Lauren Hanson Multilevel Algorithms for Large Scale Interior Point Methods in Bound Constrained Optimization

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We develop and compare multilevel algorithms for solving bound constrained nonlinear variational problems via interior point methods. Several equivalent formulations of the linear systems arising at each iteration of the interior point method are compared from the point of view of conditioning and iterative solution. Furthermore, we show how a multilevel continuation strategy can be used to obtain good initial guesses ("hot starts") for each nonlinear iteration. A minimal surface problem is used to illustrate the various approaches. (Joint work with Michele Benzi and Eldad Haber)