ASPECTS OF CONVERGENCE FOR MIXED MULTISCALE FINITE ELEMENTS AND A NEW APPROACH TO THEIR DEFINITION

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Second Order Elliptic PDE'S in Mixed Form

Incompressible, single phase flow in a porous medium:

 $\begin{cases} \mathbf{u} = -a_{\epsilon} \nabla p & \text{in } \Omega & (\text{Darcy's law}) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = f & \text{in } \Omega & (\text{Conservation}) \\ \mathbf{u} \cdot \nu = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega & (\text{BC for simplicity}) \end{cases}$



A mixed variational formulation: Find $p \in W = L^2/\mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{V} = H_0(\text{div})$ such that

$$(a_{\epsilon}^{-1}\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = -(\nabla p, \mathbf{v}) = (p, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V} \text{ (Darcy's law)}$$
$$(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}, w) = (f, w) \qquad \forall w \in W \text{ (Conservation)}$$





Mixed Finite Element Approximation

Find $p \in W_h \subset W$ and $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{V}_h \subset \mathbf{V}$ such that

$$(a_{\epsilon}^{-1}\mathbf{u}_{h}, \mathbf{v}) = (p_{h}, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}_{h}$$
$$(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{h}, w) = (f, w) \quad \forall w \in W_{h}$$

Problem of scale: The coefficient $a_{\epsilon}(x)$ varies on a fine scale $\epsilon \ll 1$. To resolve the solution, we need a mesh \mathcal{T}_h of maximal spacing $h < \epsilon$. This is often not computationally feasible.

Solution: We define $V_h \times W_h$ to respect the scales:

- Multiscale finite elements (Babuška, Caloz & Osborn 1994; Hou & Wu 1997; Chen & Hou 2003)
- Variational multiscale method (Hughes 1995, A., Minkoff & Keenan 1998, A. & Boyd 2006)





Mixed Multiscale Finite Elements





For this talk,

- In all cases, $W_h =$ piecewise discontinuous constants
- T_h is a quasiuniform rectangular grid
- \mathcal{E}_h are the mesh "edges"
- For $e \in \mathcal{E}_h$, let E_e be the two elements $E_{e,1}$, $E_{e,2} \in \mathcal{T}_h$ bordering e

$$E_{e,1}$$
 e $E_{e,2}$ E_e

We consider multiscale finite elements defined either:

- Elementwise on $E \in \mathcal{T}_h$
- On dual-support domain E_e for $e \in \mathcal{E}_h$.





Raviart-Thomas Mixed FEM (RT)—1

We define $\mathbf{v}_e^{\mathsf{RT}} \in V_h^{\mathsf{RT}}$ for each coarse element edge $e \in \mathcal{E}_h$.

Element definition:

For each edge $e \subset \partial E$, solve

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{RT}} = -\nabla \phi_{e}^{\mathsf{RT}} & \text{in } E, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{RT}} = \pm |e|/|E| & \text{in } E, \\ \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{RT}} \cdot \nu = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{on } \partial E \setminus e, \\ 1 & \text{on } e, \end{cases} \end{cases}$$



Dual-support definition (rectangular case):









Raviart-Thomas Mixed FEM (RT)—2



Remark: These elements have no dependence on the scale ϵ . They are accurate only when $h < \epsilon$, i.e., h resolves the fine-scale heterogeneity.





Main idea of multiscale finite elements: In the boundary value problems used to define $\mathbf{v}_e^{\mathsf{RT}} \in \mathbf{V}_h^{\mathsf{RT}}$, insert the coefficient a_{ϵ} !

Example: An permeability coefficient a_{ϵ}









— Variational Multiscale Element (ME) Based on RT—1 We define $\mathbf{v}_e^{\mathsf{ME}} \in V_h^{\mathsf{ME}}$ for each coarse element edge $e \in \mathcal{E}_h$.

Element definition:

For each edge $e \subset \partial E$, solve

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{ME}} = -\boldsymbol{a}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} \nabla \phi_{e}^{\mathsf{ME}} & \text{in } E, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{ME}} = \pm |e|/|E| & \text{in } E, \\ \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{ME}} \cdot \nu = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{on } \partial E \setminus e, \\ 1 & \text{on } e, \end{cases} \end{cases}$$







Variational Multiscale Element (ME) Based on RT—2



Theorem: (A. '04; Chen & Hou '03; A. & Boyd '06)

$$\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h^{\mathsf{ME}}\|_0 \le C \|\mathbf{u}\|_1 h,$$

$$\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h^{\mathsf{ME}}\|_0 \le C \Big\{ h \|\mathbf{u}_0\|_1 + \epsilon \|\mathbf{u}_0\|_0 + \sqrt{\epsilon/h} \|\mathbf{u}_0\|_{0,\infty} \Big\},$$

where \mathbf{u}_0 is a smooth function independent of $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}.$

$$\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h^{\mathsf{ME}}\|_0 = \mathcal{O}\left(\min\left\{\frac{h}{\epsilon}, h + \epsilon + \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{h}}\right\}\right)$$



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1.5

0.75

normal trace

Multiscale Dual-Support (MD) Elements—1 (Aarnes, 2004; Aarnes, Krogstad, Lie, 2006)

We define $\mathbf{v}_e^{\mathsf{MD}} \in V_h^{\mathsf{MD}}$ for each coarse element edge $e \in \mathcal{E}_h$.

Dual support definition (rectangular case):







Multiscale Dual-Support (MD) Elements—2



Claim: The method cannot converge in any reasonable sense!





0.25

normal trace

Influence of Anisotropy





Take a constant



The space \mathbf{V}_h^{MD} cannot reproduce constants, so the method cannot converge in any reasonable sense.

Question: Are dual-support elements infeasible?



normal trace





Numerical Convergence Study

Anisotropy at $\theta = 30^{\circ}$ with ratio λ , true $p = \sin(\pi x) \sin(\pi y)$







Microscale Structure from Homogenization Theory





Homogenization

Suppose that a_{ϵ} is locally periodic of period ϵ . Then

$$a_{\epsilon}(x) = a(x, x/\epsilon)$$

where a(x, y) is periodic in y of period 1 on the unit cube Y.

Let a_0 be the homogenized permeability matrix, defined by

$$a_{0,ij}(x) = \int_{Y} a(x,y) \left(\delta_{ij} + \frac{\partial \omega_j(x,y)}{\partial y_i} \right) dy$$

where, for fixed x, $\omega_j(x,y)$ is the Y-periodic solution of

$$-\nabla_y \cdot (a\nabla_y \omega_j) = \frac{\partial a}{\partial y_j}$$

Homogenized solution: Let (\mathbf{u}_0, p_0) solve

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{u}_0 = -a_0 \nabla p_0 & \text{ in } \Omega \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_0 = f & \text{ in } \Omega \\ \mathbf{u}_0 \cdot \nu = 0 & \text{ on } \partial \Omega \end{cases}$$

Then (\mathbf{u}_0, p_0) is a smooth "approximation" of (\mathbf{u}, p) .





Microscale Structure

Theorem: Assume that $p_0 \in H^2(\Omega) \cap W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$. Let $\alpha_0 = a_0^{-1}$ and define the fixed tensor independent of ϵ and the domain Ω

$$\mathcal{A}_{ij}(x,y) = \sum_{k,\ell} a_{ik}(x,y) \left(\delta_{k\ell} + \frac{\partial \omega_{\ell}(x,y)}{\partial y_k} \right) \alpha_{0,\ell j}$$
$$\mathcal{A} = a \left(I + D\omega \right) \alpha_0$$

Let

$$\mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}(x) = \mathcal{A}(x, x/\epsilon)$$

Then

(1)
$$\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon}(x) = \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}(x) \mathbf{u}_{0}(x) + \theta_{\epsilon}^{\Omega}(x)$$

where

$$\|\theta_{\epsilon}^{\Omega}\|_{0} \leq C\left\{\epsilon \|\mathbf{u}_{0}\|_{1} + \sqrt{\epsilon |\partial \Omega|} \|\mathbf{u}_{0}\|_{0,\infty}\right\} = \mathcal{O}\left(\epsilon + \sqrt{\epsilon}\right)$$





A New Homogenization-Based Dual-Support (HD) Element

 $\mathbf{u}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} \approx \mathcal{A}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} \mathbf{u}_0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{V}_h \sim \{\mathcal{A}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} \mathbf{v} : \mathbf{v} \text{ is some nice smooth function}\}.$

However, these finite elements lie outside $H(div; \Omega)$.

Definition: Let $\mathbf{v}_e^{\mathsf{HD}} \in V_h^{\mathsf{HD}}$ for each $e \in \mathcal{E}_h$ solve on E_e

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{HD}} = -\mathcal{A}_{\epsilon} \nabla \phi_{e}^{\mathsf{HD}} & \text{in } E_{e}, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{HD}} = \pm |e| / |E_{e,i}| & \text{in } E_{e,i}, \ i = 1, 2, \\ \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{HD}} \cdot \nu = 0 & \text{on } \partial E_{e}. \end{cases}$$

Remarks:

- This is a dual-support element.
- We have a scaling that respects the anisotropy:

$$\int_{Y} \mathcal{A} \, dy = \int_{Y} a(I + D\omega) \, \alpha_0 \, dy = I$$





Sample Basis Shapes







Multiscale Convergence Results





Remarks

This is a multiscale error analysis

- We quantify the error in terms of h and ϵ .
- The proofs are based on comparison to the homogenized solution.
- The style of proof is due to Hou, Wu, and Cai 1999. See also
 - Efendiev, Hou, and Wu 2000
 - Chen and Hou 2003 (mixed case)
 - A. and Boyd 2006 (mixed case)

We present a new, simplified proof involving

- certain projection operators
- four key results (we saw (1))
- a one line proof





Assume $a_{\epsilon}(x)$ is smooth and

$$a_*|\xi|^2 \leq \xi \cdot \alpha_\epsilon(x) \xi \leq a^*|\xi|^2 \quad \forall x \in \Omega.$$

Let \mathcal{P}_{W_h} denote L^2 -projection into W_h .

Lemma: (Quasi-optimality) If $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}_h \subset W_h$, then

(2)
$$\|\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} - \mathbf{u}_{h}\|_{0} \leq \sqrt{\frac{a^{*}}{a_{*}}} \|\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} - \mathbf{v}\|_{0}$$

for any $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}_h$ such that $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathcal{P}_{W_h} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\epsilon}$.

Goal: Find any $\mathbf{v}_{\epsilon} \approx \mathbf{u}_{\epsilon}$ in $\mathbf{V}_{h}^{\mathsf{M}}$ with $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_{\epsilon} = \mathcal{P}_{W_{h}} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\epsilon}$.





Homogenized Finite Elements—1

Key idea: To deal with the ϵ scale of our finite elements, define corresponding homogenized finite elements.

Replace the true coefficient in the definitions of the finite elements with the corresponding homogenized one.

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{RT}: & I \longmapsto I(\mathsf{unchanged}) \\ \mathsf{ME} \text{ and } \mathsf{MD}: & a_{\epsilon} \longmapsto a_{0} \\ & \mathsf{HD}: & \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon} \longmapsto \mathcal{A}_{0} = I \end{array}$

$$\mathbf{V}_{0,h}^{\mathsf{M}} = \underset{e \in \mathcal{E}_{h}}{\operatorname{span}} \{ \mathbf{v}_{0,e}^{\mathsf{M}} \}, \quad \mathsf{M} = \mathsf{ME}, \mathsf{MD}, \mathsf{HD}$$

Lemma: If \mathcal{T}_h is rectangular, then HD elements are RT elements:

$$v_{0,e}^{\mathsf{HD}} = \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{RT}}$$
 and $\mathbf{V}_{0,h}^{\mathsf{HD}} = \mathbf{V}_{h}^{\mathsf{RT}}$





Homogenized Finite Elements—2

Since our finite elements are defined by boundary value problems, the homogenization theorem applies.

Lemma: For each $e \in \mathcal{E}_h$ and method M = ME, MD, and HD,

$$\mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{M}} = \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon} \mathbf{v}_{\mathsf{0},e}^{\mathsf{M}} + \theta_{\epsilon}^{E_{e},\mathsf{M}}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \|\theta_{\epsilon}^{E_{e},\mathsf{M}}\|_{0,E_{e}} &\leq C\Big\{\epsilon \|\mathbf{v}_{0,e}^{\mathsf{M}}\|_{1,E_{e}} + \sqrt{\epsilon}|\partial E_{e}|\|\mathbf{v}_{0,e}^{\mathsf{M}}\|_{0,\infty,E_{e}}\Big\} \\ &= \mathcal{O}\Big(\Big\{\frac{\epsilon}{h} + \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{h}}\Big\}h^{d/2}\Big) \end{aligned}$$





Flux-Based Projection Operators

The average normal flux across $e \in \mathcal{E}_h$ is

$$\gamma_e = \frac{1}{|e|} \int_e \mathbf{v} \cdot \nu_e \, ds$$

The Raviart-Thomas projection is

$$\pi^{\mathsf{RT}}\mathbf{v} = \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \gamma_e \mathbf{v}_e^{\mathsf{RT}} \in \mathbf{V}_h^{\mathsf{RT}}$$

Similarly, define

$$\pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{v} = \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_{h}} \gamma_{e} \mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{M}} \in \mathbf{V}_{h}^{\mathsf{M}} \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{v} = \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_{h}} \gamma_{e} \mathbf{v}_{0,e}^{\mathsf{M}} \in \mathbf{V}_{0,h}^{\mathsf{M}}$$

Lemma: For M = ME, MD, or HD,

$$\nabla \cdot \pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}} \mathbf{v} = \nabla \cdot \pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}} \mathbf{v} = \nabla \cdot \pi^{\mathsf{RT}} \mathbf{v} = \mathcal{P}_{W_{h}} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$$





Lemma: For M = ME, MD, or HD,

(3)
$$\|\pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{v} - \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}\pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{v}\|_{0} \leq C\|\mathbf{v}\|_{1}\left(\epsilon/h + \sqrt{\epsilon/h}\right)$$

Proof:

$$\pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}} \mathbf{v} - \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon} \pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}} \mathbf{v} = \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_{h}} \gamma_{e} (\mathbf{v}_{e}^{\mathsf{M}} - \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon} \mathbf{v}_{0,e}^{\mathsf{M}}) = \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_{h}} \gamma_{e} \theta_{e}^{E_{e},\mathsf{M}}$$
$$\|\pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}} \mathbf{v} - \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon} \pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}} \mathbf{v}\|_{0,E} \leq \sum_{e \in \mathcal{A}_{E}} |\gamma_{e}| \, \|\theta_{e}^{E_{e},\mathsf{M}}\|_{0,E}$$

$$\leq C \sum_{e \in \partial E} \left(h^{-d/2} \| \mathbf{v} \|_{1,E_e} \right) \left(\left\{ \frac{\epsilon}{h} + \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{h}} \right\} h^{d/2} \right)$$
$$= C \sum_{e \in \partial E} \| \mathbf{v} \|_{1,E_e} \left(\frac{\epsilon}{h} + \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{h}} \right)$$





Lemma: If \mathcal{T}_h is rectangular, then

(4*a*)
$$\|\mathbf{v} - \pi_0^{\mathsf{HD}}\mathbf{v}\|_0 = \|\mathbf{v} - \pi_0^{\mathsf{RT}}\mathbf{v}\|_0 \le C \|\mathbf{v}\|_1 h$$

If $\mathbf{v}_0 = -a_0 \nabla \phi_0$, then

(4b)
$$\|\mathbf{v}_0 - \pi_0^{\mathsf{ME}} \mathbf{v}_0\|_0 \le C \|\mathbf{v}_0\|_1 h$$

The counterexamples show that similar results cannot hold for MD.

Proof: (for ME)

$$\psi = \mathbf{v} - \pi_0^{\mathsf{ME}} \mathbf{v} = -a_0 \nabla \left(\phi_0 - \sum_{e \in \partial E} \gamma_e \phi_{0,e}^{\mathsf{ME}} \right)$$
 in E

is a potential field satisfying the Neumann problem

$$\nabla \cdot \psi = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_0 - \mathcal{P}_{W_h} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_0 \quad \text{in } E$$
$$\psi \cdot \nu_e = \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \nu_e - \gamma_e \qquad \text{on } e \subset \partial E$$

The standard energy estimate gives the result.





Inf-Sup Condition

Corollary: If Ω has elliptic regularity, and M = ME or both M = HD and T_h is rectangular, then there is some $\beta > 0$, independent of ϵ , such that

$$\inf_{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h^{\mathsf{M}}} \frac{(w_h, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h)}{\|\mathbf{v}_h\|_0 + \|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h\|_0} \ge \beta \|w_h\|_0 \quad \forall w_h \in W_h$$

Proof: Solve

$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_0 = w_h & \text{in } \Omega \\ \mathbf{v}_0 = -a_0 \nabla \phi_0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \nu = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega \end{cases} \implies \|\mathbf{v}_0\|_1 \le C \|w_h\|_0$$

Take

$$\mathbf{v}_h = \pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}} \mathbf{v}_0 \in \mathbf{V}_h^{\mathsf{M}} \implies \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = \mathcal{P}_{W_h} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_0 = w_h$$

Then

$$\|\mathbf{v}_{h}\|_{0} \leq \|\pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{v}_{0} - \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}\pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{v}_{0}\|_{0} + \|\mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}(\pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{v}_{0} - \mathbf{v}_{0})\|_{0} + \|\mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}\mathbf{v}_{0}\|_{0}$$

$$(3) \qquad (4)$$

$$\leq C\|\mathbf{v}_{0}\|_{1} \leq C\|w_{h}\|_{0} \qquad \Box$$





Convergence Theorem

Theorem: If Ω has elliptic regularity and $p_0 \in H^2(\Omega) \cap W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$, then for M = ME or for M = HD and \mathcal{T}_h rectangular,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} - \mathbf{u}_{h}^{\mathsf{M}}\|_{0} + \|\mathcal{P}_{W_{h}}p_{\epsilon} - p_{h}\|_{0} \\ &\leq C\left\{\left(\epsilon + \epsilon/h + \sqrt{\epsilon/h} + h\right)\|\mathbf{u}_{0}\|_{1} + \sqrt{\epsilon}\|\mathbf{u}_{0}\|_{0,\infty}\right\} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{h}^{\mathsf{M}} = \mathcal{P}_{W_{h}}f \quad \text{and} \quad \|\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} - \mathbf{u}_{h}^{\mathsf{M}})\|_{0} \leq C\|f\|_{1}h \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{Proof:} \qquad \mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} \approx \pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{u}_{0} \in \mathbf{V}_{h}^{\mathsf{M}} \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \cdot \pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{u}_{0} = \mathcal{P}_{W_{h}}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{0} = \mathcal{P}_{W_{h}}\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} \\ \|\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} - \mathbf{u}_{h}^{\mathsf{M}}\|_{0} \leq C\|\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} - \pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{u}_{0}\|_{0} \\ \text{(2) Quasi-optimality} \\ \leq C\left\{\|\mathbf{u}_{\epsilon} - \mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}\mathbf{u}_{0}\|_{0} + \|\mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u}_{0} - \pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{u}_{0})\|_{0} + \|\mathcal{A}_{\epsilon}\pi_{0}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{u}_{0} - \pi_{\epsilon}^{\mathsf{M}}\mathbf{u}_{0}\|_{0}\right\} \\ \text{(1) Homogenization} \qquad (4) \text{ Smooth Proj.} \qquad (3) \text{ Multiscale Proj.} \end{aligned}$$

Divergence result follows trivially from the definitions. Pressure result follows from the inf-sup condition.





Conclusions





Conclusions

- 1. Dual-support elements must be defined and used with care.
 - MD elements do *not* converge in any reasonable sense in the presence of anisotropy.
 - Anisotropy almost always arises from the microstructure in heterogeneous problems.
 - However, experience suggests that MD elements work well in a practically reasonable range of parameters ϵ and h.
- 2. A new approach was given for defining HD dual-support elements.
 - Based on the microscale structure from homogenization theory.
 - They use an anisotropy scaling factor.
- 3. Multiscale convergence results were given.
 - A simplified proof was presented.
 - Multiscale convergence for standard ME elements and new HD dual-support elements.





Happy Birthday Alain!



