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## Orthogonal Projections in Hilbert Spaces

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## Abstract

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This project is about the application of orthogonal projections in solving Poisson's equation on composite domains by using an iterative approach which is called *Schwarz Alternating Method*. This classic alternating method is both discussed theoretically and numerically in this paper. The theoretical part consists of the proof of the convergence and the rate of convergence of this method, while the numerical section involves the implementation of the algorithm in Matlab to test some theoretical conjectures.



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# CHAPTER 1

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## Introduction

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The present work is concerned with the application of the iterated product of orthogonal projections in Hilbert space in the form of *Schwarz Alternating Method*.

Consider the following Neumann problem on a composite domain  $\Omega = \Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2$  where  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is open and bounded.

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + u = f \text{ in } \Omega, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

One iterative approach for solving the above Neumann problem is the classic *Schwarz Alternating Method*, which forms the starting point for *domain decomposition techniques*. Our aim in this paper is to first introduce the *Schwarz Alternating Method* mathematically, and then implement the algorithm for the two-dimensional composite domain in Matlab.

The organisation of this paper is as follows:

Chapter 2 introduces the theorem on convergence of the iterated products of an arbitrary finite number of orthogonal projections in Hilbert space which is known as the *von-Neumann Halperin Theorem*.

In chapter 3, we follow the 2015 paper of *Deutsch and Hundal*[DH15], which introduces the *Dichotomy Theorem* concerning the rate of convergence of the iterated products of linear operators and its applications in cyclic projections. We also introduce the concept of *Friedrichs Angles* to present the rate of convergence for the two-dimensioanl case in a more elegant way.

First two sections of chapter 4 follow the 1988 paper of *P.L.LIONS*[PL88], which introduces the *Schwarz Alternating Method* that we use to describe the algorithm for solving the Neumann problem in both one-dimensional and two-dimensional composite domains. We then implement the algorithm in Matlab

to solve the Poisson's equation with Neumann boundary conditions in a specific L-shaped domain and demonstrate the rate of convergence by plotting the error norms against the number of iterations.

# CHAPTER 2

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## Iterated Products of Orthogonal Projections in Hilbert Space

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In this chapter, we focus on the convergence of the iterated products of orthogonal projections in Hilbert Space. This classical result was first established for two orthogonal projections by *J. Von Neumann*[JN33] in 1933 in the form of the following theorem:

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $X$  be a Hilbert Space, and  $M_1, M_2$  be closed subspaces of  $X$ . If  $P_{M_i}$  is an orthogonal projection on  $M_i$  for each  $i = 1, 2$ , and  $P_M$  is the orthogonal projection on the closed subspace  $M = M_1 \cap M_2$ , then for each  $x \in X$ ,*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (P_{M_1} P_{M_2})^n(x) = P_M(x).$$

We can simply demonstrate this beautiful result in the two-dimensional case:

Let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be the two straight lines as shown in the diagram below, and  $x$  be an arbitrary element from  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . If we define an alternating sequences  $\{x_n\}$  by

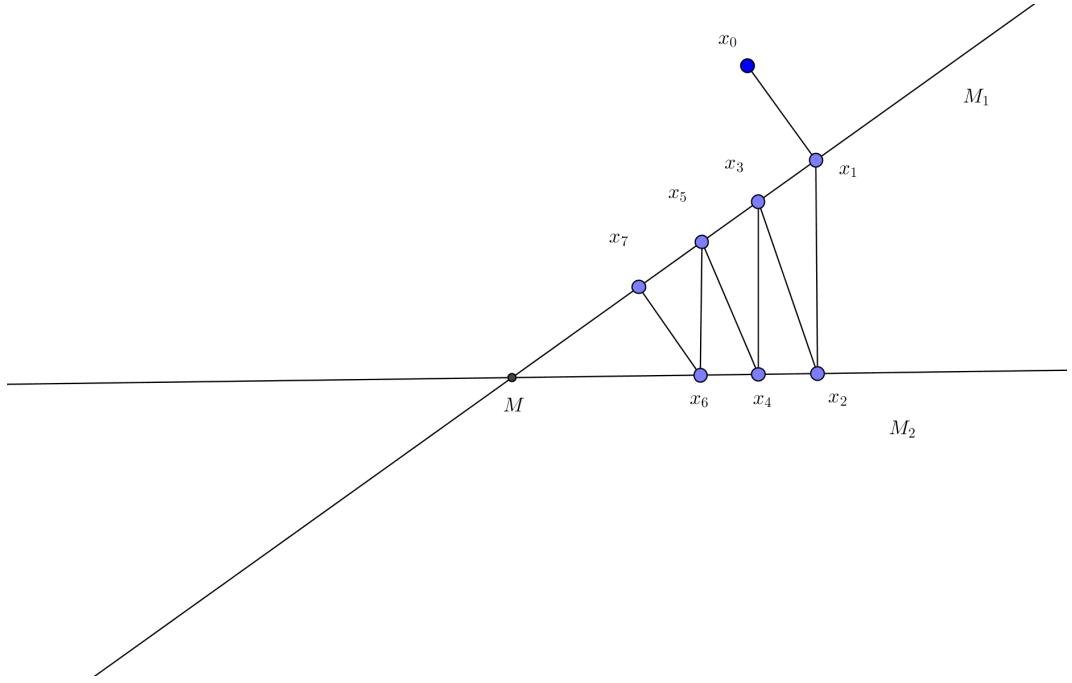
$$x_0 = x,$$

$$x_{2n+1} = P_{M_1}(x_{2n}),$$

$$x_{2n} = P_{M_2}(x_{2n-1}) = (P_{M_1} P_{M_2})^n(x_0),$$

then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = P_M(x)$ .

The same theorem was also found by *Nakano* [NN53] in 1953 and *Wiener* [NW55] in 1955. Indeed, the result is also true for any arbitrary finite number of orthogonal projections as shown in *Halperin's* work [IH62] in 1962.



## 2.1. Convergence of the Iterated Products of Orthogonal Projections

In this section, we present a detailed proof of Halperin's result based on Kakutani's lemma and proof [SK40].

**Theorem 2.2 (von-Neumann Halperin).** *Let  $X$  be a Hilbert space and  $P_j$  be the orthogonal projection onto the closed subspace  $M_j$  of the Hilbert space  $X$  for each  $1 \leq j \leq k$ . Let  $P_M$  be the orthogonal projection onto the intersection  $M = M_1 \cap M_2 \cdots \cap M_k$ . If  $T = P_k \cdots P_1$ , then  $\|T^n x - P_M x\| \rightarrow 0$  for each  $x \in X$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .*

Before we proceed to the proof of the main theorem, we introduce Kakutani's lemma first:

**Lemma 2.3 (Kakutani's Lemma).** *Let  $P_j$  and  $T$  be defined as above. Then  $\|T^n x - T^{n+1} x\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .*

*Proof.* For any  $x \in X$ , we have

$$\|T^{n+1} x\| \leq \|T\| \|T^n x\| \leq \|P_k\| \cdots \|P_1\| \|T^n x\| \leq \|T^n x\|,$$

This shows that  $\{\|T^n x\|\}$  is a decreasing sequence in  $\mathbb{R}$  that is bounded below, thus it converges. In particular,

$$\|T^n x\|^2 - \|T^{n+1} x\|^2 \rightarrow 0$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Recall the Pythagorean Theorem which gives for any orthogonal projection  $P$  and any  $x \in X$ ,

$$\|x - Px\|^2 = \|x\|^2 - \|Px\|^2.$$

Define  $Q_0 = I$  and for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,  $Q_j = P_j Q_{j-1}$ , so that  $Q_k = T$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \|T^n x - T^{n+1} x\|^2 &= \left\| \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} (Q_j T^n x - Q_{j+1} T^n x) \right\|^2 \\ &\leq \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \|(Q_j T^n x - Q_{j+1} T^n x)\|^2 \right\}^2 \text{(By triangle inequality)} \\ &\leq \left( \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} 1 \right) \left( \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \|(Q_j T^n x - Q_{j+1} T^n x)\|^2 \right) \text{(By Cauchy-Schwarz inequality)} \\ &= k \left( \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \|(Q_j T^n x - Q_{j+1} T^n x)\|^2 \right) \\ &= k \left( \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \|(Q_j T^n x\|^2 - \|Q_{j+1} T^n x\|^2) \right) \text{(By Pythagorean Theorem)} \\ &= k (\|Q_0 T^n x\|^2 - \|Q_k T^n x\|^2) \\ &= k (\|T^n x\|^2 - \|T^{n+1} x\|^2) \\ &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as  $\|T^n x\|^2 - \|T^{n+1} x\|^2 \rightarrow 0$ . □

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 2.2.

*Proof.* First note that

$$\begin{aligned} X &= (\text{Im}(I - T))^\perp \oplus (\text{Im}(I - T))^{\perp\perp} \text{ (Projection Theorem)} \\ &= (\text{Im}(I - T))^\perp \oplus \overline{\text{Im}(I - T)^\perp} \\ &= \text{Ker}(I - T^*) \oplus \overline{\text{Im}(I - T)^\perp} \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.3  $\|T^n(I - T)x\| = \|T^n x - T^{n+1} x\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $\|T^n y\| \rightarrow 0$  for  $y \in \text{Im}(I - T)$ . As  $\|T^n\| \leq \|T\|^n \leq (\|P_k\| \cdots \|P_1\|)^n \leq 1$ ,  $T^n$  is a bounded linear operator, then  $\|T^n y\| \rightarrow 0$  for  $y \in \overline{\text{Im}(I - T)}$ . If we can show that

$$\text{Ker}(I - T^*) = M_1 \cap M_2 \cdots \cap M_k, \quad (2.1.1)$$

then for each  $x \in X$ , we have  $x = y + z$  such that  $y \in \text{Im}(I - T)$  while  $z \in M$ , and then

$$\|T^n x - z\| = \|T^n(y + z) - z\| \leq \|T^n y\| + \|T^n z - z\| \rightarrow 0$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Take  $z = P_M(x)$ , then the theorem follows.

To show (2.1.1), it suffices to show that  $T^*x = x$  if and only if  $P_i x = x$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . If  $P_i x = x$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , then  $T^*x = (P_k \cdots P_1)^* = P_1^* \cdots P_k^* x = P_1 P_2 \cdots P_k x = x$ . Conversely, if  $P_i x \neq x$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , then  $\|T^*x\| = \|P_1 P_2 \cdots P_k x\| \leq \|P_i x\| < \|x\|$ , that is,  $T^*x \neq x$ .  $\square$

# CHAPTER 3

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## Rate of Convergence

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In the previous chapter, we have shown that for an arbitrary finite number of orthogonal projections  $P_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$ ,  $T = P_r P_{r-1} \cdots P_1$ ,  $T^n$  converges to  $P_M$  strongly as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , but we are not sure about how fast it converges. It is crucial to study the rate of convergence when the orthogonal projections are used in applications, such as the *Schwarz Alternating Method*, which we will discuss in the next chapter.

In this chapter, we will give a detailed discussion about the rate of convergence. We first study the dichotomy results from *Deutsch* and *Hundal's* work [DH15] in 2015, and give a proof for a slightly weaker result of the general Hilbert Space case. The second half of the chapter focuses more on the concept of *Friedrichs Angles* which gives a good description for the particular two closed subspaces case for the method of alternating projections.

### 3.1. Dichotomy Results

Here we present a dichotomy theorem which is slightly different from the one introduced by *Deutsch* and *Hundal*:

**Theorem 3.1.** ([DH15]) *Let  $X$  be a Banach space and  $T: X \rightarrow X$  be a linear operator with  $\|T\| \leq 1$  and  $T^n(x) \rightarrow 0$  for each  $x \in X$ , then exactly one of the following two statements hold:*

- (a) *there exists  $n_1 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\|T^{n_1}\| < 1$ , and there exists  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\|T^n\| \leq c\alpha^n$  for each  $n$ .*
- (b)  *$\|T^n\| = 1$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and for each  $(r_n) \in c_0$ ,  $r_n \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , for all  $x \in X$ ,  $\|T^n x\| \neq O(r_n)$ .*

*Proof.* For  $T \in B(X)$ ,  $r(\sigma(T)) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T\| \leq 1$ . This shows that the spectrum of  $T$  lie in the closed unit disc.

If  $r(\sigma(T)) < 1$ , then there exists  $n_1 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\varrho := \|T^{n_1}\| < 1$ .

If  $\varrho > 0$ , we take  $\alpha := \varrho^{\frac{1}{n_1}}$ , for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we can write  $n = kn_1 + i$  for some non-negative integer  $k$  and  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n_1 - 1\}$ . Then  $\|T^n\| = \|T^{kn_1+i}\| \leq \|T^{n_1}\|^k = \varrho^k = \alpha^{n_1 k} \leq c\alpha^n$  where  $c = \frac{1}{\alpha^{n_1-1}}$ .

If  $\varrho = 0$ ,  $\|T^n\| \leq 2^{n_1}(\frac{1}{2})^n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then we take  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $c = 2^{n_1}$ .

If  $r(\sigma(T)) = 1$ , then  $r(\sigma(T)) \leq \|T\| \leq 1$  implies  $\|T\| = 1$ .  $\|T^n\| = 1$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  since if  $\|T^N\| < 1$  for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $r(\sigma(T)) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^N\|^{\frac{1}{n}} < 1$  which yields a contradiction. We assume for contradiction that for each  $x \in X$ , there exists constant  $c_x > 0$  such that  $\|T^n x\| \leq c_x r_n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $X$  is a Banach Space, *Uniform Boundedness Theorem* tells  $\|T^n\| \leq C r_n$  with  $C$  independent of  $x$ , then  $\|T^n\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . This contradicts  $\|T^n\| = 1$ .  $\square$

Before applying the above dichotomy results to the rate of convergence of the cyclic projections in Hilbert space, we first introduce an important lemma which was proved by *Bauschke, Borwein and Lewis* in [BL97] by using regularities:

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $M_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$  be closed subspaces in the Hilbert space  $X$ , and  $M := \bigcap_{i=1}^r M_i$ . Let  $P_{M_i \cap M^\perp}$  be the orthogonal projection onto  $M_i \cap M^\perp$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$ . Then the following are equivalent*

- (a)  $\sum_{i=1}^r M_i^\perp$  is closed;
- (b)  $\|P_{M_r \cap M^\perp} P_{M_{r-1} \cap M^\perp} \cdots P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp}\| < 1$ ;

Now we can deduce the *Von Neumann-Halperin Dichotomy* from *Theorem 3.1* and the above lemma:

**Theorem 3.3.** ([DH15]) *Let  $M_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$  be closed subspaces in the Hilbert space  $X$ , and  $M := \bigcap_{i=1}^r M_i$ . Let  $T = P_r P_{r-1} \cdots P_1$  where  $P_i$  is the orthogonal projection on  $M_i$ . Then exactly one of the two following statements holds:*

- (a)  $\sum_{i=1}^r M_i^\perp$  is closed, then there exists  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\|T^n - P_M\| \leq c\alpha^n$  for each  $n$ .
- (b)  $\sum_{i=1}^r M_i^\perp$  is not closed, then for each  $(r_n) \in c_0$ ,  $r_n \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , for all  $x \in X$ ,  $\|T^n x - P_M x\| \neq O(r_n)$ .

*Proof.* If  $\sum_{i=1}^r M_i^\perp$  is closed, we have  $\|P_{M_r \cap M^\perp} P_{M_{r-1} \cap M^\perp} \cdots P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp}\| < 1$  (by Lemma 3.2).

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} T^n - P_M &= T^n - T^n P_M \\ &= T^n(I - P_M) \\ &= T^n P_{M^\perp} \\ &= T^n P_{M^\perp}^n \text{ since } P_{M^\perp}^2 = P_{M^\perp} \\ &= (TP_{M^\perp})^n \text{ since } T \text{ commutes with } P_{M^\perp} \\ &= [(P_r P_{M^\perp})(P_{r-1} P_{M^\perp}) \cdots (P_1 P_{M^\perp})]^n \\ &= [(P_{M_r \cap M^\perp})(P_{M_{r-1} \cap M^\perp}) \cdots (P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp})]^n. \end{aligned}$$

The second last equality follows from  $P_i$  commuting with  $P_{M^\perp}$  and  $P_{M^\perp}^2 = P_{M^\perp}$  while the last equality is true because  $P_i P_{M^\perp} = P_{M_i \cap M^\perp}$ .

By taking  $\|P_{M_r \cap M^\perp} P_{M_{r-1} \cap M^\perp} \cdots P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp}\| = \alpha \in [0, 1)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|T^n - P_M\| &= \|[(P_{M_r \cap M^\perp})(P_{M_{r-1} \cap M^\perp}) \cdots (P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp})]^n\| \\ &\leq \|(P_{M_r \cap M^\perp})(P_{M_{r-1} \cap M^\perp}) \cdots (P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp})\|^n \\ &= \alpha^n. \end{aligned}$$

In this case,  $c = 1$  and the result follows.

If  $\sum_{i=1}^r M_i^\perp$  is not closed, by Lemma 3.2,  $\|P_{M_r \cap M^\perp} P_{M_{r-1} \cap M^\perp} \cdots P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp}\| = 1$ , and then  $\|[(P_{M_r \cap M^\perp})(P_{M_{r-1} \cap M^\perp}) \cdots (P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp})]^n\| = 1$ . By Theorem 3.1(b), the result follows.  $\square$

### 3.2. Friedrichs Angles

In order to apply the *Von-Neumann Halperin Theorem* in the method of alternating projections, it is important to know the *Friedrichs Angle* which is defined in the following sense:

**Definition 3.4.** Let  $X$  be a Hilbert space, and  $M_1, M_2$  are two closed subspaces of  $X$  with intersection  $M := M_1 \cap M_2$ . The *Friedrichs angle* between  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  is defined to be the angle in  $[0, 2\pi]$  whose cosine is given by

$$c(M_1, M_2) = \sup\{|\langle x, y \rangle| : x \in M_1 \cap M^\perp, \|x\| \leq 1, y \in M_2 \cap M^\perp, \|y\| \leq 1\}.$$

Now we can deduce a relationship between the rate of convergence and the Friedrichs angle between the two closed subspaces  $M_1, M_2$ .

**Theorem 3.5.** ([KW88]) Let  $X$  be a Hilbert space, and  $M_1, M_2$  and  $M$  be defined as above. If  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are the orthogonal projections onto  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  respectively, and  $P_M$  is the orthogonal projection onto  $M$ , then for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\|(P_2 P_1)^n - P_M\| = c(M_1, M_2)^{2n-1}.$$

Before proving the main theorem, we introduce some fundamental results first.

**Lemma 3.6.** Let  $Q_i := P_i(I - P_M)$  for each  $i = 1, 2$ , then

$$(P_2 P_1)^n - P_M = (Q_2 Q_1)^n.$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} (P_2 P_1)^n - P_M &= (P_2 P_1)^n - (P_2 P_1)^n P_M \\ &= (P_2 P_1)^n (I - P_M) \\ &= (P_2 P_1)^n P_{M^\perp} \\ &= (P_2 P_1)^n P_{M^\perp}^n \text{ as } P_{M^\perp}^2 = P_{M^\perp} \\ &= (P_2 P_1 P_{M^\perp})^n \text{ as } P_2 P_1 \text{ commutes with } P_{M^\perp} \\ &= (P_2 P_{M^\perp} P_1 P_{M^\perp})^n \\ &= (Q_2 Q_1)^n \end{aligned}$$

where the second last inequality follows from  $P_i$  commuting with  $P_{M^\perp}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.7.** If  $T \in B(X)$  with  $X$  being a Hilbert space is a self-adjoint linear operator, then for each  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,

$$\|T^n\| = \|T\|^n.$$

*Proof.* Note that if  $T$  is self-adjoint, we have  $\|T^2\| = \|T\|^2$ . (B4.2 Hilbert space lecture notes) Similarly,  $\|T^4\| = \|T^2\|^2 = \|T\|^4$ . By induction, the result is true for  $n = 2^m$  with  $m \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ .

For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  not in this form, we can write  $n = 2^m - r$  for some  $m, r \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ , then  $\|T\|^{n+r} = \|T^{n+r}\| \leq \|T^n\| \|T^r\| \leq \|T^n\| \|T\|^r$ . This gives  $\|T\|^n \leq \|T^n\|$ , and thus  $\|T^n\| = \|T\|^n$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.8.**  $c(M_1, M_2) = \|Q_2 Q_1\| = \sqrt{\|Q_1 Q_2 Q_1\|}$ .

*Proof.* By definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
c(M_1, M_2) &= \sup\{|\langle x, y \rangle| : x \in M_1 \cap M^\perp, \|x\| \leq 1, y \in M_2 \cap M^\perp, \|y\| \leq 1\} \\
&= \sup\{|\langle P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp} x, P_{M_2 \cap M^\perp} y \rangle| : \|x\| \leq 1, \|y\| \leq 1\} \\
&= \sup\{|\langle P_{M_2 \cap M^\perp} P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp} x, y \rangle| : \|x\| \leq 1, \|y\| \leq 1\} \\
&= \|P_{M_2 \cap M^\perp} P_{M_1 \cap M^\perp}\| \\
&= \|(P_{M_2} P_{M^\perp})(P_{M_1} P_{M^\perp})\| \text{ as } P_i \text{ commutes with } P_{M^\perp} \text{ for } i = 1, 2 \\
&= \|Q_2 Q_1\|.
\end{aligned}$$

Also,  $\|Q_2 Q_1\|^2 = \|(Q_2 Q_1)^* Q_2 Q_1\| = \|Q_1 Q_2 Q_2 Q_1\| = \|Q_1 Q_2 Q_1\|$ , then the second inequality follows.  $\square$

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 3.5:

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.6,  $\|(P_2 P_1)^n - P_M\| = \|(Q_2 Q_1)^n\|$ . Since  $((Q_2 Q_1)^n)^* = (Q_1 Q_2)^n$ , we have

$$\|(Q_2 Q_1)^n\|^2 = \|(Q_1 Q_2)^n (Q_2 Q_1)^n\| = \|(Q_1 Q_2 Q_1)^{2n-1}\|.$$

As the operator  $Q_1 Q_2 Q_1$  is self-adjoint, it follows from Lemma 3.7 that

$$\|(Q_1 Q_2 Q_1)^{2n-1}\| = \|Q_1 Q_2 Q_1\|^{2n-1}.$$

By applying Lemma 3.8, the result then follows.  $\square$

Therefore,  $\|(P_2 P_1)^n - P_M\|$  converges to 0 exponentially fast if and only if  $c(M_1, M_2) < 1$ .

**Theorem 3.9.** *Let  $M_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$  be closed subspaces in the Hilbert space  $X$ , and  $M := \bigcap_i^r M_i$ . Let  $P_i$  and  $P_M$  be the orthogonal projections onto  $M_i$  and  $M$  respectively. If  $T = P_r P_{r-1} \cdots P_1$ , then  $\|T^n - P_M\|$  converges to 0 exponentially fast if and only if  $\text{Im}(I - T)$  is closed.*

*Proof.* Since  $M := \bigcap_i^r M_i$  is closed,  $X = M \oplus M^\perp$ . We have proved that  $M = \text{Ker}(I - T^*)$ , it follows that  $M^\perp = \overline{\text{Im}(I - T)}$ . Let  $Y = \text{Im}(I - T)$ , and  $Z = \overline{Y}$ .

In the proof of the *dichotomy results*, we have showed that the convergence is exponentially fast if and only if  $r(S) < 1$  where  $S := T|_{Z^\perp} = T P_{M^\perp}$ . Then  $I - S: Z \rightarrow Z$  has trivial kernel since if  $(I - S)x = 0$  for some  $x \in Z$ , we have

$x = Sx = Tx$ , that is,  $x \in M^\perp \cap M = \{0\}$ . We also have  $\text{Im}(I - S) = Y$ . For each  $y \in \text{Im}(I - S)$ , there exists  $x \in Z$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} y &= (I - S)x \\ &= x - Sx \\ &= x - TP_{M^\perp}x \\ &= x - Tx \text{ as } x \in Z = M^\perp \\ &= (I - T)x. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that  $\text{Im}(I - S) \subseteq Y$ . If  $y \in Y = \text{Im}(I - T)$ , there exists  $x \in X$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} y &= P_{M^\perp}y \text{ as } y \in Y \subseteq M^\perp \\ &= P_{M^\perp}(I - T)x \\ &= P_{M^\perp}x - P_{M^\perp}Tx \\ &= P_{M^\perp}x - P_{M^\perp}^2Tx \\ &= P_{M^\perp}(I - P_{M^\perp}T)x \\ &= P_{M^\perp}(I - TP_{M^\perp})x \text{ as } T \text{ commutes with } P_{M^\perp} \\ &= P_{M^\perp}(I - S)x \\ &= (I - S)x. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $Y \subseteq \text{Im}(I - S)$ . So  $I - S$  is a bounded bijection from  $Z$  onto  $Y$ . By *Inverse Mapping Theorem*,  $I - S$  is invertible if and only if  $Y = Z$ . So  $1 \in \sigma(S)$  if and only if  $Y \neq Z$ . That is  $r(S) < 1$  if and only if  $Y = Z$ .  $\square$

# CHAPTER 4

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## Schwarz Alternating Method in elliptic PDEs

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The Schwarz alternating method, first introduced by *Hermann Schwarz*[HS69] in 1869, is a classical iterative method for solving boundary value problem for harmonic functions. It described an iterative method for solving the Dirichlet problem in the union of two overlapping regions provided that the intersection was suitably well behaved.

In the 1950s, Schwarz's method was generalized in the theory of partial differential equations to an iterative method for finding the solution of a elliptic boundary value problem on a domain which is the union of two overlapping subdomains. It solves the boundary value problem on each of the two subdomains in turn, passing the approximate solutions to the next boundary conditions.

In the first section of this chapter, we start with decribing the *Schwarz Alternating Method* for the one-dimensional Neumann boundary problem, and then calculate the relative *Friedrichs Angles*. In the second section, this method is generalized to the two-dimensional case. Then we end this chapter with the demonstration of this method for an L-shape two-dimensional domain in Matlab.

### 4.1. One Dimensional Case with Friedrichs Angles Calculated

Take  $\Omega = (0, 1) \subset \mathbb{R}$ , and decompose  $\Omega$  into two subdomains  $\Omega_1 := (0, r)$ ,  $\Omega_2 := (s, 1)$  with  $s \leq r$  such that  $\Omega = \Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2$ .

In this section, we aim to apply the *Schwarz Alternating Method* in solving

the one-dimensional Neumann problem of the following form:

$$\begin{cases} -u'' + u = f \text{ in } \Omega, \\ u'(0) = u'(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

where  $\Omega = \Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2$ .

Note that for the one-dimensional case, the weak formulation of the solution of the above equation concides with the classical solution. In order to prove this claim, we need the *Fundamental Lemma of Calculus of Variations*:

**Lemma 4.1.** *For  $f, g \in C(0, 1)$  such that*

$$\int_0^1 (f\varphi + g\varphi')dx = 0$$

*for all  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(0, 1)$ , we have  $g \in C^1(0, 1)$  and  $g' = f$ .*

The weak formuation of the solution is

$$\int_0^1 u'\varphi' + u\varphi dx = \int_0^1 f\varphi dx$$

for all  $\varphi \in C^\infty(0, 1)$ . Let  $v \in C^1(0, 1)$  be the primitive function of  $u$ , that is,  $v(x) = \int_0^x u(s)ds$ , while  $\phi \in C_0^\infty(0, 1)$  satisfy  $\varphi = \int_0^\infty \phi(s)ds$ . Note that

$$\int_0^1 u'\varphi' dx = [u\varphi']_0^1 - \int_0^1 u\varphi'' dx = - \int_0^1 u\varphi'' dx$$

for all  $\varphi' \in C_0^\infty$ . Since  $\varphi' = \phi$ , we have

$$\int_0^1 u'\phi = - \int_0^1 u\phi' dx$$

. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 f\varphi dx &= \int_0^1 u'\varphi' + u\varphi dx \\ &= - \int_0^1 u\phi' dx + [v\varphi]_0^1 - \int_0^1 v\phi dx \\ &= - \int_0^1 u\phi' + v\phi dx \end{aligned}$$

If  $F$  is the primitive function of  $f$ , say  $F(x) = \int_0^x f(s)ds$ , then

$$\int_0^1 f\varphi dx = [F\varphi]_0^1 - \int_0^1 F\phi dx.$$

Rearranging gives

$$\int_0^1 (u\phi' + (v - F)\phi) dx.$$

By Lemma 4.1, we have  $u \in C^1$  and  $u' = v - F$ . Since  $v, F \in C^1$ ,  $u \in C^2$ .

#### 4.1.1. The Schwarz Alternating Method

Let  $X = H^1(0, 1)$ . Since the one-dimensional Sobolev space  $H^1(0, 1)$  is embedded in the space  $C([0, 1])$  of continuous functions, we can identify each element of  $H^1(0, 1)$  with its corresponding representative in  $C([0, 1])$ . Now define

$$Y_1 := \overline{\{\phi \in C^\infty(0, 1) : \phi = 0 \text{ in the neighbourhood of } [r, 1]\}} = H_0^1(\Omega_1),$$

and

$$Y_2 := \overline{\{\phi \in C^\infty(0, 1) : \phi = 0 \text{ in the neighbourhood of } (0, s]\}} = H_0^1(\Omega_2).$$

Fix  $u_0 \in X$  and find  $u_1$  by first solving

$$\begin{cases} -u_1'' + u_1 = f \text{ in } \Omega_1, \\ u_1(r) = u_0(r), \\ u_1'(0) = 0, \end{cases}$$

and then extend by  $u_0$  from  $\Omega_1$  to all of  $\Omega$ . We repeat the procedure alternatingly to find  $u_2, u_3, \dots$  such that  $u_{2n+1}$  (for  $n \geq 0$ ) solves

$$\begin{cases} -u_{2n+1}'' + u_{2n+1} = f \text{ in } \Omega_1, \\ u_{2n+1}(r) = u_{2n}(r), \\ u_{2n+1}'(0) = 0, \end{cases}$$

while  $u_{2n}$  (for  $n \geq 1$ ) is a solution of

$$\begin{cases} -u_{2n}'' + u_{2n} = f \text{ in } \Omega_2, \\ u_{2n}(s) = u_{2n-1}(s), \\ u_{2n}'(1) = 0. \end{cases}$$

We may extend  $u_{2n+1}$  by  $u_{2n}$  and  $u_{2n}$  by  $u_{2n-1}$  respectively to all of  $\Omega$ .

Since

$$-(u_1 - u)'' + (u_1 - u) = 0 \text{ in } \Omega_1,$$

$$\langle u_1 - u, \phi \rangle_{H^1} = \int_{\Omega_1} (u_1 - u)' \phi' + (u_1 - u) \phi dx = \int_{\Omega_1} -(u_1 - u)'' \phi + (u_1 - u) \phi dx = 0$$

for all  $\phi \in Y_1$ . This shows that  $u_1 - u \perp Y_1$ . Let  $M_i = Y_i^\perp$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , then  $u_1 - u \in M_1$ .

If we take  $w = u_1 - u$ , then  $w$  satisfies

$$\begin{cases} -w'' + w = 0 \text{ in } \Omega_1, \\ w'(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

By solving the above second order ordinary differential equation (ODE), we have  $w = C(e^x + e^{-x})$  for some constant  $C$ . So  $M_1 = \text{span}\{e^x + e^{-x}\}$ .

Similarly,  $v := u_2 - u \in M_2$  and satisfies

$$\begin{cases} -v'' + v = 0 \text{ in } \Omega_2, \\ v'(1) = 0. \end{cases}$$

The above ODE is solved by  $v = D(e^x + e^{2-x})$  for some constant  $D$ , so  $M_2 = \text{span}\{e^x + e^{2-x}\}$ .

Note that  $u_0 - u = (u_0 - u_1) + (u_1 - u)$  where  $u_0 - u_1 \in Y_1 = M_1^\perp$  and  $u - u_1 \in M_1$ , so  $u_1 - u = P_1(u_1 - u)$  where  $P_i$  is the orthogonal projection onto  $M_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Similarly,  $u_2 - u = P_2(u_1 - u)$  as  $u_1 - u = (u_1 - u_2) + (u_2 - u)$  where  $u_2 - u \in M_2$  and  $u_1 - u_2 \in M_2^\perp$ .

Iteratively,

$$u_{2n+1} - u = P_1(u_{2n} - u)$$

and

$$u_{2n} - u = P_2(u_{2n-1} - u)$$

for  $n \geq 1$ .

Let  $T = P_2P_1$ . If  $x_{2n} := u_{2n} - u$ ,  $x_0 := u_0 - u$ , then  $x_{2n} = T^n x_0$ .

By *Von-Neumann Halperin Theorem*,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n x_0 - P_M x_0\| = 0$$

where  $M = M_1 \cap M_2$ . In this case  $M = M_1 \cap M_2 = \{0\}$ , so  $P_M x_0 = 0$ . Then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_{2n}\| = 0$ , that is,  $u_{2n}$  converges to  $u$ .

Note that

$$x_{2n+1} = u_{2n+1} - u = P_1(u_{2n} - u) = P_1 T^n x_0.$$

By definition of orthogonal projections,  $T^n x_0 \in M_1$ , so  $P_1 T^n x_0 = T^n x_0$ . It follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_{2n+1} - x_0\| \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\|x_{2n+1} - x_{2n}\| + \|x_{2n} - x_0\|) = 0.$$

That is,  $u_{2n+1}$  converges to  $u$  as well.

Thus, the *Schwarz Alternating Method* generates a sequence of solutions  $\{u_n\}$  converging to the real solution  $u$ .

#### 4.1.2. Calculation of the Friedrichs Angles

Note that  $Y = Y_1 + Y_2$  is closed, and  $Y = X$  if  $s < r$  while  $Y = \text{Ker}\phi_r$  if  $r = s$ , where  $\phi_r \in X^*$  is defined by  $\phi_r(u) = u(r)$  for  $u \in X$ . By *Riesz Representation Theorem*, there exists unique  $v_r$  such that  $\phi_r(u) = \langle u, v_r \rangle_{H^1}$ , that is

$$\begin{aligned} u(r) &= \int_0^1 uv_r + u'v_r' dx \\ &= \int_0^1 uv_r dx + [uv_r']_0^1 - \int_0^1 uv_r'' dx \\ &= \int_0^1 u(v_r - v_r'') dx + [uv_r']_{r^+}^1 + [uv_r']_0^{r^-}. \end{aligned}$$

We require that

$$\begin{cases} v_r'' = v_r, \\ v_r'(r^-) - v_r'(r^+) = 1, \\ v_r(r^-) = v_r(r^+), \\ v_r'(1) = v_r'(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

By solving the above equations, we have

$$v_r = \begin{cases} \frac{\cosh(1-r)}{\sinh(1)} \cosh x, & \text{for } 0 < x < r, \\ \frac{\cosh(r)}{\sinh(1)} \cosh(1-x), & \text{for } r < x < 1. \end{cases}$$

Then we know that

$$\|\phi_r\|^2 = \|v_r\|^2 = \langle v_r, v_r \rangle_{H^1} = \frac{\cosh(r) \cosh(1-r)}{\sinh(1)}.$$

Similiar as before, we let  $M_i = Y_i^\perp$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . If  $s < r$ ,

$$M^\perp = (Y_1^\perp \cap Y_2^\perp)^\perp = Y_1^{\perp\perp} + Y_2^{\perp\perp} = Y = X,$$

so  $M = 0$ . If  $s = r$ , we have

$$M = M^{\perp\perp} = Y^\perp = (\text{Ker}\phi_r)^\perp = \langle v_r \rangle$$

We now calculate the *Friedrichs number*  $c(M_1, M_2)$ .

Note that for  $u \in H^1(0, 1)$ ,  $u - P_1 u$  is orthogonal to  $M_1$ , that is,  $u - P_1 u \in Y_1$ , then for  $x \in (r, 1)$ ,  $P_1 u(x) = u(x)$ . By previous calculation, we know that  $M_1 = \text{span}\{\cosh x\}$ , then  $P_1 u(x) = A \cosh x$  for  $x \in (0, r)$ . By continuity at  $r$ ,  $A = \frac{u(r)}{\cosh r}$ . Thus

$$P_1 u(x) = \begin{cases} u(r) \frac{\cosh(x)}{\cosh(r)}, & \text{for } 0 < x < r, \\ u(x), & \text{for } r < x < 1. \end{cases}$$

By a similar argument, we have

$$P_2 u(x) = \begin{cases} u(x), & \text{for } 0 < x < s, \\ u(s) \frac{\cosh(1-x)}{\cosh(1-s)}, & \text{for } s < x < 1, \end{cases}$$

for all  $u \in X$ . For  $T = P_2 P_1$ , we have

$$Tu(x) = \begin{cases} u(r) \frac{\cosh x}{\cosh r}, & \text{for } 0 < x < s, \\ u(r) \frac{\cosh(s) \cosh(1-x)}{\cosh r \cosh(1-s)}, & \text{for } s < x < 1. \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$Tu = \frac{\sinh(1) \phi_r(u)}{\cosh r \cosh(1-s)} v_s$$

for all  $u \in X$ . If  $s < r$ ,  $M = 0$ , then  $P_M = 0$ .

$$c(M_1, M_2) = \|T - P_M\| = \|T\| = \frac{\sinh(1) \|\phi_r\| \|\phi_s\|}{\cosh r \cosh(1-s)} = \sqrt{\frac{\cosh(1-r) \cosh(s)}{\cosh(1-s) \cosh(r)}}.$$

If  $s = r$ , then  $M = \langle v_r \rangle$ . Since  $Tv_r = v_r$ ,  $T = P_M$ , and  $c(M_1, M_2) = \|T - P_M\| = 0$ .

## 4.2. The two-dimensional Case

We take  $\Omega$  to be a bounded open domain in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (assume that it is smooth for simplicity), and decompose  $\Omega$  into two subdomains  $\Omega_1, \Omega_2$  such that  $\Omega = \Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2$ .

Consider the Neumann Problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + u = f \text{ in } \Omega, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

where  $n$  is the outward pointing normal.

Let  $X = H^1(\Omega)$ , and define

$$Y_1 := \overline{\{\phi \in C^\infty(\Omega) : \phi = 0 \text{ in the neighbourhood of } \Omega \setminus \Omega_1\}} = H_0^1(\Omega_1),$$

and

$$Y_2 := \overline{\{\phi \in C^\infty(\Omega) : \phi = 0 \text{ in the neighbourhood of } \Omega \setminus \Omega_2\}} = H_0^1(\Omega_2).$$

Fix  $u_0 \in X$  and find  $u_1$  by first solving

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u_1 + u_1 = f \text{ in } \Omega_1, \\ u_1 = u_0 \text{ on } \gamma_1 := \partial\Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2, \\ \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1 \setminus \gamma_1 \end{cases}$$

and then extend by  $u_0$  from  $\Omega_1$  to all of  $\Omega$ . We repeat the procedure alternatively to find  $u_2, u_3, \dots$  such that  $u_{2n+1}$  (for  $n \geq 0$ ) solves

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u_{2n+1} + u_{2n+1} = f \text{ in } \Omega_1, \\ u_{2n+1} = u_{2n} \text{ on } \gamma_1 := \partial\Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2, \\ \frac{\partial u_{2n+1}}{\partial n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1 \setminus \gamma_1 \end{cases}$$

while  $u_{2n}$  (for  $n \geq 1$ ) is a solution of

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u_{2n} + u_{2n} = f \text{ in } \Omega_2, \\ u_{2n} = u_{2n-1} \text{ on } \gamma_2 := \partial\Omega_2 \cap \Omega_1, \\ \frac{\partial u_{2n}}{\partial n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_2 \setminus \gamma_2 \end{cases}$$

We may extend  $u_{2n+1}$  by  $u_{2n}$  and  $u_{2n}$  by  $u_{2n-1}$  respectively to all of  $\Omega$ .

Since  $-\Delta(u_1 - u) + (u_1 - u) = 0$  in  $\Omega_1$ ,

$$\langle u_1 - u, \phi \rangle_{H^1} = \int_{\Omega_1} (u_1 - u)' \phi' + (u_1 - u) \phi dx = \int_{\Omega_1} -(u_1 - u)'' \phi + (u_1 - u) \phi dx = 0$$

for all  $\phi \in Y_1$ . This shows that  $u_1 - u \perp Y_1$ . Let  $M_i = Y_i^\perp$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , then  $u_1 - u \in M_1$ .

Note that

$$u_0 - u = (u_0 - u_1) + (u_1 - u)$$

where  $u_0 - u_1 \in Y_1 = M_1^\perp$  and  $u - u_1 \in M_1$ , so  $u_1 - u = P_1(u_0 - u)$  where  $P_i$  is the orthogonal projection onto  $M_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

Similarly,  $u_2 - u = P_2(u_1 - u)$  as

$$u_1 - u = (u_1 - u_2) + (u_2 - u)$$

where  $u_2 - u \in M_2$  and  $u_1 - u_2 \in M_2^\perp$ .

Iteratively,

$$u_{2n+1} - u = P_1(u_{2n} - u)$$

and

$$u_{2n} - u = P_2(u_{2n-1} - u)$$

for  $n \geq 1$ .

Let  $T = P_2P_1$ . If  $x_{2n} := u_{2n} - u$ ,  $x_0 := u_0 - u$ , then  $x_{2n} = T^n x_0$ . By *Von-Neumann Halperin Theorem*,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n x_0 - P_M x_0\|_{H^1} = 0$$

where  $M = M_1 \cap M_2$ . In this case, we have

$$X = \overline{M_1^\perp + M_2^\perp} = \overline{Y_1 + Y_2}(\star),$$

so  $M = M_1 \cap M_2 = \{0\}$ , and  $P_M x_0 = 0$ . Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_{2n}\|_{H^1} = 0.$$

This implies that  $u_{2n}(x)$  converges to  $u(x)$  strongly.

Note that  $x_{2n+1} = P_1 x_{2n}$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_{2n+1}\|_{H^1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|P_1 x_{2n}\|_{H^1} = 0$$

by continuity of  $P_1$ . That is,  $u_{2n+1}$  converges to  $u$  strongly as well.

Thus, the *Schwarz Alternating Method* generates a sequence of solutions  $\{u_n\}$  converging to the exact solution  $u$  strongly.

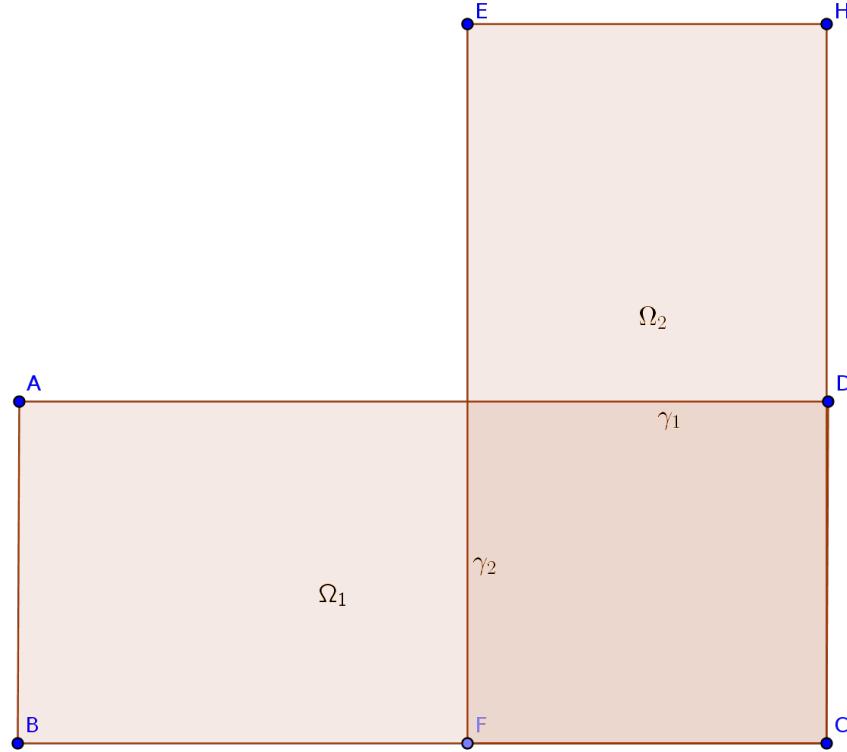
The rate of convergence depends on whether  $Y = Y_1 + Y_2$  is closed by *Von Neumann-Halperin Dichotomy*. If  $Y$  is closed, that is, the closures of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  have empty intersection [PL88], then convergence is exponentially fast, and otherwise for each  $(r_n) \in c_0$ ,  $r_n \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , for all  $x \in X$ ,  $\|T^n x - P_M x\| = \|T^n x\| \neq O(r_n)$ .

We formulate the proof of  $(\star)$  in the following lemma:

**Lemma 4.2.** *For  $X = H^1(\Omega)$ ,  $Y_i = \overline{Z_i}$  where*

$$Z_i := \{u \in C^\infty(\Omega) : u = 0 \text{ in the neighbourhood of } \Omega \setminus \Omega_i\},$$

$Y = Y_1 + Y_2$  is a proper dense subspace of  $X$ .



*Proof.* For simplicity, we consider the two-dimensional domain  $\Omega$  as shown below. We first show that  $Y = Y_1 + Y_2$  is a proper subspace of  $X$ . Assume for contradiction that  $X = Y_1 + Y_2$ , then for each  $u \in X$ , we have  $u = u_1 + u_2$  where  $u_1 \in Y_1$ ,  $u_2 \in Y_2$ . Now we consider the trace defined as

$$\text{Tr}: H^1 \rightarrow H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\partial\Omega).$$

Since  $u \equiv 1 \in H^1(\Omega)$  and  $u$  is continuous on  $\overline{\Omega}$ , then

$$1 = \text{Tr}u = \text{Tr}(u_1 + u_2) = \text{Tr}u_1 + \text{Tr}u_2.$$

We also have  $\text{Tr}u_1 = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega_1$ , and  $\text{Tr}u_2 = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega_2$ , so  $\text{Tr}u_2 = 1$  on  $\gamma_1$  and  $\text{Tr}u_1 = 1$  on  $\gamma_2$ . This implies that  $\text{Tr}u_1 = \mathbb{1}_{\gamma_2}$  on  $\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2$ , but  $\mathbb{1}_{\gamma_2} \notin H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2)$  as

$$\int_{(\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2)} \int_{(\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2)} \frac{|\mathbb{1}_{\gamma_2}(x) - \mathbb{1}_{\gamma_2}(y)|^2}{|x - y|} dx dy = \infty,$$

thus yields a contradiction.

Now we proceed to the density argument. Note that for each  $u \in Y = Y_1 + Y_2$ , for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\varphi_i \in Z_i$  such that

$$\|u - \varphi_1 - \varphi_2\|_{H^1} < \varepsilon.$$

Define  $Z := \{\varphi \in C^\infty(\Omega) : \varphi = 0 \text{ near the problematic point}\}$ , then  $Z = Z_1 + Z_2$ . It suffices to show that for each  $u \in C^\infty(\Omega)$ , for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\varphi \in Z$  such that  $\|u - \varphi\|_{H^1} < \varepsilon$ . Assume that  $z$  is the problematic point, and consider the function  $\varphi_\varepsilon : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined as

$$\varphi_\varepsilon(x, y) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{|(x, y) - z|}{\varepsilon}\right)^\varepsilon, & \text{for } r = |(x, y) - z| \in (0, \varepsilon), \\ 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For each  $u \in C^\infty(\Omega)$ , we have  $u_\varepsilon := u \cdot \varphi_\varepsilon \in \tilde{Z} := \{\varphi \in C^1(\Omega), \varphi = 0 \text{ near the problematic point}\}$ . Since  $Z$  is dense in  $\tilde{Z}$ , it suffices to show that  $\|u - u_\varepsilon\|_{H^1} \rightarrow 0$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Note that

$$\|u - u_\varepsilon\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla u - \nabla u_\varepsilon\|_{L^2} &= \|\nabla u(1 - \varphi_\varepsilon) - u \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C(\|1 - \varphi_\varepsilon\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon\|_{L^2}) \end{aligned}$$

for some positive constant  $C$ . It is obvious that  $\|1 - \varphi_\varepsilon\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Also,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(x, y)\|_{L^2} &= \|\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(r)\|_{L^2} \\ &= \left\| \left(\frac{r}{\varepsilon}\right)^{\varepsilon-1} (\cos \theta, \sin \theta) \right\|_{L^2} \\ &= \left( \int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\frac{r}{\varepsilon}\right)^{2\varepsilon-2} r dr d\theta \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \sqrt{2\pi} \left( \int_0^\varepsilon \left(\frac{r}{\varepsilon}\right)^{2\varepsilon-2} r dr \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \sqrt{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}} \\ &= \sqrt{\pi\varepsilon} \end{aligned}$$

tends to 0 as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Thus,  $\|u - u_\varepsilon\|_{H^1} = \|u - u_\varepsilon\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla u - \nabla u_\varepsilon\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .  $\square$

### 4.3. Demonstration of the rate of convergence in Matlab

In this section, we analyse the rate of convergence by comparing the plots of error norms against the number of iterations.

In section 3.1, we have proved the *Von-Neumann Halperin Dichotomy* which states that:

If  $M_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq r$ ) are closed subspaces in the Hilbert space  $X$ , and  $M := \bigcap_{i=1}^r M_i$ , then for  $T = P_r P_{r-1} \cdots P_1$  where  $P_i$  is the orthogonal projection on  $M_i$ , exactly one of the two following statements holds:

- (a)  $\sum_{i=1}^r M_i^\perp$  is closed, then there exists  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\|T^n - P_M\| \leq c\alpha^n$  for each  $n$ .
- (b)  $\sum_{i=1}^r M_i^\perp$  is not closed, then for each  $(r_n) \in c_0$ ,  $r_n \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , for all  $x \in X$ ,  $\|T^n x - P_M x\| \neq O(r_n)$ .

In fact, we can replace (b) by arbitrarily slow convergence, that is, for each  $(r_n) \in c_0$ ,  $r_n \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , there exists  $x \in X$  such that  $\|T^n x - P_M x\| \geq r_n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ [DH10a].

In Deusch and Hundal's recent work[DH15], they suggest that the  $x \in X$  satisfies  $\|T^n x - P_M x\| \geq r_n$  for all  $n$  must be chosen from  $X \setminus (M \oplus (M_1^\perp + M_2^\perp))$ .

In the application of Schwarz Altenrating Method for the Neumann problem in the two-dimensional domain, we have showed that  $M = \{0\}$ , so the  $x$  have to be chosen from  $H^1(\Omega) \setminus (M_1^\perp + M_2^\perp)$ .

In order to test the above conjecture, we claim that for  $u \in C(\bar{\Omega}) \cap (M_1^\perp + M_2^\perp)$ , we have  $u(x) = 0$  for all problematic points on  $\partial\Omega$ . The claim is indeed true due to the following fact: if  $u \in C(\bar{\Omega}) \cap H^1(\Omega)$ , then there exists  $\phi_n \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$  such that  $\|u - \phi_n\|_\infty \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Since  $u \in C(\bar{\Omega}) \cap (M_1^\perp + M_2^\perp) = C(\bar{\Omega}) \cap (Y_1 + Y_2) = C(\bar{\Omega}) \cap Y = C(\bar{\Omega}) \cap \bar{Z}$  where

$$Z = \{u \in C^\infty, u = 0 \text{ near the problematic points}\},$$

there exists  $u_n \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega}) \cap Z$  such that  $\|u - u_n\|_\infty \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .  $u_n = 0$  on problematic points implies that  $u(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n(x) = 0$  for all problematic points on  $\partial\Omega$ .

Thus for  $x_0 \in H^1(\Omega) \setminus (M_1^\perp + M_2^\perp)$ , we need  $x_0 \neq 0$  at problematic points, that is,  $u_0 \neq u$  at problematic points for  $u, u_0 \in H^1(\Omega)$ .

Consider the neumann problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + u = 1, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = 0 \end{cases}$$

on a L-shape domain as shown in Figure 4.1.

It is easy to see that the true solution is  $u \equiv 1$ .

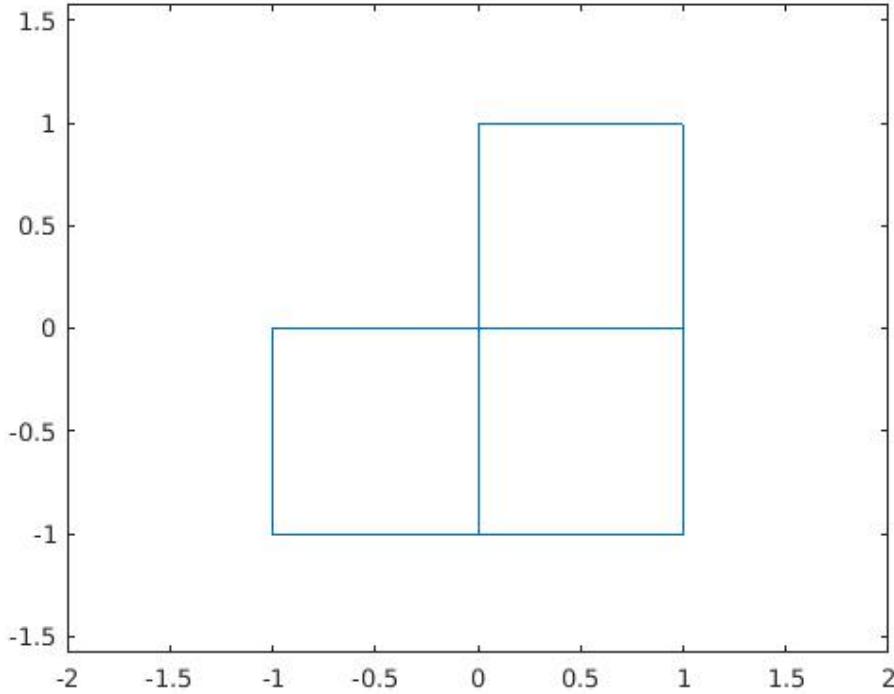


Figure 4.1: lshape domain

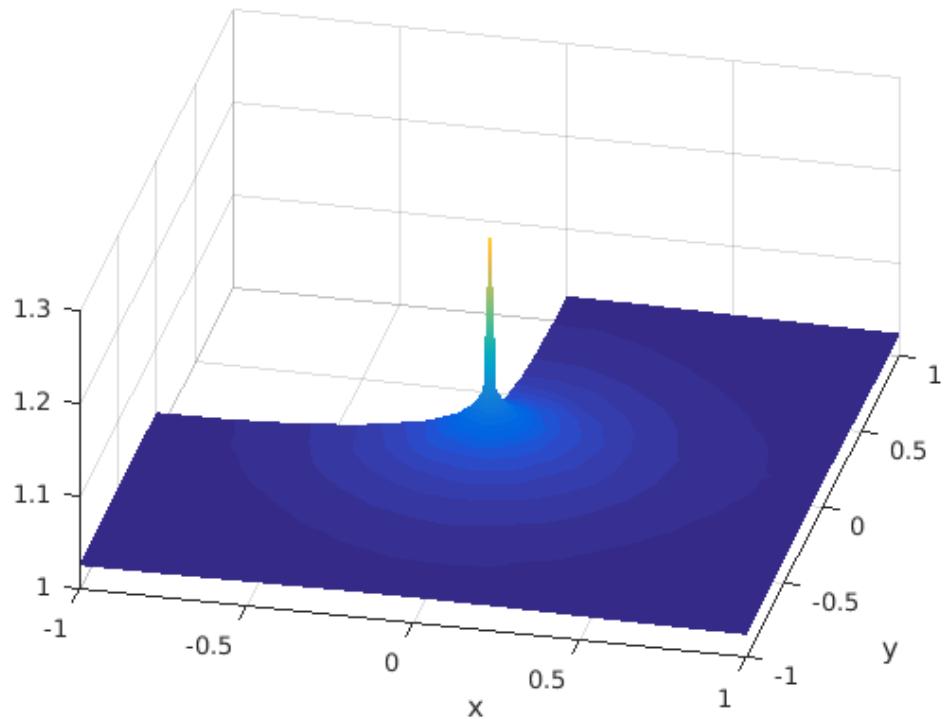
If we set  $u_0 = |\log(\frac{1}{\sqrt{(x^2+y^2)}})|^\alpha$  for  $\alpha \in (0, 0.5)$ ,  $u_0 = \infty$  at the problematic point  $(0, 0)$ , then the surface plot of the solution after 80 iterations is shown in Figure 4.2. (Details of the Matlab code can be found in Appendix 6.1)

We plot both  $\log(\|u_n - u\|_\infty)$  and  $\log(\|u_n - u\|_{H_1})$  against the number of iterations with respect to different mesh sizes to demonstrate the rate of convergence.

As we can observe from Figure 4.3 and Figure 4.4, the rate of convergence decays as the number of iterations increase with respect to both the infinity and  $H_1$  norms. The results shown on the two error plots are compatible with *Deutsch and Hundal's* conjecture.

From the plots we can also deduce that the rate of convergence decreases when we refine the mesh near the problematic point. After we refine the mesh to a certain scale (i.e. Nmesh = 75 in our plot), the plot will no longer depend on the mesh size.

Now we start with a good initial guess,  $u_0 = 1 - \sin(22x)\sin(10y)$ , which gives  $u_0 = 1$  on the problematic point. Again, we plot the two error norms against the number of iterations.

Figure 4.2: surface plot of the solution  $u_n$ 

From *Deutsch* and *Hundal's* conjecture, we expect exponentially fast convergence, that is, straight lines for the plots of both  $\log(\|u - u_n\|_\infty)$  and  $\log(\|u - u_n\|_{H^1})$  against the number of iterations. However, the plots shown on Figure 4.5 and Figure 4.6 are bizarre for the first few iterations. I suspect that this is because the numerical solutions we obtained from solving PDEs on different domains are approximate values only. Since the soluitons are pointwise values, we try to decrease our grid size, that is, to increase the number of plots ( change Nplot= 101 to Nplot=2001) to increase their accuracy. We plot the first few iterations in Figure 4.7 and Figure 4.8 to see whether there is any improvement.

Surprisingly, the plots are inconsistent with what we expect as well. In fact, the plots are reasonable in some sense since the errors are quickly within machine precision.

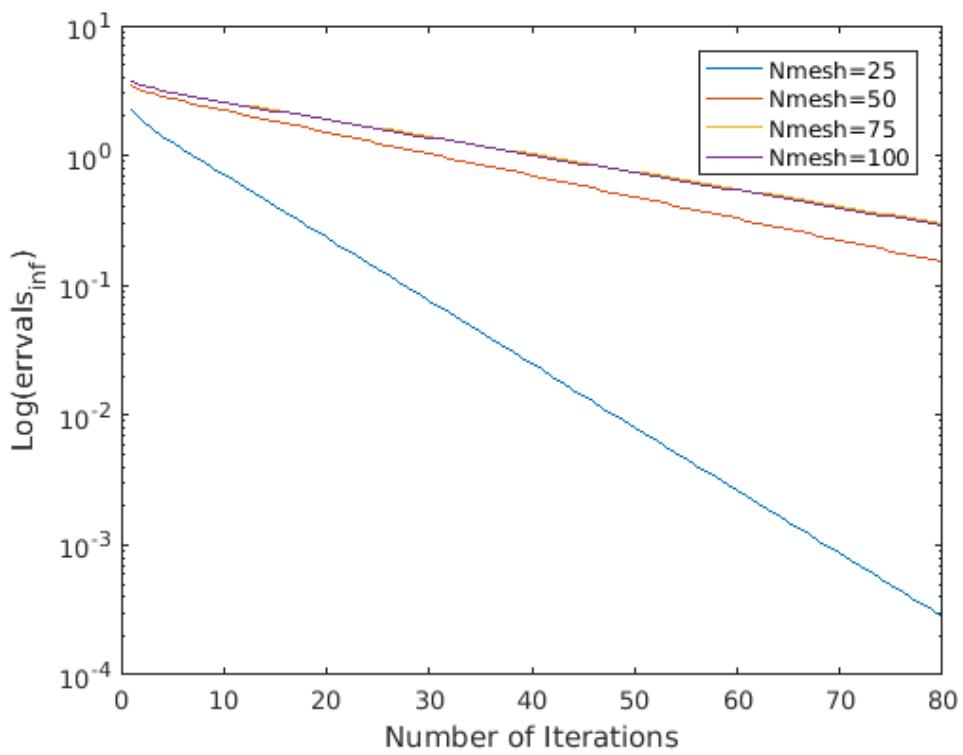


Figure 4.3: The plots of  $\log(\|u_n - u\|_\infty)$  against number of iterations

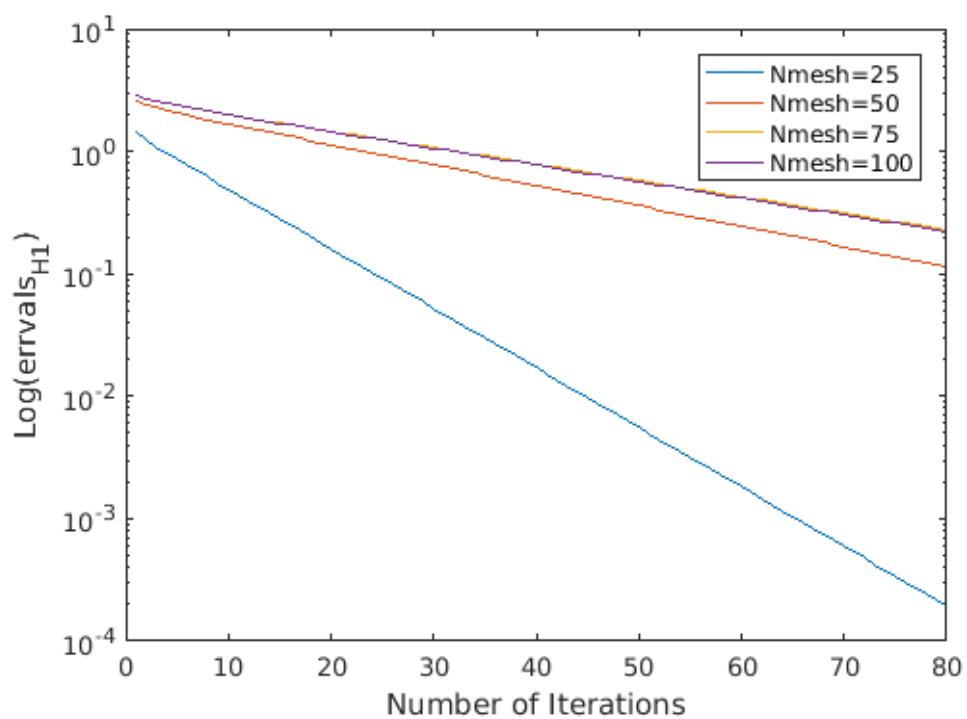


Figure 4.4: The plots of  $\log(\|u_n - u\|_{H_1})$  against number of iterations

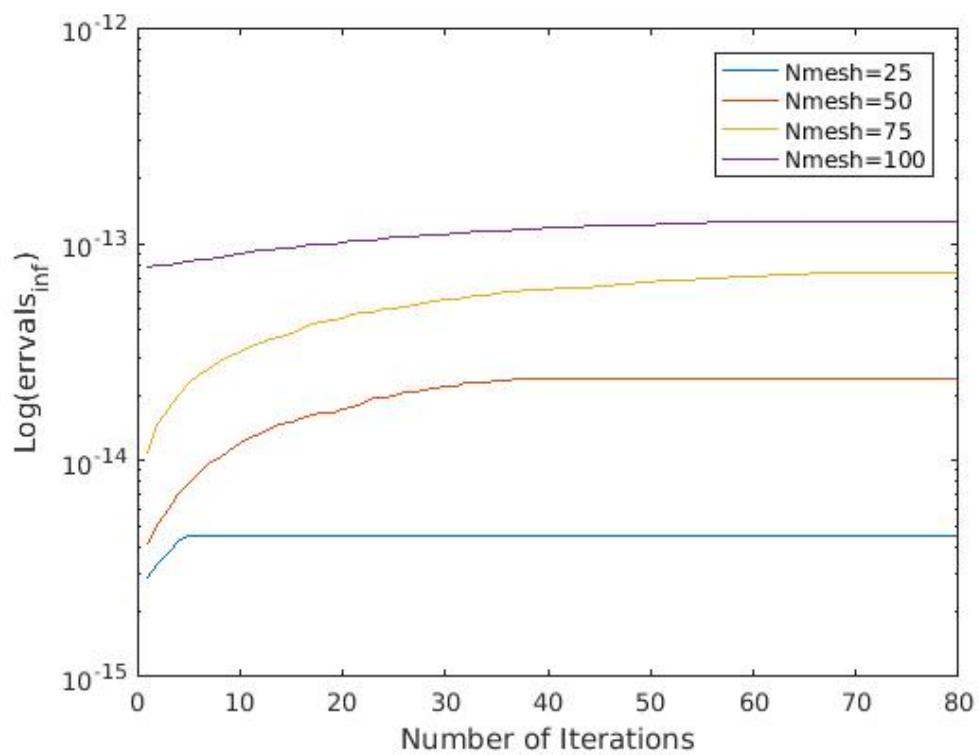


Figure 4.5: The plots of  $\log(\|u_n - u\|_\infty)$  against number of iterations

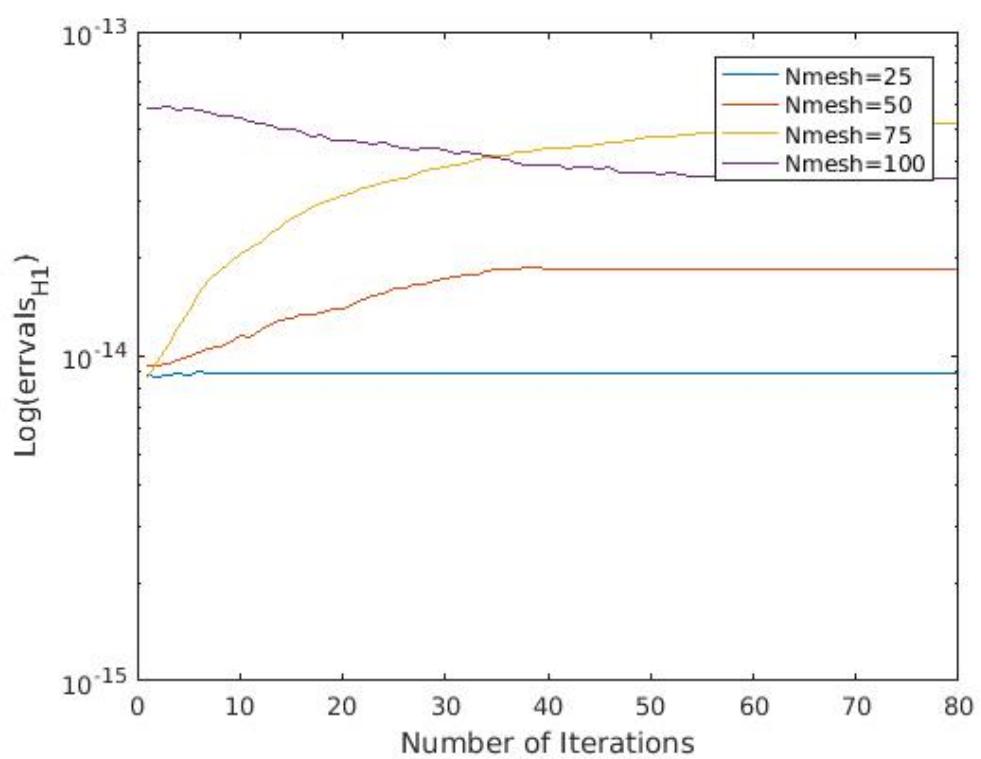


Figure 4.6: The plots of  $\log(\|u_n - u\|_{H^1})$  against number of iterations

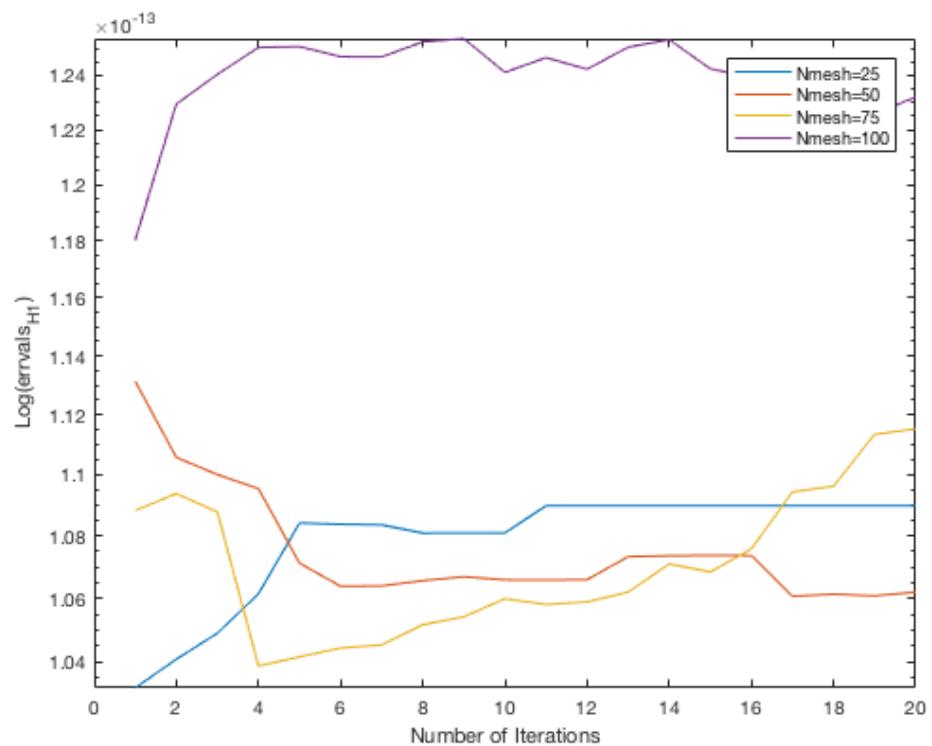
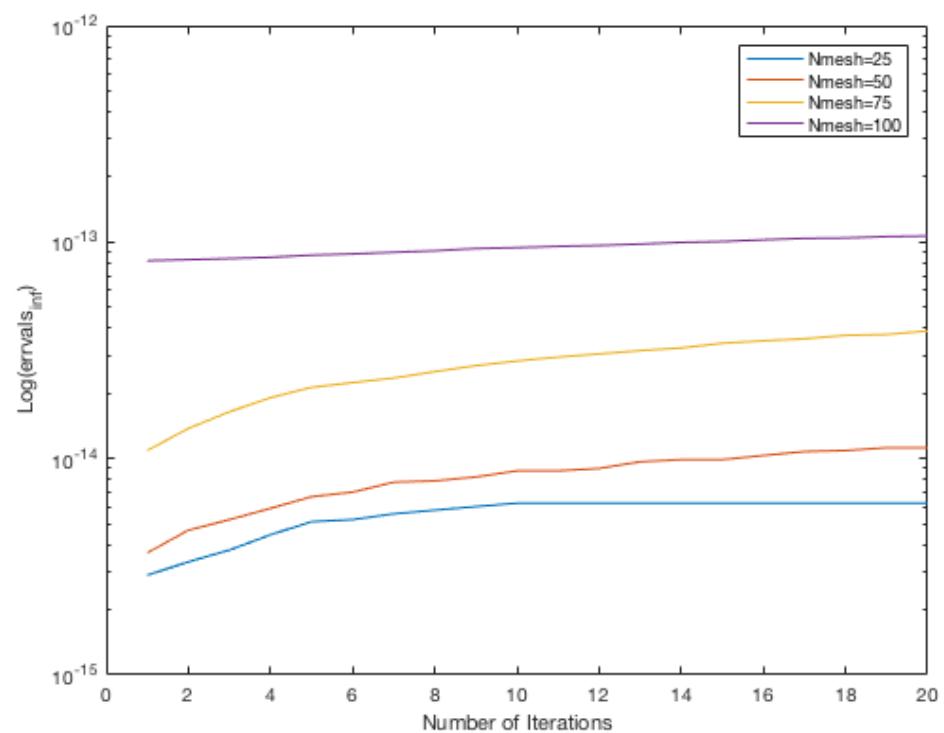


Figure 4.7: The plots of  $\log(\|u_n - u\|_{H1})$  against number of iterations

Figure 4.8: The plots of  $\log(\|u_n - u\|_\infty)$  against number of iterations



# CHAPTER 5

---

## Conclusion

---

In this paper, our main focus was the *Schwarz Alternating Method* for the two-dimensional Poisson's equation with Neumann boundary conditions. In fact, this iterative approach also applies to other different classes of equations such as Stokes equations and nonlinear variants, and more details can be found in *Lion's* 1988 paper [PL88]. Moreover, we can also extend from two subdomains to any finite number of subdomains. The convergence result follows from the *von-Neumann Halperin Theorem*, while the algorithm is very similar to our two dimensional case.

In the numerical analysis section of this paper, we restricted the application of our algorithm to a specific L-shaped domain for simplicity, but I believe that our Matlab code can also be adapted for any composite domain which is a union of two subdomains with uniform overlapping.



# CHAPTER 6

---

## Appendices

---

### 6.1. Appendix A

```
tic;
Nsteps = 80;    % Number of iterations
Nplot = 101;    % Fineness of plots
T = 10*eps;    % Time delay
az = 13;        % Plot viewing angle
el = 48;        % Plot viewing height
v = 0.0;        % Camera speed
fix_axes = 0;      % Set to 1 for fixed axes
plot_range = [-0.1 1.1];    % z-axis range if fixed
% col_range = plot_range;    % Fixed colour range
% col_range = [-.7 1.1];
col_range = 'manual';    % Varying colour range
rec = 0;          % record on/off
xg = linspace(-1,1,Nplot);
yg = linspace(-1,1,Nplot);
[XX,YY] = meshgrid(xg,yg);
ZZ = NaN(size(XX));

[indy_up,indx_up]=find(XX>=0);
indx_up = unique(indx_up);
indy_up = unique(indy_up);

[indy_lo,indx_lo]=find(YY<=0);
indx_lo = unique(indx_lo);
```

```

indy_lo = unique(indy_lo);

indices_all=find(XX>=0|YY<=0);
ZZ(indices_all)=1;
Du_dy=(ZZ(1:Nplot-2,:)-ZZ(3:Nplot,:));
Du_dx=(ZZ(:,3:Nplot)-ZZ(:,1:Nplot-2));
diffy_ind=~isnan(Du_dy);
diffx_ind=~isnan(Du_dx);

```

### Export geometry

```

load('upper_rectangle')
load('lower_rectangle')

```

### Define the problem

```

a = 1;
c = 1;           % Coeffs in PDE
f = 1;           % RHS of PDE
% f = '1+x.^2+12*(y+1)';
% f = '1./(x.^2+(y+1/2).^2)-1./((x-1/2).^2+y.^2)';

initguess=@(x,y) abs(log(1./((x.^2+y.^2).^5))).^0.4999 % u0=infinity
% initguess=@(x,y) 1;
% initguess = @(x,y) 0; % u0~=1 @(0,0)
% initguess = @(x,y) -1-sin(22*x).*sin(10*y);
% initguess = @(x,y) 1-sin(22*x).*sin(10*y);
% initguess = @(x,y) 0.0+(min(x.^2+(y+.5).^2,(x-.5).^2+y.^2)<.005);
% initguess = @(x,y) (min(x.^2+(y+.5).^2,(x-.5).^2+y.^2)>.05);
% initguess = @(x,y) -3+4*(x.^2+(y+1/2).^2>.001);
% initguess = @(x,y) 1-.001./(x.^2+(y+1/2).^2).^(1/3)-.001./((x-1/2).^2+y.^2).^(1/3);
%initguess = @(x,y) 10-7.*abs(log(-x.^2-(y+1/2).^2))).^0.4999;

```

### Generate the mesh

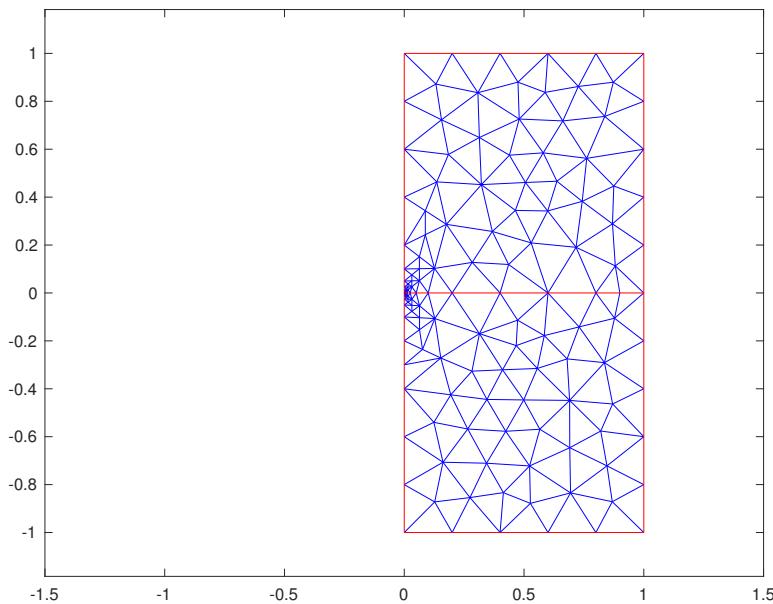
```

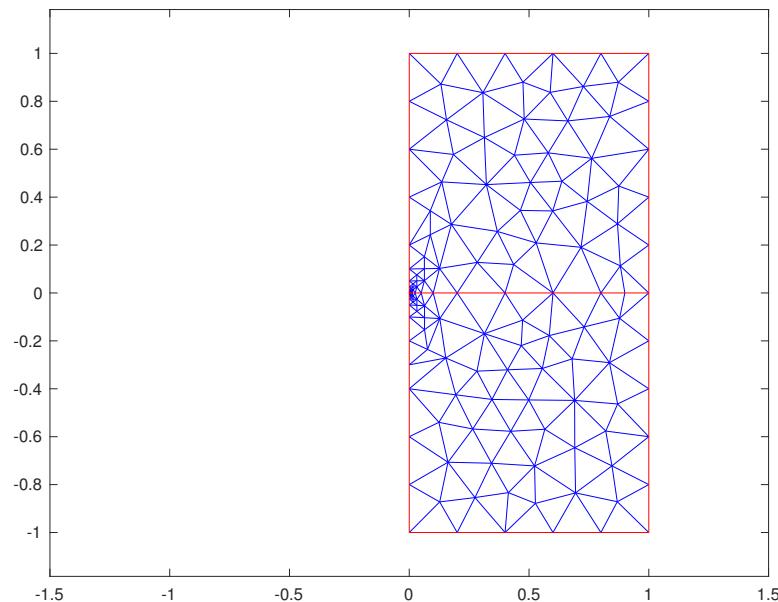
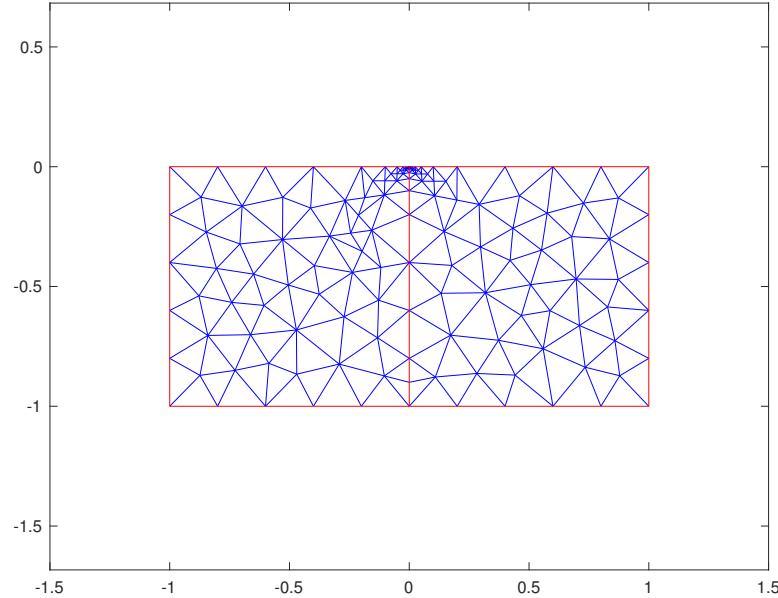
errvals_inf= zeros(4,Nsteps);
errvals_H1=zeros(4,Nsteps);

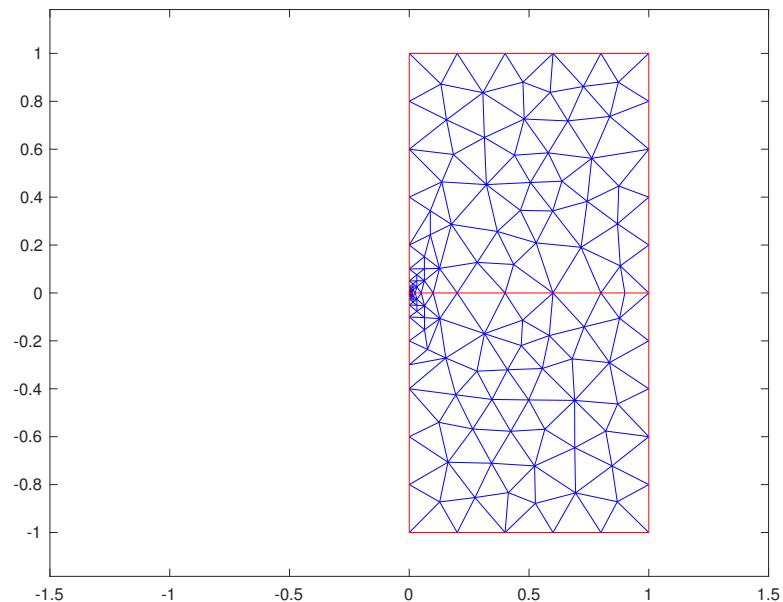
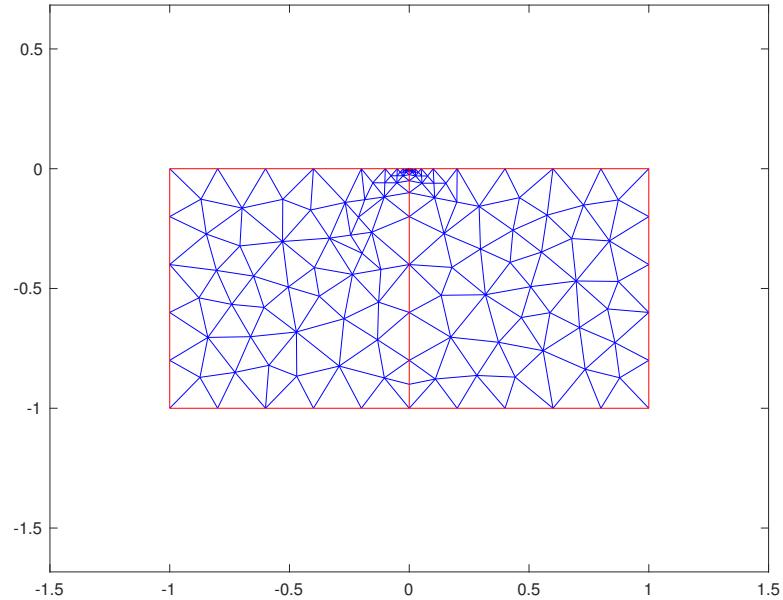
for Nmesh=25:25:100;

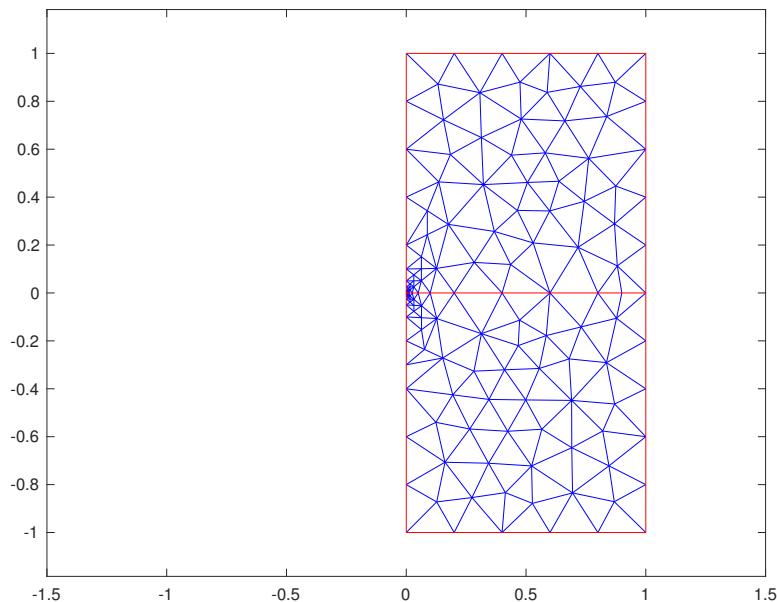
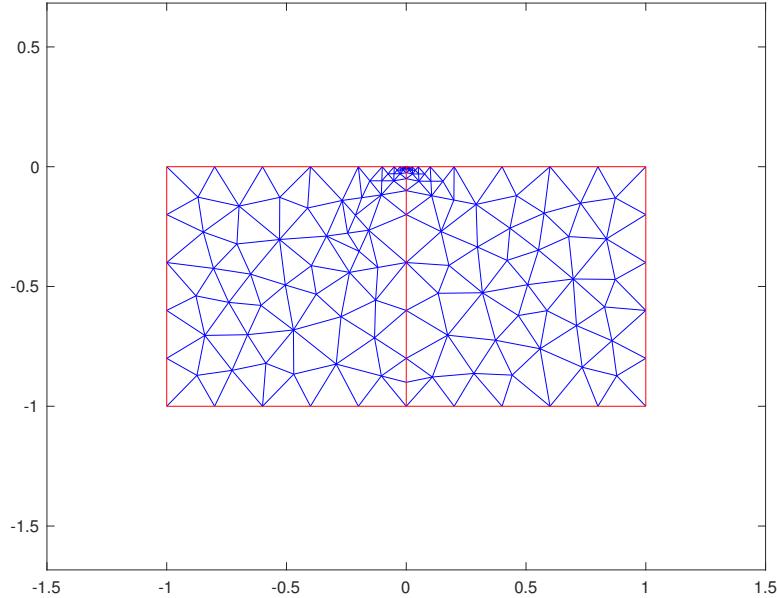
```

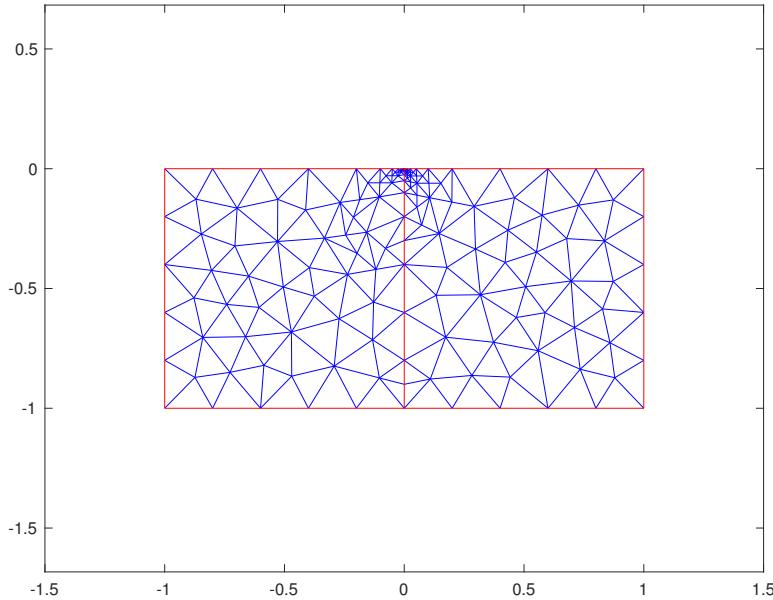
```
meshgenfun = '1./(x.^2+y.^2)'; % function for adaptive mesh generation  
[~,p_up,e_up,t_up]=adaptmesh(g_up,b_up,c,a,meshgenfun,'Ngen', Nmesh);  
[~,p_lo,e_lo,t_lo]=adaptmesh(g_lo,b_lo,c,a,meshgenfun,'Ngen', Nmesh);  
figure(1);  
pdemesh(p_up,e_up,t_up);  
xlim([-1.5,1.5]);  
axis equal;  
  
figure(2);  
pdemesh(p_lo,e_lo,t_lo);  
xlim([-1.5,1.5]);  
axis equal;
```











### Obtain relative matrices

```
[K_up,M_up,F_up,Q_up,G_up,H_up,R_up]=assemPDE(b_up,p_up,e_up,t_up,c,a,f);
[K_lo,M_lo,F_lo,Q_lo,G_lo,H_lo,R_lo]=assemPDE(b_lo,p_lo,e_lo,t_lo,c,a,f);
```

### Assign true solution

```
u_up_true = ones(1,length(p_up));
u_lo_true = ones(1,length(p_lo));
```

### Iterations

```
counter = 0;
if rec == 1
    Vid = VideoWriter('Temp_video', 'MPEG-4');
    Vid.FrameRate = 3;
    Vid.Quality = 100;
    open(Vid);
end
ZZ(XX>=0) = initguess(XX(XX>=0),YY(XX>=0));
ZZ(YY<=0) = initguess(XX(YY<=0),YY(YY<=0));
figure(3);
my_plot_new(XX,YY,ZZ,az,el,v, plot_range, col_range,0,fix_axes);

if rec == 1
    frame = getframe(gcf);
```

```

    writeVideo(Vid,frame);
end

pause

% Note that pind_up2 represents the indices of the mesh points at the boundary in
% upper domain
[pind_up1,pind_up2]=find(H_up);
% Remove the problematic point
ind=find((abs(p_up(1,pind_up2) -0)<1e-10) & (abs(p_up(2,pind_up2) -0)<1e-10));
pind_up1(ind)=[] ;
pind_up2(ind)=[] ;
% Update the Dirichlet condition matrix H_up
H_up=H_up(pind_up1,:);

[pind_lo1,pind_lo2]=find(H_lo);
% Remove the problematic point
ind=find((abs(p_lo(1,pind_lo2) -0)<1e-10) & (abs(p_lo(2,pind_lo2) -0)<1e-10));
pind_lo1(ind)=[] ;
pind_lo2(ind)=[] ;
% Update the Dirichlet condition matrix H_lo
H_lo=H_lo(pind_lo1,:);

bnew_up=zeros(length(pind_up2),1);
bnew_lo=zeros(length(pind_lo2),1);

for step = 1:Nsteps;
    if step == 1
        bfun_up = @(x,y) initguess(x,y);
    else
        bfun_up = @(x,y) tri2grid(p_lo,t_lo,u_lo,x,y);
    end
    % Update boundary conditions
    for i=1:length(pind_up2);
        bnew_up(i)=bfun_up(p_up(1,pind_up2(i)),p_up(2,pind_up2(i)));
    end

```

```

% Update the Dirichlet condition vector R_up
R_up = H_up(:,pind_up2)*bnew_up;

% Solve the pde in the upper domain
u_up=assemPDE(K_up,M_up,F_up,Q_up,G_up,H_up,R_up);

% Plot the solution
ZZ(XX>=0) = tri2grid(p_up,t_up,u_up,xg(indx_up),yg(indy_up));
figure(3);
my_plot_new(XX,YY,ZZ,az,el,v, plot_range, col_range, counter,fix_axes);

if rec == 1
    frame = getframe(gcf);
    writeVideo(Vid,frame);
end

pause(T)
counter = counter+1;

bfun_lo = @(x,y) tri2grid(p_up,t_up,u_up,x,y);

% Update the boundary conditions
for i=1:length(pind_lo2);
    bnew_lo(i)=bfun_lo(p_lo(1,pind_lo2(i)),p_lo(2,pind_lo2(i)));
end

% Update the Dirichlet condition vector
R_lo = H_lo(:,pind_lo2)*bnew_lo;

% Solve the pde in the lower domain
u_lo=assemPDE(K_lo,M_lo,F_lo,Q_lo,G_lo,H_lo,R_lo);

%Plot the solution
ZZ(YY<=0) = tri2grid(p_lo,t_lo,u_lo,xg(indx_lo),yg(indy_lo));
figure(3)
my_plot_new(XX,YY,ZZ,az,el, v, plot_range, col_range, counter,fix_axes);

```

```

if rec == 1
    frame = getframe(gcf);
    writeVideo(Vid,frame);
end

pause(T)

counter = counter+1;

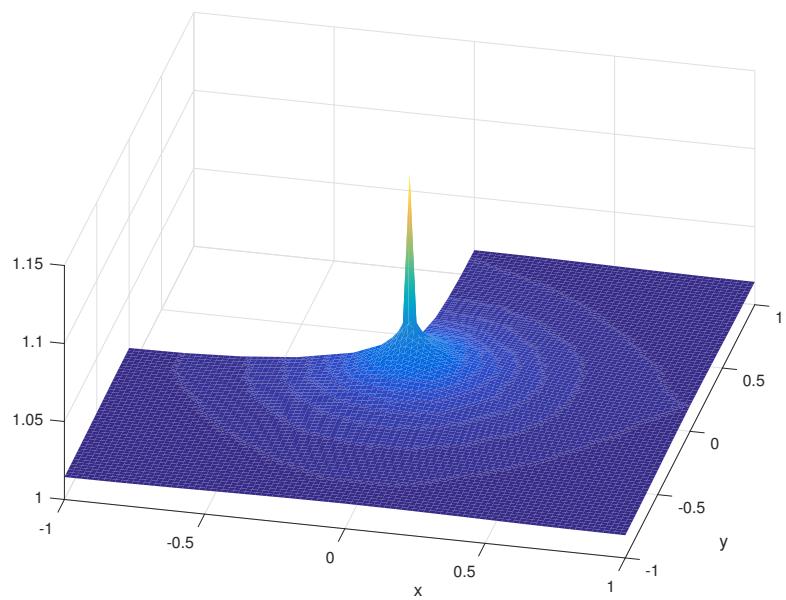
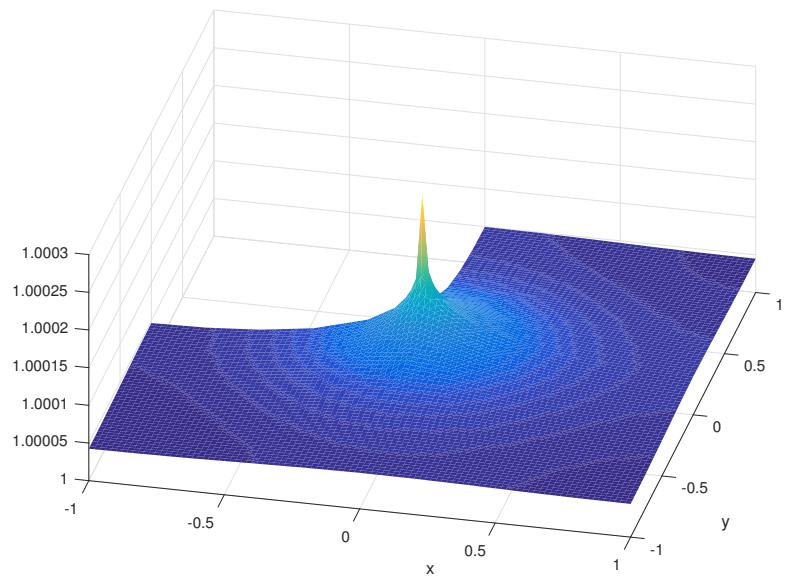
% The error calculated with respect to infinity norm
errvals_inf(Nmesh/25,step)=max(max(abs([u_up(:); u_lo(:)]-[u_up_true(:); u_lo_true(:)])));
errvals_H1(Nmesh/25,step)=sqrt(sum(integrals));

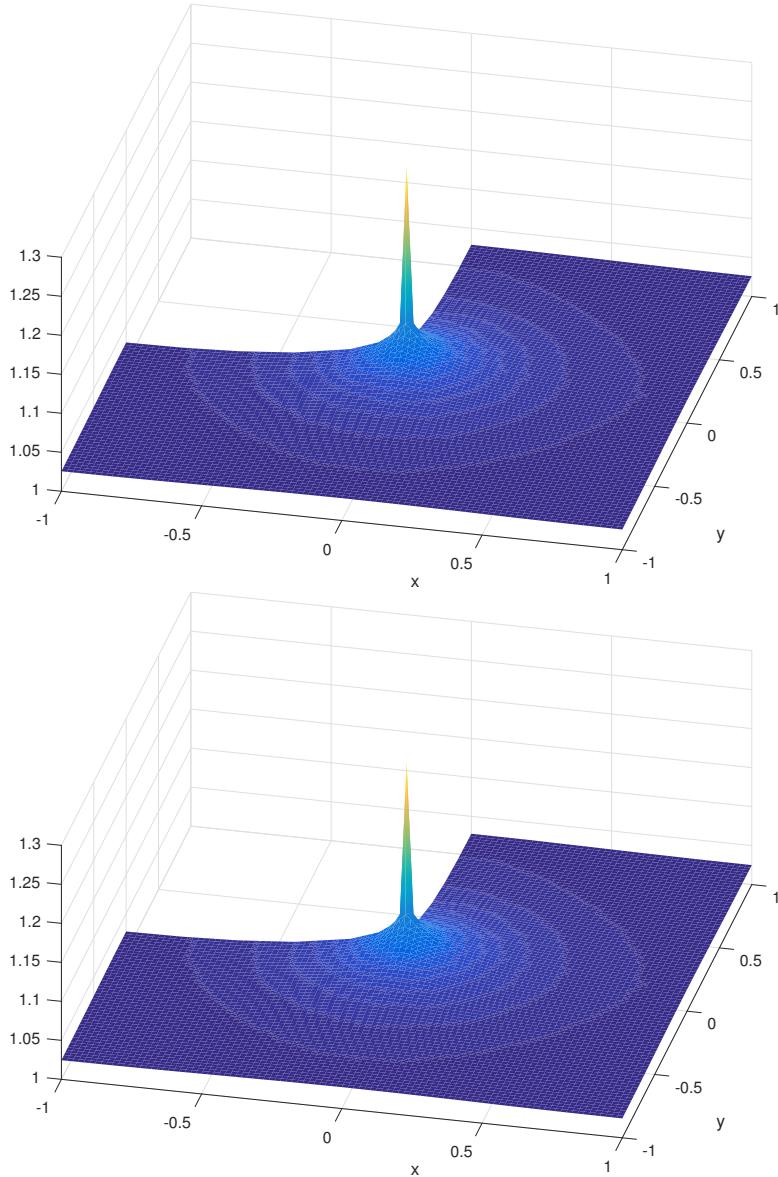
% The error calculated with respect to H1 norm

% The difference between the solution from ASM and the true solution
u_diff=ZZ-ones(size(ZZ));
% Square the difference
u_diff_square=u_diff.*u_diff;
% stepsize on x-axis
dx=(1-(-1))/(Nplot-1);
% stepsize on y-axis
dy=(1-(-1))/(Nplot-1);
integral_1=sum(sum (dx*dy*u_diff_square(indices_all)));

% Approximate the derivatives by Central Difference Method
Du_dy=(ZZ(3:Nplot,:)-ZZ(1:Nplot-2,:))/(2*dy);
Du_dx=(ZZ(:,3:Nplot)-ZZ(:,1:Nplot-2))/(2*dx);
% Integrate on the y-direction
integrand_y=Du_dy.*Du_dy*dx*dy;
% Integrate on the x-direction
integrand_x=Du_dx.*Du_dx*dx*dy;
integrals=[integral_1,sum(sum(integrand_y(difffy_ind))),sum(sum(integrand_x(difffx_ind)))];
errvals_H1(Nmesh/25,step)=sqrt(sum(integrals));
end

```





```
end
```

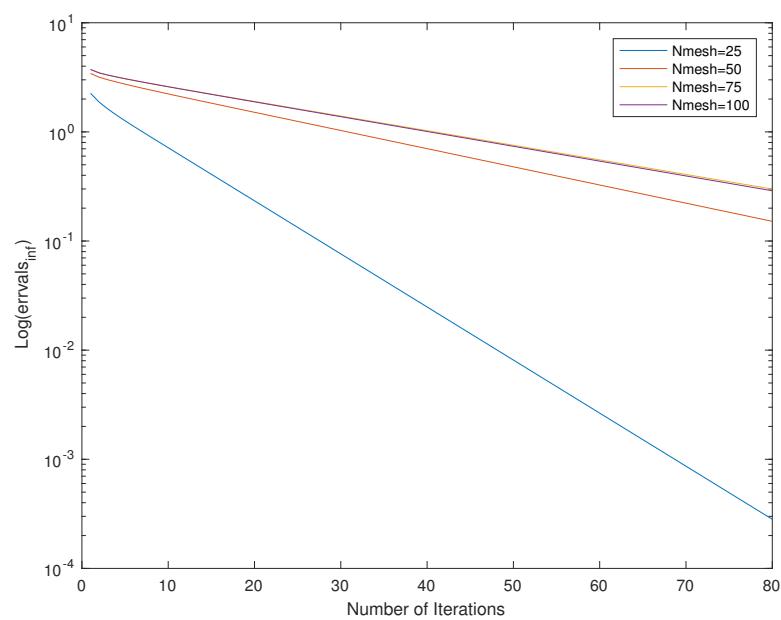
```
if rec == 1
    close(Vid);
end
```

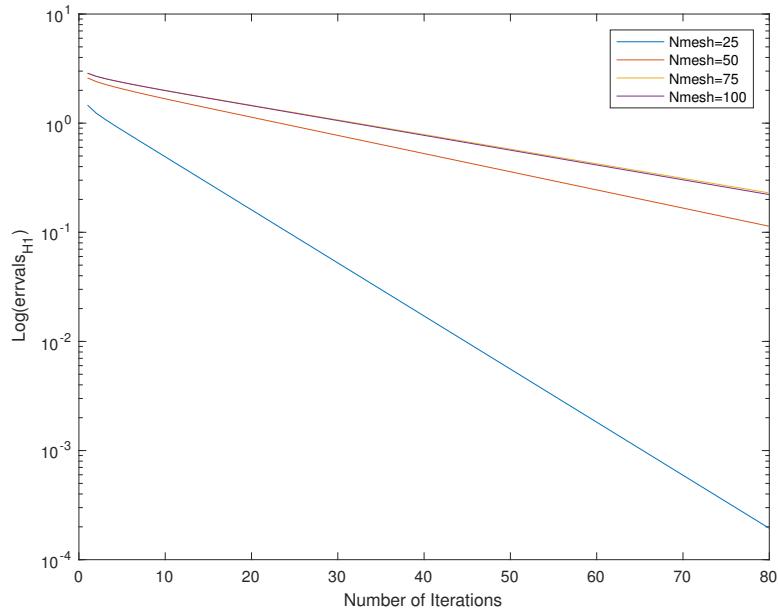
### Plot of $|u_n - u_{\text{true}}|$ versus Nsteps

```
figure(4)
nn = 1:Nsteps;
semilogy(nn,[errvals_inf(1,:);errvals_inf(2,:);errvals_inf(3,:);errvals_inf(4,:)])
legend('Nmesh=25','Nmesh=50','Nmesh=75','Nmesh=100')
```

```
xlabel('Number of Iterations'); % x-axis label  
ylabel('Log(errvals_{inf})') ; % y-axis label  
  
figure(5)  
nn = 1:Nsteps;  
semilogy(nn,[errvals_H1(1,:);errvals_H1(2,:);errvals_H1(3,:);errvals_H1(4,:)])  
legend('Nmesh=25','Nmesh=50','Nmesh=75','Nmesh=100');  
xlabel('Number of Iterations'); % x-axis label  
ylabel('Log(errvals_{H1})'); % y-axis label  
toc
```

Elapsed time is 90.622654 seconds.





---

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