GALERKIN AND STREAMLINE DIFFUSION FINITE ELEMENT METHODS ON A SHISHKIN MESH FOR A CONVECTION-DIFFUSION PROBLEM WITH CORNER SINGULARITIES

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ABSTRACT. An error analysis of Galerkin and streamline diffusion finite element methods for the numerical solution of a singularly perturbed convection-diffusion problem is given. The problem domain is the unit square. The solution contains boundary layers and corner singularities. A tensor product Shishkin mesh is used, with piecewise bilinear trial functions. The error bounds are uniform in the singular perturbation parameter. Numerical results supporting the theory are given.

1. INTRODUCTION

Consider the singularly perturbed boundary value problem

$$(1.1a) \quad -\varepsilon \Delta u - pu_x + qu = f \quad \text{on } \Omega = (0, 1)^2,$$

$$(1.1b) \quad u = 0 \quad \text{on the boundary } \partial\Omega,$$

where the functions p, q and f are arbitrarily smooth and satisfy $p \geq \beta > 0$ for some constant β , and $q > 0$. The parameter ε lies in the interval $(0, 1]$. Since $q > 0$ and the boundary data is continuous on $\partial\Omega$, the problem has a unique classical solution u that lies in $C^{2,\alpha}(\Omega) \cap C(\bar{\Omega})$, where $C^{2,\alpha}(\Omega)$ is the standard Hölder space.

The solution u of (1.1) usually has boundary layers on three sides of the square $\bar{\Omega}$: an exponential outflow layer along $x = 0$ and parabolic boundary layers along the tangential flow boundaries $y = 0$ and $y = 1$. In addition, if the right-hand side and the zero boundary data are not compatible with the differential equation at a corner, the solution has a singularity at the corner. These solution phenomena have been widely studied in the literature; see for example [10] for the boundary layers and [5, 6] for the corner singularities.

Analyses of Galerkin and streamline diffusion finite element methods for (1.1) that used bilinears on a tensor-product Shishkin mesh were given in [3, 4]; see also [8, 12, 13] and their references, where analogous methods for a related problem that

Received by the editor September 3, 2009 and, in revised form, November 2, 2010 and January 25, 2011.

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 65N30.

The research of the first author was supported by Science Foundation Ireland under the Research Frontiers Programme 2008; Grant 08/RFP/MTH1536.

The research of the second author was supported by the Boole Centre for Research in Informatics at National University of Ireland, Cork.

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has exponential layers but no parabolic layers were investigated. The hypotheses in all of these papers exclude corner singularities.

In the present paper we examine similar numerical methods, but minimal corner compatibility assumptions are made on the data so that at each corner one can have the classical $r^2 \ln r$ singularity. The complicated interaction of these corner singularities with the boundary layers was described in [6] for constant p and q . The corner singularities introduce fresh difficulties that did not arise in [3, 4, 8, 12, 13] and affect the choice of the streamline diffusion parameter.

Our mesh is the same as that of [3, 4]. Related meshes appeared in [8, 12, 13]. Thus the mesh is designed to handle exponential and parabolic boundary layers, but is not modified to fit the corner singularities.

Our aim is to devise a numerical method whose accuracy is guaranteed independently of the value of the singular perturbation parameter ε ; thus, in our analysis we state explicitly all dependence on ε .

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2 we give a decomposition of the solution u that reveals the precise nature of the layers and singularities that it contains. Section 3 constructs a tensor-product Shishkin mesh suited to (1.1). The accuracy of piecewise bilinear interpolation on this mesh is analysed in Section 4. Section 5 analyses a Galerkin finite element method that uses bilinears on the same mesh; this section is subdivided by treating separately the diffusion and convection terms that appear in the associated bilinear form. It is shown that, measured in an ε -weighted energy norm, the Galerkin finite element solution attains the same order of accuracy as the bilinear nodal interpolant. Section 6 extends this analysis to the streamline diffusion finite element method and investigates how the presence of the corner singularities influences the choice of the stabilising parameters in this method. Finally, Section 7 describes some numerical experiments that verify the accuracy of our two finite element methods.

Notation. Throughout the paper C denotes a generic constant that is independent of ε and any mesh, and can take on different values at different points in the argument. For all measurable sets $\omega \subset \Omega$, let $(\cdot, \cdot)_\omega$ denote the inner product in $L_2(\omega)$ and let $\|\cdot\|_{0,\omega}$ denote the norm in $L_2(\omega)$. When $\omega = \Omega$ we simply write $(\cdot, \cdot)$ and $\|\cdot\|_0$. The standard $H^1(\Omega)$ seminorm will be denoted by $|\cdot|_1$. The norm in $L_p(\omega)$ is written as $\|\cdot\|_{L_p(\omega)}$ for general p . The measure of a subset ω of Ω is written $|\omega|$.

2. A PRIORI BOUNDS ON THE SOLUTION u

The papers [5, 6] consider (1.1) in the case of positive constants p and q , with arbitrary data compatibility at each corner, and give a decomposition of the solution with pointwise bounds on the derivatives of the terms from this decomposition. As no corresponding analysis exists in the literature for variable positive functions p and q , we shall make the reasonable assumption that the results of [5, 6] are also valid for (1.1). That is, we assume that

$$(2.1) \quad u = v + E + z_{00} + z_{01} + z_{10} + z_{11},$$

where for non-negative integers m and n and $(x, y) \in \Omega$ the derivatives of the various components satisfy the bounds

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.2a) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n v(x, y)| \leq C, \\
(2.2b) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n E(x, y)| \leq C \varepsilon^{-m} e^{-\beta x/\varepsilon}, \\
(2.2c) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{1\mu}(x, y)| \leq C[\varepsilon^{-n/2} + \varepsilon^{1-m-n}] \text{ for } m+n < 2 \text{ and } r_{1\mu} < \varepsilon, \\
(2.2d) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{1\mu}(x, y)| \leq C[\varepsilon^{-n/2} + \varepsilon^{-1} |\ln r_{1\mu}|] \text{ for } m+n = 2 \text{ and } r_{1\mu} < \varepsilon, \\
(2.2e) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{1\mu}(x, y)| \leq C[\varepsilon^{-n/2} + \varepsilon^{-1} r_{1\mu}^{2-m-n}] \text{ for } m+n > 2 \text{ and } r_{1\mu} < \varepsilon, \\
(2.2f) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{10}(x, y)| \leq C \varepsilon^{-n/2} \left[1 + r_{10}^{1-m-n/2}\right] e^{-\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \text{ for } \varepsilon \leq r_{10}, \\
(2.2g) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{11}(x, y)| \leq C \varepsilon^{-n/2} \left[1 + r_{11}^{1-m-n/2}\right] e^{-\rho(1-y)/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \text{ for } \varepsilon \leq r_{11}, \\
(2.2h) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{0\mu}(x, y)| \leq C[\varepsilon^{-m-n/2} + \varepsilon^{1-m-n}] \text{ for } m+n < 2 \text{ and } r_{0\mu} < \varepsilon, \\
(2.2i) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{0\mu}(x, y)| \leq C[\varepsilon^{-m-n/2} + \varepsilon^{-1} |\ln r_{0\mu}|] \text{ for } m+n = 2 \text{ and } r_{0\mu} < \varepsilon, \\
(2.2j) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{0\mu}(x, y)| \leq C[\varepsilon^{-m-n/2} + \varepsilon^{-1} r_{0\mu}^{2-m-n}] \text{ for } m+n > 2 \text{ and } r_{0\mu} < \varepsilon, \\
(2.2k) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{00}(x, y)| \leq C \varepsilon^{-m-n/2} [1 + r_{00}^{1-n/2}] e^{-\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-\beta x/\varepsilon} \text{ for } \varepsilon \leq r_{00}, \\
(2.2l) \quad & |D_x^m D_y^n z_{01}(x, y)| \leq C \varepsilon^{-m-n/2} \left[1 + r_{01}^{1-n/2}\right] e^{-\gamma(1-y)/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-\beta x/\varepsilon} \text{ for } \varepsilon \leq r_{01}.
\end{aligned}$$

In these formulas $\mu \in \{0, 1\}$ and r_{ij} denotes the Euclidean distance from the point (x, y) to the corner (i, j) , while γ and ρ are constants in the interval $(0, \sqrt{\min_{\bar{\Omega}} q}/2)$. (In the case of constant coefficients the analysis of [5, 6] shows that one can take $\gamma = \rho = \sqrt{q}/2$.)

Here v is a smooth component of the solution, E is the outflow boundary layer, and each z_{ij} includes a corner singularity at the corner (i, j) ; furthermore, as (2.2f) and (2.2g) show, the terms z_{1j} also contain parabolic boundary layers.

In our later analysis, a derivative such as $D_x^2 D_y z_{01}$ is usually written as $z_{01,xy}$.

3. THE SHISHKIN MESH

The tensor product Shishkin mesh that we shall construct on $\bar{\Omega}$ is the same as in [3, 4]; it is piecewise equidistant in each coordinate direction, with a fine mesh at the outflow boundary $x = 0$ and along the characteristic boundaries $y = 0$ and $y = 1$. (For a discussion of Shishkin meshes see [10, 11].) Our finite element method on this mesh will use globally continuous piecewise bilinears. Thus in Section 4.1 some local interpolation bounds are given for bilinears on anisotropic mesh rectangles.

Let N be a positive integer that is divisible by 4. Our tensor-product rectangular meshes will have N intervals in each coordinate direction. Define the mesh transition points by

$$(3.1) \quad \lambda_x = \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{2\beta} \varepsilon \ln N \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_y = \min \left\{ \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{\min\{\gamma, \rho\}} \sqrt{\varepsilon} \ln N \right\}.$$

The choice of λ_x here is the same as in [3, 13]. Assume that ε is so small that (3.1) can be replaced by

$$(3.2) \quad \lambda_x = \frac{5}{2\beta} \varepsilon \ln N \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_y = \frac{2}{\min\{\gamma, \rho\}} \sqrt{\varepsilon} \ln N,$$

FIGURE 1. Decomposition of Ω

as otherwise N^{-1} is much smaller than ε and the problem can be analysed in a classical manner. In fact for our analysis of the Galerkin method one could take $\lambda_x = (2/\beta) \varepsilon \ln N$, but the analysis of the streamline diffusion method requires (3.2).

Set

$$(3.3a) \quad x_i = \frac{2i\lambda_x}{N} \text{ for } i = 0, \dots, \frac{1}{2}N,$$

$$(3.3b) \quad x_i = \lambda_x + \frac{2}{N} (1 - \lambda_x) \left(i - \frac{N}{2} \right) \text{ for } i = \frac{1}{2}N, \dots, N,$$

$$(3.3c) \quad y_j = \lambda_y (4j/N) \text{ for } j = 0, \dots, \frac{1}{4}N,$$

$$(3.3d) \quad y_j = \lambda_y + \frac{2}{N} (1 - 2\lambda_y) \left(j - \frac{1}{4}N \right) \text{ for } j = \frac{1}{4}N, \dots, \frac{3}{4}N,$$

$$(3.3e) \quad y_j = 1 - \lambda_y (4N^{-1}(N - j)) \text{ for } j = \frac{3}{4}N, \dots, N.$$

Set $h_i = x_i - x_{i-1}$ and $k_j = y_j - y_{j-1}$ for $i, j = 1, \dots, N$. Then the h_i and k_j satisfy the following bounds:

$$(3.4a) \quad h_i = 2\lambda_x N^{-1} \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{1}{2}N,$$

$$(3.4b) \quad h_i \leq 2N^{-1} \text{ for } i = \frac{1}{2}N + 1, \dots, N,$$

$$(3.4c) \quad k_j = 4\lambda_y N^{-1} \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{1}{4}N \text{ and } j = \frac{3}{4}N + 1, \dots, N,$$

$$(3.4d) \quad k_j \leq 2N^{-1} \text{ for } j = \frac{1}{4}N + 1, \dots, \frac{3}{4}N.$$

Our mesh corresponds to the decomposition of Ω displayed in Figure 1. For later convenience, in the notation of Figure 1 set

$$(3.5) \quad \Omega^w = \Omega_{sw} \cup \Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw}, \quad \Omega^s = \Omega_{sw} \cup \Omega_s \quad \text{and} \quad \Omega^n = \Omega_{nw} \cup \Omega_n.$$

3.1. Inequalities for ϵ and N^{-1} . Throughout the paper we make the reasonable practical assumption that

$$(3.6) \quad \epsilon \leq N^{-1},$$

as otherwise it is straightforward to compute an accurate solution to (1.1).

Elementary calculus shows easily that

$$(3.7) \quad N^{-1/2}(\ln N)^3 \leq \left(\frac{6}{e}\right)^3 \approx 10.75 \quad \text{for } N \geq 4.$$

We appeal to this bound at several places in our analysis.

Likewise, for constant $r > 0$, the function $x \mapsto x^r |\ln x|$ is increasing on the interval $0 < x \leq 1/e$; but $N^{-1} < 1/e$ since $N \geq 4$. Consequently,

$$(3.8) \quad \epsilon^r |\ln \epsilon| \leq N^{-r} (\ln N) \quad \text{for } \epsilon \leq N^{-1},$$

which we use occasionally.

Remark 3.1. As the constants C in our error estimates are of moderate size and independent of ϵ , the Shishkin mesh finite element method and its analysis are robust, even for problems that are severely singularly perturbed. Bounds such as (3.7) in this analysis would be much smaller if the $\ln N$ factor were absent — but to remove such logarithmic factors would require the use of a more complicated mesh (e.g., a Bakhvalov mesh), and the analysis of our method would then become longer and more difficult.

4. ERRORS IN INTERPOLATING TO u

Let $V^N \subset C(\bar{\Omega})$ denote the conforming space of continuous piecewise bilinears on our Shishkin mesh. Given any function $w \in C(\bar{\Omega})$, we write w^I for its nodal interpolant from V^N .

Define the energy norm $\|w\|_\epsilon := [\epsilon |w|_1^2 + \|w\|_0^2]^{1/2}$ for all $w \in H^1(\Omega)$. We shall estimate $u - u^I$ in both the $L_2(\Omega)$ and energy norms.

4.1. Interpolation inequalities for bilinears. The bounds in this section, which are quite general in their applicability, hold true on our mesh. Let h_i and k_j be as in the previous subsection. For each i and j , let τ_{ij} denote the mesh rectangle $[x_{i-1}, x_i] \times [y_{j-1}, y_j]$. Then (see [1]) one has the following anisotropic interpolation inequalities for the bilinear nodal interpolant w^I on τ_{ij} :

$$(4.1a) \quad \|w - w^I\|_{L_\infty(\tau_{ij})} \leq C \|w\|_{L_\infty(\tau_{ij})},$$

$$(4.1b) \quad \|w - w^I\|_{0,\tau_{ij}} \leq C(h_i \|w_x\|_{0,\tau_{ij}} + k_j \|w_y\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}),$$

$$(4.1c) \quad \|w - w^I\|_{0,\tau_{ij}} \leq C(h_i^2 \|w_{xx}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}} + k_j^2 \|w_{yy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}),$$

$$(4.1d) \quad \|(w - w^I)_x\|_{0,\tau_{ij}} \leq C(h_i \|w_{xx}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}} + k_j \|w_{xy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}),$$

$$(4.1e) \quad \|(w - w^I)_x\|_{L_\infty(\tau_{ij})} \leq 2 \|w_x\|_{L_\infty(\tau_{ij})}.$$

There are analogous inequalities for w_y , which we shall also use.

4.2. The interpolation error estimate.

Lemma 4.1. *There exists a constant C such that the L_2 -norm interpolation error satisfies*

$$(4.2) \quad \|u - u^I\|_{0,\Omega} \leq CN^{-2} \ln N.$$

Proof. Recall the decomposition (2.1): $u = v + E + z_{00} + z_{01} + z_{10} + z_{11}$. Consider first the smooth component v . By (4.1c) and (2.2a) one has

$$(4.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \|v - v^I\|_{0,\Omega}^2 &\leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega} \left[h_i^4 \|v_{xx}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^4 \|v_{yy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right] \\ &\leq CN^{-4} (\|v_{xx}\|_{0,\Omega}^2 + \|v_{yy}\|_{0,\Omega}^2) \leq CN^{-4}. \end{aligned}$$

For the exponential layer component E , outside Ω^w the stability bound (4.1a) and (2.2b) give

$$\|E - E^I\|_{0,\Omega \setminus \Omega^w} \leq \|E - E^I\|_{L_\infty(\Omega \setminus \Omega^w)} \leq C \|E\|_{L_\infty(\Omega \setminus \Omega^w)} \leq CN^{-2},$$

while on Ω^w , by (4.1c) and (2.2b) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|E - E^I\|_{0,\Omega^w}^2 &\leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega^w} \left[h_i^4 \|E_{xx}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^4 \|E_{yy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right] \\ &\leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega^w} \left[h_i^4 \iint_{\tau_{ij}} \varepsilon^{-4} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} + k_j^4 \iint_{\tau_{ij}} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} \right] \\ &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^4 \iint_{\Omega^w} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} \leq C\varepsilon N^{-4} (\ln N)^4 \leq CN^{-4} (\ln N)^2, \end{aligned}$$

where we used (3.6) and (3.7). Hence

$$(4.4) \quad \|E - E^I\|_0 \leq CN^{-2} \ln N.$$

Next, consider z_{00} . First, the stability result (4.1a) gives

$$(4.5) \quad \|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_{0,\Omega \setminus \Omega_{sw}} \leq C \|z_{00}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega \setminus \Omega_{sw})} \leq CN^{-2}.$$

On Ω_{sw} , by (4.1c) one has $\|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_{0,\Omega_{sw}}^2 \leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega_{sw}} \iint_{\tau_{ij}} [h_i^4 z_{00,xx}^2 + k_j^4 z_{00,yy}^2]$. Now (2.2i) and (2.2k) imply that

$$|z_{00,xx}(x, y)| \leq C(\varepsilon^{-2} + \varepsilon^{-1} |\ln r_{00}|) \quad \text{and} \quad |z_{00,yy}(x, y)| \leq C\varepsilon^{-1}(1 + |\ln r_{00}|)$$

for all $(\xi, y) \in \Omega$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_{0,\Omega_{sw}}^2 &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^4 \iint_{\Omega_{sw}} [\varepsilon^4 (\varepsilon^{-4} + \varepsilon^{-2} |\ln r_{00}|^2) \\ &\quad + \varepsilon^2 \varepsilon^{-2} (1 + |\ln r_{00}|^2)] \\ &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^4 \iint_{\Omega_{sw}} (1 + |\ln r_{00}|^2) \\ &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^4 \left[|\Omega_{sw}| + \int_0^{C\sqrt{\varepsilon} \ln N} |\ln r_{00}|^2 r_{00} \, dr_{00} \right] \\ &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^4 \left[\varepsilon^{3/2} (\ln N)^2 + \varepsilon (\ln N)^2 |\ln(C\sqrt{\varepsilon} \ln N)|^2 \right] \\ &\leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} N^{-4} (\ln N)^5 \\ (4.6) \quad &\leq CN^{-4} (\ln N)^2, \end{aligned}$$

where we used (3.6) and (3.7).

Combining (4.5) and (4.6) yields

$$(4.7) \quad \|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_{0,\Omega} \leq CN^{-2} \ln N.$$

Similarly, one obtains

$$(4.8) \quad \|z_{01} - z_{01}^I\|_{0,\Omega} \leq CN^{-2} \ln N.$$

We now come to the terms associated with the inflow corner singularities and parabolic layers. Consider z_{10} . First, on $\Omega \setminus \Omega^s$ one has

$$\|z_{10}^I\|_{L^\infty(\Omega \setminus \Omega^s)} \leq \|z_{10}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega \setminus \Omega^s)} \leq Ce^{-\rho\lambda_y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \leq CN^{-2},$$

so

$$(4.9) \quad \|z_{10} - z_{10}^I\|_{0,\Omega \setminus \Omega^s} \leq CN^{-2}.$$

Let $R_{10}^y := \bigcup_{j=1}^{N/4} \tau_{Nj}$ denote the rightmost column of mesh rectangles in Ω^s . On $\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y$ one has $r_{10} \geq N^{-1} \geq \varepsilon$ by (3.6). Hence, by (4.1c) and (2.2f) one gets

$$\begin{aligned} \|z_{10} - z_{10}^I\|_{0,\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y}^2 &\leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y} \left[h_i^4 \|z_{10,xx}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^4 \|z_{10,yy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right] \\ &\leq CN^{-4} \iint_{\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y} r_{10}^{-2} r_{10} \, dr_{10} \, d\theta \\ &\quad + C\varepsilon^2 (N^{-1} \ln N)^4 \iint_{\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y} \varepsilon^{-2} e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \\ &\leq CN^{-4} \ln N + C\varepsilon^{1/2} (N^{-1} \ln N)^4 \\ (4.10) \quad &\leq CN^{-4} \ln N \end{aligned}$$

using $r_{10} \geq N^{-1}$ on $\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y$, (3.6) and (3.7).

It remains to estimate $\|z_{10} - z_{10}^I\|_{0,R_{10}^y}$. Let $D_{10}^\varepsilon \subset \Omega$ denote the quarter disk with centre $(1,0)$ and radius ε . Assume for the moment that $\varepsilon \leq N^{-3}$. Now $|R_{10}^y| \leq CN^{-1}\varepsilon^{1/2} \ln N$, so (4.1b), (2.2c) and (2.2f) yield

$$\begin{aligned} \|z_{10} - z_{10}^I\|_{0,R_{10}^y}^2 &\leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset R_{10}^y} \left[h_i^2 \|z_{10,x}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|z_{10,y}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right] \\ &\leq CN^{-2} \left(\iint_{D_{10}^\varepsilon} + \iint_{R_{10}^y} e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \right) \\ &\quad + C\varepsilon (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \left(\iint_{D_{10}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} + \iint_{R_{10}^y} \varepsilon^{-1} e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \right) \\ (4.11) \quad &\leq CN^{-2} (\ln N)^2 [|D_{10}^\varepsilon| + |R_{10}^y|] \leq CN^{-4}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used $\varepsilon \leq N^{-3}$ and (3.7).

If instead $\varepsilon > N^{-3}$, then split R_{10}^y as

$$R_{10}^y = \overbrace{\left(\bigcup_{\tau_{ij} \cap D_{10}^\varepsilon \neq \emptyset} \tau_{ij} \right)}^{=: R_{10,l}^y} \cup \overbrace{\left(\bigcup_{\tau_{ij} \cap D_{10}^\varepsilon = \emptyset} \tau_{ij} \right)}^{=: R_{10,u}^y}.$$

Then

$$(4.12) \quad \|z_{10} - z_{10}^I\|_{0,R_{10}^y}^2 \leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset R_{10,l}^y} \left[h_i^2 \|z_{10,x}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|z_{10,y}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right] \\ + C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset R_{10,u}^y} \left[h_i^4 \|z_{10,xx}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^4 \|z_{10,yy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right]$$

by (4.1b) and (4.1c). For each $\tau_{ij} \subset R_{10}^y$ one has

$$k_j \leq C \lambda_y N^{-1} \leq C \varepsilon^{1/2} N^{-1} \ln N \leq C N^{-3/2} \ln N$$

by (3.6); consequently, the rectangle $R_{10,l}^y$ has height at most $\varepsilon + C N^{-3/2} \ln N \leq C N^{-1}$. It follows that $|R_{10,l}^y| \leq C N^{-2}$. Thus (2.2c) and (2.2f) yield

$$(4.13) \quad \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset R_{10,l}^y} \left[h_i^2 \|z_{10,x}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|z_{10,y}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right] \\ \leq C N^{-2} \left(\iint_{D_{10}^\varepsilon} + \iint_{R_{10,l}^y} e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \right) \\ + C \varepsilon (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \left(\iint_{D_{10}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} + \iint_{R_{10,l}^y} \varepsilon^{-1} e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \right) \\ \leq C N^{-2} (\ln N)^2 [|D_{10}^\varepsilon| + |R_{10,l}^y|] \leq C N^{-4} (\ln N)^2,$$

where we used (3.6) again. Now (3.6) implies that $D_{10}^\varepsilon \subset R_{10,l}^y$, so $r_{10} \geq \varepsilon > N^{-3}$ on $\Omega \setminus R_{10,l}^y$. Then the bound (2.2f) yields

$$(4.14) \quad \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset R_{10,u}^y} \left[h_i^4 \|z_{10,xx}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^4 \|z_{10,yy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right] \\ \leq C N^{-4} \iint_{R_{10,u}^y} (1 + r_{10}^{-1})^2 e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \\ + C \varepsilon^2 (N^{-1} \ln N)^4 \iint_{R_{10,u}^y} \varepsilon^{-2} e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \\ \leq C N^{-4} \iint_{R_{10,u}^y} r_{10}^{-1} dr_{10} d\theta + C \varepsilon^{1/2} N^{-5} (\ln N)^4 \\ \leq C N^{-4} \ln N.$$

From (4.9)–(4.14) we get

$$(4.15) \quad \|z_{10} - z_{10}^I\|_{0,\Omega} \leq C N^{-2} \ln N.$$

Analogously,

$$(4.16) \quad \|z_{11} - z_{11}^I\|_{0,\Omega} \leq C N^{-2} \ln N.$$

Combine (4.3), (4.4), (4.7), (4.8), (4.15) and (4.16) to complete the proof. $\square$

Lemma 4.2. *There exists a constant C such that the ε -weighted H^1 -seminorm interpolation error satisfies*

$$(4.17) \quad \varepsilon^{1/2} \|\nabla(u - u^I)\|_{0,\Omega} \leq C N^{-1} \ln N.$$

Proof. Again we rely on the decomposition $u = v + E + z_{00} + z_{01} + z_{10} + z_{11}$. Consider first the smooth component v , for which (4.1d) and (2.2a) yield

$$(4.18) \quad \varepsilon \|\nabla(v - v^I)\|_{0,\Omega}^2 \leq C\varepsilon \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega} \left(h_i^2 \|(\nabla v)_x\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|(\nabla v)_y\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right) \leq C\varepsilon N^{-2}.$$

For the exponential layer component, apply triangle and inverse inequalities to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon \|(E - E^I)_x\|_{0,\Omega \setminus \Omega^w}^2 &\leq C\varepsilon \sum_{i=N/2+1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \left(\|E_x\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + \|E_x^I\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right) \\ &\leq C\varepsilon \left[\|E_x\|_{0,\Omega \setminus \Omega^w}^2 + \sum_{i=N/2+1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N h_i^{-2} |\tau_{ij}| \|E\|_{L^\infty(\tau_{ij})}^2 \right] \\ &\leq C \left[N^{-5} + \varepsilon N^{-5} \sum_{i=N/2+1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N N k_j \right] \\ &\leq C(N^{-5} + \varepsilon N^{-3}) \\ (4.19) \quad &\leq C N^{-4} \end{aligned}$$

by (2.2b), (3.2) and (3.6). Inside Ω^w we apply (4.1d) and get

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon \|(E - E^I)_x\|_{0,\Omega^w}^2 &\leq C\varepsilon \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega^w} \left(h_i^2 \|E_{xx}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|E_{xy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right) \\ &\leq C\varepsilon^{-1} (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \|e^{-\beta x/\varepsilon}\|_{0,\Omega^w}^2 \leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(4.20) \quad \varepsilon^{1/2} \|(E - E^I)_x\|_{0,\Omega} \leq C N^{-1} \ln N.$$

For E_y apply (4.1e) outside Ω^w to obtain

$$(4.21) \quad \varepsilon^{1/2} \|(E - E^I)_y\|_{0,\Omega \setminus \Omega^w} \leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} \|E_y\|_{L^\infty(\Omega \setminus \Omega^w)} \leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} N^{-5/2} \leq C N^{-3}.$$

Inside Ω^w apply (4.1d), which gives

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon \|(E - E^I)_y\|_{0,\Omega^w}^2 &\leq C\varepsilon \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega^w} \left(h_i^2 \|E_{xy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|E_{yy}\|_{0,\tau_{ij}}^2 \right) \\ &\leq C\varepsilon (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \|e^{-\beta x/\varepsilon}\|_{0,\Omega^w}^2 \\ &\leq C\varepsilon^2 (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \leq C N^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

by (3.6). Altogether, we have shown that

$$(4.22) \quad \varepsilon^{1/2} \|(E - E^I)_y\|_{0,\Omega} \leq C N^{-3/2}.$$

We now tackle the outflow singularity z_{00} . The analysis of z_{00} in $\Omega \setminus \Omega^w$ is similar to that for E and via (2.2k) produces

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varepsilon \| (z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_x \|_{0, \Omega \setminus \Omega^w}^2 &\leq \varepsilon \sum_{\tau_{ij} \in \Omega \setminus \Omega^w} \left[\|z_{00,x}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 + |\tau_{ij}| h_i^{-2} \|z_{00}\|_{L_\infty(\tau_{ij})}^2 \right] \\
 &\leq C\varepsilon \left(\varepsilon^{-2} \|e^{-\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-\beta x/\varepsilon}\|_{0, \Omega \setminus \Omega^w}^2 + N^{-5} \sum_{i=N/2+1}^N N \right) \\
 (4.23) \quad &\leq C \left(\varepsilon^{1/2} N^{-5} + \varepsilon N^{-3} \right) \leq C N^{-4}
 \end{aligned}$$

where we used (3.6). In $\Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw}$ the stability bound (4.1e) and (2.2k) yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varepsilon^{1/2} \| (z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_x \|_{0, \Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw}} &\leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} |\Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw}|^{1/2} \|z_{00,x}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw})} \\
 &\leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} \lambda_x^{1/2} \varepsilon^{-1} \|e^{-\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-\beta x/\varepsilon}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw})} \\
 (4.24) \quad &\leq C N^{-2} (\ln N)^{1/2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Let D_{00}^ε be the quarter-disc in Ω_{sw} with centre $(0,0)$ and radius ε . In Ω_{sw} apply (4.1d) with the bounds

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|z_{00,xx}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 &\leq C \left(\iint_{\tau_{ij} \cap D_{00}^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon^{-4} + \varepsilon^{-2} |\ln r_{00}|^2) + \iint_{\tau_{ij} \setminus D_{00}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-4} e^{-2\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} \right) \\
 \|z_{00,xy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 &\leq C \left(\iint_{\tau_{ij} \cap D_{00}^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon^{-3} + \varepsilon^{-2} |\ln r_{00}|^2) + \iint_{\tau_{ij} \setminus D_{00}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-3} e^{-2\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

from (2.2i) and (2.2k). This leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varepsilon \| (z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_x \|_{0, \Omega_{sw}}^2 &\leq C\varepsilon \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega_{sw}} \left(h_i^2 \|z_{00,xx}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|z_{00,xy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 \right) \\
 &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \left[\iint_{D_{00}^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon^{-1} + |\ln r_{00}|^2) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \varepsilon^{-1} \iint_{\Omega_{sw} \setminus D_{00}^\varepsilon} e^{-2\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} \right] \\
 (4.25) \quad &\leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \leq C N^{-5/2} (\ln N)^2
 \end{aligned}$$

on invoking (3.6). Combining (4.23)–(4.25), we have

$$(4.26) \quad \varepsilon^{1/2} \| (z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_x \|_{0, \Omega} \leq C N^{-5/4} \ln N.$$

For $z_{00,y}$ on $\Omega \setminus \Omega^w$, if one proceeds similarly to the x -derivative the outcome is suboptimal because sums of k_j^{-1} enter the calculation and contribute a factor $\varepsilon^{-1/2} N^1$; consequently, we start with the triangle inequality then avoid any inverse estimate by moving to the L_∞ norm of $z_{00,y}$. Thus by (4.1e) and (2.2k) one gets

$$(4.27) \quad \varepsilon \| (z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_y \|_{0, \Omega \setminus \Omega^w}^2 \leq C\varepsilon \|z_{00,y}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega \setminus \Omega^w)}^2 \leq C N^{-5}.$$

On $\Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw}$ the stability bound (4.1e) and (2.2k) give

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^{1/2} \|(z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_y\|_{0, \Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw}} &\leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} |\Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw}|^{1/2} \|z_{00,y}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw})} \\ &\leq C\varepsilon (\ln N)^{1/2} \varepsilon^{-1/2} \|e^{-\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-\beta x/\varepsilon}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_w \cup \Omega_{nw})} \\ (4.28) \quad &\leq CN^{-5/2} (\ln N)^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

by (3.6). On Ω_{sw} , from (2.2i) one has

$$\|z_{00,xy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 \leq C \left[\iint_{\tau_{ij} \cap D_{00}^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon^{-3} + \varepsilon^{-2} |\ln r_{00}|^2) + \iint_{\tau_{ij} \setminus D_{00}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-3} e^{-2\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} \right]$$

and

$$\|z_{00,yy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 \leq C \left[\iint_{\tau_{ij} \cap D_{00}^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon^{-2} + \varepsilon^{-2} |\ln r_{00}|^2) + \iint_{\tau_{ij} \setminus D_{00}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-2} e^{-2\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} \right];$$

now apply (4.1d) to get

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon \|(z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_y\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}}^2 &\leq C\varepsilon \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega_{sw}} \left(h_i^2 \|z_{00,xy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|z_{00,yy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 \right) \\ &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \left[\iint_{D_{00}^\varepsilon} (1 + |\ln r_{00}|^2) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \iint_{\Omega_{sw} \setminus D_{00}^\varepsilon} e^{-2\gamma y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} e^{-2\beta x/\varepsilon} \right] \\ (4.29) \quad &\leq C\varepsilon^{3/2} (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \leq CN^{-7/2} (\ln N)^2, \end{aligned}$$

where (3.6) was also used. Combining (4.27)–(4.29), we have

$$(4.30) \quad \varepsilon^{1/2} \|(z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_y\|_{0, \Omega} \leq CN^{-7/4} \ln N.$$

One obtains analogous results for z_{01} .

Now consider the inflow singularity term z_{10} . We begin with its y derivative. Outside Ω^s the stability result (4.1e) and (2.2f) yield

$$(4.31) \quad \varepsilon^{1/2} \|(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_y\|_{0, \Omega \setminus \Omega^s} \leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} \|z_{10,y}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega \setminus \Omega^s)} \leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} \varepsilon^{-1/2} N^{-2} \leq CN^{-2}.$$

By (4.1d) one has

$$(4.32) \quad \varepsilon \|(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_y\|_{0, \Omega^s}^2 \leq C\varepsilon \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{N/4} (h_i^2 \|z_{10,xy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 + k_j^2 \|z_{10,yy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2).$$

For each mesh rectangle τ_{ij} , the bounds (2.2d) and (2.2f) provide the estimates

$$\|z_{10,xy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 \leq C \left[\iint_{\tau_{ij} \cap D_{10}^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon^{-1} + \varepsilon^{-2} |\ln r_{10}|^2) + \iint_{\tau_{ij} \setminus D_{10}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} (1 + r_{10}^{-1}) e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \right]$$

and

$$\|z_{10,yy}\|_{0, \tau_{ij}}^2 \leq C \left[\iint_{\tau_{ij} \cap D_{10}^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon^{-2} + \varepsilon^{-2} |\ln r_{10}|^2) + \iint_{\tau_{ij} \setminus D_{10}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-2} e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \right].$$

Thus from (4.32) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \varepsilon \| (z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_y \|_{0,\Omega^s}^2 \\
& \leq C\varepsilon \left[N^{-2} \iint_{D_{10}^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon^{-1} + \varepsilon^{-2} |\ln r_{10}|^2) + N^{-2} \iint_{\Omega_s \setminus D_{10}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} \frac{1}{r_{10}} r_{10} \, dr_{10} \, d\theta \right. \\
& \quad \left. + (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \iint_{D_{10}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} (1 + |\ln r_{10}|^2) + (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \iint_{\Omega_s \setminus D_{10}^\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} e^{-2\rho y/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \right] \\
& \leq C [N^{-2} (\varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon |\ln \varepsilon|^2) + N^{-2} + (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 (\varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^2 |\ln \varepsilon|^2) + (N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \varepsilon^{1/2}] \\
& \leq CN^{-2}
\end{aligned}$$

using (3.6). The bound on $z_{10,xx}$ is smaller than the bound on $z_{10,yy}$ and a similar argument yields

$$\varepsilon \| (z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x \|_{0,\Omega^s}^2 \leq CN^{-2}.$$

Thus we have shown that

$$(4.33) \quad \varepsilon^{1/2} \|\nabla(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)\|_{0,\Omega} \leq CN^{-1}.$$

A similar result is valid for z_{11} .

Combining (4.18), (4.20), (4.22), (4.26), (4.30) and (4.33), the proof is complete. $\square$

Theorem 4.3. *There exists a constant C such that the energy-norm interpolation error satisfies*

$$(4.34) \quad \| \|u - u^I\| \|_\varepsilon \leq CN^{-1} \ln N.$$

Proof. This is immediate from Lemmas 4.1 and 4.2. $\square$

5. GALERKIN ERROR ANALYSIS FOR BILINEARS

Define the bilinear form

$$a_{\text{Gal}}(v, w) := \varepsilon(\nabla v, \nabla w) - (pv_x, w) + (qv, w) \quad \forall v, w \in H_0^1.$$

Assume without loss of generality that $q + (\operatorname{div} p)/2 \geq C > 0$ for some constant C , since a simple change of variable $u(x, y) = e^{kx}v(x, y)$ for some suitable constant k , combined with $p \geq \beta > 0$ and ε sufficiently small, will yield this standard inequality in finite element analyses. Then for some positive constant C one has the coercivity inequality

$$a_{\text{Gal}}(v, v) \geq C \| \|v\| \|_\varepsilon^2 \quad \forall v \in H_0^1.$$

To solve (1.1) approximately, define the Galerkin piecewise bilinear finite element solution $u^N \in V^N$ by

$$(5.1) \quad a_{\text{Gal}}(u^N, v^N) = (f, v^N) \text{ for } v^N \in V^N.$$

It follows easily that u^N enjoys the Galerkin orthogonality property:

$$a_{\text{Gal}}(u - u^N, v^N) = 0 \text{ for } v^N \in V^N.$$

Then by coercivity and Galerkin orthogonality one has

$$\begin{aligned}
 C|||u^N - u^I|||_\varepsilon^2 &\leq a_{\text{Gal}}(u^N - u^I, u^N - u^I) = a_{\text{Gal}}(u - u^I, u^N - u^I) \\
 &\leq \varepsilon |(\nabla(u - u^I), \nabla(u^N - u^I))| + |(p(u - u^I)_x, u^N - u^I)| \\
 &\quad + |(q(u - u^I), u^N - u^I)| \\
 (5.2) \quad &\leq CN^{-1}(\ln N) |||u^N - u^I|||_\varepsilon + |(p(u - u^I)_x, u^N - u^I)|
 \end{aligned}$$

by Theorem 4.3.

Remark 5.1. By invoking an identity of Lin [7] (see [13] for its derivation), one can obtain the sharper estimate

$$\varepsilon |(\nabla(u - u^I), \nabla(u^N - u^I))| + |(q(u - u^I), u^N - u^I)| \leq CN^{-3/2}(\ln N) |||u^N - u^I|||_\varepsilon,$$

but this improvement is useless here since later we can prove only the bound

$$|(p(u - u^I)_x, u^N - u^I)| \leq CN^{-1}(\ln N) |||u^N - u^I|||_\varepsilon$$

for the remaining term in (5.2).

Throughout the analysis that follows we consider $|(p(u - u^I)_x, \chi)|$ where $\chi \in V^N$ is arbitrary; eventually we shall take $\chi = u^N - u^I$.

5.1. The convection term. In considering the term $(p(u - u^I)_x, \chi)$ in (5.2), once again we use the decomposition (2.1).

Estimate of $(p(v - v^I)_x, \chi)$. This is very similar to the analysis of this term in [3, pp. 159, 160]. One obtains

$$(5.3) \quad |(p(v - v^I)_x, \chi)| \leq CN^{-2} \|\chi\|_0.$$

Estimate of $(p(E - E^I)_x, \chi)$. A minor variation of the argument used to handle this term in [3] yields

$$(5.4) \quad |(p(E - E^I)_x, \chi)| \leq CN^{-2}(\ln N)^2 |||\chi|||_\varepsilon.$$

Estimate of $(p(z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_x, \chi)$. Integrating by parts,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (p(z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_x, \chi) &= -(p_x(z_{00} - z_{00}^I), \chi) \\
 (5.5) \quad &\quad - (p(z_{00} - z_{00}^I), \chi_x)_{\Omega_{sw}} - (p(z_{00} - z_{00}^I), \chi_x)_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_{sw}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Here

$$(5.6) \quad |(p_x(z_{00} - z_{00}^I), \chi)| \leq C \|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_0 \|\chi\|_0 \leq CN^{-2} |||\chi|||_\varepsilon$$

by (4.7).

To deal with the next term in (5.5), we prove a modification of the bound on $\|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}}$ that was derived in the proof of Lemma 4.1. By (4.1b) one has $\|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}}^2 \leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset \Omega_{sw}} \iint_{\tau_{ij}} [h_i^2 z_{00,x}^2 + k_j^2 z_{00,y}^2]$. Now (2.2i) and (2.2k) imply that $|z_{00,x}(x, y)| \leq C\varepsilon^{-1}$ and $|z_{00,y}(x, y)| \leq C\varepsilon^{-1/2}$ for all $(\xi, y) \in \Omega$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}}^2 &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^2 \iint_{\Omega_{sw}} [\varepsilon^4(\varepsilon^{-2}) + \varepsilon(\varepsilon^{-1})] \\
 &\leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^2 |\Omega_{sw}| = C\varepsilon^{3/2} N^{-2} (\ln N)^4.
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} |(p(z_{00} - z_{00}^I), \chi_x)_{\Omega_{sw}}| &\leq C \|z_{00} - z_{00}^I\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}} \|\chi_x\|_0 \leq C \varepsilon^{1/4} N^{-1} (\ln N)^2 \|\chi\|_\varepsilon \\ (5.7) \qquad \qquad \qquad &\leq CN^{-1} (\ln N) \|\chi\|_\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

by (3.6) and (3.7).

To estimate $(p(z_{00} - z_{00}^I), \chi_x)_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_{sw}}$ write $\Omega \setminus \Omega_{sw} = A \cup B$ where

$$A = (0, \lambda_x) \times (\lambda_y, 1) \quad \text{and} \quad B = (\lambda_x, 1) \times (0, 1).$$

The inner product is estimated separately over each region. First, $\|z_{00}^I\|_{L_\infty(A)} \leq \|z_{00}\|_{L_\infty(A)} \leq C e^{-\gamma \lambda_y / \sqrt{\varepsilon}}$ so

$$\begin{aligned} |(z_{00} - z_{00}^I, \chi_x)_A| &\leq C e^{-\gamma \lambda_y / \sqrt{\varepsilon}} |A|^{1/2} \|\chi_x\|_0 \leq CN^{-2} \lambda_x^{1/2} \|\chi_x\|_0 \\ &\leq CN^{-2} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Next, $\|z_{00}^I\|_{L_\infty(B)} \leq \|z_{00}\|_{L_\infty(B)} \leq C e^{-\beta \lambda_x / \varepsilon} \leq CN^{-5/2}$ so

$$|(z_{00} - z_{00}^I, \chi_x)_B| \leq CN^{-5/2} |B|^{1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,B} \leq CN^{-3/2} \|\chi\|_{0,B} \leq CN^{-3/2} \|\chi\|_\varepsilon$$

by an inverse inequality. Collecting these inequalities yields

$$(5.8) \qquad |(p(z_{00} - z_{00}^I), \chi_x)_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_{sw}}| \leq CN^{-3/2} \|\chi\|_\varepsilon.$$

By virtue of (5.5)–(5.8) we obtain

$$(5.9) \qquad |(p(z_{00} - z_{00}^I)_x, \chi)| \leq CN^{-1} (\ln N) \|\chi\|_\varepsilon.$$

Estimate of $(p(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x, \chi)$. On $\Omega \setminus \Omega^s$, by (2.2f) one gets

$$|z_{10,x}(x, y)| \leq C e^{-\rho \lambda_y / \sqrt{\varepsilon}} \leq CN^{-2},$$

and it follows that $|z_{10,x}^I(x, y)| \leq CN^{-2}$ on $\Omega \setminus \Omega^s$ also. Hence

$$(5.10) \qquad \|(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x\|_{0, \Omega \setminus \Omega^s} \leq CN^{-2}.$$

Recall from Section 4 that $D_{10}^\varepsilon \subset \Omega$ is the quarter disk with centre $(1, 0)$ and radius ε , and $R_{10}^y = \bigcup_{j=1}^{N/4} \tau_{Nj}$ is the rightmost strip of mesh rectangles in Ω^s ; one has $D_{10}^\varepsilon \subset R_{10}^y$ since $\varepsilon \leq N^{-1}$, and $r_{10} \geq CN^{-1}$ on $\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y$. By (4.1d) and (2.2f) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x\|_{0, \Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y}^2 &\leq C \sum_{\tau_{ij} \subset (\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y)} \iint_{\tau_{ij}} (h_i^2 z_{10,xx}^2 + k_j^2 z_{10,xy}^2) \\ &\leq C \left[N^{-2} \iint_{\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y} r_{10}^{-2} r_{10} \, dr_{10} \, d\theta \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \varepsilon N^{-2} (\ln N)^2 \iint_{\Omega^s \setminus R_{10}^y} \varepsilon^{-1} r_{10}^{-1} r_{10} \, dr_{10} \, d\theta \right] \\ &\leq C [N^{-2} \ln N + N^{-2} (\ln N)^2] \\ (5.11) \qquad \qquad \qquad &\leq CN^{-2} (\ln N)^2. \end{aligned}$$

The inequalities (5.10) and (5.11) imply that

$$(5.12) \quad |(p(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x, \chi)_{\Omega \setminus R_{10}^y}| \leq C \|(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x\|_{0, \Omega} \|\chi\|_{0, \Omega} \leq CN^{-1} (\ln N) \|\chi\|_0.$$

Finally, as $\|z_{10,x}^I\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq \|z_{10,x}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C$, the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned} & |(p(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x, \chi)_{R_{10}^y}| \\ & \leq C \|(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x\|_{0,R_{10}^y} \|\chi\|_{0,R_{10}^y} \\ & \leq C |R_{10}^y|^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{0,R_{10}^y} \\ & \leq C \varepsilon^{1/4} N^{-1/2} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{0,R_{10}^y}^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{0,R_{10}^y}^{1/2} \\ & \leq C \varepsilon^{1/4} N^{-1/2} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{0,R_{10}^y}^{1/2} \left\{ \int_{y=0}^{\lambda_y} \int_{x=x_{N-1}}^1 h_N \int_{t=x_{N-1}}^1 |\chi_x(t, y)|^2 dt dx dy \right\}^{1/4}, \end{aligned}$$

since $\chi(1, y) = 0$ for all y implies that for $(x, y) \in R_{10}^y$ one has

$$|\chi(x, y)| \leq \int_{t=x}^1 |\chi_x(t, y)| dy \leq h_N^{1/2} \left(\int_{t=x_{N-1}}^1 |\chi_x(t, y)|^2 dy \right)^{1/2}$$

via a Cauchy-Schwarz inequality. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} |(p(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x, \chi)_{R_{10}^y}| & \leq C \varepsilon^{1/4} N^{-1} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{0,R_{10}^y}^{1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,R_{10}^y}^{1/2} \\ & = CN^{-1} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{0,R_{10}^y}^{1/2} \left(\varepsilon^{1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,R_{10}^y} \right)^{1/2} \\ (5.13) \quad & \leq CN^{-1} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

From (5.12) and (5.13) we have

$$(5.14) \quad |(p(z_{10} - z_{10}^I)_x, \chi)| \leq CN^{-1} (\ln N) \|\chi\|_\varepsilon.$$

Then (5.3), (5.4), (5.9) and (5.14) (and analogous bounds for z_{10} and z_{11}) yield

$$(5.15) \quad |(p(u - u^I)_x, \chi)| \leq CN^{-1} (\ln N) \|\chi\|_\varepsilon.$$

Remark 5.2. The analysis of the diffusion terms in [3] draws on an integral identity of Lin [7, 13] to demonstrate the optimal order of convergence. There is a related but more complicated formula for convection terms (see [3, Lemma 4.3]) that when applied here would leave a negative power of ε in the final bound (5.15), so we do not invoke it in our analysis.

Theorem 5.3. *The Galerkin solution u^N satisfies the error estimate*

$$\|u^N - u^I\|_\varepsilon \leq CN^{-1} \ln N.$$

Proof. Take $\chi = u^N - u^I$ in (5.15) then substitute this bound into (5.2). $\square$

Corollary 5.4. *There exists a constant C such that*

$$\|u - u^N\|_\varepsilon \leq CN^{-1} \ln N.$$

Proof. Combine Theorems 5.3 and 4.3. $\square$

Comparing Corollary 5.4 with Theorem 4.3 shows that with respect to the energy norm $\|\cdot\|_\varepsilon$ the Galerkin solution u^N achieves the same order of accuracy as the nodal interpolant u^I .

6. THE STREAMLINE DIFFUSION FINITE ELEMENT METHOD

Solutions of convection-diffusion problems that are computed by the standard Galerkin finite element method generally exhibit oscillations, even on Shishkin meshes, and moreover the associated discrete algebraic systems cannot be solved efficiently; see [9]. To ameliorate these problems, stabilised finite element methods are generally applied to convection-diffusion problems. Several such methods are described in [10]. One popular stabilised method is the streamline diffusion finite element method (SDFEM) which we now describe and analyse.

In the SDFEM one adds weighted residuals to the standard Galerkin method (5.1). Begin by defining the bilinear form

$$a_{stab}(w, v) := \sum_{\tau \in T^N} \delta_\tau (\varepsilon \Delta w + pw_x - qw, pv_x)_\tau$$

provided that $w \in H^2(\tau)$ and $v \in H^1(\tau)$ for all $\tau \in T^N$. Here the user-chosen parameters $\delta_\tau \geq 0$, which are constant on each τ , will be specified later. Then the SDFEM is: Find $w^N \in V^N$ such that

$$(6.1) \quad a_{SD}(w^N, v^N) := a_{Gal}(w^N, v^N) + a_{stab}(w^N, v^N) = f_{SD}(v^N) \quad \text{for all } v^N \in V^N,$$

with

$$(6.2) \quad f_{SD}(u, v) := (f, v) - \sum_{\tau \in T^N} \delta_\tau (f, pv_x)_\tau.$$

The SDFEM is consistent with (1.1), i.e., the solution u of (1.1) satisfies $a_{SD}(u^N, v^N) = f_{SD}(v^N)$ for all $v^N \in V^N$. Furthermore, the SDFEM enjoys the Galerkin orthogonality property

$$a_{SD}(u - w^N, v^N) = 0 \quad \text{for all } v^N \in V^N.$$

Define the streamline diffusion norm $|||\cdot|||$ by

$$|||v|||_{SD}^2 := |||v|||_\varepsilon^2 + \sum_{\tau \in T^N} \delta_\tau (pv_x, pv_x)_\tau.$$

Assume as in Section 5 that $q + (\operatorname{div} p)/2 \geq C_1 > 0$ for some constant C_1 . It is shown in, e.g., [10, III.3.2.1] that if $0 \leq \delta_\tau$ and $2\delta_\tau \|q\|_{L^\infty(\tau)}^2 \leq C_1$ for all $\tau \in T^N$, then one obtains coercivity with respect to $|||\cdot|||_{SD}$:

$$a_{SD}(v, v) \geq \frac{1}{2} |||v|||_{SD}^2 \quad \forall v \in V^N.$$

The coercivity and Galerkin orthogonality properties imply that

$$(6.3) \quad \frac{1}{2} |||u^I - w^N|||_{SD}^2 \leq a_{Gal}(u^I - u, u^I - w^N) + a_{stab}(u^I - u, u^I - w^N).$$

Here, combining (5.15) with the calculation leading to (5.2), we have

$$(6.4) \quad |a_{Gal}(u^I - u, \chi)| \leq CN^{-1}(\ln N) |||\chi|||_\varepsilon \quad \text{for all } \chi \in V^N.$$

Thus to bound $|||u^I - w^N|||$ we must estimate the term $a_{stab}(\cdot, \cdot)$ in (6.3). While doing this we analyse the influence of the parameter δ_τ on the stability and accuracy of the SDFEM. Although a term of the same form $a_{stab}(u^I - u, u^I - w^N)$ was bounded in [4], the solution u of (1.1) behaves so differently from the function u

of [4] that very little of the analysis of [4] can be reused here and consequently, apart from Lemma 6.1, we do not quote any results from [4] below.

In our analysis we shall make the reasonable assumption that δ_τ takes the constant value δ_* on each mesh region Ω_* , where Ω_* is any one of the 6 mesh regions Ω_w, Ω_{sw} , etc., in Figure 1. Note that the mesh is uniform on each Ω_* .

The reaction term in $a_{stab}(u^I - u, u^I - w^N)$ is easily handled: by Lemma 4.1 and the definition of $|||\cdot|||_{SD}$ one has immediately the bound

$$(6.5) \quad \delta_*(q(u - u^I), p\chi_x)_{\Omega_*} \leq C\delta_*^{1/2}N^{-2}(\ln N) |||\chi|||_{SD}$$

for each mesh region Ω_* and all $\chi \in V^N$.

We bound the diffusion and convection terms in $a_{stab}(u^I - u, u^I - w^N)$ by considering them on each separate mesh region in Sections 6.1–6.4. The diffusion term is simplified by the observation that, since u^I is piecewise bilinear, one has $\Delta u^I = 0$ on each mesh rectangle τ . We again use the decomposition $u = v + E + z_{00} + z_{01} + z_{10} + z_{11}$ of (2.1).

The following two lemmas are used several times in the subsequent analysis.

Lemma 6.1. *Let $p \in W_\infty^1(\Omega)$. Let Ω_* be any mesh region of our Shishkin mesh. Denote by h_* and k_* the meshsizes in the x and y directions inside Ω_* . Let $\varphi \in H^2(\Omega_*)$ and $\chi \in V^N$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \left| (p(\varphi - \varphi^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_*} \right| &\leq C \left[(h_* + k_*) (h_* \|\varphi_{xx}\|_{0,\Omega_*} + k_* \|\varphi_{xy}\|_{0,\Omega_*}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + k_*^2 \|\varphi_{xyy}\|_{0,\Omega_*} \right] \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_*}, \end{aligned}$$

where C is independent of φ and χ .

Proof. See [4, Proposition 8]. $\square$

Lemma 6.2. *Let τ be a mesh rectangle with base length h and height k . Let $\chi \in V^N$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \|\chi_x\|_{L_p(\tau)} &\leq Ch^{-1} \|\chi\|_{L_p(\tau)}, \quad \|\chi_y\|_{L_p(\tau)} \leq Ck^{-1} \|\chi\|_{L_p(\tau)}, \\ \|\chi\|_{L_q(\tau)} &\leq C(hk)^{1/q-1/p} \|\chi\|_{L_p(\tau)} \end{aligned}$$

for all $p, q \in [1, \infty]$, where the constant C is independent of τ and χ .

Proof. These finite element inverse estimates are well known. $\square$

The inequality $|||\cdot|||_\varepsilon \leq |||\cdot|||_{SD}$ and the equivalence of $\|p\chi_x\|$ and $\|\chi_x\|$ for various norms $\|\cdot\|$ will be used frequently in the analysis. Throughout, $\chi \in V^N$ is arbitrary.

6.1. Subdomain Ω_e . For v , by (2.2a) we have

$$\delta_e \varepsilon |(\Delta v, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_e}| \leq \delta_e \varepsilon \|\Delta v\|_{0,\Omega_e} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_e} \leq C\delta_e \varepsilon^{1/2} |||\chi|||_\varepsilon$$

and, by Lemma 6.1,

$$\delta_e |p(v - v^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_e}| \leq C\delta_e N^{-2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_e} \leq C\delta_e^{1/2} N^{-2} |||\chi|||_{SD}.$$

Set $\eta_1 = E + z_{00} + z_{01}$. By (2.2) and Lemma 6.2 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_e \varepsilon |(\Delta \eta_1, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_e}| &\leq C\delta_e \varepsilon \|\Delta \eta_1\|_{L_1(\Omega_e)} \|\chi_x\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_e)} \leq C\delta_e N^{-3/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_e} \\ &\leq C\delta_e^{1/2} N^{-3/2} |||\chi|||_{SD} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_e |(p(\eta_1 - \eta_1^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_e}| &\leq C\delta_e (\|\eta_{1,x}\|_{L_1(\Omega_e)} N \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_e} + N \|\eta_1^I\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_e)} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_e}) \\ &\leq C\delta_e^{1/2} N^{-3/2} \|\chi\|_{SD}. \end{aligned}$$

For the inflow singularities, setting $\eta_2 = z_{10} + z_{11}$ one has, similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_e \varepsilon |(\Delta\eta_2, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_e}| &\leq C\varepsilon\delta_e \|\Delta\eta_2\|_{L_1(\Omega_e)} \|\chi_x\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_e)} \leq C\varepsilon^{1/2} \delta_e N^{-1} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_e} \\ &\leq C\delta_e N^{-1} \|\chi\|_{SD} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_e |(p(\eta_2 - \eta_2^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_e}| &\leq C\delta_e \|(\eta_2 - \eta_2^I)_x\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_e)} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_e} \\ &\leq C\delta_e \|\eta_{2,x}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_e)} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_e} \leq C\delta_e^{1/2} N^{-2} \|\chi\|_\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Combining these inequalities with (6.5), we have

$$(6.6) \quad |a_{stab}(u - u^I, \chi)_{\Omega_e}| \leq C \left[\delta_e (\varepsilon^{1/2} + N^{-1}) + \delta_e^{1/2} N^{-3/2} \right] \|\chi\|_{SD}$$

for all $\chi \in V^N$.

6.2. Subdomain Ω_w . Set $\eta_3 = v + E$. Then by (2.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_w \varepsilon |(\Delta\eta_3, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_w}| &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon \|\Delta\eta_3\|_{0,\Omega_w} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_w} \leq C\delta_w \varepsilon^{-1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_w} \\ &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon^{-1} \|\chi\|_\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

and, by Lemma 6.2,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_w |(p(\eta_3 - \eta_3^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_w}| &\leq C\delta_w N^{-2} [\varepsilon(\ln N) \|\eta_{3,xx}\|_{0,\Omega_w} + \|\eta_{3,xy}\|_{0,\Omega_w} + \|\eta_{3,xyy}\|_{0,\Omega_w}] \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_w} \\ &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon^{-1/2} N^{-2} (\ln N) \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_w} \\ &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon^{-1} N^{-2} (\ln N) \|\chi\|_\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Set $\eta_4 = z_{00} + z_{01} + z_{10} + z_{11}$. Then from (2.2) and Lemma 6.2 one gets

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_w \varepsilon |(\Delta\eta_4, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_w}| &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon \|\Delta\eta_4\|_{L_1(\Omega_w)} \|\chi_x\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_w)} \\ &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon^{1/2} N^{-2} (\varepsilon N^{-2} \ln N)^{-1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_w} \\ &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon^{-1/2} N^{-1} (\ln N)^{-1/2} \|\chi\|_\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

and, by Lemma 4.2 applied in the case where $v + E \equiv 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_w |(p(\eta_4 - \eta_4^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_w}| &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon^{-1/2} N^{-1} (\ln N) \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_w} \\ &\leq C\delta_w \varepsilon^{-1} N^{-1} (\ln N) \|\chi\|_\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Combining these inequalities with (6.5), we have

$$(6.7) \quad |a_{stab}(u - u^I, \chi)_{\Omega_w}| \leq C \left[\delta_w \varepsilon^{-1} + \delta_w^{1/2} N^{-2} (\ln N) \right] \|\chi\|_{SD} \quad \text{for all } \chi \in V^N.$$

6.3. **Subdomains Ω_n and Ω_s .** In this section we shall need the inequality

$$(6.8) \quad \begin{aligned} \delta_s^{1/4} \varepsilon^{1/4} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} &= \left(\delta_s^{1/4} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s}^{1/2} \right) \left(\varepsilon^{1/4} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s}^{1/2} \right) \\ &\leq \left(\delta_s^{1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} + \varepsilon^{1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \right) / 2 \leq \|\chi\|_{SD}. \end{aligned}$$

Now $(\Delta v, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_s} + (\Delta v, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_{sw}} = -((p\Delta v)_x, \chi)_{\Omega_s \cup \Omega_{sw}}$ so by (2.2a) and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality one has

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_s \varepsilon |(\Delta v, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_s}| &\leq C \delta_s \varepsilon \left(|\Omega_s \cup \Omega_{sw}|^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{0,\Omega_s \cup \Omega_{sw}} + |\Omega_{sw}|^{1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_{sw}} \right) \\ &\leq C \delta_s \varepsilon \|\chi\|_{\varepsilon}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used (3.6). For the convection term, Lemma 6.1, (2.2a) and (6.8) yield

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_s \left| (p(v - v^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_s} \right| &\leq C \delta_s N^{-2} \left[\|v_{xx}\|_{0,\Omega_s} + \varepsilon^{1/2} (\ln N) \|v_{xy}\|_{0,\Omega_s} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \varepsilon (\ln N)^2 \|v_{xyy}\|_{0,\Omega_s} \right] \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \\ &\leq C \delta_s \varepsilon^{1/4} N^{-2} (\ln N) \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \\ &\leq C \delta_s^{3/4} N^{-2} (\ln N) \|\chi\|_{SD}. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that $\eta_1 = E + z_{00} + z_{01}$. By (2.2), Lemma 6.2 and (6.8) one has

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_s \varepsilon |(\Delta \eta_1, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_s}| &\leq \delta_s \varepsilon \|\Delta \eta_1\|_{L_1(\Omega_s)} \|\chi_x\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_s)} \\ &\leq C \delta_s \varepsilon N^{-5/2} \varepsilon^{-1/2} (\ln N) [\varepsilon^{1/2} N^{-2} (\ln N)]^{-1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \\ &\leq C \delta_s^{3/4} N^{-3/2} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{SD} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_s \left| (p(\eta_1 - \eta_1^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_s} \right| &\leq C \delta_s \left(\|\eta_{1,x}\|_{L_1(\Omega_s)} \|\chi_x\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_s)} + \|\eta_{1,x}^I\|_{0,\Omega_s} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \right) \\ &\leq C \delta_s N \left[\|\eta_{1,x}\|_{L_1(\Omega_s)} \varepsilon^{-1/4} (\ln N)^{-1/2} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \varepsilon^{1/4} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\eta_1^I\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_s)} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \right] \\ &\leq C \delta_s^{3/4} N^{-3/2} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{SD}. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that $\eta_2 = z_{10} + z_{11}$ and that $D_{10}^\varepsilon \subset \Omega$ is the quarter disc with centre $(1, 0)$ and radius ε . Now

$$\|\Delta \eta_2\|_{0,\Omega_s} \leq \|\Delta \eta_2\|_{0,D_{10}^\varepsilon} + \|\Delta \eta_2\|_{0,\Omega_s \setminus D_{10}^\varepsilon} \leq C(|\ln \varepsilon| + \varepsilon^{-3/4}) \leq C\varepsilon^{-3/4}$$

using (2.2d), (2.2f) and (2.2g). Hence, invoking (6.8),

$$\delta_s \varepsilon |(\Delta \eta_2, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_s}| \leq C \delta_s \varepsilon \|\Delta \eta_2\|_{0,\Omega_s} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \leq C \delta_s \varepsilon^{1/4} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \leq C \delta_s^{3/4} \|\chi\|_{SD}.$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_s |p(\eta_2 - \eta_2^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_s}| &\leq C \delta_s \|(\eta_2 - \eta_2^I)_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \\ &\leq C \delta_s |\Omega_s|^{1/2} \|(\eta_2 - \eta_2^I)_x\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_s)} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \\ &\leq C \delta_s \varepsilon^{1/4} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\eta_{2,x}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega_s)} \|\chi_x\|_{0,\Omega_s} \\ &\leq C \delta_s^{3/4} (\ln N)^{1/2} \|\chi\|_{SD}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used (2.2d), (2.2f), (2.2g) and (6.8).

By symmetry, similar estimates are valid on Ω_n , where we assume that $\delta_n = \delta_s$.

Combining these inequalities with (6.5), we have

$$(6.9) \quad |a_{stab}(u - u^I, \chi)_{\Omega_s \cup \Omega_n}| \leq C \left[\delta_s \varepsilon + \delta_s^{3/4} (\ln N)^{1/2} + \delta_s^{1/2} N^{-2} (\ln N) \right] |||\chi|||_{SD}$$

for all $\chi \in V^N$.

6.4. Subdomains Ω_{nw} and Ω_{sw} . Recall that $\eta_3 = v + E$. The Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, (2.2a) and (2.2b) yield

$$\delta_{sw} \varepsilon |(\Delta \eta_3, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_{sw}}| \leq C \delta_{sw} \varepsilon^{-1/4} \|\chi_x\|_0 \leq C \delta_{sw} \varepsilon^{-3/4} |||\chi|||_{\varepsilon},$$

and by Lemma 6.1 and a variant of (6.8),

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{sw} \left| (p(\eta_3 - \eta_3^I)_x, \chi_x)_{\Omega_{sw}} \right| &\leq C \delta_{sw} \varepsilon^{1/4} N^{-2} (\ln N)^2 \|\chi_x\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}} \\ &\leq C \delta_{sw}^{3/4} N^{-2} (\ln N)^2 |||\chi|||_{SD}. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that $\eta_4 = z_{00} + z_{01} + z_{10} + z_{11}$ and $D_{00}^\varepsilon \subset \Omega$ is the quarter disc with centre $(0, 0)$ and radius ε . Now

$$\|\Delta \eta_4\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}} \leq \|\Delta \eta_2\|_{0, D_{00}^\varepsilon} + \|\Delta \eta_2\|_{0, \Omega_{sw} \setminus D_{00}^\varepsilon} \leq C(|\ln \varepsilon| + \varepsilon^{-5/4}) \leq C\varepsilon^{-5/4}$$

using (2.2). Hence

$$\delta_{sw} \varepsilon |(\Delta \eta_4, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_{sw}}| \leq C \delta_{sw} \varepsilon \|\Delta \eta_4\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}} \|\chi_x\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}} \leq C \delta_{sw} \varepsilon^{-3/4} |||\chi|||_{SD}$$

Also, using (2.2) and Lemma 6.2 we get

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{sw} |p(\eta_4 - \eta_4^I)_x, p\chi_x)_{\Omega_{sw}}| &\leq C \delta_{sw} \|(\eta_4 - \eta_4^I)_x\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}} \|\chi_x\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}} \\ &\leq C \delta_{sw} |\Omega_{sw}|^{1/2} \|\eta_{4,x}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_{sw})} \|\chi_x\|_{0, \Omega_{sw}} \\ &\leq C \delta_{sw} \varepsilon^{-1/4} (\ln N) |||\chi|||_{SD}. \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry similar estimates are valid on Ω_{nw} , where we assume that $\delta_{nw} = \delta_{sw}$.

Combining these inequalities with (6.5), we have

$$(6.10) \quad \begin{aligned} &|a_{stab}(u - u^I, \chi)_{\Omega_{sw} \cup \Omega_{nw}}| \\ &\leq C \left[\delta_{sw} \varepsilon^{-3/4} + \delta_{sw}^{3/4} N^{-2} (\ln N)^2 + \delta_{sw}^{1/2} N^{-2} \right] |||\chi|||_{SD} \end{aligned}$$

for all $\chi \in V^N$.

6.5. Error bound for SDFEM solution. We will now use the bounds derived so far for $|a_{stab}(u - u^I, \chi)_{\Omega_*}|$ in each mesh region Ω_* to make good choices for the SDFEM parameters δ_* . Increasing δ_* strengthens the norm $|||\cdot|||_{SD}$ in which we derive an error bound, but increasing it too much will decrease the order of convergence attained. Our main result (Theorem 6.3) restricts the δ_* to ensure almost first-order convergence, which is the highest order that we can prove in our analysis.

Theorem 6.3. *Let w^N be the SDFEM solution defined in (6.1). Let $\theta \in [1, 2]$ be arbitrary. If we choose*

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_e &\leq C \min\{N^{1-\theta}, \varepsilon^{-1/2} N^{-\theta}\}, & \delta_w &\leq C \varepsilon N^{-\theta}, \\ \delta_n &= \delta_s \leq C N^{-4\theta/3}, & \delta_{nw} &= \delta_{sw} \leq C \varepsilon^{3/4} N^{-\theta}, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$|||w^N - u^I|||_{SD} \leq C N^{-1} \ln N$$

and

$$\|w^N - u\|_\varepsilon \leq CN^{-1} \ln N.$$

Proof. Adding the bounds (6.6), (6.7), (6.9) and (6.10), and observing in the case of (6.9) that $\min\{\varepsilon^{-1}N^{-\theta}, N^{-4\theta/3}\} = N^{-4\theta/3}$, we get

$$|a_{stab}(u - u^I, \chi)| \leq C(N^{-1} \ln N)^\theta \|\chi\|_{SD} \quad \text{for all } \chi \in V^N.$$

This inequality, (6.3) and (6.4) give the desired bound on $\|w^N - u^I\|_{SD}$. The bound on $\|w^N - u\|_\varepsilon$ then follows from Theorem 4.3 and a triangle inequality. $\square$

Remark 6.4. The values prescribed for the SD parameters in [4], where no corner singularities appear, are $\delta_e \leq CN^{-1}$ (when $\varepsilon \leq N^{-1}$, as we assumed in (3.6)), $\delta_w \leq C\varepsilon N^{-2}$, $\delta_n \leq C\varepsilon^{-1/4}N^{-2}$ and $\delta_{nw} \leq C\varepsilon^{3/4}N^{-2}$. These agree with our choices of δ_e (provided that $\varepsilon \leq N^{-2}$), δ_w and δ_{nw} when $\theta = 2$. Our different choice of δ_n is caused by the inflow corner singularities.

7. NUMERICAL RESULTS

It is difficult to construct an example that satisfies exactly the hypotheses of our paper yet whose solution u is known explicitly. Thus to conduct numerical experiments into the accuracy of our Galerkin method we use a double-mesh principle [2] where the computed solution on a given mesh is compared with the computed solution on a finer mesh.

Let S^N denote the Shishkin mesh of Section 3, which has N mesh intervals in each coordinate direction with transition points specified by (3.1). Let $\tilde{S}^{2N}$ denote a modified Shishkin mesh that is piecewise equidistant with $2N$ mesh intervals in each coordinate direction but with the transition points still specified by (3.1); that is, we do not change N to $2N$ in (3.1) so $\tilde{S}^{2N} \neq S^{2N}$. The mesh $\tilde{S}^{2N}$ can equivalently be obtained by bisecting each mesh interval in S^N .

We introduce $\tilde{S}^{2N}$ since piecewise bilinear functions on S^N and $\tilde{S}^{2N}$ can be compared more easily than piecewise bilinears on S^N and S^{2N} . From the theoretical point of view $\tilde{S}^{2N}$ has the same convergence properties as S^{2N} . Write $\tilde{u}^{2N}$ for the Galerkin bilinear solution computed on the mesh $\tilde{S}^{2N}$. Let $(\tilde{u}^{2N})^I$ denote the piecewise bilinear nodal interpolant of $\tilde{u}^{2N}$ on the mesh S^N .

Our first example has constant data.

Example 7.1.

$$(7.1a) \quad -\varepsilon \Delta u - u_x + 2u = 1 \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

$$(7.1b) \quad u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

The second example has variable data.

Example 7.2.

$$(7.2a) \quad -\varepsilon \Delta u - (2-x)(1+y(1-y))u_x + (3/2 + \sin(\pi y))u \\ = (2-x)(3/2 - \sin(\pi y)) \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

$$(7.2b) \quad u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

TABLE 1. Numerical errors for Galerkin method (5.1) applied to Example 7.1

N	$ \tilde{u}^{2N} - u^N _\varepsilon$		$ (\tilde{u}^{2N})^I - u^N _\varepsilon$	
8	1.008e-1	0.94	2.370e-2	1.80
16	6.886e-2	0.97	1.144e-2	1.89
32	4.370e-2	0.99	4.716e-3	1.94
64	2.641e-2	0.99	1.752e-3	1.97
128	1.545e-2	1.00	6.064e-4	1.98
256	8.839e-3	1.00	2.000e-4	1.99
512	4.974e-3		6.367e-5	

TABLE 2. Numerical errors for Galerkin method (5.1) applied to Example 7.2

N	$ \tilde{u}^{2N} - u^N _\varepsilon$		$ (\tilde{u}^{2N})^I - u^N _\varepsilon$	
8	3.435e-1	0.81	1.407e-1	1.52
16	2.472e-1	0.92	7.589e-2	1.78
32	1.604e-1	0.97	3.293e-2	1.91
64	9.778e-2	0.99	1.242e-2	1.96
128	5.737e-2	1.00	4.308e-3	1.98
256	3.285e-2	1.00	1.421e-3	1.98
512	1.849e-2		4.536e-4	

The homogeneity of the Dirichlet boundary data and the property that $f \neq 0$ at each corner together ensure that the solution of Example 7.1 satisfies the estimates (2.1) and (2.2); see [5, 6]. For Example 7.2 no analogous pointwise a priori bounds on derivatives are known so, as in our theoretical analysis, we assume that the same estimates are satisfied.

Our numerical results will illustrate the convergence results of Theorem 5.3, Corollary 5.4 and Theorem 6.3, and also show the effect of choosing too large a value of θ in Theorem 6.3.

Tables 1 and 2 give the numerical results when the Galerkin method (5.1) is used to solve these two examples. In each table the errors $||| \tilde{u}^{2N} - u^N |||_\varepsilon$ and $||| (\tilde{u}^{2N})^I - u^N |||_\varepsilon$ shown are, for each value of N , the maximum error obtained when ε takes the values 10^{-4} , 10^{-6} , 10^{-8} , 10^{-10} . This is done to illustrate that the method is robust with respect to small ε . The convergence rate in each column entry is the value of α in $\mathcal{O}((N^{-1} \ln N)^\alpha)$, where two successive vertical entries are used to compute each α in the usual way [2].

The errors for Example 7.2 are a little larger than those for Example 7.1, as one might expect, but it is clear that the method works equally well for both problems. From the convergence rates for $||| \tilde{u}^{2N} - u^N |||_\varepsilon$ one sees that the $\mathcal{O}(N^{-1} \ln N)$ prediction of Corollary 5.4 is fulfilled. The $||| (\tilde{u}^{2N})^I - u^N |||_\varepsilon$ column, where second-order convergence is apparent, exhibits a second-order supercloseness property at the discrete level that is superior to the first-order convergence of Theorem 5.3. Whether this supercloseness is due to the double-mesh principle or whether Theorem 5.3 is not sharp is a topic for future research.

TABLE 3. Numerical errors for SDFEM (6.1) applied to Example 7.2 with $\theta = 1.5$

N	$ \tilde{w}^{2N} - w^N _\epsilon$		$ \tilde{w}^{2N} - w^N _{SD}$		$ (\tilde{w}^{2N})^I - w^N _\epsilon$		$ (\tilde{w}^{2N})^I - w^N _{SD}$	
8	2.993e-1	0.62	3.381e-1	0.80	8.183e-2	0.89	1.101e-1	1.20
16	2.330e-1	0.85	2.447e-1	0.91	5.698e-2	1.36	6.765e-2	1.49
32	1.564e-1	0.94	1.599e-1	0.97	3.003e-2	1.60	3.354e-2	1.70
64	9.669e-2	0.98	9.755e-2	0.99	1.328e-2	1.71	1.410e-2	1.71
128	5.701e-2	0.99	5.732e-2	1.00	5.273e-3	1.67	5.598e-3	1.72
256	3.276e-2	1.00	3.284e-2	1.00	2.069e-3	1.69	2.142e-3	1.73
512	1.847e-2		1.849e-2		7.824e-4		7.938e-4	

TABLE 4. Numerical errors for SDFEM (6.1) applied to Example 7.2 with $\theta = 2.0$

N	$ \tilde{w}^{2N} - w^N _\epsilon$		$ \tilde{w}^{2N} - w^N _{SD}$		$ (\tilde{w}^{2N})^I - w^N _\epsilon$		$ (\tilde{w}^{2N})^I - w^N _{SD}$	
8	3.280e-1	0.74	3.439e-1	0.82	1.137e-1	1.22	1.226e-1	1.35
16	2.434e-1	0.90	2.463e-1	0.92	6.928e-2	1.68	7.091e-2	1.71
32	1.593e-1	0.96	1.601e-1	0.97	3.146e-2	1.87	3.169e-2	1.88
64	9.749e-2	0.99	9.770e-2	0.99	1.210e-2	1.95	1.213e-2	1.95
128	5.732e-2	1.00	5.736e-2	1.00	4.236e-3	1.97	4.239e-3	1.97
256	3.284e-2	1.00	3.285e-2	1.00	1.403e-3	1.98	1.404e-3	1.98
512	1.849e-2		1.849e-2		4.491e-4		4.491e-4	

TABLE 5. Numerical errors for SDFEM (6.1) applied to Example 7.2 with $\theta = 2.5$

N	$ \tilde{w}^{2N} - w^N _\epsilon$		$ \tilde{w}^{2N} - w^N _{SD}$		$ (\tilde{w}^{2N})^I - w^N _\epsilon$		$ (\tilde{w}^{2N})^I - w^N _{SD}$	
8	3.382e-1	0.79	3.440e-1	0.82	1.284e-1	1.38	1.315e-1	1.42
16	2.459e-1	0.91	2.469e-1	0.92	7.351e-2	1.74	7.382e-2	1.75
32	1.602e-1	0.97	1.604e-1	0.97	3.246e-2	1.90	3.249e-2	1.90
64	9.774e-2	0.99	9.777e-2	0.99	1.233e-2	1.96	1.233e-2	1.96
128	5.737e-2	1.00	5.737e-2	1.00	4.292e-3	1.98	4.293e-3	1.98
256	3.285e-2	1.00	3.285e-2	1.00	1.419e-3	1.98	1.419e-3	1.98
512	1.849e-2		1.849e-2		4.532e-4		4.532e-4	

Next we move on to the SDFEM defined in (6.1). Let $\tilde{w}^{2N}$ be the SDFEM solution on the mesh $\tilde{S}^{2N}$. Tables 3 and 4 give results when this method is applied to Example 7.2 with $\theta = 1.5$ and $\theta = 2.0$, respectively. Here the δ_* are such that the upper bounds assumed in Theorem 6.3 are satisfied with $C = 1$ in each case. We see from the tables that this change in the value of θ affects $u^I - w^N$, but not $u - w^N$. Increasing θ still further, to 2.5, has little apparent effect on the numerical results — compare Tables 4 and 5 — but now the SD norm is weaker.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The problem at hand contains boundary layers of two types: exponential and characteristic; and corner singularities of two types: incoming and outgoing. We constructed a piecewise-uniform Shishkin mesh that is refined so that boundary layers are resolved, but the mesh is not modified to address the corner singularities. On this mesh, Galerkin and streamline diffusion finite element methods with piecewise bilinears were examined. We gave error analyses for these methods that took account of both the boundary layers and the corner singularities. This analysis yielded an error bound of order $N^{-1} \ln N$ in various norms, where N is the number of mesh intervals in each coordinate direction. As no example is available with a known exact solution that exhibits the precise solution behaviour predicted by theoretical bounds on derivatives, we carried out numerical tests using a “double-mesh principle” to study the solution error and rate of convergence. The tests show clearly the expected $\mathcal{O}(N^{-1} \ln N)$ convergence rate.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank the referees for their constructive criticisms of this paper.

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