# Technische Universität Chemnitz <br> Sonderforschungsbereich 393 <br> Numerische Simulation auf massiv parallelen Rechnern 

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# The MTS-BPX-preconditioner for the $p$-Version of the fem 

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#### Abstract

Finding a fast solver for the inner problem in a $D D$ preconditioner for the $p$-version of the FEM is a difficult question. We discovered, that the system matrix for the inner problem in any dimension has a similar structure to matrices resulting from discretizations of $-y^{2} u_{x x}-x^{2} u_{y y}$ in the unit square using $h$-version of the FEM. Numerical experiments show that the MTS-BPX-preconditioner with a tridiagonal scaling brings good results.


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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Origin of the problem from the $p$-version

Jensen/Korneev [15] and Ivanov/Korneev [13],[14] developed preconditioniers for the $p$-version of the FEM in a two-dimensional domain. They used $D D$-methods. The unknowns are splitted into 3 groups, the interior, the edge and vertex unknowns

$$
A=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
A_{\text {vert }} & A_{\text {vert }, \text { edg }} & A_{\text {vert }, \text { int }} \\
A_{\text {edg,vert }} & A_{\text {edg }} & A_{\text {edg,int }} \\
A_{\text {int }, \text { vert }} & A_{\text {int }, \text { edg }} & A_{\text {int }}
\end{array}\right) .
$$

The vertex unknowns can be solved separately, cf. Lemma 2.3 [13], or [3], using

$$
\tilde{C}=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
A_{\text {vert }} & & \\
& A_{\text {edg }} & A_{\text {edg }, \text { int }} \\
& A_{\text {int }, \text { edg }} & A_{\text {int }}
\end{array}\right)
$$

Computing the other unknowns, we factorize the remaining stiffness matrix as follows

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left(\begin{array}{cc}
A_{\text {edg }} & A_{\text {edg }, \text { int }} \\
A_{\text {int }, \text { edg }} & A_{\text {int }}
\end{array}\right)= & \left(\begin{array}{cc}
I & A_{\text {edg }, \text { int }} A_{\text {int }}^{-1} \\
& I
\end{array}\right) \\
& \left(\begin{array}{cc}
S & \\
& A_{\text {int }}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cc}
I \\
A_{i n t}^{-1} A_{\text {int }, \text { edg }} & I
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

with the Schur-komplement

$$
S=A_{e d g}-A_{e d g, i n t} A_{i n t}^{-1} A_{\text {int }, \text { edg }}
$$

Computing the interior unknowns, we solve a Dirichlet problem on each quadrangle. The vertex unknowns are computed via the Schur-complement $S . A_{\text {int }}$ is a block diagonal matrix, one block corresponds to one element.
Jensen/Korneev [15] considered as basis a scaled version of the integrated Legendre polynomials. They found a spectral equivalent preconditioner $C$ for each block of $A_{\text {int }}$, which has $\mathcal{O}\left(p^{2}\right)$ nonzero entries, where $p$ is the polynomial degree. In the case of parallelogram elements, the element stiffness matrix has $\mathcal{O}\left(p^{2}\right)$ nonzero entries, too. But, the suggested methods compute the solution in $\mathcal{O}\left(p^{3}\right)$ arithmetical operations. Finding a fast solver for the preconditioner was an open


Figure 1: Mesh for $h$-Version.
question. This paper is concerned to the construction of a more efficient preconditioner for the interior problem. The matrix $C$ is a block diagonal matrix of 4 blocks $C^{(i)}$. In [5], we derived a new preconditioner $C_{4}$ for each block of $C$. This matrix is defined via the matrices $D_{3}$ and $T_{3}$,

$$
\begin{align*}
D_{3} & =\operatorname{diag}\left(4\left(i^{2}+\frac{1}{6}\right)\right)_{i=1}^{n-1}  \tag{1.1}\\
T_{3} & =\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tridiag}(-1,2,-1)  \tag{1.2}\\
C_{4} & =D_{4} \otimes T_{3}+T_{3} \otimes D_{4} \tag{1.3}
\end{align*}
$$

We have proved in [5], that the condition number of matrix $C_{4}^{-1} C^{(i)}$ grows as $(1+\log p)$. But, the matrix $C_{4}$ has an another origin, which we will see now.

### 1.2 Formulation of the elliptic problem

We consider the following problem: Find $u \in H_{0}^{1}(\Omega)$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
a(u, v):=\int_{\Omega} y^{2} u_{x} v_{x}+x^{2} u_{y} v_{y} \mathrm{~d} x \mathrm{~d} y=\int_{\Omega} g v \mathrm{~d} x \mathrm{~d} y=:\langle g, v\rangle \tag{1.4}
\end{equation*}
$$



Figure 2: Notation.
$\forall v \in H_{0}^{1}(\Omega)$ holds. The domain $\Omega$ is the unit square $(0,1)^{2}$.
We want to find a numerical solution of (1.4) using finite elements. For this purpose, we introduce some notation. Let $k$ be the level of approximation and $n=2^{k}$. Let us introduce $x_{i j}^{k}=\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{n}\right)$, where $i, j=0, \ldots, n$. We divide $\Omega$ into congruent, isosceles, orthogonal triangles $\tau_{i j}^{s, k}$, where $0 \leq i, j<n$ and $s=1,2$, compare Figure 1. The triangle $\tau_{i j}^{1, k}$ has the three vertices $x_{i j}^{k}, x_{i+1, j+1}^{k}$ and $x_{i, j+1}^{k}$, $\tau_{i j}^{2, k}$ has the three vertices $x_{i j}^{k}, x_{i+1, j+1}^{k}$ and $x_{i+1, j}^{k}$, see Figure 2. We use linear finite elements on the mesh

$$
T_{k}=\left\{\tau_{i j}^{s, k}\right\}_{i, j=0, s=1}^{n-1, n-1,2}
$$

and denote by $\mathbb{V}_{k}$ the subspace of piecewise linear functions $\phi_{i j}^{k}$ with

$$
\phi_{i j}^{k} \in H_{0}^{1}(\Omega),\left.\phi_{i j}^{k}\right|_{\tau_{l m}^{s k}} \in P^{1}\left(\tau_{l m}^{s k}\right),
$$

where $P^{1}$ is the space of polynomials of degree $\leq 1$. A basis of $\mathbb{V}_{k}$ is the system of functions $\left\{\phi_{i j}^{k}\right\}_{i, j=1}^{n-1}$ uniquely defined by

$$
\phi_{i j}^{k}\left(x_{l m}^{k}\right)=\delta_{i l} \delta_{j m},
$$

where $\delta_{i l}$ is the Kronecker delta.
Now, we can formulate the discretized problem. Find $u^{k} \in \mathbb{V}_{k}$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
a\left(u^{k}, v^{k}\right)=\left\langle g, v^{k}\right\rangle \forall v \in \mathbb{V}_{k} \tag{1.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

holds. Problem (1.5) is equivalent to solving

$$
\begin{equation*}
K_{h, k} \underline{u}_{h}=\underline{g}_{h}, \tag{1.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{aligned}
K_{h, k} & =a\left(\phi_{i j}^{k}, \phi_{l m}^{k}\right)_{i, j, l, m=1}^{n-1}, \\
\underline{g}_{h} & =\left\langle g, \phi_{l m}^{k}\right\rangle_{l, m=1}^{n-1}, \\
u_{h} & =\sum_{i, j=1}^{n-1} u_{i j} \phi_{i j}^{k} .
\end{aligned}
$$

We obtain by an easy calculation [6], [7] and (1.3)

$$
\begin{equation*}
K_{h, k}=\frac{1}{2 n^{2}} C_{4}, \tag{1.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

if we insert the boundary condition and choose a proper permutation of the unknowns. For differential equations as $-u_{x x}-u_{y y}=f$ efficient solution techniques are found, the BPX-preconditioner [9], the HB-preconditioner [19], or multi-grid methods [11], [12]. But, we consider problems with variable coefficients which tend to 0 , if $x \rightarrow 0$ or $y \rightarrow 0$. The paper of Bramble and Zhang [10] considers multi-grid methods in a more general case as for Laplace.
The paper [8] deals with the solution of (1.6) by multi-grid using special linesmoothers in $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{2}\right)$ arithmetical operations. This proof is a multi-grid proof of the projection type, [18], [16] or [17].
An another method is the AMLI-method derived by Axelsson and Vassilevski [1], [2], where the idea of the smoother is used. Both methods analyze a strengthened Cauchy-inequality.
In this preprint, we give numerical examples for an improved BPX-preconditioner, a MTS-BPX-preconditioner.

## 2 The definition of the preconditioner

We are interested in a fast preconditioner for $K_{h, k}$. This preconditioner is an BPXlike [9] preconditioner with a multiple tridiagonal scaling (MTS). In [4], numerical experiments show an increasing of the number of iterations of the PCG-method by increasing the number of unknowns using the multiple diagonal scaling-BPX (MDS) preconditioner. But this preconditioner can be improved by the following modification. Let

$$
C_{h, k}^{-1}=\sum_{l=0}^{k} Q_{l} T_{l}^{-1} Q_{l}^{t},
$$

| Level | MDS-BPX | MTS-BPX |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\varepsilon=10^{-5}$ | $\varepsilon=10^{-5}$ | $\varepsilon=10^{-9}$ | $\varepsilon=10^{-16}$ |
| 2 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| 3 | 16 | 11 | 18 | 27 |
| 4 | 24 | 14 | 23 | 37 |
| 5 | 33 | 15 | 26 | 44 |
| 6 | 44 | 16 | 28 | 49 |
| 7 | 58 | 17 | 30 | 52 |
| 8 | 76 | 17 | 31 | 56 |
| 9 | 97 | 18 | 32 | 58 |

Table 1: Number of iterations of the PCG-method for solving $K_{p} \underline{u}_{p}=\underline{f}_{p}$ with the preconditioner $C_{h, k}$.
where $Q_{l}, l=0, \ldots, k$ is the basis transformation matrix from the basis $\left\{\phi_{i j}^{l}\right\}_{i, j=1}^{n_{l}} \in \mathbb{V}_{l}$ to $\left\{\phi_{i j}^{k}\right\}_{i, j=1}^{n_{k}} \in \mathbb{V}_{k}$, where $n_{j}=2^{j}-1$. The matrix $T_{l}$ is a tridiagonal matrix in which the absolute smaller entries of the off-diagonals of the matrix $K_{h, l}=\left(a_{i j}\right)_{i, j=1}^{n_{l}}$ are omitted. More precisely, all off-diagonals $a_{i j}$ with

$$
4\left|a_{i j}\right|<\max \left\{a_{i i}, a_{j j}\right\}
$$

are omitted. For more details, see [6], subsection 5.4. In this preprint, this matrix is denoted by $\tilde{K}_{h}$.

## 3 Numerical results

### 3.1 Results for $-y^{2} u_{x x}-x^{2} u_{y y}=f$

We give now results for solving

$$
K_{h, k} \underline{u}_{h}=\underline{f}_{h} .
$$

We solve this linear system of equations with PCG-method and the preconditioner $C_{h, k}$. The right-hand side $\underline{f}_{h}=(1, \ldots, 1)^{t}$ is chosen. Table 1 displays the number of iterations for several relative accuracies $\varepsilon$ in the preconditioned energy norm. We see in all cases constant number of iterations.

| $p$ | $\varepsilon=10^{-5}$ |  | $\varepsilon=10^{-9}$ |  | $\varepsilon=10^{-16}$ |  |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | It | time <br> [sec] | It | time <br> [sec] | It <br> time <br> [sec] |  |
| 7 | 12 | 0.002 | 17 | 0.002 | 22 | 0.004 |
| 15 | 15 | 0.013 | 24 | 0.023 | 38 | 0.031 |
| 31 | 18 | 0.071 | 28 | 0.102 | 47 | 0.176 |
| 63 | 20 | 0.327 | 32 | 0.523 | 54 | 0.889 |
| 127 | 22 | 1.672 | 37 | 2.773 | 62 | 4.987 |
| 255 | 25 | 8.324 | 42 | 13.688 | 70 | 22.916 |
| 511 | 27 | 37.956 | 46 | 63.922 | 78 | 108.561 |
| 1023 | 29 | 163.822 | 50 | 281.523 | 85 | 478.944 |

Table 2: Number of iterations of the PCG-method for solving $K_{p} \underline{u}_{p}=\underline{f}_{p}$ with the preconditioner $C_{h, k}$.

### 3.2 Results for the $p$-version

A typical reference example as preconditioner for the matrix $A_{\text {int }}$ is the matrix $K_{p}$, which is the element stiffness matrix on the unit square $(-1,1)^{2}$. Each element stiffness matrix is spectral equivalent to $K_{p}$ with respect to the polynomial degree $p$, [15].
Now, we can apply this preconditioner as preconditioner for each of the 4 blocks of the matrix $K_{p}$. Results for solving

$$
K_{p} \underline{u}_{p}=\underline{f}_{p}
$$

are given. This linear system of equations is solved with PCG-method and the preconditioner $C_{h, k}$. We choose $\underline{f}_{p}=(1, \ldots, 1)^{t}$. Table 2 displays the number of iterations for several relative accuracies $\varepsilon$ in the preconditioned energy norm. We see in all 3 cases a growing as $1+\log p$. This preconditioner is nearly as fast as the preconditioner $M_{1}^{S_{1}}$, which is a multi-grid preconditioner involving the tridiagonal matrices $T_{l}$ in the smoother $S_{l}=I-\omega T_{l}^{-1} K_{h, l}$ on level $l$.

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