

# Simulating Interfacial Multi-Physics Problems Using a Mesh-free Approach

*Lindsay Erickson,*

*K. Morris, and J. Templeton*

*14<sup>th</sup> U.S. National Congress on Computational Mechanics*

*July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

# Application: Additive Manufacturing



- Computational modeling for Sandia's Laser Engineered Net Shaping™ (LENS®) technique
- Complicated physics to simulate include:
  - Melting/solidification of metal (i.e. phase transitions)
  - moving interfaces and material relocation



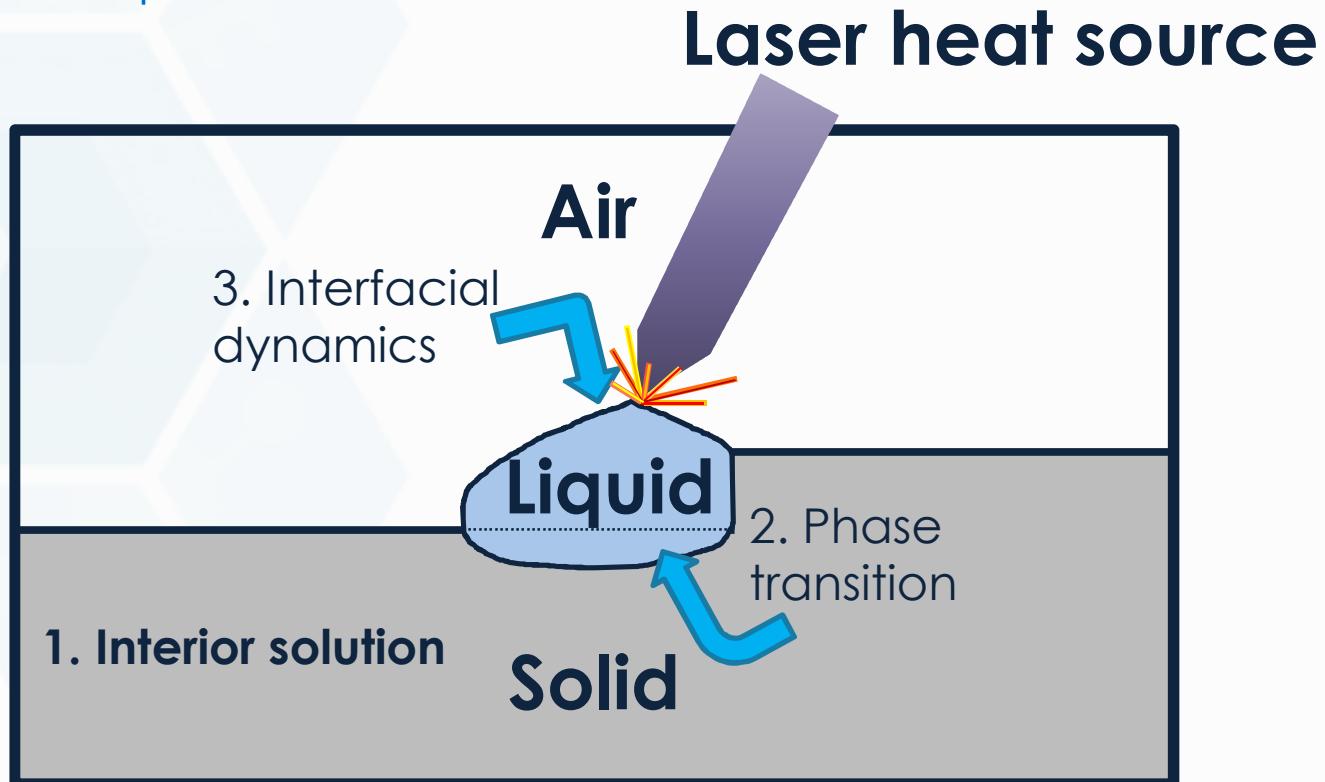
(LENS®) technique



# Functionality required to solve the melt problem



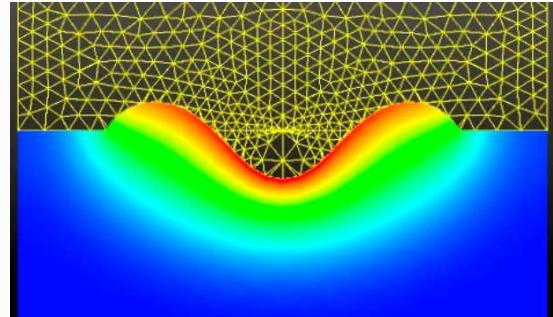
1. Solving systems of equations in the solid, liquid and air regions with moving boundaries
2. Solving the phase transition problem
3. Tracking the liquid/air interface



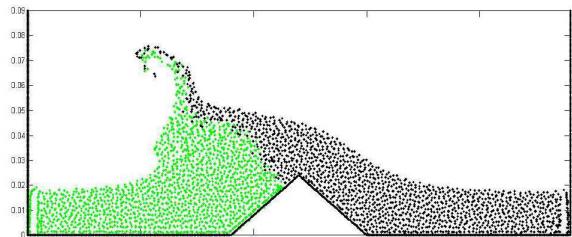


# Mesh-based versus Mesh-free

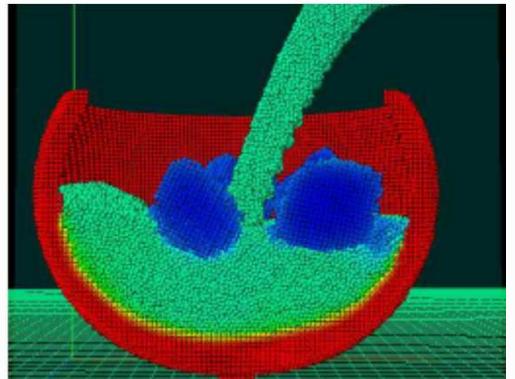
- Mesh-based
  - Advantages
    - Can design mesh to minimize discretization errors
    - Clear theories regarding mesh convergence and numerical errors
  - Challenges
    - Difficult to account for large topological changes
    - Retaining high-quality elements as mesh deforms
- Mesh-free
  - Advantages
    - Capable of tracking large deformations
    - Straightforward to model free-surface effects
  - Challenges
    - Limited error analysis
    - Difficulty maintaining high-order quadrature through flow



CDFEM of Laser Weld, D. Noble



SPH Cueto-Felgueroso et al., 2003

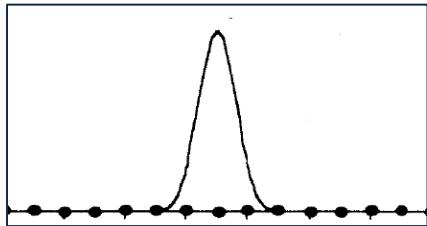


SPH of melting ice, Iwasaki et al., 2010

# Reproducing Kernel Particle Method



$$u^a(x, y) = \sum_{I=1}^{NP} N_I(x, y) u_I$$



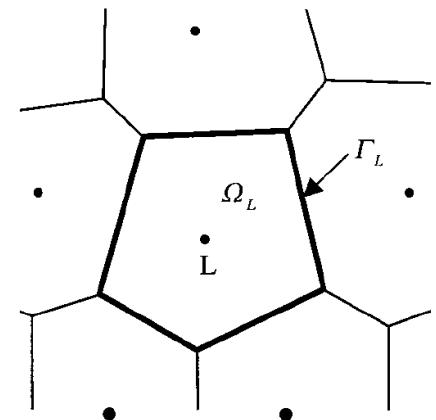
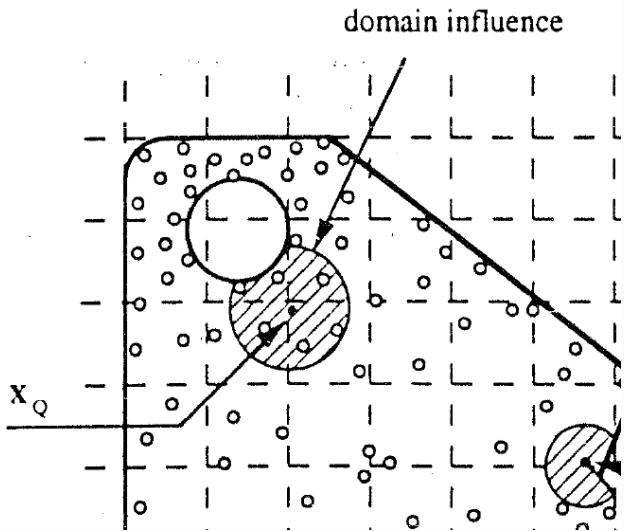
$$N_I(x, y) = C(x - x_I, y - y_I) w_d(x - x_I, y - y_I) \Delta V_I$$

$$\mathcal{L}u^a = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

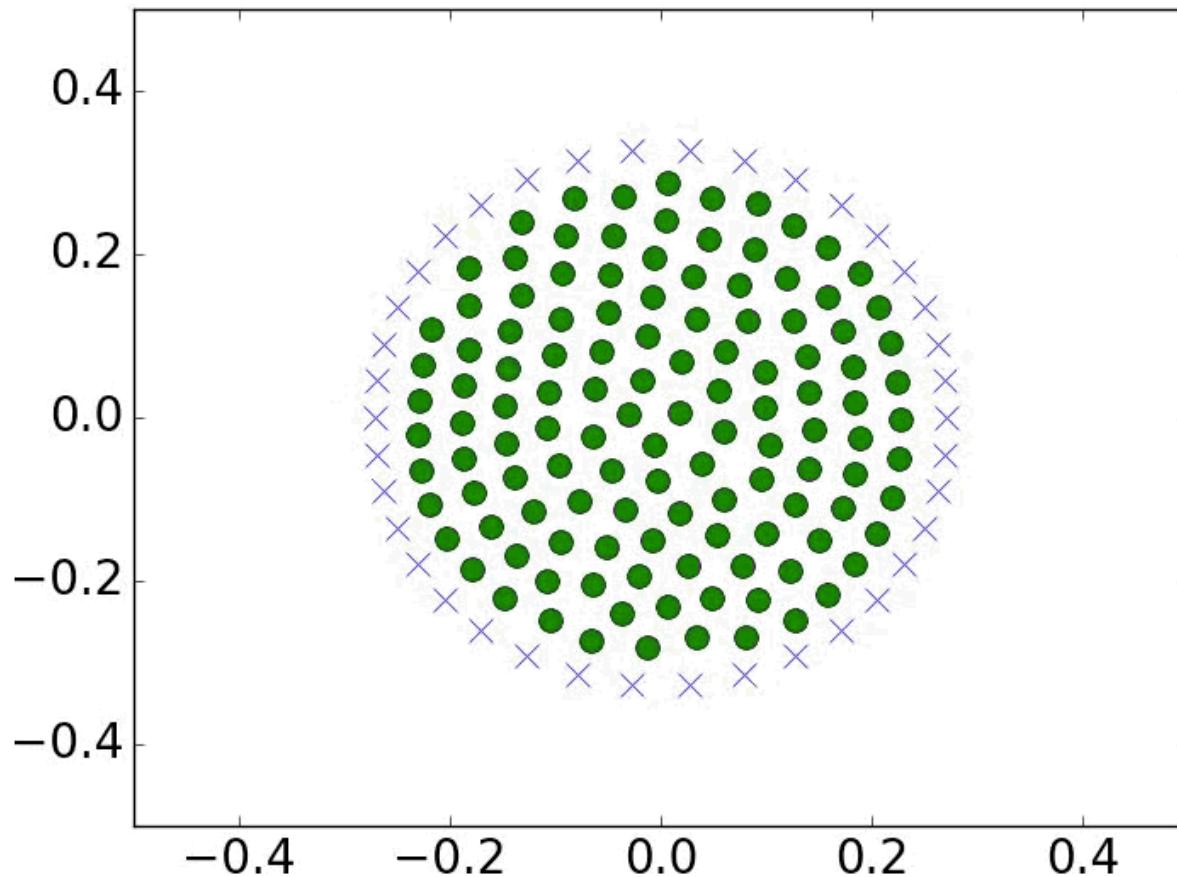
$$u^a = g \quad \text{on } \Gamma_g$$

$$\frac{\partial u^a}{\partial n} = h \quad \text{on } \Gamma_h$$

- RKPM Choices
  - point collocation (requires higher order shape functions and voronoi tessellation)
  - Gaussian quadrature (lower order shape functions, background mesh)



# Particle configuration can be updated based on moving interface

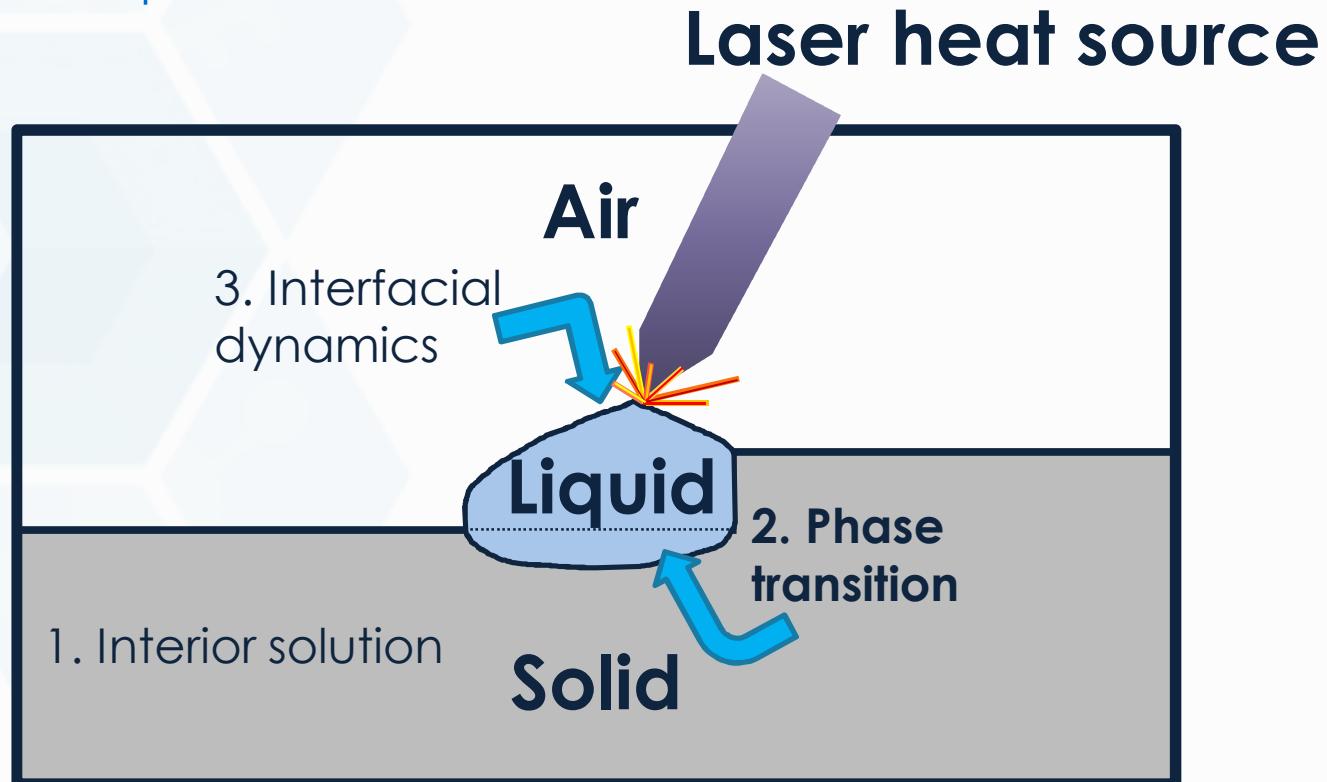


- A molecular dynamics-inspired error minimization technique is used here to adjust the interior particles (●'s) based on the interfacial particles (x's)

# Functionality required to solve the melt problem



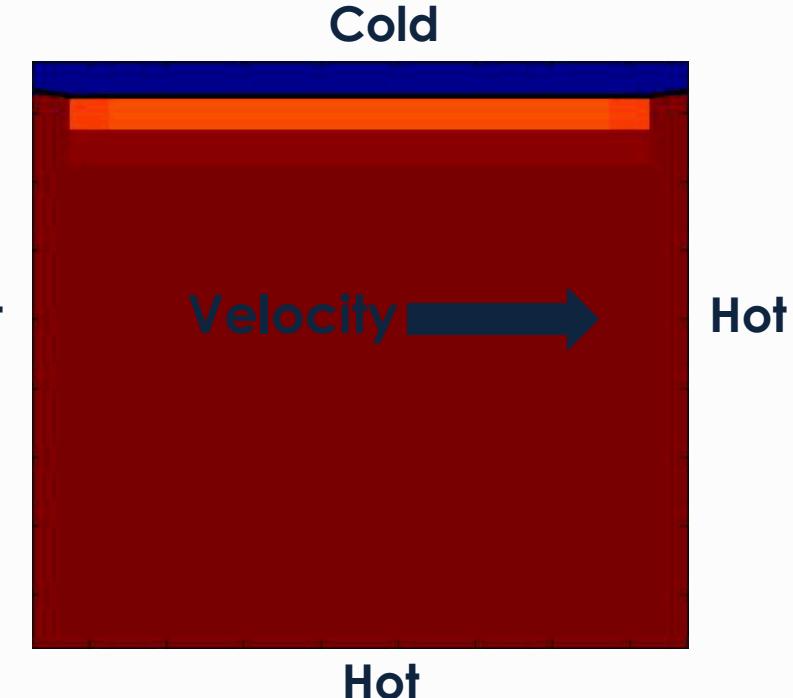
1. Solving systems of equations in the solid, liquid and air regions with moving boundaries
2. **Solving the phase transition problem**
3. Tracking the liquid/air interface



# Solving melting/solidification problems



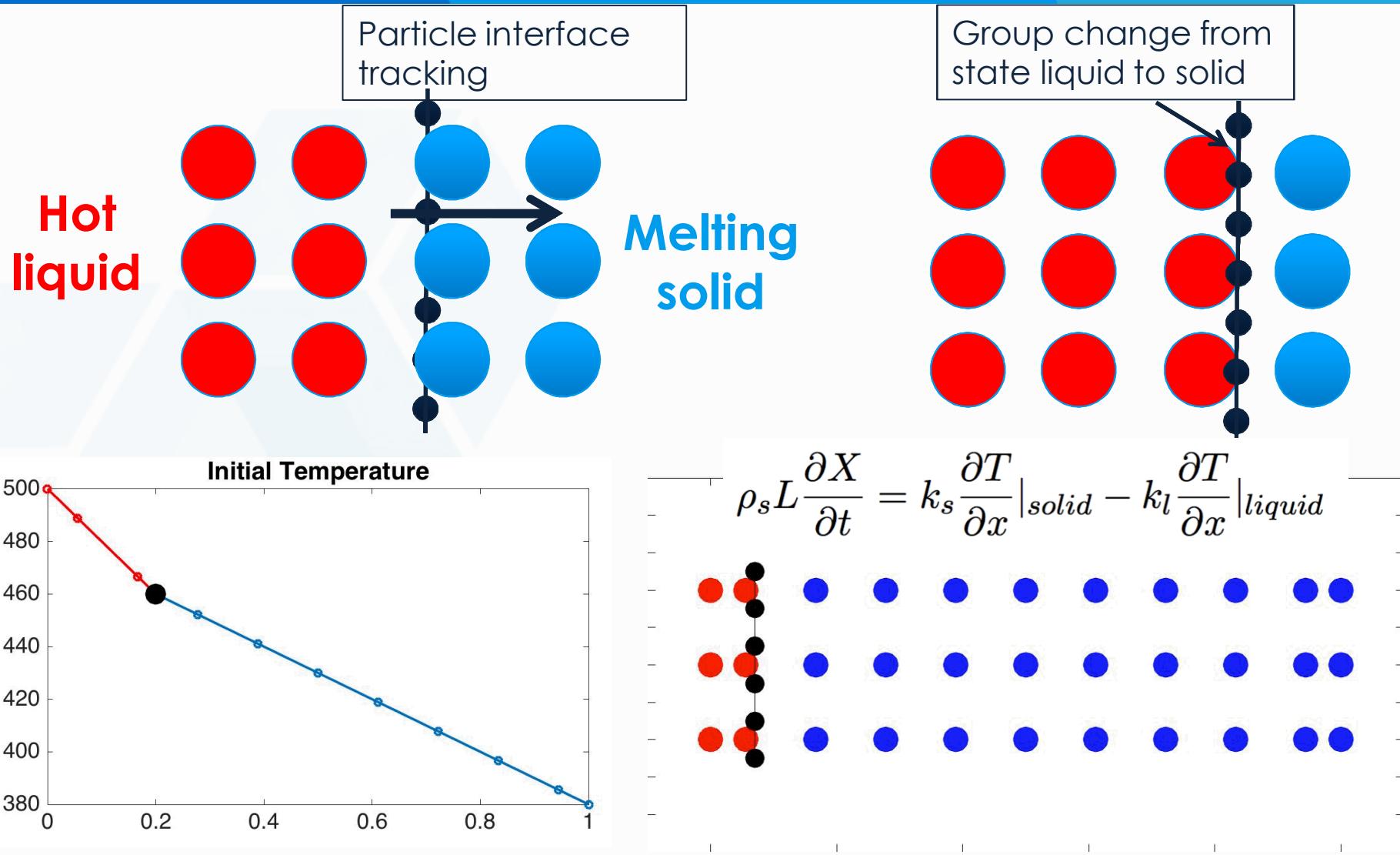
- One could solve the heat equation for a solidifying liquid and melting solid as one continuous domain with variable coefficients
- The interface can be defined implicitly at the melt temperature
- **Alternatively, one can define the interface explicitly and solve for the interfacial velocity using the Stefan condition:**



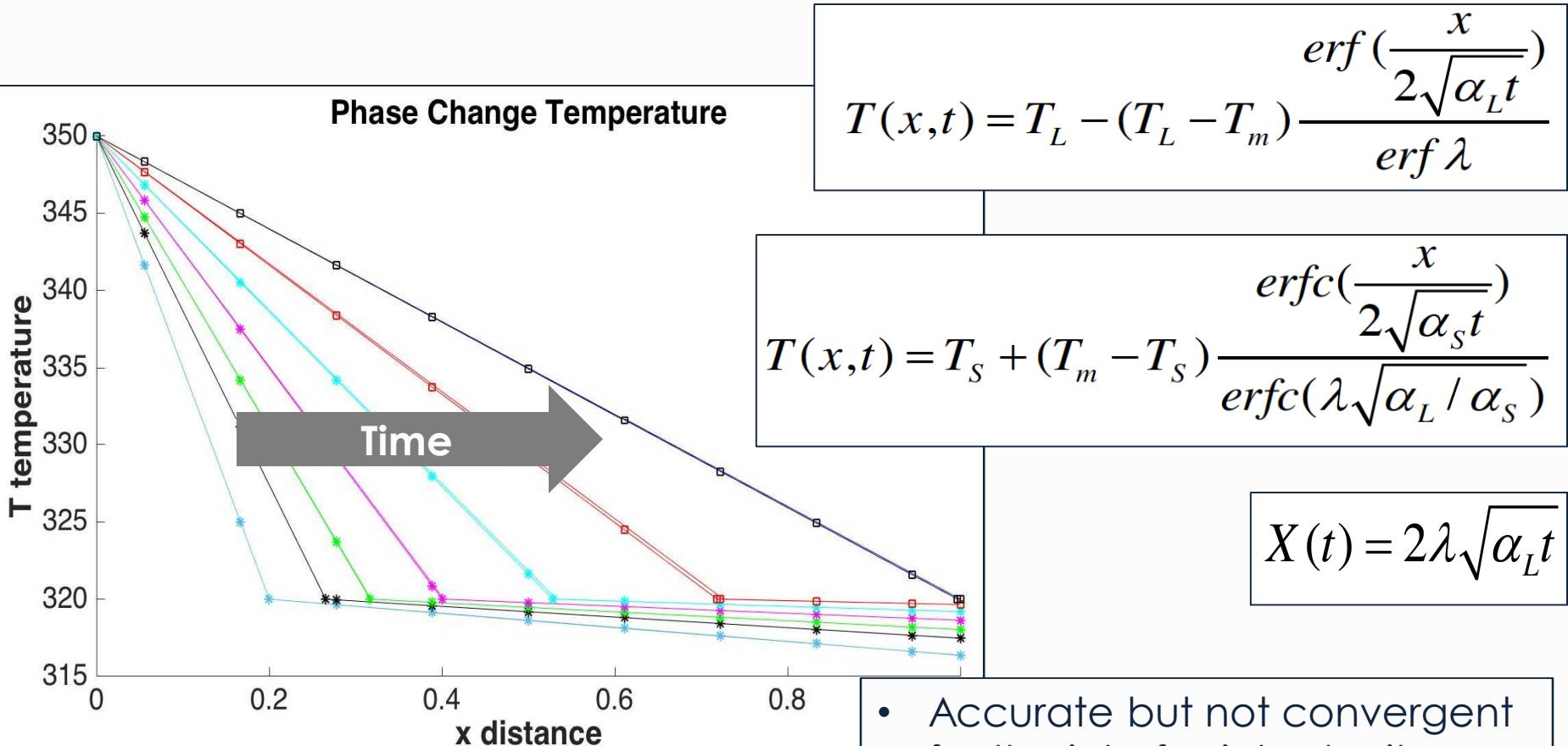
$$T_t = \alpha_L T_{xx}$$
$$T_t = \alpha_S T_{xx}$$

$$\rho_s L \frac{\partial X}{\partial t} = k_s \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \big|_{solid} - k_l \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \big|_{liquid}$$

# Solving melting/solidification problems



# Analytic Solution for Stefan Problem and convergence study

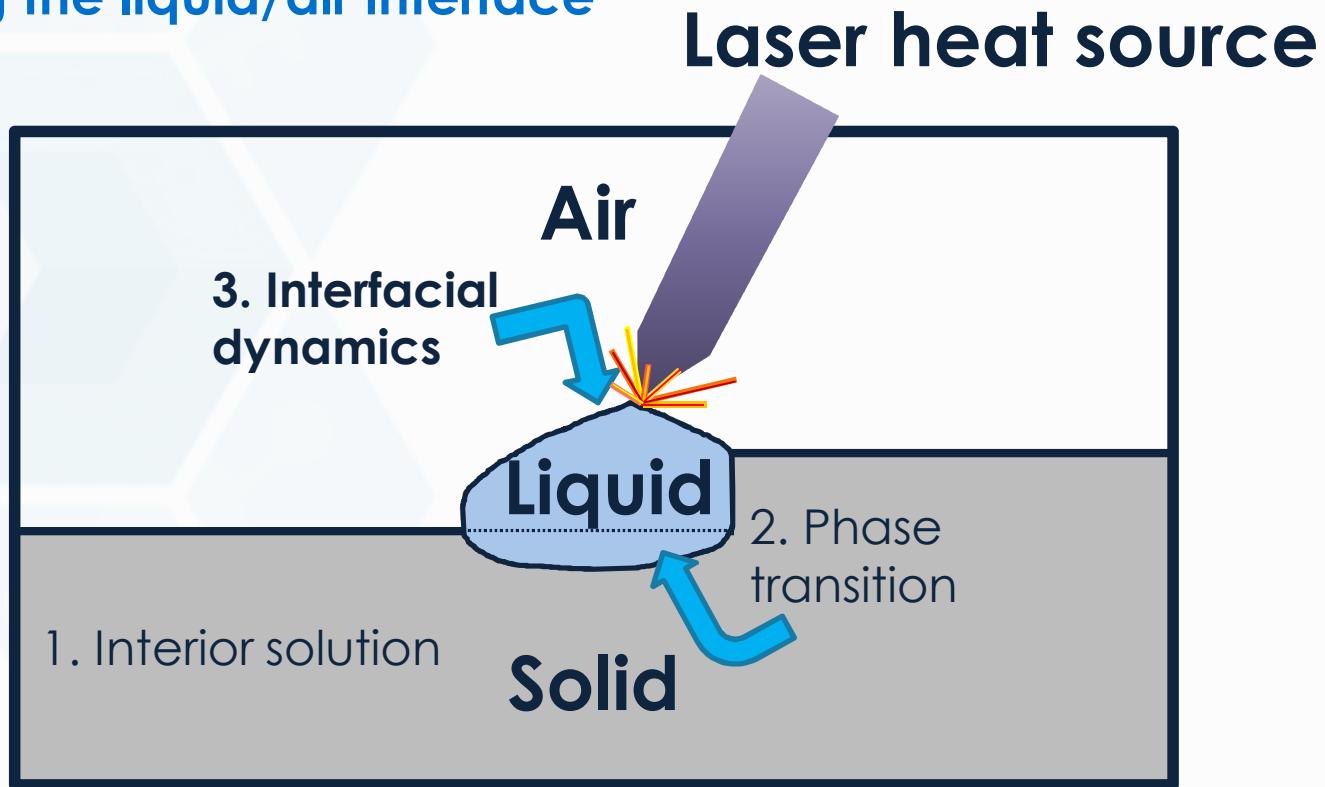


- Accurate but not convergent for the interfacial velocity
- Convergent in time (1<sup>st</sup> order BE) and space (2<sup>nd</sup> order) for the heat equation solution

# Functionality required to solve the melt problem



1. Solving systems of equations in the solid, liquid and air regions with moving boundaries
2. Solving the phase transition problem
3. **Tracking the liquid/air interface**



# Interface Method Options



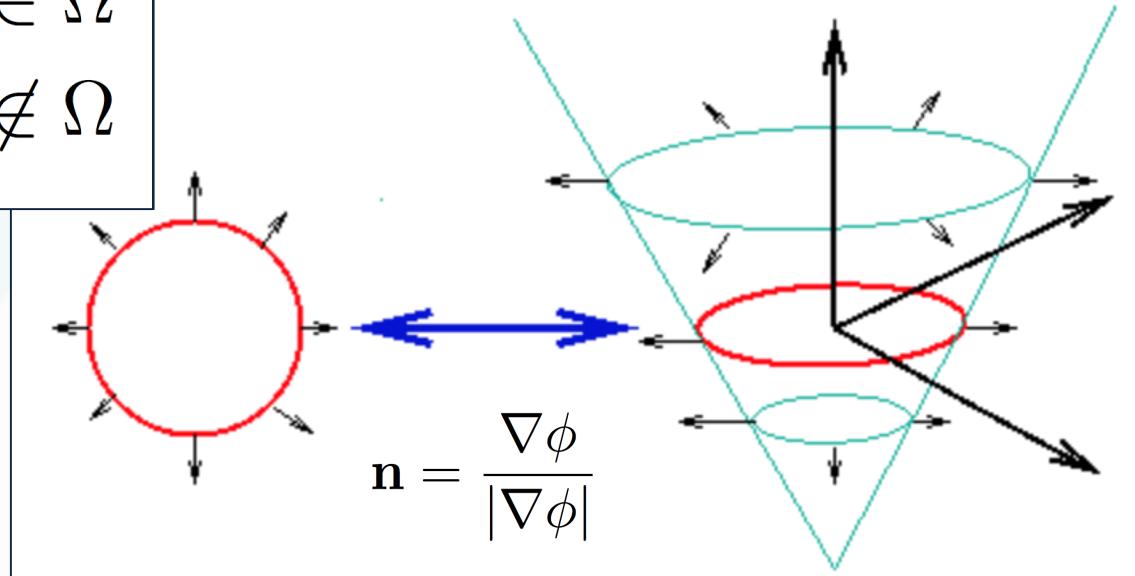
- Interface capturing (Eulerian, e.g. level set methods)
  - ✓ Natural merging and pinch-off
  - ✓ Normal vector and curvature calculations
  - ✗ Mass conservation problems
  - ✗ Limited by grid size
- Interface tracking (Lagrangian particle methods)
  - ✓ Conservative by design
  - ✓ Excellent at resolving fine scale dynamics
  - ✗ No connectivity/difficult to define normal vector/curvature
  - ✗ Needs reseeding under distorted velocity conditions

# Level set (signed distance) method



$$\begin{aligned}\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) &> 0 & \text{for} & \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ \phi(\mathbf{x}, t) &\leq 0 & \text{for} & \quad \mathbf{x} \notin \Omega\end{aligned}$$

- 5<sup>th</sup> order HJ-WENO scheme for the gradient operator
- 2<sup>nd</sup> order TVD RK for the time derivative



Re-initialization equation

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \tau} + S(\phi_0)(|\nabla \phi| - 1) = 0$$

$$S(\phi_0) = \frac{\phi_0}{\sqrt{\phi_0^2 + (\Delta x)^2}}.$$



# Hybrid particle-level set method

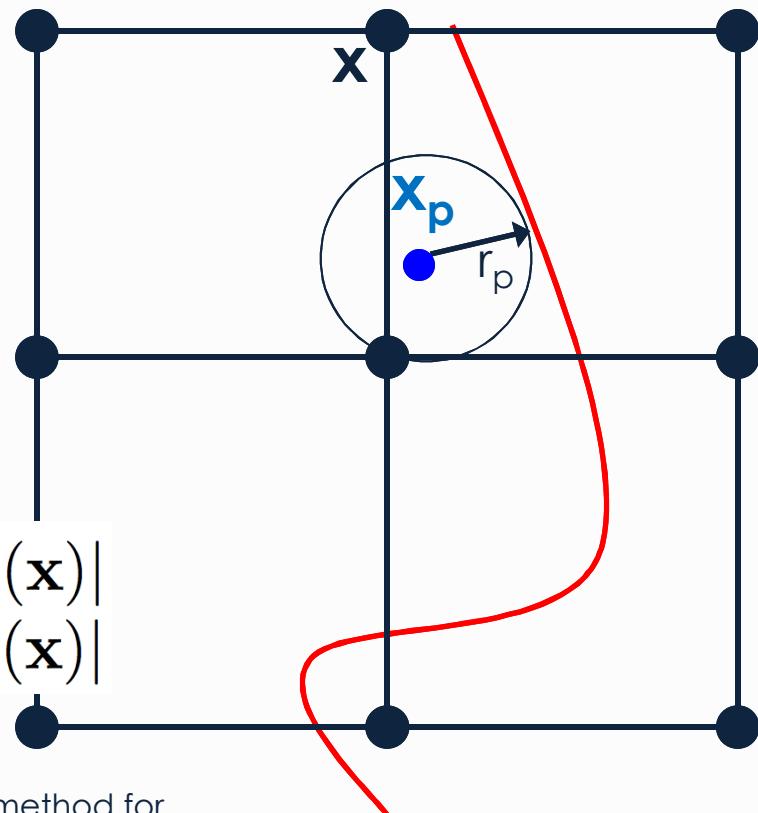
- Particles are placed near the interface and initialized with a sign and distance from the interface
- This information is used to update the level set field

$$\phi_p(\mathbf{x}) = s_p(r_p \pm |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_p|)$$

$$\phi^+(\mathbf{x}) = \max_{p \in E^+} (\phi_p, \phi)$$

$$\phi^-(\mathbf{x}) = \min_{p \in E^-} (\phi_p, \phi)$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \phi^+(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } |\phi^+(\mathbf{x})| \leq |\phi^-(\mathbf{x})| \\ \phi^-(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } |\phi^+(\mathbf{x})| > |\phi^-(\mathbf{x})| \end{cases}$$

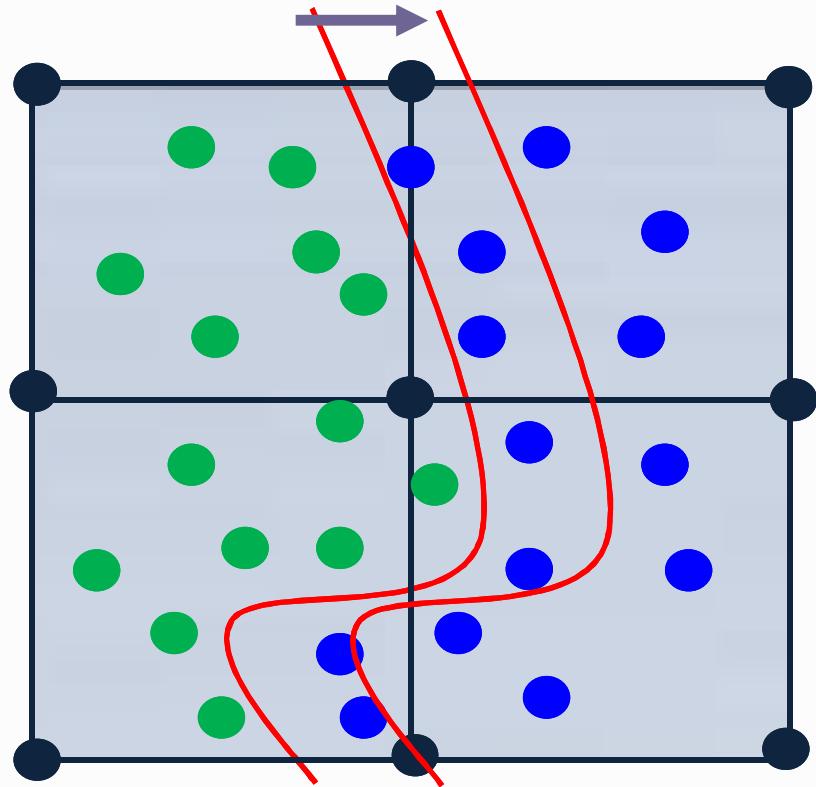
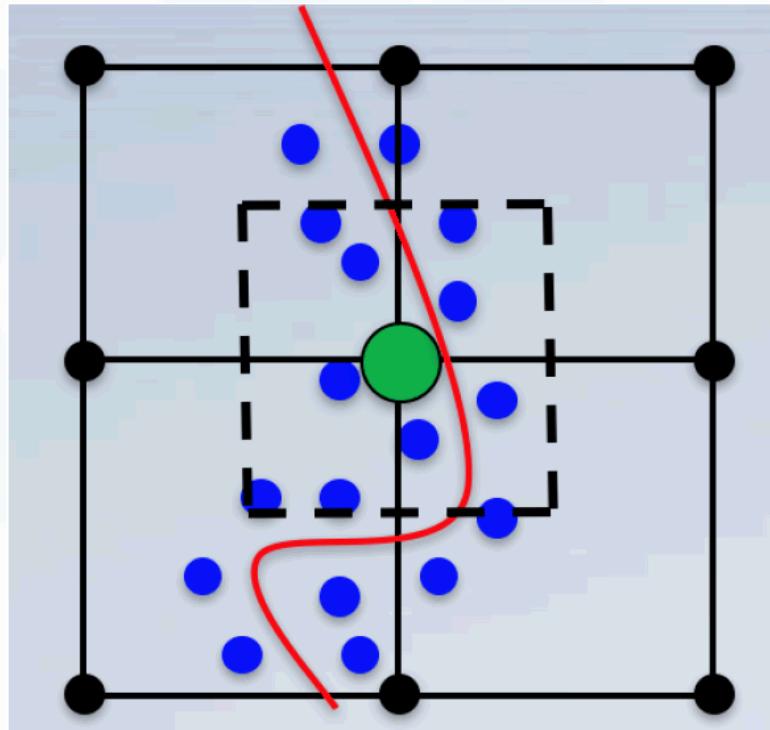


D. Enright, R. Fedkiw, J. Ferziger, I. Mitchell, A hybrid particle level set method for improved interface capturing, Journal of Computational Physics 183 (1) (2002) 83–116.

# Interpolative Particle Level Set Method



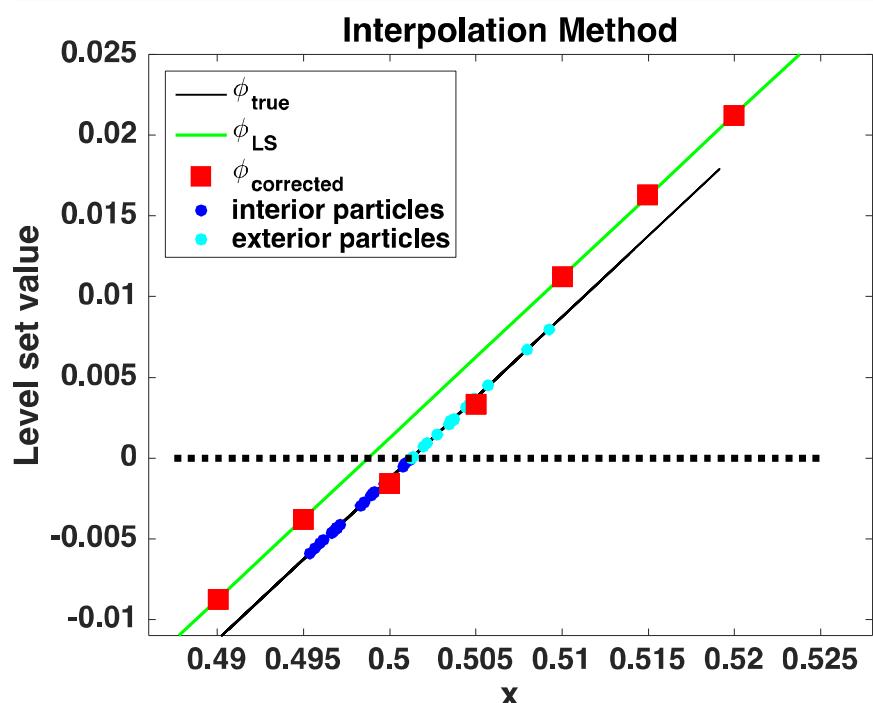
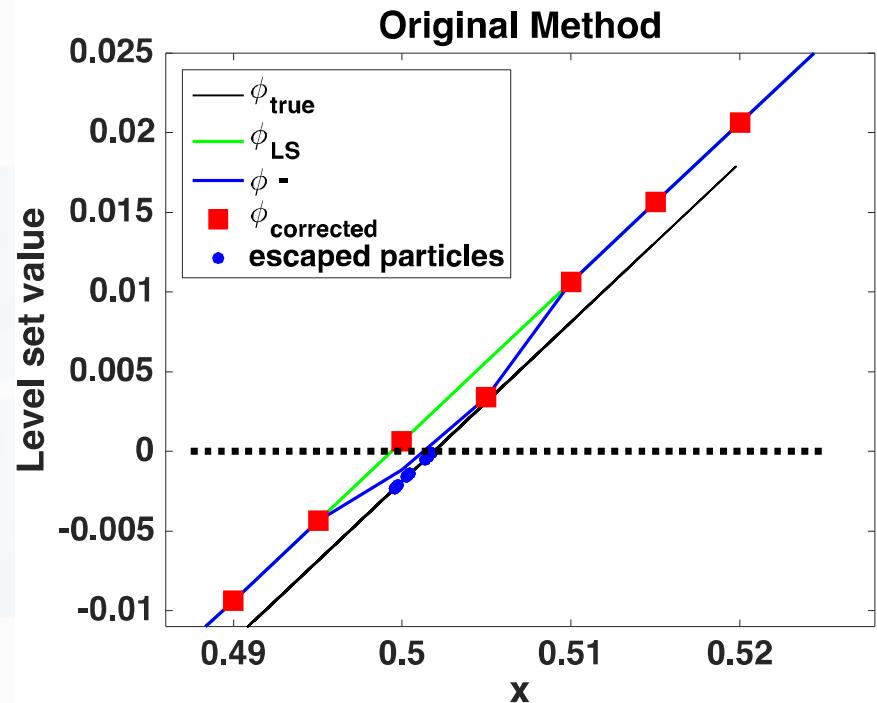
- We treat the particles as a form of Lagrangian refinement around the interface and use (bi/tri) linear interpolation to update the 'coarse' level set field on the grid, provided the number of particles near a grid point is sufficiently large.



# Particle Level Set Method Comparison



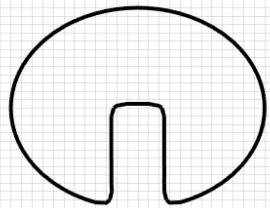
## Particle Level Set (PLS) Method<sup>1</sup> versus Interpolative PLS<sup>2</sup>



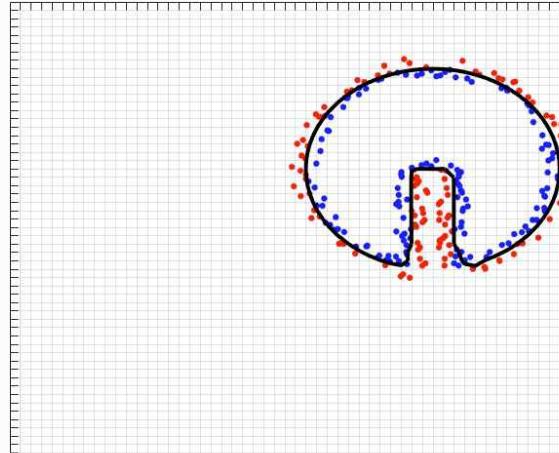
<sup>1</sup> Enright, Fedkiw, Ferziger, Mitchell, "A hybrid particle level set method for improved interface capturing," J. Comp. Phys. (2002).

<sup>2</sup> Erickson, Morris, Poliakoff, Templeton, "An interpolative particle level set method," in preparation.

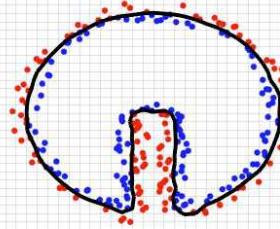
# Slotted disk test for numerical diffusion (rigid body rotation)



Level set method



Original particle level set method



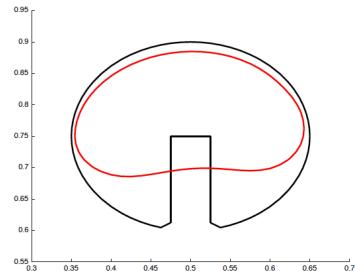
Interpolative PLS

Test for the method's ability to resolve sharp corners. (80 x 80 grid)

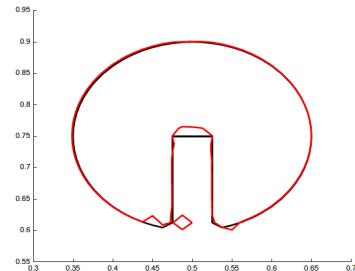
# Slotted disk grid refinement study results



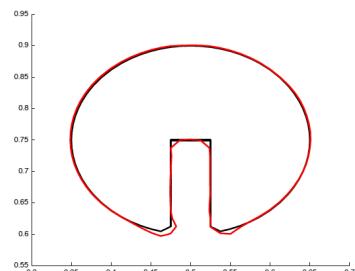
Grid size	40x40	80x80	160x160
Initial LS Volume	0.0623	0.0630	0.0632
Level Set Method	0.000	0.0451	0.0482
Particle Level Set	0.0680	0.0638	0.0509
Corrected PLS	0.0657	0.0645	0.0640
Interpolative PLS	0.0625	0.0633	0.0631



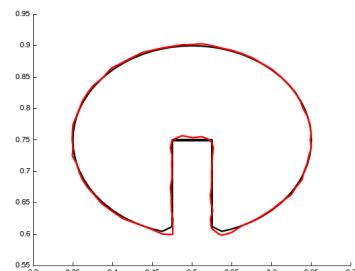
(a) Level set method



(b) PLS



(c) Corrected PLS

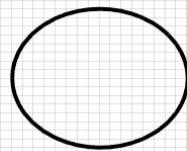


(d) IPLS

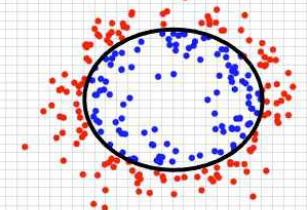
Time step	0.01	0.005	0.0025	0.00125
LS	0.0270	0.0346	0.0415	0.0451
PLS	0.0337	0.0482	0.0753	0.0638
CPLS	0.0684	0.0661	0.0651	0.0645
IPLS	0.0634	0.0633	0.0633	0.0633

Initial volume versus volume after a full rotation for three different levels of grid refinement. For both particle methods we use 5000 particles. The initial volumes are listed in this table, since this is a function of spatial discretization. The analytic volume of the slotted disk is 0.0632.

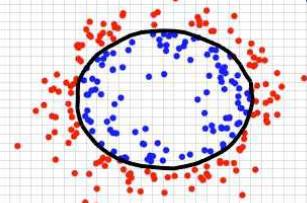
# Circle in a vortex flow test for resolving thin filaments (shearing)



Level set method



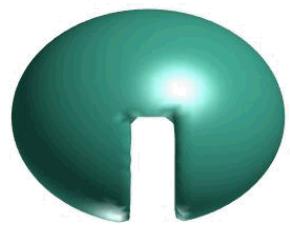
Original particle level set method



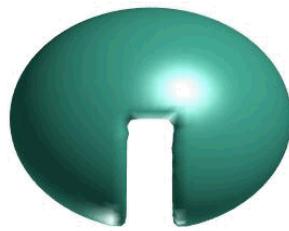
Interpolative PLS

Test for the method's ability to resolve thin filaments. (80 x 80 grid)  
Interpolative PLS is better able to capture the interface below the grid resolution

# 3D Slotted disk: Level set versus IPLS



**Level set method**



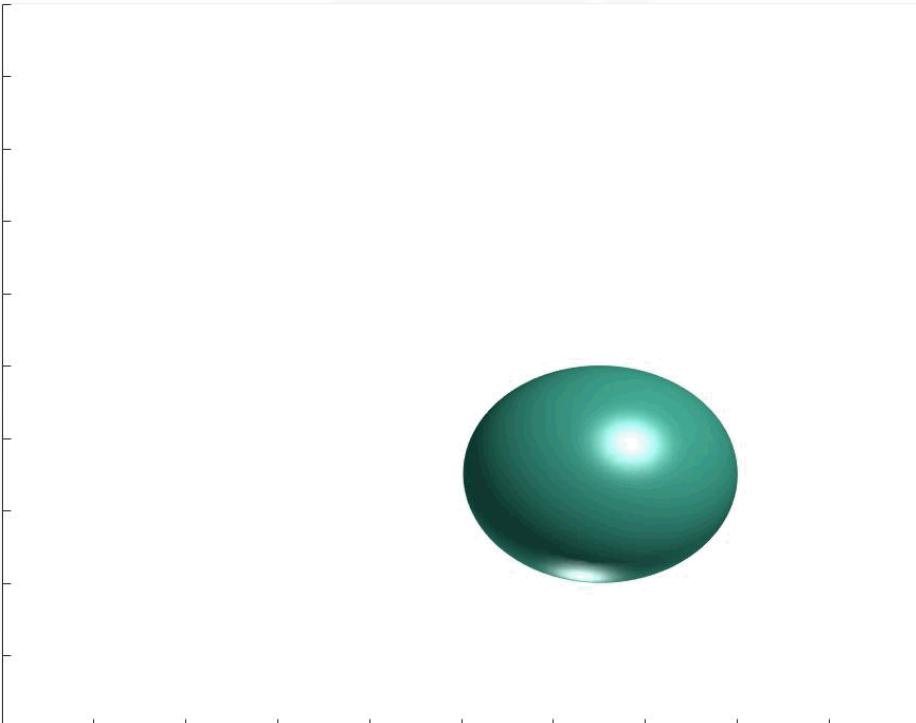
**Interpolative PLS**

Test for the method's ability to limit the effects of numerical diffusion  
(100 x 100 x 100 grid)

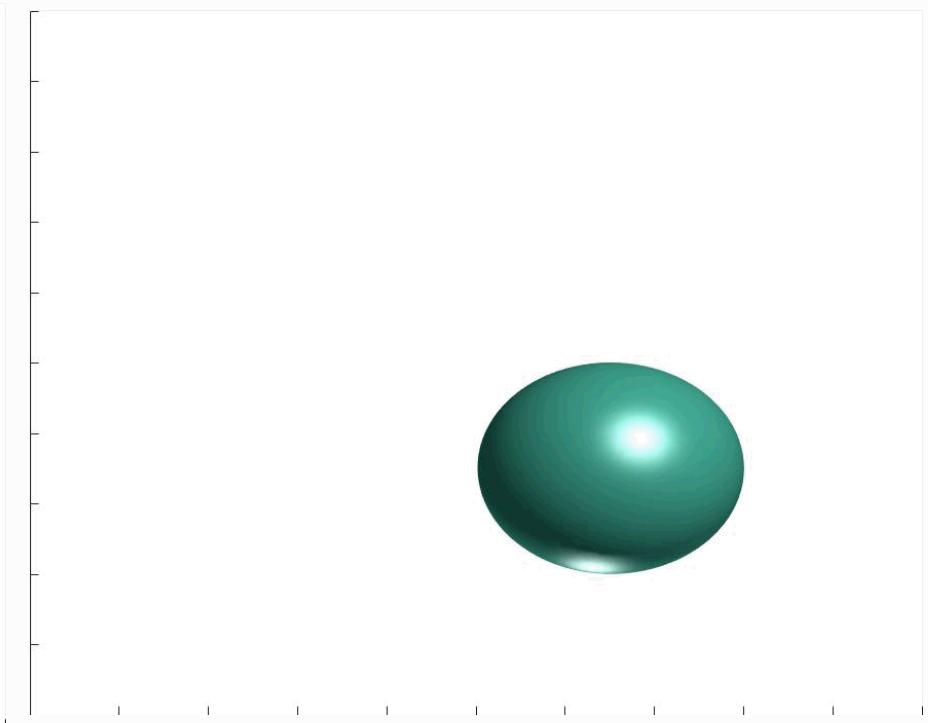
# 3D vortex flow: Level set versus IPLS



**Level set method**



**Interpolative PLS**

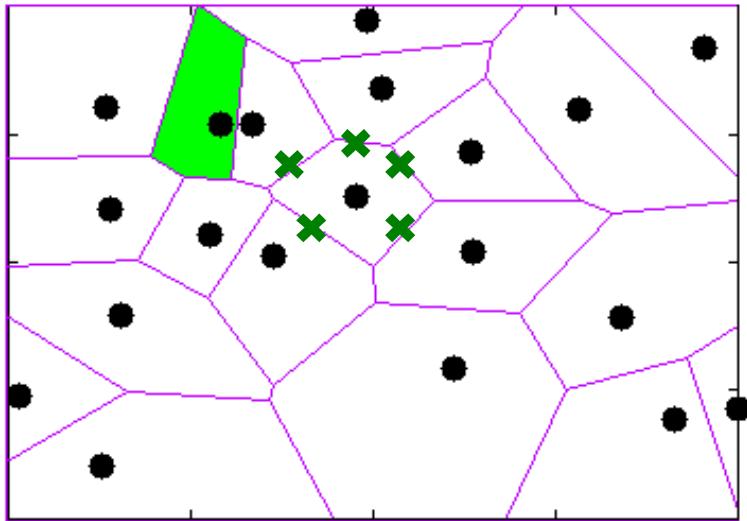


Test for the method's ability to resolve thin filaments (100 x 100 x 100 grid)

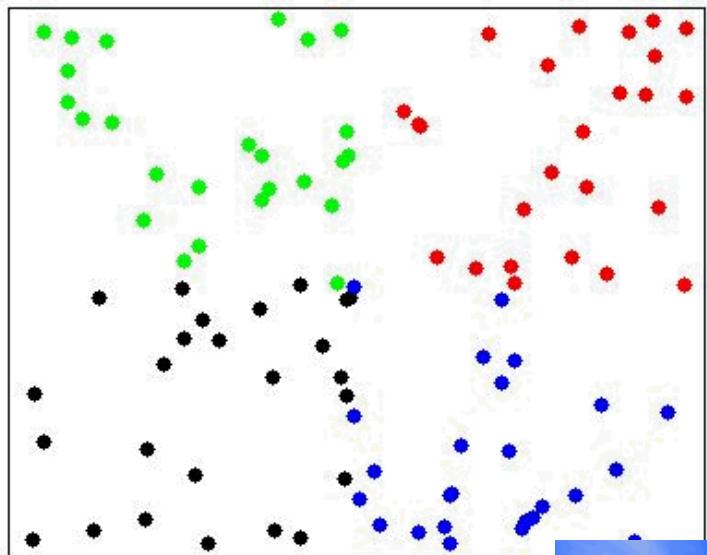


# Our mesh-free Moab software package

- Neighbor search and volume calculations: voronoi tessellation software (Voro++)
  - C++ software library for cell-based calculations
  - solve for cell volumes and stress point locations
  - nearest neighbor lists
  - has been successfully employed on very large particle systems
- Uses Trilinos (open source libraries developed at Sandia) packages for linear solvers and domain decomposition for parallel computations



Voro++ voronoi tessellation  
<http://math.lbl.gov/voro++/>



Zoltan2 repartitioning in *Trilinos*  
<https://trilinos.org>