

A space–time continuous and coercive formulation for the wave equation

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Space–time methods

Acoustic (scalar) wave equation:

(constant wavespeed $c > 0$)

$$\partial_{tt}^2 u - c^2 \Delta u = f$$

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simultaneous discretisation of space $\mathbf{x}$ and time t variables

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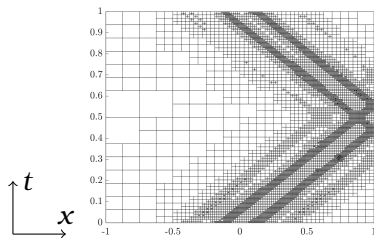
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- ▶ local mesh refinement
- ▶ adaptivity
- ▶ parallelization
- ▶ moving boundaries and interfaces
- ▶ high-order solution at all $\mathbf{x}, t$
- ▶ use tools designed for elliptic PDEs
- ▶ ...



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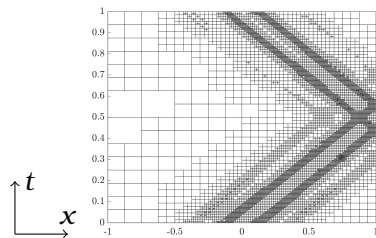
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Existing conforming XT formulations for the wave equation

This slide mostly from Ferrari, Perugia, Zampa!

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Second-order ($\partial_t^2 u - c^2 \Delta u = f$) — Weak in space

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- ▶ (French, 1993), (Walkington, 2014), (Dong, Mascotto, Wang, 2024) CG(trial)-DG(test) in time
- ▶ (Ferrari, Perugia, 2025) splines in time, exp. weight

Second-order — Weak in space & time

- ▶ (Steinbach, Zank, 2019), (Zank, 2021) stab. with projection or penalty term
- ▶ (Ferrari, Fraschini, Loli, Moiola, Sangalli, 2024–2025x2) splines, stab. with penalty term
- ▶ (Löscher, Steinbach, Zank, 2023) modified Hilbert transform
- ▶ (Köthe, Löscher, Steinbach, 2023) least-squares

Second-order — Ultra-weak in space & time

- ▶ (Henning, Palitta, Simoncini, Urban, 2022) Petrov-Galerkin, L^2 - H^2 regularity

First-order system

- ▶ (Bales, Lasiecka, 1994), (French, Peterson, 1996), (Gómez, 2025) CG-DG in time, $(u, \partial_t u)$
- ▶ (Ferrari, Fraschini, Loli, Perugia, 2025) CG-DG, splines, $(u, \partial_t u)$
- ▶ (Anselmann, Bause, Becher, Matthies, 2020x2) Petrov-Galerkin collocation, splines, $(u, \partial_t u)$
- ▶ (Berggren, Hägg, 2021) no numerical scheme, Friedrichs, $(\partial_t u, \nabla u)$
- ▶ (Führer, González, Karkulik, 2025) least squares (FOSLS), $(\partial_t u, \nabla u)$
- ▶ (Ferrari, Perugia, Zampa, 2025) exp. weight, $(u, \partial_t u)$

+ **Plenty of XT-DG** (Barucq, Diaz, Dörfler, Egger, Falk, Feistauer, Gopalakrishnan, Haber, Kretschmar, Moiola, Monk, Perugia, Richter, Schnepf, Schöberl, van der Vegt, Wieners, Wintersteiger. . .)

Elliptic problems: variational form and Galerkin method

Dirichlet problem
for Poisson eq.:

$$-\Delta u = f \quad \text{on } \Omega, \quad u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega$$

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$$\text{find } u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v = \int_{\Omega} f v \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

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Galerkin method,
e.g. FEM, for $V_h \subset V$: find $u_h \in V_h$ s.t. $\int_{\Omega} \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla v_h = \int_{\Omega} f v_h \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$

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Corresponds to
square **linear system**:

$$\underline{\underline{\mathbf{B}}} \vec{\mathbf{U}} = \vec{\mathbf{F}}, \quad V_h = \text{span}\{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_N\}$$

$$B_{i,j} := b(\varphi_j, \varphi_i), \quad F_i := F(\varphi_i), \quad u_h := \sum_{j=1}^N U_j \varphi_j$$

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Galerkin well-posed and quasi-optimal for **all** subspaces $V_h \subset V = H_0^1(\Omega)$ by Lax–Milgram
(e.g. piecewise polynomials of any degree on any mesh)

Requires **continuity** & **coercivity**: $|b(u, v)| \leq C_b \|u\|_V \|v\|_V, \quad b(v, v) \geq \underbrace{\gamma_b}_{>0} \|v\|_V^2 \quad \forall u, v \in V$

Then $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{B}}}$ invertible and $\|u - u_h\|_V \leq \frac{C_b}{\gamma_b} \inf_{v_h \in V_h} \|u - v_h\|_V$

How to adapt techniques from elliptic PDEs to XT?

The same recipe does **not** work for the **wave** equation

Integrating by parts $\partial_{tt}^2 u - c^2 \Delta u = f$ in $Q = \Omega \times (0, T)$ we don't have **coercivity**:

$$\int_Q (-\partial_t v \partial_t v + c^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla v) + \text{boundary terms} \not\geq \gamma_b \|v\|^2$$

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No stable formulation for “general” XT discrete spaces is available

Most of those listed earlier require tensor-product spaces V_h

But see: FOSLS scheme in (FÜHRER, GONZÁLEZ, KARKULIK 2025)

Coercivity from Morawetz multipliers: Helmholtz equation

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Looks implausible also for the **Helmholtz** equation

$$\Delta u + k^2 u = f \quad k \gg 1$$

which models time-harmonic waves $U(\mathbf{x}, t) = \Re\{e^{-i\omega t} u(\mathbf{x})\}$, $k = \frac{\omega}{c}$

Helmholtz is prototype of **indefinite** elliptic PDE:

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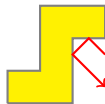
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Trick: use **Rellich–Morawetz multipliers** and **identities**,
i.e. do integration by parts with a “special” test function (the multiplier)

Rellich–Morawetz multipliers are classical (1940, 1961) tools of **scattering theory**:
related to the “physics” of the problem, energy decay, ray (non)trapping,
require geometric conditions on the BVP



Abstract Morawetz argument

General linear BVP/IBVP: find $u \in \mathbf{V} \subset L^2(D)$ s.t.
$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}u = f & \text{on } D \subset \mathbb{R}^d \\ \mathcal{B}u = g & \text{on } \partial D \end{cases}$$

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Choose 1 multiplier $\mathcal{M} : V \rightarrow L^2(D)$ and 2 decomposition

$$\int_D (\mathcal{L}u \overline{\mathcal{M}v} + \mathcal{M}u \overline{\mathcal{L}v}) \stackrel{\text{int. by parts}}{=} \underbrace{r(u, v)}_{=S_g(v) \text{ if } \mathcal{B}u=g} + \underbrace{s(u, v)}_{=S_g(v) \text{ if } \mathcal{B}u=g}$$

Choose 3 auxiliary Hermitian positive semi-definite $\ell : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and $L_\ell \in V^*$ s.t. $\ell(u, v) = L_\ell(v)$ for BVP solution u .

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Want $\mathcal{M}, r/s, \ell$ that ensure coercivity $\Re b(v, v) = -\frac{1}{2} \Re r(v, v) + \frac{1}{2} \Re s(v, v) + \ell(v, v) \gtrsim \|v\|_V^2$

Abstract framework includes Helmholtz (SiRev 2014) and wave eq. cases.

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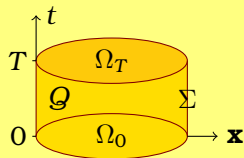
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Impedance initial-boundary value problem

Interior impedance IBVP:

$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ Lipsch., bdd, constant $c, \theta > 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_{tt}^2 u - c^2 \Delta u &= f && \text{on } \mathcal{Q} := \Omega \times (0, T) \\ \partial_{\mathbf{n}} u + (\theta c)^{-1} \partial_t u &= g && \text{on } \Sigma := \partial\Omega \times (0, T) \\ u = u_0, \quad \partial_t u &= u_1 && \text{on } \Omega_0 := \Omega \times \{0\}\end{aligned}$$



Impedance BC is natural in **acoustics** (normal velocity proportional to acoustic pressure) and **electromagnetics** (imperfect conductor). Also approximates radiation condition.

Impedance boundary **absorbs part of the wave energy** ($\neq$ Dirichlet & Neumann)

Dirichlet = $\lim_{\theta \searrow 0}$ impedance

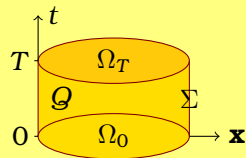
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Well-posedness and regularity:

Faedo–Galerkin, adapting (LADYZHENSKAYA 1985)

$$f \in L^2(\mathcal{Q}), g \in L^2(\Sigma), u_0 \in H^1(\Omega), u_1 \in L^2(\Omega) \Rightarrow \exists! u \in H^1(\mathcal{Q}), \partial_t u \in L^2(\Sigma)$$

$$\partial_t f \in L^2(\mathcal{Q}), \partial_t g \in L^2(\Sigma), u_0 \in H^2(\Omega), u_1 \in H^1(\Omega) \Rightarrow \partial_{tt}^2 u, \nabla \partial_t u \in L^2(\mathcal{Q}), \partial_{tt}^2 u, \nabla u \in L^2(\Sigma)$$

$$\partial\Omega \text{ is } C^{1,1}, \quad \partial_t g \in L^2(0, T; H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\partial\Omega)) \Rightarrow u \in H^2(\mathcal{Q})$$

Morawetz multiplier and identities for the wave equation

Morawetz multiplier for the wave operator $\mathcal{W}v := \partial_t^2 v - c^2 \Delta v$:

$$\mathcal{M}v := -\xi \mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla v + \beta(t - \nu T) \partial_t v \quad \xi, \beta > 0, \nu > 1.$$

Used in (MORAWETZ '61): energy decay of wave solutions outside star-shaped obstacles.

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Pointwise and integral identities:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}u \mathcal{W}v + \mathcal{W}u \mathcal{M}v &= \partial_t \left[\mathcal{M}u \partial_t v + \partial_t u \mathcal{M}v - \beta(t - \nu T) \left(\partial_t u \partial_t v - c^2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \right) \right] \\ &\quad - \nabla \cdot \left[c^2 \mathcal{M}u \nabla v + c^2 \nabla u \mathcal{M}v - \xi \mathbf{x} \left(\partial_t u \partial_t v - c^2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \right) \right] \\ &\quad - (\beta + \xi d) \partial_t u \partial_t v - c^2 (\beta + \xi(2 - d)) \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \end{aligned} \quad \boxed{u, v \in C^2}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \int_Q (\mathcal{M}u \mathcal{W}v + \mathcal{W}u \mathcal{M}v) &= - \int_Q [(\beta + \xi d) \partial_t u \partial_t v + c^2 (\beta + 2\xi - d\xi) \nabla u \cdot \nabla v] \\ &\quad - \int_{\Omega_T} [\xi \mathbf{x} \cdot (\partial_t u \nabla v + \nabla u \partial_t v) - \beta(T - \nu T) (\partial_t u \partial_t v + c^2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla v)] \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega_0} [\xi \mathbf{x} \cdot (\partial_t u \nabla v + \nabla u \partial_t v) + \beta \nu T (\partial_t u \partial_t v + c^2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla v)] \\ &\quad - \int_{\Sigma} [c^2 \mathcal{M}u \partial_{\mathbf{n}} v + c^2 \partial_{\mathbf{n}} u \mathcal{M}v + \xi \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n} (-\partial_t u \partial_t v + c^2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla v)] \end{aligned}$$

"Morawetz–Green identity"

$$\boxed{u, v \in H^2(Q)}$$

XT variational formulation

Now follow the abstract framework:

- 1 $\mathcal{M}v = -\xi \mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla v + \beta(t - \nu T) \partial_t v$
- 2 decompose $\int_Q (\mathcal{W}u \mathcal{M}v + \mathcal{M}u \mathcal{W}v) = \mathbf{r}(u, v) + \mathbf{s}(u, v)$ with $\mathbf{s}(u, v) = \mathbf{S}_{u_0, u_1, g}(v)$,
- 3 introduce penalty $\ell(u, v) = A_Q T^2 \int_Q \mathcal{W}u \mathcal{W}v + A_{\Omega_0} T^{-1} \int_{\Omega_0} uv$ $A_Q, A_{\Omega_0} > 0$.

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$$\textcircled{1} \mathcal{M}v = -\xi \mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla v + \beta(t - \nu T) \partial_t v$$

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ decompose } \int_Q (\mathcal{W}u \mathcal{M}v + \mathcal{M}u \mathcal{W}v) = \mathbf{r}(u, v) + \mathbf{s}(u, v) \quad \text{with } \mathbf{s}(u, v) = \mathbf{S}_{u_0, u_1, g}(v),$$

$$\textcircled{3} \text{ introduce penalty } \ell(u, v) = A_Q T^2 \int_Q \mathcal{W}u \mathcal{W}v + A_{\Omega_0} T^{-1} \int_{\Omega_0} uv \quad A_Q, A_{\Omega_0} > 0.$$

► The solution u of the impedance IBVP satisfies $b(u, v) = F(v) \quad \forall v \text{ "smooth"}$

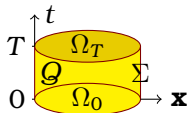
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► The solution $\mathbf{u}$ of the impedance IBVP satisfies $\mathbf{b}(u, v) = \mathbf{F}(v)$ $\forall v$ "smooth", with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b}(u, v) := & \int_Q [\mathcal{M}u \mathcal{W}v + (\beta + \xi d) \partial_t u \partial_t v + c^2 (\beta + 2\xi - d\xi) \nabla u \cdot \nabla v] \\ & + \int_{\Omega_T} [\xi \mathbf{x} \cdot (\partial_t u \nabla v + \nabla u \partial_t v) - \beta (T - \nu T) (\partial_t u \partial_t v + c^2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla v)] \\ & + \int_{\Sigma} [c^2 \mathcal{M}u \partial_{\mathbf{n}} v - c \theta^{-1} \partial_t u \mathcal{M}v + \xi \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n} (-\partial_t u \partial_t v + c^2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla v)] \\ & + A_Q T^2 \int_Q \mathcal{W}u \mathcal{W}v + A_{\Omega_0} T^{-1} \int_{\Omega_0} uv \\ \mathbf{F}(v) := & \int_Q -f \mathcal{M}v - \int_{\Sigma} c^2 g \mathcal{M}v + A_Q T^2 \int_Q f \mathcal{W}v + A_{\Omega_0} T^{-1} \int_{\Omega_0} u_0 v \\ & + \int_{\Omega_0} [\xi \mathbf{x} \cdot (u_1 \nabla v + \nabla u_0 \partial_t v) + \beta \nu T (u_1 \partial_t v + c^2 \nabla u_0 \cdot \nabla v)] \end{aligned}$$



Norm, continuity and coercivity

Simplest **norm** to ensure (explicit) **continuity** of $b(\cdot, \cdot), F(\cdot)$:

($L := \text{diam } \Omega$)

$$\begin{aligned} \|v\|_V^2 := & \|\partial_t v\|_Q^2 + \|c \nabla v\|_Q^2 + T^2 \|\mathcal{W} v\|_Q^2 \\ & + T \|\partial_t v\|_{\Omega_0 \cup \Omega_T}^2 + T \|c \nabla v\|_{\Omega_0 \cup \Omega_T}^2 + T^{-1} \|v\|_{\Omega_0}^2 \\ & + L \|\partial_t v\|_\Sigma^2 + L \|c \nabla v\|_\Sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\|v\|_{H^1(Q)} \lesssim \|v\|_V \lesssim \|v\|_{H^2(Q)}$$

$$|b(u, v)| \leq C_b \|u\|_V \|v\|_V$$

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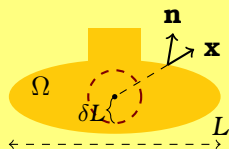
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Coercivity

If Ω is **star-shaped** wrt $B_{\delta L}$ (i.e. $\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{x} \geq \delta L$ a.e. on $\partial\Omega$),

$$\xi, A_Q, A_{\Omega_0} > 0, \quad \nu > 1, \quad \beta \geq \max \begin{cases} \xi(d-1) \\ \xi \frac{1}{\nu-1} \left(\frac{L}{cT} + 1 \right) \\ \xi \frac{1}{\nu-1} \frac{L}{cT} \left(\theta + \frac{1}{\delta\theta} \right) \end{cases}$$



Then, $\forall u$ with $\|u\|_V < \infty$,

$$b(u, u) \geq \min \left\{ \frac{\xi \delta}{4}, A_Q, A_{\Omega_0} \right\} \|u\|_V^2$$

The proof is **elementary**: only uses Cauchy–Schwarz, Young, $\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{x} \geq \delta L \dots$

Star-shapedness assumption is related to **non-trapping of rays**.

With $\xi = A_Q = A_{\Omega_0} = 1, \nu = 2$: coercivity constant = $\delta/4$.

Function spaces

We have a C&C formulation in norm $\|\cdot\|_V$, but... what is the right function space?

$$\mathbf{V} := \overline{C^\infty(\overline{Q})}^{\|\cdot\|_V}, \quad \mathbf{W} := \{v \in L^2(Q), \|v\|_V < \infty\}$$

$$H^2(Q) \stackrel{\text{dense}}{\subsetneq} V \stackrel{\text{closed}}{\subset} W \stackrel{\text{dense}}{\subsetneq} H^1(Q)$$

Is $V = W$?

Equivalently: is $C^\infty(\overline{Q})$ dense in W ?

Related question for 1st-order systems in (BERGGREN, HÄGG, JDE 2021).

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Let u be the impedance IBVP solution.

- ▶ If $u \in V \Rightarrow u$ solves $b(u, v) = F(v) \forall v \in V$.
- ▶ If $u \notin W \Rightarrow$ formulation is not applicable.
- ▶ What if $u \in W \setminus V$? Is it possible at all?

Galerkin discretisation

The formulation and **any** conforming Galerkin scheme are **well-posed**: $\forall V_N \subset V$

$$\exists! u_N \in V_N \quad \text{such that} \quad b(u_N, v_N) = F(v_N) \quad \forall v_N \in V_N.$$

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Explicit **quasi-optimality**:

with coefficients $A_Q = A_{\Omega_0} = \xi = 1, \quad \nu = 2, \quad \beta \geq \beta^* := d + \left(\theta + \frac{1}{\theta\delta}\right) \frac{L}{cT}$

$$\|u - u_N\|_V \leq C_{qo} \inf_{v_N \in V_N} \|u - v_N\|_V$$

$$C_{qo} = \frac{4\sqrt{3}}{\delta} \max \left\{ 3\beta + d, \left(1 + \frac{1}{\theta}\right) \left(1 + 2\beta \frac{cT}{L}\right) \right\} \quad (\text{linear in } T)$$

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Norm $\|v\|_V$ contains residual term $\|\mathcal{W}v\|_Q$:

Piecewise-smooth space V_N is **V-conforming** $\iff V_N \subset C^1(\overline{Q})$.

E.g.: IGA spaces made of splines.

What's left

- ▶ Extensions
- ▶ Numerics: smooth and singular solutions
- ▶ A posteriori estimator and adaptivity
- ▶ C^0 -interior penalty formulation

Extensions: variable wavespeed and scattering problems

1 Smooth $c \in C^1(\Omega)$: add to bilinear form $b(u, v)$ the term $-\int_{\Omega} 2\xi(c^{-3}\nabla c \cdot \mathbf{x})\partial_t u \partial_t v$

Coercivity follows assuming radial monotonicity: $\nabla c \cdot \mathbf{x} \leq 0$



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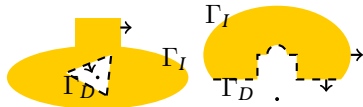
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+ suitable term to RHS if Dirichlet BC is not homogeneous.

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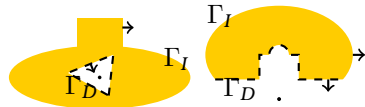
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Radially decreasing wavespeed **1–2** (increasing refraction index)
and star-shaped obstacle **3** are **non-trapping assumptions!**

Linear system size

Main drawback of XT methods: need to solve **large linear system**.

Let's quantify this.

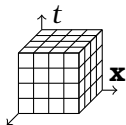
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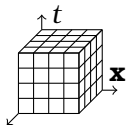
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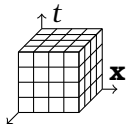
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We get **comparable accuracy and #DOFs** for **full XT** method on $\mathcal{Q}$ or **1 implicit time-step** if we use **slightly higher polynomial degree** and coarser elements in the XT method:

$$p \sim \frac{d+1}{d} p_{TS}, \quad N_x \sim N_t \sim N_{TS}^{\frac{p_{TS}}{p}} \sim N_{TS}^{\frac{d}{d+1}} \quad (d \in \{1, 2, 3\})$$

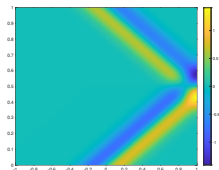
Numerical test: smooth solution, parameter sensitivity

Matlab, $d = 1$, uniform tensor-product meshes and splines, $\mathbb{Q}^3(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap C^1(\mathcal{Q})$

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Difference of 2 Gaussians bouncing against impedance wall,
 $f = g = 0$, $c = 2$, $\theta = 10$, $\mathcal{Q} = (-1, 1) \times (0, 1)$



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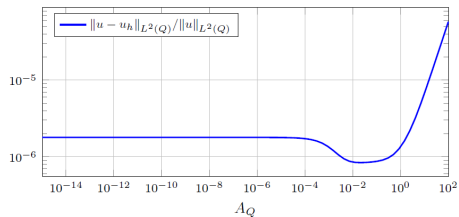
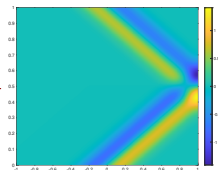
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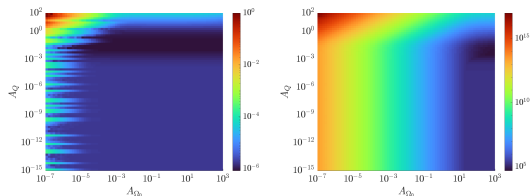
Parameter study: $\xi = 1, \nu = 2, \beta = \beta^*, \quad N_x = N_t = 32$

vary penalty terms A_Q, A_{Ω_0} :



◀ Can take $A_Q = 0$, drop $\int_{\mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{W} u \mathcal{W} v$!

▼ Relative $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ error and condition #



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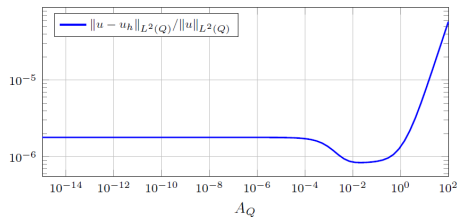
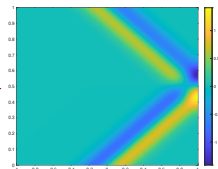
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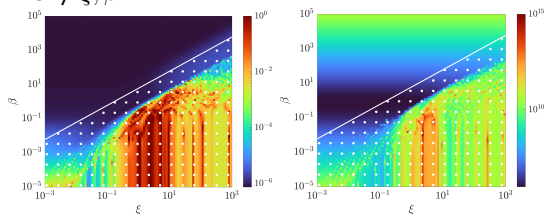
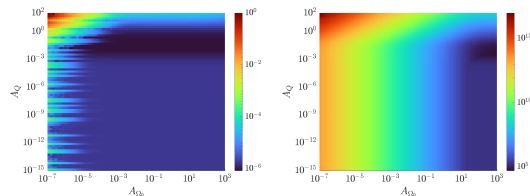
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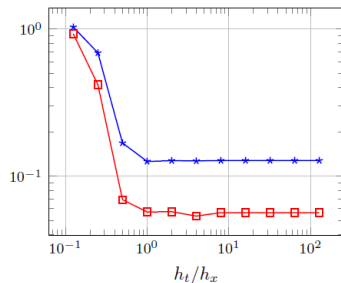
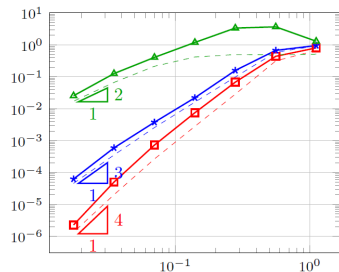
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Vary ξ, β :



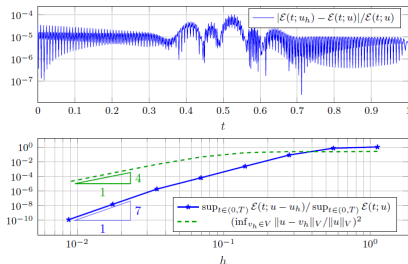
Numerical test: smooth solution, errors

▼ Relative errors: $L^2(Q)$, $H^1(Q)$, V
 — = Galerkin, - - - = best approx



▲ Unconditional stability test, $h_t = 0.125$

Galerkin energy error ▼



Numerical test: singular solution

Singularity from incompatible boundary data:

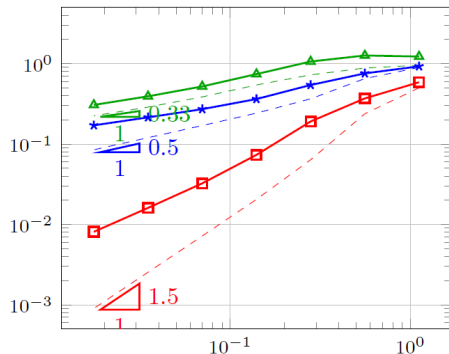
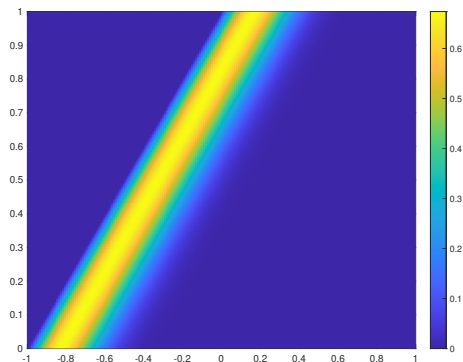
$$f = g = 0$$

$$u_0, u_1 = -u'_0 \in C^\infty(\Omega)$$

$$Q = (-1, 1) \times (0, 1), \quad c = \theta = 1$$

$$u \in C^0(Q) \setminus C^1(Q) \quad \text{---} \quad u \in H^{3/2-\epsilon}(Q)$$

$$A_Q = 1$$



A posteriori error estimator

With **Théophile Chaumont-Frelet**

Let u_N be Galerkin solution. Define **residual error estimator** $\eta^2 = \eta_Q^2 + \eta_{\Omega_0}^2 + \eta_\Sigma^2$ with

$$\eta_Q^2 = \left((\beta\nu)^2 + \frac{(\xi L)^2}{(cT)^2} + A_Q^2 \right) T^2 \|c(f - \mathcal{W}u_N)\|_Q^2$$

$$\eta_{\Omega_0}^2 = \left(2 \frac{(\xi L)^2}{(cT)^2} + 2(\beta\nu)^2 \right) (T \|\nabla u_0 - \nabla u_N\|_{\Omega_0}^2 + T \|c^{-1}(u_1 - \partial_t u_N)\|_{\Omega_0}^2) + A_{\Omega_0}^2 T^{-1} \|c^{-1}u_0 - u_N\|_{\Omega_0}^2$$

$$\eta_\Sigma^2 = \left(\xi^2 + (\beta\nu)^2 \frac{(cT)^2}{L^2} \right) L \|g_I - (\partial_{\mathbf{n}} u_N + (c\theta)^{-1} \partial_t u_N)\|_\Sigma^2$$

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Let u_N be Galerkin solution. Define **residual error estimator** $\eta^2 = \eta_{\mathcal{G}}^2 + \eta_{\Omega_0}^2 + \eta_{\Sigma}^2$ with

$$\eta_{\mathcal{G}}^2 = \left((\beta\nu)^2 + \frac{(\xi L)^2}{(cT)^2} + A_{\mathcal{G}}^2 \right) T^2 \|c(f - \mathcal{W}u_N)\|_{\mathcal{G}}^2$$

$$\eta_{\Omega_0}^2 = \left(2 \frac{(\xi L)^2}{(cT)^2} + 2(\beta\nu)^2 \right) (T \|\nabla u_0 - \nabla u_N\|_{\Omega_0}^2 + T \|c^{-1}(u_1 - \partial_t u_N)\|_{\Omega_0}^2) + A_{\Omega_0}^2 T^{-1} \|c^{-1}u_0 - u_N\|_{\Omega_0}^2$$

$$\eta_{\Sigma}^2 = \left(\xi^2 + (\beta\nu)^2 \frac{(cT)^2}{L^2} \right) L \|g_I - (\partial_{\mathbf{n}} u_N + (c\theta)^{-1} \partial_t u_N)\|_{\Sigma}^2$$

Reliable and efficient:

reliability equal to the coercivity constant

$$\min \left\{ \frac{\xi\delta}{4}, A_{\mathcal{G}}, A_{\Omega_0} \right\} \leq \frac{\eta}{\|u - u_N\|_V} \leq \max\{1, \theta^{-1}\} \max \left\{ \sqrt{2}, \frac{cT}{L} \right\} \left(\beta\nu + \frac{\xi L}{cT} + A_{\mathcal{G}} + A_{\Omega_0} \right)$$

Fully **explicit and computable**

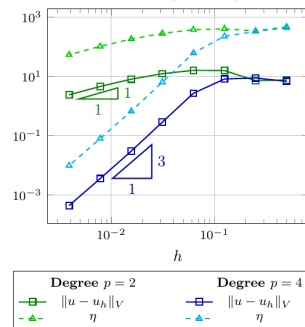
Localisable on mesh elements and faces: allows **mesh adaptivity**

A posteriori estimator and adaptivity: numerical results

Double-Gaussian example as before.

Matlab+GeoPDEs, maximal regularity splines

Without adaptivity:



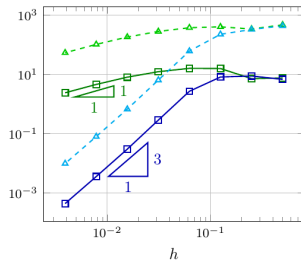
h	$\eta/\ u - u_h\ _V$	
	$p = 2$	$p = 4$
$5.0 \cdot 10^{-1}$	62.151	63.952
$2.5 \cdot 10^{-1}$	47.454	37.068
$1.3 \cdot 10^{-1}$	25.581	27.652
$6.3 \cdot 10^{-2}$	23.502	22.741
$3.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$	22.838	22.442
$1.6 \cdot 10^{-2}$	22.573	22.409
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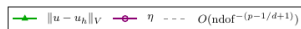
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Adaptivity, Dörfler marking

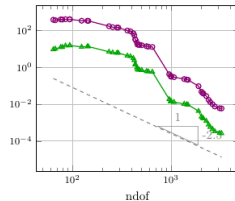
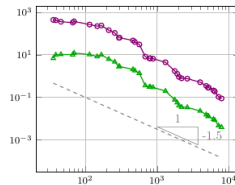
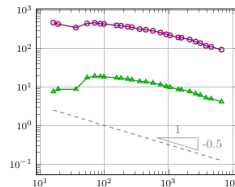
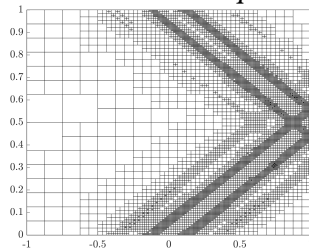
Truncated hierarchical
B-splines (THB)

$p = 2, 4, 6$ ▶

$$(\#DOFs)^{-\frac{p-1}{d+1}}$$



Mesh obtained for $p = 2$:



XT C^0 -interior penalty formulation

With **Théophile Chaumont-Frelet**

C^1 -discretisations are cumbersome, want formulation that allows any C^0 -FEM space!

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$$\int_{\mathcal{F}_h^{\text{inner}}} -\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{W} \mathbf{n} \left(\{\{\mathcal{M}u\}\} [[\partial_{\mathbf{n}} v]] + [[\partial_{\mathbf{n}} u]] \{\{\mathcal{M}v\}\} \right) - \xi \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n} ((\nabla_T u)^\top [[\mathbf{W}]] \nabla_T v)$$

$$+ A_{\text{IP}} \frac{L^2}{h} (\mathbf{n}^\top |\mathbf{W}| \mathbf{n})^{3/2} [[\partial_{\mathbf{n}} u]] [[\partial_{\mathbf{n}} v]]$$

$$\mathbf{W} = \text{diag}(-1, \dots, -1, c^{-2}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1 \times d+1}$$

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- ▶ Get **coercive** formulation on continuous piecewise-polynomial space $\mathbb{P}^p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap C^0(\mathcal{Q})$ if $A_{\text{IP}} \geq \xi + \frac{C_{\text{inv}}}{\xi} (\xi + \beta \nu \frac{c_T}{L})^2$ use standard inverse estimate

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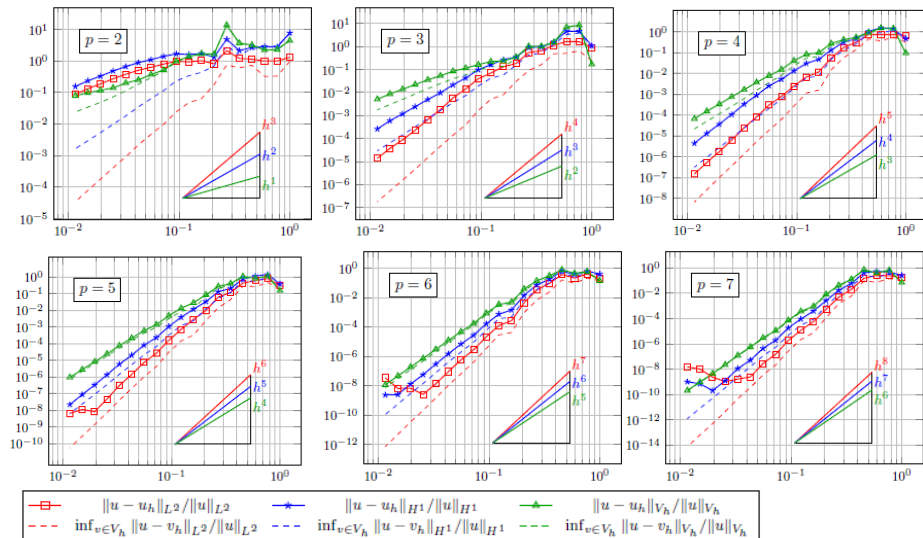
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- ▶ Slightly modified **quasi-optimality** $(1 + \frac{\text{cont.}}{\text{coerc.}})$, **estimator**, **a posteriori** analysis...

XT C^0 -IP: numerics

Same double-Gaussian u as before



Quasi-uniform unstructured triangular meshes, h -convergence for $p = 2, \dots, 7$:



$$L^2(Q) \sim h^{p+1}$$

$$H^1(Q) \sim h^p$$

$$V \sim h^{p-1}$$

That's all!

Coercive & continuous space-time variational formulation for impedance wave IBVPs

Explicit analysis based on Morawetz multipliers

Requires star-shaped domains and either C^1 -conforming discrete spaces or C^0 -IP

Extensions & improvements

- ▶ Wider class of non-trapping non star-shaped domains, non-reflecting BCs
- ▶ Sparsification, solvers, preconditioners, optimal rates in $H^1(\mathcal{Q}), L^2(\mathcal{Q})$
- ▶ Maxwell, elasticity
- ▶ Clarify function space questions: $V = W$? Minimal data regularity ensuring $u \in V$

Paper:

Bignardi, Moiola, Numer. Math. 157(4), 2025

Paolo's PhD thesis:

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🚩 C^1 Matlab code:
adaptive→

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