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*Polynomial extension operators.*

We constructively prove the existence of polynomial extension operators in three fundamental Sobolev spaces on a tetrahedron. To describe the result in the Sobolev space  $H(\text{div})$ , suppose  $w$  is a function on the boundary of a tetrahedron such that it is a polynomial of degree at most  $p$  on each face. Then, we construct an operator  $E$  such that (i)  $Ew$  is a vector function whose components are polynomials of at most the same degree  $p$  in the tetrahedron, (ii)  $Ew$  an extension of  $w$  in the sense that the trace of the normal component of  $Ew$  on the boundary of the tetrahedron coincides with  $w$ , and (iii)  $E$  extends to a continuous operator from a natural trace space into  $H(\text{div})$ . Similar results hold for the other two Sobolev spaces (namely  $H(\text{grad})$  and  $H(\text{curl})$ ) that completes a well-known exact sequence. (Received September 23, 2012)