

# Flux based finite element methods

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## Model problem

$$\begin{aligned}Lu &= -\nabla \cdot \mathcal{A}\nabla u = f \text{ in } \Omega \\ u &= 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega.\end{aligned}$$

**Goal:** approximation of the flux  $\sigma = -\mathcal{A}\nabla u$  (and more)

## Finite Element methods

1. Standard Galerkin method.(post-processing for the flux variable)

$$(\mathcal{A}\nabla u, \nabla v) = (f, v)$$

2. Mixed Galerkin method.(more degrees of freedom) (A. Alonso, C. Carstenson, A. Demlow, M. Fortin, R. Hoppe, R. Raviart, J. Thomas)

$$\begin{aligned}(\mathcal{A}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) - (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}, u) &= 0, \\ (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, v) &= (f, v)\end{aligned}$$

3. Least-squares Finite Element method.(more degree of freedom) (Z. Cai, G. Carey, R. Lazarov, T. Manteuffel, S. McCormick, A. Pehlivanov, P. Vassilevski)

## Model problem

$$\begin{aligned}Lu &= -\nabla \cdot \mathcal{A}\nabla u = f \text{ in } \Omega \\ u &= 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega.\end{aligned}$$

## First-order system

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma + \mathcal{A}\nabla u &= 0 \text{ on } \Omega, \\ \nabla \cdot \sigma &= f \text{ on } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega.\end{aligned}$$

## Solution spaces

$$\begin{aligned}u &\in V := H_0^1(\Omega), \\ \sigma &\in W := H(\text{div}) = \{\sigma \in L^2; \nabla \cdot \sigma \in L^2\}.\end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mathbf{X} = V \times W$

## Least-squares finite element method

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + (\mathcal{A}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathcal{A}\nabla u), \boldsymbol{\tau} + \mathcal{A}\nabla v) = (f, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau})$$

## Least-squares finite element method

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + (\mathcal{A}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathcal{A}\nabla u), \boldsymbol{\tau} + \mathcal{A}\nabla v) = (f, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau})$$

Introduce a weight  $\delta$ , (small such as  $h^2$ )

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathcal{A}\nabla u), \boldsymbol{\tau} + \mathcal{A}\nabla v) = (f, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau})$$

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Take  $v=0$ , then

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathcal{A}\nabla u), \boldsymbol{\tau}) = (f, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau})$$

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Take  $v=0$ , then

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathcal{A}\nabla u), \boldsymbol{\tau}) = (f, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau})$$

Move  $\delta(\nabla u, \boldsymbol{\tau})$  to the right and use integration by parts,

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) = (f, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + \delta(u, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}).$$



## Reduced (Hybrid) Finite Element Method

**Step 1 (Coarse-grid solution)** On a coarse mesh  $\mathcal{T}_H$ , obtain the standard Galerkin solution  $u_H^G$  satisfying

$$(\mathcal{A}\nabla u_H^G, \nabla v_H) = (f, v_H) \quad \text{for all } v_H \in V_H^r. \quad (1)$$

**Step 2 (Fine-grid solution)** On a finer mesh  $\mathcal{T}_h$ , find the  $H(\text{div})$  projection  $\sigma_h \in W_h$  for the given data  $f + u_H^G$ , i.e.

$$(\nabla \cdot \sigma_h, \nabla \cdot \tau_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1}\sigma_h, \tau_h) = (f + \delta u_H^G, \nabla \cdot \tau_h) \quad \text{for all } \tau_h \in W_h^k. \quad (2)$$

## Quasi-Orthogonality

$$(\nabla \cdot (\sigma - \sigma_h), \nabla \cdot \tau_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1}(\sigma - \sigma_h), \tau_h) = (\delta(u - u_H^G), \nabla \cdot \tau_h), \quad (3)$$

for all  $\tau_h \in W_h^k$ .

## Some of the advantages of New method

- Well-developed fast solver on fine grid (D. Arnold, R. Ralk, R. Winther and R. Hiptmair, J. Xu)
- Smaller problem size.
- elimination of the need for artificial stabilization techniques (no *inf-sup* condition.)
- a practical and sharp *a posteriori* error estimator

## Mixed methods

$$\begin{aligned}(\mathcal{A}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m, \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) - (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h, u_h^m) &= 0, \\ (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m, v_h) &= (f, v_h)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m, \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) - \delta(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h, u_h^m) &= 0, \\ (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m, v_h) &= (f, v_h)\end{aligned}$$

Taking  $v_h = \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h$ ,

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m, \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) = (f + \delta u_h^m \cdot \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h).$$

## Mixed method

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m, \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) = (f + \delta u_h^m \cdot \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h).$$

## Reduce method (Hybrid method)

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h, \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) = (f + \delta u_H^G, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h).$$

$$(\nabla \cdot (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h), \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h), \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) = \delta(u_h^m - u_H^G, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h).$$

Supercloseness property 1.

$$\|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h^m\|_{H(\text{div})} \leq C\sqrt{\delta} \left( H \|u - u_H^G\|_{W_2^1(\Omega)} + Ch \|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \Pi_h \boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_{H(\text{div})} \right).$$

## Basic Error Estimate (2017, Ku, Lee, Sheen)

$$\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \leq C\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \Pi_h \boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_0 + \sqrt{\delta}(h\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \Pi_h \boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_{H(\text{div})} + CH\|u - u_H^G\|_{W_2^1(\Omega)}).$$

## Basic Error Estimate (RT space of order 0)

$$\begin{aligned} \|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_{L_2(\Omega)} &\leq C\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \Pi_h \boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \\ &\quad + \sqrt{\delta}h\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \Pi_h \boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_{H(\text{div})} + C\sqrt{\delta}H\|u - u_H^G\|_{W_2^1(\Omega)} \\ &\leq Ch\|\boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_1 + Ch^2\|\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_1 + C\sqrt{\delta}H^2\|u\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

## Relation between $H$ and $h$

$$h = \sqrt{\delta}H^2.$$

## Numerical example

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

where  $\Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  and  $u = (x^2 - x)(y^2 - y)$ .

**Results with fixed coarse mesh with  $h = H^2$  and  $\delta = 1$**

$1/H$	$ u - u_H^G _1$	$1/h$	$ u - u_h _1$	$\ \sigma - \sigma_h\ _0$	Rate	$\ \sigma_h + \nabla u_H^G\ _0$	$\frac{\ \sigma_h + \nabla u_H^G\ _0}{ u - u_H^G _1}$
4	0.549D-01	16	0.143D-01	0.931D-02	x	0.551D-01	1.00
8	0.285D-01	64	0.358D-02	0.234D-02	1.00	0.285D-01	1.00
16	0.143D-01	256	0.895D-03	0.585D-03	1.00	0.143D-01	1.00
32	0.716D-02	1024	0.224D-03	0.146D-03	1.00	0.716D-02	1.00

**Results with fixed coarse mesh with  $H = 1/4$  and  $\delta = h^2$**

$1/H$	$ u - u_H^G _1$	$1/h$	$ u - u_h _1$	$\ \sigma - \sigma_h\ _0$	Rate	$\ \sigma_h + \nabla u_H^G\ _0$	$\frac{\ \sigma_h + \nabla u_H^G\ _0}{ u - u_H^G _1}$
4	0.549D-01	16	0.143D-01	0.932D-02	x	0.551D-01	1.00
4	0.549D-01	64	0.358D-02	0.233D-02	1.00	0.549D-01	1.00
4	0.549D-01	256	0.895D-03	0.582D-03	1.00	0.549D-01	1.00
4	0.549D-01	1024	0.224D-03	0.146D-03	1.00	0.549D-01	1.00



## Comparison with mixed method

$1/H$	$\ u - u_H^G\ _0$	$1/h$	$\ \sigma - \sigma_h\ _0$	DOF	$\ u - u_h^M\ _0$	$\ \sigma - \sigma_h^M\ _0$	DOF
4	0.501D-02	16	0.931D-02	841	0.219D-02	0.928D-02	1312
8	0.132D-02	64	0.234D-02	12705	0.549D-03	0.233D-02	20608
16	0.332D-03	256	0.585D-03	198577	0.137E-03	0.582D-03	328192

From two-grids to one-grid

Basic Error Estimate (RT space of order 0)

$$\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \leq Ch\|\boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_1 + Ch^2\|\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_1 + C\sqrt{\delta}H\|u - u_H^G\|_1.$$

Relation between  $H$  and  $h$

$$h = \sqrt{\delta}H^2.$$

take  $u_H^G = 0$  and  $\delta = h^2$

$$\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \leq Ch\|\boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_1 + Ch^2\|\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_1 + C\sqrt{\delta}\|u\|_1.$$

Find  $\sigma^0$  defined by

$$(\nabla \cdot \sigma_h^0, \nabla \cdot \tau_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1} \sigma_h^0, \tau_h) = (f, \nabla \cdot \tau_h), \quad (\text{no } \delta(u_G^H, \nabla \cdot \tau_h))$$

then, for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  find  $\sigma_h^n$  defined by

$$(\nabla \cdot \sigma_h^n, \nabla \cdot \tau_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1} \sigma_h^n, \tau_h) = (f, \nabla \cdot \tau_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1} \sigma_h^{n-1}, \tau_h).$$

$$\sigma_h^n \rightarrow \sigma_h^m, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

$u_h$  can be recovered by

$$(u_h, \nabla \cdot \tau) = (\mathcal{A}^{-1} \sigma_h, \tau_h)$$

with error estimate

$$\|u - u_h\|_0 \leq Ch \|u\|_2 + \sqrt{\delta} \|u_h^m\|_0.$$

with  $u_H^G = 0$  and  $\delta = h^2$

$DOFs$	$h$	$\ \sigma - \sigma_h\ $	Rate	$\ u - u_h\ $	Rate
56	2.50e-01	6.37378e-01	x	1.50786e-01	x
208	1.25e-01	3.24488e-01	0.9740	7.82612e-02	0.9461
800	6.25e-02	1.63279e-01	0.9908	3.94786e-02	0.9872
3136	3.12e-02	8.18073e-02	0.9970	1.97822e-02	0.9969
12416	1.56e-02	4.09294e-02	0.9991	9.89644e-03	0.9992
49408	7.81e-03	2.04685e-02	0.9997	4.94889e-03	0.9998

## A posteriori error estimators

Take  $\mathcal{A} = Identity$  for simplicity.

Assume

$$\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \leq m \|\nabla(u - u_H^G)\|_{L_2(\Omega)}, \quad (4)$$

where  $0 \leq m < 1$ .

$\|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h + \nabla u_H^G\|$  as an estimator for  $\|\nabla(u - u_H^G)\|_0$

$$\begin{aligned}\|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h + \nabla u_H^G\|_0 &= \|(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h - \boldsymbol{\sigma} - \nabla u + \nabla u_H^G)\|_0 \\ &\leq \|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_0 + \|\nabla u - \nabla u_H^G\|_0 \\ &\leq (1 + m)\|\nabla u - \nabla u_H^G\|_0\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{1}{1 + m}\|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h + \nabla u_H^G\|_0 \leq \|\nabla u - \nabla u_H^G\|_0.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\nabla u - \nabla u_H^G\|_0 &\leq \|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h + \nabla u - \nabla u_H^G\|_0 \\
&\quad + \|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_0 \\
&\leq \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h + \nabla u_H^G\|_0 + m\|\nabla u - \nabla u_H^G\|_0.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\|\nabla u - \nabla u_H^G\|_0 \leq \frac{1}{1-m} \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h + \nabla u_H^G\|_0.$$

Equivalent a posteriori error estimator

$$\frac{1}{1+m} \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h + \nabla u_H^G\|_0 \leq \|\nabla u - \nabla u_h\|_0 \leq \frac{1}{1-m} \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h + \nabla u_H^G\|_0.$$



## A posteriori error estimates for the flux

$$J_l = \begin{cases} [[\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h \cdot \boldsymbol{t}]] & \text{if } l \not\subset \partial\Omega, \\ 2(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h \cdot \boldsymbol{t}) & \text{if } l \subset \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

Then, for any  $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$ , we define

$$\eta^2(T) = |T| \|\operatorname{rot} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_{0,T}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{l \subset \partial T} |l| \|J_l\|_{0,l}^2,$$

where  $|T|$  and  $|l|$  are the area of  $T$  and the length of  $l$ , respectively, and let

$$\eta = \left( \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \eta_T^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

$$c\eta(T) \leq \|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_{0,N(T)},$$

$$\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|_0 \leq C \left( \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \eta_T^2 + h^2 \|f - P_h f\|_0^2 + \delta^2 \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_h - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_H\|_0^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

## Adaptive procedure

SOLVE  $\rightarrow$  ESTIMATE  $\rightarrow$  MARK  $\rightarrow$  REFINE.

$$(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) + \delta(\mathcal{A}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h, \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) = (f, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_h) + \delta(A^{-1} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_H, \boldsymbol{\tau}_h).$$

With mild conditions (small  $\delta$  and initial mesh size), we have  $\rho + \gamma < 1$  such that

$$\|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_h\|^2 \leq \rho \|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_H\|^2 + \gamma \|\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{HH}\|^2 + \text{osc}(H),$$

where

$$\text{osc}(H) = \|H(f - P_H f)\|^2.$$

## Efficient solver

The Raviart-Thomas space of index  $r$  is given by

$$\mathbf{V}_h = \{\mathbf{v} \in H(\text{div}) : \mathbf{v}|_T \in P_r(T) + (x, y)P_r(T) \text{ for all } T \in \mathcal{T}_h\}.$$

Here  $P_r(T)$  denotes the set of polynomial functions of degree at most  $r$  on  $T$ .

## Decomposition of $\mathbf{V}_h$ .

$$W_h = \{s \in H^1 : s|_T \in P_{r+1}(T)\}, \quad S_h = \{q \in L_2 : q|_T \in P_r(T)\}$$

Discrete gradient operator  $\text{grad}_h : S_h \rightarrow \mathbf{V}_h$  defined by

$$(\text{grad}_h q, \mathbf{v}) = -(q, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) \text{ for all } \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}_h.$$

(discrete) Helmholtz decomposition

$$\mathbf{V}_h = \mathbf{grad}_h S_h \oplus \mathbf{curl} W_h.$$

This decomposition is orthogonal with respect to both the  $L_2$  and  $H(\text{div})$  inner products. Using the orthogonality, one can easily show that the two summand spaces  $\mathbf{grad}_h S_h$  and  $\mathbf{curl} W_h$  are invariant under  $A$  and  $A_\delta$ , where

$$\begin{aligned}(A\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) &= (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + (\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\tau}), \\(A_\delta\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) &= (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) + \delta(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\tau}).\end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$A_\delta = A + (\delta - 1)I.$$

Iterative solver (submitted, Ku and Reichel)

$$(A + (\delta - 1))\sigma_h = A_\delta \sigma_h = -\text{grad}_h(f + \delta u_H^G),$$

i.e.

$$\sigma_h = (1 - \delta)A^{-1}\sigma_h - A^{-1}\text{grad}_h(f + \delta u_H^G).$$

Hence, we define iterative method as

$$\sigma_{n+1} = (1 - \delta)A^{-1}\sigma_n - A^{-1}\text{grad}_h(f + \delta u_H^G).$$

Note that  $\sigma_h \in \text{grad}_h S_h$  and  $\|A^{-1}\| \leq 1$ . Moreover,  $\|A^{-1}|_{\text{grad}_h S_h}\| \ll 1$ .

Performance for different  $\delta$  values with  $h = \frac{1}{128}$ .

$\delta$	$h^2$	$h^4$	$h^6$	$h^8$	$h^{10}$
$\ \sigma - \sigma_h^D\ $	<b>0.0012</b>	<b>0.0012</b>	<b>4.0891</b>	<b>4.3579</b>	<b>4.3579</b>
$\ \sigma - \sigma_h^I\ $	<b>0.0012</b>	<b>0.0012</b>	<b>0.0012</b>	<b>0.0012</b>	<b>0.0012</b>
<b># of iterations</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

The New reduced method provides a good alternative for efficient and accurate approximation of the flux variables .

Thank you