

Solving massive-scale inverse problems using matrix-free sequential quadratic programming (SQP) methods

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Inverse problems illustrated

Formulations

Matrix-free full-space SQP

Preconditioning of optimality systems

Numerical results

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Thermal inversion

If I give you:

- a metallic object;
- a hairdryer;
- a device to measure temperature;



Source: www.amazon.com



Source: www.wikipedia.com



Source: www.flir.com

can you figure out the object's composition?

You are not allowed to dissect the object, take material samples, etc.

Thermal inversion

We could:

- heat the object to steady state;
- measure its temperature on the surface;
- use a model of heat conduction, in which the object's material properties are *unknown*, to formulate and solve an inverse problem.

The output of the model – simulated temperature – must match the measured temperature.

Thermal inversion

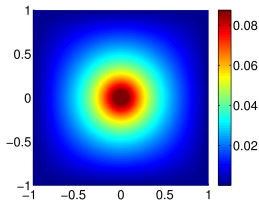
$$\text{Minimize}_{\{u, \kappa\} \in \mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{K}} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} (u - \hat{u})^2 dx + \frac{\alpha}{2} \sqrt{|\nabla \kappa|^2 + \beta}$$

subject to

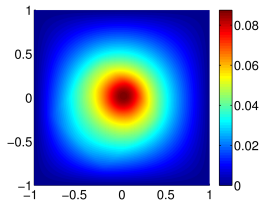
$$-\nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla u) = f \text{ in } \Omega,$$

where $\mathcal{U} = \{u: u \in H^1(\Omega), u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega\}$, $\mathcal{K} = \{\kappa: \kappa \in H^1(\Omega), \kappa > 0\}$ and $\alpha = 10^{-10}$, $\beta = 10^{-3}$, and f is a Gaussian heat source in the center of Ω , with amplitude 5 and width 0.1.

Temperature in uniform material



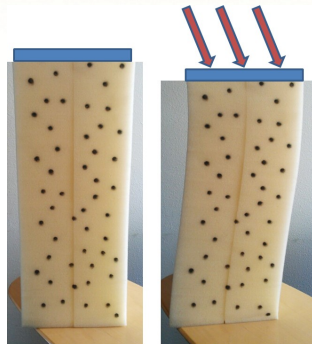
Our measured temperature \hat{u}



Elastic inversion

If I give you:

- an elastic object;
- a device to apply force;
- a device to measure displacements;



can you figure out the object's composition?

You are not allowed to dissect the object, take material samples, etc.

Elastic inversion

We could:

- apply force to deform the object;
- measure particle displacement;
- use a model of elastic deformation, in which the object's material properties are *unknown*, to formulate and solve an inverse problem.

The output of the model – simulated displacement – must match the measured displacement.

Elastic inversion

$$\text{Minimize}_{\{u, \mu, \kappa\} \in \mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{K}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega^0} (u_i - \hat{u}_i)^2 dx + R(\mu) + R(\kappa)$$

subject to

$$\begin{aligned} -(F_{ik} S_{kj})_{,j} &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega^0, \\ (F_{ik} S_{kj}) n_j &= \tau_i && \text{in } \partial\Omega_\tau^0 \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{U} = \{u_i: u_i \in H^1(\Omega^0), u_i = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_u^0\}$, $\mathcal{G} = \{\mu: \mu \in L^2(\Omega^0), \mu > 0\}$, and $\mathcal{B} = \{\kappa: \kappa \in L^2(\Omega^0), \kappa > 0\}$.

— Here $\{u_i\}_{i=1, \dots, d}$ is the displacement in the i -th direction and τ_i is the surface traction in the i -th direction.

— The second Piola-Kirchhoff stress tensor for a [Saint-Venant Kirchhoff material](#) is given by $S_{ij} = \mathbf{C}_{ijkl} E_{kl}$, where the fourth-order tensor of elastic moduli is

$$\mathbf{C}_{ijkl} = (\kappa - \frac{2}{3}) \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} + \mu (\delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} + \delta_{il} \delta_{jk}).$$

The Green strain tensor is given by $E_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (F_{ki} F_{kj} - \delta_{ij})$, with the deformation gradient $F_{ij} = \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j^0} + \delta_{ij}$, Kronecker delta δ_{ij} , and a reference material point x^0 .

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PDE-constrained optimization

- PDE-constrained optimization for *deterministic* inverse problems.
- Optimal design, optimal control and inverse problems at Sandia:
 - heat conduction, acoustics, nonlinear elasticity
 - coupled thermal/fluid flow, coupled elastic/acoustic
 - magnetohydrodynamics, semiconductors, shock-hydrodynamics
- Computational regime: Often $\mathcal{O}(10,000)$ compute nodes ...
- Must use iterative linear system solvers ...
- **Scalable matrix-free optimization algorithms are needed.**
- **Scalability implies second-order, Newton-like algorithms.**
- **Since ca. 2006, matrix-free full-space SQP methods.**

Not covered in this talk: Statistical inverse problems.

(Bayesian methods, set-valued inverses of Butler/Estep 2011, etc.)

Formulations

Full-space formulation

$$\min_{u,g} \frac{1}{2} \|u - \hat{u}\|^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|g\|^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } A(g)u + Bg = f$$

- state u and parameter g
- gradually move to feasibility, for example a PDE solution, and optimality
- no A^{-1} in the formulation

Reduced-space formulation

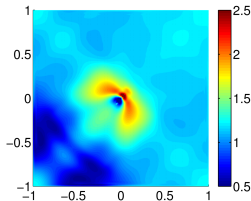
$$\min_g \frac{1}{2} \|A(g)^{-1}(f - Bg) - \hat{u}\|^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|g\|^2$$

- parameter g only
- the constraint is eliminated at each optimization step, by solving $A(g)u = f - Bg$
- A^{-1} in the objective function!

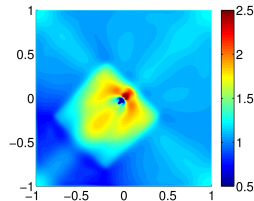
An inadequate algorithm?

Solve reduced-space formulation of the thermal inversion problem, using Newton-CG method. Apply multigrid/ML to compute $A(g)^{-1}(f - Bg)$.

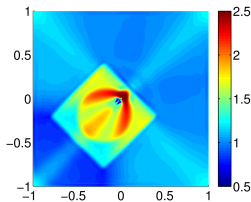
ML-tol= 10^{-1} ; convergence



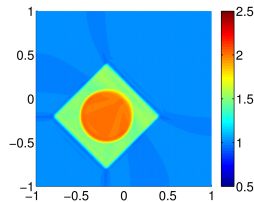
ML-tol= 10^{-2} ; convergence



ML-tol= 10^{-4} ; convergence



ML-tol= 10^{-8} ; convergence



An inadequate formulation?

$$\min_g \quad \frac{1}{2} \|A(g)^{-1}(f - Bg) - \hat{u}\|^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|g\|^2$$

- Gradient cannot be computed accurately.
- Objective function cannot be computed accurately.
 - Difficult to evaluate progress.
 - Stagnation, inefficiency, false positives.
- Full-space SQP methods come to the rescue.

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Sequential Quadratic Programming

Solve equality-constrained optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \quad & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & c(x) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

where $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $c : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, for some Hilbert spaces \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{C} , and f and c are twice continuously Fréchet differentiable.

Define **Lagrangian functional** $\mathcal{L} : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \lambda) = f(x) + \langle \lambda, c(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{C}}$$

If *regular* point x_* is a local solution of the NLP, then there exists a $\lambda_* \in \mathcal{C}$ satisfying the *1st order necessary optimality conditions*:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_x f(x_*) + c_x(x_*)^* \lambda_* &= 0 \\ c(x_*) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Sequential Quadratic Programming

Newton's method applied to optimality conditions:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_{xx}\mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) & c_x(x_k)^* \\ c_x(x_k) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s \\ z \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \nabla_x f(x_k) + c_x(x_k)^* \lambda_k \\ c(x_k) \end{pmatrix}$$

If $\nabla_{xx}\mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k)$ is positive definite on the null space of $c_x(x_k)$, the above **KKT system** is necessary and sufficient for solving the QP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{s \in \mathcal{X}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \langle \nabla_{xx}\mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) s, s \rangle_{\mathcal{X}} + \langle \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k), s \rangle_{\mathcal{X}} + \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & c_x(x_k) s + c(x_k) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Sequential Quadratic Programming

Newton's method applied to optimality conditions:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) & c_x(x_k)^* \\ c_x(x_k) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s \\ z \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \nabla_x f(x_k) + c_x(x_k)^* \lambda_k \\ c(x_k) \end{pmatrix}$$

If $\nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k)$ is positive definite on the null space of $c_x(x_k)$, the above KKT system is necessary and sufficient for solving the QP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{s \in \mathcal{X}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \langle \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) s, s \rangle_{\mathcal{X}} + \langle \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k), s \rangle_{\mathcal{X}} + \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & c_x(x_k) s + c(x_k) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Solve a sequence of *nonconvex* quadratic **trust-region** subproblems:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{s \in \mathcal{X}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \langle \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) s, s \rangle_{\mathcal{X}} + \langle \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k), s \rangle_{\mathcal{X}} + \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & c_x(x_k) s + c(x_k) = 0, \quad \|s\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \Delta_k \end{aligned}$$

Possible incompatibility of constraints: **composite-step approach**.

Composite-step approach for the solution of the trust-region subproblem

- Trust-region step:

$$s_k = n_k + t_k$$

- Quasi-normal step n_k :

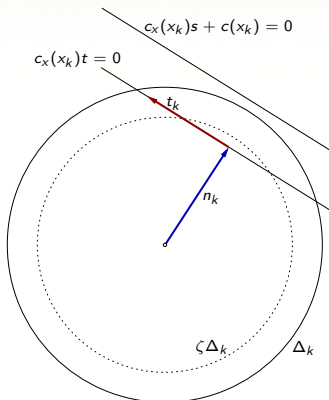
reduces linear infeasibility

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{n \in \mathcal{X}} \quad & \|c_x(x_k)n + c(x_k)\|_C^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|n\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \zeta \Delta_k \end{aligned}$$

- Tangential step t_k :

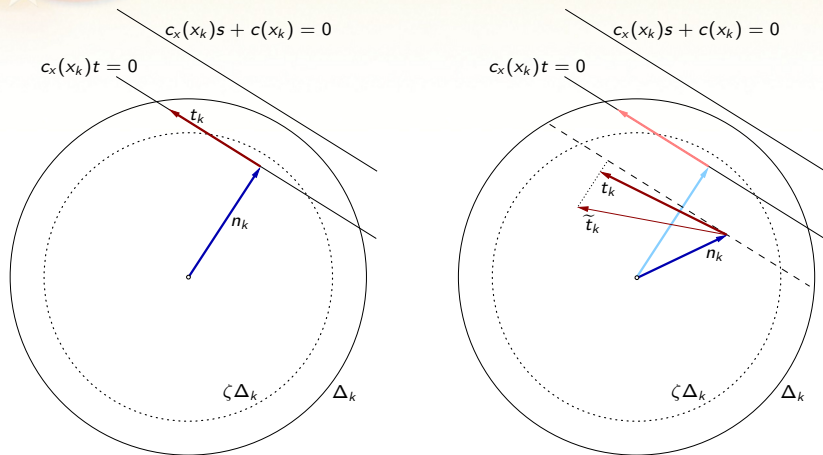
improves optimality while staying in the null space of the linearized constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{t \in \mathcal{X}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \langle \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k)(t + n_k), t + n_k \rangle_{\mathcal{X}} + \langle \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k), t + n_k \rangle_{\mathcal{X}} + \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & c_x(x_k)t = 0, \quad \|t + n_k\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \Delta_k \end{aligned}$$



Omojokun (1989), Byrd, Hribar, Nocedal (1997), Dennis, El-Alem, Maciel (1997)

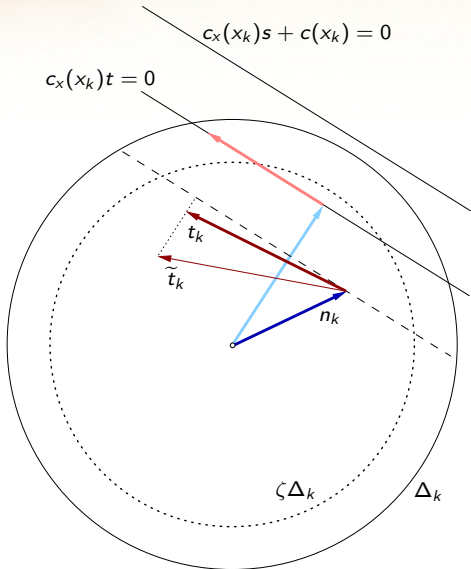
Composite step for matrix-free TR SQP



With matrix-free linear algebra — such as [iterative linear solvers](#) — the quasi-normal and tangential steps are computed **inexactly**.

Special care must be taken to guarantee convergence!

Sketch of the matrix-free TR SQP algorithm



Composite step:

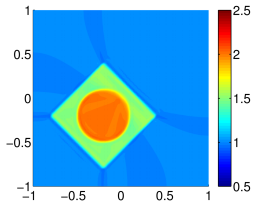
$$s_k = n_k + t_k$$

- 1 Compute quasi-normal step n_k using **inexact Powell dogleg**.
- 2 Solve tangential subproblem for \tilde{t}_k using **inexact projected Steihaug-Toint CG**.
- 3 Restore linearized feasibility, yielding tangential step t_k .
- 4 Update Lagrange multipliers λ_{k+1} .
- 5 Evaluate progress.

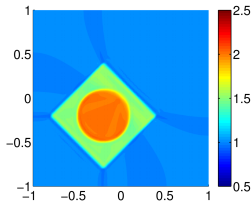
A robust algorithm

Use full-space matrix-free SQP to solve thermal inversion problem. Apply a single multigrid/ML cycle to accelerate solution of linear systems*.

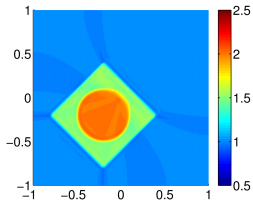
tol=0.5; convergence



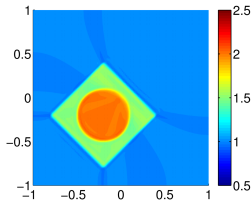
tol= 10^{-1} ; convergence



tol= 10^{-2} ; convergence



tol= 10^{-4} ; convergence



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Linear systems

I thought I saw a **Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) system**:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(x_k, \lambda_k) & c_x(x_k)^* \\ c_x(x_k) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b^1 \\ b^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Difficult to solve in PDE-constrained optimization ...

Our SQP algorithm only solves simpler **augmented systems**:

$$\begin{pmatrix} I & c_x(x_k)^* \\ c_x(x_k) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b^1 \\ b^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Newton direction for the quasi-normal step
- null-space projections in Steihaug-Toint CG
- feasibility-restoring null-space projection
- Lagrange multiplier computation

Control of stopping tolerances

Augmented systems are solved inexactly:

$$\begin{pmatrix} I & c_x(x_k)^* \\ c_x(x_k) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b^1 \\ b^2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} r^1 \\ r^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The size of the nonzero residual $(r^1 \ r^2) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{C}$ is controlled via the general condition

$$\|r^1\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2 + \|r^2\|_{\mathcal{C}}^2 \leq \mathcal{R}(\|b^1\|_{\mathcal{X}}, \|b^2\|_{\mathcal{C}}, \|z\|_{\mathcal{X}}, \Delta_k, \xi).$$

Here $\mathcal{R} : [\mathbb{R}^+]^4 \times (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is tailored to each substep, and ξ is a prescribed *nominal stopping tolerance*.

The augmented system in PDE optimization

- Split variables x into state variables u and parameter variables g , i.e.:

$$x_k = (u_k, g_k)$$

- Write augmented system operator as a 3×3 block operator

$$\begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & c_u(x_k)^* \\ 0 & I & c_g(x_k)^* \\ c_u(x_k) & c_g(x_k) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Compress notation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & C_u^T \\ 0 & I & C_g^T \\ C_u & C_g & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The optimal preconditioner for augmented systems

$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & C_u^T \\ 0 & I & C_g^T \\ C_u & C_g & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{A}}^* = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (C_u C_u^T + C_g C_g^T)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Independent of the objective function.
- Uses only the available PDE solvers and preconditioners:

$(C_u C_u^T)^{-1} = C_u^{-T} C_u^{-1} =$ 'adjoint' solve following 'forward' solve

- When the governing PDEs are elliptic, we prove a **tight clustering** of the eigenvalues of the preconditioned matrix $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{A}} \mathcal{A}$ **around 3 values**:

$$\frac{1}{2}(1 - \sqrt{5}), \quad 1, \quad \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{5})$$

- There is numerical evidence for extensions to other types of PDEs.
- Setup cost is amortized within each optimization iteration.

The optimal preconditioner for augmented systems

$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & C_u^T \\ 0 & I & C_g^T \\ C_u & C_g & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{A}} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (C_u C_u^T)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

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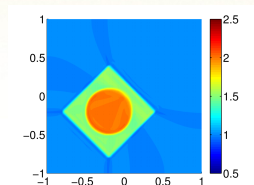
Matrix-free full-space SQP

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Numerical results

Thermal inversion in 2D

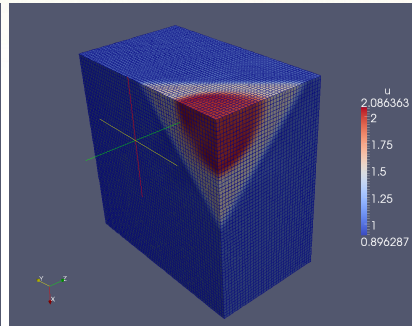
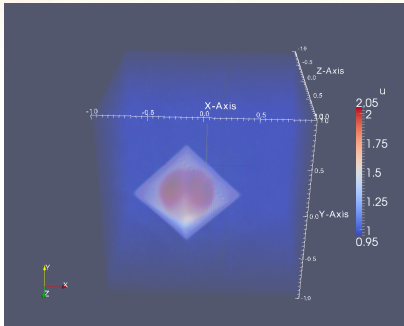
Mesh Size	Avg. GMRES Iters
64×64	4.7
128×128	4.6
256×256	4.7



k	f(x _k)	c(x _k)	L _x (x _k ,lam _k)	Delta _k	n _k	t _k	itcg
0	1.30240e-03	2.109265e-15	8.549061e-05	1.00e+02			
1	3.40849e-04	1.048282e-03	2.583983e-05	1.14e+02	4.03e-13	1.62e+01	8
2	7.39239e-05	8.268766e-04	7.580455e-06	1.45e+02	3.27e-01	2.07e+01	7
3	9.27937e-06	4.704437e-04	1.822981e-06	1.45e+02	1.89e-01	1.86e+01	6
4	7.53843e-07	7.155762e-04	2.777201e-07	1.45e+02	8.29e-02	1.78e+01	13
5	1.71122e-07	2.617447e-04	3.876637e-08	1.45e+02	2.22e-02	9.81e+00	22
6	1.24507e-07	5.506526e-05	3.219040e-09	1.45e+02	5.39e-03	4.31e+00	33
7	1.24282e-07	2.291248e-06	1.023034e-10	1.45e+02	1.06e-03	8.40e-01	35
8	1.24309e-07	3.396201e-09	1.979246e-12	1.45e+02	3.99e-05	2.93e-02	34

CG iters: 158

Thermal inversion in 3D



- Setup similar to the 2D example.
- One cycle of ML used as “inexact solver” for forward and adjoint problems within the augmented system preconditioner.
- One million elements, runs on my workstation.
- Parallelizes and scales as well as ML does:
 - (1) 99% of compute time spent solving linear systems,
 - (2) mesh-independent number of linear system solves.

Thermal inversion in 3D

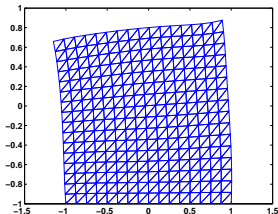
Avg. GMRES Iters = 4.8

k	f(x_k)	c(x_k)	L_x(x_k, lam_k)	Delta_k	n_k	t_k	itcg
0	7.73411e-07	1.101432e-15	3.318024e-08	1.00e+02			
1	1.33749e-07	1.218483e-04	1.770506e-08	1.00e+02	2.08e-13	1.00e+02	13
2	1.82025e-07	4.942232e-05	1.785741e-08	1.57e+02	1.00e-01	2.24e+01	14
3	2.96425e-08	2.296015e-04	6.570962e-09	1.96e+01	5.36e-03	1.96e+01	16
4	8.10717e-09	7.962145e-05	9.802347e-10	1.37e+02	1.50e-02	1.96e+01	10
5	6.10845e-09	6.779850e-05	1.724346e-10	1.37e+02	3.98e-03	2.16e+01	30
6	6.02571e-09	8.701002e-06	2.331547e-11	1.37e+02	1.03e-03	4.08e+00	27
7	6.02174e-09	1.318622e-07	2.630290e-12	1.37e+02	9.47e-05	2.47e+00	37
8	6.02176e-09	1.368711e-10	1.170072e-13	1.37e+02	2.10e-06	6.79e-02	33

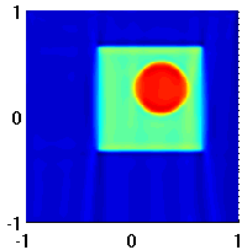
CG iters: 180

Nonlinear elastic inversion in 2D

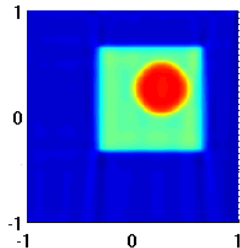
Nonlinear elastic deformation



Computed shear modulus μ



Computed bulk modulus κ



Nonlinear elastic inversion in 2D

Mesh Size	Avg. GMRES Iters
32×32	9.1
64×64	9.0
128×128	9.7

k	f(x_k)	c(x_k)	L_x(x_k, lam_k)	Delta_k	n_k	t_k	itcg
0	1.74452e-03	1.588574e-15	2.846439e-03	1.00e+02			
1	1.37411e-04	1.997871e-03	5.556572e-05	1.00e+02	3.16e-14	3.83e+00	56
2	4.73910e-06	4.318096e-03	2.443777e-06	1.00e+02	2.52e-01	6.38e+00	7
3	3.10439e-06	5.943678e-04	1.150126e-06	1.00e+02	1.13e-01	3.17e+00	7
4	2.14699e-06	6.900686e-04	9.066461e-08	1.00e+02	8.58e-03	3.52e+00	15
5	2.14079e-06	8.124125e-06	7.329380e-08	1.00e+02	6.31e-03	2.41e-01	8
6	2.13387e-06	1.199189e-05	4.643000e-09	1.00e+02	3.78e-05	4.29e-01	23
7	2.13393e-06	3.457890e-08	1.033532e-09	1.00e+02	8.60e-05	1.35e-02	11
8	2.13393e-06	2.451197e-09	4.289974e-11	1.00e+02	5.27e-07	6.11e-03	24

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Summary

- Full-space matrix-free SQP enables the scalable solution of very large PDE-constrained optimization problems.
- Second-order convergence, iterative linear system solves.
- Demonstrated on inverse problems in heat transfer and elasticity.
- Recently implemented multi-frequency acoustic source inversion, with optimality systems approaching 3 billion variables; in collaboration with T. Walsh (Sandia) and W. Aquino (Duke).
- Applications to a variety of governing physics coming soon.
- Extensions to stochastic optimal design and inverse problems.

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