



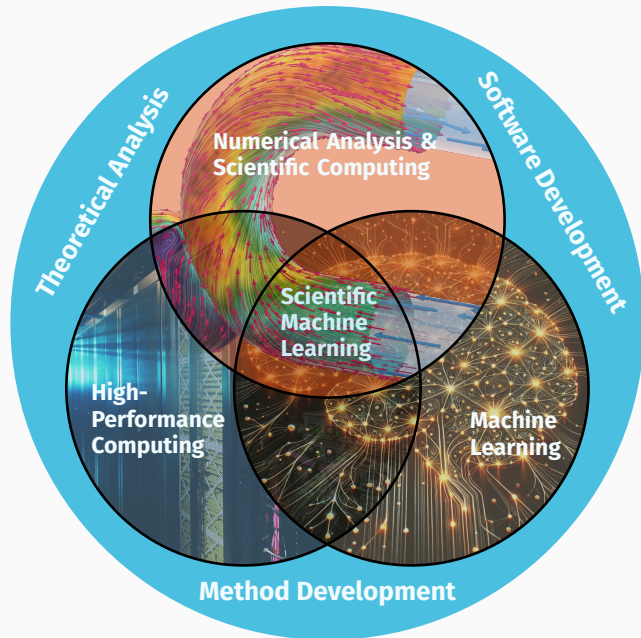
Domain Decomposition Methods for Scientific Computing and Machine Learning

Alexander Heinlein¹

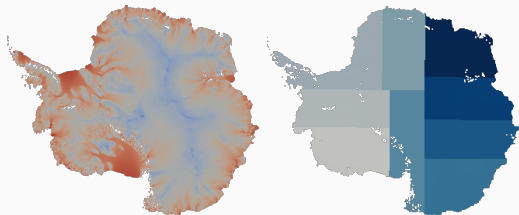
Diagnostics & Data Science Seminar, ASML, March 19, 2025

¹Delft University of Technology

SCaLA – Scalable Scientific Computing and Learning Algorithms



Domain Decomposition Methods



Images based on [Heinlein, Perego, Rajamanickam \(2022\)](#)

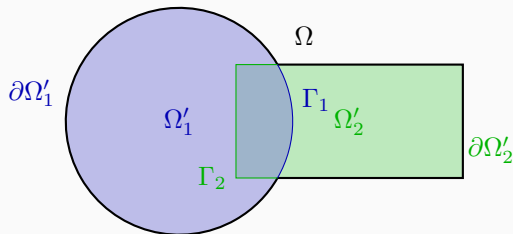
Historical remarks: The **alternating Schwarz method** is the earliest **domain decomposition method (DDM)**, which has been invented by **H. A. Schwarz** and published in **1870**:

- Schwarz used the algorithm to establish the **existence of harmonic functions** with prescribed boundary values on **regions with non-smooth boundaries**.

Idea

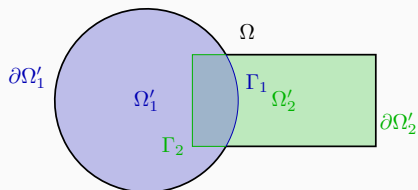
Decomposing a large **global problem** into smaller **local problems**:

- **Better robustness** and **scalability** of numerical solvers
- **Improved computational efficiency**
- Introduce **parallelism**



The Alternating Schwarz Algorithm

For the sake of simplicity, instead of the two-dimensional geometry,

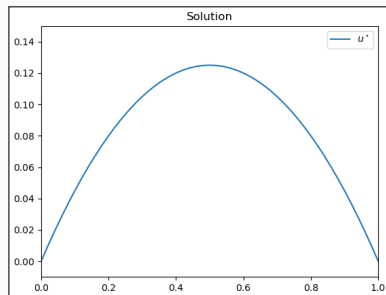


we consider the **one-dimensional Poisson equation**

$$\begin{aligned} -u'' &= 1 \quad \text{in } [0, 1], \\ u(0) &= u(1) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Solution: $u(x) = -\frac{1}{2}x(x-1).$

Overlapping domain decomposition:



The Alternating Schwarz Algorithm – 1D Laplace Results

Let us consider the simple boundary value problem: Find u such that

$$-u'' = 1, \text{ in } [0, 1], \quad u(0) = u(1) = 0$$

We perform an **alternating Schwarz iteration**:

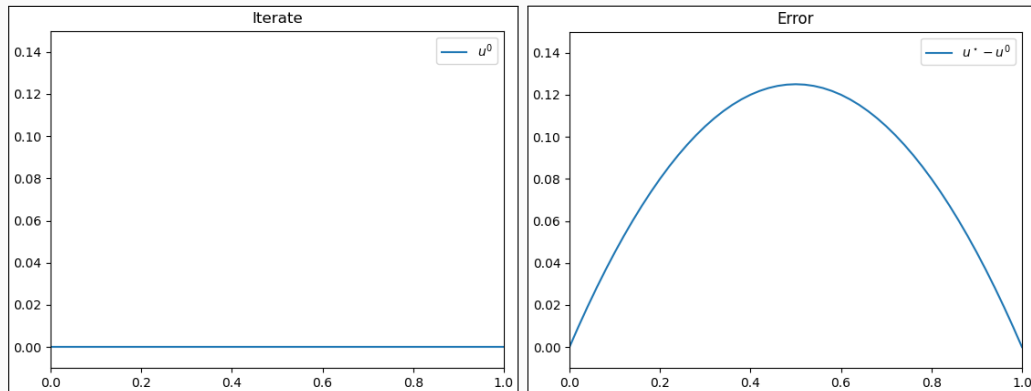


Figure 1: Iterate (left) and error (right) in iteration 0.

The Alternating Schwarz Algorithm – 1D Laplace Results

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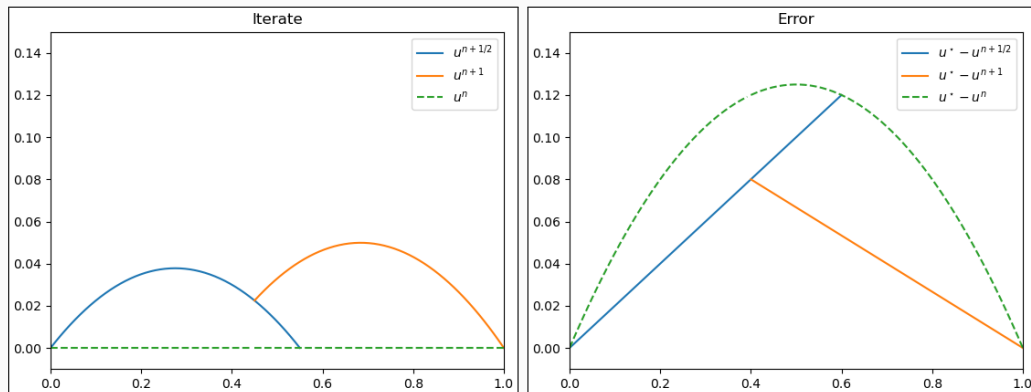


Figure 1: Iterate (left) and error (right) in iteration 1.

The Alternating Schwarz Algorithm – 1D Laplace Results

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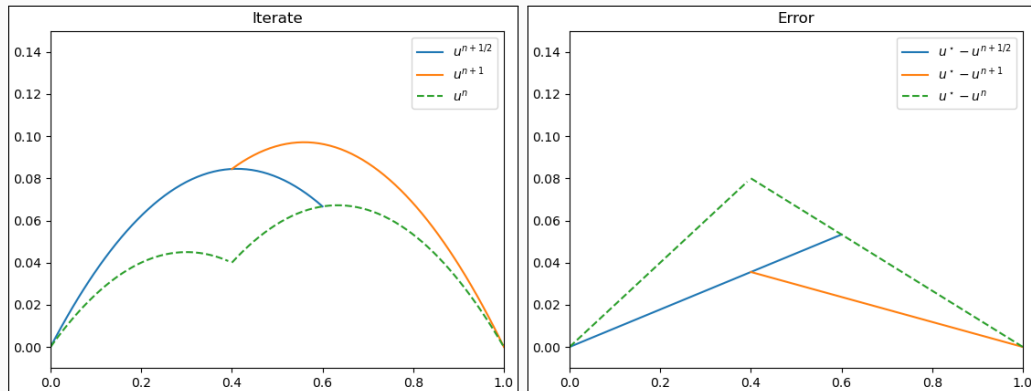


Figure 1: Iterate (left) and error (right) in iteration 2.

The Alternating Schwarz Algorithm – 1D Laplace Results

Let us consider the simple boundary value problem: Find u such that

$$-u'' = 1, \text{ in } [0, 1], \quad u(0) = u(1) = 0$$

We perform an **alternating Schwarz iteration**:

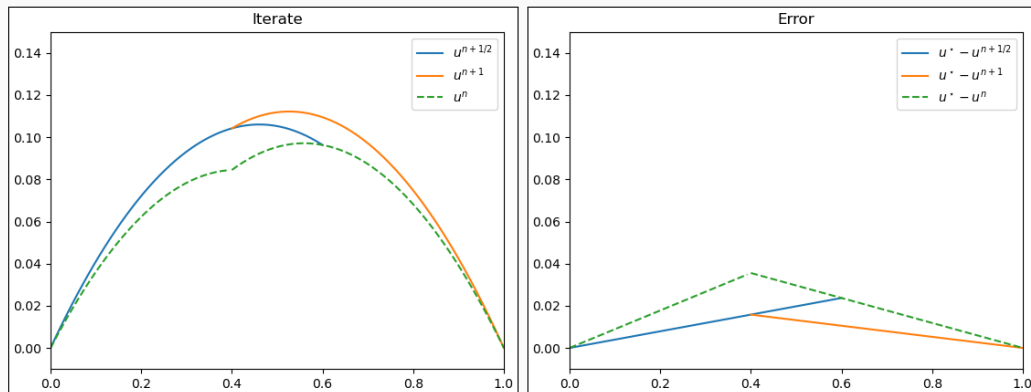


Figure 1: Iterate (left) and error (right) in iteration 3.

The Alternating Schwarz Algorithm – 1D Laplace Results

Let us consider the simple boundary value problem: Find u such that

$$-u'' = 1, \text{ in } [0, 1], \quad u(0) = u(1) = 0$$

We perform an **alternating Schwarz iteration**:

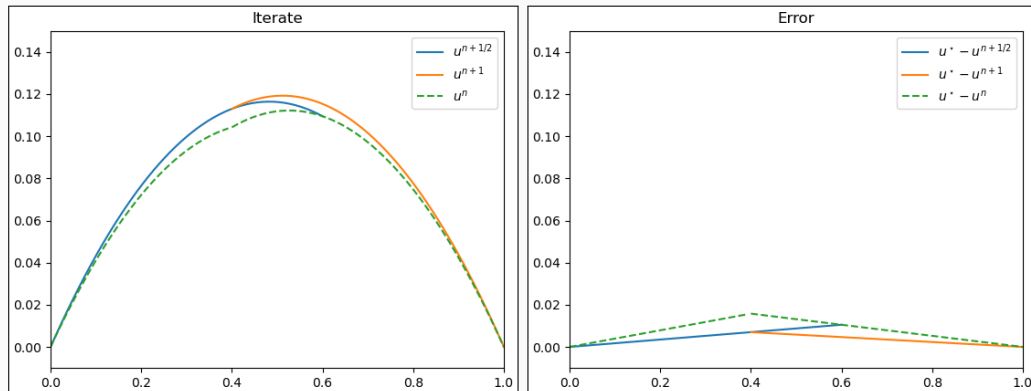


Figure 1: Iterate (left) and error (right) in iteration 4.

The Alternating Schwarz Algorithm – 1D Laplace Results

Let us consider the simple boundary value problem: Find u such that

$$-u'' = 1, \text{ in } [0, 1], \quad u(0) = u(1) = 0$$

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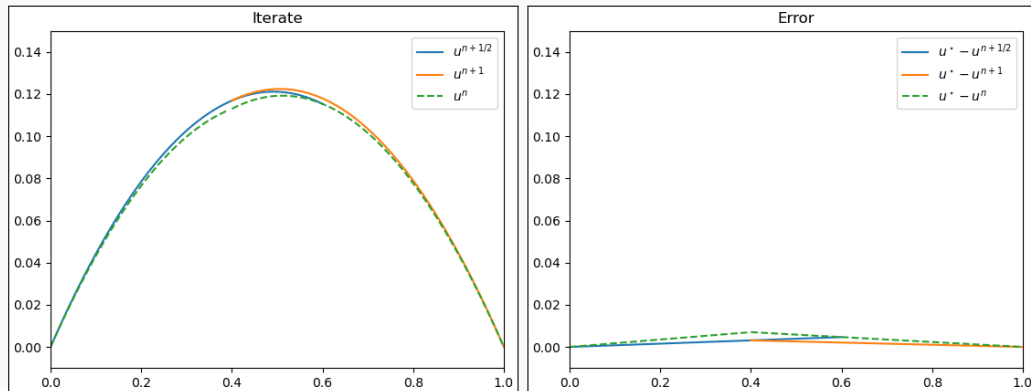


Figure 1: Iterate (left) and error (right) in iteration 5.

Solvers for Partial Differential Equations

Consider a **diffusion model problem**:

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u(x) &= f \quad \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2, \\ u &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Discretization using finite elements yields a **sparse** system of linear equations

$$Ku = f.$$

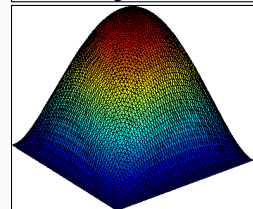
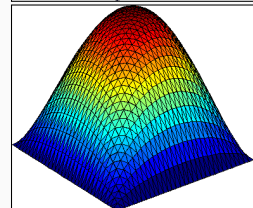
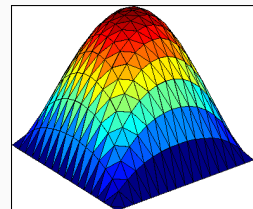
The accuracy of the finite element solution depends on the refinement level of the mesh h : **higher refinement** \Rightarrow **better accuracy**.

Direct solvers

For fine meshes, solving the system using a direct solver is not feasible due to **superlinear complexity and memory cost**.

Iterative solvers

Iterative solvers are efficient for solving **sparse systems**, however, the **convergence rate depends on the spectral properties of K** .

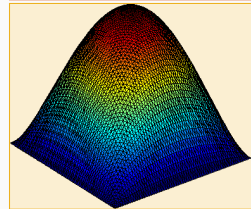
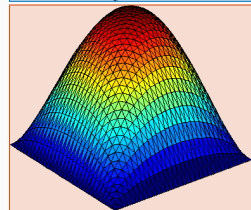
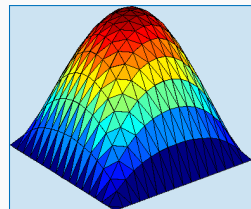
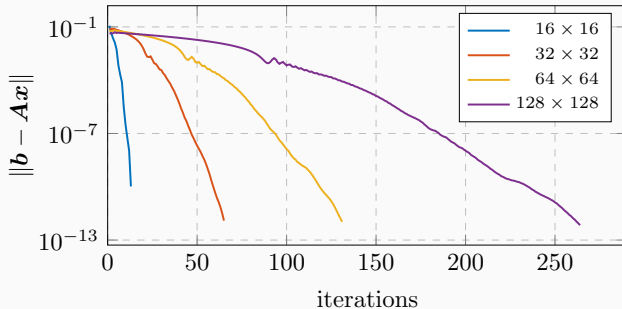


Solvers for Partial Differential Equations

Consider a **diffusion model problem**:

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u(x) &= f \quad \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2, \\ u &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

We solve $Ku = f$ using the **conjugate gradient (CG) method**:

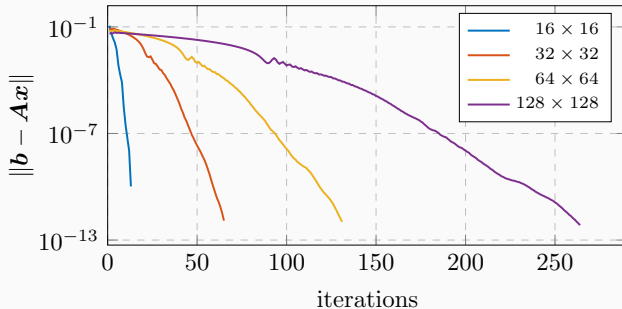


Solvers for Partial Differential Equations

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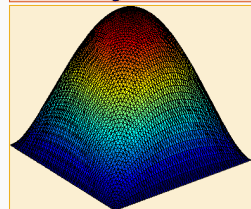
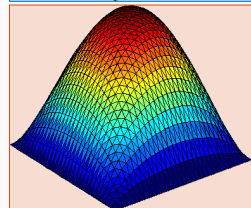
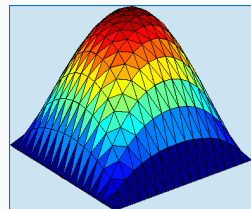
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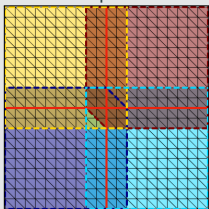
⇒ Introduce a preconditioner $M^{-1} \approx K^{-1}$ to **improve convergence**:

$$M^{-1}Ku = M^{-1}f$$

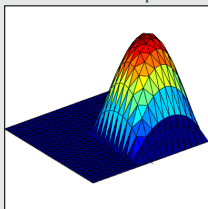


One-level Schwarz preconditioner

Overlap $\delta = 1h$



Solution of local problem



Based on an **overlapping domain decomposition**, we define a **one-level Schwarz operator**

$$M_{OS-1}^{-1}K = \sum_{i=1}^N R_i^\top K_i^{-1} R_i K,$$

where R_i and R_i^\top are restriction and prolongation operators corresponding to Ω'_i , and $K_i := R_i K R_i^\top$.

Condition number estimate:

$$\kappa(M_{OS-1}^{-1}K) \leq C \left(1 + \frac{1}{H\delta}\right)$$

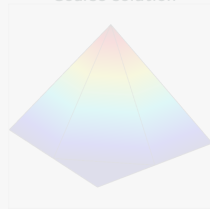
with subdomain size H and overlap width δ .

Lagrangian coarse space

Coarse triangulation



Coarse solution



The two-level overlapping Schwarz operator reads

$$M_{OS-2}^{-1}K = \underbrace{\Phi K_0^{-1} \Phi^\top K}_{\text{coarse level - global}} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N R_i^\top K_i^{-1} R_i K}_{\text{first level - local}}$$

where Φ contains the coarse basis functions and $K_0 := \Phi^\top K \Phi$; cf., e.g., **Toselli, Widlund (2005)**.

The construction of a Lagrangian coarse basis requires a coarse triangulation.

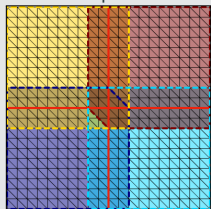
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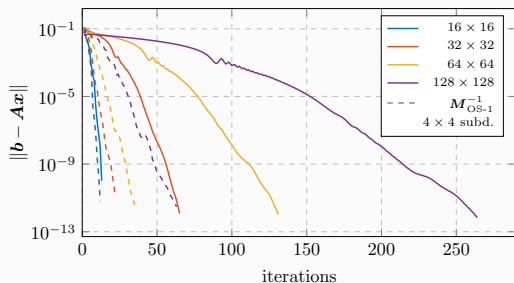
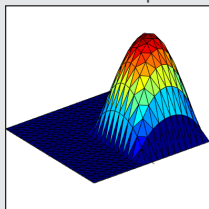
Two-Level Schwarz Preconditioners

One-level Schwarz preconditioner

Overlap $\delta = 1h$

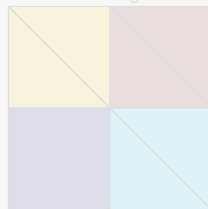


Solution of local problem

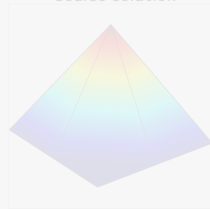


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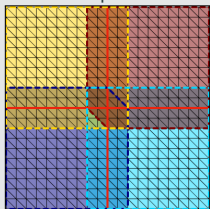
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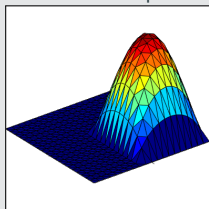
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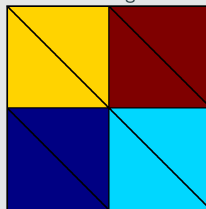
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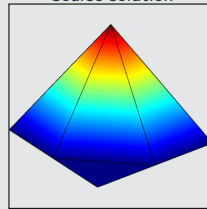
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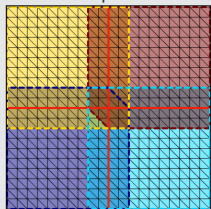
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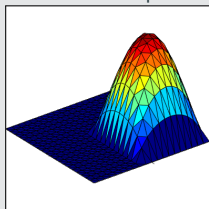
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One-level Schwarz preconditioner

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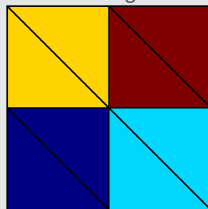


Solution of local problem

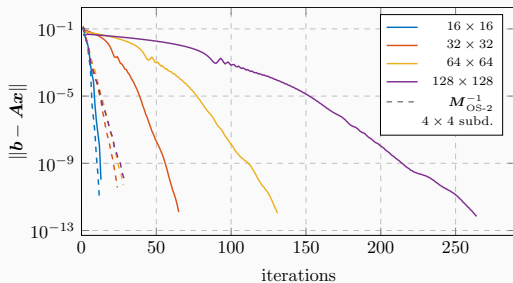
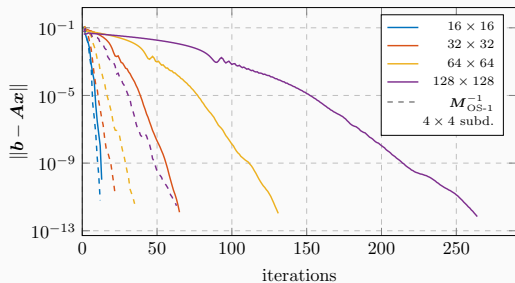
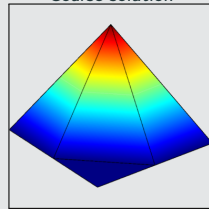


Lagrangian coarse space

Coarse triangulation



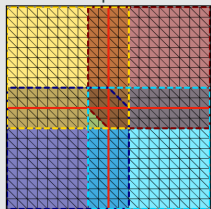
Coarse solution



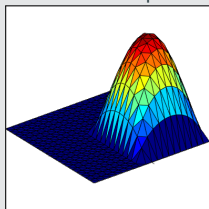
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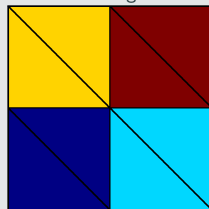


Solution of local problem

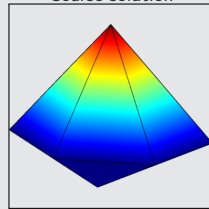


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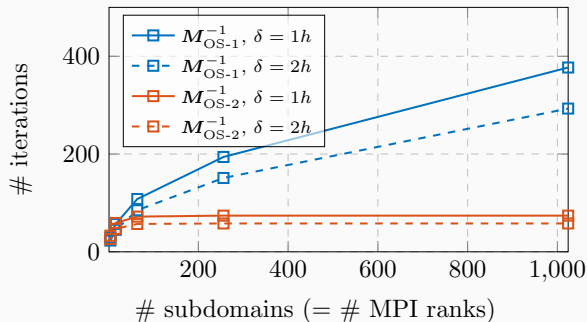
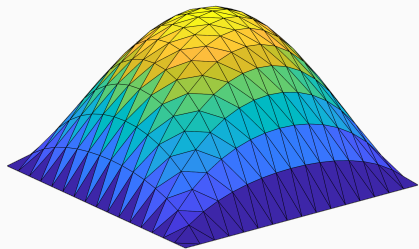
Coarse triangulation



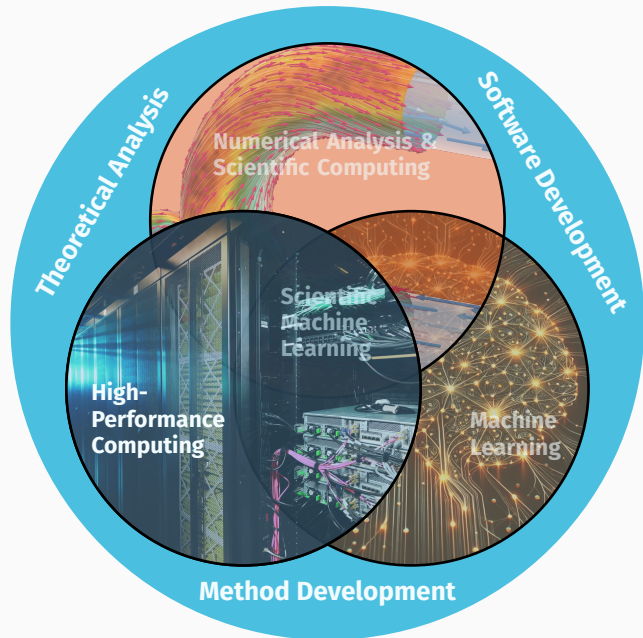
Coarse solution



Diffusion model problem in two dimensions,
 $H/h = 100$



SCaLA – Scalable Scientific Computing and Learning Algorithms



FROSch (Fast and Robust Overlapping Schwarz) Framework in Trilinos



Sandia
National
Laboratories



TUBAF
Die Ressourcenuniversität.
Seit 1765.

Software

- Object-oriented C++ domain decomposition solver framework with MPI-based distributed memory parallelization
- Part of TRILINOS with support for both parallel linear algebra packages EPETRA and TPETRA
- Node-level parallelization and performance portability on CPU and GPU architectures through KOKKOS and KOKKOSKERNELS
- Accessible through unified TRILINOS solver interface STRATIMIKOS

Methodology

- **Parallel scalable multi-level Schwarz domain decomposition preconditioners**
- **Algebraic construction** based on the parallel distributed system matrix
- **Extension-based coarse spaces**

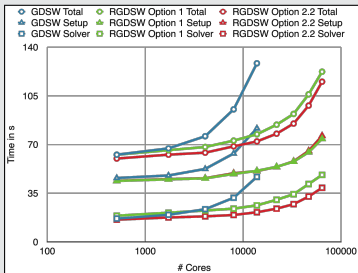
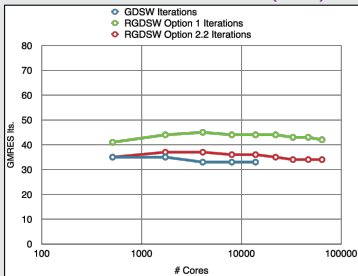
Team (active)

- Filipe Cumaru (TU Delft)
- Kyrill Ho (UCologne)
- Jascha Knepper (UCologne)
- Friederike Röver (TUBAF)
- Lea Saßmannshausen (UCologne)
- Alexander Heinlein (TU Delft)
- Axel Klawonn (UCologne)
- Siva Rajamanickam (SNL)
- Oliver Rheinbach (TUBAF)
- Ichitaro Yamazaki (SNL)

Weak Scalability up to 64k MPI Ranks / 1.7b Unknowns (3D Poisson; Juqueen)

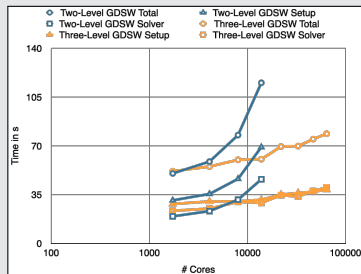
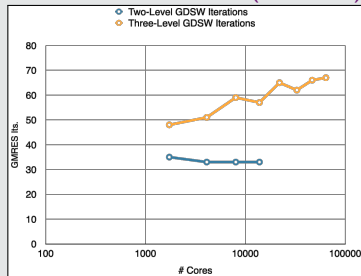
GDSW vs RGDSW (reduced dimension)

Heinlein, Klawonn, Rheinbach, Widlund (2019).



Two-level vs three-level GDSW

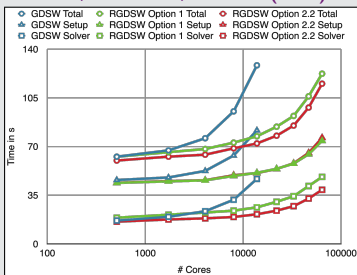
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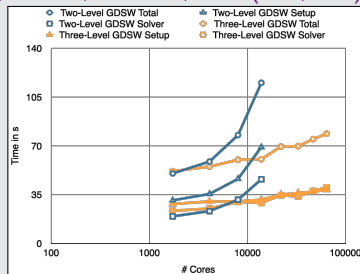
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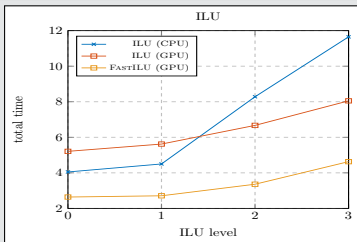


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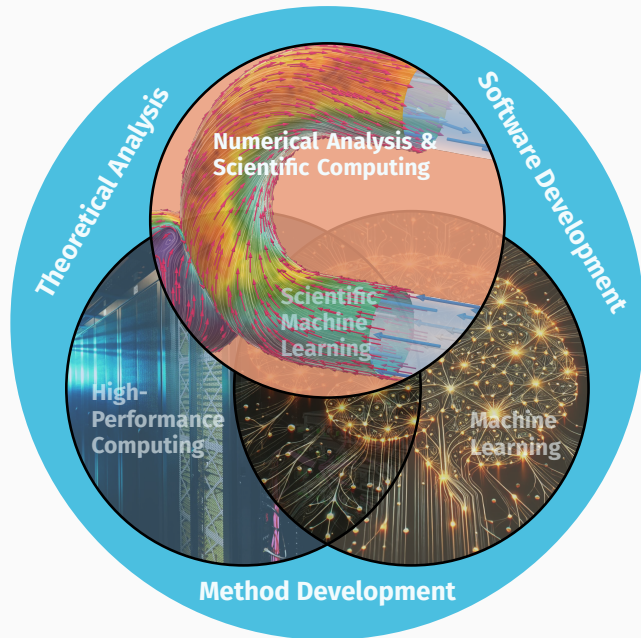
Inexact subdomain solvers & GPUs



→ **Speedup** possible via **inexact subdomain solvers & GPUs** using **KOKKOS** and **KOKKOSKERNELS**.

Cf. Yamazaki, Heinlein, Rajamanickam (2023).

SCaLA – Scalable Scientific Computing and Learning Algorithms



Monolithic (R)GDSW Preconditioners for CFD Simulations

Consider the discrete saddle point problem

$$\mathcal{A}x = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K} & \mathbf{B}^\top \\ \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{b}.$$

Monolithic GDSW preconditioner

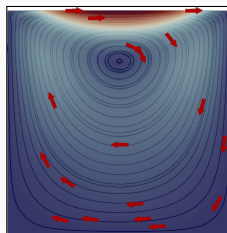
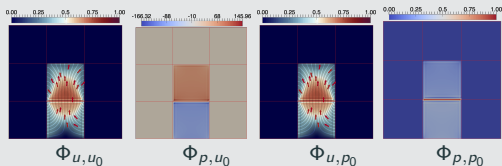
We construct a **monolithic GDSW preconditioner**

$$m_{\text{GDSW}}^{-1} = \phi \mathcal{A}_0^{-1} \phi^\top + \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{R}_i^\top \bar{\mathcal{P}}_i \mathcal{A}_i^{-1} \mathcal{R}_i,$$

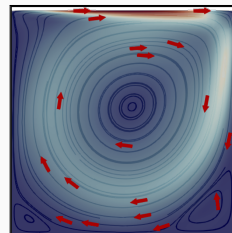
with block matrices $\mathcal{A}_0 = \phi^\top \mathcal{A} \phi$, $\mathcal{A}_i = \mathcal{R}_i \mathcal{A} \mathcal{R}_i^\top$, local pressure projections $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_i$, and

$$\mathcal{R}_i = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{R}_{u,i} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathcal{R}_{p,i} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_{u,u_0} & \Phi_{u,p_0} \\ \Phi_{p,u_0} & \Phi_{p,p_0} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using \mathcal{A} to compute extensions: $\phi_l = -\mathcal{A}_{ll}^{-1} \mathcal{A}_{l\Gamma} \phi_\Gamma$; cf. **Heinlein, Hochmuth, Klawonn (2019, 2020)**.



Stokes flow



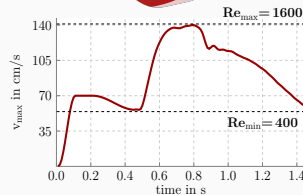
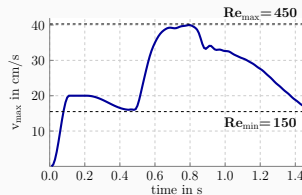
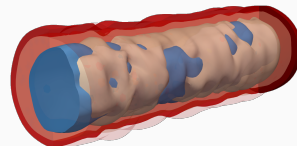
Navier–Stokes flow

Related work:

- Original work on monolithic Schwarz preconditioners: **Klawonn and Pavarino (1998, 2000)**
- Other publications on monolithic Schwarz preconditioners: e.g., **Hwang and Cai (2006)**, **Barker and Cai (2010)**, **Wu and Cai (2014)**, and the presentation **Dohrmann (2010)** at the *Workshop on Adaptive Finite Elements and Domain Decomposition Methods in Milan*.

Results for Blood Flow Simulations

- **3D unsteady flow simulation** within the **geometry of a realistic artery** (from **Balzani et al. (2012)**) and kinematic viscosity $\nu = 0.03 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$
- **Parabolic inflow profile** is prescribed at inlet of geometry
- **Time discretization:** BDF-2; **space discretization:** P2-P1 elements



prec.	# MPI ranks	16	64	256
Monolithic RGDSW (FRO _{SCH})	avg. #its.	33	31	30
	setup	4 825 s	1 422 s	701 s
	solve	3 198 s	1 004 s	463 s
	total	8 023 s	2 426 s	1 164 s
SIMPLE RGDSW (TEKO & FRO _{SCH})	avg. #its.	82	82	87
	setup	3 046 s	824 s	428 s
	solve	4 679 s	1 533 s	801 s
	total	7 725 s	2 357 s	1 229 s

prec.	# MPI ranks	16	64	256
Monolithic RGDSW (FRO _{SCH})	avg. #its.	36	36	36
	setup	4 808 s	1 448 s	688 s
	solve	3 490 s	1 186 s	538 s
	total	8 298 s	2 634 s	1 226 s
SIMPLE RGDSW (TEKO & FRO _{SCH})	avg. #its.	157	164	169
	setup	3 071 s	842 s	432 s
	solve	9 541 s	3 210 s	1 585 s
	total	12 612 s	4 052 s	2 017 s

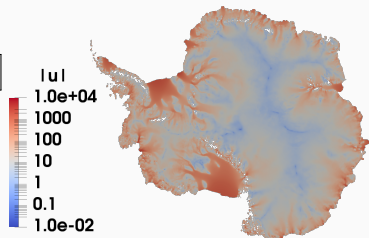


<https://github.com/SNLComputation/Albany>

The velocity of the ice sheet in Antarctica and Greenland is modeled by a **first-order-accurate Stokes approximation model**,

$$-\nabla \cdot (2\mu\dot{\epsilon}_1) + \rho g \frac{\partial s}{\partial x} = 0, \quad -\nabla \cdot (2\mu\dot{\epsilon}_2) + \rho g \frac{\partial s}{\partial y} = 0,$$

with a **nonlinear viscosity model** (Glen's law); cf., e.g., **Blatter (1995)** and **Pattyn (2003)**.



MPI ranks	Antarctica (velocity)			Greenland (multiphysics vel. & temperature)		
	4 km resolution, 20 layers, 35 m dofs			1-10 km resolution, 20 layers, 69 m dofs		
	avg. its	avg. setup	avg. solve	avg. its	avg. setup	avg. solve
512	41.9 (11)	25.10 s	12.29 s	41.3 (36)	18.78 s	4.99 s
1 024	43.3 (11)	9.18 s	5.85 s	53.0 (29)	8.68 s	4.22 s
2 048	41.4 (11)	4.15 s	2.63 s	62.2 (86)	4.47 s	4.23 s
4 096	41.2 (11)	1.66 s	1.49 s	68.9 (40)	2.52 s	2.86 s
8 192	40.2 (11)	1.26 s	1.06 s	-	-	-

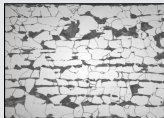
Computations performed on Cori (NERSC).

Heinlein, Perego, Rajamanickam (2022)

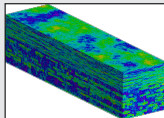
Spectral Extension-Based Coarse Spaces for Schwarz Preconditioners

Highly heterogeneous problems ...

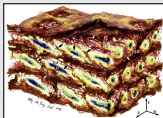
... appear in most areas of modern science and engineering:



Micro section of a dual-phase steel.
Courtesy of **J. Schröder**.



Groundwater flow (SPE10);
cf. **Christie and Blunt (2001)**.



Composition of arterial walls; taken from **O'Connell et al. (2008)**.

Spectral coarse spaces

The coarse space is **enhanced** by eigenfunctions of **local edge and face eigenvalue problems** with eigenvalues below tolerances $tol_{\mathcal{E}}$ and $tol_{\mathcal{F}}$:

$$\kappa(M_*^{-1}K) \leq C \left(1 + \frac{1}{tol_{\mathcal{E}}} + \frac{1}{tol_{\mathcal{F}}} + \frac{1}{tol_{\mathcal{E}} \cdot tol_{\mathcal{F}}} \right);$$

C does not depend on h , H , or the coefficients.

OS-ACMS & adaptive GDSW (AGDSW) (**Heinlein, Klawonn, Knepper, Rheinbach (2018, 2018, 2019)**).

Local eigenvalue problems

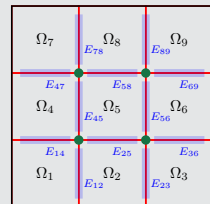
Local generalized eigenvalue problems corresponding to the edges \mathcal{E} and faces \mathcal{F} of the domain decomposition:

$$\forall E \in \mathcal{E}: \quad S_{EE} T_{*,E} = \lambda_{*,E} K_{EE} T_{*,E}, \quad \forall T_{*,E} \in V_E,$$

$$\forall F \in \mathcal{F}: \quad S_{FF} T_{*,F} = \lambda_{*,F} K_{FF} T_{*,F}, \quad \forall T_{*,F} \in V_F,$$

with Schur complements S_{EE} , S_{FF} with **Neumann boundary conditions** and submatrices K_{EE} , K_{FF} of K . We select eigenfunctions corresponding to **eigenvalues below tolerances** $tol_{\mathcal{E}}$ and $tol_{\mathcal{F}}$.

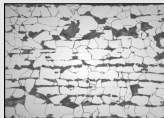
→ The corresponding coarse basis functions are **energy-minimizing extensions** into the interior of the subdomains.



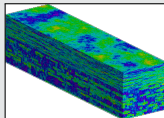
Spectral Extension-Based Coarse Spaces for Schwarz Preconditioners

Highly heterogeneous problems ...

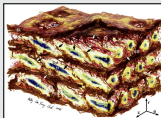
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Spectral coarse spaces

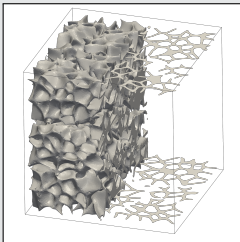
The coarse space is **enhanced** by eigenfunctions of **local edge and face eigenvalue problems** with eigenvalues below tolerances $tol_{\mathcal{E}}$ and $tol_{\mathcal{F}}$:

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C does not depend on h , H , or the coefficients.

OS-ACMS & **adaptive GDSW (AGDSW)** (**Heinlein, Klawonn, Knepper, Rheinbach (2018, 2018, 2019)**).

Foam coefficient function example

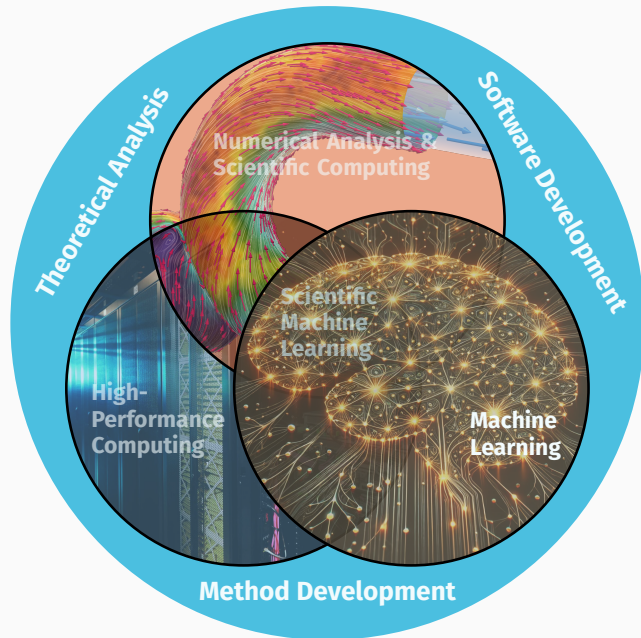


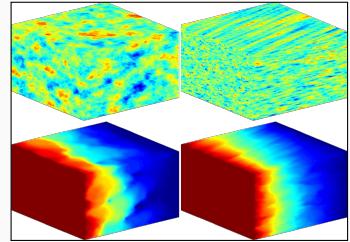
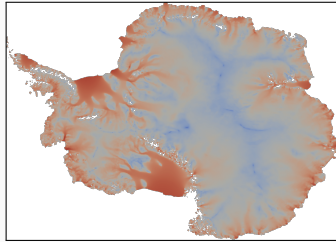
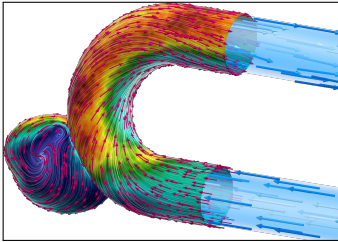
Solid phase: $\alpha = 10^6$; **transparent phase:** $\alpha = 1$; 100 subdomains

V_0	$tol_{\mathcal{E}}$	$tol_{\mathcal{F}}$	it.	κ	dim V_0	dim V_0 / dof
V_{GDSW}	—	—	565	$1.3 \cdot 10^6$	1601	0.27 %
V_{AGDSW}	0.05	0.05	60	30.2	1968	0.33 %
$V_{\text{OS-ACMS}}$	0.001	0.001	57	30.3	690	0.12 %

Cf. **Heinlein, Klawonn, Knepper, Rheinbach (2018, 2019)**.

SCaLA – Scalable Scientific Computing and Learning Algorithms





Numerical methods

Based on physical models

- + Robust and generalizable
- Require availability of mathematical models

Machine learning models

Driven by data

- + Do not require mathematical models
- Sensitive to data, limited extrapolation capabilities

Scientific machine learning (SciML)

Combining the strengths and compensating the weaknesses of the individual approaches:

numerical methods **improve** machine learning techniques
machine learning techniques **assist** numerical methods

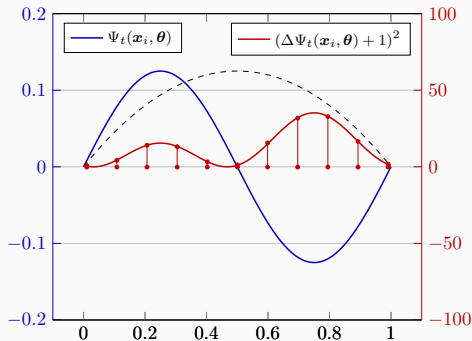
Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs) – Idea

In **Lagaris et al. (1998)**, the authors solve the **boundary value problem**

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta \Psi_t(x, \theta) &= 1 \text{ on } [0, 1], \\ \Psi_t(0, \theta) &= \Psi_t(1, \theta) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

via a **collocation approach**:

$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{x_i} (\Delta \Psi_t(x_i, \theta) + 1)^2$$



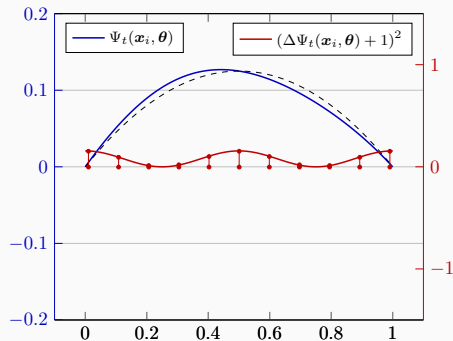
$$(\Delta \Psi_t(x_i, \theta) + 1)^2 \gg 0$$

Boundary conditions ...

... can be **enforced explicitly** via the ansatz:

$$\Psi_t(x, \theta) = A(x) + F(x, \text{NN}(x, \theta))$$

- A satisfies the boundary conditions
- F does not contribute to the boundary conditions



$$(\Delta \Psi_t(x_i, \theta) + 1)^2 \approx 0$$

Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs)

In the **physics-informed neural network (PINN)** approach introduced by **Raissi et al. (2019)**, a neural network is employed to **discretize a partial differential equation**

$$\mathcal{N}[u] = f, \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

PINNs use a **hybrid loss function**:

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \omega_{\text{data}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{data}}(\theta) + \omega_{\text{PDE}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{PDE}}(\theta),$$

where ω_{data} and ω_{PDE} are **weights** and

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{data}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{data}}} (u(\hat{x}_i, \theta) - u_i)^2,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PDE}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{PDE}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{PDE}}} (\mathcal{N}[u](x_i, \theta) - f(x_i))^2.$$

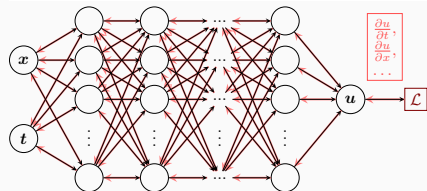
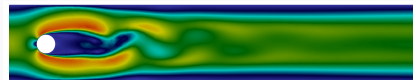
See also **Dissanayake and Phan-Thien (1994)**; **Lagaris et al. (1998)**.

Advantages

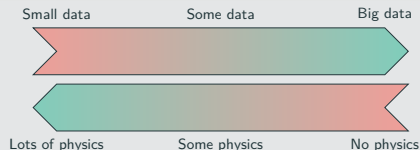
- **“Meshfree”**
- **Small data**
- **Generalization properties**
- **High-dimensional problems**
- **Inverse and parameterized problems**

Drawbacks

- **Training cost** and **robustness**
- **Convergence not well-understood**
- **Difficulties with scalability** and **multi-scale problems**



Hybrid loss



- **Known solution values** can be included in $\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}}$
- **Initial and boundary conditions** are also included in $\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}}$

Error Estimate & Spectral Bias

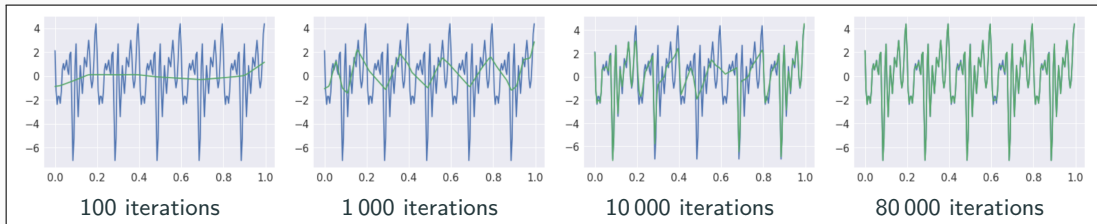
Estimate of the generalization error (Mishra and Molinaro (2022))

The generalization error (or total error) satisfies

$$\varepsilon_G \leq C_{\text{PDE}} \varepsilon_{\mathcal{T}} + C_{\text{PDE}} C_{\text{quad}}^{1/p} N^{-\alpha/p}$$

- $\varepsilon_G = \varepsilon_G(\mathbf{X}, \theta) := \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^*\|_V$ **general. error** (V Sobolev space, \mathbf{X} training data set)
- $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{T}}$ **training error** (L^p loss of the residual of the PDE)
- N **number of the training points** and α **convergence rate of the quadrature**
- C_{PDE} and C_{quad} **constants** depending on the **PDE, quadrature, and neural network**

Rule of thumb: "As long as the PINN is trained well, it also generalizes well"



Rahaman et al., *On the spectral bias of neural networks*, ICML (2019)

Related works: Cao et al. (2021), Wang, et al. (2022), Hong et al. (arXiv 2022), Xu et al (2024), ...

Scaling of PINNs for a Simple ODE Problem

Solve

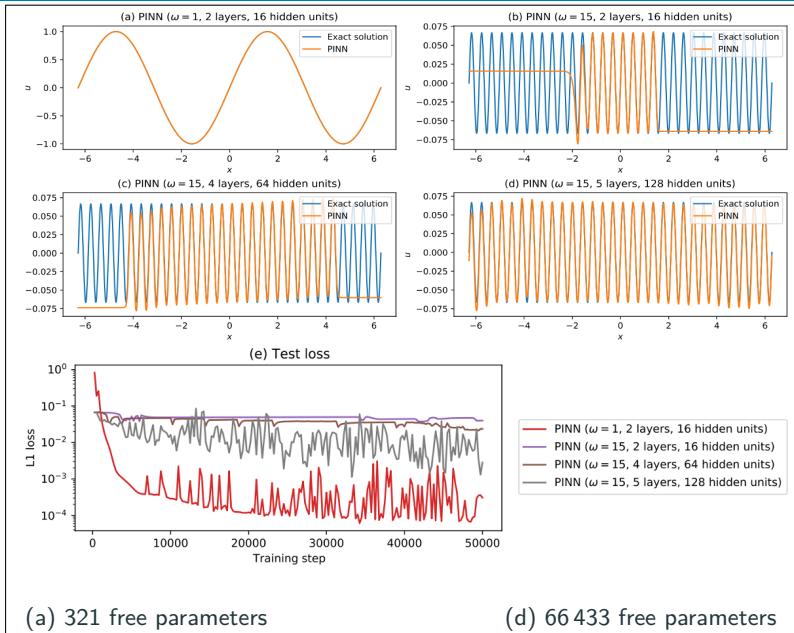
$$u' = \cos(\omega x),$$
$$u(0) = 0,$$

for different values of ω
using **PINNs** with
varying network
capacities.

Scaling issues

- Large computational domains
- Small frequencies

Cf. [Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer \(2023\)](#)



Scaling of PINNs for a Simple ODE Problem

Solve

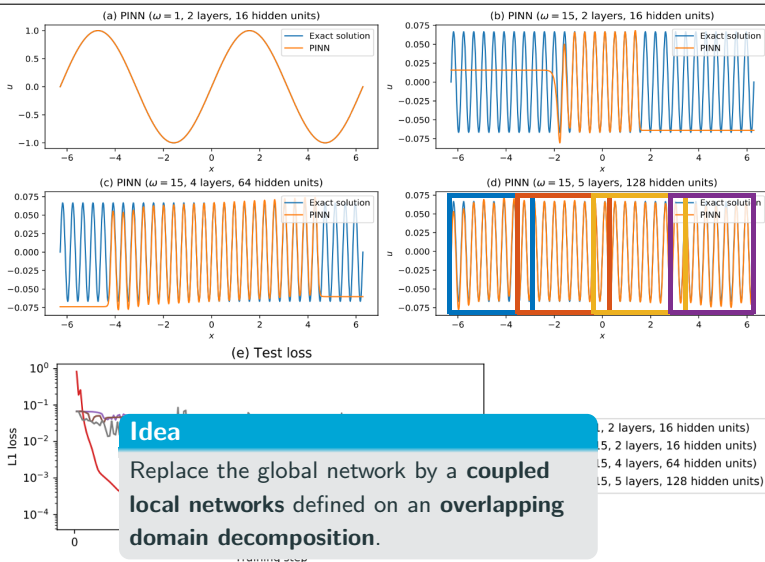
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- Small frequencies

Cf. Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer (2023)



A non-exhaustive literature overview:

- **Machine Learning for adaptive BDDC, FETI–DP, and AGDSW:** Heinlein, Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (2019, 2020, 2021, 2021, 2021, 2022); Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (2024)
- **cPINNs, XPINNs:** Jagtap, Kharazmi, Karniadakis (2020); Jagtap, Karniadakis (2020)
- **Classical Schwarz iteration for PINNs or DeepRitz (D3M, DeepDDM, etc):** Li, Tang, Wu, and Liao (2019); Li, Xiang, Xu (2020); Mercier, Gratton, Boudier (arXiv 2021); Dolean, Heinlein, Mercier, Gratton (subm. 2024 / arXiv:2408.12198); Li, Wang, Cui, Xiang, Xu (2023); Sun, Xu, Yi (arXiv 2023, 2024); Kim, Yang (2023, 2024, 2024)
- **FBPINNs, FBKANs:** Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer (2023); Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (2024, 2024); Heinlein, Howard, Beecroft, Stinis (acc. 2024 / arXiv:2401.07888); Howard, Jacob, Murphy, Heinlein, Stinis (arXiv:2406.19662)
- **DDMs for CNNs:** Gu, Zhang, Liu, Cai (2022); Lee, Park, Lee (2022); Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (2024); Verburg, Heinlein, Cyr (subm. 2024)

An overview of the state-of-the-art in early 2021:



A. Heinlein, A. Klawonn, M. Lanser, J. Weber

Combining machine learning and domain decomposition methods for the solution of partial differential equations — A review

GAMM-Mitteilungen. 2021.

An overview of the state-of-the-art in mid 2024:



A. Klawonn, M. Lanser, J. Weber

Machine learning and domain decomposition methods – a survey

Computational Science and Engineering. 2024

Finite Basis Physics-Informed Neural Networks (FBPINNs)

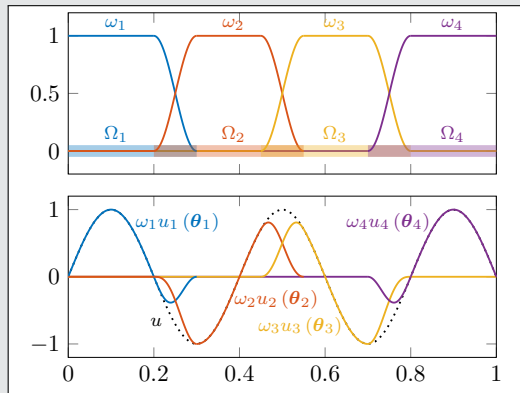
FBPINNs (Moseley, Markham, Nissen-Meyer (2023))

FBPINNs employ the **network architecture**

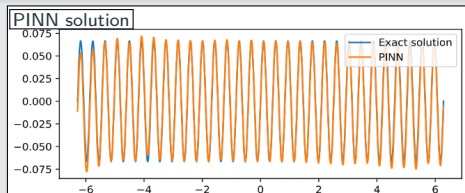
$$u(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_J) = \sum_{j=1}^J \omega_j u_j(\theta_j)$$

and the **loss function**

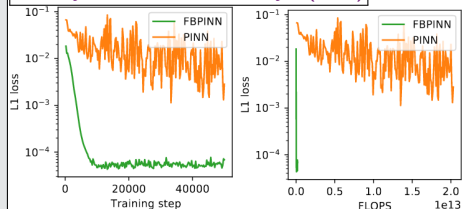
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(n \left[\sum_{x_i \in \Omega_j} \omega_j u_j(x_i, \theta_j) - f(x_i) \right]^2 \right)$$



1D single-frequency problem



Moseley, Markham, Nissen-Meyer (2023)



Finite Basis Physics-Informed Neural Networks (FBPINNs)

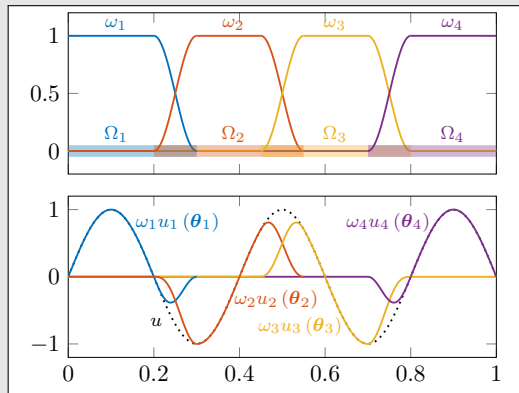
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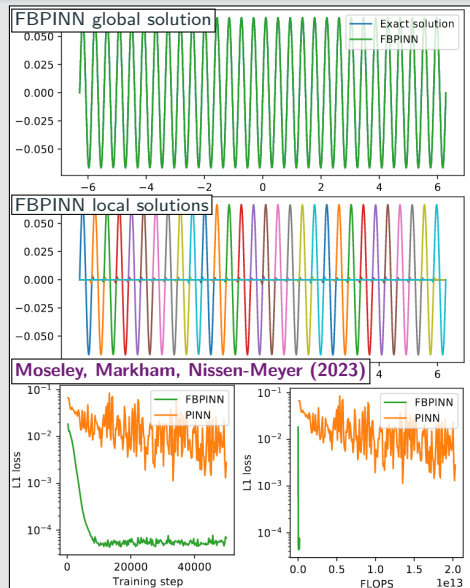
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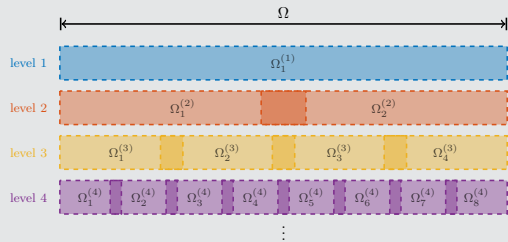


1D single-frequency problem



Multi-level FBPINNs (ML-FBPINNs)

ML-FBPINNs (Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (2024)) are based on a **hierarchy of domain decompositions**:



This yields the **network architecture**

$$u(\theta_1^{(1)}, \dots, \theta_{J^{(L)}}^{(L)}) = \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{i=1}^{N^{(l)}} \omega_j^{(l)} u_j^{(l)}(\theta_j^{(l)})$$

and the **loss function**

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(n \left[\sum_{x_i \in \Omega_j^{(l)}} \omega_j^{(l)} u_j^{(l)} \right] (x_i, \theta_j^{(l)}) - f(x_i) \right)^2$$

Multi-Frequency Problem

Let us now consider the **two-dimensional multi-frequency Laplace boundary value problem**

$$-\Delta u = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n (\omega_i \pi)^2 \sin(\omega_i \pi x) \sin(\omega_i \pi y) \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

$$u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

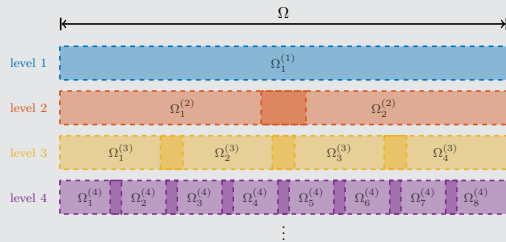
with $\omega_i = 2^i$.

For increasing values of n , we obtain the **analytical solutions**:



Multi-level FBPINNs (ML-FBPINNs)

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and the **loss function**

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(n \left[\sum_{x_i \in \Omega_j^{(l)}} \omega_j^{(l)} u_j^{(l)} \right] (x_i, \theta_j^{(l)}) - f(x_i) \right)^2$$

Multi-Frequency Problem

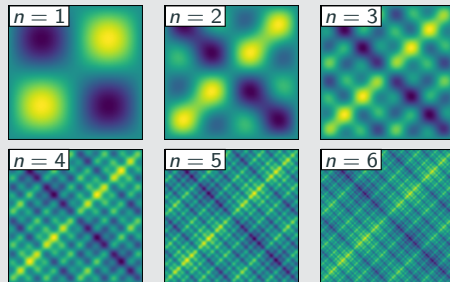
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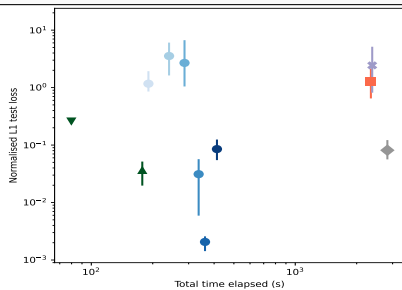
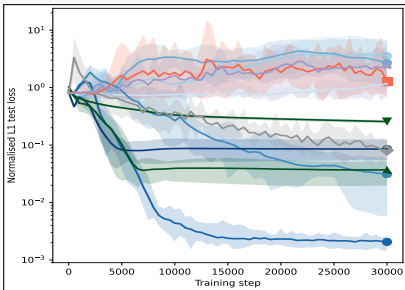
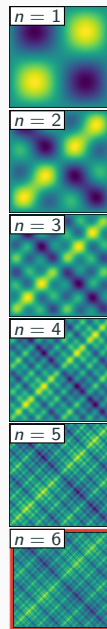
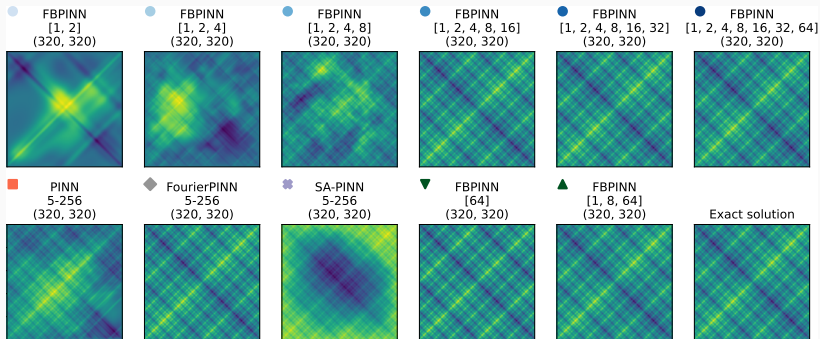
$$u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

with $\omega_i = 2^i$.

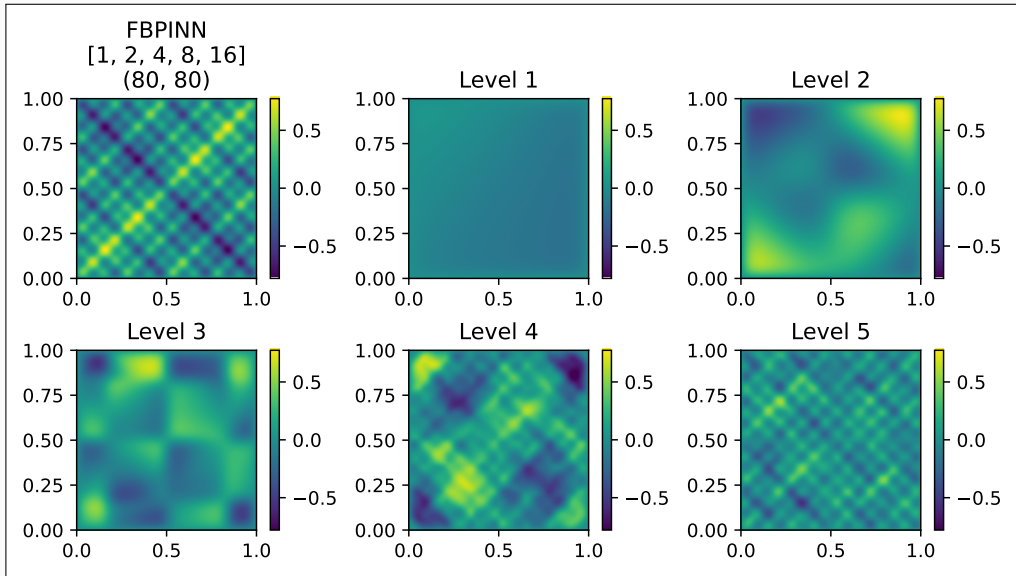
For increasing values of n , we obtain the **analytical solutions**:



Multi-Level FBPINNs for a Multi-Frequency Problem – Strong Scaling

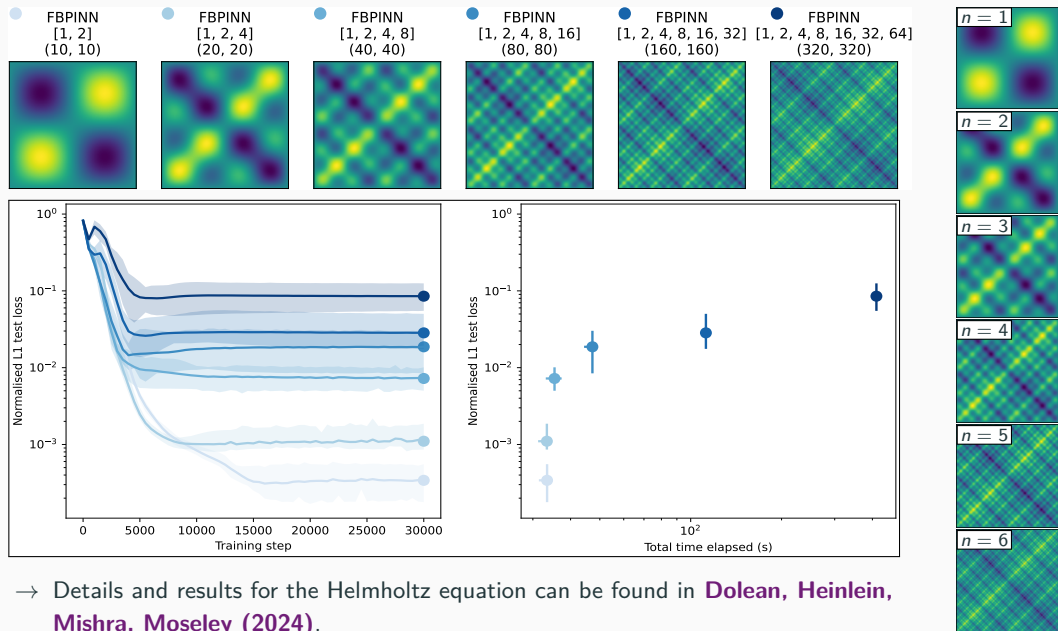


Multi-Frequency Problem – What the FBPINN Learns



Cf. [Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley \(2024\)](#).

Multi-Level FBPINNs for a Multi-Frequency Problem – Weak Scaling



PINNs for Time-Dependent Problems

We investigate the performance of PINNs for **time-dependent problems**. Therefore, consider the simple **pendulum problem**:

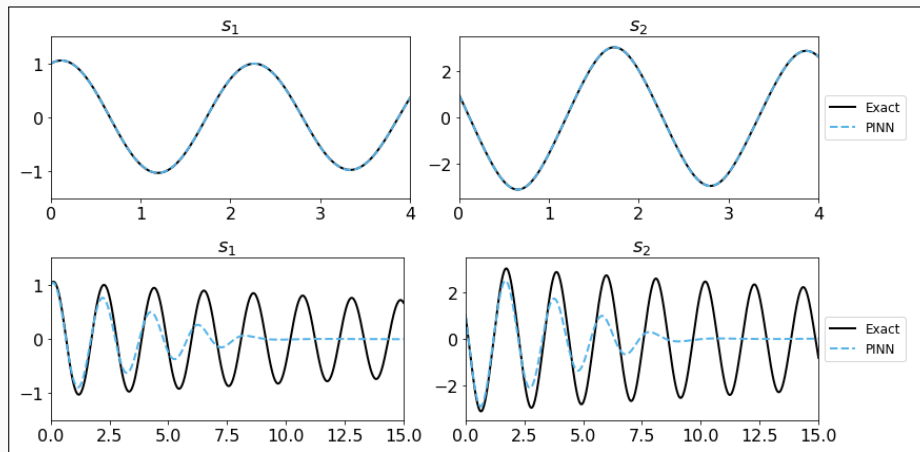
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\delta_1}{dt} &= \delta_2, \\ \frac{d\delta_2}{dt} &= -\frac{b}{m}\delta_2 - \frac{g}{L}\sin(\delta_1).\end{aligned}$$

Problem parameters

$$m = L = 1, b = 0.05,$$

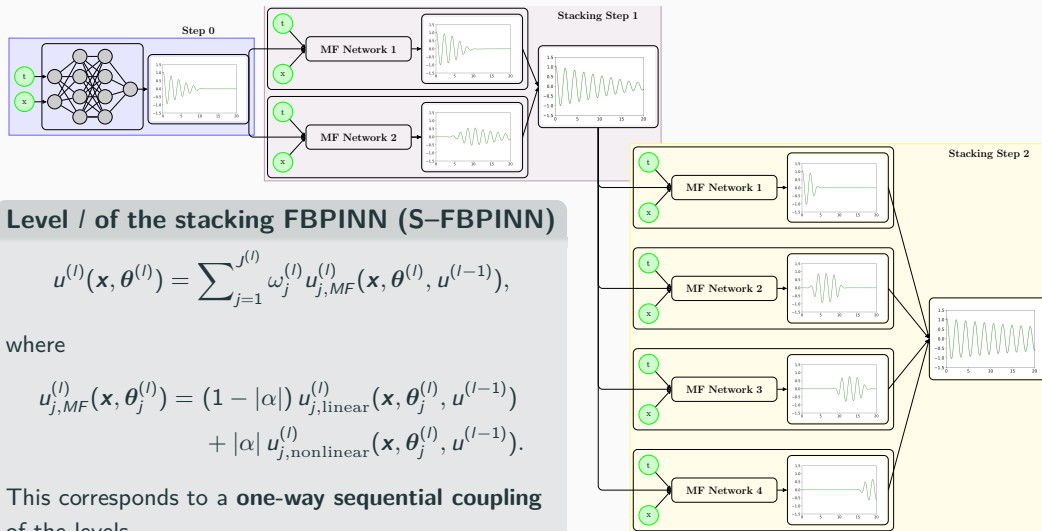
$$g = 9.81$$

- **Top:** $T = 4$
- **Bottom:** $T = 20$



Multifidelity Stacking FBPINNs

In [Heinlein, Howard, Beecroft, and Stinis \(acc. 2024 / arXiv:2401.07888\)](#), we combine stacking multifidelity PINNs with FBPINNs by using an FBPINN model in each stacking step.



Level l of the stacking FBPINN (S-FBPINN)

$$u^{(l)}(\mathbf{x}, \theta^{(l)}) = \sum_{j=1}^{J^{(l)}} \omega_j^{(l)} u_{j, MF}^{(l)}(\mathbf{x}, \theta_j^{(l)}, u^{(l-1)}),$$

where

$$u_{j, MF}^{(l)}(\mathbf{x}, \theta_j^{(l)}) = (1 - |\alpha|) u_{j, \text{linear}}^{(l)}(\mathbf{x}, \theta_j^{(l)}, u^{(l-1)}) + |\alpha| u_{j, \text{nonlinear}}^{(l)}(\mathbf{x}, \theta_j^{(l)}, u^{(l-1)}).$$

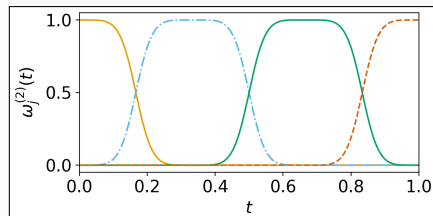
This corresponds to a **one-way sequential coupling** of the levels.

Multifidelity Stacking FBPINNs – Pendulum Problem

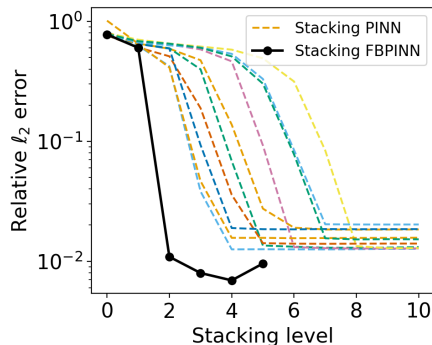
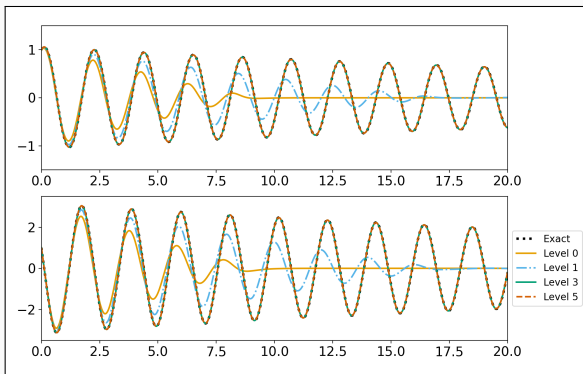
First, we consider a **pendulum problem** and compare the **stacking multifidelity PINN** and **FBPINN** approaches:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{ds_1}{dt} &= s_2, \\ \frac{ds_2}{dt} &= -\frac{b}{m}s_2 - \frac{g}{L}\sin(s_1)\end{aligned}$$

with $m = L = 1$, $b = 0.05$, $g = 9.81$, and $T = 20$.



Exemplary partition of unity in time



Multifidelity Stacking FBPINNs – Pendulum Problem

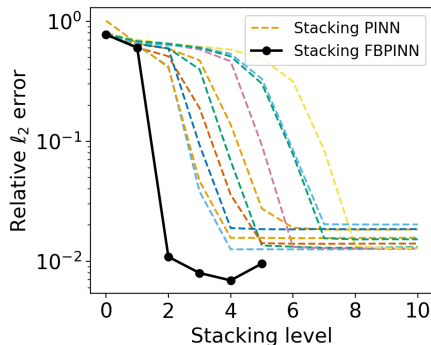
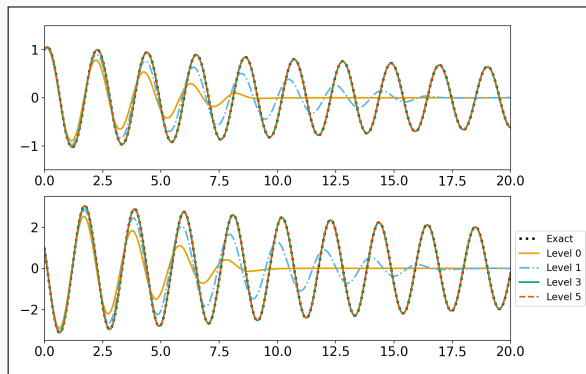
First, we consider a **pendulum problem** and compare the stacking multifidelity PINN and FBPINN approaches:

$$\frac{d\delta_1}{dt} = \delta_2,$$
$$\frac{d\delta_2}{dt} = -\frac{b}{m}\delta_2 - \frac{g}{L}\sin(\delta_1)$$

with $m = L = 1$, $b = 0.05$, $g = 9.81$, and $T = 20$.

Model details:

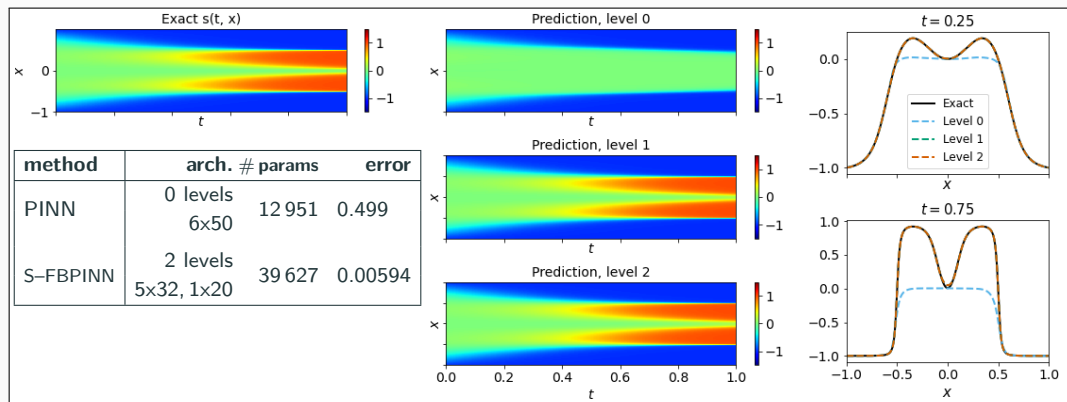
method	arch.	# levels	# params	error
S-PINN	5x50, 1x20	4	63 018	0.0125
S-FBPINN	3x32, 1x 4	2	34 570	0.0074



Multifidelity Stacking FBPINNs – Allen–Cahn Equation

Finally, we consider the **Allen–Cahn equation**, describing phase separation in multi-component alloy systems:

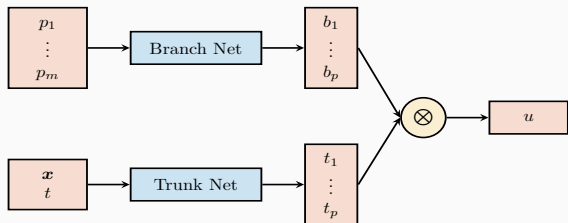
$$\begin{aligned} \delta_t - 0.0001\delta_{xx} + 5\delta^3 - 5\delta &= 0, & t \in (0, 1], x \in [-1, 1], \\ \delta(x, 0) &= x^2 \cos(\pi x), & x \in [-1, 1], \\ \delta(x, t) &= \delta(-x, t), & t \in [0, 1], x = -1, x = 1, \\ \delta_x(x, t) &= \delta_x(-x, t), & t \in [0, 1], x = -1, x = 1. \end{aligned}$$



PINN **gets stuck** at fixed point of the of dynamical system; cf. [Rohrhofer et al. \(2023\)](#).

Deep Operator Networks (DeepONets / DONs)

Neural operators learn operators between function spaces using neural networks. Here, we learn the **solution operator** of a initial-boundary value problem parametrized with p_1, \dots, p_m using **DeepONets** as introduced in **Lu et al. (2021)**.



Single-layer case

The DeepONet architecture is based on the **single-layer case** analyzed in **Chen and Chen (1995)**. In particular, the authors show **universal approximation properties for continuous operators**.

The architecture is based on the following ansatz for presenting the parametrized solution

$$u_{(p_1, \dots, p_m)}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{i=1}^p \underbrace{b_i(p_1, \dots, p_m)}_{\text{branch}} \cdot \underbrace{t_i(\mathbf{x}, t)}_{\text{trunk}}$$

Physics-informed DeepONets

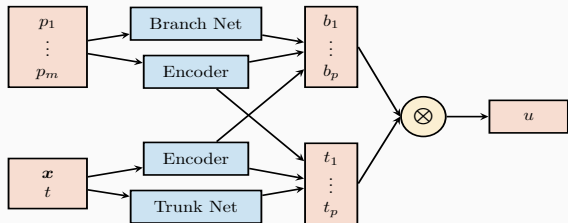
DeepONets are compatible with the PINN approach but **physics-informed DeepONets (PI-DeepONets)** are challenging to train.

Other operator learning approaches

- **FNOs**: Li et al. (2021)
- **PCA-Net**: Bhattacharya et al. (2021)
- **Random features**: Nelsen and Stuart (2021)
- **CNOs**: Raonić et al. (2023)

Deep Operator Networks (DeepONets / DONs)

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Modified architecture

In our numerical experiments, we employ the **modified DeepONet architecture** introduced in **Wang, Wang, and Perdikaris (2022)**.

The architecture is based on the following ansatz for presenting the parametrized solution

$$u_{(p_1, \dots, p_m)}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{i=1}^p \underbrace{b_i(p_1, \dots, p_m)}_{\text{branch}} \cdot \underbrace{t_i(\mathbf{x}, t)}_{\text{trunk}}$$

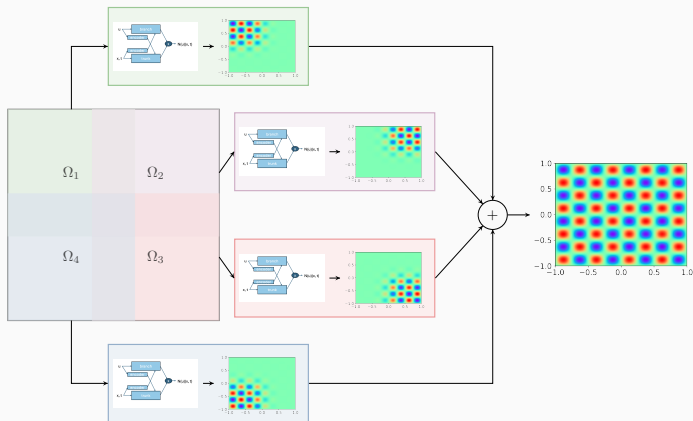
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Finite Basis DeepONets (FBDONs)



Howard, Heinlein, Stinis (in prep.)

Variants:

Shared-trunk FBDONs (ST-FBDONs)

The trunk net learns spatio-temporal basis functions. In ST-FBDONs, we use the **same trunk network for all subdomains**.

Stacking FBDONs

Combination of the **stacking multifidelity approach** with FBDONs.

Heinlein, Howard, Beecroft, Stinis (acc. 2024/arXiv:2401.07888)

Wave equation

$$\frac{d^2 s}{dt^2} = 2 \frac{d^2 s}{dx^2}, \quad (x, t) \in [0, 1]^2$$

$$s_t(x, 0) = 0, x \in [0, 1], \quad s(0, t) = s(1, t) = 0,$$

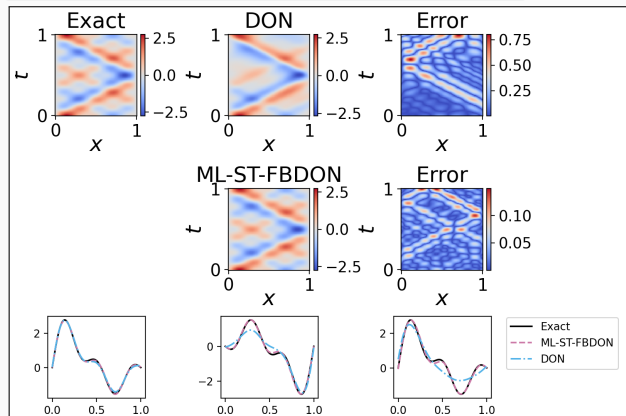
$$\text{Solution: } s(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^5 b_n \sin(n\pi x) \cos(n\pi\sqrt{2}t)$$

Parametrization

Initial conditions for s parametrized by $b = (b_1, \dots, b_5)$ (normally distributed):

$$s(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^5 b_n \sin(n\pi x) \quad x \in [0, 1]$$

Training on 1000 random configurations.



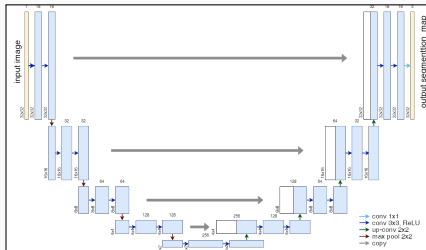
Mean rel. l_2 error on 100 config.

DeepONet	0.30 ± 0.11
ML-ST-FBDON ([1, 4, 8, 16] subd.)	0.05 ± 0.03
ML-FBDON ([1, 4, 8, 16] subd.)	0.08 ± 0.04

→ Sharing the trunk network does not only save in the number of parameters but even yields **better performance**

Cf. **Howard, Heinlein, Stinis (in prep.)**

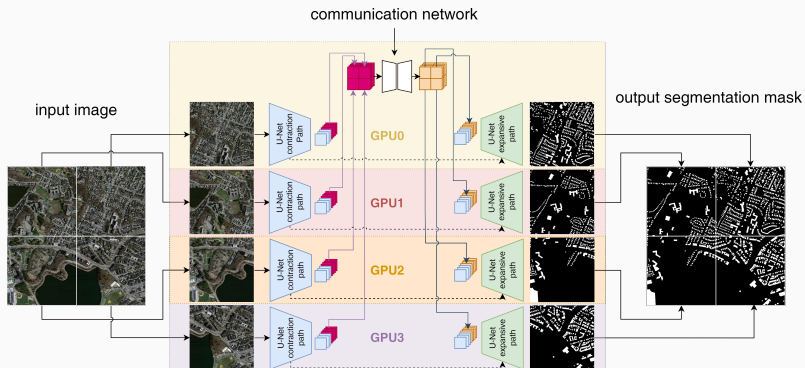
Domain Decomposition-Based U-Net Architecture



name	mem. feature maps		mem. weights	
	# of values	MB	# of values	MB
input block	268 M	1 024.0	38 848	0.148
encoder blocks	314 M	1 320	18 M	72
decoder blocks	754 M	3880	12 M	47
output block	3.1 M	12.0	195	0.001

Most memory in the **U-Net** is used by **feature maps**, not weights
 → **Decompose feature maps** to **distribute memory consumption**.

Cf. **Verburg, Heinlein, Cyr (subm. 2024)**.



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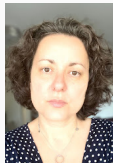


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- **Autumn School** (October 27–31, 2025):
 - [Chris Budd](#) (University of Bath)
 - [Ben Moseley](#) (Imperial College London)
 - [Gabriele Steidl](#) (Technische Universität Berlin)
 - [Andrew Stuart](#) (California Institute of Technology)
 - [Andrea Walther](#) (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- **Workshop** (December 1–3, 2025):
 - 3 days with plenary talks (academia & industry) and an industry panel
 - Confirmed plenary speakers:
 - [Marta d'Elia](#) (Meta)
 - [Benjamin Peherstorfer](#) (New York University)
 - [Andreas Roskopf](#) (Fraunhofer Institute)



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- FROSch is based on the **Schwarz framework** and **energy-minimizing coarse spaces**, which provide **numerical scalability** using **only algebraic information** for a **variety of applications**

Multilevel neural network architectures

- **Domain decomposition-based architectures improve the scalability of PINNs to large domains / high frequencies, keeping the complexity of the local networks low.**
- As classical domain decomposition methods, **one-level FBPINNs are not scalable to large numbers of subdomains; multilevel FBPINNs enable scalability.**
- The multilevel FBPINN approach can also be **extended to operator learning.**

Thank you for your attention!



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