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Helmholtz-Hodge Decomposition on $[0,1]^d$ by Divergence-free and Curl-free Wavelets

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Résumé *This paper deals with the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition of a vector field in bounded domain. We present a practical algorithm to compute this decomposition in the context of divergence-free and curl-free wavelets satisfying suitable boundary conditions. The method requires the inversion of divergence-free and curl-free wavelet Gram matrices. We propose an optimal preconditioning which allows to solve the systems with a small number of iterations. Finally, numerical examples prove the accuracy and the efficiency of the method.*

Keywords: Divergence-free and curl-free wavelets ; Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition.

1 Introduction

Vector fields analysis is ubiquitous in engineering, physics or applied mathematics. Most of the solutions of problems arising from these domains are vector fields and they have some compatibility properties related to the nature of the problem. This is the case in the numerical simulation of incompressible fluid flows where the velocity field is divergence-free or in electromagnetism where the electric field contained in the electromagnetic field is curl-free.

The Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition, under certain smoothness assumptions, allows to separate any vector field into the sum of three uniquely defined components : divergence-free, curl-free and gradient of a harmonic function. Thus, the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition provides a powerful tool for several applications such as the resolution of partial differential equations [11], aerodynamic design [22], detection of flow features [17] or computer graphics [16]. Therefore, it is important to have at hand an efficient algorithm to deal with such decomposition numerically.

In case of periodic boundary conditions, Fourier domain offers an ideal setting to compute the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition, thanks to the Leray projector

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which writes explicitly [9]. For more general (physical) boundary conditions, this decomposition is usually achieved by solving a Poisson equation relative to each field component : this is the case when using finite element or finite difference methods [11]. The well known drawback of these methods is their cost, for example in particle-based physical simulations. Then, one resorts to mesh-less method [16] or methods leading to variational equations [17].

In wavelet setting the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition will not use the resolution of a Poisson equation, since one knows explicit bases for the divergence-free and curl-free function spaces [14,23,18,10]. In this context, Urban [24], and latter Deriaz and Perrier [9] introduced methods to compute the orthogonal projections onto divergence-free and curl-free wavelet bases. These wavelet methods have for main interest to provide accuracy for a small number of degrees of freedom, due to the good nonlinear approximation property provided by wavelet bases [6]. However, the works of [24,9] are limited to periodic boundary conditions for lack of suitable bases.

The main objective of this paper is to extend the works of [24,9] to more general physical boundary conditions. We first present the principles of tensor-product divergence-free and curl-free wavelet construction on the cube. This construction was detailed in [20] in the 2D case (see also [19]). Then we propose an effective method for the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition based on the computation and inversion of corresponding Gram matrices. The tensor structure of the bases is fully exploited to reduce the computational complexity. Moreover the system is solved with a low complexity, thanks to an optimal preconditioning.

The layout of this paper is as follows. In section 2, we recall the theoretical definition and mathematical background of the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition on a bounded domain of $\mathbb{R}^d$. In section 3 we explicit the construction of divergence-free and curl-free wavelets on $[0,1]^d$ with desired boundary conditions. Section 4 is devoted to the description of the numerical method for the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition, and numerical examples will illustrate its performance.

2 Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition

We recall in this section some definitions related to the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition on a bounded domain Ω of $\mathbb{R}^d$ [11]. We assume that Ω is an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^d$, bounded and connected with Lipschitz-continuous boundary Γ (see [11,1]).

2.1 Definitions

The Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition theorem [11,5] states that any vector field $\mathbf{u} \in (L^2(\Omega))^d$ can be uniquely decomposed into the sum of its divergence-free, curl-free and gradient of harmonic function components :

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} + \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} + \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} \tag{1}$$

with :

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} = 0 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \nabla \times \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} = 0 \tag{2}$$

The last component $\mathbf{u}_{\text{har}}$ is both divergence-free and irrotational :

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} = 0 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \nabla \times \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} = 0 \tag{3}$$

Following [11,1], this decomposition may alternatively be written using vector and scalar potentials. There exist a vector potential (scalar if $d = 2$) $\mathbf{\Psi} \in (H_0^1(\Omega))^d$, a scalar potential $\mathbf{q} \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ and a harmonic potential $\mathbf{h} \in H^1(\Omega)$ such as :

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} = \mathbf{curl}(\mathbf{\Psi}) \qquad \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} = \nabla \mathbf{q} \qquad \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} = \nabla \mathbf{h}$$

Moreover, $\mathbf{\Psi}$, $\mathbf{q}$ and $\mathbf{h}$ are uniquely defined.

In terms of spaces, the decomposition (1) corresponds to an orthogonal splitting of $(L^2(\Omega))^d$:

$$(L^2(\Omega))^d = \mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega) \oplus \mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega) \oplus \mathcal{H}_{har}(\Omega) \tag{4}$$

where $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$ is the space of divergence-free vector functions of $(L^2(\Omega))^d$ with vanishing tangential boundary condition :

$$\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega) = \{\mathbf{u} \in (L^2(\Omega))^d : \ \mathbf{div}(\mathbf{u}) = 0, \ \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}|_\Gamma = 0\} \tag{5}$$

which also coincides (for $d = 2, 3$) with the *curl of potential* space :

$$\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega) = \{\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{curl}(\mathbf{\Psi}) : \mathbf{\Psi} \in (H_0^1(\Omega))^d\} \tag{6}$$

($\mathbf{\Psi} \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ if $d = 2$). On the other side, the space $\mathcal{H}_{curl}$ corresponds to the gradient of $H^1(\Omega)$-potentials which vanish on Γ :

$$\mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega) = \{\mathbf{u} = \nabla \mathbf{q} : \ \mathbf{q} \in H_0^1(\Omega)\} \tag{7}$$

Finally, $\mathcal{H}_{har}$ corresponds to the gradient of $H^1(\Omega)$-harmonic potentials :

$$\mathcal{H}_{har}(\Omega) = \{\mathbf{u} = \nabla \mathbf{q} : \ \mathbf{q} \in H^1(\Omega), \ \Delta \mathbf{q} = 0\} \tag{8}$$

Other splittings exist, for example in $(H_0^1(\Omega))^d$ to incorporate homogeneous boundary conditions [11].

In the whole space $\mathbb{R}^d$ or with periodic boundary conditions, the decomposition (1) is explicit in Fourier domain and the third term vanishes : $\mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} = 0$ (one obtains the Helmholtz decomposition in this case [9,24]). In the wavelet context, an iterative procedure was proposed by Deriaz and Perrier [9]. The purpose here is to extend such method with boundary conditions for the spaces $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$, $\mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega)$ and $\mathcal{H}_{har}(\Omega)$ introduced in (5, 7, 8).

3 Divergence-free and curl-free wavelets on $[0,1]^d$

This section introduces the principles of the construction and main properties of divergence-free and curl-free wavelets on the hypercube $[0,1]^d$. The two dimensional case $d=2$ has been detailed in [20], we develop below the extension to more general dimensions. Our construction is based on 1D multiresolution analysis generators $(\varphi^1, \tilde{\varphi}^1)$ and $(\varphi^0, \tilde{\varphi}^0)$ linked by differentiation / integration, and introduced by Lemarié-Rieusset and collaborators in original works [14,13]. It follows two steps, described in the two forthcoming sections :

(i) Construction of two biorthogonal MRAs of $L^2(0,1)$ linked by differentiation / integration.

(ii) Construction of MRAs and wavelet bases of $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$ and $\mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega)$.

3.1 Multiresolution analyses of $L^2(0,1)$ linked by differentiation / integration

The construction of regular biorthogonal multiresolution analyses (BMRA) on the interval $[0,1]$ is now classical (see [8,4,15,12]). It begins with a pair of biorthogonal compactly supported scaling functions $(\varphi^1, \tilde{\varphi}^1)$ [7] of $L^2(\mathbb{R})$, with some r polynomial reproduction :

$$x^\ell = \sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}} \langle x^\ell, \tilde{\varphi}^1(x-k)\rangle \ \varphi^1(x-k) \qquad \text{for} \qquad 0 \le \ell \le r-1 \tag{9}$$

and similarly for $\tilde{\varphi}^1$, with $\tilde{r}$ polynomial reproduction.

Following classical constructions, one define finite dimensional biorthogonal multiresolution spaces :

$$V_j^1 = \text{span}\{\varphi_{j,k}^1 \ ; \ 0 \le k \le N_j - 1\} \ \text{ and } \ \tilde{V}_j^1 = \text{span}\{\tilde{\varphi}_{j,k}^1 \ ; \ 0 \le k \le N_j - 1\} \tag{10}$$

whose dimension $N_j \simeq 2^j$ depends on some *free* integer parameters (δ_0, δ_1). The scaling functions $\varphi_{j,k}^1$ satisfy $\varphi_{j,k}^1 = 2^{j/2}\varphi^1(2^j x - k)$ "inside" the interval $[0,1]$, but this is no more true near the boundaries 0 and 1 (idem for $\tilde{\varphi}_{j,k}^1$). In practice, the scale index j must be great than some index j_{min}, to avoid boundary effects. The biorthogonality between bases writes : $< \varphi_{j,k}^1 / \tilde{\varphi}_{j,k'}^1 >= \delta_{k,k'}$
The approximation order provided by such MRA (V_j^1) in $L^2(0,1)$ is r :

$$\forall \ f \in H^s(0,1), \quad \inf_{f_j \in V_j^1} \|f - f_j\|_{L^2(0,1)} \le C 2^{-js}, \quad 0 \le s \le r \tag{11}$$

whereas $(\tilde{V}_j^1)$ has for approximation order $\tilde{r}$.

Homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions can be simply imposed on (V_j^1) by removing one scaling function at each boundary 0 and 1 :

$$V_j^D = V_j^1 \cap H_0^1(0,1) = \text{span}\{\varphi_{j,k}^1 \ ; \ 1 \le k \le N_j - 2\} \tag{12}$$

A possibility to adjust the dimension of the biorthogonal space is also to impose $\tilde{V}_j^D = \tilde{V}_j^1 \cap H_0^1(0,1)$, and $\tilde{V}_j^D$ rewrites (keeping the same notation for the basis functions, which have changed after biorthogonalization) :

$$\tilde{V}_j^D = \text{span}\{\tilde{\varphi}_{j,k}^1 \ ; \ 1 \leq k \leq N_j - 2\} \tag{13}$$

As usual, biorthogonal wavelet spaces $(W_j^1, \tilde{W}_j^1)$ are defined by :

$$W_j^1 = V_{j+1}^1 \cap (\tilde{V}_j^1)^\perp \qquad\qquad \tilde{W}_j^1 = \tilde{V}_{j+1}^1 \cap (V_j^1)^\perp \tag{14}$$

and generated by finite dimensional wavelet bases on the interval [15,12] :

$$W_j^1 = \text{span}\{\psi_{j,k}^1 \ ; \ 0 \leq k \leq 2^j - 1\} \ \text{ and } \ \tilde{W}_j^1 = \text{span}\{\tilde{\psi}_{j,k}^1 \ ; \ 0 \leq k \leq 2^j - 1\} \tag{15}$$

The difficulty now is to derive a new biorthogonal MRA $(V_j^0, \tilde{V}_j^0)$ of $L^2(0,1)$ such that :

$$\frac{d}{dx} V_j^1 = V_j^0$$

The existence of such biorthogonal MRA was already proved by Jouini and Lemarié-Rieusset [13] and it should be based on generators $(\varphi^0, \tilde{\varphi}^0)$ introduced in [14] satisfying :

$$(\varphi^1(x))' \ = \ \varphi^0(x) - \varphi^0(x-1) \qquad \text{and} \qquad (\tilde{\varphi}^0(x))' \ = \ \tilde{\varphi}^1(x+1) - \tilde{\varphi}^1(x) \tag{16}$$

In [20], we proposed a practical construction of spaces $(V_j^0, \tilde{V}_j^0)$:

$$V_j^0 = \text{span}\{\varphi_{j,k}^0 \ ; \ 0 \leq k \leq N_j - 2\} \ \text{ and } \ \tilde{V}_j^0 = \text{span}\{\tilde{\varphi}_{j,k}^0 \ ; \ 0 \leq k \leq N_j - 2\} \tag{17}$$

satisfying the following proposition.

Proposition 1.
The two BMRAs $(V_j^\epsilon, \tilde{V}_j^\epsilon)_{\epsilon=0,1}$ of $L^2(0,1)$ constructed in [20] from biorthogonal generators $(\varphi^\epsilon, \tilde{\varphi}^\epsilon)_{\epsilon=0,1}$ satisfying relation (16), verify :

$$(i) \ \frac{d}{dx} V_j^1 = V_j^0 \quad \textit{and} \quad \frac{d}{dx} \circ \mathcal{P}_j^1 f = \mathcal{P}_j^0 \circ \frac{d}{dx} f, \quad \forall \ f \in H^1(0,1)$$

$$(ii) \ \tilde{V}_j^0 = H_0^1(0,1) \cap \int_0^x \tilde{V}_j^1 \quad \textit{and} \quad \frac{d}{dx} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_j^0 f = \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_j^1 \circ \frac{d}{dx} f, \quad \forall \ f \in H_0^1(0,1)$$

where $(\mathcal{P}_j^\epsilon, \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_j^\epsilon)$ are the biorthogonal projectors on $(V_j^\epsilon, \tilde{V}_j^\epsilon)$.

Wavelet bases of the biorthogonal MRA $(V_j^0, \tilde{V}_j^0)_{j \geq j_{min}}$ are simply defined by respectively differentiating and integrating the wavelets of $(V_j^1, \tilde{V}_j^1)_{j \geq j_{min}}$, as stated by the following proposition [13,20].

Proposition 2. *[13,20]*
Let $\{\psi^1_{j,k}\}$ and $\{\tilde{\psi}^1_{j,k}\}$ be biorthogonal wavelet bases of respectively W^1_j and $\tilde{W}^1_j$. Then, the wavelets defined by :

$$\psi^0_{j,k} = 2^{-j}(\psi^1_{j,k})' \qquad \textit{and} \qquad \tilde{\psi}^0_{j,k} = -2^j \int_0^x \tilde{\psi}^1_{j,k} \tag{18}$$

are respectively biorthogonal wavelet bases of W^0_j and $\tilde{W}^0_j$:

$$W^0_j = V^0_{j+1} \cap (\tilde{V}^0_j)^\perp \qquad \textit{and} \qquad \tilde{W}^0_j = \tilde{V}^0_{j+1} \cap (V^0_j)^\perp \tag{19}$$

3.2 Divergence-free scaling functions and wavelets on $[0,1]^d$

Le Ω be the hypercube $\Omega = [0,1]^d$. The objective in this section is to derive wavelet bases of the space $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$, with vanishing outward normal at the boundary $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$. Following (5), $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$ is the curl of the space $(H^1_0(\Omega))^d$ (for $d = 3$, and $H^1_0(\Omega)$ for $d = 2$) of vector (scalar for $d = 2$) stream functions. We begin with the description of basis functions in the 2D case (already detailed in [20]), then we generalize the construction for $d \geq 3$.

Two-dimensional case :
We start with the 2D MRA $(V^D_j \otimes V^D_j)_{j \geq j_{min}}$ of $H^1_0(\Omega)$, where $(V^D_j)_{j \geq j_{min}}$ is the 1D MRA of $H^1_0(0,1)$ defined in section 3.1 (12). For each scale index $j \geq j_{min}$, divergence-free scaling functions on $\Omega = [0,1]^2$ are constructed by taking the curl of scaling functions of $V^D_j \otimes V^D_j$:

$$\Phi^{div}_{j,\mathbf{k}} := \mathbf{curl}[\varphi^D_{j,k_1} \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_2}] = \begin{vmatrix} \varphi^D_{j,k_1} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_2})' \\ -(\varphi^D_{j,k_1})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_2} \end{vmatrix}, \quad 1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq N_j - 2 \tag{20}$$

The choice of space V^D_j ensures that the divergence-free scaling functions satisfy the boundary condition $\Phi^{div}_{j,\mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ by construction. Let $\mathbf{V}^{div}_j$ be the space spanned by these divergence-free scaling functions :

$$\mathbf{V}^{div}_j = \text{span}\{\Phi^{div}_{j,\mathbf{k}}\}, \quad 1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq N_j - 2 \tag{21}$$

By construction, the spaces $\mathbf{V}^{div}_j$ form a multiresolution analysis of $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$, since it can be proven from proposition 1 that we have [20] :

$$\mathbf{V}^{div}_j = (V^D_j \otimes V^0_j) \times (V^0_j \otimes V^D_j) \cap \mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega) \tag{22}$$

In the same manner, the corresponding anisotropic divergence-free wavelets on Ω are defined by taking the curl of the three types of scalar anisotropic

wavelets associated to $V_j^D \otimes V_j^D$: for $\mathbf{j} = (j_1, j_2)$, with $j_1, j_2 > j_{min}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Psi^{div,1}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} &:= \mathbf{curl}[\varphi^D_{j_{min},k} \otimes \psi^D_{j_2,k_2}],\ 1 \le k \le N_{j_{min}} - 2,\quad 0 \le k_2 \le 2^{j_2} - 1 \\
\Psi^{div,2}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} &:= \mathbf{curl}[\psi^D_{j_1,k_1} \otimes \varphi^D_{j_{min},k}],\ 0 \le k_1 \le 2^{j_1} - 1,\quad 1 \le k \le N_{j_{min}} - 2 \\
\Psi^{div,3}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} &:= \mathbf{curl}[\psi^D_{j_1,k_1} \otimes \psi^D_{j_2,k_2}],\ 0 \le k_1 \le 2^{j_1} - 1,\ 0 \le k_2 \le 2^{j_2} - 1
\end{aligned}$$

$(\psi^D_{j,k})$ being the wavelet basis of $W_j^D = V_{j+1}^D \cap (\tilde{V}_j^D)^\perp$.

Three-dimensional case :
Divergence-free scaling functions and wavelets on $\Omega = [0,1]^3$ are constructed by taking the curl of suitable scaling functions and wavelets of $(H_0^1(\Omega))^3$. We will focus on the scaling function construction, since the same technique is used for wavelets. The divergence-free scaling functions are defined by :

$$\Phi^{div}_{1,j,\mathbf{k}} := \mathbf{curl} \begin{vmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \varphi^D_{j,k_1} \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_2} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_3})' \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \varphi^D_{j,k_1} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_2})' \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_3})' \\ -(\varphi^D_{j,k_1})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_2} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_3})' \\ 0 \end{vmatrix} \tag{23}$$

$$\Phi^{div}_{2,j,\mathbf{k}} := \mathbf{curl} \begin{vmatrix} (\varphi^D_{j,k_1})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_2} \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_3} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 \\ (\varphi^D_{j,k_1})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_2} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_3})' \\ -(\varphi^D_{j,k_1})' \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_2})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_3} \end{vmatrix} \tag{24}$$

$$\Phi^{div}_{3,j,\mathbf{k}} := \mathbf{curl} \begin{vmatrix} 0 \\ \varphi^D_{j,k_1} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_2})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_3} \\ 0 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} -\varphi^D_{j,k_1} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_2})' \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_3})' \\ 0 \\ (\varphi^D_{j,k_1})' \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_2})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_3} \end{vmatrix} \tag{25}$$

where $1 \le k_1, k_2, k_3 \le N_j - 2$. These functions are contained in $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$ by construction. The space $\mathbf{V}_j^{div}$ spanned by this family is included into the following standard BMRA of $(L^2(\Omega))^3$:

$$\mathbf{V}_j = \left(V_j^1 \otimes V_j^0 \otimes V_j^0\right) \times \left(V_j^0 \otimes V_j^1 \otimes V_j^0\right) \times \left(V_j^0 \otimes V_j^0 \otimes V_j^1\right) \tag{26}$$

which makes it easy the coefficient computations on divergence-free bases. To each scaling function, we can associate 7 types of anisotropic divergence-free generating wavelets by taking respectively the curl of wavelets of $\{0\} \times \{0\} \times (V_j^D \otimes V_j^D \otimes V_j^0)$, $(V_j^0 \otimes V_j^D \otimes V_j^D) \times \{0\} \times \{0\}$ and $\{0\} \times (V_j^D \otimes V_j^0 \otimes V_j^D) \times \{0\}$.

As scaling functions $\Phi^{div}_{1,j,\mathbf{k}}$, $\Phi^{div}_{2,j,\mathbf{k}}$ and $\Phi^{div}_{3,j,\mathbf{k}}$, their corresponding divergence-free wavelets are also linearly dependent. To construct a multiresolution analysis and wavelet bases of $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$, we need to keep only two scaling functions and their 14 corresponding generating wavelets.

The construction extends to larger dimensions $d > 0$ readily. As in the isotropic construction of Lemarié-Rieusset [14], we obtain in this case $(d-1)$ types of linear independent divergence-free scaling functions and $(d-1)(2^d - 1)$ types

of corresponding divergence-free wavelets. For $1 \leq i \leq d-1$, the general formula of these scaling function is given by :

$$\Phi^{div}_{i,j,\mathbf{k}} := \begin{array}{c} \text{arrow } i \ \rightarrow \\ \text{arrow } i+1 \rightarrow \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{l} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ (\varphi^D_{j,k_1})' \otimes \cdots \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_{i-1}})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_i} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_{i+1}})' \otimes \cdots \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_d})' \\ -(\varphi^D_{j,k_1})' \otimes \cdots \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_i})' \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_{i+1}} \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_{i+2}})' \otimes \cdots \otimes (\varphi^D_{j,k_d})' \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{array} \right. \tag{27}$$

The scaling functions $\Phi^{div}_{i,j,\mathbf{k}}$ satisfy the boundary condition : $\Phi^{div}_{i,j,\mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$, by construction. The space $\mathbf{V}^{div}_j$ spanned by this family is included into the following standard BMRA of $(L^2(\Omega))^d$:

$$\mathbf{V}_j = \mathbf{V}^1_j \times \cdots \times \mathbf{V}^d_j \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{V}^i_j = V_j^{\delta_{1,i}} \otimes \cdots \otimes V_j^{\delta_{d,i}}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d \tag{28}$$

$\delta_{i,j}$ denotes the Kronecker symbol.

3.3 Curl-free scaling functions and wavelets on $[0,1]^d$

The construction of irrotational scaling functions and wavelets is easier than in the case of divergence-free functions, since it does not depend on the dimension d. According to the definition (7) of $\mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega)$, basis functions will be constructed by taking the gradient of scaling functions and wavelets of a multiresolution analysis of $H^1_0(\Omega)$.

The starting point is again a regular multiresolution analysis of $H^1_0(\Omega)$ given by d tensor-product of V^D_j :

$$\mathbf{V}_j = V^D_j \otimes \cdots \otimes V^D_j \tag{29}$$

Then, the curl-free scaling functions of $\mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega)$ are defined by :

$$\Phi^{\nabla}_{j,\mathbf{k}} = \nabla[\varphi^D_{j,k_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \varphi^D_{j,k_d}] \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbf{V}^{\nabla}_j = \text{span}\{\Phi^{\nabla}_{j,\mathbf{k}}\} \tag{30}$$

where $1 \leq k_i \leq N_j - 2$ for $1 \leq i \leq d$. By construction we have :

$$\mathbf{V}^{\nabla}_j = \nabla[V^D_j \otimes \cdots \otimes V^D_j]$$

The multiresolution decomposition of the space $\mathbf{V}^{\nabla}_j$ leads to :

$$\mathbf{V}^{\nabla}_j = \nabla \left[V^D_{j_{min}} \otimes \cdots \otimes V^D_{j_{min}} \bigoplus_{j_{min} \leq j_i \leq j-1} \left(\sum_{\omega \in \Omega^*_d} W^{\omega}_{\mathbf{j}} \right) \right], \quad 1 \leq i \leq d \tag{31}$$

with :

$$\Omega_d^* = \{0,1\}^d \setminus (0,\cdots,0) \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{j}}^{\omega} = W_{j_1}^{\omega_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes W_{j_d}^{\omega_d}$$

where the spaces $W_{j_i}^{\omega_i}$ correspond to :

$$W_{j_i}^{\omega_i} = W_{j_i}^{D} \ \text{ if } \ \omega_i = 1, \qquad W_{j_i}^{\omega_i} = V_{j_{min}}^{D} \ \text{ if } \ \omega_i = 0$$

Denoting by $\Psi_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}^{\omega}$ the wavelets of $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{j}}^{\omega}$, we define the curl-free wavelets and spaces by :

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}^{\omega,\nabla} = \nabla\,[\Psi_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}^{\omega}] \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{j}}^{\omega,\nabla} = \text{span}\{\Psi_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}^{\omega,\nabla}\} \tag{32}$$

where $j_i \geq j_{min}$ and $0 \leq k_i \leq 2^j - 1$, for $1 \leq i \leq d$.

From proposition 1, the spaces spanned by these curl-free functions are contained in the following BMRA of $(L^2(\Omega))^d$:

$$\mathbf{V}_j^+ = \mathbf{V}_j^1 \times \cdots \times \mathbf{V}_j^d \quad \text{ with } \quad \mathbf{V}_j^i = V_j^{1-\delta_{1,i}} \otimes \cdots \otimes V_j^{1-\delta_{d,i}}, \ \ 1 \leq i \leq d$$

$\delta_{i,j}$ denotes the Kronecker symbol. This property allows fast coefficient computations on irrotational bases.

Since the spaces $\mathbf{V}_j$ defined in (29) constitute a multiresolution analysis of $H_0^1(\Omega)$, we get :

$$H_0^1(\Omega) = \mathbf{V}_{j_{min}} \bigoplus_{j_i \geq j_{min}} \left(\sum_{\omega \in \Omega_d^*} \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{j}}^{\omega} \right), \ \ 1 \leq i \leq d \tag{33}$$

Taking the gradient of relation (33) and using again proposition 1, we obtain :

$$\mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega) = \mathbf{V}_{j_{min}}^{\nabla} \bigoplus_{j_i \geq j_{min}} \left(\sum_{\omega \in \Omega_d^*} \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{j}}^{\omega,\nabla} \right), \ \ 1 \leq i \leq d \tag{34}$$

This relation (34) was proved in [20] in the case of 2D construction.

4 Wavelet Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition

4.1 Description of the method

The Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition, introduced in section 2, provides the orthogonal splitting of any vector field $\mathbf{u} \in (L^2(\Omega))^d$ into a divergence-free part, a curl-free part, and a gradient of a harmonic function :

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} + \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} + \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} \tag{35}$$

where :

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} = 0 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} = 0 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} \cdot \tau = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} = 0 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} = 0$$

$\mathbf{n}$ and τ are respectively the unit outward normal and tangent to the boundary $\partial\Omega$.

Our aim in this section is to describe a practical way to compute the components $\mathbf{u}_{\text{div}}$ and $\mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}}$. Our method uses the divergence-free and curl-free scaling functions and wavelet bases constructed in the previous section.

Since $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega) = \text{span}\{\Psi^{div}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}\}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega) = \text{span}\{\Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}\}$ (we adopt a unified notation for the wavelet bases), the components $\mathbf{u}_{\text{div}}$ and $\mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}}$ are searched under the form of their wavelet series :

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} = \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} d^{\text{div}}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}\ \Psi^{div}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} = \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}\ \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \tag{36}$$

By orthogonality of the decomposition (35) in $(L^2(\Omega))^d$, we obtain :

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{div}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}_{\text{div}}, \Psi^{div}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle \qquad \text{and} \qquad \langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle \tag{37}$$

Accordingly the computation of coefficients $(d^{\text{div}}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})$ and $(d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})$ is reduced to the resolution of two linear systems :

$$\mathbb{M}_{\text{div}}(d^{\text{div}}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}) = (\langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{div}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle) \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}(d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}) = (\langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle) \tag{38}$$

where $\mathbb{M}_{\text{div}}$ and $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ are respectively the Gram matrices of the bases $\{\Psi^{div}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}\}$ and $\{\Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}\}$.

The above method is nothing but orthogonal projections from $(L^2(\Omega))^d$ to $\mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega)$ and $\mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega)$ respectively. In practice, $\mathbf{u}_{\text{div}}$ is searched as $\mathbf{u}^j_{\text{div}} \in \mathbf{V}^{div}_j$ for some j, and $\mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}}$ as $\mathbf{u}^j_{\text{curl}} \in \mathbf{V}^{curl}_j$. Then we recover from the usual Jackson-type estimations :

$$\forall\ \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{H}_{div}(\Omega) \cap (H^s(\Omega))^d, \quad \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^j_{\text{div}}\|_{(L^2(\Omega))^d} \leq C2^{-js}, \quad 0 \leq s \leq r-1$$

and

$$\forall\ \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{H}_{curl}(\Omega) \cap (H^s(\Omega))^d, \quad \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^j_{\text{curl}}\|_{(L^2(\Omega))^d} \leq C2^{-js}, \quad 0 \leq s \leq r-1$$

where r denotes the approximation order provided by the generator φ^1.

The last component $\mathbf{u}_{\text{har}}$ of the decomposition (35) is computed by subtracting $\mathbf{u}_{\text{div}}$ and $\mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}}$ from $\mathbf{u}$:

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} = \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} - \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} \tag{39}$$

4.2 Divergence-free and curl-free Gram matrices computation

In this section we present a practical computation of matrices $\mathbb{M}_{\text{div}}$ and $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$. For easy reading, we focus on the matrix $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ in the 2D case. The extension to larger dimensions $d > 2$ follows readily from this two-dimensional case.

The key idea is to use the tensor structure of $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ to reduce the computation. Let $\mathbf{M}_j$ and $\mathbf{R}_j$ denote respectively the Gram and stiffness matrices of the 1D basis $\{\psi^D_{j,k}\}$:

$$[\mathbf{M}_j]_{k,k'} = \langle \psi^D_{j,k}, \psi^D_{j,k'} \rangle \qquad \text{and} \qquad [\mathbf{R}_j]_{k,k'} = \langle (\psi^D_{j,k})', (\psi^D_{j,k'})' \rangle \tag{40}$$

The tensor structure of the basis $\{\Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}\}$ allows to express the inner product $\langle \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{k}'} \rangle$ in terms of matrix elements (40). By definition of the basis functions we get :

$$\langle \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{k}'} \rangle = \langle (\psi^D_{j_1,k_1})' \otimes \psi^D_{j_2,k_2}, (\psi^D_{j'_1,k'_1})' \otimes \psi^D_{j'_2,k'_2} \rangle + \langle \psi^D_{j_1,k_1} \otimes (\psi^D_{j_2,k_2})', \psi^D_{j'_1,k'_1} \otimes (\psi^D_{j'_2,k'_2})' \rangle$$

which rewrites :

$$\langle \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{k}'} \rangle = [\mathbf{M}_j]_{k_1,k'_1} \cdot [\mathbf{R}_j]_{k_2,k'_2} + [\mathbf{R}_j]_{k_1,k'_1} \cdot [\mathbf{M}_j]_{k_2,k'_2} \tag{41}$$

Then $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ can be decomposed as :

$$\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}} = \mathbf{M}_j \otimes \mathbf{R}_j + \mathbf{R}_j \otimes \mathbf{M}_j \tag{42}$$

The tensorial decomposition (42) has for main interest to reduce a 2D matrix-vector product with $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ to matrix-matrix products with $\mathbf{M}_j$ and $\mathbf{R}_j$. More precisely, if $(d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})$ denotes the vector of curl-free wavelet coefficients of $\mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}}$, defined in (36), equation (42) leads to :

$$[\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}(d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})] = \mathbf{M}_j [d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}] \mathbf{R}_j + \mathbf{R}_j [d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}] \mathbf{M}_j \tag{43}$$

where $[d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}]$ denotes the matrix of elements $d^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}$. In practice the matrices only needed to compute and to store are the 1D matrices $\mathbf{M}_j$ and $\mathbf{R}_j$.

Finally, the matrix $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ has a sparse structure, due to the compact support of basis functions. Figure 1 shows the shape of $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$, for $j = 6$, in the case of Daubechies generators with $r = 3$ vanishing moments. Remark that in 2D $\mathbb{M}_{\text{div}} = \mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ (which is also the stiffness matrix of the Laplacian onto the wavelet basis $\{\psi^D_{j_1,k_1} \otimes \psi^D_{j_2,k_2}\}$), since we have :

$$\forall\ \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in H^1_0(\Omega); \quad \int_\Omega \mathbf{curl}(\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{curl}(\mathbf{v})\ dx \ = \ \int_\Omega \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}\ dx \tag{44}$$

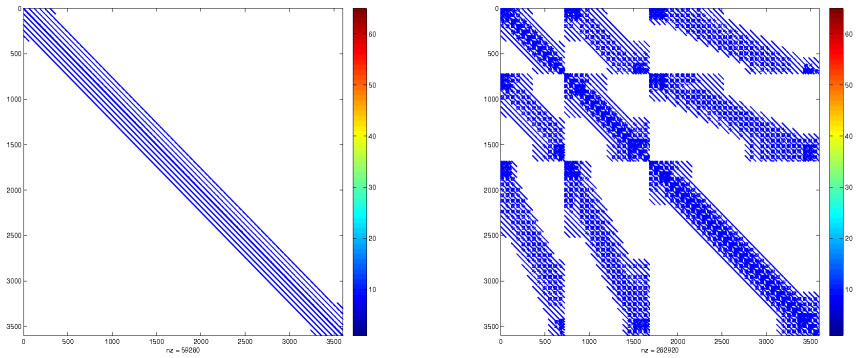


Figure 1. Gram matrices of divergence-free scaling functions (left) and wavelets (right) built from Daubechies generators with $r = 3$, $j_{min} = 4$, $j = 6$.

4.3 Right-hand side computations

To solve system (38), we need to compute efficiently inner products $\langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{div}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle$ and $\langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle$. This is achieved by using the decomposition of $\mathbf{u}$ in the wavelet bases in the suitable multiresolution analyses of $(L^2(\Omega))^d$ that contain alternatively the divergence-free or curl-free functions. To illustrate, we will explain the computation of $\langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \rangle$ in the two dimensional case.

Let $(d^1_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})$ and $(d^2_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})$ denote respectively the coefficients of the decomposition of $\mathbf{u} = (\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2)$ on the wavelet basis of $(V^0_j \otimes V^D_j) \times (V^D_j \otimes V^0_j)$:

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} d^1_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \; \psi^0_{j_1,k_1} \otimes \psi^D_{j_2,k_2} \qquad \mathbf{u}_2 = \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} d^2_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \; \psi^D_{j_1,k_1} \otimes \psi^0_{j_2,k_2}$$

The computation of inner product $\langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{k}'} \rangle$ writes :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{k}'} \rangle = & \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} d^1_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \; \langle \psi^0_{j_1,k_1} \otimes \psi^D_{j_2,k_2}, (\psi^D_{j'_1,k'_1})' \otimes \psi^D_{j'_2,k'_2} \rangle \\ & + \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} d^2_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}} \; \langle \psi^D_{j_1,k_1} \otimes \psi^0_{j_2,k_2}, \psi^D_{j'_1,k'_1} \otimes (\psi^D_{j'_2,k'_2})' \rangle \end{aligned}$$

In terms of coefficient matrices $[d^1_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}]$ and $[d^1_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}]$, it becomes :

$$[\langle \mathbf{u}, \Psi^{\nabla}_{\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{k}'} \rangle] = \mathbf{C}^0_j \; [d^1_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}] \; \mathbf{M}_j + \mathbf{M}_j \; [d^2_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}] \; (\mathbf{C}^0_j)^t$$

where $\mathbf{C}^0_j$ is the stiffness matrix of elements : $\langle \psi^0_{j,k}, (\psi^D_{j',k'})' \rangle$. The computation of the Gram and stiffness matrices $\mathbf{M}_j$, $\mathbf{C}^0_j$ is classical [3] (see also [15,19]).

4.4 Divergence-free and curl-free Gram matrices preconditioning

The tensorial decomposition (42) of $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ is used to deduce a preconditioner from those of matrices $\mathbf{M}_j \otimes \mathbf{R}_j$ and $\mathbf{R}_j \otimes \mathbf{M}_j$. Let $\mathbf{I}_j$ be the identity matrix of dimension $(N_j - 2)$ and $\mathbf{I}_R$ be the diagonal matrix of $\mathbf{R}_j$:

$$[\mathbf{I}_j]_{k,k'} = \delta_{k,k'} \qquad \text{and} \qquad [\mathbf{I}_R]_{k,k'} = [\mathbf{R}_j]_{k,k'}\delta_{k,k'}, \quad 1 \leq k, k' \leq N_j - 2$$

On one hand, as an optimal (and diagonal) preconditioner of $\mathbf{R}_j$ is given by the inverse of $\mathbf{I}_R$ (see [6]), readily we deduce optimal diagonal preconditioners of matrices $\mathbf{M}_j \otimes \mathbf{R}_j$ and $\mathbf{R}_j \otimes \mathbf{M}_j$ by respectively the inverse of matrices $\mathbf{I}_j \otimes \mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R}$ and $\mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R} \otimes \mathbf{I}_j$.

On the other hand, since $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ is the 2D stiffness matrix of a scalar Laplacian on the basis $\{\psi^D_{j_1,k_1} \otimes \psi^D_{j_2,k_2}\}$, an optimal preconditioner is given by the inverse of its diagonal matrix [6]. Then, the inverse of the diagonal matrix $\mathbf{D}_j$ defined by :

$$\mathbf{D}_j = \mathbf{I}_j \otimes \mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R} \otimes \mathbf{I}_j$$

is an optimal diagonal preconditioner for $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$.

However, the matrix $\mathbf{D}_j$ has the same size as $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$. To reduce the complexity, we replace the 2D matrix-vector product $\mathbf{D}_j(d^\nabla_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})$ by the following matrix-matrix products :

$$[\mathbf{D}_j(d^\nabla_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})] = [d^\nabla_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}]\mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R}[d^\nabla_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}] \tag{45}$$

Because of the diagonal structure of $\mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R}$, equation (45) is then reduced to term by term matrix product :

$$[\mathbf{D}_j(d^\nabla_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})]_{k,k'} = [d^\nabla_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}]_{k,k'} \cdot [\mathbf{I}^*_\mathbf{R}]_{k,k'} \quad \text{where} \quad [\mathbf{I}^*_\mathbf{R}]_{k,k'} = [\mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R}]_{k,k} + [\mathbf{I}_\mathbf{R}]_{k',k'} \tag{46}$$

From equation (46), multiplying $(d^\nabla_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}})$ by the matrix $\mathbf{D}_j^{-1}$ is therefore equivalent to divide term by term the matrix $[d^\nabla_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{k}}]$ by $\mathbf{I}^*_\mathbf{R}$.

The preconditioner $\mathbf{I}^*_\mathbf{R}$ is also valid for the matrix $\mathbb{M}_{\text{div}}$ in dimension two $(d = 2)$ since $\mathbb{M}_{\text{div}} = \mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$.

The performance of the above preconditioner for $\mathbb{M}_{\text{curl}}$ was tested in two and three dimensions, using a preconditioned conjugate gradient method to solve system (43). Then we study the number of iterations needed to reach a given residual, first with respect to the dimension index j, second with respect to the regularity (approximation order r) of the basis functions. Figure 2 shows that the number of iterations does not increase significantly with the dimension index j, in the periodic and non periodic cases, which indicates that our preconditioner is quasi-optimal.

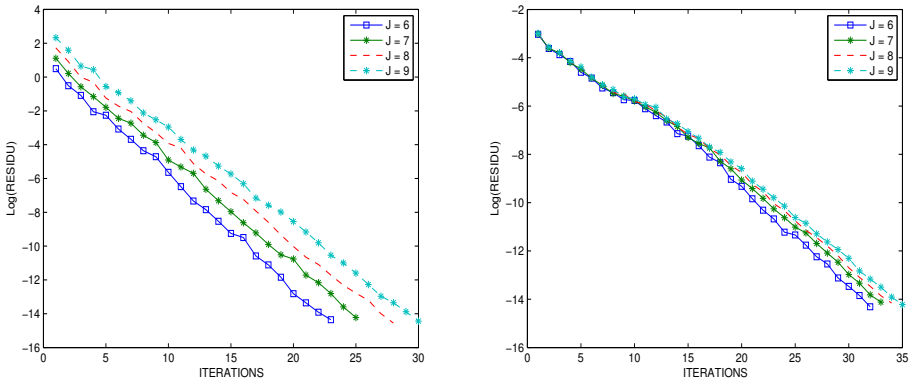


Figure 2. Preconditioned conjugate gradient residual versus iteration number, for different values of the dimension index j : periodic case (left) and non periodic case (right). Daubechies generators ψ^1 with $r = 3$ vanishing moments, $j_{min} = 3$ in non periodic (2D case).

Figure 3 (two-dimensional case) and figure 4 (three-dimensional case) highlight that the approximation order r speed up the convergence of the resolution. The behaviour of the slopes are less regular in the non periodic case, because of the influence of the smallest scale $j_{min} > 0$.

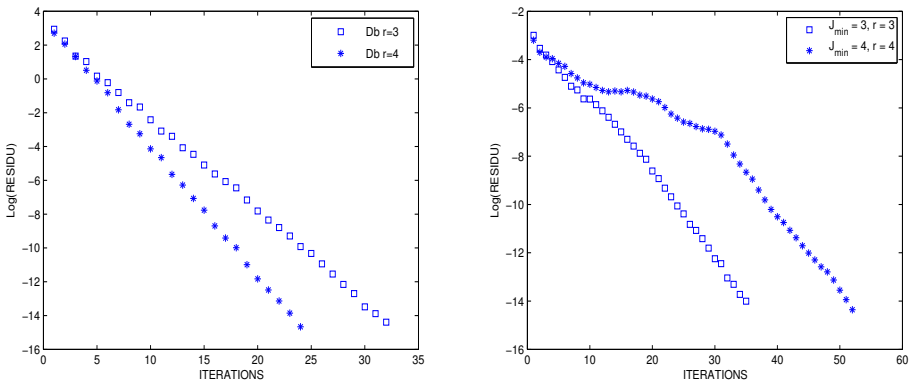


Figure 3. Preconditioned conjugate gradient residuals versus iteration number, for different values of the approximation order r : periodic case (left) and non periodic case (right). Daubechies generators ψ^1 with $r = 3$ and $r = 4$ vanishing moments. The resolution is $j = 10$ in two dimension ($d = 2$).

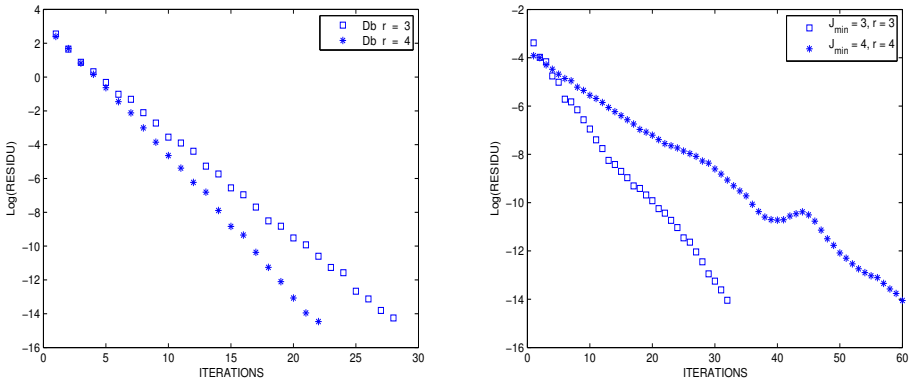


Figure 4. Preconditioned conjugate gradient residuals versus iteration number, for different values of the approximation order r : periodic case (left) and non periodic case (right). Daubechies generators ψ^1 with $r = 3$ and $r = 4$ vanishing moments. The resolution is $j = 7$ in three dimension ($d = 3$).

4.5 Examples of Helmholtz-Hodge and Helmholtz decomposition

In this section, we carry out some experiments to illustrate and study the convergence rate of the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition. First we show in dimension two, the Helmholtz decomposition of a vector field $\mathbf{u}$ (Figure 5), and its Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition (Figure 7). The vector field $\mathbf{u}$ was constructed analytically :

$$\mathbf{u}_{2D} = \mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} + \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} + \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}}$$

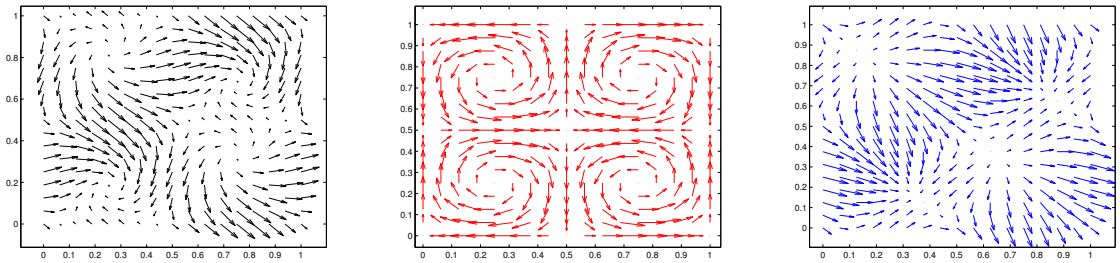
where :

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{div}} = \left| \begin{array}{l} \sin(2\pi x)^2 \sin(4\pi y) \\ -\sin(4\pi x)\sin(2\pi y)^2 \end{array} \right. , \ \mathbf{u}_{\text{curl}} = \left| \begin{array}{l} \sin(4\pi x)\sin(2\pi y)^2 \\ \sin(2\pi x)^2 \sin(4\pi y) \end{array} \right. , \ \mathbf{u}_{\text{har}} = (1/2, -1/4)$$

The terms of the decompositions are computed using the method described previoulsy.

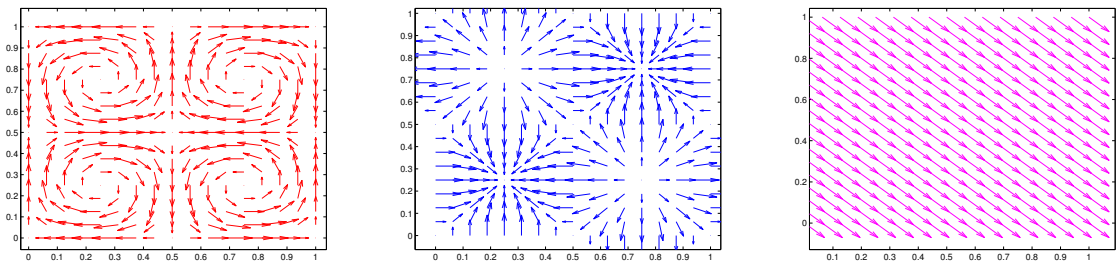
Then we investigate the convergence rate of the projection error onto the divergence-free vector space $\mathbf{V}_j^{div}$, in two en three dimensions. The tests have been performed on analytic fields, which we know the exact solutions. We used $\mathbf{u}_{2D}$ in two dimensions and in three dimensions we used :

$$\mathbf{u}_{3D} = \left| \begin{array}{l} \sin(2\pi x)^2 \sin(4\pi y)\sin(4\pi z) + \sin(4\pi x)\sin(2\pi y)^2 \sin(2\pi z)^2 \\ \sin(4\pi x)\sin(2\pi y)^2 \sin(4\pi z) + \sin(2\pi x)^2 \sin(4\pi y)\sin(2\pi z)^2 \\ -2\sin(4\pi x)\sin(4\pi y)\sin(2\pi z)^2 + \sin(2\pi x)^2 \sin(2\pi y)^2 \sin(4\pi z) \end{array} \right. \tag{47}$$



(a) Initial vector field $\mathbf{u}^j_{2D}$ (b) Divergence-free part $\mathbf{u}^j_{\text{div}}$ (c) Curl-free part $\mathbf{u}^j_{\text{curl}} + \mathbf{u}^j_{\text{har}}$

Figure 5. Example of Helmholtz decomposition.



(a) Divergence-free part $\mathbf{u}^j_{\text{div}}$ (b) Curl-free part $\mathbf{u}^j_{\text{curl}}$ (c) Gradient of harmonic part $\mathbf{u}^j_{\text{har}}$

Figure 6. Example of Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition.

The solutions verify homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions by construction. Figure 7 plot the ℓ_2-projection errors in terms of the dimension index j with generators of approximation order $r = 3$. For both experiments (2D and 3D), the convergence rate follows the theoretical law of -2 predicted in (11).

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we have presented a practical algorithm to compute the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition of a vector field in the hypercube. Our method is based on the existence of divergence-free and irrotational wavelet bases satisfying boundary conditions. After presenting the principles of their construction in any dimension, we have detailed the computation of each term of the decomposition, which requires the inversion of divergence-free and curl-free wavelet Gram matrices. We have used the tensorial structure of the bases to propose an optimal and diagonal preconditioning, to invert the system using a preconditioned conjugate gradient. Numerical tests on 2D and 3D analytical vector fields illustrate the potential of the approach, in terms of complexity and storage.

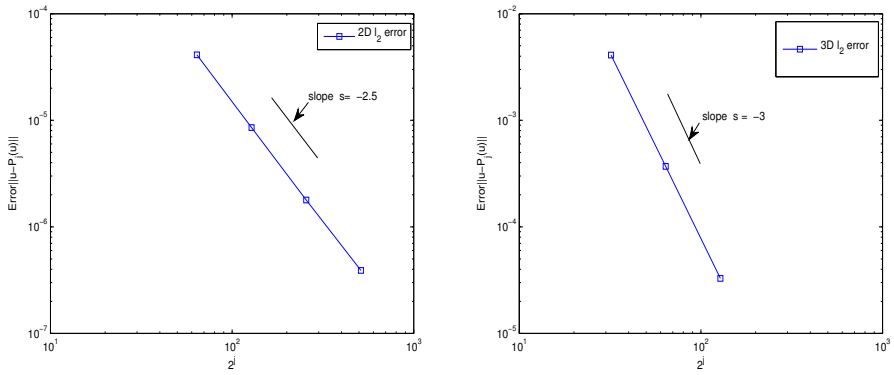


Figure 7. ℓ_2-projection error onto $\mathbf{V}_j^{div}$ versus j. Two-dimensional case (left) and three-dimensional case (right). The generators $(\varphi^1, \tilde{\varphi}^1)$ correspond to biorthogonal splines with : $r = \tilde{r} = 3$.

Since the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition is a key ingredient for the analysis and simulation of incompressible flows, future works will present its application in numerical schemes for the Stokes and Navier-Stokes equations [19].

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