

Fully discrete polynomial de Rham complexes on polyhedral meshes with application to magnetostatics

Daniele A. Di Pietro

from joint works with J. Droniou and F. Rapetti

Institut Montpellierain Alexander Grothendieck, University of Montpellier

<https://imag.umontpellier.fr/~di-pietro>

Polygonal methods for PDEs: theory and applications, 17 May 2021



A (not so simple) model problem I

- Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be an open connected polyhedral domain that **does not enclose any void**
- Let a **current density** $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)$ be given
- We consider the problem: Find the **magnetic field** $\boldsymbol{\sigma} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ and the **vector potential** $\mathbf{u} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ s.t.

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (\text{vector potential})$$

$$\mathbf{curl} \boldsymbol{\sigma} = \mathbf{f} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (\text{Ampère's law})$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (\text{Coulomb's gauge})$$

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega \quad (\text{boundary condition})$$

- The extension to variable magnetic permeability is straightforward

A (not so simple) model problem II

- In **weak formulation**: Find $(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \mathbf{u}) \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$ s.t.

$$\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} - \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \boldsymbol{\tau} = 0 \quad \forall \boldsymbol{\tau} \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega),$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{curl} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu} + \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{div} \mathbf{u} \mathbf{div} \boldsymbol{\nu} = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{f} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu} \quad \forall \boldsymbol{\nu} \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$$

- **Well-posedness** hinges on the **exactness** of the following portion of the de Rham complex:

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

- **This exactness property is also needed at the discrete level!**

Some approximations of the de Rham complex

- Classical **Finite Element** methods on standard meshes
 - Mixed Finite Elements [Raviart and Thomas, 1977, Nédélec, 1980]
 - Whitney forms [Bossavit, 1988]
 - Finite Element Exterior Calculus [Arnold, 2018]
 - ...
- **Low-order** polyhedral methods:
 - Mimetic Finite Differences [Brezzi, Lipnikov, Shashkov, 2005]
 - Discrete Geometric Approach [Codecasa, Specogna, Trevisan, 2009]
 - Compatible Discrete Operators [Bonelle and Ern, 2014]
- **High-order** polyhedral methods:
 - VEM [Beirão da Veiga, Brezzi, Dassi, Marini, Russo, 2016–2018]
 - **Discrete de Rham (DDR)** methods
- References for this presentation:
 - Precursor works on DDR [DP et al., 2020, DP and Droniou, 2021b]
 - **DDR complexes with Koszul complements** [DP and Droniou, 2021]
 - Bridges DDR-VEM [Beirão da Veiga, Dassi, DP, Droniou, 2021]

The discrete de Rham (DDR) approach I

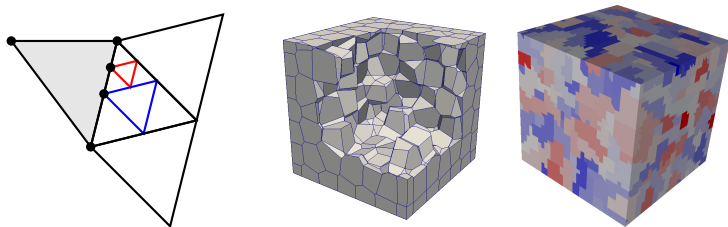


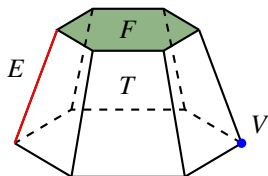
Figure: Examples of polytopal meshes supported by the DDR approach

- **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 **general polyhedral meshes** and **high-order**
- Exactness proved **at the discrete level** (directly usable for stability)

The discrete de Rham (DDR) approach II



- The fully discrete spaces are spanned by **vectors of polynomials**
- Polynomial components **attached to geometric objects**
 - emulate the **continuity properties** of the corresponding space
 - enable the reconstruction of **vector calculus operators** and **potentials**
- The key ingredient is the **Stokes formula**

The two-dimensional case

Continuous exact complex

- Let F be a **mesh face** and set, for smooth $q : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{v} : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$\mathbf{rot}_F q := \varrho_{-\pi/2}(\mathbf{grad}_F q) \quad \mathbf{rot}_F \mathbf{v} := \operatorname{div}_F(\varrho_{-\pi/2}\mathbf{v})$$

- We derive a discrete counterpart of the **two-dimensional local complex**:

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

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

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

The two-dimensional case

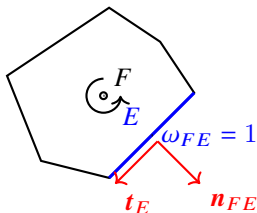
A key remark

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

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

with $\pi_{\mathcal{P},F}^{k-1}$ L^2 -orthogonal projector on $\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)$

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



The two-dimensional case

Discrete $H^1(F)$ space

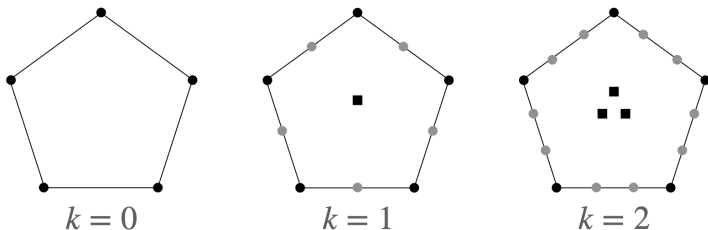


Figure: Number of degrees of freedom for $\underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$ for $k \in \{0, 1, 2\}$

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

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

- The interpolator $\underline{I}_{\text{grad},F}^k : C^0(\overline{F}) \rightarrow \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$ is s.t., $\forall q \in C^0(\overline{F})$,

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

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

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.

$$G_E^k q_F := (q \partial F)'|_E$$

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

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

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

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

- We reconstruct similarly a **face potential (scalar trace)** in $\mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)$

The two-dimensional case

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

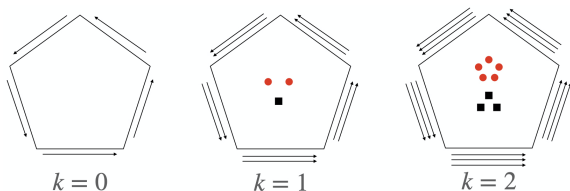


Figure: Number of degrees of freedom for $\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl}, F}^k$ for $k \in \{0, 1, 2\}$

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

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

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

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

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.,

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

- Define the interpolator $\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},F}^k : H^1(F)^2 \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},F}^k$ s.t., $\forall \mathbf{v} \in H^1(F)^2$,

$$\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},F}^k \mathbf{v} := (\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\mathcal{R},F}^{k-1} \mathbf{v}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\mathcal{R},F}^{c,k} \mathbf{v}, (\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\mathcal{P},E}^k(\mathbf{v}|_E \cdot \mathbf{t}_E))_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F}).$$

- C_F^k is **polynomially consistent** by construction:

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

- We reconstruct similarly a **vector potential (tangent trace)** in $\mathcal{P}^k(F)^2$

The two-dimensional case

Exact local complex

Theorem (Exactness of the two-dimensional local DDR complex)

If F is simply connected, the following local complex is **exact**:

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

where $\underline{G}_F^k : \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k \rightarrow \underline{X}_{\text{curl},F}^k$ is the **discrete gradient** s.t., $\forall \underline{q}_F \in \underline{X}_{\text{grad},F}^k$,

$$\underline{G}_F^k \underline{q}_F := \left(\pi_{\mathcal{R},F}^{k-1} (G_F^k \underline{q}_F), \pi_{\mathcal{R},F}^{c,k} (G_F^k \underline{q}_F), (G_E^k \underline{q}_F)_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \right)$$

The two-dimensional case

Summary

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

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

Table: Polynomial components for the two-dimensional spaces

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

The three-dimensional case I

Exact local complex

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

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

Table: Polynomial components for the three-dimensional spaces

Theorem (Exactness of the three-dimensional local DDR complex)

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

The three-dimensional case II

Exact local complex

Space	V	E	F	T
DDR (enhancement across the board)				
$\underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k$	\mathbb{R}	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(E)$	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)$	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(T)$
$\underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k$		$\mathcal{P}^k(E)$	$\mathcal{R}^{k-1}(F) \oplus \mathcal{R}^{c,k}(F)$	$\mathcal{R}^{k-1}(T) \oplus \mathcal{R}^{c,k}(T)$
$\underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k$			$\mathcal{P}^k(F)$	$\mathcal{G}^{k-1}(T) \oplus \mathcal{G}^{c,k}(T)$
$\mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h)$				$\mathcal{P}^k(T)$
VEM (with serendipity)				
\underline{V}_{-k}^n	\mathbb{R}	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(E)$	$\mathcal{R}^{c,\beta_F+1}(F)$	$\mathcal{R}^{c,k}(T)$
\underline{V}_{-k}^e		$\mathcal{P}^k(E)$	$\mathcal{P}_0^k(F) \times \mathcal{R}^{c,\beta_F+1}(F)$	$\mathcal{G}^{c,k+1}(T) \times \mathcal{R}^{c,k}(T)$
\underline{V}_{-k}^f			$\mathcal{P}^k(F)$	$\mathcal{G}^{k-1}(T) \oplus \mathcal{G}^{c,k+1}(T)$
$\mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h)$				$\mathcal{P}^k(T)$

Table: Comparison of the DDR and VEM spaces considered in [Beirão da Veiga, Dassi, DP, Droniou, 2021]. β_F is a parameter related to serendipity (cf. F. Brezzi's presentation) possibly depending on the face geometry

Commutation properties

Lemma (Local commutation properties)

It holds, for all $T \in \mathcal{T}_h$,

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\mathbf{G}}_T^k(\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{grad},T}^k q) &= \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},T}^k(\mathbf{grad} q) & \forall q \in C^1(\bar{T}), \\ \underline{\mathbf{C}}_T^k(\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},T}^k \mathbf{v}) &= \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{div},T}^k(\mathbf{curl} \mathbf{v}) & \forall \mathbf{v} \in H^2(T)^3, \\ D_T^k(\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{div},T}^k \mathbf{w}) &= \pi_{\mathcal{P},T}^k(\text{div} \mathbf{w}) & \forall \mathbf{w} \in H^1(T)^3. \end{aligned}$$

The above properties imply the following **commutative diagram**:

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

The three-dimensional case

Local discrete L^2 -products

- Emulating integration by part formulas, 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**

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

- The L^2 -products are **polynomially exact**

The three-dimensional case

Global complex

- 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:

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

leading to the complex

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

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

Discrete problem

- Continuous problem: Find $(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \mathbf{u}) \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$ s.t.

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

- The **DDR problem** reads: Find $(\underline{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{u}}_h) \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{curl},h}^k \times \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{div},h}^k$ s.t.

$$(\underline{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_h, \underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}_h)_{\mathbf{curl},h} - (\underline{\mathbf{u}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}_h)_{\mathbf{div},h} = 0 \quad \forall \underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}_h \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{curl},h}^k,$$
$$(\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h)_{\mathbf{div},h} + \int_{\Omega} D_h^k \underline{\mathbf{u}}_h D_h^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h = l_h(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_h) \quad \forall \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{div},h}^k$$

- Stability** follows as in the continuous case using exactness properties of

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

Convergence

Theorem (Error estimate)

Assume $b_1 = b_2 = 0$, $\sigma \in C^0(\bar{\Omega})^3 \cap H^{k+2}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3$, $\mathbf{u} \in C^0(\bar{\Omega})^3 \cap H^{k+2}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3$, and set

$$(\underline{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{e}}_h) := (\underline{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_h - \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \underline{\mathbf{u}}_h - \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{div},h}^k \mathbf{u}).$$

Then, we have the following *error estimate*:

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\underline{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_h, \underline{\mathbf{e}}_h)\|_h \leq C h^{k+1} & \left(|\mathbf{curl} \boldsymbol{\sigma}|_{H^{k+1}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3} + |\boldsymbol{\sigma}|_{H^{(k+1,2)}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3} \right. \\ & \left. + |\mathbf{u}|_{H^{k+1}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3} + |\mathbf{u}|_{H^{k+2}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3} \right), \end{aligned}$$

with $\|\cdot\|_h$ discrete (graph) $\mathbf{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega) \times \mathbf{H}(\text{div}; \Omega)$ norm and C depending only on Ω , k , and mesh regularity.

Consistency

The proof hinges on the following key result:

Theorem (Adjoint consistency for the curl)

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

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{curl},h}(\mathbf{w}, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h) := \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \left[(\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{div},T}^k \mathbf{w}|_T, \underline{\mathbf{C}}_T^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_T)_{\text{div},T} - \int_T \text{curl } \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{\text{curl},T}^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_T \right].$$

Then, for all $\mathbf{w} \in C^0(\bar{\Omega})^3 \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ s.t. $\mathbf{w} \in H^{k+2}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3$:

$\forall \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k$,

$$|\mathcal{E}_{\text{curl},h}(\mathbf{w}, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h)| \lesssim h^{k+1} \left(|\mathbf{w}|_{H^{k+1}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3} + |\mathbf{w}|_{H^{k+2}(\mathcal{T}_h)^3} \right) \\ \times \left(\|\underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{\text{curl},h} + \|\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{\text{div},h} \right).$$

Similar results can be proved for the gradient and the divergence

Numerical examples

Convergence in the energy norm

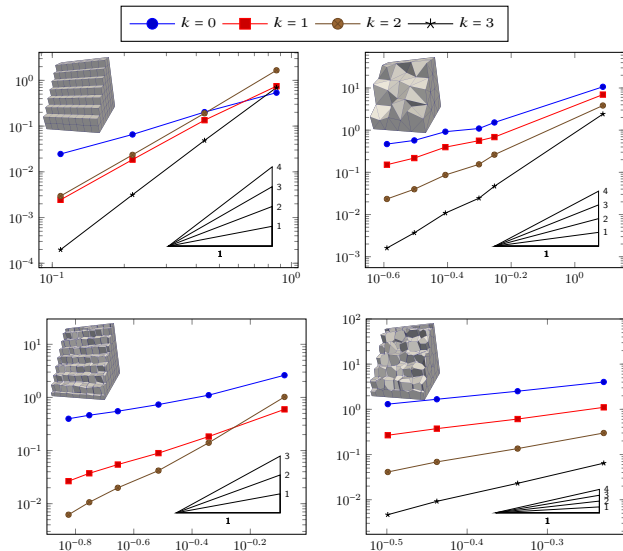


Figure: Energy error versus mesh size h

References I



Arnold, D. (2018).
Finite Element Exterior Calculus.
SIAM.



Beirão da Veiga, L., Brezzi, F., Dassi, F., Marini, L. D., and Russo, A. (2018).
Lowest order virtual element approximation of magnetostatic problems.
Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg., 332:343–362.



Bonelle, J. and Ern, A. (2014).
Analysis of compatible discrete operator schemes for elliptic problems on polyhedral meshes.
ESAIM: Math. Model. Numer. Anal., 48:553–581.



Bossavit, A. (1988).
Whitney forms: a class of Finite Elements for three-dimensional computation in electromagnetism.
IEEE Proceedings A, 135:493–500.



Brezzi, F., Lipnikov, K., and Shashkov, M. (2005).
Convergence of the mimetic finite difference method for diffusion problems on polyhedral meshes.
SIAM J. Numer. Anal., 43(5):1872–1896.



Codecasa, L., Specogna, R., and Trevisan, F. (2009).
Base functions and discrete constitutive relations for staggered polyhedral grids.
Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg., 198(9–12):1117–1123.



Di Pietro, D. A. and Droniou, J. (2021a).
An arbitrary-order discrete de Rham complex on polyhedral meshes: Exactness, Poincaré inequalities, and consistency.



Di Pietro, D. A. and Droniou, J. (2021b).
An arbitrary-order method for magnetostatics on polyhedral meshes based on a discrete de Rham sequence.
J. Comput. Phys., 429(109991).

References II



Di Pietro, D. A., Droniou, J., and Rapetti, F. (2020).

Fully discrete polynomial de Rham sequences of arbitrary degree on polygons and polyhedra.
Math. Models Methods Appl. Sci., 30(9):1809–1855.



Nédélec, J.-C. (1980).

Mixed finite elements in \mathbf{R}^3 .
Numer. Math., 35(3):315–341.



Raviart, P. A. and Thomas, J. M. (1977).

A mixed finite element method for 2nd order elliptic problems.
In Galligani, I. and Magenes, E., editors, *Mathematical Aspects of the Finite Element Method*. Springer, New York.