

A Parareal Algorithm with Spectral Coarse Solver

Martin J. Gander¹, Mario Ohlberger², Stephan Rave²

¹Université de Genève, Switzerland ²University of Münster, Germany

Parallel-in-time algorithms for exascale applications

ICMS, Edinburgh, July 8, 2025









Projection-Based Model Order Reduction

(Reduced Basis Methods)

Full order model (basic example)

For given parameter $\mu \in \mathcal{P}$, find $u_h(\mu) \in V_h$ s.t.

 $(\dim V_h > 10^5)$

$$a(u_h({\color{red}\mu}),v_h;{\color{red}\mu})=f(v_h)$$

$$\forall v_h \in V_h$$





Projection-Based Model Order Reduction

(Reduced Basis Methods)

Full order model (basic example)

For given parameter $\mu \in \mathcal{P}$, find $u_h(\mu) \in V_h$ s.t.

 $(\dim V_h > 10^5)$

$$a(u_h(\underline{\mu}), v_h; \underline{\mu}) = f(v_h)$$

$$\forall v_h \in V_h$$

Reduced order model (via Galerkin projection)

For given $V_N \subset V_h$, find $u_N(\underline{\mu}) \in V_N$ s.t.

$$(\dim V_N \approx 10 - 100)$$

$$a(u_N({\color{magenta}\mu}),v_N;{\color{magenta}\mu})=f(v_N)$$

$$\forall v_N \in V_N$$





How to find V_N ?

Weak greedy basis generation

```
1: function WEAK-GREEDY(\mathcal{E}_{train} \subset \mathcal{P}, \varepsilon)
2: V_N \leftarrow \{0\}
3: while \max_{\mu \in \mathcal{E}_{train}} \mathsf{ERR\text{-}EST}(\mathsf{ROM\text{-}SOLVE}(\mu), \mu) > \varepsilon do
4: \mu^* \leftarrow \mathsf{arg\text{-}max}_{\mu \in \mathcal{E}_{train}} \mathsf{ERR\text{-}EST}(\mathsf{ROM\text{-}SOLVE}(\mu), \mu)
5: V_N \leftarrow \mathsf{span}(V_N \cup \{\mathsf{FOM\text{-}SOLVE}(\mu^*)\})
6: end while
7: return V_N
8: end function
```

ERR-EST

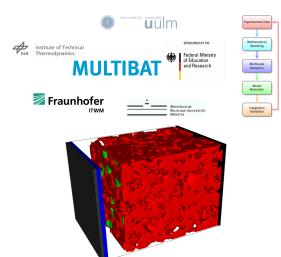
Use residual-based error estimate w.r.t. FOM (finite dimensional → can compute dual norms).

▶ Use parameter separability / hyperreduction to gain online efficiency.





Example: MOR for Li-Ion Battery Models



MULTIBAT: Gain understanding of degradation processes in rechargeable Li-lon Batteries through mathematical modeling and simulation at the pore scale.

FOM:

- > 2.920,000 DOFs
- ► Simulation time: ≈ 15.5h

ROM:

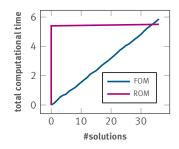
- ► Snapshots: 3
- ▶ dim $V_N = 245$
- ► Rel. err.: < 4.5 · 10⁻³
- ► Reduction time: ≈ 14h
- ► Simulation time ≈ 8m
- ▶ Speedup: 120





Caveats

- ▶ Potentially high offline time
- ► Especially when dim *P* large?



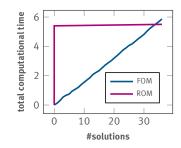


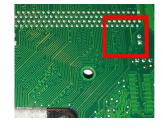


Caveats

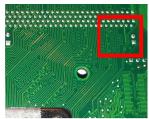
- ▶ Potentially high offline time
- ► Especially when dim *P* large?

Scenario: Many parameters with only local influence / local non-parametric changes.







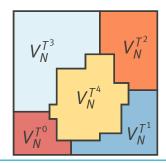






Localized MOR

- ▶ Coarse triangulation \mathcal{T}_H of Ω .
- ▶ Build local reduced spaces V_N^T , $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$ from local subproblems.
 - ▶ Use ideas from DD/multiscale methods.
 - ▶ Solve on oversampling domains with random/approximate boundary conditions.

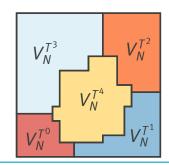






Localized MOR

- ▶ Coarse triangulation \mathcal{T}_H of Ω .
- ▶ Build local reduced spaces V_N^T , $T \in \mathcal{T}_H$ from local subproblems.
 - ▶ Use ideas from DD/multiscale methods.
 - ▶ Solve on oversampling domains with random/approximate boundary conditions.
- ▶ Global reduced space $V_N = \bigoplus_{T \in \mathcal{T}_H} V_N^T$.
- ▶ Various approaches:
 - overlapping / non-overlapping
 - different coupling approaches
 - ▶ interface spaces
 - **.**..







Transfer operator in time

$$\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{T}_n \to \mathcal{T}_{n+1}} : L^2(\Omega) \to L^2(\Omega)$$
, initial values at $\mathcal{T}_n \mapsto \text{solution}$ at \mathcal{T}_{n+1}





Transfer operator in time

$$\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{T}_n \to \mathcal{T}_{n+1}} \colon L^2(\Omega) \to L^2(\Omega)$$
, initial values at $\mathcal{T}_n \mapsto$ solution at \mathcal{T}_{n+1}

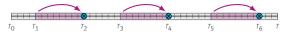
ightharpoonup For linear parabolic problems, $\mathcal{T}_{T_n
ightharpoonup T_{n+1}}$ is affine with compact linear part.



Transfer operator in time

$$\mathcal{T}_{T_n \to T_{n+1}}: L^2(\Omega) \to L^2(\Omega)$$
, initial values at $T_n \mapsto$ solution at T_{n+1}

- lacktriangle For linear parabolic problems, $\mathcal{T}_{T_n o T_{n+1}}$ is affine with compact linear part.
- ▶ [Schleuß, Smetana, 2023]:
 - ▶ V_N : = span{right-singular vectors of lin. part of $\mathcal{T}_{T_n \to T_{n+1}}$ + affine part | n = 1, ... N 1}
 - Use randomized SVD.
 - ▶ Select T_n based on PDE coefficients.



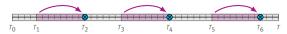




Transfer operator in time

$$\mathcal{T}_{T_n \to T_{n+1}}: L^2(\Omega) \to L^2(\Omega)$$
, initial values at $T_n \mapsto$ solution at T_{n+1}

- lacksquare For linear parabolic problems, $\mathcal{T}_{T_n o T_{n+1}}$ is affine with compact linear part.
- ▶ [Schleuß, Smetana, 2023]:
 - ▶ V_N : = span{right-singular vectors of lin. part of $\mathcal{T}_{T_n \to T_{n+1}}$ + affine part | n = 1, ... N 1}
 - Use randomized SVD.
 - ▶ Select *T_n* based on PDE coefficients.



▶ Iterative scheme to converge to arbitrary precision?





Parareal algorithm

Solve
$$\partial_t u(t) = f(t, u(t))$$
 using:

$$F_n u := F(u, T_{n-1}, T_n)$$

$$G_n u := G(u, T_{n-1}, T_n)$$

fine solver (accurate, but slow)

coarse solver (fast, but inaccurate)

Parareal iteration

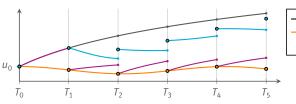
$$u_0^0 := u_0, \quad u_{n+1}^0 := G_{n+1} u_n^0$$

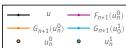
$$0 \le n < N$$

$$u_{n+1}^{k+1} \colon= F_{n+1} u_n^k + G_{n+1} u_n^{k+1} - G_{n+1} u_n^k$$

$$0 \le n < N, k \in \mathbb{N}_0$$

F_n can be computed in parallel!





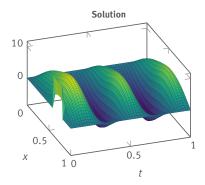




$$u_t(t,x) - u_{xx}(t,x) = 100 \cdot \sin(5\pi t)(1 + \cos(3\pi x)) \quad x \in (0,1)$$

$$u(0,x) = u_0(x) = 10x_{[0.6,0.8]} \qquad t \in [0,T]$$

$$u(0,t) = u(1,t) = 0$$



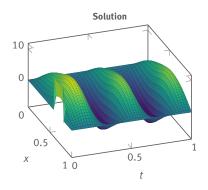


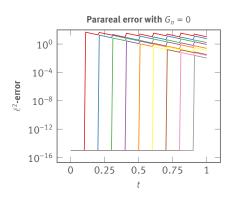


$$u_t(t,x) - u_{xx}(t,x) = 100 \cdot \sin(5\pi t)(1 + \cos(3\pi x)) \quad x \in (0,1)$$

$$u(0,x) = u_0(x) = 10x_{[0.6,0.8]} \qquad t \in [0,T]$$

$$u(0,t) = u(1,t) = 0$$







Exact solution:

$$\begin{split} u(x,t) &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \hat{u}_m(t) \sqrt{2} \sin(m\pi x) \\ \hat{u}_m(t) &= \hat{u}_{0,m} e^{-m^2 \pi^2 t} + \int_0^t \hat{f}_m(\tau) e^{-m^2 \pi^2 (t-\tau)} \mathrm{d}\tau, \end{split}$$





Exact solution:

$$\begin{split} u(x,t) &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \hat{u}_m(t) \sqrt{2} \sin(m\pi x) \\ \hat{u}_m(t) &= \hat{u}_{0,m} e^{-m^2\pi^2 t} + \int_0^t \hat{f}_m(\tau) e^{-m^2\pi^2 (t-\tau)} \mathrm{d}\tau, \end{split}$$

Coarse solver:

$$G_n u := \sum_{m=1}^R \hat{u}_m(T_n) \sqrt{2} \sin(m\pi x)$$

$$\hat{u}_m(T_n) := \hat{u}_m e^{-m^2 \pi^2 (T_n - T_{n-1})}$$





Exact solution:

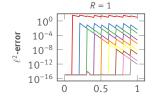
$$\begin{split} u(x,t) &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \hat{u}_m(t) \sqrt{2} \sin(m\pi x) \\ \hat{u}_m(t) &= \hat{u}_{0,m} e^{-m^2 \pi^2 t} + \int_0^t \hat{f}_m(\tau) e^{-m^2 \pi^2 (t-\tau)} \mathrm{d}\tau, \end{split}$$

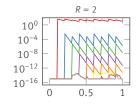
Coarse solver:

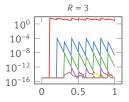
$$G_n u := \sum_{m=1}^{R} \hat{u}_m(T_n) \sqrt{2} \sin(m\pi x)$$

$$(T_n) := \hat{u}_n e^{-m^2 \pi^2 (T_n - T_{n-1})}$$

$$\hat{u}_m(T_n) \colon= \hat{u}_m e^{-m^2 \pi^2 (T_n - T_{n-1})}$$











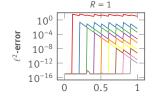
Exact solution:

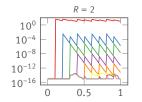
$$\begin{split} u(x,t) &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \hat{u}_m(t) \sqrt{2} \sin(m\pi x) \\ \hat{u}_m(t) &= \hat{u}_{0,m} e^{-m^2 \pi^2 t} + \int_0^t \hat{f}_m(\tau) e^{-m^2 \pi^2 (t-\tau)} \mathrm{d}\tau, \end{split}$$

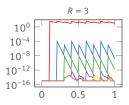
Coarse solver:

$$G_n u := \sum_{m=1}^R \hat{u}_m(T_n) \sqrt{2} \sin(m\pi x)$$

$$\hat{u}_m(T_n) := \hat{u}_m e^{-m^2 \pi^2 (T_n - T_{n-1})}$$







A priori error bound (time-invariant, self-adjoint case)

$$\max_{1 \le n \le N} \|e_n^k\| \le \left(\sup_{\lambda \in \sigma(F') \setminus \Gamma} |\lambda|\right)^k \cdot \max_{1 \le m \le N - k} \|e_m^0\|$$



▶ *V* Hilbert space. F_n : $V \to V$ affine linear with compact linear part F'_n :

$$F_n v = F'_n v + b_n,$$
 $b_n := F_n 0$

(e.g., linear parabolic PDE with time-varying coefficients)



▶ *V* Hilbert space. $F_n: V \to V$ affine linear with compact linear part $F'_n:$

$$F_n v = F'_n v + b_n, \qquad b_n := F_n 0$$

(e.g., linear parabolic PDE with time-varying coefficients)

▶ SVD of F'_n :

$$F'_n v = \sum_{r=1}^{\operatorname{rank} F'_n} \psi_{n,r} \cdot \sigma_{n,r} \cdot (\varphi_{n,r}, v)_V$$





▶ V Hilbert space. F_n : $V \to V$ affine linear with compact linear part F'_n :

$$F_n v = F'_n v + b_n,$$
 $b_n := F_n 0$

(e.g., linear parabolic PDE with time-varying coefficients)

▶ SVD of F'_n :

$$F_n'v = \sum_{r=1}^{\operatorname{rank} F_n'} \psi_{n,r} \cdot \sigma_{n,r} \cdot (\varphi_{n,r}, v)_V$$

Spectral coarse solver

$$G_n v := \sum_{r=1}^{R_n} \psi_{n,r} \cdot \sigma_{n,r} \cdot (\phi_{n,r}, v) + b_n.$$





▶ V Hilbert space. F_n : $V \to V$ affine linear with compact linear part F'_n :

$$F_n v = F'_n v + b_n,$$
 $b_n := F_n 0$

(e.g., linear parabolic PDE with time-varying coefficients)

▶ SVD of F'_n :

$$F_n'v = \sum_{r=1}^{\operatorname{rank} F_n'} \psi_{n,r} \cdot \sigma_{n,r} \cdot (\varphi_{n,r}, v)_V$$

Spectral coarse solver

$$G_n v := \sum_{r=1}^{R_n} \psi_{n,r} \cdot \sigma_{n,r} \cdot (\phi_{n,r}, v) + b_n.$$

Approximation error

$$||F_n - G_n|| = \sigma_{n,R_n+1}.$$





1. $W:= \text{span}\{F_n'\omega_1, \dots, F_n'\omega_{R_n+p}\}, \omega_i \text{ randomly chosen}$





- 1. $W:= \text{span}\{F'_n\omega_1, \dots, F'_n\omega_{R_n+p}\}, \omega_i \text{ randomly chosen}$
- 2. W_1, \dots, W_{R_n+p} ONB of W



- 1. $W:= \text{span}\{F'_n\omega_1, \dots, F'_n\omega_{R_n+p}\}, \omega_i \text{ randomly chosen}$
- 2. W_1, \ldots, W_{R_n+p} ONB of W
- 3. $X:= \text{span}\{F_n'^*w_1, \dots, F_n'^*w_{R_n+p}\}$





- 1. $W:= \text{span}\{F'_n\omega_1, \dots, F'_n\omega_{R_n+p}\}, \omega_i \text{ randomly chosen}$
- 2. W_1, \ldots, W_{R_n+p} ONB of W
- 3. $X:= \text{span}\{F_n^{\prime *} w_1, \dots, F_n^{\prime *} w_{R_n+p}\}$
- 4. v_1, \ldots, v_{R_n+p} ONB for X

$$F'_{n}v \approx P_{W}F'_{n}v = \sum_{i=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (w_{i}, F'_{n}v)_{V} = \sum_{i=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (F'^{*}_{n}w_{i}, v)_{V} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (F'^{*}_{n}w_{i}, v_{j})_{V} \cdot (v_{j}, v)_{V}.$$





- 1. $W:= \text{span}\{F'_n\omega_1, \dots, F'_n\omega_{R_n+p}\}, \omega_i \text{ randomly chosen}$
- 2. w_1, \ldots, w_{R_n+p} ONB of W
- 3. $X:= \text{span}\{F_n^{\prime *} w_1, \dots, F_n^{\prime *} w_{R_n+p}\}$
- 4. v_1, \ldots, v_{R_n+p} ONB for X

$$F'_{n}v \approx P_{W}F'_{n}v = \sum_{i=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (w_{i}, F'_{n}v)_{V} = \sum_{i=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (F'_{n}*w_{i}, v)_{V} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (F'_{n}*w_{i}, v_{j})_{V} \cdot (v_{j}, v)_{V}.$$

5. SVD of $M \in R^{(R_n+p)\times(R_n+p)}$, $M_{i,j} := (F_n'^*w_i, v_j)_V$ with singular values/vectors $\sigma_r, \underbrace{\psi}_{-r}, \underbrace{\sigma}_{-r}$





- 1. $W:= \text{span}\{F'_n\omega_1, \dots, F'_n\omega_{R_n+p}\}, \omega_i \text{ randomly chosen}$
- 2. W_1, \ldots, W_{R_n+p} ONB of W
- 3. $X:= \text{span}\{F_n^{\prime *} w_1, \dots, F_n^{\prime *} w_{R_n+p}\}$
- 4. v_1, \ldots, v_{R_n+p} ONB for X

$$F_n'v \approx P_W F_n'v = \sum_{i=1}^{R_n+p} w_i \cdot (w_i, F_n'v)_V = \sum_{i=1}^{R_n+p} w_i \cdot (F_n'^*w_i, v)_V = \sum_{i,j=1}^{R_n+p} w_i \cdot (F_n'^*w_i, v_j)_V \cdot (v_j, v)_V.$$

- 5. SVD of $M \in R^{(R_n+p)\times(R_n+p)}$, $M_{i,j} := (F_n'^*w_i, v_j)_V$ with singular values/vectors $\sigma_r, \underline{\psi}_r, \underline{\phi}_r$.
- 6. Return

$$\sigma_r, \quad \varphi_r := \sum_{i=1}^{R_n+p} \underline{\varphi}_{r,i} \cdot w_i, \quad \psi_r := \sum_{i=1}^{R_n+p} \underline{\psi}_{r,i} \cdot v_i \qquad 1 \le r \le R_n.$$





- 1. $W:= \text{span}\{F'_n\omega_1, \dots, F'_n\omega_{R_n+p}\}, \omega_i \text{ randomly chosen}$
- **2.** $w_1, ..., w_{R_n+p}$ ONB of *W*
- 3. $X:= \text{span}\{F_n^{\prime*}w_1, \dots, F_n^{\prime*}w_{R_n+D}\}$
- 4. v_1, \ldots, v_{R_n+p} ONB for X

$$F'_{n}v \approx P_{W}F'_{n}v = \sum_{i=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (w_{i}, F'_{n}v)_{V} = \sum_{i=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (F'_{n}*w_{i}, v)_{V} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{R_{n}+p} w_{i} \cdot (F'_{n}*w_{i}, v_{j})_{V} \cdot (v_{j}, v)_{V}.$$

- 5. SVD of $M \in R^{(R_n+p)\times(R_n+p)}$, $M_{i,j} := (F_n'^*w_i, v_j)_V$ with singular values/vectors $\sigma_r, \underline{\psi}_r, \underline{\phi}_r$.
- 6. Return

$$\sigma_r, \quad \varphi_r := \sum_{i=1}^{R_n+p} \underline{\varphi}_{r,i} \cdot w_i, \quad \psi_r := \sum_{i=1}^{R_n+p} \underline{\psi}_{r,i} \cdot v_i \qquad 1 \leq r \leq R_n.$$

Computational effort

 $R_n + p + 1$ eval. of F_n (embarrasingly parallel) and $R_n + p$ eval. of F_n (embarassingly parallel)



A Priori Error Bounds

Superlinear convergence

Let

$$\delta = \max_{1 \le n \le N} \sigma_{n,1} \qquad \varepsilon = \max_{1 \le n \le N} \sigma_{n,R_n+1}$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \|e_n^k\| &\leq \varepsilon^k \sum_{m=1}^{n-k} \binom{n-m}{k-1} \delta^{n-m-k} \|e_m^0\| \\ &\leq 2\varepsilon^k \sum_{m=1}^{n-k-1} \binom{n-m}{k} \delta^{n-m-k} \|b_m\| \end{aligned}$$

Linear convergence (long time)

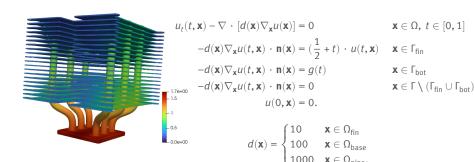
If δ < 1, we have for $k \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$\max_{1 \le n \le N} \|e_n^k\| \le \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{1 - \delta}\right)^k \max_{1 \le n \le N - k} \|e_n^0\|$$





Example: Heat conduction with time-varying Robin boundary



- ▶ P1 simplicial FEs
- ▶ 444,693 DOFs
- N = 25

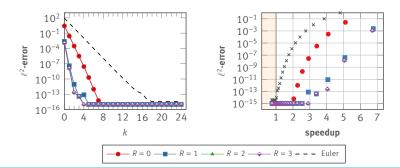
$$g(t) = \begin{cases} 50 \cdot \frac{t}{0.3} & t \leq 0.3 \\ 50 \cdot \left(1 + \operatorname{sign}\left(\sin\left(\frac{t - 0.3}{0.3} \cdot 8 \cdot \pi\right)\right)\right) & 0.3 < t \leq 0.6 \\ 50 \cdot \left(1 + \cos\left(\frac{t - 0.6}{0.4} \cdot 20 \cdot \pi\right)\right) & 0.6 < t. \end{cases}$$





Example: Heat conduction with time-varying Robin boundary

- ▶ Spectral G_n with p = 1 compared to $G_n = \text{single backward Euler step.}$
- R = 2: Error of 10^{-13} at k = 2 iterations.
- ▶ Choose *R* to tune parallelism vs. computational work.
- **Less** F_n evaluations than Euler to reach same error.







A Posteriori Error Bounds

Error bound

$$\|e_n^k\| \le \varepsilon \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} \delta^{n-m-1} \|u_m^k - u_m^{k-1}\|$$

- **Easily computable** (δ , ε known from SVDs).
- Rigorous when randomized SVD error taken into account.

Estimator efficiency for heatsink example 10⁵ 10⁴ 10³ 10² 10¹ 10⁰ 10⁻¹ 10⁻² 10⁻³ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

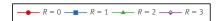


Figure: dashed plot when error below 10^{-13}





Thank you for your attention!

Gander, Ohlberger, R. A Parareal algorithm without Coarse Propagator? arXiv:2409.02673

Gander, Ohlberger, R. A Parareal algorithm with Spectral Coarse Solver. in preparation

Slides: https://stephanrave.de/talks/PinT_2025.pdf