

# A new backward error analysis framework for GMRES and its application to GMRES preconditioned with MUMPS in mixed precision

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20/06/2023

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# What is GMRES?

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- 1:
- 2:  $r_0 = b - Ax_0$
- 3:  $\beta = \|r_0\|$ ,  $v_1 = r_0/\beta$ ,  $k = 1$
- 4: **repeat**
- 5:    $w_k = Av_k$
- 6:
- 7:   **for**  $i = 1, \dots, k$  **do**
- 8:      $h_{i,k} = v_i^T w_k$
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- 14:    $y_k = \operatorname{argmin}_y \|\beta e_1 - H_k y\|$
- 15:    $k = k + 1$
- 16: **until**  $\|\beta e_1 - H_k y_k\| \leq \tau$
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- **Reiterate** until  $x_k$  is a satisfying approximant of  $x$ .

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# GMRES comes in many flavors

## Preconditioning

GMRES might converge too slowly. It is essential to use a preconditioner  $M$  that transforms  $Ax = b$  into an “easier” linear system to solve.

$$M^{-1}Ax = M^{-1}b \quad (\text{left}), \quad Au = b, \quad u = Mx \quad (\text{right})$$

**More possibilities:** split preconditioning, non-constant preconditioners (FGMRES).

*Example of  $M$ :* ILU, polynomial, block Jacobi, approximate inverse, an iterative method, ...

## Restart

The cost in memory and execution time of an iteration grows with  $k$ .

**Principle:** under a chosen restart criterion, stop the iteration, erase  $V_k$ , restart GMRES with the initial guess  $x_0 = x_k \Rightarrow$  Cumulate more iterations while bounding the cost.

## Orthogonalization

The Arnoldi process can be constructed with any orthogonalization procedures: Householder QR, CGS, MGS, CGS2, ...

**Warning:** Different tradeoffs between numerical stability and performance!

# What is a backward error analysis?

## Backward and forward errors

Even for  $k = n$ , GMRES computed in finite precision won't deliver the exact solution. We quantify the quality of the computed solution  $\hat{x}_k$  by the quantities

$$bwd = \frac{\|A\hat{x}_k - b\|}{\|A\|\|\hat{x}_k\| + \|b\|}, \quad fwd = \frac{\|x - \hat{x}_k\|}{\|x\|}.$$



*"The process of bounding the backward error of a computed solution is called backward error analysis"* **N. J. Higham**, Accuracy and Stability of Numerical Algorithms.

### Why we care?

- Formal proof that the computed solution will always be correct.
- Reveals how each operation contributes to the final accuracy of the computed solution.
- Is needed to derive a backward error analysis of an algorithm using GMRES.



Bounding the backward and forward error of GMRES is **NOT EASY**:

- ▶ GMRES is a complex algorithm made of different sub-algorithms  
→ we need a **backward error analysis on every sub-algorithm**.
- ▶ GMRES is an iterative process, **bounds** on the errors are only **valid from a certain  $k$**  → we need to prove the existence of  $k$  where the errors are satisfying.

1995

Householder GMRES

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2007-2008


Flexible MGS GMRES

☰ “A Note on GMRES Preconditioned by a Perturbed  $LDL^T$  Decomposition with Static Pivoting” by M. Arioli, I. S. Duff, S. Gratton, and S. Pralet, SIAM SISC.

☰ “Using FGMRES to obtain backward stability in mixed precision” by M. Arioli and I. S. Duff, ETNA.

# Our experience of using these analyses

In a previous work of mine:

 “Five-Precision GMRES-based iterative refinement” by P. Amestoy, A. Buttari, N. J. Higham, J-Y L’Excellent, T. Mary, B. Vieublé, Preprint.

We needed a result on the backward stability of **MGS GMRES left-preconditioned by LU** factors computed in low precision.

**PROBLEM:** The previous backward error analysis of MGS-GMRES does not hold with left-preconditioner and it **CANNOT be straightforwardly adapted**.

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⇒ Because of this tiny change, we had to **REDO the analysis** for this specific variant of GMRES!

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⇒ **An almost infinite number of variants...**

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Consequences:

- ▶ **A few GMRES variants have error bounds** on their computed solution
- ▶ Bounding errors of a new variant is **inconvenient** and **tedious**.



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- ... that is easy to use to some extent?

⇒ We aim to propose a modular and generic backward error analysis tool for GMRES.

# Generic GMRES: an abstract algorithm

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**Algorithm:** GEN-GMRES( $A, b, M_l, k$ )

---

- 1: Initialize  $Z_k = [z_1, \dots, z_k]$ .
  - 2: Compute  $C_k = \tilde{A}Z_k$  where  $\tilde{A} = M_l^{-1}A$ .
  - 3: Compute  $\tilde{b} = M_l^{-1}b$ .
  - 4: Solve  $y_k = \operatorname{argmin}_y \|\tilde{b} - C_k y\|$ .
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**Principle:** Finding  $x_k \in \operatorname{span}\{Z_k\}$  minimizing the left-preconditioned residual  $\|\tilde{b} - \tilde{A}x\|$ .

- Do not assume Arnoldi process.
- Not presented as an iterative process.
- $Z_k$  can be any basis of rank  $k$ .
- Little assumptions on the operations.
- Can be seen as a **left-preconditioned Flexible GMRES** where the left-preconditioner  $M_l$ , the preconditioned basis  $Z_k$ , and the least squares solver are **not specified**.



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## Specialization to:

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**Algorithm:** MGS GMRES

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  - 2: Compute  $C_k = A\hat{V}_k$ , where  $M_l = I$ .
  - 3:
  - 4: Solve  $y_k = \operatorname{argmin}_y \|b - A\hat{V}_k y\|$  by MGS Arnoldi.
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**Algorithm:** MGS GMRES with left- LU preconditioner

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  - 2: Compute  $C_k = \tilde{A}\hat{V}_k$  where  $\tilde{A} = U \setminus L \setminus A$ .
  - 3: Compute  $\tilde{b} = U \setminus L \setminus b$ .
  - 4: Solve  $y_k = \operatorname{argmin}_y \|\tilde{b} - \tilde{A}\hat{V}_k y\|$  by MGS Arnoldi.
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Specialization to:

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**Algorithm:** MGS GMRES with flexible LU preconditioner

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- 1: Consider the preconditioned Arnoldi basis  $Z_k = U \setminus L \setminus \hat{V}_k$ .
  - 2: Compute  $C_k = AZ_k$ .
  - 3:
  - 4: Solve  $y_k = \operatorname{argmin}_y \|b - AZ_k y\|$  by MGS Arnoldi.
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GEN-GMRES is an abstract generic algorithm that **can be specialized to many GMRES** algorithms  $\Rightarrow$  Any result on GEN-GMRES holds for its specializations.

**Our goal:** Make a backward error analysis of GEN-GMRES.

**One analysis to rule them all!**

# Generic rounding error model

The terms  $\epsilon_{\tilde{A}}$ ,  $\epsilon_b$ ,  $\epsilon_{LS}$ , and  $\epsilon_Z$  quantify the accuracies of every operation and are unspecified. They are only **specified for a given specialization** of GEN-GMRES.

## Matrix–matrix product with the basis (step 2)

$$\text{fl}(\tilde{A}Z_k) = \tilde{A}Z_k + \Delta_{\tilde{A}Z_k}, \quad \|\Delta_{\tilde{A}Z_k}\| \leq \epsilon_{\tilde{A}} \|\tilde{A}Z_k\|.$$

## Preconditioned RHS (step 3)

$$\text{fl}(M_l^{-1}b) = \tilde{b} + \Delta\tilde{b}, \quad \|\Delta\tilde{b}\| \leq \epsilon_b \|\tilde{b}\|.$$

## Least squares solution (step 4)

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{y}_k &= \operatorname{argmin}_y \|\tilde{b} + \Delta b' - (\text{fl}(AZ_k) + \Delta'_{AZ_k})\| \\ \|\Delta\tilde{b}', \Delta'_{AZ_k}\| e_j &\leq \epsilon_{LS} \|\tilde{b}, \text{fl}(AZ_k)\| e_j \end{aligned}$$

## Compute the $k$ th approximant (step 5)

$$\hat{x}_k = \text{fl}(Z_k \hat{y}_k) = (Z_k + \Delta Z_k) \hat{y}_k, \quad \|\Delta Z_k\| \leq \epsilon_Z \|Z_k\|$$

# A key dimension(/iteration)

We need to define the special dimension(/iteration)  $k$  at which we can demonstrate that the computed solution has attained a satisfying error.

## Key dimension

We define the key dimension  $k$  as the first  $k \leq n$  such that, for all  $\phi > 0$ , we have

$$\sigma_{\min}([\tilde{b}\phi, \tilde{A}Z_k]) \leq \epsilon_{LS} \|[\tilde{b}\phi, \tilde{A}Z_k]\|_F$$

and

$$\sigma_{\min}(\tilde{A}Z_k) \gg (\epsilon_{\tilde{A}} + \epsilon_b + \epsilon_{LS}) \|\tilde{A}Z_k\|_F.$$

The philosophy of these conditions is to capture the exact moment where  $\tilde{b}$  lies in the range of  $\tilde{A}Z_k$ , which is the moment where the basis  $Z_k$  contains the solution.

☰ “Modified Gram-Schmidt (mgs), least squares, and backward stability of MGS-GMRES” by C. C. Paige, M. Rozložník, and Z. Strakoš, 2006, SIAM SIMAX.

# Error bounds of GEN-GMRES

## Theorem

Consider the solution of a nonsingular linear system

$$Ax = b, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, \quad 0 \neq b \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with GEN-GMRES under the previous **error model**. If there exists a **key dimension**  $k$  as defined previously, then, GEN-GMRES produces a computed solution  $\widehat{x}_k$  whose **backward** and **forward** error satisfies respectively

$$\frac{\|b - A\widehat{x}_k\|}{\|b\| + \|A\|\|\widehat{x}_k\|} \lesssim \Phi \kappa(M_l), \quad \frac{\|\widehat{x}_k - x\|}{\|x\|} \lesssim \Phi \kappa(\widetilde{A}),$$

where

$$\Phi \equiv \alpha \epsilon_{\widetilde{A}} + \beta \epsilon_b + \beta \epsilon_{LS} + \lambda \epsilon_z$$

with

$$\alpha \equiv \sigma_{\min}^{-1}(Z_k) \frac{\|\widetilde{A}Z_k\|}{\|\widetilde{A}\|}, \quad \beta \equiv \max(1, \sigma_{\min}^{-1}(Z_k) \frac{\|\widetilde{A}Z_k\|}{\|\widetilde{A}\|}), \quad \lambda \equiv \sigma_{\min}^{-1}(Z_k) \|Z_k\|.$$

## How to use?

How to use the previous result to **derive** forward and backward error bounds for real GMRES algorithms?



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Using the previous theorem requires some work:

- ▶ Show that your algorithm is a **specialization of GEN-GMRES**.
- ▶ **Determine**  $\epsilon_{\tilde{A}}$ ,  $\epsilon_b$ ,  $\epsilon_{LS}$ , and  $\epsilon_z$ . The difficulty of this step varies according to the existing literature of the methods used.
- ▶ Show the existence of **the key dimension**. The difficulty also varies according to the existing literature.

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- ▶ Show the existence of **the key dimension**. The difficulty also varies according to the existing literature.

This Theorem is **backward compatible with the previous analyses**: Applying it on Householder GMRES, MGS GMRES, and Flexible MGS GMRES gives the same results as the existing analyses.

---

**Algorithm:** Restarted GEN-GMRES( $A, b, M_l$ )

---

- 1: Initialize  $x_0$
  - 2: **repeat**
  - 3:   Compute  $r_i = Ax_i - b$ .
  - 4:   Solve  $Ad_i = r_i$  with GEN-GMRES.
  - 5:   Compute the approximant  $x_{i+1} = x_i + d_i$ .
  - 6: **until** convergence
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# Error model for restarted GEN-GMRES

---

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- 

Residual computation (step 3)

$$\hat{r}_i = b - A\hat{x}_i + \Delta r_i, \quad |\Delta r_i| \leq \epsilon_R (|b| + |A|\hat{x}_i).$$

Restart update (step 5)

$$\hat{x}_{i+1} = \hat{x}_i + \hat{d}_i + \Delta x_i, \quad |\Delta x_i| \leq \epsilon_U |\hat{x}_{i+1}|.$$

# Mixed precision introduction

## Commonly available arithmetics

	ID	Signif. bits	Exp. bits	Range	Unit roundoff $u$
fp128	Q	113	15	$10^{\pm 4932}$	$1 \times 10^{-34}$
double-fp64	DD	107	11	$10^{\pm 308}$	$6 \times 10^{-33}$
fp64	D	53	11	$10^{\pm 308}$	$1 \times 10^{-16}$
fp32	S	24	8	$10^{\pm 38}$	$6 \times 10^{-8}$
tfloat32	T	11	8	$10^{\pm 38}$	$5 \times 10^{-4}$
fp16	H	11	5	$10^{\pm 5}$	$5 \times 10^{-4}$
bfloat16	B	8	8	$10^{\pm 38}$	$4 \times 10^{-3}$
fp8 (E4M3)	R	4	4	$10^{\pm 2}$	$6.3 \times 10^{-2}$
fp8 (E5M2)	R*	3	5	$10^{\pm 5}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-1}$

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fp8 (E5M2)	R*	3	5	$10^{\pm 5}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-1}$

The low precision arithmetics are **less accurate** BUT are **faster**, consumes **less memory** and **energy**.

# Specialization to mixed precision GMRES

---

## Algorithm: Restart loop

---

- 1: Compute  $A \approx \widehat{L}\widehat{U}$   $u_f$
  - 2: **repeat**
  - 3:    $x_{i+1} = \text{GMRES}(A, \widehat{L}\widehat{U}, b, x_i, \tau)$
  - 4: **until** convergence
- 

---

## Algorithm: GMRES( $A, \widehat{L}\widehat{U}, b, x_0, \tau$ )

---

- Require:  $A, M^{-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, b, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, \tau \in \mathbb{R}$
- 1:  $r_0 = b - Ax$   $u_r$
  - 2:  $s_0 = \widehat{U} \setminus \widehat{L} \setminus r_0$   $u_p$
  - 3:  $\beta = \|s_0\|, v_1 = s_0/\beta, k = 1$   $u_g$
  - 4: **repeat**
  - 5:    $z_k = Av_k$   $u_p$
  - 6:    $w_k = \widehat{U} \setminus \widehat{L} \setminus z_k$   $u_p$
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  - 8:      $h_{i,k} = v_i^T w_k$   $u_g$
  - 9:      $w_k = w_k - h_{i,k} v_i$   $u_g$
  - 10:   **end for**
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  - 14:    $y_k = \text{argmin}_y \|\beta e_1 - H_k y\|$   $u_g$
  - 15:    $k = k + 1$
  - 16: **until**  $\|\beta e_1 - H_k y_k\| \leq \tau$
  - 17:  $x_k = x_0 + V_k y_k$   $u$
-

# Specialization to mixed precision GMRES

---

## Algorithm: Restart loop

---

- 1: Compute  $A \approx \widehat{LU}$   $u_f$
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  - 3:    $x_{i+1} = \text{GMRES}(A, \widehat{LU}, b, x_i, \tau)$
  - 4: **until** convergence
- 

- Restarted LU-left-preconditioned GMRES with MGS Arnoldi.

---

## Algorithm: GMRES( $A, \widehat{LU}, b, x_0, \tau$ )

---

Require:  $A, M^{-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, b, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, \tau \in \mathbb{R}$

- 1:  $r_0 = b - Ax$   $u_r$
  - 2:  $s_0 = \widehat{U} \setminus \widehat{L} \setminus r_0$   $u_p$
  - 3:  $\beta = \|s_0\|, v_1 = s_0/\beta, k = 1$   $u_g$
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# Specialization to mixed precision GMRES

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## Algorithm: Restart loop

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  - 2: **repeat**
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- Restarted LU-left-preconditioned GMRES with MGS Arnoldi.
- 5 precisions:  $u_f \geq u_g \geq u_p \geq u \geq u_r$ .

---

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- 1:  $r_0 = b - Ax$   $u_r$
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# Specialization to mixed precision GMRES

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- Aims to compute a solution to accuracy  $u$ .
- GMRES iterations and costly preconditioner computed in low precisions ( $u_g$ ,  $u_f$ , and  $u_p$ ).

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# Specialization to mixed precision GMRES

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## Algorithm: Restart loop

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- Restarted LU-left-preconditioned GMRES with MGS Arnoldi.
- 5 precisions:  $u_f \geq u_g \geq u_p \geq u \geq u_r$ .
- Aims to compute a solution to accuracy  $u$ .
- GMRES iterations and costly preconditioner computed in low precisions ( $u_g$ ,  $u_f$ , and  $u_p$ ).
- Restart computed in high precisions to recover accuracy ( $u$  and  $u_r$ ).

---

## Algorithm: GMRES( $A, \widehat{LU}, b, x_0, \tau$ )

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Require:  $A, M^{-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $b, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$

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-

# Stability of restarted left-preconditioned GMRES

Using the theorem on restarted GEN-GMRES on the previous algorithm delivers the following stability result.

## Theorem

Let  $Ax = b$  be solved by the previous mixed precision restarted LU-left-preconditioned GMRES. Provided that

$$\kappa(A)u_p < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_{\min}(\tilde{A}) \gg (u_p\kappa(A) + u_g)\|\tilde{A}\|,$$

the *forward error*

$$\frac{\|\hat{x} - x\|}{\|x\|} \leq nu_r \text{cond}(A, x) + u \quad \text{if} \quad (u_g + u_p\kappa(A))(1 + \kappa(A)^2 u_f^2) \ll 1,$$

and the *backward error*

$$\frac{\|A\hat{x} - b\|}{\|A\|\|x\| + \|b\|} \leq nu_r + u, \quad \text{if} \quad (u_g + u_p\kappa(A))(1 + \kappa(A)u_f)\kappa(A) \ll 1.$$

☰ “Five-Precision GMRES-based Iterative Refinement” by P. R. Amestoy, A. Buttari, N. J. Higham, J-Y. L’Excellent, T. Mary, B. Vieublé, Preprint.

# Foretaste of performance study on real-life applications

Name	N	NNZ	Arith.	Sym.	$\kappa(A)$	Fact. (flops)	Slv. (flops)
ElectroPhys10M	1.02E+07	1.41E+08	R	1	1.10E+01	4E+14	9E+10
DrivAer6M	6.11E+06	4.97E+07	R	1	9.40E+05	6E+13	3E+10
Queen_4147	4.14E+06	3.28E+08	R	1	4.30E+06	3E+14	6E+10
tminlet3M	2.84E+06	1.62E+08	C	0	2.70E+07	1E+14	2E+10
perf009ar	5.41E+06	2.08E+08	R	1	3.70E+08	2E+13	2E+10
elasticity-3d	5.18E+06	1.16E+08	R	1	3.60E+09	2E+14	5E+10
lfm_aug5M	5.52E+06	3.71E+07	C	1	5.80E+11	2E+14	5E+10
CarBody25M	2.44E+07	7.06E+08	R	1	8.60E+12	1E+13	3E+10
thmgas	5.53E+06	3.71E+07	R	0	8.28E+13	1E+14	4E+10

Set of **industrial** and SuiteSparse matrices.

- The matrices are **ordered in increasing  $\kappa(A)$** , the higher  $\kappa(A)$  is, the slower the convergence (if reached at all).

# Foretaste of performance study on real-life applications

Name	N	NNZ	Arith.	Sym.	$\kappa(A)$	Fact. (flops)	Slv. (flops)
ElectroPhys10M	1.02E+07	1.41E+08	R	1	1.10E+01	4E+14	9E+10
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thmgas	5.53E+06	3.71E+07	R	0	8.28E+13	1E+14	4E+10

Set of **industrial** and SuiteSparse matrices.

- We run on OLYMPE supercomputer nodes (two Intel 18-cores Skylake/node), 1 node (**2MPI×18threads**) or 2 nodes (**4MPI×18threads**) depending on the matrix size.

# Foretaste of performance study on real-life applications

Name	N	NNZ	Arith.	Sym.	$\kappa(A)$	Fact. (flops)	Slv. (flops)
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Set of **industrial** and SuiteSparse matrices.

- ▶  $U_p = U_g = U = D$  and  $U_r = Q$ .
- ▶ LU factors are computed in **single precision** ( $U_f = s$ ), with **low-rank** approximation and **static pivoting**.



- ▶ We use the **MUMPS** multifrontal sparse solvers for factorization and solve. MUMPS supports BLR, static pivoting, and threshold partial pivoting.

## Implementation details and design choices

- ▶ We use the **MUMPS** multifrontal sparse solvers for factorization and solve. MUMPS supports BLR, static pivoting, and threshold partial pivoting.
- ▶ We **cast in-place** the factors fully from fp32 to fp64.

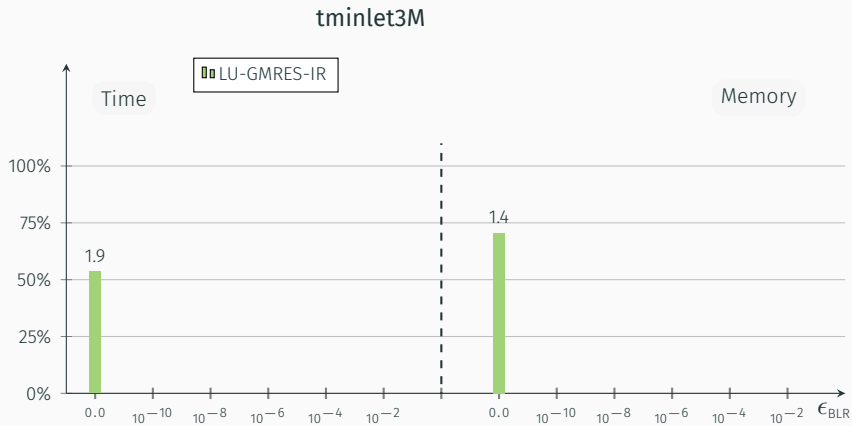
## Implementation details and design choices

- ▶ We use the **MUMPS** multifrontal sparse solvers for factorization and solve. MUMPS supports BLR, static pivoting, and threshold partial pivoting.
- ▶ We **cast in-place** the factors fully from fp32 to fp64.
- ▶ In-house **GMRES** implementation and **SpMV** kernel running in parallel on the master MPI process.

## Implementation details and design choices

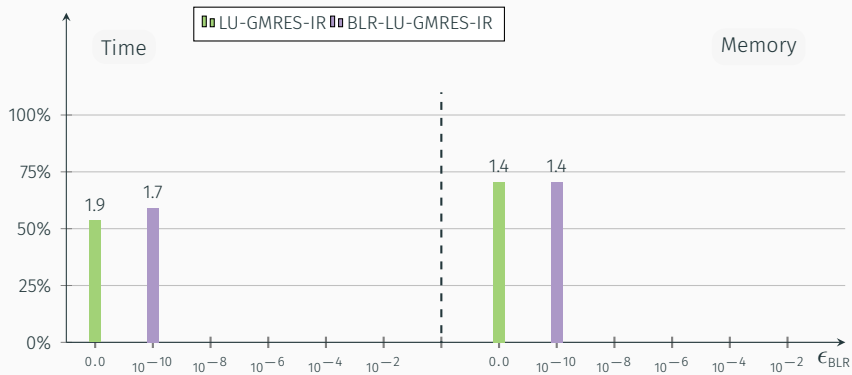
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- ▶ In-house **GMRES** implementation and **SpMV** kernel running in parallel on the master MPI process.
- ▶ The MUMPS **factorization and solve** are **distributed** over the MPI processes.

# Time and memory performance with BLR w.r.t. DMUMPS

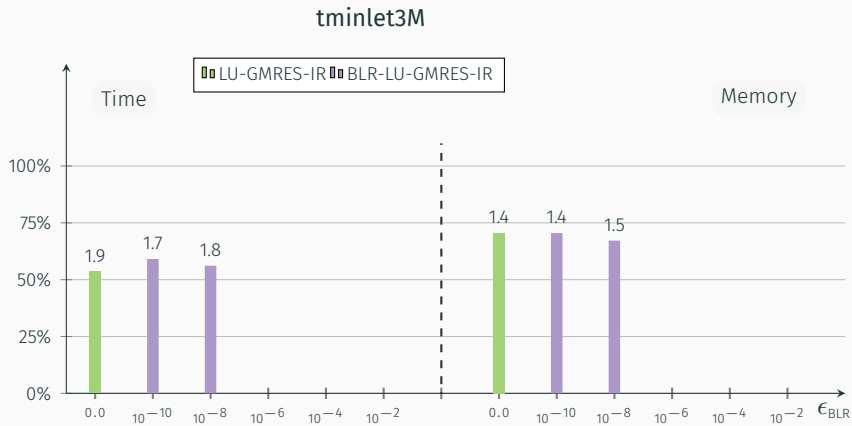


# Time and memory performance with BLR w.r.t. DMUMPS

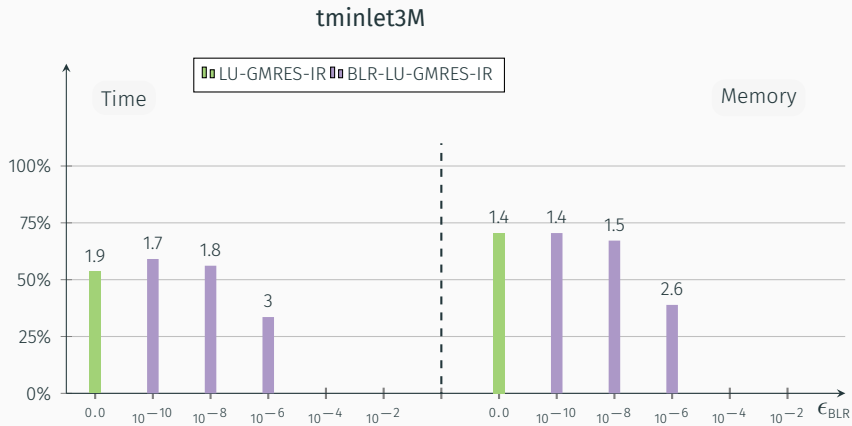
tminlet3M



# Time and memory performance with BLR w.r.t. DMUMPS

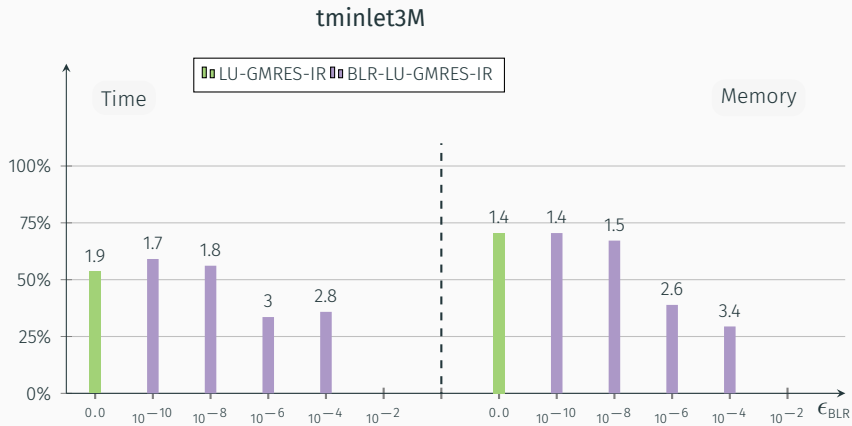


# Time and memory performance with BLR w.r.t. DMUMPS

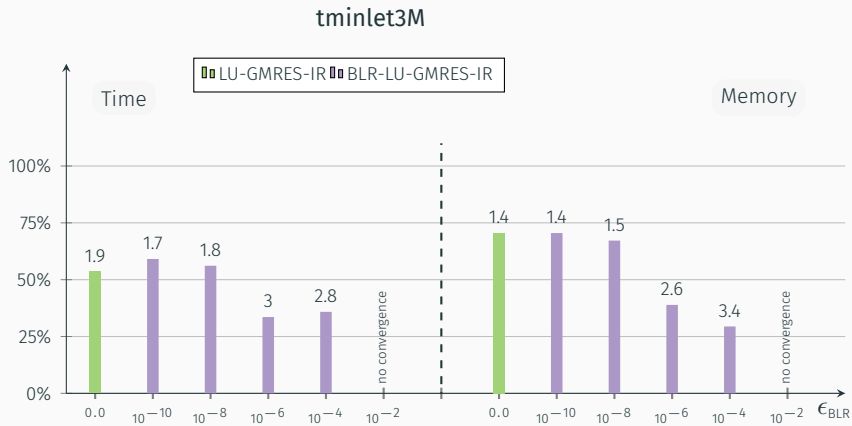




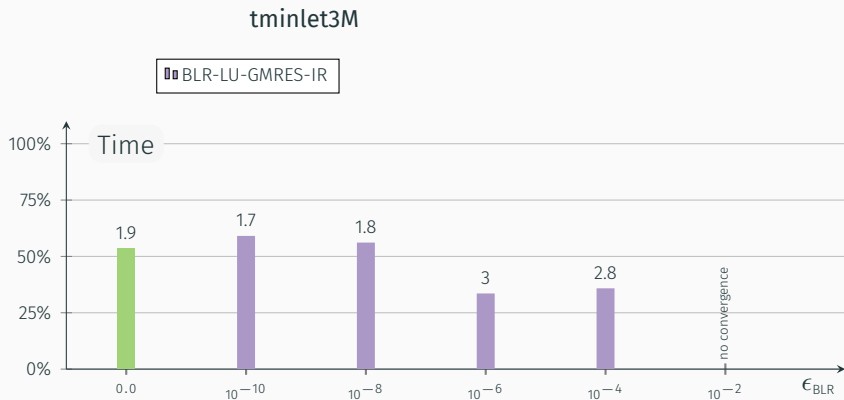
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# Time and memory performance with BLR w.r.t. DMUMPS



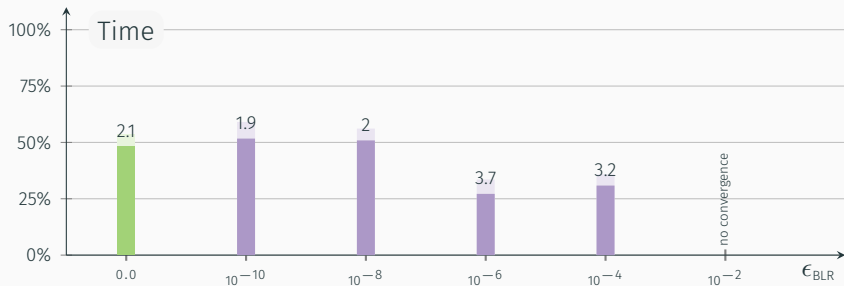
# Time performance with BLR + static pivoting w.r.t. DMUMPS



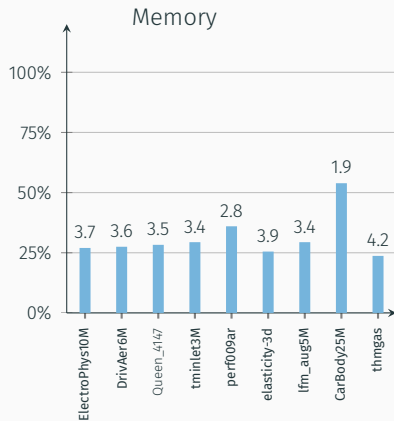
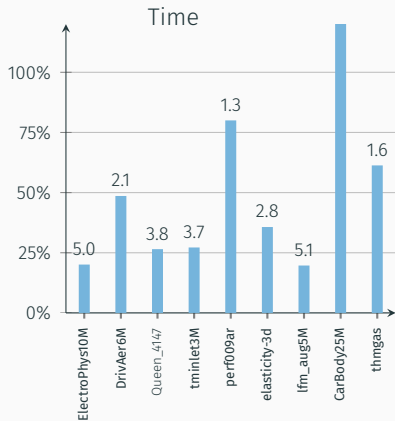
# Time performance with BLR + static pivoting w.r.t. DMUMPS

tminlet3M ( $\epsilon_{\text{STC}} = 10^{-8}$ )

BLR-LU-GMRES-IR BLR-STC-LU-GMRES-IR



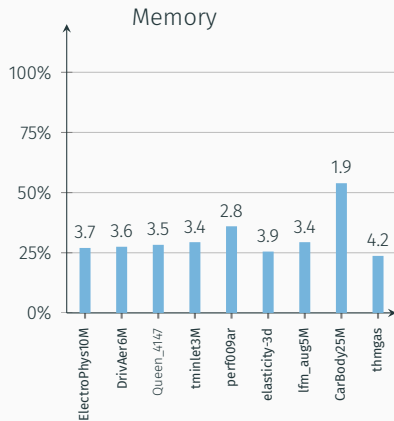
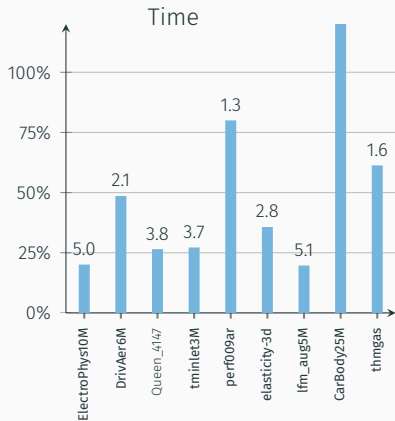
# Best time and memory w.r.t. DMUMPS



Compared to a LU direct solver in double precision without approximations and with threshold partial pivoting.

⇒ Up to **5.1× faster** and **4.2× less memory** with the **same accuracy** on the solution than DMUMPS!

# Best time and memory w.r.t. DMUMPS



☰ *“Combining sparse approximate factorizations with mixed precision iterative refinement”* by P. Amestoy, A. Buttari, N. J. Higham, J-Y L’Excellent, T. Mary, B. Vieuilé, ACM TOMS.

# Conclusion

## Takeaways

- ▶ **Many GMRES variants not covered** by a backward error analysis.
- ▶ We propose a backward error analysis framework to efficiently derive **error bounds on new variants**.
- ▶ We can apply this framework to a **five precisions GMRES** algorithms.

It is still an ongoing work. No preprint available yet.

☰ *“Five-Precision GMRES-based iterative refinement”* by P. Amestoy, A. Buttari, N. J. Higham, J-Y L’Excellent, T. Mary, B. Vieublé, Preprint.

☰ *“Combining sparse approximate factorizations with mixed precision iterative refinement”* by P. Amestoy, A. Buttari, N. J. Higham, J-Y L’Excellent, T. Mary, B. Vieublé, ACM TOMS.

☰ *“Mixed precision iterative refinement for the solution of large sparse linear systems”* by B. Vieublé, Ph.D. Thesis.