

# Unfitted HHO method with polynomial extension for elliptic interface problems



Romain Mottier<sup>§†‡</sup>

Alexandre Ern<sup>†‡</sup> and Erik Burman<sup>\*</sup>

CANUM, Île de Ré - France, 27-31 May 2024,

---

<sup>§</sup> CEA, DAM, DIF, F-91297 Arpajon, France

<sup>‡</sup> CERMICS, Ecole des Ponts, F-77455 Marne la Vallée cedex 2

<sup>†</sup> SERENA Project-Team, INRIA Paris, F-75589 Paris France

<sup>\*</sup> Department of Mathematics, University College London, London, UK-WC1E 6BT, UK

Email address: [romain.mottier@outlook.fr](mailto:romain.mottier@outlook.fr)

# Table of Contents

- 1 Model problem & overview
- 2 Some details on fitted HHO methods
- 3 Setting for unfitted HHO methods
  - Unfitted meshes and local unknowns
  - Pairing operator
  - Agglomeration vs. Polynomial extension
- 4 Local HHO operators with polynomial extension
- 5 Discrete problem
  - Global discrete problem
  - Algebraic realization
  - Error analysis

# Table of Contents

- 1 Model problem & overview
- 2 Some details on fitted HHO methods
- 3 Setting for unfitted HHO methods
  - Unfitted meshes and local unknowns
  - Pairing operator
  - Agglomeration vs. Polynomial extension
- 4 Local HHO operators with polynomial extension
- 5 Discrete problem
  - Global discrete problem
  - Algebraic realization
  - Error analysis

## Domain decomposition

- **Domain  $\Omega$ :**  $\overline{\Omega} := \overline{\Omega_1} \cup \overline{\Omega_2}$
- **Interface  $\Gamma$ :**  $\Gamma := \partial\Omega_1 \cap \partial\Omega_2$
- **Jump across  $\Gamma$ :**  $\llbracket u \rrbracket_\Gamma := u|_{\Omega_1} - u|_{\Omega_2}$

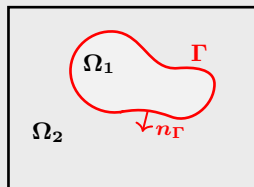


Fig. 1: Model problem

## Elliptic interface problem

- **Strong form:** Find  $u \in H^1(\Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2)$  such that

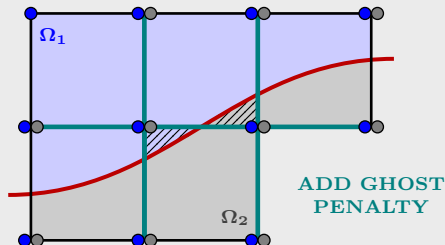
$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla u) = f & \text{in } \Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2 \\ \llbracket u \rrbracket_\Gamma = g_D & \text{on } \Gamma \\ \llbracket \kappa \nabla u \rrbracket_\Gamma \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma = g_N & \text{on } \Gamma \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

## Unfitted methods

- Minimize complexity of mesh generation
- Handle cut cells by doubling unknowns
- Need to integrate polynomials in cut cells (e.g. by submeshing)
- **Price to pay** : Need to stabilize ill-cut cells

## Unfitted FEM methods

- Introduced by [Hansbo and Hansbo, 2002]
- Standart technique for stabilization: **Ghost penalty** [Burman, 2010]



**Fig. 2:** Doubling of  $Q_1$ -FEM unknowns, ill-cut cells (dashes) and set of ghost-penalty faces

## Fitted HHO methods

- **Seminal papers:** [Di Pietro, Ern, and Lemaire, 2014], [Di Pietro and Ern, 2015]
- **Main features:**
  - ▶ Design based on cell and face unknowns
  - ▶ General meshes: polyhedral meshes, hanging nodes
  - ▶ Attractive computational cost: Static condensation
  - ▶ Local conservativity at the cell level

## Unfitted HHO methods

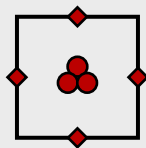
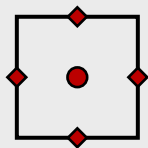
- **Seminal papers:** [Burman and Ern, 2018] [Burman, Cicuttin, Delay, and Ern, 2021]
- **Main features:**
  - ▶ Doubling of cell and face unknowns in cut cells
  - ▶ Cut stabilization by cell agglomeration
- **New approach for cut stabilization: Polynomial extension**
  - ▶ Use of similar technique for unfitted FEM [Badia, Verdugo, and Martín, 2018]

# Table of Contents

- 1 Model problem & overview
- 2 Some details on fitted HHO methods**
- 3 Setting for unfitted HHO methods
  - Unfitted meshes and local unknowns
  - Pairing operator
  - Agglomeration vs. Polynomial extension
- 4 Local HHO operators with polynomial extension
- 5 Discrete problem
  - Global discrete problem
  - Algebraic realization
  - Error analysis

## Degrees of freedom

### ■ Polynomial unknowns attached to mesh cells and faces



HHO unknowns:

$$\hat{u}_h := (u_{\mathcal{T}}, u_{\mathcal{F}}) \in \hat{\mathcal{U}}_h$$

● Cell unknowns, degree  $k' \in \{k, k+1\}$     ◆ Face unknowns, degree  $k \geq 0$

**Fig. 3:** Local HHO unknowns. **Left:**  $k' = k = 0$ . **Right:**  $k' = k + 1 = 1$ .

► Equal-order:  $k' = k$

► Mixed-order:  $k' = k + 1$

## Global degrees of freedom

■ Mesh  $\mathcal{T}_h$  with faces  $\mathcal{F}_h$

■ **Global HHO spaces:** 
$$\hat{\mathcal{U}}_h := \bigtimes_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \mathbb{P}^{k'}(T; \mathbb{R}) \quad \times \quad \bigtimes_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h} \mathbb{P}^k(F; \mathbb{R})$$



## Design of the local gradient reconstruction operator

■ **Gradient reconstruction operator:**

$$\blacktriangleright (\nabla \mathbf{u})|_T \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_T(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_T) \in \mathbb{P}^k(T; \mathbb{R}^d)$$

Design of  $\mathbf{G}_T(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_T)$  mimics an integration by parts

$$(\mathbf{G}_T(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_T), \mathbf{q})_T = (\nabla u_T, \mathbf{q})_T - (u_T - u_{\partial T}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_T)_{\partial T}, \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{P}^k(T; \mathbb{R}^d)$$

## Design of the local stabilization operator

$$\blacksquare \text{ **Stabilization operator:}** \quad \delta_{\partial T}(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_T) := \mathbf{u}_{\partial T} - \mathbf{u}_T|_{\partial T} \approx \mathbf{0}$$

Matching of cell dofs trace with face dofs (weakly)

► **Equal-order discretization:** Specific stabilization to HHO  
(not used in unfitted HHO)

► **Mixed-order discretization:** Same as HDG (Lehrenfeld-Schöberl)

$$s_T(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_T, \hat{w}_T) := \kappa h_T^{-1} (\Pi_{\partial T}^k(u_T - u_{\partial T}), w_T - w_{\partial T})_{\partial T}$$

## Main advantages of HHO methods

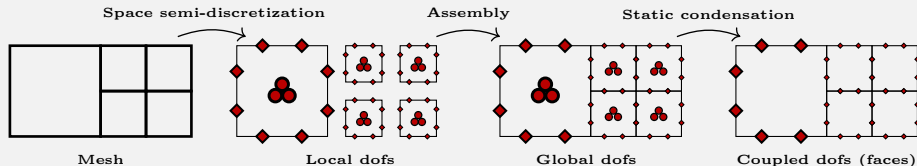
■ **Improved error estimates for smooth solutions:**

- ▶  $H^1$ -error:  $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1})$
- ▶  $L^2$ -error:  $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+2})$

■ **Attractive computational costs:**

Elimination of cell unknowns by Schur complement (static condensation) :

- ▶ Global problem couples only face dofs
- ▶ Cell dofs recovered by local post-processing



**Fig. 4:** Assembly and Schur complement procedure in the framework of HHO schemes

# Table of Contents

- 1 Model problem & overview
- 2 Some details on fitted HHO methods
- 3 Setting for unfitted HHO methods**
  - Unfitted meshes and local unknowns
  - Pairing operator
  - Agglomeration vs. Polynomial extension
- 4 Local HHO operators with polynomial extension
- 5 Discrete problem
  - Global discrete problem
  - Algebraic realization
  - Error analysis

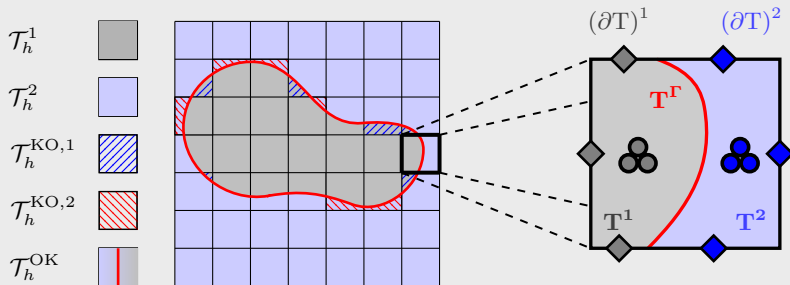
## Unfitted meshes and local unknowns

■ **Mesh partitioning:**  $\mathcal{T}_h := \mathcal{T}_h^\circ \cup \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{OK}} \cup \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{KO}}$

►  $\mathcal{T}_h^{\text{KO},1} \cup \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{KO},2} = \emptyset$  if mesh fine enough [Burman and Ern, 2018]

■ **Doubling local unknowns in cut cells:**

$$\hat{u}_T := (\hat{u}_{T^1}, \hat{u}_{T^2}) := (u_{T^1}, u_{(\partial T)^1}, u_{T^2}, u_{(\partial T)^2}) \in \hat{\mathcal{U}}_T := \hat{\mathcal{U}}_{T^1} \times \hat{\mathcal{U}}_{T^2}$$



**Fig. 5: Left.** Types of cells involved in unfitted meshes.

**Right.** Local dofs in cut cell.

## Pairing operator

$$\mathcal{N}_i : \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{KO},i} \ni S \mapsto T \in (\mathcal{T}_h^i \cup \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{OK}} \cup \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{KO},\bar{i}}) \cap \Delta_1(S), \quad \forall i \in \{1,2\}$$

- $\Delta_1(S)$  : first layer of neighboring cells of  $S$

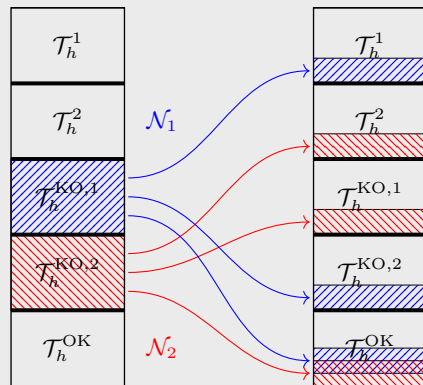
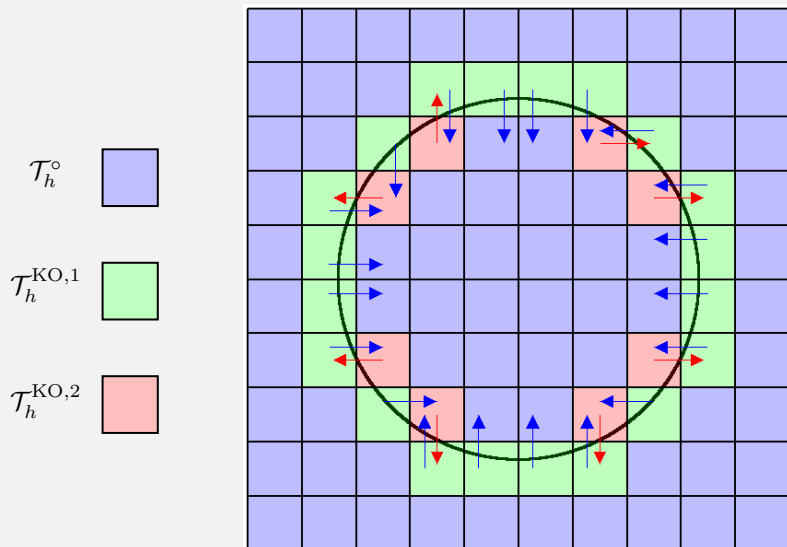
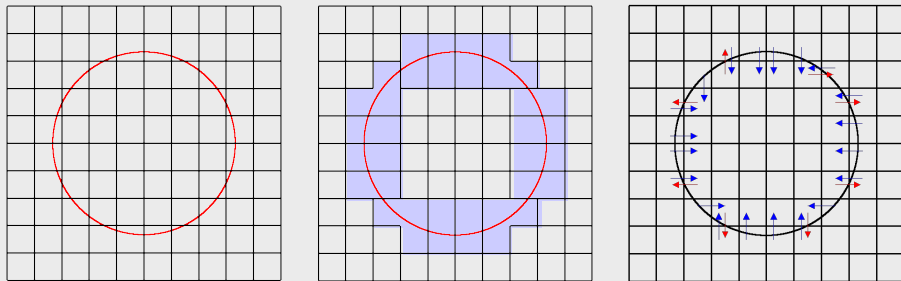


Fig. 6: Pairing of ill-cut cells



**Fig. 7:** Exemple of pairing procedure for coarse Cartesian mesh cut by circular interface

## Cell agglomeration vs. Polynomial extension



**Fig. 8:** **Left.** Initial mesh with circular interface. **Middle.** Cell agglomeration. **Right.** Stencil modification for polynomial extension

■ **Cell agglomeration:**

- ✓ Leverages on polyhedral capacity of HHO methods
- ✗ Intrusive on mesh data structure

■ **Polynomial extension:**

- ✓ Works on initial mesh (non-intrusive)
- ✗ Requires modification of the stencil (intrusive at the assembly level)

# Table of Contents

- 1 Model problem & overview
- 2 Some details on fitted HHO methods
- 3 Setting for unfitted HHO methods
  - Unfitted meshes and local unknowns
  - Pairing operator
  - Agglomeration vs. Polynomial extension
- 4 Local HHO operators with polynomial extension**
- 5 Discrete problem
  - Global discrete problem
  - Algebraic realization
  - Error analysis



■ **UNCUT CELLS:**  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h^i$

- Stencil includes  
dofs of ill-cut cell(s)

$$\hat{u}_T^+ := (\hat{u}_T, (\hat{u}_S)_{S \in \mathcal{N}^{-1}(T)})$$

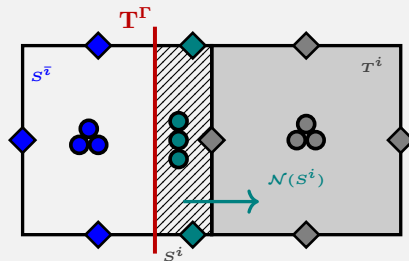


Fig. 9: Pairing configuration

## Design of the local gradient reconstruction in the uncut cells

■ **Classical gradient reconstruction:**

$$(\mathbf{G}_T(\hat{u}_T), \mathbf{q})_T = (\nabla u_T, \mathbf{q})_T - (u_T - u_{\partial T}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_T)_{\partial T}$$

■ **Gradient reconstruction with polynomial extension:**

$$(\mathbf{G}_T^k(\hat{u}_T^+), \mathbf{q})_T := (\nabla u_T, \mathbf{q})_T - (u_T - u_{\partial T}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_T)_{\partial T}$$

$$+ \sum_{S \in \mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)} \left\{ (\nabla u_T, \mathbf{q})_{S^i} - (u_T - u_{(\partial S)^i}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_S)_{(\partial S)^i} - \delta_{i1} (u_T - u_{S^{\bar{i}}}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma)_{S^\Gamma} \right\}$$

■ **WELL-CUT CELLS:**  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{OK}}$

- Stencil includes  
dofs of ill-cut cell(s)

$$\hat{u}_{T^i}^+ := (\hat{u}_{T^i}, (\hat{u}_{S^i})_{S \in \mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)}), \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

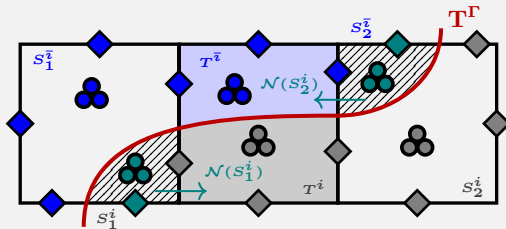


Fig. 10: Pairing configuration

Design of the local gradient reconstruction in the well-cut cells

■ **Classical gradient reconstruction:**  $\forall i \in \{1, 2\},$

$$(\mathbf{G}_{T^i}^k(\hat{u}_T^+), \mathbf{q})_{T^i} := (\nabla u_{T^i}, \mathbf{q})_{T^i} - (u_{T^i} - u_{(\partial T)^i}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_T)_{(\partial T)^i} - \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 (u_{T^i} - u_{T^{\bar{i}}}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma)_{T^\Gamma}$$

- choice  $\delta_{i1} \kappa_1$  robust with respect to strong contrast:  $\kappa_1 \ll \kappa_2$

■ **Gradient reconstruction with polynomial extension:**  $\forall i \in \{1, 2\},$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{G}_{T^i}^k(\hat{u}_T^+), \mathbf{q})_{T^i} &:= (\nabla u_{T^i}, \mathbf{q})_{T^i} - (u_{T^i} - u_{(\partial T)^i}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_T)_{(\partial T)^i} - \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 (u_{T^i} - u_{T^{\bar{i}}}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma)_{T^\Gamma} \\ &+ \sum_{S \in \mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)} \left\{ (\nabla u_{T^i}, \mathbf{q})_{S^i} - (u_{T^i} - u_{(\partial S)^i}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_S)_{(\partial S)^i} - \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 (u_{T^i} - u_{S^{\bar{i}}}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma)_{S^\Gamma} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

■ **ILL-CUT CELLS:**  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{KO},i}$

- Stencil of paired cell includes  
dofs of ill-cut cell(s)

$$\hat{u}_{T^i}^+ := (\hat{u}_{T^i}, \hat{u}_{\mathcal{N}(T)^i}, (\hat{u}_{S^i})_{S \in \mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)})$$

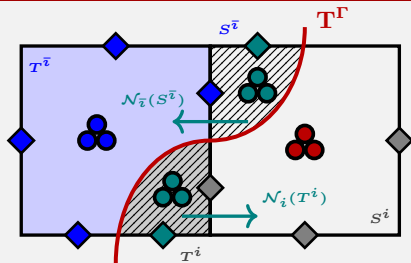


Fig. 11: Pairing configuration

Design of the local gradient reconstruction in the ill-cut cells

■ **Classical gradient reconstruction:**  $\forall i \in \{1, 2\},$

$$(G_{T^i}^k(\hat{u}_T^+), \mathbf{q})_{T^i} := (\nabla u_{T^i}, \mathbf{q})_{T^i} - (u_{T^i} - u_{(\partial T)^i}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_T)_{(\partial T)^i} - \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 (u_{T^i} - u_{T^i}, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma)_{T^\Gamma}$$

■ **Gradient reconstruction with polynomial extension:**

$$(G_{T^i}^k(\hat{u}_T^+), \mathbf{q})_{T^i} := 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} (G_{T^i}^k(\hat{u}_T^+), \bar{\mathbf{q}})_{T^i} &:= (\nabla u_{T^i}, \bar{\mathbf{q}})_{T^i} - (u_{T^i} - u_{(\partial T)^i}, \bar{\mathbf{q}} \cdot \mathbf{n}_T)_{(\partial T)^i} - \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 (u_{T^i} - u_{\mathcal{N}(T)^i}, \bar{\mathbf{q}} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma)_{T^\Gamma} \\ &+ \sum_{S \in \mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)} \left\{ (\nabla u_{T^i}, \bar{\mathbf{q}})_{S^i} - (u_{T^i} - u_{(\partial S)^i}, \bar{\mathbf{q}} \cdot \mathbf{n}_S)_{(\partial S)^i} - \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 (u_{T^i} - u_{S^i}, \bar{\mathbf{q}} \cdot \mathbf{n}_\Gamma)_{S^\Gamma} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

## HHO stabilization

- **Classical HHO stabilization:**  $\forall i \in \{1, 2\},$

$$s_{Ti}(\hat{u}_{Ti}, \hat{w}_{Ti}) := \kappa_i h_T^{-1} (\Pi_{(\partial T)^i}^k (u_{Ti} - u_{(\partial T)^i}), w_{Ti} - w_{(\partial T)^i})_{(\partial T)^i}$$

- **Stabilization with polynomial extension (e.g.  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{OK}}$ ):**  $\forall i \in \{1, 2\},$

$$\begin{aligned} s_{Ti}(\hat{u}_T^+, \hat{w}_T^+) &:= \kappa_i h_T^{-1} (\Pi_{(\partial T)^i}^k (u_{Ti} - u_{(\partial T)^i}), w_{Ti} - w_{(\partial T)^i})_{(\partial T)^i} \\ &+ \sum_{S \in \mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)} \kappa_i h_T^{-1} (\Pi_{(\partial S)^i}^k (u_{Ti} - u_{(\partial S)^i}), w_{Ti} - w_{(\partial S)^i})_{(\partial S)^i} \end{aligned}$$

## Design of the cut stabilization operator (Nitsche's term)

- **Classical cut stabilization operator:**  $\forall i \in \{1, 2\},$

$$s_T^\Gamma(\hat{u}_T^+, \hat{w}_T^+) := \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 h_T^{-1} (\llbracket u_T \rrbracket_\Gamma, \llbracket w_T \rrbracket_\Gamma)_{T^\Gamma}$$

- **Cut stabilization with polynomial extension (e.g.  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{OK}}$ ):**  $\forall i \in \{1, 2\},$

$$s_T^\Gamma(\hat{u}_T^+, \hat{w}_T^+) := \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 h_T^{-1} (\llbracket u_T \rrbracket_\Gamma, \llbracket w_T \rrbracket_\Gamma)_{T^\Gamma} + \sum_{S \in \mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)} \delta_{i1} \kappa_1 h_T^{-1} (\llbracket u_S \rrbracket_\Gamma, \llbracket w_S \rrbracket_\Gamma)_{S^\Gamma}$$

# Table of Contents

- 1 Model problem & overview
- 2 Some details on fitted HHO methods
- 3 Setting for unfitted HHO methods
  - Unfitted meshes and local unknowns
  - Pairing operator
  - Agglomeration vs. Polynomial extension
- 4 Local HHO operators with polynomial extension
- 5 Discrete problem**
  - **Global discrete problem**
  - **Algebraic realization**
  - **Error analysis**

## Global discrete problem

$$a_h(\hat{u}_h, \hat{w}_h) = \ell_h(\hat{w}_h) \quad \forall \hat{w}_h \in \hat{\mathcal{U}}_{h0},$$

$$\blacksquare \quad a_h(\hat{u}_h, \hat{w}_h) := \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \sum_{i \in \{1,2\}} a_{Ti}(\hat{u}_T^+, \hat{w}_T^+)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \quad a_{Ti}(\hat{u}_T^+, \hat{w}_T^+) := \kappa_i(\mathbf{G}_{Ti}^k(\hat{u}_T^+), \mathbf{G}_{Ti}^k(\hat{w}_T^+))_{Ti} + s_{Ti}(\hat{u}_T^+, \hat{w}_T^+) + s_{Ti}^\Gamma(\hat{u}_T^+, \hat{w}_T^+)$$

$$\blacksquare \quad \ell_h(\hat{w}_h) := \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h^\circ} (f, w_{Ti})_{Ti} \\ + \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{KO}}} \left\{ (f, w_{\mathcal{N}(T)^i})_{Ti} + (f, w_{T^{\bar{i}}})_{T^{\bar{i}}} \right\} + \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{OK}}} \sum_{i \in \{1,2\}} (f, w_{Ti})_{Ti}$$

$$\blacktriangleright \quad \text{For simplicity, we consider } g_D = g_N = 0$$

## Algebraic realization for gradient reconstruction

- Algebraic realization of  $(\mathbf{G}_{T^i}^k(\hat{u}_T^+), \mathbf{G}_{T^i}^k(\hat{w}_T^+))_{T^i}$  (e.g.  $\forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{OK}}$ ):

$$\forall i \in \{1, 2\}, \quad \mathbb{G}_{T^i}^\dagger \mathbf{M}_{T^i}^{-1} \mathbb{G}_{T^i} := \mathbf{G}_{T^i}^\dagger \mathbf{M}_{T^i}^{-1} \mathbf{G}_{T^i} + \sum_{S \in \mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)} \{ \mathbf{G}_{S^i}^\dagger \mathbf{M}_{T^i}^{-1} \mathbf{G}_{S^i} \}$$

- $\mathbf{M}_T := (\phi_{T,i}, \phi_{T,j})_T$ ,  $0 \leq i, j < N^k := \dim(\mathbb{P}^k(T; \mathbb{R}))$ , (componentwise mass matrix)
- $N_d^k := d \times N^k$
  - $N_{\partial T} := \text{number of faces of } T$
  - $N_S := \#\mathcal{N}_i^{-1}(T)$
  - $N_{\partial S} := \text{number of faces of } S$

►  $\mathbb{G}_T := \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} \updownarrow \\ N_d^k \end{matrix} \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} \xleftarrow{N_d^{k'}} & \xleftarrow{N_{\partial T} \times N_{d-1}^k} & \xleftarrow{N_S \times N_d^{k'}} & \xleftarrow{N_S \times N_{\partial S} \times N_d^{k'}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{array} \right]$

- Extension of local bilinear form  $\longrightarrow$  Modification of assembly

## Error analysis

- Based on [Burman, Cicuttin, Delay, and Ern, 2021]
  - ▶ Stability (coercivity)
  - ▶ Consistency
  - ▶ Quasi-optimal error estimates
  - ▶ For smooth solution,  $H^1$ -error:  $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1})$
  
- Implementation & Analysis in progress

Thank you for your attention !