hp-FEM FOR SINGULAR PERTURBATIONS: BALANCED NORMS AND MULTIPLE SCALES

JENS MARKUS MELENK, BIRGIT PICHLER, AND CHRISTOS XENOPHONTOS

ABSTRACT. We consider the approximation of solutions of singularly perturbed elliptic equations. Two classes are studied. The first class consists of elliptic-elliptic problems. There, the classical Galerkin approximation is optimal in the so-called energy norm, which is, however, so weak that features within the layer are not well resolved. We show that robust exponential convergence of a high order FEM on suitable meshes is achieved also in a stronger, “balanced” norm. This latter norm is balanced in the sense that layer contributions are of size $O(1)$ uniformly in the perturbation parameter. Thus, the numerical approximation is also reliable in the layer. The second class consists of systems of singularly perturbed ODEs of elliptic-hyperbolic type with multiple scales. We discuss well-posedness of the variational formulations and robust convergence of an $h$-version Discontinuous Galerkin method on Shishkin meshes.

Keywords: hp-FEM, singular perturbation, balanced norms

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Institute for Analysis and Scientific Computing, Vienna University of Technology, Wiedner Hauptstrasse 8-10, 1040 Wien, Austria
E-mail address: melenk@tuwien.ac.at

TU Wien

Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Cyprus, P.O. Box 20537, 1678 Nicosia, Cyprus
E-mail address: xenophontos@ucy.ac.cy