

A Space Decomposition Framework for Nonlinear Optimization

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The problem

In this talk,

- to make things simple, consider an unconstrained problem

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- suppose that minimizing f directly is out of reach

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$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

- suppose that minimizing f directly is out of reach
- aim for methods based on decomposition of the variable space for
 - large-scale optimization with derivatives
 - relatively large derivative-free optimization
- concerns: parallelism, scalability, convergence with guaranteed rate

The idea

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- The division is done by **decomposing the space of variables**.

Space decomposition methods in optimization

- **Block coordinate descent** (deterministic/randomized)

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- M. C. Ferris and O. L. Mangasarian, [Parallel variable distribution](#), *SIAM J. Optim.*, 4:815–832, 1994
- M. Fukushima, [Parallel variable transformation in unconstrained optimization](#), *SIAM J. Optim.*, 8:658–672, 1998
- C. Audet, J. E. Dennis Jr., and S. Le Digabel, [Parallel space decomposition of the mesh adaptive direct search algorithm](#), *SIAM J. Optim.*, 19:1150–1170, 2008

Domain decomposition for PDEs and linear systems

- Successful applications to PDE-based optimization
- Parallel methods with fine [scalability](#)
- Many techniques worth learning:
[Restricted Additive Schwarz](#) (RAS), coarse space, . . .

Solve a linear system

Consider a linear system

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Ideally,

$$A \begin{pmatrix} \Delta u \\ \Delta v \\ \Delta w \\ \Delta x \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{pmatrix} - A \begin{pmatrix} u_k \\ v_k \\ w_k \\ x_k \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{Residual}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} a_k \\ b_k \\ c_k \\ d_k \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Divide the unknowns into groups, and update them separately.

$$(u, v, w, x) \xrightarrow{\text{divide}} (u, v, w) \text{ and } (v, w, x)$$

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Compute $(\Delta u, \Delta v, \Delta w)$, while x being fixed:

$$A \begin{pmatrix} \Delta u \\ \Delta v \\ \Delta w \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_k \\ b_k \\ c_k \\ d_k \end{pmatrix}$$

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How to define $(\Delta u, \Delta v, \Delta w, \Delta x)$?

Solve a linear system

Strategies to define $(\Delta u, \Delta v, \Delta w, \Delta x)$:

- $(\Delta u^{(1)}, \Delta v^{(1)} + \Delta v^{(2)}, \Delta w^{(1)} + \Delta w^{(2)}, \Delta x^{(2)})$

Corresponds to the **Additive Schwarz** (AS) preconditioner.

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- $(\Delta u^{(1)}, \theta^{(1)} \Delta v^{(1)} + \theta^{(2)} \Delta v^{(2)}, \xi^{(1)} \Delta w^{(1)} + \xi^{(2)} \Delta w^{(2)}, \Delta x^{(2)})$

with $\theta^{(1)} + \theta^{(2)} = \xi^{(1)} + \xi^{(2)} = 1$.

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with $\theta^{(1)} + \theta^{(2)} = \xi^{(1)} + \xi^{(2)} = 1$.

In specific, when $\theta^{(1)} = \xi^{(2)} = 1$ and $\theta^{(2)} = \xi^{(1)} = 0$, we have

- $(\Delta u^{(1)}, \Delta v^{(1)}, \Delta w^{(2)}, \Delta x^{(2)})$

Corresponds to the **Restricted Additive Schwarz** (RAS) preconditioner.

Solve a linear system

Another approach: let

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Then define the update to be

- $(\Delta u^{(1)}, \Delta v^{(1)} + \Delta v^{(2)}, \Delta w^{(1)} + \Delta w^{(2)}, \Delta x^{(2)})$
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X. C. Cai and M. Sarkis, "A restricted additive Schwarz preconditioner for general sparse linear systems", *SIAM J. Sci. Comput.*, 21:792–797, 1999

Solve a nonlinear optimization problem

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Consider a nonlinear optimization problem

$$\min f(u, v, w, x).$$

Given an approximate solution (u_k, v_k, w_k, x_k) , look for an update.

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- Compute $(\Delta u, \Delta v, \Delta w)$, while x being fixed:

$$\min f(u_k + \Delta u, v_k + \Delta v, w_k + \Delta w, x_k) \implies (\Delta u^{(1)}, \Delta v^{(1)}, \Delta w^{(1)}).$$

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- **Synchronization:** Define the update according to AS or RAS.

Solve a nonlinear optimization problem

What about ASH and RASH?

- Decomposition:

$$\min f(u_k + \Delta u, v_k + \Delta v, w_k + \Delta w, x_k) - \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial w} \Delta w$$
$$\implies (\Delta u^{(1)}, \Delta v^{(1)}, \Delta w^{(1)})$$

$$\min f(u_k, v_k + \Delta v, w_k + \Delta w, x_k + \Delta x) - \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial v} \Delta v$$
$$\implies (\Delta v^{(2)}, \Delta w^{(2)}, \Delta x^{(2)})$$

- Synchronization:

- ASH: $(\Delta u^{(1)}, \Delta v^{(1)} + \Delta v^{(2)}, \Delta w^{(1)} + \Delta w^{(2)}, \Delta x^{(2)})$

- RASH: $(\Delta u^{(1)}, \Delta v^{(1)}, \Delta w^{(2)}, \Delta x^{(2)})$ (Christian Groß, 2009)

The main ingredients

- Decomposition
 - Decompose the full space into (possibly overlapping) subspaces
 - Define subspace models of the objective function
 - Possibly modify the model gradients according to the overlaps
 - Minimize the (modified) models to obtain subspace steps
- Synchronization

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In all the cases, the “modifications” are always **linear transformations**.

The space decomposition framework

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Step 1. Decomposition.

For $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, pick $R^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n^{(i)} \times n}$, choose $h^{(i)} : \mathbb{R}^{n^{(i)}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying

$$\nabla h^{(i)}(0) = R^{(i)} \nabla f(x),$$

and then obtain $d^{(i)}$ by solving

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Step 2. Synchronization.

Pick $T^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n^{(i)}} \ (i = 1, \dots, m)$, and let

$$x := x + \sum_{i=1}^m T^{(i)} d^{(i)}.$$

Go to **Step 1**.

Remarks

- $\{R^{(i)}\}$ defines the decomposition; $\{T^{(i)}\}$ defines the synchronization.
- To have 4-dimensional RAS as presented before, take

$$R^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$T^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{0} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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- The framework covers AS, RAS, ASH, RASH, and many more.
- The subspaces are not necessarily coordinate subspaces.

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Is it possible to propose a general framework that

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- **accepts inexact solutions** of the subspace minimization,
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Yes of course!

A space transformation framework

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Pick $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then repeat the following.

Step 1. Transformation.

Pick $R \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times n}$, choose $h : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying

$$\nabla h(0) = R \nabla f(x),$$

and then obtain d by solving

$$\min h(d).$$

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Step 2. Reconstruction.

Pick $T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$, and let

$$x := x + Td.$$

Go to **Step 1**.

Space decomposition v.s. Space transformation

- Space transformation is a special case of space decomposition.
- Space decomposition is a special case of space transformation with

$$N = \sum_{i=1}^m n^{(i)}, \quad h = \sum_{i=1}^m h^{(i)},$$

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} R^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ R^{(m)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad T = \left(T^{(1)} \quad \dots \quad T^{(m)} \right),$$

and

$$d = \begin{pmatrix} d^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ d^{(m)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The space transformation framework: Globalized version

Pick $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\sigma > 0$. Then repeat the following.

Step 1. Transformation.

Pick $R \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times n}$, choose $h : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying

$$\nabla h(0) = R \nabla f(x),$$

and then obtain d by approximately solving

$$\min h(d) + \frac{\sigma}{2} \|d\|^2.$$

Step 2. Reconstruction.

Pick $T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$, and let

$$s = Td.$$

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Step 2. Reconstruction.

Pick $T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$, and let

$$s = Td.$$

Step 3. Evaluation.

Compute

$$\rho = \frac{f(x) - f(x + s)}{h(0) - h(d)}.$$

If ρ is big enough, then $x := x + s$, $\sigma := \sigma/2$; else $\sigma := 2\sigma$. Go to **Step 1**.

Assumption (Objective function and models)

- *f is bounded from below and continuously differentiable; ∇f is Lipschitz continuous with a Lipschitz constant $L_f > 0$.*
- *For each $k \geq 0$, h_k is continuously differentiable; ∇h_k is Lipschitz continuous with a common Lipschitz constant $L_h > 0$.*

Assumption (Assumptions on R_k and T_k)

- $\{\|R_k\|\}$ and $\{\|T_k\|\}$ are bounded.
 - $\{\|R_k g_k\|/\|g_k\|\}$ and $\{\|T_k^\top g_k\|/\|g_k\|\}$ are bounded away from zero.
 - $\{g_k^\top T_k R_k g_k / \|T_k^\top g_k\| \|R_k g_k\|\}$ is positive and bounded away from zero.
-
- To satisfy the assumptions, we do not need to know $g_k \equiv \nabla f(x_k)$!
 - Consider AS, RAS, ASH, and RASH ...

Assumptions

Let

$$\alpha_k = \frac{h_k(0) - [h_k(d_k) + \sigma_k \|d_k\|^2/2]}{\|\nabla h_k\|^2/[2(\sigma_k + L_h)]}.$$

Assumption (Assumption on subproblem solutions)

There exist constants $\zeta > 1$, $\alpha > 0$, $\sigma > 0$ such that

$$\alpha_k \geq \max \{ \zeta \sin^2 \varphi_k, \alpha \}$$

whenever $\sigma_k \geq \sigma$, where φ_k is the angle between $R_k g_k$ and $T_k^\top g_k$.

Theorem

Under the assumptions on f , h_k , R_k , T_k , and d_k , the sequence $\{x_k\}$ generated by the framework satisfies

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|\nabla f(x_k)\| = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \min_{0 \leq \ell \leq k} \|\nabla f(x_\ell)\| = \mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{k}).$$

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Assuming convexity or strong convexity of f , we have

$$\min_{0 \leq \ell \leq k} \|\nabla f(x_\ell)\| = \mathcal{O}(1/k) \quad \text{or} \quad \min_{0 \leq \ell \leq k} \|\nabla f(x_\ell)\| = \mathcal{O}(\exp(-ck))$$

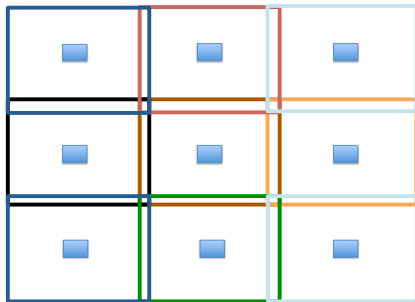
respectively.

2D Elliptic problem — quadratic

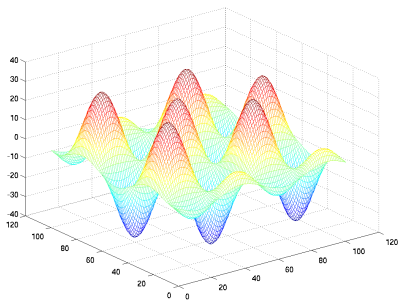
- Variational approach for $-\Delta u = f$ with zero boundary condition:

$$\min_v \frac{1}{2} a(v, v) - b(v)$$

- Finite differences are used on a cartesian grid
- The domain is split into $n_x \times n_y$ subdomains that may overlap
- A coarse grid correction may be used in addition



2D Elliptic problem — quadratic



$n_x \times n_y$	no overlap	overlap	overlap & coarse grid
2×2	223	80	55
3×3	304	107	65
4×4	375	128	64
5×5	445	151	66

1D Minimal surface problem — solved as a DFO

Observation

The framework is applicable to optimization without derivatives:

Define $h_k^{(i)} = f$, and solve the subproblems by DFO solvers.

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Minimal surface problem (1-D):

$$\min_x \int_0^1 \left[\left(\frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 + 1 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dt + x^2(1/2).$$

Discretization:

$$\min_x \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(x_i - x_{i-1})^2 + \frac{1}{n^2} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} + x_{n/2}^2.$$

- Subspaces

$$\mathcal{S}_k^{(1)} = \text{span} \{e_0, \dots, e_{(n+n_o)/2}\},$$
$$\mathcal{S}_k^{(2)} = \text{span} \{e_{(n-n_o)/2}, \dots, e_n\}.$$

Test $n_o = 0, 0.1n$, or $0.2n$.

- Subproblems are solved by [NEWUOA](#) (Powell, 2004).
- Synchronization strategy: RAS

1D Minimal surface problem — solved as a DFO

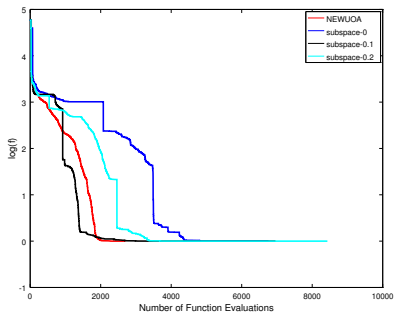


Figure: $n = 20$

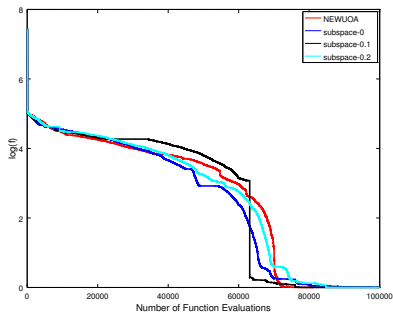


Figure: $n = 80$

1D Minimal surface problem — solved as a DFO

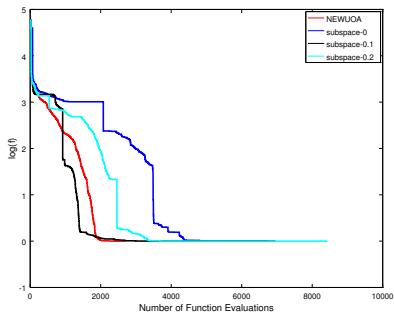


Figure: $n = 20$

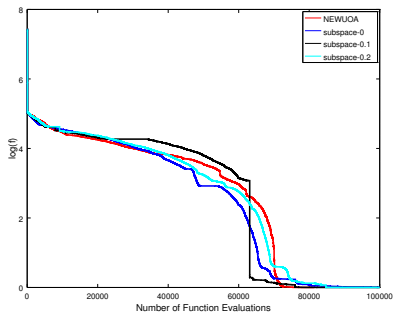


Figure: $n = 80$

Is this a fair play?

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 - extends classical techniques in Domain Decomposition to NLP
 - globally converges with guaranteed convergence rate
 - enables us to develop parallel methods with/without derivatives

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 - more subspaces
 - take advantage of massively parallel computation
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