

Let $(\cdot, \cdot), (\cdot, \cdot)_h$ denote the exact and quadrature-based L^2 inner product on the volume, and let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_h$ denote the exact and quadrature-based L^2 inner products on the surface. We will assume that, in $d > 1$ dimensions, the volume and surface quadratures satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} |(u, v) - (u, v)_h| &\lesssim h^{r_{\text{vol}}+1+d} \|u\|_{H^{r+1}(D^k)} \|v\|_{H^{r+1}(D^k)} \\ |\langle u, v \rangle - \langle u, v \rangle_h| &\lesssim h^{r_{\text{surf}}+d} \|u\|_{H^{r+1}(\partial D^k)} \|v\|_{H^{r+1}(\partial D^k)}. \end{aligned}$$

We wish to show error estimates for certain finite difference approximations of derivatives. More precisely, we will show that, for sufficiently regular f , the weak derivative $D_h f$ satisfies

$$\left\| \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} - D_h f \right\| \leq C h^{p+1} \|f\|_{H^{p+1}}.$$

More precisely, we will show that the L^2 projection satisfies

$$\left\| \Pi_N \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} - D_h f \right\| \leq C h^\alpha \|f\|_{H^{p+1}}, \quad \alpha = \min(r_{\text{vol}} + 1 - p, r_{\text{surf}} - p).$$

Main notes: if \mathbf{Q}_N does not satisfy the SBP property, then the error estimate is limited by the accuracy of the weak derivative. The strong derivative is always $O(h^p)$, but the weak derivative is $O(h^{\lfloor \alpha/2 \rfloor})$, where α is defined above.