Compatible finite element methods for numerical weather prediction

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- Definition of 1D compatible finite element spaces.
- Absence of spurious pressure modes.
- Definition and examples of 2D compatible finite element spaces.
- Absence of spurious pressure modes, existence of steady geostrophic pressure modes.
- Energy-enstrophy conservation, PV conservation for nonlinear shallow-water equations.
- Some numerical tests.

Compatible finite elements

Also known as:

- discrete differential forms (Bossavit, electromagnetism),
- Finite element exterior calculus (Arnold, elasticity).

Extends properties of C-grid but extra flexibility allows:

- Higher-order consistency on arbitrary meshes,
- Plexibility to alter DOF ratio between velocity and pressure,
- In the second second

Discretise the 1D wave equation:

$$u_t + p_x = 0$$
, $p_t + u_x = 0$, $u(0) = u(1)$, $p(0) = p(1)$.

The starting point

Represent *u* and *p* in some finite element space.

How are different finite element spaces defined?

Finite element spaces are defined by:

- The type of polynomials used in each element,
- 2 The degree of continuity across element boundaries.

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Example:

- p and u both linear functions in each element
- *p* and *u* both continuous across element boundaries



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Problem I: incompatibility

Writing $u_t + p_x = 0$ doesn't work because:

- *u* is linear and continuous (P1).
- 2 p_x is constant and discontinuous (P0).

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Projection

Approximation

Solution to incompatibility is to approximate p_x by the function v that is closest to p_x in P1 (measured using L_2 norm).

$$v = \operatorname{argmin}_{v \in P1} \|v - p_x\|_{L_2}^2 = \int_0^1 (v - p_x)^2 \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

/ariational calculus $\implies \int_0^1 wv \, \mathrm{d}x = \int_0^1 wp_x \, \mathrm{d}x, \quad \forall w \in P1.$

- Expand w and v in a basis for P1.
- Solve the resulting sparse matrix system for basis coefficients of v.

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Approximation

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Unapproximated equations:

$$u_t + p_x = 0, \quad p_t + u_x = 0.$$

Minimisation:

$$u_t = \operatorname{argmin}_{u_t \in P_1} \int_0^1 (u_t + p_x)^2 \, \mathrm{d}x, \quad p_t = \operatorname{argmin}_{p_t \in P_1} \int_0^1 (p_t + u_x)^2 \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

Finite element discretisation:

$$\int_0^1 w u_t \, \mathrm{d}x + \int_0^1 w p_x \, \mathrm{d}x = 0, \quad \forall w \in P\mathbf{1},$$
$$\int_0^1 v p_t \, \mathrm{d}x + \int_0^1 v u_x \, \mathrm{d}x = 0, \quad \forall v \in P\mathbf{1}.$$

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Spurious pressure modes

 $p \in P1$ is a spurious pressure mode if:

- $p \neq 0$, and
- 2 $\int_0^1 w p_x dx \approx 0$, for all $w \in P1$.
 - If $p \in P1$, then $p_x \in P_0$.
 - The projection of *p_x* into *P*₁ averages *p_x* over two neighbouring elements.
 - On a regular grid, a zigzig pattern in *p* has a vanishing discrete gradient.
 - Identical to spurious pressure mode on A-grid.

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Equal finite element spaces

The spurious pressure mode problem occurs whenever we use the same finite element space for u as p.

Mixed finite element method

A mixed finite element method uses different finite element spaces for *u* and *p*.

- Already noticed that if $u \in P1$, then $u_x \in P0$.
- Choose $u \in P1$, $p \in P0$ to try to avoid averaging.
- We say that this choice of spaces is compatible with the derivative ∂/∂_x.

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Weak derivatives

- Can now solve $p_t + u_x = 0$ directly since $p_t, u_x \in P0$.
- Can't solve u_t + p_x = 0 directly since P0 functions are discontinuous.

Solution

Integrate by parts in the integral form of the equations.

$$\int_0^1 w u_t \, \mathrm{d}x + \int_0^1 w p_x \, \mathrm{d}x = 0, \quad \forall w \in P\mathbf{1},$$

becomes

$$\int_0^1 w u_t \, \mathrm{d}x - \int_0^1 w_x p \, \mathrm{d}x + \underbrace{[wp]_0^1}_{=0} = 0, \quad \forall w \in P\mathbf{1}.$$

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Proposition (Ladyzhenskaya/Babuška/Brezzi (LBB) condition for P1-P0)

There exists a grid-independent constant C such that

$$\max_{w\in P1} \frac{\left|\int_0^1 w_x p \, \mathrm{d}x\right|}{\|w_x\|_{L_2}} \geq C \|p\|_{L_2}, \quad \forall p \in P0.$$

Proof.

Choose *w* with
$$w_x = p$$
, then
 $\max_{w \in P1} \frac{\left|\int_0^1 w_x p \, dx\right|}{\|w_x\|_{L_2}} \ge \frac{\int_0^1 p^2 \, dx}{\left(\int_0^1 p^2 \, dx\right)^{1/2}} = \left(\int_0^1 p^2 \, dx\right)^{1/2} = \|p\|_{L_2},$
 $\forall p \in P0.$ Hence $C = 1.$

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Unapproximated equations:

$$u_t + p_x = 0, \quad p_t + u_x = 0.$$

Finite element discretisation:

$$\int_0^1 w u_t \, \mathrm{d}x - \int_0^1 w_x p \, \mathrm{d}x = 0, \quad \forall w \in P\mathbf{1},$$
$$\int_0^1 v p_t \, \mathrm{d}x + \int_0^1 v u_x \, \mathrm{d}x = 0, \quad \forall v \in P\mathbf{0},$$

or equivalently:

$$u_t + \tilde{\partial}_x \rho = 0, \quad \rho_t + u_x = 0.$$

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Proposition (Energy conservation)

The P1-P0 discretisation conserves the energy

$$E = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2}u^2 + \frac{1}{2}p^2 \,\mathrm{d}x.$$

Proof.

$$\dot{E} = \int_0^1 u u_t \, \mathrm{d}x + \int_0^1 p p_t \, \mathrm{d}x, \\ = \int_0^1 u_x p \, \mathrm{d}x + \int_0^1 -p u_x \, \mathrm{d}x = 0$$

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Connection to C-grid



Nodal basis for P1 and P0:



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On equispaced grid:

$$\frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{\partial u_{i-1}}{\partial t} + 4\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial u_{i+1}}{\partial t}\right) + \frac{p_{i+1/2} - p_{i-1/2}}{\Delta x} = 0,$$
$$\frac{\partial p_{i+1/2}}{\partial t} + \frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{\Delta x} = 0.$$

- Slight alteration of staggered finite difference method.
- Need to solve system of equations to get $\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t}$.
- This modification maintains accuracy on non-equispaced grids.

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General compatible finite elements in 1D

 $u \in \mathbb{V}_0, p \in \mathbb{V}_1.$



General case: $\mathbb{V}_0 = Pn$, $\mathbb{V}_1 = P(n-1)_{DG}$.

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Compatible finite element spaces in 2D



- **1** $\nabla \cdot$ maps from \mathbb{V}_1 onto \mathbb{V}_2 .
- 2 ∇^{\perp} maps from \mathbb{V}_0 onto ker $(\nabla \cdot)$ in \mathbb{V}_1 .

See: Arnold, Falk and Winther, Acta Numerica (2006) for history and general framework.

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Example FE spaces



Example FE spaces



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Construction of \mathbb{V}_1



M. Rognes, CJC, D. Ham and A. McRae, Automating the solution of PDEs on the sphere and other manifolds (GMDD).

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Dual operators and projections

$$\mathbb{V}_{0} \xrightarrow[\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot = (-\partial_{y}, \partial_{x})]{} \mathbb{V}_{1} \xrightarrow[\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot = (-\partial_{y}, \partial_{x}) \cdot } \mathbb{V}_{1} \xrightarrow[\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot = (-\partial_{y}, \partial_{x}) \cdot]{} \xrightarrow[\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot = (-\partial_{y},$$

where (assume no boundaries)

$$\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{w} \cdot \tilde{\nabla} h \, \mathrm{d} x = -\int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w} h \, \mathrm{d} x, \quad \forall \boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{V}_{1}$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \gamma \tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \boldsymbol{u} \, \mathrm{d} x = -\int_{\Omega} \nabla^{\perp} \gamma \cdot \boldsymbol{u} \, \mathrm{d} x, \quad \forall \gamma \in \mathbb{V}_{0}.$$

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Dual operators and projections

$$\mathbb{V}_{0} \xrightarrow{\nabla^{\perp} = (-\partial_{y}, \partial_{x})} \mathbb{V}_{1} \xrightarrow{\nabla} \mathbb{V}_{2}$$
$$\xrightarrow{\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot = (-\partial_{y}, \partial_{x}) \cdot} \xrightarrow{\tilde{\nabla}} \mathbb{V}_{2}$$

Also define projections Π_i into \mathbb{V}_i , i = 0, 1, 2 by:

$$\int_{\Omega} \gamma(\Pi_0 \alpha) \, \mathrm{d}x = \int \gamma \alpha \, \mathrm{d}x, \quad \forall \gamma \in \mathbb{V}_0,$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{w} \cdot (\Pi_1 \boldsymbol{F}) \, \mathrm{d}x = \int \boldsymbol{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{F} \, \mathrm{d}x, \quad \forall \boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{V}_1,$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \phi(\Pi_2 \psi) \, \mathrm{d}x = \int \phi \psi \, \mathrm{d}x, \quad \forall \phi \in \mathbb{V}_2.$$

Dual operators and projections

Properties

$$\mathbf{\tilde{\nabla}}^{\perp} \cdot \Pi_1 \boldsymbol{u}^{\perp} = \Pi_0 \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} \text{ for } \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{V}_1,$$

2
$$\Pi_1 \nabla \psi = \tilde{\nabla} \Pi_2 \psi$$
 for $\psi \in \mathbb{V}_0$,

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 (of course $abla\cdot
abla^{\perp}={f 0}$).

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$$\boldsymbol{u}_t + f \boldsymbol{\Pi}_1 \boldsymbol{u}^{\perp} + g \tilde{\nabla} h = 0, \quad h_t + H \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = 0, \qquad \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{V}_1, \ h \in \mathbb{V}_2.$$

Proposition (Ladyzhenskaya/Babuška/Brezzi (LBB) condition for 2D)

There exists a grid-independent constant C such that

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{V}_1} \frac{\left|\int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w} \boldsymbol{p} \, \mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{x}\right|}{\|\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w}\|_{L_2}} \geq C \|\boldsymbol{p}\|_{L_2}, \quad \forall \boldsymbol{p} \in \mathbb{V}_2.$$

Proof.

Choose \boldsymbol{w} with $\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w} = \boldsymbol{p}$, then $\max_{\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{V}_1} \frac{\left| \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w} p \, dx \right|}{\|\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w}\|_{L_2}} \ge \frac{\int_{\Omega} p^2 \, dx}{\left(\int_{\Omega} p^2 \, dx \right)^{1/2}} = \left(\int_{\Omega} p^2 \, dx \right)^{1/2} = \|\boldsymbol{p}\|_{L_2},$ $\forall \boldsymbol{p} \in \mathbb{V}_2. \text{ Hence } \boldsymbol{C} = 1.$

$$\boldsymbol{u}_t + f \Pi_1 \boldsymbol{u}^\perp + g \tilde{\nabla} h = 0, \quad h_t + H \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = 0, \qquad \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{V}_1, \ h \in \mathbb{V}_2.$$

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Proof.

Choose
$$\boldsymbol{w}$$
 with $\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w} = \boldsymbol{p}$, then

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{V}_1} \frac{\left| \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w} \boldsymbol{p} \, dx \right|}{\|\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w}\|_{L_2}} \ge \frac{\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{p}^2 \, dx}{\left(\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{p}^2 \, dx \right)^{1/2}} = \left(\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{p}^2 \, dx \right)^{1/2} = \|\boldsymbol{p}\|_{L_2},$$

$$\forall \boldsymbol{p} \in \mathbb{V}_2. \text{ Hence } \boldsymbol{C} = 1.$$

$$\boldsymbol{u}_t + f \boldsymbol{\Pi}_1 \boldsymbol{u}^{\perp} + g \tilde{\nabla} h = 0, \quad h_t + H \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = 0, \qquad \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{V}_1, \ h \in \mathbb{V}_2.$$

Geostrophic steady states:

1 If
$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{0}$$
, then $\boldsymbol{u} = \nabla^{\perp} \psi$, $\psi \in \mathbb{V}_{\boldsymbol{0}}$.

2 Choose
$$h = f \Pi_2 \psi/g$$
, then
 $f \Pi_1(\boldsymbol{u}^{\perp}) = -f \Pi_1 \nabla \psi = -f \tilde{\nabla} \Pi_2 \psi = -g \tilde{\nabla} h.$

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$$\boldsymbol{u}_t + f(\underbrace{\boldsymbol{q}\boldsymbol{u}\boldsymbol{h}}_{=\boldsymbol{Q}})^{\perp} + \nabla \left(g\boldsymbol{h} + |\boldsymbol{u}|^2/2 \right) = 0, \quad \boldsymbol{h}_t + \nabla \cdot (\underbrace{\boldsymbol{u}\boldsymbol{h}}_{=\boldsymbol{F}}) = 0.$$

$$\mapsto \boldsymbol{u}_t + f \boldsymbol{\Pi}_1 \boldsymbol{Q}^{\perp} + g \tilde{\nabla} \left(h + \boldsymbol{\Pi}_2 |\boldsymbol{u}|^2 / 2 \right) = 0, \quad h_t + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{F} = 0,$$

for $\boldsymbol{u}, \boldsymbol{F} \in \mathbb{V}_1, h \in \mathbb{V}_2$ and some \boldsymbol{Q} .

Strategy from Arakawa and Lamb, Sadourny

- Apply natural curl to get vorticity equation.
- 2 Map h to vertices to evaluate PV.
- Oiagnose PV flux Q via F and insert into velocity equation.

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Implied PV equation

$$\boldsymbol{u}_t + f \prod_1 \boldsymbol{Q}^{\perp} + \tilde{\nabla} \left(gh + \prod_2 |\boldsymbol{u}|^2 / 2 \right) = 0,$$

Apply $\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot : \quad \tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \boldsymbol{u}_t + \tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \boldsymbol{Q}^{\perp} + \underbrace{\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \tilde{\nabla}}_{=0} (gh + \prod_2 |\boldsymbol{u}|^2 / 2) = 0.$

PV
$$q \in \mathbb{V}_0$$
 defined by $\Pi_0(qh) = \tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \boldsymbol{u} + \Pi_0(f)$.
Get $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Pi_0(qh) + \tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \boldsymbol{Q}^{\perp} = 0$.

Usual continuous finite element discretisation:

$$\int_{\Omega} \gamma(qh)_t \, \mathrm{d}x - \int_{\Omega} \nabla \gamma \cdot \boldsymbol{Q} \, \mathrm{d}x = 0.$$

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McRae and Cotter (submitted to QJRMS)

- The choice $\mathbf{F} = \Pi_1(h\mathbf{u})$ and $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{F}q$ conserves energy and enstrophy.
- The choice $\mathbf{F} = \Pi_1(h\mathbf{u})$ and $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{F}(q (\tau/h)\mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla q)$ conserves energy and dissipates enstrophy (APVM).
- Both choices preserve constant q field for any initial h.

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From Andrew McRae, using energy conserving, enstrophy dissipating (APVM) formulation.

Implicit timestepping setup

$$\boldsymbol{u}_t + (\underbrace{\boldsymbol{u} \boldsymbol{D} \boldsymbol{q}}_{\boldsymbol{Q}})^{\perp} + \nabla \left(\boldsymbol{g} \boldsymbol{D} + \frac{1}{2} |\boldsymbol{u}|^2 \right) = 0,$$
$$\boldsymbol{D}_t + \nabla \cdot (\underbrace{\boldsymbol{u} \boldsymbol{D}}_{\boldsymbol{F}}) = 0.$$

Crank-Nicholson:

$$\frac{\boldsymbol{u}^{n+1}-\boldsymbol{u}^n}{\Delta t}+\overline{\boldsymbol{Q}}^{\perp}+\nabla\left(g\overline{D}+\frac{1}{2}\overline{|\boldsymbol{u}|^2}\right)=0.$$

Solve
$$D_t + \nabla \cdot (\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}D) = 0,$$

 $(qD)_t + \nabla \cdot (\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}\overline{D}q) = 0,$ from t^n until $t^{n+1},$
Then $\overline{\boldsymbol{Q}} = \overline{\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}\overline{D}q}.$

Preserves constant q fields.

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- Scheme implemented on cubic "bendy" elements, all terms except for mass matrices are topological only (local element matrices independent of coordinates).
- P2(bubble)-BDFM1-P1DG spaces used.
- 3rd order in time SSPRK-DG used for layer depth (can locally reconstruct *F*).
- 4 quasi-Newton iterations per timestep, and $\theta = 1/2$.
- Helmholtz equation formed by hybridisation.

Testcases

Solid rotation testcase.



CJC FEM NWP

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Testcases

Mountain test case (Grid 5, 46080 DOFs).





CJC FEM NWP

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CJC FEM NWP









































































































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Another story: dual meshes



- J. Thuburn and CJC, A framework for mimetic discretization of the rotating shallow-water equations on arbitrary polygonal grids, SISC (2012).
- CJC and J. Thuburn, A finite element exterior calculus framework for the rotating shallow-water equations, (submitted to JCP, preprint on arXiv).

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- Extends C-grid approach with flexibility to take a) higher-order, b) non-orthogonal grids, c) different DOF ratios.
- Mimetic finite elements/finite element exterior calculus based on sequence of FE spaces compatible with ∇[⊥] and ∇ · to retain ∇ · ∇[⊥] = 0.
- Dual operators $\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp}\cdot$ and $\tilde{\nabla}$ are defined weakly and satisfy $\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp}\cdot\tilde{\nabla}.$
- Steady geostrophic modes and diagnostic PV conservation.
- Energy/enstrophy conservation possible.
- Efficient semi-implicit implementation with accurate advection is possible.

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References

- J. Thuburn and CJC, A framework for mimetic discretization of the rotating shallow-water equations on arbitrary polygonal grids, SISC (2012).
- CJC and J. Shipton, *Mixed finite elements for numerical weather prediction*, JCP (2012).
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- T. Melvin, A. Staniforth and CJC, *A two dimensional mixed finite element pair on rectangles*, to appear in QJRMS.
- CJC and J. Thuburn, A finite element exterior calculus framework for the rotating shallow-water equations, (submitted to JCP, preprint on arXiv).
- M. Rognes, CJC, D. Ham and A. McRae, Automating the solution of PDEs on the sphere and other manifolds (submitted to GMD, viewable on GMDD).
- A. McRae and CJC, Energy-enstrophy conserving mixed finite element schemes for the rotating shallow water equations (submitted to QJRMS, preprint on arXiv).
- 3 year postdoctoral research associate position available!