SPARSE GRID CENTRAL DISCONTINUOUS GALERKIN METHOD FOR LINEAR HYPERBOLIC SYSTEMS IN HIGH DIMENSIONS

ZHANJING TAO *, ANQI CHEN †, MENGPING ZHANG ‡, AND YINGDA CHENG §

Abstract. In this paper, we develop sparse grid central discontinuous Galerkin (CDG) scheme for linear hyperbolic systems with variable coefficients in high dimensions. The scheme combines the CDG framework with the sparse grid approach, with the aim of breaking the curse of dimensionality. A new hierarchical representation of piecewise polynomials on the dual mesh is introduced and analyzed, resulting in a sparse finite element space that can be used for non-periodic problems. Theoretical results, such as $L^2$ stability and error estimates are obtained for scalar constant coefficient problems. CFL conditions are studied numerically comparing discontinuous Galerkin (DG), CDG, sparse grid DG and sparse grid CDG methods. We show that the proposed sparse grid CDG method allows for the largest time steps among all four methods. Numerical results including scalar linear equations, acoustic and elastic waves are provided.

Key words. central discontinuous Galerkin method; sparse grid; linear hyperbolic system; stability; error estimate

1. Introduction. In this paper, we develop sparse grid central discontinuous Galerkin (CDG) method for the following time-dependent linear hyperbolic system with variable coefficients

$$
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial (A_i(t, x) u)}{\partial x_i} = 0, \quad x \in \Omega,
$$

subject to appropriate initial and boundary conditions. In the expression above, $d \geq 2$ is the spatial dimension of the problem, $u(t, x) = (u^1(t, x), \ldots, u^m(t, x))^T$ is the unknown function, $A_i(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}, i = 1, \ldots, d$ are the given smooth variable coefficients. We assume $\Omega = [0, 1]^d$ in the paper, but the discussion can be easily generalized to arbitrary box-shaped domains. The model (1.1) arises in many contexts [17], such as simulations of acoustic, elastic waves, and Maxwell’s equations in free space. The scheme we develop in this paper can also apply to the case when $A_i(t, x)$ is defined through another set of equations that can be nonlinearly coupled with $u$, such as the models in kinetic plasma waves and incompressible flows.

Many numerical methods, including finite difference, finite volume, finite element, spectral methods etc., have been developed in the literature for (1.1) addressing different challenges in various applications. The focus of this paper, is to design a class of conservative numerical schemes, with high computational efficiency, for system (1.1) when $d$ is large. It is well known that any grid based method suffers from the curse of dimensionality [2]. This term refers to the fact that the computational cost and storage requirements scale as $O(h^{-d})$ for a $d$-dimensional problem, where $h$ denotes the mesh size in one coordinate direction, while the approximation accuracy is independent of $d$. To overcome this bottleneck, sparse grid methods [34, 3, 7] were introduced to reduce the degrees of freedom for high-dimensional numerical simulations. Sparse grid techniques have been incorporated in collocation methods for high-dimensional stochastic differential equations [33, 32, 25, 23], finite element methods [34, 3, 27], finite difference methods [9, 11], finite volume methods [14], and spectral methods [10, 8, 23, 29] for high-dimensional PDEs.

In recent years, we initiate a line of research on the development of sparse grid discontinuous Galerkin (DG) methods [31, 12, 13]. The DG method [4] is a class of finite element methods using discontinuous approximation space for the numerical solution and the test functions. The Runge-Kutta DG scheme [9] developed in a series of papers for hyperbolic equations became very popular due to its provable convergence, excellent conservation properties and accommodation for adaptivity and parallel implementations. The sparse grid DG method designed in [12] is well suited for time-dependent transport problems in high dimensions, reducing degrees of freedom of from $O(h^{-d})$ to $O(h^{-1} \log_2 h^{d-1})$, maintaining conservation, with provable convergence rate of $O(|\log_2 h|^{d-1} h^{k+1/2})$ in $L^2$ norm when the solution is smooth. Similar to [12], in this paper, we restrict our attention to smooth solutions of (1.1). It is known that for non-smooth solutions, adaptivity should be invoked to capture discontinuity like structures. This can be achieved using the idea in [13] and is left for our future work.

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Based on the scheme constructed in [12], the goal of the present paper is to design and analyze the sparse grid CDG method. The CDG schemes [18, 20, 21] are a class of DG schemes on overlapping cells that combine the idea of the central schemes [24, 16, 19] with the DG weak formulation. Such methods are intrinsically Riemann solver free, therefore no costly flux evaluations are needed in the computation. It is well known that the CDG schemes allow larger CFL numbers than the standard DG methods except for piecewise constant approximations [20, 26]. This compensates the increased cost caused by duplicate representation of the solution on the dual mesh. We develop sparse grid CDG method based on the observation that the most costly operation in numerical computations of the sparse grid DG method is the evaluation of the numerical fluxes. By using the CDG framework, such operations are avoided, and only direct evaluations of the function values on the other mesh is needed. We are also interested in theoretical study of the stability, convergence rate and CFL condition of the resulting scheme. A novelty of this work is the design of the scheme for non-periodic problems, where a new hierarchical representation of the solution is presented, which results in a sparse finite element space that can be defined on the dual mesh. $L^2$ projection results are studied for this space, which helps the convergence proof of the schemes for initial-boundary value problems.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: in Section 2 we construct the sparse grid CDG formulations for periodic and non-periodic problems, and perform numerical study of the CFL conditions. In Section 3 we prove $L^2$ stability and error estimate for scalar constant coefficient equations. The numerical performance is validated in Section 4 by several benchmark tests, including scalar transport equations, acoustic and elastic waves. Conclusions and future work are discussed in Section 5.

2. Numerical methods. In this section, we define and discuss the properties of the proposed sparse grid CDG methods. For convenience of notations, we rewrite (1.1) in a component-wise form as

$$
\frac{\partial u^l}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (A^l(t,x)u) = 0, \quad l = 1, \cdots, m, \quad x \in \Omega,
$$

where $A^l(t,x) = (A^l_1(t,x), \cdots, A^l_m(t,x))^T \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}$ denotes a collection of the $l$-th row of each matrix $A_i$. The problem is solved with given initial value $u(0,x) = u_0(x)$, and periodic or Dirichlet type boundary conditions.

We proceed as follows. First, we introduce the scheme for periodic problems. In this setting, the finite element space on the primal and dual mesh can be defined in similar ways. Second, we perform numerical study of the CFL conditions. Finally, we consider the more complicated non-periodic problems, for which a new sparse finite element space will be introduced on the dual mesh.

2.1. Periodic problems. To define the sparse finite element space, we first review the hierarchical decomposition of piecewise polynomial space in one dimension [31]. Consider a general interval $[a,b]$, we define the $n$-th level mesh $\Omega_n([a,b])$ to be a uniform partition of $2^n$ cells with length $h_n = 2^{-n}(b-a)$ and $I_n^j = [a + jh_n, a + (j+1)h_n]$, $j = 0, \ldots, 2^n - 1$, for any $n \geq 0$. Let

$$V_n^k([a,b]) := \{ v : v \in P^k(I_n^j), \forall j = 0, \ldots, 2^n - 1 \}
$$

be the usual piecewise polynomials of degree at most $k$ on $\Omega_n$. Then, we have the nested structure

$$V_0^k([a,b]) \subset V_1^k([a,b]) \subset V_2^k([a,b]) \subset V_3^k([a,b]) \subset \cdots
$$

Similar to [31], we can now define the multivariate subspace $W_n^k([a,b])$, $n = 1, 2, \ldots$, as the orthogonal complement of $V_{n-1}^k([a,b])$ in $V_n^k([a,b])$ with respect to the $L^2$ inner product on $[a,b]$, i.e.,

$$V_{n-1}^k([a,b]) \oplus W_n^k([a,b]) = V_n^k([a,b]), \quad W_n^k([a,b]) \perp V_{n-1}^k([a,b]).
$$

For notational convenience, we let $W_0^k([a,b]) := V_0^k([a,b])$, which is the standard piecewise polynomial space of degree $k$ on $[a,b]$. This gives the hierarchical decomposition $V_n^k([a,b])$ on $\Omega_n$ as $V_n^k([a,b]) = \bigoplus_{0 \leq l \leq n} W_l^k([a,b])$.

For a $d$ dimensional domain $[a,b]^d$, we recall some basic notations about multi-indices. For a multi-index $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_d) \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$, where $\mathbb{N}_0$ denotes the set of nonnegative integers, the $l^1$ and $l^\infty$ norms are defined as

$$|\alpha|_1 := \sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_i, \quad |\alpha|_\infty := \max_{1 \leq i \leq d} \alpha_i.$$
The component-wise arithmetic operations and relational operations are defined as

\[ \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta} := (a_1b_1, \ldots, a_db_d), \quad \alpha \cdot \alpha := (a_1^2, \ldots, a_d^2), \quad 2^\alpha := (2^{a_1}, \ldots, 2^{a_d}), \]

\[ \alpha \leq \beta \iff \alpha_i \leq \beta_i, \forall i, \quad \alpha < \beta \iff \alpha \leq \beta \text{ and } \alpha \neq \beta. \]

By making use of the multi-index notation, we denote by \( I = (l_1, \ldots, l_d) \in \mathbb{N}_0^d \) the mesh level in a multivariate sense. We define the tensor-product mesh grid \( \Omega_i ([a, b]^d) = \Omega_i ([a, b]) \otimes \cdots \otimes \Omega_i ([a, b]) \) and the corresponding mesh size \( h_i = (h_{i1}, \ldots, h_{id}) \). Based on the grid \( \Omega_i \), we denote by \( I_i^l = \{ x_i \in I_i^l, i = 1, \ldots, d \} \) as an elementary cell, and

\[ \mathcal{V}_i^k ([a, b]^d) := \{ v : v(x) \in Q_i^k, 0 \leq j < 2^l - 1 \} = \mathcal{V}_{i_1}^k ([a, b]) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{V}_{i_d}^k ([a, b]) \]

as the standard tensor-product piecewise polynomial space on this mesh, where \( Q_i^k (I_i^l) \) denotes the collection of polynomials of degree up to \( k \) in each dimension on cell \( I_i^l \). If \( I = (N, \ldots, N) \), the grid and space will be further denoted by \( \Omega_N ([a, b]^d) \) and \( \mathcal{V}_N^k ([a, b]^d) \), respectively.

Based on a tensor-product construction, the multi-dimensional increment space can be defined as

\[ \mathcal{W}_i^k ([a, b]^d) = \mathcal{W}_{i_1}^k ([a, b]) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{W}_{i_d}^k ([a, b]). \]

Therefore, we have \( \mathcal{V}_N^k ([a, b]^d) = \bigoplus_{l=0}^\infty \mathcal{W}_i^k ([a, b]^d) \). The sparse finite element approximation space we consider, is defined by

\[ \hat{\mathcal{V}}_N^k ([a, b]^d) := \bigoplus_{l=0}^N \mathcal{W}_i^k ([a, b]^d). \]

This is a subset of \( \mathcal{V}_N^k ([a, b]^d) \), and its number of degrees of freedom scales as \( O((k + 1)^d 2^N N^{d-1}) \). This is the key to computational savings in high dimensions.

The standard CDG schemes \( \mathbf{13} \mathbf{20} \) is characterized by numerical approximations on two sets of overlapping grids: primal and dual meshes. Now, we are ready to incorporate the sparse finite element space defined above into the CDG framework. For the domain under consideration \( \Omega = [0, 1]^d \), we let \( \Omega_{N,P} := \Omega_N ([0, 1]^d) \) be the primal mesh and \( \Omega_{N,D} \), which is the periodic extension of \( \Omega_N ([0, 1]^d) \) restricted to \([0, 1]^d \), be the dual mesh. Similarly, we let \( \mathcal{V}_{N,P}^k := \mathcal{V}_N^k ([0, 1]^d) \) and \( \mathcal{V}_{N,D}^k \) to be the periodic extension of \( \mathcal{V}_N^k ([h_N/2, 1 - h_N/2]^d) \) restricted to \([0, 1]^d \). Here and below, the subscripts \( P \) and \( D \) represent the quantities defined on the primal and dual mesh, respectively.

The approximation properties for the sparse finite element space have been established in previous work \( \mathbf{31} \mathbf{12} \). By using a lemma in \( \mathbf{12} \), we can have estimates for \( L^2 \) projection operator onto the spaces \( \mathcal{V}_{N,P}^k, \mathcal{V}_{N,D}^k \).

To facilitate the discussion, below we introduce some notations about norms and semi-norms. Let \( G = P, D \), on primal or dual mesh \( \Omega_{N,G} \), we use \( \| \cdot \|_{H^s (\Omega_{N,G})} \) to denote the standard Sobolev norm, i.e., \( \| v \|_{H^s (\Omega_{N,G})} = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq 2 \cdot 2^N - 1} \| v \|_{H^s (\Omega_{N,G})} \) where \( \| v \|_{H^s (\Omega_{N,G})} \) is the standard Sobolev norm on \( \Omega_{N,G} \), (and \( s = 0 \) is used to denote the \( L^2 \) norm). Similarly, we use \( \| \cdot \|_{H^s (\Omega_{N,G})} \) to denote the broken Sobolev semi-norm, and \( \| \cdot \|_{H^s (\Omega_{N,G})} \) to denote the broken Sobolev norm and semi-norm that are supported on a general grid \( \Omega_{G} \). For any set \( L = \{ i_1, \ldots, i_r \} \subset \{ 1, \ldots, d \} \), we define \( L^c \) to be the complement set of \( L \) in \( \{ 1, \ldots, d \} \). For a non-negative integer \( \alpha \) and set \( L \), we define the semi-norm on any domain denoted by \( \Omega' \)

\[ |v|_{H^{\alpha,L} (\Omega')} := \left\| \left( \frac{\partial^{\alpha}}{\partial x_{i_1}^{\alpha_1}} \cdots \frac{\partial^{\alpha}}{\partial x_{i_r}^{\alpha_r}} \right) v \right\|_{L^2 (\Omega')}, \]

and

\[ |v|_{H^{\alpha+1} (\Omega')} := \max_{1 \leq r \leq d} \left( \max_{L \subset \{ 1, 2, \ldots, d \}} \left| v \right|_{H^{\alpha+1,L} (\Omega')} \right), \]

\[ |v|_{H^{\alpha+1} (\Omega')} := \max_{1 \leq r \leq d} \left( \max_{L \subset \{ 1, 2, \ldots, d \}} \left| v \right|_{H^{\alpha+1,L} (\Omega')} \right), \]

\[ |v|_{H^{\alpha+1} (\Omega')} := \max_{1 \leq r \leq d} \left( \max_{L \subset \{ 1, 2, \ldots, d \}} \left| v \right|_{H^{\alpha+1,L} (\Omega')} \right), \]
which is the norm for the mixed derivative of $v$ of at most degree $q + 1$ in each direction. In this paper, we use the notation $A \lesssim B$ to represent $A \leq \text{constant} \times B$, where the constant is independent of $N$ and the mesh level considered. The following results are obtained from Lemma 3.2 in [12].

**Lemma 2.1** ($L^2$ projection estimate). Let $P_P$, $P_D$ be $L^2$ projections onto the spaces $\hat{V}_{N,P}^k$, $\hat{V}_{N,D}^k$ respectively, then for $k \geq 1$, $1 \leq q \leq \min \{ p, k \}$, and $v \in H^{q+1}(\Omega)$, which is periodic on $\Omega$, $N \geq 1$, $d \geq 2$, we have for $G = P, D$,

$$
|P_G v - v|_{H^s(\Omega,G)} \leq \begin{cases} 
N^d 2^{-N(q+1)} |v|_{H^{q+1}(\Omega)} & s = 0, \\
2^{-Nq} |v|_{H^{q+1}(\Omega)} & s = 1.
\end{cases}
$$

(2.2)

This lemma shows that the $L^2$ norm and $H^1$ semi-norm of the projection error scale like $O(N^d 2^{-N(q+1)})$ and $O(2^{-Nq})$ with respect to $N$ when the function $v$ has bounded mixed derivatives up to enough degrees. This lemma will be used in Theorem 3.2 to establish convergence of the scheme.

Now, we are ready to formulate the sparse grid CDG scheme. Below we review some standard notations about jumps and averages of piecewise functions. With $G = P$ or $D$, let $T_{h,G}$ be the collection of all elementary cell $I_{N,G}^d$, $\Gamma_{N,G} := \bigcup_{T \in T_{h,G}} \partial T$ be the union of the interfaces for all the elements in $\Omega_{N,G}$ (here we have taken into account the periodic boundary condition when defining $\Gamma_{N,G}$) and $S(\Gamma_G) := \Pi_{T \in T_{h,G}} L^2(\partial T)$ be the set of $L^2$ functions defined on $\Gamma_{N,G}$. For any $q \in S(\Gamma_{N,G})$ and $\varphi \in [S(\Gamma_{N,G})]^d$, we define their averages

$$
[q] \varphi = \frac{1}{|T|} \int_T \varphi \, dx,
$$

and jumps $[q] \varphi$ $\varphi$ on the interior edges as follows. Suppose $e$ is an interior edge shared by elements $T_+$ and $T_-$, either on primal or dual mesh, we define the unit normal vectors $n^+$ and $n^-$ on $e$ pointing exterior of $T_+$ and $T_-$, respectively, then

$$
[q] = q^{-} n^{-} + q^{+} n^{+}, \quad \{ q \} = \frac{1}{2} (q^{-} + q^{+}),
$$

$$
[q] = q^{-} n^{-} + q^{+} n^{+}, \quad \{ q \} = \frac{1}{2} (q^{-} + q^{+}).
$$

The semi-discrete sparse grid CDG scheme for (2.1), based on the weak formulation introduced in [18], is defined as follows: we find $u_h^j \in \hat{V}_{N,P}^k$ and $v_h^j \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k$, such that $\forall l = 1, \ldots, m$

$$
\int_{\Omega} (u_h^j)_{l} \varphi_h \, dx = \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (v_h^j - u_h^j) \varphi_h \, dx + \int_{\Omega} A_l^{j}(t, x) \varphi_h \cdot \nabla \varphi_h \, dx - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,P}} \int_{e} A_l^{j}(t, x) \varphi_h \cdot [\varphi_h] \, ds,
$$

(2.3)

$$
\int_{\Omega} (v_h^j)_{l} \psi_h \, dx = \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (u_h^j - v_h^j) \psi_h \, dx + \int_{\Omega} A_l^{j}(t, x) \psi_h \cdot \nabla \psi_h \, dx - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,D}} \int_{e} A_l^{j}(t, x) \psi_h \cdot [\psi_h] \, ds,
$$

(2.4)

for any $\varphi_h \in \hat{V}_{N,P}^k$ and $\psi_h \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k$, where $u_h = (u_h^1, \ldots, u_h^m)$, $v_h = (v_h^1, \ldots, v_h^m)$ and $\tau_{\max}$ is an upper bound for the time step due to the CFL restriction (see Section 2.2 for detailed discussions).

We implement the scheme using orthonormal multiwavelet bases constructed by Alpert [1]. In 1D, the bases of $W_1^k([0, 1])$ are denoted by

$$
v^j_{p_1,l}(x), \quad p = 1, \ldots, k + 1, \quad j = 0, \ldots, 2^{l-1} - 1
$$

and they satisfy $\int_0^1 v_{p_1,l}(x) v_{p_1,l'}(x) \, dx = \delta_{p_1,p_1'} \delta_{j_1,j_1'} \delta_{l,l'}$. Figures 2.1(a) and 2.2(a) provide illustrations of the basis functions for $k = 0, 1$ and $l = 0, 1, 2$. The bases in $W_1^k$ in multi-dimensions are defined by tensor products

$$
v_{i_1,1}^j := \prod_{i=1}^d v_{p_{i_1,i}}^{j_i}(x_i), \quad p_{i_1} = 1, \ldots, k + 1, \quad j_i = 0, \ldots, \max(0, 2^{l-1} - 1).
$$

As for temporal schemes, we can use the total variation diminishing Runge-Kutta (TVD-RK) methods [30] to solve the ordinary differential equations resulting from the discretization (2.3)–(2.4).

Compared with the sparse grid DG method in [12], the sparse grid CDG method introduced above uses two duplicate sets of numerical solutions defined on overlapping meshes. Clearly, the storage cost will be doubled. However, the costly operations of numerical flux evaluations are avoided. Instead, one only need to
evaluate the numerical solution on the complementary mesh. Since the equation is linear, all such operations are implemented in matrix form with all matrix elements assembled before time evolution starts. For solution on each grid, the mass matrix is still identity matrix. However, the volume terms on the right-hand side of (2.3)-(2.4) will structure differently from sparse grid DG method due to the computations of integrals which are products of multiwavelet bases on two different meshes.

2.2. Discussions on CFL conditions. It is well known that the CDG schemes allow larger CFL numbers than the standard DG methods except for piecewise constant approximations \([21, 26]\). Here, we perform a numerical study of the CFL condition of DG \([3]\), CDG \([21]\), sparse grid DG \([12]\), and the sparse grid CDG schemes. We only consider the two-dimensional case for now. The results are listed in Table 2.1. The CFL number of DG method is obtained from Table 2.2 in \([5]\). The rest of the table is computed by using the eigenvalue analysis of the discretization matrix, and by requiring the amplification of the eigenvalues to be bounded by 1 in magnitude. We observe that the sparse grid DG method has CFL number that is about two times the CFL number of the standard DG method. The sparse grid CDG method offers the largest CFL number among all four methods. Here, as a side note, we find that the CFL number for two-dimensional methods is measured with regard to the most refined mesh \(h\).

| \(k\) | DG | CDG | sparse grid DG | sparse grid CDG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| \(\nu = 2\) | 0.33 | 0.48 | 0.66 | 0.87 |
| \(\nu = 3\) | 0.40 | 0.66 | 0.81 | 1.17 |
| \(\nu = 4\) | 0.46 | 0.90 | 1.02 | 1.58 |

2.3. Non-periodic problems. Here, we consider non-periodic problems, where equation (1.1) or (2.1) is supplemented by Dirichlet boundary condition on the inflow edges. In this case, we can no longer use periodicity to define the finite element space on the dual mesh, and a new grid hierarchy needs to be introduced.

Recall that for standard CDG methods with non-periodic boundary condition on the domain \([0, 1]\), the finite element space on dual mesh with cell size \(h_n = 1/2^n\) is represented by

\[ V_{n,D}^k = \{ v : v \in P_k(I_{n,D}^l), \forall j = 0, \ldots, 2^n \}, \]  

(2.5)

where the mesh is partitioned as

\[ I_{n,D}^0 = [0, \frac{h_n}{2}], \quad I_{n,D}^j = [(j - \frac{1}{2})h_n, (j + \frac{1}{2})h_n], \quad j = 1, \ldots, 2^n - 1, \quad I_{n,D}^{2^n} = [1 - \frac{h_n}{2}, 1], \]

which consists of \(2^n - 1\) cells of size \(h_n\), and two cells at the left and right ends of size \(h_n/2\). It is easy to see that this space does not have nested structures, i.e. \(V_{n-1,D}^k \notin V_{n,D}^k\). Therefore, we need a new hierarchy to define the incremental polynomial spaces.

For a fixed refined mesh level \(N\), we define the following grid \(\Omega_{l,N,D}\) on level \(l\), \(l = 0 \ldots N\), by a collection of cells as

\[ I_{l,N,D}^0 = [0, \frac{h_l - h_N}{2}], \quad I_{l,N,D}^j = [jh_l - \frac{h_N}{2}, (j + 1)h_l - \frac{h_N}{2}], \quad j = 1, \ldots, 2^l - 1, \quad I_{l,N,D}^{2^l} = [1 - \frac{h_N}{2}, 1], \]

which consists of \(2^l - 1\) cells of size \(h_l\), and a cell at the left end of size \(h_l - \frac{h_N}{2}\), and a cell at the right end of size \(\frac{h_N}{2}\). This grid structure is naturally nested, and therefore \(V_{N,D}^k\) which consists of piecewise polynomials of degree \(k\) defined on \(\Omega_{l,N,D}\) are also nested, and \(V_{N,N,D}^k = V_{N,D}^k\) as defined in (2.5).
Then the definitions of sparse finite element space in Section 2.1 can be naturally extended here. We let 
\( W_{l,N,D}^k, l = 1, \ldots, N \) be a complement set of \( V_{l-1,N,D}^k \) in \( V_{l,N,D}^k \), i.e.
\[
V_{l-1,N,D}^k \oplus W_{l,N,D}^k = V_{l,N,D}^k.
\]
However, we no longer require \( W_{l,N,D}^k \) to be \( L^2 \) orthogonal to \( V_{l-1,N,D}^k \), because such definition will be difficult to implement in practice. Instead, we define \( W_{l,N,D}^k \) to be a span of basis functions that are shifted basis functions of \( W_l^k \) space defined in Section 2.1, namely,
\[
W_{l,N,D}^k = W_l^k \left( \left[ -\frac{h_N}{2}, 1 - \frac{h_N}{2} \right] \right), \quad l \geq 1.
\]
By denoting \( W_{0,N,D}^k = V_{0,N,D}^k \), we have decomposed \( V_{N,D}^k = \bigoplus_{0 \leq l \leq N} W_{l,N,D}^k \). Illustration of basis functions by such definitions for \( k = 0, 1 \) and \( l = 0, 1, 2 \) can be found in Figures 2.1(b) and 2.2(b). The dimension of \( W_{0,N,D}^k \) is \( 2(k + 1) \), while the dimensions of \( W_{l,N,D}^k, l = 1, \ldots, N \) are \( 2^{l-1}(k + 1) \).

Finally, the sparse finite element space on the dual mesh of domain \([0,1]^d\) is defined as
\[
\hat{V}_{N,D}^k := \bigoplus_{\|i\| \leq N} W_{i,N,D}^k,
\]
where \( W_{i,N,D}^k = W_{i_1,N,D,x_1} \times \cdots \times W_{i_d,N,D,x_d} \). This is a subset of the full grid space \( V_{N,D}^k = \bigoplus_{\|i\| \leq N} W_{i,N,D}^k \), and its number of degrees of freedom scales as \( O(2^d(k + 1)^d N^d) \) (the proof is similar to Lemma 2.3 in [31]), which is significantly less than that of \( V_{N,D}^k \) with exponential dependence on \( N d \).

We will now investigate the approximation property of the space \( \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \). We can obtain the following result, which essentially states that the \( L^2 \) projection onto this newly constructed space has the same order of accuracy as \( P_p, P_D \) in Lemma 2.1.

**Lemma 2.2** (\( L^2 \) projection estimate onto \( \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \)). Let \( \hat{P}_D \) be the \( L^2 \) projection onto the space \( \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \), then for \( k \geq 1, 1 \leq q \leq \min\{p,k\} \), and \( v \in H^{q+1}(\Omega) \), \( N \geq 1, d \geq 2 \), we have
\[
|\hat{P}_D v - v|_{H^s(\Omega)} \lesssim \begin{cases} N^{d q - N(q+1)} |v|_{H^{q+1}(\Omega)} & s = 0, \\ 2^{-Nq} |v|_{H^{q+1}(\Omega)} & s = 1. \end{cases} \tag{2.6}
\]

**Proof.** The proof follows same procedure as Appendix A in [12]. We will mainly highlight the difference in the proof (see Steps 1 and 2 below). The main difference lies in the fact that all the hierarchical spaces (and associated projections) have dependence not only on \( l \), but also on the finest mesh level \( N \).

**Step 1:** Decomposition of \( \hat{P}_D \) into tensor products of one-dimensional increment projections. We denote \( P_{l,N,D}^k \) as the standard \( L^2 \) projection operator from \( L^2([0,1]) \) to \( V_{l,N,D}^k \), and the induced increment projection
\[
Q_{l,N,D}^k := \begin{cases} P_{l,N,D}^k - P_{l-1,N,D}^k, & \text{if } l = 1, \ldots, N, \\ P_{0,N,D}^k, & \text{if } l = 0,
\end{cases}
\]
and further denote
\[
\hat{P}_{N,D}^k := \sum_{\|i\| \leq N} Q_{i_1,N,D,x_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes Q_{i_d,N,D,x_d},
\]
where the last subindex of \( Q_{l_1,N,D,x_1}^k \) indicates that the increment operator is defined in \( x_1 \)-direction. We can verify that \( \hat{P}_D = \hat{P}_{N,D}^k \). In fact, for any \( v \), it’s clear that \( \hat{P}_{N,D}^k v \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \). Therefore, we only need
\[
\int_{\Omega} (\hat{P}_{N,D}^k v - v) w \, dx = 0, \quad \forall w \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k. \tag{2.7}
\]
It suffices to show (2.7) for \( v \in C^\infty(\Omega) \) which is a dense subset of \( L^2(\Omega) \). In fact, we have
\[
v = P_{N,D}^k v + v - P_{N,D}^k v,
\]
where \( P_{N,D}^k = P_{N,D,x_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes P_{N,D,x_d} \) is the \( L^2 \) projection onto the full grid space \( V_{N,D}^k \). Therefore,
\[
\int_{\Omega} (\tilde{P}_{N,D}^k v - v)wdx = \int_{\Omega} (\tilde{P}_{N,D}^k v - P_{N,D}^k v)wdx + \int_{\Omega} (v - P_{N,D}^k v)wdx
\]
\[
= - \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{l \in [N]} Q_{l,N,D,x_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes Q_{l,N,D,x_d}^k v \right) w dx.
\]
The last term in the first row of the equality above vanishes because \( w \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \subset V_{N,D}^k \). In addition, for any \( l \geq 1, \phi \in L^2([0,1]), \varphi \in V_{l-1,N,D}^k \)
\[
\int_{[0,1]} Q_{l[N,D]}^k \varphi dx = \int_{[0,1]} (I - P_{l-1,N,D}^k) \phi dx - \int_{[0,1]} (I - P_{l,N,D}^k) \phi dx = 0,
\]
Therefore, by properties of the tensor product projections
\[
\int_{\Omega} (\tilde{P}_{N,D}^k v - v)wdx = 0, \quad \forall w \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k,
\]
and the proof for \( \tilde{P}_D = \tilde{P}_{N,D}^k \) is complete.

**Step 2:** Estimation of the increment projections. For a function \( v \in H^{p+1}([0,1]) \), we have the convergence property of the \( L^2 \) projection \( P_{l,N,D}^k \) as follows: for any integer \( q \) with \( 1 \leq q \leq \min\{p, k\}, s = 0, 1, \)
\[
|P_{l,N,D}^k v - v|_{H^s(l_{l,N,D},\Omega)} \leq c_{k,s,q} (h_{l,N}^q)^{(q+1-s)}|v|_{H^{p+1}(l_{l,N,D},\Omega)}, \quad j = 1, \cdots, 2^l - 1,
\]
where the mesh size \( h_{l,N}^j = \begin{cases} h_1 - h_N/2, & j = 0 \\ h_1, & j = 1, \cdots, 2^{l-1} - 1, \\ h_N/2, & j = 2^l. \end{cases} \)

The estimation above directly applies for \( Q_{0,N,D}^k = P_{0,N,D}^k \). For \( l \geq 1, \) by simple algebra, we have
\[
|Q_{l[N,D]}^k v|_{H^s(l_{l,N,D},\Omega)} \leq \tilde{c}_{k,s,q} 2^{-l(q+1-s)}|v|_{H^{p+1}(l_{l,N,D},\Omega)}, \quad j = 2, \cdots, 2^l - 1,
\]
\[
|Q_{l,N,D}^k v|_{H^s(l_{l,N,D},\Omega)} \leq c_{k,s,q} (h_l^q)^{(q+1-s)}|v|_{H^{p+1}(l_{l,N,D},\Omega)} + c_{k,s,q} (h_{l-1} - h_N/2)^{(q+1-s)}|v|_{H^{p+1}(l_{l-1,N,D},\Omega)}, \quad j = 0, 1,
\]
\[
\leq \tilde{c}_{k,s,q} 2^{-l(q+1-s)}|v|_{H^{p+1}(l_{l,N,D},\Omega)},
\]
\[
|Q_{l,N,D}^k v|_{H^s(l_{l,N,D},\Omega)} = 0,
\]
with \( \tilde{c}_{k,s,q} = c_{k,s,q}(1 + 2^{q+1-s}). \)

The rest of the proof is then very similar to Appendix A in [12], and is omitted. \( \square \)

We now provide a numerical validation of Lemma 2.2 by considering the error of projection \( \tilde{P}_D \) for a smooth function
\[
u(x) = \exp \left( \prod_{i=1}^d x_i \right), \quad x \in [0,1]^d. \tag{2.8}
\]
In Table 2.2, we report the \( L^2 \) errors and the associated orders of accuracy for \( k = 1, 2, 3, d = 2, 3 \). It is clear that the predicted order of accuracy is achieved.

With the aid of this space, the semi-discrete scheme can now be defined similarly as in [2.3] and [2.4] by using the space on the dual mesh as \( \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \), and replacing the numerical values on the boundary of the domain by corresponding functions in the Dirichlet boundary conditions.

We now comment on the implementation of this algorithm. As can be seen from Figures 2.1(b) and 2.2(b) there are two types of basis functions in 1D for the dual space.
Table 2.2

$L^2$ errors and orders of accuracy for $L^2$ projection operator $\tilde{P}_D$ of (2.8) onto $\hat{V}^k_{N,D}$ when $d = 2$ and $d = 3$. $N$ is the number of mesh levels, $k$ is the polynomial order, $d$ is the dimension. $L^2$ order is calculated with respect to $h_N$.

| $N$ | $h_N$ | $L^2$ error $k = 1$ | $L^2$ error $k = 2$ | $L^2$ error $k = 3$ |
|-----|-------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|     |       | $d = 2$             | $d = 2$             | $d = 2$             |
| 3   | 1/8   | 8.93E-04 –          | 9.14E-06 –          | 6.40E-08 –          |
| 4   | 1/16  | 2.61E-04 1.77      | 1.29E-06 2.82      | 4.45E-09 3.85      |
| 5   | 1/32  | 7.34E-05 1.83      | 1.77E-07 2.87      | 3.01E-10 3.89      |
| 6   | 1/64  | 2.00E-05 1.88      | 2.37E-08 2.90      | 1.98E-11 3.93      |
| 7   | 1/128 | 5.35E-06 1.90      | 3.11E-09 2.93      | 1.29E-12 3.94      |
|     |       |                     |                     |                     |
|     |       | $d = 3$             | $d = 3$             | $d = 3$             |
| 3   | 1/8   | 6.19E-04 –          | 4.93E-06 –          | 3.18E-08 –          |
| 4   | 1/16  | 1.90E-04 1.70      | 7.45E-07 2.73      | 2.36E-09 3.75      |
| 5   | 1/32  | 5.71E-05 1.73      | 1.10E-07 2.76      | 1.69E-10 3.80      |
| 6   | 1/64  | 1.67E-05 1.77      | 1.58E-08 2.80      | 1.18E-11 3.84      |
| 7   | 1/128 | 4.80E-06 1.80      | 2.24E-09 2.82      | 9.35E-13 3.66      |

- Type 1 bases (for $l \geq 0$), which are the shifted and truncated multiwavelet bases.
- Type 2 bases (for $l = 0$), which are the Legendre polynomials of degree up to $k$ on $[1 - \frac{h_N}{2}, 1]$.

Clearly, Type 1 bases are orthogonal to Type 2 bases, because their support do not overlap. Type 2 bases are orthogonal to each other due to the definition of Legendre polynomials. However, Type 1 bases are no longer orthogonal to each other, due to the domain shift and truncation. However, only the left-most element on each level are changed. For other bases in that level, they will still retain orthogonality. The bases on left-most element in all level are orthogonal to other bases, but not to each other, i.e., the bases defined on left-most element in different levels are not orthogonal. This implies that although the mass matrix is not identity here, it will have block structures and be sparse.

![Fig. 2.1. Illustration of one-dimensional bases on different levels for $k = 0$: non-periodic problems. Different colors represent different bases.](image)

3. Stability and convergence. In this section, we prove $L^2$ stability and error estimates for the sparse grid CDG scheme for the scalar equation with $A_i$ being constants. We consider both periodic and
non-periodic boundary conditions. For periodic problems, (2.1) reduces to
\[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla_x \cdot (A u) = 0, \quad x \in \Omega, \]
(3.1)
where \( A = (A_1, \cdots, A_d) \) is a constant vector. We assume \( A_i \neq 0 \) to rule out the trivial dimensions. For non-periodic problems, the following inflow boundary conditions are prescribed,
\[ u(t, x)|_{\partial \Omega_{x_i}^{in}} = g_i(t, \cdots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \cdots, x_d) \]
where
\[ \partial \Omega_{x_i}^{in} := \begin{cases} \{x \in \Omega | x_i = 0\}, & \text{if } A_i > 0, \\ \{x \in \Omega | x_i = 1\}, & \text{if } A_i < 0. \end{cases} \]
Correspondingly, we denote the outflow edges by
\[ \partial \Omega_{x_i}^{out} := \begin{cases} \{x \in \Omega | x_i = 1\}, & \text{if } A_i > 0, \\ \{x \in \Omega | x_i = 0\}, & \text{if } A_i < 0. \end{cases} \]

The scheme for periodic case reduces to: to find \( u_h \in \hat{V}_{N,P}^k \) and \( v_h \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \), such that
\[ \int_{\Omega} (u_h) \varphi_h \, dx = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{max}}} \int_{\Omega} (v_h - u_h) \varphi_h \, dx + \int_{\Omega} v_h A \cdot \nabla \varphi_h \, dx - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,P}} \int_{\partial e} v_h A \cdot [\varphi_h] \, ds, \]
(3.2)
\[ \int_{\Omega} (v_h) \psi_h \, dx = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{max}}} \int_{\Omega} (u_h - v_h) \psi_h \, dx + \int_{\Omega} u_h A \cdot \nabla \psi_h \, dx - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,D}} \int_{\partial e} u_h A \cdot [\psi_h] \, ds, \]
(3.3)
for any \( \varphi_h \in \hat{V}_{N,P}^k \) and \( \psi_h \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \). For non-periodic problems, we require \( v_h, \psi_h \in \hat{V}_{N,D}^k \), and enforce
\[ u_h|_{\partial \Omega_{x_i}^{in}} = v_h|_{\partial \Omega_{x_i}^{in}} = g_i \]
on the boundary interface.
We can prove that the schemes retain similar stability properties as the standard CDG schemes.

**Theorem 3.1 (\(L^2\) Stability).** With periodic boundary condition, the numerical solutions \(u_h\) and \(v_h\) of the sparse grid CDG scheme \((3.2) - (3.3)\) for the equation \((3.1)\) satisfy the following \(L^2\) stability condition
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} ((u_h)^2 + (v_h)^2) dx = - \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (u_h - v_h)^2 dx \leq 0. 
\]
(3.4)

For non-periodic boundary condition, the corresponding numerical solutions satisfy
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} ((u_h)^2 + (v_h)^2) dx \leq \sum_{i=1}^{d} \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} |A_i| g_i^2 ds, 
\]
(3.5)

if \(\tau_{\max} \leq \frac{h_{\max}}{\kappa}\).

**Proof.** For periodic boundary condition, let \(\varphi = u_h\) in \((3.2)\) and \(\psi = v_h\) in \((3.3)\), summing the two equalities up, we have
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} ((u_h)^2 + (v_h)^2) dx 
= \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} v_h u_h - u_h u_h + u_h v_h - v_h v_h dx + \int_{\Omega} v_h A \cdot \nabla u_h dx - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,p}} \int_{e} v_h A \cdot [u_h] ds 
+ \int_{\Omega} u_h A \cdot \nabla v_h dx - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,D}} \int_{e} u_h A \cdot [v_h] ds 
= \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (u_h - v_h)^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} A \cdot \nabla (u_h v_h) dx - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,p}} \int_{e} v_h A \cdot [u_h] ds - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,D}} \int_{e} u_h A \cdot [v_h] ds. 
\]

Applying divergence theorem, and by periodicity, we have
\[
\int_{\Omega} A \cdot \nabla (u_h v_h) dx - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,p}} \int_{e} A v_h \cdot [u_h] ds - \sum_{e \in \Gamma_{N,D}} \int_{e} A u_h \cdot [v_h] ds = 0, 
\]
and the proof is complete for the periodic case.

For non-periodic boundary condition, we follow the same lines and plug in the corresponding boundary condition,
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} ((u_h)^2 + (v_h)^2) dx 
= -\frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (u_h - v_h)^2 dx + \sum_{i=1}^{d} \left( \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} A \cdot n_2(u_h + v_h) ds + 2 \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} A \cdot n_1 v_h ds \right) 
= -\frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (u_h - v_h)^2 dx + \sum_{i=1}^{d} \left( \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} |A \cdot n|(u_h + v_h - g_i(u_h + v_h)) ds - \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} |A \cdot n| u_h v_h ds \right) 
\leq \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (u_h - v_h)^2 dx + \sum_{i=1}^{d} \left( \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} |A \cdot n| g_i^2 ds + \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n} \cup \partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} |A \cdot n| \left( \frac{1}{2} (u_h - v_h)^2 - \frac{1}{2} u_h^2 - \frac{1}{2} v_h^2 \right) ds \right) 
= -\frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (u_h - v_h)^2 dx + \sum_{i=1}^{d} \left( \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} |A_i| g_i^2 ds + \int_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n} \cup \partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n}} |A_i| \frac{1}{2} (u_h - v_h)^2 ds \right) 
\]
by noticing \(A \cdot n|_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n} < 0}\) and \(A \cdot n|_{\partial \Omega_{x_{i}^n} > 0}\)
Let \( T^i_{N,D} := \{ T \in \Omega_{N,D} | T \cap \partial \Omega_i \neq \emptyset \} \) denote the cells on dual mesh adjacent to the boundary in the \( i \)-th direction. By inverse inequality, we have \( \| u_h - v_h \|_{L^2(\partial \Omega_i)} \lesssim h_N^{-1} \| u_h - v_h \|_{L^2(T^i_{N,D})} \lesssim h_N^{-1} \| u_h - v_h \|_{L^2(\Omega)}. \)

Therefore,
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_\Omega (u_h)^2 + (v_h)^2 \, dx \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \int_{\partial \Omega_i} |A_i| g_i^2 \, ds.
\]

if \( \tau_{\max} \lesssim h_N / \| A \|_{L^\infty}. \)

Now we are ready to prove \( L^2 \) error estimate of the sparse grid CDG scheme.

**Theorem 3.2** (\( L^2 \) error estimate). Let \( u \) be the exact solution to \( (3.1) \) and \( u_h, v_h \) be the numerical solution to the semidiscrete scheme \( (3.2) \) and \( (3.3) \) with initial discretization \( u_h(0, x) = P_P u_0, v_h(0, x) = P_P u_0 \) for periodic boundary condition or \( u_h(0, x) = P_P u_0, v_h(0, x) = P_P u_0 \) for non-periodic boundary condition. If \( \tau_{\max} \lesssim h_N \), then for \( k \geq 1 \), \( u_0 \in H^{p+1}(\Omega), 1 \leq q \leq \min\{p, k\}, N \geq 1, d \geq 2 \), we have for all \( t \geq 0 \)
\[
\| u - u_h \|_{L^2(\Omega, P)} + \| u - v_h \|_{L^2(\Omega, N, D)} \lesssim N^{d-2-N} |u|_{H^{k+1}(\Omega)}.
\]

**Proof.** For periodic problems, we first introduce the standard notation of bilinear form
\[
B(u_h, v_h; \varphi_h, \psi_h) = \int_\Omega (u_h)_t \varphi_h \, dx - \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int \Omega (v_h - u_h) \varphi_h \, dx - \int \Omega v_h A \cdot \nabla \varphi_h \, dx + \sum_{e \in \Gamma} \int e v_h A \cdot [\varphi_h] \, ds
\]
\[
+ \int_\Omega (v_h)_t \psi_h \, dx - \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int \Omega (u_h - v_h) \psi_h \, dx - \int \Omega u_h A \cdot \nabla \psi_h \, dx + \sum_{e \in \Gamma_D} \int e u_h A \cdot [\psi_h] \, ds.
\]

By Galerkin orthogonality, we have the error equation
\[
B(u - u_h, u - v_h; \varphi_h, \psi_h) = 0, \quad \forall \varphi_h \in \hat{V}^k_{N,P}, \psi_h \in \hat{V}^k_{N,D}.
\]

We take
\[
\varphi_h = P_P u - u_h, \quad \psi_h = P_D u - v_h, \quad \varphi^e = P_P u - u, \quad \psi^e = P_D u - v,
\]
then the error equation \( (3.7) \) becomes
\[
B(\varphi_h, \psi_h; \varphi_h, \psi_h) = B(\varphi^e, \psi^e; \varphi_h, \psi_h).
\]

From Theorem 3.1 we get
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_\Omega (\varphi_h^2 + \psi_h^2) \, dx \leq B(\varphi^e, \psi^e; \varphi_h, \psi_h).
\]

We write the right-hand side as a sum of three terms
\[
B(\varphi^e, \psi^e; \varphi_h, \psi_h) = B^1 + B^2 + B^3,
\]

where
\[
B^1 = \int_\Omega (\varphi^e)_t \varphi_h \, dx - \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int \Omega (\psi^e - \varphi^e) \varphi_h \, dx + \int \Omega (\psi^e)_t \psi_h \, dx - \frac{1}{\tau_{\max}} \int \Omega (\psi^e - \varphi^e) \psi_h \, dx,
\]
\[
B^2 = -\int \Omega \psi^e A \cdot \nabla \varphi_h \, dx - \int \Omega \varphi^e A \cdot \nabla \psi_h \, dx,
\]
\[
B^3 = \sum_{e \in \Gamma_P} \int e \psi^e A \cdot [\varphi_h] \, ds + \sum_{e \in \Gamma_D} \int e \varphi^e A \cdot [\psi_h] \, ds.
\]
By Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, Lemma 2.1 and \( \tau_{\text{max}} \lesssim h_N \), we have

\[
B^1 \lesssim \int_{\Omega} (\varphi_h^2 + \psi_h^2)dx + N^{2d}2^{-2Nq} |u|_{H^{q+1}(\Omega)}.
\]

(3.11)

To estimate \( B^2, B^3 \), we use the following inverse inequalities \( \forall w_h \in \hat{V}^k_{N,G} \), for \( G = P, D, \)

\[
|w_h|_{H^1(\Omega,G)} \lesssim h_N^{-1} \|w_h\|_{L^2(\Omega,G)}, \quad \|w_h\|_{\Gamma_{N,G}} \lesssim h_N^{-\frac{3}{2}} \|w_h\|_{L^2(\Omega,G)}
\]

and trace inequality,

\[
\|\phi\|_{L^2(\partial T)} \lesssim h_N^{-1} \|\phi\|_{L^2(T)} + h_N |\phi|_{H^1(T)}, \quad \forall \phi \in H^1(T), T \in \Omega_{N,G}.
\]

Then we have

\[
B^2 \lesssim \int_{\Omega} (\varphi_h^2 + \psi_h^2)dx + N^{2d}2^{-2Nq} |u|_{H^{q+1}(\Omega)}
\]

(3.12)

and

\[
B^3 \lesssim \int_{\Omega} (\varphi_h^2 + \psi_h^2)dx + N^{2d}2^{-2Nq} |u|_{H^{q+1}(\Omega)}.
\]

(3.13)

Combining (3.11), (3.12), (3.13) with (3.9), we obtain

\[
\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} (\varphi_h^2 + \psi_h^2)dx \lesssim \int_{\Omega} (\varphi_h^2 + \psi_h^2)dx + N^{2d}2^{-2Nq} |u|_{H^{q+1}(\Omega)}.
\]

Together with the estimates for initial discretization and by Gronwall’s inequality, the proof is complete. For non-periodic problems, the argument is very similar as long as the stability result holds. The proof is omitted for brevity. \( \square \)

This theorem proves \( L^2 \) error of the scheme is \( O(N^d2^{-Nk}) \) or \( O(|\log h_N|^d h_N^k) \) when the exact solution has enough smoothness in the mixed derivative norms.

4. Numerical results. In this section, we present several numerical tests to validate the performance of the proposed sparse grid CDG schemes. We use the third-order TVD-RK temporal discretization [30] and choose the time step \( \Delta t = \frac{c}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} c_i} \), with \( c = 0.1 \) for \( k = 1, 2 \), where \( c_i \) is the maximum wave propagation speed in \( x_i \)-direction. To guarantee that the spatial error dominates for \( k = 3 \), we take \( \Delta t = O(h_N^{4/3}) \). \( \tau_{\text{max}} \) is taken as \( \frac{1}{N^2+1} h_N \) which is always smaller than the maximum time step allowed based on the CFL number in Table 2.1. For periodic problems, we only provide \( L^2 \) errors on the primal mesh, because the results on the dual mesh are similar. For non-periodic problems, the \( L^2 \) errors are the \( L^2 \) average of the errors on the primal and dual meshes.

4.1. Scalar case. In this subsection, we consider the scalar case, i.e. \( m = 1 \).

EXAMPLE 4.1 (Linear advection with constant coefficients). We consider

\[
\begin{aligned}
&u_t + \sum_{i=1}^{d} u_{x_i} = 0, \quad x \in [0,1]^d, \\
u(0, x) = \sin \left( 2\pi \sum_{i=1}^{d} x_i \right),
\end{aligned}
\]

(4.1)

with periodic or Dirichlet boundary conditions on the inflow edges corresponding to the given exact solution. The exact solution is a smooth function,

\[
u(t,x) = \sin \left( 2\pi \left( \sum_{i=1}^{d} x_i - d t \right) \right).
\]

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In the simulation, we compute the numerical solutions up to two periods in time, meaning that we let final time $T = 1$ for $d = 2$, $T = 2/3$ for $d = 3$, and $T = 0.5$ for $d = 4$.

We first test the scheme with periodic boundary condition. In Table 4.1, we report the $L^2$ errors and orders of accuracy for $k = 1, 2, 3$ and up to dimension four. As for accuracy, we observe about half order reduction from the optimal $(k+1)$-th order for high-dimensional computations ($d = 4$). The order is slightly better for lower dimensions. The convergence order is similar to the performance of the sparse grid DG scheme in [12]. In Figure 4.1, we plot the time evolution of the error of $L^2$ norm of numerical solutions $u_h$ and $v_h$, which is given by

$$\int_{\Omega} \left( (u_h(t, x))^2 + (v_h(t, x))^2 \right) dx - \int_{\Omega} \left( (u_h(0, x))^2 + (v_h(0, x))^2 \right) dx$$

for two-dimensional case for $t = 0$ to $t = 100$. From Theorem 3.1, such errors are proportional to the difference between $u_h$ and $v_h$. We can clearly see that the higher order accurate scheme performs way better in conservation of $L^2$ norm due to its higher order accuracy.

**Table 4.1**

$L^2$ errors and orders of accuracy for Example 4.1 at $T = 1$ when $d = 2$, $T = 2/3$ when $d = 3$, and $T = 0.5$ when $d = 4$. $N$ denotes mesh level, $h_N$ is the size of the smallest mesh in each direction, $k$ is the polynomial order, $d$ is the dimension. $L^2$ order is calculated with respect to $h_N$.

| $N$ | $h_N$ | $k = 1$ | $L^2$ error | $k = 2$ | $L^2$ error | $k = 3$ | $L^2$ error |
|-----|-------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|
|     |       |         | $d = 2$     |         | $d = 3$     |         | $d = 4$     |
| 3   | 1/8   | 3.14E-01 | 1.20E-02    | 5.84E-04 |             |         |             |
| 4   | 1/16  | 6.99E-02 | 2.17        | 2.23E-03 | 2.43        | 8.50E-05| 2.78        |
| 5   | 1/32  | 1.34E-02 | 2.38        | 4.87E-04 | 2.20        | 3.84E-06| 4.47        |
| 6   | 1/64  | 3.43E-03 | 1.97        | 9.79E-05 | 3.03        | 3.89E-07| 3.30        |
| 7   | 1/128 | 9.21E-04 | 1.90        | 9.33E-06 | 2.68        | 1.80E-08| 4.43        |
|     |       |         |             |         |             |         |             |
| 3   | 1/8   | 6.77E-01 | 5.27E-02    | 2.13E-03 |             |         |             |
| 4   | 1/16  | 3.56E-01 | 0.93        | 1.10E-02 | 2.26        | 2.62E-04| 3.02        |
| 5   | 1/32  | 1.05E-01 | 1.76        | 1.82E-03 | 2.60        | 2.85E-05| 3.20        |
| 6   | 1/64  | 2.54E-02 | 2.05        | 5.22E-04 | 1.80        | 2.01E-06| 3.83        |
| 7   | 1/128 | 7.45E-03 | 1.77        | 6.89E-05 | 2.92        | 2.01E-07| 3.32        |
|     |       |         |             |         |             |         |             |
| 3   | 1/8   | 7.13E-01 | 1.26E-01    | 4.41E-03 |             |         |             |
| 4   | 1/16  | 6.48E-01 | 0.14        | 3.39E-02 | 1.89        | 7.56E-04| 2.54        |
| 5   | 1/32  | 3.80E-01 | 0.77        | 6.91E-03 | 2.29        | 9.82E-05| 2.94        |
| 6   | 1/64  | 1.37E-01 | 1.47        | 1.39E-03 | 2.31        | 9.44E-06| 3.38        |
| 7   | 1/128 | 3.81E-02 | 1.85        | 3.56E-04 | 1.97        | 8.16E-07| 3.53        |

Then, we test the scheme with Dirichlet boundary condition prescribed at the inflow edge according to the exact solution. The results are listed in Table 4.2. The accuracy order is similar to the periodic case.

**Example 4.2** (Solid body rotation). We consider solid-body-rotation problems, which are in the form of (1.1) with

$$A_1(t, x) = -x_2 + \frac{1}{2}, \quad A_2(t, x) = x_1 - \frac{1}{2}, \quad d = 2,$$

$$A_1(t, x) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left( x_2 - \frac{1}{2} \right), \quad A_2(t, x) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left( x_1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left( x_3 - \frac{1}{2} \right), \quad A_3(t, x) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left( x_2 - \frac{1}{2} \right), \quad d = 3,$$

subject to periodic boundary conditions.

Such benchmark tests are commonly used in the literature to assess performance of transport schemes. Here, the initial profile traverses along circular trajectories centered at $(1/2, 1/2)$ for $d = 2$ and about the
axis \{x_1 = x_3\} \cap \{x_2 = 1/2\} for d = 3 without deformation, and it goes back to the initial state after 2\pi in time. The initial conditions are set to be the following smooth cosine bells (with \(C^5\) smoothness),

\[ u(0, \mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 
  b^{d-1} \cos^6 \left( \frac{\pi r}{2b} \right), & \text{if } r \leq b, \\
  0, & \text{otherwise},
\end{cases} \tag{4.2} \]

where \(b = 0.23\) when \(d = 2\) and \(b = 0.45\) when \(d = 3\), and \(r = |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_c|\) denotes the distance between \(\mathbf{x}\) and the center of the cosine bell with \(\mathbf{x}_c = (0.75, 0.5)\) for \(d = 2\) and \(\mathbf{x}_c = (0.5, 0.55, 0.5)\) for \(d = 3\).

In Table 4.3, we summarize the convergence study of the numerical solutions computed by the sparse CDG method, including the \(L^2\) errors and orders of accuracy. For this variable coefficients equation, we observe at least \(k\)-th order convergence for all cases. The order is slightly lower than the corresponding ones in Example 4.1.

Example 4.3 (Deformational flow). We consider the two-dimensional deformational flow with velocity...
Table 4.3

$L^2$ errors and orders of accuracy for Example 4.2 at $T = 2\pi$. $N$ denotes mesh level, $h_N$ is the size of the smallest mesh in each direction, $k$ is the polynomial order, $d$ is the dimension. $L^2$ order is calculated with respect to $h_N$.

| $N$ | $h_N$ | $L^2$ error order | $L^2$ error order | $L^2$ error order |
|-----|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|     |       | $k = 1$           | $k = 2$           | $k = 3$           |
| 5   | 1/32  | 1.53E-02 -        | 5.81E-03 -        | 1.34E-03 -        |
| 6   | 1/64  | 1.02E-02 0.58     | 1.50E-03 1.95     | 9.64E-05 3.80     |
| 7   | 1/128 | 4.66E-03 1.13     | 1.46E-04 3.36     | 1.16E-05 3.05     |
| 8   | 1/256 | 1.42E-03 1.71     | 2.34E-05 2.64     | 1.10E-06 3.40     |

for $d = 2$

| $N$ | $h_N$ | $L^2$ error order | $L^2$ error order | $L^2$ error order |
|-----|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|     |       | $k = 1$           | $k = 2$           | $k = 3$           |
| 5   | 1/32  | 4.83E-03 -        | 6.25E-04 -        | 7.35E-05 -        |
| 6   | 1/64  | 1.87E-03 1.37     | 1.20E-04 2.38     | 9.18E-06 3.00     |
| 7   | 1/128 | 7.46E-04 1.33     | 3.39E-05 1.82     | 1.36E-06 2.75     |
| 8   | 1/256 | 2.55E-04 1.55     | 8.11E-06 2.06     | 1.94E-07 2.81     |

for $d = 3$

where $g(t) = \cos(\pi t/T)$ with $T = 1.5$, with periodic boundary condition.

We still adopt the cosine bell (4.2) as the initial condition for this test, but with $x_c = (0.65, 0.5)$ and $b = 0.35$. Note that the deformational test is more challenging than the solid body rotation due to the space and time dependent flow field. In particular, along the direction of the flow, the cosine bell deforms into a crescent shape at $t = T/2$, then goes back to its initial state at $t = T$ as the flow reverses. In the simulations, we compute the solution up to $t = T$. The convergence study is summarized in Table 4.4. Similar orders are observed compared with Example 4.2. In Figure 4.2 we plot the contour plots of the numerical solutions on the primal mesh at $t = T/2$ when the shape of the bell is greatly deformed, and $t = T$ when the solution is recovered into its initial state. It is observed that the sparse CDG scheme with higher degree $k$ can better resolve the highly deformed solution structure.

Table 4.4

$L^2$ errors and orders of accuracy for Example 4.3 at $T = 1.5$. $N$ denotes mesh level, $h_N$ is the size of the smallest mesh in each direction, $k$ is the polynomial order, $d$ is the dimension. $L^2$ order is calculated with respect to $h_N$. $d = 2$.

| $N$ | $h_N$ | $L^2$ error order | $L^2$ error order | $L^2$ error order |
|-----|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|     |       | $k = 1$           | $k = 2$           | $k = 3$           |
| 5   | 1/32  | 1.73E-02 -        | 4.37E-03 -        | 1.14E-03 -        |
| 6   | 1/64  | 8.06E-03 1.10     | 1.17E-03 1.90     | 2.44E-04 2.22     |
| 7   | 1/128 | 3.29E-03 1.29     | 2.04E-04 2.52     | 2.05E-05 3.57     |
| 8   | 1/256 | 1.08E-03 1.61     | 2.78E-05 2.88     | 2.75E-06 2.90     |

4.2. System case. In this subsection, we consider system case, which means $m > 1$ in equation (1.1) or (2.1).

Example 4.4 (Acoustic wave equation with constant wave speed). We consider

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{u}_t &= \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^2, \\
\mathbf{v}_t &= \nabla u, \\
u(0, \mathbf{x}) &= u_0(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{v}(0, \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{x}).
\end{align*}
\]

with periodic boundary conditions. The initial conditions $u_0(\mathbf{x})$ and $\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{x})$ are chosen according to the following two types of exact solutions: the standing wave

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
u(t, \mathbf{x}) \\
v_1(t, \mathbf{x}) \\
v_2(t, \mathbf{x})
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
-\sqrt{2}\sin(2\sqrt{2}\pi t)\sin(2\pi x_1)\sin(2\pi x_2) \\
\cos(2\sqrt{2}\pi t)\cos(2\pi x_1)\sin(2\pi x_2) \\
\cos(2\sqrt{2}\pi t)\sin(2\pi x_1)\cos(2\pi x_2)
\end{bmatrix},
\]
Fig. 4.2. Example 4.3. Deformational flow test. The contour plots of the numerical solutions on primal mesh at $t = T/2$ (a, c, e) and $t = T$ (b, d, f). $k = 1$ (a, b), $k = 2$ (c, d), and $k = 3$ (e, f).
and the traveling wave

\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{bmatrix} u(t, x) \\ v_1(t, x) \\ v_2(t, x) \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2}\sin(2\sqrt{2}\pi t + 2\pi x_1)\cos(2\pi x_2) \\ \sin(2\sqrt{2}\pi t + 2\pi x_1)\cos(2\pi x_2) \\ \cos(2\sqrt{2}\pi t + 2\pi x_1)\sin(2\pi x_2) \end{bmatrix}.
\end{align*}
\]

We compute the solution until \( T = 1 \). Similar to the scalar case, we present the \( L^2 \) errors and orders of accuracy for \( u(t, x) = [u(t, x), \ v_1(t, x), \ v_2(t, x)]^T \) in Table 4.5. From the table, we still observe at least \((k + 1/2)\)-th order for the solution.

Table 4.5

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
N & h_N & L^2 \text{ error order} & k = 1 & L^2 \text{ error order} & k = 2 & L^2 \text{ error order} & k = 3 \\
\hline
3 & 1/8 & 3.56E-01 & - & 1.05E-02 & - & 5.37E-04 & - \\
4 & 1/16 & 7.93E-02 & 2.17 & 1.84E-03 & 2.51 & 4.31E-05 & 3.64 \\
5 & 1/32 & 1.50E-02 & 2.40 & 3.18E-04 & 2.53 & 3.39E-06 & 3.67 \\
6 & 1/64 & 3.72E-03 & 2.01 & 4.95E-05 & 2.68 & 2.77E-07 & 3.61 \\
7 & 1/128 & 1.01E-03 & 1.88 & 7.60E-06 & 2.70 & 2.03E-08 & 3.77 \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

We compute the solution until \( T = 1 \). Similar to the scalar case, we present the \( L^2 \) errors and orders of accuracy for \( u(t, x) = [u(t, x), \ v_1(t, x), \ v_2(t, x)]^T \) in Table 4.5. From the table, we still observe at least \((k + 1/2)\)-th order for the solution.

Example 4.5 (Two-dimensional homogeneous isotropic elastic wave [15].) The 2D elastic wave equation in homogeneous and isotropic medium in velocity-stress formulation without external source, is a linear hyperbolic system of the form

\[
u_t + A_1 u_{x_1} + A_2 u_{x_2} = 0, \tag{4.4}
\]

where \( u = [\sigma_{xx}, \ \sigma_{yy}, \ v, \ w]^T \), \( \sigma_{xx}, \sigma_{yy} \) represents the normal stress and \( \sigma_{xy} \) represents the shear stress and \( v, w \) are the velocity in \( x \) and \( y \) directions.

\[
A_1 = \begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda + 2\mu \\
0 & 0 & \lambda & 0 \\
0 & \mu & 0 & 0 \\
\frac{1}{\rho} & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{bmatrix}, \quad A_2 = \begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda + 2\mu \\
0 & 0 & \mu & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\rho} & 0 \\
0 & \frac{1}{\rho} & 0 & 0
\end{bmatrix},
\]

where \( \lambda \) and \( \mu \) are the Lamé constants and \( \rho \) is the mass density of material. Eigenvalues of \( A_1 \) and \( A_2 \) are \(-c_p, -c_s, 0, c_s, c_p\), which give us the wave speed \( c_p = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda + 2\mu}{\rho}} \) and \( c_s = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\rho}} \) for P-wave and S-wave respectively. We consider the homogeneous material parameters \( \lambda = 2, \mu = 1, \rho = 1 \), then \( c_p = 2, c_s = 1 \). On domain \( \Omega = [0, 1]^2 \), we take the solutions consisting of a plane P-wave traveling along diagonal direction \( \mathbf{n} = (\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}) \) and a plane S-wave traveling in the opposite direction, i.e.,

\[
u(t, x) = R_s e^{\sin(k \cdot x + \kappa c_s t)} + R_p e^{\sin(k \cdot x - \kappa c_p t)},
\]

where \( R_s = [-\mu, \mu, 0, -\sqrt{2/\sqrt{2} c_s, \sqrt{2}/c_s}]^T, R_p = [\lambda + \mu, \lambda + \mu, \mu, -\sqrt{2/\sqrt{2} c_p, -\sqrt{2}/c_p}]^T \) and \( \kappa = \kappa \mathbf{n}, k = 2\sqrt{2} \pi \). Periodic boundary condition is applied and the initial condition is chosen as \( u(0, \mathbf{x}) \).

We compute the solution until \( T = 1 \). The \( L^2 \) errors and orders of accuracy for \( u(t, x) \) are shown in Table 4.6. We observe that the convergence order is close to \( k + 1 \).
where $\lambda, \mu$ and $\rho$ take the same values as the previous example. Hence, we have the same values for $c_p$ and $c_s$. Eigenvalues of $A_1, A_2$ and $A_3$ are $-c_p, -c_s, -c_s, 0, 0, c_s, c_s, c_p$, which describe the wave speed for P-wave and S-wave (with different polarizations). On domain $\Omega = [0, 1]^3$, we take the solutions consisting of a plane S-wave traveling along diagonal direction $\mathbf{n} = (-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})$ and a plane P-wave traveling in the opposite direction, i.e.,

$$u(t, x) = R_s \sin(\mathbf{k} \cdot x - kc_st) + R_p \sin(\mathbf{k} \cdot x + kc_p t),$$

where

$$R_s = [-\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1 - \frac{1}{3} c_s, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} c_s, 0]^T,$$

$$R_p = [\lambda + \frac{2}{3} \mu, \lambda + \frac{2}{3} \mu, \lambda + \frac{2}{3} \mu, \lambda + \frac{2}{3} \mu, \lambda + \frac{2}{3} \mu, 0, 0, 0, 0]^T,$$

and $\mathbf{k} = kn, k = -2\sqrt{3}\pi$. Similarly, we consider periodic boundary condition and $u_0(x) = u(0, x)$ as initial condition. We present the numerical results at $T = 1$. In Table 4.7 we get at least $(k + 1/2)$-th order of accuracy for the solution $u(t, x)$.
5. Conclusions and future work. In this work, we develop sparse grid CDG schemes for linear transport problems. We construct sparse finite element space on primal and dual meshes for periodic and non-periodic problems. A new hierarchical representation of the piecewise polynomials is introduced and analyzed for non-periodic problems on the dual mesh. Compared with sparse grid DG scheme, the method proposed allows larger CFL numbers and avoids the evaluations of numerical fluxes. We show that for scalar equation with constant coefficients, the scheme shares similar $L^2$ stability property as the standard CDG scheme. $L^2$ convergence rate is proved to be of $O(\log h^d h^k)$ where $h$ is the most refined mesh in each direction. Numerical results are provided validating performance of the methods. In particular, the convergence order seems higher than the theoretically predicted rate, which suggests that new projection techniques such as those introduced in [22] may be needed. Other future work includes detailed study of CFL conditions, and applications and extensions to nonlinear and nonsmooth problems.

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\begin{table}
\centering
\caption{$L^2$ errors and orders of accuracy for Example 4.6 at $T = 1$. $N$ denotes mesh level, $h_N$ is the size of the smallest mesh in each direction, $k$ is the polynomial order, $d$ is the dimension. $L^2$ order is calculated with respect to $h_N$. $d = 3$.}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
$N$ & $h_N$ & $L^2$ error & order & $L^2$ error & order \tabularnewline
\hline
4 & 1/16 & 2.49E-04 & 2.04 & 2.51E-01 & 1.69 \tabularnewline
5 & 1/32 & 7.70E-01 & 1.69 & 8.17E-03 & 2.59 \tabularnewline
6 & 1/64 & 1.76E-01 & 2.13 & 1.59E-03 & 2.36 \tabularnewline
7 & 1/128 & 4.27E-02 & 2.04 & 2.79E-04 & 2.51 \tabularnewline
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
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