2009

# Polynomial Extension Operators. Part II

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# POLYNOMIAL EXTENSION OPERATORS. PART II *

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**Abstract.** Consider the tangential trace of a vector polynomial on the surface of a tetrahedron. We construct an extension operator that extends such a trace function into a polynomial on the tetrahedron. This operator can be continuously extended to the trace space of $H(\mathbf{curl})$. Furthermore, it satisfies a commutativity property with an extension operator we constructed in Part I of this series. Such extensions are a fundamental ingredient of high order finite element analysis.

**Key words.** Sobolev, polynomial, extension, tangential, normal, trace

**AMS subject classifications.** 46E35, 46E39, 65N30, 47H60, 11C08, 31B10

**1. Introduction.** This is the second in the series of papers devoted to constructing polynomial preserving continuous extension operators for Sobolev spaces satisfying the commuting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H^{1/2}(\partial K) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}_\tau} & \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{curl}_\tau} & \mathrm{trc}_n(\boldsymbol{H}(\mathrm{div})) \\ \downarrow \mathcal{E}_K^{\mathrm{grad}} & & \downarrow \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_K^{\mathrm{curl}} & & \downarrow \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_K^{\mathrm{div}} \\ H^1(K) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{grad}} & \boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{curl}} & \boldsymbol{H}(\mathrm{div}), \end{array} \tag{1.1}$$

where $K$ is a tetrahedron, $H^1(K)$, $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ and $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathrm{div})$ are the standard Sobolev spaces on $K$, and the trace operators are

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathrm{trc}_\tau\, \boldsymbol{\phi} = \big(\boldsymbol{\phi} - (\boldsymbol{\phi}\cdot\boldsymbol{n})\boldsymbol{n}\big)\big|_{\partial K}, && \text{(tangential trace)}, \\ &\mathrm{trc}_n\, \boldsymbol{\phi} = (\boldsymbol{\phi}\cdot\boldsymbol{n})\big|_{\partial K}, && \text{(normal trace)}, \end{aligned}$$

with $\boldsymbol{n}$ denoting the outward unit normal on $\partial K$. The first polynomial extension operator in (1.1), namely $\mathcal{E}_K^{\mathrm{grad}}$, was constructed in Part I [9]. The current part is devoted to the construction of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_K^{\mathrm{curl}}$. The differential operators $\mathbf{grad}_\tau$ and $\mathrm{curl}_\tau$ in (1.1) denote the surface gradient and surface curl, respectively (see, e.g. [5] for definitions of differential operators on non-smooth polyhedral surfaces).

There are many applications in the analysis of high order finite elements for such an extension operator. Perhaps the most important one is in proving an approximation estimate for *hp* finite element spaces. Indeed, an approximation theory for high order $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ finite element spaces has been developed in [7] under the conjecture that such an extension operator exists. To describe one of the results there, suppose $\mathcal{T}$ is a tetrahedral finite element mesh of a polyhedral domain $\Omega$, and let $\boldsymbol{V}_{hp} = \{\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl},\Omega) :\ \boldsymbol{v}|_K$ is a polynomial of degree at most $p_K$ for all mesh elements $K$ in $\mathcal{T}\}$. For any tetrahedron $K$, let $\rho_K$ denote the diameter of the largest ball contained in $K$ and let $h_K$ denote the length of the longest edge of $K$. In finite element analysis, it is typical to assume that meshes are "shape regular", i.e.,

*This work was supported in part by the National Science Foundation under grants 0713833, 0619080, the Johann Radon Institute for Computational and Applied Mathematics (RICAM), and the FWF-Start-Project Y-192 "hp-FEM"

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assume that there is a fixed positive constant $\gamma$ such that $\max_{K\in\mathcal{T}} h_K/\rho_K < \gamma$ for all meshes under consideration. In this situation, [7, Corollary 2] implies that, if an $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ polynomial extension exists, then there is a constant $C$ depending only on $\gamma$ such that

$$\inf_{\boldsymbol{v}_{hp}\in\boldsymbol{V}_{hp}} \|\boldsymbol{v}-\boldsymbol{v}_{hp}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})} \le C \sum_{K\in\mathcal{T}} h_K^{r+1} \frac{\ln p_K}{p_K^r} \left( |\boldsymbol{v}|^2_{H^r(K)} + |\mathbf{curl}\,\boldsymbol{v}|^2_{H^r(K)} \right)^{1/2} \tag{1.2}$$

for any $r > 1/2$. Thus, as a consequence of our construction of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_K^{\mathrm{curl}}$, the approximation estimate (1.2) and other similar estimates in [7] are finally proved. The extension operator is important also in the analysis of spectral mixed methods (see remarks at the end of [11] for the need for an $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ extension). Polynomial extensions also play an important role in the construction of good shape functions and preconditioning [18].

We will keep the same notation as in Part I (summarized in [9, § 1.5]) and employ the same overall technique developed there (summarized in [9, § 1.4]) for constructing the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ extension operator. In particular, we start with a primary extension operator, and then design suitable face, edge, and vertex correction operators to arrive at the total extension operator. The construction of both the primary and correction operators will be motivated by the need to satisfy the commutativity property in (1.1). For example, to obtain an expression for the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ primary extension of $\boldsymbol{v}$, denoted by $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$, we took the expression for $\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}u$ from [9] (see (B.1) in the current paper for the correct expression), differentiated it, expressed the result in terms of $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u$, and then substituted $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u$ by $\boldsymbol{v}$. Clearly, this will guarantee the commutativity property $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u = \mathbf{grad}\,\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}u$. Such computations motivated the expressions for face and edge corrections as well. *The final $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ polynomial extension operator and its properties are given in Theorem 7.2.*

Although we apply the same overall technique as in the $H^1$ case considered in Part I [9] of this series, a major difference between the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ case and the $H^1$ case is that the trace space of the former is more complicated. Only recently has the trace space of $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ on polyhedral domains been fully characterized in terms of certain Sobolev spaces of negative index [5, 6]. In order to circumvent estimating negative norms, we proceed by first developing a new technical tool, namely a decomposition of the trace space, which when combined with commutativity, reduces the problem of norm bounds for the extension to Sobolev norms of positive index only. This seems to simplify the analysis considerably. Another new technique we introduce in this paper is proving a norm estimate for primary extensions in fractional Sobolev norms directly using Peetre's $K$-functional and interpolation theory. Other new aspects in the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ arena not seen in the $H^1$ case include symmetrization of integrals defining the extensions to obtain expressions invariant under relevant transformations.

We begin by describing the decomposition of trace space using regular functions (Section 2). Then we study the primary extension from a plane (Section 3). The primary extension will then be corrected using face and edge correction operators given in Sections 4 and 5. The complete solution to the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ polynomial extension on a tetrahedron is given in Section 7. Appendix A contains proofs of all technical lemmas and Appendix B contains corrections to Part I.

**2. A characterization of the trace space.** For smooth vector functions $\boldsymbol{\phi}$, we denote their tangential and normal traces on $\partial K$ by

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{trc}_\tau \boldsymbol{\phi} &= \big(\boldsymbol{\phi} - (\boldsymbol{\phi}\cdot\boldsymbol{n})\boldsymbol{n}\big)\big|_{\partial K},\\ \operatorname{trc}_n \boldsymbol{\phi} &= (\boldsymbol{\phi}\cdot\boldsymbol{n})\big|_{\partial K},\end{aligned}$$

where $\boldsymbol{n}$ denote the outward unit normal on $\partial K$. It is well known that the operators $\operatorname{trc}_\tau$ and $\boldsymbol{n}\times\operatorname{trc}_\tau$ extend continuously to $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$ and that their ranges are subspaces of $\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(\partial K)$ [1, 5, 10]. Letting $\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle$ denote the duality pairing between $\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(\partial K)$ and $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(\partial K)$, define $\boldsymbol{H}_{0,S}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$ for any subset $S$ of $\partial K$ of positive measure by

$$\boldsymbol{H}_{0,S}(\mathbf{curl}\,) = \{\boldsymbol{\phi}\in\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,):\ \langle\boldsymbol{n}\times\operatorname{trc}_\tau\boldsymbol{\phi},\ \boldsymbol{\psi}\rangle = 0 \quad \text{for all } \boldsymbol{\psi}\in\boldsymbol{H}^1_{\partial K\setminus S}(K)\},$$

where $\boldsymbol{H}^1_{\partial K\setminus S}(K)$ denotes the subspace of functions in $\boldsymbol{H}^1(K)$ whose tangential traces vanish on $\partial K\setminus S$. In addition, we shorten $\boldsymbol{H}_{0,\partial K}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$ to simply $\boldsymbol{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}\,)$.

We shall need the trace spaces of $\boldsymbol{H}_{0,S}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$ when $S$ is composed of one or more faces of $K$. Let $F_{ij}=F_i\cup F_j$ and $F_{ijk}=F_i\cup F_j\cup F_k$. We define the spaces by the range of the trace map:

$$\begin{aligned}&\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2} = \operatorname{trc}_\tau \boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,), && \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,i} = \operatorname{trc}_\tau \boldsymbol{H}_{0,F_i}(\mathbf{curl}\,),\\ &\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ij} = \operatorname{trc}_\tau \boldsymbol{H}_{0,F_{ij}}(\mathbf{curl}\,), && \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ijk} = \operatorname{trc}_\tau \boldsymbol{H}_{0,F_{ijk}}(\mathbf{curl}\,).\end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

The above spaces $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}$, for all subscripts $I$ in the set $\{i,ij,ijk\}$, are subspaces of $\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(\partial K)$. The precise subspace topology of $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$ in $\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(\partial K)$ is given in [5]. One could attempt to use their techniques to characterize the subspace topologies of all $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}$, but for our purposes it seems better to proceed by endowing all the sets in (2.1) with a natural quotient topology defined by

$$\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}} := \inf_{\operatorname{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\phi})=\boldsymbol{v}} \|\boldsymbol{\phi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)}, \tag{2.2}$$

where the infimum runs over all $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ in $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$ satisfying $\operatorname{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\phi})=\boldsymbol{v}$. Standard arguments then prove the following facts: Under the quotient norm in (2.2), the space $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$ is complete and the subsets $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}$ are closed. Furthermore, there is a linear continuous lifting operator $\boldsymbol{E}:\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}\mapsto\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$ satisfying

$$\boldsymbol{E}\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}\subseteq\boldsymbol{H}_{0,F_I}(\mathbf{curl}\,),\quad \operatorname{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{E}\boldsymbol{v})=\boldsymbol{v},\quad \|\boldsymbol{E}\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)}=\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}}, \tag{2.3}$$

for all $\boldsymbol{v}\in\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$. We need to find an extension operator like $\boldsymbol{E}$, but one that has the additional polynomial preservation property.

We shall now characterize the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$ trace spaces using Sobolev spaces of positive index, namely $H^{1/2}(\partial K)$, and $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_\tau := \operatorname{trc}_\tau\boldsymbol{H}^1(K)$. The space $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_\tau$ is characterized in terms of the $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}$-norm of faces in [5], but we will simply work with the natural norm $\|\boldsymbol{\vartheta}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_\tau}$ defined to be the infimum of $\|\boldsymbol{\phi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)}$ over all $\boldsymbol{\phi}\in\boldsymbol{H}^1(K)$ for which $\operatorname{trc}_\tau\boldsymbol{\phi}=\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$. The idea for our characterization of the trace space is best revealed for the first space in (2.1), as we see next.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *The space $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$ admits the following stable decomposition:*

$$\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau H^{1/2}(\partial K) + \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_\tau.$$

*Proof.* Consider any function $\boldsymbol{v}$ in $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$ and its lifting $\boldsymbol{E}\boldsymbol{v}$ defined in (2.3). Since $K$ is convex, by the well known Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition for $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ (see e.g. [10, Corollary I.3.4] or [14]), there is a $\varphi \in H^1(K)$ and $\boldsymbol{\psi} \in \boldsymbol{H}^1(K)$ such that

$$\boldsymbol{E}\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}\,\varphi + \boldsymbol{\psi}. \tag{2.4}$$

Applying the tangential trace operator to this decomposition, we obtain the required decomposition:

$$\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau(\varphi|_{\partial K}) + \mathrm{trc}_\tau\,(\boldsymbol{\psi}).$$

Its stability follows from the continuity of the trace maps. Indeed, there are positive constants $C_1$ and $C_2$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\|\varphi\|_{H^{1/2}(\partial K)} + \|\,\mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_\tau} &\le C_1\left(\|\varphi\|_{H^1(K)} + \|\boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^1(K)}\right)\\ &\le C_2\,\|\boldsymbol{E}\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})} = C_2\,\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}},\end{aligned}$$

where we have also used the stability of the decomposition in (2.4). □

Although the trace spaces in (2.1) were defined on the whole boundary $\partial K$, by virtue of Proposition 2.1, we can now speak of its restrictions on faces. Indeed, it is well known that the restriction to a face $F_l$ is a continuous operation from $H^{1/2}(\partial K)$ into $H^{1/2}(F_l)$. Moreover, letting $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l)$ denote the space of tangential vector functions on $F_l$ whose two components are in $H^{1/2}(F_l)$, the restriction operator is also a continuous map from $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_\tau$ into $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l)$ (this follows, e.g., from the characterization of $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_\tau$ in terms of standard Sobolev spaces found in [5]). Therefore, given any $\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$, decomposing it by Proposition 2.1 as $\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\varphi + \boldsymbol{\psi}$ we can define the restriction operator $\boldsymbol{R}_l$ by

$$\boldsymbol{R}_l\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau(\varphi\big|_{F_l}) + (\boldsymbol{\psi}\big|_{F_l}). \tag{2.5}$$

Clearly, $\boldsymbol{R}_l$ coincides with the usual restriction operator when applied to smooth $\boldsymbol{v}$. Moreover, by the stability of the decomposition, $\boldsymbol{R}_l$ is a continuous map from $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$ into $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,H^{1/2}(F_l) + \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l)$. We define the *trace spaces on one face* as the range of this restriction operator:

$$\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l) = \boldsymbol{R}_l\,\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}, \qquad \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)} := \inf_{\boldsymbol{R}_l\boldsymbol{w}=\boldsymbol{v}} \|\boldsymbol{w}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}}, \tag{2.6}$$

where the infimum runs over all $\boldsymbol{w}$ in $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$ satisfying $\boldsymbol{R}_l\boldsymbol{w} = \boldsymbol{v}$. The space $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$ is complete under the above norm and the subsets $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}(F_l) = \boldsymbol{R}_l\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}$ are closed. It is easy to verify that $\boldsymbol{R}_l$ has a continuous right inverse $\boldsymbol{L}_l : \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l) \mapsto \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$ satisfying

$$\boldsymbol{L}_l\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}(F_l) \subseteq \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}, \quad \|\boldsymbol{L}_l\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}} = \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)}, \quad \boldsymbol{R}_l\boldsymbol{L}_l\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{v}, \tag{2.7}$$

for all $\boldsymbol{v}$ in $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$.

We will now show that these trace spaces on the face $F_l$ can be characterized using subspaces of $H^{1/2}(F_l)$ with zero boundary conditions. Recall the definitions

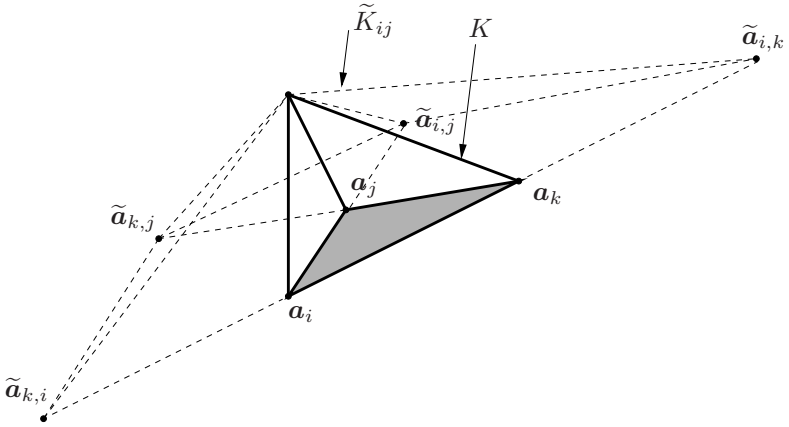


FIG. 1. *Notations in the proof of Theorem 2.1*

of $H^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$ for $I \in \{i, ij, ijk\}$ from Part I [9]: Using $\lambda_i$ to denote the barycentric coordinates of $K$, let

$$\begin{aligned} H^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l) &= H^{1/2}(F_l) \cap L^2_{1/\lambda_i}(F_l) \\ H^{1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l) &= H^{1/2}(F_l) \ \cap \ L^2_{1/\lambda_i}(F_l) \ \cap \ L^2_{1/\lambda_j}(F_l) \\ H^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l) &= H^{1/2}(F_l) \cap L^2_{1/\lambda_i}(F_l) \cap L^2_{1/\lambda_j}(F_l) \cap L^2_{1/\lambda_k}(F_l). \end{aligned}$$

Here $L^2_{1/\lambda_i}(F_l)$ is the Lebesgue space of functions that are square integrable with weight $1/\lambda_i$, so clearly, the functions in $H^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$ vanish weakly on certain parts of the boundary $\partial F_l$. Also, let $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$ denote the set of tangential vector functions on $F_l$ whose two components are in $H^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$. Then we have the following theorem (where, like everywhere else in this paper, the indices $i, j, k, l$ are a permutation of $0, 1, 2, 3$).

THEOREM 2.1. *The spaces $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$ and $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$ of traces on $F_l$ for all $I$ in $\{i, ij, ijk\}$ admit the stable decompositions*

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l) &= \mathbf{grad}_\tau \, H^{1/2}(F_l) + \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l), \\ \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}(F_l) &= \mathbf{grad}_\tau \, H^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l) + \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The first decomposition follows immediately from Proposition 2.1 (by restricting to $F_l$), so let us prove the second. Let $\boldsymbol{v}$ be any function in $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$ and

$$\boldsymbol{\phi} = \boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{L}_l \boldsymbol{v}), \tag{2.8}$$

where $\boldsymbol{E}$ and $\boldsymbol{L}_l$ are as in (2.3) and (2.7), respectively. Then, by the above mentioned properties of these operators, $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ is in $\boldsymbol{H}_{0,F_I}(\mathbf{curl}\,, K)$.

We need to expand the domain $K$. Let $\boldsymbol{a}_i$ denote the vertices of $K$. Let $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{a}}_{i,j} = 2\boldsymbol{a}_j - \boldsymbol{a}_i$ and $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{a}}_{i,k} = 2\boldsymbol{a}_k - \boldsymbol{a}_i$. Then, depending on $I$ in $\{i, ij, ijk\}$, define $\widetilde{F}_{I,l}$ by

$$\widetilde{F}_{i,l} = \mathrm{conv}(F_l, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{a}}_{i,j}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{a}}_{i,k}), \quad \widetilde{F}_{ij,l} = \mathrm{conv}(\widetilde{F}_{i,l}, \widetilde{F}_{j,l}), \quad \widetilde{F}_{ijk,l} = \mathrm{conv}(\widetilde{F}_{i,l}, \widetilde{F}_{j,l}, \widetilde{F}_{k,l}).$$

where conv$(\cdots)$ denotes the convex hull of its arguments. The expanded domain is defined by $\widetilde{K}_I = \mathrm{conv}(\widetilde{F}_{I,l}, \boldsymbol{a}_l)$ (this domain, for the case $I = ij$ is illustrated in Fig. 1). It is easy to prove that the trivial extension of $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ defined by

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\phi}} = \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\phi} & \text{on } K, \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{on } \widetilde{K}_I \setminus K, \end{cases}$$

is in $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,, \widetilde{K}_I)$.

Next, we borrow a technique found in [4, Lemma 2.2] (see also [16, Proposition 5.1] and other related references mentioned there). We start by decomposing $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$ using the Helmholtz-Hodge decomposition on $\widetilde{K}_I$ to get

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\phi}} = \mathbf{grad}\,\varphi + \boldsymbol{\psi}, \qquad \text{with } \varphi \in H^1(\widetilde{K}_I),\ \boldsymbol{\psi} \in \boldsymbol{H}^1(\widetilde{K}_I). \tag{2.9}$$

Note that we used the convexity of $\widetilde{K}_I$ to conclude the regularity of $\varphi$ and $\boldsymbol{\psi}$. Observe that since $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$ vanishes on $\widetilde{K}_I \setminus K$, the gradient of $\varphi$ must coincide with $\boldsymbol{\psi}$ there. Hence

$$\varphi\big|_{\widetilde{K}_I \setminus K} \in H^2(\widetilde{K}_I \setminus K).$$

Therefore, there exists an $H^2$-extension (see, e.g. [19, Theorem VI.3.5, pp. 181], or our volume extension constructions in [8]) of $\varphi$ to all $\widetilde{K}_I$, which we denote by $\varphi'$. Then

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\phi}} = \mathbf{grad}\,\varphi'' + \boldsymbol{\psi}'', \qquad \text{with } \varphi'' = \varphi - \varphi',\ \ \boldsymbol{\psi}'' = \mathbf{grad}\,\varphi' + \boldsymbol{\psi}. \tag{2.10}$$

Clearly, $\varphi''$ is in $H^1(\widetilde{K}_I)$ and $\boldsymbol{\psi}''$ is in $\boldsymbol{H}^1(\widetilde{K}_I)$. Moreover both $\varphi''$ and $\boldsymbol{\psi}''$ vanish on $\widetilde{K}_I \setminus K$.

The required decomposition is now obtained by applying $\mathrm{trc}_\tau$ to (2.10). Indeed, combining the definition of $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ in (2.8) with (2.10), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{R}_l\,\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\phi}) &= \boldsymbol{R}_l\,\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\phi}}\big|_K) \\ &= \mathbf{grad}_\tau(\varphi''\big|_{F_l}) + \boldsymbol{R}_l\,\mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{\psi}''. \end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

Since $\boldsymbol{\psi}''$ is in $\boldsymbol{H}^1(\widetilde{K}_I)$, its trace $\boldsymbol{\psi}''\big|_{\widetilde{F}_{I,l}}$ is in $(H^{1/2}(\widetilde{F}_{I,l}))^3$ and all three components of this trace vanish on $\widetilde{F}_{I,l} \setminus F_l$. Moreover, since the tangential component of this trace on $F_l$ coincides with $\boldsymbol{R}_l\,\mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{\psi}''$, we conclude that the last term in (2.11) is in $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$. Moreover, since $\varphi''$ vanishes on $\widetilde{K}_I \setminus K$, its trace appearing in (2.11) is in $H^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$. Thus the components in the decomposition (2.11) are in the required spaces.

The stability of the decomposition (2.11) follows from the stability of the decomposition (2.9), the $H^2$-continuity of the map $\varphi \mapsto \varphi'$, the continuity of various trace maps, and the continuity of the operators $\boldsymbol{E}$ and $\boldsymbol{L}_l$. □

*Remark* 2.1. The decomposition of Theorem 2.1 has a regular part, namely $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$, and a non-regular part, namely $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, H^{1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$ (which is generally only in $\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(F_l)$). It is important to note that the theorem lets us choose the regular part to be a vector function with zero boundary conditions on *all* its components. Note also that the decomposition is not an orthogonal decomposition in $L^2(F_l)$.

*Remark* 2.2. The decomposition of Theorem 2.1 gives an equivalent norm on the trace space. E.g., from the results of [5, 6], it follows that the trace space $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$ coincides with the space

$$\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(\mathrm{curl}_\tau, F_l) := \{\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(F_l) : \ \mathrm{curl}_\tau\, \boldsymbol{v} \in H^{-1/2}(F_l)\}$$

normed with $\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(\mathrm{curl}_\tau, F_l)} := \big(\|\boldsymbol{v}\|^2_{\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(F_l)} + \|\,\mathrm{curl}_\tau\, \boldsymbol{v}\|^2_{H^{-1/2}(F_l)}\big)^{1/2}$ where $\mathrm{curl}_\tau$ denotes the scalar surface curl. Then our results imply that for any $\boldsymbol{v}$ in $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$, if $\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, \varphi_{\boldsymbol{v}} + \boldsymbol{\psi}_{\boldsymbol{v}}$ denotes the decomposition given by Theorem 2.1, the norms

$$\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)}, \quad \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(\mathrm{curl}_\tau, F_l)}, \quad \text{and} \quad \|\varphi_{\boldsymbol{v}}\|_{H^{1/2}(F_l)} + \|\boldsymbol{\psi}_{\boldsymbol{v}}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l)},$$

are equivalent norms.

**3. Primary extension operator.** We first display the expression for the primary extension when the data function $\boldsymbol{v}$ is smooth tangential vector function on the $x$-$y$ plane (or the $x$-$y$ face of the reference tetrahedron $\hat{K}$, which we denote by $\hat{F}$). The expression is

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}\ (x,y,z) = 2\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ s & t \end{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{v}(x+sz, y+tz)\, ds\, dt \tag{3.1}$$

which by a change of variable can also be expressed as

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}\ (x,y,z) = \frac{2}{z^3}\int_x^{x+z}\int_y^{x+y+z-\widetilde{x}} \begin{pmatrix} z & 0 \\ 0 & z \\ \widetilde{x}-x & \widetilde{y}-y \end{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{v}(\widetilde{x},\widetilde{y})\, d\widetilde{y}\, d\widetilde{x}. \tag{3.2}$$

We derived this expression motivated by the commutativity property we need, namely $\mathbf{grad}\, \mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}} u = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\, \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u$. Indeed, we took the expression for $\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}$ from (B.1), differentiated it, expressed the result in terms of $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u$, and then substituted $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u$ by $\boldsymbol{v}$ to obtain (3.1). (This calculation is implicit in the proof of Theorem 3.2(1) to be given shortly, so we do not display it here.)

To assert the polynomial preservation properties of this operator, we need more notation. The space of vector functions on any domain $D$ whose components are polynomials of degree at most $p$ is denoted by $\boldsymbol{P}_p(D)$ and its subspace of homogeneous polynomials of degree $p$ is denoted by $\bar{\boldsymbol{P}}_p(D)$. The Nédélec subspace (of the first kind) [15] of $\boldsymbol{P}_{p+1}$, denoted by $\boldsymbol{N}_p(D)$, is defined by

$$\boldsymbol{N}_p(D) = \{\boldsymbol{v}_p + \boldsymbol{r}_{p+1} : \quad \boldsymbol{v}_p \in \boldsymbol{P}_p(D), \text{ and } \boldsymbol{r}_{p+1} \in \bar{\boldsymbol{P}}_{p+1}(D) \text{ satisfies } \boldsymbol{r}_{p+1}\cdot\boldsymbol{x} = 0\}.$$

It is easy to see that

$$\boldsymbol{q} \in \boldsymbol{N}_p(D) \quad \text{ if and only if } \quad \boldsymbol{q} \in \boldsymbol{P}_{p+1}(D) \text{ and } \boldsymbol{q}\cdot\boldsymbol{x} \in P_{p+1}(D). \tag{3.3}$$

In these characterizations of $\boldsymbol{N}_p(D)$, the vector $\boldsymbol{x}$ is the coordinate vector in the Euclidean space in which $D$ lies, so it can have two or three components.

The expression in (3.1) will give an extension operator on any other tetrahedron $K$ once we use certain mappings, which we now define. Let $T_K$ denote the affine homeomorphism mapping $\hat{K}$ to $K$ and let $T_K'$ denote its Jacobian matrix, i.e., $[T_K'(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}})]_{ij} = \partial[T_K(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}})]_i/\partial\hat{x}_j$. Define

$$\Psi_K(u) = u\circ T_K, \qquad\qquad \boldsymbol{\Phi}_K(\boldsymbol{v}) = (T_K')^t(\boldsymbol{v}\circ T_K). \tag{3.4}$$

It is well known that (see e.g. [10] or [15]) $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_K$ is a one-to-one map from $\boldsymbol{P}_p(K)$ onto $\boldsymbol{P}_p(\hat{K})$, from $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K)$ onto $\boldsymbol{N}_p(\hat{K})$, and from $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,,\hat{K})$ onto $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,,K)$. Also,

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi}_K(\mathbf{grad}\,u) = \mathbf{grad}(\Psi_K(u)). \tag{3.5}$$

Similarly, letting $T_{F_l}$ denote the affine homeomorphism that maps $\hat{F}$ one-one onto a general face $F_l$ of $K$, we define $\Psi_{F_l}$ and $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{F_l}$ as above. Then it is easy to check that

$$\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\mathbf{grad}\,\Psi_K(u))|_{\hat{F}} = \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{F_l}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u) \tag{3.6}$$

for any smooth function $u$ on $K$. The primary extension on a general tetrahedron $K$ lifting from the face $F_l$ is now given by

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}} = \boldsymbol{\Phi}_K^{-1} \circ \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}} \circ \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{F_l}. \tag{3.7}$$

In order to bring out the symmetry in the extension expressions, rather than simplify the mapped expression in (3.7), we will use affine coordinates. To illustrate this technique, first write a smooth tangential vector function given on face $F_l$ as

$$\boldsymbol{v} = \sum_{m\in\{i,j,k\}} v_m\ \mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_m, \tag{3.8}$$

with three smooth components $v_m$. Such a decomposition of $\boldsymbol{v}$ into component functions $v_m$ is always possible, but is not unique. Indeed $v_m$ for all $m$ in $\{i,j,k\}$ coincides with one function $\bar{v}$ if and only if $\boldsymbol{v}$ is zero. With $v_m$ as in (3.8), we can now rewrite the primary extension operator on $\hat{K}$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v} =& \frac{2}{z^3}\int_x^{x+z}\int_y^{x+y+z-\widetilde{x}} \begin{pmatrix} z & 0\\ 0 & z\\ \widetilde{x}-x & \widetilde{y}-y\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}-1\\-1\end{pmatrix} v_0 + \begin{pmatrix} z\\ 0\\ \widetilde{x}-x\end{pmatrix} v_1 + \begin{pmatrix} 0\\ z\\ \widetilde{y}-y\end{pmatrix} v_2\, d\widetilde{y}\, d\widetilde{x}\\ =& \frac{1}{|\hat{F}|\ \lambda_3^2}\iint_{T_3(\lambda_0,\lambda_1,\lambda_2)}\sum_{m=0}^{2}\left(v_m - \sum_{\ell=0}^{2}\widetilde{\lambda}_\ell v_\ell\right)\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_m\, d\widetilde{y}\, d\widetilde{x},\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the barycentric coordinates $\lambda_i$ of the tetrahedron, as well as the barycentric coordinates $\widetilde{\lambda}_\ell(\boldsymbol{s})$ of the region of integration $T_3(\lambda_0,\lambda_1,\lambda_2) \subseteq \hat{F}$, and the fact that the two-dimensional measure $|\hat{F}|$ equals $1/2$. The symbol $\widetilde{\lambda}_\ell$ will generically denote the barycentric coordinates of whatever region of integration is under consideration, e.g., in the above, since the region is $T_3(\lambda_0,\lambda_1,\lambda_2)$, they are $\widetilde{\lambda}_1 = (\widetilde{x}-x)/z$, $\widetilde{\lambda}_2 = (\widetilde{y}-y)/z$, and $\widetilde{\lambda}_0 = 1-\widetilde{\lambda}_1-\widetilde{\lambda}_2$. Note also that in the above, we have continued to use the notations in [9], e.g., for any permutation $\{i,j,k,l\}$ of $\{0,1,2,3\}$, define $T_l(r_i,r_j,r_k) = \{\boldsymbol{x}\in F_l :\quad \lambda_\ell^{F_l}(\boldsymbol{x}) \geq r_\ell \text{ for } \ell = i,j, \text{ and } k\}$, where $\lambda_m^{F_l} \equiv \lambda_m|_{F_l}$ (for $m = i,j,$ or $k$) are the barycentric coordinates of $F_l$.

Now, to obtain the extension lifting into a general tetrahedron $K$ from its face $F_l$, we only need to identify parts of the above expression that remain invariant under the previously mentioned mappings. Thus

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}\ (\lambda_i,\lambda_j,\lambda_k,\lambda_l) = \frac{1}{|F_l|\ \lambda_l^2}\iint_{T_l(\lambda_i,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)}\sum_{m\in\{i,j,k\}} D_m\boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{s})\ \mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_m\ \ d\boldsymbol{s} \tag{3.9}$$

where

$$D_m\boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{s}) = v_m(\boldsymbol{s}) - \sum_{\ell\in\{i,j,k\}}\widetilde{\lambda}_\ell(\boldsymbol{s})\, v_\ell(\boldsymbol{s}) \tag{3.10}$$

and $\widetilde{\lambda}_\ell(\boldsymbol{s})$, for $\ell$ in $\{i,j,k\}$, are the barycentric coordinate functions of the region of integration $T_l(\lambda_i,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)$, considered with its node enumeration inherited from $K$. Since the component representation in (3.8) is not unique, we must check that definitions like (3.10) are not affected, inasmuch as two different representations of the same function does not yield different results. That this is indeed the case, is readily checked: If $\boldsymbol{v}=0$, then $v_m=\bar{v}$ for all $m$, which implies that $D_m\boldsymbol{v}=0$, so $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}=0$. We can also readily verify that the expressions for $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}$ in (3.9) and (3.7) coincide.

We prove the properties of this primary extension operator in the next theorem. There are two new ingredients worth noting in the proof of continuity of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}$. The first is the technique of proving continuity from $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l)$ into $\boldsymbol{H}^1(\hat{K})$ using Peetre's $K$-functional. (Note that this continuity only involves Sobolev norms of positive order.) The second is the technique of using continuity on positive order Sobolev spaces to obtain continuity on the trace space contained in the negative order Sobolev space $\boldsymbol{H}^{-1/2}(F_l)$. (In [9, Appendix B], we provided an alternate technique for proving the continuity using the Fourier transform.) We display the $K$-functional technique while proving the following lemma in Appendix A.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let $\theta(x,y)$ be a smooth function on the unit triangle $\hat{F}$ (including the boundary $\partial\hat{F}$). Then the map $\mathcal{K}_\theta$ defined for smooth functions $u(x,y)$ on $\hat{F}$ by*

$$\mathcal{K}_\theta u\,(x,y,z)=\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}\theta(s,t)\;u(x+sz,y+tz)\;ds\,dt,$$

*satisfies*

$$\|\mathcal{K}_\theta u\|_{H^1(\hat{K})}\le C_\theta\|u\|_{H^{1/2}(\hat{F})},\quad \textit{for all } u\in H^{1/2}(\hat{F}),$$

*with some $C_\theta>0$ that depends only on $\|\theta\|_{W_1^1(\hat{F})}$ and $\|\theta\|_{L^1(\partial\hat{F})}$.*

We shall use this lemma in the proof of the following theorem.

THEOREM 3.2. *The primary extension operator $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}$ has the following properties:*

1. $\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}_l^{\mathrm{grad}}u)=\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u)$ *for all $u$ in $H^{1/2}(F_l)$.*
2. $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}$ *is a continuous map from $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l)$ into $\boldsymbol{H}^1(K)$.*
3. $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}$ *is a continuous map from $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$ into $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl},K)$.*
4. *The tangential trace of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$ on $F_l$ equals $\boldsymbol{v}$ for all $\boldsymbol{v}$ in $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$.*
5. *If $\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $\boldsymbol{P}_p(F_l)$, the extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $\boldsymbol{P}_p(K)$. If $\boldsymbol{v}$ is in the Nédélec space $\boldsymbol{N}_p(F_l)$, its extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K)$.*

*Proof.* Proof of (1): First, consider a smooth function $u(x,y)$ on the face $\hat{F}$ of $\hat{K}$. Recall the expression for $\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}$ on $\hat{K}$ (see [9] or apply (B.1) to $\hat{K}$) and differentiating it, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{grad}\,\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}u&=2\,\mathbf{grad}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}u(x+sz,y+tz)\;ds\,dt\\&=2\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}1&0\\0&1\\s&t\end{pmatrix}\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u(x+sz,y+tz)\;ds\,dt\\&=\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u.\end{aligned}\tag{3.11}$$

Here we have viewed gradients as column vectors, so the matrix above multiplies $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u=(\partial_x u,\partial_y u)^t$.

For the case of general $K$, observe that $\mathcal{E}_l^{\mathrm{grad}} = \Psi_K^{-1} \circ \mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}} \circ \Psi_{F_l}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{grad}\, \mathcal{E}_l^{\mathrm{grad}} u &= \mathbf{grad}(\Psi_K^{-1} \circ \mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}} \circ \Psi_{F_l} u) \\
&= \boldsymbol{\Phi}_K^{-1}\, \mathbf{grad}(\Psi_K(\Psi_K^{-1} \circ \mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}} \circ \Psi_{F_l} u)) && \text{by (3.5)} \\
&= \boldsymbol{\Phi}_K^{-1}\, \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}(\Psi_{F_l} u)) \\
&= \boldsymbol{\Phi}_K^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau(\Psi_{F_l} u)) && \text{by (3.11)} \\
&= \boldsymbol{\Phi}_K^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{F_l}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u)) && \text{by (3.6)} \\
&= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u) && \text{by (3.7)},
\end{aligned}$$

for all smooth functions $u$. Now, by [9, Theorem 2.1], which asserts the continuity of $\mathcal{E}_l^{\mathrm{grad}} u$ on $H^{1/2}(F_l)$, we have

$$\|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}} \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u\| = \|\, \mathbf{grad}\, \mathcal{E}_l^{\mathrm{grad}} u\| \le C \|u\|_{H^{1/2}(F_l)}.$$

Hence the operator $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}$ extends continuously to the space $\mathbf{grad}\, H^{1/2}(F_l)$, so the commutativity property holds for all $u \in H^{1/2}(F_l)$.

Proof of (2): The continuity of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}$ on $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(\hat{F})$ follows by applying Lemma 3.1 to each of the components of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}} \boldsymbol{v}$ in (3.1). Since the Jacobian of the affine transformation mapping functions on $\hat{K}$ to $K$ is bounded, the result follows for $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}$ on any $K$.

Proof of (3): Given any $\boldsymbol{v}$ in $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$, decompose it using Theorem 2.1 to get

$$\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, \phi + \boldsymbol{\psi}, \qquad \text{with } \phi \in H^{1/2}(F_l),\ \boldsymbol{\psi} \in \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}} \boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})} &= \|\, \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}_l^{\mathrm{grad}} \phi) + \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}} \boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})}, && \text{by item (1)}, \\
&\le \|\mathcal{E}_l^{\mathrm{grad}} \phi\|_{H^1(K)} + \|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}} \boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^1(K)}, \\
&\le C \left( \|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}(F_l)} + \|\boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}(F_l)} \right), && \text{by item (2) \& [9, Theorem 2.1]}, \\
&\le C \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)}, && \text{by stability (Theorem 2.1)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Proof of (4): Set $z = 0$ in (3.1). Then the result is obvious for smooth functions $\boldsymbol{v}$. Because of the continuity of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}$, the result follows for all functions in $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)$.

Proof of (5): It suffices to prove the polynomial preservation properties on the reference tetrahedron $\hat{K}$ because $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_K$ preserves the polynomial spaces.

So, consider a $\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{P}_p(\hat{F})$. Then, each of the components of the integrand defining the extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}} \boldsymbol{v}$ in (3.1) is a polynomial in $x, y$ and $z$ with coefficients depending on $s$ and $t$. Hence, after integrating over $s$ and $t$, we continue to have a polynomial in $x, y$, and $z$ of total degree at most $p$ in $x, y$ and $z$ for each component.

Now suppose $\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{N}_p$. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}} \boldsymbol{v} &= 2 \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} x & y & z \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ s & t \end{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{v}(x + sz, y + tz)\, ds\, dt \\
&= 2 \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} x + sz \\ y + tz \end{pmatrix} \cdot \boldsymbol{v}(x + sz, y + tz)\, ds\, dt,
\end{aligned}$$

By (3.3), $\boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{x}$ is a polynomial of degree at most $p+1$, hence the integrand in the last integral is a polynomial in $x+sz$ and $y+tz$ of degree at most $p+1$. Therefore, by repeating the argument of the previous paragraph, we find that $\boldsymbol{x}\cdot\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$ is a polynomial of degree at most $p+1$. Hence by (3.3), $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $\boldsymbol{N}_p$. □

As in the $H^1$ case described in [9], the next step is to solve the two-face problem, for which we shall need a correction operator.

**4. Face corrections.** In general, the tangential traces of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_l^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$ are not zero on faces other than $F_l$ even when $\boldsymbol{v}$ is a smooth function that vanishes on $\partial F_l$. Therefore, we must add a face correction. The face correction can be thought of as the solution to the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ *two-face problem*: This problem concerns a polynomial $\boldsymbol{v}$ defined on $F_l$ such that $\boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{t}|_{E_{jk}}=0$, where $\boldsymbol{t}$ is the unit tangent vector along the edge $E_{jk}$ connecting $\boldsymbol{a}_j$ and $\boldsymbol{a}_k$. The problem is to find a polynomial extension with zero tangential trace on the face $F_i$.

We begin, as before, with the case of the reference tetrahedron $\hat{K}$. Suppose $\boldsymbol{v}$ is a polynomial defined on the $x$-$y$ face $\hat{F}$ such that $\boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{t}|_{\hat{E}_{02}}=0$ where $\boldsymbol{t}$ is the unit tangent vector along the edge. Then, we will first give an operator that maps $\boldsymbol{v}$ to a polynomial in $\hat{K}$ whose tangential trace on the $x$-$y$ face vanishes, and whose tangential trace on the $y$-$z$ face coincides with that of the primary extension of $\boldsymbol{v}$. Then subtracting this operator from the primary extension, we can solve the two-face problem. Define the face correction by

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{\hat{F}_1}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}=&\frac{2z}{x+z}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}s&t\\0&1\\s&t\end{pmatrix}\boldsymbol{v}(s(x+z),y+t(x+z))\,ds\,dt\\&+\frac{1}{x+z}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\0\\x\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}1-s\\-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\boldsymbol{v}(s(x+z),y+t(x+z))\,ds\,dt.\end{aligned}\tag{4.1}$$

Before we give the properties of this correction operator, we briefly indicate how we derived the above expression. As in the case of the primary extension, we obtained the expression above by computing the gradient of the corresponding $H^1$ operator, namely the operator $\mathcal{E}_{\hat{F}_1}^{\mathrm{grad}}$ given in (B.2) and observing what is needed for satisfying a commutativity property. Indeed, recalling the expression for $\mathcal{E}_{\hat{F}_1}^{\mathrm{grad}}u$ and differentiating,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{grad}\,\mathcal{E}_{\hat{F}_1}^{\mathrm{grad}}u=&\frac{z}{x+z}\,\mathbf{grad}\,\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}u(0,y,x+z)+\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}u(0,y,x+z)\,\mathbf{grad}\left(\frac{z}{x+z}\right)\\=&\frac{2z}{x+z}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}s&t\\0&1\\s&t\end{pmatrix}\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u(s(x+z),y+t(x+z))\,ds\,dt\\&+\frac{2}{(x+z)^2}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\0\\x\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}u(s(x+z),y+t(x+z))\,ds\,dt.\end{aligned}\tag{4.2}$$

Therefore, in order to verify the commutativity $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{\hat{F}_1}^{\mathrm{curl}}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u)=\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}_{\hat{F}_1}^{\mathrm{grad}}u)$, we need to express the last term above in terms of $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u$ alone.

Since such a situation will recur often in this paper, we now describe our approach to handle this in some detail. To convert (4.2) into an expression depending on $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,u$ alone, recall that in the context of the two-face problem, we only need the

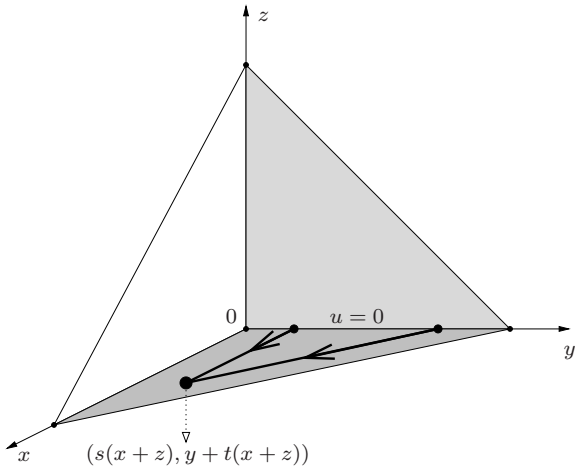


FIG. 2. *Integration paths symmetrizing the face correction* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}\boldsymbol{v}$

commutativity for functions $u$ that vanish along the edge on the $y$-axis. So we can apply the fundamental theorem of calculus and write

$$u(s(x+z), y+t(x+z)) = \int_0^{s(x+z)} \begin{pmatrix}1\\0\end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(r, y+t(x+z))\, dr. \tag{4.3}$$

Here we have chosen one of the many possible paths of integration. However, this choice is not invariant under affine automorphisms of $\hat{K}$ (that fix $\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}_1$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{a}}_3$), because it can be mapped into the path in

$$u(s(x+z), y+t(x+z)) = \int_0^{s(x+z)} \begin{pmatrix}1\\-1\end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(r, y+(s+t)(x+z)-r)\, dr. \tag{4.4}$$

Hence, we must replace $u(s(x+z), y+t(x+z))$ in (4.2) by the average of the right hand sides of (4.3) and (4.4). (The paths in both the integrals are illustrated in Fig. 2, from which the symmetry with respect to the interchange of the two vertices on the $y$-axis is obvious.) After this replacement of $u$ in (4.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{grad}\, \mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{F}_1} u &= \frac{2z}{x+z} \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} s & t \\ 0 & 1 \\ s & t \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(s(x+z), y+t(x+z))\, ds\, dt \\
&\quad + \frac{2}{(x+z)^2} \begin{pmatrix} -z \\ 0 \\ x \end{pmatrix} \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{s(x+z)} \begin{pmatrix}1\\0\end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(r, y+t(x+z))\, dr\, ds\, dt \\
&\quad + \frac{2}{(x+z)^2} \begin{pmatrix} -z \\ 0 \\ x \end{pmatrix} \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{s(x+z)} \begin{pmatrix}1\\-1\end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(r, y+(s+t)(x+z)-r)\, dr\, ds\, dt.
\end{aligned}$$

The last two terms above can be simplified so that the entire sum matches the expression for $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u)$ given by (4.1). The details are in the proof of the following lemma (in Appendix A), which gives several symmetry preserving ways to rewrite integrals of a scalar function in terms of its derivatives. This completes the discussion

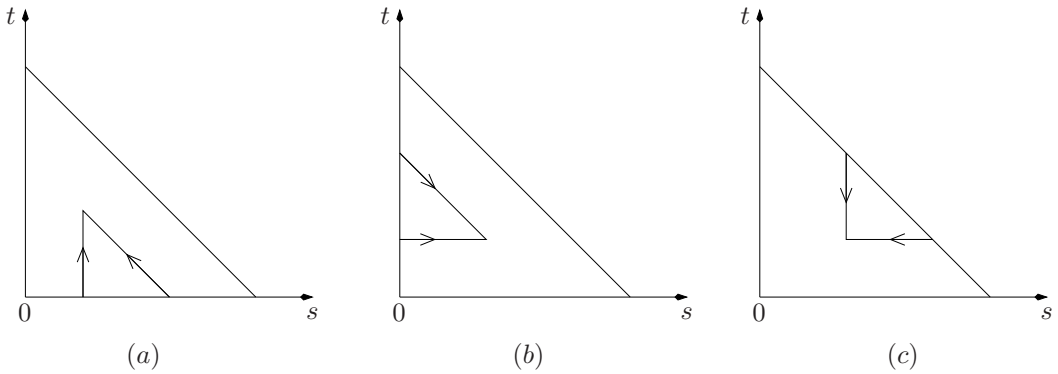


FIG. 3. *Integration paths for Lemma 4.1.*

motivating the definition of the face correction operator in (4.1). A rigorous proof of the required commutativity property using the following lemma is in the proof of the succeeding proposition.

LEMMA 4.1. *Let $u(s,t)$ be a smooth function on the unit triangle $\hat{F}$.*

*1. If $u(0,t)=0$ then (integration along the two paths in* Fig. 3$(a)$ *yields)*

$$\iint_{\hat{F}} u(s,t)\,ds\,dt = \frac{1}{2}\iint_{\hat{F}} \left((1-s)\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + (-t)\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\right)\,ds\,dt.$$

*2. If $u(s,0)=0$ then (integration along the two paths in* Fig. 3$(b)$ *yields)*

$$\iint_{\hat{F}} u(s,t)\,ds\,dt = \frac{1}{2}\iint_{\hat{F}} \left((-s)\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + (1-t)\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\right)\,ds\,dt.$$

*3. If $u(s,1-s)=0$ then (integration along the two paths in* Fig. 3$(c)$ *yields)*

$$\iint_{\hat{F}} u(s,t)\,ds\,dt = \frac{1}{2}\iint_{\hat{F}} \left((-s)\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + (-t)\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\right)\,ds\,dt.$$

Before we give the proposition detailing the properties involving our face correction, it will be useful to generalize the lifting (4.1) to a general tetrahedron $K$. We can do this via the earlier mappings (cf. (3.7)), but it is more elegant to use affine coordinates. We first split the given smooth tangential vector function $\boldsymbol{v}$ into components $v_m$ as in (3.8). Then substituting

$$\boldsymbol{v} = \begin{pmatrix}-1\\-1\end{pmatrix} v_0 + \begin{pmatrix}1\\0\end{pmatrix} v_1 + \begin{pmatrix}0\\1\end{pmatrix} v_2$$

into the integrands in (4.1) and simplifying, we have

$$\frac{2z}{x+z}\begin{pmatrix}s & t\\ 0 & 1\\ s & t\end{pmatrix}\boldsymbol{v} = \frac{2\lambda_3}{(\lambda_1+\lambda_3)}\big(D_0\boldsymbol{v}\ \mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_0 + D_2\boldsymbol{v}\ \mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_2\big),$$

$$\frac{1}{x+z}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\0\\x\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}1-s\\-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\boldsymbol{v} = \frac{\lambda_1\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_3 - \lambda_3\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_1}{(\lambda_1+\lambda_3)^3} D_1\boldsymbol{v},$$

where $D_\ell \boldsymbol{v}$ is as in (3.10) but now with $\widetilde{\lambda}_j(\boldsymbol{s})$ in (3.10) denoting the barycentric coordinates of the current region of integration, namely that of $T_3(0,\lambda_0,\lambda_2)$. Thus (4.1) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{\hat{F}_1}\boldsymbol{v} &= \frac{\lambda_1\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_3-\lambda_3\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_1}{2|\hat{F}|\,(\lambda_1+\lambda_3)^3}\iint\limits_{T_3(0,\lambda_2,\lambda_0)} D_1\boldsymbol{v}\;d\widetilde{x}\,d\widetilde{y}\\ &+\frac{\lambda_3}{|\hat{F}|\,(\lambda_1+\lambda_3)^3}\iint\limits_{T_3(0,\lambda_2,\lambda_0)}(D_0\boldsymbol{v}\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_0+D_2\boldsymbol{v}\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_2)\;d\widetilde{x}\,d\widetilde{y}.\end{aligned}\tag{4.5}$$

In generalizing this operator as an extension into a general tetrahedron $K$ from face $F_l$, the region of integration becomes $T_l(0,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)$ (so we scale by the Jacobian) and $\widetilde{\lambda}_\ell$ becomes the affine coordinates of this region. Thus we have the following expression

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{F_i,l}\boldsymbol{v} &= \frac{\lambda_i\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_l-\lambda_l\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_i}{2|F_l|\,(\lambda_i+\lambda_l)^3}\iint\limits_{T_l(0,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)} D_i\boldsymbol{v}\;\;d\boldsymbol{s}\\ &+\frac{\lambda_l}{|F_l|\,(\lambda_i+\lambda_l)^3}\sum_{m\in\{j,k\}}\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_m\iint\limits_{T_l(0,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)} D_m\boldsymbol{v}\;\;d\boldsymbol{s},\end{aligned}\tag{4.6}$$

which coincides with the expression in (4.5) when $(i,j,k)=(1,2,0)$. Clearly, if all the components of $\boldsymbol{v}$ coincide with a single function (so that $\boldsymbol{v}$ vanishes), the result of this extension is zero, so it is well defined. Note that this expression is symmetric with respect to indices $j$ and $k$.

Now we can solve the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ two-face problem mentioned in the beginning of this section by subtracting the above operator from the primary extension. The operator that solves the two-face problem is

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v}=\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{l}\boldsymbol{v}-\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{F_i,l}\boldsymbol{v}.\tag{4.7}$$

The following continuity from a positive order Sobolev space is established in Appendix A:

LEMMA 4.2. *$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}$ is a continuous map from $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l)$ into $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$.*

Nonetheless, we need its continuity of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}$ from an $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ trace space. This is proved in the next proposition, where we also prove its other properties.

PROPOSITION 4.1. *The two face extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}$ satisfies the following:*

1. Commutativity: $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u=\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\rm grad}_{i,l}u)$ *for all* $u\in H^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l)$.
2. Continuity: $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}$ *extends to a continuous operator from* $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,i}(F_l)$ *into* $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$.
3. Extension property: *For all* $\boldsymbol{v}\in\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,i}(F_l)$,

$$\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v})\big|_{F_i}=\boldsymbol{0},\qquad \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v})\big|_{F_l}=\boldsymbol{v}.$$

4. Polynomial preservation: *Suppose* $\boldsymbol{v}\in\boldsymbol{P}_p(F_l)$ *is such that* $\boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{t}=0$ *on the edge* $E_{jk}$. *Then the extension* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in* $\boldsymbol{P}_p(K)$. *If in addition* $\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in the Nédélec space* $\boldsymbol{N}_p(F_l)$, *then its extension* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in* $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K)$.

*Proof.* Proof of (1): It suffices to prove this identity for smooth functions $u$ on $F_l$ vanishing on the edge where $\lambda_i$ is zero. Indeed, once the identity is established for such functions, the continuity of $\mathcal{E}^{\rm grad}_{i,l}$ established in [9] implies that the operator $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l}$

extends continuously to $\mathbf{grad}\, H^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l)$ wherein the commutativity property holds (by a minor modification of the argument in the proof of Theorem 3.2(1)). Furthermore, because of Theorem 3.2(1), we only need to prove that $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_i,l}\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u = \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{F_i,l} u)$, or as usual, only its analogue on the reference tetrahedron $\hat{K}$, namely

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u) = \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{F}_1} u). \tag{4.8}$$

Here $\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{F}_1}$ is the corresponding operator given in [9] and $u(x,y)$ is a smooth function vanishing on the $y$-axis.

To prove (4.8), we start by computing the gradient on the right hand side of (4.8), which we have already done in (4.2). To convert (4.2) into an expression depending on $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u$ alone, we use Lemma 4.1. Applying Lemma 4.1(2) to the last term in (4.2) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{2}{(x+z)^2}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\0\\x\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\!\!\int_0^{1-t} u(s(x+z), y+t(x+z))\,ds\,dt\\
&\quad=\frac{2}{(x+z)^2}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\0\\x\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\!\!\int_0^{1-t}\frac{1}{2}\left((1-s)\frac{\partial}{\partial s}-t\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)u(s(x+z), y+t(x+z))\,ds\,dt,
\end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{grad}\,\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{F}_1}u &= \frac{2z}{x+z}\int_0^1\!\!\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}s&t\\0&1\\s&t\end{pmatrix}\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(s(x+z), y+t(x+z))\,ds\,dt\\
&\quad+\frac{1}{x+z}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\0\\x\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\!\!\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}1-s\\-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(s(x+z), y+t(x+z))\,ds\,dt,
\end{aligned}$$

which is the same as $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u)$.

Proof of (2): To prove the continuity estimate, apply Theorem 2.1 and decompose $\boldsymbol{v}$ as

$$\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\phi + \boldsymbol{\psi}, \qquad \text{with } \phi \in H^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l), \text{ and } \boldsymbol{\psi} \in \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l).$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})} &= \|\,\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{i,l}\phi) + \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})}, && \text{by commutativity,}\\
&\le C\Big(\|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l)} + \|\boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l)}\Big), && \text{by [9, Prop. 3.1] \& Lem. 4.2,}\\
&\le C\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,i}(F_l)}, && \text{by Theorem 2.1.}
\end{aligned}$$

Proof of (3): Since $\lambda_i = 0$ on $F_i$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_l\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i} &= \frac{1}{|F_l|\,\lambda_l^2}\iint\limits_{T_l(0,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)}\sum_{m\in\{i,j,k\}} D_m\boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{s})\ \mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_m\ \ d\boldsymbol{s}, && \text{by (3.9),}\\
\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_i,l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i} &= \frac{\lambda_l}{|F_l|\,(\lambda_i+\lambda_l)^3}\iint\limits_{T_l(0,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)}\sum_{m\in\{j,k\}} D_m\boldsymbol{v}\ \mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_m\ \ d\boldsymbol{s}, && \text{by (4.6),}
\end{aligned}$$

as $\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\lambda_i \,\mathbf{grad}\, \lambda_l - \lambda_l \,\mathbf{grad}\, \lambda_i)|_{F_i} = \mathbf{0}$. Therefore,

$$\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i} = \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{l}\boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_i,l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Proof of (4): As in the proof of Theorem 3.2(5), it suffices to prove the polynomial preservation properties for the expression (4.1) on $\hat{K}$.

Any polynomial $\boldsymbol{v}(x,y)$ in $\boldsymbol{P}_p(\hat{F})$ whose tangential component along the $y$-axis vanishes, can be written as

$$\boldsymbol{v}(x,y) = \begin{pmatrix} v_1(x,y) \\ x v_2(x,y) \end{pmatrix} \tag{4.9}$$

for some $v_1 \in P_p(\hat{F})$ and $v_2 \in P_{p-1}(\hat{F})$. This implies

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{v}(x,y) &= \boldsymbol{v} - \mathbf{grad}_\tau(x v_1) + \mathbf{grad}_\tau(x v_1) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} v_1 - v_1 - x\partial_x v_1 \\ x v_2 - x\partial_y v_1 \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{grad}_\tau(x v_1) \\ &= x\,\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}} + \mathbf{grad}_\tau(x v_1), \end{aligned}$$

where $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}} = \begin{pmatrix} -\partial_x v_1 \\ v_2 - \partial_y v_1 \end{pmatrix} \in \boldsymbol{P}_{p-1}(\hat{F})$. With this decomposition,

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}\boldsymbol{v} &= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}(x\,\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}} + \mathbf{grad}_\tau(x v_1)), \\ &= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}(x\,\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}) + \mathbf{grad}\, \mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{F}_1}(x v_1), \qquad \text{by commutativity.} \end{aligned}$$

By the polynomial preservation properties of $\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{F}_1}$ established in [9], the last term is clearly in $\boldsymbol{P}_p(\hat{K})$. For the remaining term, referring to (4.1), we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}\boldsymbol{v} =& \frac{2z}{x+z}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} s & t \\ 0 & 1 \\ s & t \end{pmatrix} s(x+z)\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}(s(x+z), y + t(x+z))\, ds\, dt \quad + \\ & \frac{1}{x+z}\begin{pmatrix} -z \\ 0 \\ x \end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} 1-s \\ -t \end{pmatrix} \cdot s(x+z)\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}(s(x+z), y + t(x+z))\, ds\, dt, \end{aligned}$$

so the $x+z$ term in the denominator cancels out. Since $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}} \in \boldsymbol{P}_{p-1}(\hat{F})$, by arguments similar to the proof of Theorem 3.2(5), we find that $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $\boldsymbol{P}_p(\hat{K})$.

To prove that the Nédélec space is preserved, observe that (4.1) implies

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}\boldsymbol{v} = \frac{2z}{x+z}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} s(x+z) \\ y + t(x+z) \end{pmatrix} \cdot \boldsymbol{v}(s(x+z), y + t(x+z))\, ds\, dt.$$

If $\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $\boldsymbol{N}_p(\hat{F})$, then by (3.3), the integrand is a polynomial of degree at most $p+1$. Furthermore, since $\boldsymbol{v}$ has the form in (4.9), the integrand has $s(x+z)$ as a scalar factor. Hence the $x+z$ term in the denominator cancels out. Usual arguments then yield that $\boldsymbol{x} \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{F}_1}\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $P_{p+1}(\hat{K})$, so we can finish the proof by appealing to (3.3) again. □

**5. Edge corrections.** As in the $H^1$ case, edge corrections are necessary now, because successive applications of different face corrections alter the previously zeroed tangential traces. Consider the *three-face problem* of finding a polynomial extension of $\boldsymbol{v}$ given on face $F_l$ that has zero tangential trace on $F_i$ and $F_j$ whenever $\boldsymbol{v}$ is a smooth function whose tangential component vanishes on edges $E_{jk}$ and $E_{ik}$. To solve this intermediate problem, we define the next operator.

Beginning with the case of the reference tetrahedron $\hat{K}$, let $\boldsymbol{v}$ be a smooth function on the $x$-$y$ face $\hat{F}$ whose tangential components along the edges on $x$ and $y$ axes vanish. Define the edge correction for the edge along the $z$-axis by

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{E}_{03}}\boldsymbol{v}\,(x,y,z) &= \frac{1}{x+y+z}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\0\\x\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\!\!\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}1-s\\-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\boldsymbol{v}(s(x+y+z),t(x+y+z))\,ds\,dt\\ &+\frac{1}{x+y+z}\begin{pmatrix}0\\-z\\y\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\!\!\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}-s\\1-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\boldsymbol{v}(s(x+y+z),t(x+y+z))\,ds\,dt\\ &+\frac{2z}{x+y+z}\int_0^1\!\!\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}s&t\\s&t\\s&t\end{pmatrix}\boldsymbol{v}(s(x+y+z),t(x+y+z))\,ds\,dt.\end{aligned}\tag{5.1}$$

As in the previous sections, we next generalize this expression to the case of the edge $E_{il}$ of the general tetrahedron $K$. Split $\boldsymbol{v}$ into component form as in (3.8) and substitute into (5.1). A few simplifications then transform the above expression to

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{E}_{03}}\boldsymbol{v}\,(x,y,z) =& \frac{\lambda_2\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_3-\lambda_3\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_2}{2|\hat{F}|\,(1-\lambda_0)^3}\iint\limits_{T_3(0,0,\lambda_0)}D_2\boldsymbol{v}\;d\widetilde{x}\,d\widetilde{y}\\ &+\frac{\lambda_0\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_3-\lambda_3\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_0}{2|\hat{F}|\,(1-\lambda_0)^3}\iint\limits_{T_3(0,0,\lambda_0)}D_0\boldsymbol{v}\;d\widetilde{x}\,d\widetilde{y}\\ &+\frac{\lambda_3\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_0}{|\hat{F}|\,(1-\lambda_0)^3}\iint\limits_{T_3(0,0,\lambda_0)}D_0\boldsymbol{v}\;d\widetilde{x}\,d\widetilde{y}.\end{aligned}$$

Thus we obtain the general formula on any tetrahedron $K$:

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{il},l}\boldsymbol{v} =& \sum_{m\in\{j,k\}}\frac{\lambda_m\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_l-\lambda_l\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_m}{2|F_l|\,(1-\lambda_i)^3}\iint\limits_{T_l(0,0,\lambda_i)}D_m\boldsymbol{v}\;d\boldsymbol{s}\\ &+\frac{\lambda_l\,\mathbf{grad}\,\lambda_i}{|F_l|\,(1-\lambda_i)^3}\iint\limits_{T_l(0,0,\lambda_i)}D_i\boldsymbol{v}\;d\boldsymbol{s},\end{aligned}\tag{5.2}$$

where $D_m\boldsymbol{v}$ is as defined in (3.10) but now with $\widetilde{\lambda}_j(\boldsymbol{s})$ denoting the barycentric coordinates of the current region of integration $T_l(0,0,\lambda_i)$. It is easy to check that if all $v_i=\bar{v}$, then the expression above vanishes, so it is independent of the non-uniqueness in the splitting of (3.8).

Let us now solve the three-face problem. The required extension operator is

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}=\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{l}-\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_i,l}-\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_j,l}+\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{kl},l},\tag{5.3}$$

whose properties appear in the next proposition. As in the case of the face correction, to analyze this operator, we first establish a continuity property in a positive order Sobolev space, as seen in the next lemma (proved in Appendix A).

LEMMA 5.1. *$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}$ is a continuous operator from $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l)$ into $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$.*

We use this together with the trace decomposition to prove the required continuity from the trace space. All the properties of this extension we shall need are in the next proposition.

PROPOSITION 5.1. *The three face extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}$ satisfies the following:*

1. Commutativity: $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u = \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{ij,l} u)$ *for all* $u \in H^{1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l)$.
2. Continuity: $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}$ *extends to a continuous operator from* $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l)$ *into* $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl}\,)$.
3. Extension property: *For all* $\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l)$,
$$\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v})\big|_{F_i} = \mathbf{0}, \qquad \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v})\big|_{F_j} = \mathbf{0}, \qquad \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v})\big|_{F_l} = \boldsymbol{v}.$$
4. Polynomial preservation: *Suppose* $\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{P}_p(F_l)$ *is such that* $\boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{t} = 0$ *on the edges* $E_{jk}$ *and* $E_{ik}$. *Then the extension* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in* $\boldsymbol{P}_p(K)$. *If in addition* $\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in the Nédélec space* $\boldsymbol{N}_p(F_l)$, *then* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in* $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K)$.

*Proof.* Proof of (1): We will prove that

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{E}_{03}}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u) = \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{E}_{03}} u) \tag{5.4}$$

for a smooth function $u(x,y)$ that vanishes along the $x$ and $y$ edges. The required commutativity property stated in item (1) then follows by arguments similar to those detailed in the proof of Proposition 3(1), which we shall not repeat here. To prove (5.4), we start by computing the gradient of the expression for $\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{E}_{03}} u$ given in [9] (or obtained by applying (B.3) to $\hat{K}$):

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{E}_{03}} u) = {} & \frac{2z}{x+y+z}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s}\begin{pmatrix} s & t\\ s & t\\ s & t\end{pmatrix}\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(s(x+y+z), t(x+y+z))\,dt\,ds \\ & + \frac{2}{(x+y+z)^2}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\ -z\\ x+y\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s} u(s(x+y+z), t(x+y+z)\,dt\,ds. \end{aligned} \tag{5.5}$$

We must now express the last integral in terms of surface gradients alone. Since $u$ vanishes along the $x$ and $y$-axis, we can apply parts (1) and (2) of Lemma 4.1 to the last term in (5.5). (While applying this lemma, as is clear from its proof, we are integrating along the path shown in Fig. 4, obtained by combining the paths in Fig. 3($a$) and 3($b$). Hence the symmetries with respect to the $z$-edge are not lost.)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{\hat{E}_{03}} u) = {} & \frac{2z}{x+y+z}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix} s & t\\ s & t\\ s & t\end{pmatrix}\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(s(x+y+z), t(x+y+z))\,ds\,dt \\ & + \frac{1}{x+y+z}\begin{pmatrix}-z\\ 0\\ x\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}1-s\\ -t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(s(x+y+z), t(x+y+z))\,ds\,dt \\ & + \frac{1}{x+y+z}\begin{pmatrix}0\\ -z\\ y\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-t}\begin{pmatrix}-s\\ 1-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(s(x+y+z), t(x+y+z))\,ds\,dt. \end{aligned}$$

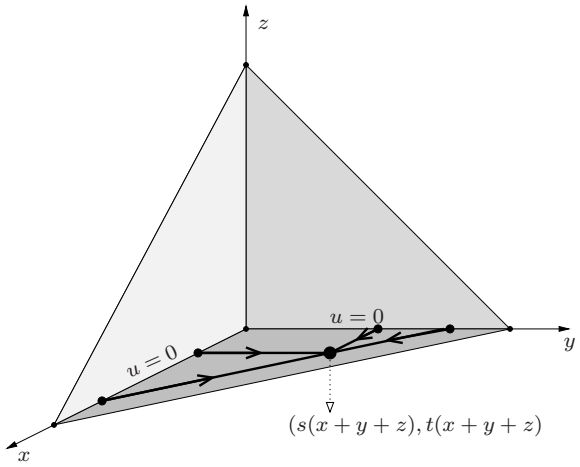


FIG. 4. *Integration paths symmetrizing the edge correction*

This expression is the same as (5.1) with $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u$ in place of $\boldsymbol{v}$, so (5.4) follows.

Proof of (2): We use the regular decomposition again: By Theorem 2.1,

$$\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, \phi + \boldsymbol{\psi}, \qquad \text{with } \phi \in H^{1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l), \text{ and } \boldsymbol{\psi} \in \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l).$$

Applying the three face extension to this decomposition,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})} &= \|\,\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{ij,l}\phi) + \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})}, && \text{by commutativity (item (1))},\\
&\le C\left(\|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l)} + \|\boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l)}\right), && \text{by [9, Prop. 4.1] and Lemma 5.1},\\
&\le C\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ij}(F_l)}, && \text{by Theorem 2.1.}
\end{aligned}$$

Proof of (3): To show that $\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v})\big|_{F_i} = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v})\big|_{F_i} &= \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v}) - \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_j,l}\boldsymbol{v}) + \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{kl},l}\boldsymbol{v})\Big|_{F_i}, && \text{by (4.7)}\\
&= -\,\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_j,l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i} + \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{kl},l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i}, && \text{by Prop. 4.1(3).}
\end{aligned}$$

Now, by (4.6) and (5.2),

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_j,l}\boldsymbol{v}) &= \frac{\lambda_l}{|F_l|\,(\lambda_j+\lambda_l)^3} \iint\limits_{T_l(0,\lambda_i,\lambda_k)} \sum_{m\in\{i,k\}} D_m\boldsymbol{v}\ \mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_m\ d\boldsymbol{s}\\
&\quad + \frac{\lambda_j\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_l - \lambda_l\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_j}{2|F_l|\,(\lambda_j+\lambda_l)^3} \iint\limits_{T_l(0,\lambda_i,\lambda_k)} D_j\boldsymbol{v}\,d\boldsymbol{s}, && \text{and}\\
\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{kl},l}\boldsymbol{v}) &= \sum_{m\in\{i,j\}} \frac{\lambda_m\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_l - \lambda_l\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_m}{2|F_l|\,(1-\lambda_k)^3} \iint\limits_{T_l(0,0,\lambda_k)} D_m\boldsymbol{v}\,d\boldsymbol{s}\\
&\quad + \frac{\lambda_l\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_k}{|F_l|\,(1-\lambda_k)^3} \iint\limits_{T_l(0,0,\lambda_k)} D_k\boldsymbol{v}\,d\boldsymbol{s}.
\end{aligned}$$

These two expressions coincide on $F_i$ because on $F_i$ we have $\lambda_i = 0$, $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, \lambda_i = \mathbf{0}$, $\lambda_j + \lambda_l = 1 - \lambda_k$, and $T_l(0, \lambda_i, \lambda_k) = T_l(0, 0, \lambda_k)$. Hence

$$\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_j,l}\boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{kl},l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i} = \mathbf{0}, \tag{5.6}$$

and so $\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i} = 0$. That $\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_j} = 0$ now immediately follows because the expression for the three face extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}$ is symmetric with respect to $i$ and $j$. The third identity $\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_l} = \boldsymbol{v}$ holds because all the correction operators have vanishing tangential traces on $F_l$.

Proof of (4): To show that the expression in (5.1) is in $\boldsymbol{P}_p(\hat{K})$ is easy. Indeed, since $\boldsymbol{v}$ has vanishing tangential components along both the $x$ and $y$-axes, it has the form $\boldsymbol{v}(x, y) = (xv_1(x, y), yv_2(x, y))^t$. Hence the denominator term $x + y + z$ in (5.1) cancels out showing that $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{E}_{03}}\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $\boldsymbol{P}_p(\hat{K})$.

If $\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $\boldsymbol{N}_p(\hat{F})$, then since (5.1) implies

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{E}_{03}}\boldsymbol{v} = \frac{2z}{x+y+z} \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} s(x+y+z) \\ t(x+y+z) \end{pmatrix} \cdot \boldsymbol{v}(s(x+y+z), t(x+y+z))\, ds\, dt,$$

and (3.3) implies $\boldsymbol{x} \cdot \boldsymbol{v}$ is in $P_{p+1}(\hat{F})$, we have $\boldsymbol{x} \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{\hat{E}_{03}}\boldsymbol{v}$ is in $P_{p+1}(\hat{K})$. This proves the last statement of the proposition. □

**6. Extension of a tangential face bubble.** Now consider a tangential vector function on the face $F_l$ of a general tetrahedron $K$, whose tangential components along all the three edges of $F_l$ vanish. The *four-face problem* is the problem of finding an extension of $\boldsymbol{v}$ into $K$ whose tangential traces are zero on all the other three faces of $K$.

We have all the main ingredients to solve the four-face problem right away. The required extension operator is

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{l}\boldsymbol{v} \;-\; \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l}\boldsymbol{v} \;-\; \sum_{m\in\{i,j,k\}} (\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_m,l}\boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{ml},l}\boldsymbol{v}), \tag{6.1}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{l}$ is the primary extension operator defined in (3.9), $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_i,l}$ is the face correction operator defined in (4.6), $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{il},l}$ is the edge correction operator defined in (5.2), and $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l}$ is a *vertex correction operator* defined by

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l}\boldsymbol{v} = \sum_{m\in\{i,j,k\}} \frac{(\lambda_m\, \mathbf{grad}\, \lambda_l - \lambda_l\, \mathbf{grad}\, \lambda_m)}{2|F_l|} \iint_{F_l} D_m\boldsymbol{v}\, d\boldsymbol{s} \tag{6.2}$$

where $D_m\boldsymbol{v}$ is as defined before in (3.10) but now with $\widetilde{\lambda}_j(\boldsymbol{s})$ in (3.10) denoting the barycentric coordinates of $F_l$, i.e., now $\widetilde{\lambda}_j = \lambda_j|_{F_l}$.

Proposition 6.1. *The four-face extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}$ satisfies the following:*

1. Commutativity: $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\, \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u = \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{ijk,l}u)$ *for all* $u \in H^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l)$.
2. Continuity: $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}$ *is a continuous map from* $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l)$ *into* $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$.
3. Extension property: *For all* $\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l)$, *the tangential traces of* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v}$ *on all faces of the tetrahedron are zero except for the face* $F_l$, *where it equals* $\boldsymbol{v}$.

*4.* Polynomial preservation: *Suppose* $\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{P}_p(F_l)$ *is such that* $\boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{t} = 0$ *on* $\partial F_l$. *Then the extension* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in* $\boldsymbol{P}_p(K)$. *Furthermore, if* $\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in the Nédélec space* $\boldsymbol{N}_p(F_l)$, *then its extension* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in* $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K)$.

*Proof.* Proof of (1): We have already proven the commutativity properties of all the operators in (6.1) except $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l}$. Therefore, it is enough to prove that

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l}\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u = \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{V_l}u), \quad \text{for all } u \in H^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l), \tag{6.3}$$

for the operator $\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{V_l}$ defined in (B.4). Furthermore, by mapping, it is enough to prove (6.3) for the specific case of the reference tetrahedron with $l = 3$. In this case, the left hand side of (6.3) simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_3}(\boldsymbol{v})\,(x,y,z) &= \begin{pmatrix} z \\ z \\ 1-x-y\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s}\begin{pmatrix}-s\\-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\boldsymbol{v}(s,t)\,ds\,dt\\ &+\begin{pmatrix}-z\\0\\x\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s}\begin{pmatrix}1-s\\-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\boldsymbol{v}\,ds\,dt+\begin{pmatrix}0\\-z\\y\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s}\begin{pmatrix}-s\\1-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\boldsymbol{v}\,ds\,dt\\ &=\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s}\begin{pmatrix}-z & 0\\ 0 & -z\\ x-s & y-t\end{pmatrix}\boldsymbol{v}\,ds\,dt.\end{aligned}$$

When $\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u$, because $u$ vanishes on the boundary, by integration by parts, we can rewrite the above as

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_3}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u) &= \begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\1\end{pmatrix}\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s}\begin{pmatrix}-s\\-t\end{pmatrix}\cdot\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u(s,t)\,ds\,dt\\ &= \begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\1\end{pmatrix}\iint_{\hat F} 2\,u(s,t)\,ds\,dt, \qquad \text{by Lemma 4.1(3),}\\ &= \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{V_3}u).\end{aligned}$$

Proof of (2): First observe that the continuity of the vertex correction $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l}$ from $\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l)$ into $\boldsymbol{H}^1(K)$ is obvious. To obtain the continuity stated in the proposition, we use Theorem 2.1: Split

$$\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\phi + \boldsymbol{\psi}, \qquad \text{with } \phi \in H^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l), \text{ and } \boldsymbol{\psi} \in \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l).$$

Then by the commutativity property already proved, $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v} = \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{ijk,l}\phi) + \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{\psi}$. Hence, using the obvious continuity of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l} : \boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l) \mapsto \boldsymbol{H}^1(K)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})} &\le C\big(\|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l)} + \|\boldsymbol{\psi}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}^{1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l)}\big), \qquad \text{by [9, Prop. 5.1],}\\ &\le C\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l)}, \qquad \text{by Theorem 2.1.}\end{aligned}$$

Proof of (3): To prove the extension property, we first rewrite the terms in (6.1) as

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{i,l}\boldsymbol{v} - (\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_j,l}\boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{kl},l}\boldsymbol{v}) - (\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_k,l}\boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{jl},l}\boldsymbol{v}) + (\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{il},l}\boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l}\boldsymbol{v}). \tag{6.4}$$

Note that in the course of the proof of Proposition 5.1(3), we have shown that $\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_j,l}\boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{kl},l}\boldsymbol{v})$ vanishes on $F_i$ – see (5.6). Hence the middle two terms in (6.4) have vanishing tangential traces on $F_i$. The first term also has vanishing tangential trace on $F_i$ by Proposition 4.1(3). Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i} &= \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{il},l}\boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{V_l}\boldsymbol{v})|_{F_i}\\ &= \sum_{m\in\{j,k\}} \frac{(\lambda_m\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_l - \lambda_l\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_m)|_{F_i}}{2|F_l|\,(1-0)^3} \iint\limits_{T_l(0,0,0)} D_m\boldsymbol{v}\,d\boldsymbol{s}\\ &\quad - \sum_{m\in\{i,j,k\}} \frac{(\lambda_m\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_l - \lambda_l\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_m)|_{F_i}}{2|F_l|} \iint\limits_{F_l} D_m\boldsymbol{v}\,d\boldsymbol{s} \quad = \mathbf{0},\end{aligned}$$

because, on the face $F_i$, we have $\lambda_i = 0$, $\mathbf{grad}_\tau\,\lambda_i = \mathbf{0}$, and $T_l(0,0,0) = F_l$. Since $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}$ is symmetric with respect to $i, j$, and $k$, the above implies that the tangential trace vanishes on $F_i \cup F_j \cup F_k$. That $\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{v})$ coincides with $\boldsymbol{v}$ on $F_l$ follows because all correction operators in (6.1) have vanishing tangential traces on $F_l$, while the primary extension reproduces $\boldsymbol{v}$ as its tangential trace on $F_l$.

Proof of (4): From the expression (6.2), it is clear that the vertex correction is a lowest order function in the Nédélec space (a Whitney form). Hence, the polynomial preservation property follows from the already established results in Proposition 4.1(4) and Proposition 5.1(4). □

**7. Extension from the whole boundary of the tetrahedron.** Consider any function $\boldsymbol{v}$ in the trace space of $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ on $\partial K$, i.e., $\boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$. Let us now solve the problem of extending this function from $\partial K$ into $K$ in a polynomial preserving way. The construction, at this stage, is completely analogous to the $H^1$ case: Define

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{U}_i &= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_i\boldsymbol{v},\\ \boldsymbol{U}_j &= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{i,j}\boldsymbol{w}_j, \qquad \text{where } \boldsymbol{w}_j = \boldsymbol{R}_j(\boldsymbol{v} - \mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{U}_i),\\ \boldsymbol{U}_k &= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,k}\boldsymbol{w}_k, \qquad \text{where } \boldsymbol{w}_k = \boldsymbol{R}_k(\boldsymbol{v} - \mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{U}_i - \mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{U}_j),\\ \boldsymbol{U}_l &= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}\boldsymbol{w}_l, \qquad \text{where } \boldsymbol{w}_l = \boldsymbol{R}_l(\boldsymbol{v} - \mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{U}_i - \mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{U}_j - \mathrm{trc}_\tau\,\boldsymbol{U}_k),\end{aligned}$$

where $\boldsymbol{R}_i$ is the restriction to face $F_i$ defined in (2.5), and the extensions $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_i$, $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{i,j}$, $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,k}$, and $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ijk,l}$ are as defined in (3.9), (4.7), (5.3), and (6.1), respectively. The total extension operator is then defined by

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_K\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{U}_i + \boldsymbol{U}_j + \boldsymbol{U}_k + \boldsymbol{U}_l. \tag{7.1}$$

LEMMA 7.1. *The functions $\boldsymbol{w}_j$, $\boldsymbol{w}_k$, and $\boldsymbol{w}_l$ defined above satisfy*

$$\begin{aligned}\|\boldsymbol{w}_j\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,i}(F_j)} &\le C\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}},\\ \|\boldsymbol{w}_k\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ij}(F_k)} &\le C\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}},\\ \|\boldsymbol{w}_l\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,ijk}(F_l)} &\le C\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}}.\end{aligned}$$

We then have our main result:

THEOREM 7.2. *The operator $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_K$ in (7.1) has the following properties:*

*1.* Continuity: *$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_K$ is a continuous operator from $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$ into $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$.*

2. Commutativity: $\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{E}_K^{\mathrm{grad}} u) = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_K^{\mathrm{curl}}(\mathbf{grad}_\tau u)$ *for all* $u$ *in* $H^{1/2}(\partial K)$.
3. Extension property: *The tangential trace* $\mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_K^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v})$ *coincides with* $\boldsymbol{v}$ *for all* $\boldsymbol{v}$ *in* $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}$.
4. Full polynomial preservation: *If* $\boldsymbol{v}$ *is the tangential trace of a polynomial in* $\boldsymbol{P}_p(K)$, *then* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_K^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in* $\boldsymbol{P}_p(K)$.
5. Nédélec polynomial preservation: *If* $\boldsymbol{v}$ *is the tangential trace of a function in* $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K)$, *then* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_K^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v}$ *is in* $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K)$.

*Proof.* The proof follows by combining the previous results. E.g., the proof of continuity follows by combining the continuity of $\boldsymbol{v} \mapsto \boldsymbol{w}_m$ for $m = j, k, l$ (Lemma 7.1), the continuity of the primary extension (Theorem 3.2), and the continuity of the intermediate extension operators $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{i,j}^{\mathrm{curl}}$ (Proposition 4.1), $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{ij,k}^{\mathrm{curl}}$ (Proposition 5.1) and $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{ijk,l}^{\mathrm{curl}}$ (Proposition 6.1). The proof of the commutativity property similarly follows because each of the intermediate operators satisfy commutativity properties. The remaining properties are also proved similarly. ∎

One consequence of the above theorem is that the so called "optimal polynomial extension" can be bounded using the "optimal $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ extension". To be precise, considering any polynomial trace $\boldsymbol{w}_p = \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{W}_p)$ for some $\boldsymbol{W}_p$ in $\boldsymbol{N}_p(\hat{K})$, we have

$$\inf_{\substack{\boldsymbol{U}_p \in \boldsymbol{N}_p(\hat{K}),\\ \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{U}_p)=\boldsymbol{w}_p}} \|\boldsymbol{U}_p\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl},\hat{K})} \;\le\; C \inf_{\substack{\boldsymbol{U} \in \boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl},\hat{K}),\\ \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{U})=\boldsymbol{w}_p}} \|\boldsymbol{U}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl},\hat{K})}. \tag{7.2}$$

The infimum on the left is achieved by the optimal polynomial extension, while that on the right by the optimal $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ extension. (Note that the reverse inequality trivially holds with $C = 1$.) Inequality (7.2) is a corollary of Theorem 7.2 applied on the reference element $\hat{K}$: We bound the left infimum by $\|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{\hat{K}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{w}_p\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl},\hat{K})}$, apply Theorem 7.2(1), and use the quotient norm definition of the trace norm (2.2) to prove (7.2).

To investigate the dependencies on the tetrahedral size $h_K = \mathrm{diam}(K)$, we can use (7.2) and the mappings $T_K$ and $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_K$ introduced in (3.4). Let us first define a suitably scaled norm by

$$\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{K,\mathrm{curl}} = \left( h_K^{-2}\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{L^2(K)}^2 + \|\mathbf{curl}\,\boldsymbol{u}\|_{L^2(K)}^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Defining the "matrix curl" $[\mathrm{Curl}(\boldsymbol{u})]_{mn} = \partial_n u_m - \partial_m u_n$, it is easy to see that

$$\mathrm{Curl}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}_K(\boldsymbol{u})) = (T_K')^t\,\mathrm{Curl}(\boldsymbol{u})T_K'. \tag{7.3}$$

Then standard scaling arguments show that there are constants $C_1, C_2$ depending only on the shape regularity of $K$ (but not on $h_K$) such that

$$C_1\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{K,\mathrm{curl}}^2 \le h_K\|\boldsymbol{\Phi}_K(\boldsymbol{u})\|_{\hat{K},\mathrm{curl}}^2 \le C_2\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{K,\mathrm{curl}}^2. \tag{7.4}$$

Therefore, mapping over both sides of (7.2) from $\hat{K}$ to $K$, we find that there is a $C_3 > 0$ (depending on $C_1, C_2$) such that

$$\inf_{\substack{\boldsymbol{U}_p \in \boldsymbol{N}_p(K),\\ \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{U}_p)=\boldsymbol{w}_p}} \|\boldsymbol{U}_p\|_{K,\mathrm{curl}}^2 \;\le\; C_3 \inf_{\substack{\boldsymbol{U} \in \boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl},K),\\ \mathrm{trc}_\tau(\boldsymbol{U})=\boldsymbol{w}_p}} \|\boldsymbol{U}\|_{K,\mathrm{curl}}^2 \tag{7.5}$$

holds for any tetrahedron $K$.

As a final remark, we discuss how to apply our results to curved finite elements. Let $K$ be a "curved tetrahedron" in the sense of [3], i.e., we assume that $K$ is the image of $\hat{K}$ under the map

$$T \equiv \tilde{T} + S \quad : \hat{K} \longmapsto \mathbb{R}^3$$

where $\tilde{T} : \mathbb{R}^3 \mapsto \mathbb{R}^3$ is an invertible affine map and $S : \hat{K} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^3$ is a "perturbative" map which is twice continuously differentiable ($C^2$) and generally nonlinear. Under appropriate bounds on $S'(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}})\,(\tilde{T}')^{-1}$ and the second derivatives of $S$, it is proved in [3] that $T^{-1} : K \mapsto \hat{K}$ exists and is $C^2$. The Nédélec space on the curved element $K$, which we continue to denote by $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K)$, is now defined by $\boldsymbol{N}_p(K) = \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{N}_p(\hat{K}))$ where $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$ is now defined analogously to (3.4) but with $T$ in place of $T_K$, namely, $\boldsymbol{\Phi}(\boldsymbol{v}) = (T')^t(\boldsymbol{v} \circ T)$. With this (possibly nonlinear) $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$, we now have

$$[\mathrm{Curl}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}(\boldsymbol{u}))]_{mn} = [(T')^t\,\mathrm{Curl}(\boldsymbol{u})T']_{mn} + \sum_{\ell=1}^{3}(\partial_n T'_{\ell m} - \partial_m T'_{\ell n})[\boldsymbol{u} \circ T]_\ell,$$

but the last term vanishes as $\partial_n T'_{\ell m} - \partial_m T'_{\ell n} = \partial_n\partial_m T_\ell - \partial_m\partial_n T_\ell = 0$. Hence, we continue to have the identity (7.3). The affine homeomorphism $\tilde{T}$ maps $\hat{K}$ onto a (straight) tetrahedron $\tilde{K}$ which "approximates" the curved element $K$. Set $h_K$ to be the diameter of $\tilde{K}$. With this reinterpretation of $h_K$, mapping from our result (7.2) on the reference element, and using the mapped estimates of [3], we find that (7.5) holds even for the curved tetrahedron $K$.

**Appendix A. Proofs of the lemmas.**

We now prove all the lemmas in the order in which they appeared in the previous sections. For these proofs, we will use the lemmas established in [9], as well as a few new auxiliary results. We begin with the following auxiliary lemma:

LEMMA A.1. *Let $S_z = \{(x', y', z') \in \hat{K} : \ z' = z\}$, $\theta(x, y)$ be a smooth function on $\hat{F}$, and*

$$\begin{aligned}
G_0u\,(x,y,z) &= \int_0^1 \theta(s,1-s)\; u(x+sz, y+(1-s)z)\; ds,\\
G_1u\,(x,y,z) &= \int_0^1 \theta(0,t)\; u(x, y+tz)\; dt,\\
G_2u\,(x,y,z) &= \int_0^1 \theta(s,0)\; u(x+sz, y)\; ds.
\end{aligned}$$

*Then, for any $0 < z < 1$,*

$$\begin{aligned}
\sqrt{2}\,\|G_0u\|_{L^2(S_z)} &\le \|\theta\|_{L^1(\hat{E}_{12})}\|u\|_{L^2(\hat{F})}\\
\|G_1u\|_{L^2(S_z)} &\le \|\theta\|_{L^1(\hat{E}_{20})}\|u\|_{L^2(\hat{F})},\\
\|G_2u\|_{L^2(S_z)} &\le \|\theta\|_{L^1(\hat{E}_{01})}\|u\|_{L^2(\hat{F})}.
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The three estimates have very similar proofs, so we will only prove the last

one:

$$\|G_2u\|^2_{L^2(S_z)} = \iint\limits_{S_z} \Big| \int_0^1 \theta(s,0)\; u(x+sz,y)\; ds\Big|^2\; dx\, dy$$
$$= \iint\limits_{S_z} \Big( \int_0^1 \theta(s_1,0)\; u(x+s_1z,y)\; ds_1\Big)\Big( \int_0^1 \theta(s_2,0)\; u(x+s_2z,y)\; ds_2\Big)\; dx\, dy$$
$$= \int_0^1\int_0^1 \theta(s_1,0)\;\theta(s_2,0)\Big( \iint\limits_{S_z} u(x+s_1z,y)\; u(x+s_2z,y)\;\; dx\, dy\Big) ds_1\, ds_2$$

by Fubini's theorem. Now applying Cauchy-Schwarz inequality to the integral over $S_z$ in the parentheses above, and increasing the integration domain to all $(x,y)$ in $\hat{F}$, we obtain

$$\|G_2u\|^2_{L^2(S_z)} \le \int_0^1\int_0^1 |\theta(s_1,0)\;\theta(s_2,0)|\; \|u\|_{L^2(\hat{F})}\|u\|_{L^2(\hat{F})}\; ds_1\, ds_2$$
$$= \Big( \int_0^1 |\theta(s,0)|\; ds\Big)^2 \|u\|^2_{L^2(\hat{F})},$$

from which the last estimate of the lemma follows. □

Next, we present a result for the integral operator

$$\mathcal{K}_\theta u\;(x,y,z) = \int_0^1\int_0^{1-t} \theta(s,t)\; u(x+sz,y+tz)\; ds\, dt,$$

with a smooth kernel $\theta$. This is a smoothing integral, but the smoothness of the resulting function degenerates as $z \to 0$. The following lemma quantifies this by examining norms of derivatives on slices $S_z$ (see Fig. 5) parallel to and approaching the $x$-$y$ plane.

LEMMA A.2. *Let $\theta(x,y)$ be a smooth function on $\hat{F}$. Then the map $\mathcal{K}_\theta$ defined above for smooth functions $u(x,y)$ on $\hat{F}$, extends to a continuous operator from $L^2(\hat{F})$ into $L^2(\hat{K})$. Moreover, letting $S_z = \{(x',y',z') \in \hat{K} :\; z' = z\}$, the following inequalities hold for any $0 < z < 1$:*

$$\|\mathcal{K}_\theta u\|_{L^2(S_z)} \le \kappa_1 \|u\|_{L^2(\hat{F})}, \tag{A.1}$$

$$\|\,\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{K}_\theta u)\|_{L^2(S_z)} \le \kappa_2\, z^{-1} \|u\|_{L^2(\hat{F})}, \tag{A.2}$$

$$\|\,\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{K}_\theta u)\|_{L^2(S_z)} \le \kappa_3 \|\,\mathbf{grad}_\tau\, u\|_{L^2(\hat{F})}, \tag{A.3}$$

*where* $\kappa_1 = \|\theta\|_{L^1(\hat{F})}$, $\kappa_2 = 2\sqrt{3}\left(\|\theta\|^2_{W^1_1(\hat{F})} + \|\theta\|^2_{L^1(\partial\hat{F})}\right)^{1/2}$, *and* $\kappa_3 = \sqrt{3}\,\|\theta\|_{L^1(\hat{F})}$.

*Proof.* The proof of the first estimate (A.1) is similar to the proof of Lemma A.1, so we omit it. To prove the second estimate (A.2), we rewrite the expression for $\mathcal{K}_\theta u$ as

$$\mathcal{K}_\theta u\;(x,y,z) = \int_0^1\int_0^{1-t} \theta(s,t)\; u(x+sz,y+tz)\; ds\, dt \tag{A.4}$$
$$= \frac{1}{z^2}\int_x^{x+z}\int_y^{x+y+z-x'} \theta(\frac{x'-x}{z},\frac{y'-y}{z})\; u(x',y')\; dy'dx',$$

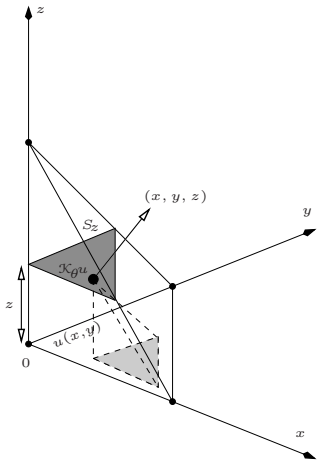


FIG. 5. *The value of $\mathcal{K}_\theta u$ at a point $(x, y, z)$ in the slice $S_z$ is determined by integrating $u$ over the triangle in the x-y plane shown above. Even if $u(x, y)$ is not differentiable, $\mathcal{K}_\theta u$ can be differentiable. But the derivatives of $\mathcal{K}_\theta u$ degenerate as $z \to 0$, unless $u$ is differentiable (see Lemma A.2).*

and differentiate it (so that no derivatives fall on $u$). Then we obtain the following identity:

$$\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{K}_\theta u) = \frac{1}{z} \begin{pmatrix} -\mathcal{K}_{\partial_s \theta} u + G_0 u - G_1 u \\ -\mathcal{K}_{\partial_t \theta} u + G_0 u - G_2 u \\ -2\mathcal{K}_\theta u - \mathcal{K}_{(s\partial_s \theta + t\partial_t \theta)} u + G_0 u \end{pmatrix}, \tag{A.5}$$

where $\mathcal{K}_\alpha$ (appearing above with $\alpha = \partial_s\theta, \partial_t\theta$, and $s\partial_s\theta + t\partial_t\theta$) denotes the same expression as on the right hand side of (A.4), but with $\theta(s,t)$ replaced by $\alpha(s,t)$. By applying Lemma A.1 and (A.1) to estimate the terms on the right hand side of (A.5), we obtain (A.2).

To prove the last estimate of the lemma, we express $\mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{K}_\theta u)$ differently from (A.5), this time letting all the derivatives fall on $u$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{grad}(\mathcal{K}_\theta u) &= \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \theta(s,t) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ s & t \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{grad}_\tau \, u(x+sz, y+tz) \, ds \, dt \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{K}_\theta(\partial_x u) \\ \mathcal{K}_\theta(\partial_y u) \\ \mathcal{K}_{s\theta}(\partial_x u) + \mathcal{K}_{t\theta}(\partial_y u) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, (A.3) follows by applying (A.1) to each term on the right hand side above. □

**Proof of Lemma 3.1.** (The $K$-functional technique.) We use the real method of interpolation of spaces [2] and Peetre's $K$-functional [17]. It is well known [12, 13] that an equivalent norm on space $H^{1/2}(\hat{F})$ is

$$\|\!|u|\!\|_{H^{1/2}(\hat{F})} = \left( \int_0^\infty t^{-2} |K(t,u)|^2 \, dt \right)^{1/2},$$

where the $K$-functional is defined by

$$K(t,u)^2 = \inf_{u=u_0+u_1} \|u_0\|^2_{L^2(\hat{F})} + t^2 \|u_1\|^2_{H^1(\hat{F})}.$$

The infimum is taken over all decompositions $u = u_0 + u_1$ of $u$ in $H^{1/2}(F_l)$ with $u_0$ in $L^2(\hat{F})$ and $u_1$ in $H^1(\hat{F})$. For such a decomposition, (A.2) and (A.3) of Lemma A.2 gives

$$\begin{aligned}\left\| \mathbf{grad}\, \mathcal{K}_\theta u_0 \right\|^2_{L^2(S_z)} &\le C z^{-2} \|u_0\|^2_{L^2(\hat{F})},\\ \left\| \mathbf{grad}\, \mathcal{K}_\theta u_1 \right\|^2_{L^2(S_z)} &\le C \|u_1\|^2_{H^1(\hat{F})},\end{aligned}$$

where $S_z$ is the slice defined previously (see Fig. 5). Using these to estimate the $H^1(\hat{K})$-norm, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathcal{K}_\theta u\|^2_{H^1(\hat{K})} &= \int_0^1 \left( \|\mathcal{K}_\theta u\|^2_{L^2(S_z)} + \left\| \mathbf{grad}\left(\mathcal{K}_\theta (u_0 + u_1)\right)\right\|^2_{L^2(S_z)} \right) dz\\ &\le C \int_0^1 \|u\|^2_{L^2(\hat{F})} + z^{-2} \left( \|u_0\|^2_{L^2(\hat{F})} + z^2 \|u_1\|^2_{H^1(\hat{F})} \right) dz,\end{aligned}$$

where we have also used (A.1) of Lemma A.2. Taking the infimum over all the decompositions,

$$\left\|\mathcal{K}_\theta u\right\|^2_{H^1(\hat{K})} \le C \int_0^1 z^{-2} K(z,u)^2 \, dz \le \; C \, |\!|\!| u |\!|\!|^2_{H^{1/2}(\hat{F})}. \qquad \square$$

**Proof of Lemma 4.1.** The proofs of the first, second, and third identities rely on an application of the fundamental theorem of calculus along the integration paths shown in Fig. 3($a$), 3($b$), and 3($c$), respectively. Since the three proofs are very similar, we will only prove the first identity.

First, integrating $\partial u/\partial s$ along the vertical path in Fig. 3($a$), we have

$$\begin{aligned}&\int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} u(s,t)\, ds\, dt\\ &\quad = \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \int_0^s \frac{\partial u}{\partial s}(s',t)\, ds' ds\, dt \qquad \text{(Fundamental theorem of calculus)}\\ &\quad = \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} \int_{s'}^{1-t} ds \;\; \frac{\partial u}{\partial s}(s',t) \;\; ds' dt \qquad \text{(Fubini's theorem)}\\ &\quad = \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} (1-t-s) \frac{\partial u}{\partial s}(s,t) \;\; ds\, dt \qquad \text{(change of variable: } s' \to s).\end{aligned}$$

Next, we integrate along the slanted line in Fig. 3($a$) to get

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} u(s,t)\, ds\, dt &= \int_0^1 \int_0^\beta u(\alpha, \beta-\alpha)\, d\alpha d\beta \qquad \text{(setting } \alpha = s,\ \beta = s+t)\\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^\beta \int_0^\alpha \frac{d}{d\alpha} u(\alpha', \beta-\alpha')\, d\alpha' d\alpha d\beta\\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^\beta \int_0^\alpha \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)(\alpha', \beta-\alpha')\, d\alpha' d\alpha d\beta\\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^\beta \int_{\alpha'}^\beta d\alpha \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)(\alpha', \beta-\alpha')\, d\alpha' d\beta\\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^\beta (\beta-\alpha) \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)(\alpha, \beta-\alpha)\, d\alpha d\beta\\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-t} t \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)(s,t)\, ds\, dt \qquad \text{(by a change of variable).}\end{aligned}$$

Taking the average of the two identities we get the first identity of the lemma. ☐

Next, let us prove the continuity of the face and edge correction operators. Recall the averaging operators $A_3^\theta, B_2^\theta$ and the interpolatory operators $J_\theta, L_\theta$ analyzed in [9, Appendix A]:

$$A_3^\theta u\,(y,z) = 2\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s} \theta(s,t)\; u(sz, y+tz)\;\; dt\, ds, \tag{A.6}$$

$$B_2^\theta u\,(z) = 2\int_0^1\int_0^{1-s} \theta(s,t) u(sz,tz)\;\; dt\, ds. \tag{A.7}$$

$$J_\theta \phi\,(x,y,z) = \theta(x,y,z)\,\phi(y,x+z), \tag{A.8}$$

$$L_\theta \psi\,(x,y,z) = \theta(x,y,z)\,\psi(x+y+z), \tag{A.9}$$

which we used in the analysis of the $H^1$ face and edge correction operators. We will use them here in the $\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})$ case as well.

**Proof of Lemma 4.2.** Combining the two terms in the definition of the face correction (4.1), write

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{\hat{F}}^{\mathrm{curl}}\boldsymbol{v} = \int_0^1\int_0^{1-t} \begin{pmatrix} (3s-1)z & 3zt \\ 0 & 2z \\ 2zs + x(1-s) & 2zt - xt \end{pmatrix} \frac{\boldsymbol{v}(s(x+z), y+t(x+z))}{x+z}\, ds\, dt.$$

In terms of the operators in (A.6) and (A.8), this expression becomes

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{\hat{F}}^{\mathrm{curl}} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} J_{\beta_1}\circ A_3^{\theta_1} v_1 + J_{\beta_1}\circ A_3^{\theta_2} v_2 \\ J_{\beta_1}\circ A_3^{\theta_3} v_2 \\ J_{\beta_1}\circ A_3^{\theta_4} v_1 + J_{\beta_2}\circ A_3^{\theta_5} v_1 + J_{\beta_1}\circ A_3^{\theta_6} v_2 - J_{\beta_2}\circ A_3^{\theta_6/2} v_2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{A.10}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} &\theta_1 = \frac{3s-1}{2}, \quad \theta_2 = \frac{3t}{2}, \qquad \theta_3 = 1, \quad \beta_1 = \frac{z}{x+z}, \\ &\theta_4 = s, \qquad\quad \theta_5 = \frac{1-s}{2}, \quad \theta_6 = t, \quad \beta_2 = \frac{x}{x+z}. \end{aligned} \tag{A.11}$$

Since $|\beta_i|$ are bounded, we can apply [9, Lemma A.3] to conclude that the map $J_{\beta_i} : L_z^2(\hat{F}_1) \longmapsto L^2(\hat{K})$ is continuous. In addition, for the specific $\beta_1$ and $\beta_2$ in (A.11) above, we have

$$\mathbf{grad}(J_{\beta_1}\phi) = \begin{pmatrix} J_{\beta_1}(\partial_z\phi) - J_{\beta_1}(\phi/z) \\ J_{\beta_1}(\partial_y\phi) \\ J_{\beta_1}(\partial_z\phi) + J_{\beta_2}(\phi/z) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{grad}(J_{\beta_2}\phi) = \begin{pmatrix} J_{\beta_2}(\partial_z\phi) + J_{\beta_1}(\phi/z) \\ J_{\beta_2}(\partial_y\phi) \\ J_{\beta_2}(\partial_z\phi) - J_{\beta_2}(\phi/z) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Applying [9, Lemma A.3] again to these gradients, we conclude that the map

$$J_{\beta_i} : L_{1/z}^2(\hat{F}_1) \cap H_z^1(\hat{F}_1) \quad \longmapsto \quad H^1(\hat{K}) \tag{A.12}$$

is continuous. Furthermore, since the functions $\theta_i$ in (A.11) are smooth, applying [9, Lemma A.1], we find that

$$A_3^{\theta_i} : L_{1/x}^2(\hat{F}_3) \quad \longmapsto \quad L_{1/z}^2(\hat{F}_1) \cap H_z^1(\hat{F}_1) \tag{A.13}$$

is continuous. Combining the continuity of the maps in (A.12) and (A.13), we get that each of the operators in (A.10) of the form $J_{\beta_i} \circ A_3^{\theta_j}$ is continuous from $L^2_{1/x}(\hat{F}_3)$ into $H^1(\hat{K})$.

Since $H^{1/2}_{0,i}(F_l) = H^{1/2}(F_l) \cap L^2_{1/\lambda_i}(F_l)$, the continuity of the two-face extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{i,l} = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{l} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{F_i,l}$, now follows from the continuity of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{l}$ proved in Theorem 3.2 and the continuity of the face correction established above. □

**Proof of Lemma 5.1.** Let us first consider the expression (5.1) for the edge correction, summing its the three terms, namely

(A.14)
$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{\hat{E}}\boldsymbol{v} = \iint_{\hat{F}} \begin{pmatrix} (3s-1)z & 3zt \\ 3zs & z(3t-1) \\ x(1-s)-ys+2zs & -xt+y(1-t)+2zt \end{pmatrix} \frac{\boldsymbol{v}(s(x+y+z),t(x+y+z))}{x+y+z}\, ds\, dt.$$

Using the $B_2^\theta$ in (A.7) and the $L_\theta$ in (A.9), we can rewrite this expression as

(A.15)
$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{\hat{E}} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} L_{\beta_3} \circ B_2^{\theta_1} v_1 & L_{\beta_3} \circ B_2^{\theta_2} v_2 \\ L_{\beta_3} \circ B_2^{3\theta_3} v_1 & L_{\beta_3} \circ B_2^{\theta_4} v_2 \\ L_{\beta_3} \circ (B_2^{\theta_5} + B_2^{2\theta_3}) v_1 - L_{\beta_2} \circ B_2^{\theta_3} v_1 & L_{\beta_2} \circ (B_2^{\theta_6} + B_2^{2\theta_2}) v_2 - L_{\beta_1} \circ B_2^{2\theta_2} v_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

with

(A.16)
$$\begin{array}{llll} \theta_1 = \dfrac{3s-1}{2} & \theta_2 = \dfrac{t}{2}, & \theta_3 = \dfrac{s}{2}, & \beta_1 = \dfrac{x}{x+y+z}, \quad \beta_2 = \dfrac{y}{x+y+z} \\ \theta_4 = \dfrac{3t-1}{2}, & \theta_5 = \dfrac{1-s}{2} & \theta_6 = \dfrac{1-t}{2}, & \beta_3 = \dfrac{z}{x+y+z}. \end{array}$$

Note that the above $\beta_i$ take values in the bounded interval $[0,1]$. Hence [9, Lemma A.4] implies that $L_{\beta_i} : L^2_{z^2}(\hat{E}_{03}) \mapsto L^2(\hat{K})$ is continuous. However, since

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{grad}(L_{\beta_1}\psi(z)) &= \frac{1}{(x+y+z)^2} \begin{pmatrix} y+z \\ -x \\ -x \end{pmatrix} \psi(x+y+z) + \frac{x}{x+y+z} \begin{pmatrix} \psi'(x+y+z) \\ \psi'(x+y+z) \\ \psi'(x+y+z) \end{pmatrix}, \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} L_{\beta_2}(\psi/z) + L_{\beta_3}(\psi/z) \\ -L_{\beta_1}(\psi/z) \\ -L_{\beta_1}(\psi/z) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} L_{\beta_1}(\psi') \\ L_{\beta_1}(\psi') \\ L_{\beta_1}(\psi') \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

and since similar identities hold for the gradients of $L_{\beta_2}\psi$ and $L_{\beta_3}\psi$, applying [9, Lemma A.4] to the components of these gradients, we find a stronger continuity property, namely

$$L_{\beta_i} \ : \ L^2(\hat{E}_{03}) \cap H^1_{z^2}(\hat{E}_{03}) \ \longmapsto \ H^1(\hat{K}) \tag{A.17}$$

is continuous. Next, since $\theta_i$ in (A.11) are smooth, applying [9, Lemma A.2], we also have

$$B_2^{\theta_j} \ : \ L^2_{1/x}(\hat{F}_3) \cap L^2_{1/y}(\hat{F}_3) \longmapsto \ L^2(\hat{E}_{03}) \cap H^1_{z^2}(\hat{E}_{03}). \tag{A.18}$$

Since all the operators in (A.15) are of the form $L_{\beta_i} \circ B_2^{\theta_j}$, combining the continuity properties of (A.17) and (A.18), we find that the edge correction

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\rm curl}_{\hat{E}} : [L^2_{1/x}(\hat{F}) \cap L^2_{1/y}(\hat{F})]^2 \mapsto \boldsymbol{H}^1(\hat{K}) \tag{A.19}$$

is continuous.

The required continuity of the three-face extension $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{ij,l} = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{l} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_i,l} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{F_j,l} + \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_{E_{kl},l}$ now follows from the continuity of (A.19), the continuity of the face corrections (established in the proof of Lemma 4.2) and the continuity of the primary extension (Theorem 3.2). ∎

**Proof of Lemma 7.1.** By the definition of the space $\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}(F_l)$, its norm is

$$\|\boldsymbol{w}_j\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}(F_j)} = \inf_{\boldsymbol{R}_j\boldsymbol{u}=\boldsymbol{w}_j, \boldsymbol{u}\in\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,I}} \|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\boldsymbol{w}_j\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}_{0,i}(F_j)} &\le \|\boldsymbol{v} - \operatorname{trc}_\tau \boldsymbol{U}_i\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}} \\
&\le \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}} + \|\operatorname{trc}_\tau \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_i \boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}} \\
&\le \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}} + C\|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}^{\mathrm{curl}}_i \boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{H}(\mathbf{curl})} && \text{by trace theorem} \\
&\le \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}} + C\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}(F_l)} && \text{by Theorem 3.2} \\
&\le C\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\boldsymbol{X}^{-1/2}} && \text{by (2.6).}
\end{aligned}$$

The remaining estimates are proved similarly. ∎

**Appendix B. Corrigendum to Part I.**

Factors of Jacobian determinants of integral transformations are missing in several expressions of Part I [9]. While these errors do not alter the findings of [9], we collect the corrected expressions here, because we rely on them heavily in this paper.

All the corrections are to replace a factor of 2 by $1/|F_l|$ in the following occurrences (which are all expressions for extensions on tetrahedra that are not the reference tetrahedron): Definitions in [9, Eq. (2.3), pp. 3012] (primary extension), [9, Eq. (3.2), pp. 3014] (face correction), [9, Eq. (4.3), pp. 3016] (edge correction), and the definition of the vertex correction appearing in the display after (5.2) in [9, pp. 3018], should be corrected as follows, respectively:

$$\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{l} u = \frac{1}{|F_l|\,\lambda_l^2} \iint\limits_{T_l(\lambda_i,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)} u(\boldsymbol{s})\, d\boldsymbol{s}, \tag{B.1}$$

$$\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{F_i,l} u = \frac{\lambda_l}{|F_l|\,(\lambda_i+\lambda_l)^3} \iint\limits_{T_l(0,\lambda_j,\lambda_k)} u(\boldsymbol{s})\, d\boldsymbol{s}, \tag{B.2}$$

$$\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{E_{il},l} u = \frac{\lambda_l}{|F_l|\,(1-\lambda_i)^3} \iint\limits_{T_l(0,0,\lambda_i)} u(\boldsymbol{s})\, d\boldsymbol{s}, \tag{B.3}$$

$$\mathcal{E}^{\mathrm{grad}}_{V_l} u = \frac{\lambda_l}{|F_l|} \iint\limits_{F_l} u(\boldsymbol{s})\, d\boldsymbol{s}. \tag{B.4}$$

Additionally, replace 2 by $1/|F_l|$ in [9, Line 18, pp. 3015], [9, Eq. (4.7), pp. 3017], and in the fourth line from the bottom in [9, pp. 3017].

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