

# Group Meeting - August 20, 2021

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## Content:

- ① **Optimization-Based Algebraic Multigrid Coarsening Using Reinforcement Learning**, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.01854>
- ② **Weisfeiler and Lehman Go Topological: Message Passing Simplicial Networks (ICML 2021)**  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.03212> (no slides)



## Optimization-Based Algebraic Multigrid Coarsening Using Reinforcement Learning

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.01854>



# Algebraic Multigrid (1)

## Introduction

- AMG algorithms aim to solve a sparse linear system of the form  $Ax = b$  by successively constructing coarser representations of the problem.
- Constructing an AMG method is effectively a **graph coarsening problem**. Optimal partitioning into coarse and fine nodes is known to be **NP-hard**.



# Algebraic Multigrid (2)

Notation:

- $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n_c}$ : Interpolation operator.
- $A_c = P^T A P \in \mathbb{R}^{n_c \times n_c}$ : Coarse-grid operator by Galerkin product.

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**Algorithm 1** Two-Level AMG Algorithm

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- 1: **Input:** Sparse matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , right-hand side  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , initial guess  $x^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , interpolation matrix  $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n_c}$ , coarse-grid matrix  $A_c \in \mathbb{R}^{n_c \times n_c}$ , convergence tolerance  $\delta$ , numbers of relaxation sweeps  $N_1, N_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $k = 0$ .
  - 2: **repeat:**
  - 3:   Perform  $N_1$  pre-relaxation sweeps on  $x^{(k)}$  to obtain  $\tilde{x}^{(k)}$
  - 4:   Calculate the residual:  $\tilde{r}^{(k)} = b - A\tilde{x}^{(k)}$
  - 5:   Project the residual to the coarse grid and solve:  $A_c e_c^{(k)} = P^T \tilde{r}^{(k)}$ .
  - 6:   Interpolate and add the coarse-grid correction:  $\hat{x}^{(k)} = \tilde{x}^{(k)} + P e_c^{(k)}$
  - 7:   Perform  $N_2$  post-relaxation sweeps on  $\hat{x}^{(k)}$  to get  $x^{(k+1)}$
  - 8:    $k = k + 1$ , compute  $r^{(k+1)} = b - A x^{(k+1)}$
  - 9: **until:**  $\|r^{(k+1)}\| < \delta$
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# Algebraic Multigrid (3)

Define a binary variable indicating if a node is fine or coarse:

$$f_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in F, \\ 0 & \text{if } i \in C, \end{cases}$$

where  $F$  and  $C$  denote the sets of fine and coarse nodes, respectively.  
Optimization:

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \\ \text{s.t. } & |a_{ii}| \geq \theta \sum_{j \in F} |a_{ij}|, \forall i : f_i = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $\theta$  is the dominance parameter (in practice,  $\theta = 0.56$ ). This is an **NP-hard** problem. Usually solved by the simulated annealing (SA) approach or greedy algorithms.



## Proposal

- **Reinforcement Learning:** Dueling Double DQN (a variant of Deep Q-Learning) with an MPNN as the RL agent.
- **Goal:** Computational feasibility, fast and high-quality fine-coarse partitioning comparing to the SA method.
- **Particular problem to address:** Discretized 2D Poisson equation

$$-\Delta\phi = f$$

where  $\Delta$  is the Laplace operator and  $f(x, y)$  and  $\phi(x, y)$  are real-valued functions.



# Reinforcement Learning (1)

Define a graph  $G = (V, E)$ :

- Node  $i \in V$  for each variable index  $i$ .
- Edge  $(i, j) \in E$  if  $A_{ij} \neq 0$  for  $i \neq j$ .
- Binary variable  $f_i \in \{0, 1\}$  indicates whether node  $i$  is a fine node.
- Binary variable  $v_i \in \{0, 1\}$  indicates whether node  $i$  violates the diagonal dominance constraint.
- $F = \{i | f_i = 1\}$  is the set of fine nodes.
- $C = \{i | f_i = 0\}$  is the set of coarse nodes.





# Reinforcement Learning (2)

- **State space:**  $\mathcal{S} = \{(f_i, v_i) | i = 1, \dots, n\}$  which is  $2n$  binary variables.
- **Initial state:**  $s_0$  consists of all fine nodes such that  $f_i = 1, \forall i$ ; while  $v_i$  is determined by

$$v_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } f_i = 1 \text{ and } |a_{ii}| < \theta \sum_{j \in F} |a_{ij}|, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- **Action space:**  $\mathcal{A} = \{i | v_i = 1\}$ . At each time step, the RL agent chooses one violating fine nodes to convert into a coarse node, and we need to recompute all  $v$  after.
- **Reward:**  $r(s) = -|C|$ , we want to minimize the number of coarse nodes.
- **Terminating condition:** when there are no more actions to take (no nodes are violating).



# Reinforcement Learning (3)

Two phases:

- 1 **Training:** we will learn the state value  $V(s)$  and the state action advantage  $A(s, a)$  for **a certain size** of graph.
- 2 **Evaluation:** then we evaluate the agent on large graphs where  $V(s)$  is no longer accurate but  $A(s, a)$  will continue to be correct.

We only need the output of  $A(s, a)$  for evaluation, this provides a scale-invariant solution to the RL problem.

**Note:** This is similar to what we are doing for wavelet MMF.



# Reinforcement Learning (4)

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## Algorithm 2 Evaluation Algorithm

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1: Use Lloyd aggregation to decompose the node set into subdomains  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_K\}$ 
2: while constraint (4b) is not satisfied do
3:   Evaluate the advantage TAGCN network to obtain the advantage  $A_i$  for each node
4:   for  $k = 1$  to  $K$  such that  $V_k$  contains at least one node with  $v_i = 1$  do
5:      $i = \operatorname{argmax}_{j \in V_k, v_j = 1} A_j$ 
6:     Coarsen node  $i$ 
7:   end for
8: end while
```

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- Lloyd aggregation is basically a graph decomposition/clustering algorithm.
- Constraint 4b is the diagonal dominance constraint.
- TAGCN is the RL agent (after training).



# Experiments (1)

- **Metric:** F-fraction (higher is better) =  $|F|/(|F| + |C|)$ .
- **Baseline:** Simple greedy method of MacLachlan and Saad.

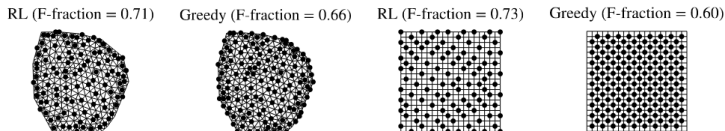
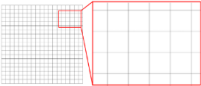
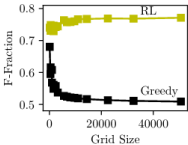
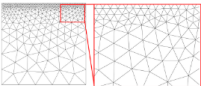
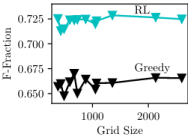
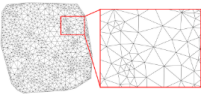
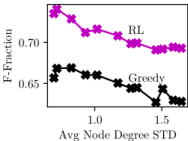


Figure 1: Example coarsenings of meshes from the “Different Size” (left) and “Structured” (right) families, comparing RL and greedy coarsening algorithms.



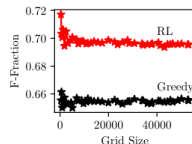
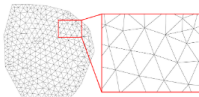
# Experiments (2)

Family	Example	F-Fraction vs. Attribute
<b>Structured:</b> A family of 18 rectangular structured grids with different grid sizes.		
<b>Graded Mesh:</b> A family of 12 unstructured grids with different convex shapes, and graded meshes, i.e., smoothly varying mesh size across the domain.		
<b>Wide Valence:</b> A family of 12 unstructured convex grids with the same size and different average node degree standard deviation.		

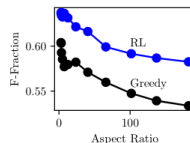
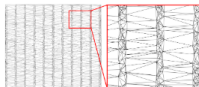


# Experiments (3)

**Different Size:** A family of 42 unstructured convex grids with grid size ranging from about 60 to 52 000 nodes. The average node degree standard deviation and mesh aspect ratio is constant.



**Aspect Ratio:** A family of 12 unstructured convex grids with the same size and different average mesh aspect ratio, varying from about 2 to 180.



**Non-Convex:** A family of 12 unstructured non-convex grids. The grids are generated by removing geometrical shapes from a main geometry and meshing the remainder.

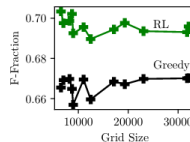
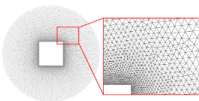


Table 1: Mesh families used for numerical experiments, showing F-fractions (higher is better).



# Experiments (4)

**Theorem 4.** For the Poisson problem (2) discretized with a 5-point finite difference stencil on a structured grid of size  $n_x \times n_y$ , the constraint (4b) implies that the F-fraction,  $f$ , is bounded by:

$$f \leq 0.8 + \frac{2}{n_x} + \frac{2}{n_y} - \frac{4}{n_x n_y}. \quad (6)$$

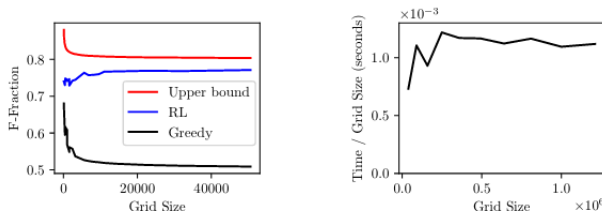


Figure 2: Left: F-fraction for the RL method and comparison methods (higher is better). Right: Evaluation time divided by grid size, showing linear scaling in grid size.

