

Well-Balanced Positivity Preserving Central-  
Upwind Scheme on Triangular Grids for the  
Saint-Venant System

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*Modeling and Computations of Shallow-Water Coastal Flows*

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# Outline

- Motivation
- Saint-Venant System of Shallow Water Equations
- Brief Overview of the Semi-Discrete Central-Upwind Scheme
- Scheme
- Numerical Results
- Conclusions

# Motivation

- Saint-Venant System of shallow water equations describes the fluid flow as a conservation law with an additional source term
- The general characteristic of shallow water flows is that vertical scales of motion are much smaller than the horizontal scales
- The shallow water equations are derived from the incompressible Navier-Stokes

# Motivation

- This Saint-Venant System is widely used in many scientific and engineering applications related to
- Modeling of water flows in rivers, lakes and coastal areas
- The Development of robust and accurate numerical methods for Shallow Water Equations is an important and challenging problem



# 2-D Saint-Venant system of shallow water equations

$$\begin{cases} h_t + (hu)_x + (hv)_y = 0, \\ (hu)_t + \left(hu^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2\right)_x + (huv)_y = -ghB_x, \\ (hv)_t + (huv)_x + \left(hv^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2\right)_y = -ghB_y, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

- the function  $B(x, y)$  represents the bottom elevation
- $h$  is the fluid depth above the bottom
- $(u, v)^T$  is the velocity vector
- $g$  is the gravitational constant

One of the difficulties encountered:

- that system (1) admits nonsmooth solutions: shocks, rarefaction waves,
- the bottom topography function  $B$  can be discontinuous.

# 2-D Saint-Venant system of shallow water equations

*A good numerical method for Saint-Venant System should have at least two major properties, which are crucial for its stability:*

- (i) The method should be well-balanced, that is, it should exactly preserve the stationary steady-state solutions  $h + B \equiv \text{const}$ ,  $u \equiv v \equiv 0$  (lake at rest states).

This property diminishes the appearance of unphysical waves of magnitude proportional to the grid size (the so-called “numerical storm”), which are normally present when computing quasi steady-states;

- (ii) The method should be positivity preserving, that is, the water depth  $h$  should be nonnegative at all times.

This property ensures a robust performance of the method on dry ( $h = 0$ ) and almost dry ( $h \sim 0$ ) states.

## Semi-discrete central-upwind scheme

*Central-Upwind schemes were developed for multidimensional hyperbolic systems of conservation laws in 2000 – 2007 by Kurganov, Lin, Noelle, Petrova, Tadmor, ...*

- **Central-Upwind schemes are Godunov-type finite-volume projection-evolution methods:**
- **At each time level a solution is globally approximated by a piecewise polynomial function,**
- **Which is then evolved to the new time level using the integral form of the conservation law system.**

# Key ideas of the scheme development for Saint-Venant system

- Change of conservative variables from  $(h, hu, hv)^T$  to  $(w := h + B, hu, hv)^T$
- Replacement of the bottom topography function  $B$  with its continuous piecewise linear (or bilinear in the 2-D case) approximation
- Special positivity preserving correction of the piecewise linear reconstruction for the water surface  $w$
- Development of a special finite-volume-type quadrature for the discretization of the cell averages of the geometric source term.

## Description of the scheme

- We describe now, our new second-order semi-discrete central-upwind scheme for solving the Saint-Venant system of shallow water equations on triangular grids
- We first denote the water surface by  $w := h + B$  and rewrite the original Saint-Venant system in terms of the vector  $\mathbf{U} := (w, hu, hv)^T$ :

$$\mathbf{U}_t + \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}, B)_x + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}, B)_y = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U}, B)$$

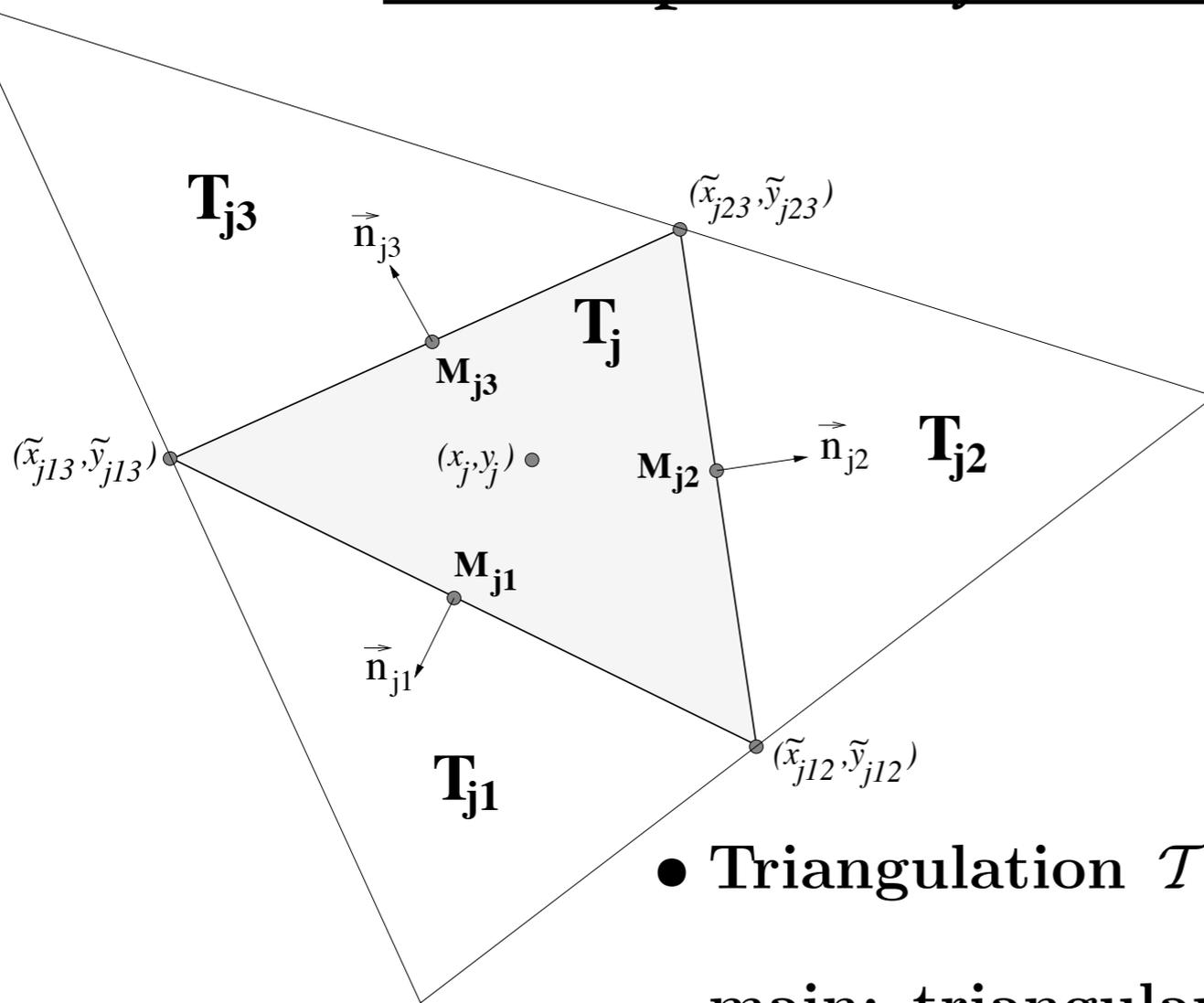
where the fluxes and the source terms are:

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}, B) = \left( hu, \frac{(hu)^2}{w - B} + \frac{1}{2}g(w - B)^2, \frac{(hu)(hv)}{w - B} \right)^T$$

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}, B) = \left( hv, \frac{(hu)(hv)}{w - B}, \frac{(hv)^2}{w - B} + \frac{1}{2}g(w - B)^2 \right)^T$$

$$\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U}, B) = \left( 0, -g(w - B)B_x, -g(w - B)B_y \right)^T.$$

# Description of the scheme: notations



- Triangulation  $\mathcal{T} := \bigcup_j T_j$  of the computational domain: triangular cells  $T_j$  of size  $|T_j|$
- $\vec{n}_{jk} := (\cos(\theta_{jk}), \sin(\theta_{jk}))$  are the outer unit normals to the corresponding sides of  $T_j$  of length  $\ell_{jk}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3$ ,
- $(x_j, y_j)$  are the coordinates of the center of mass for  $T_j$  and  $M_{jk} = (x_{jk}, y_{jk})$  is the midpoint of the  $k$ -th side of the triangle  $T_j$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3$
- $T_{j1}$ ,  $T_{j2}$  and  $T_{j3}$  are the neighboring triangles that share a common side with  $T_j$

# Description of the central-upwind scheme on triangular grids

Denote  $\bar{\mathbf{U}}_j(t) \approx \frac{1}{|T_j|} \int_{T_j} \mathbf{U}(x, y, t) dx dy$ .

Second order central-upwind scheme on triangular grid for the Saint-Venant System:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\bar{\mathbf{U}}_j}{dt} = & \\ & -\frac{1}{|T_j|} \sum_{k=1}^3 \frac{\ell_{jk} \cos(\theta_{jk})}{a_{jk}^{\text{in}} + a_{jk}^{\text{out}}} \left[ a_{jk}^{\text{in}} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}_{jk}(M_{jk}), B(M_{jk})) + a_{jk}^{\text{out}} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}_j(M_{jk}), B(M_{jk})) \right] \\ & -\frac{1}{|T_j|} \sum_{k=1}^3 \frac{\ell_{jk} \sin(\theta_{jk})}{a_{jk}^{\text{in}} + a_{jk}^{\text{out}}} \left[ a_{jk}^{\text{in}} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}_{jk}(M_{jk}), B(M_{jk})) + a_{jk}^{\text{out}} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}_j(M_{jk}), B(M_{jk})) \right] \\ & +\frac{1}{|T_j|} \sum_{k=1}^3 \ell_{jk} \frac{a_{jk}^{\text{in}} a_{jk}^{\text{out}}}{a_{jk}^{\text{in}} + a_{jk}^{\text{out}}} \left[ \mathbf{U}_{jk}(M_{jk}) - \mathbf{U}_j(M_{jk}) \right] + \bar{\mathbf{S}}_j, \end{aligned}$$

# Description of the central-upwind scheme on triangular grids

- $\mathbf{U}_j(M_{jk})$  and  $\mathbf{U}_{jk}(M_{jk})$  are the corresponding values at  $M_{jk}$  of the piecewise linear reconstruction

$$\tilde{\mathbf{U}}(x, y) := \bar{\mathbf{U}}_j + (\mathbf{U}_x)_j(x - x_j) + (\mathbf{U}_y)_j(y - y_j), \quad (x, y) \in T_j$$

of  $\mathbf{U}$  at time  $t$

- The quantity  $\bar{\mathbf{S}}_j$  in the scheme is an appropriate discretization of the cell averages of the source term
- The directional local speeds  $a_{jk}^{\text{in}}$  and  $a_{jk}^{\text{out}}$  are defined by

$$a_{jk}^{\text{in}}(M_{jk}) = -\min\{\lambda_1[V_{jk}(\mathbf{U}_j(M_{jk}))], \lambda_1[V_{jk}(\mathbf{U}_{jk}(M_{jk}))], 0\},$$

$$a_{jk}^{\text{out}}(M_{jk}) = \max\{\lambda_3[V_{jk}(\mathbf{U}_j(M_{jk}))], \lambda_3[V_{jk}(\mathbf{U}_{jk}(M_{jk}))], 0\},$$

where  $\lambda_1[V_{jk}] \leq \lambda_2[V_{jk}] \leq \lambda_3[V_{jk}]$  are the eigenvalues of the matrix  $V_{jk} = \cos(\theta_{jk})\frac{\partial \mathbf{F}}{\partial \mathbf{U}} + \sin(\theta_{jk})\frac{\partial \mathbf{G}}{\partial \mathbf{U}}$ .

- A fully discrete scheme is obtained by using a stable ODE solver of an appropriate order

## Calculation of the numerical derivatives of the $i$ th component of $U$

- Construct three linear interpolations  $L_j^{12}(x, y)$ ,  $L_j^{23}(x, y)$  and  $L_j^{13}(x, y)$ : conservative on  $T_j$  and two of the neighboring triangles  $(T_{j1}, T_{j2})$ ,  $(T_{j2}, T_{j3})$  and  $(T_{j1}, T_{j3})$
- Select the linear piece with the smallest magnitude of the gradient, say,  $L_j^{km}(x, y)$ , and set

$$\left( (\mathbf{U}_x^{(i)})_j, (\mathbf{U}_y^{(i)})_j \right)^T = \nabla L_j^{km}$$

- Minimize the oscillations by checking the appearance of local extrema at the points  $M_{jk}$ ,  $1, 2, 3$

# Piecewise linear approximation of the bottom

- Replace the bottom topography function  $B$  with its continuous piecewise linear approximation  $\tilde{B}$ , which over each cell  $T_j$  is given by the formula:

$$\begin{vmatrix} x - \tilde{x}_{j12} & y - \tilde{y}_{j12} & \tilde{B}(x, y) - \mathcal{B}_{j12} \\ \tilde{x}_{j23} - \tilde{x}_{j12} & \tilde{y}_{j23} - \tilde{y}_{j12} & \mathcal{B}_{j23} - \mathcal{B}_{j12} \\ \tilde{x}_{j13} - \tilde{x}_{j12} & \tilde{y}_{j13} - \tilde{y}_{j12} & \mathcal{B}_{j13} - \mathcal{B}_{j12} \end{vmatrix} = 0, \quad (x, y) \in T_j.$$

- $\mathcal{B}_{j_\kappa}$  are the values of  $\tilde{B}$  at the vertices  $(\tilde{x}_{j_\kappa}, \tilde{y}_{j_\kappa})$ ,  $\kappa = 12, 23, 13$ , of the cell  $T_j$
- $\mathcal{B}_{j_\kappa} := \frac{1}{2}(\max_{\xi^2 + \eta^2 = 1} \lim_{h, \ell \rightarrow 0} B(\tilde{x}_{j_\kappa} + h\xi, \tilde{y}_{j_\kappa} + \ell\eta) + \min_{\xi^2 + \eta^2 = 1} \lim_{h, \ell \rightarrow 0} B(\tilde{x}_{j_\kappa} + h\xi, \tilde{y}_{j_\kappa} + \ell\eta))$ ,
- If the function  $B$  is continuous at  $(\tilde{x}_{j_\kappa}, \tilde{y}_{j_\kappa})$ :  $\mathcal{B}_{j_\kappa} = B(\tilde{x}_{j_\kappa}, \tilde{y}_{j_\kappa})$

# Positivity preserving reconstruction for $w$

The idea of the algorithm that guarantees positivity of the reconstructed values of the water depth  $h_j(M_{jk}) := w_j(M_{jk}) - B_{jk}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3$ , for all  $j$ :

- The reconstruction  $\tilde{w}$  should be corrected only in those triangles, where  $\tilde{w}(\tilde{x}_{j\kappa}, \tilde{y}_{j\kappa}) < \mathcal{B}_{j\kappa}$  for some  $\kappa$ ,  $\kappa = 12, 23, 13$
- Since  $\bar{w}_j \geq B_j$ , it is impossible to have  $\tilde{w}(\tilde{x}_{j\kappa}, \tilde{y}_{j\kappa}) < \mathcal{B}_{j\kappa}$  for all three values of  $\kappa$ : at all three vertices of the triangle  $T_j$
- Two cases in which a correction is needed are possible:  
either there are two indices  $\kappa_1$  and  $\kappa_2$ , for which  $\tilde{w}(\tilde{x}_{j\kappa_1}, \tilde{y}_{j\kappa_1}) < \mathcal{B}_{j\kappa_1}$  and  $\tilde{w}(\tilde{x}_{j\kappa_2}, \tilde{y}_{j\kappa_2}) < \mathcal{B}_{j\kappa_2}$ ,  
or there is only one index  $\kappa_1$ , for which  $\tilde{w}(\tilde{x}_{j\kappa_1}, \tilde{y}_{j\kappa_1}) < \mathcal{B}_{j\kappa_1}$

## Well-balanced discretization of the source term

- The well-balanced property of the scheme is guaranteed if the discretized cell average of the source term,  $\bar{\mathbf{S}}_j$ , exactly balances the numerical fluxes
- The desired quadrature for the source term that will preserve stationary steady states ( $\mathbf{U}_{jk}(M_{jk}) \equiv \mathbf{U}_j(M_{jk}) \equiv (C, 0, 0)^T, \forall j, k$ ) is given by:

$$\bar{\mathbf{S}}_j^{(2)} = \frac{g}{2|T_j|} \sum_{k=1}^3 \ell_{jk} (w_j(M_{jk}) - B_{jk})^2 \cos(\theta_{jk}) - g(w_x)_j (\bar{w}_j - B_j)$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{S}}_j^{(3)} = \frac{g}{2|T_j|} \sum_{k=1}^3 \ell_{jk} (w_j(M_{jk}) - B_{jk})^2 \sin(\theta_{jk}) - g(w_y)_j (\bar{w}_j - B_j)$$

# Main theorem: positivity property of the new scheme

**Theorem 1** *Consider the Saint-Venant system in the new variables  $\mathbf{U} := (w, hu, hv)^T$  and the central-upwind semi-discrete scheme (with well-balanced quadrature for the source  $S$ , positivity preserving reconstruction for  $w$ )*

- *Assume that the system of ODEs for the fully discrete scheme is solved by the forward Euler method and that for all  $j$ ,  $\bar{w}_j^n - B_j \geq 0$  at time  $t = t^n$*
- *Then, for all  $j$ ,  $\bar{w}_j^{n+1} - B_j \geq 0$  at time  $t = t^{n+1} = t^n + dt$ , provided that  $dt \leq \frac{1}{6a} \min_{j,k} \{r_{jk}\}$ , where  $a := \max_{j,k} \{a_{jk}^{\text{out}}, a_{jk}^{\text{in}}\}$  and  $r_{jk}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3$ , are the altitudes of triangle  $T_j$*

**Remark.** *Theorem 1 is still valid if one uses a higher-order SSP ODE solver (either the Runge-Kutta or the multistep one), because such solvers can be written as a convex combination of several forward Euler steps.*

## Accuracy test

The scheme is applied to the Saint-Venant system subject to the following initial data and the bottom topography:

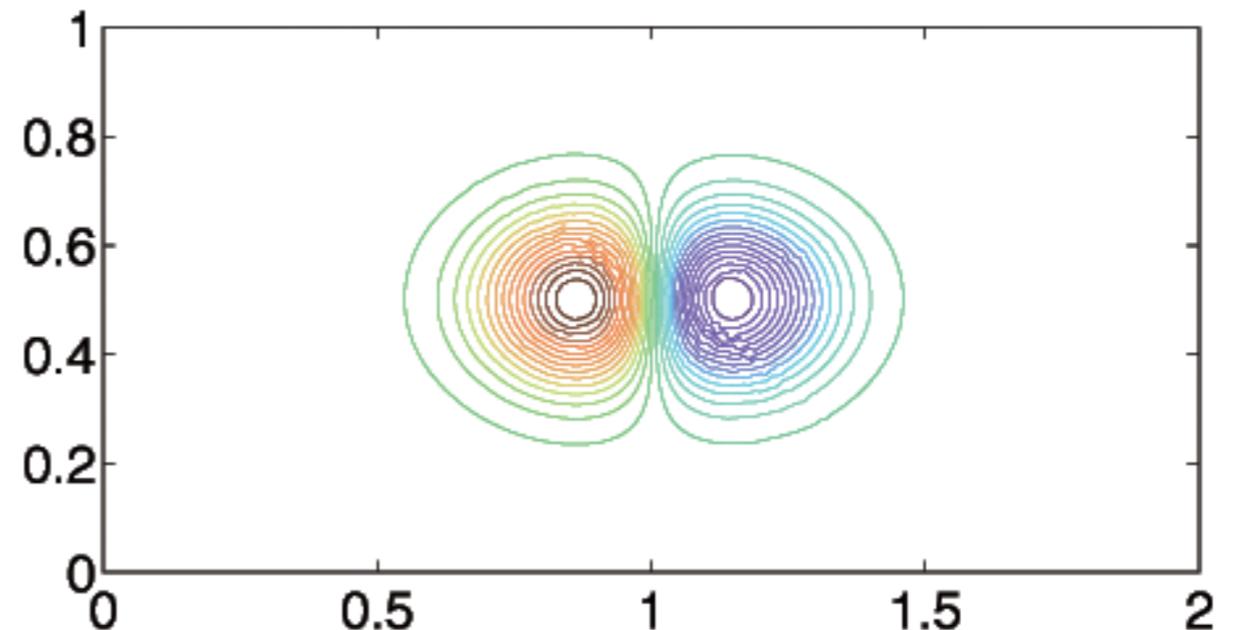
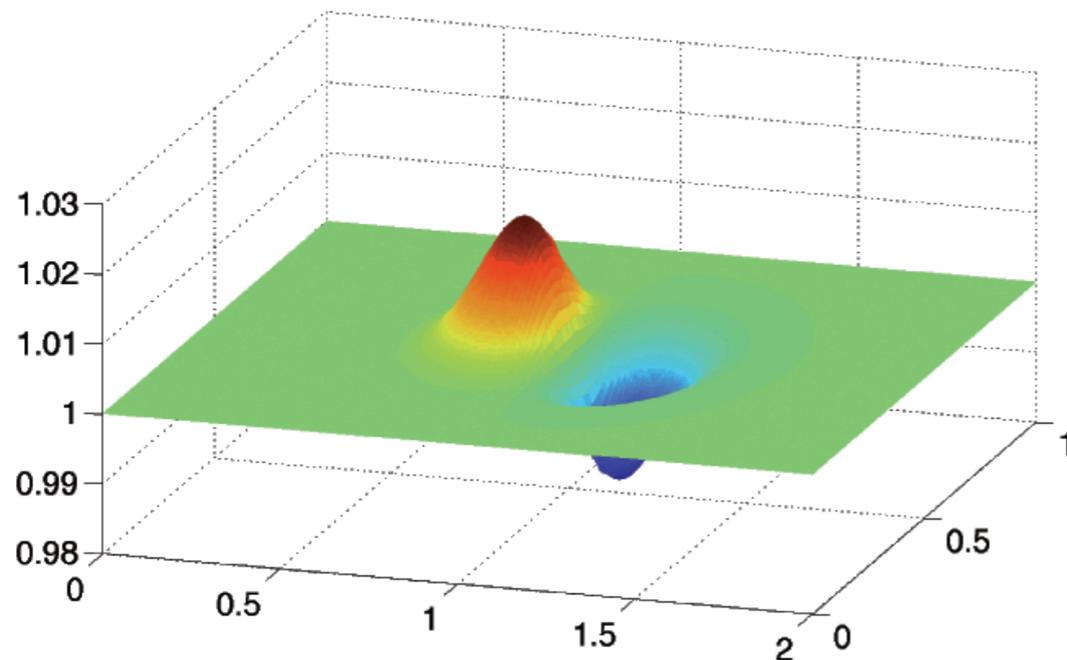
$$w(x, y, 0) = 1, \quad u(x, y, 0) = 0.3,$$

$$B(x, y) = 0.5 \exp(-25(x - 1)^2 - 50(y - 0.5)^2).$$

- For a reference solution, we solve this problem with our method on a  $2 \times 400 \times 400$  triangular grid
- By  $t = 0.07$  the solution converges to the steady state

# Accuracy test

- $w$  component of the reference solution of the IVP on a  $2 \times 400 \times 400$  grid: the 3-D view (left) and the contour plot (right).



- $L^1$ - and  $L^\infty$ -errors and numerical orders of accuracy.

Number of cells	$L^1$ -error	Order	$L^\infty$ -error	Order
$2 \times 50 \times 50$	<b>6.59e-04</b>	—	<b>8.02e-03</b>	—
$2 \times 100 \times 100$	<b>2.87e-04</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>3.59e-03</b>	<b>1.16</b>
$2 \times 200 \times 200$	<b>1.00e-04</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>1.21e-03</b>	<b>1.57</b>

# Small perturbation of a stationary steady-state solution

- Solve the initial value problem (IVP) proposed by R. Leveque.
- The computational domain is  $[0, 2] \times [0, 1]$  and the bottom consists of an elliptical shaped hump:

$$B(x, y) = 0.8 \exp(-5(x - 0.9)^2 - 50(y - 0.5)^2).$$

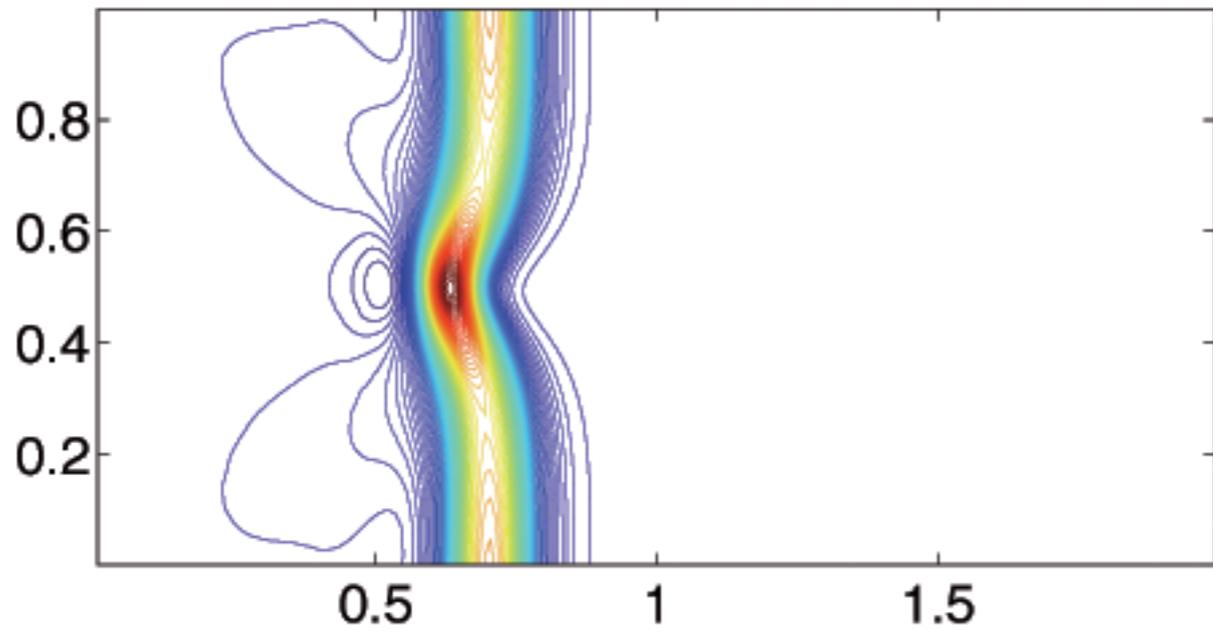
- Initially, the water is at rest and its surface is flat everywhere except for  $0.05 < x < 0.15$ :

$$w(x, y, 0) = \begin{cases} 1 + \varepsilon, & 0.05 < x < 0.15, \\ 1, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad u(x, y, 0) \equiv v(x, y, 0) \equiv 0,$$

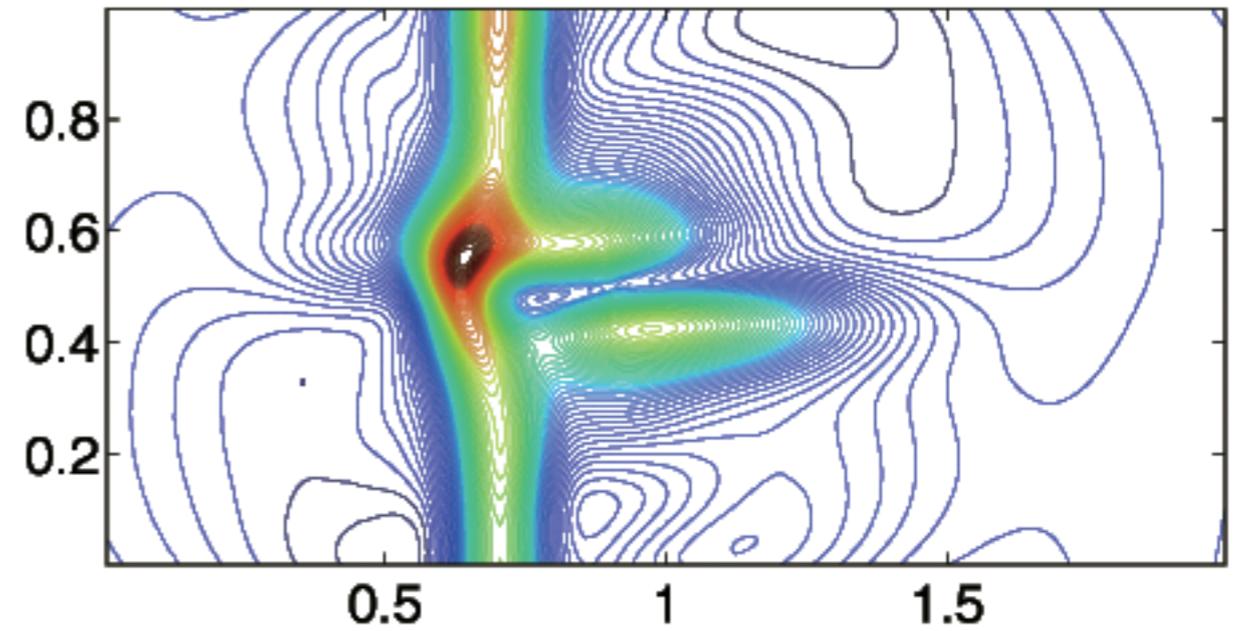
where the perturbation height is  $\varepsilon = 10^{-4}$

Perturbation of a stationary steady-state: well-balanced scheme (left) and non well-balanced (right)

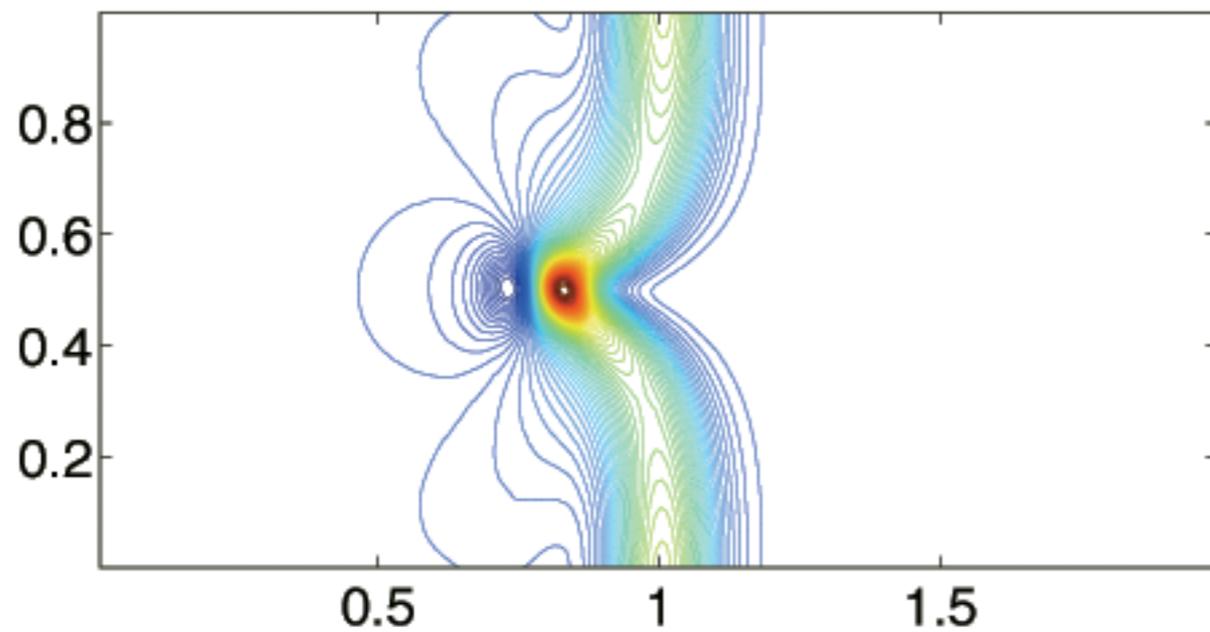
t=0.6



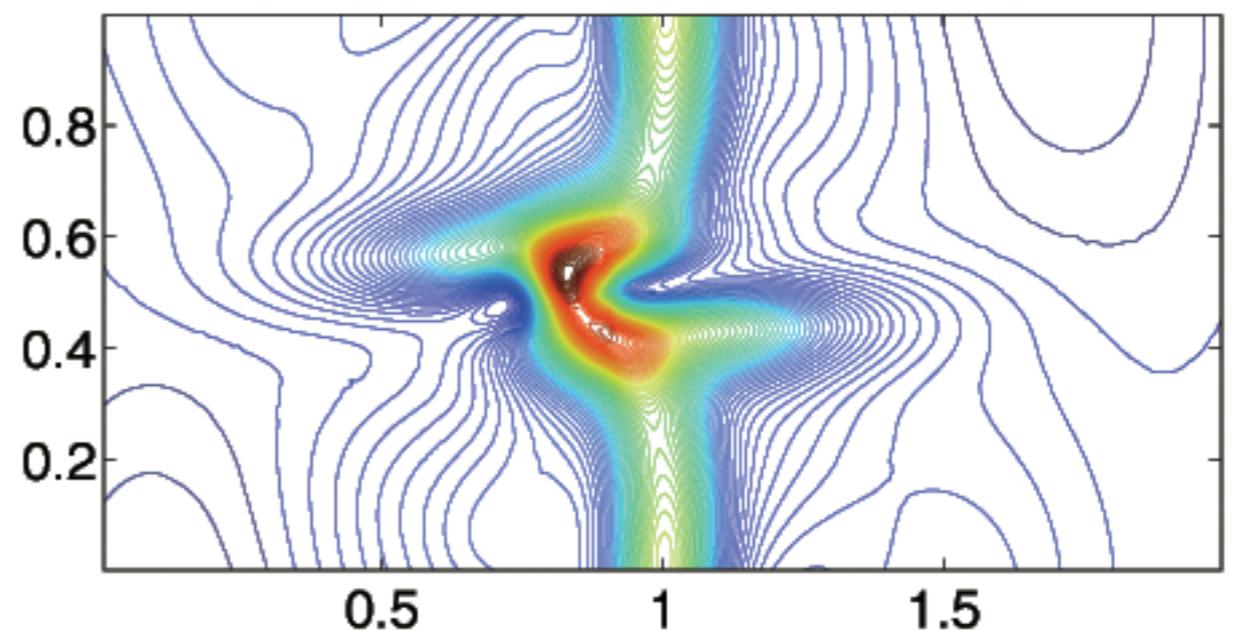
t=0.6



t=0.9

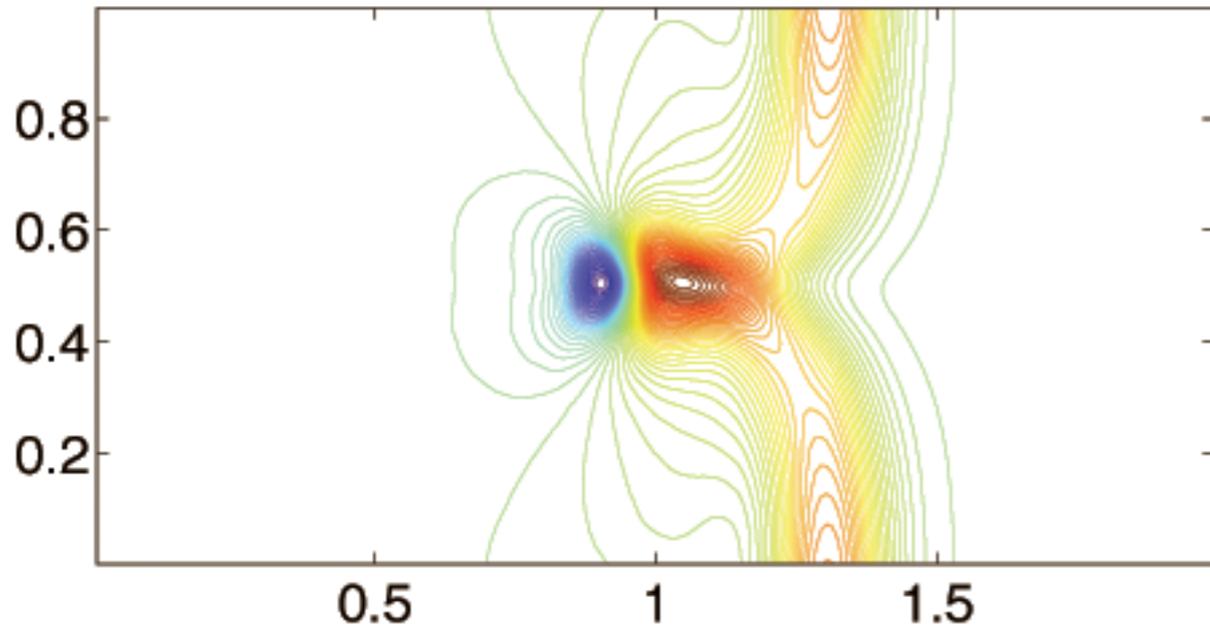


t=0.9

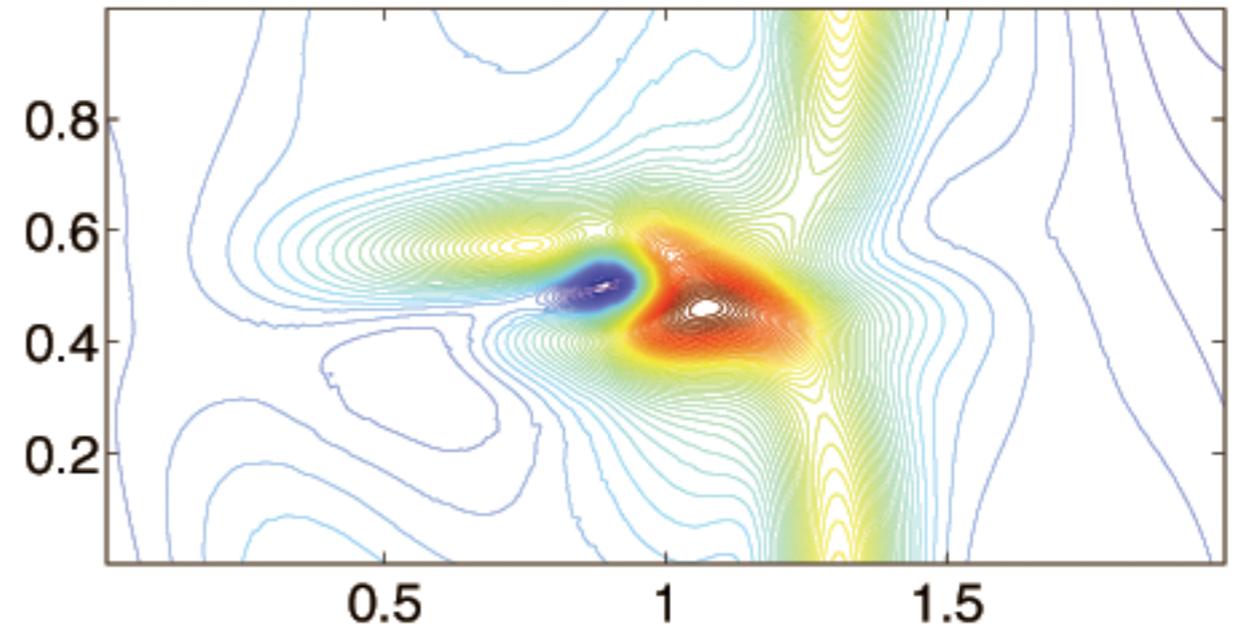


Perturbation of a stationary steady-state: well-balanced scheme (left) and non well-balanced (right)

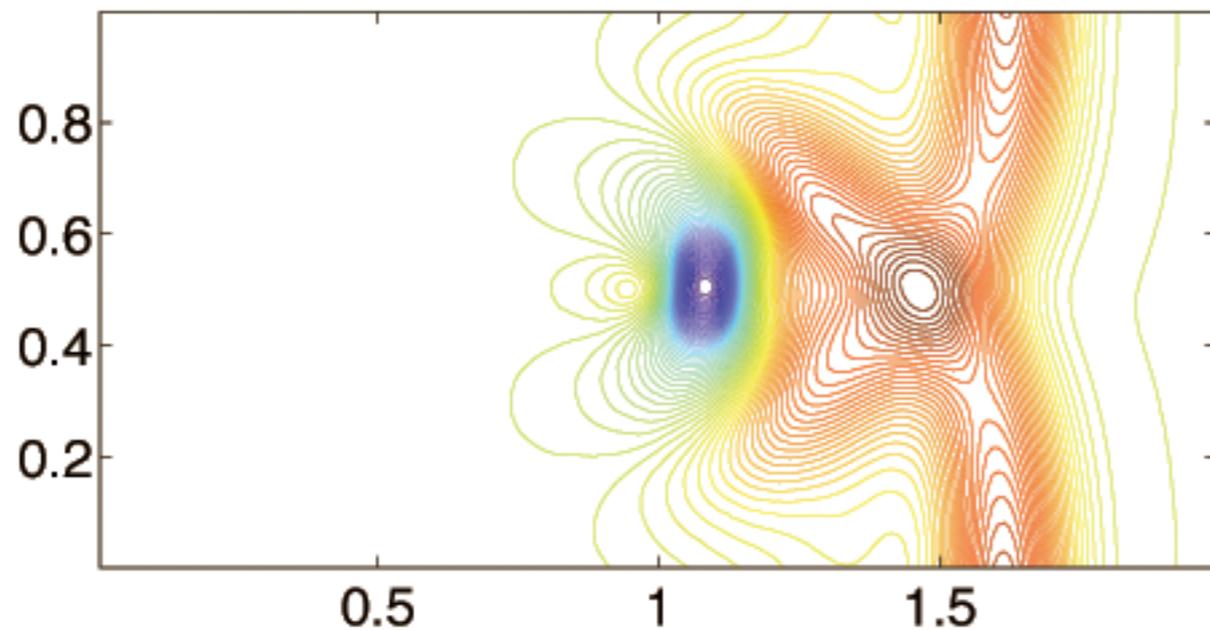
t=1.2



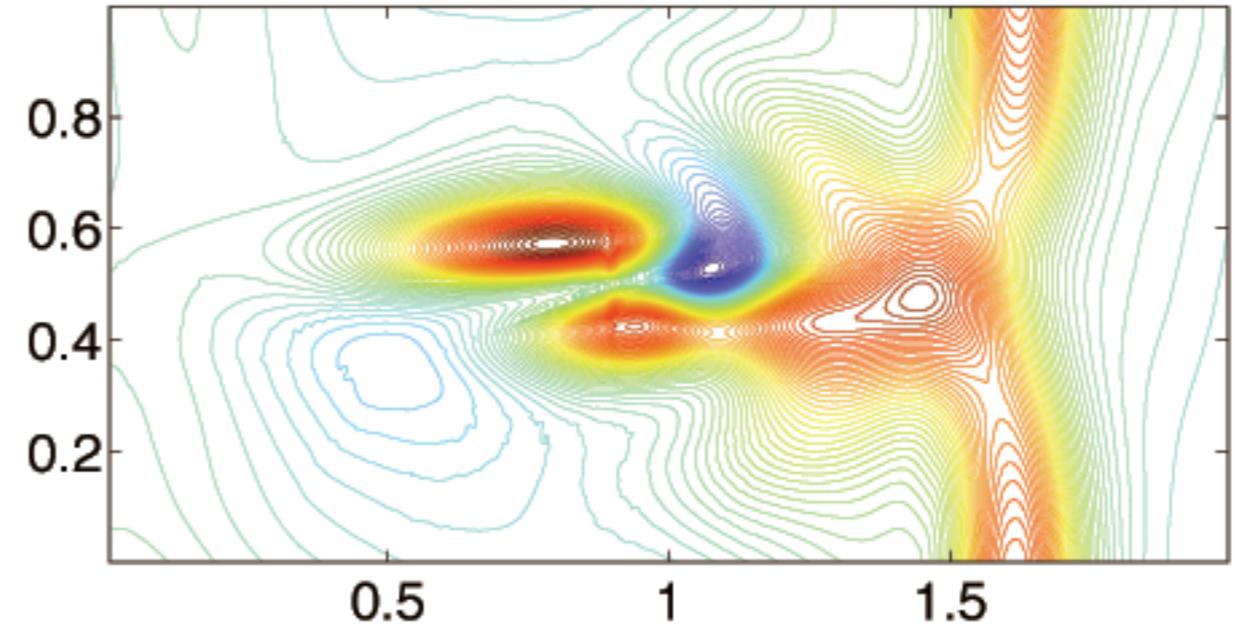
t=1.2



t=1.5



t=1.5



# Saint-Venant System with friction and discontinuous bottom

- More realistic shallow water models include additional friction and/or viscosity terms
- Presence of friction and viscosity terms guarantees uniqueness of the steady state solution
- We consider the simplest model in which only friction terms,  $-\kappa(h)u$  and  $-\kappa(h)v$ , are added to the rhs of the second and third equations of the Saint-Venant System

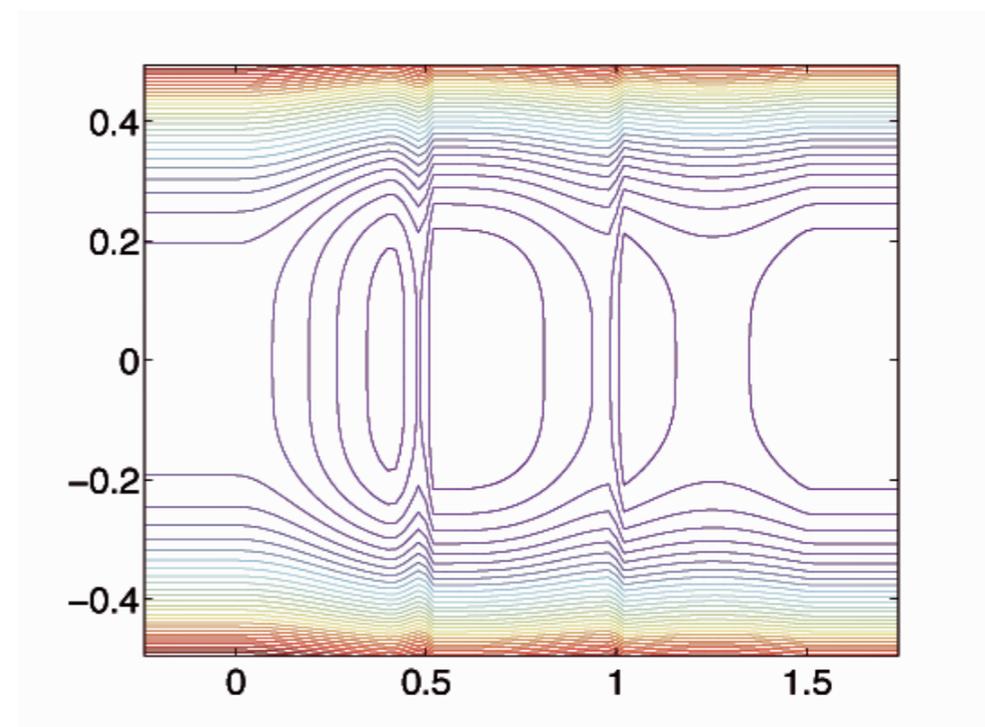
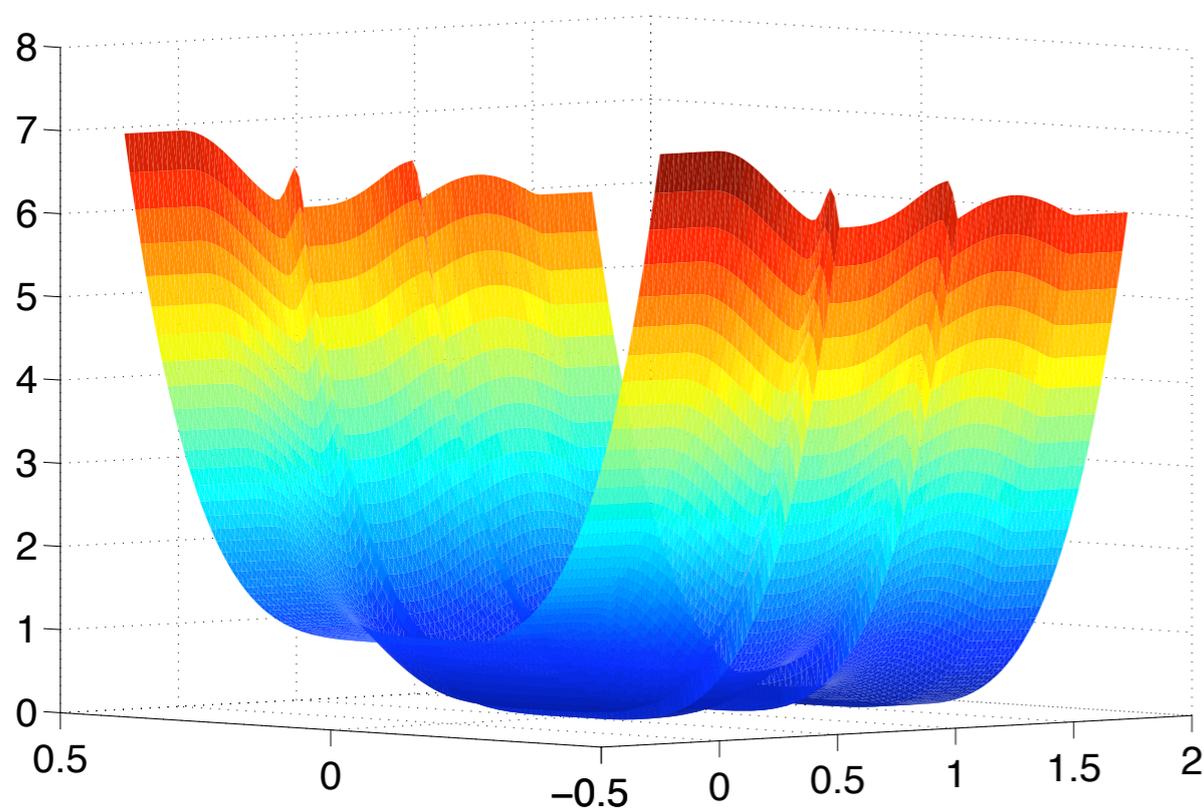
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} h_t + (hu)_x + (hv)_y = 0, \\ (hu)_t + \left(hu^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2\right)_x + (huv)_y = -ghB_x - \kappa(h)u, \\ (hv)_t + (huv)_x + \left(hv^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2\right)_y = -ghB_y - \kappa(h)v. \end{array} \right.$$

# Saint-Venant System with friction and discontinuous bottom

- We numerically solve the shallow water model with friction term on the domain  $[-0.25, 1.75] \times [-0.5, 0.5]$
- We assume that the friction coefficient is

$$\kappa(h) = 0.001(1 + 10h)^{-1}$$

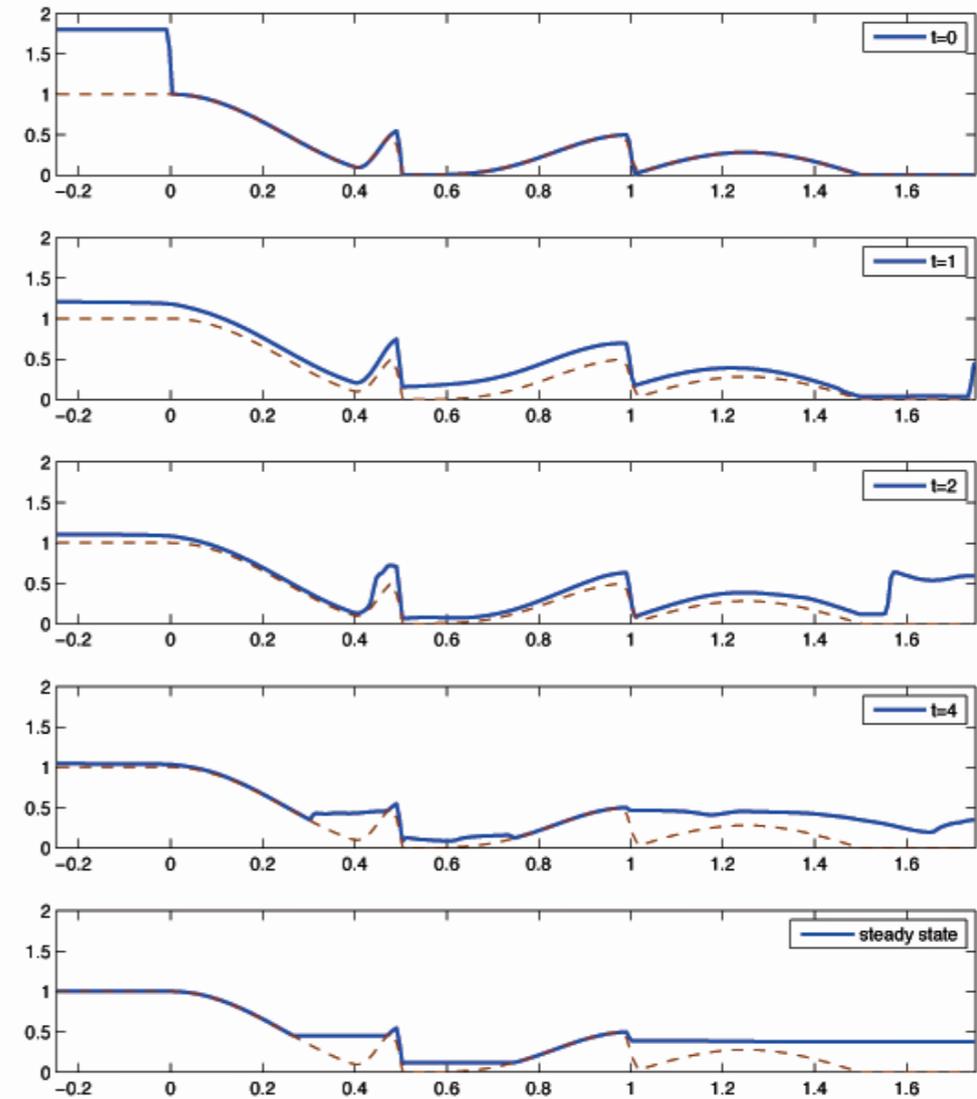
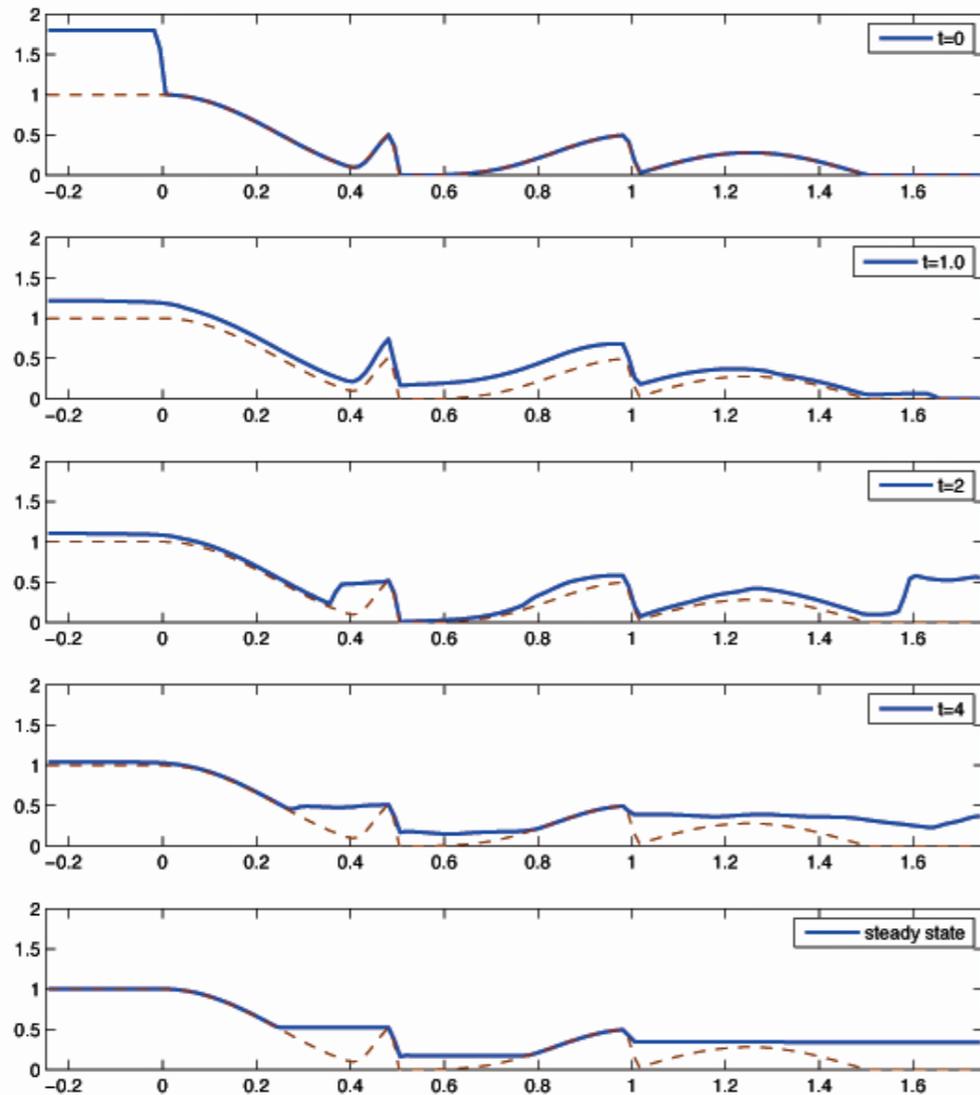
- The bottom topography function has a discontinuity along the vertical line  $x = 1$  and it mimics a mountain river valley



Saint-Venant System with friction and discontinuous bottom: description of the initial and boundary conditions

- We implement reflecting (solid wall) boundary conditions at all boundaries
- Our initial data correspond to the situation when the second of the three dams, initially located at the vertical lines  $x = -0.25$  (the left boundary of the computational domain),  $x = 0$ , and  $x = 1.75$  (the right boundary of the computational domain), breaks down at time  $t = 0$ , and the water propagates into the initially dry area  $x > 0$ , and a “lake at rest” steady state is achieved after a certain period of time

- We plot 1-D slices of the numerical solution along the  $y = 0$  line
- Plots clearly show the dynamics of the fluid flow as it moves from the region  $x < 0$  into the initially dry area  $x > 0$  and gradually settles down into a “lake at rest” steady state



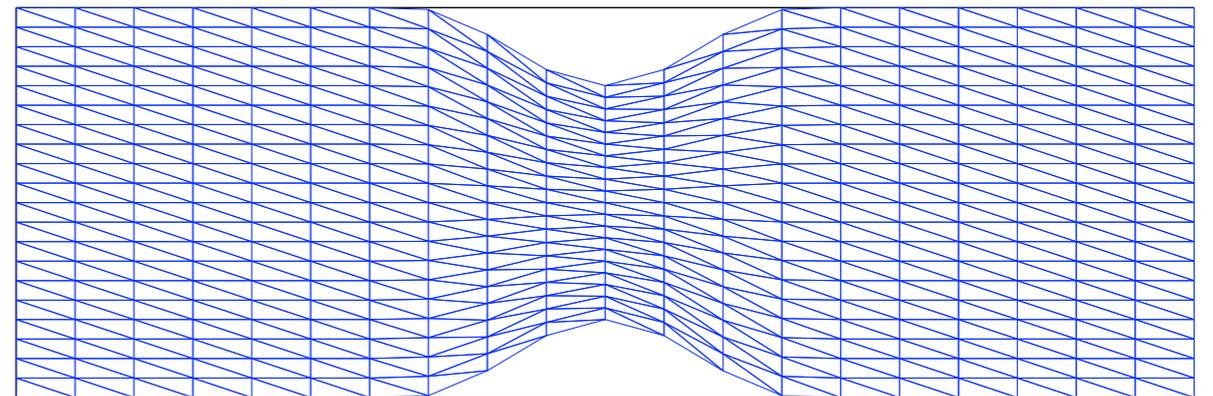
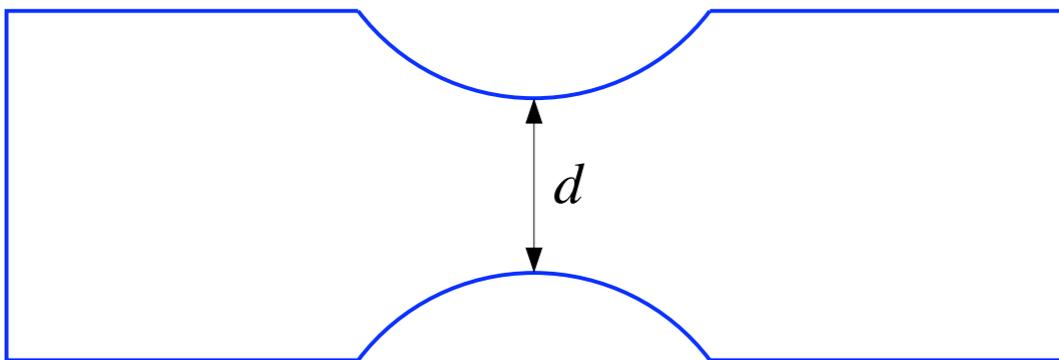
- This state includes dry areas and therefore its computation requires a *method that is both well-balanced and positivity preserving on the entire computational domain*

# Flow in converging-diverging channel

- The exact geometry of each channel is determined by its breadth, which is equal to  $2y_b(x)$ , where

$$y_b(x) = \begin{cases} 0.5 - 0.5(1 - d) \cos^2(\pi(x - 1.5)), & |x - 1.5| \leq 0.5, \\ 0.5, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

- $d = 0.6$  is the minimum channel breadth



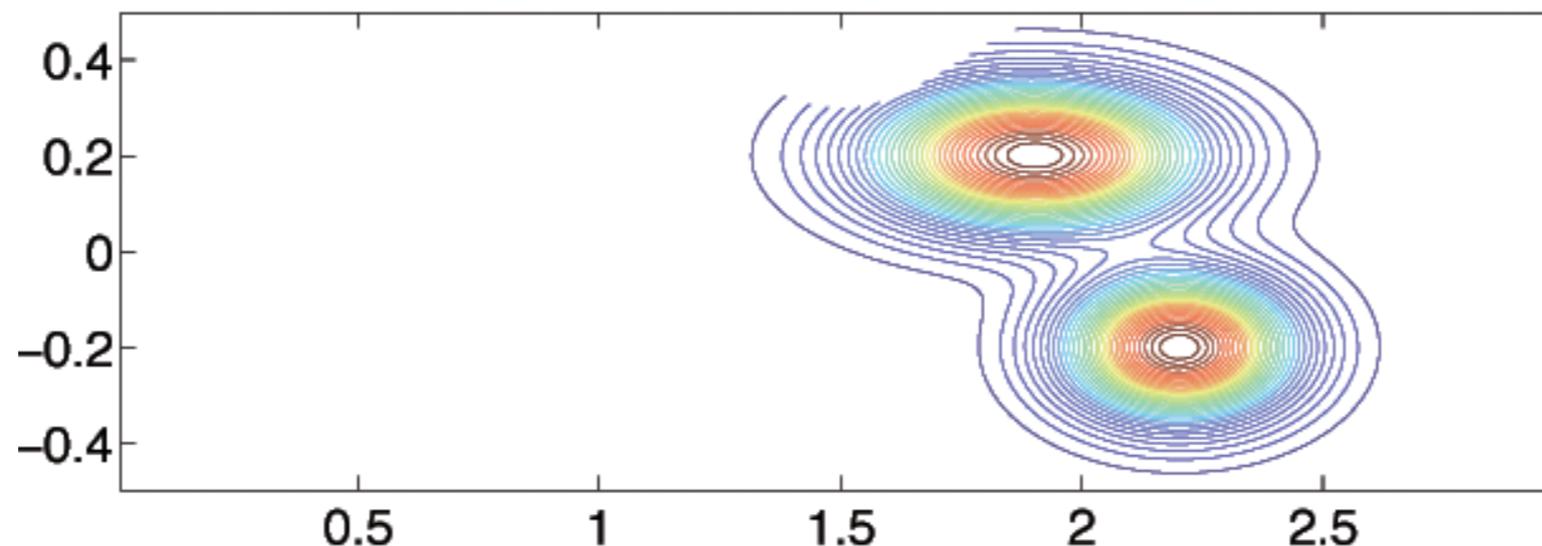
# Flow in converging-diverging channel

- The initial conditions:

$$w(x, y, 0) = \max \left\{ 1, B(x, y) \right\}, \quad u(x, y, 0) = 2, \quad v(x, y, 0) = 0.$$

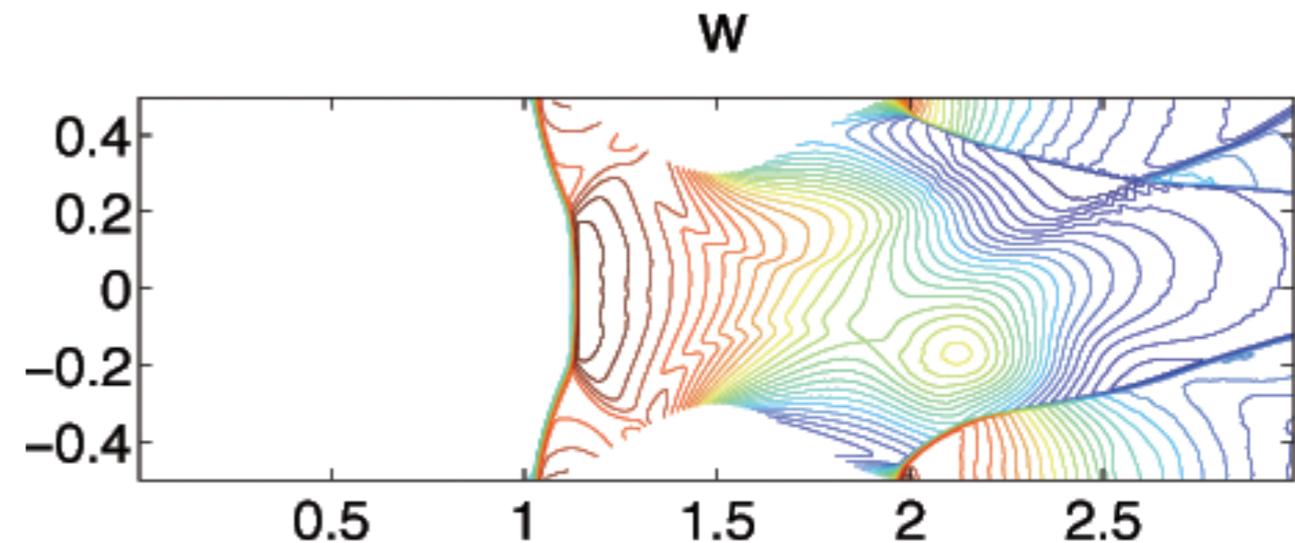
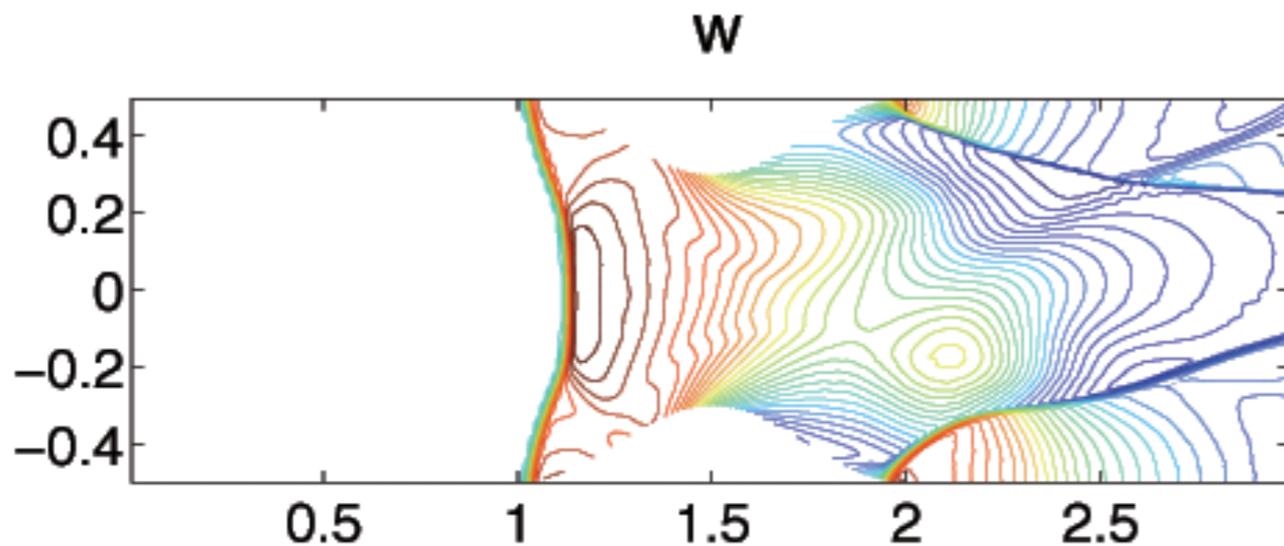
- The upper and lower  $y$ -boundaries are reflecting (solid wall), the left  $x$ -boundary is an inflow boundary with  $u = 2$  and the right  $x$ -boundary is a zero-order outflow boundary
- The bottom topography is given by

$$B(x, y) = \left( e^{-10(x-1.9)^2-50(y-0.2)^2} + e^{-20(x-2.2)^2-50(y+0.2)^2} \right),$$



# Flow in converging-diverging channel: $w$

**Steady-state solution ( $w$ ) for  $(d, B_{\max}) = (0.6, 1)$  on  $2 \times 200 \times 200$  (left) and  $2 \times 400 \times 400$  (right) grids.**



## Conclusions/Difficulties

- We developed a simple central-upwind scheme for the Saint-Venant system on triangular grids
- We proved that the scheme both preserves stationary steady states (lake at rest) and guarantees the positivity of the computed fluid depth
- It can be applied to models with discontinuous bottom topography and irregular channel widths
- Method is sensitive to the accuracy of the boundary representation
- S. Bryson, Y. Epshteyn, A. Kurganov and G. Petrova, Well-Balanced Positivity Preserving Central-Upwind Scheme on Triangular Grids for the Saint-Venant System, to appear, ESAIM: M2AN 2010.