NONCONFORMING MULTISCALE FINITE ELEMENT METHOD FOR STOKES FLOWS IN HETEROGENEOUS MEDIA. PART I: METHODOLOGIES AND NUMERICAL EXPERIMENTS[*]

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Abstract. The multiscale finite element method (MsFEM) is developed in the vein of the Crouzeix–Raviart element for solving viscous incompressible flows in genuine heterogeneous media. Such flows are relevant in many branches of engineering, often at multiple scales and at regions where analytical representations of the microscopic features of the flows are often unavailable. Full accounts of these problems heavily depend on the geometry of the system under consideration and are computationally expensive. Therefore, a method capable of solving multiscale features of the flow without confining itself to fine scale calculations is sought. The approximation of boundary condition on coarse element edges when computing the multiscale basis functions critically influences the eventual accuracy of any MsFEM approaches. The weakly enforced continuity of Crouzeix–Raviart function space across element edges leads to a natural boundary condition for the multiscale basis functions which relaxes the sensitivity of our method to complex patterns of obstacles exempt from the need to implement any oversampling techniques. Additionally, the application of a penalization method makes it possible to avoid a complex unstructured domain and allows extensive use of simpler Cartesian meshes.

1. Introduction. Stokes equations relate to many engineering practices such as reservoir engineering, micro-/nano-fluidics, and mechano-biological systems. Often in these fields, the problems are at multiple scales both spatially and temporally. Multiscale problems may arise due to highly oscillatory coefficients of the system or due to heterogeneity of the domain, for example, complex rock matrices when modelling subsurface flows or random placements of buildings, people, and trees in the context of urban canopy flows. It is very difficult to resolve numerically all of the scales that impact transport through such systems. Despite the modern renaissance of high performance computing, the size of the discrete problems remains intractable. In some engineering contexts, it is sometimes sufficient to predict macroscopic properties of multiscale systems. Hence, it is desirable to develop an efficient computational algorithm to solve multiscale problems without being confined to solving fine scale solutions. We borrow the concept of the multiscale finite element method (MsFEM)

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[1] by Hou and Wu, the concept of which hinges upon the extension of multiscale basis functions precomputed in fine mesh to represent a "model" of the microscopic structure of the flow. The fact that the multiscale bases are not modeled but rather computed extends the applicability of MsFEM to problems where the analytical representations of microscopic solutions are unavailable.

Within the past decades, several similar methods have appeared, namely, generalized finite element methods [2], the wavelet-based homogenization method [3], the variational multiscale method [4], various methods derived from homogenization theory [5], equation-free computations [6], the heterogeneous multiscale method [7], and many others. In the context of diffusion in perforated media, some studies have been done both theoretically and numerically in [8], [9], [10], [11], and [12]. For the case of advection-diffusion, a method derived from the heterogeneous multiscale method addressing oscillatory coefficients is studied, for example, in [13], [14], [15]. For viscous, incompressible flows, multiscale methods based on homogenization theory for solving slowly varying Stokes flow in porous media have been studied in [16], [17]. Several theoretical and numerical studies have been done in recent years to address Stokes–Darcy or Stokes–Brinkman problems in vugular or fractured porous media; see [18], [19], [20], [21].

When tackling highly heterogeneous problems, it is understood that a delicate treatment is needed at the boundary condition when constructing the multiscale basis function because it greatly influences the eventual accuracy of the method under consideration. Indeed, in the original work of Hou and Wu, the oversampling method was introduced to provide the best approximation of the boundary condition of the multiscale basis functions. Inaccurate approximations of these functions on the boundary would leave a method highly unreliable when dealing with arbitrary pattern of porosities or matrices. Oversampling here means that the local problems in the coarse element are extended to a domain larger than the element itself, but only the interior information would be communicated to the coarse scale equation. The aim is to reduce the effect of wrong boundary conditions and bad sampling sizes. The ways in which the sampled domain is extended lead to various oversampling methods; we refer interested readers to [22], [23], [24], [25].

The nonconforming nature of the Crouzeix–Raviart element (see [26]) is shown to provide great "flexibility" especially when arbitrary patterns of porosities are considered. In the construction of Crouzeix–Raviart multiscale basis functions, the conformity between coarse elements is not enforced in a strong sense but rather in a weak sense; i.e., the method requires merely the average of the "jump" of the function to vanish at coarse element edges. When very dense obstacles are introduced, which often makes it prohibitively difficult to avoid intersections between coarse element edges and obstacles, the benefit of using the Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM is significant because it allows the multiscale basis functions to have natural boundary conditions on element edges, making it insensitive to complex patterns of obstacles. Moreover, the integrated application of a penalization method enables one to carry the simulations onto simple Cartesian meshes. This work continues our earlier works, where the Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM is implemented on diffusion and advection-diffusion problems [27], [28], [29].

This paper is organized as follows. The formulation of the problem is given in section 2. The heart of our paper is laid out in section 3, where the Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM is explained. In section 4, the adaptation of a penalization method to our problem is discussed. Numerical tests comprising enclosed and open-channel flows
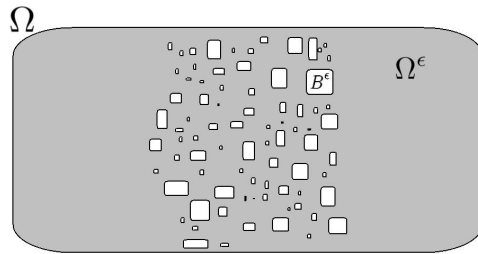
FIG. 1. *An illustration of the domain Ω comprising the fluid domain Ω^ϵ perforated by a set of obstacles B^ϵ.*

with an arbitrary pattern of obstacles and nonhomogeneous boundary conditions are reported in section 5, followed by some concluding remarks.

2. Formulation of the problem. We consider a Stokes problem posed in a bounded domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ within which a set B^ϵ of obstacles is included. The domain with voids left by obstacles is denoted by $\Omega^\epsilon = \Omega \setminus B^\epsilon$ illustrated in Figure 1, where ϵ denotes the minimum width of obstacles. The Stokes problem is then to find $u : \Omega^\epsilon \to \mathbb{R}$, which is the solution to

$$(2.1) \qquad \begin{aligned} -\nu \Delta \vec{u} + \nabla p = \vec{f} \quad &\text{in} \quad \Omega^\epsilon, \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0 \quad &\text{in} \quad \Omega^\epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

The boundary value problem considered in (2.1) posed on two-dimensional domain Ω, together with boundary condition on $\partial\Omega$, is given by

$$(2.2) \qquad \begin{aligned} \vec{u} = 0 \quad &\text{on} \quad \partial B^\epsilon \cap \partial \Omega^\epsilon, \\ \vec{u} = \vec{w} \quad &\text{on} \quad \partial \Omega \cap \partial \Omega^\epsilon, \end{aligned}$$

where $\vec{f} : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ is a given function, and $\vec{w}$ is a function fixed on boundary $\partial\Omega$. In this paper, we consider only the Dirichlet boundary condition on ∂B^ϵ, namely $u_{|\partial B^\epsilon} = 0$, thereby assuming that the obstacle is impenetrable. Other kinds of boundary conditions on ∂B^ϵ are subject to a completely new endeavor.

The weak formulation. Let us restrict ourselves to the case of homogeneous boundary conditions $\vec{w} = 0$.[1] Introduce the function spaces $V = (H_0^1(\Omega^\epsilon))^d$ for the velocity, $M = L_0^2(\Omega^\varepsilon) = \{p \in L^2(\Omega^\varepsilon) \text{ s.t. } \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} p = 0\}$ for the pressure, and $X = V \times M$. The weak formulation of the problem above reads as follows: find $(\vec{u}, p) \in X$ such that

$$c((\vec{u}, p), (\vec{v}, q)) = \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \vec{f} \cdot \vec{v} \quad \forall (\vec{v}, q) \in X,$$

where c is the bilinear form defined by

$$(2.3) \qquad c((\vec{u}, p), (\vec{v}, q)) = \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla \vec{u} : \nabla \vec{v} - \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} p \operatorname{div} \vec{v} - \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} q \operatorname{div} \vec{u}.$$

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[1]This is done only to simplify the forthcoming presentation of our MsFEM technique. Its generalization to nonhomogeneous boundary data is straightforward and is explained in detail in section 4.3.

The existence and uniqueness of the solution to problem (2.3) is guaranteed by the theory of saddle point problems, especially by the inf-sup property

$$(2.4) \qquad \inf_{p \in M} \sup_{\vec{v} \in V} \frac{\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} p \, \mathrm{div}\, \vec{v}}{\|p\|_M \|\vec{v}\|_V} \geq \gamma > 0,$$

which is known to hold on any domain with Lipschitz boundary [30]. A nice reformulation of this theory is presented in [31], where it is proved that (2.4) implies also the inf-sup property for the form c,

$$(2.5) \qquad \inf_{(\vec{u},p) \in X} \sup_{(\vec{v},q) \in X} \frac{c((\vec{u},p),(\vec{v},q))}{\|\vec{u},p\|_X \|\vec{v},q\|_X} \geq \gamma_c > 0,$$

with a constant γ_c that depends only on the constant γ in (2.4). One then invokes the BNB theorem, which states that the variational problem (2.3) has the unique solution provided the symmetric bilinear form c is bounded (which is evident in our case) and satisfies the inf-sup property (2.5). Note that the second hypothesis in the BNB theorem of [31] is void in the case of problems with a symmetric bilinear form.

Remark 2.1. In what follows, we shall sometimes extend the functions defined on Ω^ϵ and vanishing on ∂B^ϵ to the whole domain Ω by setting them to 0 on B^ϵ. From now on, we shall identify such functions with their extended versions without further notice. For example, an alternative definition of the space V can be written as

$$V = \{\vec{v} \in H_0^1(\Omega)^d \text{ such that } \vec{v} = 0 \text{ on } B^\epsilon\}.$$

3. Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM space for Stokes equations. Let us introduce a mesh $\mathcal{T}_H$ on Ω consisting of N_H polygons/polyhedrons of diameter at most H. Let $\mathcal{E}_H$ denote the set of all the edges/faces of $\mathcal{T}_H$ including those on the domain boundary $\partial\Omega$. It is assumed that the mesh does not contain any hanging nodes, and each edge is shared by two elements except those on $\partial\Omega$, which belong only to one element. We also assume that the mesh $\mathcal{T}_H$ is regular; i.e., for any mesh element $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$, there exists a smooth one-to-one mapping $\mathcal{M} : \tilde{T} \to T$, where $\tilde{T} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is the element of reference, and that $\| \nabla\mathcal{M} \|_{L^\infty} \leq DH$, $\| \nabla\mathcal{M}^{-1} \|_{L^\infty} \leq DH^{-1}$, with D a universal constant independent of T. From now on, the elements of $\mathcal{T}_H$ will be referred to as the triangles, and the elements of $\mathcal{E}_H$ will be referred to as the edges, although all of the reasoning makes perfect sense in a general situation of any ambient dimension and a mesh consisting of polygons/polyhedrons of any shape.

3.1. Definition of the MsFEM space. To construct the MsFEM space, as done in the previous works of Le Bris, Legoll, and Lozinski [27], [28], we first introduce the extended velocity space

$$V_H^{ext} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \vec{u} \in (L^2(\Omega))^d \text{ such that } \vec{u}|_T \in (H^1(T))^d \text{ for any } T \in \mathcal{T}_H, \ \vec{u} = 0 \text{ on } B^\epsilon, \\ \int_E [[u]] = 0 \ \forall E \in \mathcal{E}_H, \end{array} \right\}$$

where $[[u]]$ denotes the jump of u across an internal edge and $[[u]] = u$ on the boundary $\partial\Omega$. The idea behind this space is to enhance the natural velocity space $(H_0^1(\Omega))^d$ so that we have at our disposal the vector fields discontinuous across the edges of the mesh, since our goal is to construct a nonconforming approximation method. The continuity is preserved only in the weak sense by requiring that the average be conserved across any edge.

Now we want to decompose the extended velocity-pressure space $X_H^{ext} = V_H^{ext} \times M$ into the direct sum of a finite-dimensional subspace X_H of coarse scales, which will be used for approximation, and an infinite-dimensional subspace X_H^0 of unresolved fine scales

$$(3.1) \qquad X_H^{ext} = X_H \oplus X_H^0.$$

More specifically, we introduce the fine scale subspace as $X_H^0 = V_H^0 \times M_H^0$ with

$$V_H^0 = \left\{ \vec{u} \in V_H^{ext} \text{ such that } \int_E \vec{u} = 0 \ \forall E \in \mathcal{E}_H \right\},$$

$$M_H^0 = \left\{ p \in M \text{ such that } \int_T p = 0 \ \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_H \right\}.$$

The subspace X_H is then defined as the "orthogonal" complement of X_H^0 with respect to the bilinear form c:

$$(3.2) \qquad (\vec{u}_H, p_H) \in X_H \iff c((\vec{u}_H, p_H), (\vec{v}, q)) = 0 \quad \forall(\vec{v}, q) \in X_H^0.$$

Two remarks are in order to clarify this definition:
- The bilinear form c is applied in the formula above to the functions from V_H^{ext}, which are discontinuous across the edges of the mesh and thus nondifferentiable. To bypass this difficulty, the integrals in the definition of c should be understood as $\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \cdots = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon \cap T} \cdots$. The same convention will be implicitly employed from now on if needed, as will be clear from the context.
- We have put the word "orthogonal" in quotes since the bilinear form c is not a scalar product (not positive definite). However, we shall prove in the following lemma that the subspace $X_H \subset X_H^{ext}$ defined by (3.2) indeed forms a direct sum with X_H^0.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let the functional spaces $M_H \subset M$ and $V_H \subset V_H^{ext}$ be defined as*

$$(3.3) \qquad M_H = \{q \in L_0^2(\Omega) \text{ such that } q|_T = const \ \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_H\},$$

$$(3.4) \qquad V_H = \{\vec{u}_H : (L^2(\Omega))^d \ : \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_H \ \exists s \in L_0^2(\Omega^\varepsilon \cap T) \text{ such that}$$
$$-\Delta \vec{u}_H + \nabla s = 0 \text{ on } \Omega^\varepsilon \cap T,$$
$$\text{div } \vec{u}_H = const \text{ on } \Omega^\varepsilon \cap T,$$
$$\vec{u}_H = 0 \text{ on } B^\varepsilon \cap T,$$
$$\nabla \vec{u}_H \, n - sn = const \text{ on } E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon \ \forall E \in \mathcal{E}(T)\},$$

where $\mathcal{E}(T)$ is the ensemble of edges composing ∂T. For any $\vec{u}_H \in V_H$, glue together the functions s on triangles $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$ in the definition above into a single function $\pi_H(\vec{u}_H) \in M_H^0$ such that $\pi_H(\vec{u}_H) = s$ on any triangle $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$. Then $\pi_H : V_H \to M_H^0$ is a well defined linear operator, whose explicit formula is given in subsection 3.2. The space X_H defined by (3.2) can be represented as

$$(3.5) \qquad X_H = span\{(\vec{u}_H, \pi_H(\vec{u}_H)), \ \vec{u}_H \in V_H\} \oplus span\{(0, \bar{p}_H), \ \bar{p}_H \in M_H\}.$$

Moreover, the relation (3.1) holds true.

Proof. Let $(\vec{u}_H, p_H) \in X_H$ in the sense of definition (3.2). We can decompose p_H as

$$p_H = \bar{p}_H + p'_H \text{ with } \bar{p}_H \in M_H \text{ and } p'_H \in M_H^0.$$

This decomposition is unique since the value $\bar{p}_H$ on any triangle $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$ is simply the average of p_H on this triangle. Noting that

$$\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \bar{p}_H \operatorname{div} \vec{v} = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \bar{p}_H|_T \int_T \operatorname{div} \vec{v} = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \bar{p}_H|_T \int_{\partial T} \bar{v} \cdot n = 0$$

for any $\bar{v} \in V_H^0$, we can rewrite definition (3.2) as

$$(3.6) \qquad c((\vec{u}_H, p_H), (\vec{v}, q)) = \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla \vec{u}_H : \nabla \vec{v} - \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} p'_H \operatorname{div} \vec{v} - \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} q \operatorname{div} \vec{u}_H = 0$$

for any $\vec{v} \in V_H^0$ and $q \in M_H^0$.

Choosing a triangle $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$ and considering the test functions $\vec{v} = 0$, $q \in L_0^2(T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon)$ with q vanishing outside T yields

$$\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon \cap T} q \operatorname{div} \vec{u}_H = 0 \quad \forall q \in L_0^2(T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon), \text{ i.e., } \operatorname{div} \vec{u}_H = const \text{ on } T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon.$$

We now observe that for any edge $E \in \mathcal{E}(T)$ there are functions $\vec{v}_{E,i}^T \in H^1(T)$, $i = 1, \ldots, d$, such that $\vec{v}_{E,i}^T$ vanishes on $B^\epsilon \cap T$ and $\int_E \vec{v}_{E,i} = e_i$, with $\{e_1, \ldots, e_d\}$ being the canonical basis of $\mathbb{R}^d$, and $\int_{E'} \vec{v}_{E,i}^T = 0$ for all $E' \in \mathcal{E}(T)$, $E' \neq E$. The space of functions in $H^1(T)$ vanishing on $B^\epsilon \cap T$ can be represented as

$$\begin{aligned} V(T) \ : = \ &\{\vec{v} : (H^1(T))^d \text{ such that } \vec{v} = 0 \text{ on } B^\varepsilon \cap T\} \\ = \ &V_{\int 0}(T) \oplus span\{\vec{v}_{E,i}^T, E \in \mathcal{E}(T), i = 1, \ldots, d\}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$V_{\int 0}(T) = \left\{ \vec{v} : (H^1(T))^d : \int_E \vec{v} = 0 \ \forall E \in \mathcal{E}(T) \text{ and } \vec{v} = 0 \text{ on } B^\varepsilon \cap T \right\}.$$

Denoting for any $E \in \mathcal{E}(T)$ and $i = 1, \ldots, d$,

$$\lambda_{E,i}^T = \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla \vec{u}_H : \nabla \vec{v}_{E,i}^T - \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} p'_H \operatorname{div} \vec{v}_{E,i}^T,$$

and taking into account relation (3.6) with any $\vec{v} \in V_{\int 0}(T)$ extended by 0 outside T and $q = 0$, we see that

$$\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon \cap T} \nabla \vec{u}_H : \nabla \vec{v} - \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon \cap T} p'_H \operatorname{div} \vec{v} = \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H} \vec{\lambda}_E^T \cdot \int_E \vec{v} \quad \forall \vec{v} \in V(T),$$

with $\vec{\lambda}_E^T = (\lambda_{E,1}^T, \ldots, \lambda_{E,d}^T)^T$. Integrating by parts converts this into the strong form: for any $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta \vec{u}_H + \nabla p'_H &= 0 \text{ on } \Omega^\varepsilon \cap T, \\ \vec{u}_H &= 0 \text{ on } B^\varepsilon \cap T, \\ \nabla \vec{u}_H n - p'_H n &= \vec{\lambda}_E^T \text{ on } E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon \quad \forall \text{ edges } E \text{ of } \partial T. \end{aligned}$$

We see thus that $\vec{u}_H \in V_H$ and that p'_H is uniquely determined by $\vec{u}_H$ (indeed, for any $\vec{u}_H$ fixed in the formulas above, the gradient $\nabla p'_H$ is uniquely determined on any triangle by the equation in the first line, and the average p'_H over any triangle is 0).

We have thus $p'_H = \pi_H(\vec{u}_H)$ with $\vec{u}_H \in V_H$, which proves that $(\vec{u}_H, p_H)$ belongs to the space defined by (3.5).

Reversing the arguments above, we prove easily that any $(\vec{u}_H, p_H) \in X_H$ in the sense of definition (3.5) satisfies also relation (3.2). We conclude thus that the definitions (3.2) and (3.5) are equivalent.

It remains to prove $X_H^{ext} = X_H + X_H^0$, i.e., that any $(\vec{u}, p) \in X_H^{ext}$ can be represented as

$$\vec{u} = \vec{u}_H + \vec{u}^0, \quad p_H = \pi_H(\vec{u}_H) + \bar{p}_H + p^0,$$

with some $\vec{u}_H \in V_H$, $\vec{u}^0 \in V_H^0$, $\bar{p}_H \in M_H$, and $p^0 \in M_H^0$. This is equivalent to the following statement: for any $(\vec{u}, p) \in X_H^{ext}$ there exists $(\vec{u}^0, p^0) \in X_H^0$ such that

$$(3.7) \qquad c((\vec{u}^0, p^0), (\vec{v}, q)) = c((\vec{u}, p), (\vec{v}, q)) \quad \forall(\vec{v}, q) \in X_H^0.$$

In order to prove the existence of such $(\vec{u}^0, p^0)$, we pick up any triangle $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$ and remark that the restriction of $(\vec{u}^0, p^0)$ to the triangle T belongs to $V_{\int 0}(T) \times L_0^2(T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon)$ and satisfies

$$\int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla \vec{u}^0 : \nabla \vec{v} - \int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} p^0 \operatorname{div} \vec{v} = \int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla \vec{u} : \nabla \vec{v} - \int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} p \operatorname{div} \vec{v} \quad \forall \vec{v} \in V_{\int 0}(T),$$

$$\int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} q \operatorname{div} \vec{u}^0 = \int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} q \operatorname{div} \vec{u} \quad \forall q \in L_0^2(T).$$

This is a standard saddle point problem, and its solution exists since we obviously have the inf-sup property

$$\inf_{q \in L_0^2(T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon)} \sup_{\vec{v} \in V_{\int 0}(T)} \frac{\int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} q \operatorname{div} \vec{v}}{\|q\|_{L^2(T)} |\vec{v}|_{H^1(T)}} > 0.$$

Finally, it is easy to see that $X_H \cap X_H^0 = \{0\}$; i.e., the relation (3.1) holds true. Indeed, if $(\vec{u}, p) \in X_H \cap X_H^0$, then

$$(3.8) \qquad c((\vec{u}, p), (\vec{v}, q)) = 0$$

both for $(\vec{v}, q) \in X_H$ and for $(\vec{v}, q) \in X_H^0$. Since $X_H^{ext} = X_H + X_H^0$, we have (3.8) for any $(\vec{v}, q) \in X_H^{ext}$, which implies $(\vec{u}, p) = 0$ by the inf-sup property (2.5). $\square$

3.2. Basis functions for the space V_H. The following lemma shows that one can construct a basis for V_H consisting of functions associated to the edges of the mesh. Each basis function is supported in the patch ω_E consisting of two triangles adjacent to an edge $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$ as in the classical Crouzeix–Raviart FEM.

LEMMA 3.2. *For any edge $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$ one can construct $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} \in V_H$, $i = 1, \dots, d$, such that $\int_E \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = \vec{e}_i$, with $\{\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_d\}$ being the canonical basis of $\mathbb{R}^d$, and $\int_{E'} \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = 0$ for all $E' \in \mathcal{E}_H$, $E' \neq E$. These functions form a basis of V_H:*

$$(3.9) \qquad V_H = span\{\vec{\Phi}_{E,i}, \ E \in \mathcal{E}_H, \ i = 1, \dots, d\}.$$

Moreover, $\operatorname{supp}(\vec{\Phi}_{E,i}) \subset \omega_E$, i.e., the ensemble of two triangles from $\mathcal{T}_H$ adjacent to the edge $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$.

Proof. For any edge $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$ there exist functions[2] $\vec{v}_{E,i} \in V_H^{ext}$, $i = 1, \ldots, d$, such that $\int_E \vec{v}_{E,i} = e_i$ and $\int_{E'} \vec{v}_{E,i} = 0$ for all $E' \in \mathcal{E}_H$, $E' \neq E$. The space V_H^{ext} can be evidently decomposed as

$$V_H^{ext} = V_H^0 \oplus span\{\vec{v}_{E,i}, \ E \in \mathcal{E}_H, \ i = 1, \ldots, d\}.$$

We also have the decomposition

$$(3.10) \qquad\qquad\qquad V_H^{ext} = V_H^0 \oplus V_H,$$

which implies for any $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$ and $i = 1, \ldots, d$ that there exist functions $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} \in V_H$ and $\vec{v}_{E,i}^0 \in V_H^0$ such that

$$\vec{v}_{E,i} = \vec{v}_{E,i}^0 + \vec{\Phi}_{E,i}.$$

Thus, for any $\vec{u} \in V_H^{ext}$,

$$\vec{u} = \vec{u}^0 + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H, i=1,\ldots,d} \alpha_{E,i} \vec{v}_{E,i}$$

$$(3.11) \qquad = \left[\vec{u}^0 + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H, i=1,\ldots,d} \alpha_{E,i} \vec{v}_{E,i}^0 \right] + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H, i=1,\ldots,d} \alpha_{E,i} \vec{\Phi}_{E,i},$$

with some $\vec{u}^0 \in V_H^0$ and $\alpha_{E,i} \in \mathbb{R}$. This proves (3.9) since the expression in the brackets in (3.11) represents a function in V_H^0 and we have the direct sum (3.10).

It remains to prove that the support of $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i}$ is indeed within the patch ω_E. To this end, consider the function $\vec{\Phi}'_{E,i} \in V_H^{ext}$ such that $\vec{\Phi}'_{E,i} = \vec{\Phi}_{E,i}$ on ω_E and $\vec{\Phi}'_{E,i} = 0$ outside ω_E. According to definition (3.4), $\vec{\Phi}'_{E,i} \in V_H$. Moreover, $\vec{\Phi}'_{E,i} - \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} \in V_H^0$, so that $\vec{\Phi}'_{E,i} - \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} \in V_H \cap V_H^0 = \{0\}$. Thus, $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i}$ coincides with $\vec{\Phi}'_{E,i}$, whose support is in ω_E by construction. $\square$

Remark 3.3. The explicit construction of the basis functions introduced above is as follows: for any $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$ we construct $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}^d$ and the accompanying pressure $\pi_{E,i} : \Omega^\varepsilon \to \mathbb{R}$ such that $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i}$ and $\pi_{E,i}$ vanish outside the two triangles T_1, T_2 adjacent to E and they solve, on each of these two triangles,

$$-\Delta \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} + \nabla \pi_{E,i} = 0 \qquad \text{on } \Omega^\varepsilon \cap T_k,$$
$$\text{div } \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = const \qquad \text{on } \Omega^\varepsilon \cap T_k,$$
$$\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = 0 \qquad \text{on } B^\varepsilon \cap T_k,$$
$$\nabla \vec{\Phi} n_{E,i} - \pi_{E,i} n = const \text{ on } F \cap \Omega^\varepsilon \quad \forall \ F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k),$$
$$\int_F \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{e}_i, \ F = E \\ 0, \ F \neq E \end{array} \right. \quad \forall \ F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k),$$
$$\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon \cap T_k} \pi_{E,i} = 0.$$

---

[2]In fact, these functions are combinations of $\vec{v}_{E,i}^T$ and have already been introduced on the previous page. For each edge $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$, the new function $\vec{v}_{E,i}$ is supported on two triangles T_1, T_2 sharing E and is equal to $\vec{v}_{E,i}^{T_k}$ on T_k, $k = 1, 2$.

In the weak form this gives the following: find $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} \in H^1(T_k)$ such that $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = 0$ on $T_k \cap B^\varepsilon$, $\pi_{E,i} \in L_0^2(T_k \cap \Omega^\varepsilon)$, and the Lagrange multipliers $\vec{\lambda}_F$, $F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k)$, satisfying

$$\int_{T_k \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} : \nabla\vec{v} - \int_{T_k \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} \pi_{E,i} \operatorname{div}\vec{v} + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k)} \vec{\lambda}_F \cdot \int_F \vec{v} = 0$$

$$\forall \vec{v} \in H^1(T_k) \quad \text{such that } \vec{v} = 0 \text{ on } T_k \cap B^\varepsilon,$$

$$\int_{T_k \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} q \operatorname{div}\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = 0 \quad \forall q \in L_0^2(T_k \cap \Omega^\varepsilon),$$

$$\sum_{F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k)} \vec{\mu}_F \cdot \int_F \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = \vec{\mu}_E \cdot \vec{e}_i \; \forall \vec{\mu}_F \in \mathbb{R}^d, F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k).$$

We note that $L_0^2(T_k \cap \Omega^\varepsilon) = \{q \in L^2(T_k \cap \Omega^\varepsilon) : \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon \cap T_k} q = 0\}$. The explicit formula for the operator π_H then reads

$$\pi_H\left(\sum_{E,i} u_{E,i}\vec{\Phi}_{E,i}\right) = \sum_{E,i} u_{E,i}\pi_{E,i}.$$

Remark 3.4. The space V_H is reduced to the classical Crouzeix–Raviart finite element space in the case without holes $B^\varepsilon = \varnothing$. Indeed, it is easy to see that the basis functions constructed above can be written in this case as $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = \Phi_E\vec{e}_i$, where Φ_E is linear on any triangle $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$, discontinuous across the edges, and such that $\int_E \Phi_E = 1$ and $\int_{E'} \Phi_E = 0$ for all $E' \in \mathcal{E}_H$, $E' \neq E$.

3.3. Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM coarse solution. We now define the MsFEM solution to problem (2.1)–(2.2) as $(\vec{u}_H, p_H) \in X_H$ such that

$$(3.12) \qquad c((\vec{u}_H, p_H), (\vec{v}_H, q_H)) = (f, \vec{v}_h) \quad \forall (\vec{v}_H, q_H) \in X_H.$$

We note that $\vec{u}_H, p_H$ can be represented as $\vec{u}_H \in V_H$ and $p_H = \pi_H(\vec{u}_H) + \bar{p}_H$ with $\bar{p}_H \in M_H$. We have also $(\pi_H(\vec{u}_H), \operatorname{div}\vec{v}_H) = 0$ for all $\vec{u}_H, \vec{v}_H \in V_H$. Hence, the problem above can be recast as follows: find $\vec{u}_H \in V_H$ and $\bar{p}_H \in M_H$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla\vec{u}_H : \nabla\vec{v}_H - \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \bar{p}_H \operatorname{div}\vec{v}_H = \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \vec{f} \cdot \vec{v}_H \quad \forall \vec{v}_H \in V_H,$$

$$\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \bar{q}_H \operatorname{div}\vec{u}_H = 0 \quad \forall \bar{q}_H \in M_H.$$

We note that the second equation in the system above entails $\operatorname{div}\vec{u}_H = 0$ on Ω^ε since $\operatorname{div} V_H = M_H$. We can thus eliminate the pressure from this system by introducing the subspace of V_H consisting of divergence free functions: denote

$$Z_H = \{\vec{v}_H \in V_H \text{ such that } \operatorname{div}\vec{v}_H = 0\}.$$

The discrete velocity solution can then be alternatively defined as $\vec{u}_H \in Z_H$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla\vec{u}_H : \nabla\vec{v}_H = \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \vec{f} \cdot \vec{v}_H \quad \forall \vec{v}_H \in Z_H.$$

This ensures immediately existence and uniqueness of $\vec{u}_H$. Existence and uniqueness of p_H now follow from the fact $\operatorname{div} V_H = M_H$.

3.4. The inf-sup property for the spaces V_H and M_H. According to [30, Corollary 2.4],

$$(3.13) \qquad \forall p \in M \; \exists \vec{v} \in V \text{ such that } \operatorname{div} \vec{v} = p \text{ and } \|\vec{v}\|_V \leq \frac{1}{\gamma}\|p\|_M,$$

with a constant $\gamma > 0$ (depending on Ω^ε). This implies in particular the inf-sup condition (2.4). We shall now prove that this condition remains valid on the discrete level.

LEMMA 3.5. *There exists a mesh independent constant $\gamma > 0$ (in fact, γ can be taken the same as in (3.13)) such that*

$$(3.14) \qquad \inf_{p_H \in M_H} \sup_{\vec{v}_H \in V_H} \frac{\int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} p_H \operatorname{div} \vec{v}_H}{\|p_H\|_M \|\vec{v}_H\|_V} \geq \gamma.$$

Proof. Take any $p_H \in M_H$ and construct $\vec{v} \in V$ as in (3.13), i.e.,

$$\operatorname{div} \vec{v} = p_H \text{ on } \Omega \text{ and } \|\vec{v}\|_V \leq \frac{1}{\gamma}\|p_H\|_M.$$

Decompose $\vec{v} = \vec{v}_H + \vec{v}^0$ with $\vec{v}_H \in V_H$ and $\vec{v}^0 \in V_H^0$. Observe that $p_H = const$ and $\operatorname{div} \vec{v}_H = const$ on $T \cap \Omega^\epsilon$. This means that $\operatorname{div} \vec{v}^0 = const$ on $T \cap \Omega^\epsilon$. On the other hand,

$$(3.15) \qquad \int_{T \cap \Omega^\epsilon} \operatorname{div} \vec{v}^0 = \int_{\partial T \cap \Omega^\epsilon} \vec{v}^0 \cdot n = 0,$$

and hence $\operatorname{div} \vec{v}^0 = 0$. By construction of V_H in Lemma 3.1,

$$0 = c((\vec{v}_H, \pi_H(\vec{v}_H)), (\vec{v}^0, 0)) = \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \nabla \vec{v}_H : \nabla \vec{v}^0;$$

i.e., $\vec{v}_H$ and $\vec{v}^0$ are orthogonal in the scalar product of space V. Now, by Pythagoras' theorem,

$$\|\vec{v}_H\|_V \leq \|\vec{v}_H + \vec{v}^0\|_V = \|\vec{v}\|_V \leq \frac{1}{\gamma}\|p_H\|_M.$$

Noting that $\operatorname{div} \vec{v}_H = p_H$, this gives (3.14). $\quad\square$

3.5. Some error estimates.

LEMMA 3.6. *Let $(\vec{u}, p) \in X$ be the solution to (2.1)–(2.2), and let $(\vec{u}_H, p_H) \in X_H$ be the discrete solution defined by (3.12). Then*

$$|\vec{u} - \vec{u}_H|_{H^1} + \gamma\|\Pi_H p - \bar{p}_H\|_{L^2}$$

$$\leq CH\|\vec{f}\|_{L^2} + CH^{\frac{1}{2}} \inf_{\vec{c}_E \in \mathbb{R}^2, \; E \in \mathcal{E}_H} \left(\sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H} \|\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E\|_{L^2(E)}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

where $C > 0$ is a constant depending only on the regularity of the mesh, γ is the inf-sup constant from (3.13), Π_H is the L^2-orthogonal projector on M_H, and $\bar{p}_H$ is a piecewise constant part of p_H, i.e., $p_H = \pi_H(\vec{u}_H) + \bar{p}_H$.

Proof. As usual, to prove an a priori error estimate we are going to first construct an interpolant of the exact solution $(\vec{u}, p) \in X$ and then invoke a (slightly generalized)

version of Céa's lemma. A good interpolant $(\vec{u}_I, p_I) \in X_H$ may be introduced by requiring

$$(\vec{u}, p) = (\vec{u}_I, p_I) + (\vec{u}^0, p^0),$$

with $(\vec{u}^0, p^0) \in X_H^0$. Such a unique decomposition of $(\vec{u}, p)$ exists and is unique due to the decomposition of the space X_H^{ext}; cf. (3.1). It is easy to see that $\mathrm{div}\, \vec{u}^0 = 0$. Indeed, for all $q_0 \in M_H^0$,

$$c((\vec{u}^0, p^0), (0, q^0)) = c((\vec{u}, p), (0, q^0)),$$

i.e.,

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} q^0 \, \mathrm{div}\, \vec{u}^0 = 0,$$

since $\mathrm{div}\, \vec{u} = 0$. This implies $\mathrm{div}\, \vec{u}^0 = c_T = const$ on $T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon$ for all $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$, but $\int_{\partial T} \vec{u}^0 \cdot n = 0$ due to the definition of X_H^0 so that $c_T = 0$.

Putting $\mathrm{div}\, \vec{u}^0 = 0$ into the definition of the bilinear form c, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
||\vec{u} - \vec{u}_I||_V^2 = ||\vec{u}^0||_V^2 &= c((\vec{u}^0, p^0), (\vec{u}^0, p^0)) \\
&= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (-\Delta \vec{u}^0 + \nabla p^0) \cdot \vec{u}^0 + \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{\partial T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}^0 n - p^0 n) \cdot \vec{u}^0 \\
&= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} \vec{f} \cdot \vec{u}^0 + \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}(T)} \int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E) \cdot \vec{u}^0
\end{aligned}
$$

since on each triangle $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$,

$$-\Delta \vec{u}^0 + \nabla p^0 = (-\Delta \vec{u} + \nabla p) - (-\Delta \vec{u}_I + \nabla p_I) = \vec{f},$$

and, moreover, on each edge $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}^0 \, n - p^0 n) \cdot \vec{v}^0 &= \int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn) \cdot \vec{v}^0 - \int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}_I \, n - p_I n) \cdot \vec{v}^0 \\
&= \int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn) \cdot \vec{v}^0 - \vec{\lambda}_E \cdot \int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} \vec{v}^0 \\
&= \int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E) \cdot \vec{v}^0,
\end{aligned}
$$

with some constant $\vec{\lambda}_E$ depending on $(\vec{u}_I, p_I) \in X_H$ (cf. definition (3.4) of V_H) and an arbitrary constant $\vec{c}_E$ (cf. the definition of X_H^0). We now note the Poincaré type inequality

$$(3.16) \qquad\qquad ||\vec{v}^0||_{L^2(T)} \le CH |\vec{v}^0|_{H^1(T)}$$

and the trace inequality

$$(3.17) \qquad\qquad ||\vec{v}^0||_{L^2(\partial T)} \le CH^{\frac{1}{2}} |\vec{v}^0|_{H^1(T)},$$

which are valid since the average $\vec{v}^0$ on the edges composing ∂T is zero; see [27] for more details. This allows us to conclude that

$$||\vec{u} - \vec{u}_I||_V^2 \leq \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} ||\vec{f}||_{L^2(T)} ||\vec{u}^0||_{L^2(T)}$$

$$+ \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \left(\sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}(T)} ||\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E||_{L^2(E)}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} ||\vec{u}^0||_{L^2(\partial T)}$$

$$\leq CH||\vec{f}||_{L^2(\Omega)} |\vec{u}^0|_{H^1(\Omega)}$$

$$+ CH^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H} ||\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E||_{L^2(E)}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} |\vec{u}^0|_{H^1(\Omega)}.$$

Finally,

$$(3.18) \qquad ||\vec{u} - \vec{u}_I||_V \leq CH||\vec{f}||_{L^2(\Omega)} + CH^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H} ||\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E||_{L^2(E)}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Now we use the c-orthogonality between $(\vec{u}_I, p_I)$ and $(\vec{u}^0, p^0)$ to write, for any $(\vec{v}_H, q_H) \in X_H$,

$$c((\vec{u}_I, p_I), (\vec{v}_H, q_H)) = c((\vec{u}, p), (\vec{v}_H, q_H)) = \int_{\Omega^\varepsilon} \vec{f} \cdot \vec{v}_H + \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{\partial T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn) \cdot \vec{v}_H.$$

Comparing it with (3.12), we conclude that

$$c((\vec{u}_I - \vec{u}_H, p_I - p_H), (\vec{v}_H, q_H)) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{\partial T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn) \cdot \vec{v}_H \quad \forall (\vec{v}_H, q_H) \in X_H.$$

For any $\vec{v} \in X_H^{ext}$ denote by $\{\vec{v}\}_E$ the average of $\vec{v}$ over an edge E. We can then rewrite the sum of boundary integrals as

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{\partial T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn) \cdot \vec{v}_H = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}(T)} \int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn) \cdot (\vec{v}_H - \{\vec{v}_H\}_E).$$

Indeed, any edge E comes into these sums two times as contributions from the two adjacent triangles, and thus the additions with $\{\vec{v}_H\}_E$ cancel each other. We can now proceed by inserting an arbitrary constant $\vec{c}_E$ on each edge:

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \int_{\partial T \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn) \cdot \vec{v}_H = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}(T)} \int_{E \cap \Omega^\varepsilon} (\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E) \cdot (\vec{v}_H - \{\vec{v}_H\}_E).$$

Finally, reusing the Poincaré type inequality (3.16) and the trace inequality (3.17), we conclude in a similar way as above that
(3.19)

$$c((\vec{u}_I - \vec{u}_H, p_I - p_H), (\vec{v}_H, q_H)) \leq CH^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H} ||\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E||_{L^2(E)}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} |\vec{v}_H|_{H^1(\Omega)}$$

for any $(\vec{v}_H, q_H) \in X_H$.

Taking $\vec{v}_H = \vec{u}_I - \vec{u}_H$, $q_H = \pi_H(\vec{v}_H)$ and noting $\operatorname{div} \vec{v}_H = 0$ yields

$$(3.20) \qquad ||\vec{u}_I - \vec{u}_H||_V \leq CH^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H} ||\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E||^2_{L^2(E)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Combining the estimates (3.18) and (3.20) with the triangle inequality yields

$$||\vec{u} - \vec{u}_H||_V \leq CH ||\vec{f}||_{L^2(\Omega)} + CH^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H} ||\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E||^2_{L^2(E)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

which is the announced error estimate for the velocity.

In order to get the error estimate for the pressure, we rewrite (3.19) for arbitrary $\vec{v}_H \in V_H$ and $q_H = \pi_H(\vec{v}_H)$ as

$$-\int_{\Omega^\epsilon} (p_I - p_H) \operatorname{div} \vec{v}_H = -\int_{\Omega^\epsilon} (\Pi_H p - \bar{p}_H) \operatorname{div} \vec{v}_H$$

$$\leq -\int_{\Omega^\epsilon} \nabla(\vec{u}_I - \vec{u}_H) : \nabla \vec{v}_H + CH^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_H} ||\nabla \vec{u}\, n - pn - \vec{c}_E||^2_{L^2(E)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} |\vec{v}_H|_{H^1(\Omega)}.$$

We have used here $p_I = \Pi_H p$, $\bar{p}_H = \Pi_H p_H$ and the fact that $\operatorname{div} \vec{v}_H \in M_H$. It remains to employ the inf-sup property (3.14) and the already proven error estimate for the velocity. This gives the announced bound for $||\Pi_H p - \bar{p}_H||_M$. $\square$

The error estimate of the preceding lemma is not completely satisfactory because of the oscillating nature of the exact solution, which can make the norms on the edges quite big. A complete error estimate in the case of the Poisson equation and periodically placed holes is available in [28]. A similar result will be proved in the forthcoming paper [32].

4. Implementation issues. The Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM as presented so far is not directly implementable since it relies on the exact solutions of the local problems in the construction of the basis functions; cf. Remark 3.3. In practice, these problems should be discretized on mesh sufficiently fine to resolve the geometry of obstacles. For highly nonperiodic pattern of obstacles, complicated body-fitted unstructured mesh is likely what engineers would resort to. In this paper, we opt for performing our computations on a simple uniform Cartesian grid using the penalization method. We shall explain first how to do it when solving the original problem (2.1)–(2.2) as a whole without resorting to the MsFEM technique (this is needed anyway to construct the reference solutions in our numerical experiments).

4.1. Application of the penalization method to compute the reference solution. To avoid complex and ad hoc grid generation methods when solving problem (2.1)–(2.2) in Ω^ϵ we replace it with the penalized problem

$$(4.1) \qquad \begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot (\nu^\kappa \nabla \vec{u}) + \sigma^\kappa \vec{u} + \nabla p &= \vec{f}^\kappa & \text{in} & \quad \Omega, \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{u} &= 0 & \text{in} & \quad \Omega, \\ \vec{u} &= \vec{w} & \text{on} & \quad \partial\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

in which

$$(4.2) \qquad \nu^\kappa = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{1}{h} & \text{in } B^\epsilon, \\ \nu & \text{in } \Omega^\epsilon, \end{array} \right. \qquad \sigma^\kappa = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{1}{h^3} & \text{in } B^\epsilon, \\ 0 & \text{in } \Omega^\epsilon, \end{array} \right. \qquad f^\kappa = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0 & \text{in } B^\epsilon, \\ f & \text{in } \Omega^\epsilon. \end{array} \right.$$

Here h is the size of the fine scale mesh element used to capture a highly oscillatory solution. The penalization coefficients ν^κ and σ^κ force the solution to vanish rapidly inside the obstacles; their values are chosen such that the optimal approximations are obtained. Other variants of penalization methods were studied in [33], and a test for a range of values for ν^κ and σ^κ has been discussed in [34].

To calculate the reference solutions, we utilize the Q1-Q1 FEM, which has velocity and pressure degrees of freedom defined at the same set of grid points, namely the uniform Cartesian grid $\mathcal{T}_h$ of step h. As is well known (cf. [35]), this choice of velocity and pressure spaces requires some stabilization, which weakens the condition $\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$. The simplest way to achieve this is by perturbing the incompressibility constraint with a pressure Laplacian term; see [36]. Our numerical problem thus reduces to finding $\vec{u}_h$ and p_h from the Q1-Q1 finite element space such that

$$\int_\Omega \nu^\kappa \nabla \vec{u}_h : \nabla \vec{v}_h + \int_\Omega \sigma^\kappa \vec{u}_h \cdot \vec{v}_h - \int_\Omega p_h \nabla \cdot \vec{v}_h = \int_\Omega \vec{v}_h \cdot \vec{f} \quad \forall \vec{v}_h,$$

$$-\int_\Omega q_h \nabla \cdot \vec{u}_h - \theta h^2 \int_\Omega \nabla p_h \cdot \nabla q_h = 0 \quad \forall q_h,$$

where $\theta > 0$ is the stabilization parameter and $\vec{v}_h$, q_h go over the same finite element space. Throughout our simulation, $\theta = 0.01$ is used [37].

4.2. Calculation of Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM basis functions. The calculations of the multiscale basis in this paper are carried out similarly to that of the reference solution. We introduce the fine meshes $\mathcal{T}_h(T)$ for each element T of the coarse mesh $\mathcal{T}_H$ (in all of our numerical experiments these local meshes will be just submeshes of the global fine mesh $\mathcal{T}_h$). The MsFEM basis functions are then computed as follows: for any $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$ we construct $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i}$ and the accompanying pressure $\pi_{E,i}$ supported in the two triangles T_1, T_2 adjacent to E and belonging to the Q1-Q1 FEM spaces on the meshes $\mathcal{T}_h(T_1)$ and $\mathcal{T}_h(T_2)$. On each of these two triangles, they solve

$$\int_{T_k} \nu^\kappa \nabla \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} : \nabla \vec{v}_h + \int_{T_k} \sigma^\kappa \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} \cdot \vec{v}_h - \int_{T_k} \pi_{E,i} \nabla \cdot \vec{v}_h + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k)} \vec{\lambda}_F \cdot \int_F \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = 0 \quad \forall \vec{v}_h,$$

$$-\int_\Omega q_h \nabla \cdot \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} - \theta h^2 \int_\Omega \nabla \pi_{E,i} \cdot \nabla q_h = 0 \quad \forall q_h,$$

$$\sum_{F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k)} \vec{\mu}_F \cdot \int_F \vec{\Phi}_{E,i} = \vec{\mu}_E \cdot \vec{e}_i$$

$$\forall \vec{\mu}_F \in \mathbb{R}^d, \ F \in \mathcal{E}(T_k),$$

where $\vec{v}_h$ and q_h go over the same finite element spaces as $\vec{\Phi}_{E,i}$ and $\pi_{E,i}$. We also recall that $\mathcal{E}(T_k)$ denotes the set of all the edges of the triangle T_k and that $\theta > 0$ is the stabilization parameter.

4.3. Note on boundary condition. Special treatment of the boundary condition is applied; i.e., we approximate the strong form of the nonhomogeneous Dirichlet boundary condition with

(4.3)
$$\int_E \vec{u}_H = \int_E \vec{w} \quad \forall \, E \in \mathcal{E}_H \text{ on } \partial\Omega.$$

This, together with the construction of the basis functions in Remark 3.3, yields the formula for the boundary edge contributions in the expansion of the MsFEM
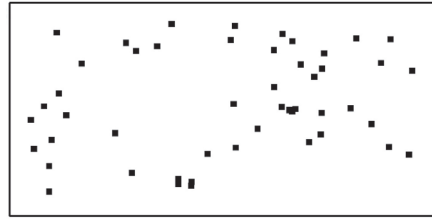
FIG. 2. *The computational domain with* 49 *arbitrarily placed obstacles for the cavity flow test.*

solution with respect to the basis functions $\vec{u}_H = \sum_{E,i} u_{E,i} \Phi_{E,i}$: for any $E \in \mathcal{E}_H$ on $\partial\Omega$, one puts

$$(4.4) \qquad\qquad u_{E,i} = \int_E \vec{w} \cdot \vec{e}_i.$$

This approach is a modification with respect to the earlier works [27], [28], where the boundary conditions were strongly incorporated into the definition of V_H. Our approach therefore gives more flexibility when implementing nonzero g. It will be demonstrated in the later sections how the application of this approach on our MsFEM gives satisfactory results.

5. Numerical results. Homogeneous $\nu = 1$ is assumed throughout our tests. The heterogeneities in the problems are represented by sporadic placements of obstacles. However, the application of oscillating ν is straightforward. In this paper, reconstruction of a fine scale pressure field is not emphasized. In any case, the coarse scale pressure field (element-wise constant) can always be recovered.

5.1. Enclosed flows in heterogeneous media. In the first example, we consider the cavity flow problem. In this problem, all the velocities are known at $\partial\Omega$ (enclosed flow) in which the pressure is unique only up to a constant. The velocities vanish everywhere at boundaries except at the top of the domain $\Omega = [-1 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1]$, where the tangential velocity is set to be $u_x = 1$. This tangential velocity is the only force that drives the flow. Forty-nine small obstacles, each with a width of $\epsilon = 0.0285$, are randomly laid within the cavity; see Figure 2. The reference to which our solutions will be compared is obtained using Q1-Q1 FEM on 640×1280 elements. In Figures 3 and 4, the solutions of Stokes flow inside the cavity in terms of u_x and u_y contours using several mesh configurations are given alongside that of the reference solution. Solutions on 32×64 and 64×128 elements are almost identical to the reference solution computed on 640×1280 elements, but in some engineering circumstances, 16×32 elements already provide quantitatively sufficient measures of the flow.

In Figure 5, the streamlines and the velocity magnitude contours solved using 32×64 elements are compared with those of the reference. We notice that important recirculation zones at the top half of the domain can be well captured. In this problem, discontinuities are present on both ends of the top lid, and it is shown in Table 1 that our treatment of boundary conditions is sufficient in providing satisfactory solutions. We describe the errors in terms of error norms L^1 relative, L^2 relative, and H^1 relative.

5.2. Open-channel flows in heterogeneous media. Unlike the example of an enclosed flow given above, in the second example we consider open-channel flows. A two-dimensional channel domain $\Omega = [0 \leq x \leq 4, -1 \leq y \leq 1]$ (see Figure 6(a),(b))
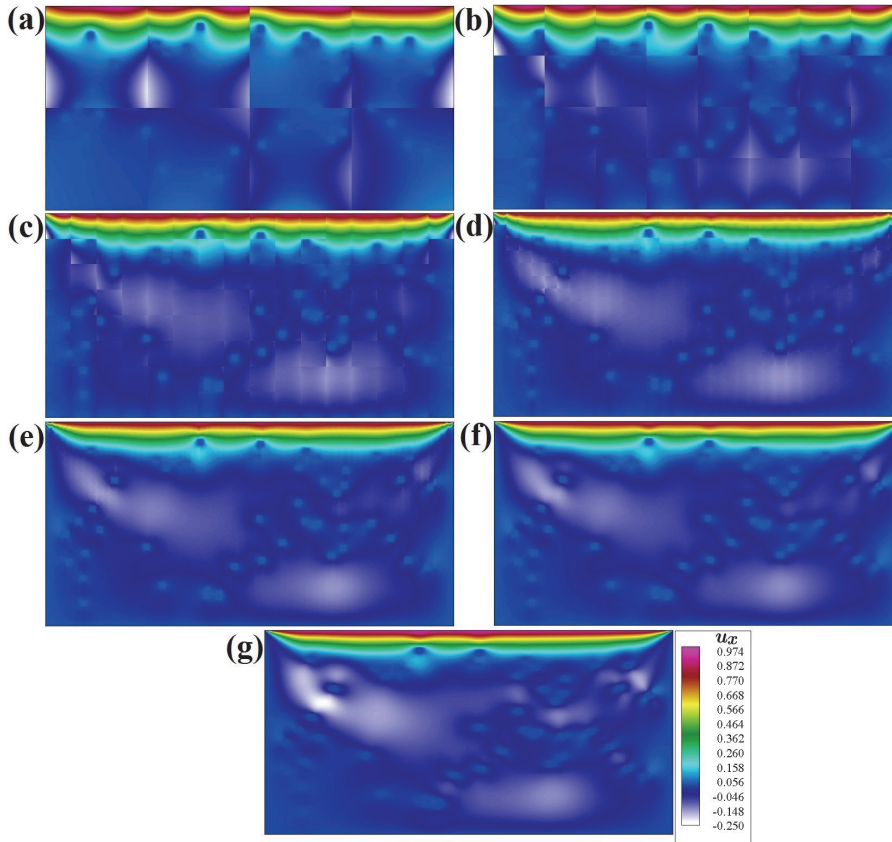
FIG. 3. *The plots of velocity u_x contours of a cavity flow computed on* (a) 2×4, (b) 4×8, (c) 8×16, (d) 16×32, (e) 32×64, (f) 64×128 *coarse elements, and the* (g) *reference solution computed on* 640×1280 *elements, all with* 49 *arbitrarily placed obstacles.*

is defined. The first part of this test (Case A) includes 16 obstacles, each with a width of $\epsilon = 0.02$. The second part (Case B) includes 144 very fine obstacles, each with a width $\epsilon = 0.00832$, all randomly laid in the center of Ω. The parabolic inflow boundary condition, $u_x = 1 - y^2$; $u_y = 0$, is taken at the inlet (left), whereas the natural boundary condition $\partial u / \partial n = 0$ is assumed at the outlet (right). At the top and bottom walls, no slip boundary conditions $\vec{u} = 0$ are taken. In Figures 7 and 8, Case A solutions of our method on several mesh configurations in terms of u_x and u_y contours are given alongside those of the reference. As in the cavity flow example, the reference solution is computed on 640×1280 elements, each with a width of $h = 0.003125$. As shown in the example of cavity flow, our results show converging behavior toward reference solutions. Most of the flow features can be quantitatively obtained using a mere 16×32 elements. In Table 2, we look at the numerical study of convergence of this problem. In Figure 9, we can see the comparison of streamline and velocity magnitude of the solution on 32×64 compared to that of the reference. In Figure 10, the pressure reconstruction for several mesh configurations for this case is given and shown to be converging toward the reference solution, where the L_2 relative error for configuration 128×64 is 0.141.
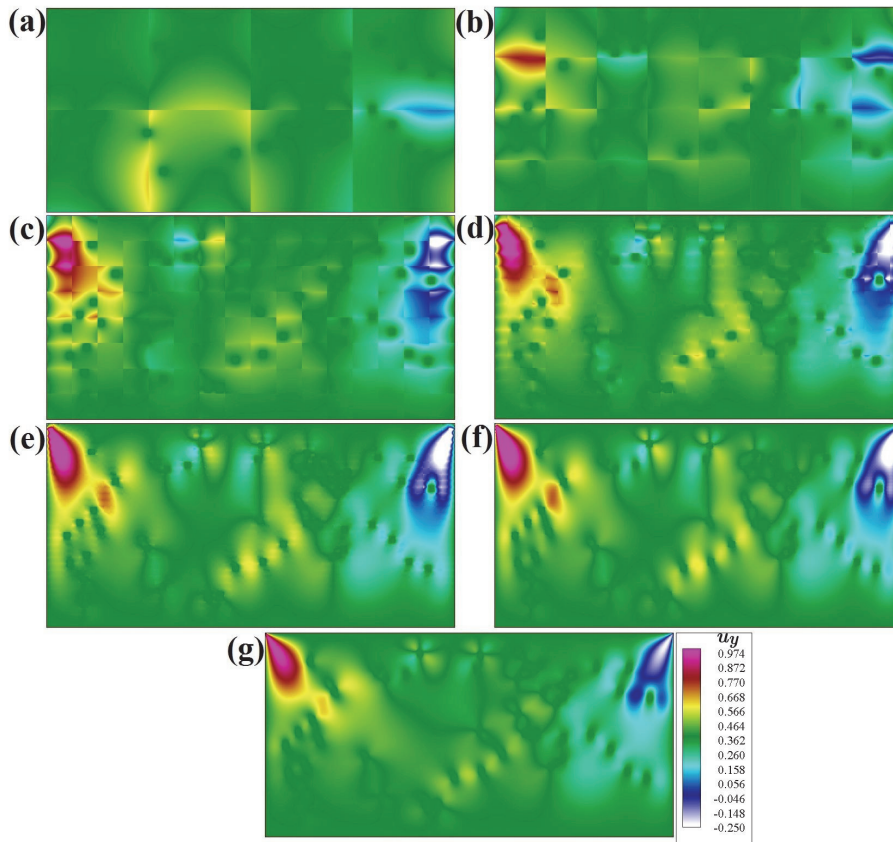
FIG. 4. *The plots of velocity u_y contours of a cavity flow computed on* (a) 2×4, (b) 4×8, (c) 8×16, (d) 16×32, (e) 32×64, (f) 64×128 *coarse elements, and the* (g) *reference solution computed on* 640×1280 *elements, all with* 49 *arbitrarily placed obstacles.*

For Case B, Figures 11 and 12 show the contours of u_x and u_y in comparison to the reference solution, also computed on 640×1280 elements, each with a width of $h = 0.003125$. It is shown that the method is able to recover the presence of very fine obstacles and important flow features already at 16×32. In Figure 13, the streamlines computed on a 32×64 coarse mesh are compared with those of the reference on top of the velocity magnitude contour and are in good agreement. The error study of Case B is shown in Table 3, which also shows converging results as exhibited in other cases even at considerably much larger ratios (H/ϵ).

In Figures 14 and 15 we illustrate the Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM basis function $\vec{\Phi}(e, 1)$ when obstacles are both absent and present. We can see that the weak conformity of the Crouzeix–Raviart basis function leads to a natural boundary condition at the coarse element edges, which adapts well with the arbitrary pattern of obstacles.
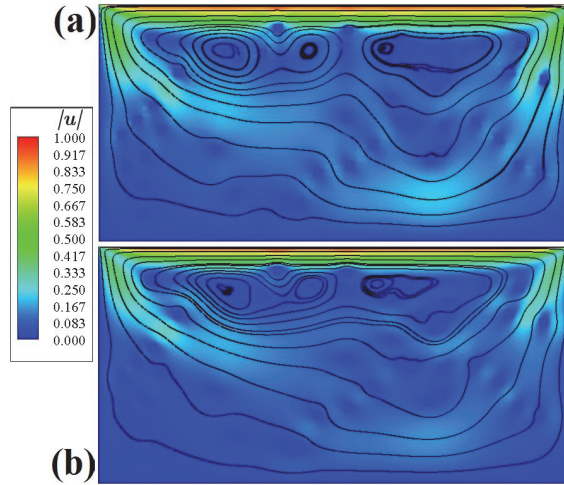
FIG. 5. *The plots of velocity magnitude |u| contours of a cavity flow with the streamlines computed using Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM computed on* (a) 32×64 *elements and* (b) *the reference solution.*

TABLE 1
The numerical study of convergence of a cavity flow.

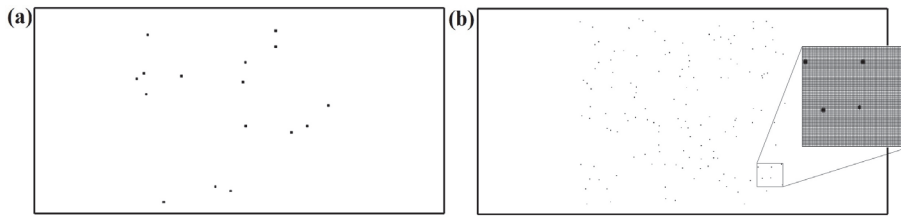| Config.	(H/ϵ) Ratio	L^1 Relative error	L^2 Relative error	H^1 Relative error	L^2 P Relative error
2×4	17.544	0.756	0.640	0.837	0.992
4×8	8.772	0.576	0.516	0.780	0.628
8×16	4.386	0.477	0.396	0.625	0.480
16×32	2.193	0.337	0.269	0.617	0.390
32×64	1.096	0.257	0.194	0.544	0.312
64×128	0.548	0.160	0.102	0.493	0.288

FIG. 6. *The computational domains with arbitrarily placed obstacles for the open-channel flow tests.* (a) *Case* A *with* 16 *obstacles.* (b) *Case* B *with* 144 *obstacles (the enlarged figure is gridded to illustrate the size of fine obstacles with respect to fine elements).*
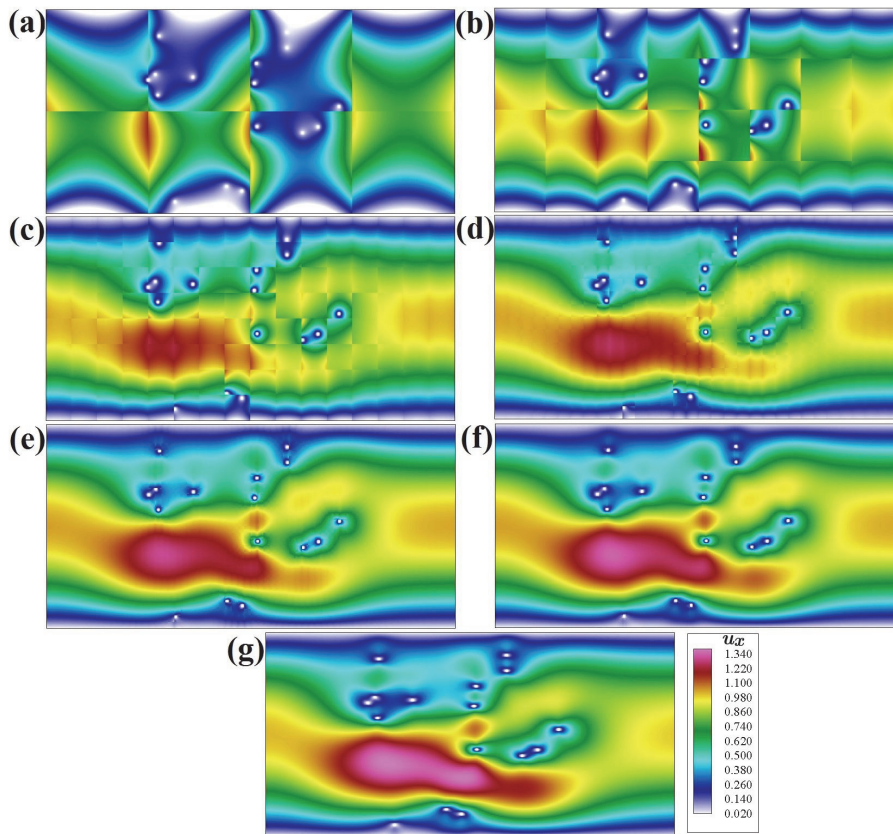

FIG. 7. *The plots of the velocity u_x contours of a channel flow computed on* (a) 2×4, (b) 4×8, (c) 8×16, (d) 16×32, (e) 32×64, (f) 64×128 *coarse elements.* (g) *The reference solution computed on* 640×1280 *elements. All have* 16 *arbitrarily placed obstacles.*

FIG. 8. *The plots of velocity u_y contours of a channel flow computed on* (a) 2×4, (b) 4×8, (c) 8×16, (d) 16×32, (e) 32×64, (f) 64×128 *coarse elements.* (g) *The reference solution computed on* 640×1280 *elements. All have* 16 *arbitrarily placed obstacles.*

TABLE 2
The numerical study of convergence of a channel flow (Case A*).*

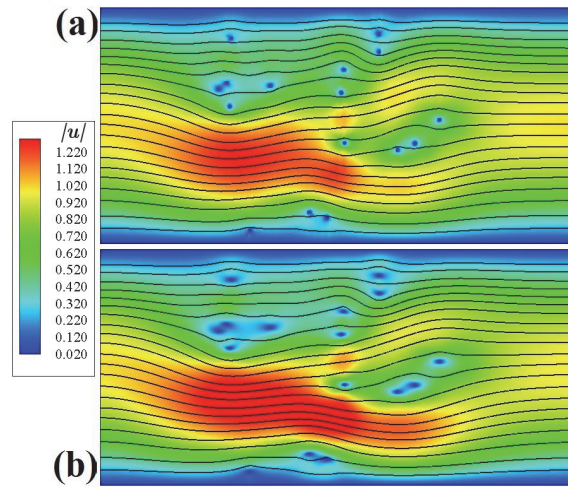| Config.	(H/ϵ) Ratio	L^1 Relative error	L^2 Relative error	H^1 Relative error	L^2 P Relative error
2×4	25.00	0.305	0.395	0.631	0.874
4×8	12.50	0.169	0.212	0.605	0.601
8×16	6.250	0.110	0.142	0.594	0.563
16×32	3.125	0.090	0.115	0.506	0.420
32×64	1.563	0.067	0.087	0.411	0.275
64×128	0.781	0.043	0.062	0.320	0.141

FIG. 9. *The plots of velocity magnitude* |u| *contours of a channel flow (Case* A*) complete with streamlines computed using Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM on* (a) 32×64 *coarse elements, compared with* (b) *the reference solution computed on* 1280×640 *elements.*
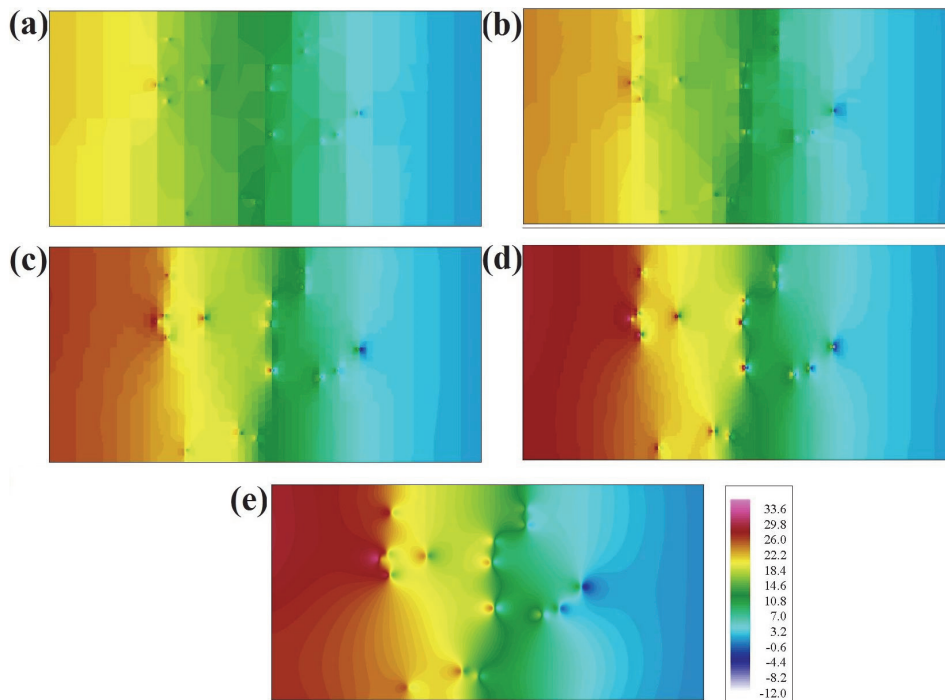

FIG. 10. *The pressure contours for Case* A *computed on* (a) 8×16, (b) 16×32, (c) 32×64, (d) 64×128 *coarse elements, compared with* (e) *the reference solution computed on* 1280×640 *elements.*

FIG. 11. *The plots of velocity u_x contours of a channel flow computed on* (a) 2×4, (b) 4×8, (c) 8×16, (d) 16×32, (e) 32×64, (f) 64×128 *coarse elements, and* (g) *the reference solution computed on* 640×1280, *with* 144 *arbitrarily placed obstacles.*

FIG. 12. *The plots of velocity u_y contours of a channel flow computed on* (a) 2×4, (b) 4×8, (c) 8×16, (d) 16×32, (e) 32×64, (f) 64×128 *coarse elements, and* (g) *the reference solution computed on* 640×1280, *with* 144 *arbitrarily placed obstacles.*
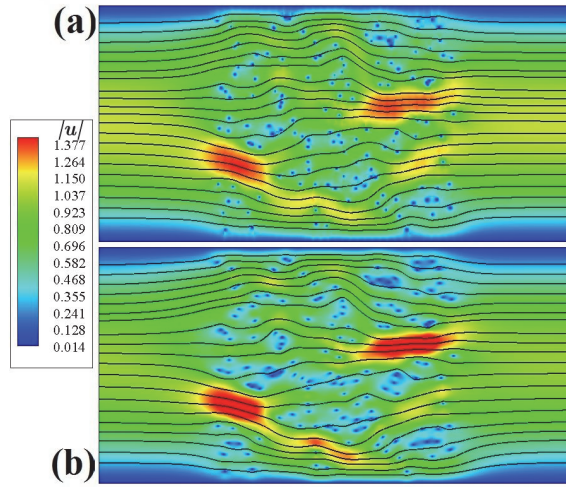
FIG. 13. *The plots of velocity magnitude* $|u|$ *contours of a channel flow (Case* B*) complete with streamlines computed using Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM on* (a) 32×64 *coarse elements, compared with* (b) *the reference solution computed on* 1280×640 *elements.*

TABLE 3
The numerical study of convergence of a channel flow (Case B*).*

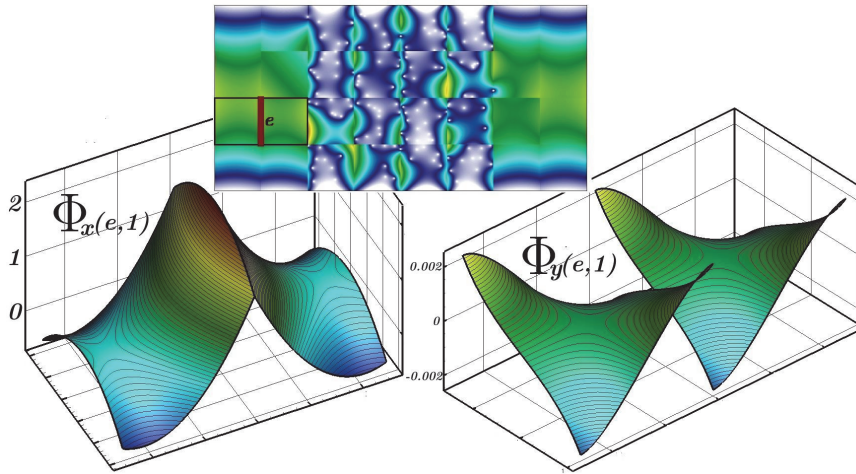| Config.	(H/ϵ) Ratio	L^1 Relative error	L^2 Relative error	H^1 Relative error	L^2 P Relative error
2×4	120.192	0.508	0.609	0.892	0.891
4×8	60.096	0.321	0.423	0.805	0.800
8×16	30.048	0.171	0.237	0.694	0.730
16×32	15.024	0.104	0.144	0.606	0.666
32×64	7.512	0.080	0.110	0.561	0.490
64×128	3.756	0.062	0.081	0.452	0.259

FIG. 14. *Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM basis function for elements without obstacles.*
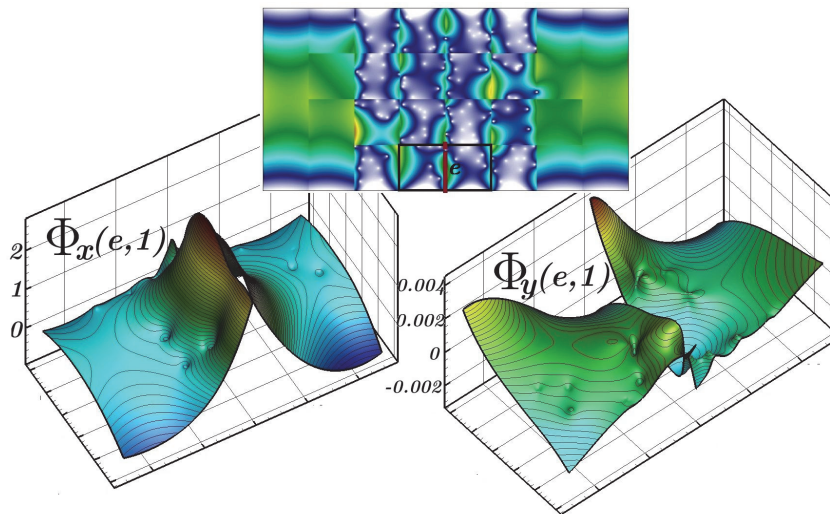

FIG. 15. *Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM basis function for elements with arbitrarily placed obstacles.*

6. Concluding remarks. The Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM has been developed and tested for solving Stokes flow in genuine heterogeneous media. By "genuine" we mean in circumstances where analytical representation of the microscopic features of the flow is unavailable. This is illustrated by using very fine and nonperiodic placements of obstacles. The method has been tested in the context of obstacle-filled cavity flows and open-channel flows.

The Crouzeix–Raviart MsFEM basis functions are computed within each coarse elements using Q1-Q1 FEM. The nonconforming nature of the Crouzeix–Raviart element allows the method to accommodate a random pattern of obstacles without having to use oversampling methods.

Penalization method has been seamlessly incorporated in modeling arbitrary pattern of obstacles, thus allowing extensive use of a simple Cartesian mesh. Numerical studies of convergence of enclosed and open flows are given. Additionally, nonhomogeneous boundary conditions are considered in the test cases to demonstrate the robustness of the method. Good quantitative agreement has been reached with the reference solution at relatively coarse mesh configurations.

Although the test cases are given in two spatial dimensions, the extension of this work onto three spatial dimensions is straightforward. The calculations of MsFEM basis functions within a coarse element are done independent of its neighboring elements, which makes it suitable for the application of parallel programming.

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