Iterative solution of spatial network models by subspace decomposition

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Motivation: simulation of paper/paperboard



- A simplified spatial network model: *Ku* = *f*, where *u* is displacement and *f* is applied force
- *K* is ill-conditioned (geometry and material data variation), direct solver used by Fraunhofer
- The goal is to develop and analyze an iterative solver

Notation and model problem

- Ocarsening and multilevel solver
- Numerical examples

Conclusions

Graph Laplacian and norms

Let G = (N, E) be a graph of nodes and edges, x ∈ Ω ⊂ ℝ^d
Let V : N → ℝ be scalar functions on N. For v, w ∈ V



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- Let *M* be diagonal with $M_{xx} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{y \sim x} |x y|, |v|_M = (Mv, v)^{1/2}$
- |v|_L corresponds to the H¹ semi-norm in P1-FEM and M to the lumped mass matrix (L²-norm)

Model problem

Find
$$u \in V := \{v \in \hat{V} : v(x) = 0 \text{ for } x \in \Gamma_D\}$$
:

$$(Ku, v) = (f, v), v \in V.$$

Assume: $(K \cdot, \cdot)$ is scalar product on V and

 $\alpha |\mathbf{v}|_{L}^{2} \leq (K\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}) \leq \beta |\mathbf{v}|_{L}^{2}, \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}.$



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Example:

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$$(Kv, v) = \sum_{(x,y)\in\mathcal{E}} \gamma_{xy} \frac{(v(x) - v(y))^2}{|x - y|}, \quad \alpha \leq \gamma_{xy} \leq \beta$$

 1D diffusion model on network with continuity and Kirchhoff flux constraint in junctions with P1-FEM

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Geometric coarsening



- \mathcal{T}_H is a mesh of squares
- \hat{V}_H is Q1-FEM with basis $\{\varphi_y\}_y$
- $V_H \subset \hat{V}_H$ satisfy the boundary conditions
- Clément type interpolation operator

$$\mathcal{I}_{H} \mathbf{v} = \sum_{\text{free DoFs } \mathbf{y}} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{U(\mathbf{y})} \varphi_{\mathbf{y}} \in V_{H}$$

Lemma (Stability and approximability of I_H)

For all $v \in V$ and for $H > R_0$,

$$H^{-1}|\mathbf{v}-\mathcal{I}_H\mathbf{v}|_M+|\mathcal{I}_H\mathbf{v}|_L\leq C|\mathbf{v}|_L,$$

where $C = C_{d\mu} \sqrt{\sigma}$.

Network homogeneity and connectivity

- Let $B_H(x)$ be a box at x of side length 2H, with $H \ge R_0$.
 - Limited mass variation



$$1 \leq \frac{\max_{x} |1|_{M,B_{H}(x)}^{2}}{\min_{x} |1|_{M,B_{H}(x)}^{2}} \leq \sigma(R_{0})$$

The Poincaré-type inequality

$$|v - \bar{v}|_{M,B_H} \leq \mu(R_0)H|v|_{L,B_{H+R_0}}, \quad \forall v \in \hat{V}$$



Algebraic connectivity:^{*a*} $L'\phi = \lambda M'\phi, \lambda_1 = 0, \lambda_2 = (\mu H)^{-2}.$

^aCheeger 1970, Fiedler 1973, Chung, Spectral graph theory, AMS, 1997

Example: Connectivity $\lambda_2^{-1/2} \approx \mu H$

Finite length fibers r = 0.05 and $|1|_{M}^{2} = 1000$, $\Omega = [0, 1]^{2}$



H varies from 2^{-2} to 2^{-6} . Here $R_0 \sim 2^{-6}$.

Subspace decomposition preconditioner¹

Let $V_0 = V_H$ and

$$V_j = V(U(y_j)), \quad j = 1, \ldots, m.$$

Define projections $P_j: V \to V_j$ by

$$(KP_jv, v_j) = (Kv, v_j), \quad \forall v_j \in V_j \subset V.$$

We add the projections to form

$$P=P_0+P_1+\cdots+P_m.$$

- BKu = Bf, with preconditioner P = BK
- Preconditioned conjugate gradient method.
- Semi-iterative: direct method on decoupled problems

¹Kornhuber & Yserentant, MMS, 2016



Lemma (Spectral bound of P)

For $H > 2R_0$ it holds

$$C_1^{-1}|v|_K^2 \leq (KPv, v) \leq C_2|v|_K^2, \quad \forall v \in V,$$

where $C_1 = C_d \beta \alpha^{-1} \sigma \mu^2$ and $C_2 = C_d$.

Interpolation bound is a crucial component of the proof.

Theorem (Convergence of PCG)

With $\kappa = C_1 C_2$ and $H > 2R_0$ it holds

$$|u-u^{(\ell)}|_{\mathcal{K}} \leq 2\left(\frac{\sqrt{\kappa}-1}{\sqrt{\kappa}+1}\right)^{\ell}|u-u^{(0)}|_{\mathcal{K}}.$$

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Example: Convergence graph Laplacian

$$Ku = M1, (Kv, v) = \sum_{x \sim y} \gamma_{xy} \frac{((v(x) - v(y)))^2}{|x - y|}, \ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \ |1|_M^2 = 1000.$$



Grid $\gamma = 1$ (left), rand $\gamma = 1$ (center), rand $\gamma \in U([0.1, 1])$ (right)



Example: A fibre network model²



- $2 \cdot 10^4$ fibres, biased angle (*x*-axis), length 0.05, $3 \cdot 10^5$ nodes.
- Two forces in the model: edge extension and angular deviation.
- Find displacement u: Ku = f (tensile, distributed load)
- DD with H = 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/32.

²Görtz et. al. Network models for predicting structural properties of paper, Nordic Pulp and Paper 2022

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Conclusions



- Efficient preconditioner when network resembles a homogeneous material on coarse scales H > 2R₀
- Direct solver on fine scales (localized, in parallell)
- Poincaré type inequality plays a crucial role in the analysis
- Algebraic coarsening algorithms are useful (cardboard)

Görtz-Hellman-M., *Iterative solution of spatial network models by subspace decomposition*, Math. Comp. 2023 (online)