

# Divergence-preserving unfitted FEM for the mixed Poisson problem

Christoph Lehrenfeld<sup>1</sup>, Tim van Beeck<sup>1</sup>, Igor Voulis<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Numerical and Applied  
Mathematics, University of Göttingen

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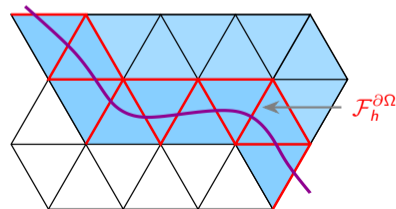
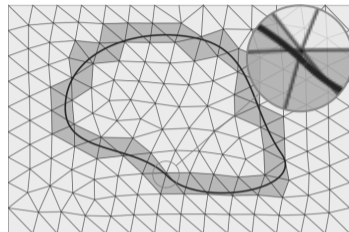
- PDEs on embedded surfaces, moving domains, separate geometry description
- Major challenge: Stability / Robustness w.r.t. **arbitrarily small cuts**



**Ghost penalty stabilization**<sup>1</sup>

$$\mathfrak{G}(u_h, v_h) := \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\partial\Omega}} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{h_F^{2l+1}}{l!^2} \int_F \llbracket \partial_n^l u_h \rrbracket \llbracket \partial_n^l v_h \rrbracket ds$$

- Stability through:  $\|u\|_{H^q(\Omega)} + |u|_{\mathfrak{G}} \simeq \|u\|_{H^q(\Omega^T)}$

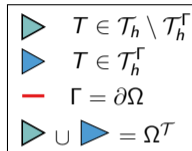
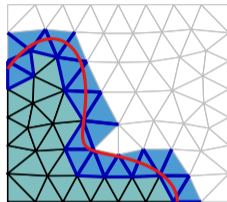


<sup>1</sup>E. Burman. Ghost penalty. C.R. Math., 348(21-22):1217–1220, November 2010.

## Model problem (Dirichlet case)

Find  $u, p$  with  $p = p_D$  on  $\partial\Omega$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned}u - \nabla p &= 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\ \operatorname{div} u &= -f \quad \text{in } \Omega.\end{aligned}$$



## Weak formulation - fitted mixed Poisson

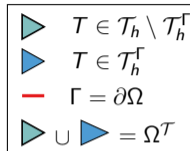
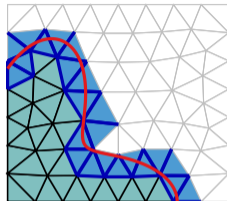
Find  $u_h \in \Sigma_h = \mathbb{RT}^k \subset H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)$ ,  $p_h \in Q_h = \mathbb{P}^k \subset L^2(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned}(u_h, v_h)_\Omega + (\operatorname{div} v_h, p_h)_\Omega &= (v_h, p_D)_{\partial\Omega} & \forall v_h \in \Sigma_h, \\ (\operatorname{div} u_h, q_h)_\Omega &= (-f, q_h)_\Omega & \forall q_h \in Q_h.\end{aligned}$$

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## Weak formulation - naive unfitted mixed Poisson

Find  $u_h \in \Sigma_h = \mathbb{RT}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) \subset H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega^\mathcal{T})$ ,  $p_h \in Q_h = \mathbb{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) \subset L^2(\Omega^\mathcal{T})$  s.t.

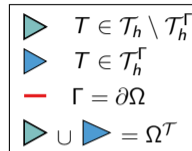
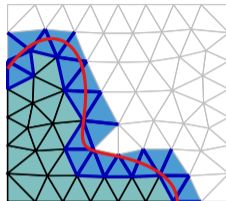
$$\begin{aligned}(u_h, v_h)_\Omega + (\operatorname{div} v_h, p_h)_\Omega &= (v_h, p_D)_{\partial\Omega} & \forall v_h \in \Sigma_h, \\ (\operatorname{div} u_h, q_h)_\Omega &= (-f, q_h)_\Omega & \forall q_h \in Q_h.\end{aligned}$$

→ Not stable / robust! inf-sup constant degenerates for small cuts

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$$\begin{aligned}
 (u_h, v_h)_\Omega + \text{ghost} + (\operatorname{div} v_h, p_h)_\Omega + \text{ghost} &= (v_h, p_D)_{\partial\Omega} && \forall v_h \in \Sigma_h, \\
 (\operatorname{div} u_h, q_h)_\Omega + \text{ghost} &= (-f, q_h)_\Omega && \forall q_h \in Q_h.
 \end{aligned}$$

→ Stable, but Ghost penalty **pollutes mass balance!**

## **Poisson / Darcy Problem:**

### **Mass balance polluted, stability:**

R. Puppi, *A cut finite element method for the Darcy problem*. arXiv: 2111.09922, 2021.

P. Cao, J. Chen, *An extended finite element method for coupled Darcy-Stokes problems*. IJNME, 2022

### **Mass balance hardly polluted, stability, divergence preserving:**

T. Frachon, P. Hansbo, E. Nilsson, S. Zahedi, *A Divergence Preserving Cut Finite Element Method for Darcy Flow*. SIAM Journal of Sci. Comp., 2024.

## **Stokes Problem:**

T. Frachon, E. Nilsson, Sara Zahedi, *Divergence-free cut finite element methods for Stokes flow*. arXiv:2304.14230, 2023.

### **Same idea as our approach:**

E. Burman, P. Hansbo, M. G. Larson, *Cut Finite Element Method for Divergence-Free Approximation of Incompressible Flow: A Lagrange Multiplier Approach*. SIAM Journal of Num. Anal., 2024.

## Stability of Saddle Point Problems<sup>2</sup>

Set  $a(u_h, v_h) := (u_h, v_h)_\Omega$  and  $b(v_h, p_h) = (\operatorname{div} v_h, p_h)_\Omega$ .

→ coercivity of  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  on  $\ker b$ :

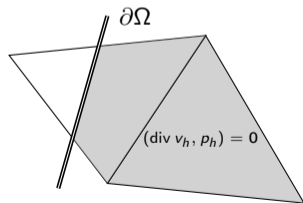
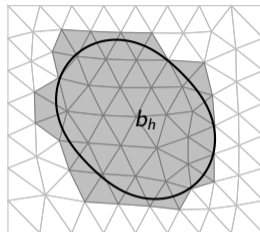
✓ (since  $a(u_h, u_h) = \|u_h\|_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)}$  on  $\ker b$ ).

→ inf-sup stability of  $b(\cdot, \cdot)$  on  $\Sigma_h \times Q_h$ :

✗ (constant degenerates for small cuts).

Let  $b_h(v_h, p_h) := (\operatorname{div} v_h, p_h)_{\Omega^T}$ . Then:

$$\ker b = \ker b_h.$$



<sup>2</sup> cf. e.g., D. Boffi, F. Brezzi, M. Fortin, Mixed FEM and Applications, Springer, 2013.

## Stability of Saddle Point Problems<sup>2</sup>

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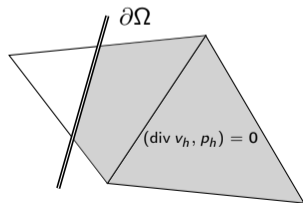
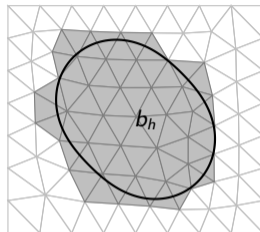
→ inf-sup stability of  $b_h(\cdot, \cdot)$  on  $\Sigma_h \times Q_h$ :

✓ (constant independent of cut position)

Let  $b_h(v_h, p_h) := (\operatorname{div} v_h, p_h)_{\Omega \setminus \mathcal{T}}$ . Then:

$$\ker b = \ker b_h.$$

→ Replace  $b$  by  $b_h$  !



<sup>2</sup> cf. e.g., D. Boffi, F. Brezzi, M. Fortin, Mixed FEM and Applications, Springer, 2013.



## Stable unfitted mixed Poisson

For  $\gamma_{\text{cut}} \geq 0$ , find  $u_h \in \Sigma_h = \text{RT}^k(\mathcal{T}_h)$ ,  $\bar{p}_h \in Q_h = \mathbb{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h)$  s.t.

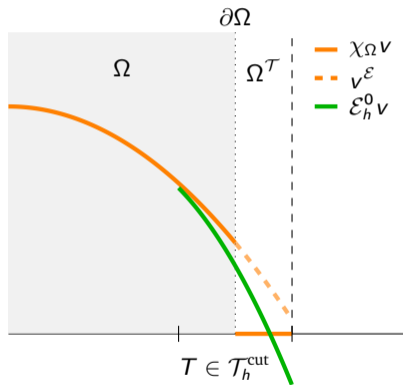
$$\begin{aligned} (u_h, v_h)_\Omega + \gamma_{\text{cut}} (u_h, v_h) + (\text{div } v_h, \bar{p}_h)_{\Omega^T} &= (v_h, p_D)_{\partial\Omega} & \forall v_h \in \Sigma_h, \\ (\text{div } u_h, q_h)_{\Omega^T} &= (-f_h, q_h)_{\Omega^T} & \forall q_h \in Q_h. \end{aligned}$$

- $f_h$  is a suitable discrete extension of  $f$  to  $\Omega^T$  (in the sense that it approximates  $f^\mathcal{E}$  well)
- Inf-sup stable independent of cut position, consistent for  $u$  (up to  $f_h \approx f$ ), consistent for  $p$  on interior elements
- But: inconsistent for  $p$  on cut elements

Define  $\mathcal{E}_h^0 : L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow Q_h, v \mapsto \Pi^Q(\chi_\Omega v)$  s.t.

$$(\mathcal{E}_h^0 q, r_h)_{\Omega^T} = (q, r_h)_\Omega \quad \forall r_h \in Q_h.$$

- $(\operatorname{div} v_h, q)_\Omega = (\operatorname{div} v_h, \mathcal{E}_h^0 q)_{\Omega^T}$
- $\bar{p}_h \approx \mathcal{E}_h^0 p$
- $\bar{p}_h \approx p$  on  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{interior}}$
- $\bar{p}_h \not\approx p$  on  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{cut}}$



Norm on  $H(\text{div}, \Omega^T)$ :

$$\|u\|_{\Sigma}^2 := \|\text{div } u\|_{\Omega^T}^2 + \|u\|_{\Omega_\gamma}^2, \quad \|u\|_{\Omega_\gamma}^2 := \begin{cases} \|u\|_{\Omega^T}^2 & \text{if } \gamma_{\text{ext}} > 0, \\ \|u\|_{\Omega}^2 & \text{if } \gamma_{\text{ext}} = 0. \end{cases}$$

$p^\mathcal{E}$  smooth Sobolev extension of  $p$ ,  $u^\mathcal{E} = \nabla p^\mathcal{E}$ ,  $f^\mathcal{E} = -\text{div } u^\mathcal{E}$ .

## Theorem (Error estimate for $u_h$ )

For  $u \in H^m(\Omega)$  with  $m \in \{0, \dots, k+1\}$ , there holds

$$\|\bar{p}_h - \mathcal{E}_h^0 p\|_{L^2(\Omega^T)} + \|u^\mathcal{E} - u_h\|_{\Sigma} + |u_h|_{\text{ext}} \lesssim h^m \|u\|_{H^m(\Omega)} + \|\Pi^Q f^\mathcal{E} - f_h\|_{\Omega^T}.$$

## Theorem

For  $\Omega$  smooth enough to assume  $L^2$ - $H^2$  regularity, there holds

$$\|\bar{p}_h - \mathcal{E}_h^0 p\|_{L^2(\Omega^T)} \lesssim h \left( \|u_h - u\|_{L^2(\Omega)} + \gamma_{\text{ext}}^{1/2} |u|_{\text{ext}} \right) + \|f - f_h\|_{-2}.$$

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## Motivation

Apply post-processing to

- repair inconsistency on cut elements
- obtain higher order convergence

## Idea

Make use of the relation  $\nabla p = u$  and exploit the accuracy of  $u_h$ .

## Two versions

- element-wise post-processing
- patchwise post-processing

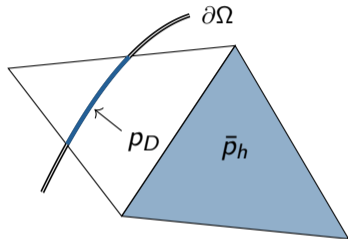
## Element-local Scheme

For each  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h$ , find  $p_h^* \in \mathbb{P}^{k+1}(T)$  s.t.

$$(\nabla p_h^*, \nabla q_h^*)_T = (u_h, \nabla q_h^*)_T \quad \forall q_h^* \in \mathbb{P}^{k+1}(T) \setminus \mathbb{R},$$

$$(p_h^*, 1)_T = (\bar{p}_h, 1)_T \quad \text{if } T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{interior}},$$

$$(p_h^*, 1)_{T \cap \partial\Omega} = (p_D, 1)_{T \cap \partial\Omega} \quad \text{if } T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{cut}}.$$



## Error estimate

If  $\gamma_{\text{Dof}} > 0$  and  $p^\mathcal{E} \in H^{k+2}(\Omega^T)$ , then

$$\|p^\mathcal{E} - p_h^*\|_{L^2(\Omega^T)} \lesssim h^{k+2} \|p^\mathcal{E}\|_{H^{k+2}(\Omega^T)}.$$

## Patchwise Scheme

For each  $\omega \in \mathcal{T}_\omega$ , find  $p_h^* \in \mathbb{P}^{k+1}(\omega)$  s.t. for all  $q_h^* \in \mathbb{P}^{k+1}(\omega) \setminus \mathbb{R}$ :

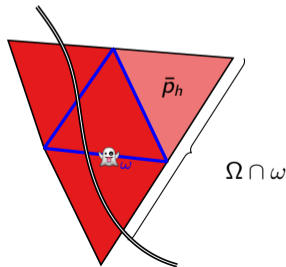
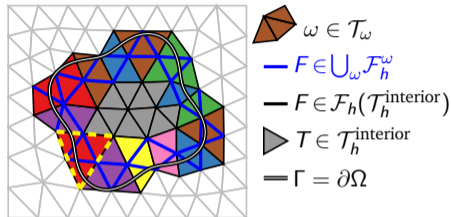
$$\begin{aligned}
 (\nabla p_h^*, \nabla q_h^*)_{\Omega \cap \omega} + \mathfrak{G}_\omega(p_h^*, q_h^*) &= (u_h, \nabla q_h^*)_{\Omega \cap \omega}, \\
 (p_h^*, 1)_{\Omega^{\text{interior}} \cap \omega} &= (\bar{p}_h, 1)_{\Omega^{\text{interior}} \cap \omega}.
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## Error estimate

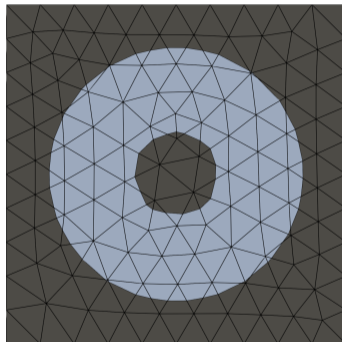
For  $p \in H^{k+2}(\Omega)$ , it holds

$$\|p - p_h^*\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \lesssim h^{k+2} \|p\|_{H^{k+2}(\Omega)}$$

- no dependence on Dirichlet boundary data
- $\gamma_{\mathfrak{G}} = 0$  allowed (hybridization possible)



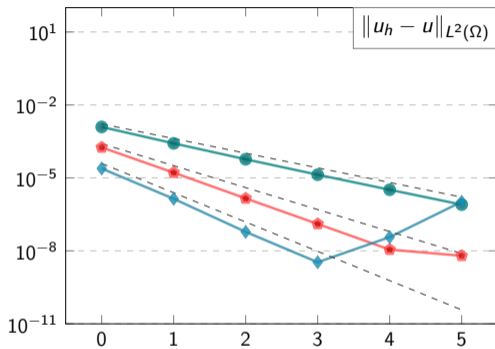
- manufactured solution
- geometry description via levelset
- $\mathbb{RT}^k \times \mathbb{P}^k$
- isoparametric<sup>3</sup> unfitted FEM
- uniform refinements



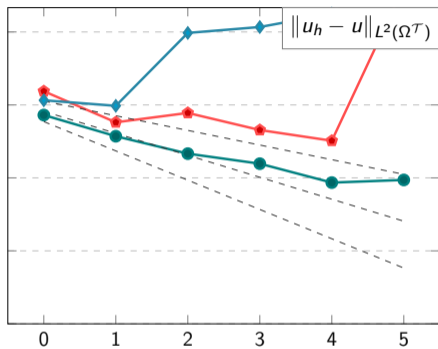
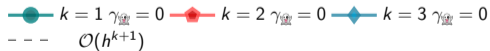
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<sup>3</sup>C. Lehrenfeld. High order unfitted finite element methods on level set domains using isoparametric mappings. CMAME 300, 2016.

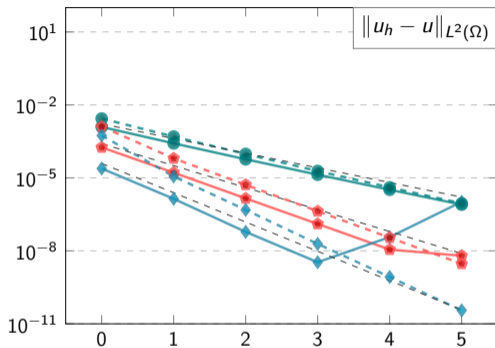




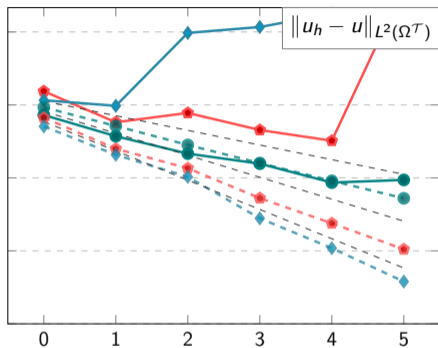
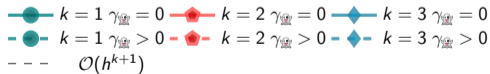
refinement level  $L$



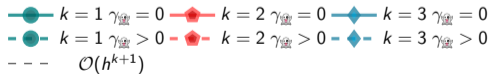
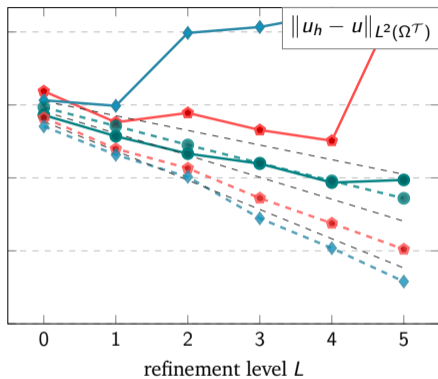
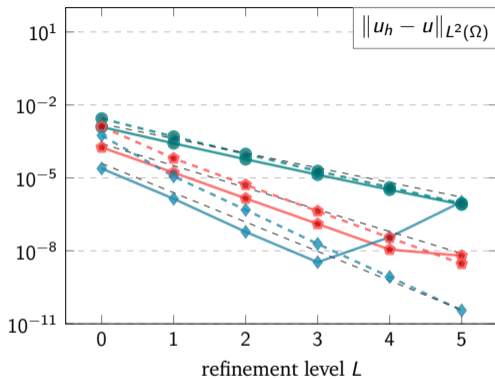
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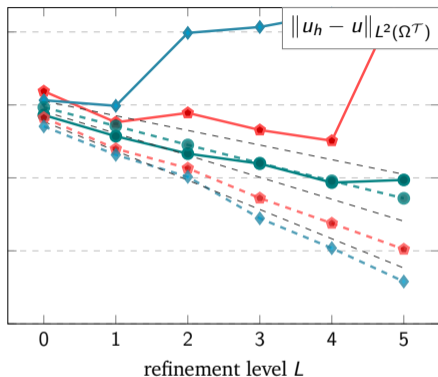
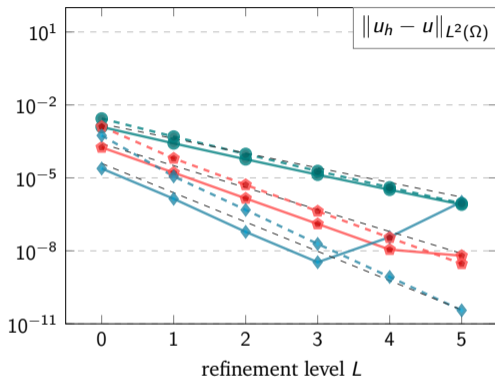
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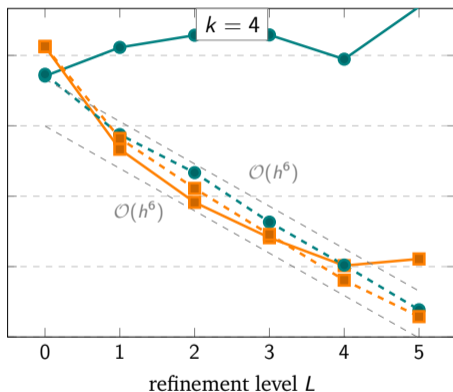
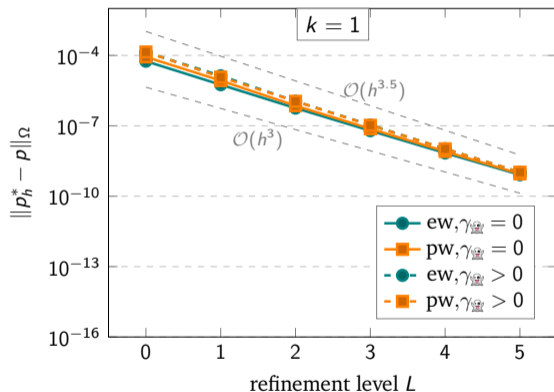
→ for accuracy on  $\Omega^T$ ,  $\gamma_{\Omega} > 0$  is necessary



●  $k=1$   $\gamma_{\Omega} = 0$     ■  $k=2$   $\gamma_{\Omega} = 0$     ◆  $k=3$   $\gamma_{\Omega} = 0$   
- - - ●  $k=1$   $\gamma_{\Omega} > 0$     - - - ■  $k=2$   $\gamma_{\Omega} > 0$     - - - ◆  $k=3$   $\gamma_{\Omega} > 0$   
- - -  $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1})$

→ for accuracy on  $\Omega^T$ ,  $\gamma_{\Omega} > 0$  is necessary


→ for accuracy on  $\Omega$ ,  $\gamma_{\Omega} = 0$  is possible but conditioning issues possible



## Unfitted Mixed FEM

- by extending  $b$  to  $b_h$  ( $\Omega$  to  $\Omega^T$ ), we achieve **inf-sup stability without polluting the mass balance**
- post-processing allows to **repair the inconsistency** on cut elements and to obtain higher order convergence:
  - Element-wise post processing: requires Dirichlet boundary data,  $\gamma_{\text{cut}} > 0$  necessary
  - Patchwise post processing: no dependence on boundary data,  $\gamma_{\text{cut}} = 0$  allowed
- Hybridization possible ( $\gamma_{\text{cut}} = 0$ ), but **condition number** unbounded

## Got interested?

 C. Lehrenfeld, TvB, I. Voulis, "Analysis of divergence-preserving unfitted finite element methods for the mixed Poisson problem" (2023), <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2306.12722>, (accepted for publication in Math. Comp. ).

