

# Shelvean Kapita

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CONTACT INFORMATION Department of Mathematics & Computational Sciences  
University of Zimbabwe  
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Zimbabwe

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🔗 <https://shelvean.github.io/skapita>

RESEARCH INTERESTS Numerical analysis and scientific computing, high-order finite element methods, adaptive mesh refinement, absorbing boundary conditions, multivariate splines and Bernstein-Bézier polynomials, applications in acoustic and electromagnetic scattering, and variational inequalities, implementation of numerical methods in Python and in MATLAB.

EMPLOYMENT **University of Zimbabwe**, Harare, Zimbabwe

- Department of Mathematics & Computational Sciences  
Lecturer, May 2022 - current

**University of Georgia**, Athens, GA, United States

- Limited Term Assistant Professor, Aug 2017 - May 2020

**Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications**, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, United States

- Postdoctoral Fellow, Mathematics and Optics , Aug 2016 - Aug 2017.

**University of Delaware**, Newark, DE, United States

- Research and Teaching Assistant, Aug 2010 - Aug 2016

EDUCATION **University of Delaware**, Newark, DE, United States

Ph.D., Applied Mathematics, Aug 2016

- Thesis Topic: *Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for Acoustic Scattering*
- Advisor: Peter B. Monk

M.S., Applied Mathematics, Aug 2012

**Lafayette College**, Easton, PA, United States

- B.S. in Mathematics, A.B. in Physics, May 2010
  - *Cum Laude, Honors in Mathematics*
  - *Minor in Philosophy*







**Prince Edward School**, Harare, Zimbabwe

- **University of Cambridge GCE A-levels**, 2004

**Mhangura Secondary School**, Mhangura, Zimbabwe

- ZIMSEC GCSE O-levels, 2002

## PUBLICATIONS

1. **Kapita, S.**, A Bernstein-Bézier Spline Element Method for Solving the Elliptic Obstacle Problem, under preparation.
2. **Kapita, S.**, Lai, M.-J. A Bivariate Spline Solution to the Exterior Helmholtz Equation and Its Applications. , pre-print.
3. **Kapita, S.**, Monk, P., Selgas, V. ‘A Trefftz Discontinuous Galerkin Method for Time Harmonic Waves with Generalized Impedance Boundary Conditions.  *Applicable Analysis*, 2018.
4. **Kapita, S.**, Monk, P., A Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Method with a Dirichlet-to-Neumann Boundary Condition for a Scattering Problem in Acoustics.  *Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics*, 327, 208–225, 2018.
5. **Kapita, S.**, Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for Acoustic Scattering,  *Ph.D. Thesis, University of Delaware*, 2016.
6. **Kapita, S.**, Monk, P., Warburton, T., Residual based Adaptivity and PWDG Methods for the Helmholtz Equation.  *SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing*, 37(3): A1525–A1553, 2015.
7. Abedin, F., Corvino, J., **Kapita, S.**, and Wu, H., On Isoperimetric Surfaces in General Relativity II.  *Journal of Geometry and Physics*, 59(11):1453–1460, 2009.

## TEACHING

### University of Zimbabwe

#### Lecturer:

- MTSCS515 (Numerical Linear Algebra and Optimisation), Block C, Semester 2 2023
- [MTSCS546](#) (Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations), Block C, Semester 1 2022
- [HMTH407](#), [HFM307](#) (Partial Differential Equations), Block B, Semester 2 2022
- [MTE201](#) (Engineering Mathematics 2), Block A, Semester 2 2022
- [HMTHCS212](#), [HFM213](#) (Numerical Methods), Block D, Semester 1 2022

### University of Georgia

#### Instructor:

- [MATH 4500/6500](#) (Numerical Analysis 1), Spring 2019
- [MATH 2700](#) (Elementary Differential Equations), Spring 2019
- [MATH 2250](#) (Calculus I for Science and Engineering), Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
- [MATH 1113](#) (PreCalculus), Fall 2017

### University of Delaware

#### Instructor:

- [MATH 243](#) (Analytic Geometry and Calculus C), Winter 2015
- [MATH 221](#) (Calculus I for Business and Economics), Winter 2012, Winter 2013, Winter 2014

#### Teaching assistant:

- [MATH 243](#) (Analytic Geometry and Calculus C Lab), Spring 2015, Fall 2012
- [MATH 241](#) (Analytic Geometry and Calculus A), Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011
- [MATH 242](#) (Analytic Geometry and Calculus B), Spring 2012

UNDERGRADUATE  
THESIS  
SUPERVISION

**University of Zimbabwe**

- Ivan T. Chuma, BSc Hons in Actuarial Science (expected May 2023)
- Gerald Munetsi, BSc Hons in Applied Mathematics and Economics (expected May 2023)
- Talent Maramba, BSc Hons in Applied Mathematics and Economics (expected May 2023)
- Cosmas T. Nyazika, BSc Hons in Applied Mathematics and Economics (expected May 2023)
- Clemeo Gwezere, BSc Hons in Applied Mathematics and Economics (expected May 2023)

AWARDS AND  
HONORS

- UNIDEL Fellowship, University of Delaware, Spring 2014
- McKelvy Scholar, Lafayette College, 2007-2008
- Sigma Pi Sigma, Pi Mu Epsilon, Sigma Xi
- EXCEL Scholar, Lafayette College in mathematics and physics

COMPUTER  
LANGUAGES

- Scientific programming: MATLAB, R, Python (NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, Pandas, Mayavi)
- Web programming: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, KaTeX, Sphinx.
- I have implemented a bivariate spline code using Bernstein-Bézier polynomials to solve elliptic PDE constrained problems by an inexact primal-dual active set method in Python 3.9.7 and in MATLAB for arbitrary polynomial order and smoothness.
- Sample codes on [GitHub](#).

SERVICE

- Referee for Inverse Problems in Science and Engineering
- Referee for the Journal of Applied and Computational Mathematics
- Referee for Applied Numerical Mathematics
- Represented the IMA at the 2016 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference

PRESENTATIONS

- Seminar (online): *A Finite Element Method for Solving the Elliptic Obstacle Problem*, Applied Mathematics & Statistics Seminar, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. Jan 31, 2023.
- Seminar: *A Bivariate Spline PML Approximation of the Exterior Helmholtz Equation*, Applied Math Seminar, Auburn University, Auburn, AL. Feb 8, 2019.
- Seminar: *A Bivariate Spline PML Approximation of the Exterior Helmholtz Equation*, Applied Math Seminar, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. Feb 6, 2019.
- Seminar: *An Adaptive PML Technique for Time Harmonic Scattering*, Applied Math Seminar, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. April 30, 2018

- Mini-symposium: *A Trefftz Discontinuous Galerkin Method for Time-Harmonic Waves with Generalized Impedance Boundary Conditions*, SIAM Conference on Analysis of Partial Differential Equations, Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD. Dec 9-12, 2017.
- Mini-symposium: *A Trefftz Discontinuous Galerkin Method for Time-Harmonic Waves with Generalized Impedance Boundary Conditions*, SIAM Central States Section, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. Sept 30, 2017.
- Seminar: *A Trefftz Discontinuous Galerkin Method for Time-Harmonic Waves with Generalized Impedance Boundary Conditions*, Applied Math Seminar, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. Sept 5, 2017.
- Seminar: *Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for Acoustic Scattering*, CCMA PDE's and Numerical Methods Seminar, Pennsylvania State University, PA. Jan 19, 2017.
- Seminar: *Plane Wave Approximation of Homogeneous Helmholtz Solutions*, Cockburn's Seminar, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. Dec 2016
- Seminar: *Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for Acoustic Scattering*, IMA Postdoc Seminar, University of Minnesota, Nov 22, 2016.
- Workshop: *Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for Acoustic Scattering*, NSF Mathematics Institutes' Modern Math Workshop at SACNAS, Long Beach CA. Oct 12-13, 2016.
- Conference: *Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for Acoustic Scattering*, International Conference on Computational Mathematics and Inverse Problems, On the occasion of the 60th birthday of Prof. Peter Monk, Michigan Technological University. Aug 19, 2016.
- Workshop: *A Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Method with Dirichlet-to-Neumann Boundary Conditions*, DelMar Numerics Day, George Mason University, Fairfax VA. May 2016.
- Symposium: *Residual based Adaptivity and PWDG Methods for the Helmholtz Equation*, Joint Mathematics Meetings, Seattle WA. Jan 2016.
- Poster: *Adaptive Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for the Helmholtz Equation*, Franco-German Summer School, Inverse Problems for Waves, École Polytechnique, Palaiseau France. August 2015.
- Symposium: *Residual based Adaptivity and PWDG Methods for the Helmholtz Equation*, Winter Research Symposium, University of Delaware. February 2015.
- Workshop: *Plane Wave Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for the Helmholtz Equation*, DelMar Numerics Day, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. May 2014.
- Seminar: *Convergence of an Interior Penalty Adaptive Discontinuous Galerkin Method*, Hallenbeck Graduate Student Seminar, University of Delaware. April 2013.

PROFESSIONAL  
ACTIVITIES  
AND  
WORKSHOPS


- Georgia Scientific Computing Symposium, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA. Feb 16, 2019.
- SIAM Conference on Analysis of Partial Differential Equations, Baltimore, MD. Dec 9-12, 2017.

- SIAM Central States Conference, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. Sept 29-Oct 1, 2017.
- 2016 SACNAS, The National Diversity in STEM Conference, Long Beach, California, October 13-15, 2016. Represented the IMA.
- International Conference on Computational Mathematics and Inverse Problems, On occasion of the 60th birthday of Prof. Peter Monk, Michigan Technological University, Houghton MI. Aug 15-19, 2016.
- IMA PI Graduate Student Conference on Finite Element Methods for Eigenvalue Problems, Michigan Technological University, Houghton MI. Aug 10-14, 2016.
- DelMar Numerics Day, George Mason University, Fairfax VA. May 14 2016.
- Finite Element Circus, University of Maryland, College Park MD. Apr 15-16, 2016.
- Joint Mathematics Meetings, Seattle WA. Jan 4-7, 2016.
- Finite Element Circus, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth MA. Oct 16-17, 2015.
- Franco-German Summer School, Inverse Problems for Waves, École Polytechnique, Palaiseau France. Aug 24-28, 2015.
- Mathematical Problems in Industry Workshop (MPI), University of Delaware, Newark DE. June 22-26 2015.
- Finite Element Circus, George Mason University, Fairfax VA. Mar 27-28, 2015.
- DelMar Numerics Day, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore MD. May 10, 2014.
- Finite Element Circus, Wayne State University, Detroit MI. Mar 28-29, 2014.
- Finite Element Circus, University of Delaware, Newark DE. Oct 18-19, 2013.
- International Conference on Novel Directions in Inverse Scattering, Honoring David Colton, University of Delaware, Newark DE. July 29-Aug 2, 2013.
- DelMar Numerics Day, University of Maryland, College Park MD. May 4, 2013.
- Mathematical General Relativity, Summer Course, MSRI Berkeley CA. July 9-20, 2012.
- NSF-CBMS Conference on Finite Element Exterior Calculus, Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM), Brown University. Jun 11-15, 2012.
- Joint Mathematics Meetings, San Francisco CA. Jan 13-16, 2010.

## REFERENCES

**Prof. Peter Monk** 

Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Delaware, Newark DE, 19716  
[monk@udel.edu](mailto:monk@udel.edu)

**Prof. Ming-Jun Lai** 

Department of Mathematics, University of Georgia, Athens GA, 30602  
[mjlai@uga.edu](mailto:mjlai@uga.edu)

**Dr. Hee Jung Kim**  (teaching)

Department of Mathematics, University of Georgia, Athens GA, 30602  
[hjk@uga.edu](mailto:hjk@uga.edu)