

## NON $C^0$ NONCONFORMING ELEMENTS FOR ELLIPTIC FOURTH ORDER SINGULAR PERTURBATION PROBLEM <sup>\*1)</sup>

Shao-chun Chen    Yong-cheng Zhao    Dong-yang Shi

*(Department of Mathematics, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450052, China)*

### Abstract

In this paper we give a convergence theorem for non  $C^0$  nonconforming finite element to solve the elliptic fourth order singular perturbation problem. Two such kind of elements, a nine parameter triangular element and a twelve parameter rectangular element both with double set parameters, are presented. The convergence and numerical results of the two elements are given.

*Mathematics subject classification:* 65N12, 65N30.

*Key words:* Singular perturbation problem, Nonconforming element, Double set parameter method.

### 1. Introduction

We consider the following elliptic singular perturbation problem [1]:

$$\begin{cases} \varepsilon^2 \Delta^2 u - \Delta u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u - \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $\Delta = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}$  is the Laplace operator,  $\Delta^2 = (\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2})^2$ ,  $\Omega \subset R^2$  is a bounded polygonal domain,  $\partial\Omega$  is the boundary of  $\Omega$ ,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial n}$  denotes the outer normal derivative on  $\partial\Omega$ , and  $\varepsilon$  is a real parameter such that  $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$ . When  $\varepsilon$  tends to zero, (1) formally degenerates to Poisson's equation. Hence, (1) is a plate model which may degenerate toward an elastic membrane problem.

A conforming plate element should have  $C^1$  continuity which makes the element complicated, so nonconforming plate elements are widely used. For convergence criterion there are Patch-Test<sup>[10]</sup> which is convenient to use for engineers, and Generalized Patch-Test<sup>[9]</sup> which is a sufficient and necessary condition. According to Generalized Patch-Test, Professor Shi presented F-E-M-Test<sup>[11]</sup> which is easier to use. Many successful nonconforming plate elements [5,7,3,12,13,14] have been presented, but not all of them are convergent for (1) uniformly respect to  $\varepsilon$ .

It is proved<sup>[1]</sup> that the non- $C^0$  nonconforming plate element—Morley's element<sup>[2]</sup>—is not convergent for (1) when  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . In [1] a  $C^0$  nonconforming plate element is presented, which is convergent for (1) uniformly in  $\varepsilon$ . In this paper we study the convergence of non- $C^0$  nonconforming plate elements for (1). In section 2 we give a general convergence theorem for non- $C^0$  nonconforming plate elements solving (1). In section 3 the double set parameter method to construct nonconforming finite element is presented. In section 4 a triangular and a rectangular non- $C^0$  nonconforming plate elements<sup>[3][4]</sup> are presented and their convergence for (1) uniformly in  $\varepsilon$  is proved. In section 5 some numerical results are given.

---

\* August 14, 2003; final revised March 16, 2004.

<sup>1)</sup> This work was supported by NFSC (10471133) and (10590353).

## 2. A Convergence Theorem

The inner product on  $L^2(\Omega)$  will be denoted by  $(\cdot, \cdot)$ ,  $H^m(\Omega)$  is the usual Sobolev space of functions with partial derivatives of order less than or equal to  $m$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ , and the corresponding norm by  $\|\cdot\|_{m,\Omega}$ . The seminorm derived from the partial derivatives of order equal to  $m$  is denoted by  $|\cdot|_{m,\Omega}$ . The space  $H_0^m(\Omega)$  is the closure in  $H^m(\Omega)$  of  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ . Alternatively, we have

$$H_0^1(\Omega) = \{v \in H^1(\Omega); v|_{\partial\Omega} = 0\}, H_0^2(\Omega) = \{v \in H^2(\Omega); v = \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} = 0, \text{on } \partial\Omega\}$$

Let  $Du$  be the gradient of  $u$  and  $D^2u = (\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i \partial x_j})_{2 \times 2}$  be the  $2 \times 2$  tensor of the second order partial derivatives.

The weak form of (1) is : find  $u \in H_0^2(\Omega)$  such that

$$\varepsilon^2 a(u, v) + b(u, v) = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in H_0^2(\Omega) \quad (2)$$

where

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} D^2u : D^2v dx, \quad b(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} Du \cdot Dv dx. \quad (3)$$

From Green's formula<sup>[5]</sup>, it is easy to see that

$$\int_{\Omega} D^2u : D^2v dx = \int_{\Omega} \Delta u \Delta v dx \quad \forall u, v \in H_0^2(\Omega) \quad (4)$$

However this identity does not hold on the nonconforming finite element spaces. We use the form (3) like in [1].

Assume that  $\{T_h\}$  is a quasi-uniform<sup>[5]</sup> and shape-regular<sup>[5]</sup> family of triangulations of  $\Omega$ , here the discretization parameter  $h$  is a characteristic diameter of the elements in  $T_h$ . We use  $V_h$  to denote the finite element space which is piecewise polynomial space and satisfies the boundary conditions of (1) in some way. Then the finite element approximation of (2) is: find  $u_h \in V_h$  such that

$$\varepsilon^2 a_h(u_h, v_h) + b_h(u_h, v_h) = (f, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h \quad (5)$$

where

$$a_h(u, v) = \sum_{K \in T_h} \int_K D^2u : D^2v dx, \quad b_h(u, v) = \sum_{K \in T_h} \int_K Du \cdot Dv dx.$$

We define a seminorm  $|||\cdot|||_{\varepsilon,h}$  by<sup>[1]</sup>

$$|||w|||_{\varepsilon,h}^2 = \varepsilon^2 a_h(w, w) + b_h(w, w) = \varepsilon^2 |w|_{2,h}^2 + |w|_{1,h}^2 \quad (6)$$

where  $|\cdot|_{i,h}^2 = \sum_K |\cdot|_{i,K}^2, i = 1, 2$ .

The interpolation operator derived by  $V_h$  is denoted by  $\Pi_h$ . Let  $\Pi_K = \Pi_h|_K$  for  $K \in T_h$ .  $P_m(K)$  is the polynomial space of degree less than or equal to  $m$  on  $K$ . Let  $F$  denote any edge of an element.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $u$  and  $u_h$  be solutions of (2)and (5) respectively. If  $V_h$  satisfies the following conditions:*

- (c1)  $|||\cdot|||_{\varepsilon,h}$  is a norm on  $V_h$ .
- (c2)  $\forall K \in T_h, \forall v \in P_2(K), \Pi_K v = v$ .
- (c3)  $\forall v_h \in V_h, v_h$  is continuous at the vertices of elements and is zero at the vertices on  $\partial\Omega$ .
- (c4)  $\forall v_h \in V_h, \int_F v_h ds$  is continuous across the element edge  $F$  and is zero on  $F \subset \partial\Omega$ .
- (c5)  $\forall v_h \in V_h, \int_F \frac{\partial v_h}{\partial n} ds$  is continuous across the element edge  $F$  and is zero on  $F \subset \partial\Omega$ .

Then

$$|||u - u_h|||_{\varepsilon,h} \leq ch(\varepsilon|u|_{3,\Omega} + |u|_{2,\Omega} + \|f\|_{0,\Omega}) \quad (7)$$

where  $c$  is independent of  $\varepsilon, h$  and  $u$ .

*Proof.* That the second Strang Lemma [2][5] is used to problem (2) and (5) results<sup>[1]</sup>,

$$\|u - u_h\|_{\varepsilon,h} \leq c \left( \inf_{v_h \in V_h} \|u - v_h\|_{\varepsilon,h} + \sup_{w_h \in V_h} \frac{|E_{\varepsilon,h}(u, w_h)|}{\|w_h\|_{\varepsilon,h}} \right) \quad (8)$$

where

$$E_{\varepsilon,h}(u, w_h) = \varepsilon^2 a_h(u, w_h) + b_h(u, w_h) - (f, w_h) \quad (9)$$

Obviously the discrete problem (5) has a unique solution from condition c1) by Lax-Milgram Lemma. By condition c2) and interpolation theory [5] we have

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{v_h \in V_h} \|u - v_h\|_{\varepsilon,h} &\leq \|u - \Pi_h u\|_{\varepsilon,h} = (\varepsilon^2 |u - \Pi_h u|_{2,h}^2 + |u - \Pi_h u|_{1,h}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq ch(\varepsilon |u|_{3,\Omega} + |u|_{2,\Omega}). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Since

$$D^2 u : D^2 w_h = \Delta u \Delta w_h + (2\partial_{12} u \partial_{12} w_h - \partial_{11} u \partial_{22} w_h - \partial_{22} u \partial_{11} w_h).$$

From Green's formula [2][5]

$$\begin{aligned} \int_K \Delta u \Delta w_h dx &= \int_{\partial K} \Delta u \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial n} ds - \int_K \nabla \Delta u \nabla w_h dx. \\ \int_K 2\partial_{12} u \partial_{12} w_h - \partial_{11} u \partial_{22} w_h - \partial_{22} u \partial_{11} w_h dx &= \int_{\partial K} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial n \partial s} \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2} \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial n} \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} a_h(u, w_h) &= \sum_{K \in T_h} \int_K D^2 u : D^2 w_h dx \\ &= \sum_{K \in T_h} \left\{ \int_{\partial K} \left[ (\Delta u - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2}) \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial n} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s \partial n} \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial s} \right] ds - \int_K \nabla \Delta u \nabla w_h dx \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where  $\frac{\partial}{\partial s}$  is the tangent derivative on the edges of elements.

Let  $w_h^I$  be the piecewise interpolation polynomial of  $w_h$  such that:

For triangular elements,  $\forall K \in T_h, w_h^I|_K \in P_2(K), w_h^I|_K(a_i) = w_h(a_i), \int_{F_i} w_h^I ds = \int_{F_i} w_h ds, F_i \in \partial K, i = 1, 2, 3$ .

For rectangular elements,  $w_h^I|_K \in P_2(K) \cup \{x^2y, xy^2\}, w_h^I|_K(a_i) = w_h(a_i), \int_{F_i} w_h^I ds = \int_{F_i} w_h ds, F_i \in \partial K, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

Then from conditions c3) and c4) we have

$$w_h^I \in H_0^1(\Omega), \int_F (w_h - w_h^I) ds = 0, \forall F \subset \partial K, \forall K \in T_h \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (f, w_h^I) &= \sum_{K \in T_h} \int_K (\varepsilon^2 \Delta^2 u - \Delta u) w_h^I dx \\ &= - \sum_{K \in T_h} \int_K (\varepsilon^2 \nabla \Delta u - \nabla u) \cdot \nabla w_h^I dx \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Substituting (11) and (13) into (9) results:

$$E_{\varepsilon,h}(u, w_h) = \sum_{K \in T_h} \left\{ \int_{\partial K} \varepsilon^2 \left[ (\Delta u - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2}) \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial n} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s \partial n} \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial s} \right] ds \right\}$$

$$-\int_K \varepsilon^2 \nabla \Delta u \cdot \nabla (w_h - w_h^I) dx + \int_K \nabla u \cdot \nabla (w_h - w_h^I) dx - (f, w_h - w_h^I) \Big\}. \quad (14)$$

Now we estimate every term in (14).

From conditions c3) and c5) we have

$$\int_F \left[ \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial n} \right] ds = \int_F \left[ \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial s} \right] ds = 0, \forall F \subset \partial K, \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h$$

where  $[v]$  is the jump of  $v$  across  $F$ . Using the formal skill for nonconforming elements of plate bending problem <sup>[3][5]</sup> we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_{\partial K} \left[ (\Delta u - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2}) \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial n} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s \partial n} \frac{\partial w_h}{\partial s} \right] ds \right| \\ & \leq ch |u|_{3,\Omega} |w_h|_{2,h} \leq ch \varepsilon^{-1} |u|_{3,\Omega} |||w_h|||_{\varepsilon,h}. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

From interpolation theory<sup>[5]</sup> we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_K \nabla \Delta u \cdot \nabla (w_h - w_h^I) dx \right| \\ & \leq ch |u|_{3,\Omega} |w_h|_{2,h} \leq ch \varepsilon^{-1} |u|_{3,\Omega} |||w_h|||_{\varepsilon,h}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & |(f, w_h - w_h^I)| \leq c \|f\|_{0,\Omega} \|w_h - w_h^I\|_{0,\Omega} \\ & \leq ch \|f\|_{0,\Omega} |w_h|_{1,h} \leq ch \|f\|_{0,\Omega} |||w_h|||_{\varepsilon,h}. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Let  $\Pi_0 v = \frac{1}{K} \int_K v dx$ . From (12)  $\int_K \nabla (w_h - w_h^I) dx = \int_{\partial K} (w_h - w_h^I) n ds = 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_K \nabla u \cdot \nabla (w_h - w_h^I) dx \right| = \left| \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_K (\nabla u - \Pi_0 \nabla u) \nabla (w_h - w_h^I) dx \right| \\ & \leq \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} \|\nabla u - \Pi_0 \nabla u\|_{0,K} |w_h - w_h^I|_{1,K} \leq ch |u|_{2,\Omega} |w_h|_{1,h} \\ & \leq ch |u|_{2,\Omega} |||w_h|||_{\varepsilon,h}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Substituting (15)-(18) into (14) we get

$$|E_{\varepsilon,h}(u, w_h)| \leq ch (\varepsilon |u|_{3,\Omega} + |u|_{2,\Omega} + \|f\|_{0,\Omega}) |||w_h|||_{\varepsilon,h} \quad (19)$$

Then (7) follows from (8) (10) (19).

**Remark 2.1.** Morley's element does not satisfy (c4) and has been proved<sup>[1]</sup> not convergent for (2).

### 3. Two Non- $C^0$ Nonconforming Elements with Double Set Parameters

#### 1. A Nine Parameter Triangular Element<sup>[3]</sup>.

Given a triangle  $K$  with vertices  $a_i = (x_i, y_i)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , we denote by  $F_i, n_i, s_i$ , respectively, the side opposite to  $a_i$ , the unit outward normal and the tangential vectors on  $F_i$ . Let  $\lambda_i$  be the area coordinates for the triangle  $K$ ,  $\Delta$  be the area of  $K$ ,  $v_i, v_{ix}, v_{iy}$  be the function value of  $v$  and its first derivatives at  $a_i$ , and  $a_{12}, a_{23}, a_{31}$  be the midpoints of  $F_3, F_1, F_2$  respectively. Put

$$b_i = y_{i+1} - y_{i-1}, c_i = x_{i-1} - x_{i+1}, r_i = (b_{i+1} b_{i-1} + c_{i+1} c_{i-1})/\Delta,$$

$$t_i = F_i^2 / \Delta, i = 1, 2, 3 (\text{mod } 3).$$

The shape function space is

$$\begin{aligned} P(K) = P_3(K) = \text{span}\{ & \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_1\lambda_2, \lambda_2\lambda_3, \lambda_3\lambda_1, \\ & \lambda_1^2\lambda_2 - \lambda_1\lambda_2^2, \lambda_2^2\lambda_3 - \lambda_2\lambda_3^2, \lambda_3^2\lambda_1 - \lambda_3\lambda_1^2, \lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3 \} \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Degrees of freedom are

$$D(v) = (d_1(v), \dots, d_{10}(v))^\top \quad (21)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{where } d_i(v) = v_i, i = 1, 2, 3, d_4(v) = v(a_{12}), d_5(v) = v(a_{23}), d_6(v) = v(a_{31}), \\ d_7(v) = -2 \int_{F_1} \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} ds, d_8(v) = -2 \int_{F_2} \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} ds, d_9(v) = -2 \int_{F_3} \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} ds, \\ d_{10}(v) = -4 \int_{F_1} \lambda_2 \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} ds. \end{aligned}$$

$\forall v \in P_3(K)$ , suppose that

$$\begin{aligned} v = & \beta_1\lambda_1 + \beta_2\lambda_2 + \beta_3\lambda_3 + \beta_4\lambda_1\lambda_2 + \beta_5\lambda_2\lambda_3 + \beta_6\lambda_3\lambda_1 \\ & + \beta_7(\lambda_1^2\lambda_2 - \lambda_1\lambda_2^2) + \beta_8(\lambda_2^2\lambda_3 - \lambda_2\lambda_3^2) + \beta_9(\lambda_3^2\lambda_1 - \lambda_3\lambda_1^2) + \beta_{10}\lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3 \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Substituting (22) into (21) results

$$Cb = D(v) \quad (23)$$

where  $b = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{10})^\top$ , the interpolation matrix is

$$C = \left( \begin{array}{ccccccccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & & & & & & \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & & & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & & & & & \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 & 0 & & & \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 & & & \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & & & \\ t_1 & r_3 & r_2 & \frac{t_1}{2} & -\frac{t_1}{2} & \frac{t_1}{2} & -\frac{t_1}{3} & 0 & \frac{t_1}{3} & \frac{t_1}{6} \\ r_3 & t_2 & r_1 & -\frac{t_2}{2} & \frac{t_2}{2} & -\frac{t_2}{2} & \frac{t_2}{3} & -\frac{t_2}{3} & 0 & \frac{t_2}{6} \\ r_2 & r_1 & t_3 & -\frac{t_3}{2} & \frac{t_3}{2} & \frac{t_3}{2} & 0 & \frac{t_3}{3} & -\frac{t_3}{3} & \frac{t_3}{6} \\ t_1 & r_3 & r_2 & \frac{2t_1}{3} & \frac{r_2-t_1}{3} & \frac{t_1}{3} & -\frac{t_1}{2} & -\frac{t_1}{6} & \frac{t_1}{6} & \frac{t_1}{6} \end{array} \right)_{10 \times 10}$$

It is easy to see that

$$\det C = \frac{t_1^2 t_2 t_3}{36} \neq 0. \quad (24)$$

Nodal parameters are defined by

$$Q(v) = (v_1, v_{1x}, v_{1y}, v_2, v_{2x}, v_{2y}, v_3, v_{3x}, v_{3y})^\top. \quad (25)$$

We approximate the degrees of freedom (21) in terms of the nodal parameters (25) as follows

$$d_i(v) = v_i, i = 1, 2, 3. \quad (26)$$

$d_4 = H_3(a_{12})$ ,  $d_5 = H_1(a_{23})$ ,  $d_6(v) = H_2(a_{31})$ , here  $H_i(x, y)$  is the Hermite interpolation polynomial of order 3 of  $v$  on  $F_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , resulting

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} d_4 = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ v_1 + v_2 + \frac{1}{4} [(v_{1x} - v_{2x})c_3 - (v_{1y} - v_{2y})b_3] \right\} \\ d_5 = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ v_2 + v_3 + \frac{1}{4} [(v_{2x} - v_{3x})c_1 - (v_{2y} - v_{3y})b_1] \right\} \\ d_6 = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ v_3 + v_1 + \frac{1}{4} [(v_{3x} - v_{1x})c_2 - (v_{3y} - v_{1y})b_2] \right\} \end{array} \right. \quad (27)$$

Let  $|F_i|$  be the measure of  $F_i$ . For the degrees of freedom  $d_7(v), d_8(v), d_9(v)$  we use the trapezoidal rule, giving

$$\begin{cases} d_7 = b_1(v_{2x} + v_{3x}) + c_1(v_{2y} + v_{3y}) + O(|F_1|^3 |v|_{3,K,\infty}) \\ d_8 = b_2(v_{3x} + v_{1x}) + c_2(v_{3y} + v_{1y}) + O(|F_2|^3 |v|_{3,K,\infty}) \\ d_9 = b_3(v_{1x} + v_{2x}) + c_3(v_{1y} + v_{2y}) + O(|F_3|^3 |v|_{3,K,\infty}) \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

and  $d_{10}(v) = -4 \int_{F_1} \lambda_2 I_1(\frac{\partial v}{\partial n}) ds$ , here  $I_1$  is the linear interpolation operator on  $F_1$ , we get

$$d_{10}(v) = \frac{2}{3}[(2v_{2x} + v_{3x})b_1 + (2v_{2y} + v_{3y})c_1] + O(|F_1|^3 |v|_{3,K,\infty})$$

Then we have

$$D(v) = GQ(v) + \delta(v) \quad (29)$$

where  $\delta(v) = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, \varepsilon(v), \varepsilon(v), \varepsilon(v), \varepsilon(v))^\top, \varepsilon(v) = O(h^3 |v|_{3,K,\infty})$

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{c_3}{8} & -\frac{b_3}{8} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{c_3}{8} & \frac{b_3}{8} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{c_1}{8} & -\frac{b_1}{8} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{c_1}{8} & \frac{b_1}{8} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{c_2}{8} & \frac{b_2}{8} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{c_2}{8} & 0 & -\frac{b_2}{8} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & b_1 & c_1 & 0 & b_1 & c_1 & 0 \\ 0 & b_2 & c_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & b_2 & c_2 & 0 \\ 0 & b_3 & c_3 & 0 & b_3 & c_3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{4b_1}{3} & \frac{4c_1}{3} & 0 & \frac{2b_1}{3} & \frac{2c_1}{3} & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{10 \times 9}.$$

Neglecting the term  $\delta(v)$  and combining (23) we get

$$b = C^{-1}GQ(v). \quad (30)$$

(22) and (30) are the real expression of the shape function  $v$ ,  $Q(v)$  is the real nodal parameters.

## 2. A Twelve Parameter Rectangular Element [4]

Suppose the rectangular element  $K$  is on the  $(x,y)$  plane with the center  $(x_0, y_0)$ , its sides are parallel to axes of coordinates and the side lengths are  $2a$  and  $2b$  respectively,  $a(x_i, y_i), F_i = [a_i, a_{i+1}], 1 \leq i \leq 4$  are the vertices and the sides of  $K$ . The reference element  $\hat{K}$  is a square on the plane  $(\xi, \eta)$  with center  $(0, 0)$ ,  $\hat{a}_1(-1, -1), \hat{a}_2(1, -1), \hat{a}_3(1, 1), \hat{a}_4(-1, 1)$  are 4 nodes of  $\hat{K}$ . Under the affine mapping  $\xi = (x - x_0)/a, \eta = (y - y_0)/b, K \rightarrow \hat{K}$ , and  $v(x, y) = \hat{v}(\xi, \eta)$ .

We chose degrees of freedom as

$$D(v) = (d_1(v), \dots, d_{12}(v))^\top \quad (31)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} d_i(v) &= v_i, 1 \leq i \leq 4. \\ d_5(v) &= \frac{1}{a} \int_{F_1} v ds = \int_{-1}^1 \hat{v}(\xi, -1) d\xi, d_6(v) = \frac{1}{b} \int_{F_2} v ds = \int_{-1}^1 \hat{v}(1, \eta) d\eta, \\ d_7(v) &= -\frac{1}{a} \int_{F_3} v ds = \int_{-1}^1 \hat{v}(\xi, 1) d\xi, d_8(v) = -\frac{1}{b} \int_{F_4} v ds = \int_{-1}^1 \hat{v}(-1, \eta) d\eta, \\ d_9(v) &= -\frac{b}{a} \int_{F_1} \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} ds = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\partial \hat{v}}{\partial \xi}(\xi, -1) d\xi, \\ d_{10}(v) &= \frac{a}{b} \int_{F_2} \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} ds = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\partial \hat{v}}{\partial \xi}(1, \eta) d\eta, \\ d_{11}(v) &= -\frac{b}{a} \int_{F_3} \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} ds = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\partial \hat{v}}{\partial \eta}(\xi, 1) d\xi, \\ d_{12}(v) &= \frac{a}{b} \int_{F_4} \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} ds = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\partial \hat{v}}{\partial \eta}(-1, \eta) d\eta. \end{aligned}$$

This means that degrees of freedom are the function values of  $v$  at 4 nodes, the mean values of  $v$  and the integrations of out normal derivatives of  $v$  along 4 sides.

The shape function space is

$$P(K) = P_3(K) \cup \{x^4, y^4\} = \text{Span}\{p_1, \dots, p_{12}\} \quad (32)$$

where  $p_1 = \frac{1}{4}(1-\xi)(1-\eta), p_2 = \frac{1}{4}(1+\xi)(1-\eta)$   
 $p_3 = \frac{1}{4}(1+\xi)(1+\eta), p_4 = \frac{1}{4}(1-\xi)(1+\eta),$   
 $p_5 = (1-\xi^2), p_6 = (1-\eta^2), p_7 = (1-\xi^2)\eta, p_8 = (1-\eta^2)\xi,$   
 $p_9 = (1-\xi^2)\xi, p_{10} = (1-\eta^2)\eta, p_{11} = (1-\xi^2)\xi^2, p_{12} = (1-\eta^2)\eta^2.$

Let

$$\forall v \in P(K), \quad v = \beta_1 p_1 + \dots + \beta_{12} p_{12} \quad (33)$$

Substituting (33) into (31), resulting

$$D(v) = Cb \quad (34)$$

where  $b = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{12})^\top$

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{4}{3} & 0 & -\frac{4}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{15} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{4}{3} & 0 & \frac{4}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{4}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -4 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

It is easy to see that

$$\det C = \frac{2^{24}}{3^4 \cdot 5^2} \neq 0 \quad (35)$$

The nodal parameters are taken as

$$Q(v) = (v_1, v_{1x}, v_{1y}, \dots, v_4, v_{4x}, v_{4y})^\top. \quad (36)$$

The following methods are used to approximate the degrees of freedom  $D(v)$  into the linear combinations of nodal parameters  $Q(v)$ :

$$d_i(v) = v_i, i = 1, 2, 3, 4. \quad (37)$$

$d_{i+4} = \frac{2}{|F_i|} \int_{F_i} H_i(v) ds, 1 \leq i \leq 4$ , here  $H_i(v)$  is the Hermite interpolation polynomial of order 3 of  $v$  on  $F_i, 1 \leq i \leq 4$ , giving

$$\begin{cases} d_5(v) = v_1 + v_2 + \frac{a}{3}(v_{1x} - v_{2x}) + O(h^4|v|_{4,K,\infty}) \\ d_6(v) = v_2 + v_3 + \frac{b}{3}(v_{2y} - v_{3y}) + O(h^4|v|_{4,K,\infty}) \\ d_7(v) = v_3 + v_4 + \frac{a}{3}(-v_{3x} + v_{4x}) + O(h^4|v|_{4,K,\infty}) \\ d_8(v) = v_1 + v_4 + \frac{b}{3}(v_{1y} - v_{4y}) + O(h^4|v|_{4,K,\infty}) \end{cases} \quad (38)$$

For  $d_9(v) - d_{12}(v)$  trapezoidal rule of numerical integration is used, resulting

$$\begin{cases} d_9(v) = b(v_{1y} + v_{2y}) + O(h^3|v|_{3,K,\infty}) \\ d_{10}(v) = a(v_{2x} + v_{3x}) + O(h^3|v|_{3,K,\infty}) \\ d_{11}(v) = b(v_{3y} + v_{4y}) + O(h^3|v|_{3,K,\infty}) \\ d_{12}(v) = a(v_{1x} + v_{4x}) + O(h^3|v|_{3,K,\infty}) \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

The above discretizing can be expressed as

$$D(v) = GQ(v) + \delta(v) \quad (40)$$

where  $\delta(v) = (0, 0, 0, 0, \varepsilon_1(v), \varepsilon_1(v), \varepsilon_1(v), \varepsilon_2(v), \varepsilon_2(v), \varepsilon_2(v), \varepsilon_2(v))^\top$ ,  $\varepsilon_1(v) = O(h^4|v|_{4,K,\infty})$ ,  $\varepsilon_2(v) = O(h^3|v|_{3,K,\infty})$ ,

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & & & & & & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & & & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \frac{a}{3} & 0 & 1 & -\frac{a}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{b}{3} & 1 & 0 & -\frac{b}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{a}{3} & 0 & 1 & \frac{a}{3} & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & \frac{b}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{b}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & b & 0 & 0 & b & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & a & 0 & 0 & a & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & b & 0 & 0 & b \\ 0 & a & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & a & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Similarly, neglecting the term  $\delta(v)$ , we get the real shape function  $v$  which is still as (33), and  $b = C^{-1}GQ(v)$ .

**Theorem 2.** *The above nine parameter triangle element and twelve parameter rectangle element are convergent for (2) uniformly in  $\varepsilon$  and*

$$|||u - u_h|||_{\varepsilon,h} \leq ch(\varepsilon|u|_{3,\Omega} + |u|_{2,\Omega} + \|f\|_{0,\Omega}) \quad (41)$$

where  $c$  is independent of  $\varepsilon, h$  and  $u$ .

*Proof.* It is only needed to check the conditions c1)-c5) of Theorem 1 for both elements.

Suppose  $v_h \in V_h$  and  $|||v_h|||_{\varepsilon,h} = 0$ , this means  $v_h|_K = \text{const}$ ,  $\forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h$ , then  $v_h \equiv 0$  in  $\Omega$  follows from  $v_h|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$  and  $v_h$  is continuous at the nodes of  $\mathcal{T}_h$ . So  $|||\cdot|||_{\varepsilon,h}$  is a norm on  $V_h$  and c1) is satisfied for both elements.

$\forall v \in P_2(v)$ , from (29) and (40) we have  $\delta(v) = 0$ , then  $D(v) = GQ(v)$  is hold exactly, and  $D(\Pi_K v) = GQ(v) = D(v)$ , thus  $\Pi v = v$ . This means c2) is satisfied for both elements.

From  $d_1(v) - d_3(v)$  of (21) and  $d_1(v) - d_4(v)$  of (31), as well as (26) and (37) we know  $v$  is continuous at nodes of  $\mathcal{T}_h$ , so c3) is satisfied for both elements.

For the triangle element,  $\forall F \subset \partial K, \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h$ , from  $d_1(v) - d_6(v)$  of (21),  $\forall v \in V_h, v$  is continuous at two ends and midpoint of  $F$ , so  $\int_F v ds$  is continuous across  $F$  by Simpson formula of numerical integration. For the rectangle element  $\int_F v ds$  is continuous across  $F$  from  $d_5(v) - d_8(v)$  of (31). Thus c4) is satisfied for both elements.

Obviously c5) is satisfied for both elements from  $d_7(v) - d_9(v)$  of (21) and  $d_9(v) - d_{12}(v)$  of (31).

#### 4. Numerical Experiments

Consider problem (1) with  $\Omega = [0, 1]^2 \subset R^2$  and  $f = \varepsilon^2 \Delta^2 u - \Delta u$ , where  $u = (\sin(\pi x_1) \sin(\pi x_2))^{2[1]}$ .

For a comparison with Example 4.1 of [1], we compute the relative error in the energy norm,  $\|u_h^I - u_h\|_{\varepsilon,h} / \|u_h^I\|_{\varepsilon,h}$ , for different values of  $\varepsilon$  and  $h$ . Here  $u_h^I$  denote the interpolant of  $u$  on a finite element space  $V_h$ . We also consider the case  $\varepsilon = 0$ , the poisson problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions, and the biharmonic problem  $\Delta^2 u = f$ .

In the figures we show errors in the norm  $|u - u_h|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for each mesh respectively and for different values of  $\varepsilon$  and  $h$ . The norm  $|\cdot|_{l,h}$  is defined as

$$|g|_{l,h} = \max_{|\alpha|=l, a \in M(T_h)} |D^\alpha g(a)|, \forall g \in V$$

where  $M(T_h)$  is the set of vertices of all  $K \in T_h$ .

**Experiment 1.** To solve the problem (1) with the twelve parameter rectangular element in Section 4, we use two rectangular meshes which are shown in Figure 1 (case  $n=8$ ). The relative errors measured by the energy norm for mesh 1 and mesh 2 are given in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively. The errors measured by the norm  $|\cdot|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for mesh 1 and mesh 2 are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3 respectively.

**Experiment 2.** To solve the same problem as Experiment 1 with the nine parameter triangular element in Section 4, we use four triangular meshes which are shown in Figure 4 (case  $n=8$ ). The relative errors measured by the energy norm for mesh 3 to mesh 6 are given in Table 3 to Table 6 respectively. The errors measured by the norm  $|\cdot|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for mesh 3 to mesh 6 are shown in Figure 5 to Figure 8 respectively.

From the above numerical experiments it can be seen that these numerical results are consistent with the theoretical analysis.

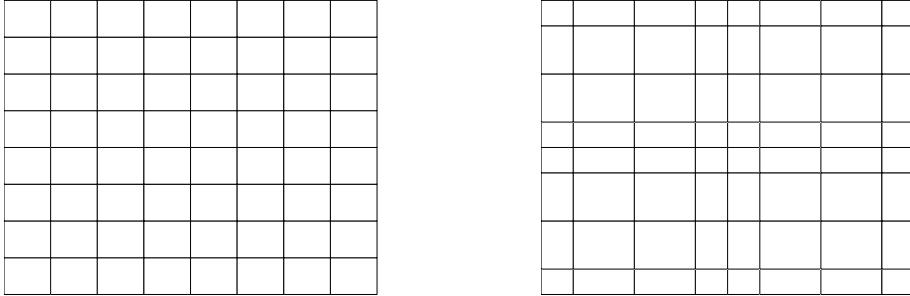


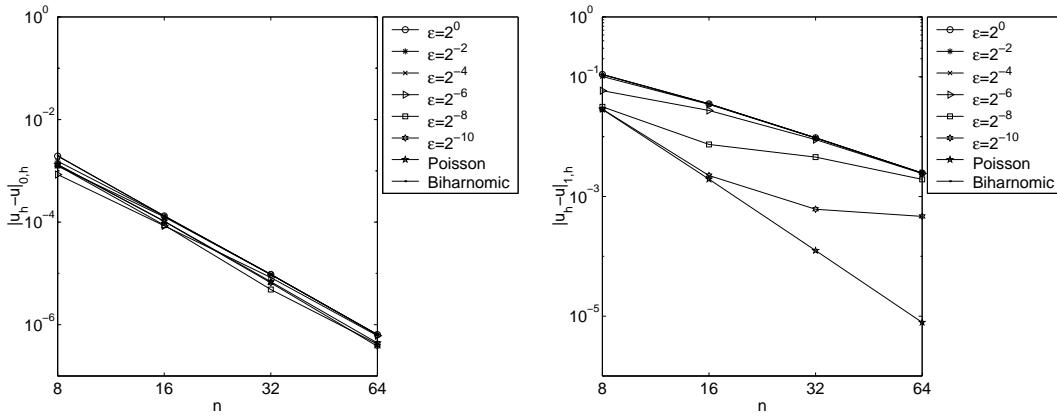
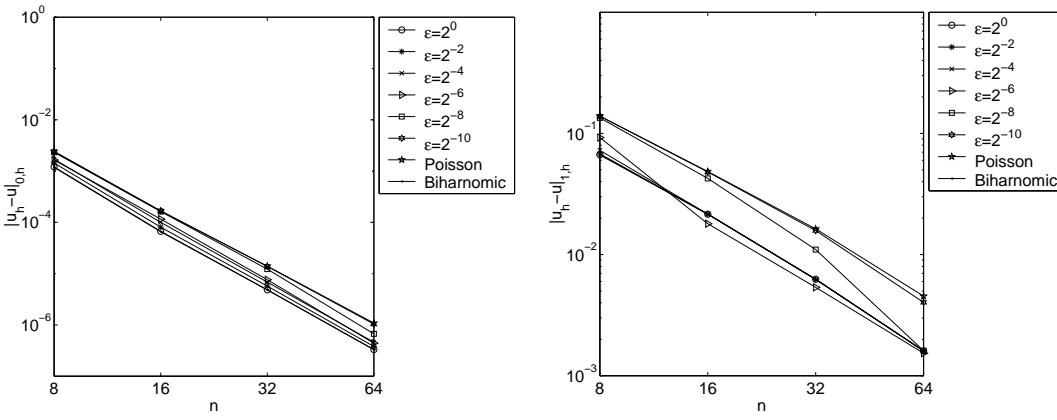
Figure 1: Two subdivisions: mesh 1 ( the left) and mesh 2 (the right)

Table 1. The relative error measured by the energy norm for mesh 1

$\varepsilon \setminus n$	$2^3$	$2^4$	$2^5$	$2^6$
$2^0$	8.16e-003	2.85e-003	7.69e-004	1.96e-004
$2^{-2}$	6.37e-003	2.23e-003	6.01e-004	1.53e-004
$2^{-4}$	1.37e-003	4.89e-004	1.33e-004	3.40e-005
$2^{-6}$	7.95e-005	2.97e-005	9.34e-006	2.49e-006
$2^{-8}$	1.40e-005	6.91e-007	3.12e-007	1.27e-007
$2^{-10}$	1.14e-005	7.15e-008	3.46e-009	1.96e-009
Poisson	1.12e-005	5.33e-008	2.19e-010	8.67e-013
Biharmonic	8.31e-003	2.90e-003	7.84e-004	2.00e-004

Table 2. The relative error measured by the energy norm for mesh 2

$\varepsilon \setminus n$	$2^3$	$2^4$	$2^5$	$2^6$
$2^0$	3.11e-003	1.92e-003	6.04e-004	1.62e-004
$2^{-2}$	2.40e-003	1.50e-003	4.72e-004	1.27e-004
$2^{-4}$	4.57e-004	3.17e-004	1.04e-004	2.81e-005
$2^{-6}$	5.72e-005	1.48e-005	6.36e-006	1.98e-006
$2^{-8}$	9.23e-005	8.65e-006	5.46e-007	7.63e-008
$2^{-10}$	9.74e-005	1.05e-005	8.39e-007	5.22e-008
Poisson	9.78e-005	1.06e-005	8.82e-007	6.24e-008
Biharmonic	3.17e-003	1.96e-003	6.16e-004	1.66e-004

Figure 2: The error of  $u_h$  measured by the norms  $|\cdot|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for mesh 1Figure 3: The error of  $u_h$  measured by the norms  $|\cdot|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for mesh 2

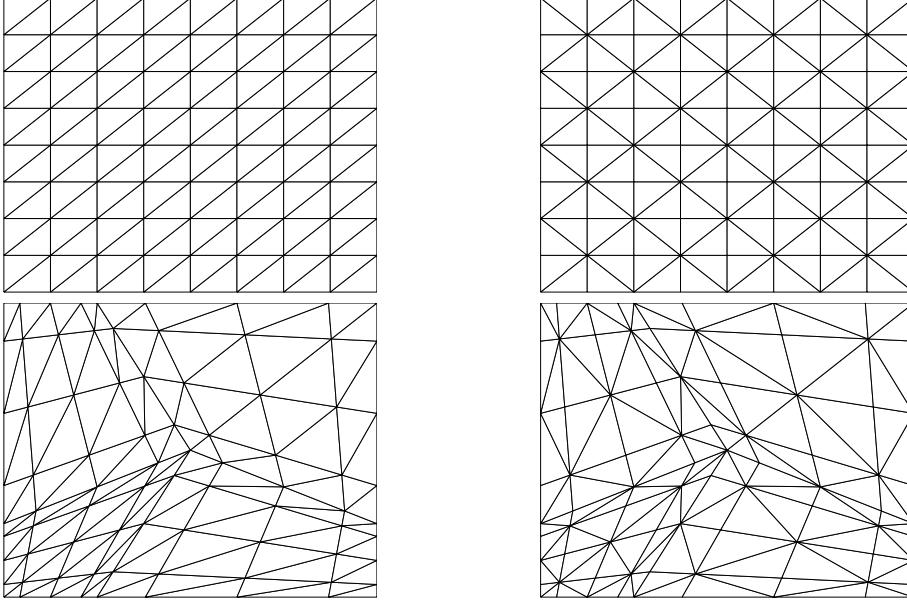


Figure 4: Four triangulations: mesh 3 (the top left), mesh 4 (the top right), mesh5 (the bottom left) and mesh6 (the bottom right)

Table 3. The relative error measured by the energy norm for mesh 3

$\varepsilon \setminus n$	$2^3$	$2^4$	$2^5$	$2^6$
$2^0$	3.89e-002	9.89e-003	2.46e-003	6.14e-004
$2^{-2}$	3.09e-002	7.76e-003	1.92e-003	4.80e-004
$2^{-4}$	8.16e-003	1.80e-003	4.32e-004	1.07e-004
$2^{-6}$	3.16e-003	2.75e-004	3.90e-005	8.34e-006
$2^{-8}$	3.18e-003	2.29e-004	1.50e-005	1.14e-006
$2^{-10}$	3.19e-003	2.32e-004	1.54e-005	9.73e-007
Poisson	3.20e-003	2.32e-004	1.55e-005	9.90e-007
Biharmonic	3.96e-002	1.01e-002	2.50e-003	6.26e-004

Table 4. The relative error measured by the energy norm for mesh 4

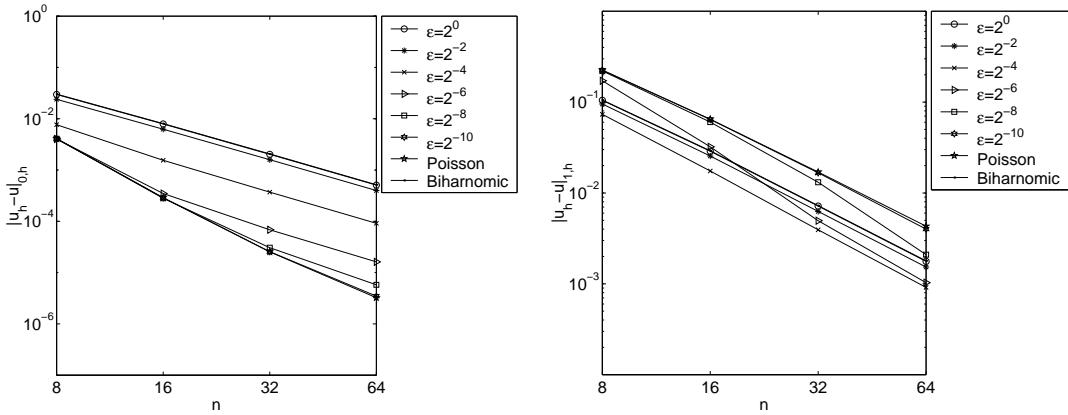
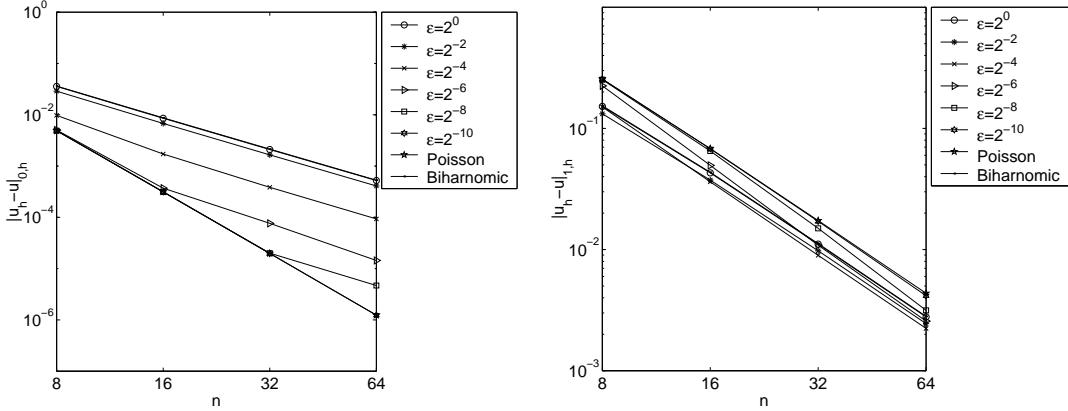
$\varepsilon \setminus n$	$2^3$	$2^4$	$2^5$	$2^6$
$2^0$	4.39e-002	1.24e-002	3.21e-003	8.12e-004
$2^{-2}$	3.50e-002	9.74e-003	2.51e-003	6.35e-004
$2^{-4}$	9.19e-003	2.25e-003	5.64e-004	1.41e-004
$2^{-6}$	3.11e-003	2.93e-004	4.77e-005	1.08e-005
$2^{-8}$	2.98e-003	2.02e-004	1.36e-005	1.19e-006
$2^{-10}$	2.98e-003	2.02e-004	1.30e-005	8.19e-007
Poisson	2.98e-003	2.02e-004	1.30e-005	8.19e-007
Biharmonic	4.47e-002	1.26e-002	3.27e-003	8.27e-004

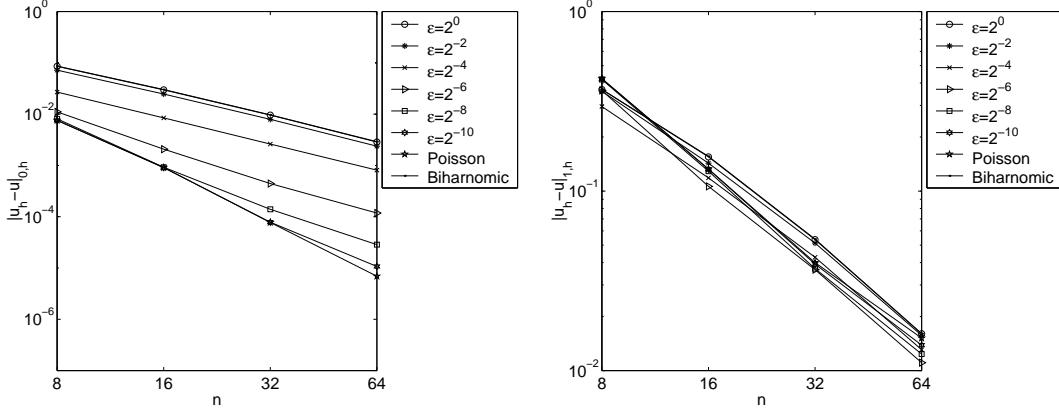
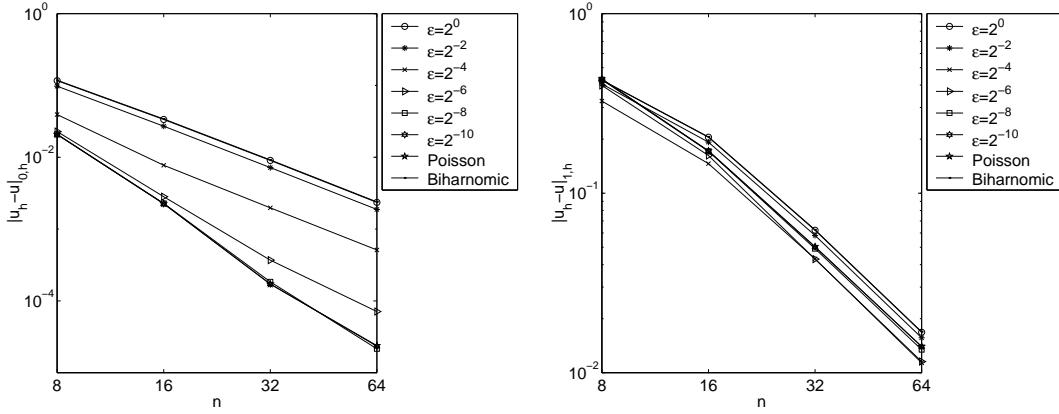
Table 5. The relative error measured by the energy norm for mesh 5

$\varepsilon \setminus n$	$2^3$	$2^4$	$2^5$	$2^6$
$2^0$	3.68e-001	2.61e-001	1.96e-001	1.65e-001
$2^0$	3.16e-001	2.17e-001	1.60e-001	1.34e-001
$2^0$	9.84e-002	5.88e-002	4.08e-002	3.33e-002
$2^0$	1.63e-002	5.23e-003	3.19e-003	2.56e-003
$2^0$	1.08e-002	1.18e-003	2.62e-004	1.66e-004
$2^0$	1.06e-002	9.58e-004	8.37e-005	1.49e-005
Poisson	1.06e-002	9.47e-004	7.28e-005	5.11e-006
Biharmonic	3.73e-001	2.64e-001	1.99e-001	1.68e-001

Table 6. The relative error measured by the energy norm for mesh 6

$\varepsilon \setminus n$	$2^3$	$2^4$	$2^5$	$2^6$
$2^0$	3.35e-001	2.64e-001	2.21e-001	2.04e-001
$2^{-2}$	2.86e-001	2.20e-001	1.82e-001	1.67e-001
$2^{-4}$	8.82e-002	6.03e-002	4.73e-002	4.27e-002
$2^{-6}$	1.67e-002	5.57e-003	3.73e-003	3.31e-003
$2^{-8}$	1.23e-002	1.37e-003	3.06e-004	2.14e-004
$2^{-10}$	1.21e-002	1.14e-003	9.60e-005	1.86e-005
Poisson	1.21e-002	1.13e-003	8.31e-005	5.80e-006
Biharmonic	3.39e-001	2.68e-001	2.24e-001	2.07e-001

Figure 5: The error of  $u_h$  measured by the norms  $|\cdot|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for mesh 3Figure 6: The error of  $u_h$  measured by the norms  $|\cdot|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for mesh 4

Figure 7: The error of  $u_h$  measured by the norms  $|\cdot|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for mesh 5Figure 8: The error of  $u_h$  measured by the norms  $|\cdot|_{l,h}, l = 0, 1$  for mesh 6

## References

- [1] T.K. Nilssen, X.C. Tai and R. Winther, A robust nonconforming  $H^2$ -element, *Math. Comp.*, **70**:234 (2001), 489-505.
- [2] P. Lascaux and P. Lesaint, Some nonconforming finite element for the plate bending problem, *RAIRO, Anal. Numer.*, **R-1** (1975), 9-53
- [3] S.C. Chen and Z.C. Shi, Double set parameter method of constructing a stiffness matrix, *Chinese J. Numer. Math. Appl.*, **4** (1991), 55-69.
- [4] S.C. Chen and D.Y. Shi, 12-parameter rectangular plate elements with geometric symmetry, *Numer. Math. J. Chinese Uni.*, (in Chinese). **3** (1996), 233-238.
- [5] P.G. Ciarlet, The finite element method for elliptic problems, North-Holland Publishing Company, 1978.
- [6] Z.C. Shi, Error Estimates of Morley element, *Math. Numer. Sinica*, **12** (1990), 113-118.
- [7] Z.C. Shi, The generalized patch test for Zienkiewicz's triangle, *J. Comput. Math.*, **2** (1984), 276-286

- [8] B. Specht, Modified shape functions for the three node plate bending element passing the patch test, *I. J. Numer. Maths. Eng.*, **26** (1988), 705-715.
- [9] Z.C. Shi and S.C. Chen, Analysis of a nine degree plate bending element of Specht, *Chinese J. Numer. Math. Appl.*, **4** (1989), 73-79.
- [10] F. Stummel, The generalized patch test, *SIAM. J. Numer. Anal.*, **16** (1979), 449-471.
- [11] G. Strang and G. J. Fix, An analysis of the finite element method, Prentice-Hall, 1973.
- [12] Z. C. Shi, The F-E-M-Test for convergence of nonconforming finite elements, *Math. Comp.*, **49** (1987), 391-405.
- [13] D.G. Bergan, M.K. Nygård, Finite elements with increased freedom in choosing shape functions, *Int. J. Numer. Math. Eng.*, **20** (1984), 643-664.
- [14] L. M. Tang et. al., Quasi-conforming elements in finite element analysis, *J. Dalian Institute of Technology*, **2** (1980), 19-35 (in Chinese).
- [15] Y.Q. Long et. al., Generalized conforming elements, *J. Civil. Eng.*, **1** (1987), 1-14 (in Chinese).