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Abstract. Let $\Omega$ be a polygonal domain in the plane and $S_h^r(\Omega)$ denote the finite element space of continuous piecewise polynomials of degree $\leq r - 1$ ($r \geq 2$) defined on a quasi-uniform triangulation of $\Omega$ (with triangles roughly of size $h$). It is shown that if $u_h \in S_h^r(\Omega)$ is a "discrete harmonic function" then an a priori estimate (a weak maximum principle) of the form

$$\|u_h\|_{L_\infty(\Omega)} \leq C\|u_h\|_{L_\infty(\partial\Omega)}$$

holds.

Now let $u$ be a continuous function on $\Omega$ and $u_h$ be the usual finite element projection of $u$ into $S_h^r(\Omega)$ (with $u_h$ interpolating $u$ at the boundary nodes). It is shown that for any $x \in S_h^r(\Omega)$

$$\|u - u_h\|_{L_\infty(\Omega)} \leq C\left(\ln \frac{1}{h}\right)^{\tilde{r}}\|u - x\|_{L_\infty(\Omega)}$$

where $\tilde{r} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r = 2, \\ 0 & \text{if } r \geq 3. \end{cases}$

This says that (modulo a logarithm for $r = 2$) the finite element method is bounded in $L_\infty$ on plane polygonal domains.

0. Introduction and Statement of Results. The purpose of this paper is to discuss some estimates for the finite element method on polygonal domains. In particular, we shall consider the validity of (for want of a better terminology) a "discrete weak maximum principle" for discrete harmonic functions and then use this result to discuss the boundedness in $L_\infty$ of the finite element projection. In this part we shall discuss the case of a quasi-uniform mesh. In Part II we shall concern ourselves with meshes which are refined near points. Let us first formulate the problems we wish to consider and state our results. References to other work in the literature which are relevant to our considerations will be given as we go along.

For simplicity let $\Omega$ be a simply connected (this is not essential) polygonal domain in $\mathbb{R}^2$ with boundary $\partial\Omega$ and maximal interior angle $\alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 2\pi$, where we emphasize that in general $\Omega$ is not convex. On $\Omega$ we define a family of finite element spaces. For simplicity of presentation we shall restrict ourselves to a special but important class of piecewise polynomials. For each $0 < h < 1$, let $T_h$ denote a triangulation of $\Omega$ with triangles having straight edges. We shall assume that each triangle $\tau$ is contained in a sphere of radius $h$ and contains a sphere of radius $\gamma h$ for some positive constant $\gamma$. We shall also assume that the family \{T_n\} of triangulations

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is quasi-uniform, i.e., there exist a constant $\gamma_0$ such that

$$\gamma \geq \gamma_0 > 0$$

independent of $h$. Let $S_r^h(\Omega) = S_r^h \cap \mathcal{P}_r$, $r \geq 2$, an integer, denote the finite dimensional space of continuous functions on $\Omega$ whose restriction to each triangle $\tau \in T_h$ is a polynomial of degree $\leq r - 1$ and $\mathcal{P}_r$ denote the subspace of $S_r^h(\Omega)$ consisting of those functions which vanish on $\partial \Omega$. Note that $S_r^h(\Omega) \subset W_0^1(\Omega)$.

Consider the bilinear form $D(\cdot, \cdot)$ on $W_2^1(\Omega) \times W_2^1(\Omega)$ defined by

$$D(u, v) = \int_\Omega \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx.$$

Now if $u \in W_2^1(\Omega)$ is harmonic in $\Omega$ then

$$D(u, v) = 0 \quad \text{for all } v \in \overset{\circ}{W}_2^1(\Omega).$$

It is well known that if in addition $u$ is continuous on $\overline{\Omega}$ then it satisfies a maximum principle, i.e., its maximum and minimum values are taken on $\partial \Omega$. We shall say that $u_h \in S_r^h$ is discrete harmonic in $\Omega$ (relative to $S_r^h(\Omega)$) if

$$D(u_h, \chi) = 0 \quad \text{for all } \chi \in \overset{\circ}{S}_r^h(\Omega).$$

In [1], Ciarlet and Raviart showed that if $S_r^h(\Omega)$ is taken as the space of piecewise linear functions ($r = 2$), then $u_h$ satisfies a maximum principle if and only if the maximum angle in any triangle $\tau \in T_h$ is $\leq \pi/2$. Recently Mittelman [4], has shown that if $S_r^h(\Omega)$ is taken to be piecewise quadratics ($r = 3$) then a maximum principle holds if and only if all the triangles $\tau \in T_h$ are equilateral. Obviously then a discrete maximum principle holds under very restrictive conditions.

More generally we shall show (see Section 3) that the following a priori estimate (a "weak discrete maximum principle") holds for the subspaces $S_r^h(\Omega)$:

**Theorem 1.** Let $\Omega$ be as above. Suppose that the $\{T_h\}$ are quasi-uniform (i.e., satisfy (0.1)) and $u_h \in S_r^h(\Omega)$ satisfies (0.3). Then for $h$ sufficiently small

$$\|u_h\|_{L_\infty(\Omega)} \leq C\|u_h\|_{L_\infty(\partial \Omega)},$$

where in general $C \geq 1$ is independent of $h$ and $u_h$, but may depend on $\Omega$, $\gamma$ and $r$. If $\Omega$ is convex then $C$ is independent of $\Omega$.

**Remark 1.** The condition that $\Omega$ be simply connected is not essential. An inequality of the form (0.4) is also valid in this case.

**Remark 2.** The methods used here in proving (0.4) differ entirely from those considered in [1]. Here we shall apply in our situation, techniques developed in Natterer [5], Nitsche [6], [7], Nitsche and Schatz [8], Schatz and Wahlbin [9], [10], [11], R. Scott [12]. Our proof depends in part on a priori estimates given below (see Lemma 1.2) for the problem $-\Delta u = f$ in $\Omega$, $v = 0$ on $\partial \Omega$ on polygonal domains. Thus the inequality (0.4) also holds for the discrete analogue of solutions of homogeneous second order differential equations for which estimates of this type
are known. As a simple example of this we may take \( u_h \in S_h^0(\Omega) \) satisfying (with \( (u, v) = \int_\Omega uv \, dx \))
\[
D(u_h, \psi) + \sigma(u_h, \psi) = 0 \quad \text{for all} \quad \psi \in S_h^0(\Omega),
\]
where \( \sigma \) is a given constant. Here \( u_h \) is the discrete analogue of a solution of
\[-\Delta u + \sigma u = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \Omega.\]
If \( \sigma > 0 \) then a maximum principle holds for \( u \) but if \( \sigma < 0 \) and is not an eigenvalue then it does not hold. However, an inequality of the form
\[
\|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C\|u\|_{L^\infty(\partial \Omega)}
\]
remains valid and (0.4) also for the corresponding discrete solution \( u_h \).

**Remark 3.** As is well known, a major feature of the maximum principle for the continuous case is its independence of the domain. Theorem 1 states that for convex \( \Omega \), the constant \( C \) appearing in (0.4) is independent of \( \Omega \), i.e., \( \Omega \) may be any convex mesh domain. In this case \( C \) depends only on \( \gamma \) in (0.1) and the order of piecewise polynomials used. The corresponding result for a general mesh domain is an open question. Our proof for nonconvex regions does not yield this because of several points, for example the use of the a priori estimate (1.5) which is domain dependent.

**Remark 4.** If we are willing to replace the constant \( C \) appearing in (0.4) with a term of the form \( C(\ln 1/h) \) or \( ch^{-e} \) for arbitrary \( e > 0 \) where in general \( C = C(\epsilon, \Omega, \gamma, r) \) then a simpler proof of Theorem 1 may be given than that presented in Section 3. In other words we shall go through some extra difficulties in order to obtain the form (0.4).

**Remark 5.** Let \( \Omega \) be fixed and let \( G_d \subseteq \Omega \) be the set of points in \( \Omega \) whose distance from \( \partial \Omega \) is greater or equal to \( d \). One can show that if \( d = h^{1-e} \) for any \( e > 0 \), then
\[
\|u_h\|_{L^\infty(G_d)} \leq C^*\|u_h\|_{L^\infty(\partial \Omega)},
\]
where \( C^* \rightarrow 1 \) as \( h \rightarrow 0 \). We conjecture that this is also the case for the constant \( C \) occurring in (0.4).

We shall now apply (0.4) to investigate the stability of the finite element projection in \( L^\infty \) on a polygonal (not necessarily convex) domain. Let \( u \) be a continuous function on \( \Omega \). For example, \( u \) may be thought of as a weak solution of
\[
-\Delta u = f \quad \text{in} \quad \Omega,
\]
\[
u = g \quad \text{on} \quad \partial \Omega,
\]
where \( f \) and \( g \) are prescribed (but not specified here) so that \( u \) is continuous on \( \Omega \). Let us note that for any \( \psi \in S_h^0(\Omega) \), \( D(u, \psi) \) makes sense by integration by parts. In fact, for continuous \( u \) we may define (see Schatz and Wahlbin [9])
\[
D(u, \psi) = \sum_{T \in T_h} \left( \int_T u \Delta \psi \, dx + \int_{\partial T} u \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} \, ds \right),
\]
where \( ds \) denotes arc length along \( \partial T \).

Let \( u_h \) be the finite element approximation to \( u \) determined in the following way: On \( \partial \Omega \) let \( u_h \) interpolate (see Section 2 for further details) \( u \) at the boundary
nodes, then \( u_h \in S_h^d(\Omega) \) is defined to be the unique solution of

\[
(0.5) \quad D(u_h, \psi) = D(u, \psi) \quad \text{for all } \psi \in S_h^d(\Omega).
\]

We wish to estimate \( \|u - u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \). Our approach here will be to compare \( u_h \) to another related problem defined on a convex polygon say \( \widetilde{\Omega} \) containing \( \Omega \). To this end we shall make the following assumption which says that the family \( \{T_h\} \) may be extended to a quasi-uniform family of triangulations of \( \widetilde{\Omega} \).

A.1. There is a convex polygonal domain \( \widetilde{\Omega}, \Omega \subset \widetilde{\Omega} \), such that for \( h \) sufficiently small, each triangulation \( T_h \) of \( \Omega \) can be extended to a triangulation \( \widetilde{T}_h \) of \( \widetilde{\Omega} \) and the family \( \{\widetilde{T}_h\} \) is quasi-uniform with the same constant \( \gamma \) appearing in (0.1).

In Section 4 we shall show

**Theorem 2.** Let \( \Omega \) be as above and suppose that \( S_h^d(\Omega) \) satisfies A.1. Let \( u \) be a continuous function on \( \widetilde{\Omega} \) and \( u_h \in S_h^d(\Omega) \) satisfy (0.5) where on \( \partial \Omega \), \( u_h \) interpolates \( u \) at the boundary nodes. Then there exists a constant \( C \) independent of \( u \), \( u_h \) and \( h \) (for \( h \) sufficiently small) such that for any \( \chi \in S_h^d(\Omega) \)

\[
(0.6) \quad \|u - u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \left( \frac{1}{h} \right)^r \|u - \chi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.
\]

If \( u \in W_h^{1,\infty}(\Omega) \),

\[
(0.7) \quad \|u - u_h\|_{W_h^{1,\infty}(\Omega)} \leq C \left( \frac{1}{h} \right)^r \|u - \chi\|_{W_h^{1,\infty}(\Omega)}.
\]

Several remarks are in order.

1. The inequality (0.6) says that (modulo the usual logarithm for \( r = 2 \)) one can obtain the best rate of convergence in \( L^\infty \) that the subspace can provide even when the domain is nonconvex. This is in contrast to the rate of convergence in \( L^2(\Omega) \) where for nonconvex domains the finite element method is not bounded in \( L^2(\Omega) \).

Now if \( l \geq 0 \) is an integer let \( C^l(\Omega) \) denote the space of functions having continuous partial derivatives up to order \( l \) which are continuous in \( \Omega \) with the norm

\[
\|u\|_{C^l(\Omega)} = \sum_{|\gamma| \leq l} \max_{\Omega} |D\gamma u|.
\]

Define the seminorm

\[
|u|_{C^l(\Omega)} = \sup_{x,y \in \Omega} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|}{|x - y|^{l}}
\]

and for \( l \geq 0 \) an integer and \( 0 < \sigma < 1 \), \( C^{l+\sigma}(\Omega) \) will denote the usual Hölder spaces with the norm

\[
\|u\|_{C^{l+\sigma}(\Omega)} = \|u\|_{C^l(\Omega)} + \sum_{|\gamma| = l} |D\gamma u|_{C^\sigma(\Omega)}.
\]

It is well known that if \( l + \sigma \leq r \) and \( u \in C^{l+\sigma}(\Omega) \) then there exists a \( \chi \in S_h^d(\Omega) \) such that \( \|u - \chi\|_{C^\sigma(\Omega)} \leq C_{l+\sigma}(\Omega) \|u\|_{C^{l+\sigma}(\Omega)} \). This together with (0.6) immediately implies the following

**Corollary.** Under the conditions of Theorem 1, let \( u \in C^{l+\sigma}(\Omega) \) for some integer \( l \geq 0 \) and \( 0 < \sigma < 1 \), then
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In Nitsche [7] it was shown that if \( \Omega \) is convex, \( u = 0 \) on \( \partial \Omega \) and \( S_r^0(\Omega) \) is taken to be piecewise linear functions \( (r = 2) \) the one has the estimate

\[
\|u - u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq Ch^{1 + \alpha} \left( \ln \frac{1}{h} \right)^{\frac{r}{2}} \|u\|_{C^{l + \alpha}(\overline{\Omega})},
\]

for any \( \chi \in S_r^0(\Omega) \).

In the nonconvex case, again with \( u = 0 \) on \( \partial \Omega \), it was shown in Schatz and Wahlbin [10] (using a much simpler technique) that one may obtain an almost optimal rate of convergence in \( L^\infty \) of order \( h^{\beta - \epsilon} \) provided \( u \in \dot{W}_2^1 \cap \dot{W}_2^{1 + \beta - \epsilon} \) \((\epsilon > 0 \text{ arbitrary})\), where \( \beta = \pi/\alpha \) and \( \alpha \) as before. There it was assumed that near the corner with maximal angle \( \alpha \) the solution \( u \) behaves like (using polar coordinates \((R, \theta)\)) \( u \approx c_1 R^\alpha \sin \beta \theta + \text{smoother terms} \). The methods used there do not extend to yield the "optimal" rate of convergence if \( u \) is smoother. This latter fact is very useful for example in finding pointwise estimates for the error when singular functions are used in the finite element method in conjunction with the usual piecewise polynomial subspaces. This will be the subject of a future publication.

(2) In Schatz and Wahlbin [9] (see Section 2 for more details) it was shown that if \( \Omega_0 \subset \subset \Omega_1 \subset \subset \Omega \) then one has an interior estimate (valid for a large class of finite element methods) of the form

\[
\|u - u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_0)} \leq C \left( \ln \frac{1}{h} \right)^{\frac{r}{2}} \|u - \chi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_1)} + \|u - u_h\|_{-p, \Omega_0}.
\]

The major point of (0.6) is that it is valid up to boundary for nonsmooth domains. We shall find it convenient to use (0.9) in proving Theorem 2.

An outline of this paper is as follows: In Section 1 we introduce some notation and collect some preliminaries. In Section 2 we shall discuss some properties of the subspaces \( S_r^0(\Omega) \) and some preliminary results for the finite element method. Section 3 is devoted to proving Theorem 1 and Section 4 to proving Theorem 2.

In Part II of this study we shall first localize the results presented in Theorems 1 and 2 and use these results to show that inequalities of the type (0.4) and (0.6) "almost" hold when the finite element spaces are defined on a class of meshes which are refined near certain points of the domain. Applications will also be given.

1. Notations and Some Preliminaries. All functions considered in this paper will be real valued. If \( 1 \leq p \leq \infty \), then

\[\|u\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \equiv \left( \int_\Omega |u|^p \, dx \right)^{1/p}\]

with the usual modification when \( p = \infty \). For each \( j = 1, 2 \), define the seminorm

\[|u|_{W_j^p(\Omega)} \equiv \left( \sum_{|\alpha| = j} \|D^\alpha u\|_{L^p(\Omega)}^p \right)^{1/p}\]

and the usual norm on the Sobolev space \( W_j^p(\Omega) \), \( k \) a nonnegative integer,
\[ \|u\|_{W^k_p(\Omega)} = \left( \sum_{j=0}^{k} \|u^j\|_{W^j_p(\Omega)}^p \right)^{1/p}. \]

\( W^k_p(\Omega) \) is the completion of \( C^0_0(\Omega) \) under the \( W^k_p(\Omega) \) norm. For the \( L_2 \) inner product we set \( (u, v) = \int_\Omega u(x)v(x)\,dx \).

If \( \Omega_0 \subseteq \Omega \), then for \( d > 0 \), \( N_d(\Omega_0) \) will denote a \( d \) neighborhood of \( \Omega_0 \) relative to \( \Omega \), i.e.,

\[ N_d(\Omega_0) = \{x : x \in \Omega; \, \text{dist}(x, \Omega_0) < d\}. \]

In the special case that \( \Omega_0 \) is a point, say \( \{x_0\} \), we set \( N_d(\Omega_0) = S_d(x_0) \), the intersection of \( \Omega \) with a sphere of radius \( d \) centered at \( x_0 \).

We shall need the following version of Poincaré's inequality.

**Lemma 1.1.** Let \( \Omega \) be a simply connected polygonal domain and \( v \in \hat{W}^1_2(\Omega) \).

Then for any \( d > 0 \) and \( \bar{x} \in \partial \Omega \)

\[ \|v\|_{L^2(S_d(\bar{x}))} \leq 4\pi d \|v\|_{W^1_2(S_d(\bar{x}))}. \]

**Proof.** It is sufficient to consider \( v \in C^\infty(\Omega) \). Extend \( v \) as \( v = 0 \) outside \( \Omega \) and introduce polar coordinates \( (\rho, \theta) \), where \( \rho = |x - \bar{x}|. \) Then

\[ v(x_1, x_2) = v(\bar{x}_1 + \rho \cos \theta, \bar{x}_2 + \rho \sin \theta). \]

Since \( v_\theta = v_{x_1} \rho \sin \theta + v_{x_2} \rho \cos \theta \) and \( v \) vanishes at some point on each circle \( \rho = \text{constant} \), it follows for \( 0 \leq \rho \leq d \) that

\[ |v(x_1, x_2)|^2 \leq \left( \int_0^{2\pi} (|v_{x_1}| + |v_{x_2}|) \rho \cdot d\theta \right)^2 \leq 4\pi d^2 \int_0^{2\pi} (|v_{x_1}|^2 + |v_{x_2}|^2) \, d\theta; \]

the inequality now follows on integrating this last inequality over \( S_d(\bar{x}) \).

**Remark.** If \( \Omega \) is not simply connected then (1.1) holds for all \( d < d_0 \) for some \( d_0 = d_0(\Omega). \)

We shall frequently use the following inequality which is a consequence of Hölder's inequality. Namely if \( \text{diam}(\Omega) \leq d, \, 1 < p < 2 \) and \( v \in L^2(\Omega) \) then

\[ \|v\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \leq d^{-(1-2/p)} \|v\|_{L^2(\Omega)}. \]

We shall also need some estimates for weak solutions of \( -\Delta u = f \) in \( \Omega, \, u = 0 \) on \( \partial \Omega \) when \( \Omega \) is a polygonal domain. Let \( v \in \hat{W}^1_2(\Omega) \) satisfy

\[ D(v, \psi) = (f, \psi) \quad \text{for all } \psi \in \hat{W}^1_2(\Omega). \]

As in the introduction, let \( 0 < \alpha < 2\pi \) be the maximal interior angle in \( \Omega \) and set \( \beta = \pi/\alpha. \)

**Lemma 1.2.** Let \( v \) satisfy (1.3), then

1. (O. A. Ladyženskaya and N. N. Uràčeva [3], Grisvard [2]). For any convex \( \Omega (1 < \beta) \), \( v \in \hat{W}^1_2(\Omega) \cap \hat{W}^1_2(\Omega) \), and
(1.4) $|u|_{W^2_p(\Omega)} \leq \|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$.

(ii) (Grisevand [2]). If $\frac{1}{2} \leq \beta < 1$ and $f \in L^p(\Omega)$ for some $1 < p < 2/(2 - \beta)$, then $u \in W^2_p(\Omega) \cap W^\frac{1}{2}(\Omega)$ and there exists a constant $C$ (depending on $\Omega$ and $p$) such that

\begin{equation}
\|u\|_{W^2_p(\Omega)} \leq C\|f\|_{L^p(\Omega)}.
\end{equation}

(iii) If $f \in L^2(\Omega)$, $\text{supp}(f) \subset S_d(x_0)$, $x_0 \in \overline{\Omega}$, $\text{dist}(x_0, \partial\Omega) \leq d$, then

\begin{equation}
|u|_{W^1_2(\Omega)} \leq 4\pi d\|f\|_{L^2(S_d(x_0))}.
\end{equation}

Proof of (iii).

\[
|u|^2_{W^1_2(\Omega)} = (\nabla u, \nabla u) = (f, u) \leq \|f\|_{L^2(S_d(x_0))}\|u\|_{L^2(S_d(x_0))}.
\]

There exists a point $\bar{x} \in \partial\Omega$ such that $S_d(x_0) \subset S_{2d}(\bar{x})$, and (1.6) now follows on applying Lemma 1.1.

We shall need local versions of (i) and (ii) of Lemma 1.2.

Lemma 1.3. Under the conditions of Lemma 1.2, there exists a constant $C$ such that if $\Omega_0 \subseteq \Omega_1 \subseteq \Omega$, $\overline{\Omega}_d(\Omega_0) \subseteq \Omega_1$, $p = 2$ when $\Omega$ is convex ($\beta > 1$), and $1 < p < 2/(2 - \beta)$ when $\beta < 1$, then

\begin{equation}
|u|_{W^2_p(\Omega_0)} \leq C(\|f\|_{L^p(\Omega_1)} + d^{-1}|u|_{W^1_p(\Omega_1)} + d^{-2}\|u\|_{L^p(\Omega_1)}),
\end{equation}

where $C$ is independent of $\Omega$ if $\Omega$ is convex.

Proof. By a straightforward covering argument it is sufficient to consider the case when $\Omega_0 = S_{d/2}(x_0)$, $\Omega_1 = S_d(x_0)$ and $x_0 \in \overline{\Omega}_d$. Let $\omega \in C_0^\infty(S_d(x_0))$, $\omega \equiv 1$ on $B_{2d/3}(x_0)$, $\|D^\alpha\omega\| \leq C|d|^{|\alpha|}$, $|\alpha| = 1, 2$, where $B_d(x_0)$ is the open ball of radius $d$ centered at $x_0$. Then $\omega u \in W^2_p(\Omega) \cap W^\frac{1}{2}(\Omega)$ and (1.7) follows by applying (1.4) and (1.5) to the function $\omega u$ instead of $u$.

2. Some Properties of the Subspaces and Further Preliminaries. We shall need some properties of the subspaces $S_h^p(\Omega)$. To begin with, let $T$ be a fixed triangle. We choose the nodes for $T$ to consist of (see [13] and [12]) (i) the vertices of $T$, (ii) if $r \geq 3$, the $r - 2$ points on each edge that divides the edge into $r - 1$ equal parts, (iii) if $r \geq 4$, $(r - 3)(r - 2)/2$ points in the interior of $T$. The nodes in any triangle $t \in T_h$ are defined by an affine identification of $t$ and $T$. The interpolant $u_T \in S_h^p(\Omega)$ of $u$ is defined by $u = u_T$ at the nodal points. We shall collect some well-known properties of the subspaces $S_h^p(\Omega)$. If $M_h$ is any mesh domain, i.e., the union of triangles in $T_h$ and if $u \in W^2_p(M_h)$ for some $1 < p \leq 2$, then

\begin{equation}
h^{-1}\|u - u_T\|_{L^2(M_h)} + |u - u_T|_{W^\frac{1}{2}(M_h)} \leq Ch^{2-2/p}|u|_{W^2_p(M_h)}.
\end{equation}
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If \( M_h \) is any mesh domain then for any \( \chi \in S^h(M) \)

\[
\|\chi\|_{W^1_2(M_h)} \leq Ch^{-1}\|\chi\|_{L^{\infty}(M_h)}
\]

and

\[
\|\chi\|_{L^{\infty}(M_h)} \leq Ch^{-1}\|\chi\|_{L^2(M_h)}.
\]

The constant \( C \) in (2.1), (2.2) and (2.3) is independent of \( M_h \).

Now let \( u_h \in S^h(\Omega) \) be arbitrary, and let \( \tilde{u}_h \in \tilde{S}^h(\Omega) \) be equal to \( u_h \) at all interior nodes and \( \tilde{u}_h = 0 \) at all boundary nodes. Then obviously,

\[
supp(u_h - \tilde{u}_h) \subseteq A_h = \{x : x \in \bar{\Omega}, \text{dist}(x, \partial \Omega) \leq h\};
\]

and since the nodal basis is uniform (see [13]), it follows that

\[
\|u_h - \tilde{u}_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C\|u_h\|_{L^\infty(\partial \Omega)},
\]

where \( C \) is independent of \( \Omega \) and depends only on \( \gamma \) and \( r \).

We shall need some local estimates, for the finite element method, up to the boundary in \( W^1_2 \); see Nitsche and Schatz [8], Schatz and Wahlbin [10] and interior estimates in \( L^\infty \), Schatz and Wahlbin [9].

**Lemma 2.1.** Suppose that (A.1) is satisfied. There exist positive constants \( C_1 \) and \( k_1 \) such that

(i) If \( \Omega_0 \subseteq \Omega_1 \subseteq \bar{\Omega}, \bar{\Omega}_d(\Omega_0) \subseteq \Omega_1, \ d \geq k_1 h \) and \( u \in \tilde{W}^1_2(\Omega) \) and \( u_h \in \tilde{S}^h(\Omega) \) satisfy

\[
D(u - u_h, \psi) = 0 \quad \text{for all } \psi \in \tilde{S}^h(\Omega_1),
\]

then for \( h \) sufficiently small and any \( \chi \in \tilde{S}^h(\Omega) \)

\[
\|u - u_h\|_{W^1_2(\Omega_0)} \leq C(\|u - \chi\|_{W^1_2(\Omega_1)} + d^{-1}\|u - \chi\|_{L^2(\Omega_1)} + d^{-1}\|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega_1)}).
\]

(ii) If \( \Omega_0 \subseteq \Omega_1 \subseteq \Omega, d = \text{dist}(\Omega_0, \partial \Omega_1) \geq k_1 h, u \in C(\Omega) \) and \( u_h \in S^h(\Omega) \) satisfies (2.5) (see Section 0), then for \( h \) sufficiently small and any \( \chi \in S^h(\Omega) \)

\[
\|u - u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_0)} \leq C(\ln \frac{1}{h})^r (\|u - \chi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_1)} + d^{-1}\|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega_1)}),
\]

where

\[
r = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r = 2, \\ 0 & \text{if } r \geq 3. \end{cases}
\]

In (2.7) and (2.6), \( C \) is independent of \( \Omega_0, \Omega_1, \Omega, u, u_h \) and \( h \), for \( h \) sufficiently small.

Let us note that if \( u_h \in S^h(\Omega) \) satisfies

\[
D(u_h, \chi) = 0 \quad \text{for all } \chi \in S^h(\Omega_1)
\]
we are at liberty to choose \( u \equiv 0 \) and \( \chi \equiv 0 \) in (2.7) and, hence,

\[
\|u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_0)} \leq Cd^{-1}\|u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega_1)},
\]

where \( C \) is as above.

3. Proof of Theorem 1. Let \( u_h \in \mathcal{S}_{T}^p(\Omega) \) satisfy (0.3), and let \( x_0 \in \Omega \) be such that \( |u_h(x_0)| = \|u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \). Set \( d = \text{dist}(x_0, \partial\Omega) \). It follows from (2.8) that there exists a constant \( k_1 > 1 \) such that if \( d \geq 2k_1h \)

\[
|u_h(x_0)| \leq cd^{-1}\|u_h\|_{L^2(\mathcal{S}_d(x_0))}.
\]

On the other hand if \( d < 2k_1h \), then using the inverse property (2.3) we have that since \( x_0 \in \tau \in T_n \) for some \( \tau \)

\[
|u_h(x_0)| \leq ch^{-1}\|u_h\|_{L^2(\tau)} \leq ch^{-1}\|u_h\|_{L^2(\mathcal{S}_{2h}(x_0))}.
\]

Hence

\[
\|u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq c^{-1}\|u_h\|_{L^2(\mathcal{S}_{\rho}(x_0))},
\]

where

\[
\rho = \max(d, 2h).
\]

Now

\[
\|u_h\|_{L^2(\mathcal{S}_{\rho}(x_0))} = \sup_{\varphi \in C^\infty_0(\mathcal{S}_{\rho}(x_0))} |(u_h, \varphi)|, \|\varphi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{S}_{\rho}(x_0))} = 1.
\]

Let \( v \in \tilde{W}^1_2(\Omega) \) be the unique solution of

\[
D(v, \psi) = (\varphi, \psi) \quad \text{for all } \psi \in \mathcal{S}_{T}^p(\Omega),
\]

and let \( v_h \in \tilde{S}_{T}^p(\Omega) \) be the finite element approximation to \( v \) defined by

\[
D(v_h, \chi) = (\varphi, \chi) \quad \text{for all } \chi \in \tilde{S}_{T}^p(\Omega).
\]

We note that since \( \frac{1}{2} < \beta \), by Lemma 1.2, there exists a \( 4/3 < p_0 < 2 \), where \( p_0 = 2 \) if \( \Omega \) is convex, such that \( v \in W^2_{p_0}(\Omega) \cap \tilde{W}^1_2(\Omega) \).

Let \( U_h = u_h \) on \( \partial\Omega \) satisfy

\[
D(U_h, \psi) = 0 \quad \text{for all } \psi \in \tilde{W}^1_2(\Omega).
\]

Note that \( U_h \) satisfies \(-\Delta U_h = 0 \) and, since \( U_h \in W^1_{\infty}(\partial\Omega) \) and \( U_h \in C(\overline{\Omega}) \), \( U_h \) satisfies a maximum principle. We write \( u_h = u_h - U_h + U_h \). Then using (3.2), (3.3), (3.4), and (3.5)

\[
|(u_h, \varphi)| \leq |(u_h - U_h, \varphi)| + |(U_h, \varphi)| = |D(u_h - U_h, v)| + |(U_h, \varphi)|
\]

\[
\leq |D(u_h, v)| + \|u_h\|_{L^\infty(\partial\Omega)}\|\varphi\|_{L^1(\mathcal{S}_\rho(x_0))} + \rho\|u_h\|_{L^\infty(\partial\Omega)}\|\varphi\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq |D(u_h, v)| + \rho\|u_h\|_{L^\infty(\partial\Omega)}.
\]
In view of (0.3), (3.3) and (3.4) we have for any \( \chi \in S_{r}^{h}(\Omega) \)

\[
|D(u_{h}, v)| = D(u_{h}, v - v_{h}) = D(u_{h} - \chi, v - v_{h}).
\]

We now choose \( \chi = \tilde{u}_{h} \) satisfying (2.4a) and (2.4b). Then, using (2.2) and (2.3),

\[
|D(u_{h} - \tilde{u}_{h}, v - v_{h})| \leq c|u_{h} - \tilde{u}_{h}|_{W^{1}_{\infty}(\Omega)}|v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{1}(\Lambda_{h})}
\]

\[
\leq ch^{-1}|u_{h} - \tilde{u}_{h}|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)}|v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{1}(\Lambda_{h})} \leq ch^{-1}|v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{1}(\Lambda_{h})}\|u_{h}\|_{L^{\infty}(\partial \Omega)},
\]

where as in Section 2, \( \Lambda_{h} = \{x : x \in \bar{\Omega}; \text{dist}(x, \partial \Omega) \leq h\} \). Collecting (3.1)–(3.8), we arrive at

\[
\|u_{h}\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \leq c(\rho^{-1}h^{-1}|v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{1}(\Lambda_{h})} + 1)\|u_{h}\|_{L^{\infty}(\partial \Omega)}.
\]

The proof of Theorem 1 will be complete once we have shown

\[
\rho^{-1}h^{-1}|v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{1}(\Lambda_{h})} \leq C.
\]

Let \( R_{0} = \text{diam } \Omega \) and consider the annuli

\[
A_{j} = \{x : x \in \bar{\Omega}, 2^{-j+1}R_{0} \leq |x - x_{0}| \leq 2^{-j}R_{0}\}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \text{ etc.}
\]

and

\[
A_{j}^{l} = A_{j-1} \cup \cdots \cup A_{j} \cup A_{j+1} \cup \cdots \cup A_{j+l}, \quad l = 1, 2, \text{ etc.}
\]

Set \( d_{j} = R_{0}2^{-j} \), and let \( 1 \leq j \leq J = \lceil \ln_{2}(R_{0}/8\rho) \rceil + 1 \) where \( \lceil \cdot \rceil \) denotes the greatest integer function.

We first note that for any \( j = 0, 1, \ldots, \) etc.,

\[
\text{mes}(A_{j} \cap \Lambda_{h}) \leq cd_{j}h,
\]

where, in general, \( c \) depends on \( \Omega \) if \( \Omega \) is nonconvex but is independent of \( \Omega \) if \( \Omega \) is convex. This is easy to see in the nonconvex domain where \( \Omega \) is a fixed polygonal domain; and hence, its boundary is composed of a fixed finite number of straight line segments. To see this for a general convex \( \Omega \) we first notice that

\[
(A \cap \Lambda_{h}) \subseteq (S_{d_{j}}(x_{0}) \cap \Lambda_{h}) \subseteq \{x : x \in S_{d_{j}}(x_{0}), \text{dist}(x, \partial S_{d_{j}}(x_{0})) \leq h\} = G_{j}.
\]

Since \( \Omega \) is convex, then \( S_{d_{j}}(x_{0}) \) is convex and the length of \( \partial S_{d_{j}}(x_{0}) \leq 2\pi d_{j} \). Hence, \( \text{mes}(A_{j} \cap \Lambda_{h}) \leq \text{mes}(G_{j}) \leq 2\pi d_{j}h \), which proves (3.11).

Using Schwarz's inequality and (3.10),

\[
\rho^{-1}h^{-1}|v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{1}(\Lambda_{h})} \leq \rho^{-1}h^{-1}\left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{J} |v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{1}(\Lambda_{h} \cap A_{j})} + |v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{1}(\Lambda_{h} \cap S_{8\rho}(x_{0}))} \right\}
\]

\[
\leq C\left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{J} \rho^{-1}h^{-1}d_{j}^{2}|v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{2}(\Lambda_{h} \cap A_{j})} + \rho^{-\frac{1}{2}}H^{1/2}|v - v_{h}|_{W^{1}_{2}(\Lambda_{h} \cap S_{8\rho}(x_{0}))} \right\}.
\]
Note first that in view of (2.1), (1.4), (1.5) and (1.2)
\[
|v - v_h|_{W^1_2(\Lambda_x \cap S_{\rho}(x_0))} \leq |v - v_h|_{W^1_2(\Omega)} \leq |v - v_j|_{W^1_2(\Omega)}
\]
\[
\leq c h^{-2/p} |v|_{W^2_0(\Omega)} \leq c h^{-2/p} \|\phi\|_{L^p(\Lambda_{x_0})}.
\]
\[
\leq c h^{-2/p} \rho^{2/p} \|\phi\|_{L^p(\Lambda_{x_0})}.
\]
Since \(\|\phi\|_{L^2(S_{\rho}(x_0))} = 1\), \(p_0 > 4/3\) and \(h/\rho < 1\),
\[
(3.13)
\]
\[
h^{-\gamma} \rho^{-\gamma} |v - v_h|_{W^1_2(\Lambda_x \cap S_{\rho}(x_0))} \leq c\left(\frac{h}{\rho}\right)^{3/2 - 2/p_0},
\]
where \(c\) is independent of \(\Omega\) if \(\Omega\) is convex.

Let \(Z = \{j : 1 \leq j \leq J; \Lambda_x \cap A_j \neq \emptyset\}\). For \(j \in Z\) we apply (2.6) to the domains \(A_j\) and \(A_j^\delta\), respectively, and obtain using (1.4), (1.5) and (2.1)
\[
|v - v_h|_{W^1_2(\Lambda_x \cap A_j)} \leq c\{|v - v_j|_{W^1_2(A_j)} + d_j^{-1} \|v - v_j\|_{L^2(A_j)}
\]
\[
+ d_j^{-1} \|v - v_h\|_{L^2(A_j)}\}
\]
\[
\leq c\{h^{-2/p} |v|_{W^2_0(A_j^\delta)} + d_j^{-1} \|v - v_h\|_{L^2(A_j^\delta)}\}.
\]
(3.14)
Since \(v\) is harmonic in \(A_j^3\), we have using (1.7) and (1.2) that
\[
h^{-2/p} |v|_{W^2_0(A_j^\delta)} \leq c h^{-2/p} \rho d_j^{-1} \{d_j^{-2} |v|_{W^1_2(A_j^3)} + d_j^{-2} \|v\|_{L^2(A_j^3)}\}.
\]
Since \(\text{diam}(A_j^3) \leq 4d_j\), \(A_j^3 \cap \Lambda_x \neq \emptyset\) and, therefore, \(\text{dist}(A_j^3, \partial \Omega) \leq h\), there exists a point \(x_j \in \partial \Omega\) such that \(A_j^3 \subseteq S_{8d_j}(x_j)\). Hence, by (1.1) and (1.6)
\[
(3.15)
\]
\[
h^{-2/p} |v|_{W^2_0(A_j^\delta)} \leq c h^{-2/p} \rho d_j^{-1} d_j^{-2} |v|_{W^1_2(A_j^3)} \leq c\left(\frac{h}{d_j}\right)^{2 - 2/p \rho}.
\]
We now estimate the second term on the right of (3.11). For \(j \in Z\) and \(x_j\) as above
\[
\|v - v_h\|_{L^2(A_j^3)} \leq \|v - v_h\|_{L^2(S_{8d_j}(x_j))}
\]
\[
(3.16)
\]
\[
= \sup_{\eta \in C_0^\infty(S_{8d_j}(x_j))} \|(v - v_h, \eta)\|_{L^2(S_{8d_j}(x_j))} = 1.
\]
Let \(\omega \in \hat{W}_2^1\) satisfy \(D(\omega, \psi) = (\eta, \psi)\) for all \(\psi \in \hat{W}_2^1(\Omega)\) (note that \(\omega \in W^2_0(\Omega)\)), and let \(\psi_\eta \in \hat{S}_{3}^h(\Omega)\) satisfy \(D(\omega_\eta, \chi) = (\eta, \chi)\) for all \(\chi \in \hat{S}_{3}^h(\Omega)\). Then in view of
(1.4), (1.5), (1.2) and (2.1)
\[(v - v_h, \eta) = |D(v - v_h, \omega)| = \left| D(v - v_h, \omega - \omega_h) \right|
\leq |v - v_h|_{W^{1}\Omega} |\omega - \omega_h|_{W^{1}\Omega} \leq |v - v_h|_{W^{1}\Omega} |w - w_j|_{W^{1}\Omega}
\leq ch^{4 - 4/p_0} \|\phi\|_{L^{P_0} \Omega} \|\eta\|_{L^{P_0} \Omega} \leq ch^{4 - 4/p_0} \rho^{2/P_0 - 1} d_j^{2/P_0 - 1}.
\]

From this (3.13), (3.12) and (3.11) we obtain after summing over \( j \in Z \)
\[
\sum_{j \in Z} h^{-3/2} |v - v_h|_{W^{1}\Omega} \leq c \left[ h^{3/2 - 2/P_0} \sum_{j = 1}^{P_0} \frac{1}{d_j^{3/2 - 2/P_0}} + \frac{h^{7/2 - 2/P_0}}{\rho^{2 - 2/P_0}} \sum_{j = 1}^{P_0} \frac{1}{d_j^{3/2 - 2/P_0}} \right].
\]

Since \( P_0 > 4/3, 3/2 - 2/P_0 > 0, 7/2 - 4/P_0 > 0, \) \( d_j \geq \rho \) we obtain from (3.14), (3.10) and (3.8) that
\[
\rho^{-1} h^{-1} |v - v_h|_{W^{1}\Omega} \leq c \left( \frac{h}{\rho} \right)^{3/2 - 2/P_0} + \left( \frac{h}{\rho} \right)^{7/2 - 2/P_0},
\]
where in view of (3.2), the inequality (3.9) follows which completes the proof.

4. Proof of Theorem 2. Extend \( u \) to \( \widetilde{\Omega} \) as a continuous function on \( \widetilde{\Omega} \) (again calling it \( u \)) such that \( u = 0 \) on \( \partial \widetilde{\Omega} \) and

\[
\|u\|_{L^\infty(\widetilde{\Omega})} \leq C\|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.
\]

Let \( \widetilde{u}_h \in \mathcal{D}_h^\infty(\widetilde{\Omega}) \) be the unique solution of

\[
D(u - \widetilde{u}_h, \eta) = 0 \quad \text{for all } \eta \in \mathcal{D}_h^\infty(\widetilde{\Omega}).
\]

Now
\[
\|u - u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq \|u - \widetilde{u}_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|\widetilde{u}_h - u_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.
\]

Apply the interior estimate (2.7) to the domains \( \Omega \) and \( \widetilde{\Omega} \), respectively, then for the first term on the right of (4.3)

\[
\|u - \widetilde{u}_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \left( \ln \frac{1}{h} \right)^{\gamma} \|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|u - \widetilde{u}_h\|_{L^2(\widetilde{\Omega})}.
\]

Assume for the moment that we have shown

\[
\|u - \widetilde{u}_h\|_{L^2(\widetilde{\Omega})} \leq C \|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)},
\]
then from (4.4), (4.5) and (4.1) we have

\[
\|u - \widetilde{u}_h\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \left( \ln \frac{1}{h} \right)^{\gamma} \|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.
\]

Consider the second term on the right of (4.3). Since \( D(\widetilde{u}_h - u_h, \eta) = 0 \) for all
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η ∈ \( \mathcal{S}_h^1(\Omega) \), i.e., \( \tilde{\psi}_h - u_h \) is discrete harmonic in \( \Omega \), we have from Theorem 1 that
\[
\| \tilde{\psi}_h - u_h \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \| \tilde{\psi}_h - u_h \|_{L^\infty(\partial \Omega)}
\]

\[
\leq C [ \| \psi - \tilde{\psi}_h \|_{L^\infty(\partial \Omega)} + \| u - u_h \|_{L^\infty(\partial \Omega)} ].
\]

The first term on the right may be bounded as in (4.6). Since \( u_h = u_f \) on \( \partial \Omega \) and \( \| u_f \|_{L^\infty(\partial \Omega)} \leq 1 \), we arrive at
\[
\| \tilde{\psi}_h - u_h \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \left( \frac{1}{h} \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \| u \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.
\]

Combining this with (4.6) and using (4.3), we have
\[
\| u - u_h \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \left( \frac{1}{h} \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \| u \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)};
\]
and the result would follow on applying this result to \( u - \chi \) with \( u - u_h = u - \chi - (u_h - \chi) \).

Let us now prove (4.5). We write
\[
\| u - u_h \|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 = (u - u_h, u - u_h) = D(u - u_h, \psi),
\]
where \( D(\psi, \eta) = (\psi - u_h, \eta) \) for all \( \eta \in \mathcal{S}_{1,h}(\Omega) \).

Let \( \psi^h \in \mathcal{S}_h^1(\Omega) \) satisfy \( D(\psi - \psi^h, \chi) = 0 \) for all \( \chi \in \mathcal{S}_h^1(\Omega) \), then using this
and integrating by parts
\[
\| u - u_h \|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 = D(u - u_h, \psi - \psi^h) = D(u, \psi - \psi^h)
\]
\[
= \sum_{\tau \in T_h} \left( \int_{\partial \tau} u \frac{\partial(\psi - \psi^h)}{\partial n} \, ds - \int_{\tau} \Delta(\psi - \psi^h) \, dx \right)
\]
\[
\leq \sum_{\tau \in T_h} \left( \left\| \frac{\partial(\psi - \psi^h)}{\partial n} \right\|_{L^1(\partial \tau)} + \| \psi - \psi^h \|_{W^{1,2}(\tau)} \right) \| u \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.
\]

Since the triangulation is quasi-uniform, it follows (see [9]) that for each \( \tau \in T_h \)
\[
\left\| \frac{\partial(\psi - \psi^h)}{\partial n} \right\|_{L^1(\partial \tau)} \leq C (\| \psi - \psi^h \|_{W^{1,2}(\tau)} + h^{-1} \| \psi - \psi^h \|_{W^{1,1}(\tau)})^2;
\]
and we obtain from (4.7)
\[
(4.8) \| u - u_h \|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \leq C \left\{ h^{-1} \| \psi - \psi^h \|_{W^{1,1}(\Omega)} + \sum_{\tau \in T_h} \| \psi - \psi^h \|_{W^{1,2}(\tau)} \right\} \| u \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.
\]

For the first term on the right-hand side of (4.8) we have from the definition of \( \psi^h \),
(2.1) and (1.4) that
\[
\| \psi - \psi^h \|_{W^{1,1}(\Omega)} \leq \| \psi - \psi^h \|_{W^{1,2}(\Omega)} \leq C \| \psi - \psi^h \|_{W^{1,2}(\Omega)} \leq Ch \| \psi \|_{W^{1,2}(\Omega)},
\]
\[
(4.9) \leq Ch \| u - u_h \|_{L^2(\Omega)}.
\]
In order to estimate the second term on the right of (4.8) we first note that the
interpolant \( \psi_T \) of \( \psi \) has the property that
\[
\| \psi - \psi_T \|_{W^2_1(\tau)} \leq C \| \psi \|_{W^2_1(\tau)},
\]
and for any \( \chi \in S^h_T(\Omega) \)
\[
\| \chi \|_{W^2_1(\tau)} \leq Ch^{-1} \| \chi \|_{W^1_1(\tau)}.
\]
Hence, using (4.10) and (4.11),
\[
\| \psi - \psi_T \|_{W^2_1(\tau)} \leq \| \psi - \psi_T \|_{W^2_1(\tau)} + \| \psi_T - \psi_T \|_{W^2_1(\tau)}
\leq C \| \psi \|_{W^2_1(\tau)} + h^{-1} \| \psi - \psi_T \|_{W^1_1(\tau)} + h^{-1} \| \psi - \psi_T \|_{W^2_1(\tau)}
\leq C \| \psi \|_{W^2_1(\tau)} + h^{-1} \| \psi - \psi_T \|_{W^1_1(\tau)}.
\]
Now using (4.9),
\[
\sum_{\tau \in T_h} \| \psi - \psi_T \|_{W^2_1(\tau)} \leq C \| u - u_h \|_{L^2(\Omega)}.
\]
This together with (4.9) and (4.8) proves (4.5) which completes the proof of (0.6).

In order to prove (0.7) we use (0.6) and (2.2) and write
\[
\| u - u_h \|_{W^1_\infty(\Omega)} \leq \| u - u_f \|_{W^1_\infty(\Omega)} + \| u_f - u_h \|_{W^1_\infty(\Omega)}
\leq C \| u - u_f \|_{W^1_\infty(\Omega)} h^{-1} \| u_f - u_h \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}
\leq C \| u - u_f \|_{W^1_\infty(\Omega)} + h^{-1} \| u - u_f \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + h^{-1} \| u - u_h \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}
\leq C \left( \ln \frac{1}{h} \right)^r \| u - u_f \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}
\leq C \left( \ln \frac{1}{h} \right)^r \| u \|_{W^1_\infty(\Omega)}.
\]
The desired result (0.7) now follows on applying this last inequality to \( u - \chi \) for any
\( \chi \in S^h_T(\Omega) \) and writing \( u - u_h = u - \chi - (u_h - \chi) \).