Iterative method for solving a problem with mixed boundary conditions for biharmonic equation arising in fracture mechanics*

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ABSTRACT: In this paper we consider a mixed boundary value problem for biharmonic equation of the Airy stress function which models a crack problem of a solid elastic plate. An iterative method for reducing the problem to a sequence of mixed problems for Poisson equations is proposed and investigated. The convergence of the method is established theoretically and illustrated on many numerical experiments.
Key Words: Iterative method; Biharmonic equation; Mixed boundary conditions; Crack problem.

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## 1. Introduction

The solution of fourth order differential equations by their reduction to BVP for the second order equations, with the aim of using available efficient algorithms for the latter ones attracts attention from many researchers. Namely, for the biharmonic equation with the Dirichlet boundary condition, there is intensively developed the iterative method, which leads the problem to two problems for the Poisson equation at each iteration (see e.g. [10,12,14]). In 1992, Abramov and Ulijanova [1] proposed an iterative method for the Dirichlet problem for the biharmonic type equation, but the convergence of the method is not proved. In our previous works [3,5,7,8] with the help of boundary or mixed boundary-domain operators appropriately introduced, we constructed iterative methods for biharmonic and biharmonic type equations associated with the Dirichlet, Neumann or simple type of mixed boundary conditions. These iterative methods are originated from our earlier works $[2,6]$. It should be said that the mentioned above problems are

[^0]reduced to sequences of second order problems with boundary conditions of only one type on the whole boundary, i.e., the boundary conditions are not mixed. Recently, in [9] we have developed the iterative method for a problem in rectangular domain with rather complicated mixed boundary conditions for biharmonic equation arising in nano physics [15]. It leads to the solution of a sequence of problems for the Poisson equation with mixed boundary conditions. But these boundary conditions are weakly mixed in the sense that on each side of the rectangle there is only one type of conditions. This property does not cause difficulties when using the method of complete reduction [17] for solving difference equations for second order differential problems at each iteration.

In this work we develop our technique for a problem with more complicated mixed conditions for biharmonic equation, namely, we consider the following problem

$$
\begin{gather*}
\Delta^{2} u=f \text { in } \Omega  \tag{1.1}\\
u=g_{1}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu}=g_{2} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{1},  \tag{1.2}\\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu}=g_{3}, \frac{\partial \Delta u}{\partial \nu}=g_{4} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{2}, \tag{1.3}
\end{gather*}
$$

where $\Omega$ is the rectangle $(-1,1) \times(0,1)$, and $\Gamma_{1}=S_{A}+S_{C}+S_{D}+S_{E}, \Gamma_{2}=S_{B}$, $S_{A}, S_{B}, S_{C}, S_{D}$ and $S_{E}$ are parts of the boundary $\Gamma=\partial \Omega$ as shown in Figure $1, \Delta$ is the Laplace operator, $f$ and $g_{i}(i=\overline{1,4})$ are functions given in $\Omega$ and on parts of the boundary $\Gamma$, respectively.


Figure 1: Domain $\Omega$ and parts of its boundary

This problem with zero right hand sides in equation and special boundary conditions is the problem for the Airy function in the model studied by Schiff et al. [18] (see also [11], which deals with a two-dimensional solid elastic plate containing a single edge crack, subjected to a uniform inplane load normal to the two edges parallel to the crack, while the remaining edges are stress free. For the problem in general setting (1.1) - (1.3) we propose an iterative method which reduces it to
a sequence of problems for the Poisson equation. The convergence of the method is established and performed numerical experiments confirm the efficiency of the method under investigation.

## 2. Iterative method on continuous level

### 2.1. Description of method

First, we assume that the problem (1.1)-(1.3) has a unique solution and it is sufficiently smooth.

As usual, we set

$$
\Delta u=v \text { in } \Omega,\left.v\right|_{\Gamma_{1}}=\varphi
$$

Then the problem (1.1)-(1.3) is reduced to the problem

$$
\begin{align*}
\Delta v & =f & & \text { in } \Omega, \\
v & =\varphi & & \text { on } \Gamma_{1},  \tag{2.1}\\
\frac{\partial v}{\partial \nu} & =g_{4} & & \text { on } \Gamma_{2}, \\
\Delta u & =v & & \text { in } \Omega, \\
u & =g_{1} & & \text { on } \Gamma_{1},  \tag{2.2}\\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} & =g_{3} & & \text { on } \Gamma_{2} .
\end{align*}
$$

where $\varphi$ as $u$ is unknown function but it is related to $u$ by the second condition in (1.2), i. e., by the relation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu}=g_{2} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{1} \tag{2.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now we consider the following iterative process for finding $\varphi$ and simultaneously for finding $u$ :
(i) Given $\varphi^{(0)} \in L_{2}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$, for example, $\varphi^{(0)}=0 \quad$ on $\Gamma_{1}$;
(ii) Knowing $\varphi^{(k)}$ on $\Gamma_{1} \quad(k=0,1, \ldots)$ solve consecutively two problems

$$
\begin{align*}
\Delta v^{(k)} & =f \quad \text { in } \Omega, \\
v^{(k)} & =\varphi^{(k)} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{1},  \tag{2.4}\\
\frac{\partial v^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} & =g_{4} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{2} .
\end{align*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
\Delta u^{(k)} & =v^{(k)} \quad \text { in } \Omega, \\
u^{(k)} & =g_{1} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{1},  \tag{2.5}\\
\frac{\partial u^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} & =g_{3} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{2} .
\end{align*}
$$

(iii) Compute the new approximation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi^{(k+1)}=\varphi^{(k)}-\tau\left(\left.\frac{\partial u^{(k)}}{\partial \nu}\right|_{\Gamma_{1}}-g_{2}\right) \tag{2.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\tau$ is an iterative parameter to be chosen later.

### 2.2. Investigation of convergence

In order to investigate the convergence of the iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) firstly we rewrite (2.6) in the canonical form of two-layer iterative scheme [16]:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\varphi^{(k+1)}-\varphi^{(k)}}{\tau}+\frac{\partial u^{(k)}}{\partial \nu}-g_{2}=0 \text { on } \Gamma_{1} \tag{2.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Next, we introduce the operator $B$ defined on boundary functions $\varphi$ by the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
B \varphi=\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{1} \tag{2.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $u$ is found from the problems:

$$
\begin{align*}
\Delta v & =0 & & \text { in } \Omega \\
v & =\varphi & & \text { on } \Gamma_{1},  \tag{2.9}\\
\frac{\partial v}{\partial \nu} & =0 & & \text { on } \Gamma_{2} \\
\Delta u & =v & & \text { in } \Omega \\
u & =0 & & \text { on } \Gamma_{1}  \tag{2.10}\\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} & =0 & & \text { on } \Gamma_{2}
\end{align*}
$$

The properties of the operator $B$ will be investigated in the sequel. Now, let us return to the problem (2.1)- (2.2). We represent their solution in the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
u=u_{1}+u_{2}, \quad v=v_{1}+v_{2}, \tag{2.11}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $u_{1}, v_{1}$ satisfy the problems (2.9)-(2.10) and $u_{2}, v_{2}$ are the solutions of the problems

$$
\begin{align*}
\Delta v_{2} & =f \quad \text { in } \Omega \\
v_{2} & =0  \tag{2.12}\\
\frac{\partial v_{2}}{\partial \nu} & =g_{4} \quad
\end{align*} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{2},
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
& \Delta u_{2}=v_{2} \quad \text { in } \Omega \\
& u_{2}=g_{1}  \tag{2.13}\\
& \frac{\partial u_{2}}{\partial \nu}=g_{3} \\
& \text { on } \Gamma_{2}
\end{align*}
$$

According to the definition of the operator $B$ we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
B \varphi=\frac{\partial u_{1}}{\partial \nu} \text { on } \Gamma_{1} \tag{2.14}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since the function $u$ found from Problems (2.1)-(2.2) should satisfy the relation (2.3), taking into account the representation (2.11) we obtain the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
B \varphi=F \tag{2.15}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
F=g_{2}-\frac{\partial u_{2}}{\partial \nu} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{1} \tag{2.16}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus, we have reduced the original problem (1.1)-(1.3) to the operator equation (2.15), whose right hand side $F$ is completely defined by the data $f, g_{1}, g_{2}, g_{3}, g_{4}$.

Proposition 2.1. The iterative process (2.4)- (2.6) is the realisation of the twolayer iterative scheme

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\varphi^{(k+1)}-\varphi^{(k)}}{\tau}+B \varphi^{(k)}=F, \quad(k=0,1, \ldots) \tag{2.17}
\end{equation*}
$$

for the operator equation (2.15).
Proof. Indeed, if in (2.4), (2.5) we put

$$
\begin{equation*}
u^{(k)}=u_{1}^{(k)}+u_{2}, \quad v^{(k)}=v_{1}^{(k)}+v_{2} \tag{2.18}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $u_{2}, v_{2}$ are the solutions of Problems (2.14)-(2.15) then we get

$$
\begin{align*}
\Delta v_{1}^{(k)} & =0 \quad \text { in } \Omega, \\
v_{1}^{(k)} & =\varphi^{(k)} \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{1},  \tag{2.19}\\
\frac{\partial v_{1}^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} & =0 \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{2}, \\
\Delta u_{1}^{(k)} & =v^{(k)} \quad \text { in } \Omega, \\
u_{1}^{(k)} & =0 \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{1}  \tag{2.20}\\
\frac{\partial u_{1}^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} & =0 \quad \text { on } \Gamma_{2}
\end{align*}
$$

From here we see that

$$
B \varphi^{(k)}=\frac{\partial u_{1}^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} \text { on } \Gamma_{1} .
$$

Therefore, taking into account the first relation in (2.18) and the above equality, from (2.7) we obtain (2.17). Thus, the proposition is proved.

Proposition 2.1 enables us to lead the investigation of convergence of the ierative process (2.4)-(2.6) to the study of the iterative scheme (2.17). For this reason we need some properties of the operator $B$.
Proposition 2.2. The operator $B$ defined by (2.8)-(2.10) is linear, symmetric, positive and compact operator in the space $L_{2}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$.

Proof. The linearity of $B$ is obvious. To estiblish the other properties of $B$ we consider the inner product $(B \varphi, \bar{\varphi})$ for two arbitrary functions $\varphi$ and $\bar{\varphi}$ in $L_{2}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$. Recall that the operator $B$ acting on $\varphi$ is defined by (2.8)-(2.10). Denote now by $\bar{v}$ and $\bar{u}$ the solutions of (2.9) and (2.10), where instead of $\varphi$ there stands $\bar{\varphi}$.

We have

$$
\begin{equation*}
(B \varphi, \bar{\varphi})=\int_{\Gamma_{1}} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \cdot \bar{\varphi} d \Gamma=\int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \cdot \bar{v} d \Gamma \tag{2.21}
\end{equation*}
$$

since $\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu}=0$ on $\Gamma_{2}$. Next, in view of $v=\Delta u$, using the Green formula we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{\Omega} v \cdot \bar{v} d x=\int_{\Omega} \Delta u \cdot \bar{v} d x=\int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \cdot \bar{v} d \Gamma-\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \bar{v} d x \tag{2.22}
\end{equation*}
$$

From (2.21) and (2.22) it follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
(B \varphi, \bar{\varphi})=\int_{\Omega} v \cdot \bar{v} d x+\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \bar{v} d x \tag{2.23}
\end{equation*}
$$

To calculate the second integral in (2.23) we observe that on one hand

$$
\int_{\Omega} \Delta \bar{v} \cdot u d x=0
$$

because $\Delta \bar{v}=0$ in $\Omega$, and on other hand

$$
\int_{\Omega} \Delta \bar{v} \cdot u d x=\int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial \bar{v}}{\partial \nu} \cdot u d \Gamma-\int_{\Omega} \nabla \bar{v} \cdot \nabla u d x
$$

Therefore, we have

$$
\int_{\Omega} \nabla \bar{v} \cdot \nabla u d x=\int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial \bar{v}}{\partial \nu} \cdot u d \Gamma .
$$

Further, due to the fact that $\frac{\partial \bar{v}}{\partial \nu}=0$ on $\Gamma_{2}$ and $u=0$ on $\Gamma_{1}$ the integral in the right hand side is equal to zero. Consequently,

$$
\int_{\Omega} \nabla \bar{v} \cdot \nabla u d x=0
$$

and finally, from (2.23) we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
(B \varphi, \bar{\varphi})=\int_{\Omega} v \cdot \bar{v} d x=(B \bar{\varphi}, \varphi) \tag{2.24}
\end{equation*}
$$

It means that the operator $B$ is symmetric. Besides, we have

$$
(B \varphi, \varphi)=\int_{\Omega} v^{2} d x \geq 0
$$

If $(B \varphi, \varphi)=0$ then $v=0$ almost everywhere in $\Omega$, hence $\varphi=\left.v\right|_{\Gamma_{1}}=0$. Thus, $B$ is positive operator. Now, we prove the compactness of the operator $B$. In order to do this suppose that $\varphi \in H^{s}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$ with $s \geq 0$. Then Problem (2.9) has a unique solution $v \in H^{s+1 / 2}(\Omega)$, and consequently, Problem (2.10) has a unique solution $u \in H^{s+5 / 2}(\Omega)$. It implies that $\left.\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu}\right|_{\Gamma_{1}} \in H^{s+1}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$. So, the operator $B$ maps $H^{s}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$ into $H^{s+1}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$. Due to the compactness of embedding $H^{s+1}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right) \subset H^{s}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$ we conclude that $B$ is a compact operator in $H=L^{2}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$.

Thus, the proof of the proposition is complete.

Before stating the result of convergence of the iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) we assume that the data functions $f, g_{1}, \ldots, g_{4}$ have needed smoothness so that the original problem (1.1)-(1.3) has a unique solution $u \in H^{5 / 2}(\Omega)$. It is guaranteed if $f \in H^{-3 / 2}(\Omega), g_{1} \in H^{2}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right), g_{2} \in H^{3 / 2}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right), g_{3} \in H^{3 / 2}\left(\Gamma_{2}\right), g_{4} \in L^{2}\left(\Gamma_{2}\right)$. Then, we can see that the function $F$ defined by (2.16) belongs to $H^{3 / 2}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$.

We shall consider (2.15) as an operator equation in the space $H=L^{2}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$.
Theorem 2.3. The iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) or alternatively, the iterative scheme (2.17) is convergent if

$$
\begin{equation*}
0<\tau<\frac{2}{\|B\|} \tag{2.25}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof. This theorem follows from Lemma A. 1 in Appendix A of [9] due to the properties of symmetry, positivity and compactness of the operator $B$ estiblished by Proposition 2.2.

It should be said that the determination or estimation of $\|B\|$ is a difficult problem, but in Section 4 by experimental way we can find a interval of $\tau$, for which the iterative process has good convergence.

## 3. On numerical realization of the iterative method

From the previous section we see that for realizing the iterative method it is required to solve consecutively two mixed BVPs (2.4) and (2.5). These BVPs are strongly mixed in the sense that the transmission of the Dirichlet and Neumann boundary conditions occurs at a inner point, namely at the middle of the bottom side of the rectangle. For solving these problems we use a domain decomposition method proposed in [4] which reduces the strongly mixed problem to a sequence of
weakly mixed problems in subdomains in the sense that on each side of subdomains there is given boundary condition of only one type, either Dirichlet or Neumann type.

Below we briefly describe this domain decomposition method applied to the model problem

$$
\begin{align*}
& \Delta u=f \\
& u=g \quad \text { in } \Omega  \tag{3.1}\\
& \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu}=h \\
& \text { on } \Gamma_{1}, \\
&
\end{align*}
$$

where $\Gamma_{1}=S_{A}+S_{C}+S_{D_{1}}+S_{D_{2}}+S_{E}, \Gamma_{2}=S_{B}$ are shown in Figure 2 (the same as in Figure 1). Denote two parts of the rectangle $[-1,1] \times[0,1]$ by $\Omega_{1}$ and $\Omega_{2}$ and their common boundary by $S_{I}$. Besides, we denote the outward normal to the boundary of $\Omega_{i}$ by $\nu_{i}$ and the solution $u$ of Problem (3.1) in $\Omega_{i}$ by $u_{i}$, i.e., $u_{i}=\left.u\right|_{\Omega_{i}}$ ( $i=1,2$ ).


Figure 2: Domains $\Omega_{1}, \Omega_{2}$ and their boundaries

The iterative process for finding $u_{1}$ and $u_{2}$ is described as follows:
(i) Given $\varphi^{(0)} \in L_{2}\left(S_{I}\right)$, for example, $\varphi^{(0)}=0 \quad$ on $S_{I}$;
(ii) Knowing $\varphi^{(k)}$ on $S_{I} \quad(k=0,1, \ldots)$ solve consecutively two problems

$$
\begin{align*}
\Delta u_{1}^{(k)} & =f \quad \text { in } \Omega_{1} \\
u_{1}^{(k)} & =g \quad \text { on } S_{A}+S_{E}+S_{D_{1}}  \tag{3.2}\\
\frac{\partial u_{1}^{(k)}}{\partial \nu_{1}} & =\varphi^{(k)} \quad \text { on } S_{I}
\end{align*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
\Delta u_{2}^{(k)} & =f \quad \text { in } \Omega_{2} \\
u_{2}^{(k)} & =g \quad \text { on } S_{C}+S_{D_{2}} \\
u_{2}^{(k)} & =u_{1}^{(k)} \quad \text { on } S_{I}  \tag{3.3}\\
\frac{\partial u_{2}^{(k)}}{\partial \nu_{2}} & =h \quad \text { on } S_{B}
\end{align*}
$$

(iii) Compute the new approximation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi^{(k+1)}=(1-\theta) \varphi^{(k)}-\theta \frac{\partial u_{2}^{(k)}}{\partial \nu_{2}} \text { on } S_{I} \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\theta$ is an iterative parameter to be chosen appropriately.

Remark that Problems (3.2) and (3.3) are weakly mixed problems, where the Neumann boundary condition is prescribed on one side of the subdomains and the Dirichlet boundary condition is prescribed on other sides. In order to numerically solve these problems we discretize them on uniform grids by difference schemes of second order approximation obtained by a variational method. After that the system of difference equations are solved following the method of complete reduction with the complexity $O(M N \ln N)$, where $M, N$ are the number of grid nodes on the vertical and horizontal sides of the subdomains. Next, for computing the normal derivative in (3.4) we also use an approximate formula of second order error. We take in the formula (3.4) $\theta=0.5$ and carry out the iterative process (3.3)-(3.4) until $\max \left\{\left\|u_{1}^{(k+1)}-u_{1}^{(k)}\right\|_{\infty},\left\|u_{2}^{(k+1)}-u_{2}^{(k)}\right\|_{\infty}\right\}<\varepsilon$, where $\varepsilon$ is a given accuracy taken of the same order as $O\left(h^{2}\right), h$ being the stepsize of the grid.

Below we report the results of using the above domain decomposition method for the numerical realization of the iterative process (2.4)-(2.6), where for computing the normal derivative in (2.6) we also use an approximate formula of second order error.

## 4. Numerical results

We perform some experiments for testing the convergence of the iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) in both two cases, where the exact solution of the problem (1.1)-(1.3) is known and unknown.

Example 1: Given function $u(x, y)$ as the exact solution of the problem (1.1)-(1.3), calculate corresponding right hand side function $f(x, y)$ and boundary conditions (1.2), (1.3), and then carry out the iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) until $\left\|u^{(k)}-u\right\|_{\infty} \leq \varepsilon$, where $\varepsilon$ is the same given accuracy as in the previous section.

| $\tau$ | $K_{1}$ | $K_{2}$ | $K_{3}$ | $K_{4}$ | $K_{5}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2.0 | 9 | 18 | 26 | 34 | 0 |
| 2.1 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 33 | 0 |
| 2.2 | 8 | 16 | 24 | 31 | 0 |
| 2.3 | 8 | 15 | 23 | 30 | 0 |
| 2.4 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 28 | 0 |
| 2.5 | 8 | 14 | 21 | 27 | 0 |
| 2.6 | 8 | 12 | 20 | 26 | 0 |
| 2.7 | 10 | 14 | 19 | 25 | 0 |
| 2.8 | 12 | 18 | 19 | 24 | 0 |
| 2.9 | 16 | 22 | 23 | 26 | 0 |
| 3.0 | 20 | 29 | 31 | 33 | 0 |

Table 1: Convergence of the iterative process in Example 1

The following functions are taken as the exact solutions of the problem

$$
\begin{aligned}
& u_{1}(x, y)=\sin x \sin y \\
& u_{2}(x, y)=x^{2}+y^{2} \\
& u_{3}(x, y)=x^{3}+y e^{x}+y^{3}+x e^{-y} \\
& u_{4}(x, y)=e^{x} \ln (y+5)-\sin y \cdot \ln (x+6) \\
& u_{5}(x, y)=e^{x} \cdot \sin y+\sin x \cdot e^{y}
\end{aligned}
$$

The results of computation on the uniform grid of $65 \times 65$ nodes are given in Table 1 , where $K_{i}(i=1, \ldots, 5)$ is the number of iterations for achieving the exact solution $u_{i}(x, y)$ with the accuracy $\varepsilon=10^{-3}$.

Looking at Table 1 it appears that the result of computation for the function $u=u_{5}(x, y)=e^{x} \cdot \sin y+\sin x . e^{y}$ is surprising. But this result is completely right because for the function we have $\Delta u=0, g_{4}=\frac{\partial \Delta u}{\partial \nu}=0$ and $f=\Delta^{2} u=0$. This implies that the solutions of the problems (2.4), (2.5) for $k=0$ are $v^{(0)}=0, u^{(0)}=$ $e^{x} \cdot \sin y+\sin x . e^{y}$. So, immediately we achieve the exact solution of the problem, and hence, $K_{5}=0$.

For the functions $u_{i}(x, y), i=1, \ldots, 4$ we see that the iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) has good convergence for the iterative parameter $\tau \in[2.3 ; 2.9]$.

Example 2: Given arbitrary data functions $f, g_{1}, g_{2}, g_{3}, g_{4}$ in the problem (1.1)-(1.3), we perform the iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) until $\left\|u^{(k)}-u^{(k-1)}\right\|_{\infty} \leq \varepsilon$. Below we report the results on convergence of the process for two collections of data functions:
(i)

$$
\begin{aligned}
f & =x e^{-y}+y \cdot e^{x} \\
g_{1} & =\sin x \cdot \sin y ; \quad g_{2}=-\sin x \cdot \sin y+\ln (x+y+2) \\
g_{3} & =\sin y+e^{y} \cdot \sin x+x ; \quad g_{4}=\cos y+e^{x} \cdot \sin y+x-y^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

| $\tau$ | $K_{1}$ | $K_{2}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2.0 | 30 | 17 |
| 2.1 | 29 | 17 |
| 2.2 | 29 | 16 |
| 2.3 | 28 | 16 |
| 2.4 | 27 | 16 |
| 2.5 | 27 | 16 |
| 2.6 | 26 | 15 |
| 2.7 | 25 | 14 |
| 2.8 | 25 | 16 |
| 2.9 | 24 | 18 |
| 3.0 | 30 | 24 |

Table 2: Convergence of the iterative process in Example 2
(ii)

$$
\begin{aligned}
f & =0 \\
g_{1} & =x\left(x^{2}-1\right) y(1-y) ; \quad g_{2}=x+y \\
g_{3} & =x y ; \quad g_{4}=0
\end{aligned}
$$

The results of computation on the uniform grid of $65 \times 65$ nodes are given in Table 2, where $K_{i}(i=1,2)$ is the number of iterations for achieving the accuracy $\varepsilon=10^{-3}$ for the collections (i) and (ii).

From Table 2 we see that, as in Example 1, the iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) has good convergence for the iterative parameter $\tau \in[2.3 ; 2.9]$.

Example 3: Consider the model fracture problem which is depicted in Figure 3 (see [11]).


Figure 3: The model fracture problem

The conditions $\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}=0, \frac{\partial^{3} u}{\partial y^{3}}=0$ on the part $S_{B}=\{(x, 0) \mid 0<x<1\}$ leads
to the conditions $\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}=0, \frac{\partial \Delta u}{\partial y}=0$. Therefore, the problem has the form of (1.1)(1.3) . The iterative process (2.4)-(2.6) with the parameter $\tau=2.5$ for solving the model problem on the grid $65 \times 65$ with the given accuracy $10^{-3}$ converges after 10 iterations.

The graph of the obtained approximate solution is shown in Figure 4.


Figure 4: The graph of the approximate solution of the model fracture problem

## 5. Concluding remarks

In this paper we investigated an iterative method for solving a boundary value problem for biharmonic equation with boundary conditions, which are of different types on different sides of a rectangle and the transmission of boundary conditions occurs not only in vertices but also in the middle point of a side of the rectangle. Due to the latter property we say that the problem is strongly mixed. Our iterative method based on iterative scheme for operator equation reduces the problem to sequence of strongly mixed problems for Poisson equation, and for the latter ones we apply a decomposition method recently developed by ourselves, which in its turn leads the problem to weakly mixed problems for Poisson equation. Finally, the difference method is used for realizing the latter problems. The convergence of the proposed iterative method at continuous level is proved and many different numerical experiments confirmed the efficiency of the method.

The proposed iterative method can be applied to other mixed boundary value problems for biharmonic and biharmonic type equations.

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