Preface

Special Issue on "Computational Geophysics"

Computational geophysics is vitally important for improving our understanding of the Earth and Earth processes; however solutions to most problems in computational geophysics have been unapproachable due to limited computing capacity. With increasing computer speed, memory, storage capacity, and input/output capability, solving these problems is becoming feasible. Computational geophysics can include not only forward modeling to predict what will happen in a given situation but inverse modeling or inversion, in which data are interpreted in terms of a model. Such inversion can be even more computationally intensive than forward modeling as it can require several iterations of forward modeling. This Special Issue contains 13 papers and encompasses several different and important computational geophysical problems, including seismic-wave modeling using different methods, electromagnetic modeling/inversion, and tsunami simulation.

Large-scale computational methods for seismic wave modeling and inversion are expected to greatly improve the understanding of the Earth's interior structure. The paper by Tromp, Komatitsch and Liu, "Spectral-Element and Adjoint Methods in Seismology," gives an overview of the spectral element method with applications particularly in global seismology. After covering the essential relations from linear elasticity theory, the weak formulation of the elastic wave equation is given. A more detailed description of the discretization of a general three-dimensional volume with tensor-product spectral elements follows. The assembling of the stiffness matrix and the source term is carried out explicitly, concluding with the respective discrete expressions. The last section describes a computational optimization approach to inversion of material or source parameters. A cost functional is introduced, whose first-order extremality conditions are subsequently derived. This leads to the identification of an adjoint variable.

On the other hand, computational methods for seismic wave propagation on a smaller scale and at higher frequency are critical to the understanding of details of underground structures and rock properties. Cheng and Blanch's paper titled "Numerical Modeling of Elastic Wave Propagation in a Fluid-Filled Borehole" provides a review of two frequently used elastic-wave modeling methods: the quasi-analytic method known as the discrete wavenumber summation method and the finite-difference wave-equation method. Some numerical difficulties for the special geometry of the borehole and in cylindrical coordinates, and the advantages and disadvantages of the methods are discussed.

The paper titled "Boundary Integral Modelling of Elastic Wave Propagation in Multi-Layered 2D Media with Irregular Interfaces" by Enru Liu, Zhongjie Zhang, Jianghua Yue and Andy Dobson, extends the well known indirect boundary element method to irregular layered media. It is a semi-analytic method based on the propagation matrix for

each layer and uses a recursive solution strategy to compute responses of elastic (and acoustic) waves in multi-layered media. The method adapts an absorbing boundary condition used in the finite-difference wave-equation method to suppress artificial boundary reflections.

The paper by Tatsuhiko Saito, Haruo Sato and Tsutomu Takahashi, "Direct Simulation Methods for Scalar-Wave Envelopes in Two-Dimensional Layered Random Media Based on the Small-Angle Scattering Approximation," extends previous works on the use of the Markov approximation for scalar-wave envelope simulation for uniform random media to layered random media. Saito et al. also investigate applications of Williamson's stochastic ray-path method to random media. The methods are validated using finite-difference modeling and results demonstrate that these two methods give practically the same results.

The next paper titled "MoSST_DAS: The First Generation Geomagnetic Data Assimilation Framework" by Weijia Kuang, Andrew Tangborn, Weiyuan Jiang, Don Liu, Zhibin Sun, Jeremy Bloxham and Zigang Wei, attempts to connect dynamo models more closely with geomagnetic data. It gives the overall architecture, mathematical formulation, numerical algorithms, and computational techniques of the geomagnetic data assimilation framework. It shows that sequential filtering using observational data can improve the predictive capabilities of the current generation of geodynamo models.

The paper on "Theoretical and Experimental Studies of Seismoelectric Conversions in Boreholes" by Zhenya Zhu, Shihong Chi, Xin Zhan and M. Nafi Toksöz, gives theoretical formulations for seismoelectric effects in boreholes, presents simulations of electric fields in boreholes penetrating formations with different permeability and porosities, and studies the sensitivity of converted electric fields to formation permeability and porosity. The theory and numerical simulations are verified by experimental results. The work can shed a light on the practical applications of using seismoelectric/seismomagnetic logging for determining formation properties, such as porosity and permeability.

Kazuya Shiraishi and Toshifumi Matsuoka's paper on "Wave Propagation Simulation Using the CIP Method of Characteristic Equations" describes the application of a Cubic Interpolated Profile (CIP) scheme for acoustic-wave modeling. The directional splitting and diagonalization of the coefficient matrix are used to derive the characteristic equations for acoustic wave propagation. The CIP modeling method can accurately simulate acoustic-wave propagation in highly inhomogeneous media with complex topography.

Adriana Citlali Ramírez and Einar Otnes's paper titled "Forward Scattering Series for 2-Parameter Acoustic Media: Analysis and Implications to the Inverse Scattering Task Specific Subseries," describes the scattering theory approach to wavefield modeling and geophysical imaging/inversion. It gives a forward scattering description of acoustic wave propagation through a 1D medium, and discusses how the forward and inverse scattering series are connected. A conceptual framework for the multiparameter Born series provides an insightful analysis that can be mapped and applied to the concepts and algorithms of the inverse scattering series.

The paper by Leif H. Cox and Michael S. Zhdanov, "Advanced Computational Methods of Rapid and Rigorous 3-D Inversion of Airborne Electromagnetic Data," provides a new, more rigorous solution to the modeling and inversion of airborne electromagnetic data in 3-D. It uses a previously developed localized quasi-linear (LQL) algorithm to obtain a first approximation to the solution. Iterative improvement continues with their algorithm until a desired level of accuracy is attained. The paper summarizes the mathematical underpinnings and provides a couple of example applications, showing the significant improvement in resolution provided by the new, mathematically rigorous algorithm.

Bogdan G. Nita's paper titled "Forward Scattering Series and Padé Approximants for Acoustic Wavefield Propagation in a Vertically Varying Medium," presents the use of Padé approximants for estimation of the reflection coefficient from a planar interface in a 3D medium. It shows that the sequence of Padé approximants to the partial sums in the forward scattering series for the 3D wave equation is convergent for any contrast and any incidence angle.

The paper titled "Amplitude Compensation for One-Way Wave Propagators in Inhomogeneous Media and its Application to Seismic Imaging" by Jun Cao and Ru-Shan Wu, extends the WKBJ solution to general heterogeneous media. In addition, it compares the effect of the WKBJ correction to image amplitudes in seismic imaging with that of the acquisition aperture correction, and shows that the effect of the WKBJ compensation is much less noticeable compared with the acquisition aperture correction for seismic migration imaging with limited acquisition aperture.

Steven N. Ward and Simon Day's paper titled "Tsunami Balls: A Granular Approach to Tsunami Runup and Inundation," proposes a new approach for simulation of tsunami propagation from deep sea to runup on sloping beaches. The method basically introduces two concepts: energy based for the entire wave propagation process up to breaking and particle based for the flooding and onshore impact. The 2-D and 3-D modeling results shows that wave breaking generally causes relative runup to increase with beach slope and wave period, and decrease with input wave amplitude.

The paper titled "Retrieval of Elastic Green's Tensor near a Cylindrical Inhomogeneity from Vector Correlations" by Juan A. Pérez-Ruiz, Francisco Luzón and Francisco J. Sánchez-Sesma, shows how to obtain the 2D tensor elastodynamic Green's function in an infinite elastic space containing a circular cylinder inclusion. The study is focused on diffusive processes arising from multiple scattering of elastic waves in inhomogeneous media. By taking the equipartition theory in two-dimensions, it shows that the Fourier transform of azimuthal average of the cross-correlation of motion between two points within an elastic medium is equivalent to the imaginary part of the exact Green's function between these points. Numerical results demonstrate the possibility of detection and imaging of diffractors and resonant diffractors by cross correlation of real records even if attenuation exists.

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Lianjie Huang[*] and Michael Fehler[†]
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, NM 87545, USA

[*]**Lianjie Huang** is a Geophysicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He obtained his Ph.D. in Geophysics from the University of Paris VII/Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris in 1994 after receiving an MSc degree in Mathematics and a BSc degree in Physics from Peking University. He has more than 130 publications in the areas of numerical modeling of acoustic/elastic wave propagation in complex media, wave-theory-based migration imaging, diffraction tomography, ray tracing, monitoring of carbon sequestration, and ultrasound cancer imaging.

[†]**Michael Fehler** is currently a Senior Scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Manager of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' Advanced Modeling (SEAM) project. He received his Ph.D. in Geophysics from MIT in 1979. He was the Division Leader of the Earth and Environmental Sciences Division of Los Alamos National Laboratory from 2005-2007. He has coauthored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications in the areas of seismic imaging, seismic-wave propagation, scattering of seismic waves, and induced seismicity. He coauthored a book on scattering of seismic waves, published in 1998. He served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America from 1995-2004. He was the President of the Seismological society of America from 2005-2006.