

# Domain Decomposition Methods in Gradient Descent Procedures for Optimal Control Problems

IX: Partial differential equations, optimal design and numerics  
Benasque, 2022

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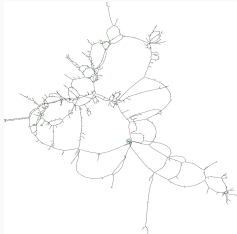
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26.08.2022

FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Subproject C07 of TRR154 of the DFG

# Introduction

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## Overarching goal: Optimization of gas network operation

I.e.: Optimal control of nonlinear PDE's on large domains/networks:

$$\min_{u \in \mathcal{K}} J(y(u), u)$$

with

- target functional  $J$  (operational cost, distance to target state)
- control  $u$  (compressor stations, valves)
- state  $y$  (pressure, density, velocity)
- set of admissible controls  $\mathcal{K}$

# Optimal control of gas flow on networks

Let  $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{V})$  a network with boundary nodes  $\mathcal{V}_b$ , interior nodes  $\mathcal{V}_0$  and compressor nodes  $\mathcal{V}_c$ . Our goal is to solve

$$\min_{u \in U} J(y, u) := \int_{\mathcal{E} \times [0, T]} (y - y_d)^2 + \frac{\delta}{2} \|u\|_U^2 \quad (1)$$

such that

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t(\varphi(y_e)) - \partial_x(\varphi(\partial_x y_e)) & = 0 & \text{in } \{e\} \times (0, T), \quad e \in \mathcal{E} \\ \nu_e \varphi(\partial_x y) + \gamma_v \varphi(y) & = g & \text{in } \{v\} \times (0, T) \quad v \in \mathcal{V}_b, e \in \mathcal{E}(v) \\ y_e & = y_{e'} & \text{in } \{v\} \times (0, T), \quad v \in \mathcal{V}_0, e, e' \in \mathcal{E}(v) \\ \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}(v)} \nu_e \varphi(\partial_x y_e) & = 0 & \text{in } \{v\} \times (0, T), \quad v \in \mathcal{V}_0 \setminus \mathcal{V}_c \\ \nu_e \varphi(\partial_x y_e) & = \gamma_v (\varphi(y_{e'}) - \varphi(y_e) + u_e) & \text{in } \{v\} \times (0, T), \quad v \in \mathcal{V}_c, e, e' \in \mathcal{E}(v) \\ y_e(0, \cdot) & = y_{e,0} & \text{on } e \in \mathcal{E} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

with nonlinearity  $\varphi : s \mapsto |s|^{-\frac{1}{2}} s$ . Our project (C07 of TRR154) concerns gradient descent procedures for this kind of problem:

- Does the equation allow for an adjoint state?
- Can we decrease numerical cost of the GD by using domain decomposition?

# Optimal control of parabolic p-Laplacian equations

For  $\alpha < 2$  consider problems of the form

$$\min_{u \in U} J(y, u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |y - y_d|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\partial\Omega} u^2 \quad (3a)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \begin{cases} \partial_t y - \Delta_{\alpha} y & = 0 & \text{in } (0, T) \times \Omega, \\ |\nabla y|^{\alpha-2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \nu} + \gamma y & = \gamma u & \text{on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\ y(x, 0) & = y_0 & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases} \quad (3b)$$

for some fixed  $y_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $\gamma, \lambda > 0$ ,  $y_d \in L^2(\Omega)$  and a control  $u \in U \subset L^{\frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1}}(0, T, L^2(\partial\Omega))$ . The formal adjoint  $p$  can become singular:

$$-\partial_t p - \nabla \cdot (\varphi'(\nabla y) \nabla p) = 0$$

**Open problem:** Assuming only  $\nabla y \neq 0$  a.e., is the solution operator of (3) differentiable? [cf. Fernandez-Casas, 1995]

**Theorem (LW, Zuazua, 2022)**

Assuming  $0 < C_1 \leq |\nabla y| \leq C_2 < \infty$ , the solution operator of (3) is Gâteaux differentiable and an adjoint state exists.

# Domain Decomposition for Gradient Descent

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# Motivation: Gradient Descent Procedures for Optimal Control

For simplicity, consider

$$\min_{u \in L^2(\Omega)} J(y, u) := \frac{1}{2} \|y - y_d\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \quad (4)$$

with 
$$\begin{cases} -\Delta y &= f + u & \text{in } \Omega \\ y &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

**Optimality System:** Optimal state  $\bar{y}$  and its adjoint  $\bar{p}$  satisfy

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \bar{y} &= f - \frac{1}{\lambda} \bar{p} & \text{in } \Omega \\ \bar{y} &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}, \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta \bar{p} &= \bar{y} - y_d & \text{in } \Omega \\ \bar{p} &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

**Gradient Descent:** Find  $\bar{y}$  by iteratively computing

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta y^{(n)} &= f + u^{(n)} & \text{in } \Omega \\ y^{(n)} &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}, \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta p^{(n)} &= y^{(n)} - y_d & \text{in } \Omega \\ p^{(n)} &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

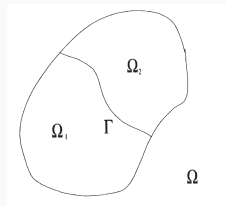
$$u^{(n+1)} = u^{(n)} - \eta \left( p^{(n)} + \lambda u^{(n)} \right) \quad (7)$$

**Main challenge:** Repeated computation of forward and adjoint system is numerically expensive! Particularly for very large domains.

# Domain Decomposition Methods

Consider the Poisson problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta y &= f & \text{in } \Omega \\ y &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (8)$$



Picture taken from [LL04]

on a domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ . Fix a decomposition  $\Omega = \overline{\Omega}_1 \cup \overline{\Omega}_2$  with  $\Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2 = \emptyset$  and  $\Gamma := \overline{\Omega}_1 \cap \overline{\Omega}_2$ .

Then, the iterative procedure defined by

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta y_i^n &= f|_{\Omega_i} & \text{in } \Omega_i \\ y_i^n &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega_i \setminus \Gamma \\ \partial_{\nu_i} y_i^n + y_i^n &= -\partial_{\nu_j} y_j^{n-1} + y_j^{n-1} & \text{on } \Gamma, j \neq i \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

converges towards  $y$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$  [Lio90]. Note: parallelizable!



How can DDM be used in the context of gradient descent?

**1. Performing DDM in each iteration of GD (see [CY11]):**

- Outer Iteration: Adjoint-based gradient descent
- Inner Iteration: Solve forward and adjoint system by DDM

**2. Decomposing the optimal control problem:**

- Outer Iteration: DDM for optimality systems (see [BD96], [LL04])
- Inner Iteration: Solve decomposed optimality systems by gradient descent

**Idea:** Can a "diagonal" approach be performed?

# Proposed Procedure

Iteratively for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  do:

1. Compute the state equation in all  $\Omega_i$  in parallel:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta y_i^n & = f|_{\Omega_i} + u^n|_{\Omega_i} & \text{in } \Omega_i \\ y_i^n & = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega_i \setminus \Gamma_{ij} \\ \partial_\nu y_i^n + y_i^n & = -\partial_\nu y_j^{n-1} + y_j^{n-1} & \text{on } \Gamma, j \neq i \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

2. Compute the adjoint equation in all  $\Omega_i$  in parallel:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta p_i^n & = y_i^n - y_d|_{\Omega_i} & \text{in } \Omega_i \\ p_i^n & = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega_i \setminus \Gamma \\ \partial_\nu p_i^n + p_i^n & = -\partial_\nu p_j^{n-1} + p_j^{n-1} & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}, j \neq i \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

3. Update the controls in  $\Omega_i$  based on  $p_i^n$ .

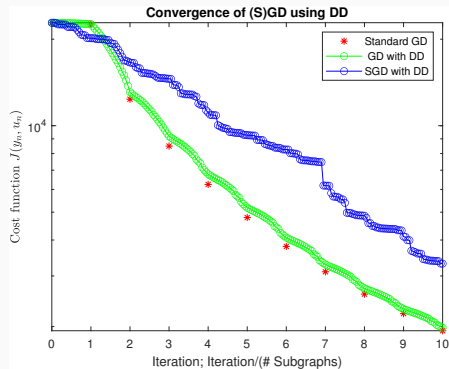
## Questions:

- Can convergence be ensured?
- Can a numerical advantage be achieved?

# Results

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# Numerical Experiments



**Figure 1:**  $|\mathcal{V}| = 422$ ,  $|\mathcal{E}| = 1143$ , Number of Subgraphs  $M = 20$

Descent Procedure	Time [s]
Standard GD	97
GD with DD	68
SGD with DD	72

## **Theorem (Hante, LW, Veldman, Zuazua, 2022)**

*We can chose the stepsize  $\eta > 0$  sufficiently small such that for the optimal control problem (4) on networks and 1D domains the proposed procedure converges towards the optimal control  $\bar{u}$ .*

Idea of the proof: For small stepsizes, the change in the control in each step is small enough to not disturb the convergence of the domain decomposition method.

## Framework of the proof

$\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{U}$  Hilbert spaces,  $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$  Banach spaces,  $A \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{Y})$ ,  $C \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{H})$ . Consider the optimal control problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{u \in \mathcal{U}} J(y, u) &= \frac{1}{2} \|Cy - z_d\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u\|_{\mathcal{U}}^2 \\ \text{s.t. } Ay &= Bu + f, \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

for some given  $z_d \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $f \in \mathcal{Y}$ . Note that  $Ay = f$  can be solved by the iteration

$$My_{n+1} = Ny_n + f \tag{13}$$

for  $A = M - N$  and  $\rho(M^{-1}N) < 1$ . Consider the following descent procedure: For  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  compute

$$\begin{cases} My_{n+1} &= Ny_n + Bu_n + f, \\ \tilde{M}p_{n+1} &= \tilde{N}p_n + C^*(Cy_{n+1} - z_d), \\ u_{n+1} &\leftarrow u_n - \eta(B^*p_{n+1} + u_n). \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

### Proposition

*If  $\rho(M^{-1}N) < 1$  and  $\rho(\tilde{M}^{-1}\tilde{N}) < 1$ , there exists  $\eta_0 > 0$  such that for all stepsizes  $0 < \eta < \eta_0$  the algorithm (14) converges for all initial guesses.*

## How to understand DDM in this framework?

Let  $Ay = f$  denote the poisson equation on  $\Omega$ . We can then decompose

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & N_1 \\ N_2 & M_2 \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & 0 \\ 0 & M_2 \end{bmatrix}}_{=:M} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -N_1 \\ -N_2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{=:N}$$

where  $M_i y_i = N_i y_j + f$  corresponds to

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta y_i & = f|_{\Omega_i} & \text{in } \Omega_i \\ y_i & = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega_i \setminus \Gamma \\ \partial_{\nu_i} y_i + y_i & = -\partial_{\nu_j} y_j + y_j & \text{on } \Gamma, j \neq i \end{cases}$$

where we decomposed  $\Omega = \Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2$ . This can be made precise!

## Sketch of proof of the proposition

### Proof.

The algorithm (14) can be written in matrix form as

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} M & 0 & 0 \\ -C^*C & \tilde{M} & 0 \\ 0 & \eta B^* & I_{\mathcal{U}} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathcal{M}_2(\eta)} \begin{bmatrix} y_{k+1} \\ p_{k+1} \\ u_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} N & 0 & B \\ 0 & \tilde{N} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{\mathcal{U}} - \eta I_{\mathcal{U}} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathcal{N}_2(\eta)} \begin{bmatrix} y_k \\ p_k \\ u_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f \\ -C^*z_d \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Establishing the convergence comes down to showing that  $\rho(\mathcal{M}_2^{-1}(\eta)\mathcal{N}_2(\eta)) < 1$ . Using  $\rho(M^{-1}N) < 1$  and  $\rho(\tilde{M}^{-1}\tilde{N}) < 1$ , this can be done for  $\eta > 0$  small enough.

□

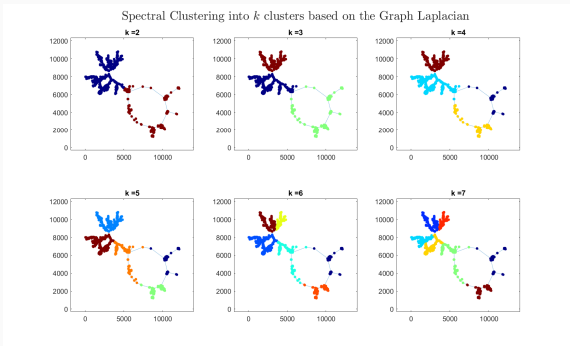


# Outlook

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## Future goals:

- Extend our convergence results, particularly to instationary problems
- Investigate possible advantages of choosing subdomains stochastically
- Analyze the influence of the decomposition method on the convergence properties, particularly on networks



**Thank you for your attention!**  
**Are there any Questions?**

## References

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