

MESHFREE FORMULATIONS OF KINEMATIC WAVE FOR CHANNEL
FLOW ROUTING

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To my thoughtful and lovely husband, parents, children and family.

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ABSTRACT

This study concerns the development of various Meshfree formulations, namely Point Interpolation Method (PIM), Radial Point Interpolation Method (RPIM) and Element Free Galerkin (EFG) in solving numerically, St Venant's kinematic wave equations for the hydrologic modeling of surface runoff and channel flow. It involves problem formulations derivation of governing equations, provision of the corresponding solutions by generating Matlab source codes, verification of results against established data, parametric study and assessment of performance of the newly derived Meshfree formulations against established numerical methods, namely Finite Element Method (FEM) and Finite Difference Method (FDM). The originality and the main contribution of the study are solving the Meshfree formulations of the kinematic wave equations numerically. The formulations are verified when it is found that the results produced by the source codes are in general in close agreement with the benchmark data. Although slight discrepancies have been observed in some cases, these are later validated as due to several factors, namely shape parameters values which are yet to be optimized, different number of nodes used for comparison and manual discretization of input data. In obtaining the best performance of the methods, optimum values of the shape parameters have been determined through a parametric study which once obtained are used in the performance assessment. RPIM and PIM are found to be less sensitive to the optimum values as compared to EFG. Two types of performance are assessed; the convergence rate and the computer resource consumption in terms of CPU time. Based on this study, it can be concluded that, in general, Meshfree methods perform comparably with the established methods in terms of convergence rate despite the fact it does not need the construction of mesh which can save modelling time. This shows the potential of Meshfree as numerical methods for its future development.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini adalah berkenaan penerbitan formulasi beberapa kaedah *Meshfree* iaitu *Point Interpolation Method (PIM)*, *Radial Point Interpolation Method (RPIM)* dan *Element Free Galerkin (EFG)* dalam menyelesaikan secara numerikal persamaan ombak kinematik St Venant untuk model hidrologi air larian permukaan dan aliran alur. Kajian ini melibatkan penerbitan formulasi, penyediaan penyelesaian dan penulisan kod komputer menggunakan Matlab, pengesahan keputusan melalui perbandingan dengan data sediaada, kajian parameter dan penilaian kemampuan kaedah-kaedah yang baharu dihasilkan melalui perbandingan dengan kaedah-kaedah numerikal sediaada seperti kaedah unsur terhingga dan kaedah pembeza. Keaslian dan sumbangan utama kajian ini adalah formulasi beberapa kaedah *Meshfree* yang dihasilkan dengan menukar persamaan ombak kinematik ke dalam bentuk matrik. Formulasi-formulasi yang diterbitkan telah disahkan apabila keputusan-keputusan yang terhasil didapati menyamai data sediaada. Walaupun terdapat perbezaan kecil untuk beberapa kes, ia telah dijelaskan sebagai kesan dari beberapa faktor seperti nilai parameter bentuk yang belum optimum, perbezaan bilangan nod sewaktu perbandingan dibuat dan penentuan input data sediaada yang dibuat secara manual. Kemampuan terbaik kaedah-kaedah yang baharu dihasilkan ini diperolehi dengan penentuan nilai optimum parameter bentuk melalui kajian parameter yang telah dijalankan. *PIM* dan *RPIM* didapati kurang dipengaruhi oleh nilai optimum berbanding *EFG*. Melalui penggunaan nilai-nilai optimum ini, kajian kemampuan telah dijalankan dimana ia melibatkan dua bentuk kajian iaitu kadar penumpuan dan kadar penggunaan sumber komputer. Berdasarkan kajian ini boleh disimpulkan bahawa secara umumnya kaedah-kaedah *Meshfree* mempunyai kemampuan yang sama dengan kaedah-kaedah numerikal sediaada walaupun ia tidak memerlukan penyediaan mesh lantas mengurangkan masa untuk kerja permodelan dan ini menunjukkan potensi untuk penggunaan akan datang.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	xiii
	LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xx
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xxiii
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Kinematic Wave Equation	1
	1.2 Numerical Methods	2
	1.3 Meshfree Methods	4
	1.4 Problem Statement	5
	1.5 Objectives of Study	6
	1.6 Scope and Limitation of Study	7
	1.7 Significance of Study	8

1.8	Outline of Thesis	8
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1	Introduction	11
2.2	Deterministic Modeling Approach	11
2.3	Characteristic of the Kinematic Wave Equations	13
2.4	Numerical solutions of Kinematic Wave Equations	14
2.4.1	Finite Difference Method	15
2.4.2	Finite Element Method	17
2.5	Meshfree Methods	18
2.5.1	Point Interpolation Method (PIM)	22
2.5.2	Radial Point Interpolation Method (RPIM)	22
2.5.3	Element Free Galerkin (EFG)	23
2.6	Meshfree Shape Parameters	24
2.7	Application of Meshfree in Hydrologic Modelling	25
2.8	Concluding Remarks	27
3	METHODOLOGY	29
3.1	Introduction	29
3.2	Saint Venant's Kinematic Wave Equation	29
3.3	Galerkin Weighted Residual Method of Kinematic Wave	32
3.3.1	Iterative Schemes for Nonlinear Solutions	35
3.3.1.1	Picard's Scheme	35
3.3.1.2	Newton-Raphson's Scheme	37

	3.3.1.3 Tangent Stiffness Matrix	41
3.4	Finite Difference Formulation	44
3.5	Finite Element Shape Functions	47
	3.5.1 Quadratic Shape Functions	47
3.6	Point Interpolation Method (PIM) Shape Functions	50
	3.6.1 Evaluated Values of PIM Shape Functions	53
3.7	Radial Point Interpolation Method (RPIM) Shape Functions	56
	3.7.1 Evaluated Values of RPIM Shape Functions	59
3.8	EFG with Moving Least Square Shape Functions	61
3.9	Derivative of Meshfree Shape Functions	66
	3.9.1 First Derivative of PIM Shape Functions	66
	3.9.2 First Derivative of RPIM Shape Functions	68
	3.9.3 First Derivative of MLS Shape Functions	70
3.10	Meshfree Weak Form Formulation	71
	3.10.1 Meshfree Formulation in Gauss Quadrature Scheme	72
3.11	Concluding remarks	76
4	VALIDATION OF MESHFREE FORMULATIONS	78
4.1	Introduction	78
4.2	Validation of Formulations	79
	4.2.1 Chow et.al (1988)	80
	4.2.1.1 Validation of Finite Element Method (FEM) Formulation	82
	4.2.1.2 Validation of Finite Difference Method (FDM) formulation	85
	4.2.1.3 Validation of Point Interpolation Method (PIM) formulation	88
	4.2.1.4 Validation of Radial Point	

	Interpolation Method (RPIM)	
	Formulation	90
4.2.1.5	Validation of Element Free	
	Galerkin (EFG) formulation	93
4.2.2	Vieux et. al (1990)	96
4.2.2.1	Validation of Finite Element	
	Method (FEM) Formulation	98
4.2.2.2	Validation of Finite Difference	
	Method (FDM) formulation	100
4.2.2.3	Validation of Point Interpolation	
	Method (PIM) formulation	102
4.2.2.4	Validation of Radial Point	
	Interpolation Method (RPIM)	
	Formulation	103
4.2.2.5	Validation of Element Free	
	Galerkin (EFG) formulation	105
4.2.3	Litrico et. al (2010)	106
4.2.3.1	Validation of Finite Element	
	Method (FEM) Formulation	108
4.2.3.2	Validation of Point Interpolation	
	Method (PIM) formulation	109
4.2.3.3	Validation of Radial Point	
	Interpolation Method (RPIM)	
	Formulation	111
4.2.3.4	Validation of Element Free	
	Galerkin (EFG) formulation	112
4.3	Concluding Remarks	114

5	PARAMETRIC AND CONVERGENCE	
	STUDIES OF MESHFREE FORMULATIONS	115
5.1	Introduction	115
5.2	Parameter Effects on PIM	116

5.2.1	Effect of The Size of Support Domain α_s	118
5.2.2	Effect of the number of Gauss Point on PIM	120
5.3	Parameter Effects on RPIM	123
5.3.1	Effect of The Shape Parameter α_c And q on RPIM	124
5.3.2	Effect of the size of support domain, α_s on RPIM	128
5.3.3	Effect of the Number of Gauss Point, GP on RPIM	130
5.4	Parameter Effects on EFG	132
5.4.1	Effect of The Size of Support Domain, α_s on EFG	133
5.4.2	Effect of Number of Gauss Point, GP on EFG	135
5.5	Convergence Study	137
5.5.1	Convergence Study Using Newton-Raphson	138
5.5.2	Convergence Study for Picard	141
5.5.3	Convergence Study Between Two Iterative Scheme	144
5.6	Performance Study in Terms of Computer Resource	146
5.6.1	CPU Times Consumption	148
5.7	Validation Using Optimum Values	151
5.8	Concluding Remarks	155
6	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	157
6.1	Introduction	157
6.2	Summary of Study	157
6.3	Conclusions of Study	158

6.4	Suggestions for Future Works	160
	REFERENCES	161
	Appendices A-N	169 - 270

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Differences between FEM and Meshfree method (Liu and Gu, 2005)	21
4.1	Chow's input data	81
4.2	Parameter of the study by Litrico et. al (2010)	107
5.1	Optimum ranges and value of α_s of PIM	120
5.2	Optimum ranges and value of GP of PIM	123
5.3	Optimum ranges and value of q of RPIM	126
5.4	The chosen value for shape parameter α_c based on three benchmark studies	128
5.5	Optimum ranges and values of α_s of RPIM	130
5.6	The chosen value for Gauss Point based on three benchmark studies	132
5.7	Optimum ranges and values of α_s of EFG	135
5.8	Optimum ranges and values of GP of EFG	136
5.9	Values for PIM Shape Parameters	151
5.10	Values for RPIM Shape Parameters	152
5.11	Values for EFG Shape Parameters	152

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Flowchart for the FEM and Meshfree methods	20
3.1	Bed slope S_o and the frictional slope S_f with y depth	31
3.2	Picard scheme step by step procedure flowchart	36
3.3	Newton-Raphson scheme step by step procedure flowchart	40
3.4	Degree of freedoms of quadratic elements	48
3.5	Quadratic shape functions	50
3.6	Typical domain discretization by PIM	55
3.7	Plots of PIM shape functions at a typical point of interest	55
3.8	Plots of PIM shape function N_1 using various numbers of points of interest	55
3.9	Plots of RPIM shape functions at a typical point of interest	61
3.10	Plots of RPIM shape function N_1 using various numbers of points of interest	61
3.11	Plots of MLS shape functions at a typical point of interest	65
3.12	Plots of MLS shape function N_1 using various numbers of points of interest	66
3.13	Mapping of physical domain (flow domain) to natural domain	73

4.1	The point uniformly distributed along the channel	82
4.2	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear FEM at point 6000 of Chow (1988)	83
4.3	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear FEM at point 12000 ft of Chow (1988)	84
4.4	Picard Nonlinear FEM at point 6000 ft of Chow (1988)	84
4.5	Picard Nonlinear FEM at point 12000 ft of Chow (1988)	85
4.6	Newton-Raphson Finite Difference Model at point 6000 ft	86
4.7	Newton-Raphson Finite Difference Model at point 12000 ft	86
4.8	Picard Nonlinear Finite Difference Model at point 6000 ft	87
4.9	Picard Nonlinear Finite Difference Model at point 12000 ft	87
4.10	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear PIM at point 6000 ft	88
4.11	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear PIM at point 12000 ft	89
4.12	Picard Nonlinear PIM at point 6000 ft	89
4.13	Picard Nonlinear PIM at point 12000 ft	90
4.14	Newton- Raphson Nonlinear RPIM at point 6000 ft	91
4.15	Newton- Raphson Nonlinear RPIM at point 12000 ft	91
4.16	Picard Nonlinear RPIM at point 6000 ft	92
4.17	Picard Nonlinear RPIM at point 12000 ft	92
4.18	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear EFG at point 6000 ft	94

4.19	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear EFG at point 12000 ft	94
4.20	Picard Nonlinear EFG at point 6000 ft	95
4.21	Picard Nonlinear EFG at point 12000 ft	95
4.22	One-Dimensional Element Representation of Two Plane Watershed (Vieux et. al, 1990)	97
4.23	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear Finite Element versus Vieux et. al (1990)	99
4.24	Picard Nonlinear Finite Element versus Vieux et. al (1990)	99
4.25	Descritized plane with many numbers of finite difference points	100
4.26	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear Finite Difference versus Vieux et. al (1990)	101
4.27	Picard Nonlinear Finite Difference versus Vieux et. al (1990)	101
4.28	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear PIM versus Vieux et. al (1990)	102
4.29	Picard Nonlinear PIM versus Vieux et. al (1990)	103
4.30	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear RPIM versus Vieux et. al (1990)	104
4.31	Picard Nonlinear RPIM versus Vieux et. al (1990)	104
4.32	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear EFG versus Vieux et. al (1990)	105
4.33	Picard Nonlinear EFG versus Vieux et. al (1990)	106
4.34	Upstream flow (Litrico et. al, 2010)	107

4.35	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear FEM versus Simplified Nonlinear Modeling based on data from Litrico et.al (2010)	108
4.36	Picard Nonlinear FEM versus Simplified Nonlinear Modeling based on data from Litrico et.al (2010)	109
4.37	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear PIM versus Simplified Nonlinear Modeling based on data from Litrico et.al (2010)	110
4.38	Picard Nonlinear PIM versus Simplified Nonlinear Modeling based on data from Litrico et.al (2010)	110
4.39	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear RPIM versus Simplified Nonlinear Modelling based on data from Litrico et.al (2010)	111
4.40	Picard Nonlinear RPIM versus Simplified Nonlinear Modelling based on data from Litrico et.al (2010)	112
4.41	Newton-Raphson Nonlinear EFG versus Simplified Nonlinear Modelling based on data from Litrico et.al (2010)	113
4.42	Picard Nonlinear RPIM versus Simplified Nonlinear Modelling based on data from Litrico et.al (2010)	113
5.1	Effect of α_s to PIM for Chow (1988)	118
5.2	Overall effect of α_s to PIM	119
5.3	Effect of Gauss Point, GP to PIM for Chow et.al. (1988).	121
5.4	Overall effect of Gauss Point, GP to PIM	122
5.5	Effect of shape parameter q to RPIM for Chow et.al. (1988)	125
5.6	Overall effect of shape parameter q to RPIM	126
5.7	Shape parameter α_c in Chow's benchmark problem	127
5.8	Result of shape parameter α_c against the norms of	

	error in three benchmark problems	127
5.9	Effect of α_s to RPIM for Chow's work	129
5.10	Overall effect of α_s to RPIM	129
5.11	Graph of number of Gauss Point against the norms of error in Chow's problems	131
5.12	Graph of combination benchmark problem for number of Gauss Point against the norms of error	131
5.13	Effect of α_s to EFG for Chow's work	134
5.14	Overall effect of α_s to EFG	134
5.15	Effect of GP to EFG for Chow's work	136
5.16	Overall effect of GP to EFG	136
5.17	Convergence rate of various numerical techniques for Chow's problem	139
5.18	Convergence rate of various numerical techniques for Vieux's problem	140
5.19	Convergence rate of various numerical techniques for Xavier's problem	141
5.20	Convergence rate of various numerical techniques for Chow's problem using Picard iterative scheme.	142
5.21	Convergence rate of various numerical techniques for Vieux's problem using Picard iterative scheme.	143
5.22	Convergence rate of various numerical techniques for Vieux's problem using Picard iterative scheme.	143
5.23	Convergence rate between Picard and Newton Raphson iterative Scheme for PIM.	145
5.24	Convergence rate between Picard and Newton Raphson iterative Scheme for RPIM.	145

5.25	Convergence rate between Picard and Newton Raphson iterative Scheme for EFG.	146
5.26	Time consume for various numerical technique to converge using Picard iterative scheme for Litrico's work	148
5.27	Comparison between two iterative schemes for PIM formulation	149
5.28	Comparison between two iterative schemes for RPIM formulation.	150
5.29	Comparison between two iterative schemes for EFG formulation	150
5.30	Comparison between values of shape parameters for PIM formulation	153
5.31	Comparison between values of shape parameters for for RPIM formulation	154
5.32	Comparison between values of shape parameters for EFG formulation	154

LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	-	cross-sectional area of the flow
BC	-	background cell
GP	-	number of gauss point
g	-	gravitational pull
L	-	Length of domain
m	-	the number of polynomial terms used in RPIM interpolation
n	-	number of the field node in the support domain
P	-	Wetted perimeter
Q	-	flow rate
q	-	MQ-RBF dimensionless shape parameter
$q(x)$	-	forcing term (i.e. precipitation, lateral flow).
r	-	iteration
t	-	Time
x	-	spatial coordinate
y	-	depth of water
Δx	-	size of spatial increment
Δt	-	time step
α	-	$\left(\eta P^{2/3} / (1.49 \sqrt{S_o})\right)^{0.6}$
β	-	0.6 (factor in Manning equation)
η	-	Manning roughness coefficient

ϵ	-	error criterion
π	-	MLS interpolation potential
ξ	-	natural coordinate
\backslash	-	Matlab command for Gauss elimination procedure
d_s	-	size of support domain
d_c	-	averaged distance between adjacent nodes
d_i	-	distance from node to the point of interest (i.e. $ x_n - x_{pi} $)
N_j	-	shape functions
Q_j	-	degree of freedoms (nodal values) of flow rate
S_f	-	frictional slope
S_0	-	bed slope
x_{pi}	-	coordinates of point of interest
pi		point of interest
α_s	-	size of support domain
α_c	-	MQ-RBF dimensionless shape parameter
δ_{ij}	-	Kronecker delta
$[A]$	-	weighted moment matrix
$a_m(x)$	-	MLS non-constant coefficient
$\{a\} = a_n$	-	vector of interpolation coefficient
$\{b\} = b_m$	-	Vector of polynomial coefficients in RPIM interpolation
$F_i = \{F\}$	-	load vector
$K_{ij} = [K]$	-	stiffness matrix
$M_{ij} = [M]$	-	mass matrix
$Q_j = \{Q\}$	-	vector of degree of freedoms

$R = \{R\}$	-	residual of partial differential equations
$\{\Delta Q\}$	-	incremental degree of freedoms
$T_{ij} = [T]$	-	tangent stiffness
$R(Q_{i+1}^{t+1})$	-	residual error in finite difference scheme
$\{P\}$	-	vector of monomials built from Pascal triangle
$[P _n]$	-	evaluated values of the monomials at nodes (also termed as PIM moment matrix)
$\{N _{pi}\}$	-	shape functions evaluated at point of interests
$\{P _{pi}\}$	-	monomials evaluated at point of interests
$\{R\} = R_n$	-	vector of radial basis function (RBF)
$\{r\}$	-	vector of radial distance of point of interest
$[R _n]$	-	evaluated radial basis function at nodes
$[G _n]$	-	RPIM moment matrix
$\{R _{pi} \ P _{pi}\}$	-	Evaluated values of $\{R\}$ and $\{P\}$ at point of interests
$[W(x)]$	-	MLS weight functions
$ J_f $	-	Jacobian for f^{th} background cell
\widehat{W}_g	-	Gauss weighting factor for the g^{th} Gauss point

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	Derivation of Saint Venant equation using Reynold Transport Theorem	169
B	Derivation of PIM shape function	174
C	Derivation of RPIM shape function	179
D	Derivation of MLS shape function	185
E	Numerical integration example: M_{55}	190
F	FEM code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Newton-Raphson iterative scheme	200
G	FEM code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Picard iterative scheme	207
H	FDM code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Newton-Raphson iterative scheme	214
I	PIM code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Newton-Raphson iterative scheme	217

J	PIM code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Picard iterative scheme	225
K	RPIM code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Newton-Raphson iterative scheme	234
L	RPIM code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Picard iterative scheme	243
M	EFG code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Newton-Raphson iterative scheme	253
N	EFG code for Saint Venant's kinematic wave equation using Picard iterative scheme	261

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Kinematic Wave Equations

Hydrologic modeling concerns the study of hydrologic processes such as evapotranspiration, subsurface flow, surface runoff and channel flow. Methods of study can be either stochastic or deterministic or combination of the two. Whilst stochastic method employs probabilistic (statistical) approach, deterministic method basically involves attempt to solve a set of partial differential equation which describes the behavior of the flow. This study concerns the latter.

The deterministic approach, on the other hand can be further divided into two groups, lumped and distributed. The main advantage of distributed modeling over lumped is that, it is easier to allow for variation in the properties of parameters such as variation in cross-sectional area, intensity of precipitation, soils coefficients, slopes and many others.

However, such an advantage requires the solution of a set of one-dimensional nonlinear partial differential equations known as St. Venant equations. These

equations are actually the simplification of the two-dimensional shallow water theory derived from the general Navier-Stokes equations.

St. Venant equations themselves can be further classified into full dynamics, diffusive and kinematic wave equations. Full dynamics equations allow for complete consideration of the flow, whilst diffusive equations are able to capture backwater effect. If the slope of the plane is assumed as equal to the frictional slope, such an assumption would uncouple the continuity equation from the momentum equation hence the prevalence of the kinematic wave equations.

Despite being the simplest case of St Venant equations, there is no closed form solution available for the kinematic wave except for the simplest case of no lateral flow and constant wave celerity. The difficulty is due to the nonlinearity as well as the unsteady state of the equation. As a result, kinematic wave equations are commonly solved numerically with the help of computer programming.

1.2 Numerical Methods

Physical phenomenon is usually described by a set of partial differential equations (PDEs). By solving the equations, information of interest can be obtained. For simple set of equations, closed form solution may be available. But, for complex problems, solutions are commonly obtained by solving the equations numerically rather than analytically. Methods used in obtaining such solutions are classified as numerical methods.

At present, there are various numerical methods have been developed such as Finite Difference Method (FDM), Finite Element Method (FEM), Boundary Element

Method (BEM), Finite Volume Method (FVM) and many more. Amongst these methods, the most established and famous are FDM and FEM.

FDM can be considered as the earliest form of numerical method which history of development can be traced back as early as 1930's (Thomee, 2001). The basic idea of FDM is to convert the continuous nature of PDE into algebraic equations in matrix forms by replacing the derivative terms with forward, backward or central difference equations. The advantage of FDM relies on its straightforward implementation as well as on the fact that it operates directly of the PDEs, hence the term strong form. However, the disadvantage of FDM is in the modeling of irregular domain. Although there are several mapping techniques have been developed, these techniques are not as convenient as FEM when it comes to modeling irregular domain.

FEM, as mentioned, is a numerical method which advantage is in its efficiency in modeling irregular body shapes and problem domains. Such efficiency is due to the use of interpolation functions to approximate the problems variables. Historically, FEM was developed during the 1950's (Bathe, 1996). Whilst the first reported work on FEM can be attributed to the work of the famous mathematician, R. Courant in 1943, the major development of the method, especially in the engineering fields began with the work of Turner et.al (1956) and the separate work by Argyris and Kelsey (1954). The basic idea in FEM is to discretize the continuous nature of the PDEs by weaken into a weak statement. This can be obtained by employing either weighted residual approach or variational approach. Either approach will yield similar algebraic equations in matrix forms. With the advent of computer technology, FEM has become an established numerical methods applied in various fields to include engineering, physics, chemistry and biology (Mackerle, 2002).

Despite the establishment of FDM and especially FEM, researches have been conducted in finding new numerical methods and looking at other possibilities for better algorithms. The most notable would be BEM which development was at its

height in the 1970's (Brebbia and Dominguez, 1977). The basic idea of BEM is to convert the continuous nature of the PDEs by conducting integration by parts until the differential operators on the unknown variables completely transferred onto the weighting functions. Such act allows the problem to be defined by the boundary terms only. However, this method suffered from the need to employ fundamental solutions or Green functions as the weighting functions which are difficult to be dealt with.

Further research works in the field of numerical method development then led to the introduction of a new family of numerical methods termed as Meshfree or Meshless methods in the 90's (Liu and Gu, 2005). This is the interest of this study thus is discuss next.

1.3 Meshfree Methods

Meshfree methods can be considered as the latest output in the research development of numerical techniques. The inventions were motivated by the attempt to remove the need for predefined meshes which are required in FEM. It is argued that, with the removal of the mesh, computer cost in the mesh development as well as in mesh refinement can be omitted. Therefore, since there could be various ways in doing this, Meshfree methods do not refer to specific method but to a family of methods. Methods that fall under this family, amongst others are; Point Interpolation Method (PIM), Radial Point Interpolation Method (RPIM), Element Free Galerkin (EFG), Smooth Particle Hydrodynamic (SPH), Meshless Local Petrov Galerkin (MLPG), Diffuse Element Method (DEM), and Boundary Node Method (BNM). However, due to constraints, this study only considers PIM, RPIM and EFG.

Since Meshfree methods do not require predefined mesh, the construction of shape functions must be carried out afresh for every analysis. This then becomes the major work in any Meshfree formulations. In PIM, the shape functions are constructed by using polynomial interpolation whilst in RPIM, a special interpolation is employed termed as radial basis function. For EFG, the construction of the shape functions involve the use of quartic function and the imposition of stationary condition of weighted discrete norms. All these are going to be detailed in the upcoming chapter.

Another major topic in the development of PIM, RPIM and EFG is the effect of several parameters during the construction of the shape functions. Optimum values of the parameter are required which are best determined by conducting a series of numerical test on a typical problem as these values can be different from one case to another (Liu and Gu, 2005).

Since Meshfree methods, especially PIM, RPIM and EFG, are relatively new, more studies are needed to investigate the robustness and generality of the methods especially in practical application (Liu and Gu, 2005).

1.4 Problem Statement

The hydrologic phenomenon of surface runoff and channel flow can be studied by solving kinematic wave equation. However, due to the nonlinearity and the unsteady state of the equation, no closed form solution is available except for the simplest case of no lateral flow and constant wave celerity. Therefore, in obtaining a more general solution, at present, kinematic wave equation is commonly solved either by using FDM (Chow et.al, 1988) or FEM (Vieux et.al (1990), Litrico et.al (2010)).

However, despite the various works and formulations of FDM and FEM on kinematic wave equation, there are yet PIM, RPIM and EFG formulations for the equation. Such undertake is thus important as not only can it provide alternative methods in the field of hydrology but also assists in the establishment of the Meshfree methods by widening its study and development into the field of civil engineering, in particular hydrology and river engineering. Also, by carrying out such undertaking, the study can also be among the first to provide data on optimum values of parameters which govern the performance of the Meshfree methods especially in the field of hydrology and river engineering.

Based on these, it is therefore the main interest and purpose of this study to the develop PIM, RPIM and EFG formulations for kinematic wave equation.

1.5 Objectives of Study

- i. To derive and formulate PIM, RPIM and EFG formulations for kinematic wave equation and write the corresponding Matlab source-codes. For performance assessment purposes, source codes for FEM and FDM are also written.
- ii. To validate the formulation against previous works (benchmark problems)
- iii. To conduct parametric study (numerical test) to determine the optimum range and value of parameters in ensuring the best performance of the Meshfree methods

- iv. To conduct performance study in terms of convergence rate and computer resource consumption in assessing the potential of the Meshfree methods against the established numerical methods; FDM and FEM

1.6 Scope and Limitation of Study

- i. To limit the scope of the study, only three type of Meshfree methods are considered which are PIM, RPIM and EFG
- ii. The study strictly involves with mathematical derivations and computer programming thus no direct experimental works are conducted due to time constraint. However, the absence of direct experimental work is compensated by the validation and verification which are carried out against the actual gauged data provided by one of the benchmark problem
- iii. All assumptions in St Venant equations and kinematic wave equation holds
- iv. Although one of the main advantage of Meshfree methods is in the ease of treating irregular arrangement of nodes hence refinement process, due to the pioneering nature of this study, only uniform distribution of nodes is considered and no consideration is given in the refinement process
- v. Despite the availability of various nonlinear schemes and time-integration methods available, this study only employs Picard and Newton-Raphson as iterative schemes and backward difference as the time-integration methods because of their simplicity but good convergence.
- vi. Despite the availability of various radial basis functions and spline functions for the construction of shape functions of RPIM and EFG

respectively, this study only employ multi-quadric function for the former and quartic spline function for the latter because they are the most basic function and generally used.

1.7 Significance of Study

This study is one of pioneering work of PIM, RPIM and EFG methods in hydrologic modeling especially in the solution of kinematic wave. It provides insight into the performance of the methods mentioned in terms of convergence rate and computer resource consumption as well as one of the first to report on the optimum ranges and values of parameters of the methods. Such information would be useful, not only for future studies of Meshfree as numerical methods but also in practical realm of civil engineering and hydrology.

1.8 Outline of Thesis

This thesis comprises of six chapters outlined as follows.

CHAPTER 1: This chapter introduces the general idea of hydrologic modeling and corresponding methods of study. It describes relevant theories and equations. An introduction is also given on various numerical methods to include their brief history, basic idea and current state of development and application. Problem statement is then outlined in detailing the need for the study to be conducted followed by the

objectives of the study. To clarify the framework of the study, scope and limitation are detailed out. The significance of study is then highlighted.

CHAPTER 2: In this chapter, relevant previous works are reviewed and discussed. The discussion begins with works related to St Venant equations especially on kinematic wave equation. Then, previous works on FDM and FEM related to the solution of the equation are reviewed and discuss. The final part of the chapter focuses on the current state of knowledge on Meshfree methods especially PIM, RPIM and EFG.

CHAPTER 3: This chapter concerns the mathematical derivations of both, the kinematic wave equation and the relevant numerical formulations. Established numerical method are derived first; FEM followed by FDM. Then detailed derivation of the shape functions leading to the discretized algebraic equations in matrix forms are given for PIM, RPIM and EFG.

CHAPTER 4: In this chapter, all formulations and their corresponding source codes are validated by comparing their results against three benchmark problems; Chow et. al. (1988), Vieux et.al (1990) and Litrico et.al (2010). Reasons for the selection of these problems as benchmark are detailed. Besides validation of the formulation, validation on the use of different iterative schemes is also provided.

CHAPTER 5: This chapter is divided into two parts. The first parts concerns the parametric studies in which series of numerical tests are conducted in determining the optimum ranges and values of parameters affecting the performance of the Meshfree methods. In the second parts, the optimum values

are then used in the formulation to assess the performance of the Meshfree methods relative to the established ones (FDM and FEM). Their performance in terms of convergence rate and computer resource consumption (CPU time) are assessed.

CHAPTER 6: This is the final chapter of the thesis. In this chapter, findings obtained from the study are summarized and concluded. Suggestions for future works are given at the end of the chapter.

6.4 Suggestions for Future Works

As mentioned, this study is a pioneering work in the discretization of kinematic wave equations by Meshfree methods specifically PIM, RPIM and EFG. Due to its pioneering nature, this work has limitations which can be extended in future works. It is suggested that the formulations be extended:

- i. To allow for irregular distribution of nodes and automated for adaptive analysis where decision on the distribution and number of nodes is automatically made based on the needs of the analysis i.e. at the region of high gradient, moving boundaries, discontinuities etc.
- ii. For network system where a number of branches (representing watershed draining or rivers) can be modeled. This will make the formulation more general and able to capture greater spatial variability of parameters.
- iii. To other forms of St. Venant equations namely diffusion and full dynamics as this will make the formulation more general and practical (i.e. allow backwater)
- iv. To other Meshfree methods such as smoothed particle hydrodynamics (SPH) and Reproducing Kernel Particle Method (RKPM).

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