

# A posteriori error bounds in the $L^\infty(L^2)$ -norm for the wave problem

Emmanuil Georgoulis

Department of Mathematics,  
University of Leicester, UK

Joint work with O. Lakkis (Sussex), C. Makridakis (Crete)



European Finite Element Fair, Warwick, 20-21 May 2010

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 2, 3$ , open polygonal domain and  $T > 0$ .  
Consider the problem

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_{tt}u - \nabla \cdot (a\nabla u) &= f && \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T] \\ u &= u_0 && \text{in } \Omega \times \{0\} \\ u_t &= u_1 && \text{in } \Omega \times \{0\} \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega \times (0, T]\end{aligned}$$

for  $a = a(x) \in C(\bar{\Omega})$  with  $0 < \alpha_{\min} \leq a \leq \alpha_{\max}$  and  $f \in L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega))$

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 2, 3$ , open polygonal domain and  $T > 0$ .  
Consider the problem

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_{tt}u - \nabla \cdot (a\nabla u) &= f && \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T] \\ u &= u_0 && \text{in } \Omega \times \{0\} \\ u_t &= u_1 && \text{in } \Omega \times \{0\} \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega \times (0, T]\end{aligned}$$

for  $a = a(x) \in C(\bar{\Omega})$  with  $0 < \alpha_{\min} \leq a \leq \alpha_{\max}$  and  $f \in L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega))$

Problem in variational form: Find  $u$  as above such that

$$\langle \partial_{tt}u, v \rangle + \langle a\nabla u, \nabla v \rangle = \langle f, v \rangle \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega),$$

### A posteriori error bounds for FEM for wave problems

- Johnson ('93), Süli ('96,'97) duality methods for wave problem as 1st order system.
- Akrivis, Makridakis & Nochetto ('06) time-discrete schemes for 1st order systems.
- Adjerid ('02), Bernardi & Süli ('05)  $L^\infty(H^1)$ -error a posteriori estimates.

Surprisingly few a posteriori results for FEM for 2nd order hyperbolic problems...

### A posteriori error bounds for FEM for wave problems

- Johnson ('93), Süli ('96,'97) duality methods for wave problem as 1st order system.
- Akrivis, Makridakis & Nochetto ('06) time-discrete schemes for 1st order systems.
- Adjerid ('02), Bernardi & Süli ('05)  $L^\infty(H^1)$ -error a posteriori estimates.

Surprisingly few a posteriori results for FEM for 2nd order hyperbolic problems...

We are concerned with a posteriori bounds for the  $L^\infty(L^2)$ -error.

Semi-discrete FEM: Find  $U \in V_h$ :

$$\langle U_{tt}, V \rangle + a(U, V) = \langle f, V \rangle \quad \forall V \in V_h,$$

where  $a(U, V) = \langle a \nabla U, \nabla V \rangle$ .

Semi-discrete FEM: Find  $U \in V_h$ :

$$\langle U_{tt}, V \rangle + a(U, V) = \langle f, V \rangle \quad \forall V \in V_h,$$

where  $a(U, V) = \langle a \nabla U, \nabla V \rangle$ .

Fully-discrete FEM: for  $n = 1, \dots, N$ , find  $U^n \in V_h^n$ :

$$\langle \partial^2 U^n, V \rangle + a(U^n, V) = \langle f^n, V \rangle \quad \forall V \in V_h^n,$$

where  $f^n := f(t^n, \cdot)$ ,  $k_n = t^{n+1} - t^n$  and

Semi-discrete FEM: Find  $U \in V_h$ :

$$\langle U_{tt}, V \rangle + a(U, V) = \langle f, V \rangle \quad \forall V \in V_h,$$

where  $a(U, V) = \langle a \nabla U, \nabla V \rangle$ .

Fully-discrete FEM: for  $n = 1, \dots, N$ , find  $U^n \in V_h^n$ :

$$\langle \partial^2 U^n, V \rangle + a(U^n, V) = \langle f^n, V \rangle \quad \forall V \in V_h^n,$$

where  $f^n := f(t^n, \cdot)$ ,  $k_n = t^{n+1} - t^n$  and

$$\partial^2 U^n := \frac{\partial U^n - \partial U^{n-1}}{k_n}, \quad \partial U^n := \begin{cases} \frac{U^n - U^{n-1}}{k_n}, & \text{for } n = 1, 2, \dots, N, \\ V^0 := \pi^0 u_1 & \text{for } n = 0, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

with  $U^0 := \pi^0 u_0$ , and  $\pi^0 : L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow V_h^0$  suitable projection.



**Semi-discrete case** We shall make use the ideas of **reconstruction**, introduced by **Makridakis & Nochetto ('03)**, whereby

$$u - U = \underbrace{u - w}_{\text{“evolution error”}} + \underbrace{w - U}_{\text{“elliptic error”}}$$

with  $w \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  the elliptic reconstruction of  $U$ .

“Dual” concept of the **Ritz projection** (a.k.a elliptic projection, Wheeler’s Trick) idea in a-priori analysis of evolution problems.

**Semi-discrete case** We shall make use the ideas of **reconstruction**, introduced by **Makridakis & Nochetto ('03)**, whereby

$$u - U = \underbrace{u - w}_{\text{“evolution error”}} + \underbrace{w - U}_{\text{“elliptic error”}}$$

with  $w \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  the elliptic reconstruction of  $U$ .

“Dual” concept of the **Ritz projection** (a.k.a elliptic projection, Wheeler’s Trick) idea in a-priori analysis of evolution problems.

A priori error bounds in the  $L^\infty(L^2)$  norm can be found in **Baker ('76)**, utilising Ritz projection along with a **special choice of test function**.

**Semi-discrete case** We shall make use the ideas of **reconstruction**, introduced by Makridakis & Nochetto ('03), whereby

$$u - U = \underbrace{u - w}_{\text{“evolution error”}} + \underbrace{w - U}_{\text{“elliptic error”}}$$

with  $w \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  the elliptic reconstruction of  $U$ .

“Dual” concept of the **Ritz projection** (a.k.a elliptic projection, Wheeler’s Trick) idea in a-priori analysis of evolution problems.

A priori error bounds in the  $L^\infty(L^2)$  norm can be found in Baker ('76), utilising Ritz projection along with a **special choice of test function**.

### Fully-discrete case

Suitable **space-time reconstruction** (cf. Lakkis & Makridakis ('06)), together with (classical) Baker’s technique Baker ('76).

## Definition

We define the **elliptic reconstruction**  $w \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  of  $U$  to be the solution of the elliptic problem

$$a(w, v) = \langle AU - \Pi f + f, v \rangle \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega),$$

where  $\Pi : L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow V_h$  denotes the orthogonal  $L^2$ -projection on the finite element space  $V_h$ , and

$$A : V_h \rightarrow V_h,$$

denotes the (space-)discrete operator defined by

$$\text{for } Z \in V_h, \quad \langle -AZ, V \rangle = a(Z, V) \quad \forall V \in V_h.$$

We decompose the error:

$$e := U - u = \rho - \epsilon, \text{ where } \epsilon := w - U, \text{ and } \rho := w - u,$$

We decompose the error:

$$e := U - u = \rho - \epsilon, \text{ where } \epsilon := w - U, \text{ and } \rho := w - u,$$

### Lemma

We have

$$\langle \partial_{tt} e, v \rangle + a(\rho, v) = 0$$

for all  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$

We decompose the error:

$$e := U - u = \rho - \epsilon, \text{ where } \epsilon := w - U, \text{ and } \rho := w - u,$$

### Lemma

We have

$$\langle \partial_{tt} e, v \rangle + a(\rho, v) = 0$$

for all  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$

or

$$\langle \partial_{tt} \rho, v \rangle + a(\rho, v) = \langle \partial_{tt} \epsilon, v \rangle$$

We decompose the error:

$$e := U - u = \rho - \epsilon, \text{ where } \epsilon := w - U, \text{ and } \rho := w - u,$$

### Lemma

We have

$$\langle \partial_{tt} e, v \rangle + a(\rho, v) = 0$$

for all  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$

or

$$\langle \partial_{tt} \rho, v \rangle + a(\rho, v) = \langle \partial_{tt} \epsilon, v \rangle$$

**Baker's technique:** set  $v = v(t, \cdot) = \int_t^\tau \rho(s, \cdot) ds$

Baker ('76)



### Theorem

*The following error bound holds:*

$$\begin{aligned} \|e\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega))} &\leq \|\epsilon\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega))} + \sqrt{2} \left( \|u_0 - U(0)\| + \|\epsilon(0)\| \right) \\ &\quad + 2 \int_0^T \|\epsilon_t\| + C_{a,T} \|u_1 - U_t(0)\|, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_{a,T} := \min\{2T, \sqrt{2C_\Omega/\alpha_{\min}}\}$ , where  $C_\Omega$  is the PF constant.

## Theorem

The following error bound holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \|e\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega))} &\leq \|\epsilon\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega))} + \sqrt{2} \left( \|u_0 - U(0)\| + \|\epsilon(0)\| \right) \\ &\quad + 2 \int_0^T \|\epsilon_t\| + C_{a,T} \|u_1 - U_t(0)\|, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_{a,T} := \min\{2T, \sqrt{2C_\Omega/\alpha_{\min}}\}$ , where  $C_\Omega$  is the PF constant.

**Controlling  $\epsilon$ ,  $\epsilon_t$ :** use  $L^2$ -norm a posteriori bounds for elliptic problems

$$\|\epsilon\| \leq \mathcal{E}_{L^2}(U, AU - \Pi f + f, \mathcal{T}).$$

$$\|\epsilon_t\| \leq \mathcal{E}_{L^2}(U_t, (AU - \Pi f + f)_t, \mathcal{T}).$$

e.g., Verfürth ('96), Ainsworth & Oden ('01)...

Ideally we want time-reconstruction  $U(t) \in C^1(0, t^N)$  such that

$$U_{tt} = \partial^2 U^n$$

Ideally we want time-reconstruction  $U(t) \in C^1(0, t^N)$  such that

$$U_{tt} = \partial^2 U^n$$

We cannot have that...

Ideally we want time-reconstruction  $U(t) \in C^1(0, t^N)$  such that

$$U_{tt} = \partial^2 U^n$$

We cannot have that...

Define

$$U(t) := \frac{t - t^{n-1}}{k_n} U^n + \frac{t^n - t}{k_n} U^{n-1} - \frac{(t - t^{n-1})(t^n - t)^2}{k_n} \partial^2 U^n,$$

for  $t \in (t^{n-1}, t^n]$ ,  $n = 1, \dots, N$ .

Ideally we want time-reconstruction  $U(t) \in C^1(0, t^N)$  such that

$$U_{tt} = \partial^2 U^n$$

We cannot have that...

Define

$$U(t) := \frac{t - t^{n-1}}{k_n} U^n + \frac{t^n - t}{k_n} U^{n-1} - \frac{(t - t^{n-1})(t^n - t)^2}{k_n} \partial^2 U^n,$$

for  $t \in (t^{n-1}, t^n]$ ,  $n = 1, \dots, N$ .

Note:  $U(t) \in C^1(0, t^N)$  and  $U(t^n) = U^n$  and  $U_t(t^n) = \partial U^n$  and...

we have

$$U_{tt} = (1 + \mu^n(t)) \partial^2 U^n$$

we have

$$U_{tt} = (1 + \mu^n(t))\partial^2 U^n$$

with

$$\mu^n(t) := -6k_n^{-1}(t - t^{n-\frac{1}{2}}), \quad t^{n-\frac{1}{2}} := \frac{1}{2}(t^n + t^{n-1})$$



we have

$$U_{tt} = (1 + \mu^n(t))\partial^2 U^n$$

with

$$\mu^n(t) := -6k_n^{-1}(t - t^{n-\frac{1}{2}}), \quad t^{n-\frac{1}{2}} := \frac{1}{2}(t^n + t^{n-1})$$

### Remark (vanishing moment property)

*The remainder  $\mu^n(t)$  satisfies*

$$\int_{t^{n-1}}^{t^n} \mu^n(t) dt = 0,$$

## Definition

Let  $U^n$ ,  $n = 0, \dots, N$ , be the fully-discrete solution computed by the method,  $\Pi^n : L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow V_h^n$  be the orthogonal  $L^2$ -projection, and  $A^n : V_h^n \rightarrow V_h^n$  to be the discrete operator defined by

$$\text{for } q \in V_h^n, \quad \langle A^n q, \chi \rangle = a(q, \chi) \quad \forall \chi \in V_h^n.$$

We define the *elliptic reconstruction*  $w^n \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$a(w^n, v) = \langle g^n, v \rangle \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega),$$

with

$$g^n := A^n U^n - \Pi^n f^n + \bar{f}^n,$$

where  $\bar{f}^0(\cdot) := f(0, \cdot)$  and  $\bar{f}^n(\cdot) := k_n^{-1} \int_{t^{n-1}}^{t^n} f(t, \cdot) dt$  for  $n = 1, \dots, N$ . (Special care for  $n = 1$ , also)

## Definition

Let  $U^n$ ,  $n = 0, \dots, N$ , be the fully-discrete solution computed by the method,  $\Pi^n : L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow V_h^n$  be the orthogonal  $L^2$ -projection, and  $A^n : V_h^n \rightarrow V_h^n$  to be the discrete operator defined by

$$\text{for } q \in V_h^n, \quad \langle A^n q, \chi \rangle = a(q, \chi) \quad \forall \chi \in V_h^n.$$

We define the *elliptic reconstruction*  $w^n \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$a(w^n, v) = \langle g^n, v \rangle \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega),$$

with

$$g^n := A^n U^n - \Pi^n f^n + \bar{f}^n,$$

where  $\bar{f}^0(\cdot) := f(0, \cdot)$  and  $\bar{f}^n(\cdot) := k_n^{-1} \int_{t^{n-1}}^{t^n} f(t, \cdot) dt$  for  $n = 1, \dots, N$ . (Special care for  $n = 1$ , also)

$$w(t) := \frac{t - t^{n-1}}{k_n} w^n + \frac{t^n - t}{k_n} w^{n-1} - \frac{(t - t^{n-1})(t^n - t)^2}{k_n} \partial^2 w^n,$$

## Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \|e\|_{L^\infty(0,t^N;L^2(\Omega))} &\leq \|\epsilon\|_{L^\infty(0,t^N;L^2(\Omega))} + \sqrt{2} \left( \|u_0 - U(0)\| + \|\epsilon(0)\| \right) \\ &\quad + 2 \left( \int_0^{t^N} \|\epsilon_t\| + \sum_{i=1}^4 \eta_i(t^N) \right) + C_{a,N} \|u_1 - V^0\|, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $C_{a,N} := \min\{2t^N, \sqrt{2C_\Omega/\alpha_{\min}}\}$ .

## A posteriori bound for the fully-discrete wave problem

We have made use of the following notation:

mesh change indicator

$$\begin{aligned}\eta_1(\tau) := & \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \int_{t^{j-1}}^{t^j} \|(I - \Pi^j)U_t\| + \int_{t^{m-1}}^{\tau} \|(I - \Pi^m)U_t\| \\ & + \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} (\tau - t^j) \|(\Pi^{j+1} - \Pi^j)\partial U^j\| + \tau \|(I - \Pi^0)V^0(0)\|\end{aligned}$$

evolution error indicator

$$\eta_2(\tau) := \int_0^{\tau} \|\mathcal{G}\|,$$

where  $\mathcal{G} : (0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $\mathcal{G}|_{(t^{j-1}, t^j]} := \mathcal{G}^j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, N$  and

$$\mathcal{G}^j(t) := \frac{(t^j - t)^2}{2} \partial g^j - \left( \frac{(t^j - t)^4}{4k_j} - \frac{(t^j - t)^3}{3} \right) \partial^2 g^j - \gamma_j,$$

with  $\gamma_j := \gamma_{j-1} + \frac{k_j^2}{2} \partial g^j + \frac{k_j^3}{12} \partial^2 g^j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, N$ ,  $\gamma_0 = 0$ ;

data error indicator

$$\eta_3(\tau) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \left( \int_{t^{j-1}}^{t^j} k_j^3 \|\bar{f}^j - f\|^2 \right)^{1/2} + \left( \int_{t^{m-1}}^{\tau} k_m^3 \|\bar{f}^m - f\|^2 \right)^{1/2};$$

time reconstruction error indicator

$$\eta_4(\tau) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \left( \int_{t^{j-1}}^{t^j} k_j^3 \|\mu^j \partial^2 U^j\|^2 \right)^{1/2} + \left( \int_{t^{m-1}}^{\tau} k_m^3 \|\mu^m \partial^2 U^m\|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Finally, we bound the  $\epsilon$  and  $\epsilon_t$  terms using

### Lemma

We have

$$\|\epsilon\|_{L^\infty(0,t^N;L^2(\Omega))} + \sqrt{2}\|\epsilon(0)\| \leq \delta_1(t^N) + \sqrt{2}C_{\text{el}}\mathcal{E}^0,$$

where

$$\delta_1(t^N) := \max \left\{ \frac{8k_1}{27} C_{\text{el}}\mathcal{E}(V^0, \partial g^0, T^0), \left( \frac{35}{27} + \frac{31}{27} \max_{1 \leq j \leq N} \frac{k_j}{k_{j-1}} \right) \max_{0 \leq j \leq N} (C_{\text{el}}\mathcal{E}^j + C_\Omega \alpha_{\min}^{-1} \|\bar{f}^j - f^j\|) \right\},$$

with  $\mathcal{E}^j := \mathcal{E}(U^j, A^j U^j - \Pi^j f^j + f^j, T^j)$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, N$ .

## Lemma

We have

$$\int_0^{t^N} \|\epsilon_t\| \leq \delta_2(t^N),$$

where

$$\delta_2(t^N) := \frac{2}{3} \sum_{j=0}^N (2k_j + k_{j+1}) \left( C_{\text{el}} \mathcal{E}_\partial^j + C_\Omega \alpha_{\min}^{-1} \|\partial f^j - \partial \bar{f}^j\| \right),$$

with

$$\mathcal{E}_\partial^j := \mathcal{E}(\partial U^j, \partial(A^j U^j) - \partial(\Gamma^j f^j) + \partial f^j, \hat{T}^j), \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, N.$$



Current work: (G., Lakkis & Makridakis, in preparation)

- explicit methods for wave problem
- high order time-stepping for wave problem