

# Pressure boundary conditions, projection methods, and finite element computations

Bob Pego (Carnegie Mellon)

with

Jian-Guo Liu (Duke) and Jie Liu (NUS)

- Well-posed dynamics with *boundary conditions for pressure*  
(Based on estimates for the Laplace-Leray commutator  $\Delta\mathcal{P} - \mathcal{P}\Delta$ )
- Improvements in stability and accuracy for numerics:
  - ★ Time-discrete projection methods up to 3rd-order (4th?)
  - ★ Flexible choice of finite elements for velocity & pressure  
(e.g., piecewise linear for both)

## Navier-Stokes equations for incompressible flow

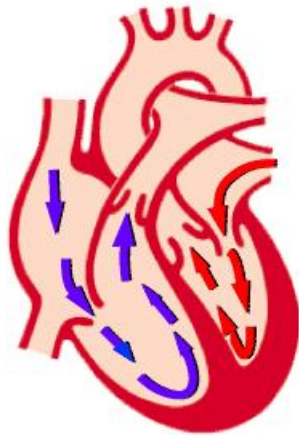
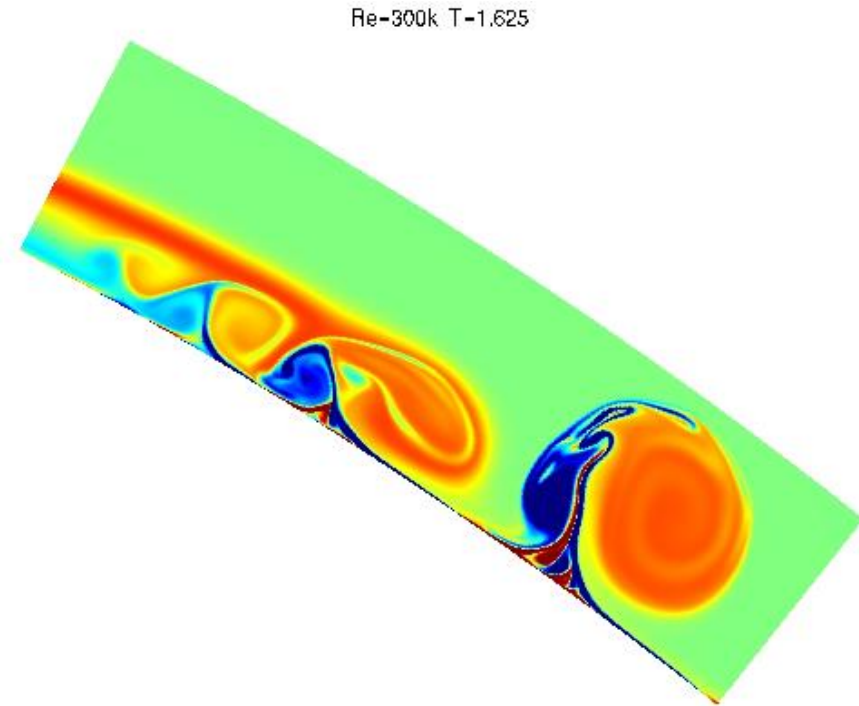
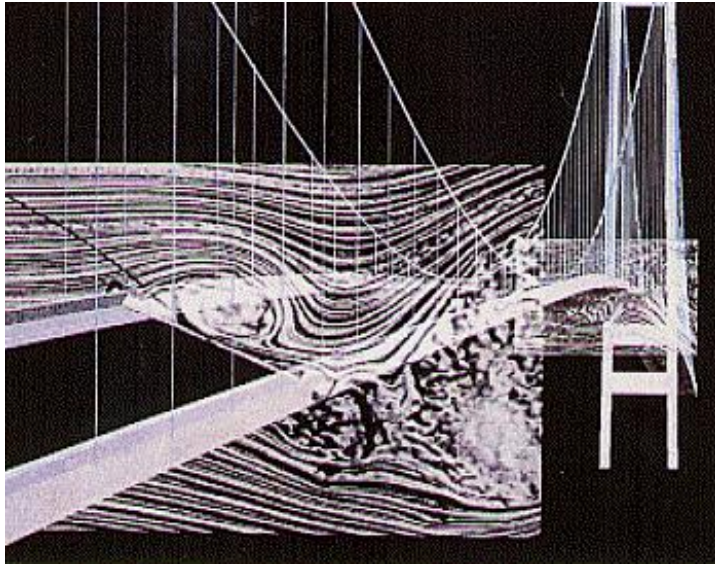
$$\begin{array}{lll}
 \mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f} & \text{in } \Omega & \text{momentum} \\
 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } \Omega & \text{incompressibility} \\
 \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega & \text{no slip}
 \end{array}$$

Ways to regard and treat pressure:

- (i) Pressure is like a Lagrange multiplier to enforce incompressibility
- (ii) Pressure can be 'eliminated' by projection on divergence-free fields
- (iii) Pressure can be found from  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{f}$  by solving Poisson equations

## Flow phenomena modeled by incompressible NSE

Lift, viscous drag, boundary layers & separation, vortex shedding, ...



## Leray-Helmholtz projection $\mathcal{P}$ onto divergence-free fields

$$L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N) = \nabla H^1(\Omega) \oplus \mathcal{P}L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \nabla \phi + \mathbf{w}, \quad \langle \nabla \phi, \mathbf{w} \rangle = 0.$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

Write  $\mathbf{w} = \mathcal{P}\mathbf{v}, \quad \phi = \mathcal{Q}\mathbf{v}$

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*Commutator identities:* For all  $\mathbf{v} \in H^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$  we have

$$\nabla \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \nabla \Delta \phi = \Delta \nabla \phi = \Delta (I - \mathcal{P})\mathbf{v},$$

$$\Delta \mathcal{P}\mathbf{v} = (\Delta - \nabla \nabla \cdot)\mathbf{v},$$

$$\mathcal{P} \Delta \mathbf{v} = \mathcal{P}(\Delta - \nabla \nabla \cdot)\mathbf{v},$$

$$(\Delta \mathcal{P} - \mathcal{P} \Delta)\mathbf{v} = (I - \mathcal{P})(\Delta - \nabla \nabla \cdot)\mathbf{v}.$$

## The Laplace-Leray commutator

$$(\Delta \mathcal{P} - \mathcal{P} \Delta) \mathbf{v} = (I - \mathcal{P})(\Delta - \nabla \nabla \cdot) \mathbf{v} \quad =: \nabla p_s(\mathbf{v}).$$

This defines the *Stokes pressure* for any  $\mathbf{u} \in H^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$ :

$$p_s(\mathbf{u}) = \mathcal{Q}(\Delta - \nabla \nabla \cdot) \mathbf{u} \quad = \mathcal{Q}(-\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{u}).$$

- Note  $(\Delta - \nabla \nabla \cdot) \mathbf{u} \in H(\text{div}; \Omega)$ , hence  $p_s$  satisfies the **BVP**

$$\Delta p_s = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla p_s = \mathbf{n} \cdot (\Delta - \nabla \nabla \cdot) \mathbf{u} \quad \text{in } H^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$$

- $p_s$  arises from *circulation of vorticity at the boundary*:

$$\text{3D weak form: } \int_{\Omega} \nabla p_s \cdot \nabla q = \int_{\partial\Omega} (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\mathbf{n} \times \nabla q) \quad \forall q \in H^1(\Omega)$$

## Formula for the Navier-Stokes pressure

Suppose that  $\mathbf{u} = \mathcal{P}\mathbf{u}$  is a strong solution of NSE:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_t + \nabla p &= \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} && \text{in } \Omega \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega \\ \mathbf{u} &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

Apply  $\mathcal{P}$  and note  $\mathcal{P}\nabla p = 0$ ,  $\mathcal{P}\Delta \mathbf{u} = \Delta \mathcal{P}\mathbf{u} - \nabla p_s(\mathbf{u})$ :

$$\mathbf{u}_t + \nu \nabla p_s(\mathbf{u}) = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u})$$

Subtracting, we find that (up to spatial constant) *necessarily*

$$p = \nu p_s(\mathbf{u}) + \mathcal{Q}(\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}).$$

## Pressure formula with inflow/outflow

Suppose we require:  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{g}$  on  $\partial\Omega$ ,

where to conserve volume,  $\int_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{g} = 0$  ( $t \geq 0$ ).

Let  $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{g})$  solve  $\Delta\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{g}) = 0$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{g}) = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{g}$  on  $\partial\Omega$ .

If  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$  then  $\mathbf{u} - \nabla\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{g}) = \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{u} - \nabla\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{g})) = \mathcal{P}\mathbf{u}$ .

Applying  $\mathcal{P}$  to NSE we now find

$$\partial_t(\mathbf{u} - \nabla\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{g})) + \nu\nabla p_s(\mathbf{u}) = \nu\Delta\mathbf{u} + \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{u}),$$

$$p = \nu p_s(\mathbf{u}) - \mathcal{R}(\partial_t\mathbf{g}) + \mathcal{Q}(\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{u}).$$

## What's a formula good for?

1. Analysis: simple proof of local-time existence and uniqueness for strong solutions, extending Navier-Stokes dynamics to  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \neq 0$
2. Numerical analysis: proof of stability and convergence for  $C^1$  FEM *without inf-sup compatibility* for velocity/pressure approximations
3. Numerical methods: formal analysis and improvement of accurate time-stepping schemes, suitable for  $C^0$  *finite element* discretization.

*Message:* An accurate velocity delivers an accurate pressure.

## Local-time well posedness for extended NSE dynamics

$$\mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f}, \quad \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$$

$$p = \nu p_s(\mathbf{u}) + \mathcal{Q}(\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u})$$

or:  $\mathbf{u}_t + \nu \nabla p_s(\mathbf{u}) = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}), \quad \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = 0.$

- $\mathbf{u}_{\text{in}} \in H_0^1 \Rightarrow \exists!$  strong solution  $\mathbf{u} \in L^2(0, T^*; H^2) \cap H^1(0, T^*; L^2)$
- The divergence  $w = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$  is smooth and satisfies

$$w_t = \nu \Delta w \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla w = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

- $w \equiv 0$  implies  $\mathbf{u}$  solves NSE (cf. Grubb-Solonnikov 1991)

## Estimate for the Laplace-Leray commutator

**Theorem** (LLP '07) Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  ( $N \geq 2$ ) be a bounded  $C^3$  domain. Then  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists C \geq 0$  such that for all  $\mathbf{u} \in H^2 \cap H_0^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla p_s(\mathbf{u})|^2 \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon\right) \int_{\Omega} |\Delta \mathbf{u}|^2 + C \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2$$

Basic ingredients in the (elementary) proof:

(i) A parallel-normal decomposition  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp}$

$$\text{on } \partial\Omega: \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} = 0, \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{u}_{\perp} = 0$$

(ii) An orthogonality identity:  $\|\Delta \mathbf{u}_{\parallel}\|^2 = \|\nabla p_s\|^2 + \|\nabla p_s - \Delta \mathbf{u}_{\parallel}\|^2$

(iii) Sharp N2D estimates on tubes:  $\|\nabla p_{s\parallel}\|_{\Gamma(r)}^2 \sim \|\nabla p_{s\perp}\|_{\Gamma(r)}^2$

## Planar domains with corners – a negative result

**Theorem** (E. Cozzi & P.) Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be a bounded domain with a locally straight corner. Given *any*  $\beta < 1$  and  $C > 0$ , there exists  $\mathbf{u} \in H^2 \cap H_0^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla p_s(\mathbf{u})|^2 > \beta \int_{\Omega} |\Delta \mathbf{u}|^2 + C \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2$$

Main ideas of the proof:

- (i) Calculate that the optimal  $\beta = 1$  for an infinite wedge.
- (ii) Scale and localize.

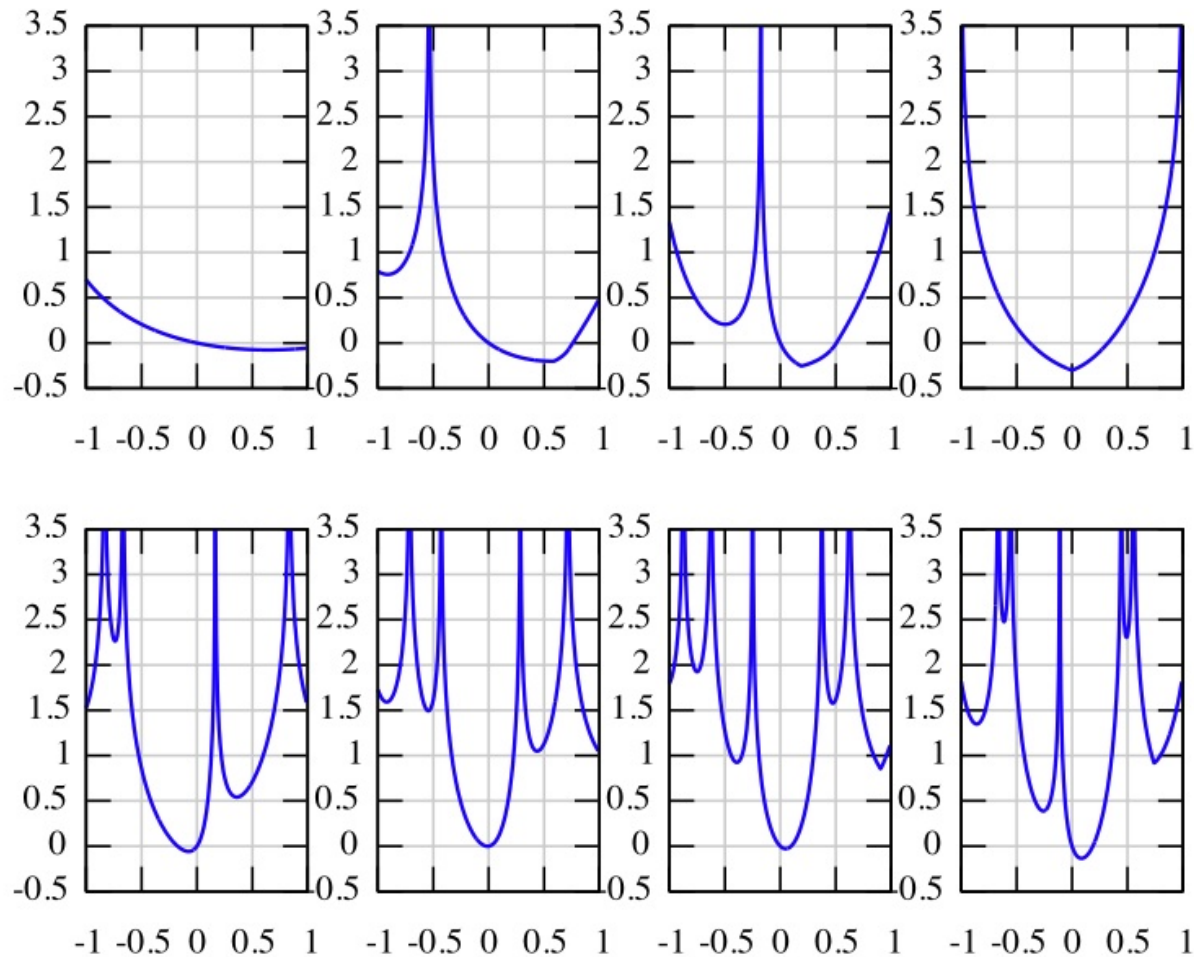
**Open Q:** Is extended Navier-Stokes dynamics well-posed in Lipschitz (or polygonal) domains?

**Optimal estimate in wedge  $0 < \theta < \sigma$  with weight  $r^{2\alpha}$**

$$\int_{\Omega(\sigma)} r^{2\alpha} |\nabla p_s(\mathbf{u})|^2 \leq \beta \int_{\Omega(\sigma)} r^{2\alpha} |\Delta \mathbf{u}|^2,$$

$$\beta = \max_{k, \pm} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{k^2 + \alpha^2(1 - e^{-2k\sigma})(1 - \alpha + ik)(1 \pm e^{-(k+i\alpha-2i)\sigma})}{2k^2(1 - \alpha)(1 \pm e^{-(k-i\alpha)\sigma})(1 - e^{-2(k+i\alpha-i)\sigma})} \right\}.$$

$\log_{10} \beta$  vs  $\alpha$  for  $\sigma = \pi \cdot [0.4, 0.65, 0.85, 1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8]$



Critical value:  $\sigma \approx 1.43\pi$ , where  $\sigma = \tan \sigma: \beta \geq 1 \forall \alpha$

Conjecture: For convex domains,  $\beta < 1$  for  $0 < \alpha < \alpha_0$ .

- **Classic inf-sup condition for steady Stokes flow FEM**

Find  $\mathbf{u} \in X \subset H_0^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $p \in Y \subset L^2(\Omega)/\mathbb{R}$  so that

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \nabla \mathbf{u}, \nabla \mathbf{v} \rangle + \langle \nabla p, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in X, \\ \langle \mathbf{u}, \nabla q \rangle &= 0 \quad \forall q \in Y.\end{aligned}$$

$$\inf_{p \in Y} \sup_{\mathbf{v} \in X} \frac{\langle p, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle}{\|p\| \|\nabla \mathbf{v}\|} \geq c > 0. \quad (1)$$

Well-known:

- Condition (1) is *necessary and sufficient* for stability of  $(p, \mathbf{u})$  in  $L^2 \times H_0^1$  (the weak NS solution space).
- Many simple finite elements *fail* this condition (e.g., equal-order Lagrange)

## Steady Stokes flow in terms of Stokes pressure

Find  $\mathbf{u} \in X \subset H^2 \cap H_0^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $p \in Y \subset H^1(\Omega)/\mathbb{R}$  so that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \nabla \mathbf{u}, \nabla \mathbf{v} \rangle + \langle \nabla p, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in X, \\ \langle \nabla p, \nabla q \rangle - \langle \nabla \times \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{n} \times \nabla q \rangle_{\Gamma} &= \langle f, \nabla q \rangle \quad \forall q \in Y. \end{aligned}$$

Stability of  $(p, \mathbf{u}) \in H^1 \times (H^2 \cap H_0^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N))$  (strong solution space) is not subject to standard inf-sup velocity-pressure compatibility.

Still a mixed formulation computationally for steady flow

Possible gain in simplicity of discretization with  $C^0$  elements (e.g. for complex fluid-coupled systems) — nonconforming for  $H^2$

- **Time discretization: Higher-order projection methods**

Chorin-Temam method: 1st-order in time, boundary layers for  $p$

Brown, Cortez, Minion '01: Explain 2nd-order time accuracy

Guermond, Mineev, Shen '06: Review many projection methods, FEM

- use higher-order backward time difference formulas, and
- improve boundary-layer accuracy using various strategies, e.g.:
  - ★ **Pressure approximation** (Karniadakis et al '91):  
extrapolate curl-curl BCs to approximate  $\nabla p^{n+1}$  in a RHS  $F^{n+1}$
  - ★ **Pressure update** (van Kan '86, BCG '89):  
predict then correct pressure, avoiding curl-curl BCs
  - ★ **Slip correction** (Kim-Moin '86):  
extrapolate to improve BCs for  $U^{n+1}$

## A stable (3,2) slip-corrected projection method

Use BD3 formula 
$$\mathcal{D}_3 \mathbf{u}^{n+1} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \left( \alpha_0 \mathbf{u}^{n+1} + \sum_{k \geq 1} \alpha_k \mathbf{u}^{n+1-k} \right)$$

Write  $\mathbf{H}^j = \mathbf{U}^j \cdot \nabla \mathbf{U}^j$  & extrapolate:

$$\mathcal{E}_3 \mathbf{H}^{n+1} = 3\mathbf{H}^n - 3\mathbf{H}^{n-1} + \mathbf{H}^{n-2}, \quad \mathcal{E}_2 \phi^{n+1} = 2\phi^n - \phi^{n-1}.$$

1. Given  $\mathbf{U}^j \approx \mathbf{u}(j\Delta t)$  ( $j \leq n$ ), solve (without any pressure!)

$$\frac{1}{\Delta t} \left( \alpha_0 \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} + \sum_{k \geq 1} \alpha_k \mathbf{U}^{n+1-k} \right) = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} + \mathbf{f}^{n+1} - \mathcal{E}_3 \mathbf{H}^{n+1},$$

$$\mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} = \mathbf{g}^{n+1} + \nabla \mathcal{E}_2 \phi^{n+1} \quad \text{on } \Gamma.$$

2.  $\mathbf{U}^{n+1} = \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} - \nabla \phi^{n+1}$ ,  $\Delta \phi^{n+1} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}^{n+1}$ ,  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \phi^{n+1} = 0$ .

**Formal accuracy:** Apply  $\mathcal{P}$  and recall

$$\mathcal{P}\mathbf{u}_*^j = \mathcal{P}\mathbf{U}^j = \mathbf{U}^j - \nabla\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{g}^j),$$

$$\mathcal{P}\Delta\mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} = \Delta\mathcal{P}\mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} - \nabla p_s(\mathbf{u}_*^{n+1}) = \Delta\mathbf{U}^{n+1} - \nabla p_s(\mathbf{U}^{n+1}) :$$

$$\mathcal{D}_3\mathbf{U}^{n+1} + \nabla\bar{p}^{n+1} = \nu\Delta\mathbf{U}^{n+1} + \mathbf{f}^{n+1} - \mathcal{E}_3\mathbf{H}^{n+1},$$

$$\bar{p}^{n+1} = \nu p_s(\mathbf{U}^{n+1}) - \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{D}_3\mathbf{g}^{n+1}) + \mathcal{Q}\mathbf{f}^{n+1} - \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{E}_3\mathbf{H}^{n+1},$$

$$\mathbf{U}^{n+1} = \mathbf{g}^{n+1} - \nabla(\phi^{n+1} - \mathcal{E}_2\phi^{n+1}) \quad \text{on } \Gamma.$$

$$\left(\frac{\alpha_0}{\Delta t} - \nu\Delta\right) (\phi^{n+1} - \mathcal{E}_2\phi^{n+1}) = \bar{p}^{n+1} - 2\bar{p}^n + \bar{p}^{n-1} = O(\Delta t^2),$$

hence  $\mathbf{U}^{n+1} - \mathbf{g}^{n+1} = O(\Delta t^3)$  formally and the scheme is formally 3rd-order accurate overall.

## A stable (3,2) pressure approximation method

Update intermediate velocity  $\mathbf{u}_*^n$  via ( $\mathbf{H}^n = \mathbf{u}_*^n \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}_*^n$ )

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{f}^{n+1} - \mathcal{E}_3 \mathbf{H}^{n+1} - \frac{1}{\Delta t} \sum_{j \geq 1} \alpha_j \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1-j},$$

$$\bar{P} = \nu p_s(\mathcal{E}_2 \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1}) - \frac{\alpha_0}{\Delta t} \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{g}^{n+1}) + \mathcal{Q}\mathbf{F}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\alpha_0}{\Delta t} \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} &= -\nabla \bar{P} + \mathbf{F} \\ \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} &= \mathbf{g}^{n+1} \quad \text{on } \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

The div-free velocity and consistent pressure are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U}^{n+1} &= \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} - \nabla \phi^{n+1}, \quad \Delta \phi^{n+1} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1}, \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \phi^{n+1} = 0, \\ p^{n+1} &= \bar{P} - \nu \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1}. \quad (\text{Improves over previous methods}) \end{aligned}$$

### (3,3) pressure update method (cf. BCG '89, Ren et al '05)

1. Find  $\mathbf{u}_*^{n+1}$  to solve

$$\frac{1}{\Delta t} \left( \alpha_0 \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} + \sum_{k \geq 1} \alpha_k \mathbf{U}^{n+1-k} \right) + \nabla \mathcal{E}_3 p^{n+1} = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} + \mathbf{f}^{n+1} - \mathcal{E}_3 \mathbf{H}^{n+1},$$

$$\mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} = \mathbf{g}^{n+1} \quad \text{on } \Gamma.$$

2.  $\mathbf{U}^{n+1} = \mathbf{u}_*^{n+1} - \nabla \phi^{n+1}$ ,  $\Delta \phi^{n+1} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}^{n+1}$ ,  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \phi^{n+1} = 0$ .

3. Update pressure via

$$p^{n+1} = \mathcal{E}_3 p^{n+1} + \left( \frac{\alpha_0}{\Delta t} - \nu \Delta \right) \phi^{n+1}$$

## Single mode Stokes test problem in strip $-1 < x < 1$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \nabla p_s(\mathbf{u}) = \Delta \mathbf{u}, \quad \mathbf{u}|_{x=\pm 1} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{u}(t, x, y) = e^{i\xi y - \sigma t} (u(x, \xi), iv(x, \xi))$$

For the case of odd symmetry:  $p = e^{i\xi y - \sigma t} \sinh \xi x$ ,

$$u(x) = A \left( \frac{\cosh \xi x}{\cosh \xi} - \frac{\cos \mu x}{\cos \mu} \right), \quad A = \frac{\xi \cosh \xi}{\xi^2 + \mu^2},$$

$$v(x) = B \left( \frac{\sinh \xi x}{\sinh \xi} - \frac{\sin \mu x}{\sin \mu} \right), \quad B = \frac{\xi \sinh \xi}{\xi^2 + \mu^2}.$$

$$\xi \tanh \xi + \mu \tan \mu = 0, \quad \sigma = \xi^2 + \mu^2.$$

Usually take  $\xi = 1$ ,  $\mu \approx 2.883356$ ,  $\sigma \approx 9.314$ .

## Single-mode time-discrete stability tests

$$A_0 \mathbf{u}^{n+1} + A_1 \mathbf{u}^n + \dots + A_k \mathbf{u}^{n+1-k} = 0.$$

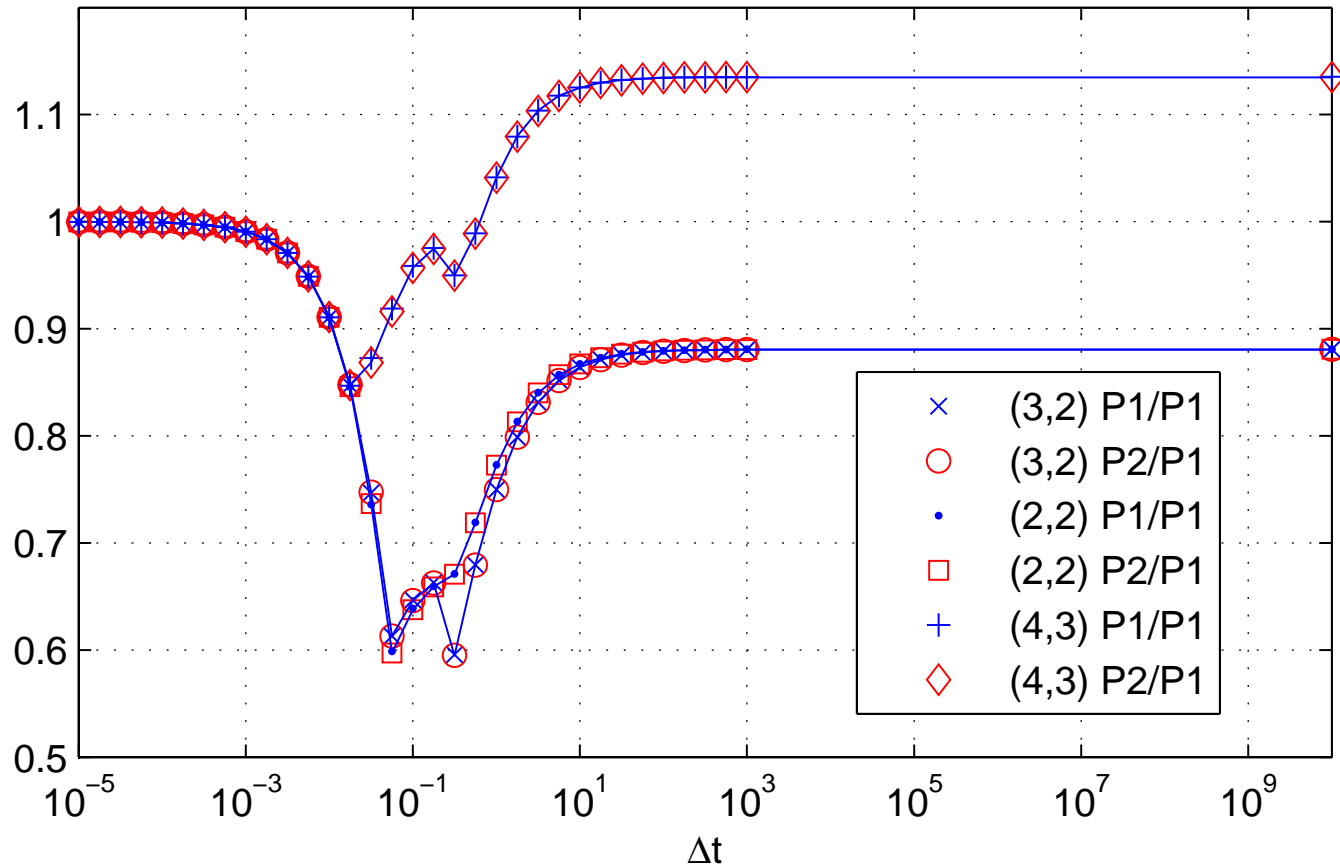
Look for  $\mathbf{u}^n = \kappa^n \mathbf{u}$  with

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I \\ -A_3 & -A_2 & -A_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \kappa \mathbf{u} \\ \kappa^2 \mathbf{u} \end{pmatrix} = \kappa \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \kappa \mathbf{u} \\ \kappa^2 \mathbf{u} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Solve for eigenvalues  $\kappa$  using Matlab eigs.

Plot  $\max |\kappa|$  vs  $\Delta t$  for various combinations of finite-element velocity/pressure pairs and orders of accuracy.

## Slip-correction schemes, single-mode stability test

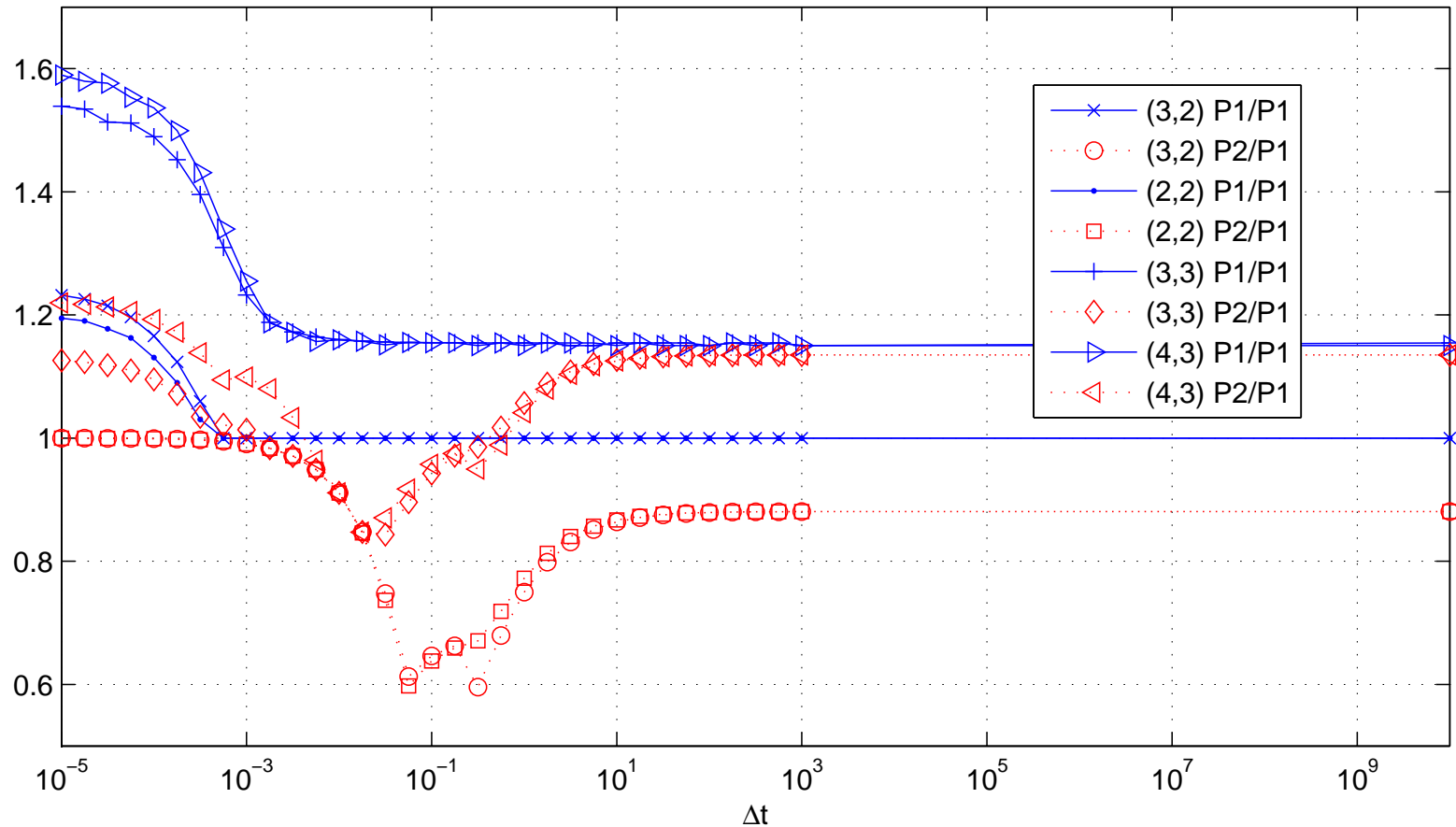


1:  $\max |\kappa|$  vs  $\Delta t$ . 30 elements for each var. Solid lines: space-continuous theory.

(2,2), (3,2): unconditional stability. (cf. Leriche et al '06 w/PA)

(3,3), (4,3): stability for  $\Delta t < \Delta t_c$  independent of  $h, \xi$ . (smooth?)

## Pressure update schemes, single-mode stability test



2:  $\max |\kappa|$  vs  $\Delta t$ . 30 elements for each var. Solid lines: interpolated.

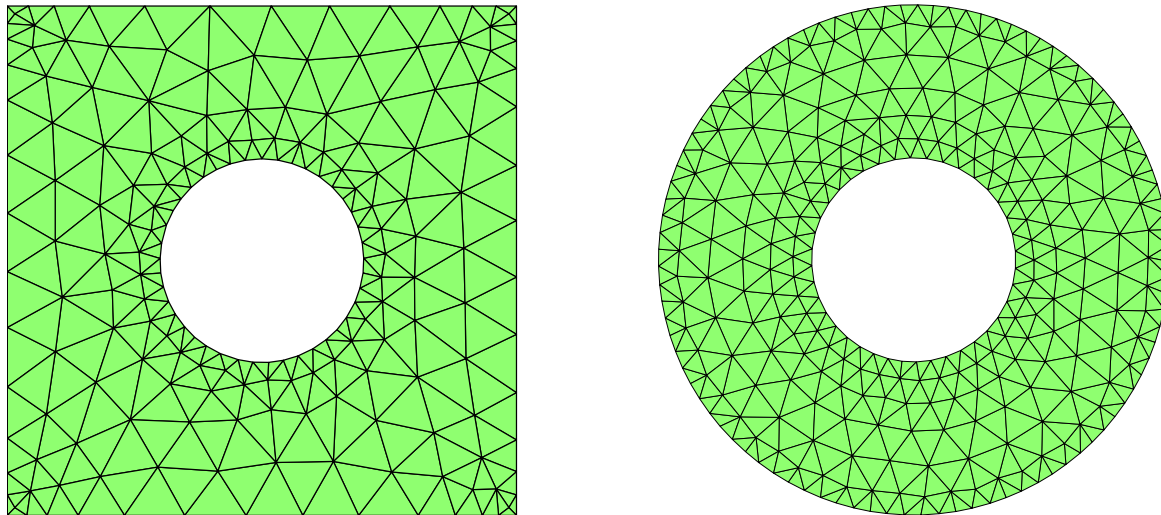
All P1/P1 PU schemes: unstable. P2/P1 velocity-pressure pairs:  
 (2,2), (3,2): unconditional stability. (3,3),(4,3): stability window

## 2D test problem: stability & accuracy

$\Omega = \text{square } [-1, 1]^2 - \text{hole, or ring.}$      $\nu = 2, t = 2$

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = g(t) \begin{pmatrix} \cos^2(\pi x/2) \sin(\pi y) \\ -\sin(\pi x) \cos^2(\pi y/2) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$p(t) = g(t) \cos(\pi x/2) \sin(\pi y/2).$$



## 2D test: stability in domains with & without corners

$\Delta t_c \setminus N$	0	1	2
(3,3) P1/P1	0.045	0.015	0.00067
(3,3) P2/P2	0.00027	0.000073	0.000018
(4,3) P1/P1	0.048	0.017	0.00074
(4,3) P2/P2	0.00029	0.000080	0.000020

Largest time step for linear stability of PA schemes in a [square with hole](#).

$N = \#$  of refinements from grid in figure. **Diffusive constraint on  $\Delta t$ .**

$\Delta t_c \setminus N$	0	1	2
(3,3) P1/P1	0.022	0.014	0.010
(3,3) P2/P2	0.007	0.005	0.005
(4,3) P1/P1	0.024	0.017	0.014
(4,3) P2/P2	0.011	0.011	0.010

Largest time step for linear stability of PA schemes in [annulus](#).

$N = \#$  of refinements from grid in figure. **No diffusive constraint on  $\Delta t$ .**

## Accuracy: slip-corrected P4 FEM, square with hole

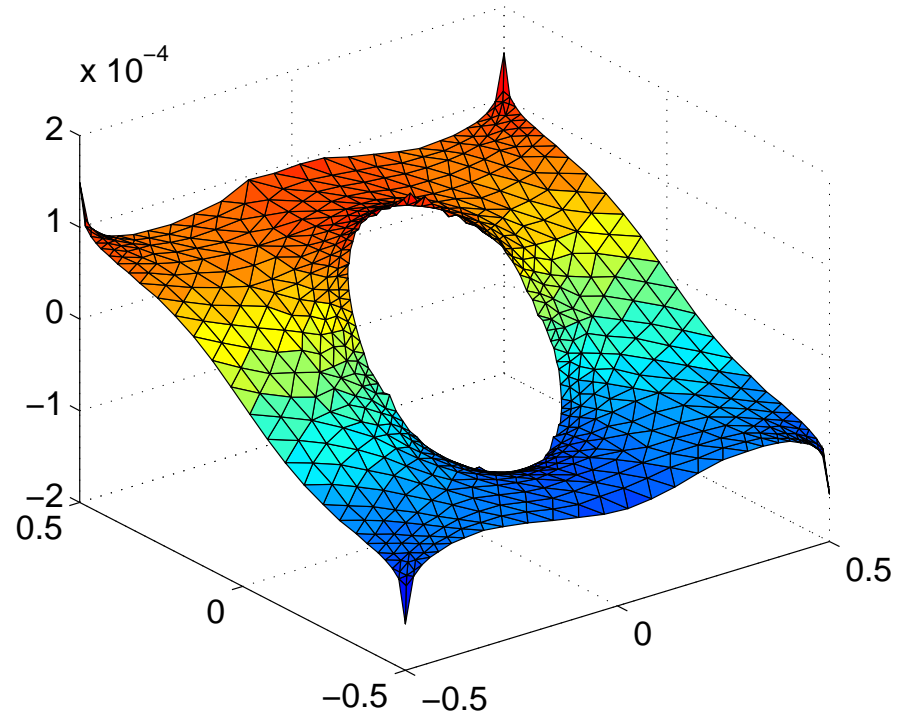
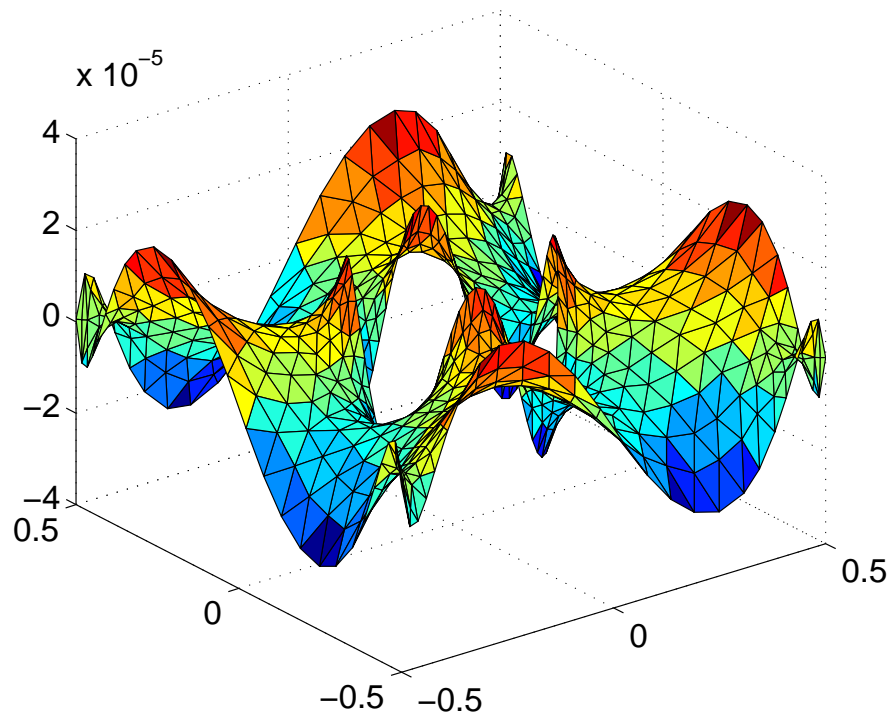
–  $\log_{10} E$  (& local order  $\alpha$ ) vs.  $\Delta t$

$E \setminus \Delta t$	0.02	0.01	0.005
$\ p - \hat{p}_h\ _{L^2}$	4.18 (2.71)	5.08 (2.98)	5.99 (3.02)
$\ \nabla(p - \hat{p}_h)\ _{L^2}$	3.47 (3.73)	4.39 (3.04)	5.17 (2.62)
$\ u - u_h\ _{L^\infty}$	5.75 (2.73)	6.65 (3.02)	7.57 (3.05)
$\ \nabla(u - u_h)\ _{L^\infty}$	3.94 (3.22)	4.95 (3.35)	5.83 (2.92)

Top: (3,2) SC scheme.      Bottom: (2,1) SC scheme.

$E \setminus \Delta t$	0.02	0.01	0.005
$\ p - \hat{p}_h\ _{L^2}$	2.04 (1.97)	2.64 (2.02)	3.26 (2.04)
$\ \nabla(p - \hat{p}_h)\ _{L^2}$	1.55 (1.96)	2.15 (2)	2.76 (2.02)
$\ u - u_h\ _{L^\infty}$	3.61 (1.96)	4.22 (2.02)	4.84 (2.05)
$\ \nabla(u - u_h)\ _{L^\infty}$	2.19 (1.97)	2.8 (2.01)	3.41 (2.04)

## Pressure error for square with hole, (3,2) schemes

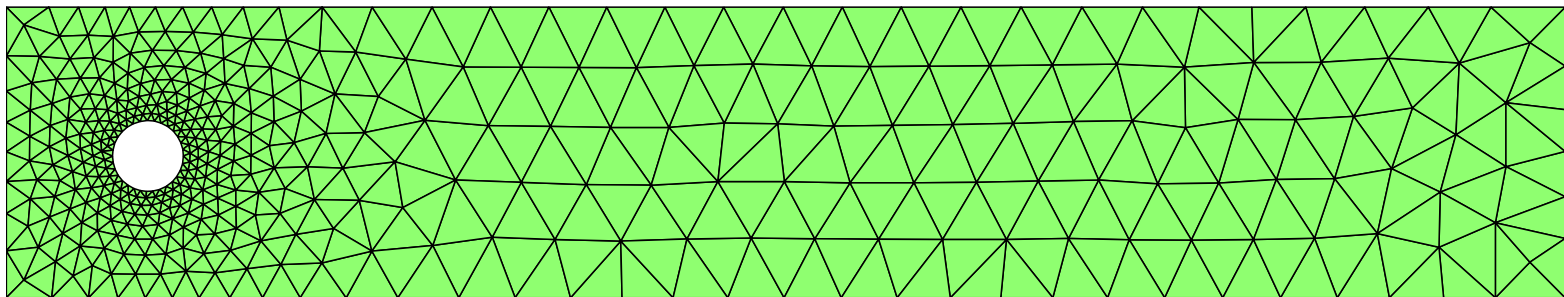
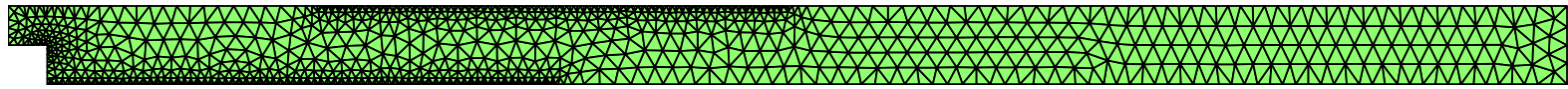
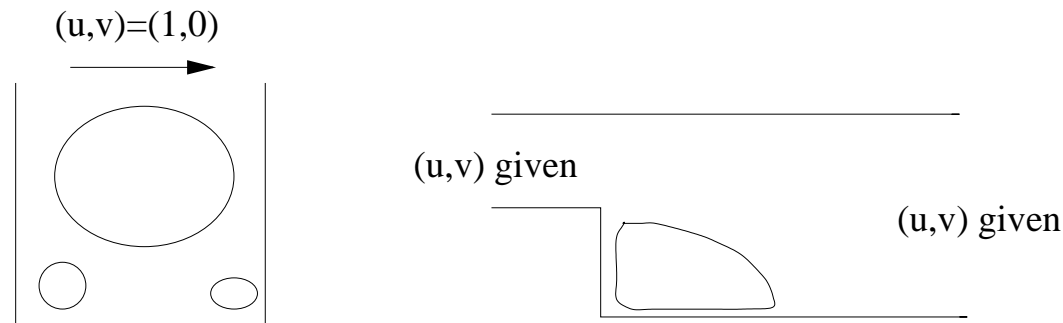


Pressure error for the (3,2) PA (left) and SC (right) schemes.

$\Delta t = 0.02$ . 1296 P4 elements for each variable.

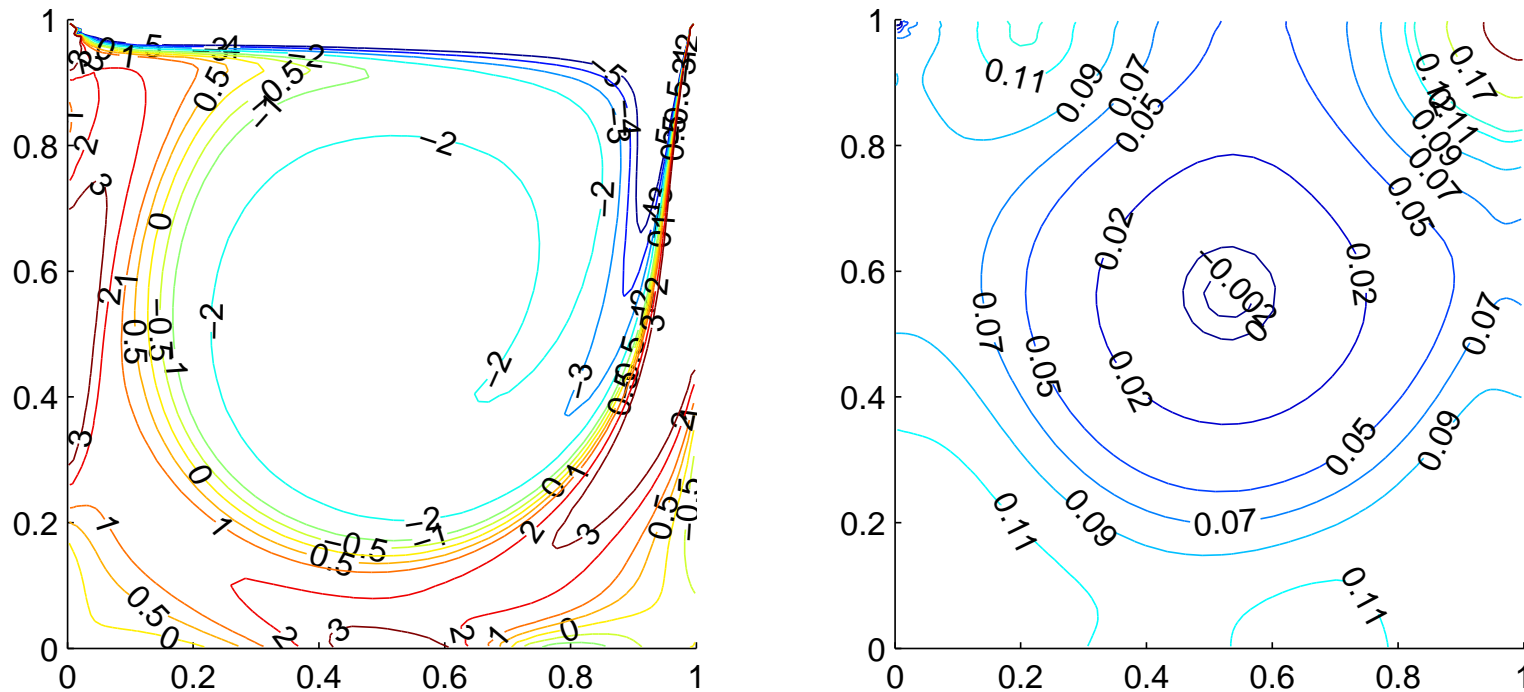
Only values at vertices of triangles are used in the plots.

## Benchmark tests with equal-order $C^0$ finite elements



3: Mesh used for backward facing step flow when  $\nu = 1/600$  and for flow past a cylinder when  $\nu = 1/1000$ .

## Driven Cavity, $Re=1000$ , $t=50$



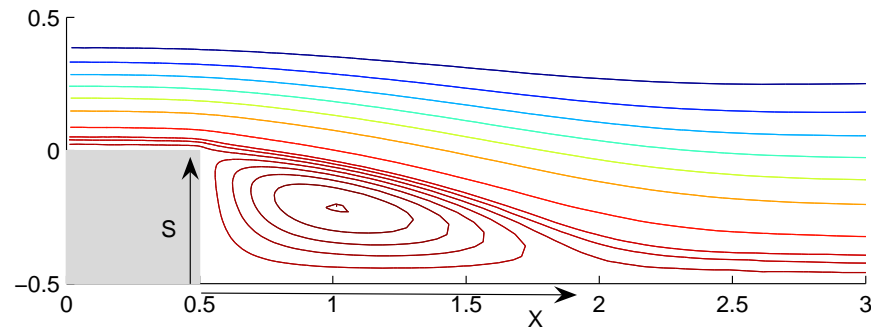
$2 \times 64 \times 64$  stretched rectangular grid

8192 **piecewise linear**  $C^0$  elements for each variable.

$h_{\min} = 0.00594$ ,  $\Delta t = 0.006$ , (3,2) slip-corrected scheme.

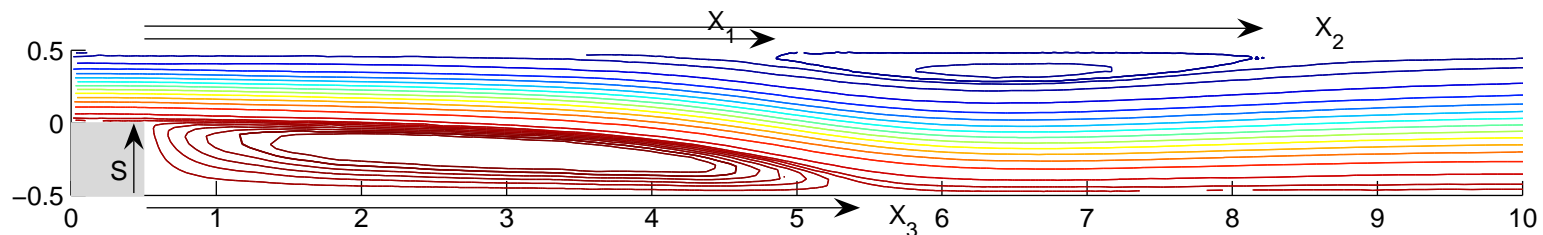
Left: vorticity contours. Right: pressure contours.

## Backward-facing step



(3,2) SC scheme, 6640 P1 elements for each variable (dof=3487).

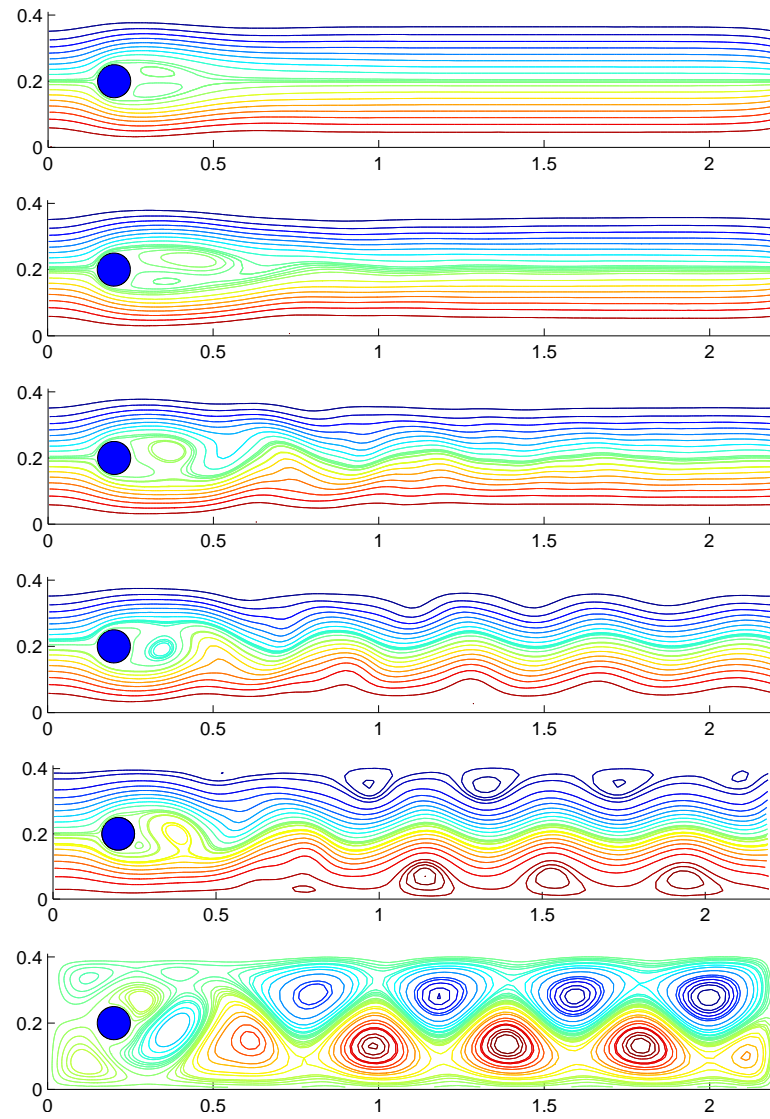
$$\nu = 1/100, t = 20, h_{\min} = 0.00783, \Delta t = 0.006.$$



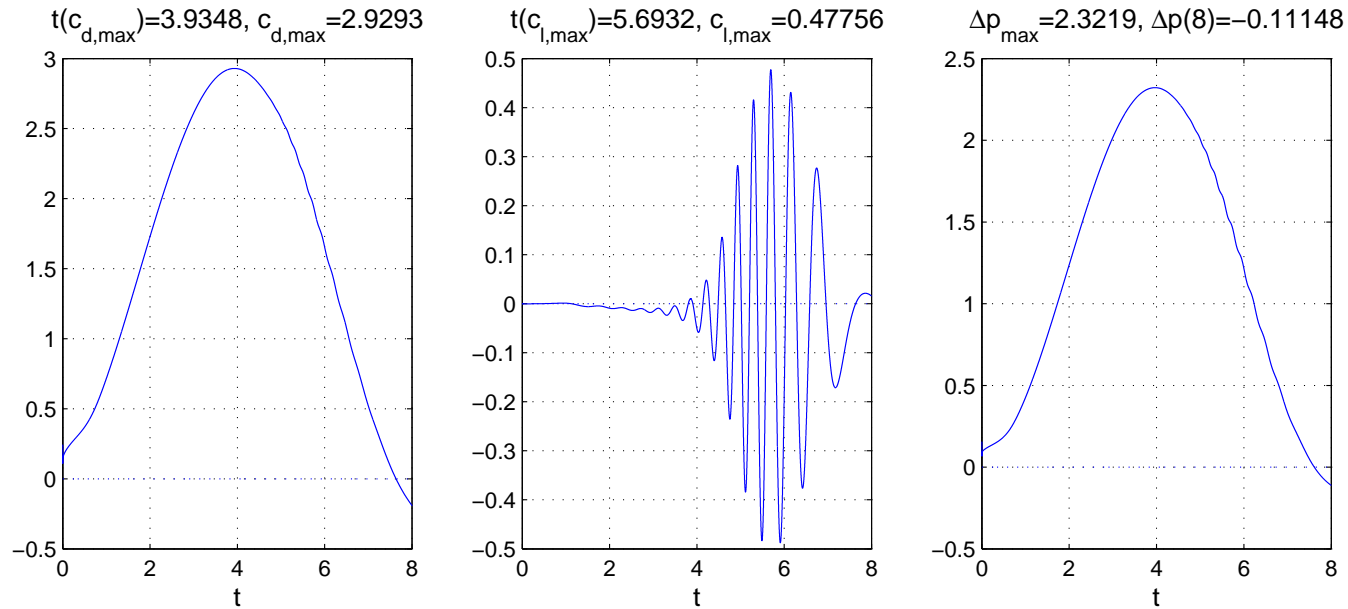
(3,2) SC scheme, 1700 P2 elements for each variable (dof=3925).

$$\nu = 1/600, t = 120, h_{\min} = 0.0186, \Delta t = 0.003.$$

# Flow past cylinder, $\nu = 1/1000$



## Drag, lift, pressure drop



(3,2) SC scheme

763 isoparametric P4 elements (dof=6322) for each variable.

## Summary

- The Navier-Stokes pressure for strong solutions in  $C^3$  domains is determined by the current velocity and data by

$$p = \nu p_s(\mathbf{u}) - \mathcal{R}(\partial_t \mathbf{g}) + \mathcal{Q}(\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}).$$

- The Laplace-Leray commutator is  $\nabla p_s(u)$  and is strictly controlled by  $\Delta \mathbf{u}$  at leading order, when  $\mathbf{u} = 0$  on the boundary and  $\Omega$  is  $C^3$ .
- Improved accuracy (esp. for pressure) in numerical computations
- Improved flexibility of finite-element methods with PA and SC (but *not* PU) projection methods — classical inf-sup condition may not need to be respected.
- Short-time wellposedness extends to  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \neq 0$  with simple proof

## Lots of open questions

- Well-posedness for domains with corners?
- Weaker solutions?
- Analysis of  $C^0$  finite element methods?
- Improved handling of corners?
- Boundary layers/zero-viscosity limits?
- Other boundary conditions: free boundary, fluid/membrane...?  
( $\exists$  numerical work on open BCs by Jie Liu...)
- Complex fluids? ( $\exists$  stability theorem for ideal MHD...)

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Thank you!