

For convenience, will we define also the interior of the active set as  $\mathcal{T}_{int}$ .

$$\text{To be consistent } \mathcal{T}_h^{\text{int}} \leftarrow \mathcal{T}_{int} = \{T \in \mathcal{T}_h \mid T \cap \text{Int}(\Omega) \neq \emptyset\}.$$

with notation  $\mathcal{T}_h^{\text{int}}$ .

Hence, we have that the active set is the union of the interior and cut elements,  $\mathcal{T}_h = \mathcal{T}_{int} \cup \mathcal{T}_\Gamma$ . For an illustration, see Figure 12.

$$\mathcal{T}_h^{\text{int}} \cup \mathcal{T}_\Gamma$$

## 4.2 Cut continuous interior penalty methods

As  $\Omega$  is static is it easy to observe that having a polynomial basis on the full mesh  $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_h$ , is not necessary. Hence, we ~~will~~ define the polynomial space ~~using~~ <sup>only on</sup> the active set  $\mathcal{T}_h$  from (4.1),

$$V_h = \left\{ v \in C^0(\mathcal{T}_h) : v_T = v|_T \in \mathcal{P}^k(T), \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h \right\}.$$

~~not defined yet. Rather write  $(\mathcal{L}_h)$  and define  $\mathcal{L}_h = \bigcup_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} T$ .~~

Furthermore, drawing on the principles outlined in Section 3, we can indeed recall two CIP formulations for the biharmonic equation: the Hessian formulation (3.15) and the Laplace formulation (3.18).

To make sure the problem is stabilized will we add a hypothetical consistent symmetric bilinear ghost-penalty term  $g_h : V_h \times V_h \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  in addition to our bilinear. That is, we define the discrete problem to ~~remove all such abbreviations?~~ <sup>such that</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>stands for</sup> ~~don't do "do"~~ <sup>..section, we provide..</sup> ~~do~~ <sup>for semi definite</sup> ~~an after understood~~ <sup>Function space on meshes</sup> ~~as below~~  <sup>$C^0(\mathcal{L}_h)$</sup>  ~~only defined element wise.~~ <sup>"For the Laplace formulation"</sup> ~~our proposed~~

$$\text{Find } u_h \in V_h \quad A_h(u_h, v) := a_h(u_h, v) + g_h(u_h, v) = l_h(v) \quad \forall v \in V_h. \quad (4.2)$$

Here ~~is~~ <sup>a</sup>  $a_h(\cdot, \cdot)$  denoted as either  $a_h^L(\cdot, \cdot)$  or  $a_h^H(\cdot, \cdot)$ .

We will in this section ~~do~~ a full proof for the Hessian formulation, however, the proofs should not differ ~~too much~~ for the Laplace formulation. For simplification will we use the notation  $a_h(u, v) = a_h^H(u, v)$  and  $l_h(v) = l_h^H(v)$  for the rest of the stability and convergence analysis.

Keep in mind that in contrast to the standard CIP methods, ~~this method is defined on an unfitted mesh~~. As we will see, the analysis ~~is~~ the ghost penalty a method to ensure numerical stability on cut cell  $\mathcal{T}_\Gamma$ . The main reason why this numerical instability is happening for a unfitted mesh is ~~that~~ when a cell is badly cut, see examples in Figure 14. In other words, when a cell is "badly cut," it means that it is intersected by the boundary  $\Gamma$  in such a way that only a very small part of the interior of an element  $T$  intersects with the physical domain  $\Omega$ , i.e.  $|\Omega \cap T|_d \ll h^d$ . This can lead to ~~a very poor condition number of the system matrix corresponding to such a cell, causing numerical instability.~~ <sup>both stability issues and</sup> ~~our proposed~~

The ghost penalty stabilization technique is designed to tackle this issue. Essentially, this approach introduces additional terms into the finite element method that penalize jumps in the discrete solution and its gradients across cell interfaces, typically the cut cells. This penalty not only improves the conditioning of the system matrix but also enhances the robustness of the method with respect to the location of the boundary inside each cell. However, to make this possible, we assume a so-called fat-intersection property, which will be relevant in Section 4.5.

Our first assumption as follows; For a  $T \in \mathcal{T}_\Gamma$  there always exists a patch  $\omega(T)$  which contains  $T$  and an element  $T'$  with a so-called fat intersection  $|T' \cap \Omega|_d \gtrsim |T'|_d$ , where  $|\cdot|_d$  is the measure of an element of dimensions  $d = 2, 3$ . For an illustration, see Figure 13.

We define the underlying norms for  $v \in V_h$  as

$$\|v\|_{a_h}^2 = \alpha \|v\|_{\mathcal{T}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + \|D^2 v\|_{\mathcal{T}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} [\partial_n v]\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_n v\|_\Gamma^2, \quad (4.3)$$

$$|v|_{g_h}^2 = g(v, v), \quad (4.4)$$

$$\|v\|_{A_h}^2 = \|v\|_{a_h}^2 + |v|_{g_h}^2, \quad (4.5)$$

$$(4.6)$$

and for  $v \in V \oplus V_h$  we get, ~~also introduce~~

$$\|v\|_{a_h,*}^2 = \|v\|_{a_h}^2 + \|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \{\partial_{nn} v\}\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + \|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \partial_{nn} v\|_\Gamma^2. \quad (4.7)$$

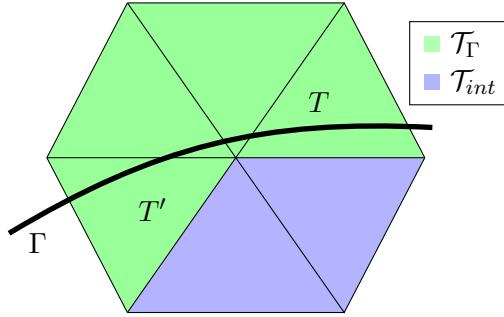


Figure 13: Illustration of the fat intersection property. Let  $T \in \mathcal{T}_\Gamma$ . It shows a patch  $\omega(T)$  that contains elements  $T \in \mathcal{T}_\Gamma$  and  $T' \in \mathcal{T}_{int} \cup \mathcal{T}_\Gamma = \mathcal{T}_h$ , with  $T'$  having a sufficiently large intersection with  $\Omega$ .

*Remark.* Note that it holds that  $\mathcal{T}_h \cap \Omega = \Omega$  and  $\mathcal{T}_h \cap \Gamma = \Gamma$ . Depending on context, we choose the best suitable notation.

*Remark.* The necessity to define the supplementary terms in the  $\|\cdot\|_{ah,*}$  may raise certain questions. The reason is because when  $v$  is continuous, i.e.  $v \in V$ , the local inverse estimates 2.15 does not hold for  $\|\{\partial_{nn}v\}\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}$  and  $\|\partial_{nn}v\|_\Gamma$  when evaluating  $a_h(v, v)$ . Hence, this leads necessity adding the additional terms into the norm. *when we later need to bound  $a_h(w - \phi_h, \phi_h)$  as part of the a prior error estimate derivation.*

### 4.3 Stability estimate

~~Recall the Subsection 2.7 where we discussed standard local inverse estimates.~~ Similarly for cut elements is it easy to see that this must hold,

$$\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{F \cap \Omega} \lesssim \|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_F \lesssim h_T^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|D^2v_h\|_T. \quad (4.8)$$

A useful variant is the following inequality ~~that is,~~

*For the proposed weighted version:*  $\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\Gamma \cap T} \lesssim h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|D^2v_h\|_T.$  *This*  $\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\Gamma \cap T} \lesssim h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|D^2v_h\|_T.$  *(4.9)*

*Remark.* It may be natural to instead look at  $\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\Gamma \cap T} \lesssim h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|D^2v_h\|_{T \cap \Omega}$ , however, this cannot hold for arbitrary cut configuration for an unfitted mesh. To demonstrate, let  $\varepsilon \ll 1$  be a small length. For the examples provided in Figure 14 we have two cases: i)  $|\Gamma \cap \Omega|_{d-1} \lesssim \varepsilon h^{d-1}$  and  $|T \cap \Omega|_{d-1} \lesssim \varepsilon h^{d-1}$ , and ii)  $|\Gamma \cap \Omega|_{d-1} \lesssim h^{d-1}$  and  $|T \cap \Omega|_{d-1} \lesssim \varepsilon h^{d-1}$ . The first case impacts the condition number since it is introducing almost vanishing entries in the system matrix from (2.11). While for the second case is bad for inverse estimates, and thus, problematic for proving coercivity. To recover, one in fact must incorporate the full element  $T$  into the inverse estimate *as done in (4.8) and (4.9).*

*discuss* *on the other hand*

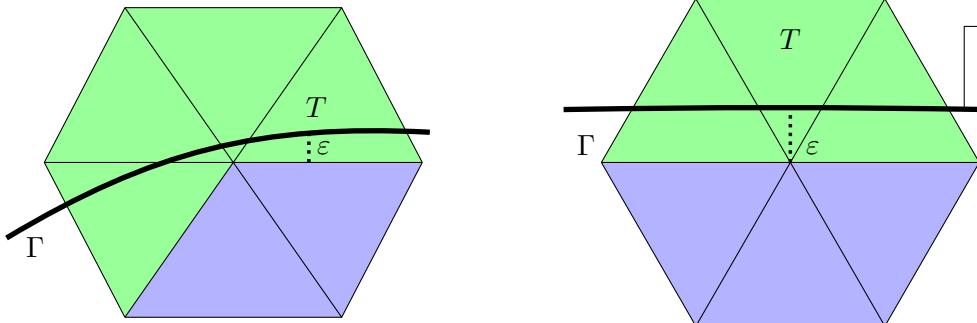


Figure 14: Illustration of two examples of bad cut cells with an arbitrary small length  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ . Let  $T \in \mathcal{T}_\Gamma$  be a cut cell. On the left example, is it clear that  $|\Gamma \cap T| \lesssim h^{d-1}$  and  $|\Omega \cap T| \lesssim \varepsilon h^d$ . However, on the right example is it clear that  $|\Gamma \cap T| \lesssim \varepsilon h^{d-1}$  and  $|\Omega \cap T| \lesssim \varepsilon h^d$ .

"work with norms which are defined on"

Since the inequalities above holds for all elements locally is it natural to extend it to the full mesh  $\mathcal{T}_h$ . This implies that

$$\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h \cap \Gamma} \lesssim h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|D^2v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h}, \quad (4.10)$$

$$\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \lesssim h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|D^2v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h}. \quad (4.11)$$

We aware that these inequalities also holds for the first order, that is.

$$\|\partial_n v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h \cap \Gamma} \lesssim h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla v\|_{\mathcal{T}_h}, \quad (4.12)$$

$$\|\partial_n v_h\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \lesssim h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h}. \quad (4.13)$$

In fact, combining the second order inequalities we get the following identity.

$$h\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + h\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h \cap \Gamma}^2 \lesssim \|D^2v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h}^2 \quad \forall v_h \in V_h. \quad (4.14)$$

For more information about the derivations of the inequalities, see discussion in [81, Section 2.4].

We may introduce our first assumption on the ghost penalty. Inspired by the expansion for the  $H^1$ -norm as detailed in [81, Equation 2.23], we adopt an analogous approach for the  $H^2$ -norm in this scenario.

**Assumption (EP1).** *The ghost penalty  $g_h$  extends the  $H^2$  norm such that*

$$\|D^2v\|_{\mathcal{T}_h}^2 \lesssim \|D^2v\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v|_{g_h}^2.$$

Combing the results we get the following convenient corollary.

**Corollary 4.1.** *Let  $g_h$  satisfy Assumption 4.3, then*

$$h\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + h\|\partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h \cap \Gamma}^2 \lesssim \|D^2v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v_h|_{g_h}^2 \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h}^2 \quad \forall v_h \in V_h \quad (4.15)$$

From this is it also clear that

$$\|v_h\|_{a_h,*} \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h} \quad \forall v_h \in V_h \quad (4.16)$$

*Proof.* The the first result (4.15) is a direct result of (4.14), Assumption 4.3 and the definition of  $\|\cdot\|_{A_h}$ . The second result (4.16) is simply a observation that the terms in (4.15) appears in  $\|\cdot\|_{a_h,*}$ , hence, the inequality follows.

**Lemma 4.2.** *The discrete form  $A_h$  is coercive, that is,*

$$\|v_h\|_{A_h}^2 \lesssim A_h(v_h, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h. \quad \text{for the Laplace formulation (4.15).}$$

*Proof.* Let  $v_h \in V_h$ . Observe that

$$A_h(v_h, v_h) = a_h(v_h, v_h) + |v_h|_{g_h}^2. \quad \text{Third punctuation (4.17)}$$

Firstly, the ghost penalty term is already a part of the  $\|\cdot\|_{A_h}$  norm, hence, it only remains to check the  $a_h(\cdot, \cdot)$  term. "properly from below".

"bounds"

$$a_h(v_h, v_h) = \alpha\|v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + \|D^2v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + \frac{\gamma}{h} \|\llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h}^2 + \frac{\gamma}{h} \|\partial_n v_h\|_{\Gamma}^2 \quad (4.18)$$

$$+ 2(\llbracket \partial_{nn}v_h \rrbracket, \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket)_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} + 2(\partial_{nn}v_h, \partial_n v_h)_{\Gamma}$$

We first focus on the last two terms in (4.18). Using Cauchy-Schwarz (2.4), we observe that

$$(\llbracket \partial_{nn}v_h \rrbracket, \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket)_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \geq -\|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \llbracket \partial_{nn}v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \quad (4.19)$$

$$(\partial_{nn}v_h, \partial_n v_h)_{\Gamma} \geq -\|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \partial_{nn}v_h\|_{\Gamma} \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_n v_h\|_{\Gamma}$$

negligible (everywhere)

wrong word order, English grammar works here differently than Norwegian, verb is never in 1. position (Except (4.20) in questions combined with auxiliary verbs)

Using inverse-inequalities (4.10) and (4.11) and the Corollary 4.1 we can easily observe that

$$\|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \llbracket \partial_{nn} v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 \leq C_1 \|D^2 v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h}^2 \lesssim \|D^2 v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v_h|_{g_h}^2 \quad (4.20)$$

$$\|\partial_{nn} v_h\|_{\Gamma}^2 \leq C_2 \|D^2 v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h}^2 \lesssim \|D^2 v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v_h|_{g_h}^2$$

Thus, by applying Young's inequality (2.5), is it natural to see that,

$$\begin{aligned} -C_1^{\frac{1}{2}} \|D^2 v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h} \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} &\geq -\frac{1}{\varepsilon} C(\|D^2 v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v_h|_{g_h}^2) - \varepsilon \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 \\ -C_2^{\frac{1}{2}} \|D^2 v_h\|_{\mathcal{T}_h} \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_n v_h\|_{\Gamma} &\geq -\frac{1}{\varepsilon} C(\|D^2 v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v_h|_{g_h}^2) - \varepsilon \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_n v_h\|_{\Gamma}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (4.21)$$

Combining these ideas we end up with the following inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} a_h(v_h, v_h) &\geq \alpha \|v\|_{\Omega}^2 + \|D^2 v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} 4C(\|D^2 v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v_h|_{g_h}^2) \\ &\quad + (\gamma - 2\varepsilon) \left( \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_n v_h\|_{\Gamma}^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.22)$$

This inequality is useful since if we add a ghost penalty on the left hand side we get

$$\begin{aligned} A_h(v_h, v_h) &= a(v_h, v_h) + |v_h|_{g_h}^2 \\ &\gtrsim \|\alpha^{\frac{1}{2}} v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + (1 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} 4C)(\|D^2 v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v_h|_{g_h}^2) \\ &\quad + (\gamma - 2\varepsilon) \left( \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_n v_h\|_{\Gamma}^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.23)$$

Setting  $\varepsilon = 8C$  and  $\gamma = 32C$  we arrive at the desired ~~stability inequality~~

$$\begin{aligned} A_h(v_h, v_h) &\gtrsim \|\alpha^{\frac{1}{2}} v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\|D^2 v_h\|_{\Omega}^2 + |v_h|_{g_h}^2) \\ &\quad + \frac{\gamma}{2} \left( \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}^2 + \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_n v_h\|_{\Gamma}^2 \right). \\ &\gtrsim \|v_h\|_{A_h}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.24)$$

bilinear

□

**Lemma 4.3.** The discrete form  $A_h$  is bounded ~~uniformly~~

$$A_h(v_h, w_h) \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h} \|w_h\|_{A_h} \quad \forall v_h, w_h \in V_h \quad (4.25)$$

Moreover, for  $v \in V_h \oplus V$  and  $w_h \in V_h$  the discrete bilinear form  $a_h(\cdot, \cdot)$  satisfies, no come (just read

$$a_h(v, w_h) \lesssim \|v\|_{a_h,*} \|w_h\|_{A_h}. \quad (4.26)$$

**Estimate (4.25) Proof.** Step 1. The goal is to prove the inequality (4.25).

$$|A_h(v_h, w_h)| \lesssim |a_h(v_h, w_h)| + |g_h(v_h, w_h)| \quad (4.27)$$

By assumption the ghost penalty  $g_h$  is positive semi-definite, thus fulfills the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$|g_h(v_h, w_h)| \lesssim |v_h|_{g_h} |w_h|_{g_h}. \quad (4.28)$$

Hence, by definition of  $A_h(\cdot, \cdot)$ ,  $|g_h(v_h, w_h)| \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h} \|w_h\|_{A_h}$ . It remains to show that the bilinear term  $a_h(\cdot, \cdot)$  is bounded. We numerate the terms in this fashion.

$$\begin{aligned} a_h(v_h, w_h) &\leq \underbrace{(\alpha v_h, w_h)}_{I} \mathcal{T}_h \cap \Omega + \underbrace{(D^2 v_h, D^2 w_h)}_{II} \mathcal{T}_h \cap \Omega \\ &\quad + (\llbracket \partial_{nn} v_h \rrbracket, \llbracket \partial_n w_h \rrbracket)_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} + (\llbracket \partial_{nn} w_h \rrbracket, \llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket)_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} + \frac{\gamma}{h} (\llbracket \partial_n v_h \rrbracket, \llbracket \partial_n w_h \rrbracket)_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \\ &\quad + (\partial_{nn} v_h, \partial_n w_h)_{\Gamma} + (\partial_{nn} w_h, \partial_n v_h)_{\Gamma} + \frac{\gamma}{h} (\partial_n v_h, \partial_n w_h)_{\Gamma} \\ &= (I) + \dots + (VIII). \end{aligned} \quad (4.29)$$

(parenthesis are superfluous, they don't add clarity just write

The strategy is to bound each term individually using Cauchy-Schwarz (2.4). From this it is easy to see that  $|(\text{I})| + |(\text{II})| \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h} \|w_h\|_{A_h}$ . For the terms ~~symmetrical terms~~ (III) and (IV) we apply the inverse inequality (4.11), ~~"inequality (4.15) from Corollary 4.1 to see that"~~

$$|(\text{III})| \lesssim \|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \partial_{nn} v_h\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} [\partial_n w_h]\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h} \|w_h\|_{A_h}. \quad (4.30)$$

Here we used that  $\|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \partial_{nn} v_h\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h}$  thanks to Corollary 4.1. The interior penalty can we easily see that, can be bounded by

$$|(\text{V})| \lesssim \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} [\partial_n v_h]\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} [\partial_n w_h]\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega} \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h} \|w_h\|_{A_h}. \quad (4.31)$$

"The " ins" It remains to handle the ~~symmetry~~ terms (VI) and (VII) can again be handled using Corollary 4.1, leading to "

$$|(\text{VI})| \lesssim \|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \partial_{nn} v_h\|_{\Gamma} \|h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_n w_h\|_{\Gamma} \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h} \|w_h\|_{A_h} \quad (4.32)$$

Again, here we used the Corollary 4.1. Finally, using the definition of the norm is it easily to see that

$$|(\text{VIII})| \lesssim \|\partial_n v_h\|_{\Gamma} \|\partial_n w_h\|_{\Gamma} \lesssim \|v_h\|_{A_h} \|w_h\|_{A_h}.$$

Hence, we can conclude

$$|a_h(v_h, w_h)| \leq \|v_h\|_{A_h} \|w_h\|_{A_h} \quad \forall v_h, w_h \in V_h. \quad (4.33)$$

Therefore, since  $\|\cdot\|_{A_h} \lesssim \|\cdot\|_{A_h}$ , it has been demonstrated that  $a_h(\cdot, \cdot)$  is bounded within the norm.

Step 2. The goal is to prove (4.26). Let  $v \in V_h \oplus V$  and  $w_h \in V_h$ . The only difference is that since  $v$  is continuous we cannot apply to Corollary 4.1 on the estimates (4.30) and (4.32). However, this is not a problem since  $\|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \{\partial_{nn} v\}\|_{\mathcal{F}_h \cap \Omega}$  and  $\|h^{\frac{1}{2}} \partial_{nn} v\|_{\Gamma}$  are terms in the norm  $\|v\|_{A_h,*}$ . Thus, we know that

$$|a_h(v, w_h)| \leq \|v\|_{A_h,*} \|w_h\|_{A_h} \quad \forall v \in V_h \oplus V \text{ and } w_h \in V_h \quad (4.34)$$

#### 4.4 A priori error estimate

For the proposed method, we want to derive a priori error estimate with respect to both the  $\|\cdot\|_{A_h,*}$ -norm and the  $\|\cdot\|_{\Omega}$ -norm. We will construct a suitable (quasi-)interpolation operator, here we use the Clement quasi interpolation operator which in contrast to the standard Lagrange nodal interpolation iterator is also defined for low regularity function in  $u \in L^2(\Omega)$ . In combination with discrete coercivity this allows you to derive an a priori estimate in the energy norm. Finally, we use a standard duality argument, i.e. Aubin-Nitsche trick, to derive the  $L^2$  error estimate.

Recall that for  $v \in H^1(\mathcal{T}_h)$  these inequalities holds  $\forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|v\|_{\partial T} &\lesssim h_T^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|v\|_T + h_T^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla v\|_T, \\ \|v\|_{\Gamma \cap T} &\lesssim h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|v\|_T + h_T^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla v\|_T, \end{aligned}$$

for proof see [92, Lemma 4.2].

Assume that  $\Omega$  has a boundary  $\Gamma$  in  $C^1$ , then it does exist an bounded extension operator,

$$(\cdot)^e : H^m(\Omega) \rightarrow H^m(\mathbb{R}^d),$$

for all  $v \in H^m(\Omega)$  which satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} v^e|_{\Omega} &= v, \\ \|v^e\|_{m, \mathbb{R}^d} &\lesssim \|v\|_{m, \Omega}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.35)$$