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School of Computing  
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## **Runge-Kutta Residual Distribution Schemes**

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HONOM 2013, Bordeaux, 18-22 March 2013

Consider the scalar conservation law

$$\partial_t u + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{f} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \partial_t u + \mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla u = 0$$

on a domain  $\Omega$ .

- $\mathbf{a} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial u}$  is the advective velocity of the flow.
- $u(\mathbf{x}, 0)$  is specified.
- $u(\mathbf{x}, t)$  is specified on inflow boundaries.

This work is aiming for high order accurate, oscillation-free approximations to this equation.

The residual on a 2D triangular element ( $E$ ) is given by

$$\phi_E = \int_E \nabla \cdot \mathbf{f} \, d\Omega = \oint_{\partial E} \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, d\Gamma$$

- $\mathbf{n}$  gives the outward pointing normal to the element boundary.
- $u$  varies continuously and is stored at mesh nodes.
- In simple cases  $\phi_E$  can be evaluated exactly using an appropriate (conservative) linearisation.

The aim is to solve the equations given by

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{f} \equiv 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \sum_{E \in \mathcal{U}\Delta_i} \beta_i^E \phi_E = 0$$

This can be done iteratively, driving the  $\phi_E$  to zero, by

- distributing each residual  $\phi_E$  to its adjacent nodes,
- carefully choosing the **distribution coefficients**  $\beta_i^E$ ,
- applying a simple pseudo-time-stepping algorithm:

$$S_i u_i^{n+1} = S_i u_i^n - \Delta t \sum_{E \in \mathcal{U}\Delta_i} \beta_i^E \phi_E$$

Ideally any residual distribution scheme would be

- **Conservative** – for discontinuity capturing.
- **Positive** – to prohibit unphysical oscillations.
- **Linearity Preserving** – for accuracy.
- **Continuous** – for convergence to steady state.
- **Compact** – for efficiency.
- **Upwind** – for physical realism.

- **N** – linear, positive.
- **LDA** – linear, linearity preserving.
- **PSI** – nonlinear, positive and linearity preserving.
- **Blended (N,LDA)** – nonlinear, (almost) positive and linearity preserving.
  - Precise details depend on the blending.

These schemes, derived from a piecewise linear representation, provide the distribution coefficients  $\beta_i^E$ .



- Simply applying high order pseudo-time-stepping doesn't improve the accuracy for time-dependent problems beyond first order.
- However, Runge-Kutta time-stepping can be combined with:
  - (i) a consistent mass matrix for an equivalent Petrov-Galerkin formulation;
  - (ii) a space-time distribution.



Residual distribution schemes:

- **Integrate** the conservation law over mesh elements.
- **Distribute** the integrated quantities to update nodes.

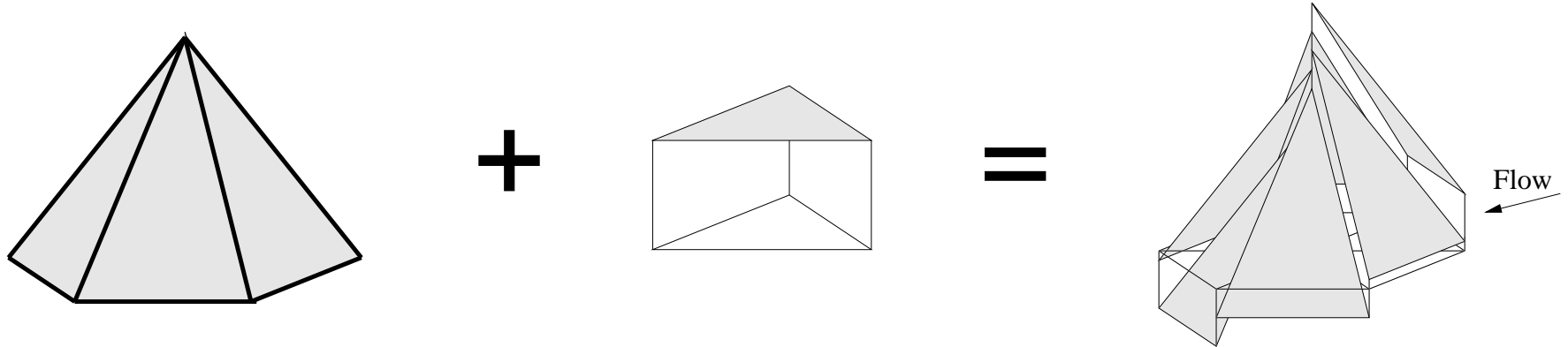
Finite element schemes:

- **Integrate a distributed form** of the conservation law over mesh elements.
- Assemble the integrated quantities to update nodes.

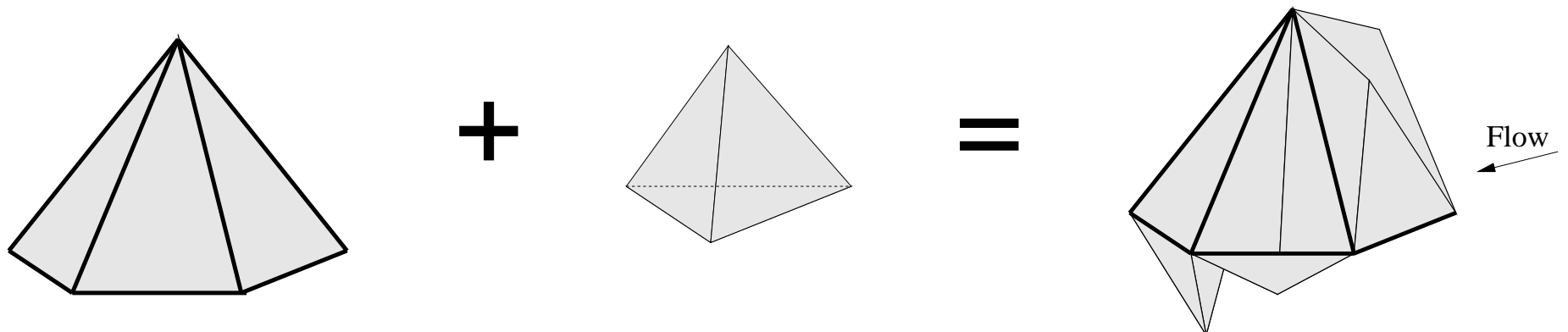
Both methods partition unity for conservation.



Locally constant perturbations, *cf.* SUPG:



Piecewise linear perturbations might be considered:



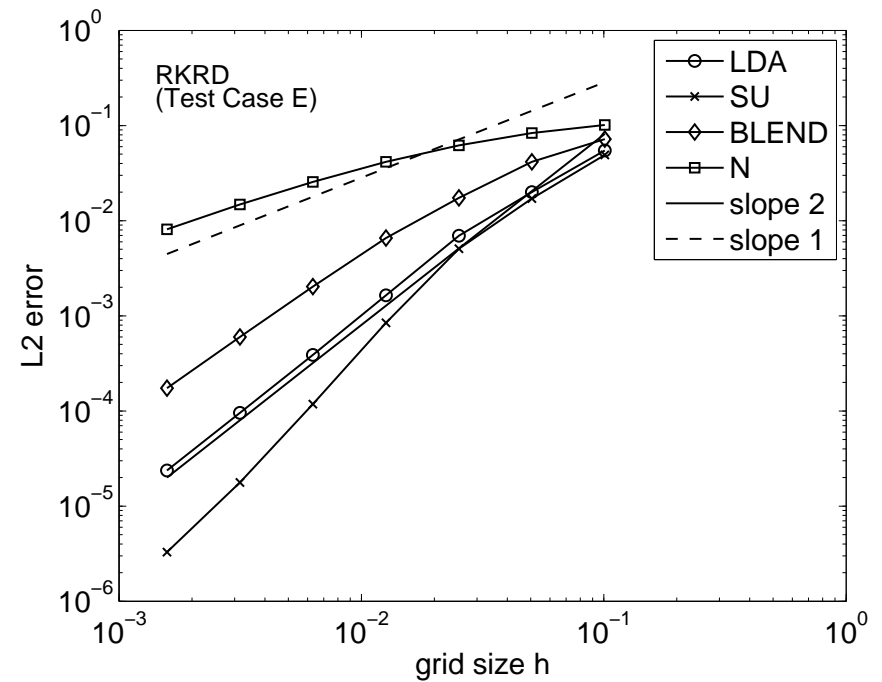
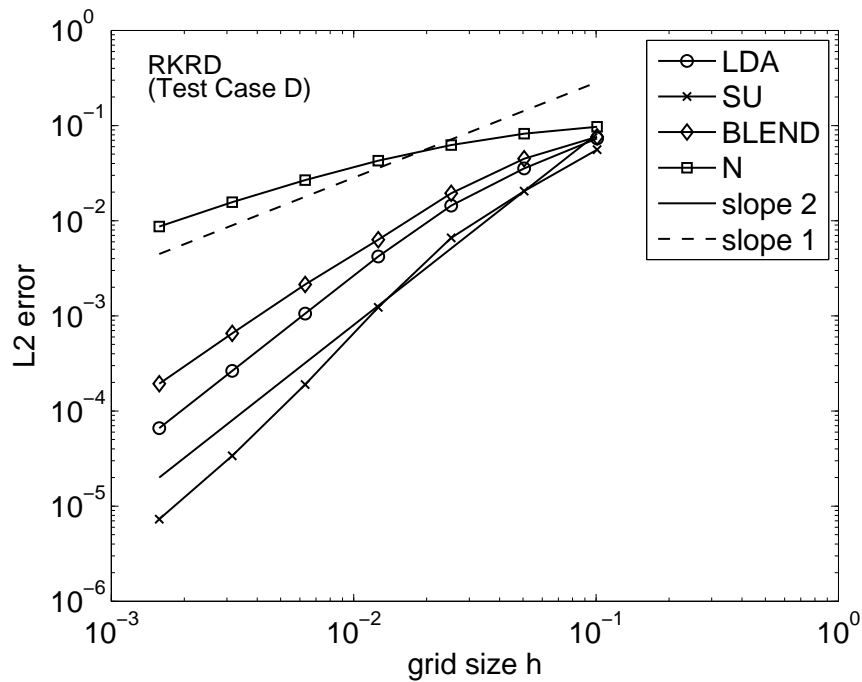
The pseudo-time-stepping is replaced by

$$\sum_{E \in \mathcal{U}\Delta_i} \sum_{j \in E} m_{ij}^E \frac{du_i}{dt} + \Delta t \sum_{E \in \mathcal{U}\Delta_i} \beta_i^E \phi_E = 0$$

One possible form, for piecewise linears, gives

$$m_{ij}^E = \frac{|E|}{36} (3\delta_{ij} + 12\beta_i^E - 1)$$

- The  $\beta_i^E$  can be evaluated at the old time level.
- Even with TVD RK time-stepping, positivity is lost.

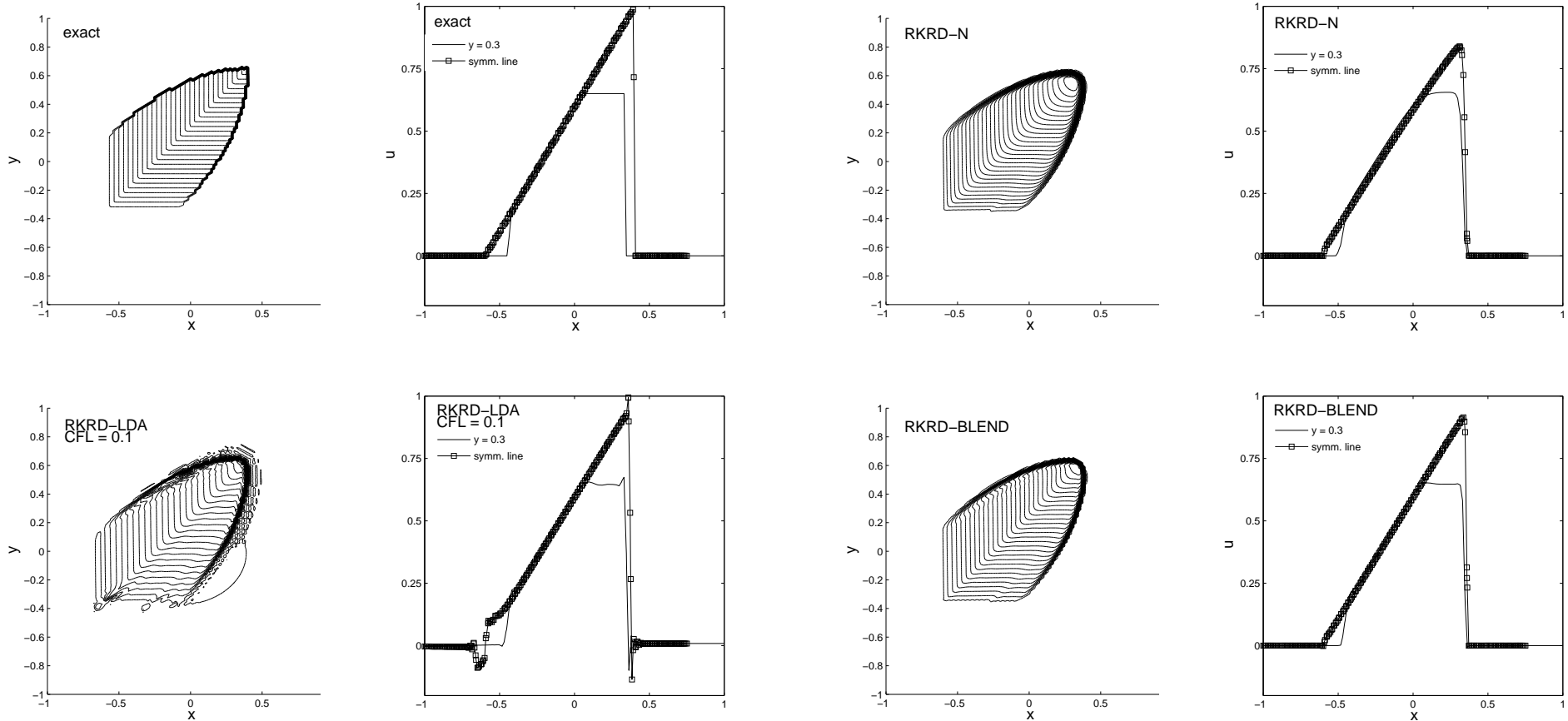


Smooth cone: constant (left) and rotational (right) advection.

# Nonlinear, Scalar



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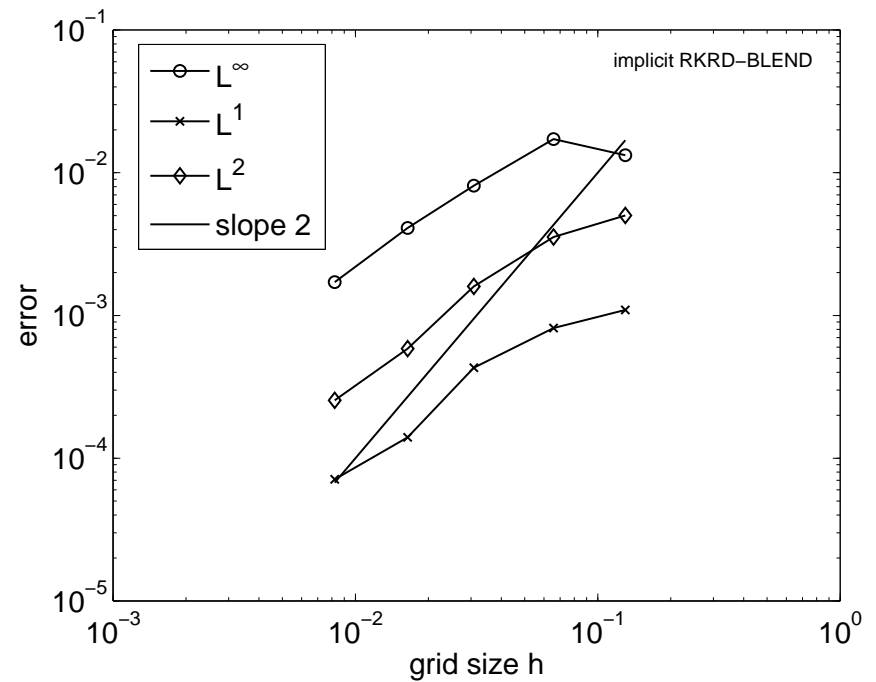
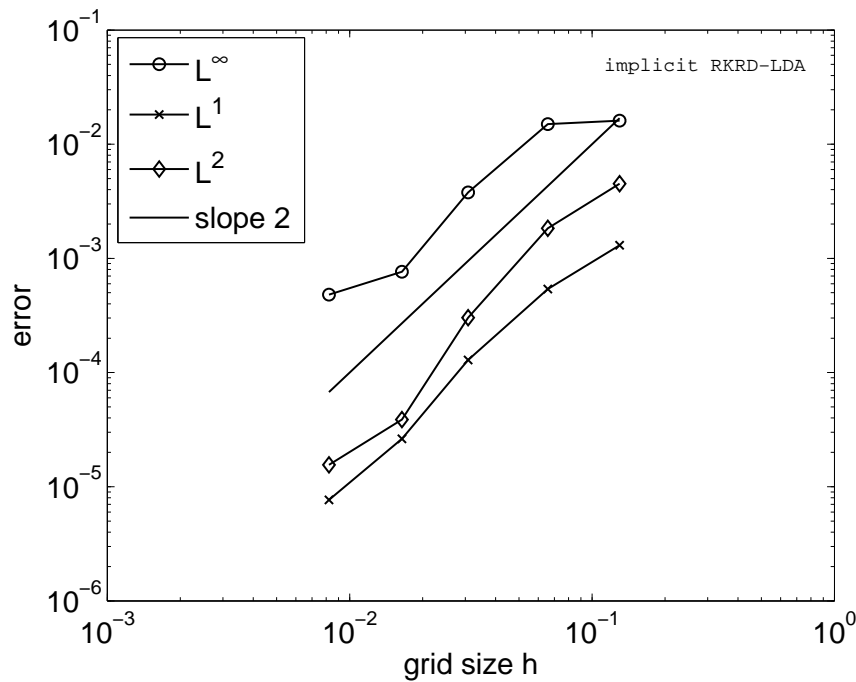


Inviscid Burgers' equation: Exact + N, LDA and Blend schemes.

# Nonlinear, System



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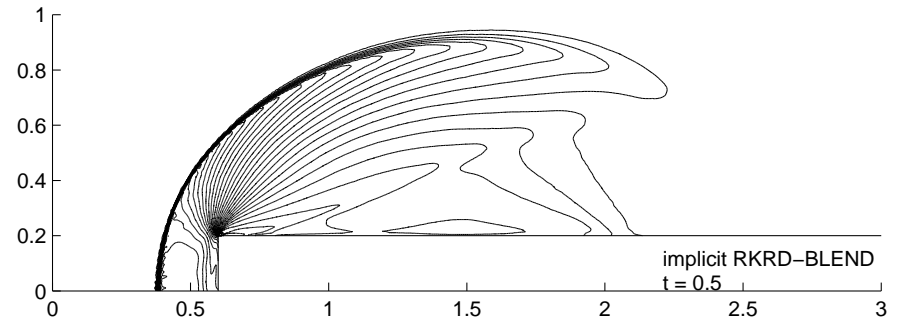
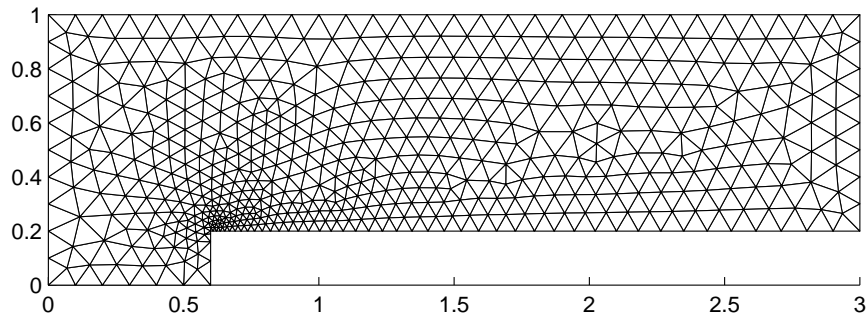


Euler equations, travelling vortex: pressure errors, LDA (left) and blended (right) schemes.

# Nonlinear, System



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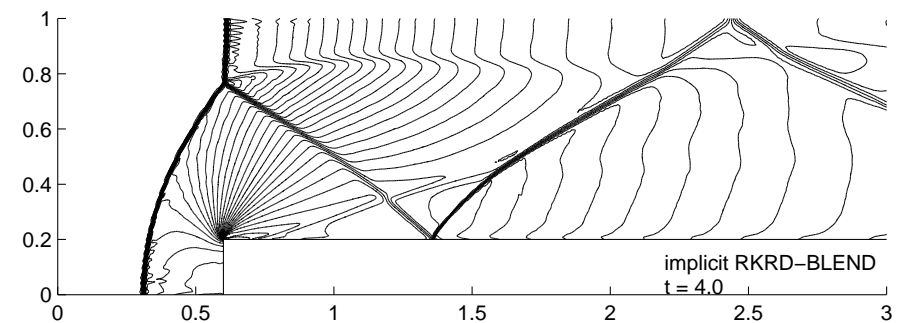
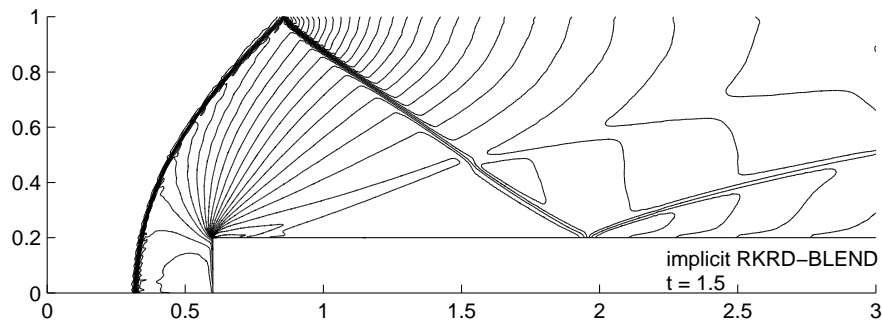


Euler equations, flow over a step: density contours.

# Nonlinear, System



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Euler equations, flow over a step: density contours.

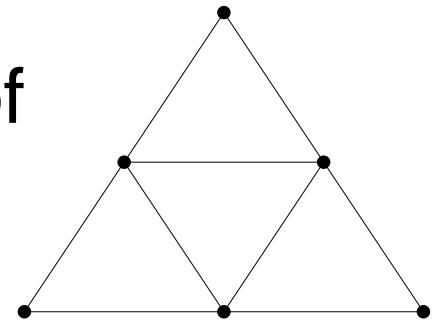
The order of accuracy of a linearity preserving scheme corresponds to the order of accuracy of the representation of the residual (Abgrall, 2001).

Therefore, to get a higher order scheme,

- create a higher order representation of  $u$ ,
- use this to evaluate the residual,
- distribute this residual in a linearity preserving manner.



- Cell subdivision (Abgrall & Roe, 2003),  
e.g. 4 subelements give 6 degrees of freedom, enough for piecewise continuous quadratics.
- Local derivative recovery (Caraeni *et al.*, 2001),  
e.g. gradient recovery at the nodes also gives enough for piecewise continuous quadratics.
- Extending the stencil (Hubbard & Mebrate, 2006),  
e.g. 6 nodes per element/edge is enough for piecewise continuous quadratics.

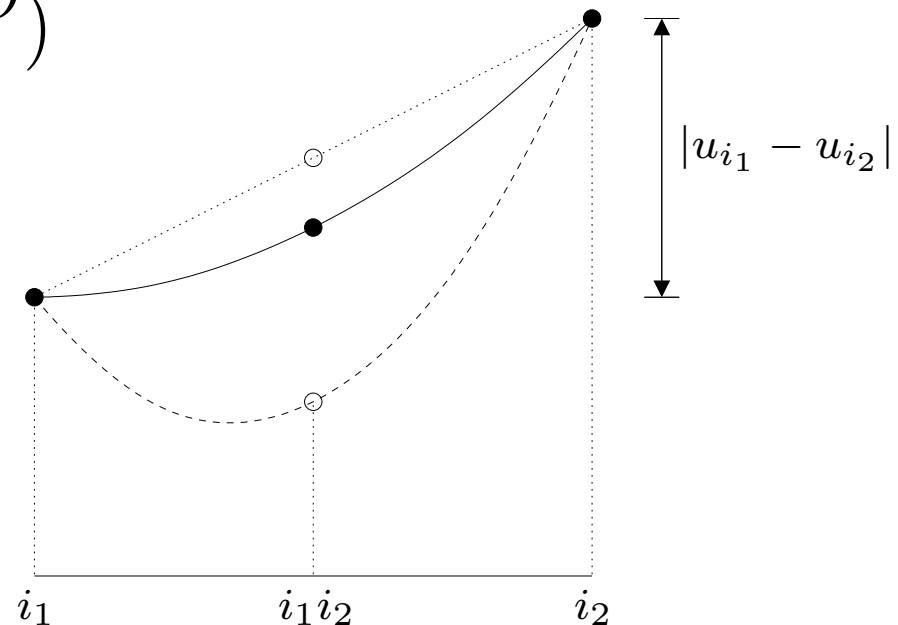
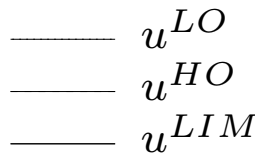


The desired properties are all straightforward to achieve, **except positivity**.

Along each (sub)element **edge** take

$$u^{LIM} = u^{LO} + \gamma(u^{HO} - u^{LO})$$

where  $\gamma$  must be chosen appropriately for each edge.





As long as  $u^{LIM} - u^{LO}$  is bounded by  $C \delta u_{edge}$  the affected residuals can always be distributed to the vertices of their own (sub)elements in a positive manner.

- Edge-based limiting guarantees conservation.
- The time-step must be restricted, but not by much.
- To guarantee positivity, upwinding is sacrificed.
- The  $\gamma$  can be chosen to give locally monotonic  $u$ .

(Hubbard, 2007)

The residual on a **prismatic** space-time element is

$$\phi_{E_t} = \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \int_E (\partial_t u + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{f}) \, d\Omega$$

and should be evaluated exactly once supplied with  $u_h$ .

The aim is now to solve equations of the form

$$\partial_t u + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{f} \equiv 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \sum_{E \in \mathcal{U}\Delta_i} \beta_i^{E_t} \phi_{E_t} = 0$$

with new distribution coefficients  $\beta_i^{E_t}$ .

- The temporal derivative term must be integrated consistently for full accuracy.
- Signals should only be sent forward in time.
- A PSI-like limiting procedure can create a linearity preserving scheme from a positive one, *i.e.*

$$(\beta_i^{E_t})^{LIM} = \frac{[(\beta_i^{E_t})^{LO}]^+}{\sum_{k \in E_t} [(\beta_k^{E_t})^{LO}]^+}$$

- Pseudo-time-stepping can still be applied:

$$S_i u_i^{(m+1)} = S_i u_i^{(m)} - \Delta\tau \sum_{E_t \in \cup \Delta_i} \beta_i^{E_t} \phi_{E_t}$$



# A Second Order Scheme

Given a positive distribution of the spatial derivative terms, local updates take the form

$$\frac{|E|}{3} \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^* \rightarrow \frac{|E|}{3} \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^* - \Delta\tau \left[ \frac{|E|}{3} \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^* - \frac{|E|}{3} \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^n + \Delta t \begin{pmatrix} \text{distribution} \\ \text{of Runge-Kutta} \\ \text{spatial terms} \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

and lead to a positive iteration. When  $u$  is **linear**

- The terms in the square brackets lead to low order distribution coefficients,  $\beta_i^{LO}$ .
- These can be limited for second order accuracy (Abgrall & Mezine, 2003).



# Higher Than Second Order

Limiting the **quadratic** interpolant allows an element's "mass" to be written as a weighted sum of its vertex values, so a single element update can be written

$$\begin{pmatrix} D_i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_j & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_k \end{pmatrix}^* \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^* - \begin{pmatrix} D_i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_j & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_k \end{pmatrix}^n \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^n + \Delta t \begin{pmatrix} \text{distribution} \\ \text{of Runge-Kutta} \\ \text{spatial terms} \end{pmatrix}$$

- In the piecewise linear case,  $\mathbf{D} = |E| \mathbf{I}/3$ , is independent of the data.
- In the high order case  $\mathbf{D}$  is a diagonal matrix which depends on the data, specifically

$$D_i = |E|(1 + \gamma'_{ki} - \gamma'_{ij})/3 \quad \text{etc.}$$

- If the interpolant wasn't limited, the elements of  $\mathbf{D}$  could become unbounded.
- If  $C \leq 0.5$  in the limiting of the interpolant along each edge then the elements of  $\mathbf{D}$  are guaranteed to be positive.
- In general  $\mathbf{D}^* \neq \mathbf{D}^n$ , even when they are bounded and positive, so a positive discretisation of the spatial terms does not guarantee a maximum principle overall because

$$u_i^{n+1} = \sum_{\text{nodes}} w_j u_j^n \quad \text{where} \quad w_j \geq 0 \quad \text{but} \quad \sum_{\text{nodes}} w_j \neq 1$$





# Limiting the Mass Matrix

The mass at the new time level can be related to the mass at the old time level, *i.e.*

$$\begin{pmatrix} D_i^* & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_j^* & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_k^* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} D_i^n - \psi_{ij} + \psi_{ki} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_j^n - \psi_{jk} + \psi_{ij} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_k^n - \psi_{ki} + \psi_{jk} \end{pmatrix}$$

where the  $\psi = \frac{|E|}{3} (\gamma'^* - \gamma'^n)$ .

- It is also possible to write  $\mathbf{D}^n$  in terms of  $\mathbf{D}^*$  and follow a similar process.

The element's "mass" can be redistributed locally, *i.e.*

$$\mathbf{D}^* \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} D_i^n - \psi_{ij}^- + \psi_{ki}^+ & \psi_{ij}^- & -\psi_{ki}^+ \\ -\psi_{ij}^+ & D_j^n - \psi_{jk}^- + \psi_{ij}^+ & \psi_{jk}^- \\ \psi_{ki}^- & -\psi_{jk}^+ & D_k^n - \psi_{ki}^- + \psi_{jk}^+ \end{pmatrix}$$

- This leads to a conservative method because each column sums to  $D^*$ .
- This is an M-matrix when  $C \leq 0.25$  in the limiting of the interpolant along each edge.

# Solving the New System



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For each mesh element, assemble the following:

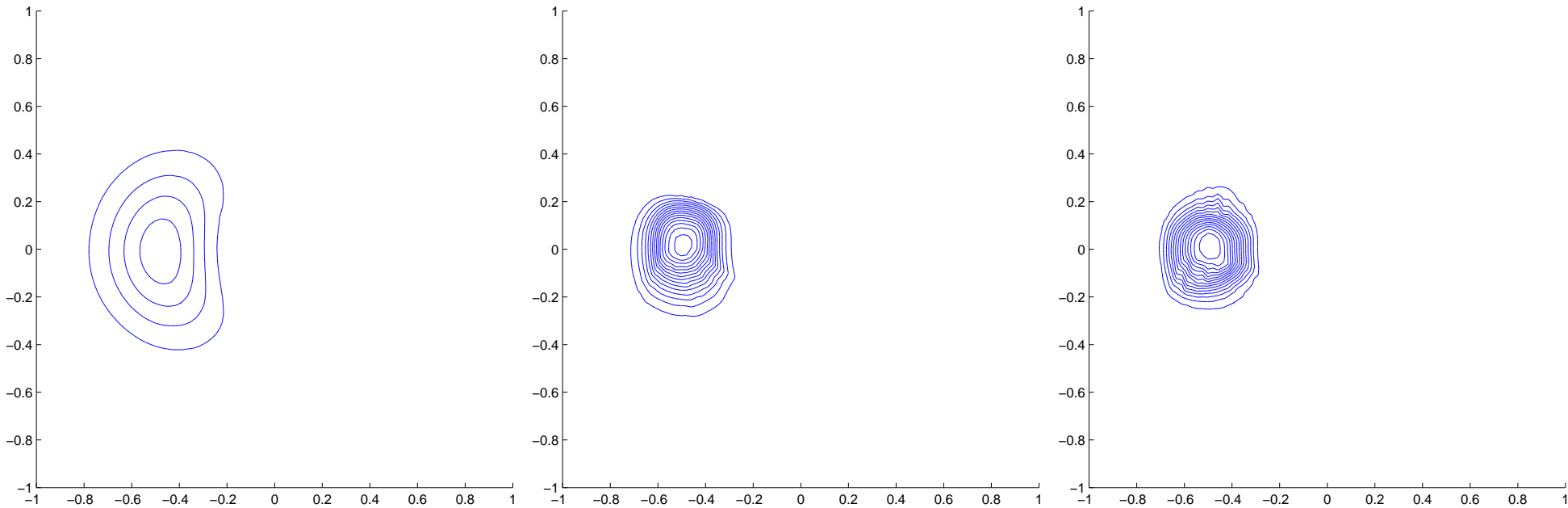
$$\frac{|E|}{3} \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^* \rightarrow \frac{|E|}{3} \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^* - \Delta\tau \left[ \begin{pmatrix} D_i^n - \psi_{ij}^- + \psi_{ki}^+ & \psi_{ij}^- & -\psi_{ki}^+ \\ -\psi_{ij}^+ & D_j^n - \psi_{jk}^- + \psi_{ij}^+ & \psi_{jk}^- \\ \psi_{ki}^- & -\psi_{jk}^+ & D_k^n - \psi_{ki}^- + \psi_{jk}^+ \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^* - \begin{pmatrix} D_i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_j & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_k \end{pmatrix}^n \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_j \\ u_k \end{pmatrix}^n + \Delta t \begin{pmatrix} \text{distribution} \\ \text{of Runge-Kutta} \\ \text{spatial terms} \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

This leads to a positive iteration as long as the discretisation of the spatial terms is positive and  $\Delta\tau$  is small enough.

# Comparison of Results



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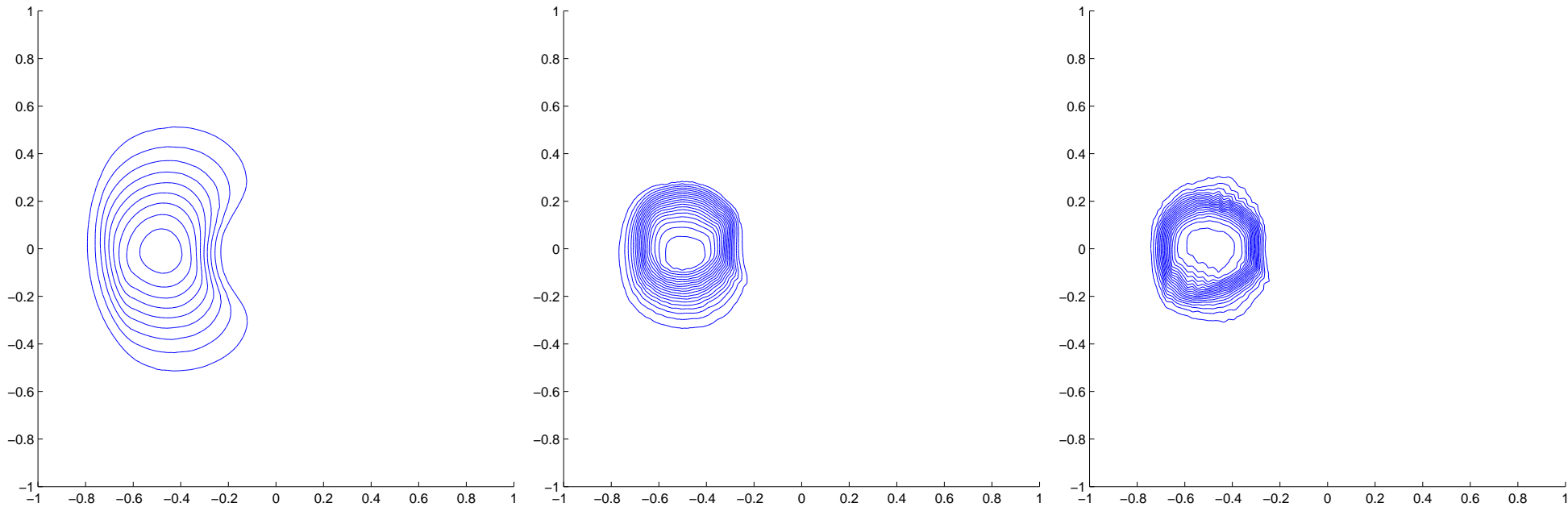


Rotating cone after one revolution for first order (left), second order (middle) and third order (right) positive methods. Maximum values of  $u$  are 0.2577, 0.7702 and 0.7760, respectively.

# Comparison of Results



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Rotating cylinder after one revolution for first order (left), second order (middle) and third order (right) positive methods. Maximum values of  $u$  are 0.4828, 0.9844 and 0.9752, respectively.

- For time-dependent problems, higher order accuracy requires consistent spatial integration of the time derivative.
- This can be done by introducing a mass matrix, at the expense of positivity.
- It is simpler to avoid oscillations in a space-time framework.
- With careful limiting, it may be possible to combine higher than second order accuracy with positivity.