

# An unfitted finite element method using level set functions for extrapolation into deformable diffuse interfaces

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Oberseminar Numerische Simulation

## Motivation

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Problems with moving boundaries/interfaces, e.g.

- tumor growth models
- rising bubble phenomena
- moving objects

⇒ mesh adaption or unfitted meshes

Different types of moving boundaries/interfaces:

- expansion
- movement
- deformation

### Sharp interface formulation

- XFEM, unfitted Nitsche FEM, CutFEM
- small cut cells may cause ill conditioning
- severe time step restrictions or instability

### Surrogate interface formulation

- shifted boundary method
- extrapolation of boundary conditions to mesh
- complex closest-point projection algorithms

### Diffuse interface formulation

- immersed boundary, phase field methods
- construction of approximate delta functions

## Conservation laws in evolving domains

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [\mathbf{f}(u) - \kappa \nabla u] &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega_+(t), \\ u &= u_\Gamma && \text{on } \Gamma(t), \\ u &= u_0 && \text{in } \Omega_+(0)\end{aligned}$$

- $u(\mathbf{x}, t) \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d \in \{2, 3\}$ ,  $t \geq 0$ ,
- $\Omega_+(t)$  is enclosed by  $\Gamma(t)$  and embedded in  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

Interface  $\Gamma(t) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega : \phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0\}$  determined by  $\phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$  such that

- $\phi > 0$  in  $\Omega_+(t)$ ,
- $\phi < 0$  in  $\bar{\Omega} \setminus \bar{\Omega}_+(t)$ ,
- $\mathbf{n}_\pm = \mp \frac{\nabla \phi}{|\nabla \phi|}$  extended unit outward normal

### Linear transport equation

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \phi = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

### Nonlinear transport equation

$$\frac{\partial H(\phi)}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla H(\phi) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

- implies conservation of volume  $|\Omega_+(t)|$  for  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$
- exact solutions of the linear transport equation satisfy the nonlinear one
- approximate solutions require corrections to enforce conservation
- monolithic conservative level set method does not require any postprocessing

## Fictitious domain formulation

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Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian weak form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega_+(t)} w u d\mathbf{x} - \int_{\Omega_+(t)} \nabla w \cdot [\mathbf{f}(u_\Gamma) - \kappa \nabla u] d\mathbf{x} \\ + \int_{\Gamma(t)} w [\mathbf{f}(u_\Gamma) \cdot \mathbf{n}_+ - v_n u_\Gamma - \kappa \partial_n u] ds = 0, \quad \forall w \in V(\Omega_+(t)) \end{aligned}$$

## Fictitious domain formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} H(\phi) w u d\mathbf{x} - \int_{\Omega} \nabla H(\phi) w \cdot [\mathbf{f}(u_\Gamma) - \kappa \nabla u] d\mathbf{x} + s(w, u) \\ + \int_{\Gamma(t)} w [\mathbf{f}(u_\Gamma) \cdot \mathbf{n}_+ - v_n u_\Gamma - \kappa \partial_n u] ds = 0, \quad \forall w \in V(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

### Dirichlet-type ghost penalties

$$s_D(w, u) = \int_{\Omega} \gamma_{\Omega} w(u - u_{\Omega}) d\mathbf{x}$$

$\Rightarrow$  weak imposition of  $u = u_{\Omega}$  in  $\Omega \setminus \bar{\Omega}_+(t)$

### Neumann-type ghost penalties

$$s_N(w, u) = \int_{\Omega} \gamma_{\Omega} \nabla w \cdot (\nabla u - \mathbf{g}_{\Omega}) d\mathbf{x}$$

$\Rightarrow$  harmonic extension into  $\Omega \setminus \bar{\Omega}_+(t)$

## Dirichlet penalty form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} H_{\varepsilon}(\phi) w u d\mathbf{x} - \int_{\Omega} H_{\varepsilon}(\phi) \nabla w \cdot [\mathbf{f}(u) - \kappa \nabla u] d\mathbf{x} + \int_{\Omega} \gamma_{\Omega} w (u - u_{\Omega}) d\mathbf{x} \\ + \int_{\Omega} w G(\phi, u, u_{\Gamma}) \delta_{\varepsilon} |\nabla \phi| d\mathbf{x} = 0, \quad \forall w \in V(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

## Gaussian regularization

$$H_{\varepsilon}(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{\pi \phi}{3\varepsilon} \right) \right), \quad \delta_{\varepsilon} = H'_{\varepsilon}(\phi) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{9}} \exp \left( \frac{-\pi^2 \phi^2}{9\varepsilon^2} \right)$$

## Weak form with built-in redistancing

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} w \frac{\partial S_{\varepsilon}(\phi)}{\partial t} d\mathbf{x} - \int_{\Omega} \nabla w \cdot [\mathbf{v} S_{\varepsilon}(\phi) - \lambda(\nabla \phi - \mathbf{q})] d\mathbf{x} \\ + \int_{\partial\Omega} S_{\varepsilon}(\phi) w \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds = 0, \quad \forall w \in V(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

$$\int_{\Omega} w \sqrt{|\nabla \phi|^2 + \sigma^2} \mathbf{q} d\mathbf{x} = \int_{\Omega} w \nabla \phi d\mathbf{x}, \quad \forall w \in V(\Omega)$$

## Finite element discretization

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$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega_h} H_\varepsilon(\phi_h) w_h u_h d\mathbf{x} - \int_{\Omega_h} H_\varepsilon(\phi_h) \nabla w_h \cdot [\mathbf{f}(u_h) - \kappa \nabla u_h] d\mathbf{x} + \int_{\Omega_h} \gamma_{\Omega,h} w_h (u_h - u_{\Omega,h}) d\mathbf{x} \\ + \int_{\Omega_h} w_h G(\phi_h, u_h, u_\Gamma) \delta_\varepsilon(\phi_h) |\nabla \phi_h| d\mathbf{x} = 0, \quad \forall w_h \in V(\Omega_h) \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega_h} w_h S_\varepsilon(\phi_h) d\mathbf{x} - \int_{\Omega_h} \nabla w_h \cdot [\mathbf{v}_h S_\varepsilon(\phi_h) - \lambda_h (\nabla \phi_h - \mathbf{q}_h)] d\mathbf{x} \\ + \int_{\partial \Omega_h} S_\varepsilon(\phi_h) w_h \mathbf{v}_h \cdot \mathbf{n} ds = 0, \quad \forall w_h \in V(\Omega_h) \end{aligned}$$
$$\int_{\Omega_h} w_h \sqrt{|\nabla \phi_h|^2 + \sigma^2} \mathbf{q}_h d\mathbf{x} = \int_{\Omega_h} w_h \nabla \phi_h d\mathbf{x}, \quad \forall w_h \in V(\Omega_h)$$

### Finite element functions

$$u_h(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_h} u_j(t) \varphi_j(\mathbf{x}), \quad \phi_h(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_h} \phi_j(t) \varphi_j(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{q}_h(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_h} \mathbf{q}_j(t) \varphi_j(\mathbf{x})$$

#### Explicit lumped-mass formula for $\mathbf{q}_h$

$$q_j^{(k)} = \frac{\int_{\Omega_h} \frac{\partial \phi_h}{\partial x_k} \varphi_j d\mathbf{x}}{\int_{\Omega_h} \sqrt{|\nabla \phi_h|^2 + \sigma^2} \varphi_j d\mathbf{x}}, \quad k = 1, \dots, d$$

## Extrapolation using level sets

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To be defined: continuous extensions  $U, \partial_n U, V$  for calculating

$$G(\phi_h, u_h, u_\Gamma) = \mathbf{f}(U) - \kappa \partial_n U, \quad \mathbf{v}_h = -V \mathbf{q}_h, \quad u_{\Omega,h}(u_h, U)$$

Main steps:

- 1 closest-point search
- 2 gradient reconstruction
- 3 extrapolation

Requirements: simplicity, efficiency, accuracy

## Closest point search

Interface pointer

$$\mathbf{n}_Q := -\mathbf{q}_h(\mathbf{x}_Q) \approx \mathbf{n}_+(\mathbf{x}_Q)$$

Exact distance function  $\phi$

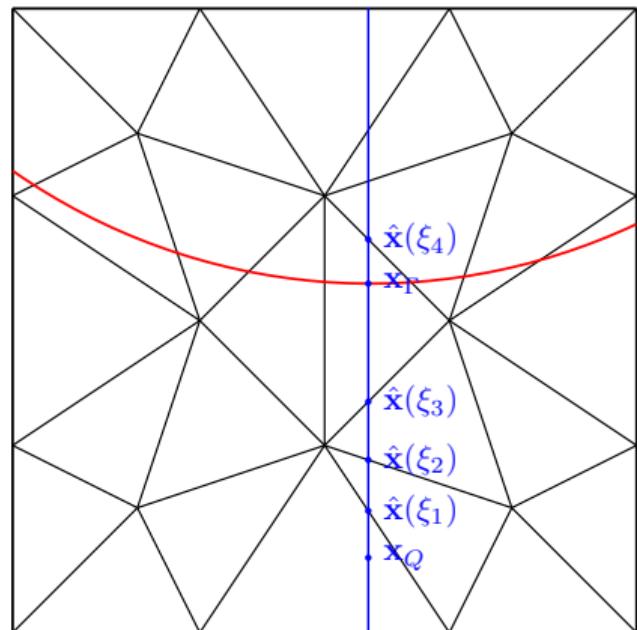
$$\mathbf{x}_\Gamma := \mathbf{x}_Q + \phi(\mathbf{x}_Q)\mathbf{n}_Q$$

Numerical approximation  $\phi_h$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(\xi) = \mathbf{x}_Q + \xi \text{sign}(\phi_h(\mathbf{x}_Q))\mathbf{n}_Q, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\phi_h(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma) = 0 \text{ at } \mathbf{x}_\Gamma = \hat{\mathbf{x}}(\xi_\Gamma)$$

⇒ simple line search

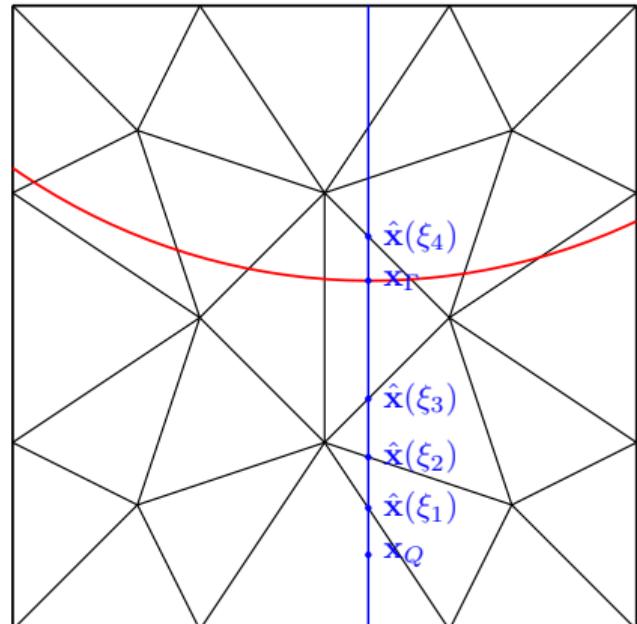


## Closest point search

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### Search algorithm

- Set  $\xi_0 = 0$
- For  $i > 1$ : Find next intersection  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}(\xi_i)$ ,  $\xi_i > \xi_{i-1}$  of  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}(\xi)$  with boundary of a mesh cell boundary
- If  $\phi(\hat{\mathbf{x}}(\xi_i))\phi(\hat{\mathbf{x}}(\xi_{i-1})) < 0$  for  $i = m$  exit loop
- Solve linear/quadratic equation to find root  $\xi_\Gamma \in [\xi_{m-1}, \xi_m]$  of  $\phi(\hat{\mathbf{x}}(\xi))$
- Set  $\mathbf{x}_\Gamma = \hat{\mathbf{x}}(\xi_\Gamma)$



## Gradient reconstruction

Unit outward normal vector

$$\mathbf{n}_\Gamma = -\frac{\mathbf{q}_h(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma)}{|\mathbf{q}_h(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma)|} \approx \mathbf{n}_+(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma)$$

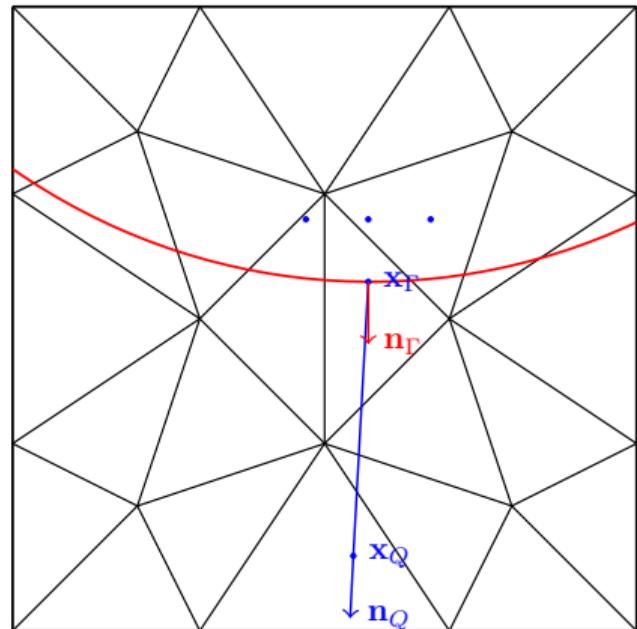
Three point interpolation stencil:

$$\mathcal{S}_{2D}(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma) = \{\mathbf{x}_P - 0.5\varepsilon\boldsymbol{\tau}_\Gamma, \mathbf{x}_P, \mathbf{x}_P + 0.5\varepsilon\boldsymbol{\tau}_\Gamma\}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_P = \mathbf{x}_\Gamma - \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_\Gamma, \quad \boldsymbol{\tau}_\Gamma \perp \mathbf{n}_\Gamma$$

Approximate normal derivative

$$\partial_n U(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma) = \frac{u_\Gamma(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma) - u_h(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma - \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_\Gamma)}{\varepsilon}$$



## Extrapolation of interface data

For  $\mathbb{P}_1$  or  $\mathbb{Q}_1$  elements:

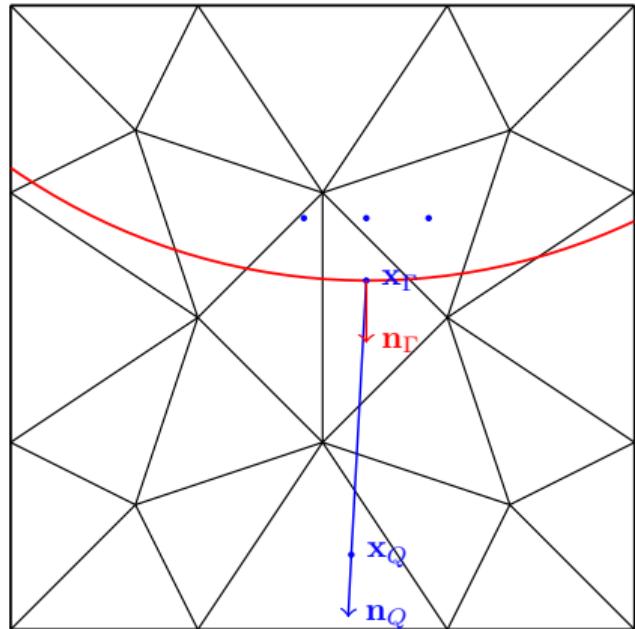
Normal derivatives: constant extrapolation

$$\partial_n U(\mathbf{x}_Q) = \partial_n U(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma)$$

Solution values: linear extrapolation

$$U(\mathbf{x}_Q) = u_\Gamma(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma) + \nabla U(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma) \cdot (\mathbf{x}_Q - \mathbf{x}_\Gamma)$$

Similarity to shifted boundary methods



### Dirichlet version

$$u_{\Omega,h}(\mathbf{x}_Q) = H_\varepsilon(\phi_h(\mathbf{x}_Q))u_h(\mathbf{x}_Q) + (1 - H_\varepsilon(\phi_h(\mathbf{x}_Q)))U(\mathbf{x}_Q), \quad \gamma_{\Omega,D} = \mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$$

### Neumann version

$$\mathbf{g}_{\Omega,h}(\mathbf{x}_Q) = H_\varepsilon(\phi_h(\mathbf{x}_Q))\nabla u_h(\mathbf{x}_Q) + (1 - H_\varepsilon(\phi_h(\mathbf{x}_Q)))\nabla U(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma), \quad \gamma_{\Omega,N} = \mathcal{O}(h)$$

Implicit treatment: fixed point iteration

- evolution of  $\Gamma_h(t)$  driven by interfacial phenomena
- normal velocity  $v_h = V|_{\Gamma_h}$  given by mathematical model
- extension  $V$  yields a globally defined velocity field  $\mathbf{v}_h$

Example: Evolution driven by concentration gradients

$$V(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma) = \mu \partial_n C(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma),$$
$$\mathbf{v}_h(\mathbf{x}_Q) = V(\mathbf{x}_\Gamma) \mathbf{n}_Q$$

Efficient alternative to PDE-based methods

## Damping functions

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Damping function

$$D_\varepsilon(\phi) = H_\varepsilon(\phi + m\varepsilon) - H_\varepsilon(\phi - m\varepsilon), \quad m \geq 2$$

Localized ghost penalties:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{\Omega,h} &= H_\varepsilon(\phi_h)u_h + (1 - H_\varepsilon(\phi_h))D_\varepsilon(\phi_h)U, \\ \mathbf{g}_{\Omega,h} &= H_\varepsilon(\phi_h)\nabla u_h + (1 - H_\varepsilon(\phi_h))D_\varepsilon(\phi_h)\nabla U \end{aligned}$$

Localized extension velocity:

$$\mathbf{v}_h = D_\varepsilon(\phi_h)V\mathbf{q}_h$$

⇒ efficient narrow band implementation

## Test problems

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### Elliptic test

- fixed domain
- Dirichlet ghost penalties and Neumann ghost penalties
- damped and full ghost penalties

### Parabolic test

- expanding domain, exact level set
- Dirichlet ghost penalties
- damped and full ghost penalties

### Hyperbolic test

- fixed domain
- Dirichlet ghost penalties
- damped and full ghost penalties

### Level set advection

- expanding domain, monolithic conservative level set method
- Dirichlet ghost penalties
- damped and full ghost penalties

## Elliptic test

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Fixed embedded boundary

$$\Gamma = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x - 0.5)^2 + (y - 0.5)^2 = 0.0625\} = \partial\Omega_+, \quad \Omega = (0, 1)^2$$

$$u_\Gamma(x, y, t) = (x - 0.5)^2 - (y - 0.5)^2 = u(x, y, t)$$

### Elliptic test

$$\Delta u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_+,$$

$$u = u_\Gamma \quad \text{on } \Gamma$$

- Dirichlet ghost penalties with  $\gamma_{\Omega,D} = h^{-1}$
- Neumann ghost penalties with  $\gamma_{\Omega,N} = h$

## Elliptic test

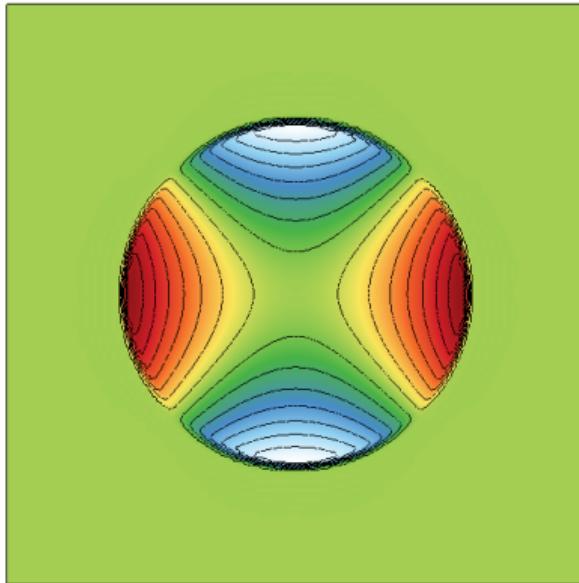
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$\frac{1}{h}$	full DGP	EOC	damped DGP	EOC	full NGP	EOC	damped NGP	EOC
16	1.47e-03		1.54e-03		9.54e-04		9.54e-04	
32	3.07e-04	2.26	3.48e-04	2.15	2.14e-04	2.16	2.14e-04	2.16
64	6.38e-05	2.27	7.56e-05	2.20	4.73e-05	2.18	4.73e-05	2.18
128	1.39e-05	2.20	1.68e-05	2.17	1.08e-05	2.14	1.08e-05	2.14
256	3.17e-06	2.13	3.87e-06	2.12	2.52e-06	2.10	2.52e-06	2.10
512	7.03e-07	2.17	9.17e-07	2.08	5.44e-07	2.21	5.42e-07	2.21

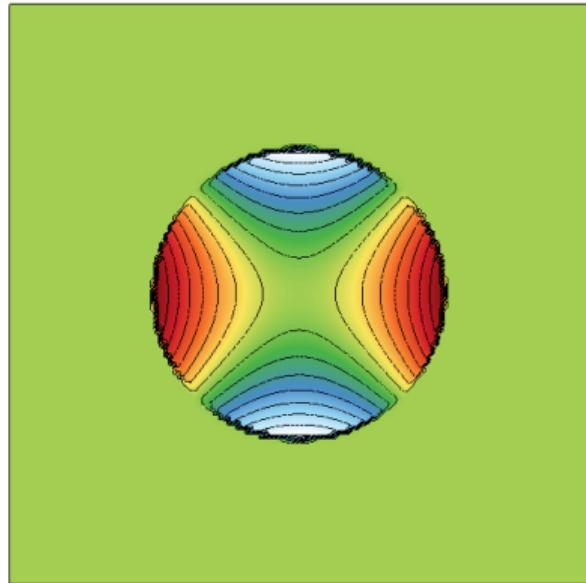
## Elliptic test

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(a)  $u_h$ , damped DGP



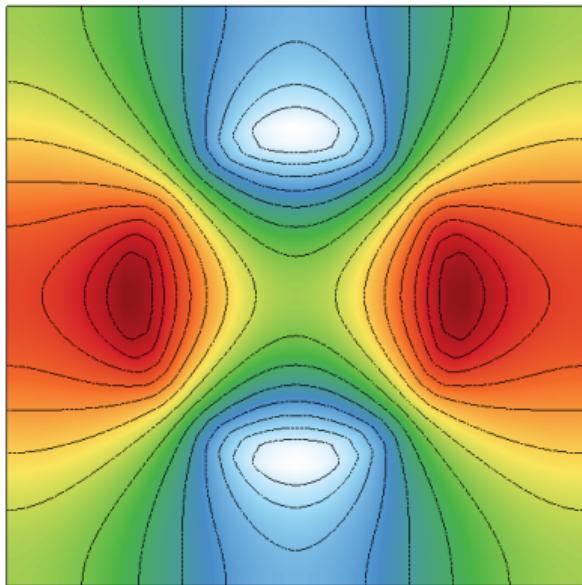
(b)  $H_\epsilon(\phi)u_h$ , damped DGP



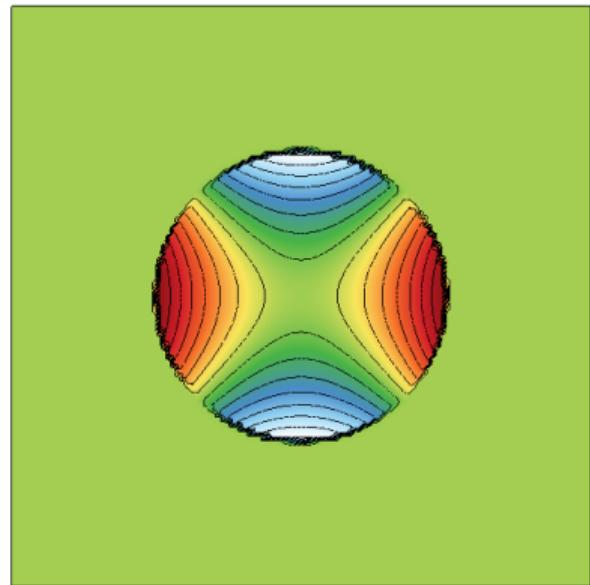
## Elliptic test

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(a)  $u_h$ , damped NGP



(b)  $H_\epsilon(\phi)u_h$ , damped NGP



### Moving embedded boundary

$$\Gamma(t) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x - 0.5)^2 + (y - 0.5)^2 = (0.25 + 0.15t)^2\} = \partial\Omega_+(t)$$

### Parabolic test

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \Delta u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_+(t),$$

$$u = u_\Gamma \quad \text{on } \Gamma(t),$$

$$u = u_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_+(0)$$

- Dirichlet ghost penalties with  $\gamma_{\Omega,D} = h^{-1}$
- Crank-Nicolson scheme with  $\Delta t = 1024h \cdot 10^{-5}$

## Parabolic test

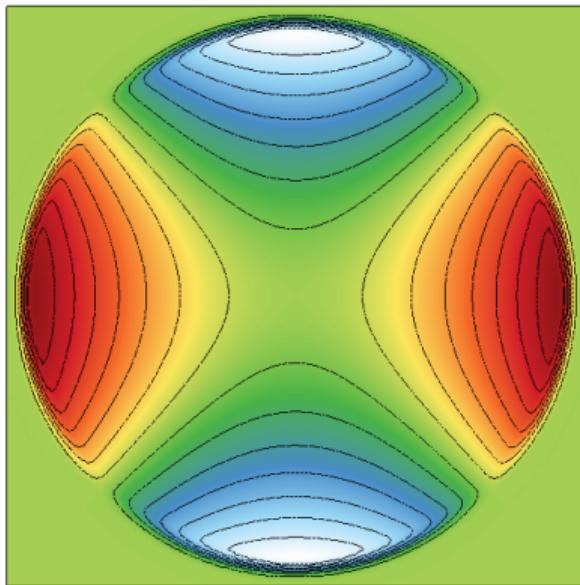
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$\frac{1}{h}$	full DGP	EOC	damped DGP	EOC
16	3.82e-03		3.82e-03	
32	6.72e-04	2.51	6.72e-04	2.51
64	1.57e-04	2.10	1.57e-04	2.10
128	3.86e-05	2.02	3.86e-05	2.02
256	9.33e-06	2.05	9.33e-06	2.05

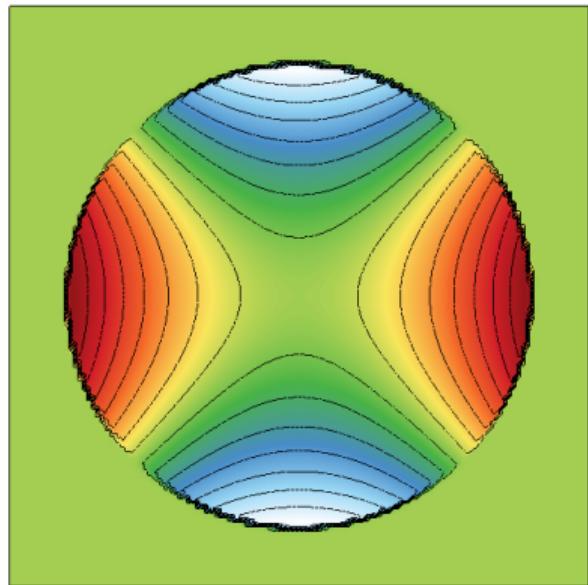
## Parabolic test

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(a)  $u_h$ , damped DGP



(b)  $H_\epsilon(\phi)u_h$ , damped DGP



## Hyperbolic test

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Fixed embedded boundary

$$\Gamma = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x - 0.75)^2 + (y - 0.5)^2 = 0.0225\} = \partial\Omega_+$$

$$u_\Gamma(x, y, t) = u_0(x, y, t) = (x - 0.5)^2 + (y - 0.5)^2 = u(x, y, t)$$

$$\mathbf{v}(x, y) = (0.5 - y, x - 0.5)^T$$

### Hyperbolic test

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{v}u) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_+,$$

$$u = u_\Gamma \quad \text{on } \Gamma_{\text{in}},$$

$$u = u_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_+$$

- Extended upwind flux

$$G_Q(t) = V_Q \frac{u_{\Omega,h}(x_Q, y_Q, t) + u_h(x_Q, y_Q, t)}{2} - |V_Q| \frac{u_{\Omega,h}(x_Q, y_Q, t) - u_h(x_Q, y_Q, t)}{2}$$

$$V_Q = \mathbf{v}(x_Q, y_Q) \cdot \mathbf{n}_Q$$

- Dirichlet ghost penalties with  $\gamma_{\Omega,D} = h^{-1}$  and  $U(x_Q, y_Q, t)$  replaced by

$$\hat{U}(x_Q, y_Q, t) = \begin{cases} U(x_Q, y_Q, t) & \text{if } \mathbf{v}(x_\Gamma, y_\Gamma) \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma < 0, \\ u_h(x_Q, y_Q, t) & \text{if } \mathbf{v}(x_\Gamma, y_\Gamma) \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

- Heun's method with  $\Delta t = 0.2h$

## Hyperbolic test

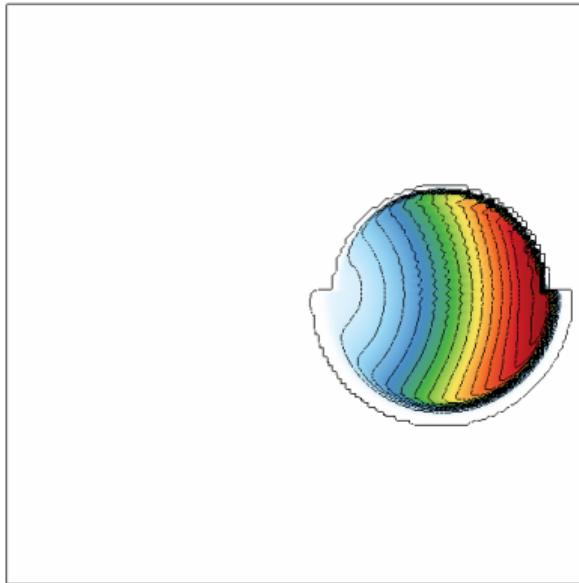
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$\frac{1}{h}$	full DGP	EOC	damped DGP	EOC
16	1.99e-03		1.99e-03	
32	1.04e-03	0.94	1.04e-03	0.94
64	5.27e-04	0.98	5.27e-04	0.98
128	2.79e-04	0.92	2.79e-04	0.92
256	1.63e-04	0.77	1.63e-04	0.77

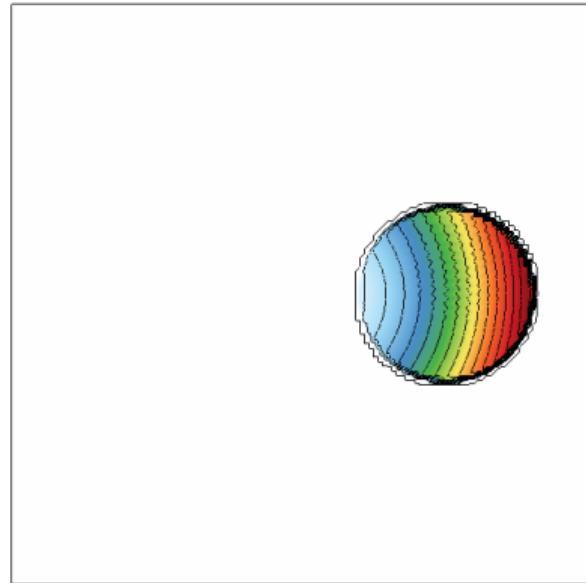
## Hyperbolic test

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(a)  $u_h$ , damped DGP



(b)  $H_\epsilon(\phi)u_h$ , damped DGP



### Constant extrapolation

$$\Omega = (-1.9, 2.1)^2, \quad \Gamma = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = 1\}$$

$$V_\Gamma(x, y) = y(1 + y)$$

$$V(x, y) = y \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

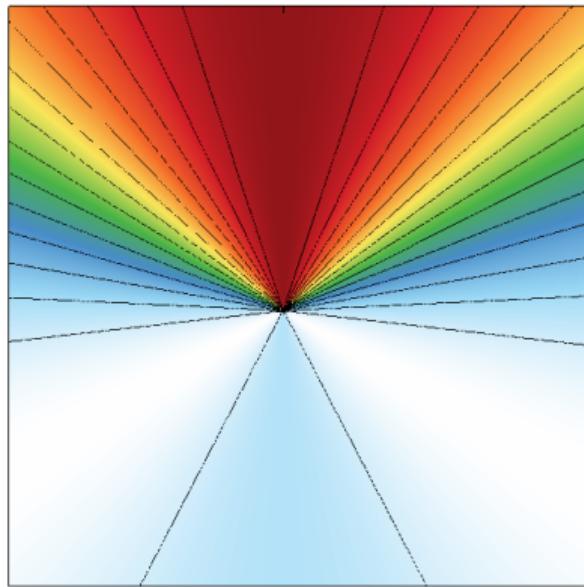
Comparison to the elliptic extension method

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla w \cdot \nabla V &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ V &= V_\Gamma && \text{on } \Gamma\end{aligned}$$

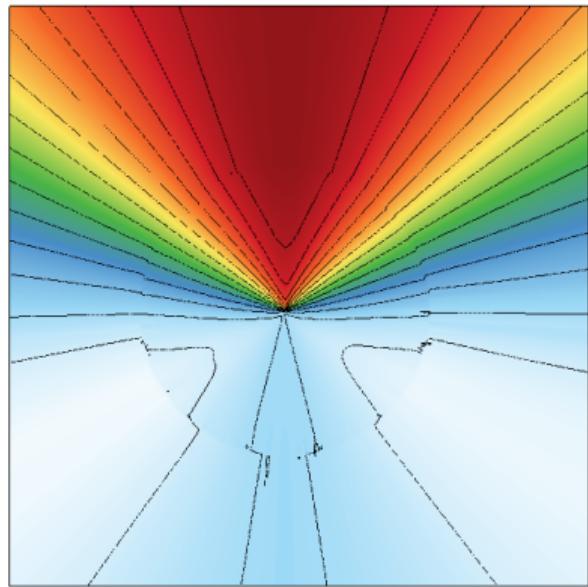
## Level set advection - Extension velocities

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(a) constant extrapolation



(b) elliptic extension



Parabolic test with normal velocity  $v_n = 0.15$  approximated by

$$V(x_\Gamma, y_\Gamma, t) = -0.15 \partial_n \Phi(x_\Gamma, y_\Gamma)$$

$$\partial_n \Phi(x_\Gamma, y_\Gamma) = \frac{0 - \phi_h(x_P, y_P)}{\varepsilon} = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \phi_h(x_P, y_P)$$

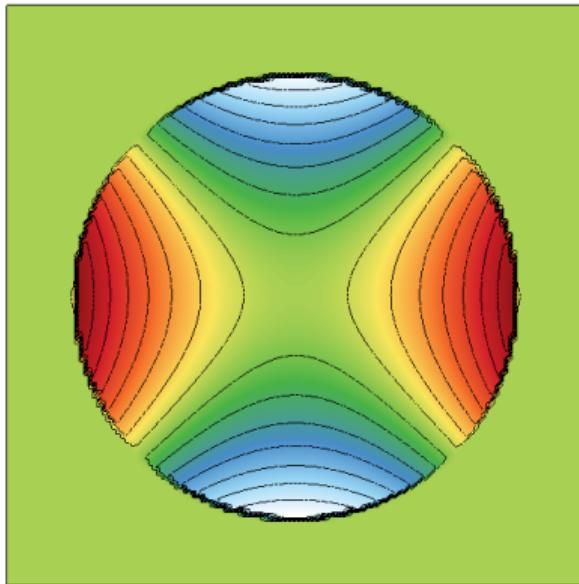
Damped extension velocity

$$\mathbf{v}(x_Q, y_Q, t) = -D_\varepsilon(x_Q, y_Q, t) V(x_Q, y_Q, t) \mathbf{q}_h(x_Q, y_Q, t)$$

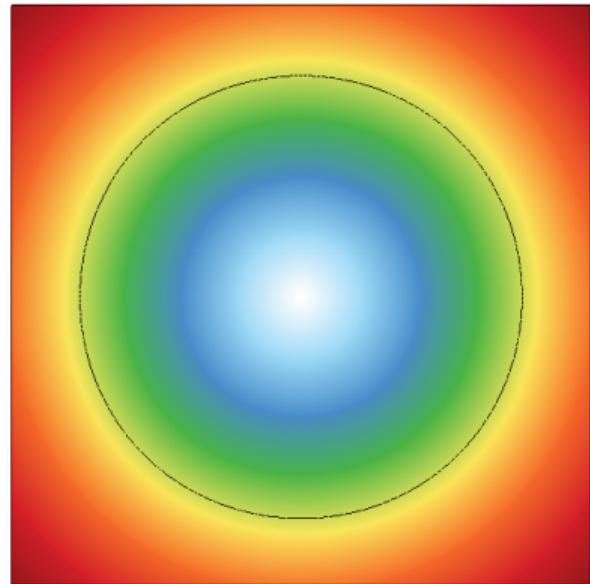
## Level set advection - Full simulation

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(a)  $H_\epsilon(\phi)u_h$



(b)  $-\phi_h$



## Summary

- approximation of surface integrals by volume integrals
- fast closest-point search algorithm
- new way to define and calculate compact-support extensions
- narrow-band integration of terms involving extended fluxes, ghost penalties and velocity fields

## Outlook

- theoretical studies of proposed approach
- new approximate delta functions with compact support
- application to interface problems and PDE systems

## References

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**Thank you for your attention!**