

B-char: an efficient (and feasible!) approach for mass-conserving characteristic schemes in 2D and 3D

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*Joint work with Hanz M. Cheng (formerly Monash, now Eindhoven
University of Technology)*



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Discrete Functional Analysis: bridging
pure and numerical mathematics

- 1 **The problem: numerical methods with inexact calculations**
- 2 **B-char method: cheap, and perfectly mass conservative**
- 3 **Numerical tests**
 - 2D tests
 - 3D tests

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 - 2D tests
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Linear advection model

$$\begin{cases} \phi \frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \operatorname{div}(uc) = 0 & \text{on } Q_T := \Omega \times (0, T), \\ c(\cdot, 0) = c_{\text{ini}} & \text{on } \Omega. \end{cases}$$

- Ω : polygonal/polyhedral domain, with mesh \mathcal{M} .
- ϕ : porosity, $0 < \phi_* \leq \phi \leq \phi^*$, piecewise constant on mesh.
- u : Darcy velocity, $u \in L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega))$, $\operatorname{div}u = 0$ and $u \cdot n = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$.
- c_{ini} : initial concentration, $c_{\text{ini}} \in L^\infty(\Omega)$.

ELLAM method

Time steps: Time discretisation

$$0 = t^{(0)} < t^{(1)} < \dots < t^{(N)} = T, \quad \text{with } \delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})} = t^{(n+1)} - t^{(n)}.$$

Let $u^{(n+1)} \in L^2(\Omega)^d$ approximate u on $(t^{(n)}, t^{(n+1)})$, with $\operatorname{div} u^{(n+1)} = 0$ and $u^{(n+1)} \cdot n = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$.

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Test function: ψ satisfying

$$\phi \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + u^{(n+1)} \cdot \nabla \psi = 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega \times (t^{(n)}, t^{(n+1)}), \quad \psi(\cdot, t^{(n+1)}) \text{ given.}$$

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► Set $F_t(x)$ flow of $u^{(n+1)}/\phi$, that is

$$\frac{dF_t(x)}{dt} = \frac{u^{(n+1)}(F_t(x))}{\phi(F_t(x))}, \quad F_0(x) = x.$$

Then

$$\psi(x, t^{(n)}) = \psi(F_{\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(x), t^{(n+1)}).$$

ELLAM method

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Time stepping in ELLAM (=Eulerian Lagrangian Localised Adjoint Method):

$$\int_{\Omega} \phi(x)(c\psi)(x, t^{(n+1)}) dx = \int_{\Omega} \phi(x)(c\psi)(x, t^{(n)}) dx$$

ELLAM method: global and local mass conservation

Global mass conservation: make $\psi(x, t^{(n+1)}) \equiv 1$:

$$\int_{\Omega} \phi(x) c(x, t^{(n+1)}) dx = \int_{\Omega} \phi(x) c(x, t^{(n)}) dx.$$

Local mass conservation: since $\text{div} u = 0$,

$$\text{If } c(\cdot, t^{(n)}) = 1 \text{ then } c(\cdot, t^{(n+1)}) = 1.$$

ELLAM for piecewise constant approximations

- ▶ At each time, we are looking for $c_h(\cdot, t^{(n)}) = (c_M^{(n)})_{M \in \mathcal{M}}$ piecewise constant approximation of c on \mathcal{M} .
- ▶ Notation: the porous volume in a set A is

$$|A|_\phi = \int_A \phi.$$

ELLAM formulation: take $\psi(\cdot, t^{(n+1)}) = 1_K$ for a cell $K \in \mathcal{M}$:

$$|K|_\phi c_K^{(n+1)} = \sum_{M \in \mathcal{M}} |M \cap F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_\phi c_M^{(n)}.$$

Global and local mass conservation

$$|K|_{\phi} c_K^{(n+1)} = \sum_{M \in \mathcal{M}} |M \cap F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_{\phi} c_M^{(n)}.$$

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Local mass conservation: OK because

$$\sum_{M \in \mathcal{M}} |M \cap F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_{\phi} = |F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_{\phi} = |K|_{\phi}.$$

ELLAM in practice: what needs to be computed

Transport of cells: K polygonal/polyhedral cell, but $F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)$ is a generic potato, that needs to be approximated...

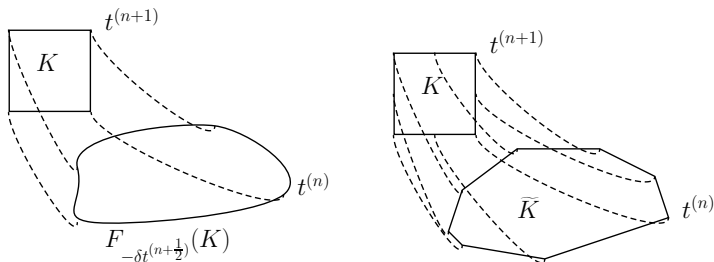


Figure: Exact (left) and approximated (right) trace-back of K .

Intersection of regions: need to compute (porous volume of)
 $M \cap F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K).$

- ▶ Algorithms for areas of intersections of polygons (2D) are ok, but expensive.
- ▶ Algorithms for volume of intersections of polyhedras (3D) are terrible!

ELLAM in practice: revisiting mass conservation

- ▶ Global and local mass conservation are based on

$$\sum_{K \in \mathcal{M}} |M \cap F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_{\phi} = |M|_{\phi} \quad (\text{global}),$$

$$\sum_{M \in \mathcal{M}} |M \cap F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_{\phi} = |F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_{\phi} = |K|_{\phi} \quad (\text{local}).$$

- ▶ Issue: we only compute \widehat{K} , and

$$|M \cap \widehat{K}|_{\phi} \approx |M \cap F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_{\phi}.$$

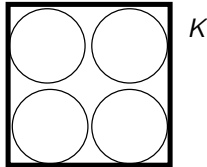
Not a problem for global mass conservation (as $(\widehat{K})_{K \in \mathcal{M}}$ forms a partition of the domain), but breaks down local mass conservation...

Plan

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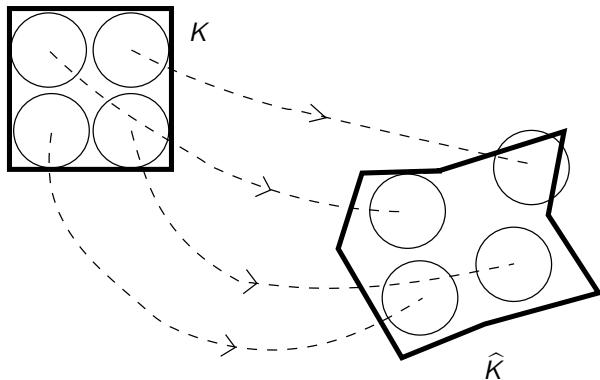
An original idea...

Approximate polygons/polyhedras by balls,



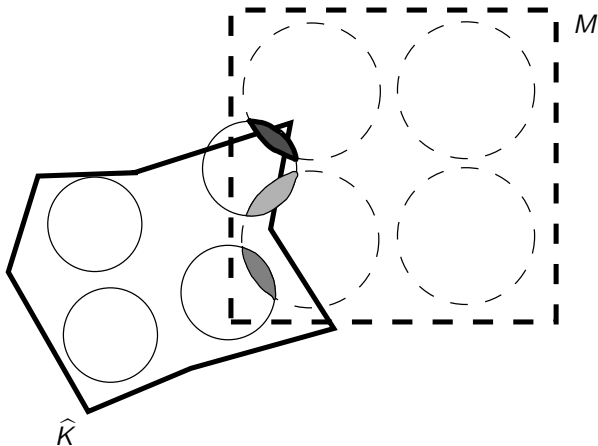
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Approximate polygons/polyhedras by balls, track balls (keeping them as balls),



An original idea...

Approximate polygons/polyhedras by balls, track balls (keeping them as balls), intersect balls.



... that needs to be enhanced!

- ▶ Loss of volume in K when approximating by balls (gaps), and loss of volume when intersecting balls.
 - ▶ Very inaccurate approximation of \widehat{K} (and thus of $F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)$) by tracked balls.
- ↪ bad solutions, clearly not conserving mass.

Initial adjustments

- ▶ Cell K with balls $(B_{K,s})_{s=1,\dots,n_K}$.

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Distribution of porous volume: introduce *porous density* ρ_K , constant during evolution, such that

$$\rho_K \sum_{s=1}^{n_K} |B_{K,s}|_\phi = |K|_\phi.$$

- ▶ $\rho_K |B_{K,s}|_\phi$ *equivalent* porous volume inside ball.

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Tracking of balls: assuming ϕ constant, the volume (and radius) of $B_{K,s}$ remains constant during tracking (*generalised Liouville theorem*).

Initial adjustments

Intersections of balls without loss of mass: straight intersection of balls in \widehat{K} and M leads to

$$|\widehat{K} \cap M|_\phi \approx \sum_s \sum_m \rho_M \phi_M |\widehat{B}_{K,s} \cap B_{M,m}|.$$

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► But loss of mass through intersection of balls. So we compute the fraction of mass of $\widehat{B}_{K,s}$ that comes from $B_{M,m}$:

$$f_{K,s,M,m} = \frac{\rho_M \phi_M |\widehat{B}_{K,s} \cap B_{M,m}|}{\sum_{L \in \mathcal{M}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{n_L} \rho_L \phi_L |\widehat{B}_{K,s} \cap B_{L,\ell}|}$$

and we set

$$|M \cap \widehat{K}|_\phi \approx V_{\widehat{K},M} = \sum_{s=1}^{n_K} \rho_K \widehat{\phi}_{K,s} |\widehat{B}_{K,s}| \sum_{m=1}^{n_M} f_{K,s,M,m}.$$

Mass conservations?

Local mass conservation: came from

$$\sum_M |M \cap F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_\phi = |F_{-\delta t^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}}(K)|_\phi = |K|_\phi.$$

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We therefore need

$$\sum_M V_{\hat{K},M} = |K|_\phi.$$

OK because $\sum_M \sum_m f_{K,s,M,m} = 1$.

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We therefore need

$$\sum_K V_{\widehat{K},M} = |M|_\phi. \quad \text{KO!}$$

Second adjustment: redistributions

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- ▶ Step 0: set $V_{\hat{K},M}^{(0)} = V_{\hat{K},M}$.

Second adjustment: redistributions

$$\text{Global: } \sum_K V_{\hat{K},M} = |M|_\phi. \quad \text{Local: } \sum_M V_{\hat{K},M} = |K|_\phi.$$

For $n = 0, \dots, N$, iterate:

- ▶ Step 1: redistribute to get global mass conservation

$$V_{\hat{K},M}^{(n+\frac{1}{2})} = \frac{|M|_\phi}{\sum_R V_{\hat{R},M}^{(n)}} V_{\hat{K},M}^{(n)}$$

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- ▶ Step 2: redistribute to get local mass conservation

$$V_{\hat{K},M}^{(n+1)} = \frac{|K|_\phi}{\sum_L V_{\hat{K},L}^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}} V_{\hat{K},M}^{(n+\frac{1}{2})}.$$

Second adjustment: redistributions

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Achieving exact conservation: after $n \sim 10$, stop iterations and find, in the vicinity of the current $(V_{\hat{K},M}^{(n)})_{K,M}$, one solution to the global and local mass conservation equations.

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Achieving exact conservation: after $n \sim 10$:

Find $x = (x_{\widehat{K},M})_{K,M}$ such that:

- $((1 + x_{\widehat{K},M})V_{\widehat{K},M}^{(n)})_{K,M}$ exactly satisfies the global and local mass balance equations,
- $0 \leq 1 + x_{\widehat{K},M} \leq 2$,
- $|x|^2$ is minimal.

Then, use $V_{\widehat{K},M} = (1 + x_{\widehat{K},M})V_{\widehat{K},M}^{(n)}$ as porous volumes of cell intersections.

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► $(x_{\hat{K},M})_{K,M}$ are $\# \text{cells} \times \# \text{cells}$ unknowns, but the actual minimisation problem is much smaller (only a few $V_{\hat{K},M}^{(n)}$ are non-zero).

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Comparison with “polygonal” ELLAM: translation

▶ “Polygonal” ELLAM: classical approach, computing \widehat{K} and intersection $M \cap \widehat{K}$.

▶ B-char: 4 balls in each cell.

Test case: $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$, $c_{\text{ini}} = 1$ on $(\frac{1}{16}, \frac{5}{16}) \times (\frac{1}{16}, \frac{5}{16})$, velocity $\mathbf{u} = (\frac{1}{16}, 0)$, final time $T = 8$.

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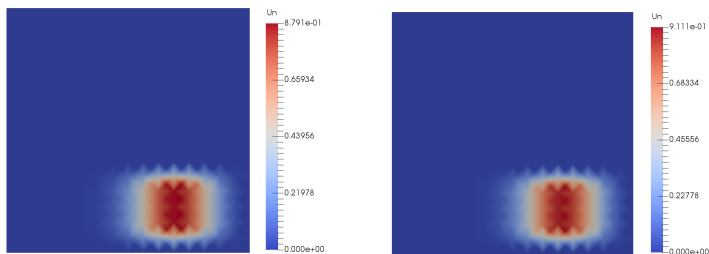


Figure: 16×16 grid, $\delta t = 0.8$ (left: polygonal; right: B-char).

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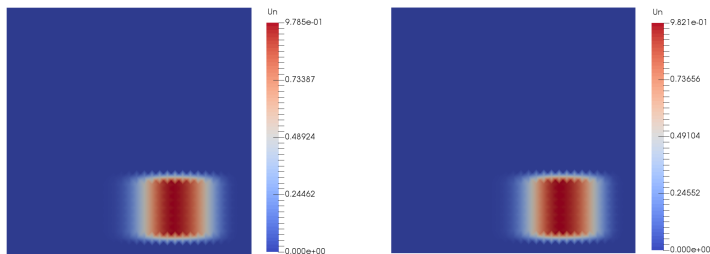


Figure: 32×32 grid, $\delta t = 0.4$ (left: polygonal; right: B-char).

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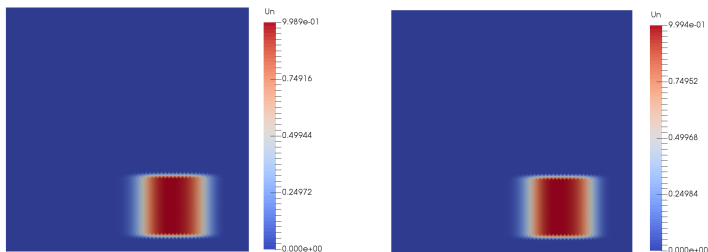


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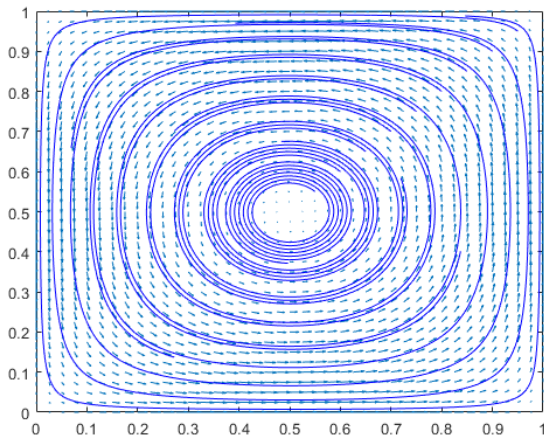
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		Polygonal		B-char	
Mesh	δt	CPU (1 step)	L^2 error	CPU (1 step)	L^2 error
16×16	0.8	0.5s	3.7e-01	0.1s	3.8e-01
32×32	0.4	6.5s	3.2e-01	0.4s	3.3e-01
64×64	0.2	97.4s	2.7e-01	3.5s	2.9e-01

Table: CPU runtime and errors

Comparison with “polygonal” ELLAM: rotation

Test case: $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$, $c_{\text{ini}} = 1$ on disc of center $(\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4})$ and radius $\frac{1}{8}$, final time $T = 8$. Streamlines of velocity:



Comparison with “polygonal” ELLAM: rotation

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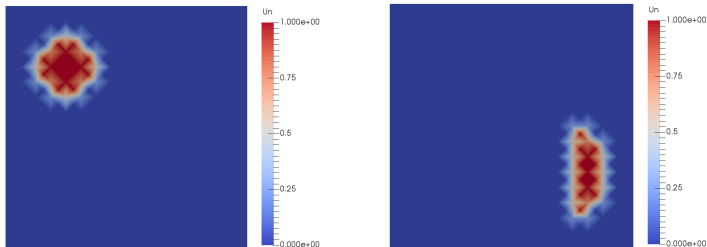


Figure: Initial condition (left), final solution (right).

Comparison with “polygonal” ELLAM: rotation

Results:

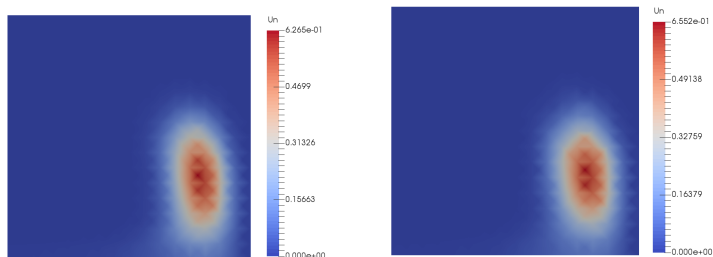


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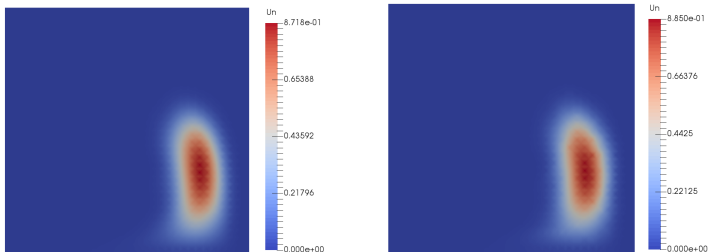


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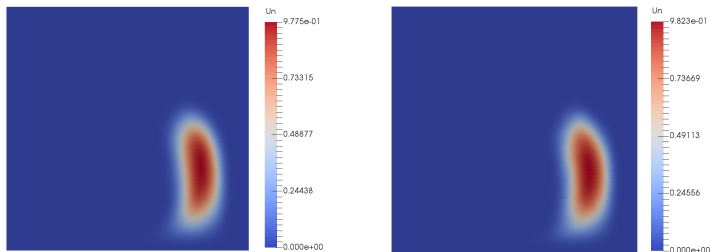


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Comparison with “polygonal” ELLAM: rotation

Results:

Mesh	δt	Polygonal		B-char	
		CPU (1 step)	L^2 error	CPU (1 step)	L^2 error
16×16	0.8	2.7s	5.1e-01	0.2s	5.1e-01
32×32	0.4	43s	4.2e-01	1.3s	4.1e-01
64×64	0.2	701s	3.6e-01	14.5s	3.6e-01

Table: CPU runtime and errors

Solid body rotation

Velocity: simple rotation around the center of $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$.

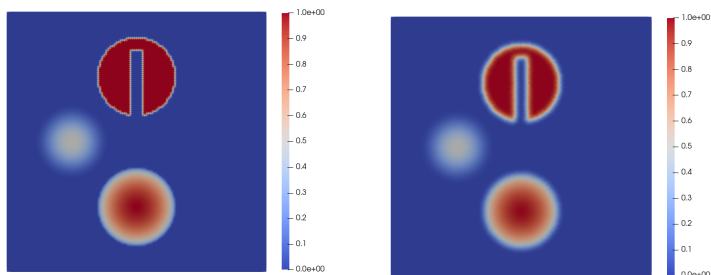


Figure: Solid body rotation on a 128×128 mesh (left: initial condition; right: numerical solution at $T = 2\pi$).

► Underlying ELLAM discretisation allows for larger time steps $\delta t = \frac{2\pi}{10}$ (in literature, usually, $\delta t \leq \frac{2\pi}{810}$).

Deformational flow

Velocity: velocity reverses at half-time $T/2$:

$$\mathbf{u} = (\sin^2(\pi x) \sin(2\pi y) \cos(\pi t/T), -\sin^2(\pi y) \sin(2\pi x) \cos(\pi t/T)).$$

Deformational flow

Results:

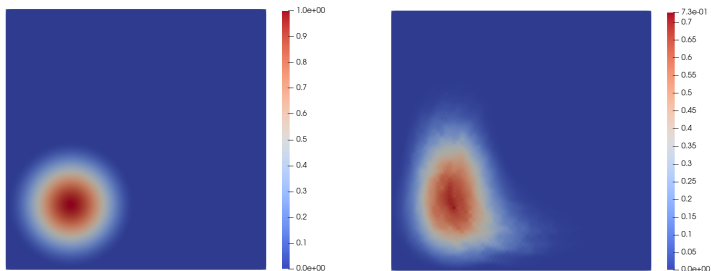


Figure: 64×64 mesh, $\delta t = 0.5$ (left: initial condition; right: numerical solution at $T = 5$).

Deformational flow

Results:

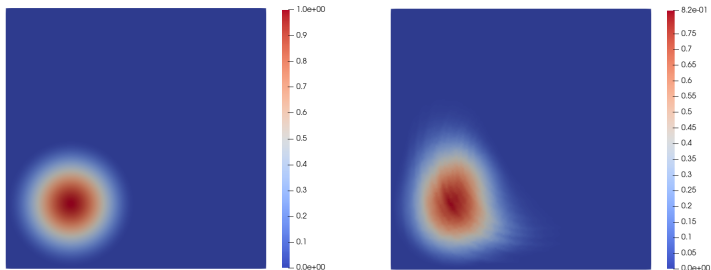


Figure: 128×128 mesh, $\delta t = 0.25$ (left: initial condition; right: numerical solution at $T = 5$).

Deformational flow

Results:

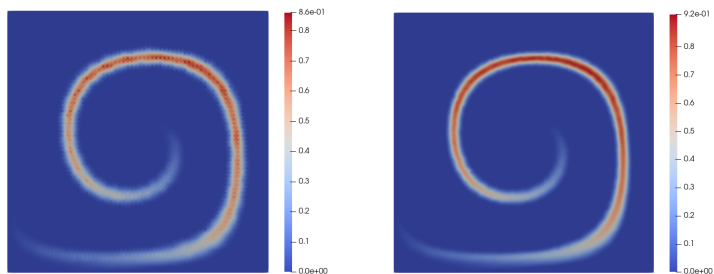


Figure: At halftime $T = 2.5$ (left: 64×64 cells; right: 128×128 cells).

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Setting

- ▶ $\Omega = (0, 1)^3$, $T = 8$.
- ▶ B-char with 8 balls per cell, 16^3 mesh, $\delta t = 0.8$.
- ▶ 3 test cases:
 1. Piecewise constant c_{ini} in cube, velocity: translation in x .
 2. Piecewise constant c_{ini} in cylinder, velocity: rotation & stretching in (x, y) , translation in z .
 3. Continuous bump c_{init} , same velocity as in 2.

Results

Test case	δt	CPU time (one time step)	L^1 error	L^2 error
1	0.8	37.2s	4.8e-01	4.1e-01
2	0.8	63.5s	9.6e-01	6.2e-01
3	0.8	63.2s	2.4e-01	2.4e-01

Table: CPU runtime and errors in 3D.

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