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# **Traveling waves in strongly inhomogeneous media**

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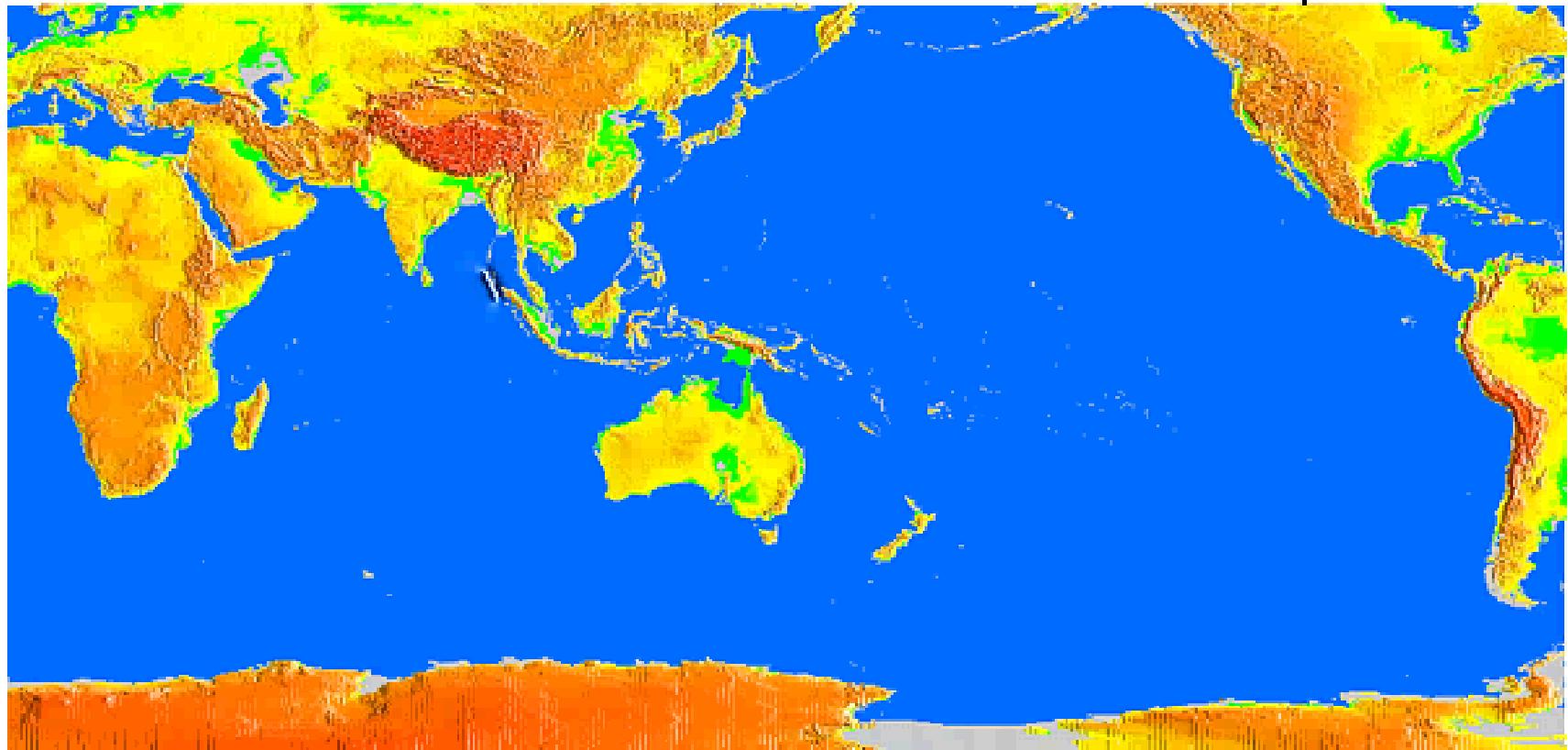


The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

*University of Sheffield, UK*

Sumatra Tsunami Dec 26 2004 01:01 Z

Elapsed Time 00:00



National Tidal Centre

Bureau of Meteorology

$$\frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial t^2} - g \operatorname{div}[h(x, y) \nabla \eta] = 0$$

**h – water depth**

# Outline

- Traveling waves in 1D linear case
- Traveling waves in narrow bays and channels
- Nonlinear traveling waves in channels

# Simplified 1D linear theory of shallow water waves

$$\frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ c^2(x) \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \right] = 0$$

$c(x) = \sqrt{gh(x)}$  - wave speed

$\eta(x,t)$  – water displacement

$h(x)$  – water depth

# “Non-reflecting” beach with large amplification

*Solution of wave equation in the form  
of a traveling wave*

$$\eta(x, t) = A(x) \exp [i\{\omega t - \Psi(x)\}]$$

Two unknown functions: A and  $\Psi$

# Equations for real and imaginary parts

$$2k \frac{dA}{dx} + A \frac{dk}{dx} + \frac{1}{h} \frac{dh}{dx} kA = 0$$

$$\left[ \frac{\omega^2}{gh(x)} - k^2(x) \right] A + \left[ \frac{d^2A}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{h} \frac{dh}{dx} \frac{dA}{dx} \right] = 0$$

**where**  $k(x) = \frac{d\Psi}{dx}$  - *wavenumber*

Integration of the first Equation gives us

$$2k \frac{dA}{dx} + A \frac{dk}{dx} + \frac{1}{h} \frac{dh}{dx} kA = 0$$



$$A^2(x)k(x)h(x) = \text{const}$$

*Energy flux conservation*

We do not know general analytical solution of the second equation, performed in known functions

$$\left[ \frac{\omega^2}{gh(x)} - k^2(x) \right] A + \left[ \frac{d^2A}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{h} \frac{dh}{dx} \frac{dA}{dx} \right] = 0$$

It is a variable-coefficient 2d order equation

*Not simpler, than initial wave equation*

## If the depth varies smoothly – WKB Approach

$$\left[ \frac{\omega^2}{gh(x)} - k^2(x) \right] A + \left[ \frac{d^2 A}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{h} \frac{dh}{dx} \frac{dA}{dx} \right] = 0$$

$$k(x) = \frac{\omega}{\sqrt{gh(x)}}$$

*eikonal*

*together*

$$A^2(x)k(x)h(x) = \text{const}$$

# Try to keep features of the pure propagating wave

$$\left[ \frac{\omega^2}{gh(x)} - k^2(x) \right] A + \left[ \frac{d^2A}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{h} \frac{dh}{dx} \frac{dA}{dx} \right] = 0$$

$$\left[ \frac{\omega^2}{gh(x)} - k^2(x) \right] = 0$$

*Overdetermined system*

$$k = k(\omega)$$

$$\left[ \frac{d^2A}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{h} \frac{dh}{dx} \frac{dA}{dx} \right] = 0$$

# “Non-reflecting” beach

$$\left[ \frac{d^2A}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{h} \frac{dh}{dx} \frac{dA}{dx} \right] = 0$$



$$h(x) \frac{dA}{dx} = \text{const}$$

*together with*

$$A^2(x)k(x)h(x) = \text{const}$$

$$k(x) = \frac{\omega}{\sqrt{gh(x)}}$$

*gives*

$$h(x) \sim x^{4/3}$$

# “Non-reflecting” beach

$$\eta(x, t) = A \left[ \frac{h_0}{h(x)} \right]^{1/4} f[t - \tau(x)]$$

Propagating wave

The shape of the pulse stays the same

Singularity at  $x = 0$  ( $h = 0$ )

$$\tau(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{dx'}{\sqrt{gh(x')}}$$

# Velocity field

$$u(x,t) = -g \int_{-\infty}^t \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} dt' = -g \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int_{-\infty}^t \eta(x,t') dt'$$

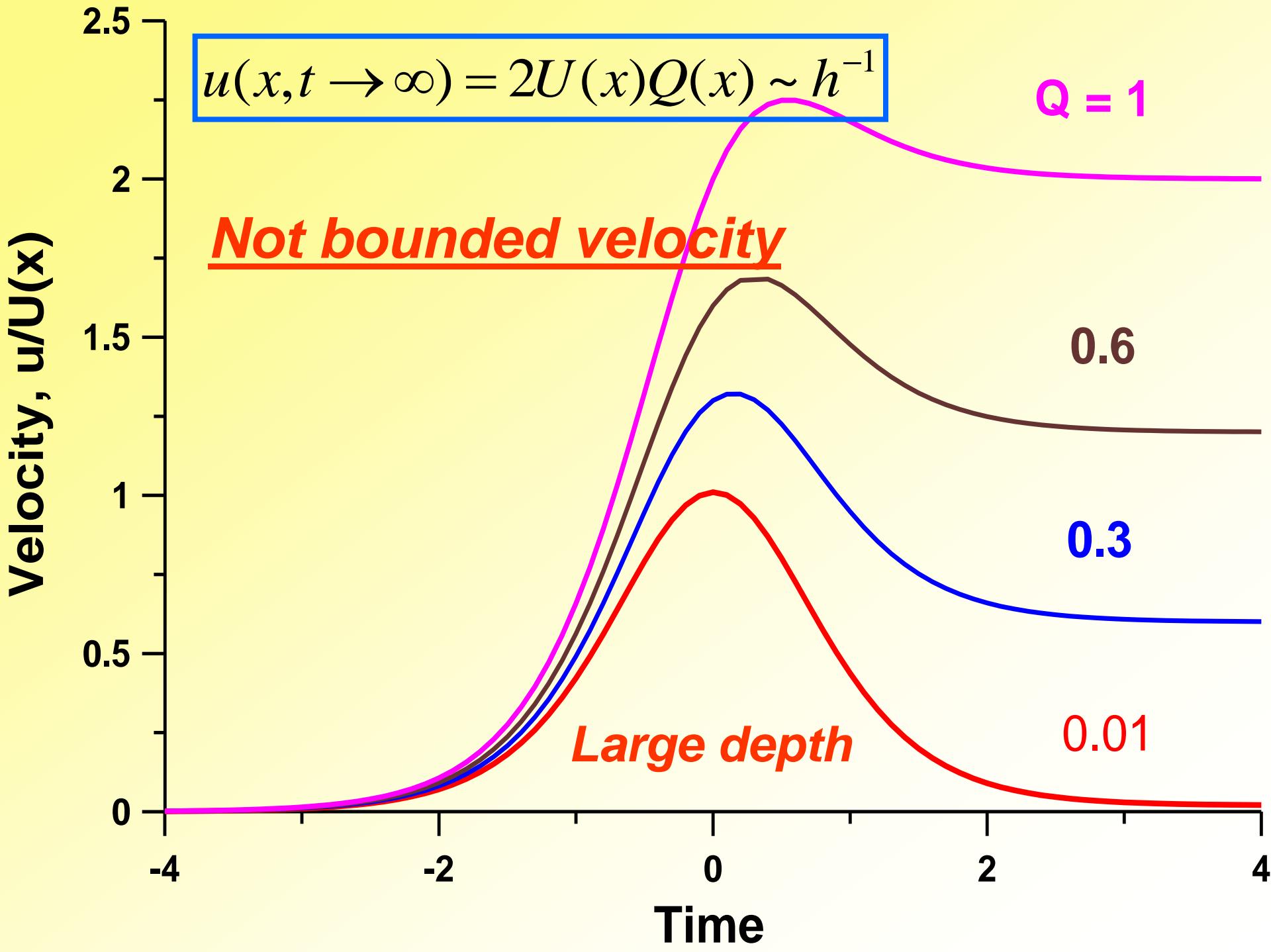
$$\eta(x,t) = A \left[ \frac{h_0}{h(x)} \right]^{1/4} \operatorname{sech}^2 \{ \Omega [t - \tau(x)] \}$$

$$u(x,t) = U(x) \{ \operatorname{sech}^2(T) + Q(x) [\tanh(T) + 1] \}$$

$$U(x) = A \sqrt{\frac{g}{h(x)}} \left[ \frac{h_0}{h(x)} \right]^{1/4} \sim h^{-3/4}$$

**WKB amplitude**

$$Q(x) = \frac{\sqrt{gh(x)}}{3L\Omega} \left[ \frac{h_0}{h(x)} \right]^{3/4} \sim h^{-1/4}$$



# Physical solution for sign-variable waves

$$\eta(x, t) = A \left[ \frac{h_0}{h(x)} \right]^{1/4} f[t - \tau(x)]$$

$$u(x) = A \sqrt{\frac{g}{h(x)}} \left[ \frac{h_0}{h(x)} \right]^{1/4} f[t - \tau(x)] + Q(x) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(\xi) d\xi$$

**Sign-variable pulse**

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) dt = 0$$

**The wave with the largest amplification**

# Reduction to constant-coefficient wave equation

The solution

$$\eta(x, t) = A(x)H[t, \tau(x)]$$

reduces

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial \tau^2} = 0$$

If

$$h(x) = x^{4/3}$$

$$A(x) = x^{-1/3} \quad \tau(x) = 3x^{1/3}$$

It proves uniqueness of the exact travelling wave solutions in inhomogeneous media

# Natural condition on the shoreline – boundedness of water displacement

$$H(\tau = 0, t) = 0$$

As a result, the general solution  
(Cauchy problem) can be solved

$$\eta(x,t) = \frac{1}{x^{1/3}} \left\{ f_+[\tau(x)-t] + f_-[\tau(x)+t] - f_-[-\tau(x)+t] \right\}$$

$$u(x,t) = \sqrt{\frac{g}{p}} \frac{1}{x} \left[ f_+(\tau-t) - f_-(\tau+t) - f_-(-\tau+t) \right] - \frac{g}{3x^{4/3}} \left[ \Phi_+(\tau-t) - \Phi_-(\tau+t) - \Phi_-(-\tau+t) \right]$$

**where**

$$\Phi(\xi) = \int f(\xi) d\xi$$

# Piston model of wave generation

$$\eta(x,0) = \eta_0(x) \quad u(x,0) = 0$$

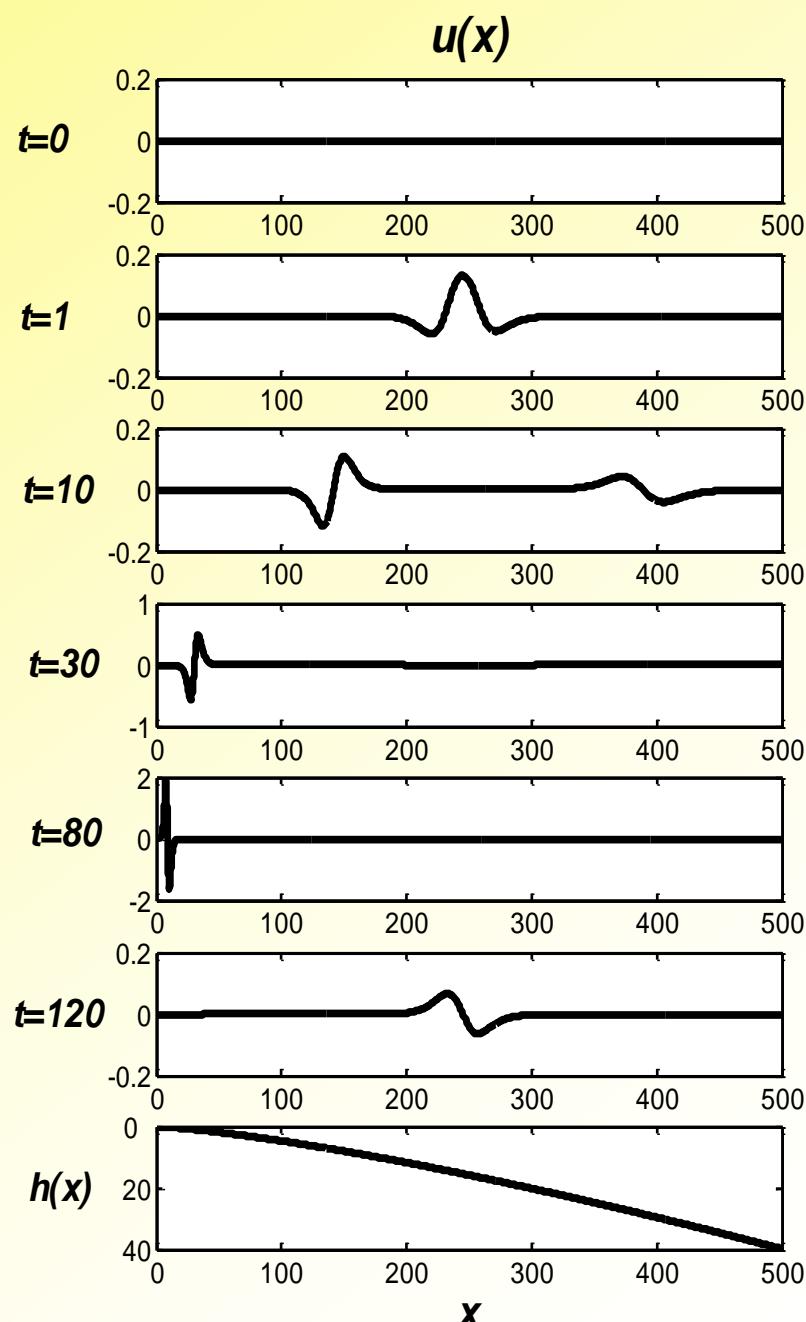
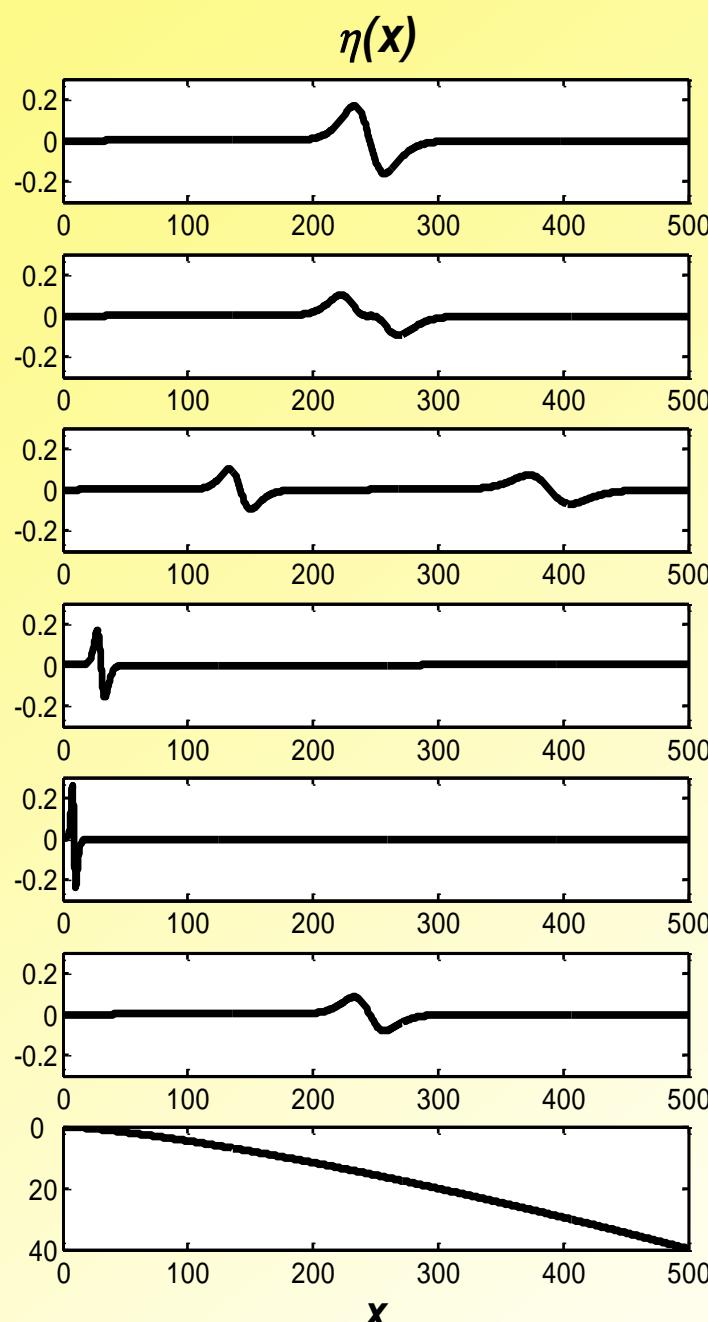
$$\eta(x,t) = \frac{1}{x^{1/3}} \{ f_0[\tau(x)-t] + f_0[\tau(x)+t] - f_0[-\tau(x)+t] \}$$

$$u(x,t) = \sqrt{\frac{g}{p}} \frac{1}{x} [f_0(\tau-t) - f_0(\tau+t) - f_0(-\tau+t)] -$$

$$-\frac{g}{3x^{4/3}} [\Phi_0(\tau-t) - \Phi_0(\tau+t) - \Phi_0(-\tau+t)]$$

# If the initial disturbance is sign-variable

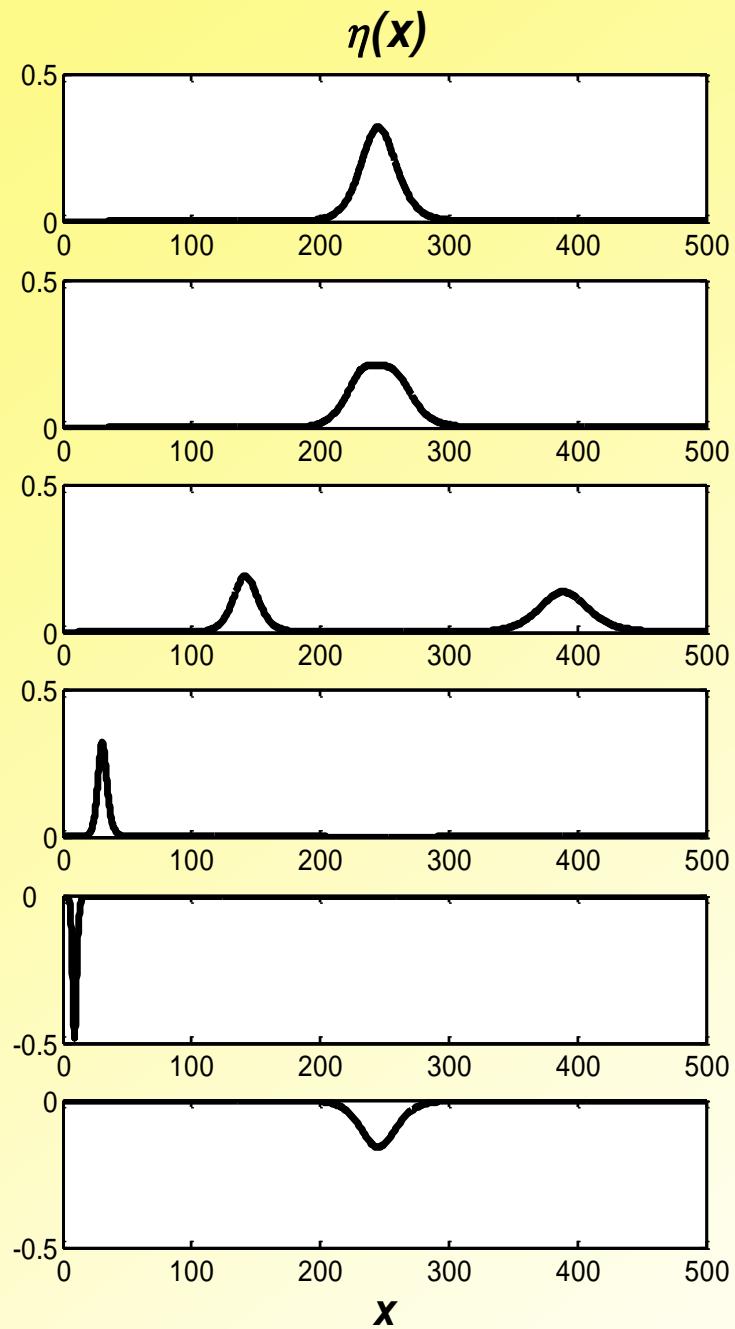
$$f_0(\tau) = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{\tanh[2(\tau - 60)/3]}{\cosh^2[2(\tau - 60)/3]}$$



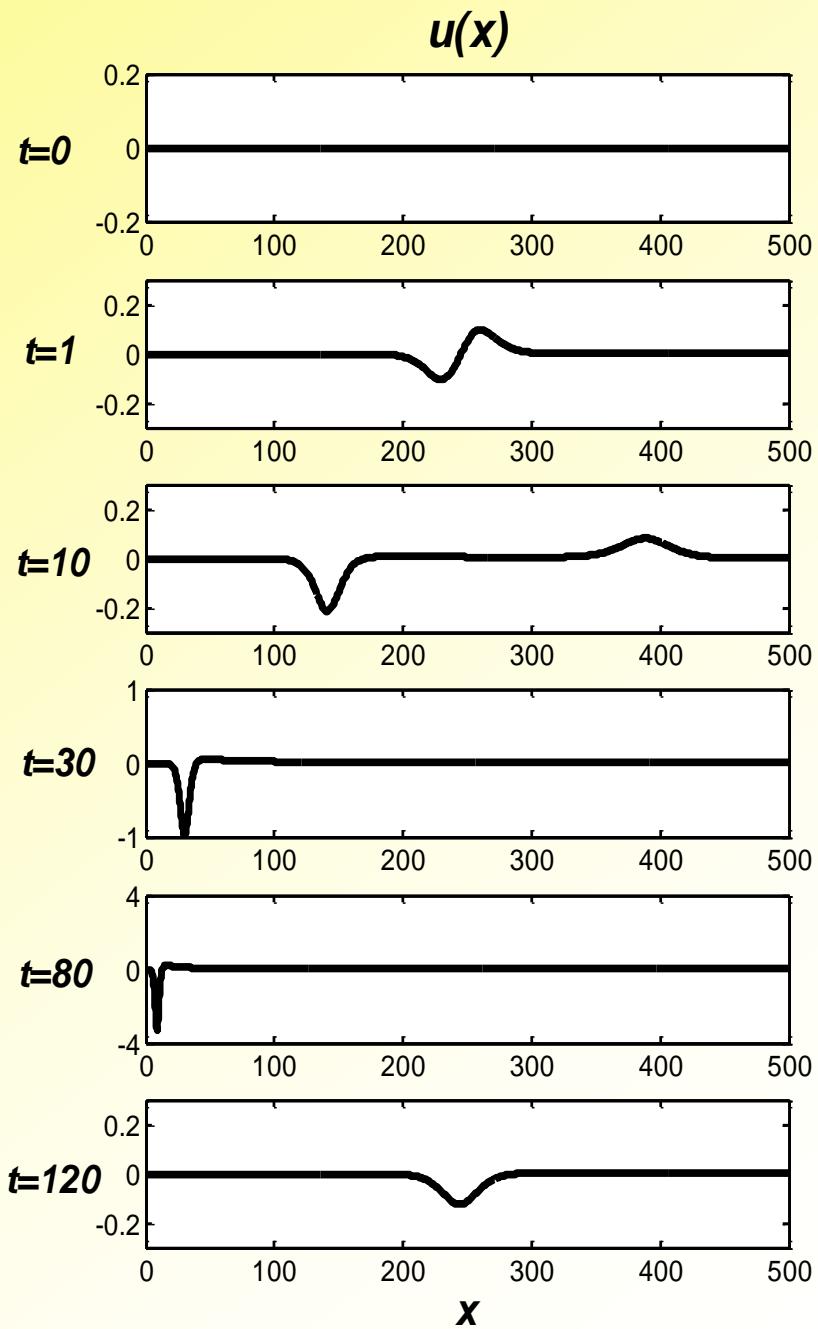
like constant depth

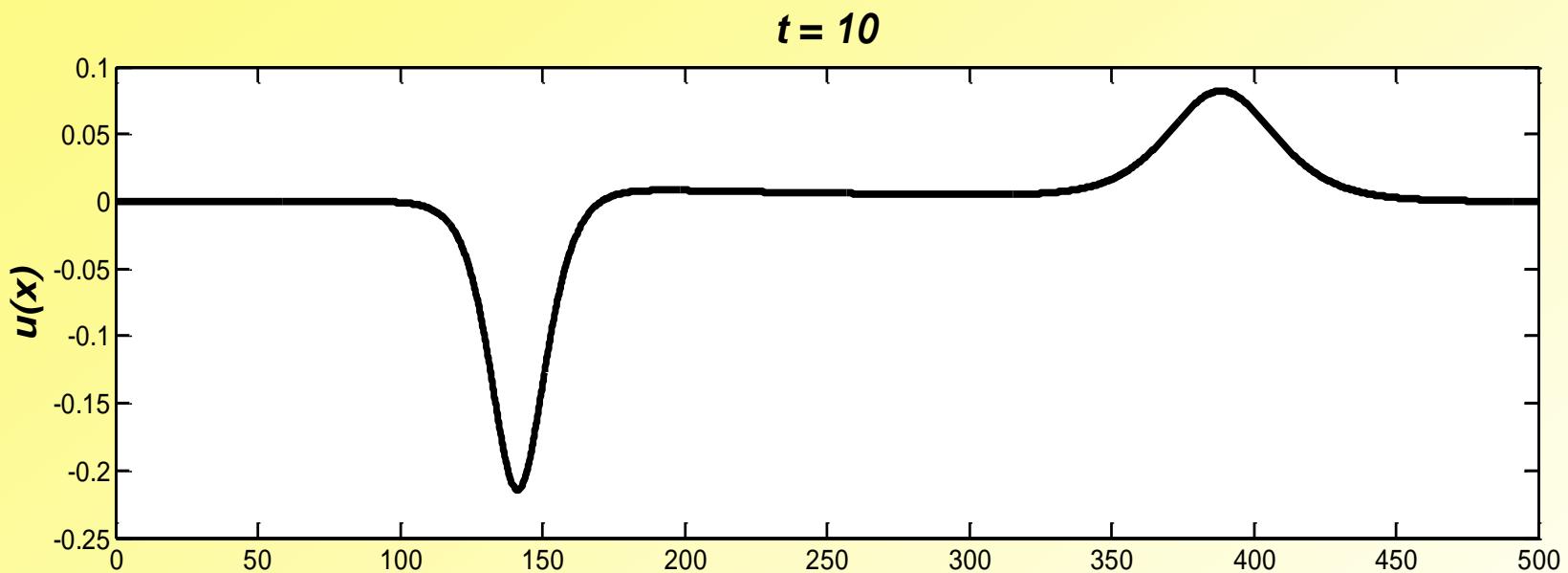
If the initial disturbance  
is sign-constant

$$f_0(\tau) = \operatorname{sech}^2[2(\tau - 60)/3]$$

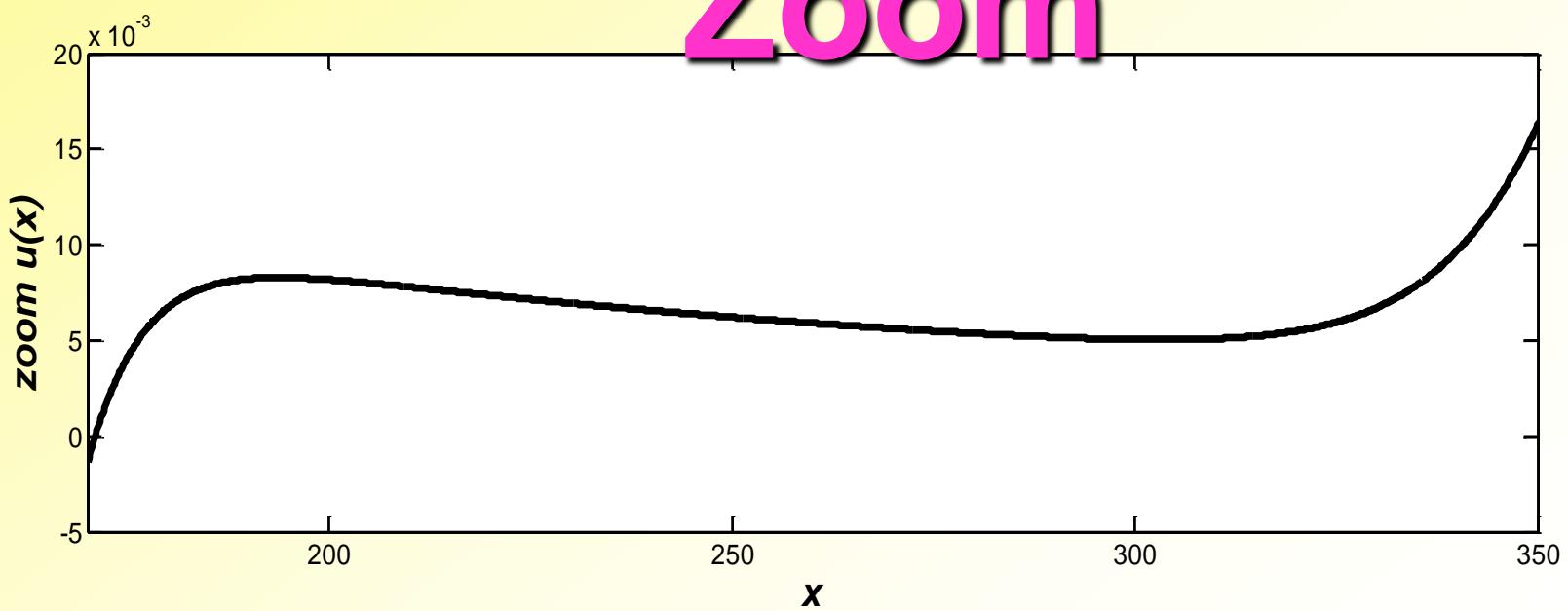


Relict current





Zoom



# Runup on a beach $x^{4/3}$

$$\eta(x,t) = A_0 \left[ \frac{h_0}{h(x)} \right]^{1/4} \{ f[t + \tau(x)] - f[t - \tau(x)] \}$$

$$\tau(x) = \int_{-L}^x \frac{dy}{\sqrt{gh(y)}} = \frac{3L}{\sqrt{gh_0}} \left[ \frac{h(x)}{h_0} \right]^{1/4}$$

Bounded at the shoreline  $x = 0$  (runup)

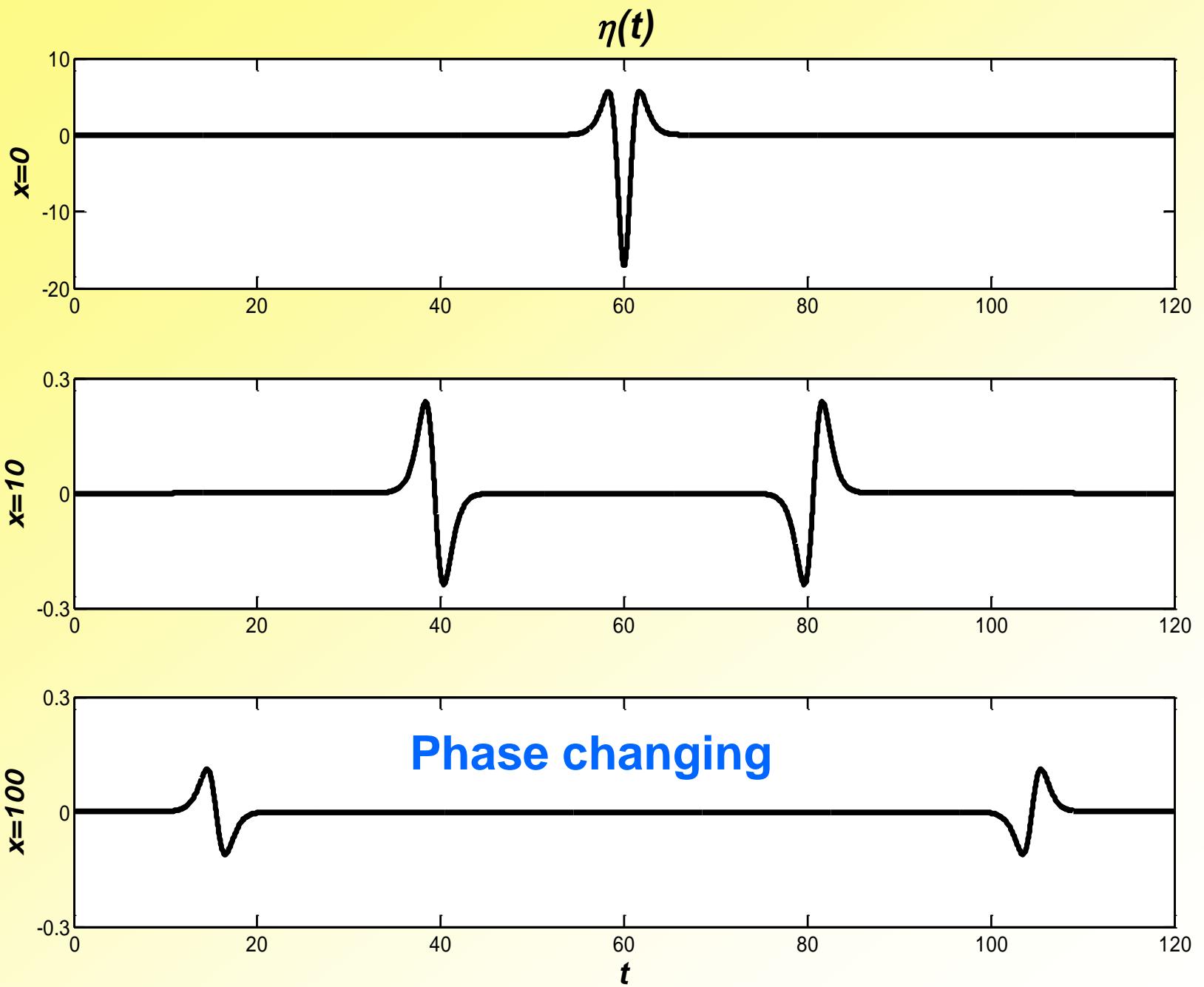
$$R(t) = \eta(x = 0, t) = 2\tau_0 \frac{df(t + \tau_0)}{dt}$$

# Velocity field at the shoreline

$$u(x \rightarrow 0, t) \sim \frac{f(t + \tau_0)}{x}$$

## Water discharge

$$h(x)u(x, t) \rightarrow x^{1/3} f(t + \tau_0) \rightarrow 0$$



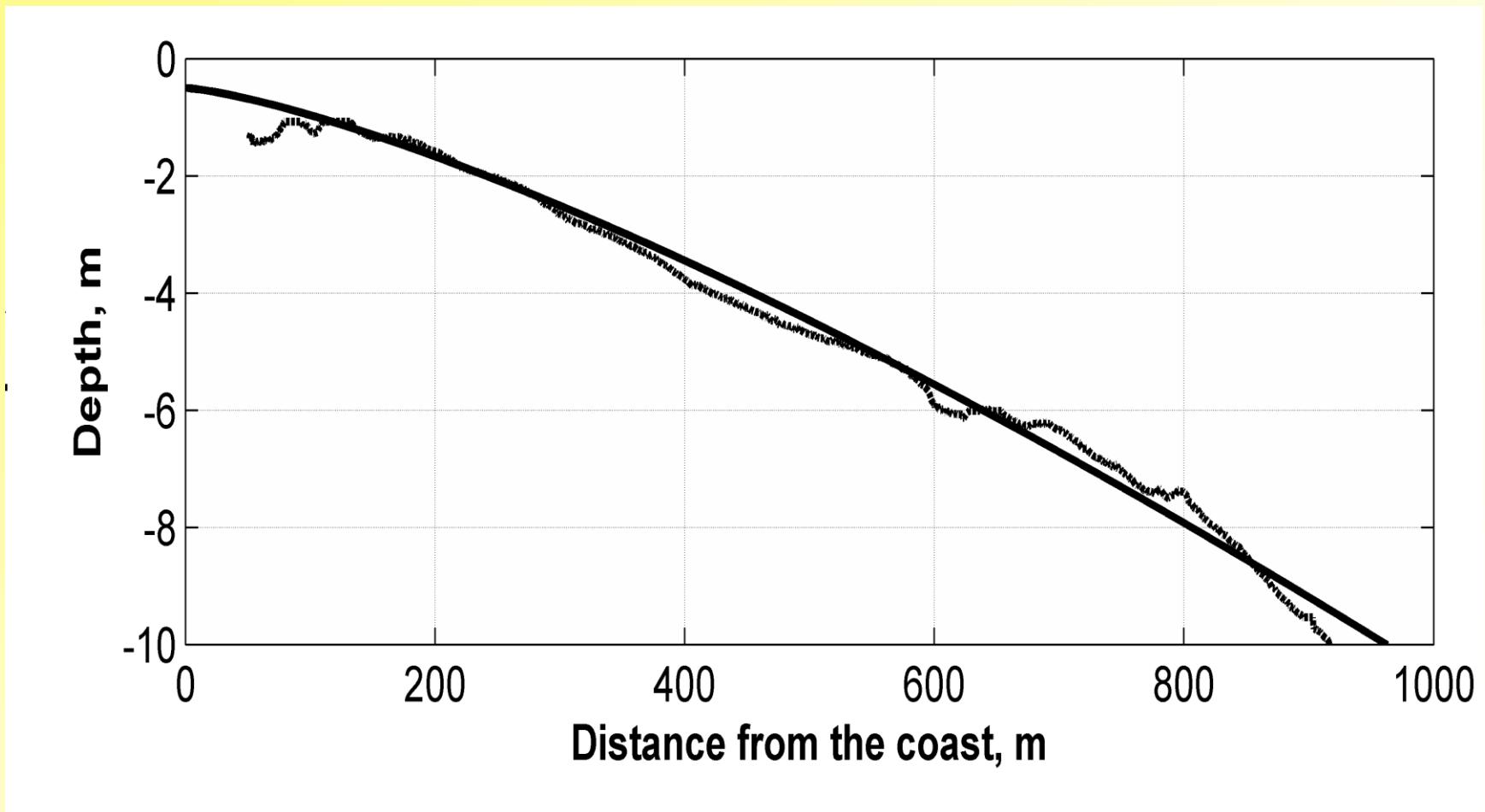
# Runup of a soliton

$$R_{\max} = 4 \frac{A}{\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{A}{h}} \sim A^{3/2}$$

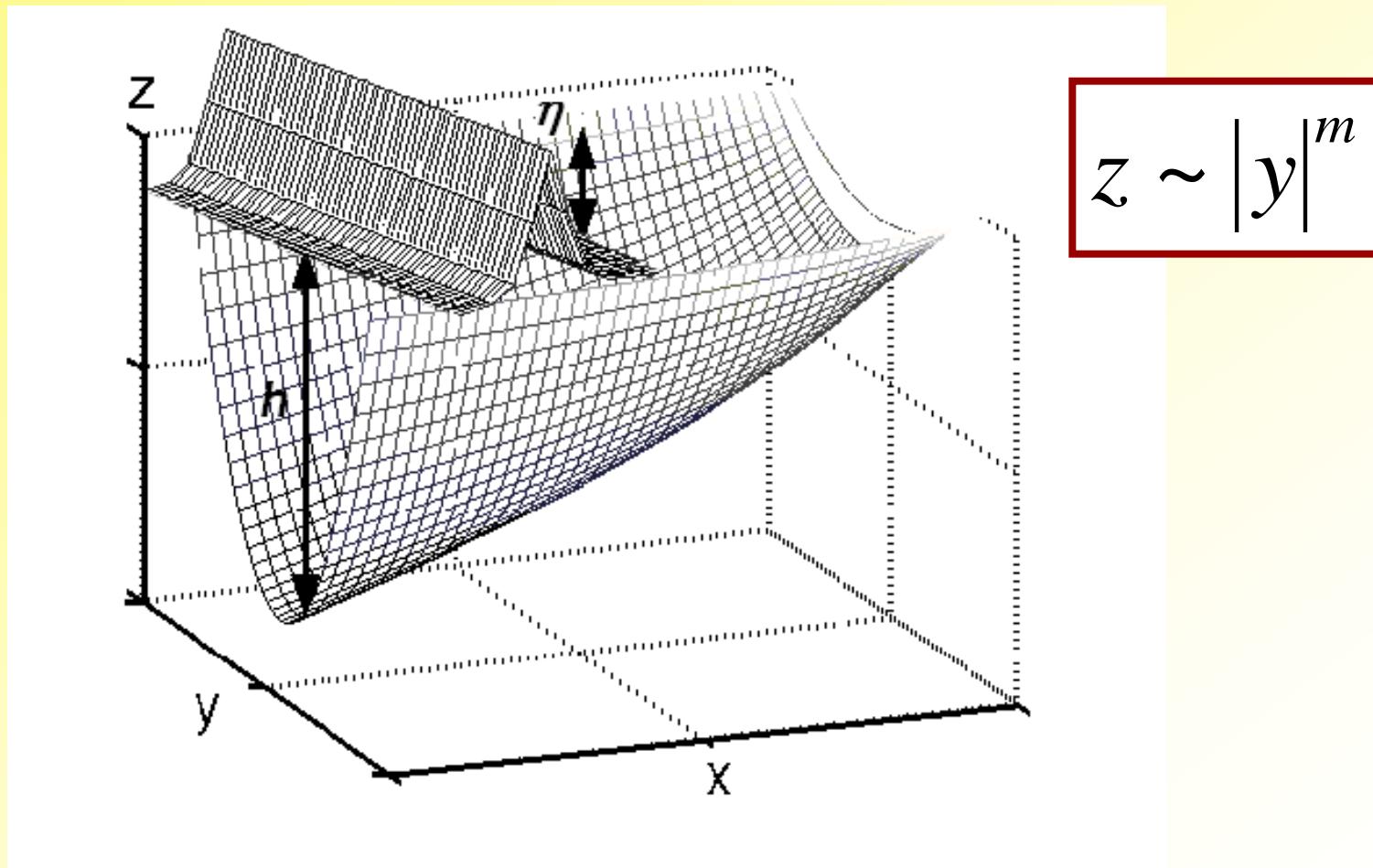
## Plane Beach

$$R_{\max} = 2.8312 \frac{A}{\sqrt{\alpha}} \left( \frac{A}{h} \right)^{1/4} \sim A^{5/4}$$

# Pirita beach, Tallinn, Estonia



# Traveling waves in narrow bays



# Basic Equations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (S u) = 0$$

$\eta$  - water displacement,  $u$  - depth-averaged flow,  
 $S$  - variable water cross-section of the channel

$$S \sim H^q$$

$$q = \frac{m+1}{m}$$

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} + \frac{H}{q} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + g \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = g \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}$$

# Linear problem

$$\frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial t^2} - g \frac{dh}{dx} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} - \frac{gh}{q} \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial x^2} = 0$$

## Traveling wave solution

$$\eta(x, t) = A(x) f[t - \tau(x)]$$

$$A \sim h^{-\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2m}\right)}$$

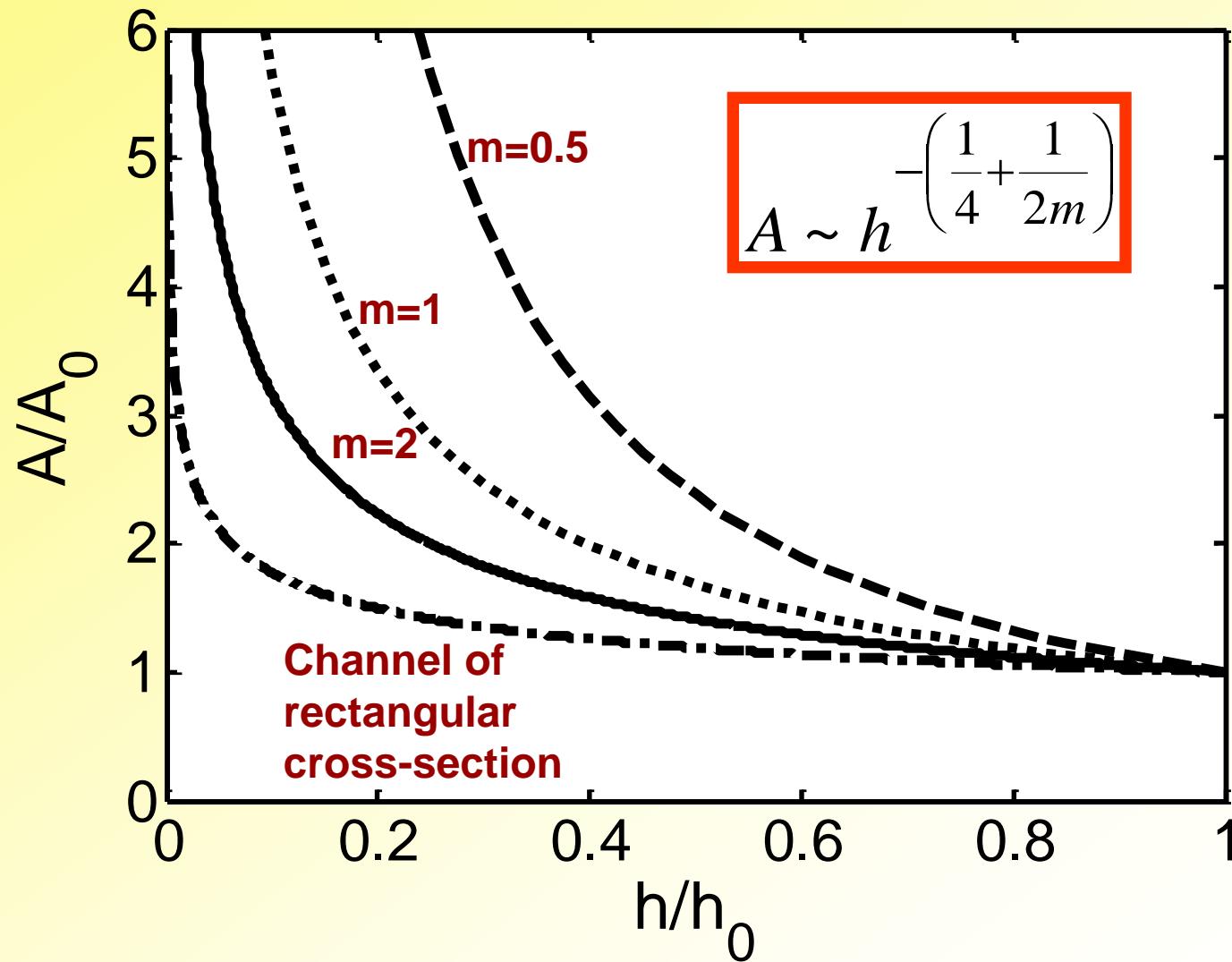
$$\tau(x) = \int \frac{dx}{c(x)}$$

$$c(x) = \sqrt{gh(x)/q}$$

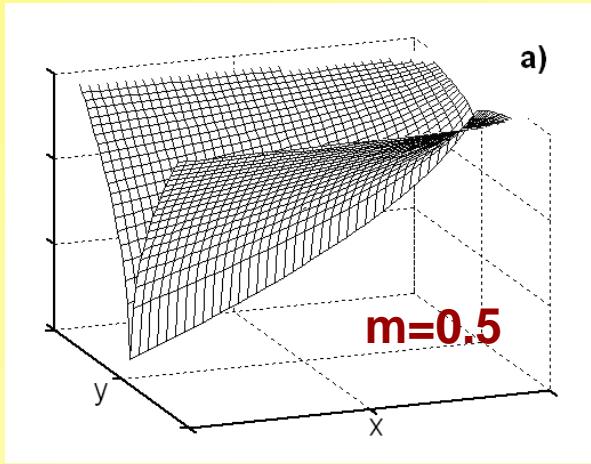
Generalized  
Green's law

Travel time

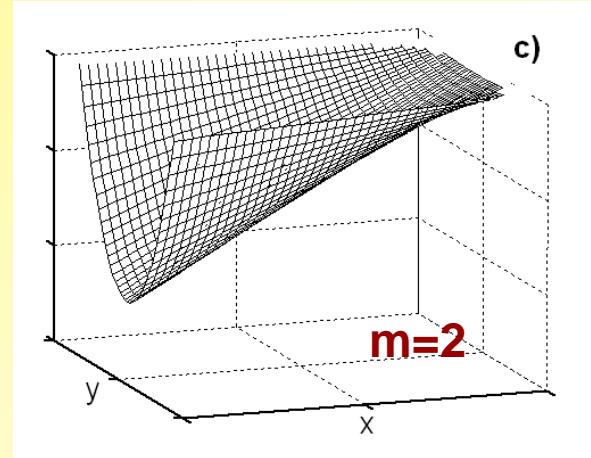
# Shoaling effects in U-shaped bays



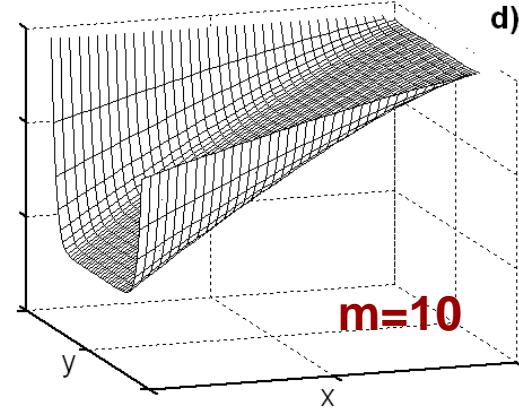
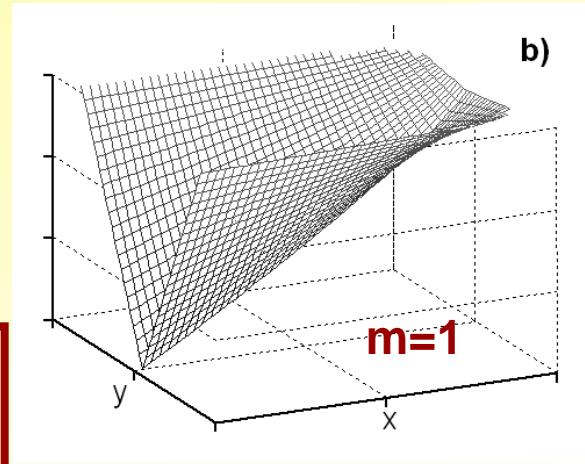
# Shapes of “non-reflecting” bays



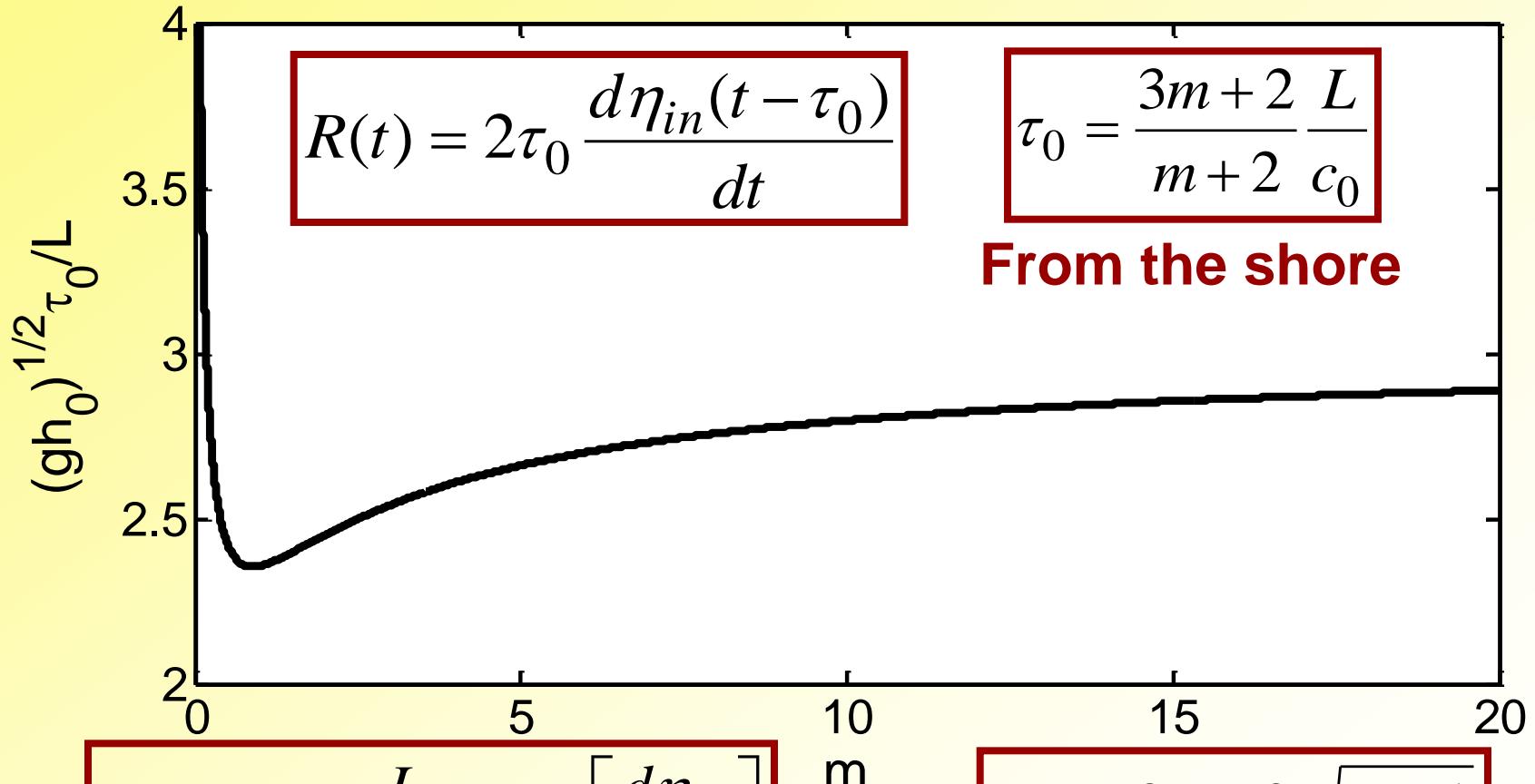
$$h(x) \sim x^{\frac{4m}{3m+2}}$$



$$z \sim |y|^m$$



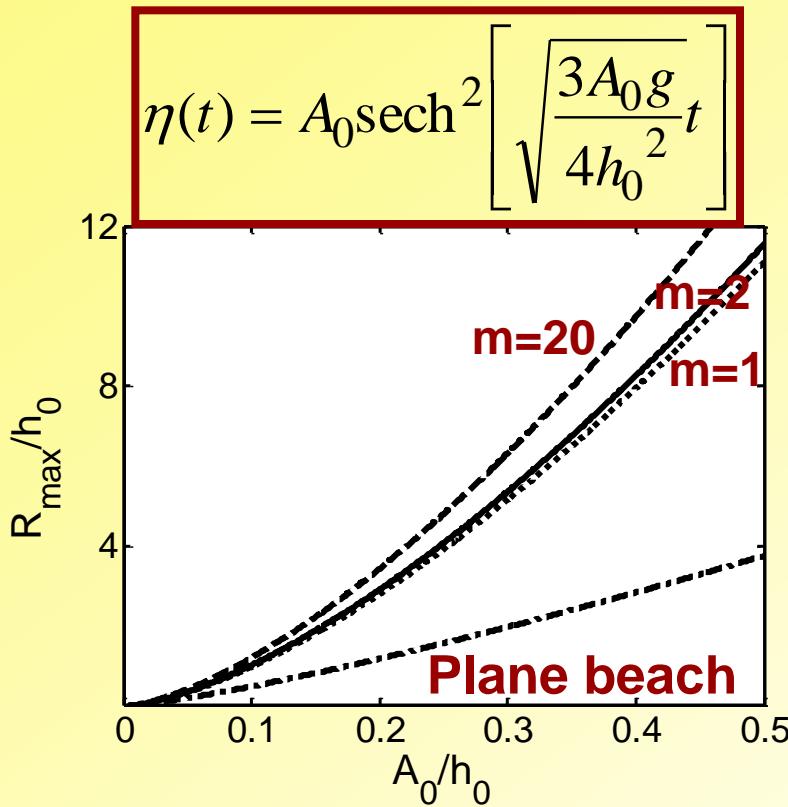
# Wave runup in U-shaped bays



$$R_{\max} = \mu \frac{L}{\sqrt{gh_0}} \max \left[ \frac{d\eta_{in}}{dt} \right]$$

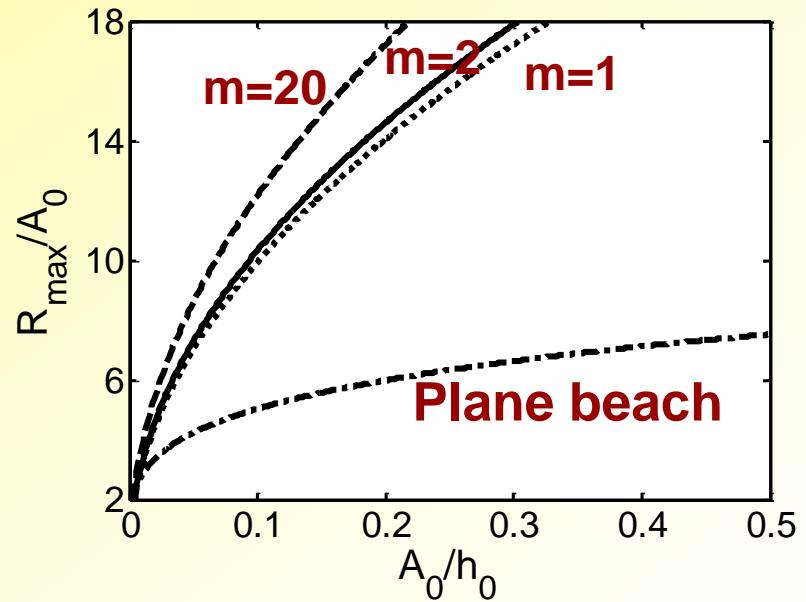
$$\mu = 2 \frac{3m+2}{m+2} \sqrt{\frac{m+1}{m}}$$

# Solitary wave runup



$$R_{\max} = \frac{2}{3} \mu L \left( \frac{A_0}{h_0} \right)^{3/2}$$

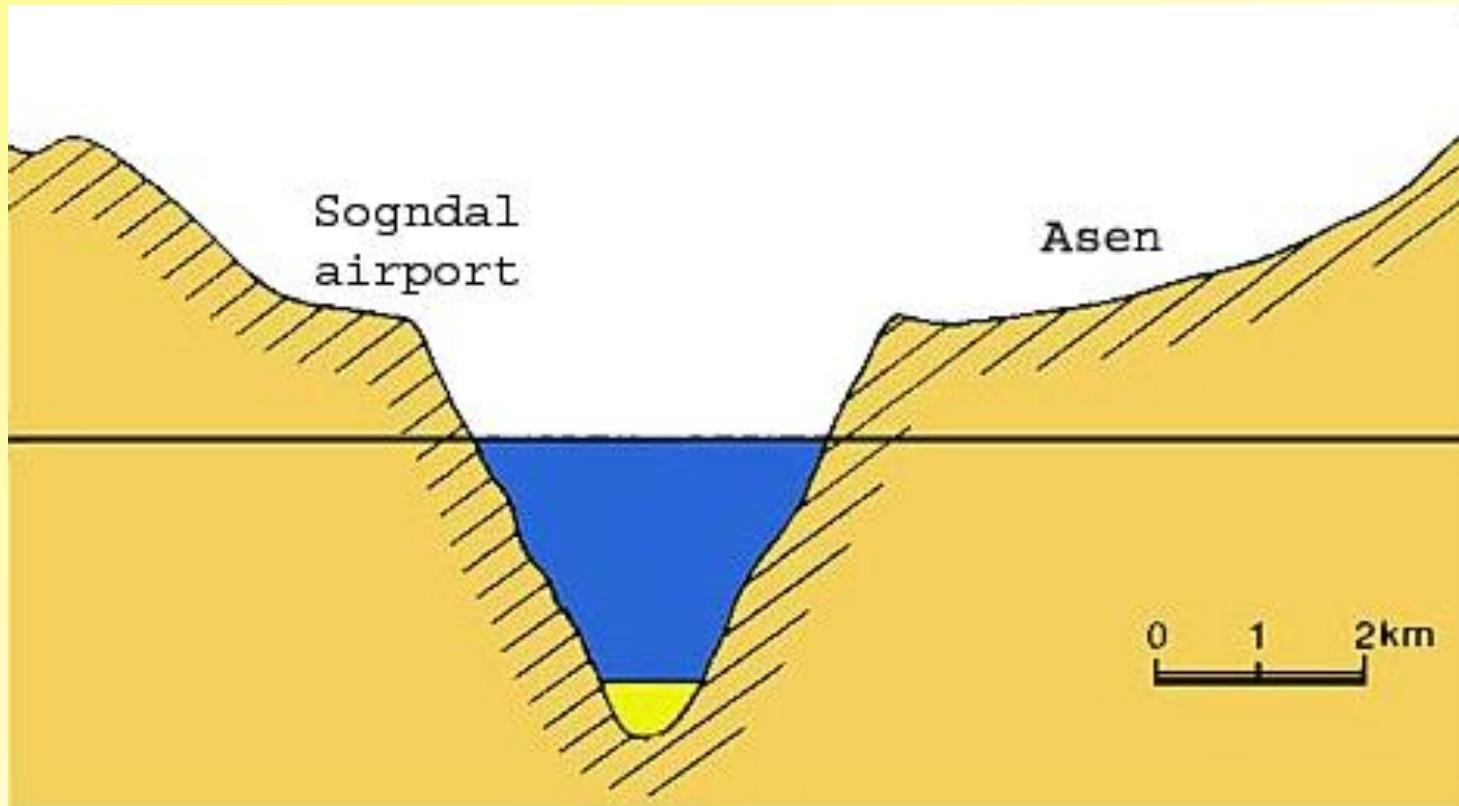
Narrow bays



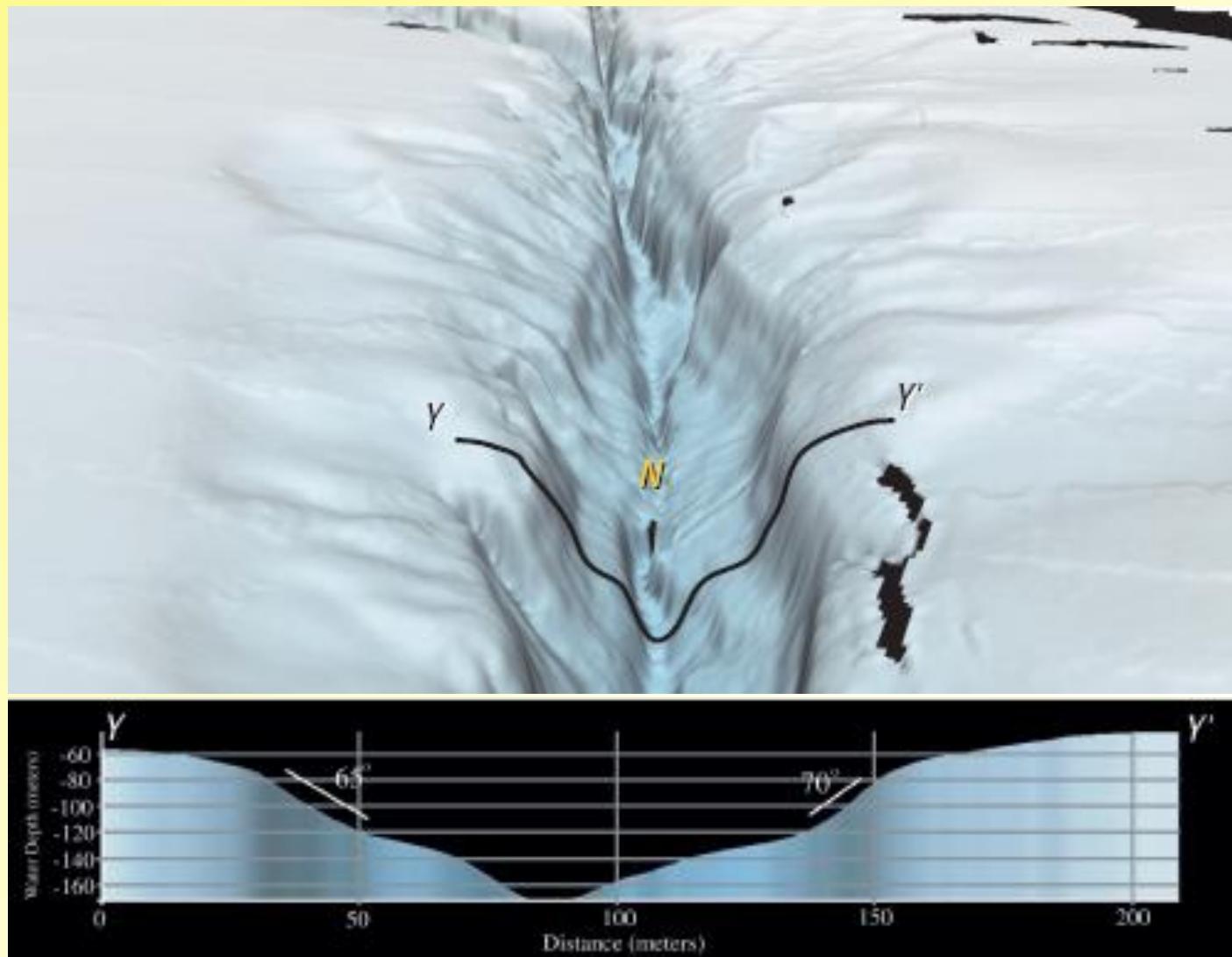
$$R_{\max} = 2.8312 \sqrt{Lh_0} \left( \frac{A_0}{h_0} \right)^{5/4}$$

Plane beach

# Sognefjoren fjord (Norway)

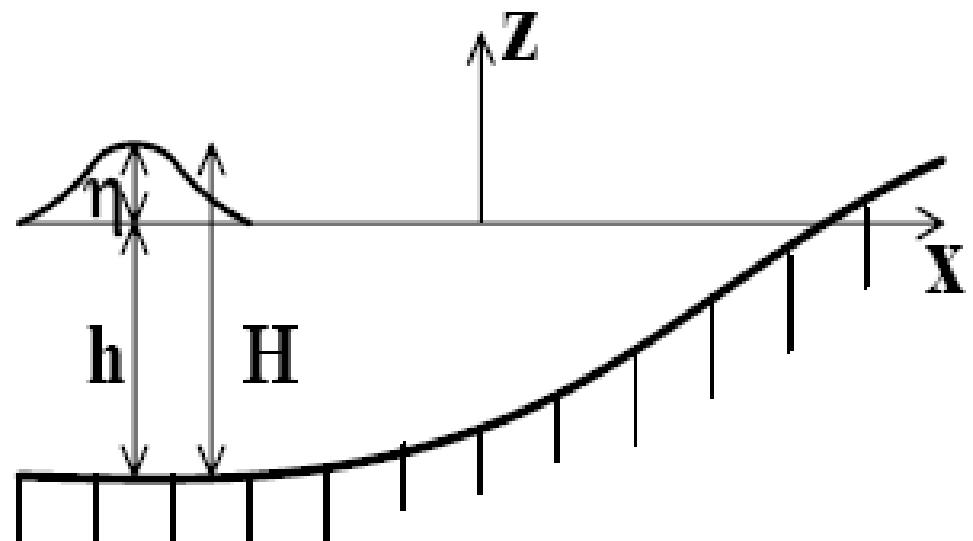
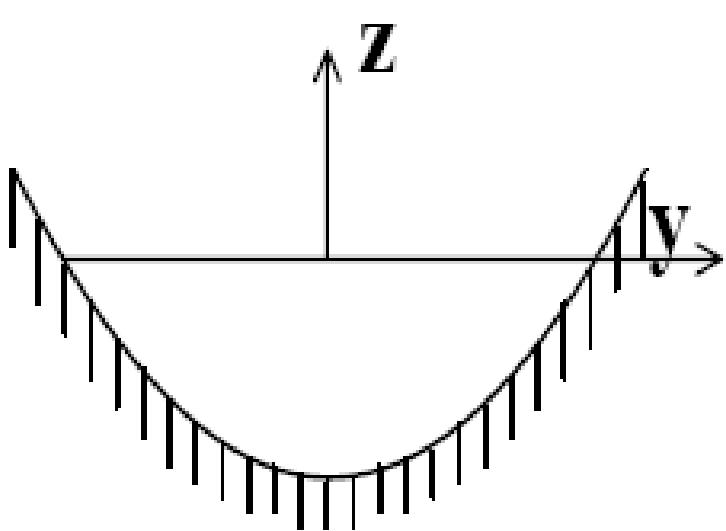


# Scripps Canyon (California)



# Nonlinear Traveling Waves

*Example: inclined channel of parabolic cross-section*



# Basic Equations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (S u) = 0$$

$\eta$  - water displacement,  $u$  - depth-averaged flow,  
 $S$  - variable water cross-section of the channel

For parabolic channel

$$S \sim H^{3/2}$$

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} + \frac{2H}{3} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + g \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = g \alpha$$

# Nonlinear Problem

$$I_{\pm} = u \pm 2\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}gH + \alpha gt}$$

$$\frac{\partial I_{\pm}}{\partial t} + c_{\pm} \frac{\partial I_{\pm}}{\partial x} = 0$$

Riemann invariants

$$c_{\pm} = \frac{2}{3}I_{\pm} + \frac{1}{3}I_{\mp} - \alpha gt$$

# Legendre (hodograph) transformation

$$\frac{\partial^2 t}{\partial I_+ \partial I_-} + \frac{2}{I_+ - I_-} \left( \frac{\partial t}{\partial I_-} - \frac{\partial t}{\partial I_+} \right) = 0$$

**New variables**

$$\sigma = \frac{I_+ - I_-}{2} = \sqrt{6gH}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{I_+ + I_-}{2} = u + \alpha g t$$

And the final linear system

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \lambda^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \sigma^2} - \frac{2}{\sigma} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \sigma} = 0$$

$$\sigma \geq 0$$

$$u = \frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \sigma}$$

$$\eta = \frac{1}{2g} \left[ \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \lambda} - u^2 \right]$$

$$x = \frac{\eta}{\alpha} - \frac{\sigma^2}{6g\alpha}$$

$$t = \frac{\lambda - u}{g\alpha}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \lambda^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \sigma^2} - \frac{2}{\sigma} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \sigma} = 0$$

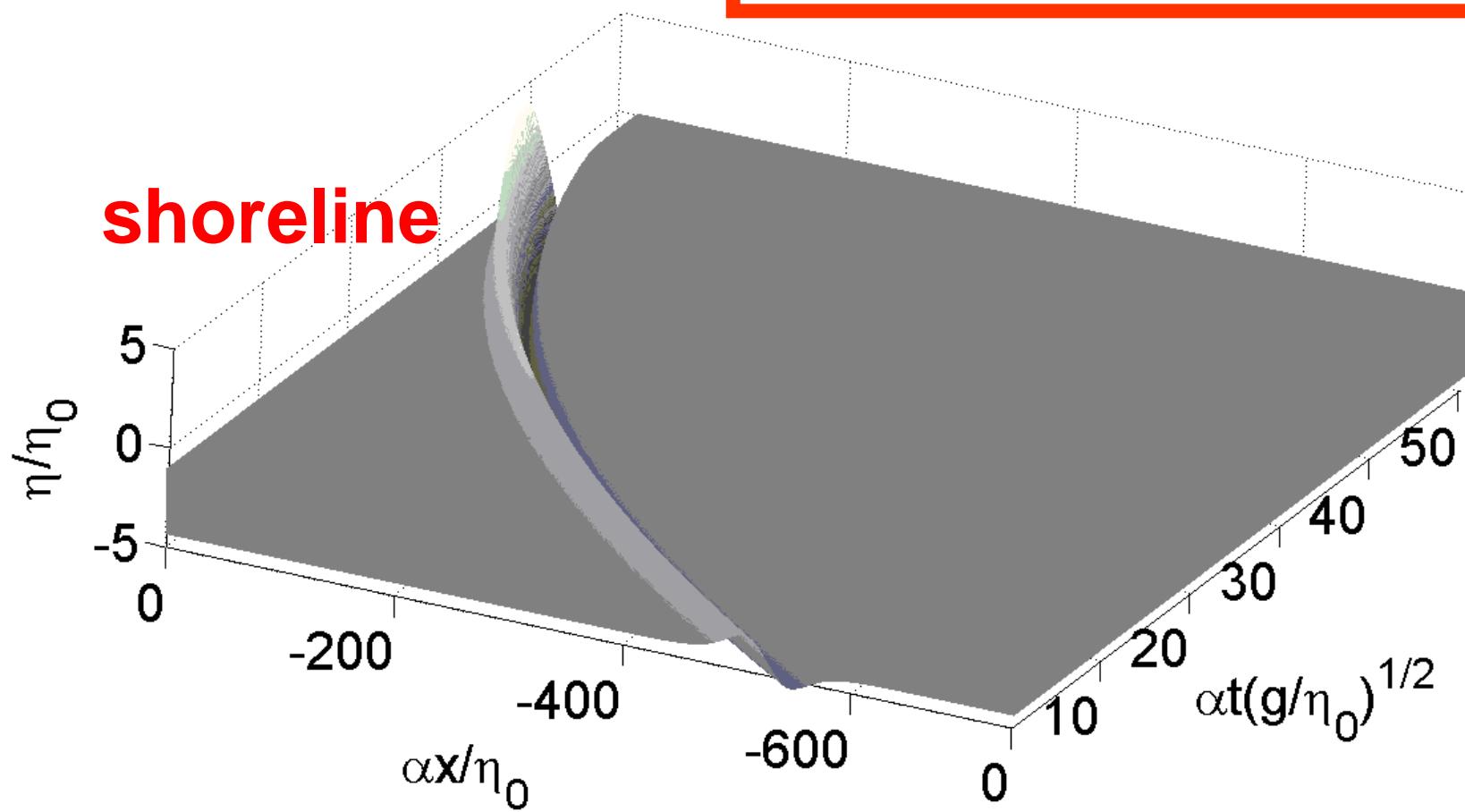
$$\sigma \geq 0$$

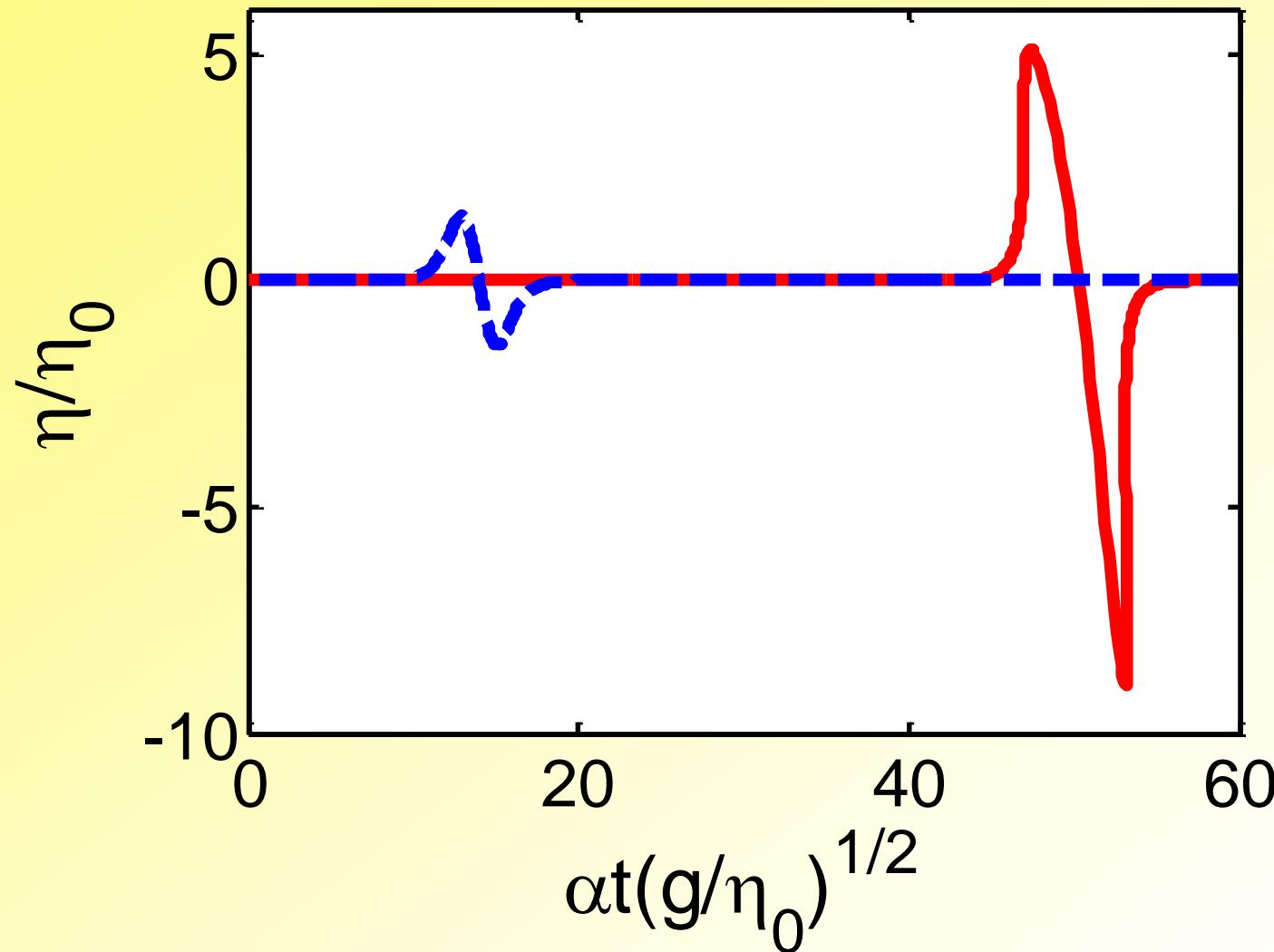
**General solution for traveling waves**

$$\Phi(\sigma, \lambda) = \frac{\Theta_1(\lambda + \sigma) + \Theta_2(\lambda - \sigma)}{\sigma}$$

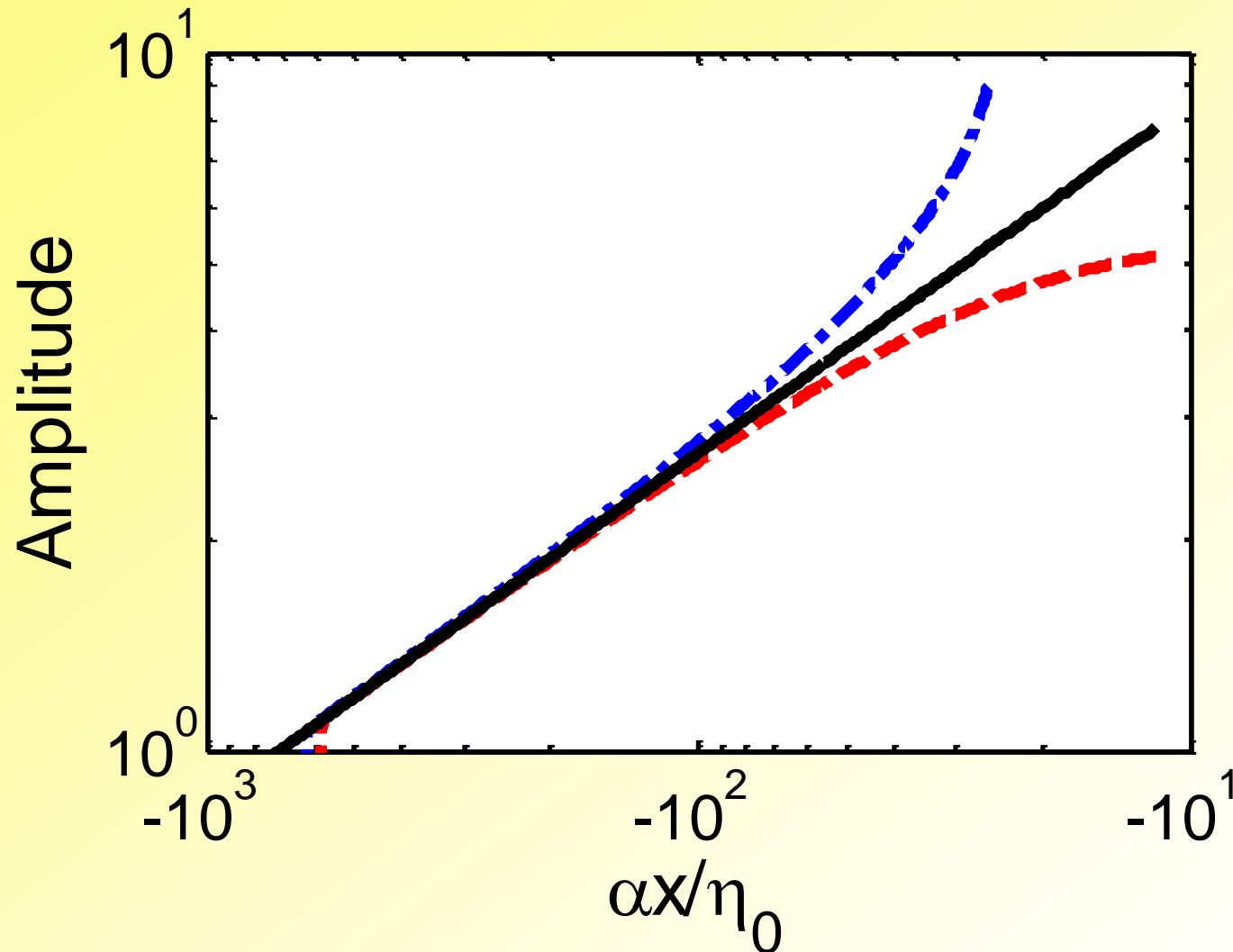
# Nonlinear traveling wave

$$\Phi(\sigma, \lambda) = \frac{\Theta(\lambda + \sigma)}{\sigma}$$

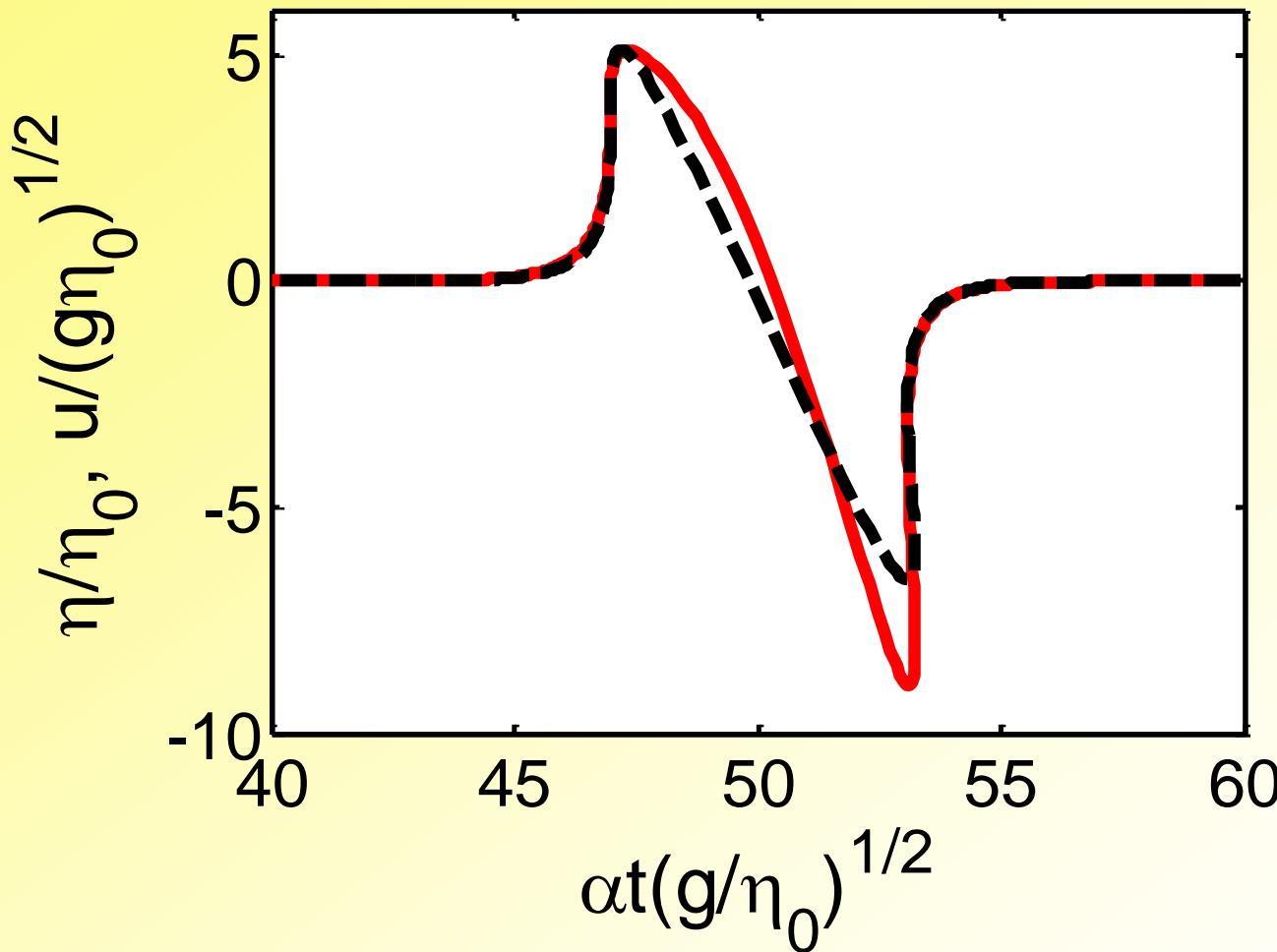




**Deformation of the wave shape in approaching wave:**  
blue and red lines correspond to an incident  
wave and the wave near the shoreline respectively

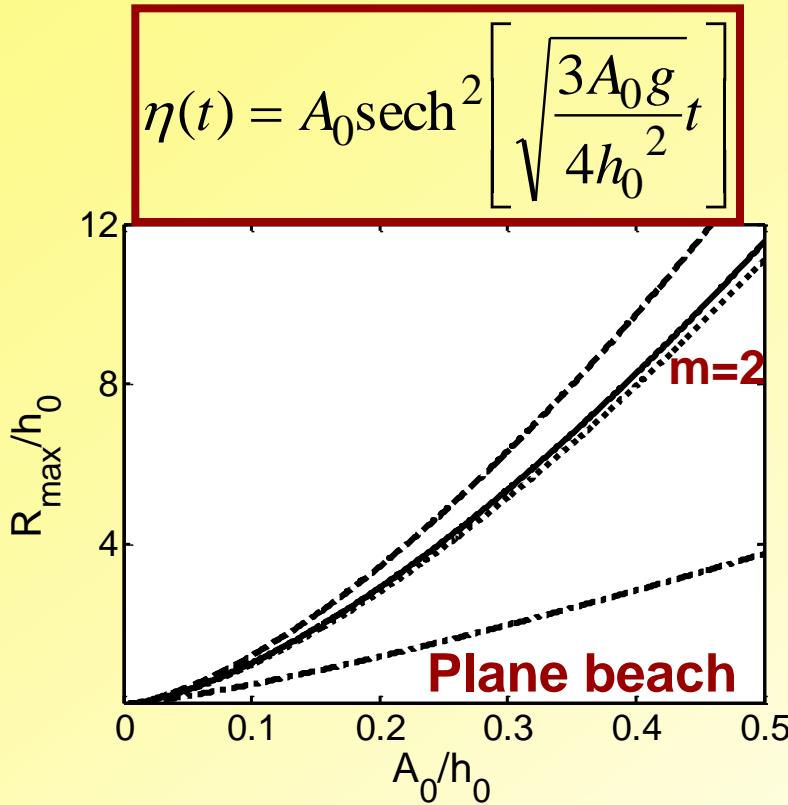


**Variation of the positive (red) and negative (blue) amplitudes with distance; black solid line corresponds to the linear Green's law**



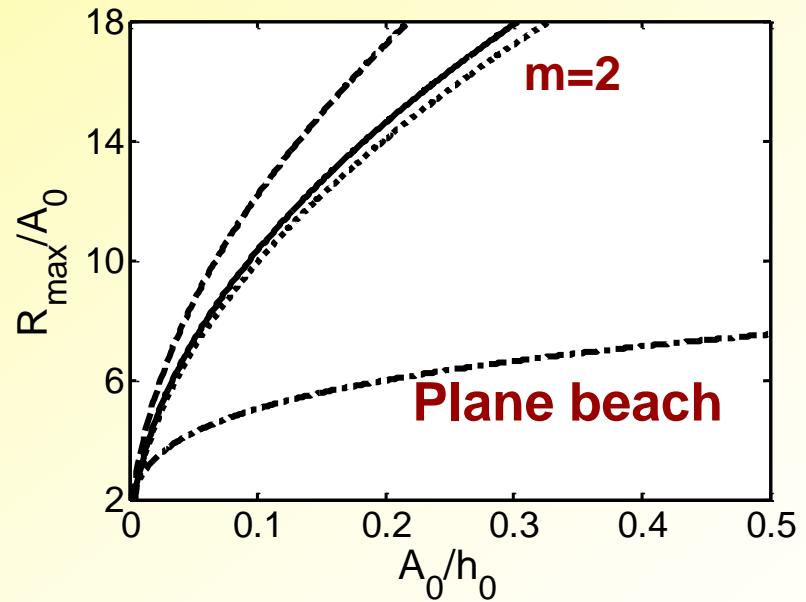
**Shapes of water **displacement (red)** and  
velocity (black) near the shoreline**

# Solitary wave runup



$$R_{\max} = \frac{8}{3} \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} L \left( \frac{A_0}{h_0} \right)^{3/2}$$

Parabolic bay



$$R_{\max} = 2.8312 \sqrt{L h_0} \left( \frac{A_0}{h_0} \right)^{5/4}$$

Plane beach

# References:

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**Two- and three-dimensional computation of solitary wave runup on non-plane beach.** *Nonl. Processes Geophys.* 2008 15, 489-502.
2. Didenkulova I., Pelinovsky E. and Soomere T.  
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3. Didenkulova I. and Pelinovsky E. **Non-dispersive traveling waves in strongly inhomogeneous water channels.**  
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4. Didenkulova I., Pelinovsky E. and Soomere T.  
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5. Didenkulova I., Zahibo N. and Pelinovsky E.  
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*Fluid dynamics* 2008 43(4), 590-595.

# **Conclusions:**

## **“Non-reflecting” configurations:**

- 1. Do EXIST in both linear and nonlinear cases**
- 2. Give LARGE wave amplification and runup**
- 3. Give SIMPLE algorithm for computing wave propagation above complicated bottom relief**

**Never underestimate the unpredictability of rough seas!**

