# SUPERCONVERGENCE OF CRANK-NICOLSON MIXED FINITE ELEMENT SOLUTION OF PARABOLIC PROBLEMS 

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#### Abstract

In this paper we extend the mixed finite element method and its $L_{2}$-error estimate for postprocessed solutions by using CrankNicolson time-discretization method.

Global $O\left(h^{2}+(\Delta t)^{2}\right)$-superconvergence for the lowest order RaviartThomas element ( $Q_{0}-Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}$ ) are obtained. Numerical examples are presented to confirm superconvergence phenomena.


## 1. Introduction

We show a practical discretization technique for the parabolic equations based on the mixed finite element method in a finite element space and study how we could get the global superconvergence for the mixed approximate solutions in the rectangular Raviart-Thomas elements of order 0. There are several time-discretization methods such as Backward Euler method, Crank-Nicolson method, and Runge-Kutta method [3]. We here use Crank-Nicolson method and prove optimal order of convergence. As a result, $O\left(h^{2}+(\Delta t)^{2}\right)$ - superconvergence for Raviart-Thomas element $Q_{0}-Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}$ in regular mesh (not necessarily uniform) is derived.

The paper is organized as follows. The Raviart-Thomas space is introduced in §2. In §3, we devote to descretize the parabolic problem by the Crank-Nicolson mixed finite element method. In §4, we derive the main theory for superconvergence. In $\S 5$, Numerical results are given to support the theoretical results.

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## 2. The Raviart-Thomas Elements

Raviart and Thomas [7] introduced a family of mixed finite elements that satisfy the Ladyzhenskaya-Babuska-Brezzi condition. Their elements are defined as follows:
Let $K$ be an ordinary rectangle or triangle and $j$ a non-negative integer. Set

$$
\begin{equation*}
R T_{j}(K)=V(j, K) \times H(j, K), j \geq 0 \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

If $K$ is rectangle, set $V(j, K)=Q_{j, j}(K) \equiv Q_{j}(K), H(j, K)=$ $Q_{j+1, j}(K) \times Q_{j, j+1}(K)$. Then the finite element spaces $V_{h} \times H_{h}$ of index $j$ are defined by

$$
\begin{align*}
V_{h} & =\left\{v \in L_{2}(\Omega):\left.v\right|_{K} \in V(j, K), \forall K \in \mathrm{~T}_{h}\right\}  \tag{2}\\
H_{h} & =\left\{\mathbf{p} \in H(\operatorname{div} ; \Omega):\left.\mathbf{p}\right|_{K} \in H(j, K), \forall K \in \mathrm{~T}_{h}\right\},
\end{align*}
$$

where $H(\operatorname{div} ; \Omega)=\left\{\mathbf{p}=\left(p_{1}, p_{2}\right): p_{i} \in L_{2}(\Omega), i=1,2\right.$, and $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{p} \in$ $\left.L_{2}(\Omega)\right\}$ and $Q_{m, n}=\operatorname{span}\left\{x^{i} y^{j}: 0 \leq i \leq m, 0 \leq j \leq n\right\}$.

If $K$ is triangle, set $V(j, K)=P_{j}(K), H(j, K)=P_{j}(K)^{2} \times \mathbf{x} \hat{P}_{j}(K)$, where $\hat{P}_{j}(K)$ is the set of homogeneous polynomials of degree $j$ in the variable $\mathbf{x}=(x, y)$.

The local Raviart-Thomas projection

$$
\begin{equation*}
j_{h}: H(\operatorname{div} ; K) \rightarrow H(j, K), \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_{h} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

satisfies the following properties $[8,16,17]$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\operatorname{div}\left(\mathbf{p}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}\right), v\right)=0, \forall v \in V_{h} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
& \left\|j_{h} \mathbf{p}-\mathbf{p}\right\|_{0, K} \leq C h^{r}\|\mathbf{p}\|_{r, K}, 1 \leq r \leq j+1,  \tag{6}\\
& \operatorname{div} j_{h}=i_{h} \operatorname{div}
\end{align*}
$$

where $i_{h}$ is the local $L_{2}$-projection: $L_{2}(K) \rightarrow V(j, K)$. Furthermore, we have [8]

$$
\begin{align*}
& \left(\operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}, u-i_{h} u\right)=0, \forall \mathbf{q} \in H_{h},  \tag{8}\\
& \left\|i_{h} u-u\right\|_{0, K} \leq C h^{r}\|u\|_{r, K}, 0 \leq r \leq j+1 \tag{9}
\end{align*}
$$

We choose the lowest order rectangular Raviart-Thomas Element, $Q_{0}-Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}$, which is described by
(10) $\left\{\begin{array}{l}V_{h}=\left\{v \in L_{2}(\Omega):\left.v\right|_{K} \in Q_{0}(K), \forall K \in \mathrm{~T}_{h}\right\}, \\ H_{h}^{0}=\left\{\mathbf{q} \in H_{0}(\operatorname{div} ; \Omega):\left.\mathbf{q}\right|_{K} \in Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}, \forall K \in \mathrm{~T}_{h}\right\},\end{array}\right.$
where $H_{0}(\operatorname{div} ; \Omega)=\left\{\mathbf{q} \in L_{2}(\Omega)^{2}: \operatorname{divq} \in L_{2}(\Omega), \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}=0\right.$ on $\left.\partial \Omega\right\} \subset$ $H(\operatorname{div} ; \Omega)$.
The local $L_{2}$-projection operator and the local Raviart-Thomas operator are defined on $Q_{0}-Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}$ element by

$$
\left\{\begin{array} { l } 
{ i _ { h } u \in Q _ { 0 } , } \\
{ \int _ { K } ( u - i _ { h } u ) = 0 , }
\end{array} \quad \left\{\begin{array}{l}
j_{h} \in Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}, \\
\int_{s_{i}}\left(\mathbf{p}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}\right) \cdot \mathbf{n} d s=0, i=1,2,3,4
\end{array}\right.\right.
$$

where $\mathbf{n}$ is the outward unit normal vector to $\partial K$ and $s_{i}$ is the side of each rectangle elements.

## 3. Crank-Nicolson Mixed Finite Element Approximation

Consider the mixed approximation for the parabolic equation with Neumann boundary condition.
(11) $\begin{aligned} & u_{t}-\operatorname{div}(a(\mathbf{x}) \nabla u(\mathbf{x}, t))+b(\mathbf{x}) u(\mathbf{x}, t)=f(\mathbf{x}, t) \text { in } \Omega \times[0, T), \\ & a(\mathbf{x}) \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n}=0 \text { on } \partial \Omega \times[0, T), u(\cdot, 0)=g(\mathbf{x}) \text { in } \Omega \times\{0\},\end{aligned}$
where $\Omega$ is a bounded convex domain in the plane and $\partial \Omega$ is the boundary of $\Omega$. For simplicity of presentation, we assume that $a(\mathbf{x})=1, b(\mathbf{x})=0$.

A mixed formulation for (11) is obtained by introducing a flux variable:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{p}=\nabla u \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

which is of more interest in many applications in science and engineering. The problem (11) is equivalent to seeking ( $u, \mathbf{p}$ ) such that

$$
\begin{gather*}
\nabla u-\mathbf{p}=0 \text { in } \Omega \times[0, T), u_{t}-\operatorname{div} \mathbf{p}=f \text { in } \Omega \times[0, T),  \tag{13}\\
\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{n}=0 \text { on } \partial \Omega \times[0, T), u(\cdot, 0)=g(\cdot) \text { in } \Omega \times\{0\} .
\end{gather*}
$$

Let $V=L_{2}(\Omega)$ and $\mathcal{H}=H_{0}(\operatorname{div} ; \Omega)=\left\{\mathbf{q} \in L_{2}(\Omega)^{2}: \operatorname{divq} \in\right.$ $L_{2}(\Omega), \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}=0$ on $\left.\partial \Omega\right\} \subset H(\operatorname{div} ; \Omega)$. Using integration by parts, we arrive at the following mixed variational form for (13):

Find $(u, \mathbf{p}) \in V \times \mathcal{H}$ such that

$$
\begin{align*}
\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, v\right)-(\operatorname{div} \mathbf{p}, v) & =(f, v), \quad \forall v \in V, \forall t \in[0, T)  \tag{14}\\
(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})+(u, \operatorname{divq}) & =0, \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{H}, \forall t \in[0, T)  \tag{15}\\
u(\cdot, 0) & =g . \tag{16}
\end{align*}
$$

Note that the Raviart-Thomas finite element space $V_{h} \times H_{h}^{0} \subset V \times \mathcal{H}$ satisfies $\operatorname{div} H_{h}^{0} \subset V_{h}$ and the Ladyzhenskaya-Babuska-Brezzi condition.

Let $\Delta t=\frac{T}{N}$ be the time step and $u_{h}^{n}$ be the approximation of $u(t)$ at $t=t_{n}=n \Delta t$ in $V_{h}$. Applying the Crank-Nicolson scheme to time derivative $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ around the point $t_{n-\frac{1}{2}}=\left(n-\frac{1}{2}\right) \Delta t$, we obtain the following fully discrete formulation:

For each $1 \leq n \leq N$,
(17) $\left(\frac{u_{h}^{n}-u_{h}^{n-1}}{\Delta t}, v\right)-\left(\operatorname{div}\left(\frac{\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{n}+\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{n-1}}{2}\right), v\right)=\left(\frac{f\left(t_{n}\right)+f\left(t_{n-1}\right)}{2}, v\right), \forall v \in V_{h}$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\frac{\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{n}+\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{n-1}}{2}, \mathbf{q}\right)+\left(\frac{u_{h}^{n}+u_{h}^{n-1}}{2}, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}\right)=0, \forall \mathbf{q} \in H_{h}^{0}, \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

$\left(1 \not \dot{\chi}_{h}^{0}, v\right)=\left(i_{h} g, v\right), \forall v \in V_{h},\left(\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{0}, \mathbf{q}\right)+\left(i_{h} g, \operatorname{divq}\right)=0, \forall \mathbf{q} \in H_{h}^{0}$.
Let $\varepsilon^{n}=u_{h}^{n}-u^{n}$ and $\eta^{n}=\mathbf{p}_{\mathrm{h}}{ }^{n}-\mathbf{p}^{n}$. Using (17)-(19), we obtain the error equations as follows.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\frac{\varepsilon^{n}-\varepsilon^{n-1}}{\Delta t}, v\right)-\left(\operatorname{div}\left(\frac{\eta^{n}+\eta^{n-1}}{2}\right), v\right) \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

$=\left(\frac{u^{n}-u^{n-1}}{\Delta t}-\frac{\partial u^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\partial t}, v\right)-\left(\frac{u_{t}^{n}+u_{t}^{n-1}}{2}-\frac{\partial u^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\partial t}, v\right), \forall v \in V_{h}$,
$\left((21)^{n}+\eta^{n-1} 2, \mathbf{q}\right)+\left(\frac{\varepsilon^{n}+\varepsilon^{n-1}}{2}, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}\right)=0, \forall \mathbf{q} \in H_{h}^{0}$ for $n=1,2, \ldots, N$.
Here, $\frac{u^{n}-u^{n-1}}{\Delta t}-\frac{\partial u^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\partial t}$ is the truncation error associated with the CrankNicolson method to the time derivative.

## 4. Global Superconvergence

In the following discussion, we assume that $\left(x_{K}, y_{K}\right)$ is the center of $K$ and $s_{i}(i=1,2,3,4)$ is its side. $s_{1}$ and $s_{3}$ are parallel to $y$-direction and $s_{2}$ and $s_{4}$ are parallel to $x$-direction. $C$ denotes a positive constant independent to $h$, not necessarily the same at each occurrence. $\|\cdot\|_{m}$ denote the norm $\|\cdot\|_{m, 2, \Omega}$, in particular, $\|\cdot\|=\|\cdot\|_{0}$.

Theorem 4.1. If $\mathbf{p} \in\left[H^{2}(\Omega)\right]^{2}$, then

$$
\left(\mathbf{p}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}\right) \leq C h^{2}\|\mathbf{p}\|_{2}\|\mathbf{q}\| .
$$

Proof. See J.Pan [11].

Lemma 4.1. For each n, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\|\frac{u^{n}+u^{n-1}}{2}-u^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|^{2} \leq C(\Delta t)^{3} \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n}}\left\|\frac{\partial^{2} u}{\partial t^{2}}\right\|^{2} d t \\
& \left\|\frac{u^{n}-u^{n-1}}{\Delta t}-u_{t}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|^{2} \leq C(\Delta t)^{3} \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n}}\left\|\frac{\partial^{3} u}{\partial t^{3}}\right\|^{2} d t
\end{aligned}
$$

where $C$ is a positive constant.
Proof. Use the Taylor theorem with the integral remainder and Hölder inequality.

Theorem 4.2. For $Q_{0-} Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}$ Element, there exists a positive constant $C$ such that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\|u_{h}^{n}-i_{h} u^{n}\right\|+\left\|\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{n}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}^{n}\right\| \\
\leq & C\left((\Delta t)^{2}\left(\int_{0}^{t_{n}}\left\|\frac{\partial^{3} u}{\partial t^{3}}\right\|^{2} d t\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}+h^{2}\left(\|\mathbf{p}(\cdot, 0)\|_{2}+\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n}\left\|\mathbf{p}^{j-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2}^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Proof. Let $\theta^{n}=u_{h}^{n}-i_{h} u^{n}, \xi^{n}=\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{n}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}^{n}$. (5) and (8) yield

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\frac{\theta^{n}-\theta^{n-1}}{\Delta t}, v\right)-\left(\operatorname{div} \frac{\xi^{n}+\xi^{n-1}}{2}, v\right) \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
=\left(\frac{u^{n}-u^{n-1}}{\Delta t}-u_{t}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}, v\right)-\left(\frac{u_{t}^{n}+u_{t}^{n-1}}{2}-u_{t}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}, v\right), \forall v \in V_{h}
$$

$$
\left(\left(\frac{\xi^{n}}{n}+\xi^{n-1}\right)^{\Delta t}, \mathbf{q}\right)+\left(\frac{\theta^{n}+\theta^{n-1}}{2}, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}\right)=\left(\mathbf{p}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}, \mathbf{q}\right), \forall \mathbf{q} \in H_{h}^{0}
$$

Putting $\bar{\theta}^{n}=\frac{\theta^{n}+\theta^{n-1}}{2}, \bar{\xi}^{n}=\frac{\xi^{n}+\xi^{n-1}}{2}$ and taking $v=\bar{\theta}^{n}, \mathbf{q}=\bar{\xi}^{n}$, we obtain from the sum of (22) and (23) that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2 \Delta t}\left(\left\|\theta^{n}\right\|^{2}-\left\|\theta^{n-1}\right\|^{2}\right)+\left\|\bar{\xi}^{n}\right\|^{2} \leq \frac{1}{2 \delta_{1}}\left\|\frac{u_{t}^{n}+u_{t}^{n-1}}{2}-u_{t}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|^{2}+\frac{\delta_{1}}{2}\left\|\bar{\theta}^{n}\right\|^{2} \\
& \quad+\frac{1}{2 \delta_{2}}\left\|\frac{u^{n}-u^{n-1}}{\Delta t}-u_{t}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|^{2}+\frac{\delta_{2}}{2}\left\|\bar{\theta}^{n}\right\|^{2}+\frac{C h^{4}}{2}\left\|\mathbf{p}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2}^{2}+\frac{1}{2}\left\|\bar{\xi}^{n}\right\|^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

for each $1 \leq n \leq N$.
Applying Lemma 4.2 and letting $\delta>0$ such that $1-\frac{\Delta t}{2} \delta>\frac{1}{2}$ with $\delta=\delta_{1}+\delta_{2}$, we have

$$
\left\|\theta^{n}\right\|^{2} \leq C\left(\left\|\theta^{n-1}\right\|^{2}+(\Delta t)^{4} \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n}}\left\|\frac{\partial^{3} u}{\partial t^{3}}\right\|^{2} d t+h^{4}\left\|\mathbf{p}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2}^{2}\right)
$$

Considering $u_{h}(\cdot, 0)=i_{h} g=i_{h} u(\cdot, 0)$ and adding all equations for $n=$ $1,2, \ldots, m \leq N$,

$$
\left\|\theta^{m}\right\|^{2} \leq C\left((\Delta t)^{2}\left(\int_{0}^{t_{m}}\left\|\frac{\partial^{3} u}{\partial t^{3}}\right\|^{2} d t\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}+h^{2}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{m}\left\|\mathbf{p}^{j-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2}^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)^{2}
$$

where $t_{m}=m \Delta t \leq N \Delta t=T$.
Next, we consider

$$
\left((24)-\xi^{n-1} \Delta t, \mathbf{q}\right)+\left(\frac{\theta^{n}-\theta^{n-1}}{\Delta t}, \operatorname{divq}\right)=\left(\frac{\mathbf{p}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta t}, \mathbf{q}\right), \forall \mathbf{q} \in H_{h}^{0}
$$

instead of the second equation (23). And since

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{0}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}^{0}, \mathbf{q}\right)+\left(u_{h}^{0}-i_{h} u^{0}, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q}\right)=\left(\mathbf{p}^{0}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}^{0}, \mathbf{q}\right) \tag{25}
\end{equation*}
$$

let $\mathbf{q}=\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}{ }^{0}-j_{h} \mathbf{p}^{0}$, then $\left\|\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}(\cdot, 0)-j_{h} \mathbf{p}(\cdot, 0)\right\| \leq C h^{2}\|\mathbf{p}(\cdot, 0)\|_{2}$.
From the sum of (22) with $v=\frac{\theta^{n}-\theta^{n-1}}{\Delta t}$ and (24) with $\mathbf{q}=\bar{\xi}^{n}$, we yield

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\|\frac{\theta^{n}-\theta^{n-1}}{\Delta t}\right\|^{2}+\frac{1}{2 \Delta t}\left(\left\|\xi^{n}\right\|^{2}-\left\|\xi^{n-1}\right\|^{2}\right) \leq \frac{1}{2}\left\|\frac{u_{t}^{n}+u_{t}^{n-1}}{2}-u_{t}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|^{2} \\
& \quad+\frac{1}{2}\left\|\frac{\theta^{n}-\theta^{n-1}}{\Delta t}\right\|^{2}+\frac{1}{2}\left\|\frac{u^{n}-u^{n-1}}{\Delta t}-u_{t}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|^{2} \\
& \quad+\frac{1}{2}\left\|\frac{\theta^{n}-\theta^{n-1}}{\Delta t}\right\|^{2}+\frac{1}{\Delta t}\left(\frac{\epsilon^{-1} h^{4}}{2}\left\|\mathbf{p}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2}^{2}+\frac{\epsilon}{2}\left\|\bar{\xi}^{n}\right\|^{2}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Choosing $\epsilon>0$ such that $1-\frac{\epsilon}{2}>0$, we have

$$
\left\|\xi^{n}\right\|^{2} \leq C\left(\left\|\xi^{n-1}\right\|^{2}+(\Delta t)^{4} \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n}}\left\|\frac{\partial^{3} u}{\partial t^{3}}\right\|^{2} d t+h^{4}\left\|\mathbf{p}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2}^{2}\right)
$$

Adding all equations for each $m$ with $1 \leq m \leq N$,

$$
\left\|\xi^{m}\right\|^{2} \leq C\left((\Delta t)^{2}\left(\int_{0}^{t_{m}}\left\|\frac{\partial^{3} u}{\partial t^{3}}\right\|^{2} d t\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}+h^{2}\left(\|\mathbf{p}(\cdot, 0)\|_{2}+\left(\sum_{j=1}^{m}\left\|\mathbf{p}^{j-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2}^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)\right)^{2}
$$

This completes the proof.

We use proper postprocessing method to get global superconvergence. For this purpose, we assume that $\mathcal{T}_{h}$ has been obtained from $\mathcal{T}_{2 h}$ by dividing each element of $\mathcal{T}_{2 h}$ into four congruent rectangles $\tau=\sum_{i=1}^{4} K_{i} \in \mathcal{T}_{2 h}$
with $K_{i} \in \mathcal{T}_{h}$. Then we can define two postprocessing operators as follows.

$$
\left\{\begin{array} { l } 
{ J _ { 2 h } \mathbf { p } \in Q _ { 1 , 1 } ( \tau ) \times Q _ { 1 , 1 } ( \tau ) , }  \tag{26}\\
{ \int _ { l _ { i } } ( J _ { 2 h } \mathbf { p } - \mathbf { p } ) \cdot \mathbf { n } d s = 0 , } \\
{ i = 1 , 2 , \ldots , 8 , }
\end{array} \quad \left\{\begin{array}{l}
I_{2 h} u \in Q_{1}(\tau), \\
\int_{K_{i}}\left(I_{2 h} u-u\right)=0 \\
i=1, \ldots, 4,
\end{array}\right.\right.
$$

where $l_{i}(i=1,2, \ldots, 8)$ is sides of $K_{1}, K_{2}, K_{3}, K_{4}$ which are composed of boundary of $\partial \tau$ and $\mathbf{n}$ is outward unit normal to $l_{i}$. It is easy to check that

$$
\left(2 7 \left\{\begin{array}{l}
J_{2 h} j_{h}=J_{2 h}, \\
\left\|J_{2 h} \mathbf{q}\right\| \leq c\|\mathbf{q}\|, \forall \mathbf{q} \in H_{h}^{0}(\Omega), \\
\left\|J_{2 h} \mathbf{p}-\mathbf{p}\right\| \leq c h^{2}\|\mathbf{p}\|_{2},
\end{array},\left\{\begin{array}{l}
I_{2 h} i_{h}=I_{2 h}, \\
\left\|I_{2 h} v\right\| \leq c\|v\|, \forall v \in V_{h}, \\
\left\|I_{2 h} u-u\right\| \leq c h^{2}\|u\|_{2} .
\end{array}\right.\right.\right.
$$

Corollary 4.1. We have the global $L_{2}$-superconvergence for $Q_{0}-$ $Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}$ element.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\|I_{2 h} u_{h}-u\right\|+\left\|J_{2 h} \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}-\mathbf{p}\right\| \leq C\left[(\Delta t)^{2}\left(\int_{0}^{T}\left\|\frac{\partial^{3} u}{\partial t^{3}}\right\|^{2} d t\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}+h^{2}\left(\|\mathbf{p}(\cdot, 0)\|_{2}\right.\right. \\
& \left.\left.\quad+\max _{1 \leq j \leq N}\left\|\mathbf{p}^{j-\frac{1}{2}}\right\|_{2}+\|\mathbf{p}\|_{2}+\|u\|_{2}\right)\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

where $N \Delta t=T$.

## 5. Numerical results

In this section we examine the superconvergence phenomena. Consider the parabolic problem

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}-\operatorname{div}(\nabla u(\mathbf{x}, t)) & =f(\mathbf{x}, t) \text { in } \Omega \times[0, T), \\
\nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n} & =0 \text { on } \partial \Omega \times[0, T), \\
u(\cdot, 0) & =0 \text { in } \Omega \times\{0\}
\end{aligned}
$$

with the exact solution $u(x, y, t)=t(\cos (\pi x) \cos (\pi y)+1)$, where $\Omega=$ $[0,1] \times[0,1]$ and $f(x, y, t)=1+\cos (\pi x) \cos (\pi y)+2 \pi^{2} t \cos (\pi x) \cos (\pi y)$.

Let $\mathcal{T}_{h}=\{K\}$ be a rectangular partition of $\Omega$. To solve this problem by the Crank-Nicolson mixed finite element method, we divide $\Omega$ into $M^{2}$ squares uniformly using ( $M-1$ ) vertical lines and ( $M-1$ ) horizontal
lines and take basis functions on $Q_{0}-Q_{1,0} \times Q_{0,1}$ element. We can choose the basis functions on reference rectangle $\hat{K}_{\text {ref }}=[-1,1]^{2}$ such that

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\hat{\phi}=1 \\
\hat{\psi}_{1}^{x}=\left(\frac{1-x}{2}, 0\right), \hat{\psi}_{2}^{x}=\left(\frac{1+x}{2}, 0\right), \hat{\psi}_{1}^{y}=\left(0, \frac{1-y}{2}\right), \hat{\psi}_{2}^{y}=\left(0, \frac{1+y}{2}\right) .
\end{array}\right.
$$

Then we let

$$
u_{h}=\sum_{i=1}^{M^{2}} \alpha_{i} \psi_{i}(x), \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}=\sum_{j=1}^{2 M(M-1)} \beta_{j} \phi_{j}(x) .
$$

Applying it into (17) $\sim(19)$, we get $\left(M^{2}+2 M(M-1)\right) \times\left(M^{2}+2 M(M-1)\right)$ matrix and $M^{2}+2 M(M-1)$ load vector.

$$
\left(\begin{array}{cc}
A & B \\
B^{T} & D
\end{array}\right)\binom{\tilde{u}}{\tilde{p}}=\binom{F}{G}
$$

Since $\tilde{p}=-D^{-1} B^{T} \tilde{u}+D^{-1} G$, we first solve $u_{h}$ from $\left(A-B D^{-1} B^{T}\right) \tilde{u}=$ $F-B D^{-1} G$ by lumping technique. And then, we gain $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}$.

All programs were written in Matlab, and ran on PC. We use two point Gauss quadrature to evaluate the integrals. If $K$ is rectangle with four vertices $\left(x_{1}, y_{1}\right),\left(x_{2}, y_{1}\right),\left(x_{1}, y_{2}\right)$ and $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)$,

$$
\iint_{K} f(x, y) d x d y \approx \frac{h^{2}}{4} \sum_{i, j=1}^{2} \omega_{i, j} f\left(x_{i}, y_{j}\right)
$$

where $\omega_{i, j}=1, x_{i}$ and $y_{j}(i, j=1,2)$ are two Gauss points.
Table 5.1 $L_{2}$ Error Estimate for Mixed Approximate Solution

| $\Delta t=0.1$ | $t=0.1$ |  | $t=1.0$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $M,(h=1 / M)$ | $\left\\|u-u_{h}\right\\|$ | $\left\\|\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}\right\\|$ | $\left\\|u-u_{h}\right\\|$ | $\left\\|\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}\right\\|$ |
| 4 | 0.0157389202 | 0.0502744069 | 0.1585319879 | 0.5102217316 |
| 8 | 0.0079793558 | 0.0251694639 | 0.0799553806 | 0.2527217829 |
| 16 | 0.0040033968 | 0.0125896729 | 0.0400548251 | 0.1260281101 |
| 32 | 0.0020034127 | 0.0062954834 | 0.0200367543 | 0.0629713514 |

Table 5.2 Convergence Order

| $\Delta t=0.1$ | $t=0.1$ |  | $t=1.0$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $M_{1}-M_{2}$ | $u$ | $\mathbf{p}$ | $u$ | $\mathbf{p}$ |
| $4-8$ | 0.9800 | 0.9981 | 0.9875 | 1.0136 |
| $8-16$ | 0.9950 | 0.9994 | 0.9972 | 1.0038 |
| $16-32$ | 0.9988 | 0.9999 | 0.9993 | 1.0010 |

Applying the postprocessing technique (26) to $u_{h}$ and $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}$, we can get the postprocessed solution $I_{2 h} u_{h}$ and $J_{2 h} \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}$ on each $\mathcal{T}_{2 h}$ element.

Table 5.3 $L_{2}$ Error Estimate for Postprocessed Solution

| $\Delta t=0.1$ | $t=0.1$ |  | $t=1.0$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $M,(h=1 / M)$ | $\left\\|u-I_{2 h} u_{h}\right\\|$ | $\left\\|\mathbf{p}-J_{2 h} \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}\right\\|$ | $\left\\|u-I_{2 h} u_{h}\right\\|$ | $\left\\|\mathbf{p}-J_{2 h} \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{h}}\right\\|$ |
| 4 | 0.0015575989 | 0.0073846048 | 0.0261724987 | 0.1209839702 |
| 8 | 0.0003390042 | 0.0015352651 | 0.0062273735 | 0.0279609947 |
| 16 | 0.0000810741 | 0.0003620325 | 0.0015332437 | 0.0068303653 |
| 32 | 0.0000200288 | 0.0000891003 | 0.0003817688 | 0.0016973053 |

Table 5.4 Convergence Order showing Superconvergence Phenomena

| $\Delta t=0.1$ | $t=0.1$ |  | $t=1.0$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $M_{1}-M_{2}$ | $u$ | $\mathbf{p}$ | $u$ | $\mathbf{p}$ |
| $4-8$ | 2.1999 | 2.2660 | 2.0714 | 2.1133 |
| $8-16$ | 2.0640 | 2.0843 | 2.0220 | 2.0334 |
| $16-32$ | 2.0172 | 2.0226 | 2.0058 | 2.0087 |

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