

Equivalent operator preconditioning for elliptic finite element problems

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Outline of the talk

- Basic ideas
- Equivalent operators in Hilbert space
- Operator preconditioning for elliptic problems
 - Single equations
 - Systems (transport type, saddle-point)
 - Convection-dominated equations
 - Helmholtz problems

The problem of preconditioning

■ Linear(ized) algebraic system: $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{d}$.

■ Preconditioning matrix: \mathbf{B}

Preconditioned algebraic system: $\mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{d}$.

CG (CGN, GCG-LS, GMRES) iteration \rightarrow auxiliary systems $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{r}$

■ Twofold goals:

■ Faster CG convergence $\rightarrow \mathbf{B} \approx \mathbf{A}$

■ Low cost $\rightarrow \mathbf{B} \approx \mathbf{I}$

Conflicting goals \rightarrow a compromise needed.

■ Various strategies mainly use algebraic structure of \mathbf{A} .

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Equivalent operator preconditioning

The problem: discretized linear elliptic PDE, using FEM:

$$\mathbf{L}_h \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{d} \quad (\text{SLAE})$$

Disadvantage: $\text{cond}(\mathbf{L}_h) \rightarrow \infty$ as $h \rightarrow 0$.

Advantage: for certain PDEs, (SLAE) can be solved **optimally** or quasi-optimally,

i.e. with **$O(n)$** or **$O(n \log n)$** operations.

E.g.: such problems: symmetric elliptic equations,
equations with constant coefficients;
such methods: multigrid, FFT.

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More general problems: nonsymmetric eqns; systems;
parameter-dependent problems.

Equivalent operator preconditioning

Proposal: let S be *another elliptic operator*, such that systems $\mathbf{S}_h \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{r}$ can be *solved (quasi-)optimally*.

Preconditioning matrix: \mathbf{S}_h .

CG iteration for system $\mathbf{S}_h^{-1} \mathbf{L}_h \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{S}_h^{-1} \mathbf{d}$



if the convergence is *mesh-independent*, then the original problem is solved also *(quasi-)optimally* (since $\text{const.} \cdot O(n) = O(n)$)

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Equivalent operator preconditioning

Theory of mesh-independent *linear* convergence:

Various early and later works (1966 to present)

[Dyakonov, Gunn, Concus, Golub, Elman, Widlund, Cao, Hiptmair, Mardal, Winther...

T. Manteuffel, Goldstein, Faber, Parter, Otto]

→ a solid theoretical framework:

theory of *equivalent operators in Hilbert space*

Under proper assumptions:

if $L \sim S \Rightarrow$ mesh independent linear convergence

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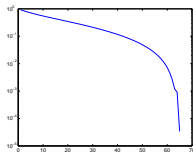
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Compact-equivalent operators in Hilbert space

■ Motivation: CG convergence history

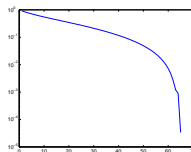


2 phases: linear conv. – superlin. conv.

Equivalent operator preconditioning

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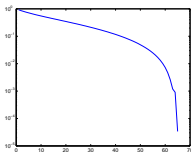


mesh independence: $\underbrace{\text{linear conv.}}_{\text{equivalent op.-s}} - \text{superlin. conv.}$

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mesh independence: $\underbrace{\text{linear conv.}}_{\text{equivalent op.-s}} - \underbrace{\text{superlin. conv.}}_{?}$

Equivalent operator preconditioning

Compact-equivalent operators in Hilbert space

(theory of mesh-independent [superlinear](#) convergence,
[Axelsson-Karátson, SIAM J. Numer. Anal. 2007]).

Let L and N be unbounded coercive operators in a Hilbert space,
let L_S and N_S be their suitable weak forms in an energy space H_S .

Def. L and N are compact-equivalent if

$L_S = \mu N_S + Q_S$, where $\mu > 0$ and Q_S is compact.

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Special case: if $N = S$ is symmetric then $L_S = \mu I + Q_S$.

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Special case: if $N = S$ is symmetric then $L_S = I + Q_S$.

We may let $\mu = 1 \rightarrow$ compact perturbation of the identity.

Equivalent operator preconditioning

Theorem

If $L_S = I + Q_S$, then for any Galerkin subspace the CGN iteration for system $\mathbf{S}_h^{-1} \mathbf{L}_h \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{S}_h^{-1} \mathbf{d}$ satisfies

$$\left(\frac{\|r_k\|_{\mathbf{S}_h}}{\|r_0\|_{\mathbf{S}_h}} \right)^{1/k} \leq \varepsilon_k \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, n),$$

where $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$ is a sequence independent of V_h . In fact,

$$\varepsilon_k := \frac{2}{km^2} \sum_{i=1}^k \left(|\lambda_i(Q_S^* + Q_S)| + \lambda_i(Q_S^* Q_S) \right).$$

→ Mesh-independent superlinear convergence.

Elliptic equations

Case 1: *scalar elliptic operators.*

We consider elliptic operators

$$Lu \equiv -\operatorname{div}(A \nabla u) + \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla u + cu$$

$$\text{for } u|_{\Gamma_D} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu_A} + \alpha u|_{\Gamma_N} = 0.$$

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Elliptic equations

Assumptions 1. (standard for having H^1 -coercivity)

- (i) $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^d$ is a bounded piecewise C^1 domain; Γ_D, Γ_N are disjoint open measurable subsets of $\partial\Omega$ such that $\partial\Omega = \overline{\Gamma_D} \cup \overline{\Gamma_N}$;
- (ii) $A \in L^\infty(\overline{\Omega}, \mathbf{R}^{d \times d})$ and for all $x \in \overline{\Omega}$ the matrix $A(x)$ is symmetric; further, $\mathbf{b} \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)^d$, $c \in L^\infty(\Omega)$, $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Gamma_N)$;
- (iii) we have the following properties which will imply coercivity:
 $\exists p > 0: \quad A(x)\xi \cdot \xi \geq p |\xi|^2 \quad (\forall x \in \overline{\Omega}, \xi \in \mathbf{R}^d);$
 $\hat{c} := c - \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{b} \geq 0$ in Ω , $\hat{\alpha} := \alpha + \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{b} \cdot \nu) \geq 0$ on Γ_N ;
- (iv) either $\Gamma_D \neq \emptyset$, or \hat{c} or $\hat{\alpha}$ has a positive lower bound.

Elliptic equations

Characterization of compact-equivalence:

Theorem

Let the elliptic operators L_1 and L_2 satisfy Assumptions 1. Then L_1 and L_2 are compact-equivalent in $H_D^1(\Omega)$ if and only if their principal parts coincide up to some constant $\mu > 0$, i.e. $A_1 = \mu A_2$.

Elliptic equations

Freedom: choice of lower order coefficients.

Example: convection-diffusion operator

$$Lu \equiv -\Delta u + \mathbf{b}(x) \cdot \nabla u + c(x)u$$

$$\text{for } u|_{\Gamma_D} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} + \alpha(x)u|_{\Gamma_N} = 0.$$

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Preconditioning operator:

$$Su \equiv -\Delta u + \mathbf{w}(x) \cdot \nabla u + \sigma(x)u$$

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for $u|_{\Gamma_D} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} + \beta u|_{\Gamma_N} = 0$

→ symmetric operator with constant coefficients.

Elliptic systems: saddle-point

Case 2: *Stokes problem*

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f} \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0 \end{cases}$$

with b.c. $\mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$.

Elliptic systems: saddle-point

Case 2: *Stokes problem*

Regularized form:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f} \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} - \sigma \Delta p = \sigma \operatorname{div} \mathbf{f} \end{cases}$$

with b.c. $\mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$, $\partial_\nu p|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$.

Elliptic systems: saddle-point

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Preconditioning operator: auxiliary problems

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \mathbf{u} &= \dots \\ -\sigma \Delta p &= \dots \end{cases}$$

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Independent Poisson equations.

FEM solution: mesh independent superlinear convergence.

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Elliptic systems: transport problems

Case 3: *elliptic systems of transport type*

We consider ℓ -tuples of operators

$$L_i u \equiv -\operatorname{div}(A_i \nabla u_i) + \mathbf{b}_i \cdot \nabla u_i + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} V_{ij} u_j \quad (i = 1, \dots, \ell)$$

$$\text{for } u_i|_{\Gamma_D} = 0,$$

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Elliptic systems: transport problems

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for $u_i|_{\Gamma_D} = 0,$

$$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial \nu_A} + \alpha_i u_i|_{\Gamma_N} = 0. \quad (\text{matrix } V)$$

Elliptic systems: transport problems

Assumptions:

- (i) Ω , A_i , α_i as before
- (ii) Smoothness: as before
- (iii) Coercivity:

$$\lambda_{\min}(V + V^T) - \max_i \operatorname{div} \mathbf{b}_i \geq 0.$$

For example: $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{b}_i = 0$ ($\forall i$), and
 V is positive semidefinite.

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Elliptic systems: transport problems

Main idea of equivalent preconditioning:

define an ℓ -tuple of **separate (i.e. independent)** symmetric preconditioning operators

$$\mathbf{S}_i \mathbf{u}_i := -\operatorname{div}(A_i \nabla u_i) + \sigma_i u_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, \ell)$$

$$\text{for } u_i|_{\Gamma_D} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial \nu_A} + \beta_i u_i|_{\Gamma_N} = 0.$$

Elliptic systems: transport problems

For example: let the original operators be of the form

$$L_i u \equiv -\Delta u_i + \mathbf{b}_i \cdot \nabla u_i + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} V_{ij} u_j$$

$$(i = 1, \dots, \ell).$$

Elliptic systems: transport problems

For example: let the original operators be of the form

$$L_i u \equiv \underbrace{-\Delta u_i + \mathbf{b}_i \cdot \nabla u_i}_{N_i u_i} + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} V_{ij} u_j = N_i u_i + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} V_{ij} u_j$$

$$(i = 1, \dots, \ell).$$

Elliptic systems: transport problems

Original PDE system:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (N_1 + V_{11})u_1 + V_{12} u_2 + \cdots + V_{1\ell} u_\ell = g_1 \\ V_{21} u_1 + (N_2 + V_{22})u_2 + \cdots + V_{2\ell} u_\ell = g_2 \\ \dots\dots\dots \\ V_{\ell 1} u_1 + V_{\ell 2} u_2 + \cdots + (N_\ell + V_{\ell\ell})u_\ell = g_\ell \end{array} \right.$$

+ b.c.

Elliptic systems: transport problems

Preconditioning \rightarrow auxiliary PDE systems

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} (-\Delta + \sigma_1)u_1 & = r_1 \\ & (-\Delta + \sigma_2)u_2 = r_2 \\ & \dots\dots\dots \\ & (-\Delta + \sigma_\ell)u_\ell = r_\ell \end{array} \right.$$

+ b.c.

Elliptic systems: transport problems

According block structure of the stiffness matrices.

Original system:

$$\mathbf{L}_h = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{L}_h^{11} & \mathbf{L}_h^{12} & \dots & \dots & \mathbf{L}_h^{1\ell} \\ \mathbf{L}_h^{21} & \mathbf{L}_h^{22} & \dots & \dots & \mathbf{L}_h^{2\ell} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \mathbf{L}_h^{\ell 1} & \mathbf{L}_h^{\ell 2} & \dots & \dots & \mathbf{L}_h^{\ell \ell} \end{pmatrix}$$

Elliptic systems: transport problems

According block structure of the stiffness matrices.

Auxiliary systems:

$$\mathbf{S}_h = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{S}_h^1 & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{S}_h^2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & \mathbf{S}_h^l \end{pmatrix}$$

Elliptic systems: transport problems

According block structure of the stiffness matrices.

Auxiliary systems:



- Parallelizability
- Cost of solution \sim cost of a single equation

Elliptic systems: transport problems

Example: a parabolic system in modeling air pollution.

- FEM + time discretization + Newton linearization: →
FEM solution of linear elliptic systems.
- preconditioning operators (independent, symmetric):
incorporate the time-step:

$$S_i p_i := -K \Delta p_i + \frac{1}{\tau} p_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, \ell).$$

Numerical results: mesh-independent superlinear convergence

Elliptic systems: transport problems

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Convection-dominated equations

Case 4: *Convection-diffusion equations, convection-dominated case:* $\varepsilon \ll 1$,

$$\begin{cases} -\varepsilon \Delta u + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u = g \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0. \end{cases}$$

Assumptions (a simple model case):

- (i) $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ is a polyhedral domain.
- (ii) $\mathbf{w} \in C^1(\overline{\Omega}, \mathbf{R}^n)$, $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{w} = 0$.
- (iii) $g \in L^2(\Omega)$.

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Convection-dominated equations

Streamline diffusion FEM (SDFEM):

- $V_h \subset H_0^1(\Omega)$ piecewise linear subspace;
- choose parameters $\delta_k > 0$ on elements $T_k \in \mathcal{T}$;
- replace test functions: $v_h \rightarrow v_h + \delta_k \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla v_h$ on T_k

\Rightarrow stabilized bilinear form

$$a_{SD}(u_h, v_h) := \int_{\Omega} (\varepsilon \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla v_h + (\mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h) v_h) + \sum_{k=1}^N \delta_k \int_{T_k} (\mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h) (\mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla v_h)$$

on $V_h \times V_h$.

Convection-dominated equations

Stabilized inner product: SD-inner product

$$\langle u_h, v_h \rangle_{SD} := \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla v_h + \sum_{k=1}^N \delta_k \int_{T_k} (\mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h) (\mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla v_h).$$

\Rightarrow stable lower coercivity bound:

$$a_{SD}(u_h, u_h) \geq \|u_h\|_{SD}^2 \quad (\text{i.e. } m = 1).$$

Convection-dominated equations

Preconditioned CG iteration for the SLAE:
 apply **operator preconditioning**.

Preconditioner = stiffness matrix for the SD-inner product:

$$(\mathbf{S}_h)_{ij} = \langle \varphi_i, \varphi_j \rangle_{SD}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{here } \langle u_h, v_h \rangle_{SD} = \int_{\Omega} (S_{\varepsilon} u_h) v_h ,$$

$$\text{where } S_{\varepsilon} u := -\operatorname{div} (A_{\varepsilon} \nabla u) \quad \text{with } A_{\varepsilon} = \varepsilon I + \delta \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w}^T$$

$\Rightarrow \mathbf{S}_h$ comes from a discretized **symmetric elliptic operator**

\Rightarrow **optimal $O(N)$ solvers** available (multigrid, multilevel)

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$$\text{where } S_{\varepsilon} u := -\operatorname{div} (A_{\varepsilon} \nabla u) \quad \text{with } A_{\varepsilon} = \varepsilon I + \delta \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w}^T$$

$\Rightarrow \mathbf{S}_h$ comes from a discretized **symmetric elliptic operator**

\Rightarrow **optimal $O(N)$ solvers** available (multigrid, multilevel)

Convection-dominated equations

Linear convergence estimate \rightarrow we need bounds m and M .

Seen above: $m = 1$.

$M = ?$

Upper bound needed:

$$|a_{SD}(u_h, v_h)| \leq M \|u_h\|_{SD} \|v_h\|_{SD} \quad (\forall u_h, v_h \in V_h),$$

where

$$a_{SD}(u_h, v_h) = \langle u_h, v_h \rangle_{SD} + \int_{\Omega} (\mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla u_h) v_h.$$

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Streamline Poincaré-Friedrichs inequality

Theorem. (Streamline Poincaré-Friedrichs inequality). Let $\mathbf{w} \in C^1(\overline{\Omega}, \mathbf{R}^n)$ be a globally rectifiable vector field on $\overline{\Omega}$. Then there exists a constant $C_{\mathbf{w}} > 0$ (depending on \mathbf{w} but independent of v) such that

$$\|v\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla v\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \quad (v \in H_0^1(\Omega)).$$

Streamline Poincaré-Friedrichs inequality

Then one can derive

$$|a_{SD}(u_h, v_h)| \leq \left(1 + \frac{C_w}{\delta_0}\right) \|u_h\|_{SD} \|v_h\|_{SD}$$

(where $\delta_0 := \min \delta_k$).

That is: the upper bound of a_{SD} satisfies

$$M \leq 1 + \frac{C_w}{\delta_0}$$

independently of ε .

Consequence: the PCG iterations converge with rate independently of ε → robustness.

[Axelsson–Karátson–Kovács, SIAM J. Numer. Anal. 2014]

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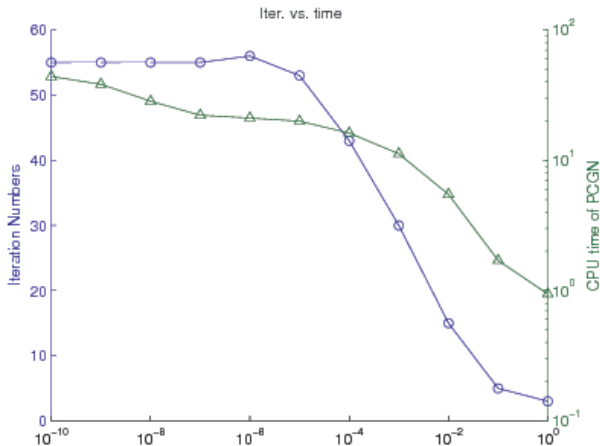
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Numerical experiments



Numerical experiments

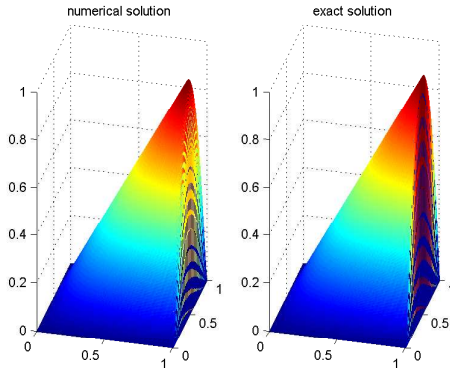


Figure : result for $\varepsilon = 10^{-10}$ – no unphysical oscillations.

Helmholtz equations

Case 5: *Helmholtz equations and shifted Laplace preconditioners.*

The Helmholtz equation:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u - \kappa^2 u & = g \\ \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} - i\kappa u\right)|_{\partial\Omega} & = 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

(a model problem for high-frequency wave scattering).

Preconditioner : the stiffness matrix of the "complex shifted Laplace" problem (using a proper "absorption" parameter)

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u - (\kappa^2 + i\varepsilon)u & = g \\ \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} - i\mu u\right)|_{\partial\Omega} & = 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

[Erlangga, Gander, Magoules, Graham, Enquist, Ying, Shanks...]

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Helmholtz equations

Assumptions:

discrete inf-sup-condition for both the original and auxiliary problems

Theorem. Mesh-independent **superlinear convergence**:

$$\left(\frac{\|r_k\|_{\mathbf{S}_h}}{\|r_0\|_{\mathbf{S}_h}} \right)^{1/k} \leq \varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$$

where $\varepsilon_k := \frac{M}{m_0 m_1} \cdot \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k s_i(Q_S)$ for the GMRES, and an analogous formula holds for the CGN.

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Thank you for your attention!