# Compatible finite element methods for numerical weather prediction 

Colin Cotter

Department of Mathematics Imperial College London

## Talk Outline

- 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.


## Why compatible finite elements?

## 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:
(1) Higher-order consistency on arbitrary meshes,
(2) Flexibility to alter DOF ratio between velocity and pressure,
(3) No orthogonality constraint on meshes.

## Building finite element methods

Discretise the 1D wave equation:

$$
u_{t}+p_{x}=0, \quad p_{t}+u_{x}=0, \quad u(0)=u(1), p(0)=p(1)
$$

## 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:
(1) The type of polynomials used in each element,
(2) The degree of continuity across element boundaries.

## Example:

(1) $p$ and $u$ both linear functions in each element
(2) $p$ and $u$ both continuous across element boundaries


## Incompatibility




## Problem I: incompatibility

Writing $u_{t}+p_{x}=0$ doesn't work because:
(1) $u$ is linear and continuous (P1).
(2) $p_{x}$ is constant and discontinuous (P0).

## 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).

$$
v=\operatorname{argmin}_{v \in P_{1}}\left\|v-p_{x}\right\|_{L_{2}}^{2}=\int_{0}^{1}\left(v-p_{x}\right)^{2} \mathrm{~d} x
$$

Variational calculus $\Longrightarrow \int_{0}^{1} w v \mathrm{~d} x=\int_{0}^{1} w p_{x} \mathrm{~d} x, \quad \forall w \in P 1$.
(1) Expand $w$ and $v$ in a basis for P1.
(2) Solve the resulting sparse matrix system for basis coefficients of $v$.

## Projection

## Approximation

Solution to incompatibility is to approximate $p_{x}$ by the function $v$ that is closest to $p_{x}$ in P1.



## Building the equations

Unapproximated equations:

$$
u_{t}+p_{x}=0, \quad p_{t}+u_{x}=0
$$

Minimisation:
$u_{t}=\operatorname{argmin}_{u_{t} \in P 1} \int_{0}^{1}\left(u_{t}+p_{x}\right)^{2} \mathrm{~d} x, \quad p_{t}=\operatorname{argmin}_{p_{t} \in P 1} \int_{0}^{1}\left(p_{t}+u_{x}\right)^{2} \mathrm{~d} x$.
Finite element discretisation:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \int_{0}^{1} w u_{t} \mathrm{~d} x+\int_{0}^{1} w p_{x} \mathrm{~d} x=0, \quad \forall w \in P 1 \\
& \int_{0}^{1} v p_{t} \mathrm{~d} x+\int_{0}^{1} v u_{x} \mathrm{~d} x=0, \quad \forall v \in P 1
\end{aligned}
$$

## Problem II: spurious modes

## Spurious pressure modes

$p \in P 1$ is a spurious pressure mode if:
(1) $p \neq 0$, and
(2) $\int_{0}^{1} w p_{x} \mathrm{~d} x \approx 0$, for all $w \in P 1$.

- If $p \in P 1$, 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.


## Smarter choice of finite element spaces

## 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 $u \in P 1$, then $u_{x} \in P 0$.
- Choose $u \in P 1, p \in P 0$ to try to avoid averaging.
- We say that this choice of spaces is compatible with the derivative $\partial / \partial_{x}$.


## Weak derivatives

- Can now solve $p_{t}+u_{x}=0$ directly since $p_{t}, u_{x} \in P 0$.
- Can't solve $u_{t}+p_{x}=0$ directly since $P 0$ functions are discontinuous.


## Solution

Integrate by parts in the integral form of the equations.

$$
\int_{0}^{1} w u_{t} \mathrm{~d} x+\int_{0}^{1} w p_{x} \mathrm{~d} x=0, \quad \forall w \in P 1
$$

becomes

$$
\int_{0}^{1} w u_{t} \mathrm{~d} x-\int_{0}^{1} w_{x} p \mathrm{~d} x+\underbrace{[w p]_{0}^{1}}_{=0}=0, \quad \forall w \in P 1 .
$$

## No spurious pressure modes

Proposition (Ladyzhenskaya/Babuška/Brezzi (LBB) condition for P1-P0)
There exists a grid-independent constant $C$ such that

$$
\max _{w \in P 1} \frac{\left|\int_{0}^{1} w_{x} p \mathrm{~d} x\right|}{\left\|w_{x}\right\|_{L_{2}}} \geq C\|p\|_{L_{2}}, \quad \forall p \in P 0
$$

Proof.
Choose w with $w_{x}=p$, then

$\max _{w \in P 1} \frac{w_{x} w_{x} \|_{L_{2}}}{\| w_{0}}$
$\forall p \in P O$. Hence $C=1$

## No spurious pressure modes

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## Proof.

Choose $w$ with $w_{x}=p$, then
$\max _{w \in P 1} \frac{\left|\int_{0}^{1} w_{x} p \mathrm{~d} x\right|}{\left\|w_{x}\right\|_{L_{2}}} \geq \frac{\int_{0}^{1} p^{2} \mathrm{~d} x}{\left(\int_{0}^{1} p^{2} \mathrm{~d} x\right)^{1 / 2}}=\left(\int_{0}^{1} p^{2} \mathrm{~d} x\right)^{1 / 2}=\|p\|_{L_{2}}$,
$\forall p \in P 0$. Hence $C=1$.

## Building the equations II

Unapproximated equations:

$$
u_{t}+p_{x}=0, \quad p_{t}+u_{x}=0
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Finite element discretisation:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \int_{0}^{1} w u_{t} \mathrm{~d} x-\int_{0}^{1} w_{x} p \mathrm{~d} x=0, \quad \forall w \in P 1 \\
& \int_{0}^{1} v p_{t} \mathrm{~d} x+\int_{0}^{1} v u_{x} \mathrm{~d} x=0, \quad \forall v \in P 0
\end{aligned}
$$

or equivalently:

$$
u_{t}+\tilde{\partial}_{x} p=0, \quad p_{t}+u_{x}=0
$$

## Energy conservation

## 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.



## Energy conservation

## 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.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\dot{E} & =\int_{0}^{1} u u_{t} \mathrm{~d} x+\int_{0}^{1} p p_{t} \mathrm{~d} x \\
& =\int_{0}^{1} u_{x} p \mathrm{~d} x+\int_{0}^{1}-p u_{x} \mathrm{~d} x=0
\end{aligned}
$$

## Connection to C-grid




Nodal basis for P1 and P0:

## Equations for basis coefficients

On equispaced grid:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{\partial u_{i-1}}{\partial t}+4 \frac{\partial u_{i}}{\partial t}+\frac{\partial u_{i+1}}{\partial t}\right)+\frac{p_{i+1 / 2}-p_{i-1 / 2}}{\Delta x} & =0 \\
\frac{\partial p_{i+1 / 2}}{\partial t}+\frac{u_{i+1}-u_{i}}{\Delta x} & =0
\end{aligned}
$$

- 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.


## General compatible finite elements in 1D

$$
u \in \mathbb{V}_{0}, p \in \mathbb{V}_{1}
$$



General case: $\mathbb{V}_{0}=P n, \mathbb{V}_{1}=P(n-1)_{D G}$.

## Compatible finite element spaces in 2D



Rules:
(1) $\nabla \cdot$ maps from $\mathbb{V}_{1}$ onto $\mathbb{V}_{2}$.
(2) $\nabla^{\perp}$ maps from $\mathbb{V}_{0}$ onto $\operatorname{ker}(\nabla \cdot)$ in $\mathbb{V}_{1}$.

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

## Example FE spaces



## Example FE spaces




## Example FE spaces




Vorticity


Velocity


Pressure

## Example FE spaces




## Example FE spaces




## Construction of $\mathbb{V}_{1}$



## Definition (Piola transformation)

The Piola transformation $\boldsymbol{u}^{\prime} \mapsto \boldsymbol{u}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
\boldsymbol{u} \circ \boldsymbol{g}_{e} & =\frac{1}{\operatorname{det} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{g}_{e}}{\partial \boldsymbol{x}^{\prime}} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{g}_{e}}{\partial \boldsymbol{x}^{\prime}} \boldsymbol{u}^{\prime}} \\
\boldsymbol{u}^{\prime} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}^{\prime} \mathrm{d} x^{\prime} & =\boldsymbol{g}_{e}^{*}(\boldsymbol{u} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} \mathrm{~d} x)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Normal components

$$
\int_{f} \boldsymbol{u}^{\prime} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}^{\prime} \mathrm{d} x=\int_{\boldsymbol{g}_{e}(f)} \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} \mathrm{d} x
$$

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

## Dual operators and projections

where (assume no boundaries)

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

## Dual operators and projections

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

Also define projections $\Pi_{i}$ into $\mathbb{V}_{i}, i=0,1,2$ by:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_{\Omega} \gamma\left(\Pi_{0} \alpha\right) \mathrm{d} x & =\int \gamma \alpha \mathrm{d} x, \quad \forall \gamma \in \mathbb{V}_{0} \\
\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{w} \cdot\left(\Pi_{1} \boldsymbol{F}\right) \mathrm{d} x & =\int \boldsymbol{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{F} \mathrm{d} x, \quad \forall \boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{V}_{1} \\
\int_{\Omega} \phi\left(\Pi_{2} \psi\right) \mathrm{d} x & =\int \phi \psi \mathrm{d} x, \quad \forall \phi \in \mathbb{V}_{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Dual operators and projections

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathbb{V}_{0} \xrightarrow{\stackrel{\nabla^{\perp}}{\longrightarrow}} \mathbb{V}_{1} \xrightarrow{\stackrel{\nabla}{\nabla^{\perp}}} \stackrel{\mathbb{V}_{2}}{\stackrel{\tilde{\nabla}}{\longleftarrow}}
\end{gathered}
$$

Properties
(1) $\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \Pi_{1} \boldsymbol{u}^{\perp}=\Pi_{0} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u}$ for $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{V}_{1}$,
(2) $\Pi_{1} \nabla \psi=\tilde{\nabla} \Pi_{2} \psi$ for $\psi \in \mathbb{V}_{0}$,
(3) $\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \tilde{\nabla}=0$ (of course $\nabla \cdot \nabla^{\perp}=0$ ).

## Application to linearised RWSE

$$
\boldsymbol{u}_{t}+f \Pi_{1} \boldsymbol{u}^{\perp}+g \tilde{\nabla} h=0, \quad h_{t}+H \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u}=0, \quad \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{V}_{1}, h \in \mathbb{V}_{2}
$$

Proposition (Ladyzhenskaya/Babuška/Brezzi (LBB) condition for 2D)
There exists a grid-independent constant $C$ such that

$$
\max _{\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{V}_{1}} \frac{\left|\int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w} p \mathrm{~d} x\right|}{\|\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{w}\|_{L_{2}}} \geq C\|p\|_{L_{2}}, \quad \forall p \in \mathbb{V}_{2}
$$

Proof.
Choose w with $\nabla \cdot w=p$, then
$\max _{w \in}$
$\forall p \in \mathbb{V}_{2}$. Hence $C=1$

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## Proof.

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## Application to linearised RWSE

$$
\boldsymbol{u}_{t}+f \Pi_{1} \boldsymbol{u}^{\perp}+g \tilde{\nabla} h=0, \quad h_{t}+H \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u}=0, \quad \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathbb{V}_{1}, h \in \mathbb{V}_{2}
$$

Geostrophic steady states:
(1) If $\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u}=0$, then $\boldsymbol{u}=\nabla^{\perp} \psi, \psi \in \mathbb{V}_{0}$.
(2) Choose $h=f \Pi_{2} \psi / g$, then $f \Pi_{1}\left(u^{\perp}\right)=-f \Pi_{1} \nabla \psi=-f \tilde{\nabla} \Pi_{2} \psi=-g \tilde{\nabla} h$.

## Application to nonlinear RSWE

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \boldsymbol{u}_{t}+f(\underbrace{q \boldsymbol{u} h}_{=\boldsymbol{Q}})^{\perp}+\nabla\left(g h+|\boldsymbol{u}|^{2} / 2\right)=0, \quad h_{t}+\nabla \cdot(\underbrace{\boldsymbol{u} h}_{=\boldsymbol{F}})=0 . \\
& \mapsto \boldsymbol{u}_{t}+f \Pi_{1} \boldsymbol{Q}^{\perp}+g \tilde{\nabla}\left(h+\Pi_{2}|\boldsymbol{u}|^{2} / 2\right)=0, \quad h_{t}+\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{F}=0
\end{aligned}
$$

for $\boldsymbol{u}, \boldsymbol{F} \in \mathbb{V}_{1}, h \in \mathbb{V}_{2}$ and some $\boldsymbol{Q}$.

## Strategy from Arakawa and Lamb, Sadourny

(1) Apply natural curl to get vorticity equation.
(2) Map $h$ to vertices to evaluate PV.
(3) Diagnose $P V$ flux $\boldsymbol{Q}$ via $\boldsymbol{F}$ and insert into velocity equation.

## Implied PV equation

$$
\boldsymbol{u}_{t}+f \Pi_{1} \boldsymbol{Q}^{\perp}+\tilde{\nabla}\left(g h+\Pi_{2}|\boldsymbol{u}|^{2} / 2\right)=0
$$

Apply $\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot: \quad \tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \boldsymbol{u}_{t}+\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \boldsymbol{Q}^{\perp}+\underbrace{\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \tilde{\nabla}}_{=0}\left(g h+\Pi_{2}|\boldsymbol{u}|^{2} / 2\right)=0$.

PV $q \in \mathbb{V}_{0}$ defined by $\Pi_{0}(q h)=\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \boldsymbol{u}+\Pi_{0}(f)$.

$$
\text { Get } \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Pi_{0}(q h)+\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} \cdot \boldsymbol{Q}^{\perp}=0
$$

Usual continuous finite element discretisation:

$$
\int_{\Omega} \gamma(q h)_{t} \mathrm{~d} x-\int_{\Omega} \nabla \gamma \cdot \boldsymbol{Q} \mathrm{d} x=0
$$



## McRae and Cotter (submitted to QJRMS)

(1) The choice $\boldsymbol{F}=\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{1}(h \boldsymbol{u})$ and $\boldsymbol{Q}=\boldsymbol{F} q$ conserves energy and enstrophy.
(2) The choice $\boldsymbol{F}=\Pi_{1}(h \boldsymbol{u})$ and $\boldsymbol{Q}=\boldsymbol{F}(q-(\tau / h) \boldsymbol{F} \cdot \nabla q)$ conserves energy and dissipates enstrophy (APVM).
(3) Both choices preserve constant $q$ field for any initial $h$.


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

## Implicit timestepping setup

$$
\begin{aligned}
\boldsymbol{u}_{t}+(\underbrace{\boldsymbol{u} D q}_{\boldsymbol{Q}})^{\perp}+\nabla\left(g D+\frac{1}{2}|\boldsymbol{u}|^{2}\right) & =0 \\
D_{t}+\nabla \cdot(\underbrace{\boldsymbol{u} D}_{\boldsymbol{F}}) & =0
\end{aligned}
$$

Crank-Nicholson:

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

Solve $\quad D_{t}+\nabla \cdot(\bar{u} D)=0$,

$$
(q D)_{t}+\nabla \cdot(\overline{\bar{u}} D q)=0, \quad \text { from } t^{n} \text { until } t^{n+1}
$$

Then $\quad \overline{\boldsymbol{Q}}=\overline{\overline{\boldsymbol{u}} D q}$.
Preserves constant $q$ fields.

## Implementation details

- 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 $\boldsymbol{F}$ ).
- 2 level, 3rd order in time $\bar{T}(2,3)$ Taylor-Galerkin scheme of Safjan and Oden (1995) used for PV (2 CG mass-matrix-like solves per timestep).
- 4 quasi-Newton iterations per timestep, and $\theta=1 / 2$.
- Helmholtz equation formed by hybridisation.


## Testcases

Solid rotation testcase.


## Testcases

Mountain test case (Grid 5, 46080 DOFs).

$\int^{Y} z x$

0
$V^{Y} z x$

1


2


3

## CJC <br> FEM NWP

$\int^{y} z x$

4
$V^{Y} Z x$
$\int^{Y} z x$

6
$\int^{Y} z x$

7


8

## CJC <br> FEM NWP

$V^{Y} Z x$

9

## 10



11

12


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17


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21
$\int^{y} z x$

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## 41



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$$



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## 5



## 6



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$$
50
$$

## Another story: dual meshes

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \begin{array}{c}
\stackrel{\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp}}{\stackrel{\tilde{\nabla}}{\longrightarrow}} \\
\mathbb{V}_{d}^{2} \stackrel{\nabla^{\perp}}{\longleftarrow} \mathbb{V}_{d}^{1} \stackrel{\nabla}{\longleftarrow} \mathbb{V}_{d}^{0}
\end{array} \\
& \downarrow \star_{h} \quad \downarrow \star_{h} \quad \downarrow \star_{h} \\
& \mathbb{V}_{p}^{0} \xrightarrow{\nabla^{\perp}} \mathbb{V}_{p}^{1} \xrightarrow{\nabla \cdot} \mathbb{V}_{p}^{2} \\
& \stackrel{\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp} .}{\longleftarrow} \quad \tilde{\nabla}
\end{aligned}
$$

- 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).

Towards 3D


## Conclusions

- 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 $\nabla^{\perp}$ and $\nabla$. to retain $\nabla \cdot \nabla^{\perp}=0$.
- Dual operators $\tilde{\nabla}^{\perp}$. 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.


## References

- J. Thuburn and CJC, A framework for mimetic discretization of the rotating shallow-water equations on arbitrary polygonal grids, SISC (2012).
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3 year postdoctoral research associate position available!

