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An equilibrated a posteriori error estimator for the curl–curl problem

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- 1 Equilibration for the Poisson problem
- 2 Equilibration for the curl-curl problem

The Poisson problem

Poisson problem

Consider a Lipschitz polyhedral domain Ω and $f \in L^2(\Omega)$.

Our first model problem is to find $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ such that

$$(\nabla u, \nabla v)_\Omega = (f, v)_\Omega$$

for all $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$.

u_h is the Lagrange FEM approximation of u with degree $p + 1$.

For the sake of simplicity, I will assume that $f = f_h \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathcal{T}_h)$.

The idea of flux equilibration

Assume that we have a field $\sigma_h \in H(\text{div}, \Omega)$ such that

$$\nabla \cdot \sigma_h = f_h \text{ in } \Omega$$

at our disposal.

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(\nabla(u - u_h), \nabla v)_\Omega &= (f_h, v)_\Omega - (\nabla u_h, \nabla v) \\&= (\nabla \cdot \sigma_h, v)_\Omega - (\nabla u_h, \nabla v) \\&= -(\sigma_h + \nabla u_h, \nabla v),\end{aligned}$$

for all $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ and in particular

$$\|\nabla(u - u_h)\|_\Omega \leq \|\sigma_h + \nabla u_h\|_\Omega.$$

Prager-Synge theorem

Equilibrated flux

$$\sigma_h \in H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega); \quad \nabla \cdot \sigma_h = f_h \text{ in } \Omega$$

Error estimate

$$\|\nabla(u - u_h)\|_{\Omega} \leq \|\sigma_h + \nabla u_h\|_{\Omega}.$$



W. Prager and J.L. Synge, 1947

The particular choice $\sigma := -\nabla u$ saturates the bound.

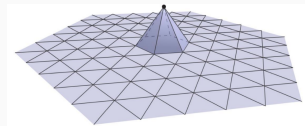
Local flux constructions

The idea flux would be $\sigma := -\nabla u$.

Let's characterize it locally and cook up a discrete computable version.

Let us set

$$\sigma^a := \psi_a \sigma$$



where ψ_a is the “hat function” associated with the vertex a , so that

$$\sigma = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \sigma^a.$$

Characterization of the local contributions

We know that $\sigma^a := -\psi_a \nabla u$. So that in particular

$$\sigma^a \in H_0(\text{div}, \omega_a)$$

where ω_a is the set of tetrahedra $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$ sharing the vertex a , and

$$\nabla \cdot \sigma^a = \psi_a f_h - \nabla \psi_a \cdot \nabla u.$$

As a result, we have the characterization

$$\sigma^a = \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in H_0(\text{div}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \psi_a f_h - \nabla \psi_a \cdot \nabla u}} \|\mathbf{v} + \psi_a \nabla u\|_{\omega_a},$$

since the minimum is zero and achieved when $\mathbf{v} = -\psi_a \nabla u$.

Discrete construction

Recall that

$$\sigma^a = \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in H_0(\operatorname{div}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \psi_a f_h - \nabla \psi_a \cdot \nabla u}} \|\mathbf{v} + \psi_a \nabla u\|_{\omega_a}.$$

As a discrete counterpart, we set

$$\sigma_h^a := \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in RT_{p+1}(\mathcal{T}_h^a) \cap H_0(\operatorname{div}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = \psi_a f_h - \nabla \psi_a \cdot \nabla u_h}} \|\mathbf{v}_h + \psi_a \nabla u_h\|_{\omega_a}.$$

This is indeed well-defined since

$$(\psi_a f - \nabla \psi_a \cdot \nabla u_h, 1)_{\omega_a} = (f, \psi_a)_{\Omega} - (\nabla u_h, \nabla \psi_a)_{\omega_a} = 0$$

whenever $a \notin \partial\Omega$.

Summation provides an equilibrated flux:

$$\sigma_h := \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \sigma_h^a,$$

and reliability follows from the Prager–Synge theorem.

Efficiency

$$\|\sigma_h + \nabla u_h\|_K \lesssim \|\nabla(u - u_h)\|_{\tilde{K}}$$

The hidden constant does not depend on p .

The curl-curl problem

The curl-curl problem

For the sake of simplicity, assume that Ω is simply connected, and consider a divergence-free right-hand side $\mathbf{J}_h \in \mathbf{RT}_p(\mathcal{T}_h)$.

Our model problem is then to find $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega)$ such that

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{A}, \nabla \times \mathbf{v})_\Omega = (\mathbf{J}_h, \mathbf{v})_\Omega, \quad (\mathbf{A}, \nabla q)_\Omega = 0,$$

for all $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega)$ and $q \in H_0^1(\Omega)$.

$\mathbf{A}_h \in \mathbf{N}_p(\mathcal{T}_h) \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega)$ is the Nédélec approximation of \mathbf{A} .

Prager-Synge theorem

Equilibrated flux

$$\mathbf{B}_h \in H(\text{curl}, \Omega); \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{B}_h = \mathbf{J}_h$$

Error estimate

$$\|\nabla \times (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}_h)\|_{\Omega} \leq \|\mathbf{B}_h - \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h\|_{\Omega}$$

The “ideal” flux $\mathbf{B} := \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$ saturates the bound.

The issue with localization (1/2)

We follow the same steps than for the Poisson problem.

The ideal flux is $\mathbf{B} := \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$. If we set $\mathbf{B}^a := \psi_a \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$, then

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B}^a = \psi_a \mathbf{J}_h + \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A},$$

so that

$$\mathbf{B}^a = \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in H_0(\text{curl}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{v} = \psi_a \mathbf{J} + \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}}} \|\mathbf{v} - \psi_a \nabla \times \mathbf{A}\|_{\omega_a}.$$

The issue with localization (2/2)

Recall that

$$\mathbf{B}^a = \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in H_0(\text{curl}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{v} = \psi_a \mathbf{J}_h + \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}}} \|\mathbf{v} - \psi_a \nabla \times \mathbf{A}\|_{\omega_a}.$$

Unfortunately, we can not set

$$\mathbf{B}_h^a := \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in N_{p+1}(\mathcal{T}_h^a) \cap H_0(\text{curl}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{v}_h = \psi_a \mathbf{J}_h + \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h}} \|\mathbf{v}_h - \psi_a \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h\|_{\omega_a}$$

as the minimization set is empty: the field

$$\psi_a \mathbf{J}_h + \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h$$

is not divergence-free!

Possible solutions

An initial idea for lowest-order elements:



D. Braess and J. Schöberl, 2008

Recently developed extensions:



J. Gedicke, S. Geevers and I. Perugia, 2019



J. Gedicke, S. Geevers, I. Perugia and J. Schöberl, 2020



T. Chaumont-Frelet and M. Vohralík, 2021

Here, I will detail the last construction.

The idea

Let $\boldsymbol{\theta}^a := \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$. There are two important properties:

$$\sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \boldsymbol{\theta}^a = \mathbf{0}, \quad \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\theta}^a = -\nabla \psi_a \cdot \mathbf{J}_h.$$

At the discrete level, we have

$$\sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} (\nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \nabla \cdot (\nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h) \neq -\nabla \psi_a \cdot \mathbf{J}_h.$$

It is tempting to set

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_h^a := \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in RT_p(\mathcal{T}_h^a) \cap H_0(\text{div}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = -\nabla \psi_a \cdot \mathbf{J}_h}} \|\mathbf{v} - \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h\|_{\omega_a},$$

but it does not sum up to zero.

Trick #1: Over-constrained minimization

We instead set

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h^a := \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in RT_p(\mathcal{T}_h^a) \cap H_0(\text{div}, \omega_a) \\ (\mathbf{v} - \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h, \mathbf{r})_{\omega_a} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{P}_0(\mathcal{T}_h^a) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = -\nabla \psi_a \cdot \mathbf{J}_h}} \|\mathbf{v} - \nabla \psi_a \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h\|_{\omega_a},$$

where the mean-value constrain works because \mathbf{A}_h solves the discrete problem. We then set

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h := \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h^a.$$

Importantly, we have

$$(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h, \mathbf{r})_{\Omega} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{P}_0(\mathcal{T}_h).$$

Trick #2: Divergence-free decomposition of $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ (1/2)

The $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h^{\mathbf{a}}$ have the correct divergence, but does not sum up to zero.
We need a divergence-free decomposition of $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h$ into contributions $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h^{\mathbf{a}}$.

We set for each $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h$ and $K \in \mathcal{T}_h^{\mathbf{a}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h^{\mathbf{a}}|_K := \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{RT}_{p+1}(K) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = 0 \\ \mathbf{v}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_K = \psi_{\mathbf{a}} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_K \text{ on } \partial K}} \|\mathbf{v}_h - \psi_{\mathbf{a}} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h\|_K \end{aligned}$$

This is indeed well-posed since

$$\begin{aligned} (\psi_{\mathbf{a}} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_K, 1)_{\partial K} &= (\psi_{\mathbf{a}}, \widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_K)_{\partial K} \\ &= (\nabla \psi_{\mathbf{a}}, \widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h)_K + (\nabla \cdot \widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_h, \psi_{\mathbf{a}})_K \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Trick #2: Divergence-free decomposition of $\hat{\theta}$ (2/2)

We can then actually show that

$$\sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h} \tilde{\theta}_h^{\mathbf{a}} = \hat{\theta}_h,$$

so that setting

$$\theta_h^{\mathbf{a}} := \hat{\theta}_h^{\mathbf{a}} - \tilde{\theta}_h^{\mathbf{a}} \in \mathbf{H}_0(\text{div}, \omega_{\mathbf{a}}),$$

we have

$$\nabla \cdot \theta_h^{\mathbf{a}} = -\nabla \psi_{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \mathbf{J}_h, \quad \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{V}_h} \theta_h^{\mathbf{a}} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Local flux construction and efficiency

Since the θ_h^a have all the required properties, we can now set

$$\mathbf{B}_h^a := \arg \min_{\substack{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{N}_{p+1}(\mathcal{T}_h^a) \cap \mathbf{H}_0(\operatorname{curl}, \omega_a) \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{v}_h = \psi_a \mathbf{J}_h + \theta_h^a}} \|\mathbf{v}_h - \psi_a \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h\|_{\omega_a},$$

and we construct an equilibrated flux as

$$\mathbf{B}_h := \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_h} \mathbf{B}_h^a.$$

Efficiency

$$\|\mathbf{B}_h - \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_h\|_K \lesssim \|\nabla \times (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}_h)\|_{\tilde{K}}$$

The hidden constant does not depend on p .



T. Chaumont-Frelet, A. Ern and M. Vohralík, 2021