

On first order elliptic systems

Michaël NDJINGA, CEA Saclay

Sédric KAMENI NGWAMOU, Université de Yaoundé I

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We are interested in elliptic systems written in the form of first order PDE systems.

$$\sum_{k=1}^d A_k \partial_k U + KU = F \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \quad (1)$$

There are several definitions of elliptic systems [5, 4, ?, 3]. This is due to the fact that the simplest extensions of the scalar definition do not enjoy the property that an elliptic system remains elliptic under a change of variables.

The classical theory ([7, 9, 8, 10]) of Friedrichs' systems makes some assumptions such as $K > 0$ that enable the use of the Lax-Milgram theorem to derive existence results (see for instance theorem 5.4 in [1]). However, the assumption $K > 0$ is a serious obstacle to the analysis of linear symmetric hyperbolic systems in the stationary regime since these do not necessarily possess a friction operator K , especially they represent conservation laws. We also remark that in the case $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^d$, Fourier analysis has shows that the assumption $K > 0$ is not necessary but only sufficient for the existence and uniqueness of solutions. Furthermore we remark that the assumption $K > 0$ does not allow the analysis of the first order reduction of the Poisson problem where the kernel of K is not trivial. We therefore look for an alternative theory based on weaker assumptions. We use the more general Banach-Nečas-Babuška theorem to obtain the existence of a uniqueness of a solution in a setting that encompasses both Friedrichs' systems and the first order reduction of the Poisson problem. The techniques used to prove the classical inf-sup conditions inspired from harmonic analysis arguments that are consistent with the case $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^d$.

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Michaël NDJINGA, Université Paris-Saclay, CEA Saclay, DEN/DANS/DM2SSTMF/LMEC, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette

michael.ndjinga@cea.fr