

"Beautiful" photographs of clouds resulting from the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability photographed in the Valley of Meina (Burgos)\*  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robertwilhelmson/5111119/>

Atms 502, CSE 566

*Numerical Fluid Dynamics*

THU, MAR. 28, 2019

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2

**Plan for Today**

- 1) Review
  - Time differencing; table
- 2) Nonlinear instability & aliasing
  - Problems, and methods to mitigate them
- 3) Quasi-compressible system
  - On to nonlinear problems & methods
- 4) Semi-Lagrangian methods
  - Intro. to advantages, questions

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3

Aliasing, nonlinear instability, and conservation

REFERENCES:  
 DURRAN SECTION § 4.4.1, 4.5  
 ROBERT WILHELMSON NOTES  
 HALTNER AND WILLIAMS SECTION 5-11-1  
 PAUL SCHOFF NOTES, SCHOOL OF COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES,  
 GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY (MASON.GMU.EDU)

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4

**Review: Nonlinear doubling**

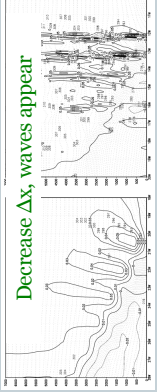
- Inviscid Burger's equation
 
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \text{-or-} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{u^2}{2} \right) = 0$$
  - The problem for finite differences lies in the multiplication.\*
- Let  $u = \sin(kx)$ ; then
 
$$u = \sin kx \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (u^2) = k \sin 2kx$$
  - Effective wavenumber is now  $2k$ .
  - If wavenumber exceeds  $k_{max} = (2\pi) / (2\Delta x)$ : *unresolvable*.

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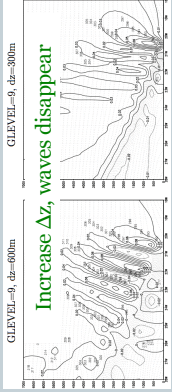
### 5

## Resolution, dimensions and aliasing

- In some flows, there can be a required link between horizontal & vertical grid spacing.
  - in this particular case,  $\Delta z/\Delta x$  must be  $\leq 1/100$
  - $\Delta x$  "too small" or  $\Delta z$  "too large"  $\Rightarrow$  spurious waves
    - could be **aliasing**: small but resolved wavelengths in one dimension ... produce **unresolvable** wavelengths in another.
    - some modelers add **diffusion** to remove noise - which lowers the effective resolution!:



Decrease  $\Delta x$ , waves appear



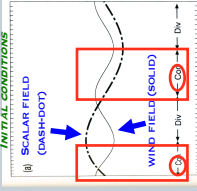
Increase  $\Delta x$ , waves disappear

Iga (2005)

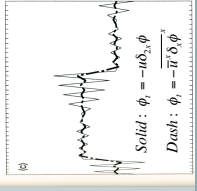
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### 6

## Sharp gradients from smooth IC



INITIAL CONDITIONS  
(a) SCALAR FIELD (DASH-DOT)  
(b) WIND FIELD (SOLID)



"TRUE" SOLUTION  
(c) SCALAR FIELD  
(d) WIND FIELD

DURRAN FIG. 4.9

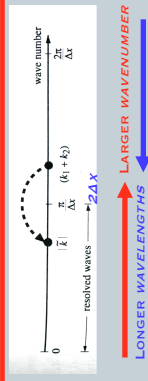
- Simple differential (t) - difference (x) equation results
- Problem**: linear equation, variable coefficients
  - in other words,  $c=c(x)$ , but not (t)
- Small scales grow preferentially

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### 7

## Aliasing


- Where do unresolved waves "go" ?
  - Durrnan eqn. 3.91:
 
$$\tilde{k} = \begin{cases} k_1 + k_2 - \frac{2\pi}{\Delta x}, & \text{if } k_1 + k_2 > \frac{\pi}{\Delta x} \\ k_1 + k_2 + \frac{2\pi}{\Delta x}, & \text{if } k_1 + k_2 < \frac{-\pi}{\Delta x} \end{cases}$$
  - Examples:
    - $\times 2\Delta x \cdot 2.5\Delta x \rightarrow 10\Delta x$
    - $\times (4/3)\Delta x \rightarrow 4\Delta x$
  - Note if **both** waves are  $4\Delta x$  or longer: **no aliasing**



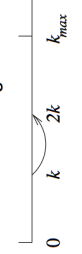
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### 8


## Aliasing



Aliasing



Nonlinear Doubling



Nonlinear Doubling and Aliasing

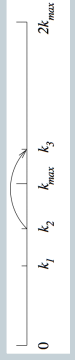
- Schopf (2005) - **Nonlinear doubling and aliasing**
- Energy "folded" into low k
- Short** waves generate **long** wave energy

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### Nonlinear instability

9

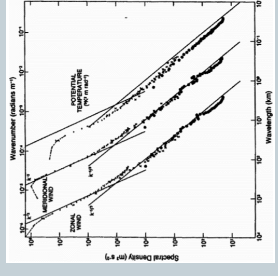
- If energy flows into wavenumbers *just above*  $k_{max}$  ...
- Aliasing folds it back to wavenumbers *just below*  $k_{max}$ 
  - builds up energy near grid resolution limit
  - Further nonlinear interaction enhances flow into wavenumbers just above  $k_{max}$ : accelerates process
  - This is nonlinear instability.
- What about amplitude?
  - More energy at low  $k$ . Say  $k_2$  just below  $k_{max}$  ...
  - Nonlinear ( $k_1+k_2$ ) has more energy *if*  $k_1$  *small*.



### Nonlinear instability

10

- $2\Delta x \cdot 2.5\Delta x \rightarrow 10\Delta x$
- $2\Delta x \cdot 8\Delta x \rightarrow 2.7\Delta x$
- more energy: *small*  $k$



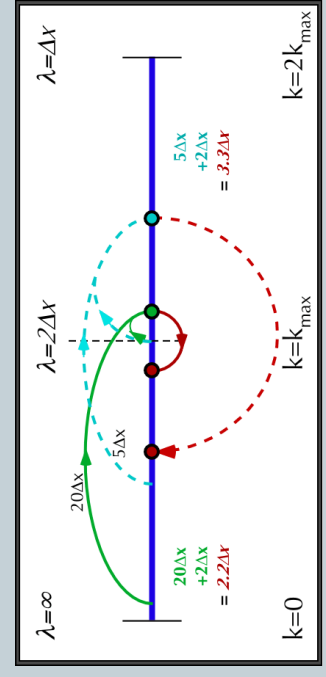
### Aliasing in wavenumber space

11

Input wave	Input $k / k_{max}$	+ $2\Delta x$ $k / k_{max}$	aliased $k / k_{max}$	= final $N\Delta x$
2.1 $\Delta x$	0.95	1.95	0.05	42 $\Delta x$
5.0 $\Delta x$	0.40	1.40	0.60	3.3 $\Delta x$
10 $\Delta x$	0.20	1.20	0.80	2.5 $\Delta x$
20 $\Delta x$	0.10	1.10	0.90	2.2 $\Delta x$

### Aliasing in wavenumber space

12



### Nonlinear instability (13)

- **What to do?**
  - Apply **spectral filter** to remove energy from wavenumbers  $> k_{\max}/2$
  - Apply **Lax-Wendroff differencing**
    - ✦ damps high wavenumbers
  - Changed **form of finite differencing**
    - ✦ Arakawa (1972)
    - ✦ Durrant example
  - **Other methods** (e.g. monotonicity, flux limiting)

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### Nonlinear instability (14)

- **Arakawa Jacobian\***

$$\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + v \cdot \nabla \zeta = 0 \text{ and } u = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, v = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}, \zeta = \nabla^2 \psi$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} = -J(\psi, \zeta), \text{ where } J(a, b) = \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \frac{\partial b}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial a}{\partial y} \frac{\partial b}{\partial x}$$
  - sought form of Jacobian **J** that conserved
    - ✦ average *kinetic energy*
    - ✦ average *enstrophy*

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 FOLLOWING MALTINER & WILLIAMS

### Nonlinear instability (15)

- **Arakawa Jacobian**
  - $(J^{++} + J^{*+} + J^{*+})/3$  conserves KE, enstrophy, and *mean wavenumber*
  - Prevents nonlinear instability
    - ✦ **but: time differencing; still need smoothing**

$$J^{++} = \left[ \psi_1 - \psi_3 \right] (\zeta_2 - \zeta_4) - (\psi_2 - \psi_4) (\zeta_1 - \zeta_3) \left[ \frac{1}{4\Delta x^2} \right]$$

$$J^{*+} = \left[ \psi_1 (\zeta_5 - \zeta_8) - \psi_3 (\zeta_6 - \zeta_7) - \psi_2 (\zeta_5 - \zeta_6) + \psi_4 (\zeta_8 - \zeta_7) \right] \left[ \frac{1}{4\Delta x^2} \right]$$

$$J^{*+} = \left[ \zeta_1 (\psi_5 - \psi_6) - \zeta_4 (\psi_8 - \psi_7) - \zeta_1 (\psi_5 - \psi_8) + \zeta_3 (\psi_6 - \psi_7) \right] \left[ \frac{1}{4\Delta x^2} \right]$$

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### Nonlinear instability (16)

- **Burger's Equation – Durrant § 4.5**
  - Durrant shows differential-difference solution to (nonlinear, undamped) Burger's equation
  - **True solution:** shock forms.
  - **Numerical solution:**
    - ✦ **advective form:**  $\frac{d\phi_j}{dt} + \phi_j \left( \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_{j-1}}{2\Delta x} \right) = 0$
    - ✦ **flux form:**  $\frac{d\phi_j}{dt} + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\phi_{j+1}^2 - \phi_{j-1}^2}{2\Delta x} \right) = 0$
    - ✦ **"conservative" form:**  $\frac{d\phi_j}{dt} + \frac{\phi_j}{3} \left( \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_{j-1}}{2\Delta x} \right) + \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{\phi_{j+1}^2 - \phi_{j-1}^2}{2\Delta x} \right) = 0$

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## Nonlinear instability (17)

- **Burger's Equation - Durran**
  - Instabilities in this case appear associated with the formation of shock, but...
  - Shock **not** required for nonlinear instability
  - Nonlinear instability **can develop in smooth flow**
    - ✦ **Example:** variable flow (with sinusoidal  $c(x)$ )
    - ✦ **Example:** viscous Burger's equation
      - there are values of  $v$  for which no shock forms (true case) but for which instability occurs (numerical solution)

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \phi \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = \nu \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2}$$

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## The quasi-compressible approximation (18)

### Why use this system ?

- **Computationally efficient** - no elliptic system to solve
- **Retains full accuracy and simple boundary conditions** of the fully compressible system (Liu et al., JAS, 2003)
- **3-4x speed** of fully compressible model (Droegemeier et al.)

*Reference information*  
 • A031 – Boussinesq approximation  
 • A033 – Quasi-compressible approximation (theory)  
 • C065 – Quasi-compressible approximation (application)

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## Quasi-compressible system (19)

(Orr et al., JAS 1996)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\vec{V} \cdot \vec{\nabla} u - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \nabla^2 u$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = -\vec{V} \cdot \vec{\nabla} v - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \nu \nabla^2 v$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} = -\vec{V} \cdot \vec{\nabla} w - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + g \frac{\theta}{\theta_0} + \nu \nabla^2 w$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = -\vec{V} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \theta + Q(x, y, z, t) + \nu \nabla^2 \theta$$

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = -c_s^2 \left[ \bar{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial(\bar{\rho} w)}{\partial z} \right] + \nu \nabla^2 p$$

- Written in various forms; common property is **explicit setting of the sound speed  $C_s$** .
- Here, in  **$p$**

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## Quasi-compressible sound speed (20)

- **Assessment of Q-C system**
  - Droegemeier and Wilhelmson examine **ratio between elastic (acoustic) energy  $E$  and KE:**

$$\frac{E}{K} = \left[ \bar{\rho}^2 / \bar{\rho} c_s^2 \right] + \bar{\rho} (v^2 + w^2)$$
  - Concluded from this (+figures, next slide) that: *“imposed sound speed should be no less than 2x the speed of fastest-moving physical mode”*

$C_s$ (m/s)	E/K
50	10 %
100	2.5
200	0.6
300	0.3
350	0.2

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## Quasi-compressible system(5)

**Droogemeier and Wilhelmsen, 1987**  
Warm Thermal in Stable Environment

Fig. 4. Error in kinetic energy (percent, relative to the Fully-Compressible Outflow Model) for all four models (shown in parentheses) in the Quasi-Compressible Outflow Model (QOCM).

Maximum Vertical Velocity at Quat Front

Fig. 5. Time series plots of the maximum vertical velocity, induced at the quat front for the fully-compressible outflow model (FCOM), and for imposed sound speeds of 3,50, 100 and 50 m s⁻¹ in the quasi-compressible outflow model (QOCM).

**Kinetic energy error -**

- Small for all but 50 m/s case (grey bars, right)

**Maximum vertical velocity**

- All appear close (true of most fields)

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## Semi-Lagrangian methods

22

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## Semi-Lagrangian Methods

23

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*Ritchie et al. 1995*

- “The main motivation for using a semi-Lagrangian formulation is to permit the use of **time steps that far exceed the CFL** stability criterion for the corresponding Eulerian model ... provided that the additional time **truncation error** does not significantly decrease the accuracy”
- Their case: **4x improvement** in efficiency

## Semi-Lagrangian Methods

24

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**Generally:**

- Eulerian view - evolution at a point
- Lagrangian view - following fluid motion
- *Semi-Lagrangian* viewpoint ...
- **Semi-Lagrangian methods: find source of tracer arriving at fixed grid locations**

$$\frac{dF}{dt} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \frac{dx}{dt} \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = U(x, t)$$