



# Comparison between results of solution of Burgers' equation and Laplace's equation by Galerkin and least-square finite element methods

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## Abstract

In this research, two equations are considered as examples of hyperbolic and elliptic equations. In addition, two finite element methods are applied for solving of these equations. The purpose of this research is the selection of suitable method for solving each of two equations. Burgers' equation is a hyperbolic equation. This equation is a pure advection (without diffusion) equation. This equation is one-dimensional and unsteady. A sudden shock wave is introduced to the model. This wave moves without deformation. In addition, Laplace's equation is an elliptical equation. This equation is steady and two-dimensional. The solution of Laplace's equation in an earth dam is considered. By solution of Laplace's equation, head pressure and the value of seepage in the directions  $X$  and  $Y$  are calculated in different points of earth dam. At the end, water table is shown in the earth dam. For Burgers' equation, least-square method can show movement of wave with oscillation but Galerkin method can not show it correctly (the best method for solving of the Burgers' equation is discrete space by least-square finite element method and discrete time by forward difference.). For Laplace's equation, Galerkin and least square methods can show water table correctly in earth dam.

**Keywords** Earth dam · Elliptical equations · Hyperbolic equations · Numerical methods · Shock wave · The Burgers' equation · The Laplace's equation

## Introduction

Finite element method is a powerful numerical method for solving very complex differential equations. Finite difference method, finite volume method and boundary element method are especial forms of finite element method. Finite element method can consider complex boundaries and domains. Finite element method classifies to two types (calculus variation principles and weighted residual methods). Galerkin finite element method and least square finite element method are weighted residual methods.

Bateman (1915) developed Burgers' equation and Burgers (1948) utilized this equation in turbulent model. Cole (1951) and Hopf (1950) solved this equation analytically by Fourier series. They considered simple initial conditions. Jiang and

Carey (1988) applied least square finite element method for solution of Burgers' equation. They discretized time domain by finite difference method. Öziş et al. (2003) used Galerkin finite element method for solving of Burgers' equation. They utilized two-nodded elements. They considered initial and boundary conditions of Hopf and Cole problem and discretized time domain by forward differences. In addition, Dogan (2004) used Galerkin finite element method for solving Burgers' equation but he approximated time domain by Crank–Nicolson method. De Maerschalck and Gerritsma (2005) utilized least-squares spectral element method for solving of one-dimensional and pure advection Burgers' equation. Kumar and Mehra (2005) separated Burgers' equation to advection and diffusion terms and solved it by wavelet-Taylor Galerkin method in two phases, while Roig (2007) applied third- and fourth-order Taylor–Galerkin schemes for this purpose. He developed two new Taylor–Galerkin schemes for maintaining the accuracy properties and improving the stability restrictions in convection–diffusion. In addition, Dag et al. (Dag et al. 2006) solved Burgers' equation by least-square finite element method and quadratic

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B-spline finite element method. They showed that results of least-square finite element method are more accurate. Zhang et al. (2009) utilized element-free characteristic Galerkin method (EFCGM) for solving of one-dimensional and two-dimensional Burgers' equation. They considered different viscosity and fully explicit scheme for discretization of time domain. They compared results of their method to results of analytic method. In addition, Zhang et al. (2010) developed a new numerical method, which is based on the coupling between variation multi-scale method and mesh-free methods for 2D Burgers' equation with various values of Reynolds number. Their method was stable for high Reynolds number. In recent years, Mukundan and Awasthi (2015) presented new efficient numerical techniques for solving one-dimensional quasi-linear Burgers' equation. They used a non-linear Cole–Hopf transformation, therefore, the Burgers' equation is reduced to one-dimensional diffusion equation. The linearized diffusion equation is semi-discretized using method of lines (MOL) which leads to a system of ordinary differential equations in time. Resulting system of ordinary differential equations is solved by backward differentiation formulas (BDF) of order one, two and three. Comparison results with those of exact solution illustrate efficiency of proposed numerical methods, also Shi et al. (2013) applied a new low-order least squares nonconforming characteristics mixed finite element method (MFEM) for solving two-dimensional Burgers' equation. They used two typical characters of the elements for approximating the velocity and flux variables. Dehghan and Abbaszadeh (2017) utilized proper orthogonal decomposition (POD) meshless and radial basis function generated finite differences (RBF-FD) technique to simulate the shallow water equations. New method reduced CPU time for solving of shallow water equations in comparison with discontinuous Galerkin and finite volume methods. Dehghan et al. (2007) used Adomian–Pade technique (ADM–PADE) and combination of modified Adomian decomposition method and Pade approximation (MADM–PADE) for solving Burgers' equation. They showed that MADM–PADE is more accurate than ADM–PADE and has faster convergence rate.

Surana and Huels (1989) applied least-square finite element method in an aquifer for calculation of transitivity. They discretized domain to elements that have two, three or four nodes and solved Laplace's equation. Results of elements with four nodes were more accurate than results of other elements. Thompson and Pinsky (1995) utilized Galerkin least-squares finite element method (GLS) for solving the two-dimensional Helmholtz equation. This equation is a form of Laplace's equation and makes used of modeling of wave movement. They applied two-dimensional Fourier series. On the other hand, Amini and Nixon (2006) applied multi wavelet Galerkin boundary element for solution of Laplace's equation. Fu and Jin (2009)

developed a model for simulating the unsteady seepage flow through dam, with both saturation and water head as variables to describe the seepage domain. This model provided a relatively simple computing scheme, as compared with traditional methods. In recent years, Dosiyeve (2014) developed the combined block–grid method for the highly accurate approximation of the pure second-order derivatives for the solution of Laplace's equation on a staircase polygon. In addition, Ren et al. (2014) prepared a theoretical analysis of the moving least-squares (MLS) approximation, which belongs to the family of meshless methods. They establish the error estimates for interpolating element-free Galerkin (IEFG) method when it is used for solving Poisson's equation. Tatari and Dehghan (2005) applied the Adomian decomposition method (ADM) to solve Laplace equation. This method is an accurate method for analytical solutions and numerical approximations of different equations.

In this research, two finite element methods (Galerkin and least square) will apply to solve Burgers' and Laplace's equations and the best solution method will be selected for each equation. Reason of selection of these methods is similarity of these methods. Galerkin method is simpler than least-square method but it may not be suitable for solving some equations. In these cases, least-square method can be applied and this research will find these cases. The FORTRAN codes of these methods were written by authors. Because of access to source code of these methods, authors can cause their considered changes for solving of different equations easily. These changes can be related to initial conditions, boundary conditions, parameters of model and size of elements. Other advantages of developed method over other methods (as different finite difference, finite volume and other finite element schemes) are high accuracy and little runtime of developed method. In addition, authors utilized a Pentium IV, 2400 MHz CPU machine.

## The research methodology

Burgers' equation:

The global form of one-dimensional Burgers' equation is:

$$\frac{du}{dt} + \bar{u} \frac{du}{dx} = r \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} \quad a < x < b, \quad t > 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $u$  is velocity,  $\bar{u}$  is average of velocity,  $x$  is space,  $t$  is time,  $a$  is left boundary of space,  $b$  is right boundary of space and  $r$  is diffusion coefficient. Because of using  $\bar{u}$ , the form of

this equation becomes linear. In this research,  $r$  is considered equal to zero and Burgers' equation is converted to a pure advection equation and it can show shock wave movement. For model space, a two-nodded element (linear element) is used. For discretizing time and space, four methods are applied:

1. Discretizing space by Galerkin finite element method and discretizing time by forward difference.
2. Discretizing space and time by Galerkin finite element method.
3. Discretizing space by least-square finite element method and discretizing time by forward difference.
4. Discretizing space and time by least-square finite element method.

After calculation of value of residual, it multiplies to weight function and below integral must be solved.

$$\int_0^{\Delta x} \int_0^{\Delta t} R \times N_i dt dx = 0 \quad i = 1, 2, \tag{2}$$

where  $R$  is residual,  $N$  is weight function,  $\Delta x$  is space step and  $\Delta t$  is time step. By calculating Eq. 2 at each node, the equilibrium equations are derived.

$$KX = F, \tag{3}$$

where  $K$  is stiffness matrix,  $X$  is unknown parameters vector and  $F$  is force vector.

Matrix  $K$  and vectors  $X$  and  $F$  are shown for four methods below.

*Method 1* Discretizing space by Galerkin finite element method and discretizing time by forward difference:

$$[K] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta x}{3} - \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})}{2} & \frac{\Delta x}{6} + \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})}{2} \\ \frac{\Delta x}{6} - \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})}{2} & \frac{\Delta x}{3} + \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{4}$$

$$[X] = \begin{bmatrix} U_i^{n+1} \\ U_{i+1}^{n+1} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{5}$$

$$[F] = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\frac{\Delta x}{3}\right)U_i^n + \left(\frac{\Delta x}{6}\right)U_{i+1}^n \\ \left(\frac{\Delta x}{6}\right)U_i^n + \left(\frac{\Delta x}{3}\right)U_{i+1}^n \end{bmatrix}. \tag{6}$$

*Method 2* Discretizing space and time by Galerkin finite element method:

$$[K] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta x}{3} - \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})}{4} & \frac{\Delta x}{6} + \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})}{4} \\ \frac{\Delta x}{6} - \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})}{4} & \frac{\Delta x}{3} + \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})}{4} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{7}$$

$$[X] = \begin{bmatrix} U_i^{n+1} \\ U_{i+1}^{n+1} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{8}$$

$$[F] = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\frac{\Delta x}{3} + \frac{\bar{U}\Delta t}{4}\right)U_i^n + \left(\frac{\Delta x}{6} - \frac{\bar{U}\Delta t}{4}\right)U_{i+1}^n \\ \left(\frac{\Delta x}{6} + \frac{\bar{U}\Delta t}{4}\right)U_i^n + \left(\frac{\Delta x}{3} - \frac{\bar{U}\Delta t}{4}\right)U_{i+1}^n \end{bmatrix}. \tag{9}$$

*Method 3* Discretizing space by least-square finite element method and discretizing time by forward difference:

$$[K] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta x}{3\Delta t} - \bar{U} + \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})^2}{\Delta x} & \frac{\Delta x}{6\Delta t} - \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})^2}{\Delta x} \\ \frac{\Delta x}{6\Delta t} - \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})^2}{\Delta x} & \frac{\Delta x}{3\Delta t} - \bar{U} + \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})^2}{\Delta x} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{10}$$

$$[X] = \begin{bmatrix} U_i^{n+1} \\ U_{i+1}^{n+1} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{11}$$

$$[F] = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\frac{\Delta x}{3\Delta t} - \frac{\bar{U}}{2}\right)U_i^n + \left(\frac{\Delta x}{6\Delta t} - \frac{\bar{U}}{2}\right)U_{i+1}^n \\ \left(\frac{\Delta x}{6\Delta t} + \frac{\bar{U}}{2}\right)U_i^n + \left(\frac{\Delta x}{3\Delta t} + \frac{\bar{U}}{2}\right)U_{i+1}^n \end{bmatrix}. \tag{12}$$

*Method 4* Discretizing space and time by least-square finite element method

$$[K] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta x}{3\Delta t} - \frac{\bar{U}}{2} + \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})^2}{3\Delta x} & \frac{\Delta x}{6\Delta t} - \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})^2}{3\Delta x} \\ \frac{\Delta x}{6\Delta t} - \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})^2}{3\Delta x} & \frac{\Delta x}{3\Delta t} - \frac{\bar{U}}{2} + \frac{(\Delta t)(\bar{U})^2}{3\Delta x} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{13}$$

$$[X] = \begin{bmatrix} U_i^{n+1} \\ U_{i+1}^{n+1} \end{bmatrix} \tag{14}$$

$$[F] = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\frac{\Delta x}{3\Delta t} - \frac{\bar{U}^2\Delta t}{6\Delta x}\right)U_i^n + \left(\frac{\Delta x}{6\Delta t} - \frac{\bar{U}}{2} + \frac{\bar{U}^2\Delta t}{6\Delta x}\right)U_{i+1}^n \\ \left(\frac{\Delta x}{6\Delta t} + \frac{\bar{U}}{2} + \frac{\bar{U}^2\Delta t}{6\Delta x}\right)U_i^n + \left(\frac{\Delta x}{3\Delta t} - \frac{\bar{U}^2\Delta t}{6\Delta x}\right)U_{i+1}^n \end{bmatrix}. \tag{15}$$

Laplace's equation:

The global form of two-dimensional steady Laplace's equation (seepage equation) is:

$$k_x \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} + k_y \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial y^2} + Q = 0, \tag{16}$$

where  $k_x, k_y$  are hydraulic conductivity coefficients in directions  $x, y$ , respectively, while  $h$  represents head pressure and  $Q$  is source or sink term. For discretization of space domain, linear triangular elements (with three nodes) are used. To discretize space, two methods are applied:

1. Discretizing space by Galerkin finite element method.
2. Discretizing space by least-square finite element method.

Matrix K and vectors X and F are shown for two methods below.

*Method 1* Discretizing space by Galerkin finite element method

$$[K] = k_x A \begin{bmatrix} \beta_i^2 & \beta_i \beta_j & \beta_i \beta_k \\ \beta_i \beta_j & \beta_j^2 & \beta_j \beta_k \\ \beta_i \beta_k & \beta_j \beta_k & \beta_k^2 \end{bmatrix} + k_y A \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_i^2 & \gamma_i \gamma_j & \gamma_i \gamma_k \\ \gamma_i \gamma_j & \gamma_j^2 & \gamma_j \gamma_k \\ \gamma_i \gamma_k & \gamma_j \gamma_k & \gamma_k^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (17)$$

where A is the area of element.

$$A = \frac{1}{2}(x_i y_j + x_j y_k + x_k y_i - x_i y_k - x_j y_i - x_k y_j), \quad (18)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_i &= (y_j - y_k)/2A \\ \beta_j &= (y_k - y_i)/2A \\ \beta_k &= (y_i - y_j)/2A, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_i &= (x_k - x_j)/2A \\ \gamma_j &= (x_i - x_k)/2A \\ \gamma_k &= (x_j - x_i)/2A, \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_i &= (x_j * y_k - x_k * y_j)/2A \\ \alpha_j &= (x_k * y_i - x_i * y_k)/2A \\ \alpha_k &= (x_i * y_j - x_j * y_i)/2A \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

$$[X] = \begin{bmatrix} h_i \\ h_j \\ h_k \end{bmatrix}, \quad (22)$$

$$[F] = \begin{bmatrix} Q \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (23)$$

*Method 2* Discretizing space by least square finite element method

Because order of Laplace's equation is 2 for using linear triangular elements in the least-square finite element method, this equation must be converted to two first-order equations. These equations are shown below:

$$q_x = -k_x \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \quad (24)$$

$$q_y = -k_y \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} \quad (25)$$

By substituting Eqs. 24 and 25 in Eq. 16, the following equation system is derived:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial q_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial q_y}{\partial y} - Q &= 0 \\ q_x + k_x \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} &= 0 \\ q_y + k_y \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

$$[K] = \begin{bmatrix} k_{11} & k_{12} & \dots & k_{19} \\ k_{21} & k_{22} & \dots & k_{29} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ k_{91} & k_{92} & \dots & k_{99} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (27)$$

$$k_{11} = (k_x^2 \beta_i^2 + k_y^2 \gamma_i^2) * A, \quad (28)$$

$$k_{12} = k_{21} = k_x \beta_i A/3, \quad (29)$$

$$k_{13} = k_{31} = k_y \gamma_i A/3, \quad (30)$$

$$k_{22} = (\beta_i^2 + 1/6) * A, \quad (31)$$

$$k_{23} = k_{32} = \beta_i \gamma_i A, \quad (32)$$

$$k_{33} = (\gamma_i^2 + 1/6) * A, \quad (33)$$

$$[X] = \begin{bmatrix} h_i \\ q_{xi} \\ q_{yi} \\ h_j \\ q_{xj} \\ q_{yj} \\ h_k \\ q_{xk} \\ q_{yk} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (34)$$

$$[F] = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ f_4 \\ f_5 \\ f_6 \\ f_7 \\ f_8 \\ f_9 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{35}$$

$$f_1 = \frac{1}{3}QA, \tag{36}$$

$$f_2 = f_3 = 0. \tag{37}$$

The flowchart of research methodology is Fig. 1

### Results and discussion

Burgers' equation:

By applying four methods for solving a typical example, it is observed that results of space discretization by least-square finite element method and time discretization by forward difference scheme are more accurate than those of

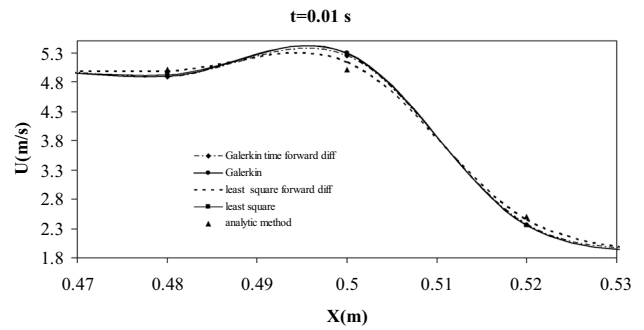


Fig. 2 The results of four numerical methods for typical example versus analytic method

other methods. Results of this method have the most fitness to results of analytic method. The characteristics of this problem are:  $0 < X < 2$  m,  $\Delta t = 0.01$  s, the number of elements = 100 ( $\Delta x = 0.02$  m), velocity of downstream boundary = 2 m/s and velocity of upstream boundary = 5 m/s. The results of four methods at  $t = 0.01$  s are shown in Fig. 2.

The used CPU times of full system are 2 and 3 s for Galerkin and least-square finite element methods, respectively (discrete time by forward difference did not increase the used CPU time).

Root mean square error (RMSE) between results of discrete space and time by Galerkin finite element method, discrete space and time by least-square finite element method, discrete space by Galerkin finite element method and

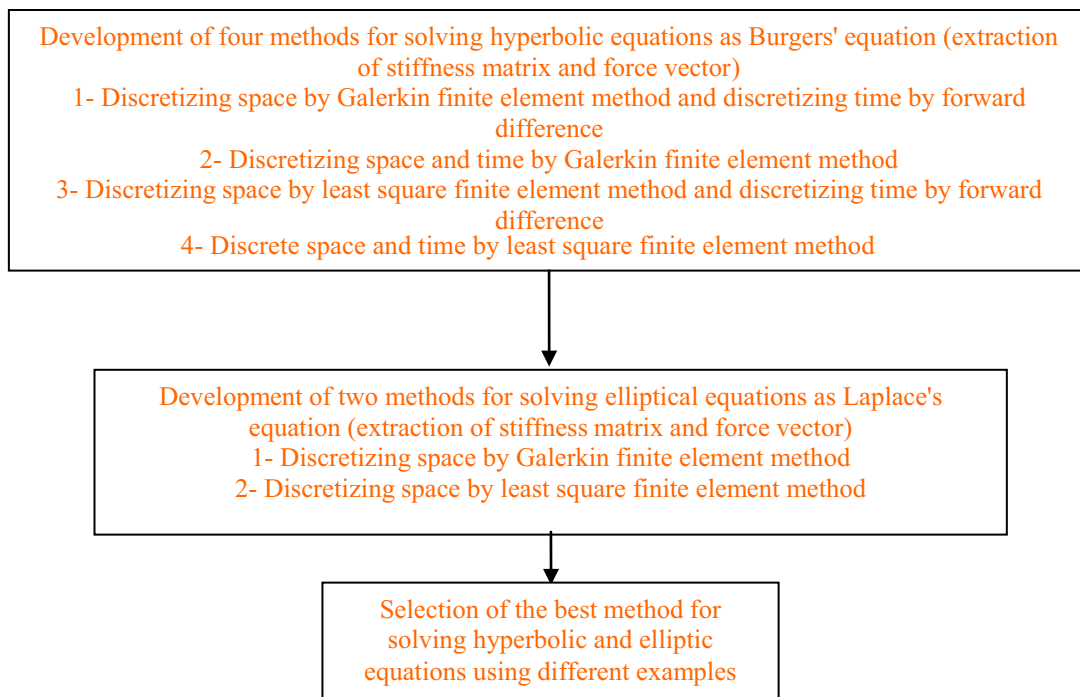


Fig. 1 The flowchart of research methodology

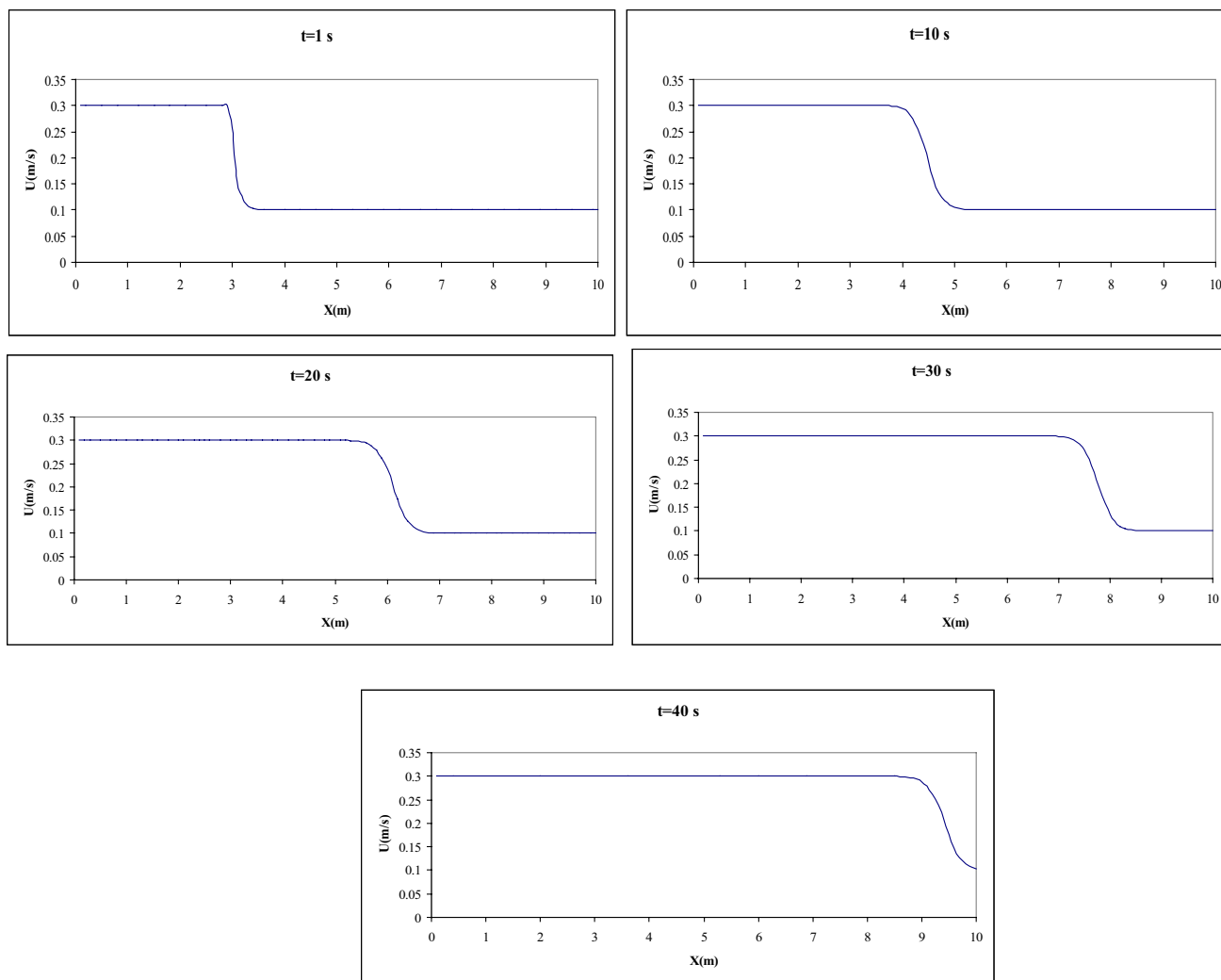


Fig. 3 Movement shock wave in different times

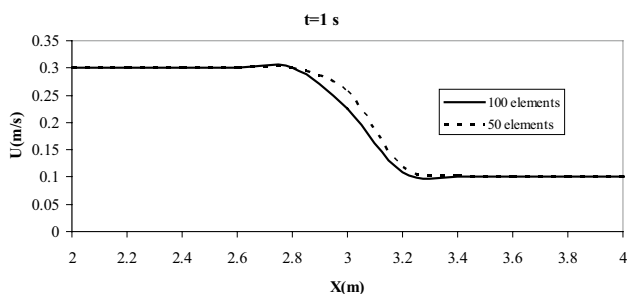


Fig. 4 Comparison between results of discretization to 50 elements and 100 elements

discrete time by forward difference, discrete space by least-square finite element method and discrete time by forward difference and results of analytic method are 0.0794, 0.0789, 0.0676 and 0.0376 m, respectively.

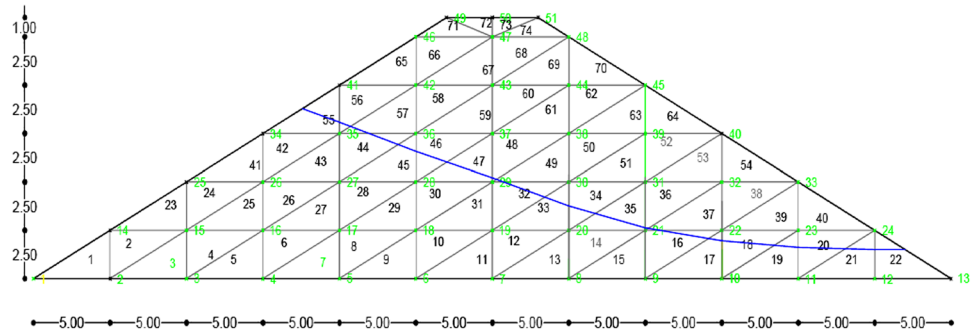
**Example 1**  $0 < X < 10$  m,  $\Delta t = 1$  s, the number of elements = 100 ( $\Delta x = 0.1$  m), velocity of downstream ( $x = 3$ ) = 0.1 m/s and velocity of upstream ( $x = 3$ ) = 0.3 m/s. The results of discrete space by least-square finite element method and discrete time by forward difference are shown below for different times (Fig. 3).

The execution time of full system is 4 s.

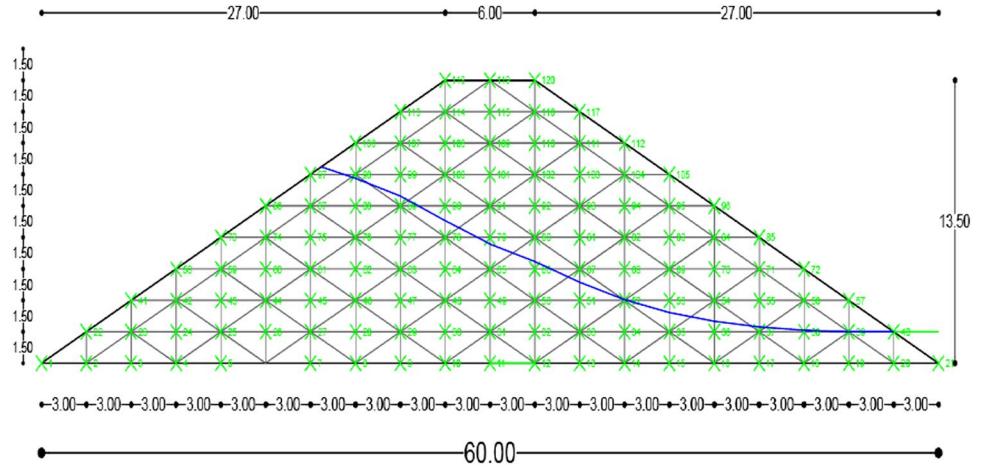
**Example 2** This example shows effects of size of elements. Characteristics of this problem are similar to example 1 but the number of elements is 50 ( $\Delta x = 0.2$  m). Comparison between results of two states is shown in Fig. 4.

The used CPU time of full system is 1 s for 50 elements. Laplace’s equation:

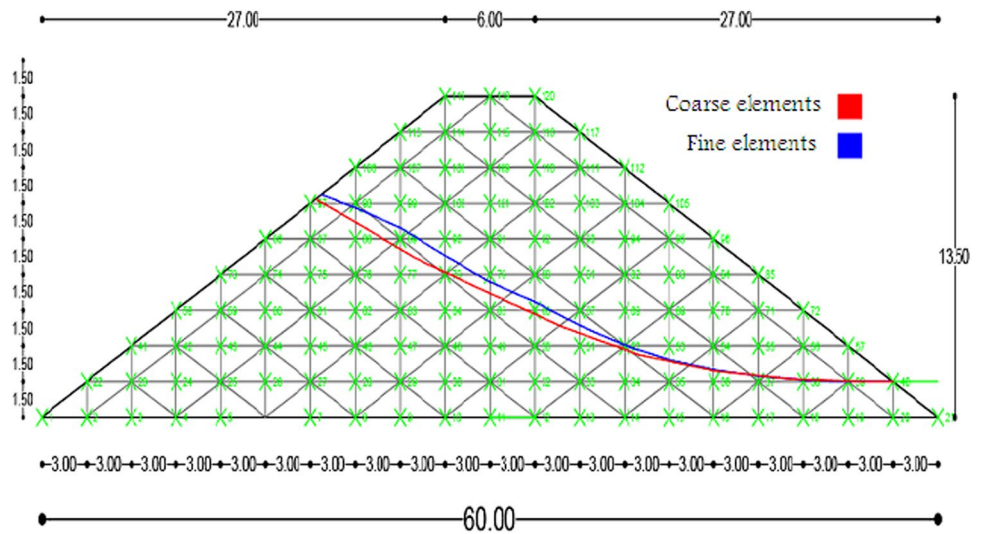
**Fig. 5** Calculated water table by numerical method (coarse meshes)



**Fig. 6** Calculated water table by numerical method (fine meshes)



**Fig. 7** Comparison between calculated water table by numerical method (fine elements and coarse elements)



Methods of solution of this equation (Galerkin and least-square finite element methods) are suitable and their results are similar. Their results have no numerical oscillations. This subject is shown by several examples.

**Example 1** This example shows effects of size of elements. Information of this problem is: upstream head = 10.5 m, downstream head = 1.5 m,  $k_x = k_y = 0.00001$  m/s and  $Q = 0$ . Results of numerical method are shown in Figs 5, 6, 7 and Table 1.

**Table 1** Comparison between calculated water table by numerical method (fine elements and coarse elements)

X (distance from upstream) (m)	Water table in fine elements (m)	Water table in coarse elements (m)	Difference between water tables (cm)
21	8.81	7.88	93
30	5.69	5.31	38
39	3.03	2.96	7
45	2	1.96	4
54	1.5	1.52	-2

The execution times of full system are 4 and 7 s for coarse and fine elements, respectively. For Galerkin and least-square finite element methods, this time is equal (because this problem is steady state).

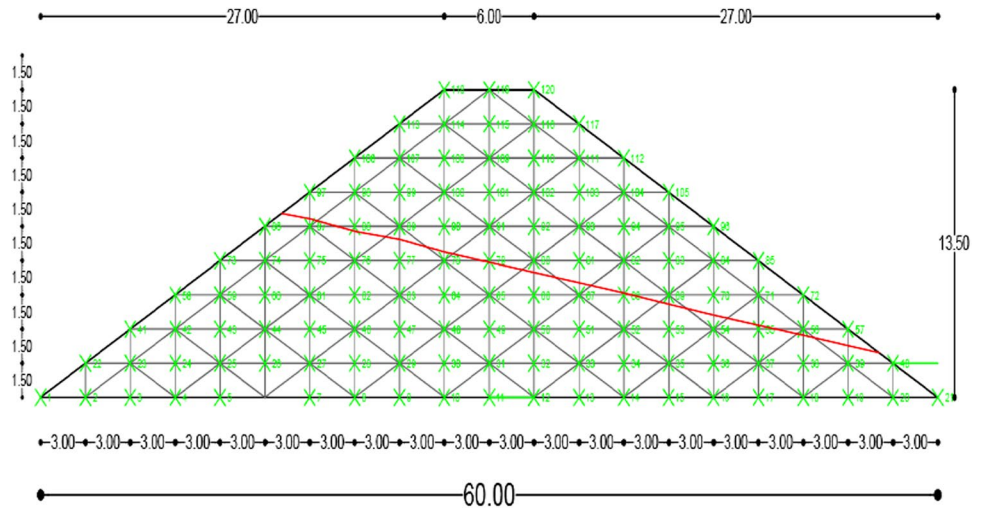
**Example 2** This example shows effects of non-homogenous of material of dam ( $k_x \neq k_y$ ). Characteristics of this problem are: upstream head = 8 m, downstream head = 2 m,  $k_x = 0.001$  m/s,  $k_y = 10^{-8}$  m/s and  $Q = 0$ . Results of numerical method are shown at Fig. 8.

The used CPU times of full system are 7 s. For Galerkin and least-square finite element methods, this time is equal.

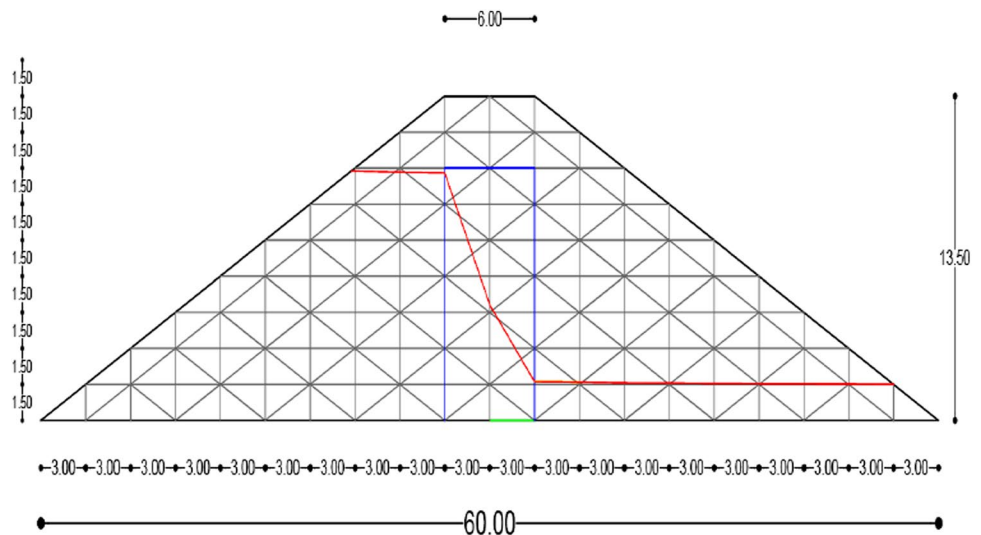
**Example 3** This example shows effects of an impenetrable core in earth dam. Characteristics of this problem are: upstream head = 10.5 m, downstream head = 1.5 m,  $k_x = k_y = 0.001$  m/s,  $k_x = k_y = 10^{-8}$  m/s for impenetrable core and  $Q = 0$ . Results of numerical method are shown in Fig. 9.

The used CPU times of full system are 9 s. For Galerkin and least-square finite element methods, this time is equal.

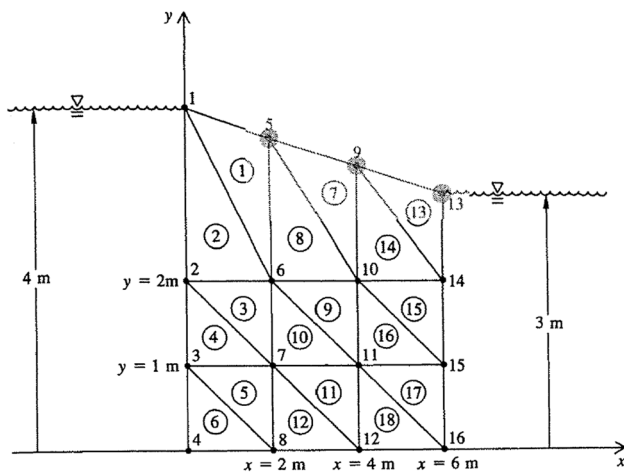
**Fig. 8** Calculated water table by numerical method ( $k_x \gg k_y$ )



**Fig. 9** Calculated water table by numerical method (earth dam with impenetrable core)







**Fig. 10** Considered earth dam by Wang and Anderson (1982) for determination of head at different nodes (nodes 5, 9 and 13 are free nodes)

**Table 2** Comparison between results of two developed methods and results of Wang and Anderson (1982)

Node	Head (m) Wang and Anderson (1982)	Head (m) Galerkin finite element	Head (m) least square finite element
1	4	4	4
2	4	4	4
3	4	4	4
4	4	4	4
5	3.72	3.72	3.72
6	3.7	3.69	3.7
7	3.69	3.68	3.69
8	3.69	3.68	3.69
9	3.41	3.4	3.41
10	3.37	3.37	3.38
11	3.36	3.36	3.36
12	3.36	3.35	3.36
13	3.11	3.08	3.11
14	3	3	3
15	3	3	3
16	3	3	3

**Example 4** This example compares results of two methods (Galerkin and least-square finite element methods) with those of Wang and Anderson (1982). They solved this example by finite difference and finite element methods. Characteristics of this problem are: upstream head = 4 m, downstream head = 3 m,  $k_x = k_y = 0.0001$  m/s and  $Q = 0$ . Results of two methods and those of Wang and Anderson (1982) are shown in the Fig. 10 and Table 2. The execution time of full system is 2 s. For Galerkin and least-square finite element methods, this time is equal.

RMSE between results of Galerkin finite element method and results of Wang and Anderson (1982) is 0.0094 m and RMSE between results of least-square finite element method and results of Wang and Anderson (1982) is 0.0025 m. Therefore, least-square finite element method is slightly more accurate than Galerkin finite element method.

### Conclusion

The least-square finite element method is a powerful tool for solution of hyperbolic and elliptic equations, while the Galerkin method can not solve hyperbolic equations because developed stiffness matrix by Galerkin method is non-symmetric. In addition, it is observed that discretizing time by forward difference method can improve results of finite element method. By attention to Figs. 4 and 7, accuracy of results of numerical models increases using fine elements. Using fine meshes, the front of wave becomes near to a vertical line (actual state) in solution of Burgers' equation and water tables of upstream and downstream of dam become near to upstream and downstream head (non-continuity does not occur between water tables of upstream and downstream of dam in point of contact water and dam) in solution of Laplace's equation. Figure 8 shows that by increasing hydraulic conductivity in a direction water table is converted to a straight line (seepage occurs in direction that hydraulic conductivity is very high).

Figure 9 shows the ability of model for consideration of impenetrable core in earth dam. Impenetrable core lowers water table and decreases the value of seepage.

Although numerical models are suitable tools for solution of differential equations but they can not show actual states very exactly. For example, front shock wave is a vertical line and numerical models cannot show it. For overcoming this problem, new methods must be applied for solution of differential equations. Artificial neural network and optimization models such as genetic algorithm are suitable tools for this purpose.

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