

## SUPERCLOSE ANALYSIS OF A TWO-GRID FINITE ELEMENT SCHEME FOR SEMILINEAR PARABOLIC INTEGRO-DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

CHANGLING XU AND TIANLIANG HOU\*

School of Mathematics and Statistics, Beihua University  
Jilin 132013, Jilin, China

**ABSTRACT.** In this paper, a two-grid finite element scheme for semilinear parabolic integro-differential equations is proposed. In the two-grid scheme, continuous linear element is used for spatial discretization, while Crank-Nicolson scheme and Leap-Frog scheme are utilized for temporal discretization. Based on the combination of the interpolation and Ritz projection technique, some superclose estimates between the interpolation and the numerical solution in the  $H^1$ -norm are derived. Notice that we only need to solve nonlinear problem once in the two-grid scheme, namely, the first time step on the coarse-grid space. A numerical example is presented to verify the effectiveness of the proposed two-grid scheme.

**1. Introduction.** In this paper, we consider the following semilinear parabolic integro-differential equations:

$$u_t - \Delta u + \int_0^t \Delta u(s) ds = f(u), \quad X \in \Omega, \quad t \in J, \quad (1)$$

$$u(X, t) = 0, \quad X \in \partial\Omega, \quad t \in J, \quad (2)$$

$$u(X, 0) = u_0(X), \quad X \in \Omega, \quad (3)$$

where  $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  is a rectangle with boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ,  $X = (x, y)$ ,  $J = (0, T]$ ,  $f(\cdot)$  is twice continuously differentiable and  $u_0$  is a given function. We assume that

$$|f'(y)| + |f''(y)| \leq M, \quad y \in \mathbf{R}.$$

There exists a lot of numerical methods for solving nonlinear partial differential equations in the literature. For example, Cannon and Lin [1] derived a priori error estimates of semidiscrete and Crank-Nicolson finite element approximations to the solution of the nonlinear diffusion equations with memory. Eriksson and Johnson [3] used adaptive finite element method to solve nonlinear parabolic problems. Moore [9] considered a posteriori error estimates for semi- and fully discrete finite element methods using a degree polynomial basis for solving nonlinear parabolic equations. Garcia [4] discussed a priori error estimates of fully discrete Raviart-Thomas mixed finite element scheme for nonlinear parabolic equations.

---

2020 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary: 35K58, 35R09; Secondary: 65K15.

*Key words and phrases.* Semilinear parabolic integro-differential equations, two-grid method, superclose, finite element method, Crank-Nicolson scheme.

This work is supported by Technology Research Project of Jilin Provincial Department of Education(JJKH20190634KJ).

\* Corresponding author.

Two-grid method was first proposed by Xu [11, 12] as an efficient discretization technique for solving the nonlinear and the nonsymmetric problems. Liu et al. exploited the two kinds of two-grid algorithms for finite difference solutions of semilinear parabolic equations in [8]. Chen et al. [2] presented a two-grid scheme of mixed finite element method for fully nonlinear reaction-diffusion equations. Hou et al. [5] presented a two-grid method of  $P_0^2$ - $P_1$  mixed finite element method combined with Crank-Nicolson scheme for a class of nonlinear parabolic equations. Shi and Mu [10] discussed some superclose results of a two-grid finite element method for semilinear parabolic equations. Yang and Xing [13] discussed the convergence of two-grid discontinuous Galerkin scheme for a kind of nonlinear parabolic problems.

This paper is motivated by the ideas of the works [10, 11], we present a two-grid scheme for semilinear parabolic integro-differential equations discretized by finite element method combined with Crank-Nicolson scheme. We mainly discuss the superclose estimates between the numerical solution and the interpolation.

The plan of this paper is as follows. In Section 2, we give the Crank-Nicolson scheme and deduce the superclose result of order  $\mathcal{O}(h^2 + (\Delta t)^2)$  in the  $H^1$ -norm. In Section 3, we present the two-grid method and derive the superclose estimates of order  $\mathcal{O}(H^2 + (\Delta t)^2)$  and order  $\mathcal{O}(h^2 + H^4 + (\Delta t)^2)$ , respectively. In Section 4, we present a numerical example to demonstrate the effectiveness of our method.

**2. Superclose analysis of the Crank-Nicolson scheme.** We adopt the standard notation  $W^{m,p}(\Omega)$  for Sobolev spaces on  $\Omega$  with a norm  $\|\cdot\|_{m,p}$  given by  $\|v\|_{m,p}^p = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \|D^\alpha v\|_{L^p(\Omega)}^p$ , a semi-norm  $|\cdot|_{m,p}$  given by  $|v|_{m,p}^p = \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \|D^\alpha v\|_{L^p(\Omega)}^p$ . We set  $W_0^{m,p}(\Omega) = \{v \in W^{m,p}(\Omega) : v|_{\partial\Omega} = 0\}$ . For  $p = 2$ , we denote  $H^m(\Omega) = W^{m,2}(\Omega)$ ,  $H_0^m(\Omega) = W_0^{m,2}(\Omega)$ , and  $\|\cdot\|_m = \|\cdot\|_{m,2}$ ,  $\|\cdot\| = \|\cdot\|_{0,2}$ .

We denote by  $L^s(J; W^{m,p}(\Omega))$  the Banach space of all  $L^s$  integrable functions from  $J$  into  $W^{m,p}(\Omega)$  with norm  $\|v\|_{L^s(J; W^{m,p}(\Omega))} = \left( \int_0^T \|v\|_{W^{m,p}(\Omega)}^s dt \right)^{\frac{1}{s}}$  for  $s \in [1, \infty)$ , and the standard modification for  $s = \infty$ . For simplicity of presentation, we denote  $\|v\|_{L^s(J; W^{m,p}(\Omega))}$  by  $\|v\|_{L^s(W^{m,p})}$ . Similarly, one can define the spaces  $H^1(J; W^{m,p}(\Omega))$ . In addition  $C$  denotes a general positive constant independent of  $h$  and  $\Delta t$ , where  $h$  is the spatial mesh-size, and  $\Delta t$  is the time step.

Let  $\mathcal{T}_h$  be a uniform rectangular partition of  $\Omega$  with mesh size  $h$ .  $V_h$  be the bilinear finite element space with vanishes on  $\partial\Omega$ . Let  $I_h$  and  $R_h$  be the associated interpolation and Ritz projection operators on  $V_h$ , respectively(see[10]).

Then, for  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^3(\Omega)$ , from [10] we know that

$$\|u - R_h u\| + h \|\nabla(u - R_h u)\| \leq Ch^2 \|u\|_2, \quad (4)$$

$$\|I_h u - R_h u\|_1 \leq Ch^2 \|u\|_3, \quad (5)$$

$$(\nabla(u - I_h u), \nabla v_h) \leq Ch^2 \|u\|_3 \|\nabla v_h\|, \quad (6)$$

$$(\nabla(u - R_h u), \nabla v_h) = 0, \quad \forall v_h \in V_h. \quad (7)$$

The weak formulation of (1) is to find  $u : J \rightarrow H_0^1(\Omega)$ , such that

$$(u_t, v) + (\nabla u, \nabla v) - \int_0^t (\nabla u(s), \nabla v) ds = (f(u), v), \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega). \quad (8)$$

Let  $\{t_n | t_n = n\Delta t; 0 \leq n \leq N\}$  be a uniform partition in time with time step  $\Delta t$ ,  $u^n = u(X, t_n)$  and  $t_{n-1/2} = (t_{n-1} + t_n)/2$ . For a sequence of functions  $\{\phi^n\}_{n=0}^N$ , we

denote  $d_t\phi^n = (\phi^n - \phi^{n-1})/\Delta t$ , then the Crank-Nicolson scheme of (1) is to find  $u_h^n \in V_h$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , such that

$$(d_t u_h^n, v_h) - \left( \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(u_h^j + u_h^{j+1}) + \frac{\Delta t}{8} (3\nabla u_h^{n-1} + \nabla u_h^n), \nabla v_h \right) \tag{9}$$

$$= - \left( \frac{\nabla(u_h^n + u_h^{n-1})}{2}, \nabla v_h \right) + \left( \frac{f(u_h^n) + f(u_h^{n-1})}{2}, v_h \right), \quad \forall v_h \in V_h,$$

$$u_h^0 = R_h u_0(X), \quad X \in \Omega. \tag{10}$$

For the proof of existence and uniqueness of the solution for the nonlinear algebraic problem (9)-(10), please refer to [6].

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $u$  and  $u_h^n$  be the solutions of (8) and (9), respectively. Assume that  $u \in L^\infty(H^3)$ ,  $u_t \in L^2(H^2)$ ,  $u_{tt} \in L^2(L^2)$ ,  $u_{ttt} \in L^2(L^2)$ ,  $\nabla u_{tt} \in L^2(H^2) \cap L^\infty(L^2)$  and  $\nabla u_{ttt} \in L^2(L^2)$ , then, for  $n = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , we have*

$$\|u_h^n - I_h u^n\|_1 \leq C(h^2 + (\Delta t)^2). \tag{11}$$

*Proof.* Letting  $t = t_{n-1/2}$  and  $v = v_h$  in (8), we get

$$(d_t u^n, v_h) + \left( \frac{\nabla(u^n + u^{n-1})}{2}, \nabla v_h \right) - \int_0^{t_{n-1/2}} (\nabla u(s), \nabla v_h) ds \tag{12}$$

$$= (f(u^{n-1/2}), v_h) + (R_1^n, v_h) + (\nabla R_2^n, \nabla v_h), \quad \forall v_h \in V_h,$$

where  $R_1^n = d_t u^n - u_t^{n-1/2}$ ,  $R_2^n = \frac{u^n + u^{n-1}}{2} - u^{n-1/2}$ .

Setting  $u^n - u_h^n = u^n - R_h u^n + R_h u^n - u_h^n := \eta^n + \xi^n$ . Subtracting (9) from (12), with the help of (7), we have

$$(d_t \xi^n, v_h) + \left( \frac{\nabla(\xi^n + \xi^{n-1})}{2}, \nabla v_h \right) \tag{13}$$

$$= - (d_t \eta^n, v_h) + \left( \int_0^{t_{n-1/2}} \nabla u(s) ds - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(u_h^j + u_h^{j+1}) \right.$$

$$\left. - \frac{\Delta t}{8} (3\nabla u_h^{n-1} + \nabla u_h^n), \nabla v_h \right) + (R_1^n, v_h) + (\nabla R_2^n, \nabla v_h)$$

$$+ \left( f(u^{n-1/2}) - \frac{f(u_h^n) + f(u_h^{n-1})}{2}, v_h \right), \quad \forall v_h \in V_h.$$

Selecting  $v_h = d_t \xi^n$  in (13), noting that

$$\left( \frac{\nabla(\xi^n + \xi^{n-1})}{2}, d_t \nabla \xi^n \right) = \frac{1}{2\Delta t} (\|\nabla \xi^n\|^2 - \|\nabla \xi^{n-1}\|^2), \tag{14}$$

then multiplying (13) by  $2\Delta t$  and summing from  $n = 1, \dots, l$  ( $1 \leq l \leq N$ ), we conclude that

$$2 \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t + \|\nabla \xi^l\|^2 = -2 \sum_{n=1}^l (d_t \eta^n, d_t \xi^n) \Delta t$$

$$+ 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \int_0^{t_{n-1/2}} \nabla u(s) ds - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(u^j + u^{j+1}) \right.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -\frac{\Delta t}{4} \nabla(u^{n-1} + u^{n-1/2}), \nabla d_t \xi^n \Big) \Delta t + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(\xi^j + \xi^{j+1}) \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{\Delta t}{4} \nabla \left( \xi^{n-1} + R_h u^{n-1/2} - \frac{u_h^n + u_h^{n-1}}{2} \right), \nabla d_t \xi^n \right) \Delta t \\
& + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( f(u^{n-1/2}) - \frac{f(u_h^n) + f(u_h^{n-1})}{2}, d_t \xi^n \right) \Delta t + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l (R_1^n, d_t \xi^n) \Delta t \\
& + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l (\nabla R_2^n, \nabla \xi^n - \nabla \xi^{n-1}) =: \sum_{i=1}^6 I_i,
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

where we used (7) and  $\xi^0 = 0$ .

Now, we estimate the right-hand terms of (15). For  $I_1$ , it is easy to check that

$$\|d_t \eta^n\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \|\eta_t\|^2 ds,$$

which together with Cauchy inequality, Young's inequality and (4) yields

$$I_1 \leq Ch^4 \|u_t\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2 + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t. \tag{16}$$

For  $I_2$ , we decompose it as

$$\begin{aligned}
I_2 & = 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^j + u^{j+1})}{2} \right) ds \right. \\
& \quad \left. + \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n-1/2}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^{n-1} + u^{n-1/2})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^n - \nabla \xi^{n-1} \right) \\
& = 2 \sum_{n=2}^l \left( \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^j + u^{j+1})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^n - \nabla \xi^{n-1} \right) \\
& \quad + 2 \sum_{n=2}^l \left( \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n-1/2}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^{n-1} + u^{n-1/2})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^n - \nabla \xi^{n-1} \right) \\
& \quad + 2 \left( \int_0^{t_{1/2}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^0 + u^{1/2})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^1 \right) =: \sum_{i=1}^3 A_i.
\end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

Using Cauchy inequality and Young's inequality, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
A_1 & = 2 \left( \sum_{j=0}^{l-2} \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^j + u^{j+1})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^l \right) \\
& \quad - 2 \left( \int_0^{t_1} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^0 + u^1)}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^1 \right) \\
& \quad - 2 \sum_{n=2}^{l-1} \left( \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^n + u^{n-1})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^n \right) \\
& \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{8} \|\nabla \xi^l\|^2,
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_2 = & 2 \left( \int_{t_{l-1}}^{t_{l-1/2}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^{l-1} + u^{l-1/2})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^l \right) \\
 & - 2 \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_{3/2}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^1 + u^{3/2})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^1 \right) \\
 & - 2 \sum_{n=2}^{l-1} \left( \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1/2}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^n + u^{n+1/2})}{2} \right) ds \right. \\
 & \left. - \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n-1/2}} \left( \nabla u(s) - \frac{\nabla(u^{n-1} + u^{n-1/2})}{2} \right) ds, \nabla \xi^n \right) \\
 \leq & C(\Delta t)^4 \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{8} \|\nabla \xi^l\|^2,
 \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

and

$$A_3 \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + C \|\nabla \xi^1\|^2 \Delta t. \tag{20}$$

Thus, we get

$$I_2 \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{4} \|\nabla \xi^l\|^2. \tag{21}$$

For  $I_3$ , by virtue of Cauchy inequality and Young's inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_3 = & 2 \sum_{n=2}^l \left( \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} (\nabla \xi^j + \nabla \xi^{j+1}), \nabla \xi^n - \nabla \xi^{n-1} \right) \\
 & + \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \frac{\Delta t}{2} \left( \nabla \xi^{n-1} + \nabla \left( R_h u^{n-1/2} - \frac{u_h^n + u_h^{n-1}}{2} \right) \right), \nabla \xi^n - \nabla \xi^{n-1} \right) \\
 = & 2 \left( \sum_{j=0}^{l-2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} (\nabla \xi^j + \nabla \xi^{j+1}), \nabla \xi^l \right) - 2 \left( \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} \frac{\Delta t}{2} (\nabla \xi^{n-1} + \nabla \xi^n), \nabla \xi^n \right) \\
 & + 2 \left( \frac{\Delta t}{4} \left( \nabla \xi^{l-1} + \nabla \left( R_h u^{l-1/2} - \frac{u_h^l + u_h^{l-1}}{2} \right) \right), \nabla \xi^l \right) \\
 & - 2 \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} \left( \frac{\Delta t}{4} \left( \nabla \xi^n + \nabla \left( R_h u^{n+1/2} - \frac{u_h^{n+1} + u_h^n}{2} \right) \right) \right. \\
 & \left. - \frac{\Delta t}{4} \left( \nabla \xi^{n-1} + \nabla \left( R_h u^{n-1/2} - \frac{u_h^n + u_h^{n-1}}{2} \right) \right), \nabla \xi^n \right) \\
 \leq & C(\Delta t)^4 \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(H^3)}^2 + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t,
 \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

where we used the following estimate

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left\| \nabla \left( R_h u^{n-1/2} - \frac{u_h^n + u_h^{n-1}}{2} \right) \right\| \\
 = & \left\| \nabla \left( R_h u^{n-1/2} - \frac{R_h u^{n-1} + R_h u^n}{2} + \frac{R_h u^{n-1} + R_h u^n}{2} - \frac{u_h^n + u_h^{n-1}}{2} \right) \right\|
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla(R_h u^{n-1} - R_h u^{n-1/2}) + \nabla(R_h u^n - R_h u^{n-1/2}) + \nabla \xi^{n-1} + \nabla \xi^n\| \\
&\leq C \|\nabla R_h u_t(\phi^n)(t_n - t_{n-1/2}) + \nabla R_h u_t(\psi^n)(t_{n-1} - t_{n-1/2})\| + C \|\nabla \xi^n\| \\
&\quad + C \|\nabla \xi^{n-1}\| \\
&\leq C \|\Delta t \nabla R_h u_{tt}(\lambda^n)(\phi^n - \psi^n)\| + C \|\nabla \xi^n\| + C \|\nabla \xi^{n-1}\| \tag{23} \\
&\leq C(\Delta t)^2 \|\nabla R_h u_{tt}(\lambda^n)\| + C \|\nabla \xi^n\| + C \|\nabla \xi^{n-1}\| \\
&\leq C(\Delta t)^2 (\|\nabla u_{tt}(\lambda^n)\| + \|\nabla u_{tt}(\lambda^n) - \nabla R_h u_{tt}(\lambda^n)\|) + C \|\nabla \xi^n\| + C \|\nabla \xi^{n-1}\| \\
&\leq C(\Delta t)^2 \|\nabla u_{tt}(\lambda^n)\|_2 + C \|\nabla \xi^n\| + C \|\nabla \xi^{n-1}\|,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\phi^n$  is located between  $t_n$  and  $t_{n-1/2}$ ,  $\psi^n$  is located between  $t_{n-1/2}$  and  $t_{n-1}$ ,  $\lambda^n$  is located between  $\phi^n$  and  $\psi^n$ , and

$$|\phi^n - \psi^n| \leq |t_n - t_{n-1}| = \Delta t.$$

Next, we estimate  $I_4$ . By use of mean value theorem and the assumption on  $f$ , we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left\| f(u^{n-1/2}) - \frac{f(u^n) + f(u^{n-1})}{2} \right\| \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2} \|f'(\lambda_2^n)(u^{n-1/2} - u^n) + f'(\lambda_1^n)(u^{n-1/2} - u^{n-1})\| \\
&= \frac{\Delta t}{4} \|f'(\lambda_1^n)u_t(\theta_1^n) - f'(\lambda_2^n)u_t(\theta_2^n)\| \tag{24} \\
&= \frac{\Delta t}{4} \|f'(\lambda_1^n)u_t(\theta_1^n) - f'(\lambda_1^n)u_t(\theta_2^n) + f'(\lambda_1^n)u_t(\theta_2^n) - f'(\lambda_2^n)u_t(\theta_2^n)\| \\
&= \frac{\Delta t}{4} \|f'(\lambda_1^n)u_{tt}(\theta_3^n)(\theta_2^n - \theta_1^n) + f''(\lambda_3^n)(\lambda_1^n - \lambda_2^n)u_t(\theta_2^n)\| \\
&\leq C(\Delta t)^2 (\|u_{tt}(\theta_3^n)\| + \|u_t(\theta_2^n)\|),
\end{aligned}$$

where we also used

$$\theta_2^n - \theta_1^n \leq t_n - t_{n-1} = \Delta t$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
|\lambda_2^n - \lambda_1^n| &\leq |u^n - \lambda_1^n| + |u^{n-1/2} - \lambda_1^n| \\
&\leq |u^n - u^{n-1}| + |u^n - u^{n-1/2}| + |u^{n-1/2} - u^{n-1}| \\
&\leq 2(|u^n - u^{n-1/2}| + |u^{n-1/2} - u^{n-1}|) \\
&= 2(|u_t(\theta_1^n)| + |u_t(\theta_2^n)|)\Delta t,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\theta_1^n$  is located between  $t_{n-1}$  and  $t_{n-1/2}$ ,  $\theta_2^n$  is located between  $t_{n-1/2}$  and  $t_n$ ,  $\theta_3^n$  is located between  $\theta_1^n$  and  $\theta_2^n$ ,  $\lambda_1^n$  is located between  $u^{n-1}$  and  $u^{n-1/2}$ ,  $\lambda_2^n$  is located between  $u^{n-1/2}$  and  $u^n$ ,  $\lambda_3^n$  is located between  $\lambda_1^n$  and  $\lambda_2^n$ .

Using (4), mean value theorem and the assumption on  $f$ , we easily get

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left\| \frac{f(u^n) + f(u^{n-1})}{2} - \frac{f(u_h^n) + f(u_h^{n-1})}{2} \right\| \\
&\leq C(\|u^n - u_h^n\| + \|u^{n-1} - u_h^{n-1}\|) \tag{25} \\
&\leq Ch^2(\|u^n\|_2 + \|u^{n-1}\|_2) + C(\|\xi^n\| + \|\xi^{n-1}\|).
\end{aligned}$$

By use of Cauchy inequality, Young's inequality and (24)-(25), we derive

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_4 \leq & C(\Delta t)^4 (\|u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \|u_t\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2) + Ch^4 \|u\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2 \\
 & + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t.
 \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

For  $I_5$ , from Cauchy inequality, Young's inequality and

$$\|R_1^n\| \leq C(\Delta t)^2 \|u_{ttt}(\rho^n)\|,$$

we have

$$I_5 \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t, \tag{27}$$

where  $\rho^n$  is located between  $t_{n-1}$  and  $t_n$ .

Notice that

$$\sum_{n=1}^l (\nabla R_2^n, \nabla d_t \xi^n) \Delta t = (\nabla R_2^l, \nabla \xi^l) - \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} (\nabla R_2^{n+1} - \nabla R_2^n, \nabla \xi^n). \tag{28}$$

Using Taylor expansion, we know that

$$u^n = u^{n+1/2} - u_t^{n+1/2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} + u_{tt}^{n+1/2} \frac{(\Delta t)^2}{8} - \frac{1}{48} u_{ttt}(\beta^n) (\Delta t)^3, \tag{29}$$

$$u^{n+1} = u^{n+1/2} + u_t^{n+1/2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} + u_{tt}^{n+1/2} \frac{(\Delta t)^2}{8} + \frac{1}{48} u_{ttt}(\gamma^n) (\Delta t)^3, \tag{30}$$

where  $t_n < \beta^n < t_{n+1/2} < \gamma^n < t_{n+1}$ .

Using Cauchy inequality, Young's inequality, (29), (30) and mean value theorem, we get

$$(\nabla R_2^l, \nabla \xi^l) \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|\nabla u_{tt}(\lambda^l)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \xi^l\|^2, \tag{31}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} (\nabla R_2^{n+1} - \nabla R_2^n, \nabla \xi^n) \\
 = & \frac{1}{96} \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} (\nabla u_{ttt}(\gamma^n) (\Delta t)^3 - \nabla u_{ttt}(\beta^n) (\Delta t)^3, \nabla \xi^n) \\
 & - \frac{1}{96} \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} (\nabla u_{ttt}(\gamma^{n-1}) (\Delta t)^3 - \nabla u_{ttt}(\beta^{n-1}) (\Delta t)^3, \nabla \xi^n) \\
 & + \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} \left( \nabla \left( u_{tt}^{n+1/2} - u_{tt}^{n-1/2} \right) \frac{(\Delta t)^2}{8}, \nabla \xi^n \right) \\
 = & \frac{1}{96} \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} (\nabla u_{ttt}(\gamma^n) (\Delta t)^3 - \nabla u_{ttt}(\beta^n) (\Delta t)^3, \nabla \xi^n) \\
 & - \frac{1}{96} \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} (\nabla u_{ttt}(\gamma^{n-1}) (\Delta t)^3 - \nabla u_{ttt}(\beta^{n-1}) (\Delta t)^3, \nabla \xi^n)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \sum_{n=1}^{l-1} \left( \frac{(\Delta t)^2}{8} \nabla u_{ttt}(\delta^n) \Delta t, \nabla \xi^n \right) \\
 & \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|\nabla u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t,
 \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

where  $\lambda^l$  is located between  $t_{l-1}$  and  $t_l$ ,  $\delta^n$  is located between  $t_{n-1/2}$  and  $t_{n+1/2}$ .

For  $I_6$ , combining Cauchy inequality, Young’s inequality, (28) with (31)-(32), we derive

$$I_6 \leq C(\Delta t)^4 (\|\nabla u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^\infty(L^2)}^2) + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \xi^n\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \xi^l\|^2. \tag{33}$$

Now, substituting the estimates for  $I_1$ - $I_6$  into (15), then applying discrete Gronwall’s lemma, for sufficiently small  $\Delta t$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|\nabla \xi^l\| \leq & Ch^2 (\|u\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2 + \|u_t\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2)^{1/2} + C(\Delta t)^2 (\|u_t\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \|u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 \\
 & + \|u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(H^3)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^\infty(L^2)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2)^{1/2},
 \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

which together with (5), Poincare’s inequality and triangle inequality yields (11). We complete the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

**3. Superclose analysis of the two-grid scheme.** In this section, we present the main algorithm of the paper, which has the following two steps:

**Step 1.** On the coarse grid  $\mathcal{T}_H$ , compute  $u_H^1 \in V_H$  to satisfy the following original nonlinear system:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (d_t u_H^1, v_H) - \left( \frac{\Delta t}{8} (3\nabla u_H^0 + \nabla u_H^1), \nabla v_H \right) \\
 & = - \left( \frac{\nabla(u_H^1 + u_H^0)}{2}, \nabla v_H \right) + \left( \frac{f(u_H^1) + f(u_H^0)}{2}, v_H \right), \quad \forall v_H \in V_H,
 \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

$$u_H^0 = R_H u_0(X), \quad X \in \Omega. \tag{36}$$

For  $n = 1, \dots, N - 1$ , compute  $u_H^{n+1} \in V_H$  to satisfy the following linear system:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left( \frac{u_H^{n+1} - u_H^{n-1}}{2\Delta t}, v_H \right) - \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(u_H^j + u_H^{j-1}), \nabla v_H \right) \\
 & = - \left( \frac{\nabla(u_H^{n+1} + u_H^{n-1})}{2}, \nabla v_H \right) + (f(u_H^n), v_H), \quad \forall v_H \in V_H.
 \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

**Step 2.** On the fine grid  $\mathcal{T}_h$ , for  $n = 1, \dots, N$ , compute  $\tilde{u}_h^n \in V_h$  to satisfy the following linear system:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (d_t \tilde{u}_h^n, v_h) - \left( \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(\tilde{u}_h^j + \tilde{u}_h^{j+1}) + \frac{\Delta t}{8} (3\nabla \tilde{u}_h^{n-1} + \nabla \tilde{u}_h^n), \nabla v_h \right) \\
 & + \left( \frac{\nabla(\tilde{u}_h^n + \tilde{u}_h^{n-1})}{2}, \nabla v_h \right) = \left( \frac{f(u_H^n) + f'(u_H^n)(\tilde{u}_h^n - u_H^n)}{2}, v_h \right) \\
 & + \left( \frac{f(u_H^{n-1}) + f'(u_H^{n-1})(\tilde{u}_h^{n-1} - u_H^{n-1})}{2}, v_h \right), \quad \forall v_h \in V_h,
 \end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

$$\tilde{u}_h^0 = R_h u_0(X), \quad X \in \Omega. \tag{39}$$



Now, we shall discuss the superclose estimates of the above two-grid algorithm in the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $u$ ,  $u_H^n$  and  $\tilde{u}_h^n$  be the solutions of (8), (35)-(37) and (35)-(39), respectively. Then under the conditions of Theorem 2.1, for  $n = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , we have*

$$\|u_H^n - I_H u^n\|_1 \leq C(H^2 + (\Delta t)^2), \quad (40)$$

$$\|\tilde{u}_h^n - I_h u^n\|_1 \leq C(h^2 + H^4 + (\Delta t)^2). \quad (41)$$

*Proof.* Setting  $u^n - u_H^n = u^n - R_H u^n + R_H u^n - u_H^n := \omega^n + \varphi^n$ . From Theorem 2.1, (40) is obvious for  $n = 1$ .

For  $n = 1, \dots, N - 1$ , letting  $t = t_n$  and  $v = v_H$  in (8), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{u^{n+1} - u^{n-1}}{2\Delta t}, v_H \right) + \left( \frac{\nabla(u^{n+1} + u^{n-1})}{2}, \nabla v_H \right) - \int_0^{t_n} (\nabla u(s), \nabla v_H) ds \\ & = (f(u^n), v_H) + (R_3^n, v_H) + (\nabla R_4^n, \nabla v_H), \quad \forall v_H \in V_H, \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

where  $R_3^n = \frac{u^{n+1} - u^{n-1}}{2\Delta t} - u_t^n$ ,  $R_4^n = \frac{u^{n+1} + u^{n-1}}{2} - u^n$ .

Subtracting (37) from (42), with the help of (7), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{2\Delta t}, v_H \right) + \left( \frac{\nabla(\varphi^{n+1} + \varphi^{n-1})}{2}, \nabla v_H \right) \\ & = - \left( \frac{\omega^{n+1} - \omega^{n-1}}{2\Delta t}, v_H \right) + \left( \int_0^{t_n} \nabla u(s) ds - \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(u_H^j + u_H^{j-1}), \nabla v_H \right) \\ & \quad + (f(u^n) - f(u_H^n), v_H) + (R_3^n, v_H) + (\nabla R_4^n, \nabla v_H), \quad \forall v_H \in V_H. \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Selecting  $v_H = \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{\Delta t}$  in (43), using  $\varphi^0 = 0$  and the equality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\nabla(\varphi^{n+1} + \varphi^{n-1})}{2}, \frac{\nabla(\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1})}{\Delta t} \right) \\ & = \frac{1}{2\Delta t} (\|\nabla \varphi^{n+1}\|^2 + \|\nabla \varphi^n\|^2 - \|\nabla \varphi^n\|^2 - \|\nabla \varphi^{n-1}\|^2), \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

then multiplying the resulting equation by  $2\Delta t$  and summing from  $n = 1, \dots, l$  ( $1 \leq l \leq N - 1$ ), we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=1}^l \left\| \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{\Delta t} \right\|^2 \Delta t + \|\nabla \varphi^{l+1}\|^2 + \|\nabla \varphi^l\|^2 \\ & = - \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \frac{\omega^{n+1} - \omega^{n-1}}{\Delta t}, \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{\Delta t} \right) \Delta t \\ & \quad + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \int_0^{t_n} \nabla u(s) ds - \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(u^j + u^{j+1}), \nabla \varphi^{n+1} - \nabla \varphi^{n-1} \right) \\ & \quad + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\Delta t}{2} (\nabla \varphi^j + \nabla \varphi^{j-1}), \nabla \varphi^{n+1} - \nabla \varphi^{n-1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( f(u^n) - f(u_H^n), \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{\Delta t} \right) \Delta t \\
& + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( R_3^n, \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{\Delta t} \right) \Delta t \\
& + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l (\nabla R_4^n, \nabla \varphi^{n+1} - \nabla \varphi^{n-1}) + \|\nabla \varphi^1\|^2 =: \sum_{i=1}^7 D_i,
\end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

where we used (7) and  $\varphi^0 = 0$ .

Similar to the estimates of  $I_1$ - $I_6$ , we can estimate  $D_1$ - $D_6$  as

$$D_1 \leq CH^4 \|u_t\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2 + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \left\| \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{\Delta t} \right\|^2 \Delta t, \tag{46}$$

$$D_2 \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + C \sum_{n=0}^l \|\nabla \varphi^{n+1}\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{4} \|\nabla \varphi^{l+1}\|^2, \tag{47}$$

$$D_3 \leq C \sum_{n=0}^l \|\nabla \varphi^{n+1}\|^2 \Delta t, \tag{48}$$

$$D_4 \leq CH^4 \|u\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2 + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \varphi^n\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \left\| \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{\Delta t} \right\|^2 \Delta t, \tag{49}$$

$$D_5 \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \left\| \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^{n-1}}{\Delta t} \right\|^2 \Delta t, \tag{50}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
D_6 & \leq C(\Delta t)^4 (\|\nabla u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^\infty(L^2)}^2) \\
& + C \sum_{n=0}^l \|\nabla \varphi^{n+1}\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{4} \|\nabla \varphi^{l+1}\|^2.
\end{aligned} \tag{51}$$

At last, for  $D_7$ , using (5), (40) and triangle inequality, we see that

$$D_7 \leq 2\|\nabla(I_H u^1 - R_H u^1)\|^2 + 2\|\nabla(I_H u^1 - u_H^1)\|^2 \leq C(H^4 + (\Delta t)^4). \tag{52}$$

Now, substituting the estimates for  $D_1$ - $D_7$  into (45), then applying discrete Gronwall's lemma, for sufficiently small  $\Delta t$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\nabla \varphi^{l+1}\| & \leq CH^2 (\|u\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2 + \|u_t\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2)^{1/2} + C(\Delta t)^2 (\|u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 \\
& + \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(H^3)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^\infty(L^2)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2)^{1/2},
\end{aligned} \tag{53}$$

which together with (5), Poincaré's inequality and triangle inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|u_H^n - I_H u^n\|_1 \leq \|u_H^n - R_H u^n\|_1 + \|R_H u^n - I_H u^n\|_1 \\
& \leq CH^2 (\|u\|_{L^\infty(H^3)}^2 + \|u_t\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2)^{1/2} + C(\Delta t)^2 (\|u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 \\
& + \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^\infty(L^2)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(H^3)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2)^{1/2}, \quad n \geq 2.
\end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

Using Taylor expansion, we have

$$f(u^n) = f(u_H^n) + f'(u_H^n)(u^n - u_H^n) + \frac{f''(\alpha^n)(u^n - u_H^n)^2}{2}, \tag{55}$$

where  $\alpha^n$  is located between  $u^n$  and  $u_H^n$ .

Setting  $R_h u^n - \tilde{u}_h^n := \tilde{\xi}^n$ . Subtracting (38) from (12), similar to (15), we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned}
& 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t + \|\nabla \tilde{\xi}^l\|^2 \\
&= -2 \sum_{n=1}^l (d_t \eta^n, d_t \tilde{\xi}^n) \Delta t + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \int_0^{t^{n-1/2}} \nabla u(s) ds - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla(\tilde{u}_h^j + \tilde{u}_h^{j+1}) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{\Delta t}{8} (3 \nabla \tilde{u}_h^{n-1} + \nabla \tilde{u}_h^n), \nabla \tilde{\xi}^n - \nabla \tilde{\xi}^{n-1} \right) \\
&\quad + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( f(u^{n-1/2}) - \frac{f(u^n) + f(u^{n-1})}{2}, d_t \tilde{\xi}^n \right) \Delta t \\
&\quad + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \frac{f'(u_H^n)(u^n - \tilde{u}_h^n)}{2} + \frac{f''(\alpha^n)(u^n - u_H^n)^2}{4}, d_t \tilde{\xi}^n \right) \Delta t \\
&\quad + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l \left( \frac{f'(u_H^{n-1})(u^{n-1} - \tilde{u}_h^{n-1})}{2} + \frac{f''(\alpha^{n-1})(u^{n-1} - u_H^{n-1})^2}{4}, d_t \tilde{\xi}^n \right) \Delta t \\
&\quad + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l (R_1^n, d_t \tilde{\xi}^n) \Delta t + 2 \sum_{n=1}^l (\nabla R_2^n, \nabla \tilde{\xi}^n - \nabla \tilde{\xi}^{n-1}) =: \sum_{i=1}^7 B_i.
\end{aligned} \tag{56}$$

Now, we estimate  $B_1$ - $B_7$ , respectively. For  $B_3$ , similar to (24), we know that

$$B_3 \leq C(\Delta t)^4 \|u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t. \tag{57}$$

For  $B_4$ , we find from Cauchy inequality and the assumption on  $f$  that

$$\begin{aligned}
B_4 &\leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^l (2 \|f'(u_H^n)(u^n - \tilde{u}_h^n)\| + \|f''(\alpha^n)(u^n - u_H^n)^2\|) \cdot \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\| \Delta t \\
&\leq C \sum_{n=1}^l \|u^n - \tilde{u}_h^n\| \cdot \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\| \Delta t + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|(u^n - u_H^n)^2\| \cdot \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\| \Delta t \\
&=: G_1 + G_2.
\end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

Using Young's inequality and (4), we know that

$$G_1 \leq Ch^4 \|u\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2 + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t. \tag{59}$$

Combining (40), Cauchy inequality, Young's inequality and interpolation theory with  $H^1 \hookrightarrow L^4$ , we derive

$$\begin{aligned}
G_2 &\leq \sum_{n=1}^l (\|u^n - I_H u^n\|_{0,4}^2 + \|I_H u^n - u_H^n\|_{0,4}^2) \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\| \Delta t \\
&\leq C \sum_{n=1}^l (H^4 \|u^n\|_{2,4}^2 + \|I_H u^n - u_H^n\|_1^2) \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\| \Delta t
\end{aligned}$$

$$\leq C((\Delta t)^4 + H^8) + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t. \tag{60}$$

Now, from (59)-(60), we find that

$$B_4 \leq C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t + C(h^4 + (\Delta t)^4 + H^8) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t. \tag{61}$$

Similarly, we can estimate  $B_5$  as

$$B_5 \leq C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\tilde{\xi}^{n-1}\|^2 \Delta t + C(h^4 + (\Delta t)^4 + H^8) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t. \tag{62}$$

Similar to (16), (21), (27) and (33), we easily have

$$\begin{aligned} |B_1 + B_2 + B_6 + B_7| &\leq Ch^4 \|u_t\|_{L^2(H^2)}^2 + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \\ &+ \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=1}^l \|d_t \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t + C(\Delta t)^4 (\|u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 \\ &+ \|\nabla u_{tt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2 + \|\nabla u_{ttt}\|_{L^2(L^2)}^2). \end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

It follows from (56)-(57), (61)-(63) and Poincaré’s inequality that

$$\|\nabla \tilde{\xi}^l\|^2 \leq C(h^4 + H^8 + (\Delta t)^4) + C \sum_{n=1}^l \|\nabla \tilde{\xi}^n\|^2 \Delta t. \tag{64}$$

Thus, for sufficiently small  $\Delta t$ , using discrete Gronwall’s lemma and Poincaré’s inequality, we arrive at

$$\|\tilde{\xi}^l\|_1 \leq C(h^2 + H^4 + (\Delta t)^2), \tag{65}$$

which together with (5) and triangle inequality yields

$$\|\tilde{u}_h^n - I_h u^n\|_1 \leq \|\tilde{u}_h^n - R_h u^n\|_1 + \|R_h u^n - I_h u^n\|_1 \leq C(h^2 + H^4 + (\Delta t)^2). \tag{66}$$

The proof is complete. □

**4. Numerical experiments.** In this section, we are going to validate the super-close estimates for two-grid discretization method for semilinear parabolic integro-differential equations by a concrete numerical example.

We consider the following semi-linear parabolic integro-differential equations

$$u_t - \Delta u + \int_0^t \Delta u(s) ds = -u^3 + g(X, t), \quad X \in \Omega, \quad t \in J, \tag{67}$$

$$u(X, t) = 0, \quad X \in \partial\Omega, \quad t \in J, \tag{68}$$

$$u(X, 0) = u_0(X), \quad X \in \Omega, \tag{69}$$

where  $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$  and  $J = (0, 1]$ . We choose  $u(X, t) = \sin(\pi t) \sin(\pi x_1) \sin(\pi x_2)$  as the exact solution. Then, the explicit formulation of  $g(X, t)$  is

$$g(X, t) = (\pi \cos(\pi t) + 2\pi^2 \sin(\pi t) + 2\pi(\cos(\pi t) - 1)) \sin(\pi x_1) \sin(\pi x_2) + (u(X, t))^3.$$

We first test the example for the Crank-Nicolson scheme. The error and the convergence order of  $\|u_h^n - I_h u^n\|_1$  at  $t = 0.125$  with  $h = \Delta t$  are presented in Table 1. Obviously, it is the same with the result in Theorem 2.1. Next, the two-grid scheme is tested. The error and the convergence order of  $\|u_H^n - I_H u^n\|_1$  and

$\|\tilde{u}_h^n - I_h u^n\|_1$  are provided in Table 2 and Table 3. We find from these two tables that the result coincides with that in Theorem 3.1. Finally, we show the efficiency of the two-grid method by comparing the cpu time in Table 4.

$h$	$\ u_h^n - I_h u^n\ _1$	order
1/32	9.6461e-04	-
1/64	2.4062e-04	2.00
1/128	6.0130e-05	2.00
1/256	1.5037e-05	2.00

Table 1. The error and the convergence order of  $\|u_h^n - I_h u^n\|_1$  at  $t = 0.125$  with  $h = \Delta t$ .

$H$	$\ u_H^n - I_H u^n\ _1$	order
1/16	1.9302e-02	-
1/32	4.8349e-03	2.00
1/64	1.2096e-03	2.00
1/128	3.0244e-04	2.00

Table 2. The error and the convergence order of  $\|u_H^n - I_H u^n\|_1$  at  $t = 0.0625$  with  $H = \Delta t$ .

$H$	$\ \tilde{u}_h^n - I_h u^n\ _1$	order
1/2	8.7973e-04	-
1/4	7.1420e-05	3.51
1/8	4.6798e-06	3.91
1/16	2.9328e-07	3.99

Table 3. The error and the convergence order of  $\|\tilde{u}_h^n - I_h u^n\|_1$  at  $t = 0.001$  with  $\Delta t = 0.0001$  and  $h = H^2$ .

$(H, h)$	two-grid time (s)	Crank-Nicolson time (s)
(1/4, 1/16)	0.0998	0.1164
(1/8, 1/64)	0.9118	1.2019
(1/16, 1/256)	13.6126	17.9624

Table 4. The cpu time of two-grid scheme and Crank-Nicolson scheme for each time step ( $h = \Delta t$ ).

## REFERENCES

- [1] J. R. Cannon and Y. P. Lin, [A priori  \$L^2\$  error estimates for finite-element methods for nonlinear diffusion equations with memory](#), *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.*, **27** (1990), 595–607.
- [2] L. P. Chen and Y. P. Chen, [Two-grid method for nonlinear reaction-diffusion equations by mixed finite element methods](#), *J. Sci. Comput.*, **49** (2011), 383–401.
- [3] K. Eriksson and C. Johnson, [Adaptive finite element methods for parabolic problems IV: Nonlinear problems](#), *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.*, **32** (1995), 1729–1749.
- [4] S. M. F. Garcia, [Improved error estimates for mixed finite element approximations for nonlinear parabolic equations: The discrete-time case](#), *Numer. Methods Partial Differ. Equ.*, **10** (1994), 149–169.
- [5] T. L. Hou, W. Z. Jiang, Y. T. Yang and H. T. Leng, [Two-grid  \$P\_0^2\$ - \$P\_1\$  mixed finite element methods combined with Crank-Nicolson scheme for a class of nonlinear parabolic equations](#), *Appl. Numer. Math.*, **137** (2019), 136–150.
- [6] M.-N. Le Roux and V. Thomée, [Numerical solution of semilinear integro-differential equations of parabolic type with nonsmooth data](#), *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.*, **26** (1989), 1291–1309.

- [7] Q. Lin and J. Lin, *Finite Element Methods: Accuracy and Improvement*, Science Press, Beijing, 2006.
- [8] W. Liu, H. Rui and Y. P. Bao, Two kinds of two-grid algorithms for finite difference solutions of semilinear parabolic equations, *J. Sys. Sci. Math. Sci.*, **30** (2010), 181–190.
- [9] P. K. Moore, A posterior error estimation with finite element semi- and fully discrete methods for nonlinear parabolic equations in one space dimension, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.*, **31** (1994), 149–169.
- [10] D. Y. Shi and P. C. Mu, Superconvergence analysis of a two-grid method for semilinear parabolic equations, *Appl. Math. Lett.*, **84** (2018), 34–41.
- [11] J. C. Xu, A novel two-grid method for semilinear elliptic equations, *SIAM J. Sci. Comput.*, **15** (1994), 231–237.
- [12] J. C. Xu, Two-grid discretization techniques for linear and nonlinear PDEs, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.*, **33** (1996), 1759–1777.
- [13] J. M. Yang and X. Q. Xing, A two-grid discontinuous Galerkin method for a kind of nonlinear parabolic problems, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, **346** (2019), 96–108.

Received February 2020; revised April 2020.

*E-mail address:* [386270479@qq.com](mailto:386270479@qq.com)

*E-mail address:* [htlchb@163.com](mailto:htlchb@163.com)