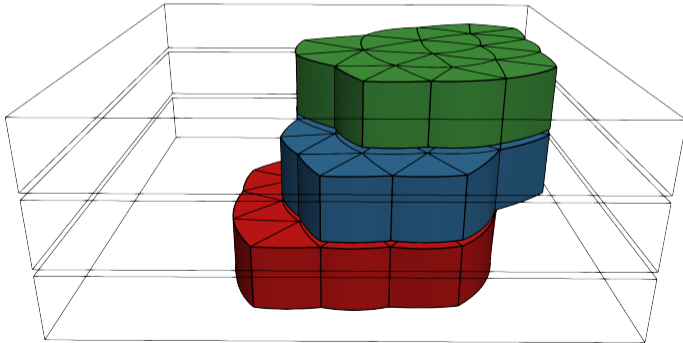


# Space-time discretizations with unfitted FEM for moving domain problems

F. Heimann, [Christoph Lehrenfeld](#), J. Preuß

Institute for Numerical and Applied Mathematics, Georg-August University

November 8, 2022, Work group seminar M. Bause, BWU Hamburg



## Motivation

- Unfitted FEM

- Unfitted Time Integration for unfitted FEM and moving domains

## Unfitted Space-Time FEM

- Discontinuous Galerkin (in time) formulation (and variants)

- Geometry handling (sketch)

## A priori error analyses of DG (in time) method

- Preparations

- Coercivity-based analyses

- Inf-Sup based analysis

## Numerical examples

## Summary and outlook

Section 1

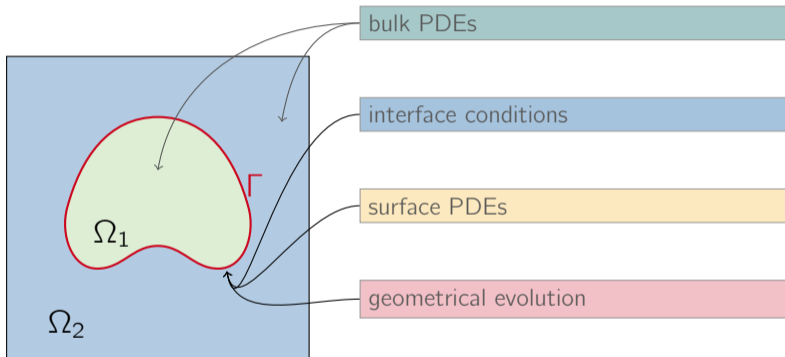
## **Motivation**

Section 1

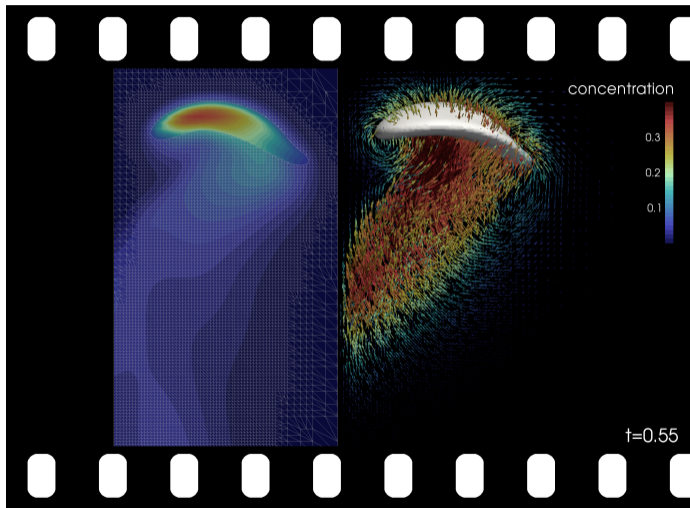
**Motivation**

Subsection 1.1

**Unfitted FEM**

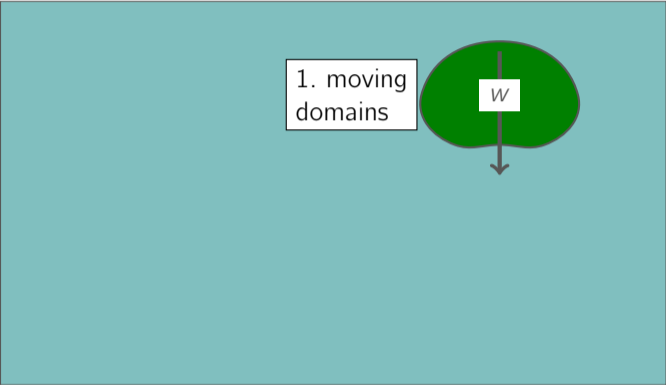


- evolution of **complex geometry**
- sub-problems are coupled (**nonlinear**)

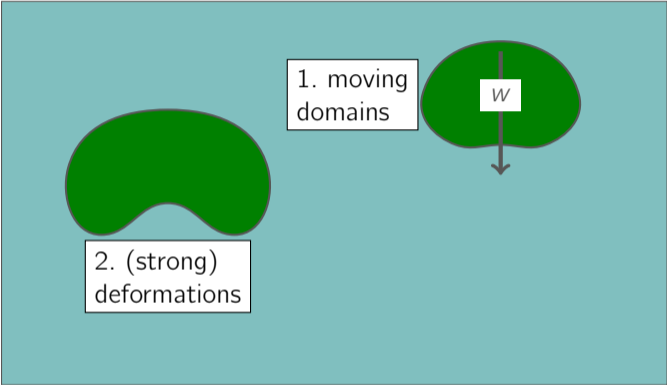


<sup>1</sup>[C.L.](#). The Nitsche XFEM-DG space-time method and its implementation in three space dimensions. SISC, 2015.

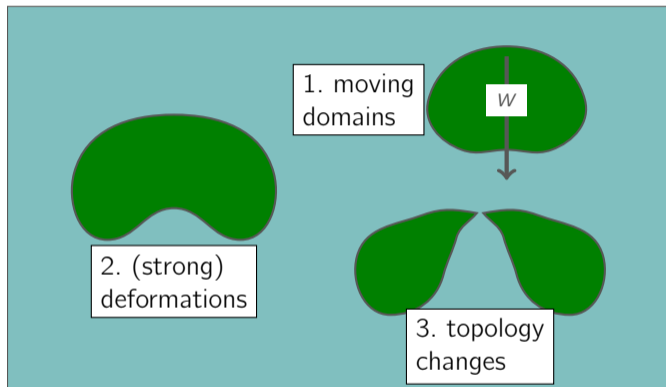
# Motivation: body-fitted vs. unfitted

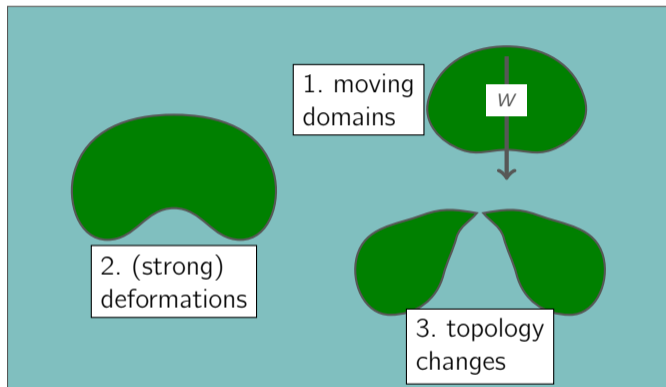


# Motivation: body-fitted vs. unfitted

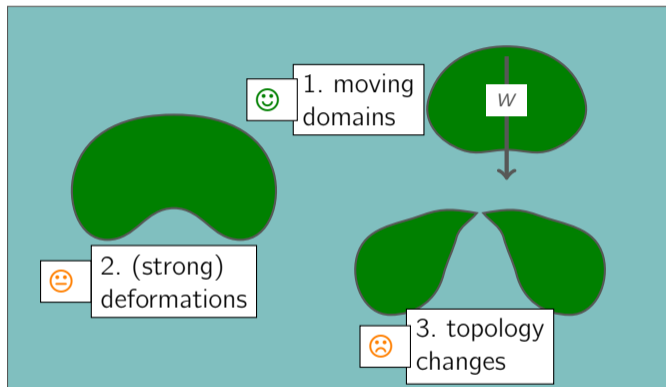




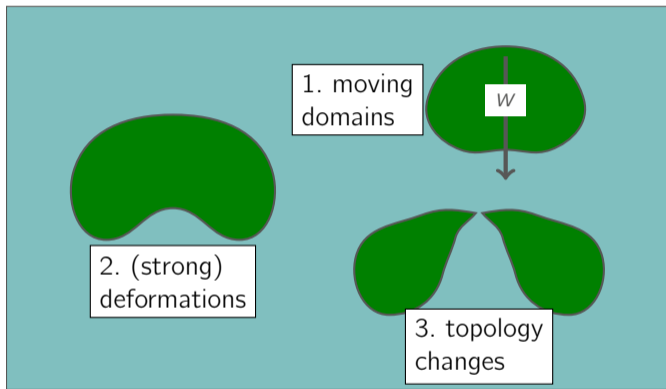
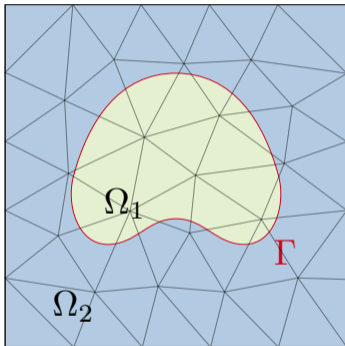




With fitted meshes?

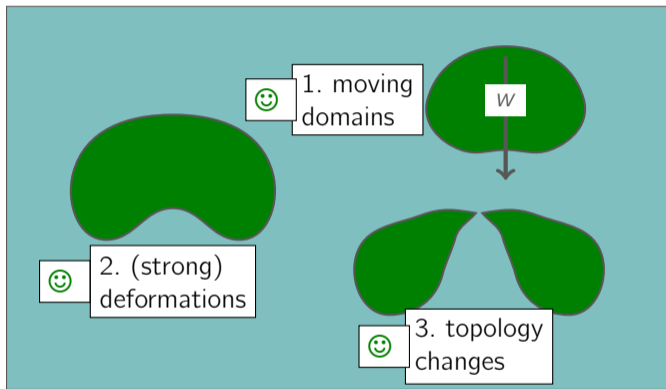
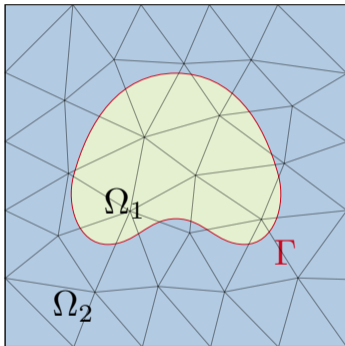


With fitted meshes?  $\rightsquigarrow$  possible, but cumbersome



## Idea of (geometrically) unfitted discretizations:

remove burden of fitted meshes (generation/tracking/remeshing)  
by decoupling mesh and geometry (e.g. level set)

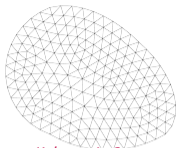


## Idea of (geometrically) unfitted discretizations:

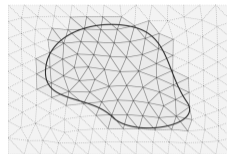
remove burden of fitted meshes (generation/tracking/remeshing)

by decoupling mesh and geometry (e.g. level set)  $\rightsquigarrow$  flexible geometry handling,

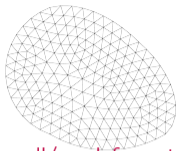
**New challenges:** shape irregular cuts, numerical integration, time integration



- results for **small/no deformation**:
  - high order accuracy
  - efficient linear solver concepts
  - robust implementation
  - rigorous error analysis, ...



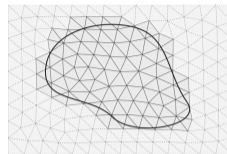
- ! important **key properties** of standard FEM have to be re-established:
  - **stable** (time) discretization
  - impl. of **boundary conditions**
  - robust **numerical integration**
  - **linear solver** concepts, ...



- results for **small/no deformation**:

- high order accuracy
- efficient linear solver concepts
- robust implementation
- rigorous error analysis, ...

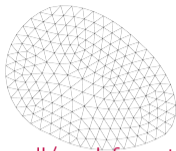
! For **strong deformation** or **topology changes** this is **much harder**.



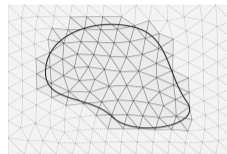
! important **key properties** of standard FEM have to be re-established:

- **stable** (time) discretization
- impl. of **boundary conditions**
- robust **numerical integration**
- **linear solver** concepts, ...

- suitable for **strong deform./ topo. changes**

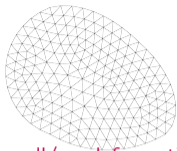


- results for **small/no deformation**:
  - high order accuracy
  - efficient linear solver concepts
  - robust implementation
  - rigorous error analysis, ...
- ! For **strong deformation** or **topology changes** this is **much harder**.
- Often mesh generation for complex geometries is very expensive



- ! important **key properties** of standard FEM have to be re-established:
  - **stable** (time) discretization
  - impl. of **boundary conditions**
  - robust **numerical integration**
  - **linear solver** concepts, ...
- suitable for **strong deform./ topo. changes**
- mesh generation “for free”





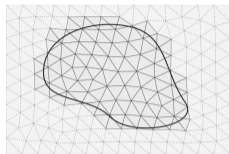
- results for **small/no deformation**:

- high order accuracy
- efficient linear solver concepts
- robust implementation
- rigorous error analysis, ...

! For **strong deformation** or **topology changes** this is **much harder**.

- Often mesh generation for complex geometries is very expensive

↪ **Assumption: we are convinced that going unfitted is an interesting idea.**  
How to make it work?



! important **key properties** of standard FEM have to be re-established:

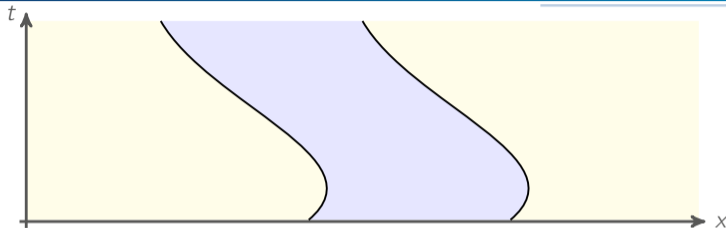
- **stable** (time) discretization
- impl. of **boundary conditions**
- robust **numerical integration**
- **linear solver** concepts, ...
- suitable for **strong deform./ topo. changes**
- mesh generation "for free"

Section 1

## **Motivation**

Subsection 1.2

**Time Integration for unfitted FEM and moving domains:  
Why is time integration an issue?**

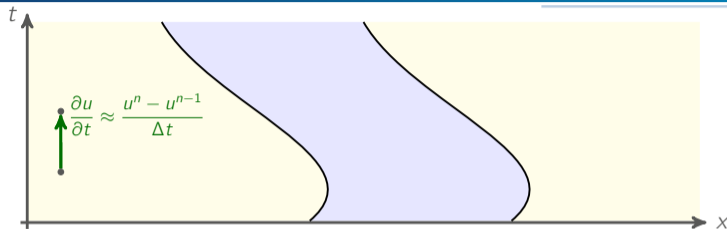


<sup>2</sup>P. Hansbo, M. Larson, S. Zahedi. Characteristic Cut FEM for Convection-Diffusion Problems on Time Dependent Surfaces, CMAME, 2015

<sup>3</sup>Q.Z. Chuwen Ma, W. Zhen. A high-order fictitious-domain method for the adv.-diff. eq. on time-varying dom., arXiv:2104.01870, 2021

<sup>4</sup>[C.L.](#), A. Reusken, Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems, SINUM, 2013

<sup>5</sup>[C.L.](#), M. Olshanskii. An Eulerian finite element method for PDEs in time-dependent domains. ESAIM: M2AN, 2019

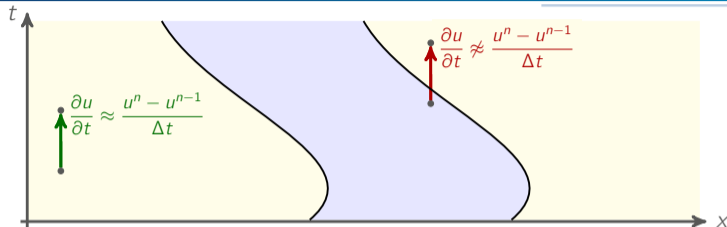


<sup>2</sup>P. Hansbo, M. Larson, S. Zahedi. Characteristic Cut FEM for Convection-Diffusion Problems on Time Dependent Surfaces, CMAME, 2015

<sup>3</sup>Q.Z. Chuwen Ma, W. Zhen. A high-order fictitious-domain method for the adv.-diff. eq. on time-varying dom., arXiv:2104.01870, 2021

<sup>4</sup>[C.L.](#), A. Reusken, Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems, SINUM, 2013

<sup>5</sup>[C.L.](#), M. Olshanskii. An Eulerian finite element method for PDEs in time-dependent domains. ESAIM: M2AN, 2019



Naive method of lines is not applicable!

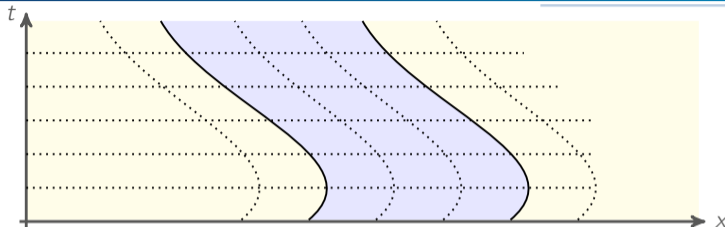
Alternatives:

<sup>2</sup>P. Hansbo, M. Larson, S. Zahedi. Characteristic Cut FEM for Convection-Diffusion Problems on Time Dependent Surfaces, CMAME, 2015

<sup>3</sup>Q.Z. Chuwen Ma, W. Zhen. A high-order fictitious-domain method for the adv.-diff. eq. on time-varying dom., arXiv:2104.01870, 2021

<sup>4</sup>[C.L.](#), A. Reusken, Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems, SINUM, 2013

<sup>5</sup>[C.L.](#), M. Olshanskii. An Eulerian finite element method for PDEs in time-dependent domains. ESAIM: M2AN, 2019



Naive method of lines is not applicable!

Alternatives:

- Let mesh follow the geometry (Lagrangian view point)

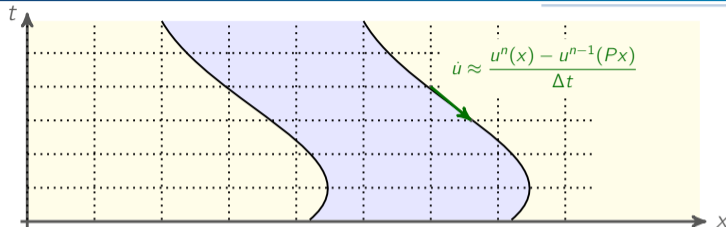
$\times$  framework

<sup>2</sup>P. Hansbo, M. Larson, S. Zahedi. Characteristic Cut FEM for Convection-Diffusion Problems on Time Dependent Surfaces, CMAME, 2015

<sup>3</sup>Q.Z. Chuwen Ma, W. Zhen. A high-order fictitious-domain method for the adv.-diff. eq. on time-varying dom., arXiv:2104.01870, 2021

<sup>4</sup>[C.L.](#), A. Reusken, Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems, SINUM, 2013

<sup>5</sup>[C.L.](#), M. Olshanskii. An Eulerian finite element method for PDEs in time-dependent domains. ESAIM: M2AN, 2019



Naive method of lines is not applicable! unfitted Alternatives:

- Let mesh follow the geometry (Lagrangian view point)
- Use *characteristics*  $\dot{u} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + w \cdot \nabla u$  <sup>2,3</sup>

$\times$  framework

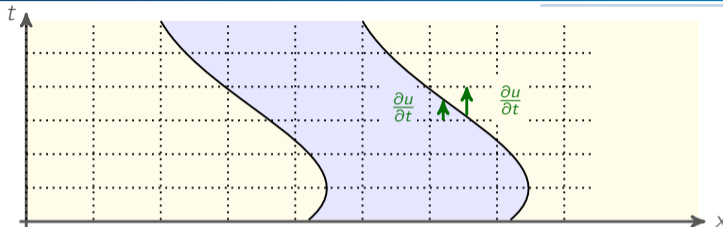
$(\times)$  (framework)

<sup>2</sup>P. Hansbo, M. Larson, S. Zahedi. Characteristic Cut FEM for Convection-Diffusion Problems on Time Dependent Surfaces, CMAME, 2015

<sup>3</sup>Q.Z. Chuwen Ma, W, Zhen. A high-order fictitious-domain method for the adv.-diff. eq. on time-varying dom., arXiv:2104.01870, 2021

<sup>4</sup>C.L., A. Reusken, Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems, SINUM, 2013

<sup>5</sup>C.L., M. Olshanskii. An Eulerian finite element method for PDEs in time-dependent domains. ESAIM: M2AN, 2019



Naive method of lines is not applicable! unfitted Alternatives:

- Let mesh follow the geometry (Lagrangian view point)
- Use *characteristics*  $\dot{u} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + w \cdot \nabla u$  <sup>2,3</sup>
- Separate domains via a *space-time* formulation<sup>4</sup>

✗ framework

(✗) (framework)

✓

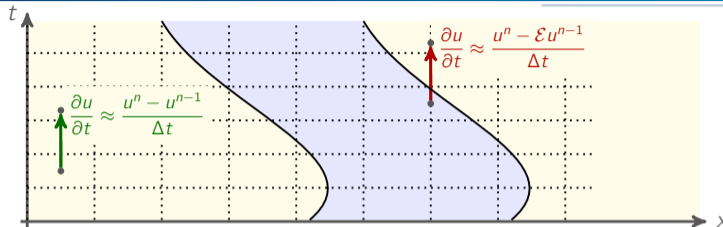
<sup>2</sup>P. Hansbo, M. Larson, S. Zahedi. Characteristic Cut FEM for Convection-Diffusion Problems on Time Dependent Surfaces, CMAME, 2015

<sup>3</sup>Q.Z. Chuwen Ma, W. Zhen. A high-order fictitious-domain method for the adv.-diff. eq. on time-varying dom., arXiv:2104.01870, 2021

<sup>4</sup>C.L., A. Reusken, Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems, SINUM, 2013

<sup>5</sup>C.L., M. Olshanskii. An Eulerian finite element method for PDEs in time-dependent domains. ESAIM: M2AN, 2019





Naive method of lines is not applicable! unfitted Alternatives:

- Let mesh follow the geometry (Lagrangian view point)
- Use *characteristics*  $\dot{u} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + w \cdot \nabla u$ <sup>2,3</sup>
- Separate domains via a *space-time* formulation<sup>4</sup>
- Extend solutions to neighborhood<sup>5</sup>

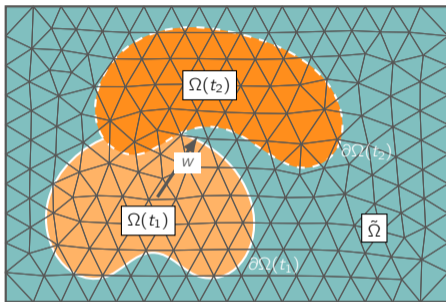
- ✗ framework
- (✗) (framework)
- ✓
- ✓

<sup>2</sup>P. Hansbo, M. Larson, S. Zahedi. Characteristic Cut FEM for Convection-Diffusion Problems on Time Dependent Surfaces, CMAME, 2015

<sup>3</sup>Q.Z. Chuwen Ma, W. Zhen. A high-order fictitious-domain method for the adv.-diff. eq. on time-varying dom., arXiv:2104.01870, 2021

<sup>4</sup>C.L., A. Reusken, Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems, SINUM, 2013

<sup>5</sup>C.L., M. Olshanskii. An Eulerian finite element method for PDEs in time-dependent domains. ESAIM: M2AN, 2019



$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t u - \nu \Delta u + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u &= f && \text{in } \Omega(t), \quad t \in [0, T], \\ \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n}_{\partial\Omega} &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega(t), \quad t \in [0, T], \\ u(\cdot, t = 0) &= u_0 && \text{in } \Omega(t = 0).\end{aligned}$$

## Assumptions

- $\operatorname{div}(\mathbf{w}) = 0$ ,  $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \mathcal{V}_n$  (no relative convective flux)
- natural boundary conditions
- $\nu = 1 > \|\mathbf{w}\|_\infty \cdot h$  (diffusion domination)

Section 2

## **Unfitted Space-Time FEM**

Section 2

## **Unfitted Space-Time FEM**

Subsection 2.1

### **Discontinuous Galerkin (in time) formulation (and variants)**

Space-time FE spaces using tensor product structure

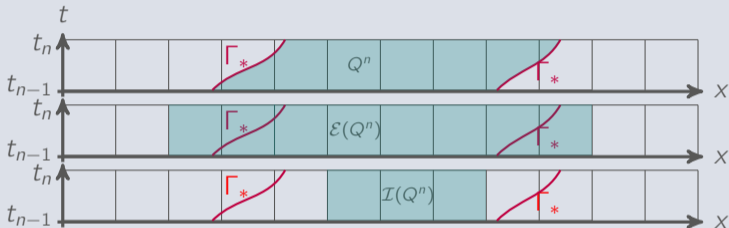
(for interior domain)



<sup>6</sup>[C.L.](#), A. Reusken. Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems. SINUM, 2013.

## Space-time FE spaces using tensor product structure

(for interior domain)

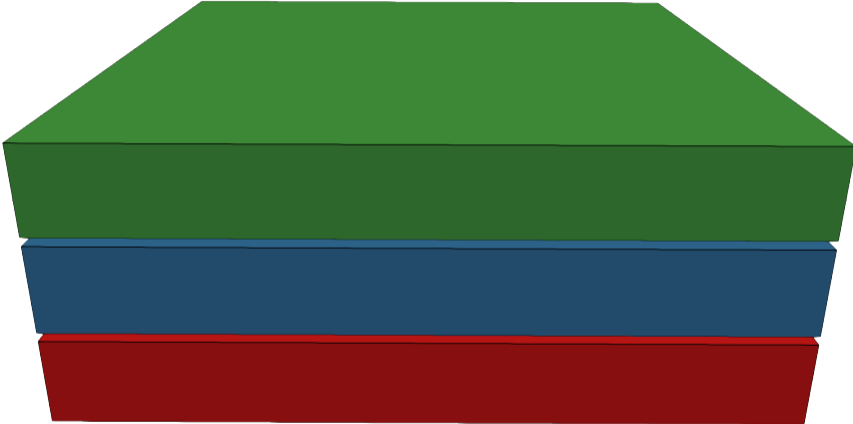


- Space-time prisms  $Q_T^n = T \times I_n$  for  $T \in \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_h$  (“active mesh”);  
Extended TP time slab:  $\mathcal{E}(Q^n)$ , included TP time slab:  $\mathcal{I}(Q^n)$
- Time slab FE space (global FE space discontinuous-in-time):

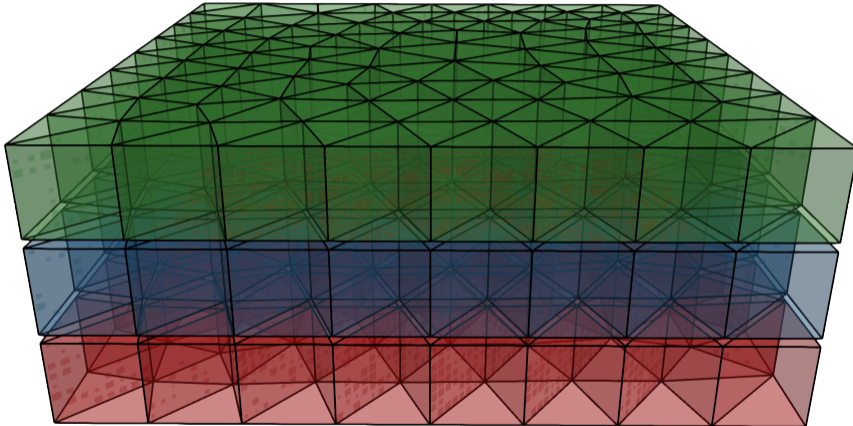
$$W_n := V_h^{k_s}(\mathcal{E}(\Omega^n)) \otimes \mathcal{P}^{k_t}((t_{n-1}, t_n))$$

<sup>6</sup>[C.L.](#), A. Reusken. Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems. SINUM, 2013.

# Illustration: three time slabs

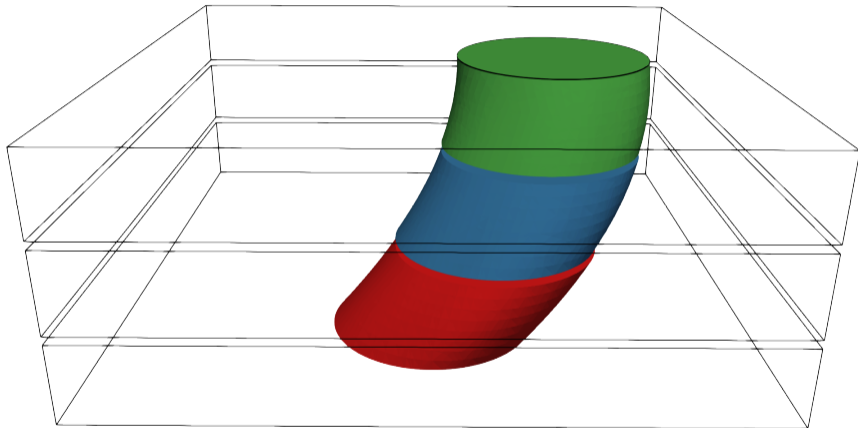


Space-Time slabs



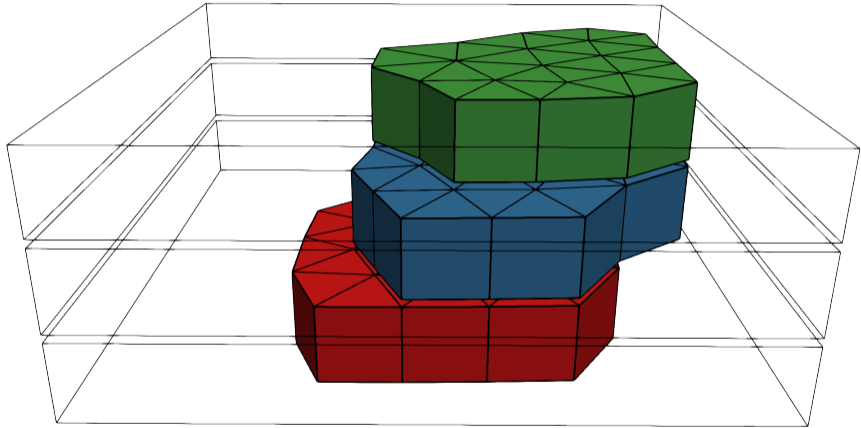
Space-Time slabs (tensor product mesh)





Space-Time level set domain  $\phi < 0$

# Illustration: three time slabs and an unfitted geometry



Active Space-Time mesh

Variational formulation on each time slab

(time stepping structure)

Find  $u_h \in W_n$  such that for all  $v_h \in W_n$  holds:

$$\begin{aligned} (\partial_t u_h + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h, v_h)_{Q^n} + (\nabla u_h, \nabla v_h)_{Q^n} \\ = (f, v_h)_{Q^n} \end{aligned}$$

Contributions

- Consistency to PDE

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t u - \Delta u + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u &= f && \text{in } \Omega(t), && t \in [0, T], \\ \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n}_{\partial\Omega} &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega(t), && t \in [0, T], \end{aligned}$$

## Variational formulation on each time slab

(time stepping structure)

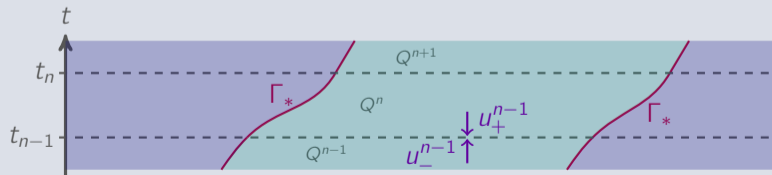
Find  $u_h \in W_n$  such that for all  $v_h \in W_n$  holds:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\partial_t u_h + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h, v_h)_{Q^n} + (\nabla u_h, \nabla v_h)_{Q^n} \\ & + (u_{h,+}^{n-1}, v_{h,+}^{n-1})_{\Omega^{n-1}} = (f, v_h)_{Q^n} + (u_{h,-}^{n-1}, v_{h,+}^{n-1})_{\Omega^{n-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

## Contributions

- Consistency to PDE

- Upwind stabilization



Variational formulation on each time slab

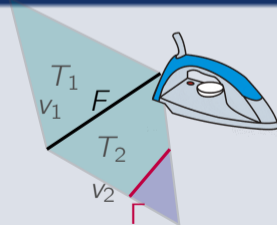
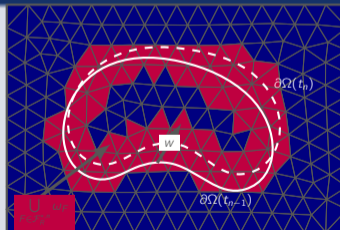
(time stepping structure)

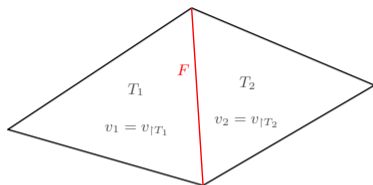
Find  $u_h \in W_n$  such that for all  $v_h \in W_n$  holds:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\partial_t u_h + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h, v_h)_{Q^n} + (\nabla u_h, \nabla v_h)_{Q^n} \\ & + (u_{h,+}^{n-1}, v_{h,+}^{n-1})_{\Omega^{n-1}} + j_h^n(u_h, v_h) = (f, v_h)_{Q^n} + (u_{h,-}^{n-1}, v_{h,+}^{n-1})_{\Omega^{n-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Contributions

- Consistency to PDE
- Upwind stabilization
- Ghost-penalty stabilization
  - facet-based stabilization (in the vicinity of cut prisms)
  - “glues” polynomials together
  - re-enables inverse inequalities

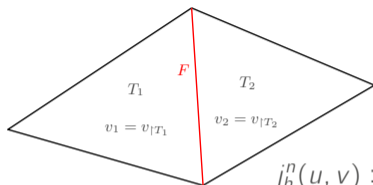




Define  $[[v]]_{\omega_F}(x) := v_1(x) - v_2(x)$  for  $x$  in  $\omega_F := T_1 \cup T_2$ .

There holds

$$\|v\|_{T_1}^2 \leq C (\|[[v]]_{\omega_F}\|_{T_1}^2 + \|v\|_{T_2}^2)$$

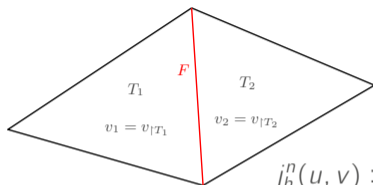


Define  $[[v]]_{\omega_F}(x) := v_1(x) - v_2(x)$  for  $x$  in  $\omega_F := T_1 \cup T_2$ .

There holds

$$\|v\|_{T_1}^2 \leq C (\|[[v]]_{\omega_F}\|_{T_1}^2 + \|v\|_{T_2}^2)$$

$$j_h^n(u, v) := \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \gamma_J(\Delta t, h) \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_R^{*,n}} \int_{\omega_F} \frac{1}{h^2} [[u]]_{\omega_F} [[v]]_{\omega_F} dx dt,$$



Define  $[[v]]_{\omega_F}(x) := v_1(x) - v_2(x)$  for  $x$  in  $\omega_F := T_1 \cup T_2$ .  
There holds

$$\|v\|_{T_1}^2 \leq C (\|[[v]]_{\omega_F}\|_{T_1}^2 + \|v\|_{T_2}^2)$$

$$j_h^n(u, v) := \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \gamma_J(\Delta t, h) \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_R^{*,n}} \int_{\omega_F} \frac{1}{h^2} [[u]]_{\omega_F} [[v]]_{\omega_F} dx dt,$$

## Stabilization factor $\gamma_J$

- Stabilization factor  $\gamma_J(\Delta t, h)$  may depend on anisotropic choice of  $\Delta t$  and  $h$ .
- $\gamma_J$  scales with number of elements to cross from “bad” to “good” element
- Question: Do you need to pass  
from space-time element to space-time element ( $\rightsquigarrow \gamma_J(\Delta t, h) \gtrsim (1 + \frac{\Delta t}{h})$ ) or  
from space element to space element for a fixed time ( $\rightsquigarrow \gamma_J(\Delta t, h) \gtrsim 1$ ; e.g. Nitsche)?

<sup>7</sup>J. Preuß. Higher order unfitted isoparametric space-time FEM on moving domains. Master’s thesis, 2018



- **Idea:** Instead of weakly enforcing continuity along time slices, strongly set according dofs.

Variational formulation on each time slab

( $C^0$ -continuity)

Find  $u_h^n \in W_n^{k_s, k_t} \cap \{u_h^n|_{t_{n-1}} = u_h^{n-1}|_{t_{n-1}}\}$  such that for all  $v_h \in W_n^{k_s, k_t-1}$  holds:

$$(\partial_t u_h^n + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h^n, v_h)_{Q^n} + (\nabla u_h^n, \nabla v_h)_{Q^n} + j_h^n(u_h^n, v_h) = (f, v_h)_{Q^n}.$$

<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

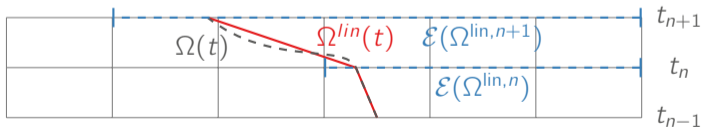
- **Idea:** Instead of weakly enforcing continuity along time slices, strongly set according dofs.

Variational formulation on each time slab ! not sane ! ( $C^0$ -continuity)

Find  $u_h^n \in W_n^{k_s, k_t} \cap \{u_h^n|_{t_{n-1}} = u_h^{n-1}|_{t_{n-1}}\}$  such that for all  $v_h \in W_n^{k_s, k_t-1}$  holds:

$$(\partial_t u_h^n + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h^n, v_h)_{Q^n} + (\nabla u_h^n, \nabla v_h)_{Q^n} + j_h^n(u_h^n, v_h) = (f, v_h)_{Q^n}.$$

- **Problem:** Domains might not be defined accordingly (how to set initial values?).



<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

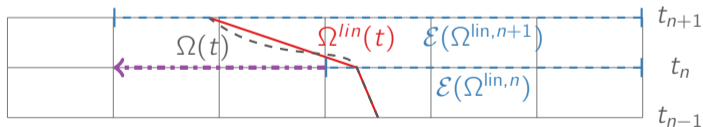
- **Idea:** Instead of weakly enforcing continuity along time slices, strongly set according dofs.

Variational formulation on each time slab ! not sane ! ( $C^0$ -continuity)

Find  $u_h^n \in W_n^{k_s, k_t} \cap \{u_h^n|_{t_{n-1}} = u_h^{n-1}|_{t_{n-1}}\}$  such that for all  $v_h \in W_n^{k_s, k_t-1}$  holds:

$$(\partial_t u_h^n + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h^n, v_h)_{Q^n} + (\nabla u_h^n, \nabla v_h)_{Q^n} + j_h^n(u_h^n, v_h) = (f, v_h)_{Q^n}.$$

- **Problem:** Domains might not be defined accordingly (how to set initial values?).



- **Idea:** Use extension (based on Ghost penalties) to obtain reasonable initial values

<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

Section 2

## **Unfitted Space-Time FEM**

Subsection 2.2

### **Geometry handling**

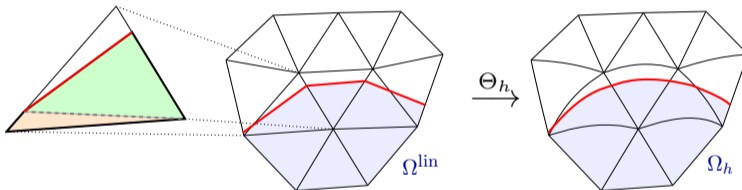
## Level set method

- smooth level set function  $\phi$
- $\Omega = \{x \in \tilde{\Omega} \mid \phi(x) < 0\}$ ,  $\partial\Omega = \{x \in \tilde{\Omega} \mid \phi(x) = 0\}$

## How to compute $\int_{\Omega} f \, dx$ over implicitly defined domain: Low-order approach

- approximate  $\phi$  by piecewise linear level set function  $\hat{\phi}_h = I_1\phi$ , where  $I_1$  nodal interpolation
- $\Omega^{\text{lin}} = \{x \in \tilde{\Omega} \mid \hat{\phi}_h(x) < 0\}$ ,  $\Gamma^{\text{lin}} = \{x \in \tilde{\Omega} \mid \hat{\phi}_h(x) = 0\}$
- $\rightsquigarrow \int_{\Omega} f \, dx \approx \int_{\Omega^{\text{lin}}} f \, dx$
- only 2<sup>nd</sup> order accurate but **robust**

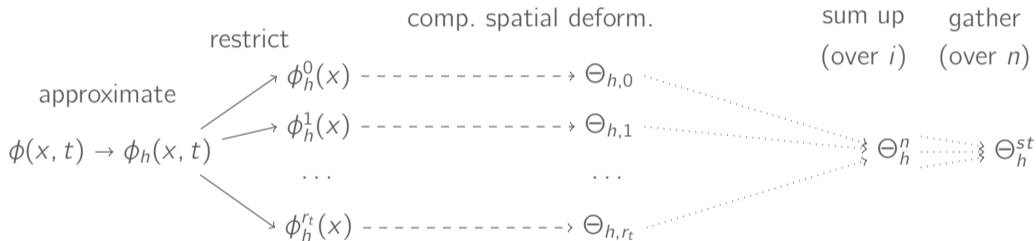
- Assume  $\phi_h \in V_h^{k_s}$  high order approximation of  $\phi$ , and  $\phi^{\text{lin}} \in V_h^1$
- On  $\Omega^{\text{lin}} = (\phi^{\text{lin}})^{-1}((-\infty, 0])$ , numerical integration can be performed by tessellation.
- Goal: Transfer these geometries by isoparametric mapping  $\Theta_h: \tilde{\Omega} \rightarrow \tilde{\Omega}$ ,  $\Theta_h \in (V_h^{k_s})^d$ .



- Integration only needs to deal with  $\Omega^{\text{lin}}$  (deformation  $\Theta_h$  changes integrands)
- **limited cut topologies** (feature and bug)

<sup>9</sup>[C.L.](#), High order unfitted finite element methods on level set domains using isoparametric mappings. CMAME, 2016.

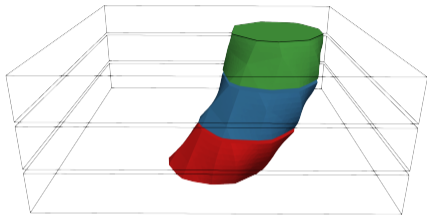
Assume  $\phi_h \in V_h^{qs} \otimes \mathcal{P}^{qt}(I_n)$  and define  $\Theta_h^n(x, t) = \sum_{i=0}^{r_t} \ell_i(t) \cdot \Theta_{h,i}$



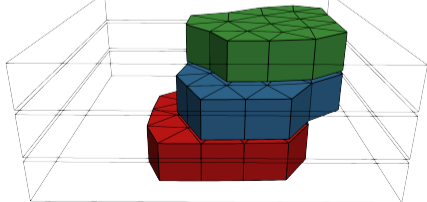
$$\Omega^h(t) := \Theta_h^{st}(\Omega^{\text{lin}} t, t), \quad Q^{\text{lin},n} = \bigcup_{t \in I_n} \Omega^{\text{lin}}(t) \times \{t\}, \quad Q^{h,n} = \Theta_h^{st}(Q^{\text{lin},n}).$$

<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

$$\{\hat{\phi}_h(x, t) = 0\}, \hat{\phi}_h(x, t) \in V_h^1 \otimes \mathcal{P}^{q_t}$$

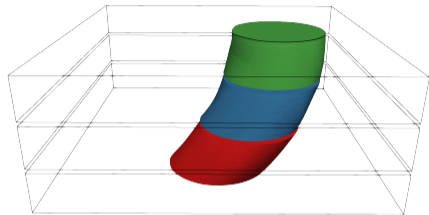


piecewise **linear-in-space** zero level set  
(allows for arbitrary order num. integration)

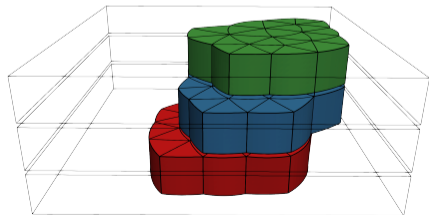


active space-time mesh  $\mathcal{E}(Q^n)$

$$\Theta_h(\{\hat{\phi}_h(x, t) = 0\}), \Theta_h(t) : \tilde{\Omega} \rightarrow \tilde{\Omega} \in [V_h^{q_s}]^d \otimes \mathcal{P}^{q_t}$$



explicit space-time level set domain



mapped mesh



Section 3

**A priori error analyses of DG (in time) method**

Section 3

## **A priori error analyses of DG (in time) method**

Subsection 3.1

**Preparations:**

**Integration by parts and the Ghost penalty mechanism**

## Formulation on the whole space-time domain

Find  $u \in W_h$  s.t. for all  $v \in W_h$   $B(u, v) + J(u, v) = f(v)$  with

$$B(u, v) := \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^N (\partial_t u + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u, v)_{Q^n}}_{=:d(u,v)} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^N (\nabla u, \nabla v)_{Q^n}}_{=:a(u,v)} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{N-1} (\llbracket u \rrbracket^n, v_+^n)_{\Omega^n} + (u_+^0, v_+^0)_{\Omega^0}}_{=:b(u,v)},$$

$$J(u, v) := \sum_{n=1}^N j_h^n(u, v), \quad f(v) := \sum_{n=1}^N (f, v)_{Q^n} + (u_0, v_+^0)_{\Omega^0}, \quad \text{where } \llbracket u \rrbracket^n = u_+^n - u_-^n.$$

## Formulation on the whole space-time domain

Find  $u \in W_h$  s.t. for all  $v \in W_h$   $B(u, v) + J(u, v) = f(v)$  with

$$B(u, v) := \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^N (\partial_t u + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u, v)_{Q^n}}_{=:d(u,v)} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^N (\nabla u, \nabla v)_{Q^n}}_{=:a(u,v)} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{N-1} (\llbracket u \rrbracket^n, v_+^n)_{\Omega^n} + (u_+^0, v_+^0)_{\Omega^0}}_{=:b(u,v)},$$

$$J(u, v) := \sum_{n=1}^N j_h^n(u, v), \quad f(v) := \sum_{n=1}^N (f, v)_{Q^n} + (u_0, v_+^0)_{\Omega^0}, \quad \text{where } \llbracket u \rrbracket^n = u_+^n - u_-^n.$$

## Assumptions

- Exact geometry handling, smooth domains
- shape-regular, quasi-uniform background mesh
- constant time step  $\Delta t_n \equiv \Delta t$

## Lemma

For  $u, v \in W_h + H^1(Q)$  there holds

$$\underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^N (\partial_t u + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u, v)_{Q^n}}_{=:d(u,v)} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{N-1} (\llbracket u \rrbracket^n, v_+^n)_{\Omega^n} + (u_+^0, v_+^0)_{\Omega^0}}_{=:b(u,v)} = d'(u, v) + b'(u, v) \quad \text{with}$$

$$d'(u, v) := \sum_{n=1}^N (u, -(\partial_t v + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla v))_{Q^n}, \quad b'(u, v) := - \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} (u_-^n, \llbracket v \rrbracket^n)_{\Omega^n} + (u_-^N, v_-^N)_{\Omega^N}.$$

## Corollary ( $v = u$ )

$$(d + b)(u, u) = \left( \frac{d+d'}{2} + \frac{b+b'}{2} \right)(u, u) = \frac{1}{2} \llbracket u \rrbracket^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \llbracket u \rrbracket^2 := \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} (\llbracket u \rrbracket^n, \llbracket u \rrbracket^n)_{\Omega^n} + (u_+^0, u_+^0)_{\Omega^0} + (u_-^N, u_-^N)_{\Omega^N}.$$

## Lemma

There exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that for every  $u \in W_h \oplus \nabla W_h$  there holds

$$\|u\|_{\mathcal{E}(Q^n)}^2 \leq C \left( \frac{h^2}{\gamma_J} j_h^n(u, u) + \|u\|_{\mathcal{I}(Q^n)}^2 \right) \quad \text{and} \quad \|u\|_{\mathcal{E}(Q)}^2 \leq C \left( \frac{h^2}{\gamma_J} J(u, u) + \|u\|_{\mathcal{I}(Q)}^2 \right).$$

## Key result for analysis

- bound norm of discrete function on  $\mathcal{E}(Q^n)$  by its norm on  $\mathcal{I}(Q^n)$  (plus stabilization terms)  
[directly clear for  $L^2$  norm, but can be extended to other relevant norms]
- allows to extend estimates for finite elements with tensor product structure to unfitted case

Section 3

## **A priori error analyses of DG (in time) method**

Subsection 3.2

### **Coercivity-based analyses**

## Norms

$$\|u\|_j^2 := \|u\|^2 + \|u\|_J^2,$$

$$\|u\|^2 := \llbracket u \rrbracket^2 + \sum_{n=1}^N \|\nabla u\|_{Q^n},$$

$$\llbracket u \rrbracket^2 := \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} (\llbracket u \rrbracket^n, \llbracket u \rrbracket^n)_{\Omega^n},$$

$$\|u\|_J^2 := J(u, u).$$

## Lemma

For all  $u \in W_h$  there holds

$$B(u, u)(+J(u, u)) \geq \frac{1}{2} \llbracket u \rrbracket^2 + \sum_n \|\nabla u\|_{Q^n}^2 (+\|u\|_J^2) \gtrsim \|u\|_j^2$$

Note: We do not require Ghost penalty stabilization (i.e.  $\gamma_J > 0$ ) here.



## Lemma (Céa Lemma)

There holds the a priori error estimate  $\|u - u_h\| \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_*$  with  $\|\cdot\|_* = ?$  and  $u_I = ?$

## Lemma (Céa Lemma)

There holds the a priori error estimate  $\|u - u_h\| \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_*$  with  $\|\cdot\|_* = ?$  and  $u_I = ?$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|u_I - u_h\|^2 &\lesssim B(u_I - u_h, u_I - u_h) \stackrel{\text{Gal. orth.}}{=} B(u_I - u, u_I - u_h) \stackrel{!}{\lesssim} \|u - u_I\|_* \|u_h - u_I\| \\
 + \|u_I - u_h\|_J^2 &+ J(u_I - u_h, u_I - u_h) \qquad \qquad \qquad + J(u_I, u_I - u_h) \qquad \qquad \qquad + \|u_I\|_J \|u_h - u_I\|_J \\
 &\Rightarrow \|u_I - u_h\| \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_* \\
 &\Rightarrow \|u - u_h\| \leq \|u_I - u_h\| + \|u_I - u\| \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_* \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

## Lemma (Céa Lemma)

There holds the a priori error estimate  $\|u - u_h\| \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_*$  with  $\|\cdot\|_* = ?$  and  $u_I = ?$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_I - u_h\|^2 &\lesssim B(u_I - u_h, u_I - u_h) \stackrel{\text{Gal. orth.}}{=} B(u_I - u, u_I - u_h) \stackrel{!}{\lesssim} \|u - u_I\|_* \|u_h - u_I\| \\ + \|u_I - u_h\|_J^2 &+ J(u_I - u_h, u_I - u_h) \quad + J(u_I, u_I - u_h) \quad + \|u_I\|_J \|u_h - u_I\|_J \\ &\Rightarrow \|u_I - u_h\| \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_* \\ &\Rightarrow \|u - u_h\| \leq \|u_I - u_h\| + \|u_I - u\| \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_* \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion:

We need  $B(u_I - u, u_I - u_h) \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_* \|u_h - u_I\|$  and have essentially two degrees of freedom:  
**Interpolant  $u_I$  and norm  $\|\cdot\|_*$**

- Method and analysis for moving interface problem with special Nitsche for interface conditions (no Ghost penalties)
- Use continuous (in-time) interpolant  $u_I$ , s.t.  $u - u_I$  is continuous in time s.t.  $[[\cdot]]^n$  terms vanish.
- Choose  $\|\cdot\|_* = \|\cdot\|_{H^1(Q)}$  (space-time  $H^1$  norm), i.e.  $\partial_t(u - u_I)$  can be controlled
- Consequence:

$$\|u - u_h\| \lesssim \|u - u_I\|_* = \|u - u_I\|_{H^1(Q)}$$

- Suboptimal in time by one order (anisotropic case)

---

<sup>6</sup>[C.L.](#), A. Reusken. Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems. SINUM, 2013.

- Construct interpolant  $u_I = \mathcal{I}_Q u$  so that for all  $n$

$$\int_{Q^n} (u - \mathcal{I}_Q u) w_h \, d(x, t) = 0 \quad \forall w_h \in V_h^{k_s, n} \otimes \mathcal{P}^{k_t-1}(I_n) = \partial_t W_h, \quad \int_{\Omega^n} (u - \mathcal{I}_Q u) w_h \, dx = 0 \quad \forall w_h \in V_h^{k_s, n}$$

- Apply partial integration and set  $\|\cdot\|_* = \|\cdot\|$

$$\begin{aligned} (d + b)(u_I - u, u_I - u_h) &= (d' + b')(u_I - u, u_I - u_h) \\ &\stackrel{u_I = \mathcal{I}_Q u}{=} \underbrace{d'(\mathcal{I}_Q u - u, w_h)}_{\partial_t \dots \rightsquigarrow \partial_t \dots} + \underbrace{b'(\mathcal{I}_Q u - u, w_h)}_{=0} \lesssim \|\mathcal{I}_Q u - u\| \|w_h\| \end{aligned}$$

- Price to pay: Rely on  $\mathcal{I}_Q^{\text{TP}}$ :  $\|\nabla(u - \mathcal{I}_Q u)\|_{Q^n} \leq \|\nabla(u - \mathcal{I}_Q^{\text{TP}} u)\|_{Q^n} + \underbrace{\|\nabla(\mathcal{I}_Q u - \mathcal{I}_Q \mathcal{I}_Q^{\text{TP}} u)\|_{Q^n}}_{\lesssim h^{-1} \|u - \mathcal{I}_Q^{\text{TP}} u\|_{Q^n}}$
- Error bound:  $\|u - u_h\| \lesssim h^{k_s} |u|_{H^{k_s+1,0}(Q)} + h^{-1} \Delta t^{k_t+1} |u|_{H^{0,k_t+1}(Q)} + h^{k_s+1} \sup_t |u|_{H^{k_s+1}(\Omega(t))}$

<sup>10</sup>S. Badia, H. Dilip, F. Verdugo. Space-time aggregated FEM for time-dependent problems on moving domains. arxiv:2206.03626, 2013.

## Ghost penalty

- Ghost penalties are not needed for the a priori analysis (assuming exact arithmetics)
- Ghost penalties are (only) crucial for conditioning
- Ghost penalties also don't hurt
- Both works treat problems with Dirichlet-type boundary or interface conditions with Nitsche. Then, Ghost penalties <sup>a</sup> become necessary<sup>b</sup>

---

<sup>a</sup>or alike (e.g. aggregated FEM)

<sup>b</sup>with a special form of Nitsche's method the interface problem can even be done without Ghost penalties.

---

<sup>6</sup>[C.L.](#), A. Reusken. Analysis of a Nitsche XFEM-DG discretization for a class of two-phase mass transport problems. SINUM, 2013.

<sup>10</sup>S. Badia, H. Dilip, F. Verdugo. Space-time aggregated FEM for time-dependent problems on moving domains. arxiv:2206.03626, 2013.

Section 3

## **A priori error analyses of DG (in time) method**

Subsection 3.3

### **Inf-Sup based analysis**

## Motivation

- Consider problem as similar to a linear transport problem
- Space-time convection:  $\partial_t + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla = \nabla^*$
- Treat time derivative as convection in linear transport DG analysis

---

<sup>7</sup>J. Preuß. Higher order unfitted isoparametric space-time FEM on moving domains. Master's thesis, 2018



## Motivation

- Consider problem as similar to a linear transport problem
- Space-time convection:  $\partial_t + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla = \nabla^*$
- Treat time derivative as convection in linear transport DG analysis

## Norms

Two norms:

$[\Delta t$  takes the role of  $\Delta^{-1}$ ]

- “Stability norm”:  $\| \| u \| \| ^2 := \sum_{n=1}^N (\Delta t \partial_t u, \partial_t u)_{Q^n} + \| \| u \| ^2 + \sum_{n=1}^N (\nabla u, \nabla u)_{Q^n}$
- “Continuity norm”:  $\| \| u \| _*^2 := \sum_{n=1}^N \left( \frac{1}{\Delta t} u, u \right)_{Q^n} + \| \| u \| _*^2 + \sum_{n=1}^N (\nabla u, \nabla u)_{Q^n}$  with  $\| \| u \| _*^2 := \sum_{n=1}^N (u_-^n, u_-^n)_{\Omega^n}$ .
- Pairing is **tailored for continuity** while balancing approximation in time:  $B(u, v) \lesssim \| \| u \| _* \| \| v \| \|$
- No restriction on interpolation operator

<sup>7</sup>J. Preuß. Higher order unfitted isoparametric space-time FEM on moving domains. Master’s thesis, 2018

## Lemma

For all  $u \in W_h$  there is a  $v \in W_h$  so that there holds

$$B(u, v) + J(u, v) \gtrsim \|u\|_j \|v\|_j$$

## Sketch of proof.

- Ghost penalty allows to reduce the problem to problem on interior tensor-product domain  $\mathcal{I}(Q)$
- For  $u \in W_h$  there holds  $v^* = \Delta t \partial_t u \in W_h$

$$\rightsquigarrow (\partial_t u, v^*)_{Q^n} = (\partial_t u, \Delta t \partial_t u)_{Q^n} \quad \text{and} \quad \|v^*\|_j \simeq \|u\|_j$$

- Set  $v = u + \alpha v^*$
- + technicalities



<sup>7</sup>J. Preuß. Higher order unfitted isoparametric space-time FEM on moving domains. Master's thesis, 2018

## Theorem

Let  $k_{\max} = \max \{k_s, k_t\}$ . Then there holds:

$$\| \| u - u_h \| \| \lesssim \left( \Delta t^{k_t+1/2} + \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{h}\right) h^{k_s}} \right) \| u \|_{H^{k_{\max}+2}(Q)},$$

(semi-)norm $ \cdot  = \dots$	approximation error $\inf_{w_h \in W_h}  u - w_h  \leq C \cdot \dots$	discretization error $ u - u_h  \leq C \cdot \dots$
$\Delta t^{\frac{1}{2}} \ \partial_t \cdot\ _Q$	$\Delta t^{k_t+\frac{1}{2}} + h^{k_s+1}$	$\Delta t^{k_t+\frac{1}{2}} + \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{h}\right) h^{k_s}}$
$\ \nabla \cdot\ _Q$	$\Delta t^{k_t+1} + h^{k_s}$	$\Delta t^{k_t+\frac{1}{2}} + \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{h}\right) h^{k_s}}$

The result is optimal in the chosen (stronger) norm (up to the space-time anisotropy factor).

<sup>7</sup>J. Preuß. Higher order unfitted isoparametric space-time FEM on moving domains. Master's thesis, 2018

## Error bounds

$$\text{Approach 1: } \|u - u_h\| \lesssim h^{k_s} |u|_{H^{k_s+1,0}(Q)} + \Delta t^{k_t} |u|_{H^{0,k_t+1}(Q)}$$

$$\text{Approach 2: } \|u - u_h\| \lesssim h^{k_s} |u|_{H^{k_s+1,0}(Q)} + h^{-1} \Delta t^{k_t+1} |u|_{H^{0,k_t}(Q)} + h^{k_s+1} \sup_t |u|_{H^{k_s+1}(\Omega(t))}$$

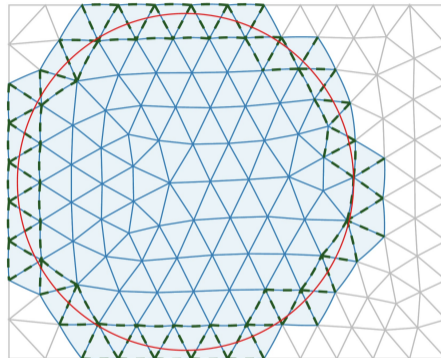
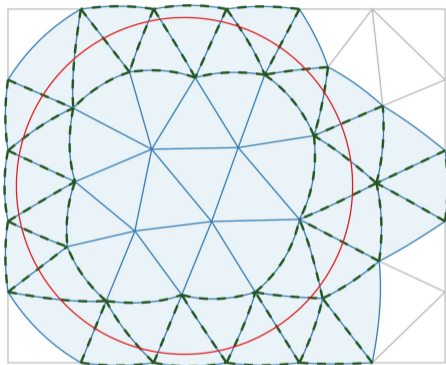
$$\text{Approach 3: } \|u - u_h\| \lesssim \left( \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{h}\right)} h^{k_s} + \Delta t^{k_t+1/2} \right) \|u\|_{H^{k_{\max}+2}(Q)}$$

## Remarks

- Anisotropy factor does not appear for Approaches 1,2 as Ghost Penalty was not needed.
- Strong regularity assumption in Approach 3 can be reduced (simplification).
- Isotropic case ( $\Delta t \simeq h$ ) and equal (or lower spatial) order  $k_s \leq k_t$ : same rates ( $h^{k_s}$ )
- Isotropic case ( $\Delta t \simeq h$ ), higher spatial order  $k_s \geq k_t$ : Approach 1,2:  $\Delta t^{k_t}$ , Approach 3:  $\Delta t^{k_t+\frac{1}{2}}$
- Duality techniques not obvious for any of these cases  
[for Approach 1  $H^{-1}(\Omega(T))$ -norm bounds exist]

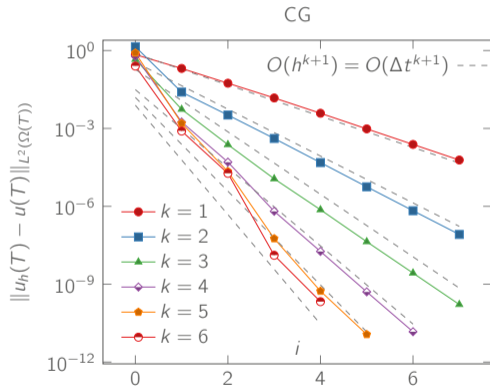
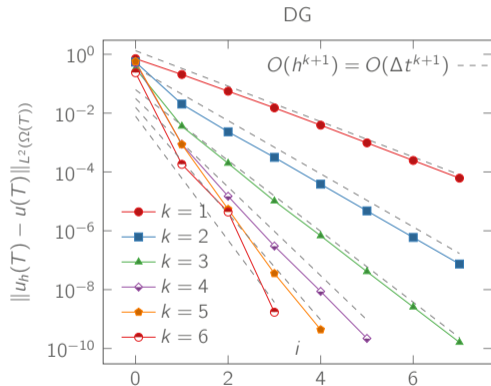
Section 4

## **Numerical examples**

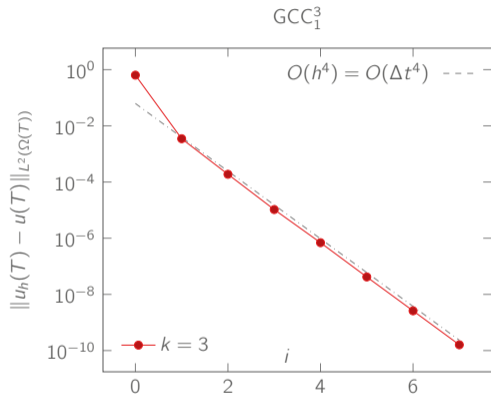


<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

First setup: Kite with  $k = k_s = k_t = q_s = q_t$ ,  $i = i_s = i_t$ , manufactured  $f$ .



<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

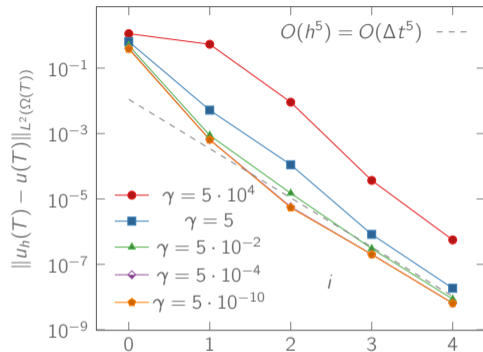


Overall, we observe

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega(T))} + \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(L^2(\Omega(t)), 0, T)} \\ &= \mathcal{O}(h^{k+1}) = \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^{k+1}). \end{aligned}$$

<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

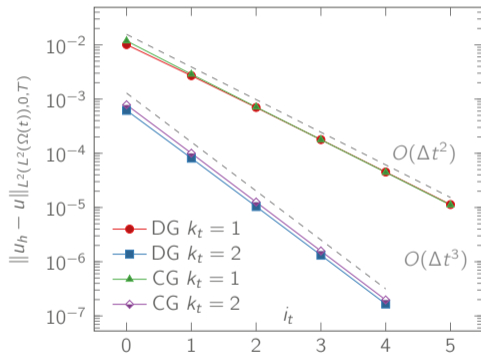
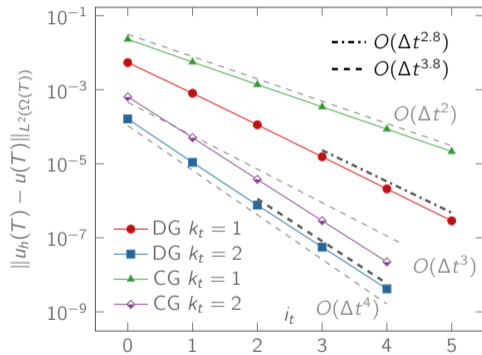




- Consider DG,  $k = 4$
- $\Rightarrow$  No significant impact of stab. parameter.

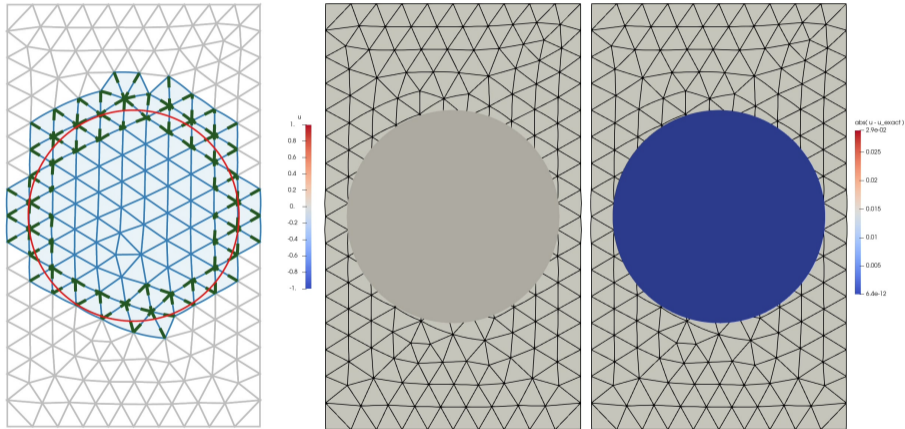
<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

**Idea:** Investigate  $(k_t, k_s) = (1, 3), (2, 5)$  to see whether we obtain more than  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^{k_t+1})$ .

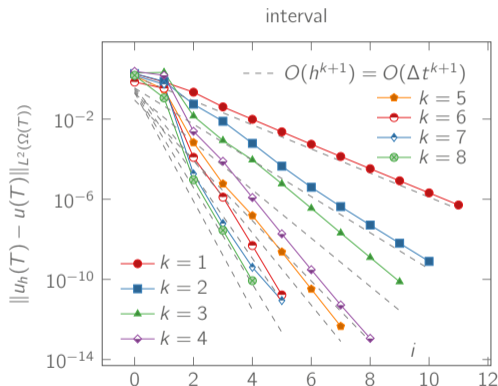
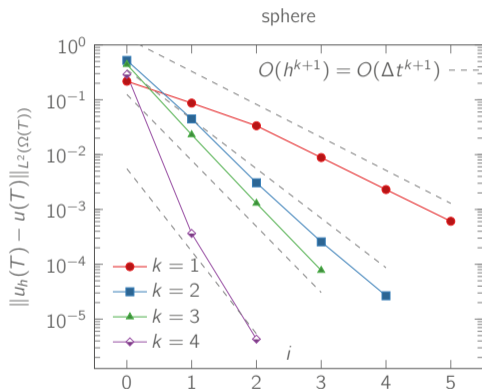


**Result:**  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^{k_t+1.8})$  for DG. For CG no unique result.

<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.



<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.



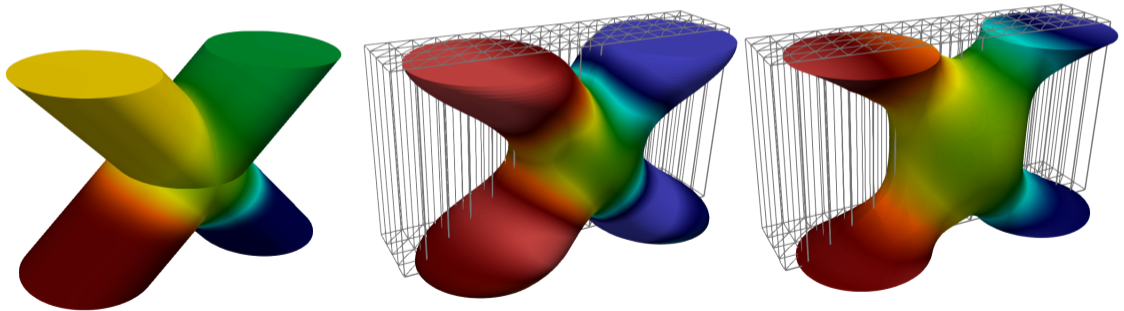
<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

	$i_t = 1$		$i_t = 3$		$i_t = 5$	
	nzes	err	nzes	err	nzes	err
DG( $k=1$ ):	3.57K – 4.24K	$(1.3 \cdot 10^{-1})$	3.3K – 3.31K	$(3.4 \cdot 10^{-2})$	2.79K – 3.14K	$(3.3 \cdot 10^{-2})$
CG( $k=1$ ):	1.63K – 1.72K	$(1.7 \cdot 10^{-1})$	978 – 1.6K	$(3.3 \cdot 10^{-2})$	728 – 867	$(3.3 \cdot 10^{-2})$
DG( $k=3$ ):	353K – 442K	$(6.6 \cdot 10^{-4})$	293K – 327K	$(2.6 \cdot 10^{-4})$	267K – 300K	$(2.7 \cdot 10^{-4})$
CG( $k=3$ ):	221K – 268K	$(1.6 \cdot 10^{-3})$	172K – 190K	$(2.9 \cdot 10^{-4})$	150K – 171K	$(2.7 \cdot 10^{-4})$
GCC( $k=3$ ):	145K – 151K	$(6.1 \cdot 10^{-3})$	84.5K – 92.2K	$(3.1 \cdot 10^{-4})$	62.9K – 76.1K	$(2.8 \cdot 10^{-4})$
DG( $k=5$ ):	4.39M – 5.58M	$(5.4 \cdot 10^{-6})$	3.60M – 4.5M	$(2.8 \cdot 10^{-7})$	3.26M – 3.69M	$(2.2 \cdot 10^{-7})$
CG( $k=5$ ):	3.71M – 4.43M	$(1.7 \cdot 10^{-5})$	2.69M – 2.99M	$(1.2 \cdot 10^{-6})$	2.28M – 2.63M	$(4.3 \cdot 10^{-7})$

Range for non-zero entries (nzes) of system matrix (depends on time step) and absolute  $L^2(T)$ -error (err) in comparison for DG, CG and GCC. In this whole table,  $i_s = 2$ .

<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

- A test case in 2D with topology change:
- Two circles with different constant concentration merge and separate.
- 1 time step of DG method:



<sup>8</sup>F. Heimann, [C.L.](#), J. Preuß. Geometrically higher order unfitted space-time methods for pdes on moving domains. arXiv:2202.02216, accepted (SISC), 2022.

Section 5

## **Summary and outlook**

## Summary

- Arbitrary high order and robust unfitted methods for moving domains
- higher order geometry handling (numerically tested)
- a priori error bounds (for exact geometry handling)

## Issues / ongoing work

- Improved a priori error analysis
- A priori error analysis for continuous-in-time variants
- A priori error analysis including geometry approximation
  - Geometry errors perturb some important structural results [ integration by parts, .. ]
  - Parametric mapping leads to difficulties [ discontinuous-in-time mapping  $\rightsquigarrow$  mesh transfer operations, .. ]
- Applications beyond the scalar model problem



## Summary

- Arbitrary high order and robust unfitted methods for moving domains
- higher order geometry handling (numerically tested)
- a priori error bounds (for exact geometry handling)

## Issues / ongoing work

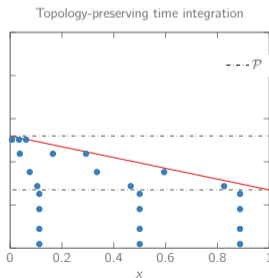
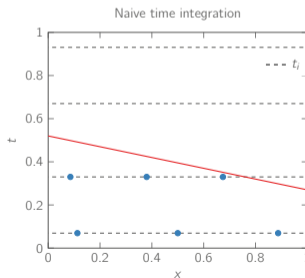
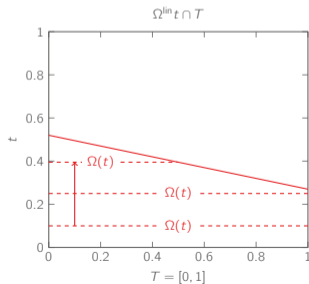
- Improved a priori error analysis
- A priori error analysis for continuous-in-time variants
- A priori error analysis including geometry approximation
  - Geometry errors perturb some important structural results [ integration by parts, .. ]
  - Parametric mapping leads to difficulties [ discontinuous-in-time mapping  $\rightsquigarrow$  mesh transfer operations, .. ]
- Applications beyond the scalar model problem

Thank you for your attention!

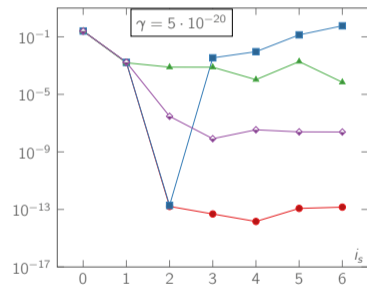
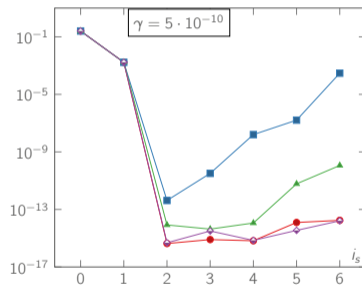
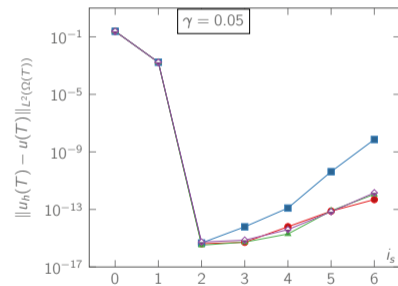
Section 6

**Appendix**

- General strategy: iterated integrals
- On each prism the reference level set function is  $\mathcal{P}^1(T) \times \mathcal{P}^{qt}(I_n)$ .
- Integrand becomes nonsmooth where level set function touches (space) vertices
- Decompose outer integration (time) into sub-intervals

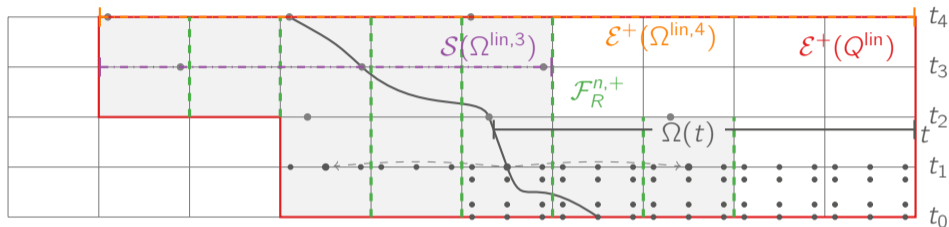


- By and large, naive and topology-sensitive time integration yield similar results.
- Differences in 1D example,  $k = 4$ ,  $i_t = 0$ .



● topology-sensitive ■ naive ▲ naive double order ◆ naive 10 substeps

⇒ Ghost-penalty stabilisation can fix stability issues from naive time integration.



Variational formulation (w. homogenization and extension): Find  $u = u_0 + u_{\text{init}}$  with  $u_0 \in W_n^{k_s, k_t} \cap \{u_h^n|_{t_{n-1}} = 0\}$  and  $u_{\text{init}} \in W_n^{k_s, k_t}$  (given) s.t.

$$B^n(u_0, v) + j_h^n(u_0, v) + j_h^{n,*}(\mathcal{F}_R^{n,+}, t_n; (u_0)_-, v_-) = f^n(v) - B^n(u_{\text{init}}, v) \quad \forall v \in V_h^n,$$

- Some details are missing
- Idea extends to methods with higher regularity in time (Galerkin collocation methods).