

# FE Stokes equations

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Stokes can be written as

$$-\nabla \cdot (\nabla u + p) = f \quad (1)$$

$$\nabla \cdot u = 0. \quad (2)$$

The naïve finite element approach to solving the Stokes equations is as follows. Find  $(u, p) \in W$  such that

$$a((\mathbf{u}, p), (\mathbf{v}, q)) = L((\mathbf{v}, q)) \quad (3)$$

for all  $(v, q) \in W$ , where

$$a((\mathbf{u}, p), (\mathbf{v}, q)) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} p + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} q \, dx, \quad (4)$$

$$L((v, q)) = \int_{\Omega} f \cdot \mathbf{v} \, dx. \quad (5)$$

Using first order elements in both velocity and pressure leads to stability problems for reasons that are unclear to me but clear to some in the FEA community. Replacing equations 6 and 7 with

$$a((u, p), (v, q)) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} p + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} q + \delta \nabla q \cdot \nabla p \, dx, \quad (6)$$

$$L((v, q)) = \int_{\Omega} f \cdot \mathbf{v} \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \nabla q \cdot f \, dx. \quad (7)$$

We then implement this on FEniCS with a mixed function space method.