

# Applications of Mathematics

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*Applications of Mathematics*, Vol. 36 (1991), No. 5, 392–406

Persistent URL: <http://dml.cz/dmlcz/104475>

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## DUAL FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF AXISYMMETRIC ELLIPTIC PROBLEMS WITH AN ABSOLUTE TERM

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(Received April 23, 1990)

*Summary:* A model second order elliptic equation in cylindrical coordinates with mixed boundary conditions is considered. A dual variational formulation is employed to calculate the cogradient of the solution directly. Approximations are defined on the basis of standard finite elements spaces. Convergence analysis and some a posteriori error estimates are presented.

*Keywords:* Finite elements, elliptic problems, dual analysis, axisymmetric problem.

*AMS Subject classification:* 65N30, 65N15.

### INTRODUCTION

We consider a second order elliptic problem in an axisymmetric bounded domain, supposing all data are axisymmetric, the boundary conditions are of a mixed type and the equation contains an absolute term. Extending the ideas of the paper [1] (cf. also [2], [3]), we introduce a dual variational formulation of the problem, which enables us to calculate the cogradient of the solution directly. Finite element approximations to the solution of the dual problem are defined and an error analysis presented, within the framework of the theory of weighted Sobolev spaces (cf. [4] for the primal variational solution).

The equation under consideration occurs e.g. in the theory of a vector potential distribution for a transformer with magnetic shielding (see [6]).

We shall consider a domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ , which is generated by the rotation of a bounded domain

$$D \subset \{(r, z) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid r \geq 0\}$$

about the axis  $x_3 \equiv z$ . Assume that  $\Omega$  has a Lipschitz boundary. Hence, the set  $\partial D \cap \mathcal{O}$ , where  $\mathcal{O}$  is the  $z$ -axis, cannot contain isolated points. Let  $\Gamma_0$  denote the interior of the set  $\partial D \cap \mathcal{O}$ . We assume

$$\partial D = \Gamma_0 \cup \bar{\Gamma}_u \cup \bar{\Gamma}_g,$$

where  $\Gamma_0, \Gamma_u, \Gamma_g$  have at most a finite number of components, being mutually disjoint and open in the boundary  $\partial D$  and  $\Gamma_u \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $k$  be a non-negative integer. By  $W_r^{k,2}(D)$  we shall denote the weighted Sobolev space with the weight  $r$ , the norm

$$\|u\|_{k,r,D} = \left( \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \int_D |D^\alpha u|^2 r \, dr \, dz \right)^{1/2}$$

and the seminorm

$$|u|_{k,r,D} = \left( \sum_{|\alpha|=k} \int_D |D^\alpha u|^2 r \, dr \, dz \right)^{1/2}.$$

If  $k = 0$ , we denote  $W_r^{0,2}(D) \equiv L_r^2(D)$ .

By  $L_{1/r}^2(D)$  we shall denote the weighted space of functions with the norm

$$\|u\|_{0,1/r,D} = \left( \int_D u^2 r^{-1} \, dr \, dz \right)^{1/2}.$$

Let  $\Gamma \subset \partial D \div \Gamma_0$  be a measurable part of the boundary. By  $L_r^2(\Gamma)$  we shall denote the space of functions with the norm

$$\|u\|_{0,r,\Gamma} = \left( \int_\Gamma u^2 r \, ds \right)^{1/2}.$$

There exists a linear continuous mapping

$$\gamma: W_r^{1,2}(D) \rightarrow L_r^2(\Gamma)$$

such that  $\gamma u = u|_\Gamma$  for any  $u \in C^1(\bar{D})$ . (For the proof see e.g. [5] – Section 1. It follows easily from the Trace Theorem in the standard Sobolev space  $H^1(\Omega)$ .)

Let us introduce the set

$$C_{0,r}^\infty(D) = \{v \in C^\infty(\bar{D}) \mid \text{supp } v \cap (\partial D - \Gamma_0) = \emptyset\}.$$

We say that the divergence of a vector-function  $(q_r, q_z) \equiv \mathbf{q} \in [L_r^2(D)]^2$  exists and belongs to  $L_r^2(D)$ , if there exists  $f \in L_r^2(D)$  such that

$$\int_D \left( q_r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + q_z \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) r \, dr \, dz = - \int_D f v r \, dr \, dz \quad \forall v \in C_{0,r}^\infty(D).$$

Then we set  $\text{div } \mathbf{q} = f$ ; for  $\mathbf{q}$  smooth, we have

$$\text{div } \mathbf{q} = \frac{1}{r} q_r + \frac{\partial}{\partial r} q_r + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} q_z.$$

We introduce the subspace

$$H_r(\text{div}, D) = \{\mathbf{q} \in [L_r^2(D)]^2 \mid \text{div } \mathbf{q} \in L_r^2(D)\}$$

with the following norm

$$\|\mathbf{p}\|_{\text{div},D} = \left( \|p_r\|_{0,r,D}^2 + \|p_z\|_{0,r,D}^2 + \|\text{div } \mathbf{p}\|_{0,r,D}^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Next let us denote  $\Gamma = \partial D \div \Gamma_0$  and define the following subspace of  $L_r^2(\Gamma)$ :

$$H^{1/2}(\Gamma) = \gamma(W_r^{1,2}(D)).$$

In  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma)$  we shall use the norm

$$\|w\|_{1/2,r,\Gamma} = \inf_{v \in W_r^{1,2}(D), \gamma v = w} \|v\|_{1,r,D}.$$

The intersection

$$W_r^{1,2}(D) \cap L_{1/r}^2(D)$$

will be denoted by  $X_1(D)$  and equipped with the following norm

$$\|u\|_{X_1(D)} = (\|u\|_{1,r,D}^2 + \|u\|_{0,1/r,D}^2)^{1/2}.$$

## 1. MODEL PROBLEM

As a model problem, we shall consider the following boundary value problem

$$(1.1) \quad - \left[ \frac{1}{r} a_r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( a_r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( a_z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right) \right] + a_0 u = f \quad \text{in } D,$$

$$(1.2) \quad u = u_0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_u,$$

$$(1.3) \quad v \cdot \text{cograd } u = g \quad \text{on } \Gamma_g,$$

where  $v = (v_r, v_z)$  denotes the unit outward normal with respect to  $\Gamma_g$ ,

$$\text{cograd } u = \left( a_r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r}, a_z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right),$$

$a_0, a_r, a_z \in L^\infty(D)$  are coefficients such that there exists a positive constant  $c$  such that

$$(1.4) \quad a_0 \geq c, \quad a_r \geq c, \quad a_z \geq c \quad \text{a.e. in } D,$$

$$f \in L_r^2(D), \quad u_0 \in W_r^{1,2}(D), \quad g \in L_r^2(\Gamma_g)$$

are given functions.

Let us introduce the following forms

$$a(u, v) = \int_D \left( a_r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + a_z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + a_0 uv \right) r \, dr \, dz,$$

$$L(v) = \int_D f v r \, dr \, dz + \int_{\Gamma_g} g v r \, d\Gamma.$$

We say that  $u \in W_r^{1,2}(D)$  is a *weak solution* of the primal problem if  $u - u_0 \in V$  and

$$(1.5) \quad a(u, v) = L(v) \quad \forall v \in V,$$

where

$$V = \{u \in W_r^{1,2}(D) \mid \gamma v = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_u\}.$$

There exists a unique weak solution. This follows from (1.4) and the Riesz representation theorem, since  $L$  is a continuous linear functional on  $V$ .

## 2. DUAL VARIATIONAL FORMULATIONS

In order to derive a dual variational formulation of the problem (1.1)–(1.3), we employ the method of orthogonal projections in the space

$$\mathcal{H} = [L_r^2(D)]^3.$$

Let  $\mathbf{q} = (q_r, q_z, q_0)$  denote elements of the space  $\mathcal{H}$ . We introduce the following bilinear form on  $\mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H}$ :

$$(2.1) \quad (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})_{\mathcal{H}} = \int_D (a_r^{-1} p_r q_r + a_z^{-1} p_z q_z + a_0^{-1} p_0 q_0) r \, dr \, dz.$$

It is easy to see that the associated norm

$$\|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathcal{H}} = (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q})_{\mathcal{H}}^{1/2}$$

is equivalent with the standard norm

$$\|\mathbf{q}\|_{0,r,D} = \left( \int_D (q_r^2 + q_z^2 + q_0^2) r \, dr \, dz \right)^{1/2}.$$

Thus  $\mathcal{H}$  equipped with the scalar product (2.1) is a Hilbert space.

Let us define the following subsets of  $\mathcal{H}$ :

$$\mathcal{H}_1 = \{ \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H} \mid \exists v \in V: \mathbf{q} = (\text{cograd } v, a_0 v) \}$$

(and we shall write  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}(v)$  whenever  $\mathbf{q}$  is constructed according to the definition of  $\mathcal{H}_1$ ),

$$\mathcal{H}_2 = \{ \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H} \mid B(\mathbf{q}, v) = 0 \quad \forall v \in V \},$$

where

$$(2.2) \quad B(\mathbf{q}, v) = \int_D \left( q_r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + q_z \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + q_0 v \right) r \, dr \, dz.$$

**Lemma 2.1.**

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2.$$

*Proof.* Let us consider a sequence

$$\{\mathbf{q}^m\}_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset \mathcal{H}_1, \quad \mathbf{q}^m \rightarrow \mathbf{q} \quad \text{in } \mathcal{H} \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

By definition, there exist  $v_m \in V$  such that  $\mathbf{q}^m = \mathbf{q}(v_m)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{q}^m - \mathbf{q}^n\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 &= \int_D [a_r^{-1} (q_r^m - q_r^n)^2 + \dots] r \, dr \, dz = \\ &= \int_D \left[ a_r \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (v_m - v_n) \right)^2 + a_z \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (v_m - v_n) \right)^2 + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + a_0 (v_m - v_n)^2 \right] r \, dr \, dz \geq c \|v_m - v_n\|_{1,r,D}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $V$  is a Hilbert space, there exists a limit  $v \in V$  such that  $v_m \rightarrow v$  in  $V$ . We easily find that

$$\|\mathbf{q}^m - \mathbf{q}(v)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \leq C \|v_m - v\|_{1,r,D}^2 \rightarrow 0,$$

which yields  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}(v)$ .

Hence  $\mathcal{H}_1$  is a closed subspace. Since the form  $\mathbf{q} \rightarrow B(\mathbf{q}, v)$  is continuous in  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_2$  is a closed subspace, as well.

Let  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H}_1$  and  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{H}_2$ . Then  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}(v)$  for some  $v \in V$  and we have

$$(2.3) \quad (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})_{\mathcal{H}} = \int_D \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} p_r + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} p_z + v p_0 \right) r \, dr \, dz = B(\mathbf{p}, v) = 0,$$

i.e.,  $\mathcal{H}_1$  is orthogonal to  $\mathcal{H}_2$ .

Denoting by  $\mathcal{H}_1^\perp$  the orthocomplement to  $\mathcal{H}_1$  in the space  $\mathcal{H}$ , we see by (2.3) that  $\mathcal{H}_2 \subset \mathcal{H}_1^\perp$ . Let  $\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{H}_1^\perp$  and  $v \in V$ . Then we have

$$0 = \int_D \left( a_r^{-1} t_r a_r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + a_z^{-1} t_z a_z \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + a_0^{-1} t_0 a_0 v \right) r \, dr \, dz = B(\mathbf{t}, v),$$

which implies  $\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{H}_2$  and  $\mathcal{H}_2 = \mathcal{H}_1^\perp$ . Q.E.D.

Let us define the following set

$$Q_{fg} = \{ \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H} \mid B(\mathbf{q}, v) = L(v) \quad \forall v \in V \}.$$

**Theorem 2.1.** *Principle of minimum complementary energy.*

Let  $u$  be the weak solution of the primal problem. Then

$$(2.4) \quad \mathbf{q}^0 = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{q} \in Q_{fg}} \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{q}),$$

where

$$\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}(u_0)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2$$

if and only if  $\mathbf{q}^0 = \mathbf{q}(u)$ .

*Proof.* Let us write  $u = u_0 + w$ ,  $w \in V$ . For  $\mathbf{q} \in Q_{fg}$  let us define the functional

$$\begin{aligned} I(\mathbf{q}) &= \|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}(u_0)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 = \|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}(u) + \mathbf{q}(w)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 = \\ &= \|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}(u)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 + \|\mathbf{q}(w)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Here the orthogonality of  $\mathcal{H}_1$  and  $\mathcal{H}_2$  has been employed. Indeed,

$$B(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}(u), v) = 0 \quad \forall v \in V$$

holds due to the definition of  $Q_{fg}$  and

$$B(\mathbf{q}(u), v) = a(u, v) = L(v) \quad \forall v \in V.$$

Consequently,  $\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}(u) \in \mathcal{H}_2$  and  $\mathbf{q}(u) \in Q_{fg}$  by definition. Obviously, the functional  $I$  attains its minimum over  $Q_{fg}$  at the point  $\mathbf{q}^0$  iff  $\mathbf{q}^0 = \mathbf{q}(u)$ .

Remark 2.1. If the boundary condition on  $\Gamma_u$  is homogeneous, we set  $u_0 \equiv 0$  and then  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2$ .

Since the primal problem has a unique solution, the dual problem (2.4) has a unique solution, as well.

*Simplification of the set  $\mathcal{Q}_{fg}$*

Let us denote  $\mathbf{q}^* = (q_r, q_z)$  the “reduced” vector associated with  $\mathbf{q} = (q_r, q_z, q_0)$ . From the definition we deduce

$$(2.5) \quad \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{Q}_{fg} \Rightarrow \mathbf{q}^* \in H_r(\text{div}, D), \text{div } \mathbf{q}^* = -f + q_0.$$

Let us denote  $H^{-1/2}(\Gamma) \equiv [\gamma(W_r^{1,2}(D))]'$  (i.e., the dual space).

For  $\mathbf{q}^* \in H_r(\text{div}, D)$ , we define a functional  $\mathbf{q}^* \cdot v \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)$  by means of the following formula

$$(2.6) \quad \langle \mathbf{q}^* \cdot v, w \rangle = \int_D \left( q_r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + q_z \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + v \text{div } \mathbf{q}^* \right) r \, dr \, dz, \quad w \in \gamma(W_r^{1,2}(D)),$$

where  $v \in W_r^{1,2}(D)$  is any extension of the function  $w$  such that  $\gamma v = w$  on  $\Gamma$ .

Note that the integral does not depend on the kind of extension. In fact, for the difference  $\omega \equiv v' - v''$  of any two extensions  $\gamma \omega = 0$  holds and since

$$\int_D \left( q_r \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial r} + q_z \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z} + \varphi \text{div } \mathbf{q}^* \right) r \, dr \, dz = 0 \quad \forall \varphi \in C_{0,r}^\infty(D)$$

(cf. the definition of the divergence),

$$\langle \mathbf{q}^* \cdot v, \gamma \omega \rangle = 0$$

follows, using the density of the set  $C_{0,r}^\infty(D)$  in the subspace

$$W_{0,r}^{1,2}(D) = \{u \in W_r^{1,2}(D) \mid \gamma u = 0\}.$$

Moreover, there exists an extension  $\mathcal{E}w \in W_r^{1,2}(D)$  such that

$$\|\mathcal{E}w\|_{1,r,D} = \|w\|_{1/2,r,\Gamma};$$

consequently, the continuity of the functional  $\mathbf{q}^* \cdot v$  follows. We easily find that

$$(2.7) \quad \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H}_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{q}^* \in H_r(\text{div}, D), \quad \langle \mathbf{q}^* \cdot v, \gamma v \rangle = 0 \quad \forall v \in V.$$

In fact

$$(2.8) \quad \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H}_2 \Rightarrow \text{div } \mathbf{q}^* = \mathbf{q}_0 \in L_r^2(D)$$

so that  $\mathbf{q}^* \in H_r(\text{div}, D)$  and

$$0 = B(\mathbf{q}, v) = \int_D \left( q_r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + q_z \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + v \text{div } \mathbf{q}^* \right) r \, dr \, dz = \langle \mathbf{q}^* \cdot v, \gamma v \rangle$$

holds for any  $v \in V$ .

Let us introduce the set

$$Q_0 = \{ \mathbf{q}^* \in H_r(\text{div}, D) \mid \langle \mathbf{q}^* \cdot \nu, \gamma v \rangle = 0 \quad \forall v \in V \}.$$

Then  $Q_0$  is a (closed) subspace of  $H_r(\text{div}, D)$  and we easily deduce

$$(2.9) \quad \mathbf{q}^* \in Q_0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{q} = (q_r^*, q_z^*, \text{div } \mathbf{q}^*) \in \mathcal{H}_2,$$

$$(2.10) \quad \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H}_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{q} = (q_r, q_z, \text{div } \mathbf{q}^*), \quad \mathbf{q}^* \in Q_0.$$

Next we introduce the following bilinear form on  $[H_r(\text{div}, D)]^2$ :

$$(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})_C = \int_D (a_r^{-1} q_r p_r + a_z^{-1} q_z p_z + a_0^{-1} \text{div } \mathbf{q} \text{div } \mathbf{p}) r \, dr \, dz.$$

The latter form is a scalar product in the space  $H_r(\text{div}, D)$  and the associated norm  $\|\cdot\|_C$  is equivalent to the norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\text{div}, D}$ .

Having numerical methods in mind, we replace the affine hyperplane  $Q_{fg}$  by the sum of a particular element  $\lambda^0 \in Q_{fg}$  and the subspace  $\mathcal{H}_2$ , i.e., we set

$$Q_{fg} = \lambda^0 + \mathcal{H}_2.$$

**Remark 2.2.** *Construction of  $\lambda^0$ .*

1° Consider first the case  $\Gamma = \Gamma_u$ . Then we may set

$$\lambda_r^0 = \lambda_z^0 = 0, \quad \lambda_0^0 = f.$$

2° Let  $\Gamma_g \neq \emptyset$ . If we find  $\mathbf{p} \in H_r(\text{div}, D)$  such that  $\mathbf{p} \cdot \nu = g$  on  $\Gamma_g$ , then we may set

$$\lambda_r^0 = p_r, \quad \lambda_z^0 = p_z, \quad \lambda_0^0 = f + \text{div } \mathbf{p}.$$

In fact, for any  $v \in V$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} B(\lambda^0, v) &= \int_D \left( p_r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + p_z \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + (f + \text{div } \mathbf{p}) v \right) r \, dr \, dz = \\ &= \langle \mathbf{p} \cdot \nu, \gamma v \rangle + \int_D f v r \, dr \, dz = L(v). \end{aligned}$$

3° In case that  $g$  is piecewise polynomial on  $\Gamma_g$ , we can look for a  $\mathbf{p}$  from a finite-element space, satisfying  $\mathbf{p} \cdot \nu = g$  on  $\Gamma_g$ .

(Otherwise, we can first find a piecewise polynomial approximation  $g_h$  and then apply the previous technique.) ■

**Theorem 2.2.** *(Equivalent version of the principle.)*

Let us define the element  $\mathbf{q}^{*0} = (\lambda_r^0, \lambda_z^0)$  and the following functional

$$\psi(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{p}\|_C^2 + (\mathbf{q}^{*0}, \mathbf{p})_C + \int_D a_0^{-1} f \text{div } \mathbf{p} r \, dr \, dz - \langle \mathbf{p} \cdot \nu, \gamma u_0 \rangle.$$

Then

$$(2.11) \quad \mathbf{q}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{p} \in Q_0} \psi(\mathbf{p})$$

if and only if

$$(q_r^*, q_z^*, \text{div } \mathbf{q}^*) = \mathbf{q}(u) - \lambda^0,$$

where  $u$  is the weak solution of the primal problem (1.5).



Proof. Let us substitute

$$\mathbf{q} \in Q_{fg} \Rightarrow \mathbf{q} = \lambda^0 + \chi, \quad \chi \in \mathcal{H}_2$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{q}) &= \mathcal{S}(\lambda^0 + \chi) = \frac{1}{2} \|\lambda^0 + \chi - \mathbf{q}(u_0)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \|\chi\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 + (\chi, \lambda^1)_{\mathcal{H}} + \frac{1}{2} \|\lambda^1\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2, \quad \lambda^1 = \lambda^0 - \mathbf{q}(u_0). \end{aligned}$$

The last term can be omitted and

$$\chi = (p_r, p_z, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{p}), \quad \mathbf{p} \in Q_0$$

inserted by virtue of (2.10). We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{q}) - \frac{1}{2} \|\lambda^1\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 &= \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{p}\|_C^2 + \int_D \left[ a_r^{-1} p_r \left( \lambda_r^0 - a_r \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial r} \right) + \right. \\ &+ \left. a_z^{-1} p_z \left( \lambda_z^0 - a_z \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial z} \right) + a_0^{-1} (\lambda_0^0 - a_0 u_0) \operatorname{div} \mathbf{p} \right] r \, dr \, dz = \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{p}\|_C^2 + (\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}^{*0})_C + \int_D a_0^{-1} f \operatorname{div} \mathbf{p} \, r \, dr \, dz - \langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{v}, \gamma u_0 \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

using also that

$$\lambda_0^0 = f + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}^{*0}$$

follows from the definition of  $Q_{fg}$ .

Furthermore,  $\mathbf{q}(u) - \lambda^0 \in \mathcal{H}_2$  and by (2.10) we may write

$$\mathbf{q}(u) - \lambda^0 = [q_r^*, q_z^*, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}^*], \quad \mathbf{q}^* \in Q_0.$$

Consequently, we are led to the assertion of the theorem.

### 3. APPROXIMATIONS TO THE DUAL PROBLEM

We discuss here only applications of *internal* finite-element approximations of the set  $Q_0$ , i.e., the construction and approximation properties of subspaces  $Q_{0h} \subset Q_0$ .

Assume that two families  $\{V_h^r\}, \{V_h^z\}$  of finite-dimensional subspaces are given, such that for any parameter  $h, 0 < h \leq 1$ , the following conditions are satisfied:

$$(A1) \quad V_h^r \subset W_r^{1,2}(D) \cap L_{1/r}^2(D), \quad V_h^z \subset W_r^{1,2}(D);$$

$$(A2) \quad \text{an integer } k \geq 1 \text{ and a positive constant } C \text{ exist, independent of } h \text{ and } u, v \text{ such that}$$

$$\forall v \in W_r^{k+1,2}(D) \cap X_1(D) \quad \exists v_h \in V_h^r:$$

$$(3.1) \quad \|v - v_h\|_{X_1(D)} \leq Ch^k \|v\|_{k+1,r,D};$$

$$\forall u \in W_r^{k+1,2}(D) \quad \exists u_h \in V_h^z:$$

$$(3.2) \quad \|u - u_h\|_{1,r,D} \leq Ch^k \|u\|_{k+1,r,D};$$

$$(3.3) \quad \text{if } v v_r + u v_z = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_g, \text{ then } v_h v_r + u_h v_z = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_g.$$

Let us define

$$V(h) = \{(p_r, p_z) \in V_h^r \times V_h^z\}; \quad Q_{0h} = V(h) \cap Q_0.$$

It is readily seen that for any  $\mathbf{p} \in V(h)$  we obtain  $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{p} \in L_r^2(D)$ , so that  $\mathbf{p} \in H_r(\operatorname{div}, D)$ . Moreover,

$$Q_{0h} = \{\mathbf{p} \in V(h) \mid \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_g\}.$$

We call  $\mathbf{q}^h \in Q_{0h}$  a finite-element approximation to the dual problem (2.11), if

$$(3.4) \quad \mathbf{q}^h = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{p} \in Q_{0h}} \psi(\mathbf{p}).$$

In order to prove the convergence of approximations, we shall need the following

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $D$  be a bounded domain with a Lipschitz boundary  $\partial D$ , which consists of a finite number of infinitely smooth parts. Then the set*

$$\mathcal{M} = \{\mathbf{q} \in [C^\infty(\bar{D})]^2 \mid \operatorname{supp} \mathbf{q} \cap \Gamma_g = \emptyset\}$$

is dense in the subspace  $Q_0$ .

Proof is based on the following property of any Banach space (cf. [7] – Thm. 2.6, p. 29): A subspace  $\mathcal{M}$  of the space  $B$  is dense in  $B$  if and only if every element of the dual space  $B'$  that vanishes on  $\mathcal{M}$  also vanishes on  $B$ .

Let  $f \in Q'_0$ . There exist  $\mathbf{F} \in H_r(\operatorname{div}, D)$  and  $F_0 \in L_r^2(D)$  such that

$$(3.5) \quad f(\mathbf{q}) = (F_r, q_r)_{0,r,D} + (F_z, q_z)_{0,r,D} + (F_0, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q})_{0,r,D}.$$

Assume that  $f$  vanishes on the set  $\mathcal{M}$ . Since

$$[C_{0,r}^\infty(D)]^2 \subset \mathcal{M},$$

we obtain

$$\mathbf{F} = \operatorname{grad} F_0$$

in the sense of distributions, so that  $F_0 \in W_r^{1,2}(D)$ . By definition and (3.5), we have for any  $\mathbf{q} \in Q_0$

$$(3.6) \quad f(\mathbf{q}) = (\operatorname{grad} F_0, \mathbf{q})_{0,r,D} + (F_0, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q})_{0,r,D} = \langle \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v}, \gamma F_0 \rangle.$$

Moreover, we can verify that

$$(3.7) \quad \gamma F_0 = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_u, \text{ so that } F_0 \in V.$$

In fact, assume that

$$\|\gamma F_0\|_{0,r,\Gamma_u \cap S} > 0$$

on some infinitely smooth part  $S$  of  $\partial D$ .

Let us define

$$C_{0,r}^\infty(\Gamma) = \{\varphi \in C^\infty(\bar{\Gamma}) \mid \operatorname{supp} \varphi \cap (\partial\Gamma \div \bar{\Gamma}_0) = \emptyset\}.$$

It is easy to verify that: (i)  $C_{0,r}^\infty(\Gamma_u \cap S)$  is dense in  $L_r^2(\Gamma_u \cap S)$  and (ii) for any  $\varphi \in C_{0,r}^\infty(\Gamma_u \cap S)$  there exists  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{M}$  such that  $\mathbf{p} \cdot \nu = \varphi$  on  $\Gamma_u \cap S$ ,  $\mathbf{p} \cdot \nu = 0$  outside  $\Gamma_u \cap S$ .

Then using (3.6), we arrive at a contradiction with the assumption that

$$f(\mathbf{p}) = \langle \mathbf{p} \cdot \nu, \gamma F_0 \rangle = \int_{\Gamma_u \cap S} \mathbf{p} \cdot \nu \gamma F_0 r \, ds = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{M}.$$

For  $\mathbf{q} \in Q_0$ , we have

$$f(\mathbf{q}) = \langle \mathbf{q} \cdot \nu, \gamma F_0 \rangle = 0$$

by virtue of (3.6), (3.7) and the definition of  $Q_0$ . Hence  $f$  vanishes on the whole space  $Q_0$  and therefore  $\mathcal{M}$  is dense in  $Q_0$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $D$  be a bounded domain with (Lipschitz) polygonal boundary. Then*

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \|\mathbf{q}^h - \mathbf{q}^*\|_{\text{div}, D} = 0$$

where  $\mathbf{q}^h$  and  $\mathbf{q}^*$  is the finite-element approximation (3.4) and the solution of the dual problem (2.11), respectively.

*Proof.* The definition (2.11) of  $\mathbf{q}^*$  results in

$$(\mathbf{q}^*, \mathbf{p})_C = l(\mathbf{p}) \quad \forall \mathbf{p} \in Q_0,$$

whereas the definition (3.4) of  $\mathbf{q}^h$  implies

$$(\mathbf{q}^h, \mathbf{p}^h)_C = l(\mathbf{p}^h), \quad \forall \mathbf{p}^h \in Q_{0h},$$

where

$$l(\mathbf{p}) = -(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}^{*0})_C - \int_D a_0^{-1} f \operatorname{div} \mathbf{p} r \, dr \, dz + \langle \mathbf{p} \cdot \nu, \gamma u_0 \rangle.$$

By subtraction we obtain

$$(\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{q}^h, \mathbf{p}^h)_C = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{p}^h \in Q_{0h},$$

i.e.,  $\mathbf{q}^h$  is the orthogonal projection of  $\mathbf{q}^*$  onto  $Q_{0h}$  in  $H_r(\operatorname{div}, D)$ . Therefore

$$(3.8) \quad \|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{q}^h\|_C \leq \|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{p}^h\|_C \quad \forall \mathbf{p}^h \in Q_{0h}.$$

Using Proposition 3.1, we obtain

$$\forall \eta > 0 \quad \exists \mathbf{t} \equiv (t_r, t_z) \in [C^\infty(\bar{D})]^2 \cap Q_0$$

such that

$$(3.9) \quad \|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{t}\|_{\text{div}, D} < \eta/2.$$

By virtue of the assumption (A2), one can find an element

$$\mathbf{t}^h \equiv (t_r^h, t_z^h) \in Q_{0h}$$

such that

$$(3.10) \quad \|\mathbf{t}^h - \mathbf{t}\|_{\text{div}, D} \leq Ch^k (\|t_r\|_{k+1,r,D} + \|t_z\|_{k+1,r,D}).$$

In fact, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\operatorname{div} \mathbf{p}\|_{0,r,D}^2 &= \int_D \left( \frac{1}{r} p_r + \frac{\partial p_r}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial p_z}{\partial z} \right)^2 r \, dr \, dz \leq \\ &\leq 3(\|p_r\|_{0,1/r,D}^2 + |p_r|_{1,r,D}^2 + |p_z|_{1,r,D}^2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\|p_r\|_{0,r,D} \leq C \|p_r\|_{0,1/r,D},$$

so that we may write

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{p}\|_{\operatorname{div},D}^2 &\leq (3 + C) \|p_r\|_{0,1/r,D}^2 + 3|p_r|_{1,r,D}^2 + 3\|p_z\|_{1,r,D}^2 \\ &\leq C(\|p_r\|_{X_1(D)}^2 + \|p_z\|_{1,r,D}^2). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, using (A2), we obtain (3.10) as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \|t^h - \mathbf{t}\|_{\operatorname{div},D} &\leq C(\|t_r^h - t_r\|_{X_1(D)} + \|t_z^h - t_z\|_{1,r,D}) \leq \\ &\leq Ch^k(\|t_r\|_{k+1,r,D} + \|t_z\|_{k+1,r,D}). \end{aligned}$$

Combining (3.8), the equivalence of norms and (3.10), we may write

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{q}^h - \mathbf{q}^*\|_{\operatorname{div},D} &\leq C_1 \|\mathbf{q}^h - \mathbf{q}^*\|_C \leq C_1 \|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{t}^h\|_C \leq \\ &\leq C_2 \|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{t}^h\|_{\operatorname{div},D} \leq C_2(\|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{t}\|_{\operatorname{div},D} + \|\mathbf{t} - \mathbf{t}^h\|_{\operatorname{div},D}) \leq \\ &\leq C_2\eta/2 + C_3h^k(\|t_r\|_{k+1,r,D} + \|t_z\|_{k+1,r,D}) < \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

for  $\eta$  and  $h$  sufficiently small.

Q.E.D.

**Corollary 3.1.** *Let us assume that the solution of the dual problem (2.11)  $\mathbf{q}^* \in [W_r^{k+1,2}(D)]^2$ ,  $k \geq 1$ . Then*

$$\|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{q}^h\|_{\operatorname{div},D} \leq Ch^k(\|q_r^*\|_{k+1,r,D} + [q_z^*]_{k+1,r,D}).$$

Proof follows immediately from the argument of Theorem 3.1, setting  $\mathbf{t} \equiv \mathbf{q}^*$ .

**Remark 3.1.** From Theorem 3.1 (or Corollary 3.1) we obtain approximation to the cogradient and to the solution, as well. In fact, Theorem 2.2 implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{cograd} u &= \mathbf{q}^* + \mathbf{q}^{*0}, \\ u &= a_0^{-1}(\operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}^* + \lambda_0^0). \end{aligned}$$

Inserting  $\mathbf{q}^h$  instead of  $\mathbf{q}^*$ , we arrive at the following approximations

$$(3.11) \quad \begin{aligned} (\operatorname{cograd} u)_h &= \mathbf{q}^h + \mathbf{q}^{*0}, \\ u_h &= a_0^{-1}(\operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}^h + \lambda_0^0). \end{aligned}$$

Using Theorem 3.1, we obtain

$$(3.12) \quad \begin{aligned} \|\operatorname{cograd} u - (\operatorname{cograd} u)_h\|_{0,r,D} + \|u - u_h\|_{0,r,D} &= \\ = \|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{q}^h\|_{0,r,D} + \|a_0^{-1} \operatorname{div} (\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{q}^h)\|_{0,r,D} &\leq C \|\mathbf{q}^* - \mathbf{q}^h\|_{\operatorname{div},D} \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

4. EXAMPLES OF FINITE-ELEMENT SUBSPACES

In the present Section we show examples of subspaces  $V_h^r$  and  $V_h^z$ , satisfying assumptions (A1), (A2). For details we refer to the papers [4] and [8].

Let us consider a bounded domain  $D$  with polygonal (Lipschitz) boundary  $\partial D$  and triangulations  $\mathcal{T}_h$ , which are consistent with the decomposition  $\partial D = \Gamma_0 \cup \bar{\Gamma}_u \cup \cup \bar{\Gamma}_g$ . For any triangle  $K \subset \mathcal{T}_h$  we introduce a local interpolation mapping

$$\Pi_K^k: C(K) \rightarrow P_k(K),$$

where  $k = 1$  or  $k = 2$  and  $P_k(K)$  denotes the space of polynomial functions of the degree at most  $k$ , and such that  $\Pi_K^k u(Q) = u(Q)$  at the nodal points  $Q \in \partial K$ . If  $k = 1$ , the nodal points are the vertices, if  $k = 2$ , vertices and the midpoints of sides.

We define the spaces

$$\Sigma_h^k = \{v \in C(\bar{D}) \mid v|_K \in P_k(K) \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h\}, \quad k = 1, 2$$

and global interpolation mappings

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_h^k: C(\bar{D}) &\rightarrow \Sigma_h^k, \\ \Pi_h^k u|_K &= \Pi_K^k u \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h. \end{aligned}$$

Let us define

$$h = \max_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} (\text{diam } K)$$

and assume that the family  $\{\mathcal{T}_h\}$ ,  $h \rightarrow 0$  of triangulations is regular, i.e., a positive  $\vartheta$  exists such that all internal angles in  $\mathcal{T}_h$  are not less than  $\vartheta$ .

Then we have the following estimate

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{aligned} |u - \Pi_h^k u|_{1,r,D} + \|u - \Pi_h^k u\|_{0,1/r,D} &\leq Ch^k |u|_{k+1,r,D} \\ \forall u \in W_r^{k+1,2}(D) \cap X_1(D). \end{aligned}$$

For the proof we refer to [4]-Lemma 6.1, 6.2, 6.3. Recall that  $W_r^{2,2}(D) \hookrightarrow C(\bar{D})$  holds and if  $u \in X_1(D) \cap C(\bar{D})$ , then  $u = 0$  on  $\Gamma_0$ . Therefore,  $\Pi_h^k u = 0$  on  $\Gamma_0$ , as well.

Thus setting

$$V_h^r = \{w \in \Sigma_h^k \mid w = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_0\},$$

$v_h = \Pi_h^k v$ , the assumptions (A1) and (A2) – (3.1) will be satisfied, as far as  $V_h^r$  is concerned.

If we define

$$V_h^z = \Sigma_h^k, \quad u_h = \Pi_h^k u,$$

then (A2) – (3.2) is fulfilled, since

$$|u - \Pi_h^k u|_{1,r,D} \leq Ch^k |u|_{k+1,r,D} \quad \forall u \in W_r^{k+1,2}(D)$$

holds (cf. [4]-Lemma 6.1, 6.2) and

$$\|u - \Pi_h^k u\|_{0,r,D} \leq Ch^{k+1} |u|_{k+1,r,D} \quad \forall u \in W_r^{k+1,2}(D)$$

can be derived following the same way as in the proof of Lemma 6.1, 6.2 of [4].

Let us verify (A2) – (3.3). Let

$$vv_r + uv_z = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_g \cap K = S$$

where  $S$  is any side on the polygonal boundary  $\Gamma_g$ . By definition, we have

$$\varphi_h \equiv (\Pi_h^k v) v_r + (\Pi_h^k u) v_z = vv_r + uv_z = 0$$

at the nodes  $A_j \in S$ . Since the restriction  $\varphi_h|_S \in P_k(S)$ ,  $\varphi_h$  vanishes on the side  $S$ , i.e., (3.3) is true.

## 5. A POSTERIORI ERROR ESTIMATES AND TWO-SIDED BOUNDS OF ENERGY

Suppose that we have solved the problem from two sides:

(i) by the primal method, using a standard finite element model [4], which yields the approximation

$$u_{h_1} = u_0 + w_{h_1}, \quad w_{h_1} \in \Sigma_{h_1}^k \cap V, \quad (k = 1 \text{ or } k = 2),$$

( $u_{h_1}$  is defined by the condition

$$a(u_{h_1}, v_{h_1}) = L(v_{h_1}) \quad \forall v_{h_1} \in \Sigma_{h_1}^k \cap V);$$

(ii) by the dual method of Section 3, which yields the approximations

$$\lambda^h = \lambda^0 + (q_r^h, q_z^h, \text{div } \mathbf{q}^h),$$

where  $\lambda^0 \in Q_{fg}$  and  $\mathbf{q}^h$  is the solution of (3.4).

**Lemma 5.1.** Let  $C = \max \{ \|a_r\|_{\infty,D}; \|a_z\|_{\infty,D}; \|a_0\|_{\infty,D} \}$ . Then

$$(5.1) \quad c^{1/2} \|u_{h_1} - u\|_{1,r,D} \leq \|\mathbf{q}(u_{h_1}) - \mathbf{q}(u)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \|\mathbf{q}(u_{h_1}) - \lambda^h\|_{\mathcal{X}},$$

$$(5.2) \quad C^{-1/2} \|\lambda^h - \mathbf{q}(u)\|_{0,r,D} \leq \|\lambda^h - \mathbf{q}(u)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \|\mathbf{q}(u_{h_1}) - \lambda^h\|_{\mathcal{X}}.$$

*Proof.* It is readily seen that (cf. Section 2)

$$\mathbf{q}(u_{h_1}) - \mathbf{q}(u) \in \mathcal{H}_1, \quad \mathbf{q}(u) \in Q_{fg} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda^h \in Q_{fg}$$

by virtue of (2.9).

Using Lemma 2.1, we may write

$$(5.3) \quad \|\mathbf{q}(u_{h_1}) - \lambda^h\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2 = \|\mathbf{q}(u_{h_1}) - \mathbf{q}(u)\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2 + \|\mathbf{q}(u) - \lambda^h\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2.$$

Moreover, from (1.4) and the definition of  $\mathbf{q}(v)$  we obtain

$$(5.4) \quad c\|v\|_{1,r,D}^2 \leq \|\mathbf{q}(v)\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2 \quad \forall v \in W_r^{1,2}(D).$$

$$(5.5) \quad \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2 \geq C^{-1}\|\mathbf{q}\|_{0,r,D}^2 \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H}.$$

The estimates (5.1), (5.2) follow from (5.3)–(5.5) immediately.

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let us denote*

$$a(v, v) \equiv \|v\|_A^2.$$

*Then we have*

$$(5.6) \quad \|u_{h_1} - u_0\|_A \leq \|u - u_0\|_A \leq \|\lambda^h - \mathbf{q}(u_0)\|_{\mathcal{X}}.$$

*Proof.* Recall that we may write

$$u = u_0 + w, \quad w \in V \quad \text{and} \quad u_{h_1} = u_0 + w_{h_1}, \quad w_{h_1} \in V \cap \Sigma_{h_1}^k,$$

$$a(u, w) = L(w) \quad \text{and} \quad a(u_{h_1}, w_{h_1}) = L(w_{h_1}).$$

Denoting by

$$\mathcal{L}(v) = \frac{1}{2}\|v\|_A^2 - L(v)$$

the potential energy, we obtain that

$$(5.7) \quad \begin{aligned} 2\mathcal{L}(u) + 2L(u_0) &= \|u\|_A^2 - 2L(w) = \|u\|_A^2 = 2a(u, w) = \\ &= \|u - w\|_A^2 - \|w\|_A^2 = \|u_0\|_A^2 - \|w\|_A^2. \end{aligned}$$

In the same way, we deduce that

$$2\mathcal{L}(u_{h_1}) + 2L(u_0) = \|u_0\|_A^2 - \|w_{h_1}\|_A^2.$$

Then

$$0 \leq 2[\mathcal{L}(u_{h_1}) - \mathcal{L}(u)] = -\|w_{h_1}\|_A^2 + \|w\|_A^2,$$

since  $u_{h_1} \in u_0 + V$  and  $u$  is the minimizer of  $\mathcal{L}$  over  $u_0 + V$ . Consequently, the left-hand inequality in (5.6) follows.

By a direct calculation we can derive that

$$\mathcal{L}(u) + \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}(u)) + L(u_0) - \frac{1}{2}\|u_0\|_A^2 = 0.$$

Using also Theorem 2.1 and recalling that  $\lambda^h \in Q_{fg}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} -2[\mathcal{L}(u) + L(u_0)] &= 2\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}(u)) - \|u_0\|_A^2 \leq 2\mathcal{L}(\lambda^h) - \|u_0\|_A^2 = \\ &= \|\lambda^h - \mathbf{q}(u_0)\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2 - \|u_0\|_A^2. \end{aligned}$$

The left-hand side, however, is equal to

$$\|w\|_A^2 - \|u_0\|_A^2,$$

by virtue of (5.7). Consequently, the right-hand inequality of (5.6) follows.

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Souhrn

## DUÁLNÍ ANALÝZA OSOVĚ SYMETRICKÝCH ELIPTICKÝCH PROBLÉMŮ S ABSOLUTNÍM ČLENEM METODOU KONEČNÝCH PRVKŮ

IVAN HLAVÁČEK

Uvažuje se osově symetrická eliptická úloha se smíšenými okrajovými podmínkami v cylindrických souřadnicích. K přímému výpočtu kogradientu řešení je aplikována duální variační formulace. Aproximace se definují na základě standardních prostorů konečných prvků. Dokazuje se konvergence přibližných řešení a některé aposteriorní odhady.

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