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# **Fast Summation Techniques for Sparse Shape Functions in Tetrahedral** *hp***-FEM**

Sven Beuchler<sup>1</sup>, Veronika Pillwein<sup>2</sup>, and Sabine Zaglmayr<sup>3</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Institute for Numerical Simulation, University Bonn, Wegelerstraße 6, 53115 Bonn, Germany beuchler@ins.uni-bonn.de
- <sup>2</sup> RISC, University Linz, Altenberger Straße 69, 4040 Linz, Austria pillwein@risc.uni-linz.ac.at
- <sup>3</sup> CST Computer Simulation Technology AG, Darmstadt, Germany., sabine.zaglmayr@cst.com

**Summary.** This paper considers the hp-finite element discretization of an elliptic boundary 11 value problem using tetrahedral elements. The discretization uses a polynomial basis in which 12 the number of nonzero entries per row is bounded independently of the polynomial degree. 13 The authors present an algorithm which computes the nonzero entries of the stiffness matrix 14 in optimal complexity. The algorithm is based on sum factorization and makes use of the 15 nonzero pattern of the stiffness matrix. 16

## **1** Introduction

*hp*-finite element methods (*hp*-FEM), see e.g. [6, 9], have become very popular for 18 the approximation of solutions of boundary value problems with more regularity. In 19 order to obtain the approximate finite element solution numerically stable and fast, 20 the functions have to be chosen properly in *hp*-FEM. For quadrilateral and hexahe-1 dral elements, tensor products of integrated Legendre polynomials are the prefered 22 basis functions, see [2]. For triangular and tetrahedral elements, the element can be 23 considered as collapsed quadrilateral or hexahedron. This allows us to use tensor 24 product functions. In order to obtain sparsity in the element matrices and a moder-25 ate increase of the condition number, integrated Jacobi polynomials can be used, see 26 [3, 5, 7]. Then, it has been shown that the element stiffness and mass matrix have a 27 bounded number of nonzero entries per row, see [3–5] which results in a total number 28 of  $\mathcal{O}(p^d)$ , d = 2,3, nonzero entries in two and three space dimensions, respectively. 29 However, the explicit computation of the nonzero entries is very involved. 30

This paper presents an algorithm which computes the element stiffness and mass <sup>31</sup> matrices in  $\mathscr{O}(p^3)$  operations in two and three space dimensions. The algorithm combines ideas based on sum factorization, [8], with the sparsity pattern of the matrices. <sup>33</sup> One other important ingredient is the fast evaluation of the Jacobi polynomials. <sup>34</sup>

The outline of this paper is as follows. Section 2 defines  $H^1$ -conforming, i.e. <sup>35</sup> globally continuous piecewise polynomials, basis functions on the tetrahedron. The <sup>36</sup>

sum factorization algorithm is presented in Sect. 3. Section 4 is devoted to the evaluation of the Jacobi polynomials. The complexity of the algorithm is estimated in Sect. 5. 39

### 2 Definition of the Basis Functions

For the definition of our basis functions Jacobi polynomials are required. Let 41

$$p_n^{\alpha}(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n! (1-x)^{\alpha}} \frac{\mathrm{d}^n}{\mathrm{d}x^n} \left( (1-x)^{\alpha} (x^2 - 1)^n \right) \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0, \ \alpha, \beta > -1 \tag{1}$$

be the *n*th Jacobi polynomial with respect to the weight function  $(1-x)^{\alpha}$ . The function  $p_n^{\alpha}$  is a polynomial of degree *n*, i.e.,  $p_n^{\alpha} \in \mathbb{P}_n((-1,1))$ , where  $\mathbb{P}_n(I)$  is the space 43 of all polynomials of degree *n* on the interval *I*. In the special case  $\alpha = 0$ , the functions  $p_n^0(x)$  are called Legendre polynomials. Moreover, let 45

$$\hat{p}_n^{\alpha}(x) = \int_{-1}^x p_{n-1}^{\alpha}(y) \, \mathrm{d}y \quad n \ge 1, \quad \hat{p}_0^{\alpha}(x) = 1 \tag{2}$$

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be the *n*th integrated Jacobi polynomial. Several relations are known between the <sup>46</sup> different families of Jacobi polynomials, see e.g. [1]. In this paper, the relations <sup>47</sup>

$$p_n^{\alpha - 1}(x) = \frac{1}{\alpha + 2n} \left[ (\alpha + n) p_n^{\alpha}(x) - n p_{n-1}^{\alpha}(x) \right],$$
(3)

$$\hat{p}_{n+1}^{\alpha}(x) = \frac{2n+\alpha-1}{(2n+2)(n+\alpha)(2n+\alpha-2)} \times ((2n+\alpha-2)(2n+\alpha)x + \alpha(\alpha-2))\hat{p}_{n}^{\alpha}(x) - \frac{(n-1)(n+\alpha-2)(2n+\alpha)x + \alpha(\alpha-2))\hat{p}_{n-1}^{\alpha}(x)}{(n+1)(n+\alpha)(2n+\alpha-2)}\hat{p}_{n-1}^{\alpha}(x), \quad n \ge 1.$$
(4)

are required.

Let  $\triangle$  be the reference tetrahedron with the four vertices at (-1, -1, -1), 49 (1, -1, -1), (0, 1, -1) and (0, 0, 1). On this element, the interior bubble functions 50

$$\phi_{ijk}(x, y, z) = u_i(x, y, z)v_{ij}(y, z)w_{ijk}(z), \quad i \ge 2, \ j, k \ge 1, i+j+k \le p$$
(5)

are proposed for  $H^1$  elliptic problems in [3, (29)], where the auxiliary functions are 51

$$u_i(x, y, z) = \hat{p}_i^0 \left(\frac{4x}{1 - 2y - z}\right) \left(\frac{1 - 2y - z}{4}\right)^i,$$
  

$$v_{ij}(y, z) = \hat{p}_j^{2i-1} \left(\frac{2y}{1 - z}\right) \left(\frac{1 - z}{2}\right)^j,$$
  

$$w_{ijk}(z) = \hat{p}_k^{2i+2j-2}(z).$$

In addition, there are vertex, face and edge based basis functions which can be  $_{52}$  regarded as special cases of the above functions (5) for limiting cases of the indices  $_{53}$  *i*, *j* and *k*, see [3] for more details.  $_{54}$ 

Fast Summation Techniques for Sparse Shape Functions in Tetrahedral hp-FEM

Then, the element stiffness matrix for the Laplacian on the reference element  $\hat{\triangle}$  55 with respect to the interior bubbles reads as 56

$$\mathscr{K} = \left[ \int_{\hat{\bigtriangleup}} \nabla \phi_{ijk}(x, y, z) \cdot \nabla \phi_{i'j'k'}(x, y, z) \, \mathrm{d}(x, y, z) \right]_{i,j,k \le p, i'+j'+k' \le p}.$$
(6)

The transformation to the unit cube  $(-1,1)^3$  (Duffy trick) and the evaluation of the 57 nabla operation results in the integration of 21 different summands. More precisely, 58

$$\mathscr{K} = \sum_{m=1}^{21} \kappa_m \hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(m)}$$

with known numbers  $\kappa_m \in \mathbb{R}$  and

$$\hat{\mathscr{I}}^{(m)} = \left[ \int_{-1}^{1} p_{x,1}(x) p_{x,2}(x) \, dx \\ \times \int_{-1}^{1} \left( \frac{1-y}{2} \right)^{\gamma_y} p_{y,1}(y) p_{y,2}(y) \, dy \\ \times \int_{-1}^{1} \left( \frac{1-z}{2} \right)^{\gamma_z} p_{z,1}(z) p_{z,2}(z) \, dz \right]_{i+j+k < p; i'+j'+k' < p}.$$

The structure of the functions and coefficients is displayed in Table 1.

One summand is the term

$$\hat{\mathscr{F}}^{(6)} = \left( m_{ijk,i'j'k'} \right)_{i+j+k \le p,i'+j'+k' \le p}$$
(7)

which corresponds (before the Duffy trick) to

$$\begin{split} m_{ijk,i'j'k'} &= \int_{\hat{\Delta}} \hat{p}_i^0 \left(\frac{4x}{1-2y-z}\right) \hat{p}_{i'}^0 \left(\frac{4x}{1-2y-z}\right) \left(\frac{1-2y-z}{4}\right)^{i+i'} \\ &\times \hat{p}_j^{2i-1} \left(\frac{2y}{1-z}\right) \hat{p}_{j'}^{2i'-1} \left(\frac{2y}{1-z}\right) \left(\frac{1-z}{2}\right)^{j+j'} \\ &\times p_{k-1}^{2i+2j-2}(z) p_{k'-1}^{2i'+2j'-2}(z) \operatorname{d}(x,y,z). \end{split}$$

The Duffy transformation applied to (7) gives

$$m_{ijk,i'j'k'} = \int_{-1}^{1} \hat{p}_{i}^{0}(x) \hat{p}_{i'}^{0}(x) dx \int_{-1}^{1} \left(\frac{1-y}{2}\right)^{i+i'+1} \hat{p}_{j'}^{2i'-1}(y) \hat{p}_{j}^{2i-1}(y) dy$$
$$\times \int_{-1}^{1} \left(\frac{1-z}{2}\right)^{i+j+i'+j'+2} p_{k-1}^{2i+2j-2}(z) p_{k'-1}^{2i'+2j'-2}(z) dz.$$
(8)

It has been shown in [3], this matrix has the sparsity pattern

$$m_{ijk,i'j'k'} = 0 \quad \text{if} \ (i, j, k, i', j', k') \in \mathfrak{S}_{ref}^{p}(ijk, i'j'k') \tag{9}$$

#### Page 539

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Sven Beuchler, Veronika Pillwein, and Sabine Zaglmayr

	$p_{x,1}$	$p_{x,2}$	γy	$p_{y,1}$	$p_{y,2}$	$\gamma_z$	$p_{z,1}$	$p_{z,2}$	t1.1
$\hat{\mathscr{I}}^{(1)}$	$p_{i-1}^{0}$	$p^{0}_{i'-1}$	i + i' - 1	$\hat{p}_j^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.2
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(2)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$p_{j-1}^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-1}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta'$	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.3
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(3)}$	$p_{i-2}^{0}$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i'	$\hat{p}_{j}^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-1}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.4
$\hat{\mathscr{I}}^{(4)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$p_{i'-2}^{0}$	i + i'	$p_{j-1}^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.5
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(5)}$	$p_{i-2}^{0}$	$p^0_{i'-2}$	i + i' - 1	$\hat{p}_j^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.6
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(6)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$\hat{p}_j^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta' + 2$	$p_{k-1}^{-2+2\beta}$	$p_{k'-1}^{-2+2\beta'}$	t1.7
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(7)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$p_{j-2}^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta' + 1$	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$p_{k'-1}^{-2+2\beta'}$	t1.8
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(8)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$p_{j-1}^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta' + 1$	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$p_{k'-1}^{-2+2\beta'}$	t1.9
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(9)}$	$p_{i-2}^{0}$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i'	$\hat{p}_{j}^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta' + 1$	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$p_{k'-1}^{-2+2\beta'}$	t1.10
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(10)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$\hat{p}_j^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-2}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta' + 1$	$p_{k-1}^{-2+2\beta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.11
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(11)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$\hat{p}_j^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-1}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta' + 1$	$p_{k-1}^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.12
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(12)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$p_{j-2}^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-2}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta'$	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.13
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(13)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$p_{j-1}^{2i-1}$	$p_{j'-2}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.14
$\hat{\mathscr{I}}^{(14)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$p_{j-2}^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-1}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.15
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(15)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i + i' + 1	$p_{j-1}^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-1}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.16
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(16)}$	$p_{i-2}^{0}$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i+i'	$\hat{p}_j^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-2}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.17
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(17)}$	$p_{i-2}^{0}$	$\hat{p}^0_{i'}$	i+i'	$\hat{p}_{j}^{2i-1}$	$p_{i'-1}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.18
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(18)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$p_{i'-2}^{0}$	i+i'	$\hat{p}_j^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	$\beta + \beta' + 1$	$p_{k-1}^{-2+2\beta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.19
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(19)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$p^{0}_{i'-2}$	i+i'	$p_{j-2}^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2eta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.20
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(20)}$	$\hat{p}_i^0$	$p^{0}_{i'-2}$	i+i'	$p_{j-1}^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{i'}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2\beta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.21
$\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(21)}$	$p_{i-2}^{0}$	$p_{i'-2}^{0}$	i + i' - 1	$\hat{p}_j^{2i-1}$	$\hat{p}_{j'}^{2i'-1}$	eta+eta'	$\hat{p}_k^{-2+2\beta}$	$\hat{p}_{k'}^{-2+2eta'}$	t1.22
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**Table 1.** Integrands for  $\mathcal{K}$ , where  $\beta = i + j$ ,  $\beta' = i' + j'$ 

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where

$$\mathfrak{S}_{ref}^{p}(ijk,i'j'k') = \{i+j+k \le p,i'+j'+k' \le p, |i-i'| \notin \{0,2\}$$
$$\lor \quad |i-i'+j-j'| > 4 \quad \lor \quad |i-i'+j-j'+k-k'| > 4\}$$

cf. [3, Theorem 3.3]. In the following the more general case

$$\mathfrak{S}^{p}(ijk,i'j'k') = \{i+j+k \le p,i'+j'+k' \le p, |i-i'| > 2 \\ \lor \quad |i-i'+j-j'| > 4 \quad \lor \quad |i-i'+j-j'+k-k'| > 4\}$$
(10)

is considered, e.g. the orthogonalities for |i - i'| = 1 are not assumed.

All 21 integrals give rise to a similar band structure as detailed above for  $\hat{\mathscr{J}}^{(6)}_{69}$  and can thus be treated in the same way as explained below for the particular case 70

Fast Summation Techniques for Sparse Shape Functions in Tetrahedral hp-FEM

	т	$\kappa_m$	
	1,6,9,19	1	
	5,21	$\frac{5}{4}$	
	4, 8, 20	$c_1(i,j)$	
	7,19	$c_2(i,j)$	
	3,11,17	$c_1(i',j')$	
	2,15	$c_1(i,j)c_1(i',j')$	
	13	$c_1(i,j)c_2(i',j')$	
	10,16	$c_2(i',j')$	
	14	$c_1(i',j')c_2(i,j)$	$\bigcirc$
	21	$c_2(i,j)c_2(i',j')$	
4	where a	1 2i - 1	j-1

**Table 2.** Coefficients  $\kappa_m$  for  $\mathscr{K}$ , where  $c_1(i, j)$  $\overline{2} \, \overline{2i+2j-3}$  and  $c_2(i,j) = \overline{2i+2j-3}$ .

of  $\hat{\mathscr{I}}^{(6)}$ . The only difference are shifts in the weights  $\alpha$  of the Jacobi polynomials or 71 changes of the weight functions (Table 2). 72

## **3 Sum Factorization**

In this section, we present an algorithm for the fast numerical generation of the local 74 element matrices (6) for tetrahedra. The methods are based on fast summation tech-75 niques presented in [7, 8] and are carried out in detail for the example of the matrix 76  $\hat{\mathscr{I}^{(6)}}$  (8).

All one dimensional integrals in (8) are computed numerically by a Gaussian 78 quadrature rule with points  $x_k$ , k = 1, ..., p + 1 and corresponding weights  $\omega_k$ . The 79 points and weights are chosen such that 80

$$\int_{-1}^{1} f(x) dx = \sum_{l=1}^{p+1} \omega_l f(x_l) \quad \forall f \in \mathscr{P}_{2p}.$$
(11)

Since only polynomials of maximal degree 2p are integrated in (8), these integrals 81 are evaluated exactly. Therefore, we have to compute 82

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Sven Beuchler, Veronika Pillwein, and Sabine Zaglmayr

$$\begin{split} m_{ijk,i'j'k'} &= \sum_{l=1}^{p+1} \omega_l \hat{p}_i^0(x_l) \hat{p}_{i'}^0(x_l) \\ &\times \sum_{m=1}^{p+1} \omega_m \left(\frac{1-x_m}{2}\right)^{i+i'+1} \hat{p}_{j'}^{2i'-1}(x_m) \hat{p}_j^{2i-1}(x_m) \\ &\times \sum_{n=1}^{p+1} \omega_n \left(\frac{1-x_n}{2}\right)^{i+j+i'+j'+2} p_k^{2i+2j-2}(x_n) p_{k'}^{2i'+2j'-2}(x_n), \end{split}$$

i.e., for all  $(i, j, k, i', j', k') \notin \mathfrak{S}^p(ijk, i'j'k')$ , cf. (10), (9). This is done by the following 83 algorithm. 84

Algorithm 3.1 1. Compute

$$h_{i;i'}^{(1)} = \sum_{l=1}^{p+1} \omega_l \hat{p}_i^0(x_l) \hat{p}_{i'}^0(x_l)$$

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for all  $i, i' \in \mathbb{N}$  satisfying  $|i - i'| \le 2$  and  $i, i' \le p$ . Compute

2. Compute

$$h_{i,j;i',j'}^{(2)} = \sum_{m=1}^{p+1} \omega_m \left(\frac{1-x_m}{2}\right)^{i+i'+1} \hat{p}_j^{2i-1}(x_m) \hat{p}_{j'}^{2i'-1}(x_m) \tag{89}$$

for all  $i, j, i', j' \in \mathbb{N}$  satisfying  $|i - i'| \leq 2$ ,  $|i + j - i' - j'| \leq 4$ ,  $i + j \leq p$  and 90  $i' + j' \le p.$ 3. Compute 91 92

$$h_{\beta,k;\beta,'k'}^{(3)} = \sum_{n=1}^{p+1} \omega_n \left(\frac{1-x_n}{2}\right)^{\beta+\beta'+2} p_k^{2\beta-2}(x_n) p_{k'}^{2\beta'-2}(x_n)$$
93

for all  $k, k', \beta, \beta' \in \mathbb{N}$  satisfying  $|\beta - \beta'| \le 4$ ,  $|\beta + k - \beta' - k'| \le 4$ ,  $\beta + k \le p$  94 and  $\beta' + k' \le p$ . 96

4. For all 
$$(i, j, k, i', j', k') \notin \mathfrak{S}^p(ijk, i'j'k')$$
, set

$$m_{ijk,i'j'k'} = h_{i;i'}^{(1)} h_{i,j;i',j'}^{(2)} h_{i+j,k;i'+j',k'}^{(3)}.$$
 97

The algorithm requires the numerical evaluation of Jacobi and integrated Jacobi 98 polynomials at the Gaussian points  $x_l$ , l = 1, ..., p + 1. In the next subsection, we 99 present an algorithm which computes the required values  $\hat{p}_k^{\alpha}(x_l), m = 1, \dots, p+1, 100$  $k = 1, \dots, p, \alpha = 1, \dots, 2p$  in  $\mathcal{O}(p^3)$  operations. 101

## 4 Fast Evaluation of Integrated Jacobi Polynomials

The integrated Jacobi polynomials needed in the computation of  $m_{ijk,i'j'k'}$  (7) are 103  $\hat{p}_i^0(x), \hat{p}_i^{2i-1}(x)$  (progressing in odd steps with respect to the parameter  $\alpha$ ) and 104

 $\hat{p}_k^{2i+2j-2}(x)$  (progressing in even steps with respect to the parameter  $\alpha$ ). For i+j+105  $k \leq p$  with  $i \geq 2$  and  $j,k \geq 1$  this means that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{p}_{i}^{0}(x) \end{bmatrix}_{2 \le i \le p}, [\hat{p}_{j}^{3}(x)]_{1 \le j \le p}, \dots, [\hat{p}_{j}^{2p-3}(x)]_{1 \le j \le p}, \\ [\hat{p}_{k}^{4}(x)]_{1 \le k \le p}, \dots, [\hat{p}_{k}^{2p-4}(x)]_{1 \le k \le p}$$

are needed. Since one group proceeds in even, the other one in odd steps, the total of 108 integrated Jacobi polynomials that are needed is 109

$$\hat{p}_n^a(x), \qquad 1 \le n \le p-3, \quad 3 \le a \le 2p-3,$$
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if we consider the integrated Legendre polynomials separately. However, integrating 111 both sides of (3) yields 112

$$\hat{p}_{n+1}^{\alpha-1}(x) = \frac{1}{2n+\alpha} \left( (n+\alpha)\hat{p}_{n+1}^{\alpha}(x) - n\hat{p}_{n}^{\alpha}(x) \right),$$
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valid for all  $n \ge 0$ . Using this relation starting from the integrated Jacobi polynomials 114 of highest degree, i.e.,  $\alpha = 2i - 1 = 2p - 3$ , the remaining Jacobi polynomials can 115 be computed using only two elements of the previous row. Note that for the initial 116 values n = 1 we have  $\hat{p}_1^{\alpha}(x) = 1 + x$  for all  $\alpha$ . For assembling the polynomials of 117 highest degree the three term recurrence (4) is used. Summarizing, the evaluation of 118 the functions at the Gaussian points can be done in  $\mathcal{O}(p^3)$  operations. This is optimal 119 in the three-dimensional case, but not in the two-dimensional case. 120

## 5 Complexity of the Algorithm

The cost of the last three steps is  $\mathcal{O}(p^3)$ , the first step requires  $\mathcal{O}(p^2)$  operations. <sup>122</sup> Together with the evaluation of the Jacobi polynomials, the algorithm requires in <sup>123</sup> total  $\mathcal{O}(p^3)$  flops. <sup>124</sup>

This algorithm uses only the sparsity structure (10). Since all matrices  $\mathscr{I}^{(m)}$ , 125  $m = 1, \ldots, 21$ , have a similar sparsity structure of the form (10), this algorithm can be 126 extended to all ingredients which are required for assembling/computing the element 127 stiffness matrix (6) for the Laplacian, see [3]. The algorithm can also be extended 128 to mass matrices or matrices arising from the discretization of elliptic problems in 129 H(curl) and H(div), see [4]. For two-dimensional problems, the third step of the 130 algorithm is not necessary. However, the values  $h_{i,j;i',j'}^{(2)}$  have to be computed. Since 131 this requires  $\mathscr{O}(p^3)$  floating point operations, the total cost in 2D is also  $\mathscr{O}(p^3)$ . 132

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