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## Simple A Posteriori Error Estimators for the $h$ -Version of the Boundary Element Method

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**Key Words:** *BEM, a posteriori error estimation, adaptive mesh refinement, Symm's integral equation.*

### ABSTRACT

The  $h$ - $h/2$ -strategy is one very basic and well-known technique for the a posteriori error estimation for Galerkin discretizations of energy minimization problems. Let  $\phi$  denote the exact solution. One then considers

$$\eta_H := \|\phi_h - \phi_{h/2}\|$$

to estimate the error  $\|\phi - \phi_h\|$ , where  $\phi_h$  is a Galerkin solution with respect to a mesh  $\mathcal{T}_h$  and  $\phi_{h/2}$  is a Galerkin solution for a mesh  $\mathcal{T}_{h/2}$  obtained from uniform refinement of  $\mathcal{T}_h$ . We stress that  $\eta_H$  is always efficient – even with known efficiency constant  $C_{\text{eff}} = 1$ , i.e.

$$\eta_H \leq \|\phi - \phi_h\|.$$

Reliability of  $\eta_H$  follows immediately from the assumption  $\|\phi - \phi_{h/2}\| \leq \sigma \|\phi - \phi_h\|$  with some saturation constant  $\sigma \in (0, 1)$ . Under this assumption, there holds

$$\|\phi - \phi_h\| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \sigma^2}} \eta_H.$$

However, for boundary element methods, the energy norm  $\|\cdot\|$  is non-local and thus the error estimator  $\eta_H$  does not provide information for a local mesh-refinement. Recent localization techniques from [1] for  $\tilde{H}^{-\alpha}$ -norms and [3] for  $\tilde{H}^{\alpha}$ -norms allow to replace the energy norm in this case by  $h$ -weighted  $L^2$ -norms resp.  $H^1$ -norms, where  $h$  denotes the local mesh-size. In particular, this very basic error estimation strategy is also applicable to steer an  $h$ -adaptive mesh-refinement. For instance, for Symm's integral equation, the  $L^2$ -norm based estimator

$$\mu_H := \|h^{1/2}(\phi_h - \phi_{h/2})\|_{L^2(\Gamma)}$$

is equivalent to  $\eta_H$ . We thus may use  $\mu_H$  to steer the mesh and  $\eta_H$  to estimate the error.

Further simplifications of the proposed error estimators  $\eta_H$  and  $\mu_H$  consist of replacing  $\phi_h$  by some appropriate projection  $\Pi_h \phi_{h/2}$ , for instance, by use of the  $L^2$ -projection onto the discrete space corresponding to  $\mathcal{T}_h$ .

Moreover, the error estimator  $\eta_H$  is proven to be equivalent to the averaging estimator in [4] and the two level estimator from [5].

Numerical experiments in 2D and 3D for first-kind integral equations with weakly-singular integral operator conclude the talk.

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