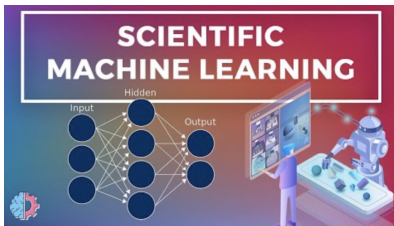


# Developments of Multiscale and Probabilistic Methods for Solving PDEs and Inverse Problems

Yifan Chen, Caltech

Peking University, Feb, 2023

# Scientific Computing and Learning



modeling, data, decision-making, ...

plenty of amazing things

simulation, prediction, design, ...

## Mathematical Challenges:

### Solving equations

- multiscale physics
- heterogeneous material
- large scale PDEs ...

Need many degrees of freedom  
for enough **accuracy**

### Learning solutions

- trials and errors
- training
- uncertainties ...

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**automation** may not be robust

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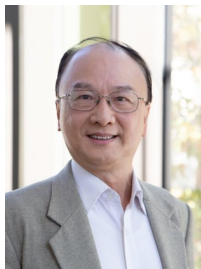
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*“how to get very accurate solutions via multiscale analysis”*
- 2 Gaussian Processes for PDEs and Inverse Problems  
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# Part I: Exponentially Convergent Multiscale Methods



Thomas Y. Hou  
Caltech



Yixuan Wang  
Caltech

# Solving Multiscale PDEs

## Model Problem:

$$-\nabla \cdot (A \nabla u) + Vu = f, \text{ in } \Omega, \text{ w/ boundary conditions}$$

(subsurface flows, diffusions, elasticity, waves in *composite media*)

## Mathematical Condition:

- **heterogeneity:**  $A, V \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  (no scale separation)  
 $0 < A_{\min} \leq A(x) \leq A_{\max} < \infty$
- **high frequency:** e.g.,  $V = -k^2$  (Helmholtz's equation)
- **regularity of force:**  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$



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# Numerical Challenges

## Galerkin's Method:

- find a space  $S$  of **basis functions** to approximate the solution
- quasi-optimality: solution err  $\sim$  approximation err

## Challenges:

- heterogeneity  $\Rightarrow u$  is **oscillatory**  
(!) approx-err of FEM can be arbitrarily bad [Babuška, Osborn 2000]
- high frequency  $\Rightarrow$  stability issues<sup>1</sup>

example:  $\|u\|_{\mathcal{H}(\Omega)} \leq C_{\text{stab}}(k) \|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$  for  $C_{\text{stab}}(k) \succeq 1 + k^\gamma$

- (!) approx-err amplified; quasi-optimality also deteriorates  
known as **pollution effect** [Babuška, Sauter, 1997]

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<sup>1</sup> $\mathcal{H}(\Omega)$  is the energy norm

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**Idea:** find better basis functions **adapted to  $A$  and  $V$**

- tremendous literature with different constructions (find structures) (hp-FEM, GFEM, MsFEM, HMM, VMS, LOD, ...)

**Our Focus:** push approximation err further, for **exponential convergence**

- previous work for elliptic eqns based on GFEM [Babuška, Lipton 2011]<sup>2</sup>

**Our contribution: ExpMsFEM** [Chen, Hou, Wang 2021,2021,2022]

A general multiscale framework for elliptic and Helmholtz eqns

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# How Could Exponential Convergence Be Achieved?

**Principle:** how **exponential convergence** possible for nonsmooth funcs?

- **coarse-fine scale decomposition:** diff-scales treated differently
- **localize** the approximation for both the coarse and fine components
- find **low complexity structures** of the coarse scale component

**Instantiation** in ExpMsFEM for finding exp-convergent representation

- 1 generalized harmonic-bubble splitting
- 2 edge localization
- 3 oversampling and exponentially decaying spectral problems

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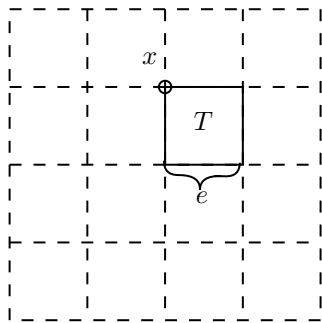
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# Step 1: Generalized Harmonic-bubble Splitting<sup>3</sup>

- mesh:  $H = O(1/k)$
- split the solution locally:  
in each  $T$ ,  $u = u_T^h + u_T^b$

$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot (A \nabla u_T^h) + V u_T^h = 0, & \text{in } T \\ u_T^h = u, & \text{on } \partial T \\ -\nabla \cdot (A \nabla u_T^b) + V u_T^b = f, & \text{in } T \\ u_T^b = 0, & \text{on } \partial T \end{cases}$$

- global function:  
 $u^h(x) = u_T^h(x)$  locally “harmonic”  
 $u^b(x) = u_T^b(x)$  locally computable  
when  $x \in T$  for each  $T$



$$x \in \mathcal{N}_H, e \in \mathcal{E}_H, T \in \mathcal{T}_H$$

$u = u^h + u^b$

First Decomposition :  $u = u^h + u^b$

<sup>3</sup>[Hetmaniuk, Lehoucq 2010], [Hou, Liu 2016]

## Step 2: Edge Localization

Recall  $u = u^h + u^b$  “locally harmonic + locally computable”

$$\begin{aligned}u^h &= Q\tilde{u} && (Q: \text{“harmonic” extension operator; } \tilde{u} = u|_{\text{edges}}) \\&= Q(\tilde{u} - I_H\tilde{u}) + QI_H\tilde{u} && (I_H: \text{nodal interpolation on edges}) \\&= Q(\tilde{u} - I_H\tilde{u}) + \sum_{x_i \in \mathcal{N}_H} u(x_i)\psi_i \\&&& (\psi_i: \text{basis funcs in MsFEM [Hou, Wu 1997]}) \\&= \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_H} QR_e u + \sum_{x_i \in \mathcal{N}_H} u(x_i)\psi_i && (R_e u = (\tilde{u} - I_H\tilde{u})|_e)\end{aligned}$$

$u^h$  = “sum of terms dependent on each edge + a term represented by  $\psi_i$ ”

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## Step 3: Oversampling<sup>4</sup> and Low Complexity Structure

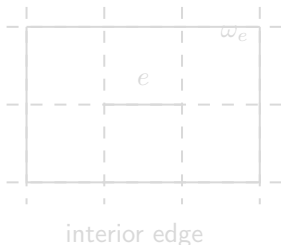
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Here,  $u_{\omega_e}^h, u_{\omega_e}^b$ : oversampling harmonic / bubble part in  $\omega_e$

Recall the definition:

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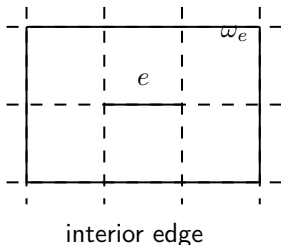
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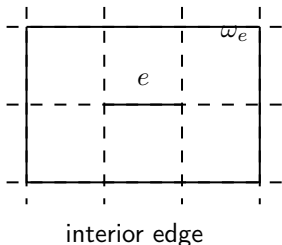
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**Low complexity:** restriction of “harmonic” funcs [Babuška, Lipton 2011]

- generalize to our context: singular values of the operator

$$QR_e : (U(\omega_e), \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}(\omega_e)}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{H}(\Omega), \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}(\Omega)})$$

decay exponentially fast [Chen, Hou, Wang 2021], where

$$U(\omega_e) := \{v \in \mathcal{H}(\omega_e) : -\nabla \cdot (A\nabla v) + Vv = 0, \text{ in } \omega_e\}$$

- equivalently, for  $m > 0$ , there exists  $b_{e,j}, v_{e,j}, 1 \leq j \leq m$  s.t.

$$\|QR_e u_{\omega_e}^h - \sum_{1 \leq j \leq m} b_{e,j} v_{e,j}\|_{\mathcal{H}(\Omega)} \leq C \exp\left(-bm^{\frac{1}{d+1}}\right) \|u_{\omega_e}^h\|_{\mathcal{H}(\omega_e)}$$

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# The Representation and Algorithm

$$u = \left( \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_H} \sum_{1 \leq j \leq m} b_{e,j} v_{e,j} + \sum_{x_i \in \mathcal{N}_H} u(x_i) \psi_i \right) + \left( u^b + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_H} QR_e u_{\omega_e}^b \right) + O\left(\exp\left(-bm^{\frac{1}{d+1}}\right) (\|u\|_{\mathcal{H}(\Omega)} + \|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)})\right)$$

**Offline:** one-time model reduction

- compute  $\{v_{e,j}\}, 1 \leq j \leq m$  for each  $e$ , and  $\psi_i$  for each node (local SVD and harmonic extension; **parallelizable**)

**Online:** efficient for multiple  $f$

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$$\|u - u_{H,m} - u^n\|_{\mathcal{H}(\Omega)} = O \left( \exp \left( -bm^{\frac{1}{d+1}} \right) (\|u\|_{\mathcal{H}(\Omega)} + \|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)}) \right)$$

# Numerical Experiments: Helmholtz's Equation

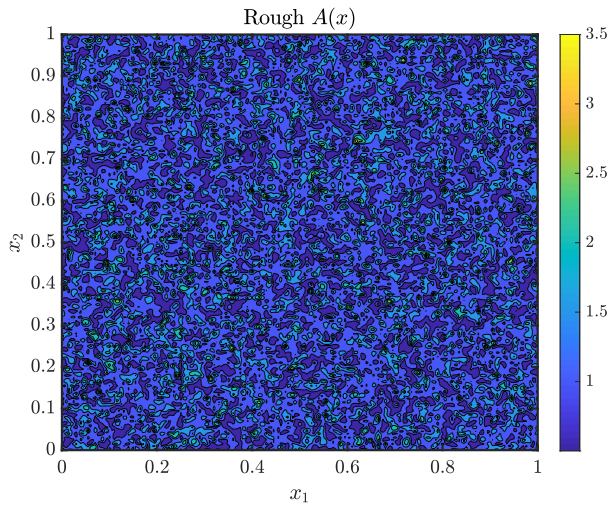
The problem set-up

- equation

$$-\nabla \cdot (A\nabla u) + Vu = f, \text{ in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2$$

- boundary condition: mixed (Dirichlet + Neumann + Robin)
- $A(x) = |\xi(x)| + 0.5$  where  $\xi(x)$  is piecewise linear functions with values as unit Gaussians r.v.; piecewise scale:  $2^{-7}$
- $-V/k^2$  draws from the same random field;  $k = 2^5$
- $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^4 - x_2^3 + 1$

# Visualization of the Field

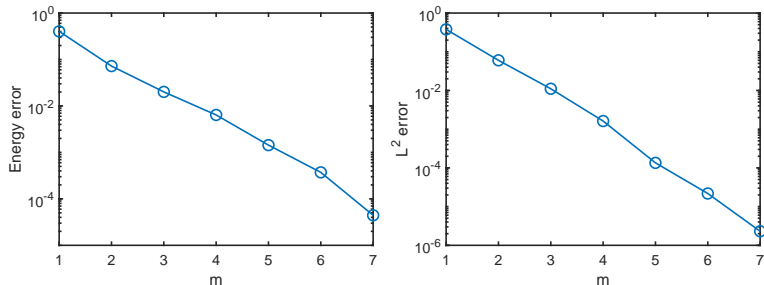


# Numerical Experiments: Helmholtz's Equation

The mesh

- quadrilateral mesh
- fine mesh size  $h = 2^{-10}$ , coarse mesh size  $H = 2^{-5}$

The accuracy of ExpMsFEM's solution compared to fine mesh solution



**Figure:** Numerical results for the mixed boundary and rough field example. Left:  $e_{\mathcal{H}}$  versus  $m$ ; right:  $e_{L^2}$  versus  $m$ . Number of basis functions  $(2m + 1)/H^2$

# Summary of Part I

## Exponentially convergent function representation

- multiscale (coarse-fine) decomposition is the key
- low complexity of the coarse part: restriction of harmonic-type funcs
- locality of the fine part: locally solvable

## Future directions:

- advection-dominated problems
- time dependent problems
- non-intrusive model reduction and operator learning

multiscale analysis + low complexity structures

- 1 Exponentially Convergent Multiscale Methods for PDEs  
*“how to get very accurate solutions via multiscale analysis”*
- 2 Gaussian Processes for PDEs and Inverse Problems  
*“how to get reliable automated solutions via Bayes inference”*

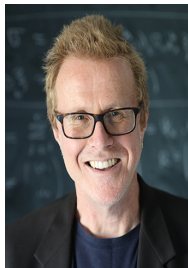
## Part II: Gaussian Processes for PDEs and Inverse Problems



Bamdad Hosseini  
Univ. of Washington



Houman Owhadi  
Caltech



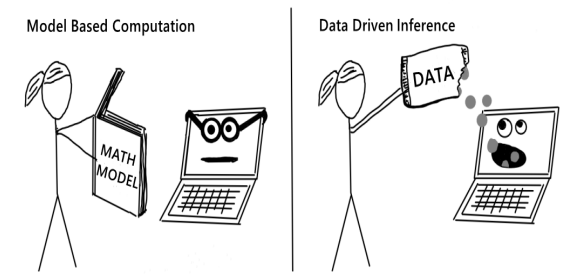
Andrew M. Stuart  
Caltech



# Scientific Machine Learning Automation

**Expert designed numerical analysis:** analyzing the equation

- finite difference/element/volume, spectral, multiscale methods ...
- well developed convergence theory, and robustness/efficiency tradeoff



**Automatic machine learning paradigm:** equation as data

- PINNs, deep Ritz methods, operator learning ...
- unify solving PDEs and inverse problems (IPs), algorithmically many empirical success; theory more complicated

**Our Focus:** Bridging the gap utilizing a Bayes framework<sup>5</sup>

Gaussian processes for automating solving **nonlinear** PDEs/IPs

[Chen, Hosseni, Owhadi, Stuart 2021]

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<sup>5</sup>Information based complexity, Bayes probabilistic numerics, ...

# The Methodology for Solving PDEs

A nonlinear elliptic PDE example

- Consider the stationary elliptic PDE

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u(\mathbf{x}) + \tau(u(\mathbf{x})) = f(\mathbf{x}), & \forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \\ u(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{x}), & \forall \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

- Domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- PDE data  $f, g : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

- PDE has a unique **strong/classical** solution  $u^*$ .

# The Methodology<sup>6</sup>: Finding the MAP estimator

- 1 Choose a kernel  $K : \bar{\Omega} \times \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (Choose the prior  $\mathcal{GP}(0, K)$ )
  - Corresponding RKHS  $\mathcal{U}$  with norm  $\|\cdot\|$
- 2 Sample some collocation points (Choose the data/likelihood)
  - $X^{\text{int}} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{M_\Omega}\} \subset \Omega$
  - $X^{\text{bd}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{M_\Omega+1}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{M_\Omega+M_{\partial\Omega}}\} \subset \partial\Omega$
- 3 Solve the optimization problem (Find the "MAP")

$$\begin{cases} \underset{u \in \mathcal{U}}{\text{minimize}} \|u\| \\ \text{s.t.} & -\Delta u(\mathbf{x}_m) + \tau(u(\mathbf{x}_m)) = f(\mathbf{x}_m), \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x}_m \in X^{\text{int}} \\ & u(\mathbf{x}_n) = g(\mathbf{x}_n), \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x}_n \in X^{\text{bd}} \end{cases}$$

Convergence of solution as number of points approaches infinity

[Chen, Hosseni, Owhadi, Stuart 2021]

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<sup>6</sup>Generalize many mesh-free methods and Bayes probabilistic numerics

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# How to Solve: Separating Nonlinearity

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \underset{u \in \mathcal{U}}{\text{minimize}} \|u\| \\ \text{s.t.} \quad -\Delta u(\mathbf{x}_m) + \tau(u(\mathbf{x}_m)) = f(\mathbf{x}_m), \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x}_m \in X^{\text{int}} \\ \quad \quad \quad u(\mathbf{x}_n) = g(\mathbf{x}_n), \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x}_n \in X^{\text{bd}} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\Updownarrow (N = M^{\text{bd}} + 2M^{\text{int}})$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \underset{\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{z}^{\text{bd}}, \mathbf{z}^{\text{int}}, \mathbf{z}_{\Delta}^{\text{int}}) \in \mathbb{R}^N}{\text{minimize}} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \underset{u \in \mathcal{U}}{\text{minimize}} \|u\| \\ \text{s.t.} \quad u(X^{\text{bd}}) = \mathbf{z}^{\text{bd}} \\ \quad \quad \quad u(X^{\text{int}}) = \mathbf{z}^{\text{int}} \\ \quad \quad \quad \Delta u(X^{\text{int}}) = \mathbf{z}_{\Delta}^{\text{int}} \end{array} \right. \\ \text{s.t.} \quad -\mathbf{z}_{\Delta}^{\text{int}} + \tau(\mathbf{z}^{\text{int}}) = f(X^{\text{int}}) \\ \quad \quad \quad \mathbf{z}^{\text{bd}} = g(X^{\text{bd}}) \end{array} \right.$$



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# How to Solve: Inner optimization

- The inner problem has linear constraints

$$\underset{u \in \mathcal{U}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|u\|$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad u(X^{\text{bd}}) = \mathbf{z}^{\text{bd}}, u(X^{\text{int}}) = \mathbf{z}^{\text{int}}, \Delta u(X^{\text{int}}) = \mathbf{z}_{\Delta}^{\text{int}}$$

Explicit formula for minimizer  $u(\mathbf{x}) = K(\mathbf{x}, \phi)K(\phi, \phi)^{-1}\mathbf{z}$

- Measurement vector  $\phi := (\delta_{X^{\text{bd}}}, \delta_{X^{\text{int}}}, \delta_{X^{\text{int}}} \circ \Delta) \in (\mathcal{U}^*)^{\otimes N}$
- Kernel vector and matrix

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \phi) = (K(\mathbf{x}, X^{\text{bd}}), K(\mathbf{x}, X^{\text{int}}), \Delta_{\mathbf{y}}K(\mathbf{x}, X^{\text{int}})) \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$K(\phi, \phi) =$$

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# How to Solve: Representation of the Minimizer

## Representer theorem [Chen, Hosseni, Owhadi, Stuart 2021]

Every minimizer  $u^\dagger$  can be represented as

$$u^\dagger(\mathbf{x}) = K(\mathbf{x}, \phi)K(\phi, \phi)^{-1}\mathbf{z}^\dagger,$$

where the vector  $\mathbf{z}^\dagger \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is a minimizer of

$$\begin{cases} \min_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^N} & \mathbf{z}^T K(\phi, \phi)^{-1} \mathbf{z} \\ \text{s.t.} & F(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{y} \end{cases}$$

- Function  $F : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^M$  depends on PDE collocation constraints
- $\mathbf{y}$  contains PDE boundary and RHS data

# Towards A Practical Algorithm

## Quadratic optimization with nonlinear constraints

- A simple linearization algorithm  $\mathbf{z}^k \rightarrow \mathbf{z}^{k+1}$

$$\begin{cases} \min_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^N} & \mathbf{z}^T K(\phi, \phi)^{-1} \mathbf{z} \\ \text{s.t.} & F(\mathbf{z}^k) + F'(\mathbf{z}^k)(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{z}^k) = \mathbf{y}. \end{cases}$$

“Newton’s iteration for the nonlinear PDE, faster than SGD”

- Poor conditioning of  $K(\phi, \phi)$ , and **scale imbalance** between blocks  
Solution: adding **scale-aware** Tikhonov regularization

$$K(\phi, \phi) \leftarrow K(\phi, \phi) + \lambda \text{diag}(K(\phi, \phi))$$

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# Numerical Experiments

- Nonlinear Elliptic Equation,  $\tau(u) = u^3$

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u(\mathbf{x}) + \tau(u(\mathbf{x})) = f(\mathbf{x}), & \forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \\ u(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{x}), & \forall \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

- Truth:  $d = 2$ ,  $u^*(\mathbf{x}) = \sin(\pi x_1) \sin(\pi x_2) + 4 \sin(4\pi x_1) \sin(4\pi x_2)$
- Kernel:  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}; \sigma) = \exp\left(-\frac{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$

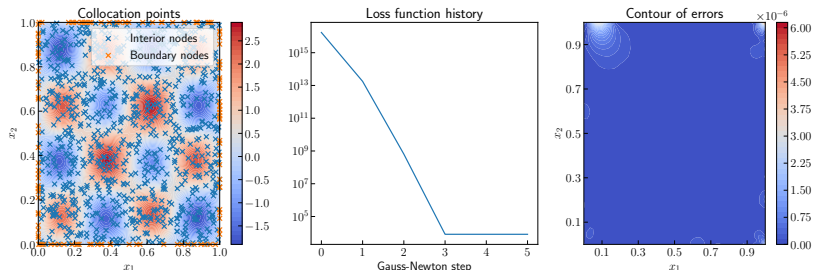


Figure:  $N_{\text{domain}} = 900$ ,  $N_{\text{boundary}} = 124$

# Convergence Study

- For  $\tau(u) = 0, u^3$ , use Gaussian kernel with lengthscale  $\sigma$
- $L^2, L^\infty$  accuracy, compared with Finite Difference (FD)

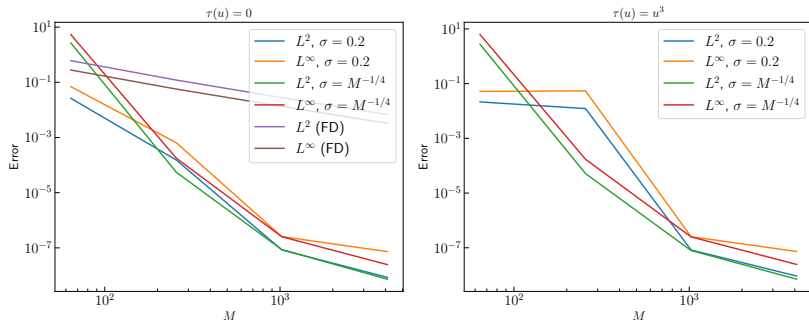
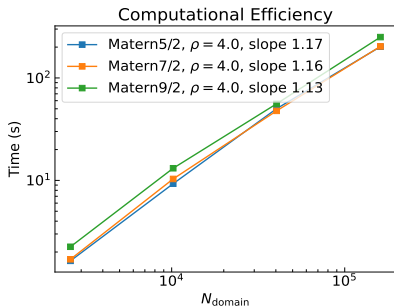
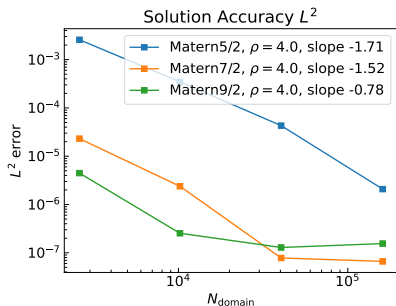


Figure: Convergence of the kernel method is fast, since the solution is smooth



# Scalability: Sparse Cholesky Factorization

- Sparse Cholesky of  $K(\phi, \phi)^{-1}$  under **coarse to fine** ordering of  $\phi$  screening effects [Stein 2002], [Schäfer, Sullivan, Owhadi 2021]
- Complexity:  $O(N\rho^d)$  memory and  $O(N\rho^{2d})$  time;  $\rho$  is a parameter theory:  $\rho = \log(N/\epsilon) \Rightarrow \epsilon$ -approximation of  $K(\phi, \phi)^{-1}$  even when  $\phi$  contains derivatives (best complexity so far) [Chen, Schäfer, Owhadi, 2023]



Matérn kernel with different  $\nu$ . Run 3 Newton's iterations. Accuracy floor due to finite  $\rho$  and regularization

# Numerical Experiments: Inverse Problems

Darcy Flow inverse problems

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min_{u,a} \|u\|_K^2 + \|a\|_\Gamma^2 + \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \sum_{j=1}^I |u(\mathbf{x}_j) - o_j|^2, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad -\text{div}(\exp(a)\nabla u)(\mathbf{x}_m) = 1, \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_m \in (0,1)^2 \\ \quad \quad \quad u(\mathbf{x}_m) = 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_m \in \partial(0,1)^2. \end{array} \right.$$

- Recover  $a$  from pointwise measurements of  $u$
- Model  $(u, a)$  as independent GPs
- Impose PDE constraints and formulate Bayesian inverse problem

# Numerical Experiments: Darcy Flow

- Kernel  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'; \sigma) = \exp\left(-\frac{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$  for both  $u$  and  $a$

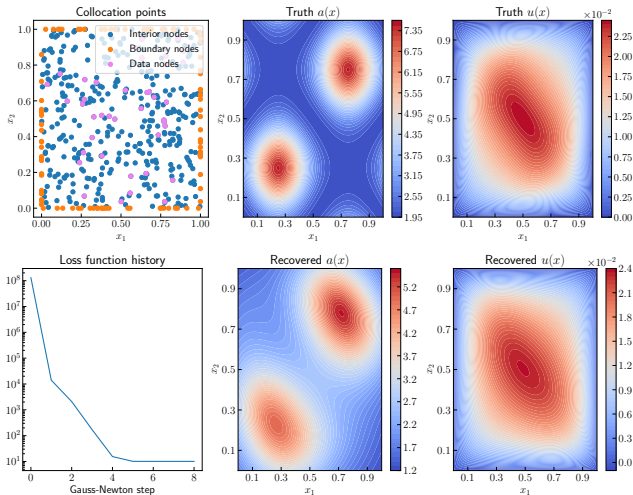


Figure:  $N_{\text{domain}} = 400, N_{\text{boundary}} = 100, N_{\text{observation}} = 50$

# Further Directions

**GPs Model Misspecification:** hierarchical learning to select  $k_\theta$

- analysis of large data consistency and implicit bias in learning  $\theta$   
[Chen, Owhadi, Stuart 2021]

**GPs Fast Solvers:** multiscale algo for kernel matrices using probability

- randomly pivoted Cholesky: provably efficient low rank approximation  
[Chen, Epperly, Tropp, Webber 2022]
- sparse Cholesky: state-of-the-art complexity  $O(N \log^{2d}(N/\epsilon))$  in time  
[w/ Florian Schäfer, Houman Owhadi]

**Uncertainty Quantification:** beyond point estimators; sampling

- affine invariant gradient flows, Gaussian mixtures, climate applications ...  
[Chen, Huang, Huang, Reich, Stuart, 2023], ...

*Fine-grained multiscale analysis + probabilistic inference*

Thanks!

<https://yifanc96.github.io>