

# A discrete trace theory for polytopal methods, with application to BDDC preconditionners

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# References for this presentation

- *A discrete trace theory for non-conforming hybrid discretisation methods.*  
S. Badia, J. Droniou, and J. Tushar. 34p, 2024.  
<http://arxiv.org/abs/2409.15863>
- *Analysis of BDDC preconditioners for non-conforming polytopal hybrid discretisation methods.*  
S. Badia, J. Droniou, J. Manyer and J. Tushar. 17p, 2025.
- Details on BDDC implementation:  
[https://jordimanyer.deno.dev/slides/2025\\_matrix\\_bddchho.pdf](https://jordimanyer.deno.dev/slides/2025_matrix_bddchho.pdf)

- 1 Why polytopal methods?
- 2 Discrete trace theory
  - What is it, and why is that useful?
  - Continuous trace and lifting
  - Discrete trace and lifting
- 3 BDDC preconditionner
- 4 Numerical illustration

*Slides*



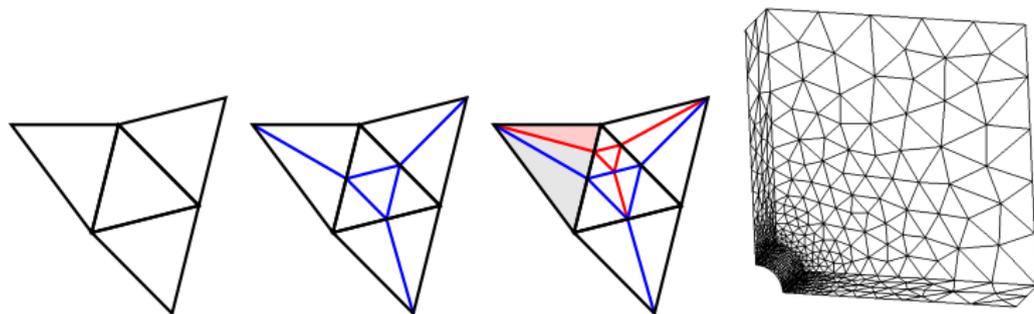
# Finite Elements

- **Local polynomial spaces** on each element, glued to create global **conforming** basis functions (e.g., in  $H^1$ ).

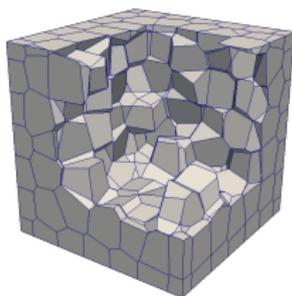
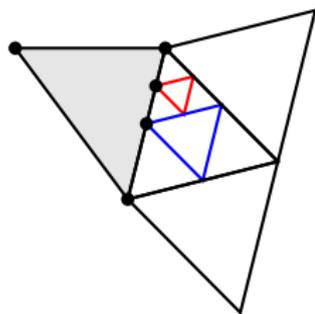
**Gluing requires special meshes:** tetrahedra, hexahedra.

- Shortcomings:

- local refinement trades **mesh size for mesh quality**.
- complex geometries require **large number of elements**.
- global conforming basis functions require **large number of DOFs**.



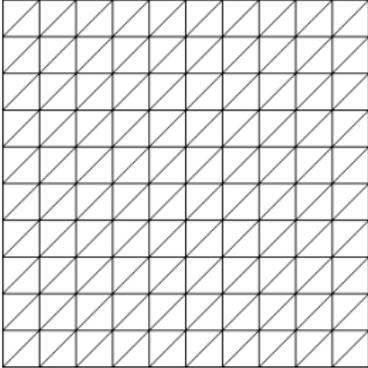
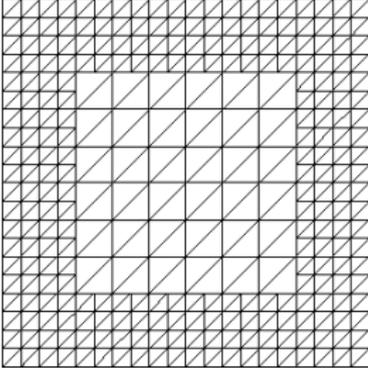
# Polytopal methods I



- **No need for global conforming** piecewise polynomial basis functions. Starts from DOFs and build **local polynomial operators** (differentials, potentials).
- Immediate benefits:
  - **Seamless** local refinement, preserving mesh regularity.
  - **Agglomerated elements** are easy to handle (e.g., for multi-grid methods).
  - High-level approach can lead to **leaner methods** (fewer DOFs).

# Polytopal methods II

Example of efficiency: Reissner–Mindlin plate problem.

Stabilised $\mathbb{P}^2$ - $(\mathbb{P}^1 + \mathcal{B}^3)$ scheme		DDR scheme	
			
nb. DOFs	Error	nb. DOFs	Error
2403	0.138	550	0.161
9603	6.82e-2	2121	6.77e-2
38402	3.40e-2	8329	3.1e-2

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# Outline

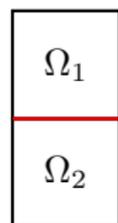
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# Substructuring non-overlapping DD methods I

- Transfer of information between domains.



- (i) Take  $v_1$  in  $\Omega_1$ .
  - (ii) Consider the trace  $(v_1)|_{\Gamma}$  of  $v_1$  on  $\Gamma$ .
  - (iii) Define  $v_2$  in  $\Omega_2$  as the harmonic extension of  $(v_1)|_{\Gamma}$ .
- $v_1 \rightarrow v_2$  is **continuous for the  $H^1$  norms**, as composition of continuous maps:
    - Trace:**  $H^1(\Omega_1) \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma)$ ,
    - Lifting:**  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma) \rightarrow H^1(\Omega_2)$ .

## Substructuring non-overlapping DD methods II

**Conforming methods:** discrete spaces  $V_h(\Omega_i) \subset H^1(\Omega_i)$  and  $V_h(\Gamma) = (V_h(\Omega_i))|_\Gamma \subset H^{1/2}(\Gamma)$ .

$\rightsquigarrow$  continuous trace and lifting prove the continuity of  $v_1 \rightarrow v_2$  (*modulo truncation estimate*).

**Non-conforming methods:** discrete spaces  $U_h(\Omega_i)$  and  $U_h(\Gamma) = (U_h(\Omega_i))|_\Gamma$  not contained in  $H^1(\Omega_i)$  and  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma)$ .

$\rightsquigarrow$  need to **create a suitable norm** on  $U_h(\Gamma)$  that is:

- *not too strong*, to get a **continuous discrete trace**  $U_h(\Omega_1) \rightarrow U_h(\Gamma)$ ,
- *strong enough*, to get a **continuous discrete lifting**  $U_h(\Gamma) \rightarrow U_h(\Omega_2)$ .

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# Continuous setting I

$\Omega$  bounded Lipschitz domain of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

$H^1(\Omega)$ -seminorm: for  $v \in H^1(\Omega)$ ,

$$|v|_{1,\Omega} := \|\nabla v\|_{L^2(\Omega)}.$$

$H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ -seminorm: for  $w \in H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ ,

$$|w|_{1/2,\partial\Omega} := \left( \int_{\partial\Omega} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{|w(x) - w(y)|^2}{|x - y|^d} dx dy \right)^{1/2}.$$

# Continuous setting II

Trace operator:  $\gamma : H^1(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ ,  $\gamma(v) = v|_{\partial\Omega}$  when  $v$  is smooth.

## Theorem (Trace inequality)

$$|\gamma(v)|_{1/2,\partial\Omega} \lesssim |v|_{1,\Omega} \quad \forall v \in H^1(\Omega).$$

## Theorem (Lifting)

*There exists a linear operator  $\mathcal{L} : H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega) \rightarrow H^1(\Omega)$  such that:*

$$\gamma(\mathcal{L}(w)) = w \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathcal{L}(w)|_{1,\Omega} \lesssim |w|_{1/2,\partial\Omega} \quad \forall w \in H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega).$$

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# Polytopal mesh

$\Omega$  polytopal. Mesh  $\mathcal{M}_h = (\mathcal{T}_h, \mathcal{F}_h)$  with  $\mathcal{T}_h$  set of elements,  $\mathcal{F}_h$  set of faces.

- standard mesh regularity assumption (elements/faces do not become too elongated), and
- **quasi-uniformity**: with  $h_X = \text{diam}(X)$ ,

$$\exists \rho > 0 : \rho h_{t'} \leq h_t \quad \forall t, t' \in \mathcal{T}_h.$$

Set  $h := \max_{t \in \mathcal{T}_h} h_t$  and write  $a \lesssim b$  for “ $a \leq Cb$  with  $C$  depending only on the mesh regularity parameters”.

# Discrete $H^1(\Omega)$ space and seminorm

**Hybrid space:** unknowns are polynomials in the elements and on the faces.

Fix  $k \geq 0$  and set

$$\underline{U}_h := \{ \underline{v}_h = ((v_t)_{t \in \mathcal{T}_h}, (v_f)_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h}) : v_t \in \mathbb{P}^k(t), \quad v_f \in \mathbb{P}^k(f) \}.$$

**Discrete  $H^1(\Omega)$ -seminorm:** with  $\underline{v}_t = (v_t, (v_f)_{f \in \mathcal{F}_t})$  restriction of  $\underline{v}_h$  to  $t$ ,

$$|\underline{v}_h|_{1,h}^2 := \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_h} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}^2$$

with  $|\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}^2 := \|\nabla v_t\|_{L^2(t)}^2 + \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_t} h_t^{-1} \|v_f - v_t\|_{L^2(f)}^2.$

# Discrete $H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ space and seminorm

**Boundary space:** restriction to boundary of hybrid space (piecewise polynomial functions).

$$U_h^{\text{bd}} := \{w_h = ((w_f)_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}}) : w_f \in \mathbb{P}^k(f)\} \subset L^2(\partial\Omega).$$

**Trace (restriction):**  $\gamma_h : \underline{U}_h \rightarrow U_h^{\text{bd}}$  such that

$$\gamma_h(\underline{v}_h) = (v_f)_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} \quad \forall \underline{v}_h \in \underline{U}_h.$$

# Discrete $H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ space and seminorm

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**Discrete  $H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ -seminorm:** with  $\bar{w}_f = \frac{1}{|f|^{d-1}} \int_f w$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |w_h|_{1/2,h}^2 &:= \underbrace{\sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} h_f^{-1} \|w_f - \bar{w}_f\|_{L^2(f)}^2}_{\text{local variation in each } f} \\ &+ \underbrace{\sum_{(f,f') \in \mathcal{FF}_h^{\text{bd}}} |f|^{d-1} |f'|^{d-1} \frac{|\bar{w}_f - \bar{w}_{f'}|^2}{|x_f - x_{f'}|^d}}_{\text{medium-long range interactions}} \end{aligned}$$

$(\mathcal{FF}_h^{\text{bd}} = \text{pairs of all faces on } \partial\Omega).$

# Main results

## Theorem (Trace inequality)

$$|\gamma_h(\underline{v}_h)|_{1/2,h} \lesssim |\underline{v}_h|_{1,h} \quad \forall \underline{v}_h \in \underline{U}_h. \quad (1)$$

## Theorem (Lifting)

There exists a linear operator  $\mathcal{L}_h : U_h^{\text{bd}} \rightarrow \underline{U}_h$  such that:

$$\gamma(\mathcal{L}_h(w_h)) = w_h \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathcal{L}_h(w_h)|_{1,h} \lesssim |w_h|_{1/2,h} \quad \forall w_h \in U_h^{\text{bd}}. \quad (2)$$

# Main results

## Theorem (Trace inequality)

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- Hidden constant independent of  $\text{diam}(\Omega)$ .
- Directly gives trace/lifting for (Hybridizable) Discontinuous Galerkin [Cockburn et al., 2009], Hybrid High-Order [Di Pietro and Ern, 2015, Di Pietro and Droniou, 2020], non-conforming Virtual Elements [de Dios et al., 2016], etc.

# Why is that new?

Previous discrete trace results: using only  $L^2(\partial\Omega)$ -norms on trace space [Eymard et al., 2000, Droniou et al., 2018].

- Allows for a trace inequality

$$\|\gamma(\underline{v}_h)\|_{L^2(\partial\Omega)/\mathbb{R}} \lesssim |\underline{v}_h|_{1,h} \quad \forall \underline{v}_h \in \underline{U}_h$$

(where  $(v_h)|_t = v_t$  for all  $t \in \mathcal{T}_h$ ).

- **Does not** allow for a (uniformly continuous) lifting.

## Previous approaches (for BDDC analysis)

- Interpolate discrete functions on  $H^1$  functions, to use the continuous trace/lifting [Cowsar et al., 1995, Diosady and Darmofal, 2012, Cockburn et al., 2014, Brenner et al., 2017].

↪ **restriction** to FE meshes (triangular/tetrahedral or rectangular/hexahedral).

# Approach

## Previous approaches (for BDDC analysis)

- Interpolate discrete functions on  $H^1$  functions, to use the continuous trace/lifting [Cowsar et al., 1995, Diosady and Darmofal, 2012, Cockburn et al., 2014, Brenner et al., 2017].

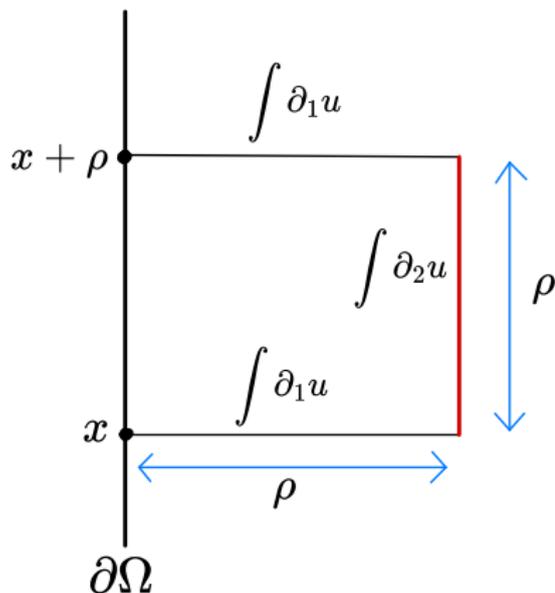
↪ **restriction** to FE meshes (triangular/tetrahedral or rectangular/hexahedral).

## Our approach:

Follow principles of Discrete Functional Analysis [Droniou et al., 2018]: do **not use** continuous trace/lifting results but **mimic their proofs** in the discrete setting.

# An example of (challenging) “continuous $\rightarrow$ discrete” I

Continuous estimate for the trace

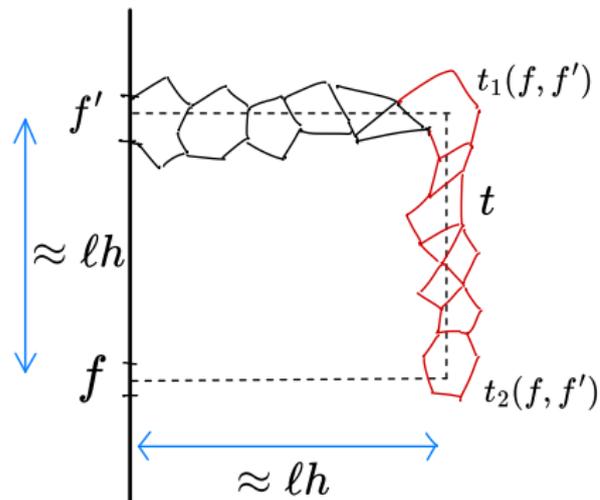


$$\begin{aligned} u(0, x + \rho) - u(0, x) &= \\ &= \int \partial_1 u(s, x) + \int \partial_2 u(\rho, s) \\ &\quad + \int \partial_1 u(s, x + \rho). \end{aligned}$$

Take  $L^2$ -norm over  $x$ : **vertical** section contributes with  $\rho \|\partial_2 u(\rho, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}$ .

# An example of (challenging) “continuous $\rightarrow$ discrete” II

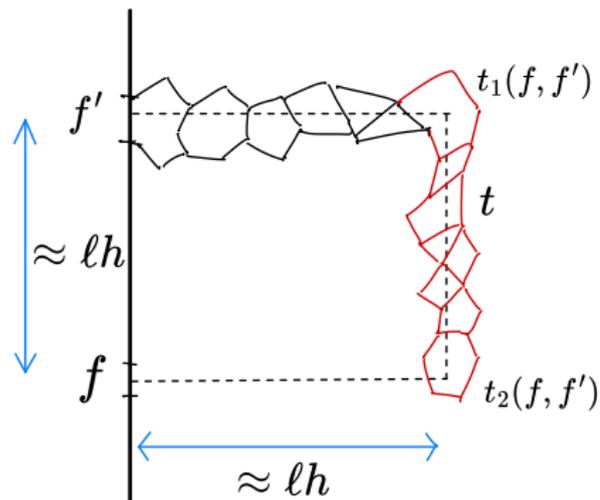
Discrete estimate for the trace



- “ $f' = f + \rho$ ” does not make sense  
 $\rightsquigarrow$  distances between faces up to  $O(h)$ .

# An example of (challenging) “continuous $\rightarrow$ discrete” III

Discrete estimate for the trace

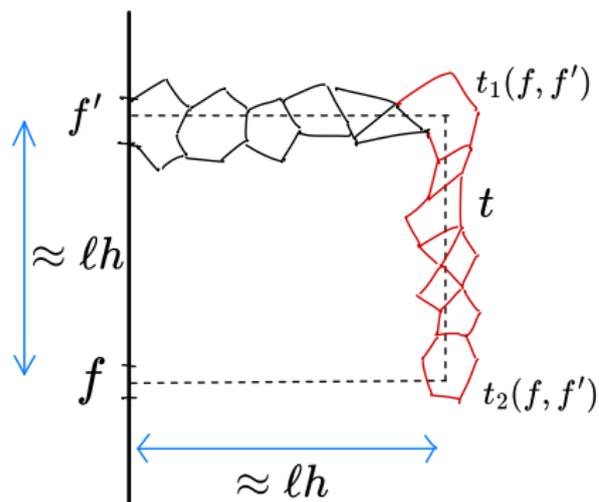


$$\circ |v_{t_1(f, f')} - v_{t_2(f, f')}| \lesssim h^{\frac{2-d}{d}} \sum_t |v_t|_{1, t}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  Cauchy-Schwarz requires to count the  $t$  (split into  $\ell$  horizontal layers...)

# An example of (challenging) “continuous $\rightarrow$ discrete” IV

Discrete estimate for the trace



$$\circ |v_{t_1(f, f')} - v_{t_2(f, f')}|^2 \lesssim h^{2-d} \ell \sum_t |v_{t,1,t}|^2.$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  sum over  $(f, f')$  within distance  $\approx lh$ : how many times each cell  $t$  appears? (response:  $\approx \ell^{d-2} \dots$ )

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# Discrete problem

- Given  $\mathcal{A}_h : \widehat{U}_h \rightarrow \widehat{U}'_h$  coercive operator and  $\ell_h \in \widehat{U}'_h$ , the discrete problem is:

Find  $\underline{u}_h \in \widehat{U}_h$  such that

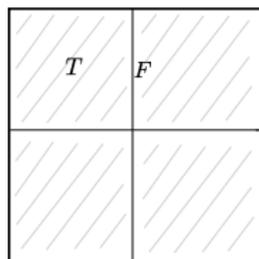
$$\langle \mathcal{A}_h \underline{u}_h, \underline{v}_h \rangle = \ell_h(\underline{v}_h) \quad \forall \underline{v}_h \in \widehat{U}_h.$$

- Algebraically, this is written:

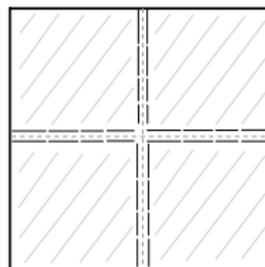
$$\mathbf{A}_h \mathbf{U}_h = \mathbf{b}_h.$$

# Preconditionner I

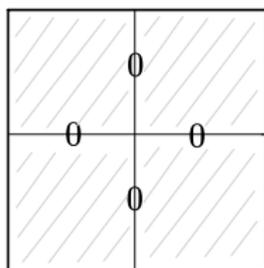
Coarse mesh (size  $H$ , elements  $T$ , faces  $F$ ) and fine mesh (size  $h$ , elements  $t$ , faces  $f$ ).



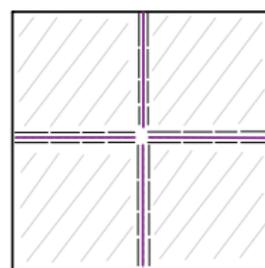
$\hat{U}_h$ : one value on  $f \subset F$



$\underline{U}_h$ : two values on  $f \subset F$



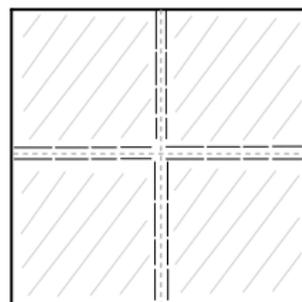
$\underline{U}_{h,0}$ : zero on each  $f \subset F$



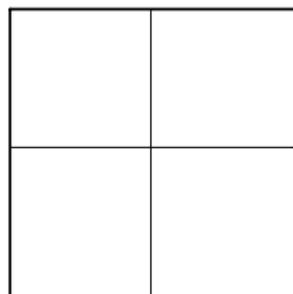
$\tilde{U}_h$ : two values on  $f \subset F$ ,  
continuous average over  $F$ .

# Preconditionner II

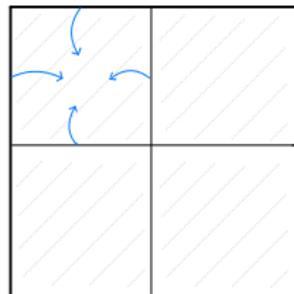
Weighting and harmonic extension:  $Q_h : \underline{U}_h \rightarrow \widehat{U}_h$  defined by



fully discontinuous



averaging values  
on each  $f \subset F$



discrete harmonic  
lifting

# Preconditionner III

BDDC preconditionner: with  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_h$  and  $\mathcal{A}_{h,0}$  the restrictions of  $\mathcal{A}_h$  to  $\underline{\tilde{U}}_h$  and  $\underline{U}_{h,0}$ ,

$$\mathcal{B}_h = \mathcal{Q}_h \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_h^{-1} \mathcal{Q}_h^\top + \mathcal{A}_{h,0}^{-1}.$$

## Theorem (Preconditionner estimates)

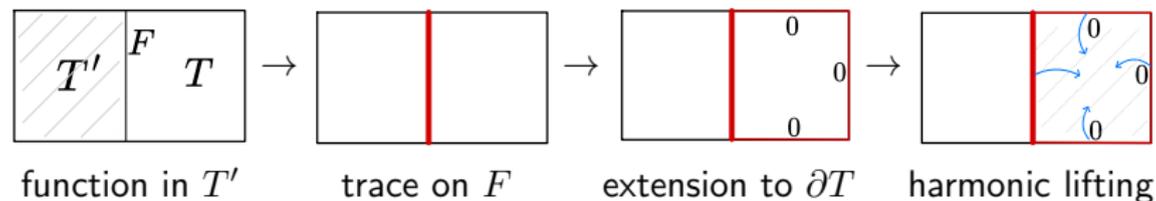
*The preconditionned operator  $\mathcal{B}_h \mathcal{A}_h$  satisfies the condition number estimate*

$$\kappa(\mathcal{B}_h \mathcal{A}_h) \lesssim \left(1 + \ln \frac{H}{h}\right)^2.$$

*Note:*  $\kappa(\mathcal{A}_h) \simeq h^{-2}$ .

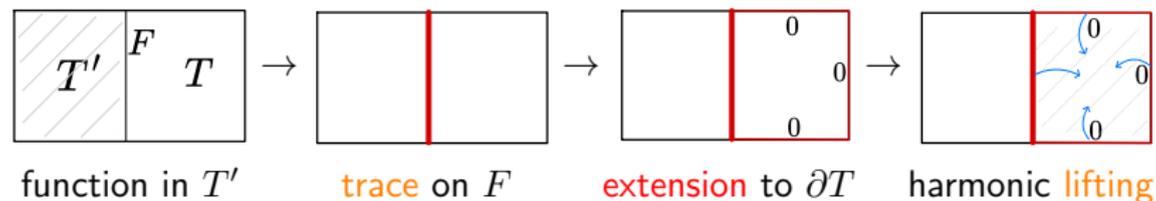
# Truncation estimate

- The proof requires exchange of information  $T' \rightarrow F \rightarrow T$  (where  $T, T'$  neighbouring cells of  $F$ ).



# Truncation estimate

- The proof requires exchange of information  $T' \rightarrow F \rightarrow T$  (where  $T, T'$  neighbouring cells of  $F$ ).



- Norms estimates consequence of **trace inequality**, **lifting property** and:

## Theorem (Boundary extension estimate)

Let  $w_h \in U_h^{\text{bd}}(F)$  be such that  $\int_F w_h = 0$ . Define  $z_h \in U_h^{\text{bd}}(\partial T)$  as the extension of  $w_h$  by 0 on  $\partial T \setminus F$ . Then,

$$|z_h|_{1/2, h, \partial T} \lesssim \left(1 + \ln \frac{H}{h}\right) |w_h|_{1/2, h, F}.$$

**Proof:** by mimicking at the discrete level the proof in the continuous setting, strongly inspired by [Brenner et al., 2017, Brenner and Scott, 2008].

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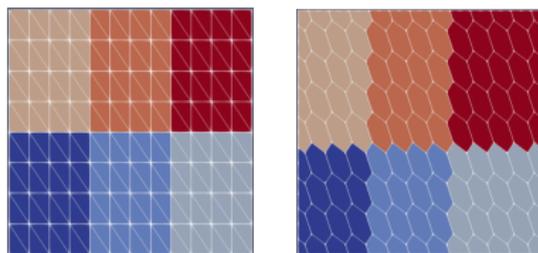
# Setting

- $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$ , Laplace problem with exact solution

$$u(x, y) = \sin(2\pi x) \sin(2\pi y)x(1 - x)y(1 - y).$$

- Mesh construction:

- Select number of processors  $N_p = N_p^x \times N_p^y$ ;
- Split the domain in  $\frac{H}{h} N_p^x \times \frac{H}{h} N_p^y$  subdomains;
- Loosely mesh each one using simplicial and polygonal meshes.



- Two scales  $\frac{H}{h} = 8$  and  $\frac{H}{h} = 16$ .
- Three methods: Hybridized Discontinuous Galerkin (HDG), Hybrid High-Order (HHO) and mixed-order HHO.

# Number of BDDC-GMRES iterations I

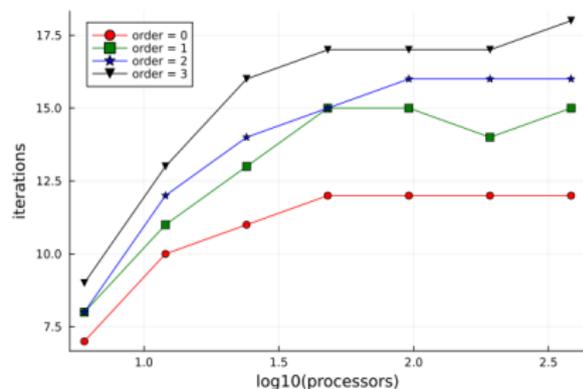
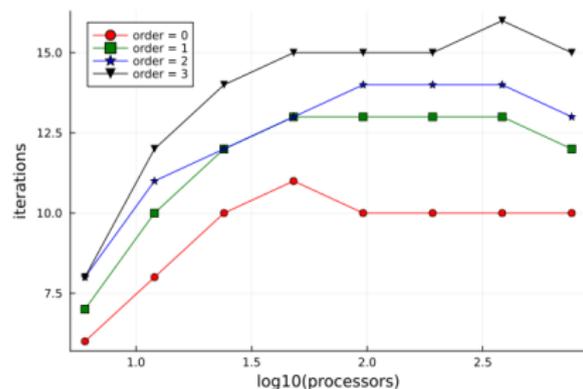


Figure: HDG on simplicial meshes, for  $H/h = 8$  (left) and  $H/h = 16$  (right).

# Number of BDDC-GMRES iterations II

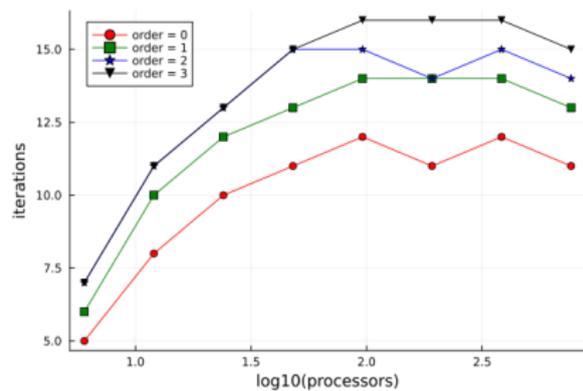
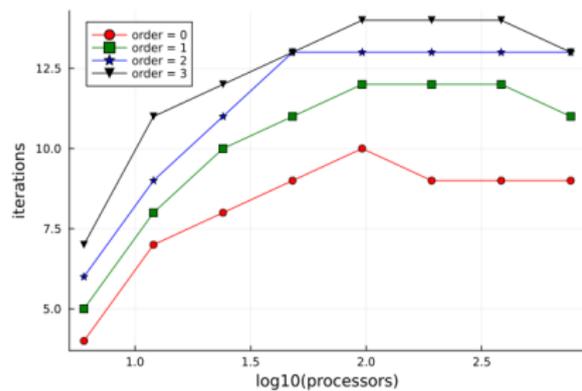


Figure: HHO on simplicial meshes, for  $H/h = 8$  (left) and  $H/h = 16$  (right).

# Number of BDDC-GMRES iterations III

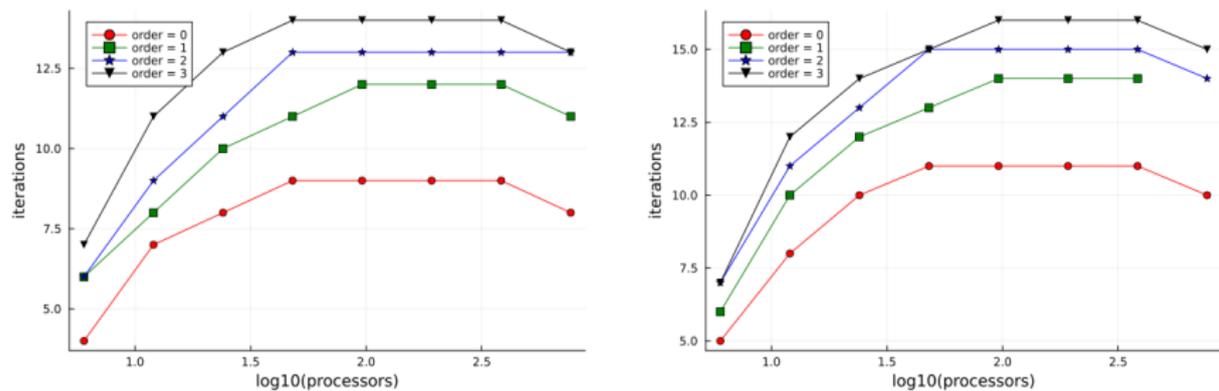


Figure: Mixed-order HHO on simplicial meshes, for  $H/h = 8$  (left) and  $H/h = 16$  (right).

# Number of BDDC-GMRES iterations IV

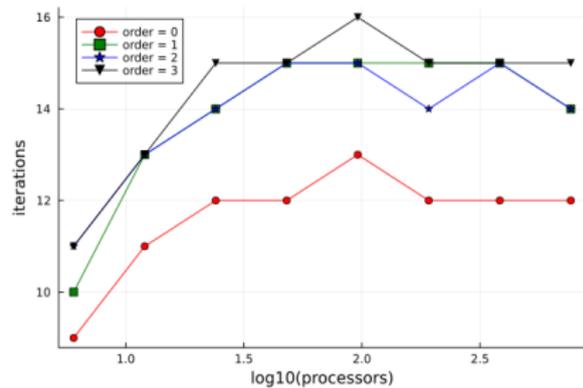
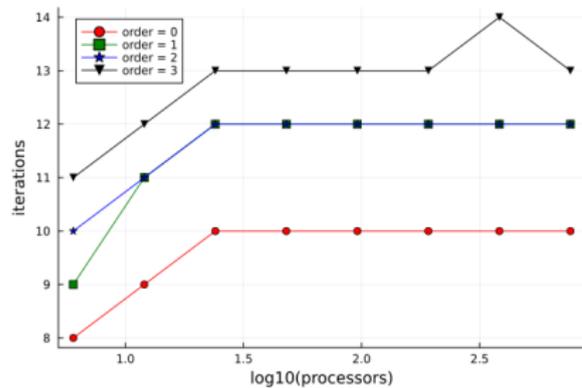


Figure: HDG on polytopal meshes, for  $H/h = 8$  (left) and  $H/h = 16$  (right).

# Number of BDDC-GMRES iterations V

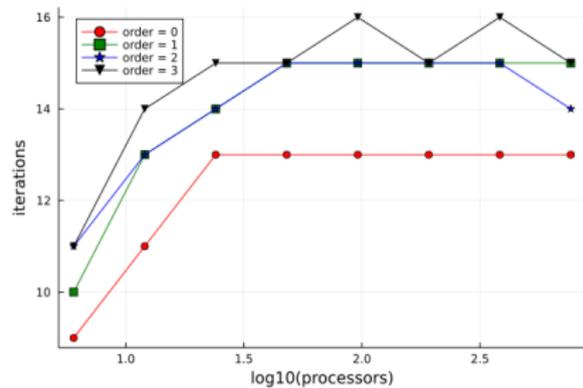
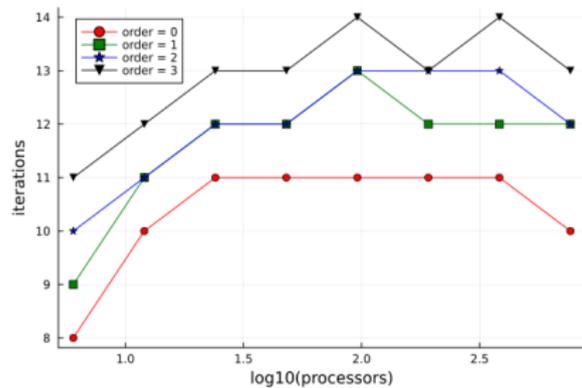


Figure: HHO on polytopal meshes, for  $H/h = 8$  (left) and  $H/h = 16$  (right).

# Number of BDDC-GMRES iterations VI

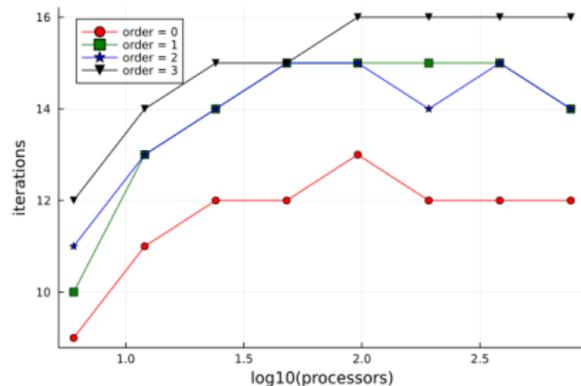
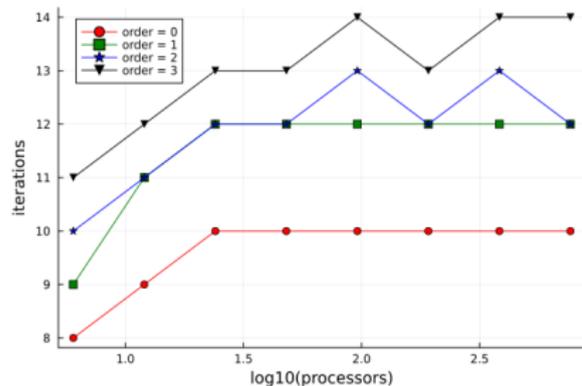


Figure: Mixed-order HHO on polytopal meshes, for  $H/h = 8$  (left) and  $H/h = 16$  (right).

# Conclusions

- Complete **discrete trace theory**, with definition of boundary norm, trace inequality and lifting in discrete spaces of polytopal hybrid methods.
- Applicable to a range of schemes: HHO, VEM, HDG, etc. (and even FEM).
- Constructive proofs, obtained by **mimicking proofs in the continuous setting** (more flexible than looking for lifting in conforming spaces).
- For the moment, requires **quasi-uniform** meshes, but with elements of generic shapes.
- Allows for a **complete analysis of BDDC** (and possibly other DDM) for a range of polytopal methods.



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 **NEMESIS**

New generation  
methods for numerical  
simulations

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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## 5 Elements of proof

### ■ Trace inequality

- Continuous
- Discrete

### ■ Lifting

- Continuous
- Discrete

*Slides*



- 5 Elements of proof
  - Trace inequality
    - Continuous
    - Discrete
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*Slides*



- 5 Elements of proof
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# Estimate I

Starting point: set  $y = x + \rho$  and write

$$\begin{aligned} & u(0, x + \rho) - u(0, x) \\ &= u(0, x + \rho) - u(\rho, x + \rho) + u(\rho, x + \rho) - u(\rho, x) + u(\rho, x) - u(0, x) \\ &= \int_{\rho}^0 \partial_1 u(s, x + \rho) ds + \int_0^{\rho} \partial_2 u(\rho, x + s) ds + \int_0^{\rho} \partial_1 u(s, x) ds. \end{aligned}$$

# Estimate II

Starting point: set  $y = x + \rho$  and write

$$\begin{aligned} & u(0, x + \rho) - u(0, x) \\ &= u(0, x + \rho) - u(\rho, x + \rho) + u(\rho, x + \rho) - u(\rho, x) + u(\rho, x) - u(0, x) \\ &= \int_{\rho}^0 \partial_1 u(s, x + \rho) ds + \int_0^{\rho} \partial_2 u(\rho, x + s) ds + \int_0^{\rho} \partial_1 u(s, x) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Take  $L^2$ -norms w.r.t.  $x$  (swap integrals):

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u(0, \cdot + \rho) - u(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} \\ & \leq \int_0^{\rho} \|\partial_1 u(s, \cdot + \rho)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds + \int_0^{\rho} \|\partial_2 u(\rho, \cdot + s)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds \\ & \quad + \int_0^{\rho} \|\partial_1 u(s, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds \\ & \leq \rho \left( \underbrace{\frac{2}{\rho} \int_0^{\rho} \|\partial_1 u(s, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds}_{=: F_1(\rho)} + \underbrace{\|\partial_2 u(\rho, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}}_{=: F_2(\rho)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Change of variable ( $y = x + \rho$ ) in the  $H^{1/2}$  semi-norm:

$$\begin{aligned} |u(0, \cdot)|_{1/2, \mathbb{R}}^2 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{|u(0, x) - u(0, y)|^2}{|x - y|^2} dx dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\|u(0, \cdot) - u(0, \cdot + \rho)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2}{\rho^2} d\rho \\ &\leq C(\|F_1\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \|F_2\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$F_1(\rho) = \frac{2}{\rho} \int_0^\rho \|\partial_1 u(s, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds, \quad F_2(\rho) = \|\partial_2 u(\rho, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}.$$

$$|u(0, \cdot)|_{1/2, \mathbb{R}}^2 \leq C(\|F_1\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \|F_2\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2)$$

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Conclusion:

$$\|F_2\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 = \|\partial_2 u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}^2 \leq |u|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)}^2.$$

By **Hardy** inequality:

$$\|F_1\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \leq C\|\partial_1 u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}^2 \leq C|u|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)}^2.$$

- 5 Elements of proof
  - Trace inequality
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# Driving principles

- Points become faces.
  - *Continuous  $H^{1/2}$  seminorm integrates over  $x, y$ , discrete  $H^{1/2}$ -seminorm sums over pairs of faces.*

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- Integrate along lines  $\rightsquigarrow$  sum over cells/faces that intersect the line.

$$\int_0^\rho \partial_1 u(s, x) dx \rightsquigarrow \bar{v}_{t_N} - \bar{v}_{f_{N-1}} + \bar{v}_{f_{N-1}} - \bar{v}_{t_{N-1}} + \cdots + \bar{v}_{t_1} - \bar{v}_f$$
$$\lesssim \sum_{t \in \text{Li}(f, t_N)} h^{\frac{2-d}{2}} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}.$$

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- Need a distance between faces/cells: has to be **up to  $h$** .
  - *Cannot consider all  $(f, f') \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}$  such that  $|x_f - x_{f'}| = \rho$  for a given  $\rho$ ... Instead,  $(f, f') \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}$  are “at distance  $\ell h$  of each other” if*  
$$\ell h \leq |x_f - x_{f'}| < (\ell + 1)h.$$
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  - *Integrate vertically to  $\partial\Omega$  then parallel to  $\partial\Omega \rightsquigarrow$  **layers** along  $\partial\Omega$ .*

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- Need to be able to **swap** integrals.
  - *Integrate vertically to  $\partial\Omega$  then parallel to  $\partial\Omega \rightsquigarrow$  **layers** along  $\partial\Omega$ .*
- Need a discrete **Hardy** inequality:  $r_m \geq 0$  and  $R_l := \frac{1}{l} \sum_{m=0}^l r_m$ , then

$$\sum_{l=1}^L R_l^2 \leq 32 \sum_{l=0}^L r_l^2.$$

# Swap integrals and translate

Continuous manipulations: (for  $F_2$ )

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \left\| \int_0^\rho \partial_2 u(\rho, \cdot + s) ds \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} \leq \frac{1}{\rho} \int_0^\rho \|\partial_2 u(\rho, \cdot + s)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds = \|\partial_2 u(\rho, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}.$$

Discrete manipulations:

- Take  $(f, f')$  “within distance  $\ell h$ ” and consider

$$|v_{t_{ff',f}} - v_{t_{ff',f'}}| \lesssim h^{\frac{2-d}{2}} \sum_{t \in \text{Li}(ff'; |x_f - x_{f'}|)} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}.$$

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- Split into layers:

$$|v_{t_{ff',f}} - v_{t_{ff',f'}}| \lesssim h^{\frac{2-d}{2}} \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sum_{\substack{t \in \text{Li}(ff'; |x_f - x_{f'}|) \\ |p(x_t) - x_f| \simeq rh}} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}.$$

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- **Estimate cardinality**  $\#\{t \in \text{Li}(ff'; |x_f - x_{f'}|), |p(x_t) - x_f| \simeq rh\} \lesssim 1$ , so

$$|v_{t_{ff',f}} - v_{t_{ff',f'}}|^2 \lesssim h^{2-d} \ell \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sum_{\substack{t \in \text{Li}(ff'; |x_f - x_{f'}|) \\ |p(x_t) - x_f| \simeq rh}} |v_t|_{1,t}^2.$$

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- Multiply by  $|f| |f'| / |x_f - x_{f'}|^2 \lesssim h^{d-2} / \ell^d$ , sum over  $(f, f')$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{(f, f'), |x_f - x_{f'}| \simeq \ell h} |f| |f'| \frac{|v_{t_{ff',f}} - v_{t_{ff',f'}}|^2}{|x_f - x_{f'}|^2} \\ \lesssim \frac{1}{\ell^{d-1}} \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sum_{(f, f'), |x_f - x_{f'}| \simeq \ell h} \sum_{\substack{t \in \text{Li}(ff'; |x_f - x_{f'}|) \\ |p(x_t) - x_f| \simeq rh}} |v_t|_{1,t}^2. \end{aligned}$$

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- Multiply by  $|f| |f'| / |x_f - x_{f'}|^2 \lesssim h^{d-2} / \ell^d$ , sum over  $(f, f')$ :

$$\frac{1}{\ell^{d-1}} \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sum_{(f, f'), |x_f - x_{f'}| \simeq \ell h} \sum_{\substack{t \in \text{Li}(ff'; |x_f - x_{f'}|) \\ |p(x_t) - x_f| \simeq rh}} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}^2.$$

- Swap sums over faces and cells:

$$\frac{1}{\ell^{d-1}} \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sum_{\{t : (\ell-2)h \leq \text{dist}(p(x_t), \partial\Omega) \leq \ell h\}} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}^2 \#\mathfrak{F}(t, r)$$

where  $\mathfrak{F}(t, r) := \{(f, f') : |x_f - x_{f'}| \simeq \ell h, t \in \text{Li}(ff'; |x_f - x_{f'}|), |p(x_t) - x_f| \simeq rh\}$ .

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- Estimate cardinality:**  $\#\mathfrak{F}(t, r) \lesssim \ell^{d-2}$ , so

$$\frac{1}{\ell} \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sum_{\{t : (\ell-2)h \leq \text{dist}(p(x_t), \partial\Omega) \leq \ell h\}} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}^2 \lesssim \sum_{\{t : (\ell-2)h \leq \text{dist}(p(x_t), \partial\Omega) \leq \ell h\}} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}^2$$

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$$\sum_{\{t : (\ell-2)h \leq \text{dist}(p(x_t), \partial\Omega) \leq \ell h\}} |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}^2$$

- Conclude by summing over  $\ell$  (each layer appears 3 times):

$$3 \sum_t |\underline{v}_t|_{1,t}^2 = 3 |\underline{v}_h|_{1,h}^2$$

## 5 Elements of proof

- Trace inequality
  - Continuous
  - Discrete
- Lifting
  - Continuous
  - Discrete

*Slides*



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# Construction of the lifting

Take  $w \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$  and define  $v \in H^1([0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^{d-1})$  by **by averaging**  $w$  over the base of a cone, which becomes more and more narrow as we get close to the boundary.

With  $\rho_x(\mathbf{y}) = x^{-(d-1)}\rho(x^{-1}\mathbf{y})$  usual smoothing kernel,

$$v(x, \mathbf{y}) = (\rho_x \star w)(\mathbf{y}).$$

# Some arguments in the estimates on partial derivatives

- $\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \partial_i \rho(x^{-1} \mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y} = 0$  to write (for  $i \geq 2$ )

$$\partial_i(\rho_x \star w)(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{x^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (w(\mathbf{z}) - w(\mathbf{y})) \partial_i \rho(x^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})) dz.$$

- $\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} |\partial_i(\rho_x(\mathbf{z}))| dz \leq C/x$  to write, using Cauchy–Schwarz:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} |w(\mathbf{y}) - w(\mathbf{z})| |\partial_i(\rho_x(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}))| dz \right)^2 \\ & \leq \frac{C}{x} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |w(\mathbf{y}) - w(\mathbf{z})|^2 |\partial_i(\rho_x(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}))| dz. \end{aligned}$$

## 5 Elements of proof

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# Construction of the lifting

Also **average on the base of a cone...**

- For  $t \in \mathcal{T}_h$ , set  $\delta_t = \text{dist}(x_t, \partial\Omega)$  and

$$\mathcal{A}_t = \{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}} : \text{dist}(p(x_t), f) \leq \delta_t\}.$$

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- Give to each  $f \in \mathcal{A}_t$  an identical weight:

$$\rho_t(f) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{A}_t} & \text{if } f \in \mathcal{A}_t, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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$$\rho_t(f) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{A}_t} & \text{if } f \in \mathcal{A}_t, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Lift  $w_h = (w_f)_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} \in U_h^{\text{bd}}$  into  $v_h = ((v_t)_{t \in \mathcal{T}_h}, (v_f)_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h})$  such that

$$v_t = \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{A}_t} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{A}_t} \bar{w}_f = \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} \bar{w}_f \rho_t(f)$$

$$v_f = \begin{cases} \frac{v_t + v_{t'}}{2} & \text{if } f \text{ internal face between } t, t' \in \mathcal{T}_h, \\ w_f & \text{if } f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}. \end{cases}$$

# Estimate of $|\underline{v}_h|_{1,h}$

Low order reconstruction: all  $v_t$  are constant, so

$$|\underline{v}_h|_{1,h}^2 \simeq \sum_{(t,t') \text{ neighbours}} h^{d-2} |v_t - v_{t'}|^2.$$

# Estimate of $\|\underline{v}_h\|_{1,h}$ II

## Adaptation of arguments

□ Continuous:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \partial_i \rho(x^{-1} \mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y} = 0$$
$$\rightsquigarrow \partial_i (\rho_x \star w)(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{x^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (w(\mathbf{z}) - w(\mathbf{y})) \partial_i \rho(x^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})) dz \quad \forall \mathbf{y}$$

□ Discrete:

$$\sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} (\rho_t(f) - \rho_{t'}(f)) \left( = \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} \rho_t(f) - \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} \rho_{t'}(f) = 1 - 1 \right) = 0$$
$$\rightsquigarrow v_t - v_{t'} = \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} (\bar{w}_f - \bar{w}_{f'}) D_g \rho(f) \quad \forall f' \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}},$$

where  $D_g \rho(f) = \rho_t(f) - \rho_{t'}(f)$  with  $(t, t')$  cells on each side of  $g \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{in}}$ .

# Estimate of $|\underline{v}_h|_{1,h}$ III

□ Continuous:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} |\partial_i(\rho_x(\mathbf{y}))| d\mathbf{y} &\leq \frac{C}{x} \\ &\rightsquigarrow \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} |w(\mathbf{y}) - w(\mathbf{z})| |\partial_i(\rho_x(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}))| dz \right)^2 \\ &\leq \frac{C}{x} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |w(\mathbf{y}) - w(\mathbf{z})|^2 |\partial_i(\rho_x(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}))| dz. \end{aligned}$$

□ Discrete:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} |D_g \rho(f)| &\lesssim \frac{h}{\delta_t} \\ &\rightsquigarrow |\underline{v}_h|_{1,h}^2 \lesssim \sum_{g \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{in}}} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} (\bar{w}_f - \bar{w}_{f'})^2 |D_g \rho(f)| \frac{h^{d-1}}{\delta_t}. \end{aligned}$$

with  $f' \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}$  such that  $g$  “projects close to  $f'$ ”.

# Estimate of $|\underline{v}_h|_{1,h}$ IV

$$\sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} |D_g \rho_t(f)| = \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} |\rho_t(f) - \rho_{t'}(f)| \lesssim \frac{h}{\delta_t}.$$

Requires:

$$\square \# \mathcal{A}_t \simeq \left(\frac{\delta_t}{h}\right)^{d-1}$$

$$\square \#(\mathcal{A}_t \Delta \mathcal{A}_{t'}) \lesssim \left(\frac{\delta_t}{h}\right)^{d-2}$$

$$\square \forall f \in \mathcal{A}_t \cap \mathcal{A}_{t'}, |\rho_t(f) - \rho_{t'}(f)| \lesssim \left(\frac{h}{\delta_t}\right)^d$$

$$\square |\rho_t(f) - \rho_{t'}(f)| \lesssim \left(\frac{h}{\delta_t}\right)^{d-1}.$$

# Estimate of $|\underline{v}_h|_{1,h} \vee$

$$|\underline{v}_h|_{1,h}^2 \lesssim \sum_{g \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{in}}} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} (\bar{w}_f - \bar{w}_{f'})^2 |D_g \rho(f)| \frac{h^{d-1}}{\delta_t}.$$

Write  $\sum_{g \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{in}}}$  as  $\sum_{f' \in \mathcal{F}_h^{\text{bd}}} \sum_{g \text{ above } f'}$  and conclude by proving

$$\sum_{g \text{ above } f'} |D_g \rho(f)| \frac{h^{d-1}}{\delta_t} \lesssim \frac{|f| |f'|}{|x_f - x_{f'}|^d}.$$