$  with (—) and without (---) well-balancing modifications over  $[-25, 0]$  for the lake at rest problem at  $t = 10s$  where  $\Delta x = 100/2^{10}m$ .

duced  $h$ ,  $G$  and  $u$  precisely, accounting for round-off errors. The errors for  $h$ ,  $G$  and  $u$  are increasing as  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$  due to an accumulation of round-off errors.

The conservation errors as measured by  $C^*$  for  $h$ ,  $uh$ ,  $G$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  are shown in Figure 5(b). The conservation error of these conserved quantities demonstrates that all quantities are conserved within machine precision, with  $\mathcal{H}$  being conserved exactly for most numerical solutions, hence its disappearance from the log-log plot. The conservation error of  $\mathcal{H}$  is small for the lake at rest solution since  $u$  and therefore the kinetic energy vanish.

These results demonstrate that the developed method has accurately reproduced the lake at rest solution and is therefore well-balanced. Without the employed well-balancing modifications the numerical solution quickly develops non-zero velocities and a non-horizontal water surface profile which can be seen in Figure 6.

#### 4.3. Forced Solution Validation

There are currently no known analytic solution of the Serre equations for the wetting and drying of bathymetry. To test the capability of the numerical method in this environment a forced solution is used.

To generate a forced solution arbitrary functions for all of the primitive quantities;  $h$ ,  $u$  and  $b$ , denoted  $h^\#$ ,  $u^\#$  and  $b^\#$  respectively were selected. To ensure that these functions  $h^\#$ ,  $u^\#$  and  $b^\#$  are exact solutions the Serre equations are modified by adding

the terms  $S_h$  and  $S_G$  to obtain the forced Serre equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(uh)}{\partial x} + S_h &= 0, \\ \frac{\partial G}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( uG + \frac{gh^2}{2} - \frac{2h^3}{3} \left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right]^2 + h^2 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \right) \\ + \frac{uh^2}{2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2} - hu^2 \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2} + gh \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} + S_G &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} S_h &= -\frac{\partial h^\#}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial(u^\# h^\#)}{\partial x}, \\ S_G &= -\frac{\partial G^\#}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( u^\# G^\# + \frac{g[h^\#]^2}{2} - \frac{2[h^\#]^3}{3} \left[ \frac{\partial u^\#}{\partial x} \right]^2 + [h^\#]^2 u^\# \frac{\partial u^\#}{\partial x} \frac{\partial b^\#}{\partial x} \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{u^\# [h^\#]^2}{2} \frac{\partial u^\#}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 b^\#}{\partial x^2} + h^\# [u^\#]^2 \frac{\partial b^\#}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 b^\#}{\partial x^2} - gh^\# \frac{\partial b^\#}{\partial x}. \end{aligned}$$

261 These forced Serre equations are then numerically solved by solving the Serre equations (1) with the analytic values of  $S_h$  and  $S_G$  given  $h^\#$ ,  $u^\#$  and  $b^\#$ . Hence, the only error present in the numerical solutions of the forced Serre equations is the error produced by the numerical method used to solve the original Serre equations.

262 Note that since the choice of the forced solutions  $h^\#$ ,  $u^\#$  and  $b^\#$  is arbitrary the solutions of the forced Serre equations need not be conservative or retain any properties of the underlying Serre equations.

#### 268 4.3.1. Dry Bed Forced Solution Problem

To test the capability of the numerical method to solve the Serre equations the following expressions were chosen

$$h^\#(x, t) = a_0 \exp\left(-\frac{[(x - a_1 t) - a_2]^2}{2a_3}\right), \quad (25a)$$

$$u^\#(x, t) = a_4 \exp\left(-\frac{[(x - a_1 t) - a_2]^2}{2a_3}\right), \quad (25b)$$

$$b^\#(x) = a_5 \sin(a_6 x) \quad (25c)$$

269 for the primitive variables. These functions produce a Gaussian bump for  $h$  and  $u$  that travels at a fixed speed  $a_1$  over a dry periodic bed. Thus,  $h$  and  $u$  will have constant



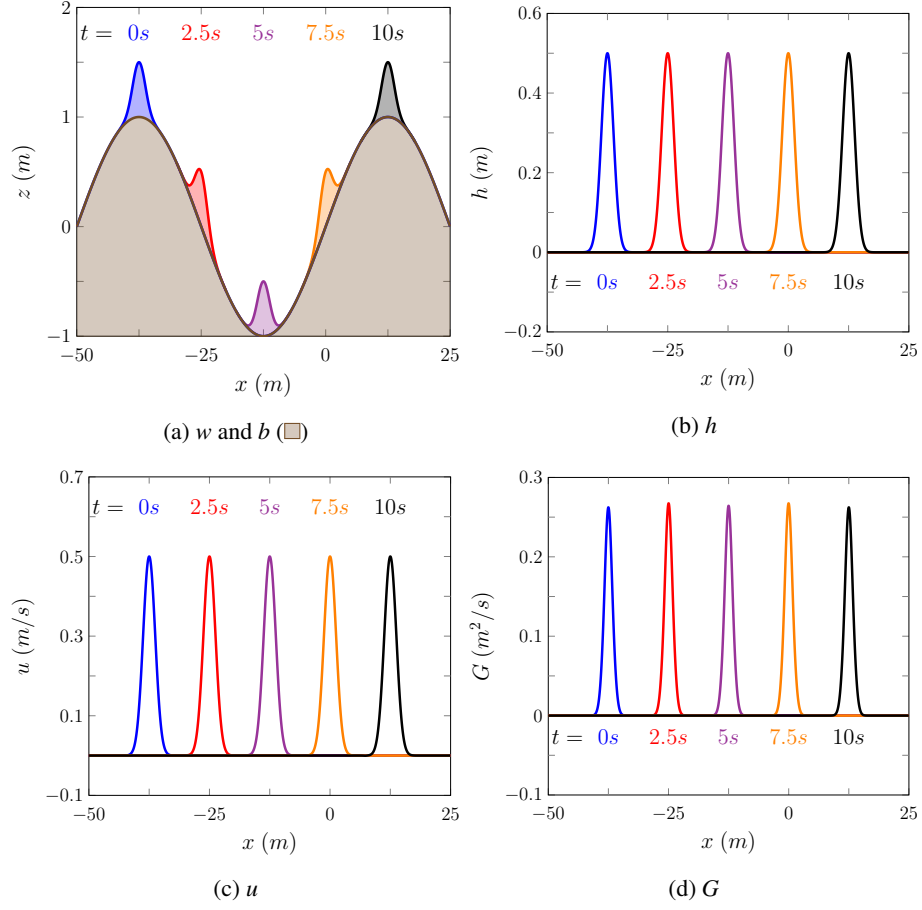


Figure 7: Example numerical solutions for  $w$ ,  $b$ ,  $h$ ,  $G$  with  $\Delta x = 100/2^{14}m$  at various times for the dry bed forced solution problem.

shape and travel in the positive  $x$ -direction over time. The quantity  $G$  will not maintain a constant shape due to its dependence on the bed slope which varies over  $x$ .

The values  $a_0 = 0.5m$ ,  $a_1 = 2\pi/(10a_7)m/s$ ,  $a_2 = -3\pi/(2a_6)m$ ,  $a_3 = \pi/(16a_6)m^2$ ,  $a_4 = 0.5m/s$ ,  $a_5 = 1.0m$  and  $a_6 = \pi/25m^{-1}$  were used. These parameter values produce a Gaussian bump in  $h$  and  $u$  that has a width much smaller than the wavelength of the bed profile and travels precisely one wavelength of the bed in 10s.

The domain of the numerical solutions was  $x \in [-112.5m, 87.5m]$  with  $t \in [0s, 10s]$ . The standard gravitational acceleration  $g = 9.81m/s^2$  was used. The spatial resolution of numerical methods was varied so that  $\Delta x = 100/2^k m$  with  $k \in [8, \dots, 17]$ . To satisfy the CFL condition (19) the temporal resolution  $\Delta t = Cr \Delta x / (a_1 + a_4 + \sqrt{g(a_0)})$  was chosen with condition number  $Cr = 0.5$ . The value  $\theta = 1.2$  was used in the generalised minmod limiter (9) and Dirichlet boundary conditions were applied at the boundaries of the domain.

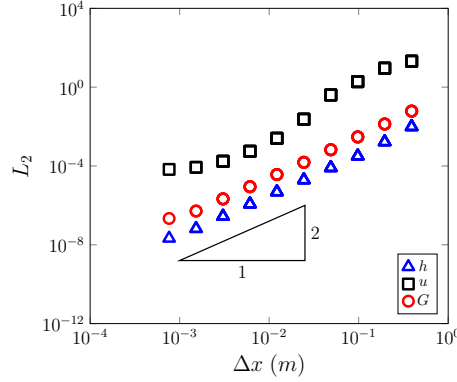


Figure 8: Errors as measured by  $L_2$  against  $\Delta x$  for  $h$ ,  $u$ , and  $G$  for numerical solutions to the dry bed forced solution problem at  $t = 10s$ .

Plots of  $w$ ,  $h$ ,  $u$  and  $G$  are given in Figure 7 for the numerical solution with  $\Delta x = 100/2^{14}m \approx 0.0061m$ . The numerical solutions of  $w$ ,  $h$ ,  $u$  and  $G$  well reproduce their respective forced solutions.

The calculation of  $u$  in the presence of dry beds does possess significant errors due to the desingularisation transformation (24), as observed by the  $L_2$  errors in Figure 8. For  $h$  and  $G$  the desired second-order accuracy is achieved for the entire range of  $\Delta x$  values. The velocity,  $u$  also attains second-order accuracy for  $\Delta x$  values around  $10^{-2}$  however, the second-order accuracy is lost as  $\Delta x$  decreases further. This plateau in the error for small  $\Delta x$  values is due to the desingularisation techniques error in approximating  $h$  with (24) using  $\epsilon = 10^{-8}$ . When  $h \approx 10^{-4}$  then  $h^2 \approx \epsilon$  and the errors introduced by (24) become significant, hindering further reduction in the error of the velocity below  $10^{-4}$ . To circumvent this requires lowering  $\epsilon$  further which can significantly increase the error in the velocity [19]. Importantly, these errors in  $u$  are not transmitted to  $h$  and  $G$  as they occur when  $h$  is small and all the flux and source terms that include  $u$  are multiplied by some power of  $h$ .

The goal of using this forced solution was to confirm the convergence rate of the numerical method for the wetting and drying of variable beds. For this purpose the chosen desingularisation transform (24) with these  $\epsilon$  and  $h_{tol}$  values was sufficient. These results demonstrate that the FEVM reproduced the forced solution well, validating the method for flows over dry bathymetry.

#### 4.4. Run-up of a Solitary Wave

To study the run-up of incoming waves on linear beaches a series of experiments were conducted by Synolakis [9]. These experiments consisted of a number of run-up events for a wide array of breaking and non-breaking waves where snapshots of the entire water surface were taken at certain times. These experiments were all performed on the beach profile depicted in Figure 9, where all the quantities are non-dimensionalised [9]. A prime is used to denote that a quantity is non-dimensionalised. One of these experiments, which captured the run-up of a non-breaking solitary wave was used to assess the numerical method.

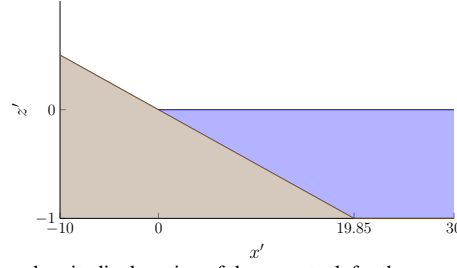


Figure 9: Diagram showing a longitudinal section of the wave tank for the run-up experiment with the water (blue) and the bed (brown) where the coordinates have been non-dimensionalised [9].

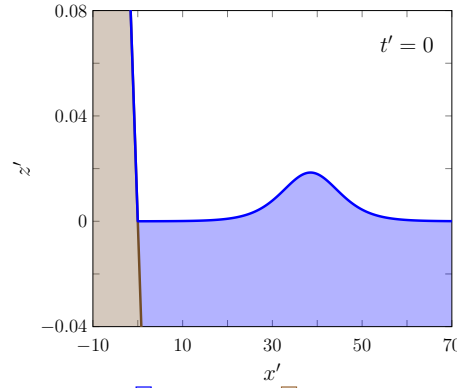


Figure 10: Initial water surface profile (blue) over the bed (brown) for the run-up experiment of Synolakis [9].

313 The numerical method used the non-dimensionalised quantities reported by Syno-  
 314 lakis [9] to reproduce the experiment. The spatial domain was  $x' \in [-30, 150]$  with a  
 315 resolution of  $\Delta x = 0.05$  and was run until  $t' = 250$  with the CFL condition (19) satis-  
 316 fied by setting  $\Delta t = 0.1\Delta x$ . The spatial reconstruction used  $\theta = 1.2$  and the acceleration  
 317 due to gravity  $g = 1$  was chosen to match the non-dimensionalisation.

318 The same initial conditions are used to construct this numerical experiment as those  
 319 of Li et al. [5], producing the initial water surface profile depicted in Figure 10.

320 The non-dimensionalised water surface data is given at the various times in Figure  
 321 11. The error in conservation of  $h'$ ,  $u'h'$ ,  $G'$  and  $\mathcal{H}'$  by  $t' = 250$  as measured by  $C^*$  are  
 322 given in Table 1.

323 The numerical solution reproduces the incoming wave properties and the maximum  
 324 run-up well, and compares well to numerical solutions presented in the literature [5, 6].  
 325 The experimental wave appears to be more skewed towards the shoreline, but this shape  
 326 difference has all but disappeared as the wave begins to inundate the shore. The only  
 327 other noticeable difference is that the numerical solution appears to recede further than  
 328 the experimental results. The observed larger run-down is likely caused by the omission  
 329 of bed friction for the Serre equations in this paper.

330 Both  $h'$  and  $\mathcal{H}'$  are well conserved by the method throughout the run-up and run-  
 331 down of the wave, particularly  $h'$ . The total energy  $\mathcal{H}'$  of the method is also well  
 332 conserved, however  $\mathcal{H}'$  appears to have slightly increased in the method during the

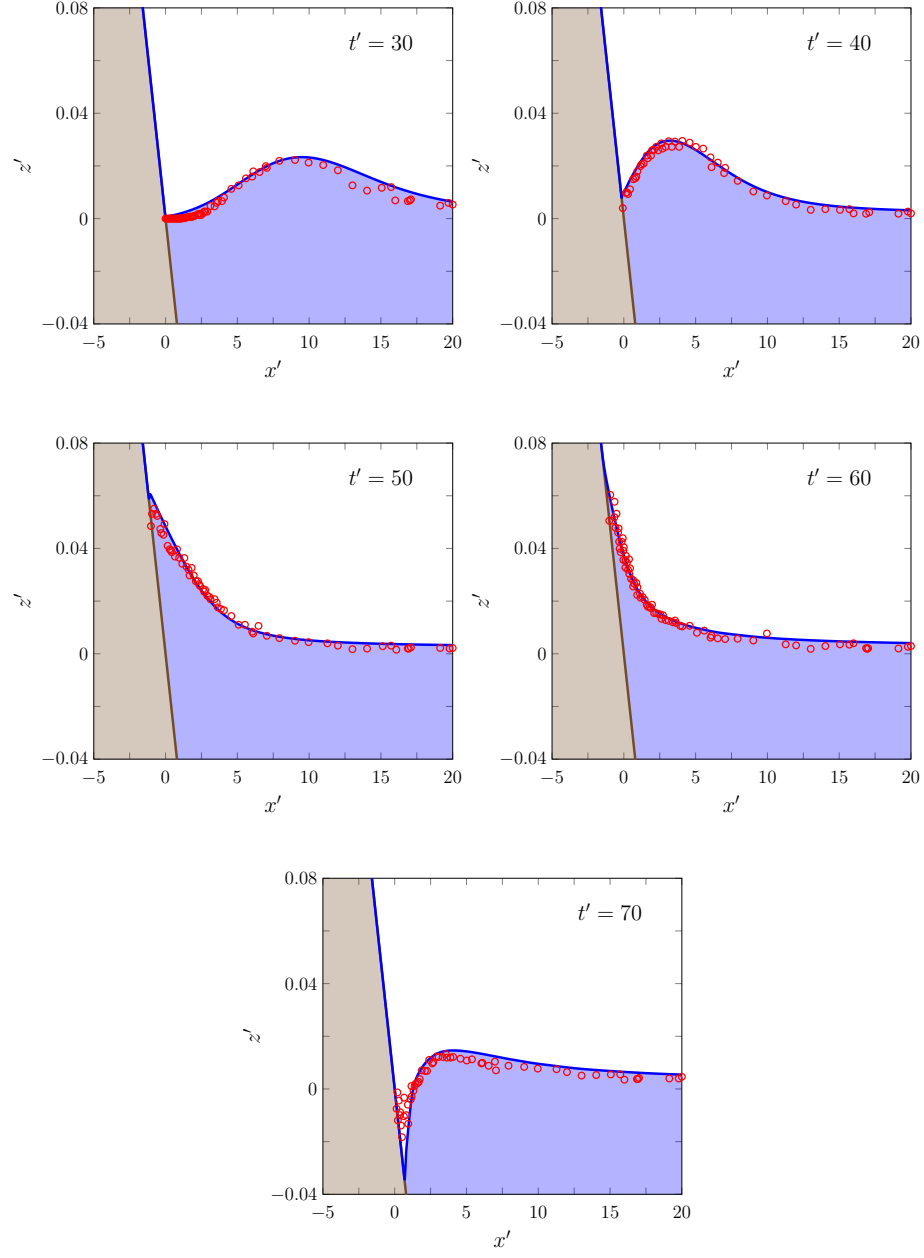


Figure 11: A comparison of the water surface profiles  $w'(x', t')$  for the experiment (○) and the numerical solution (—) over the bed (■) at various times.

Quantity	$C^*(q^0)$	$C^*(q^*)$	$C^*(q^0, q^*)$
$h'$	$2.40 \times 10^2$	$2.40 \times 10^2$	$1.33 \times 10^{-10}$
$u'h'$	$-3.19 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.19 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.96 \times 10^{-4}$
$G'$	$-3.19 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.19 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.88 \times 10^{-4}$
$\mathcal{H}'$	$-1.18 \times 10^2$	$-1.18 \times 10^2$	$3.77 \times 10^{-7}$

Table 1: Initial and final ( $t' = 250$ ) total amounts and the conservation error for the conserved quantities in the numerical solution of the run-up experiment. Here the absolute value of the total amount of  $uh$  and  $G$  are taken in the error as the wave has reflected off the beach.

run-up process due to the handling of the dry bed problem. During this experiment kinetic energy is converted into gravitational potential energy and then back again as the wave is reflected. By  $t' = 250$  the reflection of the wave is complete and the total amount of  $u'h'$  and  $G'$  have changed signs, although their errors are small if this is considered. Given that kinetic energy and gravitational energy were exchanged and the handling of the dry bed, the conservation error of  $u'h'$  and  $G'$  is good.

The Serre equations have reproduced the experimental result of Synolakis [9] well, experimentally validating the numerical methods ability to solve the Serre equations for flows over dry beds.

## 5. Conclusion

A second-order numerical method for the one-dimensional Serre equations with varying bathymetry was described. The method uses a FVM to solve the Serre equations in conservation law form and improves previous versions of the FVM solvers for the Serre equations [8], by using a FEM to solve for the depth-averaged horizontal velocity. The method is modified to ensure that it is well-balanced, maintaining a steady state solution over arbitrary bathymetry and is able to handle flows over dry beds. The numerical method was validated against the lake at rest stationary solution and shown to be well-balanced. Furthermore, it reproduced forced solutions containing the wetting and drying of a variable bed with second-order accuracy, affirming its ability to adequately solve the Serre equations for flows over a dry bed. Finally, the numerical solution was compared to the experimental results of Synolakis [9], demonstrating the ability of the numerical method to accurately reproduce physical results involving wave run-up on a dry bed. These validation results extend those produced by other solvers of the Serre equations for flows over dry beds [4–7] by demonstrating convergence using forced solutions.

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