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# Discontinuous Galerkin Time Discretizations for Evolution Problems

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**Part I** The dG time stepping scheme for IVP

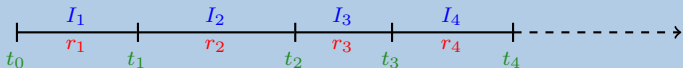
**Part II** A dG calculus for time-dependent problems

**Part III** Application to IVP:  
Discrete Peano results and blow-up problems

## Part I

# The dG time stepping scheme

## Temporal $hp$ framework



- > Time nodes:  $0 = t_0 < t_1 < t_2 < \dots$ , and time steps

$$I_m = (t_{m-1}, t_m), \quad k_m = t_m - t_{m-1}, \quad m \geq 1.$$

- > Finite element temporal mesh:  $\mathcal{M} = \{I_m\}_{m \geq 1}$ .
- > Polynomial degree  $r_m \geq 0$  associated with each time step  $m \geq 1$ .
- > Local polynomial spaces in a (real) Hilbert space  $H$ :

$$\mathbb{P}^r(I_m; H) = \left\{ v \in C^0(I_m; H) : v(t) = \sum_{k=0}^r a_k t^k, a_k \in H \right\}.$$

## Why *hp* Galerkin time stepping?

### > Why Galerkin schemes?

- Arbitrary time steps and approximation orders
- **Natural framework** for existence and uniqueness results, stability and error analysis (weak and pointwise formulations, function spaces)
- Applicability of **analysis techniques**

### > Why *hp* methods?

- **Flexibility** in adjusting the time steps and the orders to the local behaviour of the solution (possibly leading to high-order algebraic or even exponential convergence rates)
- Allowing for possibly **large time steps**

[Matache, Schwab & W, 2005/2006]

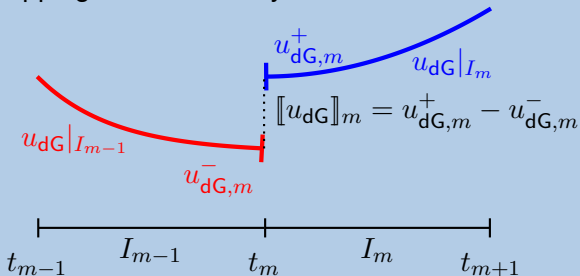
## The dG scheme for IVP

- > Given  $u_0 \in H$  solve the nonlinear initial value problem

$$\begin{aligned}u'(t) &= \mathcal{F}(t, u(t)), & t > 0 \\u(0) &= u_0,\end{aligned}$$

for an unknown solution  $u = u(t)$ .

- > DG time stepping—schematically:



## The dG scheme for IVP

$m^{\text{th}}$  time step: Given an initial value

$$u_{\text{dG},m-1}^- := u_{\text{dG}}|_{I_{m-1}}(t_{m-1})$$

find  $u_{\text{dG}}|_{I_m} \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (u'_{\text{dG}}, v)_H \, dt \\ = \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (\mathcal{F}(u_{\text{dG}}), v)_H \, dt \end{aligned}$$

for all  $v \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$ .

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$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (u'_{\text{dG}}, v)_H \, dt + (u_{\text{dG},m-1}^+, v(t_{m-1}))_H \\ = \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (\mathcal{F}(u_{\text{dG}}), v)_H \, dt + (u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-, v(t_{m-1}))_H \end{aligned}$$

for all  $v \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$ .



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$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (u'_{\text{dG}}, v)_H \, dt + (u_{\text{dG},m-1}^+ - u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-, v_{m-1}^+)_H \\ = \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (\mathcal{F}(u_{\text{dG}}), v)_H \, dt \end{aligned}$$

for all  $v \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$ .

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for all  $v \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$ .

[Reed & Hill, 1973], [Lesaint & Raviart, 1974], [Delfour, Hager & Trochu, 1981], [Delfour & Dubeau, 1986], [Johnson, 1988], [Thomée, 1997], [Schötzau & Schwab, 2000], [Walkington, 2010].

- > The dG time stepping scheme is an **implicit** (Radau-type collocation) method.
- > Analysis is possible time step by time step.  
[Schötzau & Schwab, 2000]
- > Some well-known time stepping schemes appear as special cases. (e.g.,  $r = 0 \sim$  backward Euler).
- > Close relation to other implicit methods.  
[Akrivis, Makridakis & Nochetto, 2009/2011]

## Part II

# A dG calculus for time-dependent problems

## DG time operator

On a time interval  $I_m$  define the **dG time operator**

$$\chi_m^{r_m} : \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$$

by

$$\int_{I_m} (\chi_m^{r_m}(U), V)_H dt = \underbrace{\int_{I_m} (U', V)_H dt}_{\text{derivative}} + \underbrace{(U_{m-1}^+, V_{m-1}^+)_H}_{\text{initial value}}$$

for any  $V \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$ .

## DG time operator

Lifting operator (discrete  $\delta$ -function):

$$\mathbb{L}_m^{r_m} : H \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H), \quad \zeta \mapsto \mathbb{L}_m^{r_m}(\zeta),$$

defined by

$$\int_{I_m} (\mathbb{L}_m^{r_m}(\zeta), V)_H dt = (\zeta, V_{m-1}^+)_H \quad \forall V \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H), \zeta \in H.$$

Incidentally, there holds

$$\mathbb{L}_m^{r_m}(\zeta) = \frac{\zeta}{2} (-1)^{r_m} (r_m + 1) P_m^{(0,1)}.$$

## DG time operator

Then for any  $V \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{I_m} (\chi_m^{r_m}(U), V)_H dt &= \int_{I_m} (U', V)_H dt + (U_{m-1}^+, V_{m-1}^+)_H \\ &= \int_{I_m} (U' + \mathbf{L}_m^{r_m}(U_{m-1}^+), V)_H dt. \end{aligned}$$

Hence there holds the representation:

$$\chi_m^{r_m}(U) \equiv U' + \mathbf{L}_m^{r_m}(U_{m-1}^+) \quad \forall U \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H).$$

## DG time operator

The operator

$$\chi_m^{r_m} : \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$$

is an **isomorphism**.

There holds the **discrete Poincaré inequality**

$$\|u\|_{L^\infty(I_m; H)} \leq 2k_m^{1-1/p} \|\chi_m^{r_m}(u)\|_{L^p(I_m; H)},$$

for any  $u \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$ .

[Holm & W, 2016]



## “DG integral”

### The “dG integral”

$$(\chi_m^{r_m})^{-1} : \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$$

is **uniformly stable**: For any  $p \in [1, \infty]$  there holds that

$$\|(\chi_m^{r_m})^{-1}(u)\|_{L^\infty(I_m; H)} \leq 2k_m^{1-1/p} \|u\|_{L^p(I_m; H)},$$

for any  $u \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H)$ .

[Holm & W, 2016]

## Temporal reconstruction

A function

$$U : [0, \infty) \rightarrow H, \quad U|_{I_m} \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H), \quad m \geq 1,$$

can be made continuous by means of a reconstruction technique:

$$\widehat{U} : [0, \infty) \rightarrow H, \quad \widehat{U}|_{I_m} \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m+1}(I_m; H),$$

defined by ("main theorem of calculus")

$$\widehat{U}(t) := U_{m-1}^- + \int_{t_{m-1}}^t \chi_m^{r_m}(U - U_{m-1}^-) dt, \quad t \in [t_{m-1}, t_m).$$

for  $m \geq 1$ .

[Makridakis & Nochetto, 2006]

## Temporal reconstruction

- > Then, for  $m \geq 1$ , there holds

$$\widehat{U}(t_{m-1}) = U_{m-1}^-.$$

- > Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow t_m} \widehat{U}(t) &= U_{m-1}^- + \int_{I_m} \chi_m^{r_m} (U - U_{m-1}^-) dt \\ &= U_{m-1}^- + \int_{I_m} (U' + \mathbf{L}_m^{r_m}(\llbracket U \rrbracket_{m-1})) dt \\ &= U_{m-1}^- + U_m^- - U_{m-1}^+ + \llbracket U \rrbracket_{m-1} = U_m^-. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\widehat{U}$  is **globally continuous**.

There hold “well-behaved” *approximation identities*:

>  $L^2$  norm:

$$\|U - \hat{U}\|_{L^2(I_m; H)} = \sqrt{\frac{k_m(r_m + 1)}{(2r_m + 1)(2r_m + 3)}} \|\llbracket U \rrbracket_{m-1}\|_H$$

>  $L^\infty$  norm:

$$\|U - \hat{U}\|_{L^\infty(I_m; H)} = \|\llbracket U \rrbracket_{m-1}\|_H$$

[Makridakis & Nochetto, 2006], [Schötzau & W, 2010], [Georgoulis, Lakkis & W, 2016].

## Part III

# Application to IVP: Discrete Peano results and blow-up problems

## Back to the dG scheme for IVP

- > Fully discrete scheme: Discretize the space  $H$  on each time interval  $I_m$  by a finite-dimensional subspace  $H_m$ , for  $m \geq 1$ .
- > Let  $\pi_m : H \rightarrow H_m$  denote the  $H$ -orthogonal projection.
- >  $m^{\text{th}}$  time step: find  $u_{\text{dG}}|_{I_m} \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (u'_{\text{dG}}, v)_H \, dt + ( \llbracket u_{\text{dG}} \rrbracket_{m-1}, v_{m-1}^+ )_H \\ = \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (\mathcal{F}(u_{\text{dG}}), v)_H \, dt \end{aligned}$$

for all  $v \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m)$ .

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for all  $v \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m)$ .



## Back to the dG scheme for IVP

> Notice that

$$u'_{\text{dG}} = (u_{\text{dG}} - \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-)'.$$

> Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_m [[u_{\text{dG}}]]_{m-1} &= \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^+ - \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^- \\ &= u_{\text{dG},m-1}^+ - \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^- \\ &= (u_{\text{dG}} - \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-)_{m-1}^+.\end{aligned}$$

## Back to the dG scheme for IVP

> Therefore, using the dG time operator:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{I_m} (\chi_m^{r_m}(u_{\text{dG}} - \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-), v)_H dt \\ &= \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (\mathcal{F}(u_{\text{dG}}), v)_H dt \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m), \end{aligned}$$

## Back to the dG scheme for IVP

> Therefore, using the dG time operator:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{I_m} (\chi_m^{r_m}(u_{\text{dG}} - \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-), v)_H \, dt \\ &= \int_{t_{m-1}}^{t_m} (\mathbb{I}_m^{r_m} \mathcal{F}(u_{\text{dG}}), v)_H \, dt \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m), \end{aligned}$$

with the  $L^2(I_m; H)$ -projection  $\mathbb{I}_m^{r_m} : L^2(I_m; H) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m)$ .

## Pointwise form

- > Pointwise form:

$$\chi_m^{r_m}(u_{\text{dG}} - \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-) = \Pi_m^{r_m}(\mathcal{F}(u_{\text{dG}})) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m).$$

- > Fixed-point form (Picard-type dG integral equation):

$$u_{\text{dG}} = \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^- + (\chi_m^{r_m})^{-1}(\Pi_m^{r_m}(\mathcal{F}(u_{\text{dG}}))).$$

- > Fixed-point operator:

$$\mathbb{T}_m^{\text{dG}} : \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m) \xrightarrow{\text{cont.}} \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m)$$

defined by

$$\mathbb{T}_m^{\text{dG}}(Z) := \pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^- + (\chi_m^{r_m})^{-1}(\Pi_m^{r_m}(\mathcal{F}(Z))).$$

## Discrete Peano theorem

Existence of a fixed point follows by:

- > Time step  $k_m$  sufficiently small  $\Rightarrow$  fixed point operator  $T_m^{\text{dG}}$  maps a sufficiently small (closed) ball about  $\pi_m u_{\text{dG},m-1}^- \in \mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m)$  into itself.
- > Brower's fixed point theorem  $\Rightarrow$  existence of fixed-points, and thus of discrete dG solutions (discrete Peano theorem).
- > Local Lipschitz continuity condition for  $\mathcal{F} \Rightarrow$  (local) uniqueness of solutions based on the contraction mapping theorem.

### Theorem ([Holm & W, 2016])

Let  $m \geq 1$ . If the current time step  $k_m > 0$  is chosen sufficiently small (independent of the local polynomial degree  $r_m$ ), then the hp dG time stepping method possesses a unique solution in  $\mathbb{P}^{r_m}(I_m; H_m)$ .

## Application to blow-up problems

- > **Algebraic growth nonlinearities:** For  $\beta > 1$ , and  $\alpha, \delta > 0$  suppose that

$$\|\mathcal{F}(t, u)\|_H \leq \alpha \|u\|_H^\beta, \quad (\mathcal{F}(t, u), u)_H \geq \delta \|u\|_H^{1+\beta},$$

whenever  $\|u\|_H \geq c_{\mathcal{F}}$  is sufficiently large, and for all  $t \in [0, \infty)$ .

$\exists$  **blow-up** in finite time  $T_\infty < \infty$ .

- > **Local Lipschitz continuity:** For  $\gamma \geq 0$  assume that

$$\|\mathcal{F}(t, u) - \mathcal{F}(t, v)\|_H \leq \gamma \max(\|u\|_H, \|v\|_H)^{\beta-1} \|u - v\|_H,$$

whenever  $\|u\|_H, \|v\|_H \geq c_{\mathcal{F}}$ , and for all  $t \in [0, \infty)$ .

## Application to blow-up problems

### Theorem ([Holm & W, 2016])

- > All discretization spaces are the same:  $H_1 = H_2 = \dots$
- > Initial value  $\|u_0\|_H > c_{\mathcal{F}}$  sufficiently large.
- > For a parameter  $\varrho \in (0, \varrho^*)$  choose the time steps to be

$$k_m(\varrho) := c\varrho \|u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-\|_H^{1-\beta}, \quad m \geq 1.$$

Then, there holds:

1. The dG solution exists and is (locally) unique for any time step  $m \geq 1$  (and for any polynomial degree distribution);
2. The dG solution blows up in a finite time  $T_{\infty}^{\text{dG}}(\varrho)$ ;
3.  $\lim_{\varrho \searrow 0} T_{\infty}^{\text{dG}}(\varrho) = T_{\infty}$ .

## Application to blow-up problems

### Basic time stepping algorithm:

- 1: Set  $m = 0$ ;  $\tilde{T}_\infty = 0$ ;
- 2: **loop**
- 3:    $m \leftarrow m + 1$ ;
- 4:   Compute  $k_m(\varrho)$ ;
- 5:   **if**  $\tilde{T}_\infty + k_m(\varrho) == \tilde{T}_\infty$  **then** ▷ Stopping criterion
- 6:     **return**  $\tilde{T}_\infty$ ;
- 7:   **else**
- 8:     Compute the dG solution  $u_{\text{dG}}$  on  $I_m$ ;
- 9:      $\tilde{T}_\infty \leftarrow \tilde{T}_\infty + k_m(\varrho)$ ; ▷ Update
- 10:   **end if**
- 11: **end loop**

The result,  $\tilde{T}_\infty$ , is an approximation of the exact blow-up time.

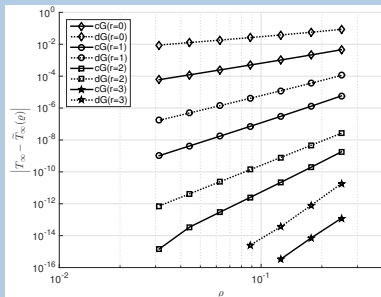


# Numerical Example

Consider

$$u'(t) = \frac{(|u(t)| + 1)u(t)}{1 + e^{-t}} =: \mathcal{F}(t, u(t)), \quad u(0) = 3.$$

Exact solution:  $u(t) = 3(e^t + 1)(5 - 3e^t)^{-1}$ .



$$\begin{aligned} \text{dG}(r): |T_\infty - \tilde{T}_\infty| &= \mathcal{O}(\varrho^{2r+1}) \\ \text{cG}(r+1): |T_\infty - \tilde{T}_\infty| &= \mathcal{O}(\varrho^{2r+2}) \end{aligned}$$

Constructive proof ongoing...

## Main Ideas of Proof

- (i) **Finite blow-up time:** Testing the strong dG form with a suitable test function shows that there exists a constant  $C > 0$  independent of the time steps and polynomial degrees such that

$$\|u_{\text{dG},m}^-\|_H \geq (1 + C\varrho) \|u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-\|_H \geq (1 + C\varrho)^m \|u_0\|_H, \quad m \geq 0.$$

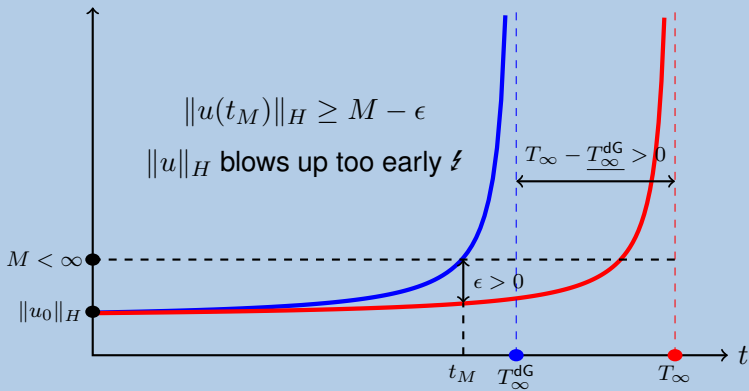
Furthermore,



$$\begin{aligned} T_\infty^{\text{dG}}(\varrho) &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} k_m(\varrho) = c\varrho \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \|u_{\text{dG},m-1}^-\|_H^{1-\beta} \\ &\leq c\varrho \|u_0\|_H^{1-\beta} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (1 + C\varrho)^{(m-1)(1-\beta)} < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

# Main Ideas of Proof




(ii) **Convergence** (by contradiction): [Nakagawa, '76]

$$\underline{T_\infty}^{\text{dG}} := \liminf_{\varrho \rightarrow 0} T^{\text{dG}}(\varrho) \geq T_\infty \geq \limsup_{\varrho \rightarrow 0} T_\infty^{\text{dG}}(\varrho).$$



- > Discrete Peano results for IVP and application to blow-up
  -  B. Holm & TW  
*Continuous and discontinuous Galerkin Time Stepping Methods for Nonlinear Initial Value problems* (arXiv:1407.5520)
- > Convergence rates for the blow-up time error
- > Extension to semi-linear parabolic PDE (with L. Schmutz)
- > Blow-up time resolution based on a *hp* a posteriori error estimates
  -  I. Kyza, S. Metcalfe & TW  
*hp-Adaptive Galerkin Time Stepping Methods for Nonlinear Initial Value Problems* (in preparation)

## Concluding remarks

- > Semi-discrete  $hp$  a posteriori error estimates for parabolic PDE
  -  D. Schötzau & TW  
*A Posteriori Error Estimation for  $hp$ -Version Time-Stepping Methods for Parabolic Partial Differential Equations* (Numer. Math., 2010)
- > Fully discrete  $hp$  a posteriori error estimates for parabolic PDE
  -  E. Georgoulis, O. Lakkis & TW  
*A posteriori error bounds for fully-discrete  $hp$ -discontinuous Galerkin time stepping methods* (in preparation)
- > Newton-Galerkin approach
  -  M. Amrein & TW  
*An Adaptive Space-Time Newton-Galerkin Approach for Semilinear Singularly Perturbed Parabolic Evolution Equations* (IMA JNA, 2016)