



---

# Numerical solution of systems of linear matrix equations and applications

V. Simoncini

Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Bologna  
[valeria.simoncini@unibo.it](mailto:valeria.simoncini@unibo.it)

## The problem

Find  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$  and  $\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_2}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} &= F_1 \\ B \mathbf{X} &= F_2 \end{aligned}$$

with  $A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times n_i}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_1}$ ,  $F_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$ ,  $F_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_2}$ ,  $m \leq n_1$

## The problem

Find  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$  and  $\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_2}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} &= F_1 \\ B \mathbf{X} &= F_2 \end{aligned}$$

with  $A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times n_i}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_1}$ ,  $F_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$ ,  $F_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_2}$ ,  $m \leq n_1$

## Emerging matrix formulation of different application problems

- Constraint control
- Mixed formulations of stochastic diffusion problems
- Discretized deterministic/stochastic (Navier-)Stokes equations
- ...

## A natural generalization

Find  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2 \times n_1}$ ,  $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$  and  $\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_1}$  such that

$$A_2 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_1 + B^T \mathbf{P} = F_1$$

$$A_1 \mathbf{Y} + \mathbf{Y} A_2 + \mathbf{P} B = F_2$$

$$B \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Y} B^T = F_3$$

with corresponding dimensions for the coefficient matrices and rhs

e.g., MAC discretization of Navier-Stokes equation

## An example. Regulator equations in constraint Control

Consider the time-invariant dynamical linear system

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu, \quad y = Cx \quad (*)$$

and the reference model  $(\dot{\hat{x}}) = \hat{A}\hat{x} + \hat{B}\hat{u}, \hat{y} = \hat{C}\hat{x}$

### Theorem (Duan-Zhang, 2007)

Let  $K$  be a stabilizing gain for the dynamical system  $(*)$  and assume  $\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{P}$  satisfy the equations

$$A\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}\hat{A} + B\mathbf{P} = 0, \quad C\mathbf{X} = \hat{C}. \quad (1)$$

When the controller  $u = u_s + u_c$  with  $u_s = Kx$  and  $u_c = (\mathbf{P} - K\mathbf{X})\hat{x}$  is applied to  $(*)$ , it holds that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (y(t) - \hat{y}(t)) = 0$ .

Also tracking (see, e.g., Wonham (1979), Duan (2004), Saberietal (1999))

## An example. Mixed FE formulation of stochastic Galerkin diffusion pb

$$\begin{aligned} c^{-1} \vec{u} - \nabla p &= 0, \\ -\nabla \cdot \vec{u} &= f, \end{aligned}$$

Assume that  $c^{-1} = c_0 + \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sqrt{\lambda_r} c_r(\vec{x}) \xi_r(\omega)$  and that an appropriate class of finite elements is used for the discretization of the problem

(see, e.g., the derivation in Elman-Furnival-Powell, 2010)

After discretization the problem reads:

$$\begin{bmatrix} G_0 \otimes K_0 + \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sqrt{\lambda} G_r \otimes K_r & G_0^T \otimes B_0^T \\ G_0 \otimes B_0 & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ f \end{bmatrix}$$

## An example. Mixed FE formulation of stochastic Galerkin diffusion pb

$$\begin{aligned} c^{-1} \vec{u} - \nabla p &= 0, \\ -\nabla \cdot \vec{u} &= f, \end{aligned}$$

Assume that  $c^{-1} = c_0 + \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sqrt{\lambda_r} c_r(\vec{x}) \xi_r(\omega)$  and that an appropriate class of finite elements is used for the discretization of the problem

(see, e.g., the derivation in Elman-Furnival-Powell, 2010)

After discretization the problem reads:

$$\begin{bmatrix} G_0 \otimes K_0 + \sum_{r=1}^{\ell} \sqrt{\lambda_r} G_r \otimes K_r & G_0^T \otimes B_0^T \\ G_0 \otimes B_0 & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ f \end{bmatrix}$$

For  $\ell = 1$  we obtain

$$K_0 \mathbf{X} G_0 + K_1 \mathbf{X} G_1 + B_0^T \mathbf{P} G_0 = 0, \quad B_0 \mathbf{X} G_0 = F$$

## The two matrix equation case. Computational strategies

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} &= F_1 \\ B \mathbf{X} &= F_2 \end{aligned}$$

**Kronecker formulation:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}^T \\ \mathcal{B} & \mathcal{O} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{A} = I \otimes A_1 + A_2^T \otimes I, \quad \mathcal{B} = B \otimes I$$

with  $\mathbf{x} = \text{vec}(\mathbf{X})$ ,  $\mathbf{p} = \text{vec}(\mathbf{P})$ ,  $f_1 = \text{vec}(F_1)$  and  $f_2 = \text{vec}(F_2)$

Extremely rich literature from saddle point algebraic linear systems

**Problem:** Coefficient matrix has size  $(n_1 n_2 + m n_2) \times (n_1 n_2 + m n_2)$

## The two matrix equation case. Computational strategies. Cont'd

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} &= F_1 \\ B \mathbf{X} &= F_2 \end{aligned}$$

\* Derive numerical strategies that directly work with the matrix equations:

- Small scale: Nullspace method
- Small and medium scale: Schur complement method  
(also directly applicable to three matrix equations)
- Large scale: Iterative method for low rank  $F_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$

“Small and medium scale” actually means “Large scale” for the Kronecker form!

## Small problem. Null space method

$$A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} = F_1 \quad (1)$$

$$B \mathbf{X} = F_2 \quad (2)$$

$U_0$  s.t.  $\text{Range}(U_0) = \text{Null}(B)$ ,  $U_0^T U_0 = I$

$U_1$  s.t.  $\text{Range}(U_1) = \text{Range}(B^T)$ ,  $U_1^T U_1 = I \Rightarrow \mathbf{X} = U_0 \hat{\mathbf{X}} + U_1 \mathbf{X}_\perp$

## Small problem. Null space method

$$A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} = F_1 \quad (1)$$

$$B \mathbf{X} = F_2 \quad (2)$$

$U_0$  s.t.  $\text{Range}(U_0) = \text{Null}(B)$ ,  $U_0^T U_0 = I$

$U_1$  s.t.  $\text{Range}(U_1) = \text{Range}(B^T)$ ,  $U_1^T U_1 = I \Rightarrow \mathbf{X} = U_0 \hat{\mathbf{X}} + U_1 \mathbf{X}_\perp$

\* From (2),  $\mathbf{X}_\perp = (B U_1)^{-1} F_2$

## Small problem. Null space method

$$A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} = F_1 \quad (1)$$

$$B \mathbf{X} = F_2 \quad (2)$$

$U_0$  s.t.  $\text{Range}(U_0) = \text{Null}(B)$ ,  $U_0^T U_0 = I$

$U_1$  s.t.  $\text{Range}(U_1) = \text{Range}(B^T)$ ,  $U_1^T U_1 = I \Rightarrow \mathbf{X} = U_0 \hat{\mathbf{X}} + U_1 \mathbf{X}_\perp$

\* From (2),  $\mathbf{X}_\perp = (B U_1)^{-1} F_2$

\* From (1), multiplying by  $U_0^T$

$$U_0^T A_1 U_0 \hat{\mathbf{X}} + \hat{\mathbf{X}} A_2 = -U_0^T A_1 U_1 \mathbf{X}_\perp + U_0^T F_1$$

A Sylvester equation, giving  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$

## Small problem. Null space method

$$A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} = F_1 \quad (1)$$

$$B \mathbf{X} = F_2 \quad (2)$$

$U_0$  s.t.  $\text{Range}(U_0) = \text{Null}(B)$ ,  $U_0^T U_0 = I$

$U_1$  s.t.  $\text{Range}(U_1) = \text{Range}(B^T)$ ,  $U_1^T U_1 = I \Rightarrow \mathbf{X} = U_0 \hat{\mathbf{X}} + U_1 \mathbf{X}_\perp$

\* From (2),  $\mathbf{X}_\perp = (B U_1)^{-1} F_2$

\* From (1), multiplying by  $U_0^T$

$$U_0^T A_1 U_0 \hat{\mathbf{X}} + \hat{\mathbf{X}} A_2 = -U_0^T A_1 U_1 \mathbf{X}_\perp + U_0^T F_1$$

A Sylvester equation, giving  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$

\* From (1), multiplying by  $U_1^T$

$$U_1^T A_1 U_1 \mathbf{X}_\perp + U_1^T A_1 U_0 \hat{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{X}_\perp A_2 + U_1^T B^T \mathbf{P} = U_1^T F_1$$

So that  $\mathbf{P} = (U_1^T B^T)^{-1} (U_1^T F_1 - U_1^T A_1 U_0 \hat{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}_\perp A_2 - U_1^T A_1 U_1 \mathbf{X}_\perp)$

## Large scale problem. Iterative method. 1/3

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} &= F_1 \\ B \mathbf{X} &= F_2 \end{aligned}$$

Rewrite as

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B^T \\ B & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{P} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I_{n_1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{P} \end{bmatrix} A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{M} \mathbf{Z} + \mathcal{D}_0 \mathbf{Z} A_2 = F$$

with

$$\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{D}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_1+m) \times (n_1+m)}$$

$$A_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2 \times n_2} \text{ nonsingular}$$

$\mathcal{D}_0$  highly singular

If  $F \approx$  low rank, exploit projection-type strategies for Sylvester equations

## Large scale problem. Iterative method. 2/3

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B^T \\ B & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{P} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I_{n_1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{P} \end{bmatrix} A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{M}\mathbf{Z} + \mathcal{D}_0\mathbf{Z}A_2 = F$$

with  $F$  low rank. We rewrite the matrix equation as

$$\mathbf{Z}A_2^{-1} + \mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathcal{D}_0\mathbf{Z} = \hat{F}, \quad \hat{F} = \mathcal{M}^{-1}FA_2^{-1}$$

which is a **Sylvester equation with one singular coefficient matrix**

$$\Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Z} \approx \tilde{\mathbf{Z}}_k = V_k \mathcal{Z}_k W_k^T, \quad \text{for some } \mathcal{Z}_k$$

with  $\text{Range}(V_k)$ ,  $\text{Range}(W_k)$  appropriate approximation spaces of small dimensions

## Large scale problem. Iterative method. 3/3

$$\mathbf{Z}A_2^{-1} + \mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathcal{D}_0\mathbf{Z} = \widehat{F}_l\widehat{F}_r^T \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Z} \approx \widetilde{\mathbf{Z}}_k = V_k \mathcal{Z}_k W_k^T$$

Choosing  $V_k, W_k$ . Let  $K_k(T, F) = \text{Range}([F, TF, T^2F, \dots, T^{k-1}F])$ .

## Large scale problem. Iterative method. 3/3

$$\mathbf{Z} A_2^{-1} + \mathcal{M}^{-1} \mathcal{D}_0 \mathbf{Z} = \widehat{\mathbf{F}}_l \widehat{\mathbf{F}}_r^T \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Z} \approx \widetilde{\mathbf{Z}}_k = V_k \mathcal{Z}_k W_k^T$$

Choosing  $V_k, W_k$ . Let  $K_k(T, F) = \text{Range}([F, TF, T^2F, \dots, T^{k-1}F])$ .

A possible strategy:

- $W_k = \mathbb{E}\mathbb{K}_k(A_2^{-T}, \widehat{\mathbf{F}}_r) := K_k(A_2^{-T}, \widehat{\mathbf{F}}_r) + K_k(A_2^T, A_2^T \widehat{\mathbf{F}}_r)$   
Extended Krylov subspace
- $V_k = K_k(\mathcal{M}^{-1} \mathcal{D}_0, \widehat{\mathbf{F}}_l) + K_k((\mathcal{M}^{-1} \mathcal{D}_0 + \sigma I)^{-1}, \widehat{\mathbf{F}}_l)$   
Augmented Krylov subspace,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$   
(see, e.g., Shank-Simoncini (2013))

Note:  $\mathcal{M}$  has size  $(n_1 + m) \times (n_1 + m)$

(Compare with  $(n_1 n_2 + mn_2) \times (n_1 n_2 + mn_2)$  of the Kronecker form)

## Numerical experiments

$$A_1 \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} A_2 + B^T \mathbf{P} = 0, \quad B \mathbf{X} = F_2 \quad \text{vs} \quad \mathcal{A} \mathbf{z} = f$$

$$A_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1 = -u_{xx} - u_{yy}$$

$$A_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_2 = -(e^{-10xy} u_x)_x - (e^{10xy} u_y)_y + 10(x+y)u_x$$

$[F_1; F_2]$  rank-1 matrix

$B = \text{bidiag}(-1, \underline{1})$ ,  $(n_2 - n_1) \times n_2$ , iterative: tol=10<sup>-6</sup>,  $\sigma = 10^{-2}$

Elapsed time

$n_1$	$n_2$	size( $\mathcal{A}$ )	Monolithic	Direct Nullspace	Matrix eqns
400	100	79,000	6.9769e-02	9.4012e-02	3.1523e-02 (4)
900	225	401,625	3.4808e-01	6.3597e-01	5.0447e-02 (4)
1600	400	1272,000	1.1319e+00	4.7888e+00	7.8018e-02 (4)
2500	625	3109,375	3.1212e+00	1.5063e+01	1.5282e-01 (5)
3600	900	6453,000	1.0210e+01	3.9419e+01	2.8053e-01 (5)
4900	1225	11,962,125	3.7699e+01	1.0721e+02	1.4754e+00 (5)

## Numerical experiments. 1D stochastic Stokes problem. 1/3

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{H} & \mathcal{B}^T \\ \mathcal{B} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{H} = (\nu_0 G_0 + \nu_1 G_1) \otimes A_x, \quad \mathcal{B} = G_0 \otimes B_x$$

where  $\nu = \nu_0 + \nu_1 \xi(\omega)$  uncertain viscosity,  $\xi$  random variable

Then

$$A_x \mathbf{X} G_0 \nu_0 + A_x \mathbf{X} G_1 \nu_1 + B_x^T \mathbf{P} G_0 = F_1, \quad B_x \mathbf{X} = F_2$$

with  $G_0 = I$ . This corresponds to

$$\begin{bmatrix} \nu_0 A_x & B_x^T \\ B_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{P} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \nu_1 A_x \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{P} \end{bmatrix} G_1 = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

that is

$$\mathcal{M} \mathbf{Z} + \mathcal{D}_0 \mathbf{Z} G_1 = \mathbf{F}$$

## Numerical experiments. 1D stochastic Stokes problem. 2/3

$$\mathcal{M}\mathbf{Z} + \mathcal{D}_0\mathbf{Z}G_1 = F \quad \text{vs} \quad \mathcal{A}\mathbf{z} = f$$

$n_1$	$n_2$	$n_B$	size( $\mathcal{A}$ )	Monolithic direct	Monolithic MINRES	Iterative $\mathbb{E}\mathbb{K}(\sigma)$
1256	4	389	6,580	0.1852	0.146 (11)	0.19 (2)
3526	4	990	18,064	0.9063	0.275 (11)	0.52 (2)
9812	4	2615	49,708	4.6418	0.981 (10)	2.09 (2)

$\nu_0 = 1/10, \nu_1 = 3\nu_0/10$       Powell-Silvester (2012)

## Numerical experiments. 1D stochastic Stokes problem. 3/3

$$\mathcal{M}\mathbf{Z} + \mathcal{D}_0\mathbf{Z}G_1 = \mathbf{F} \quad \text{vs} \quad \mathcal{A}\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{f}$$

$n_1$	$n_2$	$n_B$	size( $\mathcal{A}$ )	Monolithic direct	Monolithic MINRES	Iterative $\mathbb{E}\mathbb{K}(\sigma)$
1256	165	389	271,425	2.91	1.53 (11)	0.20 (2)
3526	165	990	745,140	12.16	7.43 (11)	0.45 (2)
9812	165	2615	2050,455	-	-	1.87 (2)

$\nu_0 = 1/10, \nu_1 = 3\nu_0/10$       Powell-Silvester (2012)

- $n_2$  could be much larger,  $n_2 = O(10^3)$
- Memory requirements are very limited,  $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}} = Z_1 Z_2^T$  of very low rank

## Numerical experiments. 2D stochastic Stokes problem

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{H} & \mathcal{B}^T \\ \mathcal{B} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{H} = \text{blkdiag}((\nu_0 G_0 + \nu_1 G_1) \otimes A_x, (\nu_0 G_0 + \nu_1 G_1) \otimes A_y)$$

$$\mathcal{B} = [G_0 \otimes B_x, G_0 \otimes B_y]$$

$$\mathcal{M}\mathbf{Z} + \mathcal{D}_0\mathbf{Z}G_1 = F \quad \text{vs} \quad \mathcal{A}\mathbf{z} = f$$

$n_1$	$n_2$	$\text{size}(\mathcal{A})$	Monolithic direct	Monolithic MINRES	Iterative $\mathbb{E}\mathbb{K}(\sigma)$
2512	4	11,604	0.55	0.12 (12)	0.28 (2)
7052	4	32,168	3.73	0.36 (12)	1.22 (2)
19624	4	88,956	11.93	1.51 (12)	4.37 (2)

  

$n_1$	$n_2$	$\text{size}(\mathcal{A})$	Monolithic direct	Monolithic MINRES	Iterative $\mathbb{E}\mathbb{K}(\sigma)$
2512	165	478 665	7.60	3.16 (17)	0.33 (2)
7052	165	1 326 930	34.08	15.52 (18)	1.32 (2)
19624	165	3 669 435	—	—	5.69 (3)

$$\nu_0 = 1/10, \nu_1 = 3\nu_0/10$$

Powell-Silvester (2012)

## Conclusions and further comments

### ... A new matrix-oriented methodology

- Matrix formulation is computationally effective and memory saving
- Very preliminary numerical results are encouraging
- Three matrix equation solver effective via matrix-oriented Schur complement
- Operator  $\mathcal{L} : X \rightarrow A_1X + XA_2$  could be replaced with  
$$\mathcal{L} : X \rightarrow \sum_k A_k X G_k$$
(work in progress with C. Powell)

For further information

<http://www.dm.unibo.it/~simoncin>