

# Guaranteed and robust a posteriori error estimates and balancing discretization and linearization errors for monotone nonlinear problems

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Vancouver, July 22, 2011

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A class of nonlinear problems
  - Quasi-linear elliptic problems
  - Newton and fixed-point linearizations
- 3 A posteriori error estimates including linearization error
  - A guaranteed and robust a posteriori error estimate
  - Stopping criteria for linearizations and efficiency
  - Adaptive strategy
  - Application to the conforming finite element method
  - Numerical experiments
- 4 A posteriori estimates including algebraic error
  - A guaranteed a posteriori estimate
  - Stopping criteria for iterative solvers
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- 5 Concluding remarks and future work

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# Discretization, linearization, and algebraic solvers

## Discretization

- let  $p$  be the **weak solution** of  $A(p) = F$ ,  $A$  nonlinear
- let  $p_h$  be its **approximate numerical solution**,  $A_h(p_h) = F_h$

## Iterative linearization

- $A_{L,h}^{(i-1)} p_h^{(i)} = F_{L,h}^{(i-1)}$ : **discrete Newton or fixed-point linearization**
- when do we stop?**

## Iterative algebraic system solution

- $A_{L,h}^{(i-1)} p_h^{(i)} = F_{L,h}^{(i-1)}$  is a linear algebraic system
- we only solve it inexactly by, e.g., some **iterative method**
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## Approximate solution

- the **approximate solution**  $p_h^a$  that we have as an outcome **does not solve**  $A_h(p_h^a) = F_h$
- how big is the **overall error**  $\|p - p_h^a\|_\Omega$ ?

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## A posteriori error estimate

- aims at estimating  $\|p - p_h^a\|_\Omega$
- but **most of the existing approaches** rely on  $A_h(p_h^a) = F_h!$

## Aims of this work

- give a **guaranteed and robust upper bound** on the **overall error**  $\|p - p_h^a\|_\Omega$
- predict the **overall error distribution** (local efficiency)
- **distinguish** the **algebraic/linearization** errors, due to inexact solution of linear/nonlinear problems, and the **discretization error**, due to mesh size and numerical scheme
- **stop** the **iterative solvers** whenever algebraic/linearization errors do not affect the overall error significantly

## Benefits

- **optimal computable overall error bound**
- **adaptive mesh refinement**
- **important computational savings**

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# Previous results: general and algebraic error

## **A posteriori estimates without algebraic error**

- Prager and Synge (1947)
- Babuška and Rheinboldt (1978)
- Verfürth (1996, book)
- Ainsworth and Oden (2000, book)
- Luce and Wohlmuth (2004)

## **A posteriori estimates accounting for algebraic error**

- Repin (1997)

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- Becker, Johnson, and Rannacher (1995)
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- Verfürth (1994), residual estimates
- Veerer (2002), convergence  $p$ -Laplacian
- Carstensen and Klose (2003), guaranteed estimates
- Chaillou and Suri (2006, 2007), distinguishing discretization and linearization errors

## Other methods

- Kim (2007), guaranteed estimates for locally conservative methods

## Error components equilibration

- engineering literature, since 1950's
- Ladevèze (since 1980's)
- Verfürth (2003), space and time error equilibration
- Bernardi (2006), equilibration of model errors



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$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot \sigma(\nabla u) &= f && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

where

- $\forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, \sigma(\xi) = a(|\xi|)\xi,$
- $a(x) \sim x^{p-2}$  as  $x \rightarrow +\infty, p \in (1, +\infty),$
- $f \in L^q(\Omega), q := \frac{p}{p-1}$

### Example

$p$ -Laplacian:  $a(x) = x^{p-2}$

Nonlinear operator  $A : V := W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \rightarrow V'$

$$\langle Au, v \rangle_{V',V} := (\sigma(\nabla u), \nabla v)$$

### Weak formulation

Find  $u \in V$  such that

$$Au = f \text{ in } V'$$

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## Linearized flux function $\sigma_{L,u_0}$

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- linearized flux function  $\sigma_{L,u_0} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  depending on  $\nabla u_0$ ,  
 $\sigma_{L,u_0}(\nabla u)$

## Fixed-point linearization

$$\sigma_{L,u_0}(\xi) := a(|\nabla u_0|)\xi$$

## Newton linearization

$$\sigma_{L,u_0}(\xi) := a(|\nabla u_0|)\xi + a'(|\nabla u_0|)\frac{1}{|\nabla u_0|}(\nabla u_0 \otimes \nabla u_0)(\xi - \nabla u_0)$$

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# Linearizations at $u_0 \in V$

## Linearized flux function $\sigma_{L,u_0}$

- let  $u_0 \in V$
- linearized flux function  $\sigma_{L,u_0} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  depending on  $\nabla u_0$ ,  
 $\sigma_{L,u_0}(\nabla u)$

## Fixed-point linearization

$$\sigma_{L,u_0}(\xi) := a(|\nabla u_0|)\xi$$

## Newton linearization

$$\sigma_{L,u_0}(\xi) := a(|\nabla u_0|)\xi + a'(|\nabla u_0|)\frac{1}{|\nabla u_0|}(\nabla u_0 \otimes \nabla u_0)(\xi - \nabla u_0)$$

# Error measure

## Error measure

$$\mathcal{J}_u(u_{L,h}) := \|Au - Au_{L,h}\|_{V'} = \sup_{v \in V \setminus \{0\}} \frac{(\sigma(\nabla u) - \sigma(\nabla u_{L,h}), \nabla v)}{\|\nabla v\|_p}$$

- $u_{L,h} \in V$
- based on the difference of the fluxes
- dual norm of the residual
- inspired from Angermann (1995), Verfürth (2005), Chaillou and Suri (2006, 2007)
- not a norm for the difference  $u - u_{L,h}$
- avoids any appearance of the ratio continuity constant / monotonicity constant
- there holds  $\mathcal{J}_u(u_{L,h}) \rightarrow 0$  if and only if  $\|u - u_{L,h}\|_V \rightarrow 0$

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# Error measure

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$$\mathcal{J}_U(u_{L,h}) := \|Au - Au_{L,h}\|_{V'} = \sup_{v \in V \setminus \{0\}} \frac{(\sigma(\nabla u) - \sigma(\nabla u_{L,h}), \nabla v)}{\|\nabla v\|_p}$$

- $u_{L,h} \in V$
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- inspired from Angermann (1995), Verfürth (2005), Chaillou and Suri (2006, 2007)
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# A posteriori error estimate

## Assumption A (Equilibrated flux)

Let there be a mesh  $\mathcal{D}_h$  of  $\Omega$  and  $\mathbf{t}_h \in \mathbf{H}^q(\text{div}, \Omega)$  such that

$$(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{t}_h, 1)_D = (f, 1)_D \quad \forall D \in \mathcal{D}_h^{\text{int}}.$$

## Theorem (A posteriori error estimate)

Let

- $u \in V$  be the weak solution,
- $u_{L,h} \in V$  be arbitrary,
- Assumption A hold.

Then there holds

$$\mathcal{J}_u(u_{L,h}) \leq \eta := \left\{ \sum_{D \in \mathcal{D}_h} (\eta_{R,D} + \eta_{DF,D})^q \right\}^{1/q} + \left\{ \sum_{D \in \mathcal{D}_h} \eta_{L,D}^q \right\}^{1/q}.$$



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# Estimators

## Estimators

- *residual estimator*

$$\eta_{R,D} := C_{P/F,p,D} h_D \|f - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{t}_h\|_{q,D}$$

- *diffusive flux estimator*

$$\eta_{DF,D} := \|\sigma_L(\nabla u_{L,h}) + \mathbf{t}_h\|_{q,D}$$

- *linearization estimator*

$$\eta_{L,D} := \|\sigma(\nabla u_{L,h}) - \sigma_L(\nabla u_{L,h})\|_{q,D}$$

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# Balancing the discretization and linearization errors

## Global linearization stopping criterion

- stop the Newton (or fixed-point) linearization whenever

$$\eta_L \leq \gamma \eta_D,$$

where

$$\eta_L := \left\{ \sum_{D \in \mathcal{D}_h} \eta_{L,D}^q \right\}^{1/q} \quad \text{linearization error,}$$

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# Local efficiency

## Assumption B (Approximation property)

There holds, for all  $D \in \mathcal{D}_h$ ,

$$\eta_{\text{DF},D} \lesssim \left\{ \sum_{T \in \mathcal{S}_D} h_T^q \|f + \nabla \cdot \sigma_L(\nabla u_{L,h})\|_{q,T}^q + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{G}_D^T} h_F \|[\![\sigma_L(\nabla u_{L,h}) \cdot \mathbf{n}]\!] \|_{q,F}^q \right\}^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

## Theorem (Local efficiency)

Let the mesh  $\mathcal{T}_h$  be shape-regular and let the *local stopping criterion*, with  $\gamma_D$  small enough, hold. Let *Assumption B* hold. Then

$$\eta_{L,D} + \eta_{R,D} + \eta_{\text{DF},D} \leq C \|\sigma(\nabla u) - \sigma(\nabla u_{L,h})\|_{q,D},$$

where the constant  $C$  is *independent of  $a$  and  $p$* .

- *local efficiency*, but in a different norm

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Let the mesh  $\mathcal{T}_h$  be shape-regular and let the *global stopping criterion*, with  $\gamma$  small enough, hold. Let *Assumption B* hold.

Recall that  $\mathcal{J}_u(u_{L,h}) \leq \eta$ . Then

$$\eta \leq C \mathcal{J}_u(u_{L,h}),$$

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- **robustness** with respect to the **nonlinearity** thanks to the choice of the **dual norm**

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- 2 A class of nonlinear problems
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# Adaptive strategy

## Adaptive strategy

- choose an **initial mesh**  $\mathcal{T}_h^0$  and an **initial guess**  $u_{L,h}^0 \in V_h(\mathcal{T}_h^0)$
- on the mesh  $\mathcal{T}_h^j$ ,  $j \geq 0$ , for  $i \geq 1$ , do the **iterative loop**:
  - 1) **linearize** the flux function at  $u_{L,h}^{i-1}$
  - 2) **solve** the discrete linearized problem for  $u_{L,h}^i$
  - 3) if the linearization **stopping criterion** is **reached**, then **stop** the linearization, else set  $i \leftarrow (i + 1)$  and go to step 1)
- evaluate the **overall a posteriori error estimate**  $\eta$
- if the desired overall **precision is reached**, then **stop**, else **refine** the **mesh** adaptively, interpolate to it the current solution,  $j \leftarrow (j + 1)$ , and go to the second step



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# The conforming finite element method

## Application to the conforming finite element method

- $V_h \subset V$ , continuous piecewise linears
- discrete linearized problem: find  $u_{L,h} \in V_h$  such that

$$(\sigma_L(\nabla u_{L,h}), \nabla v_h) = (f, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

- verify Assumptions A and B

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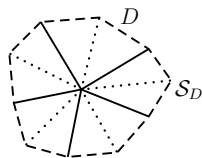
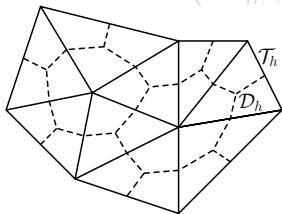
## Construction of $\mathbf{t}_h$

- $\mathcal{D}_h$ : dual mesh around nodes
- $\mathcal{S}_h$ : simplicial submesh of both  $\mathcal{T}_h$  and  $\mathcal{D}_h$  (as in Luce and Wohlmuth (2004))
- definition of  $\mathbf{t}_h \in \mathbf{RTN}(\mathcal{S}_h)$  by **direct prescription**:

$$\mathbf{t}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F := -\{\{\sigma_{L,h} \cdot \mathbf{n}_F\}$$

- definition of  $\mathbf{t}_h$  by **MFE solution of local Neumann/Dirichlet problems**: find  $\mathbf{t}_h \in \mathbf{RTN}_N(\mathcal{S}_D)$  and  $q_h \in \mathbb{P}_0^*(\mathcal{S}_D)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\mathbf{t}_h + \sigma_{L,h}, \mathbf{v}_h)_D - (q_h, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h)_D &= 0 & \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{RTN}_{N,0}(\mathcal{S}_D), \\
 (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{t}_h, \phi_h)_D &= (f, \phi_h)_D & \forall \phi_h \in \mathbb{P}_0^*(\mathcal{S}_D)
 \end{aligned}$$





# The conforming finite element method

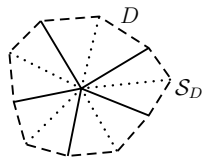
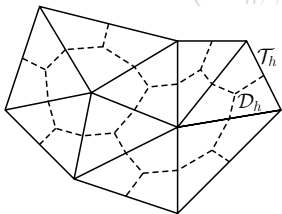
## Construction of $\mathbf{t}_h$

- $\mathcal{D}_h$ : dual mesh around nodes
- $\mathcal{S}_h$ : simplicial submesh of both  $\mathcal{T}_h$  and  $\mathcal{D}_h$  (as in Luce and Wohlmuth (2004))
- definition of  $\mathbf{t}_h \in \mathbf{RTN}(\mathcal{S}_h)$  by **direct prescription**:

$$\mathbf{t}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}_F := -\{\{\sigma_{L,h} \cdot \mathbf{n}_F\}$$

- definition of  $\mathbf{t}_h$  by **MFE solution of local Neumann/Dirichlet problems**: find  $\mathbf{t}_h \in \mathbf{RTN}_N(\mathcal{S}_D)$  and  $q_h \in \mathbb{P}_0^*(\mathcal{S}_D)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\mathbf{t}_h + \sigma_{L,h}, \mathbf{v}_h)_D - (q_h, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h)_D &= 0 & \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{RTN}_{N,0}(\mathcal{S}_D), \\
 (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{t}_h, \phi_h)_D &= (f, \phi_h)_D & \forall \phi_h \in \mathbb{P}_0^*(\mathcal{S}_D)
 \end{aligned}$$



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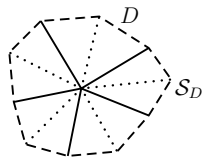
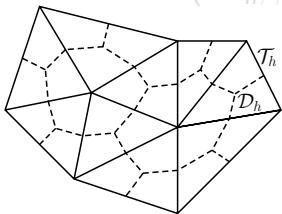
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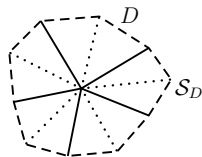
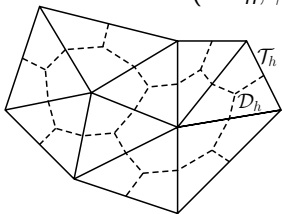
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  - **Numerical experiments**
- 4 A posteriori estimates including algebraic error
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- 5 Concluding remarks and future work

# Computable upper and lower bounds on the dual norm

## Computable upper and lower bounds on the dual norm

- recall that

$$\|Au - Au_{L,h}\|_{V'} = \sup_{v \in V \setminus \{0\}} \frac{(\sigma(\nabla u) - \sigma(\nabla u_{L,h}), \nabla v)}{\|\nabla v\|_p}$$

- following Chaillou and Suri (2006), there exist **computable upper and lower bounds** for  $\|Au - Au_{L,h}\|_{V'}$ :

$$\mathcal{J}_u(u_{L,h}) \leq \mathcal{J}_u^{\text{up}}(u_{L,h}) := \|\sigma(\nabla u) - \sigma(\nabla u_{L,h})\|_q,$$

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- put

$$\mathcal{I}^{\text{up}} := \frac{\eta}{\mathcal{J}_u^{\text{up}}(u_{L,h})} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{I}^{\text{low}} := \frac{\eta}{\mathcal{J}_u^{\text{low}}(u_{L,h})}$$

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# Numerical experiment I

## Model problem

- $p$ -Laplacian

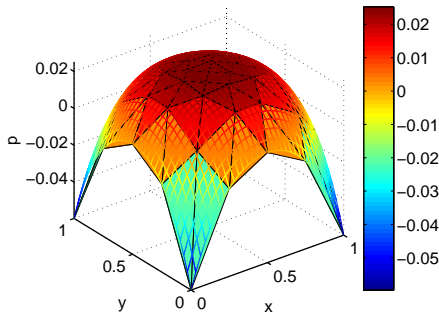
$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot (|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u) &= f && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= u_0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega\end{aligned}$$

- weak solution (used to impose a Dirichlet BC)

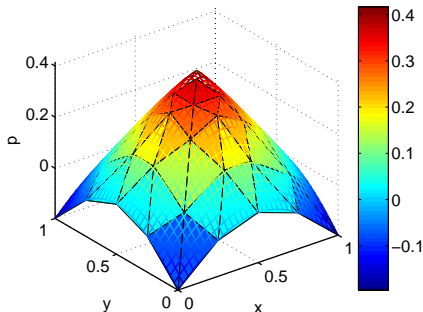
$$u_0(x, y) = -\frac{p-1}{p} \left( (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 + (y - \frac{1}{2})^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2(p-1)}} + \frac{p-1}{p} \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{p}{p-1}}$$

- tested values  $p = 1.4, 3, 10, 50$

# Analytical and approximate solutions

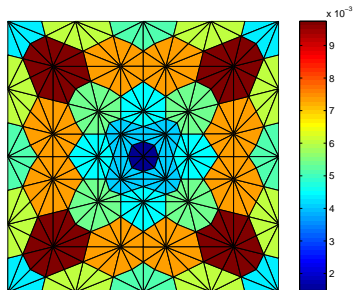


Case  $p = 1.4$

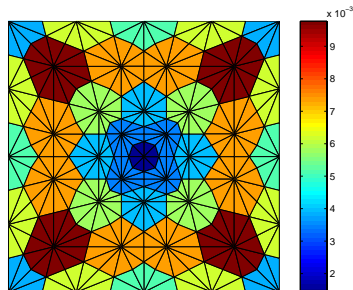


Case  $p = 10$

# Error distribution on a uniformly refined mesh, $p = 3$

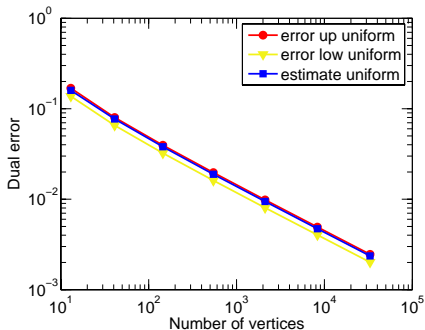


Estimated error distribution

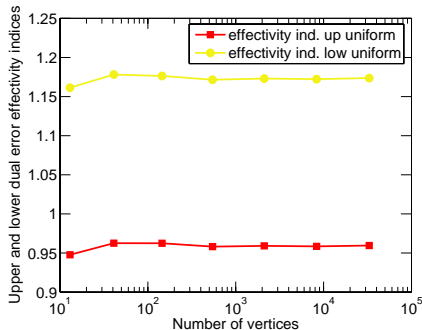


Exact error distribution

# Estimated and actual errors and the eff. index, $p = 1.4$

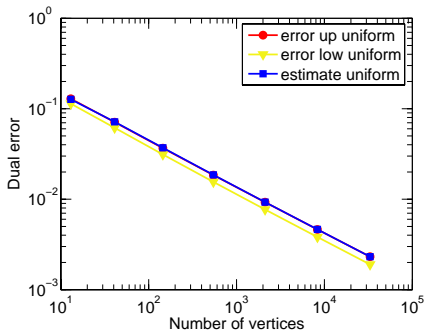


Estimated and actual errors

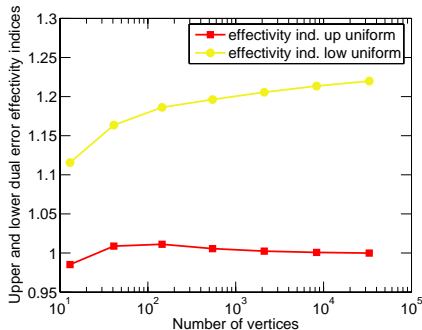


Effectivity index

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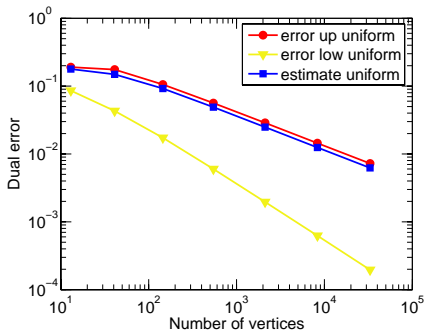


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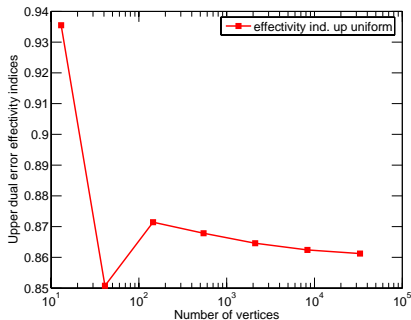


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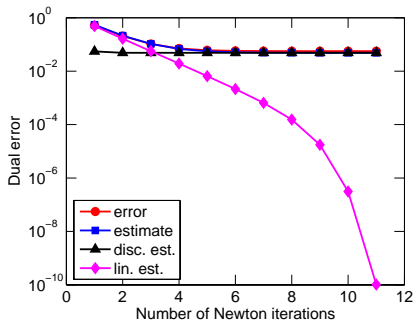


Estimated and actual errors

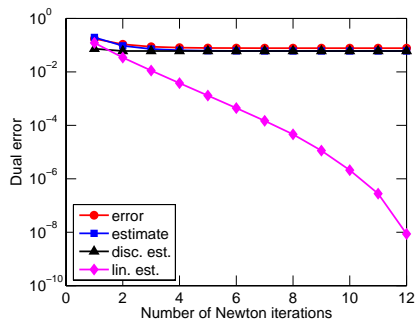


Effectivity index

# Discretization and linearization componenets

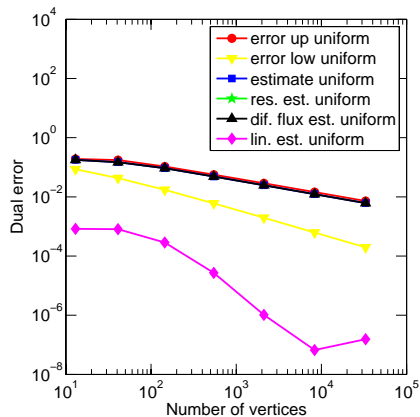
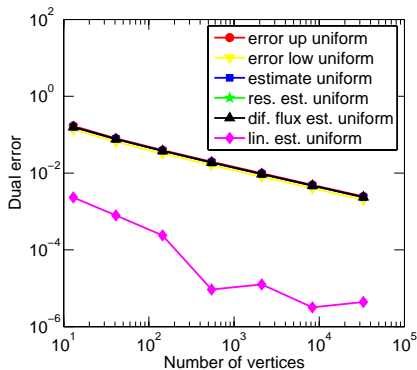


Case  $p = 10$



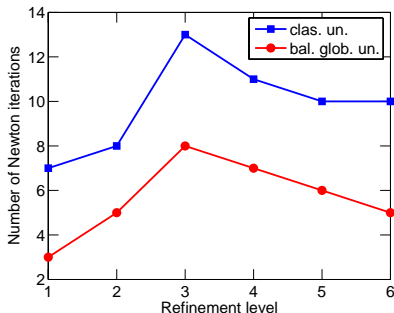
Case  $p = 50$

# Different error components

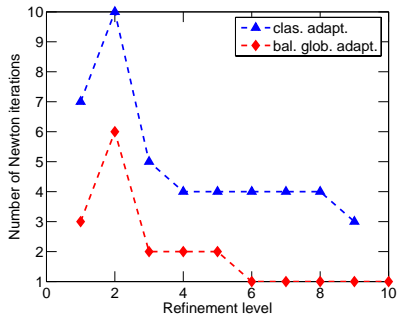




# Evolution of Newton iterations



Classical versus balanced  
Newton, uniform refinement



Classical versus balanced  
Newton, adaptive ref.

# Numerical experiment II

## Model problem

- $p$ -Laplacian

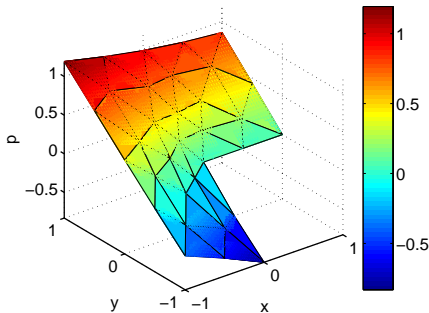
$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot (|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u) &= f && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= u_0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega\end{aligned}$$

- weak solution (used to impose a Dirichlet BC)

$$u_0(r, \theta) = r^{\frac{7}{8}} \sin(\theta \frac{7}{8})$$

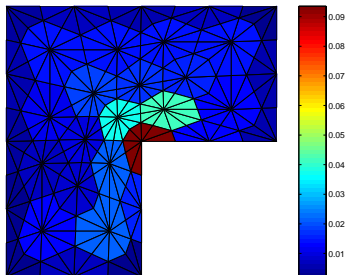
- $p = 4$ , L-shape domain, singularity in the origin (Carstensen and Klose (2003))

# Analytical and approximate solutions

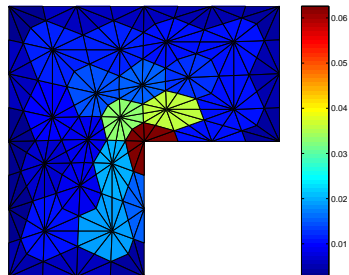


Analytical and approximate solutions

# Error distribution on a uniformly refined mesh

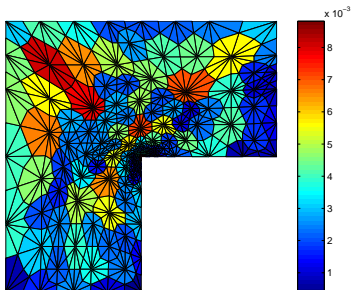


Estimated error distribution

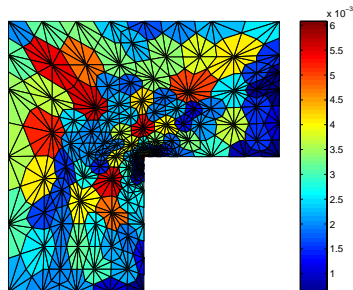


Exact error distribution

# Error distribution on an adaptively refined mesh

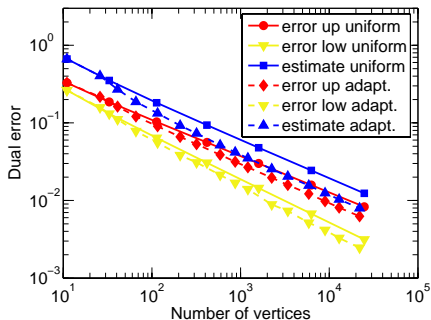


Estimated error distribution

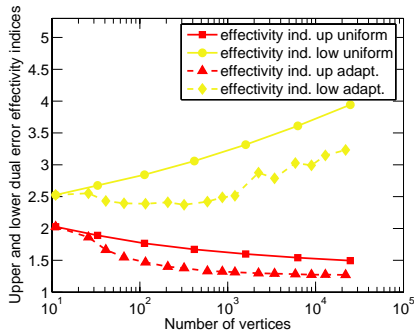


Exact error distribution

# Estimated and actual errors and the effectivity index



Estimated and actual errors



Effectivity index

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# A model elliptic problem

## A model elliptic problem

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{S} \nabla p) &= f && \text{in } \Omega, \\ p &= g && \text{on } \Gamma := \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

## Algebraic problem

- at some point, we shall solve  $\mathbb{A}X = B$
- we only solve it inexactly,  $\mathbb{A}X^* \approx B$
- we know the algebraic residual,  $R := B - \mathbb{A}X^*$



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# A posteriori estimate including the algebraic error

## Theorem (Estimate including the algebraic error, FVs/MFEs)

*There holds*

$$\|p - \tilde{p}_h^a\| \leq \left\{ \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \eta_{\text{NC},K}^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} + \left\{ \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \eta_{\text{R},K}^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} + \left\{ \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \eta_{\text{AE},K}^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

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# Stopping criteria for iterative solvers

## Global stopping criterion

- stop the iterative solver whenever

$$\eta_{\text{AE}} \leq \gamma \eta_{\text{NC}},$$

where

$$\eta_{\text{AE}} = \left\{ \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \eta_{\text{AE},K}^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \eta_{\text{NC}} = \left\{ \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \eta_{\text{NC},K}^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

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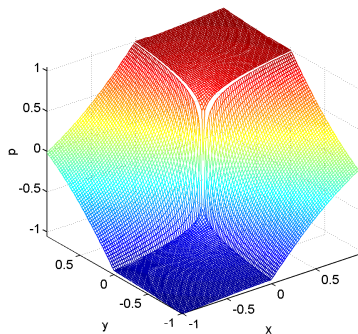
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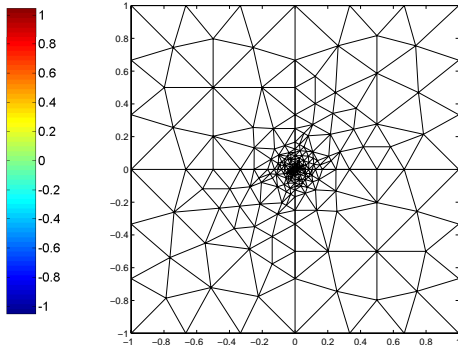
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# Analytical solution and adaptively refined mesh

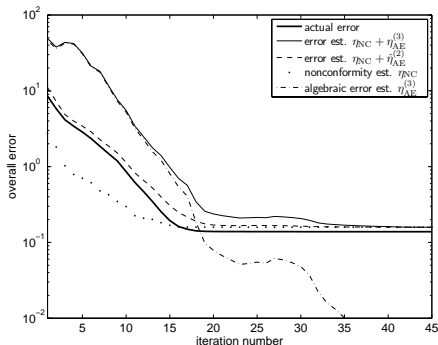


Analytical solution

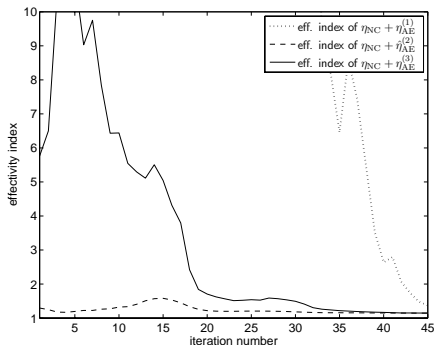


Adaptively refined mesh

# Error, estimate, and effectivity index



Error and algebraic and discretization estimates



Effectivity index

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# Concluding remarks and future work

## Concluding remarks

- **linear/nonlinear systems are never solved exactly** in practical large scale computations
- present estimates: **certified overall error bound**
- linear/nonlinear sts **should be solved inexactly on purpose**
  - balancing discretization and algebraic/linearization errors by **stopping criteria**
  - useless to make an extensive number of iterations after the algebraic/linearization error drops below the discretization one
  - **important computational savings**
- local efficiency: suitable for **adaptive mesh refinement**
- guaranteed, robust, locally computable estimates

## Future work

- nonlinear case for nonconforming methods
- systems of nonlinear PDEs

# Concluding remarks and future work

## Concluding remarks

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- present estimates: **certified overall error bound**
- linear/nonlinear sts should be solved inexactly on purpose
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  - useless to make an extensive number of iterations after the algebraic/linearization error drops below the discretization one
  - **important computational savings**
- local efficiency: suitable for **adaptive mesh refinement**
- guaranteed, robust, locally computable estimates

## Future work

- nonlinear case for nonconforming methods
- systems of nonlinear PDEs

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