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Algebraic problem: Discretization of PDEs

error $\rightarrow O(h)$

h discretization parameter...

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For instance, CG optimal: $(||x||_A^2 = x^*Ax)$

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Available: Cheap, reliable estimates of $||x - x_k||_A$

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For instance, matrix G associated with FE error measure:

$$\min_{x_k} \|b - Ax_k\|_G$$

Matrix dependence

A may be very ill-conditioned

 \Rightarrow small residual does not necessarily imply small error

$$\frac{1}{\kappa(A)} \frac{\|b - Ax_k\|}{\|b\|} \le \frac{\|x^* - x_k\|}{\|x^*\|} \le \kappa(A) \frac{\|b - Ax_k\|}{\|b\|}$$

Well-known fact, but often not used

$$\frac{\|b - Ax_k\|}{\|b\|} \quad \text{vs} \quad \frac{\|b - Ax_k\|}{\|b\| + \|A\|_{\star} \|x_k\|}$$

(here $x_0 = 0$)

Matrix dependence

Inner-outer methods. e.g. Solve

$$BM^{-1}B^{\top}x = b$$

Each multiplication with $A=BM^{-1}B^{\top}$ requires solving a system with M

$$\begin{split} \tilde{u} &= B^\top v \\ u &= Av \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \tilde{\tilde{u}} \text{ solves } M \tilde{\tilde{u}} = \tilde{u} \\ u &= B \tilde{\tilde{u}} \end{split}$$

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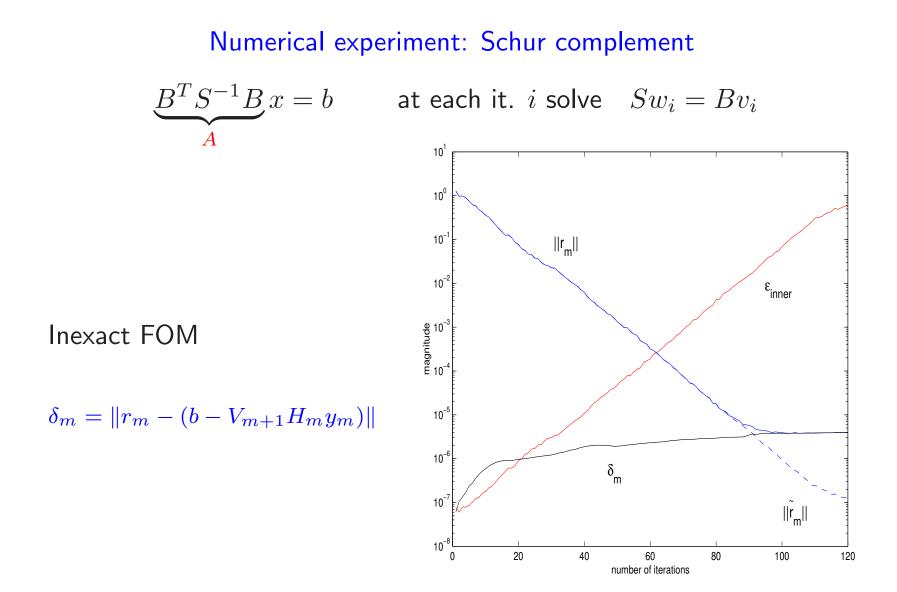
Note: True residual $r_k = b - BM^{-1}B^{\top}x_k$ not available!

How accurately should one solve with M?

Typically: Inner tolerance < Outer tolerance

But: if optimal Krylov method is used to solve $BM^{-1}B^{\top}x = b$ then:

Inner tolerance = $c \cdot \frac{\text{Outer tolerance}}{\text{current outer residual}}$



Conclusions

- Computational issues for Krylov solvers well understood
- Other tricks can be used (but not usually in black-box routines)
- Many ideas have wider applicability
- Theory is still under development

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