

Slender and close: accurate Stokes flows for rigid particles in challenging geometries

Alex Barnett¹

work with Anna Broms², Anna-Karin Tornberg² and Dhairya Malhotra¹

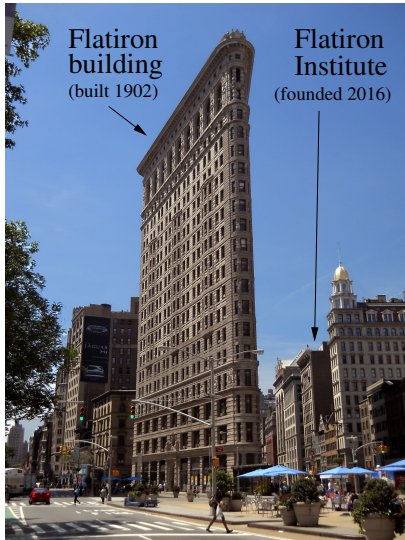
MIT Distinguished Seminar in CS&E, 4/17/25

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Flatiron Institute and the Center for Computational Math



A division of the Simons Foundation

CCM is one of five centers

others: biology
astrophysics/astronomy
quantum physics
neuroscience

Each ≈ 50 researchers

CCM:

scientific computing
numerical analysis
biophysics / imaging
computational statistics
machine learning

Supports both basic research
& software development / support

My current/recent areas

- Numerical PDE linear, but complicated geometries
 wave scattering, acoustics, heat equation
 viscous fluid flow ← today
- Nonuniform FFTs and other signal processing
 lead developer of well-used software package: FINUFFT
 CPU+GPU. Inverse Fourier imaging (MRI, black hole), GP regression
- Various scientific computing / numerical analysis
 electronic structure (quantum)
 oscillatory differential equations
 bio-math (bio-mechanics, perfusion)
 protein imaging (cryo-EM), sampling (HMC)



Flatiron is a problem-rich environment. . .

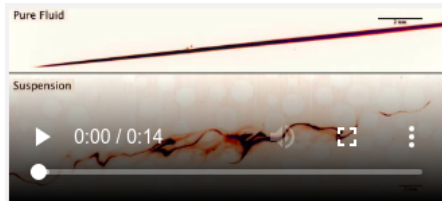
. . . CCM is a hub for numerical advice / tools / collaboration

Stokes flows with rigid bodies: motivations

Rheology: how do suspended particles change the effective viscosity?

Reynolds # $Re=0$: fluid inertia negligible

Transport in shearing suspension:



(Souzy et al, '17)

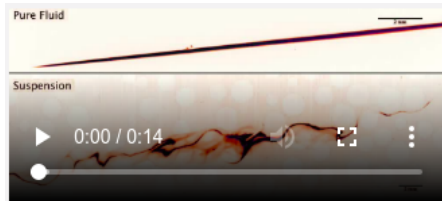
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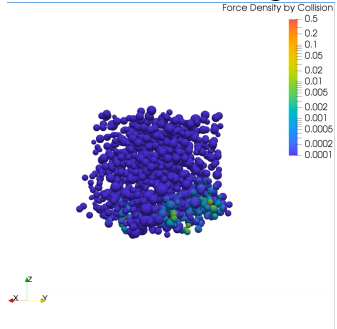
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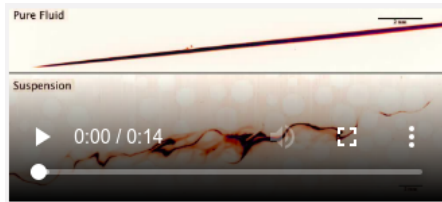
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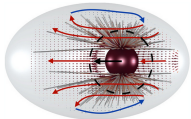
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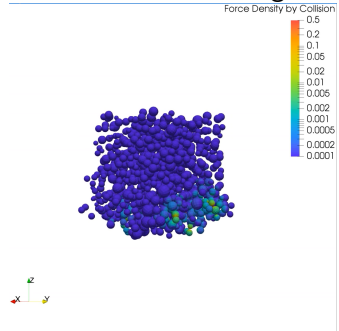
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(Nazockdast et al '15)

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cell biomechanics simulations (actin, nuclei)

active fluids: cilia, swimmers

nonzero slip velocity v_{slip}

Outline of today

1. Incompressible Stokes problems

resistance and mobility; challenges with existing methods

2. Method of fundamental solutions (MFS)

solve resistance and mobility for large collections of simple objects

3. Close-to-touching spheres

augmenting MFS using pair-wise lines of images

4. Slender bodies

replace common asymptotic approx. by *convergent* boundary integral equations (BIE)

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Goals throughout: tool-building. Design solvers that are. . .

- convergent solves the actual model with arbitrarily small error
- high order accurate effort grows weakly as error vanishes
- close to linear scaling in problem size number of particles or surface unknowns

Stokes rigid-body boundary value problems

- assume: 1) Reynolds $\neq 0$ $\text{Re} \approx 0$ e.g. μm particles in H_2O
2) no Brownian (thermal) forcing i.e. deterministic

Stokes Dirichlet BVP: solve for (\mathbf{u}, p) vel, pressure
in $\Omega := \text{exterior of bodies } \Omega_1, \dots, \Omega_B$

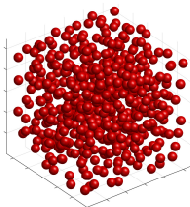
$$-\mu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{local fluid force balance}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{incompressible}$$

$$\|\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})\| \rightarrow 0, \quad \|\mathbf{x}\| \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{decay condition}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}} := \mathbf{v}_b + \boldsymbol{\omega}_b \times (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}_b) \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_b$$

Unique solution exists for any boundary data \mathbf{u}_{BC}



given rigid-body motion
(Ladyzhenskaya '69)

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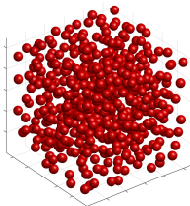
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We'll need surface traction (force) vector $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}[\mathbf{u}, p] := -p\mathbf{n} + \mu(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T) \cdot \mathbf{n}$

Then from solution can extract net forces and torques on b th body:

$$\mathbf{F}_b = \int_{\partial\Omega_b} \mathbf{T} dS_{\mathbf{y}} \quad \boldsymbol{\tau}_b = \int_{\partial\Omega_b} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c}_b) \times \mathbf{T} dS_{\mathbf{y}}$$



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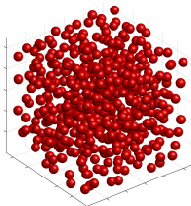
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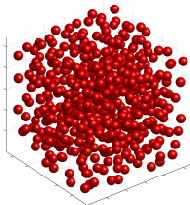
“Resistance” problem: get $\{\mathbf{F}_b, \boldsymbol{\tau}_b\}_{b=1}^B$ from motions $\{\mathbf{v}_b, \boldsymbol{\omega}_b\}_{b=1}^B$ $\mathbf{F} = \mathcal{R}\mathbf{U}$

variant: $\mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{v}_b + \boldsymbol{\omega}_b \times (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}_b) - \mathbf{u}_0 + \mathbf{v}_{\text{slip}} \quad \leftarrow$ background flow \mathbf{u}_0 and/or swimmers



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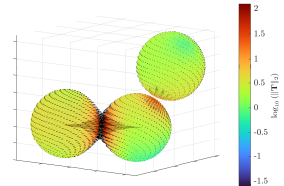
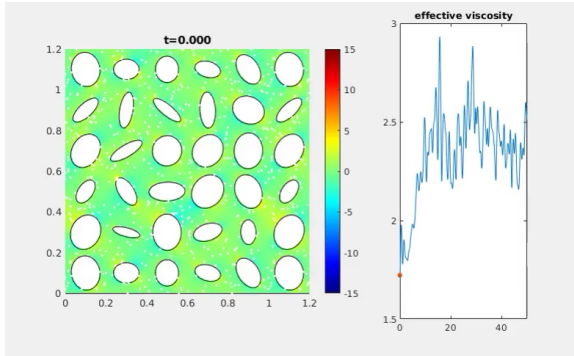
“Mobility” problem: its inverse formally $\mathbf{U} = \mathcal{R}^{-1}\mathbf{F}$, but don't compute that way!

Challenges

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moving geometry

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moving geometry
- Close-touching (dense suspensions): strong **lubrication** forces



surface separation $\delta \ll 1$

3D traction (force) peak $\sim \delta^{-2}$

spatial width $\sim \delta^{1/2}$

2D rheology of 25 neutrally-buoyant rigid ellipses, Wang–Nazockdast–B JCP '21

pressure near-singularities, diagonal force chains forming and breaking up

Various flavors of solver

- Standard PDE solvers such as FEM impractical, rarely used
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- “Stokesian Dynamics” (chem. eng. community)
 - approximate long-range hydro. via “RPY tensor” (Brady–Bossis '88 etc)
 - add pair-wise lubrication approximation (Durlflosky et al '87)
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- Collisions? prevented explicitly, with an artificially inflated radius e.g. $1.1R$:(

Method of fundamental solutions (MFS): one body

“potential theory with off-surface sources” convergent, can be high-order
used for acoustics, electromagnetics; rarely for Stokes

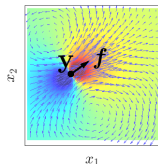
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Stokeslet tensor. $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{S}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})\mathbf{f}$ flow field due to point force \mathbf{f} at $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^3$

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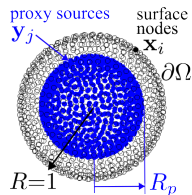
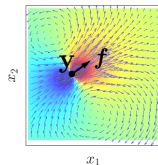
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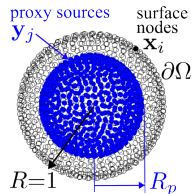
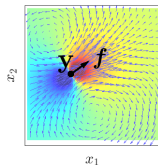
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abbrev: $G\lambda = \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}}$ G target-from-source matrix, $3M \times 3N$

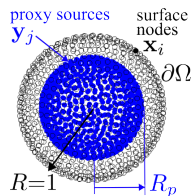
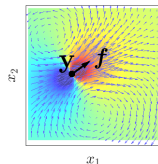
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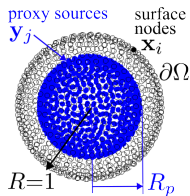
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If proxy surface *well-separated* from $\partial\Omega$:

- 1) functions $\mathbb{S}(\cdot, \mathbf{y}_j)$ on $\partial\Omega$ are **smooth**: simple quadrature e.g. $M \approx 1.3N$
- 2) representation accurate for flow eval. **arbitrarily close** to and on $\partial\Omega$

contrast BIE: technical singular quadratures needed on $\partial\Omega$, near-singular ones close to $\partial\Omega$

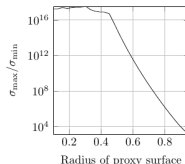
... but MFS does have a catch!



Condition # $\kappa(G) := \frac{\sigma_{\max}}{\sigma_{\min}} \gtrsim 10^8$

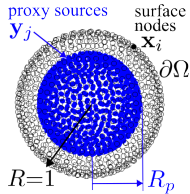
grows (root) exponentially in N
growth rate worse as proxy R_p shrinks
but small R_p needed for small errors!

Fixed $N = 700$:



Intuitively: σ_{\min} controlled by the degree- \sqrt{N} sph. harmonic which decayed like $(R_p/R)^{\sqrt{N}}$

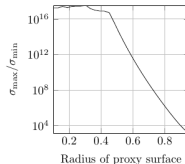
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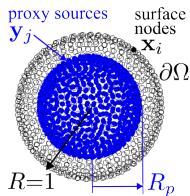
Consequence: iterative solution impossible

need least-squares: $\min_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{3N}} \|G\lambda - \mathbf{u}_{BC}\|_2$

unlike well-conditioned BIE

... with $\|\lambda\|^2$ not needlessly big

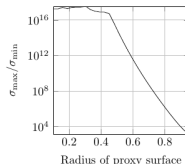
... but MFS does have a catch!



Condition # $\kappa(G) := \frac{\sigma_{\max}}{\sigma_{\min}} \gtrsim 10^8$

grows (root) exponentially in N
 growth rate worse as proxy R_p shrinks
 but small R_p needed for small errors!

Fixed $N = 700$:



Intuitively: σ_{\min} controlled by the degree- \sqrt{N} sph. harmonic which decayed like $(R_p/R)\sqrt{N}$

Consequence: iterative solution impossible

need least-squares: $\min_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{3N}} \|G\lambda - \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}}\|_2$

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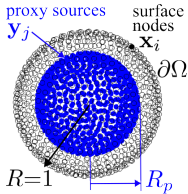
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Direct soln via SVD: $G = U\Sigma V^T$, where $\Sigma = \text{diag}\{\sigma_k\}$

cost $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$

pick cut-off ϵ (e.g. 10^{-12}), set $\Sigma^+ := \text{diag}\{\sigma_k^{-1} \text{ if } \sigma_k > \epsilon\sigma_1, \text{ else } 0\}$

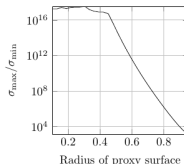
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then $\lambda \approx V\Sigma^+(U^T \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}}) =: G^+ \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}}$

a (possibly regularized) pseudoinverse

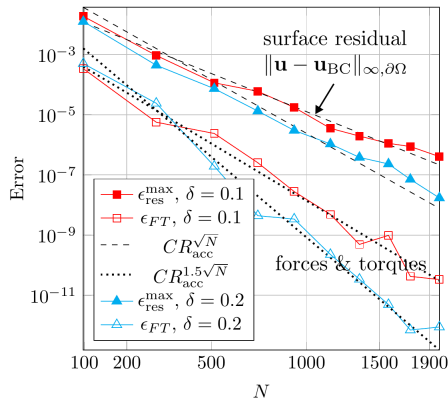
Note: G^+ should never be filled! Backward stable iff apply the two matvecs in above order

However, MFS effective for simple smooth bodies

$N, M \sim 10^3$, SVD \sim few secs

MFS small example

MFS discretization solving resistance for $B = 2$ unit spheres: $R_p = 0.6$



Separations $\delta = 0.1$, $\delta = 0.2$

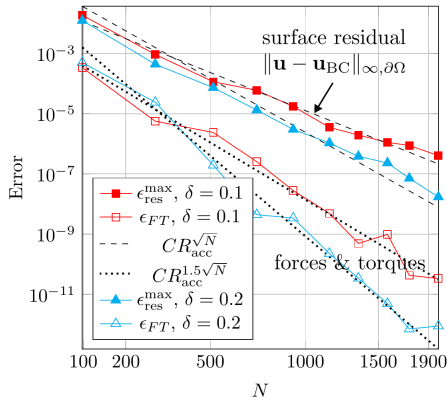
Error in forces and torques
hits 10^{-10} by $N \approx 1700$

convergence root-exponential
for some rate $R_{\text{acc}}(\delta)$

smaller $\delta \Rightarrow$ slower conv.

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- For spheres, MFS needs same # unknowns as BIE for same error

BIE uses elaborate vector spherical harmonic close-eval. (Corona-Veerapaneni '18)

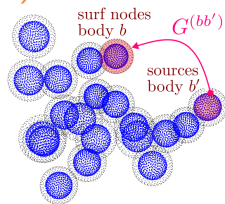
- MFS (as BIE) can handle more general smooth shapes

(Liu-B '15)

How scale to many simple bodies? ($B > 10^3$)

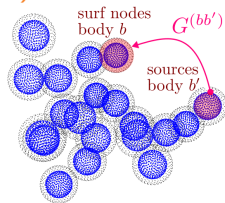
$$\begin{bmatrix} G^{(11)} & G^{(12)} & \dots & G^{(1B)} \\ G^{(21)} & G^{(22)} & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ G^{(B1)} & \dots & \dots & G^{(BB)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ \lambda^{(B)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}}^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}}^{(B)} \end{bmatrix}$$

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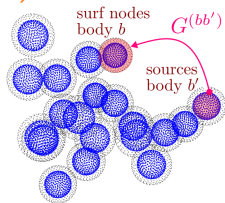
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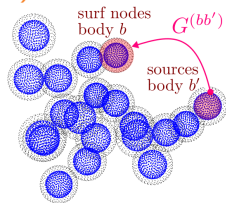
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abbrev: $\tilde{G}\mu = \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}}$ huge, square, well-cond. \Rightarrow iter. solve (Liu-B '15, Stein-B, '22)

Iterative solution of $\tilde{G}\mu = u_{\text{BC}}$ for resistance prob.

We use GMRES as solver

minimizes residual in the Krylov subspace

each iteration needs matvec $u \leftrightarrow \tilde{G}\mu$

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Stokes fast multipole method, linear cost in # sources+targets (Tornberg–Greengard '08)

Black-box software: FMM3D (Rachh et al), PVFMM (Malhotra), STKFMM (Wen et al)

Parallel throughput 10^4 to 10^5 pts/sec/core, depending on requested tolerance

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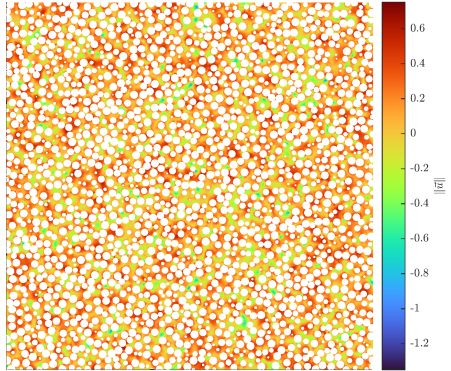
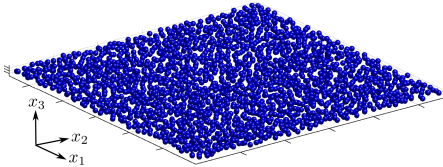
Once GMRES solved for $\boldsymbol{\mu}$, get proxy strength vector $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ by Step 1

Then use MFS rep. to evaluate Stokes flow (\mathbf{u}, p) anywhere in Ω

Evaluate net forces & torques: easy, sum the sources $\mathbf{F}_b = \sum_{j=1}^N \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j^{(b)}$
 $\boldsymbol{\tau}_b = \sum_{j=1}^N (\mathbf{y}_j^{(b)} - \mathbf{c}_b) \times \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j^{(b)}$

Results: resistance problem via MFS

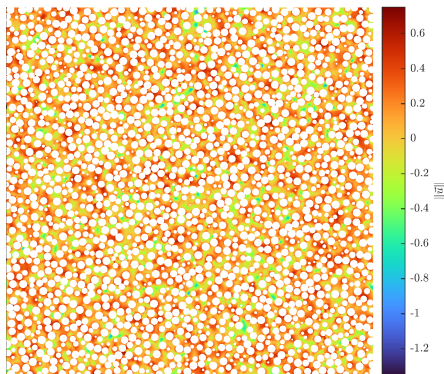
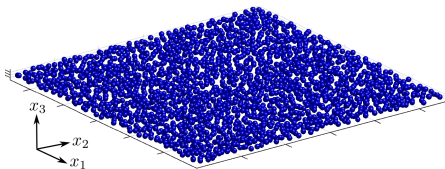
$B = 2000$ monodisperse sphere layer given random motions $\{\mathbf{v}_b, \boldsymbol{\omega}_b\}_{b=1}^B$:



$\delta_{\min} = 0.25$ $R_p = 0.63$ $N \approx 700$ $M \approx 900$ solve time 5 hrs 12-core desktop

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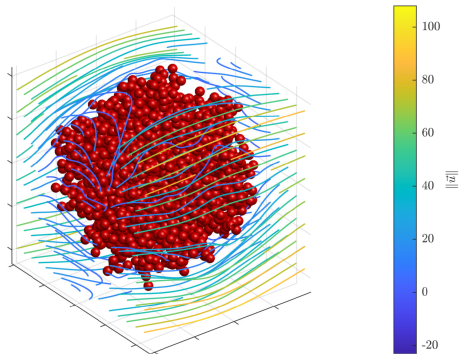


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- FMM (step 2) is $> 90\%$ of cost good
- GMRES (rel. resid. 10^{-7}): 100 iters. weak growth w/ B
- 10^{-3} uniform residual in boundary condition $\mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} - \mathbf{u}_{BC}$
- 10^{-5} in forces+torques by convergence study

Results: cluster porosity problem via MFS

$B = 2000$ **fixed** spheres in background shear flow $\mathbf{u}_0 = (0, -5x_1, 0)$:



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5 million unknowns 10 hrs desktop

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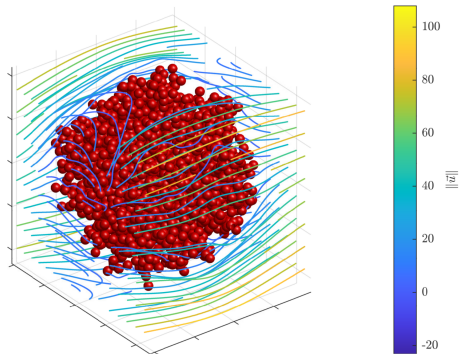
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max BC resid. error 10^{-4}

Why accurate when δ so small?!

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Why accurate when δ so small?!

No rel. motion \rightarrow no lubrication sing.

PDE analysis needed here!

smooth \mathbf{u} , plain MFS works well

MFS for mobility problems?

Recall MFS discretization of resistance prob: (no backgnd, no slip, no precondition.)

$$G\lambda \approx \mathbf{u}_{\text{BC}} =: K_M \mathbf{U} \quad \text{motions vec. } \mathbf{U} := \{\mathbf{v}_b, \boldsymbol{\omega}_b\}_{b=1}^B \quad K_M \text{ tall: } 3MB \times 6B$$

$$\text{then extract } \mathbf{F} := \{\mathbf{F}_b, \boldsymbol{\tau}_b\}_{b=1}^B = K_N^T \lambda \quad K_N \text{ analogous } 3NB \times 6B$$

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How solve mobility with linear cost, as resistance? abbrev. MFS rep. $\mathbf{u} = \mathbb{S}\lambda$

$$\text{Let } L := \text{orthog. proj. to Col } K_N. \quad \text{Pick } \lambda_0 \text{ s.t. } K_N^T \lambda_0 = \mathbf{F}$$

$$\text{Idea: new rep. } \mathbf{u} = \mathbb{S}[(I - L)\lambda + \lambda_0] \quad \text{has correct net } \mathbf{F} \text{ since } K_N^T(I - L) = 0$$

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Idea: couple \mathbf{U} to *unused* $6B$ -dim λ subspace: Ansatz $\mathbf{U} = -K_N^T \lambda$

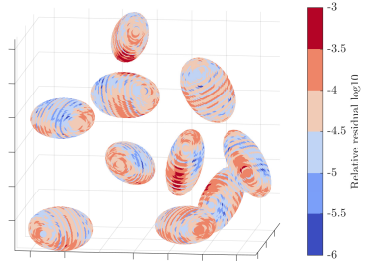
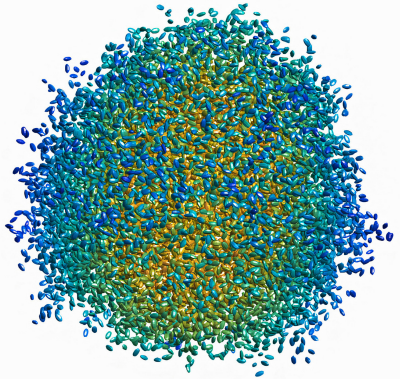
Get lin. sys: $[G(I - L) + K_M K_N^T] \lambda = -G\lambda_0$ known RHS, eval. by FMM

once solved, extract motions vec. \mathbf{U} using Ansatz

- new; related to “completed double-layer” formulation (Power–Miranda ’87)
- modified blocks, can apply 1-body precondition, GMRES+FMM iter. solve

Large scale mobility via MFS

$B = 10000$ ellipsoids, random forces+torques: $\delta_{\min} = 0.2$, semiaxes (0.4, 0.6, 1)



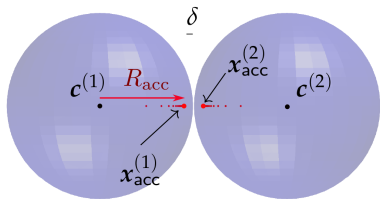
zoom of surface resid. err. 10^{-3}
proxy sources displaced along \mathbf{n}

- 10^{-5} errors in \mathbf{U} , total degrees of freedom $3MB \approx 2.6 \times 10^7$
- solution time 2 hrs 8-core desktop, only 7 iters needed
- for mobility we see $\#$ iters. does not grow with B for resistance it grows
already observed (Ichiki '02, Usabiaga '16); explanation needed!
- usually mobility of this scale needs MPI (2k cores for 80k spheres: Yan et al. '20)

Close-touching spheres with relative motion

Laplace Dirichlet BVP: 2 charged conducting spheres has analytic soln

a point charge c at radius r reflects in 1 unit sphere: inversion $r \mapsto 1/r$, strength $-c/r$



Alternating sphere reflections: ∞ series

(electrostatics, Lord Kelvin 1853)

Limit (accumulation) point:

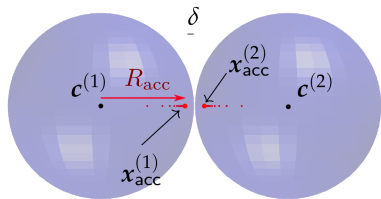
$$R_{acc} = 1 + \frac{\delta}{2} - \sqrt{\delta + \frac{\delta^2}{4}} = 1 - \mathcal{O}(\delta^{1/2})$$

limit singularity lies dist $\mathcal{O}(\delta^{1/2})$ under surface

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limit singularity lies dist $\mathcal{O}(\delta^{1/2})$ under surface

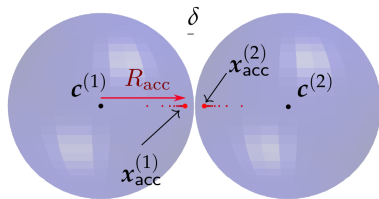
Stokes BVP is more elaborate:

- Stokeslet reflecting in 1 sphere already gives line density $r \mapsto [0, 1/r]$
- no known 2-sphere images, but expect line singularity only on $[0, R_{\text{acc}}]$
matches decay rate of bipolar-coords series soln for 2 squeezing spheres (Brenner '61)

Close-touching spheres with relative motion

Laplace Dirichlet BVP: 2 charged conducting spheres has analytic soln

a point charge c at radius r reflects in 1 unit sphere: inversion $r \mapsto 1/r$, strength $-c/r$



Alternating sphere reflections: ∞ series

(electrostatics, Lord Kelvin 1853)

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Concept: exterior PDE soln may **continue inside as PDE soln** for some dist.

“analytic continuation”: holomorphic theory of PDE for analytic data and boundary $\partial\Omega$

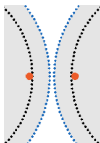
Upshot: for 2 unit Stokes spheres, \mathbf{u} continues in to radius $R_{\text{acc}} < 1$

MFS theory: stability & convergence rate

Unit spheres sep. by δ : PDE soln continues inside to $R_{\text{acc}}(\delta) < 1$

2D MFS theorems (Katsurada '89, B-Betcke '08) then *suggest* in 3D...

- stable i.e. $\|\lambda\|_\infty = \mathcal{O}(1)$ iff $R_p \geq R_{\text{acc}}$
proxy surface must enclose singularities



- $R_p = R_{\text{acc}}$ decent choice:
- MFS conv. rate is then set by R_{acc} :
error = $\mathcal{O}(R_{\text{acc}}^{\sqrt{N}})$

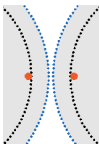
This explains dashed lines in convergence plot...

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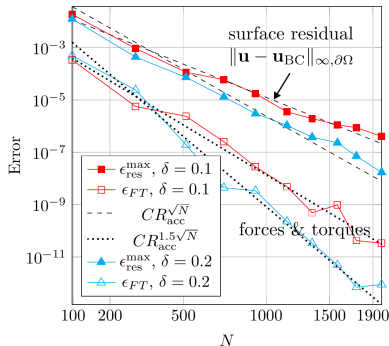
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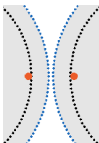


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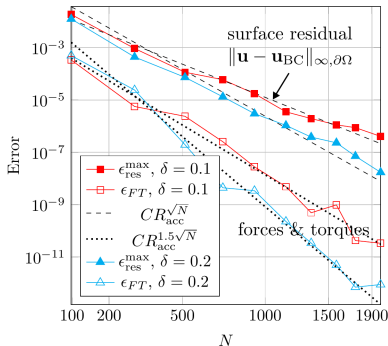
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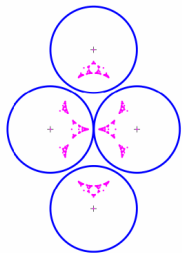


Problem: close spheres makes $R_{\text{acc}} \rightarrow 1^-$, means convergence grinds to halt
to maintain fixed error demands huge $N \gtrsim \mathcal{O}(\delta^{-1})$
 $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$ cost would be impractical for $\delta \lesssim 0.05$ We now fix that...

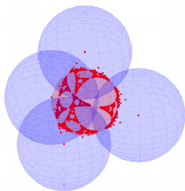
Augmenting MFS with images for close spheres

Multi-sphere reflection images:

2D:



3D:

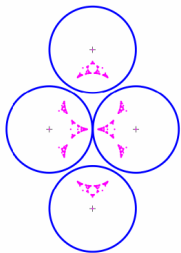


2D: "Indra's pearls" (Klein 1897)

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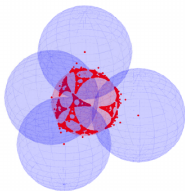
Multi-sphere reflection images: Idea: add image lines pairwise

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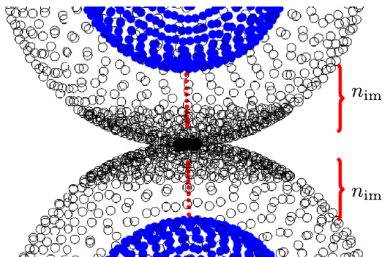
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line from proxy R_p out to R_{acc}

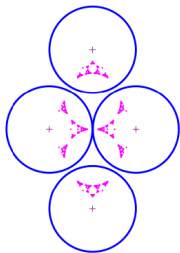
discretize with $n_{im} \sim 20$ nodes



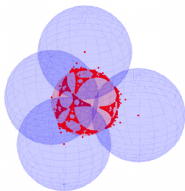
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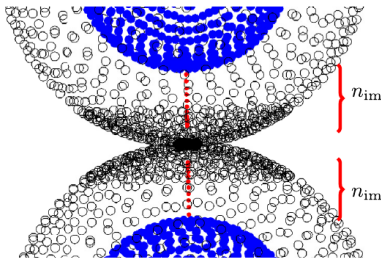


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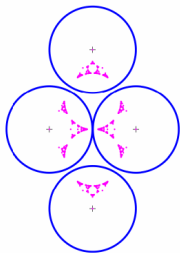
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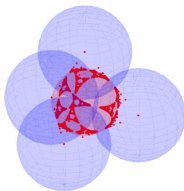
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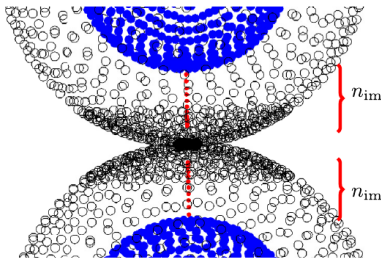


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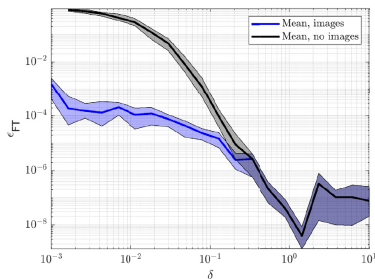
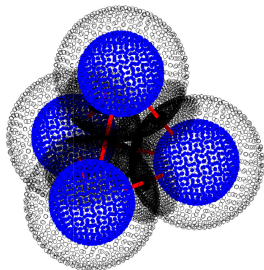
Philosophy: be *inspired* by elaborate analytic formulae

... but instead make the *computer* solve for the coeffs!

Results: resistance for $B = 4$ close spheres

We target 3-digit accuracy for separations down to $\delta = 10^{-3}$:

in μm particles, surface roughness breaks the model at that scale

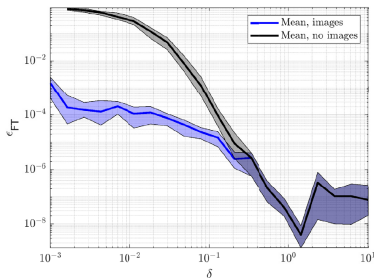
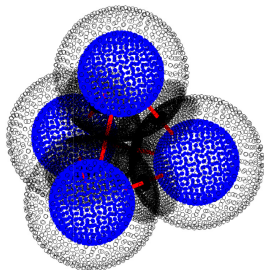


$N \approx 700$ $n_{im} = 20$, equiv to 60 extra sources per near-contact

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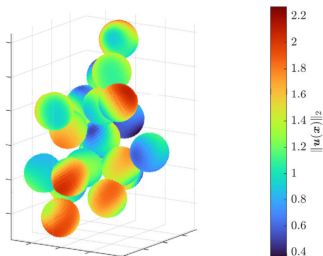
- With a few extra unknowns we've extended the δ by factor 10^2
- Compared against (non-adaptive) BIE scheme, impractical for $\delta \leq 10^{-2}$
- GMRES iter. count grows badly, like $\sim \delta^{-1/2}$ for both MFS and BIE

Results: resistance for $B = 20$ close spheres

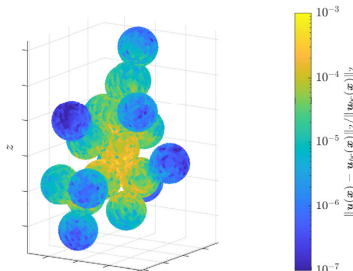
Random cluster of spheres with separations $\delta = 10^{-3}$. Target error 10^{-3} :

Random motions \mathbf{U} excites generic lubrication singularities

surface velocity magnitudes:

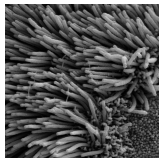


surface residuals:

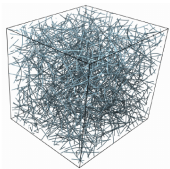


- here we used dense (slow) matvecs; drop-in of FMM in progress
- emphasize Broms ran all numerical expts and invented many ideas

Convergent BIE for slender rigid bodies (quick sketch)



trachea



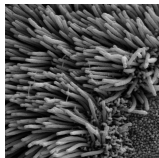
(Maxian–Donev '21)

Fibers in Stokes regime:

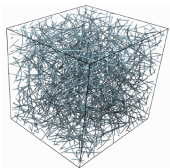
cilia, flagellae, actin, cytoskeleton,
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We tackle the rigid fiber case

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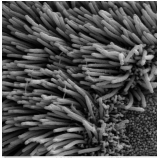
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Standard tool “slender body theory”: rep. \mathbf{u} as center-line integral

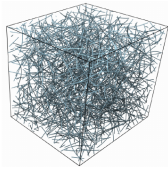
matched asymptotics in radius $\epsilon \ll 1$ (Keller–Rubinow '76, Johnson '80; Tornberg et al)

Error? classical $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2 \log \epsilon^{-1})$; recent rigorous analysis $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon \log^{3/2} \epsilon^{-1})$ (Mori–Ohm–Spirn '19)

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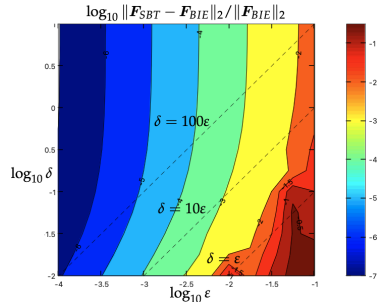
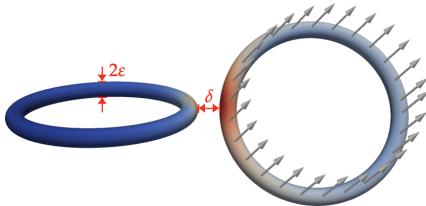
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SBT inaccurate when ϵ big or $\delta < \text{few } \epsilon$:



Layer potentials and surface quadrature

Goal: high-order accurate BIE for resistance & mobility BVPs

with cost independent of ϵ user sets $\epsilon = 0.1$ or 10^{-5} , dials in accuracy, e.g. 10^{-6}

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We needed new layer potential combined representations:

$$\mathbf{u} = (\mathcal{D} + \frac{1}{2\epsilon \log \epsilon^{-1}} \mathcal{S})[(I - L)\boldsymbol{\sigma}] + \mathcal{S}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_0 \quad \text{mobility, stays well cond. as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0$$

$$\text{single-layer } \mathcal{S}[\boldsymbol{\sigma}](\mathbf{x}) := \int_{\partial\Omega} \mathbb{S}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{y}) dS_{\mathbf{y}},$$

$$\text{double-layer } \mathcal{D}[\boldsymbol{\sigma}](\mathbf{x}) := -\frac{3}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})^T}{\|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}\|^5} \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{y}) dS_{\mathbf{y}},$$

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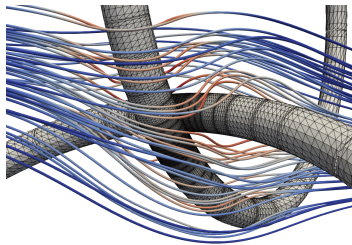
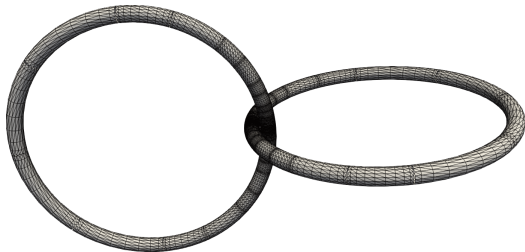
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Discretize surface $\partial\Omega$:

2nd kind ($I + \text{cpt op.}$) \rightarrow well-cond. square linear system

Chebyshev panels, adaptive in arclength, θ -Fourier modes adaptive per panel



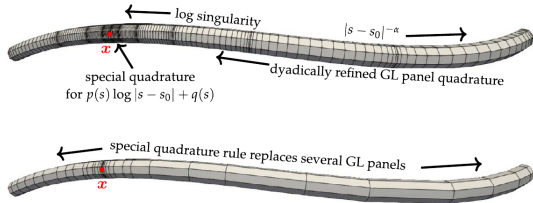
Nyström quadrature for integral operator

Integral operator on-surface is weakly singular $\mathcal{O}(1/\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|)$

Standard triangle/patch based BIE quadratures would die as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$

We developed...

Outer quadrature
in arclength s :



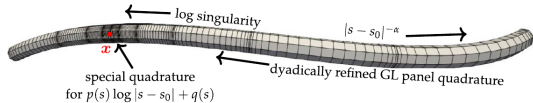
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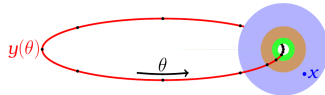
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Inner quadrature in angle θ :



Both use "generalized Chebyshev quadrature": (Bremer–Gimbutas–Rokhlin '10)
precompute custom nodes & weights to integrate a family of functions

Get up to 10-digit accuracy, down to separations $\delta = \epsilon/20$ omit many details

HPC implementation SIMD kernels, OpenMP; far-field done by PVFMM (MPI)
quadrature setup rate: 20k unknowns/sec/core @ 7-digit accuracy

A large-scale result: sedimentation of 512 rigid tori

time-evolve $\dot{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{X})$

where \mathbf{U} is mobility BVP solve at config. \mathbf{X}

gravity force, no inertia

ODE t-step: 5th-order SDC

1-body preconditioning

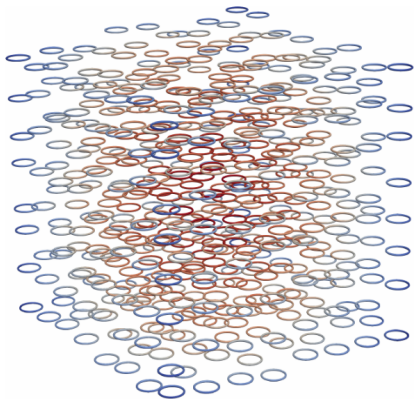
1.6 million unknowns

7-digit accuracy

~ 1 day on 160 cores

all Dhairya's HPC C++ codebase
plus many inventions

my job was to code SBT and prove theorems :)



Conclusions

Linear-cost solvers for Stokes flows with many simple rigid particles

- getting the right answer when close-to-touching is hard
- preconditioned fundamental solutions (MFS), pair image lines

High-aspect-ratio rigid fibers: boundary integral equations (BIE)

- new representation, high-order quadratures, HPC
- replace slender body theory in close-fiber simulations

A. Broms, A. H. Barnett, A.-K. Tornberg, *J. Comput. Phys.* **523** (2025)

A. Broms, A. H. Barnett, A.-K. Tornberg, *accepted, Adv. Comput. Math.*

D. Malhotra, A. H. Barnett, *J. Comput. Phys.* **503** (2024)

<https://github.com/dmalhotra/CSBQ>

In progress/future in this area:

- 2-body preconditioned for 3D mobility w/ images + FMM
- collision-handling; flexible fiber BVP
- Brownian? sampling \mathbf{U} from Gaussian with covariance the mobility matrix

Thanks to: Mike Shelley, Leslie Greengard, Shravan Veerapaneni, Jun Wang

EXTRAS

Preliminary results: “2-body” preconditioning

recall 1-body precondition: GMRES iteration count grows as $\delta \rightarrow 0$

Idea: direct solution of a fine discretization for each near **pair** of bodies

“compress” (factorize) to an effective coarse proxy representation; GMRES sees only that

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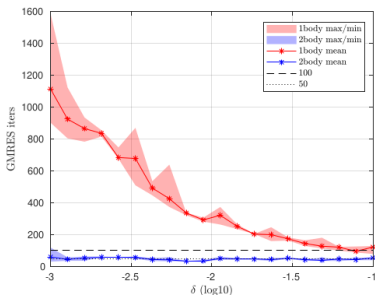
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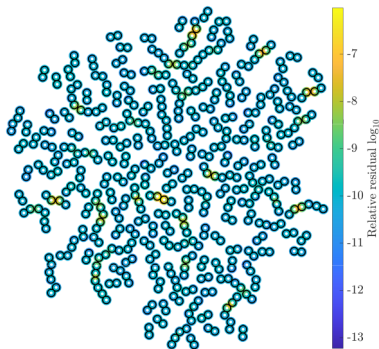
“compress” (factorize) to an effective coarse proxy representation; GMRES sees only that

2D monodisperse disks, shows huge reduction in iteration count:

resistance:



mobility:



$\delta = 10^{-3}$. Generalizes ideas of (Cheng–Greengard '98) to local pairwise BVP solves