Natural Discretization of Gradient Flows

Applications to Viscous Thin Films and to Willmore Flow

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- We consider a viscous incompressible fluid on a
- flat surface



Application: viscous thin films



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We consider a viscous incompressible fluid on a flat surface, under the influence of

- viscous forces,
- surface tension.





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- the height of the film h,
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The thickness of the film is small $\epsilon \ll 1$.





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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):

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



- gradient flow perspective:
- energy (surface tension):

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

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:

$$\int_{\text{Vol}} \mu \, |D_y \mathbf{u} + D_y \mathbf{u}^T|^2 \, \mathrm{d}y \quad , \, y = (x, x^\perp) \quad , \, u = \frac{1}{h} \int_0^h \mathbf{u} \, \mathrm{d}x^\perp$$

transport equation coupling δh and u:

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





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

$$\mathcal{M} = \left\{ h : \int_{\Omega} h \, \mathrm{d}x = \mathsf{const} \right\} \qquad \left(T_h \mathcal{M} = \left\{ \delta h : \int_{\Omega} \delta h \, \mathrm{d}x = 0 \right\} \right)$$

we consider the gradient flow [GF]:

$$\partial_t h = -\operatorname{grad}_{\mathbf{g}} e[h]$$



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we consider the gradient flow [GF]:

$$\partial_t h = -\operatorname{grad}_{\mathbf{g}} e[h]$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{g}_h(\partial_t h, \theta) = -e'[h](\theta)$$

Application: viscous thin films (cont.) $[GF] \Rightarrow [PDE]:$ $0 = \mathbf{g}_h(\partial_t h, \delta h) + e'[h](\delta h)$



$[GF] \Rightarrow [PDE]$:

$$0 = \mathbf{g}_h(\partial_t h, \delta h) + e'[h](\delta h)$$

$$= g_h(u,v) + e'[h](\delta h)$$

where $\partial_t h + \operatorname{div}(h u) = 0$ and $\delta h + \operatorname{div}(h v) = 0$



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where $\partial_t h + \operatorname{div}(h \, u) = 0$ and $\delta h + \operatorname{div}(h \, v) = 0$
$$= \int_{\Omega} \frac{3\mu}{h} u \cdot v + \sigma \nabla h \cdot \nabla \delta h \, \mathrm{d}x$$



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$$[GF] \Rightarrow [PDE]$$
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$$u = \frac{h^2}{3\mu} \nabla \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla h)$$



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$$\Rightarrow u = \frac{h^{2}}{3\mu} \nabla \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla h)$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \partial_{t}h + \operatorname{div}\left(\frac{h^{3}}{3\mu} \nabla \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla h)\right)$$



We consider a compact surface S = S[x] embedded in \mathbb{R}^n (n = 2, 3) and the **energy**:

$$w[x] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{S}} h^2 \,\mathrm{d}a$$

Here h is the mean curvature on S.



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Here h is the mean curvature on S. Furthermore, let

$$g_{\mathcal{S}}(v,v) = \int_{\mathcal{S}} v^2 \,\mathrm{d}a$$

be the L^2 -metric on variations v of S generated by normal motion:

$$\dot{x} = \delta x = v \, n$$



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

$$\partial_t x = -\operatorname{grad}_g w[x]$$

Application: Willmore flow (cont.)



governing PDE (n = 3):

$$\partial_t x = \left(\Delta_{\mathcal{S}} h + h \left(|D_{\mathcal{S}} n|^2 - \frac{h^2}{2} \right) \right) n$$

Application: Willmore flow (cont.) governing PDE (n = 3): $\partial_t x = \left(\Delta_S h + h\left(|D_S n|^2 - \frac{h^2}{2}\right)\right) n$

Remark: There is an inner variational principle, i.e.

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

universität

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] ...

Natural time discretization of gradient flows



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

$$x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x \in \mathcal{M}} \frac{1}{2\tau} \operatorname{dist}(x, x^k)^2 + e[x]$$

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energy estimate as a direct consequence:

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

[Luckhaus, Sturzenhecker '95]

Natural time discretization (cont.)



Motivation (Euklidian case):

$$x^{k+1} = \arg \min_{x} \frac{1}{2\tau} |x - x^k|^2 + e[x]$$

Natural time discretization (cont.)



Motivation (Euklidian case):

$$x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x} \frac{1}{2\tau} |x - x^{k}|^{2} + e[x] \Rightarrow$$
$$0 = \frac{x^{k+1} - x^{k}}{\tau} \cdot v + e'[x^{k+1}](v) \quad \forall v$$

Natural time discretization (cont.)



Motivation (Euklidian case):

Natural time discretization (cont.)



Motivation (Euklidian case):

Generalization to the heat equation:

$$u^{k+1} = \operatorname{arg\,min}_{u} \frac{1}{2\tau} \int_{\Omega} (u - u^k)^2 \, \mathrm{d}x + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \, \mathrm{d}x$$

Natural time discretization (cont.)



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Generalization to the heat equation:

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Natural time discretization of thin film flow



Given h^0 define time discrete solutions $(h^k)_{k=0,\dots}$:

$$h^{k+1} = \arg\min_{h} \frac{1}{2\tau} \operatorname{dist}(h, h^k)^2 + e[h]$$

Natural time discretization of thin film flow



Given h^0 define time discrete solutions $(h^k)_{k=0,\dots}$:

$$\begin{split} h^{k+1} &= \arg\min_{h} \frac{1}{2\tau} \operatorname{dist}(h[u,h^k],h^k)^2 + e[h[u,h^k]],\\ & \text{with } h[u,h^k] = h(t_{k+1}), \text{ where } \partial_t h + \operatorname{div}(h\,u) = 0,\\ & \text{ and } h(t_k) = h^k \end{split}$$

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 \longrightarrow PDE constraint optimization problem

Natural time discretization of thin film flow



Given h^0 define time discrete solutions $(h^k)_{k=0,\dots}$:

$$\begin{split} u^{k+1} &= & \arg\min_u \frac{1}{2\tau} \operatorname{dist}(h[u,h^k],h^k)^2 + e[h[u,h^k]]\,,\\ & \text{with } h[u,h^k] = h(t_{k+1})\,, \text{ where } \partial_t h + \operatorname{div}(h\,u) = 0\,,\\ & \text{ and } h(t_k) = h^k \end{split}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u^{k+1} &= \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{u} \frac{\tau}{2} \inf_{\gamma} \left(\int_{0}^{1} \sqrt{g_{h}(u(t_{k}+\tau s), u(t_{k}+\tau s))} \, \mathrm{d}s \right)^{2} + e[h[u, h^{k}]], \\ &\text{where } \partial_{t}h + \operatorname{div}(h \, u)) = 0, \\ &h(t_{k}) = h^{k}, h(t_{k+1}) = h^{k+1} \end{aligned}$$
• Natural time discretization of thin film flow (cont.)



Approximation by numerical quadrature in the general case:

$$\operatorname{dist}(x, x^k)^2 = \inf_{\gamma} \left(\int_0^1 \sqrt{g_{\gamma(s)}(\dot{\gamma}(s), \dot{\gamma}(s))} \, \mathrm{d}s \right)^2$$

Natural time discretization of thin film flow (cont.)



Approximation by numerical quadrature in the general case:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{dist}(x, x^k)^2 &= \inf_{\gamma} \left(\int_0^1 \sqrt{g_{\gamma(s)}(\dot{\gamma}(s), \dot{\gamma}(s))} \, \mathrm{d}s \right)^2 \\ &\approx g_{\gamma(r)}(\dot{\gamma}(s), \dot{\gamma}(s)) \\ & \text{for some } r \in [0, 1] \end{aligned}$$

numerical time discretization (r = 1)

$$u^{k+1} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{u} \frac{\tau}{2} g_{h^k}(u, u) + e[h[u, h^k]]$$

Natural time discretization of thin film flow (cont.)



space discretization:

• implicit Finite Volume scheme for the transport $(H^k, U^k \in \mathbb{R}^{\sharp \text{dofs}})$:

$$L(U)H(U,H^k) = H^k$$

(constraint equation)

Natural time discretization of thin film flow (cont.)



space discretization:

implicit Finite Volume scheme for the transport $(H^k, U^k \in \mathbb{R}^{\sharp \text{dofs}})$:

$$L(U)H(U,H^k) = H^k$$

(constraint equation)

discrete constraint variational problem in each time step:

$$U^{k+1} = \underset{U \in \mathbb{R}^{\sharp \operatorname{dofs}}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \frac{\tau}{2} G_{H^k}(U, U) + E(H(U, H^k)) \,,$$

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]

Thin film model in case of curved surface



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!

Thin film model in case of curved surface

The correct transport PDE is

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

where η is the fluid mass per unit surface

$$\eta = \int_0^h (1 - \epsilon \xi \kappa_1) (1 - \epsilon \xi \kappa_2) d\xi$$
$$= h + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{h} h^2 \epsilon + \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{k} h^3 \epsilon^2$$





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and **u** is the transport velocity

$$u = \frac{1}{\eta} \int_0^h (1 - \epsilon \xi \kappa_2) \mathbf{u}_1 + (1 - \epsilon \xi \kappa_1) \mathbf{u}_2 \, d\xi$$

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



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Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



Gradient flow perspective

transport equation (PDE constraint)

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

Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



Gradient flow perspective

transport equation (PDE constraint)

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

surface energy

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

Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



Gradient flow perspective

transport equation (PDE constraint)

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

surface and gravitational energy

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

Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



Gradient flow perspective

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metric (dissipation rate)

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

Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



$$\partial_t \eta - \operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{S}} \left\{ \frac{\eta^3}{3\mu} \left(\mathrm{II} - \epsilon \frac{\eta}{2} (\mathbf{h} \mathrm{II} + D_{\mathcal{S}} n) \right) \\ \nabla_{\mathcal{S}} \left(\rho g z + \sigma \mathbf{h} + \epsilon ((\rho g \cos \theta - \sigma (\mathbf{h}^2 - 2\mathbf{k}))\eta - \sigma \Delta_{\mathcal{S}} \eta) \right) \right\} = 0$$

Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



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

$$\partial_t \eta - \operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{S}} \left\{ \frac{\eta^3}{3\mu} \left(\mathfrak{I} - \epsilon \frac{\eta}{2} (\mathbf{h} \mathfrak{I} + D_{\mathcal{S}} n) \right) \\ \nabla_{\mathcal{S}} \left(\rho g z + \sigma \mathbf{h} + \epsilon ((\rho g \cos \theta - \sigma (\mathbf{h}^2 - 2\mathbf{k}))\eta - \sigma \Delta_{\mathcal{S}} \eta) \right) \right\} = 0$$

4th order non linear PDE

Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



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- 4th order non linear PDE
- Leading order term is hyperbolic, the correction is parabolic

Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



$$\partial_t \eta - \operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{S}} \left\{ \frac{\eta^3}{3\mu} \left(\operatorname{II} - \epsilon \frac{\eta}{2} (\mathbf{h} \operatorname{II} + D_{\mathcal{S}} n) \right) \\ \nabla_{\mathcal{S}} \left(\rho g z + \sigma \mathbf{h} + \epsilon ((\rho g \cos \theta - \sigma (\mathbf{h}^2 - 2\mathbf{k}))\eta - \sigma \Delta_{\mathcal{S}} \eta) \right) \right\} = 0$$

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Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



$$\partial_t \eta - \operatorname{div}_{\mathcal{S}} \left\{ \frac{\eta^3}{3\mu} \left(\mathfrak{I} - \epsilon \frac{\eta}{2} (\mathbf{h} \mathfrak{I} + D_{\mathcal{S}} n) \right) \\ \nabla_{\mathcal{S}} \left(\rho g z + \sigma \mathbf{h} + \epsilon ((\rho g \cos \theta - \sigma (\mathbf{h}^2 - 2\mathbf{k}))\eta - \sigma \Delta_{\mathcal{S}} \eta) \right) \right\} = 0$$

- 4th order non linear PDE
- Leading order term is hyperbolic, the correction is parabolic
- Mixture of transport, 2nd and 4th order diffusion terms

Thin film model in case of curved surface (cont.)



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

- 4th order non linear PDE
- Leading order term is hyperbolic, the correction is parabolic
- Mixture of transport, 2nd and 4th order diffusion terms
- It is in agreement, up to $O(\epsilon^2)$, to the thin film equation in [Roy, Roberts, Simpson '02]

Alveoli in the lung





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

$$t = 25\tau$$



Evolution of a film with a local bump



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
- $\bullet \qquad t = 10$







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

$$\bullet \qquad t = 25$$







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

•
$$t = 500\tau$$





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

$$t = 1000\tau$$





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

$$\bullet \qquad t = 2500\tau$$



Evolution of a film with a local bump



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

•
$$t = 5000\tau$$



Evolution of a film with a local bump



•

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

$$t = 10000\tau$$





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

•
$$t = 25000\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



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





• Evolution of a film with rupture



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

•
$$t = 25\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



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

•
$$t = 50\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



- liquid lining ($\epsilon = .03$) of alveolus-like shape with a rupture on the top left
- $\bullet \qquad t = 100\tau$



Evolution of a film with rupture



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

$$t = 250$$

$$t = 250\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



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

•
$$t = 350\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



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

•
$$t = 500\tau$$


Evolution of a film with rupture



$$t = 7500$$





• Evolution of a film with rupture



•
$$t = 1000\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



•
$$t = 2500\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



•
$$t = 5000\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



$$t = 10000\tau$$



• Evolution of a film with rupture



•
$$t = 25000\tau$$



ApplicationEvolution of a film with rupture





Droplet on a sphere



Four-fold symmetry perturbed droplet sliding down a sphere:



cf. [Bertozzi, Greer, Sapiro '06]

Two step discretization of Willmore flow



Recall mean curvature motion:

$$y[x] = x^{k+1}, \quad x = x^k$$

$$y[x] = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_y \frac{1}{2\tau} \operatorname{dist}(\mathcal{S}[y], \mathcal{S}[x])^2 + \int_{\mathcal{S}[y]} \mathrm{d}a$$

(natural gradient descent scheme)

Two step discretization of Willmore flow



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(natural gradient descent scheme)

approximation

$$y[x] = \arg\min_{y} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \frac{1}{2\tau} |y - x|^2 + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla_{\mathcal{S}[x]} y|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a$$
cf. [Dziuk '89]

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approximation of curvature vector and Willmore energy

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

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approximation of curvature vector and Willmore energy

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

• Two step discretization of Willmore flow (cont.)



Abstract Willmore flow time step:

$$x^{k+1} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{x} \frac{1}{2\tau} \operatorname{dist}(\mathcal{S}[x], \mathcal{S}[x^{k}])^{2} + w[x]$$

Two step discretization of Willmore flow (cont.)



Abstract Willmore flow time step:

$$x^{k+1} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{x} \frac{1}{2\tau} \operatorname{dist}(\mathcal{S}[x], \mathcal{S}[x^{k}])^{2} + w[x]$$

Based on the approximation $w[x] \approx \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \frac{|y[x]-x|^2}{\tau^2} da$ we obtain:

two step time discretization

$$x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x^k]} |x - x^k|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a + \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} |y[x] - x|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a$$

Two step discretization of Willmore flow (cont.)



Abstract Willmore flow time step:

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two step time discretization

$$\begin{aligned} x^{k+1} &= \arg \min_{x} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x^{k}]} |x - x^{k}|^{2} \, \mathrm{d}a + \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} |y[x] - x|^{2} \, \mathrm{d}a \\ \text{where } y[x] &= \arg \min_{y} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \frac{1}{2\tau} |y - x|^{2} + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla_{\mathcal{S}[x]} y|^{2} \, \mathrm{d}a \end{aligned}$$

• Two step discretization of Willmore flow (cont.)



$$x^{k+1} = \arg\min_x \int_{\mathcal{S}[x^k]} |x - x^k|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a + \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} |y[x] - x|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a$$

Two step discretization of Willmore flow (cont.)



$$x^{k+1} = \arg\min_x \int_{\mathcal{S}[x^k]} |x - x^k|^2 \, \mathrm{d} a + \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} |y[x] - x|^2 \, \mathrm{d} a$$

- finite element space discretization:
 - X nodal vector

 $\mathbf{M}[X]$ mass matrix $\mathbf{M}[X]\Phi\cdot\Psi=\int_{\mathcal{S}[X]}\Phi\Psi\,\mathrm{d}a$

 $\mathbf{L}[X] \quad \text{ stiffness matrix } \quad \mathbf{L}[X] \Phi \cdot \Psi = \int_{\mathcal{S}[X]} \nabla_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \Phi \nabla_{\mathcal{S}[x]} \Psi \, \mathrm{d}a$

Two step discretization of Willmore flow (cont.)



$$\int_{\mathcal{S}[x^k]} |x - x^k|^2 da + \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} |y[x] - x|^2 da$$

finite element space discretization:

X

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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)

Two step discretization of Willmore flow (cont.)



$$x^{k+1} = \arg\min_x \int_{\mathcal{S}[x^k]} |x - x^k|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a + \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[x]} |y[x] - x|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a$$

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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)

outer problem (time discrete Willmore flow)

$$X^{k+1} = \underset{X}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \left(\mathbf{M}[X^k](X - X^k) \cdot (X - X^k) + \tau^{-1} \mathbf{M}[X](Y[X] - X) \cdot (Y[X] - X) \right)$$

Comparison to exact solutions



Circles expand according the ODE

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

for the radius R(t).



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

$$\frac{R-R_k}{\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{R^4 - 3R^2\tau}{(R^2 + \tau)^3 R_k} \,,$$

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











Evolution of an ellipse under elastic flow



 $x_0(s) = (\cos(s), 4\sin(s))$ for $s \in [0, 2\pi]$ as initial parametrization.

modified functional: $w[x] + \lambda a[x]$



 $[n = 2, N = 100, \tau = \Delta x = 0.0632847, \lambda = 0.025.]$

Time discrete Willmore flow

Evolution of a planar hypocycloid





i





cf. [Dziuk et al. '06]

Evolution of a vertically perturbed hypocycloid





cf. [Dziuk et al. '06]

• Willmore flow for surfaces



- •
- •
- •
- -



t = 0

Willmore flow for surfaces



- .
- •



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

Willmore flow for surfaces





- •
- •



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

• Willmore flow for surfaces



- .
- •





• Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)





t = 0



Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)





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



• Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)





 $t = 0 \qquad \qquad t = \tau \ (\tau = h) \qquad \qquad t = 6\tau$



Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)





 $t = 0 \qquad \qquad t = \tau \ (\tau = h) \qquad \qquad t = 6\tau$



 $t = 30\tau$



Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)





 $t = 0 \qquad \qquad t = \tau \ (\tau = h) \qquad \qquad t = 6\tau$



• Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)





t = 0

Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)





• Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)





Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)






Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)







$\iota = 0$







 $t = 3\tau$



Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)







 $t = 3\tau$

 $t = 10\tau$

 $t = 54\tau$

Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)



- • • • •
- •
- .
- .



$$\begin{split} t &= 2197\,\tau \approx 0.04 \\ \tau &= h^4 \end{split}$$

Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)







 $\begin{array}{ll} t = 2197 \, \tau \approx 0.04 & t = \\ \tau = h^4 \end{array}$

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

Willmore flow of surfaces (cont.)



- .
- .
- -







$$\begin{split} t &= 2197 \, \tau \approx 0.04 \\ \tau &= h^4 \end{split}$$

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

 $t = \tau = 0.04$ $\tau = h$

Conclusions and Outlook



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The natural time discretization of gradient flows leads to PDE constrained optimization problem.

 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

Details: algorithm for thin film flow



- In each time step a nonlinear variational problem has to be solved.

Time discrete Willmore flow
Details: algorithm for thin film flow universitätbo
In each time step a nonlinear variational problem has to be solved.
How to compute the descent direction?

-

Details: algorithm for thin film flow



In each time step a nonlinear variational problem has to be solved.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial U}E(H(U, H^k))(W) = \partial_H E(\partial_U H(W))$$

-

Details: algorithm for thin film flow



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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial U} E(H(U, H^k))(W) = \partial_H E(\partial_U H(W))$$
$$H(U, H^k) = L^{-1}(U)H^k$$

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$$\begin{split} &\frac{\partial}{\partial U} E(H(U, H^k))(W) = \partial_H E(\partial_U H(W)) \\ &H(U, H^k) = L^{-1}(U)H^k \\ &\Rightarrow \partial_U H = -L^{-1}(\partial_U L(W))L^{-1}H^k \quad \text{expensive to compute!} \end{split}$$

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dual problem: $L(U)^T P = -\partial_H E$

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 $\begin{aligned} H^k &= L(U)H(U,H^k) \Rightarrow 0 = (\partial_U L)(W) H + L(\partial_U H)(W) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial U} E(W) \end{aligned}$

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Droplet on a sphere





Droplet on a sphere



- Four-fold symmetry perturbed droplet sliding down a sphere:





Droplet on a sphere



- Four-fold symmetry perturbed droplet sliding down a sphere:





Droplet on a sphere





Droplet on a sphere







Droplet on a sphere







Droplet on a sphere







Droplet on a sphere







- Time discrete Willmore flow
- Details: algorithm for Willmore flow



- In each time step a nonlinear variational problem has to be solved.
- .
- .

-

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow



In each time step a nonlinear variational problem has to be solved.

$$W(X,Y) = \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[X]} |Y - X|^2 \,\mathrm{d}a \quad \Rightarrow$$

-

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow



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$$W(X,Y) = \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[X]} |Y - X|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a \quad \Rightarrow \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X,Y(X))(\Theta) = \partial_X W(\Theta) + \partial_Y W(\partial_X Y(\Theta))$$

-

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow



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$$\begin{split} W(X,Y) &= \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\mathcal{S}[X]} |Y - X|^2 \, \mathrm{d}a \quad \Rightarrow \\ &\frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X,Y(X))(\Theta) = \partial_X W(\Theta) + \partial_Y W(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \\ &\text{where } Y(X) = (\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])^{-1} \mathbf{M}[X] X \text{ expensive to compute!} \end{split}$$
Details: algorithm for Willmore flow



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dual problem: $(\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W$

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow



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dual problem: $(\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) = \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) \\ + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta - (\partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta))X \cdot P \\ + ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y \cdot P$$

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow (cont.)



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) = \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ + ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y \cdot P \\ (\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W \quad (\text{dual problem})$$

$$(\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W$$
 (dual problem)

Pf.:

 $(\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})Y = \mathbf{M}X$

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow (cont.)



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) = \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ + ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y \cdot P \\ (\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W \quad (\text{dual problem})$$

Pf.:

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})Y &= \mathbf{M}X \Rightarrow \\ (\partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta))X &= ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y + (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \Rightarrow \end{aligned}$$

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow (cont.)



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) = \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ + ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y \cdot P \\ (\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W \quad (\text{dual problem})$$

Pf.:

$$\begin{split} (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})Y &= \mathbf{M}X \Rightarrow \\ (\partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta))X &= ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y + (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \Rightarrow \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial X}W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) &= \partial_X W(\Theta) + \partial_Y W(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \end{split}$$

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow (cont.)



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) = \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ + ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y \cdot P \\ (\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W \quad (\text{dual problem})$$

Pf.:

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})Y &= \mathbf{M}X \Rightarrow \\ (\partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta))X &= ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y + (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \Rightarrow \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial X}W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) &= \partial_X W(\Theta) + \partial_Y W(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \\ &= \partial_X W(\Theta) - (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})P \cdot \partial_X Y(\Theta) \end{aligned}$$

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow (cont.)



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) = \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ + ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y \cdot P \\ (\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W \quad (\text{dual problem})$$

$$(\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W$$
 (dual problem)

Pf.:

$$\begin{split} (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})Y &= \mathbf{M}X \Rightarrow \\ (\partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta))X &= ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y + (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \Rightarrow \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial X}W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) &= \partial_X W(\Theta) + \partial_Y W(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \\ &= \partial_X W(\Theta) - (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})P \cdot \partial_X Y(\Theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ &- (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})\partial_X Y(\Theta) \cdot P \end{split}$$

Details: algorithm for Willmore flow (cont.)



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) = \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ + ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y \cdot P \\ (\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W \quad (\text{dual problem})$$

$$(\mathbf{M}[X] + \tau \mathbf{L}[X])P = -\partial_Y W$$
 (dual problem)

Pf.:

$$\begin{split} (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})Y &= \mathbf{M}X \Rightarrow \\ (\partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta))X &= ((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y + (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \Rightarrow \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial X}W(X, Y(X))(\Theta) &= \partial_X W(\Theta) + \partial_Y W(\partial_X Y(\Theta)) \\ &= \partial_X W(\Theta) - (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})P \cdot \partial_X Y(\Theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ &- (\mathbf{M} + \tau \mathbf{L})\partial_X Y(\Theta) \cdot P \\ &= \frac{1}{\tau} \partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta)(Y - X) \cdot (Y - X) + \frac{2}{\tau} \mathbf{M}(X - Y) \cdot \Theta \\ &+ (((\partial_X \mathbf{M} + \tau \partial_X \mathbf{L})(\Theta))Y - (\partial_X \mathbf{M}(\Theta))X) \cdot P \end{split}$$

Time discrete Willmore flow

1

Evolution of a vertically perturbed hypocycloid





cf. [Dziuk et al. '06]