

# Fast prototyping for polytopal numerical schemes

10 years of DiSk++ (almost)

Matteo Cicuttin

Politecnico di Torino

“Towards Polytopal meshes in Gmsh” workshop  
January 26-27, 2026, Montpellier

# Some history

DiSk++ is a **software** library to develop **polyhedral methods for PDEs**.

- Started in 2016 with focus on HHO.
- One of the first presentations (likely the first) of Disk++ at EFEF2017 in Milan.
- In these years we implemented many **exciting features** and we **support various polyhedral methods**.
- Built a small community of devels.
- Curious that we **did not** reach version 1.0 yet!

Implementation of Discontinuous Skeletal  
methods on arbitrary-dimensional, polytopal  
meshes using generic programming

Matteo Cicuttin, D. Di Pietro, A. Ern

École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (CERMICS) – Marne-la-Vallée  
INRIA – Paris

Finite Element Fair, Milano, March 26-27, 2017

# GMSH and me

GMSH is a central tool in my work and well integrated into my codes:

- **DiSk++**: a polyhedral library for PDEs (<https://github.com/wareHH0use/diskpp>)
- **GMSH/DG**: a massively parallel, GPU-accelerated Discontinuous Galerkin code for conservation laws (<https://gitlab.onelab.info/gmsh/dg>)
- **FRICO**: a Method of Moments (=BEM) code for simulating antennas and scatterers (<https://github.com/datafl4sh/frico>) (brand new!)

**DiSk++** can use GMSH prismatic elements and **GMSH/METIS** agglomeration as polytopal elements. Currently using **agglomeration** in a work about **multilevel preconditioners** with Tommaso Vanzan.

# Discontinuous Skeletal methods

DiSk++ is specialized in **Dis**continuous and/or **Ske**letal methods, and is written in C++.

- Discontinuous: piecewise polynomial approximation that **jumps on interfaces between elements**
- Skeletal: **unknowns** of the global problem placed **on the mesh skeleton**

## The main assets:

- Arbitrary polynomial order
- **Arbitrary element shape**
- **Dimension-independent formulation**
- Simple *hp*-refinement

## The main players:

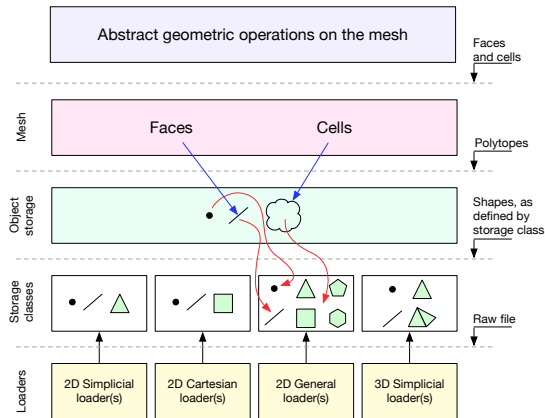
- (Hybrid) Finite Volumes (FV/HFV)
- (Hybrid) Discontinuous Galerkin (DG/HDG)
- Virtual Elements (VEM)
- Hybrid High-Order (HHO)
- MFD/HFV/WG and others...

# DiSk++ goals and structure

For many polygonal methods, their mathematical treatment does not care about spatial dimension or specific mesh element shape.

You care only about **mesh cells** and **mesh faces**.

**DiSk++ goal:** provide in software the same level of abstraction that you have in the mathematical definition of the method.



# Meshes

---

```
using mesh_type = disk::simplicial_mesh<T,2>;
mesh_type msh;
auto mesher = disk::make_simple_mesher(msh);
for (auto nr = 0; nr < num_refs; nr++)
    mesher.refine();
```

---

## Automatic meshers for the unit square/cube

- Declare mesh object & construct mesher
- Refine by subdivision as you like
- Ideal for “academic experiments”

## Full GMSH integration

- Import directly GMSH geometries
- Ideal for real-world computations

---

```
using mesh_type = disk::simplicial_mesh<T,3>;
mesh_type msh;
disk::gmsh_geometry_loader<mesh_type> loader;
loader.read_mesh(argv[1]); /* Read GMSH .geo */
loader.populate_mesh(msh);
```

---

For other shapes than `simplicial`, there are the `cartesian` and `generic` categories.

Other formats also supported: Netgen, FVCA5, FVCA6.

# Iterating on mesh elements

Once you have a mesh loaded, you would like to iterate on its elements. In a **dimension independent** and **element-shape independent** way of course.

---

```
for (auto& cl : msh) { /* for each element */
    auto cmeas = measure(msh, cl);
    auto cbar = barycenter(msh, cl);
    auto fcs = faces(msh, cl); /* get faces of cl */
    for (auto& fc : fcs) { /* for each face of cl */
        auto fmeas = measure(msh, fc);
        auto fbar = barycenter(msh, fc);
    }
}
```

---

- **measure()** on **cells** will automatically give volume/area/length
- **measure()** on **faces** will automatically give area/length/1
- the same goes **barycenter()** and all the other geometrical functions of DiSk++

This code **will work on any mesh**: you don't need to care about dimension or element shape. At all.

# Basis functions

DiSk++ employs the scaled monomials as basis functions. Appropriate rescaling [MC '25] allows to keep “under control” matrix condition numbers.

---

```
for (auto& cl : msh)
{
    using namespace disk::basis;
    auto phi = scaled_monomial_basis(msh, cl, degree);
    auto bar = barycenter(msh, cl);
    auto val_phi = phi(bar);
    auto gradphi = grad(phi);
    auto val_gradphi = gradphi(bar);
}
```

---

When you ask for a basis on an element, you get a *functor* (in the C++ sense)

- Functors are callable on points and return all the basis funcs evaluated at that point  $\rightarrow$  exactly  $\mathbb{P}_d^k(T)$
- You can apply differential operators to functors (WIP)



## A remark about the scaled monomials

Let me take a little detour: scaled monomials are known to lead to ill-conditioned matrices, **but...**

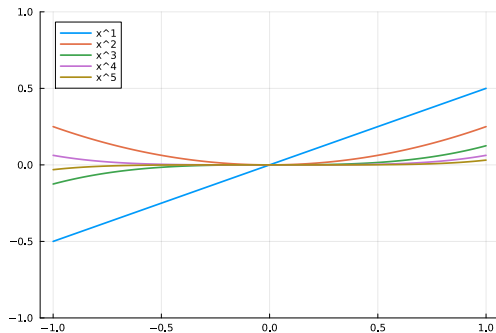
**Definition** (Scaled monomials usually found in literature)

Let  $T$  be a mesh element,  $x_i$  the  $i$ -th coordinate of a point in  $T$ ,  $x_{T,i}$  the  $i$ -th coordinate of the barycenter of  $T$  and  $h_T$  its diameter. In addition, let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$  be a multi-index with magnitude  $|\alpha| := \sum_{1 \leq i \leq d} \alpha_i$ . The usual definition of scaled monomials, for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$ , is

$$\mu_{T,\alpha}(\mathbf{x}) := \prod_{1 \leq i \leq d} \left( \frac{x_i - x_{T,i}}{h_T} \right)^{\alpha_i},$$

...this definition is **not OK**.

# How the “usual” scaled monomials do look in 1D



If we plot the first few monomials, they *look ugly*...

- The “usual” definition is **incorrectly** scaled
- With this scaling the **condition number** of the matrices will be **unnecessarily and horribly high**...
- Sounds trivial? Bear with me, apparently everyone is using this basis...

# The 1D mass matrix

Let  $T = [a, b]$ ,  $h_T = b - a$  and  $x_T = (a + b)/2$ . The mass matrix of  $T$  is then

$$M_{ij}^{(\eta)} = \int_a^b \left( \eta \frac{x - x_T}{h_T} \right)^i \left( \eta \frac{x - x_T}{h_T} \right)^j dx = \int_a^b \left( \eta \frac{x - x_T}{h_T} \right)^{i+j} dx.$$

# The 1D mass matrix

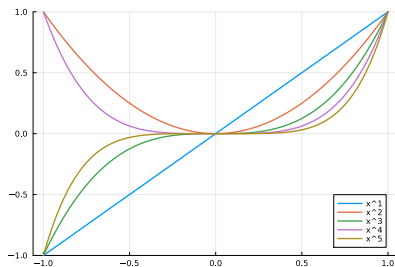
Let  $T = [a, b]$ ,  $h_T = b - a$  and  $x_T = (a + b)/2$ . The mass matrix of  $T$  is then

$$M_{ij}^{(\eta)} = \int_a^b \left( \eta \frac{x - x_T}{h_T} \right)^i \left( \eta \frac{x - x_T}{h_T} \right)^j dx = \int_a^b \left( \eta \frac{x - x_T}{h_T} \right)^{i+j} dx.$$

Computing the integral, the explicit entries of  $M$  are

$$M_{ij}^{(\eta)} = \left( \frac{\eta}{2} \right)^{i+j} \frac{h_T}{2} \frac{1 - (-1)^{i+j+1}}{i+j+1}.$$

If  $\eta \neq 2$  the smallest and the largest eigenvalue get pushed far apart very quickly! (Use Gershgorin circles to see it).



# The recipe for higher spatial dimensions

Of course the trick can be extended in arbitrary dimension.  
Let's outline how:

- Find the principal axes of  $T$  via inertia matrix

$$\int_T (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_T)(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_T)^T d\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{Q}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in T.$$

- Construct the bounding box aligned with those axes
- Compute the scaled monomials on each direction: let  $\lambda_{\max} = \max(\mathbf{\Lambda})$  and  $\mathbf{B} := 2h_T^{-1} \sqrt{\lambda_{\max}} \sqrt{\mathbf{\Lambda}^{-1}} \mathbf{Q}^T$

$$\bar{\mu}_{T,\alpha}(\mathbf{x}) := \prod_{i=1}^d (\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_T))_i^{\alpha_i}.$$

- Let the magic happen

# The recipe for higher spatial dimensions

Of course the trick can be extended in arbitrary dimension.  
Let's outline how:

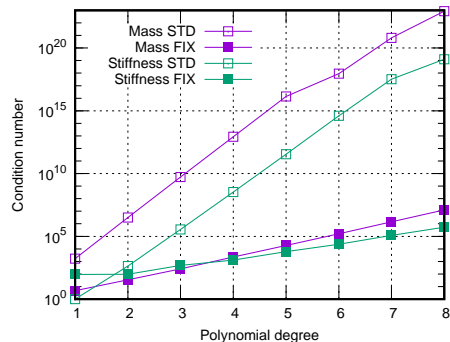
- Find the principal axes of  $T$  via inertia matrix

$$\int_T (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_T)(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_T)^T d\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{Q}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in T.$$

- Construct the bounding box aligned with those axes
- Compute the scaled monomials on each direction: let  $\lambda_{\max} = \max(\mathbf{\Lambda})$  and  $\mathbf{B} := 2h_T^{-1}\sqrt{\lambda_{\max}}\sqrt{\mathbf{\Lambda}^{-1}}\mathbf{Q}^T$

$$\bar{\mu}_{T,\alpha}(\mathbf{x}) := \prod_{i=1}^d (\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_T))_i^{\alpha_i}.$$

- Let the magic happen



Results above on a stretched and rotated pentagon, more details in [MC '25].

# Local linear and bilinear forms

---

```

auto f [](const point& p) {
    return sin(M_PI*p.x())*sin(M_PI*p.y());
};
auto phi = scaled_monomial_basis(msh, cl, degree);
auto RHS = integrate(msh, cl, f, phi);

```

---

Let's say that  $(f, v_h)_T$  is the classical **local** RHS of the usual Laplacian model problem

← here is how you write it in DiSk++

The function **f** does not need to be hardcoded: DiSk++ can call external scripts written in Lua that allow you to define stuff without recompiling everything.

Let's now build the **local** stiffness matrix from the usual grad-grad  $(\nabla u_h, \nabla v_h)_T$   
 here is how you write it in DiSk++ →

---

```

auto phi = scaled_monomial_basis(msh, cl, degree);

auto K = integrate(msh, cl, grad(phi) , grad(phi));

```

---

# Symmetric Interior Penalty DG: recall

Let mesh  $\mathcal{T}$ , skeleton  $\Gamma$ . DG space: piecewise  $d$ -variate polynomials of degree  $k$ .

$$V_h = \{v_h \in L^2(\Omega) : v_h|_T \in \mathbb{P}_d^k(T), \forall T \in \mathcal{T}\}.$$

Symmetric Interior Penalty DG bilinear form for Laplacian [Georgoulis '11; Di Pietro, Ern '12]:

$$\begin{aligned} a_h^{sip}(v, w_h) = & \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T \nabla_h v \cdot \nabla_h w_h - \sum_{F \in \Gamma} \int_F \{\nabla_h v\} \cdot \mathbf{n}_F \llbracket w_h \rrbracket - \sum_{F \in \Gamma} \int_F \llbracket v \rrbracket \{\nabla_h w_h\} \cdot \mathbf{n}_F \\ & + \sum_{F \in \Gamma} \int_F \frac{\eta}{h_F} \llbracket v \rrbracket \llbracket w_h \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

Find  $u_h \in V_h$  s.t.

$$a_h^{sip}(u_h, v_h) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \int_T f v_h \quad \text{for all } v_h \in V_h$$



# Discontinuous Galerkin: the actual code

```

auto tbasis = disk::basis::scaled_monomial_basis(msh, tcl, degree);

matrix_type K = integrate(msh, tcl, grad(tbasis), grad(tbasis));
vector_type loc_rhs = integrate(msh, tcl, f, tbasis);

auto fcs = faces(msh, tcl);
for (auto& fc : fcs)
{
    auto n      = normal(msh, tcl, fc);
    auto eta_l = eta / diameter(msh, fc);

    auto nv = cvf.neighbour_via(msh, tcl, fc);
    if (nv) {
        matrix_type Att = matrix_type::Zero(tbasis.size(), tbasis.size());
        matrix_type Atn = matrix_type::Zero(tbasis.size(), tbasis.size());

        auto ncl = nv.value();
        auto nbasis = disk::basis::scaled_monomial_basis(msh, ncl, degree);
        assert(tbasis.size() == nbasis.size());

        Att += + eta_l * integrate(msh, fc, tbasis, tbasis);
        Att += - 0.5 * integrate(msh, fc, grad(tbasis).dot(n), tbasis);
        Att += - 0.5 * integrate(msh, fc, tbasis, grad(tbasis).dot(n));

        Atn += - eta_l * integrate(msh, fc, nbasis, tbasis);
        Atn += - 0.5 * integrate(msh, fc, grad(nbasis).dot(n), tbasis);
        Atn += + 0.5 * integrate(msh, fc, nbasis, grad(tbasis).dot(n));
    }
}

```

For each element of the mesh:

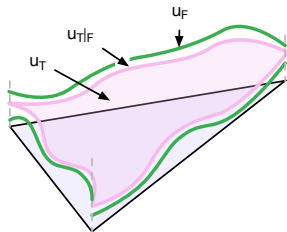
- build the **grad-grad** term and the **source term**

Then, iterate on the faces of the current element and build:

- the **consistency term**
- the **symmetry term**
- the **penalization term**
- (notice that  $\{\cdot\}$ s and  $[[\cdot]]$ s were expanded)

# HHO recall: the reconstruction operator

HHO attaches polynomials to both **mesh cells** and **mesh faces**. Then, a **reconstruction operator** reconstructs a higher-order polynomial in the cells. [Di Pietro, Ern, Lemaire '14; MC, Ern, Pignet '21]



- $\underline{u}_T \in \mathbb{P}_d^{k'}(T)$ : cell-based polynomial,  $k' \in \{k-1, k, k+1\}$
- $\underline{u}_{F_i} \in \mathbb{P}_{d-1}^k(F_i)$ : face-based polynomials
- $\underline{u}_{\partial T} := (u_{F_1}, \dots, u_{F_n})$
- $U_T^{k',k} := \mathbb{P}_d^{k'}(T) \times \mathbb{P}_{d-1}^k(\partial T)$ ,  $\underline{u}_T := (u_T, u_{\partial T}) \in U_T^{k',k}$
- **Local** reconstruction operator  $\mathbf{R} : U_T^{k',k} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}(T)$

The reconstruction is defined from an integration by parts formula, plus average fixing (not shown)

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\nabla \mathbf{R}(\underline{u}_T, \underline{u}_{\partial T}), \nabla v)_T &:= (\underline{u}_T, \Delta v)_T + \sum_{F_i \in \partial T} (\underline{u}_{F_i}, \nabla v \cdot \mathbf{n})_{F_i} \\
 &= (\nabla \underline{u}_T, \nabla v)_T + \sum_{F_i \in \partial T} (\underline{u}_{F_i} - \underline{u}_T, \nabla v \cdot \mathbf{n})_{F_i}
 \end{aligned}$$

# HHO reconstruction: the actual code

```
dynamic_matrix<T> stiffness = integrate(msh, cl, grad(phiR), grad(phiR));
dynamic_matrix<T> lhs = stiffness.bottomRightCorner(szR-1, szR-1);
dynamic_matrix<T> rhs = dynamic_matrix<T>::Zero(rows, cols);
rhs.block(0,0,szR-1,szT) = stiffness.bottomLeftCorner(szR-1, szT);
```

1<sup>st</sup> `integrate()`:  $(\nabla \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{u}_T, \mathbf{u}_{\partial T}), \nabla \mathbf{v})_T$

extract  $(\nabla \mathbf{u}_T, \nabla \mathbf{v})_T$

```
size_t offset = szT;
for (const auto& fc : fcs)
```

for loop:  $\sum_{F_i \in \partial T}$

```
{
    auto n = normal(msh, cl, fc);
    auto phiF = Space::face_basis(msh, fc, di.face);

    rhs.block(0,offset,szR-1,szF) +=
        integrate(msh, fc, phiF, grad(phiR).dot(n)).block(1,0,szR-1,szF);
    rhs.block(0,0,szR-1,szT) -=
        integrate(msh, fc, phiT, grad(phiR).dot(n)).block(1,0,szR-1,szT);
    offset += szF;
}
```

2<sup>nd</sup> `integrate()`:  $(\mathbf{u}_{F_i}, \nabla \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n})_{F_i}$

3<sup>rd</sup> `integrate()`:  $-(\mathbf{u}_T, \nabla \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n})_{F_i}$

```
dynamic_matrix<T> R = lhs.ldlt().solve(rhs);
dynamic_matrix<T> A = rhs.transpose()*R;
return std::pair(R, A);
```

# Data visualization

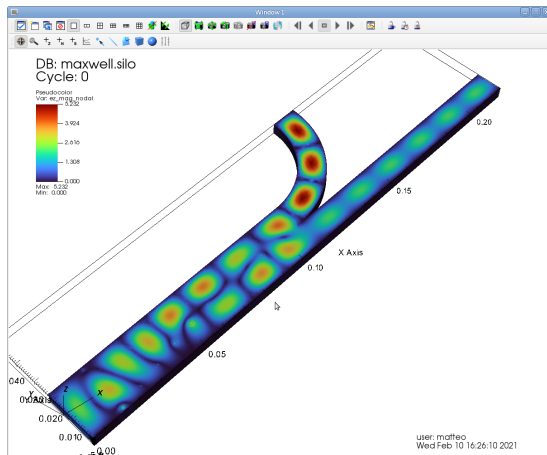
For historical reasons, DiSk++ does its data visualization via LLNL Silo/Visit. But if you are more comfortable with Paraview, it can read DiSk++ output.

Silo is deeply integrated in DiSk++ and exporting your data is a matter of lines

---

```
std::string filename = "mydb.silo";
disk::silo_database db;
db.create(filename);
db.add_mesh(msh, "mesh");
db.add_variable("mesh", "u", u_data,
               disk::zonal_variable_t);
```

---



# Applications

DiSk++ is a [library for polyhedral methods](#), but is also a [collection of applications](#).

We have plenty of them:

- Poisson
- Linear elasticity
- Solid mechanics
- Fluid mechanics
- Electromagnetics
- Eigenvalues

Users can add new applications easily: the `./newapp.sh` script in the source tree creates an empty template application and adds it to the build system.

# HHO for the indefinite Maxwell problem

Let angular frequency  $\omega$ , materials  $\mu, \epsilon$ , unknown electric field  $\mathbf{e} \in H_0(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ , test function  $\mathbf{v} \in H_0(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ , source  $\mathbf{f}$ . Solve time-harmonic wave equation:

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{e}, \nabla \times \mathbf{v})_\Omega - \omega^2 \mu \epsilon (\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{v})_\Omega = (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v})_\Omega, \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in H_0(\text{curl}; \Omega).$$

## Vector-valued local HHO spaces

$$\underline{\mathbf{U}}_T^k := \mathbb{P}_3^k(T)^3 \times \left\{ \bigtimes_{F \in \partial T} \mathbb{P}_2^k(F)^2 \right\}.$$

- $\mathbb{C}^3$ -valued cell-based polynomials
- face tangent  $\mathbb{C}^2$ -valued face polys
- Global spaces and Dirichlet BCs as usual in HHO

Curl reconstruction  $\mathcal{C} : \underline{\mathbf{U}}_T^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  [Chave, Di Pietro, Lemaire]:

$$(\mathcal{C}(\underline{\mathbf{u}}_T), \mathbf{v})_T := (\mathbf{u}_T, \nabla \times \mathbf{v})_T + \sum_{F \in \partial T} (\mathbf{u}_F, \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{n})_F, \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{P}_3^k(T)^3$$

Lerhenfeld-Schöberl stabilization. Let  $\gamma_{t,F}(\mathbf{u}) := \mathbf{n} \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{n})$  and  $\pi_\gamma^k = \pi_F^k \circ \gamma_{t,F}$ :

$$s_T(\underline{\mathbf{u}}_T, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_T) := \sum_{F \in \partial T} \omega \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{\mu}} (\mathbf{u}_F - \pi_\gamma^k(\mathbf{u}_T), \mathbf{v}_F - \pi_\gamma^k(\mathbf{v}_T))_F,$$

# HHO memory usage and floating point operations

Curl-curl is difficult for iterative solvers: usually direct + domain decomposition  $\implies$  memory efficiency is of primary importance. Resonator  $[0, 1]^3$ , tetrahedral mesh, 3072 elements:

Degree	HHO(k,k)		SIP-DG(k) <sup>1</sup>	
	Memory	Mflops	Memory	Mflops
k=1	0.5 Gb	8.723	0.3 Gb	20.040
k=2	0.9 Gb	66.759	2.4 Gb	313.133
k=3	2.6 Gb	309.072	9.3 Gb	2.560.647

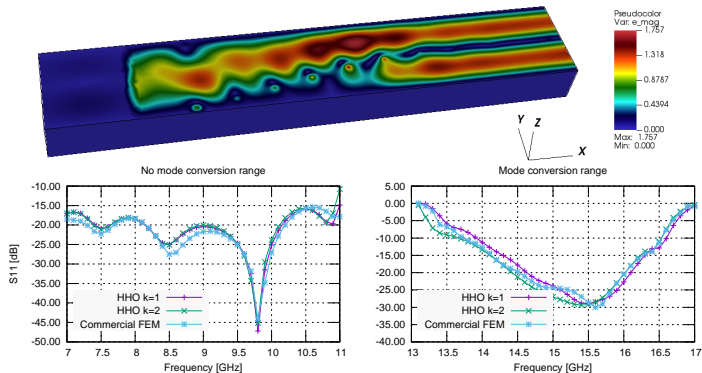
Computation 8.3x improvement, memory 3.5x improvement.

Mesh $h$	$k$	Error	Mflops	DOFs	Memory
0.103843	2	3.56e-5	4089984	571392	11.7 Gb
0.207712	3	1.38e-5	309072	115200	2.6 Gb
0.415631	4	1.98e-5	16287	20160	0.5 Gb
0.832917	6	1.24e-5	1265	4032	0.1 Gb

<sup>1</sup>SIP-DG for Maxwell: [Houston, Perugia, Schneebeli, Schötzau '05]

# Study of a waveguide mode converter

A “polytopal” use of GMSH: due to the solution features, the mode converter was meshed with a layer of triangular prisms.



MC, Geuzaine - Numerical investigation of a 3D hybrid high-order method for the indefinite time-harmonic Maxwell problem - FINEL '24



# Stabilization-free HHO

Model problem: for  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ , find  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$(\nabla u, \nabla v)_{L^2(\Omega)} = (f, v)_{L^2(\Omega)} \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

Let  $R$  reconstruction operator discussed before. HHO discrete problem forms:

$$\begin{aligned} a_h(\underline{u}_h, \underline{v}_h) &:= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} (\nabla R(\underline{u}_T), \nabla R(\underline{v}_T))_T + s_T(\underline{u}_T, \underline{v}_T), \\ l_h(\underline{v}_h) &:= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} (f, \underline{v}_T)_T. \end{aligned}$$

Direct correspondence only for grad-grad and RHS terms. Stabilization term is not physical and is there “only” to make the discrete formulation work.

Can we get rid of stabilization term?

Borio, Cascavita, MC, Marcon - Towards stabilization-free Hybrid High-Order methods for elliptic problems - JSC '25

## Another route to stability: changing the reconstruction space

It is well known that by **changing/enriching the reconstruction space** methods like HHO [Abbas, Ern, Pignet '18], WG [Ye, Zhang '21] and VEM [Berrone, Borio, Marcon '21 & '24] can be made stable without adding a stabilization term.

Current HHO/WG variants **w/o stabilization** have **one or more** of the following limitations:

- **only simplicial elements**
- no consecutive collinear edges
- reduced convergence rate ( $k + 1$  instead of  $k + 2$  in  $L^2$ -norm)
- not optimal in terms of additional degrees of freedom required
- **subtriangulations required**

We propose an approach which is not subject to those limitations.

## Another route to stability: changing the reconstruction space

It is well known that by **changing/enriching the reconstruction space** methods like HHO [Abbas, Ern, Pignet '18], WG [Ye, Zhang '21] and VEM [Berrone, Borio, Marcon '21 & '24] can be made stable without adding a stabilization term.

Current HHO/WG variants **w/o stabilization** have **one or more** of the following limitations:

- **only simplicial elements**
- no consecutive collinear edges
- reduced convergence rate ( $k + 1$  instead of  $k + 2$  in  $L^2$ -norm)
- not optimal in terms of additional degrees of freedom required
- **subtriangulations required**

We propose an approach which is not subject to those limitations.

**We enrich the reconstruction space** as follows: Let  $\mathbb{H}_d^k(T)$  be the the space of **harmonic polynomials** of a given degree  $k$  defined on  $T$ . For an **increment**  $\ell \geq 0$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_d^{k',\ell}(T) := \mathbb{P}_d^{k'+2}(T) \oplus \left( \mathbb{H}_d^{k'+2+\ell}(T) \setminus \mathbb{H}_d^{k'+2}(T) \right) = \{p \in \mathbb{P}^{k'+2+\ell}(T) : \Delta p \in \mathbb{P}^{k'}(T)\},$$

## Stab-free reconstructions

If  $k' = k + 1$ , (**mixed-order high**) we define  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{\ell,T}^{k+1,k} : \underline{\mathbf{U}}_T^{k+1,k} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_d^{k+1,\ell}(T)$  such that,  $\forall \underline{\mathbf{v}}_T \in \underline{\mathbf{U}}_T^{k+1,k}$ ,

$$\begin{cases} (\nabla \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{\ell,T}^{k+1,k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T), \nabla q)_T = -(\mathbf{v}_T, \Delta q)_T + (\mathbf{v}_{\partial T} - \hat{\mathcal{E}}_T^{k+1,k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T), \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla q)_{\partial T} & \forall q \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_d^{k+1,\ell}(T), \\ (\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{\ell,T}^{k+1,k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T), 1)_T = (\mathbf{v}_T, 1)_T, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\hat{\mathcal{E}}_T^{k+1,k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T) := \pi_{\partial T}^k \mathbf{v}_T - \mathbf{v}_T.$$

If  $k' \in \{k-1, k\}$ , (**mixed-order low/equal order**) we define  $\check{\mathbf{R}}_{\ell,T}^{k',k} : \underline{\mathbf{U}}_T^{k',k} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_d^{k',\ell}(T)$  such that,  $\forall \underline{\mathbf{v}}_T \in \underline{\mathbf{U}}_T^{k',k}$ ,

$$\begin{cases} (\nabla \check{\mathbf{R}}_{\ell,T}^{k',k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T), \nabla q)_T = -(\mathbf{v}_T, \Delta q)_T + (\mathbf{v}_{\partial T} - \check{\mathcal{E}}_T^{k',k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T), \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla q)_{\partial T}, & \forall q \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_d^{k',\ell}(T), \\ (\check{\mathbf{R}}_{\ell,T}^{k',k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T), 1)_T = (\mathbf{v}_T, 1)_T, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\check{\mathcal{E}}_T^{k',k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T) := \pi_{\partial T}^k \mathbf{R}_T^{k',k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T) - \mathbf{R}_T^{k',k}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_T).$$

# The rationale behind modified space and reconstruction

Let  $v \in H^1(T)$  and  $\underline{I}_T^{k',k}(v) := (\pi_T^{k'} v, \pi_{\partial T}^k v)$  be the HHO reduction operator. A **key property (elliptic projection) of the reconstruction operator** is that

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla R_T^{k',k}(\underline{I}_T^{k',k}(v)), \nabla q)_T &= -(\pi_T^{k'} v, \Delta q)_T + (\pi_{\partial T}^k v, \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla q)_{\partial T} \\ &= -(v, \Delta q)_T + (v, \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla q)_{\partial T} = (\nabla v, \nabla q)_T, \end{aligned} \quad \forall q \in \mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}(T)$$

If we take higher-order polynomials as test functions, we can't remove the projectors anymore: the very core of HHO breaks down.

Fortunately, **things are easily fixed**:

- Take  $q$  such that  $\Delta q \in \mathbb{P}_d^{k'}(T)$ : this fixes the cell-based term and is the reason of the definition of our modified reconstruction space
- Add a correction to the face based term, to remove the error due to  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla q \notin \mathbb{P}_d^k(\partial T)$

# Properties of the stab-free reconstructions

Let  $\mathcal{R} \in \{\check{\mathcal{R}}_{\ell,T}^{k',k}, \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{\ell,T}^{k+1,k}\}$ ,  $\mathcal{E} \in \{\check{\mathcal{E}}_T^{k',k}, \hat{\mathcal{E}}_T^{k+1,k}\}$  and  $\mathbf{l} := \mathbf{l}_T^{k',k}(\mathbf{v}) := (\pi_T^{k'} \mathbf{v}, \pi_{\partial T}^k \mathbf{v})$ . Three properties are easily proved:

- **Orthogonality of corrections w.r.t  $\mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}$**  For all  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(T)$ ,

$$(\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{l}(\mathbf{v})), \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{q})_{\partial T} = 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}(T)$$

- **Elliptic projection.** For all  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(T)$ , the modified reconstructions  $\mathcal{R}$  are such that

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{l}(\mathbf{v})), \nabla \mathbf{q})_T &= (\nabla \mathbf{v}, \nabla \mathbf{q})_T, & \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}(T) \\ (\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{l}(\mathbf{v})), 1)_T &= (\mathbf{v}, 1)_T \end{aligned}$$

- **Polynomial consistency.** For all  $p \in \mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}(T)$ , the modified reconstructions  $\mathcal{R}$  are such that

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{l}(p)) = p.$$

With the following properties we can prove (with a caveat) **usual HHO high-order convergence rates**.

# Stability: what the $\ell$ ?

The **stability** of the method is **connected with the choice of  $\ell$**  in  $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_d^{k',\ell}(T)$

## Conjecture

Let  $T$  be a polygon and  $\underline{u}_T \in \underline{U}_T^{k',k}$ . Then, there exists  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$  depending on  $T, k'$  and  $k$ , and satisfying  $\dim \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_d^{k',\ell}(T) \geq \dim \underline{U}_T^{k',k}$ , such that

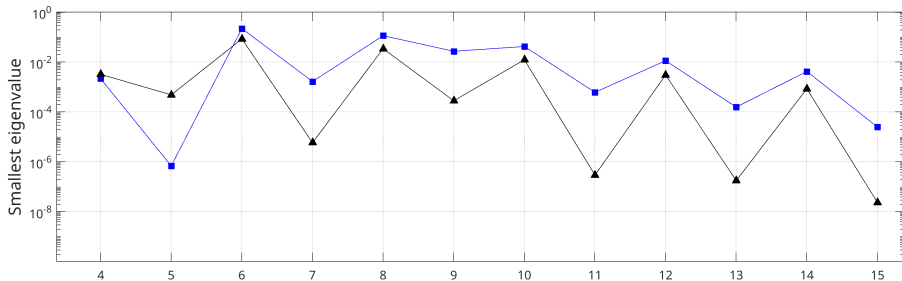
$$\text{if } k' \in \{k-1, k\}, \text{ then there exists } \alpha_T > 0 \text{ such that } \left\| \nabla \check{R}_{\ell,T}^{k',k}(\underline{u}_T) \right\|_{L^2(T)}^2 \geq \alpha_T |\underline{u}_T|_{\underline{U}_T^{k',k}}^2,$$

$$\text{if } k' = k+1, \text{ then there exists } \alpha_T > 0 \text{ such that } \left\| \nabla \hat{R}_{\ell,T}^{k+1,k}(\underline{u}_T) \right\|_{L^2(T)}^2 \geq \alpha_T |\underline{u}_T|_{\underline{U}_T^{k+1,k}}^2,$$

where  $|\cdot|_{\underline{U}_T^{k',k}}^2$  and  $|\cdot|_{\underline{U}_T^{k+1,k}}^2$  are the standard HHO seminorms.

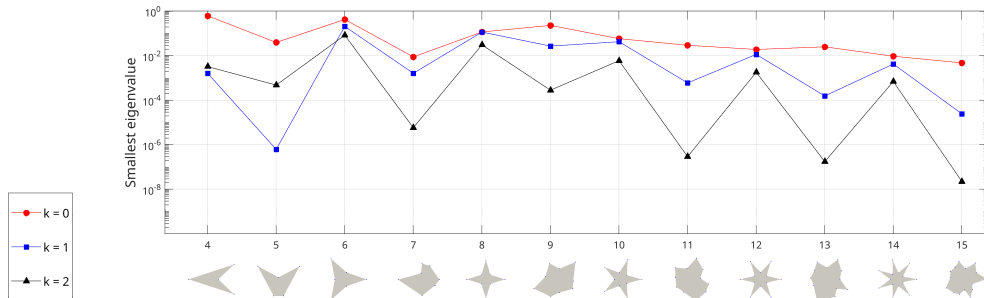
- Numerical evidence hints stability, but did not manage to prove the conjecture yet :(
- Optimality criteria for  $\ell$ : the **smallest** one such that  $\dim \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_d^{k',\ell}(T) \geq \dim \underline{U}_T^{k',k}$  (equality is  $\pm 1$  in 2D, more complicated in 3D).

## 2D: Smallest eigenvalue for HHO( $k - 1, k$ )

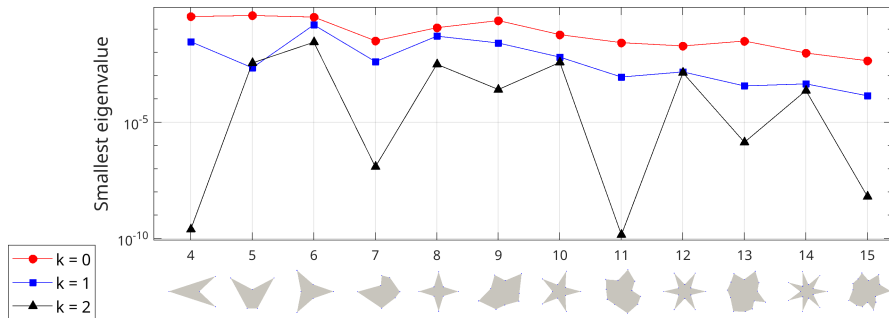




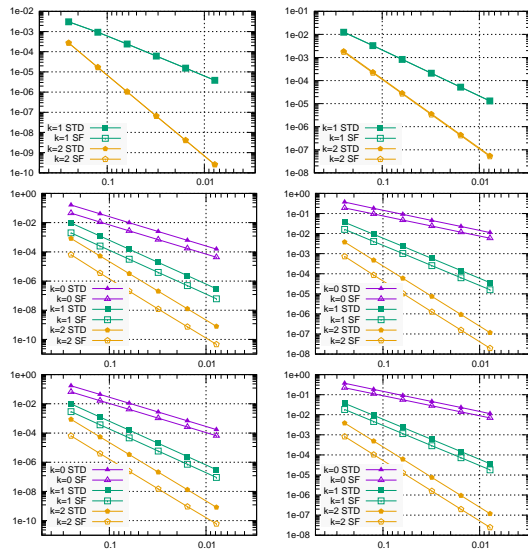
## 2D: Smallest eigenvalue for HHO( $k, k$ )



## 2D: Smallest eigenvalue for $\text{HHO}(k+1, k)$

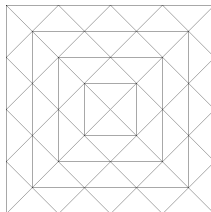


# Convergence on simplicial meshes

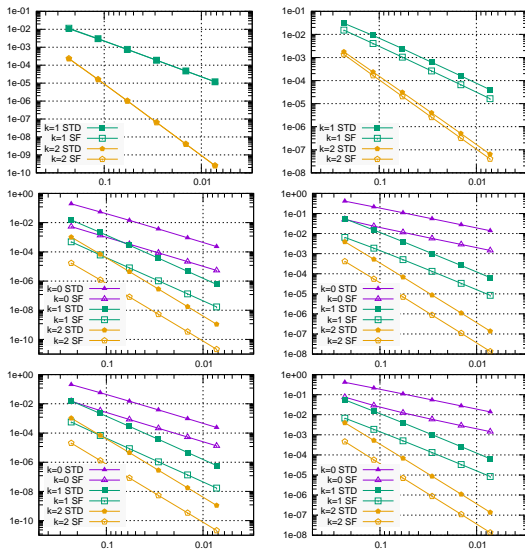


Test on a sequence of triangular meshes

- On the left column,  $L^2$ -norm error
- On the right column, energy norm error
- From top to bottom:  $\{k-1, k\}$ ,  $\{k, k\}$  and  $\{k+1, k\}$  HHO variants
- Full dots is std. HHO, empty dots is our variant

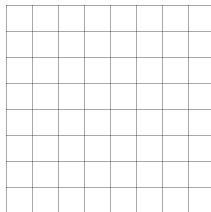


# Convergence on cartesian meshes

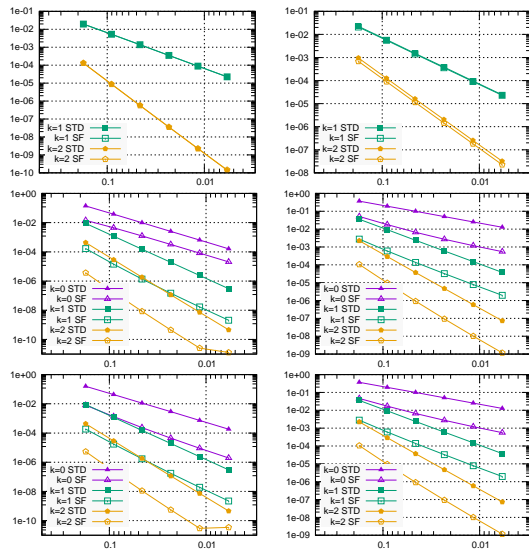


Test on a sequence of cartesian meshes

- On the left column,  $L^2$ -norm error
- On the right column, energy norm error
- From top to bottom:  $\{k-1, k\}$ ,  $\{k, k\}$  and  $\{k+1, k\}$  HHO variants
- Full dots is std. HHO, empty dots is our variant

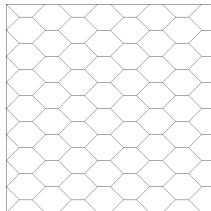


# Convergence on hex-dominant meshes



Test on a sequence of hex-dominant meshes

- On the left column,  $L^2$ -norm error
- On the right column, energy norm error
- From top to bottom:  $\{k-1, k\}$ ,  $\{k, k\}$  and  $\{k+1, k\}$  HHO variants
- Full dots is std. HHO, empty dots is our variant



# Main DiSk++ assets

- **Familiar user experience:** write local forms in the `integrate()` style
- **Flexible mesh handling** simple meshers for unit domains, to make **experimentation and convergence tests easy**; full **integration with GMSH for real world stuff**
- **Advanced visualization** via LLNL Silo/VisIt: all types of mesh and related data can be exported using a simple interface
- **Many numerical methods:** HHO, DG, DGA, we are in the process of adding VEM
- **Many applications:** DiSk++ includes tens of applications in various domains
- **Getting started is easy:** with a single command (`./newapp.sh mynewappname`) you get an empty template application added to the source tree, and you can start coding straight away

# What are we still missing?



# Thank you for your attention!

`matteo.cicuttin@polito.it`

DiSk++ is brought to you by

- Karol Cascavita
- Matteo Cicuttin
- Nicolas Pignet

And with significant contributions from

- Omar Duran
- Romain Mottier

GitHub: <https://github.com/wareHH0use/>