

# Efficient numerical and algorithmic realization of a pressure Poisson complement solver for the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations in FEAT3

Mirco Arndt

Institut für Angewandte Mathematik (LS3)  
Fakultät für Mathematik  
TU Dortmund

`mirco.arndt@math.tu-dortmund.de`

20. November 2018

# Overview

---

## 1 Introduction

- weak formulation and discretization
- matrix formulation
- structure of (almost) all solvers

## 2 PP formulation

- PP formulation - pressure Poisson problem
- construction of globally defined additive preconditioning operators

## 3 PP Algorithm

- PP solver configurations

## 4 Benchmark results

## non-stationary incompressible Navier-Stokes equations

$$u_t + u \cdot \nabla u - \nu \Delta u + \nabla p = f, \quad (-) \nabla \cdot u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \times [0, T]$$

with initial and boundary conditions

- domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 2, 3$
- time limit  $T$
- velocity  $u$
- pressure  $p$
- kinematic viscosity  $\nu$
- rhs  $f$  (external source)

# Introduction

---

## weak formulation

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t u \cdot v + \int_{\Omega} (u \cdot \nabla u) \cdot v - \nu \int_{\Omega} \Delta u \cdot v + \int_{\Omega} \nabla p \cdot v = \int_{\Omega} f \cdot v$$

## partial derivative

$$\begin{aligned} -\nu \int_{\Omega} \Delta u \cdot v &= \nu \int_{\Omega} \nabla u : \nabla v - \nu \int_{\partial\Omega} (\nabla u \cdot n) \cdot v \\ \int_{\Omega} \nabla p \cdot v &= - \int_{\Omega} p \nabla \cdot v + \int_{\partial\Omega} p v \cdot n \end{aligned}$$

## discretization

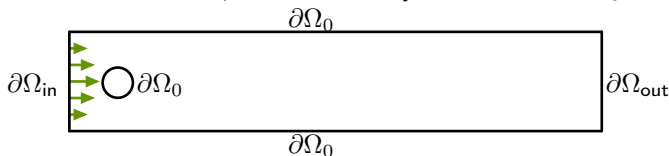
$$\begin{aligned} (\partial_t u_h, v_h) + (u_h \cdot \nabla u_h, v_h) + \nu (\nabla u_h, \nabla v_h) - (p_h, \nabla \cdot v_h) &= (f, v_h) \\ (-)(q_h, \nabla \cdot u_h) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$



# Introduction

## boundary conditions

Given area  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 2, 3$  with boundary  $\partial\Omega = \partial\Omega_{\text{in}} \cup \partial\Omega_0 \cup \partial\Omega_{\text{out}}$ .



- On  $\partial\Omega_D := \partial\Omega_{\text{in}} \cup \partial\Omega_0$  dirichlet boundary are given:

$$u|_{\partial\Omega_{\text{in}}} := u_{\text{in}} \quad \text{and} \quad u|_{\partial\Omega_0} := 0$$

- On  $\partial\Omega_{\text{out}}$  „do nothing“  $\Rightarrow -\nu \int_{\partial\Omega} (\nabla u \cdot n) \cdot v + \int_{\partial\Omega} pv \cdot n = 0$

**„do nothing“**

leave the solution and the test space free on that portion of the boundary

# Introduction

## matrix formulation

$$\begin{bmatrix} M & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \partial_t u_h \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} K(u_h) + \nu L & B \\ (+) - B^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_h \\ p_h \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

mass matrix	$M_{ij} := (v_h^i, v_h^j)$
transport matrix	$K(u)_{ij} := (u_h \cdot \nabla v_h^j, v_h^i)$
laplacian matrix	$L_{ij} := (\nabla v_h^j, \nabla v_h^i)$
gradient matrix	$B_{ij} := -(q_h^j, \nabla \cdot v_h^i)$ (divergence matrix $B^T$ )
right hand side	$F_i := (f, v_h^i)$

## time stepping techniques (theta-scheme)

$$\begin{bmatrix} S(u^l) & kB \\ B^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^l \\ p^l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- step size  $k := \Delta t$
- $S(u^l) := \alpha M + k\theta(K(u^l) + \nu L)$
- $g := Mu^{l-1} - k(1 - \theta)(K(u^{l-1}) + \nu L) + k\theta F^l + k(1 - \theta)F^{l-1}$

# Structure of (almost) all solvers

$$\begin{bmatrix} S(u^l) & kB \\ B^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^l \\ p^l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{aligned} S(u)u + kBp &= g \\ B^T u &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Galerkin schemes

*local MPSC*

**Outer:**  $N$  nonlinear steps

**Inner:**  $L$  DPM (**D**iscrete **P**rojection  
**M**ethod) steps (**O**seen)

$L = 1$

**CC**

Coupled solution  
by **C**oupled solver

$L > 1$

**CP**

Coupled solution  
by **P**rojection solver

## Projection schemes

*global MPSC*

**Outer:** 1 DPM steps

**Inner:**  $N$  nonlinear steps  
(**B**urgers)

**PP**

**P**rojection solution  
by **P**rojection solver

All versions of CC, CP, PP lead to the „same“ solutions.

# Essential difference between the solvers

## key ideas of MPSC approaches

*Re-interpretation of Navier-Stokes solvers (Chorin, VanKan, Uzawa, etc.) as „incomplete solvers“ for discrete saddle-point problems.*

### Galerkin schemes

#### local MPSC (Multilevel Pressure Schur Complement)

- **Fully coupled** Newton-like solver as outer nonlinear procedure
- Solve exactly on **subsets/patches** and perform an outer Block–Gauß–Seidel/Jacobi iteration as smoother

### Projection schemes

#### global MPSC (Multilevel Pressure Schur Complement)

- Outer **decoupling** of velocity and pressure
- Newton-like schemes for Momentum equations
- Multigrid solver for all scalar subproblems

# Essential difference between the solvers

## Galerkin schemes

### CC (Coupled solution by Coupled solver)

- „direct solvers“ for stationary (generalized) Navier-Stokes equations
- fully implicit character
  - ⇒ the **most accurate and robust** time stepping schemes
  - ⇒ only variants which allow a rigorous a **posteriori error control**
- **large time steps** to reach a desired accuracy
- **very expensive costs** for one time step

### CP (Coupled solution by Projection solver)

- **cost can be diminished** by
  - weakening the threshold parameters
  - applying only a fixed small number of nonlinear steps
- ⇒ **accuracy and robustness behaviour may be weakened**

# Essential difference between the solvers

## Projection schemes

PP (Projection solution by Projection solver)

- applied to nonstationary flows only
- rigorous error control in time is not clear
- **„exact“ treatment of the nonlinearity**
- depending on the last pressure iterate  
(→ smaller time steps)
- **smaller and much cheaper time steps**  
(compared to Galerkin schemes)
- resulting solutions satisfy the continuity equation,  
but the discrete momentum equation only approximately

for **fully nonstationary flows** with **dominating convective** term and  
on **complex domains**, this approach is a **favourized** one

# PP formulation

- PP (**P**rojection solution by **P**rojection solver)  
*global MPSC (M*ultilevel *P*ressure *S*chur *C*omplement)
- 1 a decoupling step for  $u$  and  $p$  as outer iteration
- 2 compute a velocity field without taking into account incompressibility
- 3 perform a pressure correction, which is a projection back to the subspace of divergence free vector fields

## pressure Schur complement:

$$S(u)u + kBp = g$$

$$B^T u = 0$$

$$u = S^{-1}(u)g - kS^{-1}(u)Bp$$

$$0 = B^T S^{-1}(u)g - kB^T S^{-1}(u)Bp$$

## pressure Schur complement

A scalar equation that contains the pressure:

$$\underbrace{B^T S^{-1}(u)B}_{=:\tilde{P}} p = \underbrace{\frac{1}{k} B^T S^{-1}(u)g}_{=:f_p}$$

# PP formulation - perform only once per time step

## Equation for $u$ ('Burgers')

**solve** for  $u^l$  :

$$S(u^l)u^l = g - kBp^{l-1}$$

## Equation for $p$

**pressure correction** with a suitable preconditioner  $C$ :

$$p^l = p^{l-1} + C^{-1} \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{k} B^T S^{-1}(u^l) g - B^T S^{-1}(u^l) B p^l \right)}_{\text{residual (pressure Schur complement)}}$$

$$Cp^l = Cp^{l-1} + \frac{1}{k} B^T \underbrace{(S^{-1}(u^l) g - k S^{-1}(u^l) B p^l)}_{\text{definition of } u^l}$$

$$= Cp^{l-1} + \frac{1}{k} B^T u^l$$

**convergence**

$$Cp = Cp + \frac{1}{k} B^T u^l \implies B^T u = 0$$



# Construction of globally defined additive preconditioning operators

$$A := B^T S^{-1}(u) B \quad \text{with} \quad S(u) = \alpha M + k\theta(\nu L + K(u))$$

**additive approach:** construct „optimal“ operators for the limit cases

$$C^{-1} := \alpha_R A_R^{-1} + \alpha_D A_D^{-1} + \alpha_K A_K^{-1}$$

- $A_R$  is an „optimal“ (reactive) preconditionier for  $B^T M^{-1} B$   
(divergence-free  $L^2$ -projection)
- $A_D$  is an „optimal“ (diffusive) preconditionier for  $B^T L^{-1} B$   
(Stokes-equation)
- $A_K$  is an „optimal“ (convective) preconditionier for  $B^T K^{-1}(u) B$   
(incompressible Euler equation)

„optimal“

- partial preconditioners were direct solvers with respect to the underlying subproblem
- resulting convergence behaviour is independent of
  - outer parameters
  - underlying mesh

# The „reactive“ preconditioner for $B^T M^{-1} B$

- $M$  is already diagonal by construction
  - finite difference approach
  - nonconforming triangular finite elements
- Otherwise lumping

$$A_R := P := B^T M_l^{-1} B$$

- An (almost) exact solver / preconditioner  $A_R$  for small time steps
$$S(u) = \alpha M_l + k\theta(\nu L + K(u)) \longrightarrow \alpha M_l \quad \text{for } k \rightarrow 0$$
- A flexible treatment of pressure boundary conditions on discrete level
- Highly efficient multigrid solvers for applying  $A_R^{-1}$
- Very compact matrices  $A_R$  in independence of the spatial discretization

# The „reactive“ preconditioner - Pressure Poisson problem

## Poisson problem

$$-\Delta q = rhs$$

## matrix formulation

$$\blacksquare rhs = -\nabla \cdot \nabla q = \nabla \cdot v$$

$$\blacksquare v = -\nabla q$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & \nabla \\ \nabla \cdot & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ rhs \end{bmatrix} \quad \sim \quad \begin{bmatrix} M_l & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ f_p \end{bmatrix}$$

## Pressure Poisson problem

**solve** for  $q$ : ( $P := B^T M_l^{-1} B$ )

$$Pq = f_p \quad (-\Delta q = rhs)$$

- $P$  calculated only once in a preprocessing step  
(or if the spatial mesh has changed)
- $P$  arises from a mixed formulation  
 $\Rightarrow$  even piecewise constant ansatz functions are allowed

# The „diffusive“ preconditioner for $B^T L^{-1} B$

The inverse discrete Laplacian  $L^{-1}$  and also  $B^T L^{-1} B$  are **full** matrices!  
(At least for all finite difference/element/volumen approaches.)

Idea:

$$\nabla \cdot \Delta^{-1} \nabla \sim I$$

In the finite element context:

$$B^T L^{-1} B \sim M_p$$

$$A_D := M_p$$

- All numerical tests show, that indeed  $A_D := M_p$  is sufficient.
- Absolutely robust against all variations of parameters and the shape of the mesh in the pure Stokes case.
- Leads to an **improved convergence rate** in the pressure update!

# The „convective“ preconditioner for $B^T K^{-1}(u)B$

The inverse transport matrix  $K^{-1}(u)$  and  $B^T K^{-1}(u)B$  are **full** matrices!

- continuous construction

$$\nabla \cdot (U \cdot \nabla)^{-1} \nabla \sim (\tilde{U} \cdot \nabla)?$$

- discrete construction

$$\begin{bmatrix} ILU(S) & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow B^T ILU(S)^{-1} B \quad \text{instead of} \quad \begin{bmatrix} S & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow B^T S^{-1} B$$

- poor condition number:  $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1}) - \mathcal{O}(h^{-2})$
- sensitive to mesh anisotropies
- complete solution process is almost so expensive as for the original system

- new techniques ...

# PP Algorithm

**Start with:**  $u_0 := 0$ . **Given:** Iterate  $p^{l-1}$ .

**Perform:**

- 1 ('Burgers') **Solve:** for an intermediate velocity  $\tilde{u}$ :

$$S(\tilde{u})\tilde{u} = g - kBp^{l-1}$$

VanKan

$$S(\tilde{u})\tilde{u} = g$$

Chorin

- 2 **Calculate:** the right hand side  $f_p$  for the pressure Poisson problem:

$$f_p = \frac{1}{k}B^T\tilde{u} \quad \left( = \frac{1}{k}B^TS^{-1}[g - kBp^{l-1}] = \text{residual}(p^{l-1}) \right)$$

- 3 ('Pressure Poisson') **Solve:** for  $q$ :

$$Pq = f_p \quad (P := B^TM_l^{-1}B)$$

- 4 **Update:** new pressure  $p^l$ :

$$p^l = p^{l-1} + \alpha_R q + \alpha_D M_{p_l}^{-1} f_p$$

VanKan

$$p^l = \alpha_R q + \alpha_D M_{p_l}^{-1} f_p$$

Chorin

- 5 **Update:** new velocity  $u^l$  to satisfy the incompressibility constraint:

$$u^l = \tilde{u} - kM_l^{-1}Bq$$

# PP Algorithm - Burgers equation

**Burgers equation** with given Iterate  $p^{l-1}$  and  $u^{l-1}$

$$S(\tilde{u})\tilde{u} = \underbrace{g - kBp^{l-1}}_{=:f} \text{ (VanKan)} \quad \text{or} \quad S(\tilde{u})\tilde{u} = \underbrace{g}_{=:f} \text{ (Chorin)}$$

## fixed point iteration

- 1 Calculate nonlinear residual  $d^n$ :

$$d^n = f - S(\tilde{u}^n)\tilde{u}^n$$

- 2 Solve an auxiliary subproblem for  $y^n$ :

$$S(\tilde{u}^n)y^n = d^n$$

- 3 Update  $\tilde{u}$  via the auxiliary solution  $y^n$ :

$$\tilde{u}^{n+1} = \tilde{u}^n + y^n$$

## full fixed point iteration

- set  $\tilde{u}^0 := u^{l-1}$
- use  $N$  nonlinear steps

## extrapolate previous time step

- linear extrapolation of solution in time:

$$\tilde{u}^0 := 2u^{l-1} - u^{l-2}$$

- one nonlinear step

# PP solver configurations

## fixed point loop

- relative tolerance ( $\sim 10^{-2}$ )

## velocity solver - solver a

- Richardson with Jacobi Smoother
- Richardson-Multigrid with Jacobi-Smoother (or SOR)
  - Coarse-Grid Solver: Richardson-Multigrid with Jacobi-Smoother (50 iterations)
- max. iteration (50)
- relative tolerance ( $\sim 10^{-2}$ )
- smooth steps (2)
- smooth damp (0.7)  
*non newtonian fluid* (0.3)

## pressure solver - solver s

- PCG with Jacobi Smoother
- PCG-Multigrid with Jacobi-Smoother
  - Coarse-Grid Solver: UMFPACK (exact solver)
- max. iteration (100)
- absolute tolerance ( $\sim 10^{-10}$ )
- relative tolerance ( $\sim 10^{-2}$ )
- smooth steps (16, (32))
- smooth damp ( $\sim 0.9$ )

## scaling parameters

- $\alpha \in [0, 1]$  (1)
- $\alpha_R \in [0, 1]$  (1)
- $\alpha_D \leq k\theta\nu$  ( $k\theta\nu$ )

Efficient numerical and algorithmic realization of a pressure Poisson complement solver for the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations in FEAT3 – Mirco Arndt –



Figure 1: *Velocity and pressure profile for  $Re = 20$ .*

Drag: 5.57953523384

Lift: 0.01061894815

Pressure difference: 0.11752016697

## post processing - pressure

- do nothing
- midpoint
- linear extrapolation

$$p_{\text{post}} = 0.5(p^l + p^{l-1}) \quad p_{\text{post}} = p^l + 0.5(p^l - p^{l-1})$$

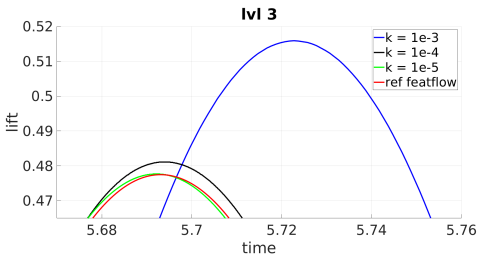
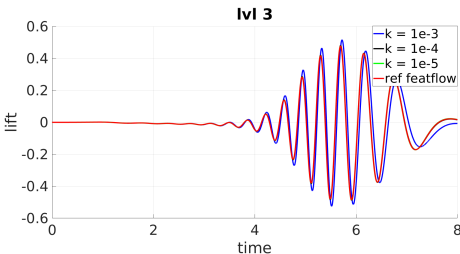
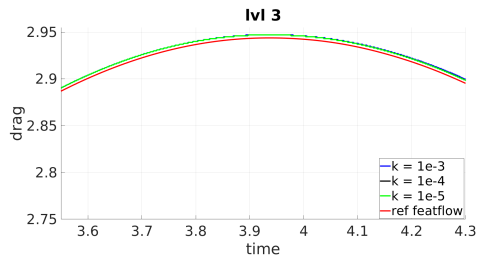
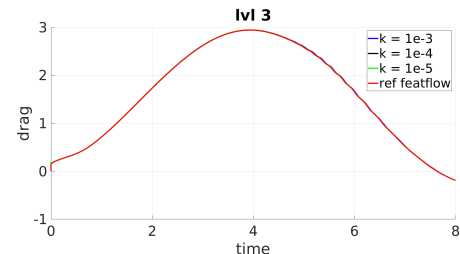
# DFG flow around cylinder benchmark 2D-2 and 2D-3

---

Figure 2:  
*Velocity and  
pressure profile  
for  $Re = 100$ .*

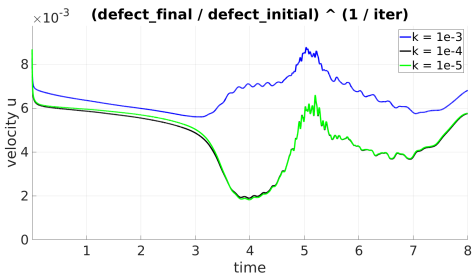
Figure 3:  
*Velocity and  
pressure profile  
for  $Re \in [0, 100]$ .*

# DFG flow around cylinder benchmark 2D-3, fixed time interval

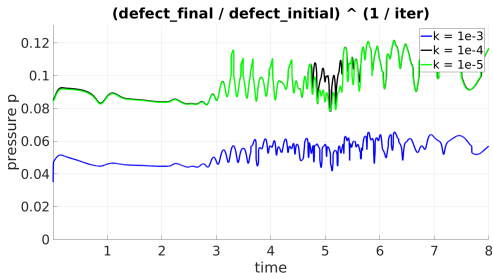


# Convergence history

**Burgers:**  
( $\sim 10^{-3}$ )






**Pressure Poisson:**  
( $\sim 0.1$ )



# References

---

-  S. Turek: „Efficient solvers for incompressible flow problems: An algorithmic approach in view of computational aspects“, 1999
-  S. Turek: „a Comparative Study of Time-Stepping Techniques for the Incompressible Navier-Stokes Equations: from Fully Implicit Non-Linear Schemes to Semi-Implicit Projection Methods“, 1996
-  M. Schäfer and S. Turek: „Benchmark Computations of Laminar Flow Around a Cylinder “, 1996