# IMPLICIT MULTIGRID METHODS FOR GLACIER GEOMETRY







Many Traditions One Alaska

- 1. model for evolving glacier surfaces
- 2. implicit-step free-boundary problem (NCP or VI)
- 3. computational performance model
- 4. geometric multigrid with distinctive features
  - constraint decomposition
  - FAS-type nonlinear coarse corrections
- 5. minimal results, smoother difficulties

## THE GLACIER GEOMETRY PROBLEM

#### ■ inputs:

- a = climatic mass balance (snowfall or melt&runoff)
- b = bed elevation
- other inputs ignored for simplicity: surface temperature, bed composition, geothermal, ...
- goal: construct fast numerical methods for this map!

$$egin{pmatrix} {
m climate and} \\ {
m topography} \end{pmatrix} 
ightarrow egin{pmatrix} {
m glacier} \\ {
m geometry} \end{pmatrix} \ a,b \ \mapsto \ s \end{pmatrix}$$



## **GLACIERS FLOW**

- glacier geometry would be easy if the snow just piled-up!but glaciers flow
  - very viscous, non-Newtonian fluid driven by gravity
  - ▶ flow is mostly downhill, along −∇<sub>x</sub>s
  - ice flows into areas where there is melt



#### **\mathbf{x} = (x, y) denotes horizontal coordinates**

- **x** is map-plane
- **data given on 2D domain**  $\Omega$ :
  - limit (time-dependent):  $a(t, \mathbf{x})$
  - ► bed elevation (stationary): *b*(**x**)
- we seek surface elevation  $s(t, \mathbf{x})$ 
  - obviously glaciers are on top:  $s(t, \mathbf{x}) \ge b(\mathbf{x})$
- **a**lso seek velocity  $\mathbf{u}(t, \mathbf{x}, z)$  within 3D ice

$$\blacktriangleright \Lambda_s := \{b(\mathbf{x}) < z < s(t, \mathbf{x})\}$$

- mass conservation at glacier surface?
- this is the surface kinematical equation:

$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial t} - \mathbf{u}|_s \cdot \mathbf{n}_s - a = 0$$

n<sub>s</sub> = ⟨-∇<sub>x</sub>s, 1⟩ is upward normal to surface
 u|<sub>s</sub> = u(t, x, s(t, x)) is 3D velocity at surface

#### ABSTRACT THE FLOW

- we will regard flow as a Stokes problem
  - or a shallow approximation thereof
- problem becomes clearer if we abstract the flow as a map:



# HOW TO COMPUTE $\Phi(s)$ ?

• how to compute  $\Phi(s) = -\mathbf{u}|_s \cdot \mathbf{n}_s$ ?

Stokes: solve for u:

$$\int_{\Lambda_s} 2\nu_{\epsilon}(D\mathbf{u}) D\mathbf{u} : D\mathbf{v} - p\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})q - \rho_{\mathbf{i}}\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{v} \, d\mathbf{x} = 0,$$

over all test **v**, *q*, where  $\Lambda_s = \{(\mathbf{x}, z) : b(\mathbf{x}) < z < s(t, \mathbf{x})\}$  is the 3D ice and

$$\nu_{\epsilon}(\boldsymbol{D}\mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{2} \Gamma \left( |\boldsymbol{D}\mathbf{u}|^2 + \epsilon \, D_0^2 \right)^{(p-2)/2},$$

is effective viscosity and  $p = \frac{1}{n} + 1$ , then extract trace  $\mathbf{u}|_s$ , then extend  $\Phi(s) = -\mathbf{u}|_s \cdot \mathbf{n}_s$  by 0 to  $\Omega$ 

- well-posed over  $W_0^{1,p}(\Lambda_s)^3 \times L^q(\Lambda_s)$  (Jouvet & Rappaz 2011)
- near-optimal solver (Isaac et al 2015)

# HOW TO COMPUTE $\Phi(s)$ ?

- how to compute  $\Phi(s) = -\mathbf{u}|_s \cdot \mathbf{n}_s$ ?
- shallow ice approximation (SIA): evaluate

$$\Phi(s) = -\frac{\gamma}{\mathsf{q}}(s-b)^{\mathsf{q}} |\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} s|^{\mathsf{q}} - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \left(\frac{\gamma}{\mathsf{q}+1}(s-b)^{\mathsf{q}+1} |\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} s|^{\mathsf{q}-2} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} s\right)$$

where q = n + 1 and  $\gamma > 0$  is related to ice softness and density

- SIA = lubrication approximation
- Φ(s) is a nonlinear differential operator only because membrane (longitudinal) stresses are unbalanced

## VELOCITY EXPRESSION OF *s* PERTURBATION

- derivative of  $\Phi(s) = -\mathbf{u}|_s \cdot \mathbf{n}_s$ ?
- difference  $\mathbf{u}_{(s+\psi)} \mathbf{u}_{(s)}$  from surface perturbation  $\psi$



## A CLOSER LOOK

- perturb s by 5 m bump, over 200 m
- resulting Stokes velocity difference
  - Stokes  $\Phi(s)$  is not local
  - note longitudinal-stress range (Kamb & Echelmeyer 1986)



## A CLOSER LOOK

- perturb s by 5 m bump, over 200 m
- resulting Stokes velocity difference
  - Stokes Φ(s) is not local
  - note longitudinal-stress range (Kamb & Echelmeyer 1986)
  - overlain SIA difference, localized under s perturbation!



#### FREE-BOUNDARY PROBLEM FOR S

- goal: determine glacier surface elevation s and glaciated area
- this is a free-boundary problem in the map-plane
- basic logic gives a nonlinear complementarity\* problem (NCP) over all of Ω:

$$egin{aligned} egin{aligned} egi$$

- we extend  $\mathbf{u}|_s$  by zero so  $\Phi(s) = 0$  in ice-free areas
- glaciated area  $\Omega_+(t) := \{ \mathbf{x} : s(t, \mathbf{x}) > b(\mathbf{x}) \} \dots$  from solution!

## BACKWARD EULER STEP

- ice mostly flows downhill, so SKE is mostly diffusive!
  - straightforward in shallow ice approximation
  - not literally a diffusion with Stokes dynamics
- implicit stepping makes sense ... try backward Euler:

$$\frac{s-s_0}{\Delta t} + \Phi(s) - a = 0$$

- $\blacktriangleright$  *s*<sub>o</sub> is the previous surface elevation
- s is new surface elevation
- each time step is a free boundary problem, an NCP:

$$egin{aligned} & s-b \geq 0 \ & s+\Delta t\,\Phi(s)-(s_{ ext{o}}+\Delta t\,a) \geq 0 \ & (s-b)\Big(s+\Delta t\,\Phi(s)-(s_{ ext{o}}+\Delta t\,a)\Big)=0 \end{aligned}$$

#### IMPLICIT STEP AS VARIATIONAL INEQUALITY

convert to weak form for FE treatment: NCP ⇒ VI
 define admissible surface elevations:

$$\mathcal{K} = \{r : r \ge b\}$$

- the constraint set
- closed and convex subset of  $\mathcal{V} = W^{1,p}(\Omega)$
- define nonlinear form and source linear functional:

$$\mathcal{N}(s)[q] = \int_{\Omega} \left( s + \Delta t \, \Phi(s) 
ight) q \, d\mathbf{x}, \quad f[q] = \int_{\Omega} \left( s_0 + \Delta t \, a 
ight) q \, d\mathbf{x}$$

**backward Euler step VI:** find  $s \in \mathcal{K}$  so that

$$N(s)[r-s] \ge f[r-s]$$

for all  $r \in \mathcal{K}$ 

■ VI = abstract, dynamics-agnostic, implicit time-step problem:

 $N(s)[r-s] \ge f[r-s]$ 

- next steps: FE discretization, solvers
- can we actually solve it?
  - A. yes for the SIA (Bueler 2016)
  - A. efficiently, some day, I hope, for Stokes
- what do current models do?
  - A. explicit time stepping, usually forward Euler, and that is a tragedy





## COMPUTATIONAL PARAMETERS



## ALGORITHMIC SCALING

algorithmic scaling of solvers:

• fixed-geometry velocity solution:  $O(m^{1+\alpha})$  flops

 $\alpha \approx$  0 (multigrid: Brown, Isaac, Tuminaro), 1 (sparse direct)

• implicit (velocity&geometry) solution:  $O(m^{1+\gamma})$  flops

 $\gamma \approx$  unknown (Stokes), 0.8 (SIA: Bueler 2016)

giving a model for asymptotic simulation cost:

time-stepping

flops per model year

explicit (optimistic)

explicit (pessimistic)

implicit

$$O\left(\frac{UL^{2+2\alpha}}{\Delta x^{3+2\alpha}}\right) = O\left(\frac{Um^{1.5+\alpha}}{L}\right)$$
$$O\left(\frac{DL^{2+2\alpha}}{\Delta x^{4+2\alpha}}\right) = O\left(\frac{Dm^{2+\alpha}}{L^2}\right)$$
$$O\left(\frac{qL^{2+2\gamma}}{\Delta x^{2+2\gamma}}\right) = O\left(qm^{1+\gamma}\right)$$

## ALGORITHMIC SCALING

algorithmic scaling of solvers:

• fixed-geometry velocity solution:  $O(m^{1+\alpha})$  flops

 $\alpha \approx 0$  (multigrid: Brown, Isaac, Tuminaro), 1 (sparse direct)

• implicit (velocity&geometry) solution:  $O(m^{1+\gamma})$  flops

 $\gamma \approx$  unknown (Stokes), 0.8 (SIA: Bueler 2016)

giving a model for asymptotic simulation cost:

C

time-stepping

explicit (optimistic)

explicit (pessimistic)

implicit

flops per model year

$$O\left(\frac{UL^{2+2\alpha}}{\Delta x^{3+2\alpha}}\right) = O\left(\frac{Um^{1.5+\alpha}}{L}\right)$$
$$O\left(\frac{DL^{2+2\alpha}}{\Delta x^{4+2\alpha}}\right) = O\left(\frac{Dm^{2+\alpha}}{L^2}\right) \quad \leftarrow \text{tragedy}$$
$$O\left(\frac{qL^{2+2\gamma}}{\Delta x^{2+2\gamma}}\right) = O\left(qm^{1+\gamma}\right)$$

# GEOMETRIC MULTIGRID FOR IMPLICIT STEPS?

- goal:  $\gamma \approx 0$  in  $O(m^{1+\gamma})$  cost of implicit solve
- can GMG be used as a solver?
  - need exploitable solution property: surface smoothness



# GEOMETRIC MULTIGRID FOR IMPLICIT STEPS?

- solving a free-boundary (obstacle) problem
  - ► constraint s ≥ b (obstacle is rough bed elevation data!)
- issues:
  - 1. fine mesh bed data not present on coarse mesh
    - o coarse iterates not necessarily admissible on fine
  - 2. free boundary location depends on mesh



■ next: outline a GMG for the glacier geometry problem

simultaneous solution for surface elevation and velocity

#### distinctive flavors:

- 1. subspace decomposition viewpoint
- 2. ordinary residual does not converge to zero
- 3. each coarse level has 2 constraint sets
  - defect constraint
  - monotone restriction
  - multilevel constraint decomposition (Tai, 2003)
- 4. FAS-type nonlinear coarse corrections
- 5. smoother?
  - Stokes residual is expensive and non-local!

## SUBSPACE DECOMPOSITION VIEWPOINT

■ hat functions span FE space on level *j*:

$$\mathcal{V}^{j} = \operatorname{span}\{\psi_{1}^{j}(x), \ldots, \psi_{m_{j}}^{j}(x)\}$$

multilevel subspace decomposition:

$$\mathcal{V}^h = \mathcal{V}^0 + \mathcal{V}^1 + \dots + \mathcal{V}^J$$

hats are combinations of finer hats:

$$\psi_{
ho}^{j-1}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{q=1}^{m_j} c_{
ho q} \psi_q^j(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\blacktriangleright c_{pq} = \psi_p^{j-1}(\mathbf{x}_q^j)$$

- canonical prolongation P
- canonical (dual) restriction R
- see Xu (1992)





# NCP RESIDUAL

consider abstract NCP

 $egin{aligned} s-b &\geq 0 \ F(s) &\geq 0 \ (s-b)F(s) &= 0 \end{aligned}$ 

- the solution does not satisfy F(s) = 0 everywhere
   ▶ generally F(s) > 0 where s = b
- how to tell if an iterate  $w \approx s$  is converged?
- A. need to monitor NCP residual  $\hat{F}(w)$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{w})[\psi_{\rho}^{J}] = \begin{cases} F(\mathbf{w})[\psi_{\rho}^{J}], & \mathbf{w}(\mathbf{x}_{\rho}^{J}) > b(\mathbf{x}_{\rho}^{J}) \\ \min\{F(\mathbf{w})[\psi_{\rho}^{J}], \mathbf{0}\}, & \mathbf{w}(\mathbf{x}_{\rho}^{J}) = b(\mathbf{x}_{\rho}^{J}) \end{cases}$$

 $\|\hat{F}(w)\|_{(\mathcal{V}^J)'} < ext{tol} \implies w ext{ solves NCP}$ 

#### suppose:

- ► *b<sup>J</sup>* is fine-level bed elevation
- $w^J$  is admissible fine-level iterate ( $w^J \ge b^J$ )

define defect constraint and defect constraint set:

$$\chi^{J} = b^{J} - w^{J}$$
$$\mathcal{D}^{J} = \left\{ v \ge \chi^{J} \right\} \subset \mathcal{V}^{J}$$

• notice 
$$\chi^J \leq 0$$

•  $w^J + z^J$  is admissible if and only if  $z^J \in \mathcal{D}^J$ 

#### DECOMPOSE THE DEFECT CONSTRAINT

 Tai (2003): decompose the fine-level defect constraint onto coarser meshes using monotone restriction



## DECOMPOSE THE DEFECT CONSTRAINT

■ monotone restriction operator  $R^{\oplus}$  :  $\mathcal{V}^{j} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}^{j-1}$ :

$$R^{\oplus} z = \sum_{p=1}^{m_{j-1}} \max\{z_q : \psi_p^{j-1}(x_q^j) > 0\} \psi_p^{j-1}$$

• observe  $R^{\oplus}z \ge z$ 

- for j = 1, ..., J let ► also define  $\chi^{-1} = 0$  $\chi^{j-1} = R^{\bigoplus} \chi^{j}$
- gaps between defect constraints: φ<sup>j</sup> = χ<sup>j</sup> χ<sup>j-1</sup>
   telescoping-sum:

$$\sum_{j=0}^{J} \phi^{j} = \chi^{0} + (\chi^{1} - \chi^{0}) + (\chi^{2} - \chi^{1}) + \dots + (\chi^{J} - \chi^{J-1}) = \chi^{J}$$

# MULTILEVEL CONSTRAINT DECOMPOSITION (MCD)

let

$$\mathcal{D}^j = \{ \mathbf{v} \ge \chi^j \}, \qquad \mathcal{K}^j = \{ \mathbf{v} \ge \phi^j \}$$

■ Tai (2003): decomposition of the fine-level defect constraint set D<sup>J</sup> by cones D<sup>j</sup> = K<sup>0</sup> + · · · + K<sup>j</sup> from the inside



# MULTILEVEL CONSTRAINT DECOMPOSITION (MCD)

#### dishonest attempt to illustrate MCD as decomposition of ice:



# FAS-TYPE COARSE CORRECTIONS

- now add an idea not in Tai (2003)
- suppose:
  - g<sup>j</sup> is solution iterate on current level
  - down-smoother computes  $y^j \in \mathcal{K}^j$
  - new solution iterate is  $\tilde{g}^j = g^j + y^j$
- nonlinear coarse correction needs to restrict residual and g<sup>j</sup>
  - full approximation scheme (FAS)
  - in formulas:

$$F = N^{j}(\tilde{g}^{j}) - f^{j}$$
$$g^{j-1} = R^{\bullet}\tilde{g}^{j}$$
$$f^{j-1} = N^{j-1}(g^{j-1}) - RF$$

where  $R^{\bullet}$  is state restriction (e.g. injection)

# PUT IT TOGETHER: NONLINEAR MCD ALGORITHM

NMCD-VCYCLE(
$$J, w^J, \chi^J$$
):  
 $g^J = w^J$   
for  $j = J$  downto  $j = 1$   
 $\chi^{j-1} = R^{\oplus} \chi^j$   
 $\phi^j = \chi^j - P\chi^{j-1}$   
 $y^j = 0$   
SMOOTHER<sup>down</sup> $(j, g^j, y^j, N^j, f^j, \phi^j)$   
 $F = N^j(g^j + y^j) - f^j$   
 $g^{j-1} = R^{\bullet}(g^j + y^j)$   
 $f^{j-1} = N^{j-1}(g^{j-1}) - RF$   
 $y^0 = 0$   
SMOOTHER<sup>coarse</sup> $(0, g^0, y^0, N^0, f^0, \chi^0)$   
 $z^0 = y^0$   
for  $j = 1$  to  $j = J$   
 $z^j = Pz^{j-1} + y^j$   
SMOOTHER<sup>up</sup> $(j, g^j, z^j, N^j, f^j, \chi^j)$   
return  $z^J$ 

$$y_{3} \in \mathcal{K}^{3} \qquad p \in \mathcal{I}^{3} = \mathcal{I}^{3}$$

$$y_{2} \in \mathcal{K}^{2} \qquad p \in \mathcal{I}^{2} = \mathcal{I}^{2}$$

$$y_{1} \in \mathcal{K}^{1} \qquad p \in \mathcal{I}^{1} = \mathcal{I}^{1}$$

$$y_{0} \in \mathcal{K}^{0}$$

up-smoothing corrections act in larger sets

↑

# WHAT IS A GOOD SIA SMOOTHER?

#### SIA residual is local

- (degenerate) elliptic differential operator
- pointwise smoothers adequate:
  - projected nonlinear Gauss-Seidel (PNGS)
  - projected nonlinear Jacobi (PNJacobi; below)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{PNJACOBI}(j, g^j, y^j, N^j, f^j, b^j, \texttt{newtonits} &= 2, \texttt{omega} = 0.67) \texttt{:} \\ \mathbf{for} \ k &= 1, \dots, \texttt{newtonits} \\ \rho_p(c) &:= N^j (g^j + y^j + c\psi_p^j) [\psi_p^j] - f^j [\psi_p^j] \\ r_p, \delta_p &= \rho_p(0), \rho'_p(0) \\ \mathbf{for} \ p &= 1, \dots, m_j \\ c &= \mathsf{POINTUPDATE}(r_p, \delta_p, y_p, b_p, f^j [\psi_p^j]) \\ y_p &\leftarrow y_p + \texttt{omega} \ c \end{aligned}$$

# **SIA** RESULTS

- compare PNGS and PNJacobi smoothers
   GMG v-cycle factors < 1 for SIA</li>
  - up-smoothing preferred, thus V(0,2)
  - evidence of mesh independence?



31

29

#### Stokes residual non-local!

#### I have only beginnings of smoother ideas

## SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

- goal: GMG for implicit glacier geometry evolution
- much of the tool-chain exists:
  - backward Euler or other stiff scheme
  - NCP or VI for free-boundary problem at each time step
  - nonlinear MCD solution of the VI
    - a form of GMG
- mostly implemented in Firedrake
  - extruded mesh
  - mixed-element, GMG solution of Stokes equations
- outlook for entire approach depends on constructing

a performant smoother for Stokes dynamics

I'm kind of stuck, and seeking help!

# extra: REFERENCES

- E. Bueler. Stable finite volume element schemes for the shallow-ice approximation. *J. Glaciol.*, 62 (232):230–242, 2016.
- E. Bueler. Performance analysis of high-resolution ice sheet simulations. arxiv:2206.14352, 2022.
- T. Isaac, G. Stadler, and O. Ghattas. Solution of nonlinear Stokes equations discretized by high-order finite elements on nonconforming and anisotropic meshes, with application to ice sheet dynamics. *SIAM J. Sci. Comput.*, 37(6):B804–B833, 2015.
- G. Jouvet and J. Rappaz. Analysis and finite element approximation of a nonlinear stationary Stokes problem arising in glaciology. *Adv. Numer. Analysis*, 2011.
- B. Kamb and K. A. Echelmeyer. Stress-gradient coupling in glacier flow: I. Longitudinal averaging of the influence of ice thickness and surface slope. J. Glaciol., 32(111):267–284, 1986.
- X.-C. Tai. Rate of convergence for some constraint decomposition methods for nonlinear variational inequalities. *Numer. Math.*, 93(4):755–786, 2003.
- J. Xu. Iterative methods by space decomposition and subspace correction. *SIAM Rev.*, 34:581–613, 1992.

## extra: COMPLETE STRONG FORM

solve one step of backward Euler for s, u, p
 system of NCP coupled to Stokes problem:

$$\begin{aligned} s - b &\geq 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega \\ s - \Delta t \, \mathbf{u}|_s \cdot \mathbf{n}_s - (s_0 + \Delta t \, a) &\geq 0 \\ (s - b)(s - \Delta t \, \mathbf{u}|_s \cdot \mathbf{n}_s - (s_0 + \Delta t \, a)) &= 0 \\ -\nabla \cdot (2\nu_{\epsilon}(D\mathbf{u}) \, D\mathbf{u}) + \nabla p - \rho_{\mathbf{i}} \mathbf{g} &= \mathbf{0} \quad \text{on } \Lambda_s \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 \\ \mathbf{u} &= \mathbf{0} \quad \text{on } \Gamma_0 \\ (2\nu_{\epsilon}(D\mathbf{u}) D\mathbf{u} - pI) \, \mathbf{n} &= \mathbf{0} \quad \text{on } \partial \Lambda_s \setminus \Gamma_0 \end{aligned}$$

• with regularized Glen-law effective viscosity ( $p = \frac{1}{n} + 1$ ):

$$\nu_{\epsilon}(\boldsymbol{D}\mathbf{u}) = \frac{\Gamma}{2} \left( |\boldsymbol{D}\mathbf{u}|^2 + \epsilon \, \boldsymbol{D}_0^2 \right)^{(p-2)/2}$$