

# Divergence-free tangential finite element methods for incompressible flows on surfaces

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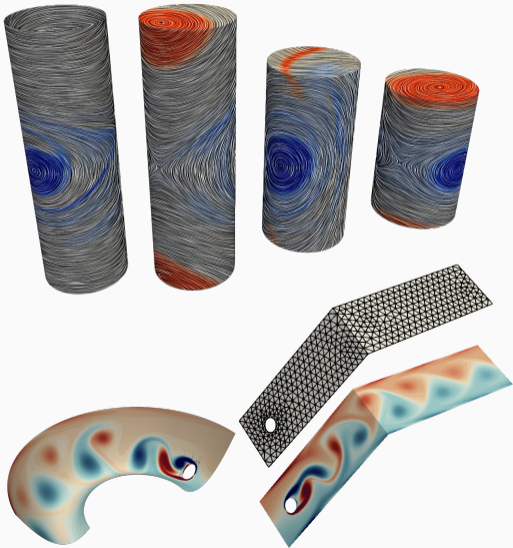
<sup>2</sup>Institute for Numerical and Applied Mathematics, University of Göttingen



<https://bit.ly/2mrrTWI>

(slides)

# Incompressible flows on surface



## Problem classes:

- Incompressible flows on surfaces:
  - Vector Laplacian
  - Surface Stokes
  - Surface Navier–Stokes

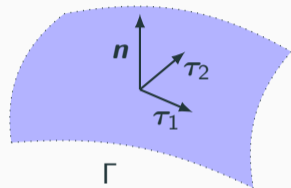
## Discretization goals:

- **Tangential** FE spaces
- Surface **divergence-conforming** FEM



## Some notation: Surface differential operators

$\Gamma$  piecewise smooth, connected, 2D,  
stationary, oriented surface embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .



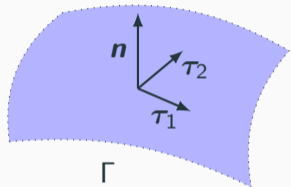
Surface gradient (scalar  $\phi$ ):

$$\nabla_{\Gamma}\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1,2} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial\tau_i} \boldsymbol{\tau}_i = P(\mathbf{x})\nabla\phi^e(\mathbf{x}),$$

$P(\mathbf{x}) = I - \mathbf{n} \otimes \mathbf{n}$ ,  $(\cdot)^e$ : smooth extension

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$$\nabla_{\Gamma} \phi(x) = \sum_{i=1,2} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \tau_i} \tau_i = P(x) \nabla \phi^e(x),$$

$$P(x) = I - \mathbf{n} \otimes \mathbf{n}, \quad (\cdot)^e: \text{smooth extension}$$

**Covariant derivative** ( $u = \sum_{j=1,2} u_j \tau_j$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\Gamma} u(x) &= \sum_{i,j=1,2} \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial \tau_i} \tau_j \otimes \tau_i \\ &= P(x) \nabla u^e(x) P(x), \end{aligned}$$

**Surface divergence:**

$$\operatorname{div}_{\Gamma} = \operatorname{tr}(\nabla_{\Gamma} u)$$

**Surface strain tensor:**

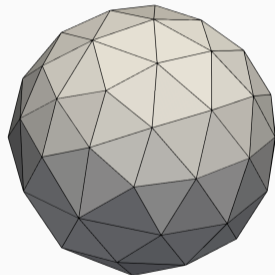
$$\varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u) = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla_{\Gamma} u + \nabla_{\Gamma} u^T)$$

## First problem: Vector Laplacian

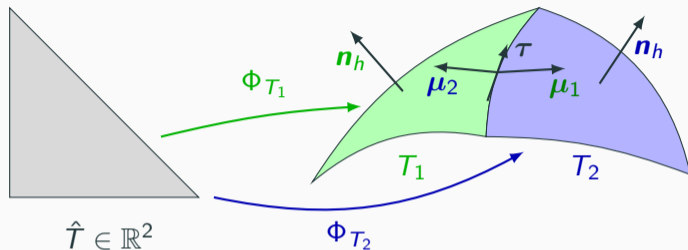
Find  $u : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  with  $u \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ , s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} -P \operatorname{div}_{\Gamma}(\varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u)) + u &= f && \text{in } \Gamma, \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Gamma. \end{aligned}$$

with  $f \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ .

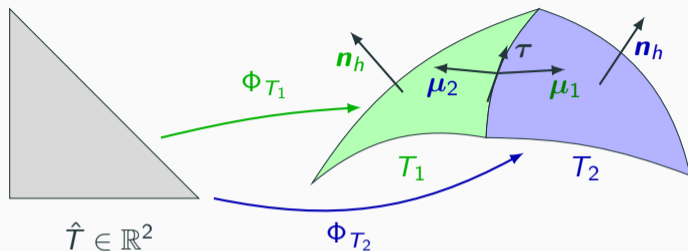


## Discrete surfaces



Discrete surface  $\Gamma_h = \bigcup_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} T$  is **only**  $C^0$ .  $T = \phi_T(\hat{T})$  with  $\phi_T : \mathbb{R}^2 \ni \hat{T} \rightarrow T \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .

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 $\rightsquigarrow$  **Discontinuous normal** field, i.e.  $\mu_1 \neq -\mu_2$  on edges  $E \in \mathcal{F}_h$ .

**Solutions in  $H_T^1(\Gamma_h)$ :**

- **Tangential:**  $u \cdot n_h = 0$
- Tangential continuity:  $u_1 \cdot \tau = u_2 \cdot \tau$  and
- (Co-)normal continuity:  $u_1 \cdot \mu_1 + u_2 \cdot \mu_2 = 0$ .

## $H^1$ -conforming approaches

Hansbo/Larson/Larsson 2016, Reuther/Voigt 2018, Fries 2018

Olshanskii/Yushutin 2018, Jankuhn/Reusken 2019

- Look for **3D** solution field in surface FE space

$$u_h \in [S_h^k]^3, \quad S_h^k := \{v_h \in H^1(\Gamma) \mid v_h|_T \circ \Phi_T \in \mathbb{P}^k(\hat{T}) \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h\}, \quad [S_h^k]^3 \subset [H^1(\Gamma)]^3 \supset H_T^1(\Gamma)$$

- and implement  $u_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_h = 0$  through **variational formulation**:
  - Lagrange multiplier formulation
  - Penalty formulation

## Example formulation of the Vector-Laplacian (penalty):

Find  $u_h \in [S_h^k]^3$ , s.t. for all  $v_h \in [S_h^k]^3$  there holds

$$\int_{\Gamma_h} \varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u_h) : \varepsilon_{\Gamma}(v_h) \, dx + \int_{\Gamma_h} u_h \cdot v_h \, dx + \int_{\Gamma_h} \rho (u_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_h)(v_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_h) \, dx = \int_{\Gamma_h} f v_h \, dx$$

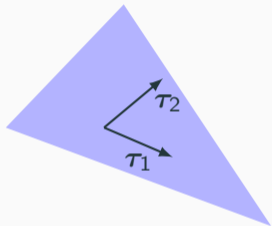


# Our approach: abandoning $H^1$ -conformity

## Discontinuous tangential FE space

Simple tang. FE space (local coords.  $\tau_i = \partial_{\hat{x}_i} \Phi_T / \|\partial_{\hat{x}_i} \Phi_T\|$ ):

$$\tilde{W}_h := \{v_h \in L^2_T(\Gamma) \mid v_h|_T = v_1 \cdot \tau_1 + v_2 \cdot \tau_2, v_i \circ \Phi_T \in \mathbb{P}^k(\hat{T}) \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h\}$$



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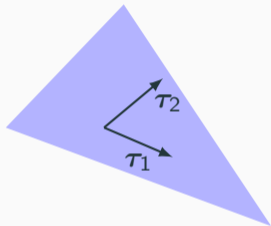
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Tangential FE space by Piola transformation:

$$W_h := \{v_h \in L^2_T(\Gamma) \mid v_h|_T = \underbrace{\frac{1}{J_T} F_T}_{\mathcal{P}_T} \underbrace{v_h \circ \Phi_T^{-1}}_{\hat{v}_h}, \hat{v}_h \in [\mathbb{P}^k(\hat{T})]^2 \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h\}$$

with  $F_T = \Phi'_T(\hat{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} | & | \\ c_1 \tau_1 & c_2 \tau_2 \\ | & | \end{pmatrix}$  and  $J_T = \sqrt{\det(F_T^T F_T)}$ ,  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h$ .

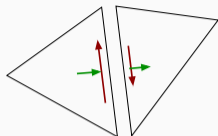
↪ tangential FE spaces are easy to construct when leaving  $H^1$ -conformity!



# DG formulation for Vector Laplacian

## Interior penalty formulation of second order term

Averages and jumps:



$$\{\{\sigma\mu\}\} := \frac{\sigma|_{T_1}\mu_1 - \sigma|_{T_2}\mu_2}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \llbracket u \rrbracket := \llbracket u \rrbracket_{\tau}\tau + \llbracket u \rrbracket_{\mu}\bar{\mu}$$

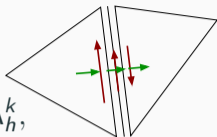
$$\llbracket u \rrbracket_{\mu} := u|_{T_1} \cdot \mu_1 + u|_{T_2} \cdot \mu_2, \quad \llbracket u \rrbracket_{\tau} := (u|_{T_1} - u|_{T_2}) \cdot \tau, \quad \bar{\mu} = \frac{1}{2}\mu_1 + \frac{1}{2}\mu_2.$$

DG bilinear form:

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(\varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u)) \rightsquigarrow a_h(u_h, v_h) &:= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_T \varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u_h) : \varepsilon_{\Gamma}(v_h) \, dx + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{F}_h} \int_E \{\{-\varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u_h)\mu\}\} : \llbracket v_h \rrbracket \, ds \\ &+ \int_E \{\{-\varepsilon_{\Gamma}(v_h)\mu\}\} : \llbracket u_h \rrbracket \, ds + \frac{\alpha k^2}{h} \int_E \llbracket u_h \rrbracket : \llbracket v_h \rrbracket \, ds. \end{aligned}$$

## Hybrid DG formulation for Vector Laplacian

The facet approximation (two-sided view)



$$\lambda_{T_1} := \lambda_{\tau} \tau + \lambda_{\mu} \mu_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_{T_2} := \lambda_{\tau} \tau + \lambda_{\mu} \mu_2 \quad \text{for } \lambda_{\tau}, \lambda_{\mu} \in \Lambda_h^k,$$

with  $\Lambda_h^k$  the space of **scalar**, discontinuous, piecewise polynomials **on the skeleton**.

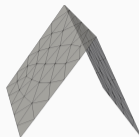
**HDG** jumps (for one element):

$$[[u]]^H := [[u]]_{\tau}^H \tau + [[u]]_{\mu}^H \mu, \quad [[u]]_{\mu}^H := u|_T \cdot \mu - \lambda_{\mu}, \quad [[u]]_{\tau}^H := u|_T \cdot \tau - \lambda_{\tau}$$

**HDG** bilinear form:

( allows for static condensation)

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(\varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u)) \rightsquigarrow a_h(u_h, v_h) := & \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_T \varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u_h) : \varepsilon_{\Gamma}(v_h) dx + \int_{\partial T} (-\varepsilon_{\Gamma}(u_h) \mu) \cdot [[v_h]]^H ds \\ & + \int_{\partial T} (-\varepsilon_{\Gamma}(v_h) \mu) \cdot [[u_h]]^H ds + \frac{\alpha k^2}{h} \int_{\partial T} [[u_h]]^H \cdot [[v_h]]^H ds. \end{aligned}$$



surface

 $\Gamma_1$  $\Gamma_2 = \Psi(\Gamma_1)$ ,  $\Psi$  : isometry

exact solution

 $u^1$  $u^2 = \mathcal{P}_\Psi(u^1) = \frac{1}{J} \Psi'(u^1 \circ \Psi^{-1})$ 

$$\|\nabla_\Gamma(u^e - u_h)\|_{\Gamma_h}$$

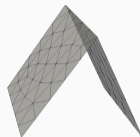
(H1-L/P,  $k = 3$ )

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(HDG,  $k = 3$ )

# A first example: house of cards

(only piecewise smooth)



surface

$\Gamma_1$

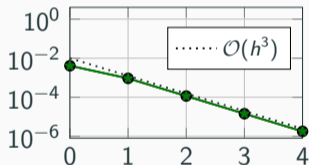
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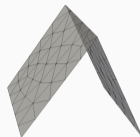
$\|\nabla_\Gamma(u^e - u_h)\|_{\Gamma_h}$   
(H1-L/P,  $k = 3$ )



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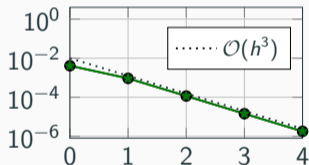
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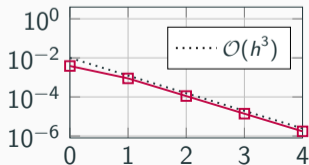
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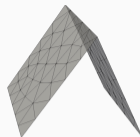


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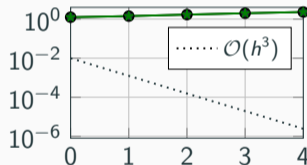
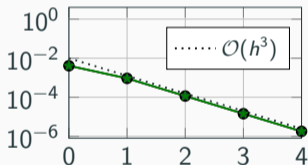
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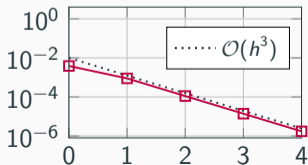
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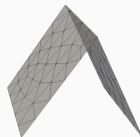
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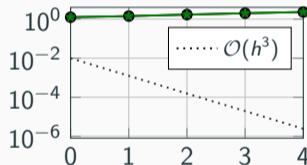
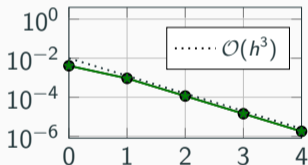
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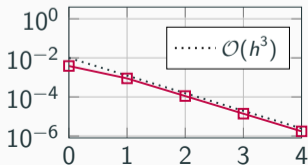
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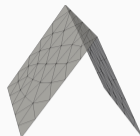
$u^2 \notin [H^1(\Gamma)]^3$

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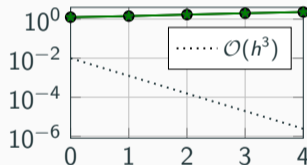
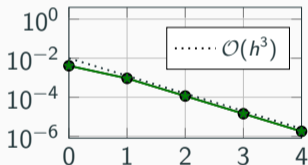
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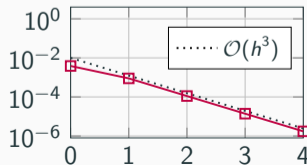
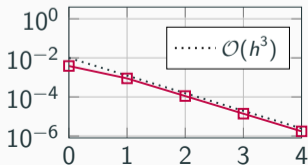
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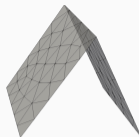
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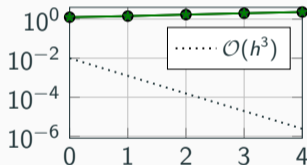
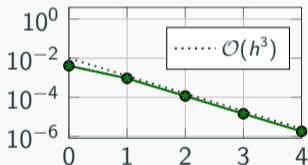
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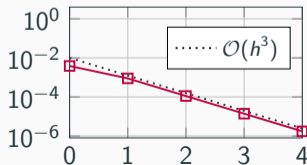
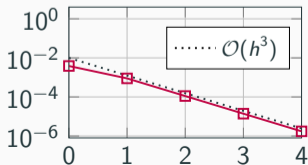
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$u_h^2 = \mathcal{P}_\Psi(u_h^1)$

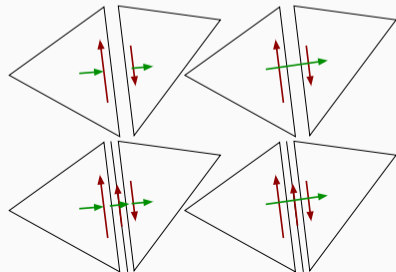
## Normal-continuity

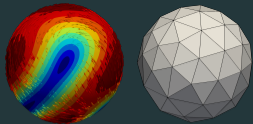
**Piola transformation** preserves normal moments  $\rightsquigarrow$  We can easily construct  $H(\text{div}_\Gamma)$ -conforming finite elements:

$$V_h^k := W_h^k \cap \{[[u]]_\mu = 0 \forall E \in \mathcal{F}_h\}$$

Consequences for (H)DG discretizations:

- For DG:  $[[u]] = [[u]]_\tau \tau$
- For HDG: we can remove  $\lambda_\mu$  and  $[[u]]^H = [[u]]_\tau^H \tau$





## $H^1$ -conforming **3D** approximation vs. HDG **2D** approximation

- **dofs:**  
Hdiv-DG less than H1 for  $k \geq 4$
  - **gdofs/nze:**  
(Hdiv-)HDG cheapest for higher order FEM ( $k \geq 3, 4$ )
  - **With tweaks (“projected jumps” / superconvergence):**  
(Hdiv-)HDG beats H1-L/P for all orders.
- ↪ Advantages in structure properties **and computational overhead**
- ↪ Consider only Hdiv-HDG in the following

## Incompressible flows on surfaces

### Unsteady surface Navier–Stokes

Find  $u : \Gamma \times (0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  with  $u \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$  on  $\Gamma$  and  $p : \Gamma \times (0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t u - 2\nu P \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(\varepsilon_\Gamma(u)) + (u \cdot \nabla_\Gamma)u + \nabla_\Gamma p &= f && \text{on } \Gamma, t \in (0, T], \\ \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(u) &= 0 && \text{on } \Gamma, t \in (0, T]. \end{aligned}$$

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## Components of the discretization

- Velocity-pressure coupling:  $\dots + \nabla_\Gamma p, \quad \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(u) = 0$   
 $u_h \in V_h^k \subset H(\operatorname{div}_\Gamma), p_h \in Q_h = S_h^{k-1} = \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(V_h)$

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## Unsteady surface Navier–Stokes

Find  $u : \Gamma \times (0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  with  $u \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$  on  $\Gamma$  and  $p : \Gamma \times (0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t u - 2\nu P \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(\varepsilon_\Gamma(u)) + (u \cdot \nabla_\Gamma)u + \nabla_\Gamma p &= f && \text{on } \Gamma, t \in (0, T], \\ \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(u) &= 0 && \text{on } \Gamma, t \in (0, T]. \end{aligned}$$

## Components of the discretization

- Velocity-pressure coupling:

$$u_h \in V_h^k \subset H(\operatorname{div}_\Gamma), p_h \in Q_h = S_h^{k-1} = \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(V_h)$$

$$\dots + \nabla_\Gamma p, \quad \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(u) = 0$$

- Convection:

Upwinding

$$\dots + (u \cdot \nabla_\Gamma)u + \dots$$



# Incompressible flows on surfaces

## Unsteady surface Navier–Stokes

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## Components of the discretization

- **Velocity-pressure coupling:**  $\dots + \nabla_\Gamma p, \quad \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(u) = 0$   
 $u_h \in V_h^k \subset H(\operatorname{div}_\Gamma), p_h \in Q_h = S_h^{k-1} = \operatorname{div}_\Gamma(V_h)$
- **Convection:**  $\dots + (u \cdot \nabla_\Gamma)u + \dots$   
Upwinding
- **Time-stepping:**  $\partial_t u + \dots$   
Operator-splitting



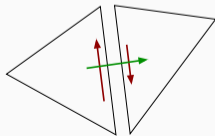
- local mass conservation (independent of geometry approx.)
  - With  $u_h = \mathcal{P}_T(\hat{u}_h)$ ,  $q_h = \hat{q}_h \circ \Phi_T^{-1}$ :

$$b_h(u_h, q_h) := \sum_T \int_T \text{div}_\Gamma(u_h) q_h \, dx \stackrel{\mathcal{P}_T}{=} \sum_T \int_{\hat{T}} |J| \frac{1}{J} \text{div}_\Gamma(\hat{u}_h) \hat{q}_h \, d\hat{x} = 0 \quad \forall q_h \in Q_h,$$

$$\hat{q}_h = \text{sgn}(J) \text{div}_\Gamma(\hat{u}_h) \implies \int_T \text{div}_\Gamma(\hat{u}_h)^2 \, d\hat{x} = 0 \quad \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h,$$

$$\implies \text{div}_\Gamma(\hat{u}_h) = 0 \implies \text{div}_\Gamma(u_h) = 0 \text{ pointwise.}$$

- normal-continuous (what leaves one element, enters another) :



- local mass conservation (independent of geometry approx.)
- pressure robustness:  $f = g + \nabla_\Gamma \phi$  (Stokes)

$$\begin{aligned} a_h(u_h, v_h) + b_h(v_h, p_h) &= (g + \nabla_\Gamma \phi, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h, \\ b_h(u_h, q_h) &= 0 \quad \forall q_h \in Q_h. \end{aligned}$$

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$u_h \in V_h^0$ , the div.-free subsp. of  $V_h$ .

$$a_h(u_h, v_h^0) + \underbrace{b_h(v_h^0, p_h)}_{=0} = (g + \underbrace{\nabla_\Gamma \phi, v_h^0}_{=0}) \quad \forall v_h^0 \in V_h^0$$

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$u$  and  $u_h$  only depend on  $g$ ,  $\phi$  is balanced by  $p_h$ .

$$\|u - u_h\|_V = F(u)$$

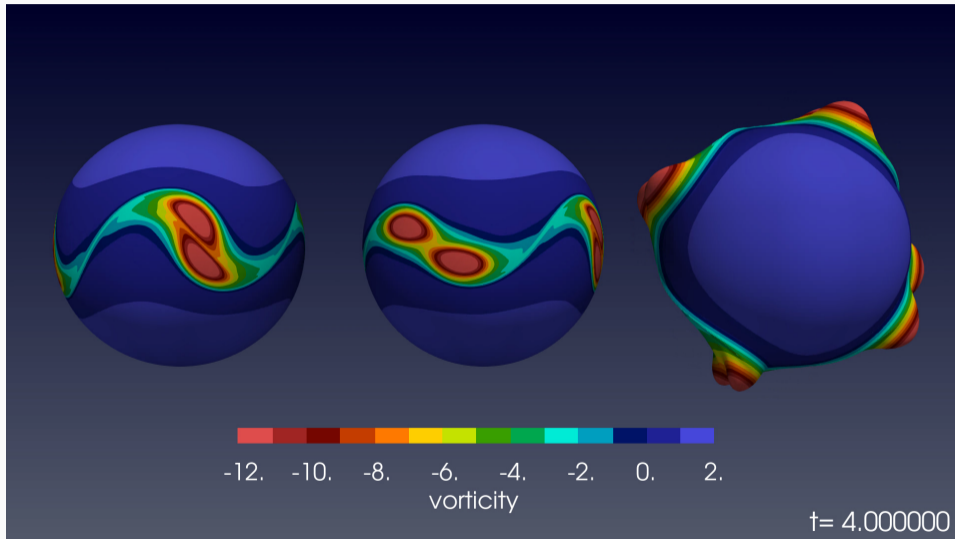
- local mass conservation (independent of geometry approx.)
- pressure robustness
- energy stability

Symmetric testing ( $v_h = u_h$ ,  $q_h = -p_h$ ):

$$\frac{1}{2} \partial_t(u_h, u_h) + \underbrace{a_h(u_h, u_h)}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{c_h(u_h; u_h, u_h)}_{?} = (f, u_h)$$

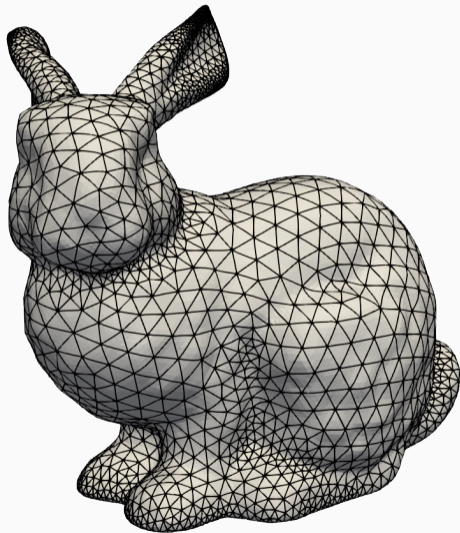
- $c_h(u_h; u_h, u_h) \geq 0$  for all established discretizations
- details depend on discretization (CG/DG/Upw./..)
- Crucial:  $u_h$  is div.free (and normal continuous)

# Kelvin-Helmholtz on a sphere





## Self-organization on the Stanford bunny



## Construction of **tangential** and $\text{div}_\Gamma$ -conforming FEM

- $H^1$ -conf.  $\rightarrow$  DG: **tangential FEM** obtained from **Piola**
- Piola  $\rightsquigarrow H(\text{div}_\Gamma)$ -conf. ( $\llbracket u \rrbracket_\mu = 0$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  div-free, robust
- allows for **piecewise smooth** and **complex** surfaces
- discretization is invariant under **isometries**
- competitive to  $H^1$ -conf. methods (**HDG**) (**2D**  $\leftrightarrow$  **3D**)
- Implementation in NGSolve (<http://ngsolve.org>)
- Further properties and variants from flat case:
  - low overall dissipation (upwinding is not even necessary)
  - tweaks (red. FE spaces / “proj. jumps” / rel.  $H(\text{div}_\Gamma)$ -conf.)

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Preprint:

P. Lederer, C.L., J. Schöberl,  
*Divergence-free tangential  
FEM [...] on surfaces*



[http://arxiv.org/abs/  
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**Thank you for your attention!**

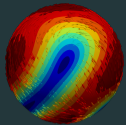
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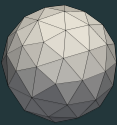
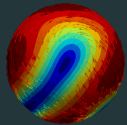
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# Backup-Slides



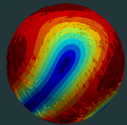
## Vector-Laplacian on the sphere: Comparison of methods

$k$	dof				
	1	2	3	4	5
DG	193.5K	387.1K	645.1K	967.7K	1.4M
HDG	387.1K	677.4K	1M	1.5M	1.9M
Hdiv-DG	96.8K	241.9K	451.6K	725.8K	1.1M
Hdiv-HDG	193.5K	387.1K	645.1K	967.7K	1.4M
H1-L	64.5K	258.1K	580.6K	1M	1.6M
H1-P	48.4K	193.5K	435.5K	774.2K	1.2M



## Vector-Laplacian on the sphere: Comparison of methods

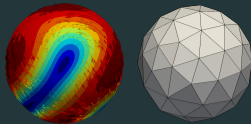
$k$	gdof				
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H1-L	64.5K	258.1K	451.6K	645.1K	838.7K
H1-P	48.4K	193.5K	338.7K	483.8K	629K



## Vector-Laplacian on the sphere: Comparison of methods

$k$	nze				
	1	2	3	4	5
DG	4.6M	18.6M	51.6M	116.1M	227.6M
HDG	3.9M	8.7M	15.5M	24.2M	34.8M
Hdiv-DG	2.5M	12M	36.9M	88.3M	180.6M
Hdiv-HDG	3.9M	8.7M	15.5M	24.2M	34.8M
H1-L	1.7M	11.1M	29.7M	48.1M	88.5M
H1-P	1M	6.7M	16.7M	31.1M	49.8M





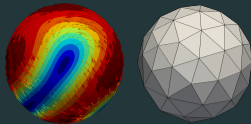
## Vector-Laplacian on the sphere: Comparison of methods

### Projected jumps

Reduce facet space by one order and ( $L^2$ ) project jumps into  $\mathbb{P}^{k-1}(E)$

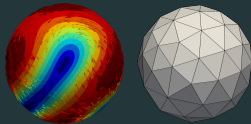
$$[[u]]_{\mu}^H \rightsquigarrow \Pi_E^{k-1}(u|_T \cdot \mu) - \lambda_{\mu}, \quad [[u]]_{\tau}^H \rightsquigarrow \Pi_E^{k-1}u|_T \cdot \tau - \lambda_{\tau}$$

Reduces the number of globally coupled dof.



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