

Potential and flux reconstructions for optimal a priori and a posteriori error estimates

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Inria Paris & Ecole des Ponts

BIRS, Kelowna, May 21, 2024

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Potential reconstruction
- 3 Flux reconstruction
- 4 A priori estimates
 - Global-best – local-best equivalence in H^1
 - Constrained global-best – unconstrained local-best equivalence in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$
 - p -stable local commuting projector in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$
- 5 A posteriori estimates
 - Guaranteed upper bound and polynomial-degree-robust local efficiency
 - Numerical illustration
- 6 Tools (hp -optimality, p -robustness)
 - Polynomial extension operators
 - p -stable decompositions
- 7 Conclusions and outlook

A model partial differential equation

Poisson equation

Find $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= f && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

Setting

- $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, $d = 1, 2, 3$, line segment, Lipschitz polygon, or Lipschitz polyhedron
- $f \in L^2(\Omega)$

Weak formulation

Find $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ such that

$$(\nabla u, \nabla v) = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

Properties of the weak solution

$$u \in H_0^1(\Omega), \quad -\nabla u \in H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega), \quad \nabla \cdot (-\nabla u) = f$$

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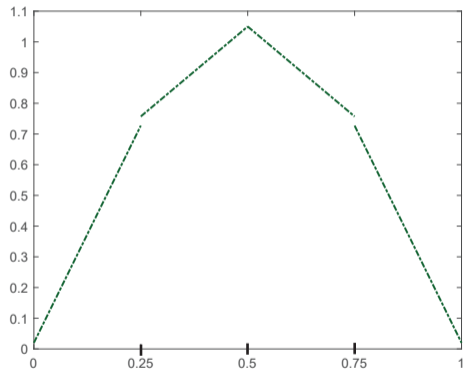
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Numerical approximation

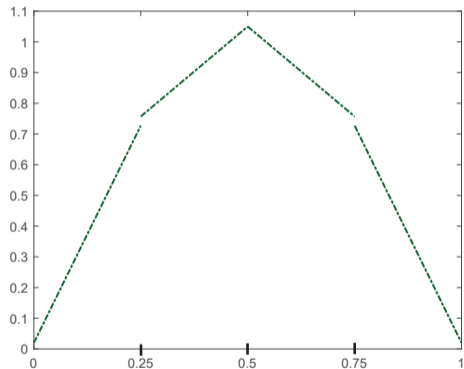
- \mathcal{T}_h a simplicial mesh of Ω with characteristic mesh size $h := \max_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} h_K$
- $\mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h)$: piecewise polynomials of total degree $p \geq 0$
- numerical approximation u_h of u

Numerical approximation: $H_0^1(\Omega)$, example in 1D

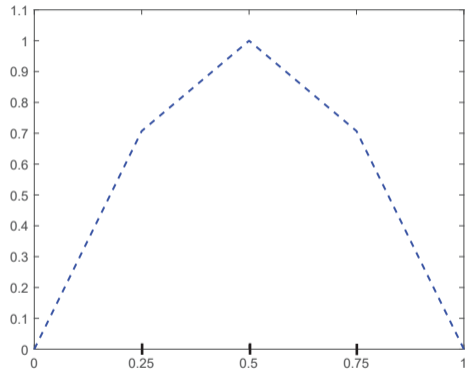


$$u_h \in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h)$$

Numerical approximation: $H_0^1(\Omega)$, example in 1D

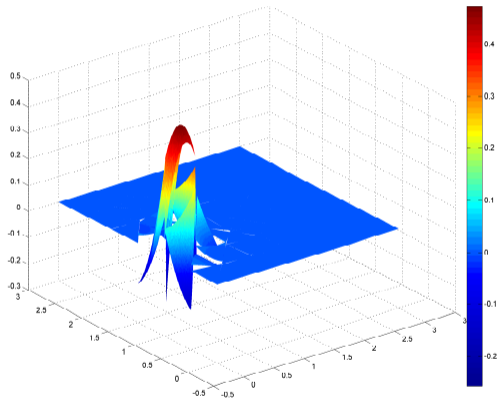


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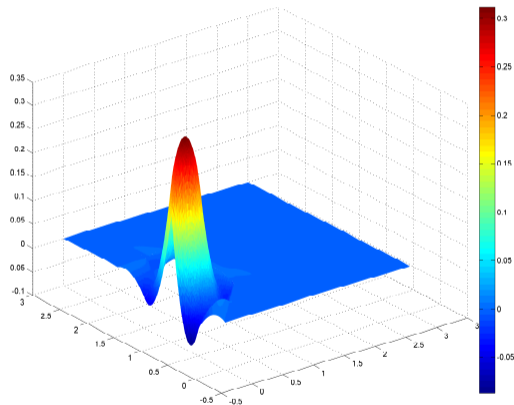


$$u_h \in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$$

Numerical approximation: $H_0^1(\Omega)$, example in 2D

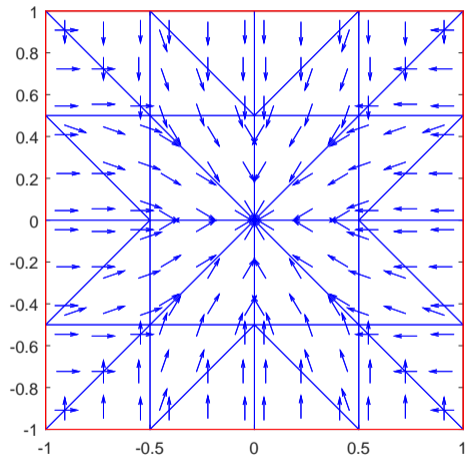


$$u_h \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{T}_h)$$



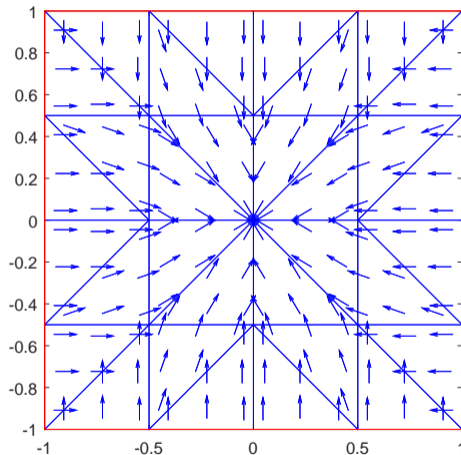
$$u_h \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$$

Numerical approximation: $\mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega)$, example in 2D

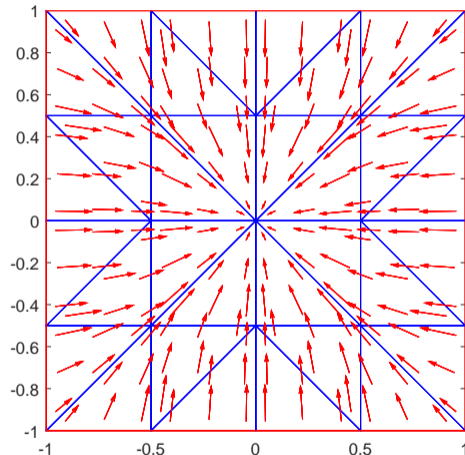


$$-\nabla u_h \in [\mathcal{P}_0(\mathcal{T}_h)]^2$$

Numerical approximation: $\mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega)$, example in 2D



$$-\nabla u_h \in [\mathcal{P}_0(\mathcal{T}_h)]^2$$



$$-\nabla u_h \in \mathcal{RT}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega)$$

Error characterization

Theorem (Error equality)

Let $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ be the weak solution and let $u_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h)$, $p \geq 0$, be *arbitrary*. Then

$$\|\nabla_h(u - u_h)\|^2$$

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$$\|\nabla_h(u - u_h)\|^2 = \underbrace{\min_{v \in H_0^1(\Omega)} \|\nabla_h(u_h - v)\|^2}_{\text{min}} + \underbrace{\min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = f}} \|\nabla_h u_h + \mathbf{v}\|^2}_{\text{min}} .$$

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$$\|\nabla_h(u - u_h)\|^2 = \underbrace{\min_{v \in H_0^1(\Omega)} \|\nabla_h(u_h - v)\|^2}_{\text{distance to the correct space}} + \underbrace{\min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = f}} \|\nabla_h u_h + \mathbf{v}\|^2}_{\text{}} .$$

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Error characterization

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Optimal a posteriori error estimate, reliability (guaranteed upper bound)

Theorem (Optimal a posteriori error estimate)

For any $s_h \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ and $\sigma_h \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega)$ such that $\nabla \cdot \sigma_h = f$, there holds

$$\underbrace{\|\nabla_h(u - u_h)\|^2}_{\text{error}} \leq \underbrace{\|\nabla_h(u_h - s_h)\|^2 + \|\nabla_h u_h + \sigma_h\|^2}_{\text{upper bound}}$$

a posteriori error estimate, reliability (**guaranteed upper bound**)

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Comments

- **local** construction of **piecewise polynomial** s_h and σ_h from u_h

a posteriori error estimate, reliability (**guaranteed upper bound**)

Theorem (**Optimal a posteriori error estimate**) $((f, \psi_a)_{\omega_a} - (\nabla_h u_h, \nabla \psi_a)_{\omega_a} = 0$ for all $a \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}}, f \in \mathcal{P}_{p-1}(\mathcal{T}_h)$

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$$\lesssim \min_{v \in H_0^1(\Omega)} \|\nabla_h(u_h - v)\|^2 + \min_{\substack{v \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega) \\ \nabla \cdot v = f}} \|\nabla_h u_h + v\|^2$$

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- s_h so good that **no** $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ **can do better** (up to a constant)
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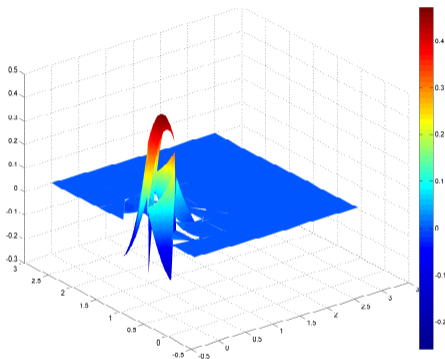
$$\underbrace{\|\nabla_h(u - u_h)\|^2}_{\text{unknown error}} \leq \underbrace{\|\nabla_h(u_h - s_h)\|^2 + \|\nabla_h u_h + \sigma_h\|^2}_{\text{computable estimator } \eta(u_h)}$$

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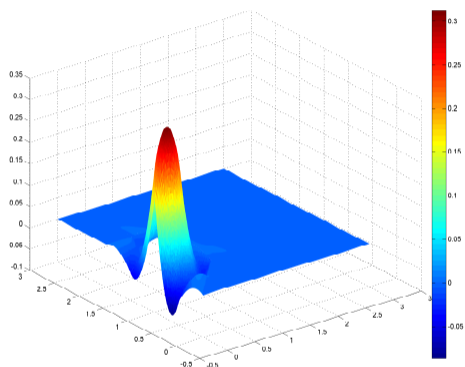
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Potential reconstruction



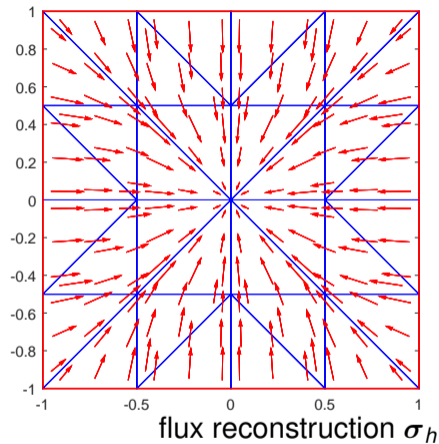
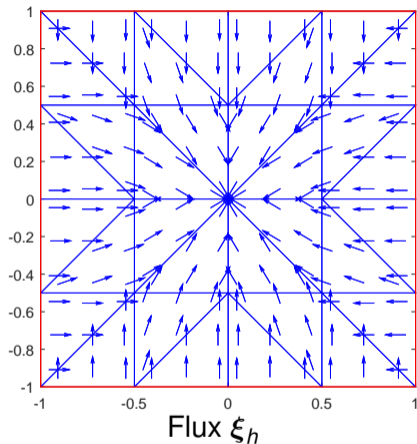
Potential ξ_h



Potential reconstruction s_h

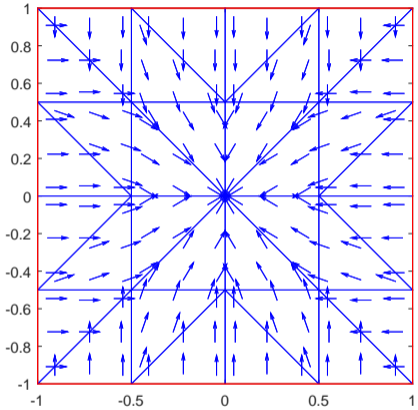
$$\xi_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \rightarrow s_h \in \underbrace{\mathcal{P}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_h)}_{p'=p \text{ or } p'=p+1} \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$$

flux reconstruction

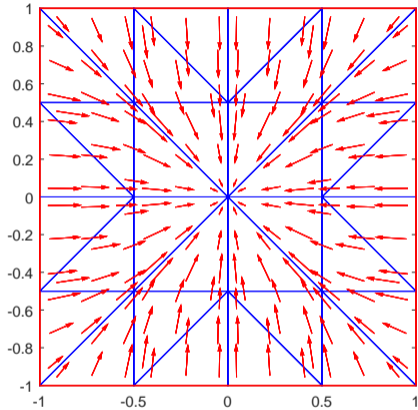


$$\underbrace{\xi_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h), f \in L^2(\Omega)} \rightarrow \sigma_h \in \underbrace{\mathcal{RT}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_h)}_{p'=p \text{ or } p'=p+1} \cap \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega)$$

Equilibrated flux reconstruction



Flux ξ_h



Equilibrated flux reconstruction σ_h

$$\underbrace{\left(\xi_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h), f \in L^2(\Omega) \right)}_{(f, \psi \mathbf{a})_{\omega \mathbf{a}} + (\xi_h, \nabla \psi \mathbf{a})_{\omega \mathbf{a}} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}}} \rightarrow \sigma_h \in \underbrace{\mathcal{RT}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_h)}_{p' = p \text{ or } p' = p+1} \cap \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega), \nabla \cdot \sigma_h = \Pi_{p'} f$$

a priori error estimate

both hands

Conforming finite element approximation

Find $u_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, $p \geq 1$, such that

$$(\nabla u_h, \nabla v_h) = (f, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$$

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Theorem (Optimal a priori error estimate)

There holds

$$\underbrace{\|\nabla(u - u_h)\|}_{\min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)} \|\nabla(u - v_h)\|}$$

a priori error estimate

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- $\xi_h|_K := \arg \min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(K)} \|\nabla(u - v_h)\|_K$

a priori error estimate

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a priori error estimate

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- s_h : **potential reconstruction** of ξ_h : $s_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$

a priori error estimate elementwise potential

Conforming finite element approximation

Find $u_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, $p \geq 1$, such that

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$$\underbrace{\|\nabla(u - u_h)\|}_{\min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)} \|\nabla(u - v_h)\|} \leq \|\nabla(u - s_h)\|$$

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Optimal a priori error estimate elementwise

Conforming finite element approximation

Find $u_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, $p \geq 1$, such that

$$(\nabla u_h, \nabla v_h) = (f, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$$

Theorem (Optimal a priori error estimate)

There holds

$$\underbrace{\|\nabla(u - u_h)\|}_{\min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)} \|\nabla(u - v_h)\|} \leq \|\nabla(u - s_h)\| \leq \|\nabla_h(u - \xi_h)\| + \|\nabla_h(\xi_h - s_h)\|$$

- $\xi_h|_K := \arg \min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(K)} \|\nabla(u - v_h)\|_K$: $\xi_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h)$ but $\xi_h \notin H_0^1(\Omega)$
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Optimal a priori error estimate elementwise

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Optimal a priori error estimate elementwise, both h and p

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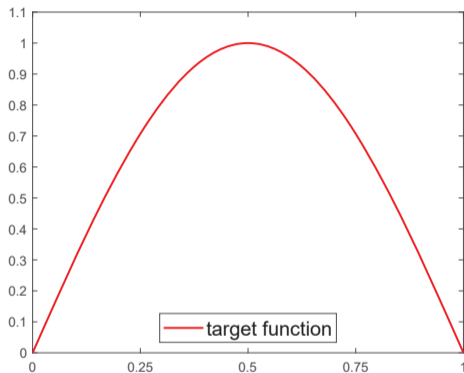
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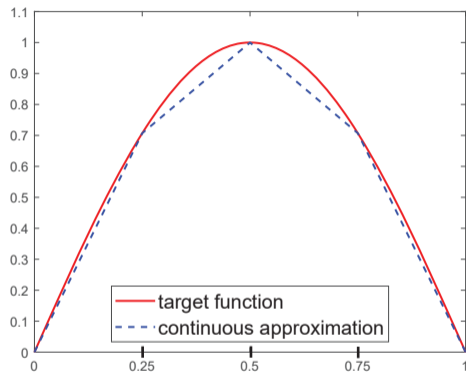
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Equivalence of global- and local-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$: 1D



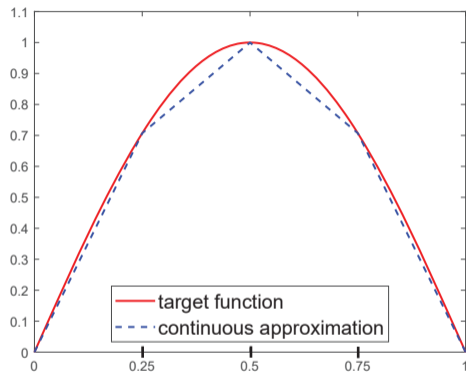
Target function in $H_0^1(\Omega)$

Equivalence of global- and local-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$: 1D

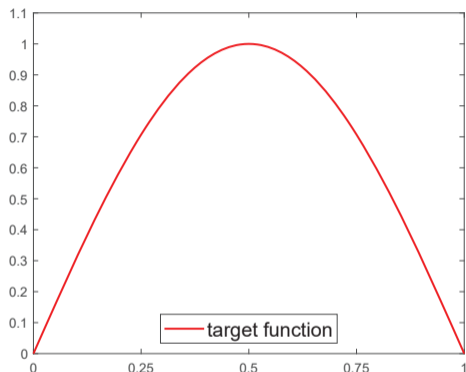


Best approximation by **continuous**
 piecewise polynomials in
 $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, **global** problem

Equivalence of global- and local-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$: 1D

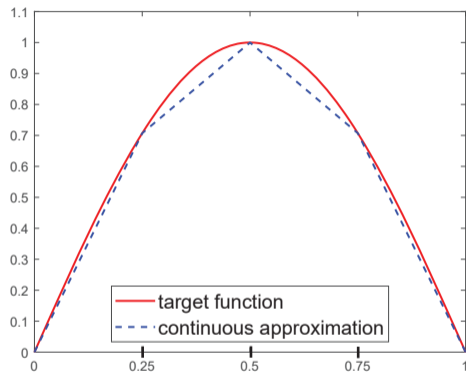


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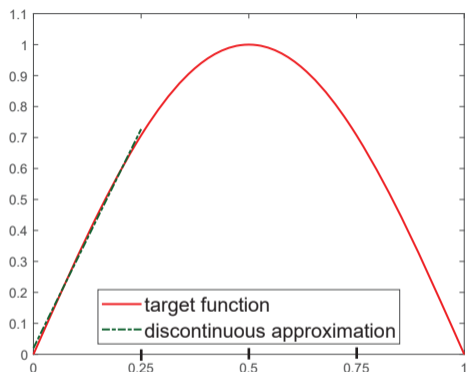


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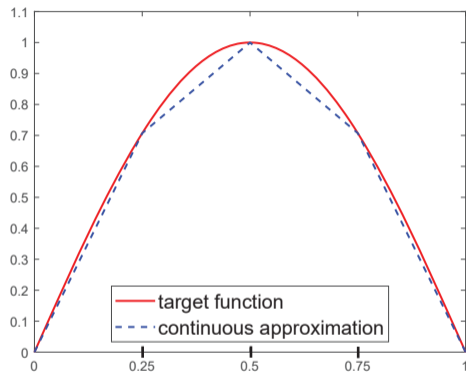


Best approximation by **continuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, **global** problem

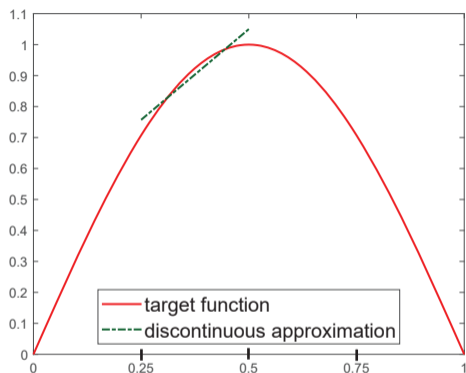


Best approximation by **discontinuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h)$, **local** problems

Equivalence of global- and local-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$: 1D

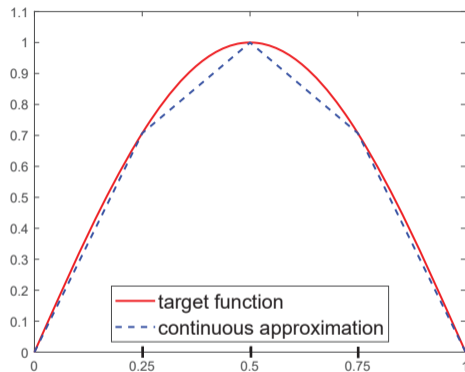


Best approximation by **continuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, **global** problem

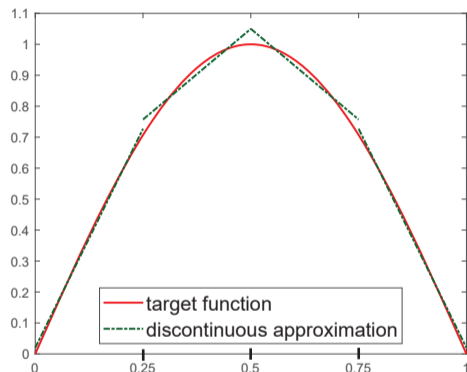


Best approximation by **discontinuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h)$, **local** problems

Equivalence of global- and local-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$: 1D

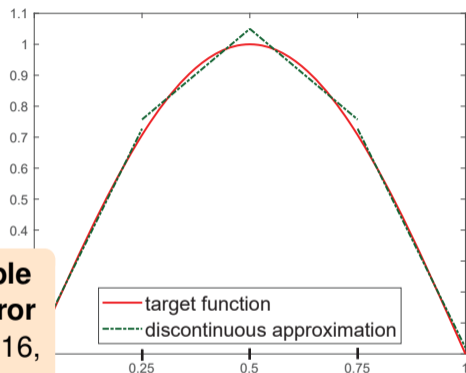
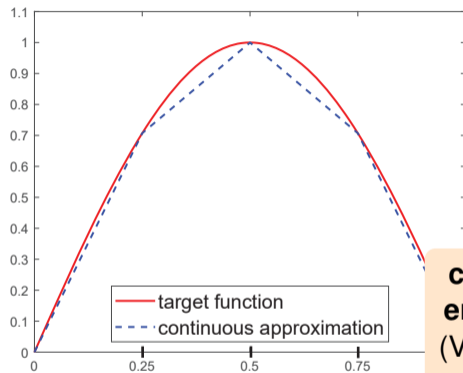


Best approximation by **continuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, **global** problem



Best approximation by **discontinuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h)$, **local** problems

Equivalence of global- and local-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$: 1D



comparable energy error
(Veiser 2016, p -robustness V. 2024)

Best approximation by **continuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, **global** problem

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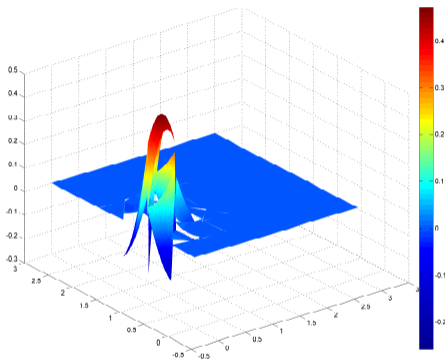
Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Potential reconstruction
- 3 Flux reconstruction
- 4 A priori estimates
 - Global-best – local-best equivalence in H^1
 - Constrained global-best – unconstrained local-best equivalence in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$
 - p -stable local commuting projector in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$
- 5 A posteriori estimates
 - Guaranteed upper bound and polynomial-degree-robust local efficiency
 - Numerical illustration
- 6 Tools (*hp*-optimality, p -robustness)
 - Polynomial extension operators
 - p -stable decompositions
- 7 Conclusions and outlook

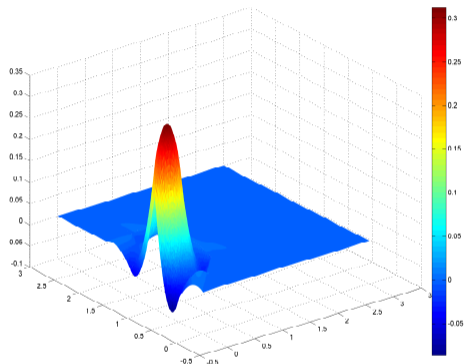
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Potential reconstruction



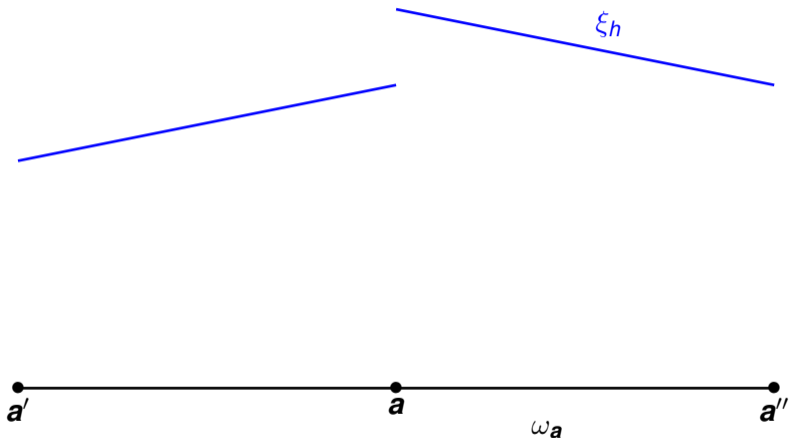
Potential ξ_h



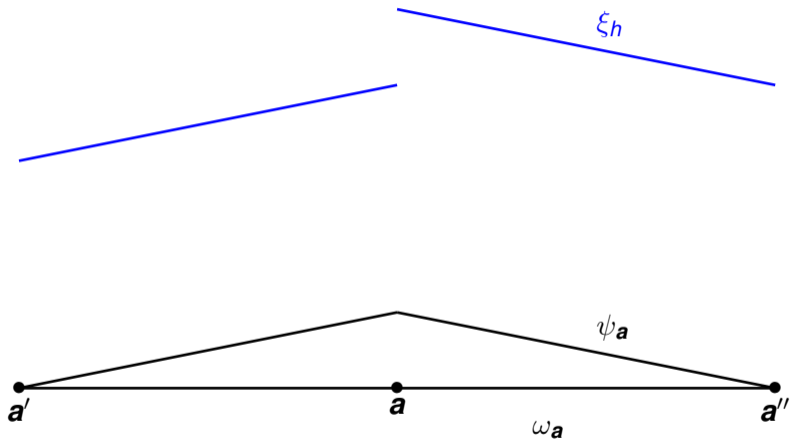
Potential reconstruction s_h

$$\xi_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \rightarrow s_h \in \underbrace{\mathcal{P}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_h)}_{p'=p \text{ or } p'=p+1} \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$$

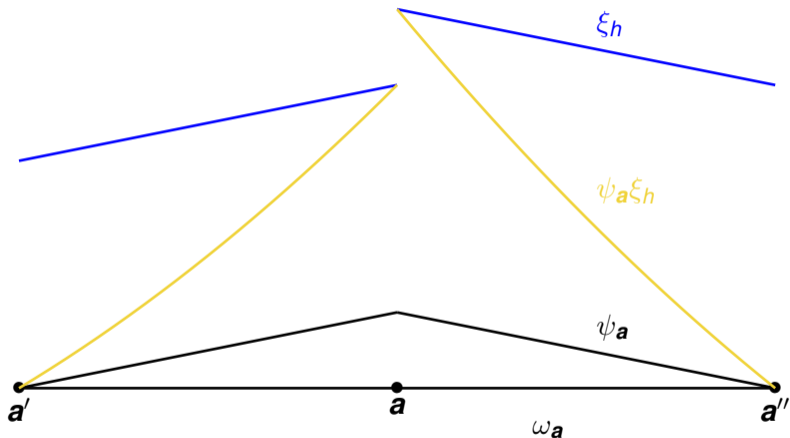
Potential reconstruction in 1D, $p = 1, p' = 2$



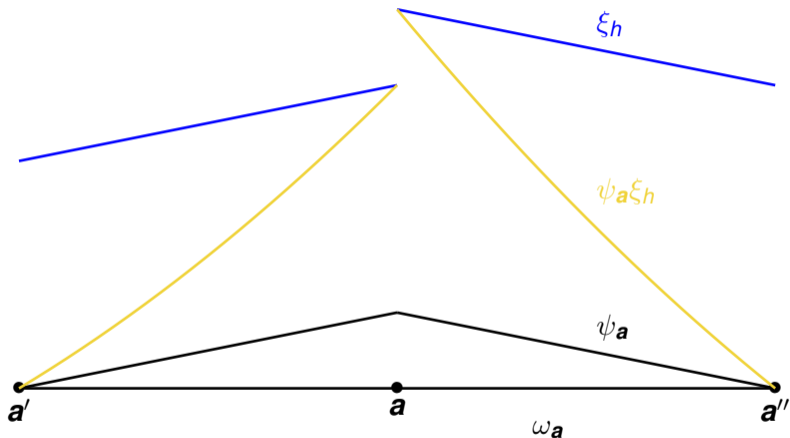
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Potential reconstruction in 1D, $p = 1, p' = 2$



Potential reconstruction: datum $\xi_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h)$, $p \geq 1$

Definition (Construction of s_h Ern & V. (2015), \approx Carstensen and Merdon (2013))

For each vertex $a \in \mathcal{V}_h$, solve the **local minimization problem**

$$s_h^a := \arg \min_{v_h \in V_h^a = \mathcal{P}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_a) \cap H_0^1(\omega_a)} \|\nabla_h(\psi_a \xi_h - v_h)\|_{\omega_a}$$

and combine:

$$s_h = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} s_h^a$$

Equivalent form: **conforming FEs**

Find $s_h^a \in V_h^a$ such that

$$(\nabla s_h^a, \nabla v_h)_{\omega_a} = (\nabla_h(\psi_a \xi_h), \nabla v_h)_{\omega_a} \quad \forall v_h \in V_h^a.$$

Key points

- localization to patches \mathcal{T}_a
- cut-off by hat basis functions ψ_a
- projection of the discontinuous $\psi_a \xi_h$ to conforming space
- homogeneous Dirichlet BC on $\partial\omega_a$: $s_h \in \mathcal{P}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$
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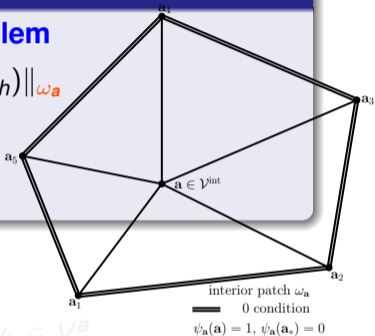
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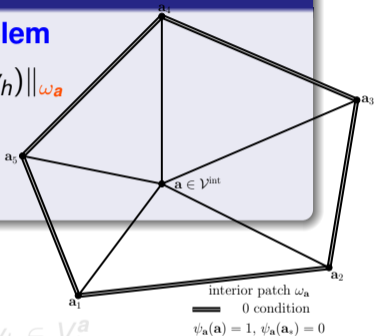
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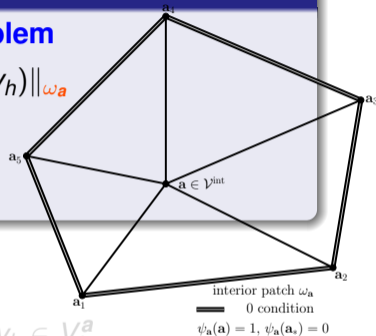
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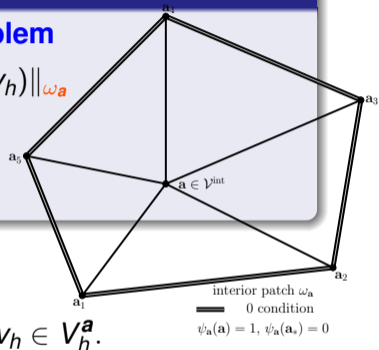
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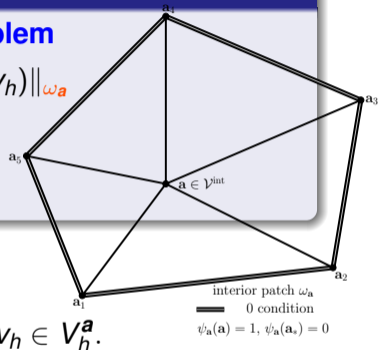
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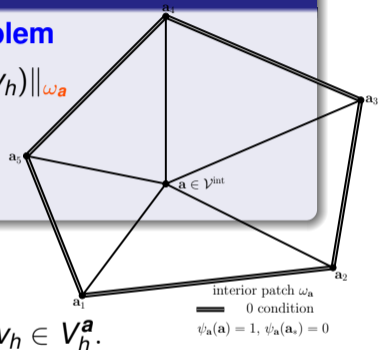
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$$s_h := \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h} s_h^{\mathbf{a}}$$



Equivalent form: **conforming FEs**

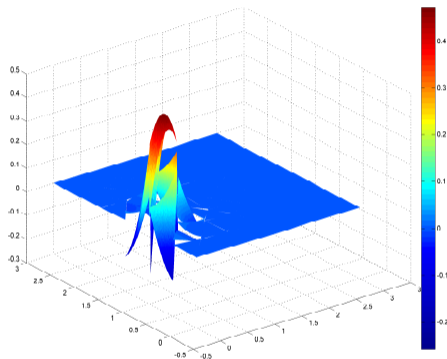
Find $s_h^{\mathbf{a}} \in V_h^{\mathbf{a}}$ such that

$$(\nabla s_h^{\mathbf{a}}, \nabla v_h)_{\omega_{\mathbf{a}}} = (\nabla_h l_{p'}(\psi_{\mathbf{a}}\xi_h), \nabla v_h)_{\omega_{\mathbf{a}}} \quad \forall v_h \in V_h^{\mathbf{a}}$$

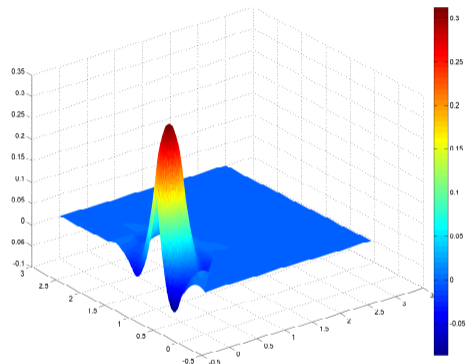
Key points

- **localization** to patches $\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{a}}$
- **cut-off** by hat basis functions $\psi_{\mathbf{a}}$
- **projection** of the discontinuous $\psi_{\mathbf{a}}\xi_h$ to conforming space
- homogeneous **Dirichlet** BC on $\partial\omega_{\mathbf{a}}$: $s_h \in \mathcal{P}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$
- $p' = p + 1$ or $p' = p$

Potential reconstruction



Potential ξ_h



Potential reconstruction s_h

$$\xi_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \rightarrow s_h \in \underbrace{\mathcal{P}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_h)}_{p'=p \text{ or } p'=p+1} \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$$

Stability of the potential reconstruction

Theorem (Local stability Ern & V. (2015, 2020), using [Tools](#))

There holds

$$\min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_a) \cap H_0^1(\omega_a)} \|\nabla_h(I_{p'}(\psi_a \xi_h) - v_h)\|_{\omega_a} \lesssim \min_{v \in H_0^1(\omega_a)} \|\nabla_h(I_{p'}(\psi_a \xi_h) - v)\|_{\omega_a}.$$

Stability of the potential reconstruction

Corollary (Global stability; $p' = p + 1$)

Up to a jump term, s_h is *closer* to ξ_h than *any* $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$:

$$\|\nabla_h(\xi_h - s_h)\| \lesssim \|\nabla_h(\xi_h - u)\| + \left\{ \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h} h_F^{-1} \|\Pi_0^F[\xi_h]\|_F^2 \right\}^{1/2}.$$

s_h so good that no $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ can do better

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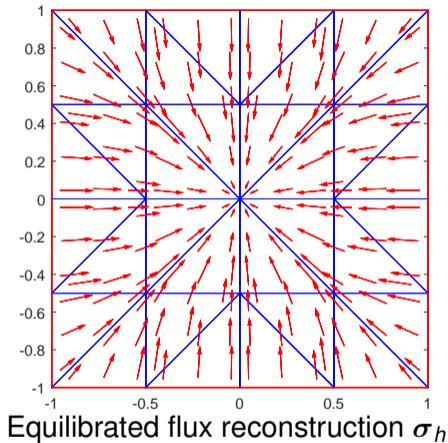
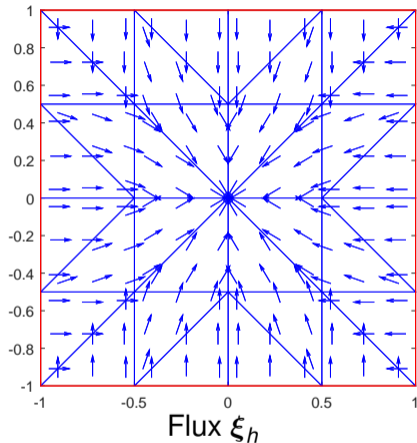
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s_h so good that no $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ can do better

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- 1 Introduction
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- 3 Flux reconstruction**
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Equilibrated flux reconstruction



$$\underbrace{\xi_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h), f \in L^2(\Omega)}_{(f, \psi_{\mathbf{a}})_{\omega_{\mathbf{a}}} + (\xi_h, \nabla \psi_{\mathbf{a}})_{\omega_{\mathbf{a}}} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}}} \rightarrow \sigma_h \in \underbrace{\mathcal{RT}_{p'}(\mathcal{T}_h)}_{p' = p \text{ or } p' = p+1} \cap \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega), \nabla \cdot \sigma_h = \Pi_{p'} f$$

Flux reconstruction: $\xi_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h)$, $p \geq 0$, $f \in L^2(\Omega)$

Assumption (Orthogonality wrt hat functions)

There holds $(f, \psi_a)_{\omega_a} + (\xi_h, \nabla \psi_a)_{\omega_a} = 0 \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}}$.

Definition (Constr. of σ_h , Destuynder & Métivet (1999) & Braess & Schöberl (2008), Ern & V. (2013))

For each $a \in \mathcal{V}_h$, solve the **local constrained minimization pb**

$$\sigma_h^a := \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h^a \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = 0}} \| \psi_a \xi_h - \mathbf{v}_h \|_{\omega_a}$$

and combine $\sigma_h = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \sigma_h^a$

Key points

- homogeneous Neumann BC on $\partial\omega_a$: $\sigma_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H(\text{div}, \Omega)$
- **equilibrium** $\nabla \cdot \sigma_h = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \nabla \cdot \sigma_h^a = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \Pi_p(f \psi_a + \xi_h \cdot \nabla \psi_a) = \Pi_p f$
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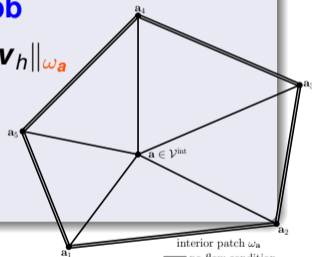
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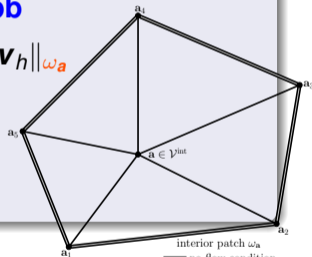
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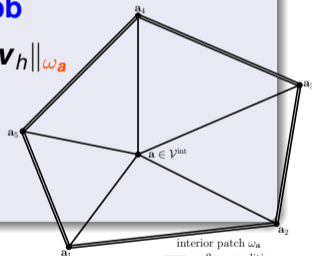
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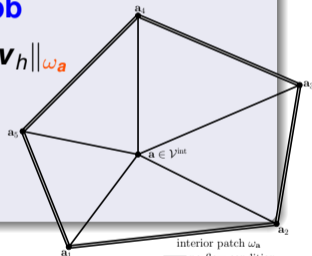
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interior patch ω_a
 — no-flow condition
 $\psi_a(\mathbf{a}) = 1, \psi_a(\mathbf{a}_i) = 0$

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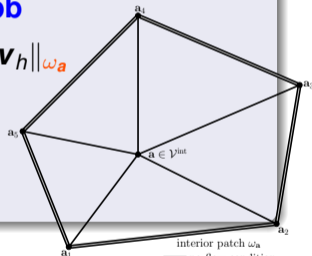
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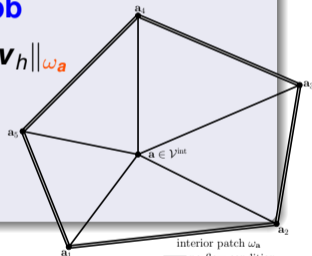
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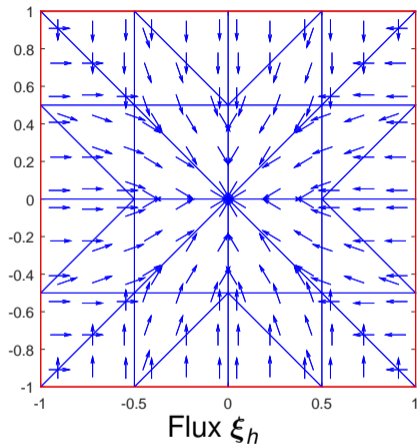


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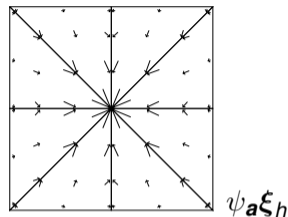
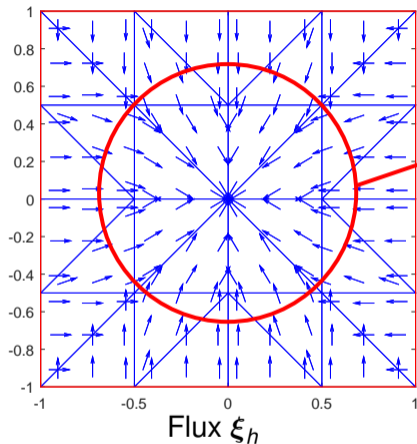
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Equilibrated flux reconstruction



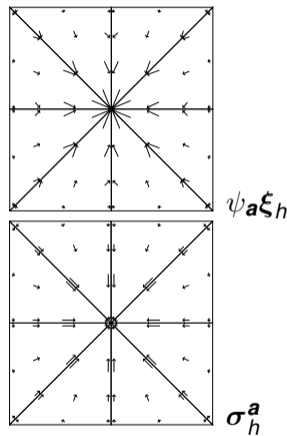
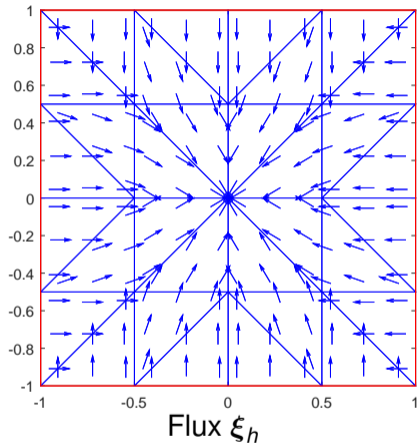
$$\underbrace{\xi_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h), f \in L^2(\Omega)}_{(f, \psi_{\mathbf{a}})_{\omega_{\mathbf{a}}} + (\xi_h, \nabla \psi_{\mathbf{a}})_{\omega_{\mathbf{a}}} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}}}$$

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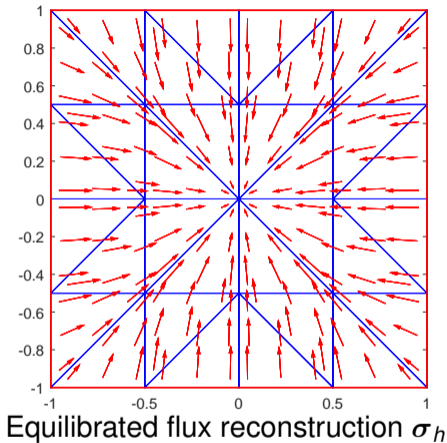
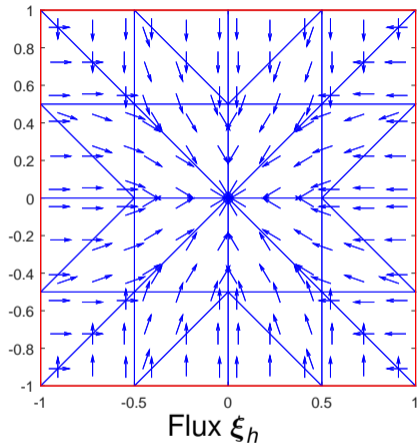


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Stability of the flux reconstruction

Theorem (Local stability) Braess, Pillwein, Schöberl (2009; 2D), Ern & V. (2020; 3D), using [Tools](#)

There holds

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Stability of the flux reconstruction

Corollary (Global stability; $p' = p + 1$)

σ_h is *closer* to ξ_h than *any* $\sigma \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega)$ such that $\nabla \cdot \sigma = f$:

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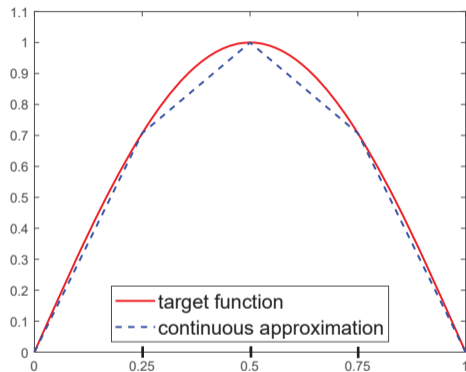
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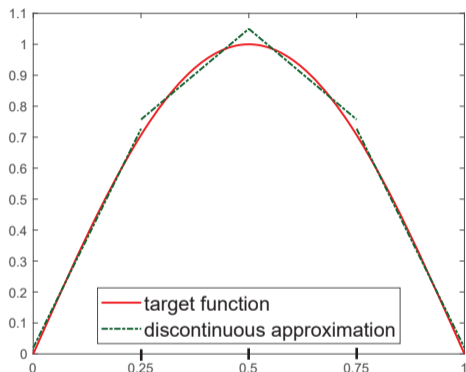
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Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$: 1D

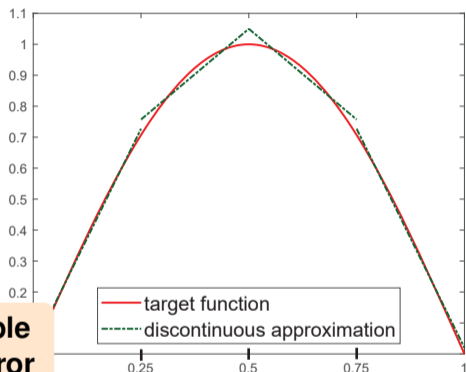
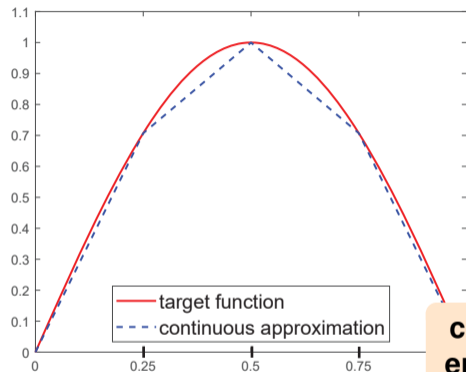


Best approximation by **continuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, **global** problem



Best approximation by **discontinuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h)$, **local** problems

Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$: 1D



comparable energy error

Best approximation by **continuous** piecewise polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$, **global** problem

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Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$

Theorem (Equivalence in H_0^1 , Carstensen, Peterseim, Schedensack (2012), Aurada, Feischl, Kemetmüller, Page, Praetorius (2013), Veerer (2016))

bigger \approx_p smaller

Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$

Theorem (Equivalence in H_0^1 , Carstensen, Peterseim, Schedensack (2012), Aurada, Feischl, Kemetmüller, Page, Praetorius (2013), Veerer (2016))

$$\min_{\text{smaller space}} \approx_p \min_{\text{bigger space}}$$

Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$

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$$\min_{CG \text{ space}} \approx_p \min_{DG \text{ space}}$$

Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$

Theorem (Equivalence in H_0^1 , Carstensen, Peterseim, Schedensack (2012), Aurada, Feischl, Kemetmüller, Page, Praetorius (2013), Veerer (2016))

Let $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ and $p \geq 1$ be arbitrary. Then,

$$\underbrace{\min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)} \|\nabla(u - v_h)\|^2}_{\substack{\text{global-best on } \Omega \\ \text{trace-continuity constraint} \\ \text{CG space (much smaller)}}} \approx_p \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \underbrace{\min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(K)} \|\nabla(u - v_h)\|_K^2}_{\substack{\text{local-best on each } K \in \mathcal{T}_h \\ \text{no trace-continuity constraint} \\ \text{DG space (much bigger)}}$$

- \approx_p : up to a generic constant that only depends on space dimension d and shape-regularity of the mesh \mathcal{T}_h , and polynomial degree p
- proof taking $\xi_h|_K := \arg \min_{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(K)} \|\nabla(u - v_h)\|_K$ with $(\xi_h, 1)_K = (u, 1)_K$ for all $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$, applying \square with $p' = p$, and using its \square

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Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$

Theorem (Equivalence in H_0^1 , Carstensen, Peterseim, Schedensack (2012), Aurada, Feischl, Kemetmüller, Page, Praetorius (2013), Veerer (2016) V. (2024))

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Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$

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Equivalence of local- and global-best approximations in $H_0^1(\Omega)$

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Optimal a priori error estimate

Theorem (Local hp -optimal approximation under minimal Sobolev regularity)

Let $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ with

$$v|_K \in H^{s_K}(K) \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h$$

for $s_K \geq 1$.

- $P_h^p : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$: a locally defined projector
- $\underline{p}_K := \min_{L \in \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_K} \{p_L\}$: smallest polynomial degree over the extended element patch $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_K$

Optimal a priori error estimate

Theorem (Local *hp*-optimal approximation under minimal Sobolev regularity)

Let $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ with

$$v|_K \in H^{s_K}(K) \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h$$

for $s_K \geq 1$. Then

$$\|\nabla(v - P_h^p v)\|_K^2 \leq C(\kappa_{\mathcal{T}_h}, \kappa_p, d, s) \sum_{L \in \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_K} \left(\frac{h_L^{\min(p_K, s_L - 1)}}{p_K^{s_L - 1}} \|v\|_{H^{s_L}(L)} \right)^2 \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h.$$

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Potential reconstruction
- 3 Flux reconstruction
- 4 **A priori estimates**
 - Global-best – local-best equivalence in H^1
 - **Constrained global-best – unconstrained local-best equivalence in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$**
 - p -stable local commuting projector in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$
- 5 A posteriori estimates
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- 6 Tools (*hp*-optimality, p -robustness)
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- 7 Conclusions and outlook

Global-best approximation \approx local-best approximation in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$

Theorem (Constrained equivalence in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$, Ern, Gudi, Smears, & V. (2021))

bigger \approx_p smaller

Global-best approximation \approx local-best approximation in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$

Theorem (Constrained equivalence in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$), Ern, Gudi, Smears, & V. (2021)

$$\min_{\text{smaller space with constraints}} \approx_p \min_{\text{bigger space without constraints}}$$

Global-best approximation \approx local-best approximation in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$

Theorem (Constrained equivalence in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$), Ern, Gudi, Smears, & V. (2021)

$$\min_{\text{MFE space with constraints}} \approx^p \min_{\text{broken MFE space without constraints}}$$

Global-best approximation \approx local-best approximation in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$

Theorem (Constrained equivalence in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$, Ern, Gudi, Smears, & V. (2021))

Let $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega)$ and $p \geq 0$ be arbitrary. Then,

$$\min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = \Pi_p(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v})}} \|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_h\|^2 + \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \frac{h_K^2}{(p+1)^2} \|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} - \Pi_p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}\|_K^2$$

global-best on Ω
 normal trace-continuity constraint
 divergence constraint
 MFE space (much smaller)

$$\approx_p \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \left[\min_{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(K)} \|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_h\|_K^2 + \frac{h_K^2}{(p+1)^2} \|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} - \Pi_p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}\|_K^2 \right]$$

local-best on each K
 no normal trace-continuity constraint
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 broken MFE space (much bigger)

- \approx_p : only depends on d , shape-regularity of \mathcal{T}_h , and p

Global-best approximation \approx local-best approximation in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$

Theorem (Constrained equivalence in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$, Ern, Gudi, Smears, & V. (2021) Denkowitz & V. (2024))

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global-best on Ω
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a proof using $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$ with d & p

Global-best approximation \approx local-best approximation in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$

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global-best on Ω
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$$\approx_p \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \left[\min_{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(K)} \|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_h\|_K^2 + \frac{h_K^2}{(p+1)^2} \|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} - \Pi_p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}\|_K^2 \right].$$

local-best on each K
 no normal trace-continuity constraint
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- \approx_p : only depends on d , shape-regularity of \mathcal{T}_h , and p
- proof using flux reconstruction with $p' = p$ & $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$ stability

Global-best approximation \approx local-best approximation in $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$

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Commuting de Rham diagram with operator $P_h^{p,\text{div}}$

Commuting de Rham diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H_{0,N}^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla} & \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{curl}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla \times} & \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{div}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla \cdot} & L_*^2(\Omega) \\
 \downarrow P_h^{p+1,\text{grad}} & & \downarrow P_h^{p,\text{curl}} & & \downarrow P_h^{p,\text{div}} & & \downarrow \Pi_h^p \\
 \mathcal{P}_{p+1}(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_{0,N}^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla} & \mathcal{N}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{curl}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla \times} & \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{div}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla \cdot} & \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap L_*^2(\Omega)
 \end{array}$$

Commuting de Rham diagram with operator $\mathbf{P}_h^{\rho, \text{div}}$

Commuting de Rham diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H_{0,N}^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla} & \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{curl}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla \times} & \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{div}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla \cdot} & L_*^2(\Omega) \\
 \downarrow \mathbf{P}_h^{\rho+1, \text{grad}} & & \downarrow \mathbf{P}_h^{\rho, \text{curl}} & & \downarrow \mathbf{P}_h^{\rho, \text{div}} & & \downarrow \Pi_h^\rho \\
 \mathcal{P}_{\rho+1}(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_{0,N}^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla} & \mathcal{N}_\rho(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{curl}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla \times} & \mathcal{RT}_\rho(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{div}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\nabla \cdot} & \mathcal{P}_\rho(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap L_*^2(\Omega)
 \end{array}$$

Properties of $\mathbf{P}_h^{\rho, \text{div}}$

- 1 is defined over the **entire $\mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{div}, \Omega)$** (**minimal regularity**)
- 2 is defined **locally** (in neighborhood of mesh elements)
- 3 is defined **simply** (starting from the **elementwise L^2 orthogonal projection**)
- 4 has **optimal hp approximation properties**, that of **elementwise div-unconstrained L^2 -orthogonal projector** (global–local equivalence)
- 5 is **stable in $L^2(\Omega)$** (up to data oscillation)
- 6 satisfies the **commuting properties** expressed by the arrows
- 7 is **projector**, i.e., leaves intact piecewise polynomials

p -table local commuting projectors defined on $H(\text{div})/H(\text{curl})$

- Schöberl (2001, 2005): not local
- Christiansen and Winther (2008): not local
- Bespalov and Heuer (2011): low regularity but still not $H(\text{div})/H(\text{curl})$
- Falk and Winther (2014): local and $H(\text{div})/H(\text{curl})$ -stable but not L^2 -stable
- Ern and Guermond (2016): not local
- Ern and Guermond (2017): $H(\text{div})/H(\text{curl})$ regularity but not commuting
- Licht (2019): essential boundary conditions on part of $\partial\Omega$
- Arnold and Guzmán (2021): L^2 -stable
- Ern, Gudi, Smears, and V. (2022): all the properties in $H(\text{div})$ but not p -robust
- Chaumont-Frelet and V. (2024): all the properties in $H(\text{curl})$ but not p -robust
- Demkowicz, V. (2024): all the properties in $H(\text{div})$ and p -robust
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p -table local commuting projectors defined on $H(\text{div})/H(\text{curl})$

- Schöberl (2001, 2005): not local
- Christiansen and Winther (2008): not local
- Bespalov and Heuer (2011): low regularity but still not $H(\text{div})/H(\text{curl})$
- Falk and Winther (2014): local and $H(\text{div})/H(\text{curl})$ -stable but not L^2 -stable
- Ern and Guermond (2016): not local
- Ern and Guermond (2017): $H(\text{div})/H(\text{curl})$ regularity but not commuting
- Licht (2019): essential boundary conditions on part of $\partial\Omega$
- Arnold and Guzmán (2021): L^2 -stable
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Laplace model problem: $-\Delta u = f$ in Ω , $u = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$

Theorem (A guaranteed a posteriori error estimate Prager and Synge (1947), Ladevèze (1975), Dari, Durán, Padra, & Vampa (1996), Ainsworth (2005), Kim (2007), V. (2007), ...)

- Let $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ be the weak solution;
- $u_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h)$, $p \geq 1$, be arbitrary subject to

$$(\nabla_h u_h, \nabla \psi_a)_{\omega_a} = (f, \psi_a)_{\omega_a} \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}};$$
- $\xi_h := u_h$: $s_h \in \mathcal{P}_{p+1}(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$ *potential reconstruction*;
- $\xi_h := -\nabla_h u_h$, f : $\sigma_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap H(\text{div}, \Omega)$ *stress reconstruction*.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla_h(u - u_h)\|^2 \leq & \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \left(\underbrace{\|\nabla_h u_h + \sigma_h\|_K}_{\text{constitutive relation}} + \underbrace{\frac{h_K}{\pi} \|f - \Pi_p f\|_K}_{\text{equilibrium/data osc.}} \right)^2 \\ & + \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \underbrace{\|\nabla_h(u_h - s_h)\|_K^2}_{\text{primal constraint}}. \end{aligned}$$



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Polynomial-degree-robust efficiency

Theorem (Polynomial-degree-robust efficiency; $f \in \mathcal{P}_{p-1}(\mathcal{T}_h)$ for simplicity Braess, Pillwein, and Schöberl (2009), Ern & V. (2015, 2020))

Let $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ be the weak solution. Then

$$\|\nabla_h(u_h - s_h)\| \lesssim \|\nabla_h(u - u_h)\| + \left\{ \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h} h_F^{-1} \|\Pi_0^F[u_h]\|_F^2 \right\}^{1/2},$$

$$\|\nabla_h u_h + \sigma_h\| \lesssim \|\nabla_h(u - u_h)\|.$$

Remarks

- immediate consequence of H^1 stability and $H(\text{div})$ stability with $p' = p + 1$
- p -robustness
- local efficiency on patches
- maximal overestimation guaranteed (computable bounds on the constants)

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How large is the error? (numerical simulation, known solution)

$h \approx 1/ \mathcal{T}_\ell ^{1/2}$	p	relative error estimate $\frac{\eta(u_h)}{\ \nabla u_h\ }$	relative error $\frac{\ \nabla(u-u_h)\ }{\ \nabla u_h\ }$	effectivity index $\frac{\eta(u_h)}{\ \nabla(u-u_h)\ }$
h_0	1	$2.8 \times 10^1\%$	$2.4 \times 10^1\%$	1.17
$\approx h_0/2$	1	$7.0 \times 10^0\%$	$6.0 \times 10^0\%$	1.17
$\approx h_0/4$	1	$1.8 \times 10^0\%$	$1.5 \times 10^0\%$	1.17
$\approx h_0/8$	1	$4.5 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$3.8 \times 10^{-1}\%$	1.17
$\approx h_0/2$	2	$1.8 \times 10^0\%$	$1.5 \times 10^0\%$	1.17
$\approx h_0/4$	2	$4.5 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$3.8 \times 10^{-1}\%$	1.17
$\approx h_0/8$	2	$1.1 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$9.4 \times 10^{-2}\%$	1.17

A. Ern, M. Vohralík, SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis (2013)
 V. Doležal, A. Ern, M. Vohralík, SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing (2016)

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$\approx h_0/2$		$1.4 \times 10^1\%$	$1.3 \times 10^1\%$	1.08
$\approx h_0/4$		7.0%	6.8%	1.03
$\approx h_0/8$		3.3%	3.1%	1.06
$\approx h_0/2$	2	$9.5 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$8.5 \times 10^{-2}\%$	1.11
$\approx h_0/4$	3	$6.9 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$6.2 \times 10^{-2}\%$	1.11
$\approx h_0/8$	4	$5.2 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$4.7 \times 10^{-2}\%$	1.11

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h_0	1	$2.8 \times 10^1\%$	$2.4 \times 10^1\%$	1.17
$\approx h_0/2$		$1.4 \times 10^1\%$	$1.3 \times 10^1\%$	1.09
$\approx h_0/4$		7.0%	6.6%	1.05
$\approx h_0/8$		3.3%	3.1%	1.05
$\approx h_0/2$	2	$9.5 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$9.2 \times 10^{-1}\%$	1.04
$\approx h_0/4$	3	$5.9 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$5.9 \times 10^{-1}\%$	1.03
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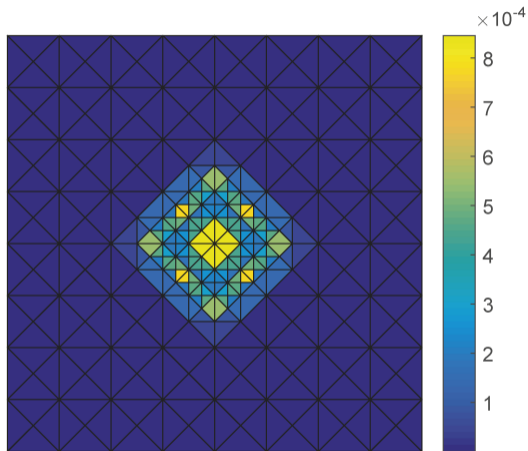
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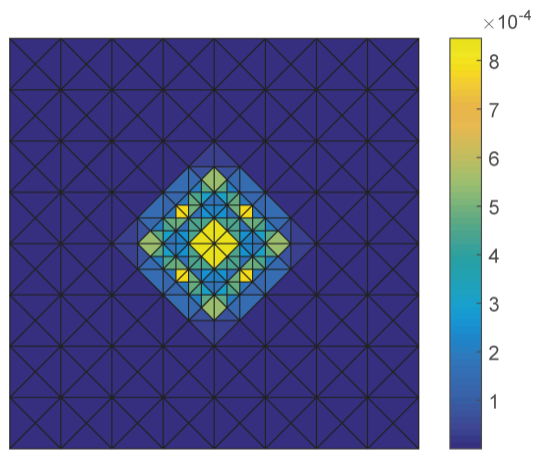
A. Ern, M. Vohralík, SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis (2015)

V. Dolejší, A. Ern, M. Vohralík, SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing (2016)

Where (in space) is the error localized?



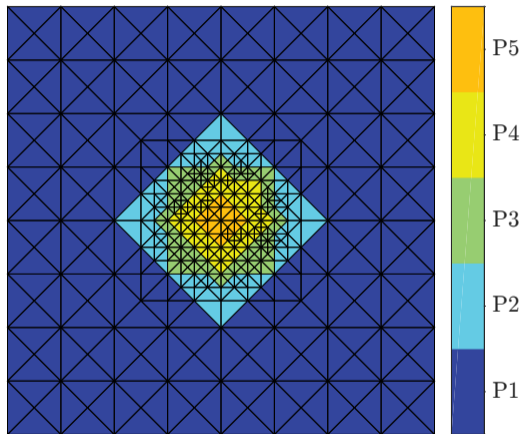
Estimated error distribution $\eta_K(u_h)$



Exact error distribution $\|\nabla(u - u_h)\|_K$

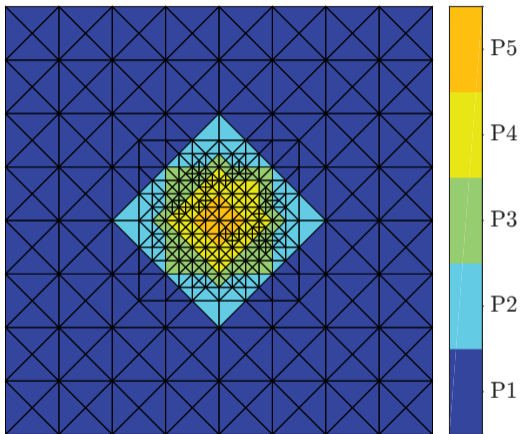
P. Daniel, A. Ern, I. Smears, M. Vohralík, Computers & Mathematics with Applications (2018)

Can we decrease the error efficiently? *hp* adaptivity, (**smooth** solution)

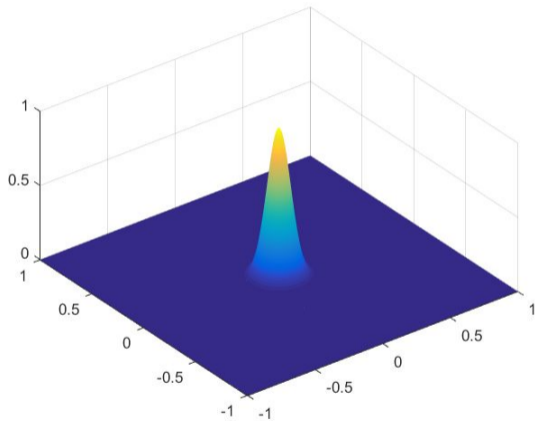


Mesh \mathcal{T}_ℓ and pol. degrees p_K

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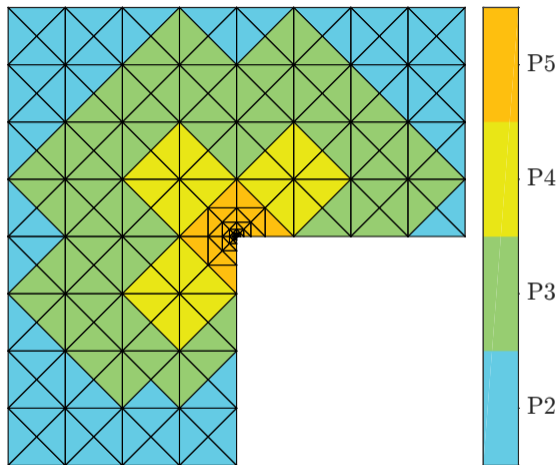
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Exact solution

P. Daniel, A. Ern, I. Smears, M. Vohralík, *Computers & Mathematics with Applications* (2018)

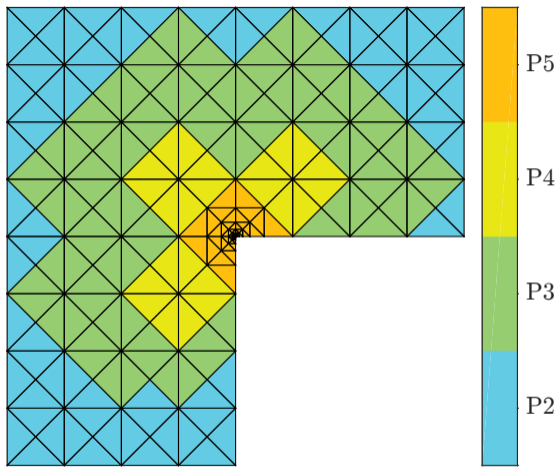
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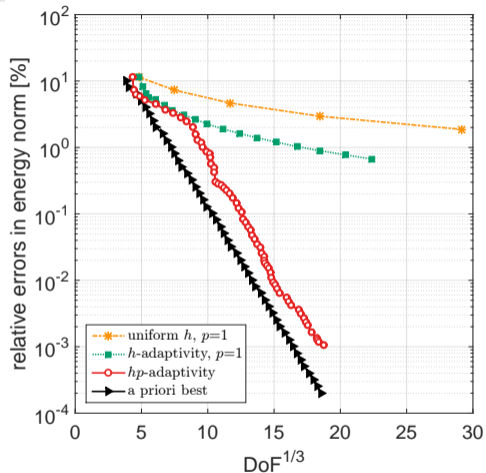
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P. Daniel, A. Ern, I. Smears, M. Vohralik, *Computers & Mathematics with Applications* (2018)

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Mesh \mathcal{T}_ℓ and polynomial degrees p_K



Relative error as a function of DoF

P. Daniel, A. Ern, I. Smears, M. Vohralik, Computers & Mathematics with Applications (2018)

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- 3 Flux reconstruction
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 - Global-best – local-best equivalence in H^1
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Potentials: one element

Lemma (H^1 polynomial extension on a tetrahedron Babuška, Suri (1987; 2D), Muñoz-Sola (1997), Demkowicz, Gopalakrishnan, & Schöberl (2009))

Let $p \geq 1$, $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$, and $\mathcal{F}_K^D \subset \mathcal{F}_K$. Let $r \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{F}_K^D)$ be continuous on \mathcal{F}_K^D . Then

$$\min_{\substack{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(K) \\ v_h = r_F \text{ on all } F \in \mathcal{F}_K^D}} \|\nabla v_h\|_K \lesssim \underbrace{\min_{\substack{v \in H^1(K) \\ v = r_F \text{ on all } F \in \mathcal{F}_K^D}} \|\nabla v\|_K}_{\|r\|_{H^{1/2}(\partial K)}} .$$

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Context

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta \zeta_K &= 0 && \text{in } K, \\ \zeta_K &= r_F && \text{on all } F \in \mathcal{F}_K^D, \\ -\nabla \zeta_K \cdot \mathbf{n}_K &= 0 && \text{on all } F \in \mathcal{F}_K \setminus \mathcal{F}_K^D. \end{aligned}$$

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$$\|\nabla \zeta_{h,K}\|_K \stackrel{FEs}{=} \min_{\substack{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(K) \\ v_h = r_F \text{ on all } F \in \mathcal{F}_K^D}} \|\nabla v_h\|_K \lesssim \underbrace{\min_{\substack{v \in H^1(K) \\ v = r_F \text{ on all } F \in \mathcal{F}_K^D}} \|\nabla v\|_K}_{\|r\|_{H^{1/2}(\partial K)}} = \|\nabla \zeta_K\|_K.$$

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Potentials: vertex patch

Theorem (Broken H^1 polynomial extension on a vertex patch Ern & V. (2015, 2020))

For $p \geq 1$ and $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}}$, let $r \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{int}})$. Suppose the *compatibility*

$$\begin{aligned} r_F|_{F \cap \partial\omega_\mathbf{a}} &= 0 & \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{int}}, \\ \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_e} \iota_{F,e} r_F|_e &= 0 & \forall e \in \mathcal{E}_\mathbf{a}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\min_{\substack{v_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_\mathbf{a}) \\ v_h=0 \ \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{ext}} \\ \llbracket v_h \rrbracket = r_F \ \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{int}}}} \|\nabla_h v_h\|_{\omega_\mathbf{a}} \lesssim \min_{\substack{v \in H^1(\mathcal{T}_\mathbf{a}) \\ v=0 \ \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{ext}} \\ \llbracket v \rrbracket = r_F \ \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{int}}}} \|\nabla_h v\|_{\omega_\mathbf{a}}.$$

Fluxes: one element

Lemma ($\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$ polynomial extension on a tetrahedron Costabel & Mc-Intosh (2010); Ainsworth & Demkowicz (2009; 2D), Demkowicz, Gopalakrishnan, & Schöberl (2012); Ern & V. (2020)

Let $p \geq 0$, $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$, $\mathcal{F}_K^N \subset \mathcal{F}_K$. Let $r \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{F}_K^N) \times \mathcal{P}_p(K)$, satisfying $\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_K} (r_F, \mathbf{1})_F = (r_K, \mathbf{1})_K$ if $\mathcal{F}_K^N = \mathcal{F}_K$. Then

$$\min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{RT}_p(K) \\ \mathbf{v}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_K = r_F \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_K^N \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = r_K}} \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_K \lesssim \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, K) \\ \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_K = r_F \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_K^N \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = r_K}} \|\mathbf{v}\|_K .$$

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$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta \zeta_K &= r_K && \text{in } K, \\ -\nabla \zeta_K \cdot \mathbf{n}_K &= r_F && \text{on all } F \in \mathcal{F}_K^N, \\ \zeta_K &= 0 && \text{on all } F \in \mathcal{F}_K \setminus \mathcal{F}_K^N. \end{aligned}$$

Set $\varphi_K := -\nabla \zeta_K$.

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$$\|\varphi_{h,K}\|_K \stackrel{\text{MFEs}}{=} \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{RT}_p(K) \\ \mathbf{v}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_K = r_F \ \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_K^N \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = r_K}} \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_K \lesssim \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, K) \\ \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_K = r_F \ \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_K^N \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = r_K}} \|\mathbf{v}\|_K = \|\varphi_K\|_K.$$

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Fluxes: vertex patch

Theorem (Broken $\mathbf{H}(\text{div})$ polynomial extension on a vertex patch Braess, Pillwein, & Schöberl

(2009; 2D), Ern & V. (2020; 3D)

For $p \geq 0$ and $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}}$, let $\mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}) \times \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_\mathbf{a})$. Suppose the *compatibility*

$$\sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_\mathbf{a}} (r_K, 1)_K - \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}} (r_F, 1)_F = 0.$$

Then

$$\min_{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_\mathbf{a})} \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_{\omega_\mathbf{a}} \lesssim \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \mathcal{T}_\mathbf{a})} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{\omega_\mathbf{a}}.$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{v}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F = r_F \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{ext}} \\ \llbracket \mathbf{v}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F \rrbracket = r_F \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{int}} \\ \nabla_h \cdot \mathbf{v}_h|_K = r_K \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_\mathbf{a} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_F = r_F \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{ext}} \\ \llbracket \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_F \rrbracket = r_F \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_\mathbf{a}^{\text{int}} \\ \nabla_h \cdot \mathbf{v}|_K = r_K \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_\mathbf{a} \end{array}$$

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$H(\text{div})$ stable decomposition

Theorem ($H(\text{div})$ stable decomposition in 2D; in extension of Schöberl, Melenk, Pechstein, & Zaglmayr (2008))

Let $d = 2$ and let $\bar{\Omega}$ be contractible. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_p \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}_{0,N}(\text{div}, \Omega) \quad & \text{with} \quad \nabla \cdot \delta_p = 0, \quad \text{div-free} \\ (\delta_p, \mathbf{r}_h)_K = 0 \quad & \forall \mathbf{r}_h \in [\mathcal{P}_0(K)]^d, \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h. \quad \text{vanishing means} \end{aligned}$$

Then there exists a decomposition of δ_p as

$$\delta_p = \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h} \delta_p^{\mathbf{a}}, \quad \text{decomposition}$$

where

$\delta_p^{\mathbf{a}}$ are supported on the vertex patch subdomains $\omega_{\mathbf{a}}$, linearly depend on δ_p on the extended vertex patch subdomains $\tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{a}}$,

and satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_p^{\mathbf{a}} \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{a}}) \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\text{div}, \omega_{\mathbf{a}}) \quad & \text{with} \quad \nabla \cdot \delta_p^{\mathbf{a}} = 0, \quad \text{local} \\ \|\delta_p^{\mathbf{a}}\|_{\omega_{\mathbf{a}}} \lesssim \|\delta_p\|_{\tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{a}}} \quad & \forall \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h. \quad p\text{-stable} \end{aligned}$$

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Conclusions and outlook

Conclusions

- p -stable local commuting projectors
- p -robust global-best – local-best equivalence in H^1
- p -robust global-best – local-best equivalence in $H(\text{div})$, removing constraints
- optimal hp localized a priori error estimates under minimal elementwise regularity
- p -robust a posteriori error estimates (unified framework for all classical numerical schemes)
- extensions to nonmatching meshes (robust wrt number of hanging nodes), mixed parallelepipedal–simplicial meshes, varying polynomial degree, general BCs, H^{-1} source terms, splines and IGA, and others carried out

Ongoing work

- extensions to other settings

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Thank you for your attention!

Outline

- Potential and flux reconstructions

8 Application to IGA

- The Poisson model problem and its IGA approximation
- Equilibration in IGA: a first idea
- Equilibration: breaking the large patch problems

Potential and flux reconstructions

Potential reconstruction

- discontinuous pw polynomial \rightarrow continuous pw polynomial ▶ potential reconstruction

- a posteriori analysis of mixed and nonconforming FEs:

estimate error

- a priori analysis of conforming FEs:

global-best–local-best equivalence in approximation

approximation continuous pw polys \approx discontinuous pw polys

flux reconstruction

- pw vector-valued polynomial with discontinuous normal trace and tangential trace

estimate error \rightarrow continuous normal trace

estimate error \rightarrow tangential trace

estimate error \rightarrow normal and tangential traces

analysis of mixed and nonconforming FEs

analysis of conforming FEs

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Equilibrated flux reconstruction

- pw vector-valued polynomial with **discontinuous normal trace** and **no equilibrium** \rightarrow **continuous normal trace** & **equilibrium** ▶ flux reconstruction

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estimate \approx error: guaranteed & p -robust bounds Braess, Pillwein, Schöberl (2009), Ern, V. (2015, 2020)

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- Potential and flux reconstructions

8 Application to IGA

- The Poisson model problem and its IGA approximation
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The Poisson model problem and its Galerkin approximation

The Poisson problem

Find $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, $1 \leq d \leq 3$, such that

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

$$u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

Weak formulation

Find $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ such that

$$(\nabla u, \nabla v)_\Omega = (f, v)_\Omega \quad \text{for all } v \in H_0^1(\Omega).$$

Galerkin approximation

Find $u_h \in V_h \subset H_0^1(\Omega)$ such that

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Outline

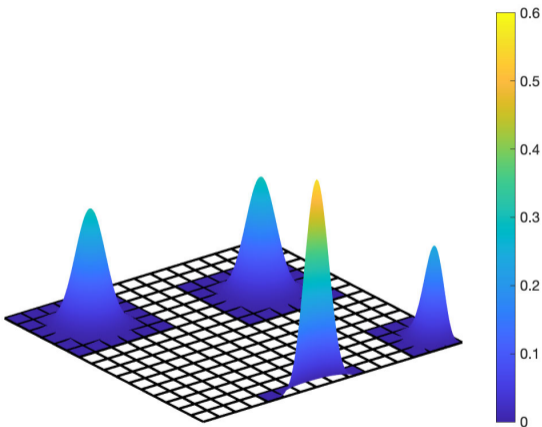
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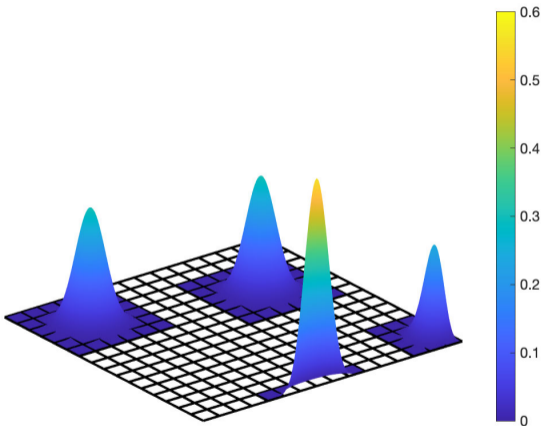
Partition of unity, $V_h = \mathcal{Q}^p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap C^{p-1}(\Omega)$

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Spline basis functions $\psi_{\mathbf{a}} \in \mathcal{Q}^p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathcal{C}^{p-1}(\Omega) \subset V_h$

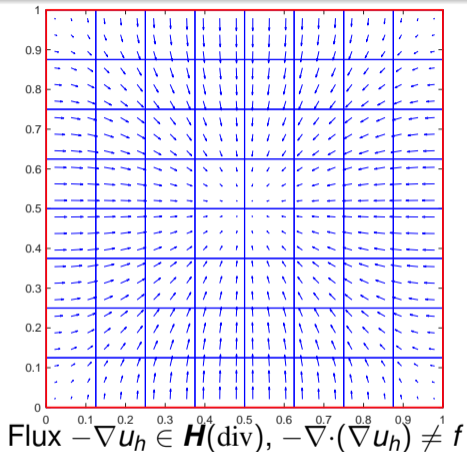
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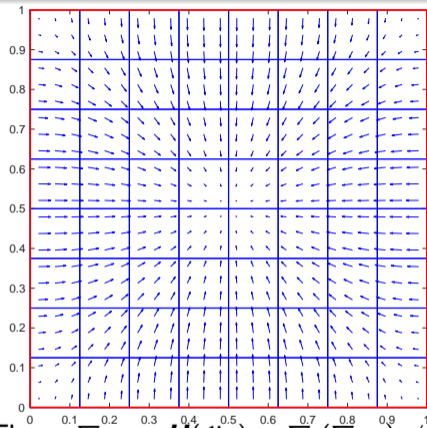
$$\sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h} \psi_{\mathbf{a}} = 1$$

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Equilibrated flux reconstruction in IGA (a first idea)



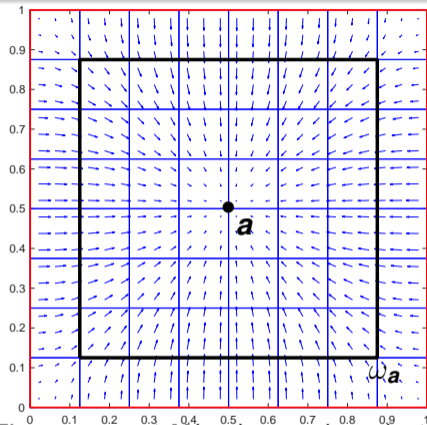
Equilibrated flux reconstruction in IGA (a first idea)



Flux $-\nabla u_h \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div}), -\nabla \cdot (\nabla u_h) \neq f$

$$\underbrace{\nabla u_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h), f \in Q^{p-1}(\mathcal{T}_h)}$$

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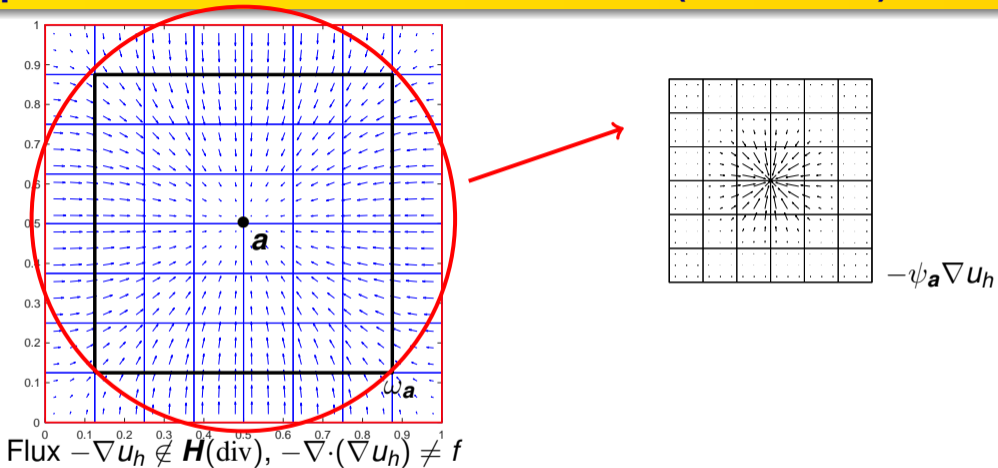


Flux $-\nabla u_h \notin \mathbf{H}(\text{div}), -\nabla \cdot (\nabla u_h) \neq f$

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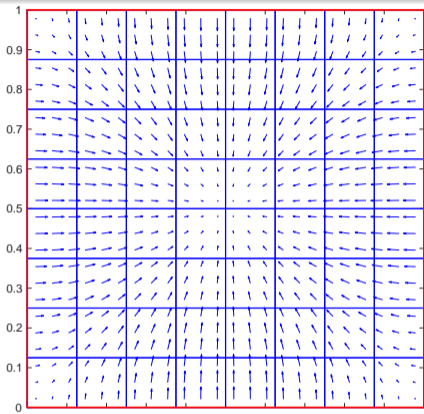
$$(f, \psi_a)_{\omega_a} - (\nabla u_h, \nabla \psi_a)_{\omega_a} = 0 \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{V}_h^{\text{int}}$$

Equilibrated flux reconstruction in IGA (a first idea)

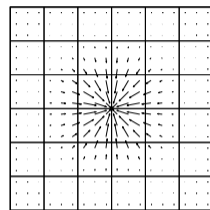


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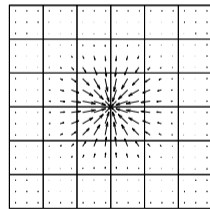
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$-\psi_a \nabla u_h$

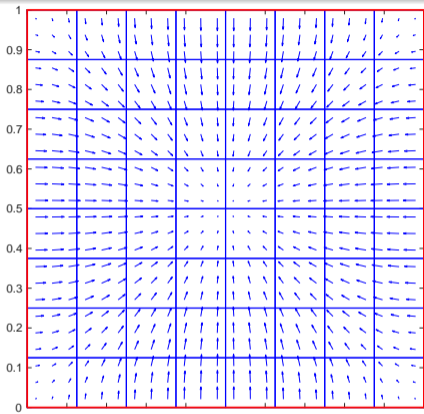


σ_h^a

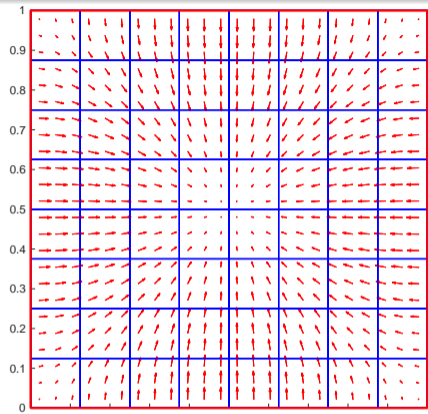
$$\underbrace{\nabla u_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(T_h), f \in Q^{p-1}(T_h)}$$

$$\sigma_h^a := \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathcal{RT}_{2p}(T_a) \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\text{div}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = f \psi_a - \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla \psi_a}} \|\psi_a \nabla u_h + \mathbf{v}_h\|_{\omega_a}$$

Equilibrated flux reconstruction in IGA (a first idea)



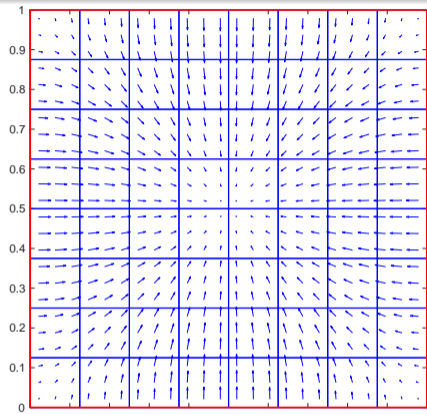
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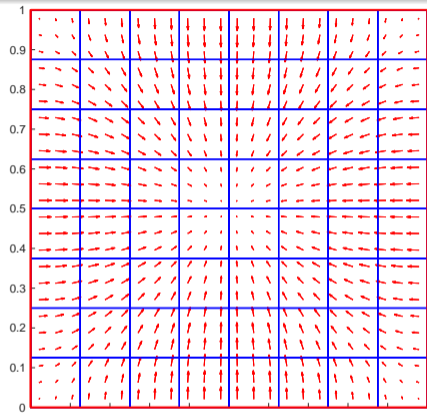
Equilibrated flux σ_h

$$\underbrace{\nabla u_h \in \mathcal{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h), f \in \mathcal{Q}^{p-1}(\mathcal{T}_h)} \rightarrow \sigma_h := \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h} \sigma_h^{\mathbf{a}} \in \mathcal{RT}_{2p}(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}(\text{div}), \nabla \cdot \sigma_h = f$$

Equilibrated flux reconstruction in IGA (a first idea)



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Equilibrated flux reconstruction in IGA (a first idea)

Observations

- ✓ works in principle

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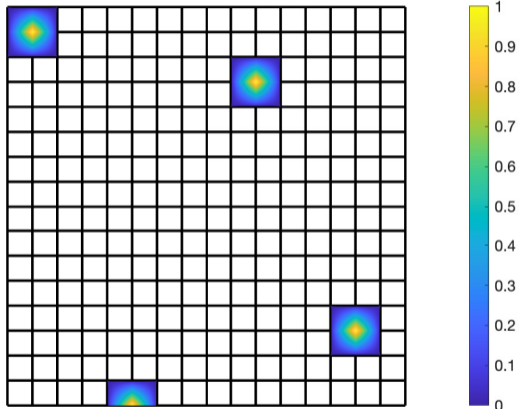
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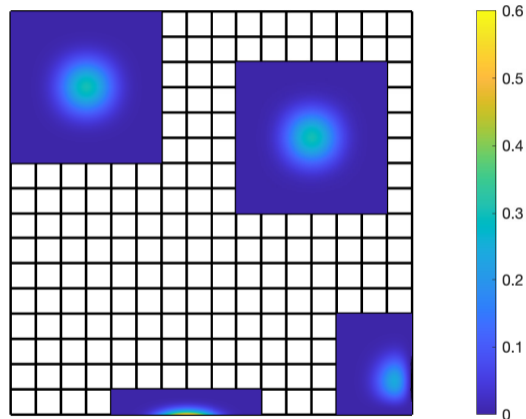
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- ✗ p -robustness possibly upon extension of available tools to the large patches

Equilibration patches and partition of unity functions ψ_a



$$\psi_a \in \mathcal{Q}^1(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathcal{C}^0(\Omega), p \text{ arbitrary}$$



$$\psi_a \in \mathcal{Q}^p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathcal{C}^{p-1}(\Omega), p = 5$$

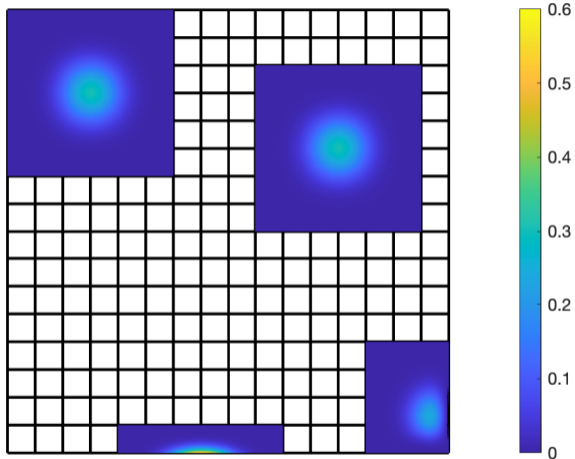
Outline

- Potential and flux reconstructions

8 Application to IGA

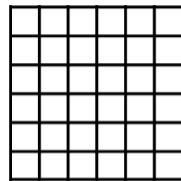
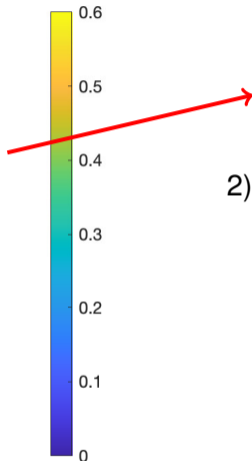
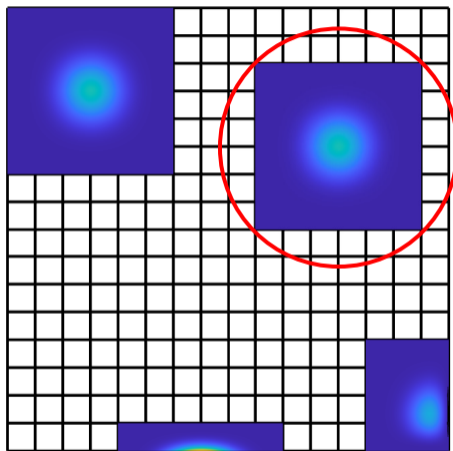
- The Poisson model problem and its IGA approximation
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- Equilibration: breaking the large patch problems

Breaking the large patch problems



1) consider the large patches (supports of $\psi_{\mathbf{a}}$)

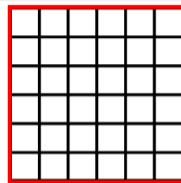
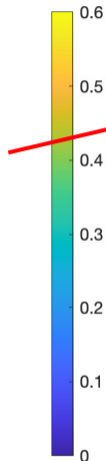
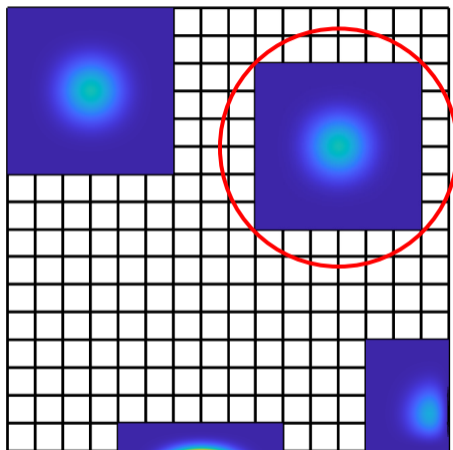
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2) extract the submeshes \mathcal{T}_a

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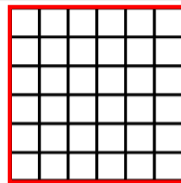
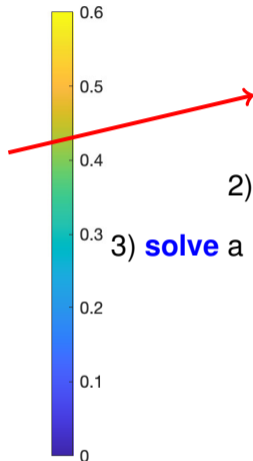
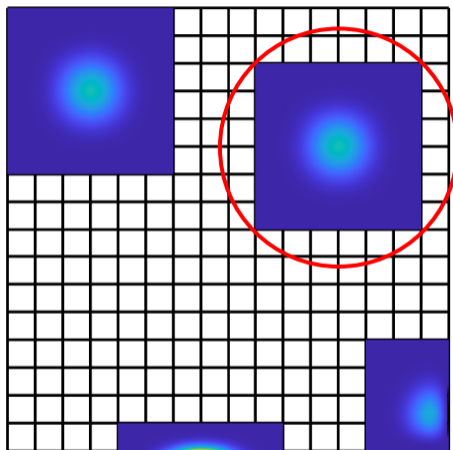


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3) **solve** a $\mathcal{Q}^1(\mathcal{T}_a) \cap C^0(\omega_a)$ **problem** on ω_a

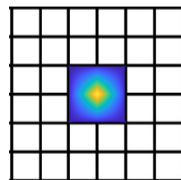
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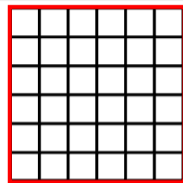
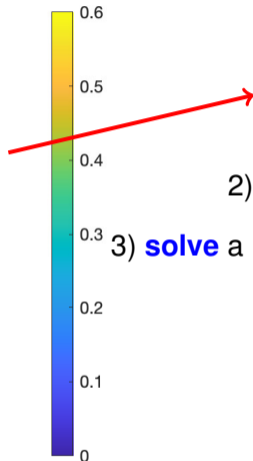
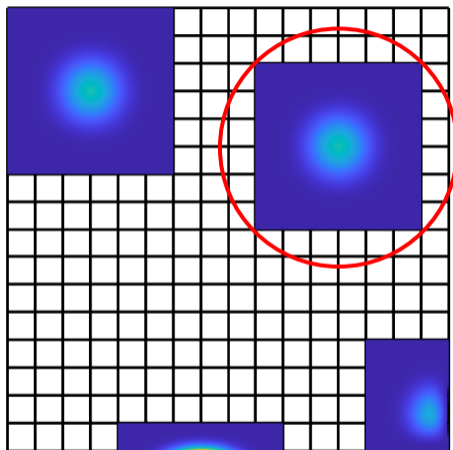
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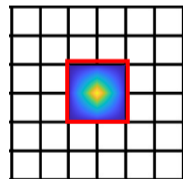
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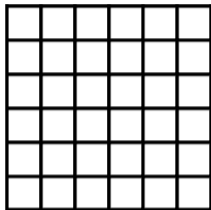
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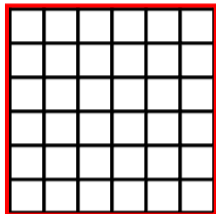


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 5) **perform equilibration** on $\omega_{a'}$

Breaking the large patch problems

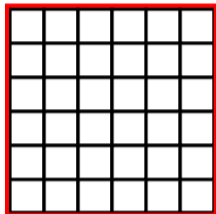


Breaking the large patch problems

 ω_a

3) **solve** the $V_h^a := \mathcal{Q}^1(\mathcal{T}_a) \cap C^0(\omega_a)$ **problem**:

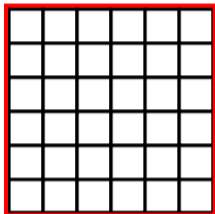
Breaking the large patch problems


 ω_a

3) **solve** the $V_h^a := \mathcal{Q}^1(\mathcal{T}_a) \cap C^0(\omega_a)$ **problem**: find $r_h^a \in V_h^a$ such that, for all $v_h \in V_h^a$,

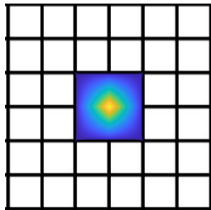
$$(\nabla r_h^a, \nabla v_h)_{\omega_a} = (f, v_h \psi_a)_{\omega_a} - (\nabla u_h, \nabla (v_h \psi_a))_{\omega_a}$$

Breaking the large patch problems

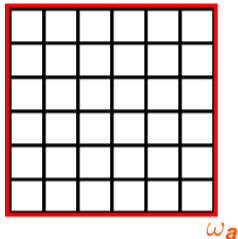

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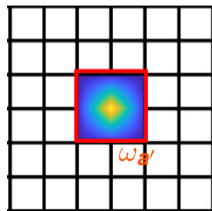


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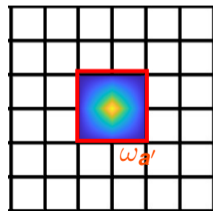
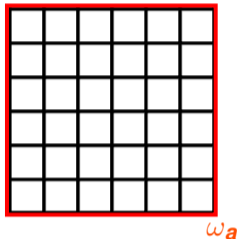
$$(\nabla r_h^a, \nabla v_h)_{\omega_a} = (f, v_h \psi_a)_{\omega_a} - (\nabla U_h, \nabla (v_h \psi_a))_{\omega_a}$$

5) **perform equilibration** on $\omega_{a'}$:

$$\sigma_h^{a,a'} := \arg \min_{v_h \in \mathcal{RT}_{2p+1}(\mathcal{T}_a) \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\text{div}, \omega_a)} \|\psi_{a'}(\psi_a \nabla U_h + \nabla r_h^a) + v_h\|_{\omega_{a'}} \\ \nabla \cdot v_h = \gamma_{Q_h^{a,a'}}(f \psi_a \psi_{a'} - \nabla U_h \cdot \nabla (\psi_a \psi_{a'}) - \nabla r_h^a \cdot \nabla \psi_{a'})$$



Breaking the large patch problems



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- 6) **combine**:

$$\sigma_h^a := \sum_{a' \in \mathcal{V}_h^a} \sigma_h^{a,a'}, \quad \sigma_h := \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \sigma_h^a$$

Breaking the large patch problems

Same building principles

Additive Schwarz smoother/preconditioner Schöberl, Melenk, Pechstein, & Zaglmayr (2008): only \mathcal{P}_1 global problem, then high-order patch remainders

H^{-1} problems and parabolic time stepping Ern, Smears, & Vohralík (2017): arbitrary coarsening

Details

 GANTNER G., VOHRALÍK M. Inexpensive polynomial-degree- and number-of-hanging-nodes-robust equilibrated flux a posteriori estimates for isogeometric analysis. *Math. Models Methods Appl. Sci.* **34** (2024), 477–522.


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