

Schwarz domain decomposition and domain truncation for exterior time-harmonic problems with variable coefficients and convective flows

Philippe Marchner

Université Grenoble Alpes

`philippe.marchner@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr`

June 23, 2025

29th International Conference on Domain Decomposition Methods

Joint work : X. Antoine (U. Lorraine), C. Geuzaine (U. Liège), H. Bériot (Siemens)

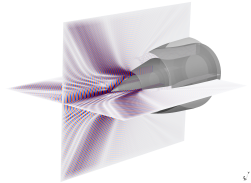
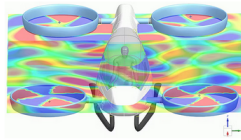
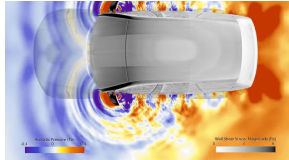
Outline

1. Time-harmonic problems with convection
2. Domain truncation for exterior problems
3. Schwarz domain decomposition for convected propagation
4. Conclusion

Outline

1. Time-harmonic problems with convection
2. Domain truncation for exterior problems
3. Schwarz domain decomposition for convected propagation
4. Conclusion

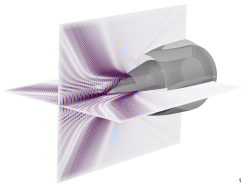
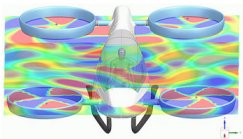
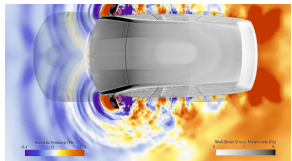
Aeroacoustics in the transport industry



Aeroacoustics studies the generation and propagation of sound in **moving fluids**

A simple model : sound propagation in a **mean flow** → **convected** propagation

Aeroacoustics in the transport industry



Aeroacoustics studies the generation and propagation of sound in **moving fluids**

A simple model : sound propagation in a **mean flow** $\rightarrow$ **convected** propagation

Time-harmonic convected wave operator [*Pierce 1990, Spieser, Bailly 2020*]

$$\mathcal{P} = -\rho_0 \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{v}_0} \left(\frac{1}{\rho_0^2 c_0^2} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{v}_0} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla \right), \quad \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{v}_0} = i\omega + \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \nabla$$

Mathematical properties

- **Helmholtz-type** operator with **varying** $c_0(\mathbf{x})$, $\rho_0(\mathbf{x})$ and **mean flow** $\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{x})$
- $\mathcal{P}$ is scalar and self-adjoint,
- If $c_0(\mathbf{x}) = \rho_0(\mathbf{x}) = 1 \Rightarrow$ convected Helmholtz, $\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \Rightarrow$ Helmholtz

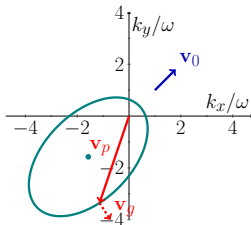
The physics of convected wave propagation

Plane-wave dispersion analysis : $u(\mathbf{x}) = e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$, $\mathbf{k} = (k_x, k_y)^T$

Convected Helmholtz operator $\mathcal{P} = -(\omega + \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \nabla)^2 + \Delta$, s.t. $\mathcal{P}u = 0$

Convected Helmholtz $\mathcal{P}$

$$(\omega - \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k})^2 - |\mathbf{k}|^2 = 0$$



$$\mathbf{v}_0 = 0.8 \times (\cos(\pi/4), \sin(\pi/4))^T$$

- Group velocity is driven by the flow : $\mathbf{v}_g = \mathbf{v}_0 + c_0 \mathbf{k}/|\mathbf{k}|$

The physics of convected wave propagation

Plane-wave dispersion analysis : $u(\mathbf{x}) = e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$, $\mathbf{k} = (k_x, k_y)^T$

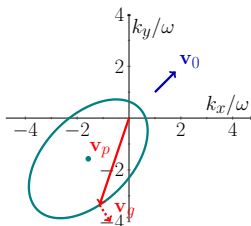
Convected Helmholtz operator $\mathcal{P} = -(\omega + \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \nabla)^2 + \Delta$, s.t. $\mathcal{P}u = 0$

Convected Helmholtz $\mathcal{P}$

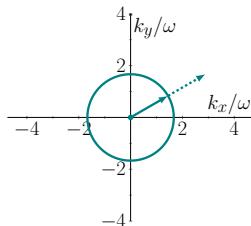
Helmholtz $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$

$$(\omega - \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k})^2 - |\mathbf{k}|^2 = 0$$

$$|\mathbf{k}|^2 - \hat{\omega}^2 = 0$$



$\longrightarrow$
Lorentz
transform



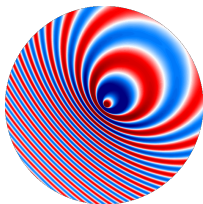
$$\mathbf{v}_0 = 0.8 \times (\cos(\pi/4), \sin(\pi/4))^T$$

$$\hat{\omega} = \omega / \sqrt{1 - |\mathbf{v}_0|^2 / c_0^2}$$

- Group velocity is driven by the flow : $\mathbf{v}_g = \mathbf{v}_0 + c_0 \mathbf{k} / |\mathbf{k}|$
- The *Lorentz transform* maps $\mathcal{P}$ to $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ [Taylor 1978, Hu et al. 19, Barucq et al. 22]

Numerical challenges for convected propagation

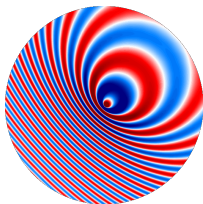
The **mean flow** impacts
wave propagation
 $\Rightarrow$ we must adapt
numerical methods



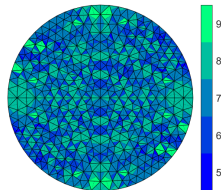
Green kernel, $M = |\mathbf{v}_0|/c_0 = 0.8$

Numerical challenges for convected propagation

The **mean flow** impacts
wave propagation
 $\Rightarrow$ we must adapt
numerical methods



Green kernel, $M = |\mathbf{v}_0|/c_0 = 0.8$ *A priori* p -FEM order
adaptation [Bériot, Gabard 19]



Numerical challenges

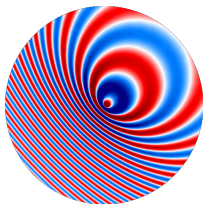
- Discretization: dispersion error is affected [Bériot et al. 12, Ainsworth 2004]

$$E_d = \frac{1-M\cos(\theta)}{2} \left[\frac{p!}{(2p)!} \right]^2 \frac{1}{2p+1} \frac{(\omega h)^{2p+1}}{(1+M\cos(\theta))^{2p+1}} + \mathcal{O}(\omega h)^{2p+3}, \quad \omega h \rightarrow 0$$

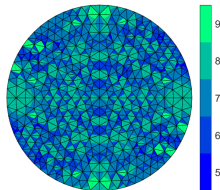
$\rightarrow$ high-order is advocated: choose $d_\lambda^* = \frac{2\pi p}{\omega h} (1-M) \approx 6$

Numerical challenges for convected propagation

The **mean flow** impacts
wave propagation
⇒ we must adapt
numerical methods



Green kernel, $M = |\mathbf{v}_0|/c_0 = 0.8$ *A priori* p -FEM order
adaptation [Bériot, Gabard 19]



Numerical challenges

- Discretization: dispersion error is affected [Bériot et al. 12, Ainsworth 2004]

$$E_d = \frac{1-M\cos(\theta)}{2} \left[\frac{p!}{(2p)!} \right]^2 \frac{1}{2p+1} \frac{(\omega h)^{2p+1}}{(1+M\cos(\theta))^{2p+1}} + \mathcal{O}(\omega h)^{2p+3}, \omega h \rightarrow 0$$

→ high-order is advocated: choose $d_\lambda^* = \frac{2\pi p}{\omega h}(1-M) \approx 6$

- Domain truncation:** phase and group velocity have different directions

→ high-frequency solver : use **domain truncation** to build preconditioner for iterative methods

Outline

1. Time-harmonic problems with convection
2. Domain truncation for exterior problems
3. Schwarz domain decomposition for convected propagation
4. Conclusion

Microlocal factorization

[Engquist, Majda 1977] construction : cancel bi-characteristics on the boundary

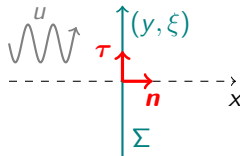
1. Split convected wave operator $\mathcal{P}$ into bi-characteristics [Nirenberg 1973]

$$\mathcal{P} = (\partial_x + \imath\Lambda^-) (\partial_x + \imath\Lambda^+) + \mathcal{R}$$

The operators $\Lambda^\pm$ map the Dirichlet-to-Neumann data on Σ

2. canceling one of the factors on Σ gives a non-reflecting boundary condition

Half-space setting



Microlocal factorization

[Engquist, Majda 1977] construction : cancel bi-characteristics on the boundary

1. Split convected wave operator $\mathcal{P}$ into bi-characteristics [Nirenberg 1973]

$$\mathcal{P} = (\partial_x + \imath \Lambda^-) (\partial_x + \imath \Lambda^+) + \mathcal{R}$$

The operators $\Lambda^\pm$ map the Dirichlet-to-Neumann data on Σ

2. canceling one of the factors on Σ gives a non-reflecting boundary condition

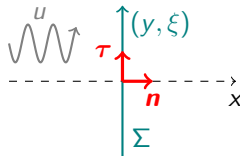
→ Identify with the PDE operator to obtain a Ricatti equation for Λ^+

$$(1 - M_x^2) \left[(\Lambda^+)^2 + \imath \text{Op} \{ \partial_x \lambda^+ \} \right] + \imath (\mathcal{A}_1 + \mathcal{A}_0) \Lambda^+ = \mathcal{B}_2 + \mathcal{B}_1, \quad M_x = v_x / c_0$$

$\Lambda^+ = \text{Op}(\lambda^+)$ is a ψ DO associated to the symbol λ^+

Use a “high-frequency” asymptotic expansion $\lambda^+ \sim \lambda_1^+ + \lambda_0^+ + \dots$, and compute each λ_{-j}^+ with homogeneity degree $(\omega, \xi)^{-j}$ [Hörmander 2007]

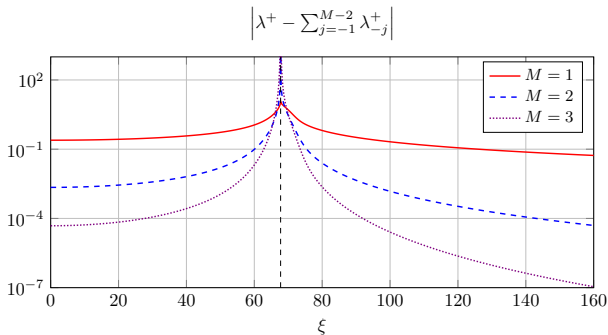
Half-space setting



DtN symbol expansion for a Helmholtz problem

Symbol calculation with $\mathbf{v}_0 = 0$, $\rho_0 = 1$, $c_0^{-2}(x) = ax + b$, $\omega = 30$

Analytic symbol available $\lambda^+ = -ie^{-\frac{2i\pi}{3}} (a\omega^2)^{1/3} \frac{\text{Ai}'(z)}{\text{Ai}(z)}$, $z = e^{-\frac{2i\pi}{3}} \frac{\xi^2 - \omega^2(ax+b)}{(a\omega^2)^{2/3}}$



- $\lambda_1^+ = \sqrt{\omega^2 c_0^{-2}(x) - \xi^2}$ is the “usual” square-root
- λ_0^+ depends on $\partial_x(c_0^{-2})$, matches the Airy function asymptotic expansion
- λ_{-1}^+ depends on $\partial_x^2(c_0^{-2})$ and $[\partial_x(c_0^{-2})]^2$, etc.

Principal symbol for convected propagation

Principal symbol for the half-space problem

$$\lambda_1^+ = \frac{1}{1-M_x^2} \left[-M_x(k_0 - \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi}) + \sqrt{(k_0 - \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi})^2 - (1 - M_x^2)|\boldsymbol{\xi}|^2} \right]$$

with $k_0 = \omega/c_0$, $\mathbf{M}_\tau = \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}$. λ_1^+ depends on local flow properties

- λ_1^+ matches the dispersion relation of a plane wave in a uniform flow
- For $\omega \rightarrow +\infty$, we recover the “Sommerfeld” condition $\lambda_1^+ = k_0/(1 + M_x)$

Principal symbol for convected propagation

Principal symbol for the half-space problem

$$\lambda_1^+ = \frac{1}{1-M_x^2} \left[-M_x(k_0 - \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi}) + \sqrt{(k_0 - \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi})^2 - (1 - M_x^2)|\boldsymbol{\xi}|^2} \right]$$

with $k_0 = \omega/c_0$, $\mathbf{M}_\tau = \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}$. λ_1^+ depends on local flow properties

- λ_1^+ matches the dispersion relation of a plane wave in a uniform flow
- For $\omega \rightarrow +\infty$, we recover the “Sommerfeld” condition $\lambda_1^+ = k_0/(1 + M_x)$

We do the DtN approximation $\Lambda^+ \approx \text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)$, and neglect λ_0^+ , λ_{-1}^+ , etc.

→ flow variations and curvature effects are in the next symbols

A choice of operator representation

$$\text{Op}(\lambda_1^+) = \frac{1}{1-M_x^2} \left[-M_x(k_0 - \imath \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \nabla_\Gamma) + \sqrt{(k_0 - \imath \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \nabla_\Gamma)^2 + (1 - M_x^2)\Delta_\Gamma} \right]$$

For the half-space problem with uniform mean flow, we have $\Lambda^+ = \text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)$

Principal symbol for convected propagation

Principal symbol for the half-space problem

$$\lambda_1^+ = \frac{1}{1-M_x^2} \left[-M_x(k_0 - \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi}) + \sqrt{(k_0 - \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi})^2 - (1 - M_x^2)|\boldsymbol{\xi}|^2} \right]$$

with $k_0 = \omega/c_0$, $\mathbf{M}_\tau = \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}$. λ_1^+ depends on local flow properties

- λ_1^+ matches the dispersion relation of a plane wave in a uniform flow
- For $\omega \rightarrow +\infty$, we recover the “Sommerfeld” condition $\lambda_1^+ = k_0/(1 + M_x)$

We do the DtN approximation $\Lambda^+ \approx \text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)$, and neglect λ_0^+ , λ_{-1}^+ , etc.

→ flow variations and curvature effects are in the next symbols

A choice of operator representation

$$\text{Op}(\lambda_1^+) = \frac{1}{1-M_x^2} \left[-M_x(k_0 - \imath \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \nabla_\Gamma) + \sqrt{(k_0 - \imath \mathbf{M}_\tau \cdot \nabla_\Gamma)^2 + (1 - M_x^2)\Delta_\Gamma} \right]$$

For the half-space problem with uniform mean flow, we have $\Lambda^+ = \text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)$

How to approximate $\text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)$ by a local operator ?

Operator approximations

$\text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)$ has a non-local term $f(Z) = \sqrt{1+Z}$, with $Z \rightarrow 0$ at high frequency

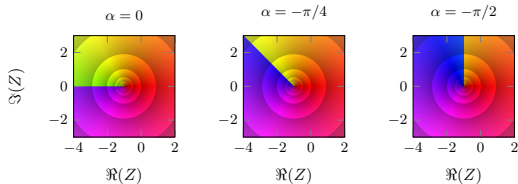
We can use a Taylor/Padé expansion $\Rightarrow$ sparse discretization

- propagating modes live in $I = (-1, +\infty)$
 - evanescent modes live in $I = (-\infty, -1)$
- } branch-cut problem

Operator approximations

$\text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)$ has a non-local term $f(Z) = \sqrt{1 + Z}$, with $Z \rightarrow 0$ at high frequency
We can use a Taylor/Padé expansion $\Rightarrow$ sparse discretization

- propagating modes live in $I = (-1, +\infty)$
 - evanescent modes live in $I = (-\infty, -1)$
- } branch-cut problem

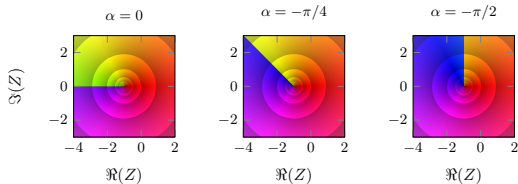


$f(Z)$ with different branch-cut rotations

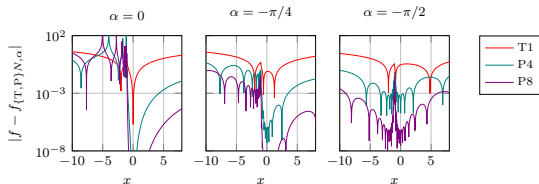
Operator approximations

$\text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)$ has a non-local term $f(Z) = \sqrt{1+Z}$, with $Z \rightarrow 0$ at high frequency
We can use a Taylor/Padé expansion $\Rightarrow$ sparse discretization

- propagating modes live in $I = (-1, +\infty)$
 - evanescent modes live in $I = (-\infty, -1)$
- } branch-cut problem



$f(Z)$ with different branch-cut rotations



approximations of $f(Z)$ along the real line

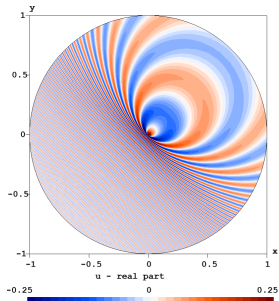
- computational cost increase with Padé order
- uniform rational approximation ?
 $\rightarrow$ Zolotarev solution
[Druskin et al. 2016]

Exterior domain truncation - ABC

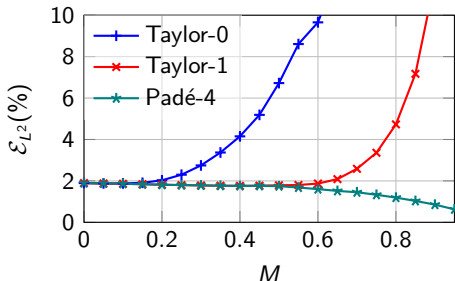
Our boundary condition reads $\partial_n u = -i\text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)u$

→ implementation in a Galerkin formulation with p -FEM

Example: absorbing boundary condition for convex boundary shape



(a) $\Re(u)$, $M = 0.95$, $\omega = 6\pi$



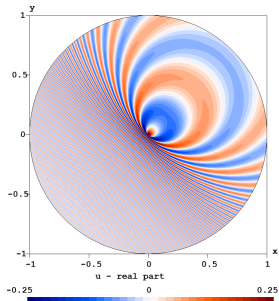
(b) Relative domain L^2 -errors (in %)

Exterior domain truncation - ABC

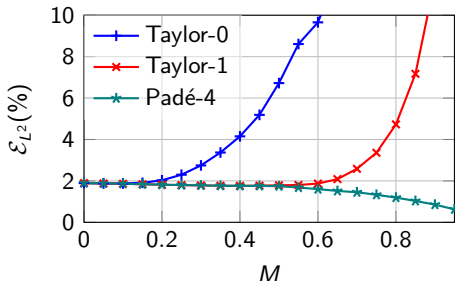
Our boundary condition reads $\partial_n u = -i\text{Op}(\lambda_1^+)u$

→ implementation in a Galerkin formulation with p -FEM

Example: absorbing boundary condition for convex boundary shape



(a) $\Re(u)$, $M = 0.95$, $\omega = 6\pi$



(b) Relative domain L^2 -errors (in %)

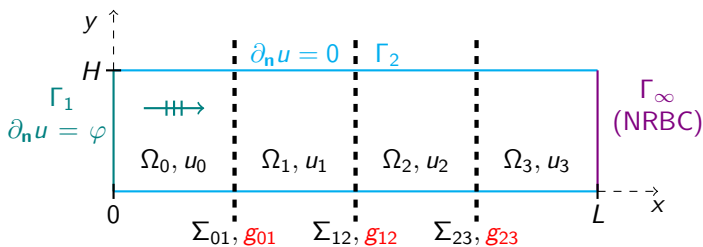
- Microlocal construction allows to design high-order ABCs
- including the correction term λ_0^+ requires technical effort

Outline

1. Time-harmonic problems with convection
2. Domain truncation for exterior problems
3. Schwarz domain decomposition for convected propagation
4. Conclusion

Non-overlapping Schwarz method

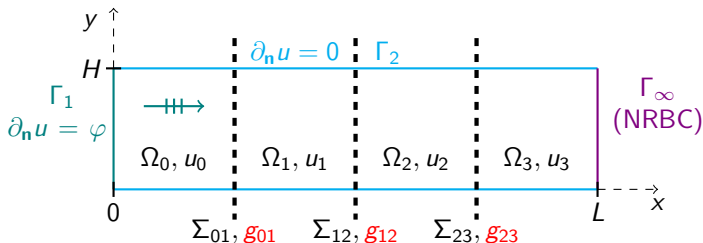
Semi-open waveguide configuration, propagation along the x -direction



The source φ is a superposition of 30 modes

Non-overlapping Schwarz method

Semi-open waveguide configuration, propagation along the x -direction



The source φ is a superposition of 30 modes

Schwarz substructured formulation [Gander et al. 2002]

Iterative solver for interface problem $(\mathbb{I} - \Pi \mathbb{S}) \mathbf{g} = \varphi$ on Σ

At each (n) iteration

1. Given $\mathbf{g}_{ij}^{(n)}$, compute $u_i^{(n+1)}$ in Ω_i with direct solver $(\partial_n u_i + \imath \mathbf{S}_i u_i = \mathbf{g}_{ij})$,
2. Update the interface unknowns on Σ_{ij}
 $\mathbf{g}_{ji}^{(n+1)} = -\mathbf{g}_{ij}^{(n)} + \imath (\mathbf{S}_i + \mathbf{S}_j) u_i^{(n+1)}$

If $(\mathbf{S}_i, \mathbf{S}_j) \approx$ outgoing DtN map $\Lambda^+ \rightarrow$ convergence in N_{dom} iterations

Convergence factor for convected propagation

Suppose a mean flow only along x -direction ($v_y = 0$)

We have **complex advection**: outgoing and incoming waves have a phase shift

$$\rho(\xi) = \left| \frac{(f - f_{n,\alpha})(-2M_x\omega + f - f_{n,\alpha})}{(-2M_x\omega + f + f_{n,\alpha})(f + f_{n,\alpha})} \right|, \quad M_x = v_x/c_0$$

$f = \sqrt{1 + (1 - M_x^2)(\xi/\omega)^2}$, $f_{n,\alpha}$: square-root approx., ξ : Fourier variable

Convergence factor for convected propagation

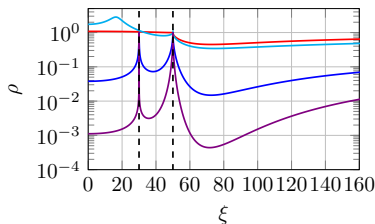
Suppose a mean flow only along x-direction ($v_y = 0$)

We have **complex advection**: outgoing and incoming waves have a phase shift

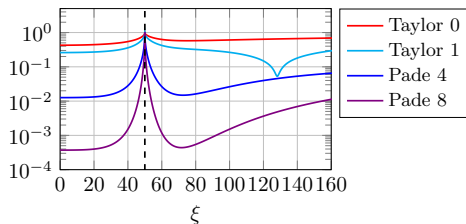
$$\rho(\xi) = \left| \frac{(f - f_{n,\alpha})(-2M_x\omega + f - f_{n,\alpha})}{(-2M_x\omega + f + f_{n,\alpha})(f + f_{n,\alpha})} \right|, \quad M_x = v_x/c_0$$

$f = \sqrt{1 + (1 - M_x^2)(\xi/\omega)^2}$, $f_{n,\alpha}$: square-root approx., ξ : Fourier variable

$M_x = 0.8$



$M_x = -0.8$



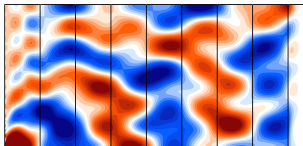
Convergence factor: $\alpha = -\pi/2, \omega = 30$. For $M_x = 0.8$, $\xi \in [30, 50]$, modes have negative phase velocity

How is numerical convergence affected ?

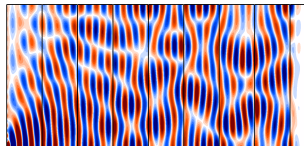
Assessment with ABC transmission operators

Absorbing boundary conditions as transmission operator, with $\alpha = -\pi/2$
The source is the superposition of the 30 first modes

Real part (+PML) $M_x = 0.8, \omega = 30$



Real part (+PML) $M_x = -0.8, \omega = 30$



$M_x = 0.8, \omega = 30$

N_{dom}	T0	T1	P8
2	20 (dnc)	18 (dnc)	3 (3)
4	60 (dnc)	58 (dnc)	9 (9)
8	142 (dnc)	133 (dnc)	19 (21)

$M_x = -0.8, \omega = 30$

N_{dom}	T0	T1	P8
2	14 (47)	10 (25)	3 (3)
4	44 (dnc)	28 (47)	7 (9)
8	94 (dnc)	62 (dnc)	13 (21)

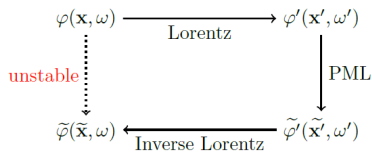
Number of iterations to $r_l = 10^{-6}$: GMRES vs (Jacobi) solver. T: Taylor, P: Padé

- inverse upstream modes significantly deteriorates convergence
- Padé approximations reach high accuracy after N_{dom} iterations

Assessment with PML transmission operators

Let us use a PML for $(\mathcal{S}_i, \mathcal{S}_j)$, as approximations of Λ^+

Warning: “classic” PML is unstable for inverse upstream modes ($M_x > 0$)

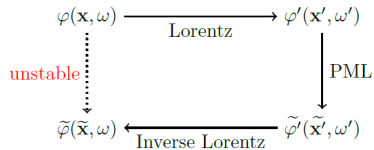


[Marchner et al. 2021]

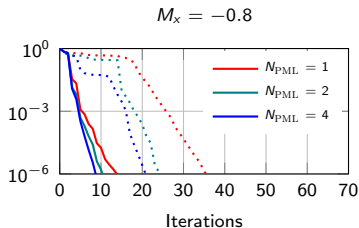
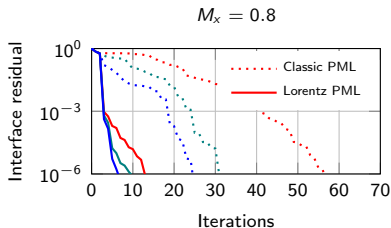
Assessment with PML transmission operators

Let us use a PML for $(\mathcal{S}_i, \mathcal{S}_j)$, as approximations of Λ^+

Warning: “classic” PML is unstable for inverse upstream modes ($M_x > 0$)



[Marchner et al. 2021]



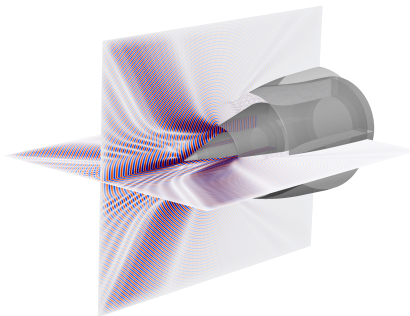
GMRES iterations, $N_{\text{dom}} = 4, \omega = 40$

- With a Jacobi solver, a “classic” PML as transmission operator does not converge, even when $M_x < 0$!

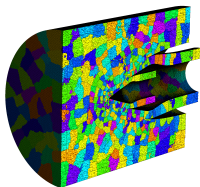
→ Caution is needed with PML-transmission conditions [Galkowski et al. 2024]

Large scale Schwarz domain decomposition

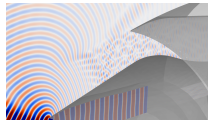
- For realistic problems we use 2nd order transmission condition
Turbofan engine jet noise benchmark at $\omega/2\pi = 40$ kHz [Marchner et al. 2025]



(a) $\Re(u)$



(b) partitioning (METIS)



(c) Zoom

Run on Lumi on 65k cores: $N_{\text{dom}} = 4096$, 1.3×10^9 unknowns, 96×10^9 nnz
Peak memory over MPIs: 18.4 Gb, Its : 555 ($r_l < 10^{-4}$), solving time: 15min

Outline

1. Time-harmonic problems with convection
2. Domain truncation for exterior problems
3. Schwarz domain decomposition for convected propagation
4. Conclusion

Conclusion

I have presented domain decomposition and domain truncation techniques for convected propagation

- ABCs and PMLs can be extended to convected propagation, with high Mach numbers and convex boundary shape
- The Lorentz transform helps to better understand convected propagation
- Rational approx. of DtN maps are of strong interest for many PDEs
- Deriving corner conditions is currently an open problem

Conclusion

I have presented domain decomposition and domain truncation techniques for convected propagation

- ABCs and PMLs can be extended to convected propagation, with high Mach numbers and convex boundary shape
- The Lorentz transform helps to better understand convected propagation
- Rational approx. of DtN maps are of strong interest for many PDEs
- Deriving corner conditions is currently an open problem

All implementations were performed with GmshDDM and GmshFEM [*Royer et al. 2021*]



FEM



DDM

Conclusion

I have presented domain decomposition and domain truncation techniques for convected propagation

- ABCs and PMLs can be extended to convected propagation, with high Mach numbers and convex boundary shape
- The Lorentz transform helps to better understand convected propagation
- Rational approx. of DtN maps are of strong interest for many PDEs
- Deriving corner conditions is currently an open problem

All implementations were performed with GmshDDM and GmshFEM [*Royer et al. 2021*]

Thank you !

`philippe.marchner@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr`

