

SOME NOTES WITH NUMERICAL METHODS FOR STATIONARY PDES

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1. INTERPOLATION ESTIMATES IN SOBOLEV SPACES

Theorem 1.1 (Bramble-Hilbert “lemma”). *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a Lipschitz domain, and for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $q \in [1, \infty]$ and a normed space Y , let $L : W_q^m(\Omega) \rightarrow Y$ be a bounded linear mapping with $P_{m-1} \subset \text{Ker}L$. Then $\exists C = C(\Omega)$ such that*

$$\|Lv\|_Y \leq C \|L\|_{W_q^m(\Omega) \rightarrow Y} |v|_{W_q^m(\Omega)} \quad (v \in W_q^m(\Omega)).$$

Lemma 1.2 (transformation lemma). *Let $G(\hat{x}) = B\hat{x} + c$ with $\det B \neq 0$, and $\hat{\Omega}$ and Ω be Lipschitz domains in \mathbb{R}^n with $G(\hat{\Omega}) = \Omega$. For $m \geq 0$, $p \in [1, \infty]$ and $v \in W_p^m(\Omega)$, $\hat{v} := v \circ G \in W_p^m(\hat{\Omega})$. $\exists C = C(n, m, p)$ with*

$$\begin{aligned} |\hat{v}|_{W_p^m(\hat{\Omega})} &\leq C \|B\|_2^m |\det B|^{-1/p} |v|_{W_p^m(\Omega)} \quad (v \in W_p^m(\Omega)), \\ |v|_{W_p^m(\Omega)} &\leq C \|B^{-1}\|_2^m |\det B|^{1/p} |\hat{v}|_{W_p^m(\hat{\Omega})} \quad (\hat{v} \in W_p^m(\hat{\Omega})). \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1.3. *Let $\Omega, \hat{\Omega} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and G as in Lemma 1.2. Let*

$$\begin{aligned} h_\Omega &:= \inf\{\text{diam}(S) : S \text{ ball containing } \Omega\} \\ \rho_\Omega &:= \sup\{\text{diam}(S) : S \text{ ball in } \Omega\} \end{aligned}$$

and let $h_{\hat{\Omega}}$ and $\rho_{\hat{\Omega}}$ be defined similarly. Then $\|B\|_2 \leq \frac{h_\Omega}{\rho_{\hat{\Omega}}}$, $\|B^{-1}\|_2 \leq \frac{h_{\hat{\Omega}}}{\rho_\Omega}$.

Theorem 1.4. *Let $\Omega, \hat{\Omega} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and G as in Lemma 1.2. Let $k, m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $p, q \in [1, \infty]$ be such that $W_p^{k+1}(\hat{\Omega}) \hookrightarrow W_q^m(\hat{\Omega})$, and let $\hat{\Pi} : W_p^{k+1}(\hat{\Omega}) \rightarrow W_q^m(\hat{\Omega})$ be a bounded linear mapping that preserves polynomials of degree k .*

Define Π by $\Pi(v) \circ G = \hat{\Pi}(v \circ G)$.

Then $\exists C = C(\hat{\Pi}, \hat{\Omega})$, thus independent of Ω , such that

$$|v - \Pi(v)|_{W_q^m(\Omega)} \leq C (\text{vol}(\Omega))^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}} \frac{h_\Omega^{k+1}}{\rho_\Omega^m} |v|_{W_p^{k+1}(\hat{\Omega})} \quad (v \in W_p^{k+1}(\hat{\Omega})).$$

2. APPLICATION TO ESTIMATE LOCAL INTERPOLATION ERRORS

Theorem 2.1. *Let $(\hat{K}, \hat{P}, \hat{N})$ be a finite element with s denoting the maximal order of partial derivatives occurring in the definition of \hat{N} . For some $m, k \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $p, q \in [1, \infty]$, let*

$$\begin{aligned} W_p^{k+1}(\hat{K}) &\hookrightarrow C^s(\hat{K}) \\ W_p^{k+1}(\hat{K}) &\hookrightarrow W_q^m(\hat{K}) \\ P_k(\hat{K}) &\subset \hat{P} \subset W_q^m(\hat{K}) \end{aligned}$$

Then $\exists C = C(\hat{K}, \hat{P}, \hat{N})$ such that for all (K, P, N) that are affine interpolation equivalent to $(\hat{K}, \hat{P}, \hat{N})$,

$$|v - I_K v|_{W_q^m(K)} \leq C(\text{vol}(K))^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}} \frac{h_K^{k+1}}{\rho_K^m} |v|_{W_p^{k+1}(K)} \quad (v \in W_p^{k+1}(K)).$$

Definition 2.2. A family of finite elements (K, P, N) is called *uniformly shape regular* when $\sup_K h_K / \rho_K < \infty$.

Corollary 2.3. *For a family of uniformly shape regular affine interpolation equivalent finite elements, result from Theorem 2.1 reads as*

$$|v - I_K v|_{W_q^m(K)} \leq C(\text{vol}(K))^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}} h_K^{k+1-m} |v|_{W_p^{k+1}(K)} \quad (v \in W_p^{k+1}(K)).$$

3. APPLICATION TO ESTIMATE GLOBAL INTERPOLATION ERRORS

Theorem 3.1. *Consider family $(\tau_h)_h$ of conforming subdivisions of a domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ into n -simplices or n -rectangles that are uniformly shape regular, and such that all finite elements are affine interpolation equivalent to a reference element $(\hat{K}, \hat{P}, \hat{N})$.*

Let the global finite element spaces V_{τ_h} be continuous,

$$\begin{aligned} P_k(\hat{K}) &\subset \hat{P} \subset H^1(\hat{K}) \\ H^{k+1}(\hat{K}) &\hookrightarrow C^s(\hat{K}) \quad (s \text{ as in Thm 2.1}) \end{aligned}$$

Then for $k+1 \geq m \in \{0, 1\}$, with $h := \sup_{K \in \tau_h} \text{diam}(K)$,

$$(1) \quad \|(I - I_{\tau_h})v\|_{H^m(\Omega)} \lesssim h^{k+1-m} |v|_{H^{k+1}(\Omega)} \quad (v \in H^{k+1}(\Omega)).$$

Remark 3.2. In these notes, by $C \lesssim D$ we will mean that C can be bounded on some absolute multiple of D , independently of parameters which C and D may depend on. Obviously, $C \gtrsim D$ is defined as $D \lesssim C$, and $C \approx D$ as $C \lesssim D$ and $C \gtrsim D$.

Remark 3.3. If the global finite element space is C^ℓ , then a statement similar to Theorem 3.1 is valid with the condition $m \in \{0, 1\}$ reading as $m \in \{0, \dots, \ell + 1\}$.

Remark 3.4 (homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions). Let $V_{\tau_h, 0}$ be a Lagrangian finite element space V_{τ_h} as in Thm 3.1 in which the degrees of freedom that are function evaluations in boundary nodes

as well as the corresponding global basis function are removed. Then restricted to $H_0^1(\Omega)$, I_{τ_h} maps into $V_{\tau_h,0}$. Formula (1) now reads as

$$\|(I - I_{\tau_h})v\|_{H^m(\Omega)} \lesssim h^{k+1-m}|v|_{H^{k+1}(\Omega)} \quad (v \in H^{k+1}(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)).$$

Moreover, $V_{\tau_h,0} \subset H_0^1(\Omega)$.

Using the Lax-Milgram lemma and Cea's lemma, we arrive at the following corollary.

Theorem 3.5. *Consider the situation of Th 3.1. Let $a : H^1(\Omega) \times H^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bilinear, bounded, coercive, $F : H^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ linear and bounded. Let $u \in H^1(\Omega)$, $u_{\tau_h} \in V_{\tau_h}$ be the solutions of*

$$\begin{aligned} a(u, v) &= F(v) \quad (v \in H^1(\Omega)), \\ a(u_h, v_h) &= F(v_h) \quad (v_h \in V_{\tau_h}), \end{aligned}$$

respectively. Then

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \lesssim h^k |u|_{H^{k+1}(\Omega)}$$

assuming $u \in H^{k+1}(\Omega)$.

Remark 3.6. Same conclusion when variational problem is formulated on $H_0^1(\Omega)$ and V_{τ_h} reads as $V_{\tau_h,0}$.

Under additional assumptions, higher order convergence can be demonstrated in the weaker $L_2(\Omega)$ -norm:

Theorem 3.7 (Aubin-Nitsche duality 'trick'). *Let $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ be as in Thm 3.5. Suppose that for $f \in L_2(\Omega)$, the solution $u_f \in H^1(\Omega)$ (or in $H_0^1(\Omega)$ in case of hom. Dir.) of the adjoint problem $a(v, u_f) = \int_{\Omega} f v dx$ ($v \in H^1(\Omega)$) ($H_0^1(\Omega)$) is in $H^2(\Omega)$ with*

$$(2) \quad \|u_f\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \lesssim \|f\|_{L_2(\Omega)}$$

(this is known as a regularity condition). Let $(V_{\tau_h})_h$ ($(V_{\tau_h,0})_h$) be such that

$$(3) \quad \inf_{v_h \in V_{\tau_h}} \|w - v_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \lesssim h \|w\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \text{ for all } w \in H^2(\Omega) \text{ (} H^2(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega) \text{)}.$$

Then for u and u_h as in Thm 3.5, we have

$$\|u - u_h\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \lesssim h \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}.$$

Proof. Let $w \in H^1(\Omega)$ ($H_0^1(\Omega)$) be the solution of the adjoint problem $a(v, w) = (u - u_h, v)_{L_2(\Omega)}$ ($v \in H^1(\Omega)$) ($H_0^1(\Omega)$). Then for any $w_h \in V_{\tau_h}$ ($V_{\tau_h,0}$),

$$\|u - u_h\|_{L_2(\Omega)}^2 = a(u - u_h, w) = a(u - u_h, w - w_h) \lesssim \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \|w - w_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}$$

Using that $\inf_{w_h} \|w - w_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \lesssim h \|w\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \lesssim h \|u - u_h\|_{L_2(\Omega)}$, the proof is completed. \square

Example 3.8. If $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ has a C^2 boundary or is convex, then for $f \in L_2(\Omega)$, the solution $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ of $\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v dx = \int_{\Omega} f v dx$ ($v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$) is in $H^2(\Omega)$ and satisfies $\|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \lesssim \|f\|_{L_2(\Omega)}$. (Without such conditions on Ω , this regularity result is generally *not* true).

4. INVERSE INEQUALITY

Theorem 4.1. *Let $(V_{\tau_h})_h$ be a family of affine equivalent f.e. spaces w.r.t. family $(\tau_h)_h$ of uniformly shape regular subdivisions of $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Let $h_{\min} := \min_{K \in \tau_h} \text{diam}(K)$. Let $V_{\tau_h} \subset W_p^m(\Omega)$. Then on V_{τ_h} ,*

$$\|\cdot\|_{W_p^m(\Omega)} \lesssim h_{\min}^{-m} \|\cdot\|_{L_p(\Omega)}.$$

Proof. By the transformation lemma, equivalence of norms on finite dimensional spaces, and again the transformation lemma, for $v \in V_{\tau_h}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |v|_{W_p^m(\Omega)}^p &= \sum_{K \in \tau_h} |v|_K |v|_{W_p^m(K)}^p \lesssim \sum_{K \in \tau_h} \|B^{-1}\|^{mp} |\det B| |\widehat{v}|_K |v|_{W_p^m(\widehat{K})}^p \\ &\approx \sum_{K \in \tau_h} \|B^{-1}\|^{mp} |\det B| |\widehat{v}|_K |v|_{L_p(\widehat{K})}^p \lesssim \sum_{K \in \tau_h} \|B^{-1}\|^{mp} |v|_K |v|_{L_p(K)}^p \\ &\lesssim \sum_{K \in \tau_h} \left(\frac{\widehat{h}}{\rho_K}\right)^{mp} |v|_K |v|_{L_p(K)}^p \lesssim h_{\min}^{-pm} \|v\|_{L_p(\Omega)}^p. \end{aligned}$$

□

Literature with Sections 1–4:

REFERENCES

- [Cia78] P.G. Ciarlet. *The finite element method for elliptic problems*. North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1978.

5. MATRIX-VECTOR FORMULATION OF FINITE ELEMENT DISCRETIZATION

Let V be some finite dimension subspace of some real Hilbert space H , let $a : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bilinear, bounded and coercive, and let $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be linear and bounded (e.g., a and f are restrictions to V of (bi)linear forms on H having those properties). We consider the problem of finding $u \in V$ s.t.

$$(4) \quad a(u, v) = f(v) \quad (v \in V)$$

Defining $A : V \rightarrow V'$ by $(Au)(v) = a(u, v)$ an equivalent formulation is given by

$$(5) \quad Au = f.$$

Let $\Phi = \{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_N\}$ be a basis for V . The corresponding dual basis $\Phi' = \{\phi'_1, \dots, \phi'_N\}$ for V' is defined by $\phi'_i(\phi_j) = \delta_{ij}$.

Exercise -1. Let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ be defined by $\mathbf{A}_{ij} = a(\phi_j, \phi_i)$, called the *stiffness matrix*.

- Show that \mathbf{A} is the representation of A w.r.t. primal and dual bases of V and V' , respectively, i.e., if $v = \sum_j \mathbf{v}_j \phi_j$, then $Av = \sum_i (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v})_i \phi'_i$. Conclude that an equivalent formulation of (4) or (5) is given by $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}$, where $u = \sum_i \mathbf{u}_i \phi_i$, $f = \sum_i \mathbf{f}_i \phi'_i$.
- With $u = \sum_i \mathbf{u}_i \phi_i$, $v = \sum_i \mathbf{v}_i \phi_i$, $f = \sum_i \mathbf{f}_i \phi'_i$, i.e., $\mathbf{f}_i = f(\phi_i)$, and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the standard scalar product on \mathbb{R}^N , show that $\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = a(u, v)$ and $f(v) = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$.

Unless stated otherwise, with the norm $\|\cdot\|$ on \mathbb{R}^N (or on $\mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$) we will always mean the standard norm (or the corresponding operator norm).

Exercise 0. • Show that $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ is symmetric iff $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T$.
 • Show that $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ is coercive iff \mathbf{A} is positive definite (denoted as $\mathbf{A} > 0$), i.e. $\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle > 0$ for all $0 \neq \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N$.

Remark 5.1. With the notations of Exercise -1, we have

$$\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = a\left(\sum_j \mathbf{u}_j \phi_j, \sum_i \mathbf{v}_i \phi_i\right) = \sum_{ij} \mathbf{u}_j \mathbf{v}_i \sum_K a(\phi_j|_K, \phi_i|_K).$$

The (set of non-zero entries of) the matrix $a(\phi_j|_K, \phi_i|_K)$ is known as the *element stiffness matrix*.

6. CONDITIONING OF THE STIFFNESS MATRIX

Let $V \subset L_2(\Omega)$. $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ defined by $\mathbf{M}_{ij} = (\phi_j, \phi_i)_{L_2(\Omega)}$ is called the *mass matrix*. Note that \mathbf{M} is SPD.

Lemma 6.1. *If $\{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_m\}$ is an independent set in a normed space $(V, \|\cdot\|)$, then $\|\sum_i \mathbf{c}_i \psi_i\|^2 \approx \sum_i |\mathbf{c}_i|^2$ (i.e. uniformly in $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^m$).*

Proof. $\mathbf{c} \mapsto \|\sum_i \mathbf{c}_i \psi_i\|$ is continuous, so it attains a maximum and minimum on the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^m . By the independence of the set, the minimum is strictly positive. \square

Theorem 6.2. *Let $(V_{\tau_h})_h$ be a family of affine equivalent f.e. spaces w.r.t. a family of quasi-uniform, uniformly shape regular subdivisions of $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Then $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}_h$ corresponding to the nodal basis is uniformly well-conditioned, i.e., $\sup_h \kappa(\mathbf{M}) < \infty$, where $\kappa(\mathbf{M}) = \|\mathbf{M}\| \|\mathbf{M}^{-1}\| = \frac{\lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{M})}{\lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{M})}$ is the spectral condition number of \mathbf{M} .*

Proof. By the choice of the basis, in the relation $v = \sum_i \mathbf{v}_i \phi_i$ we have $\mathbf{v}_i = N_i(v)$ where N_i denotes the i th global degree of freedom.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{M}\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= \|v\|_{L_2(\Omega)}^2 = \sum_K \|v|_K\|_{L_2(K)}^2 = \sum_K |\det B| \|\widehat{v|_K}\|_{L_2(\widehat{K})}^2 \\ &\approx h^n \sum_K \|\widehat{v|_K}\|_{L_2(\widehat{K})}^2 \stackrel{\text{Lemma 6.1}}{\approx} h^n \sum_K \sum_j |\widehat{N}_j^{\text{loc}}(\widehat{v|_K})|^2 \\ &\stackrel{\text{affine eq.}}{=} h^n \sum_K \sum_j |N_j^{\text{loc}}(v|_K)|^2 \approx h^n \sum_i |N_i(v)|^2 = h^n \|\mathbf{v}\|^2. \square \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 6.3. For $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, let $(V_{\tau_h})_h \subset H^m(\Omega)$ (or $\subset H_0^m(\Omega)$) be a family of f.e. spaces. Let $a(\cdot, \cdot) : H^m(\Omega) \times H^m(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bil., bound. and coercive (or with $H^m(\Omega)$ reading as $H_0^m(\Omega)$). Then the stiffness matrix $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_h$ w.r.t. a basis of V_{τ_h} satisfies $\|\mathbf{A}\| \lesssim h^{-2m} \|\mathbf{M}\|$ and $\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\| \lesssim \|\mathbf{M}^{-1}\|$, with \mathbf{M} being the corresponding mass matrix.

Proof. Using Theorem 4.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle| &= |a(v, w)| \lesssim \|v\|_{H^m(\Omega)} \|w\|_{H^m(\Omega)} \lesssim h^{-2m} \|v\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \|w\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \\ &\lesssim h^{-2m} \lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{M}) \|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\|, \end{aligned}$$

or $\|\mathbf{A}\| \lesssim h^{-2m} \lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{M})$. On the other hand

$$\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \gtrsim \|v\|_{H^m(\Omega)}^2 \geq \|v\|_{L_2(\Omega)}^2 \gtrsim \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{M}) \|\mathbf{v}\|^2,$$

and so

$$\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{v}\|^2 \lesssim \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{M})^{-1} \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{v} \rangle \leq \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{M})^{-1} \|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{v}\|$$

or $\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{v}\| \lesssim \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{M})^{-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|$ or $\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\| \lesssim \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{M})^{-1}$. \square

Remark 6.4. If the basis in Theorem 6.3 is the *nodal* basis, then under the conditions of Theorem 6.2 we have $\kappa(\mathbf{A}) \lesssim h^{-2m}$. Generally, this estimate is sharp.

7. ITERATIVE METHODS

Let be given a linear system

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b},$$

where $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is SPD w.r.t. a scalar product (\cdot, \cdot) on \mathbb{R}^n (e.g., the standard scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$). We define the energy scalar product $(\cdot, \cdot)_{\mathbf{A}} = (\mathbf{A}\cdot, \cdot)$ and (vector) norms $\|\cdot\| = (\cdot, \cdot)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and $\|\cdot\|_{\mathbf{A}} = (\cdot, \cdot)_{\mathbf{A}}^{\frac{1}{2}}$. We will always use the same notation for a vector norm as for the associated matrix norm.

7.1. The damped Richardson iteration. This iteration is defined by

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k + \omega(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k).$$

Exercise 1. Show that the error satisfies

$$\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k = (I - \omega\mathbf{A})^k(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^0),$$

and that the method converges if and only if $\omega \in (0, \frac{2}{\rho(\mathbf{A})})$.

Exercise 2. Proof that for both $\|\cdot\| = \|\cdot\|$ and for $\|\cdot\| = \|\cdot\|_{\mathbf{A}}$ it holds that $\sup_{\mathbf{x}^0 \neq \mathbf{x}} \frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k\|}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^0\|} = \|(I - \omega\mathbf{A})^k\|$, and that

$$\min_{\omega} \|(I - \omega\mathbf{A})^k\|^{\frac{1}{k}} = \rho(I - \omega_{\text{opt}}\mathbf{A}) = \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{A})-1}{\kappa(\mathbf{A})+1},$$

where $\omega_{\text{opt}} = \frac{2}{\lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{A}) + \lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{A})}$. This means that the average convergence factor over an arbitrary number of k steps is minimal for $\omega = \omega_{\text{opt}}$.

7.2. Preconditioning. We saw that the rate of convergence of the optimally damped Richardson iteration is determined by $\kappa(\mathbf{A})$. Note that $\kappa \rightarrow \frac{\kappa-1}{\kappa+1}$ is a monotonically increasing function on $[1, \infty)$ with limit 1. An obvious idea therefore is to apply damped Richardson on the equivalent system $\mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$, where \mathbf{B} is an approximation for \mathbf{A} such that $\kappa(\mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{A}) \ll \kappa(\mathbf{A})$, and such that system $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{z}$ can be solved cheaply. Such an \mathbf{B} is called a *preconditioner*. The resulting preconditioned damped Richardson iteration is given by

$$(6) \quad \mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k + \omega\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k).$$

In the remainder we will consider \mathbf{B} that are SPD w.r.t. (\cdot, \cdot) . We define

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{A}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{b}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

and $[\cdot, \cdot] = (\mathbf{B}\cdot, \cdot)$.

Exercise 3. Show that $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$ is SPD w.r.t. $[\cdot, \cdot]$ and so also w.r.t. $[\cdot, \cdot]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}} := [\tilde{\mathbf{A}}\cdot, \cdot]$.

Exercise 4. Show that for both $\|\cdot\| = [\cdot, \cdot]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and for $\|\cdot\| = \|\cdot\|_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}} := [\cdot, \cdot]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}^{\frac{1}{2}}$,

$$(7) \quad \min_{\omega} \|(I - \omega\tilde{\mathbf{A}})^k\|^{\frac{1}{k}} = \rho(I - \omega_{\text{opt}}\tilde{\mathbf{A}}) = \frac{\kappa(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})-1}{\kappa(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})+1},$$

where $\omega_{\text{opt}} = \frac{2}{\lambda_{\min}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}}) + \lambda_{\max}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})}$. Also show that $\|\cdot\|_{\mathbf{A}} = \|\cdot\|_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}$.

7.3. (Preconditioned) Chebychev iteration. As we have seen, the error in the iterands of the preconditioned Richardson iteration satisfy

$$(8) \quad \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k = p_k(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^0),$$

where $p_k(\lambda) = (1 - \omega\lambda)^k$. The idea behind the Chebychev iteration is to vary in (6) the damping ω per iteration. Let ω_i the damping in the i th iteration, and let $p_k(\lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - \omega_i\lambda)$.

Exercise 5. Show that for both $\|\cdot\| = [\cdot, \cdot]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and for $\|\cdot\| = \|\cdot\|_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}$,

$$\sup_{\mathbf{x}^0 \neq \mathbf{x}} \frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k\|}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^0\|} = \|p_k(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})\| = \max_{\lambda \in \sigma(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})} |p_k(\lambda)|.$$

Preferably, we would choose the ω_i 's such that with $P_k^1 := \{p \in P_k : p(0) = 1\}$,

$$\max_{\lambda \in \sigma(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})} |p_k(\lambda)| = \min_{q_k \in P_k^1} \max_{\lambda \in \sigma(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})} |q_k(\lambda)|,$$

but this seems not realizable, since then we should know $\sigma(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})$ (cf., however, §7.5). Often estimates $0 < \mu$ and ν are available for $\lambda_{\min}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})$ and $\lambda_{\max}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})$, respectively. Now the idea is to choose p_k in such a way that

$$\max_{\lambda \in [\mu, \nu]} |p_k(\lambda)| = \min_{q_k \in P_k^1} \max_{\lambda \in [\mu, \nu]} |q_k(\lambda)|.$$

It can be show that this minimalization problem has the following unique solution:

$$p_k(\lambda) = T_k\left(\frac{\nu + \mu - 2\lambda}{\nu - \mu}\right) / T_k\left(\frac{\nu + \mu}{\nu - \mu}\right),$$

where $T_k(\xi) = \frac{1}{2}[(\xi + \sqrt{\xi^2 - 1})^k - (\xi - \sqrt{\xi^2 - 1})^k]$ is the Chebychev polynomial of degree k . It holds that

$$\max_{\lambda \in [\mu, \nu]} |p_k(\lambda)| = 1 / T_k\left(\frac{\nu + \mu}{\nu - \mu}\right) = \frac{2c^k}{1 + c^{2k}}$$

where $c = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\nu} - 1}}{\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\nu} + 1}}$, and so $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (\max_{\lambda \in [\mu, \nu]} |p_k(\lambda)|)^{\frac{1}{k}} = c$. For $\mu = \lambda_{\min}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})$ and $\nu = \lambda_{\max}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})$, compare this result with (7). The iteration with error recursion (8) and this p_k is called (preconditioned) Chebychev iteration.

7.4. Practical implementation. Given $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$, $\tilde{\mathbf{b}}$ and \mathbf{x}^0 , let \mathbf{x}^k denote the k th iterand of the Chebychev iteration.

Exercise 6. Given k , what are the damping parameters $\omega_1^{(k)}, \dots, \omega_k^{(k)}$ in terms of the zeros of T_k , whose are needed for the implementation (6) of this iteration?

The zeros of T_k interlace the zeros of T_{k+1} . As a consequence, one has to restart the whole computation if instead of \mathbf{x}_k one would like to have the more accurate \mathbf{x}_{k+1} . A solution is provided by the following: The Chebychev polynomials satisfy the following recursion:

$$(9) \quad \begin{cases} T_0(z) = 1, T_1(z) = z \\ T_{k+1}(z) - 2zT_k(z) + T_{k-1}(z) = 0 \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \end{cases}$$

Exercise 7. Show that with $d_k = T_k\left(\frac{\nu + \mu}{\nu - \mu}\right)$,

$$\begin{cases} d_1(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^1) = \left(\frac{\nu + \mu}{\nu - \mu}I - \frac{2}{\nu - \mu}\tilde{\mathbf{A}}\right)(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^0) \\ d_{k+1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{k+1}) = \left(\frac{2(\nu + \mu)}{\nu - \mu}I - \frac{4}{\nu - \mu}\tilde{\mathbf{A}}\right)d_k(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k) - d_{k-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{k-1}) \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \end{cases}$$

By using (9) again, show that

$$\begin{cases} d_1 \mathbf{x}^1 &= \frac{\nu+\mu}{\nu-\mu} \mathbf{x}^0 + \frac{2}{\nu-\mu} (\tilde{\mathbf{b}} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{x}^0) \\ d_{k+1} \mathbf{x}^{k+1} &= \frac{2(\nu+\mu)}{\nu-\mu} d_k \mathbf{x}^k - d_{k-1} \mathbf{x}^{k-1} + \frac{4}{\nu-\mu} d_k (\tilde{\mathbf{b}} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{x}^k) \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \end{cases}$$

This leads to the following practical (preconditioned) Chebychev algorithm

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}^1 &= \mathbf{x}^0 + \frac{1}{2} \beta_0 \mathbf{B}^{-1} (-\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^0) \\ \mathbf{x}^{k+1} &= \alpha_k \mathbf{x}^k + (1 - \alpha_k) \mathbf{x}^{k-1} + \beta_k \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^k) \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \end{cases} ,$$

where using (9) it holds that $\beta_0 = \frac{4}{\nu+\mu}$ and

$$\beta_k = \left(\frac{\nu+\mu}{2} - \left(\frac{\nu-\mu}{4} \right)^2 \beta_{k-1} \right)^{-1}, \quad \alpha_k = \frac{\nu+\mu}{2} \beta_k, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

7.5. The (preconditioned) conjugate gradient ((P)CG) algorithm.

Exercise 8. Using (8), show that for both the (preconditioned) damped Richardson and Chebychev iteration,

$$\mathbf{x}^k = \mathbf{x}^0 + p_{k-1} (\tilde{\mathbf{A}}) (\tilde{\mathbf{b}} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{x}^0)$$

for certain $p_{k-1} \in P_{k-1}$. Note that \mathbf{x}^k can also be computed as $\mathbf{x}^k := \hat{\mathbf{x}}^k + \mathbf{x}^0$, where $\hat{\mathbf{x}}^k$ is the k th iterand of the process applied to $\tilde{\mathbf{A}} \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \hat{\mathbf{b}}$ with $\hat{\mathbf{b}} = \tilde{\mathbf{b}} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{x}^0$ en $\hat{\mathbf{x}}^0 = 0$.

So w.l.o.g. we may assume that $\mathbf{x}^0 = 0$. From this we have

$$(10) \quad \mathbf{x}^k \in \mathcal{K}_k,$$

where $\mathcal{K}_k = \text{span}\{\tilde{\mathbf{b}}, \tilde{\mathbf{A}}\tilde{\mathbf{b}}, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^{k-1}\tilde{\mathbf{b}}\}$ is the so-called *Krylov* subspace of order k ($\mathcal{K}_0 = \{0\}$).

Given a norm, the *optimal* $\mathbf{x}^k \in \mathcal{K}_k$ would satisfy

$$(11) \quad \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k\| = \min_{y \in \mathcal{K}_k} \|\mathbf{x} - y\|.$$

We now choose the energy norm $\|\cdot\|_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}$. We denote $\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k = \tilde{\mathbf{b}} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{x}^k$, i.e. $\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k$ is the residual of \mathbf{x}^k w.r.t. the preconditioned system.

Exercise 9. Show that $\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k \in \mathcal{K}_{k+1}$, and that (11) is equivalent to

$$[\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k, \mathcal{K}_k] = [\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k, \mathcal{K}_k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}} = 0.$$

Suppose that $\mathbf{x}^k \in \mathcal{K}_k$ is optimal, and let $\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k \neq 0$ (otherwise ready). Let $0 \neq \mathbf{p}^k \in \mathcal{K}_{k+1}$ such that $[\mathbf{p}^k, \mathcal{K}_k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}} = 0$.

Exercise 10. With $\alpha_{\text{opt}}^k := \frac{[\mathbf{p}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k]}{[\mathbf{p}^k, \mathbf{p}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}}$, show that

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k + \alpha_{\text{opt}}^k \mathbf{p}^k \in \mathcal{K}_{k+1}$$

is the next optimal iterand, and that

$$\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1} = \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k - \alpha_{\text{opt}}^k \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{p}^k.$$

The question is how \mathbf{p}^k should be determined. We take $\mathbf{p}^0 = \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$ and, using induction, assume that $\{\mathbf{p}^0, \dots, \mathbf{p}^{k-1}\}$ is an $[\cdot, \cdot]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}$ -orthogonal basis of \mathcal{K}_k .

Exercise 11. From $\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k \neq 0$, show that

$$\mathbf{p}^k := \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{[\mathbf{p}^j, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}}{[\mathbf{p}^j, \mathbf{p}^j]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}} \mathbf{p}^j.$$

Prove that $[\mathbf{p}^j, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}} = 0$ when $j \leq k-2$, and thus that

$$\mathbf{p}^k := \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k - \frac{[\mathbf{p}^{k-1}, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}}{[\mathbf{p}^{k-1}, \mathbf{p}^{k-1}]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}} \mathbf{p}^{k-1}.$$

The resulting algorithm, known as the (preconditioned) conjugate gradient ((P)CG) algorithm¹, is therefore given by the following

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{x}^0 := 0; \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^0 := \tilde{\mathbf{b}}; \mathbf{p}^0 := \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^0; \\ \text{For } k = 0, 1, \dots \text{ when } \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k \neq 0, \text{ compute} \\ \alpha_{\text{opt}}^k := \frac{[\mathbf{p}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}}{[\mathbf{p}^k, \mathbf{p}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}}; \\ \mathbf{x}^{k+1} := \mathbf{x}^k + \alpha_{\text{opt}}^k \mathbf{p}^k; \\ \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1} := \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k - \alpha_{\text{opt}}^k \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{p}^k; \\ \mathbf{p}^{k+1} := \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1} - \frac{[\mathbf{p}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1}]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}}{[\mathbf{p}^k, \mathbf{p}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}} \mathbf{p}^k; \end{array} \right.$$

Exercise 12. Show that, in exact arithmetic, the PCG algorithm yields the exact solution after at most n iterations. (In practice, one would like to compute much less iterations). Prove that

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k\|_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}} \leq \frac{2c^k}{1 + c^{2k}}, \text{ with } c = \frac{\sqrt{\kappa(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})-1}}{\sqrt{\kappa(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})+1}}.$$

In contrast to damped Richardson and Chebychev iteration, note that the PCG iteration is non-linear; \mathbf{x}^k is a linear combination of $\tilde{\mathbf{b}}, \tilde{\mathbf{A}}\tilde{\mathbf{b}}, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^{k-1}\tilde{\mathbf{b}}$ (cf. (10)) where the coefficients also depend on $\tilde{\mathbf{b}}$.

In view of obtaining an efficient implementation we now slightly rewrite the iteration.

Exercise 13. Show that $[\mathbf{p}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k] = [\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k]$, and thus that

$$\alpha_{\text{opt}}^k = \frac{[\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k]}{[\mathbf{p}^k, \mathbf{p}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}}.$$

Show that $[\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1}, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1}] = -\alpha_{\text{opt}}^k [\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1}, \mathbf{p}^k]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}$ and so that

$$\mathbf{p}^{k+1} = \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1} + \frac{[\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1}, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1}]}{[\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k]} \mathbf{p}^k.$$

¹The name (P)CG algorithm can be explained by interpreting solving $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{x} = \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$ as minimizing $F(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{1}{2}[\tilde{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}] - [\tilde{\mathbf{b}}, \mathbf{x}]$. Note that the gradient of F in y equals minus the residual of y w.r.t. $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{x} = \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$, i.e. $F'(y) = -(\tilde{\mathbf{b}} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}}y)$. Vectors that are orthogonal w.r.t. to an energy scalar product are also called “conjugate”.

We write $[\cdot, \cdot]$ and $[\cdot, \cdot]_{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}}$ in terms of (\cdot, \cdot) , \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , and introduce $\mathbf{r}^k = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k$, i.e. \mathbf{r}^k is the residual of \mathbf{x}^k w.r.t. the unpreconditioned system. The final PCG algorithm now reads as

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{x}^0 := 0; \mathbf{r}^0 := \mathbf{b}; \\ \text{Compute } \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^0 \text{ from } \mathbf{B}\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^0 = \mathbf{r}^0; \mathbf{p}^0 = \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^0; \\ \text{For } k = 0, 1, \dots \text{ when } \mathbf{r}^k \neq 0, \text{ compute} \\ \alpha_{\text{opt}}^k := \frac{(\mathbf{r}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k)}{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}^k, \mathbf{p}^k)}; \\ \mathbf{x}^{k+1} := \mathbf{x}^k + \alpha_{\text{opt}}^k \mathbf{p}^k; \\ \mathbf{r}^{k+1} := \mathbf{r}^k - \alpha_{\text{opt}}^k \mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}^k; \\ \text{Compute } \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1} \text{ from } \mathbf{B}\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1} = \mathbf{r}^{k+1}; \\ \mathbf{p}^{k+1} := \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1} + \frac{(\mathbf{r}^{k+1}, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{k+1})}{(\mathbf{r}^k, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^k)} \mathbf{p}^k; \end{array} \right.$$

Literature with Section 7:

REFERENCES

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8. SUBSPACE CORRECTION METHODS

For a real linear space V of finite dimension N , $a : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ bilinear, bounded, symmetric and coercive (i.e., a is a scalar product on V), and $f \in V'$, consider the problem of finding $u \in V$ such that

$$a(u, v) = f(v) \quad (v \in V)$$

(e.g., a and f are the restrictions to V of such (bi)linear forms on an enclosing infinite dimensional Hilbert space). With Φ a basis for V , \mathbf{u} (\mathbf{v}) denoting the representation of u (v) w.r.t. Φ , \mathbf{f} the representation of f w.r.t. Φ' and \mathbf{A} the stiffness matrix, an equivalent formulation is given by

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f},$$

where \mathbf{A} is SPD w.r.t. $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ (cf. exercises -1 and 0).

Remark 8.1. If the problem is just given as a matrix vector problem $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}$ with \mathbf{A} being SPD, then V can be taken as \mathbb{R}^N and $\Phi = \{e_1, \dots, e_N\}$. Then $u = \sum_i \mathbf{u}_i e_i$, $v = \sum_i \mathbf{v}_i e_i$, $a(u, v) = \langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$, $f(v) = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$.

Let

$$V = \sum_{i=0}^J V_i$$

be a space decomposition, where $N_i = \dim V_i$. Given $0 \leq i \leq J$, let $P^i : V \rightarrow V_i$ be defined by

$$a(P^i w, v_i) = a(w, v_i) \quad (v_i \in V_i).$$

Exercise 14. Show that P^i is the a -orthogonal projector onto V_i .

Let \tilde{u} be some approximation of u . Define \tilde{u}^{new} by

$$\tilde{u}^{\text{new}} = \tilde{u} + w_i,$$

where w_i is the solution of

$$(12) \quad a(w_i, v_i) = f(v_i) - a(\tilde{u}, v_i) \quad (v_i \in V_i)$$

Noting that $w_i = P^i(u - \tilde{u})$, we infer that

$$u - \tilde{u}^{\text{new}} = (I - P^i)(u - \tilde{u}).$$

Unless $V_i = V$, this *subspace correction iteration* cannot be convergent. Indeed, components in the error $u - \tilde{u}$ that are a -orthogonal to V_i are not affected.

Before we consider iterations involving corrections on all subspaces, we consider the implementation of this basic step. Let $\mathbf{I}_i : \mathbb{R}^{N_i} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ denote the representation of the inclusion of V_i into V w.r.t. some basis Φ^i of V_i and the basis Φ of V , respectively.

Exercise 15. Let V_i be the space of continuous piecewise linears that vanish at the boundary w.r.t. a subdivision of $[0, 1]$ into 3 equal subintervals, and let V be such a space with 6 equal subintervals. Give the matrix \mathbf{I}_i when the finite element spaces are equipped with nodal bases.

Recall that \mathbf{A} is the stiffness matrix of a w.r.t. Φ , and that \mathbf{f} denotes the representation of f w.r.t. Φ . Let \mathbf{w}_i (\mathbf{v}_i) denote representations of w_i (v_i) w.r.t. Φ^i . Let \mathbf{A}_i denote the stiffness matrix of a (restricted to V_i) w.r.t. Φ^i . Let $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}$ ($\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\text{new}}$) denote the representation of \tilde{u} (\tilde{u}^{new}) w.r.t. Φ . Then $a(w_i, v_i) = \langle \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{w}_i, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle$, $f(v_i) = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{v}_i \rangle = \langle \mathbf{I}_i^T \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle$, $a(\tilde{u}, v_i) = \langle \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{v}_i \rangle = \langle \mathbf{I}_i^T \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle$, i.e., (12) reads as

$$\langle \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{w}_i, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle = \langle \mathbf{I}_i^T \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle - \langle \mathbf{I}_i^T \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle \quad (\mathbf{v}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i})$$

or

$$\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{w}_i = \mathbf{I}_i^T (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}})$$

The representation of w_i w.r.t. Φ is given by $\mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{w}_i$, so that

$$(13) \quad \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\text{new}} = \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{A}_i^{-1} \mathbf{I}_i^T (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}).$$

Remark 8.2. From $a(w_i, v_i) = \langle \mathbf{A} \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{w}_i, \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{v}_i \rangle = \langle \mathbf{I}_i^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{w}_i, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle$, note that

$$\mathbf{A}_i = \mathbf{I}_i^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{I}_i,$$

which gives an alternative way to compute \mathbf{A}_i once \mathbf{A} is available.

Often, one replaces the application of \mathbf{A}_i^{-1} by that of some approximation \mathbf{R}_i , i.e.,

$$(14) \quad \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\text{new}} = \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{I}_i^T (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}).$$

Having more than one subspace, one can choose to perform the corresponding (approximate) subspace corrections in parallel ((damped) *Parallel Subspace Correction* method)

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\text{new}} = \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \omega \sum_{i=0}^J \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{I}_i^T (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}),$$

or successively (*Successive Subspace Correction* method)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v} &\leftarrow \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \\ \text{for } i &= 0 : J \text{ do } \mathbf{v} \leftarrow \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{I}_i^T (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}) \text{ endfor,} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\text{new}} &\leftarrow \mathbf{v}. \end{aligned}$$

With the latter method, we have

$$(15) \quad \mathbf{u} - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\text{new}} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{I}_J \mathbf{R}_J \mathbf{I}_J^T \mathbf{A})(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{I}_{J-1} \mathbf{R}_{J-1} \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^T \mathbf{A}) \cdots (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{I}_0 \mathbf{R}_0 \mathbf{I}_0^T \mathbf{A})(\mathbf{u} - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}).$$

Remark 8.3. Without damping the PSC does not necessarily converge. Instead of applying a simple damping, assuming that the \mathbf{R}_i are SPD, usually $\sum_{i=0}^J \mathbf{I}_i \mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{I}_i^T$ is used as a preconditioner in CG.

Exercise 16. Consider the situation of Remark 8.1. Let $J = N - 1$, $V_i = \text{span}\{e_{i+1}\}$ ($0 \leq i \leq J$). Write $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{D} + \mathbf{U}$, where $\mathbf{L}_{k,\ell} = \mathbf{A}_{k,\ell}$ when $k > \ell$, $\mathbf{D}_{k,\ell} = \mathbf{A}_{k,\ell}$ when $k = \ell$, $\mathbf{U}_{k,\ell} = \mathbf{A}_{k,\ell}$ when $k < \ell$, and zeros otherwise. With exact subspace solvers, i.e., “ $\mathbf{R}_i = \mathbf{A}_i^{-1}$ ”, show that the (damped) PSC or SSC is given by $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\text{new}} = \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \omega \mathbf{D}^{-1} (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}})$, known as the (damped) Jacobi iteration, or $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\text{new}} = \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + (\mathbf{L} + \mathbf{D})^{-1} (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}})$, known as Gauss-Seidel iteration, respectively.

Besides the Jacobi and Gauss-Seidel iterations, well-known classes of methods that fit into the framework of subspace correction methods are *domain decomposition methods*, and *multigrid method*, the latter being discussed in the next section.

9. MULTIGRID

Let $V_0 \subset V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \cdots \subset H$ be a nested sequence of finite element spaces on some domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ contained in some Hilbert space H , with $N_i := \dim V_i$.

Let a be a scalar product on H , Φ^i be a basis for V_i , for $j \geq i$ let \mathbf{I}_j^i be the representation of the inclusion of V_i in V_j , $\mathbf{I}_j^i := (\mathbf{I}_i^j)^T$, \mathbf{A}_i be the stiffness matrix of a restricted to $V_i \times V_i$ w.r.t. Φ^i , and, for $i \geq 1$, let $\mathbf{R}_i, \tilde{\mathbf{R}}_i$ be some approximate inverses of \mathbf{A}_i .

We define multigrid in the form of a preconditioner \mathbf{B}_J for \mathbf{A}_J , i.e., as an approximate inverse.

Algorithm 9.1. (multigrid) For $J = 0$, define $\mathbf{B}_0 = \mathbf{R}_0 = \mathbf{A}_0^{-1}$. Assume that \mathbf{B}_{J-1} has been defined. For some fixed $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{N}$, the application of \mathbf{B}_J to a vector $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_j}$ is defined as follows:

- (1) Pre-smoothing: For $\mathbf{v}^0 = 0$ and $\ell = 1, 2, \dots, m_1$,

$$\mathbf{v}^\ell = \mathbf{v}^{\ell-1} + \mathbf{R}_J(\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{A}_J \mathbf{v}^{\ell-1})$$

- (2) Coarse grid correction:

$$\mathbf{w}^0 = \mathbf{v}^{m_1} + \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{B}_{J-1} \mathbf{I}_J^{J-1} (\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{A}_J \mathbf{v}^{m_1})$$

- (3) Post-smoothing: For $\ell = 1, 2, \dots, m_2$,

$$\mathbf{w}^\ell = \mathbf{w}^{\ell-1} + \tilde{\mathbf{R}}_J (\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{A}_J \mathbf{w}^{\ell-1})$$

$\mathbf{B}_J \mathbf{g}$ is now defined as \mathbf{w}^{m_2} .

The matrices \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J and \mathbf{I}_J^{J-1} are known as *prolongations* and *restrictions*, respectively.

Exercise 17. (i) For some $\rho > 1$, let $N_i \approx \rho^i$, and let the application of any of $\mathbf{A}_i, \mathbf{I}_i^{i-1}, \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i, \mathbf{R}_i, \tilde{\mathbf{R}}_i$ to a vector takes $\mathcal{O}(N_i)$ operations. Show that the application of \mathbf{B}_J to a vector takes $\mathcal{O}(N_J)$ operations (dependent on N_0).

- (ii) With $0 < \omega < 1$ being a constant, show that the forthcoming condition (21) is satisfied for $\mathbf{R}_i = \frac{\omega}{\|\mathbf{A}_i\|} \mathbf{I}_i$.

- (iii) Consider the Poisson problem on a polygon in \mathbb{R}^2 . Let τ_0 be some initial conforming triangulation of Ω , and for $i \in \mathbb{N}$, let τ_{i+1} be defined from τ_i by connecting the midpoints of the edges of each triangle from τ_i . Let V_i be the continuous piecewise linear finite element space w.r.t. τ_i , and Φ^i be its nodal basis. Let $\mathbf{R}_i = \tilde{\mathbf{R}}_i$ be as in (ii). Show that the assumptions made in (i) are satisfied.

Since $m > 1$ steps of a stationary iterative method can be rewritten as a one step modified iterative method, it is sufficient to analyse the multigrid method for $m_1, m_2 \in \{0, 1\}$ with $m_1 + m_2 > 0$. We start with considering the case that $m_1 = 1$ and $m_2 = 0$. The general case will be considered in Remark 9.5.

We will show that \mathbf{B}_J can be used without CG acceleration or damping as a convergent “stand alone” iteration

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k + \mathbf{B}_J(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}_J \mathbf{x}^k).$$

With \mathbf{I}_J denoting the identity matrix on \mathbb{R}^{N_j} , one infers that

$$(16) \quad \mathbf{B}_J = \mathbf{R}_J + \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{B}_{J-1} \mathbf{I}_J^{J-1} (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{A}_J \mathbf{R}_J),$$

and so

$$(17) \quad \mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{B}_J \mathbf{A}_J = (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{B}_{J-1} \mathbf{I}_J^{J-1} \mathbf{A}_J) (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{R}_J \mathbf{A}_J).$$

Exercise 18. For $0 \leq i \leq J$, set

$$\mathbf{P}_J^i := \mathbf{A}_i^{-1} \mathbf{I}_J^i \mathbf{A}_J.$$

(i) Show that $\mathbf{P}_J^i \mathbf{I}_i^J = \mathbf{I}_i$, and that $\mathbf{I}_i^J \mathbf{P}_J^i$ is the $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathbf{A}_J}$ -orthogonal projector onto $\text{Im} \mathbf{I}_i^J$.

(ii) Show that $\mathbf{I}_i^J \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i = \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^J$, and so that $\mathbf{I}_i^{i-1} \mathbf{I}_J^i = \mathbf{I}_J^{i-1}$.

(iii) From (16), with J reading as i , show that

$$(18) \quad \mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_i^J \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{P}_J^i = (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^J \mathbf{B}_{i-1} \mathbf{A}_{i-1} \mathbf{P}_J^{i-1}) (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_i^J \mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{P}_J^i).$$

Conclude that

$$(19) \quad \mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{B}_J \mathbf{A}_J = (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_0^J \mathbf{R}_0 \mathbf{I}_J^0 \mathbf{A}_J) \cdots (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_J^J \mathbf{R}_J \mathbf{I}_J^J \mathbf{A}_J)$$

and thus that multigrid is an efficient implementation of SSC with the space decomposition $V_J = V_J + V_{J-1} + \dots + V_0$.

Remark 9.2. A similar recursive implementation of PSC with the space decomposition $V_J = V_J + V_{J-1} + \dots + V_0$ is known as the BPX (Bramble-Pasciak-Xu) preconditioner.

Below, we present the classical multigrid convergence theory showing that the method has the unique property to converge with a rate that does not deteriorate with an increasing problem size. The theory will require a regularity assumption (cf. (26)) that can be avoided by an analysis based on the concept of subspace corrections. This, however, goes beyond the scope of these notes.

Theorem 9.3. For some constants c_0 and c_1 (i.e., independent of i), let

$$(20) \quad \|(\mathbf{I}_i - \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i \mathbf{P}_i^{i-1}) \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_i}^2 \leq c_1 \|\mathbf{A}_i\|^{-1} \|\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{v}\|^2 \quad (\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i}),$$

and let the \mathbf{R}_i be SPD, and satisfy

$$(21) \quad \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{R}_i) \geq \frac{c_0}{\|\mathbf{A}_i\|} \text{ and } \rho(\mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{A}_i) \leq 1.$$

Then

$$(22) \quad \|\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{B}_J \mathbf{A}_J\|_{\mathbf{A}_J \rightarrow \mathbf{A}_J} \leq \frac{c_1}{2c_0 + c_1}.$$

Proof. With $\mathbf{E}_i := \mathbf{I}_i - \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{A}_i$, $\mathbf{S}_i := \mathbf{I}_i - \mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{A}_i$, from (17) we infer that

$$\mathbf{E}_J = (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{P}_J^{J-1} + \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{E}_{J-1} \mathbf{P}_J^{J-1}) \mathbf{S}_J.$$

Using Exercise 18(i), we find that for $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_J}$,

$$(23) \quad \|\mathbf{E}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 = \|(\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{P}_J^{J-1}) \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 + \|\mathbf{E}_{J-1} \mathbf{P}_J^{J-1} \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_{J-1}}^2,$$

where we used that

$$(24) \quad \|\mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{w}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J} = \|\mathbf{w}\|_{\mathbf{A}_{J-1}} \quad (\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{J-1}}).$$

From the conditions of the theorem, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|(\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{P}_J^{J-1}) \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 \leq c_1 \|\mathbf{A}_J\|^{-1} \|\mathbf{A}_J \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|^2 \\
& \leq \frac{c_1}{c_0} \langle \mathbf{R}_J \mathbf{A}_J \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{A}_J \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v} \rangle = \frac{c_1}{c_0} \langle (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{S}_J) \mathbf{S}_J^2 \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle_{\mathbf{A}_J} \\
(25) \quad & \leq \frac{c_1}{2c_0} (\|\mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 - \|\mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2),
\end{aligned}$$

where in the last step we have used that $\sigma(\mathbf{R}_J \mathbf{A}_J) \subset [0, 1]$, \mathbf{S}_J is symmetric w.r.t. $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathbf{A}_J}$, and the inequality $(1-t)t^2 \leq \frac{1}{2}(1-t^2)$ for $t \in [0, 1]$.

Let $\delta = \frac{c_1}{2c_0 + c_1}$. Obviously (22) is valid for $J = 0$. Assume that is holds for $J-1$. Then from (23), (24), Exercise 18(i) and (25), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\mathbf{E}_J\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 & \leq \|(\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{P}_J^{J-1}) \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 + \delta \|\mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{P}_J^{J-1} \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 \\
& \leq (1-\delta) \|(\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{I}_{J-1}^J \mathbf{P}_J^{J-1}) \mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 + \delta \|\mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 \\
& \leq (1-\delta) \frac{c_1}{2c_0} (\|\mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 - \|\mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2) + \delta \|\mathbf{S}_J \mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2 = \delta \|\mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{A}_J}^2,
\end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. \square

Theorem 9.4. *Let $H = H_0^1(\Omega)$. Let the solution $u_f \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ of $a(u_f, v) = \int_\Omega f v dx$ ($v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$) be in $H^2(\Omega)$ with*

$$(26) \quad \|u_f\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \lesssim \|f\|_{L_2(\Omega)}$$

(cf. (2)). *Let $h_{i-1} \lesssim h_i$, and*

$$(27) \quad \inf_{v^i \in V_i} \|w - v^i\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \lesssim h_i \|w\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \quad (w \in H^2(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega))$$

(cf. (3)). *Let $\sup_i \kappa(\mathbf{M}_i) < \infty$ (cf. Theorem 6.2), and $\|\mathbf{A}_i\| \lesssim h_i^{-2} \|\mathbf{M}_i\|$ and $\|\mathbf{A}_i^{-1}\| \lesssim \|\mathbf{M}_i^{-1}\|$ (cf. Theorem 6.3). Then (20) is valid.*

Proof. Given $\mathbf{v}^i \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i}$, let $\mathbf{v}^{i-1} = \mathbf{P}_i^{i-1} \mathbf{v}^i$. Write $v^i = \sum_j \mathbf{v}_j^i \phi_j^i$ and $v^{i-1} = \sum_j \mathbf{v}_j^{i-1} \phi_j^{i-1}$. From Exercise 18(i), we have

$$\langle \mathbf{A}^i \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i \mathbf{v}^{i-1}, \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i \mathbf{z}^{i-1} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{A}^i \mathbf{v}^i, \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i \mathbf{z}^{i-1} \rangle \quad (\mathbf{z}^{i-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{i-1}}).$$

Define $\mathbf{f}^i = \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{v}^i$, $\mathbf{g}^i = \mathbf{M}_i^{-1} \mathbf{f}^i$. Write $g^i = \sum_j \mathbf{g}_j^i \phi_j^i$, and for any $\mathbf{z}^i \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i}$, $z^i = \sum_j \mathbf{z}_j^i \phi_j^i$. Then

$$\langle \mathbf{f}^i, \mathbf{z}^i \rangle = \langle \mathbf{M}_i \mathbf{g}^i, \mathbf{z}^i \rangle = (g^i, z^i)_{L_2(\Omega)} \quad (z^i \in V_i),$$

and

$$(28) \quad \|g^i\|_{L_2(\Omega)}^2 = \langle \mathbf{M}_i \mathbf{g}^i, \mathbf{g}^i \rangle = \langle \mathbf{f}^i, \mathbf{M}_i^{-1} \mathbf{f}^i \rangle \leq \|\mathbf{M}_i^{-1}\| \|\mathbf{f}^i\|^2.$$

Let $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ denote the solution of $a(v, z) = (g^i, z)_{L_2(\Omega)}$ ($z \in H_0^1(\Omega)$). We have

$$a(v^i, z^i) = \langle \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{v}^i, \mathbf{z}^i \rangle = \langle \mathbf{f}^i, \mathbf{z}^i \rangle = (g^i, z^i)_{L_2(\Omega)} \quad (z^i \in V_i),$$

and, writing $z^{i-1} = \sum_j \mathbf{z}_j^{i-1} \phi_j^{i-1}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
a(v^{i-1}, z^{i-1}) & = \langle \mathbf{A}_{i-1} \mathbf{v}^{i-1}, \mathbf{z}^{i-1} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i \mathbf{v}^{i-1}, \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i \mathbf{z}^{i-1} \rangle \\
& = \langle \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{v}^i, \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i \mathbf{z}^{i-1} \rangle = (g^i, z^{i-1})_{L_2(\Omega)} \quad (z^{i-1} \in V_{i-1}).
\end{aligned}$$

From (26) and (27), we infer that

$$(29) \quad \|v^i - v^{i-1}\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq \|v^i - v\|_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|v - v^{i-1}\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \lesssim h_i \|g^i\|_{L_2(\Omega)}.$$

From

$$\|\mathbf{v}^i - \mathbf{I}_{i-1}^i \mathbf{v}^{i-1}\|_{\mathbf{A}_i} = a(v^i - v^{i-1}, v^i - v^{i-1})^{\frac{1}{2}} \asymp \|v^i - v^{i-1}\|_{H^1(\Omega)},$$

(29), (28), $\mathbf{f}^i = \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{v}^i$ and the remaining assumptions of the theorem, the proof is completed. \square

Remark 9.5. Let us denote \mathbf{B}_J for general $m_1, m_2 \in \{0, 1\}$ as $\mathbf{B}_J^{(m_1, m_2)}$. Along the lines we derived (19), it is not hard to show that

$$\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{B}_J^{(1,1)} \mathbf{A}_J = (\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{B}_J^{(0,1)} \mathbf{A}_J)(\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{B}_J^{(1,0)} \mathbf{A}_J)$$

and that $\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{B}_J^{(0,1)} \mathbf{A}_J = (\mathbf{A}_J(\mathbf{I}_J - \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_J^{(1,0)} \mathbf{A}_J) \mathbf{A}_J^{-1})^T$, where $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}_J^{(1,0)}$ is $\mathbf{B}_J^{(1,0)}$ with any \mathbf{R}_i reading as $\tilde{\mathbf{R}}_i^T$. A direct consequence is that $\|\mathbf{I}_J - \mathbf{B}_J^{(0,1)} \mathbf{A}_J\|_{\mathbf{A}_J \rightarrow \mathbf{A}_J} = \|\mathbf{I}_J - \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_J^{(1,0)} \mathbf{A}_J\|_{\mathbf{A}_J \rightarrow \mathbf{A}_J}$.

Literature with Sections 8–9:

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