

# Speeding up an unsteady flow simulation by adaptive BDDC and Krylov subspace recycling

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joint work with

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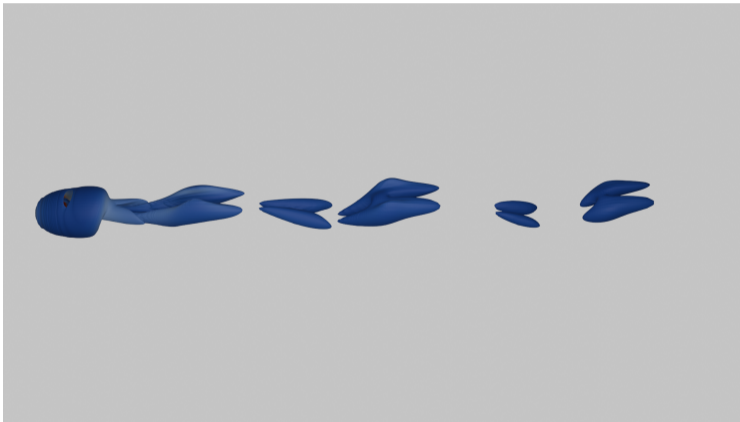


*High Performance Computing in Science and Engineering (HPCSE) 2026*

Hotel Soláň, Czech Republic

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- Speeding up solving large scale sequences of linear systems from time dependent simulations of incompressible flow.
- Combining a powerful preconditioner (adaptive BDDC) and Krylov subspace recycling.



Flow around the unit sphere at  $Re = 300$



## Unsteady Navier–Stokes equations

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f}$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

## Initial and boundary conditions

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_0 \quad \text{for } t = 0$$
$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{g} \quad \text{on } \Gamma_D$$
$$-\nu(\nabla \mathbf{u})\mathbf{n} + p\mathbf{n} = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_N$$

- $\mathbf{u}$  ... velocity
- $t$  ... time
- $\nu$  ... kinematic viscosity
- $p$  ... pressure normalised by the (constant) density
- $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$  ... external body force



## Backward Euler time discretization

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \approx \frac{\mathbf{u}_{n+1} - \mathbf{u}_n}{\Delta t}$$

## Semi-implicit approximation of the convective term

$$(\mathbf{u}_{n+1} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}_{n+1} \approx (\mathbf{u}_n \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}_{n+1}$$

## Time-discrete semi-implicit Navier–Stokes equations

$$\frac{1}{\Delta t} \mathbf{u}_{n+1} + (\mathbf{u}_n \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}_{n+1} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u}_{n+1} + \nabla p_n = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \mathbf{u}_n + \mathbf{f}$$
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- $\Delta t$  ... time-step size
- subscript  $_n$  denotes quantities at time layer  $t_n$



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- Operator splitting studied already in [Chorin (1968)], [Temam (1969)], recent overview in [Guermond, Mineev, Shen (2006)], large-scale experiments in [Šístek, Cirak (2015)]
- 1 A modified momentum equation is solved for the new velocity  $\mathbf{u}_n$  as an independent (scalar) *convection-diffusion problem* for each component of velocity

$$\frac{1}{\Delta t} \mathbf{u}_{n+1} + (\mathbf{u}_n \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}_{n+1} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u}_{n+1} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \mathbf{u}_n - \nabla(p_n + \psi_n) + \mathbf{f}$$

- 2 The pressure corrector  $\psi$  is obtained by solving the *Poisson problem* (sometimes called *projection step*)

$$-\Delta \psi_{n+1} = -\frac{1}{\Delta t} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{n+1} \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega$$

- 3 The new pressure  $p_n$  is obtained by a simple update

$$p_{n+1} = p_n + \psi_{n+1} - \nu \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{n+1}$$

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## Discretisation

- hexahedral Taylor-Hood  $Q_2-Q_1$  elements
- velocity – continuous piecewise tri-quadratic polynomial
- pressure – continuous piecewise tri-linear polynomial

## Finite element function for pressure corrector

$$\psi_{n+1} = \sum_{i=1}^m \varphi_i u_i^{n+1}$$

## System of algebraic equations

$$\mathbf{A} \mathbf{u}^{n+1} = \mathbf{f}^{n+1} \quad \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m,m}, \mathbf{u}^{n+1} \in \mathbb{R}^m, \mathbf{f}^{n+1} \in \mathbb{R}^m$$



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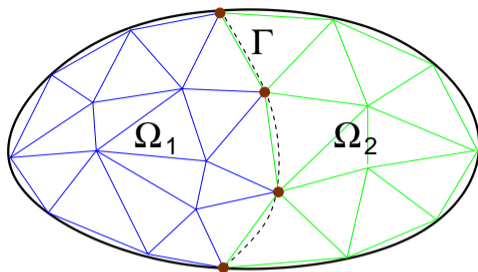
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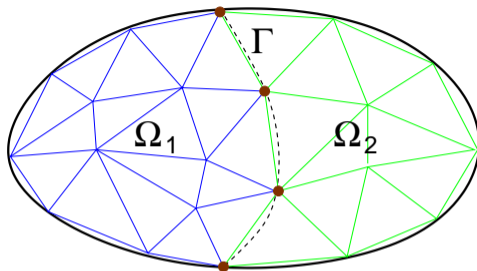
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- $\Omega_1, \Omega_2 \dots$  subdomains (substructures)
- $\Gamma \dots$  interface
- The first step is reduction of the problem to the **interface**  $\Gamma$ .

## Interface problem

$$Su^\Gamma = g$$



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- The first step is reduction of the problem to the **interface**  $\Gamma$ .

## Interface problem

$$\mathbf{S}u^\Gamma = \mathbf{g}$$

## Balancing Domain Decomposition based on Constraints (BDDC)

- Selection of the coarse DOFs.
- Building a coarse problem

$$\mathbf{S}_C = \sum_{i=1}^N R_{Ci}^T \Psi_i^T \mathbf{S}_i \Psi_i R_{Ci}$$

[Dohrmann (2003)], [Cros (2003)], and [Fragakis and Papadrakakis (2003)]

## Multilevel BDDC

- Consider  $\mathbf{S}_C \mathbf{u}_C = \mathbf{r}_C^k$  as first coarse level  $\rightarrow \mathbf{S}_{C_1} \mathbf{u}_{C_1} = \mathbf{r}_{C_1}^k$ .
- Instead of direct solve of  $\mathbf{S}_{C_1} \mathbf{u}_{C_1} = \mathbf{r}_{C_1}^k$  — **one step of BDDC**.

[Tu (2007)], [Mandel, Sousedík, Dohrmann (2008)]

## Adaptive–Multilevel BDDC

- Adding adaptive selection of constraints.
- Solving eigenvalue problems and selecting eigenvectors for defining optimal coarse DOFs.

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Altogether, we are solving a **sequence of linear algebraic systems** with the same SPD matrix and varying right-hand side.

- The systems are solved by PCG.
- Both the action of the system matrix and the preconditioner are quite costly.
- The length of the vectors is reduced so that we can afford saving more of them.
- The preconditioned system is well conditioned ( $\kappa(\mathbf{M}_{BDDC}^{-1}\mathbf{S}) = O(1)$ ).

We denote the  $k$ th system by

$$M^{-1}Ax^{(k)} = M^{-1}b^{(k)}.$$

## Steps for acceleration

- 1 The initial guess and the stopping criterion.
- 2 Deflated CG with Krylov subspace recycling.
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$$\frac{\|r^{(k)}\|}{\|r^{(0)}\|} < 10^{-6}$$

- $r^{(k)}$  is the residual in the  $k$ -th iteration, and  $r^{(0)} = b - Ax^{(0)}$  is the starting residual

## By the norm of the right-hand side (rhs)

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## Space decomposition

$$\mathbb{R}^m = \mathcal{U} + \mathcal{V}$$

- $\mathcal{U}$  is a *deflation* subspace of a small dimension
- $\mathcal{V}$  is the orthogonal complement of  $\mathcal{U}$

## Seeking solution

- directly on  $\mathcal{U}$  with  $W = [w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k]$  being a basis of  $\mathcal{U}$
- iteratively on  $\mathcal{V}$

[Nicolaidis (1987)], [Dostál (1988)], [Farhat, Crivelli, Roux (1993)], [Saad, Yeung, Erhel, Guyomarc'h (2000)]



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## Case 1 (first search vectors)

- The matrix  $W$  was set as first  $\ell$  search vectors and then remained unchanged for the rest of computation.

## Case 2 (last search vectors)

- After solving the  $(i - 1)$ th system and saving  $k$  vectors in  $P^{(i-1)}$ , the deflation basis was updated as

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## Classical Ritz values

$$V^T AV_w = \theta V^T MV_w$$

- Setting  $y = Vw$  as an approximation to an eigenvector of  $M^{-1}A$ .

## Harmonic Ritz values

- Only the operation  $M^{-1}v$  is available

$$V^T AM^{-1}AV_w = \theta V^T AV_w$$

## Case 3 (smallest Ritz values)

- To form  $W^{(i)}$  we use Ritz approximations corresponding to the *smallest* Ritz values.

## Case 4 (largest Ritz values)

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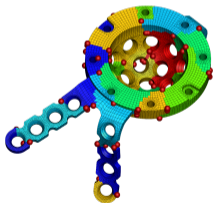
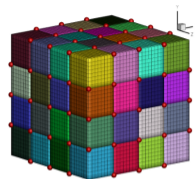
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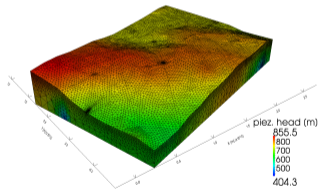
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## BDDCML solver library

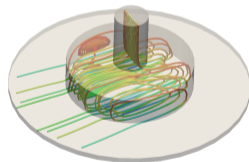
- <http://users.math.cas.cz/~sistek/software/bddcml.html>
- open-source (LGPL license)
- Fortran 95 + MPI library
- tested on up to 64k cores for systems with up to 2B unknowns



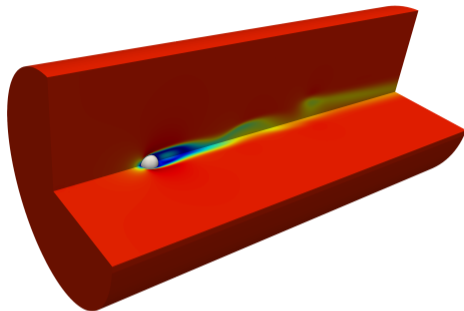
*reliability of artificial joints  
(IT CAS)*



*subsurface water flow  
(TU Liberec)*



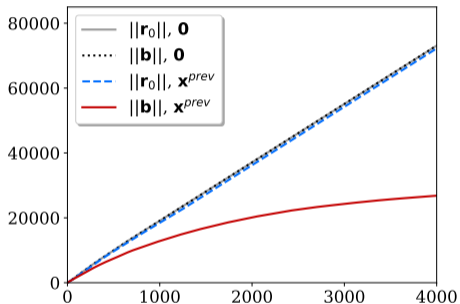
*flow in hydrostatic bearings  
(CTU Prague)*



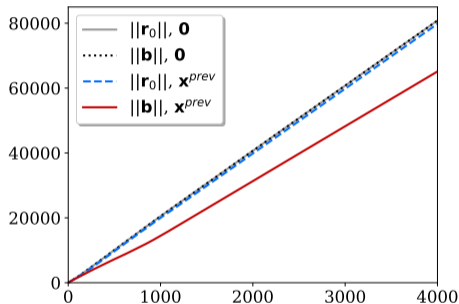
Flow around the unit sphere.

- Reynolds number equal to 100 (transient) and **300** (periodic).
- Decomposed into 1024 subdomains.
- 1.4M unknowns for pressure.
- 3-level BDDC method – baseline approach.
- 4000 time steps.
- Computed at *Karolina@IT4I*.

Cumulative number of iterations over all time steps.



Re = 100 (transient)



Re = 300 (periodic)

Results for  $\dim(W) = 50$ .

variant	#its. min-max(avg.)	1 iter [s]	t./step [s]
no deflation	14-26(15.5)	0.028	0.43
case 1	13-24(13.2)	0.031	0.40
case 2	13-18(13.9)	0.031	0.43
case 3	14-19(14.3)	0.031	0.44
case 4	11-17( <b>11.3</b> )	0.031	<b>0.36</b>

All variants with “ $x_0 = x_{prev}$ ” and “rhs” stopping criterion.



basis size $\dim(W)$	#its. min-max(avg.)	1 iter. [s]	t./step [s]
25	12-19(12.4)	0.030	0.37
30	12-18(12.3)	0.029	0.36
40	11-18(11.5)	0.031	<b>0.35</b>
50	11-17(11.3)	0.031	0.36
100	9-18(10.7)	0.036	0.38
200	6-18(8.7)	0.044	0.41
400	5-18(8.4)	0.044	0.41

Nevertheless, we use  $\dim(W) = 50$  in further experiments.

- Adaptive selection of constraints for changing *condition number indicator*  $\tau$ .

variant	$\tau$	#its. min-max(avg.)	1 iter. [s]	t./step [s]	#its. step 1	t. step 1 [s]
rec 0	3.0	11-19(11.4)	0.030	0.33	17	45.55
rec 50	3.5	9-12(9.7)	0.033	0.32	17	41.21
	3.0	9-12(9.2)	0.033	<b>0.31</b>	17	42.44
	2.5	9-12(9.2)	0.034	0.31	16	42.45
	2.0	8-12(8.5)	0.037	0.32	16	42.84
	1.5	8-12(8.3)	0.052	0.44	16	47.79
all the previous variants					23	<2

variant	#its. min-max(avg.)	1 iter. [s]	t./step [s]	#its. step 1	t. step 1 [s]
rec0	14-26(15.5)	0.028	0.43	23	1.53
rec50	11-17(11.3)	0.031	0.36	23	1.70
rec0 + adaptive 3.0	11-19(11.4)	0.030	0.33	17	45.55
rec50 + adaptive 3.0	9-12(9.2)	0.033	<b>0.31</b>	17	42.44

All variants with “  $x_0 = x_{prev}$  ” and “rhs” stopping criterion.



variant		#its. min-max(avg.)	1 iter.[s]	t./step[s]	#its. step 1	t. step 1[s]
no recycling	res <sub>0</sub>	34-47(36.0)	0.110	3.98	47	8.37
	rhs	31-54(33.3)	0.107	3.59	47	8.24
rec50		22-35(23.3)	0.11	2.67	47	8.43
rec0+adaptive 3.0	rhs	17-30(18.4)	0.125	2.31	26	179.86
rec50+adaptive 3.0		13-21(14.3)	0.132	<b>1.89</b>	26	177.87

All variants with “  $x_0 = x_{prev}$  ”.



## Acceleration of unsteady flow computations

- Starting from the previous solution with norm relative to right-hand side.
- Recycling using the **largest** harmonic Ritz values.
- Adaptive BDDC with a suitable threshold on eigenvalues in an unusual setting.
- Saving about 50% of the computational time.

## Future work

- GPU acceleration.
- Larger problems.



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