# Natural Discretization of Gradient Flows 

Applications to Viscous Thin Films and to Willmore Flow

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## joint work with

- thin film flow: Orestis Vantzos
- Willmore flow: Nadine Olischläger

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- the height of the film $h$,
- the velocity field of the fluid $u$.

The thickness of the film is small $\epsilon \ll 1$.
governing PDE [Oron, Davis, Bankoff '97]:

$$
\partial_{t} h=-\operatorname{div}\left(\frac{h^{3}}{3 \mu} \nabla \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla h)\right)
$$

gradient flow perspective:
energy (surface tension):

$$
e[h]=\int_{\Omega} \sigma\left(1+\frac{|\nabla h|^{2}}{2}\right) \mathrm{d} x
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metric:

$$
\mathbf{g}_{h}(\delta h, \delta h)=g_{h}(u, u)=\int_{\Omega} \frac{3 \mu}{h}|u|^{2} \mathrm{~d} x
$$

derived as lubrication limit of dissipation based on friction:

$$
\int_{\mathrm{vol}} \mu\left|D_{y} \mathbf{u}+D_{y} \mathbf{u}^{T}\right|^{2} \mathrm{~d} y \quad, y=\left(x, x^{\perp}\right) \quad, u=\frac{1}{h} \int_{0}^{h} \mathbf{u} \mathrm{~d} x^{\perp}
$$

transport equation coupling $\delta h$ and $u$ :

$$
\delta h+\operatorname{div}(h u)=0
$$

Given energy and metric on the manifold (cf. [Giacomelli, Otto '03]):

$$
\mathcal{M}=\left\{h: \int_{\Omega} h \mathrm{~d} x=\text { const }\right\} \quad\left(T_{h} \mathcal{M}=\left\{\delta h: \int_{\Omega} \delta h \mathrm{~d} x=0\right\}\right)
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we consider the gradient flow [GF]:

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$$
\Rightarrow \mathbf{g}_{h}\left(\partial_{t} h, \theta\right)=-e^{\prime}[h](\theta)
$$

$[\mathrm{GF}] \Rightarrow[\mathrm{PDE}]:$

$$
0=\mathbf{g}_{h}\left(\partial_{t} h, \delta h\right)+e^{\prime}[h](\delta h)
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\begin{aligned}
0= & \mathbf{g}_{h}\left(\partial_{t} h, \delta h\right)+e^{\prime}[h](\delta h) \\
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& \text { where } \partial_{t} h+\operatorname{div}(h u)=0 \text { and } \delta h+\operatorname{div}(h v)=0
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= & \int_{\Omega} \frac{3 \mu}{h} u \cdot v+\sigma \nabla h \cdot \nabla \delta h \mathrm{~d} x
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= & \int_{\Omega} \frac{3 \mu}{h} u \cdot v-\nabla \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla h) h v \mathrm{~d} x \quad \text { (integration by parts) } \\
\Rightarrow u= & \frac{h^{2}}{3 \mu} \nabla \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla h)
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\Rightarrow \quad u= & \frac{h^{2}}{3 \mu} \nabla \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla h) \\
\Rightarrow \quad 0 & =\partial_{t} h+\operatorname{div}\left(\frac{h^{3}}{3 \mu} \nabla \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla h)\right)
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We consider a compact surface $\mathcal{S}=\mathcal{S}[x]$ embedded in $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ ( $n=2,3$ ) and the energy:

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w[x]=\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{S}} h^{2} \mathrm{~d} a
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Here $h$ is the mean curvature on $\mathcal{S}$. Furthermore, let

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g_{\mathcal{S}}(v, v)=\int_{\mathcal{S}} v^{2} \mathrm{~d} a
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be the $L^{2}$-metric on variations $v$ of $\mathcal{S}$ generated by normal motion:

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Then, Willmore flow is the corresponding gradient flow (GF):

$$
\partial_{t} x=-\operatorname{grad}_{g} w[x]
$$

governing PDE $(n=3)$ :

$$
\partial_{t} x=\left(\Delta_{\mathcal{S}} h+h\left(\left|D_{\mathcal{S}} n\right|^{2}-\frac{h^{2}}{2}\right)\right) n
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Remark: There is an inner variational principle, i.e.

$$
h=\operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{S}} a[x], \quad \text { where } a[x]=\int_{\mathcal{S}} \mathrm{d} a
$$

## Numerical approaches:

[Rusu '01], [Meyer, Simonett '02], [Grzibovski, Heintz '03], [Droske, M. '04], [Bobenko, Schröder '05], [Dziuk, Deckelnick '06], [Barrett, Garcke, Nürnberg '08], [Dziuk '08] ...

For the gradient flow $\dot{x}=\operatorname{grad}_{g} e[x]$ on a manifold $\mathcal{M}$ and given $x^{0}$ define time discrete solutions $\left(x^{k}\right)_{k=0, \ldots}\left(x_{k} \approx x(k \tau)\right)$ :

$$
x^{k+1}=\underset{x \in \mathcal{M}}{\arg \min } \frac{1}{2 \tau} \operatorname{dist}\left(x, x^{k}\right)^{2}+e[x]
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& \text { where } \operatorname{dist}\left(x, x^{k}\right)=\inf _{\substack{\text { curves } \\
\gamma(0)=x^{k}, \gamma(1)=x}} \int_{0}^{1} \sqrt{g_{\gamma(s)}(\dot{\gamma}(s), \dot{\gamma}(s))} \mathrm{d} s
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energy estimate as a direct consequence:

$$
e\left[x^{k+1}\right]+\frac{1}{2 \tau} \operatorname{dist}\left(x^{k+1}, x^{k}\right)^{2} \leq 0+e\left[x^{k}\right]
$$

## Motivation (Euklidian case):

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Generalization to the heat equation:

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u^{k+1}=\underset{u}{\arg \min } \frac{1}{2 \tau} \int_{\Omega}\left(u-u^{k}\right)^{2} \mathrm{~d} x+\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega}|\nabla u|^{2} \mathrm{~d} x
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0 & =\int_{\Omega} \frac{u^{k+1}-u^{k}}{\tau} \theta+\nabla u^{k+1} \cdot \nabla \theta \mathrm{~d} x \quad \forall \theta
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Given $h^{0}$ define time discrete solutions $\left(h^{k}\right)_{k=0, \ldots}$ :

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h^{k+1}=\underset{h}{\arg \min } \frac{1}{2 \tau} \operatorname{dist}\left(h, h^{k}\right)^{2}+e[h]
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& \text { with } h\left[u, h^{k}\right]=h\left(t_{k+1}\right), \\
& \text { where } \partial_{t} h+\operatorname{div}(h u)=0, \\
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$\longrightarrow$ PDE constraint optimization problem

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& \quad \text { with } h\left[u, h^{k}\right]=h\left(t_{k+1}\right), \\
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& \text { and } h\left(t_{k}\right)=h^{k}
\end{aligned}
$$

$\longrightarrow$ PDE constraint optimization problem

$$
\begin{gathered}
u^{k+1}=\underset{u}{\arg \min } \frac{\tau}{2} \inf _{\gamma}\left(\int_{0}^{1} \sqrt{g_{h}\left(u\left(t_{k}+\tau s\right), u\left(t_{k}+\tau s\right)\right)} \mathrm{d} s\right)^{2}+e\left[h\left[u, h^{k}\right]\right] \\
\text { where } \left.\partial_{t} h+\operatorname{div}(h u)\right)=0 \\
\quad h\left(t_{k}\right)=h^{k}, h\left(t_{k+1}\right)=h^{k+1}
\end{gathered}
$$

Approximation by numerical quadrature in the general case:

$$
\operatorname{dist}\left(x, x^{k}\right)^{2}=\inf _{\gamma}\left(\int_{0}^{1} \sqrt{g_{\gamma(s)}(\dot{\gamma}(s), \dot{\gamma}(s))} \mathrm{d} s\right)^{2}
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## Approximation by numerical quadrature in the general case:

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& \approx g_{\gamma(r)}(\dot{\gamma}(s), \dot{\gamma}(s)) \quad \\
& \quad \text { for some } r \in[0,1]
\end{aligned}
$$

numerical time discretization $(r=1)$

$$
u^{k+1}=\underset{u}{\arg \min } \frac{\tau}{2} g_{h^{k}}(u, u)+e\left[h\left[u, h^{k}\right]\right]
$$

space discretization:

- implicit Finite Volume scheme for the transport $\left(H^{k}, U^{k} \in \mathbb{R}^{\sharp d o f s}\right):$

$$
L(U) H\left(U, H^{k}\right)=H^{k}
$$

(constraint equation)
space discretization:

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L(U) H\left(U, H^{k}\right)=H^{k}
$$

(constraint equation)

- discrete constraint variational problem in each time step:

$$
U^{k+1}=\underset{U \in \mathbb{R}^{\sharp d o f s}}{\arg \min } \frac{\tau}{2} G_{H^{k}}(U, U)+E\left(H\left(U, H^{k}\right)\right),
$$

where $G(\cdot, \cdot), E(\cdot)$ are numerical quadrature evaluation corresponding to $g(\cdot, \cdot)$ and $e(\cdot)$.
[Dohmen, Grunewald, Otto, R. '06],
cf. also [Zhornitskaya, Bertozzi '00], [Grün, R. '00]

We can not use the transport PDE

$$
\partial_{t} h+\operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{S}}(h \mathbf{u})=0
$$

The height $h$ is not even conserved anymore!

The correct transport PDE is

$$
\partial_{t} \eta+\operatorname{div} \mathcal{S}(\eta \mathbf{u})=0
$$

where $\eta$ is the fluid mass per unit surface

$$
\begin{aligned}
\eta & =\int_{0}^{h}\left(1-\epsilon \xi \kappa_{1}\right)\left(1-\epsilon \xi \kappa_{2}\right) d \xi \\
& =h+\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{h} h^{2} \epsilon+\frac{1}{3} \mathbf{k} h^{3} \epsilon^{2}
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\end{aligned}
$$

and $\mathbf{u}$ is the transport velocity

$$
u=\frac{1}{\eta} \int_{0}^{h}\left(1-\epsilon \xi \kappa_{2}\right) \mathbf{u}_{1}+\left(1-\epsilon \xi \kappa_{1}\right) \mathbf{u}_{2} d \xi
$$

[Roy, Roberts, Simpson '02], [Meyer, Charpin, Chapman '02]

## Gradient flow perspective

## transport equation (PDE constraint)

$$
\delta \eta+\operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{S}}(\eta \mathbf{u})=0
$$

Gradient flow perspective
transport equation (PDE constraint)

$$
\delta \eta+\operatorname{div} \mathcal{S}(\eta \mathbf{u})=0
$$

surface energy

$$
e(h)=\int_{\mathcal{S}} \sigma\left(\mathbf{h} h+\mathbf{k} h^{2} \epsilon+\frac{\epsilon}{2}\left|\nabla_{\mathcal{S}} h\right|^{2}\right)
$$

Gradient flow perspective
transport equation (PDE constraint)

$$
\delta \eta+\operatorname{div} \mathcal{S}(\eta \mathbf{u})=0
$$

surface and gravitational energy

$$
e(\eta)=\int_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho g z+\sigma \mathbf{h}) \eta+\frac{\epsilon}{2}\left(\left(\rho g \cos \theta-\sigma\left(\mathbf{h}^{2}-2 \mathbf{k}\right) \eta^{2}+\sigma\left|\nabla_{\mathcal{S}} \eta\right|^{2}\right)\right.
$$

Gradient flow perspective
transport equation (PDE constraint)

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$$

metric (dissipation rate)

$$
g_{\eta}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u})=\int_{\mathcal{S}} \frac{3 \mu}{\eta} \mathbf{u} \cdot\left(\mathbb{I}+\epsilon \frac{\eta}{2}\left(\mathbf{h} \mathbb{I}+D_{\mathcal{S}} n\right)\right) \mathbf{u}
$$

Minimizing the Rayleigh functional, like in the planar case, yields the PDE:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\partial_{t} \eta-\operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{S}}\left\{\frac{\eta^{3}}{3 \mu}\left(\mathbb{I}-\epsilon \frac{\eta}{2}\left(\mathbf{h} \mathbb{I}+D_{\mathcal{S}} n\right)\right)\right. \\
\left.\quad \nabla_{\mathcal{S}}\left(\rho g z+\sigma \mathbf{h}+\epsilon\left(\left(\rho g \cos \theta-\sigma\left(\mathbf{h}^{2}-2 \mathbf{k}\right)\right) \eta-\sigma \Delta_{\mathcal{S}} \eta\right)\right)\right\}=0
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& \left.\nabla_{\mathcal{S}}\left(\rho g z+\sigma \mathbf{h}+\epsilon\left(\left(\rho g \cos \theta-\sigma\left(\mathbf{h}^{2}-2 \mathbf{k}\right)\right) \eta-\sigma \Delta_{\mathcal{S}} \eta\right)\right)\right\}=0
\end{aligned}
$$

■ 4th order non linear PDE

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\left.\quad \nabla_{\mathcal{S}}\left(\rho g z+\sigma \mathbf{h}+\epsilon\left(\left(\rho g \cos \theta-\sigma\left(\mathbf{h}^{2}-2 \mathbf{k}\right)\right) \eta-\sigma \Delta_{\mathcal{S}} \eta\right)\right)\right\}=0
\end{aligned}
$$

■ 4th order non linear PDE

- Leading order term is hyperbolic, the correction is parabolic

Minimizing the Rayleigh functional, like in the planar case, yields the PDE:

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■ 4th order non linear PDE

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■ Mixture of transport, 2nd and 4th order diffusion terms

- It is in agreement, up to $\mathrm{O}\left(\epsilon^{2}\right)$, to the thin film equation in [Roy, Roberts, Simpson '02]

image by Patrick J. Lynch, medical illustrator; C. Carl Jaffe, MD, cardiologist
liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a bump on the upper left

$$
t=0
$$



liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a bump on the upper left

$$
t=25 \tau
$$



liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a bump on the upper left

$$
t=50 \tau
$$



liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a bump on the upper left

$$
t=100 \tau
$$



liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a bump on the upper left

$$
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$$



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$$
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$$



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$$
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$$



liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a bump on the upper left

$$
t=25000 \tau
$$


liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a rupture on the top left

$$
t=0
$$



liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a rupture on the top left

$$
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$$
t=500 \tau
$$



liquid lining $(\epsilon=.03)$ of alveolus-like shape with a rupture on the top left

$$
t=7500 \tau
$$



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$$
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t=10000 \tau
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$$
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$$




Four-fold symmetry perturbed droplet sliding down a sphere:

cf. [Bertozzi, Greer, Sapiro '06]

## Recall mean curvature motion:

$$
\begin{aligned}
y[x]= & x^{k+1}, \quad x=x^{k} \\
y[x]= & \underset{y}{\arg \min } \frac{1}{2 \tau} \operatorname{dist}(\mathcal{S}[y], \mathcal{S}[x])^{2}+\int_{\mathcal{S}[y]} \mathrm{d} a \\
& \text { (natural gradient descent scheme) }
\end{aligned}
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$$
y[x]=\underset{y}{\arg \min } \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \frac{1}{2 \tau}|y-x|^{2}+\frac{1}{2}\left|\nabla_{\mathcal{S}[x]} y\right|^{2} \mathrm{~d} a
$$

cf. [Dziuk '89]

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approximation of curvature vector and Willmore energy

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h[x] n[x] \approx \frac{y[x]-x}{\tau}
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$$

approximation of curvature vector and Willmore energy

$$
h[x] n[x] \approx \frac{y[x]-x}{\tau}, \quad w[x] \approx \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \frac{|y[x]-x|^{2}}{\tau^{2}} \mathrm{~d} a
$$

Abstract Willmore flow time step:

$$
x^{k+1}=\underset{x}{\arg \min } \frac{1}{2 \tau} \operatorname{dist}\left(\mathcal{S}[x], \mathcal{S}\left[x^{k}\right]\right)^{2}+w[x]
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Based on the approximation $w[x] \approx \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \frac{|y[x]-x|^{2}}{\tau^{2}} \mathrm{~d} a$ we obtain:
two step time discretization

$$
x^{k+1}=\underset{x}{\arg \min } \int_{\mathcal{S}\left[x^{k}\right]}\left|x-x^{k}\right|^{2} \mathrm{~d} a+\frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]}|y[x]-x|^{2} \mathrm{~d} a
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\text { where } y[x] & =\underset{y}{\arg \min } \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \frac{1}{2 \tau}|y-x|^{2}+\frac{1}{2}\left|\nabla_{\mathcal{S}[x]} y\right|^{2} \mathrm{~d} a
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$$

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$$

finite element space discretization:
$X$ nodal vector
$\mathbf{M}[X] \quad$ mass matrix $\quad \mathbf{M}[X] \Phi \cdot \Psi=\int_{\mathcal{S}[X]} \Phi \Psi \mathrm{d} a$
$\mathbf{L}[X] \quad$ stiffness matrix $\quad \mathbf{L}[X] \Phi \cdot \Psi=\int_{\mathcal{S}[X]} \nabla_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \Phi \nabla_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \Psi \mathrm{d} a$

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inner problem (time discrete mean curvature)
$Y[X]$ solves $(\mathbf{M}[X]+\tau \mathbf{L}[X]) Y=\mathbf{M}[X] X$ (constraint)

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$Y[X]$ solves $(\mathbf{M}[X]+\tau \mathbf{L}[X]) Y=\mathbf{M}[X] X$ (constraint)
outer problem (time discrete Willmore flow)

$$
\begin{aligned}
X^{k+1}= & \underset{X}{\arg \min }\left(\mathbf{M}\left[X^{k}\right]\left(X-X^{k}\right) \cdot\left(X-X^{k}\right)+\right. \\
& \left.\tau^{-1} \mathbf{M}[X](Y[X]-X) \cdot(Y[X]-X)\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

- Circles expand according the ODE

$$
\dot{R}(t)=\frac{1}{2} R(t)^{-3}
$$

for the radius $R(t)$.


- Discrete two step radii $R^{k+1} \approx R((k+1) \tau)$ are solutions of

$$
\frac{R-R_{k}}{\tau}=\frac{1}{2} \frac{R^{4}-3 R^{2} \tau}{\left(R^{2}+\tau\right)^{3} R_{k}}
$$

Fully discrete numerical simulation $(\tau=\Delta x)$ :


$$
x_{0}(s)=(\cos (s), 4 \sin (s)) \text { for } s \in[0,2 \pi] \text { as initial parametrization. }
$$ modified functional: $w[x]+\lambda a[x]$



$$
x_{0}(s)=\left(-\frac{5}{2} \cos (s)+4 \cos (5 s),-\frac{5}{2} \sin (s)+4 \sin (5 s), \delta \sin (3 s)\right), \delta=0.0
$$


$t=4850.1$

$t=7965.8$

[ $n=3, N=200, \tau=\Delta x=0.5493, \lambda=0.025$ ]
cf. [Dziuk et al. '06]

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$t=0$


$t=0$
$t=\tau(\tau=h)$
$t=2 \tau$


$$
t=0
$$

$$
t=\tau(\tau=h)
$$

$$
t=2 \tau
$$

$$
t=8 \tau
$$






$$
t=30 \tau
$$

$$
t=0
$$

$$
t=\tau(\tau=h)
$$

$$
t=6 \tau
$$



$$
t=30 \tau
$$



$$
t=430 \tau
$$

Time discrete Willmore flow


$$
t=0
$$


$t=0$


$$
t=\tau\left(\tau=h^{2}\right)
$$


$t=0$

$t=\tau\left(\tau=h^{2}\right)$

$t=2 \tau$

$t=0$

$t=\tau\left(\tau=h^{2}\right)$
$t=2 \tau$


$t=3 \tau$

$t=0$

$$
t=0
$$


$t=\tau\left(\tau=h^{2}\right)$
$t=2 \tau$

$t=3 \tau$

$t=10 \tau$


$t=0$

$$
t=0
$$


$t=\tau\left(\tau=h^{2}\right)$
$t=2 \tau$

$t=3 \tau$

$t=10 \tau$

$t=54 \tau$


$$
t=2197 \tau \approx 0.04
$$

$$
\tau=h^{4}
$$


$t=2197 \tau \approx 0.04$

$$
\tau=h^{4}
$$


$t=13 \tau \approx 0.04$
$\tau=h^{2}$

$t=2197 \tau \approx 0.04$
$\tau=h^{4}$

$t=13 \tau \approx 0.04$
$t=\tau=0.04$ $\tau=h$

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$\checkmark$ The building blocks of the discretization have a direct physical or geometric meaning.

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$\rightarrow$ SQP method under development
$\rightarrow$ coupling surface evolution and evolution on the surface
$\rightarrow$ anisotropic Willmore flow

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How to compute the descent direction?

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& =-P \cdot L\left(\partial_{U} H\right)(W)
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& =-P \cdot L\left(\partial_{U} H\right)(W)=P \cdot\left(\partial_{U} L\right)(W) H
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$$

$$
x_{0}(s)=\left(-\frac{5}{2} \cos (s)+4 \cos (5 s),-\frac{5}{2} \sin (s)+4 \sin (5 s), \delta \sin (3 s)\right), \delta=0.1
$$

$$
t=0.0
$$

$$
t=1348.9
$$

$$
t=4264.1
$$

$$
t=4670.2
$$




$$
t=6555.7
$$


$t=9108.4 .9$

$t=9297.0$


$$
t=9489.1
$$

cf. [Dziuk et al. '06]

