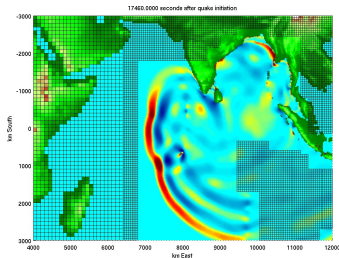


# Adaptive Mesh Refinement in CLAWPACK and GeoClaw

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Department of Applied Mathematics  
University of Washington



<http://www.clawpack.org>

# Outline

- CLAWPACK (Conservation Laws Package) and GeoClaw
- Finite volume methods for hyperbolic equations
  - Riemann problems and Godunov's method
  - Wave limiters and high-resolution methods
- Adaptive mesh refinement strategies
- Two applications
  - Tsunami modeling, shallow water equations
  - Seismic waves in heterogeneous earth
- Quadrilateral/hexahedral grids for the sphere

# Some collaborators on these projects

Marsha Berger, NYU

David George, UW

Jan Olav Langseth, Norwegian Defence Research Est., Oslo

Donna Calhoun, Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique, Paris

Christiane Helzel, Bochum

Harry Yeh, Civil Engineering, OSU

Roger Denlinger, Dick Iverson, USGS CVO

Supported in part by NSF, DOE

- Solves general nonlinear systems of hyperbolic conservation laws (fortran 77, Matlab)
- Version 1.0: 1994, Currently Version 4.3, More than 5000 downloads.
- Finite volume high-resolution Godunov methods (cell averages, solution of “Riemann problems”)
- Shock-capturing methods developed in 1970’s, 80’s originally for compressible gas dynamics (aeronautics, detonations, astrophysics)
- **Wave propagation algorithm:** general approach for arbitrary hyperbolic systems (also for problems not in conservation form)

- Uses Berger-Oliger-Colella style mesh refinement
- Collaboration with Marsha Berger, based on her AMR code for gas dynamics
- “Rectangular grids” —  $(i, j)$  grid indexing, *e.g.*, lat-long
- Refinement on rectangular patches (in space and time)
- Refines automatically to follow wave and/or in specified regions
- Other AMR wrappers:
  - CHOMBO-CLAW (Colella et al, Calhoun), C++
  - BEARCLAW (Mitran), f90
  - AMROC (Deiterding), C++

# High resolution finite volume methods

Hyperbolic conservation law:

$$1D : q_t + f(q)_x = 0$$

$$2D : q_t + f(q)_x + g(q)_y = 0$$

$$1D : q_t + f'(q)q_x = 0$$

$$2D : q_t + f'(q)q_x + g'(q)q_y = 0$$

Variable coefficient linear hyperbolic system:

$$1D : q_t + A(x)q_x = 0$$

$$2D : q_t + A(x, y)q_x + B(x, y)q_y = 0$$

Def: **Hyperbolic** if eigenvalues of Jacobian  $f'(q)$  in 1D or  $\alpha f'(q) + \beta g'(q)$  in 2D are real and there exists a complete set of eigenvectors.

Eigenvalues are wave speeds, eigenvectors yield decomposition of data into waves.

## Finite-difference Methods

- Pointwise values  $Q_i^n \approx q(x_i, t_n)$
- Approximate derivatives by finite differences
- Assumes smoothness

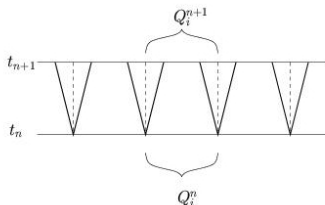
## Finite-volume Methods

- Approximate cell averages:  $Q_i^n \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x} \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} q(x, t_n) dx$
- Integral form of conservation law,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} q(x, t) dx = f(q(x_{i-1/2}, t)) - f(q(x_{i+1/2}, t))$$

leads to conservation law  $q_t + f_x = 0$  but also directly to numerical method.

# Godunov's Method for $q_t + f(q)_x = 0$

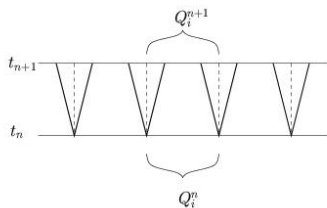


1. Solve Riemann problems at all interfaces, yielding waves  $\mathcal{W}_{i-1/2}^p$  and speeds  $s_{i-1/2}^p$ , for  $p = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .

**Riemann problem:** Original equation with piecewise constant data.



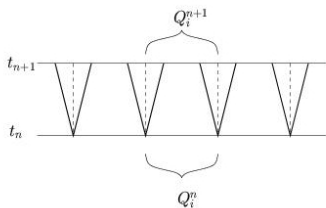
# Godunov's Method for $q_t + f(q)_x = 0$



Then either:

1. Compute new cell averages by integrating over cell at  $t_{n+1}$ ,

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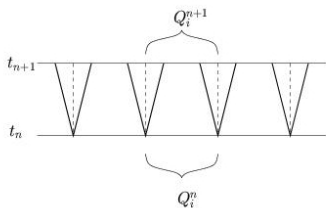


Then either:

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2. Compute fluxes at interfaces and flux-difference:

$$Q_i^{n+1} = Q_i^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} [F_{i+1/2}^n - F_{i-1/2}^n]$$

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$$Q_i^{n+1} = Q_i^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} [F_{i+1/2}^n - F_{i-1/2}^n]$$

3. Update cell averages by contributions from all waves entering cell:

$$Q_i^{n+1} = Q_i^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} [\mathcal{A}^+ \Delta Q_{i-1/2} + \mathcal{A}^- \Delta Q_{i+1/2}]$$

where  $\mathcal{A}^\pm \Delta Q_{i-1/2} = \sum_{i=1}^m (s_{i-1/2}^p)^\pm \mathcal{W}_{i-1/2}^p$ .

# Wave-propagation form of high-resolution method

$$Q_i^{n+1} = Q_i^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \left[ \sum_{p=1}^m (s_{i-1/2}^p)^+ \mathcal{W}_{i-1/2}^p + \sum_{p=1}^m (s_{i+1/2}^p)^- \mathcal{W}_{i+1/2}^p \right] - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (\tilde{F}_{i+1/2} - \tilde{F}_{i-1/2})$$

Correction flux:

$$\tilde{F}_{i-1/2} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p=1}^{M_w} |s_{i-1/2}^p| \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} |s_{i-1/2}^p| \right) \tilde{\mathcal{W}}_{i-1/2}^p$$

where  $\tilde{\mathcal{W}}_{i-1/2}^p$  is a **limited** version of  $\mathcal{W}_{i-1/2}^p$  to avoid oscillations.

(Unlimited waves  $\tilde{\mathcal{W}}^p = \mathcal{W}^p \implies$  Lax-Wendroff for a linear system  $\implies$  nonphysical oscillations near shocks.)

# Limiter methods

Differencing  $\mathcal{W}_{i+1/2}^p - \mathcal{W}_{i-1/2}^p$  approximates  $q_{xx}$ .

Gives second order terms in Taylor series (Lax-Wendroff)

This improves solution only if  $q$  is sufficiently smooth.

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Host of high-resolution methods developed since late 70's: flux corrected transport, TVD methods, flux limiters, slope limiters, PPM, ENO, WENO, ...

Developed by: Boris, Book, Harten, Zwas, van Leer, Roe, Osher, Zalesak, Sweby, Colella, Woodward, Engquist, Chakravarthy, Shu, ...

## Some past applications

- Volcanic flows, dusty gas jets, pyroclastic surges
- Seismic: drumbeat tremors at Mount St. Helens
- Drumlin formation
- Geophysical flow on the sphere
- Flow in porous media, groundwater contamination
- Ultrasound, lithotripsy, shock wave therapy
- Plasticity, nonlinear elasticity
- Electromagnetic waves, photonic crystals
- Hyperbolic equations on general curved manifolds (CLAWMAN)
- Chemotaxis and pattern formation
- Semiconductor modeling
- Traffic flow
- Multi-fluid, multi-phase flows, bubbly flow
- Incompressible flow (projection methods or streamfunction vorticity)
- Combustion, detonation waves
- Astrophysics: binary stars, planetary nebulae, jets
- Magnetohydrodynamics, plasmas
- Relativistic flow, black hole accretion
- Numerical relativity — gravitational waves, cosmology



**TsunamiClaw:** (David George) Version of AMRCLAW specifically for tsunami modeling.

- Two dimensional shallow water equations
- Small amplitude waves relative to variations in bathymetry
- Rectangular grid, with dry cells above sea level
- Wet/dry interface moves during inundation  
Need robust “dry-state Riemann solver”

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**GeoClaw:** Work in progress

Initially: generalize TsunamiClaw to other depth-averaged flows over topography with dry states, e.g.

- SWE: rivers, estuaries, storm surges
- Dam break problems, flows on steeper topography
- Debris flows: tsunami inundation, volcanos
- Landslides and avalanches
- Multi-layer SWE: internal waves, ocean models

**Future plan:** Other geophysical problems involving topography

- Three-dimensional flows over topography
- Two-dimensional vertical slices of such flows
- Volcanic jets and plumes (work with Marica Pelanti)
- Subsurface flows
- Seismic waves
- Coupled problems, e.g. poro-elastic, seismic/tsunami, magma flow/seismic, etc.

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**Desired features?**

- General interface to topography/bathymetry data sets,
- Better user interface — Python support
- Interface to other visualization tools — VisIt
- Parallel version

# Adaptive Mesh Refinement (AMR)

- Cluster grid points where needed
- Automatically adapt to solution
- Refined region moves in time-dependent problem

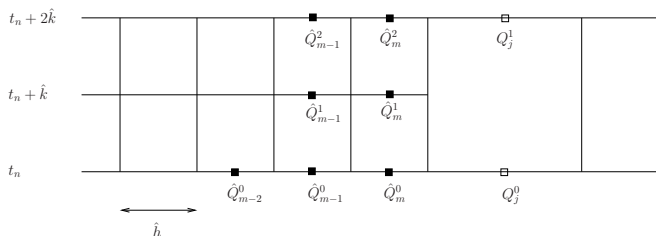
## Basic approaches:

- Cell-by-cell refinement  
Quad-tree or Oct-tree data structure  
Structured or unstructured grid
- Refinement on “rectangular” patches  
Berger-Colella-Oliger style  
(AMRCLAW and CHOMBO-CLAW)

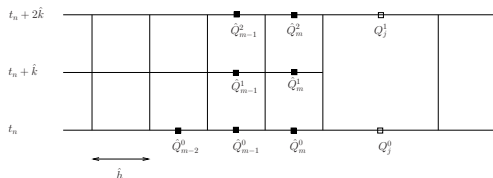
- Refinement in time as well as space
- Conservation at grid interfaces
- Accuracy at interfaces, Spurious reflections?
- Refinement strategy, error estimation
- Clustering flagged points into rectangular patches

# Time stepping algorithm for AMR

- Take 1 time step of length  $k$  on coarse grid with spacing  $h$ .
- Use space-time interpolation to set ghost cell values on fine grid near interface.
- Take  $L$  time steps on fine grid.  
 $L = \text{refinement ratio}, \hat{h} = h/L, \hat{k} = k/L.$
- Replace coarse grid value by average of fine grid values on regions of overlap — better approximation and consistent representations.
- Conservative fix-up near edges.



# Conservative fix-up



Coarse-grid update:  $Q_i^1 = Q_i^0 - \frac{k}{h} (F_{i+1/2}^0 - F_{i-1/2}^0).$

Fine-grid update:  $\hat{Q}_i^{n+1} = \hat{Q}_i^n - \frac{\hat{k}}{h} (\hat{F}_{i+1/2}^n - \hat{F}_{i-1/2}^n), \quad n = 0, 1.$

Corrections:  $Q_{j-1}^1 := \frac{1}{2} (\hat{Q}_{m-1}^2 + \hat{Q}_m^2).$

$$Q_j^1 := Q_j^1 + \frac{k}{h} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\hat{F}_{m+1/2}^0 + \hat{F}_{m+1/2}^1) - F_j^0 \right].$$

Global conservation of the total mass:

$$\hat{h} \sum_{i \leq m} \hat{Q}_i + h \sum_{i \geq j} Q_j \quad \text{conserved up to boundary fluxes.}$$



# Flagging Cells for Refinement

Every `kcheck` time-steps at each level (except finest), check all grid cells and flag those needing refinement.

Use one or more of the following flagging criteria:

- Richardson estimation of truncation error.  
Compare result after last two time steps on this grid with one time step on a coarsened grid.
- Estimate spatial gradient of one or more components of solution.
- Check for regions where refinement is user-forced to some level.
- Problem-specific, e.g. near shore for tsunami simulation.
- Other user-supplied criterion set in `flag2refine.f`.

# Clustering Flagged Cells for Refinement

Use Berger-Rigoutsos algorithm

[IEEE Trans. Sys. Man & Cyber.] 21(1991), p. 1278]

Clusters flagged points into a set of rectangular patches.

Tradeoff between:

- Many small patches cover flagged points with minimal refinement of unflagged points.
- But.... increases overhead associated with each patch, e.g. boundary values: ghost cell values set by copying or interpolation from other grids,

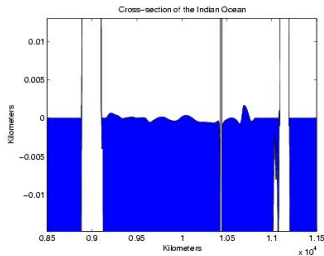
B-G algorithm has cut-off parameter: require that this fraction of refined cells be flagged (usually set to 0.7).

# Tsunamis

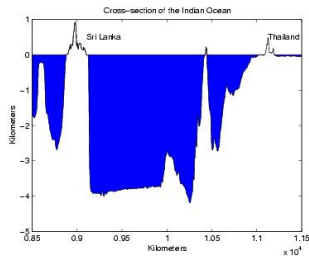
- Small amplitude in ocean ( $< 1$  meter) but can grow to 10s of meters at shore.
- Run-up along shore can inundate 100s of meters inland
- Long wavelength (as much as 200 km)
- Propagation speed  $\sqrt{gh}$  (bunching up at shore)
- Average depth of Pacific or Indian Ocean is 4km  
 $\implies$  average speed 200 m/s  $\approx$  450 mph

# Cross section of Indian Ocean & tsunami

Surface elevation  
on scale of 10 meters:



Cross-section  
on scale of kilometers:



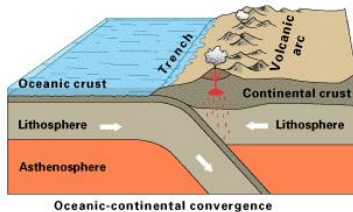
# Sumatra event of December 26, 2004

Magnitude 9.1 quake near Sumatra, where Indian tectonic plate is being subducted under the Burma platelet.

Rupture along subduction zone  
 $\approx 1200$  km long, 150 km wide

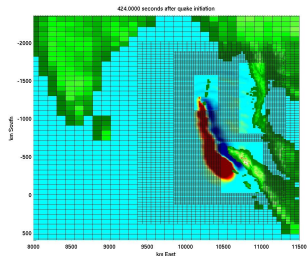
Propagating at  $\approx 2$  km/sec (for  $\approx 10$  minutes)

Fault slip up to 15 m, uplift of several meters.  
(Fault model from Caltech Seismolab.)



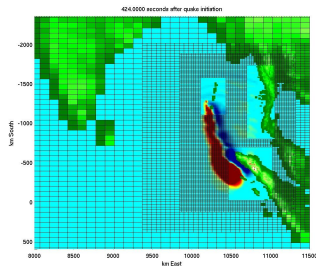
USGS

[www.livescience.com](http://www.livescience.com)

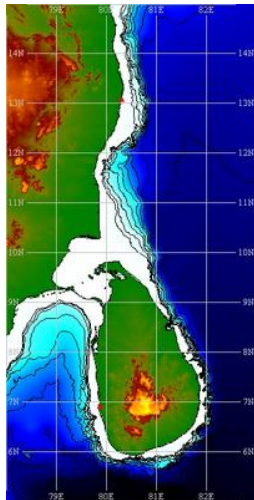


# Tsunami simulations

- 2D shallow water + bathymetry
- Finite volume method
- Cartesian grid
- Cells can be dry ( $h = 0$ )
- Cells become wet/dry as wave moves on shore
- Mesh refinement on rectangular patches
- Adaptive — follows wave, more levels near shore



# Local modeling near Madras



# Tsunami simulations

## Adaptive mesh refinement is essential

Zoom on Madras harbors with 4 levels of refinement:

- Level 1: 1 degree resolution ( $\Delta x \approx 60$  nautical miles)
- Level 2 refined by 8.
- Level 3 refined by 8:  $\Delta x \approx 1$  nautical mile (only near coast)
- Level 4 refined by 64:  $\Delta x \approx 25$  meters (only near Madras)

Factor 4096 refinement in  $x$  and  $y$ .

Less refinement needed in time since  $c \approx \sqrt{gh}$ .

Runs in a few hours on a laptop. [Movie](#)



# Tsunami simulations

Movies:

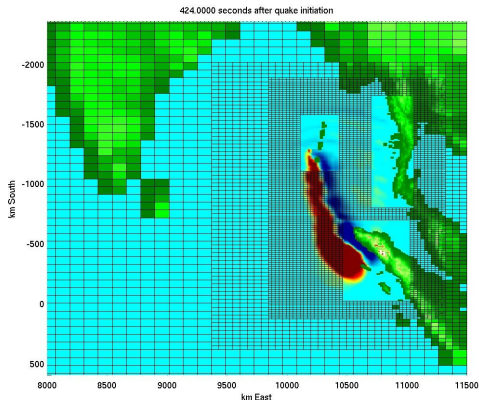
Fault area

Bay of Bengal

Sri Lanka

Indian Ocean

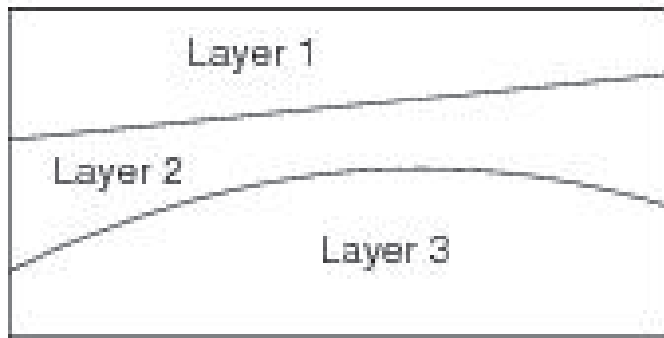
Zoom on Madras



For movies, see

<http://www.amath.washington.edu/~dgeorge/research.html>

# Seismic waves in layered earth



Layers 1 and 3:  $\rho = 2$ ,  $\lambda = 1$ ,  $\mu = 1$ ,  $c_p \approx 1.2$ ,  $c_s \approx 0.7$

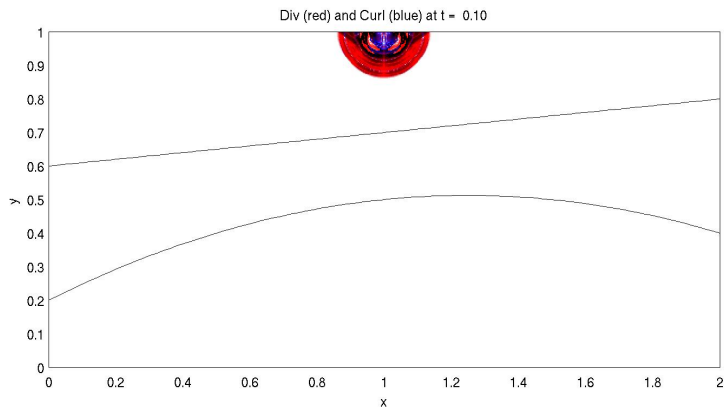
Layer 2:  $\rho = 5$ ,  $\lambda = 10$ ,  $\mu = 5$ ,  $c_p = 2.0$ ,  $c_s = 1$

Impulse at top surface at  $t = 0$ .

Solved on uniform Cartesian grid ( $600 \times 300$ ).

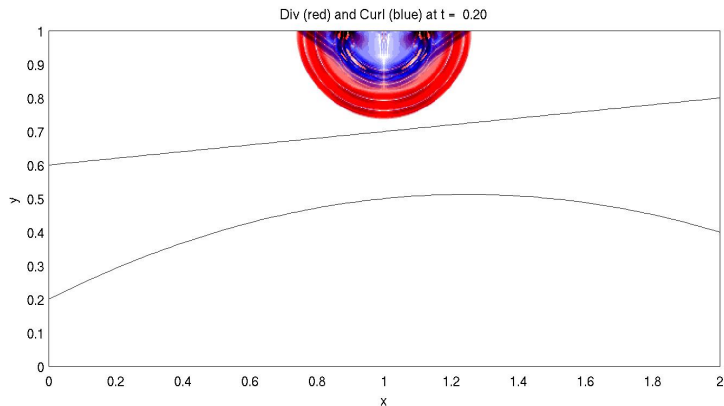
# Seismic wave in layered medium

Red =  $\text{div}(u)$  [P-waves], Blue =  $\text{curl}(u)$  [S-waves]



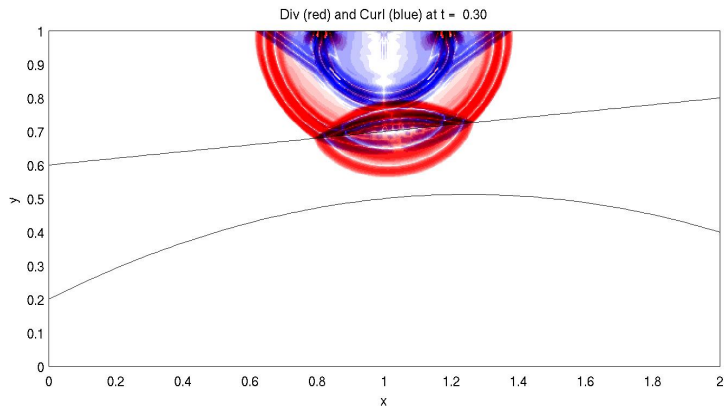
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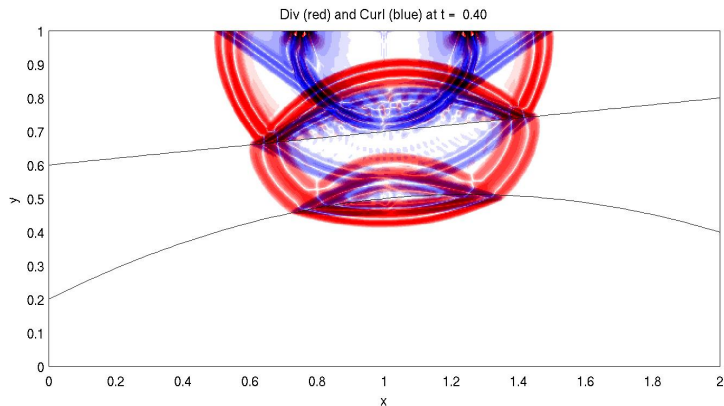
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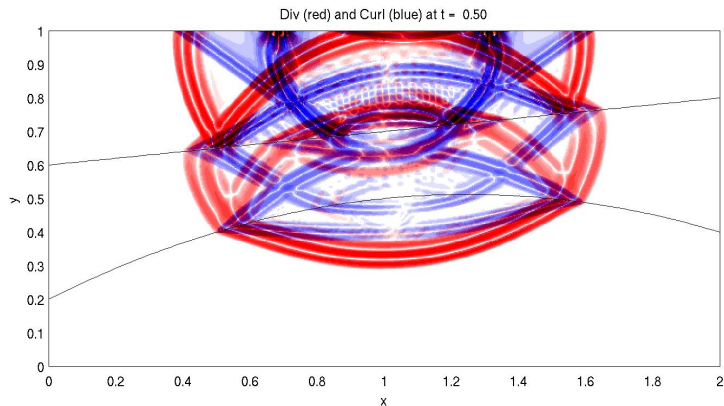
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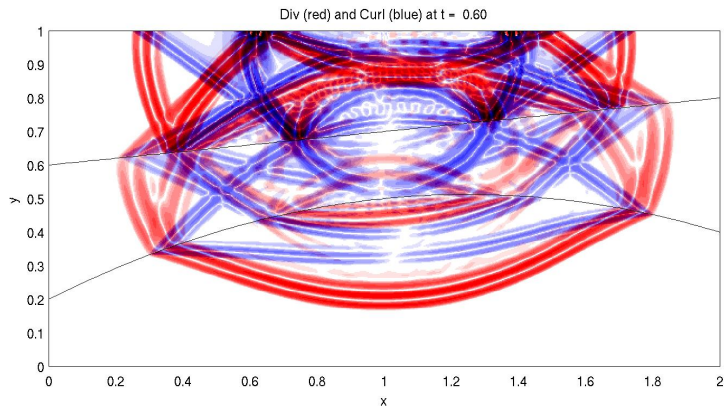
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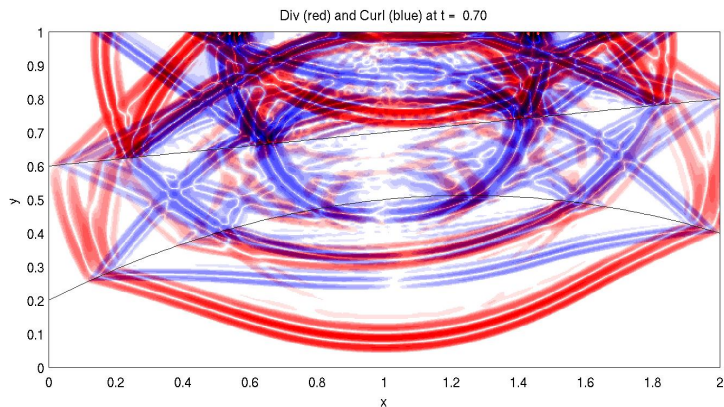
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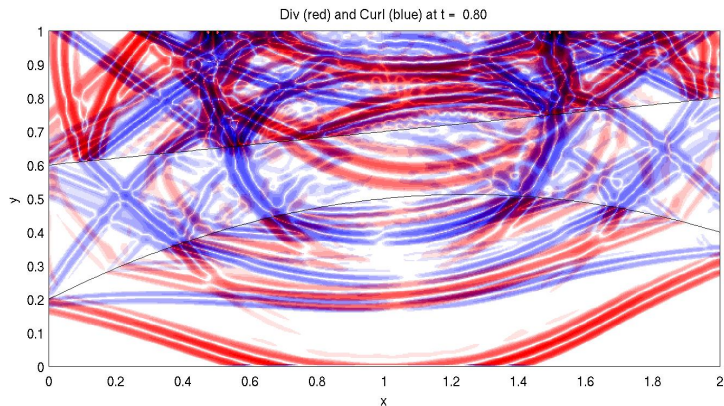
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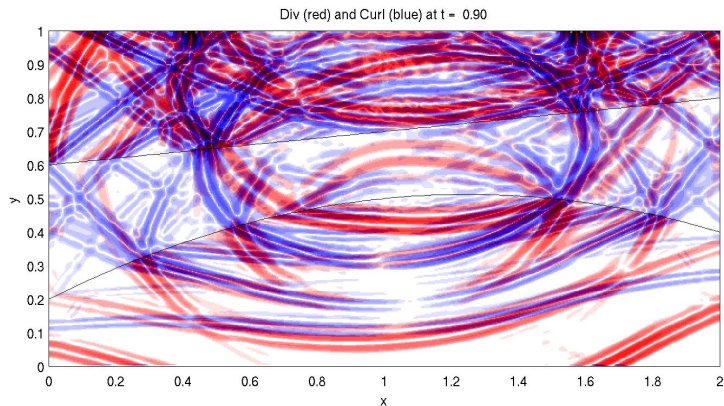
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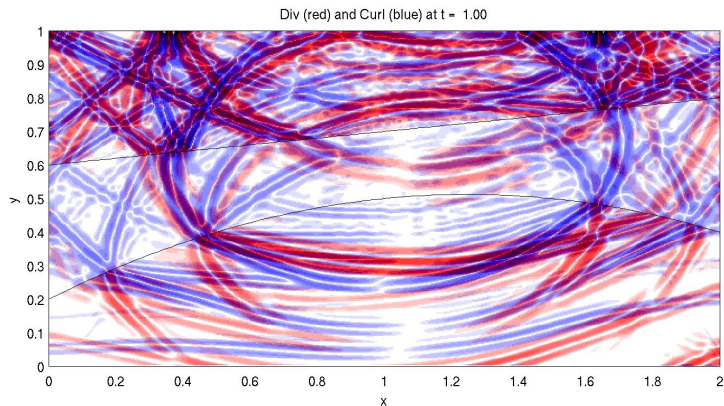
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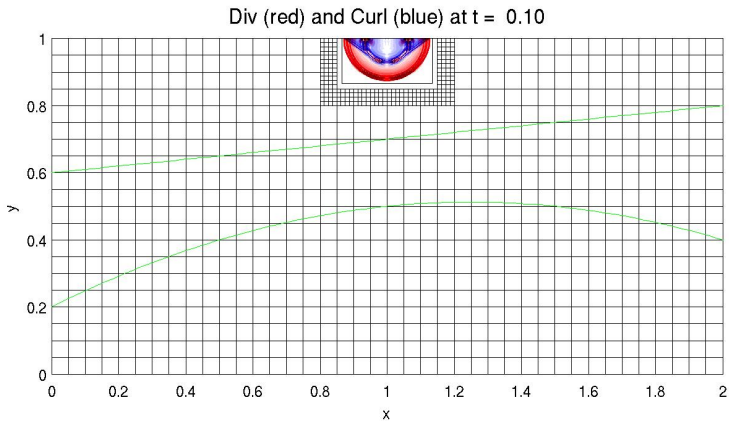
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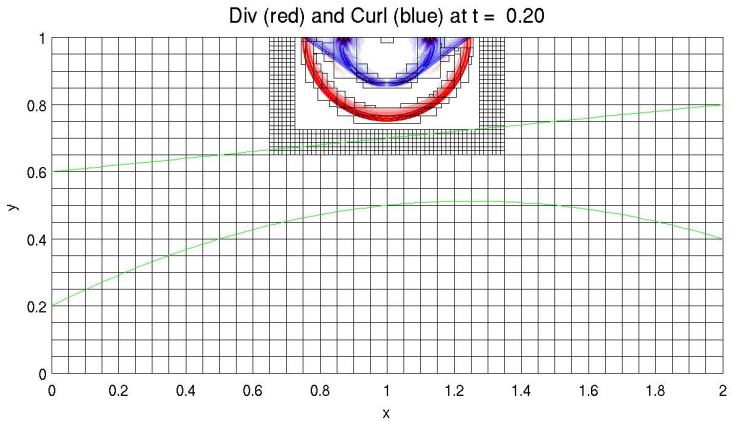


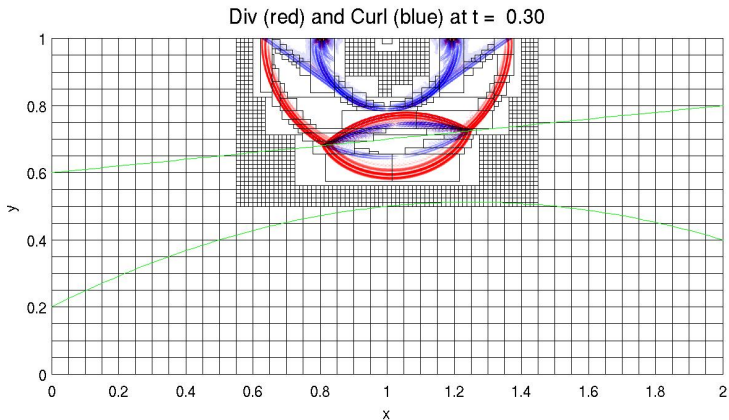
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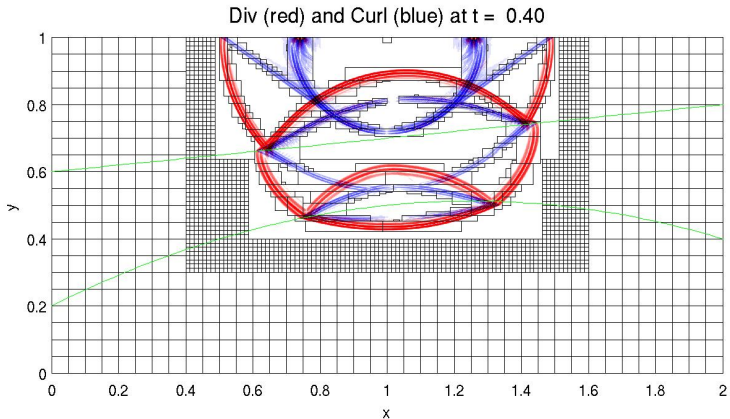
Red =  $\text{div}(u)$  [P-waves], Blue =  $\text{curl}(u)$  [S-waves]









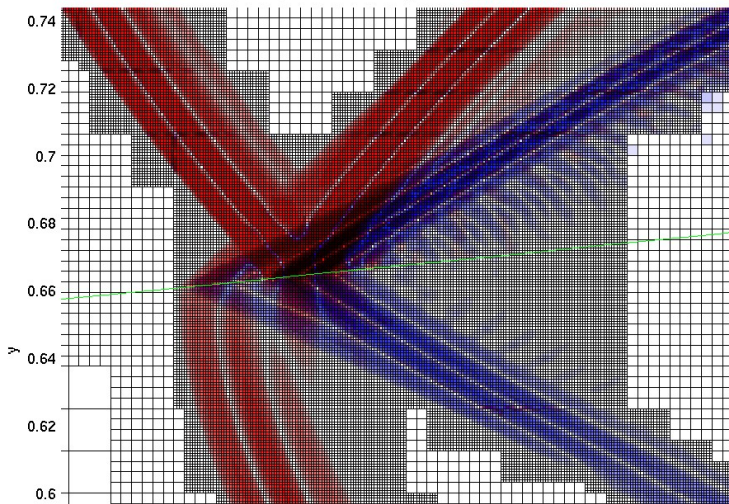




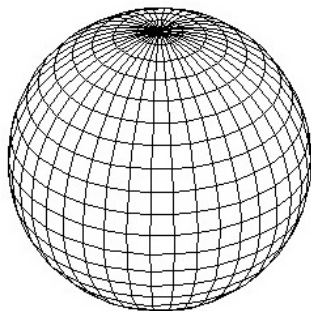
# Seismic wave in layered medium

Four levels with refinement factors 4, 4, 4

Div (red) and Curl (blue) at  $t = 0.40$



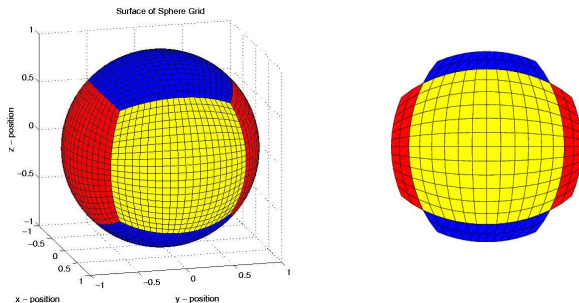
# Latitude-Longitude grid on sphere



Logically rectangular, but suffers from “pole problem”

- Grid lines coalesce at poles, tiny cells
- Small time steps needed for explicit methods

# Cubed Sphere Grid: another popular approach



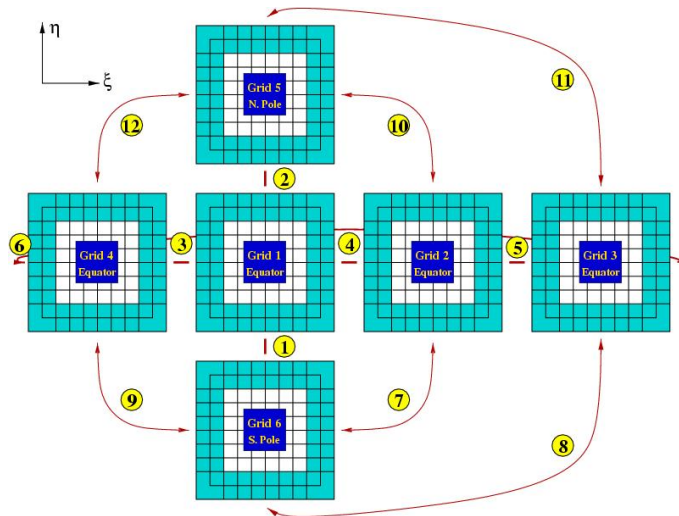
Six logically rectangular grids are patched together.

Data is transferred between patches using ghost cells

**Refs:** Sadourny (1972), Ronchi, Iacono, Paolucci, Rancic, Purser, Messinger,...

Rossmanith implemented with CLAWPACK

# Boundary conditions for cubed sphere

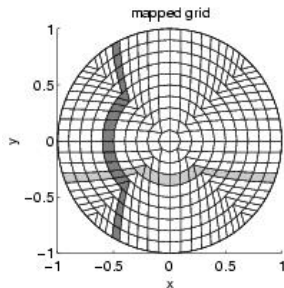
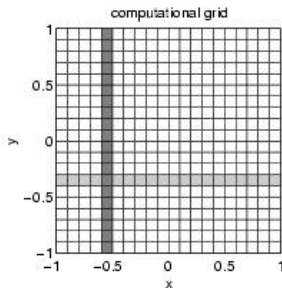


# Our approach for circles

## Radial projection grid:

Computational domain is square  $[-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]$ .

Map each point on concentric square of “radius”  $d \leq 0$  radially inward to circle of radius  $d$ .



Movie of radial projection

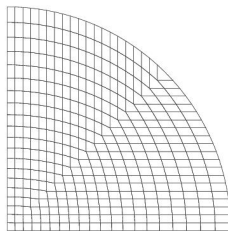
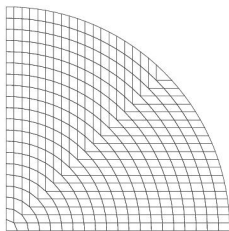
# Our approach for circles

## Smoother grid:

Map line segment  $(-d, d)$  to  $(d, d)$  to circular arc of radius  $R(d)$  passing through the points  $(-D(d), D(d))$  and  $(D(d), D(d))$ .

Similarly in other three quadrants.

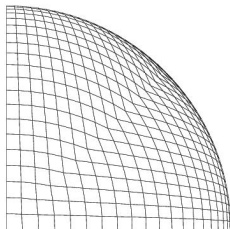
$$D(d) = d, \quad R(d) = 1 : \quad D(d) = d, \quad R(d) = 1 :$$



# Our approach for circles and sphere

Redistribute points near boundary:

$$D(d) = d(2 - d), \quad R(d) = 1 :$$



Gives good mapping to upper hemisphere  
(think of looking down on sphere)

# Our approach for sphere

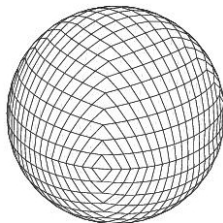
Map  $[-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]$  to unit circle by this approach.

At each point set  $z = \sqrt{1 - (x^2 + y^2)}$ .

This defines mapping of  $[-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]$  to upper hemisphere.

Map points in  $[-3, -1] \times [-1, 1]$  to lower hemisphere by similar mapping.

This defines mapping of rectangle  $[-3, 1] \times [-1, 1]$  to sphere.



Ratio of largest to smallest cell is  $< 2$ .

Grid is highly non-orthogonal at a few points near equator.

[Movie of mapping](#)



# Numerical results on the sphere

Direct application of CLAWPACK — wave-propagation finite volume method

AMRCLAW can also be used.

Movie — advection on the sphere

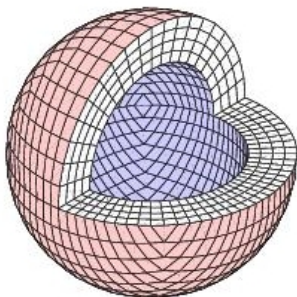
Movie — in computational rectangle

Movie — shallow water on the sphere

Movie — depth vs. “latitude” compared to 1d solution

# Our approach for shells

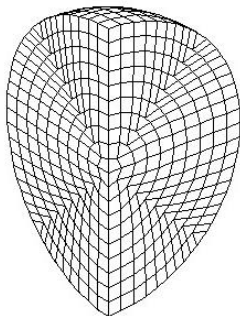
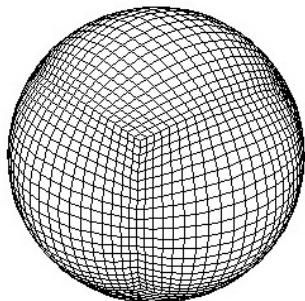
Above approach can be used on sphere and then extended radially:



For most applications wouldn't want to extend into origin for full ball — radial lines meet at center and give small cells.

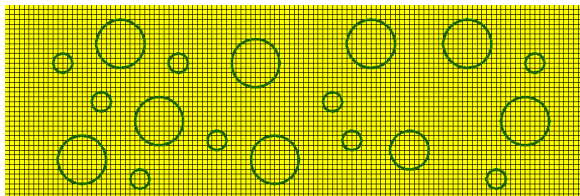
Instead can use 3d version of circle mapping

# 3D hexahedral grid in the ball

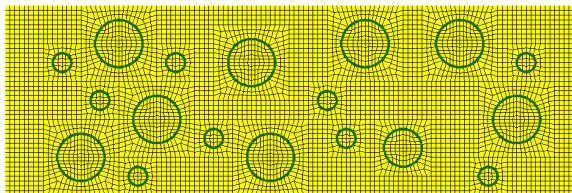


# Acoustics with inclusions

$120 \times 40$  Cartesian grid:

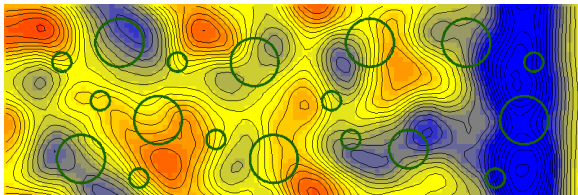


$120 \times 40$  mapped grid:

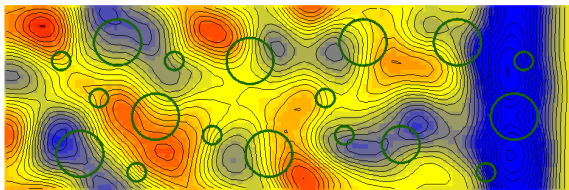


# Acoustics with inclusions

120 × 40 Cartesian grid:

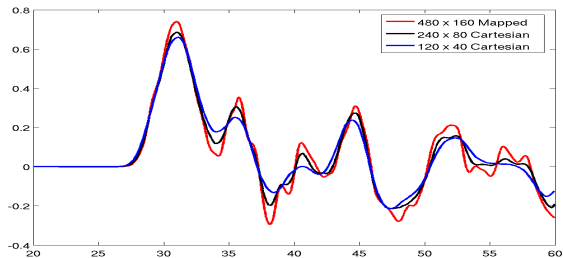


120 × 40 mapped grid:

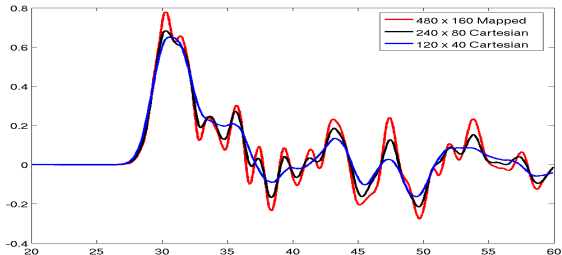


# Acoustics with inclusions: pressure gauges

$x = 0.5,$



$x = 0.25:$



# Conclusions

- High-resolution (shock capturing) methods good also for wave propagation in heterogeneous media.
- Low dispersion, accurately captures reflection and transmission.
- Refinement on rectangular patches is efficient and effective.
- Wave propagation algorithms work well even on highly deformed grids.
- Challenging geophysical flow/wave problems often have special needs.
- Flexible open-source software is useful.