



COLUMBIA | ENGINEERING  
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

APMAE4302

METHODS IN COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE

---

## Homework 2

---

*Author:*

Matías I. Inostroza  
(mii2106)

February 23, 2026

## Contents

1	Problem 1	2
2	Problem 2	3
3	Problem 3	5
4	Problem 4	7

## 1 Problem 1

1) First, let's assume that there are two problems described by:

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \hat{\mathbf{b}} \quad (1)$$

By subtracting both:

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}) = \mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}} \quad (3)$$

$$\rightarrow (\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}) = \mathbf{A}^{-1}(\mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}) \quad (4)$$

Considering  $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|\|\mathbf{x}\|$

$$\|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}})\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|\|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\| = \|\mathbf{A}\|\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}(\mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}})\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\|\|\mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\| \quad (5)$$

Thus:

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|\|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\|\|\mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\| = \kappa(\mathbf{A})\|\mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\| \quad (6)$$

Also, it can be established that  $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}\| = \|\mathbf{b}\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|\|\mathbf{u}\|$ , and therefore  $\frac{\|\mathbf{b}\|}{\|\mathbf{u}\|} \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|$

By multiplying both sides by  $\|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\|$

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{b}\|}{\|\mathbf{u}\|}\|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|\|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\| \quad (7)$$

Therefore, using Equations (6) and (7):

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{b}\|}{\|\mathbf{u}\|}\|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\| \leq \kappa(\mathbf{A})\|\mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\| \quad (8)$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\|}{\|\mathbf{u}\|} \leq \kappa(\mathbf{A}) \frac{\|\mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\|}{\|\mathbf{b}\|} \quad (9)$$

2)

From equation 3:

$$\|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}})\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\| \rightarrow \|\mathbf{r}\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{e}\| \quad (10)$$

Also, as  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ , then:

$$\|\mathbf{u}\| = \|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\| \|\mathbf{b}\| \quad (11)$$

Multiplying Equation (10) by Equation (11):

$$\|\mathbf{r}\| \|\mathbf{u}\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\| \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{b}\| \|\mathbf{e}\| \quad (12)$$

$$\|\mathbf{r}\| \|\mathbf{u}\| \leq \kappa(\mathbf{A}) \|\mathbf{b}\| \|\mathbf{e}\| \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{1}{\kappa(\mathbf{A})} \frac{\|\mathbf{r}\|}{\|\mathbf{b}\|} \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{e}\|}{\|\mathbf{u}\|} \quad (14)$$

Since  $\|\mathbf{e}\| = \|\mathbf{u} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}\|$  it follows that:

$$\frac{1}{\kappa(\mathbf{A})} \frac{\|\mathbf{r}\|}{\|\mathbf{b}\|} \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{e}\|}{\|\mathbf{u}\|} \leq \kappa(\mathbf{A}) \frac{\|\mathbf{r}\|}{\|\mathbf{b}\|} \quad (15)$$

## 2 Problem 2

If  $\mathbf{v}_j = \sin(j\pi x_i)$  is an eigenvector of  $\mathbf{A}$ , then it satisfies  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_j = \lambda_j \mathbf{v}_j$ .

$$(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_j)_i = \frac{1}{h^2}(-v^{i-1} + 2v^i - v^{i+1}) \quad (16)$$

$$= \frac{1}{h^2}(-\sin(j\pi(i-1)h) + 2\sin(j\pi(i)h) - \sin(j\pi(i+1)h)) \quad (17)$$

Define the angles  $\theta = j\pi ih$  and  $\phi = j\pi h$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_j)_i &= \frac{1}{h^2}(-\sin(\theta - \phi) + 2\sin(\theta) - \sin(\theta + \phi)) \\ &= \frac{1}{h^2}(-\sin(\theta)\cos(\phi) + \sin(\phi)\cos(\theta) + 2\sin(\theta) - \sin(\theta)\cos(\phi) - \sin(\phi)\cos(\theta)) \\ &= \frac{1}{h^2}(-2\sin(\theta)\cos(\phi) + 2\sin(\theta)) \\ &= \frac{1}{h^2}(2\sin(\theta)(1 - \cos(\phi))) \end{aligned}$$

And  $1 - \cos(\phi) = 2 \sin^2(\frac{\phi}{2})$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_j)_i &= \frac{4}{h^2}(\sin^2(\frac{\phi}{2})) \sin(\theta) = \frac{4}{h^2}(\sin^2(\frac{j\pi h}{2})) \sin(j\pi i h) = \frac{4}{h^2}(\sin^2(\frac{j\pi h}{2})) \sin(j\pi x_i) \\ &= \frac{4}{h^2}(\sin^2(\frac{j\pi h}{2})) \mathbf{v}_j \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $\mathbf{v}_j$  corresponds to an eigenvector of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

2) The corresponding eigenvalue  $\lambda$  is the scalar multiplying the eigenvector.

$$(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_j)_i = \frac{4}{h^2}(\sin^2(\frac{j\pi h}{2})) \mathbf{v}_j = \lambda_j \mathbf{v}_j$$

Then:

$$\lambda_j = \frac{4}{h^2} \sin^2(\frac{j\pi h}{2}) = 4m^2 \sin^2(\frac{j\pi}{2m}) \quad (18)$$

For  $j = 1, \dots, m-1$  (excluding the boundary nodes, where  $\lambda$  is not defined in the same way).

3) If  $m \rightarrow \infty$ :

- For  $j = 1$ , we obtain the smallest eigenvalue. Since  $\frac{\pi}{2m}$  is small, we use  $\sin(\frac{\pi}{2m}) \approx \frac{\pi}{2m}$ . Then:

$$\lambda_{\min} \approx 4m^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{2m}\right)^2 = \pi^2 \quad (19)$$

- For  $j = m-1$ , we obtain the largest eigenvalue. Since

$$\frac{(m-1)\pi}{2m} = \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{2m} \approx \frac{\pi}{2},$$

we have  $\sin(\frac{\pi}{2}) = 1$ . Then:

$$\lambda_{\max} \approx 4m^2 \quad (20)$$

Finally:

$$\kappa(\mathbf{A}) \approx \frac{4m}{\pi} = O(m^2) \quad (21)$$

### 3 Problem 3

a)

$$u(x) = \sin(k\pi x) + c(x - \frac{1}{2})^3 \quad (22)$$

$$u'(x) = k\pi \cos(k\pi x) + 3c(x - \frac{1}{2})^2 \quad (23)$$

$$u''(x) = -k^2\pi^2 \sin(k\pi x) + 6c(x - \frac{1}{2}) \quad (24)$$

Then, by substituting in  $-u'' + \gamma u = f(x)$

$$k^2\pi^2 \sin(k\pi x) - 6c(x - \frac{1}{2}) + \gamma(\sin(k\pi x) + c(x - \frac{1}{2})^3) = f(x) \quad (25)$$

$$(k^2\pi^2 + \gamma) \sin(k\pi x) + \gamma c(x - \frac{1}{2})^3 - 6c(x - \frac{1}{2}) = f(x) \quad (26)$$

b)

For this problem, the code was implemented in a file named `bvp.c`, located in the main HW2 directory. The file was developed based on the `tri.c` code and modified by adding the term  $\gamma u$ . As a result, the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  takes the following form:

$$\mathbf{A}_i = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 + \gamma & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (27)$$

The right-hand side vector is given by  $\mathbf{b} = f(x_i)$ .

Using the provided plotting code and running the `bvp.c` program, the following plot is obtained:

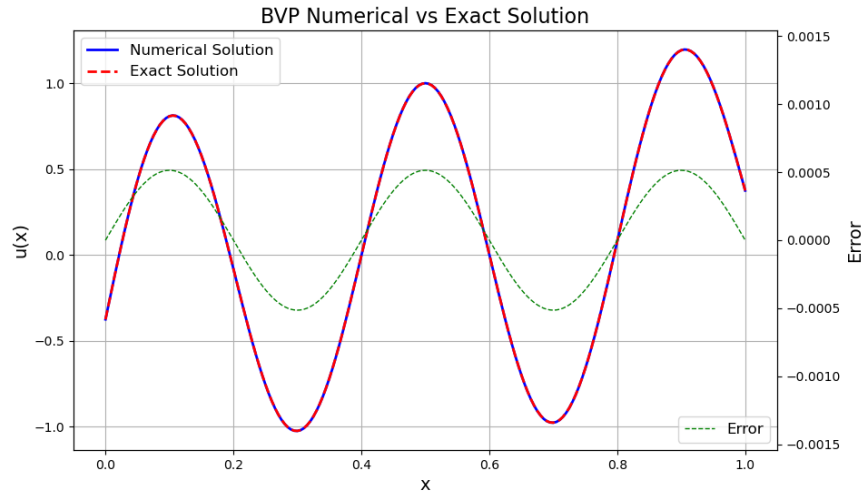


Figure 1: Numerical vs exact solution

c) By setting  $\gamma = 0$  and  $c = 0$ , and using 1 MPI process, the following convergence plot is obtained:

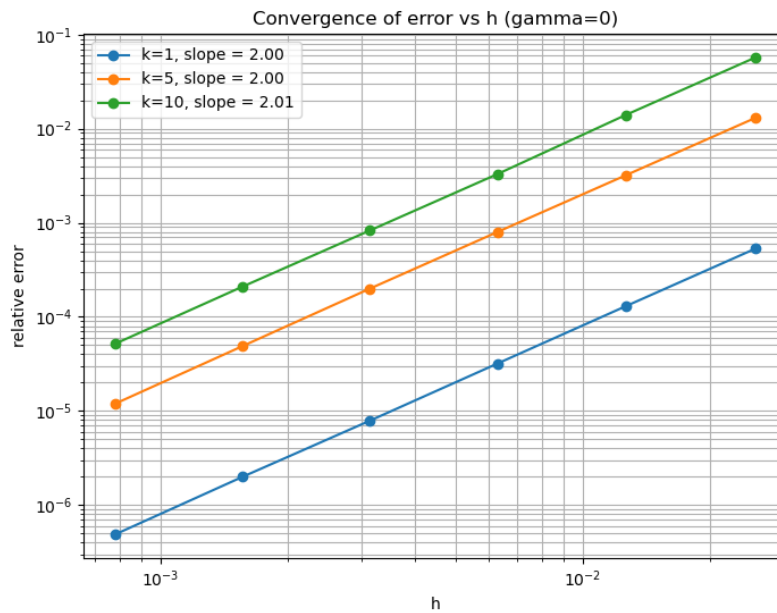


Figure 2: Convergence plot

It can be observed that the order of convergence is 2 for all values of  $k$ .

## 4 Problem 4

- (a) Jacobi preconditioned Richardson (**10000 iterations**): Very slow convergence. The method essentially stagnates, since Richardson is highly sensitive to the condition number and Jacobi preconditioning is not sufficient to significantly improve convergence.
- (b) Unpreconditioned Conjugate Gradient (**102 iterations**): Significant improvement over Richardson. However, it still requires many iterations due to the condition number of the system and the absence of preconditioning.
- (c) Unpreconditioned Conjugate Gradient with  $c = 0$  (**1 iteration**): Converges in a single iteration. This occurs because the right hand side aligns with an eigenvector of the matrix, allowing to recover the exact solution immediately.
- (d) ICC preconditioned Conjugate Gradient (**1 iteration**): Excellent performance. The ICC preconditioner provides a very accurate approximation of the matrix factorization, resulting in a well conditioned system.
- (e) Block Jacobi preconditioned CG (4 processors, **7 iterations**): Slower than ICC. The preconditioning is applied locally to each block rather than globally, which reduces its effectiveness due to loss of global coupling.
- (f) MUMPS direct solver (1 processor, **1 iteration**): Direct solver, so the solution is obtained exactly in one step. No iterative process is required.
- (g) MUMPS direct solver (4 processors, **1 iteration**): Same behavior as with one processor. Parallelization improves computational time, but not the number of iterations.