A Synthesis of A Posteriori Error Estimation Techniques for Conforming, Non-Conforming, Mixed and Discontinuous FEM

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Model Problem

Consider

 $-\operatorname{div}(A \operatorname{grad} u) = f \operatorname{in} \Omega$ (Polygonal Domain)

subject to

$$u = g_D \text{ on } \Gamma_D; \quad \boldsymbol{n} \cdot A \operatorname{grad} u = g_N \text{ on } \Gamma_N,$$

where $\Gamma_D \cap \Gamma_N = \partial \Omega$ are disjoint.

Source Term: $f \in L_2(\Omega);$ Boundary Flux: $g_N \in L_2(\Gamma_N);$ Permeability Matrix: $A \in L_{\infty}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2})$ symmetric positive definite

Assume: A piecewise constant on sub-domains



Initial Finite Element Partition

Initial mesh \mathcal{P}_0 consists of

- shape regular triangular elements (locally quasi-uniform);
- matches material interfaces;
- non-empty intersection of distinct elements is single common edge or single common vertex.
- ... usual assumptions.



Refined Finite Element Partitions

For $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$, \mathcal{P}_{ℓ} obtained from $\mathcal{P}_{\ell-1}$ by

- subdividing a marked set of elements K into four congruent sub-triangles.
- ... generates hanging nodes.































Let \mathcal{P} denote a particular mesh \mathcal{P}_{ℓ} for $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$, and denote

$$X_{\mathcal{P}} = \{ v \in H^1(\mathcal{P}) : v_{|K} \in \mathbb{P}_1(K) \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{P} \}.$$



For fixed $\tau \in [-1, 1]$, define bilinear form on $\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{P}\tau} : X_{\mathcal{P}} \times X_{\mathcal{P}} \to \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{B}_{\tau}(v,w) &= \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (a \operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}} v, \operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}} w)_{K} \\ &- \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{E}_{I} \cup \mathcal{E}_{D}} \int_{\gamma} \left(\langle \sigma_{\nu}(v) \rangle \left[w \right] - \tau \left[v \right] \langle \sigma_{\nu}(w) \rangle \right) \, \mathrm{d}s \\ &+ \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{E}_{I} \cup \mathcal{E}_{D}} \frac{\kappa}{h_{\gamma}} \int_{\gamma} \left[v \right] \left[w \right] \, \mathrm{d}s \end{split}$$

where $\langle \sigma_{\nu}(v) \rangle$ is average value of normal derivative, and [v] is the value of jump on element boundary.



Define linear form $\mathcal{L}_{\tau} : X_{\mathcal{P}} \to \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L}_{\tau}(w) &= \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (f, w_K)_K + \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{E}_N} \int_{\gamma} g_N w \, \mathrm{d}s \\ &- \tau \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{E}_D} \int_{\gamma} g_D \left\langle \sigma_{\nu}(w) \right\rangle \, \mathrm{d}s \\ &+ \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{E}_D} \frac{\kappa}{h_{\gamma}} \int_{\gamma} g_D w \, \mathrm{d}s. \end{split}$$



Seek $U_{\mathcal{P}} \in X_{\mathcal{P}}$:

$$\mathcal{B}_{\tau}(U_{\mathcal{P}}, v) = \mathcal{L}_{\tau}(v) \quad \forall v \in X_{\mathcal{P}}$$

Special Cases:

- $\tau = 1$: Symmetric Interior Penalty Galerkin (Arnold, Wheeler, ...)
- $\tau = -1$: Non-symmetric (Babuška, Oden and Baumann)
- $\tau = 0$: Incomplete (Girault, Wheeler, ...)



Choice of κ

Let S_K denote element stiffness matrix with entries

$$[\boldsymbol{S}_K]_{jk} = \int_K (\operatorname{grad} \lambda_k)^\top \boldsymbol{A} (\operatorname{grad} \lambda_j) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}$$

where $\{\lambda_j\}_{j=1}^3$ denote barycentric coordinates on K.



Choice of κ

Theorem 2 (*MA & Rankin*, 2008) Let $\rho(S_K)$ denote spectral radius of S_K . If $\kappa > (1 + \tau)^2 \max_{K \in \mathcal{P}} \rho(S_K)$, then there exists a unique discontinuous Galerkin FE approximation.



Choice of κ

Theorem 3 (*MA & Rankin*, 2008) Let $\rho(\mathbf{S}_K)$ denote spectral radius of \mathbf{S}_K . If $\kappa > (1 + \tau)^2 \max_{K \in \mathcal{P}} \rho(\mathbf{S}_K)$, then there exists a unique discontinuous Galerkin FE approximation.

- fully explicit, computable bound on value of interior penalty parameter;
- bound *independent* of number of levels of hanging nodes;
- improves on bound obtained by Shabazzi (2005);
- different bound obtained by Epshteyn and Rivière (2007) ...
 sometimes better, sometimes worse.



Often hear advice to 'choose $\kappa = 10$ ' to ensure that SIPG is stable.



Let $A_{|K} = aI$, and

$$Q = \frac{1}{4|K|} \sum_{\gamma \subset \partial K} |h_{\gamma}|^2$$

then $Q \ge \sqrt{3}$, and spectral radius given by

$$\rho(\mathbf{S}_K) = \frac{1}{2}a\left(Q + \sqrt{Q^2 - 3}\right).$$









For SIPG, probability that $\kappa = 10$ is large enough for *random* triangle is 48%.





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Alternatively, if ratio $h/\rho \leq 3.1$, then $\kappa = 10$ will be stable for SIPG.



A Posteriori Error Bounds



A Posteriori Error Estimation

Aim–To derive computable upper bound for error $e = u - u_{nc}$ in energy norm

$$|\!|\!| e |\!|\!|^2 = \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} \int_K (\operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}} e)^\top A \operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}} e$$

and/or DG-Norm

$$|\!|\!| e |\!|\!|_{DG}^2 = |\!|\!| e |\!|\!|^2 + \sum_{\gamma} \frac{\kappa}{h_{\gamma}} \int_{\gamma} [e]^2 \, \mathrm{d}s$$

such that

- all constants should be given in upper bound;
- obtain local lower bounds;
- cost is practically negligible compared with cost of obtaining DG approximation.



Decomposition of Error

Error in flux may be split as

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\mathcal{P}}(e) = a \operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}} e = \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\chi) + \operatorname{curl} \psi$$

where conforming error $\chi \in H^1_E(\Omega)$:

 $(a \operatorname{grad} \chi, \operatorname{grad} v) = (a \operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} e, \operatorname{grad} v) \quad \forall v \in H^1_E(\Omega)$

and *non-conforming error* $\psi \in \mathcal{H}$:

 $(a^{-1}\operatorname{curl}\psi,\operatorname{curl}w) = (a^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\mathcal{P}}(e),\operatorname{curl}w) = (\operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}}e,\operatorname{curl}w) \quad \forall w \in \mathcal{H}.$

Orthogonal in broken energy norm



$$|\!|\!| v |\!|\!|^2 = \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} |\!| a^{1/2} \operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} v |\!|_K^2$$



Want: Exploit local conservation property of DGFEM. i.e.

$$\int_{\partial K} g_K \, \mathrm{d} s + \int_K f \, \mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{x} = 0$$

where fluxes $g_K \in L_2(\partial K)$ given by

$$g_{K|\gamma} = \begin{cases} \mu_K \left(\langle \sigma_\nu(U_{\mathcal{P}}) \rangle - \kappa h_{\gamma}^{-1} [U_{\mathcal{P}}] \right) & \text{on } \gamma \in \mathcal{E}_I(K) \\\\ \sigma_\nu(U_{\mathcal{P}}) - \kappa h_{\gamma}^{-1} (U_{\mathcal{P}} - g_D) & \text{on } \gamma \in \mathcal{E}_D(K) \\\\ g_N & \text{on } \gamma \in \mathcal{E}_N(K). \end{cases}$$

Same property holds for averaged flux.



Let $v \in H^1_E(\Omega)$ be given. Then,

$$(a \operatorname{grad} \chi, \operatorname{grad} v)$$

= $(a \operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} e, \operatorname{grad} v)$
= $(f, v) + \int_{\Gamma_N} g_N v - (a \operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} U_{\mathcal{P}}, \operatorname{grad} v)$



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Now localise to elements using DG-flux g_K :

$$(a \operatorname{grad} \chi, \operatorname{grad} v) = \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} \left\{ (f, v)_K + \int_{\partial K} g_K v - (a \operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} U_{\mathcal{P}}, \operatorname{grad} v)_K \right\}$$



Suppose (see later) can find σ_K such that for all $v \in H^1_E(K)$

$$(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K, \operatorname{grad} v)_K = (f, v)_K + \int_{\partial K} g_K v - (a \operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}} U_{\mathcal{P}}, \operatorname{grad} v)_K.$$



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Then

$$(a \operatorname{grad} \chi, \operatorname{grad} v) = \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K, \operatorname{grad} v)_K$$



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Then

$$(a \operatorname{grad} \chi, \operatorname{grad} v) = \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K, \operatorname{grad} v)_K$$

Apply Cauchy-Schwarz and simplify to obtain

$$\|\|\chi\|\|^2 \leq \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (A^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_K).$$

Only the *value* of norm of σ_K matters, *not* σ_K *per se*.



How to construct σ_K ?

Want: $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K$ such that for all $v \in H^1_E(K)$

$$(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K, \operatorname{grad} v)_K = (f, v)_K + \int_{\partial K} g_K v - (a \operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}} U_{\mathcal{P}}, \operatorname{grad} v)_K.$$



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- local conservation property of DG means that data satisfies compatibility condition
- assume (remove later) that data f and g are piecewise polynomial



How to construct σ_K ?

Want: $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K$ such that for all $v \in H^1_E(K)$

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Glasgow element. G-flux g_K is discontinuous piecewise polynomial on boundary of strathclyde element.
Special Case: No hanging nodes





Special Case: No hanging nodes



- DG-flux g_K is *continuous* piecewise polynomial on each edge;
- Source term *f continuous* polynomial on element;
- Neumann data g continuous polynomial on each edge.

University of leans we can find a simple formula for norm of $\sigma_K \in RT_0(K)$. Strathclyde Glasgow

Special Case: No hanging nodes



$$\boldsymbol{M}_{K} = \frac{|\gamma_{j}||\gamma_{k}|}{4|K|^{2}} \int_{K} (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{j})^{\top} \boldsymbol{A}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{k}) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}$$

and $\vec{R} = (R_1, R_2, R_3)$, then (c.f. MA, SINUM 2006) University of Strathclyde $(A^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_K) = \vec{R}^\top \boldsymbol{M}_K \vec{R}$

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Boundary terms discontinuous on element edges.





Introduce virtual refinement into four congruent sub-triangles.





How to choose 'residuals' on new internal edges?





... choose R_2^* so that sub-element has compatible data (i.e. preserves *local* nservation property).

Glasgow

Let M_K denote same matrix as before, viz.

$$oldsymbol{M}_K = rac{|\gamma_j| |\gamma_k|}{4|K|^2} \int_K (oldsymbol{x} - oldsymbol{x}_j)^{ op} oldsymbol{A}^{-1} (oldsymbol{x} - oldsymbol{x}_k) \, \mathrm{d}oldsymbol{x}$$



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Define:
$$\hat{R}_2 = (R_1^r, R_2^*, R_3)$$

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Let $\vec{R}_1, \ldots, \vec{R}_4$ denote vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 formed from residuals on boundaries of virtual elements, then

$$(A^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K,\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K) = \frac{1}{4}\sum_{k=1}^4 \vec{R}_k^\top \boldsymbol{M}_K \vec{R}_k.$$

... essentially for free.









Introduce virtual refinements as before.





Decompose into four sub-domains with one fewer edge node.





Decompose into four sub-domains with *one fewer edge node*. Proceed *recursively* on each sub-domain to reduce to situation of no edge nodes.





Decompose into four sub-domains with one fewer edge node.

University of

Glasgov

Proceed *recursively* on each sub-domain to reduce to situation of no edge nodes.

Accumulate *norms* of σ_K over sub-domains to obtain value over original element ... again, practically for free.

Computable Upper Bound on Conforming Error

Theorem 4

$$\|\chi\|^2 \le \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} \eta^2_{\mathsf{CF},K}$$

where

$$\eta^2_{\mathsf{CF},K} = (\boldsymbol{A}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_K),$$

is computed using recursive procedure.



Computable Upper Bound on Conforming Error

Theorem 6 (*MA & Rankin, 2008*)

$$\|\chi\|^2 \le \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} \eta_{\mathsf{CF},K}^2$$

where

$$\eta^2_{\mathsf{CF},K} = (\boldsymbol{A}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_K, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_K),$$

is computed using recursive procedure.

- Also local lower bound up to generic constant (depends on number of levels of hanging nodes).
- Case of non-polynomial data f and g introduces usual oscillation terms (we give all multiplicative constants explicitly).





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> $(A^{-1}\operatorname{curl}\psi,\operatorname{curl}w)$ = (grad_P e, curl w) $\forall w \in \mathcal{H}$



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> $(A^{-1}\operatorname{curl} \psi, \operatorname{curl} w)$ = $(\operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} e, \operatorname{curl} w) \quad \forall w \in \mathcal{H}$ = $(\operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} (u^* - U_{\mathcal{P}}), \operatorname{curl} w) + (\operatorname{grad} (u - u^*), \operatorname{curl} w)$



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$$(A^{-1}\operatorname{curl} \psi, \operatorname{curl} w)$$

= $(\operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} e, \operatorname{curl} w) \quad \forall w \in \mathcal{H}$
= $(\operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}}(u^* - U_{\mathcal{P}}), \operatorname{curl} w) + (\operatorname{grad}(u - u^*), \operatorname{curl} w)$

Observe that

$$(\operatorname{grad}(u-u^*),\operatorname{curl} w) = \int_{\Gamma_N} (u-u^*) \frac{\partial w}{\partial s} = 0.$$



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$$= (\operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}}(u^* - U_{\mathcal{P}}), \operatorname{curl} w) + \mathbf{0}$$

Choose $w = \psi$ and apply Cauchy-Schwarz to get

 $(A^{-1}\operatorname{curl}\psi,\operatorname{curl}\psi) \leq (A\operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}}(u^*-U_{\mathcal{P}}),\operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}}(u^*-U_{\mathcal{P}})).$



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Choose $w = \psi$ and apply Cauchy-Schwarz to get

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Equality holds when $u^* = u - \phi$, so

Glasg

$$(A^{-1}\operatorname{curl} \psi, \operatorname{curl} \psi) = \min_{u^*} (A\operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}}(u^* - U_{\mathcal{P}}), \operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}}(u^* - U_{\mathcal{P}})).$$

Let $u^* \approx u$ be any smooth (H^1) approximation. Obtain computable upper bound for non-conforming error

 $(A^{-1}\operatorname{curl}\psi,\operatorname{curl}\psi) \leq (A\operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}}(u^*-U_{\mathcal{P}}),\operatorname{\mathbf{grad}}_{\mathcal{P}}(u^*-U_{\mathcal{P}})).$

Question: How to choose u^* to obtain good bound?





DG FEM approximation $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ known but *discontinuous*.





Introduce *virtual* refinement again, and choose u^* to be continuous piecewise linear on *virtual* mesh.





Values at regular nodes \bullet and at hanging nodes \circ obtained by averaging values of $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ at node.





Values at virtual interior nodes chosen equal to $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ at node.





Values at virtual edge nodes obtained by interpolating values of u^* at two nearest \bullet or \circ nodes.





Values at virtual edge nodes obtained by interpolating values of u^* at two nearest • or \circ nodes. University of Dirichlet boundary Γ_D , take u^* equal to Dirichlet data.

Theorem 7 *Explicit upper bound for non-conforming error*

$$\|\psi\|_{A^{-1}}^2 \le \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} \eta_{\mathrm{nc},K}^2$$

where

$$\eta_{\mathsf{nc},K} = |\!|\!| U_{\mathcal{P}} - u^* |\!|\!|_K.$$

is computed using recursive procedure based on S_K (local stiffness matrix).



Theorem 8 Explicit upper bound for non-conforming error

$$\|\psi\|_{A^{-1}}^2 \le \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} \eta_{\mathrm{nc},K}^2$$

where

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is computed using recursive procedure based on S_K (local stiffness matrix).

Also

- lower bounds;
- non-homogeneous Dirichlet conditions.

(Full details in MA & Rankin, 2008)



Estimation of Total Error in Energy Norm

Upper bound on total error

$$|\!|\!| e |\!|\!|^2 \leq \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (\eta^2_{\mathsf{CF},K} + \eta^2_{\mathsf{NC},K})$$



Estimation of Total Error in Energy Norm

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Question: Does this really control error?


Estimation of Total Error in Energy Norm

Upper bound on total error

$$|\!|\!| e |\!|\!|^2 \leq \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (\eta^2_{\mathsf{CF},K} + \eta^2_{\mathsf{NC},K})$$

Question: Does this really control error?

$$|\!|\!| e |\!|\!|^2 = \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} |\!| a^{1/2} \operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} e |\!|_K^2.$$

i.e. ... broken energy norm does not "see" jumps between elements.Two possibilities ...



Estimation in DG-Energy Norm

First Possibility: Estimate error in DG-Energy Norm

$$|\!|\!| e |\!|\!|_{DG}^2 = |\!|\!| e |\!|\!|^2 + \sum_{\gamma \in \partial \mathcal{P}} \frac{\kappa}{h_{\gamma}} |\!| [e] |\!|_{\gamma}^2$$



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Can use the fact that $[e] = [u] - [U_P] = -[U_P]$ is computable. Then, we obtain

$$|\!|\!| e |\!|\!|_{DG}^2 \leq \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (\eta_{\mathsf{CF},K}^2 + \eta_{\mathsf{NC},K}^2) + \sum_{\gamma \in \partial \mathcal{P}} \frac{\kappa}{h_{\gamma}} |\!| [U_{\mathcal{P}}] |\!|_{\gamma}^2 \leq C |\!|\!| e |\!|\!|_{DG}^2.$$



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$$|\!|\!| e |\!|\!|_{DG}^2 \leq \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (\eta_{\mathsf{CF},K}^2 + \eta_{\mathsf{NC},K}^2) + \sum_{\gamma \in \partial \mathcal{P}} \frac{\kappa}{h_{\gamma}} |\!| [U_{\mathcal{P}}] |\!|_{\gamma}^2 \leq C |\!|\!| e |\!|\!|_{DG}^2.$$

... but who cares about DG-norm?



Second Possibility: ... observe that estimator for broken energy norm *ALREADY* bounds the jump terms.



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How large? *SAME* bound needed for DGFEM to be well-posed.



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How large? *SAME* bound needed for DGFEM to be well-posed. Hence, obtain two-sided estimator in more natural norm

$$\|a^{1/2}\operatorname{grad}_{\mathcal{P}} e\|^{2} = \|\|e\|\|^{2} \leq \sum_{K \in \mathcal{P}} (\eta^{2}_{\mathsf{CF},K} + \eta^{2}_{\mathsf{NC},K}) \leq C \|\|e\|\|^{2}.$$

Generalises result from (MA, SINUM 2007) to case where there are hanging nodes (see MA & Rankin, 2008).



Numerical Example—Poisson Problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = f & \text{in } \Omega = (0,1) \times (0,1) \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega \end{cases}$$

Data f chosen so that true solution is

$$u(x,y) = \begin{cases} (1-x-y)^2(1-x)(1-y) & \text{if } x+y > 1\\ 0 & \text{if } x+y \le 1 \end{cases}$$

on $\Omega = (0, 1) \times (0, 1)$.































Performance of Estimators





Effectivity Index of Estimators





Numerical Example—L-shaped Domain hp-DGFEM

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = f & \text{in } \Omega = (0, 1) \times (0, 1) \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega \end{cases}$$

Data f chosen so that true solution is

$$u(x,y) = (1-x^2)(1-y^2)r^{2/3}\sin\frac{2}{3}\theta$$

on usual L-shaped domain.







































Performance of Estimators





Effectivity Index of Estimators





References

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