

Conforming lifting, quasi-interpolators and Maxwell compactness for a polytopal de Rham complex

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*joint works with: T. Chaumont-Frelet & S. Lemaire
(and D. Di Pietro & S. Pitassi)*

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Frontiers in Numerical Methods for Nonlinear PDEs (2025)



References for this presentation

- *Commuting quasi-interpolators and Maxwell compactness for a polytopal de Rham complex*,
T. Chaumont-Frelet, J. Droniou and S. Lemaire (2025), 29p.
<https://hal.science/hal-05304175>
- *Conforming lifting and adjoint consistency for the Discrete de Rham complex of differential forms*,
D. A. Di Pietro, J. Droniou and S. Pitassi (2025), 28p.
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.21449>

Outline

- 1 Maxwell compactness: why?
- 2 Polytopal meshes: why?
- 3 Overview of the Discrete De Rham method
 - Generic principles
 - Discrete $\boldsymbol{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ space and curl/potential reconstructions
 - The DDR complex and its properties
- 4 Quasi-interpolator for DDR
- 5 Conforming lifting for DDR (with D. Pietro and S. Pitassi)
- 6 Maxwell compactness for DDR

Slides



Minimal-regularity de Rham complex

Ω open bounded set of $\mathbb{R}^3$.

- $H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) = \{q \in L^2(\Omega) : \mathbf{grad} \, q \in L^2(\Omega)^3\}$.
- $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) = \{\mathbf{v} \in L^2(\Omega)^3 : \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{v} \in L^2(\Omega)^3\}$.
- $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) = \{\mathbf{w} \in L^2(\Omega)^3 : \mathbf{div} \, \mathbf{w} \in L^2(\Omega)\}$.

$$H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} L^2(\Omega)$$

Theorem

If $(q_n)_n$ is bounded in $H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega)$ then $(q_n)_n$ is relatively compact in $L^2(\Omega)$.

- *Relatively easy because $\mathbf{grad}$ controls the variations in all directions.*

Theorem

If $(\mathbf{v}_n)_n$ is bounded in $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)$ and

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{v}_n \cdot \mathbf{grad} z = 0 \quad \forall z \in H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega),$$

then $(\mathbf{v}_n)_n$ is relatively compact in $L^2(\Omega)^3$.

- Also a version for sequences in $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$ that are orthogonal to curls.

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- Also a version for sequences in $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$ that are orthogonal to curls.
- **Much more challenging than Rellich:** **curl** does not control the variations of the function [Weber, 1980], [Jochmann, 1997].

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- Also a version for sequences in $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$ that are orthogonal to curls.
- **Much more challenging than Rellich:** **curl** does not control the variations of the function [Weber, 1980], [Jochmann, 1997].
- Orthogonality condition equivalent to $\mathbf{div} \mathbf{v}_n = 0$ and $\mathbf{v}_n \cdot \mathbf{n}_{\Omega} = 0$.

Uses of Maxwell compactness

- Bound of **curl** and zero div classical in curl-div problems, such as models in electromagnetism (possibly using vector potential fixed by gauge).
- Compactness required for **eigenvalue analysis** and **nonlinear models**.
- Convergence analysis of schemes requires **discrete versions of this compactness**; see, e.g., [Kikuchi, 1987] for eigenvalue problems.
- Discrete compactness also allows for fine convergence analysis of schemes, possibly with models with **rough coefficients** [Chaumont-Frelet and Ern, 2023], [Chaumont-Frelet and Ern, 2024].

Outline

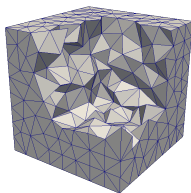
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Slides



The Finite Element way

Global complex



$\mathcal{T}_h = \{T\}$ conforming tetrahedral/hexahedral mesh.

- Define **local polynomial spaces** on each element, and **glue them together** to form a sub-complex of the de Rham complex:

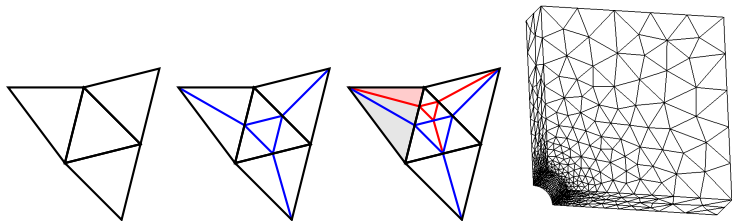
$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} V_h^0 & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & V_h^1 & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & V_h^2 & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & V_h^3 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H(\text{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\text{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \end{array}$$

Example: conforming $\mathcal{P}^k$ -Nédélec–Raviart–Thomas spaces [Arnold, 2018].

- Gluing only works on special meshes...**

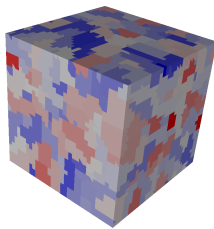
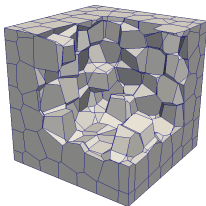
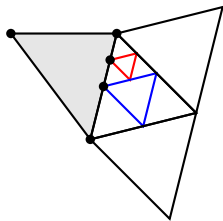
The Finite Element way

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 seamlessly **adapted to the solution** (e.g. hexahedra in boundary layers + tetrahedra in the bulk for CFD simulations)
- Need for (global) basis functions
 - ⇒ significant increase of DOFs on hexahedral elements

Benefits of polytopal meshes

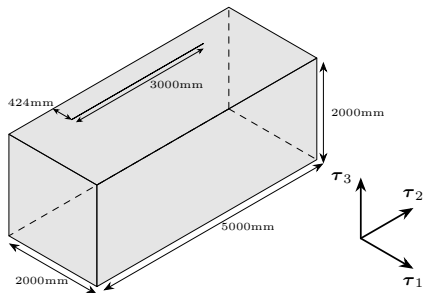


- **Local refinement** is easy, and preserves mesh regularity.
- **Agglomeration of elements** (e.g., for multigrid methods) is seamless.
- High-level approach can lead to **leaner methods** (fewer DOFs).
- Can be **combined with standard Finite Elements** on hybrid meshes (made of tetrahedra/hexahedra + polyhedral elements).

A practical example from CEA-CESTA

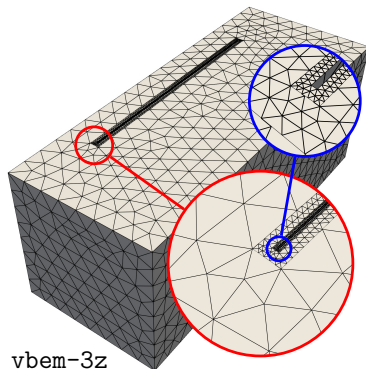
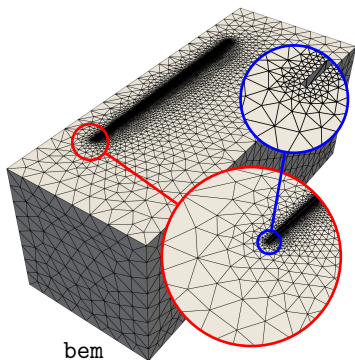
[Touzalin, 2025]

Problem: use a boundary element method to analyse the shielding effectiveness of a perfectly conductive box with a very small slit.



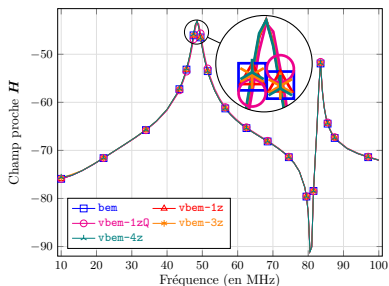
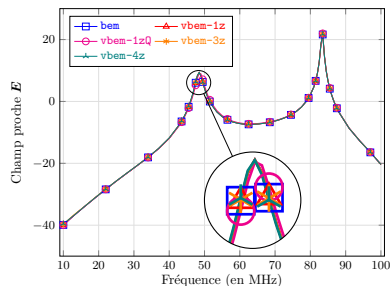
A practical example from CEA-CESTA

Meshes: conforming triangular for finite-element boundary method (bem), non-conforming triangular (polygonal) for virtual element boundary method (vbem-3z).



A practical example from CEA-CESTA

Accuracy: comparison of modulus of reflected near fields at the top.



Computational cost

<i>Method</i>	<i>Assembly</i>	<i>Resolution</i>
bem	813s	125s
vbem-3z	321s	19s

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Slides



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Slides



Overview of the Discrete De Rham (DDR) complex

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

- **Fully discrete complex** (not sub-complex) of bespoke finite-dimensional spaces and operators.
- Discrete spaces **not made of functions** but:

- $\underline{X}_{\bullet,h}^k$ made of vectors of **polynomials on vertices, edges, faces, elements**.
- **Discrete operators** (differential and function reconstructions) built from these DOFs via integration-by-parts formulas.

Overview of the Discrete De Rham (DDR) complex

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc}
 \mathbb{R} & \hookrightarrow & C^\infty(\overline{\Omega}) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & C^\infty(\overline{\Omega})^3 & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & C^\infty(\overline{\Omega})^3 & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & C^\infty(\overline{\Omega}) & \xrightarrow{0} & \{0\} \\
 & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\text{grad},h}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\text{curl},h}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\text{div},h}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{L^2,h}^k & & \\
 \mathbb{R} & \longrightarrow & \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} & \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) & \xrightarrow{0} & \{0\}
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- $\underline{X}_{\bullet,h}^k$ made of vectors of **polynomials on vertices, edges, faces, elements**.
- **Discrete operators** (differential and function reconstructions) built from these DOFs via integration-by-parts formulas.
- **Interpolators** $\underline{I}_{\bullet,h}^k$ give meaning to these polynomials/DOFs as moments.

Guiding principles for the construction

Joint work with D. Di Pietro and F. Rapetti.

(Ref: [Di Pietro et al., 2020], [Di Pietro and Droniou, 2023].)

- **Hierarchical** construction: from vertices, to edges, to faces, to elements.
- **Enhancement**: on each (relevant) mesh entity,
 - **discrete differential operator** first,
 - **potential reconstruction** using the discrete differential operator.
(both polynomially consistent, both based on IBP formulas.)
- The definition of the **spaces (DOFs)** also guided by these IBP formulas.

Same guiding principles as the Hybrid High-Order (HHO) method

[Di Pietro et al., 2014], [Di Pietro and Droniou, 2020].

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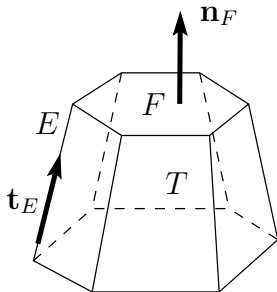
Slides



Mesh notations

- Mesh $\mathcal{M}_h = (\mathcal{T}_h, \mathcal{F}_h, \mathcal{E}_h, \mathcal{V}_h)$ of elements (T), faces (F), edges (E), vertices (V), with intrinsic orientations (tangent, normal).
- $\mathcal{P}^\ell(X)$ polynomial of degree $\leq \ell$ on $X = T, F, E$.
- Raviart–Thomas space on $X = T, F$: for $\ell \geq 0$,

$$\mathcal{RT}^\ell(X) = \mathcal{P}^{\ell-1}(X) \oplus (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_X)\mathcal{P}^{\ell-1}(X).$$



Space and interpolator

Space: fix $k \geq 0$ and set

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k &:= \{ \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h = ((\mathbf{v}_T)_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h}, (\mathbf{v}_F)_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h}, (v_E)_{E \in \mathcal{E}_h}), \\ &\quad \mathbf{v}_T \in \mathcal{RT}^k(T) \quad \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h, \quad \mathbf{v}_F \in \mathcal{RT}^k(F) \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_h, \\ &\quad v_E \in \mathcal{P}^k(E) \quad \forall E \in \mathcal{E}_h \}.\end{aligned}$$

Interpolators: for $\mathbf{v} : \overline{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that the **tangential traces** $\mathbf{v}_{\text{t},E}$, $\mathbf{v}_{\text{t},F}$ of $\mathbf{v}$ on each E, F are single-valued and integrable,

$$\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v} := ((\pi_{\mathcal{RT},T}^k \mathbf{v})_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h}, (\pi_{\mathcal{RT},F}^k \mathbf{v}_{\text{t},F})_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h}, (\pi_{\mathcal{P},E}^k(\mathbf{v}_{\text{t},E}))_{E \in \mathcal{E}_h}),$$

where $\pi_{\mathcal{RT},X}^k$ and $\pi_{\mathcal{P},X}^k$ are the $L^2(X)$ -orthogonal projection on $\mathcal{RT}^k(X)$ and $\mathcal{P}^k(X)$.

Operators and potential reconstructions

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k &:= \{ \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h = ((\mathbf{v}_T)_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h}, (\mathbf{v}_F)_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h}, (v_E)_{E \in \mathcal{E}_h}), \\ &\quad \mathbf{v}_T \in \mathcal{RT}^k(T) \quad \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h, \quad \mathbf{v}_F \in \mathcal{RT}^k(F) \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}_h, \\ &\quad v_E \in \mathcal{P}^k(E) \quad \forall E \in \mathcal{E}_h \}.\end{aligned}$$

Face curl: For $F \in \mathcal{F}_h$ and $\underline{\mathbf{v}}_h \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k$, define $C_F^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h \in \mathcal{P}^k(F)$ by mimicking IBP:

$$\int_F (C_F^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h) r = \int_F \mathbf{v}_F \cdot \mathbf{rot}_F r - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E v_E r \quad \forall r \in \mathcal{P}^k(F).$$

Operators and potential reconstructions

Face curl:

$$\int_F (C_F^k \underline{v}_h) r = \int_F \mathbf{v}_F \cdot \mathbf{rot}_F r - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E v_E r \quad \forall r \in \mathcal{P}^k(F).$$

Reconstructed face tangential trace: Define $\gamma_{t,F}^k \underline{v}_F \in \mathcal{P}^k(F)$ such that, for all $r \in \mathcal{P}^{k+1}(F)$ and $\mathbf{w} \in (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_F) \mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)$,

$$\int_F \gamma_{t,F}^k \underline{v}_h \cdot (\mathbf{rot}_F r + \mathbf{w}) = \int_F \mathbf{C}_F^k \underline{v}_h r + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E v_E r + \int_F \mathbf{v}_F \cdot \mathbf{w}.$$

Operators and potential reconstructions

Face curl:

$$\int_F (C_F^k \underline{v}_h) r = \int_F \mathbf{v}_F \cdot \mathbf{rot}_F r - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_F} \omega_{FE} \int_E v_E r \quad \forall r \in \mathcal{P}^k(F).$$

Reconstructed face tangential trace:

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Element curl and potential: $\mathbf{C}_T^k \underline{v}_h \in \mathcal{P}^k(T)$ and $\mathbf{P}_{\text{curl},T}^k \underline{v}_T \in \mathcal{P}^k(T)$ also by mimicking IBP.

All have polynomial consistency, e.g.:

$$\mathbf{C}_T^k \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{v} \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{N}^{k+1}(T) \quad (\text{Nédélec space}).$$

$\underline{C}_h^k : \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \rightarrow \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k$ by projecting face and element reconstructed curls onto the components in

$$\underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k := \left\{ \underline{z}_T = ((z_T)_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h}, (z_F)_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h}) : \right. \\ \left. z_T \in \mathcal{N}^k(T), z_F \in \mathcal{P}^k(F) \right\},$$

that is,

$$\underline{C}_h^k \underline{v}_h = ((\pi_{\mathcal{N},T}^k \mathbf{C}_T^k \underline{v}_h)_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h}, (C_F^k \underline{v}_h)_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h}).$$

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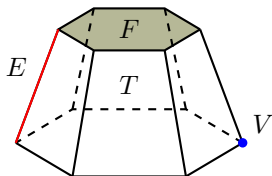
Slides



DDR complex: summary

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

- Do not seek any basis functions.
- Fully discrete spaces not made of functions, but of vectors of polynomials (DOFs).
- Polynomials attached to **geometric entities** (emulates continuity properties of each space).
- Polynomial reconstructions of differential operator and potential by mimicking IBPs.



L^2 -like inner products

- Local L^2 -like inner product on the DDR spaces:

for $\bullet \in \{\mathbf{grad}, \mathbf{curl}, \mathbf{div}\}$ and $k_{\mathbf{grad}} = k + 1$, $k_{\mathbf{curl}} = k_{\mathbf{div}} = k$,

$$(x_T, y_T)_{\bullet, T} = \int_T P_{\bullet, T}^{k_{\bullet}} x_T \cdot P_{\bullet, T}^{k_{\bullet}} y_T + s_{\bullet, T}(x_T, y_T) \quad \forall x_T, y_T \in \underline{X}_{\bullet}^k(T),$$

($s_{\bullet, T}$ penalises differences on the boundary between element and face/edge potentials).

- Global L^2 -like product $(\cdot, \cdot)_{\bullet, h}$ by standard assembly of local ones.

DOF by mesh entities

Space	V	E	F	T
$\underline{X}_{\mathbf{grad},T}^k$	$\mathbb{R}$	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(E)$	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(F)$	$\mathcal{P}^{k-1}(T)$
$\underline{X}_{\mathbf{curl},T}^k$		$\mathcal{P}^k(E)$	$\mathcal{RT}^k(F)$	$\mathcal{RT}^k(T)$
$\underline{X}_{\mathbf{div},T}^k$			$\mathcal{P}^k(F)$	$\mathcal{N}^k(T)$
$\mathcal{P}^k(T)$				$\mathcal{P}^k(T)$

The DDR complex and its properties

- Complex with the **same cohomology** as the continuous de Rham complex, applicable on generic **polytopal** meshes.
- **Poincaré inequalities**.
- **Consistency** (both primal and adjoint).
- **Commutation properties** between the interpolators and the continuous/discrete operators.

[Di Pietro et al., 2020], [Di Pietro et al., 2023], [Di Pietro and Hanot, 2024],
[Di Pietro and Droniou, 2021a]

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↪ **optimally-convergent** schemes (error in $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1})$) for a range of models: magnetostatics, Stokes & Navier–Stokes, etc.

↪ **robust error estimates** with respect to some physical parameters.

[Di Pietro and Droniou, 2021b], [Beirão da Veiga et al., 2022]

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Slides



Where this happened



Where this happened



Construction of the quasi-interpolator

Quasi-interpolator on FE space: with $\mathcal{S}_h$ simplicial mesh and $\ell \geq 1$,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\ \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S}_h}^\ell \\ V_{\mathbf{grad}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & V_{\mathbf{curl}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & V_{\mathbf{div}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & \mathcal{P}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) \end{array}$$

where $V_{\mathbf{grad}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h)$, $V_{\mathbf{curl}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h)$ and $V_{\mathbf{div}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h)$ are the conforming Lagrange, Nédélec and Raviart–Thomas finite element spaces.

[Ern et al., 2022], [Chaumont-Frelet and Vohralík, 2024]

Construction of the quasi-interpolator

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\
 \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S}_h}^\ell \\
 V_{\mathbf{grad}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & V_{\mathbf{curl}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & V_{\mathbf{div}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & \mathcal{P}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h)
 \end{array}$$

Quasi-interpolator on DDR: take $\mathcal{S}_h$ matching simplicial submesh of $\mathcal{T}_h$, $\ell \geq k + 1$, and interpolate from the FE spaces...

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\
 \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S}_h}^\ell \\
 V_{\mathbf{grad}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & V_{\mathbf{curl}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & V_{\mathbf{div}}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & \mathcal{P}^\ell(\mathcal{S}_h) \\
 \downarrow \underline{I}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathcal{P}, h}^k \\
 \underline{X}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{\mathcal{G}}_h} & \underline{X}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{\mathcal{C}}_h} & \underline{X}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{D_h^k} & \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{S}_h)
 \end{array}$$

A kind of magic...

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\
 \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^\ell & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathcal{P}, S_h}^\ell \\
 V_{\mathbf{grad}}^\ell(S_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & V_{\mathbf{curl}}^\ell(S_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & V_{\mathbf{div}}^\ell(S_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & \mathcal{P}^\ell(S_h) \\
 \downarrow \underline{I}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k & & \downarrow \underline{I}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathcal{P}, h}^k \\
 \underline{X}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_h^k} & \underline{X}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{C}_h^k} & \underline{X}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{D_h^k} & \mathcal{P}^k(S_h)
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 \end{array}$$

Why does this work?

- $\underline{I}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k$, $\underline{I}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k$ and $\underline{I}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k$ can be applied to functions that have **suitable single-valued traces on mesh entities**.
 (e.g., single-valued tangential traces on edges and faces for $\underline{I}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k$)

A kind of magic...

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
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 V_{\text{grad}}^\ell(S_h) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & V_{\text{curl}}^\ell(S_h) & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & V_{\text{div}}^\ell(S_h) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & \mathcal{P}^\ell(S_h) \\
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Why does this work?

- $\underline{I}_{\text{grad}, h}^k$, $\underline{I}_{\text{curl}, h}^k$ and $\underline{I}_{\text{div}, h}^k$ can be applied to functions that have **suitable single-valued traces on mesh entities**.
(e.g., single-valued tangential traces on edges and faces for $\underline{I}_{\text{curl}, h}^k$)
- The FE spaces $V_{\text{grad}}^\ell(S_h)$, $V_{\text{curl}}^\ell(S_h)$ and $V_{\text{div}}^\ell(S_h)$ have such suitable traces!

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\
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 \end{array}$$

- **Bounded cochain maps:** diagram commutes and the interpolators are continuous.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & H(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & H(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\
 \downarrow \hat{\underline{I}}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k & & \downarrow \hat{\underline{I}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k & & \downarrow \hat{\underline{I}}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathcal{P}, S_h}^k \\
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 \end{array}$$

- **Primal consistency:** for $\bullet \in \{\mathbf{grad}, \mathbf{curl}, \mathbf{div}\}$ and $\tilde{T}$ set of neighbours (by vertices) of T ,

$$\|z - P_{\bullet, T}^{k, \bullet} \hat{\underline{I}}_{\bullet, T}^k z\|_{L^2(T)} \lesssim \left(\sum_{T' \in \tilde{T}} \left[\|z - \pi_{\mathcal{P}, T'}^{k, \bullet} z\|_{L^2(T')}^2 + h_T^2 \|(\bullet z) - \pi_{\mathcal{P}, T'}^{k, \bullet}(\bullet z)\|_{L^2(T')}^2 \right] \right)^{1/2}.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\
 \downarrow \hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k & & \downarrow \hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k & & \downarrow \hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S}_h}^k \\
 \underline{X}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{\mathbf{G}}_h^k} & \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k} & \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{div}, h}^k & \xrightarrow{D_h^k} & \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{S}_h)
 \end{array}$$

- Adjoint consistency: measures defect of discrete IBP, using minimal regularity.

Example: for $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \cap \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}; \Omega)$ such that $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Omega \in L^2(\partial\Omega)$, and $\underline{q}_h \in \underline{X}_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^k$,

$$\left| (\hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\mathbf{curl}, h}^k \mathbf{v}, \underline{\mathbf{G}}_h^k \underline{q}_h)_{\mathbf{curl}, h} + \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{div}(\mathbf{v}) P_{\mathbf{grad}, h}^{k+1} \underline{q}_h - \int_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Omega \gamma_{\partial\Omega}^{k+1} \underline{q}_h \right| \lesssim A_h(\mathbf{v}) \left(\|\underline{q}_h\|_{\mathbf{grad}, h} + \|\underline{\mathbf{G}}_h^k \underline{q}_h\|_{\mathbf{curl}, h} \right),$$

with $A_h(\mathbf{v}) \rightarrow 0$ as $h \rightarrow 0$.

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- 2 Polytopal meshes: why?
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Slides



The curl case

Theorem (Conforming lifting)

There exists $\mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k : \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k \rightarrow \mathbf{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ such that, for all $\underline{v}_h \in \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k$,

$$\pi_{\mathcal{RT},T}^{k+1}(\mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h) = \mathbf{P}_{\text{curl},T}^k \underline{v}_h \quad \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h,$$

$$\underline{I}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h = \underline{v}_h,$$

$$\|\mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h\|_{L^2(T)} \lesssim \|\underline{v}_h\|_{\text{curl},T},$$

$$\|\text{curl } \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h\|_{L^2(T)} \lesssim \|\underline{C}_h^k \underline{v}_h\|_{\text{div},T}.$$

- $\mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h \in \mathcal{N}^{k+3}(\mathcal{S}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega)$, with $\mathcal{S}_h$ matching simplicial submesh of $\mathcal{T}_h$. Hence, tangential traces of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h$ are well-defined, and

$$\hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\text{curl},h}^{k+3} \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h = \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h, \quad \text{so} \quad \hat{\underline{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h = \underline{v}_h.$$

The curl case

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$$\|\text{curl } \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{L^2(T)} \lesssim \|\underline{\mathbf{C}}_h^k \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{\text{div},T}.$$

- **Not based** on local solutions to PDEs, but rather by solving local algebraic problems in cochains and trimmed polynomial spaces.

$\rightsquigarrow$ fine estimates, not a virtual function, no limit on dimension....

The curl case

Theorem (Conforming lifting)

There exists $\mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k : \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \rightarrow \mathbf{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ such that, for all $\underline{\mathbf{v}}_h \in \underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k$,

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- Used to prove **adjoint consistency**, as well as **Maxwell compactness**.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & H(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & H(\mathbf{div}; \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\ \updownarrow & & \updownarrow & & \updownarrow & & \updownarrow \\ H\Lambda^0(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{d^0} & H\Lambda^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{d^1} & H\Lambda^2(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{d^2} & L^2\Lambda^3(\Omega) \end{array}$$

- $\Lambda^\ell(\Omega)$: (alternate multilinear) ℓ -forms on Ω .
- $d^\ell : \Lambda^\ell(\Omega) \rightarrow \Lambda^{\ell+1}(\Omega)$: exterior derivative.
- Allows for a **unified analysis** of all spaces/operators along the complex.

Exterior calculus DDR

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{G}_h^k} & \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{C}_h^k} & \underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k & \xrightarrow{D_h^k} & \mathcal{P}^k(\mathcal{T}_h) \\ \updownarrow & & \updownarrow & & \updownarrow & & \updownarrow \\ \underline{X}_{0,h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{d}_{0,h}} & \underline{X}_{1,h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{d}^{1,h}} & \underline{X}_{2,h}^k & \xrightarrow{\underline{d}^{2,h}} & \underline{X}_{3,h}^k \end{array}$$

- $\underline{X}_h^\ell$: discrete DDR space of ℓ -forms on Ω .
- $\underline{d}_h^\ell$: discrete exterior derivative.
- Allows for a **unified design and analysis** of DDR and related tools.

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Slides



Theorem (Maxwell compactness for DDR)

Let $\underline{v}_h \in \underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k$ be such that

$$(\|\underline{v}_h\|_{\text{curl},h} + \|\underline{C}_h^k \underline{v}_h\|_{\text{div},h})_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \text{ is bounded,}$$

$$(\underline{v}_h, \underline{G}_h^k q_h)_{\text{curl},h} = 0 \quad \forall q_h \in \underline{X}_{\text{grad},h}^k.$$

Then, there exists $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega) \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\text{div}; \Omega)$ such that $\text{div}(\mathbf{v}) \equiv 0$ and, up to a subsequence as $h \rightarrow 0$, $\mathbf{P}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h \rightarrow \mathbf{v}$ in $L^2(\Omega)^3$.

Also valid in $\underline{X}_{\text{div},h}^k$, for sequence of vectors with *bounded discrete divergence* and that are *orthogonal to discrete curls*.

Sketch of proof: initial stages

- Weak convergence: of $P_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h$ towards the same limit $\underline{v} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{curl}; \Omega)$.

(Same limit for both because $\pi_{\mathcal{RT},T}^{k+1}(\mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h) = P_{\text{curl},T}^k \underline{v}_h$.)

- $\underline{v} \in \mathbf{H}_0(\text{div}; \Omega)$: for all $q \in C^\infty(\overline{\Omega})$, use **primal consistency** on

$$(\underline{v}_h, \underline{I}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{grad} q)_{\text{curl},h} = (\underline{v}_h, \underline{G}_h^k \underline{I}_{\mathbf{grad},h}^k q)_{\text{curl},h} = 0$$

to get

$$\int_{\Omega} \underline{v} \cdot \mathbf{grad} q = 0.$$

Sketch of proof: strong convergence

- *Hodge decomposition:*

$$\boldsymbol{v} - \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{curl},h}^k \boldsymbol{v}_h = \boldsymbol{w}(h) + \mathbf{grad} q(h)$$

with $q(h) \in H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega)$ and $\boldsymbol{w}(h) \in \boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)$ bounded in their spaces,
and

$$\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{w}(h) \cdot \mathbf{grad} z = 0 \quad \forall z \in H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega).$$

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- $(\mathbf{w}(h))_h$ relatively compact in L^2 by continuous Maxwell compactness.
- We have $\mathbf{v} \perp \mathbf{grad} q(h)$ and, morally,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v}_h \perp \mathbf{grad} q(h)$$

since $(\mathbf{v}_h, \mathbf{G}_h^k \cdot)_{\mathbf{curl},h} = 0$. This should give $\mathbf{grad} q(h) \simeq 0 \dots$

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- However, we only have

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v}_h \cdot \mathbf{grad} q(h) \right| \leq C(q(h)) o(1)$$

where $C(q(h))$ bounded if $(q(h))_h$ is relatively compact in $H(\mathbf{grad}, \Omega)$.

Sketch of proof: strong convergence

So, what do we do?

Sketch of proof: strong convergence

So, what do we do?



Sketch of proof: strong convergence

So, what do we do?



We go **fully discrete**, to avoid trading the exact orthogonality $(\underline{v}_h, \underline{G}_h^k)_{\text{curl},h} = 0$ for an approximate orthogonality.

Sketch of proof: strong convergence

$$\boldsymbol{v} - \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \boldsymbol{v}_h = \boldsymbol{w}(h) + \mathbf{grad} \, q(h)$$

- Quasi-interpolate and use $\hat{\boldsymbol{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \boldsymbol{v}_h = \boldsymbol{v}_h$ as well as the commuting properties:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{v}_h = \hat{\boldsymbol{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \boldsymbol{w}(h) + \boldsymbol{G}_h^k(\hat{\boldsymbol{I}}_{\text{grad},h}^k q(h)).$$

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- Quasi-interpolate and use $\hat{\underline{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathcal{L}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v}_h = \underline{v}_h$ as well as the commuting properties:

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- Take the $\underline{X}_{\text{curl},h}^k$ -inner product and use the discrete orthogonality:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{\underline{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v} - \underline{v}_h\|_{\text{curl},h}^2 &= (\hat{\underline{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v} - \underline{v}_h, \hat{\underline{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{w}(h))_{\text{curl},h} \\ &\quad + (\hat{\underline{I}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \underline{v} - \cancel{\underline{v}_h}, \underline{G}_h^k (\hat{\underline{I}}_{\text{grad},h}^k q(h)))_{\text{curl},h} \\ &= \mathfrak{T}_1 + \mathfrak{T}_2. \end{aligned}$$

Sketch of proof: strong convergence

- Take the $\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{curl},h}^k$ -inner product and use the discrete orthogonality:

$$\begin{aligned}\|\hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v} - \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h\|_{\text{curl},h}^2 &= (\hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v} - \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h, \hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{w}(h))_{\text{curl},h} \\ &\quad + (\hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v}, \underline{\mathbf{G}}_h^k(\hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\text{grad},h}^k q(h)))_{\text{curl},h} \\ &= \mathfrak{T}_1 + \mathfrak{T}_2.\end{aligned}$$

- $\hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v} - \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h$ converges weakly to 0, $(\mathbf{w}_h)_h$ relatively compact in L^2 : by primal consistency,

$$\mathfrak{T}_1 \rightarrow 0.$$

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- $\hat{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}_{\text{curl},h}^k \mathbf{v} - \underline{\mathbf{v}}_h$ converges weakly to 0, $(\mathbf{w}_h)_h$ relatively compact in L^2 : by **primal consistency**,

$$\mathfrak{T}_1 \rightarrow 0.$$

- Use **adjoint consistency** on the second term together with $\text{div } \mathbf{v} = 0$ to get

$$\mathfrak{T}_2 \rightarrow 0.$$

Conclusions

- DDR: Arbitrary-order de Rham complex, applicable on **generic polyhedra**, but compatible with FE methods. Full set of **algebraic and analytic** results (cohomology, consistencies, Poincaré inequalities, etc.)
- **Quasi-interpolator** to interpolate minimal-regularity functions onto DDR.
- **Conforming lifting** into finite element spaces (on submesh): tool to import results of conforming space into DDR.
- **Maxwell compactness** for DDR, allows for analysis of eigenvalue problems and nonlinear PDEs.

<https://math.unice.fr/~massonr/Cours-DDR/Cours-DDR.html>



COURSE OF JEROME DRONIOU FROM MONASH UNIVERSITY, INVITED PROFESSOR AT UCA

- **Introduction to Discrete De Rham complexes**

- Short description (in french)
- Summary of notations and formulas
- Part 1, first course: the de Rham complex and its usefulness in PDEs, 22/09/22 (video)
- Part 1, second course: Low order case, 29/09/22 (video)
- Part 1, third course: Design of the DDR complex in 2D, 07/10/22 (video)
- Part 1, fourth course: Exactness of the DDR complex in 2D, 10/10/22 (video)
- Part 2, fifth course: DDR in 3D, analysis tools, 17/11/22 (video)



Funded by
the European Union



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Established by the European Commission



New generation
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Funded by the European Union (ERC Synergy, NEMESIS, project number 101115663). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Thank you for your attention!

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