

# Some remarks on Nitsche's method

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## Nitsche's method The elliptic interface problem

*Alan Turing* is reported as saying that **PDE's are made by God, the boundary conditions by the Devil!** The situation has changed, Devil has changed places...We can say that the main challenges are in the **interfaces**, with Devil not far away from them..."

*Jacques-Louis Lions*

# Nitsche's method

Instead of modification of the discrete spaces use an appropriate **discrete variational formulation**

This can be achieved with Lagrange multipliers  
(Mortaring, *Ivo Babuska*)

But the Lagrange multipliers can be avoided on the discrete level (*Joachim Nitsche*) !

Relation between Nitsche's method and multipliers  
(*Rolf Stenberg*)

Application to interface problems (*Anita and Peter Hansbo*)

# Dirichlet

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(k \nabla u) &= f \quad (\Omega) \\ \gamma(u - u^D) &= 0 \quad (\Gamma := \partial\Omega), \quad u^D \in H^1(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_h &= V_h^0 \oplus V_h^* \\ E(u) &= \frac{1}{2} a(u, u) - l(u), \quad a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u \cdot \nabla_h v, \quad l(v) = \int_{\Omega} fv \end{aligned}$$

$$(P) \quad u_h \in u_h^D + V_h^0 : \quad E'(u_h)(v) = 0 \quad \forall v \in V_h^0$$

$$\mathcal{L}(u, \lambda) = E(u) + \int_{\Gamma} (u - u_h^D) \lambda$$

$$(PL) \quad \mathcal{L}'(u_h, \lambda_h)(v, \mu) = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} E'(u_h)(v^0) = l(v^0) \\ E'(u_h)(v^*) + \int_{\Gamma} v^* \lambda_h = l(v^*) \\ \int_{\Gamma} u_h \mu = \int_{\Gamma} u_h^D \mu \end{array} \right.$$

# Nitsche

$$\int_{\Omega} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla v^* + \int_{\Gamma} v^* \lambda = \int_{\Omega} f v^* \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda = -k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = T(u)$$

$$\tilde{E}(u) := \mathcal{L}_{\textcolor{red}{r}}(u, T(u)) = E(u) - \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D) k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + \frac{\textcolor{red}{r}}{2} \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D)^2$$

$$(\tilde{P}) \quad u_h \in V_h \quad \tilde{E}'(u_h)(v) = 0 \quad \forall v \in V_h$$

- ◆ No modification of FEM space
- ◆ Weighting of boundary conditions (...)

# Weighting of boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(k \nabla u) + \beta \cdot \nabla u = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = u^D & \text{on } \Gamma^D, \\ k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = q & \text{on } \Gamma^N. \end{cases}$$

Find  $u_h \in V_h$  such that for all  $v_h \in V_h$

$$\begin{cases} k \left( \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla v_h - \int_{\Gamma^D} \frac{\partial u_h}{\partial n} v_h - \int_{\Gamma^D} u_h \left( \frac{\partial v_h}{\partial n} - \frac{\gamma}{h} v_h \right) \right) \\ + \int_{\Omega} \beta \cdot \nabla u_h + s_h(u_h, v_h) - \int_{\partial\Omega^-} \beta_n^- u v \\ =: a_h(u_h, v_h) \end{cases} = \begin{cases} -k \int_{\partial\Omega^-} u^D \left( \frac{\partial v_h}{\partial n} - \frac{\gamma}{h} v_h \right) \\ - \int_{\partial\Omega^-} \beta_n^- u^D v_h \\ \int_{\Omega} f v_h + \int_{\Gamma_N} q v_h. \\ =: l_h(v_h) \end{cases}$$

# Alternative I

$$\Lambda_h = \gamma(V_h^*)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} E'(u_h)(v^0) & = 0 \\ E'(u_h)(v^*) + \int_{\Gamma} v^* \lambda_h & = 0 \\ \int_{\Gamma} u_h \mu & = \int_{\Gamma} u_h^D \mu \end{array} \right. \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} \int_{\Omega} k \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla v^0 & = \int_{\Omega} f v^0 \\ \int_{\Gamma} u_h v^* & = \int_{\Gamma} u_h^D v^* \\ \int_{\Gamma} v^* \lambda_h & = \int_{\Omega} f v^* - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla v^* \end{array} \right.$$

- ♦ Traditional FEM (with L2-projection of Dirichlet data)
- ♦ DMP if angle-condition and lumping
- ♦ Optional flux post-processing

**J. W. Barrett and C. M. Elliott.** *Total flux estimates for a finite-element approximation of elliptic equations.* IMA J. Numer. Anal., 7(2): 129–148, 1987.

**M. Giles, M. Larson, M. Levenstam, and E. Süli.** *Adaptive error control for finite element approximations of the lift and drag coefficients in viscous flow.* Technical Report NA-76/06, Oxford University Computing Laboratory, 1997.

$$\int_{\Omega} f = \int_{\Gamma} \lambda_h$$

## Alternative II

$$\mathcal{L}(u, \lambda) = E(u) + \int_{\Gamma} (u - u_h^D) \lambda$$

$$\int_{\Gamma} v^* \lambda \approx \int_{\Omega} fv^* - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla v^*$$

$$\widetilde{E}(u) := E(u) + \int_{\Omega} f(u^* - u_h^D) - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla (u^* - u_h^D) + \frac{r}{2} \int_{\Omega} k \nabla (u^* - u_h^D) \cdot \nabla (u^* - u_h^D)$$

$$r=2$$

$$\widetilde{E}(u) = E(u) + \int_{\Omega} f(u^* - u_h^D) - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla (u^0 + u_h^D) \cdot \nabla (u^* - u_h^D)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u^0 \cdot \nabla_h v^0 = \int_{\Omega} fv^0 - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u_h^D \cdot \nabla_h v^0, \\ \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u^* \cdot \nabla_h v^* = \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u_h^D \cdot \nabla_h v^*. \end{cases}$$

$$\tilde{E}(u) = E(u) + \int_{\Omega} f(u^* - u_h^D) - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla (u^0 + u_h^D) \cdot \nabla (u^* - u_h^D)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u^0 \cdot \nabla_h v^0 = \int_{\Omega} f v^0 - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u_h^D \cdot \nabla_h v^0, \\ \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u^* \cdot \nabla_h v^* = \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u_h^D \cdot \nabla_h v^*. \end{cases}$$

- ◆ Traditional FEM
- ◆ DMP if angle-condition
- ◆ Global conservation
- ◆ Extension to conv-diff

$$\int_{\Omega} f = \int_{\Omega} f \chi_{\Omega}^* - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla \chi_{\Omega}^*$$

$$u \in V_h : \quad \forall v \in V_h$$

$$\tilde{E}'(u)(v) + \int_{\Omega} \beta \cdot \nabla u + s_h(u, v) - \int_{\partial \Omega} \beta_n^- (u - u_h^D) v = 0$$

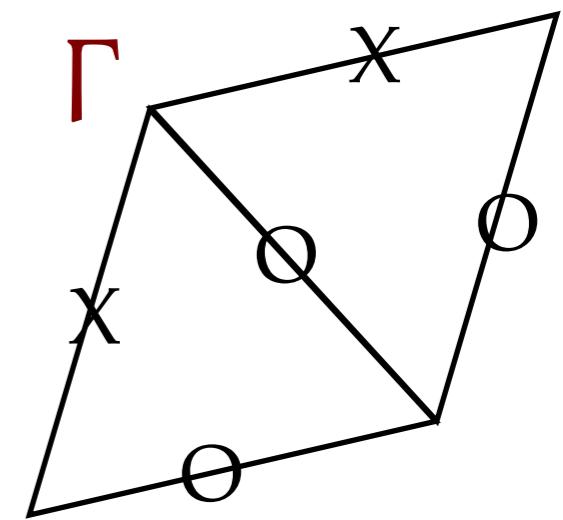
# Crouzeix-Raviart

$k$  constant

$$\tilde{E}(u) := E(u) + \int_{\Omega} f(u^* - u_h^D) - \int_{\Omega} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla (u^* - u_h^D) + \frac{r}{2} \int_{\Omega} k \nabla (u^* - u_h^D) \cdot \nabla (u^* - u_h^D)$$

$$(1) \quad \int_{\Omega} \nabla_h u \cdot \nabla_h v^* = \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v^* \quad \forall u \in V_h, v^* \in V_h^*$$

$$(2) \quad \int_{\Omega} \nabla_h u^* \cdot \nabla_h v^* = \int_{\Gamma} \frac{1}{h} v^* u^* \quad \forall u^*, v^* \in V_h^*$$



$$\tilde{E}(u) = E(u) - \int_{\Gamma} k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} (u^* - u_h^D) + \int_{\Gamma} \frac{rk}{2h} (u^*)^2 + \int_{\Omega} f(u^* - u_h^D)$$

$r = 0$

$$\tilde{E}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} k |\nabla u^0|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} k |\nabla u^*|^2 - \int_{\Omega} f(u^0 + u_h^D) + \int_{\Omega} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla u_h^D$$

# Robin-Fourier

$$-\operatorname{div}(k\nabla u) = f \quad (\Omega)$$

$$k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} (u - u^D) = q^D \quad (\Gamma := \partial\Omega)$$

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla v + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma} uv, \quad l(v) = \int_{\Omega} fv + \int_{\Gamma} q^D v + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma} u^D v$$

$$(u_h \in P_h^1) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \|u - u_h\|_{\varepsilon} \lesssim h \left( 1 + \left( \frac{h}{\varepsilon} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)}$$

Mixed method  $\lambda := -k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = Tu$

$$\mathcal{L}(u, \lambda) := \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} k |\nabla u|^2 - \int_{\Omega} fu}_{=: E(u)} + \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D) \lambda - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\Gamma} (\lambda - 2q^D) \lambda$$

LBB<sub>h</sub>  $\Rightarrow$  good estimates

# Nitsche-type

$$(q^D = 0)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_r(u, \lambda) := E(u) + \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D) \lambda - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \lambda^2 + \frac{r}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \left( \varepsilon k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + (u - u^D) \right)^2$$

Nitsche energy:

$$\tilde{E}(u) := E(u) - \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D) k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \left( k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} \right)^2 + \frac{r}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \left( \varepsilon k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + (u - u^D) \right)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \tilde{E}'(u)(v) = E'(u)(v) - \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D) k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} - \int_{\Gamma} v k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} - \varepsilon \int_{\Gamma} k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} + r \int_{\Gamma} \left( \varepsilon k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + (u - u^D) \right) \left( \varepsilon k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} + v \right) \\ &= E'(u)(v) - (1 - r\varepsilon) \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D) k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} - (1 - r\varepsilon) \int_{\Gamma} v k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} - \varepsilon (1 - r\varepsilon) \int_{\Gamma} k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} + r \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D) v \end{aligned}$$

$$r = \frac{k}{h} \times (1 - r\varepsilon) \times \gamma \quad \Rightarrow \quad r = \frac{k}{k\varepsilon + h/\gamma}, \quad 1 - r\varepsilon = \frac{h/\gamma}{k\varepsilon + h/\gamma}$$

leads to robust estimates:

**M. Juntunen and R. Stenberg.** *Nitsche's method for general boundary conditions.* Math. Comp., 78(267):1353–1374, 2009.

# Alternative

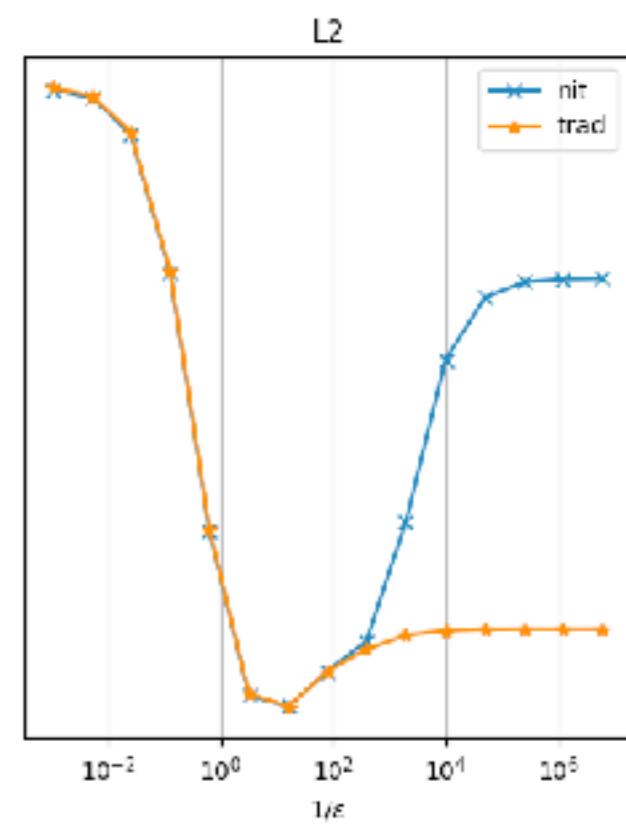
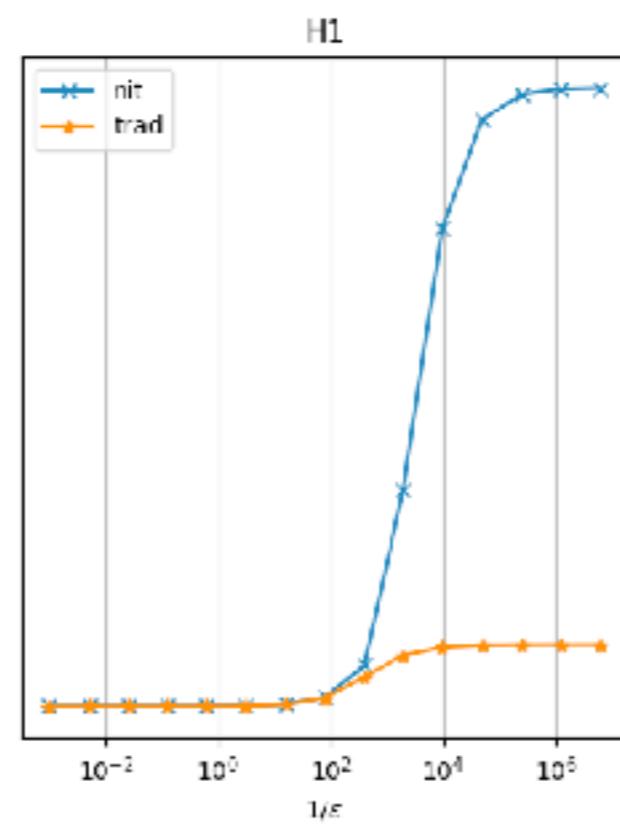
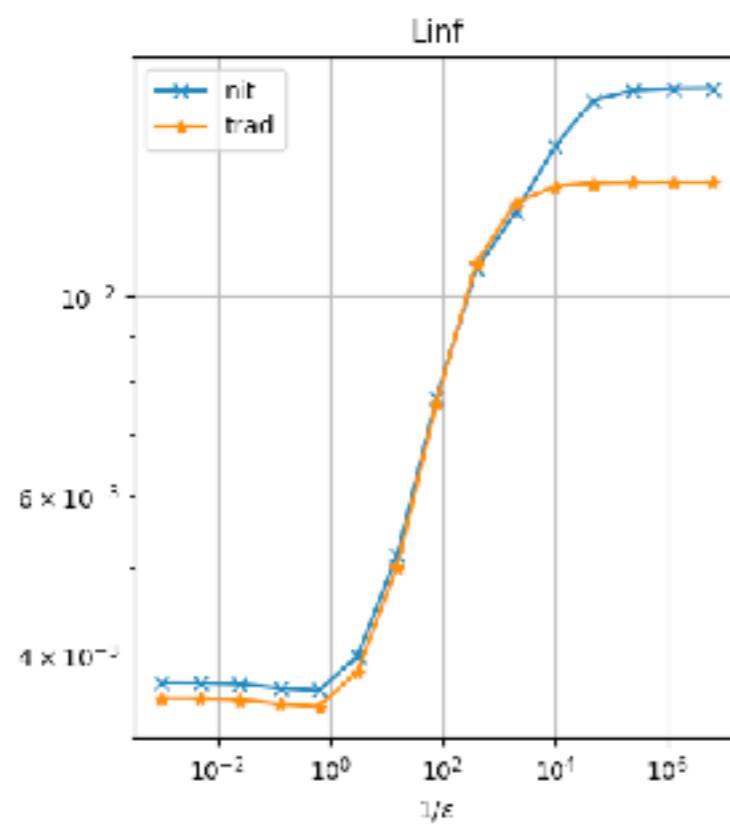
$$\mathcal{L}_{\textcolor{red}{r}}(u, \lambda) := E(u) + \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D)\lambda - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \lambda^2 + \frac{\textcolor{red}{r}}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \left( \varepsilon k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + (u - u^D) \right)^2$$

$$(\mathfrak{r} = 0)$$

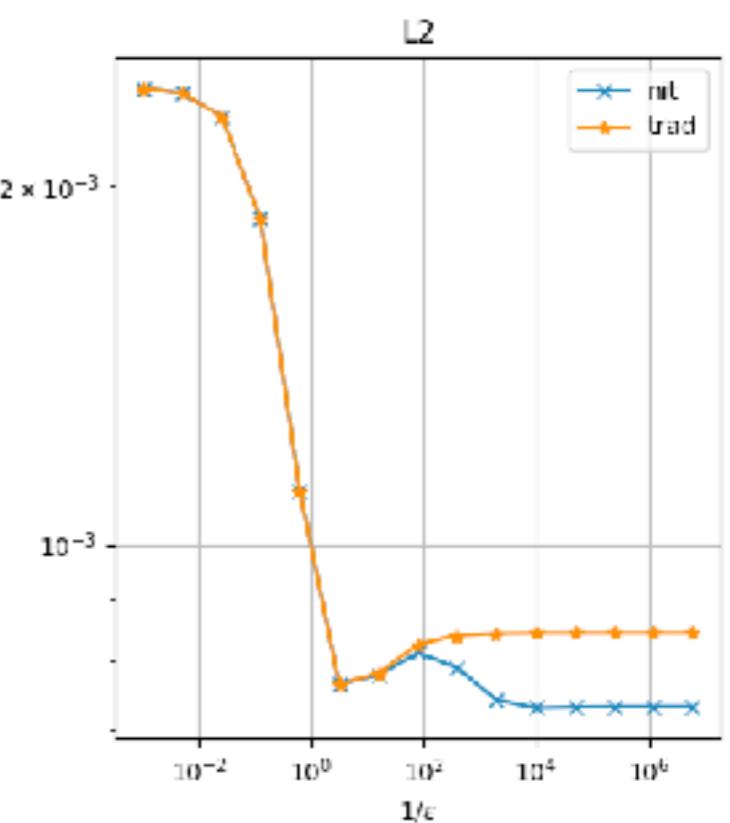
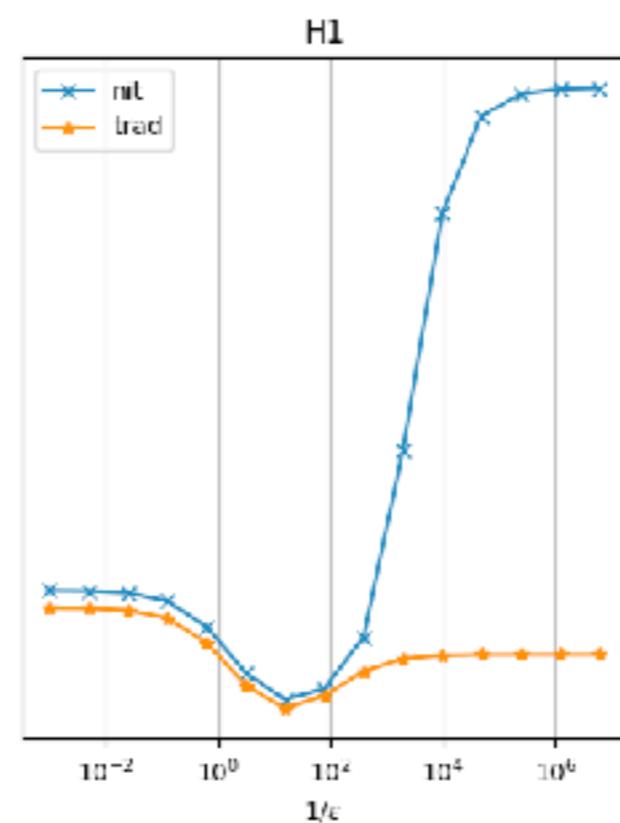
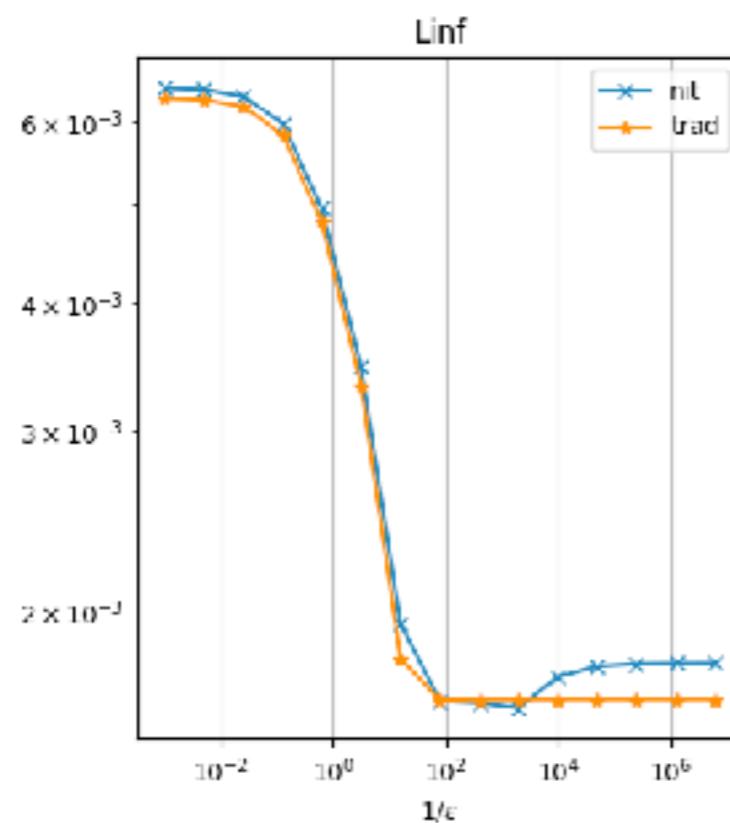
$$\Lambda_h = \gamma(V_h)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} E'(u)(v^0) = 0 \\ E'(u)(v^*) + \int_{\Gamma} v^* \lambda = 0 \\ \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D)v^* - \varepsilon \int_{\Gamma} \lambda v^* = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} E'(u)(v^0) = 0 \\ \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D)v^* + E'(u)(v^*) = 0 \end{cases}$$
$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} E'_\varepsilon(u)(v) = 0 \\ E_\varepsilon(u) := E(u) + \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma} (u - u^D)^2 \end{cases}$$

exact mass



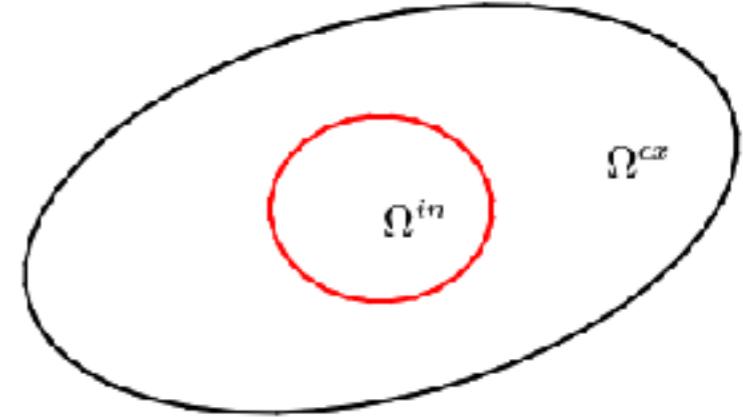
lumped mass



# The elliptic interface problem

$$\bar{\Omega}^{\text{in}} \cup \bar{\Omega}^{\text{ex}} = \bar{\Omega}, \quad \Gamma = \bar{\Omega}^{\text{in}} \cap \bar{\Omega}^{\text{ex}}, \quad \Gamma \cap \partial\Omega = \emptyset$$

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(k\nabla u) = f & (\Omega), \\ u = 0 & (\partial\Omega) \\ k = \begin{cases} k^{\text{in}} & \Omega^{\text{in}}, \\ k^{\text{ex}} & \Omega^{\text{ex}}. \end{cases} \end{cases}$$



$$\int_{\Omega} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla v = - \int_{\Omega^{\text{in}}} k^{\text{in}} \Delta u^{\text{in}} v^{\text{in}} - \int_{\Omega^{\text{ex}}} k^{\text{ex}} \Delta u^{\text{ex}} v^{\text{ex}} + \int_{\Gamma} k^{\text{in}} \frac{\partial u^{\text{in}}}{\partial n^{\text{in}}} v^{\text{in}} + \int_{\Gamma} k^{\text{ex}} \frac{\partial u^{\text{ex}}}{\partial n^{\text{ex}}} v^{\text{ex}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} u^{\text{in}} = u^{\text{ex}} & \Gamma, \\ k^{\text{in}} \frac{\partial u^{\text{in}}}{\partial n^{\text{in}}} + k^{\text{ex}} \frac{\partial u^{\text{ex}}}{\partial n^{\text{ex}}} = 0. \end{cases} \iff \begin{cases} [u] = 0 & \Gamma, \\ [k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n}] = 0 & \Gamma \quad (n = n^{\text{in}}). \end{cases}$$

Assumption:  $u \in \tilde{H}^2(\Omega) := \left\{ v \in H_0^1(\Omega) : v|_{\Omega^{\text{in/ex}}} \in H^2(\Omega^{\text{in/ex}}) \right\}$

# Limits

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -k^{in}\Delta u^{in} = f^{in} \quad (\Omega^{in}) \\ -k^{ex}\Delta u^{ex} = f^{ex} \quad (\Omega^{ex}), \quad u^{ex} = g \quad (\partial\Omega) \\ u^{in} = u^{ex} \quad \Gamma, \\ k^{in} \frac{\partial u^{in}}{\partial n^{in}} = k^{ex} \frac{\partial u^{ex}}{\partial n^{ex}} \quad \Gamma. \end{array} \right.$$

**Important for robustness  
w.r.t parameters**

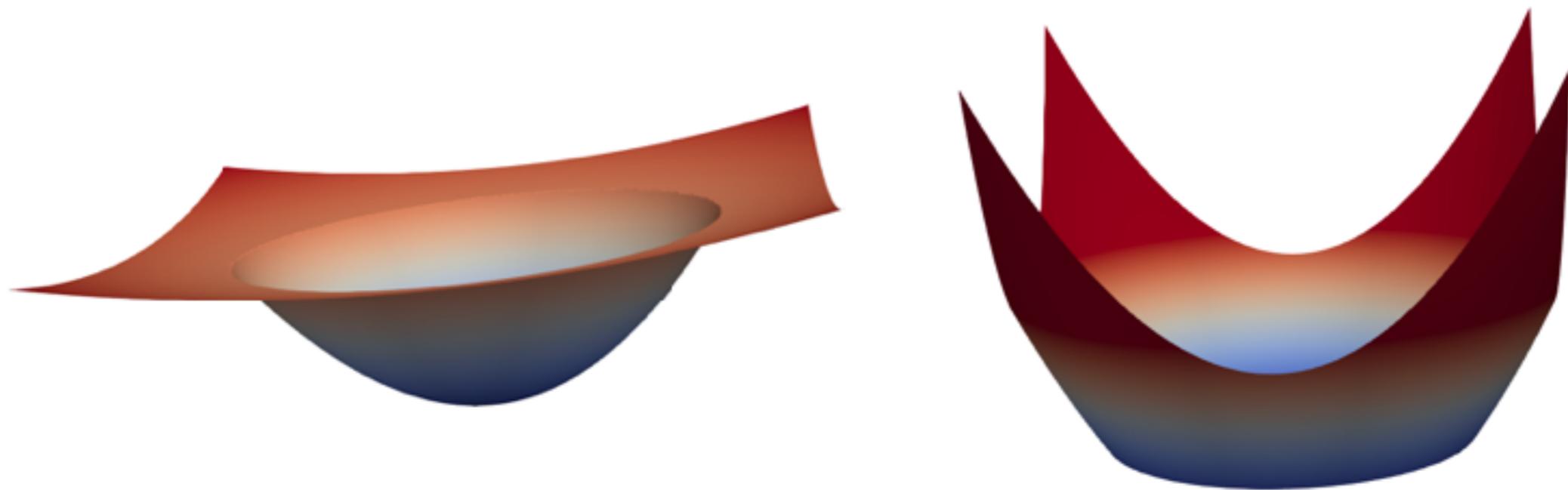
1.  $k^{in} = 1 \quad k^{ex} \rightarrow +\infty :$

$$\Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} -\Delta u^{in} = f^{in} \quad (\Omega^{in}), \quad u^{in} = u^{ex} \quad (\partial\Omega^{in} = \Gamma), \\ -\Delta u^{ex} = 0 \quad (\Omega^{ex}), \quad u^{ex} = g \quad (\partial\Omega) \\ \frac{\partial u^{ex}}{\partial n^{ex}} = \frac{k^{in}}{k^{ex}} \frac{\partial u^{in}}{\partial n^{in}} \rightarrow 0 = \quad \Gamma. \end{array} \right. \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Dirichlet for } u^{in} \\ \text{Dirichlet}(\partial\Omega)\text{-Neumann}(\Gamma) \text{ for } u^{ex} \end{array} \right.$$

2.  $k^{ex} = 1 \quad k^{in} \rightarrow +\infty :$

$$\Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} -\Delta u^{in} = 0 \quad (\Omega^{in}), \quad \frac{\partial u^{in}}{\partial n^{in}} = 0 \quad (\partial\Omega^{in} = \Gamma), \\ -\Delta u^{ex} = f^{ex} \quad (\Omega^{ex}), \quad u^{ex} = g \quad (\partial\Omega), \quad u^{ex} = u^{in} \quad (\Gamma). \end{array} \right. \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Neumann for } u^{in} \\ \text{Dirichlet for } u^{ex} \end{array} \right.$$

# The standard test problem



$$k^{\text{in}} = 1, \quad k^{\text{ex}} = 10$$

$$k^{\text{in}} = 10, \quad k^{\text{ex}} = 1$$

# Numerical Integration on cut cells

$$D = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : Ax \leq b \in \mathbb{R}^m\}$$

convex polytop

$$\partial D_i = \{x \in D : A_i \cdot x = b_i\}$$

$$f \in C^1(D, \mathbb{R}), \quad qf(x) = \nabla f(x) \cdot x$$

q-homogeneous

$$\int_D f(x) dx = \frac{1}{d+q} \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{b_i}{|A_i|} \int_{\partial D_i} f(s) ds$$

$$\text{Stokes} \quad \int_D \underbrace{f(x) \operatorname{div}(x)}_{=d \times f} dx + \int_D \underbrace{\nabla f(x) \cdot x}_{q \times f} dx = \int_{\partial D} f(s) x \cdot n ds = \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{\partial D_i} f(s) \underbrace{x \cdot n}_{\frac{b_i}{|A_i|}} ds$$

$$\text{Euler} \quad I(b) := \int_{Ax \leq b} f(x) dx \text{ is homogeneous} \quad \Rightarrow \quad I(b) = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\partial I}{\partial b_i}(b) b_i \dots \dots$$

**J. B. Lasserre.** *An analytical expression and an algorithm for the volume of a convex polyhedron in  $R^n$ .* J. Optim. Theory Appl., 39(3):363–377, 1983.

**J. B. Lasserre.** *Integration on a convex polytope.* Proc. Amer. Math. Soc., 126(8):2433–2441, 1998.

**J. B. Lasserre.** *Integration and homogeneous functions.* Proc. Amer. Math. Soc., 127(3):813–818, 1999.

**E. B. Chin, J. B. Lasserre, and N. Sukumar.** *Numerical integration of homogeneous functions on convex and nonconvex polygons and polyhedra.* Comput. Mech., 56(6):967–981, 2015.

**S. E. Mousavi and N. Sukumar.** *Numerical integration of polynomials and discontinuous functions on irregular convex polygons and polyhedrons.* Comput. Mech., 47(5):535–554, 2011.

# Adapted FEM spaces: Nonconforming

Standard weak formulation for the interface problem with curved  $\Gamma$ :

$$u_h \in V_h : \quad \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u_h \cdot \nabla_h v_h + s_h(u_h, v_h) = \int_{\Omega} v_h \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

with a **special FE-space  $V_h$** :

$$V_h = \left\{ v_h : \int_S [v_h] = 0 \quad \forall S \in \mathcal{S}_h, \quad v_h|_K \in \begin{cases} P^1(K) & K \in \mathcal{K}_h \setminus \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma, \\ P_\Gamma^1(K) & K \in \mathcal{K}_h \cap \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma. \end{cases} \right\}$$

The space  $P_\Gamma^1(K)$  is constructed such that for all  $p \in P_\Gamma^1(K)$ :

1.  $\int_{\Gamma \cap K} [k \frac{\partial p}{\partial n}] = 0,$
2.  $p \in P^1(K \cap \Omega^{in}) \times P^1(K \cap \Omega^{ex}),$
3.  $p \in C(K),$
4. we have a basis  $\psi_S$  such that  $\int_{S'} \psi_S = \delta_{SS'}$  for all  $S, S' \in \mathcal{S}_K.$

**D. Y. Kwak, K. T. Wee, and K. S. Chang.** *An analysis of a broken p1-nonconforming finite element method for interface problems.* SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis, 48(6):2117–2134, 2010.

# Adapted FEM spaces: « Conforming »

Standard weak formulation for the interface problem with curved  $\Gamma$ :

$$u_h \in V_h : \quad \int_{\Omega} k \nabla_h u_h \cdot \nabla_h v_h + s_h(u_h, v_h) = \int_{\Omega} v_h \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

with a **special FE-space  $V_h$** :

$$V_h = \left\{ v_h : \text{continuous in all nodes}, \quad v_h|_K \in \begin{cases} P^1(K) & K \in \mathcal{K}_h \setminus \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma, \\ P_\Gamma^1(K) & K \in \mathcal{K}_h \cap \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma. \end{cases} \right\}$$

The space  $P_\Gamma^1(K)$  is constructed such that for all  $p \in P_\Gamma^1(K)$ :

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2.  $p \in P^1(K \cap \Omega^{\text{in}}) \times P^1(K \cap \Omega^{\text{ex}}),$
3.  $p \in C(K),$
4. we have a basis  $\hat{\lambda}_N$  such that  $\hat{\lambda}_N(x_{N'}) = \delta_{NN'}$  for all  $N, N' \in \mathcal{N}_K.$

**Z. Li, T. Lin, and X. Wu.** *New Cartesian grid methods for interface problems using the finite element formulation.* Numer. Math., 96(1):61–98, 2003.

**Z. Li, T. Lin, Y. Lin, and R. C. Rogers.** *An immersed finite element space and its approximation capability.* Numer. Methods Partial Differential Equations, 20(3):338–367, 2004.

**S.-H. Chou, D. Y. Kwak, and K. T. Wee.** *Optimal convergence analysis of an immersed interface finite element method.* Adv. Comput. Math., 33(2):149–168, 2010.

The space  $P_\Gamma^1(K)$  is constructed such that for all  $p \in P_\Gamma^1(K)$ :

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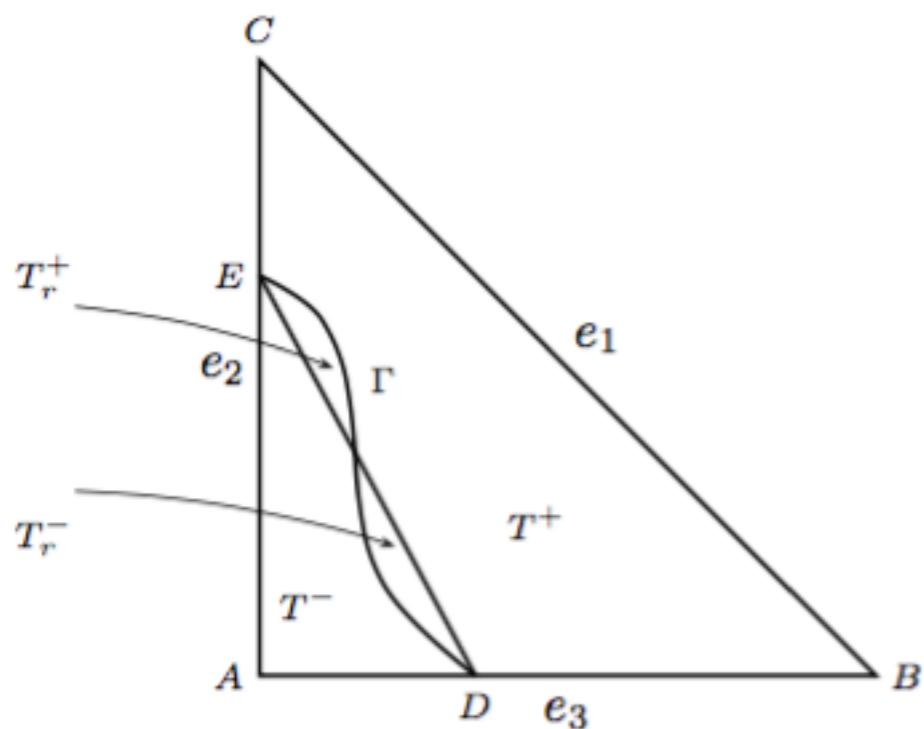


FIG. 2.2. A typical reference interface triangle.

The corresponding 6x6 system  
has a unique solution !

# Alternative choice

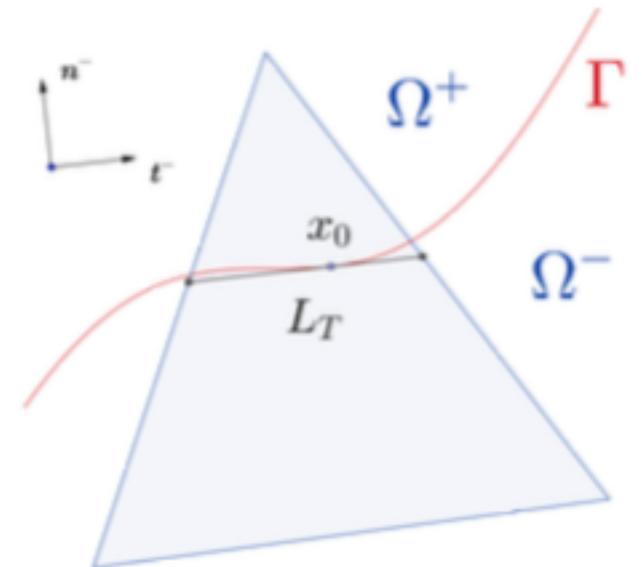
Modification of  $P_h^1$ :

$$V_h := \left\{ v_h \in L^2(\Omega) \cap C(\bar{\Omega}^{in/ex}) : v_h \in P^1(K) \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{K}_h \setminus \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma, \quad v_h \in P_\Gamma^1(K) \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma \right\}$$

The space  $P_\Gamma^1(K) = P^1(K^{in}) \times P^1(K^{ex})$  such that for  $x_0$  mean of  $\Gamma_K = \Gamma \cap K$ :

1.  $p^{in}(x_0) = p^{ex}(x_0),$
2.  $\nabla p^{in}(x_0) \cdot n^\perp = \nabla p^{ex}(x_0) \cdot n^\perp,$
3.  $k^{in} \nabla p^{in}(x_0) \cdot n = k^{ex} \nabla p^{ex}(x_0) \cdot n,$

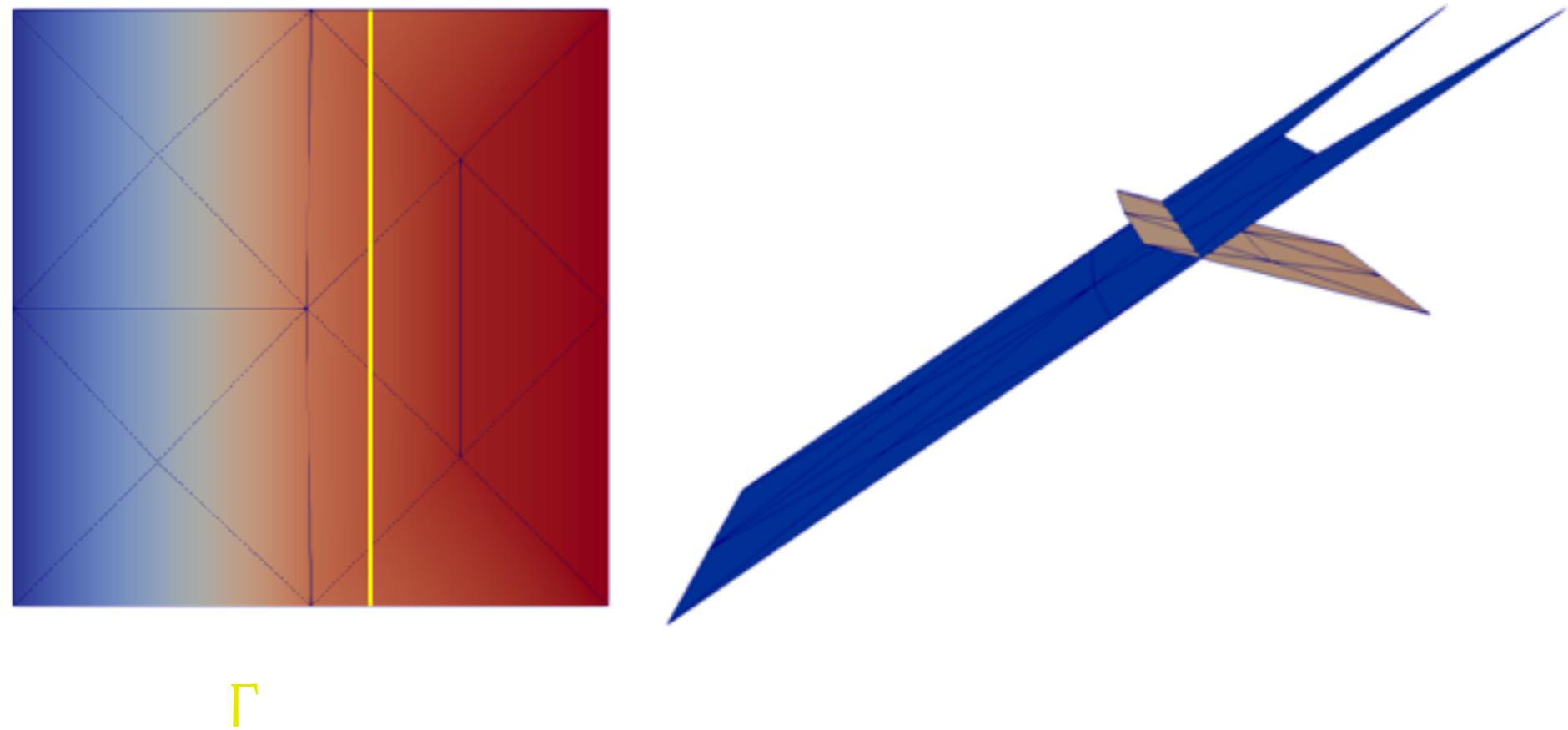
On this space



$$a_h(u_h, v_h) = a(u_h, v_h) + \underbrace{\int_{S_h^{in/ex}} \frac{\gamma k}{|S|} [u_h][v_h]}_{s_h(u_h, v_h)} + \int_{S_h^{in/ex}} \alpha k |S| [\nabla u_h] [\nabla v_h]$$

# Hansbos' idea for the interface problem

Doubling of unknowns on all interface cells



...interpolation error of subdomain-wise linear is zero !

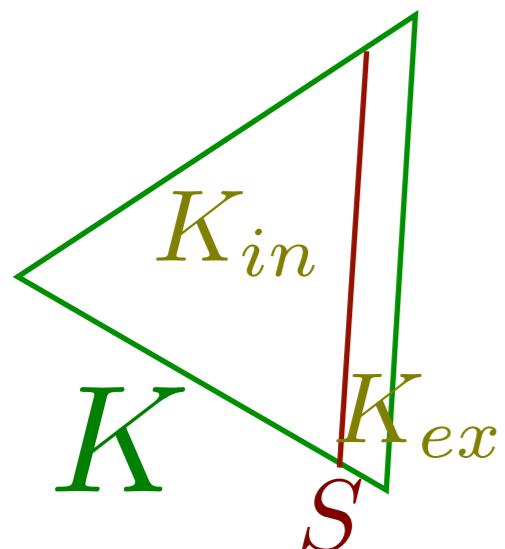
Discrete weak form on  $V_h$ :

$$\mathcal{K}_h^* := \mathcal{K}_h^{\text{in}} \cup \mathcal{K}_h^{\text{ex}}, \quad \int_{\mathcal{K}_h^*} = \sum_{s \in \{\text{in,ex}\}} \int_{\Omega^s}.$$

$$a_h(u, v) := \int_{\mathcal{K}_h^*} k \nabla u \cdot \nabla v - \int_{S_h^\Gamma} \left( \{k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n}\}_\alpha [v] + [u] \{k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n}\}_\alpha - \frac{\gamma}{h} [u][v] \right)$$

$$\{p\}_\alpha = \alpha p^{\text{in}} + (1 - \alpha)p^{\text{ex}}, \quad ([pq] = [p]\{q\}_\alpha + \{p\}_{1-\alpha}[q])$$

$$\alpha = \frac{k^{\text{ex}}|K^{\text{in}}|}{k^{\text{ex}}|K^{\text{in}}| + k^{\text{in}}|K^{\text{ex}}|}, \quad \frac{\gamma}{h} = \gamma_0 \frac{k^{\text{in}}k^{\text{ex}}|S|}{k^{\text{ex}}|K^{\text{in}}| + k^{\text{in}}|K^{\text{ex}}|}.$$



Robust coercivity with respect to:

$$\|u_h\|_{h,*}^2 := \|k^{\frac{1}{2}} \nabla u_h\|^2 + \left\| \left(\frac{\gamma}{h}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} [u_h] \right\|_\Gamma^2 + \left\| \left(\frac{\gamma}{h}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \{k \frac{\partial u_h}{\partial n}\}_\alpha \right\|_\Gamma^2$$

$$a_h(u_h, u_h) \gtrsim \|u_h\|_{h,*}^2$$

**C. Annavarapu, M. Hautefeuille, and J. E. Dolbow.** *A robust Nitsche's formulation for interface problems.* Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg., 225/228:44–54, 2012.

**N. Barrau, R. Becker, E. Dubach, and R. Luce.** *A robust variant of NXFEM for the interface problem.* C. R. Math. Acad. Sci. Paris, 350(15):789–792, 2012.

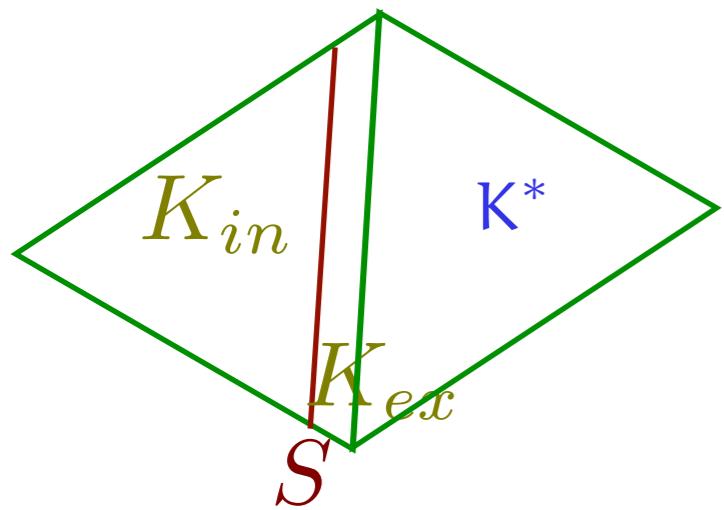
# Modifications: CIP

Modified discrete weak form:

$$a_h(u, v) := \sum_{s \in \{\text{in,ex}\}} \int_{\Omega^s} k^s \nabla u^s \cdot \nabla v^s - \int_{\mathcal{S}_h^\Gamma} \left( \{k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n}\}_\alpha [v] + [u] \{k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n}\}_\alpha - \frac{\gamma}{h} [u][v] \right)$$

$$+ \int_{\mathcal{S}_h^{\text{in}} \cup \mathcal{S}_h^{\text{ex}}} \delta_S \left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} \right] \left[ \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} \right]$$

Allows to shift the estimate (for  $P^1$ ):



$$\int_S k^{\text{ex}} \frac{\partial u^{\text{ex}}}{\partial n} = \underbrace{\int_S k^{\text{ex}} \frac{\partial u_{K^*}^{\text{ex}}}{\partial n}}_{\text{inverse estimate ok!}} + \underbrace{\int_S k^{\text{ex}} \left( \frac{\partial u^{\text{ex}}}{\partial n} - \frac{\partial u_{K^*}^{\text{ex}}}{\partial n} \right)}_{\text{controlled by } \delta}$$

**E. Burman.** *La pénalisation fantôme*. C. R. Math. Acad. Sci. Paris, 348:1217–1220, 2010.

**E. Burman and P. Zunino.** Numerical approximation of large contrast problems with the unfitted Nitsche method. In *Frontiers in numerical analysis—Durham 2010*, volume 85 of *Lect. Notes Comput. Sci. Eng.*, pages 227–282. Springer, Heidelberg, 2012.

**E. Burman, J. Guzman, M. A. Sanchez, M. Sarkis.** Robust flux error estimation of an unfitted Nitsche method for high-contrast interface problems, [arXiv 2016](#)

**Lemma.**

$$a_h(u_h, u_h) \gtrsim \|u_h\|_{h,*}^2 \quad \alpha^{in} = \frac{k^{ex}|K^{in}|}{k^{ex}|K^{in}| + k^{in}|K^{ex}|}, \quad \frac{\gamma}{h} = \gamma_0 \frac{k^{in}k^{ex}|S|}{k^{ex}|K^{in}| + k^{in}|K^{ex}|}$$

*Proof.*

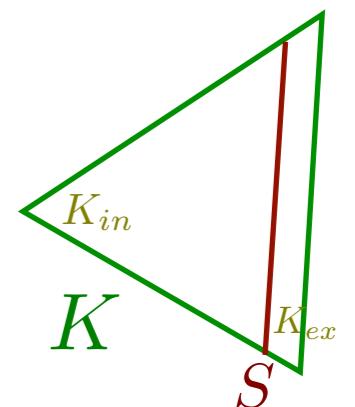
$$a_h(u_h, u_h) = \|k^{\frac{1}{2}} \nabla u_h\|^2 + \left\| \left( \frac{\gamma}{h} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} [u_h] \right\|_{\Gamma}^2 - 2 \int_{\mathcal{S}_h^\Gamma} \{k \frac{\partial u_h}{\partial n}\}_\alpha [u_h]$$

Since (P<sup>1</sup>)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int_S \{k \frac{\partial u_h}{\partial n}\}_\alpha^2 &\leq \int_S (\alpha^{in})^2 (k^{in})^2 \frac{\partial u_h^{in}}{\partial n}^2 + \int_S (\alpha^{ex})^2 (k^{ex})^2 \frac{\partial u_h^{ex}}{\partial n}^2 \\ &\leq \frac{(\alpha^{in})^2 k^{in} |S|}{|K^{in}|} \int_{K^{in}} k^{in} |\nabla u_h^{in}|^2 + \frac{(\alpha^{ex})^2 k^{ex} |S|}{|K^{ex}|} \int_{K^{ex}} k^{ex} |\nabla u_h^{ex}|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{k^{in} k^{ex} |S|}{k^{ex} |K^{in}| + k^{in} |K^{ex}|} \int_{K^{in}} k^{in} |\nabla u_h^{in}|^2 + \frac{k^{in} k^{ex} |S|}{k^{ex} |K^{in}| + k^{in} |K^{ex}|} \int_{K^{ex}} k^{ex} |\nabla u_h^{ex}|^2 \quad (0 \leq \alpha \leq 1) \\ &= \frac{\gamma}{h \gamma_0} \int_{K^{in}} k^{in} |\nabla u_h^{in}|^2 + \frac{\gamma}{h \gamma_0} \int_{K^{ex}} k^{ex} |\nabla u_h^{ex}|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{\gamma}{h \gamma_0} \|k \nabla u_h\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$2 \int_{\mathcal{S}_h^\Gamma} \{k \frac{\partial u_h}{\partial n}\}_\alpha [u_h] \leq \frac{1}{2} \|k \nabla u_h\|^2 + \frac{2}{\gamma_0} \left\| \left( \frac{\gamma}{h} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} [u_h] \right\|$$



# A Céa-type lemma

$$\|v\|_h^2 = \|k^{\frac{1}{2}} \nabla_h v\|^2 + \int_{S_h^\Gamma} \left(\frac{\gamma}{h}\right) [v]^2 \quad v \in V_h + V$$

$$\|v\|_{h,*}^2 = \|v\|_h^2 + \int_{S_h^\Gamma} \left(\frac{\gamma}{h}\right)^{-1} \{k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n}\}_\alpha^2 \quad v \in V_h$$

$$\|u - u_h\|_h \lesssim \inf_{w_h \in V_h} \|u - w_h\|_h + \text{osc}_h$$

ok if:

$$\|u_h - w_h\|_h \lesssim \|u - w_h\|_h + \text{osc}_h \quad w_h \in V_h$$

**T. Gudi.** *A new error analysis for discontinuous finite element methods for linear elliptic problems.* Math. Comp., 79(272):2169–2189, 2010.

**S. Mao and Z. Shi.** *On the error bounds of nonconforming finite elements.* Science China Mathematics, 53(11):2917–2926, 2010.

$$\|\textcolor{blue}{u_h}-w_h\|_{\mathsf h}\lesssim \|\textcolor{blue}{u}-w_h\|+\mathsf{osc}_{\mathsf h}\qquad w_h\in V_{\mathsf h}$$

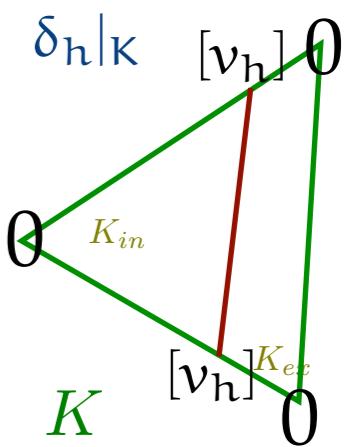
$$\mathsf{E}_h : V_h \rightarrow P_h^1 \quad \mathsf{E}_h v_h|_K = \begin{cases} v_h|_K & K \notin \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma \\ \sum\limits_{i \in I_k^{in}} v_{in}^i \lambda_i + \sum\limits_{i \in I_k^{ex}} v_{ex}^i \lambda_i & K \in \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma \end{cases} \quad (v_h|_K = \sum\limits_i v_{in}^i \lambda_i \chi_{K_{in}} + v_{ex}^i \lambda_i \chi_{K_{ex}})$$

$$\mathsf{E}_h v_h = v_h - \delta_h$$

$$\|\underbrace{\mathfrak{u}_h-w_h}_{=:v_h}\|_{h,*}^2 \lesssim \mathsf{a}_h(\mathfrak{u}_h-w_h,v_h) = \mathsf{l}_h(v_h)-\mathsf{a}_h(w_h,v_h) = \underbrace{\mathsf{l}_h(\mathsf{E}_h v_h)-\mathsf{a}_h(w_h,\mathsf{E}_h v_h)}_{=:A} + \underbrace{\mathsf{l}_h(\delta_h)-\mathsf{a}_h(w_h,\delta_h)}_{=:B}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \int_\Omega \mathbf{k} \nabla (\mathfrak{u} - w_h) \cdot \nabla \mathsf{E}_h v_h + \int_{S_h^\Gamma} [w_h - u] \{ \mathbf{k} \frac{\partial \mathsf{E}_h v_h}{\partial \mathbf{n}} \} \\ &\leqslant \|\mathfrak{u} - w_h)\| \times \|v_h\| \qquad (\|\mathsf{E}_h v_h\|_{\mathsf h} \lesssim \|v_h\|)_{\mathsf h} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \mathsf{l}_h(\delta_h)-\mathsf{a}_h(w_h,\delta_h)=\int_{\mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma} (\mathbf{f}+\mathsf{div}(\mathbf{k} \nabla w_h))\delta_h+\int_{S_h^\Gamma} [w_h](\{\mathbf{k} \frac{\partial \delta_h}{\partial \mathbf{n}}\}-\gamma_h[\delta_h]) \\ &(\|\mathfrak{u}-w_h\|_{\mathsf h}+\mathsf{osc}_{\mathsf h})\times \|\delta_h\|_{h,*} \qquad \left( \|\delta_h\|_{h,*} \lesssim \|\mathsf{h}^{-\frac{1}{2}}[v_h]\| \right) \end{aligned}$$



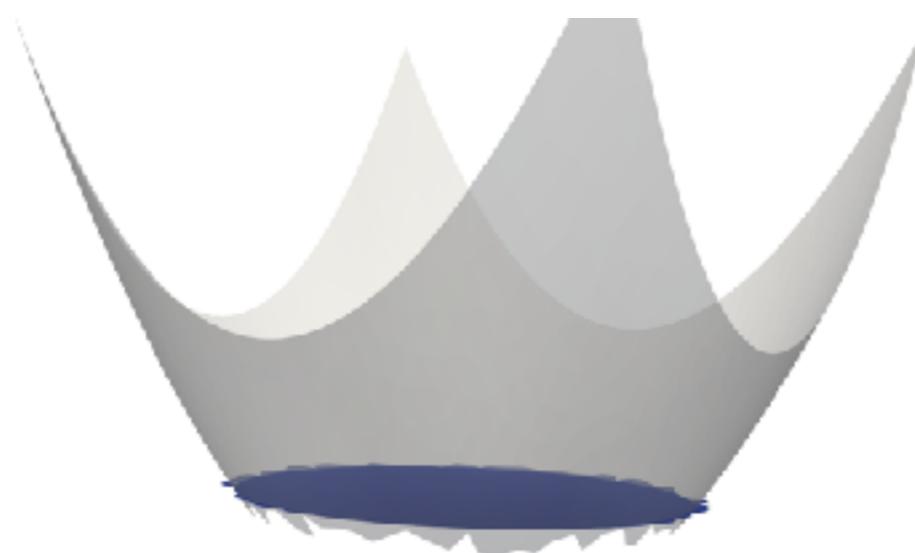
**Theorem.** If  $u \in H_*^2$

$$\|u - I_h u\|_h \lesssim h \|u\|_{H_*^2}.$$

Interpolation based on extension operators

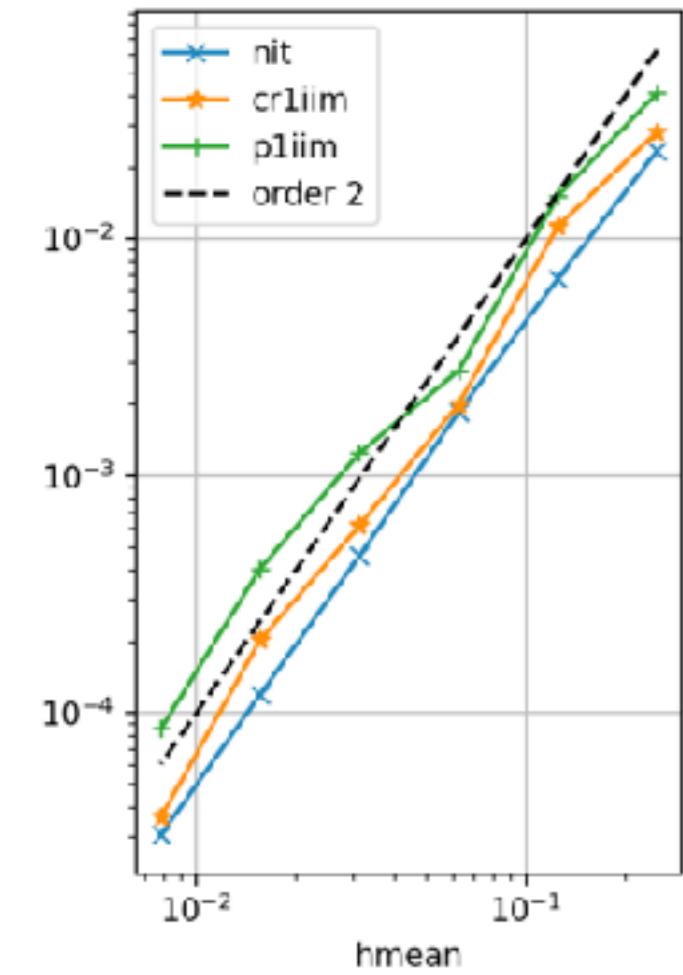
$$E^{in/ex} : H^2(\Omega^{in/ex}) \rightarrow H^2(\Omega)$$

# Numerical test

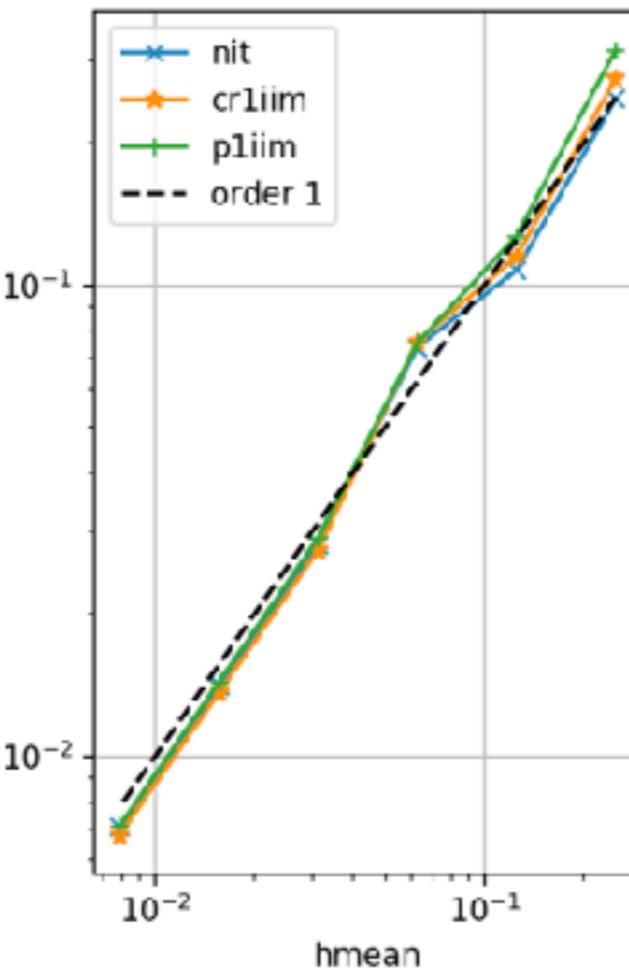


$$k^{\text{in}} = 100, \quad k^{\text{ex}} = 1$$

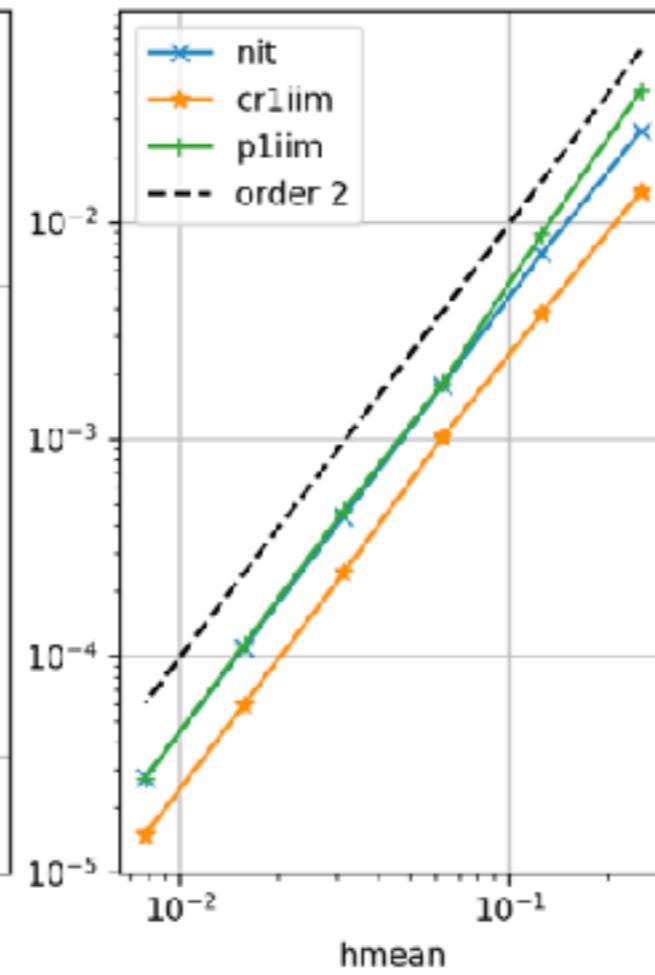
Linf



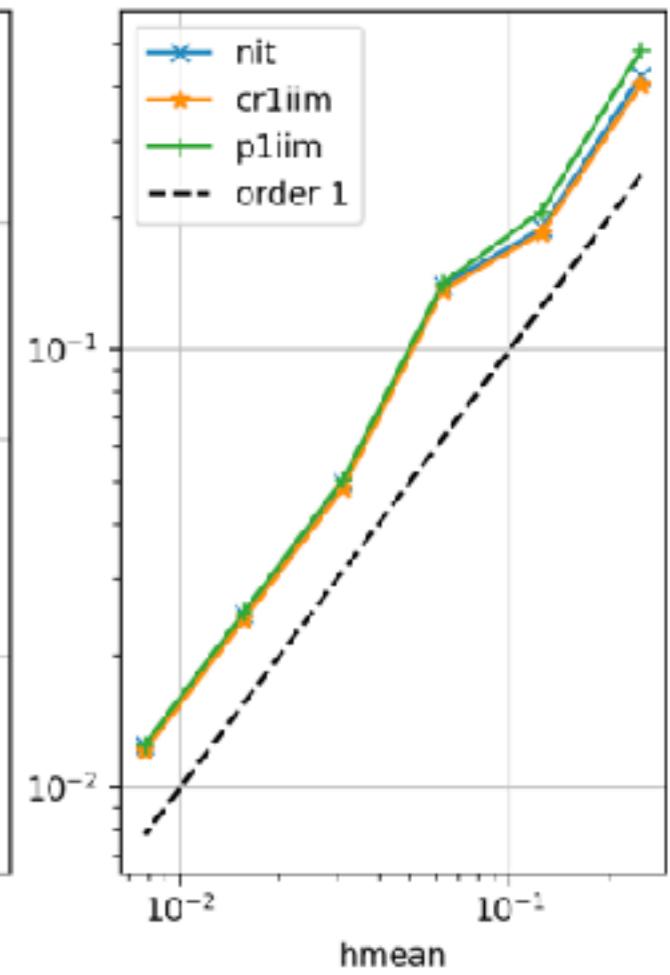
H1

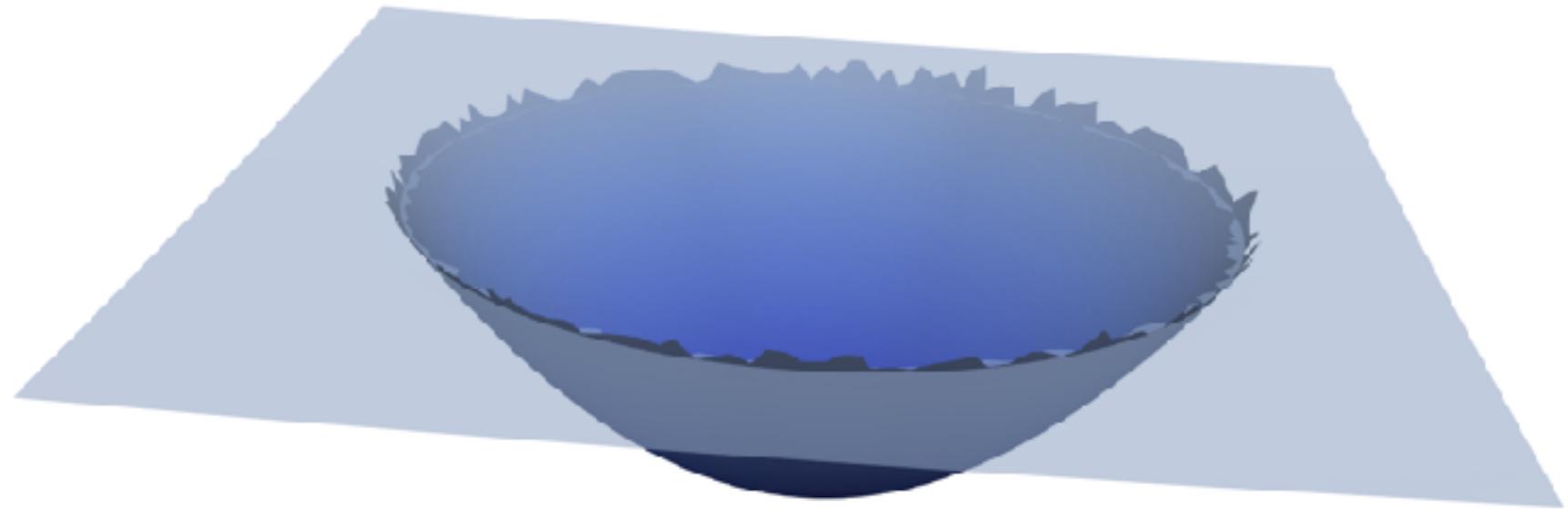


L2

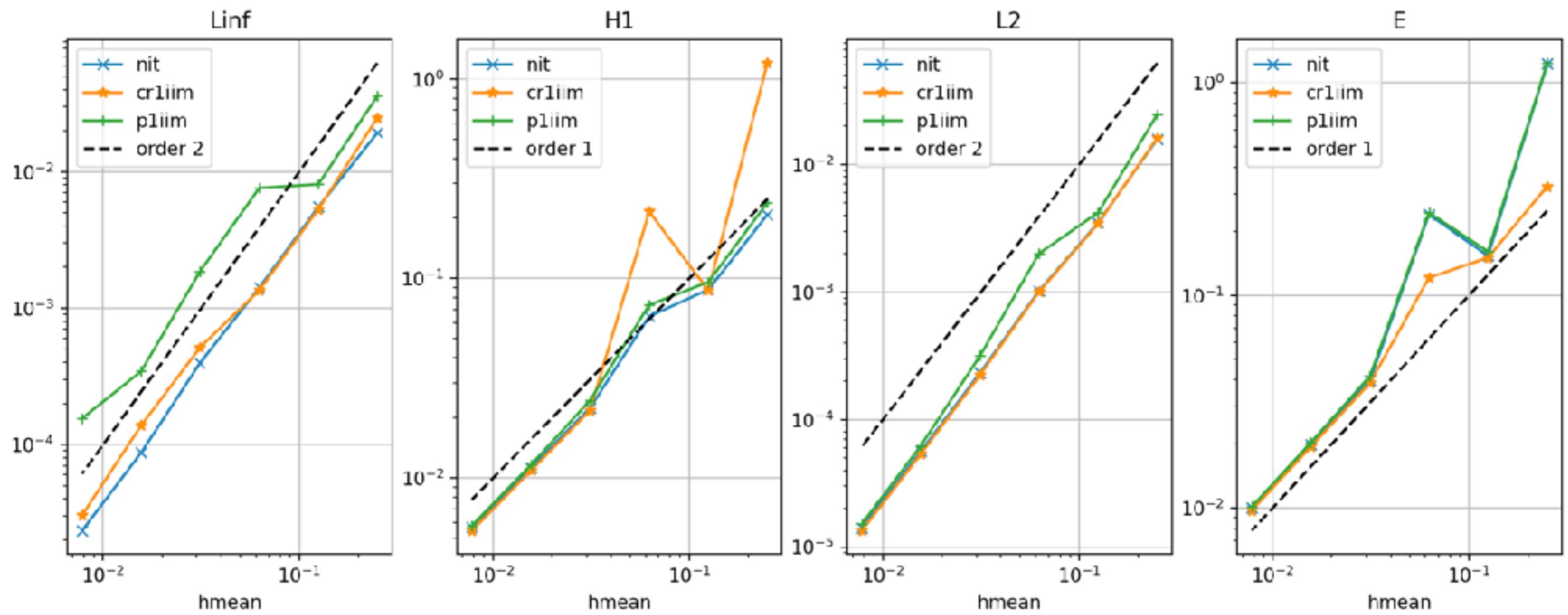


E

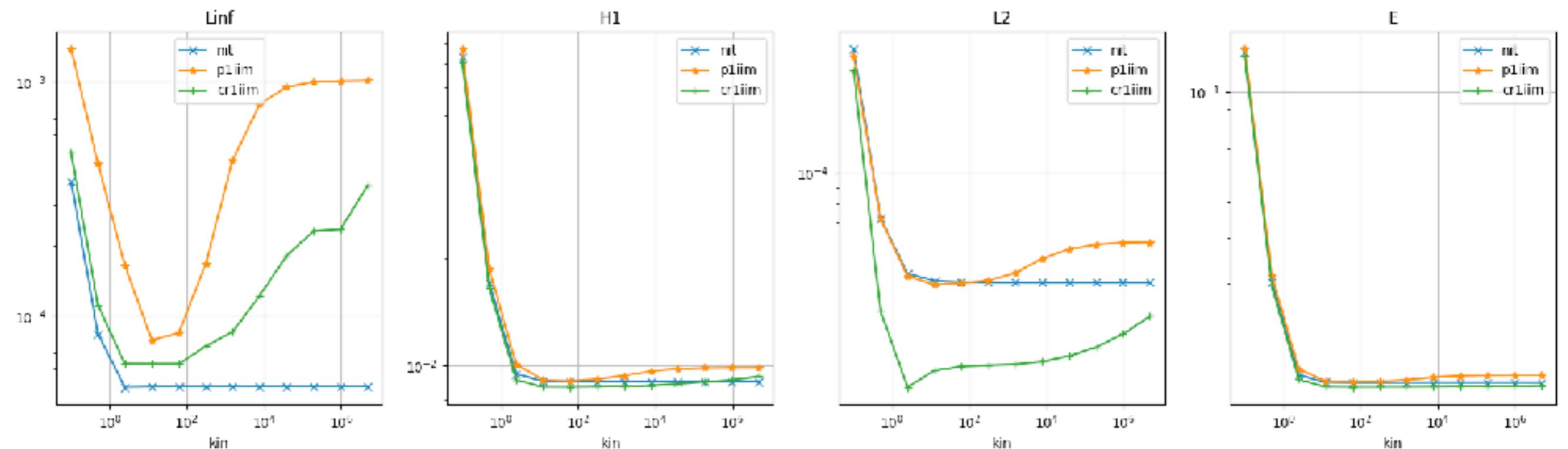
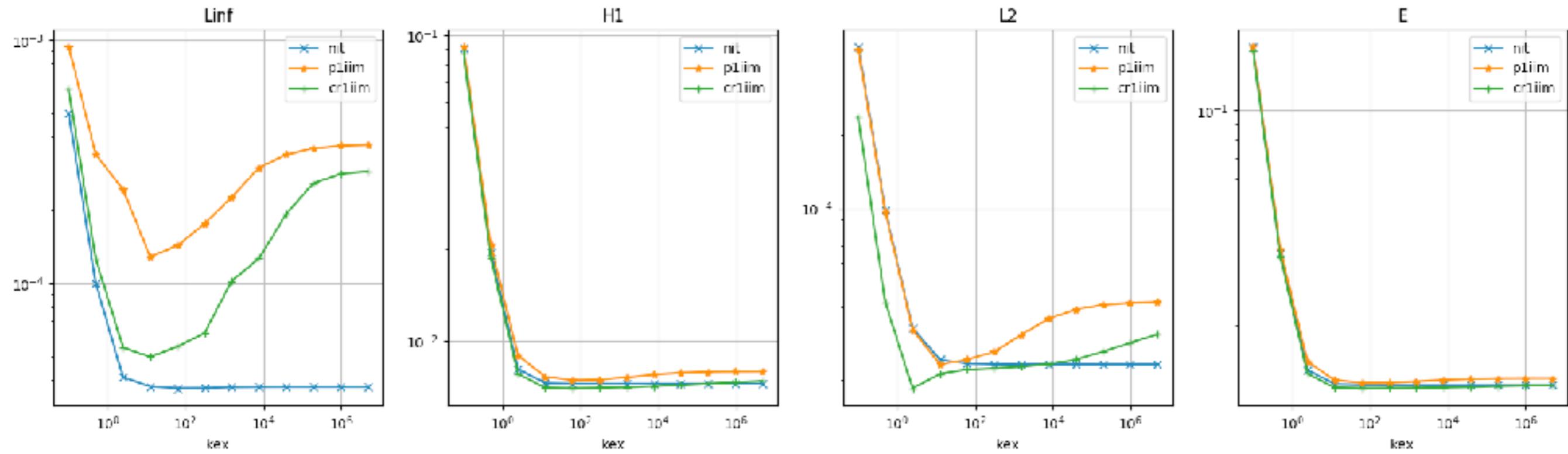




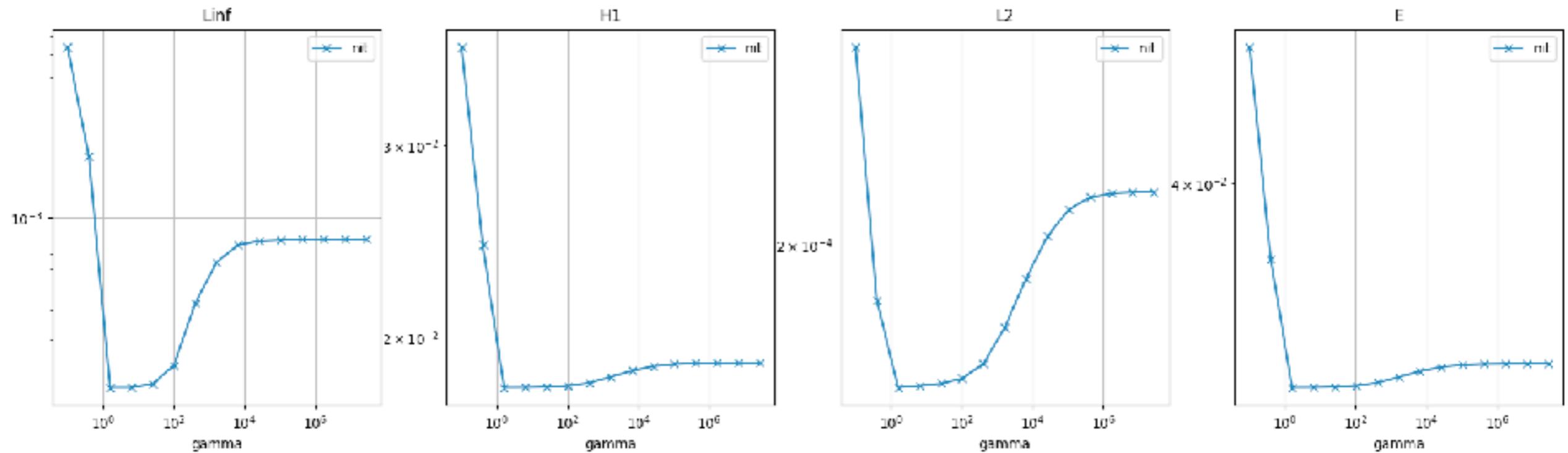
$$k^{\text{in}} = 1, \quad k^{\text{ex}} = 100$$



# Robustness



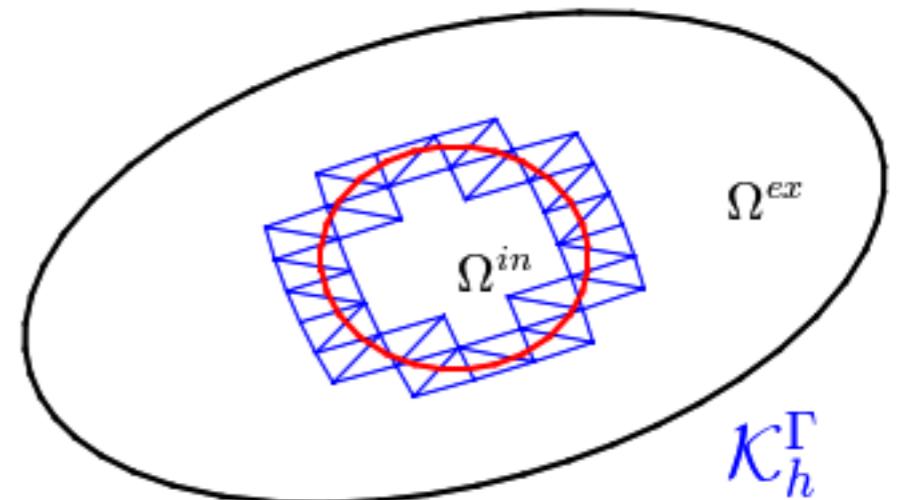
# Stabilization



# Alternative

Subspace-splitting global

$$V_h = V^0 \oplus V^*$$



First approach: local projections

Second approach : Lagrange multipliers

# Local projections

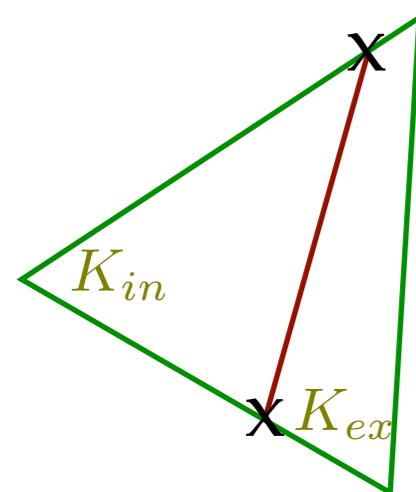
Alternative for Dirichlet ( $u^D = 0$ )

$$V_h = V^0 \oplus V^*, \quad P : V \rightarrow V^0, \quad Pu = u^0, \quad Q = I - P$$

$$\tilde{E}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} k |\nabla P u|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} k |\nabla Q u|^2 - \int_{\Omega} f u$$

Ideally we would like to have:

$$P(u^{in}, u^{ex}) = (u^{in} - R[u], u^{ex} + R[u]) \quad [u] = u^{in} - u^{ex}$$



Locally

$$P_K(u_K^{in}, u_K^{ex}) = (u_K^{in} - R[u]_K, u_K^{ex} + R[u]_K) \quad [u]_K = u_K^{in} - u_K^{ex}$$

$$\tilde{E}(u) = E(u) + \sum_{K \in \mathcal{K}_h^\Gamma} (l_K(Q_K u) - a_K(P_K u, Q_K u))$$

# Lagrange multipliers

$$V^0 = \{v \in V_h \mid [v](x_E^*) = 0 \quad \forall E \in \mathcal{E}_h^\Gamma\}$$

$$u \in V^0 : \quad a(u, v) = l(v) \quad v \in V^0$$

Stabilized multiplier method: (Hughes, Stenberg)

$$\Lambda_h := D^1(\Gamma_h)$$

$$(u, \lambda) \in V \times \Lambda_h : \quad a(u, v) + \int_{\Gamma} [v]\lambda + \int_{\Gamma} [u]\mu + s_h(u, \lambda, v, \mu) = l(v) \quad (v, \mu) \in V \times \Lambda_h$$

$$s_h(u, \lambda, v, \mu) := -r \int_{\Gamma} \frac{h^{in}}{k^{in}} \left( k^{in} \frac{\partial u^{in}}{\partial n} - \lambda \right) \left( k^{in} \frac{\partial v^{in}}{\partial n} - \mu \right) - r \int_{\Gamma} \frac{h^{ex}}{k^{ex}} \left( k^{ex} \frac{\partial u^{ex}}{\partial n} - \lambda \right) \left( k^{ex} \frac{\partial v^{ex}}{\partial n} - \mu \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow r \left( \frac{h^{in}}{k^{in}} + \frac{h^{ex}}{k^{ex}} \right) \lambda = [u] - r \frac{h^{in}}{k^{in}} k^{in} \frac{\partial u^{in}}{\partial n} - r \frac{h^{ex}}{k^{ex}} k^{ex} \frac{\partial u^{in}}{\partial n}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{\gamma}{h} [u] - \{k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n}\}_{\alpha}, \quad \alpha = \frac{k^{ex} |K^{in}|}{k^{ex} |K^{in}| + k^{in} |K^{ex}|}, \quad \frac{\gamma}{h} = \gamma_0 \frac{k^{in} k^{ex} |S|}{k^{ex} |K^{in}| + k^{in} |K^{ex}|}.$$

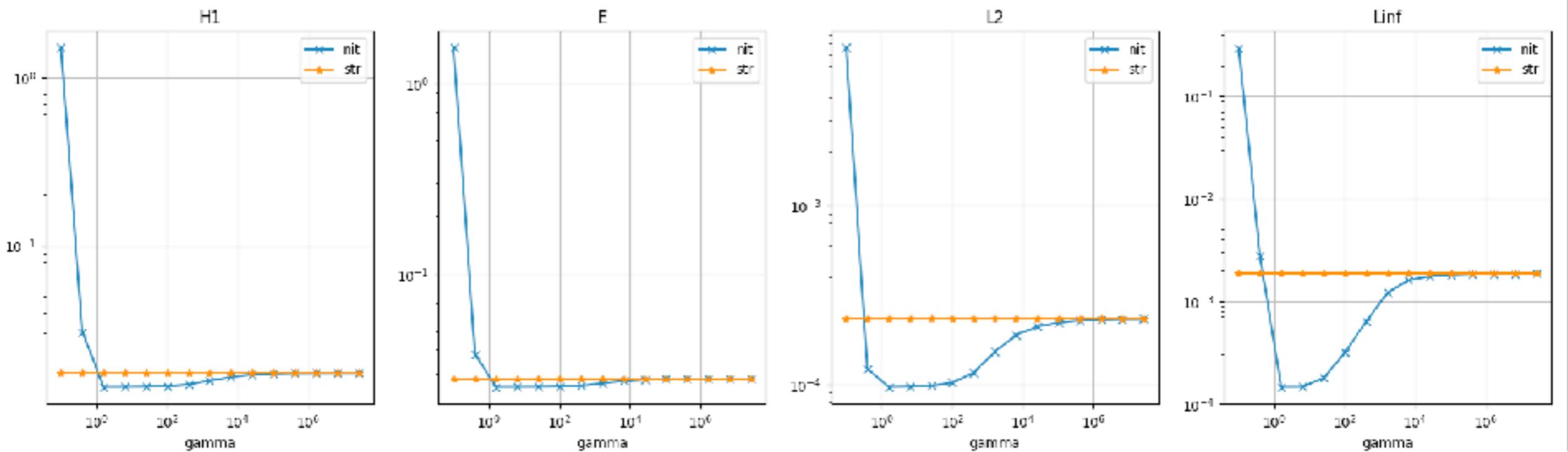
$$a_h^{\text{Nit}}(u, v) := a(u, v) - \int_{\mathcal{S}_h^\Gamma} \left( \{k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n}\}_{\alpha} [v] + [u] \{k \frac{\partial v}{\partial n}\}_{\alpha} - \frac{\gamma}{h} [u][v] + \frac{k^{in} |K^{in}|}{\gamma |S|} \frac{\partial u^{in}}{\partial n} \frac{\partial v^{in}}{\partial n} + \frac{k^{ex} |K^{ex}|}{\gamma |S|} \frac{\partial u^{ex}}{\partial n} \frac{\partial v^{ex}}{\partial n} \right)$$

Another multiplier method:

$$\tilde{\Lambda}_h = \gamma^{\text{in}}(V_h^{\text{in}}) + \gamma^{\text{ex}}(V_h^{\text{ex}}) = P^1(\Gamma_h)$$

$$(u_r, \lambda) \in V \times \tilde{\Lambda}_h : \quad a_h^{\text{Nit}}(u_r, v) + \int_{\Gamma} [v]\theta + \int_{\Gamma} [u_r]\mu - r \int_{\Gamma} \theta\mu = l(v) \quad (v, \mu) \in V \times \tilde{\Lambda}_h$$

$\Rightarrow \theta = \frac{1}{r}[u_r] \Rightarrow$  Equivalent to previous



$$u_h^r \rightarrow u_h^{\text{str}} \quad (r \rightarrow 0)$$

## DMP

$$\int_{\Omega^{\text{in}}} k^{\text{in}} \nabla u^{\text{in}} \cdot \nabla v^{\text{in}} - \int_{\Gamma} \lambda v^{\text{in}} = \int_{\Omega^{\text{in}}} f v^{\text{in}}$$

$$\int_{\Omega^{\text{ex}}} k^{\text{ex}} \nabla u^{\text{ex}} \cdot \nabla v^{\text{ex}} + \int_{\Gamma} \lambda v^{\text{ex}} = \int_{\Omega^{\text{ex}}} f v^{\text{ex}}$$

$$u_h = \sum_i u_i \lambda_i \quad \Rightarrow \quad u_h^- := \sum_i u_i^- \lambda_i \quad (x^- = \min\{x, 0\})$$

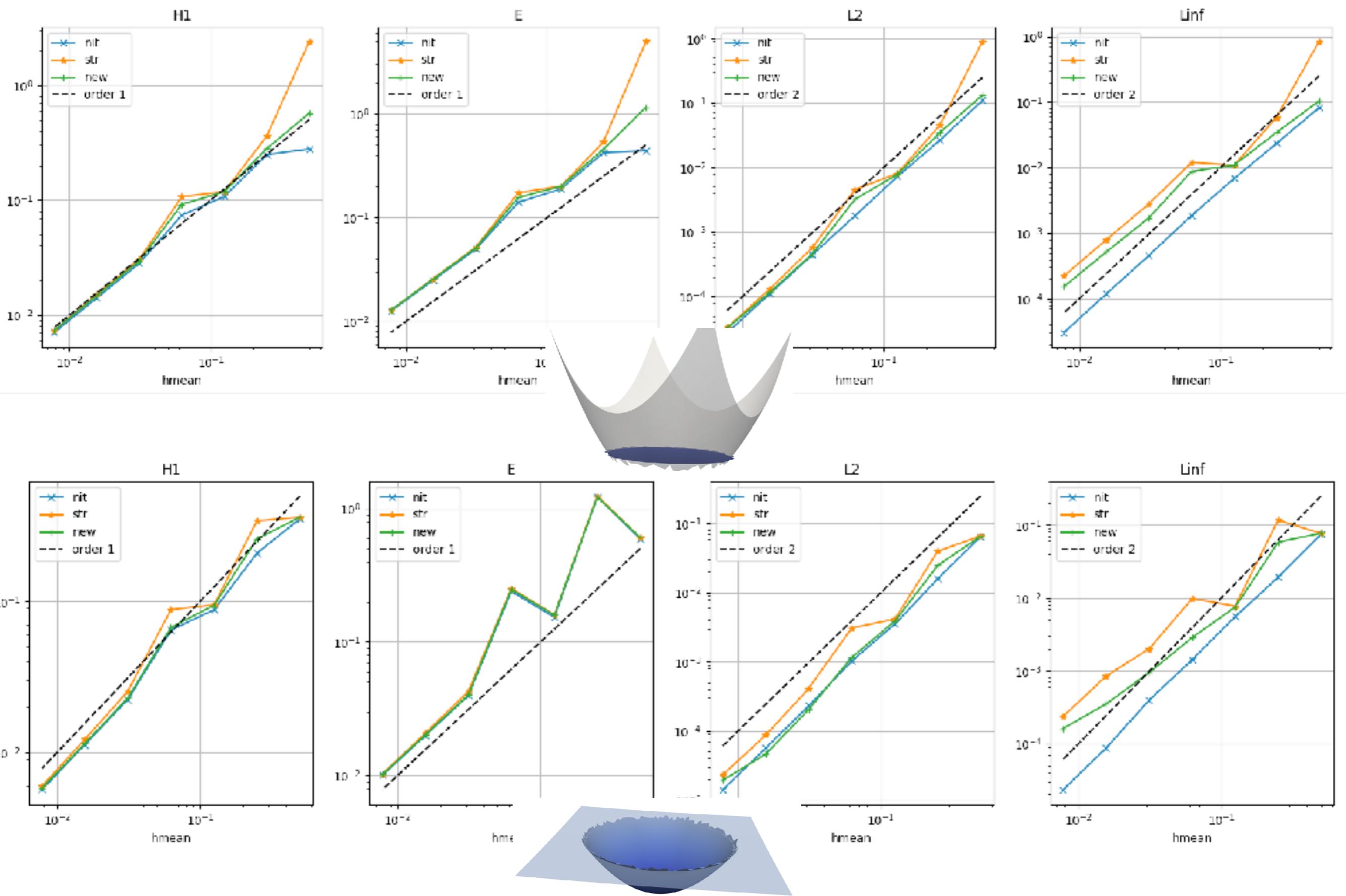
$$\int_{\Omega^{\text{in}}} k^{\text{in}} |\nabla(u^{\text{in}})^-|^2 \quad \underbrace{\leqslant}_{\begin{array}{c} \int_{\Omega^{\text{in}}} k^{\text{in}} \nabla(u^{\text{in}})^+ \cdot \nabla(u^{\text{in}})^- \geqslant 0 \\ \text{angle condition} \end{array}} \quad \int_{\Omega^{\text{in}}} f(u^{\text{in}})^- \int_{\Gamma} + \lambda(u^{\text{in}})^-$$

$$\int_{\Omega^{\text{ex}}} k^{\text{in}} |\nabla(u^{\text{ex}})^-|^2 \leqslant \int_{\Omega^{\text{ex}}} f(u^{\text{ex}})^- \int_{\Gamma} - \lambda(u^{\text{ex}})^-$$

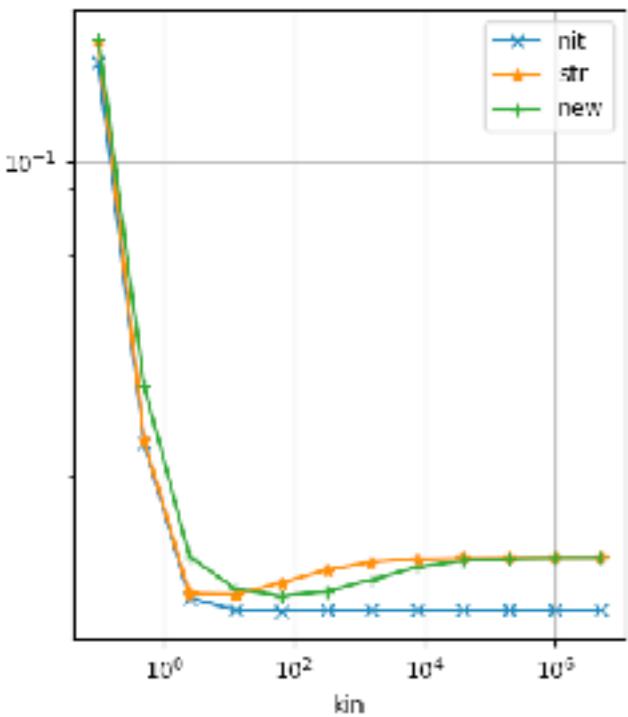
$$u^{\text{in}}|_{\Gamma} = u^{\text{ex}}|_{\Gamma} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (u^{\text{in}})^-|_{\Gamma} = (u^{\text{ex}})^-|_{\Gamma}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad (f \geqslant 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u_h \geqslant 0)$$

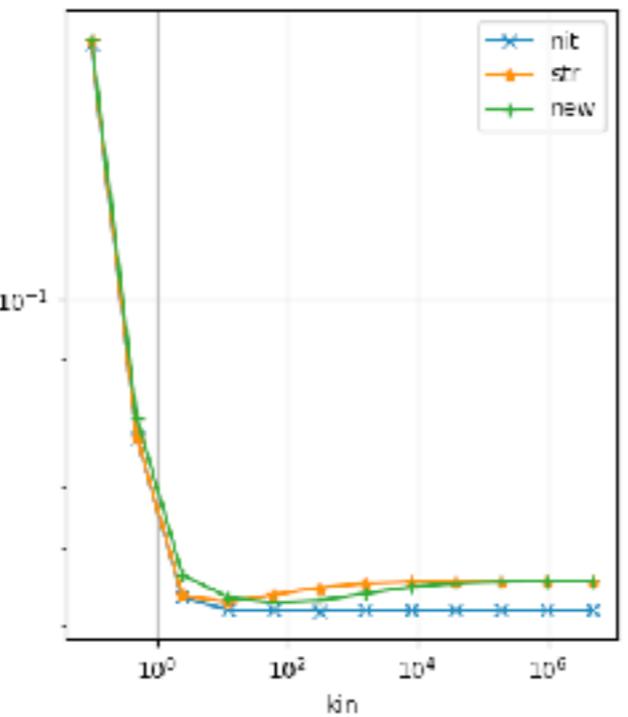
# Numerical test



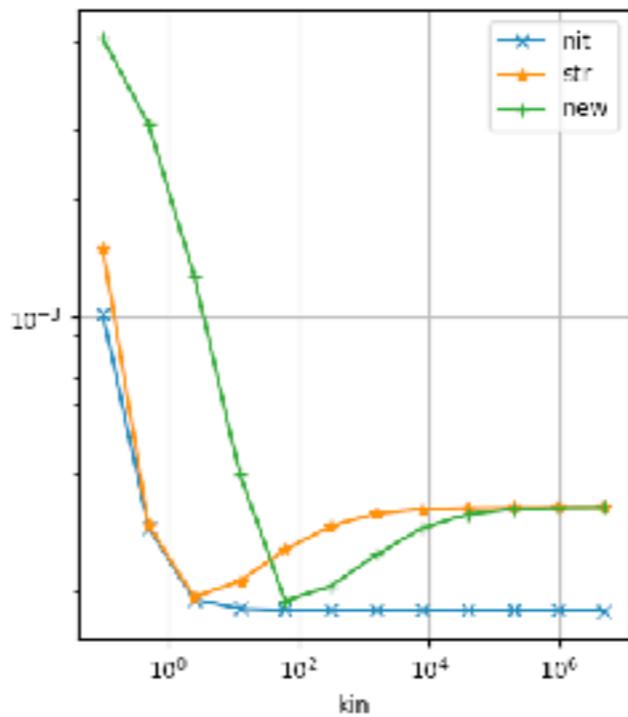
H1



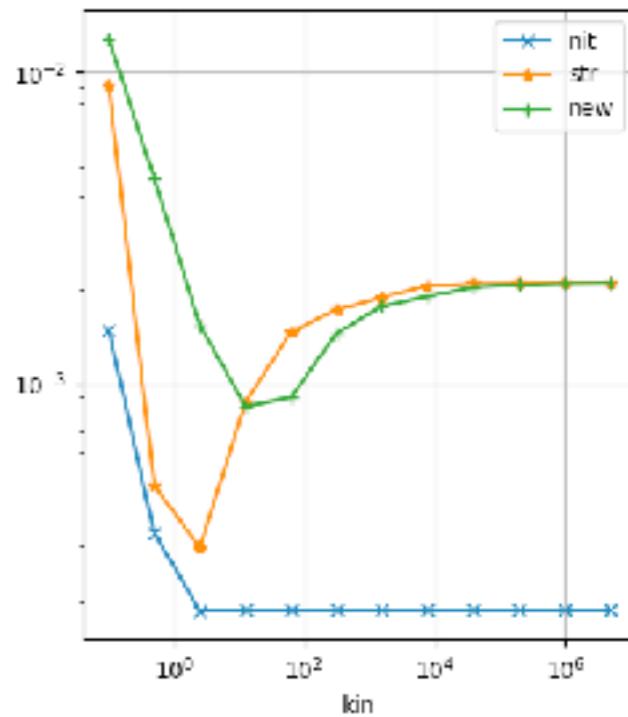
E



L2

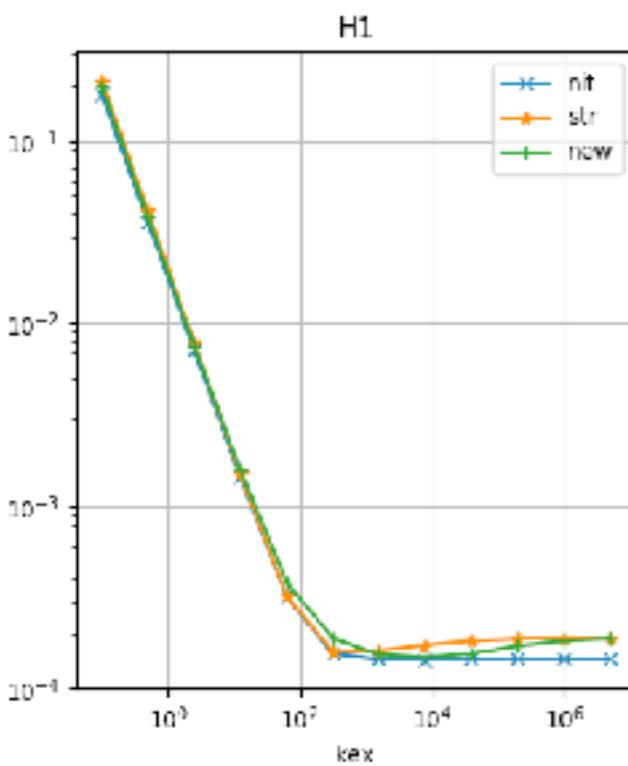


Linf

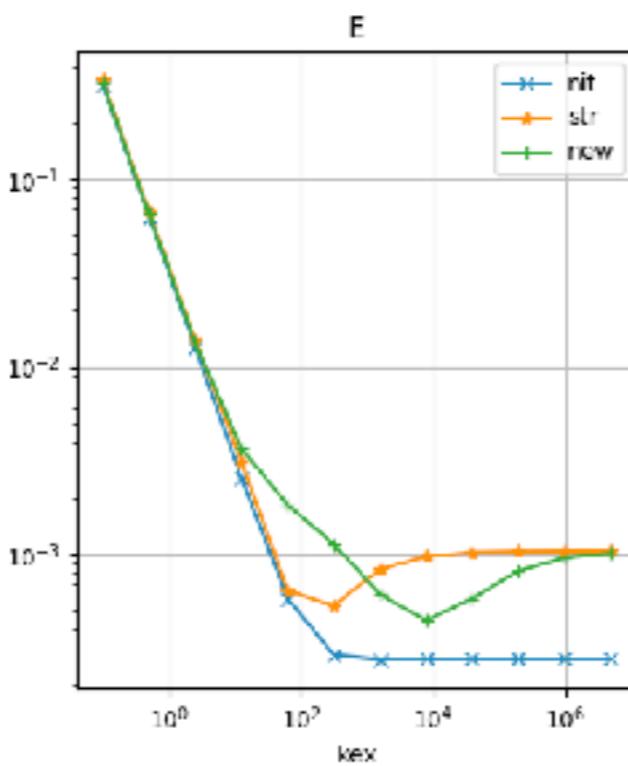


## Robustness

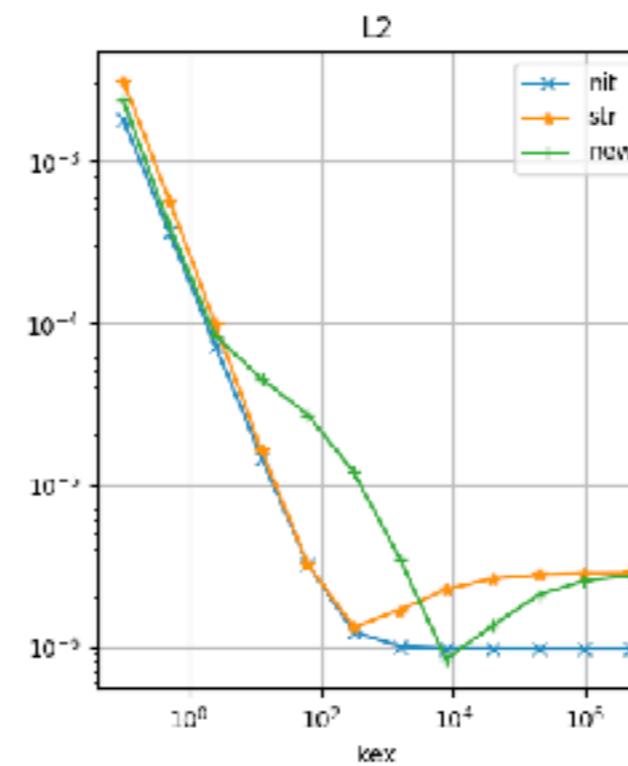
H1



E



L2



Linf

