

COMPUTING NEWTONIAN NOISE: THE IMPACT OF GEOLOGY AND CAVERNS

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Seismic Newtonian Noise

Governing equations

- Perturbation $\delta\hat{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{x}_0)$ [m/s²/Hz] in the gravitational acceleration or total Newtonian Noise $\delta\hat{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{x}_0)$ at the mirror position \mathbf{x}_0 due to the seismic displacement field $\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x})$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta\mathbf{a}_t(\mathbf{x}_0, t) &= -\nabla_0\delta\phi(\mathbf{x}_0, t) \\
 &= -G \int_{\bar{\Omega}} \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) \nabla_0 (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \boldsymbol{\chi}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0)) \, dv \\
 &= -G \int_{\bar{\Omega}} \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) \nabla_0 \boldsymbol{\chi}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) \cdot \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \, dv \\
 &= +G \int_{\bar{\Omega}} \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|^3} (\mathbf{I}_3 - 3\mathbf{e}_r \otimes \mathbf{e}_r) \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \, dv
 \end{aligned}$$

with $\mathbf{e}_r = \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|}$ and $\boldsymbol{\chi}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|^3}$.

- Bulk contribution to the total Newtonian noise:

$$\delta\mathbf{a}_b(\mathbf{x}_0, t) = -G \int_{\bar{\Omega}} \boldsymbol{\chi}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) \nabla \cdot (\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)) \, dv$$

- Surface contribution to the total Newtonian noise:

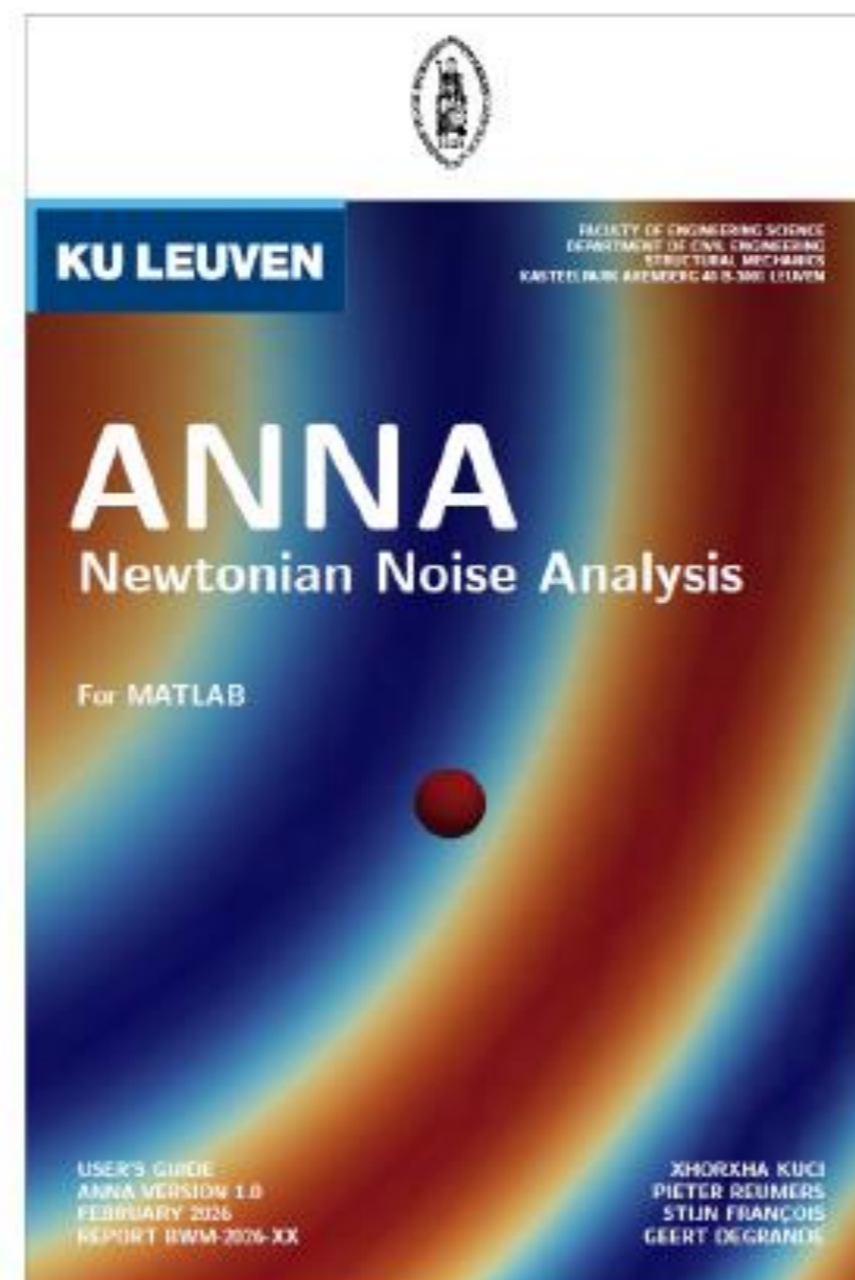
$$\delta\mathbf{a}_s(\mathbf{x}_0, t) = +G \int_{\bar{\Gamma}} \boldsymbol{\chi}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}, t) \, da$$



Seismic Newtonian Noise

ANNA Newtonian Noise Analysis toolbox

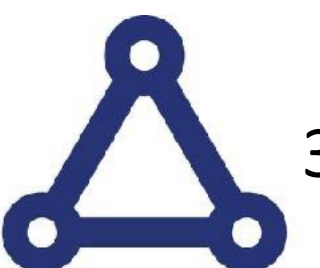
- **ANNA Newtonian Noise Analysis** is a toolbox that computes Newtonian Noise from a seismic wave field.
- Finite element formulation based on the functionalities of the Stabil toolbox.
- Implementations available in MATLAB, GNU Octave and Python.



P. Reumers, X. Kuci, S. François, and G. Degrande. ANNA: a toolbox for Newtonian Noise Analysis. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.15157>

P. Reumers, S. François, and G. Degrande. Validation of a numerical model of seismic Newtonian Noise for the Einstein Telescope. In 9th European Congress on Computational Methods in Applied Sciences and Engineering, ECCOMAS 2024, pages 1-11, Lisbon, Portugal, June 2024.

S. François, M. Schevenels, D. Dooms, M. Jansen, J. Wambacq, G. Lombaert, G. Degrande, and G. De Roeck. Stabil: an educational Matlab toolbox for static and dynamic structural analysis. *Computer Applications in Engineering Education*, 29(5):1-18, 2021.



Seismic Newtonian Noise

Finite element formulation

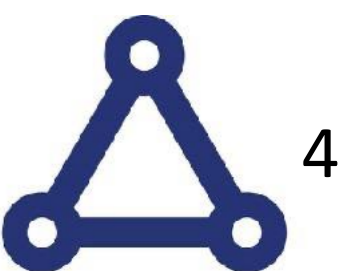
- Total Newtonian Noise $\delta \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t(\mathbf{x}_0)$ at the mirror position \mathbf{x}_0 due to the seismic displacement field $\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x})$:

$$\delta \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t(\mathbf{x}_0) \simeq \sum_{e=1}^{n_e} G \int_{-1}^{+1} \int_{-1}^{+1} \int_{-1}^{+1} \frac{\rho_e}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|^3} (\mathbf{I}_3 - 3\mathbf{e}_r \otimes \mathbf{e}_r) \hat{\mathbf{u}}^e(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \det(\mathbf{J}^e(\boldsymbol{\xi})) d\xi_1 d\xi_2 d\xi_3 \quad (11)$$

- Gaussian quadrature with n_G Gauss points with local coordinates $\boldsymbol{\xi}_j$ and weights w_j :

$$\delta \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t(\mathbf{x}_0) \simeq \sum_{e=1}^{n_e} \left[G \sum_{j=1}^{n_G} w_j \frac{\rho_e}{\|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_0\|^3} (\mathbf{I}_3 - 3\mathbf{e}_r \otimes \mathbf{e}_r) \mathbf{N}^e(\boldsymbol{\xi}_j) \det(\mathbf{J}^e(\boldsymbol{\xi}_j)) \right] \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}}^e = \sum_{e=1}^{n_e} \mathbf{A}_t^e \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}}^e = \mathbf{A}_t \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}} \quad (12)$$

- The $3 \times 3n$ matrix \mathbf{A}_t^e yields the contribution of the nodal displacements $\underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}}^e$ of element e to the total NN.
- Element matrices \mathbf{A}_t^e are assembled in a matrix \mathbf{A}_t of dimension $3 \times 3N$, with N the number of nodes in V .
- \mathbf{A}_t is independent of the seismic wave field $\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x})$ and needs to be computed only once (post-processing).
- Similar procedure is followed for the bulk (matrix \mathbf{A}_b) and surface (matrix \mathbf{A}_s) contribution (not shown).



Seismic Newtonian Noise

Validation: plane P-wave

- Plane P-wave in a homogeneous full space:

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x}) = \exp(-ik_p \mathbf{e}_k \cdot \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{e}_k \tag{13}$$

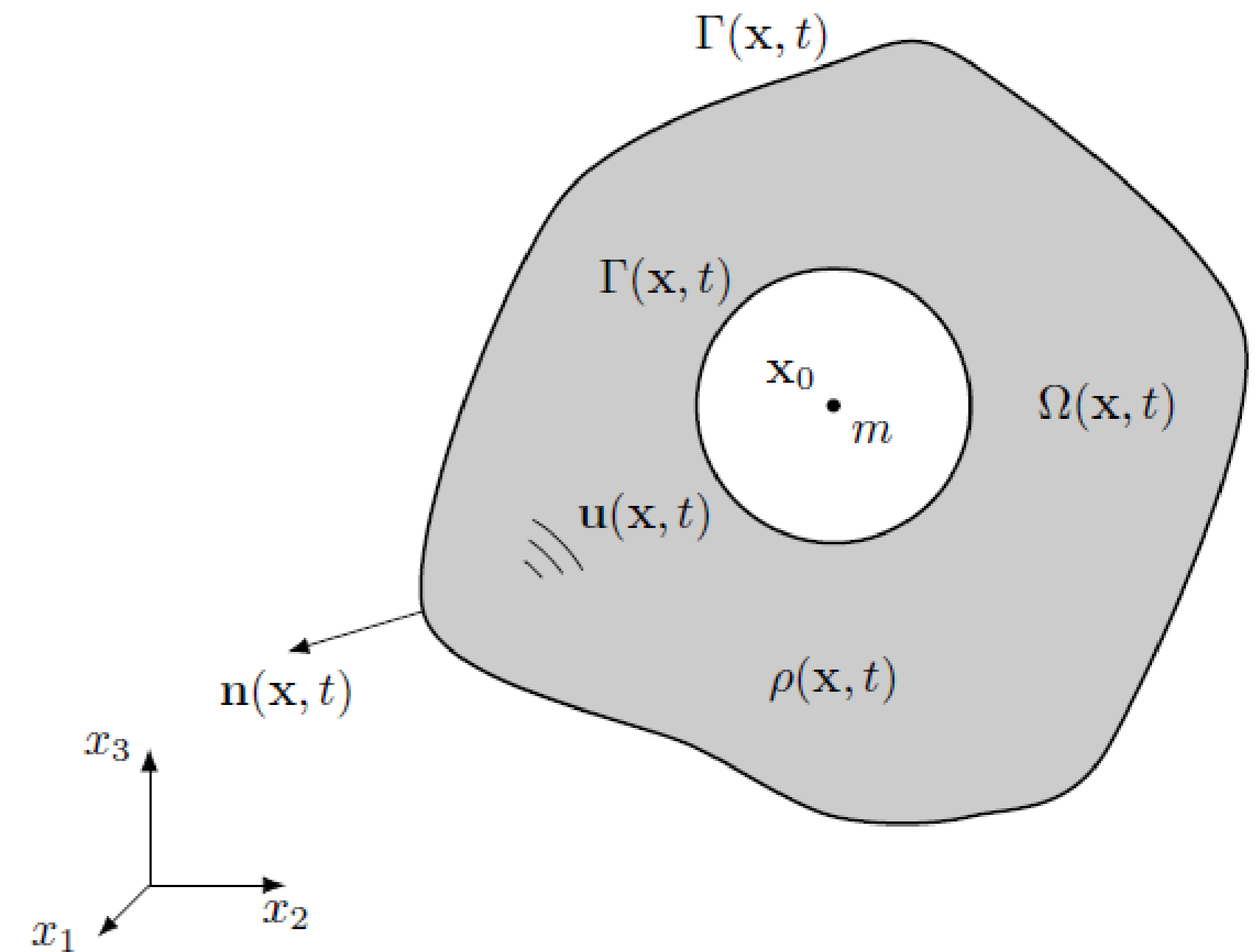
- Total Newtonian Noise inside a cavity with radius r_0 [Harms (2019)]:

$$\delta \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t(\mathbf{x}_0) = 8\pi\rho G \left(\frac{j_1(k_p r_0)}{k_p r_0} - \frac{j_1(k_p R)}{k_p R} \right) \hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x}_0) \tag{14}$$

with $j_1(x)$ the spherical Bessel function of the first kind of order 1.

- Newtonian Noise for a full space and a cavity with radius r_0 :

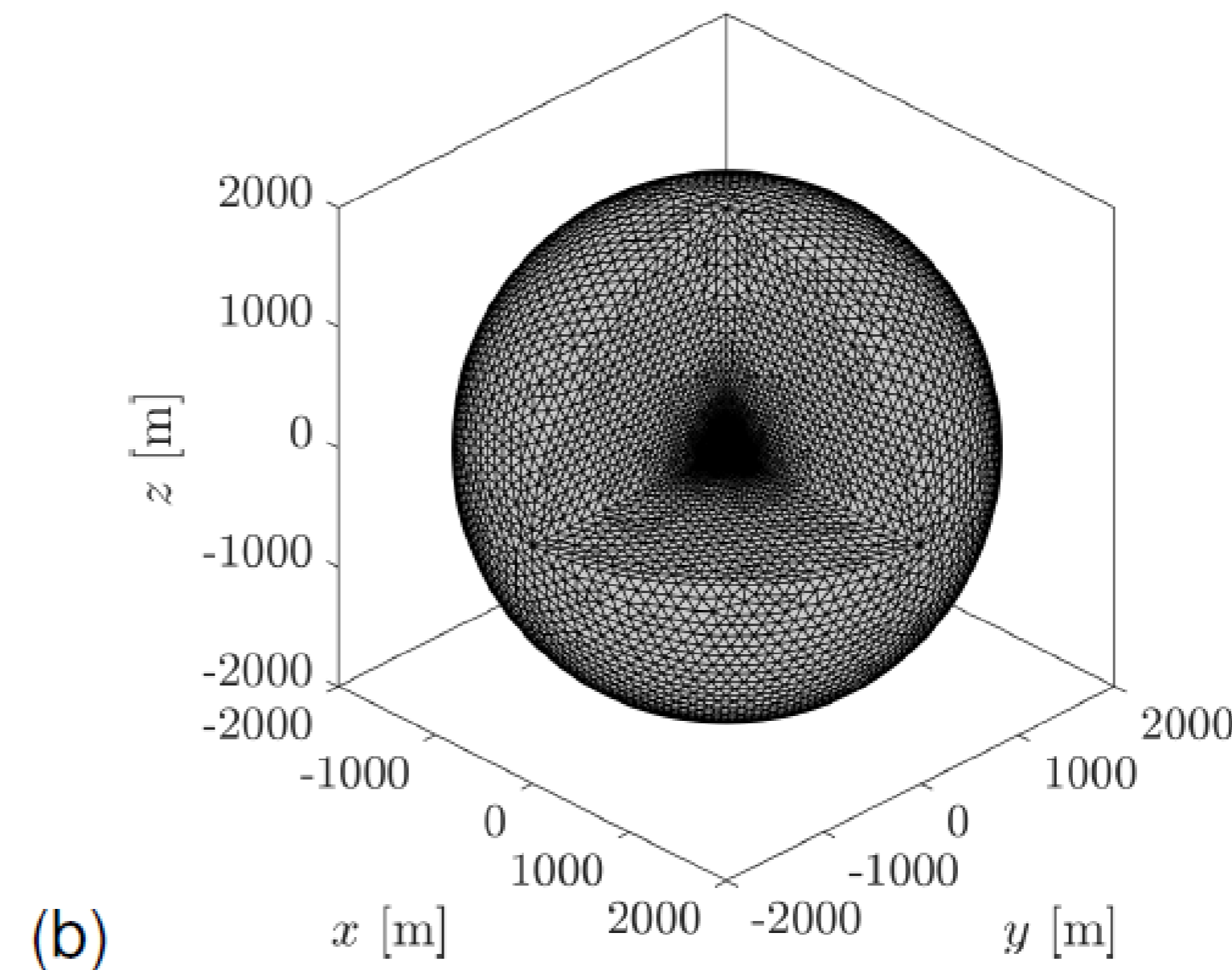
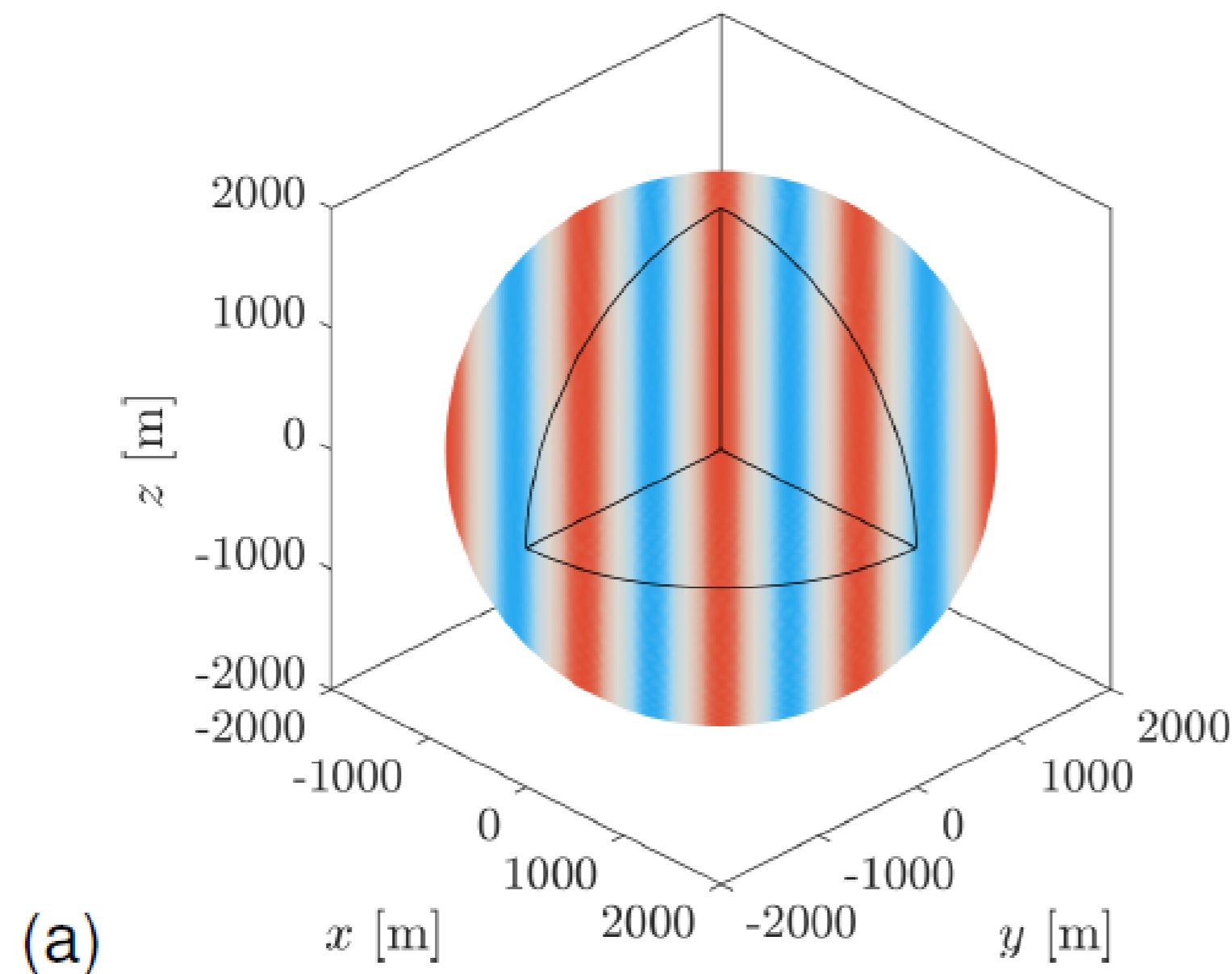
$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \delta \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t(\mathbf{x}_0) = 8\pi\rho G \frac{j_1(k_p r_0)}{k_p r_0} \hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x}_0) \tag{15}$$



Seismic Newtonian Noise

Validation: plane P-wave

- (a) $\hat{u}_x(\mathbf{x})$ at 5 Hz of a plane P-wave with unit amplitude propagating in the direction $\mathbf{e}_k = \{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0\}^T$ in a full space with $C_s = 2500$ m/s, $C_p = 5000$ m/s, and $\rho = 2800$ kg/m³;
- (b) FE mesh with $R = 2000$ m for NN calculation on a mirror in a cavity with centre \mathbf{x}_0 and radius $r_0 = 20$ m.



Finite element mesh criteria:

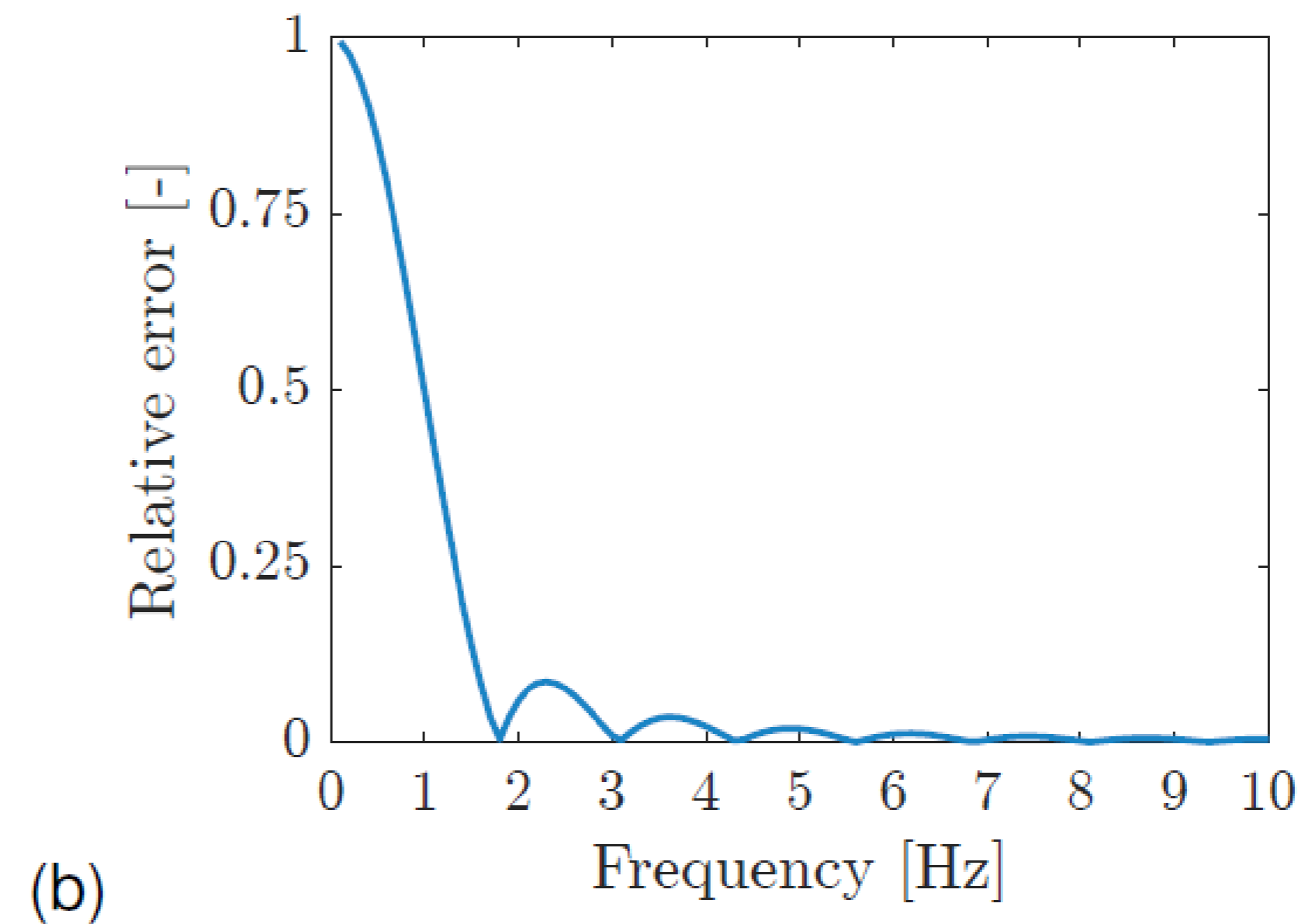
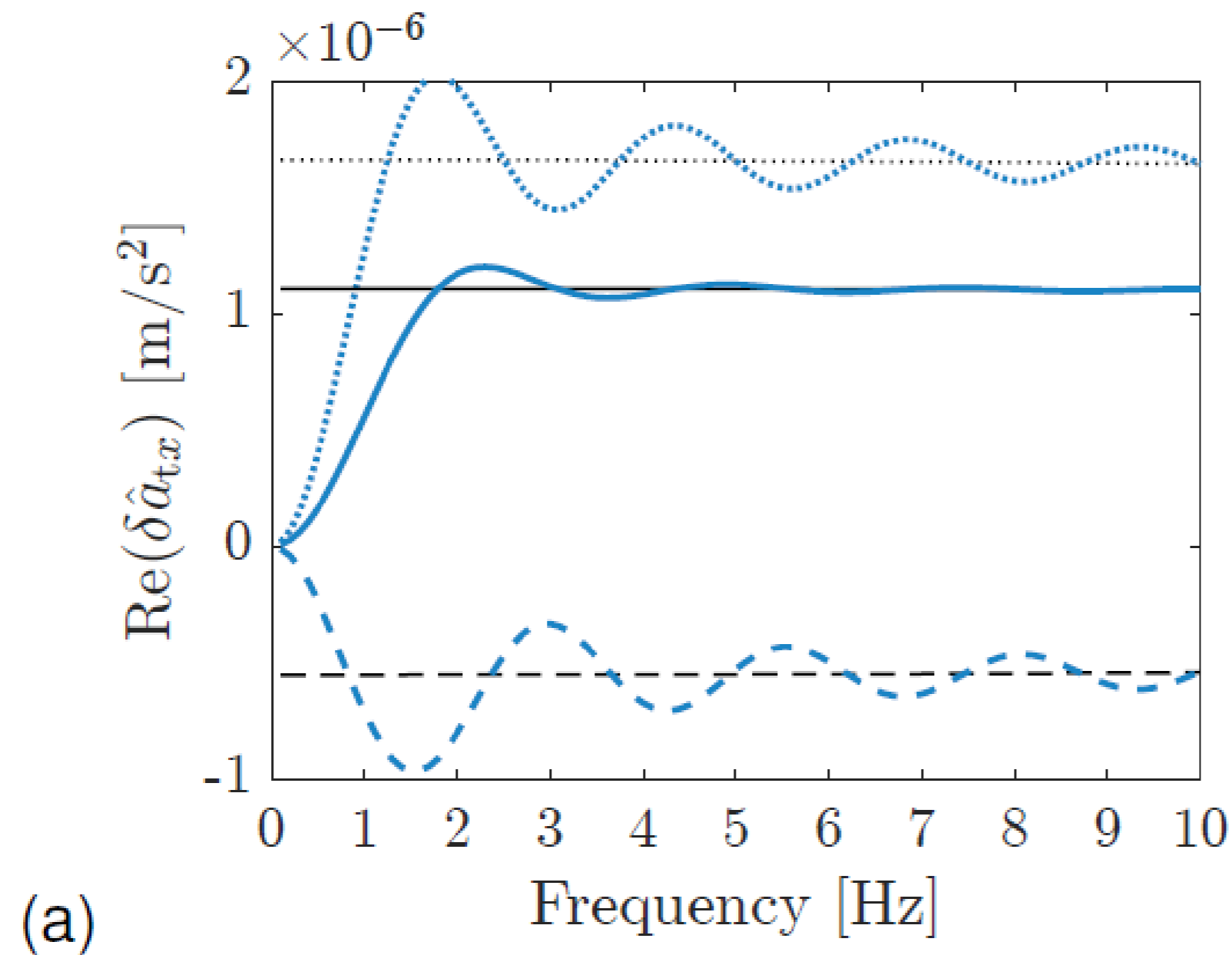
- C1:** The domain radius R must be large enough to approximate the infinite medium solution.
- C2:** The element size l_e should be sufficiently small to well resolve the propagating waves.
- C3:** FE mesh refinement near cavity to capture the strong spatial variation of the kernel $1/\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|^3$.



Seismic Newtonian Noise

Validation: plane P-wave

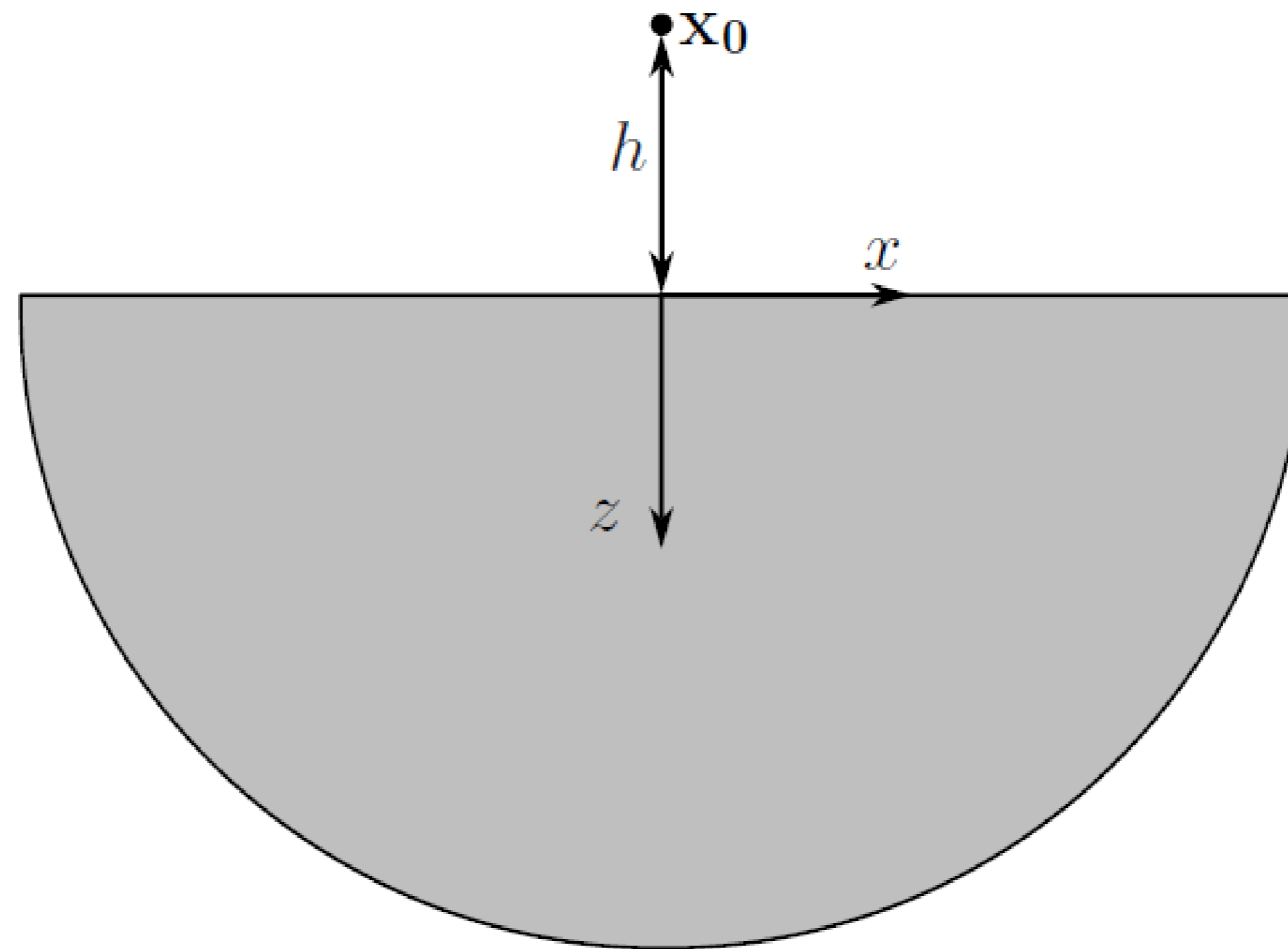
- (a) Real part of the total NN $\delta \hat{a}_{tx}(\mathbf{x}_0, \omega)$ computed analytically (—) and with the numerical model (—), as well as the bulk (▪▪▪ and ▪▪▪) and surface contributions (- - - and - - -). (b) Relative error $\varepsilon_{tx}(\omega)$ on the total NN.



Seismic Newtonian Noise

Validation: Rayleigh wave

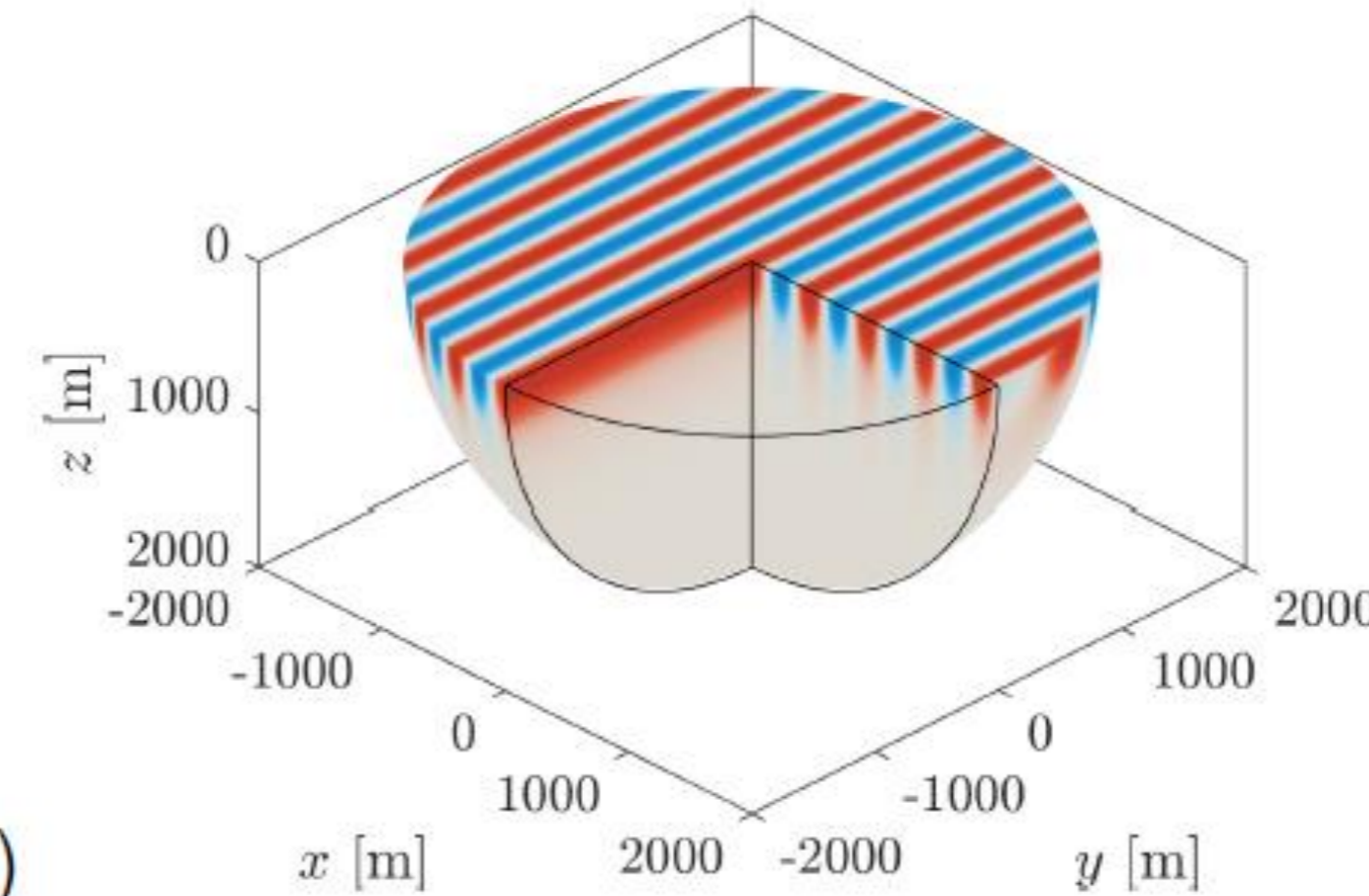
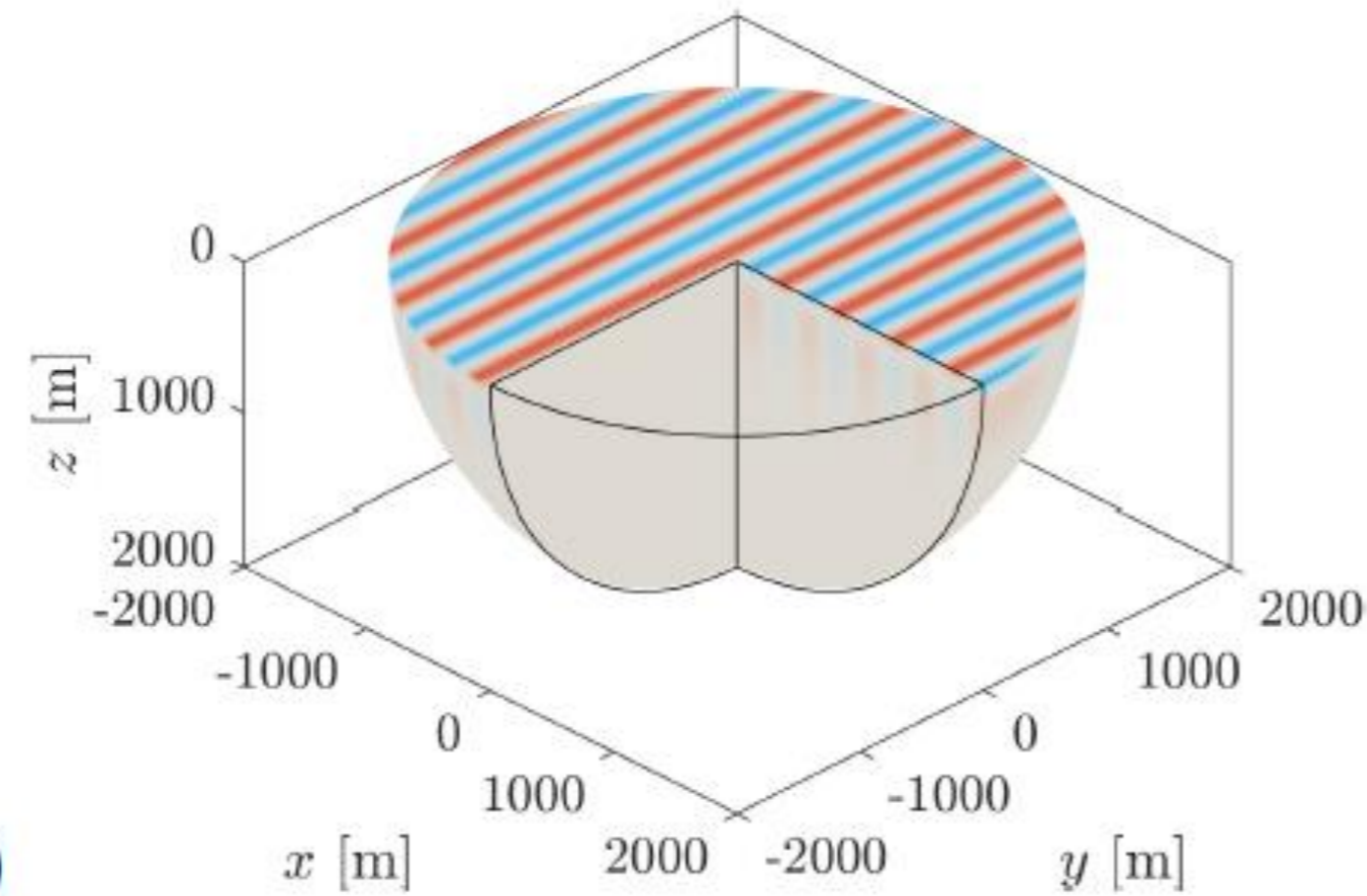
- Homogeneous halfspace with test mass at a height $h = 20$ m above the free surface.



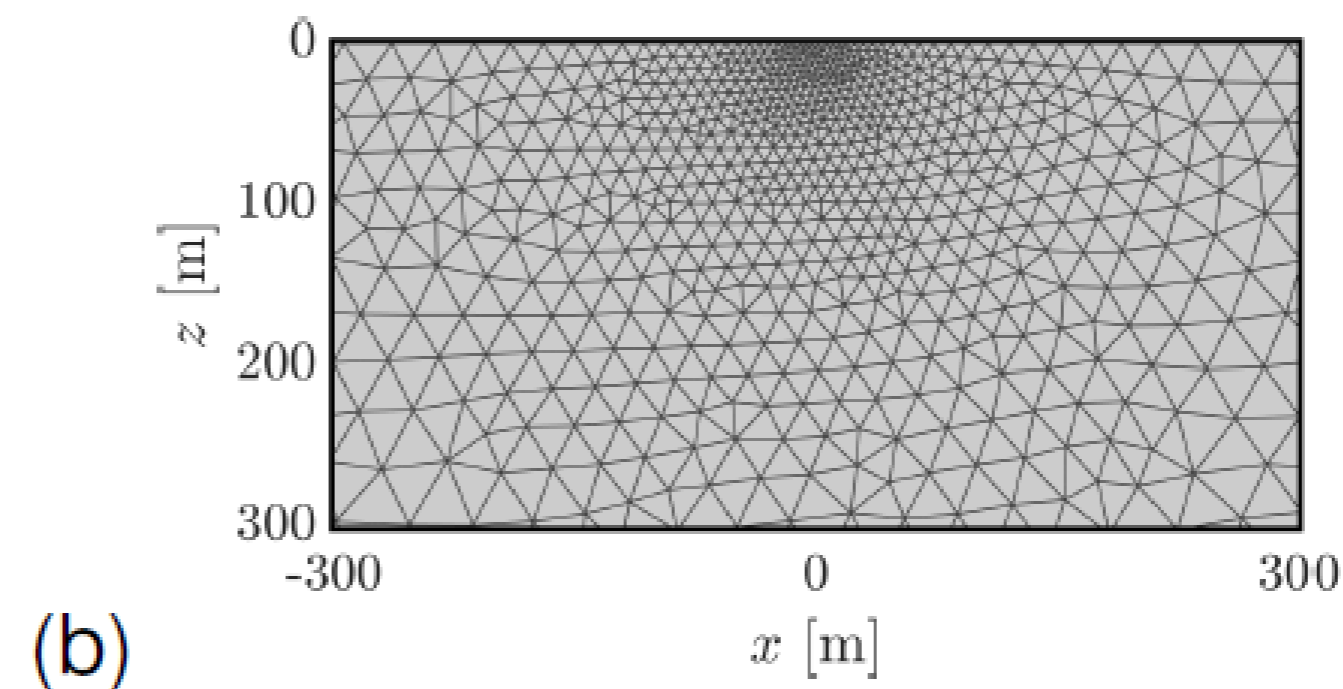
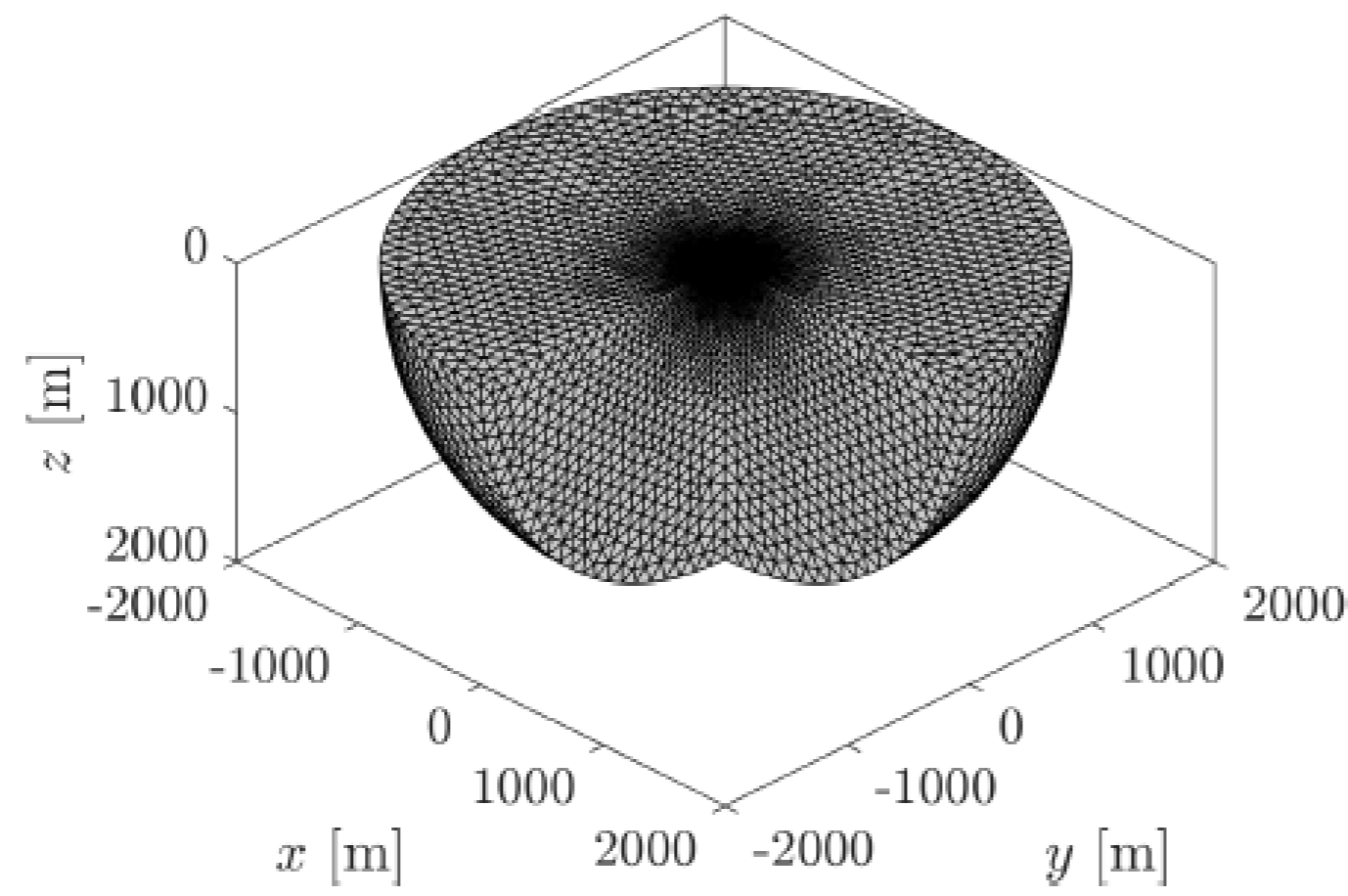
Seismic Newtonian Noise

Validation: Rayleigh wave

- Seismic displacements (a) $\hat{u}_x(\mathbf{x})$ and (b) $\hat{u}_z(\mathbf{x})$ at 5 Hz.



- (a) 3D FE mesh tailored for the homogeneous halfspace with test mass above surface and (b) 2D mesh visualization.



Seismic Newtonian Noise

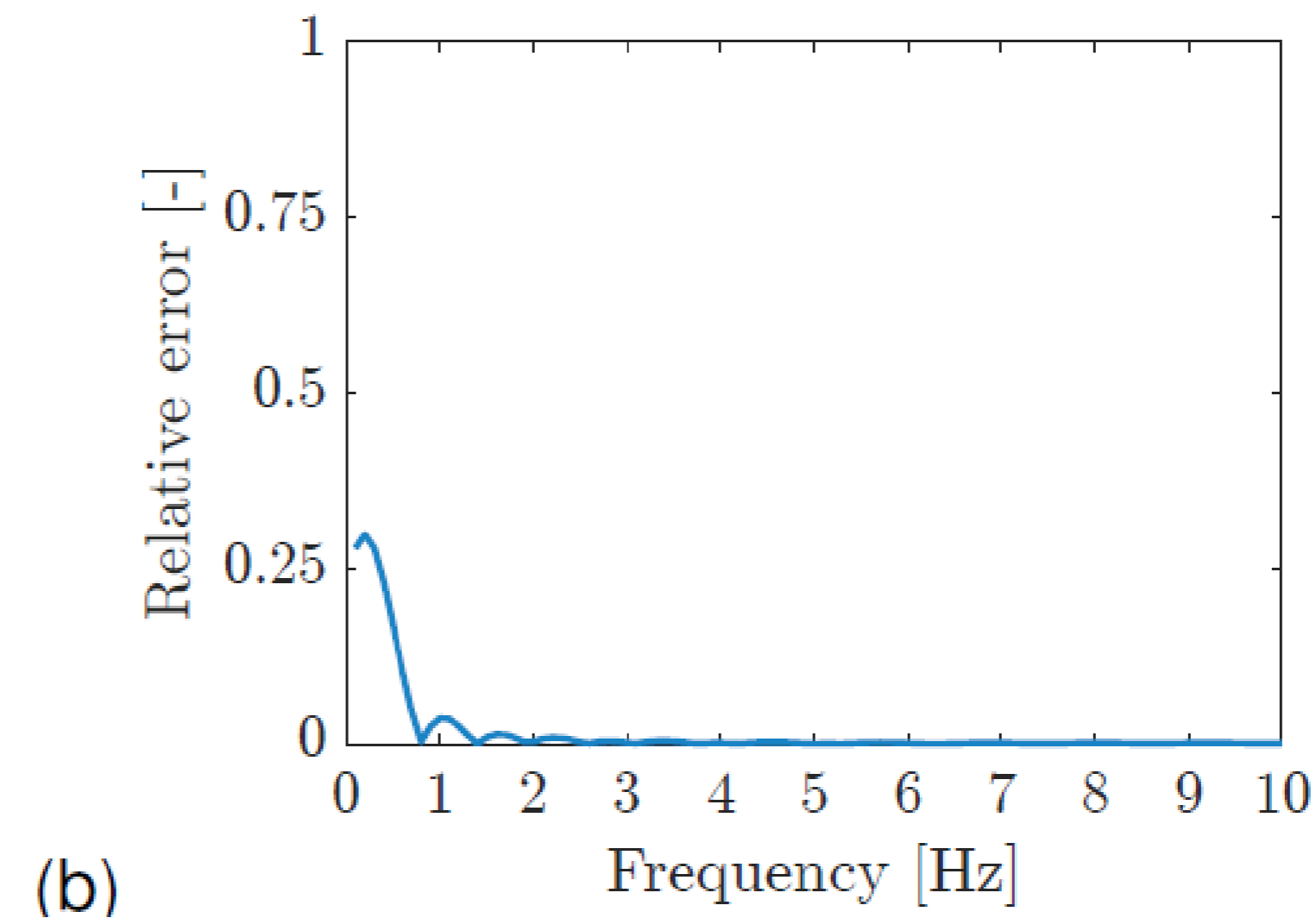
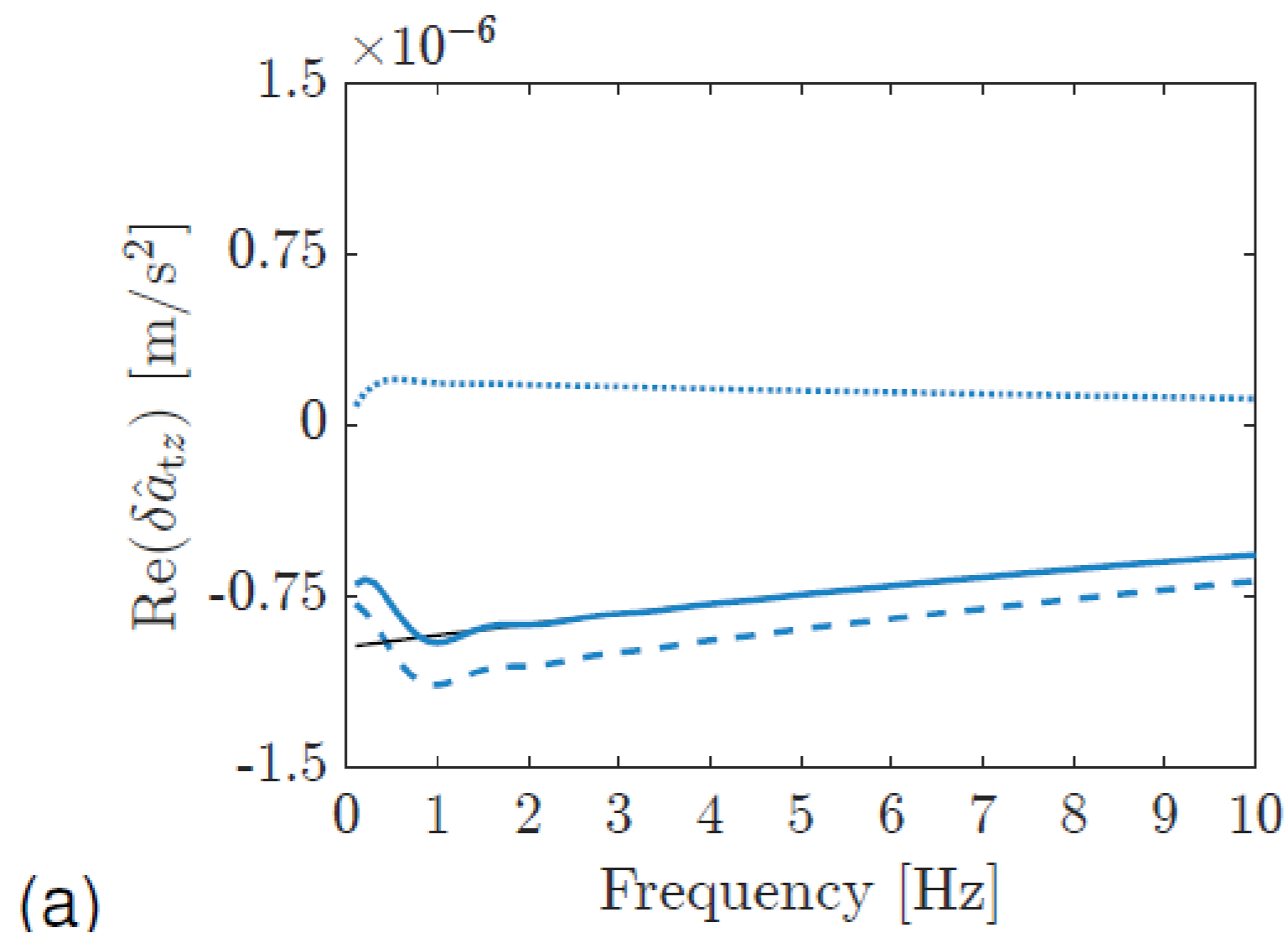
Validation: Rayleigh wave

- Newtonian noise for a Rayleigh wave in a halfspace with test mass at a height h m above free surface [Harms (2019)]:

$$\delta \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t(\mathbf{x}_0) = 2\pi G \rho \gamma \exp(-k_R h) (\mathbf{ie}_k - \mathbf{e}_z) \exp(-i\mathbf{k}_k \cdot \mathbf{x}_0) \quad (16)$$

where $\gamma = \frac{k_R(1 - \sqrt{k_{zP}/k_{zS}})}{ik_{zP} - k_R \sqrt{k_{zP}/k_{zS}}}$.

- (a) Real part of the total Newtonian noise $\delta \hat{a}_{tz}(\mathbf{x}_0, \omega)$ for a Rayleigh wave in a halfspace with a test mass at a height $h = 20$ m above free surface computed analytically (—) and with the numerical model (—), as well as the bulk (· · · ·) and surface contributions (— — — and — — —). (b) Relative error $\varepsilon_{tz}(\omega)$ on the total Newtonian noise.

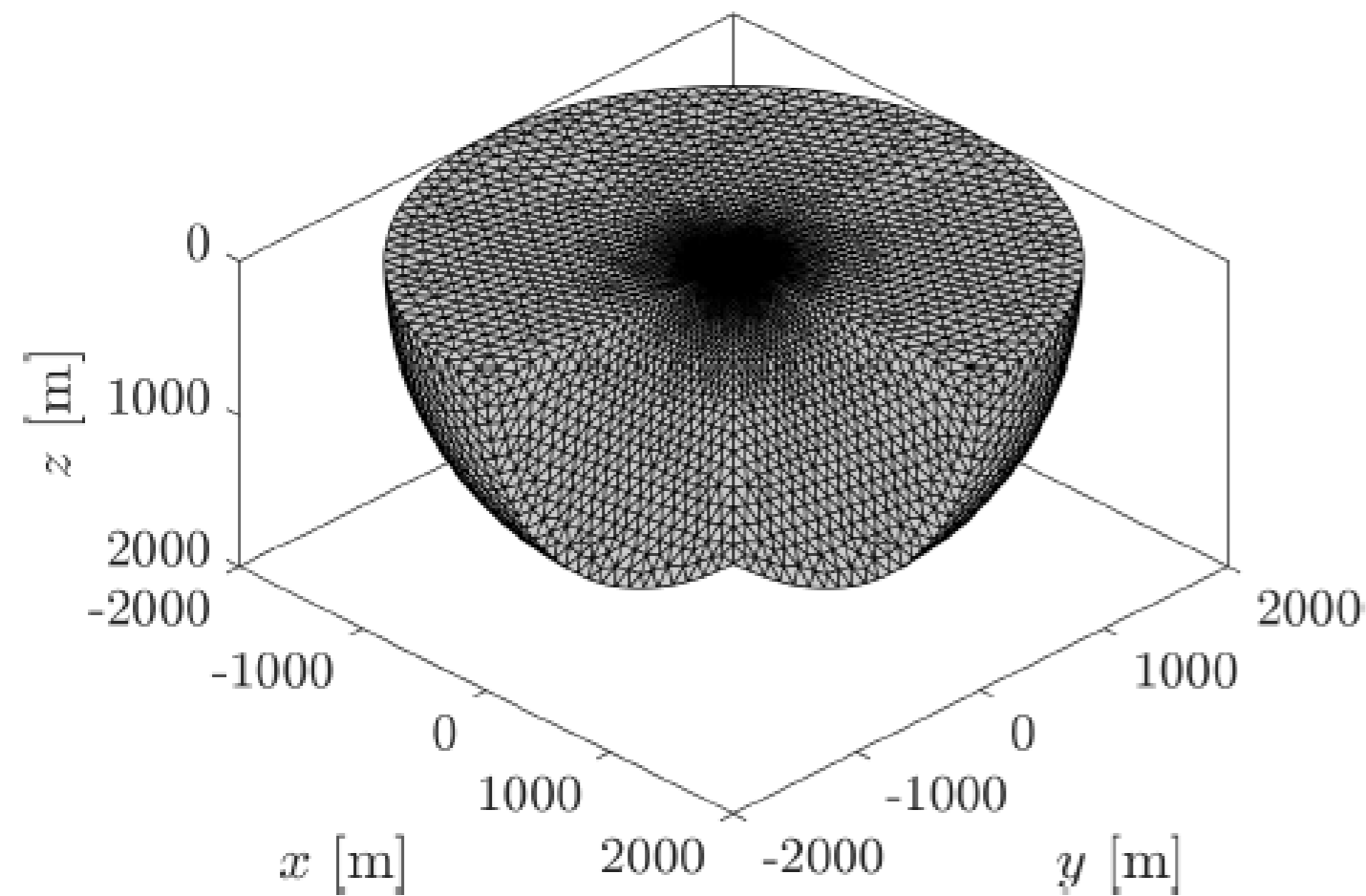


ANNA Workflow

Newtonian noise computation

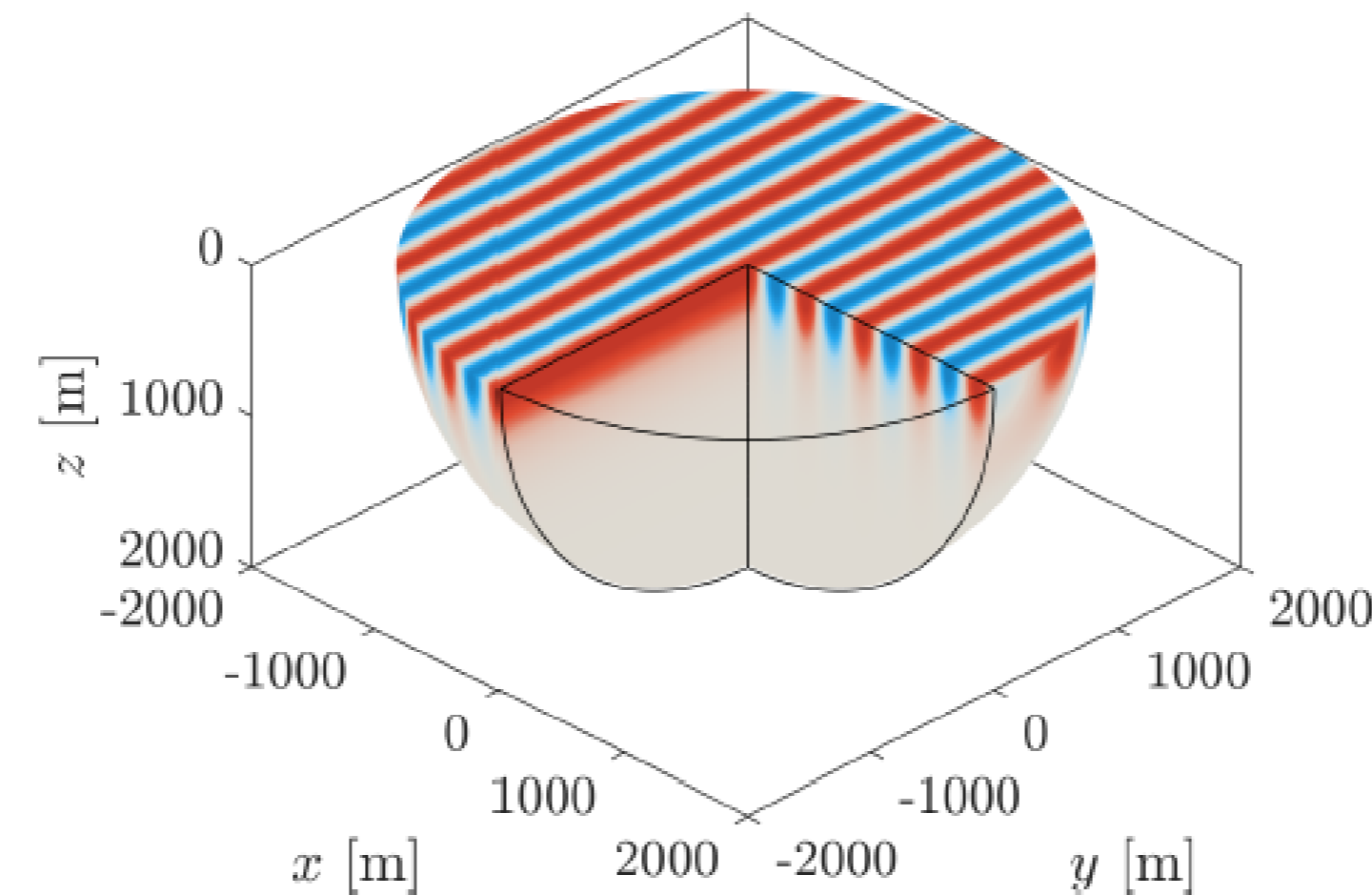
1. FE mesh

- Generated in Gmsh.
- Enforces the three mesh criteria.
- Supports linear and quadratic tetrahedral and hexahedral elements.



2. Seismic wave field

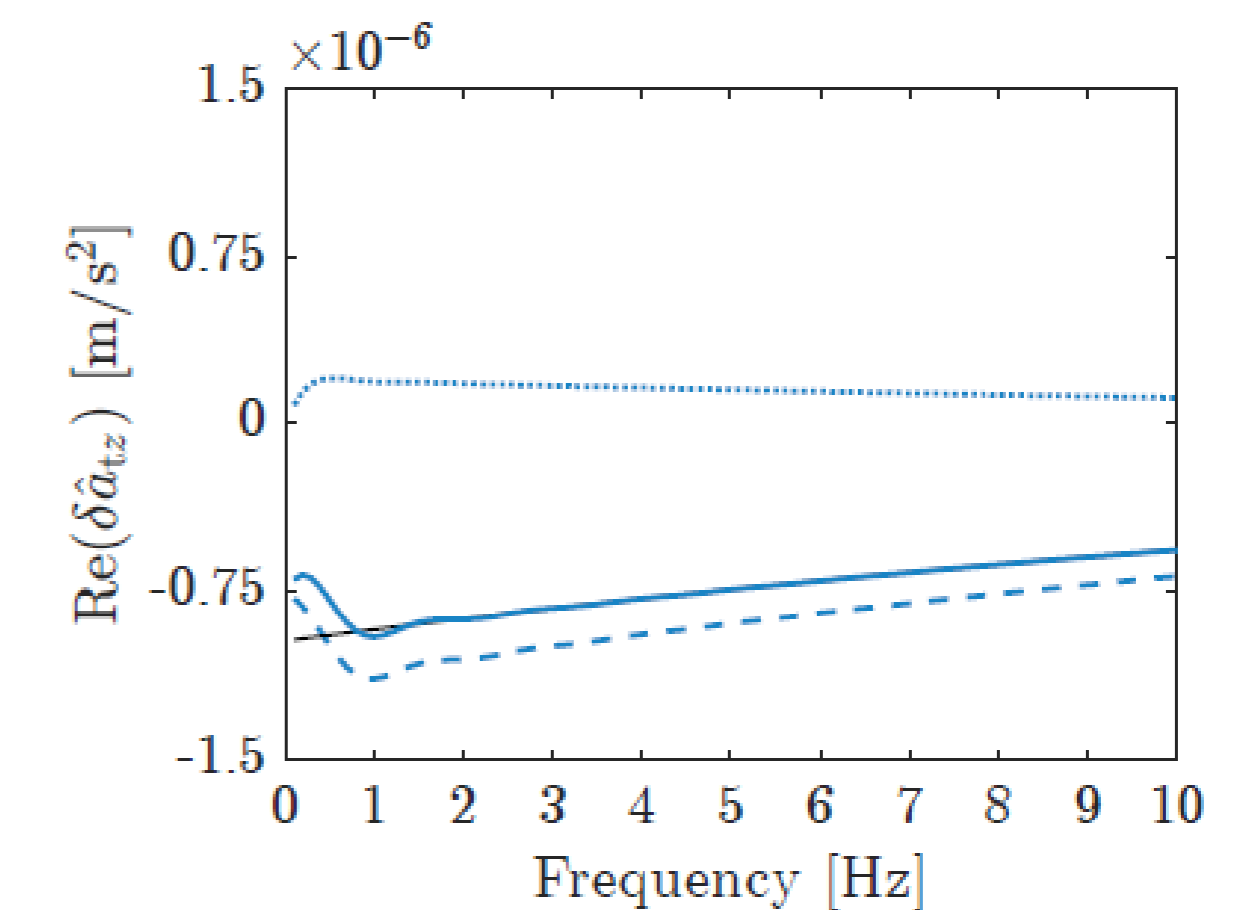
- Computed on a coarser mesh and interpolated, or
- Evaluated directly at FE mesh nodes.
- Stored as $\underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}}(\omega)$ ($3N \times 1$).



3. NN computation

- Input: FE mesh, ρ , \mathbf{x}_0
- Assemble NN matrices (asmnn.m): $\mathbf{A}_t, \mathbf{A}_b, \mathbf{A}_s$ ($3 \times 3N$)
- Compute NN acceleration:

$$\delta \hat{\mathbf{a}}_i(\omega) = \mathbf{A}_i \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}}(\omega)$$

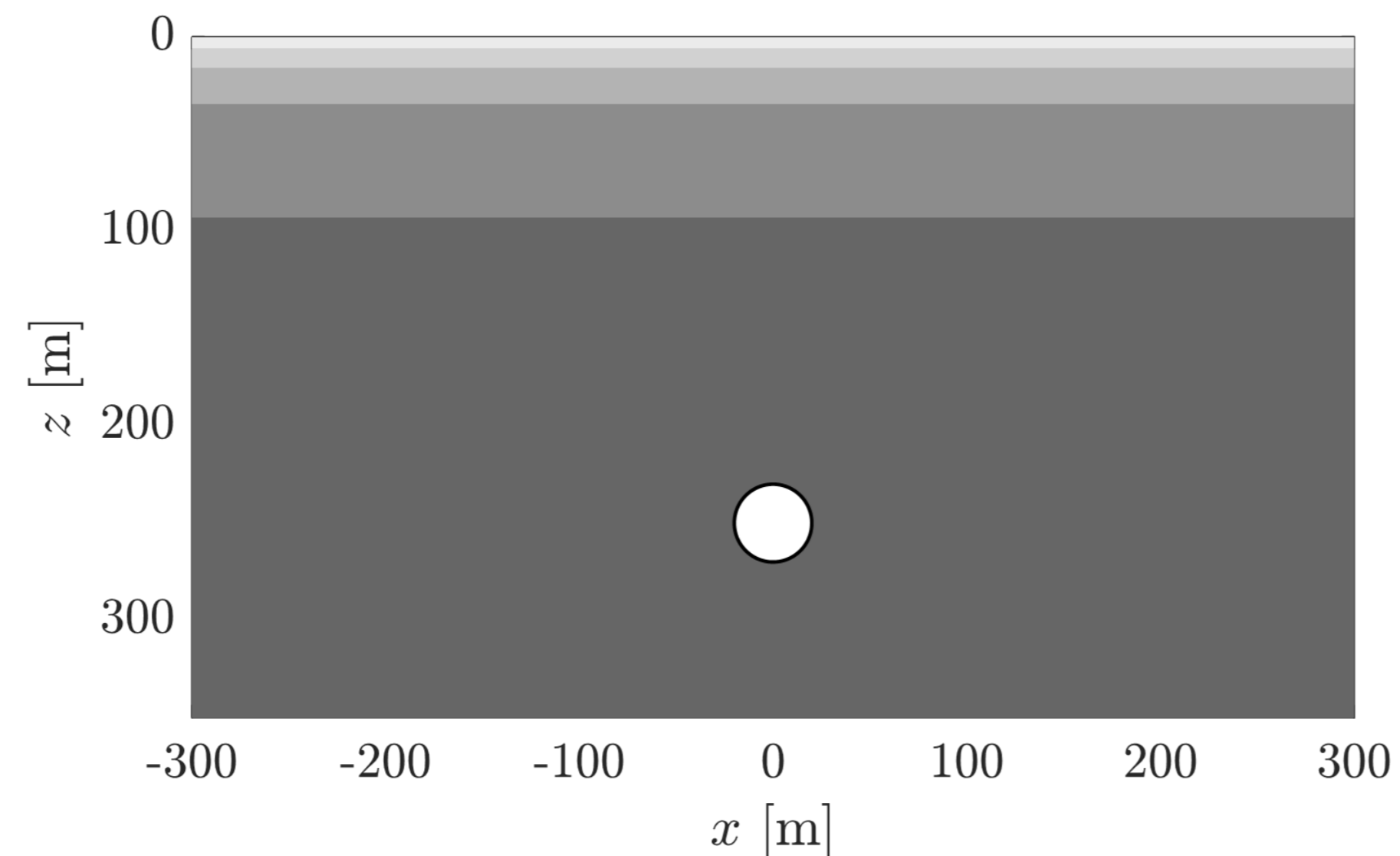


Layered geology

- Dynamic soil characteristics:

Layer	h [m]	C_s [m/s]	C_p [m/s]	ρ [kg/m ³]
1	5.7	165	385	1950
2	10.2	270	445	2250
3	18.9	335	685	2500
4	58.2	1240	2810	2800
5	∞	2430	4050	2800

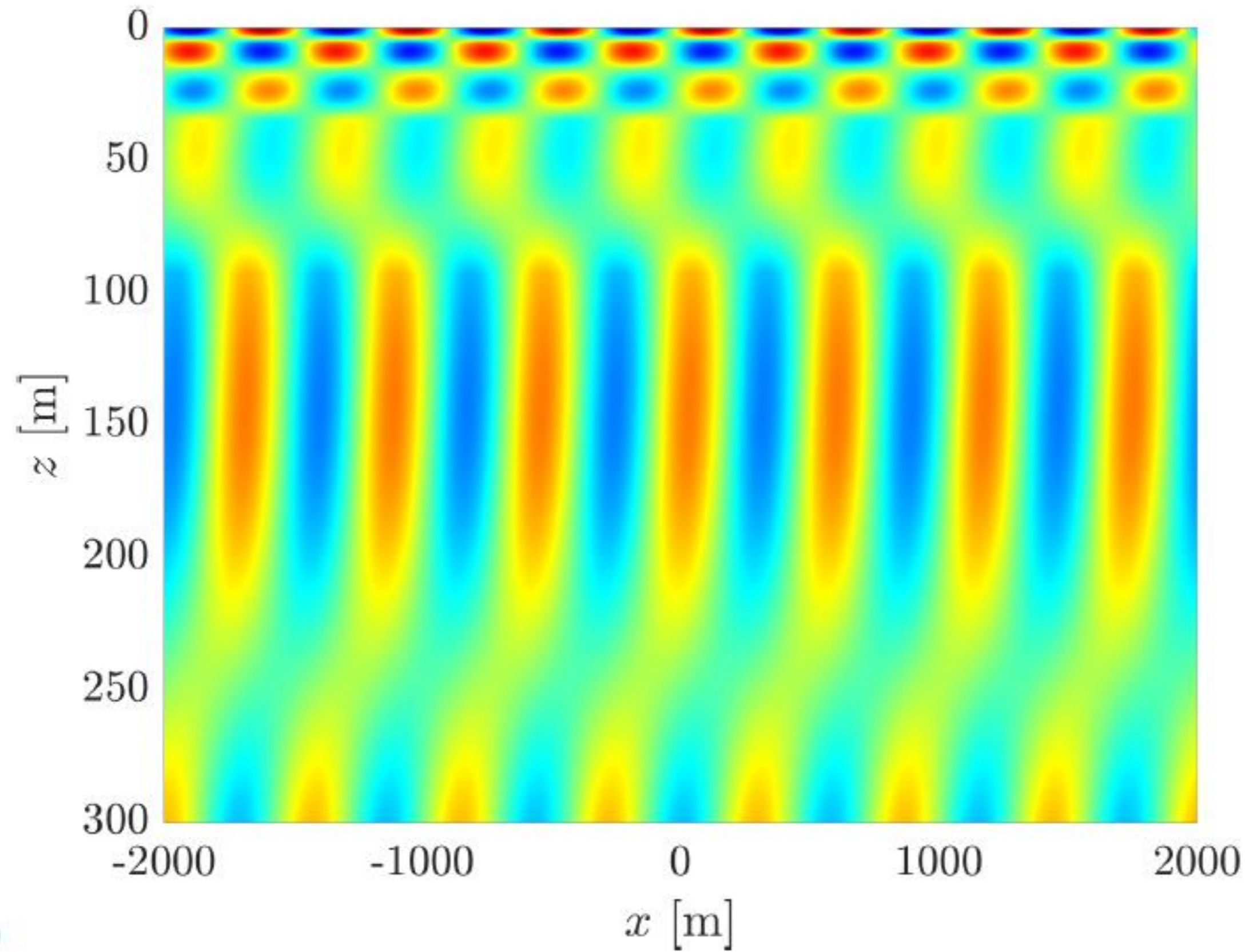
- Spherical cavern of radius $r_0 = 20$ m at 250 m depth.



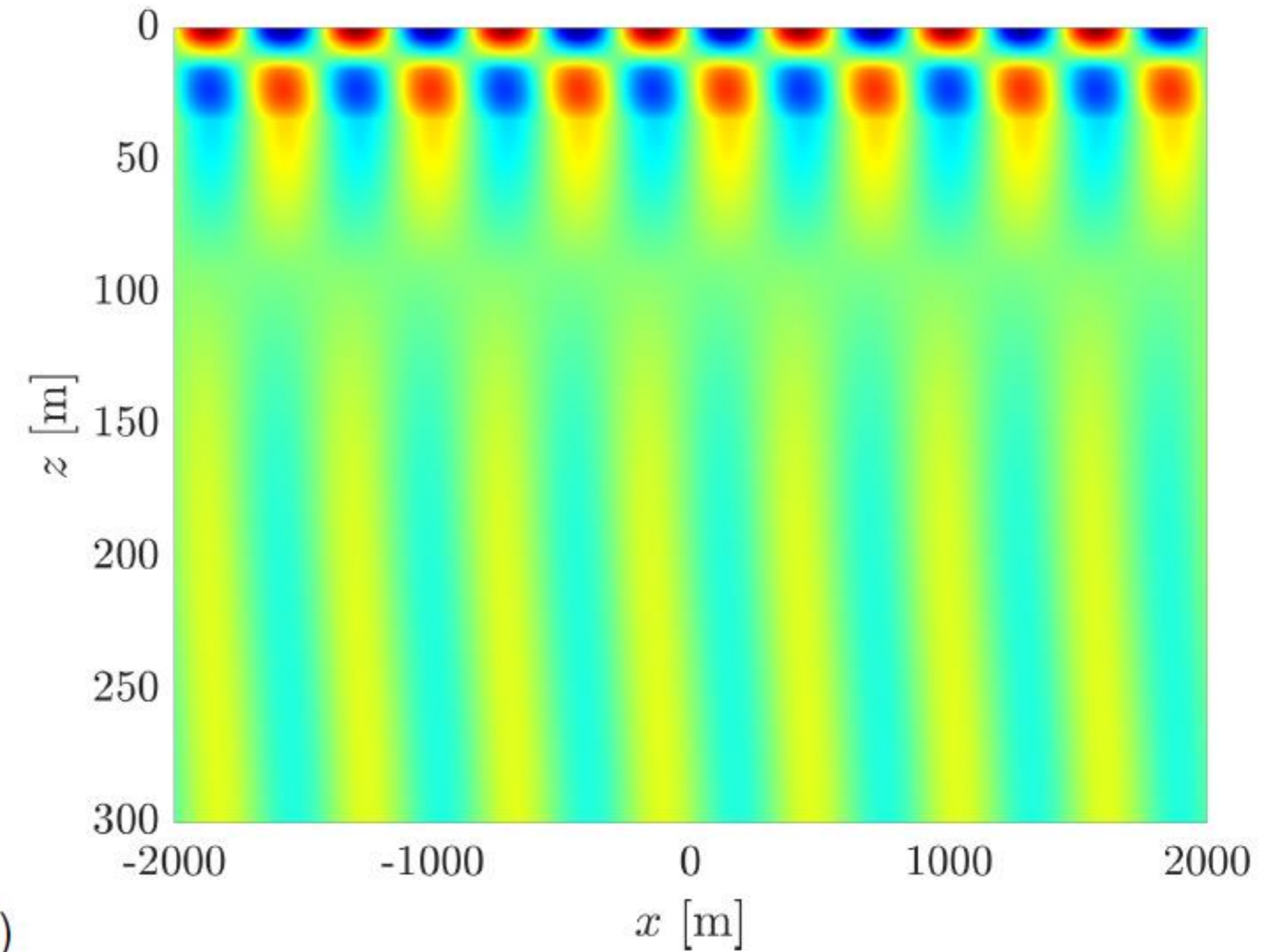
Layered geology

Seismic wave field

- Illustrative example: (a) $\hat{u}_x(\mathbf{x})$ and (b) $\hat{u}_z(\mathbf{x})$ at 10 Hz of a plane P-wave with incident angle $\phi = 45^\circ$ in the layered halfspace.



(a)



(b)

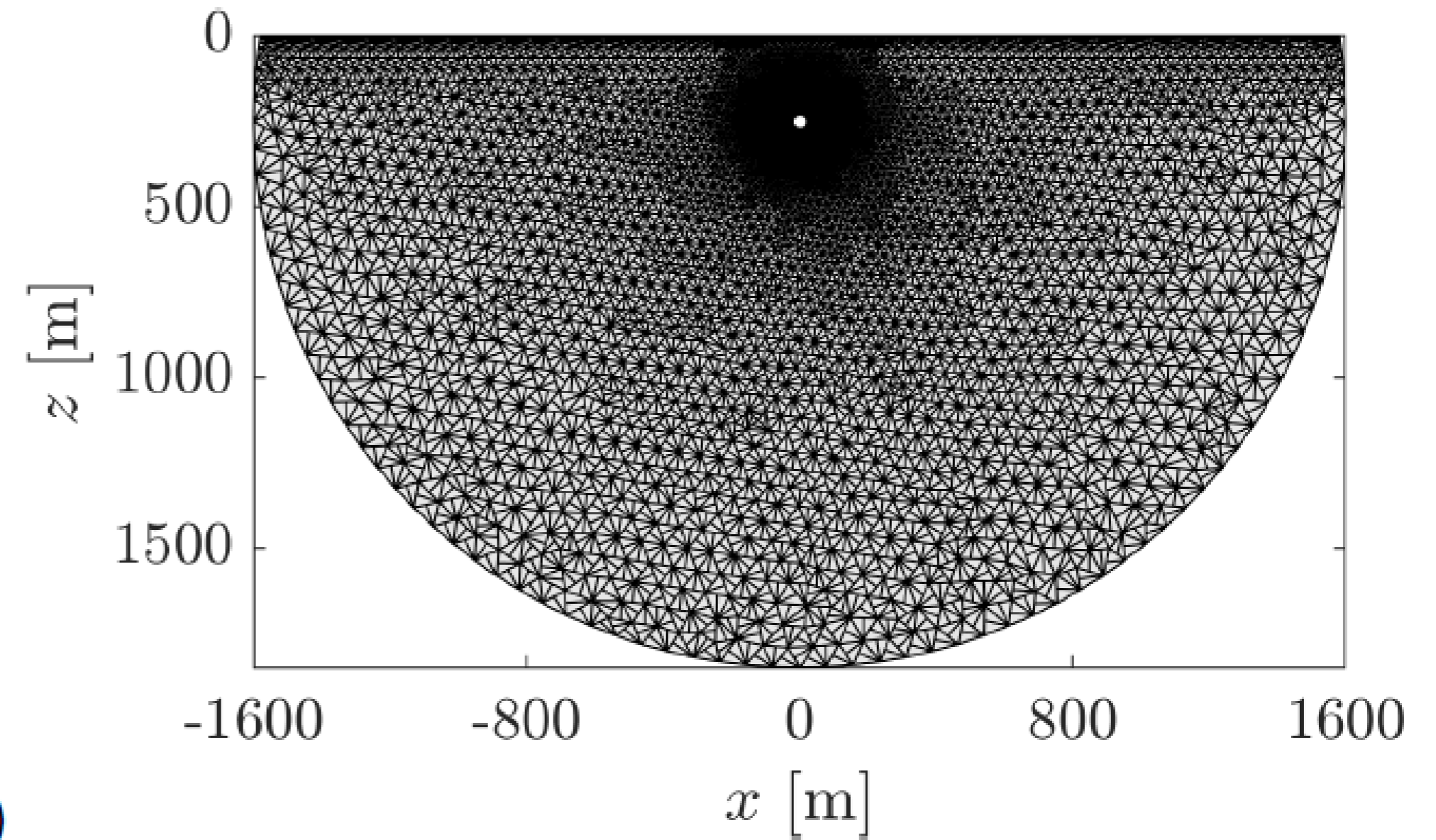
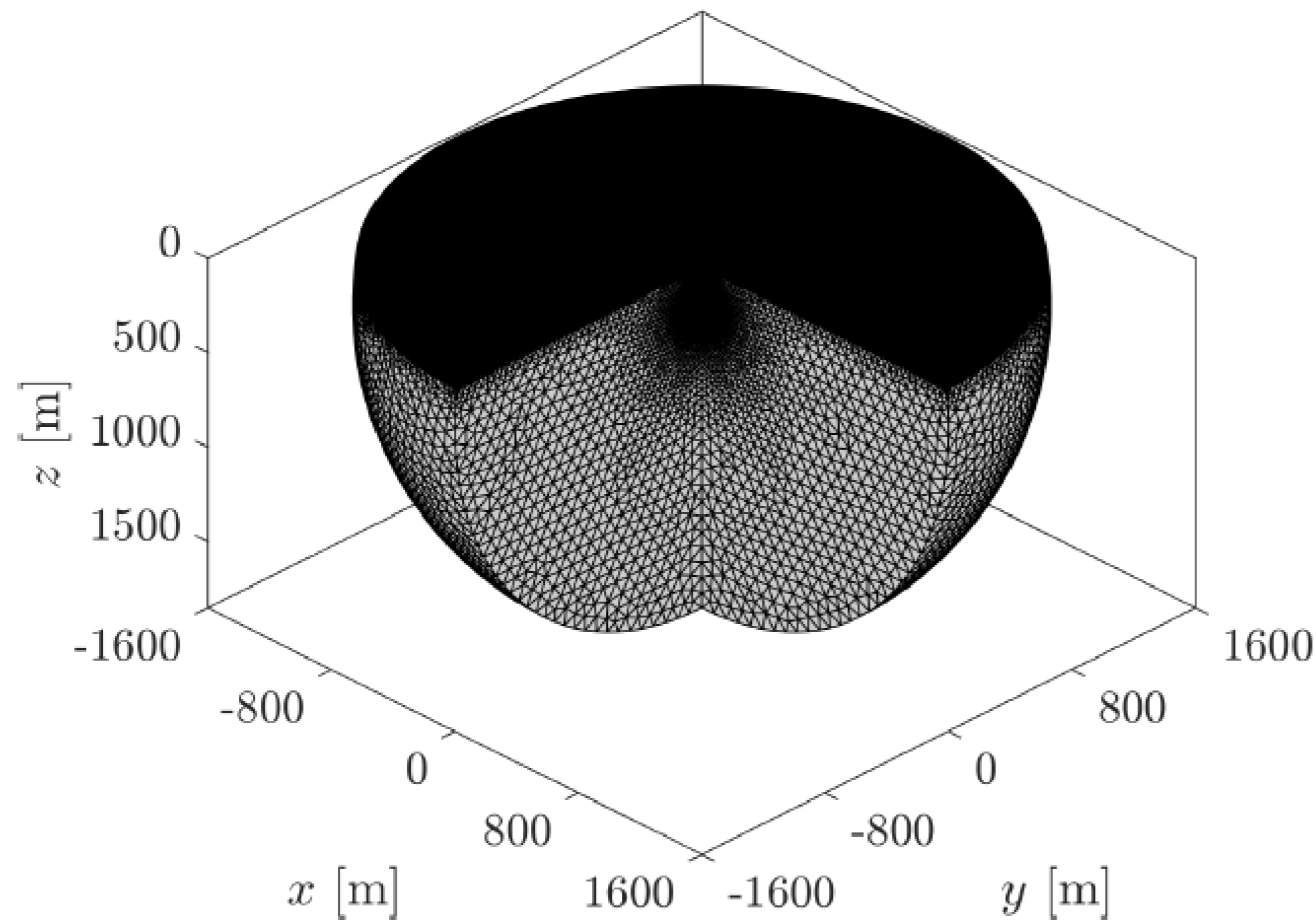
Layered geology

Mesh design strategy

■ Finite element mesh criteria:

- **C1:** Domain size is set by the largest wavelength, i.e. by f_{\min} and the maximum dilatational wave speed C_p .
- **C2:** Element size is set by the smallest wavelength, i.e. by f_{\max} and the shear wave speed C_s .
- **C3:** Additional refinement is imposed near the cavity.

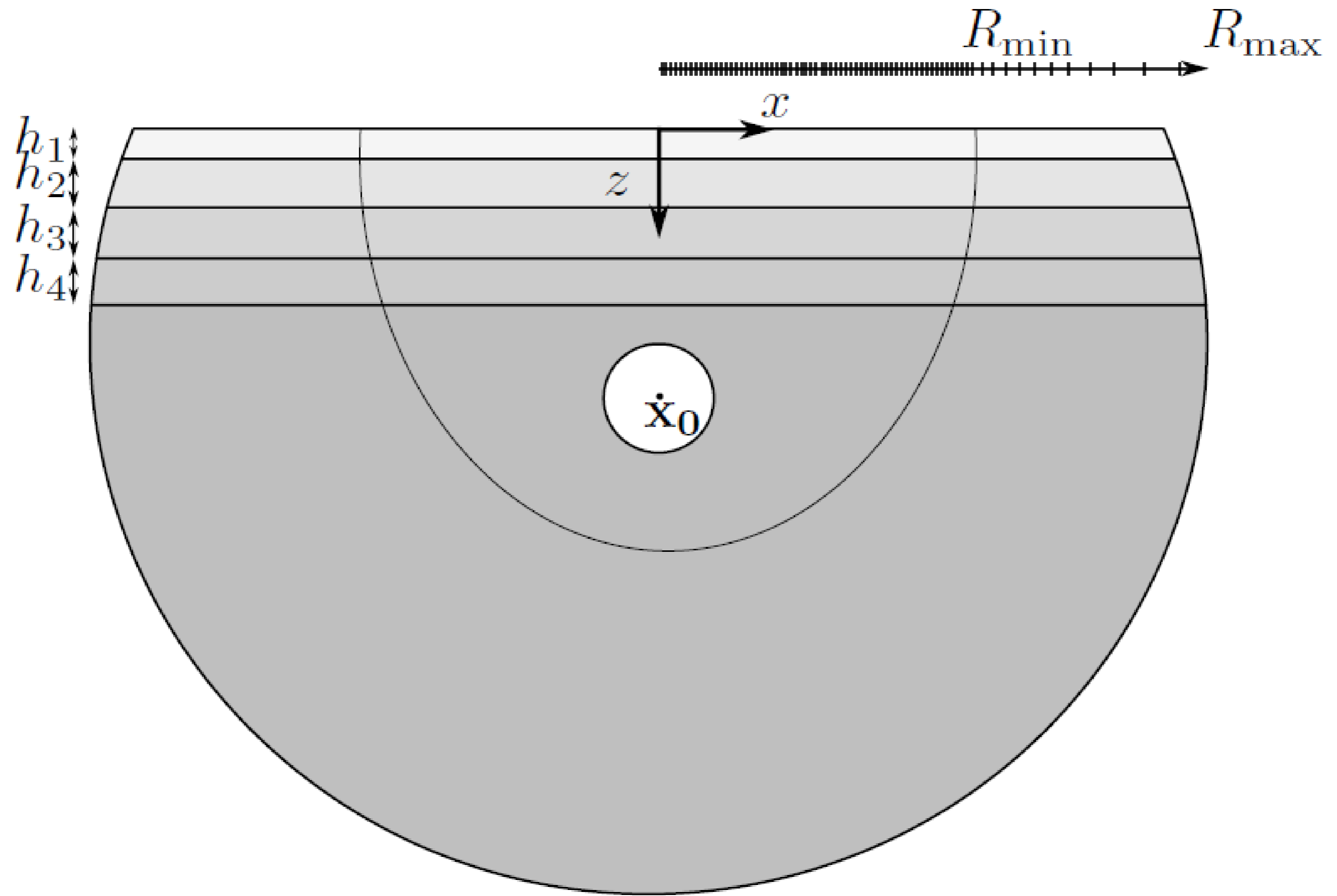
■ (a) 3D FE mesh and (b) 2D mesh visualization tailored for 5 Hz.



Layered geology

Mesh design strategy

- For a tailored mesh in $[f_{\min}, f_{\max}]$ the required domain size varies from R_{\min} for f_{\max} , to R_{\max} for f_{\min} .
- Both scales are combined in a single distance-dependent discretization.



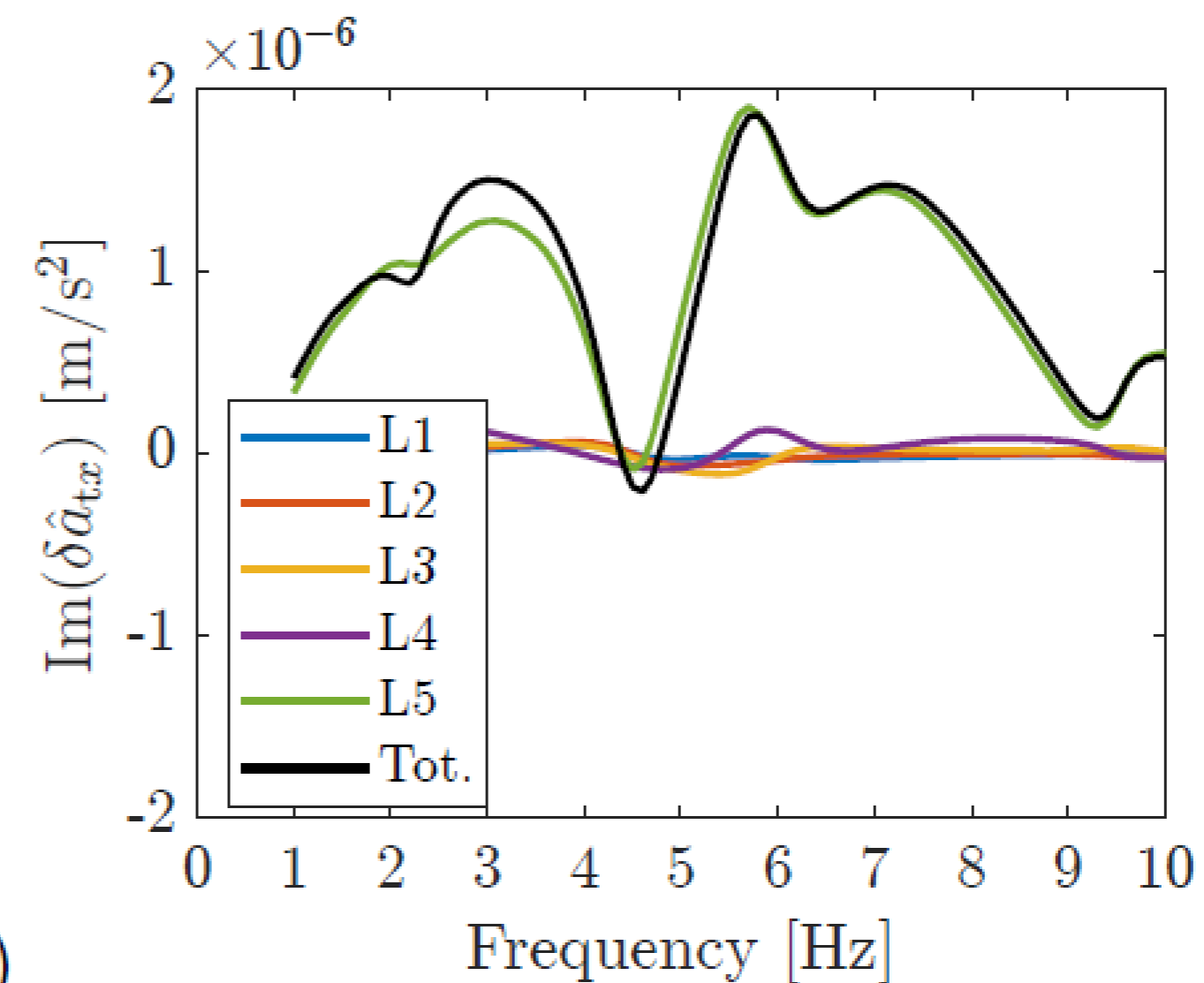
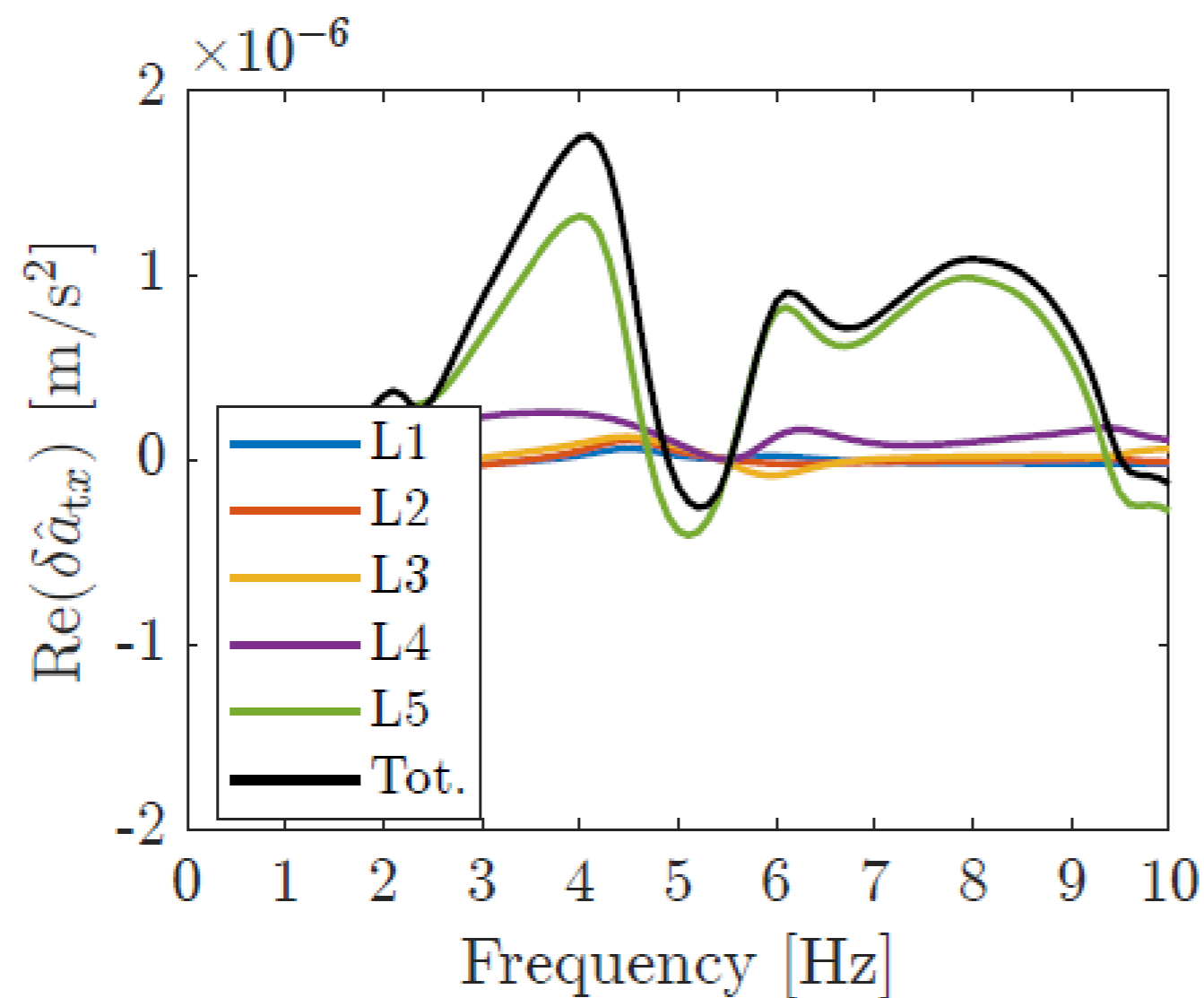
Layered geology

Newtonian noise

- The NN operator is assembled separately for each layer mesh.
- The contribution of each layer to the total Newtonian noise is quantified

$$\delta \hat{\mathbf{a}}_t(\omega) = \sum_{\ell=1}^{n_L} \mathbf{A}_t^{(\ell)} \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(\ell)}(\omega)$$

- (a) Real part and (b) imaginary part of the contribution of each layer to the total NN $\delta \hat{a}_{tx}(\mathbf{x}_0, \omega)$, due to a plane P-wave with incident angle $\phi = 45^\circ$.



Summary and Outlook

- The ANNA toolbox efficiently computes Newtonian Noise from 3D seismic wave fields using a finite element formulation.
- The implementation was verified against analytical solutions and is available in MATLAB and Python.
- The methodology has been extended to account for layered geology with a consistent computational strategy.
- The approach will be applied to 3D geology model once available.

Acknowledgements

- Results presented in this presentation have been obtained within the frame of:
 - the FWO-IRI project I002123N "Essential Technologies for the Einstein Telescope" (2023-2024);
 - the FWO-IRI project I000725N "ET-TECH: Empowering Tomorrow's Technological Horizons for Einstein Telescope" (2025);
 - the FWO Research Collaboration "Modelling external vibration sources" (2026).

The financial support of the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) is gratefully acknowledged.

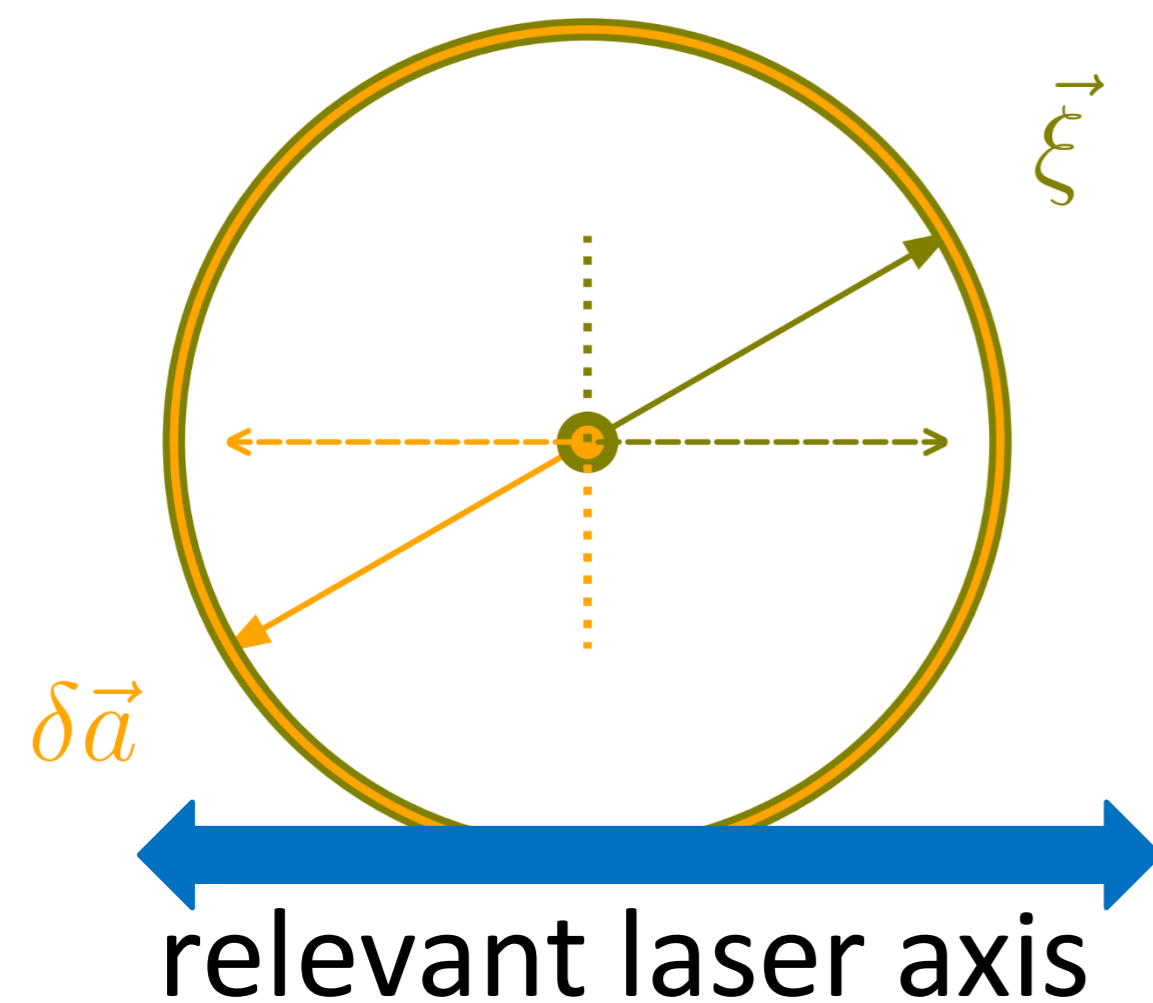


Cavern Wall Newtonian Noise Coupling

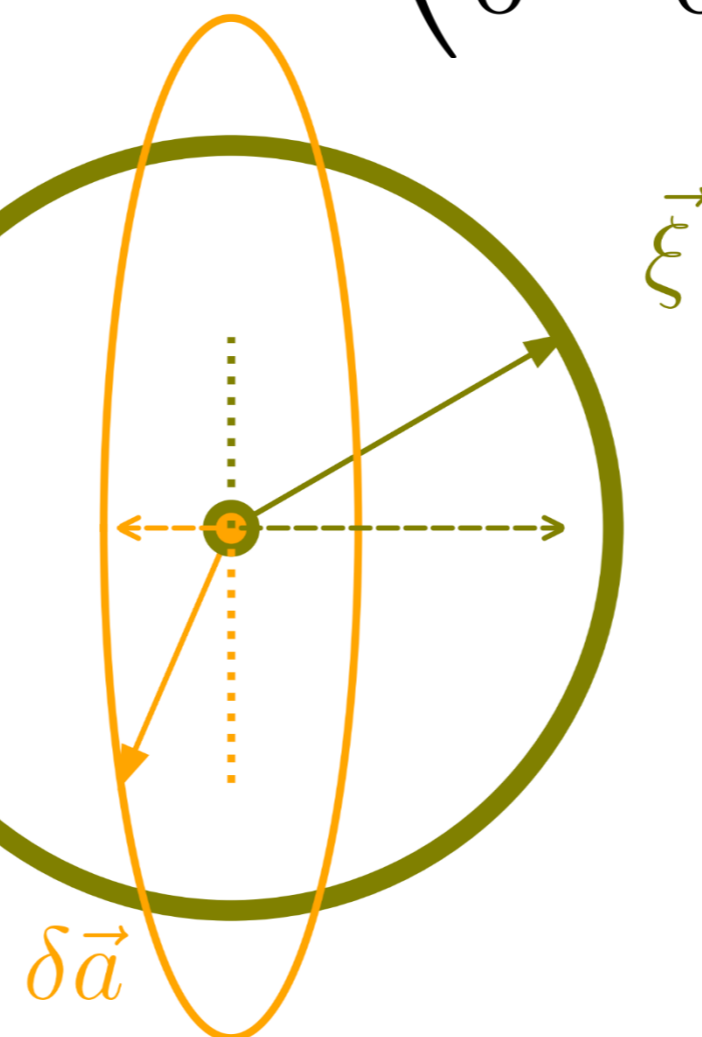
For **small caverns** (with respect to the seismic wavelength) one can derive **analytical approximations for NN coupling** of mirror acceleration and seismic displacement:

$$\delta \vec{a}_{\text{low}}^{\text{SCA}}(\vec{r}_0, t) = -\frac{4\pi}{3} G \rho_0 \underline{\underline{C}}^{\text{SCA}} \vec{\xi}(\vec{r}_0, t)$$

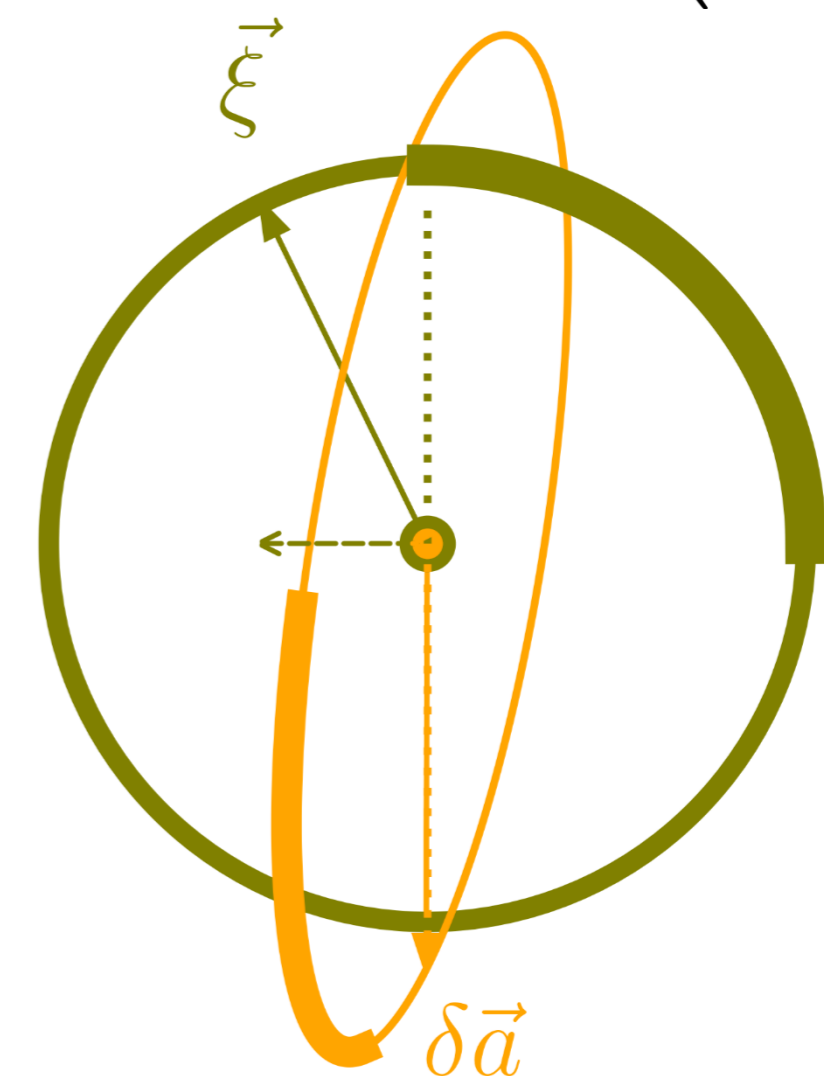
$$-\underline{\underline{C}}^{\text{SCA}} = -\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$-\underline{\underline{C}}^{\text{SCA}} = -\begin{pmatrix} \frac{4}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{4}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

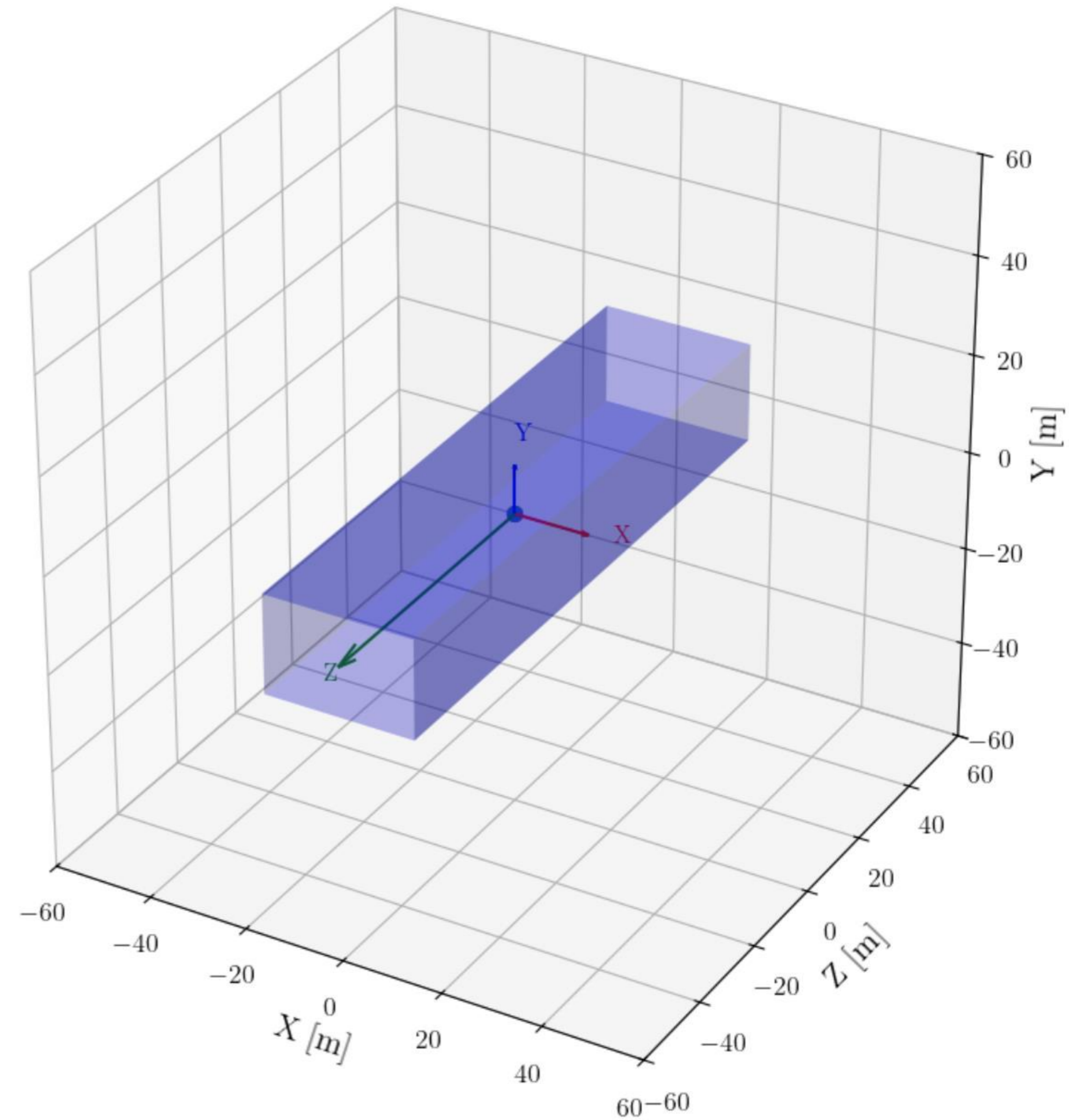


$$-\underline{\underline{C}}^{\text{SCA}} = -\begin{pmatrix} \frac{4}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{4}{3} & \frac{1}{6} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$



Cavern Wall Newtonian Noise Coupling

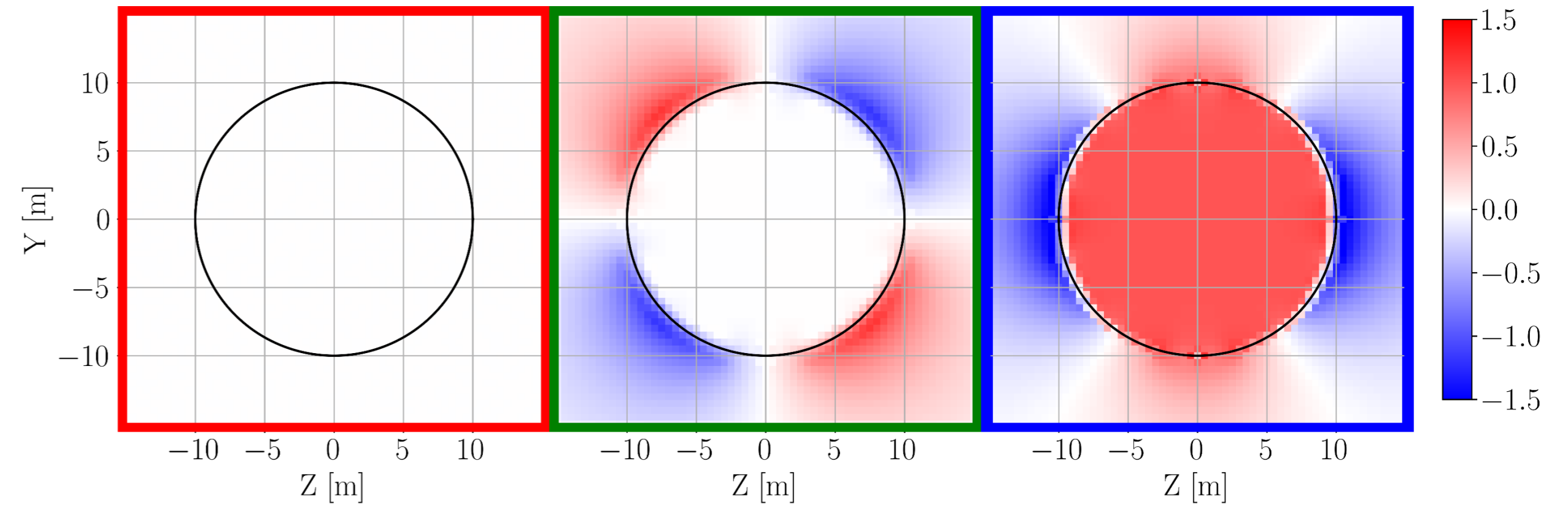
$$\underline{\underline{C}}^{\text{SCA}} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{xx} & C_{xy} & C_{xz} \\ C_{xy} & C_{yy} & C_{yz} \\ C_{xz} & C_{yz} & C_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$



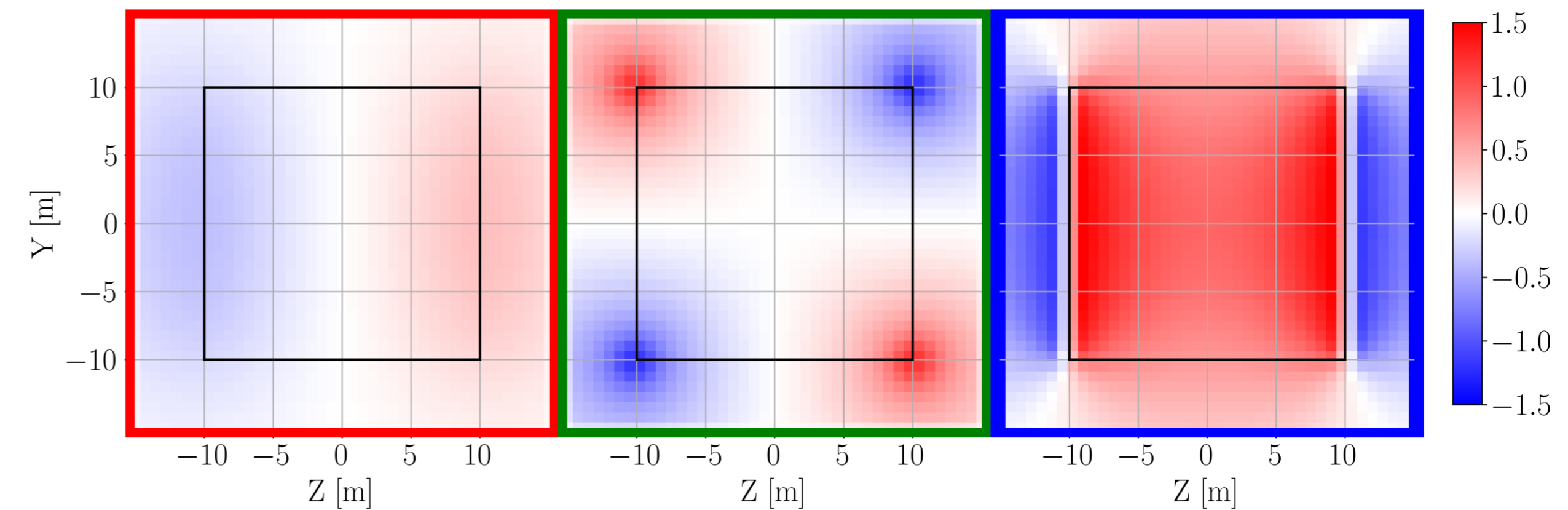
Coupling elements inside different caverns

$$\underline{\underline{C}}^{\text{SCA}} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{xx} & c_{xy} & c_{xz} \\ c_{xy} & c_{yy} & c_{yz} \\ \boxed{c_{xz}} & \boxed{c_{yz}} & \boxed{c_{zz}} \end{bmatrix}$$

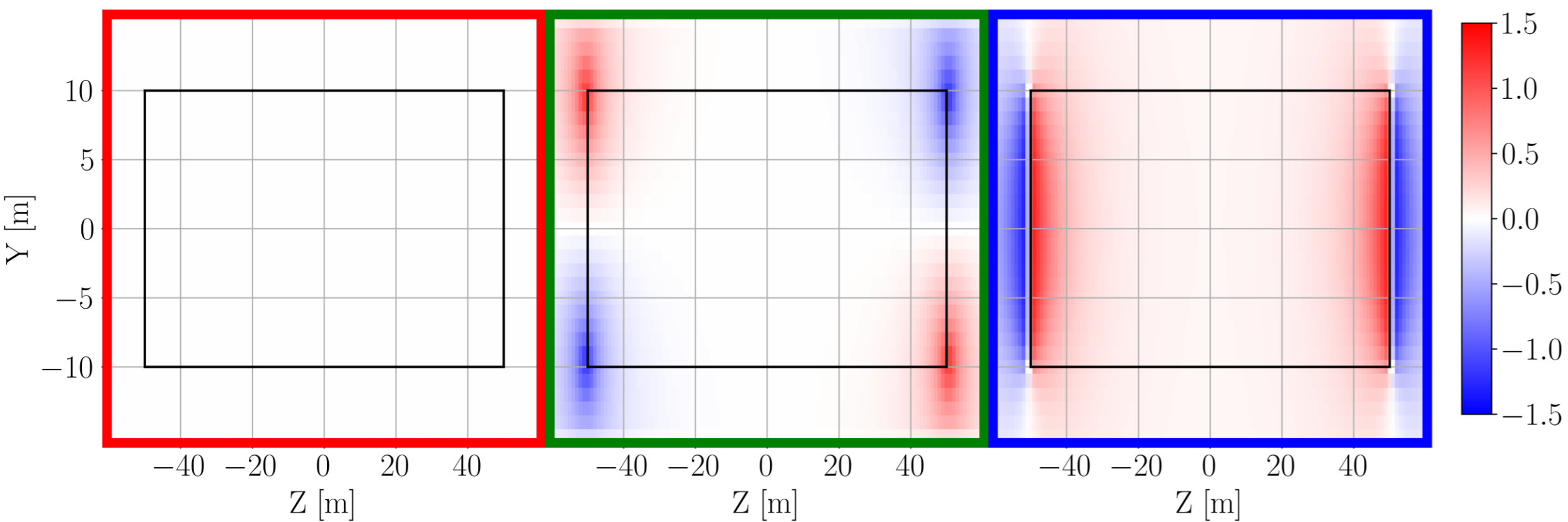
a) Sphere R=10m [cut through cavern center]



b) cube [cut through cavern off center (-5m)]



c) elongated cylinder L=100m [cut at center X]

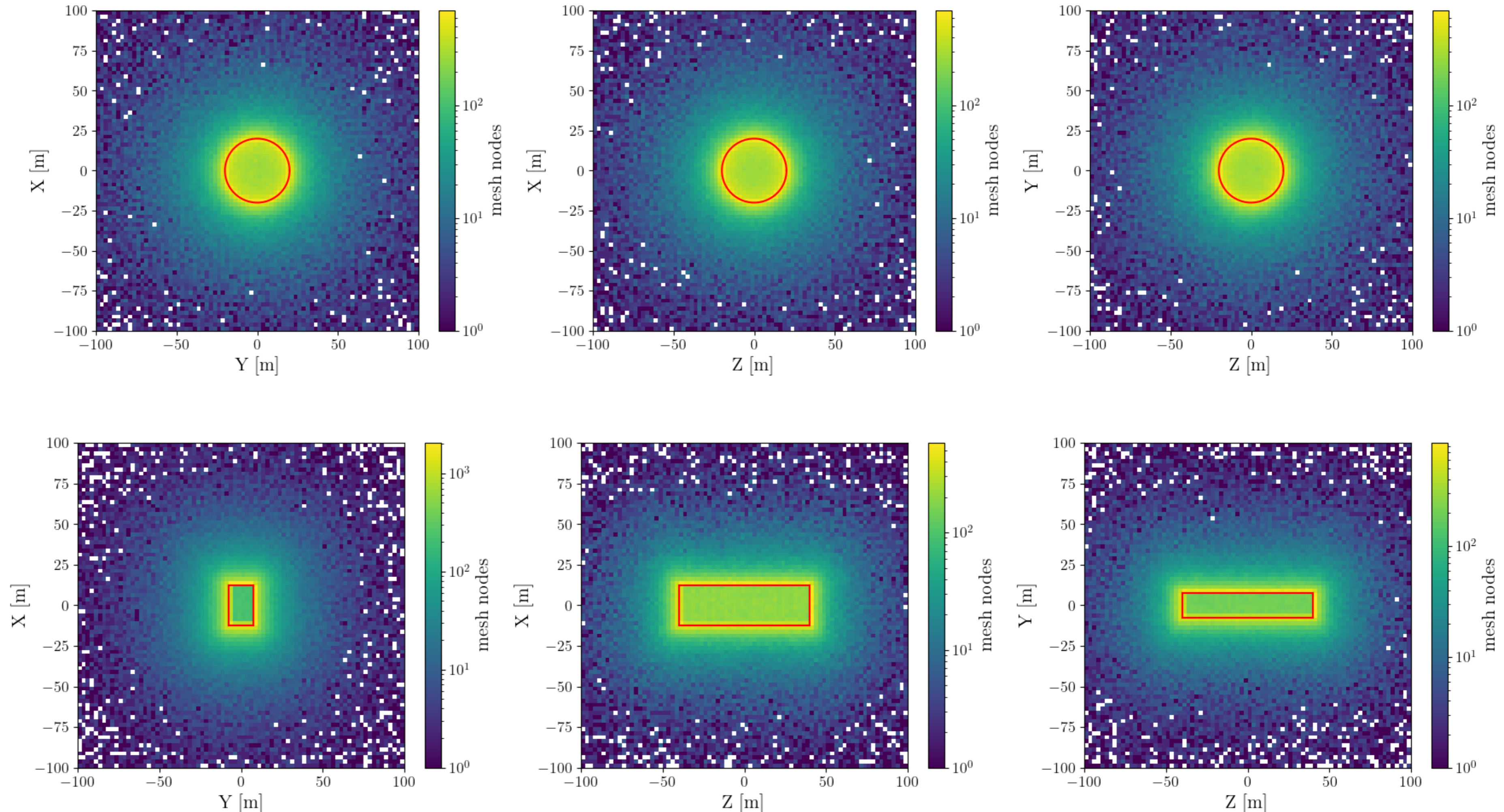


ANNA mesh examples

→ Validation of cavern wall effects in ANNA:

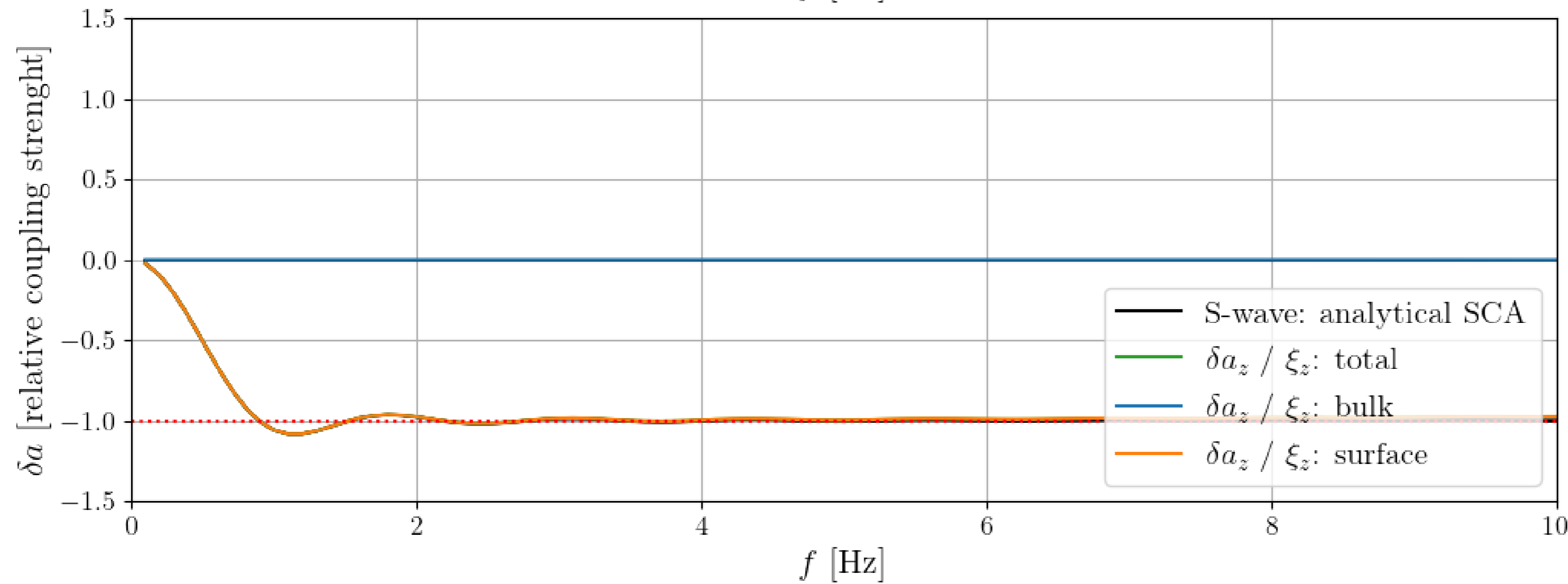
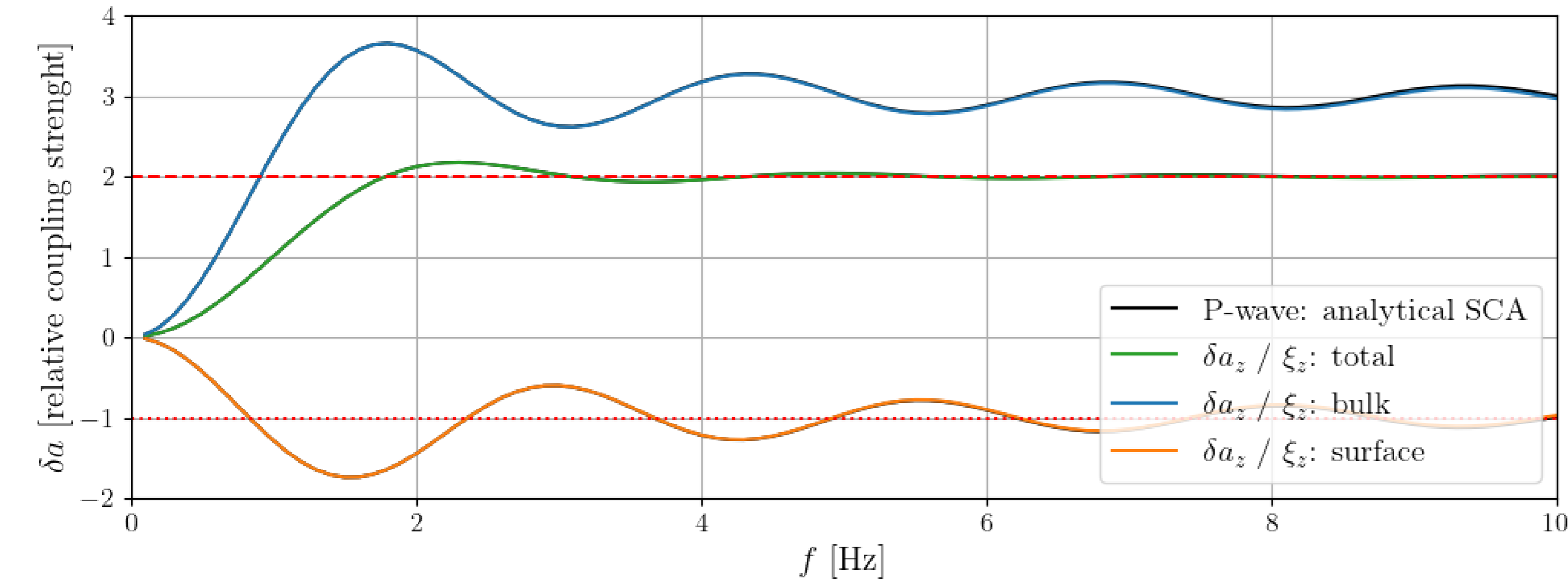
1. embed in homogenous space ($R=2000\text{m}$)
2. choose simple cavern geometries
3. choose simple seismic fields (P- and S- waves)

→ Analytical results for comparison available

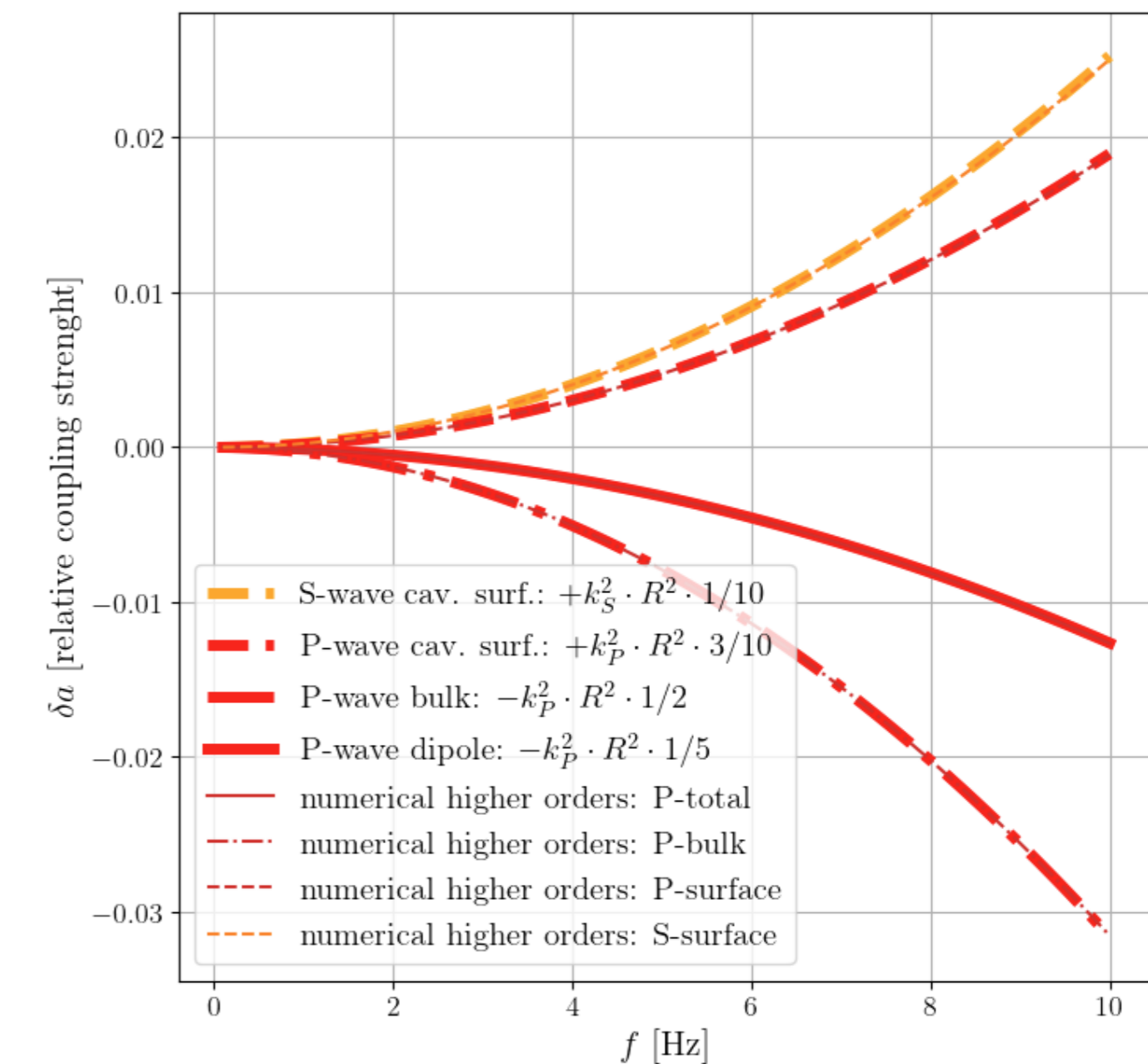


For both the surface integrals and dipole description:
dense meshed around cavern needed

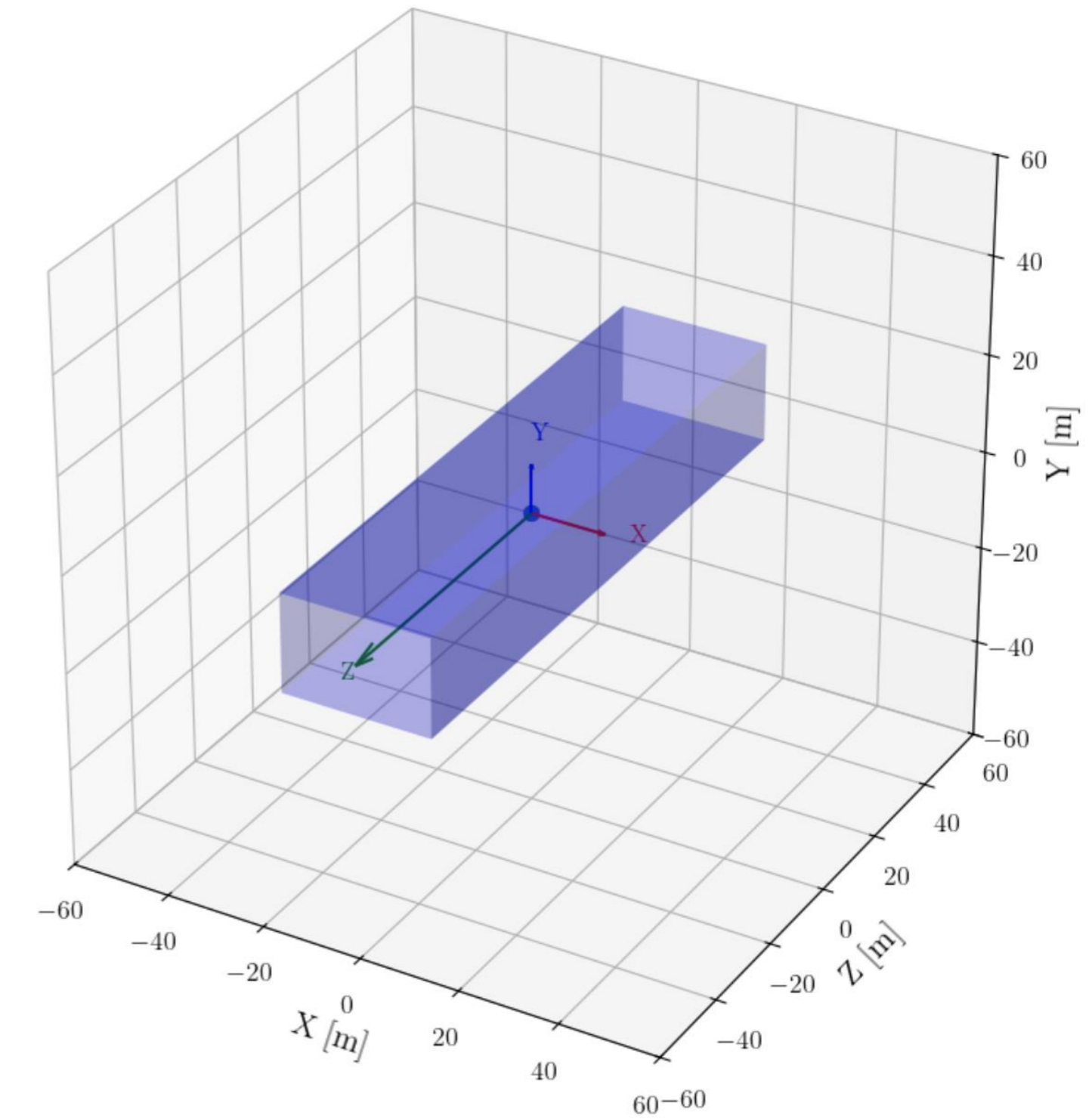
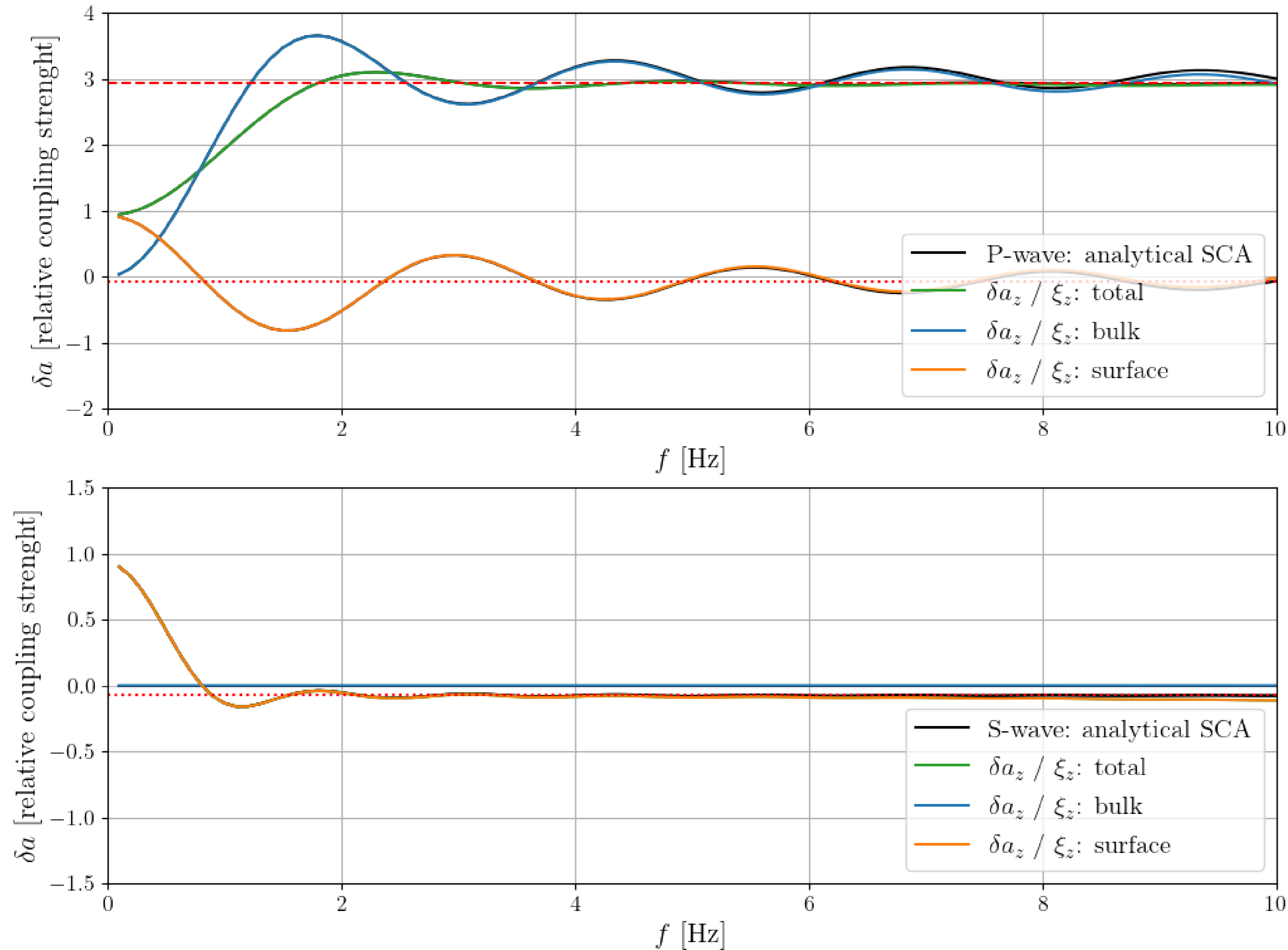
Validating numerical tools against analytic solutions



$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta \vec{a}_P(\vec{r}_0, t) &= \delta \vec{a}_P^{\text{cav. surf.}} + \delta \vec{a}_P^{\text{rock. surf.}} + \delta \vec{a}_P^{\text{bulk}} = \delta \vec{a}_P^{\text{dipole}} \\
 &= -4\pi G \rho_0 \vec{\xi}_P(\vec{r}_0, t) \cdot \left[j_0(k_P r_{\text{cav}}) - 2 \frac{j_1(k_P r_{\text{cav}})}{k_P r_{\text{cav}}} \right] \\
 &\quad + 4\pi G \rho_0 \vec{\xi}_P(\vec{r}_0, t) \cdot \left[j_0(k_P r_{\text{rock}}) - 2 \frac{j_1(k_P r_{\text{rock}})}{k_P r_{\text{rock}}} \right] \\
 &\quad + 4\pi G \rho_0 \vec{\xi}_P(\vec{r}_0, t) \cdot [-j_0(k_P r_{\text{rock}}) + j_0(k_P r_{\text{cav}})] \\
 &= 8\pi G \rho_0 \vec{\xi}_P(\vec{r}_0, t) \cdot \left[\frac{j_1(k_P r_{\text{cav}})}{k_P r_{\text{cav}}} - \frac{j_1(k_P r_{\text{rock}})}{k_P r_{\text{rock}}} \right] \\
 \delta \vec{a}_S(\vec{r}_0, t) &= \delta \vec{a}_S^{\text{cav. surf.}} + \delta \vec{a}_S^{\text{rock. surf.}} + 0 = \delta \vec{a}_S^{\text{dipole}} \\
 &= -4\pi G \rho_0 \vec{\xi}_S(\vec{r}_0, t) \cdot \left[\frac{j_1(k_S r_{\text{cav}})}{k_S r_{\text{cav}}} \right] + 4\pi G \rho_0 \vec{\xi}_S(\vec{r}_0, t) \cdot \left[\frac{j_1(k_S r_{\text{rock}})}{k_S r_{\text{rock}}} \right] \\
 &= -4\pi G \rho_0 \vec{\xi}_S(\vec{r}_0, t) \cdot \left[\frac{j_1(k_S r_{\text{cav}})}{k_S r_{\text{cav}}} - \frac{j_1(k_S r_{\text{rock}})}{k_S r_{\text{rock}}} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$



Validating numerical tools against analytic solutions

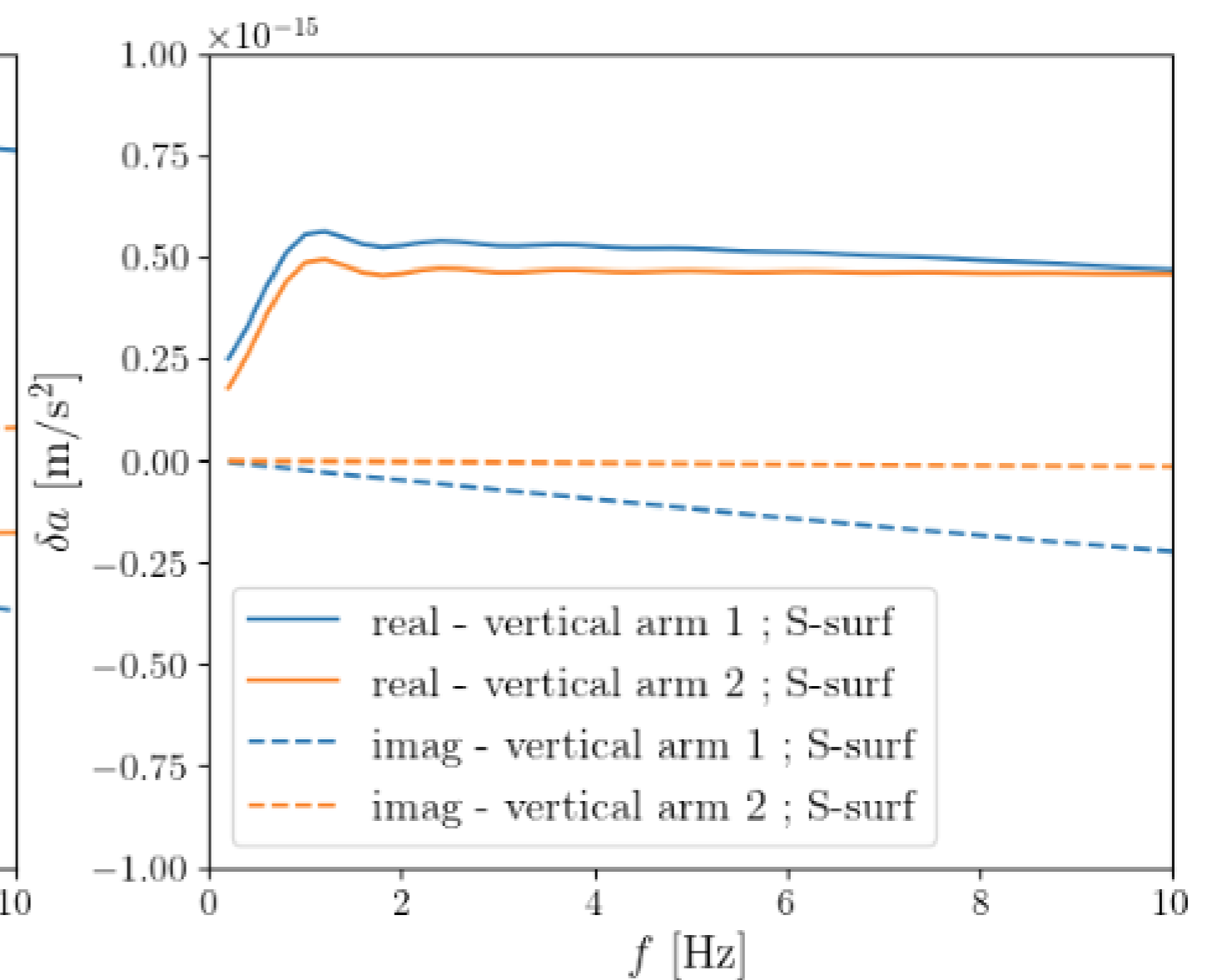
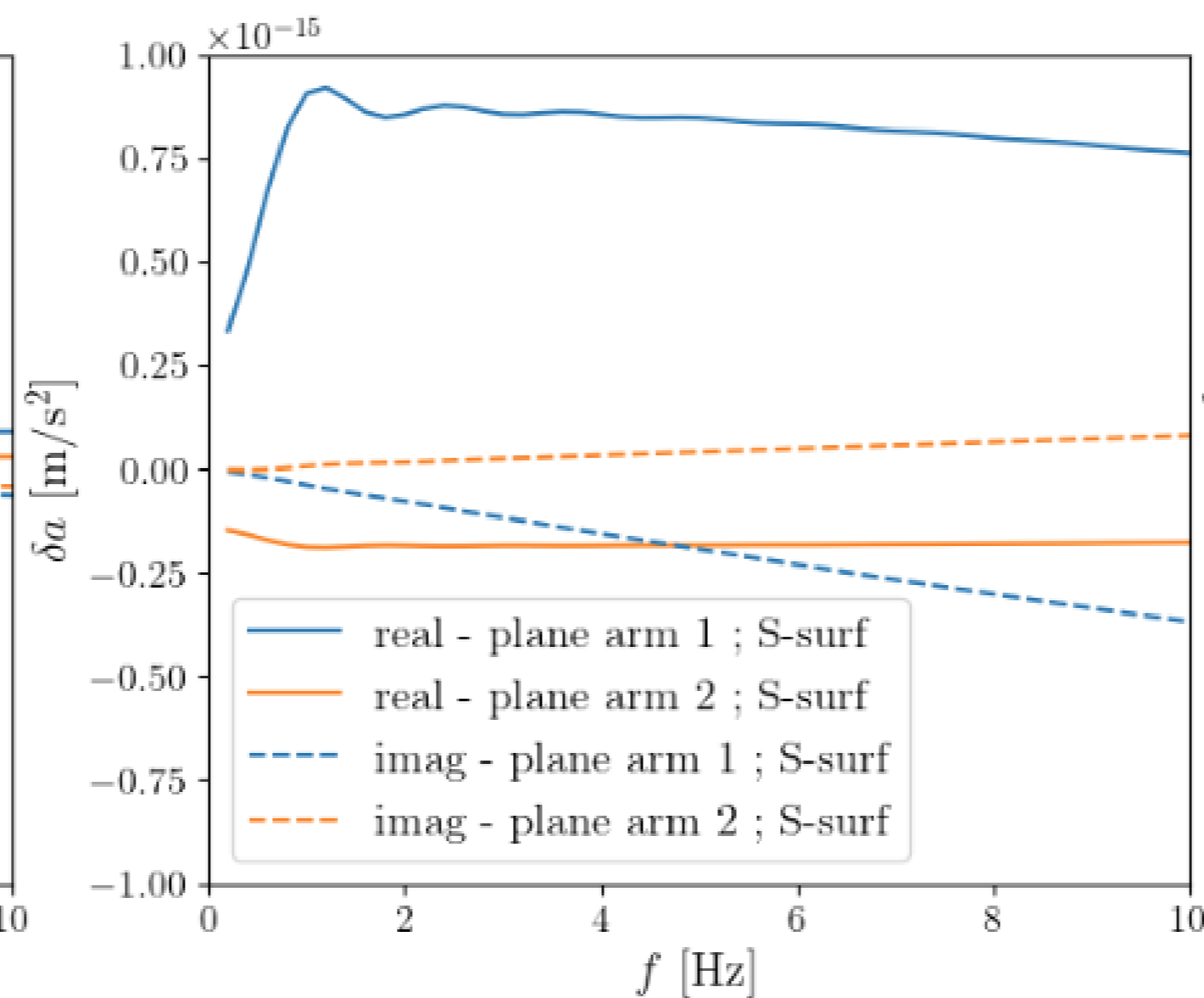
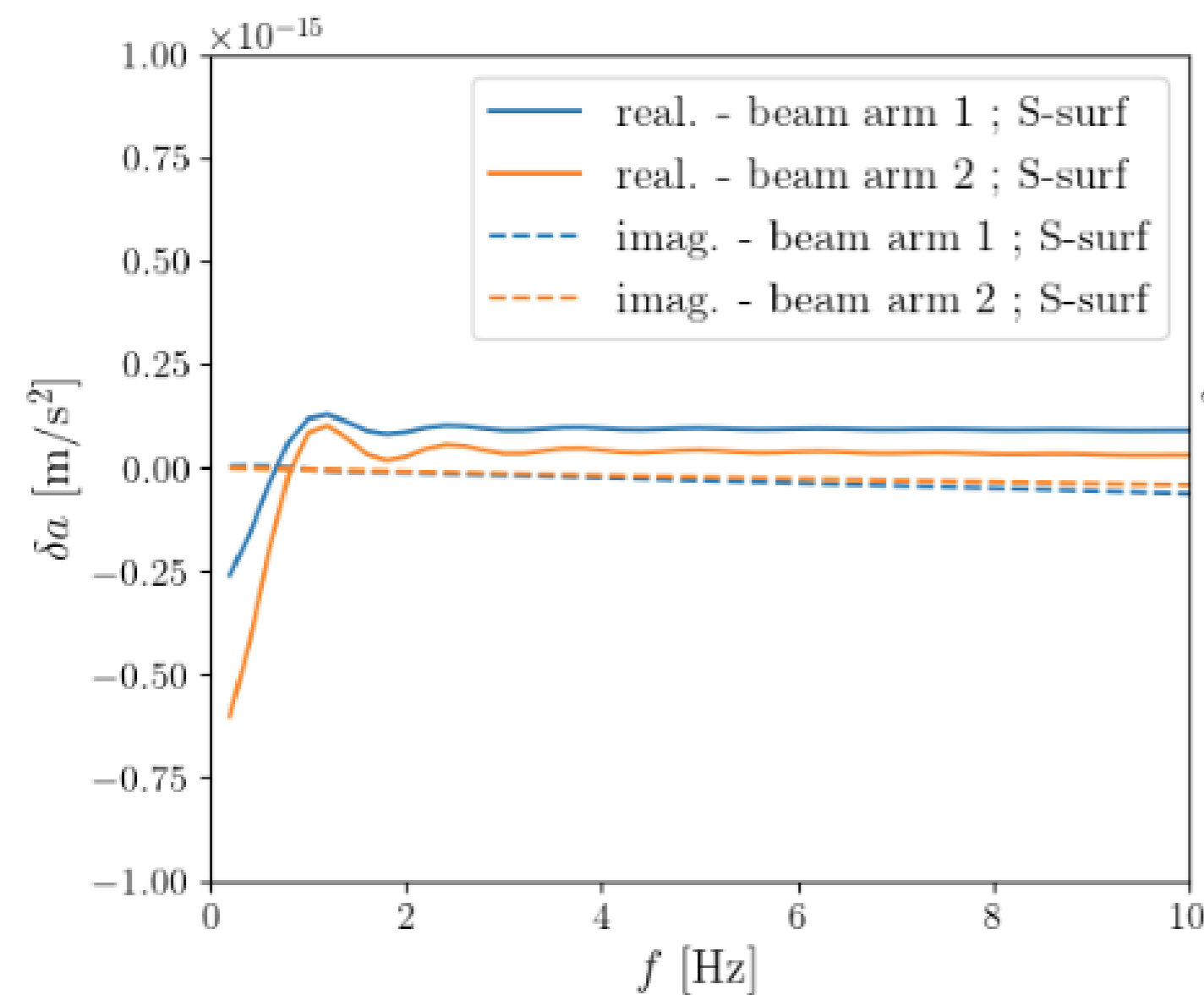
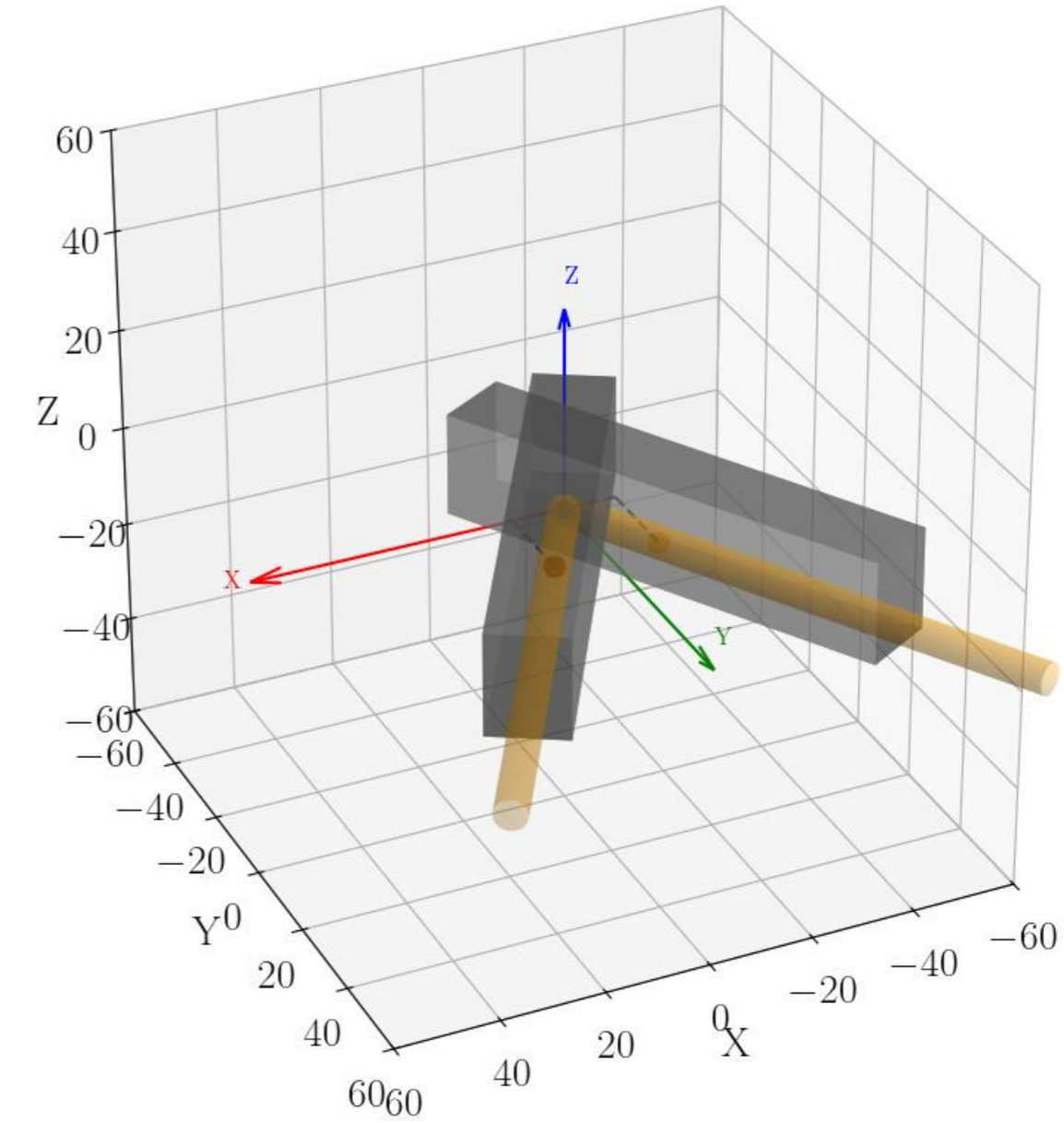
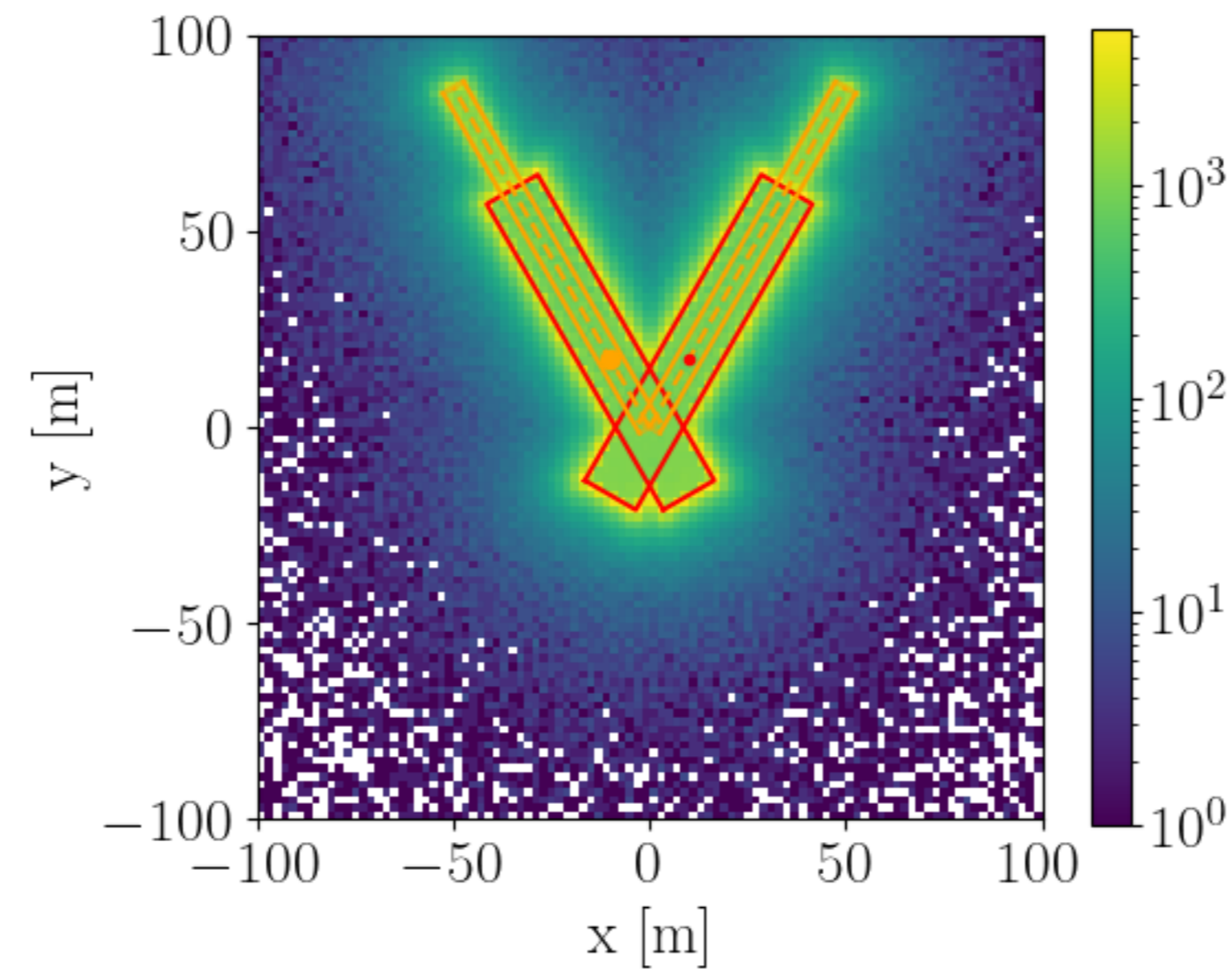


$$a_{\text{diag.}}(x_0, y_0, z_0, B, H, L) = +\frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_{i,j,k=-1,+1} \arctan \left(\left(\left(\frac{L+k \cdot 2z_0}{B+i \cdot 2x_0} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{L+k \cdot 2z_0}{H+j \cdot 2y_0} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{(L+k \cdot 2z_0)(L+k \cdot 2z_0)}{(B+i \cdot 2x_0)(H+j \cdot 2y_0)} \right)^2 \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

$$a_{\text{off-diag.}}(x_0, y_0, z_0, B, H, L) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_{i,j,k=-1,+1} j \cdot k \operatorname{artanh} \left(\left(1 + \left(\frac{H+j \cdot 2y_0}{B+i \cdot 2x_0} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{L+k \cdot 2z_0}{B+i \cdot 2x_0} \right)^2 \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

ANNA example for two mirrors in corner caverns

Testing ANNA: for incoming S-wave at ET corner cavern walls



Summary and Outlook

- We extensively validate numerical NN software:
 - **very good agreement with analytical theory** for NN accelerations in all scenarios checked so far → **confidence** in future results
 - both leading and higher order effects: resolved very well
 - **both modeling approaches**: “dipole” and “bulk + surface” **consistent**
→ allowing for cross-check of mesh quality even without analytical results
- NN response can significantly depend on local geometry close to the mirrors
- Ongoing work towards ET Symposium Aachen: EMR NN modeling with 3D model including geology, recent caverns models and topography