

## Adaptive Finite Element Method Based on Optimal Error Estimates for Linear Elliptic Problems on Concave Corner Domains (continuation) \*

TANG Yan<sup>1</sup>, ZHENG Xuan<sup>2</sup>

- (1. School of Sciences, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300072, China;  
2. Tianjin Institute of Urban Construction, Tianjin 300381, China )

**Abstract:** This paper is the third part in a series of papers on adaptive finite element methods based on optimal error estimates for linear elliptic problems on the concave corner domains. In this paper, a result is obtained. The algorithms for error control both in the energy norm and in the maximum norm presented in part 1 and part 2 of this series are based on this result.

**Key words:** adaptive finite element method; concave corner domain; elliptic problems.

**Classification:** AMS(2000) 65N15, 65N30/CLC number: O241.82

**Document code:** A      **Article ID:** 1000-341X(2004)02-0273-07

The purpose of this series of papers is to present an adaptive finite element method for the approximate solution of linear elliptic problems. The method is based on optimal a priori error estimate for the finite element method, and the regularity of the unknown exact solution is estimated in terms of difference quotients of computed approximate solutions.

This is the third part in a series of papers on adaptive finite element methods based on optimal error estimates for linear elliptic problems on the concave corner domains. In the preceding two papers<sup>[6,7]</sup>, we presented an adaptive finite element method for the approximate solution of linear elliptic problems on concave corner domains. The algorithms that we presented in the Part 1 and Part 2 are based on the result of this paper.

The problem of constructing adaptive finite element methods is of great practical importance. For pioneering work we refer to [1], [2], [3].

Now we recall that our algorithm applied to this problem could generate in at most two steps of successive adaptive refinements a mesh  $T$  and the corresponding approximate solution  $U$  so that  $\|\nabla(u - U)\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \leq \delta$  for any given tolerance  $\delta > 0$ . And furthermore we had that  $\|u - U\|_{L_\infty(\Omega)} \leq C(\delta \lg \frac{1}{\delta} + \delta^{1-(1-\beta/2)^{n+1}})$ . The above methods that we got are based on a very important result that  $|\nabla(u - U)| \leq Ch(x)|x|^{\beta-2}$ ,  $|x| \geq C'h$ . In this paper, we will prove the above result.

---

\*Received date: 2002-12-21

Biography: TANG Yan (1958- ), male, Lecture.

## 1. A model problem

As a model problem, we will consider the Poisson equation

$$-\Delta u = f \text{ in } \Omega, \quad u = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, \quad (1)$$

where  $\Omega$  has a concave corner with the interior angle  $\pi/\beta$ ,  $\frac{1}{2} \leq \beta < 1$ .

We assume that  $f$  is a smooth function and that the vertex of the concave corner is located at the origin. We have<sup>[4]</sup>

$$|D^\alpha u(x)| \leq c|x|^{\beta-|\alpha|}, \quad x \in \Omega, |\alpha| \leq 3. \quad (2)$$

Furthermore, assume that for some positive constant  $C$

$$|D^2 u(x)| \geq C|x|^{\beta-2}, \quad x \in \Omega, \quad (3)$$

so that the exact solution has a non-trivial singularity near the reentrant corner at the origin.

For the discretization of the problem and for triangles  $K$  of the partitions  $T$  of polygonal domain  $\Omega$ , we will assume that

$$ch_K^2 \leq \int_K dx, \quad \forall K \in T.$$

For triangulations  $T$ , we define the corresponding space of continuous piecewise linear functions vanishing on the boundary  $\Gamma$  of  $\Omega$

$$V_h = \{v \in C(\bar{\Omega}) : v|_K \in P_1(K), v|_\Gamma = 0, \forall K \in T\}$$

and the corresponding approximate solution  $U \in V_h$  of the given model problem is defined by

$$a(U, v) = (f, v), \quad \forall v \in V_h, \quad (4)$$

where  $a(w, v) = \int_\Omega \nabla w \cdot \nabla v dx$ ,  $(f, v) = \int_\Omega f v dx$ .

Under these assumptions, our algorithms will generate triangulations of  $\Omega$  with the following characteristics: With  $h > 0$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha < 1$  and  $d \geq h^{1/(1-\alpha)}$  for  $x \in K \in T$ , we have

$$h_K \sim h(x) = \begin{cases} h|x|^\alpha, & |x| \geq d, \\ hd^\alpha, & |x| < d, \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where  $h(x)$  is the local mesh size at  $x$ .

It is well known that<sup>[5]</sup>

$$\|v - v_i\|_{L_P(K)} + h_K \|\nabla(v - v_i)\|_{L_P(K)} \leq Ch_K^2 \|D^2 v\|_{L_P(K)}, \quad K \in T, \quad (6)$$

where  $v_i \in V_h$  is the Lagrange interpolate of  $v$ . And we have proved the following<sup>[6],[7]</sup>

**Theorem 1** Let  $u$  be the solution of (1) satisfying (2) and (3), and  $U \in V_h$  be determined

by (4) on a partition  $T$  of  $\Omega$  as in (5) with  $\alpha = 1 - \beta/2$ . Then there is a constant  $C$  such that

$$|D^2u - D^{2,h}U| \leq \frac{1}{2}D^2u, \quad |x| \geq C\underline{h}, \quad (7)$$

$$|D^{2,h}U| \leq C\underline{h}^{\beta-2}, \quad |x| \leq C\underline{h}, \quad (8)$$

where  $\underline{h} = h d^\alpha$ .

**Theorem 2** Let  $u$  be the solution of (1) satisfying (2). Under the assumptions of Theorem 1, there are constants  $C_1$  and  $C$  such that

$$|u(x) - U(x)| \leq C_1 \begin{cases} \log \frac{1}{h(x)} h(x)^2 |x|^{\beta-2} + \underline{h}^{2\beta} |x|^{-\beta}, & |x| \geq C\underline{h}, \\ \underline{h}^\beta, & |x| \leq C\underline{h}. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Our analysis for Theorems 1 and 2 is based on the following theorem

**Theorem 3** Let  $u$  be the solution of (1) satisfying (2), (3), and  $U \in V_h$  be determined by (4) on a partition  $T$  of  $\Omega$  as in (5) with  $\alpha = 1 - \beta/2$ . Then there are constants  $C$  and  $C'$  such that

$$|\nabla(u(x) - U(x))| \leq C h(x) |x|^{\beta-2}, \quad |x| \geq C' \underline{h}. \quad (10)$$

In preparation for the proof of Theorem 3 we will give a useful estimate for the Green's function  $G$  associate with the boundary value problem (1).

Let  $G(y, z)$  be the solution of

$$-\Delta G(y, z) = \delta(y - z) \text{ in } \Omega, \quad G(y, z) = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma,$$

where  $\delta$  is the delta distribution.

**Lemma** For domain  $\Omega$  in (1), there is a constant  $C$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y_k \partial y_j} G(y, z) \right| &\leq C \begin{cases} |y|^{\beta-2} |z|^{-\beta}, & |y| \leq \frac{1}{2}|z|, \\ |y - z|^{-2}, & |y| > \frac{1}{2}|z|. \end{cases} \\ \left| \frac{\partial^3}{\partial y_k \partial y_j \partial y_i} G(y, z) \right| &\leq C \begin{cases} |y|^{\beta-2} |z|^{-\beta-1}, & |y| \leq \frac{1}{2}|z|, \\ |y - z|^{-3}, & \frac{1}{2}|z| < |y| \leq 2|z|, \\ |y|^{-\beta-2} |z|^{\beta-1}, & 2|z| < |y|. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to verify the above estimates. Now we consider the proof of Theorem 3.

## 2. Proof of Theorem 3

**Proof** Let  $x \in K \in T$  and let  $\delta_K$  an approximate delta function on  $K$  such that

$$\int_K \delta_K(z) dz = 1,$$

and

$$\|\delta_K\|_{L_P(K)} \leq Ch_K^{-2+2/P}, \quad P = 1, 2. \quad (11)$$

With  $\partial_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , we have<sup>[8]</sup>

$$\|\nabla(u - U)\|_{L_\infty(K)} \leq Ch(x)|x|^{\beta-2} + \max_i |(u - U, \partial_i \delta_K)|, \quad (12)$$

In order to estimate the last term in (12), let  $\varphi = \varphi_i$  be solution of

$$-\Delta \varphi = \partial_i \delta_K, \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \varphi = 0, \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (13)$$

From the representation

$$\varphi(y) = \int_{\Omega} G(y, z) \partial_i \delta_K(z) dz = - \int_K \frac{\partial}{\partial z_i} G(y, z) \delta_K(z) dz, \quad y \in \Omega, i = 1, 2$$

where  $G(y, z)$  is the associated Green's function as above. Notice

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y_k \partial y_j} \varphi(y) = - \int_K \frac{\partial^3}{\partial y_k \partial y_j \partial z_i} G(y, z) \delta_K(z) dz, \quad i, k, j = 1, 2.$$

In view of (11) and lemma, we have

$$|D^2 \varphi(y)| \leq C \begin{cases} |y|^{\beta-2} |x|^{-\beta-1}, & |y| \leq \frac{1}{2} |x|, \\ |y - x|^{-3}, & \frac{1}{2} |x| < |y| \leq 2|x|, \\ |y|^{-\beta-2} |x|^{\beta-1}, & 2|x| < |y|. \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

From (14) and (11), we have

$$\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L_2(\Omega)}^2 = (-\Delta \varphi, \varphi) = (\partial_i \delta_K, \varphi) = (\delta_K, -\partial_i \varphi) \leq \|\delta_K\|_{L_2(K)} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L_2(\Omega)}, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

and hence

$$\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \leq Ch_K^{-1}. \quad (15)$$

Let  $\varphi_h \in V_h$  be the Ritz projection of  $\varphi$ ;

$$a(v, \varphi - \varphi_h) = 0, \quad v \in V_h$$

and put  $e = \varphi - \varphi_h$ ,  $\rho = u - u_i$ ,  $u_i \in V_h$  is the Lagrange interpolate of  $u$

$$(u - U, \partial_i \delta_K) = (u - U, -\Delta \varphi) = a(u - U, \varphi) = a(u - U, e) = a(\rho, e), \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (16)$$

By the same arguments as in [5], we get

$$\begin{aligned} |a(\rho, e)| &\leq C \left( \sum_{j \in J_0} \|\nabla \rho\|_{L_\infty(C_j)} d_j \|\nabla e\|_{C_j} + \|\nabla \rho\|_{L_\infty(B_M)} d_M \|\nabla e\|_{B_M} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. \sum_{j \in J_{12}} \|\nabla \rho\|_{L_\infty(E_j)} d_j \|\nabla e\|_{E_j} + \|\nabla \rho\|_{\Omega_I} \|\nabla e\|_{\Omega_I} \right) \leq C(\text{I} + \text{II}), \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
I &= h(x)|x|^{\beta-2} \sum_{j \in J_0} d_j \|\nabla e\|_{C_j} + \sum_{j \in J_{12}} h_j d_j^{\beta-1} \|\nabla e\|_{E_j} + \underline{h}^\beta \|\nabla e\|_{\Omega_I}, \\
II &= h(x)|x|^{\beta-2} d_M \|\nabla e\|_{B_M}, \\
B_j &= \{y \in \Omega : |y - x| \leq 2^{-j}\}, \\
C_j &= \{y \in \Omega : 2^{-j} < |y - x| \leq 2^{-j+1}\}, \\
\Omega_j &= \{y \in \Omega \setminus B_{m+2} : |y| \leq 2^{-j}\}, \\
E_j &= \{y \in \Omega \setminus B_{m+2} : 2^{-j} < |y| \leq 2^{-j+1}\}.
\end{aligned}$$

We define  $d_j = 2^{-j}$ ,  $m$  is determined by  $d_m < |x| \leq 2d_m$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
J_0 &= \{j \in Z : m+3 \leq j \leq M\}, \quad J_1 = \{j \in Z : j \leq m\}, \\
J_2 &= \{j \in Z : m+1 \leq j \leq I\}, \quad J_{12} = J_1 \cup J_2,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $I, M \in Z$  and  $Ch < d_I \leq 2Ch$ ,  $Ch(x) < d_M \leq 2Ch(x)$ .

We will show that for suitable choice of  $I$  and  $M$

$$\|\nabla e\| \leq C d_M, \quad (18)$$

$$I \leq \frac{1}{2}I + C(h(x)|x|^{\beta-2} + h(x)|x|^{\beta-2} d_M \|\nabla e\|_{B_M} + \underline{h}^{2\beta} |x|^{-\beta-1}). \quad (19)$$

Combining (12), (16), (17), (18) and (19) yields estimate (10), since

$$\underline{h}^{2\beta} \leq Ch(x) \underline{h}^{2\beta-1} \leq Ch(x) |x|^{2\beta-1}, \quad |x| \geq Ch.$$

By stability of the Ritz' projection, we have  $\|\nabla e\| \leq \|\nabla \varphi\|$ , and (18) follows at once from (15).

For the proof of (19) we recall the local error estimate<sup>[6]</sup>

$$\|\nabla e\|_{D_j} \leq C(\|\nabla(\varphi - \varphi_i)\|_{D'_j} + d_j^{-1} \|e\|_{D''_j}), \quad (20)$$

where  $\varphi_i \in V_h$  is the interpolate  $\varphi$ ,  $D_j$  may be any one of the sets  $C_j, E_j, \Omega_I$  and  $D'_j$  denotes the union of the sets  $D_j$  and its direct neighbors in the partition of  $\Omega$  into the sets  $C_j (j \geq m+3)$ ,  $E_j (j \in J_{12})$ ,  $\Omega_I$  and  $D'' = D' \setminus D$ .

According to (5), (6) (14), we have

$$\|\nabla(\varphi - \varphi_i)\|_{C'_j} \leq Ch(x) d_j^{-2}, \quad j \in J_0,$$

$$\|\nabla(\varphi - \varphi_i)\|_{E'_j} \leq C \begin{cases} h_j d_j^{\beta-1} |x|^{-\beta-1}, & j \in J_2, \\ h_j d_j^{\beta-1} |x|^{\beta-1}, & j \in J_1, \end{cases}$$

$$\|\nabla(\varphi - \varphi_i)\|_{\Omega'_I} \leq C \underline{h}^\beta |x|^{-\beta-1}$$

By the fact  $h(x) \leq C d_M$ ,  $h(x) \leq C|x|$ ,  $\underline{h} \leq C d_I$ , we find that

$$h(x)|x|^{\beta-2} \sum_{j \in J_0} d_j \|\nabla(\varphi - \varphi_i)\|_{C'_j} \leq Ch(x)^2 |x|^{\beta-2} \sum_{j \in J_0} d_j^{-1} \leq Ch(x)^2 |x|^{\beta-2} d_M^{-1} \leq Ch(x) |x|^{\beta-2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j \in J_{12}} h_j d_j^{\beta-1} \|\nabla(\varphi - \varphi_i)\|_{E_j'} &\leq C \left( \sum_{j \in J_2} h_j^2 d_j^{2\beta-2} |x|^{-\beta-1} + \sum_{j \in J_1} h_j^2 d_j^{-2} |x|^{\beta-1} \right) \\ &\leq C (\underline{h}^2 d_I^{2\beta-2} |x|^{-\beta-1} + h(x)^2 |x|^{\beta-3}) \leq C (\underline{h}^{2\beta} |x|^{-\beta-1} + h(x) |x|^{\beta-2}) \end{aligned}$$

using (20)

$$I \leq C(h(x)|x|^{\beta-2} + \underline{h}^{2\beta}|x|^{-\beta-1} + h(x)|x|^{\beta-2} \sum_{j \in J_0} \|e\|_{C_j} + \sum_{j \in J_{12}} h_j d_j^{\beta-2} \|e\|_{E_j} + \underline{h}^\beta d_I^{-1} \|e\|_{\Omega_I}) \quad (21)$$

In order to estimate the term  $\|e\|_{C_j}$ , let  $\psi = \psi_j$  be the solution of

$$-\Delta \psi = \varphi \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \psi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, \quad (22)$$

where  $\varphi = e/\|e\|_{C_j}$  in  $C_j$ ,  $\varphi = 0$  in  $\Omega \setminus C_j$ . Again we will use a representation of solution in terms of the Green's function. We have [4]

$$\psi(y) = \gamma r^\beta \sin \beta \vartheta + \psi_i(y), \quad (23)$$

where  $\gamma = \gamma_j = \int_{C_j} \xi(z) e(z) dz / \|e\|_{C_j}$ ,  $|\xi(z)| \leq C|z|^{-\beta}$  with

$$|\gamma_j| \leq C d_j |x|^{-\beta} \quad (24)$$

and

$$\|\psi_i\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \leq C. \quad (25)$$

By (5), (6), (23), (24), (25), we have

$$\|\nabla(\psi - \psi_i)\|_{C_k} \leq C h(x) \begin{cases} d_k d_j^{-1}, & k \in J_0, k \geq j, \\ d_k^{-1} d_j, & k \in J_0, k < j, \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

$$\|\nabla(\psi - \psi_i)\|_{B_M} \leq C h(x) d_M d_j^{-1}, \quad (27)$$

$$\|\nabla(\psi - \psi_i)\|_{E_k} \leq C h_k \begin{cases} d_k^{\beta-1} |x|^{-\beta} d_j, & k \in J_2, \\ d_k^{-1} d_j, & k \in J_1, \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

and finally, we get [6]

$$\|\nabla(\psi - \psi_i)\|_{\Omega_I} \leq C \underline{h}^\beta |x|^{-\beta} d_j. \quad (29)$$

By the standard duality arguments and (26), (27), (28), (29), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|e\|_{C_j} &\leq C \left( \sum_{k \in J_0, k \geq j} h(x) d_k d_j^{-1} \|\nabla e\|_{C_k} + \sum_{k \in J_0, k < j} h(x) d_k^{-1} d_j \|\nabla e\|_{C_k} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. h(x) d_M d_j^{-1} \|\nabla e\|_{B_M} + \sum_{k \in J_{12}} h_k d_k^{\beta-1} |x|^{-\beta} d_j \|\nabla e\|_{E_k} + \underline{h}^\beta |x|^{-\beta} d_j \|\nabla e\|_{\Omega_I} \right), \end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$C h(x) |x|^{\beta-2} \sum_{j \in J_0} \|e\|_{C_j} \leq \frac{1}{6} I + C h(x) |x|^{\beta-2} d_M \|\nabla e\|_{B_M}. \quad (30)$$

By the argument similar to used above, we find that

$$C \sum_{j \in J_{12}} h_j d_j^{\beta-2} \|e\|_{E_j} \leq \frac{1}{6} I + Ch(x) |x|^{\beta-2} d_M \|\nabla e\|_{B_M}, \quad (31)$$

$$Ch^\beta d_I^{-1} \|e\|_{\Omega_I} \leq \frac{1}{6} I + Ch(x) |x|^{\beta-2} d_M \|\nabla e\|_{B_M}. \quad (32)$$

The estimates (21), (30), (31), (32) complete the proof of the Theorem 3.

## References:

- [1] DIAZ A R, KIKUCHI N, TAYLOR J E. A method of grid optimization for the finite element method [J]. Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg., 1983, 41: 29-45.
- [2] ZHU C D, LIN Q. Superconvergence in the Finite Element Methods [M]. Changsha: Hunan Press of Technology and Science, 1989.
- [3] HUANG M Y. Finite Element Methods for Evolution Equations [M]. Shanghai: Shanghai Press of Technology and Science, 1988.
- [4] GRISVARD P. Behaviour of the Solutions of An Elliptic Bounder Value Problem in A Polygonal or Polyhedral Domain in Numerical Solution of Partial Differential Equations-III B hubbard, Ed [M]. New York: Academic Press, 1975, 207-274.
- [5] CIARLET P C. The Finite Element Method for Elliptic Problems [M]. North-Holland, Amsterdam-New York-Oxford, 1978, 110-168.
- [6] TANG Yan. Adaptive finite element method based on optimal error estimate for linear elliptic problems on concave corner domain [J]. Transaction of Tianjin Univ., 2001, 7(1): 64-66.
- [7] TANG Yan, ZHENG Xuan. Adaptive finite element method based on optimal error estimate for linear elliptic problems on nonconvex polygonal domains [J]. Transaction of Tianjin Univ., 2002, 8(4): 299-302.
- [8] ERIKSSON K, JOHNSON C. An adaptive Finite element method for linear elliptic problems [J]. Math. Comp., 1988, 182: 361-383.

## 自适应有限元方法在凹角域线性椭圆方程的应用 (续)

汤 雁<sup>1</sup>, 郑 璇<sup>2</sup>

(1. 天津大学理学院, 天津 300072; 2. 天津城建学院, 天津 300381)

**摘 要:** 作为序列文章自适应有限元方法在凹角域线性椭圆方程的应用的第三篇, 在本文我们将给出并详细论证一个重要结论即

$$|\nabla(u(x) - U(x))| \leq Ch(x) |x|^{\beta-2}, \quad |x| \geq C'h$$

且进一步分析说明在本序列文章的第一部分和地二部分得出方法都是以此为基础作出的.

**关键词:** 自适应有限元方法; 凹角域; 椭圆方程.