Unconditionally convergent preconditioned Newton's method for Richards' equation

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Outline

Introduction to Richards' equation

Variably saturated sub-soil flow modeling

Monotone Newton's method

► Convergence proof ≠ performance

Preconditioned monotone Newton's method

Convergence proof + performance

Conclusion

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Unsaturated/saturated groundwater flow

$$\partial_t \mathbf{s} - \operatorname{div} \left(k(\mathbf{s}) \nabla \left(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{z} \right) \right) = \mathbf{0}, \qquad \mathbf{s} = S(\mathbf{p})$$





Relative permeability k as a function of saturation

Applications:

- Water resource estimation
- Irrigation
- Contaminant transport
- Interaction with surface water



Unsaturated/saturated groundwater flow

$$\partial_t s - \operatorname{div} (\nabla u - k(s) \nabla z) = 0, \qquad s = \beta(u)$$



Applications:

- Water resource estimation
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▶ ...

Unsaturated/saturated groundwater flow

$$\partial_t \mathbf{s} - \operatorname{div} \left(\nabla \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{s}) \nabla \mathbf{z} \right) = \mathbf{0}, \qquad \mathbf{s} = \beta(\mathbf{u})$$



Applications:

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Unsaturated/saturated groundwater flow

$$\partial_t \mathbf{s} - \operatorname{div} \left(\nabla \mathbf{u} - k(\mathbf{s}) \nabla \mathbf{z} \right) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{s} \in \beta(\mathbf{u})$$



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English Wikipedia: The numerical solution of the Richards' equation is one of the most challenging problems in earth science¹.

Original article¹: Richards' equation is ... arguably one of the most difficult equations to reliably and accurately solve in all of hydrosciences.

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Major numerical challenge: Robustness and efficiency of the nonlinear solvers.

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Model nonlinear system



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Assumptions for the analysis:

▶ $\beta_i : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ diagonal, increasing and concave, $\beta'_i(0) \leq +\infty$

Model nonlinear system



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▶ $\beta_i : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ diagonal, increasing and concave, $\beta'_i(0) \leq +\infty$

• $J(\boldsymbol{u}) = \beta'(\boldsymbol{u}) + A$ is M-matrix: $J(\boldsymbol{u})^{-1} \ge 0$ and $(J(\boldsymbol{u}))_{ij} \le 0, i \ne j$

Notations

$$F(\boldsymbol{u}) = \beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + A\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{b}$$

Newton's method

$$F'(\boldsymbol{u}_k)(\boldsymbol{u}_{k+1}-\boldsymbol{u}_k)+F(\boldsymbol{u}_k)=0$$

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Monotone Newton Theorem (Baluev '52; Ortega & Rheinboldt '70) Let u_0 satisfy $F(u_0) \le 0$, then

- ▶ $F(u_k) \leq 0$ and $u_k \leq u_{k+1} \leq u_{\star}$ for all $k \geq 0$
- *u_k* converges to the unique solution *u_{*}*

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- \boldsymbol{u}_k converges to the unique solution \boldsymbol{u}_{\star}

Sketch of proof:

 $\boldsymbol{u}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{u}_k - F'(\boldsymbol{u}_k)^{-1}F(\boldsymbol{u}_k) \qquad \Rightarrow \quad \boldsymbol{u}_{k+1} \ge \boldsymbol{u}_k$

 $F(\boldsymbol{u}_{k+1}) - F(\boldsymbol{u}_k) \leq F'(\boldsymbol{u}_k)(\boldsymbol{u}_{k+1} - \boldsymbol{u}_k) = -F(\boldsymbol{u}_k) \quad \Rightarrow \quad F(\boldsymbol{u}_{k+1}) \leq 0.$

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The method is semi-globally convergent. Is it efficient?

Numerical experiment

Porous medium equation on $(0,1) \times (0,T)$

$$\partial_t \beta(u) - \partial_{xx}^2 u = 0, \qquad \beta(u) = u^{1/m}$$

with Neumann boundary conditions

- lnflow at x = 0: $-\partial_x u(0, t) = q > 0$
- No-flow at x = 1
- Almost "dry" initial condition: $\beta(u(x, 0)) = 10^{-10}$



Solution profile at different time steps

Newton's method applied to

$$\beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + A\boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{b}, \qquad \beta(\boldsymbol{u}) = \boldsymbol{u}^{1/10}$$



Slow convergence

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Alternative formulations

Original *u*-formulation:

 $\beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + A\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{b} = 0$



Alternative formulations

Original *u*-formulation:

Alternative v-formulation:

$$\beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + A\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{b} = \boldsymbol{0}$$

$$\boldsymbol{v} + A\beta^{-1}(\boldsymbol{v}) - \boldsymbol{b} = 0$$



Alternative formulations

Original *u*-formulation:

Alternative v-formulation:

$$\beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + A\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{b} = 0 \qquad \qquad \boldsymbol{v} + A\beta^{-1}(\boldsymbol{v}) - \boldsymbol{b} = 0$$



Blue: Original formulation is inefficient, manly because $\beta'(0) = +\infty$. Green: Alternative formulation is more efficient, but concavity is lost: note that $(A)_{ii}(A)_{ij} \leq 0, i \neq j$

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Model problem

A**u** = **b**

(Weak) regular splitting

$$A = M - N$$

such that

$$M^{-1} \ge 0, \quad N \ge 0 \quad \left(M^{-1}N, \ NM^{-1} \ge 0\right)$$

Stationary iterations

Preconditioned Krylov applied to

 $u_{k+1} = M^{-1} (Nu_k + b)$





Model problem

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 $u_{k+1} = M^{-1} (Nu_k + b)$ $(I - M^{-1}N) u = M^{-1}b$



If A = M - N is a weak regular splitting, then

$$ho\left(M^{-1}N
ight) < 1 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad A^{-1} \geq 0.$$

Model problem

$$\beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + A\boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{b}, \qquad A = P - Q$$

Splitting

$$\beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + P\boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{Q}\boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{b}$$

K. B. On the monotone convergence of Jacobi-Newton method for mildly nonlinear systems. 2022

K. B. On global and monotone convergence of the preconditioned Newton's method for some mildly nonlinear systems. 2022 17/33

Model problem

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Stationary iterations $\boldsymbol{u}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{M}^{-1}$

Newton's method applied to

$$_{k+1}=M^{-1}\left(N(\boldsymbol{u}_{k})\right)$$

$$\boldsymbol{u} - M^{-1}\left(N(\boldsymbol{u})\right) = 0$$

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K. B. On the monotone convergence of Jacobi-Newton method for mildly nonlinear systems. 2022

K. B. On global and monotone convergence of the preconditioned Newton's method for some mildly nonlinear systems. 2022
Nonlinear splitting methods

Model problem

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If $\beta'(u) + A = M'(u) - N'(u)$ is a weak regular splitting, then

$$\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}) = \boldsymbol{u} - M^{-1}(N(\boldsymbol{u}))$$

satisfies the MNT;

moreover, converges is global.

K. B. On the monotone convergence of Jacobi-Newton method for mildly nonlinear systems. 2022

K. B. On global and monotone convergence of the preconditioned Newton's method for some mildly nonlinear systems. 2022

Preconditioned Newton's method

$$\boldsymbol{u} - M^{-1}(M(\boldsymbol{u}) - F(\boldsymbol{u})) = 0$$

$$M(\boldsymbol{u}) = \beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + \operatorname{diag}(A)\boldsymbol{u}$$



baseline

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Data robustness





Original system

Change of variable

$$\beta(\boldsymbol{u}) + A\boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{b}$$

 $\boldsymbol{v} + A\beta^{-1}(\boldsymbol{v}) = \boldsymbol{b}$

Jacobi-Newton method

$$\boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{M}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{M}(\boldsymbol{u}) - \boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{u}))$$

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Notations: $F(u) = \beta(u) + Au - b$, $M(u) = \beta(u) + Pu$, A = P - QImplementation: Newton's method applied to the preconditioned system

$$\boldsymbol{u} = M^{-1}(\boldsymbol{Q}\boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{b})$$

is equivalent to the following two-step scheme1

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}_n = M^{-1}(\boldsymbol{Q}\boldsymbol{u}_n + \boldsymbol{b}) \widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}_{n+1} = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}_n - F'(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}_n)^{-1}F(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}_n)$$

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• Let $A = P_i - Q_i$ be a sequence of splittings and

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• Let $(E_i)_i$ be such that $E_i \ge 0$ and $\sum_i E_i = I$.

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$$\boldsymbol{u} = \sum_{i} E_{i} M_{i}^{-1} (Q_{i} \boldsymbol{u} + b)$$

satisfies MNT if $F'(u) = M'_i(u) - Q_i$ is weak regular.

 $^{^1}$ Cai, X. C., & Li, X. Inexact Newton methods with restricted additive Schwarz based nonlinear elimination for problems with high local nonlinearity, 2011

Conclusions

Theory: Global convergence analysis

- Mildly nonlinear, monotone systems
- Splitting: (Block-)Jacobi, Gauss-Seidel
- Multi-splitting: Restricted Additive Schwarz (RASPEN)

Practice: promising results for degenerate evolutionary PDEs

- Jacobi prec. is robust w.r.t. the "physical data" by absorbing the stiffness of the nonlinear closure laws
- Block-Jacobi (and RAS) is robust w.r.t. discretization parameters and allows to focus the computational efforts

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- M-matrix assumption is crustal for analysis, but might be relaxed in practice
- Two-level preconditioning, probably depending on the coarse space...

Appendix: Newton's method for a scalar concave problem

Newton's method for

$$f(p) = 0, \qquad p \in \mathbb{R}$$

f concave and increasing



$$\partial_t \beta(u) - \Delta u = \delta_{\mathbf{x}=0}, \qquad \beta(u) = u^{1/10}$$



	Nt = 1			Nt = 5			Nt = 10		
$\sqrt{\#unk}$	20	40	80	20	40	80	20	40	80
Jac.	28	54	106	43	66	114	66	86	136
B.Jac.	10	11	13	30	33	38	50	58	62

$$\partial_t \beta(u) - \Delta u = \delta_{\mathbf{x}=0}, \qquad \beta(u) = u^{1/10}$$



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$$\partial_t \beta(u) - \Delta u = \delta_{\mathbf{x}=0}, \qquad \beta(u) = u^{1/10}$$



	Nt = 1			Nt = 5			Nt = 10		
$\sqrt{\#unk}$	20	40	80	20	40	80	20	40	80
Jac.	28	54	106	43	66	114	66	86	136
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