

# Bsc Thesis

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Cahn Hillard Equation Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	<b>TODO</b> Derivation from paper . . . . .	2
1.1.1	Free energy . . . . .	2
1.1.2	Derivation by mass balance . . . . .	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Baseline Multigrid solver:</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Discretization: ATTACH . . . . .	3
2.2	adaptations to the simplified problem . . . . .	4
2.3	tests <sub>data</sub> : . . . . .	5
2.3.1	squares . . . . .	5
2.3.2	circles . . . . .	6
2.4	Tests . . . . .	6
<b>3</b>	<b>Relaxed Problem</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	<b>TODO</b> relaxed operators: . . . . .	7
3.1.1	L Relaxed . . . . .	7
3.1.2	SMOOTH . . . . .	7
3.2	Elliptical PDE: . . . . .	8
3.2.1	Discretization ATTACH . . . . .	8
<b>4</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>9</b>

## 1 Cahn Hillard Equation Overview

Partial Differential Equation (PDE) solving the state of a 2 Phase Fluid[2].  
The form of the Cahn Hillard Equation used for the remainder of this thesis

is:

$$\phi_t(x, t) = \Delta\mu \quad (1)$$

$$\mu = -\varepsilon^2 \Delta\phi + W'(\phi) \quad (2)$$

where  $\phi$  is the so called phase field. Demarking the different states of the fluids through an Interval  $I = [-1, 1]$  and where  $\partial I = \{-1, 1\}$  represents full state of one fluid.  $\varepsilon > 0$  is a positive constant

, and  $\mu$  is the chemical potential[2]. While the Cahn Hillard exist in a more general form taking the fluids mobility  $M(\Phi)$  into account, we will assume  $M(\Phi) = 1$ , simplifying the CH-Equations used in[2][1] to what is stated above.

The Advantages of the Cahn Hillard Approach as compared to traditional fluid dynamics solvers are for example: “explicit tracking of the interface” [2], as well as “evolution of complex geometries and topological changes [...] in a natural way” [2]

## 1.1 TODO Derivation from paper

### 1.1.1 Free energy

The Cahn Hillard Equations can be motivated Using a **Ginzburg Landau** type free energy equation:

$$E^{\text{bulk}} = \int_{\Omega} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} |\nabla\phi|^2 + W(\phi) dx$$

where  $W(\phi)$  denotes the (Helmholtz) free energy density of mixing.“” [2] and will be approximated in further calculations as  $W(\phi) = \frac{(1-\phi^2)^2}{4}$  as used in[1]

The chemical potential then follows as derivative of Energy in respect to time.

$$\mu = \frac{\delta E_{\text{bulk}}(\phi)}{\delta\phi} = -\varepsilon^2 \Delta\phi + W'(\phi)$$

### 1.1.2 Derivation by mass balance

The Cahn Hillard equation then can be motivated as follows: consider

$$\partial_t\phi + \nabla J = 0 \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathbf{J}$  is mass flux. eq1 then states that the change in mass balances the change of the phasefield. using the no-flux boundry conditions:

$$J \cdot n = 0 \quad \partial\Omega \times (0, T) \quad (4)$$

$$\partial_n \phi = 0 \quad \partial\Omega \times (0, T) \quad (5)$$

conservation of mass follows see[2].

using:

$$J = -\nabla\mu \quad (6)$$

which conceptionally sets mass flux to equalize the the potential energy gradient, leads to the formulation of the CH equations as stated above. additionally the boundry conditions evaluate to:

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla\mu &= 0 \\ \partial_n \phi &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

ie no flow leaves and potential on the border doesn't change. then for  $\phi$  then follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} E^{bulk}(\phi(t)) &= \int_{\Omega} (\varepsilon^2 \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \partial_t \phi + W'(\phi) \partial_t \phi) \, dx \\ &= - \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \mu|^2 \, dx, \quad \forall t \in (0, T) \end{aligned}$$

hence the Free Energy is decreasing in time.

## 2 Baseline Multigrid solver:

As baseline for further experiments a multi grid method based on finite differences by[1]. is used.

### 2.1 Discretization:

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it discretizes the phasefield and potential energy  $\phi, \mu$  into a grid wise functions  $\phi_{ij}, \mu_{ij}$  and defines the partial derivatives  $D_x f_{ij}, D_y f_{ij}$  using the differential quotients:

$$D_x f_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} = \frac{f_{i+1j} - f_{ij}}{h} \quad D_y f_{ij+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{f_{ij+1} - f_{ij}}{h}$$

for  $\nabla f, \Delta f$  then follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_d f_{ij} &= (D_x f_{i+1j}, D_y f_{ij+1}) \\ \Delta_d f_{ij} &= \frac{D_x f_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} - D_x f_{i-\frac{1}{2}j} + D_y f_{ij+\frac{1}{2}} - D_y f_{ij-\frac{1}{2}}}{h} = \nabla_d \cdot \nabla_d f_{ij}\end{aligned}$$

the authors further adapt the discretized phasefield by the characteristic function of the domain  $\Omega$ :

$$G(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & (x, y) \in \Omega \\ 0 & (x, y) \notin \Omega \end{cases}$$

To account for boundary conditions and arbitrary shaped domains. The authors [1] then define the discrete CH Equation adapted for Domain, as:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\phi_{i+1j} - \phi_{ij}}{\Delta t} &= \nabla_d \cdot (G_{ij} \nabla_d \mu_{ij}^{n+1}) \\ \mu_{ij}^{n+1} &= 2\phi_{ij}^{n+1} - \varepsilon^2 \nabla_d \cdot (G_{ij} \nabla_d \phi_{ij}^{n+1}) + W'(\phi_{ij}^n) - 2\phi_{ij}^n\end{aligned}$$

and derive the iteration operator  $L(\phi^{n+1}, \mu^{n+\frac{1}{2}}) = (\zeta^n, \psi^n)$

$$L \begin{pmatrix} \phi^{n+1} \\ \mu^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\phi^{n+1}}{\Delta t} - \nabla_d \cdot (G_{ij} \nabla_d \mu^{n+\frac{1}{2}}) \\ \varepsilon^2 \nabla_d \cdot (G_{ij} \nabla_d \phi_{ij}^{n+1}) - 2\phi_{ij}^{n+1} + \mu_{ij}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

initialized as  $(\zeta^n, \psi^n) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\phi_{ij}^{n+1}}{\Delta t} \\ W'(\phi_{ij}^n) - 2\phi_{ij}^n \end{pmatrix}$  the algorithm is then defined as:

wherein SMOOTH consists of point-wise Gauß Seidel Relaxation , by solving  $L$  for  $\bar{\phi}, \bar{\mu}$  with the initial guess for  $\zeta^n, \psi^n$ .

## 2.2 adaptations to the simplified problem

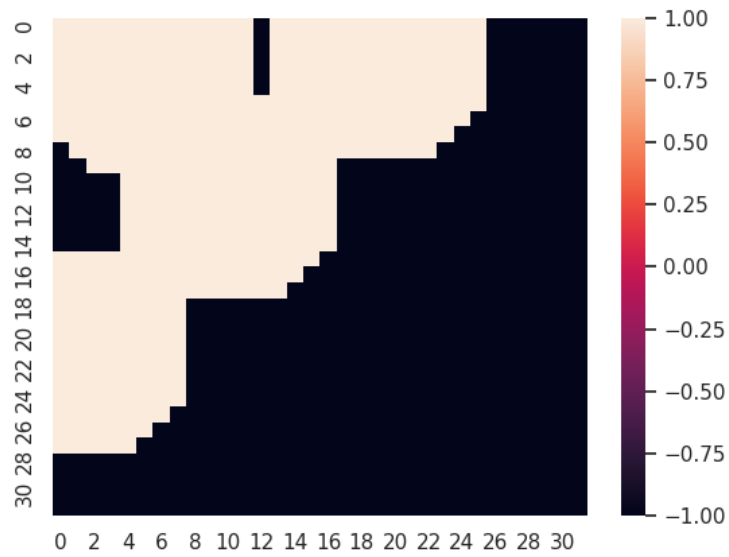
even tough this work uses rectangular domains, the adaptation of the algorithm is simplified by the domain indicator function, as well as 0 padding, in order to correctly include the boundary conditions of the CH equation. therefore the internal representation of the adapted algorithm considers phasefield and potential field  $\phi, \mu$  as 2D arrays of shape  $(N_x + 2, N_y + 2)$  in order to accommodate padding. Where  $N_x$  and  $N_y$  are the number of steps in x- / y-Direction respectively. Hence, we define the discrete domain function as:

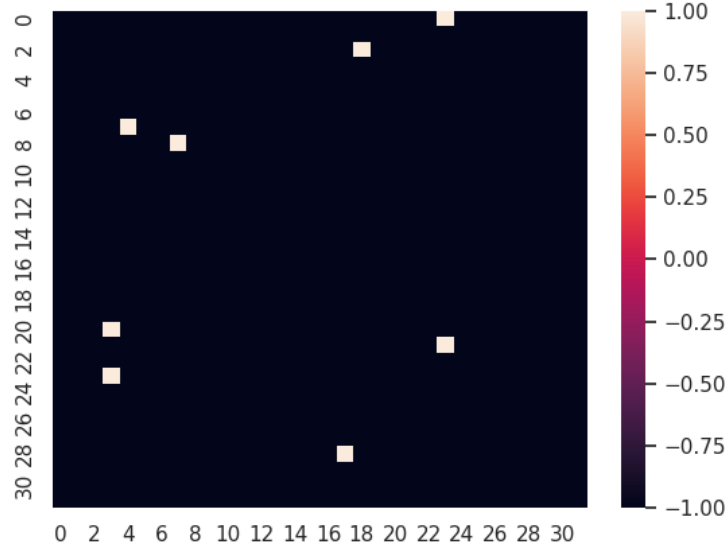
$$G_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & (i, j) \in [1, N_x + 1] \times [1, N_y + 1] \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

## 2.3 tests<sub>data</sub>:

### 2.3.1 squares

For testting and later training , a multitude o different phasefields where used. notably an assortment of rnadomly lpaced circles, squares, and arbertrary generated values





### 2.3.2 circles

## 2.4 Tests

---

```

1 test_phase = tu.k_spheres_phase(4,7)
2 solver = tu.setup_solver(test_phase)
3 solver.solve(4,100)

```

---



---

```

1 plt.figure()
2 sns.heatmap(solver.phase_small)

```

---

## 3 Relaxed Problem

In effort to decrease the order of complexity, the following relaxation to the classical CH Equation is proposed:

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \phi &= \Delta \mu \\ \mu &= \varepsilon^2 (c^\alpha - \phi^\alpha) + W'(\phi)\end{aligned}$$

where  $c$  is the solution of the following elliptical PDE

$$-\Delta c^\alpha + \alpha c^\alpha = \alpha \phi^\alpha$$

### 3.1 TODO relaxed operators:

#### 3.1.1 L Relaxed

$$L\left(\phi^{n+1}\right) = \left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{\phi_{ij}^{n+1,m}}{\Delta t} - \nabla_d \cdot (G_{ji} \nabla_d \mu_{ji}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m}) \\ \varepsilon^2(c^\alpha - (\phi_{ij}^{n+1,m})^\alpha) - 2\phi_{ij}^{n+1,m} - \mu_{ji}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} \end{array} \right)$$

#### 3.1.2 SMOOTH

$$SMOOTH(\phi_{ij}^{n+1,m}, \mu_{ji}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m}, L_h, \zeta^n, \psi^n)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mu}_{ji}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} &= \frac{\phi_{ij}^{n+1,m}}{\Delta t} - \zeta_{ij}^n \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{h^2} (G_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} \mu_{i+1j}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} + G_{i-1j} \mu_{i-1j}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} + G_{ij+1} \mu_{ij+1}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} + G_{ij-1} \mu_{ij-1}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m}) \\ &\quad \cdot (G_{i+1j} + G_{i-1j} + G_{ij+1} + G_{ij-1})^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\varepsilon^2(\bar{\phi}_{ij}^{n+1,m})^\alpha + 2\phi_{ij}^{n+1,m} = \varepsilon^2 c^\alpha - \mu_{ji}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} - \psi_{ij}$$

1. Proposal design newton method to solve second equation (in conjunction with the first one) hopefully solving is faster than the original multiple SMOOTH Iterations. The iteration is to solve for  $\phi_{ij}^{n+1,m}$  as free variable. Therefore it follows for  $F(x)$

$$F(x) = \varepsilon^2 x^\alpha + 2x - \varepsilon^2 c^\alpha + y + \psi_{ij}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \frac{x}{\Delta t} - \zeta_{ij}^n \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{h^2} (G_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} \mu_{i+1j}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} + G_{i-1j} \mu_{i-1j}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} + G_{ij+1} \mu_{ij+1}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m} + G_{ij-1} \mu_{ij-1}^{n+\frac{1}{2},m}) \\ &\quad \cdot (G_{i+1j} + G_{i-1j} + G_{ij+1} + G_{ij-1})^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

And the derivative for the iteration is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} F(x) &= \alpha \varepsilon^2 x^{\alpha-1} + 2 + \frac{d}{dx} y \\ \frac{d}{dx} y &= \frac{1}{\Delta t} \end{aligned}$$

### 3.2 Elliptical PDE:

on order to solve the relaxed CH Equation the following PDE as to be solved in Each additional time step: or in terms of the characteristic function:

$$-\nabla \cdot (G \nabla c^\alpha) + \alpha c^\alpha = \alpha \phi^\alpha$$

#### 3.2.1 Discretization

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Discretization of the PDE

$$\begin{aligned} & -\nabla_d \cdot (G_{ij} \nabla_d c_{ij}^\alpha) + \alpha c_{ij}^\alpha = \alpha \phi_{ij}^\alpha \\ & -\left(\frac{1}{h}(G_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} \nabla c_{i+\frac{1}{2}j}^\alpha + G_{ij+\frac{1}{2}} \nabla c_{ij+\frac{1}{2}}^\alpha) \right. \\ & \left. - (G_{i-\frac{1}{2}j} \nabla c_{i-\frac{1}{2}j}^\alpha + G_{ij-\frac{1}{2}} \nabla c_{ij-\frac{1}{2}}^\alpha)) + \alpha c_{ij}^\alpha = \alpha \phi_{ij}^\alpha \right. \\ & \quad - \frac{1}{h^2} (G_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} (c_{i+1j}^\alpha - c_{ij}^\alpha) \\ & \quad + G_{ij+\frac{1}{2}} (c_{ij+1}^\alpha - c_{ij}^\alpha) \\ & \quad + G_{i-\frac{1}{2}j} (c_{i-1j}^\alpha - c_{ij}^\alpha) \\ & \quad \left. + G_{ij-\frac{1}{2}} (c_{ij-1}^\alpha - c_{ij}^\alpha)) + \alpha c_{ij}^\alpha = \alpha \phi_{ij}^\alpha \right. \end{aligned}$$

proposed simple solver: Let  $F, dF$  be:

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) = & -\frac{1}{h^2} ( \\ & G_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} c_{i+1j}^\alpha + G_{i-\frac{1}{2}j} c_{i-1j}^\alpha \\ & + G_{ij+\frac{1}{2}} c_{ij+1}^\alpha + G_{ij-\frac{1}{2}} c_{ij-1}^\alpha \\ & + (G_{i+\frac{1}{2}j} + G_{i-\frac{1}{2}j} + G_{ij+\frac{1}{2}} + G_{ij-\frac{1}{2}}) c_{ij}^\alpha \end{aligned}$$

solve equation for  $c_{ij}^\alpha$  and then iteratively update the entire phasefield using the already updated values:



## 4 References

### References

- [1] Jaemin Shin, Darae Jeong, and Junseok Kim. “A conservative numerical method for the Cahn–Hilliard equation in complex domains”. In: *Journal of Computational Physics* 230.19 (2011), pp. 7441–7455. ISSN: 0021-9991. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcp.2011.06.009>. URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0021999111003585>.
- [2] Hao Wu. “A review on the Cahn–Hilliard equation: classical results and recent advances in dynamic boundary conditions”. In: *Electronic Research Archive* 30.8 (2022), pp. 2788–2832. DOI: 10.3934/era.2022143. URL: <https://doi.org/10.3934/era.2022143>.