

# Local analysis of discontinuous Galerkin methods applied to singularly perturbed problems

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**Abstract** — We analyze existing discontinuous Galerkin methods on quasi-uniform meshes for singularly perturbed problems. We prove weighted  $L_2$  error estimates. We use the weighted estimates to prove  $L_2$  error estimates in regions where the solution is smooth. We also prove pointwise estimates in these regions.

**Keywords:** Discontinuous Galerkin, singularly perturbed problems

## 1. INTRODUCTION

We consider the problem

$$\begin{aligned} -\varepsilon\Delta u + u_x + cu &= f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

Here  $\Omega \subset R^2$  is a domain with smooth boundary,  $f$  is smooth,  $\varepsilon > 0$  is a small constant and  $c(x) \geq 0$  with  $c \in L_\infty(\Omega)$ .

As we know the solution to this problem might develop layers. The standard continuous Galerkin discretization of this problem propagates error through out the domain. The streamline diffusion (SD) method developed by Brooks and Hughes [3] does much better in resolving layers. In fact, the numerical outflow boundary layers for the streamline diffusion method are contained an  $O(\log(1/h)h)$  neighborhood of the outflow boundary.

In this paper we show that some discontinuous Galerkin (DG) methods will perform as well as the SD method in resolving layers. The DG method for the pure hyperbolic problem proposed by Reed *et al.* [10] which was further analyzed in [5,7], showed good results for the pure hyperbolic problem. The error in  $L_2$  was shown to be  $O(h^{k+1/2})$  assuming the solution is smooth and polynomials of degree  $k$  are used. In fact, Peterson [9] argued that this result is sharp. A strategy that has been

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used for singularly perturbed problems is to use [10] to discretize the convection–reaction part and use different discontinuous discretizations for the diffusion part (see [2,11]). The authors of the above papers proved global error estimates assuming the solution is smooth. If  $u_h$  denotes the DG approximation to (1.1), then their estimates take on the following form:

$$\|u - u_h\|_{\Omega} \leq Ch^{k+1/2} \|u\|_{H^{k+1}(\Omega)}.$$

However, in general  $\|u\|_{H^{k+1}(\Omega)}$  is large and depends on  $\varepsilon$ . Therefore, in this paper we prove error estimates in subdomains where the solution is smooth. That is, we consider a subdomain  $\Omega_0 \subset \Omega$  where  $u$  is smooth and prove that

$$\|u - u_h\|_{\Omega_0} \leq C \log(1/h) h^{k+1/2}$$

where now  $C$  does not depend on  $\varepsilon$ . Moreover, we show that  $\Omega_0$  can be any domain as long as  $\partial\Omega_0$  is  $C \log(1/h)h$  distance away from the outflow boundary of  $\Omega$  for a sufficiently large constant  $C$ . These estimates are exactly the estimates that were obtained in [4,6] for the SD method. However, the estimates in [4,6] assumed that  $\inf_{x \in \Omega} c(x) > 0$ . Here we show that we can remove this assumption. We also prove suboptimal max-norm error estimates.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we present the numerical methods. Then, in Section 3 we present some preliminary results. In Section 4 we give the  $L_2$  error analysis. Finally, in Section 5 we prove max-norm estimates.

## 2. DG METHODS

Suppose we have a family of edge to edge triangulations  $\{\mathcal{T}_h\}$  of  $\Omega$ ,  $h = \sup_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} h_T$  with  $h_T = \text{diam}(T)$ ;  $V_h$  will denote the finite dimensional space of functions that are polynomials of degree at most  $k$  on each element. We define  $\mathcal{E}_h^{\partial}$  as the collection of boundary edge,  $\mathcal{E}_h^0$  as the collection of interior edges corresponding to  $\mathcal{T}_h$ , and  $\mathcal{E}_h = \mathcal{E}_h^0 \cup \mathcal{E}_h^{\partial}$ . We further decompose our boundary edges as  $\mathcal{E}_h^{\partial} = \mathcal{E}_h^- \cup \mathcal{E}_h^+$  where

$$\mathcal{E}_h^- = \{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^{\partial} : (n \cdot [1, 0])|_e \leq 0\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{E}_h^+ = \{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^{\partial} : (n \cdot [1, 0])|_e > 0\}$$

where  $n$  is the outward unit normal to  $\partial\Omega$ . Notice that we have made the following assumption on the mesh: if  $n \cdot [1, 0] > 0$  for one point  $(x, y) \in e$  for some  $e \in \mathcal{E}_h^{\partial}$ , then  $n \cdot [1, 0] > 0$  on all of  $e$ . We denote by  $S_e$  the union of elements that have  $e$  as an edge. On each edge, as in [1] we define the average and jump operators as follows: For  $e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0$ ,  $q$  vector valued and  $\varphi$  scalar valued

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q \rangle &= \frac{1}{2}(q_1 + q_2), & [q] &= q_1 \cdot n_1 + q_2 \cdot n_2 \\ \langle \varphi \rangle &= \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2), & [\varphi] &= \varphi_1 n_1 + \varphi_2 n_2 \end{aligned}$$

where  $S_e = T_1 \cup T_2$ ,  $q_i = q|_{T_i}$ ,  $\varphi_i = \varphi|_{T_i}$  and  $n_i$  is the outward normal to  $T_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , for  $e \in \mathcal{E}_h^\partial$

$$\langle q \rangle = q, \quad [\varphi] = \varphi n.$$

The quantities  $[q]$  and  $\langle \varphi \rangle$  on boundary edges are not required so they are left undefined. Note that  $[q]$  is a scalar and  $[\varphi]$  a vector. If  $e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0$ , then, as in [5],  $u^\pm(x, y) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} u(x \pm \delta, y)$  for  $(x, y) \in e$ .

Now we are ready to define our bilinear forms. First we write the bilinear form corresponding to the classical convection–reaction discretization:

$$\begin{aligned} B_1(u, v) &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_T (u_x + cu)v \, dx + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \int_e (u^+ - u^-)v^+ |n_x| \, ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^-} \int_e uv |n_x| \, ds. \end{aligned}$$

Using integration by parts we have the following

$$\begin{aligned} B_1(u, v) &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_T u(-v_x + cv) \, dx + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \int_e u^-(v^- - v^+) |n_x| \, ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^+} \int_e uv |n_x| \, ds. \end{aligned}$$

The bilinear form corresponding to the diffusion discretization is

$$\begin{aligned} B_2(u, v) &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \varepsilon \int_T \nabla u \nabla v \, dx - \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \int_e \varepsilon (\langle \nabla_h u \rangle [v] + \gamma \langle \nabla_h v \rangle [u]) \, ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \eta \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \int_e [u][v] \, ds. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\nabla_h \varphi$  is the piecewise defined function such that  $\nabla_h \varphi = \nabla \varphi$  on each  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h$ . With a slight abuse of notation, from now on we let  $\varphi_x$  denote the piecewise defined function  $\nabla_h \varphi \cdot [1, 0]$  and  $\varphi_y = \nabla_h \varphi \cdot [0, 1]$ . Also,  $n_x$  is the first coordinate of a unit normal to each edge (i.e.  $n = [n_x, n_y]$  where  $n$  is a unit normal). If  $\gamma = -1$  and  $\eta > 0$ , then we have the NIPG method which was considered in [11]. If  $\gamma = 1$  and  $\eta$  sufficiently large, gives the IP method which was considered in [2].

The discontinuous approximation  $u_h$  is defined by

$$B(u_h, v) = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in V_h \tag{2.1}$$

where  $B = B_1 + B_2$ .

### 2.1. Approximation results

We first state trace and inverse inequalities. Let  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h$  then we have

$$\|\psi\|_{\partial T} \leq C(h^{-1/2} \|\psi\|_T + h^{1/2} \|\nabla \psi\|_T) \tag{2.2}$$

where  $C$  is independent of  $T$  and  $\psi$ .

If  $\psi \in V_h$ , then

$$\|\nabla \psi\|_T \leq Ch^{-1} \|\psi\|_T \quad (2.3)$$

$$\|\psi\|_{\partial T} \leq Ch^{-1/2} \|\psi\|_T \quad (2.4)$$

and

$$\|\psi\|_{\partial T} \leq C(h^{1/2} \|\psi_x\|_T + \|\psi|n_x|^{1/2}\|_{\partial T}). \quad (2.5)$$

We used the following notation  $\|\cdot\|_D = \|\cdot\|_{L_2(D)}$ . The last inequality was used in [5].

Now we present a preliminary cut-off function. This function will differ from the one in [6] in order to handle the case that  $c$  is not bounded away from zero from below (e.g. no reaction term). One can construct a function with the following properties:

There exist positive constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that

$$c_1 \leq \varphi(t) \leq c_2, \quad t \leq 1$$

$$\varphi(t) = e^{-t}, \quad t \geq 0$$

$$\varphi(t) = 3 - \frac{1}{\log(|t|) + 1}, \quad t \leq -1$$

$$\varphi'(t) < 0, \quad t \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

$$|\varphi^l(t)| \leq c_2 |\varphi(t)|, \quad 1 \leq l \leq k+1, \quad t \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

$$|\varphi^l(t)| \leq c_2 |\varphi'(t)|, \quad 2 \leq l \leq k+1, \quad t \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

and

$$|\varphi(t)| \leq c_2 |t| (\log(|t|) + 1)^2 |\varphi'(t)|, \quad t \in (-\infty, \infty).$$

If we define  $RO(D, v) = \max_{x \in D} |v(x)| / \min_{x \in D} |v(x)|$ , then for any interval  $I$  of length 1

$$RO(I, \varphi) + RO(I, \varphi') \leq c_2.$$

We define our cut-off function

$$\omega(x, y) = \varphi\left(\frac{x-A}{\rho}\right) \varphi\left(\frac{z_1-y}{\sigma}\right) \varphi\left(\frac{y-z_2}{\sigma}\right).$$

Here  $\rho = Kh \log(1/h)$  and  $\sigma = Kh^{1/2} \log(1/h)$ , where  $K$  is a sufficiently large constant that will be chosen later.

From the properties above it follows that  $\omega_x < 0$  and that

$$|D_x^\alpha D_y^\beta \omega| \leq C \rho^{-\alpha} \sigma^{-\beta} |\omega|, \quad \alpha + \beta \leq k+1 \quad (2.6)$$

$$|D_x^\alpha D_y^\beta \omega| \leq C \rho^{-\alpha+1} \sigma^{-\beta} |\omega_x|, \quad \alpha \geq 1, \quad \alpha + \beta \leq k+1 \quad (2.7)$$

$$|\omega| \leq C(\log(1/h))^2 |\omega_x| \quad (2.8)$$

$$RO(T, \omega) \text{ and } RO(T, \omega_x) \quad \text{are bounded independently of } h \quad (2.9)$$

on any element  $T$ .

Property (2.8) makes it possible to handle the case of no reaction term. In fact, we can use this same cut-off function to prove error estimates for the SD method in the absence of a reaction term.

Now we can define a weighted norm

$$\begin{aligned} Q(v) \equiv & \left\{ \varepsilon \|\omega \nabla_h v\|_{\Omega}^2 + \|(\omega |\omega_x|)^{1/2} v\|_{\Omega}^2 + \|\omega c^{1/2} v\|_{\Omega}^2 \right. \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \|\omega(v^+ - v^-) |n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^{\partial}} \|\omega v |n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 \\ & \left. + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \eta \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \|\omega[v]\|_e^2 \right\}^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

The following super-approximation result is similar to the super-approximation result found in [6].

**Lemma 2.1.** *There exists a constant  $C$  such that for  $v \in V_h$  and  $T \in \mathcal{T}_h$*

$$\begin{aligned} h \|\omega^{-1} \nabla^2(\omega^2 v - P(\omega^2 v))\|_T + \|\omega^{-1} \nabla(\omega^2 v - P(\omega^2 v))\|_T \\ + \frac{1}{h} \|\omega^{-1}(\omega^2 v - P(\omega^2 v))\|_T \leq Ch^{-1/2} K^{-1/2} \|(\omega |\omega_x|)^{1/2} v\|_T \quad (2.10) \end{aligned}$$

where  $P$  denotes the  $L_2$  projection operator into  $V_h$ .

**Proof.** By approximation properties of  $P$  we know that

$$\begin{aligned} h \|\nabla^2(\omega^2 v - P(\omega^2 v))\|_T + \|\nabla(\omega^2 v - P(\omega^2 v))\|_T \\ + \frac{1}{h} \|\omega^2 v - P(\omega^2 v)\|_T \leq Ch^k \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta|+|\gamma|=k+1} \|D^{\alpha} \omega D^{\beta} \omega D^{\gamma} v\|_T. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $D^{\gamma} v = 0$  if  $|\gamma| = k + 1$  since  $v$  is in our subspace. Therefore, we assume that  $|\gamma| \leq k$ . First suppose that  $\alpha_2 + \beta_2 \neq 0$ , where  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  and  $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2)$ . In this case, by using (2.6) and (2.3), we have

$$\|D^{\alpha} \omega D^{\beta} \omega D^{\gamma} v\|_T \leq C \rho^{-\alpha_1 - \beta_1} \sigma^{-\alpha_2 - \beta_2} h^{-|\gamma|} \|\omega^2 v\|_T.$$

Using the definition of  $\rho$  and  $\sigma$ , we have that

$$\rho^{-\alpha_1 - \beta_1} \sigma^{-\alpha_2 - \beta_2} h^{|\gamma|} = K^{-|\alpha| - |\beta|} \log(1/h)^{-|\alpha| - |\beta|} h^{-k - 1 + (\alpha_2 + \beta_2)/2}.$$

Since  $|\alpha| + |\beta| = k + 1 - |\gamma| \geq 1$ ,  $\alpha_2 + \beta_2 \neq 0$  and by using (2.8), we have

$$h^k \|D^\alpha \omega D^\beta \omega D^\gamma v\|_{L_2(T)} \leq CK^{-1} h^{-1/2} \|\omega |\omega_x|^{1/2} v\|_T.$$

On the other hand, suppose  $\alpha_2 + \beta_2 = 0$ . By (2.6) and (2.7) we have

$$\|D^\alpha \omega D^\beta \omega D^\gamma v\|_T \leq C\rho^{-\alpha_1 - \beta_1 + 1/2} h^{-|\gamma|} \|\omega |\omega_x|^{1/2} v\|_T.$$

Again using the definition of  $\rho$ , we have

$$h^k \|D^\alpha \omega D^\beta \omega D^\gamma v\|_T \leq K^{-1/2} h^{-1/2} \|\omega |\omega_x|^{1/2} v\|_T.$$

The result now follows by multiplying through by  $\omega^{-1}$  and using (2.9).  $\square$

### 3. MAIN RESULT

We can now prove our main result.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $\psi = P(u) - u_h$  where  $u_h$  solves (2.1) for either the NIPG or IP methods. Let  $K$  be sufficiently large. If  $\varepsilon \leq h$ , then there exists a constant  $C$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} Q^2(\psi) &\leq C(h^{-1} \|\omega(u - P(u))\|_\Omega^2 + h \|\omega \nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_\Omega^2 \\ &\quad + h^3 \|\omega \nabla_h^2(u - P(u))\|_\Omega^2). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** It can easily be shown that

$$\begin{aligned} Q^2(\psi) &= B(\psi, \omega^2 \psi) - 2\varepsilon \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_T \omega \psi \nabla \omega \nabla \psi \, dx \\ &\quad + (1 + \gamma)\varepsilon \sum_e \int_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \langle \omega \nabla_h \psi \rangle [\omega \psi] \, ds \\ &\quad + 2\gamma\varepsilon \sum_e \int_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \langle \psi \nabla \omega \rangle [\omega \psi] \, ds. \end{aligned}$$

By (2.6) and (2.8), we have

$$\left| \varepsilon \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_T \omega \psi \nabla \omega \nabla \psi \, dx \right| \leq CK^{-1/2} (\varepsilon \|\omega \nabla_h \psi\|_\Omega^2 + \|(\omega |\omega_x|)^{1/2} \psi\|_\Omega^2).$$

Using (2.9), (2.4), and the arithmetic–geometric mean inequality we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + \gamma)\varepsilon \sum_e \int_e \langle \omega \nabla_h \psi \rangle [\omega \psi] \, ds &\leq (1 + \gamma) \frac{1}{8} \varepsilon \|\omega \nabla_h \psi\|_\Omega^2 \\ &\quad + (1 + \gamma) C^* \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \|\omega [\psi]\|_e^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

Here  $C^*$  depends on the constant arising from inverse estimates.

Again, by (2.6), (2.9), (2.8) and (2.4), we see that

$$\left| \varepsilon \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \int_e \langle \psi \nabla \omega \rangle [\omega \psi] ds \right| \leq CK^{-1/2} \left( \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \|[\omega \psi]\|_e^2 + \|(\omega|\omega_x|)^{1/2} \psi\|_{\Omega}^2 \right).$$

If we have  $\gamma = -1$  (NIPG), then both sides of (3.1) will be zero. In this case, by making  $K$  large enough we have that

$$Q^2(\psi) \leq CB(\psi, \omega^2 \psi). \quad (3.2)$$

On the other hand if,  $\gamma = 1$  (IP) then as long as  $\eta > 2C^*$  and  $K$  large enough we again have (3.2).

Using the orthogonality property, we see that

$$B(\psi, \omega^2 \psi) = B(\psi, E) + B(u - P(u), P(\omega^2 \psi)) \quad (3.3)$$

where  $E = \omega^2 \psi - P(\omega^2 \psi)$ . We first bound  $B(\psi, E) = B_1(\psi, E) + B_2(\psi, E)$ .

Since  $\psi_x \in V_h$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} B_1(\psi, E) &= \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \int_e (\psi^+ - \psi^-) E^+ |n_x| ds + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^-} \int_e \psi E |n_x| ds \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} c \psi E dx. \end{aligned}$$

By using the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, (2.2), (2.10), and the boundedness of  $c$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} B_1(\psi, E) &\leq C \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \|\omega(\psi^+ - \psi^-)|n_x|\|_e K^{-1/2} \|(\omega|\omega_x|)^{1/2} \psi\|_{S_e} \\ &\quad + Ch^{1/2} K^{-1/2} \|\omega c^{1/2} \psi\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \|(\omega|\omega_x|)^{1/2} \psi\|_{L_2(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$B_1(\psi, E) \leq CK^{-1/2} Q^2(\psi). \quad (3.4)$$

Using (2.2) and (2.10), we see that

$$|B_2(\psi, E)| \leq CK^{-1/2} Q^2(\psi). \quad (3.5)$$

We only bound one of the terms of  $|B_2(\psi, E)|$  to illustrate this.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \varepsilon \int_e \langle \nabla_h E \rangle [\psi] ds &\leq C\varepsilon \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} (h^{-1/2} \|\omega^{-1} \nabla_h E\|_{S_e} + h^{1/2} \|\omega^{-1} \nabla_h^2 E\|_{S_e}) \|[\omega \psi]\|_e \\ &\leq C \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} K^{-1/2} \|(\omega|\omega_x|)^{1/2} \psi\|_{S_e} \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \right)^{1/2} \|[\omega \psi]\|_e \\ &\leq CK^{-1/2} Q^2(\psi). \end{aligned}$$

Now we bound  $B(u - P(u), P(\omega^2 \psi))$ . Since  $P(\omega^2 \psi) \in V_h$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} B_1(u - P(u), P(\omega^2 \psi)) &= \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \int_e (u - P(u))^- (P(\omega^2 \psi))^- - P(\omega^2 \psi)^+ |n_x| \, ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^+} \int_e (u - P(u)) P(\omega^2 \psi) |n_x| \, ds \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} c(u - P(u)) P(\omega^2 \psi) \, dx. \end{aligned}$$

Applying (2.4), the triangle inequality, (2.10) and the arithmetic–geometric mean inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \int_e (u - P(u))^- (P(\omega^2 \psi))^- - P(\omega^2 \psi)^+ |n_x| \, ds \\ &\leq \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \left\{ (h^{-1/2} \|\omega(u - P(u))\|_{S_e} + h^{1/2} \|\omega \nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{S_e}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times (\|\omega^{-1}((\omega^2 \psi)^+ - (\omega^2 \psi)^-) |n_x|^{1/2}\|_e + \|\omega^{-1}(E^+ - E^-) |n_x|^{1/2}\|_e) \right\} \\ &\leq C(h^{-1} \|\omega(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2 + h \|\omega \nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2) \\ &\quad + \delta \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \|\omega(\psi^- - \psi^+) |n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 + K^{-1} Q^2(\psi) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\delta > 0$  will be chosen later. After similar arguments for the last terms in  $B_1(u - P(u), P(\omega^2 \psi))$ , we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} B_1(u - P(u), P(\omega^2 \psi)) &\leq C(h^{-1} \|\omega(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2 + h \|\omega \nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2) \\ &\quad + \delta Q^2(\psi) + K^{-1} Q^2(\psi). \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

We now bound the terms of  $B_2(u - P(u), P(\omega^2 \psi))$ . By the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, the triangle inequality, (2.6) and (2.10), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \varepsilon \int_T \nabla(u - P(u)) \nabla P(\omega^2 \psi) \, dx \\ &\leq \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \varepsilon \|\omega \nabla(u - P(u))\|_T (\|\omega^{-1} \nabla E\|_T + \|\omega^{-1} \nabla(\omega^2 \psi)\|_T) \\ &\leq C\varepsilon \|\omega \nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2 + \delta(\varepsilon \|\omega \nabla_h \psi\|_{\Omega}^2 + \|(\omega | \omega_x|)^{1/2} \psi\|_{L_2(T)}) \\ &\quad + K^{-1} Q^2(\psi). \end{aligned}$$

Again, applying the Cauchy–Schwarz, the triangle inequality, (2.2), (2.10) and

the arithmetic–geometric mean inequality, we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \varepsilon \int_e \langle \nabla_h(u - P(u)) \rangle [P(\omega^2 \psi)] ds \\
 & \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{h} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} (h^{1/2} \|\omega \nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{S_e} + h^{3/2} \|\omega \nabla_h^2(u - P(u))\|_{S_e}) \\
 & \quad \times (\|[\omega \psi]\|_e + \|\omega^{-1}[E]\|_e) \\
 & \leq C(h \|\omega \nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2 + h^3 \|\omega \nabla_h^2(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2) \\
 & \quad + K^{-1} Q^2(\psi) + \delta \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \|[\omega \psi]\|_e^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

By bounding the last two terms of  $B_2(u - P(u), P(\omega^2 \psi))$  in a similar fashion, we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned}
 B_2(u - P(u), P(\omega^2 \psi)) & \leq C(h^{-1} \|\omega(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2 + \|\omega \nabla(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2 \\
 & \quad + h^3 \|\omega \nabla^2(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}^2) + 4\delta Q^2(\psi) + 4K^{-1} Q^2(\psi). \quad (3.7)
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally, taking  $K$  large enough in (3.4), (3.5), (3.6), (3.7), and choosing  $\delta$  sufficiently small in (3.6) and (3.7) we arrive at our result.  $\square$

**Remark 3.1.** By using Lemma 4.1, we can improve Theorem 3.1 so that  $Q^2(\psi)$  also contains the term  $\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} h \|\omega \psi_x\|_T^2$ .

Now we can state a error estimate away from the layers.

**Corollary 3.1.** Let  $K$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\sigma$  be as in Theorem 3.1. Let

$$\Omega_0 = \{(x, y) \in \Omega : x \leq A, z_1 \leq y \leq z_2\}$$

and

$$\Omega_s^+ = \{(x, y) \in \Omega : x \leq A + s \log(1/h)\rho, z_1 - s \log(1/h)\sigma \leq y \leq z_2 + s \log(1/h)\sigma\}.$$

Let  $h_0$  and  $m$  be such that  $h_0^m \leq \varepsilon$ . If  $\|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \leq C\varepsilon^{-2}$  and  $\|u\|_{H^k(\Omega_{k+1+2m}^+)} < C$ , then

$$\|u - u_h\|_{\Omega_0} \leq C \log(1/h) h^{k+1/2}, \quad h \leq h_0.$$

**Proof.** By the triangle inequality and the properties of the  $L_2$ -projection operator, it is enough to establish

$$\|P(u) - u_h\|_{\Omega_0} \leq C \log(1/h) h^{k+1/2}, \quad h \leq h_0.$$

It follows from the properties of  $\omega$ , that

$$\|P(u) - u_h\|_{\Omega_0} \leq C\|\omega(P(u) - u_h)\|_{\Omega} \leq C\log(1/h)\|(\omega|\omega_x|)^{1/2}(P(u) - u_h)\|_{\Omega}.$$

Therefore, from Theorem 3.1 and properties of  $\omega$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|P(u) - u_h\|_{\Omega_0} &\leq C\log(1/h)(h^{-1/2}\|u - P(u)\|_{\Omega_s^+} \\ &\quad + h^{1/2}\|\nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega_s^+} + h^{3/2}\|\nabla_h^2(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega_s^+}) \\ &\quad + C\log(1/h)h^s(h^{-1/2}\|u - P(u)\|_{\Omega} \\ &\quad + h^{1/2}\|\nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega} + h^{3/2}\|\nabla_h^2(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}). \end{aligned}$$

From approximation properties, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (h^{-1/2}\|u - P(u)\|_{\Omega_s^+} + h^{1/2}\|\nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega_s^+} \\ + h^{3/2}\|\nabla_h^2(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega_s^+}) \leq h^{k+1/2}\|u\|_{H^k(\Omega_s^+)}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the triangle inequality and inverse estimates, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} (h^{-1/2}\|u - P(u)\|_{\Omega} + h^{1/2}\|\nabla_h(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega} \\ + h^{3/2}\|\nabla_h^2(u - P(u))\|_{\Omega}) \leq Ch^{-1/2}\|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

The result now follows by letting  $s = k + 1 + 2m$ . □

**Remark 3.2.** In the case that  $\inf_{x \in \Omega} c(x) > 0$ , we can show that  $\|u - u_h\|_{\Omega_0} \leq Ch^{k+1/2}$ .

In the next section we will need a weighted stability estimate. By following the ideas of Theorem 3.1 we can prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $u_h$  solve (2.1) for either the NIPG or IP methods. Let  $K$  be sufficiently large. If  $\varepsilon \leq h$ , then there exists a constant  $C$  such that*

$$Q(u_h) \leq C\|\omega f\|_{\Omega}.$$

Here  $C$  is independent of  $h, u_h$  and  $f$ .

#### 4. APPROXIMATE GREEN'S FUNCTION BOUNDS AND $L_{\infty}$ ESTIMATES

In this section we prove suboptimal  $L_{\infty}$  bounds. In order to do so, we need bounds on the approximate Green's function. In this direction, for  $(x_0, y_0) \in \Omega$  define the rectangle containing  $(x_0, y_0)$

$$\Omega_0 = \{(x, y) \in \Omega : x \leq x_0 + C_1 \log(1/h)\rho, |y - y_0| \leq C_1 \log(1/h)\sigma\}.$$

Here  $C_1$  is a sufficiently large constant which we specify below. The approximate Green's function  $G \in V_h$  with reversed wind direction satisfies

$$B(v, G) = v(x_0, y_0) \quad \forall v \in V_h.$$

Using Theorem 3.2 (with the wind direction reversed) and applying the techniques used in [6] we can prove the following estimate.

**Corollary 4.1.** There exists a constant  $C_1$  (in the definition of  $\Omega_0$ ) independent of  $h$  such that

$$\|G\|_{L^\infty(\widetilde{\Omega \setminus \Omega_0})} + \|\nabla_h G\|_{L^\infty(\widetilde{\Omega \setminus \Omega_0})} \leq Ch^{k+2}.$$

We used the notation

$$\widetilde{D} = \bigcup_{\substack{T \in \mathcal{T}_h \\ T \cap D \neq \emptyset}} T.$$

In order to prove pointwise estimates, we need a global bound on  $G$ . This requires an extra stability estimate. The following result was proving for the IP method (reversed wind direction and  $c(x) \equiv 0$ ) in Lemma A.1 in [2]. The proof for the NIPG method is similar.

**Lemma 4.1.** *There exist positive constants  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  such that for every  $v \in V_h$*

$$\begin{aligned} & h \|v_x\|_{\Omega}^2 + \varepsilon \|v_y\|_{\Omega}^2 + \|c^{1/2} v\|_{\Omega}^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \|(v^+ - v^-) |n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^d} \|v |n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 \\ & + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \eta \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \|\omega[v]\|_e^2 \leq C_2 B(C_3 v - h v_x, v). \end{aligned}$$

We will also need the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.2.** *Suppose  $v \in V_h$  and suppose that  $T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{T}_h$  share a common edge  $e$ . Then,*

$$\|v^1 - v^2\|_e \leq Ch^{1/2} (\|v_x^1\|_{T_1} + \|v_x^2\|_{T_2}) + C \|(v^1 - v^2) |n_x|^{1/2}\|_{\partial T_1}$$

where  $v^1 = v|_{T_1}$  and  $v^2 = v|_{T_2}$ .

**Proof.** We extend  $v^1$  and  $v^2$  to all of  $R^2$  in the natural way. By (2.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|v^1 - v^2\|_e & \leq Ch^{1/2} \|v_x^1 - v_x^2\|_{T_1} + C \|(v^1 - v^2) |n_x|^{1/2}\|_{\partial T_1} \\ & \leq Ch^{1/2} (\|v_x^1\|_{T_1} + \|v_x^2\|_{T_1}) + C \|(v^1 - v^2) |n_x|^{1/2}\|_{\partial T_1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $v^2$  lies in a finite dimensional space and  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  belong to a shape regular mesh and share a common edge we have

$$\|v_x^2\|_{T_1} \leq C \|v_x^2\|_{T_2}.$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

Our proof of global estimates for  $G$  is very similar to the proof given by Nijjima [8] for the streamline diffusion method.

**Theorem 4.1.** *There exists a constant  $C$  independent of  $h$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} & \|c^{1/2}G\|_{\Omega}^2 + h\|G_x\|_{\Omega}^2 + \varepsilon\|G_y\|_{\Omega}^2 \\ & + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \|(G^+ - G^-)|n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^{\partial}} \|G|n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 \\ & + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \eta \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \|\omega[G]\|_e^2 \leq C \log(1/h)^2 h^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** By Lemma 4.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & h\|G_x\|_{\Omega}^2 + \varepsilon\|G_y\|_{\Omega}^2 + \|c^{1/2}G\|_{\Omega}^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0} \|(G^+ - G^-)|n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^{\partial}} \|G|n_x|^{1/2}\|_e^2 \\ & + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} \eta \frac{\varepsilon}{h_e} \|\omega[G]\|_e^2 \leq C_2 B(C_3 G - hG_x, G) = C_2(C_3 G(x_0, y_0) - hG_x(x_0, y_0)). \end{aligned}$$

First, by an inverse estimate and the arithmetic–geometric mean inequality, we have

$$hG_x(x_0, y_0) \leq \|G_x\|_{\Omega} \leq \delta h \|G_x\|_{\Omega}^2 + Ch^{-1}$$

where  $\delta > 0$  will be chosen later.

Let  $(x_m, y_0) \in \Omega \setminus \Omega_0$  such that  $|x_m - x_0| \leq C \log(1/h)\rho$ . If we now draw the line from  $(x_0, y_0)$  to  $(x_m, y_0)$ , then this line will intersect the elements  $T_0, T_1, \dots, T_m$  at the points  $(x_1, y_0), (x_2, y_0), \dots, (x_m, y_0)$ , respectively. By adding and subtracting the right and left hand limits of  $G$  at the points  $(x_i, y_0)$  and applying the Fundamental Theorem of calculus, we have

$$-G(x_0, y_0) = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} G_x(s, y_0) ds + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} (G^+(x_i, y_0) - G^-(x_i, y_0)) + G^-(x_m, y_0). \quad (4.1)$$

By an inverse estimate, we know that

$$\int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} G_x(s, y_0) ds \leq (x_{i+1} - x_i) \|G_x\|_{L_{\infty}(T_i)} \leq h^{-1} \|G_x\|_{L_1(T_i)}.$$

Furthermore, since  $\text{meas}(T_0 \cup T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_m) \leq Ch \log(1/h)\rho$ , we have that

$$\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} G_x(s, y_0) \, ds \leq C \log(1/h) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \|G_x\|_{T_i}^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Applying the arithmetic–geometric mean inequality, we have

$$\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} G_x(s, y_0) \, ds \leq \delta h \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \|G_x\|_T^2 + C \log(1/h)^2 h^{-1}.$$

Using inverse estimates on the edges, we have

$$G^+(x_i, y_0) - G^-(x_i, y_0) \leq Ch^{-1/2} \|(G^+ - G^-)\|_{e_i}$$

where  $e_i \subset \partial T_i$  is an edge containing  $(x_i, y_0)$ . By Lemma 4.2, we have

$$G^+(x_i, y_0) - G^-(x_i, y_0) \leq Ch^{-1/2} \|(G^+ - G^-)|_{n_x}\|^{1/2} \|\partial T_i\| + C(\|G_x\|_{T_i} + \|G_x\|_{T_{i+1}}).$$

Therefore,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} (G^+(x_i, y_0) - G^-(x_i, y_0)) \leq Ch^{-1/2} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \|(G^+ - G^-)|_{n_x}\|^{1/2} \|\partial T_i\| + C \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \|G_x\|_{T_i}.$$

Applying the arithmetic–geometric mean inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} (G^+(x_i, y_0) - G^-(x_i, y_0)) &\leq \delta \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \|(G^+ - G^-)|_{n_x}\|^{1/2} \|\partial T_i\|^2 + \delta h \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \|G_x\|_{T_i}^2 \\ &\quad + C \log(1/h)^2 h^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we used that  $m \leq C \log(1/h)$ .

By Corollary 4.1, we have

$$G^-(x_m, y_0) \leq Ch^{k+2}.$$

By choosing  $\delta$  sufficiently small we arrive at our result. □

Now we prove pointwise estimates.

**Theorem 4.2.** *Assume that*

$$\|u\|_{C^{k+1}(\widetilde{\Omega}_0)} + \|\nabla u\|_{L_1(\Omega)} + \varepsilon \|\nabla^2 u\|_{L_1(\Omega)} + \|u\|_{\Omega} \leq C.$$

If  $\varepsilon \leq h$ , then

$$|(u - u_h)(x_0, y_0)| \leq Ch^{k+1/4} \log(1/h)^2.$$

**Proof.** By the definition of  $G$  and the orthogonality property of  $u - u_h$ , we have

$$(u_h - P(u))(x_0, y_0) = B(u_h - P(u), G) = B(u - P(u), G).$$

One can show using the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, inverse estimates, and properties of the  $L_2$ -projection, that

$$\begin{aligned} B_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_0}(u - P(u), G) &\leq C \left( \|\nabla u\|_{L_1(\Omega)} + \varepsilon \|\nabla^2 u\|_{L_1(\Omega)} + \frac{1}{h} \|u\|_{\Omega} \right) \\ &\quad \times \left( \|G\|_{L_\infty(\widetilde{\Omega \setminus \Omega_0})} + \|\nabla_h G\|_{L_\infty(\widetilde{\Omega \setminus \Omega_0})} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Here  $B_D(w, v)$  are the terms of  $B(w, v)$  with integration restricted to  $D$ . Therefore, using our hypothesis and Corollary 4.1, we have

$$B_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_0}(u - P(u), G) \leq Ch^{k+1}.$$

Now we bound  $B_{\Omega_0}(u - P(u), G)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} &B_{\Omega_0}(u - P(u), G) \\ &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h, T \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_T \left\{ \varepsilon \nabla(u - P(u)) \nabla(G) + (u - P(u))(-G_x + cG) \right\} dx \\ &\quad - \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_e \left\{ \varepsilon (\langle \nabla_h(u - P(u)) \rangle [G] + \gamma \langle \nabla_h G \rangle [u - P(u)] \right. \\ &\quad \quad \quad \left. + \frac{\eta}{h_e} [u - P(u)][G] \right\} ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_e (u - P(u))^- (G^- - G^+) |n_x| ds. \end{aligned}$$

By Hölders inequality, approximation properties of  $P$ , and the fact that  $\text{meas}(\Omega_0) \leq C(\log(1/h))h^{1/2}$  we have

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h, T \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_T \varepsilon \nabla(u - P(u)) \nabla(G) dx \leq C\varepsilon h^k \|u\|_{C^{k+1}(\widetilde{\Omega_0})} \log(1/h) h^{1/4} \|\nabla_h G\|_{\Omega_1}.$$

If we apply Theorem 4.1 and our hypothesis, we get that

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h, T \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_T \varepsilon \nabla(u - P(u)) \nabla(G) dx \leq C(\varepsilon/h)^{1/2} \log(1/h)^2 h^{k+1/4}.$$

Since  $G_x \in V_h$  we have

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h, T \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_T (u - P(u)) G_x dx = 0.$$

It can easily be shown that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h, T \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_T (u - P(u)) c G \, dx &\leq Ch^{k+5/4} \|u\|_{C^{k+1}(\widetilde{\Omega}_0)} \|c^{1/2} G\|_{\Omega_0} \\ &\leq C \log(1/h) h^{k+3/4}. \end{aligned}$$

By applying Hölder's inequality, approximation properties of  $P$ , the fact that  $\eta > 0$ , and Theorem 4.1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} - \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_e \varepsilon \langle \nabla_h(u - P(u)) \rangle [G] \, ds \\ \leq \varepsilon h^k \|u\|_{C^{k+1}(\Omega_1)} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \| [G] \|_{L_1(e)} \\ \leq C \varepsilon^{1/2} h^{k+1} \left( \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \frac{\eta}{h} \| [G] \|_e^2 \right)^{1/2} \left( \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} 1 \right)^{1/2} \\ \leq C \varepsilon^{1/2} \log(1/h)^2 h^{k+1/4}. \end{aligned}$$

In the last inequality we used that

$$\left( \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} 1 \right)^{1/2} \leq \log\left(\frac{1}{h}\right) h^{-3/4},$$

since there are at most  $C(\log(1/h))^2 h^{-3/2}$  triangles in  $\Omega_0$ .

Similarly, we obtain

$$- \sum_{e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_e (\varepsilon/h) [u - P(u)] [G] \, ds \leq C \varepsilon^{1/2} \log(1/h)^2 h^{k+1/4}.$$

Using Hölders, approximation properties of  $P$ , inverse estimates and Theorem 4.1, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} - \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_e \varepsilon \gamma \langle \nabla_h G \rangle [u - P(u)] \, ds \\ \leq C \varepsilon \log(1/h) h^{k+1/4} \|u\|_{C^{k+1}(\widetilde{\Omega}_0)} \|\nabla_h G\|_{\Omega_0} \leq \log(1/h)^2 h^{k+1/4}. \end{aligned}$$

By Hölder's inequality, approximation properties of  $P$  and Theorem 4.1, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \int_e (u - P(u))^- (G^- - G^+) |n_x| \, ds \\ \leq C \log(1/h) h^{k+3/4} \|u\|_{C^{k+1}(\widetilde{\Omega}_0)} \left( \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h^0, e \cap \Omega_0 \neq \emptyset} \| (G^+ - G^-) |n_x|^{1/2} \|_e^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ \leq C \log(1/h)^2 h^{k+1/4}. \end{aligned}$$

Our result now follows since  $\varepsilon \leq h$ . □

**Remark 4.1.** In the piecewise linear case, if we add artificial crosswind diffusion, then we can improve the pointwise estimates from  $\log(1/h)^2 h^{5/4}$  to  $\log(1/h)^2 \times h^{11/8}$ . This modification was done to the streamline diffusion method in [6,8]. However, this estimate will still be suboptimal. Optimal max-norm estimates ( $O(h^{3/2})$ ) for these DG methods and for the streamline diffusion method assuming general quasi-uniform meshes is still an open problem.

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