PDE preconditioning perspective on **FFT**-accelerated solvers for micromechanics



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CERMICS Applied Mathematics Seminar École nationale des ponts et chaussées, Champs-sur-Marne 26 March 2025



Unit cell/corrector problem in image-based homogenization



$$-\nabla \cdot \left[\boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}) \nabla u^*(\boldsymbol{x}) \right] = \nabla \cdot \left[\boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}) \boldsymbol{E} \right] \text{ for } \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathcal{Y} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$$

 $u^* \text{ is periodic on } \partial \mathcal{Y}, \quad \int_{\mathcal{Y}} u^*(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{x} = 0$



Reformulation using polarization



$$\begin{split} -\nabla\cdot\left[\left(\boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x})-\boldsymbol{A}^{(0)}+\boldsymbol{A}^{(0)}\right)\nabla u^{*}(\boldsymbol{x})\right] &= \nabla\cdot\left[\left(\boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x})-\boldsymbol{A}^{(0)}\right)\boldsymbol{E}\right] \text{ for } \boldsymbol{x}\in\mathcal{Y}\subset\mathbb{R}^{d}\\ u^{*} \text{ is periodic on }\partial\mathcal{Y}, \quad \int_{\mathcal{Y}}u^{*}(\boldsymbol{x})\,\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}=0, \end{split}$$

e.g., Z. Hashin, S. Shtrikman, J Appl Phys 33, 3125 (1962)



Reformulation using polarization



e.g., Z. Hashin, S. Shtrikman, J Appl Phys 33, 3125 (1962)



Lippmann-Schwinger equation



$$egin{aligned} e^*(m{x}) = -\int_{\mathcal{Y}} \Gamma^{(0)}(m{x}-m{y}) \, \overbrace{\left(m{A}(m{y})-m{A}^{(0)}
ight)\left(E+e^*(m{y})
ight)}^{m{p}(m{y})} \, \mathrm{d}m{y} \end{aligned}$$



Moulinec-Suquet basic scheme



H. Moulinec, P. Suquet, C R Acad Sci Paris 318, 1417 (1994);
H. Moulinec, P. Suquet, Comput Methods Appl Mech Eng 157, 69 (1998)

Moulinec-Suguet basic scheme

C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, t. 318, Série II, p. 1417-1423, 1994

Mécanique des solides/Mechanics of Solids

A fast numerical method for computing the linear and nonlinear mechanical properties of composites

Hervé MOULINEC and Pierre SUQUET

Abstract - This Note is devoted to a new iterative algorithm to compute the local and overall response of a composite from images of its (complex) microstructure. The elastic problem for a heterogeneous material is formulated with the help of a homogeneous reference medium and written under the form of a periodic Lippman-Schwinger equation. Using the fact that the Green's function of the pertinent operator is known explicitely in Fourier space, this equation is solved iteratively. The method is extended to the case where the individual constituents are elastic-plastic Von Mises materials with isotronic hardening

Une méthode de calcul rapide des propriétés macroscopiques linéaires et non linéaires de composites

Résumé - Cette Note est consacrée à un nouvel algorithme de détermination de la rénonse locale et du comportement global d'un composite, à partir d'images complexes de sa microstructure. Le problème d'une hétéropénéité élastique est tout d'abord reformulé à l'aide d'un milieu homogène de référence ce qui conduit à une équation de Lippman-Schwinger périodique. Cette équation, dont la fonction de Green est explicitement connue dans l'espace de Fourier, est résolue itérativement. L'algorithme proposé est étendu à des phases présentant un comportement élasto-plastique avec écrouissage.

Version française abrégée - Le but de cette étude est de développer une méthode de simulation numérique du comportement d'un matériau hétérogène à partir d'images réelles ou A deadard as a set of all and a set of a second second set of the set of the

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Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg. 157 (1998) 69-94

Computer methods in anntied mechanics and engineering

A numerical method for computing the overall response of nonlinear composites with complex microstructure

H. Moulinec, P. Suquet* L.M.A./C.N.R.S.. 31 Chemin Joseph Aiguier, 13402 Marseille, Cedex 20, France

Received 28 May 1996: revised 1 May 1997

Abstract

The local and overall responses of poplinear composites are classically investigated by the Finite Element Method. We propose an alternate method based on Fourier series which avoids meshing and which makes direct use of microstructure images. It is based on the exact expression of the Green function of a linear elastic and homogeneous comparison material. First, the case of elastic nonhomogeneous constituents is considered and an iterative procedure is proposed to solve the Lingman-Schwinger equation which naturally arises in the problem. Then, the method is extended to non-linear constituents by a step-by-step integration in time. The accuracy of the method is assessed by varying the spatial resolution of the microstructures. The flexibility of the method allows it to serve for a large variety of microstructures © 1998 Elsevier Science S A

... alternative method to the Finite Element Method based on Fourier series

H. Moulinec, P. Suguet, C R Acad Sci Paris 318, 1417 (1994); H. Moulinec, P. Suguet, Comput Methods Appl Mech Eng 157, 69 (1998)





Fast and memory-efficient solver



- Matrix-free
- Easy to implement
- Convergence independent of mesh size + efficiency of FFT
- $\approx 10\times$ faster than finite elements

A. Vidyasagar, A. D. Tutcuoglu, D. M. Kochmann, Comput Methods Appl Mech Eng 335, 584 (2018)



Why Moulinec-Suquet scheme works?



- Contributions in \approx (1994 + 20) and (mostly) equivalent
- French stream: Sébastien Brisard and Luc Dormieux
 - Hashin-Shtrikman variational principles
- German stream: Matti Schneider
 - \circ gradient descent
- Czech stream: Jaroslav Vondřejc, Jan Zeman, and Ivo Marek[†]
 - Fourier-Galerkin method



Our initial point

- $\bullet~$ Lippmann-Schwinger equation $\rightarrow~$ non-symmetric linear system via the trigonometric collocation
- System is solvable by the Conjugate Gradient algorithm
- Performance independent of $oldsymbol{A}^{(0)}$



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J. Zeman, J. Vondřejc, J. Novák, I. Marek, J Comput Phys 229 (2010)



Discrete Laplace/Green's function preconditioning

Application to unit cell problem

Results

Conclusions



• Model problem

$$\begin{aligned} - \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}) \boldsymbol{\nabla} u(\boldsymbol{x}) \end{bmatrix} &= f(\boldsymbol{x}) & \quad \text{for } \boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega \\ u(\boldsymbol{x}) &= 0 & \quad \text{for } \boldsymbol{x} \in \partial \Omega \end{aligned}$$

• Weak form: Find $u \in H^1_0(\Omega)$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{\nabla} v(\boldsymbol{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}) \boldsymbol{\nabla} u(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{x} = \int_{\Omega} v(\boldsymbol{x}) f(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{x} \text{ for all } v \in H^1_0(\Omega)$$

• Finite element approximation

$$egin{aligned} u(m{x}) &pprox \sum_{i=1}^N u(m{x}_{\mathrm{N}}^i) arphi_i(m{x}) ext{ for } m{x} \in \Omega \ v(m{x}) &pprox \sum_{j=1}^N v(m{x}_{\mathrm{N}}^j) arphi_j(m{x}) ext{ for } m{x} \in \Omega \end{aligned}$$







• Galerkin projection: Find $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ such that

$$\mathbf{v}^\mathsf{T} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}^\mathsf{T} \mathbf{f}$$
 for all $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N$

where
$$(i, j = 1, ..., N)$$

 $u_i = u(\boldsymbol{x}_N^i), \quad v_j = v(\boldsymbol{x}_N^j)$
 $K_{ji} = \int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{\nabla} \varphi_j(\boldsymbol{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}) \boldsymbol{\nabla} \varphi_i(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{x}$
 $f_j = \int_{\Omega} \varphi_j(\boldsymbol{x}) f(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{x}$

Reference problem

$$K_{ji}^{(0)} = \int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{\nabla} \varphi_j(\boldsymbol{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}^{(0)}(\boldsymbol{x}) \boldsymbol{\nabla} \varphi_i(\boldsymbol{x}) \,\mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{x}$$





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Discrete Laplace/Green's function preconditioning

Preconditioned system of equations

• Find $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ such that

$$\left(\mathsf{K}^{(0)}
ight)^{-1}\mathsf{K}\mathsf{u}=\left(\mathsf{K}^{(0)}
ight)^{-1}\mathsf{f}$$

• For the generalized eigenvalue problem

$$\mathbf{K} \boldsymbol{\phi}_k = \lambda_k \mathbf{K}^{(0)} \boldsymbol{\phi}_k$$
 for $k = 1, \dots, N$

characterize all eigenvalues λ_k .

- Previous works (mostly concerned with $N \to \infty$)
 - 1. B. F. Nielsen, A. Tveito, W. Hackbusch, IMA J Numer Anal 29, 24 (2009)
 - 2. T. Gergelits, K.-A. Mardal, B. F. Nielsen, Z. Strakoš, SIAM J Numer Anal 57, 1369 (2019)
 - 3. T. Gergelits, B. F. Nielsen, Z. Strakoš, SIAM J Numer Anal 58, 2193 (2020)
 - 4. T. Gergelits, B. F. Nielsen, Z. Strakoš, Numer Algorithms 91, 301 (2022)
 - 5. B. F. Nielsen, Z. Strakoš, SIAM Rev 66, 125 (2024)



Our alternative to 2

Guaranteed upper-lower bounds on all eigenvalues For each $j = 1, \ldots, N$, determine

$$egin{aligned} & \underline{\lambda}_j = \mathrm{ess}\, \mathrm{inf}_{oldsymbol{x}\in\mathcal{P}_j}\, \lambda_{\min}\Big(ig(oldsymbol{A}^{(0)}(oldsymbol{x})\Big)^{-1}oldsymbol{A}(oldsymbol{x})\Big) \ & \overline{\lambda}_j = \mathrm{ess}\, \mathrm{sup}_{oldsymbol{x}\in\mathcal{P}_j}\, \lambda_{\max}\Big(ig(oldsymbol{A}^{(0)}(oldsymbol{x})\Big)^{-1}oldsymbol{A}(oldsymbol{x})\Big) \end{aligned}$$

and sort them in the non-decreasing order

$$\{\underline{\lambda}_1, \underline{\lambda}_2, \cdots, \underline{\lambda}_N\} \to \underline{\lambda}_{r(1)} \le \underline{\lambda}_{r(2)} \le \cdots \le \underline{\lambda}_{r(N)} \{\overline{\lambda}_1, \overline{\lambda}_2, \cdots, \overline{\lambda}_N\} \to \overline{\lambda}_{s(1)} \le \overline{\lambda}_{s(2)} \le \cdots \le \overline{\lambda}_{s(N)}$$

Then

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$$\underline{\lambda}_{r(k)} \leq \lambda_k \leq \overline{\lambda}_{s(k)}$$
 for $k = 1, \dots, N$

M. Ladecký, I. Pultarová, J. Zeman, Appl Math 66, 21 (2021)





Auxiliary lemma

For $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \Omega$, let

$$c^{\mathcal{D}} = \mathrm{ess} \, \mathrm{inf}_{oldsymbol{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \, \lambda_{\min} \Big(ig(oldsymbol{A}^{(0)}(oldsymbol{x}) ig)^{-1} oldsymbol{A}(oldsymbol{x}) \Big)$$

Then for any $v \in H_0^1(\Omega), v \neq 0$

 $c^{\mathcal{D}} \leq \frac{\int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}) \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}}{\int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}^{(0)}(\boldsymbol{x}) \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}}$

From (*), we have

 $c^\mathcal{D}m{w}\cdotm{A}^{(0)}(m{x})m{w}\leqm{w}\cdotm{A}(m{x})m{w}$ for all $m{w}\in\mathbb{R}^d$ and for almost all $m{x}\in\mathcal{D}$

Take $oldsymbol{
abla} v(oldsymbol{x}) = oldsymbol{w}$ for $oldsymbol{x} \in \mathcal{D}$ and integrate over \mathcal{D} .

M. Ladecký, I. Pultarová, J. Zeman, Appl Math 66, 21 (2021)



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Take $\nabla v(x) = w$ for $x \in D$ and integrate over D.

M. Ladecký, I. Pultarová, J. Zeman, Appl Math 66, 21 (2021)



(*)

Courant-Fischer (C-F) min-max theorem For K and $\mathbf{K}^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}_{\text{spd}}$, the generalized eigenvalues satisfy $\lambda_k = \max_{\mathbb{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N, \dim(\mathbb{S}) = N - k + 1} \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{S}, \mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}} \frac{\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{K}^{(0)} \mathbf{v}}$

For k = 1, set $\mathbb{I} = \{1, \dots, N\}$. By C-F theorem,

$$\lambda_1 = \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N, \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{I}} \neq \mathbf{0}} \ \frac{\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathsf{K} \mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathsf{K}^{(0)} \mathbf{v}}$$

Auxiliary lemma with $\mathcal{D} = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{I}} \mathcal{P}_k$ and $v(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{I}} v_i \varphi_i(\boldsymbol{x}), v \neq 0$ entails $\underline{\lambda}_{r(1)} = c^{\mathcal{D}} \leq \min_{\boldsymbol{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N, \boldsymbol{v}_{\mathbb{I}} \neq \boldsymbol{0}} \frac{\int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}) \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}}{\int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}^{(0)}(\boldsymbol{x}) \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}} = \min_{\boldsymbol{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N, \boldsymbol{v}_{\mathbb{I}} \neq \boldsymbol{0}} \frac{\boldsymbol{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{K} \boldsymbol{v}}{\boldsymbol{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{K}^{(0)} \boldsymbol{v}} = \lambda_1$



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For k = 2, set $\mathbb{I} = \{1, \dots, N\} \setminus \{r(1)\}$. By C-F theorem, $\lambda_2 \ge \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N, \mathbf{v}_{\mathbb{I}} \neq \mathbf{0}} \frac{\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{K}^{(0)} \mathbf{v}}$

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Outline of the proof illustrated



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Example



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Example



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Extensions

- M. Ladecký, I. Pultarová, J. Zeman, Appl Math 66, 21 (2021)
 - $\circ~$ Mixed boundary conditions
 - Periodic boundary conditions
 - Linear elasticity problems
- I. Pultarová, M. Ladecký, Numer Linear Algebra Appl 28, e2382 (2021)
 - Algebraic multilevel preconditioning
 - Stochastic Galerkin finite element method
 - $\circ~$ Finite difference method

$$\mathbf{K} = \sum_{e=1}^{M} \mathbf{K}_{e}, \qquad \mathbf{K}^{(0)} = \sum_{e=1}^{M} \mathbf{K}_{e}^{(0)}, \qquad \mathbf{K}_{e} \text{ and } \mathbf{K}_{e}^{(0)} \text{ are symmetric and have the same kernels}$$

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- L. Gaynutdinova, et al., Numer Linear Algebra Appl 31, e2549 (2024)
 - Elliptic problems discretized with Discontinuous Galerkin method (SIPG)
 - $\circ~$ Convection-diffusion-reaction problems discretized with Galerkin method
 - Patches of indices (fully algebraic)



Discrete Laplace/Green's function preconditioning

Application to unit cell problem

Results

Conclusions



Laplace/Green's function preconditioning viewpoint



M. Schneider, D. Merkert, M. Kabel, *Int J Num Meth Engng* **109**, 1461 (2017), M. Leuschner, F. Fritzen, *Comput Mech* **62**, 359 (2018), S. Lucarini, J. Segurado, *Int J Eng Sci* **144**, 103131 (2019), ...



Regular finite element meshes



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23 / 37 M. Ladecký, I. Pultarová & J. Zeman: PDE preconditioning perspective

Structure of the preconditioned problem

$$K_{ji}^{e} = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} w_{q}^{q} \nabla \varphi_{j}(\boldsymbol{x}_{q}^{q}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}_{q}^{q}) \nabla \varphi_{i}(\boldsymbol{x}_{q}^{q}), \qquad f_{j}^{e} = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} w_{q}^{q} \nabla \varphi_{j}(\boldsymbol{x}_{q}^{q}) \cdot \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{x}_{q}^{q}) \boldsymbol{E}, \quad e = 1, \dots, M$$

System of linear equations

$$(\overbrace{\mathbf{D}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{A}^{(0)}\mathbf{D}}^{\mathbf{K}^{(0)}})^{-1}\overbrace{(\mathbf{D}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{D})}^{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{u} = -(\overbrace{\mathbf{D}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{A}^{(0)}\mathbf{D}}^{\mathbf{K}^{(0)}})^{-1}\overbrace{(\mathbf{D}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{E})}^{\mathbf{f}}$$

- (Block-) diagonal matrices W, A, and $\mathbf{A}^{(0)}$ at integration points
- Discrete gradient **D** and divergence \mathbf{D}^{T} matrices are structured and sparse (short stencil)
- Multiplication with K with linear complexity
- Spectrum of the preconditioned matrix (almost) discretization-independent
- How to apply preconditioner efficiently (\equiv using FFT)?



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System of linear equations

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Block-circulant structure of $\mathbf{K}^{(0)}$





Inversion of of $\mathbf{K}^{(0)}$

• Because $(\widehat{\mathbf{K}}^{(0)})^{-1}$ is diagonal

$$(\mathbf{K}^{(0)})^{-1} = \mathbf{F}^{-1} (\widehat{\mathbf{K}}^{(0)})^{-1} \mathbf{F}$$

• Row extraction ($\mathbf{K}^{(0)}$ is never assembled)

$$\mathbf{K}_{:,1}^{(0)} = \mathbf{K}^{(0)} \begin{bmatrix} 1\\0\\\vdots\\0 \end{bmatrix}$$

• Diagonal

$$\mathsf{diag}(\widehat{\mathbf{K}}^{(0)}) = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{K}^{(0)}_{:,1}$$







Discrete Laplace/Green's function preconditioning

Application to unit cell problem

Results

Conclusions



Results (3D small-strain elasticity)





• Independence of mesh size (Q_8 elements)



Results (3D small-strain elasticity)



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Results (2D finite-strain elasto-plasticity)



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	$oldsymbol{A}^{(0)}$	Fourier	linear FE	bilinear FE
Newton		11	9	10
	Ι	1,012	861	761
(P)CG	$I_{ m sym}$	781	609	540
	$oldsymbol{A}_{ ext{mean}}^{(0)}$	585	457	407

• Choice of reference problem's coefficients (T_3 and Q_4 elements)



Fourier basis



linear FE basis (T_3 elements)



Aggregates Cement paste

ASR gel pockets

Damaged pixels

• Modeling Alkali-Silica Reaction in concrete R. J. Leute, *et al., J Comput Phys* **453**, 110931 (2022)







• Modeling Alkali-Silica Reaction in concrete (Q_4 elements)

A. Falsafi, Ph.D. thesis, EPFL, Lausanne (2022)







• Modeling Alkali-Silica Reaction in concrete (underintegrated Q_4 elements)

A. Falsafi, Ph.D. thesis, EPFL, Lausanne (2022)







- Modeling Alkali-Silica Reaction in concrete (T₃ elements)
- A. Falsafi, Ph.D. thesis, EPFL, Lausanne (2022)







• Modeling Alkali-Silica Reaction in concrete (T_3 elements on isotropic grid)

A. Falsafi, Ph.D. thesis, EPFL, Lausanne (2022)





 Modeling Alkali-Silica Reaction in concrete (image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alkali-silica_reaction)





Discrete Laplace/Green's function preconditioning

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Conclusions

- Linear-algebraic perspective on FFT-based solvers \equiv Laplace/Green's function preconditioning
- All eigenvalues of the preconditioned matrix can be bounded by coefficients
- Limited influence of grid spacing
- Extends to other scenarios, e.g., finite differences, stochastic Galerkin, discontinuous Galerkin
- Provides the basis for generic regular finite element discretization
- Preconditioner constructed by purely algebraic means

Thank you for the opportunity, your time, and patience!

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Interested in details?

- Ladecký, M., Pultarová, I. & Z. J. Guaranteed two-sided bounds on all eigenvalues of preconditioned diffusion and elasticity problems solved by the finite element method. *Appl Math* 66, 21–42 (2021).
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- Ladecký, M., Leute, R.J., Falsafi, A., Pultarová, I., Pastewka, L., Junge, T. & Z. J. An optimal preconditioned FFT-accelerated finite element solver for homogenization. *Appl Math Comput* 446, 127835 (2023).









Additional contributions





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Thanks to all for the pleasant collaborations!



