

ON MESH INDEPENDENCE OF CONVERGENCE BOUNDS FOR ADDITIVE SCHWARZ PRECONDITIONED GMRES*

XIUHONG DU[†] AND DANIEL B. SZYLD[†]

Abstract. Additive Schwarz preconditioners, when including a coarse grid correction, are said to be optimal for certain discretized partial differential equations, in the sense that bounds on the convergence of iterative methods are independent of the mesh size h . Cai and Zou [*Numer. Linear Algebra Appl.*, 9:379–397, 2002] showed with a one-dimensional example that in the absence of a coarse grid correction the usual GMRES bound has a factor of the order of $1/\sqrt{h}$. In this paper we consider the same example and show that for that example the behavior of the method is not well represented by the above mentioned bound: We use an *a posteriori* bound for GMRES from [Simoncini and Szyld, *SIAM Rev.*, 47:247–272, 2005] and show that for that example a relevant factor is bounded by a constant. Furthermore, for a sequence of meshes, the convergence curves for that one-dimensional example, and for several two-dimensional model problems, are very close to each other, and thus the number of preconditioned GMRES iterations needed for convergence for a prescribed tolerance remains almost constant.

Key words. Linear systems, additive Schwarz Preconditioning, GMRES, discretized differential equations, convergence dependence on mesh size

AMS subject classifications. 65F10, 65M99, 65N22.

1. Introduction. We discuss here some aspects of the convergence of the GMRES [7] iterative method, when it is applied to certain discretized partial differential equations (PDEs), and preconditioned with an additive Schwarz preconditioner with no coarse grid correction. The application of the additive Schwarz preconditioner is obtained by solving several small linear systems, and it is easily parallelizable; see, e.g., the monographs [10], [12] for full description of this preconditioner.

This paper was inspired by the work of Cai and Zou [2]. They presented a simple discretized one-dimensional PDE, for which a standard bound of GMRES for the problem preconditioned with additive Schwarz with no coarse grid correction (and with fixed overlap) has a factor of order $1/\sqrt{h}$, where h is the mesh size used in the discretization. In other words, Cai and Zou warn that additive Schwarz preconditioners may not be optimal using the standard GMRES (minimizing the l^2 norm); for a discussion of possibly using a version of GMRES minimizing other norms, see [15].

While the above-mentioned bound does indeed depend on h , we show here that the convergence of GMRES for this class of problems is independent of the mesh size. We prove that for the same one-dimensional problem from [2], a factor in an *a posteriori* bound for GMRES convergence given in [8] is constant. We present computational experiments, where we observe that the convergence curves of GMRES for varying values of h are very close to each other, and therefore the number of iterations to converge below a prescribed tolerance is pretty constant, i.e., independent of the value of h . These numerical observations on GMRES convergence independent of the mesh size, are also obtained for several (nonsymmetric) two-dimensional model problems preconditioned with additive Schwarz with no coarse grid correction. Furthermore, the main factor in the *a posteriori* bound mentioned above is also pretty constant when varying h , consistent with the observations on the convergence just mentioned.

*This version dated 12 November 2007

[†]Department of Mathematics, Temple University (038-16), 1805 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122-6094, USA (dxhdxh@temple.edu, szyld@temple.edu). Supported in part by the U.S. Department of Energy under grant DE-FG02-05ER25672.

In this paper, following [2], we limit ourselves to GMRES, and thus to nonsymmetric problems. For symmetric problems one could use *a posteriori* bounds for CG such as those in [1]. We emphasize that our analysis is confined to the type of problems studied in [2], i.e., boundary value problems in one and two dimensions. We show that for these problems any non-optimality analysis using standard bounds may not reflect the true convergence behavior of GMRES.

We should mention that while it holds for the model problems discussed here, that the convergence is independent of the mesh size h , the convergence does depend on the number of subdomains, or what is the same, on the width H of the subdomains. Widlund [14] has shown that for elliptic problems on the plane, the number of iterations of Krylov methods preconditioned with additive Schwarz with no coarse grid correction may grow at a rate of order of $1/H$; see also [12]. We note also that, as is well known, adding a coarse grid correction to additive Schwarz produces a preconditioned problems whose convergence can be bound independently of the mesh size and the number of subdomains; see, e.g., [10],[12].

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we briefly describe the one-dimensional problem from [2], as well as several nonsymmetric two-dimensional counterparts. In section 3 we review a standard convergence bound for GMRES, as well as an *a posteriori* bound. In section 4 analysis and experiments are presented for the one-dimensional problem from [2], while in section 5 we report several numerical experiments for the various two-dimensional model problems, and we end the paper with some concluding remarks.

2. The model problems. Our model problems are elliptic PDEs with Dirichlet boundary conditions in one and two dimensions. In one dimension we consider the unit interval $[0, 1]$, and in two dimensions the unit square $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$. The one-dimensional problem considered in [2] is

$$\begin{aligned} u_{xx} &= f & \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1] \\ u &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

The two-dimensional model problems we consider are of the form

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u + au + bu_x &= f & \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1], \\ u &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

for the following two configuration of the constant parameters a and b :

$$a \neq 0; b = 0, \tag{2.3}$$

$$a \neq 0; b \neq 0. \tag{2.4}$$

The problems (2.1), (2.2) are discretized using finite elements with linear basis functions as described, e.g., in [3]. The mesh size h is the size of the uniform discretization of Ω . Thus, in the one-dimensional case, $[0, 1]$ is divided into $n + 1$ intervals, so that $h = 1/(n + 1)$, with $N = n$ interior mesh points. Similarly, for the two-dimensional model problem (2.2), let $h = 1/(n + 1)$ be the mesh size, and we use an uniform mesh for $\Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$, thus having $N = n^2$ interior mesh points.

3. Convergence bounds. Let us consider the solution $Ax = f$, using a left preconditioner M , i.e., we solve the preconditioned problem $M^{-1}Ax = M^{-1}f$, using GMRES. Let x_0 be an initial vector for its solution, let x_k be the approximation at

the k th iteration, and $r_k = f - Ax_k$ the corresponding residual. Let $B = M^{-1}A$, then $r_k \in BK_m(B, r_0) := \text{span}\{Br_0, B^2r_0, \dots, B^m r_0\}$. Here, and throughout the paper all norms are l^2 norms. Assuming that $M^{-1}A$ is diagonalizable, one standard convergence bound for GMRES is as follows:

$$\|r_k\| \leq \kappa(Q)\epsilon^{(k)}\|r_0\|, \quad (3.1)$$

where Q is the eigenvector matrix of $M^{-1}A$, $\kappa(Q) = \|Q\|\|Q^{-1}\|$ is its condition number, and $\epsilon^{(k)}$ is given by $\epsilon^{(k)} = \min_{p \in \mathcal{P}_k} \max_{i=1, \dots, n} |p(\lambda_i)|$, where \mathcal{P}_k is the space of the polynomials p of degree less than or equal to k such that $p(0) = 1$, and λ_i are the eigenvalues of $M^{-1}A$; see, e.g., [5], [6], [7], [9], for descriptions of GMRES and the derivation of (3.1). It follows that the bound (3.1) can be very large if the eigenvector matrix Q is not well conditioned.

As it turns out, the convergence behavior of GMRES, may depend in part in each of the periods of linear decline on only a few eigenvectors of the relevant matrix $M^{-1}A$, and not on the whole set, i.e., on all columns of the matrix Q ; see [8], [9]. Let us write $Q = [Q_1, Q_0]$, let $T = Q^{-*} = [T_1, T_0]$, and let $P_{Q_1} = Q_1 T_1^*$ be the spectral projector onto $\mathcal{R}(Q_1)$, the range of Q_1 , where the symbol $*$ stands for conjugate transpose, and $-*$ for its inverse. For details of spectral projections, see, e.g., [13]. Let Π_X denote the orthogonal projection onto the range of the matrix X , and let Y be a matrix whose columns are a basis of a k -dimensional subspace of $BK_m(B, r_0)$. It was shown in [8] that the following holds

$$\|r_{m+j}\| \leq \min_{d \in BK_j(B, r_m)} \{ \|(I - P_{Q_1})(r_m - d)\| + \gamma \|P_{Q_1}(r_m - d)\| \}, \quad (3.2)$$

where

$$\gamma = \|(I - \Pi_Y)P_{Q_1}\| \leq \|\Pi_{Q_1} - \Pi_Y\| \|P_{Q_1}\|. \quad (3.3)$$

The bound (3.2) indicates that the behavior of GMRES at after the m th iteration, resembles (except for a factor that depends on γ) that of a GMRES iteration which starts with an initial vector $(I - P_{Q_1})r_m$, i.e., the current residual which has been stripped of its components in the subspace generated by the columns of Q_1 (the selected eigenvectors of $M^{-1}A$). Let us call \bar{r}_j the residual of this GMRES process.

As it can be appreciated, $\|P_{Q_1}\|$ is thus the main factor in the bound (3.3) of the quantity γ used in (3.2). Also, it should be noted that $\|P_{Q_1}\| = \|I - P_{Q_1}\|$, so that this quantity is also present in any bound of (3.2); see, e.g., [11] for proofs of this latter identity. We mention here is that the bound (3.2) is valid for any choice of Q_1 , a subset of columns of Q . In fact, there is total flexibility in the choice of this Q_1 ; and we take advantage of this fact in our experiments. We refer the reader to [8] for other bounds of (3.2) and further considerations.

We remark that we do not advocate the use of the bound (3.2) for analysis of mesh independence of Schwarz or other preconditioners in general. The point we want to stress is that even if some eigenvectors have a dependency on the mesh size, the convergence of GMRES may be completely independent of that parameters. This follows from the fact that only a few eigenvectors (or more precisely, a basis of an invariant subspace) is needed to bound the convergence in a given set of iterative steps. Of course, even if $\|P_{Q_1}\|$ is constant, the convergence might still be dependent on the mesh parameter if $\|\bar{r}_j\|$ is heavily dependent on it.

nonzero elements. A direct calculation gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1 \leq \|P_{Q_1}\|_2 \leq \|P_{Q_1}\|_F = \\
 & = \sqrt{2 + \eta^2((1 - ih/(l_2 - l_1))^2 + (1 - jh/(l_2 - l_1))^2 + (ih/(l_2 - l_1))^2 + (jh/(l_2 - l_1))^2)} \\
 & \leq \sqrt{2} + \eta(ih/l_2 - l_1) + \eta(1 - ih/l_2 - l_1) + \eta(jh/l_2 - l_1) + \eta(1 - jh/l_2 - l_1) \\
 & = \sqrt{2} + 2\eta \leq 5.5. \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

We illustrate the result of this theorem by computing $\|P_{Q_1}\|$ for eight different values of h , namely $h = 1/2^k$, for $k = 3, 4, \dots, 10$, with fixed values of $l_1 = 1/4$ and $l_2 = 3/4$ (other values of the overlap give similar results). We show these values in Figure 4.1. Note the narrow range of the vertical axis.

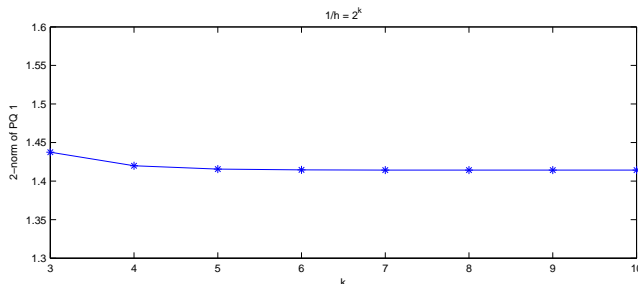


FIG. 4.1. Norm of P_{Q_1} for various values of h for the one-dimensional problem (2.1)

In Figure 4.2, we show the convergence curves for the same cases shown in Figure 4.1. The reader can appreciate how the convergence curves behave in almost identical manner, i.e., independent of the mesh size.

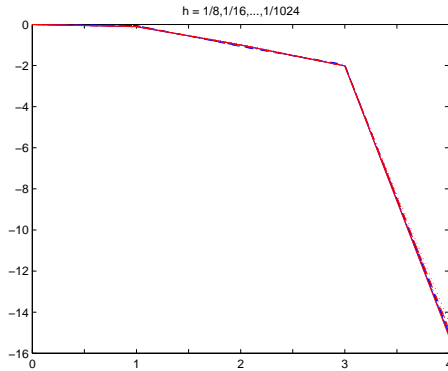


FIG. 4.2. Preconditioned GMRES convergence for various values of h for the one-dimensional model problem (2.1)

5. Numerical experiments for two-dimensional model problems. In this section we present numerical experiments for different mesh size h for the two-dimensional model problems (2.2). We have $h = 1/(n + 1)$ for $n = 9, 19, 39, 59$, i.e., the problem size is $n^2 = 81, 361, 1521, 3481$, respectively. We report for the two cases (2.3)-(2.4) tables with the number of iterations needed to reduce the relative

residual norm to 10^{-8} , as well as the value of $\|P_{Q_1}\|$. In most cases, as in the one-dimensional problem already discussed, $\lambda = 2$ is a multiple eigenvalue, and we choose two eigenvectors of $M^{-1}A$ corresponding to this eigenvalue. In a few other cases, we chose some other pair of eigenvectors. We consider four different decompositions of the unit square:

1. Two overlapping strips, where $\Omega_1 = [0, 0.6] \times [0, 1]$, and $\Omega_2 = [0.4, 1] \times [0, 1]$.
2. Three overlapping strips, where $\Omega_1 = [0, 0.3] \times [0, 1]$, $\Omega_2 = [0.2, 0.5] \times [0, 1]$, and $\Omega_3 = [0.4, 1] \times [0, 1]$.
3. Four overlapping strips, where $\Omega_1 = [0, 0.3] \times [0, 1]$, $\Omega_2 = [0.2, 0.5] \times [0, 1]$, $\Omega_3 = [0.4, 0.7] \times [0, 1]$, and $\Omega_4 = [0.6, 1] \times [0, 1]$.
4. Four overlapping squares, where $\Omega_1 = [0, 0.6] \times [0, 0.6]$, $\Omega_2 = [0.4, 1] \times [0, 0.6]$, $\Omega_3 = [0, 0.6] \times [0.4, 1]$, and $\Omega_4 = [0.4, 1] \times [0.4, 1]$.

We consider two different right hand sides, discretizations of some function f such that the corresponding exact solution of (2.2) are the functions

$$u = \sin \pi x \sin \pi y, \quad (5.1)$$

$$\text{or } u = e^{x+y} \sin(2\pi x) \sin(2\pi y), \quad (5.2)$$

respectively.

We consider three problems of the form (2.2). In tables 5.1–5.3 we report convergence information and $\|P_{Q_1}\|$ for the two-dimensional problem (2.2) with $a = 1$, $b = 0$; $a = 5$, $b = -10$; and $a = 10$, $b = 20$; respectively. In Table 5.1, the right hand side used corresponds to (5.1), while in the latter two, we report results using both right hand sides. It can be observed in all our tables that for each of the model problems studied here, both the number of iterations and $\|P_{Q_1}\|$ are pretty constant while varying the mesh size h . If we denote by H the width of a subdomain, we also observe that there is a slight increase in the number of iteration as H decreases (for a fixed h). This is consistent with the theory that says that the number of iterations may grow at a rate of the order of $1/H^2$; see [12, p. 17], [14].

	$1/h$ $N = n^2$	10	20	40	60
Two strips	iterations	9	9	8	9
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.1909	1.1566	1.1892	1.2689
Three strips	iterations	11	9	10	11
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.4404	1.2215	1.3624	1.1093
Four strips	iterations	13	11	13	15
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.1346	1.2455	1.2339	1.2278
Four squares	iterations	11	12	12	14
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.0696	1.1863	1.1338	1.1719

TABLE 5.1

Norm of P_{Q_1} and number of iterations for the problem (2.2), with $a = 1$, $b = 0$.

We illustrate the convergence behavior of the additive Schwarz preconditioned GMRES in Figures 5.1 and 5.2, where we report the convergence curves for the problem (2.2) for the right hand side corresponding to (5.1), with $a = 5$, $b = -10$, and

	$1/h$ $N = n^2$	10	20	40	60
Two strips	iterations for (5.1)	9	8	7	7
	iterations for (5.2)	10	10	9	9
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.2166	1.2705	1.2849	1.4816
Three strips	iterations for (5.1)	10	7	9	8
	iterations for (5.2)	12	9	10	10
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	3.4438	2.0393	2.0337	1.9882
Four strips	iterations for (5.1)	12	10	13	14
	iterations for (5.2)	14	12	14	15
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	7.2526	1.9793	1.7738	2.0299
Four squares	iterations for (5.1)	12	12	13	13
	iterations for (5.2)	12	14	14	15
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.4839	1.2394	1.2277	1.2351

TABLE 5.2

Norm of P_{Q_1} and number of iterations for the problem (2.2), with $a = 5$, $b = -10$.

	$1/h$ $N = n^2$	10	20	40	60
Two strips	iterations for (5.1)	7	7	7	7
	iterations for (5.2)	8	8	8	8
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.3334	1.6662	1.4529	1.9644
Three strips	iterations for (5.1)	10	6	7	7
	iterations for (5.2)	11	8	8	8
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.1038	1.5397	1.1176	1.0519
Four strips	iterations for (5.1)	12	9	10	10
	iterations for (5.2)	12	10	11	11
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	1.1174	1.5364	0.9975	1.0006
Four squares	iterations for (5.1)	11	12	12	12
	iterations for (5.2)	12	12	13	13
	$\ P_{Q_1}\ _2$	2.0682	1.6720	1.6641	1.8065

TABLE 5.3

Norm of P_{Q_1} and number of iterations for the problem (2.2), with $a = 10$, $b = 20$.

$a = 10$, $b = 20$, respectively. In each figure we show the convergence for two strips (left), and four squares (right), for four discretizations, where dash-dotted line is for $n = 9$, dashed line for $n = 19$, solid line for $n = 39$, and dotted line for $n = 59$. It can be appreciated that the convergence curves are very similar, for all values of the discretization parameter h .

We mention that the one-dimensional model problem (2.1), and the two-dimensional model problem (2.2) with parameters as in (2.3), have real spectrum, while (2.2) with (2.4) does not. We present in Figure 5.3 the spectra of the matrix A corresponding to the latter problem with $n = 39$, and parameter values $a = 5$, $b = -10$ (left) and $a = 10$, $b = 20$ (right). In Figure 5.4 we show the corresponding spectra of the preconditioned systems $M^{-1}A$ in the case of four squares. The clustering effect of the additive Schwarz preconditioning for these problems can be observed.

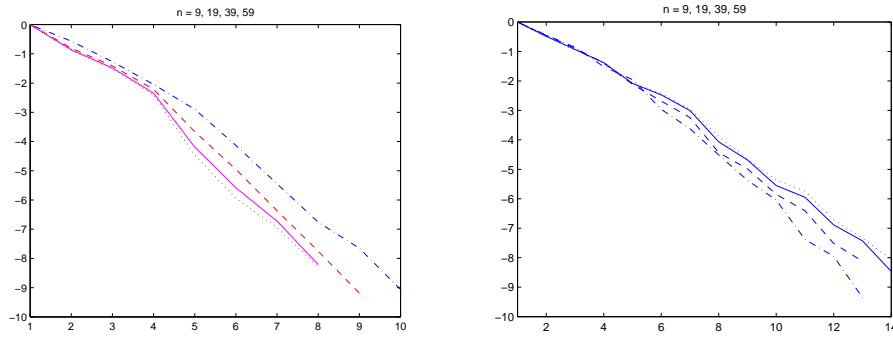


FIG. 5.1. Preconditioned GMRES convergence for the problem (2.2), with $a = 5$, $b = -10$. Left: two strips. Right: four squares. Dash-dotted: $n = 9$. Dashed: $n = 19$. Solid: $n = 39$. Dotted: $n = 59$.

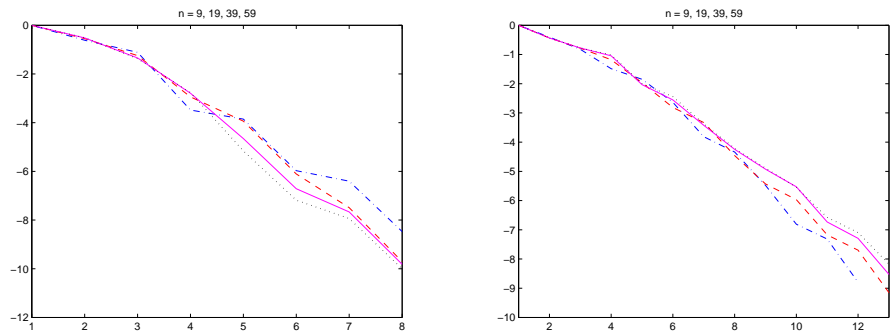


FIG. 5.2. Preconditioned GMRES convergence for the problem (2.2), with $a = 10$, $b = 20$. Left: two strips. Right: four squares. Dash-dotted: $n = 9$. Dashed: $n = 19$. Solid: $n = 39$. Dotted: $n = 59$.

6. Conclusion and discussion. It is well-known that the bound (3.1) can be very pessimistic. Therefore any non-optimality analysis based on quantities in this bound may not fully characterize the convergence behavior of the methods. We make the case that a quantity used in the *a posteriori* bound (3.2) may reflect better the behavior of the iterative method (as the iterations progress) than the condition number of the eigenvector matrix. For the model problems presented in this paper, we have shown that additive Schwarz preconditioned GMRES without coarse grid correction is either optimal or close to optimal, i.e, its convergence is pretty independent of the finite element mesh size.

Acknowledgements. We thank Xiao-Chun Cai, Sébastien Loisel, Marcus Sarkis, Valeria Simoncini, and Olof Widlund, and two anonymous referees for their helpful comments.

REFERENCES

- [1] Owe Axelsson and Igor Kaporin. Error norm estimation and stopping criteria in preconditioned Conjugate Gradient iterations. *Numerical Linear Algebra with Applications*, 8:265–286, 2001.

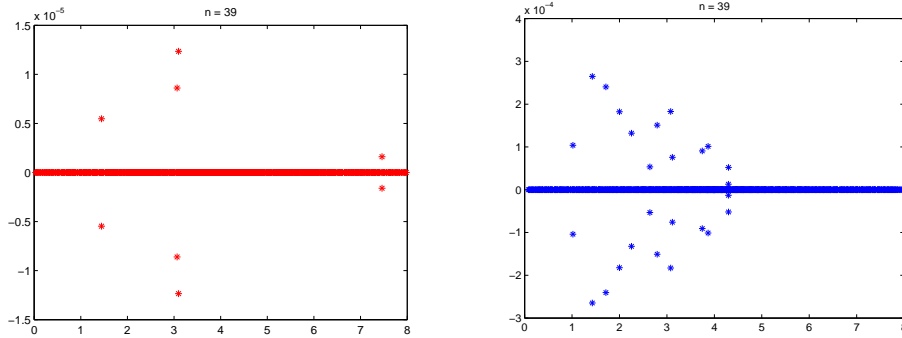


FIG. 5.3. Spectra of the discretized problem (2.2) ($n = 39$) with $a = 5$, $b = -10$ (left, with vertical scale $\times 10^{-5}$) and with $a = 10$, $b = 20$ (right, with vertical scale $\times 10^{-4}$).

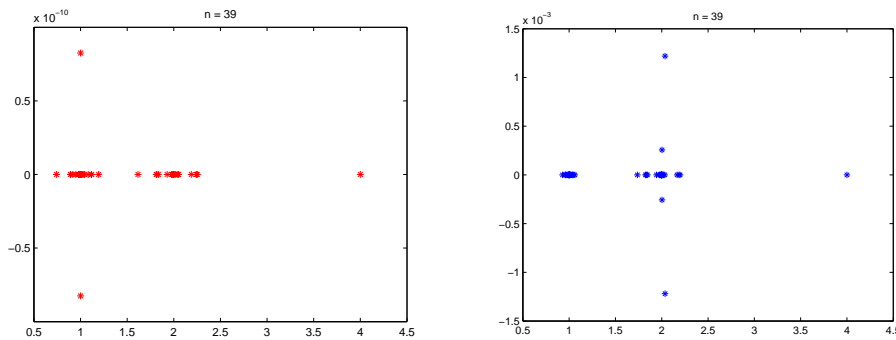


FIG. 5.4. Spectra of the discretized problem (2.2) ($n = 39$) with $a = 5$, $b = -10$ (left) and $a = 10$, $b = 20$ (right), preconditioned with additive Schwarz. Domain using four squares. Vertical scale is $\times 10^{-10}$.

- [2] Xiao-Chun Cai and Jun Zou. Some Observations on the l^2 convergence of the additive Schwarz Preconditioned GMRES method. *Numerical Linear Algebra with Applications*, 9:379–397, 2002.
- [3] Howard Elman, David Silvester and Andy Wathen. *Finite Elements and Fast Iterative Solvers with Applications in Incompressible Fluid Dynamics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 2005.
- [4] Stanley C. Eisenstat, Howard C. Elman, and Martin H. Schultz. Variational iterative methods for nonsymmetric systems of linear equations. *SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis*, 20:345–357, 1983.
- [5] Anne Greenbaum. *Iterative Methods for Solving Linear Systems*, volume 17 of *Frontiers in Applied Mathematics*. SIAM, Philadelphia, 1997.
- [6] Yousef Saad. *Iterative Methods for Sparse Linear Systems*. The PWS Publishing Company, Boston, 1996. Second edition, SIAM, Philadelphia, 2003.
- [7] Yousef Saad and Martin H. Schultz. GMRES: A generalized minimal residual algorithm for solving nonsymmetric linear systems. *SIAM Journal on Scientific and Statistical Computing*, 7:856–869, 1986.
- [8] Valeria Simoncini and Daniel B. Szyld. On the occurrence of superlinear convergence of exact and inexact Krylov subspace methods. *SIAM Review*, 47:247–272, 2005.
- [9] Valeria Simoncini and Daniel B. Szyld. Recent computational developments in Krylov subspace methods for linear systems. *Numerical Linear Algebra with Applications*, 14:1–59, 2007.
- [10] Barry F. Smith, Petter E. Bjørstad, and William D. Gropp. *Domain Decomposition: Parallel Multilevel Methods for Elliptic Partial Differential Equations*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge - New York - Melbourne, 1996.

- [11] Daniel B. Szyld. The many proofs of an identity on the norm of oblique projections. *Numerical Algorithms*, 42:309–323, 2006.
- [12] Andrea Toselli and Olof B. Widlund. *Domain Decomposition Methods - Algorithms and Theory*, volume 34 of *Springer Series in Computational Mathematics*. Springer, Berlin and Heidelberg, 2005.
- [13] G. W. (Pete) Stewart and Ji-guang Sun. *Matrix Perturbation Theory*. Academic Press, San Diego and London, 1990.
- [14] Olof B. Widlund. Iterative substructuring methods: Algorithms and theory for elliptic problems in the plane. In *First International Symposium on Domain Decomposition Methods for Partial Differential Equations (Paris, 1987)*, Roland Glowinski, Gene H. Golub, Gérard A. Meurant, and Jacques Périaux, eds., SIAM, Philadelphia, PA, 1988, pp. 113–128.
- [15] Marcus Sarkis and Daniel B. Szyld. Optimal left and right additive Schwarz preconditioning for minimal residual methods with Euclidean and energy norms. *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 196:1612–1621, 2007.