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# Matrix-free finite elements in deal.II with applications to the time-dependent Schrödinger equation

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#### Operator evaluation framework

#### Time-dependent Schrödinger Equation

- Model problem
- Finite element discretization
- Time propagation
- Error Control
- Example program



Bottlenecks for finite elements based on sparse-matrices:

- Memory-limited, especially for high order elements (Order 6 elements in 3D between 343 and 2197 elements per line).
- Low arithmetic intensity.

**Goal**: change algorithm towards higher arithmetic intensity  $\rightarrow$  better performance

**Matrix-free** alternative based on elementwise integration for finite elements.





Kronbichler, Kormann, A generic interface for parallel finite element operator application. *Comput. Fluids* 63:135–147 (2012)

#### Cell matrix-vector product: quadrature

Contribution of cell K to matrix-vector product for finite element Laplacian

$$(A_{K}u_{K})_{j} = \int_{K} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \phi_{j} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} u^{h} d\mathbf{x} \approx \sum_{q} w_{q} \det J_{q} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \phi_{j} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} u^{h} \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_{q}}$$
$$= \sum_{q} \nabla_{\xi} \phi_{j} J_{q}^{-1} (w_{q} \det J_{q}) J_{q}^{-\mathsf{T}} \sum_{i} \nabla_{\xi} \phi_{i} u_{K,i} \Big|_{\xi=\xi_{q}}, \quad j = 1, \dots, \text{cell}_{-} \text{dofs}$$
  
(a) Compute unit cell gradients  
$$\nabla_{\xi} u^{h} = \sum (\nabla_{\xi} \phi_{i}) u_{K,i} \text{ on all quadrature}$$
Matrix notation:  
points

- (b) On each quadrature point, apply geometry  $J_q^{-T}$ , multiply by quadrature weight and Jacobian determinant, apply geometry for test function  $J_q^{-1}$
- (c) Test by unit cell gradients of all basis functions and sum over quadrature points

$$v_{K} = A_{K} u_{K}$$
$$= S^{\mathsf{T}} W S u_{K}$$

with  $S_{qi} = \nabla_{\xi} \phi_i |_{\xi_q}$  $W_{qq} = J_q^{-1} (w_q \det J_q) J_q^{-T}$ 

# Memory considerations

# IPP

#### Idea

- Matrix-free implementation reduces memory transfer
- ► Trade memory transfer for computations → faster?
- Naive implementation (standard abstraction in FE libraries such as deal.II, FEniCS, etc.): Dense matrix for all basis functions, n<sup>2</sup><sub>cell\_dofs</sub> operations

# Memory per degree of freedom ( $\approx$ main memory transfer)



- Bottlenecked by step (a) (unit cell gradients) and step (c) (testing and summation of quadrature points)
- In 3D: 6 to 48 times as many operations as sparse matrix
- Computations might be cheap, but they are not for free!



Evaluate shape values on quadrature points

$$egin{aligned} &rac{\partial \, u^h}{\partial \xi}(\xi_q,\eta_q) = \sum_{i\in ext{cell\_dofs}} & u^{(i)} rac{\partial \phi_i(\xi_q,\eta_q)}{\partial \xi} \ &= \sum_{i_\xi} \sum_{i_\eta} u^{(i_\xi,i_\eta)} arphi_{i_\xi}(y_\eta) rac{\phi_{i_\xi}(\xi_q)}{\partial \xi} \end{aligned}$$





# Fast evaluation of basis functions

- ► Tensor product form of basis functions: φ(ξ,η) = φ(ξ)φ(η)
- Evaluate shape values on quadrature points

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Matrix notation: Form of shape matrix  $S = D_\xi \otimes S_\eta$ 





# Fast evaluation of basis functions

- ► Tensor product form of basis functions: φ(ξ,η) = φ(ξ)φ(η)
- Evaluate shape values on quadrature points

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial u^{h}}{\partial \xi}(\xi_{q},\eta_{q}) &= \sum_{i \in \text{cell}\_\text{dofs}} u^{(i)} \frac{\partial \phi_{i}(\xi_{q},\eta_{q})}{\partial \xi} \\ &= \sum_{i_{\xi}} \sum_{i_{\eta}} u^{(i_{\xi},i_{\eta})} \varphi_{i_{\xi}}(y_{\eta}) \frac{\varphi_{i_{\xi}}(\xi_{q})}{\partial \xi} \end{split}$$
 Matrix notation:  
Form of shape matrix  $S = D_{\xi} \otimes S_{\eta}$ 

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} u^{h}(x_{q}, y_{q}) \big|_{q, \text{points}} = (D_{\xi} \otimes S_{\eta}) \mathbf{u}_{K}$$
Implemented as dense matrix-matrix multiplication
$$S_{\eta} \mathbf{U}_{K} D_{\xi}^{\mathsf{T}}$$





Illustration on  $\mathcal{Q}_3$  (Lagrange basis): successively apply 1D kernels



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Illustration on  $\mathcal{Q}_3$  (Lagrange basis): successively apply 1D kernels



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Illustration on  $\mathcal{Q}_3$  (Lagrange basis): successively apply 1D kernels



Vector values  $u_K$  on nodes

 $rac{\partial u^h}{\partial \xi}$  on quadrature points

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Illustration on  $\mathcal{Q}_3$  (Lagrange basis): successively apply 1D kernels



Vector values  $u_K$  on nodes

IPP



IPP



IPP



IPP



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Illustration on  $\mathcal{Q}_3$  (Lagrange basis): successively apply 1D kernels



Tensor-based evaluation reduces evaluation cost from  $4^4$  to  $2 \times 4^3$ In general for degree *k* and dimension *d*:  $\mathcal{O}((k+1)^{2d})$  to  $\mathcal{O}(d(k+1)^{d+1})$ Example: d = 3, k = 5: **46,456** to **3888** 

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Similarly for  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}$  $\frac{\partial u(\xi_q, \eta_q)}{\partial \eta} \Big|_{q.\text{points}} = (S_{\xi} \otimes D_{\eta}) \mathbf{u}_{K} \simeq D_{\eta} U_{K} S_{\xi}^{\mathsf{T}}$ 

and integration routines

# Impact of sum factorization

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- Very competitive for high orders
- Algorithms from spectral elements (1980s)
- Optimizations possible for special shape functions (picture: Gauss–Lobatto case, interpolation is identity operation)
- ► Previously only used for high orders k ≥ 5
- Combination with memory transfer not considered
- Speedup for 22 and 23? Trade memory transfer for arithmetics

# Operation count per degree of freedom (arithmetics)



3D Laplacian, hexahedral elements  $\mathscr{Q}_k$ , periodic b.c. (= no boundary), pre-evaluated Jacobians on all quadrature points, "even-odd decomposition" to decrease work for 1D kernels from  $(k+1)^2$  to  $(k+1)(\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor + 2)$ 

# IPP

#### Evaluation of weak form

 $(\nabla v, \nabla u)_{\Omega_h}$ 

```
void cell(MatrixFree<dim> &data,
         Vector &dst,
         const Vector &src.
         const std::pair<unsigned int,unsigned int> &range)
  FEEvaluation<dim,degree> phi (data);
  for (unsigned int cell=range.first; cell<range.second; ++cell)
     phi.reinit (cell);
                                           // set pointers to data
                                // read from source
      phi.read_dof_values(src);
      phi.evaluate (/*values=*/ false, // sum factorization
                   /*gradients=*/ true);
      for (unsigned int q=0; q<phi.n_q_points; ++q)</pre>
       phi.submit_gradient (phi.get_gradient(g), g); // geometry
      phi.integrate (/*values=*/ false, // sum factorization
                     /*gradients=*/ true);
      phi.distribute local to global (dst); // sum into destination
```



#### Operator evaluation framework

#### Time-dependent Schrödinger Equation

Model problem Finite element discretization Time propagation Error Control Example program





#### Time-Dependent Schrödinger Equation



$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi(r,t) = \hat{H}(r,\Delta r,t)\psi(r,t), \qquad \psi(r,0) = \psi_0(r).$$

Hamiltonian for three-state system:  $\hat{H} = -\frac{1}{2m}\Delta + V$  with

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} V_g(r) & \mu(r)V_1(t) & 0\\ \mu(r)V_1(t) & V_{e1}(r) & V_2(r)\\ 0 & V_2(r) & V_{e2}(r) \end{pmatrix}$$

# Example program: Two coupled harmonic oscillators



#### Schrödinger equation:

$$i\hbar\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} \psi_a \\ \psi_b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2}\Delta + \frac{1}{2}\|x\|^2 & e^{2(t-0.5)^2}\cos(t-0.5) \\ e^{2(t-0.5)^2}\cos(t-0.5) & -\frac{1}{2}\Delta + \frac{1}{2}\|x\|^2 + 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_a \\ \psi_b \end{pmatrix}$$

Initial value: 
$$\psi_0(x) = rac{1}{\pi^{d/4}} \mathrm{e}^{-0.5 \|x - x_0\|_2^2}.$$

Solution of the uncoupled harmonic oscillator:  $\psi(x,t) = \frac{1}{\pi^{d/4}} e^{i\gamma_t} e^{-i\sin(t)x_0^T(x-x_t)} e^{-\frac{1}{2}||x-x_0||_2^2}$  with  $x_t = x_0 \cos(t)$  and  $\gamma_t = -dt - x_0^T x_t$ .

Implementation of test case data: initial\_ho.h.
Main program: schrodinger\_ho.cc.



#### Autocorrelation of pure harmonic oscillator example



#### Postprocessing script to plot autocorrelation:

diagnostics/auto\_ho.py.



Spatial discretization with finite elements:

$$M\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}u = Su. \tag{1}$$

Gauss-Lobatto finite elements:

- Nodal basis with nodes of Gauss–Lobatto quadrature points used as basis centers.
- Approximative quadrature using the same Gauss–Lobatto quadrature rule to compute integrals.
- Mass matrix becomes diagonal (*mass lumping*) which yields an explicit system.

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After applying the Laplacian to each state, the following code describes the application of the multi-state Hamiltonian. The potential terms are diagonal due to the lumping.

```
void operator() () const
{
    const unsigned int size = dst(0).size();
    for(unsigned int j=0;j<size;++j)
        for(unsigned int k = 0;k<2*no_states;++k)
            dst[k].local_element(j) = dst[k].local_element(j)
            *hamiltonian_data.mass_factor*
            hamiltonian_data.system_lmm_inv.local_element(j)+
            src[k].local_element(j)*
            hamiltonian_data.potential[k/2].local_element(j)
            +src[(k+no_states)%(2*no_states)].local_element(j)*
            hamiltonian_data.pulse;
}</pre>
```

Implementation of the matrix-free Hamiltonian: matrix\_free\_ho.h.

## **Exponential Propagator**



Evolution operator for time-independent Hamiltonian:

$$U(t_0,t_f)=\exp\left(-\frac{i}{\hbar}H(t_f-t_0)\right)$$

Approximation for time-dependent case:

$$\psi(r,t+\Delta t) = \exp\left(-\frac{i}{\hbar}\overline{H}\Delta t\right)\psi(t)$$

Two questions:

- How to choose H
   Analytic expansion
- How to compute the matrix exponential efficiently? Lanczos algorithm



Let  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  be hermitian and  $q \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . The **Lanczos algorithm** computes in m+1 steps a orthonormal basis  $Q_m$  of the Krylov subspace span $\{q, Aq, \ldots, A^mq\}$  and a tridiagonal matrix

$$A_{m} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{0} & \beta_{0} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \beta_{0} & \alpha_{1} & \beta_{1} & 0 & \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_{m-2} & \alpha_{m-1} & \beta_{m-1} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \beta_{m-1} & \alpha_{m} \end{pmatrix}$$

such that  $AQ_m = Q_m A_m + h_{m+1,m} q_{m+1} e_m^T$ .



- Compute Krylov subspace induced by solution at previous time step:  $q = u(t_{n-1})$ .
- Use Krylov approximation of the matrix to compute matrix exponential:

 $\exp(\Delta t A)u(t_{n-1}) \approx \exp(\Delta t Q_m A_m Q_m^H)u(t_{n-1}) = Q_m \exp(\Delta t A_m)e_1.$ 

- Solve eigenvalue problem for tridiagonal matrix to compute exp(∆tA<sub>m</sub>).
- Error estimate:  $\Delta t \beta_m |\exp(\Delta t A_m)|_{m+1,1}$

Implementation: expo\_int.h.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Hochbruck, Lubich, Selhofer: SIAM J. Sci.Comput. 19, 1998.

#### Magnus expansion



$$U(t_{n+1},t_n)=\mathrm{e}^{\sum_{k=1}^{\infty}A_k(t_{n+1},t_n)},$$

where

$$A_{1}(t_{n+1},t_{n}) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_{n}}^{t_{n+1}} H(\tau_{1}) d\tau_{1}$$

$$A_{2}(t_{n+1},t_{n}) = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{i}{\hbar}\right)^{2} \int_{t_{n}}^{t_{n+1}} \int_{t_{n}}^{\tau_{1}} [H(\tau_{1}),H(\tau_{2})] d\tau_{2} d\tau_{1}$$
...

Truncate for numerical propagation since

$$A_k = \mathscr{O}\left((\Delta t)^{2k-1}\right)$$



- Choose step size according to error in the Magnus expansion
- Choose size of the Krylov space according to error in the Lanczos algorithm<sup>1</sup>
- Use a posteriori estimate<sup>2</sup> to connect local and global error
- Use special properties of the Schrödinger equation to avoid solving the dual problem

References:

<sup>1</sup> M. Hochbruck, C. Lubich, H. Selhofer, SIAM J. Sci. Compt. **19**, 1552 (1999) <sup>2</sup> Y. Cao, L. Petzold, SIAM J. Sci. Compt. **26**, 359 (2004)

# Mesh Refinement

A posteriori error estimate can also be derived for spatial adaptivity. Example 1: Dynamical mesh.



**Reference**: Kormann, A time-space adaptive method for the Schrödinger equation, Commun. Comput. Phys., 20:60–85, 2016.



A posteriori error estimate can also be derived for spatial adaptivity. Example 2: OCIO example: Error control for target state.



**Reference**: Kormann, A time-space adaptive method for the Schrödinger equation, Commun. Comput. Phys., 20:60–85, 2016.



- Test code for coupled harmonic oscillators in folder schrodinger\_fem (can be downloaded from https://gitlab.lrz.de/ne65nib/schrodinger\_fem).
- Build the code and run it with: mpirun -n 1 ./schrodinger\_ho schrodinger\_ho.prm
- Use the python script auto\_ho.py to visualize the autocorrelation. In the folder diagnostics type: python auto\_ho.py
- Modify the parameter file.
  - Modify the coupling strength and check the effect on the peak of the autocorrelation function.
  - Modify the number of Gauss-Lobatto points and the grid refinement and checkt the quality of the solution.