

# An introduction to the Hybrid High-Order method and its applications on Maxwell's equations

Matteo Cicuttin  
ACE Montefiore - University of Liège - Belgium

X CIMAC 2021 - Tingo María, Perú  
August 21, 2021

# Intro

Hybrid High-Order (HHO) methods are a recent development [Di Pietro, Ern, Lemaire 2014] in the family of Discontinuous Skeletal methods (HDG [Cockburn et al. 2009], WG [Wang et al. 2013], ...)

- Arbitrary order
- Any element shape
- Dimension-independent formulation
- Simple  $hp$ -refinement

HHO is well established: wide literature (mostly in mechanics) + 2 books. In this talk:

- Intro to HHO on the Poisson equation
- HHO for time-harmonic Maxwell
- A real-world application of HHO in electromagnetics

# Model problem

First part of this talk: Poisson equation with homogeneous BCs. Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  with  $d \in \{1, 2, 3\}$

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

In weak form, for  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$  find  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  s.t.

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

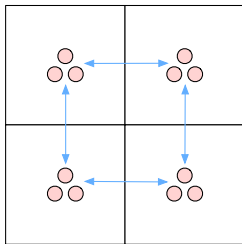
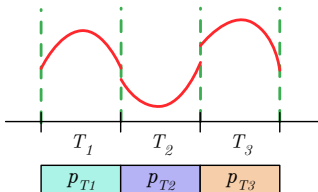
In the following we assume that  $\Omega$  is partitioned with an appropriate polyhedral mesh  $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{F})$ .

# Discontinuous Galerkin recall: discrete space, stencil

Recall that the discrete DG space is made of polynomials of degree  $k$  attached to each mesh cell  $T$ :

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

- **Volume term** approximating solution locally + **coupling** via numerical fluxes. **A cell  $T$  talks with all the adjacent cells.**
- Global discrete solution is discontinuous.



Number of DOFs grows like  $O(\#\mathcal{T} \cdot k^d)$ . **Can we do better?**

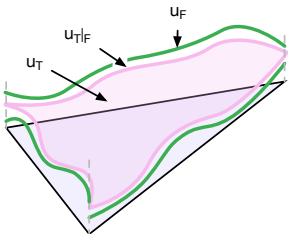
# Reconstruction operator - I

Consider the divergence theorem on an element  $T$

$$(\nabla u, \nabla v)_T = (u, \Delta v)_T + \sum_{F_i \in \partial T} (u, \nabla v \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}})_{F_i}$$

Replace  $u$  by different functions on the cell and its faces, and introduce the operator  $R$

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



- $u_T$ : cell-based function
- $u_{F_i}$ : face-based function
- $u_{\partial T}$ :  $(u_{F_1}, \dots, u_{F_n})$

We call  $R$  as defined *reconstruction operator*. Note that the operator is **completely local**.

# Reconstruction operator - II

More precisely, let  $\mathbf{u}_T \in \mathbb{P}_d^k(T)$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_{F_i} \in \mathbb{P}_{d-1}^k(F_i)$  and  $v \in \mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}(T)$ . We define the **local HHO space**

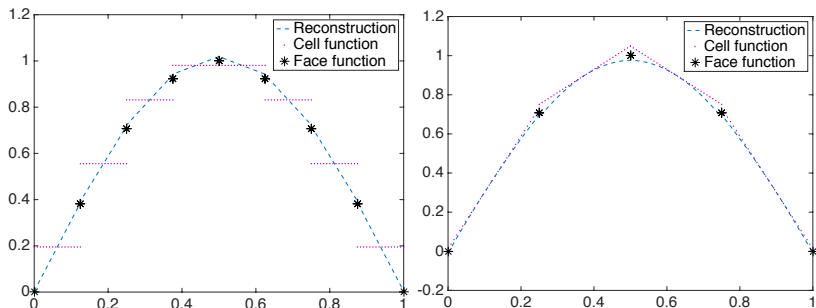
$$U_T^k := \mathbb{P}_d^k(T) \times \left\{ \times_{F_i \in \partial T} \mathbb{P}_{d-1}^k(F_i) \right\}.$$

Let  $\underline{\mathbf{u}}_T := (\mathbf{u}_T, \mathbf{u}_{\partial T}) \in U_T^k$ . The reconstruction  $R : U_T^k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}(T)$  is uniquely defined for all  $\underline{\mathbf{u}}_T \in U_T^k$  by the equations

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla R(\underline{\mathbf{u}}_T), \nabla v)_T &= (\nabla \mathbf{u}_T, \nabla v)_T + \sum_{F \in \partial T} (\mathbf{u}_{F_i} - \mathbf{u}_T, \nabla v \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}})_F \\ (R(\underline{\mathbf{u}}_T), 1)_T &= (\mathbf{u}_T, 1)_T \end{aligned}$$

$R$  enjoys an **high-order approximation** property: from  $\mathbf{u}_T$  and  $\mathbf{u}_{\partial T}$  of degree  $k$  we can reconstruct a polynomial of order  $k+1$  on the cell.

# Reconstruction operator - III



The reconstruction operator is used to mimic the grad-grad term of our model problem

$$a_T(\underline{u}_T, \underline{v}_T) := (\nabla R(\underline{u}_T), \nabla R(\underline{v}_T))_T$$

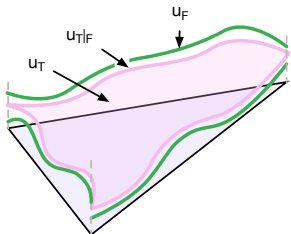
Note that inside this term hides a degree  $k + 1$  stiffness matrix.

# Stabilization - I

There is an issue however:  $u_T$  and  $u_{\partial T}$  are still unrelated  $\implies \nabla R = 0$  does **not** imply  $u_T = u_{\partial T} = \text{constant}$   $\implies$  a stabilization is needed.

We penalize the difference between  $u_F$  and the trace of  $u_T$ . **First try:**

$$z_T(\underline{u}_T, \underline{v}_T) := \sum_{F_i \in \partial T} h_{F_i}^{-1} (u_{F_i} - \pi_{F_i}^k(u_T), v_{F_i} - \pi_{F_i}^k(v_T))_{F_i}$$



- Ask to “glue together”  $u_F$  and  $u_T$  on each face
- Works, but insufficient to achieve optimal convergence rate



# Stabilization - II

There are two alternative ways to achieve optimal convergence rate:

- Use a more complex stabilization

$$s_T(\underline{u}_T, \underline{v}_T) := \sum_{F_i \in \partial T} h_F^{-1} (u_{F_i} - \pi_{F_i}^k P^k(\underline{u}_T), v_{F_i} - \pi_{F_i}^k P^k(\underline{v}_T))_{F_i}$$

$$P^k(\underline{w}_T) := w_T - R(\underline{w}_T) + \pi_T^k(R(\underline{w}_T))$$

Essentially, it takes into account high-order components

- Take  $u_T \in \mathbb{P}_d^{k+1}(T)$  and  $u_{F_i} \in \mathbb{P}_{d-1}^k(F_i)$

On standard cells, method 2 makes assembly slightly cheaper.

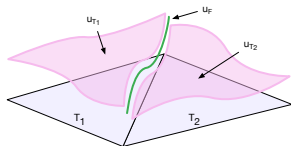
Both alternatives allow the method to reach convergence rate  $O(h^{k+2})$  in  $L^2$  norm and  $O(h^{k+1})$  in  $H^1$  norm.

Note that again, stabilizations are **completely local**.

# Discrete HHO space, assembly

The global HHO space is obtained collecting cell and face DOFs

$$U_h^k := \left\{ \prod_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \mathbb{P}_d^k(T) \right\} \times \left\{ \prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{P}_{d-1}^k(F) \right\}.$$



Dirichlet BCs imposed strongly as  $U_{h,0}^k := \{ \underline{u}_h \in U_h^k \mid u_F = 0 \quad \forall F \in \Gamma \}$ .

Note that the face DOFs are **single valued**. Let  $L_T$  be the standard local-to-global DOF mapping. By standard FEM assembly we compute

$$a_h(\underline{u}_h, \underline{v}_h) := \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} a_T(L_T \underline{u}_T, L_T \underline{v}_T) + s_T(L_T \underline{u}_T, L_T \underline{v}_T),$$

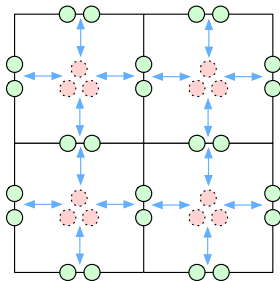
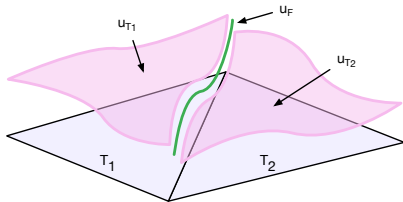
$$l_h(\underline{v}_h) := \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} (f, (L_T \underline{u}_T, \mathbf{0}))_T.$$

We finally look for  $\underline{u}_h \in U_{h,0}^k$  such that

$$a_h(\underline{u}_h, \underline{v}_h) = l_h(\underline{v}_h), \quad \forall \underline{v}_h \in U_{h,0}^k.$$

# HHO stencil

Remember that HHO operators are defined locally on cells: this means that **cell unknowns** talk only with **face unknowns**.



- Cell unknowns can be **eliminated locally during assembly** via Schur complement.
- The global problem is posed in terms of **face unknowns only**
- No. of DOFs grows like  $O(\#\mathcal{F} \cdot k^{d-1})$  vs.  $O(\#\mathcal{T} \cdot k^d)$  of DG  $\implies$  we expect an improvement over DG on standard elements.

# Does HHO pay off?

Poisson equation on  $\Omega = [0, 1]^3$ . Solver: PARDISO, memory in MB.

$k$	HHO( $k, k$ )			SIP-DG( $k + 1$ )		
	DoFs	Mflops	Mem	DoFs	Mflops	Mem
0	5760	38	39	12288	787	85
1	17280	1006	106	30720	11429	319
2	34560	8723	292	61440	92799	1108
3	57600	40389	719	107520	497245	3215

Tetrahedral mesh, 3072 elements.  $k=3$ : HHO is **12.3x** more efficient in computation, **4.5x** more efficient in memory usage.

$k$	HHO( $k, k$ )			SIP-DG( $k + 1$ )		
	DoFs	Mflops	Mem	DoFs	Mflops	Mem
0	11520	310	64	16384	6677	168
1	34560	9671	293	40960	104199	765
2	69120	58977	884	81920	845545	2844
3	115200	349664	2412	143360	4592328	8490

Hexahedral mesh, 4096 elements.  $k=3$ : HHO is **13.1x** more efficient in computation, **3.5x** more efficient in memory usage.

# HHO on indefinite Maxwell problem

We want to solve the electromagnetic time-harmonic wave equation

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{e}, \nabla \times \mathbf{v})_{\Omega} - \omega^2 \mu \epsilon (\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{v})_{\Omega} = (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v})_{\Omega}.$$

Quantities appearing in the equation:

- $\omega$ : angular frequency
- $\mu, \epsilon$ : piecewise constant material parameters
- $\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{v} \in H_0(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ : unknown electric field and test function
- $\mathbf{f}$ : source

Motivation: curl-curl is difficult for iterative solvers, direct solvers are usually employed  $\implies$  being memory-efficient is imperative.

# HHO function spaces

Local HHO function space employs vector-valued polynomials:

$$U_T^k := \mathbb{P}_3^k(T)^3 \times \left\{ \times_{F \in \partial T} \mathbb{P}_2^k(F)^2 \right\}.$$

- Cell-based polynomials have values in  $\mathbb{C}^3$
- Face-based polynomials have values in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  tangent to the face itself  
⇒ reflects tangential continuity of  $\mathbf{e}$  at the continuous level

The global discrete problem space is introduced as

$$U_h^k := \left\{ \times_{T \in \mathcal{T}} \mathbb{P}_3^k(T)^3 \right\} \times \left\{ \times_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{P}_2^k(F)^2 \right\},$$

Dirichlet conditions on  $\Gamma \subset \partial\Omega$  are imposed by forcing to zero face DOFs

$$U_{h,0}^k := \{ \underline{u}_h \in U_h^k \mid u_F = 0 \quad \forall F \in \Gamma \}.$$

# HHO operators

In the same spirit of the reconstruction used for Poisson equation, we define the **curl reconstruction** as

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

Let  $\gamma_{t,F}(\mathbf{u}) := \hat{\mathbf{n}} \times (\mathbf{u} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}})$  and  $\pi_\gamma^k = \pi_F^k \circ \gamma_{t,F}$ . We define the stabilization

$$s_T(\underline{\mathbf{u}}_T, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_T) := \sum_{F \in \partial T} \frac{\omega^2 \mu \epsilon}{h_F} (\mathbf{u}_F - \pi_\gamma^k(\mathbf{u}_T), \mathbf{v}_F - \pi_\gamma^k(\mathbf{v}_T))_F,$$

with the aim of penalizing the difference between the face function and the tangential component of the cell function.

The method is not superconvergent:  $O(h^{k+1})$  in  $L^2$  norm and  $O(h^k)$  in energy norm. Superconvergence is a work in progress.

# Global problem

Local element contributions are given by

$$\begin{aligned} a_T(\underline{u}_T, \underline{v}_T) &:= (\mathcal{C}(\underline{u}_T), \mathcal{C}(\underline{v}_T))_T - \omega^2 \mu \epsilon ((\mathbf{u}_T, \mathbf{0}), (\mathbf{v}_T, \mathbf{0}))_T + s_T(\underline{u}_T, \underline{v}_T) \\ l_T(\underline{v}_T) &:= (\mathbf{f}, (\mathbf{v}_T, \mathbf{0}))_T \end{aligned}$$

Again, static condensation is possible. Global bilinear forms are obtained by adding the local contributions

$$a_h(\underline{u}_h, \underline{v}_h) := \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} a_T(L_T \underline{u}_T, L_T \underline{v}_T) \quad l_h(\underline{v}_h) := \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} (\mathbf{f}, (L_T \mathbf{u}_T, \mathbf{0}))_T$$

We finally look for  $\underline{u}_h \in \mathbf{U}_{h,0}^k$  such that

$$a_h(\underline{u}_h, \underline{v}_h) = l_h(\underline{v}_h) \quad \forall \underline{v}_h \in \mathbf{U}_{h,0}^k$$



# HHO performance

Resonator  $[0, 1]^3$ , tetrahedral mesh, 3072 elements.

Degree	HHO(k,k)		SIP-DG(k)	
	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** better, memory **3.5x** better: good improvement over DG even if the proposed method is not superconvergent **yet**.

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

# State of HHO for Maxwell equations

HHO on Maxwell is still Work In Progress, but it already works quite well on real-world problems

## What we have already

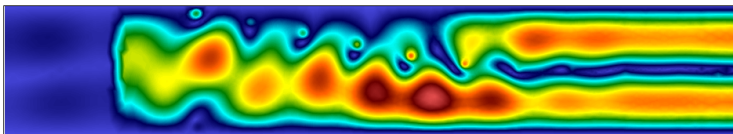
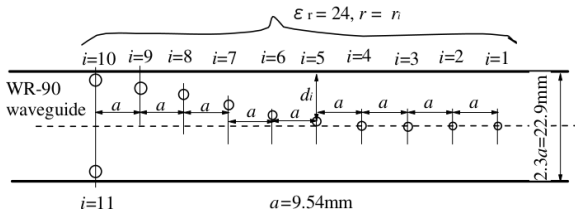
- Dirichlet and Neumann BCs
- Impedance BCs and plane wave sources
- Waveguide sources
- Total field/scattered field formulation

## What we do not have yet

- Perfectly Matched Layers (= “numerical materials” used to truncate domain in wave simulations)
- Rigorous mathematical analysis
- Superconvergence

# Real world test case: a waveguide mode converter

We study the  $S_{11}$  parameter of the depicted mode converted [Kokubo 2011] excited on the left with a  $TE_{10}$  mode



Impedance  
BC

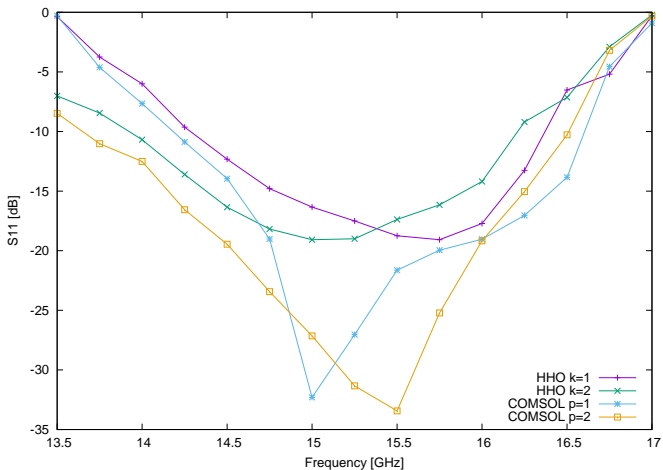
TF/SF +  
TE<sub>10</sub> mode

Impedance  
BC

- The simulation showcases all the currently available facilities
- Mesh: 1 layer of **triangular prisms** generated by GMSH

# Real world test case: a waveguide mode converter

HHO vs. COMSOL: HHO uses **Impedance BC**, COMSOL uses **PML**.



- Decent agreement in the  $> -20$  dB region
- Disagreement in the  $< -20$  dB region because HHO lacks PML

