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Review text:

This paper is concerned with the convergence of a variant of the finite element tearing and interconnecting (FETI) methods for a model of elliptic problem with highly heterogeneous (multiscale) coefficients $\alpha(x)$; in particular, α can have strong variation within subdomains and/or jumps that are not aligned with the subdomain interfaces.

Thanks to a minimisation and cut-off arguments, the authors show rigorously that for an arbitrary (positive) coefficient function $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ the condition number of the preconditioned FETI system can be bounded by $C(\alpha)(1 + \log(H/h))^2$, where H is the subdomain diameter and h is the mesh size. In addition to this, the coefficient $C(\alpha)$ depends only on the coefficient variation in the vicinity of subdomain interfaces. This yields the important particular case when $\alpha|_{\Omega_i}$ varies only mildly in a layer $\Omega_{i,\eta}$ of width η near the boundary of each of the subdomain Ω_i , then $C(\alpha) = \mathcal{O}((H/\eta)^2)$, independent of the variation of α in the remainder $\Omega_i \setminus \Omega_{i,\eta}$ of each subdomain and independent of any jumps of α across subdomain interfaces. The authors, show that this quadratic dependence of $C(\alpha)$ on H/η can be relaxed to a linear dependence under stronger assumptions on the behavior of α in the interior of the subdomains. Numerical tests justifying the theoretical results are presented.

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