# Introduction to Multigrid 

## Basic Iterative Methods

System of nonlinear equations: $f(x)=0$
Rewrite as $x=F(x)$, and iterate $x_{i+1}=F\left(x_{i}\right)$ (fixed-point iteration)
Converges if $\rho\left(\nabla F^{T}\right)<1$ and $\nabla F^{T}$ Lip. cont. in neighborhood of solution

Linear system: $A x=b$
Matrix splitting: $\quad[P+(A-P)] x=b \Leftrightarrow P x=(P-A) x+b \Leftrightarrow$

$$
x=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) x+P^{-1} b
$$

Iterate: $x_{i+1}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) x_{i}+P^{-1} b$
Converges if $\rho\left(I-P^{-1} A\right)<1$
Methods: Jacobi iteration, Gauss-Seidel, (S)SOR, ...
Fixed-point: $x=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) x+P^{-1} b \Leftrightarrow P^{-1} A x=P^{-1} b$
Fixed-point is solution of the preconditioned system: $P^{-1} A x=P^{-1} b$

## Basic Iterative Methods

$x_{i+1}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) x_{i}+P^{-1} b=x_{i}+P^{-1} b-P^{-1} A x_{i}$

Linear System: $A x=b$
Prec. system: $P^{-1} A x=P^{-1} b$
Residual: $r_{i}=b-A x_{i}$
Prec. residual: $\tilde{r}_{i}=P^{-1} b-P^{-1} A x_{i}$
$x_{i+1}=x_{i}+\tilde{r}_{i} \Rightarrow x_{i+1}=x_{0}+\tilde{r}_{0}+\tilde{r}_{1}+\cdots+\tilde{r}_{i}$
Update $x_{i+1}-x_{0}=\tilde{r}_{0}+\tilde{r}_{1}+\cdots+\tilde{r}_{i}$
$\tilde{r}_{i+1}=P^{-1} b-P^{-1} A x_{i+1}=P^{-1} b-P^{-1} A x_{i}-P^{-1} A \tilde{r}_{i}=\tilde{r}_{i}-P^{-1} A \tilde{r}_{i}$ $\tilde{r}_{i+1}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) \tilde{r}_{i}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right)^{i+1} \tilde{r}_{0}$
$\tilde{r}_{i} \in \operatorname{span}\left\{\tilde{r}_{0}, P^{-1} A \tilde{r}_{0}, \ldots,\left(P^{-1} A\right)^{i} \tilde{r}_{0}\right\} \equiv K^{i+1}\left(P^{-1} A, \tilde{r}_{0}\right) \quad$ Krylov subspace
$x_{i}-x_{0} \in \operatorname{span}\left\{\tilde{r}_{0}, \tilde{r}_{1}, \ldots, \tilde{r}_{i-1}\right\}=K^{i}\left(P^{-1} A, \tilde{r}_{0}\right)$

## Basic Iterative Methods

Solution to $A x=b: \hat{x} \quad$ Error: $e_{i}=\hat{x}-x_{i}$
Residual and error: $r_{i}=b-A x_{i}=A \hat{x}-A x_{i}=A e_{i} \quad\left(\tilde{r}_{i}=P^{-1} A e_{i}\right)$
Theorem: $\hat{x}$ is a fixed point of $x_{i+1}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) x_{i}+P^{-1} b$ iff $\hat{x}$ is solution of $P^{-1} A x=P^{-1} b \quad(\Leftrightarrow A x=b)$
Proof: $x=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) x+P^{-1} b=x-P^{-1} A x+P^{-1} b \Leftrightarrow$ $P^{-1} A x=P^{-1} b$
$e_{i+1}=\hat{x}-x_{i+1}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) \hat{x}+P^{-1} b-\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) x_{i}-P^{-1} b$ $=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) e_{i}$
$e_{i+1}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right) e_{i}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right)^{i+1} e_{0}$ and $\tilde{r}_{i+1}=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right)^{i+1} \tilde{r}_{0}$
$e_{i+1} \in \operatorname{span}\left\{e_{0}, P^{-1} A e_{0},\left(P^{-1} A\right)^{2} e_{0}, \ldots,\left(P^{-1} A\right)^{i+1} e_{0}\right\}$
$e_{i+1} \in \operatorname{span}\left\{e_{0}, \tilde{r}_{0}, P^{-1} A \tilde{r}_{0}, \ldots,\left(P^{-1} A\right)^{i} \tilde{r}_{0}\right\}$

## Review Basic Iterative Methods

Solving $A u=f$

Write $A=D-L-U$, where $-U$ is the strict upper triangular part, $-L$ is the strict lower triangular part, and $D$ is the diagonal.

Jacobi iteration: $D u_{k+1}=(L+U) u_{k}+f$
Gauss-Seidel iteration: $(D-L) u_{k+1}=U u_{k}+f$
Block versions possible.
Basic iteration: $u_{k+1}=P^{-1}(P-A) u_{k}+P^{-1} f=R_{x} u_{k}+P^{-1} f$
Convergence iff $\rho\left(R_{x}\right)<1$ and asymptotic convergence rate: $\rho\left(R_{x}\right)$.
$R_{J}=D^{-1}(L+U)$
$R_{G S}=(D-L)^{-1} U$

## Weighted relaxations

We can use a relaxation parameter to improve convergence:

Jacobi iteration: $\tilde{u}_{k}=D^{-1}(L+U) u_{k}+D^{-1} f$

$$
u_{k+1}=(1-\omega) u_{k}+\omega \tilde{u}_{k}
$$

Alternatively: $\quad u_{k+1}=u_{k}+\omega \tilde{r}_{k} \quad$ with $\tilde{r}_{k}=D^{-1}\left(f-A u_{k}\right)$
$R_{J, \omega}=(1-\omega) I+\omega R_{J}$

Gauss-Seidel iteration: $\tilde{u}_{k}=(D-L)^{-1} U u_{k}+(D-L)^{-1} f$

$$
u_{k+1}=(1-\omega) u_{k}+\omega \tilde{u}_{k}
$$

Alternatively:
$u_{k+1}=u_{k}+\omega \tilde{r}_{k} \quad$ with $\tilde{r}_{k}=(D-L)^{-1}\left(f-A u_{k}\right)$
$R_{G S, \omega}=(1-\omega) I+\omega R_{G S}$

## Convergence for Model Problem

Let's consider pointwise algorithm for model problem
$-u_{x x}+\sigma u=f$, for $0<x<1$, and $u(0)=u(1)=0$
Equidistant grid points: $x_{i}=i h$ and $u_{i}=u\left(x_{i}\right)$.

## Centered finite differences:

$-u_{i-1}+2 u_{i}-u_{i+1}=h^{2} f_{i}$ where $i=1 \ldots n-1$.
Jacobi iteration: $u^{(k+1)}=D^{-1}(L+U) u^{(k)}+D^{-1} f$
Update at each point: $u_{i}^{(k+1)}=\frac{1}{2}\left(h^{2} f_{i}+u_{i-1}^{(k)}+u_{i+1}^{(k)}\right)=u_{i}^{(k)}+\frac{1}{2} r_{i}^{(k)}$
Update can be done for all points at once (no dependencies).
With relaxation parameter $\omega: u_{i}^{(k+1)}=u_{i}^{(k)}+\frac{1}{2} \omega r_{i}^{(k)}$

## Convergence for Model Problem

Let's consider pointwise algorithm for model problem
$-u_{x x}+\sigma u=f$, for $0<x<1$, and $u(0)=u(1)=0$
Equidistant grid points: $x_{i}=i h$ and $u_{i}=u\left(x_{i}\right)$.

## Centered finite differences:

$-u_{i-1}+2 u_{i}-u_{i+1}=h^{2} f_{i}$ where $i=1 \ldots n-1$.
Gauss-Seidel iteration: $u^{(k+1)}=(D-L)^{-1} U u^{(k)}+(D-L)^{-1} f$
Update at each point: $u_{i}^{(k+1)}=\frac{1}{2}\left(h^{2} f_{i}+u_{i-1}^{(k+1)}+u_{i+1}^{(k)}\right)=u_{i}^{(k)}+\frac{1}{2} r_{i}^{(k)}$
where $r_{i}^{(k)} \equiv\left(h^{2} f_{i}+u_{i-1}^{(k+1)}+u_{i+1}^{(k)}-2 u_{i}^{(k)}\right)$ :
the residual evaluated after updating $u_{i-1} \rightarrow u_{i-1}^{(k+1)}$

## Convergence for Model Problem

Gauss-Seidel depends on ordering.
Often-used special ordering: Red-Black ordering, where red unknowns reference only black unknowns and vice versa.
In this case, order even grid points first and then odd grid points
Red/Even update: $u_{2 i}^{(k+1)}=\frac{1}{2}\left(h^{2} f_{2 i}+u_{2 i-1}^{(k)}+u_{2 i+1}^{(k)}\right)=u_{2 i}^{(k)}+\frac{1}{2} r_{2 i}^{(k)}$
where $r_{2 i}^{(k)} \equiv\left(h^{2} f_{2 i}+u_{2 i-1}^{(k)}+u_{2 i+1}^{(k)}-2 u_{2 i}^{(k)}\right)$
With relaxation parameter $\omega: u_{2 i}^{(k+1)}=u_{2 i}^{(k)}+\frac{1}{2} \omega r_{2 i}^{(k)}$

Black/Odd update: $u_{2 i-1}^{(k+1)}=\frac{1}{2}\left(h^{2} f_{2 i-1}+u_{2 i-2}^{(k+1)}+u_{2 i+2}^{(k+1)}\right)=u_{2 i-1}^{(k)}+\frac{1}{2} r_{2 i-1}^{(k+1)}$
where $r_{2 i-1}^{(k+1)} \equiv\left(h^{2} f_{2 i-1}+u_{2 i-2}^{(k+1)}+u_{2 i+2}^{(k+1)}-2 u_{2 i-1}^{(k)}\right)$
With relaxation parameter $\omega: u_{2 i-1}^{(k+1)}=u_{2 i-1}^{(k)}+\frac{1}{2} \omega r_{2 i-1}^{(k+1)}$

## Error Smoothing



DCT: $[4.9,0.27,0.16,0.061,-2.4, \ldots], O(0.1)$ or $O(0.2)$

## Error Smoothing



## Error Smoothing



## Error Smoothing



DCT: $[2.4, \varepsilon,-1.1, \varepsilon, \ldots, \varepsilon, 0.35], \varepsilon=\mathbf{O}(0.01)$, mainly $\mathbf{O}(1 \mathrm{e}-3)$

## Error Smoothing



## Error Smoothing



## Error Smoothing



## Error Smoothing



## Convergence

Convergence: $e^{(k)}=G^{k} e^{(0)}$, where $G$ is iteration matrix
$G=\left(I-P^{-1} A\right)$.
$u^{(k+1)}=u^{(k)}+\omega P^{-1} r^{(k)}=u^{(k)}+\omega P^{-1}\left(f-A u^{(k)}\right)=$
$\left(I-\omega P^{-1} A\right) u^{(k)}+\omega P^{-1} f$
Jacobi iteration matrix: $(1-\omega) I+\omega R_{J}=(1-\omega) I+\omega D^{-1}(D-A)$
This gives: $I-\frac{\omega}{2} A$
Eigenvalues $I-\frac{\omega}{2} A: \lambda\left(I-\frac{\omega}{2} A\right)=1-\frac{\omega}{2} \lambda(A)$
Eigenvalues of $A$

## Convergence

Eigenvalues of $A$ :
Assume eigenvector close to physical eigenvector: $v_{k}=\sin \frac{\pi k j}{n}$
Apply pointwise rule for Jacobi:
$A v_{j, k}=-\sin \frac{\pi k(j-1)}{n}+2 \sin \frac{\pi k j}{n}-\sin \frac{\pi k(j+1)}{n}=2 \sin \frac{\pi k j}{n}-2 \sin \frac{\pi k j}{n} \cos \frac{\pi k}{n}=$
$2 \sin \frac{\pi k j}{n}\left(1-\cos \frac{\pi k}{n}\right)$ (so eigenvector indeed)
$1-\cos \frac{\pi k}{n}=1-\cos \frac{2 \pi k}{2 n}=1-\left(1-2 \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi k}{2 n}\right)\right)=2 \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi k}{2 n}\right)$
$2 \sin \frac{\pi k j}{n}\left(1-\cos \frac{\pi k}{n}\right)=\sin \frac{\pi k j}{n} \bullet 4 \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi k}{2 n}\right)$
This gives for the weighted Jacobi method: $I-\frac{\omega}{2} A$
$\lambda_{\left(R_{J, \omega)}\right.}=1-2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi k}{2 n}\right)$ where $0<\omega \leq 1$
Always converges. Poor convergence for which modes

## Smoothing

Some observations:
We see from experiments and analysis that convergence for smooth and oscillatory modes is very different. More precisely, our analysis (given some $\omega$ ) how much each mode is reduced in norm per iteration (sweep over all points).

Choosing appropriate $\omega$ we can make all oscillatory modes converge relatively fast. However, no choice for $\omega$ exists that makes the convergence for modes with small $k$ fast.

We could analyze this problem (Laplacian and Jacobi) easily because eigenvectors $A$ are the eigenvectors of iteration matrix $\left(I-D^{-1} A\right)$. This is not generally the case.

The Jacobi iteration does not mix modes. The image of a sine wave under the iteration matrix is same wave damped. Not general.

## Smoothing

Some terminology:
Consider vectors $v_{k}=\sin \frac{j k \pi}{n}$ on 'normalized domain': $[0,1]$
where $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ and $0 \leq j \leq n$
number of grid points: $n$
wavenumber: $k$
wavelength: $l=\frac{2}{k}$ (since $n$ grid points span domain of size 1 )
This also shows that mode $k$ gives $\frac{k}{2}$ full sine waves on domain.
We cannot represent waves on our grid with a wavelength less than $2 h$ This corresponds to wavenumber larger than $n$. Such waves would actually be disguised as waves with longer wavelength: aliasing.

The wavenumber $k=n / 2$ corresponds to wavelength $l=4 / n \approx 4 h$.

## Smoothing

We saw that it is important to distinguish oscillatory and smooth waves:

Low frequency/smooth if $1 \leq k<n / 2$
High frequency/oscillatory if $n / 2 \leq k \leq n-1$

A particular iteration scheme (splitting) and omega give rise to the iteration
$u_{i+1}=\left(I-\omega P^{-1} A\right) u_{i}+\omega P^{-1} f \quad$ which means for the error $e_{i+1}=\left(I-\omega P^{-1} A\right) e_{i}=\left(I-\omega P^{-1} A\right)^{i} e_{0}$

So if $\left(I-\omega P^{-1} A\right)=V \Lambda V^{-1}$ and $e_{0}=V \eta_{0}$ then $e_{i}=\Sigma_{k} v_{k} \lambda_{k}^{i} \eta_{k, 0}$
So analogous to analysis of Jacobi for Laplacian we can simplify the analysis of the convergence by considering eigenvectors separately. We can consider which $\omega$ is best for which eigenvector (we can pick only one per iteration) and if there's a best $\omega$ overall.

## Smoothing

Analyze which $\omega$ best for Laplacian and Jacobi iteration:

$$
\lambda_{\left(R_{J, \omega}\right)}=1-2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi k}{2 n}\right) \text { where } 0<\omega \leq 1
$$



## Smoothing

Standard Jacobi $\omega=1$ works for the middle range wavenumbers, but does poorly for both low and high frequency waves.

The choice $\omega=2 / 3$ does well for a fairly large range of wavenumbers
No $\omega$ does well for the lowest frequencies.
In fact $k=1: 1-2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{2 n}\right) \approx 1-2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{h \pi}{2}\right) \approx 1-\frac{\omega h^{2} \pi^{2}}{2}$
So for small $h$ there will be no $\omega \leq 1$ that will make $\left|\lambda_{1}\left(R_{\omega}\right)\right|$ small
Worse, for as $h \rightarrow 0$ (solving problem more accurately) the reduction factor becomes closer and closer to 1 .

## Smoothing

Let's give up on the low frequencies and focus on high frequencies. (or at least postpone elimination of low frequency error)
oscillatory modes: $n / 2 \leq k \leq n-1$
We see that several values for $\omega$ do well. To get 'the best' we require again the equi-oscillating one (remember Chebyshev polynomials):
$\lambda_{n / 2}\left(R_{\omega}\right)=-\lambda_{n}\left(R_{\omega}\right)$
This gives $\quad 1-2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{(n / 2) \pi}{2 n}\right)=-1+2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{n \pi}{2 n}\right) \Leftrightarrow$
$1-2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)=-1+2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) \Leftrightarrow$
$1-\omega=-1+2 \omega \Leftrightarrow$
$2=3 \omega \Leftrightarrow$
$\omega=\frac{2}{3}$
Worst convergence factor attained at $k=\frac{2}{3}: 1-\frac{4}{3} \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)=1-\frac{4}{6}=\frac{1}{3}$.

## Smoothing

So $\left|\lambda_{k}\right| \leq 1 / 3$ and oscillatory components are reduced by at least a factor 3 each iteration.

This factor is called the smoothing factor.
From its derivation we see that it is independent of $h$.

Suppose we wanted to reduce smooth modes by at least factor 1/2. $1-2 \omega \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi h}{2}\right) \approx 1-2 \omega \frac{\pi^{2} h^{2}}{4}=1-\frac{\omega \pi^{2} h^{2}}{2} \rightarrow \omega \pi^{2} h^{2}=1 \Rightarrow \omega=\frac{1}{\pi^{2} h^{2}}$

Then for $k=n / 2$ we get:
$1-\frac{2}{\pi^{2} h^{2}} \sin ^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)=1-\frac{1}{\pi^{2} h^{2}}$
So for $h<\frac{1}{\pi \sqrt{2}}$ we will amplify the oscillating modes! Divergence.

## Smoothing Experiments




## Smoothing Experiments




## Smoothing Experiments




## Smoothing Experiments



## Smoothing Experiments



