

A fully adaptive Poisson solver for smooth two-dimensional domains



Alex Barnett

Daniel Fortunato
Flatiron Institute



David Stein

Introduction

Inhomogeneous elliptic BVP

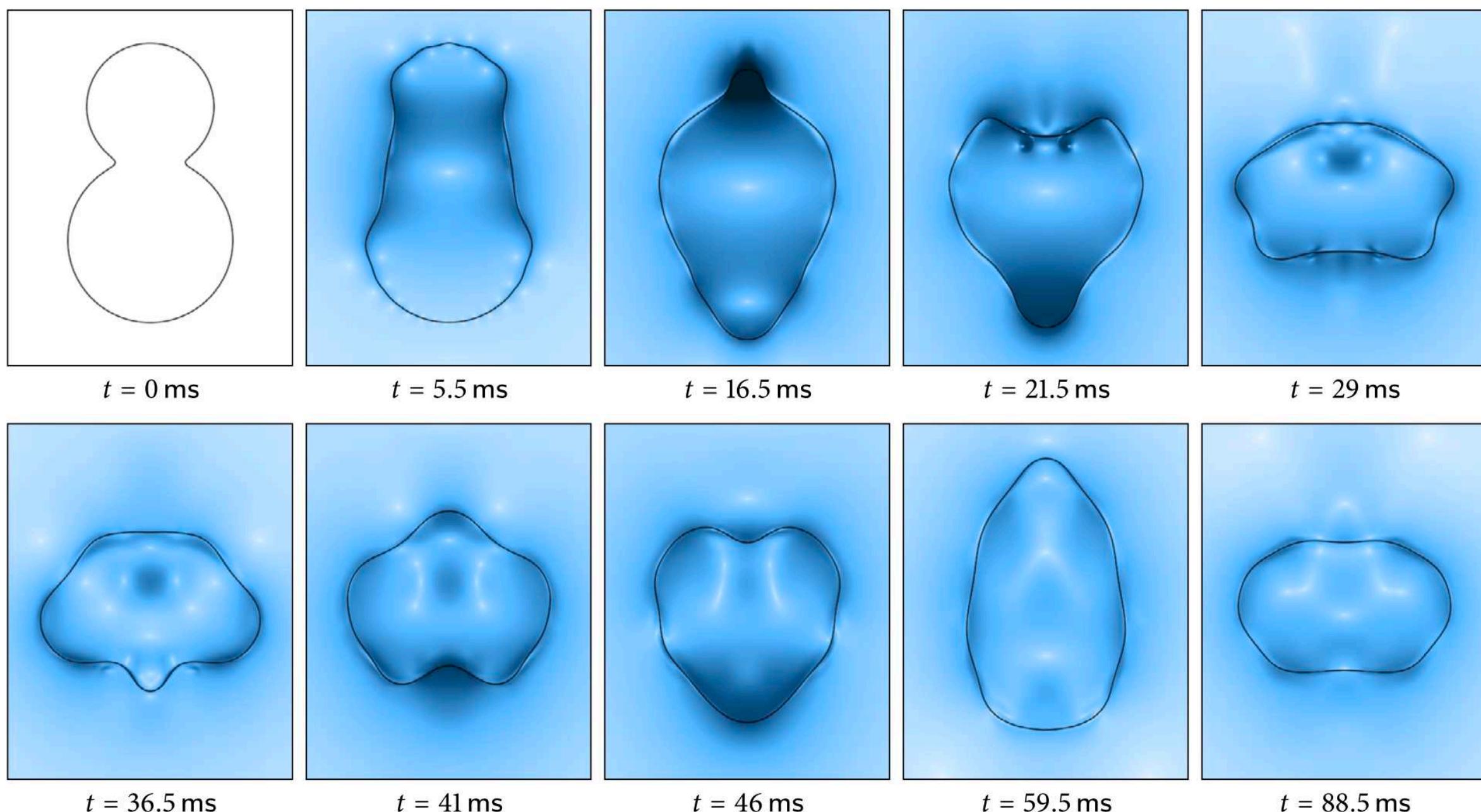
Many applications involve solving an inhomogeneous elliptic BVP.

$$Lu = f \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad (\text{e.g. Poisson, Helmholtz, Stokes, ...})$$

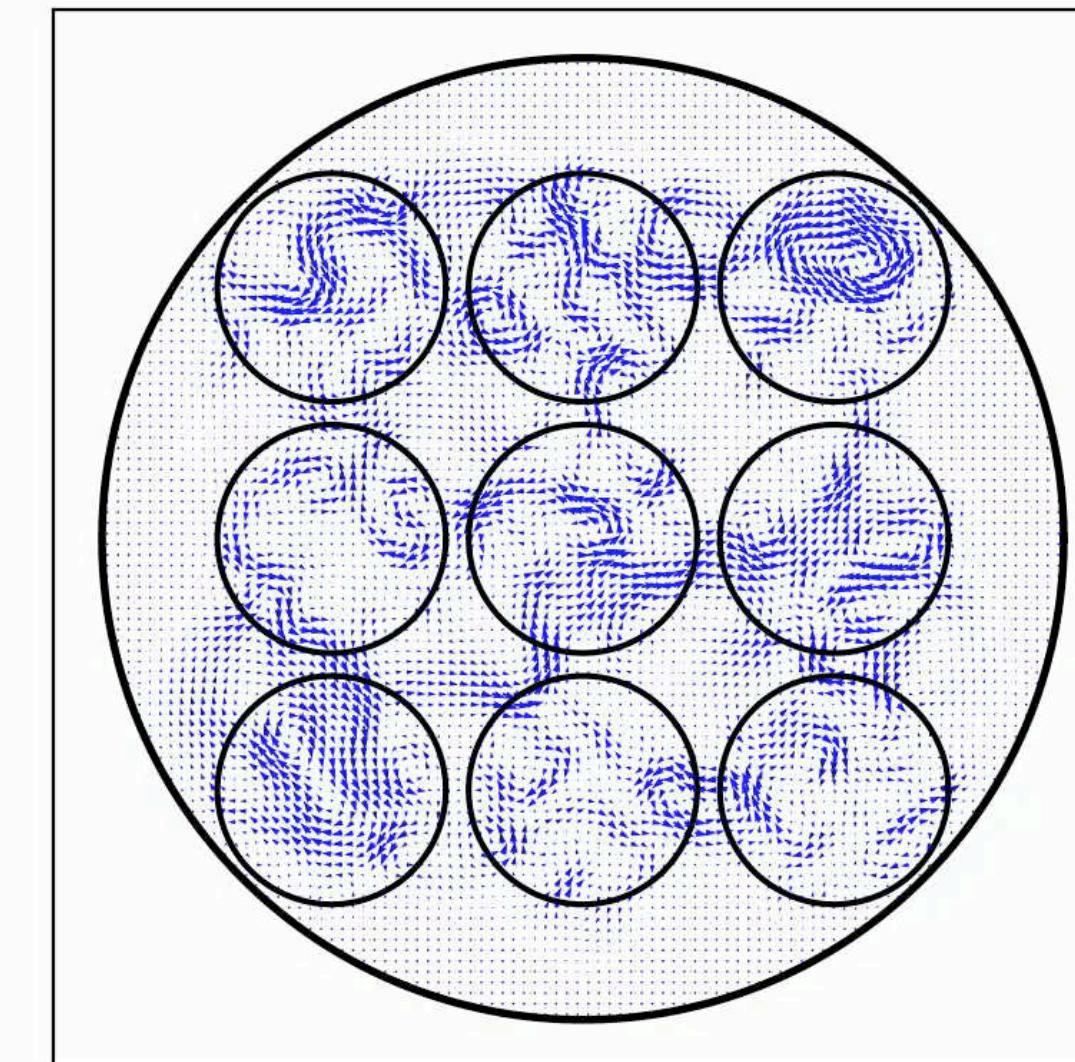
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(Today's focus: $L = \Delta$, interior Dirichlet)

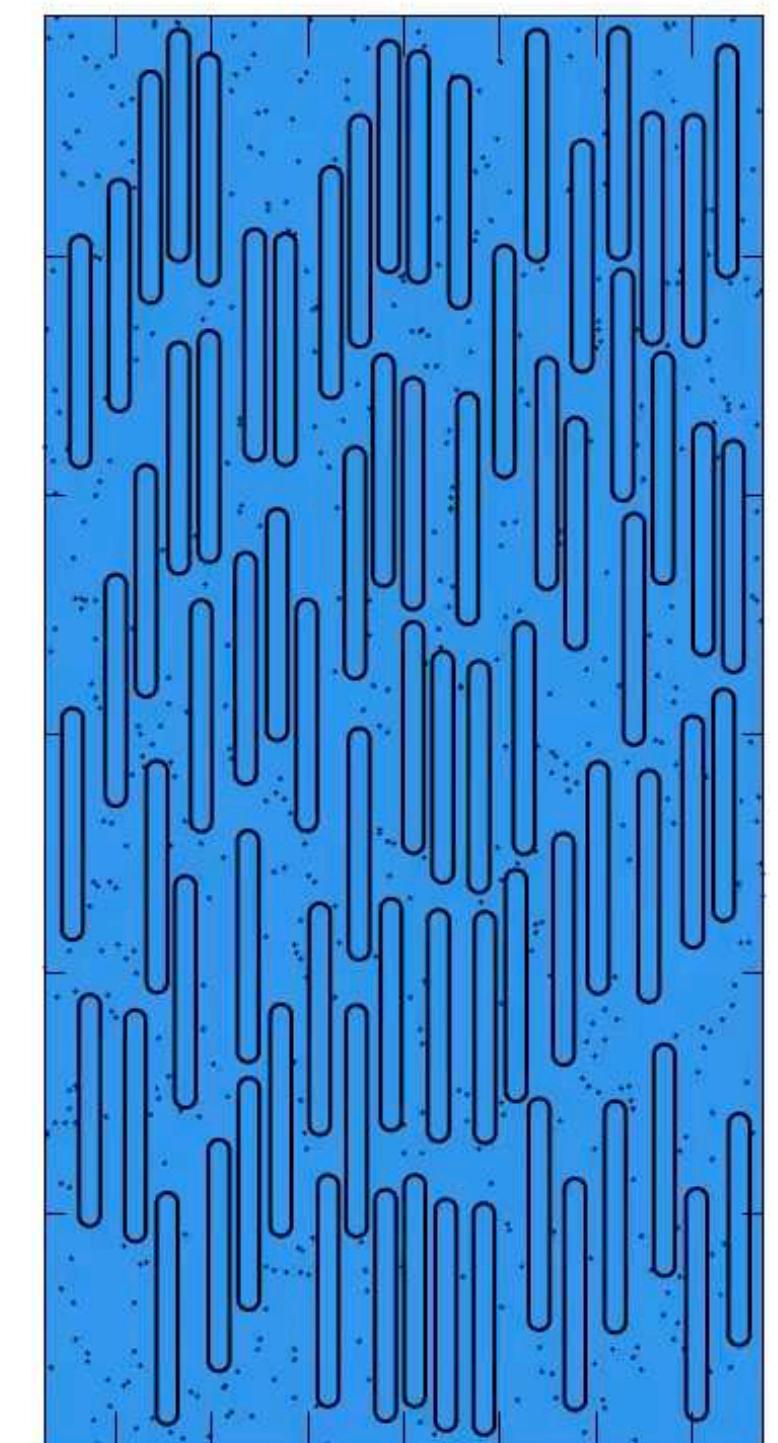
Bubble collision [Saye, 2017]



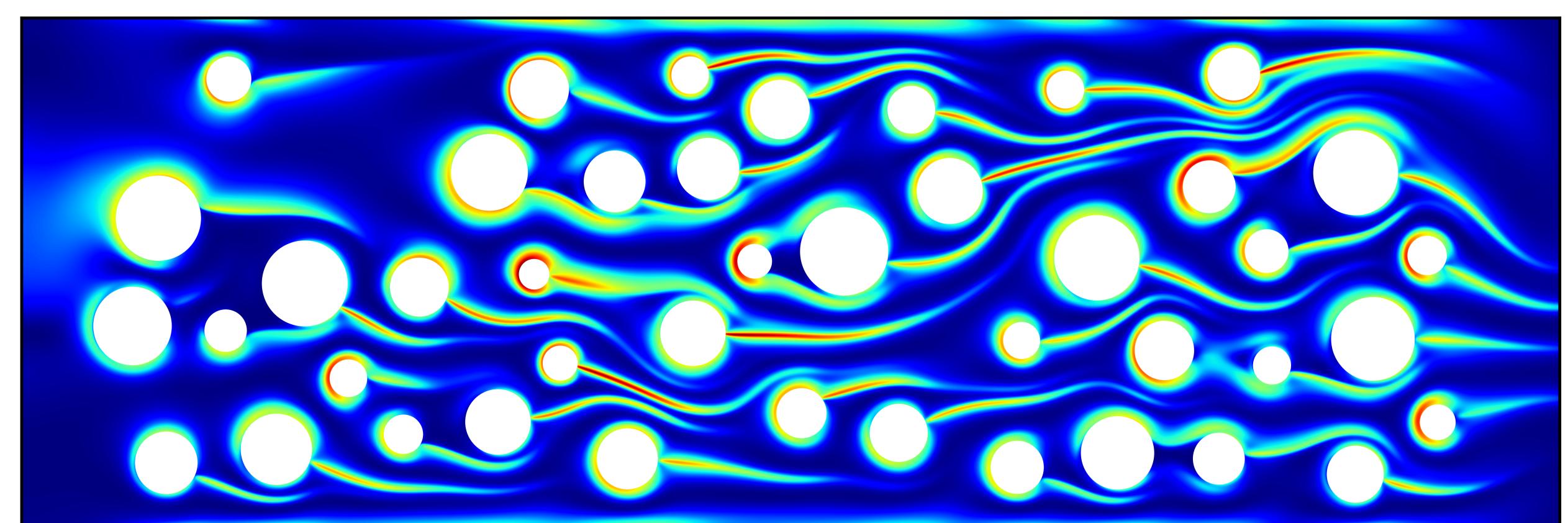
Active droplets [Stein, 2021]



Fluid-structure interaction
[Rycroft et al., 2020]



Non-Newtonian fluids [Stein et al., 2019]



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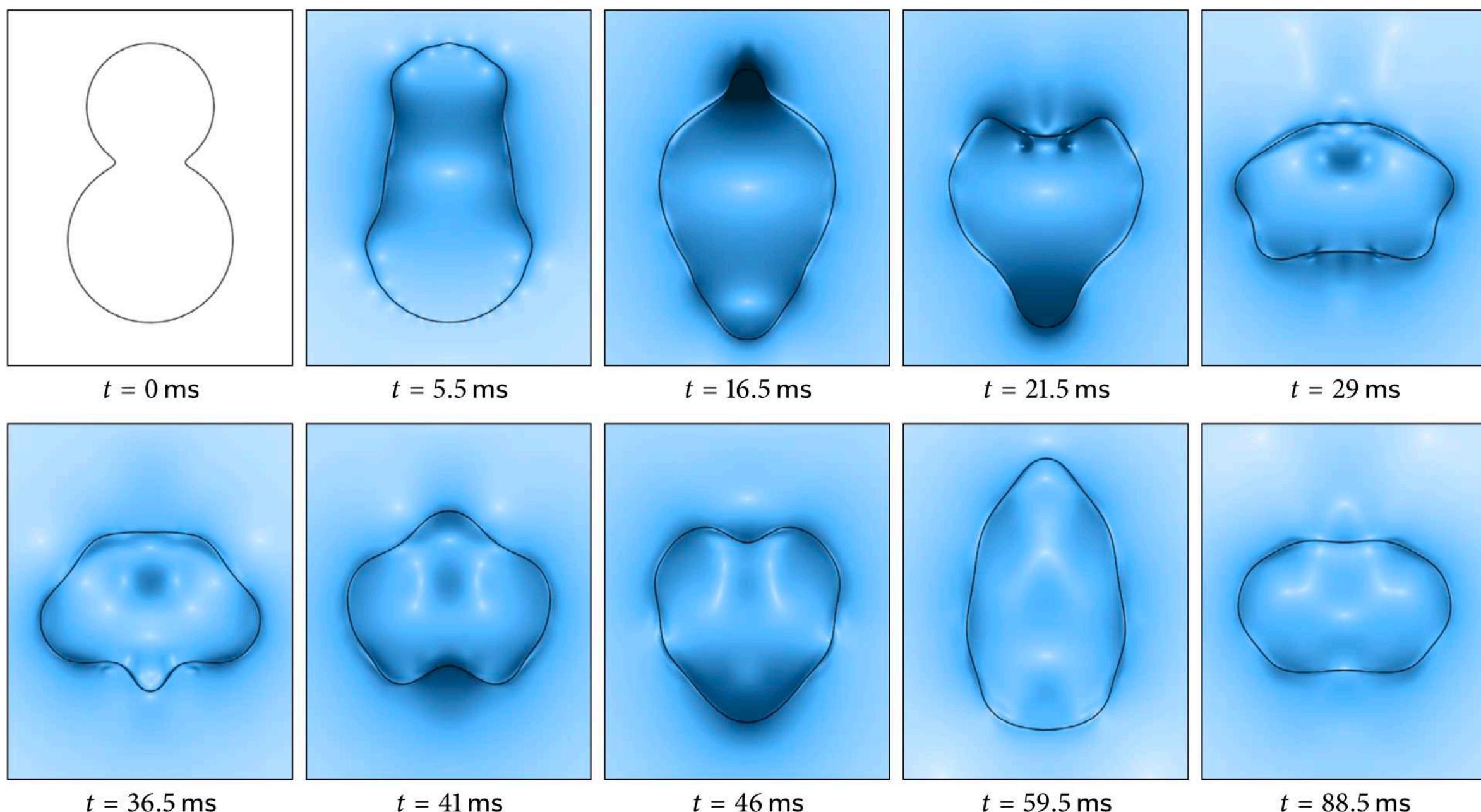
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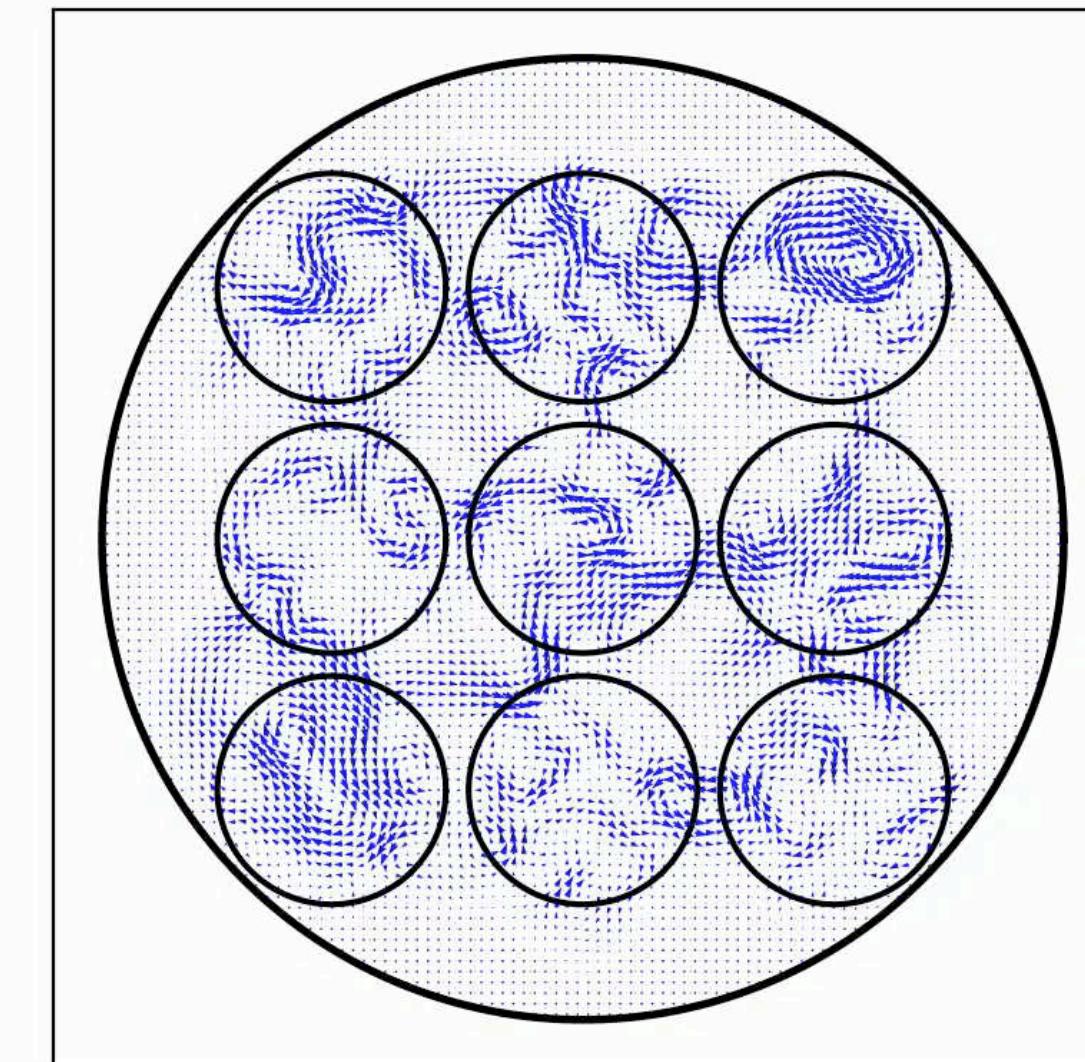
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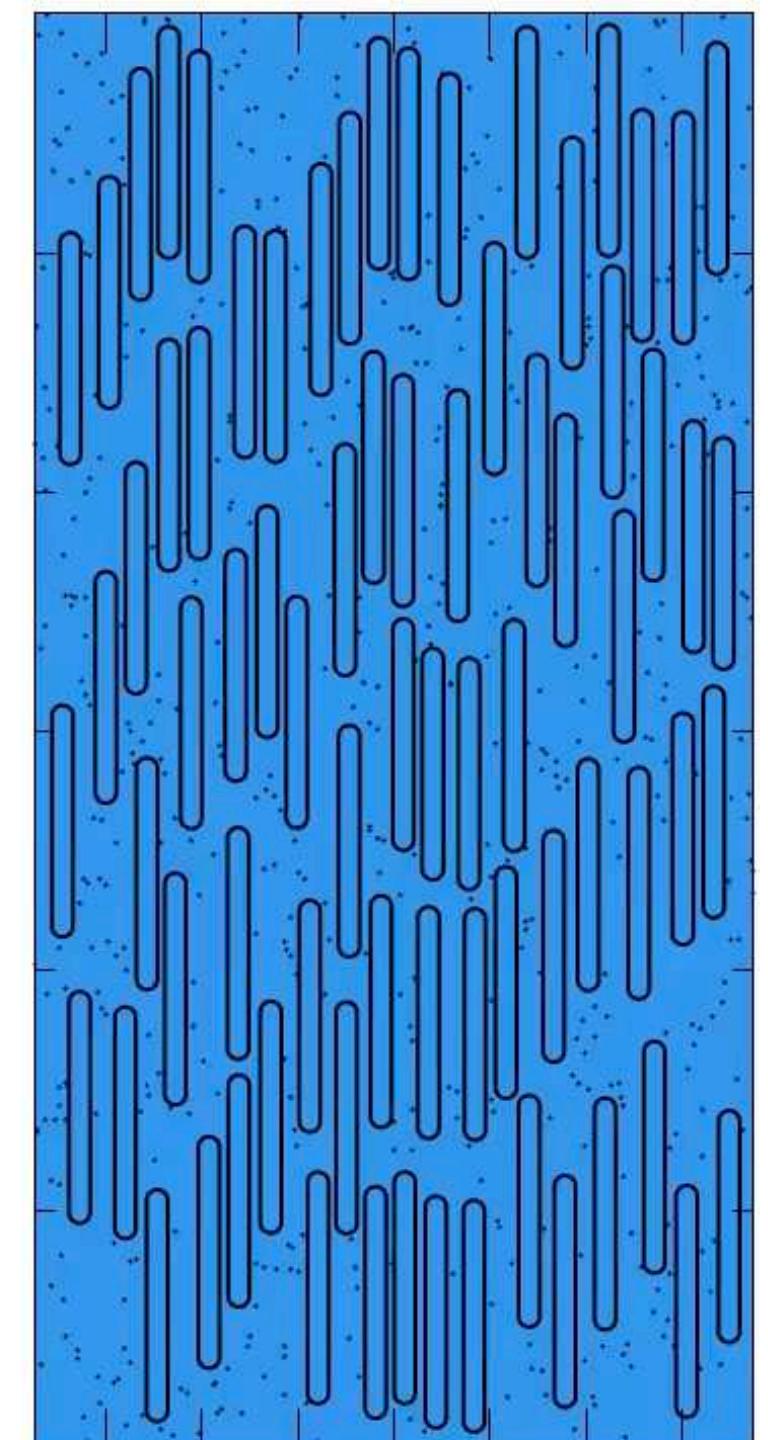
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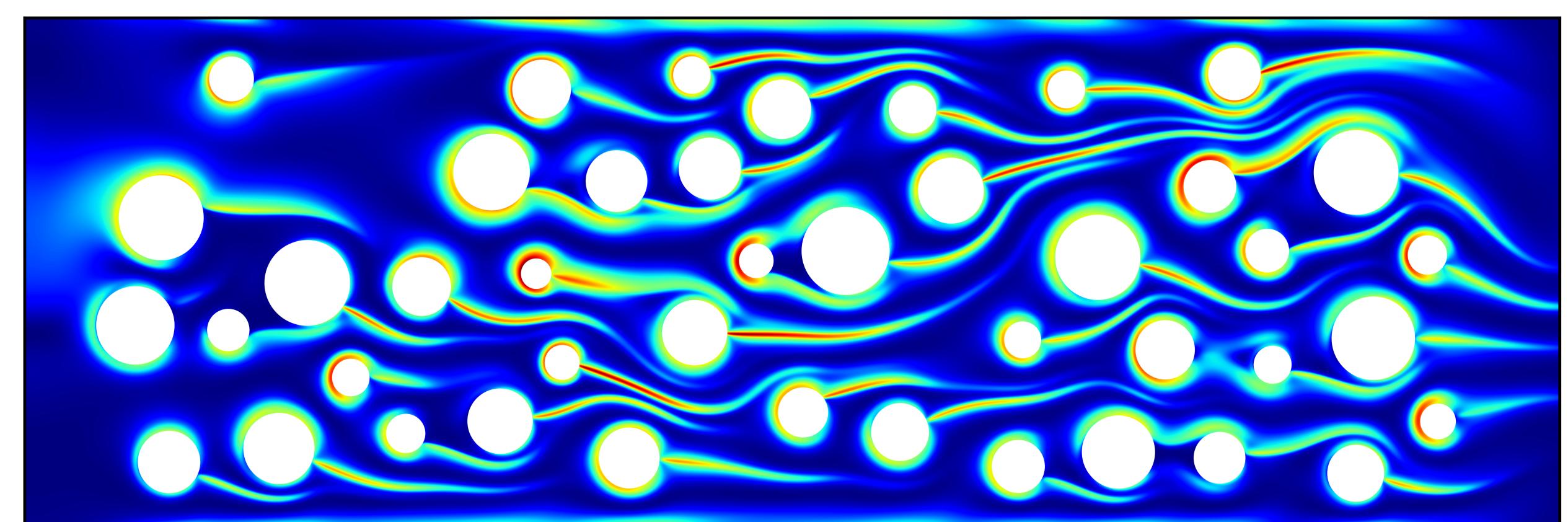
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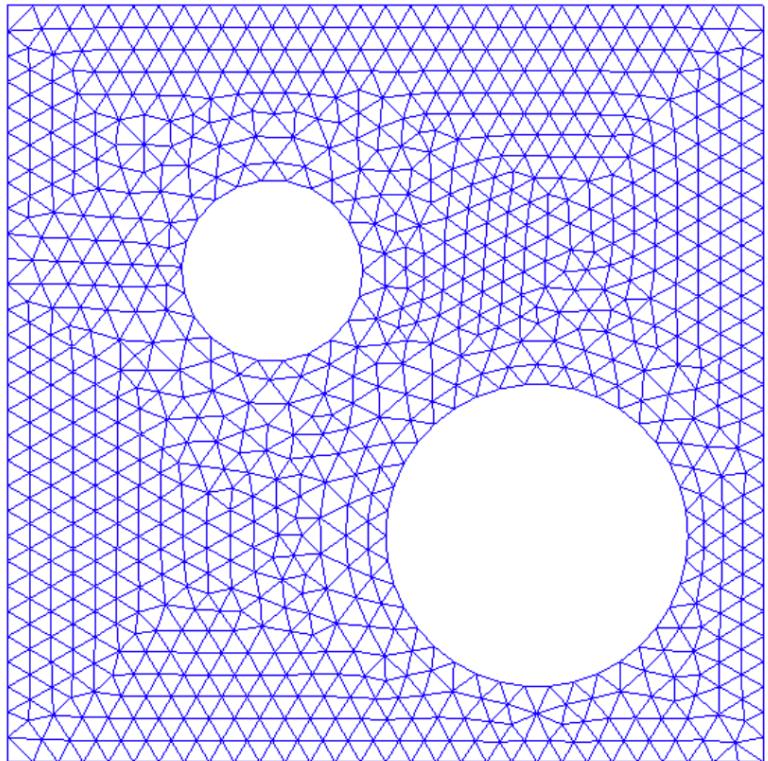
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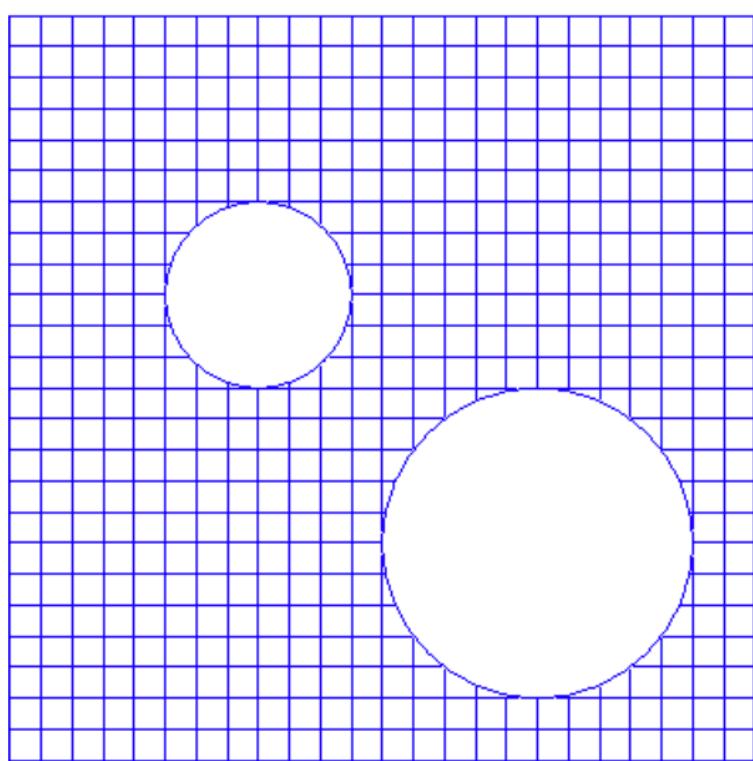
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Many approaches for inhomogeneous BVP

Traditional



Conforming



Cut-cell

- Mesh generation (or cut-cell generation)
- Directly discretize with FEM, FDM, SEM, ...

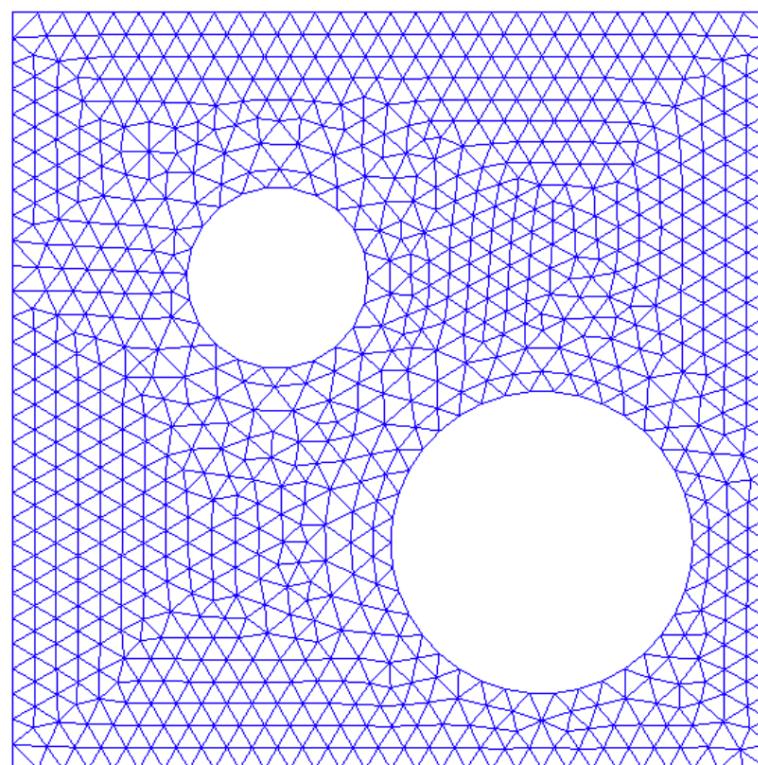
$$Ax = b$$

Solve linear system for volume DoFs.
Sparse but preconditioning needed.

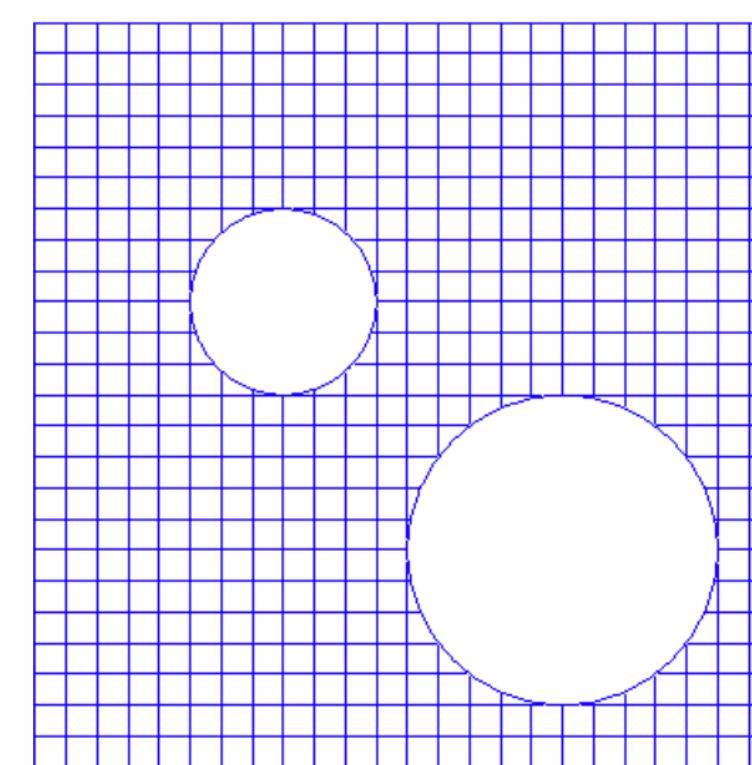
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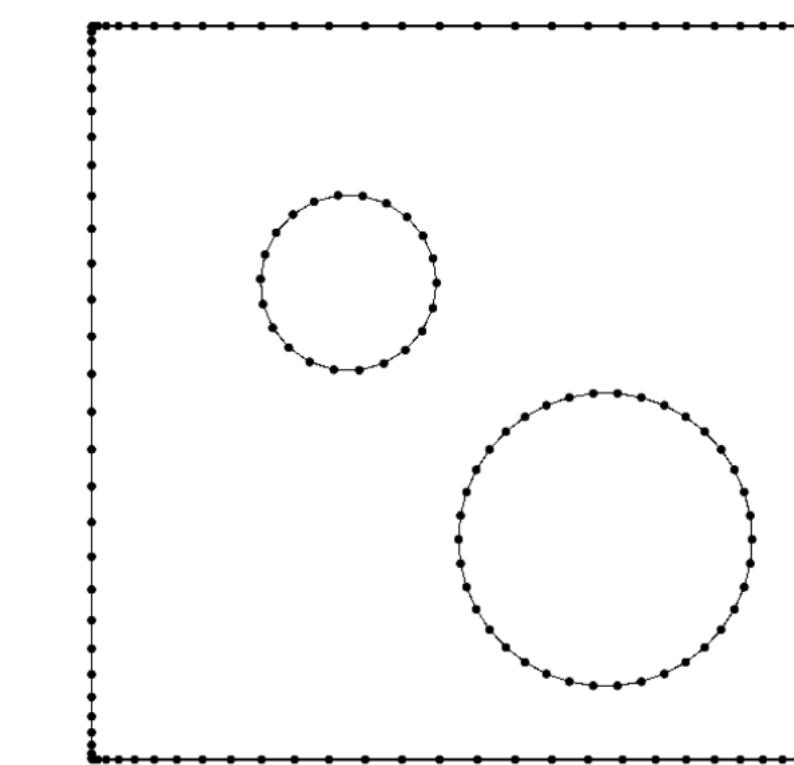
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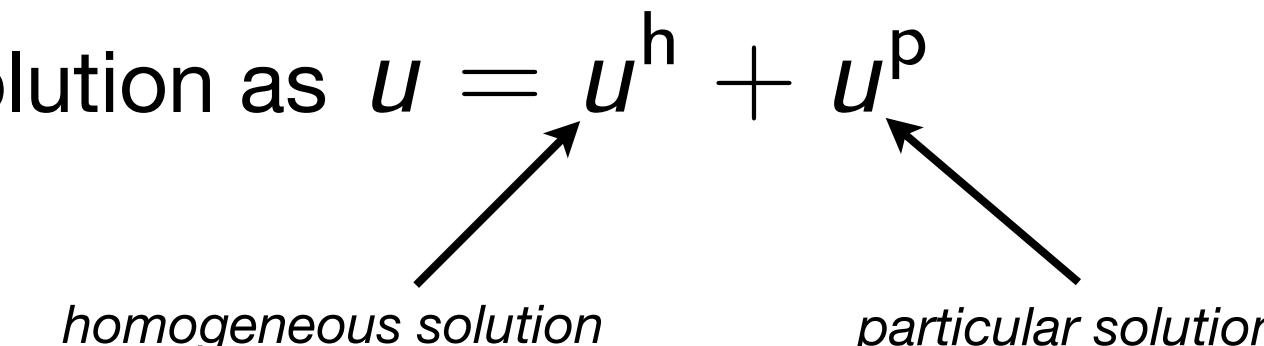
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Solve linear system for volume DoFs.
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Analysis-based



- Write solution as $u = u^h + u^p$

homogeneous solution *particular solution*
- Find **some** (any!) function u^p such that

$$Lu^p = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

- Compute u^h to satisfy boundary conditions:

$$Lu^h = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$Bu^h = g - Bu^p \quad \text{on } \Gamma$$

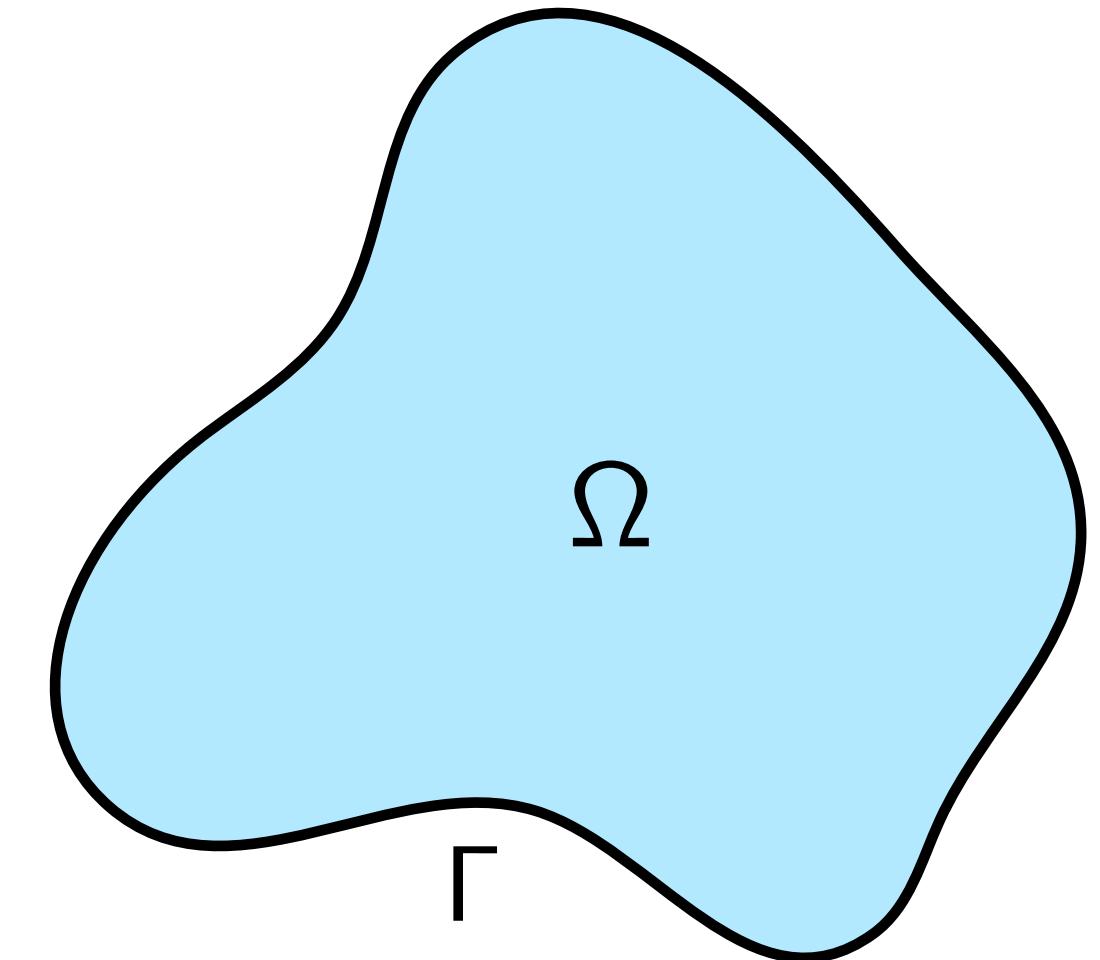
No solve required. Convolve
with Green's function.

Solve linear system for
boundary DoFs using BIE.

Introduction

Computing a particular solution

Suppose we only know $f(x)$ inside Ω . We have a few options...



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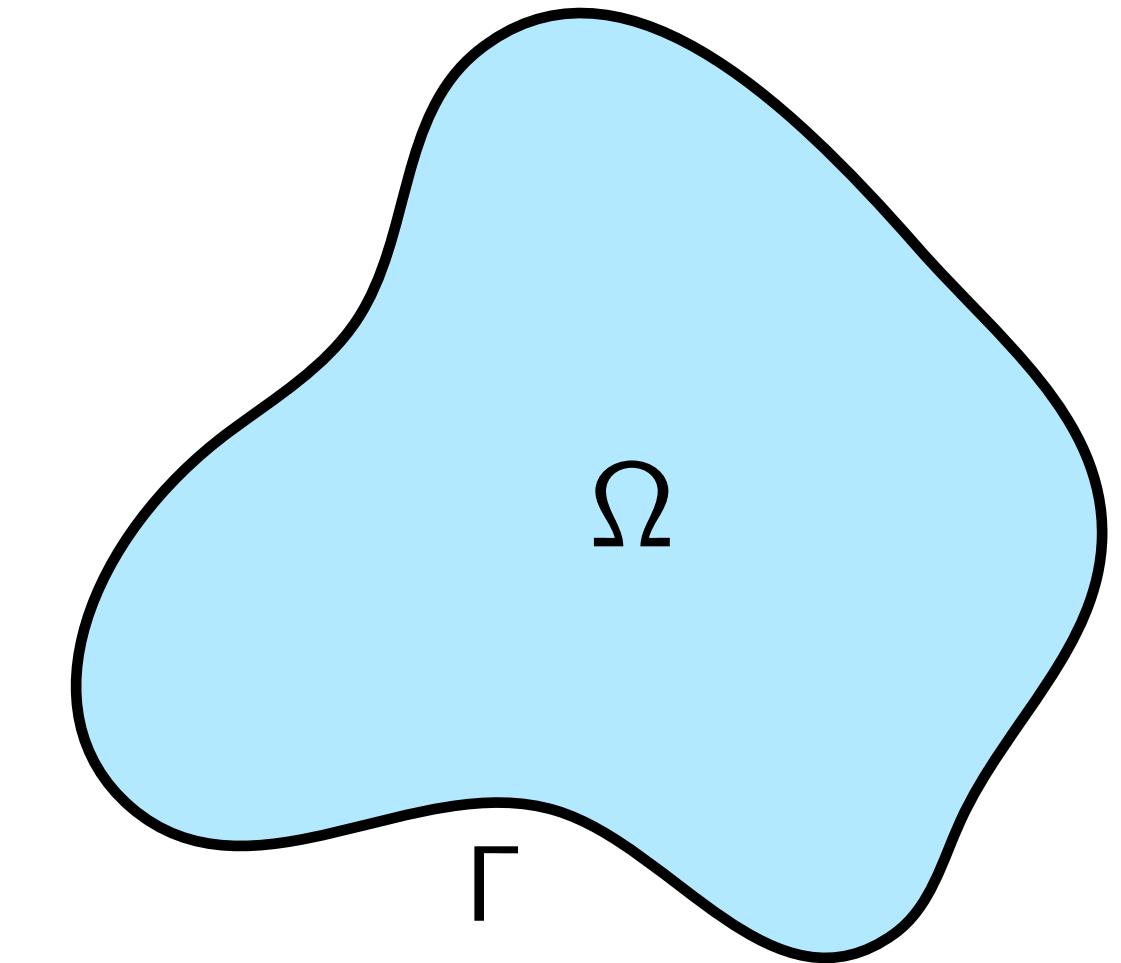
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- Build accurate quadrature scheme over Ω (e.g. adaptive boxes with cut cells near boundary) and compute

$$u^p(x) = \int_{\Omega} G(x, y) f(y) dy \quad \left(\text{Poisson: } G(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \log \frac{1}{|x - y|} \right)$$

free space fundamental solution



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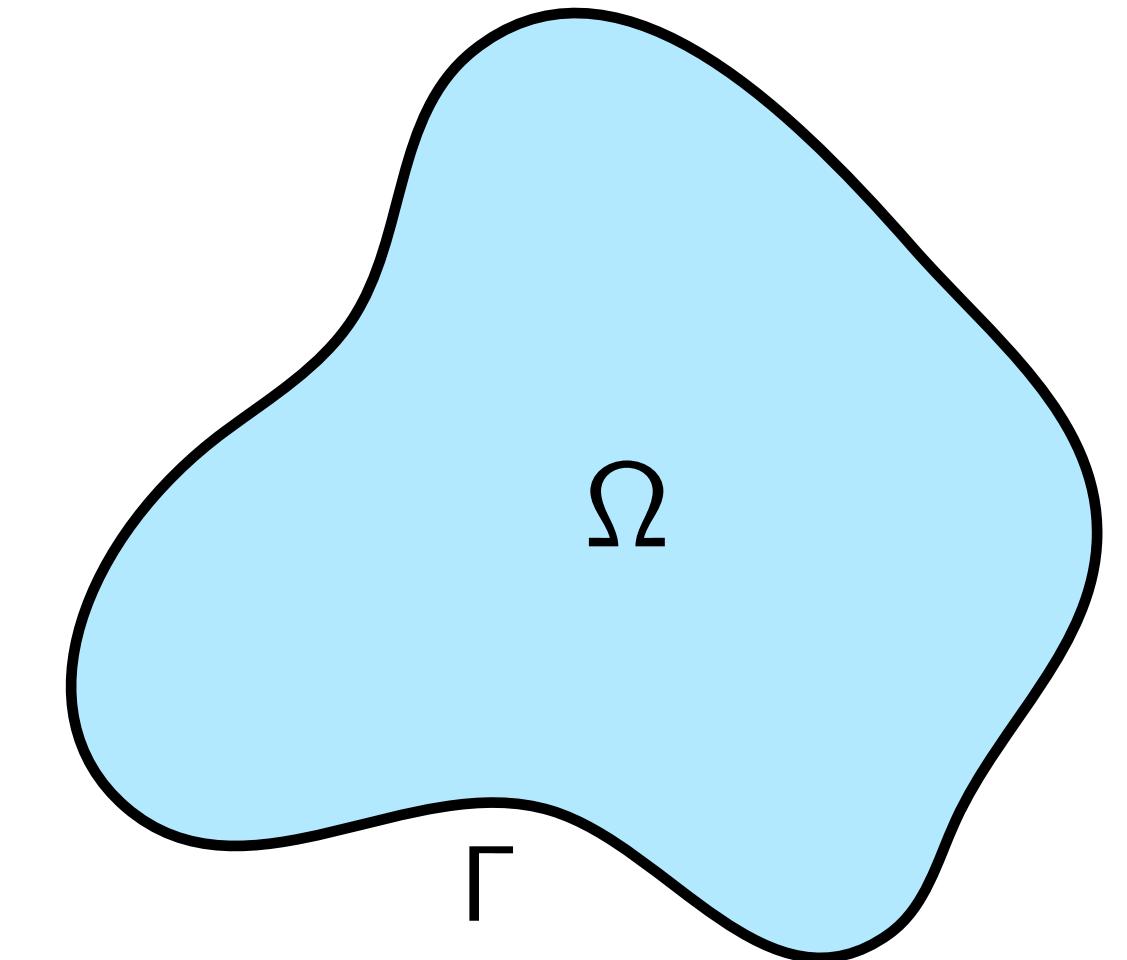
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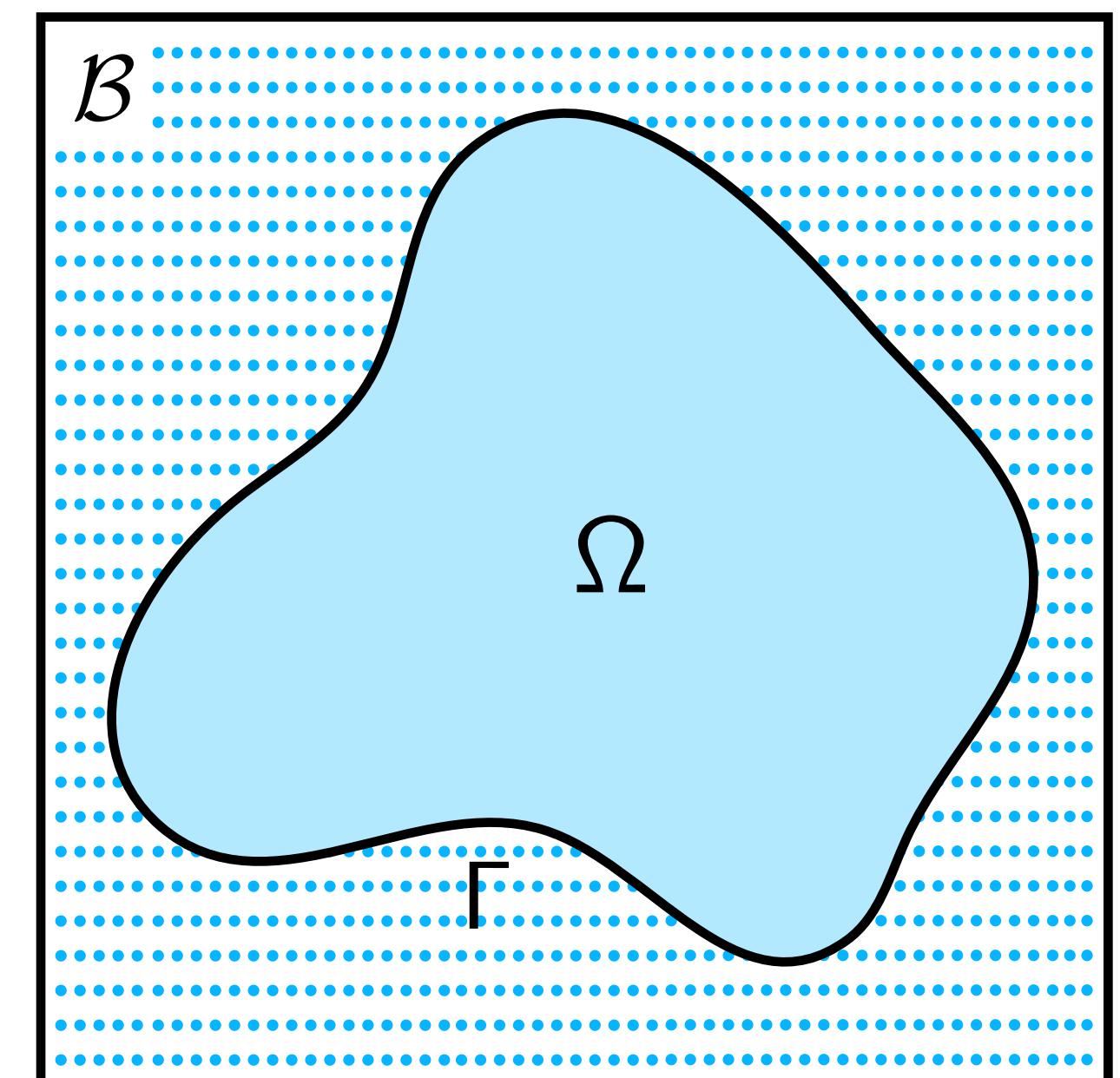
free space fundamental solution



- Extend f to \tilde{f} outside Ω ("function extension"). Adaptively resolve \tilde{f} and compute

$$u^p(x) = \int_{\mathcal{B}} G(x, y) \tilde{f}(y) dy$$

Quadrature tables for boxes can be **precomputed** (FMM "box code")



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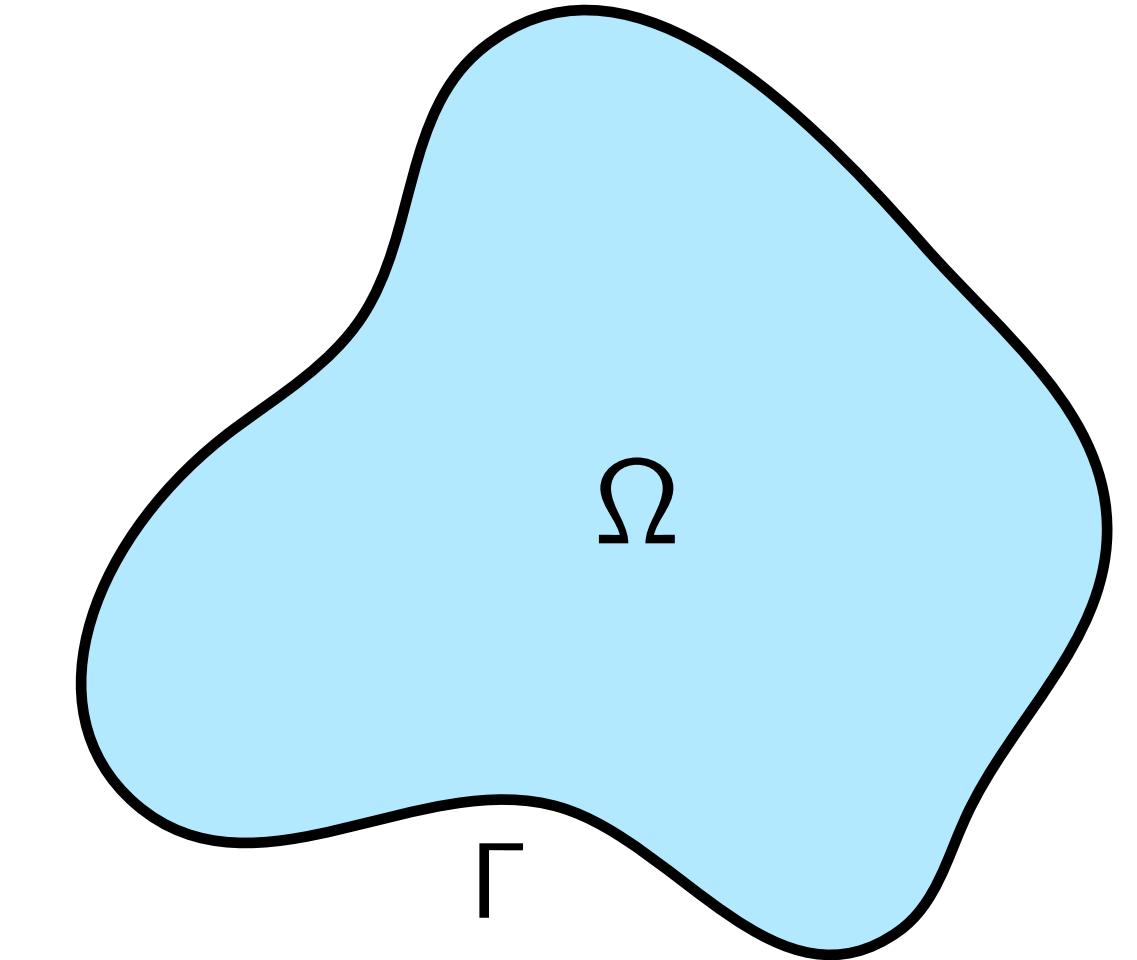
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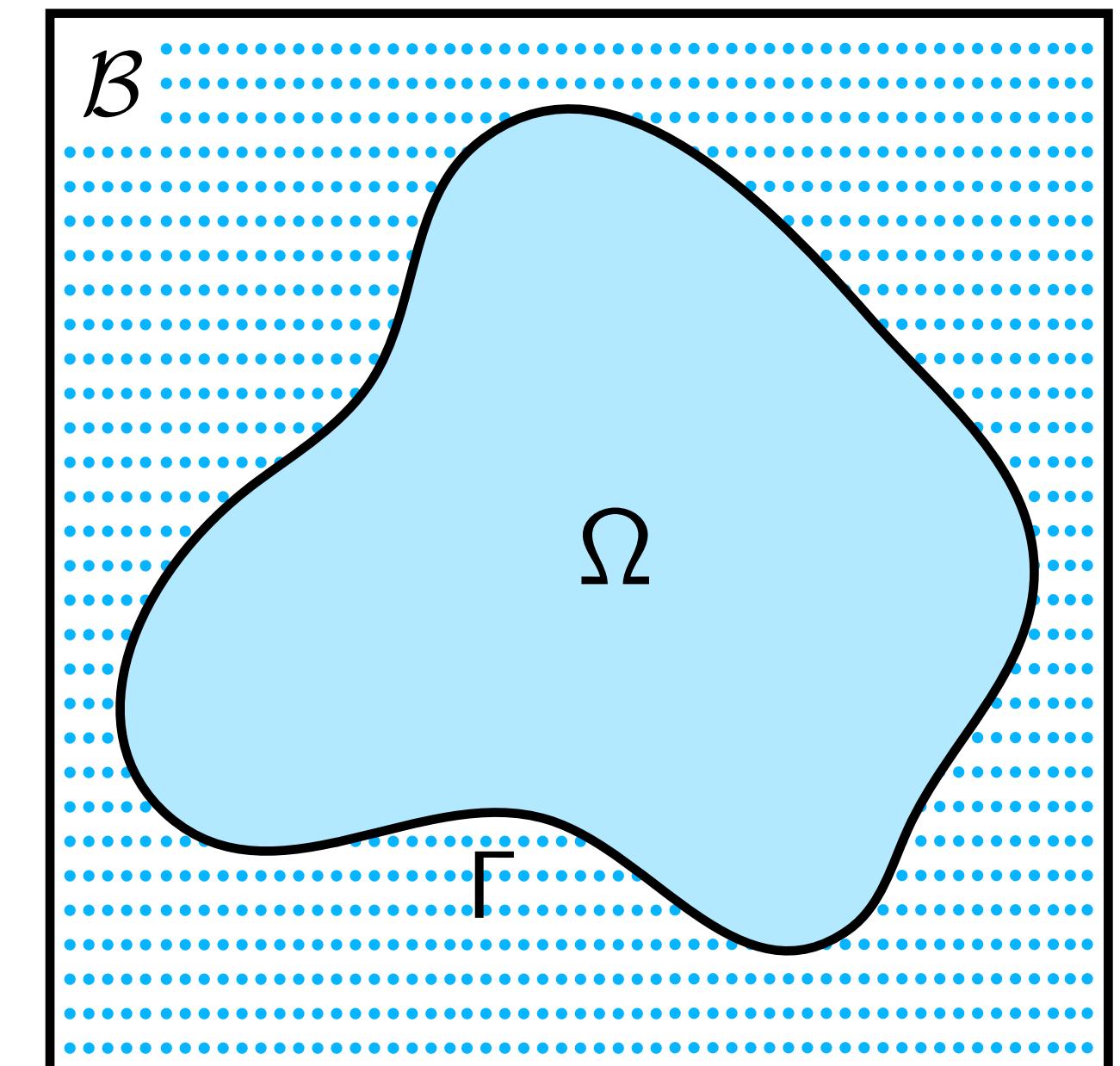


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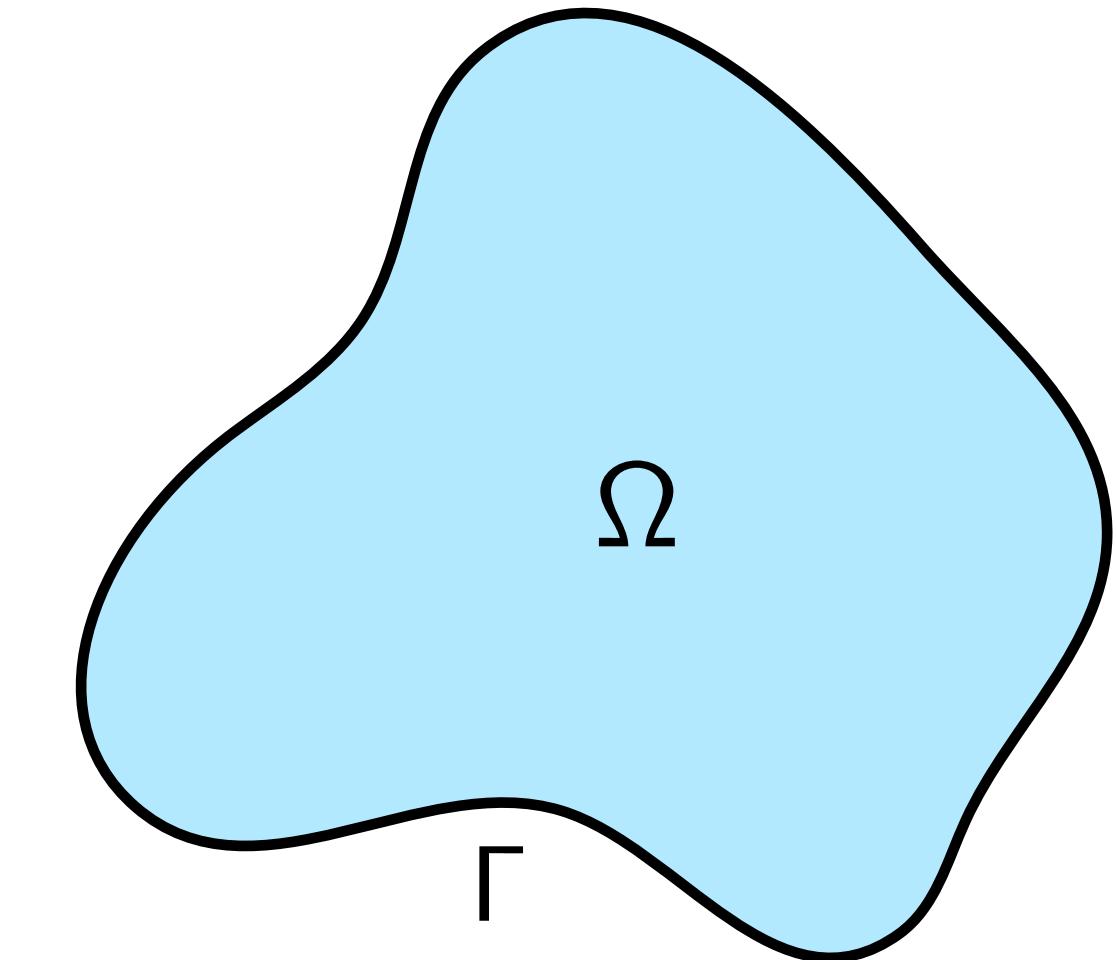
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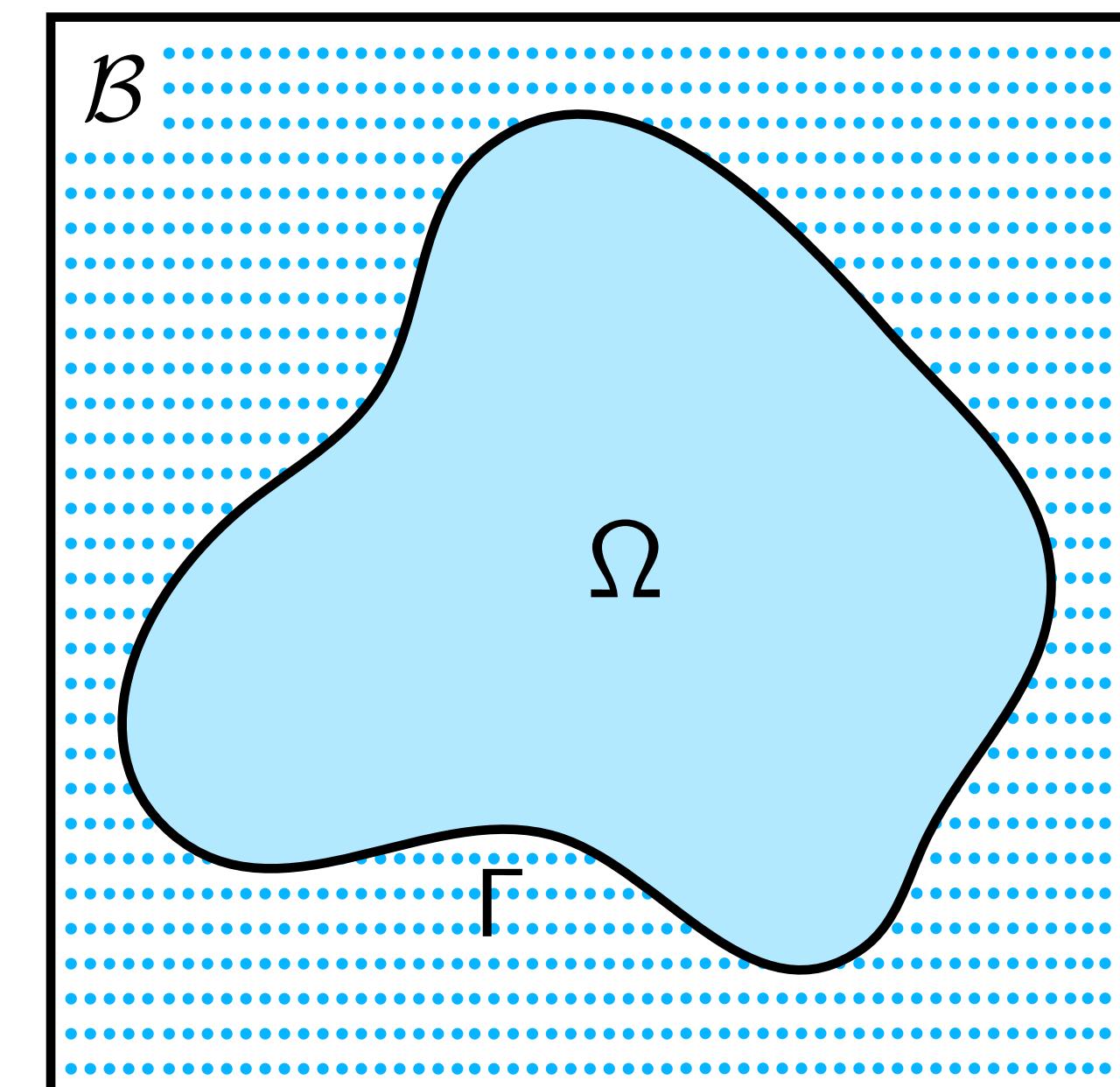
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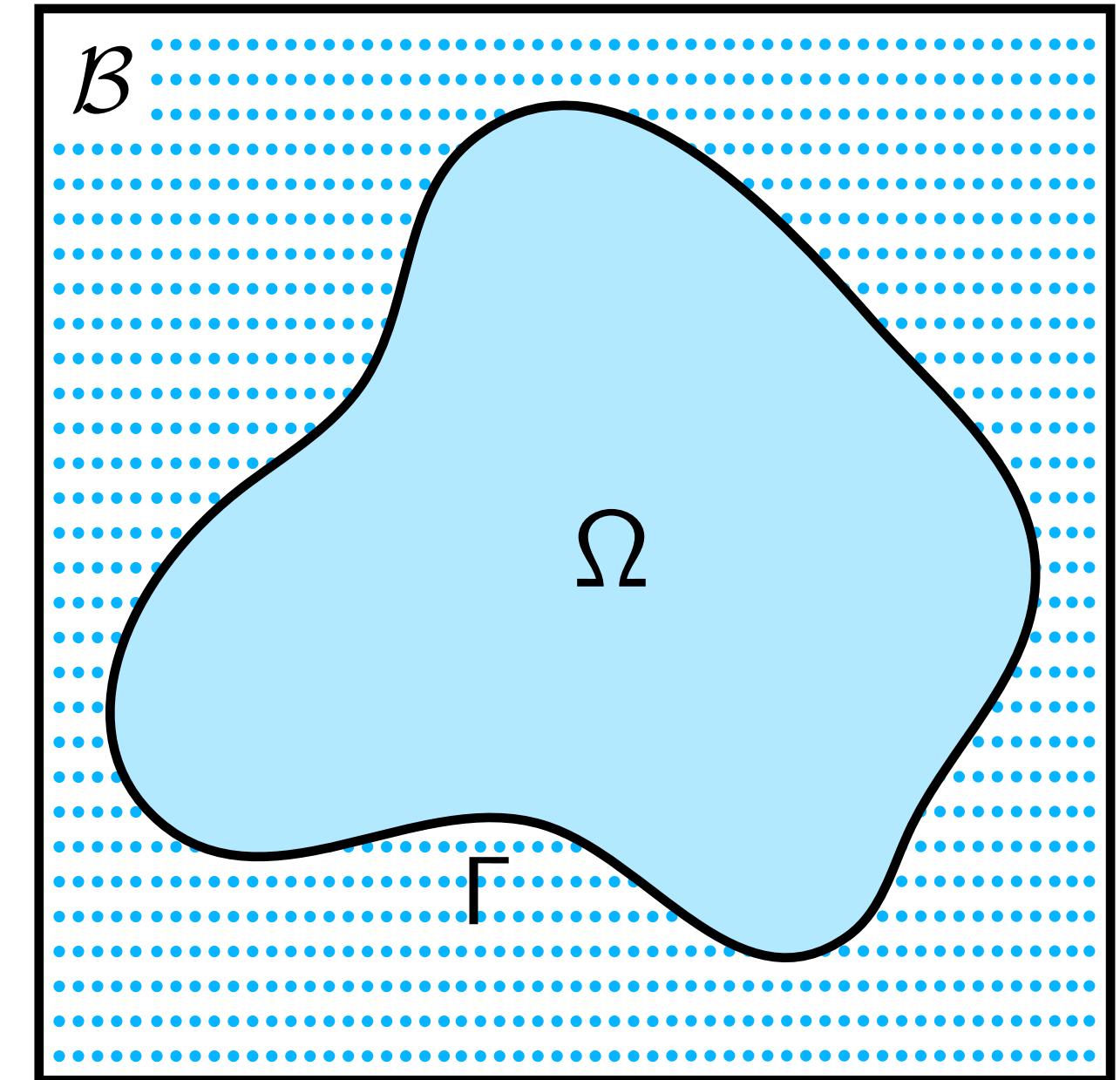
Want \tilde{f} as smooth as f for fast convergence. How?



Function extension

Prior work

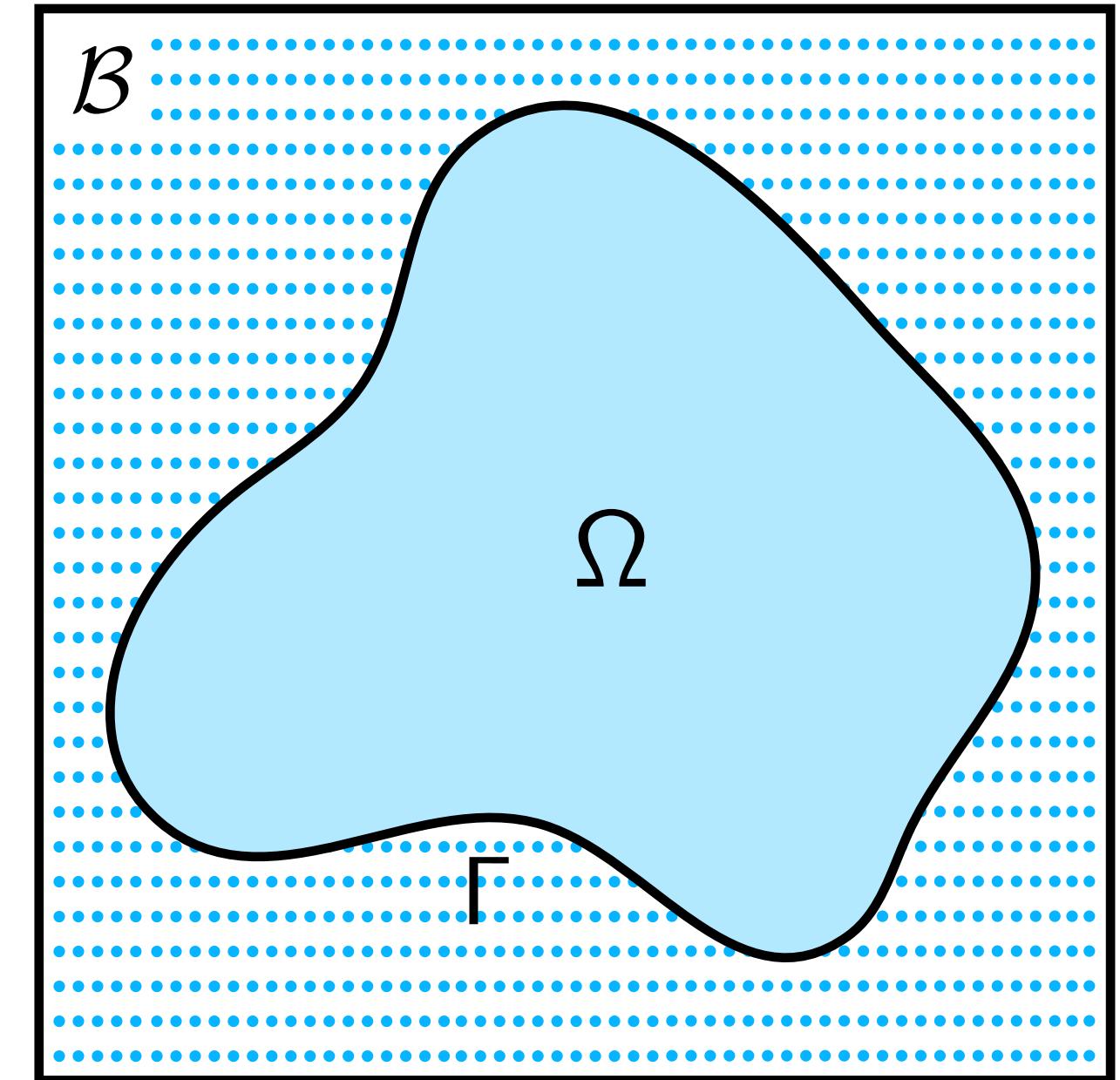
- Finite difference extension, second-order accurate [Mayo, 1984]
- Fourier continuation [Bruno & Lyon, 2010], [Bruno & Paul, 2020]
- Immersed boundary smooth extension [Stein, Guy, & Thomases, 2015]
- C^k polyharmonic extension + box code, fourth-order accurate [Askham & Cerfon, 2017]
- Partition of unity extension [Fryklund, Lehto, & Tornberg, 2018]



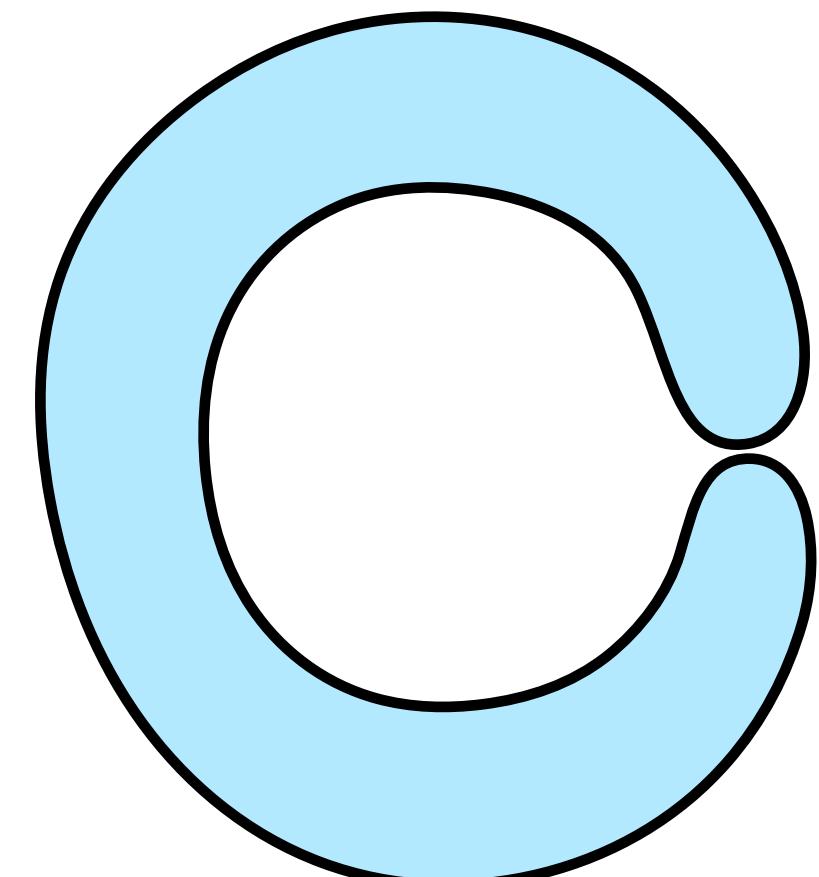
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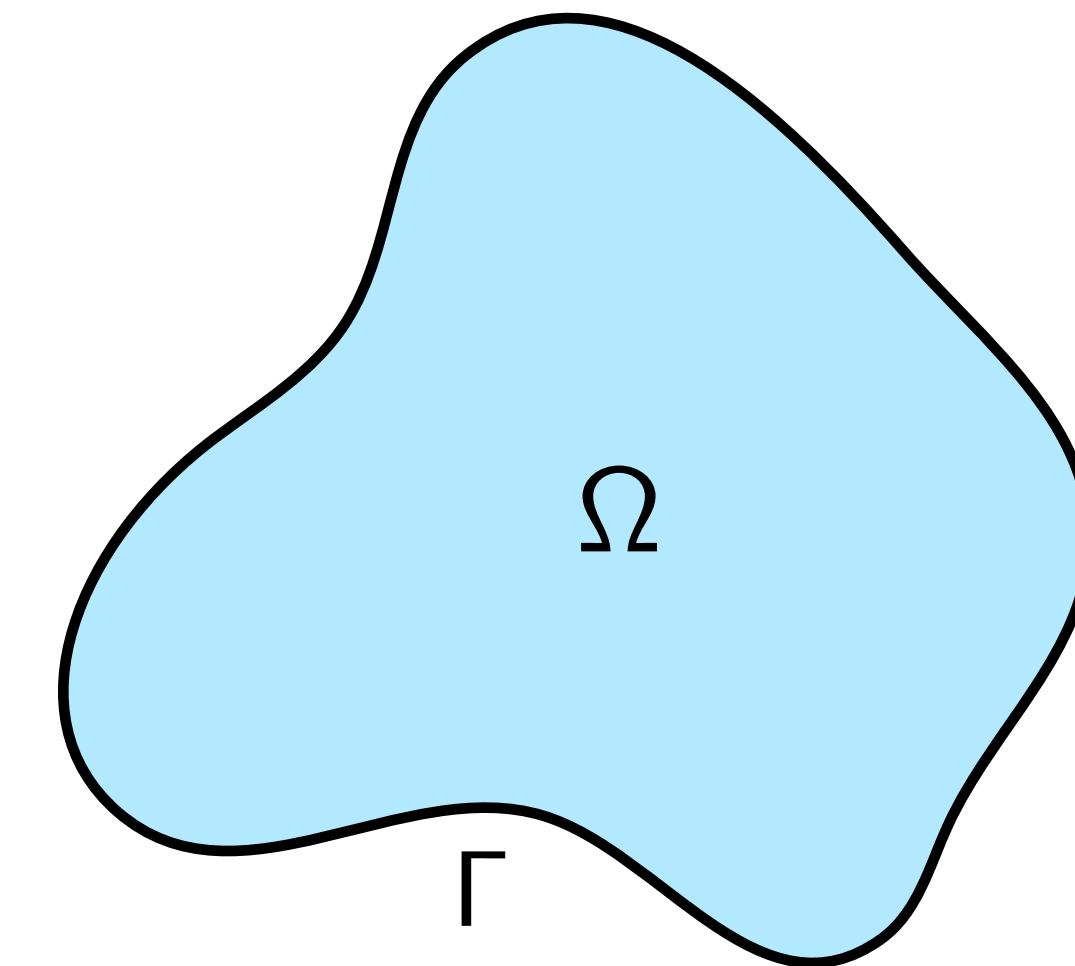
In general, smoothly extending f in a robust way is challenging.
(Especially for multiscale geometry, multiscale f , close-to-touching regions, ...)



Function “intension”

Our approach

Instead of trying to make \tilde{f} smooth outside Ω ,
let's make it smooth **inside** Ω .

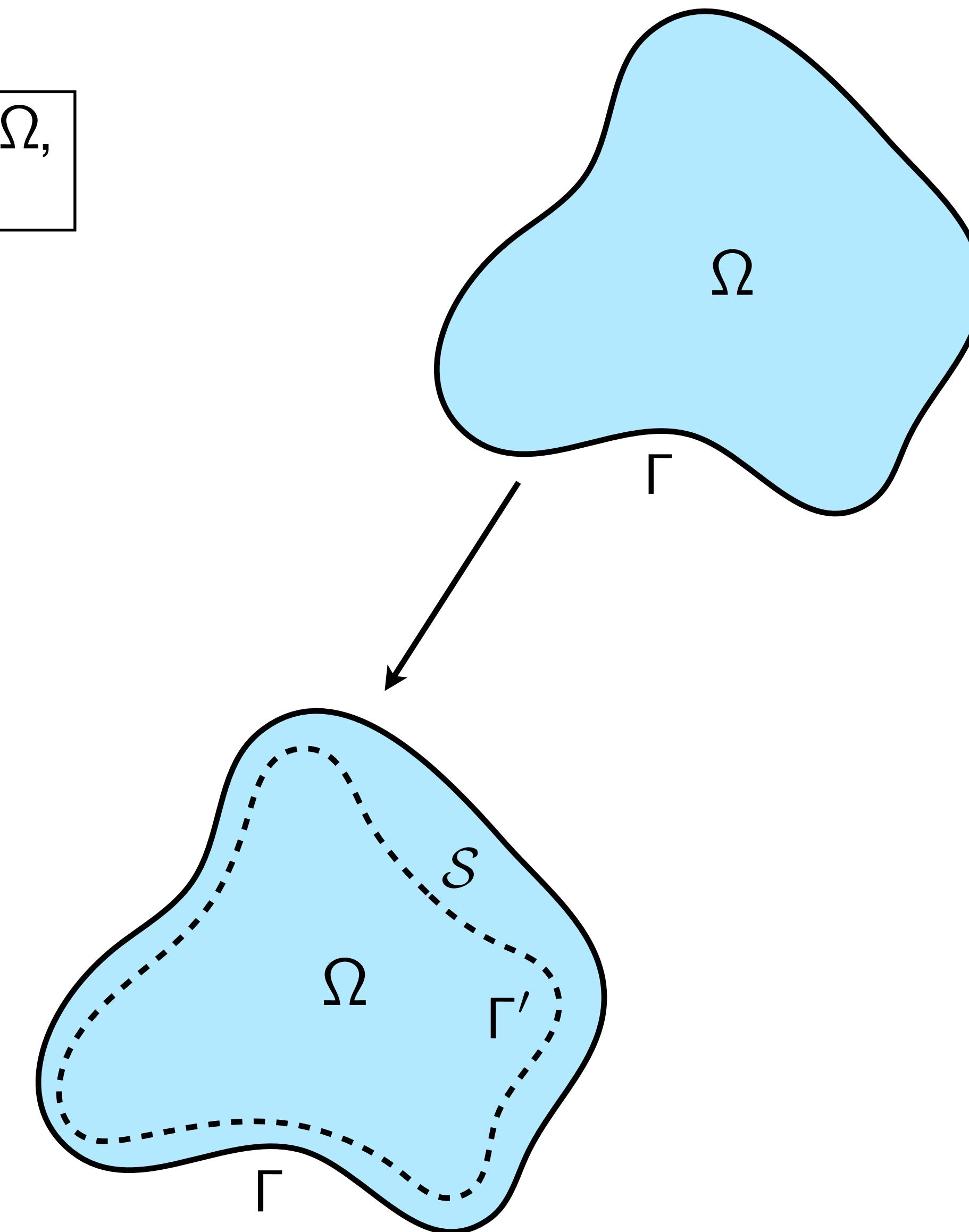


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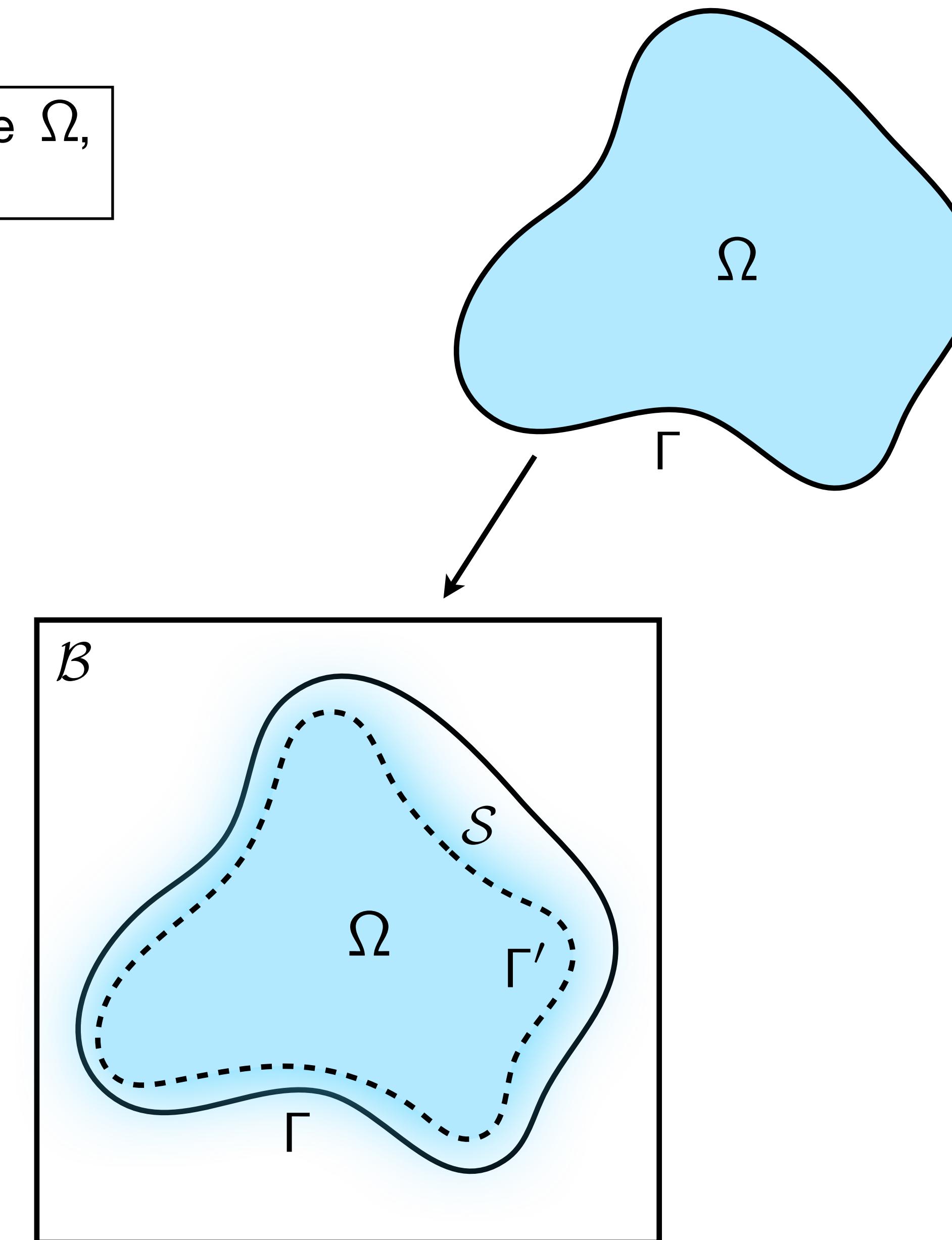


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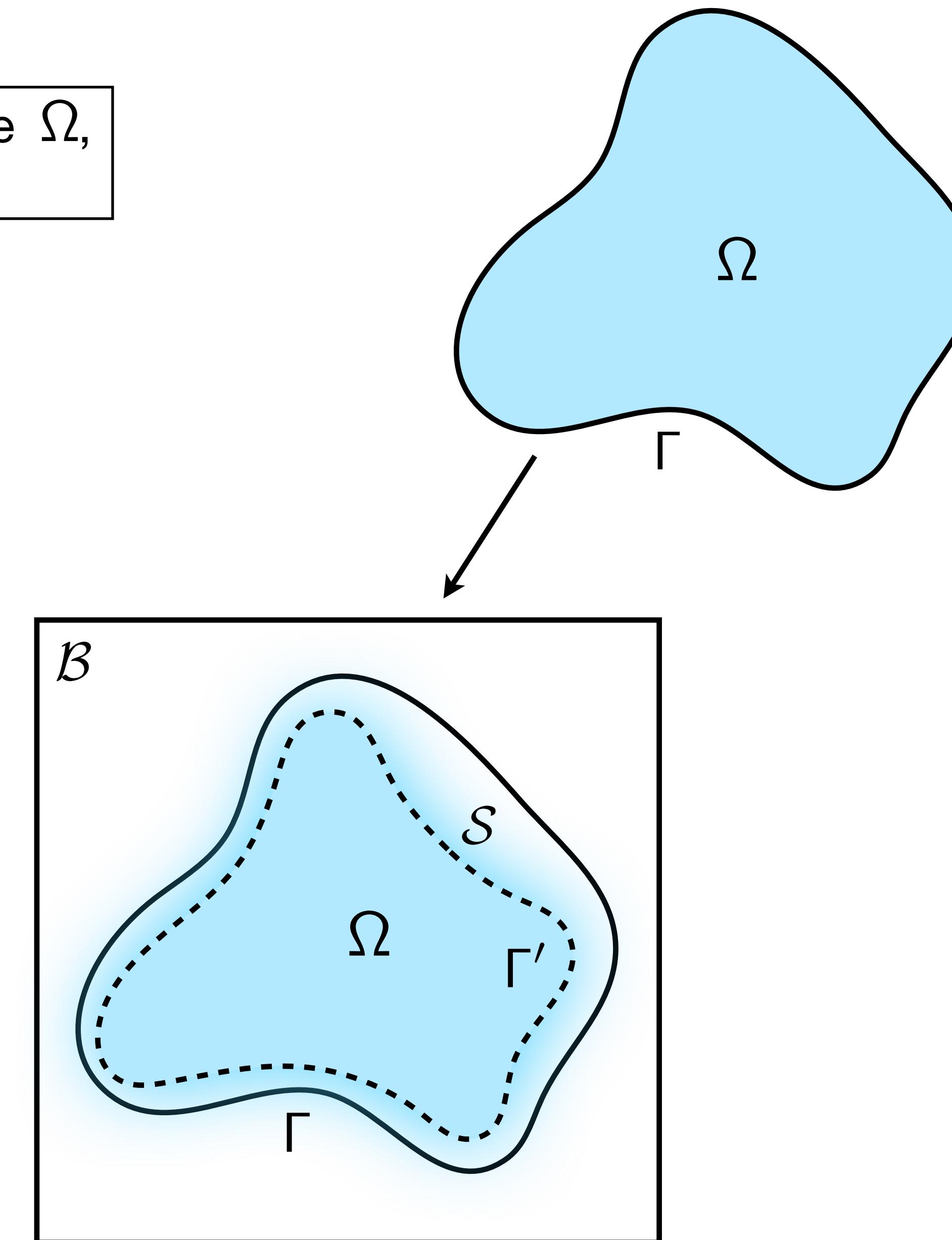


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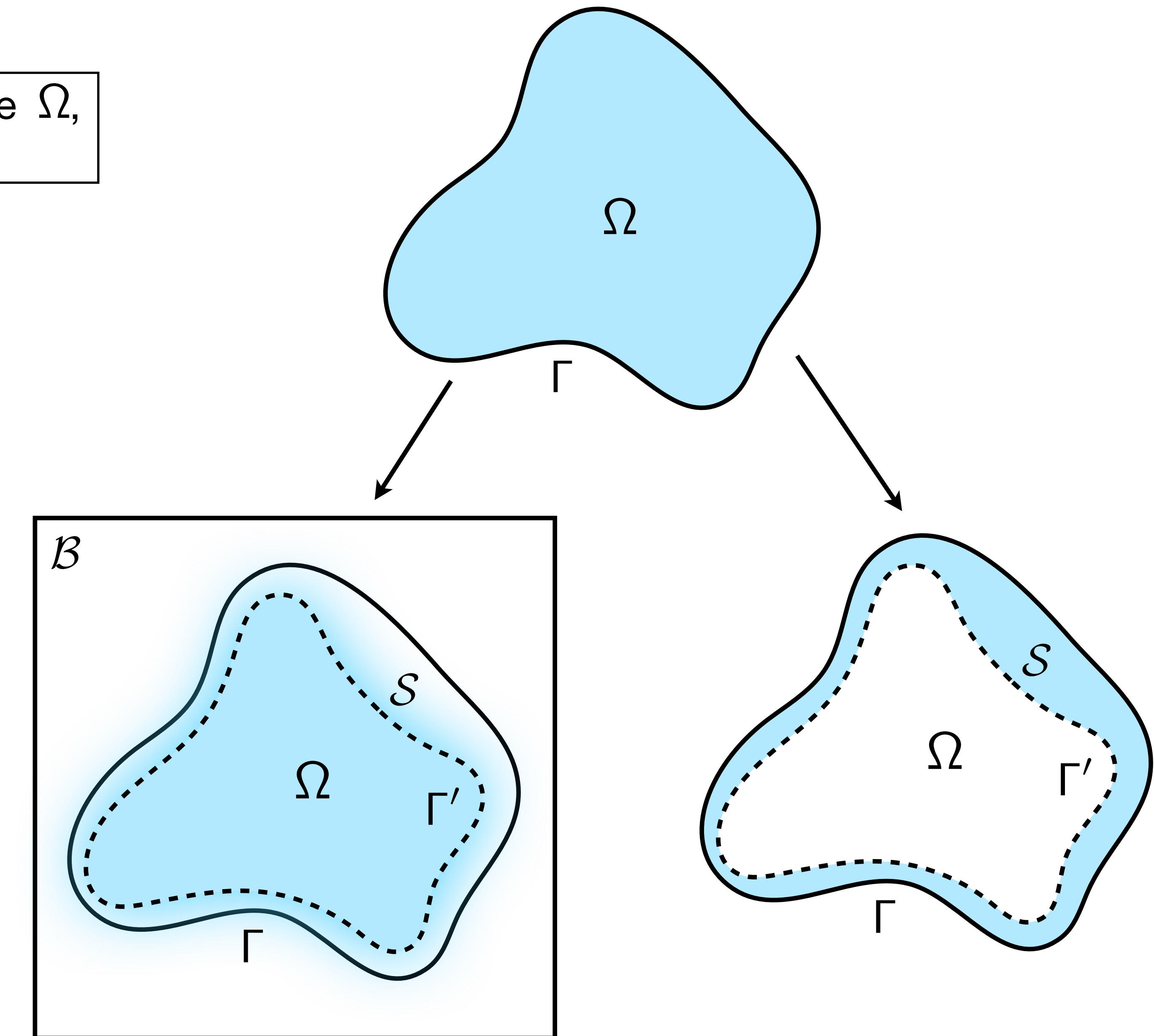


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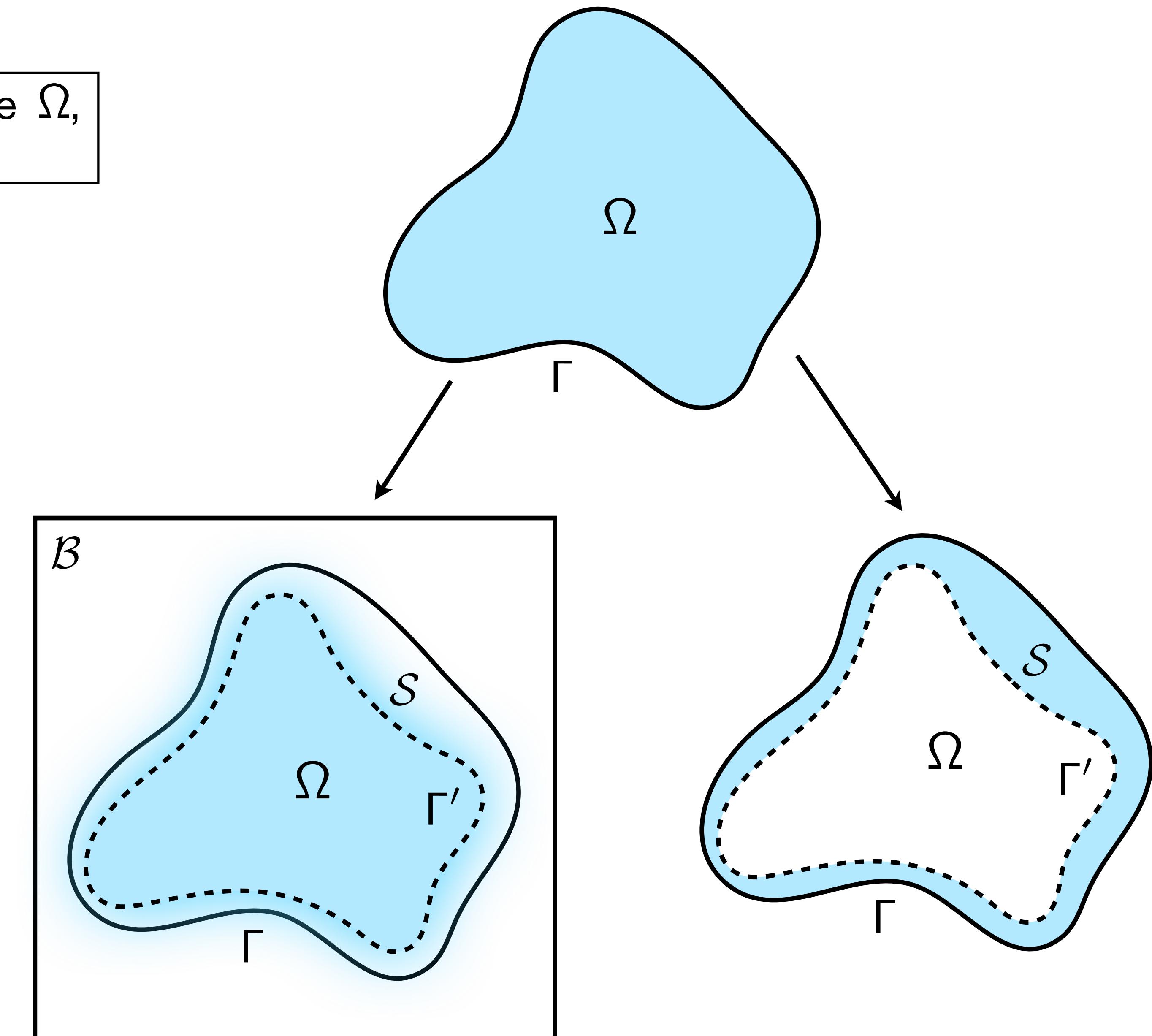


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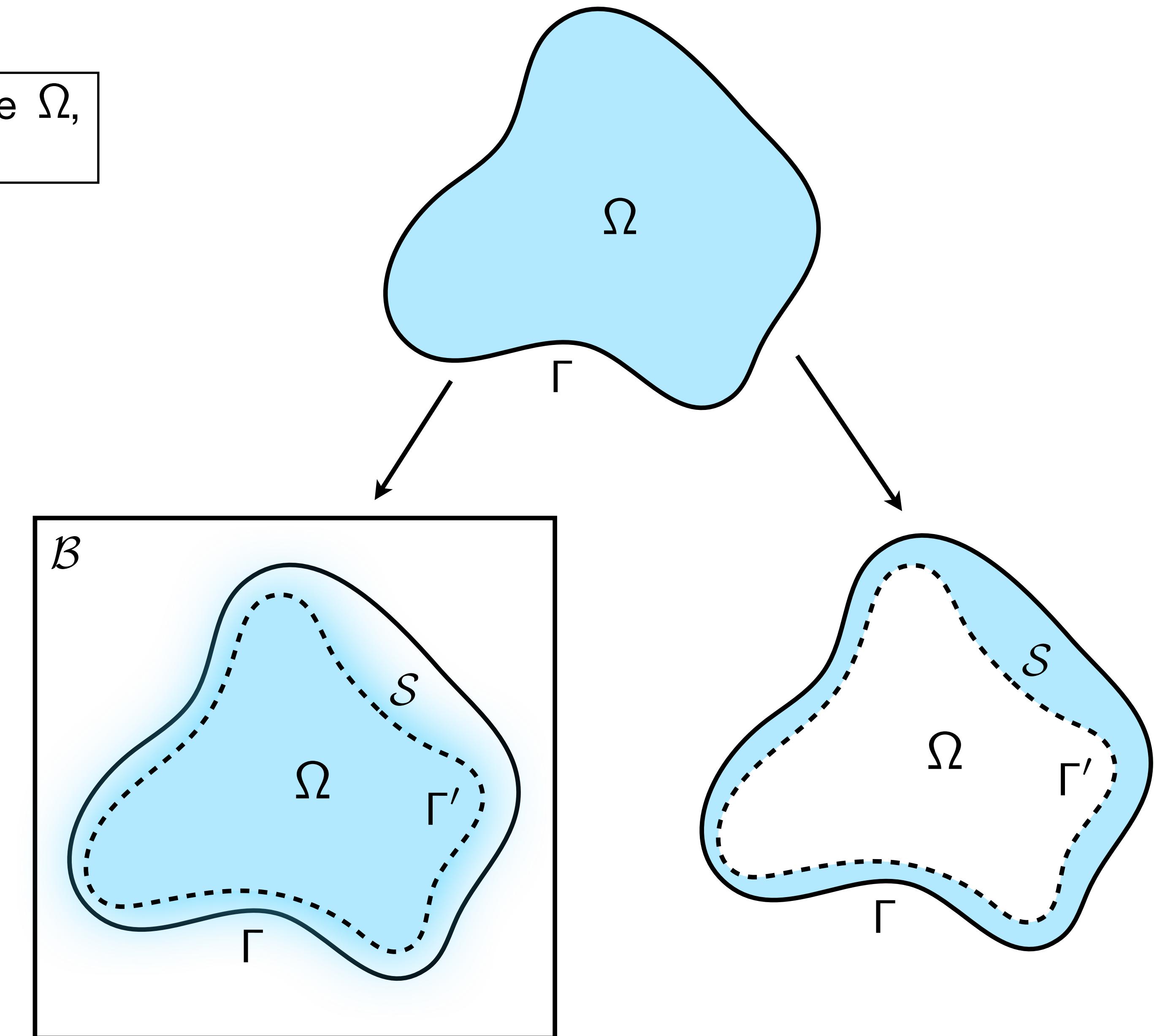
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How to define the strip?

How to solve in the strip?

How to patch the solutions?



Defining the strip

Wish list

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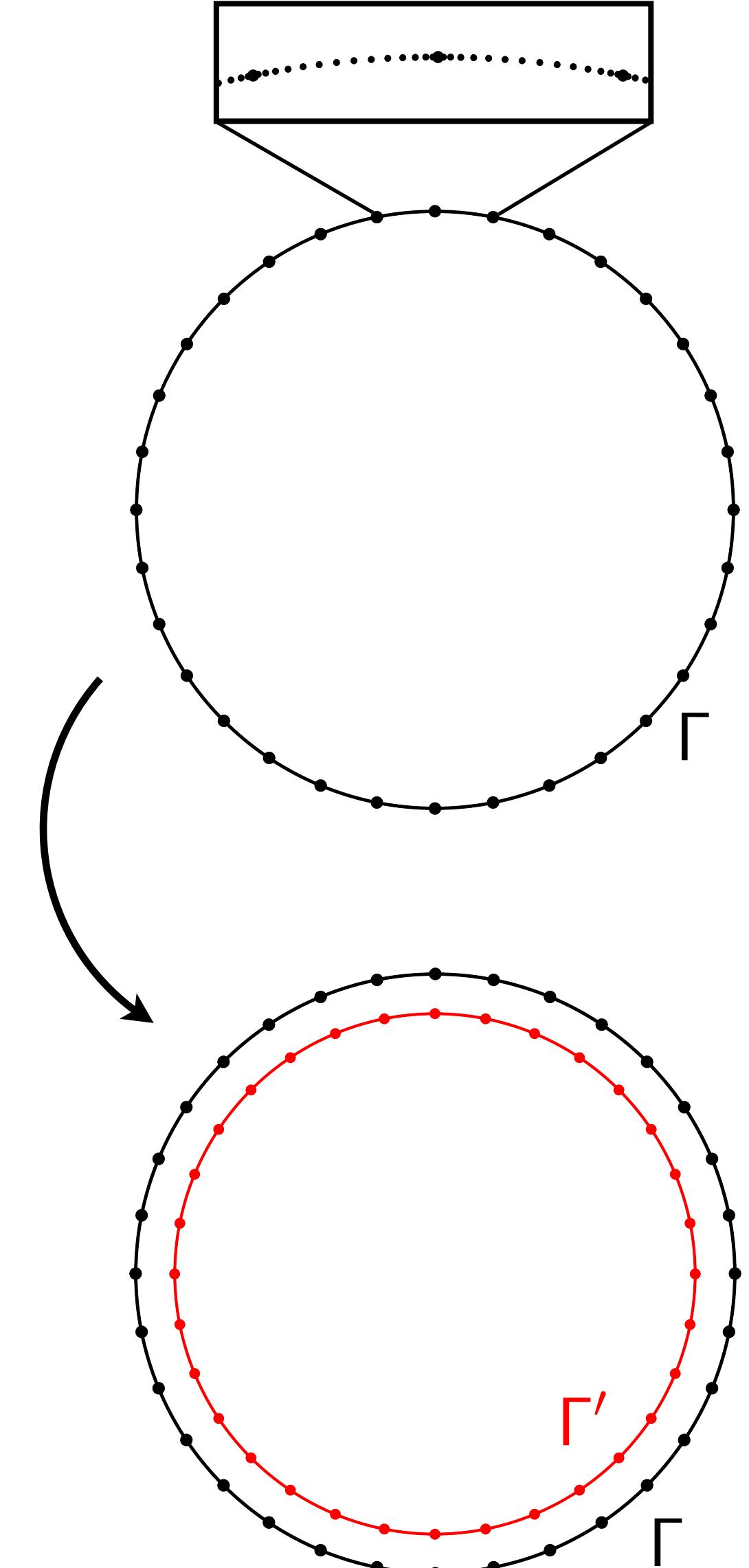
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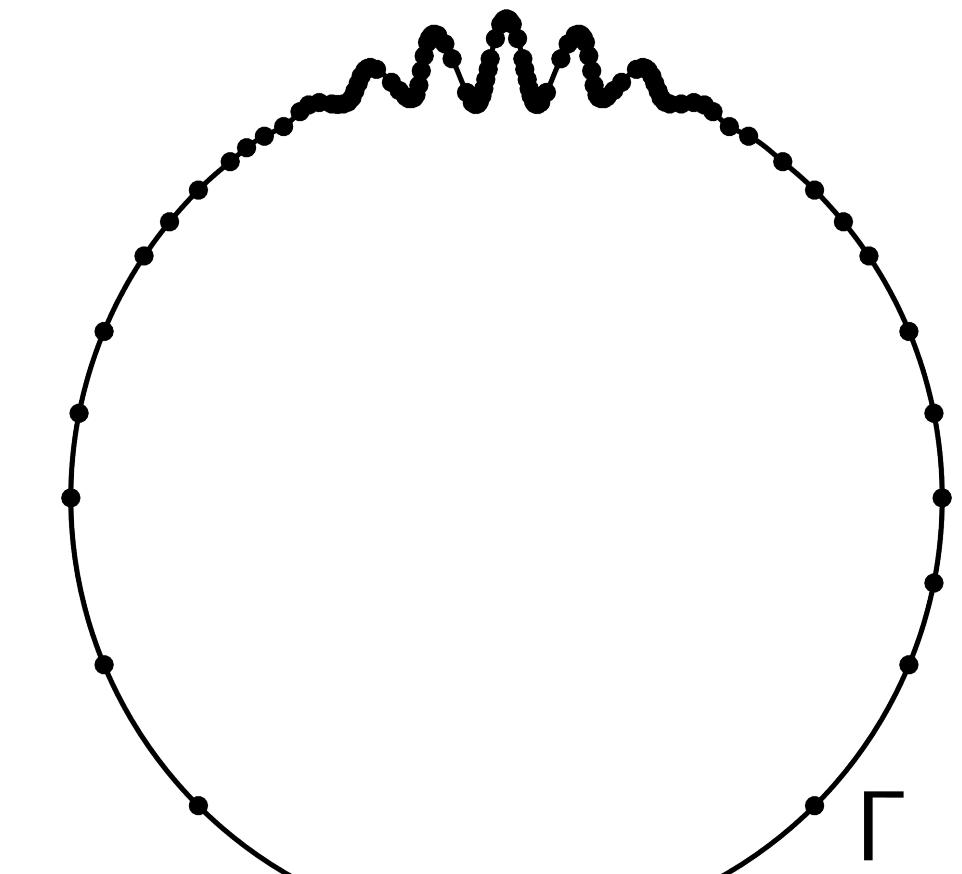


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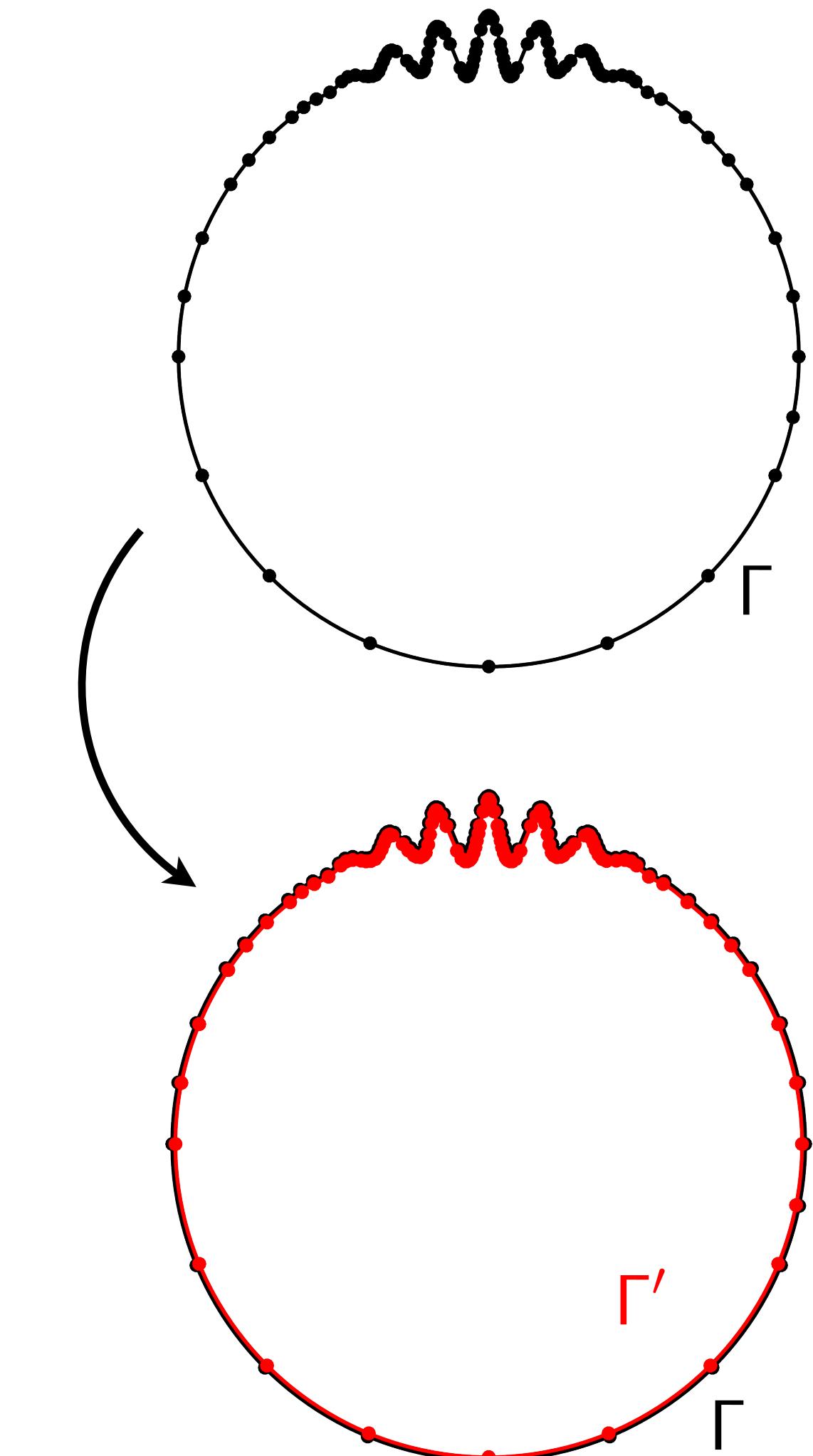
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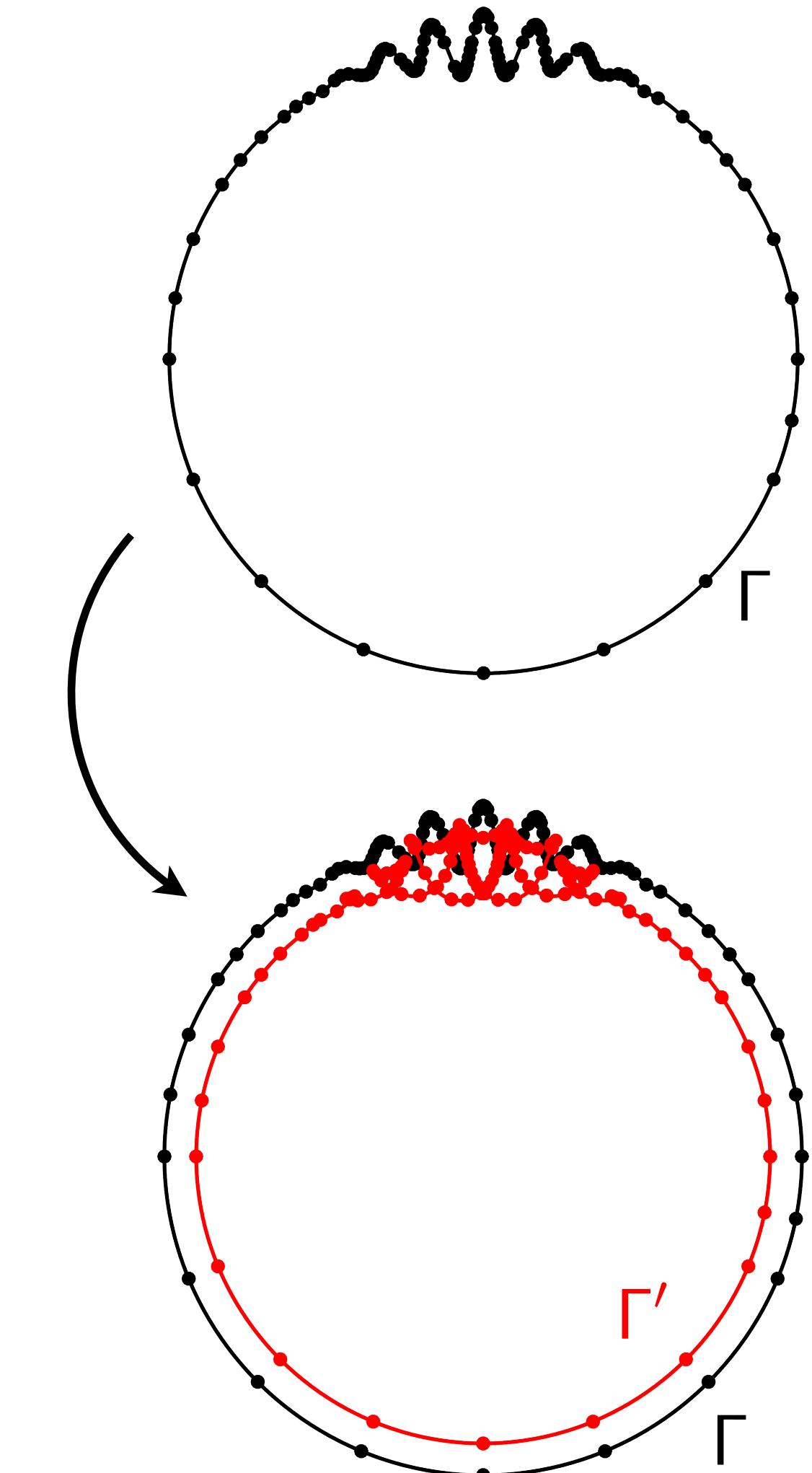
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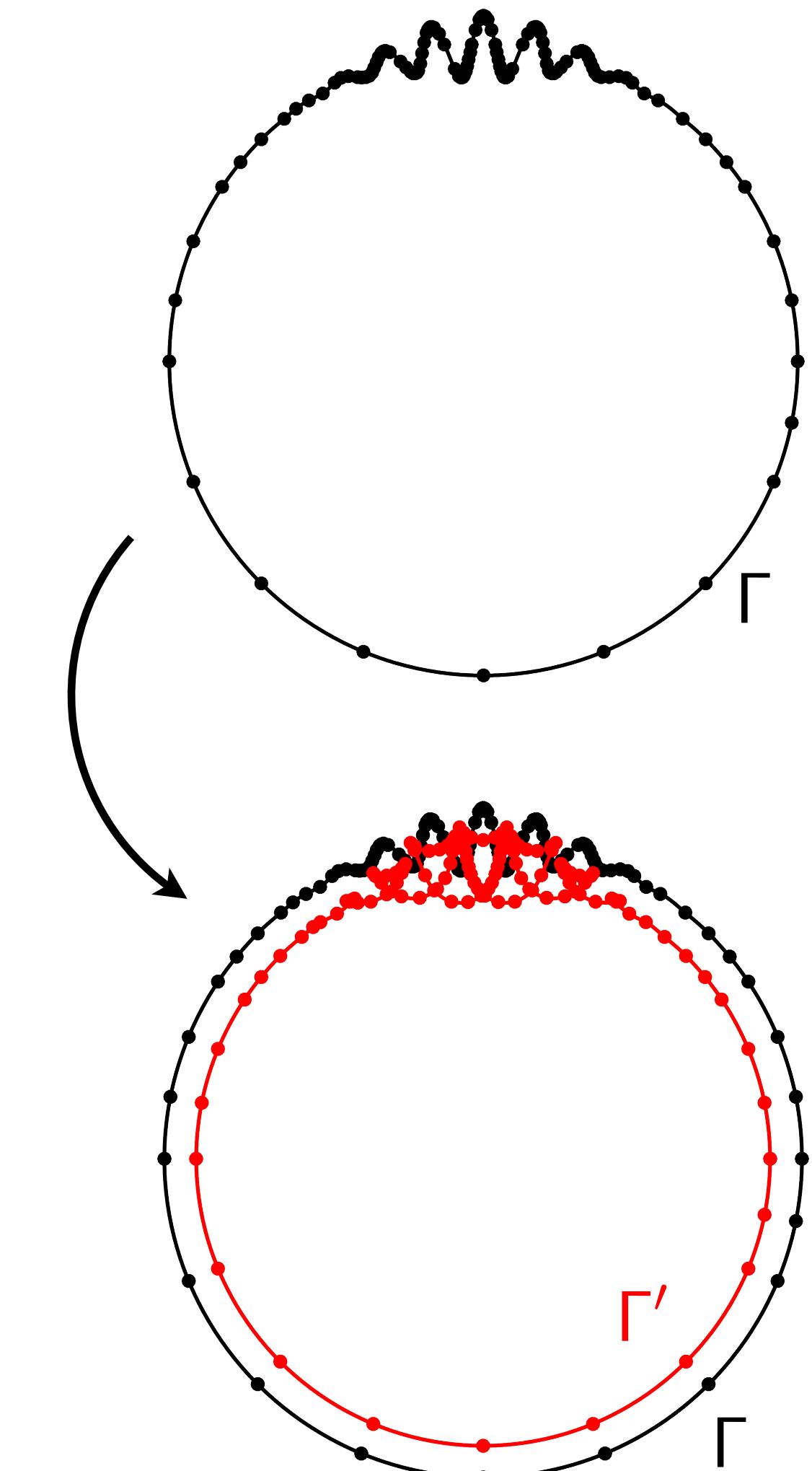
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Γ' should adapt to local panel size



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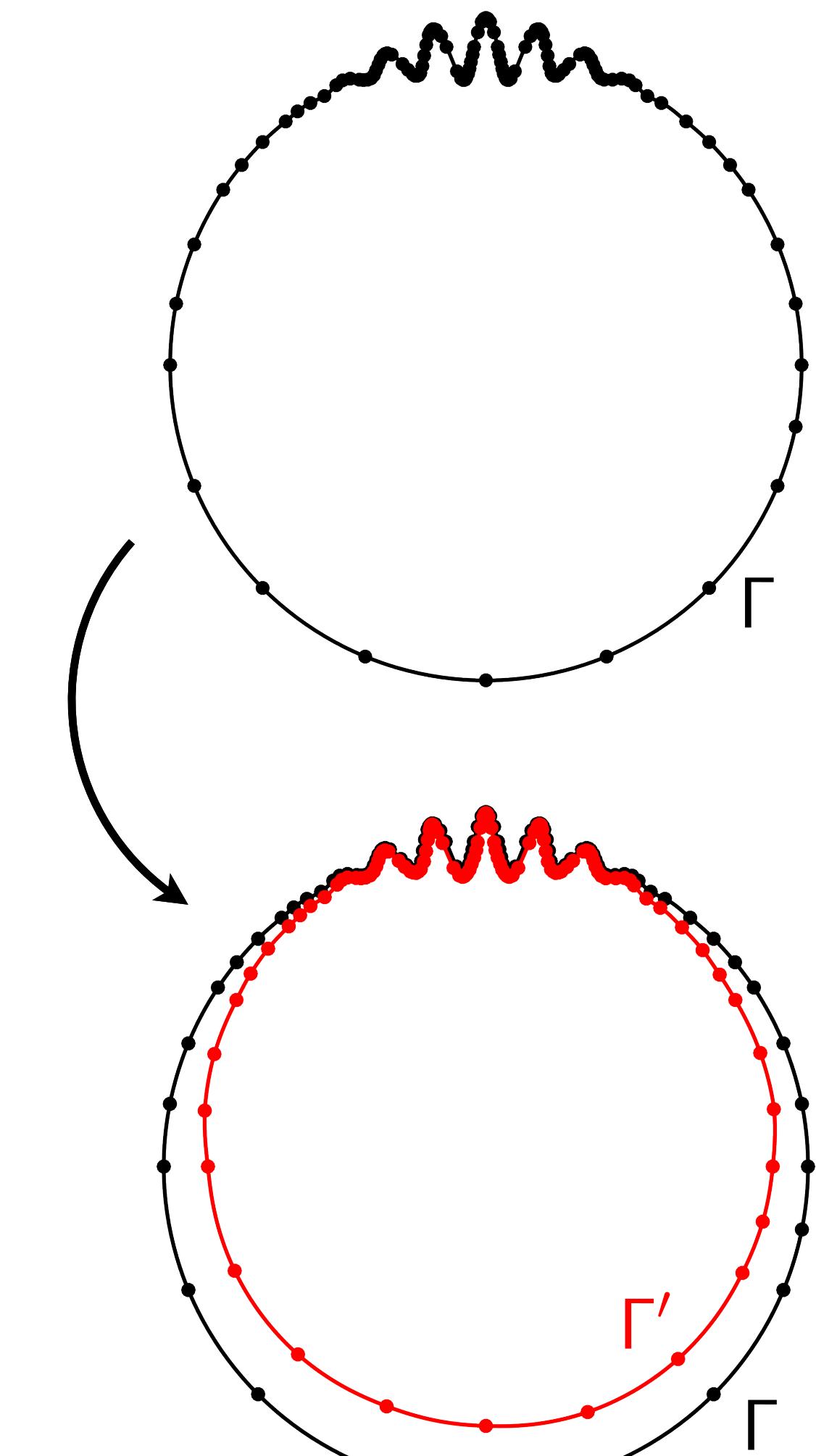
Adapting to local panel size

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Solution:

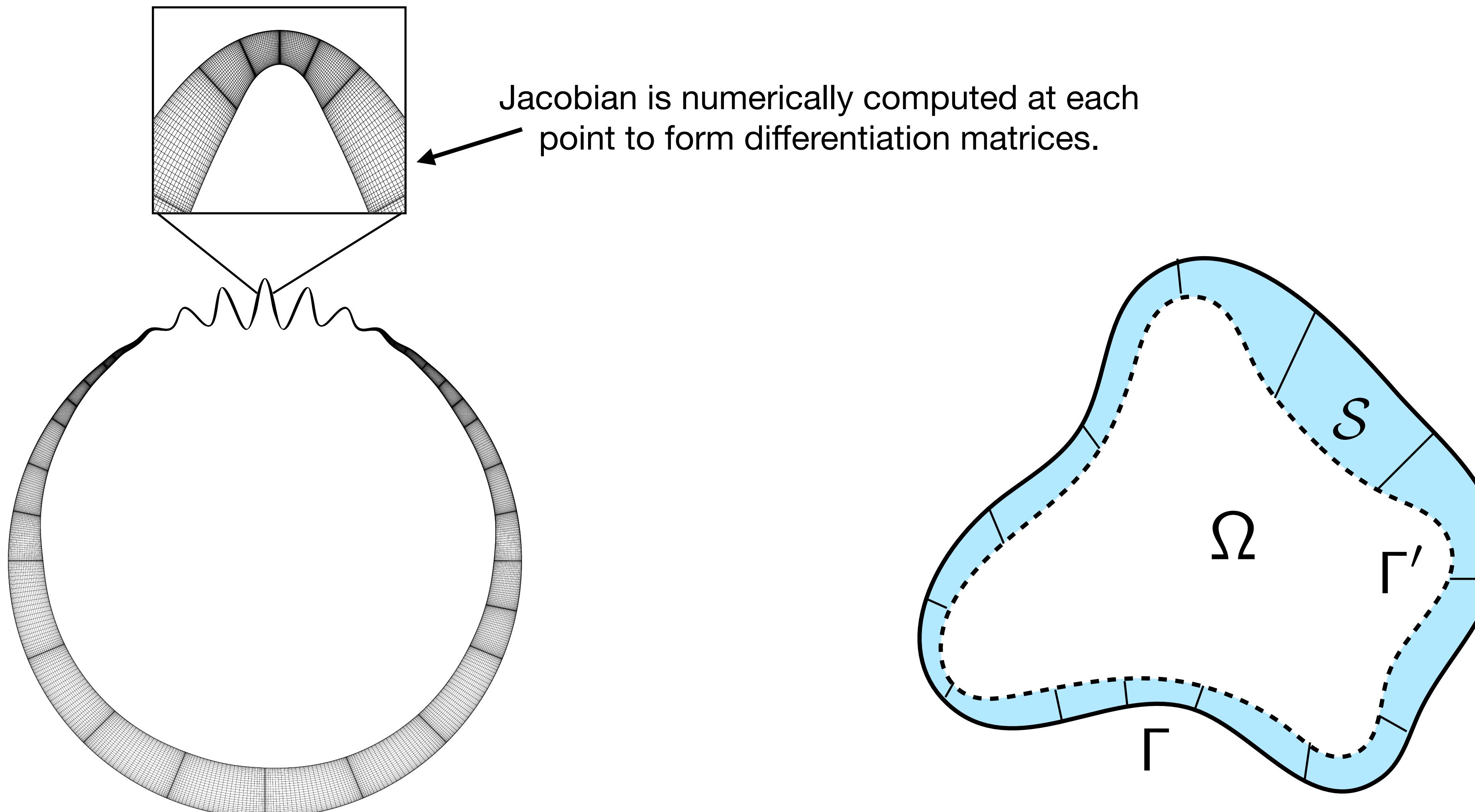
- Define piecewise linear width function based on average local panel size
- Approximate each junction by smoothed $\text{abs}(x)$
- Blend together using matched asymptotics
- Perturb in the normal direction



Solving the strip problem

Spectral element discretization

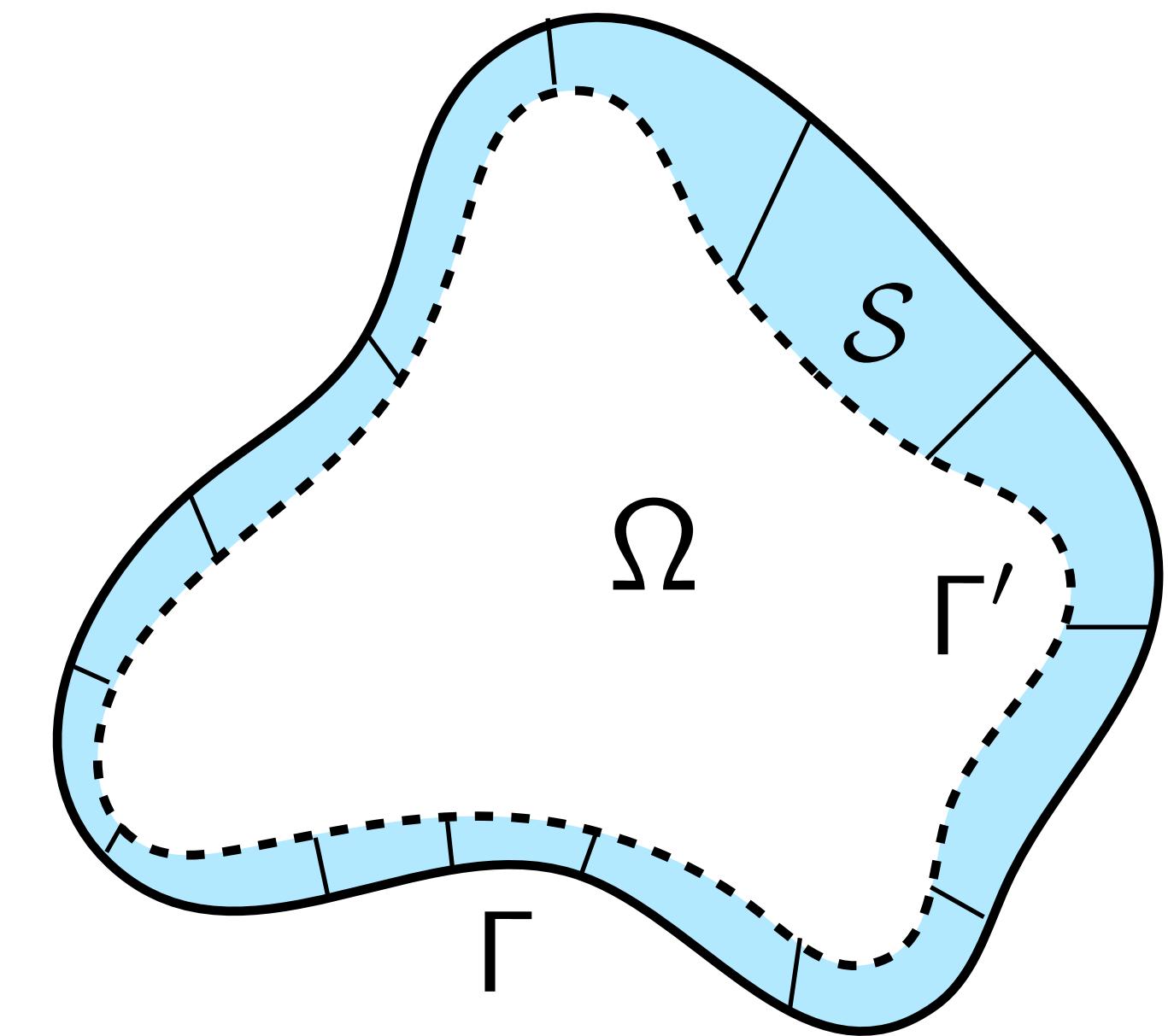
We use a spectral element method in \mathcal{S} , with spectral collocation at tensor-product Chebyshev nodes on each element.



Solving the strip problem

A fast direct solver for the strip

We use the hierarchical Poincare-Steklov scheme to build a **fast direct solver** in \mathcal{S} .



[Gillman & Martinsson, 2015], [Martinsson, 2015]

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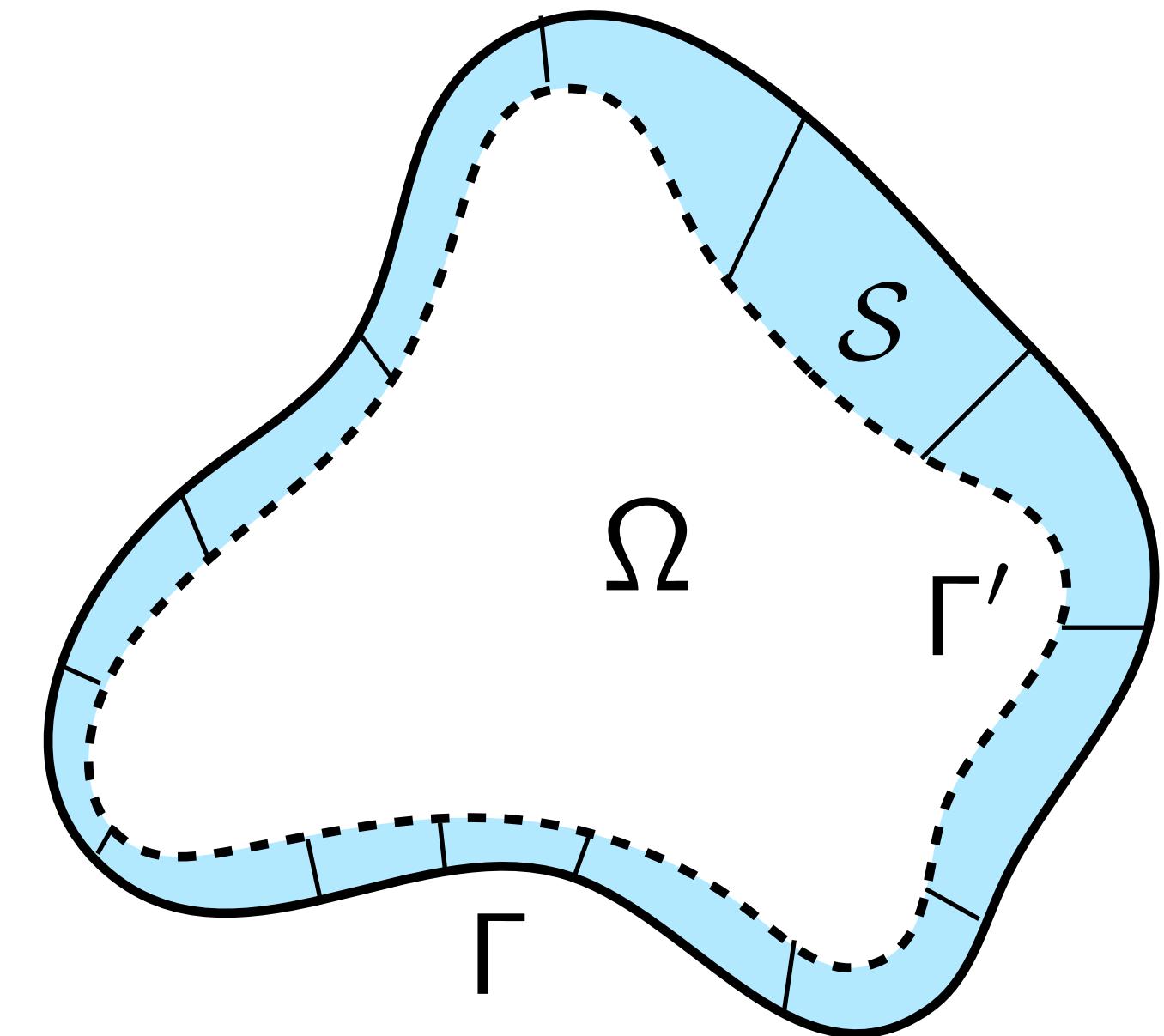
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Given an inhomogeneity f :

① On each element, compute:

- Solution operator:
- Dirichlet-to-Neumann map:

$$S \in \mathbb{R}^{n^2 \times 4n}$$
$$DtN \in \mathbb{R}^{4n \times 4n}$$



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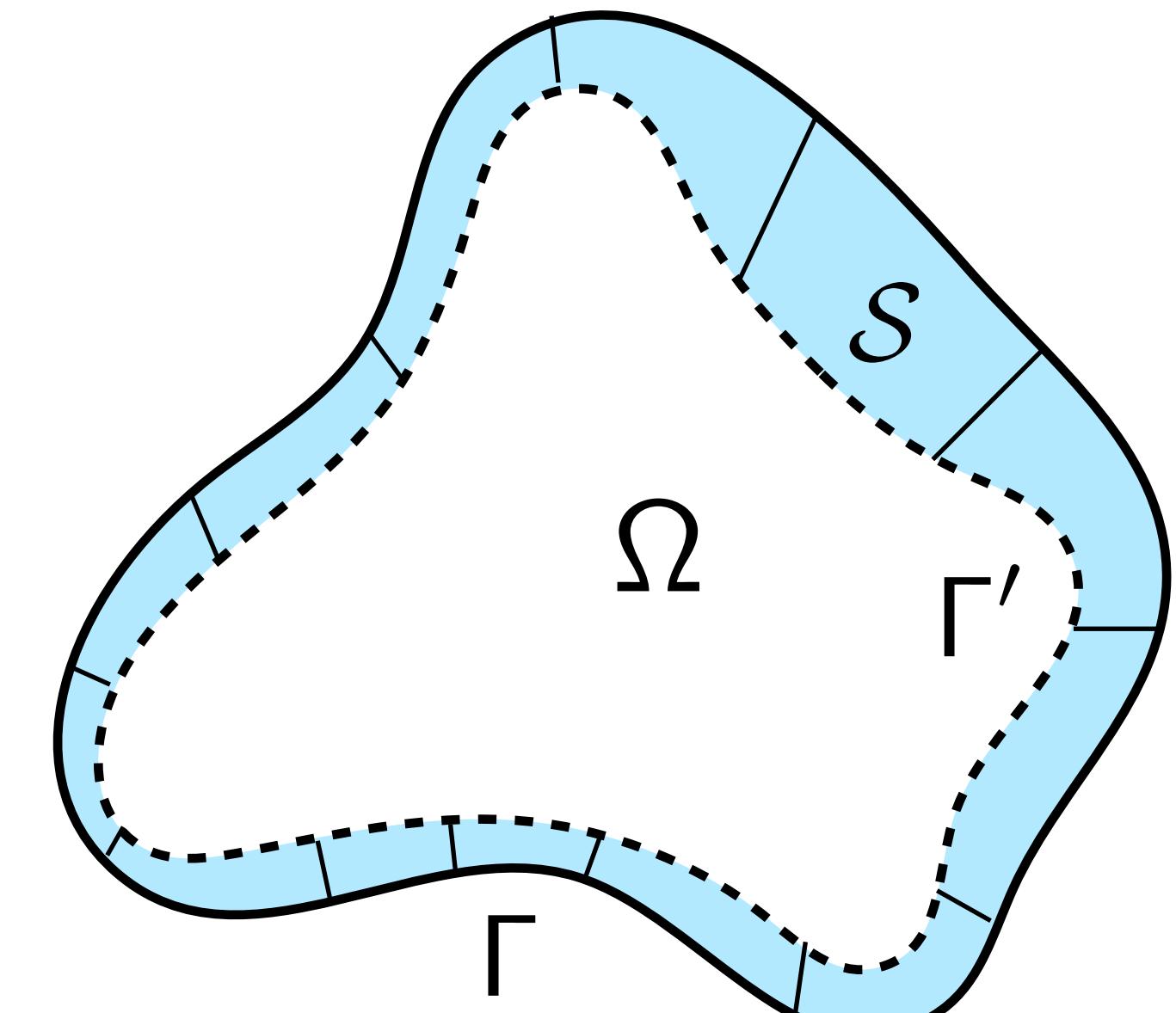
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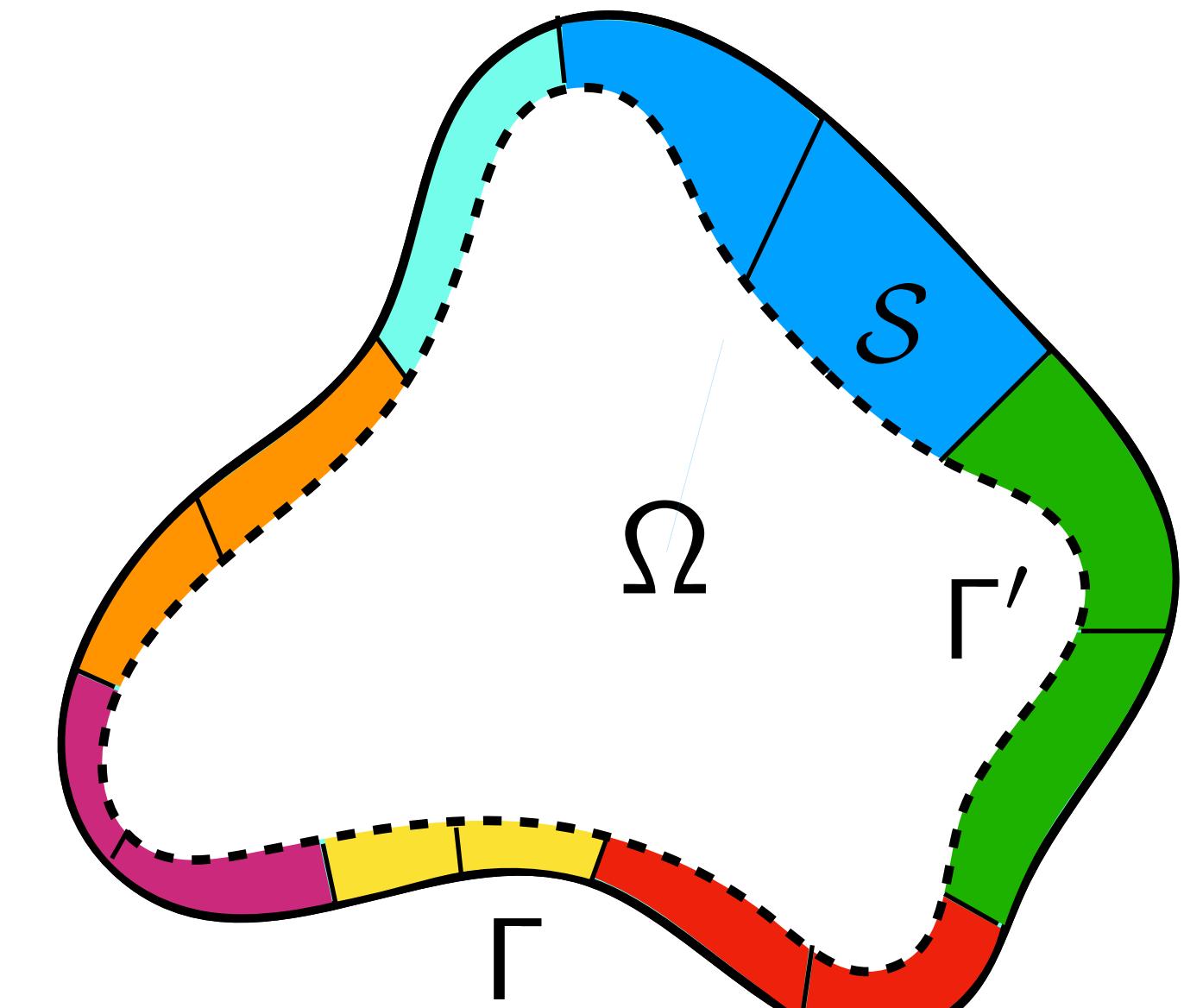
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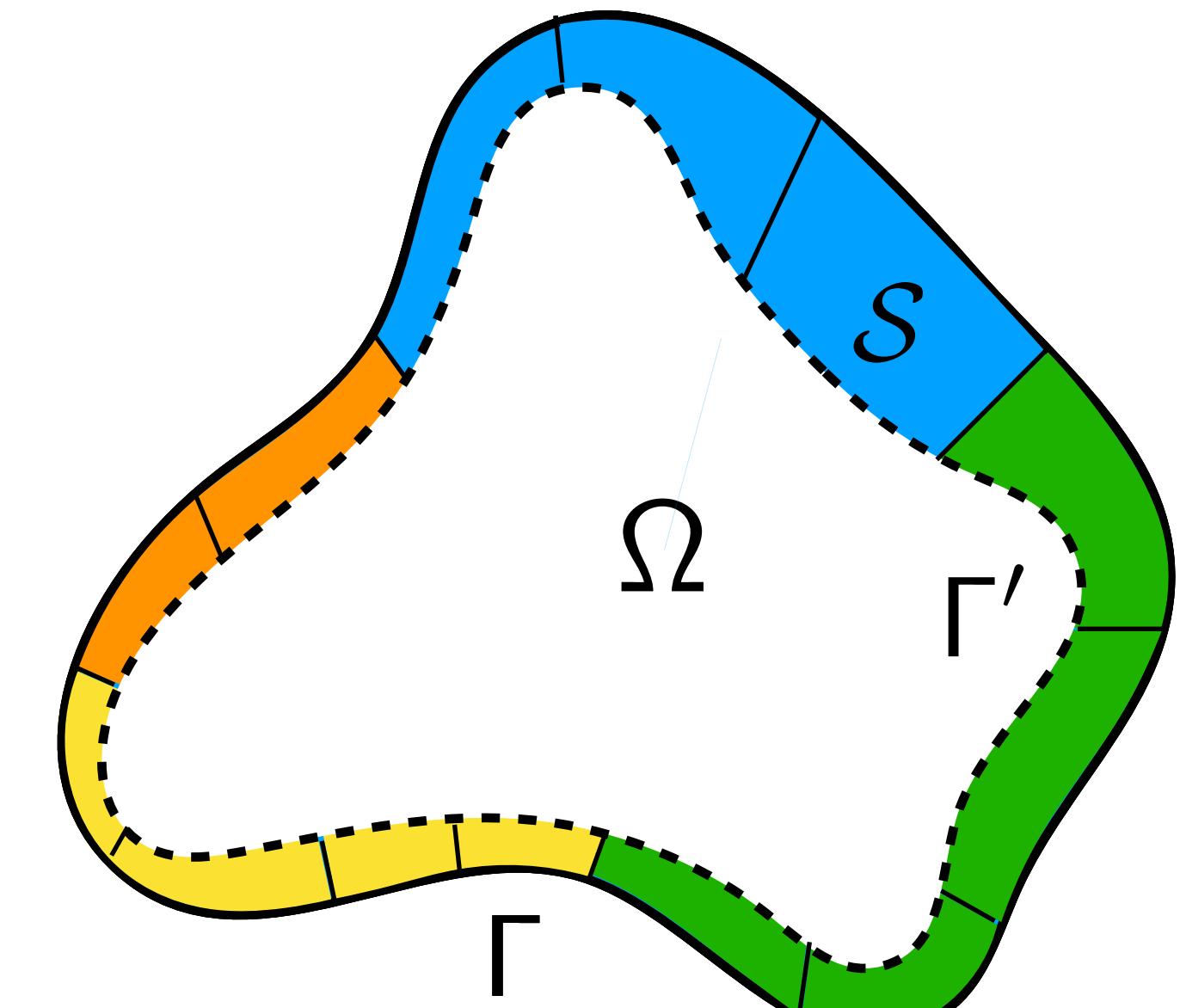
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- Compute S and DtN on parent via Schur complement



[Gillman & Martinsson, 2015], [Martinsson, 2015]

Solving the strip problem

A fast direct solver for the strip

We use the hierarchical Poincare-Steklov scheme to build a **fast direct solver** in \mathcal{S} .

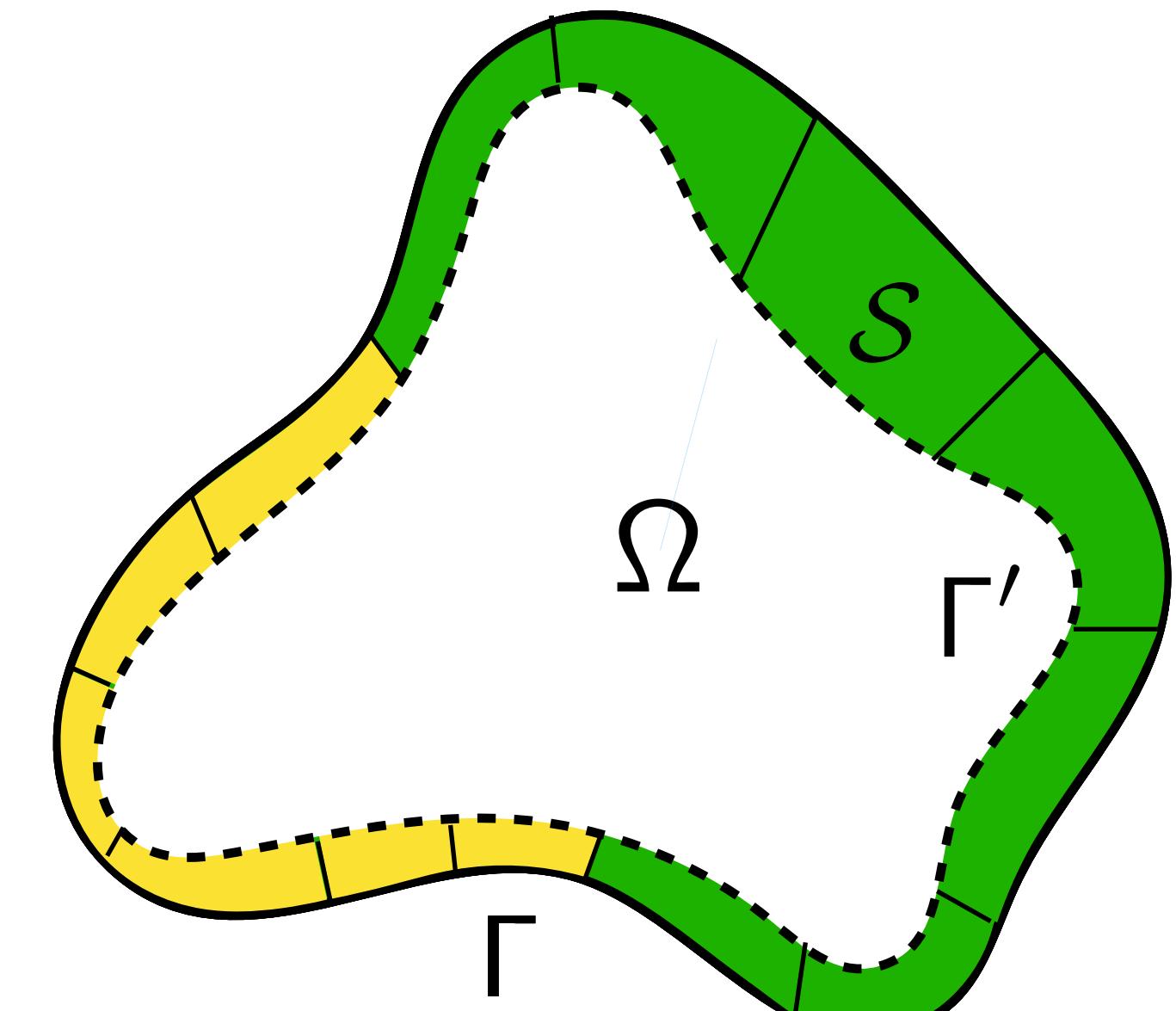
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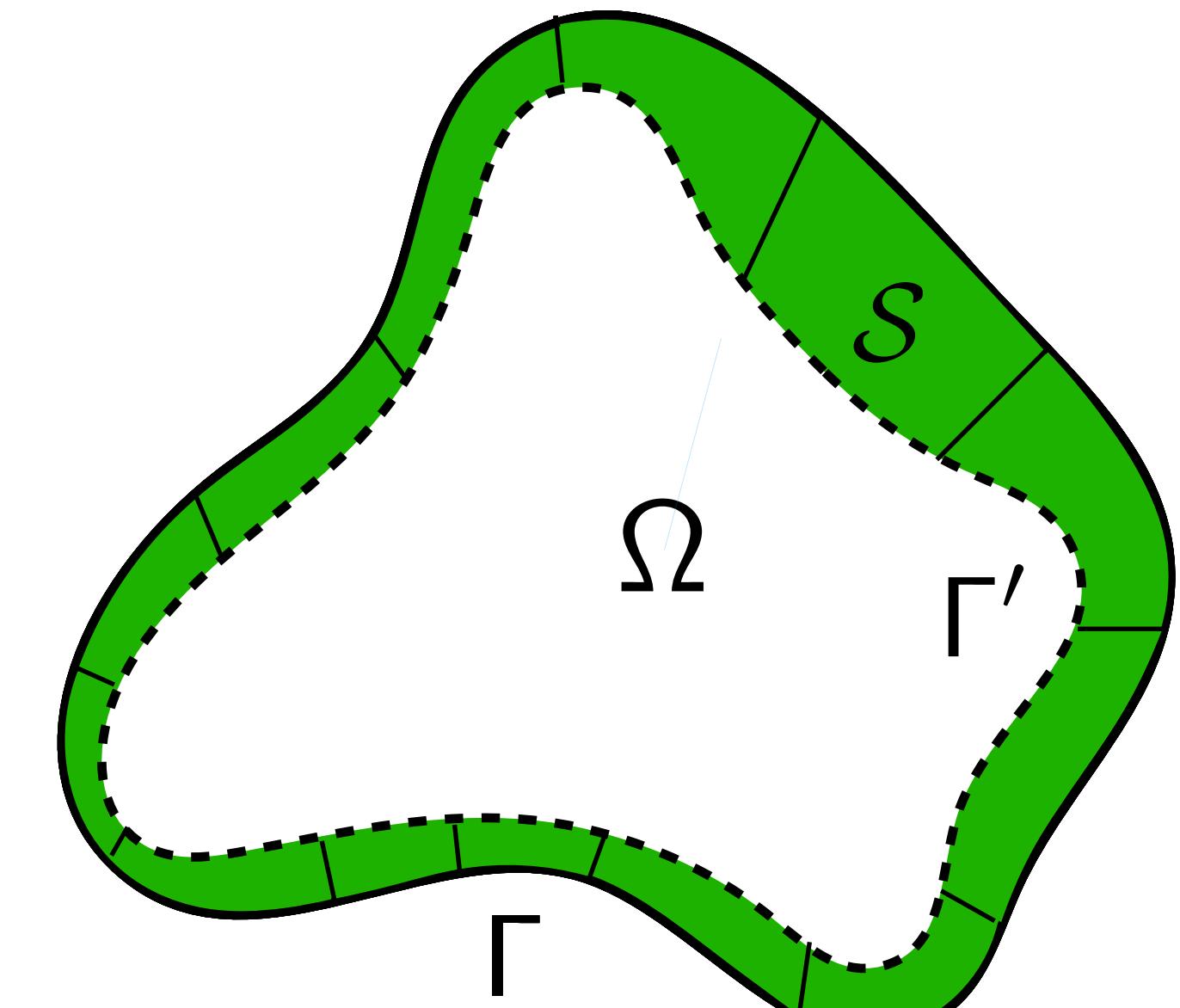
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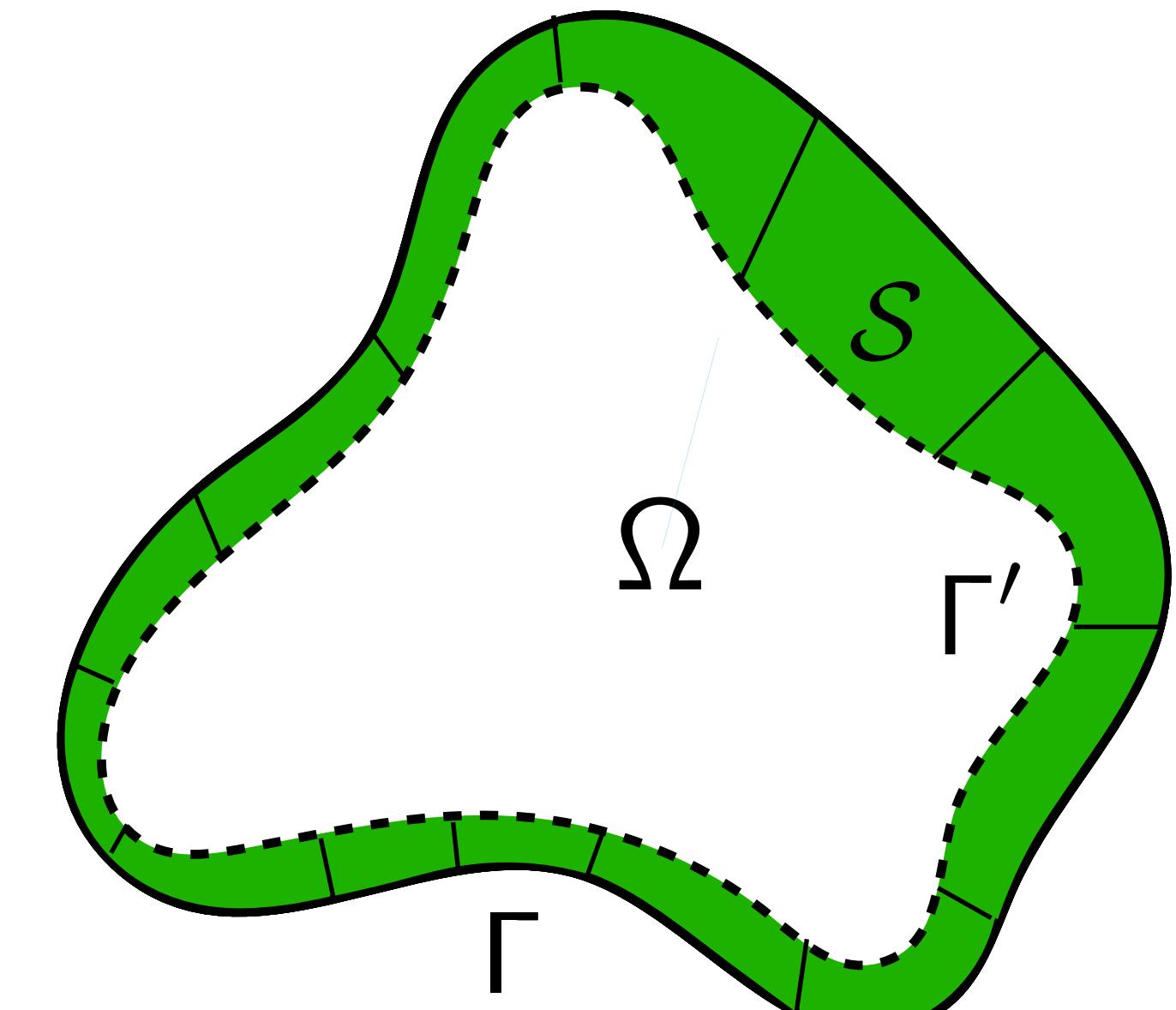
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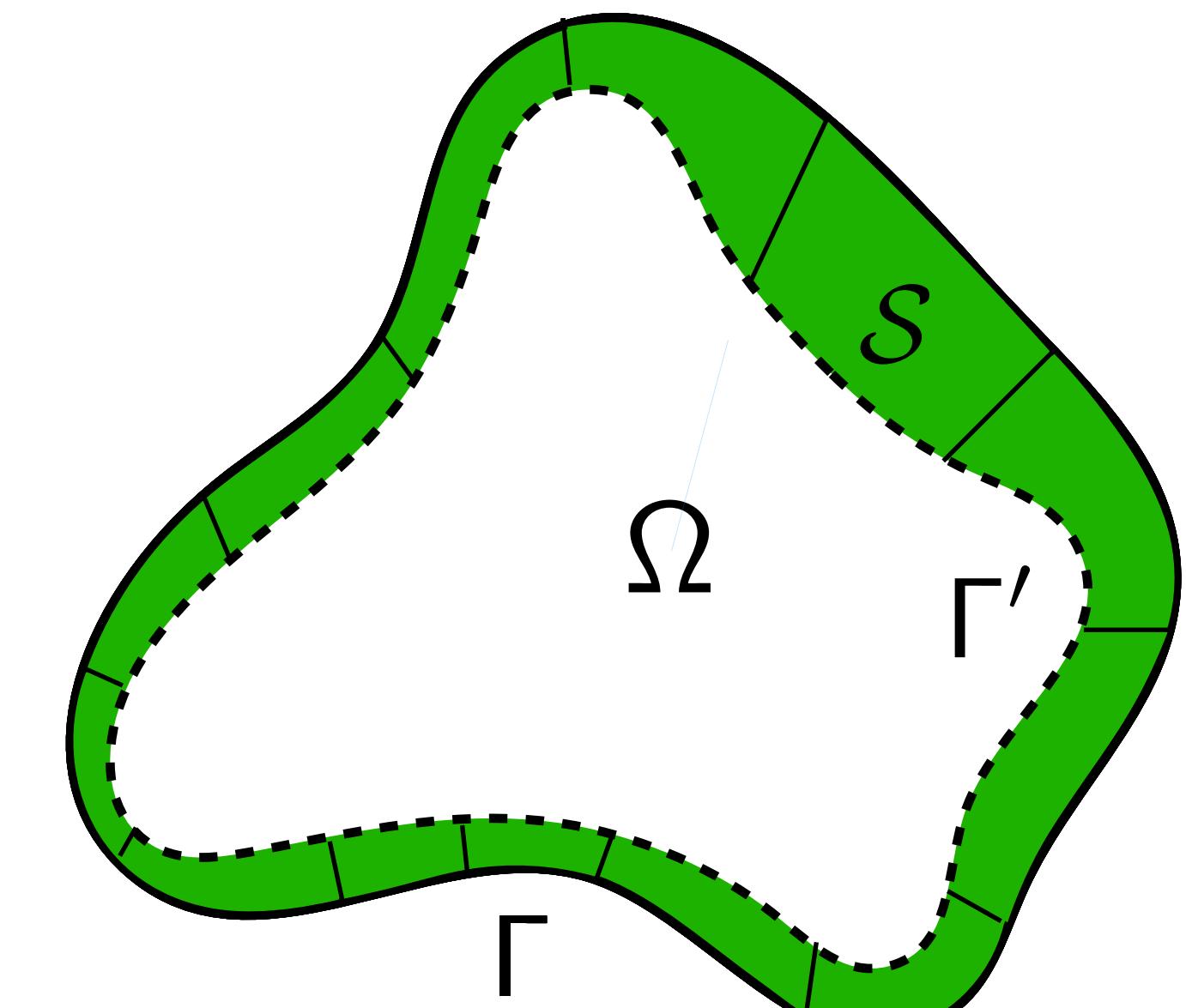
$$\text{Cost: } \mathcal{O}(p^6 n_{\text{panel}}) + \mathcal{O}(p^3 n_{\text{panel}}) + \mathcal{O}(p^2 n_{\text{panel}}) = \mathcal{O}(n_{\text{panel}})$$

①

②

③

We typically use $p = 16$ on each panel and upsample the SEM grid to $2p = 32$.



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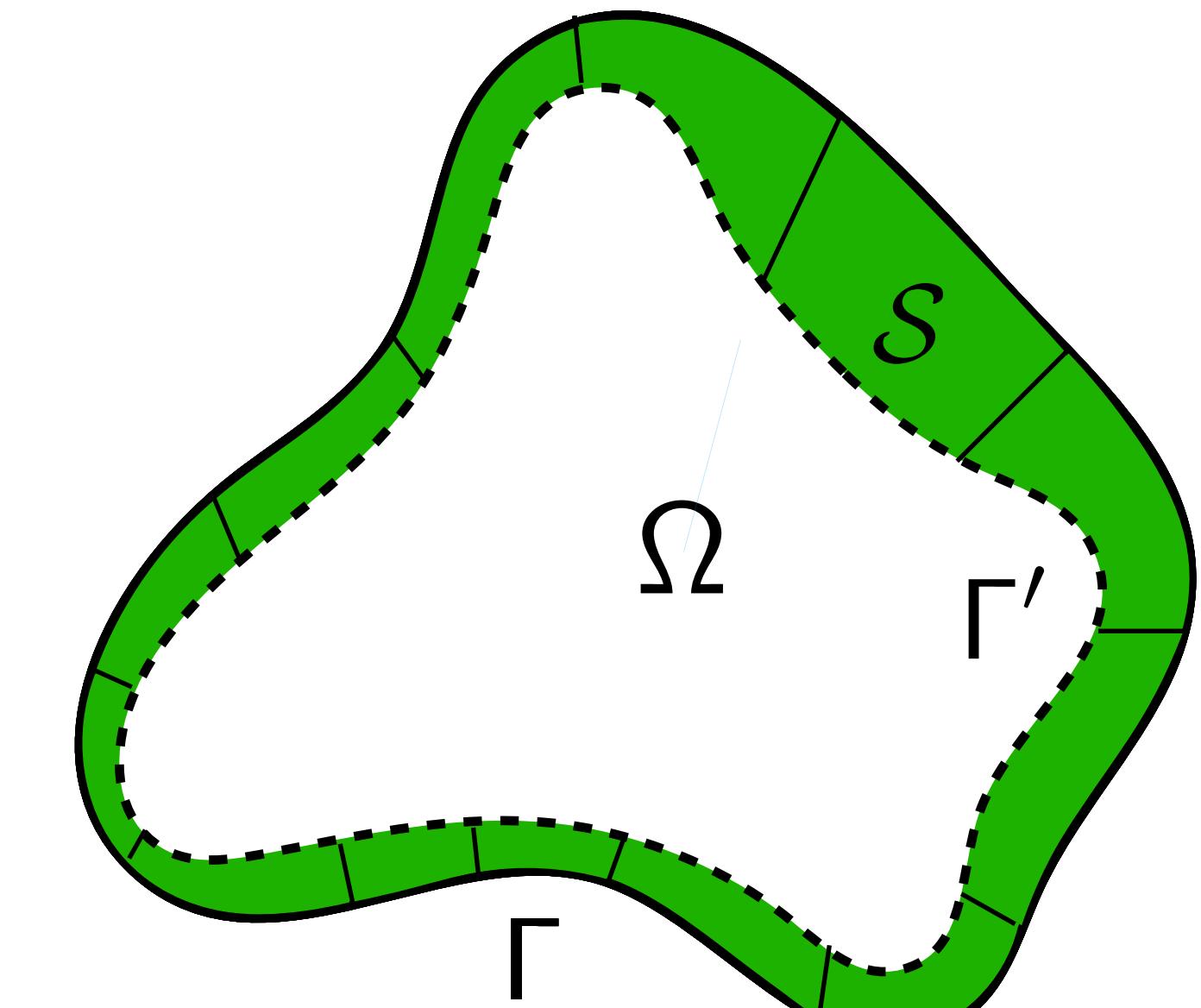
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①

②

③



Takeaway: 1D HPS is fast out of the box.

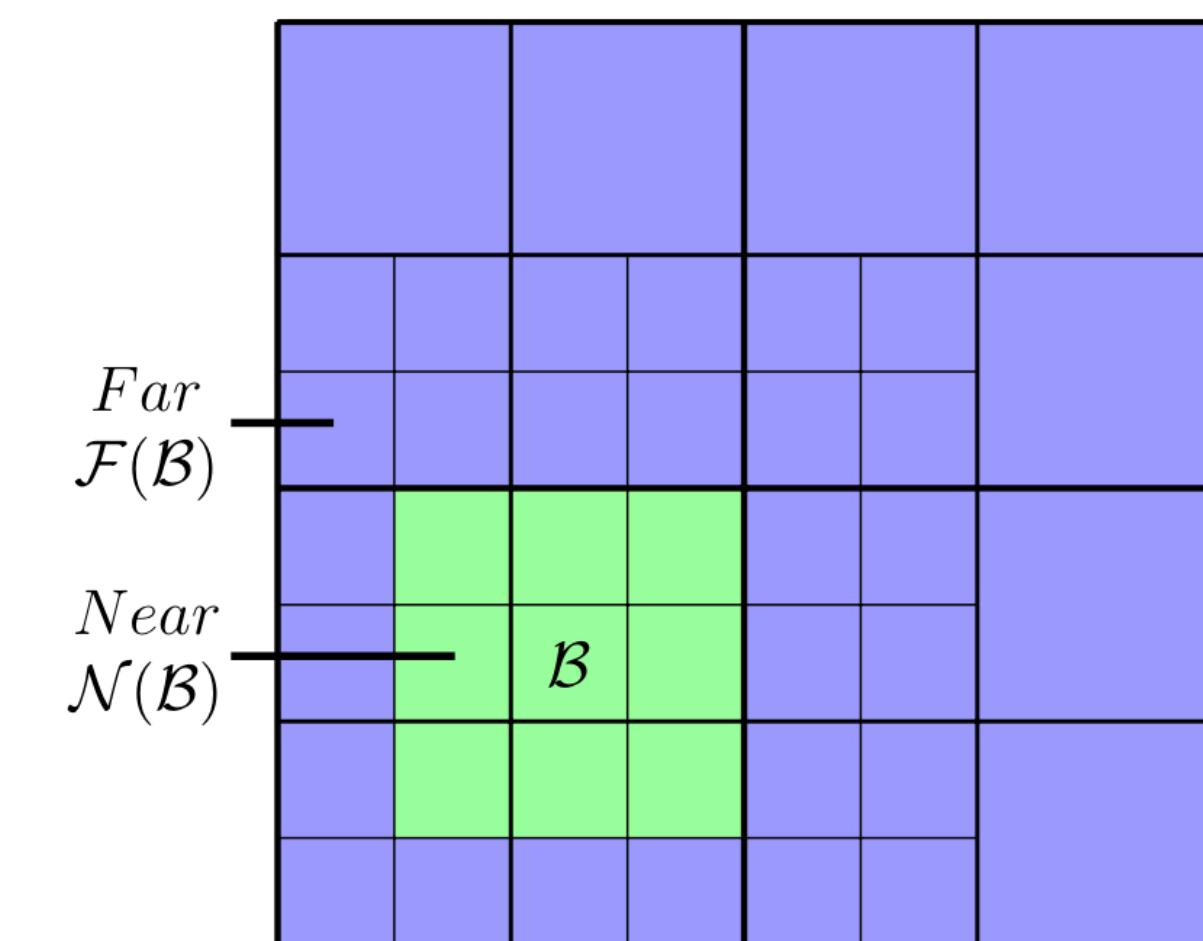
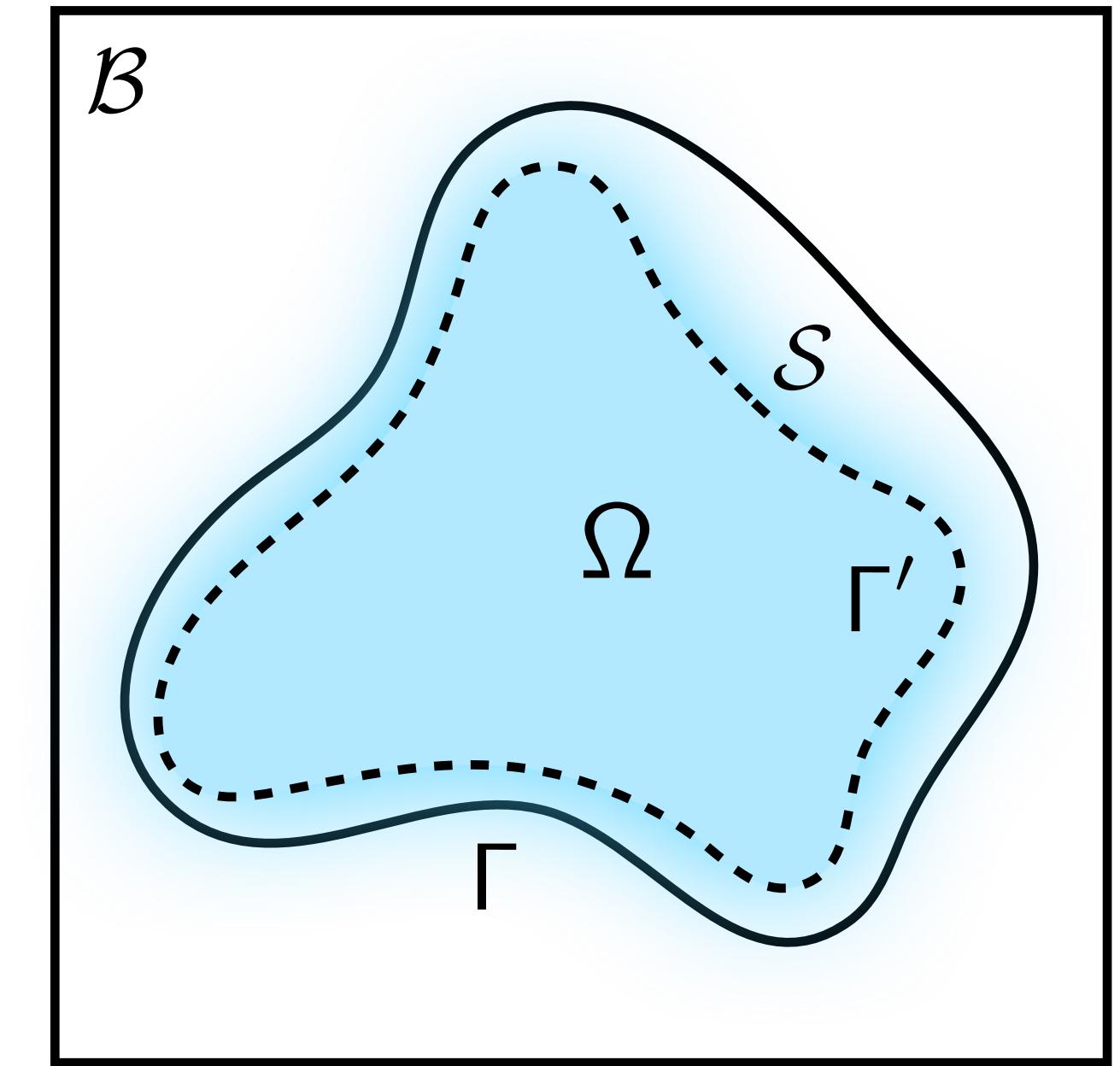
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Solving the bulk problem

Evaluating the roll off function

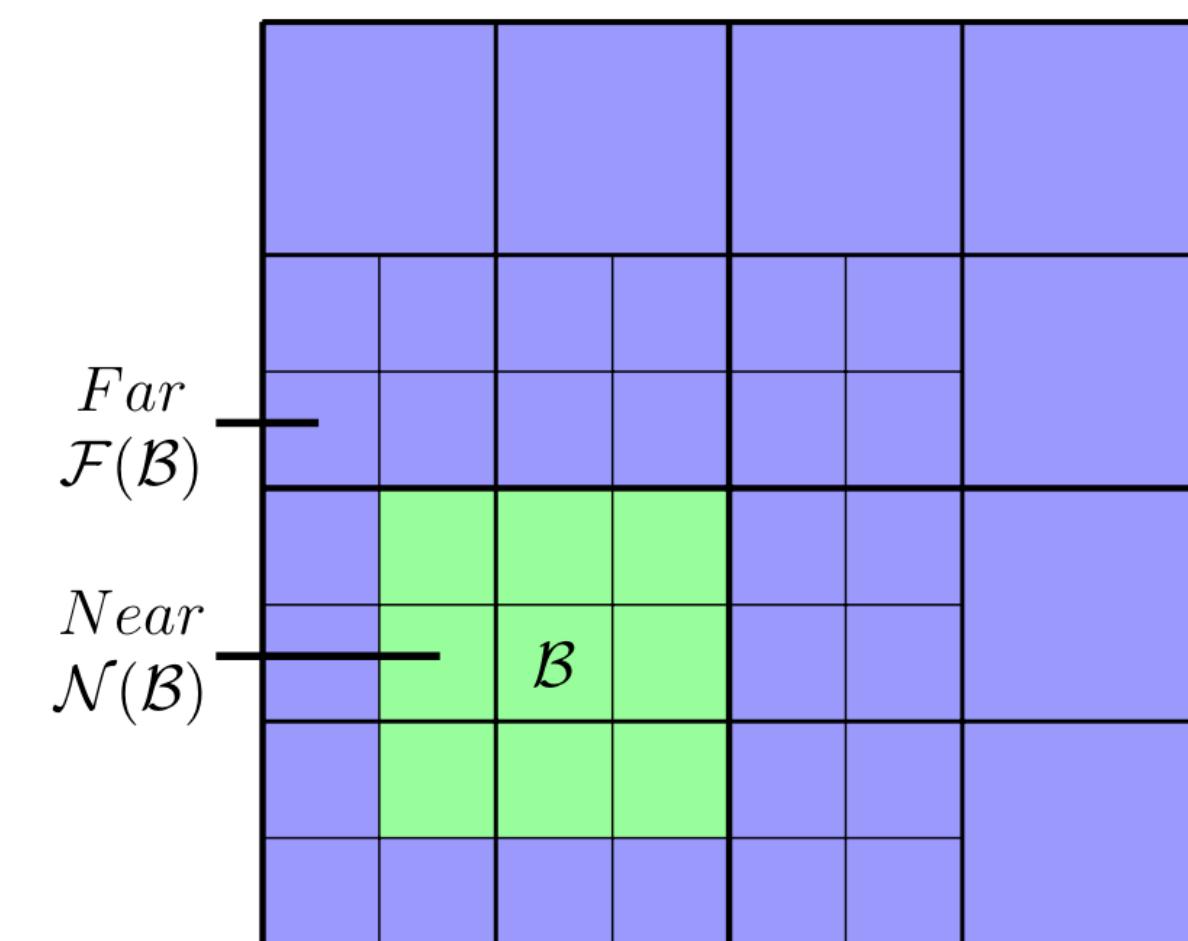
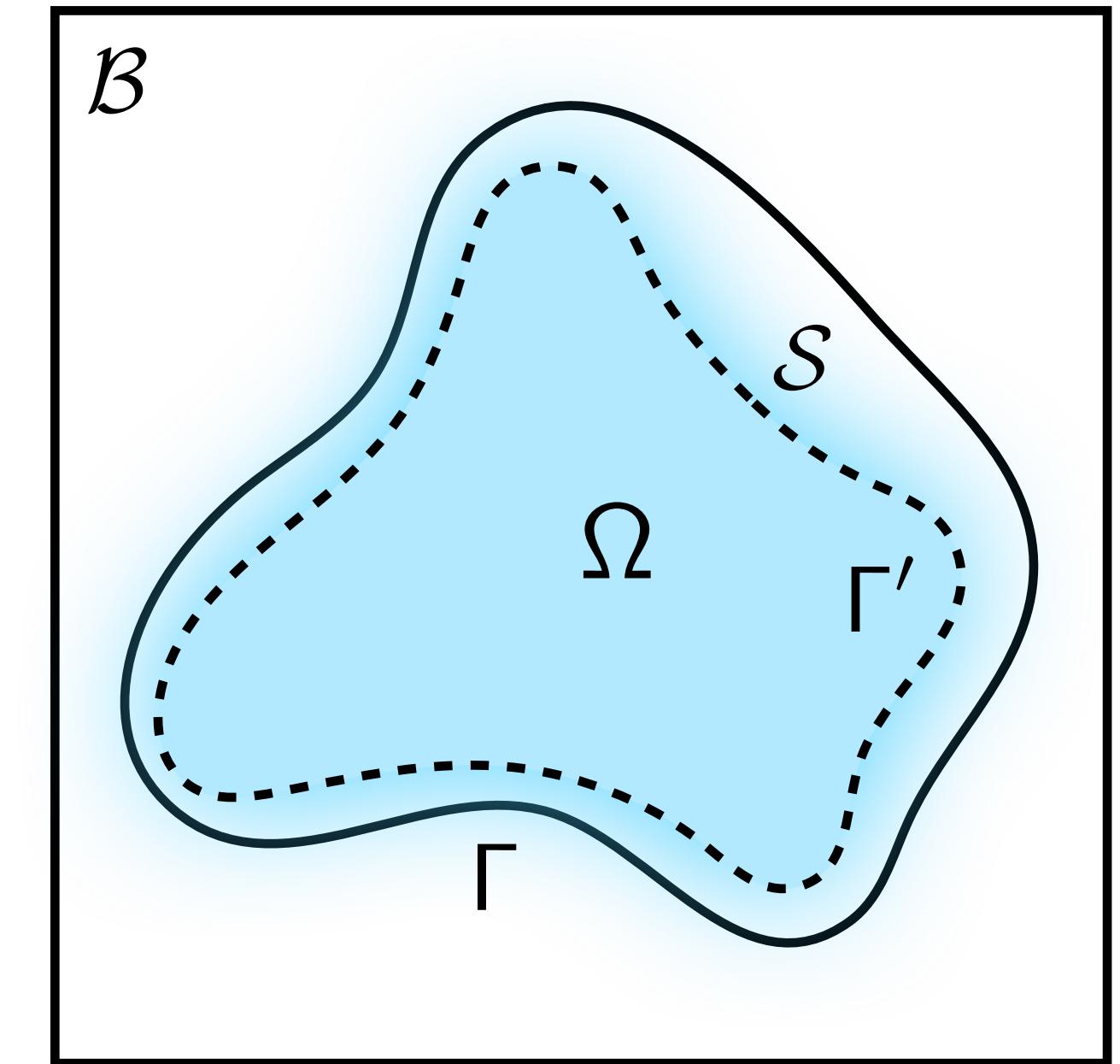
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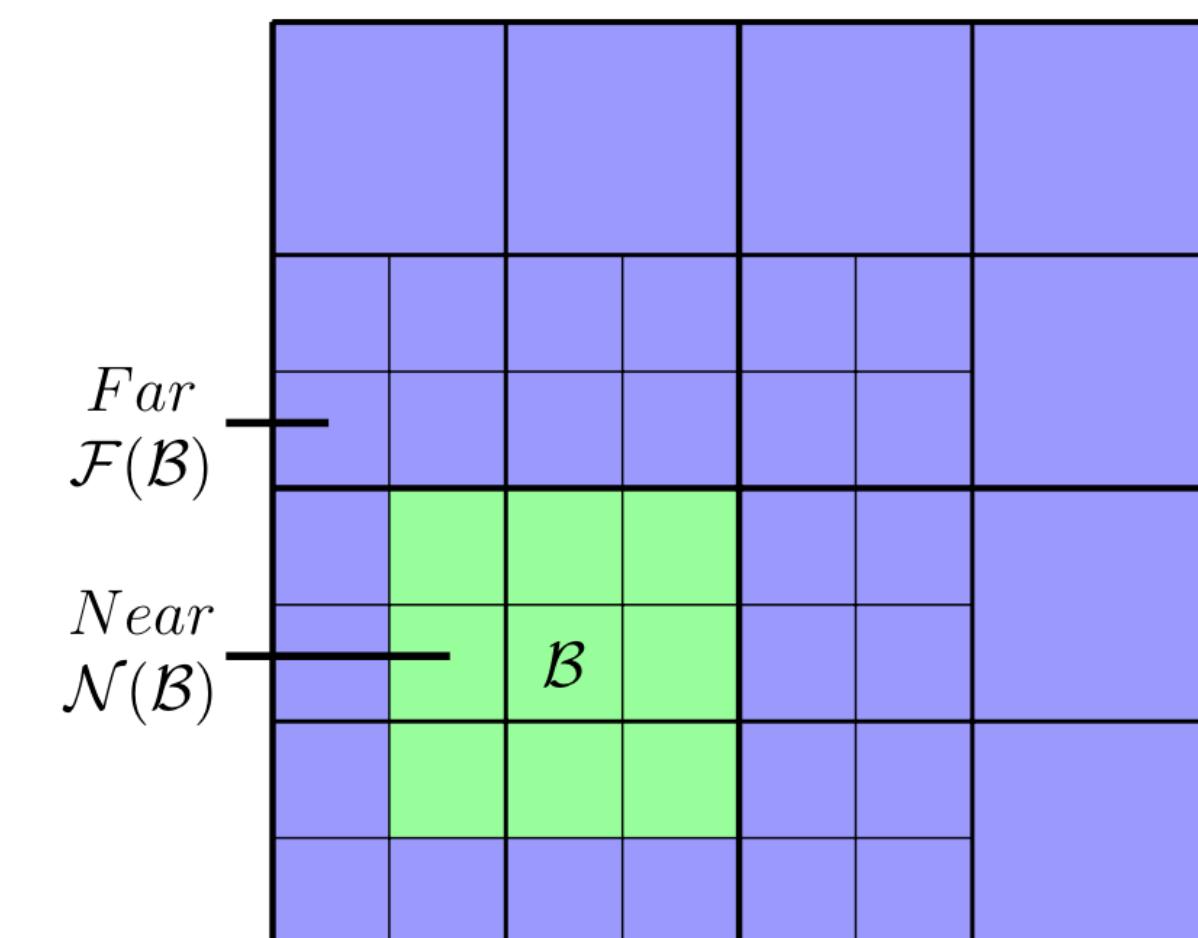
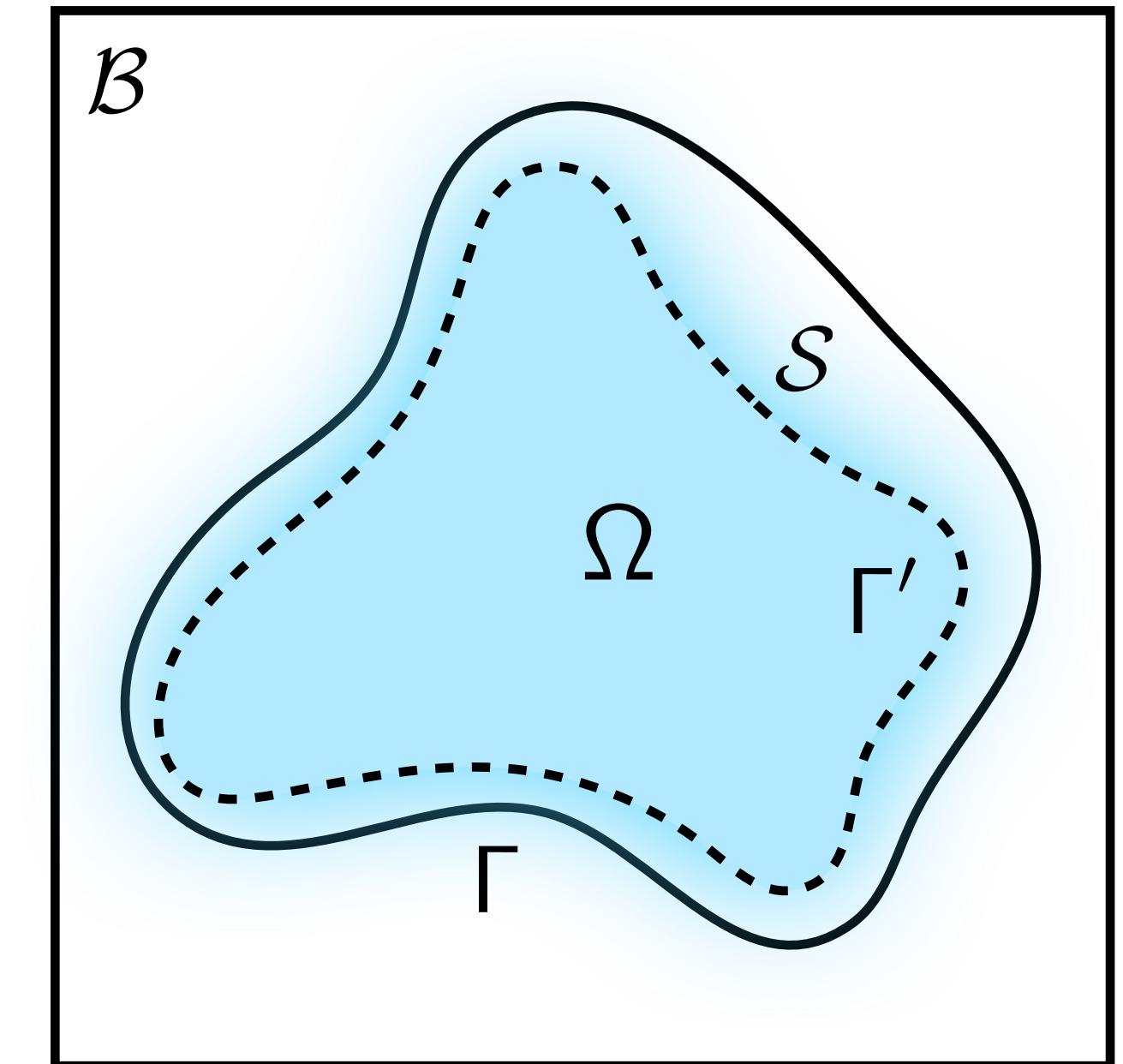
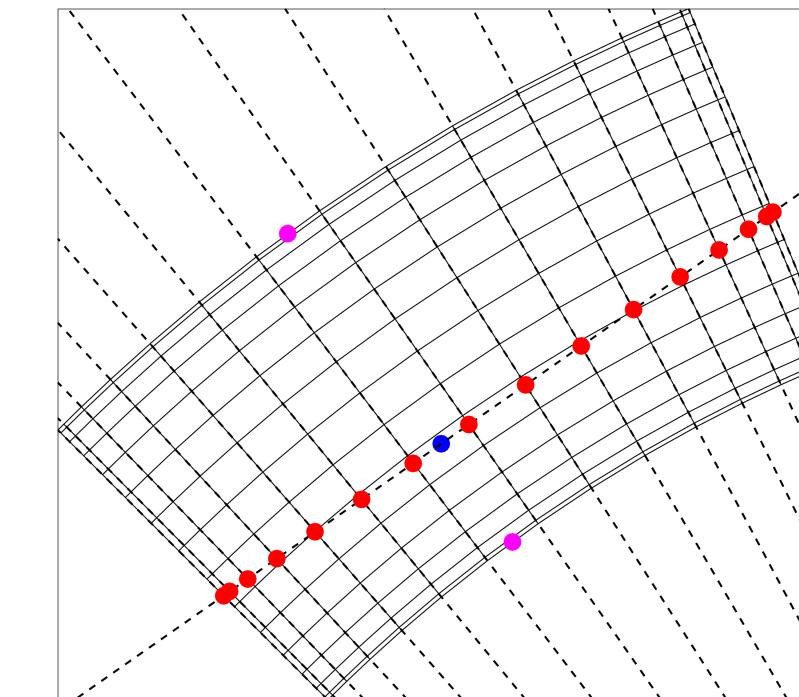
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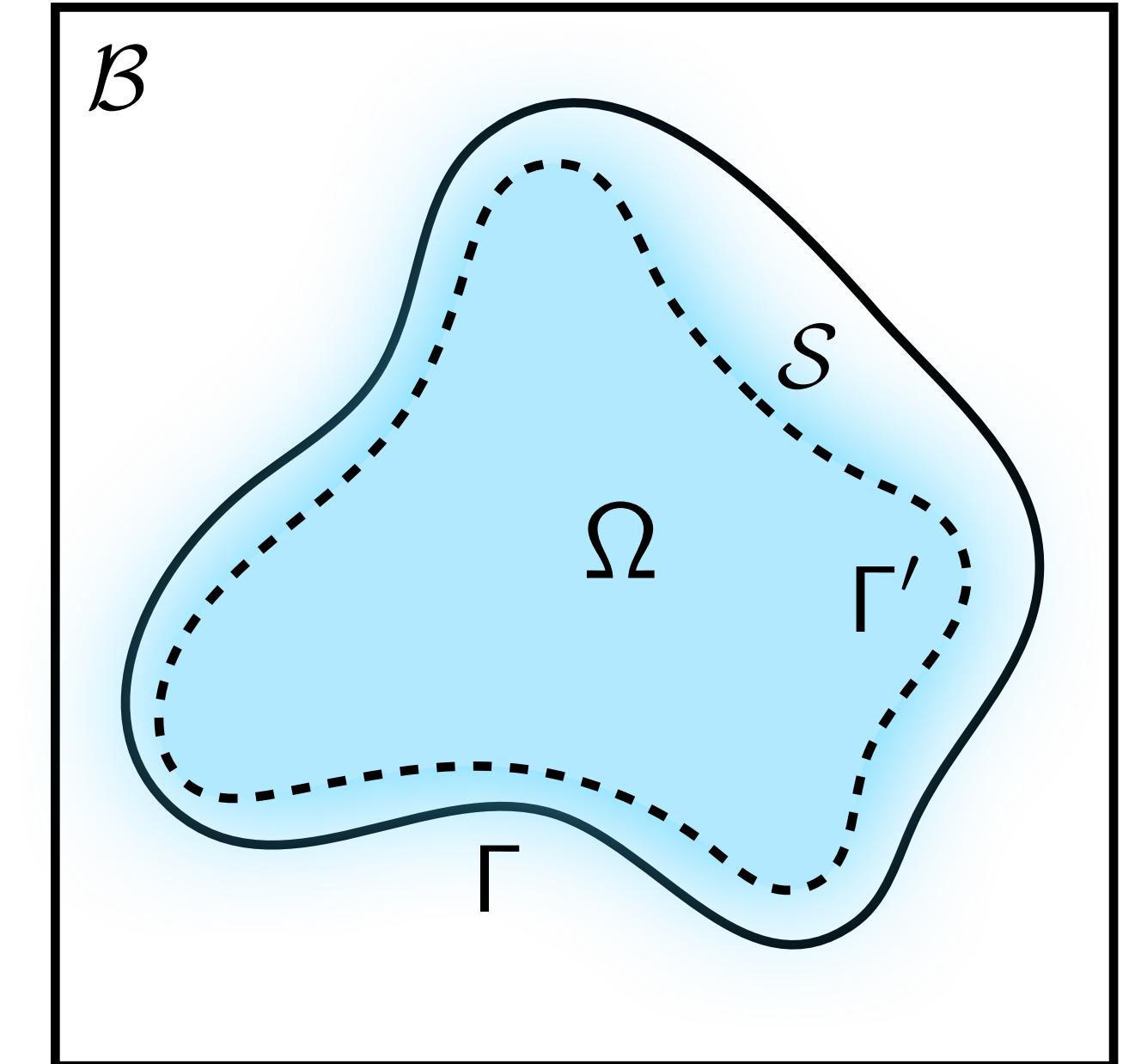
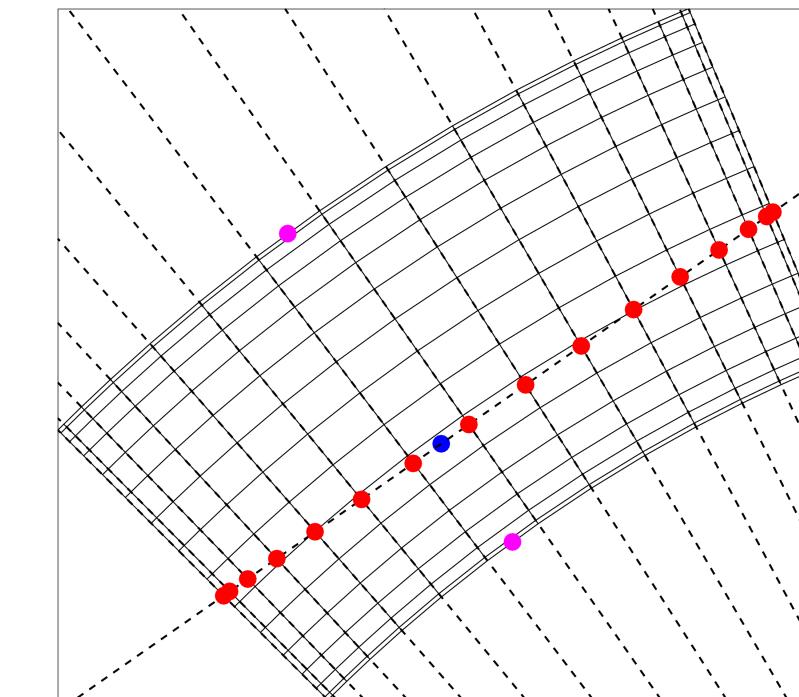
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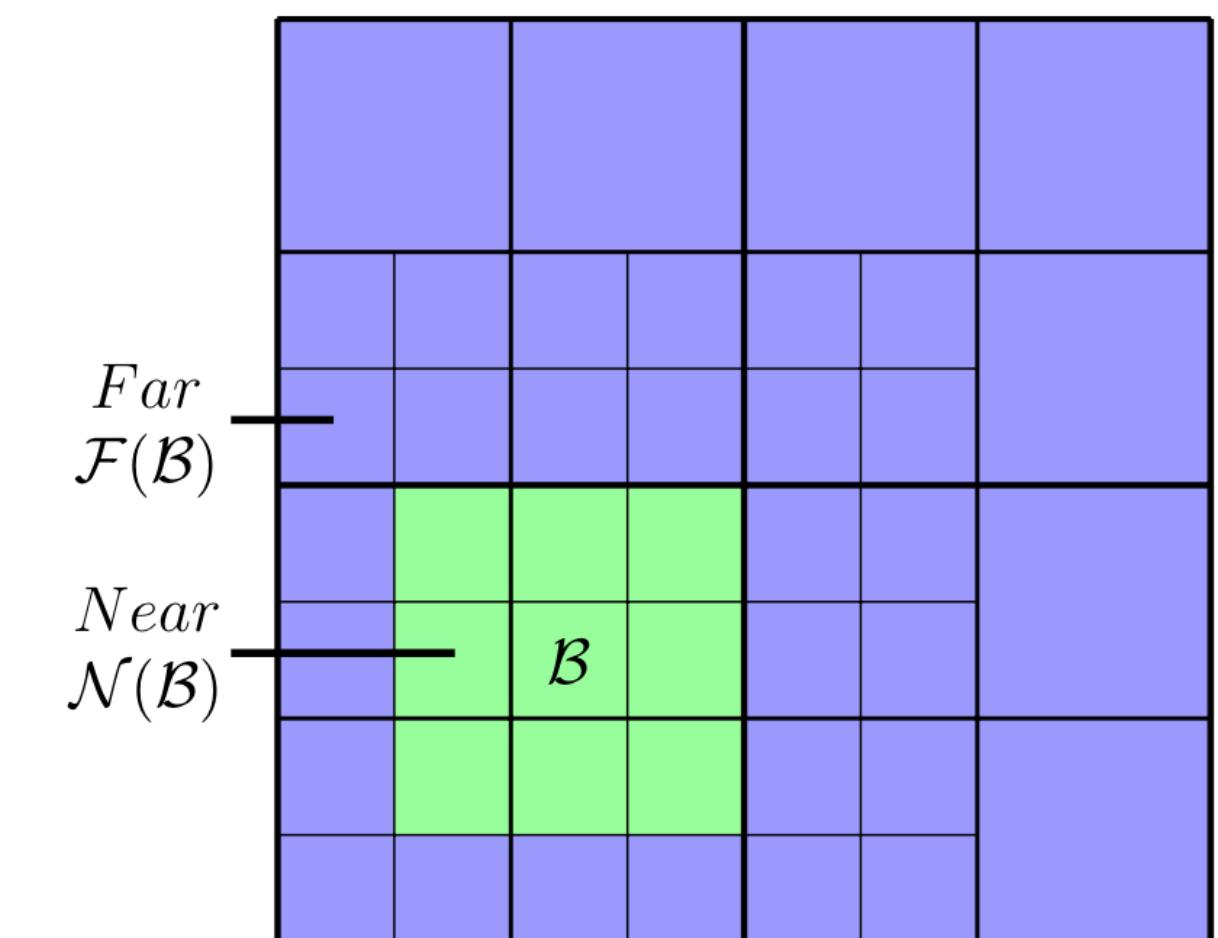
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Use a box code to obtain a particular solution:

$$\Delta u_{\text{bulk}} = \tilde{f} \text{ in } \mathcal{B} \quad \mathcal{O}(N) = \mathcal{O}(p^2 n_{\text{boxes}})$$

Then, $\Delta u_{\text{bulk}} = f$ inside Γ' .



Patching the solutions

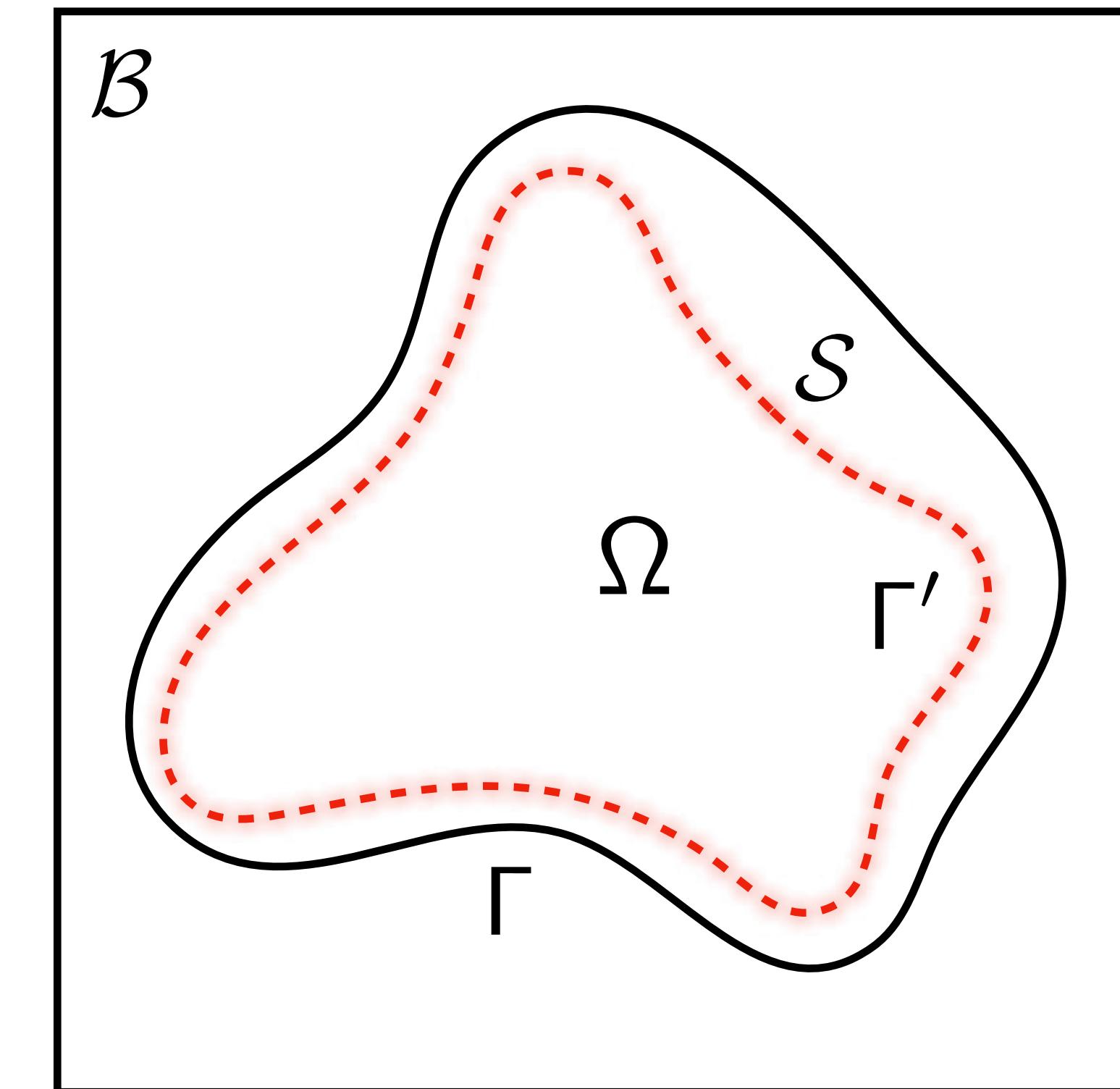
Using the value of U_{bulk} as the inner boundary condition in the SEM, the solutions will match along Γ' . However, their normal derivatives may not.

The “single-layer potential”

$$v(x) = (S\sigma)(x) = \int_{\Gamma'} G(x, y)\sigma(y)dt_y$$

satisfies $\Delta v = 0$ and the jump relation

$$\frac{\partial v^+}{\partial n} \Big|_{\Gamma'} - \frac{\partial v^-}{\partial n} \Big|_{\Gamma'} = -\sigma$$



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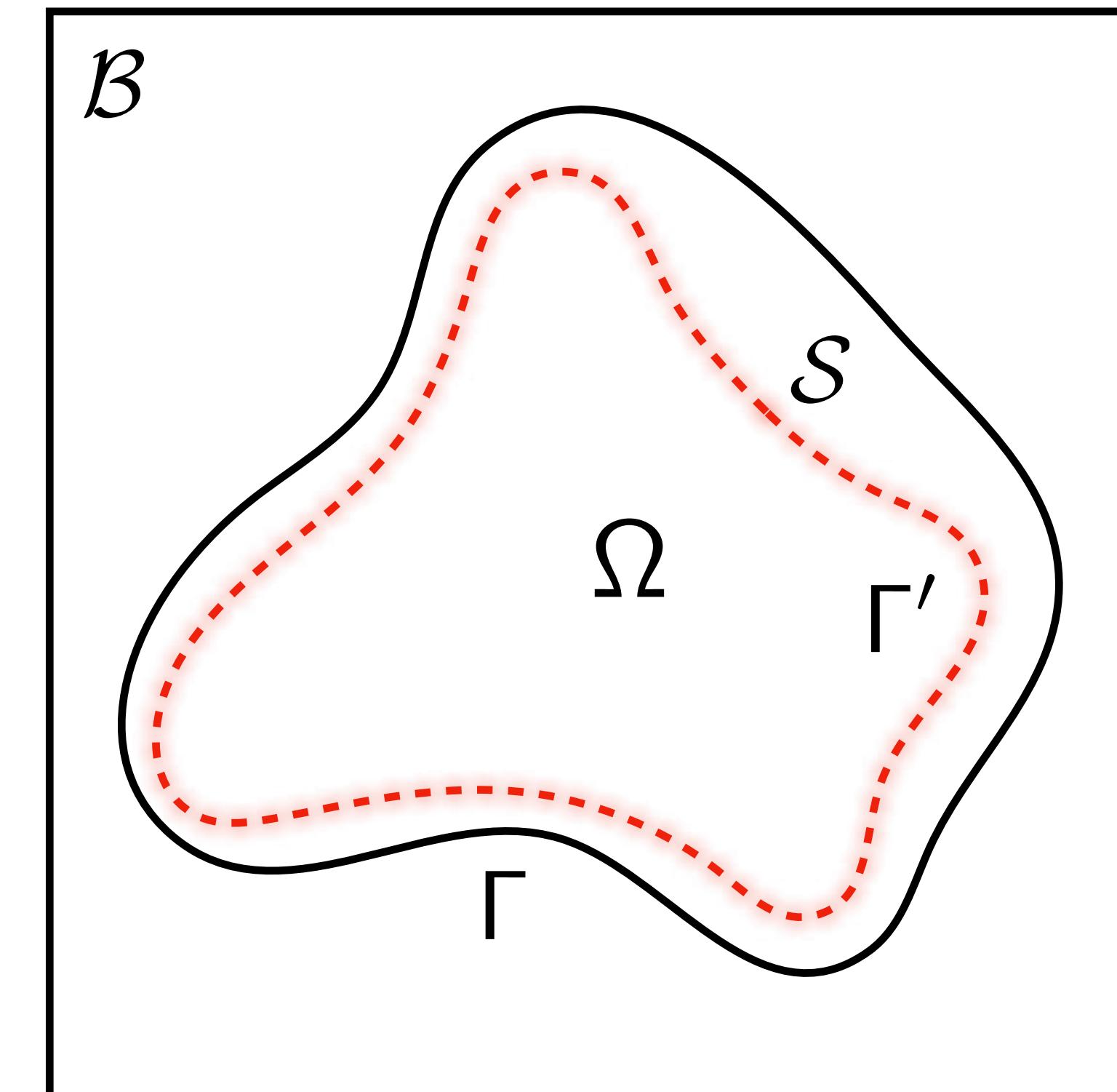
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Apply SLP: $u_{\text{glue}} = S \left(\frac{\partial u_{\text{strip}}}{\partial n} \Big|_{\Gamma'} - \frac{\partial u_{\text{bulk}}}{\partial n} \Big|_{\Gamma'} \right)$



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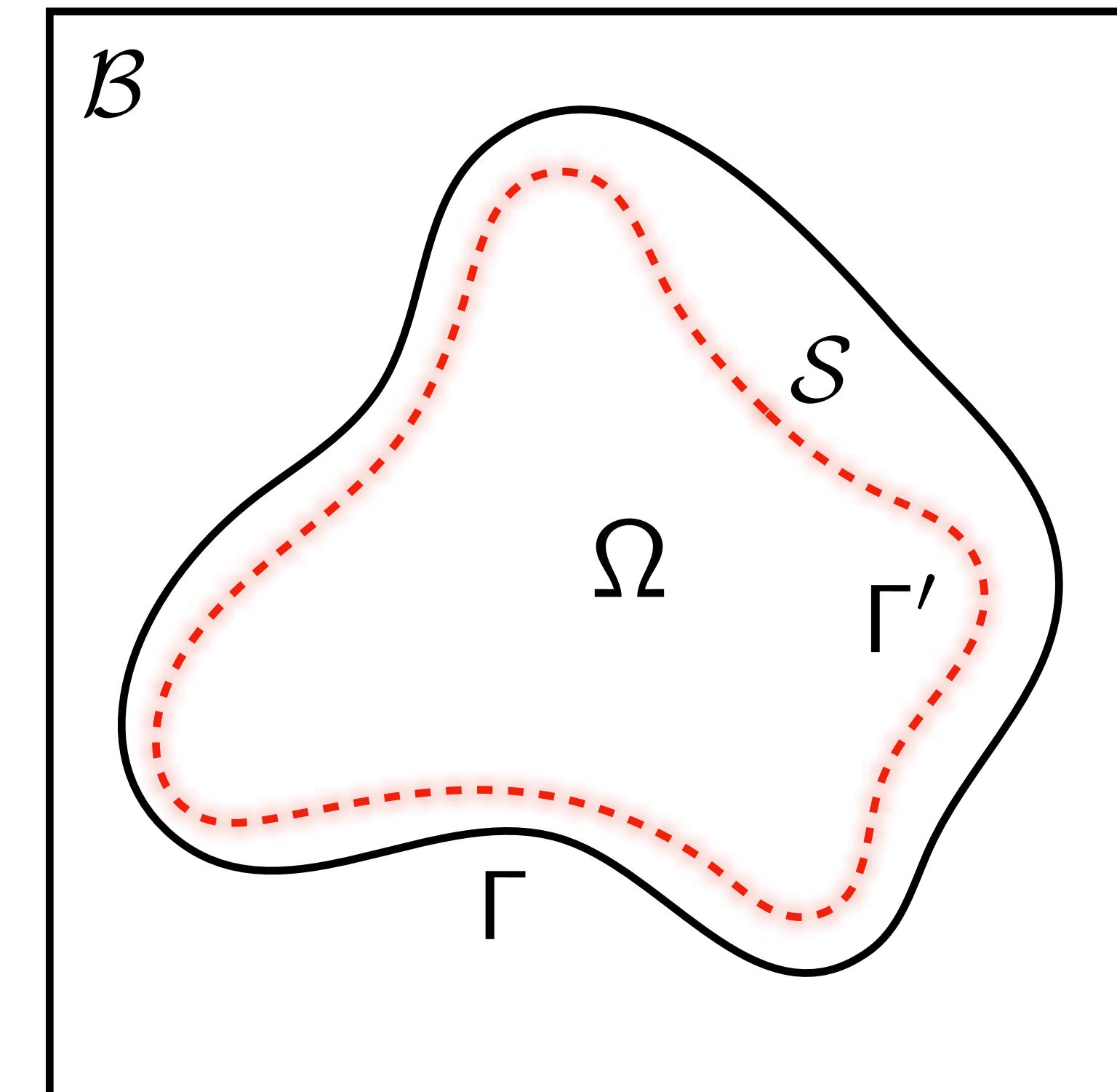
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Then, $\Delta(u_{\text{bulk}} + u_{\text{glue}}) = f$ in $\Omega \setminus S$

$\Delta(u_{\text{strip}} + u_{\text{glue}}) = f$ in S

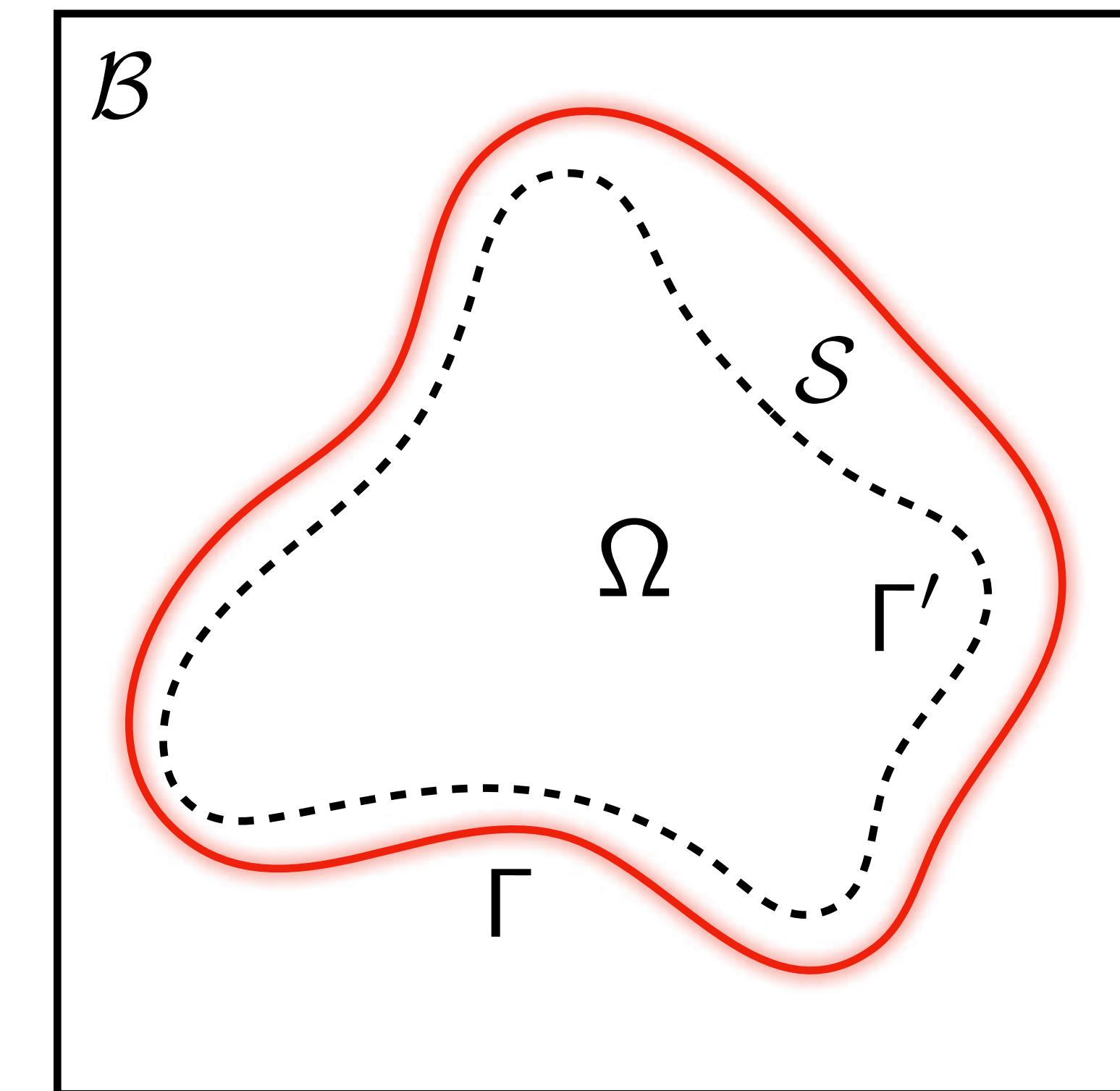
$u_{\text{strip}} = u_{\text{bulk}}$, $\frac{\partial u_{\text{strip}}}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial u_{\text{bulk}}}{\partial n}$ on Γ'

Correcting the boundary conditions

Finally, the boundary conditions may not be satisfied.

Standard BIE solve using double-layer potential:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta u_{bc} &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega \\ u_{bc} &= g - (u_{\text{strip}}|_{\Gamma} + u_{\text{glue}}|_{\Gamma}) && \text{on } \Gamma\end{aligned}$$



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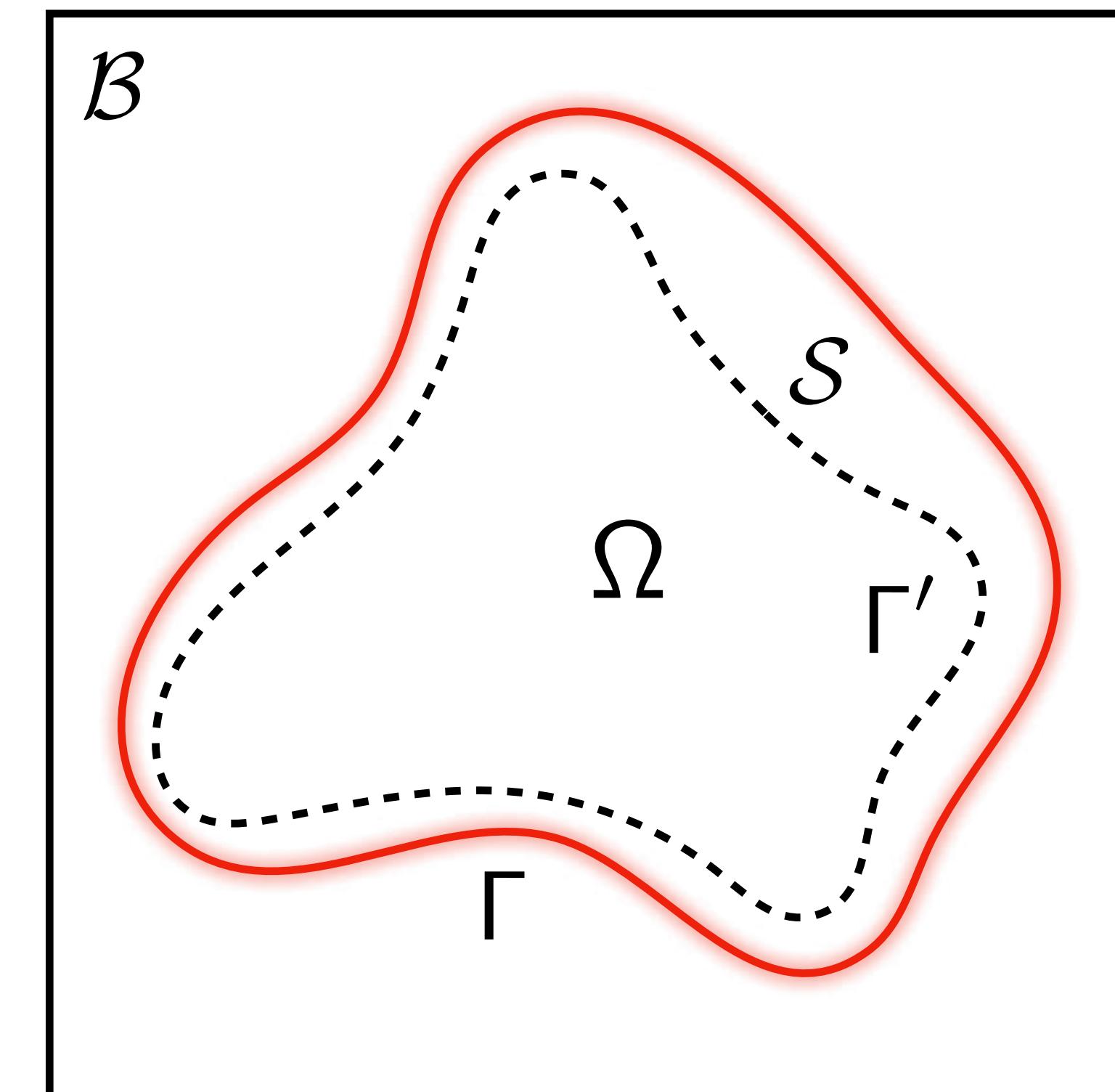
$$\Delta u_{bc} = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

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Then $u = \begin{cases} u_{\text{bulk}} + u_{\text{glue}} + u_{bc} & \text{in } \Omega \setminus S \\ u_{\text{strip}} + u_{\text{glue}} + u_{bc} & \text{in } S \end{cases}$ satisfies:

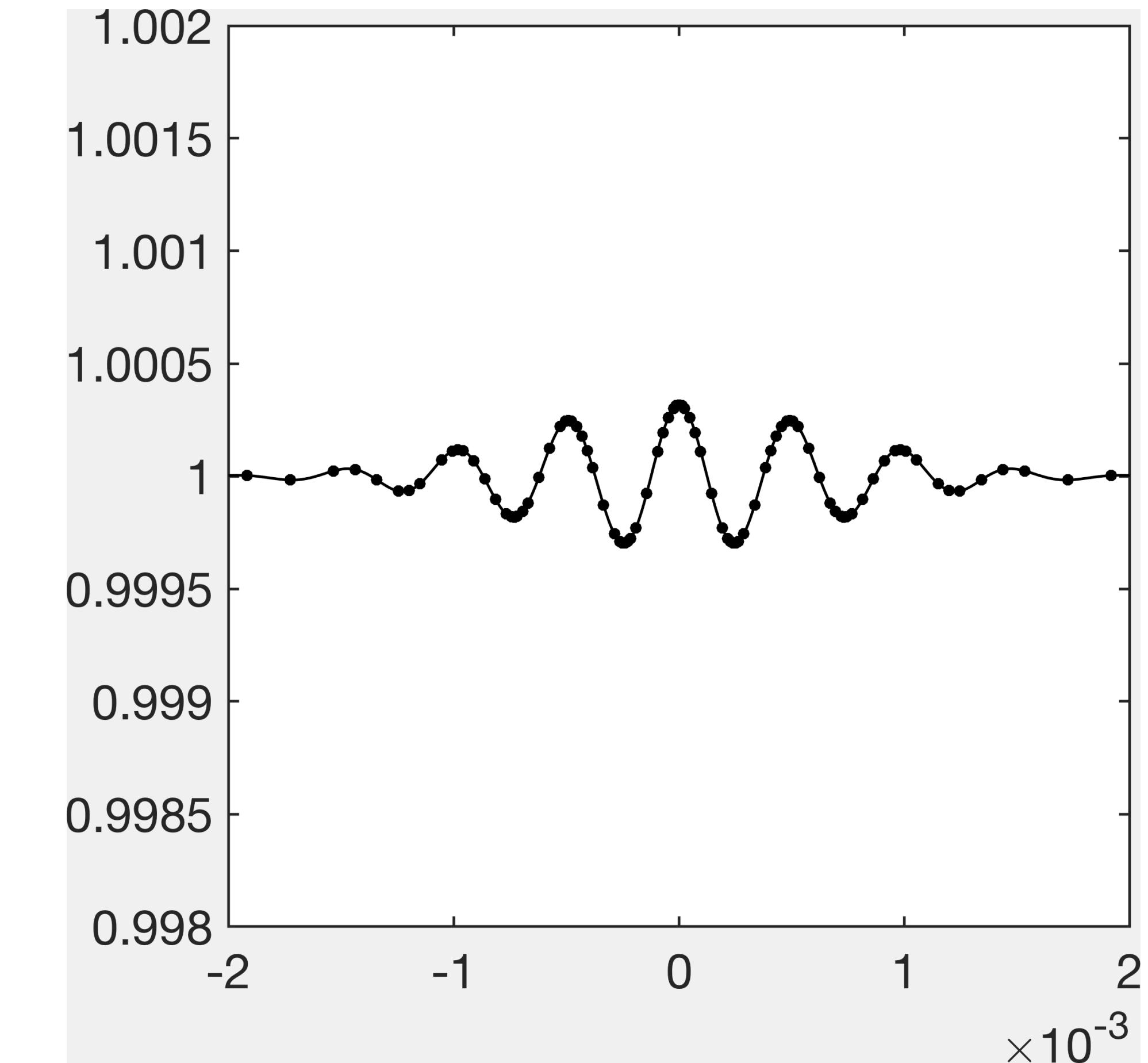
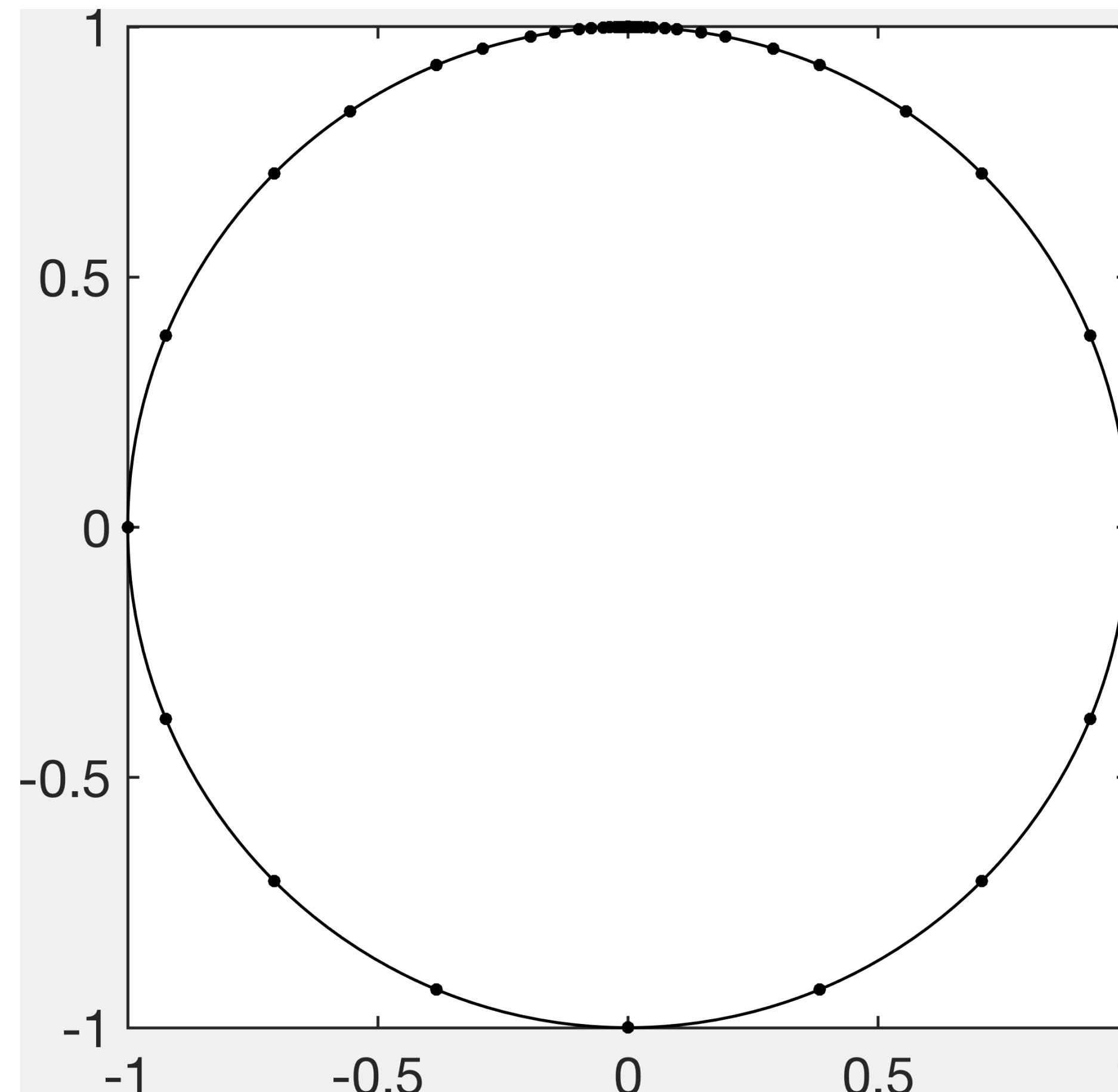
$$\Delta u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$u = g \quad \text{on } \Gamma$$



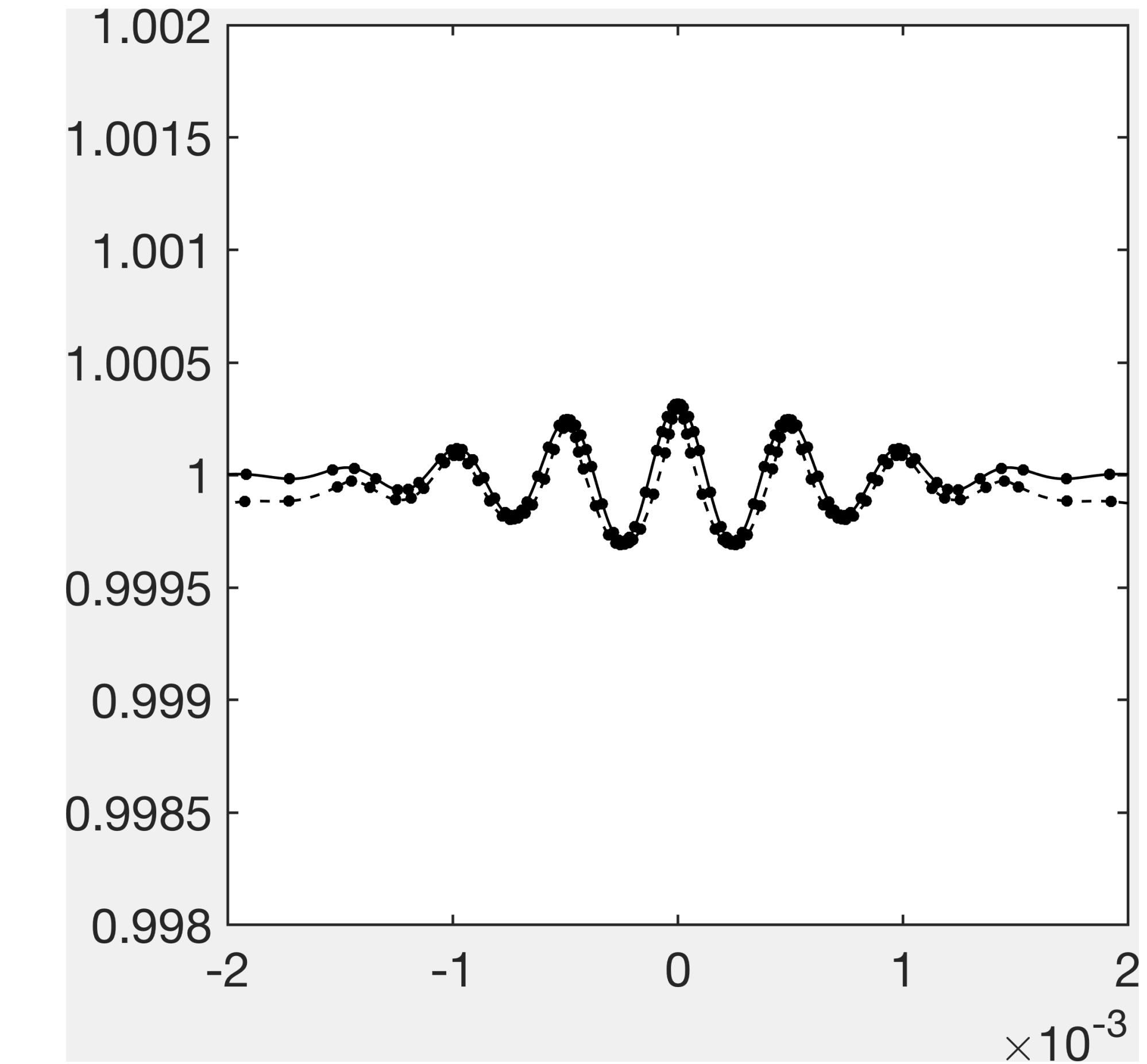
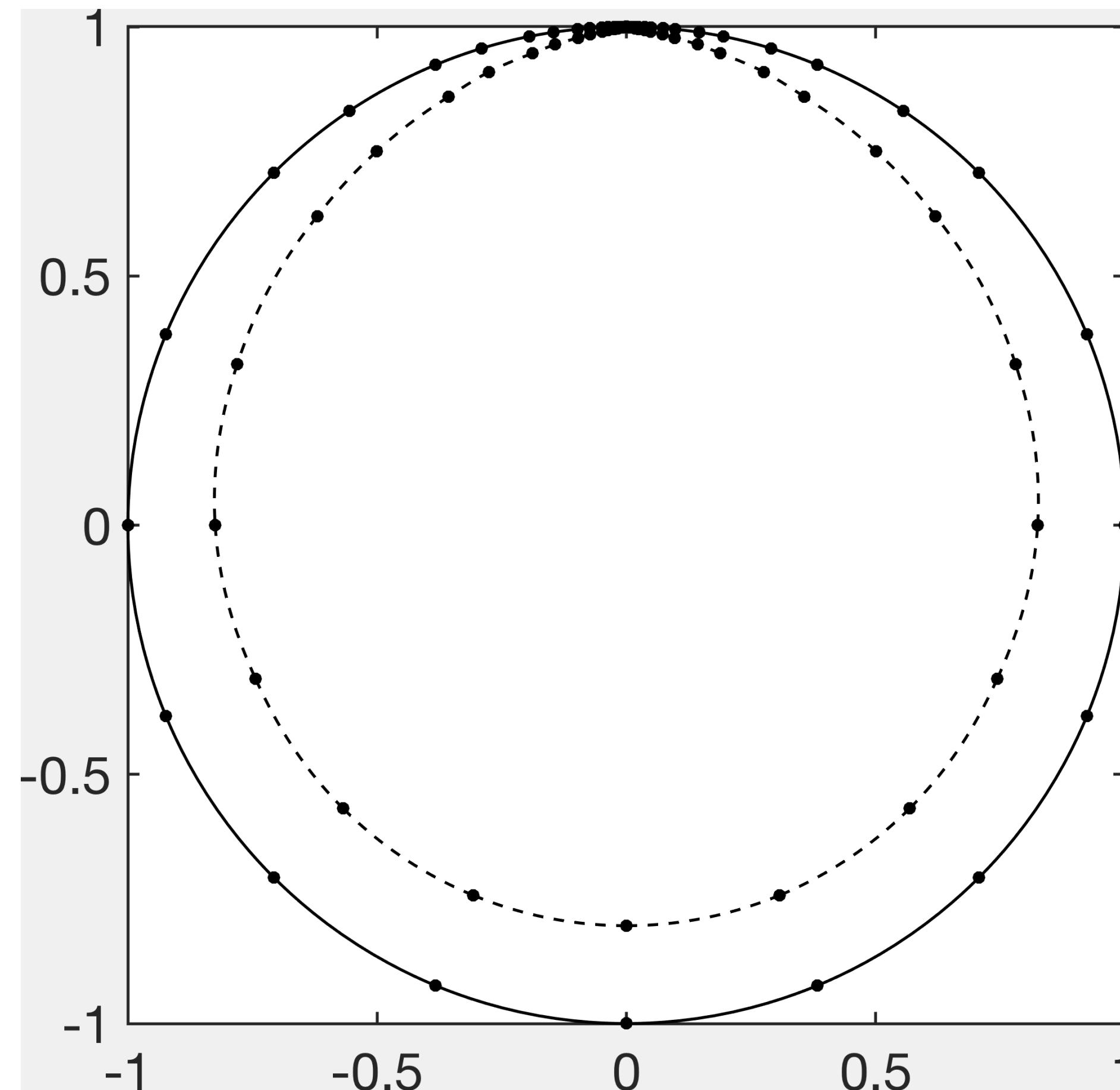
Numerical results

Example



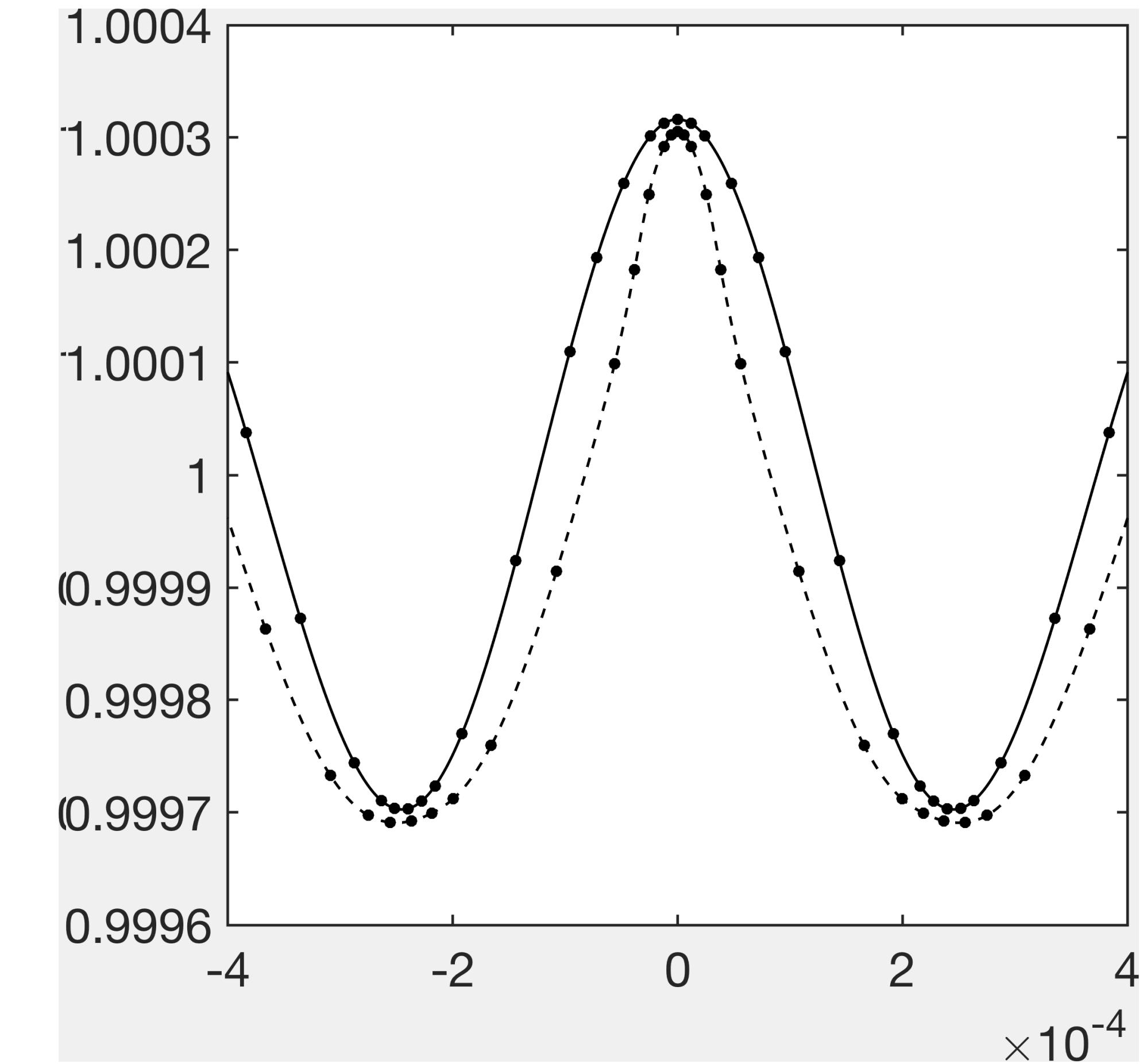
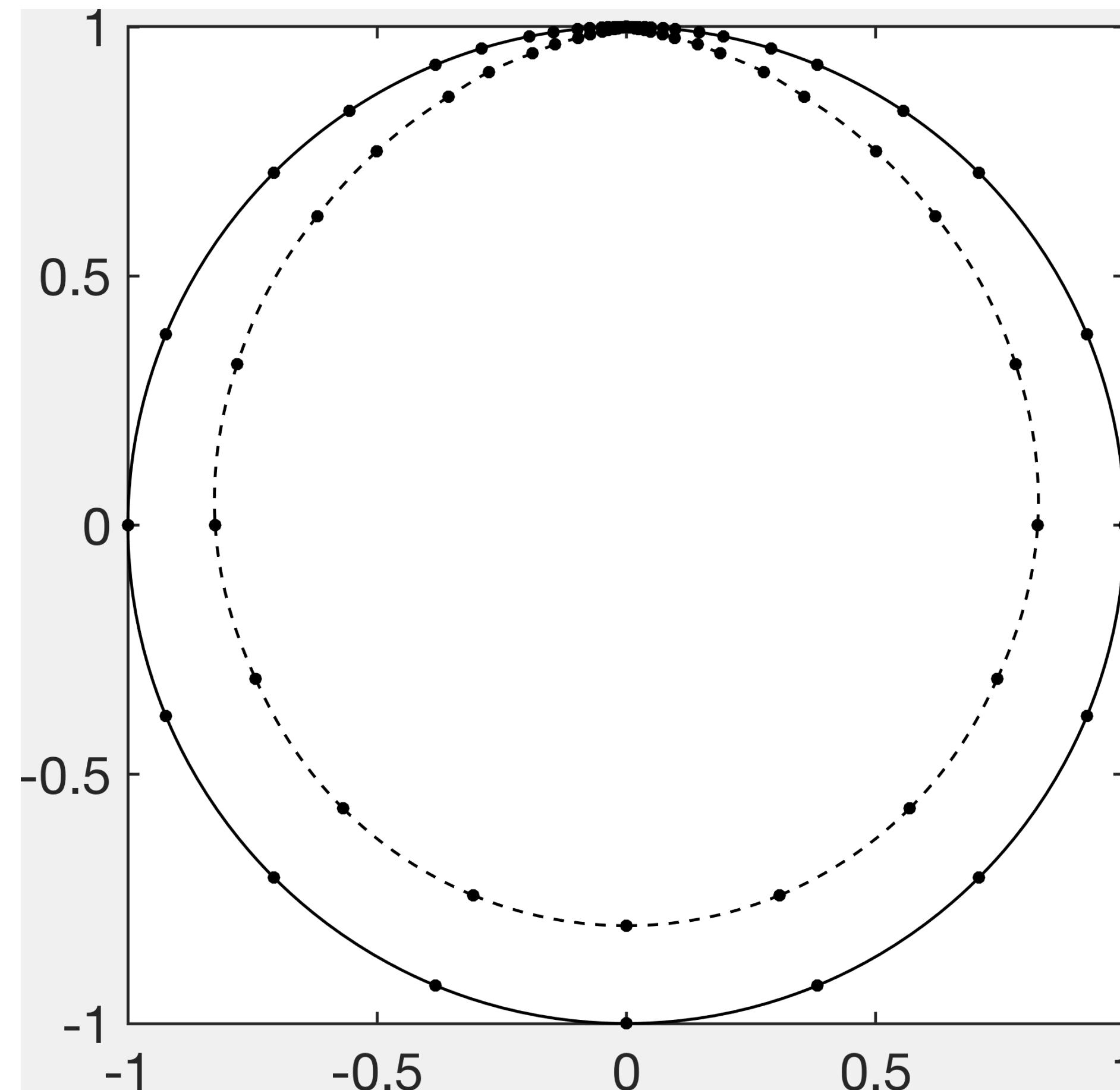
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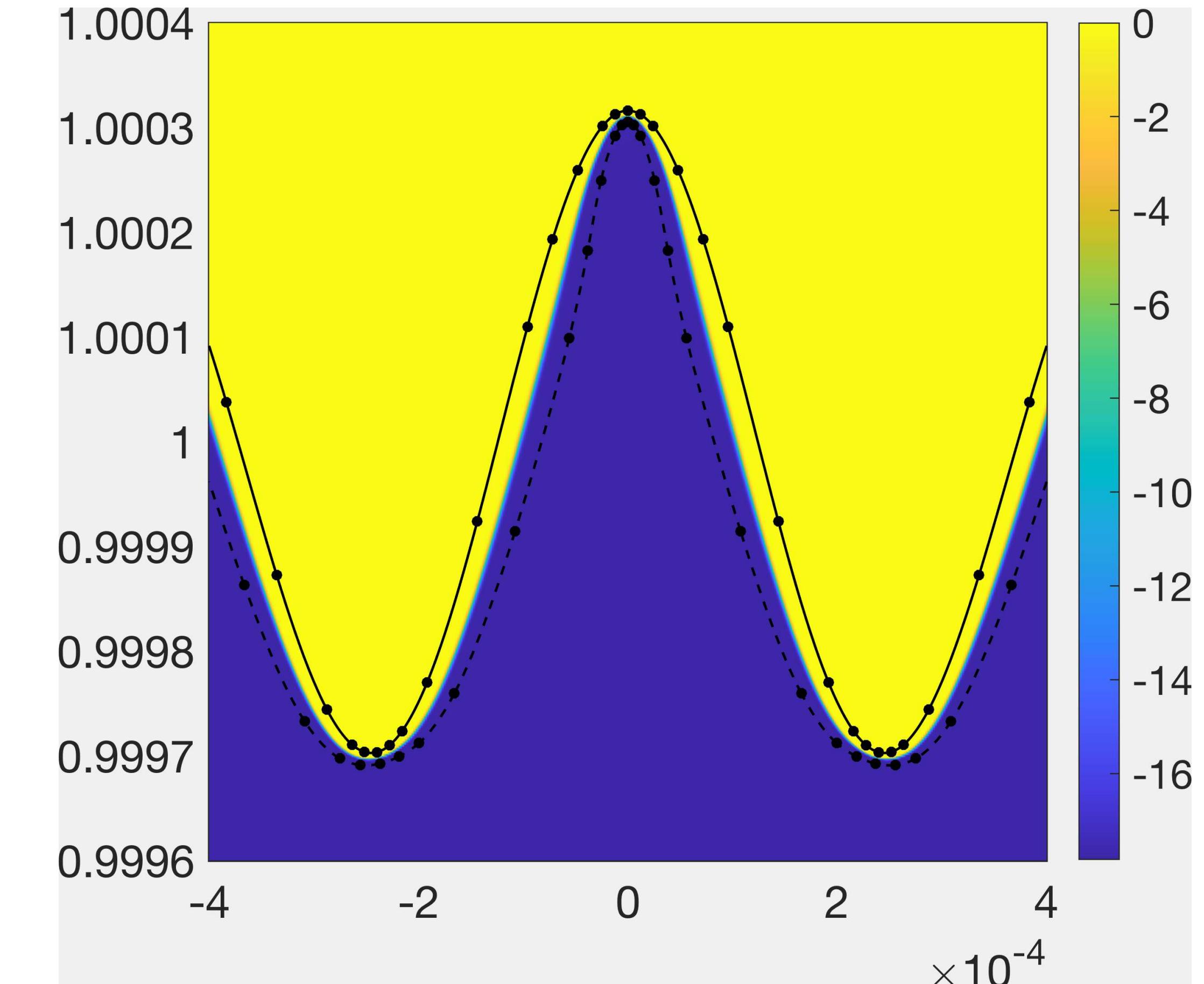
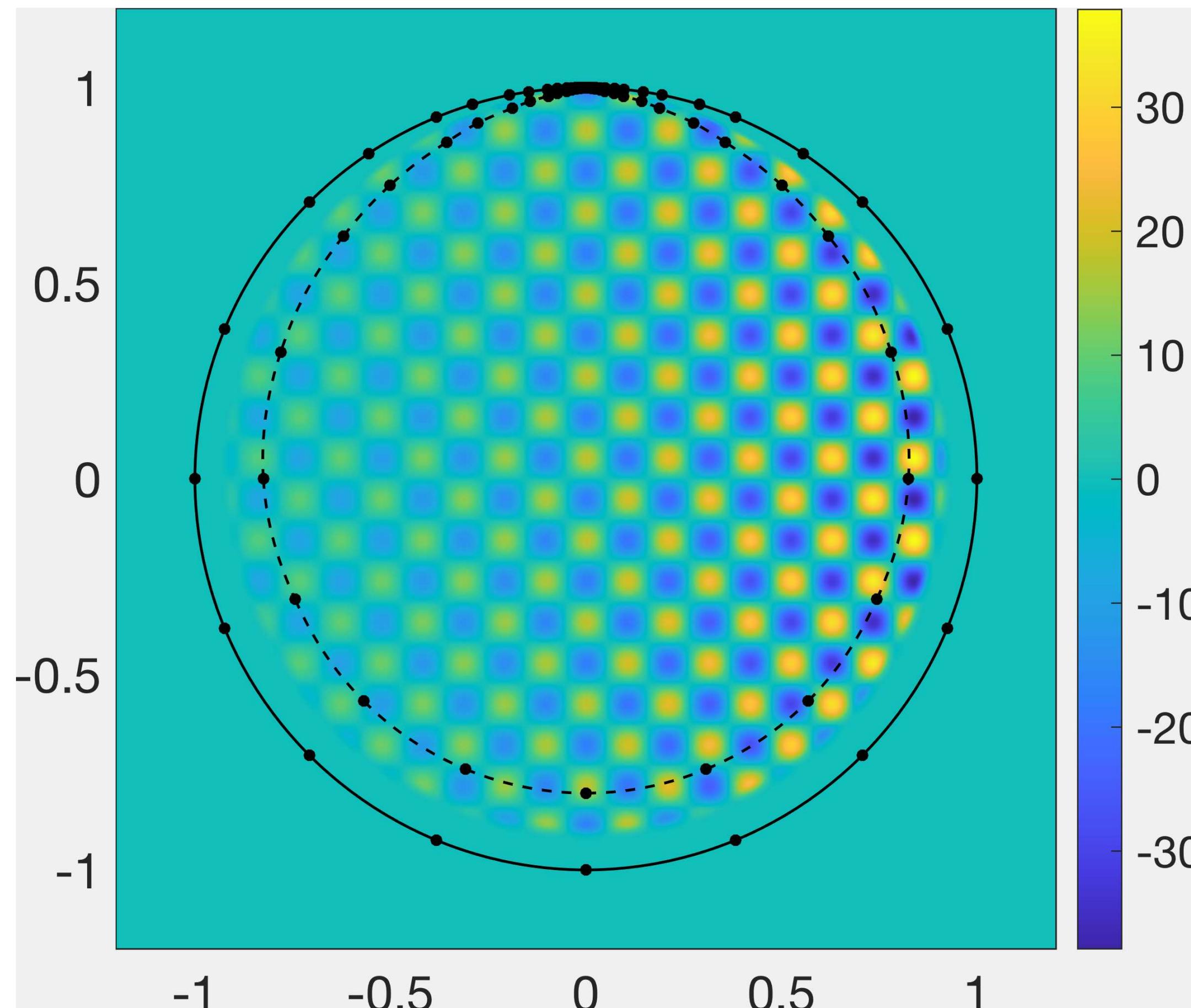
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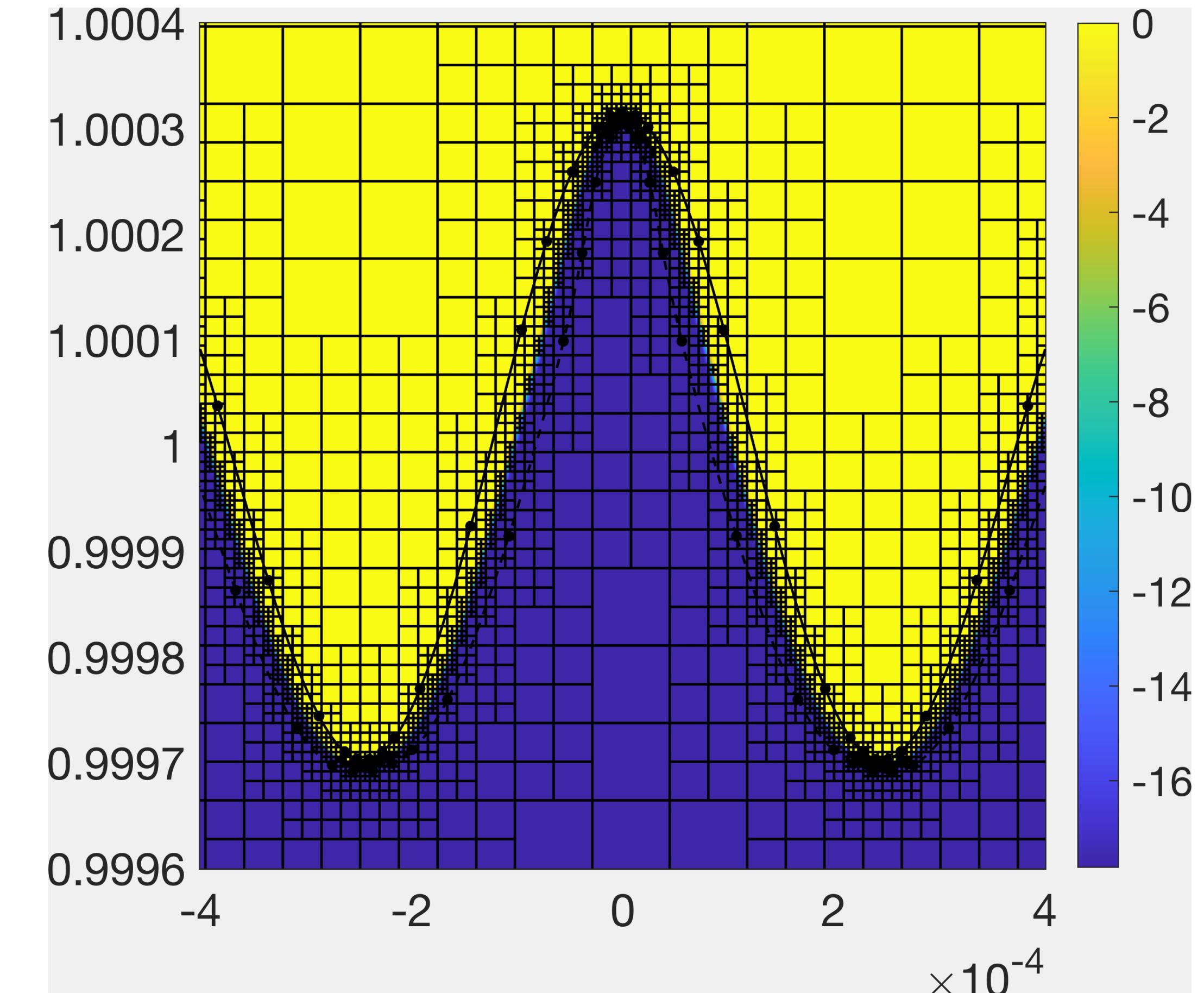
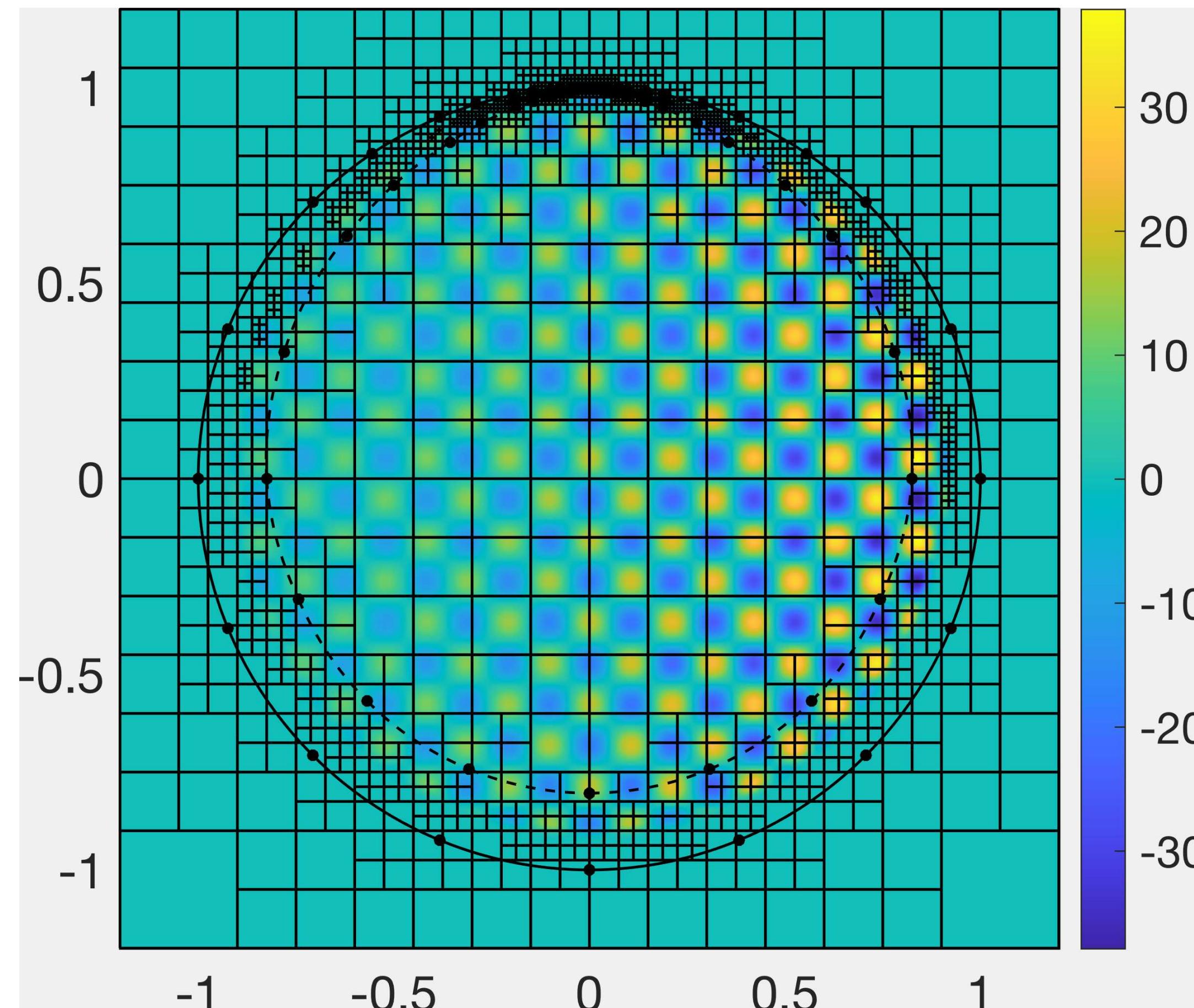
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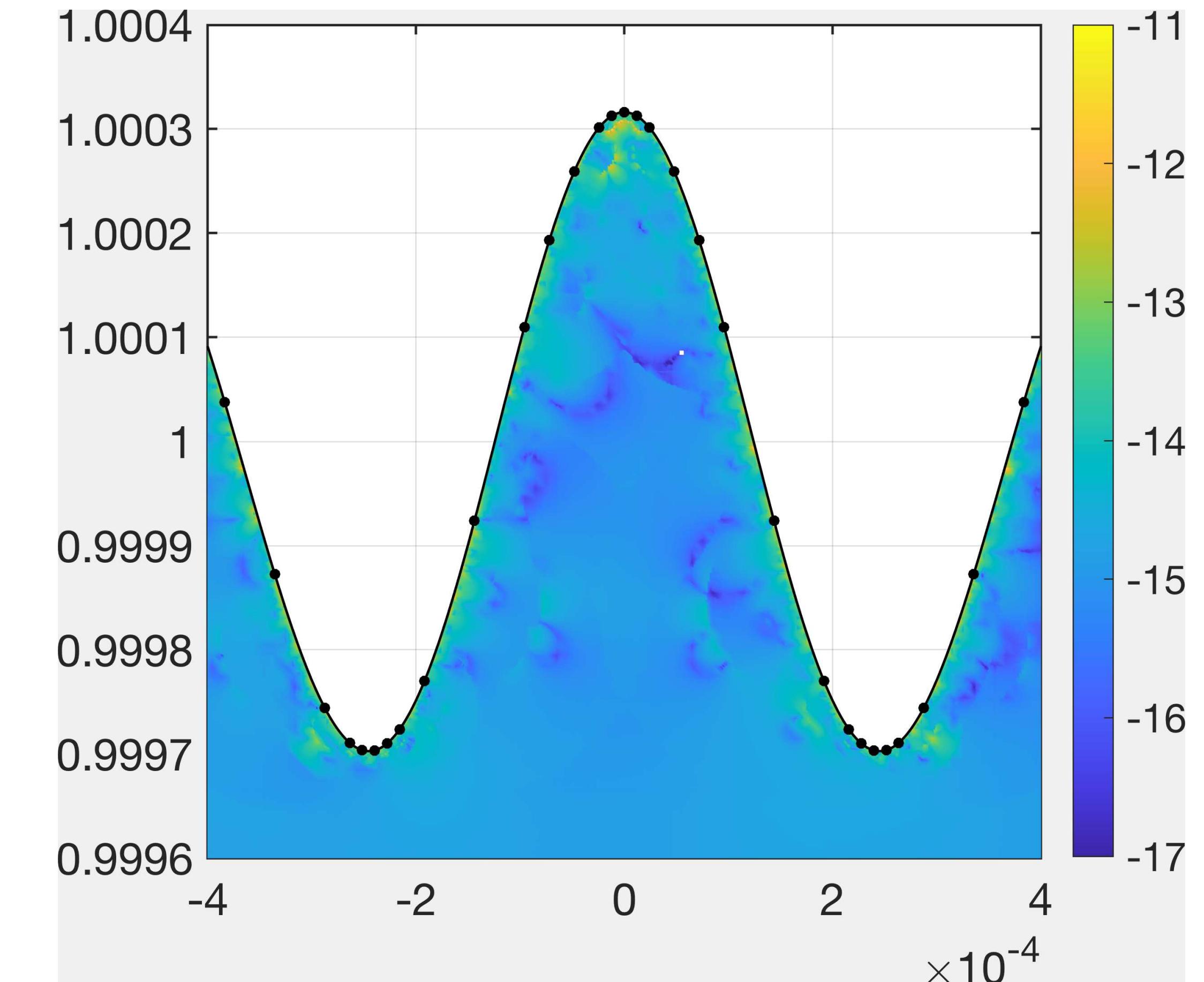
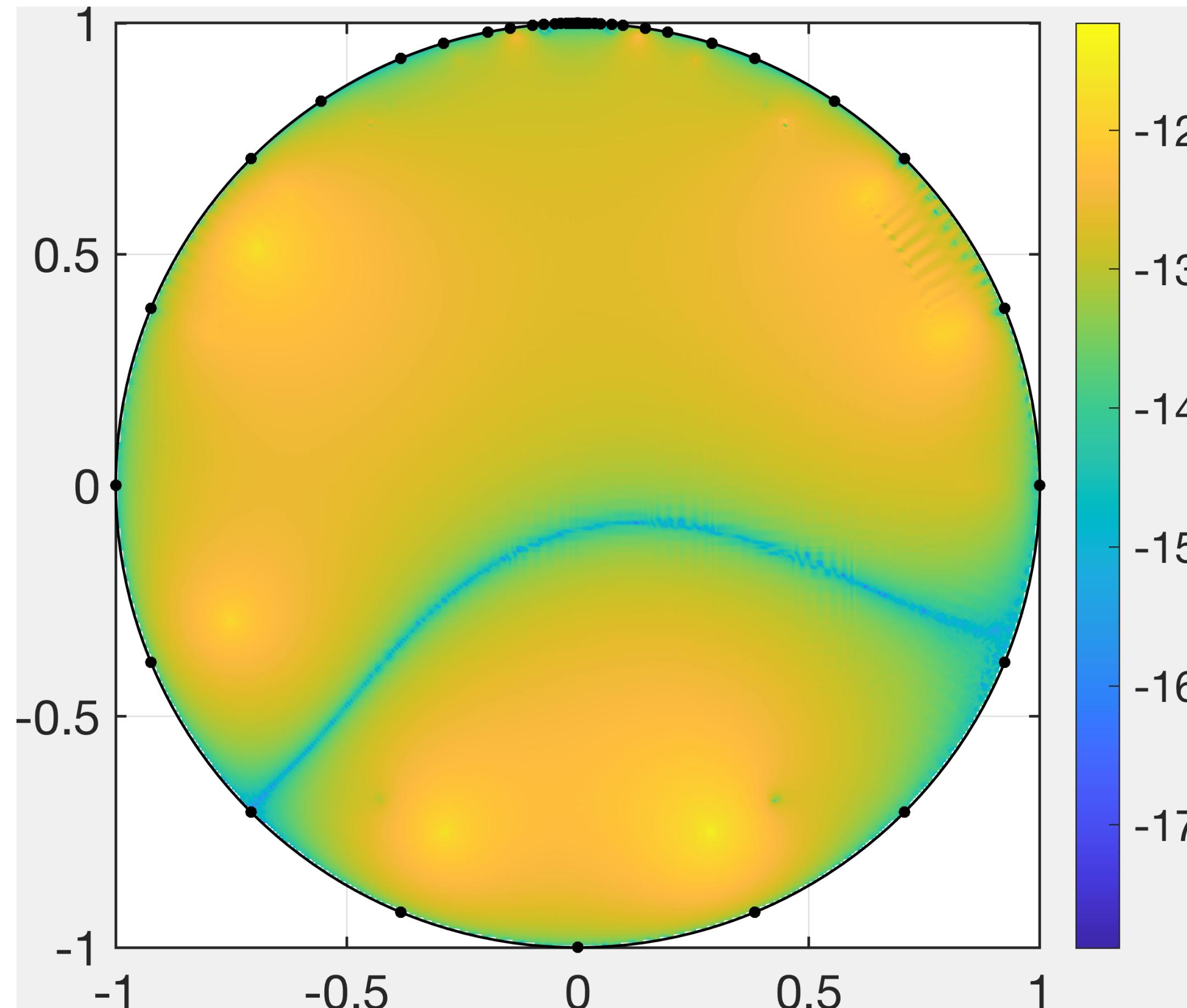
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Example



Thank you

- Still ongoing work
- Adaptivity can be performed on boundary (via panelization) and in volume (box code)
- Function “intension” can avoid pitfalls of function extension



Alex Barnett



FLATIRON
INSTITUTE
Center for Computational
Mathematics



David Stein