

The nodal Lagrange basis functions of classical continuous Galerkin finite elements of approximation degree $N = 2$ on the unit triangle T_u with vertices $(0, 0)$, $(1, 0)$, $(0, 1)$ and $\boldsymbol{\xi} = (\xi, \eta)$ read as follows:

$$\phi_1(\xi, \eta) = 2\eta^2 + 4\xi\eta + 2\xi^2 - 3\eta - 3\xi + 1, \quad (1)$$

$$\phi_2(\xi, \eta) = -4\xi\eta - 4\xi^2 + 4\xi, \quad (2)$$

$$\phi_3(\xi, \eta) = 2\xi^2 - \xi, \quad (3)$$

$$\phi_4(\xi, \eta) = -4\xi\eta - 4\eta^2 + 4\eta, \quad (4)$$

$$\phi_5(\xi, \eta) = 4\xi\eta, \quad (5)$$

$$\phi_6(\xi, \eta) = 2\eta^2 - \eta. \quad (6)$$

It is easy to check that the above basis functions satisfy the interpolation property

$$\phi_i(\boldsymbol{\xi}_j) = \delta_{ij}, \quad (7)$$

on the nodes

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_1 = (0, 0), \quad (8)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}, 0\right), \quad (9)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_3 = (1, 0), \quad (10)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_4 = \left(0, \frac{1}{2}\right), \quad (11)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_5 = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right), \quad (12)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_6 = (0, 1). \quad (13)$$