

Numerical approximation of a concrete carbonation model: study of the \sqrt{t} -law of propagation

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Abstract: In this paper, we are interested in the long time behavior of approximate solutions to a free boundary model which appears in the modeling of concrete carbonation [1]. In particular, we study the long time regime of the moving interface. The numerical solutions are obtained by an implicit in time and finite volume in space scheme. We show the existence of solutions to the scheme and, following [2, 3], we prove that the approximate free boundary increases in time following a \sqrt{t} -law. Finally, we supplement the study through numerical experiments.

1 Introduction

The carbonation phenomenon in reinforced concrete is a physico-chemical reaction which produces a moving interface inside the concrete. The carbonation process can be described as follows: CO_2 in gaseous phase which comes from the atmosphere is quickly transformed in CO_2 in aqueous phase. The transformation of $\text{CO}_2(\text{g})$ to $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$ leads to the carbonation reaction when $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$ reacts with $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2(\text{aq})$. This reaction produces a moving interface which splits the concrete in two parts: the carbonated one which grows in time and the uncarbonated one. We refer to [1, 2, 3, 6, 8] for more details on the concrete carbonation reaction.

In [1], Aiki and Muntean have proposed a free boundary system in one dimension in space modeling concrete carbonation. This model consists in a system of two weakly coupled reaction-diffusion equations in a varying domain, the carbonated zone, whose length is governed by an ordinary differential equation. In this model, the unknowns u and v represent the mass concentration of CO_2 respectively in aqueous and gaseous phase and s represents the penetration depth which measures the size of the carbonated zone. Let us mention that this system is derived from [6].

In this paper, we consider the numerical approximation of the model proposed in [1]. As mentioned above, this system is defined on a varying domain. For numerical reasons, it is convenient to rewrite this model on a fixed domain. To this end, we use a change of variables [8], and in the sequel we consider

$$Q(T) = \{(t, x) : 0 < x < 1, 0 < t < T\},$$

and the following system:

$$s(t)\partial_t(s(t)u) + \partial_x J_u = s^2(t)f(u, v) \quad \text{in } Q(T), \quad (1a)$$

$$s(t)\partial_t(s(t)v) + \partial_x J_v = -s^2(t)f(u, v) \quad \text{in } Q(T), \quad (1b)$$

$$s'(t) = \psi(u(1, t)) \quad \text{for } 0 < t < T, \quad (1c)$$

$$u(0, t) = g(t) \quad \text{for } 0 < t < T, \quad (1d)$$

$$v(0, t) = r(t) \quad \text{for } 0 < t < T, \quad (1e)$$

$$J_u(1, t) = s(t)\psi(u(1, t)) \quad \text{for } 0 < t < T, \quad (1f)$$

$$J_v(1, t) = 0 \quad \text{for } 0 < t < T, \quad (1g)$$

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(s_0x) \quad \text{for } 0 < x < 1, \quad (1h)$$

$$v(x, 0) = v_0(s_0x) \quad \text{for } 0 < x < 1, \quad (1i)$$

$$s(0) = s_0. \quad (1j)$$

The general convection-diffusion fluxes are defined by

$$J_w = -\kappa_w \partial_x w - s(t)s'(t)xw,$$

where $w = u$ or v . We refer to [1], where existence and uniqueness of a global solution to (1) are established. As in the theoretical analysis, we suppose that the following assumptions are satisfied:

(A1) $\psi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ represents the kinetics of the reaction and is defined by

$\psi(x) = \alpha x^p$ with $\alpha > 0$ and $p \geq 1$,

(A2) $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is given by the Henry's law and is defined by

$f(u, v) = \beta(\gamma v - u)$ with β and γ two positive constants,

(A3) g and r belong to $H^1(0, T)$,

(A4) u_0 and v_0 belong to $L^\infty([0, s_0])$,

(A5) the diffusive coefficients κ_u and κ_v are two positive constants,

(A6) $s_0 > 0$,

(A7) there exist g^* and r^* two positive constants with $g^* = \gamma r^*$ such that

$$0 \leq g \leq g^* \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq r \leq r^* \quad \text{on } [0, +\infty[,$$

$$0 \leq u_0 \leq g^* \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq v_0 \leq r^* \quad \text{on } [0, s_0].$$

In [2, 3], Aiki and Muntean show that the penetration depth s follows a \sqrt{t} -law of propagation for constant Dirichlet boundary conditions. In this case, they prove the existence of two positive constants c and C independent of t such that

$$c\sqrt{t} \leq s(t) \leq C\sqrt{1+t}, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \quad (2)$$

They extend their result to the case of time dependent Dirichlet boundary conditions in [4]. We notice that there exists a wide literature in the continuous setting on the long time behavior of the free interface for Stefan like problem, see for instance [9, 10, 11, 14] and references therein. However, up to our knowledge, there exist no such results in the discrete setting.

In [8], we propose and show the convergence of a finite volume scheme for (1) and we observe that the approximate penetration depth follows a \sqrt{t} -law of propagation. The aim of this paper is to establish an inequality similar to (2). In [2, 3], the key idea is to prove an energy equality and then to deduce the

\sqrt{t} -bounds satisfied by s . In the discrete setting the main difficulty is to define a scheme which permits to adapt this proof. To this end, we need to modify the scheme proposed in [8] and we will consider in this paper a fully implicit in time and finite volume in space scheme.

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 introduces the numerical scheme and states the main results. Theorem 2.1 gives the existence of a solution to the scheme and Theorem 2.2 gives the long time behavior of the approximate penetration depth. Section 3 is devoted to the proof of Theorem 2.1, while we establish in Section 4 a discrete $L^2(0, T; H^1(0, 1))$ estimate needed for the proof of Theorem 2.2. Theorem 2.2 is then proved in Section 5. We present some numerical results obtained with the scheme in Section 6. Finally, an Appendix gives a result required for the theoretical study of the scheme.

2 Numerical scheme and main results

2.1 The fully implicit finite volume scheme

In order to write a finite volume scheme we introduce notations related to the discretisation of $[0, 1] \times [0, T]$. A mesh \mathcal{T} , consists in a finite sequence of cells denoted $(x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}, x_{i+\frac{1}{2}})$, for $1 \leq i \leq l$, with

$$0 = x_{\frac{1}{2}} < x_{\frac{3}{2}} < \dots < x_{l-\frac{1}{2}} < x_{l+\frac{1}{2}} = 1.$$

We note $h_i = x_{i+\frac{1}{2}} - x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}$, for $1 \leq i \leq l$, the length of the i -th cell. The mesh size is defined as $h = \max\{h_i, 1 \leq i \leq l\}$. Moreover, for $1 \leq i \leq l$, we define x_i as the center of the cell $(x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}, x_{i+\frac{1}{2}})$, $x_0 = x_{\frac{1}{2}}$ and $x_{l+1} = x_{l+\frac{1}{2}}$. We set

$$h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = x_{i+1} - x_i \quad \text{for } 0 \leq i \leq l.$$

For the discretisation of $[0, T]$, we define a time step Δt and an integer N_T such that $N_T \Delta t = T$. We consider the sequence $(t_n)_{0 \leq n \leq N_T}$ with $t_n = n\Delta t$.

Then, for $1 \leq i \leq l$ and $0 \leq n \leq N_T - 1$, the scheme writes

$$s^{n+1} = s^n + \Delta t \psi(u_{l+1}^{n+1}), \quad (3)$$

$$h_i s^{n+1} \frac{s^{n+1} u_i^{n+1} - s^n u_i^n}{\Delta t} + \left(\mathcal{F}_{u, i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} - \mathcal{F}_{u, i-\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} \right) = h_i (s^{n+1})^2 f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}), \quad (4)$$

$$h_i s^{n+1} \frac{s^{n+1} v_i^{n+1} - s^n v_i^n}{\Delta t} + \left(\mathcal{F}_{v, i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} - \mathcal{F}_{v, i-\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} \right) = - h_i (s^{n+1})^2 f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}). \quad (5)$$

It remains to define the numerical fluxes. We define

$$\sigma^{n+1} = s^{n+1} \frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t}, \quad (6)$$

and we define a generic numerical flux, that is:

$$\mathcal{F}_{w,i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} = \kappa_w \frac{B\left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_w}\right) w_i^{n+1} - B\left(\frac{-h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_w}\right) w_{i+1}^{n+1}}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}, \quad (7)$$

for $w = u$ or v . For B , we should consider the upwind fluxes $B(x) = B_{up}(x) = 1 + x^-$ with $x^- = \max(-x, 0)$ (see [7]) or the Scharfetter-Gummel fluxes $B(x) = B_{sg}(x) = x/(e^x - 1)$ with $B(0) = 1$ introduced by Il'in in [12] and Scharfetter and Gummel in [13]. We notice that in both cases the function B satisfies the following assumptions:

$$B \text{ is } L_B\text{-Lipschitz continuous on } \mathbb{R}, \quad (8a)$$

$$B(0) = 1 \text{ and } B(x) > 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (8b)$$

$$B(x) \leq 1, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^+, \quad (8c)$$

$$B(x) - B(-x) = -x, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (8d)$$

We supplement the numerical scheme with the discretization of the boundary conditions

$$v_0^n = r^n = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} r(t) dt, \quad u_0^n = g^n = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} g(t) dt, \quad (9)$$

for $0 \leq n \leq N_T$ and

$$\mathcal{F}_{v,l+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{u,l+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} = s^{n+1} \psi(u_{l+1}^{n+1}). \quad (11)$$

Moreover, thanks to (3) and (6), we have for $0 \leq n \leq N_T$

$$\mathcal{F}_{u,l+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} = s^{n+1} \psi(u_{l+1}^{n+1}) = \sigma^{n+1}. \quad (12)$$

Finally, for the initial conditions we define for $1 \leq i \leq l$

$$s^0 = s_0, \quad (13)$$

$$w_i^0 = \frac{1}{h} \int_{x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}}^{x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} w_0(s_0 x) dx \quad \text{and} \quad w_{l+1}^0 = w_0(s_0), \quad (14)$$

for $w = u$ or v . We denote by (S) the scheme (3)-(14).

Remark 2.1. *Let us notice that thanks to the hypothesis (8d) we have for $1 \leq i \leq l$ and $n \geq 0$ two decomposition formulae for the fluxes, either an upwind reformulation*

$$\mathcal{F}_{w,i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} = -\kappa_w B\left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_w}\right) \frac{w_{i+1}^{n+1} - w_i^{n+1}}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} - \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}} w_{i+1}^{n+1}, \quad (15)$$

or a centered one

$$\mathcal{F}_{w,i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} = -\kappa_w B^c \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_w} \right) \frac{w_{i+1}^{n+1} - w_i^{n+1}}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} - \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \frac{w_i^{n+1} + w_{i+1}^{n+1}}{2}, \quad (16)$$

with

$$B^c(x) = \frac{B(x) + B(-x)}{2}, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (17)$$

2.2 Main results

First, we state the existence of a solution to the scheme (S). Let us introduce for a given \mathcal{T} the compact and convex set

$$\mathbb{K} = \left\{ (u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^{l+2} \times \mathbb{R}^{l+2} : 0 \leq u_i \leq g^*, 0 \leq v_i \leq r^*, \forall 0 \leq i \leq l+1 \right\}.$$

Theorem 2.1. *Under the assumptions (A1)-(A7) and (8) and for a given mesh \mathcal{T} and a given Δt then (S) admits a solution (s^n, u^n, v^n) for all $0 \leq n \leq N_T$ such that*

$$(u^n, v^n) \in \mathbb{K} \quad \text{and} \quad s^n \geq s^0 > 0, \quad \forall 0 \leq n \leq N_T. \quad (18)$$

Moreover

$$0 \leq \frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \leq \alpha (g^*)^p, \quad \forall 0 \leq n \leq N_T - 1. \quad (19)$$

We prove Theorem 2.1 in Section 3. The proof is based on the Brouwer's fixed-point theorem.

As already said, our main result concerns the long time behavior of the approximate penetration depth. This result is given in Theorem 2.2.

Theorem 2.2. *For a given Δt , let the hypothesis (A1) – (A7) and (8) hold, assume that $g(t) = g^*$ and $r(t) = r^*$ for $t \in [0, +\infty)$ with $g^* + r^* < 1$. Then, there exist two positive constants c and C independent of Δt such that*

$$c \sqrt{T} \leq s^{N_T} \leq C \sqrt{T+1}. \quad (20)$$

We show Theorem 2.2 in Section 5. For the proof, we establish two energy inequalities, see Proposition 5.1 and Proposition 5.2. Then, we prove the lower and upper bound of (20).

3 Existence of a solution to the scheme

In this Section, we prove Theorem 2.1. The proof of existence is done by induction on n and we follow some ideas developed in [5]. Let us note that the element s^0 is defined by (13) and the vectors u^0 and v^0 are defined by (14). Hypothesis (A7) ensures that u^0 and v^0 fulfill the condition (18).

We suppose that, for some $n \geq 0$, (s^n, u^n, v^n) is known and satisfies (18)

and (19). We want to establish the existence of $(s^{n+1}, u^{n+1}, v^{n+1})$ solution to (S) satisfying (18) and (19). To this end, we introduce the application $T^n : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{l+2} \times \mathbb{R}^{l+2}$, such that $T^n(u, v) = (\hat{u}, \hat{v})$. The definition of T^n is based on the linear scheme proposed in [8] and defined in two steps.

- First, for $(u, v) \in \mathbb{K}$ we define the element

$$\hat{s} = s^n + \Delta t \alpha (u_{l+1})^p. \quad (21)$$

- Then, we define (\hat{u}, \hat{v}) as the solution to the following linear scheme

$$\begin{aligned} h_i \hat{s} \frac{\hat{s} \hat{v}_i - s^n v_i^n}{\Delta t} + \left(\hat{G}_{\hat{v}, i+\frac{1}{2}} - \hat{G}_{\hat{v}, i-\frac{1}{2}} \right) &= -h_i (\hat{s})^2 f(u_i, \hat{v}_i), \\ h_i \hat{s} \frac{\hat{s} \hat{u}_i - s^n u_i^n}{\Delta t} + \left(\hat{G}_{\hat{u}, i+\frac{1}{2}} - \hat{G}_{\hat{u}, i-\frac{1}{2}} \right) &= h_i (\hat{s})^2 f(\hat{u}_i, \hat{v}_i), \end{aligned}$$

for $1 \leq i \leq l$ and

$$\hat{G}_{\hat{v}, l+\frac{1}{2}} = 0, \quad \hat{G}_{\hat{u}, l+\frac{1}{2}} = \hat{s} \alpha \hat{u}_{l+1} (u_{l+1})^{p-1},$$

where

$$\hat{G}_{\hat{w}, i+\frac{1}{2}} = \kappa_w \frac{B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_w} \right) \hat{w}_i - B \left(\frac{-h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_w} \right) \hat{w}_{i+1}}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}},$$

with

$$\sigma = \hat{s} \frac{\hat{s} - s^n}{\Delta t}.$$

We supplement this scheme by the boundary conditions

$$\hat{v}_0 = r^{n+1} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{u}_0 = g^{n+1},$$

with r^{n+1} and g^{n+1} defined by (9).

We notice two important facts. First, the assumption (A7) ensures that \hat{v}_0 and \hat{u}_0 satisfy

$$0 \leq \hat{v}_0 \leq r^* \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq \hat{u}_0 \leq g^*.$$

Furthermore, since

$$0 \leq \frac{\hat{s} - s^n}{\Delta t} \leq \alpha (g^*)^p,$$

and using the boundary condition for \hat{v} at $x = 1$ and the hypothesis (8), we rewrite \hat{v}_{l+1} as

$$\hat{v}_{l+1} = \omega \hat{v}_l, \quad (22)$$

with ω a positive constant. Then, it suffices to study the two decoupled linear systems which can be written as

$$\mathbb{M}_{\hat{u}} \hat{U} = b_{\hat{u}} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{M}_{\hat{v}} \hat{V} = b_{\hat{v}},$$

with $\hat{U} = (\hat{u}_1, \dots, \hat{u}_{l+1})^t$, $\hat{V} = (\hat{v}_1, \dots, \hat{v}_l)^t$, $\mathbb{M}_{\hat{u}} \in \mathcal{M}_{l+1}(\mathbb{R})$, $\mathbb{M}_{\hat{v}} \in \mathcal{M}_l(\mathbb{R})$, $b_{\hat{u}} \in \mathbb{R}^{l+1}$ and $b_{\hat{v}} \in \mathbb{R}^l$. The matrices $\mathbb{M}_{\hat{u}}$ and $\mathbb{M}_{\hat{v}}$ are tridiagonal. Moreover, $\mathbb{M}_{\hat{u}}$ and $\mathbb{M}_{\hat{v}}$ are M-matrices and thus invertible and monotone, see [8]. Since, $b_{\hat{u}} \geq 0$ and $b_{\hat{v}} \geq 0$, we deduce thanks to the induction hypothesis that $\hat{U} \geq 0$, $\hat{V} \geq 0$ and by (22) we conclude that $\hat{v}_{l+1} \geq 0$.

Finally, following the proof of [8], we show that for all $i \in \{1, \dots, l+1\}$ we have

$$\hat{u}_i \leq g^* \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{v}_i \leq r^*.$$

Thus, T^n stabilizes the set \mathbb{K} and then, thanks to the Brouwer's fixed-point theorem, T^n has a fixed-point in \mathbb{K} , denoted by (u^{n+1}, v^{n+1}) . Eventually, we construct s^{n+1} by

$$s^{n+1} = s^n + \Delta t \alpha (u_{l+1}^{n+1})^p.$$

Hence, we deduce the existence of $(s^{n+1}, u^{n+1}, v^{n+1})$ solution to (S) such that u^{n+1} , v^{n+1} and s^{n+1} satisfy (18). As a by-product, we deduce (19) since $u^{n+1} \in \mathbb{K}$ and $s^{n+1} \geq s^n \geq 0$.

4 Discrete $L^2(0, T; H^1(0, 1))$ estimate on the approximate solutions

Following [2, 3], we establish in this Section a discrete $L^2(0, T; H^1(0, 1))$ estimate. This estimate is the discrete counterpart of Lemma 3.4 in [2]: under the assumptions (A1) – (A7) and if we assume that $g(t) = g^*$ and $r(t) = r^*$ on $[0, +\infty)$. Then, we have the following estimate

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T s^0 \left[\frac{1}{\alpha^{1/p}} (s')^{(p+1)/p} + \frac{1}{2\alpha^{2/p}} (s')^{(p+2)/p} \right] + \kappa_u \int_0^T \int_0^1 |\partial_x u|^2 \\ & \quad + \kappa_v \gamma \int_0^T \int_0^1 |\partial_x v|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^1 s s' (u^2 + \gamma v^2) \\ & + \frac{s^2(T)}{2} ((g^*)^2 + g^* + \gamma (r^*)^2) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 s_0^2 [(u_0(s_0 x) - g^*)^2 + \gamma (v_0(s_0 x) - r^*)^2]. \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

In order to state the discrete version of (23), let us remark that there exists a positive constant τ such that

$$B^c(x) \geq \tau, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

We refer to Appendix A where we prove the existence of τ . Moreover, we notice that in the case of the upwind fluxes or the Scharfetter-Gummel fluxes $\tau = 1$. We now state the discrete $L^2(0, T; H^1(0, 1))$ estimate.

Proposition 4.1. *Let the hypothesis (A1) – (A7) and (8) hold and assume that $g(t) = g^*$ and $r(t) = r^*$ on $[0, +\infty)$. Then, for a given Δt and a given mesh \mathcal{T}*

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t s^0 \left[\frac{1}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+1)/p} + \frac{1}{2\alpha^{2/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+2)/p} \right] \\
& + \kappa_u \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} + \gamma \kappa_v \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \\
& \leq (s^{N_T})^2 ((g^*)^2 + g^* + \gamma (r^*)^2) + \frac{(s_0)^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i [(u_i^0 - g^*)^2 + \gamma (v_i^0 - r^*)^2] \\
& + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_i \sigma^{n+1} [(u_i^{n+1})^2 + \gamma (v_i^{n+1})^2]. \tag{24}
\end{aligned}$$

Proof of Proposition 4.1

We multiply (4) by $\Delta t (u_i^{n+1} - g^*)$ and we sum over i and n , we obtain $E + F = G$, with

$$\begin{aligned}
E &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i s^{n+1} \frac{(s^{n+1} u_i^{n+1} - s^n u_i^n)}{\Delta t} (u_i^{n+1} - g^*), \\
F &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l \left(\mathcal{F}_{u, i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} - \mathcal{F}_{u, i-\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} \right) (u_i^{n+1} - g^*), \\
G &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i (s^{n+1})^2 f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}) (u_i^{n+1} - g^*).
\end{aligned}$$

We notice that we can rewrite E as

$$\begin{aligned}
E &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i s^{n+1} \left[s^{n+1} (u_i^{n+1} - g^*) - s^n (u_i^n - g^*) \right. \\
& \quad \left. + g^* (s^{n+1} - s^n) \right] (u_i^{n+1} - g^*).
\end{aligned}$$

Using the formula $(a - b)a \geq (a^2 - b^2)/2$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
E &\geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i \left[(s^{n+1})^2 (u_i^{n+1} - g^*)^2 - (s^n)^2 (u_i^n - g^*)^2 \right] \\
& \quad + g^* \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i \sigma^{n+1} (u_i^{n+1} - g^*).
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 2.1 implies that $u_i^{n+1} \geq 0$ and $s^{n+1} \geq s^n$ for $1 \leq i \leq l$ and $0 \leq n \leq N_T$. Then, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
E &\geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i \left[(s^{N_T})^2 (u_i^{N_T} - g^*)^2 - (s^0)^2 (u_i^0 - g^*)^2 \right] \\
& \quad - (g^*)^2 \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i \left((s^{n+1})^2 - (s^n)^2 \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, we obtain

$$E \geq -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i (s^0)^2 (u_i^0 - g^*)^2 - (g^*)^2 (s^{N_T})^2. \quad (25)$$

For F , a discrete integration by parts leads to $F = F_1 + F_2$, with

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= - \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \mathcal{F}_{u, i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}), \\ F_2 &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \mathcal{F}_{u, l+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} (u_{l+1}^{n+1} - g^*). \end{aligned}$$

For F_1 , we use the decomposition formula (16) and we get

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B^c \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l x_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} \left((u_{i+1}^{n+1})^2 - (u_i^{n+1})^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

We reorder the convective terms and since by Lemma 7.1, $B^c(x) \geq \tau$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &\geq \kappa_u \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_i \sigma^{n+1} (u_i^{n+1})^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sigma^{n+1} (u_{l+1}^{n+1})^2. \end{aligned}$$

Using $\alpha (u_{l+1}^{n+1})^p = (s^{n+1} - s^n)/\Delta t$ and $s^{n+1} \geq s^0$ for the last term of the right hand side, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &\geq \kappa_u \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_i \sigma^{n+1} (u_i^{n+1})^2 + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \frac{\Delta t s^0}{2\alpha^{2/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+2)/p}. \end{aligned}$$

For F_2 , we apply (12) and we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_2 &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \frac{s^{n+1}}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+1)/p} - g^* \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} s^{n+1} (s^{n+1} - s^n) \\ &\geq \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \frac{\Delta t s^0}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+1)/p} - g^* (s^{N_T})^2. \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that

$$\begin{aligned}
F &\geq \kappa_u \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_i \sigma^{n+1} (u_i^{n+1})^2 \\
&+ \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \frac{\Delta t s^0}{2\alpha^{2/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+2)/p} + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \frac{\Delta t s^0}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+1)/p} \\
&- g^* (s^{N_T})^2. \quad (26)
\end{aligned}$$

Then, we obtain from equation $E + F = G$, inequalities (25) and (26)

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t s^0 \left[\frac{1}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+1)/p} + \frac{1}{2\alpha^{2/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{(p+2)/p} \right] \\
&+ \kappa_u \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \leq (s^{N_T})^2 ((g^*)^2 + g^*) + \frac{(s_0)^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i (u_i^0 - g^*)^2 \\
&+ \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i (s^{n+1})^2 f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}) (u_i^{n+1} - g^*) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_i \sigma^{n+1} (u_i^{n+1})^2. \quad (27)
\end{aligned}$$

As previously, we multiply (5) by $\gamma \Delta t (v_i^{n+1} - r^*)$ and we sum over i and n , so that we obtain similarly $E + F = G$. Thus, applying the same techniques as before, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\gamma \kappa_v \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \leq (s^{N_T})^2 \gamma (r^*)^2 \\
&+ \frac{\gamma}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_i \sigma^{n+1} (v_i^{n+1})^2 + \frac{\gamma (s_0)^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i (v_i^0 - r^*)^2 \quad (28) \\
&- \gamma \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i (s^{n+1})^2 f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}) (v_i^{n+1} - r^*).
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, we notice that, for $0 \leq n \leq N_T - 1$ and $1 \leq i \leq l$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}) (u_i^{n+1} - g^*) - \gamma f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}) (v_i^{n+1} - r^*) \\
&= -\beta (\gamma v_i^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2 \leq 0. \quad (29)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, we sum (27) and (28) and we deduce, thanks to (29), the inequality (24). \square

Corollary 4.1. *Let the hypothesis (A1) – (A7) and (8) hold and assume that $g(t) = g^*$ and $r(t) = r^*$ on $[0, +\infty)$. Then, for a given Δt and a given mesh \mathcal{T} , there exists a constant C which depends on g^* , r^* , τ , $\|u^0 - g^*\|_0^2$ and $\|v^0 - r^*\|_0^2$ such that*

$$\kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} + \kappa_v \gamma \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \leq C (s^{N_T})^2. \quad (30)$$

Proof of Corollary 4.1

Since $s_0 \leq s^{N_T}$ we deduce from Proposition 4.1 that

$$\begin{aligned} & \kappa_u \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} + \gamma \kappa_v \tau \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \\ & \leq (s^{N_T})^2 \left[(g^*)^2 + g^* + \gamma (r^*)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i [(u_i^0 - g^*)^2 + \gamma (v_i^0 - r^*)^2] \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{(g^*)^2 + \gamma (r^*)^2}{2} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

This concludes the proof of Corollary 4.1. \square

5 The long time behavior of the approximate penetration depth

In this Section, we prove Theorem 2.2. As already mentioned, in the continuous setting the key idea is to establish an energy equality and then to deduce the \sqrt{t} -bounds for the penetration depth. This equality is established in Lemma 3.3 in [2], see also Lemma 2.4 in [3], and could be stated as follows: assume that the assumptions (A1)-(A7) hold, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^1 s^2(T) x \left(u(x, T) + v(x, T) \right) + \frac{1}{2} s^2(T) + \kappa_u \int_0^T \int_0^1 \partial_x u(x, t) \\ & \quad + \kappa_v \int_0^T \int_0^1 \partial_x v(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} s_0^2 + \int_0^1 s_0^2 x \left(u_0(s_0 x) + v_0(s_0 x) \right). \quad (31) \end{aligned}$$

However, at the discrete level the techniques employed in [2, 3] for the establishment of (31) do not directly apply. Hence, in order to prove Theorem 2.2 we establish two discrete energy inequalities and then we will deduce the \sqrt{t} -bounds satisfied by the approximate penetration depth.

5.1 The lower bound

In this Section, we show the lower bound of (20). To this end, we first state an energy inequality.

Proposition 5.1. *Let the hypothesis (A1)-(A7) and (8) hold. Then, for a given Δt and a given mesh \mathcal{T} a solution to (S) satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{3g^* + 3r^* + 1}{2} (s^{N_T})^2 + \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) \\ & \quad + \kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_v} \right) (v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1}) \geq 0. \quad (32) \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Proposition 5.1

We multiply (4) by $\Delta t x_i$ and we sum over i and n , we obtain $E + F = G$, with

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i s^{n+1} \frac{(s^{n+1} u_i^{n+1} - s^n u_i^n)}{\Delta t}, \\ F &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l x_i \left(\mathcal{F}_{u,i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} - \mathcal{F}_{u,i-\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} \right), \\ G &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s^{n+1})^2 f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}). \end{aligned}$$

For E we notice that

$$E = \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i \left((s^{n+1})^2 u_i^{n+1} - (s^n)^2 u_i^n \right) - \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i s^n (s^{n+1} - s^n) u_i^n.$$

Then, using the telescopic sum and Theorem 2.1 we have

$$E \leq \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s^{N_T})^2 u_i^{N_T} - \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s^0)^2 u_i^0 \leq g^* (s^{N_T})^2. \quad (33)$$

For F , a discrete integration by parts leads to

$$F = - \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{F}_{u,i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \mathcal{F}_{u,l+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1}.$$

Then, using the decomposition formula (15) and the equation (12), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F &= \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} u_{i+1}^{n+1} + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sigma^{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $u_i^{n+1} \leq g^*$ for all $1 \leq i \leq l+1$, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} F &\leq \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) \\ &\quad + (g^* + 1) \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sigma^{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the inequality $-s^{n+1} \leq -s^n$ yields to

$$\begin{aligned} F &\leq \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) \\ &\quad + \frac{g^* + 1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \left((s^{n+1})^2 - (s^n)^2 \right). \quad (34) \end{aligned}$$

Then, applying (33) and (34) in the equation $E + F = G$ we get

$$\frac{3g^* + 1}{2} (s^{N_T})^2 + \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) \geq G. \quad (35)$$

If we use the same techniques for v we have

$$\frac{3r^*}{2} (s^{N_T})^2 + \kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_v} \right) (v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1}) \geq -G. \quad (36)$$

Finally, we sum (35) and (36) and we deduce (32). \square

Now, let us show the lower bound of (20). Thanks to Proposition 5.1 we obtain the inequality $E + F + G \geq 0$ with

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \frac{3g^* + 3r^* + 1}{2} (s^{N_T})^2, \\ F &= \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}), \\ G &= \kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_v} \right) (v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1}). \end{aligned}$$

We rewrite F as $F = F_1 + F_2$ with

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l \left(B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) - 1 \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}), \\ F_2 &= \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}). \end{aligned}$$

For $|F_1|$, the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality yields to

$$\begin{aligned} |F_1| &\leq \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \left(\sum_{i=1}^l h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \left(B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) - 1 \right)^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ &\quad \left(\sum_{i=1}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $0 \leq B(x) \leq 1$ for $x \geq 0$ then $(B(x) - 1)^2 \leq 1$ for $x \geq 0$ and we obtain using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$|F_1| \leq \sqrt{\kappa_u T} \left(\kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l \frac{(u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \right)^{1/2}.$$

Thanks to Corollary 4.1, we deduce the existence of a constant c_1 independent of Δt such that

$$|F_1| \leq c_1 \sqrt{\kappa_u T} s^{N_T}.$$

Then, the Young inequality leads to the existence of a positive constant, still denoted c_1 , independent of Δt such that

$$|F_1| \leq c_1 \left(s^{N_T} \right)^2 + \frac{\kappa_u g^*}{8} T. \quad (37)$$

For F_2 , using the telescopic sum and (3) we have

$$F_2 = \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \frac{\Delta t \kappa_u}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{1/p} - \kappa_u g^* T.$$

Applying Hölder inequality, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \frac{\Delta t \kappa_u}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{1/p} &\leq \frac{\kappa_u}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right) \right)^{1/p} T^{(p-1)/p} \\ &\leq \frac{\kappa_u}{\alpha^{1/p}} (s^{N_T})^{1/p} T^{(p-1)/p}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, we apply the Young inequality and we deduce the existence of a constant c_2 independent of Δt such that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \frac{\Delta t \kappa_u}{\alpha^{1/p}} \left(\frac{s^{n+1} - s^n}{\Delta t} \right)^{1/p} \leq c_2 s^{N_T} + \frac{\kappa_u g^*}{4} T.$$

Thus

$$F_2 \leq c_2 s^{N_T} - \frac{3\kappa_u g^*}{4} T. \quad (38)$$

For G , thanks to Corollary 4.1 we deduce that there exists a positive constant c_3 independent of Δt such that

$$\kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \leq c_3 (s^{N_T})^2. \quad (39)$$

Applying the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we obtain

$$G \leq \kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \left(\sum_{i=0}^l h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} B^2 \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_v} \right) \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \right)^{1/2}.$$

Since $B(x) \leq 1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^+$ we deduce that

$$G \leq \kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \left(\sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \right)^{1/2}.$$

Using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality we end up with

$$G \leq \kappa_v \left(\sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l \frac{(v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1})^2}{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} \right)^{1/2} T^{1/2}.$$

Hence, applying (39) and the Young inequality we obtain that there exists a constant c_4 independent of Δt such that

$$G \leq c_4 (s^{N_T})^2 + \frac{\kappa_u g^*}{8} T. \quad (40)$$

Then, from equation $E + F + G \geq 0$ and (37)–(40) we deduce that

$$\left(\frac{3g^* + 3r^* + 1}{2} + c_1 + c_4 \right) (s^{N_T})^2 + c_2 s^{N_T} \geq \frac{\kappa_u g^*}{2} T.$$

If $T > 1$, applying the Young inequality we obtain

$$c_2 s^{N_T} \leq c_2 s^{N_T} T^{1/2} \leq \frac{\kappa_u g^*}{4} T + \frac{c_2^2}{\kappa_u g^*} (s^{N_T})^2.$$

We deduce the existence of a positive constant c , independent of Δt , such that

$$s^{N_T} \geq c \sqrt{T}.$$

In the case $0 \leq T \leq 1$, we have

$$s^{N_T} \geq s_0 \geq s_0 T^{1/2}.$$

This concludes the proof of the lower bound of (20).

5.2 The upper bound

In this Section, we prove the upper bound of (20). As previously, we first establish an energy inequality:

Proposition 5.2. *Let the hypothesis (A1)–(A7) and (8) hold and assume that $g^* + r^* < 1$. Then, for a given Δt and a given mesh \mathcal{T} a solution to (S) satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1 - (g^* + r^*)}{2} (s^{N_T})^2 + \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) \\ & + \kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_v} \right) (v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s_0)^2 (u_i^0 + v_i^0) \\ & \quad + \frac{1 - (g^* + r^*)}{2} (s^0)^2. \quad (41) \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Proposition 5.2

We multiply (4) by $\Delta t x_i$ and we sum over i and n , we obtain $E + F = G$, with

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i s^{n+1} \frac{(s^{n+1} u_i^{n+1} - s^n u_i^n)}{\Delta t}, \\ F &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l x_i \left(\mathcal{F}_{u, i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} - \mathcal{F}_{u, i-\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} \right), \\ G &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s^{n+1})^2 f(u_i^{n+1}, v_i^{n+1}). \end{aligned}$$

For E we notice that

$$E = \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i \left((s^{n+1})^2 u_i^{n+1} - (s^n)^2 u_i^n \right) - \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i s^n (s^{n+1} - s^n) u_i^n.$$

Then, using the telescopic sum and Theorem 2.1 we have

$$E \geq - \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s^0)^2 u_i^0 - g^* \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sigma^{n+1}. \quad (42)$$

For F , a discrete integration by parts leads to

$$F = - \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{F}_{u, i+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \mathcal{F}_{u, l+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1}.$$

Then, using the decomposition formula (15) and the equation (12), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F &= \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} u_{i+1}^{n+1} + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sigma^{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $u_i^{n+1} \geq 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq l+1$, we deduce that

$$F \geq \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) + \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sigma^{n+1}. \quad (43)$$

Then, applying (42) and (43) in the equation $E + F = G$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - g^*) \sum_{n=1}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sigma^{n+1} + \kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}) \\ \leq G + \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s_0)^2 u_i^0. \quad (44) \end{aligned}$$

If we use the same techniques for v we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& -r^* \sum_{n=1}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sigma^{n+1} + \kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_v} \right) (v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1}) \\
& \leq -G + \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s_0)^2 v_i^0. \quad (45)
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, summing (44) and (45) and using the hypothesis $g^* + r^* < 1$ we deduce (41). \square

Now, let us establish the upper bound of (20). Thanks to Proposition 5.2 we obtain the inequality $E \leq F + G + H$ with

$$\begin{aligned}
E &= \frac{1 - (g^* + r^*)}{2} (s^{N_T})^2, \\
F &= -\kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}), \\
G &= -\kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^l B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_v} \right) (v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1}), \\
H &= \sum_{i=1}^l h_i x_i (s_0)^2 (u_i^0 + v_i^0) + \frac{1 - (g^* + r^*)}{2} (s^0)^2.
\end{aligned}$$

We rewrite F as $F = F_1 + F_2$ with

$$\begin{aligned}
F_1 &= -\kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l \left(B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_u} \right) - 1 \right) (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}), \\
F_2 &= -\kappa_u \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l (u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_i^{n+1}).
\end{aligned}$$

For $|F_1|$, using the same techniques as in the previous Section, we obtain the existence of a positive constant C_1 independent of Δt such that

$$|F_1| \leq C_1 \sqrt{\kappa_u T} s^{N_T}.$$

Then, the Young inequality leads to the existence of a positive constant, still denoted C_1 , independent of Δt such that

$$|F_1| \leq \frac{2C_1 \kappa_u}{1 - (g^* + r^*)} T + \frac{1 - (g^* + r^*)}{8} (s^{N_T})^2. \quad (46)$$

For F_2 , applying the telescopic sum and the fact that $u_{l+1}^{n+1} \leq 0$, we end up with

$$F_2 \leq \kappa_u g^* T. \quad (47)$$

We also rewrite G as $G = G_1 + G_2$ with

$$G_1 = -\kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l \left(B \left(\frac{h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{n+1} x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}}{\kappa_v} \right) - 1 \right) (v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1}),$$

$$G_2 = -\kappa_v \sum_{n=0}^{N_T-1} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^l (v_{i+1}^{n+1} - v_i^{n+1}).$$

Then, using the same techniques as before for $|G_1|$ and G_2 we obtain

$$|G_1| \leq \frac{2 C_2 \kappa_v}{1 - (g^* + r^*)} T + \frac{1 - (g^* + r^*)}{8} (s^{N_T})^2, \quad (48)$$

and

$$G_2 \leq \kappa_v r^* T, \quad (49)$$

with C_2 a constant independent of Δt . We apply (46)–(49) in the inequality $E \leq F + G + H$ and we end up with

$$\frac{1 - (g^* + r^*)}{4} (s^{N_T})^2 \leq \left[\kappa_u g^* + \kappa_v r^* + \frac{4 C_3}{1 - (g^* + r^*)} \right] T + H,$$

with $C_3 = \max\{\kappa_u C_1, \kappa_v C_2\}$. Eventually, we deduce the existence of a positive constant C independent of Δt such that

$$s^{N_T} \leq C \sqrt{1 + T}.$$

This concludes the proof of Theorem 2.2.

6 Numerical experiments

In this Section, we present some numerical experiments. The test case is described in Table 1. Furthermore, as already observed in [8], the upwind

κ_u	κ_v	s_0	α	β
1	0.1	0.5	1	7.5

Table 1: Definition of parameters used in the test case.

scheme gives the same results than the Scharfetter-Gummel scheme. Since the Scharfetter-Gummel scheme is more accurate for diffusion-convection problem, we consider in the sequel that $B = B_{sg}$. Let us mention that the numerical results are obtained using Newton's method with a tolerance equal to $1e - 8$ on a uniform mesh made of 100 cells and $\Delta t = 1e - 2$.

In Figure 1, we illustrate the behavior of s in logarithmic scale for different values of p up to $T = 1000$ with $g^* = 0.5$, $r^* = 0.25$, $\gamma = 2$ and $u_0(x) = v_0(x) = 0.25$ for all $x \in [0, 1]$. We observe that the penetration depth follows a \sqrt{t} -law of propagation.

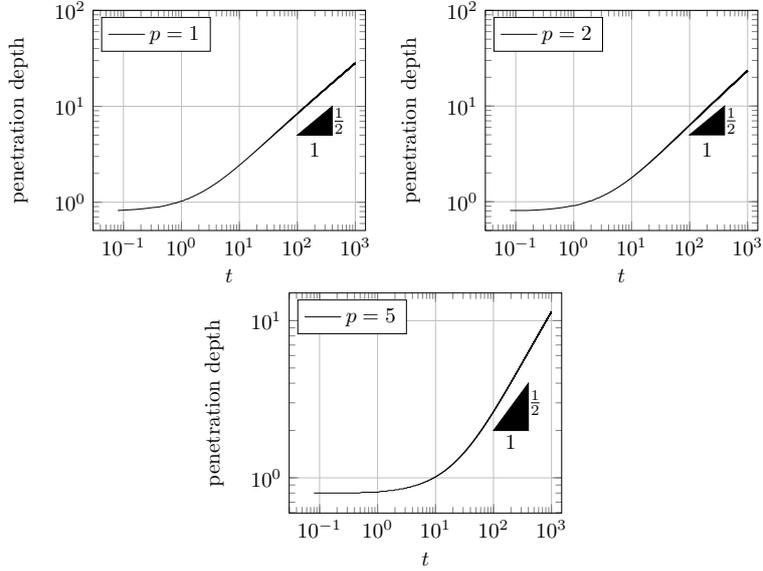


Figure 1: Profiles of s in logarithmic scale with the Scharfetter-Gummel fluxes for different values of p with $g^* + r^* < 1$.

In Figure 2, we illustrate the behavior of s in logarithmic scale for $p = 2$ up to $T = 1000$ with $g^* = 15$, $r^* = 2.25$, $\gamma = 6.67$ and $u_0(x) = v_0(x) = 1$ for all $x \in [0, 1]$. We observe that, even if $g^* + r^* > 1$, the scheme (S) preserves the \sqrt{t} -law of propagation for the approximate penetration depth. Let us mention that we obtain similar profiles for s for different values of p in the case $g^* + r^* > 1$.

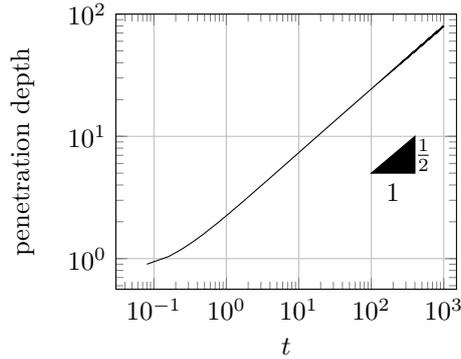


Figure 2: Profiles of s in logarithmic scale with the Scharfetter-Gummel fluxes for $p = 2$ with $g^* + r^* > 1$.

7 Conclusions

In this paper, we have justified the long time behavior of solutions of a finite volume scheme for the carbonation model introduced in [1]. Let us mention that the Corollary 4.1 and the techniques used in [8] could be adapted in order to show the convergence of (S) . Moreover, the numerical experiments seem to confirm the existence of a constant Λ^* independent of p such that $s(t) \sim \Lambda^* \sqrt{t}$ for t large enough. Nevertheless, a rigorous justification of the existence of Λ^* is still an open problem.

Appendix A. Property of the B function

We prove in this Appendix the following result:

Lemma 7.1. *Under the hypothesis (8), there exists a positive constant τ such that*

$$B^c(x) = \frac{B(x) + B(-x)}{2} \geq \tau, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (50)$$

Proof of Lemma 7.1

To this end, we first notice that thanks to (8b) and (8d) we have

$$B(x) \geq -x.$$

Then, $\lim_{x \downarrow \infty} B(x) = +\infty$. Moreover, we have

$$B^c(x) \geq \frac{B(x)}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad B^c(x) \geq \frac{B(-x)}{2}.$$

Thus, we deduce that

$$\lim_{x \downarrow \infty} B^c(x) = \lim_{x \uparrow \infty} B^c(x) = +\infty.$$

Finally, since $B(x) > 0$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ we conclude that there exists $\tau > 0$ such that (50) is satisfied. \square

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