

# BART

## A new framework for developing and evaluating acceleration schemes for the neutron transport equation

J. S. Rehak



Qualification Exam  
September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

2019-08-29

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# Outline

## ① Transport Equation

## ② Acceleration Methods

## ③ Analyzing Acceleration Schemes

## ④ BART

## ⑤ Plan and Future Work

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### └ Outline

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- ① Transport Equation
- ② Acceleration Methods
- ③ Analyzing Acceleration Schemes
- ④ BART
- ⑤ Plan and Future Work

# Qualification Exam

## TRANSPORT EQUATION

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## TRANSPORT EQUATION

### Transport Equation

## Transport Equation

# Steady-state Boltzman Transport Equation

Our problem of interest is the time-independent transport equation on a domain of interest  $\mathbf{r} \in V$  [3],

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla + \Sigma_t(\mathbf{r}, E) \right] \psi(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}) \\ &= \int_0^\infty dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' \Sigma_s(\mathbf{r}, E' \rightarrow E, \hat{\Omega}' \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}) \psi(\mathbf{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}') \\ &+ Q(\psi, \mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}) , \end{aligned}$$

with a given boundary condition,

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}) = \Gamma(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}), \quad \mathbf{r} \in \partial V, \quad \hat{\Omega} \cdot \hat{n} < 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla + \Sigma_t(\mathbf{r}, E) \right] \psi(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}) \\ &= \int_0^\infty dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' \Sigma_s(\mathbf{r}, E' \rightarrow E, \hat{\Omega}' \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}) \psi(\mathbf{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}') \\ &+ Q(\psi, \mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}) , \end{aligned}$$

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# Iterative Solving Method

Assuming the source  $Q$  is not a function of  $\psi$ , we define the source-iteration iterative scheme for iteration  $i$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla + \Sigma_t(\mathbf{r}, E) \right] \psi^{i+1}(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}) \\ &= \int_0^\infty dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' \Sigma_s(\mathbf{r}, E' \rightarrow E, \hat{\Omega}' \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}) \psi^i(\mathbf{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}') \\ &+ Q(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}), \end{aligned}$$

with the same boundary condition and initial condition  $\psi^0(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega})$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla + \Sigma_t(\mathbf{r}, E) \right] \psi^{i+1}(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}) \\ &= \int_0^\infty dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' \Sigma_s(\mathbf{r}, E' \rightarrow E, \hat{\Omega}' \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}) \psi^i(\mathbf{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}') \\ &+ Q(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}), \end{aligned}$$

## Fourier analysis

To see how the error in our iterative schemes evolves, we can use Fourier analysis [2]. To do so, we use a one-group, one dimension, infinite homogeneous medium with isotropic scattering.

$$\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi(x, \mu) + \Sigma_t \psi(x, \mu) = \frac{\Sigma_s}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \psi(x, \mu') d\mu' + \frac{Q}{2}.$$

We define the source iteration scheme as discussed above,

$$\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi^{k+1}(x, \mu) + \Sigma_t \psi^{k+1}(x, \mu) = \frac{\Sigma_s}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \psi^k(x, \mu') d\mu' + \frac{Q}{2}.$$

and subtract the two to get an equation for the error in iteration  $k$ , giving us a similar equation for the error in iteration  $k+1$  as it relates to the error in iteration  $k$ ,

$$\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x} e^{k+1}(x, \mu) + \Sigma_t e^{k+1}(x, \mu) = \frac{\Sigma_s}{2} \int_{-1}^1 e^k(x, \mu') d\mu'.$$

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- How can we be sure that source iteration will converge? What controls the convergence rate? To determine this we can use a Fourier analysis.
- We need to start with a lot of assumptions to get a very simplified version of our transport equation.
- We define what we mean by error, and get an equation that relates the error in each step to the previous step. Unsurprisingly it looks like our original equation, because the evolution of the solution and the evolution of the error are related.

## Fourier Analysis

To perform an inverse Fourier transform, we need to choose a measure of spatial variation, an error “wavelength.”

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#### └ TRANSPORT EQUATION

#### └ Fourier Analysis

#### Fourier Analysis

To perform an inverse Fourier transform, we need to choose a measure of spatial variation, an error “wavelength.”

- We can examine the modes of the spatial error by using an inverse Fourier transform. This will give us an idea of how the spatial frequencies of the error. We need to decide on an error wavelength, which gives us a linear error frequency. Higher  $n$  means higher error frequency, with  $n = 0$  being infinite wavelength, completely non-coupled error.
- If we plug this back into our previous equation and do a large amount of manipulation, we get a fairly simple relationship between the integrated error in one step to the integrated error in the previous step.
- This lambda function is maximized when  $n = 0$ . The lowest frequency error converges the slowest, and at a rate proportional to  $\Sigma_s/\Sigma_t$ .

## Fourier Analysis

To perform an inverse Fourier transform, we need to choose a measure of spatial variation, an error “wavelength.”

$$\lambda = \frac{\ell}{n}, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{R} \implies \tilde{\nu} = \frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{n}{\ell} = n \cdot \Sigma_t$$

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After plugging into our equation for error and some rearranging,

$$\int_{-1}^1 \hat{e}^{k+1}(n, \mu) d\mu = \Lambda(n) \int_{-1}^1 \hat{e}^k(n, \mu') d\mu',$$

Where

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# Problem

## Problem Statement

In the presence of up-scattering and a substantial scattering cross-section, Gauss-Seidel source-iteration can converge arbitrarily slow because the error in diffuse, persistent modes after each iteration reduces by a factor of  $\Sigma_s/\Sigma_t$ .

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Problem

**Problem Statement**

In the presence of up-scattering and a substantial scattering cross-section, Gauss-Seidel source-iteration can converge arbitrarily slow because the error in diffuse, persistent modes after each iteration reduces by a factor of  $\Sigma_s/\Sigma_t$ .

This motivates the development of acceleration schemes to speed up this convergence. This is especially applicable to shielding problems where scattering is dominant

# The multigroup $S_N$ equations

Apply the following discretizations:

- Apply a Petrov-Galerkin scheme in energy (multigroup method), splitting into  $G$  coupled equations.

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### └ TRANSPORT EQUATION

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$$\Sigma_{s,g'g,\ell} = \int_{-1}^1 \Sigma_{s,g'g}(\mathbf{r}, \mu) P_\ell(\mu) d\mu, \quad \mu = \hat{\Omega}' \cdot \hat{\Omega}$$

$$\phi_{g,\ell,m} = \int_{4\pi} \phi_g(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\Omega}') Y_{\ell,m}(\hat{\Omega}') d\hat{\Omega}'$$

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### TRANSPORT EQUATION

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# Iterative Solving Methods

Expressed in operator form, this is

$$\mathbf{L}_g \Psi_g = \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=0}^G \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'} + \mathbf{Q}_g, \quad \Phi_g = \mathbf{D} \Psi_g .$$

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Splitting the scattering source into down-scattering and up-scattering terms,

$$\mathbf{L}_g \Psi_g = \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=0}^g \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'} + \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=g+1}^G \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'} + \mathbf{Q}_g ,$$

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And holding the source  $\mathbf{Q}$  fixed leads to a Gauss-Seidel (scattering) source iteration,

$$\mathbf{L}_g \Psi_g^{k+1} = \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=0}^g \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'}^{k+1} + \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=g+1}^G \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'}^k + \mathbf{Q}_g .$$

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# Iterative Solving Methods

For a multiplying-medium problem, the fixed source  $\mathbf{Q}$  is replaced with the fission source,

$$\mathbf{L}_g \Psi_g = \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=0}^G \left[ \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'} + \frac{1}{k} \mathbf{F}_{g'} \Phi_{g'} \right] .$$

Holding the scattering source fixed leads to power iteration (fission source iteration),

$$\mathbf{L}_g \Psi_g^{k+1} = \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=0}^G \left[ \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'}^0 + \frac{1}{k} \mathbf{F}_{g'} \Phi_{g'}^k \right] .$$

In general, to converge both the fission and scattering sources, power iteration is paired with source iteration in an inner-outer convergence scheme.

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# Iterative Solve Error

Much of our analysis will require an examination of the error in each step of an iterative method. This is found by subtracting our method from the original equation.

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## Acceleration Methods

# Nonlinear Diffusion Acceleration (NDA)

Start, with the single-group first-order transport equation [7, 5], and integrate over angle:

$$\nabla \cdot J_g + (\Sigma_{t,g} - \Sigma_s^{g \rightarrow g}) \phi_g = \sum_{g' \neq g} \Sigma_s^{g' \rightarrow g} \phi_{g'} + q_g, \quad J_g \equiv \int d\hat{\Omega} \hat{\Omega} \psi_g(\hat{\Omega}).$$

As a closure to this problem, it is common to define current using *Fick's law*,

$$J_g = -D \nabla \phi_g.$$

Construct an additive correction to the current using information from an angular solve:

$$\begin{aligned} J_g &= -D \nabla \phi_g + J_g^{\text{ang}} - J_g^{\text{ang}} \\ &= -D \nabla \phi_g + \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega} \hat{\Omega} \psi_g + D \nabla \phi_g \end{aligned}$$

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$$\nabla \cdot J_g + (\Sigma_{t,g} - \Sigma_s^{g \rightarrow g}) \phi_g = \sum_{g' \neq g} \Sigma_s^{g' \rightarrow g} \phi_{g'} + q_g, \quad J_g \equiv \int d\hat{\Omega} \hat{\Omega} \psi_g(\hat{\Omega}).$$

As a closure to this problem, it is common to define current using *Fick's law*.

$$J_g = -D \nabla \phi_g.$$

Construct an additive correction to the current using information from an angular solve:

$$\begin{aligned} J_g &= -D \nabla \phi_g + J_g^{\text{ang}} - J_g^{\text{ang}} \\ &= -D \nabla \phi_g + \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega} \hat{\Omega} \psi_g + D \nabla \phi_g \end{aligned}$$

- Uses a lower order diffusion solve to accelerate a higher order solve.
- Start with the same single-group first-order transport equation, multiply by and integrate over angle, giving the “neutron continuity equation.”
- We need closure for this problem, so often we use Fick's law, we will introduce a correction onto Fick's Law based on a higher order solve.
- We will introduce an additive correction based on our two definitions of the current.



# Nonlinear Diffusion Acceleration (NDA)

Fold the additive correction into a *drift-diffusion vector*:

$$\begin{aligned} J_g &= -D\nabla\phi_g + \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}\hat{\Omega}\psi_g + D\nabla\phi_g \\ &= -D\nabla\phi_g + \left[ \frac{\int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}\hat{\Omega}\psi_g + D\nabla\phi_g}{\phi_g} \right] \phi_g \\ &= -D\nabla\phi_g + \hat{D}_g\phi_g. \end{aligned}$$

Plugging this into our integrated transport equation gives the low-order non-linear diffusion acceleration equation (LONDA),

$$\nabla \cdot \left[ -D\nabla + \hat{D}_g \right] \phi_g + (\Sigma_{t,g} - \Sigma_s^{g \rightarrow g}) \phi_g = \sum_{g' \neq g} \Sigma_s^{g' \rightarrow g} \phi_{g'} + q_g$$

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## Qualification Exam

### Acceleration Methods

#### Nonlinear Diffusion Acceleration (NDA)

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Fold the additive correction into a drift-diffusion vector:

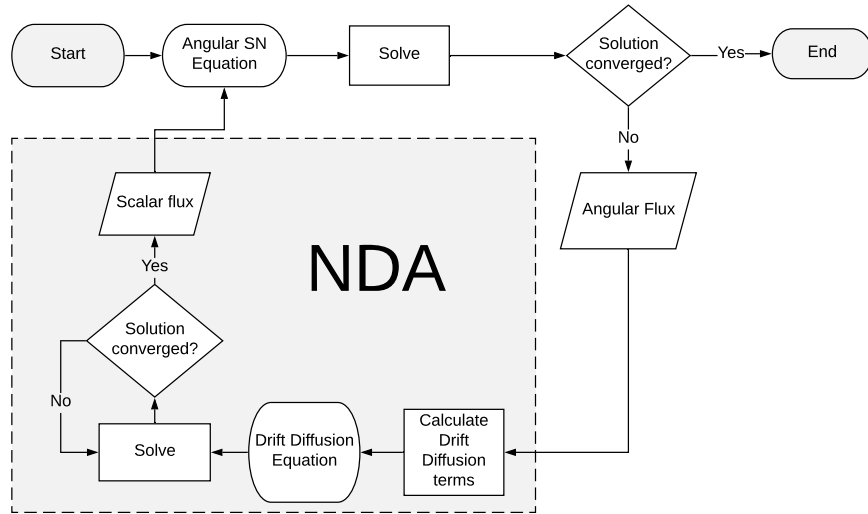
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- We combine these corrections into a drift diffusion vector.
- This gives us the LONDA equation, which is just the same integrated transport equation with a corrected current term.
- Presumably, the “higher order” angular solve will have better current information, so we can use it to calculate the drift diffusion vector.

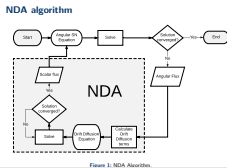
# NDA algorithm



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## Qualification Exam

- Acceleration Methods
  - NDA algorithm



- NDA algorithm showing inner low order loop, and outer high order loop.
- In general, outer loop updates both scattering and fission source, checking for  $k$  convergence. Inner loop updates fission source, also checking  $k$  convergence.

# Two-grid acceleration

To mitigate this issue Adams and Morel [1] developed the two-grid method which rests on two assumptions:

- The persistent error modes can be accurately determined by a coarse-grid approximation.

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## Qualification Exam

- └ Acceleration Methods

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- This should speed up the solve by giving an addition reduction in those diffuse persistent error modes.

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## Qualification Exam

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## Two-grid Acceleration

Solve for the error using a coarse-grid approximation, and use it as a correction to our solution in each step.

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## Qualification Exam

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#### Two-grid Acceleration

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# Two-grid acceleration

Step 1: Solve the angular  $S_N$  source-iteration equation,

$$\mathbf{L}_g \Psi_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=0}^g \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'}^{i+\frac{1}{2}} + \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=g+1}^G \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \Phi_{g'}^k + \mathbf{Q}_g.$$

Step 2: Calculate the isotropic component of the residual,

$$\mathbf{R}_{g,0}^{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{g'=g+1}^G \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \left( \Phi_{g'}^{i+\frac{1}{2}} - \Phi_{g'}^i \right)$$

Step 3: Calculate the error.

$$\mathbf{L}_g \epsilon_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \mathbf{M} \sum_{g'=0}^G \mathbf{S}_{g'g} \epsilon_{g'}^{i+\frac{1}{2}} + \mathbf{R}_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}}$$

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# Two-grid acceleration

Step 3a: Calculate error using integrated diffusion approximation.

$$(-\nabla \cdot \langle D_g \rangle \nabla + \Sigma_g) \tilde{\varepsilon}_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{g'=0}^G \Sigma_{s,g'g,0} \tilde{\varepsilon}_{g'}^{i+\frac{1}{2}} + \mathbf{R}_{g,0}^{i+\frac{1}{2}}$$

Step 4: Correct the flux

$$\Psi_g^{i+1} = \Psi_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}} + \mathbf{M} \tilde{\varepsilon}_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}}$$

This will accelerate our solution only if it removes more error with less work than our original method.

$$(-\nabla \cdot \langle D_g \rangle \nabla + \Sigma_g) \tilde{\varepsilon}_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{g'=0}^G \Sigma_{s,g'g,0} \tilde{\varepsilon}_{g'}^{i+\frac{1}{2}} + \mathbf{R}_{g,0}^{i+\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\Phi_g^{i+1} = \Phi_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}} + \mathbf{M} \tilde{\varepsilon}_g^{i+\frac{1}{2}}$$

# Two-grid Acceleration

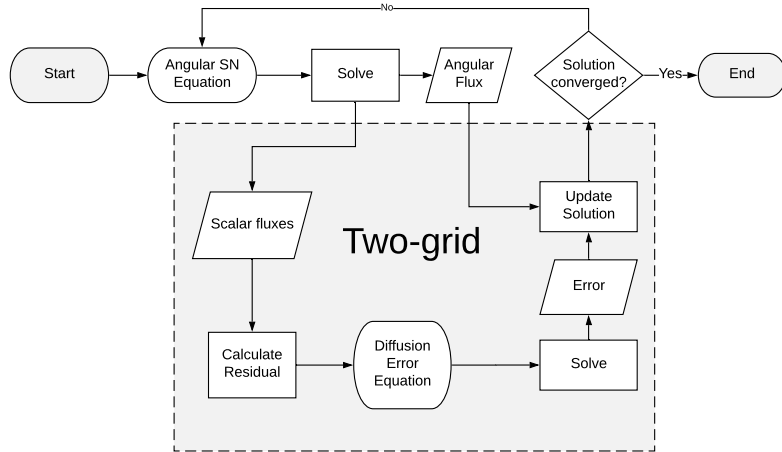


Figure 2: Two-grid flowchart.

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## Qualification Exam Acceleration Methods

### Two-grid Acceleration

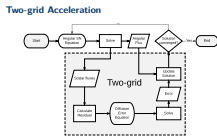


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# Acceleration Methods

Two acceleration methods:

- **Nonlinear Diffusion Acceleration:** improves the convergence of the multi-group Gauss-Seidel iteration, but suffers from convergence issues with a large amount of upscattering.
- **Two-grid Acceleration:** improves the convergence of multi-group problems with a large amount of upscattering.

## Novel Combination

Use two-grid acceleration to improve the convergence rate of the low-order portion of the NDA solve.

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└ Acceleration Methods

└ Acceleration Methods

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# Combining Acceleration Methods

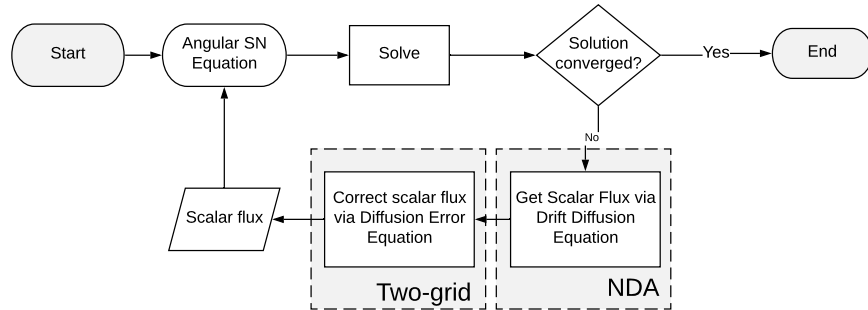


Figure 3: Two-grid flowchart.

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## Qualification Exam

- Acceleration Methods

- Combining Acceleration Methods

Combining Acceleration Methods

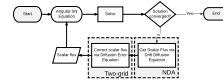


Figure 3: Two-grid flowchart.

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# Analyzing Acceleration Schemes

# State of the art

For an acceleration scheme to be worthwhile, it must remove more error from the solution for less work. Defining *work* is challenging. In general, we use inversions of the transport matrix (or *sweeps*) as a unit of “work.”

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## Qualification Exam

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The problem with this is that it's unclear how much actual work is being done in each step. You could form an acceleration scheme that solves in a single outer iteration, but is doing so *actually* accelerating removing more error in less work, or just moving work around?

We can use Fourier analysis like before, but things get complicated when we move into multidimensional problems, and start combining accelerating schemes. We need more insight into the acceleration process.

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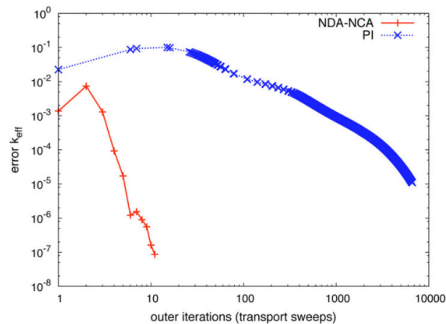


Figure 4: NDA convergence vs standard power iteration [7]

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## Qualification Exam

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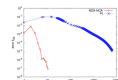


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# Analysis Challenges

TABLE IV

Results from the Neutron Porosity Tool Problem Using MTTG\*

Method	Acceleration $S_N$ Order	GS Iterations	Within-Group Sweeps	Acceleration Sweeps	Time
GS	—	175	16 294	0	1.0
TTG	8	15	1 398	547	0.113
TTG	2	13	1 212	459	0.086
MTTG	2	47	611	1329	0.050

\*All timing results are normalized to the unaccelerated GS iteration time.

Figure 5: Iteration results table. [4]

## Qualification Exam

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Figure 5: Iteration results table. [4]

Here is an example of an iteration table from a paper analyzing the two-grid method. It shows both Gauss-Seidel iterations, within group sweeps and acceleration sweeps, but we don't have a clear idea of what parts of the problem are doing all the work. We don't know where the error is being removed, and if this method is doing it more economically or just shifting it around. The *time* is a good indication, but not ideal. Is it proper to use clock time? CPU Time? How do we know that it's not faster because of better computer science. We not only need insight into the inner workings of acceleration schemes, but we need to dis-aggregate the computer science from the mathematics.

# Analysis Challenges

A few challenges when analyzing the effectiveness of acceleration schemes include:

- Our definition of work is based on assumptions about algorithm efficiency.

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Qualification Exam

└ Analyzing Acceleration Schemes

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A few challenges when analyzing the effectiveness of acceleration schemes include:

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- Combining or using complex acceleration schemes may invalidate these assumptions.

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## Qualification Exam

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**BART**

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Qualification Exam  
└ BART

BART

# Design Goals for BART

BART is a new code in development designed with features to overcome some of the challenges of analyzing acceleration methods. Four major design goals include:

- 1 Leverage polymorphism to make implementing new methods easier and limit the code needed to do so.

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## Qualification Exam

- └ BART

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## Qualification Exam └ BART

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# Polymorphism

Material_I
sigma_t()
sigma_a()
density()
name()

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└ BART

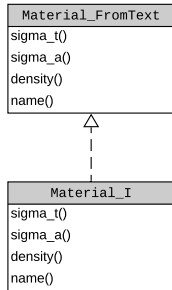
└ Polymorphism

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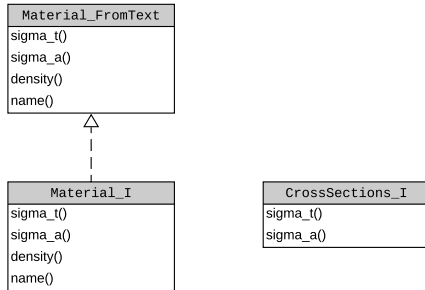
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└─ BART

└─ Polymorphism

Polymorphism



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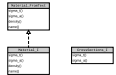


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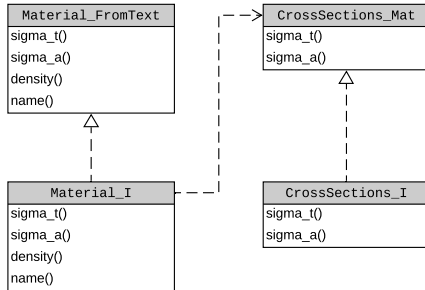
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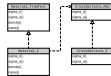


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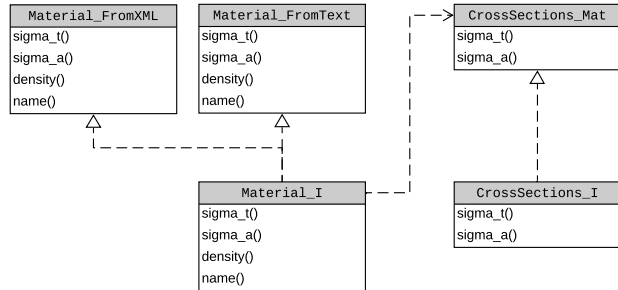
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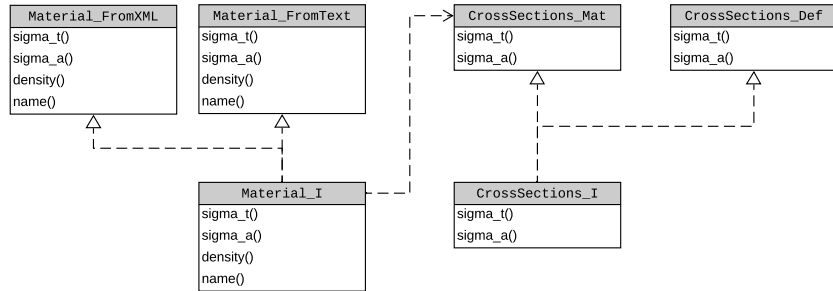
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└ Polymorphism

Polymorphism



# Polymorphism

Method_I
Initialize()
Solve()
GetResult()

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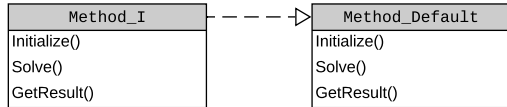
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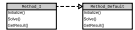
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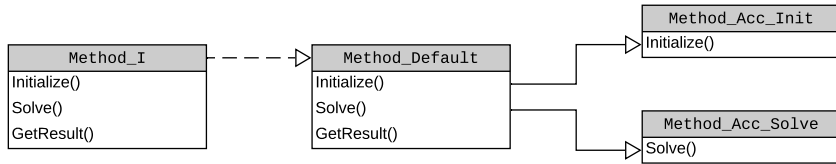
└ BART

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### Polymorphism



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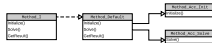


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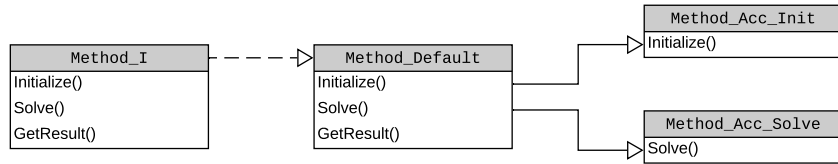
└─ Polymorphism

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# Polymorphism



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Polymorphism



# Polymorphism Benefits

The use of polymorphism in BART

- Minimizes code changes needed to implement new methods, making it faster and easier.

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- Minimizes code changes needed to implement new methods, making it faster and easier.
- Enables a true comparison of the accelerated solve to a control solve.
- Makes the modifications *portable*.
- Enables us to compare the implementation of the method to dis-aggregate the computer science from the method itself.

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- Enables a true comparison of the accelerated solve to a control solve.
- Makes the modifications *portable*.
- Enables us to compare the implementation of the method to dis-aggregate the computer science from the method itself.

# Instrumentation

## Goal 2

Include tools to analyze the effectiveness of acceleration schemes.

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Instrumentation

Goal 2  
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# Framework for experimentation

## Goal 3

Provide a framework for users to experiment with novel combinations of and modifications to existing acceleration schemes.

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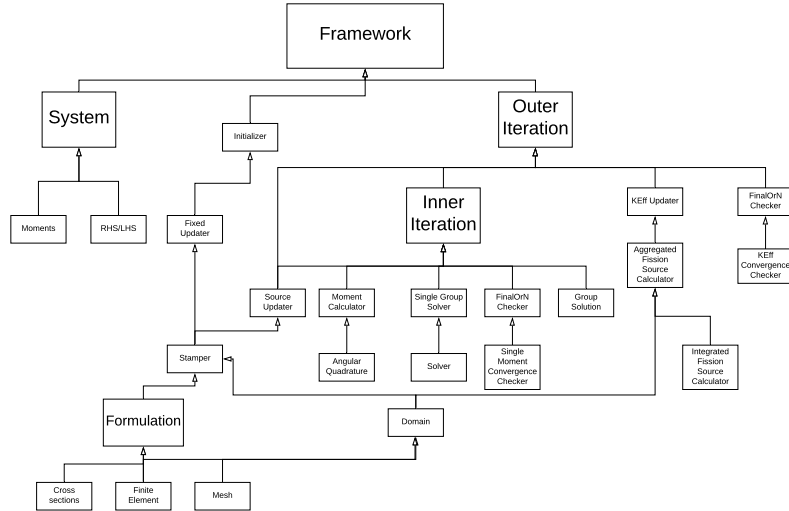
└ BART

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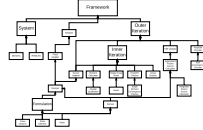


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# Modern Coding Practices

## Goal 4

Utilize modern coding and tests practices to make it easier for users to develop and have confidence in their solutions.

- Build using the methods of modern C++-14.
- Cross-sections have the capability of being stored in Google Protocol Buffers.
- BART uses the googletest and googlemock libraries for unit testing. Unit testing coverage via codecov
- All dependencies for BART are built in an available Docker container.
- Continuous integration via travis.ci.

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## Plan and Future Work

# BART Implementation Plan

Formulations:

- Interface for second-order transport equation formulations using continuous finite element methods.
- Implementation of Diffusion.
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- In-step Fourier-transform.
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- Automated runs based on mesh refinement.

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# Future Work

- Addition of Discontinuous-Galerkin Finite Element Formulations support to BART.

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- Plan and Future Work

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## Backup Slides

# Energy discretization

Introduce a discretization of the energy domain  $\mathbb{E}$  into  $G$  non-overlapping elements, such that

$$E_h = \{E_1, E_2, \dots, E_G\}, \quad \mathbb{E} = \bigcup_{g=1}^G E_g$$

Assume that the energy-dependent angular flux can be separated into a group angular flux and a energy function within each of these groups

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}) \approx \psi_g(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\Omega}) f_g(E), \quad E \in E_g$$

This gives us  $G$  coupled equations for each energy group, converting the integral scattering term into a summation,

$$\left[ \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla + \Sigma_{t,g}(\mathbf{r}) \right] \psi_g(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\Omega}) = \sum_{g'=0}^G \Sigma_{s,g' \rightarrow g}(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\Omega}' \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}) \psi_{g'}(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\Omega}') + Q_g(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\Omega}) .$$

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- Say that the function  $f_g$  is zero inside element, and 0 outside, Petrov-Galerkin scheme.

# Second-order forms of the Transport Equation

There are various second-order, self-adjoint forms of the transport equation.

- Even/Odd-parity equations (EP).
- Weighted least-squared formulation (WLS).
- Self-Adjoint angular flux (SAAF).

With advantages and disadvantages compared to the standard first-order forms. Advantages include:

- They can be solved on multidimensional finite element meshes using standard continuous finite element methods (CFEM).
- CFEM methods result in symmetric positive-definite (SPD) matrices.
- When using the  $P_N$  formulation, the flux moments are strongly coupled via  $\hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla$ .

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- First-order forms of the TE form block lower-triangular that can be swept. But on many meshes, there are slightly re-entrant cells that will break this pattern.
- Solution methods for SPD matrices are better, CG vs. GMRES.

# Second-order forms of the Transport Equation

Disadvantages include:

- CFEM methods result in a general sparse matrix, not a block lower-triangular.

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# Self-adjoint angular flux equation (SAAF)

Start with the single-group first-order transport equation [6]:

$$\hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi + \Sigma_t \psi = S\psi + q. \quad (1)$$

Solve for  $\psi$ ,

$$\psi = \frac{1}{\Sigma_t} \left[ S\psi + q - \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi \right],$$

and plug back into the gradient term in Eq.1.

$$-\hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \frac{1}{\Sigma_t} \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi + \Sigma_t \psi = S\psi + q - \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \frac{S\psi + q}{4\pi}$$

With boundary conditions, for all  $\mathbf{r} \in \partial D$ :

$$\psi = f, \quad \hat{\Omega} \cdot \hat{n} < 0$$

$$\hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi + \Sigma_t \psi = S\psi + q, \quad \hat{\Omega} \cdot \hat{n} > 0$$

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The Self-adjoint angular flux equation (SAAF) is a second-order form of the transport equation introduced by Morel and McGhee in 1999. To derive, consider scattering term part of the source. Properties of SAAF

- +Can solve using standard CFEM methods, which give SPD matrices (can use CG instead of GMRES)
- +Full angular flux is obtained by solve (unlike Even/Odd parity)
- +BCs only coupled in one direction when reflective
- -General sparse matrix, not block lower-triangular (no sweeping)
- -Pure scattering causes issues like odd-parity