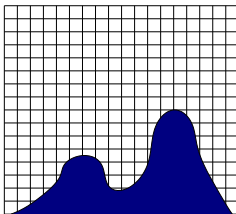


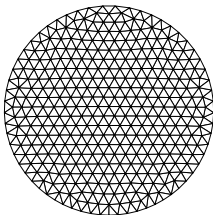
# Cartesian Grid Embedded Boundary Methods for Hyperbolic PDEs



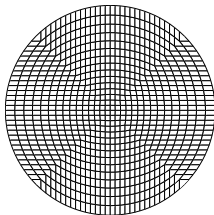
Christiane Helzel  
Ruhr-University Bochum

Joined work with Marsha Berger

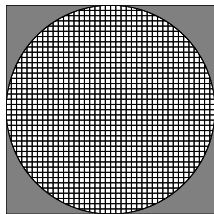
## Finite Volume Grids



unstructured



mapped



cut cells

Advantages of Cartesian grid methods compared to unstructured grid methods:

- Simple grid generation / Automatic grid generation
- Easier (more efficient) to construct accurate methods
- Simplifies the use of AMR (at least away from the embedded boundary)

# Application: Cut cell representation of terrain in atmospheric models

(gravity driven geophysical flow)

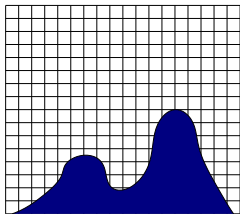
Cut cell representation of orography as an alternative to terrain-following coordinate method

- More accurate computation of flow over steep hills
- More accurate computation of flow over highly oscillatory topography

Adcroft et al. (1997), Bonaventura (2000), Klein et al. (2009), Jebens et al. (2011), Lock et al. . . .

# Numerical Difficulty: The Small Cell Problem

Challenge is to find stable, accurate and conservative discretization for the cut cells.



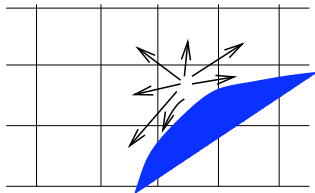
- large timestep method (LeVeque)
- cell merging
- flux redistribution (Chern & Colella)
- h-box (Berger, Helzel & LeVeque)
- mirror cell (Forrer & Jeltsch)
- kinetic schemes (Oksuzoglu; Keen & Karni)
- finite differences (Sjogreen and Peterson; Kupiainen & Sjogreen)

*small cell problem* - for explicit difference schemes we want time step appropriate for regular cells.

# Flux Redistribution (Chern and Colella)

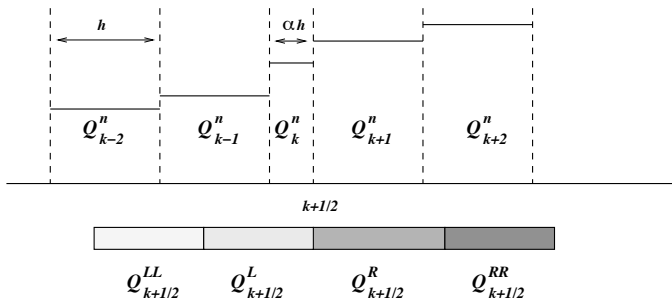
- The usual cell update is  $V_{ij}Q_{ij}^{n+1} = V_{ij}Q_{ij}^n + \delta M$ , where  $\delta M := \Delta t \sum F \cdot l$
- For small cells instead use  $V_{ij}Q_{ij}^{n+1} = V_{ij}Q_{ij}^n + \eta \delta M$  where  $\eta = \frac{V_{ij}}{\Delta x \cdot \Delta y}$

- $(1 - \eta)\delta M$  is redistributed proportionately to neighboring cells



This approach can not avoid a (small) loss of accuracy in the cut-cells.

# The H-box Method - 1D Case

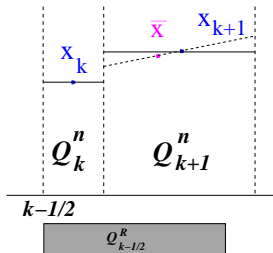


Usual method:  $Q_k^{n+1} = Q_k^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\alpha h} (F(Q_k, Q_{k+1}) - F(Q_{k-1}, Q_k))$

H-box method:  $Q_k^{n+1} = Q_k^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\alpha h} \left( F(Q_{k+\frac{1}{2}}^L, Q_{k+\frac{1}{2}}^R) - F(Q_{k-\frac{1}{2}}^L, Q_{k-\frac{1}{2}}^R) \right)$

*Increase domain of dependence while maintaining*  
*cancellation property:*  $F_{k+1/2} - F_{k-1/2} = O(\alpha h)$

## H-box Method (cont)



Define:

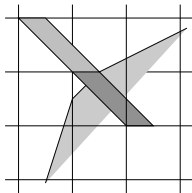
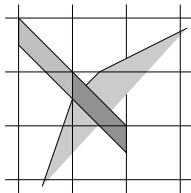
$$\begin{aligned}
 Q_{k-1/2}^R &= \int_{x_{k-1/2}}^{x_{k-1/2}+h} Q(x) dx \\
 &= \alpha Q_k + (1 - \alpha)(Q_{k+1} + (x_{k+1} - \bar{x})\nabla Q_{k+1})
 \end{aligned}$$

pw constant:  $Q_{k-1/2}^R = \alpha Q_k + (1 - \alpha)Q_{k+1}$

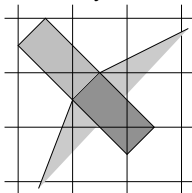
pw linear:  $Q_{k-1/2}^R = \frac{2\alpha Q_k + (1 - \alpha)Q_{k+1}}{1 + \alpha}$  (using backward diff.)

## H-box method - 2D case

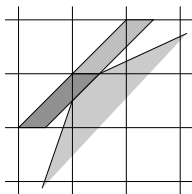
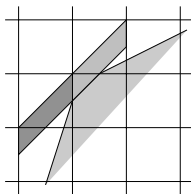
h-boxes in normal direction



boundary h-box



h-boxes in tangential direction



*Use rotated coordinate system to maintain cancellation property*

Other rotated schemes by Jameson; S. Davis; Levy, Powell and Van Leer.  
First order case for advection is equivalent to Roe and Sidilkover N-scheme



We can construct cut cell methods in the context of:

- The Method of Lines (MOL)
- Predictor-corrector MUSCL type schemes  
(previous work with Berger and LeVeque)

Reference: M.J.Berger and C.Helzel, A simplified h-box method for embedded boundary grids, SISC 2012.

## The basic finite volume method

$$\frac{d}{dt}Q_{i,j}(t) = -\frac{1}{\Delta x} \left( F_{i+\frac{1}{2},j} - F_{i-\frac{1}{2},j} \right) - \frac{1}{\Delta y} \left( F_{i,j+\frac{1}{2}} - F_{i,j-\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

- Flux computation:

$$F_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},j} = F(Q_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},j}^-, Q_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},j}^+), \quad F_{i,j\pm\frac{1}{2}} = F(Q_{i,j\pm\frac{1}{2}}^-, Q_{i,j\pm\frac{1}{2}}^+)$$

is based on the solution of Riemann problems;

Use (limited) piecewise linear reconstructed states;

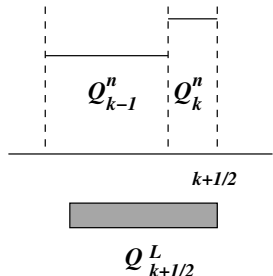
- Use SSP-RK method in time, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} Q^{(1)} &= Q^n + \Delta t L(Q^n) \\ Q^{n+1} &= \frac{1}{2}Q^n + \frac{1}{2}Q^{(1)} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t L(Q^{(1)}) \end{aligned}$$

Approximates multi-dimensional wave propagation

## The 1dim H-box method (MOL)

With linear reconstruction in space and SSP-RK in time:



$$\frac{d}{dt} Q_k(t) = -\frac{1}{\alpha h} (Q_{k+1/2}^- - Q_{k-1/2}^-)$$

$$Q_{k+1/2}^- = Q_{k+1/2}^L + \frac{h}{2} \nabla Q_{k+1/2}^L$$

$$Q_{k-1/2}^- = Q_{k-1/2}^L + \frac{h}{2} \nabla Q_{k-1/2}^L$$

$$= Q_{k-1} + \frac{h}{2} \nabla Q_{k-1}$$

Gradients taken from underlying Cartesian grid (using same weighting as for  $h$ -box values)

$$\nabla Q_{k+\frac{1}{2}}^L = \alpha \nabla Q_k + (1 - \alpha) \nabla Q_{k-1}$$

## The 1dim H-box method (cont.)

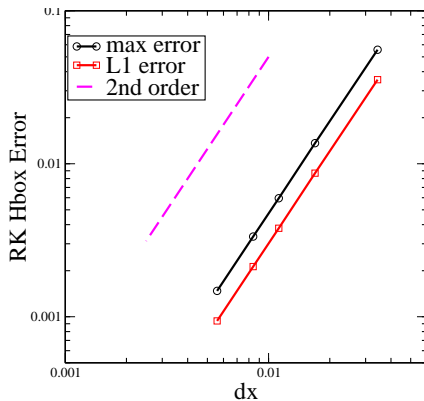
- Use MOL (with 2nd order SSP-RK)

$$\begin{aligned}u^{(1)} &= u^n + \Delta t L(u^n) \\u^{n+1} &= \frac{1}{2}u^n + \frac{1}{2}u^{(1)} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t L(u^{(1)})\end{aligned}$$

- The unlimited version is second order in space and time
- SSP gives TVD for 2nd order RK scheme [if TVD for Forward Euler](#).

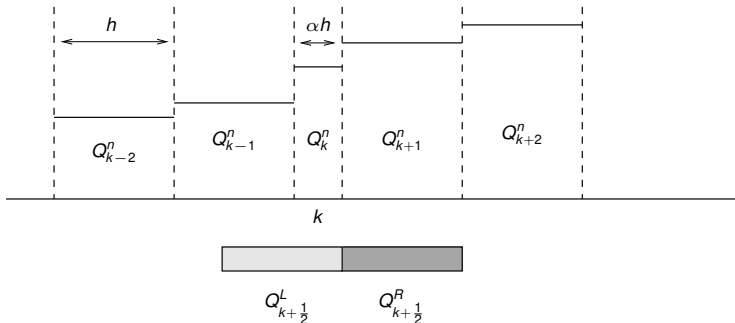
For TVD of h-box method we need [extra limiting](#) on Cartesian grid

# 1D Sin Wave Test



Convergence plot for linear advection for one full period,  $\alpha = .1$ .

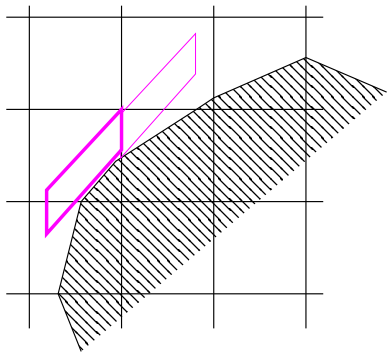
# The H-box Method is TVD



- The  $h$ -box method is TVD if all gradients  $\nabla Q$  (including the small cell gradient) are limited using minmod
- If the MC limiter is used, then the  $h$ -box method needs additional limiting either for the  $h$ -box gradient or the Cartesian grid gradient.

# Multidimensional Method

## Second order version



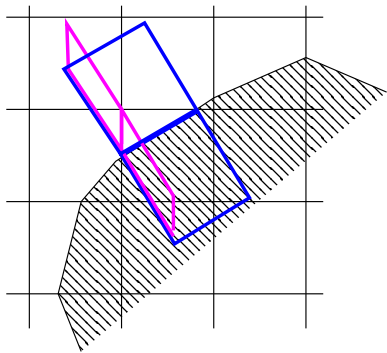
- In two dimensions each rotated box intersects at most two Cartesian cells.
- Form

$$\begin{aligned} & Q_{\xi}^L, Q_{\xi}^R \\ \nabla Q_{\xi}^L &= w \nabla Q_{i,j} + (1-w) \nabla Q_{i,j-1} \end{aligned}$$

- In each direction

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\xi}^{-} &= Q_{\xi}^L + \frac{\Delta \xi}{2} \nabla Q_{\xi}^L \\ Q_{\xi}^{+} &= Q_{\xi}^R - \frac{\Delta \xi}{2} \nabla Q_{\xi}^R \end{aligned}$$

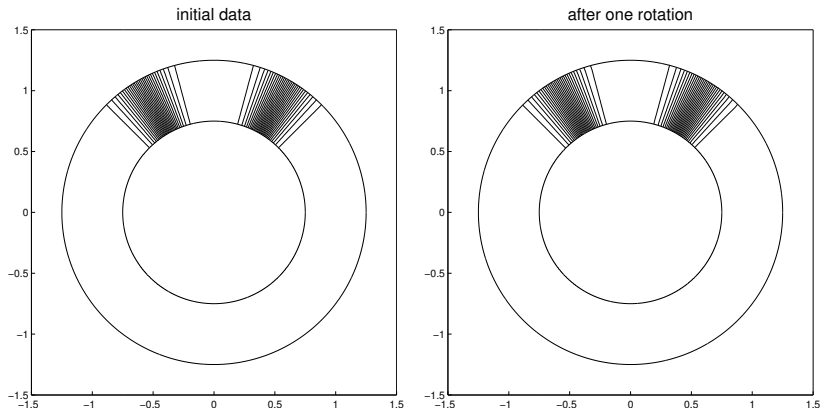
# Multidimensional Method



- For normal box outside domain "reflect" to satisfy no normal flow.
- Cut cell gradients using linear least squares (also for first neighbor). Use diagonal cell if necessary.
- Limit so no new extrema at neighboring cell centers , not just face centroids (scalar minmod)



## Accuracy study for advection



Second order accurate inside the domain and along the boundary can be achieved.

## Accuracy study for advection (cont.)

Computation of error in  $L_1$ -norm:

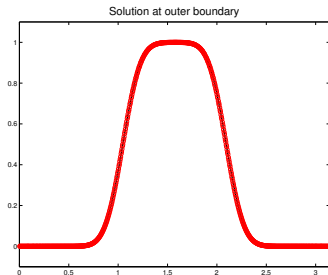
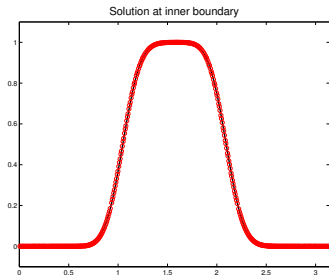
$$E_d = \frac{\sum_{i,j} |Q_{i,j} - q(x_i, y_j)| \kappa_{i,j}}{\sum_{i,j} |q(x_i, y_j)| \kappa_{i,j}},$$

Computation of boundary error:

$$E_b = \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \in K} |Q_{i,j} - q(x_i, y_j)| b_{i,j}}{\sum_{(i,j) \in K} |q(x_i, y_j)| b_{i,j}},$$

where  $|b_{i,j}|$  is the length of the boundary segment for cell  $(i, j)$ .

## Accuracy study for advection (cont.)



Plot of the solution in the cut cells as a function of  $\theta$  after one rotation (i.e., at time  $t = 5$ ) computed at a grid with  $400 \times 400$  grid cells; (left) along the inner boundary segment which contains 780 cut cells, (right) along the outer boundary segment which contains 1332 cut cells. The solid line is the exact solution.

## Accuracy study for advection (cont.)

Mesh	domain error	outer boundary	inner boundary
$100 \times 100$	$3.6258 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.8652 \times 10^{-2}$	$6.2931 \times 10^{-2}$
$200 \times 200$	$9.4289 \times 10^{-2}$	$7.1730 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.0467 \times 10^{-2}$
<b>EOC</b>	1.94	2.00	1.62
$400 \times 400$	$2.3614 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.9339 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.1384 \times 10^{-3}$
<b>EOC</b>	2.00	1.89	1.74
$800 \times 800$	$5.9263 \times 10^{-4}$	$7.3541 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.9252 \times 10^{-3}$
<b>EOC</b>	1.99	1.39	1.67

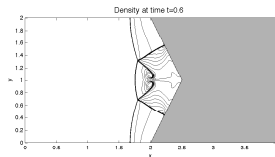
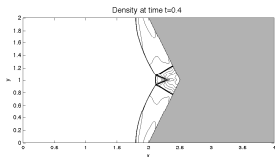
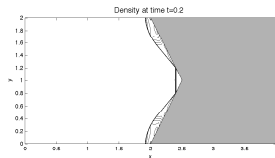
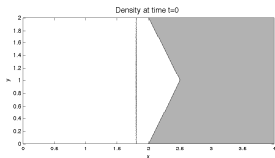
**Table:** Convergence study for annulus test problem. The  $h$ -box gradient  $\nabla Q_\xi$  is computed using area weighted averaging. The rotated grid method is used only for cut cell fluxes. The time step is 0.005, 0.0025, 0.00125 and 0.000625 respectively.

## Accuracy study for advection (cont.)

Mesh	domain error	outer boundary	inner boundary
$100 \times 100$	$2.6955 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.8720 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.0417 \times 10^{-2}$
$200 \times 200$	$7.0471 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.6140 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.1433 \times 10^{-2}$
EOC	1.93	2.02	1.82
$400 \times 400$	$1.7720 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.1459 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.0071 \times 10^{-3}$
EOC	1.99	2.01	1.93
$800 \times 800$	$4.4314 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.8817 \times 10^{-4}$	$7.9922 \times 10^{-4}$
EOC	2.00	1.99	1.91

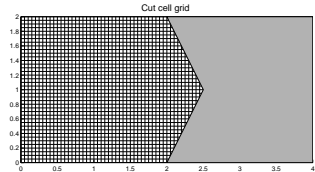
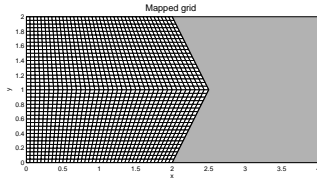
**Table:** Convergence study for annulus test problem. The gradient  $\nabla Q_{\xi}^L$  is computed using additional  $h$ -box values. The rotated grid method is used for all grid cell interfaces. Same constant time steps as above.

# Shock reflection problem



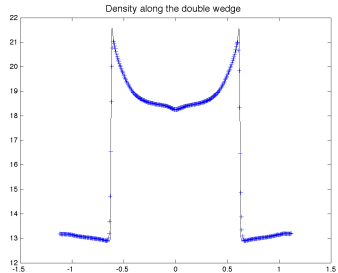
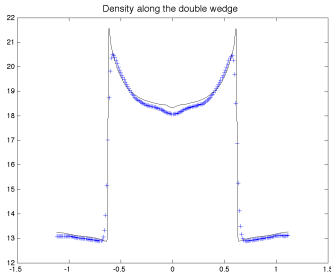
Reflection of a Mach 2 shock wave from a wedge computed on a mapped grid with  $1000 \times 1000$  grid cells.

# Shock reflection problem (cont.)



Coarse versions of the mapped grid and cut cell mesh.

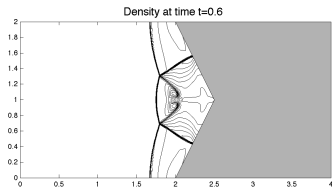
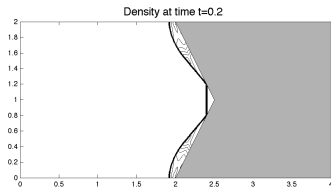
## Shock reflection problem (cont.)



Density along the double wedge at time  $t = 0.6$  computed on a **mapped grid**. The solid line is obtained from the refined reference solution. (Left) we show results from a computation using  $200 \times 200$  grid cells, (right) we show results using  $400 \times 400$  grid cells.

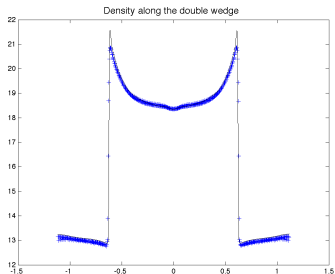
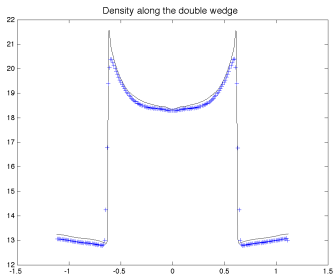


## Shock reflection problem (cont.)



Reflection of a Mach 2 shock wave computed on a cut cell mesh with  $800 \times 400$  grid cells.

## Shock reflection problem (cont.)



Density along the embedded boundary (cut cell values) at time  $t = 0.6$ .

Solid line is the density along the embedded boundary computed on mapped grid with 1000x1000 grid cells.

## Towards the construction of higher-order $h$ -box methods

$$\frac{d}{dt} \bar{Q}_i(t) = \frac{1}{\Delta x_i} \left( F_{i+\frac{1}{2}}(t) - F_{i-\frac{1}{2}}(t) \right)$$

(use 4<sup>th</sup> order RK in time)

Spatial discretization is motivated by PPM of Colella and Woodward.

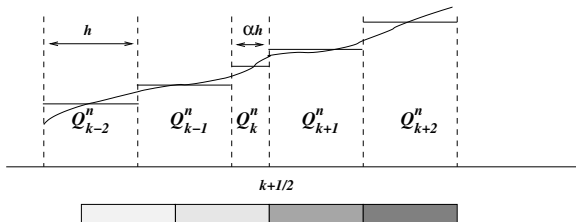
**Regular grid case:**  $F_{i+\frac{1}{2}}(t) = aQ_{i+\frac{1}{2}}(t)$  with

$$Q_{i+\frac{1}{2}}(t) = \frac{7}{12} (\bar{Q}_i(t) + \bar{Q}_{i+1}(t)) - \frac{1}{12} (\bar{Q}_{i-1}(t) + \bar{Q}_{i+2}(t))$$

(and a more complex formula on irregular grids)

The resulting method is stable for  $CFL \leq 2$  and fourth order accurate.

## 4<sup>th</sup> order accurate $h$ -box method



**Requirements on reconstructed function  $p(x)$ :**

1.  $\frac{1}{\Delta x_i} \int_{x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}}^{x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} p(x) dx = \bar{Q}_i,$
2.  $p(x_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}) = Q_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}} = q(x_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}) + \mathcal{O}(h^4),$
3.  $p'(x_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}) = Q'_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}} = q'(x_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$

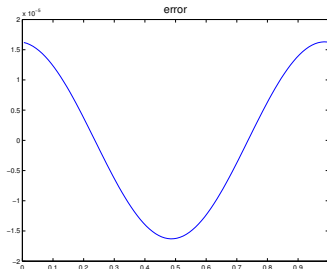
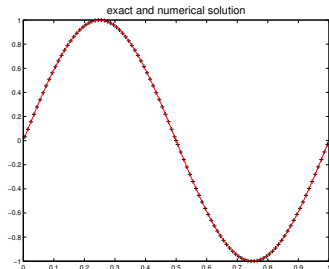
Use  $h$ -box averaged values instead of cell averaged values in regular grid alg.

## 4<sup>th</sup> order accurate $h$ -box method: 1d advection

we get

$$(q - p)(x) = \mathcal{O}(h^4) \text{ for all } x \in [x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}, x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}]$$

$\Rightarrow$   $h$ -box values are 4<sup>th</sup> order accurate averages of the solution and can thus be used to construct 4<sup>th</sup> order accurate numerical fluxes

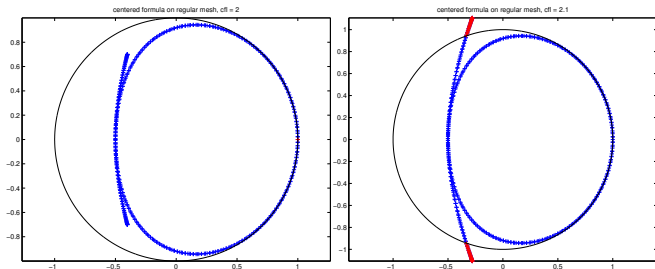


4<sup>th</sup> order accurate and stable for  $a\Delta t/h \leq 2$ .

# Recent observation: Stabilization of the small cell problem by high-order RK methods

Stability study for 4<sup>th</sup> order method for advection with RK4:

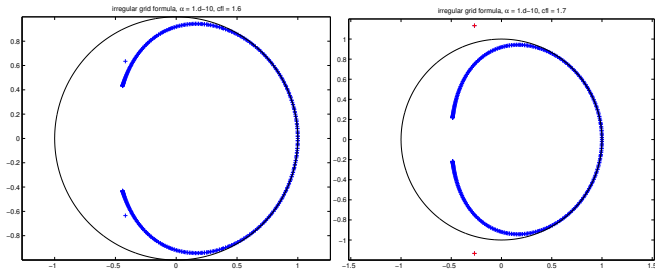
regular grid case



# Stabilization of the small cell problem by high-order RK methods

Stability study for 4<sup>th</sup> order method for advection with RK4:

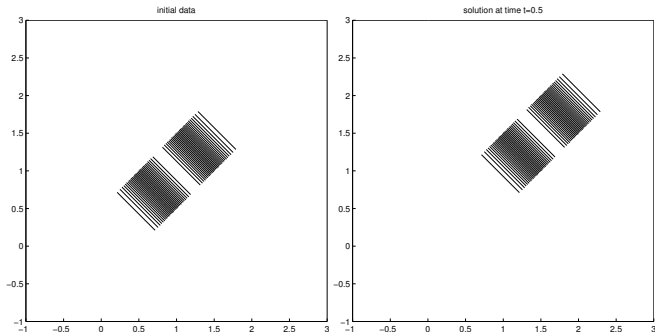
one small grid case



Same stabilization can be observed for some second order spatial discretizations coupled with high order RK methods

# Stabilization of the small cell problem by high-order RK methods

2<sup>nd</sup> order two-dimensional cut cell method for advection which does not require  $h$ -boxes:



Approximation of a smooth flow in a channel using the second order method with 3rd order time stepping,  $cfl = 0.4$ ,  $\alpha = 7.5d - 5$ .