Fluid layers, climates, and weak formulations

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(funded by NASA Modeling, Analysis, and Prediction program)

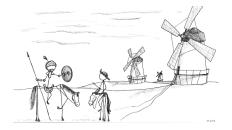
DMS Colloquium 5 April 2016

my motivation for this topic

- gradual realization, during sabbatical last year:
 there is a whole class of climate modeling problems which people are doing the wrong way
 - "people" = scientists/modelers who study cryosphere
 - special concern: choice of mathematical formulation

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- ▶ i.e. watch me tilt at windmills



outline

glaciers and ice sheets

generalize to fluid layers and their climates

weak formulations

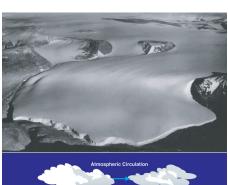
results

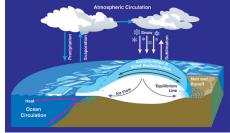
conservation: failures and fixes

conclusion

glaciers and ice sheets

- they move (flow and slide) under their own weight
 - speed 1 cm/yr 10 km/yr
 - geometry determined in part by flow
- they accumulate snow, or melt, as sensitive function of global climate
 - Canadians should be grateful
- ice sheet = big glacier
- about 66 m (= 215 ft) of sea level rise equivalent
 - $\circ \ \ \text{Antarctic ice sheet} = \text{60 m}$
 - Greenland ice sheet = 6m
 - Alaska's glaciers < 0.5 m





glacier model paradigms

- glacier problem (to most numerical modelers):
 given geometry of glacier, and stress boundary conditions, determine velocity of ice
 - \circ a slow flow (Re \ll 1) allows you to think this way
- glacier problem (to most actual glaciologists): given climate and topography, determine glaciated area and thicknesses of glaciers

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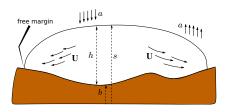
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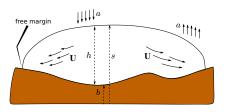
glacier problem (to most actual glaciologists): given climate and topography, determine glaciated area and thicknesses of glaciers

glacier notation



- unknowns:
 - o h(t, x, y) ice thickness ... also s = h + b surface elevation
 - $\mathbf{U}(t, x, y, z) = \langle u, v, w \rangle$ ice velocity
- data:
 - \circ b(x, y) bed elevation
 - a(t, x, y, z) surface mass balance
 - a.k.a. accumulation/ablation function
 - ▶ a = precipitation melt
- ignored in this talk:
 - conservation of energy (temperature/enthalpy)
 - floating ice

glacier notation



- unknowns:
 - o h(t, x, y) ice thickness ... also s = h + b surface elevation
 - $\mathbf{U}(t,x,y,z) = \langle u,v,w \rangle$ ice velocity
- uncertain "data" from other models:
 - \circ b(x, y) bed elevation ... improving for ice sheets
 - a(t, x, y, z) surface mass balance ... from GCM
 - a.k.a. accumulation/ablation function
 - ▶ a = precipitation melt
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models solve coupled conservation equations

mass conservation

$$h_t + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = a$$

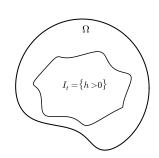
- in ice-covered set $I_t = \{h > 0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$
 - changes in time
 - ▶ climate a and bed b defined on $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ s.t. $I_t \subset \Omega$
- o **q** is vertically-integrated ice flux
- momentum conservation

$$abla \cdot \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{0}$$
 and $-\nabla \cdot au_{ij} +
abla p -
ho \, \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{0}$

- in $E_t \subset \mathbb{R}^3$; changes in time
 - $I_t = \Pi_z E_t$
- o incompressible power-law Stokes

$$D_{ij} = A\tau^2\tau_{ij}$$

o geometry (h & b) enters into b.c.s





many possible momentum equations

incompressible Stokes

$$abla \cdot \mathbf{U} = 0$$
 and $-\nabla \cdot au_{ij} + \nabla p - \rho \, \mathbf{g} = 0$

• Blatter-Pattyn equations $[\eta]$ is effective viscosity

$$-\nabla \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \eta \begin{pmatrix} 4u_x + 2v_y & u_y + v_x & u_z \\ u_y + v_x & 2u_x + 4v_y & v_z \end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix} + \rho g \nabla s = 0$$

shallow shelf approximation (SSA)

$$-\nabla \cdot \left[\bar{\eta} h \begin{pmatrix} 4\bar{u}_x + 2\bar{v}_y & \bar{u}_y + \bar{v}_x \\ \bar{u}_y + \bar{v}_x & 2\bar{u}_x + 4\bar{v}_y \end{pmatrix} \right] - \tau_b + \rho g h \nabla s = 0$$

o non-sliding shallow ice approximation (SIA)

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\left[\eta\begin{pmatrix}u_z\\v_z\end{pmatrix}\right]+\rho g\nabla s=0\qquad\rightarrow\qquad\langle\bar{u},\bar{v}\rangle=-\Gamma h^{\nu+2}|\nabla s|^{\nu-1}\nabla s$$

- ▶ slow-fluid momentum-conservation models always generate velocity $\mathbf{U} = \langle u, v, w \rangle$ from geometry h & b
- ▶ abstract momentum equations: $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{U}, h, b) = 0$

toward better models

abstracted, mathematical model of glaciers:

$$h_t + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = a$$
 in $I_t = \{h > 0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{U}, h, b) = 0$ in $E_t \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ $\mathbf{U} = \langle u, v, w \rangle$ $\mathbf{q} = \int_b^{h+b} \langle u, v \rangle \ dz$

- my goal: better numerical glacier models
 - \circ effective for long runs (\sim 100 ka) at high res (\sim 1 km)
 - without first-order time-splitting errors
 - without explicit time-step restrictions

toward better models

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- my goal: better numerical glacier models
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- vs PISM = Parallel Ice Sheet Model, pism-docs.org



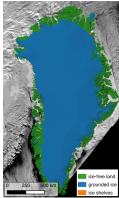




practical numerical modeling

- some limitations in our big ice sheet model PISM:
 - explicit time-stepping
 - o free boundary by truncation
- ► challenge: flowing ice (e.g. Greenland) is nearly-fractal





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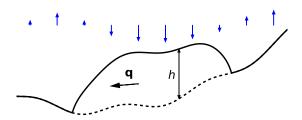
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a fluid layer

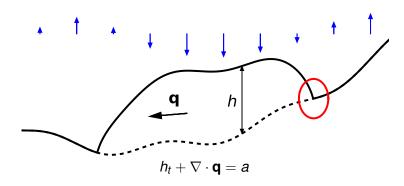


- mass conservation eqn applies to broader class:
 - a fluid layer on a substrate, evolving in a climate
- mass conservation PDE:

$$h_t + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{a}$$

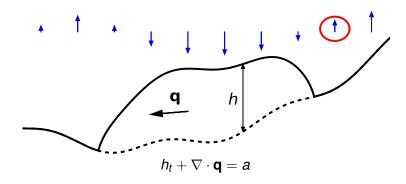
- h is a thickness so h > 0
- signed source a is the "climate"; a > 0 shown downward
- hidden, but important, part of the model: $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}[h, b]$
- PDE applies only where h > 0

fluid layers: the troubles



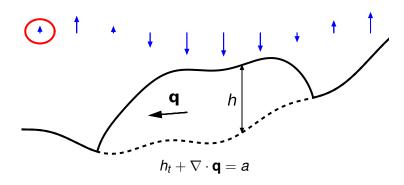
- ightharpoonup h = 0 and what else at free boundary?
 - geometry at free boundary depends on both q and a
- ▶ a < 0 not "detected" by model where h = 0
 - o how to do mass conservation accounting here?
- ightharpoonup a pprox 0 sensitive-threshold behavior
 - \circ nucleate new fluid model here if a < 0 switches to a > 0

fluid layers: the troubles



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actual glacier free boundary



examples: fluid layers in climates



glaciers & ice sheets



sea ice



tidewater marsh



tsunami inundation



Aral Sea

time scales for major geometry changes

	lateral transport	accumulation/ablation
glacier/ice sheet	100 years	100 years
sea ice	1 week?	1 month?
tidewater marsh	1 hour	1 day?
tsunami	10 seconds	1 year
Aral Sea	?	1 year

- consider time-scales for major changes in geometry of the fluid layer from two sources:
 - motion of the fluid from forces applied at boundary (or body forces); lateral transport
 - accumulation (e.g. precipitation or aggregation) and ablation (melting, evaporation, sublimation)
- this talk: cases where these time-scales are comparable

time scales for major geometry changes

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case: tsunamis



▶ flux **q** dominates . . . climate *a* irrelevant

case: Aral Sea on Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan border



- ▶ top row: 1964, 1989, 1995?
- ▶ bottom row: 1999, 2002?, 2014
- ▶ climate a, and bdry fluxes, dominate ... flux **q** irrelevant

fluid layers in climates: my actual examples



glaciers & ice sheets ✓



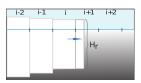
sea ice √



tidewater marsh?

anyone numerically modeled this situation before?

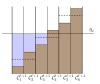
- yes, of course! generic results:
 - o ad hoc schemes near the free boundary
 - o only numerics; almost no continuum modeling



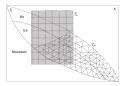
volume-of-fluid method at ice shelf fronts (Albrecht et al. 2011)



glacier ice on steep terrain (Jarosch, Schoof, Anslow, 2013)



tsunami run-up on shore (LeVeque, George, Berger, 2011)



volume-of-fluid method at glacier surface (Jouvet et al 2008)

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nonlinear complementarity problems (NCP)

▶ given differentiable $\mathbf{F}: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$, the NCP seeks $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ s.t.

$$z \ge 0$$
, $F(z) \ge 0$, $z^T F(z) = 0$

example NCP

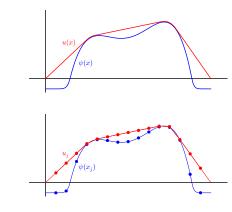
▶ 1d obstacle problem: given $\psi(x)$, find u(x) so that

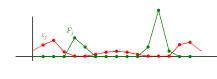
$$u(x) \ge \psi(x)$$

and

$$-u''(x) = 0$$
 where $u > \psi$

- discretize ...
- ▶ note $-u'' \ge 0 \dots$ and think about the gap \dots
- ▶ in NCP form:





variational inequalities (VI)

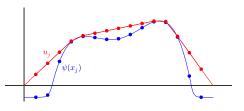
- more general than NCP
- ▶ suppose $\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is convex and closed
- ▶ given differentiable $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$, the VI seeks $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{K}$ s.t.

$$\langle \textbf{F}(\textbf{u}), \textbf{v} - \textbf{u} \rangle \geq 0 \qquad \forall \textbf{v} \in \mathcal{K}$$

- ▶ also makes sense in ∞ dimensions
- 1d obstacle problem:

 $\mathcal{K} = \{ \mathbf{u}_i \geq \psi_i \}$

$$F_j(\mathbf{u}) = -\frac{u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1}}{\Delta x^2}$$



NCP/VI generalities

- ▶ suppose $\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a cone (always in this talk)
- then

$$NCP \iff VI$$

- both formulations
 - o generalize nonlinear eqns $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ to allow constraints
 - o are nonlinear, even if **F** is linear or affine
 - in practice: need iterative approach to solve
- ▶ (convex optimization) ⇒ VI ⇔ NCP
 - \circ i.e. find minimum of $\Phi[\mathbf{z}]$ from \mathcal{K}
 - o symmetric Jacobian/Hessian ($\mathbf{F}' = \Phi''$)
 - but: NCP/VI arising in fluid layer problems are never optimizations (to my knowledge)

semi-discretize in time

- back to our fluid layer coupled model . . .
- from now on: assume $\mathbf{q} = 0$ on any open set where h = 0
 - because it is a flowing layer
- semi-discretize:

$$h_t + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = a$$
 $\qquad \qquad \frac{h^{\ell} - h^{\ell-1}}{\Delta t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q}^{\ell} = a^{\ell}$ $\qquad \qquad \rightarrow \qquad \qquad \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{U}, h, b) = 0$ $\qquad \qquad \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{U}^{\ell}, h^{\ell}, b) = 0$

- coupling through $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{U}, h)$
- this is still a continuum problem (in space)
- details of flux \mathbf{q}^{ℓ} and source a^{ℓ} come from scheme
 - backward-Euler shown
 - \circ could use other θ -methods or BDFs

mass conservation: strong form ... is inadequate

single time-step mass conservation equation

$$\frac{h^{\ell} - h^{\ell-1}}{\Delta t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q}^{\ell} = a^{\ell} \tag{MC}$$

- strong form of (MC)
- ▶ need to weakly-pose (MC), incorporating $h^{\ell} \ge 0$ constraint
 - seek $h^{\ell}(x, y)$ and location of the free boundary simultaneously

mass conservation: VI form

- first weak formulations of (MC) for glaciers were VIs
 - Calvo et al (2002): 1d glacier on flat bed
 - Jouvet & Bueler (2012): 2d glacier on general bed
- define $\mathcal{K} = \left\{ v \in W^{1,p}(\Omega) \,\middle|\, v \geq 0 \right\}$
- ▶ VI form of (MC): find $h^{\ell} \in \mathcal{K}$ s.t.

$$\int_{\Omega} h^{\ell}(v - h^{\ell}) - \Delta t \, \mathbf{q}^{\ell} \cdot \nabla(v - h^{\ell}) \ge \int_{\Omega} \left(h^{\ell - 1} + \Delta t \, a^{\ell} \right) (v - h^{\ell})$$

for all $v \in \mathcal{K}$

o derive from strong form (MC) by integration-by-parts plus thoughts about $h^\ell=0$ areas

mass conservation: NCP form

define

$$F(h) = h - h^{\ell-1} + \Delta t \, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} - \Delta t \, a$$

▶ NCP form of (MC): find h^{ℓ} s.t.

$$h^{\ell} \geq 0$$
, $F(h^{\ell}) \geq 0$, $h^{\ell}F(h^{\ell}) = 0$

- setwise statements from the NCP:
 - where $h^{\ell} > 0$,

$$F(h^{\ell}) = 0 \iff \text{strong form (MC)}$$

- interior condition
- where $h^{\ell} = 0$,

$$h^{\ell-1} + \Delta t \, a^{\ell} \leq 0$$

says "climate is sufficiently negative to remove old thickness" (during the time step)

numerical solution of the weak problem

for weak formulation (NCP or VI) of (MC):

- can be solved by a Newton method modified for constraint
- scalable & parallel implementations in C are in PETSc*
 - RS and SS methods for NCP (next slide)

^{*}Portable Extensible Toolkit for Scientific computation, www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc

constrained-Newton algorithms

two Newton line search NCP methods:

- "reduced-space" = RS
 - ∘ inactive set $\mathcal{I} = \{i : z_i > 0 \text{ or } F_i(\mathbf{z}) \leq 0\}$
 - algorithm: compute Newton step s^k by

$$\left[\textbf{\textit{J}}(\textbf{\textit{z}}^k) \right]_{\mathcal{I}^k,\mathcal{I}^k} \textbf{\textit{s}}_{\mathcal{I}^k} = -\textbf{\textit{F}}_{\mathcal{I}^k}(\textbf{\textit{z}}^k)$$

then do projected ($\{z \ge 0\}$) line search

- "semi-smooth" = SS
 - choose "NCP function":

$$\phi(a,b)=0 \iff a\geq 0, b\geq 0, ab=0$$

algorithm: compute Newton step s^k by

$$L^k \mathbf{s}^k = -\phi(\mathbf{z}^k, \mathbf{F}^k(\mathbf{z}^k))$$

where L^k is element of $\partial_B \phi(\mathbf{z}^k, \mathbf{F}^k(\mathbf{z}^k))$; then do line search

1D time-stepping movies (and **q** flexibility)

same:

- equation (MC)
- BEuler time-step
- climate a
- bed shape b
- constraint-respecting Newton scheme

top:

 $\mathbf{q} = v_0 h$ hyperbolic advection with constant velocity

bottom:

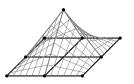
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{q} &= -\Gamma |h|^{n+2} \\ &\cdot |\nabla s|^2 \nabla s \\ \text{nonlinear degenerate} \\ \text{diffusion} \end{aligned}$$

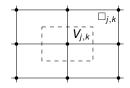
finite volume element (FVE) discretization

- ▶ thickness h(x, y) lives in Q^1 FEM space $\subset W^{1,p}(\Omega)$
 - o *h* is bilinear on elements $\square_{i,k}$
- ▶ (MC) discretized to control-volume integral on $V = V_{j,k}$
- in steady case ($\Delta t = \infty$) it looks like

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = a$$
 \rightarrow $\int_{\partial V} \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, ds \stackrel{*}{=} \int_{V} a \, dx \, dy$

- $\Delta t = \infty$ is the hard case for numerics
- an FVE method is an FEM where * is the weak form
 - equiv: Petrov-Galerkin FEM with 1_V as test function
 - \circ no symmetry in weak form $(\dots$ no loss for known cases)





restrict to shallow ice approximation (SIA) for glaciers

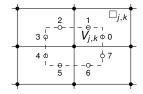
from now on, restrict to nonsliding SIA:

$$\mathbf{q} = -\Gamma h^{\nu+2} |\nabla s|^{\nu-1} \nabla s$$

- where s = h + b
- justified by small-aspect-ratio argument

glacier numerics: quadrature and upwinding

- FD scheme for SIA fits into above FVE framework
 - o i.e. Mahaffy (1976) ... but it has weird quadrature
 - improved convergence from quadrature points below:



- these points good for any q, not just SIA
- a bit of upwinding improves convergence on non-flat beds
 - ... even though this is a fully-implicit approach
 - tested on bedrock-step exact solution (Jarosch et al 2013)
 - details out of scope here

Newton's method, regularized

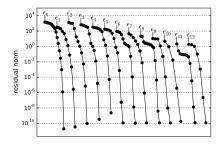
- for $0 \le \epsilon \le 1$, regularize $\mathbf{q}^{(\epsilon)}$
 - 12 levels: $\epsilon_0 = 1, \dots, \epsilon_{11} = 2 \times 10^{-4}, \epsilon_{12} = 0$
 - \circ $\mathbf{q}^{(\epsilon_0)}$ with $\epsilon_0 = 1$ gives classical obstacle problem

$$-\nabla\cdot(D_0\nabla s)=a$$

• $\mathbf{q}^{(\epsilon_{12})}$ with $\epsilon_{12} = 0$ gives SIA model

$$-\nabla \cdot (\Gamma h^{\nu+2} |\nabla s|^{\nu-1} \nabla s) = a$$

- at each level, use Newton's method
 - quadratic convergence for a dome test case:



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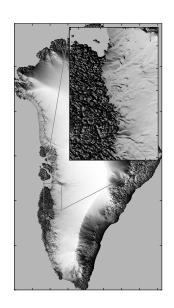
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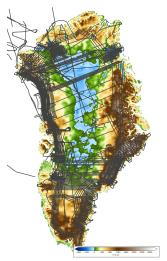
example: Greenland ice sheet

- ▶ goal: given steady surface mass balance a(x, y), and bedrock elevation b(x, y), predict the thickness h(x, y) of the Greenland ice sheet
- method for steady SIA:
 - NCP form of (MC)
 - RS constrained-Newton
 - 900 m structured grid
 - Q¹ FEs in space
 - $N = 7 \times 10^6$ d.o.f.
- result: at right
 - o see Bueler (2016), J. Glaciol.



the essential difficulty: NASA's darn airplanes

actually: bedrock roughness



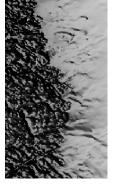
flight lines (OIB 2009-2014)



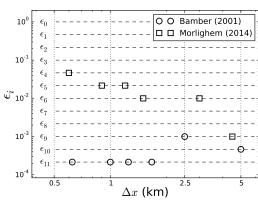
result: Morlighem (2014) bed map

convergence consequences

- ▶ improved observations ⇒ worse solver convergence
 - o old bed: Bamber (2001) on 5 km grid
 - o new bed: Morlighem (2014) on 150 m grid
 - $\circ\,$ results shown for RS on NCP (MC); SS is similar



rougher bed



poorer Newton convergence

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weak formulations

results

conservation: failures and fixes

conclusion

my use of the word "climate"

- I have hijacked the word "climate" so as to define it to mean whatever I want
 - o typical mathematician behavior ...

- my *Definition*: for a fluid layer model, with governing weak formulation as above (and NCP/VI), the *climate* is the function a(t, x, y, z) defined on the whole domain Ω
- ▶ the climate is *only* a source term in the PDE " $h_t + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = a$ " in those locations where h > 0 (i.e. l_t)
- we should be able to report how much mass was transferred to/from the fluid layer by the climate

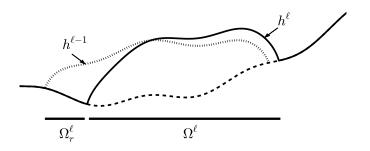
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 - you want a selfie? I'm not that kind of hijacker . . .
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conservation reporting: subsets

- ▶ back to time-stepping cases $\Delta t > 0$
- ▶ suppose h^{ℓ} solves the weak form (MC)
- define

$$\begin{split} &\Omega^\ell = \left\{h^\ell(x,y) > 0\right\} \\ &\Omega^\ell_r = \left\{h^\ell(x,y) = 0 \text{ and } h^{\ell-1}(x,y) > 0\right\} \quad \leftarrow \text{retreat set} \end{split}$$



conservation reporting: time-series

define:

$$M^{\ell} = \int_{\Omega} h^{\ell}(x, y) dx dy$$
, the mass (volume) at time t^{ℓ}

then

$$\Delta t \left(-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q}^{\ell} + a^{\ell} \right)$$

$$M^{\ell} - M^{\ell-1} = \int_{\Omega^{\ell}} h^{\ell} - h^{\ell-1} dx dy + \int_{\Omega^{\ell}_{r}} 0 - h^{\ell-1} dx dy$$

$$= \Delta t \left(0 + \int_{\Omega^{\ell}} a^{\ell} dx dy \right) - \int_{\Omega^{\ell}_{r}} h^{\ell-1} dx dy$$

- ∘ this assumes $\mathbf{q} \to 0$ as $(x, y) \to \partial \Omega^{\ell}$
- new term:

$$R^{\ell} = \int_{\Omega^{\ell}} h^{\ell-1} dx dy$$
 the *retreat loss during step* ℓ

conservation reporting: the limitation

- the retreat loss R^{ℓ} is not balanced by the climate
 - o retreat R^{ℓ} is *caused* by the climate, but we don't know a computable integral of a^{ℓ} to balance it
- we must track three time series:
 - mass at time t^{ℓ} : $M^{\ell} = \int_{\Omega} h^{\ell}(x, y) dx dy$
 - climate over current fluid-covered region:

$$C^\ell = \Delta t \, \int_{\Omega^\ell} a^\ell \, dx \, dy \qquad pprox \int_{t^{\ell-1}}^{t^\ell} \int_{I_t} a(t,x,y) \, dx \, dy \, dt$$

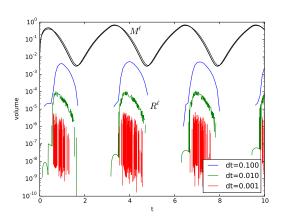
• retreat loss during time step: $R^{\ell} = \int_{\Omega^{\ell}} h^{\ell-1} dx dy$

$$R^{\ell} = \int_{\Omega_r^{\ell}} h^{\ell-1} \, dx \, dy$$

and they balance:

$$M^{\ell} = M^{\ell-1} + C^{\ell} - R^{\ell}$$

conservation reporting: $R^\ell o 0$ as $\Delta t o 0$



outline

glaciers and ice sheets

generalize to fluid layers and their climates

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summary

- ▶ problem: fluid layer MC model " $h_t + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = a$ "
 - layer thickness h
 - signed climate a
 - coupled to momentum solver: $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{U}, h)$
- goals:
 - long (implicit) time steps
 - rigorous conservation reporting
- approach:
 - pose single time-step problem weakly as NCP or VI
 - incorporates constraint h ≥ 0
 - approach is q-agnostic
 - solve by scalable constrained-Newton method (e.g. PETSc)
- challenges:
 - bed roughness makes convergence hard
 - can this lead to global glaciation modeling?