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FINITE ELEMENT SOLUTION
OF A HYPERBOLIC-PARABOLIC PROBLEM

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Summary. Existence and finite element approximation of a hyperbolic-parabolic problem is studied. The original two-dimensional domain is approximated by a polygonal one (external approximations). The time discretization is obtained using Euler's backward formula (Rothe's method).

Under certain smoothing assumptions on the data (see (2.6), (2.7)) the existence and uniqueness of the solution and the convergence of Rothe's functions in the space $C(\bar{T}, V)$ is proved.

Keywords: Rothe's method, finite elements.

AMS classification: 65N30, 65M60.

1. FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM

By a two-dimensional hyperbolic-parabolic initial boundary value problem we understand a problem of the following type: Let Ω , Ω_H , Ω_P be two-dimensional bounded domains with Lipschitz continuous boundaries such that $\bar{\Omega} = \bar{\Omega}_H \cup \bar{\Omega}_P$, $\Omega_H \cap \Omega_P = \emptyset$, $\text{mes } \Omega_H > 0$. If $\text{mes } \Omega_P = 0$, we get only equation (1.1)—a hyperbolic problem. Find a function $u: \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $u_M := u|_{\Omega_M}$ ($M = H, P$) satisfy the equations

$$(1.1) \quad \frac{\partial^2 u_H}{\partial t^2} = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(k_{ij}^H \frac{\partial u_H}{\partial x_j} \right) + f^H \quad \text{in } \Omega_H \times (0, T),$$

$$(1.2) \quad \frac{\partial u_P}{\partial t} = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(k_{ij}^P \frac{\partial u_P}{\partial x_j} \right) + f^P \quad \text{in } \Omega_P \times (0, T),$$

where $0 < T < \infty$ and $k_{ij}^M(x)$, $f^M(x, t)$ are given functions satisfying (2.3)–(2.5). Equation (1.1) is of hyperbolic type and Eq. (1.2) is of parabolic type. The function u has to satisfy some boundary condition, for instance

$$u(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_D \times (0, T),$$

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^2 k_{ij} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \nu_j = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_N \times (0, T),$$

where Γ_D is a nonempty relatively open subset of $\Gamma := \partial\Omega$, $\Gamma_N = \Gamma - \bar{\Gamma}_D$ and ν_j denote the components of the unit outer normal to Γ . The initial conditions are

$$u(x, 0) = u^0 \quad \forall x \in \Omega,$$

$$\frac{\partial u_H(x, 0)}{\partial t} = z_H^0 \quad \forall x \in \Omega_H,$$

where u^0 , z_H^0 are given functions. Finally, on the interface $\Lambda := \partial\Omega_H \cap \partial\Omega_P$ the function u has to satisfy for all $t \in (0, T)$ so called transition conditions: At every $x \in \Lambda$ the limit value of u_H is equal to the limit value of u_P and the limit value of $\sum_{i,j=1}^2 k_{ij}^H \frac{\partial u_H}{\partial x_i} \nu_j$ is equal to the limit value of $\sum_{i,j=1}^2 k_{ij}^P \frac{\partial u_P}{\partial x_i} \nu_j$, where ν_j denote the components of the unit normal to Λ oriented in a unique way. The transition conditions are briefly written in the form

$$[u]_P^H = \left[\sum_{i,j=1}^2 k_{ij} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \nu_j \right]_P^H = 0.$$

A motivation for studying this type of a problem is the computation of two-dimensional electromagnetic fields in the case when in Ω_H the electrical conductivity is $\sigma = 0$ and in Ω_P it is $\sigma \gg 0$ (for similar situations see e.g. [1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9]).

Note. The symbol C is used as a generic constant, which means that this constant may represent various values on different places in the paper.

2. VARIATIONAL FORMULATION

Let Γ_D and Γ_N is relatively open subsets of Γ such that

$$\Gamma_D \cap \Gamma_N = \emptyset, \text{mes}_1 \Gamma_D + \text{mes}_1 \Gamma_N = \text{mes}_1 \Gamma, \text{mes}_1 \Gamma_D > 0,$$

where Γ_D consists of a finite number of disjoint arc-components, each component being of a positive one-dimensional measure. We set

$$V := \{v \in H^1(\Omega) : v = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_D\}.$$

Let Ω_H and Ω_P be subdomains of Ω with the properties

$$\bar{\Omega} = \bar{\Omega}_H \cup \bar{\Omega}_P, \Omega_H \cap \Omega_P = \emptyset.$$

We shall assume that Γ_D satisfies one of the following three possibilities:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma \cap \partial\Omega_H \cap \partial\Omega_P &\subset \Gamma_D, \\ \partial\Omega_H \cap \partial\Omega_P \cap \bar{\Gamma}_D &= \emptyset, \\ \partial\Omega_H \cap \partial\Omega_P \cap \Gamma &= \{Q_1, Q_2 : Q_1 \in \Gamma_D, Q_2 \notin \bar{\Gamma}_D\} \end{aligned}$$

and that the boundaries $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$, $\partial\Omega_H$, $\partial\Omega_P$ are piecewise of class C^3 .

We define

$$V_M = \{v_M := v|_{\Omega_M} : v \in V\} \quad (M = H, P).$$

Let $G \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be an arbitrary domain, the norm in the Sobolev space $H^k(G)$ will be denoted by $\|\cdot\|_{k,G}$; $\|\cdot\|_k := \|\cdot\|_{k,\Omega}$. The scalar products in the spaces $L_2(\Omega)$ and $L_2(G)$ will be denoted by (\cdot, \cdot) and $(\cdot, \cdot)_G$; $(\cdot, \cdot)_M := (\cdot, \cdot)_{L_2(\Omega_M)}$. The norms in V and in V_M are induced by the norms $\|\cdot\|_1$, $\|\cdot\|_{1,\Omega_M}$, respectively. We shall work with the spaces $C(\bar{I}, B)$, $L_2(I, B)$, $L_\infty(I, B)$, where B is a Banach space and $I = (0, T)$. The symbol V_H^* denotes the normed dual of V_H and for $f \in V_H^*$, $u \in V_H$ we write $f(u) = \langle f, u \rangle_H$. We set

$$v_M(t) := v(t)|_{\Omega_M} \quad \forall t \in I.$$

We shall use a form

$$a : H^1(\Omega) \times H^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

where

$$(2.1) \quad a_M(v, w) = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \int_{\Omega_M} k_{ij}^M \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_j} dx \quad \forall v, w \in H^1(\Omega),$$

$$(2.2) \quad a(v, w) = a_H(v, w) + a_P(v, w) \quad \forall v, w \in H^1(\Omega).$$

We assume

$$(2.3) \quad k_{ij}^M(x) = k_{ji}^M(x) \quad (i, j = 1, 2; M = H, P),$$

then $a(v, w) = a(w, v)$ and further

$$(2.4) \quad k_{ij}^M \in W_\infty^1(\tilde{\Omega}_M) \quad (i, j = 1, 2; M = H, P),$$

$$(2.5) \quad \sum_{i,j=1}^2 k_{ij}^M(x) \xi_i \xi_j \geq \gamma_M (\xi_1^2 + \xi_2^2) \quad \forall x \in \tilde{\Omega}_M, \forall \xi_1, \xi_2 \in \mathbb{R},$$

where $\gamma_M > 0$ and the domains $\tilde{\Omega}_M \supset \Omega_M (M = H, P)$ will be specified later in Section 3. The symbols \dot{u}, \ddot{u} will denote the strong derivatives with respect to t of an abstract function u (for the definition see [2, Chap. IV]).

Problem 2.1. Let the form $a(v, w)$ be defined by (2.1), (2.2), where the functions k_{ij}^M satisfy (2.3)–(2.5). Let u^0, z_H^0, f be given functions such that

$$(2.6) \quad u^0 \in V, \quad z_H^0 \in L_2(\Omega_H),$$

$$(2.7) \quad f^M \in L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\tilde{\Omega}_M)), \quad \dot{f}^M \in L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\tilde{\Omega}_M)), \quad (M = H, P).$$

Find a function $u: \bar{I} \rightarrow V$ with the properties

$$\begin{aligned} u &\in C(\bar{I}, V), \\ \dot{u} &\in L_2(I, L_2(\Omega)), \\ \ddot{u}_H &\in L_2(I, V_H^*), \\ u(0) &= u^0 \in V, \\ \dot{u}_H(0) &= z_H^0 \in L_2(\Omega_H), \\ \int_0^T \{ \langle \ddot{u}, v \rangle_H + (\dot{u}, v)_P + a(u, v) \} dt &= \int_0^T (f, v) dt \quad \forall v \in L_2(I, V). \end{aligned}$$

3. DISCRETIZATION

We shall approximate the domain Ω by a domain Ω_n with a polygonal boundary the vertices of which lie on Γ . Let $\mathcal{T}_n = \{K_1, \dots, K_m\}$ be a triangulation of Ω_n . Let σ_n be the set of all nodes in \mathcal{T}_n . We shall assume

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_n &\subset \bar{\Omega}, & \sigma_n \cap \partial\Omega_n &\subset \Gamma, \\ \bar{\Gamma}_D \cap \bar{\Gamma}_N &\subset \sigma_n; \end{aligned}$$

the points of Γ where the condition of the C^3 -smoothness is not satisfied, belong to σ_n .

We shall consider only those triangulations \mathcal{T}_n that at most two vertices of each triangle lie on Γ ; such triangles are called boundary triangles.

Let K be a boundary triangle and let B_1, B_2, B_3 be its vertices, $B_1, B_3 \in \Gamma$. Let Σ be the part of Γ which is approximated by the segment $\overline{B_1 B_3}$. The closed curved triangle K^{id} with two straight sides $\overline{B_1 B_2}$, $\overline{B_2 B_3}$ and one curved side Σ is called the ideal triangle associated with the triangle K . If we replace all boundary triangles in \mathcal{T}_n by their associated ideal triangles we obtain the ideal triangulation $\mathcal{T}_n^{\text{id}}$. We shall assume that $K^{\text{id}} \subset K$ or $K \subset K^{\text{id}}$ for every $K \in \mathcal{T}_n$.

Every triangulation \mathcal{T}_n consists of two subtriangulations $\mathcal{T}_{n,H}$, $\mathcal{T}_{n,P}$ such that

$$\mathcal{T}_n = \mathcal{T}_{n,H} \cup \mathcal{T}_{n,P}, \quad \mathcal{T}_{n,H} \cap \mathcal{T}_{n,P} = \emptyset.$$

The subtriangulation $\mathcal{T}_{n,M}$ has all properties described in the preceding text.

With every triangulation we associate three parameters

$$h = \max_{K \in \mathcal{T}_n} h_K, \quad \bar{h} = \min_{K \in \mathcal{T}_n} h_K, \quad \theta = \min_{K \in \mathcal{T}_n} \theta_K,$$

where h_K is the length of the greatest side and θ_K is the magnitude of the smallest angle of the triangle $K \in \mathcal{T}_n$. We shall assume that the following conditions are satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\bar{h}_n}{h_n} &\geq C_0 > 0 & (n = 1, 2, 3 \dots), \\ \theta_n &\geq \theta_0 > 0 & (n = 1, 2, 3 \dots), \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h_n &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\{\Delta t_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence independent of $\{h_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ with the properties

$$\Delta t_n > 0, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Delta t_n = 0, \quad r_n := \frac{T}{t_n} \text{ is integer.}$$

Let the bounded domains $\tilde{\Omega}$, $\tilde{\Omega}_M$ satisfy

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (\bar{\Omega}_M \cup M_n) \subset \tilde{\Omega}_M \quad (M = H, P),$$

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (\bar{\Omega} \cup \Omega_n) \subset \tilde{\Omega},$$

where M_n is the domain with a polygonal boundary associated with the triangulation $\mathcal{T}_{n,M}$.

We define finite dimensional spaces

$$X_n = \{v \in C(\bar{\Omega}_n) : v|_K \text{ is linear for all } K \in \mathcal{T}_n\},$$

$$V_n = \{v \in X_n : v(B_i) = 0 \quad \forall B_i \in \sigma_n \cap \bar{\Gamma}_D\}.$$

For $v \in X_n$ the symbol v_M denotes the function from the space $C(\bar{M}_n)$ which is linear in every triangle $K \in \mathcal{T}_{n,M}$ satisfying

$$v_M(B_i) = v(B_i) \quad \forall B_i \in \sigma_n \cap \bar{M}_n.$$

We define

$$V_{nM} = \{v_M; v \in V_n\}.$$

Further, we define the forms

$$(3.1) \quad a_{M_n}(v, w) = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \int_{M_n} k_{ij}^M \frac{\partial v_M}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial w_M}{\partial x_j} dx \quad \forall v, w \in X_n,$$

$$a_n = a_{H_n} + a_{P_n}.$$

We shall approximate the terms $a_n(v, w)$ and

$$(f, v)_n := \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_n} (f, v)_K$$

using a quadrature formula of degree of precision $d = 1$ on each triangle. The results will be denoted by $a_n^I(v, w)$ and $(f, v)_n^I$. The following lemma can be found in [9, 10].

Lemma 3.1. *Let the assumptions (2.3)-(2.5), (2.7) be fulfilled. Then for all $v, w \in X_n$ we have*

$$(3.2) \quad |a_n(v, w) - a_n^I(v, w)| \leq Ch_n \|v\|_{1, \Omega_n} \|w\|_{1, \Omega_n},$$

$$(3.3) \quad |(f(t), v)_n - (f(t), v)_n^I| \leq Ch_n \|f(t)\|_{1, \infty, \tilde{\Omega}} \|v\|_{1, \Omega_n} \quad \forall t \in \bar{I},$$

$$(3.4) \quad |a_n^I(v, w)| \leq M \|v\|_{1, \Omega_n} \|w\|_{1, \Omega_n},$$

$$(3.5) \quad \beta \|v\|_{1, \Omega_n}^2 \leq a_n^I(v, v),$$

where the constants C, M, β are independent of n and of the functions v, w .

Let $\tilde{v} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$ be the Calderon extension of the function $v \in V$. Then by [9, 10] there exists a sequence $\{v_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ of functions $v_n \in V_n$ with the properties

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v_n - \tilde{v}\|_{1, \Omega_n} = 0, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v_{nM} - \tilde{v}\|_{1, M_n} = 0.$$

Now we can formulate the discrete form of Problem 2.1:

Problem 3.2. Let n be a given integer and let

$$t_i = i\Delta t_n \quad (i = 1, \dots, r_n).$$

Find $U_n^i \in V_n (i = 1, \dots, r_n)$ such that

$$(3.6) \quad (\delta_n^2 U_n^i, v)_{H_n} + (\delta_n U_n^i, v)_{P_n} + a_n^I(U_n^i, v) = (f(t_i), v)_n^I \quad \forall v \in V_n,$$

where $\delta_n U_n^i = (U_n^i - U_n^{i-1})/\Delta t_n$, $\delta_n^2 U_n^i = (\delta_n U_n^i - \delta_n U_n^{i-1})/\Delta t_n$ with $U_{nH}^{-1} := U_{nH}^0 - \Delta t_n Z_{nH}^0$; here $\{U_n^0\}_{n=1}^\infty$ is a sequence of functions $U_n^0 \in V_n$ with the property

$$(3.7) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|U_n^0 - \tilde{u}^0\|_{1, \Omega_n} = 0,$$

where \tilde{u}^0 denotes the Calderon extension of the function $u^0 \in V$, and $\{Z_{nH}^0\}_{n=1}^\infty$ is a sequence of functions $Z_{nH}^0 \in V_{nH}$ with the property

$$(3.8) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|Z_{nH}^0 - \tilde{z}_H^0\|_{0, H_n} = 0,$$

where $\tilde{z}_H^0 \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^2)$ is the extension of the function z_H^0 by zero.

Relations (3.4) and (3.5) imply:

Theorem 3.3. The solution U_n^i of Problem 3.2 exists and is unique.

4. A PRIORI ESTIMATE

First we shall define the set

$$V_a = \bigcup_{f \in L_2(\Omega)} \{u \in V : a(u, v) = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in V\}.$$

By [4] we have

Lemma 4.1. *The set V_a is dense in the space V .*

Lemma 4.2. *There exist sequences $\{^m S_H^0\}$, $\{^m Z_H^0\}$, $\{^m Z_P^0\}$, $\{^m U^0\}$, $\{^m f^M\}$ such that $^m S_H^0 \in C_0^\infty(\Omega_H)$, $^m Z_H^0 \in C_0^\infty(\Omega_H)$, $^m Z_P^0 \in C_0^\infty(\Omega_P)$, $^m U^0 \in V$ and $^m f^M$, $^m \dot{f}^M$, $^m \dot{f}^M \in L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\bar{\Omega}_M))$ ($M = H, P$) with the properties*

$$(4.1) \quad ({}^m S_H^0, v)_H + ({}^m Z_P^0, v)_P + a({}^m U^0, v) = ({}^m f(0), v) \quad \forall v \in V,$$

$$(4.2) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m Z_H^0 - z_H^0\|_{0,H} = 0,$$

$$(4.3) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m U^0 - u^0\|_1 = 0,$$

$$(4.4) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m f^M - f^M\|_{C(\bar{I}, W_\infty^1(\bar{\Omega}_M))} = 0,$$

$$(4.5) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m \dot{f}^M - \dot{f}^M\|_{L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\bar{\Omega}_M))} = 0,$$

where u^0 , z_H^0 , f^M are the data of Problem 2.1.

Proof. By regularization [4] we can construct sequences $\{^m f^M\}$ ($M = H, P$) with the properties (4.4) and (4.5).

Lemma 4.1 implies the existence of sequences

$${}^m s_H^0 \in L_2(\Omega_H), \quad {}^m z_P^0 \in L_2(\Omega_P)$$

such that the solutions ${}^m u^0 \in V$ of the elliptic problems

$$(4.6) \quad a({}^m u^0, v) = ({}^m f(0), v) - ({}^m s_H^0, v)_H - ({}^m z_P^0, v)_P \quad \forall v \in V$$

fulfil

$$(4.7) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m u^0 - u^0\|_1 = 0.$$

The density of $C_0^\infty(\Omega_M)$ in $L_2(\Omega_M)$ ($M = H, P$) implies the existence of sequences

$$(4.8) \quad {}^m S_H^0 \in C_0^\infty(\Omega_H), \quad {}^m Z_H^0 \in C_0^\infty(\Omega_H), \quad {}^m Z_P^0 \in C_0^\infty(\Omega_P) f$$

with the following properties:

$$(4.9) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m S_H^0 - {}^m s_H^0\|_{0,H} = 0,$$

$$(4.10) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m Z_H^0 - z_H^0\|_{0,H} = 0,$$

$$(4.11) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m Z_P^0 - {}^m z_P^0\|_{0,P} = 0.$$

Let ${}^m \mathcal{U}^0 \in V$ be the solution of the problem (4.1). From (4.1) and (4.6) it follows that

$$\|{}^m \mathcal{U}^0 - {}^m u^0\| \leq C(\|{}^m S_H^0 - {}^m s_H^0\|_{0,H} + \|{}^m Z_P^0 - {}^m z_P^0\|_{0,P}).$$

Thus, by (4.7), (4.9), (4.11),

$$(4.12) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m \mathcal{U}^0 - u^0\|_1 = 0.$$

The results now follow from (4.8)–(4.12). □

Now, to obtain an a priori estimate in Lemma 4.5, we shall formulate the following auxiliary discrete problem using better input data than in Problem 2.1:

Problem 4.3. Find ${}^m \mathcal{U}_n^i \in V_n$ ($i = 1, \dots, r_n$) such that

$$(4.13) \quad (\delta_n^2 {}^m \mathcal{U}_n^i, v)_{H_n} + (\delta_n {}^m \mathcal{U}_n^i, v)_{P_n} + a_n^I({}^m \mathcal{U}_n^i, v) = ({}^m f(t_i), v)_n^I \quad \forall v \in V_n,$$

where ${}^m \mathcal{U}_n^0 \in V_n$ is the solution of the discrete problem

$$(4.14) \quad \alpha({}^m \mathcal{U}_n^0, v) = ({}^m f(0), v)_n^I - (I_n^H {}^m S_H^0, v)_{H_n} - (I_n^P {}^m Z_P^0, v)_{P_n} \quad \forall v \in V_n$$

and

$$(4.15) \quad {}^m Z_{nH}^0 = I_n^H Z_H^0.$$

Here $I_n^M w$ denotes the interpolate of a function $w \in C(\overline{\Omega}_{nM})$.

In the same way as Theorem 3.3 we obtain:

Lemma 4.4. The solution ${}^m \mathcal{U}_n^i$ of Problem 4.3 exists and is unique.

We set

$${}^m Z_n^i = \delta_n {}^m \mathcal{U}_n^i, \quad {}^m S_n^i = \delta_n^2 {}^m \mathcal{U}_n^i,$$

the symbol Δ^n denotes the backward difference of n -th order with respect to i .

Lemma 4.5. For the solutions ${}^mU_n^i$ of Problem 4.3 we have

$$\|{}^mS_{nH}^i\|_{0,H_n} \leq C \sum_{i=1}^{r_n} \|{}^mS_{nP}^i\|_{0,P_n} \Delta t_n \leq C, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{r_n} \|{}^mZ_n^i\|_{1,\Omega_n}^2 \leq C,$$

where the constant C is independent of m and n .

Proof. We can treat the equality (4.1) as a special case of equalities (3.6) for $i = 0$. Subtracting (3.6) for i and $i - 1$ and setting $v = {}^mS_n^i$, we obtain

$$(4.16) \quad (\Delta {}^mS_n^i, {}^mS_n^i)_{H_n} + \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} ({}^mZ_n^i, {}^mZ_n^i) + a_n^I ({}^mZ_n^i, \Delta {}^mZ_n^i) = \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} ({}^mf(t_i), {}^mZ_n^i)_n.$$

We have

$$(4.17) \quad (\Delta {}^mS_n^i, {}^mS_n^i)_{H_n} = \frac{1}{2} \|S_{nH}^i\|_{0,H_n}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \|S_{nH}^{i-1}\|_{0,H_n}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\Delta S_{nH}^i\|_{0,H_n}^2.$$

Using the symmetry $a_n^I(v, w) = a_n^I(w, v)$, we similarly obtain

$$a_n^I ({}^mZ_n^i, \Delta {}^mZ_n^i) = \frac{1}{2} a_n^I ({}^mZ_n^i, {}^mZ_n^i) - \frac{1}{2} a_n^I ({}^mZ_n^{i-1}, {}^mZ_n^{i-1}) + \frac{1}{2} a_n^I (\Delta {}^mZ_n^i, \Delta {}^mZ_n^i).$$

After summing (4.16) from $i = 1$ to $i = j$ and using (3.7), (3.8), (4.16), (4.17), (3.3), (3.4), we find

$$(4.18) \quad \begin{aligned} & \|{}^mS_n^j\|_{0,H_n}^2 + \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} \sum_{i=1}^j \|{}^mZ_n^i\|_{0,P_n}^2 + \|{}^mZ_n^j\|_{1,\Omega_n} + \sum_{i=1}^j \|\Delta {}^mZ_n^i\|_{1,\Omega_n}^2 \\ & \leq C_0 \left(1 + \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} \sum_{i=1}^j (\Delta {}^mf(t_i), \Delta {}^mZ_n^i)_n \right). \end{aligned}$$

Using summation by parts we obtain

$$(4.19) \quad \begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^j (\Delta {}^mf(t_i), \Delta {}^mZ_n^i)_n \\ & = (\Delta {}^mf(t_j), {}^mZ_n^j)_n - \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (\Delta^2 {}^mf(t_{i+1}), {}^mZ_n^i)_n - (\Delta {}^mf(t_1), {}^mZ_n^0)_n. \end{aligned}$$

From (3.3) and from the mean value theorem we can estimate

$$(4.20) \quad \begin{aligned} & C_0 |(\Delta {}^mf^M(t_1), {}^mZ_n^0)_{M_n}^I| \\ & \leq C_0 |(\Delta {}^mf^M(t_1), {}^mZ_n^0)_{M_n}| + C_0 |(\Delta {}^mf^M(t_1), {}^mZ_n^0)_{M_n}^I - (\Delta {}^mf^M(t_1), {}^mZ_n^0)_{M_n}| \\ & \leq C \|\Delta {}^mf^M(t_1)\|_{1,\infty,\bar{\Omega}_M} \|{}^mZ_n^0\|_{1,M_n} + Ch_n \|\Delta {}^mf^M(t_1)\|_{1,\infty,\bar{\Omega}_M} \|{}^mZ_n^0\|_{1,M_n} \\ & \leq C \Delta t_n \|{}^mf^M\|_{C(\bar{I}, W_\infty^1(\bar{\Omega}_M))} \|{}^mZ_n^0\|_{1,M_n} \leq C \Delta t_n. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly we obtain

$$C_0 |(\Delta^m f^M(t_j), mZ_n^j)_{M_n}^I| \leq C \Delta t_n \|m\dot{f}^M\|_{C(\bar{I}, W_\infty^1(\bar{\Omega}_M))} \|mZ_n^0\|_{j, M_n}$$

and using an elementary inequality

$$(4.21) \quad |ab| \leq \varepsilon a^2/2 + b^2/(2\varepsilon) \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R} \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0,$$

we find

$$(4.22) \quad C_0 |(\Delta^m f^M(t_j), mZ_n^j)_{M_n}^I| \leq \Delta t_n \left\| \left(C + \frac{1}{2} \|mZ_n^j\| \right) \right\|_{1, M_n}^2.$$

Further, we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_0 \|\Delta^2 m f^M(t_{i+1})\|_{1, \infty, \bar{\Omega}_M} &\leq C \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \int_{s-\Delta t_n}^s \|m\dot{f}^M(\sigma)\|_{1, \infty, \bar{\Omega}_M} d\sigma ds \\ &\leq C \Delta t_n \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \|m\dot{f}^M(\sigma)\|_{1, \infty, \bar{\Omega}_M} d\sigma \\ &\leq C \Delta t_n \left(2\Delta t_n \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \|m\dot{f}^M(\sigma)\|_{1, \infty, \bar{\Omega}_M}^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

From (4.22) and (4.21) we derive

$$\begin{aligned} (4.23) \quad &\frac{1}{\Delta t_n} C_0 \left| \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (\Delta^2 m f^M(t_{i+1}), mZ_n^i)_{M_n}^I \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} C \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \|\Delta^2 m f^M(t_{i+1})\|_{1, \infty, \bar{\Omega}_M} \|mZ_n^i\|_{1, M_n} \\ &\leq C \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \left(\Delta t_n \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \|m\dot{f}^M(\sigma)\|_{1, \infty, \bar{\Omega}_M}^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2} \|mZ_n^i\|_{1, M_n} \\ &\leq C \|m\dot{f}^M\|_{L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\bar{\Omega}_M))}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t_n \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \|mZ_n^i\|_{1, M_n}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting (4.20), (4.22), (4.23) into (4.18) and (4.19) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (4.24) \quad &\|mS_n^j\|_{0, H_n}^2 + \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} \sum_{i=1}^j \|mZ_n^i\|_{0, P_n}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|mZ_n^j\|_{1, \Omega_n}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^j \|\Delta^m Z_n^i\|_{1, \Omega_n} \\ &\leq C + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t_n \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \|mZ_n^i\|_{1, \Omega_n}^2. \end{aligned}$$

We obtain the assertion from (4.24) using the discrete form of Gronwall's inequality. \square

5. THE ASSOCIATED FUNCTION

The following lemma can be found in [9, 10]; it is a special case of results proved in [7].

Lemma 5.2. *There exists a linear operator $I_K^{\text{id}}: C(K^{\text{id}}) \rightarrow H^1(K^{\text{id}}) \cap C(K^{\text{id}})$ such that every function $w \in C(K^{\text{id}})$ satisfies*

a) $I_K^{\text{id}}w$ is uniquely determined by the relations

$$(I_K^{\text{id}}w)(B_i^K) = w(B_i^K) \quad (i = 1, 2, 3),$$

where B_i^K are the vertices of both K and K^{id} ;

b) the function $I_K^{\text{id}}w$ is linear along both straight sides $B_1^K B_2^K$, $B_2^K B_3^K$ of the curved triangle K^{id} ;

c) if $w(B_i^K) = 0$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$), where $B_1^K, B_3^K \in \Gamma$, then $I_K^{\text{id}}w = 0$ on the curved side of K^{id} ;

d) if $w \in H^2(K^{\text{id}})$ then

$$\|w - I_K^{\text{id}}w\|_{k, K^{\text{id}}} \leq Ch_K^{2-k} \|w\|_{2, K^{\text{id}}} \quad (k = 0, 1),$$

where the constant C does not depend on h_K and w .

Definition 5.2. Let $w \in X_n$. The function $\bar{w}: \bar{\Omega}_n \cup \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called the natural extension of w if

$$\bar{w} = w \quad \text{on } \Omega_n, \quad \bar{w}|_{K^{\text{id}}-K} = p|_{K^{\text{id}}-K} \quad \text{if } \text{mes}(K^{\text{id}} - K) > 0,$$

where p is the linear polynomial satisfying $p|_K = w|_K$.

Definition 5.3. Let $w \in C(\bar{\Omega})$. The function $I_n^{\text{id}}w \in H^1(\Omega) \cap C(\bar{\Omega})$ is called the ideal interpolant of w if

$$\begin{aligned} (I_n^{\text{id}}w)|_{K^{\text{id}}} &= I_K^{\text{id}}w & \forall K^{\text{id}} \in \mathcal{T}_{n,M}^{\text{id}} - \mathcal{T}_{n,M}, \\ (I_n^{\text{id}}w)|_{K^{\text{id}}} &= p_K|_K & \forall K^{\text{id}} \in \mathcal{T}_{n,M}^{\text{id}} \cap \mathcal{T}_{n,M}, \end{aligned}$$

where p_K is the linear polynomial satisfying $p_K(P_i^K) = w(P_i^K)$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $M = H, P$.

If $w \in X_n$ then the function

$$\hat{w} := I_n^{\text{id}}\bar{w} \in H^1(\Omega) \cap C(\bar{\Omega})$$

is called the function associated with w .

Let us set

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_n &= \Omega_n - \bar{\Omega}, & \omega_n &= \Omega - \bar{\Omega}_n, \\ \tau_{nM} &= M_n - \bar{\Omega}_M, & \omega_{nM} &= \Omega_M - \bar{M}_n. \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\text{mes}(\varepsilon_n) \leq Ch_n^2, \quad \text{mes}(\varepsilon_{nM}) \leq Ch_n^2 \quad (\varepsilon = \tau, \omega).$$

By [9, relations (3.12), (3.17), (3.25), (3.42)], we have for $k=0,1$ that

$$(5.1) \quad \|\hat{w}_M\|_{k,M} \leq C\|w_M\|_{k,M_n}, \quad \|\hat{w}\|_k \leq C\|w\|_{k,\Omega_n},$$

$$(5.2) \quad \|\bar{w}_M\|_{k,\varepsilon_{nM}} \leq Ch_n^{1/2}\|w_M\|_{k,M_n}, \quad \|\bar{w}\|_{k,\varepsilon_n} \leq Ch_n^{1/2}\|w\|_{k,\Omega_n},$$

$$(5.3) \quad \|\hat{w}_M - \bar{w}_M\|_{k,M} \leq Ch_n\|w_M\|_{k,M_n}, \quad \|\hat{w} - \bar{w}\|_{k,\Omega} \leq Ch_n\|w\|_{k,\Omega_n}$$

for all $w \in X_n$, where $\varepsilon = \tau, \omega$ and $M = H, P$.

Relations (5.1) and Lemma 4.5 give us the desired form of a priori estimates:

Lemma 5.4. *Let the assumptions of Problem 4.3 be satisfied. Then we have*

$$(5.4) \quad \|\hat{m}S_{nH}^i\|_{0,H} \leq C,$$

$$(5.5) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{r_n} \|\hat{m}S_{nP}^i\|_{0,P} \Delta t_n \leq C, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{r_n} \|\hat{m}Z_n^i\|_1^2 \leq C,$$

where the constant C is independent of m and n .

6. THE $C(\bar{I}, V)$ CONVERGENCE

We start with some definitions of the finite element Rothe's functions

$$\left. \begin{aligned} m\hat{U}_n(t) &= m\hat{U}_n^{i-1} + \delta_n m\hat{U}_n^i(t - t_{i-1}) \\ m\hat{Z}_{nP}(t) &= m\hat{Z}_{nP}^{i-1} + \delta_n m\hat{Z}_{nP}^i(t - t_{i-1}) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad t \in [t_{i-1}, t_i] \quad (i = 1, \dots, r_n)$$

and the step functions

$$\left. \begin{aligned} m\hat{u}_n(0) &= m\hat{U}_n^0 & m\hat{u}_n(t) &= m\hat{U}_n^i \\ m\bar{u}_n(0) &= m\bar{U}_n^0 & m\bar{u}_n(t) &= m\bar{U}_n^i \\ m\hat{z}_n(0) &= m\hat{Z}_n^0 & m\hat{z}_n(t) &= m\hat{Z}_n^i \\ m\bar{z}_n(0) &= m\bar{Z}_n^0 & m\bar{z}_n(t) &= m\bar{Z}_n^i \\ m\hat{s}_n(0) &= m\hat{S}_n^0 & m\hat{s}_n(t) &= m\hat{S}_n^i \\ m\bar{s}_n(0) &= m\bar{S}_n^0 & m\bar{s}_n(t) &= m\bar{S}_n^i \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad t \in [t_{i-1}, t_i] \quad (i = 1, \dots, r_n),$$

where bars and hats are the symbols for natural extension and associated function introduced in Section 5. Finally, we put

$${}^m f_n^M(t) = {}^m f_n^M(t_i) \quad t \in (t_{i-1}, t_i] \quad (i = 1, \dots, r_n), \quad {}^m f_n^M(0) = {}^m f_n^M(t_1).$$

Using standard arguments, we conclude from Lemma 5.4:

Lemma 6.1. *Let the assumptions of Problem 4.3 be fulfilled. Then there exists a function ${}^m u \in C(\bar{I}, V)$ such that*

$$(6.1) \quad \begin{aligned} {}^m \dot{u} \in L_2(I, V), \quad {}^m \dot{u}_H \in C(\bar{I}, L_2(\Omega_H)), \quad {}^m \ddot{u}_H \in L_2(I, L_2(\Omega_H)), \\ {}^m u(0) = {}^m u^0, \quad {}^m \dot{u}_H(0) = {}^m z_H^0 \end{aligned}$$

and a subsequence $\{U_{n_k}\}$ of the sequence $\{U_n\}$ which we shall further denote briefly by $\{U_k\}$ with the properties

$$(6.2) \quad {}^m \hat{U}_k \rightarrow {}^m u \quad \text{in } C(\bar{I}, L_2(\Omega)),$$

$$(6.3) \quad {}^m \hat{U}_k \rightharpoonup {}^m u, \quad {}^m \hat{u}_k \rightharpoonup {}^m u \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(I, V),$$

$$(6.4) \quad {}^m z_k \rightharpoonup {}^m \dot{u} \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(I, V),$$

$$(6.5) \quad {}^m \hat{Z}_{kH} \rightarrow {}^m \dot{u}_H \quad \text{in } C(\bar{I}, L_2(\Omega_H)),$$

$$(6.5) \quad {}^m \hat{Z}_{kH} \rightharpoonup {}^m \dot{u}_H \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(I, V_H),$$

$$(6.6) \quad {}^m \hat{s}_{kH} \rightharpoonup {}^m \dot{u}_H \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(I, L_2(\Omega_H)).$$

Lemma 6.2. *The function ${}^m u$ from Lemma 6.1 is the unique function satisfying*

$$(6.7) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_0^T \{({}^m \ddot{u}(\tau), v(\tau))_H + ({}^m \ddot{u}(\tau), v(\tau))_P + a({}^m u(\tau), v(\tau))\} d\tau \\ = \int_0^T ({}^m f(\tau), v(\tau)) d\tau \quad \forall v \in L_2(I, V). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. A) Let $v \in L_2(I, V)$ be any function. The symbol $\tilde{v} \in L_2(I, H^1(\mathbf{R}^2))$ denotes the Calderon extension of the function v (see [9, Lemma 3.9]), that is

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{v}\|_{L_2(I, H^1(\mathbf{R}^2))} &\leq C \|v\|_{L_2(I, V)}, \\ \tilde{v}|_{\Omega} &= v. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly as in [10, 31.4 Theorem] we can construct a sequence $\{v_n\}$ of functions $v_n \in L_2(I, V_n)$ with the property

$$(6.8) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\tilde{v} - v_n\|_{L_2(I, H^1(\Omega_n))} = 0.$$

B) First we rewrite the equation (4.13) to the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 (6.9) \quad & ({}^m\hat{s}_k(t), \hat{v}_k(t))_H + ({}^m\hat{z}_k(t), \hat{v}_k(t))_P + a({}^m\hat{u}_k(t), \hat{v}_k(t)) \\
 & + \sum_{l=1}^3 {}^mA_k^l(t) + \sum_{l=1}^3 {}^mB_k^l(t) + \sum_{l=1}^4 {}^mC_k^l(t) \\
 & = ({}^mf_k(t), {}^m\hat{v}_k(t)) + \sum_{l=1}^3 {}^mD_k^l(t) \quad \forall t \in I,
 \end{aligned}$$

where the forms ${}^mA_k^l$, ${}^mB_k^l$, ${}^mC_k^l$, ${}^mD_k^l$ are defined as follows:

$$(6.10) \quad {}^mA_k^1(t) = ({}^m\hat{s}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_H - ({}^m\hat{s}_k(t), \hat{v}_k(t))_H,$$

$$(6.11) \quad {}^mA_k^2(t) = ({}^m\bar{s}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_H - ({}^m\hat{s}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_H,$$

$${}^mA_k^3(t) = ({}^m\bar{s}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_{\tau_{kH}} - ({}^m\bar{s}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_{\omega_{kH}},$$

$$(6.12) \quad {}^mB_k^1(t) = ({}^m\hat{z}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_H - ({}^m\hat{z}_k(t), \hat{v}_k(t))_H,$$

$${}^mB_k^2(t) = ({}^m\bar{z}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_H - ({}^m\hat{z}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_H,$$

$${}^mB_k^3(t) = ({}^m\bar{z}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_{\tau_{kH}} - ({}^m\bar{z}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t))_{\omega_{kH}},$$

$${}^mC_{kM}^1(t) = a_M({}^m\hat{u}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t)) - a_M({}^m\hat{u}_k(t), \hat{v}_k(t)),$$

$${}^mC_{kM}^2(t) = a_M({}^m\bar{u}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t)) - a_M({}^m\hat{u}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t)),$$

$${}^mC_{kM}^3(t) = a_{\tau_{kM}}({}^m\bar{u}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t)) - a_{\omega_{kM}}({}^m\bar{u}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t)),$$

$${}^mC_{kM}^4(t) = a_{M_n}^I(\bar{u}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t)) - a_{M_n}(\bar{u}_k(t), \bar{v}_k(t)),$$

$${}^mC_k^l(t) = \sum_{M=H,P} C_{kM}^l, \quad l = 1, 2, 3, 4,$$

$${}^mD_{kM}^1(t) = ({}^mf_k^M(t), \bar{v}_{kM}(t)) - ({}^mf_k^M(t), \hat{v}_{kM}(t)),$$

$${}^mD_{kM}^2(t) = ({}^mf_k^M(t), \bar{v}_{kM}(t))_{\tau_{kM}} - ({}^mf_k^M(t), \bar{v}_{kM}(t))_{\omega_{kM}},$$

$${}^mD_{kM}^3(t) = ({}^mf_k^M(t), v_{kM}(t))_{M_k}^I - ({}^mf_k^M(t), v_{kM}(t))_{M_k},$$

$${}^mD_k^l(t) = \sum_{M=H,P} D_{kM}^l, \quad l = 1, 2, 3.$$

C) Now, we shall prove the relations

$$(6.13) \quad \text{a) } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T {}^mA_k^l(t) dt = 0, \quad l = 1, 2, 3,$$

$$(6.14) \quad \text{b) } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T {}^mB_k^l(t) dt = 0, \quad l = 1, 2, 3,$$

$$(6.15) \quad c) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T {}^m C_k^l(t) dt = 0, \quad l = 1, 2, 3, 4,$$

$$(6.16) \quad d) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T {}^m D_k^l(t) dt = 0, \quad l = 1, 2, 3.$$

a) From (5.4), (6.8), (5.1)–(5.3) we estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_0^T {}^m A_k^1(t) dt \right| &\leq \int_0^T \| {}^m \hat{s}_k(t) \|_{0,H} \| {}^m \bar{v}_k(t) - \hat{v}_k(t) \|_{0,H} dt \\ &\leq C \int_0^T \| \bar{v}_k(t) - \hat{v}_k(t) \|_{0,H} dt \leq Ch_k \int_0^T \| v_k \|_{0,H_k} dt \leq Ch_k, \\ \left| \int_0^T {}^m A_k^2(t) dt \right| &\leq \int_0^T \| {}^m \bar{v}_k(t) - {}^m \hat{v}_k(t) \|_{0,H} \| \bar{v}_k(t) \|_{0,H} dt \\ &\leq Ch_k \int_0^T \| {}^m \bar{s}_k(t) \|_{0,H_k} dt \leq Ch_k, \\ \left| \int_0^T {}^m A_k^3(t) dt \right| &\leq \sum_{\varepsilon=\tau,\omega} \int_0^T \| \bar{s}_k(t) \|_{0,\varepsilon_k H} \| \bar{v}_k(t) \|_{0,\varepsilon_k H} dt \\ &\leq Ch_k \sum_{\varepsilon=\tau,\omega} \int_0^T \| \bar{s}_k(t) \|_{H_k} \| v_k(t) \|_{0,H_k} dt \leq Ch_k. \end{aligned}$$

b) We can prove the relation (6.14) analogously.

c) Similarly we obtain

$$(6.17) \quad \left| \int_0^T {}^m C_{kM}^1(t) dt \right| \leq C \int_0^T \| \bar{v}_k(t) - \hat{v}_k(t) \|_{1,M} dt \leq Ch_k,$$

$$(6.18) \quad \left| \int_0^T {}^m C_{kM}^2(t) dt \right| \leq C \int_0^T \| \bar{u}_k(t) - \hat{u}_k(t) \|_{1,M} dt \leq Ch_k,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_0^T {}^m C_{kM}^3(t) dt \right| &\leq \sum_{\varepsilon=\tau,\omega} \int_0^T \| \bar{u}_k(t) \|_{1,\varepsilon_k M} \| \bar{v}_k(t) \|_{1,\varepsilon_k M} dt \\ (6.19) \quad &\leq Ch_k \sum_{\varepsilon=\tau,\omega} \int_0^T \| \bar{u}_k(t) \|_{1,M_k} \| v_k(t) \|_{1,\varepsilon_k M_k} dt \leq Ch_k \end{aligned}$$

and from (3.2) we have

$$(6.20) \quad \left| \int_0^T {}^m C_{kM}^4(t) dt \right| \leq Ch_k \int_0^T \| {}^m \bar{u}_k(t) \|_{1,M_k} \| v_k(t) \|_{1,M_k} dt \leq Ch_k.$$

The relations (6.17)–(6.20) prove (6.15).

d) It can be proved analogously.

D) Integrating the relation (6.9) from 0 to T , passing to the limit for $k \rightarrow \infty$ and using (6.2)–(6.6), (6.13)–(6.16) and the inequality

$$(6.21) \quad \|f_n^M - f^M\|_{L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\hat{\Omega}_M))} \leq \Delta t_n \|f^{m\dot{u}}\|_{L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\hat{\Omega}_M))}$$

we obtain (6.7).

E) Let ${}^m u_1, {}^m u_2$ be two functions satisfying (6.1), (6.7), then for the difference ${}^m u := {}^m u_1 - {}^m u_2$ we obtain, substituting $v = \chi \dot{u} \in L_2(I, V)$ in (6.7), where χ is the characteristic function of the interval $(0, t)$, the equation

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^t \{({}^m \ddot{u}(\tau), {}^m \dot{u}(\tau))_H + ({}^m \dot{u}(\tau), {}^m \dot{u}(\tau))_P + a({}^m u(\tau), {}^m u(\tau))\} d\tau \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \|{}^m \dot{u}(t)\|_{0,H}^2 + \int_0^t \|{}^m \dot{u}(\tau)\|_{0,P}^2 d\tau + \frac{1}{2} a({}^m u(t), {}^m u(t)) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

This relation and the V-ellipticity of the form $a(.,.)$ imply

$${}^m u(t) = 0 \quad \forall t \in \bar{I}.$$

□

Lemma 6.3. *Let the assumptions of Problem 4.3 be fulfilled. Then the sequence of finite element Rothe's functions $\{{}^m \hat{U}_n(t)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ fulfils*

$$(6.22) \quad {}^m \hat{U}_n \rightarrow {}^m u \quad \text{in } C(\bar{I}, V).$$

Proof. A) From the uniqueness in Lemma 6.2 we easily find the equality $\{n_k\} = \{n\}$ in Lemma 6.1. Integrating (6.9) from 0 to t with $k = n$, we find

$$(6.23) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_0^t \{({}^m \hat{s}_n(\tau), \hat{v}_n(\tau))_H + ({}^m \hat{z}_n(\tau), \hat{v}_n(\tau))_P + a({}^m \hat{u}_n(\tau), \hat{v}_n(\tau))\} d\tau \\ & = \int_0^t ({}^m f_n(\tau), \hat{v}_n(\tau)) d\tau + \int_0^t {}^m E_n(\tau) d\tau \quad \forall v_n \in L_2(I, V_n), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$(6.24) \quad {}^m E_n(t) = \sum_{l=1}^3 {}^m D_n^l(t) - \sum_{l=1}^3 {}^m A_n^l(t) - \sum_{l=1}^3 {}^m B_n^l(t) - \sum_{l=1}^4 {}^m C_n^l(t).$$

There exists a sequence $\{{}^m w_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$, ${}^m w_n \in L_2(I, V_n)$ such that

$$(6.25) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|{}^m w_n - {}^m \tilde{w}\|_{L_2(I, H^1(\Omega_n))} = 0,$$

where ${}^m w = {}^m \dot{u}$ and ${}^m \tilde{w}$ denotes its Calderon extension.

Let us put

$${}^m v_n := {}^m z_n - {}^m w_n \in L_2(I, V_n).$$

Setting $v_n = {}^m v_n$ in (6.23) we obtain

$$(6.26) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T |{}^m E_n(t)| dt = 0,$$

since the sequence $\{\|{}^m v_n\|_{L_2(I, V_n)}\}_{n=1}^\infty$ is bounded.

B) From (6.23) with $v_n = {}^m v_n$ let us subtract the equation

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^t \{({}^m \ddot{u}(\tau), {}^m \hat{v}_n(\tau))_H + ({}^m \dot{u}(\tau), {}^m \hat{v}_n(\tau))_P + a({}^m u(\tau), {}^m \hat{v}_n(\tau))\} d\tau \\ & = \int_0^t ({}^m f(\tau), {}^m \hat{v}_n(\tau)) d\tau, \end{aligned}$$

which we obtain from (6.7) by substituting $v = \chi {}^m \hat{v}_n$. After elementary transformations we find

$$(6.27) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_0^t \left(\frac{d}{ds} ({}^m \hat{Z}_n(s) - {}^m \dot{u}(s)), {}^m \hat{Z}_n(s) - {}^m \dot{u}(s) \right)_H ds \\ & + \int_0^t ({}^m \hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m \dot{u}(s), {}^m \hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m \dot{u}(s))_P ds \\ & + \int_0^t a \left({}^m \hat{U}_n(s) - {}^m u(s), \frac{d}{ds} ({}^m \hat{U}_n(s) - {}^m u(s)) \right) ds \\ & = \int_0^t {}^m E_n(s) ds - \int_0^t \left(\frac{d}{ds} ({}^m \hat{Z}_n(s) - {}^m \dot{u}(s)), {}^m \dot{u}(s) - {}^m \hat{w}_n(s) \right)_H ds \\ & - \int_0^t \left(\frac{d}{ds} ({}^m \hat{Z}_n(s) - {}^m \dot{u}(s)), {}^m \hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m \hat{Z}_n(s) \right)_H ds \\ & - \int_0^t ({}^m \hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m \dot{u}(s), {}^m \dot{u}(s) - {}^m \hat{w}_n(s))_P ds \\ & - \int_0^t a ({}^m \hat{u}_n(s) - {}^m \hat{U}_n(s), {}^m \hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m \dot{u}(s)) ds \\ & - \int_0^t a ({}^m \hat{u}_n(s) - {}^m u(s), {}^m \dot{u}(s) - {}^m \hat{w}_n(s)) ds \\ & + \int_0^t ({}^m f_n(s) - {}^m f(s), {}^m \hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m \hat{w}_n(s)) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Now we estimate the terms on the right-hand side. By (6.6) and (5.4) we have

$$(6.28) \quad \int_0^t \left| \left(\frac{d}{ds} ({}^m\hat{Z}_n(s) - {}^m\hat{u}(s)), {}^m\hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m\hat{Z}_n(s) \right)_H \right| ds \\ \leq \|{}^m\hat{s}_n - {}^m\hat{u}\|_{L_2(I, L_2(\Omega_H))} \|{}^m\hat{z}_n - {}^m\hat{Z}_n\|_{L_2(I, L_2(\Omega_H))} \leq C\Delta t_n^{1/2}$$

and analogously

$$(6.29) \quad \int_0^t \left| \left(\frac{d}{ds} ({}^m\hat{Z}_n(s) - {}^m\hat{u}(s)), {}^m\hat{u}(s) - {}^m\hat{w}_n(s) \right)_H \right| ds \leq C\|{}^m\hat{u} - {}^m\hat{w}_n\|_{L_2(I, L_2(\Omega_H))}.$$

By (6.4),

$$(6.30) \quad \int_0^t |({}^m\hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m\hat{u}(s), {}^m\hat{u}(s) - {}^m w_n(s))_P| ds \leq C\|{}^m\hat{u} - {}^m w_n(s)\|_{L_2(I, L_2(\Omega_P))}.$$

From (6.4), (5.5) it follows that

$$(6.31) \quad \int_0^t |a({}^m\hat{u}_n(s) - {}^m\hat{U}_n(s), {}^m z_n(s) - {}^m\hat{u}(s))| ds \leq C\Delta t_n^{1/2}$$

and by (6.3) we have

$$(6.32) \quad \int_0^t |a({}^m\hat{U}_n(s) - {}^m\hat{u}(s), {}^m\hat{u}(s) - {}^m w_n(s))| ds \leq C\|{}^m\hat{u} - {}^m\hat{w}_n\|.$$

Finally, by (6.21) we have

$$\int_0^t |({}^m f_n^M(s) - {}^m f^M(s), {}^m\hat{z}_n(s) - {}^m\hat{w}_n(s))_M| \\ \leq C\|{}^m f_n^M - {}^m f^M\|_{L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\hat{\Omega}_M))} \leq C\Delta t_n \quad (M = H, P).$$

C) Using the integration by parts on the left-hand side of (6.27), we obtain using (6.28)–(6.32)

$$(6.33) \quad \|{}^m\hat{Z}_n(t) - {}^m\hat{u}(t)\|_{0,H}^2 + \int_0^T \|{}^m\hat{z}_n(\tau) - {}^m\hat{u}(\tau)\|_{0,P}^2 d\tau + \|{}^m\hat{U}_n(t) - {}^m\hat{u}(t)\|_1^2 \\ \leq C \left\{ \|{}^m\hat{Z}_n^0 - {}^m\hat{z}^0\|_{0,P}^2 + \|{}^m\hat{U}_n^0 - {}^m\hat{u}^0\|_1^2 + \Delta t_n^{1/2} \right. \\ \left. + \int_0^T |{}^m E_n(\tau)| d\tau + \|{}^m\hat{u} - {}^m\hat{w}_n\|_{L_2(I, V)} \right\} \quad \forall t \in \bar{I}.$$

By (4.14), (4.11), (4.12), (4.9), (6.25), (6.26), the result follows, since all the terms on the right-hand side of (6.33) tend to zero. \square

Finally, we shall use the following standard inequality (see e.g. [4]):

Lemma 6.4. *For all natural numbers r, s and for all $t \in \bar{I}$ we have*

$$\begin{aligned}
 (6.34) \quad & \|{}^r\dot{u}(t) - {}^s\dot{u}(t)\|_{0,H}^2 + \int_0^T \|{}^r\dot{u}(\tau) - {}^s\dot{u}(\tau)\|_{0,P}^2 d\tau \\
 & + \|{}^r u(t) - {}^s u(t)\|_1^2 \\
 & \leq C \left\{ \|{}^r U^0 - {}^s U^0\|_1^2 + \|{}^r Z^0 - {}^s Z^0\|_{0,P}^2 \right. \\
 & \left. + \sum_{M=H,P} \|{}^r f^M - {}^s f^M\|_{L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\tilde{\Omega}_M))} \right\},
 \end{aligned}$$

where ${}^r u$ and ${}^s u$ are the functions from Lemmas 6.1–6.3 for $m = r$ and $m = s$.

In what follows we shall need the following definitions of Rothe's functions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{U}_n(t) &= \hat{U}_n^{i-1} + \delta_n \hat{U}_n^i(t - t_{i-1}) & t \in [t_{i-1}, t_i] \quad (i = 1, \dots, r_n), \\
 \hat{Z}_{nP}(t) &= \hat{Z}_{nP}^{i-1} + \delta_n \hat{Z}_{nP}^i(t - t_{i-1}) & t \in [t_{i-1}, t_i] \quad (i = 1, \dots, r_n),
 \end{aligned}$$

where U_n^i is the solution of Problem 3.2 and $Z_n^i := \delta_n U_n^i$.

Now, we can formulate the main result of this paper:

Theorem 6.5. *Let $u^0 \in V$ and $z_H^0 \in L_2(\Omega_H)$, $f^M, \dot{f}^M \in L_2(I, W_\infty^1(\tilde{\Omega}_M))$ ($M = H, P$). Then there exists a unique solution $u \in C(\bar{I}, V)$ of Problem 2.1 and it satisfies*

$$(6.35) \quad \hat{U}_n \rightarrow u \quad \text{in } C(\bar{I}, V),$$

$$(6.36) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}_n \rightharpoonup \dot{u} \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(I, L_2(\Omega)),$$

$$(6.37) \quad \hat{Z}_{nH} \rightarrow \dot{u}_H \quad \text{in } C(\bar{I}, L_2(\Omega_H)).$$

Proof. A) By (6.34) there exist functions $u \in C(\bar{I}, V)$ and $z \in L_2(I, L_2(\Omega))$ with its H-component $z_H := z|_{\Omega_H} \in C(\bar{I}, L_2(\Omega_H))$ such that

$$(6.38) \quad {}^m u \rightarrow u \quad \text{in } C(\bar{I}, V),$$

$$(6.39) \quad {}^m \dot{u} \rightarrow z \quad \text{in } L_2(I, L_2(\Omega)),$$

$$(6.40) \quad {}^m \dot{u}_H \rightarrow z_H \quad \text{in } C(\bar{I}, L_2(\Omega_H)).$$

We have

$$(6.41) \quad {}^m u(t) = {}^m u(0) + \int_0^t {}^m \dot{u}(\tau) d\tau \quad \forall t \in \bar{I}.$$

Passing to the limit in (6.41), we obtain

$$u(t) = u(0) + \int_0^t z(\tau) \, d\tau \quad \forall t \in \bar{I}.$$

Thus, we have

$$\dot{u}(t) = z(t) \quad \text{almost everywhere in } I.$$

From (6.7) we can derive similarly as in [9, Theorem 3.10] that

$$\|{}^m\ddot{u}_H\|_{L_2(I, V_H^*)} \leq C \quad \forall m.$$

By the reflexivity of $L_2(I, V_H^*)$ there exist a subsequence $\{{}^k\ddot{u}_H\}$ of $\{{}^m\ddot{u}_H\}$ and a function $g \in L_2(I, V_H^*)$ such that

$${}^k\ddot{u}_H \rightharpoonup g \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(I, V_H^*).$$

Let us write (6.7) only for the subsequence $\{k\}$ and let us pass to the limit for $k \rightarrow \infty$. Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \{ \langle g(\tau), v(\tau) \rangle_H + (\dot{u}(\tau), v(\tau))_P + a(u(\tau), v(\tau)) \} \, d\tau \\ & = \int_0^T (f(\tau), v(\tau)) \, d\tau \quad \forall v \in L_2(I, V). \end{aligned}$$

We can write

$$({}^k\dot{u}_H(t), v_H)_H - ({}^kz_H^0(t), v_H)_H = \int_0^t ({}^k\ddot{u}_H(\tau), v_H)_H \, d\tau \quad \forall v_H \in V_H \quad \forall t \in \bar{I}.$$

Passing to the limit for $k \rightarrow \infty$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \dot{u}_H(t), v_H \rangle_H - \langle z_H^0(t), v_H \rangle_H \\ & = \int_0^t \langle g(\tau), v_H \rangle_H \, d\tau \quad \forall v_H \in V_H \quad \forall t \in \bar{I}. \end{aligned}$$

This fact and the equality $\int_0^t \langle g(\tau), v_H \rangle_H \, d\tau = \langle \int_0^t g(\tau), v_H \rangle_H \, d\tau$ imply

$$(6.42) \quad \dot{u}_H(t) = z_H^0 + \int_0^t g(\tau) \, d\tau \quad \forall t \in \bar{I}.$$

Differentiating (6.42), we find

$$\ddot{u}_H(t) = g(t) \quad \text{a.e. in } I.$$

The existence of the solution of Problem 2.1 is proved.

B) Now we shall prove the uniqueness. Let u_1, u_2 be two solutions of Problem 2.1. Then $u := u_1 - u_2$ fulfils

$$(6.43) \int_0^T \{ \langle \ddot{u}(t), v(t) \rangle_H + (\dot{u}(t), v(t))_P + a(u(t), v(t)) \} dt = 0 \quad \forall v \in L_2(I, V),$$

$$u(0) = 0,$$

$$\dot{u}_H(0) = 0.$$

Let us choose $s \in \bar{I}$ arbitrarily and let us set

$$v_s(t) = \begin{cases} \int_s^t u(\tau) d\tau & 0 \leq t \leq s, \\ 0 & s \leq t \leq T. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$(6.44) \quad \int_0^T a(u(\tau), v_s(\tau)) d\tau = \int_0^s a(\dot{v}_s(\tau), v_s(\tau)) d\tau$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^s \frac{d}{d\tau} a(v_s(\tau), v_s(\tau)) d\tau = -\frac{1}{2} a(v_s(0), v_s(0)),$$

$$(6.45) \quad \int_0^T (\dot{u}_H(\tau), \dot{v}_{sH}(\tau))_H d\tau = \int_0^s (\dot{u}_H(\tau), u_H(\tau))_H d\tau$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^s \frac{d}{d\tau} (u_H(\tau), u_H(\tau))_H d\tau = \frac{1}{2} \|u_H(s)\|_{0,H}^2,$$

$$(6.46) \quad \int_0^T (\dot{u}_P(\tau), v_s(\tau))_P d\tau = [(u_P(\tau), v_{sP}(\tau))_P]_0^T - \int_0^T (u_P(\tau), \dot{v}_{sP}(\tau))_P d\tau$$

$$= - \int_0^T \|u_P(\tau)\|_{0,P}^2 d\tau.$$

Let us set $v = v_s$ in (6.43). Then according to (6.44)–(6.46), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2} a(v_s(0), v_s(0)) + \frac{1}{2} \|u_H(s)\|_{0,H}^2 + \int_0^T \|u_P(\tau)\|_{0,P}^2 d\tau = 0.$$

Since $s \in \bar{I}$ was chosen arbitrarily, we have

$$a(v_s(0), v_s(0)) = 0 \quad \forall s \in \bar{I}.$$

Thus

$$u(t) = 0 \quad \text{a.e. in } I.$$

C) We shall prove the relations (6.35)–(6.37). Let ${}^mU_n^i$ be the solution of Problem 4.3 and let U_n^i be the solution of Problem 3.2. Similarly as in Lemma 4.5 we obtain the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \|{}^mZ_n^j - Z_n^j\|_{0,H_n}^2 + \Delta t_n \sum_{i=1}^j \|{}^mZ_n^i - Z_n^i\|_{0,P_n}^2 + \|{}^mU_n^j - U_n^j\|_{1,\Omega_n}^2 \\ & \leq C \left\{ \|{}^mU_n^0 - U_n^0\|_{1,\Omega_n}^2 + \|{}^mZ_n^0 - Z_n^0\|_{0,H_n}^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{M=H,P} \left(\|{}^mf^M - f^M\|_{C(\bar{I},W_\infty^1(\hat{\Omega}_M))} + \|{}^mj^M - j^M\|_{L_2(I,W_\infty^1(\hat{\Omega}_M))} \right) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

By virtue of (5.1)

$$(6.47) \quad \begin{aligned} & \|{}^m\hat{Z}_{nH}(t) - \hat{Z}_{nH}(t)\|_{0,H} \leq \alpha_n + \beta_m, \\ & \int_0^T \|{}^mz_{nP}(t) - z_{nP}(t)\|_{0,P}^2 \leq \alpha_n + \beta_m, \\ & \|{}^m\hat{U}_n(t) - \hat{U}_n(t)\|_1 \leq \alpha_n + \beta_m, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_m = C \left\{ \|{}^mU^0 - u^0\|_1 + \|{}^mZ_H^0 - z_H^0\|_{0,H} \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{M=H,P} \left(\|{}^mf^M - f^M\|_{C(\bar{I},W_\infty^1(\hat{\Omega}_M))} + \|{}^mj^M - j^M\|_{L_2(I,W_\infty^1(\hat{\Omega}_M))} \right) \right\} \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_n = \alpha_n(m) = C \{ \|{}^mU_n^0 - {}^mU_C^0\|_{1,\Omega_n} + \|u_C^0 - U_n^0\|_{1,\Omega_n} \\ + \|{}^mZ_{nH}^0 - {}^m\tilde{Z}_{nH}^0\|_{0,H_n} + \|{}^mz_{nH}^0 - {}^mz_{nH}^0\|_{0,H_n} \} \quad \forall m, n \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we denote by ${}^mU_C^0$, u_C^0 the Calderon extensions of the functions ${}^mU^0$, $u^0 \in V$ and by ${}^m\tilde{Z}_H^0$, \tilde{z}_H^0 the extensions by zero of the functions ${}^mZ_H^0$, $z_H^0 \in L_2(\Omega_H)$. Now (4.2)–(4.5) yield

$$(6.48) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \beta_m = 0$$

and for every fixed m by (4.14), (4.15) we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = 0.$$

Passing to the limit in (6.34) and using (4.2)–(4.5), (6.38)–(6.40), we obtain

$$(6.49) \quad \begin{aligned} \|\hat{m} \dot{u}_H(t) - \dot{u}_H(t)\|_{0,H} &\leq \beta_m \quad \forall t \in \bar{I} \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}, \\ \int_0^T \|\hat{m} \dot{u}_P(t) - \dot{u}_P(t)\|_{0,P}^2 dt &\leq \beta_m \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}, \\ \|\hat{m} u(t) - u(t)\|_1 &\leq \beta_m \quad \forall t \in \bar{I} \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned}$$

Let us prove (6.35): Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be chosen arbitrarily. First we find, according to (6.49), such a natural number m_1 that

$$(6.50) \quad \|\hat{m} u(t) - u(t)\|_1 \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3} \quad \forall t \in \bar{I} \quad \forall m \geq m_1.$$

Further, let $m_0 \geq m_1$ and $n_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ be such numbers that by (6.48), (6.47) we have

$$(6.51) \quad \|\hat{m}_0 \hat{U}_n(t) - \hat{U}_n(t)\|_1 \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3} \quad \forall t \in \bar{I} \quad \forall n \geq n_1.$$

Finally, by (6.22) we can find $n_0 \geq n_1$ such that

$$(6.52) \quad \|\hat{m}_0 \hat{U}_n(t) - \hat{m}_0 u(t)\|_1 \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3} \quad \forall t \in \bar{I} \quad \forall n \geq n_0.$$

Thus according to (6.50)–(6.52) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{U}_n(t) - u(t)\|_1 &\leq \|\hat{U}_n(t) - \hat{m}_0 \hat{U}_n(t)\|_1 \\ &\quad + \|\hat{m}_0 \hat{U}_n(t) - \hat{m}_0 u(t)\|_1 + \|\hat{m}_0 u(t) - u(t)\|_1 \\ &\leq \varepsilon/3 + \varepsilon/3 + \varepsilon/3 = \varepsilon \quad \forall t \in \bar{I} \quad \forall n \geq n_0. \end{aligned}$$

The relations (6.36) and (6.37) can be proved analogously. \square

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