

# Computing the inf-sup constant of the divergence

Martin Costabel

Collaboration with Monique Dauge

with contributions from C. Bernardi, V. Girault, M. Crouzeix, Y. Lafranche

IRMAR, Université de Rennes 1

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M. DAUGE, C. BERNARDI, M. COSTABEL, V. GIRAULT

*On Friedrichs constant and Horgan-Payne angle for LBB condition*  
Monogr. Mat. Garcia de Galdeano (2014)



M. COSTABEL, M. DAUGE

*On the inequalities of Babuška–Aziz, Friedrichs and Horgan–Payne*  
(2013) <http://fr.arxiv.org/abs/1303.6141>



M. COSTABEL, M. CROUZEIX, M. DAUGE, Y. LAFRANCHE

*The inf-sup constant for the divergence on corner domains*  
Num. Meth. for Partial Diff. Eq. (2014).

- $\Omega$  **bounded** domain in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  ( $d \geq 1$ ). **No regularity assumptions.**

## The inf-sup constant of $\Omega$

$$\beta(\Omega) = \inf_{q \in L^2_0(\Omega)} \sup_{\mathbf{v} \in H^1_0(\Omega)^d} \frac{\int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} q}{\|\mathbf{v}\|_1 \|q\|_0}$$

- $L^2(\Omega)$  space of square integrable functions  $q$  on  $\Omega$ . Norm  $\|q\|_0$
- $H^1(\Omega)$  Sobolev space of  $v \in L^2(\Omega)$  with gradient  $\nabla v \in L^2(\Omega)^d$
- $L^2_0(\Omega)$  subspace of  $q \in L^2(\Omega)$  with  $\int_{\Omega} q = 0$ .
- $H^1_0(\Omega)$  closure in  $H^1(\Omega)$  of  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  (zero trace on  $\partial\Omega$ )  
(Semi-)Norm  $\|u\|_1 = \|\nabla u\|_0$  equivalent to norm  $\|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)}$
- $\beta(\Omega)$  is invariant with respect to translations, rotations, dilations.
- We will often talk about  $\alpha(\Omega) = \beta(\Omega)^2$  instead of  $\beta(\Omega)$ .

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Ball in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ :  $\sigma(\Omega) = \frac{1}{d}$  [Ellipsoids in 3D: E.&F. Cosserat 1898]

In 2D:

Ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} < 1, a < b$ :  $\sigma(\Omega) = \frac{a^2}{a^2 + b^2}$

Some other domains with simple conformal mappings, for example:

Annulus  $a < r < 1$ :  $\sigma(\Omega) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{1-a^2}{1+a^2 \log 1/a}}$   
[Chazarain-Ciszariski 2000]

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Always true:  $0 \leq \beta(\Omega) \leq 1$

Any bounded Lipschitz domain  $\Omega$ :  $\beta(\Omega) > 0$   
[“inf-sup condition”, “LBB condition”]

Any finite union of bounded star-shaped domains:  $\beta(\Omega) > 0$

Inward cusps, cracks: OK,  $\beta(\Omega) > 0$

Domains with an outward cusp:  $\beta(\Omega) = 0$

Any bounded John domain  $\Omega$ :  $\beta(\Omega) > 0$  [R. Duran et al. 2006]

Rectangle of aspect ratio  $a \ll 1$ :  $\frac{a^2}{4} \leq \sigma(\Omega_a) \leq \frac{\pi^2}{12} a^2$  and

$$\sigma(\Omega_a) \leq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi} \approx 0.18169$$

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The square  $\Omega = (0, 1) \times (0, 1) =: \square \subset \mathbb{R}^2$

## The Square

$\beta(\square)$  is currently still unknown !

$$\sigma(\square) = \frac{2}{7} \approx 0.2857... \quad (\rightarrow \beta(\square) \approx 0.5345)$$

$$\sigma(\square) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi} \approx 0.18169... \quad (\rightarrow \beta(\square) \approx 0.42625)$$

Why not simply  
compute it ?



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C. O. HORGAN AND L. E. PAYNE, *On inequalities of Korn, Friedrichs and Babuška-Aziz*. Arch. Rational Mech. Anal., **82** (1983), pp. 165–179.

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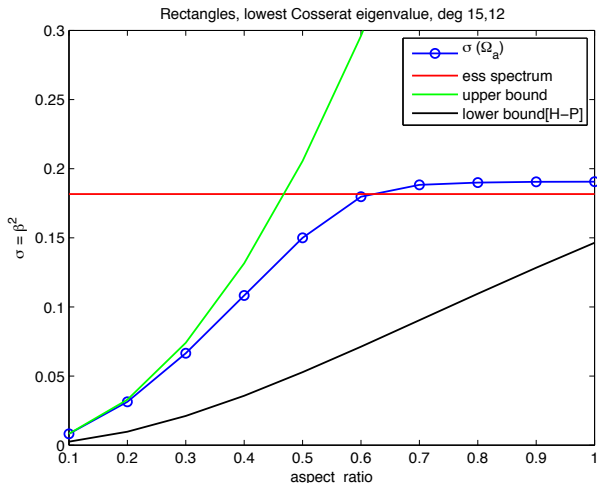
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Computation on rectangles with aspect ratio 0.1 ... 1

80 elements ( $Q_{15}, Q_{12}$ ),  $\sim 30000$  dof

First **Cosserat** eigenvalue (computed with a **Stokes** solver)

- $\sigma(\Omega) = \beta(\Omega)^2$  is the minimum of the Cosserat spectrum



Consider the Stokes problem for  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{H}_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $p \in L_0^2(\Omega)$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f} & \text{in } \Omega \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \end{array}$$

## Pressure Stability for the Stokes problem

Let  $\Omega$  be such that  $\beta(\Omega) > 0$ . Let  $C_P$  be the constant in the Poincaré inequality

$$\|v\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C_P \|\nabla v\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega).$$

Then for  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$  there exists a unique solution  $(\mathbf{u}, p)$  of the Stokes problem, and

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{L^2(\Omega)} &\leq C_P \|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \\ \|p\|_{L^2(\Omega)} &\leq \frac{2C_P}{\beta(\Omega)} \|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \end{aligned}$$

# Computing $\beta(\Omega)$ : The Discrete inf-sup Constant

- Conforming discretization:  $V_N \subset H_0^1(\Omega)^d$ ,  $M_N \subset L_0^2(\Omega)$

The discrete inf-sup constant of  $(V_N, M_N)$

$$\beta_N = \inf_{q \in M_N} \sup_{\mathbf{v} \in V_N} \frac{\int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} q}{|\mathbf{v}|_1 \|q\|_0}$$

$(u_N, p_N) \in V_N \times M_N$ :

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u_N \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} - \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} p_N = \int_{\Omega} 1 \cdot \mathbf{v} \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in V_N$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} u_N q = 0 \quad \forall q \in M_N$$

(Babuška-Grezzi)

$$\inf_N \beta_N = \beta_0 > 0$$

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Galerkin approximation of the Stokes system

$(\mathbf{u}_N, p_N) \in V_N \times M_N$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \nabla \mathbf{u}_N \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} - \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} p_N &= \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{v} \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in V_N \\ \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}_N q &= 0 \quad \forall q \in M_N \end{aligned}$$

Necessary and sufficient condition for stability of Galerkin scheme

(Babuška-Brezzi)

$$\inf_N \beta_N = \beta_0 > 0$$

# Continuous vs Discrete inf-sup Constant

In general, one can have  $\beta_N \leq \beta(\Omega)$  or  $\beta_N \geq \beta(\Omega)$ .  
No general rule known.

## Lemma

If  $(M_N)_N$  approximates  $L^2_0(\Omega)$ , then

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Proof: Let  $q \in L^2_0(\Omega)$ ,  $q_N \in M_N$ ,  $q_N \rightarrow q$ ,  $\beta_N \rightarrow \beta_\infty$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \exists \mathbf{v}_N \in V_N : \frac{\langle \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v}_N, q_N \rangle_\Omega}{|\mathbf{v}_N|_1} &\geq \beta_N \|q_N\|_0 \\ \implies \frac{\langle \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v}_N, q \rangle_\Omega}{|\mathbf{v}_N|_1} &= \frac{\langle \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v}_N, q_N \rangle_\Omega}{|\mathbf{v}_N|_1} - \frac{\langle \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v}_N, q_N - q \rangle_\Omega}{|\mathbf{v}_N|_1} \\ &\geq \beta_N \|q_N\|_0 - \|q_N - q\|_0 \rightarrow \beta_\infty \|q\|_0 \end{aligned}$$

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## Well-studied question: Bound $\beta_N$ from below

For  $p$  and  $hp$  version:

**Triangles:** Vogelius 1983, Scott-Vogelius 1985

**Quads:** Bernardi-Maday 1999

Stenberg-Suri 1996

Schötzau-Schwab 1999

Ainsworth-Coggins 2000, 2002

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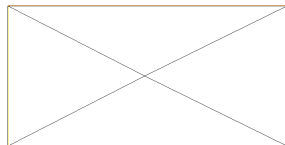
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Our question here: When is  $\lim_N \beta_N = \beta(\Omega)$  ?



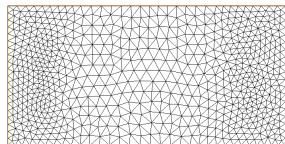
Almost singular "Four Corners" triangulation

$$\text{Scott-Vogelius } P_4 - P_3^{dc}: \quad \sigma_N = 0.000021$$

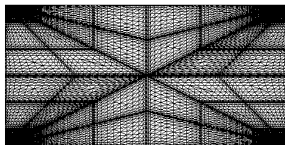
$$P_4 - P_3: \quad \sigma_N = 0.149769$$

$$P_4 - P_2^{dc}: \quad \sigma_N = 0.153970$$

$$P_4 - P_2: \quad \sigma_N = 0.154518$$



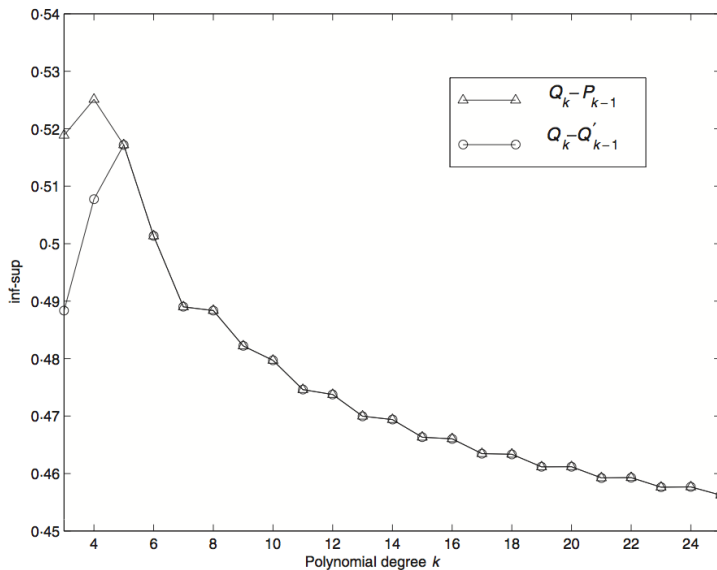
Refined mesh,  $P_4 - P_2$ :  $\sigma_N = 0.151573$   
(Freefem++)



Geometric refinement at corners,

$$Q_{16} - Q_{14}: \quad \sigma_N = 0.149960$$

(Melina++)



Variation of inf-sup constants for  $Q_k - P_{k-1}$  and  $Q_k - Q'_{k-1}$  methods on the reference element  $\hat{K}$ .

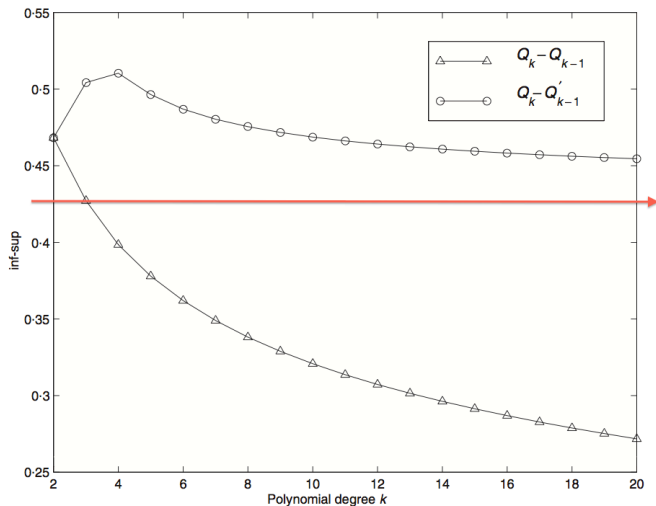
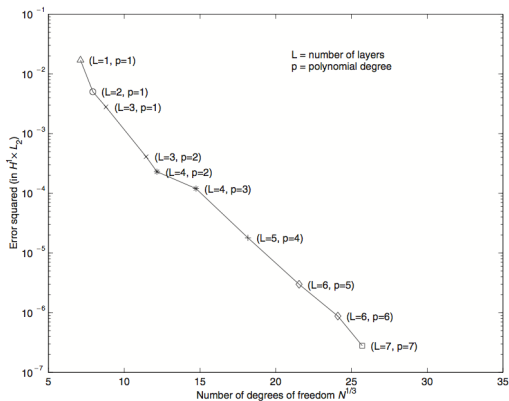
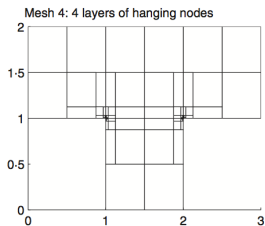


FIG. 3. Inf-sup constants for the generalized Taylor-Hood elements  $Q_k - Q_{k-1}$  and the new family  $Q_k - Q'_{k-1}$  analysed in the text.





[Eugène & François Cosserat 1898]

Find  $\mathbf{u} \in H_0^1(\Omega) \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$\sigma \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0.$$

Their aim: Solving the Lamé Dirichlet problem by eigenfunction expansion.

For  $\sigma \neq 0$ , equivalent eigenvalue problem:

$$\operatorname{div} \Delta^{-1} \nabla q = \sigma q \quad \text{in } L_0^2(\Omega).$$

Definition: Cosserat operator  $\mathcal{C} = \operatorname{div} \Delta^{-1} \nabla$  Selfadjoint, positive,  $\leq 1$ .

Find  $\mathbf{u} \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $p \in L_0^2(\Omega) \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{C}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p &= 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} &= \sigma p & \text{in } \Omega \end{aligned}$$

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Their aim: Solving the Lamé Dirichlet problem by eigenfunction expansion.

For  $\sigma \neq 0$ , equivalent eigenvalue problem:

$$\operatorname{div} \Delta^{-1} \nabla q = \sigma q \quad \text{in } L_0^2(\Omega).$$

**Definition:** Cosserat operator  $\mathcal{S} = \operatorname{div} \Delta^{-1} \nabla$  Selfadjoint, positive,  $\leq 1$ .

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[Eugène & François Cosserat 1898]

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The Cosserat eigenvalue problem is a Stokes eigenvalue problem

Find  $\mathbf{u} \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $p \in L_0^2(\Omega) \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{C}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p &= 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} &= \sigma p & \text{in } \Omega \end{aligned}$$

This is not an elliptic eigenvalue problem!  $\sigma = 1$  has infinite multiplicity

$$q = \Delta \phi, \phi \in H_0^2(\Omega) \Rightarrow \Delta^{-1} \nabla q = \nabla \phi \Rightarrow \mathcal{S} q = q.$$

Define

$$\sigma(\Omega) = \min(\text{Spectrum } \mathcal{S})$$

Known results [Cosserats, Nečas, Maz'ya–Mikhlin]

Ball in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ :  $\sigma(\Omega) = \frac{1}{d}$ ,  $\sigma_k = \frac{k}{2k+d-2}$ ,  $k \geq 1$

Bounded Lipschitz domains:  $\sigma(\Omega) > 0$

$\sigma = 1$  is an isolated eigenvalue,

$\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$  is accumulation point of eigenvalues

Smooth domains ( $C^3$  [Crouzeix 1997]):

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A simple relation

$$\sigma(\Omega) = \beta(\Omega)^2.$$

► Proof

## Advantages

- Standard code available: Stokes + matrix eigenvalue problem
- Eigenfunctions can be looked at

There is no theory for the approximation of this eigenvalue problem.

Find  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $p \in L^2(\Omega) \setminus \{0\}$ ,  
 $\sigma \in \mathbb{C}$ :

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + \nabla p = \sigma u & \text{in } \Omega \\ \operatorname{div} u = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases}$$

Known: Discrete LBB condition  
guarantees spectral convergence.

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$$\begin{array}{ll} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \sigma \mathbf{u} & \text{in } \Omega \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \end{array}$$

Known: Discrete LBB condition guarantees spectral convergence.

## Stokes eigenvalue problem, second kind

Find  $\mathbf{u} \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $p \in L_0^2(\Omega) \setminus \{0\}$ ,  
 $\sigma \in \mathbb{C}$ :

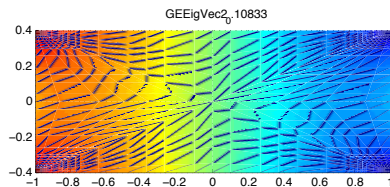
$$\begin{array}{ll} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = \sigma p & \text{in } \Omega \end{array}$$

No convergence proof known.

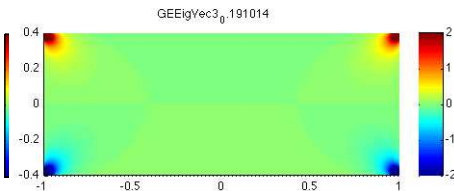
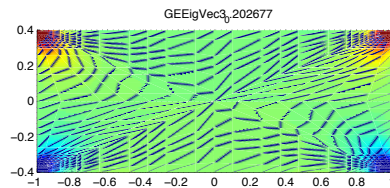
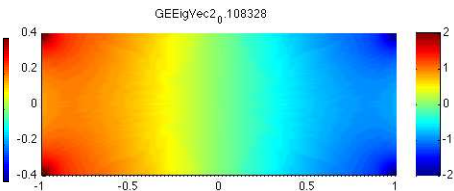


Rectangle, aspect ratio 0.4

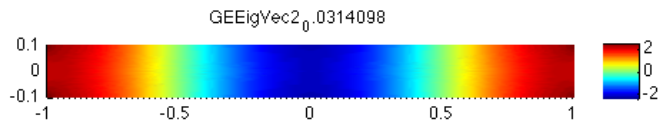
Degrees: 6,3



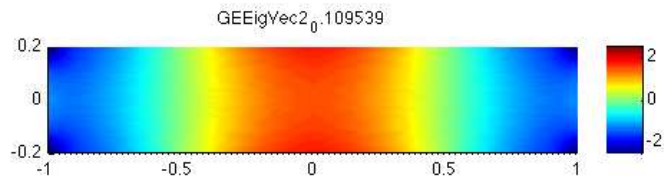
Degrees: 15,12



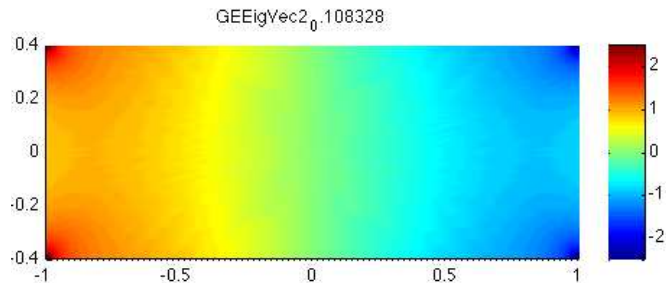
Rectangle, aspect ratio 0.1



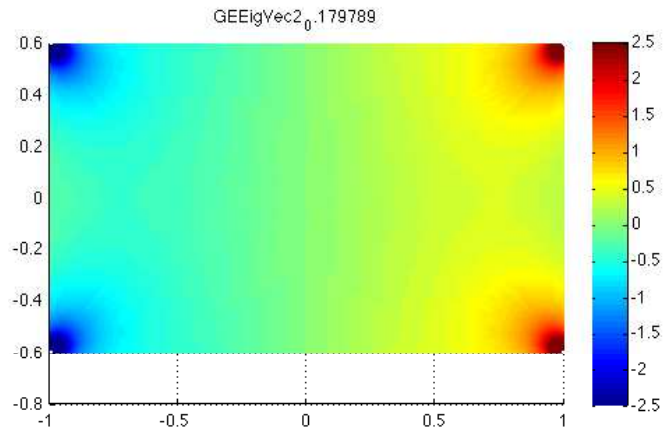
Rectangle, aspect ratio 0.2



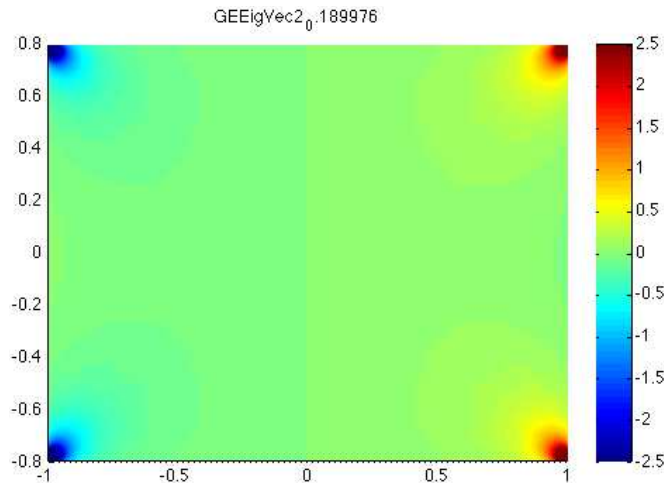
Rectangle, aspect ratio 0.4



Rectangle, aspect ratio 0.6

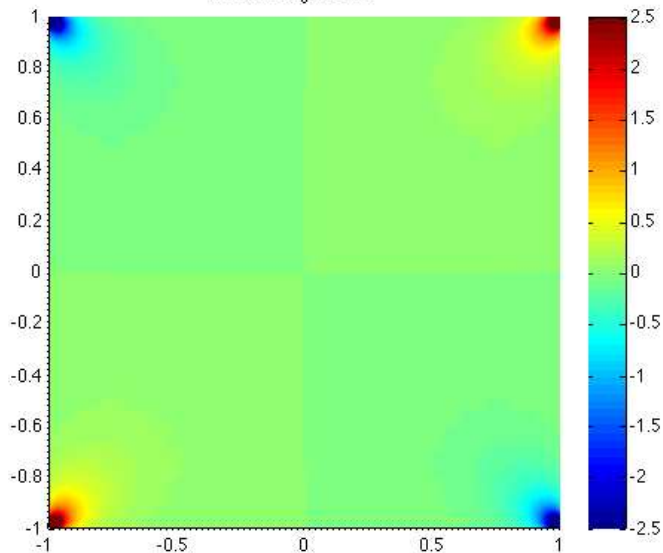


Rectangle, aspect ratio 0.8

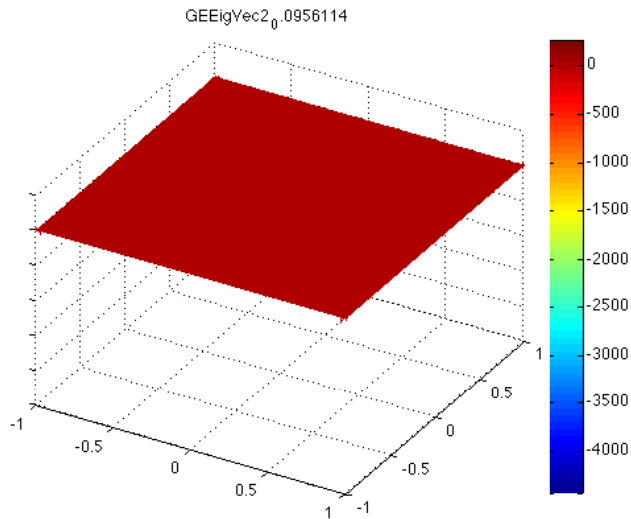


Rectangle, aspect ratio 1.0

GEEigVec2<sub>0</sub>.190655

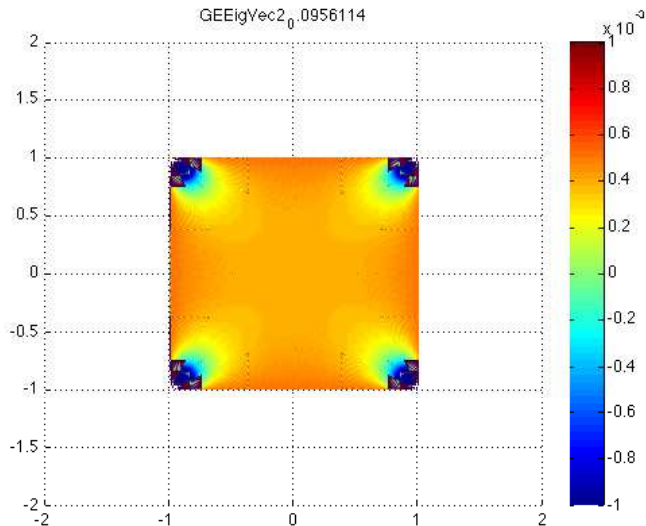


# Square: First eigenfunction, $(Q_{17}, Q_{16})$

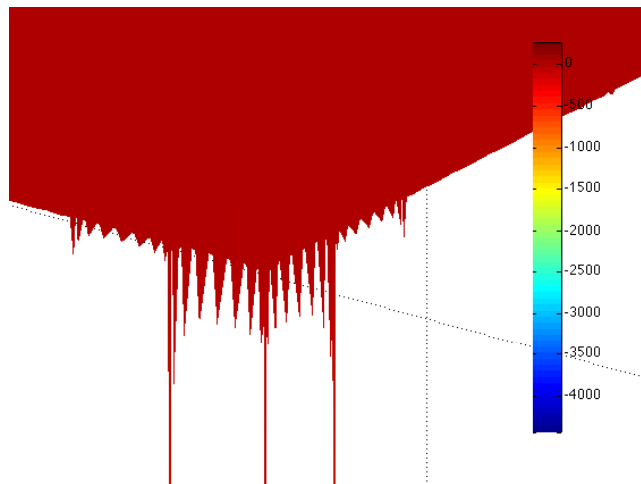




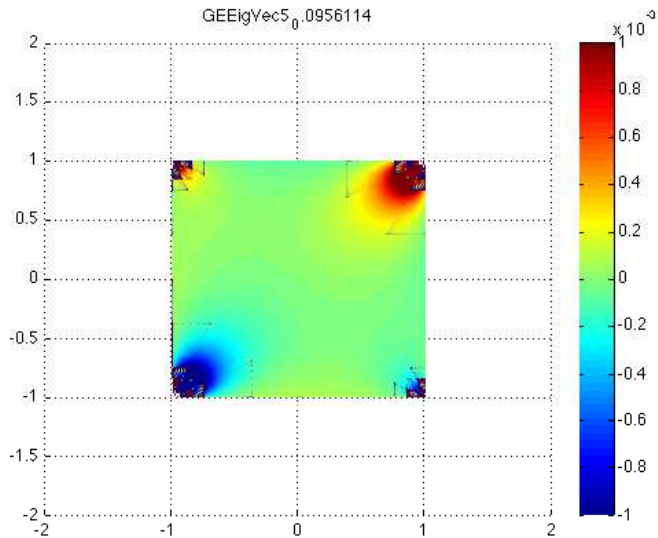
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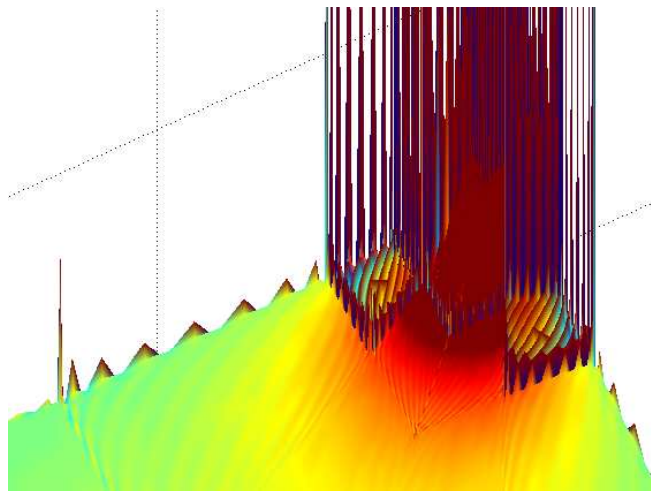
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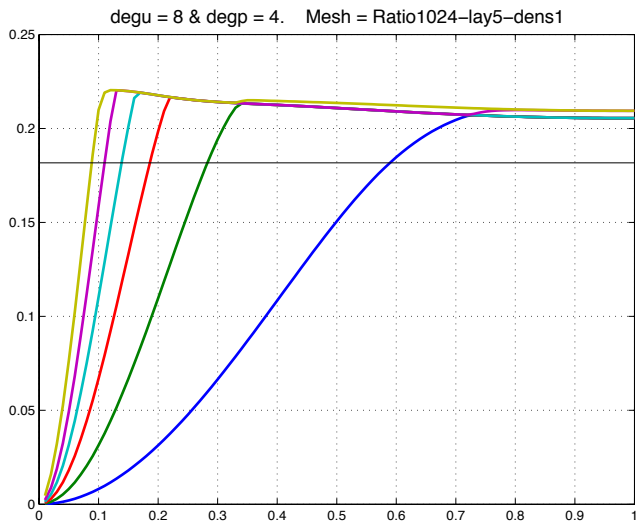
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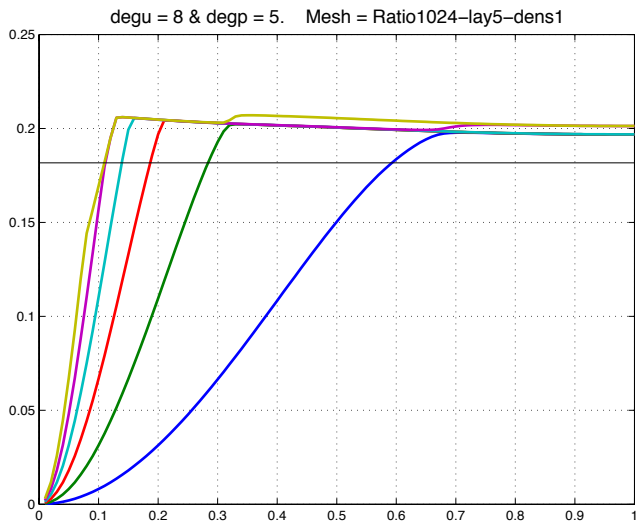
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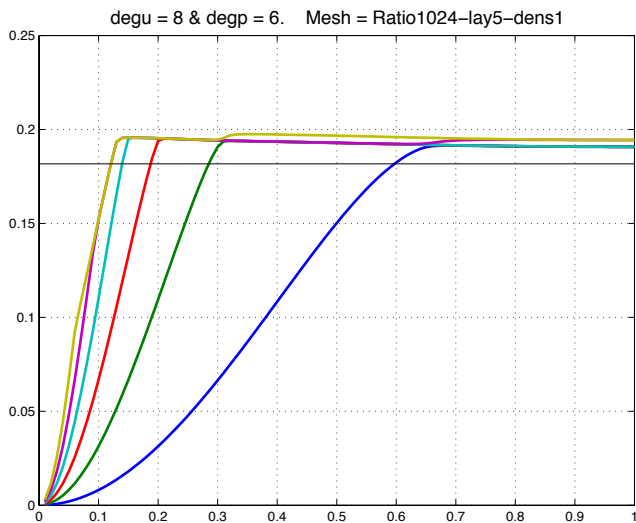
# $k = 8$ and $\ell = 4$ . Strongly refined mesh



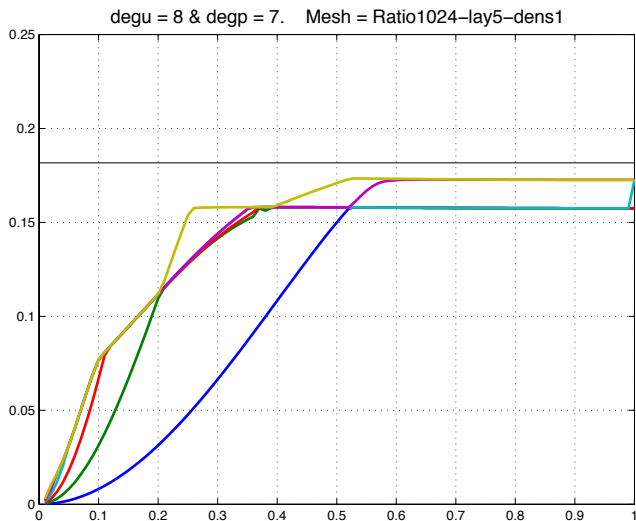
# $k = 8$ and $\ell = 5$ . Strongly refined mesh



# $k = 8$ and $\ell = 6$ . Strongly refined mesh

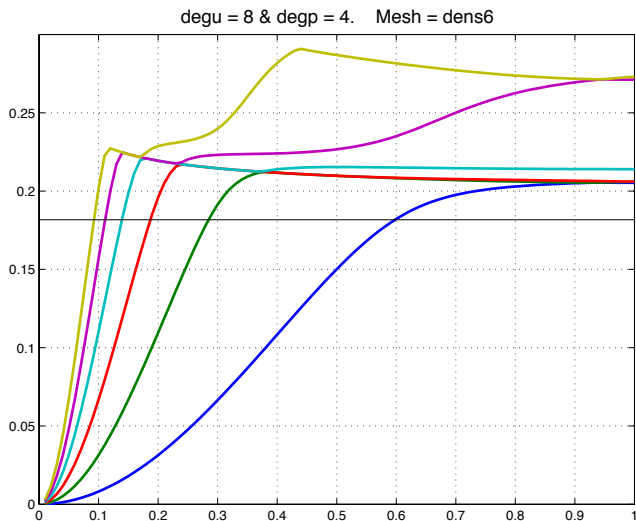


# $k = 8$ and $\ell = 7$ . Strongly refined mesh

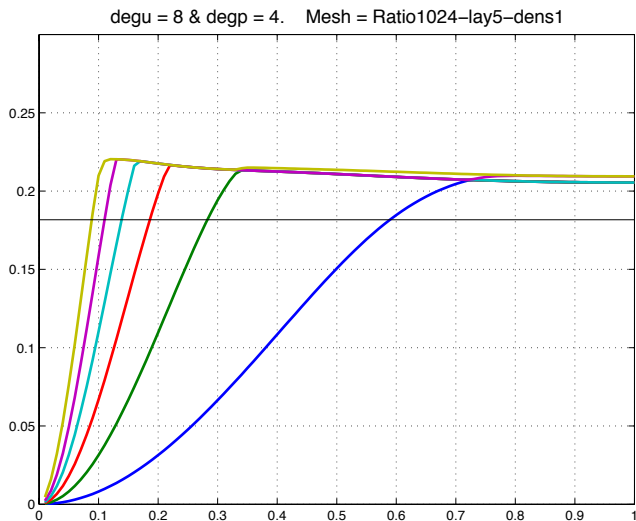




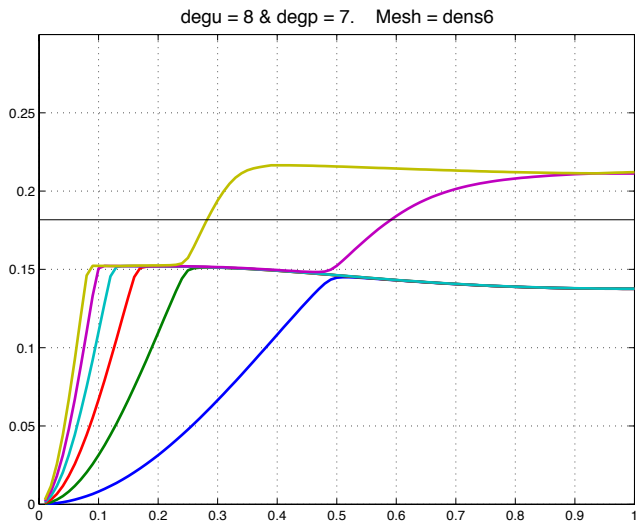
# Again, for comparison: $k = 8$ and $\ell = 4$ . Uniform grid



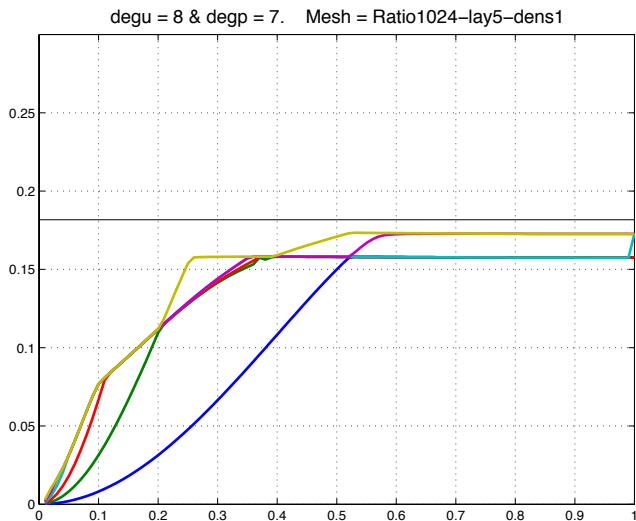
# Again, for comparison: $k = 8$ and $\ell = 4$ . Refin. mesh



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For  $\sigma \notin \{0, \frac{1}{2}, 1\}$ , the operator  $A_\sigma = -\sigma\Delta + \nabla \operatorname{div}$  is **elliptic**.

If  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  has a corner of opening  $\omega$ , one can therefore determine the corner singularities via **Kondrat'ev's** method of **Mellin transformation**:

Look for solutions of the form  $r^\lambda \phi(\theta)$  in a sector.  $\rightarrow q \sim r^{\lambda-1} \phi(\theta)$

Characteristic equation (Lamé system, known!) for a corner of opening  $\omega$ :

$$(*) \quad (1 - 2\sigma) \frac{\sin \lambda \omega}{\lambda} = \pm \sin \omega.$$

## Theorem [Kondrat'ev 1967]

For  $\sigma \in [0, 1] \setminus \{0, \frac{1}{2}, 1\}$ ,  $A_\sigma : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbf{H}^{-1}(\Omega)$  is **Fredholm** iff the equation  $(*)$  has no solution on the line  $\Re \lambda = 0$ .

With  $z = \lambda \omega$ , we rewrite  $(*)$

$$(1 - 2\sigma) \frac{\sin z}{z} = \pm \frac{\sin \omega}{\omega}$$

Result:

- $(*)$  has roots on the line  $\Re \lambda = 0$  iff  $|1 - 2\sigma| \omega \leq |\sin \omega|$
- If  $|1 - 2\sigma| \omega > |\sin \omega|$ , there is a real  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$

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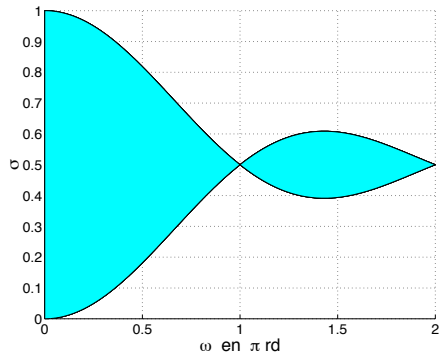
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## Theorem [Crouzeix, Costabel-Dauge]

$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  piecewise smooth with corners of opening  $\omega_j$ .

$$\text{Sp}_{\text{ess}}(\mathcal{L}) = \bigcup_{\text{corners } j} \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{|\sin \omega_j|}{2\omega_j}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{|\sin \omega_j|}{2\omega_j} \right] \cup \{1\}$$



Example : Rectangle,  $\omega = \frac{\pi}{2}$

$$\text{Sp}_{\text{ess}}(\mathcal{L} \Big|_M) = \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\pi} \right] \\ \approx [0.181, 0.818]$$

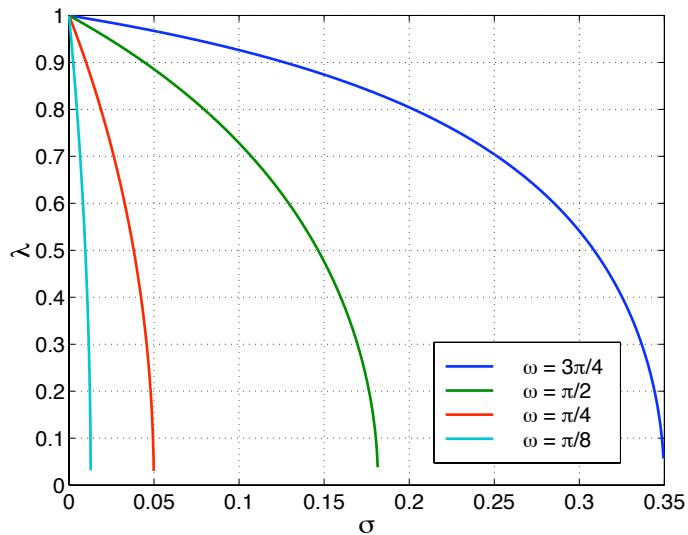
## Corollary

For square, rectangles,  
rectangular cylinders in 3D:

$$\beta(\Omega)^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi}$$

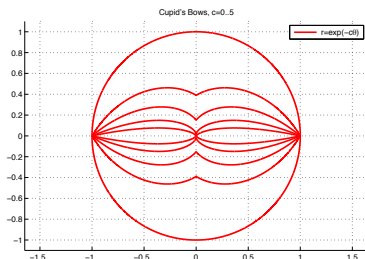
Figure: Essential spectrum:  $\sigma$  vs. opening  $\omega$

# Exponent of singularity vs Cosserat eigenvalue (Rectangle: green line)





# Computations on Cupid's Bow, and H-P inequality



Logarithmic spirals:  $r = e^{-c\theta}$ ,  $0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$  + symmetries

Horgan-Payne angle: Minimal angle between radius vector and tangent

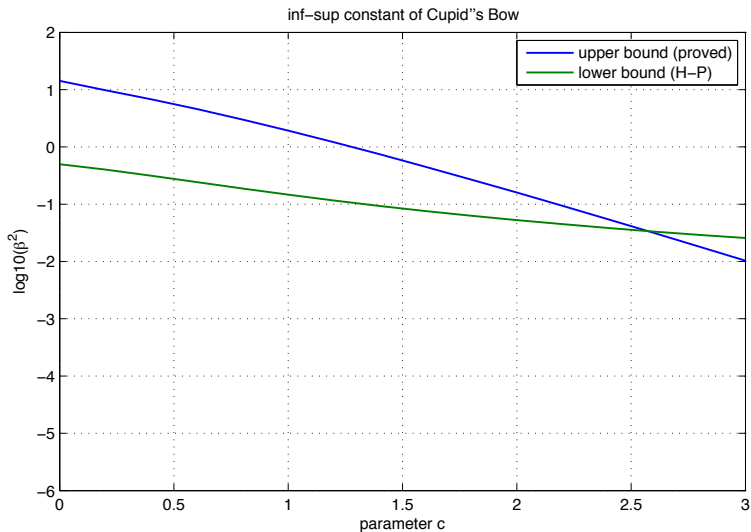
$$\omega(\Omega) = \arctan \frac{1}{c}$$

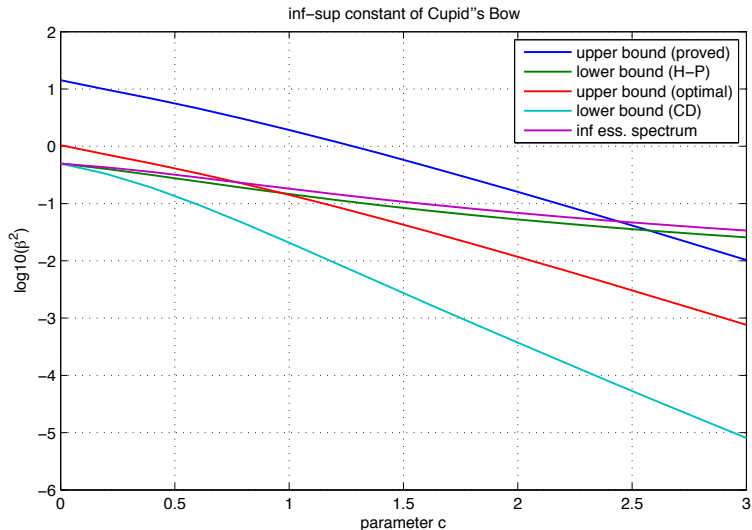
Horgan-Payne inequality:  $\beta(\Omega) \geq \sin \frac{\omega(\Omega)}{2}$

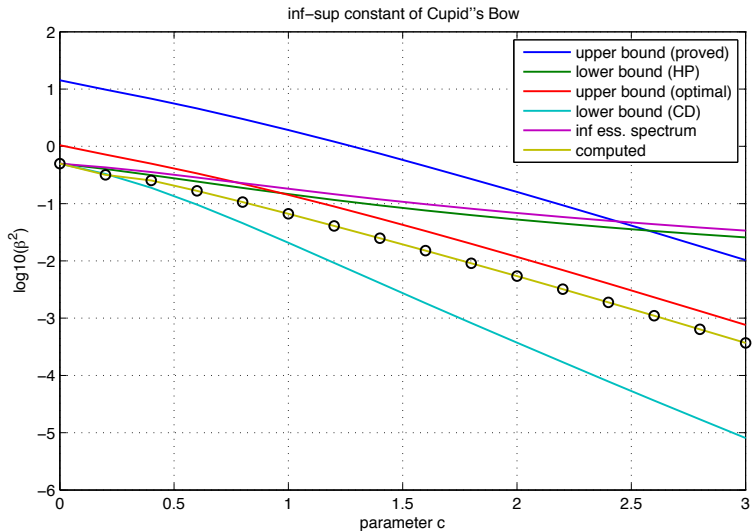
$$\beta(\Omega)^2 \geq \frac{\sqrt{c^2+1} - c}{2\sqrt{c^2+1}} = \frac{1}{4c^2} + O(c^{-4}) \quad \text{as } c \rightarrow \infty.$$

Upper bound [Costabel-Dauge 2013]

$$\beta(\Omega)^2 \leq \frac{128}{3} \frac{c e^{-c\pi}}{1 - e^{-c\pi}} \quad \left( \frac{128}{3} \rightarrow \pi \text{ [Co-Da-Crouzeix]} \right)$$







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**Lemma** [Lions 1958, unpublished\*, for smooth domains] [Nečas 1967 for Lipschitz domains]

$$\|q\|_0^2 \leq C(\Omega) |\nabla q|_{-1}^2 \quad \forall q \in L^2_0(\Omega)$$

\* According to [E. Magenes and G. Stampacchia 1958].

$$\rightarrow C(\Omega) = \frac{1}{\lambda_1(\Omega)}$$

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$H^{-1}(\Omega)$  dual space of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  with dual norm  $|\cdot|_{-1}$ :

For  $q \in L_0^2(\Omega)$ :

$$|\nabla q|_{-1} = \sup_{\mathbf{v} \in H_0^1(\Omega)^d} \frac{\langle \nabla q, \mathbf{v} \rangle_\Omega}{|\mathbf{v}|_1} = \sup_{\mathbf{v} \in H_0^1(\Omega)^d} \frac{\int_\Omega \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} q}{|\mathbf{v}|_{1,\Omega}}$$

$$\beta(\Omega) = \inf_{q \in L_0^2(\Omega)} \frac{|\nabla q|_{-1}}{\|q\|_0}$$

$$\rightarrow C(\Omega) = \frac{1}{\beta(\Omega)^2}$$

Lions' Lemma  $\iff \nabla : L^2_0(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{-1}(\Omega)^d$  is **injective** with closed range  
 $\iff \operatorname{div} : H^1_0(\Omega)^d \rightarrow L^2_0(\Omega)$  is **surjective**

**Babuška-Aziz inequality [Babuška-Aziz 1971], named by [Horgan-Payne 1983]**

$\Omega$  Lipschitz,  $q \in L^2_0(\Omega) \implies \exists \mathbf{v} \in H^1_0(\Omega)^d : \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} = q$

$$\|\mathbf{v}\|_1^2 \leq C(\Omega) \|q\|_0^2$$

$\beta(\Omega) > 0 \iff$  Lions' Lemma  $\iff$  Babuška-Aziz inequality

This condition (and its discrete counterpart) is called **inf-sup condition** or **LBB condition**, after

- Ladyzhenskaya [Added by J. T. Odaves 1980, on suggestion by J.-L. Lions]
- Babuška [Babuška 1971-73]
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Equivalence for **any** domain  $\Omega$ :

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$$\|\mathbf{v}\|_1^2 \leq C(\Omega) \|q\|_0^2$$

Equivalence for **any** domain  $\Omega$ :

$\beta(\Omega) > 0 \iff$  Lions' lemma  $\iff$  Babuška-Aziz inequality

This condition (and its discrete counterpart) is called **inf-sup condition** or **LBB condition**, after

- **Ladyzhenskaya** Added by J. T. Oden ca 1980, on suggestion by J.-L. Lions
- **Babuška** [Babuška 1971-73]
- **Brezzi** [Brezzi 1974]

Lions' Lemma  $\iff \nabla : L^2_{\circ}(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{-1}(\Omega)^d$  is **injective** with closed range  
 $\iff \operatorname{div} : H_0^1(\Omega)^d \rightarrow L^2_{\circ}(\Omega)$  is **surjective**

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Theorem [Bogovskiĭ 1979], [Galdi 1994]

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be contained in a ball of radius  $R$ , **starshaped** with respect to a concentric ball of radius  $\rho$ . There exists a constant  $\gamma_d$  only depending on the dimension  $d$  such that

$$\beta(\Omega) \geq \gamma_d \left(\frac{\rho}{R}\right)^{d+1}$$

$$\beta(\Omega) \geq \frac{\rho}{2R}$$

M. COSTABEL, M. DAUGE: On the inequalities of Sobolev, Ariz, Friedrichs and Herglotz-Weinberger. arXiv 2013.

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In dimension  $d = 2$ , we can prove

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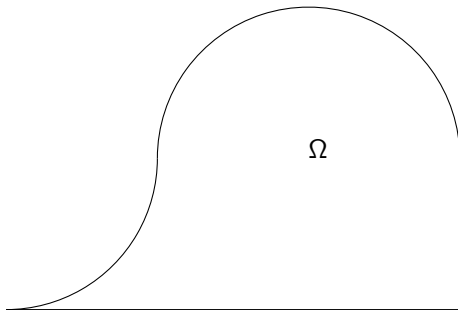


Figure: **Not a John domain**: Outward cusp,  $\beta(\Omega) = 0$  [Friedrichs 1937]

## Definition

A domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  with a distinguished point  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is called a **John domain** if it satisfies the following “**twisted cone**” condition:

There exists a constant  $\delta > 0$  such that, for any  $\mathbf{y}$  in  $\Omega$ , there is a rectifiable curve  $\gamma: [0, \ell] \rightarrow \Omega$  parametrized by arclength such that

$$\gamma(0) = \mathbf{y}, \quad \gamma(\ell) = \mathbf{x}_0, \quad \text{and} \quad \forall t \in [0, \ell] : \text{dist}(\gamma(t), \partial\Omega) \geq \delta t.$$

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*Example* – Every weakly Lipschitz domain is a John domain.

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San Juan de la Peña, Jaca 2013



Figure: A weakly Lipschitz domain: the self-similar zigzag

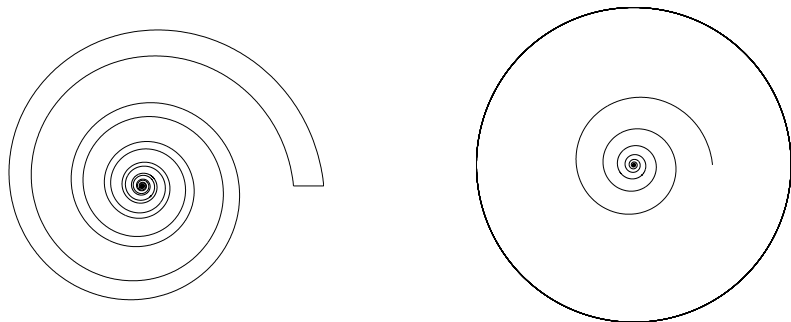


Figure: Weakly Lipschitz (left), John domain (right)

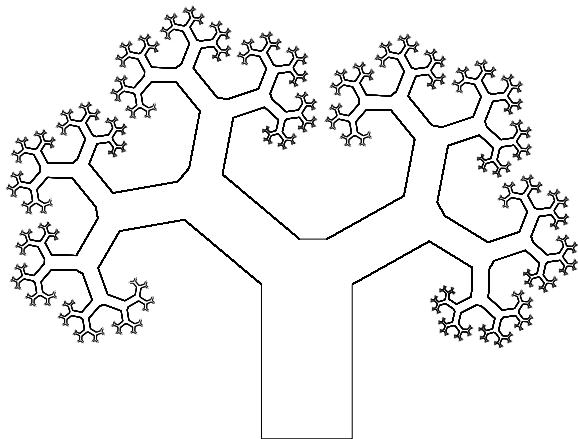


Figure: A John domain: the infinite tree

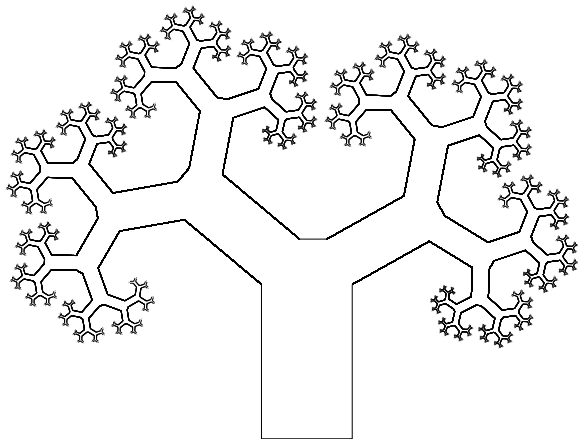


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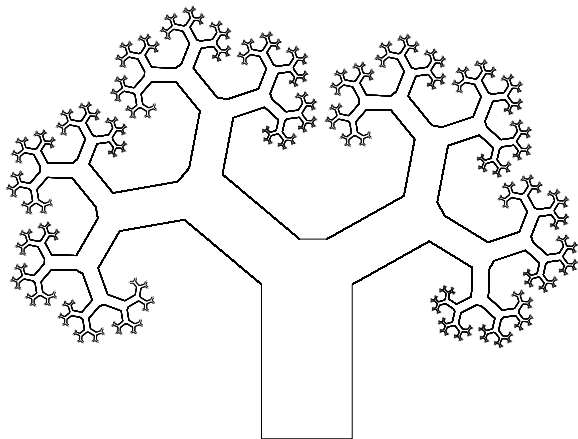


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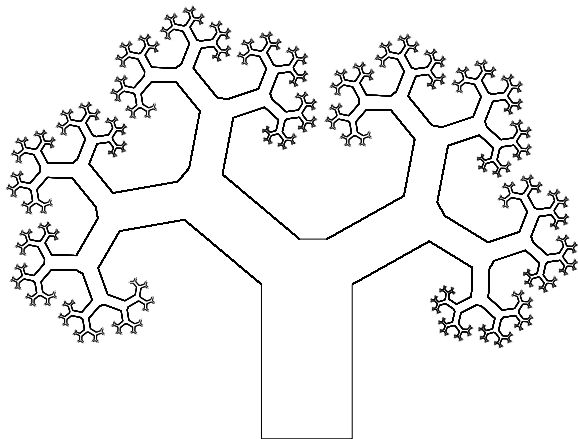


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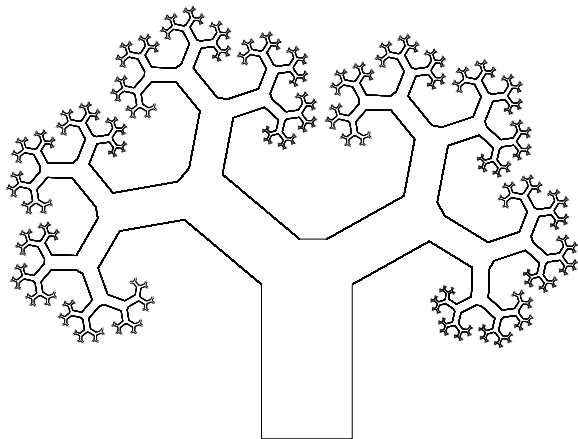


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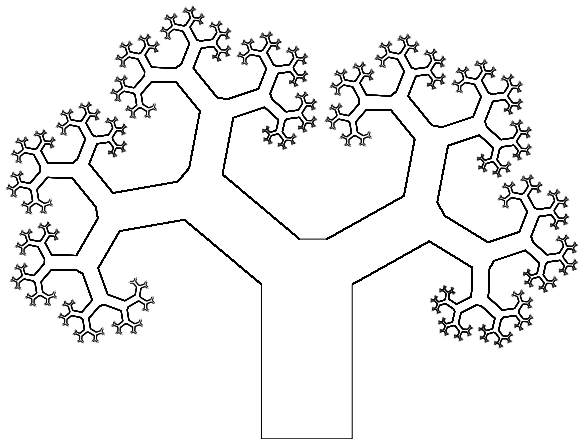


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Let  $q \in L_0^2(\Omega)$ .

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