

A FINITE ELEMENT METHOD FOR EXTENDED KdV EQUATIONS

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The finite element method (FEM) is applied to obtain numerical solutions to a recently derived nonlinear equation for the shallow water wave problem. A weak formulation and the Petrov–Galerkin method are used. It is shown that the FEM gives a reasonable description of the wave dynamics of soliton waves governed by extended KdV equations. Some new results for several cases of bottom shapes are presented. The numerical scheme presented here is suitable for taking into account stochastic effects, which will be discussed in a subsequent paper.

Keywords: shallow water wave problem, nonlinear equations, second order KdV equations, finite element method, Petrov–Galerkin method.

1. Introduction

The Korteweg–de Vries equation appears as a model for the propagation of weakly nonlinear dispersive waves in several fields. Among them, there are gravity driven waves on a surface of an incompressible irrotational inviscid fluid (Whitham, 1974; Infeld and Rowlands, 2000; Remoissenet, 1999; Drazin and Johnson, 1989; Marchant and Smyth, 1990; Dingemans, 1997), ion acoustic waves in plasma (Infeld and Rowlands, 2000), impulse propagation in electric circuits (Remoissenet, 1999), and so on. In the shallow water wave problem the KdV equation corresponds to the case when the bottom is even. There have been many attempts to study nonlinear waves in the case of an uneven bottom because of its significance, for instance, in phenomena such as tsunamis. Among the first papers dealing with a slowly varying bottom are those of Mei and Le Méhauté (1966) as well as Grimshaw (1970). When taking an appropriate average of vertical variables, one arrives at Green–Nagdi type equations (Green and Naghdi, 1976; Nadiga *et al.*, 1996; Kim *et al.*, 2001). Van Groesen and Pudyaprasetya (1993; 1996) studied uni-directional waves over a slowly

varying bottom within the Hamilton approach, obtaining a forced KdV type equation. An extensive study of wave propagation over an uneven bottom conducted before 2000 is summarized in Dingemans’s monograph (Dingemans, 1997). The papers by Nakoulima *et al.* (2005), Grimshaw *et al.* (2008) and Pelinovsky *et al.* (2010) are examples of approaches that combine linear and nonlinear theories. The Gardner equation and the forced KdV equation were also extensively investigated in this context (see, e.g., Grimshaw and Smyth, 1986; Smyth, 1987; Kamchatnov *et al.*, 2012).

In our previous papers (Karczewska *et al.*, 2014b; 2014a) we derived a new KdV type equation containing terms which come directly from an uneven bottom. These terms, however, appear naturally only if Euler equations for the fluid motion are considered up to the second order in small parameters, whereas the KdV equation is obtained in a first order approximation. There are no analytic solutions for the above equation. We also presented several cases of numerical simulations for that equation obtained using the finite difference method (FDM) with periodic boundary conditions (Karczewska *et al.*, 2014b; 2014a).

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It was demonstrated by Debussche and Printems (1999) that the finite element method (FEM) describes properly the dynamics of the KdV equation (6), which is the equation in a moving frame of reference.

The first aim of this paper is to construct an effective FEM method for solving higher order KdV equations, both with an even and an uneven bottom. The second goal is to compare the results obtained in this numerical scheme with some of the results obtained earlier using the finite difference method (Karczewska et al., 2014b; 2014a).

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we review the KdV equation (4), the extended KdV equation (3) and the KdV type equation containing direct terms from bottom variation (1), all expressed in scaled dimensionless variables. In Section 3 the construction of the numerical method for solving these equations within the FEM is described. Coupled sets of nonlinear equations for coefficients of expansion of solutions to these equations in a basis of piecewise linear functions are obtained. In Section 4 several examples of numerical simulations are presented.

2. Preliminaries

Extended KdV type equations, derived by some of the authors (Karczewska et al., 2014b; 2014a), second order in small parameters, have the following form (written in scaled dimensionless coordinates, in a fixed coordinate system), for the case with an uneven bottom:

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_t + \eta_x + \alpha \frac{3}{2} \eta \eta_x + \beta \frac{1}{6} \eta_{3x} & \quad (1) \\ - \frac{3}{8} \alpha^2 \eta^2 \eta_x + \alpha \beta \left(\frac{23}{24} \eta_x \eta_{2x} + \frac{5}{12} \eta \eta_{3x} \right) + \frac{19}{360} \beta^2 \eta_{5x} \\ + \beta \delta \left(-\frac{1}{2\beta} (h\eta)_x + \frac{1}{4} (h_{2x}\eta)_x - \frac{1}{4} (h\eta_{2x})_x \right) & = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Details of the derivation of the second order equation (1) from the set of Euler equations with appropriate boundary conditions can be found in the works of Karczewska et al. (2014b; 2014a). In (1), $\eta(x, t)$ stands for a wave profile and $h = h(x)$ denotes a bottom profile. Subscripts are used for notation of partial derivatives, that is, for instance, $\eta_{2x} \equiv \partial^2 \eta / \partial x^2$, and so on. Small parameters α, β, δ are defined by ratios of the amplitude of the wave profile a , the depth of undisturbed water h_0 , average wavelength l and the amplitude of the bottom changes a_h :

$$\alpha = \frac{a}{h_0}, \quad \beta = \left(\frac{h}{l} \right)^2, \quad \delta = \frac{a_h}{h_0}. \quad (2)$$

For details of the transformation of the original dimensional variables to the nondimensional, scaled ones used here, see, e.g., the works of Karczewska et al. (2014b; 2014a) or Burde and Sergyeyev (2013).

It should be emphasized that in Eqn. (1) all the three terms originating from an uneven bottom are second order in small parameters. These terms appear from the boundary condition at the bottom, which is already in the second order with the coefficient $\beta\delta$ (see Karczewska et al., 2014a, Eqn. (5); 2014b, Eqn. (10)). Then in the final second order equation (1) we write them in the form $\beta\delta(\cdot)$ in order to emphasize that they all come from the second order perturbation approach. For details we refer to the above-mentioned papers.

In the case of an even bottom ($\delta = 0$), Eqn. (1) is reduced to the second order KdV type equation,

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_t + \eta_x + \alpha \frac{3}{2} \eta \eta_x + \beta \frac{1}{6} \eta_{3x} - \frac{3}{8} \alpha^2 \eta^2 \eta_x & \quad (3) \\ + \alpha \beta \left(\frac{23}{24} \eta_x \eta_{2x} + \frac{5}{12} \eta \eta_{3x} \right) + \frac{19}{360} \beta^2 \eta_{5x} & = 0, \end{aligned}$$

and, when $\beta = \alpha$, it becomes identical to Eqn. (21) of Burde and Sergyeyev (2013). Equation (3) was obtained earlier by Marchant and Smyth (1990) and is called the *extended KdV equation*.

Limitation to the first order approximation in small parameters gives KdV in a fixed system of coordinates

$$\eta_t + \eta_x + \alpha \frac{3}{2} \eta \eta_x + \beta \frac{1}{6} \eta_{3x} = 0. \quad (4)$$

The standard, mathematical form of the KdV equation is obtained from (4) by transformation to a moving reference frame. Substituting

$$\bar{x} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}(x - t), \quad \bar{t} = \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \alpha t, \quad u = \eta, \quad (5)$$

one obtains from (3) the equation

$$u_{\bar{t}} + 6 u u_{\bar{x}} + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} u_{3\bar{x}} = 0, \quad (6)$$

or finally, when $\beta = \alpha$,

$$u_{\bar{t}} + 6 u u_{\bar{x}} + u_{3\bar{x}} = 0. \quad (7)$$

In this paper we attempt to solve numerically Eqn. (1) for several cases of bottom topography and different initial conditions. In several aspects we follow the method applied by Debussche and Printems (1999). However, the method is extended to higher order KdV type equations with a plain bottom (3) and with bottom fluctuations (1). For both the cases we work in a fixed reference system, necessary for a bottom profile depending on the position.

3. Numerical method

The emergence of soliton solutions to the KdV equation was observed in numerics fifty years ago by Zabusky and Kruskal (1965). Several numerical methods used

for solving the KdV equation are discussed by Taha and Ablowitz (1984). Among them there are the finite difference explicit method (Zabusky and Kruskal, 1965), the finite difference implicit method (Goda, 1975) and several versions of the pseudospectral method (Fornberg and Whitham, 1978). It is also worth mentioning papers using the FEM and Galerkin methods (Bona *et al.*, 2013; Cui and Ma, 2007). Most numerical applications use periodic boundary conditions, but there also exist works that apply Dirichlet boundary conditions on a finite interval (Skogstad and Kalisch, 2009; Yi *et al.*, 2013; Yuan *et al.*, 2008).

The authors attempt to construct a method which will be applicable not only for numerical simulation of an evolution of nonlinear waves governed by Eqns. (1) or (3), but also for their stochastic versions. Such stochastic equations will be studied in the next paper. Since stochastic noise is irregular, solutions are not necessarily smooth, neither in time nor space. A finite element method (FEM) seems to be suitable for such a case.

3.1. Time discretization. We have adapted the Crank–Nicholson scheme for time evolution, beginning with the KdV equation (4) in a fixed coordinate system. Note that $\eta\eta_x = \frac{1}{2}(\eta^2)_x$. Write also $v := \eta_x$ and $w := v_x$. Let us choose, time step τ . Then the KdV equation (4) in the Crank–Nicholson scheme can be written as a set of coupled first order differential equations,

$$\begin{aligned} \eta^{n+1} - \eta^n + \tau \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{3\alpha}{4} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}})^2 + \frac{\beta}{6} w^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right) = 0, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = v^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} v^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = w^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{1}{2} (\eta^{n+1} + \eta^n), \\ v^{n+\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{1}{2} (v^{n+1} + v^n), \\ w^{n+\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{1}{2} (w^{n+1} + w^n). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

For the second order equations (1) or (3) we need to introduce two new auxiliary variables: $p := w_x$ and $q := p_x$. Note that $\eta^2\eta_x = \frac{1}{3}(\eta^3)_x$, $\eta_x\eta_{2x} = \frac{1}{2}(\eta_x^2)_x = \frac{1}{2}(v^2)_x$. Moreover, $\eta_{5x} = q = p_x$ and

$$\frac{23}{24}\eta_x\eta_{2x} + \frac{5}{12}\eta\eta_{3x} = \frac{13}{48}(v^2)_x + \frac{5}{12}(\eta w)_x.$$

This setting allows us to write the Crank–Nicholson

scheme for (3) as the following set of first order equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \eta^{n+1} - \eta^n \\ + \tau \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{3\alpha}{4} (\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}})^2 + \frac{\beta}{6} w^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{1}{8}\alpha^2 (\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}})^3 + \alpha\beta \left(\frac{13}{48} (v^{n+\frac{1}{2}})^2 \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{5}{12} (\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} w^{n+\frac{1}{2}}) \right) + \frac{19}{360}\beta^2 (q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}) \right] = 0, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - v^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} v^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - w^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} w^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - p^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} p^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - q^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} p^{n+\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{1}{2} (p^{n+1} + p^n), \\ q^{n+\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{1}{2} (q^{n+1} + q^n). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

For the second order KdV type equation with an uneven bottom (1) the first equation in the set (9) has to be supplemented by terms originating from bottom variations, yielding

$$\begin{aligned} \eta^{n+1} - \eta^n \\ + \tau \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{3\alpha}{4} (\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}})^2 + \frac{\beta}{6} w^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{1}{8}\alpha^2 (\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}})^3 + \alpha\beta \left(\frac{13}{48} (v^{n+\frac{1}{2}})^2 \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{5}{12} (\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} w^{n+\frac{1}{2}}) \right) + \frac{19}{360}\beta^2 (q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{4}\beta\delta \left(-\frac{2}{\beta} (h^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}}) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}}g^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + h^{n+\frac{1}{2}}w^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right] = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where $g := h_{xx}$.

Below we focus on the second order equations (3) and (9), pointing out contributions from the bottom variation later.

3.2. Space discretization. Following the arguments given by Debussche and Printems (1999) we apply the Petrov–Galerkin discretization and the finite element method. We use piecewise linear shape functions and piecewise constant test functions. We consider the wave motion on the interval $x \in [0, L]$ with periodic boundary conditions. Given $N \in \mathbb{N}$, we use a mesh M_χ of points $x_j = j\chi$, $j = 0, 1, \dots, N$, where $\chi = L/N$. Let V_χ^1 ,

which is a space of piecewise linear functions $\varphi_j(x)$, such that $\varphi_j(0) = \varphi_j(L)$, defined as

$$\varphi_j(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\chi}(x - x_{j-1}) & \text{if } x \in [x_{j-1}, x_j], \\ \frac{1}{\chi}(x_{j+1} - x) & \text{if } x \in [x_j, x_{j+1}], \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

As test functions we have chosen the space of piecewise constant functions $\psi_j(x) \in V_{\chi}^0$, where

$$\psi_j(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in [x_j, x_{j+1}), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

An approximate solution and its derivatives may be written as an expansion in the basis (12),

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{\chi}^n(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^N a_j^n \varphi_j(x), \\ v_{\chi}^n(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^N b_j^n \varphi_j(x), \\ w_{\chi}^n(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^N c_j^n \varphi_j(x), \\ p_{\chi}^n(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^N d_j^n \varphi_j(x), \\ q_{\chi}^n(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^N e_j^n \varphi_j(x), \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where $a_j^n, b_j^n, c_j^n, d_j^n, e_j^n$ are expansion coefficients. Therefore, in a weak formulation we can write (8) as

$$\begin{aligned} &(\eta_{\chi}^{n+1} - \eta_{\chi}^n, \psi_i) + \tau \left\{ \left(\partial_x \eta_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) \right. \\ &+ \frac{3\alpha}{4} \left(\partial_x \left(\eta_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right)^2, \psi_i \right) + \frac{\beta}{6} \left(\partial_x w_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{8} \alpha^2 \left(\partial_x \left(\eta_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right)^3, \psi_i \right) \\ &+ \alpha\beta \left[\frac{13}{48} \left(\partial_x \left(v_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right)^2, \psi_i \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{5}{12} \left(\partial_x \left(\eta_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} w_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right), \psi_i \right) \right] \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{19}{360} \beta^2 \left(\partial_x \left(q_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right), \psi_i \right) \right\} = 0, \\ &\left(\partial_x \eta_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) - \left(v_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) = 0, \\ &\left(\partial_x v_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) - \left(w_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) = 0, \\ &\left(\partial_x w_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) - \left(p_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) = 0, \\ &\left(\partial_x p_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) - \left(q_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \psi_i \right) = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

for any $i = 1, \dots, N$, where ∂_x is understood as $\partial/\partial x$. In (15) and below, scalar products are defined by the appropriate integrals:

$$(f, g) := \int_0^L f(x)g(x) dx.$$

In the case of Eqn. (1), the first equation of the set (15) has to be supplemented inside the bracket $\{ \}$ by the terms

$$\begin{aligned} &+ \frac{1}{4} \beta \delta \left(\partial_x \left[-\frac{2}{\beta} \left(h^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \eta_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \eta_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} g^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + h^{n+\frac{1}{2}} w_{\chi}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right], \psi_i \right). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Insertion of (14) into (15) yields a system of coupled linear equations for coefficients $a_j^n, b_j^n, c_j^n, d_j^n, e_j^n$. The solution to this system supplies an approximate solution to (3) given at the mesh points x_j .

3.2.1. KdV equation. In order to demonstrate the construction of the matrices involved, at this point we limit our discussion to the first order equation (4). This means that in (15) we drop temporarily second order terms, that is, those with $\alpha^2, \alpha\beta, \beta^2$. Equations with p and q do not apply because η_{4x} and η_{5x} do not appear in (4). This leads to the equations

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{j=1}^N (a_j^{n+1} - a_j^n) (\varphi_j, \psi_i) + \tau \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) (\varphi_j, \psi_i) \\ &+ \tau \alpha \frac{3}{16} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) (a_k^{n+1} + a_k^n) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\quad \times (\varphi_j' \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi_k', \psi_i) \\ &+ \tau \beta \frac{1}{12} \sum_{j=1}^N (e_j^{n+1} + e_j^n) (\varphi_j, \psi_i) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N [(a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) (\varphi_j', \psi_i) - (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) (\varphi_j, \psi_i)] = 0,$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N [(b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) (\varphi_j', \psi_i) - (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) (\varphi_j, \psi_i)] = 0.$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned} C_{ij}^{(1)} &:= (\varphi_j, \psi_i), & C_{ij}^{(2)} &:= (\varphi_j', \psi_i), \\ C_{ijk}^{(3)} &:= (\varphi_j' \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi_k', \psi_i), \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where $\varphi_j' = \frac{d\varphi}{dx}(x_j)$. Simple integration shows that

$$C_{ij}^{(1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \chi & \text{if } i = j \vee i = j - 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

$$C_{ij}^{(2)} = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } i = j, \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j - 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

Similarly, one obtains

$$C_{ijk}^{(3)} = C_{ij}^{(2)} \delta_{jk}. \quad (21)$$

The property (21) reduces the double sum in the term with $\tau\alpha\frac{3}{16}$ to the single one of the square of $(a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n)$. Insertion of (19)–(21) into (17) gives

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{j=1}^N \left[(a_j^{n+1} - a_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} + \tau \left(\frac{1}{2} (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. + \alpha \frac{3}{16} (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n)^2 C_{ij}^{(2)} + \beta \frac{1}{12} (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} \right) \right] = 0, \\ & \sum_{j=1}^N \left[(a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right] = 0, \\ & \sum_{j=1}^N \left[(b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right] = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Define the $3N$ -dimensional vector of expansion coefficients

$$X^n = \begin{pmatrix} A^n \\ B^n \\ C^n \end{pmatrix}, \quad (23)$$

where

$$A^n = \begin{pmatrix} a_1^n \\ a_2^n \\ \vdots \\ a_N^n \end{pmatrix}, \quad B^n = \begin{pmatrix} b_1^n \\ b_2^n \\ \vdots \\ b_N^n \end{pmatrix}, \quad C^n = \begin{pmatrix} c_1^n \\ c_2^n \\ \vdots \\ c_N^n \end{pmatrix}. \quad (24)$$

In (22), $A^{n+1}, B^{n+1}, C^{n+1}$ represent the unknown coefficients and A^n, B^n, C^n the known ones. Note that the system (22) is nonlinear. The single nonlinear term is quadratic in unknown coefficients. For the second order equations (3) and (1) there are more nonlinear terms.

In an abbreviated form, the set (22) can be written as

$$F_i(X^{n+1}, X^n) = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 3N. \quad (25)$$

Since this equation is nonlinear, we can use the Newton method for each time step. That is, we find X^{n+1} by iterating the equation

$$(X^{n+1})_{m+1} = (X^{n+1})_m + J^{-1}(X^{n+1})_m = 0, \quad (26)$$

where J^{-1} is the inverse of the Jacobian of $F(X^{n+1}, X^n)$ (25). Choosing $(X^{n+1})_0 = X^n$, we obtain the approximate solution to (25), $(X^{n+1})_m$ in $m = 3 - 5$ iterations with very good precision. The Jacobian itself is

a particular $(3N \times 3N)$ sparse matrix with the following block structure:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} (A_a) & (A_b) & (A_c) \\ (C2) & -(C1) & (0) \\ (0) & (C2) & -(C1) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (27)$$

where each block (\cdot) is a two-diagonal sparse $(N \times N)$ matrix. The matrix A_a is given by

$$A_a = \begin{pmatrix} a_1^1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_{N-1}^1 & a_N^1 \\ a_1^2 & a_2^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & a_N^2 \\ 0 & a_2^3 & a_3^3 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{N-4}^{N-3} & a_{N-3}^{N-3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_{N-3}^{N-2} & a_{N-2}^{N-2} & 0 \\ a_1^N & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & a_{N-1}^{N-1} & a_N^N \end{pmatrix}. \quad (28)$$

In (28) the nonzero elements of A_a are expressed by

$$a_j^i = \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial a_j^{n+1}}, \quad (29)$$

where F is given by (25). The elements in the upper right and lower left corners result from periodic boundary conditions. Matrices A_b and A_c have the same structure as A_a , with only elements a_j^i having to be replaced by $b_j^i = \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial b_j^{n+1}}$ and $c_j^i = \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial c_j^{n+1}}$, respectively.

Matrices $C1$ and $C2$ are constant. They are defined as

$$Ck = \begin{pmatrix} C_{11}^{(k)} & 0 & \cdots & C_{11}^{(k)} & C_{1N}^{(k)} \\ C_{21}^{(k)} & C_{22}^{(k)} & \cdots & 0 & C_{2N}^{(k)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & C_{N-1N-1}^{(k)} & 0 \\ C_{N1}^{(k)} & 0 & \cdots & C_{N-1N}^{(k)} & C_{NN}^{(k)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (30)$$

where $k = 1, 2$.

3.2.2. Extended KdV equation (3). For the second order equation (3) there are more nonlinear terms. These are terms with α^2 and $\alpha\beta$. According to the Petrov–Galerkin scheme, we get for the term with α^2

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_x \left(\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right)^3 &= \frac{1}{8} \left(\partial_x \sum_{j=1}^N (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) \varphi_j \right)^3 \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \partial_x \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N [a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n] [a_k^{n+1} + a_k^n] [a_l^{n+1} + a_l^n] \\ &\quad \times \varphi_j \varphi_k \varphi_l \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N [a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n] [a_k^{n+1} + a_k^n] [a_l^{n+1} + a_l^n] \\ &\quad \times (\varphi_j' \varphi_k \varphi_l + \varphi_j \varphi_k' \varphi_l + \varphi_j \varphi_k \varphi_l'). \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Write

$$C_{ijkl}^{(4)} := ([\varphi'_j \varphi_k \varphi_l + \varphi_j \varphi'_k \varphi_l + \varphi_j \varphi_k \varphi'_l], \psi_i). \quad (32)$$

As with $C_{ijk}^{(3)}$ in (21), the following property holds:

$$C_{ijkl}^{(4)} = C_{ij}^2 \delta_{jk} \delta_{kl}. \quad (33)$$

In a similar way, for terms with $\alpha\beta$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_x \left(v^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right)^2 & \quad (34) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \partial_x \left(\sum_{j=1}^N (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) \varphi_j \sum_{k=1}^N (b_k^{n+1} + b_k^n) \varphi_k \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N [b_j^{n+1} + a_j^n] [b_k^{n+1} + b_k^n] (\varphi'_j \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi'_k) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_x \left(\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} w^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right) & \quad (35) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \partial_x \left(\sum_{j=1}^N (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) \varphi_j \sum_{k=1}^N (a_k^{n+1} + a_k^n) \varphi_k \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N [a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n] [b_k^{n+1} + b_k^n] (\varphi'_j \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi'_k). \end{aligned}$$

The scalar products appearing in the terms proportional to α^2 and $\alpha\beta$ are already defined: $((\varphi'_j \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi'_k), \psi_i) = C_{ijk}^{(3)}$.

Due to the properties (33) and (21), triple and double sums reduce to single ones. With these settings the second order KdV equation (15) gives the following system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^N \left\{ (a_j^{n+1} - a_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} + \tau \left[\frac{1}{2} (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right. \right. & \quad (36) \\ &+ \left(\alpha \frac{3}{16} (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n)^2 + \beta \frac{1}{12} (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) \right. \\ &- \alpha^2 \frac{1}{64} (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n)^3 + \alpha\beta \frac{13}{192} (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n)^2 \\ &+ \alpha\beta \frac{5}{96} (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) \\ &\left. \left. + \beta^2 \frac{19}{720} (e_j^{n+1} + e_j^n) \right) C_{ij}^{(2)} \right\} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^N [(a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)}] &= 0, \\ \sum_{j=1}^N [(b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)}] &= 0, \\ \sum_{j=1}^N [(c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (d_j^{n+1} + d_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)}] &= 0, \\ \sum_{j=1}^N [(b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (e_j^{n+1} + e_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)}] &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$.

In this case the vector of expansion coefficients X^n is $5N$ -dimensional,

$$X^n = \begin{pmatrix} A^n \\ B^n \\ C^n \\ D^n \\ E^n \end{pmatrix}, \quad (37)$$

where A^n, B^n and C^n are already defined in (24) and

$$D^n = \begin{pmatrix} d_1^n \\ d_2^n \\ \vdots \\ d_N^n \end{pmatrix}, \quad E^n = \begin{pmatrix} e_1^n \\ e_2^n \\ \vdots \\ e_N^n \end{pmatrix}. \quad (38)$$

The Jacobian now becomes $(5N \times 5N)$ -dimensional. Its structure, however, is similar to (27), that is,

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} (A_a) & (A_b) & (A_c) & (0) & (A_e) \\ (C2) & -(C1) & (0) & (0) & (0) \\ (0) & (C2) & -(C1) & (0) & (0) \\ (0) & (0) & (C2) & -(C1) & (0) \\ (0) & (0) & (0) & (C2) & -(C1) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (39)$$

where the matrices $(A_a), (A_b), (A_c)$ are defined as previously and

$$(A_e)_{ij} = \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial e_j^{n+1}}.$$

Now F_i represents the set (36) which contains four nonlinear terms.

3.2.3. Extended KdV equation with an uneven bottom. For the extended KdV with non-flat bottom we have to include into (36) three additional terms contained in the last line of the formula (1). Expanding the bottom function $h(x)$ and its second derivative $h_{2x}(x)$ in the basis $\{\varphi_j(x)\}$,

$$h(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N H0_j \varphi_j(x), \quad h_{2x}(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N H2_j \varphi_j(x), \quad (40)$$

we can write the terms mentioned above in the following form:

$$\partial_x \left(h\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right) \tag{41}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N H0_j (a_k^{n+1} + a_k^n) (\varphi'_j \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi'_k),$$

$$\partial_x \left(h_{2x}\eta^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right) \tag{42}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N H2_j (a_k^{n+1} + a_k^n) (\varphi'_j \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi'_k).$$

$$\partial_x \left(h\eta_{2x}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right) \tag{43}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N H0_j (c_k^{n+1} + c_k^n) (\varphi'_j \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi'_k).$$

Since

$$((\varphi'_j \varphi_k + \varphi_j \varphi'_k), \psi_i) = C^{(3)}(i, j, k) = C^{(2)}(i, j) \delta_{jk},$$

terms proportional to $\beta\delta$ can be reduced to single sums like those proportional to $\alpha^2, \alpha\beta$ and β^2 discussed in the previous subsections. Finally, one obtains (1) as a system of coupled nonlinear equations ($i = 1, 2, \dots, N$):

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^N \left\{ (a_j^{n+1} - a_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} + \tau \left[\frac{1}{2} (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right. \right. & \tag{44} \\ & + \left(\alpha \frac{3}{16} (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n)^2 + \beta \frac{1}{12} (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) \right. \\ & - \alpha^2 \frac{1}{64} (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n)^3 + \alpha\beta \left(\frac{13}{192} (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n)^2 \right. \\ & + \left. \left. \frac{5}{96} (a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) \right) + \beta^2 \frac{19}{720} (e_j^{n+1} + e_j^n) \right. \\ & - \left. \frac{1}{4} \delta H0_j (a_k^{n+1} + a_k^n) + \frac{1}{8} \beta \delta H2_j (a_k^{n+1} + a_k^n) \right. \\ & \left. \left. - \frac{1}{8} \beta \delta H0_j (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) \right) C_{ij}^{(2)} \right\} = 0, \\ \sum_{j=1}^N \left[(a_j^{n+1} + a_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right] & = 0, \\ \sum_{j=1}^N \left[(b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right] & = 0, \\ \sum_{j=1}^N \left[(c_j^{n+1} + c_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (d_j^{n+1} + d_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right] & = 0, \\ \sum_{j=1}^N \left[(b_j^{n+1} + b_j^n) C_{ij}^{(2)} - (e_j^{n+1} + e_j^n) C_{ij}^{(1)} \right] & = 0. \end{aligned}$$

In this case the structures of the vector X^n and all matrices remain the same as in (37)–(39). However, the matrix elements in matrices A_a and A_c are now different from those in Section 3.2.2, due to the new terms in (44).

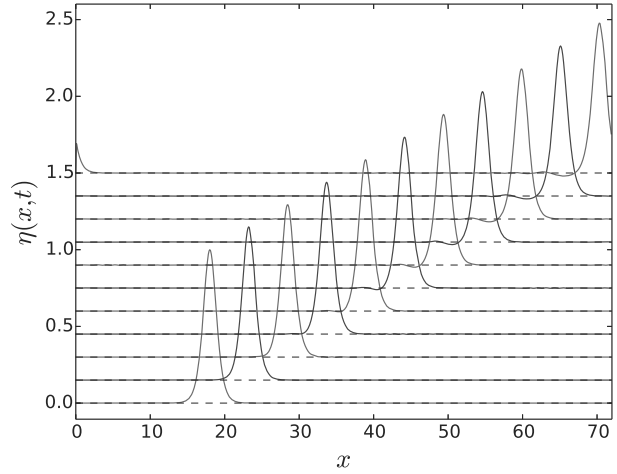


Fig. 1. Time evolution of the initial KdV soliton according to the extended KdV equation (3). The profiles are obtained by a numerical solution of the set of equations (36). The dashed lines represent the undisturbed fluid surface.

4. Numerical simulations

It was demonstrated by Debussche and Printems (1999) that the method described in the previous section works reasonably well for the KdV equation (7). Our aim was to apply the finite element method in order to numerically solve the second order equations with a flat bottom (3) and with an uneven bottom (1). There exist two kinds of solutions to KdV equations: soliton (in general, multi-soliton) solutions and periodic solutions, called cnoidal waves (see, e.g. Whitham, 1974; Dingemans, 1997). In Sections 4.1 and 4.2 we present some examples of numerical simulations for soliton solutions, whereas in Section 4.3—some examples for cnoidal solutions.

4.1. Extended KdV equation (3). In Fig. 1 we present several steps of the time evolution of the soliton wave (at $t = 0$ it is the KdV soliton) according to the extended KdV equation (3) and the numerical scheme (36). The mesh size is $N = 720$, with a time step $\tau = \chi^2$ and parameters $\alpha = \beta = 0.1$. Plotted are the calculated profiles of the wave $\eta(x, t_k)$, where $t_k = 5 \cdot k$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, 10$. In order to avoid overlaps of profiles at different time instants, each subsequent profile is shifted up by 0.15 with respect to the previous one. This convention is used in Figs. 2 and 3 as well. Here and in the next figures the dashed lines represent the undisturbed fluid surface. As the initial condition we chose the standard KdV soliton centered at $x_0 = 18$. That is, in the applied units,

$$\eta(x, t = 0) = \text{sech}^2 \left[\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} (x - x_0) \right].$$

Note that since we use scaled variables and the definition (2), the amplitude of the soliton is equal to 1. In Figs. 2–4 we use the same initial conditions.

The soliton motion shown in Fig. 1 is in agreement with the numerical results obtained with the finite difference method by Karczevska et al. (2014b; 2014a). With parameters $\alpha = \beta = 0.1$, the resulting distortion of the KdV soliton due to second order terms in (3), (36) is in the form of a small amplitude wavetrain created behind the main wave.

4.2. Uneven bottom. We may ask whether the FEM numerical approach to the extended KdV (44) is precise enough to reveal the details of soliton distortion caused by a varying bottom. The examples plotted in Figs. 2–4 show that this is indeed the case. In all the presented calculations the amplitude of the bottom variations is $\delta = 0.2$. The bottom profile is plotted as a black line below zero on a different scale than the wave profile.

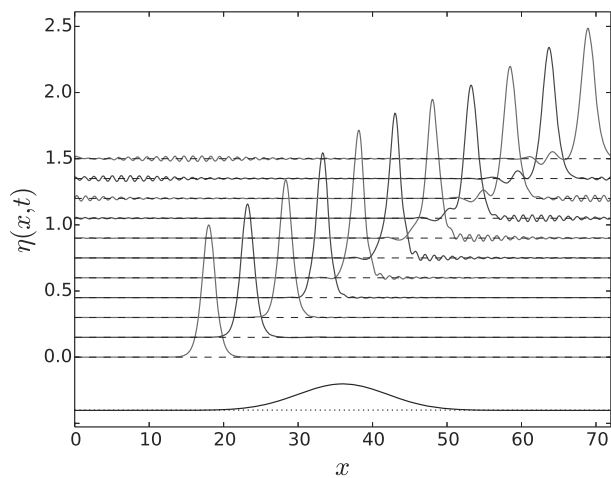


Fig. 2. Time evolution of the initial KdV soliton governed by the extended KdV equation (1) when the bottom has one hump. Here and in the following figures the dotted line shows the position of (the) undisturbed bottom.

In Fig. 2 the motion of the KdV soliton over a wide bottom hump of a Gaussian shape is presented. Here, the bottom function is

$$h(x) = \delta \exp\left(-\left(\frac{x - 36}{7}\right)^2\right).$$

In the scaled variables the undisturbed surface of the water (dashed lines) is at $y = 0$. The soliton profiles shown in Fig. 2 are almost the same as those obtained with the finite differences method (FDM) used by Karczevska et al. (2014b; 2014a). There are small differences due to a lower precision of our FEM calculations. The FEM allows the use of larger time steps than the FDM. However, in the FEM the computing time grows rapidly with an increase

in the number N of the mesh, since calculation of the inverse of the Jacobian ($5N \times 5N$) matrices becomes time consuming.

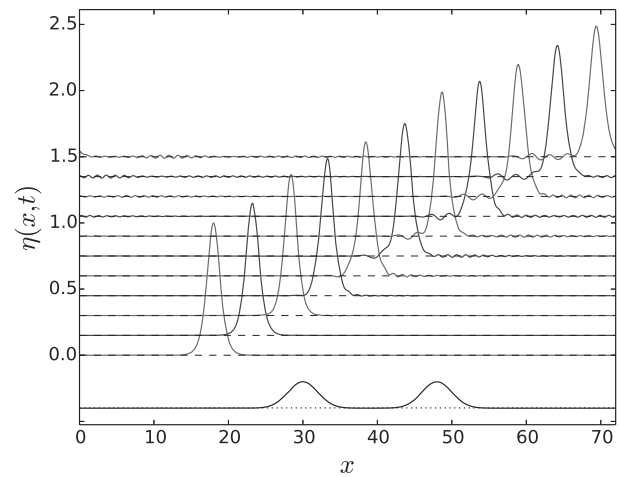


Fig. 3. Time evolution of the initial KdV soliton governed by the extended KdV equation (1) when the bottom has two narrow humps.

Figure 3 displays the motion of the KdV soliton above a double humped Gaussian shaped bottom defined by

$$h(x) = \delta \left[\exp\left(-\left(\frac{x - 30}{6\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\right) + \exp\left(-\left(\frac{x - 48}{6\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\right) \right].$$

Here, both the Gaussians are rather narrow and therefore distortions of the wave shape from the ideal soliton are smaller than those in Fig. 2.

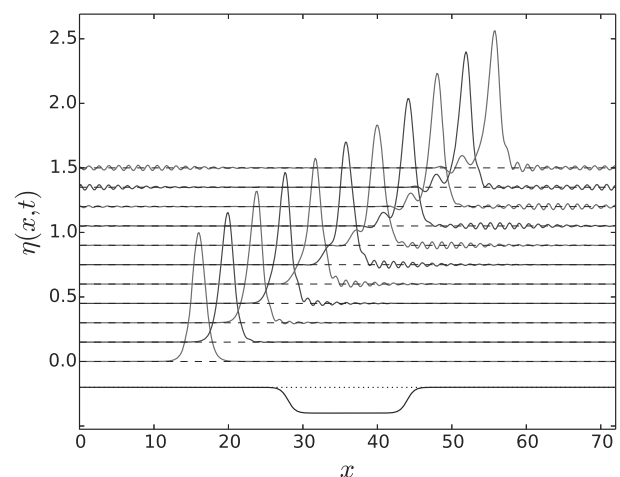


Fig. 4. Time evolution of the initial KdV soliton governed by the extended KdV equation (1) when the bottom has a well.

In Fig. 4 we see the influence of a bottom well with horizontal size extending the soliton’s wavelength. The

bottom function is chosen as

$$h(x) = 1 - \frac{\delta}{2} \left[\tanh(x - 28) + \tanh(44 - x) \right]$$

symmetric with respect to the center of the x interval. Figure 4 shows that during the motion above smooth obstacles two effects appear. First, some additional ‘waves’ of small amplitude, but moving faster than the main solitary wave, appear. Second, a wave of smaller amplitude and smaller velocity appears behind the main wave. Both these properties were observed and described in detail in our previous paper (Karczewska *et al.*, 2014a).

4.3. Motion of cnoidal waves. Cnoidal solutions to the KdV equation are expressed by the Jacobi elliptic cn^2 function. The explicit formula for cnoidal solutions (see, e.g., Dingemans, 1997) is

$$\eta(x, t) = \eta_2 + H \text{cn}^2 \left(\frac{x - ct}{\Delta} \middle| m \right), \quad (45)$$

where

$$\eta_2 = \frac{H}{m} \left(1 - m - \frac{E(m)}{K(m)} \right), \quad \Delta = h \sqrt{\frac{4mh}{3H}}, \quad (46)$$

and

$$c = \sqrt{gh} \left[1 + \frac{H}{mh} \left(1 - \frac{m}{2} - \frac{3E(m)}{2K(m)} \right) \right]. \quad (47)$$

The solution (45)–(47) is written in dimensional quantities, where H is the wave height, h is the mean water depth, g is the gravitational acceleration and m is an elliptic parameter. $K(m)$ and $E(m)$ are complete elliptic integrals of the first and second kinds, respectively. The value of $m \in [0, 1]$ governs the shape of the wave.

As $m \rightarrow 0$, the cnoidal solution converges to a cosine function. As $m \rightarrow 1$, the cnoidal wave forms peaked crests and flat troughs, such that for $m = 1$ the distance between crests increases to infinity and the cnoidal wave converges to a soliton solution.

For (1) and (3) we have to express the formulas (45)–(47) in dimensionless variables.

Figure 5 shows the time evolution of the cnoidal wave according to the extended KdV equation (3), that is, the second order KdV equation with a flat bottom. The parameters of the simulation are $\alpha = \beta = 0.14$, $m = 1 - 10^{-16}$. With this value of m the wavelength of the cnoidal wave is equal to $d \approx 75.1552$ dimensionless units, and calculations were performed on the interval of that length, $x \in [0, 75.1552]$, with a periodic boundary condition. The mesh size was taken as $N = 752$. The initial position of the wave peak was chosen at the center of the given interval, that is, $x_0 = 37.5776$. The explicit form of the initial condition in this case was $\eta(x, t =$

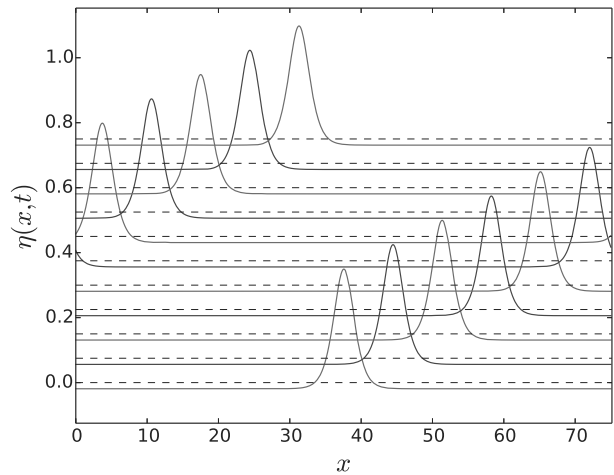


Fig. 5. Time evolution of the initial KdV cnoidal wave governed by the extended KdV equation (3) and the numerical scheme (36).

$0) = -0.0189862 + 0.368486 \text{cn}^2 \left(\frac{x - x_0}{1.90221} \middle| m \right)$. Profiles of the wave are plotted at time instants $t_k = 10 \cdot k$, where $k = 0, 1, \dots, 8$. Since the amplitudes of cnoidal waves are less than 1, the vertical shift for the sequential profiles in Figs. 5–8 is chosen to be 0.075.

In Fig. 6 we display the initially cnoidal wave moving over an extended, almost flat hump. In this simulation the value of parameters α, β, m and interval x are the same as in the previous figure. Since we consider here the motion over an uneven bottom defined by the function

$$h(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[-\tanh \left(2(x - 8.6) - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \tanh \left(2(x - 66.5552) - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right],$$

the evolution was calculated according to Eqn. (1) and the numerical scheme (44). Profiles of the wave are plotted at time instants $t_k = 10 \cdot k$, where $k = 0, 1, \dots, 8$. Figure 6 shows that during the wave motion over the obstacle a kind of slower wave with smaller amplitude is created following the main peak.

In Fig. 8 we present the initially cnoidal wave moving over an extended, almost flat hump. In this simulation, $m = 1 - 10^{-8}$. The initial condition is given by

$$\eta(x, t = 0) = 0.0359497 + 0.368486 \text{cn}^2 \left(\frac{x - x_0}{1.90221} \middle| m \right)$$

with $x_0 = 20.1571$. Because m is smaller than in the previous cases, the wavelength d of the cnoidal wave is also smaller, $d \approx 40.3241$. Calculations were made on the interval $x \in [0, 2d]$ with $N = 807$. Profiles of the wave are plotted at time instants $t_k = 10 \cdot k$, where $k = 0, 1, \dots, 8$. Figure 8 shows qualitatively similar features to those in Fig. 6.

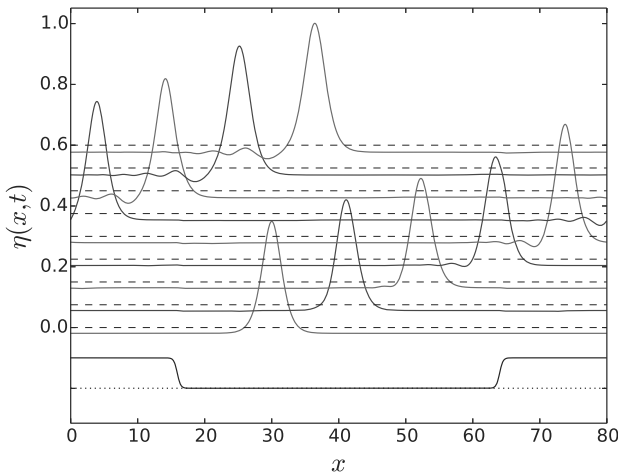


Fig. 6. Time evolution of the initial KdV cnoidal wave governed by the extended KdV equation (1). The bottom function is here $h(x) = \frac{1}{2}[-\tanh(2(x - 8.6) - \frac{1}{2}) + \tanh(2(x - 66.5552) - \frac{1}{2})]$.

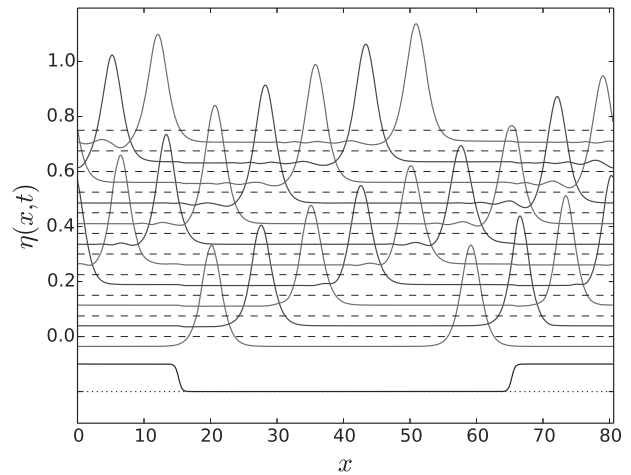


Fig. 7. Time evolution of the initial KdV cnoidal wave governed by the extended KdV equation (1). The bottom function is here $h(x) = \frac{1}{2}[-\tanh(2(x - 13.3) - \frac{1}{2}) + \tanh(2(x - 67) - \frac{1}{2})]$.

4.4. Precision of numerical calculations. The KdV equation (6) or (7) is unique since it possesses an infinite number of invariants (see, e.g., Miura *et al.*, 1968; Drazin and Johnson, 1989). The lowest invariant,

$$I_1 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \eta \, dx,$$

represents the conservation law for the mass (volume) of the liquid. The second,

$$I_2 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \eta^2 \, dx,$$

is related to momentum conservation, and the third,

$$I_3 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\eta^3 - \frac{1}{3}\eta_x^2) \, dx,$$

is related to energy conservation. However, as pointed by Ablowitz and Segur (1979), Ali and Kalisch (2014) or Karczewska *et al.* (2015), the relations between I_2 and momentum and I_3 and energy are more complex.

Approximate conservation of these invariants often serves as a test of the precision of numerical simulations. However, this is not the case for the second order KdV type equations (1) and (3). It was noted by Karczewska *et al.* (2015) that I_1 is an invariant of Eqns. (1) and (3), but I_2 and I_3 are not invariants. Therefore, only I_1 can be used as a test for the precision of numerical calculations of waves moving according to second order extended KdV equations. In all the presented calculations the precision of the numerical values of I_1 was consistently high, i.e.,

$$\frac{I_1(t) - I_1(0)}{I_1(0)} \leq 10^{-6}.$$

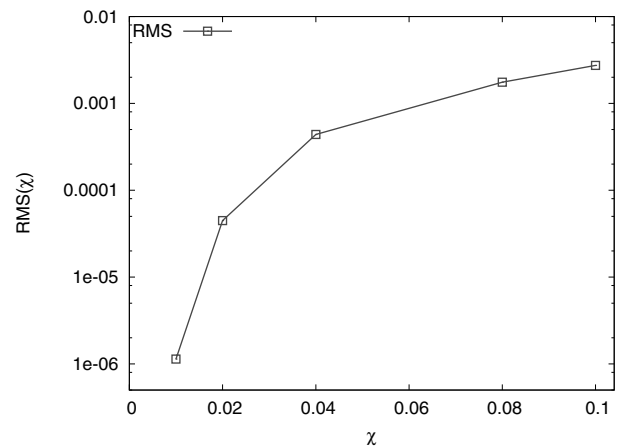


Fig. 8. Precision of numerical calculations for the KdV equation in the fixed frame as a function of mesh size.

Wave motion according to KdV and extended (second order) KdV equations is usually calculated in the reference frame moving with the natural velocity $c = 1$ in scaled dimensionless variables (in the original variables $c = \sqrt{g\bar{h}}$). The KdV and extended KdV equations for a moving reference frame are obtained by the transformation $\hat{x} = (x - t)$, $\hat{t} = t$, which removes the term η_x from the Eqn. (3). Then the soliton velocity in the fixed frame is proportional to $1 + \alpha/2$, whereas in the moving frame it is proportional to $\alpha/2$. Therefore, for the value of $\alpha = 0.1$ the distance covered by a soliton in the moving frame is $(\alpha/2)/(1 + \alpha/2) = 1/21$ times shorter than the distance covered in the fixed frame for the same duration. Then, with the same number of the mesh points N the mesh size χ can be more than 20 times smaller assuring much higher precision of calculation in

the moving frame at the same operational cost. For instance, Debussche and Printems (1999) obtained good precision for motion of a KdV soliton with the FEM method using $N = 200$, $\chi = 0.01$ and time step $\tau = \chi$ on the interval $x \in [0, 2]$.

The precision of the FEM method in the fixed frame can be tested by calculation of a root mean square (RMS) of deviations of wave profile obtained numerically from those generated by the analytic solution. Denote by $\eta_i^{\text{anal}}(t)$ and $\eta_i^{\text{num}}(t)$ the values of the solutions at given mesh point i and time instant t , analytic and numerical, respectively. Then the RMS is expressed as

$$\text{RMS}(\chi, t) = \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\eta_i^{\text{anal}}(t) - \eta_i^{\text{num}}(t))^2 \right)^{1/2}. \quad (48)$$

We checked our implementation of the FEM on the interval $x \in [0, 20]$ using several different sizes χ of the mesh and several time values. Figure 8 displays the RMS (48) values for $t = 10$. It shows that deviations from the analytic solution decrease substantially with decreasing χ . Small χ assures very high precision in numerical simulations, although at the expense of large computation time. Another tests (not shown here) in which χ was fixed and the RMS was calculated as a function of time showed that for $\tau = \chi^2$ the RMS increases with time linearly and very slowly.

When the bottom is not flat, simulations *have to be done in the fixed reference frame*. For our purposes we needed to choose the x intervals of the order of 70 or 80. Even for $\chi = 0.1$ the size of the Jacobian matrices (39) reaches (4000×4000) and its inversion is time consuming. In a compromise between numerical precision and reasonable computing times we made our simulations with $\chi = 0.1$. This choice resulted in about one week of computing time for a single run on a cluster. In spite of the insufficient precision the results presented in Figs. 1–7 reproduce details of evolution known from our previous studies, obtained with the finite difference method. These details, resulting from second order terms in the extended KdV (3), are seen in Fig. 1 as a wavetrain of small amplitude created behind the main one (compare it with Fig. 2 of Karczewska *et al.* (2014a)). A similar wavetrain behind the main one was observed in numerical simulations by Marchant and Smyth (1996); see, e.g., Fig. 2 therein. For waves moving with the presence of a bottom obstacle these secondary waves behind the main one are amplified by interaction with the bottom and new faster secondary waves appear (see, e.g., Figs. 2–4). These effects were already observed by us (Karczewska *et al.*, 2014a, Figs. 6 and 7).

5. Conclusions

The main conclusions of our study can be summarized as follows.

- A weak formulation of the finite element method (FEM) for the extended KdV equation (3) can be effectively used for numerical calculations of the time evolution of both soliton and cnoidal waves when calculations are done in a moving frame.
- Since numerical calculations for Eqn. (1) have to be performed in a fixed frame, the presented FEM method is not as effective as the FDM method used by us in our previous papers because the computer time necessary for obtaining sufficiently high precision becomes impractical. On the other hand, the presented results (though not as precise as FDM ones) exhibit all secondary structures generated by higher order terms of the equations.
- First tests of numerical solutions to second order KdV type equations with a stochastic term seem to be very promising (Karczewska *et al.*, 2016).

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