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# The Singular Function Boundary Integral Method for singular Laplacian problems over circular sections 

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## A R T I C L E I N F O

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#### Abstract

The Singular Function Boundary Integral Method (SFBIM) for solving two-dimensional elliptic problems with boundary singularities is revisited. In this method the solution is approximated by the leading terms of the asymptotic expansion of the local solution, which are also used to weight the governing partial differential equation. The singular coefficients, i.e., the coefficients of the local asymptotic expansion, are thus primary unknowns. By means of the divergence theorem, the discretized equations are reduced to boundary integrals and integration is needed only far from the singularity. The Dirichlet boundary conditions are then weakly enforced by means of Lagrange multipliers, the discrete values of which are additional unknowns. In the case of two-dimensional Laplacian problems, the SFBIM converges exponentially with respect to the numbers of singular functions and Lagrange multipliers. In the present work the method is applied to Laplacian test problems over circular sectors, the analytical solution of which is known. The convergence of the method is studied for various values of the order $p$ of the polynomial approximation of the Lagrange multipliers (i.e., constant, linear, quadratic, and cubic), and the exact approximation errors are calculated. These are compared to the theoretical results provided in the literature and their agreement is demonstrated.


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## 1. Introduction

In the last few decades there has been an extensive study of planar elliptic boundary value problems with boundary singularities. The methods that have been proposed for the solution of such problems range from special mesh-refinement schemes to sophisticated techniques that incorporate, directly or indirectly, the form of the local asymptotic expansion, which is known in many occasions. These methods aim to improve the accuracy and resolve the convergence difficulties that are known to appear in the neighborhood of singular points.

The local solution, centered at the singular point, in polar coordinates $(r, \theta)$ is of the general form

$$
\begin{equation*}
u(r, \theta)=\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \alpha_{j} r^{\mu_{j}} f_{j}(\theta) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mu_{j}, f_{j}$ are, respectively, the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the problem, which are uniquely determined by the geometry and the boundary conditions along the boundaries sharing the singular point. The singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}$ also known as generalized stress intensity factors [1] or flux intensity factors [2], are determined by the boundary conditions in the rest of the boundary. Knowledge of the singular coefficients is of importance in many engineering applications, especially in fracture mechanics.

[^0]In the past few years, Georgiou and co-workers [3-6] developed the Singular Function Boundary Integral Method (SFBIM), in which the unknown singular coefficients are calculated directly. The solution is approximated by the leading terms of the local asymptotic solution expansion and the Dirichlet boundary conditions are weakly enforced by means of Lagrange multipliers. The method has been tested on standard Laplacian and biharmonic problems, yielding extremely accurate estimates for the leading singular coefficients, and exhibiting exponential convergence with respect to the number of singular functions. Theoretical results on the convergence of the method in the case of Laplacian problems where given by Xenophontos et al. in [5].

The SFBIM belongs to the class of boundary approximation methods (BAMs) or Trefftz methods (TM), which have been recently reviewed by Li and co-workers [7] and compared to collocation and other boundary methods. Other recent reviews of methods used for elliptic boundary value problems with boundary singularities can be found in the articles of Bernal et al. [8] who considered both global and local meshless collocation methods with multiquadrics as basis functions, and of Dosiyev and Buranay [9] who employed the block method which was proposed for the solution of Laplace problems on arbitrary polygons.

The objective of this work is to apply the SFBIM to two model Laplacian problems over circular sections in order to investigate the effect of the order of the Lagrange multiplier approximation in connection with the theoretical error estimates.

In Section 2, two general plane Laplacian problems over circular sections are presented. One problem has Dirichlet and the other Neumann boundary conditions along the arc. The formulation of the method for both cases is given in Section 3. In Section 4, results are presented for piecewise constant, linear, quadratic and cubic basis functions, used for the approximation of the Lagrange multipliers. These results are compared with the theoretical error estimates. Finally, Section 5 summarizes the conclusions.

## 2. Test problems

We consider two Laplacian test problems over circular sectors of angle $\alpha \pi$ and radius $R$ as depicted in Fig. 1. A boundary singularity occurs at the origin which is due, not only to the geometry (i.e., the presence of an angle in the boundary) but also to the fact that different boundary conditions are imposed on the boundary parts $S_{1}(\theta=0)$ and $S_{2}(\theta=\alpha \pi)$. The two test problems differ only in the boundary condition along the circular arc $S_{3}$, where Dirichlet and Neumann boundary conditions are respectively prescribed. For both problems the local solution is

$$
\begin{equation*}
u=\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \alpha_{j} r^{\mu_{j}} \sin \left(\mu_{j} \theta\right) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

In problem 1 (Fig. 1(a)), the Dirichlet boundary condition along $S_{3}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
u=f(\theta)=\theta-\frac{\theta^{2}}{2 \alpha \pi} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

In problem 2 (Fig. 1(b)), the Neumann boundary condition along $S_{3}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}=g(\theta)=\frac{\theta}{\alpha \pi} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

For both problems, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mu_{j}=\frac{2 j-1}{2 \alpha} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

The singular coefficients for problem 1 are given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{j}=\frac{16 \alpha}{\pi^{2} R^{\mu_{j}}(2 j-1)^{3}} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$


(a)

(b)

Fig. 1. Test Laplacian problems over circular sectors. (a) Problem 1 (b) Problem 2.
and for problem 2 by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{j}=\frac{(-1)^{j+1} 16 \alpha}{\pi^{2} R^{\mu_{j}-1}(2 j-1)^{3}} . \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

## 3. Formulation of the SFBIM

The SFBIM is based on the approximation of the solution by the leading terms of the local solution expansion:

$$
\begin{equation*}
u_{N}=\sum_{j=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \alpha_{j}^{N} W_{j} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $N_{\alpha}$ is the number of singular functions $W_{j}=r^{\mu_{j}} \sin \left(\mu_{j} \theta\right)$. Note that this approximation is valid only if the domain of the problem, $\Omega$, is a subset of the convergence domain of expansion (2). By applying Galerkin's principle, the problem is discretized as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\iint_{\Omega} W_{j} \nabla^{2} u_{N} d V=0, \quad j=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha} \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

By double application of Green's second identity, and keeping in mind that the singular functions $W_{j}$ are harmonic, the above volume integral becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{\partial \Omega} W_{j} \frac{\partial u_{N}}{\partial n} d S-\int_{\partial \Omega} u_{N} \frac{\partial W_{j}}{\partial n} d S=0, \quad j=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha} \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

This reduces the dimension of the problem by one and leads to considerable reduction in the computational cost. Now, since the $W_{j}$ 's satisfy the boundary conditions along $S_{1}$ and $S_{2}$, the above integral along these boundaries is zero. Therefore, we get

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{S_{3}}\left(W_{j} \frac{\partial u_{N}}{\partial n}-u_{N} \frac{\partial W_{j}}{\partial n}\right) d S=0, \quad j=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha} \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

It should be noted that integration is needed only along $S_{3}$, i.e., far from the singularity and not along the boundary parts causing the singularity.

### 3.1. Formulation of problem 1

The Dirichlet condition along $S_{3}$ is imposed by means of a Lagrange multiplier function $\lambda$, which replaces the normal derivative. The function $\lambda$ is expanded in terms of standard polynomial basis functions $M_{i}$ of order $p$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda=\frac{\partial u_{N}}{\partial n}=\sum_{i=1}^{N_{\lambda}} \lambda_{i} M_{i} \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $N_{\lambda}$ represents the total number of unknown discrete Lagrange multipliers $\lambda_{i}$ (or, equivalently, the total number of Lagrange multiplier nodes) along $S_{3}$. The basis functions $M_{i}$ are used to weigh the Dirichlet condition along the corresponding boundary segment $S_{3}$. Hence, we obtain the following symmetric system of $N_{\alpha}+N_{\lambda}$ discretized equations:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \int_{S_{3}}\left(\lambda W_{j}-u_{N} \frac{\partial W_{j}}{\partial n}\right) d S=0, \quad j=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha},  \tag{13}\\
& \int_{S_{3}} u_{N} M_{i} d S=\int_{S_{3}} f(r, \theta) M_{i} d S, \quad i=1,2, \ldots, N_{\lambda} . \tag{14}
\end{align*}
$$

The above system can be written in (block) matrix form as

$$
\left[\begin{array}{ll}
D_{N_{\alpha} \times N_{\alpha}} & K_{N_{\alpha} \times N_{\lambda}}  \tag{15}\\
K_{N_{i} \times N_{\alpha}}^{T} & O_{N_{\ell} \times N_{\lambda}}
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{l}
A \\
\Lambda
\end{array}\right]=\left[\begin{array}{l}
O \\
F
\end{array}\right],
$$

where $A$ and $\Lambda$ are, respectively, the vectors of unknown singular coefficients and Lagrange multipliers. It turns out that for this simple geometry the submatrix $D$ is always diagonal with

$$
\begin{equation*}
D_{i i}=-\mu_{i} R^{2 \mu_{i}} \frac{\alpha \pi}{2} \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

The submatrix $K$ and the forcing vector $F$ are given by

$$
\begin{align*}
& K_{i j}=R^{\mu_{i}+1} \int_{0}^{\alpha \pi} M_{j} \sin \mu_{i} \theta d \theta,  \tag{17}\\
& F_{i}=R \int_{0}^{\alpha \pi} f(\theta) M_{i} d \theta \tag{18}
\end{align*}
$$

and can be calculated analytically for various orders $p$ of the approximation of the Lagrange multiplier function. The entries in $K$ and $F$ for $p=0,1,2$ and 3 are given in Appendix A.

According to the analysis in [5], if $\lambda \in H^{k}\left(S_{3}\right)$ for some $k \geqslant 1$ and $\lambda_{h}$ is the approximation to the Lagrange multiplier function with $h$ being the meshwidth, then there exist positive constants $C$ and $\beta \in(0,1)$, independent of $N_{\alpha}$ and $h$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|u-u_{N}\right\|_{1, \Omega}+\left\|\lambda-\lambda_{h}\right\|_{-1 / 2, S_{3}} \leqslant C\left\{\sqrt{N_{\alpha}} \beta^{N_{\alpha}}+h^{m} p^{-k}\right\} \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $m=\min \{k, p+1\}$. Here, $H^{k}(\Omega), k \in \mathbb{N}$ is the usual Sobolev space which contains functions that have $k$ generalized derivatives in the space of squared integrable functions $L^{2}(\Omega)$. The norm $\|\cdot\|_{1, \Omega}$ is defined, as usual, by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|f\|_{1, \Omega}:=\left[\int_{\Omega}\left\{f^{2}+f_{x}^{2}+f_{y}^{2}\right\} d x d y\right]^{1 / 2} \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

The norm $\|\cdot\|_{-1 / 2, S_{3}}$ that appears in (19) is defined as follows: Let $H^{1 / 2}\left(S_{3}\right)$ denote the space of functions in $H^{1}(\Omega)$ whose (trace) values on $S_{3}$ belong to $L^{2}\left(S_{3}\right)$, let $T: H^{1}(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{1 / 2}\left(S_{3}\right)$ denote the trace operator, and define the norm

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|\psi\|_{1 / 2, S_{3}}=\inf _{u \in H^{1}(\Omega)}\left\{\|u\|_{1, \Omega}: T u=\psi\right\} \tag{21}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|\phi\|_{-1 / 2, S_{3}}=\sup _{\psi \in H^{1 / 2}\left(S_{3}\right)} \frac{\int_{S_{3}} \phi \psi}{\|\psi\|_{1 / 2, S_{3}}} \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

For more details see [5].
From (19) it is clear that the approximate solution converges exponentially with respect to the number of singular functions, $N_{\alpha}$. Moreover, if we choose the two errors in (19) to be balanced, we obtain the following relationship between the number of singular functions and the number of basis functions used to approximate the Lagrange multiplier:

$$
\begin{equation*}
h^{p} \approx \sqrt{N_{\alpha}} \beta^{N_{\alpha}} \Longleftrightarrow\left(\frac{\alpha \pi}{N_{\lambda}-1}\right)^{p} \approx \sqrt{N_{\alpha}} \beta^{N_{\alpha}} \Rightarrow N_{\lambda} \approx 1+\frac{\alpha \pi}{\left(\sqrt{N_{\alpha}} \beta^{N_{\alpha}}\right)^{1 / p}} \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

It was also shown in [5] that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\alpha_{j}-\alpha_{j}^{N}\right| \leqslant C \beta^{N_{\alpha}} \tag{24}
\end{equation*}
$$

which shows that the approximate singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}^{N}$ converge exponentially with respect to the number of singular functions.

### 3.2. Formulation of problem 2

To impose the Neumann conditions, the normal derivative in (11) is simply substituted by the known function $g$. It turns out that for this problem all integrations can be performed analytically as this substitution gives

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{S_{3}} u_{N} \frac{\partial W_{i}}{\partial n} d S=\int_{S_{3}} g W_{i} d S, \quad i=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha} \tag{25}
\end{equation*}
$$

The above expression becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{i} R^{2 \mu_{i}-1} \mu_{i} \int_{0}^{\alpha \pi} \sin ^{2}\left(\mu_{i} \theta\right) d \theta=R^{\mu_{i}} \int_{0}^{\alpha \pi} g(\theta) \sin \left(\mu_{i} \theta\right) d \theta \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

from which we find that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{i}=\frac{4}{R^{\mu_{i}-1} \pi(2 i-1)} \int_{0}^{\alpha \pi} g(\theta) \sin \left(\mu_{i} \theta\right) d \theta=\frac{(-1)^{i+1} 16 \alpha}{R^{\mu_{i}-1} \pi^{2}(2 i-1)^{3}} \tag{27}
\end{equation*}
$$

and the method is equivalent to the method of separation of variables. In the next section we will present numerical results for the first test problem.

## 4. Numerical results

Here we present the results of numerical computations in order to verify the theoretical results from [5].

### 4.1. Semi-circle $(\alpha=1)$

First we consider the case $\alpha=1$ for the angle $\theta$, which corresponds to the domain being a semi-circle. Our first step was to determine the constant $\beta$ appearing in (19), which was done as follows: We choose a value for $N_{\lambda}$, say $N_{\lambda}=10$, and solve the
linear system (11) for various values of $N_{\alpha}>10$, using, e.g., $p=2$. Concentrating on the first singular coefficient, we record the results in Table 1. Since the exact value of the first coefficient is $\alpha_{1}=16 / \pi^{2} \approx 1.621138938277404$, we see from the results of Table 1 that $\alpha_{1}^{N}$ has "converged" once $N_{\alpha}=30$. Hence, using (23) and the "optimal" pair $N_{\alpha}=30, N_{\lambda}=10$ we compute the value for $\beta$ as $\beta \approx 0.88$.

With $\beta$ known, we use (24) to determine subsequent "optimal" values for $N_{\lambda}$ and $N_{\alpha}$, for use in our computations. We should note that in general, the exact value of the first coefficient is unknown, hence in practice we choose the "optimal" value of $N_{\alpha}$ based on the changes that appear in the computed $\alpha_{1}^{N}$, i.e., once the value of $\alpha_{1}^{N}$ does not change significantly.

In Fig. 2 we show the convergence of the approximate solution and in particular the percentage relative error in the approximation of $u$ versus $N_{\alpha}$, in a semi-log scale for $p=1,2,3$. Since each curve becomes a straight line as $N_{\alpha}$ is increased, we see that the error decreases at an exponential rate and the convergence as predicted by (19) is verified.

Figs. 3-5 show the percentage relative error in the first four singular coefficients, versus $N_{\alpha}$ in a semi-log scale, for $p=1,2$, 3 , respectively. The exponential convergence as predicted by (24) is again readily visible in all three plots.

Next, we would like to compute the error in the approximation of the Lagrange multipliers. Note that for any $v \in H^{-1 / 2}\left(S_{3}\right)$ we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|v\|_{-1 / 2, S_{3}} \leqslant C\|v\|_{0, S_{3}} \leqslant \widehat{C}\|v\|_{\infty, S_{3}}, \quad C, \widehat{C} \in \mathbb{R} \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

So, instead of $\left\|\lambda-\lambda_{h}\right\|_{-1 / 2, S_{3}}$, we use

$$
\begin{equation*}
100 \times \max _{k} \frac{\left|\lambda\left(\theta_{k}\right)-\lambda_{h}\left(\theta_{k}\right)\right|}{\left|\lambda\left(\theta_{k}\right)\right|} \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\theta_{k}$ are the (internal) nodal points along $S_{3}$. By construction, $\lambda_{h}\left(\theta_{k}\right)=\lambda_{k}$, i.e., $\lambda_{h}\left(\theta_{k}\right)$ is equal to the $k$ th discrete Lagrange multiplier. Fig. 6 shows this error versus $N_{\lambda}$ (which is directly related to the meshwidth $h$ on $S_{3}$ ) in a log-log scale. The convergence rate indeed appears to be algebraic of order $p$, i.e., $\lambda_{h} \rightarrow \lambda$ as $N_{\lambda} \rightarrow \infty$ (or, equivalently, as $h \rightarrow 0$ ) at the rate $O\left(N_{\lambda}^{-p}\right)$ (or $O\left(h^{p}\right)$ ). Therefore, from (28) we have that $\left\|\lambda-\lambda_{h}\right\|_{-1 / 2, S_{3}}=O\left(h^{p}\right)$.

Finally, we show numerical results for the case $p=0$. The error analysis in [5] does not cover this case, hence it is not possible to use (24) to determine "optimal" values for $N_{\lambda}$ and $N_{\alpha}$. In what follows we have chosen $N_{\alpha}=2 N_{\lambda}$; other choices gave similar results. Fig. 7 shows the percentage relative error in the first four singular coefficients versus $N_{\alpha}$ in a log-log scale. We observe that for $p=0$, the convergence is not exponential, but rather algebraic of order 3 .

Fig. 8 shows the percentage relative error in the approximation of $u$ and of the Lagrange multipliers, versus $N_{\alpha}$ in a log-log scale. Again we have algebraic convergence, with rate 2 for the approximation of $u$ and with rate $3 / 4$ for the approximation of the Lagrange multipliers.

Table 1
Approximate singular coefficient $a_{1}^{N}$, computed with $N_{\lambda}=10, \alpha=1$.

| $N_{\alpha}$ | $\alpha_{1}^{N}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 12 | 1.617187500000000 |
| 13 | 1.621215820312500 |
| 14 | 1.619140625000000 |
| 15 | 1.621154785156250 |
| 16 | 1.622070312500000 |
| 17 | 1.621398925781250 |
| 18 | 1.621582031250000 |
| 19 | 1.621154785156250 |
| 20 | 1.621215820312500 |
| 21 | 1.621138935554673 |
| 22 | 1.621138937140710 |
| 23 | 1.621138937635686 |
| 24 | 1.621138937869855 |
| 25 | 1.621138938004718 |
| 26 | 1.621138938092001 |
| 27 | 1.621138938152942 |
| 28 | 1.621138938197758 |
| 29 | 1.621138938231953 |
| 30 | 1.621138938258757 |
| 31 | 1.621138938280287 |
| 32 | 1.621138938297822 |
| 33 | 1.621138938312330 |
| 34 | 1.621138938324523 |
| 35 | 1.621138938334964 |
| 36 | 1.621138938344132 |
| 37 | 1.621138938352468 |
| 38 | 1.621138938360383 |
| 39 | 1.621138938368192 |
| 40 | 1.621138938368413 |



Fig. 2. Convergence of the approximate solution $u_{N}, \alpha=1$.


Fig. 3. Convergence of the singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}^{N}$ for $p=1, \alpha=1$.
4.2. Domain with a "slit" ( $\alpha=2$ )

We have also repeated the previous computations for the case of $\alpha=2$, which corresponds to a domain with a "slit". The procedure for determining the constant $\beta$ in (19) was repeated yielding $\beta=0.92$ for the pair $N_{\alpha}=35$ and $N_{\lambda}=20$.

Fig. 9 shows the convergence of the approximate solution and in particular the percentage relative error in the approximation of $u$ versus $N_{\alpha}$, in a semi-log scale for $p=1,2,3$. As with $\alpha=1$, each curve becomes a straight line as $N_{\alpha}$ is increased, hence the error decreases at an exponential rate as predicted by (19).


Fig. 4. Convergence of the singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}^{N}$ for $p=2, \alpha=1$.


Fig. 5. Convergence of the singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}^{N}$ for $p=3, \alpha=1$.

Figs. 10 and 11 show the percentage relative error in the first four singular coefficients, versus $N_{\alpha}$ in a semi-log scale, for $p=1$ and 2 , respectively (the case $p=3$ is almost identical). The exponential convergence is again visible in both plots.

Finally, Fig. 12 shows the error in the Lagrange multiplers versus $N_{\lambda}$ in a $\log -\log$ scale. The convergence rate again appears to be algebraic of order $p$.


Fig. 6. Convergence of the Lagrange multipliers, $\alpha=1$.


Fig. 7. Convergence of the singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}^{N}$ for $p=0, \alpha=1$.


Fig. 8. Convergence of the approximate solution $u_{N}$ and Lagrange multiplier $\lambda_{h}$ for $p=0, \alpha=1$.


Fig. 9. Convergence of the approximate solution $u_{N}, \alpha=2$.


Fig. 10. Convergence of the singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}^{N}$ for $p=1, \alpha=2$.


Fig. 11. Convergence of the singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}^{N}$ for $p=2, \alpha=2$.

## 4.3. $L$-shaped domain $(\alpha=1.5)$

Similar results have been obtained with $\alpha=1.5$, which corresponds to an L-shaped domain. The constant $\beta$ in (19) was determined as 0.9 from the pair $N_{\alpha}=33, N_{\lambda}=15$. Fig. 13 demonstrates the convergence of the approximate solution, while Figs. 14 and 15 show the convergence of the approximate coefficients (for $p=1$ ) and of the Lagrange multipliers, respectively.


Fig. 12. Convergence of the Lagrange multipliers, $\alpha=2$.


Fig. 13. Convergence of the approximate solution $u_{N}, \alpha=1.5$.

## 5. Conclusions

In this work we revisited the Singular Function Boundary Integral Method (SFBIM) for the solution of two-dimensional elliptic problems with boundary singularities. Our objective was to demonstrate, via numerical examples, the convergence of the method and to show the agreement with the theoretical results provided in the literature. For this purpose the method


Fig. 14. Convergence of the singular coefficients $\alpha_{j}^{N}$ for $p=1, \alpha=1.5$.


Fig. 15. Convergence of the Lagrange multipliers, $\alpha=1.5$.
was applied to a Laplacian test problem over a circular sector with the use of constant, linear, quadratic and cubic approximations of the Lagrange multipliers. After obtaining the "optimal" values for the number of Lagrange multipliers and the number of singular functions, the exact approximation errors were calculated. In the cases of linear, quadratic and cubic approximations we show that both the singular coefficients and the solution converge exponentially with the number of singular functions and that the convergence of the approximation of the Lagrange multipliers is algebraic of order $p$ with the
number of Lagrange multipliers, as predicted by the theory. In the case of constant approximations, which is not covered by the theory, we observed that the convergence is algebraic for both the singular coefficients and the solution.

## Appendix A

In what follows, the elements of the matrix $K$ and the vector $F$ defined in (17) and (18) are given for the constant, linear, quadratic and cubic approximations of the Lagrange multiplier function $\lambda$ defined in (12). We note that $N$ is the number of elements:

$$
N=\left\{\begin{array}{cc}
N_{\lambda}, & p=0  \tag{A.1}\\
\frac{N_{\lambda}-1}{p}, & p \geqslant 1 .
\end{array}\right.
$$

Constant basis functions:
For constant basis functions we have for $i=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha}, j=1,2, \ldots, N_{\lambda}$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
K_{i j}=\frac{4 R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{(2 i-1)} \sin \frac{(2 i-1)(2 j-1) \pi}{4 N} \sin \frac{(2 i-1) \pi}{4 N}, \tag{A.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

and for $i=1,2, \ldots, N_{\lambda}$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
F_{i}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{2 N^{2}}\left[2 i-1-\frac{3 i^{2}-3 i+1}{3 N}\right] . \tag{A.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Linear basis functions:
For linear basis functions we have, for $i=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha}$,

$$
\begin{align*}
& K_{i, 1}=\frac{2 \alpha R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{(2 i-1)}\left[1-\frac{2 N}{(2 i-1) \pi} \sin \frac{(2 i-1) \pi}{2 N}\right],  \tag{A.4}\\
& K_{i, N_{\lambda}}=\frac{8 \alpha N R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{\pi(2 i-1)^{2}} \sin \frac{(2 i-1) \pi}{4 N} \cos \frac{(2 i-1)(2 N-1) \pi}{4 N}, \tag{A.5}
\end{align*}
$$

and for $i=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha}, j=2, \ldots, N_{\lambda}-1$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
K_{i j}=\frac{16 \alpha N R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{\pi(2 i-1)^{2}} \sin ^{2} \frac{(2 i-1) \pi}{4 N} \sin \frac{(2 i-1)(j-1) \pi}{2 N} \tag{A.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Similarly,

$$
\begin{align*}
& F_{1}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{6 N^{2}}\left(1-\frac{1}{4 N}\right)  \tag{A.7}\\
& F_{N_{2}}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{24 N^{3}}\left(6 N^{2}-1\right) \tag{A.8}
\end{align*}
$$

and for $j=2, \ldots, N_{\lambda}-1$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
F_{i}=-\frac{R\left(12 N(1-i)+6 i^{2}-12 i+7\right)}{12 N^{3}} \tag{A.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Quadratic basis functions:
For quadratic basis functions we have for $i=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha}$,

$$
\begin{align*}
& K_{i, 1}=\frac{R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{2 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{3}}\left\{2 \cos \left(2 h \mu_{i}\right)+h \mu_{i} \sin \left(2 h \mu_{i}\right)-2+2 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}\right\},  \tag{A.10}\\
& K_{i, 2 N+1}=-\frac{R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{2 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{3}}\left[-3 h \mu_{i} \sin \left(2 h N \mu_{i}\right)+\left(2 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}-2\right) \cos \left(2 h N \mu_{i}\right)+2 \cos \left(2 h(N-1) \mu_{i}\right)-h \mu_{i} \sin \left(2 h(N-1) \mu_{i}\right)\right],  \tag{A.11}\\
& K_{i, 2 k}=-\frac{2 R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{h^{2} \mu_{i}^{3}}\left[\cos \left(2 h k \mu_{i}\right)+h \mu_{i} \sin \left(2 h k \mu_{i}\right)-\cos \left(2 h(k-1) \mu_{i}\right)+h \mu_{i} \sin \left(2 h(k-1) \mu_{i}\right)\right], \quad k=1, \ldots, N,  \tag{A.12}\\
& K_{i, 2 k+1}=-\frac{R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{2 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{3}}\left[-6 h \mu_{i} \sin \left(2 h k k \mu_{i}\right)-2 \cos \left(2 h(k+1) \mu_{i}\right)+2 \cos \left(2 h(k-1) \mu_{i}\right)-h \mu_{i} \sin \left(2 h(k+1) \mu_{i}\right)-h \mu_{i}\right], \\
& k=1, \ldots, N-1, \tag{A.13}
\end{align*}
$$

Similarly,

$$
\begin{align*}
& F_{1}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{120 N^{3}}  \tag{A.14}\\
& F_{2 k}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{30 N^{3}}[10 k(k-1)+10 N(1-2 k)+3], \quad k=2,3, \ldots, N,  \tag{A.15}\\
& F_{2 k+1}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{60 N^{3}}\left[10 k^{2}-20 k N-1\right], \quad k=1,2, \ldots, N-1,  \tag{A.16}\\
& F_{2 N+1}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{120 N^{3}}\left[10 N^{2}+1\right] . \tag{A.17}
\end{align*}
$$

Cubic basis functions:
For cubic basis functions we have for $i=1,2, \ldots, N_{\alpha}$,

$$
\begin{align*}
& K_{i, 1}=-\frac{R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{3 h^{3} \mu_{i}^{4}}\left[\left(\mu_{i}^{2} h^{2}-3\right) \sin \left(3 h \mu_{i}\right)+3 \mu_{i} h \cos \left(3 h \mu_{i}\right)+6 h \mu_{i}-3 h^{3} \mu_{i}^{3}\right]  \tag{A.18}\\
& K_{i, 3 k+2}=-\frac{R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{2 h^{3} \mu_{i}^{4}}\left[-8 h \mu_{i} \cos \left(3 h(k+1) \mu_{i}\right)+\left(6-3 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}\right) \sin \left(3 h(k+1) \mu_{i}\right)-10 h \mu_{i} \cos \left(3 h k \mu_{i}\right)+\left(6 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}-6\right) \sin \left(3 h k \mu_{i}\right)\right] \\
& k=0,1, \ldots, N-1, \tag{A.19}
\end{align*}
$$

$$
K_{i, 3 k+3}=\frac{R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{2 h^{3} \mu_{i}^{4}}\left[-10 h \mu_{i} \cos \left(3 h(k+1) \mu_{i}\right)+\left(6-6 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}\right) \sin \left(3 h(k+1) \mu_{i}\right)-8 h \mu_{i} \cos \left(3 h k \mu_{i}\right)+\left(3 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}-6\right) \sin \left(3 h k \mu_{i}\right)\right],
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
k=0,1, \ldots, N-1 \tag{A.20}
\end{equation*}
$$

$K_{i, 3 k+4}=\frac{R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{3 h^{3} \mu_{i}^{4}}\left[\left(11 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}-6\right) \sin \left(3 h(k+1) \mu_{i}\right)+\left(3-h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}\right) \sin \left(3 h k \mu_{i}\right)-3 h \mu_{i} \cos \left(3 h k \mu_{i}\right)-3 h \mu_{i} \cos \left(3 h(k+2) \mu_{i}\right)+\left(3-h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}\right) \sin \left(3 h(k+2) \mu_{i}\right)\right]$,
$k=0,1, \ldots, N-2$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
K_{i, 3 N+1}=\frac{R^{\mu_{i}+1}}{6 h^{3} \mu_{i}^{4}}\left[\left(12 h \mu_{i}-6 h^{3} \mu_{i}^{3}\right) \cos \left(3 h N \mu_{i}\right)+\left(11 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}-6\right) \sin \left(3 h N \mu_{i}\right)+6 h \mu_{i} \cos \left(3 h(N-1) \mu_{i}\right)+\left(6-2 h^{2} \mu_{i}^{2}\right) \sin \left(3 h(N-1) \mu_{i}\right)\right] . \tag{A.21}
\end{equation*}
$$

Similarly,

$$
\begin{align*}
& F_{1}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{240 N^{3}}(4 N-1),  \tag{A.23}\\
& F_{3 k+2}=\frac{3 R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{80 N^{3}}\left(10 k N-5 k^{2}+2 N-2 k\right), \quad k=0,1, \ldots, N-1,  \tag{A.24}\\
& F_{3 k+3}=\frac{3 R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{80 N^{3}}\left(8 N-8 k-3+10 k N-5 k^{2}\right), \quad k=0,1, \ldots, N-1,  \tag{A.25}\\
& F_{3 k+4}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{120 N^{3}}\left(30 N-30 k+30 k N-15 k^{2}-16\right), \quad k=0,1, \ldots, N-2,  \tag{A.26}\\
& F_{3 N+1}=\frac{R \alpha^{2} \pi^{2}}{240 N^{3}}\left(15 N^{2}-1\right) . \tag{A.27}
\end{align*}
$$

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