

# Weak and strong approximation of fractional order elliptic equations with spatial white noise

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MCQMC2018, Rennes, 1-6 July, 2018

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- ▶ Motivation: approximation of Gaussian Matérn fields via

$$(\kappa^2 - \Delta)^\beta u(\mathbf{x}) = \dot{W}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}$$

supplemented by Neumann boundary conditions

## Preliminaries

- ▶ Denote the eigenvalue-eigenvector pairs  $\{(\lambda_j, e_j)\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  with

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- ▶ For  $\beta > 0$  and  $\phi \in \mathcal{D}(L^\beta) := \{\psi \in H : \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_j^{2\beta} (\psi, e_j)_H^2 < \infty\}$  the action of the fractional power operator  $L^\beta : \mathcal{D}(L^\beta) \rightarrow H$  is defined by

$$L^\beta \phi := \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_j^\beta (\phi, e_j)_H e_j.$$

The subspace  $\dot{H}^{2\beta} := \mathcal{D}(L^\beta) \subset H$  is itself a Hilbert space with respect to the inner product and corresponding norm given by

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- Its dual space is denoted by  $\dot{H}^{-2\beta}$ . For  $s \geq 0$ , the norm on the dual space  $\dot{H}^{-s}$  enjoys the useful representation

$$\|g\|_{-s} = \sup_{\phi \in \dot{H}^s \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\langle g, \phi \rangle}{\|\phi\|_s} = \left( \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_j^{-s} \langle g, e_j \rangle^2 \right)^{1/2},$$

where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes the duality pairing between  $\dot{H}^{-s}$  and  $\dot{H}^s$ .

## Gaussian white noise and regularity

- ▶ The white noise  $\dot{\mathcal{W}}$  can formally be represented by the Karhunen–Loève expansion with respect to the orthonormal eigenbasis  $\{e_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \subset H$  of  $L$ :

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### Lemma

*It holds that  $\dot{W} \in L_2(\Omega; \dot{H}^{-\frac{1}{\alpha}-\epsilon})$  for all  $\epsilon > 0$  with*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\dot{W}\|_{-\frac{1}{\alpha}-\epsilon}^2] \leq c_\lambda^{-\frac{1}{\alpha}-\epsilon} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\epsilon\alpha}\right).$$

*Furthermore, the solution  $u$  of (1) satisfies  $u \in L_2(\Omega; \dot{H}^{2\beta-\frac{1}{\alpha}-\epsilon})$ . In particular,  $u \in L_2(\Omega; H)$  holds if  $2\alpha\beta > 1$ .*



## Approximation: Galerkin finite elements

- ▶  $(V_h)_{h \in (0,1)}$  of subspaces of  $\dot{H}^1$  with finite dimensions  $N_h := \dim(V_h) < \infty$

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$$0 < \lambda_{1,h} \leq \lambda_{2,h} \leq \dots \leq \lambda_{N_h,h}.$$

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- ▶ there exists a  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $N_h = \dim(V_h) \sim h^{-d}$  for all  $h > 0$

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$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_j &\leq \lambda_{j,h} \leq \lambda_j + C_1 h^r \lambda_j^t, \\ \|e_j - e_{j,h}\|_H^2 &\leq C_2 h^{2s} \lambda_j^t \end{aligned}$$

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**Example:** if  $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is a bounded, convex, polygonal domain,  $V_h$  is the finite element space of continuous, piecewise linear functions, then we have for  $L = \kappa^2 - \Delta$  with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions that  $r = s = t = 2$

## Noise approximation

We introduce the following  $V_h$ -valued random variables:

1. an expansion with respect to the discrete eigenbasis  $\mathcal{E}$ :

$$\dot{\mathcal{W}}_h^\mathcal{E} := \sum_{j=1}^{N_h} \xi_j e_{j,h}, \quad (2)$$

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2. an expansion with respect to any basis  $\Phi := \{\phi_{j,h}\}_{j=1}^{N_h}$  of  $V_h$ :

$$\dot{\mathcal{W}}_h^{\Phi} := \sum_{j=1}^{N_h} \tilde{\xi}_j \phi_{j,h}, \quad (3)$$

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3. The random vector  $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$  is therefore Gaussian distributed with zero mean and covariance matrix  $\mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathbf{R}^{-1})^T = (\mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{R})^{-1} = \mathbf{M}^{-1}$ , where

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### Lemma

The noise approximations  $\dot{\mathcal{W}}_h^\mathcal{E}$  and  $\dot{\mathcal{W}}_h^\Phi$  in (2)–(3) are equivalent in  $L_2(\Omega; H)$ , i.e.,  $\|\dot{\mathcal{W}}_h^\mathcal{E} - \dot{\mathcal{W}}_h^\Phi\|_{L_2(\Omega; H)} = 0$ .

## Functional calculus and quadrature

The approximation of  $L^{-\beta}$  is based on the representation

$$\begin{aligned} L^{-\beta} &= \frac{\sin(\pi\beta)}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \lambda^{-\beta} (\lambda I + L)^{-1} d\lambda \\ &= \frac{2 \sin(\pi\beta)}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\beta y} (I + e^{2y} L)^{-1} dy \end{aligned}$$

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- ▶ We choose an equidistant grid  $\{y_\ell = \ell k : \ell \in \mathbb{Z}, -K^- \leq \ell \leq K^+\}$  with step size  $k > 0$  for  $y$  and quadrature method proposed by Bonito and Pasciak (2015)

$$L_h^{-\beta} \approx Q_{h,k}^\beta := \frac{2k \sin(\pi\beta)}{\pi} \sum_{\ell=-K^-}^{K^+} e^{2\beta y_\ell} (I + e^{2y_\ell} L_h)^{-1},$$

with exponential convergence of order  $\mathcal{O}(e^{-\pi^2/(2k)})$  to  $L_h^{-\beta}$  with respect to the norm

$$\|T\|_{\mathcal{L}(V_h)} := \sup_{\phi_h \in V_h \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\|T\phi_h\|_H}{\|\phi_h\|_H}$$

on the space  $\mathcal{L}(V_h) := \{T : V_h \rightarrow V_h \text{ linear}\}$  for the choice

$$K^- := \left\lceil \frac{\pi^2}{4\beta k^2} \right\rceil, \quad K^+ := \left\lceil \frac{\pi^2}{4(1-\beta)k^2} \right\rceil$$

## Main convergence results

Define the numerical approximation  $u_{h,k}^Q$  of the solution  $u$  to (1) as

$$u_{h,k}^Q := Q_{h,k}^\beta (\Pi_h g + \mathcal{W}_h^\Phi). \quad (4)$$

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Assume that the growth exponent  $\alpha$  of the eigenvalues of the operator  $L$  satisfies

$$\frac{1}{2\beta} < \alpha \leq \min \left\{ \frac{r}{(t-1)d}, \frac{2s}{td} \right\}.$$

Then, for sufficiently small  $h \in (0, h_0)$  and  $k \in (0, k_0)$ , the strong  $L_2(\Omega; H)$  error between the solution  $u$  of (1) and the approximation  $u_{h,k}^Q$  in (4) is bounded by

$$\|u - u_{h,k}^Q\|_{L_2(\Omega; H)} \leq C \left( h^{\min\{d(\alpha\beta - 1/2), r, s\}} + e^{-\pi^2/(2k)} h^{-d/2} \right) (1 + \|g\|_H),$$

where the constant  $C > 0$  is independent of  $h$  and  $k$ .

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$$\|u - u_{h,k}^Q\|_{L_2(\Omega; H)} \leq C \left( h^{\min\{d(\alpha\beta-1/2), r, s\}} + e^{-\pi^2/(2k)} h^{-d/2} \right) (1 + \|g\|_H),$$

where the constant  $C > 0$  is independent of  $h$  and  $k$ .

### Corollary (Weak type convergence)

Let the assumptions of the Theorem be satisfied. Then, there exists a constant  $C > 0$  independent of  $h \in (0, h_0)$  and  $k \in (0, k_0)$  such that the following weak type error estimate between the approximation  $u_{h,k}^Q$  in (4) and the solution  $u$  to (1) holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \|u\|_{L_2(\Omega; H)}^2 - \|u_{h,k}^Q\|_{L_2(\Omega; H)}^2 \right| &\leq C \left( h^{\min\{d(2\alpha\beta-1), r\}} + e^{-\pi^2/(2k)} h^{-d} \right) \\ &\quad + C \left( h^{\min\{d(2\alpha\beta-1), r, s\}} + e^{-\pi^2/(2k)} \right) \|g\|_H^2. \end{aligned}$$

# Calibration

	calibration	rate of convergence
strong error	$k \leq -\frac{\pi^2}{2d\alpha\beta \ln(h)}$	$\min\{d(\alpha\beta - 1/2), r, s\}$
weak type error	$k \leq -\frac{\pi^2}{4d\alpha\beta \ln(h)}$	$\begin{cases} \min\{d(2\alpha\beta - 1), r\} & \text{if } g = 0 \\ \min\{d(2\alpha\beta - 1), r, s\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$



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$$b_i := (\Pi_h \mathbf{g} + \dot{\mathcal{W}}_h^\Phi, \phi_{i,h})_H, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N_h,$$

where  $\{\phi_{j,h}\}_{j=1}^{N_h}$  is a basis of the finite element space  $V_h$ . If the basis  $\Phi$  in the noise approximation  $\dot{\mathcal{W}}_h^\Phi$  is chosen as the same, since then  $\mathbf{b} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{M})$ , where  $\mathbf{g}_i = (\mathbf{g}, \phi_{i,h})_H$  and  $\mathbf{M}$  is the mass matrix with respect to the basis  $\Phi$ , which is usually sparse. Hence, samples of  $\mathbf{b}$  can be generated from  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{z}$ , where  $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$  and  $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{\Sigma}^T$ .

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- ▶ We also derived proper weak error estimates; that is, rates for

$$|\mathbb{E}[\varphi(u)] - \mathbb{E}[\varphi(u_{h,k}^Q)]|$$

where  $\varphi: H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is twice continuously Frechet differentiable with polynomially growing derivatives. The proof is a lot more involved than the one for the strong error and uses a well-chosen time dependent problem so that we may use a Kolmogorov's equation in the analysis:  $u = Y(1)$  in distribution where

$$dY(t) = dW^\beta(t), \quad t \in [0, 1], \quad Y(0) = L^{-\beta} g, \quad W^\beta(t) := \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_j^{-\beta} B_j(t) e_j,$$

with an analogous representation for  $u_{h,k}^Q$ .

## Numerical example

Let  $\mathcal{D} := (0, 1)^d$  in  $d = 1, 2, 3$  spatial dimensions, we consider the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned}(\kappa^2 - \Delta)^\beta u(\mathbf{x}) &= \mathcal{W}(\mathbf{x}) & \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}, \\ u(\mathbf{x}) &= 0 & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\mathcal{D},\end{aligned}$$

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- ▶ Observed (resp. theoretical) rates of convergence for the strong errors:

	$\beta$				
	3/8	4/8	5/8	6/8	7/8
$d = 1$	0.25 (0.25)	0.50 (0.5)	0.75 (0.75)	1.00 (1)	1.21 (1.25)
$d = 2$	-	-	0.29 (0.25)	0.51 (0.5)	0.74 (0.75)
$d = 3$	-	-	-	-	0.26 (0.25)



## Weak type error

