

3.3 The interpolant

(3.3.1) Def. Let (K, P, N) be a finite element and $\{\phi_i\}_1^k$ the nodal basis. The local interpolator I_K is defined by

$$I_K v = \sum_{i=1}^k N_i(v) \phi_i$$

for fens v for which $N_i(v)$ are defined.

(3.3.4) - (3.3.7) Prop.

- I_K is a linear operator
- $N_i(I_K v) = N_i(v)$
- $I_K(v) = v$ if $v \in P$
- $I_K^2 = I_K$

Straightforward proofs.

(3.3.8) $\{K_i\}_{i=1}^N$ is a subdivision of Ω if (2)
 K_i are element domains with
 (1) $\text{int}(K_i) \cap \text{int}(K_j) = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$
 (2) $\bigcup_{i=1}^N K_i = \overline{\Omega}$

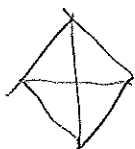
(3.3.9) Let $T = \{K\}$ be a subdivision of Ω such that there is a finite element $(K, P, \mathcal{N})$ for each $K \in T$. Let m be the highest order of derivative in the nodal variables. Then for $f \in C^m(\overline{\Omega})$ we define the global interpolant $I_T f$ by

$$I_T f|_K = I_K f \quad \forall K \in T.$$

The interpolant is not cont^s unless we assume

(3.3.11) A triangulation of a polygonal domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is a subdivision $T = \{K\}$ where K are triangles such that

(3) no vertex of any triangle is an interior point of any edge of another triangle



okay



not okay

(3.3.15) If $I_T f \in C^r \quad \forall f \in C^m(\bar{\Omega})$ then (3
 I_T has cont. order r . The $V_T = \{I_T f : f \in C^m(\bar{\Omega})\}$
 is a C^r finite element space.

An element (K, P, N) is called a C^r element
 if it can be used to construct
 a C^r finite element space.

To do so we must place the
 nodes carefully.

(3.3.17) The Lagrange and Hermite elements
 are C^0 elements and Argyris is C^1 .

This means that for any triangulation
 T of Ω we can place nodes in

the elements (K, P, N) , $K \in T$, so that

$I_T f \in C^r$ for $f \in C^m(\bar{\Omega})$.
 $r = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{Lagrange \& Hermite} \\ 1 & \text{Argyris} \end{cases}$
 $m = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{Lag.} \\ 1 & \text{Herm.} \\ 2 & \text{Arg.} \end{cases}$

For example, for an edge $\overline{XX'}$ choose
 edge nodes $\xi_i (X' - X) + X$ where

$\{\xi_i : 1, \dots, k-1-2m\}$ are fixed and symmetric around $\xi_{\frac{k-1-2m}{2}}$

Moreover, $I_T f \in W_\infty^{r+1}(\Omega)$.

[This proof is not complete in the book.]



Proof Let T_1, T_2 have a common edge e . (4)

We have chosen edge nodes so that they coincide.

Let $w = I_{T_1} f - I_{T_2} f$ (poly degree k)

with $w|_e$ nodal values $= 0$.

Hence $w|_e = 0$.

Thus I_T is cont^s. For Argyris: $\begin{cases} \frac{\partial w}{\partial e}|_e = 0 \\ \frac{\partial w}{\partial m}|_e \in P_4 \text{ with 2 double roots, 1 simple} \end{cases}$ see next page

Compute weak derivative $D^\alpha I_T f$, $|\alpha| = r+1$.

Take $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$. $|\alpha| = 1$ so that $D^\alpha = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$

$\frac{\partial}{\partial e} \frac{\partial w}{\partial m}|_e = 0$
because $D^2 w = 0$

$$D^\alpha I_T f(\phi) = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int_\Omega I_T f D^\alpha \phi \, dx = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \sum \int_\Omega I_T f \underbrace{D^\alpha \phi}_{= \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i}} \, dx$$

$$= - \sum_T \int_{\partial T} m_i I_T f \phi \, dS + \sum_T \int_T \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} I_T f \phi \, dx$$

$$\{m_2 = -m_1\}$$

$$= - \sum_e \int_e m_{i,i} (I_{T_1} f - I_{T_2} f) \phi \, dS + \sum_T \int_T D^\alpha I_T f \phi \, dx$$

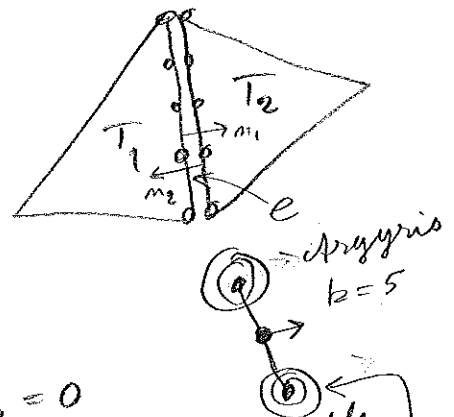
Note: boundary edges do not appear, because $\phi = 0$ near $\partial\Omega$.

Thus $D^\alpha I_T f|_T = D^\alpha I_T f$, piecewise derivative.

Clearly $D^\alpha I_T f \in L_\infty$, so that $I_T f \in W_\infty'(\Omega)$.

Similarly for Argyris $|\alpha| = 2$:

use continuity of $\frac{\partial I_T f}{\partial x_i}$ on e .



For Argyris we also must show

$$Dw|_e = 0, \text{ that is}$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial e}|_e = 0 \quad (\text{this clear because } w|_e = 0)$$

and $\frac{\partial w}{\partial m}|_e = 0$.

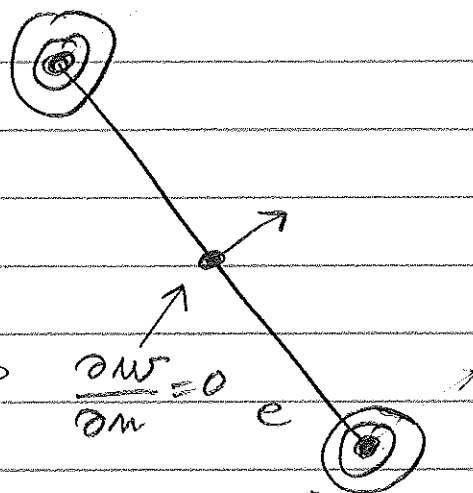
Let $k=5$.

But $\frac{\partial w}{\partial m}|_e$ is poly of degree 4 with

1 simple root

and 2 double roots.

Hence $\frac{\partial w}{\partial m}|_e = 0$.



$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial m} = 0$$

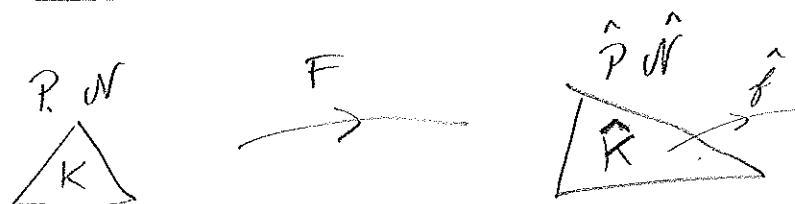
$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial m} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial e} \frac{\partial w}{\partial m} = 0$$

because $Dw = 0$
and $D^2w = 0$
here.

3.4 Equivalence of elements

(5)



$$F(x) = Ax + b$$

A non-singular

$$\hat{x} = F(x)$$

push-forward $F_*: \mathcal{P}' \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{P}}'$
 $N \mapsto F_*(N) = N(F^*(\cdot))$

pull-back $F^*: \hat{\mathcal{P}} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$, $F^*(\hat{f}) = \hat{f} \circ F$
 $\hat{f} \mapsto \hat{f} \circ F$

$$F_*(N)(\hat{f}) = N(F^*(\hat{f})) = N(\hat{f} \circ F)$$

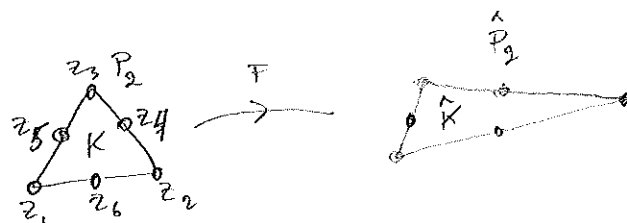
(3.4.1) (K, P, N) is affine eq. to $(\hat{K}, \hat{P}, \hat{N})$ if

(i) $F(K) = \hat{K}$

(ii) $F^*(\hat{P}) = P$

(iii) $F_*(N) = \hat{N}$

Lagrange



$$\hat{x} = Ax + b, \quad x = A^{-1}\hat{x} - A^{-1}b$$

$$f(x) = F^*(\hat{f})(x) = \hat{f}(F(x)) = \hat{f}(Ax + b)$$

$$\hat{f}(\hat{x}) = f(A^{-1}\hat{x} - A^{-1}b)$$

$$\hat{f} \in \hat{P}_2 \Leftrightarrow f \in P_2$$

$$z_5 = \frac{1}{2}(z_1 + z_3)$$

$$\hat{z}_5 = F(z_5) = \frac{1}{2}F(z_1) + \frac{1}{2}F(z_3) = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{z}_1 + \hat{z}_3)$$

$$\hat{N}_i = F_*(N_i) = N_i(F^*(\cdot))$$

$$F_*(N_i)(\hat{f}) = N_i(\hat{f} \circ F) = (\hat{f} \circ F)(z_i) = \hat{f}(F(z_i)) = \hat{f}(\hat{z}_i) = \hat{N}_i(\hat{f})$$