Multigrid for Helmholtz revisited Methods for Indefinite Systems Delft University of Technology

Vandana Dwarka June 24, 2025



Vandana Dwarka (TU Delft)

DD29 2025

Introduction

• Inhomogeneous Helmholtz equation + BC's

$$(-
abla^2 - k^2) \, u(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$$

- k is the dimensionless wave number: $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$
- Practical applications in quantum mechanics, imaging problems and plasma fusion









Introduction - Numerical Model

• Start with analytical 1D model problem

$$-\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} - \frac{k^2}{u} = \delta(x - \frac{1}{2}),$$

$$u(0) = 0, u(1) = 0,$$

$$x \in \Omega = [0, 1] \subseteq \mathbb{R},$$

- Discretization using second-order FD with at least 10 gpw
- We obtain a linear system $A\hat{u} = f$

$$A = \frac{1}{h^2}$$
tridiag $[-1 \ 2 - (kh)^2 \ -1],$

• Using Sommerfeld BC's A becomes non-Hermitian indefinite

Preconditioning - CSLP

- Preconditioning to speed up convergence of Krylov subspace methods
- Solve $M^{-1}Au = M^{-1}f$, *M* is CSLP-preconditioner.

$$M = L - (\beta_1 - \beta_2 i)k^2 I,$$

= $A + \frac{\beta_2 ik^2 I}{(\beta_1, \beta_2)} \in (0, 1]$

• *L* is the discretized Laplace operator

Preconditioning - CSLP

- Preconditioning to speed up convergence of Krylov subspace methods
- Solve $M^{-1}Au = M^{-1}f$, *M* is CSLP-preconditioner.

$$M = L - (\beta_1 - \beta_2 i)k^2 I,$$

= $A + \beta_2 ik^2 I,$
 $(\beta_1, \beta_2) \in (0, 1]$

- *L* is the discretized Laplace operator
- Increasing k ⇒ eigenvalues move fast towards origin ⇒ inscalable CSLP-solver

Figure: $\sigma(M^{-1}A)$ for k = 50 (top) and k = 150 bottom.



Preconditioning - CSL

Table: GMRES iterations using tol = 10^{-6} with (β_1, β_2) for 1D problem. CSL inversion using multigrid.

| k | (1, 1) | (1,0.5) | | |
|-------|--------|---------|--|--|
| 50 | 25 | 20 | | |
| 100 | 41 | 30 | | |
| 500 | 138 | 87 | | |
| 1 000 | 254 | 156 | | |
| 5 000 | 1 153 | 693 | | |

- Already convergence issues for simple toy 1D-problem!
- k increases ⇒ more near-zero eigenvalues ⇒ more iterations
- Project unwanted eigenvalues onto zero = Deflation

Preconditioning - Deflation

• Projection principle: solve *PAu* = *Pf*

$$\tilde{P} = AQ$$
 where $Q = ZE^{-1}Z^T$ and $E = Z^T AZ$,
 $P = I - \tilde{P}, Z \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, m < n$

- Columns of Z span deflation subspace
- Ideally Z contains eigenvectors
- In practice approximations: inter-grid vectors from multigrid (linear interpolation polynomial)
- Use DEF + CSLP combined ⇒ spectral improvement

$$M^{-1}PAu = M^{-1}Pf$$

Monitor eigenvalues using RFA (Dirichlet)

Preconditioning - Deflation

- Deflation space spanned by linear approximation basis vectors
- Transfer coarse-fine grid ⇒ interpolation error
- Measure effect by projection error E $E(kh) = ||(I - P)\phi_{j_{\min},h}||^2$, $P = Z(Z^T Z)^{-1} Z^T$

Preconditioning - Deflation

- Deflation space spanned by linear approximation basis vectors
- Transfer coarse-fine grid ⇒ interpolation error
- Measure effect by projection error E $E(kh) = \|(I - P)\phi_{j_{\min},h}\|^2,$ $P = Z(Z^T Z)^{-1} Z^T$

Figure: Restricted & interpolated eigenvectors (left kh = 0.625, right $k^3h^2 = 0.625$



| k | E(0.625) | E(0.3125) |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| 10 ² | 0.88 | 0.10 |
| 10 ³ | 9.29 | 1.00 |
| 10 ⁴ | 92.57 | 10.01 |
| 10 ⁵ | 926.13 | 100.13 |
| 10 ⁶ | 9 261.71 | 1 001.38 |
| | | |

Higher-order Deflation

- Higher-order deflation vectors
- Rational quadratic Bezier curve ⇒ one control-point
- Weight-parameter w to adjust control-point



• w determined such that projection error minimized

Projection Error

| k | w = 0.1250 | w = 0.0575 | w = 0.01875 | w = 0.00125 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | kh = 1 | kh = 0.825 | kh = 0.625 | kh = 0.3125 |
| 10 ² | 0.0127 | 0.0075 | 0.0031 | 0.0006 |
| 10 ³ | 0.0233 | 0.0095 | 0.0036 | 0.0007 |
| 10^{4} | 0.0246 | 0.0095 | 0.0038 | 0.0007 |
| 10 ⁵ | 0.0246 | 0.0095 | 0.0038 | 0.0007 |
| 10 ⁶ | 0.0246 | 0.0095 | 0.0038 | 0.0007 |

Table: Projection error E(kh) for various w for 1D

- Weight-parameter w chosen to minimize projection error
- In all cases projection error strictly < 1
- Confirmed with RFA and spectral analysis for Dirichlet BC

Two-Level Deflation - 3D

Table: GMRES-iterations with tol = 10^{-6} using Sommerfeld BC's and MG-approximation of CSLP(1,1). AD contains <u>no CSLP</u>.

| k | APD(0.125) | AD(0) |
|----|------------|------------|
| | Iterations | Iterations |
| 10 | 4 | 4 |
| 25 | 4 | 5 |
| 50 | 4 | 5 |
| 75 | 4 | 5 |

- DEF (linear) + CSLP takes 66 iterations for k = 40
- *k*-independent convergence
- Two-level method memory ⇒ multilevel methods

Multilevel methods

Multilevel Deflation

Pros

Close to linear complexity Memory efficient Recursive structure Use as preconditioner with FGMRES

Cons

Needs more inner cycles Convergence depends weakly on k

Multigrid

Pros

Linear complexity

Memory efficient

Recursive structure

Use as stand-alone or preconditioner

Cons

Diverges for Helmholtz Slow convergence small *k*

Multigrid - Challenges for Helmholtz

- Still open-problem
- Near-zero eigenvalues coarser level(s)
- Smoother amplifies error
- Literature mostly for constant k and restricted hierarchy (no full coarsening)

Multigrid - Two-Grid V(1,1)

- Constant k using Sommerfeld BC
- Damped Jacobi smoothing
- Coarsening on Helmholtz operator

| k | Quadrat | tic Bezier | Linear | | |
|------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--|
| | kh = 0.625 | kh = 0.3125 | kh = 0.625 | kh = 0.3125 | |
| 50 | 0.2436 | 0.2852 | 1.290 | 0.9217 | |
| 100 | 0.2441 | 0.2076 | 3.325 | 1.0225 | |
| 250 | 0.2443 | 0.1538 | 5.4108 | 21.5327 | |
| 500 | 0.2443 | 0.1354 | 15.5047 | 21.5327 | |
| 1000 | 0.2443 | 0.1350 | 27.7478 | 21.5327 | |

Table: Two-grid spectral radius using h.o. scheme

- H.o. scheme gives spectral radius strictly < 1
- Analogous to projection error *strictly* < 1 for deflation!

Multigrid - 2D

- Constant k using Sommerfeld BC
- Construct two-grid V(1,1)-cycle
- Coarsening on Helmholtz operator

| k | $\omega - J$ | lacobi | Gaus-Seidel | | |
|-----|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| | kh = 0.625 | kh = 0.3125 | kh = 0.625 | kh = 0.3125 | |
| 50 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 5 | |
| 100 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 5 | |
| 250 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 5 | |
| 500 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 5 | |

- Both cases *k*-independence
- Still exact solve on second-level \Rightarrow memory constraints
- Can we create a deeper V-cycle?

Multigrid - 2D

- Constant *k* using Sommerfeld BC
- Three-grid cycle with $kh_{coarsest} = 2.5 \approx \frac{2\pi}{2.5}$

Figure: V-cycle





 Deeper cycle diverges despite h.o. scheme ⇒ coarsen on CSLP using level-dependent scheme + GMRES(3) smoothing (Cools)

Multigrid

- With CSL coarsening, level-dependent parameter (Cools)
- But, level-indep. convergence if:

Higher-order prolongation/restriction (deflation!) Coarsening on CSL

- Small number of smoothing steps using ω–Jacobi
- No restriction on coarsest grid
- Works for both V/W-cycles





We assume post-smoothing, then the iteration matrix T_0 is:

$$T_0 = \left(I - PA_c^{-1}P'A\right)\left(I - X^{-1}A\right).$$

We assume post-smoothing, then the iteration matrix T_0 is:

$$T_0 = \left(I - PA_c^{-1}P'A\right)\left(I - X^{-1}A\right).$$

We write T_0 as $T_0 = I - DA$, such that

$$T_0^H T_0 = I - \Gamma$$

Next, if Γ is HPD, then the two-grid iteration converges.

We assume post-smoothing, then the iteration matrix T_0 is:

$$T_0 = \left(I - PA_c^{-1}P'A\right)\left(I - X^{-1}A\right).$$

We write T_0 as $T_0 = I - DA$, such that

$$T_0^H T_0 = I - \Gamma$$

Next, if Γ is HPD, then the two-grid iteration converges. We show that:

1 Coarsening on CSL instead of A and

2 Using h.o. interpolation & restriction, leads to Γ HPD.

We assume post-smoothing, then the iteration matrix T_0 is:

$$T_0 = \left(I - PA_c^{-1}P'A\right)\left(I - X^{-1}A\right).$$

We write T_0 as $T_0 = I - DA$, such that

$$T_0^H T_0 = I - \Gamma$$

Next, if Γ is HPD, then the two-grid iteration converges. We show that:

1 Coarsening on CSL instead of A and

2 Using h.o. interpolation & restriction,

leads to Γ HPD.

Remark:

1 Γ can be HPD, while **DA** is **not**

Consequently, our two-grid iteration matrix becomes:

$$T_0 = \left(I - P \frac{C_c^{-1}}{P'} A\right) \left(I - X^{-1} A\right)$$

with $C_c = P'CP$, X damped-Jacobi.

Consequently, our two-grid iteration matrix becomes:

$$T_0 = \left(I - PC_c^{-1}P'A\right)\left(I - X^{-1}A\right)$$

with $C_c = P'CP$, X damped-Jacobi.

| | Lin | ear | Bezier | | | | |
|----|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| k | A, A_c | A, C_c | A, A_c | A, C_c | | | |
| 5 | × 0.960 | × 0.960 | ✓ 0.865 | ✓ 0.865 | | | |
| 10 | × 1.004 | × 0.999 | × 0.887 | ✓ 0.887 | | | |
| 20 | × 1.081 | × 1.015 | × 0.896 | ✓ 0.896 | | | |
| 30 | × 1.122 | × 1.021 | × 0.898 | ✓ 0.898 | | | |

Table: Spectral radius of T_0 with 1 post-smoothing step using damped-Jacobi.

Multigrid - 2D

• Constant k using Sommerfeld BC

Table: Number of V- ($\gamma = 1$) and W-cycles ($\gamma = 2$), tol. 10⁻⁵. ν is the number of ω -Jacobi smoothing steps.

| | k | = 50 | <i>k</i> = | = 100 | k = | 150 | <i>k</i> = | = 200 | k = | = 250 |
|-----------|-----|-------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|---------|
| | N = | 6 724 | N = | 26 244 | N = | 57 600 | N = | 102400 | N = 1 | 160 000 |
| | N | o = 8 | N _D | = 8 | N _D | = 4 | N _D | 8 = 8 | N _D | b = 4 |
| γ | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| $\nu = 4$ | 58 | 58 | 104 | 108 | 155 | 159 | 209 | 213 | 267 | 271 |
| $\nu = 5$ | 58 | 58 | 104 | 104 | 150 | 166 | 194 | 229 | 238 | 287 |
| $\nu = 6$ | 55 | 58 | 99 | 102 | 139 | 167 | 183 | 222 | 226 | 283 |
| $\nu = 7$ | 53 | 60 | 97 | 101 | 136 | 163 | 179 | 219 | 221 | 280 |
| $\nu = 8$ | 53 | 60 | 95 | 104 | 131 | 161 | 178 | 212 | 218 | 277 |

- Coarsening on CSLP (shift = 0.7)
- Linear interpolation still diverges ($k = 50, \gamma = 1$)
- What about GMRES(3) smoothing? (Elman)

Multigrid - 2D

• Constant k using Sommerfeld BC

Table: Number of V- ($\gamma = 1$) and W-cycles ($\gamma = 2$), tol. 10⁻⁵. ν is the number of GMRES(3) smoothing steps.

| | k = | = 50 | k = | = 100 | k = | = 150 | k | = 200 | k : | = 250 |
|-----------|-----------|-------|-----|--------|---------|------------------|-----|---------|-----|------------------|
| | N = | 6 724 | N = | 26 244 | N = | 57 600 | N = | 102 400 | N = | 160 000 |
| | $ N_{L}$ | 8 = 8 | NL | o = 8 | $ N_L$ | ₀ = 4 | N | D = 8 | N | _D = 4 |
| γ | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| u = 1 | 14 | 7 | 24 | 10 | 39 | 19 | 51 | 24 | 64 | 29 |
| $\nu = 2$ | 8 | 5 | 13 | 7 | 22 | 10 | 28 | 13 | 34 | 16 |
| $\nu = 3$ | 6 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 9 | 20 | 10 | 24 | 12 |
| $\nu = 4$ | 6 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 9 | 18 | 10 |
| $\nu = 5$ | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 15 | 9 |

- Coarsening + on CSLP (shift = k^{-1})
- Iteration count with $\gamma = 2$ close to *k*-independent
- Linear interpolation 199 iterations ($k = 50, \gamma = 1$)
- What about heterogeneous problems?

$\begin{array}{c} \text{Multigrid - 2D random } k \text{ (high-contrast)} \\ \text{Figure: } k(x,y) & \text{Figure: } u(x,y) \end{array}$



Table: Number of V- ($\gamma = 1$) and W-cycles ($\gamma = 2$). ν denotes the number of GMRES(3) smoothing steps.

| | $(k_1, $ | $k_2) = (10, 50)$ | $(k_1,, k_n)$ | $k_2) = (10, 75)$ |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| γ | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| u = 1 | 28 | 12 | 31 | 12 |
| $\nu = 2$ | 16 | 8 | 17 | 7 |
| $\nu = 3$ | 12 | 7 | 12 | 6 |
| $\nu = 4$ | 10 | 6 | 10 | 6 |
| $\nu = 5$ | 9 | 6 | 9 | 6 |

Multigrid - 2D Wedge Model Figure: k(x, y)Figure: u(x, y)0 100 04 5000 0.8 200 300 (m) 0.3 0.6 4000 0.2 > 0.4 3000 0.1 400 2000 0.2 0 500 -0.1 600 0 1000 400 600 0 200 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 x (m) х $2L\pi f$ k(x, y) =f (Hz) Iterations $\overline{c(x,y)}$ [4.18, 25.13] 4 78 8 [8.37, 50.26] 179 12 [12.56, 75.39] 381 [14.66, 87.96] 14 610 16 [16.75, 100.53] 794

Table: Number of V-cycles ($\gamma = 1$) with coarsening until size of the system is less than 10×10 . We use tolerance 10^{-8} with fixed 8 pre- and post-smoothing with damped Jacobi.

Conclusion

- Non-Hermitian indefinite systems cause many convergence issues
- Deflation gives k-independent convergence, but memory constrained (two-level)
- Use higher-order approximation from deflation for multigrid
- H.o. scheme + CSL coarsening \Rightarrow convergence
- We lose *k*-independent convergence

References

V. Dwarka, C. Vuik.

Scalable Convergence Using Two-Level Deflation Preconditioning for the Helmholtz Equation

SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing, 42(3):A901–A928, 2020.

V. Dwarka, R. Tielen, M. Moller and C. Vuik

Towards Accuracy and Scalability: Combining Isogeometric Analysis with Deflation to Obtain Scalable Convergence for the Helmholtz Equation

Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering, 377:113694, 2021.

V. Dwarka and C. Vuik

Scalable multi-level deflation preconditioning for highly indefinite time-harmonic waves

Journal of Computational Physics, 469 111327 (2022)

V. Dwarka, C. Vuik,

Stand-alone Multigrid for Helmholtz Revisited: Towards Convergence Using Standard Components

https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.13476 (2023)

J. Chen, V. Dwarka, C. Vuik,

A matrix-free parallel two-level deflation preconditioner for the two-dimensional Helmholtz problems