

From physical models to advanced numerical methods through de Rham cohomology

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Outline

- 1 Three model problems and their well-posedness
- 2 Discrete de Rham (DDR) complexes
- 3 Application to magnetostatics

Setting

- Let Ω be an open connected ($b_0 = 1$) polyhedral domain of \mathbb{R}^3 ($b_3 = 0$)
- Assume, for the moment being, that Ω has a **trivial topology**, i.e.,
 - Ω is not crossed by any “tunnel” ($b_1 = 0$)
 - Ω does not enclose any “void” ($b_2 = 0$)



$$(b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3) = (1, \mathbf{1}, 0, 0) \quad (b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3) = (1, 0, \mathbf{1}, 0)$$

- We consider PDE models that hinge on the **vector calculus operators**:

$$\mathbf{grad} q = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_1 q \\ \partial_2 q \\ \partial_3 q \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_2 v_3 - \partial_3 v_2 \\ \partial_3 v_1 - \partial_1 v_3 \\ \partial_1 v_2 - \partial_2 v_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{div} \mathbf{w} = \partial_1 w_1 + \partial_2 w_2 + \partial_3 w_3$$

for $q : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbf{v} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$, and $\mathbf{w} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ smooth enough

Some relevant Hilbert spaces

- For simplicity, we consider problems **driven by forcing terms**
- To allow for physical configurations, we focus on **weak formulations**
- These will be based on the following **Hilbert spaces**:

$$H^1(\Omega) := \{q \in L^2(\Omega) : \mathbf{grad} q \in L^2(\Omega) := L^2(\Omega)^3\},$$

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) := \{\mathbf{v} \in L^2(\Omega) : \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{v} \in L^2(\Omega)\},$$

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) := \{\mathbf{w} \in L^2(\Omega) : \mathbf{div} \mathbf{w} \in L^2(\Omega)\}$$

Three model problems

The Stokes problem in curl-curl formulation

- Given $\nu > 0$ and $\mathbf{f} \in L^2(\Omega)$, the Stokes problem reads:

Find the **velocity** $\mathbf{u} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ and **pressure** $p : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} \overbrace{\nu(\mathbf{curl} \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{grad} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u})}^{-\nu \Delta \mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{grad} p &= \mathbf{f} && \text{in } \Omega, && \text{(momentum conservation)} \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, && \text{(mass conservation)} \\ \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{0} \text{ and } \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 &&& \text{on } \partial\Omega, && \text{(boundary conditions)} \\ \int_{\Omega} p &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Weak formulation:** Find $(\mathbf{u}, p) \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \times H^1(\Omega)$ s.t. $\int_{\Omega} p = 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \nu \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{v} + \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{grad} p \cdot \mathbf{v} &= \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{v} && \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega), \\ - \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{grad} q &= 0 && \forall q \in H^1(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

Three model problems

The magnetostatics problem

- For $\mu > 0$ and $\mathbf{J} \in \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)$, the magnetostatics problem reads:
Find the **magnetic field** $\mathbf{H} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ and **vector potential** $\mathbf{A} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned}\mu \mathbf{H} - \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{A} &= \mathbf{0} && \text{in } \Omega, && \text{(vector potential)} \\ \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H} &= \mathbf{J} && \text{in } \Omega, && \text{(Ampère's law)} \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{A} &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, && \text{(Coulomb's gauge)} \\ \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{n} &= \mathbf{0} && \text{on } \partial\Omega && \text{(boundary condition)}\end{aligned}$$

- Weak formulation:** Find $(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{A}) \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \times \mathbf{H}(\operatorname{div}; \Omega)$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Omega} \mu \mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} - \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \boldsymbol{\tau} &= 0 && \forall \boldsymbol{\tau} \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega), \\ \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{A} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} &= \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{v} && \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\operatorname{div}; \Omega)\end{aligned}$$

Three model problems

The Darcy problem in velocity-pressure formulation

- Given $\kappa > 0$ and $f \in L^2(\Omega)$, the Darcy problem reads:

Find the **velocity** $\mathbf{u} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ and **pressure** $p : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned}\kappa^{-1} \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{grad} p &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, && \text{(Darcy's law)} \\ -\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} &= f && \text{in } \Omega, && \text{(mass conservation)} \\ p &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega && \text{(boundary condition)}\end{aligned}$$

- Weak formulation:** Find $(\mathbf{u}, p) \in \mathbf{H}(\operatorname{div}; \Omega) \times L^2(\Omega)$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Omega} \kappa^{-1} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \int_{\Omega} p \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} &= 0 && \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\operatorname{div}; \Omega), \\ -\int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} q &= \int_{\Omega} f q && \forall q \in L^2(\Omega)\end{aligned}$$

A unified view

- All of the above problems are **mixed formulations** involving two fields
- They can be recast into the abstract setting: Find $(u, p) \in V \times Q$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} Au + B^\top p &= f && \text{in } V', \\ -Bu + Cp &= g && \text{in } Q' \end{aligned}$$

- Well-posedness for this problem holds under [Brezzi and Fortin, 1991]:
 - The **coercivity** of A in $\text{Ker } B$
 - The **coercivity** of C in $H := \text{Ker } B^\top$
 - An **inf-sup condition** for B : $\exists \beta \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$0 < \beta = \inf_{q \in H^\perp \setminus \{0\}} \sup_{v \in V \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\langle Bv, q \rangle}{\|q\|_Q \|v\|_V}$$

- **Similar properties underlie the stability of numerical approximations**

A unified tool for well-posedness: The de Rham complex



Figure: Georges de Rham (Roche 1903–Lausanne 1990)

A unified tool for well-posedness: The de Rham complex

$$\mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow H^1(\Omega) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} L^2(\Omega) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

- We have key properties depending on the topology of Ω :

$$\Omega \text{ connected } (b_0 = 1) \implies \text{Ker } \mathbf{grad} = \mathbb{R},$$

$$\text{Im } \mathbf{grad} \subset \text{Ker } \mathbf{curl},$$

$$\text{Im } \mathbf{curl} \subset \text{Ker } \mathbf{div},$$

$$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \ (b_3 = 0) \implies \text{Im } \mathbf{div} = L^2(\Omega) \quad (\text{Darcy, magnetostatics})$$

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$$\text{no "tunnels" crossing } \Omega (b_1 = 0) \implies \text{Im grad} = \text{Ker curl}, \quad (\text{Stokes})$$

$$\text{no "voids" contained in } \Omega (b_2 = 0) \implies \text{Im curl} = \text{Ker div}, \quad (\text{magnetostatics})$$

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- When $b_1 \neq 0$ or $b_2 \neq 0$, **de Rham's cohomology** characterizes

$$\text{Ker curl/Im grad} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Ker div/Im curl}$$

- Key consequences are **Hodge decompositions** and **Poincaré inequalities**

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- Key consequences are **Hodge decompositions** and **Poincaré inequalities**
- **Emulating these properties is key for stable discretizations**

The (trimmed) Finite Element way

Local spaces

- Let $T \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be a **tetrahedron** and set, for any $k \geq -1$,

$$\mathcal{P}^k(T) := \{\text{restrictions of 3-variate polynomials of degree } \leq k \text{ to } T\}$$

- Fix $k \geq 0$ and write, denoting by \mathbf{x}_T a point inside T ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}^k(T)^3 &= \overbrace{\mathbf{grad} \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(T)}^{\mathcal{G}^k(T)} \oplus \overbrace{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_T) \times \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(T)^3}^{\mathcal{G}^{c,k}(T)} \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbf{curl} \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(T)^3}_{\mathcal{R}^k(T)} \oplus \underbrace{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_T) \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(T)}_{\mathcal{R}^{c,k}(T)} \end{aligned}$$

- Define the **trimmed spaces** that sit between $\mathcal{P}^k(T)^3$ and $\mathcal{P}^{k+1}(T)^3$:

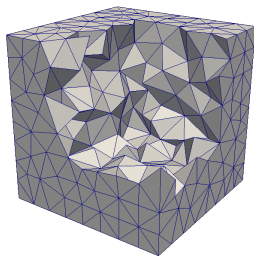
$$\mathcal{N}^{k+1}(T) := \mathcal{G}^k(T) \oplus \mathcal{G}^{c,k+1}(T) \quad [\text{Nédélec, 1980}]$$

$$\mathcal{RT}^{k+1}(T) := \mathcal{R}^k(T) \oplus \mathcal{R}^{c,k+1}(T) \quad [\text{Raviart and Thomas, 1977}]$$

- See also [Arnold, 2018]

The (trimmed) Finite Element way

Global complex



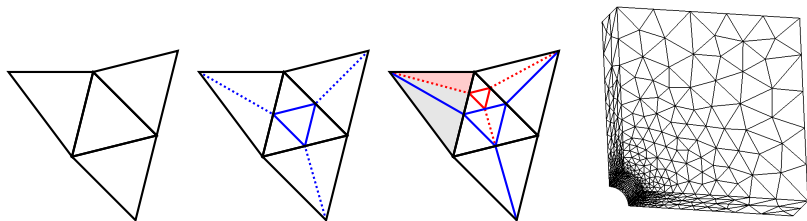
- Let $\mathcal{T}_h = \{T\}$ be a **conforming tetrahedral mesh** of Ω and let $k \geq 0$
- Local spaces can be **glued together** to form a **global FE complex**:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \mathbb{R} & \hookrightarrow & \mathcal{P}_c^{k+1}(\mathcal{T}_h) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & \mathcal{N}^{k+1}(\mathcal{T}_h) & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & \mathcal{RT}^{k+1}(\mathcal{T}_h) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) & \xrightarrow{0} & \{0\} \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ \mathbb{R} & \hookrightarrow & H^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\text{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & L^2(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{0} & \{0\} \end{array}$$

- **The gluing only works on conforming meshes (simplicial complexes)!**

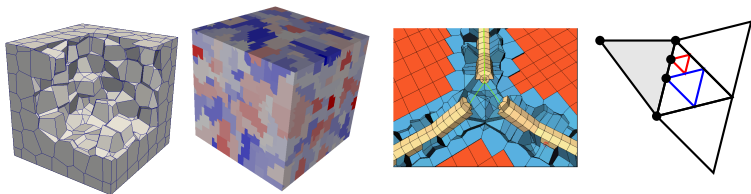
The Finite Element way

Shortcomings



- Approach limited to **conforming meshes** with **standard elements**
 - ⇒ local refinement requires to **trade mesh size for mesh quality**
 - ⇒ complex geometries may require a **large number of elements**
 - ⇒ the element shape cannot be **adapted to the solution**
- Need for (global) basis functions
 - ⇒ significant increase of DOFs on hexahedral elements

The discrete de Rham (DDR) approach I

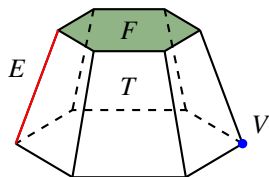


- **Key idea:** replace both spaces and operators by discrete counterparts:

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{I_{\text{grad},h}^k} \underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_h^k} \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{C}_h^k} \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k \xrightarrow{D_h^k} \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

- Support of **polyhedral meshes (CW complexes)** and **high-order**
- Key exactness and consistency properties proved **at the discrete level**
- Several strategies to **reduce the number of unknowns** on general shapes

The discrete de Rham (DDR) approach II



- DDR spaces are spanned by **vectors of polynomials**
- Polynomial components enable **consistent reconstructions** of
 - vector calculus operators
 - the corresponding scalar or vector potentials
- These reconstructions emulate **integration by parts (Stokes) formulas**

References

- Introduction of DDR [DP, Droniou, Rapetti, 2020]
- Present sequence and properties [DP and Droniou, 2021a]
- Application to magnetostatics [DP and Droniou, 2021b]
- Bridges with VEM [Beirão da Veiga, Dassi, DP, Droniou, 2021]
- More recent developments include:
 - Reissner–Mindlin plates [DP and Droniou, 2021c]
 - The 2D plates complex and Kirchhoff–Love plates [DP and Droniou, 2022]

$$\mathcal{RT}^1(F) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2) \xrightarrow{\text{sym rot}} \mathbf{H}(\text{div div}, \Omega; \mathbb{S}) \xrightarrow{\text{div div}} L^2(\Omega) \xrightarrow{0} 0$$

- The 2D Stokes complex [Hanot, 2021]

$$\mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow H^2(\Omega) \xrightarrow{\text{rot}} \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega) \xrightarrow{\text{div}} L^2(\Omega) \xrightarrow{0} 0$$

- Polyhedral analysis tools: [DP and Droniou, 2020]

Outline

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The two-dimensional case

Continuous exact complex

- With F mesh face let, for $q : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{v} : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ smooth enough,

$$\mathbf{rot}_F q := (\mathbf{grad}_F q)^\perp \quad \mathbf{rot}_F \mathbf{v} := \mathbf{div}_F(\mathbf{v}^\perp)$$

- We derive a discrete counterpart of the 2D de Rham complex:

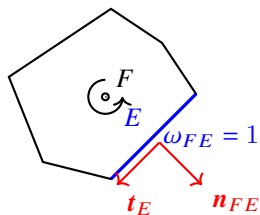
$$\mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow H^1(F) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}_F} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{rot}; F) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{rot}_F} L^2(F) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

- We will need the following decompositions of $\mathcal{P}^k(F)^2$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}^k(F)^2 &= \overbrace{\mathbf{grad}_F \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)}^{\mathcal{G}^k(F)} \oplus \overbrace{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_F)^\perp \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)}^{\mathcal{G}^{c,k}(F)} \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbf{rot}_F \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)}_{\mathcal{R}^k(F)} \oplus \underbrace{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_F) \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)}_{\mathcal{R}^{c,k}(F)} \end{aligned}$$

The two-dimensional case

A key remark

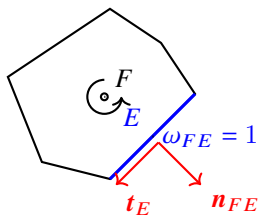


- Let $q \in \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)$. For any $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}^k(F)^2$, we have

$$\int_F \mathbf{grad}_F q \cdot \mathbf{v} = - \int_F q \operatorname{div}_F \mathbf{v} + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E q|_{\partial F} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{FE})$$

The two-dimensional case

A key remark

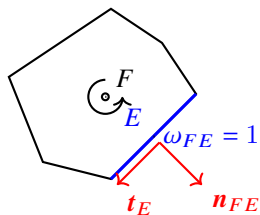


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The two-dimensional case

A key remark



- Let $q \in \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)$. For any $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}^k(F)^2$, we have

$$\int_F \mathbf{grad}_F q \cdot \mathbf{v} = - \int_F \underbrace{\pi_{\varphi, F}^{k-1} q}_{\in \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)} \operatorname{div}_F \mathbf{v} + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E q|_{\partial F} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{FE})$$

- Hence, $\mathbf{grad}_F q$ can be computed given $\pi_{\varphi, F}^{k-1} q$ and $q|_{\partial F}$

The two-dimensional case

Discrete $H^1(F)$ space

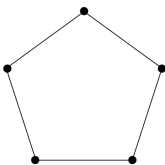
- Based on this remark, we take as discrete counterpart of $H^1(F)$

$$\underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k := \left\{ \underline{q}_F = (q_F, q_{\partial F}) : q_F \in \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F) \text{ and } q_{\partial F} \in \mathcal{P}_c^{k+1}(\mathcal{E}_F) \right\}$$

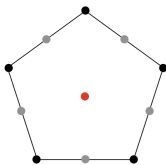
- Let $I_{\text{grad},F}^k : C^0(\bar{F}) \rightarrow \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$ be s.t., $\forall q \in C^0(\bar{F})$,

$$I_{\text{grad},F}^k q := (\pi_{\mathcal{P},F}^{k-1} q, q_{\partial F}) \text{ with}$$

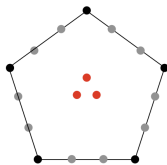
$$\pi_{\mathcal{P},E}^{k-1}(q_{\partial F})|_E = \pi_{\mathcal{P},E}^{k-1} q|_E \quad \forall E \in \mathcal{E}_F \text{ and } q_{\partial F}(\mathbf{x}_V) = q(\mathbf{x}_V) \quad \forall V \in \mathcal{V}_F$$



$k = 0$



$k = 1$



$k = 2$

The two-dimensional case

Reconstructions in $\underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$

- For all $E \in \mathcal{E}_F$, the **edge gradient** $G_E^k : \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^k(E)$ is s.t.

$$G_E^k \underline{q}_F := (q_{\partial F})'|_E$$

- The **full face gradient** $\mathbf{G}_F^k : \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^k(F)^2$ is s.t., $\forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}^k(F)^2$,

$$\int_F \mathbf{G}_F^k \underline{q}_F \cdot \mathbf{v} = - \int_F q_F \operatorname{div}_F \mathbf{v} + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E q_{\partial F} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{FE})$$

- By construction, we have **polynomial consistency**:

$$\mathbf{G}_F^k (\underline{I}_{\text{grad},F}^k q) = \operatorname{grad}_F q \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)$$

The two-dimensional case

Reconstructions in $\underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$

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- By construction, we have **polynomial consistency**:

$$\mathbf{G}_F^k (\underline{I}_{\text{grad},F}^k q) = \operatorname{grad}_F q \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)$$

- Similarly, we can reconstruct a **scalar trace** $\gamma_F^{k+1} : \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)$ s.t.

$$\gamma_F^{k+1} (\underline{I}_{\text{grad},F}^k q) = q \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)$$

The two-dimensional case

Discrete $\mathbf{H}(\text{rot}; F)$ space

- We start from: $\forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{N}^{k+1}(F) := \mathcal{G}^k(F) \oplus \mathcal{G}^{c,k+1}(F), \forall q \in \mathcal{P}^k(F),$

$$\int_F \text{rot}_F \mathbf{v} \cdot q = \int_F \mathbf{v} \cdot \underbrace{\text{rot}_F q}_{\in \mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F)} - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{t}_E) q|_E$$

The two-dimensional case

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$$\int_F \text{rot}_F \mathbf{v} \cdot q = \int_F \underbrace{\pi_{\mathcal{R},T}^{k-1} \mathbf{v}}_{\in \mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F)} \cdot \underbrace{\text{rot}_F q}_{\in \mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F)} - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E \underbrace{(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{t}_E)}_{\in \mathcal{P}^k(E)} q|_E$$

The two-dimensional case

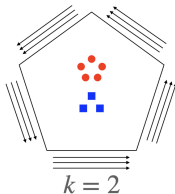
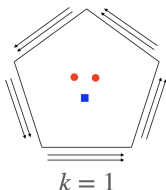
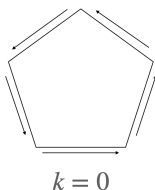
Discrete $\mathbf{H}(\text{rot}; F)$ space

- We start from: $\forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{N}^{k+1}(F) := \mathcal{G}^k(F) \oplus \mathcal{G}^{c,k+1}(F), \forall q \in \mathcal{P}^k(F),$

$$\int_F \text{rot}_F \mathbf{v} \cdot q = \int_F \underbrace{\pi_{\mathcal{R},T}^{k-1} \mathbf{v}}_{\in \mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F)} \cdot \underbrace{\text{rot}_F q}_{\in \mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F)} - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E \underbrace{(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{t}_E)}_{\in \mathcal{P}^k(E)} q|_E$$

- This leads to the following discrete counterpart of $\mathbf{H}(\text{rot}; F)$:

$$\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},F}^k := \left\{ \underline{\mathbf{v}}_F = (\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{R},F}, \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{R},F}^c, (v_E)_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F}) : \right. \\ \left. \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{R},F} \in \mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F), \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{R},F}^c \in \mathcal{R}^{c,k}(F), v_E \in \mathcal{P}^k(E) \forall E \in \mathcal{E}_F \right\}$$



The two-dimensional case

Reconstructions in $\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},F}^k$

- The **face curl operator** $C_F^k : \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},F}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^k(F)$ is s.t.,

$$\int_F C_F^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_F q = \int_F \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{R},F} \cdot \text{rot}_F q - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E \mathbf{v}_E q \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{P}^k(F)$$

- Let $\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{rot},F}^k : H^1(F)^2 \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},F}^k$ collect **component-wise L^2 -projections**
- C_F^k is **polynomially consistent** by construction:

$$C_F^k(\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{rot},F}^k \mathbf{v}) = \text{rot}_F \mathbf{v} \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{N}^{k+1}(F)$$

The two-dimensional case

Reconstructions in $\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},F}^k$

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- Similarly, we can construct a **tangent trace** $\gamma_{t,F}^k : \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},F}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^k(F)^2$ s.t.

$$\gamma_{t,F}^k(\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},F}^k \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v} \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}^k(F)^2$$

The two-dimensional case

Exact local two-dimensional DDR complex

- We need a **discrete gradient** operator from $\underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$ to $\underline{X}_{\text{curl},F}^k$
- To this end, let $\underline{G}_F^k : \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k \rightarrow \underline{X}_{\text{curl},F}^k$ be s.t., $\forall \underline{q}_F \in \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$,

$$\underline{G}_F^k \underline{q}_F := (\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\mathcal{R},F}^{k-1}(\mathbf{G}_F^k \underline{q}_F), \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\mathcal{R},F}^{c,k}(\mathbf{G}_F^k \underline{q}_F), (G_E^k \underline{q}_F)_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F}) \in \underline{X}_{\text{curl},F}^k$$

- If F is simply connected, the following **2D DDR complex** is exact:

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{I_{\text{grad},F}^k} \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_F^k} \underline{X}_{\text{curl},F}^k \xrightarrow{C_F^k} \mathcal{P}^k(F) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

The two-dimensional case

Summary

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{I_{\text{grad},F}^k} \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_F^k} \underline{X}_{\text{curl},F}^k \xrightarrow{C_F^k} \mathcal{P}^k(F) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

Space	V (vertex)	E (edge)	F (face)
$\underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$	\mathbb{R}	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(E)$	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)$
$\underline{X}_{\text{curl},F}^k$		$\mathcal{P}^k(E)$	$\mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F) \times \mathcal{R}^{c,k}(F)$
$\mathcal{P}^k(F)$			$\mathcal{P}^k(F)$

- **Interpolators** = component-wise L^2 -projections
- **Discrete operators** = L^2 -projections of full operator reconstructions

The three-dimensional case

Local three-dimensional DDR complex and exactness

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{I_{\text{grad},T}^k} \underline{X}_{\text{grad},T}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_T^k} \underline{X}_{\text{curl},T}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{C}_T^k} \underline{X}_{\text{div},T}^k \xrightarrow{D_T^k} \mathcal{P}^k(T) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

Space	V	E	F	T (element)
$\underline{X}_{\text{grad},T}^k$	\mathbb{R}	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(E)$	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)$	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(T)$
$\underline{X}_{\text{curl},T}^k$		$\mathcal{P}^k(E)$	$\mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F) \times \mathcal{R}^{c,k}(F)$	$\mathcal{R}^{k-1}(T) \times \mathcal{R}^{c,k}(T)$
$\underline{X}_{\text{div},T}^k$			$\mathcal{P}^k(F)$	$\mathcal{G}^{k-1}(T) \times \mathcal{G}^{c,k}(T)$
$\mathcal{P}^k(T)$				$\mathcal{P}^k(T)$

If the element T has a trivial topology, this complex is **exact**.

The three-dimensional case

Local commutation properties

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc} \mathbb{R} & \hookrightarrow & C^\infty(\bar{T}) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & C^\infty(\bar{T})^3 & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & C^\infty(\bar{T})^3 & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & C^\infty(\bar{T}) & \xrightarrow{0} & \{0\} \\ & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\text{grad},T}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\text{curl},T}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\text{div},T}^k & & \downarrow i_T & & \\ \mathbb{R} & \xrightarrow{\underline{I}_{\text{grad},h}^k} & \underline{X}_{\text{grad},T}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_T^k} & \underline{X}_{\text{curl},T}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{C}_T^k} & \underline{X}_{\text{div},T}^k & \xrightarrow{D_T^k} & \mathcal{P}^k(T) & \xrightarrow{0} & \{0\} \end{array}$$

- Crucial property for **adjoint consistency** (see below)
- Compatibility of projections with **Helmholtz–Hodge decompositions**
 - ⇒ Robustness of DDR numerical schemes with respect to the physics
(cf. [Beirão da Veiga, Dassi, DP, Droniou, 2021], [DP and Droniou, 2022])

The three-dimensional case

Local discrete L^2 -products

- Emulating integration by part formulas, we define the **local potentials**

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{grad},T}^{k+1} : \underline{X}_{\text{grad},T}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(T),$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{curl},T}^k : \underline{X}_{\text{curl},T}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^k(T)^3,$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{div},T}^k : \underline{X}_{\text{div},T}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^k(T)^3$$

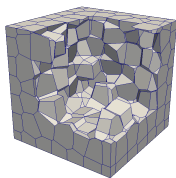
- Based on these potentials, we construct **local discrete L^2 -products**

$$(\underline{x}_T, \underline{y}_T)_{\bullet,T} = \underbrace{\int_T P_{\bullet,T} \underline{x}_T \cdot P_{\bullet,T} \underline{y}_T}_{\text{consistency}} + \underbrace{s_{\bullet,T}(\underline{x}_T, \underline{y}_T)}_{\text{stability}} \quad \forall \bullet \in \{\text{grad}, \text{curl}, \text{div}\}$$

- The L^2 -products are built to be **polynomially exact**

The three-dimensional case

Global DDR complex



$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{I_{\text{grad},h}^k} \underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_h^k} \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{C}_h^k} \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k \xrightarrow{D_h^k} \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

- Let \mathcal{T}_h be a **polyhedral mesh** with elements and faces of trivial topology
- **Global DDR spaces** are defined gluing boundary components:

$$\underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k, \quad \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k, \quad \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k$$

- **Global operators** are obtained collecting local components:

$$\underline{G}_h^k : \underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k \rightarrow \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k, \quad \underline{C}_h^k : \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \rightarrow \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k, \quad D_h^k : \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h)$$

- **Global L^2 -products** $(\cdot, \cdot)_{\bullet,h}$ are obtained assembling element-wise

Exactness of the global three-dimensional DDR complex

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{I_{\text{grad},h}^k} \underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_h^k} \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{C}_h^k} \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k \xrightarrow{D_h^k} \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

- The **global DDR complex** satisfies:

$$\Omega \text{ connected } (b_0 = 1) \implies \text{Im } I_{\text{grad},h}^k = \text{Ker } \underline{G}_h^k,$$

$$\text{no "tunnels" crossing } \Omega (b_1 = 0) \implies \text{Im } \underline{G}_h^k = \text{Ker } \underline{C}_h^k,$$

$$\text{no "voids" contained in } \Omega (b_2 = 0) \implies \text{Im } \underline{C}_h^k = \text{Ker } D_h^k,$$

$$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3 (b_3 = 0) \implies \text{Im } D_h^k = \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h)$$

- **The latter results can be generalized to non-trivial topologies**

Exactness of the global three-dimensional DDR complex

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{I_{\text{grad},h}^k} \underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_h^k} \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{C}_h^k} \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k \xrightarrow{D_h^k} \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\}$$

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$$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3 (b_3 = 0) \implies \text{Im } D_h^k = \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h)$$

- **The latter results can be generalized to non-trivial topologies**
- We next discuss other key results focusing on **magnetostatics**

Discrete uniform Poincaré inequalities

- Let $(\text{Ker } \underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k)^\perp$ be the orthogonal of $\text{Ker } \underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k$ in $\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k$ for $(\cdot, \cdot)_{\text{curl},h}$. Then,

$$b_2 = 0 \implies \underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k : (\text{Ker } \underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k)^\perp \rightarrow \text{Ker } D_h^k \text{ is an isomorphism}$$

- If, moreover, $b_1 = 0$, there is $C > 0$ independent of h s.t.

$$\|\underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{\text{curl},h} \leq C \|\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{\text{div},h} \quad \forall \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h \in (\text{Ker } \underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k)^\perp$$

with $\|\cdot\|_{\bullet,h}$ norm induced by $(\cdot, \cdot)_{\bullet,h}$ on $\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\bullet,h}^k$

- **Similar results can be proved for the gradient and the divergence**

Adjoint consistency

Adjoint consistency measures the failure to satisfy a global IBP. For the curl,

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{v} - \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \text{ if } \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{0} \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$

Theorem (Adjoint consistency for the curl)

Let $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbf{curl},h} : (C^0(\overline{\Omega})^3 \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)) \times \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{curl},h}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be s.t.

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathbf{curl},h}(\mathbf{w}, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h) := (\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\mathbf{div},h}^k \mathbf{w}, \underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h)_{\mathbf{div},h} - \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{curl},h}^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h.$$

Then, for all $\mathbf{w} \in C^0(\overline{\Omega})^3 \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)$ s.t. $\mathbf{w} \in H^{k+2}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3: \forall \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{curl},h}^k$,

$$|\mathcal{E}_{\mathbf{curl},h}(\mathbf{w}, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h)| \leq Ch^{k+1} \left(\|\underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{\mathbf{curl},h} + \|\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{\mathbf{div},h} \right),$$

with C independent of h .

Similar results can be proved for the gradient and the divergence

Outline

- 1 Three model problems and their well-posedness
- 2 Discrete de Rham (DDR) complexes
- 3 Application to magnetostatics**

Discrete problem I

- With $\mu = 1$, we seek $(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{A}) \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$ s.t.

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} - \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \boldsymbol{\tau} = 0 \quad \forall \boldsymbol{\tau} \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega),$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{div} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{div} \mathbf{v} = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{v} \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$$

- The **DDR scheme** is obtained substituting

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \leftarrow \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k, \quad \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) \leftarrow \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} \leftarrow (\underline{\mathbf{H}}_h, \underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}_h)_{\mathbf{curl}, h}, \quad \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{curl} \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \mathbf{v} \leftarrow (\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h)_{\mathbf{div}, h},$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{div} \mathbf{w} \mathbf{div} \mathbf{v} \leftarrow \int_{\Omega} D_h^k \underline{\mathbf{w}}_h \ D_h^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h, \quad \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{v} \leftarrow \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h$$

Discrete problem II

- The **discrete problem** reads: Find $(\underline{\mathbf{H}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{A}}_h) \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \times \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{div},h}^k$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned}(\underline{\mathbf{H}}_h, \underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}_h)_{\text{curl},h} - (\underline{\mathbf{A}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}_h)_{\text{div},h} &= 0 & \forall \underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}_h \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k, \\(\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\mathbf{H}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h)_{\text{div},h} + \int_{\Omega} D_h^k \underline{\mathbf{A}}_h D_h^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h &= l_h(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_h) & \forall \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{div},h}^k\end{aligned}$$

- **Stability** hinges on the exactness of the portion

$$\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{I_{\text{grad},h}^k} \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{grad},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{\mathbf{G}}_h^k} \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \xrightarrow{\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k} \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{div},h}^k \xrightarrow{D_h^k} \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) \xrightarrow{0} \{0\},$$

which requires $b_2 = 0$

- For $b_2 \neq 0$, we need to add orthogonality to harmonic forms

Theorem (Stability)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be an polyhedral connected domain s.t. $b_1 = b_2 = 0$ and set

$$A_h((\underline{\sigma}_h, \underline{u}_h), (\underline{\tau}_h, \underline{v}_h)) := (\underline{\sigma}_h, \underline{\tau}_h)_{\text{curl},h} - (\underline{u}_h, \underline{C}_h^k \underline{\tau}_h)_{\text{div},h} + (\underline{C}_h^k \underline{\sigma}_h, \underline{v}_h)_{\text{div},h} + \int_{\Omega} D_h^k \underline{u}_h D_h^k \underline{v}_h.$$

Then, it holds: $\forall (\underline{\sigma}_h, \underline{u}_h) \in \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \times \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k$,

$$\|(\underline{\sigma}_h, \underline{u}_h)\|_h \leq C \sup_{(\underline{\tau}_h, \underline{v}_h) \in \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \times \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k \setminus \{(\underline{0}, \underline{0})\}} \frac{A_h((\underline{\sigma}_h, \underline{u}_h), (\underline{\tau}_h, \underline{v}_h))}{\|(\underline{\tau}_h, \underline{v}_h)\|_h}$$

with C independent of h and

$$\|(\underline{\tau}_h, \underline{v}_h)\|_h^2 := \|\underline{\tau}_h\|_{\text{curl},h}^2 + \|\underline{C}_h^k \underline{\tau}_h\|_{\text{div},h}^2 + \|\underline{v}_h\|_{\text{div},h}^2 + \|D_h^k \underline{v}_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2.$$

Theorem (Error estimate for the magnetostatics problem)

Assume $b_1 = b_2 = 0$, $\mathbf{H} \in C^0(\overline{\Omega})^3 \cap H^{k+2}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3$, $\mathbf{A} \in C^0(\overline{\Omega})^3 \times H^{k+2}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3$.

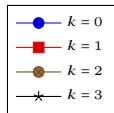
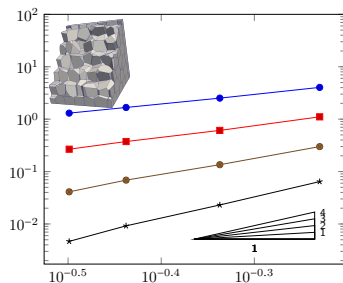
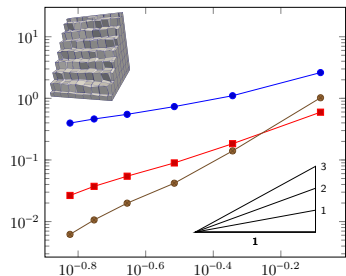
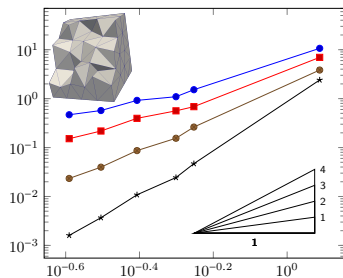
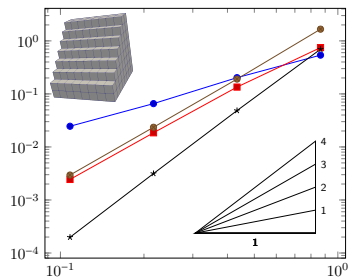
Then, we have the following *error estimate*:

$$\|(\underline{\mathbf{H}}_h - \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{H}, \underline{\mathbf{A}}_h - \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{div},h}^k \mathbf{A})\|_h \leq C h^{k+1},$$

with $C > 0$ independent of h .

Numerical examples

Energy error vs. meshsize



Open-source implementation available in HARDCore3D

Conclusions and perspectives

- **Novel approach** to approximate PDEs relating to the de Rham complex
- **Key features:** support of general polyhedral meshes and high-order
- **Novel computational strategies** made possible
- Natural extensions to **variable coefficients** and **nonlinearities**

- Formalization using **differential forms** (ongoing)
- Development of **novel complexes** (e.g., elasticity, Hessian, . . .)
- Applications (possibly beyond continuum mechanics)

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