

# Efficient iterative solvers for director-based models of LCDs

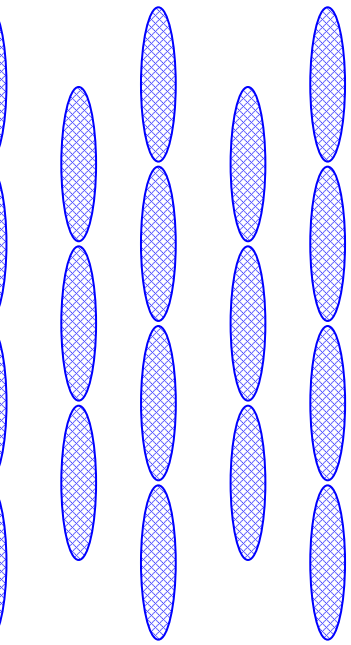
Alison Ramage  
Mathematics and Statistics  
University of Strathclyde  
Glasgow, Scotland



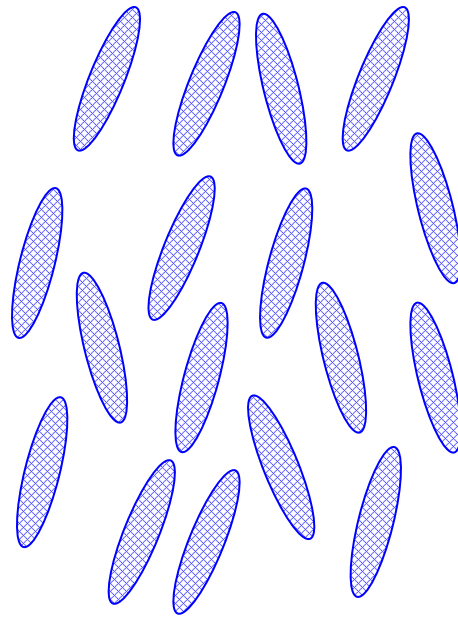
Eugene C. Gartland, Jr.  
Mathematics  
Kent State University  
Ohio, USA

# Liquid Crystals

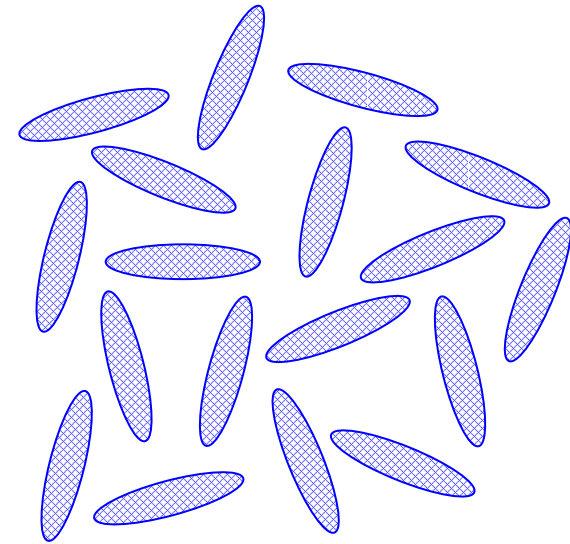
- occur between solid crystal and isotropic liquid states



solid



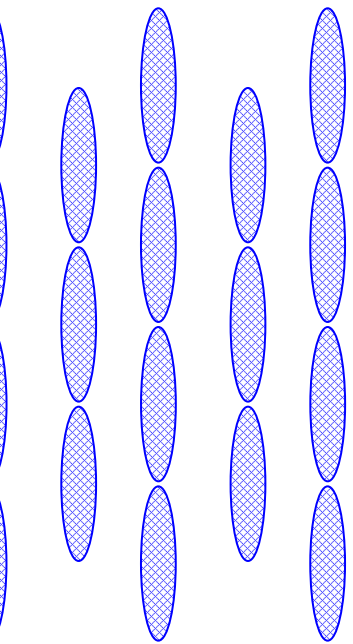
liquid crystal



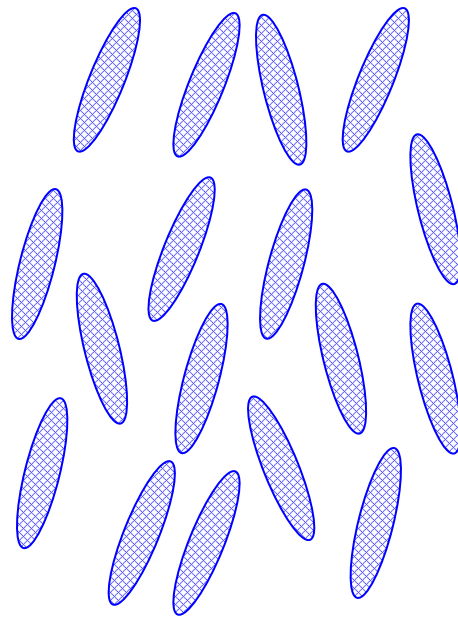
liquid

# Liquid Crystals

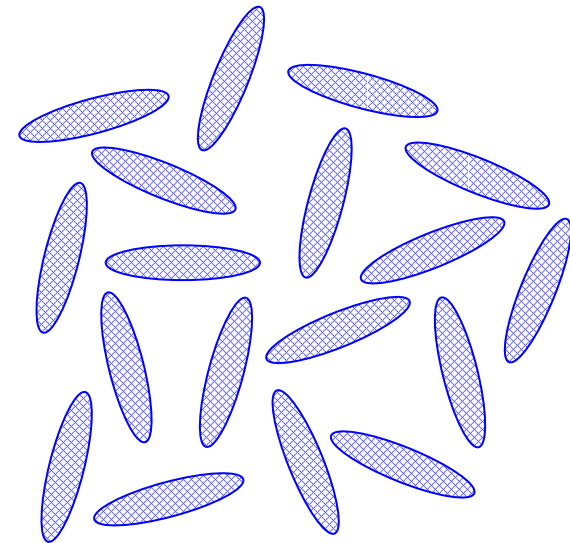
- occur between solid crystal and isotropic liquid states



solid



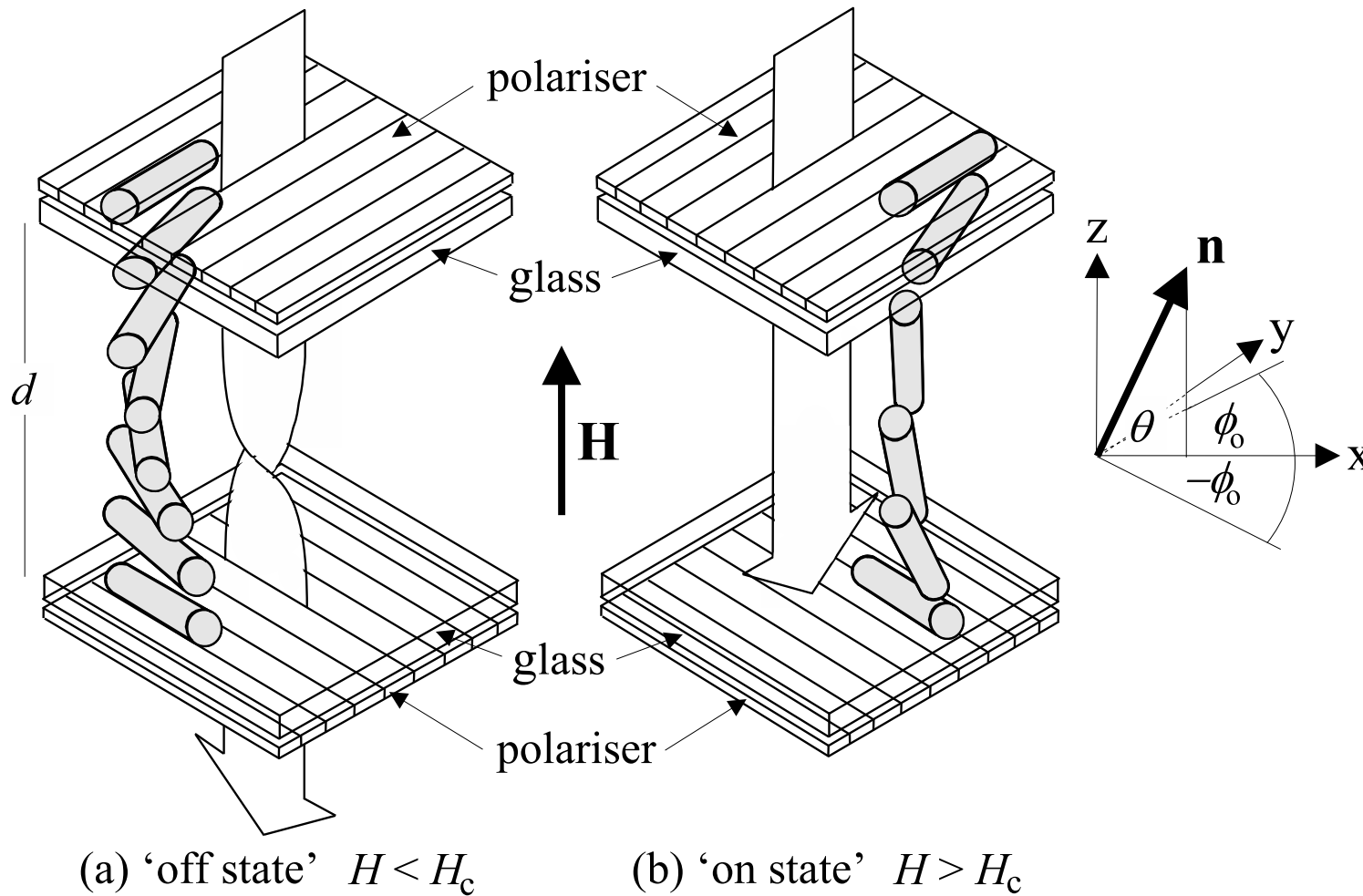
liquid crystal



liquid

- may have different **equilibrium** configurations
- **switch** between stable states by altering applied voltage, magnetic field, boundary conditions, . . .

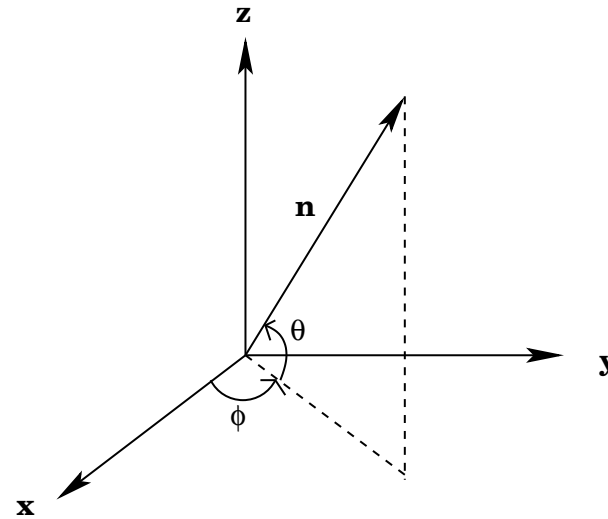
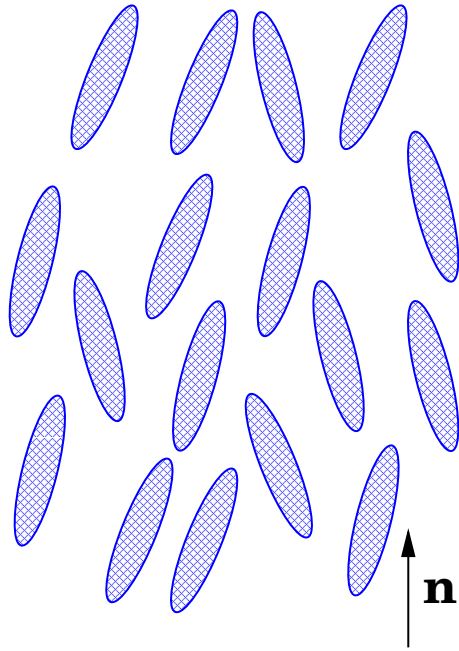
# Liquid Crystal Displays



twisted nematic device

*Static and Dynamic Continuum Theory of Liquid Crystals,*  
*Iain W. Stewart (2004)*

# Modelling: Director-based Models



- **director**: average direction of molecular alignment

unit vector

$$\mathbf{n} = (\cos \theta \cos \phi, \cos \theta \sin \phi, \sin \theta)$$

- **order parameter**: measure of orientational order

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \langle 3 \cos^2 \theta_m - 1 \rangle$$

# Finding Equilibrium Configurations

- minimise the **free energy**

$$\mathcal{F} = \int_V F_{bulk}(\theta, \phi, \nabla\theta, \nabla\phi) + \int_S F_{surface}(\theta, \phi) dS$$

$$F_{bulk} = F_{elastic} + F_{electrostatic}$$

# Finding Equilibrium Configurations

- minimise the **free energy**

$$\mathcal{F} = \int_V F_{bulk}(\theta, \phi, \nabla\theta, \nabla\phi) + \int_S F_{surface}(\theta, \phi) dS$$

$$F_{bulk} = F_{elastic} + F_{electrostatic}$$

- if fixed boundary conditions are applied, surface energy term can be ignored

# Finding Equilibrium Configurations

- minimise the **free energy**

$$\mathcal{F} = \int_V F_{bulk}(\theta, \phi, \nabla\theta, \nabla\phi) + \int_S F_{surface}(\theta, \phi) dS$$

$$F_{bulk} = F_{elastic} + F_{electrostatic}$$

- if fixed boundary conditions are applied, surface energy term can be ignored
- solutions with **least** energy are physically relevant



# Elastic Energy

- Frank-Oseen elastic energy

$$\begin{aligned} F_{elastic} &= \frac{1}{2}K_1(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})^2 + \frac{1}{2}K_2(\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2 \\ &+ \frac{1}{2}K_3(\mathbf{n} \times \nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2 \\ &+ \frac{1}{2}(K_2 + K_4)\nabla \cdot [(\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{n} - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n}] \end{aligned}$$

- Frank elastic constants

$K_1$	splay
$K_2$	twist
$K_3$	bend
$K_2 + K_4$	saddle-splay

# One-Constant Approximation

- set

$$K = K_1 = K_2 = K_3, \quad K_4 = 0$$

# One-Constant Approximation

- set

$$K = K_1 = K_2 = K_3, \quad K_4 = 0$$

- vector identities

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2 = (\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2 + (\mathbf{n} \times \nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2$$

$$\nabla(\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{n}) = 0$$

$$[(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})^2 + (\nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2] + \nabla \cdot [(\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{n} - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n}] = \|\nabla \mathbf{n}\|^2$$

# One-Constant Approximation

- set

$$K = K_1 = K_2 = K_3, \quad K_4 = 0$$

- vector identities

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2 = (\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2 + (\mathbf{n} \times \nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2$$

$$\nabla(\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{n}) = 0$$

$$[(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})^2 + (\nabla \times \mathbf{n})^2] + \nabla \cdot [(\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{n} - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n}] = \|\nabla \mathbf{n}\|^2$$

- elastic energy

$$F_{elastic} = \frac{1}{2}K \|\nabla \mathbf{n}\|^2$$

# Electrostatic Energy

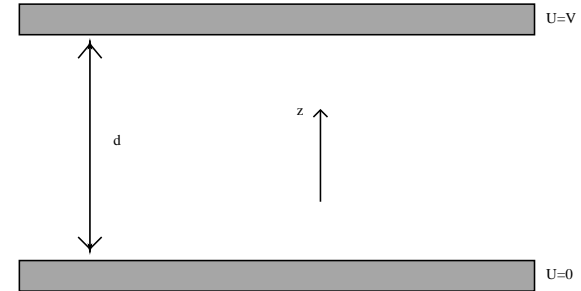
- applied electric field  $\mathbf{E}$  of magnitude  $E$
- electrostatic energy

$$F_{electrostatic} = -\frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0\epsilon_{\perp}E^2 - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0\epsilon_a(\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{E})^2$$

- dielectric anisotropy  $\epsilon_a = \epsilon_{\parallel} - \epsilon_{\perp}$
- permittivity of free space  $\epsilon_0$

# Model Problem: Twisted Nematic Device

- two parallel plates distance  $d$  apart



- **strong anchoring** parallel to plate surfaces ( $\mathbf{n}$  fixed)
- rotate one plate through  $\pi/2$  radians
- electric field  $\mathbf{E} = (0, 0, E(z))$ , voltage  $V$

# Equilibrium Equations 1

- equilibrium equations on  $z \in [0, d]$

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^d \{ K \|\nabla \mathbf{n}\|^2 - \epsilon_0 \epsilon_{\perp} E^2 - \epsilon_0 \epsilon_a (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{E})^2 \} dz$$

- director  $\mathbf{n} = (u, v, w), \quad |\mathbf{n}| = 1$

- electric potential  $U: \quad E = \frac{dU}{dz}$

- unknowns  $u, v, w, U$

# Equilibrium Equations 2

- nondimensionalise:  $\bar{z} = \frac{z}{d}$ ,  $\bar{U} = \frac{U}{V}$
- nondimensionalised equilibrium equations on  $z \in [0, 1]$

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \left[ (u_z^2 + v_z^2 + w_z^2) - \alpha^2 \pi^2 (\beta + w^2) U_z^2 \right] dz$$

- dimensionless parameters

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_a V^2}{K \pi^2}, \quad \beta = \frac{\epsilon_{\perp}}{\epsilon_a}$$

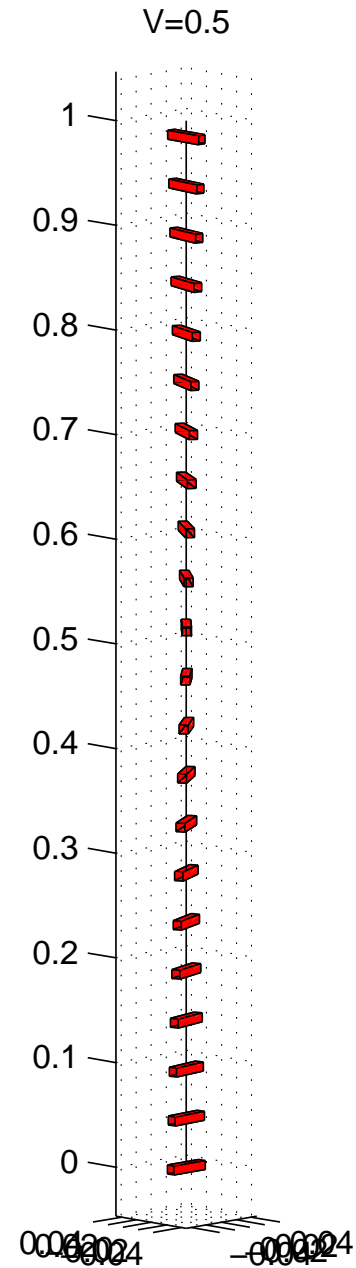
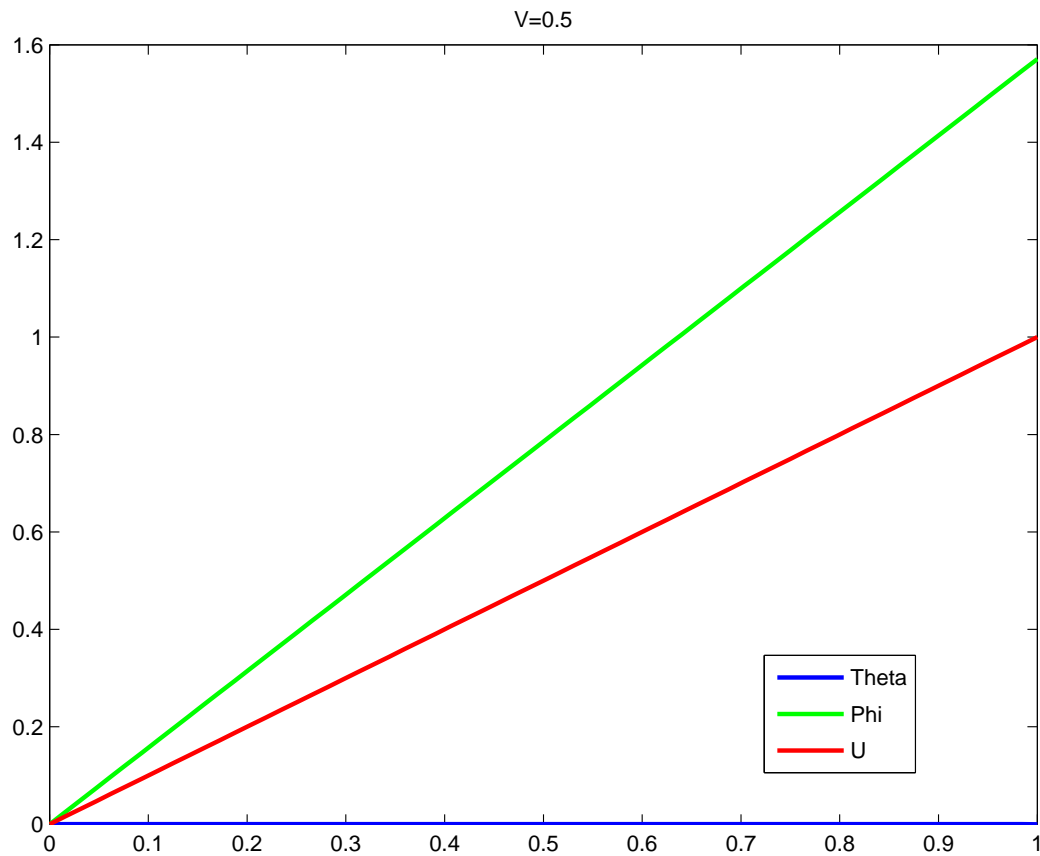
- boundary conditions:

$$\text{at } z = 0: \mathbf{n} = (1, 0, 0), \quad \text{at } z = 1: \mathbf{n} = (0, 1, 0)$$

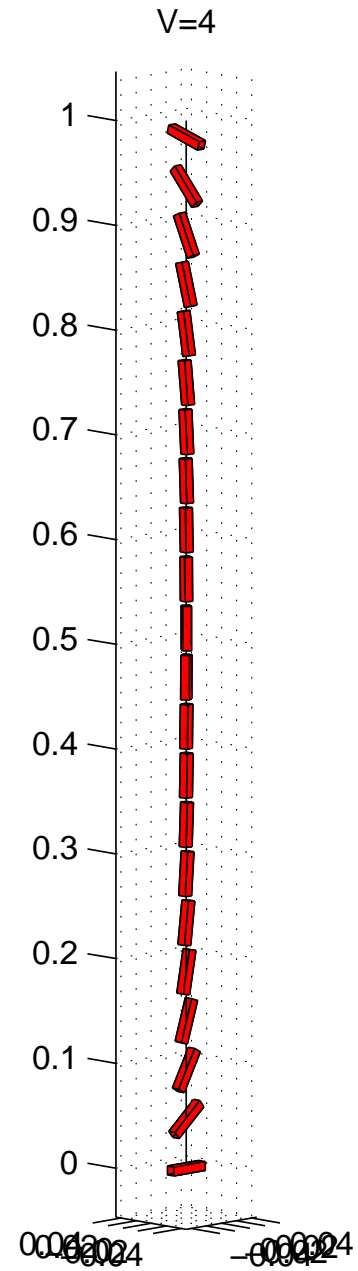
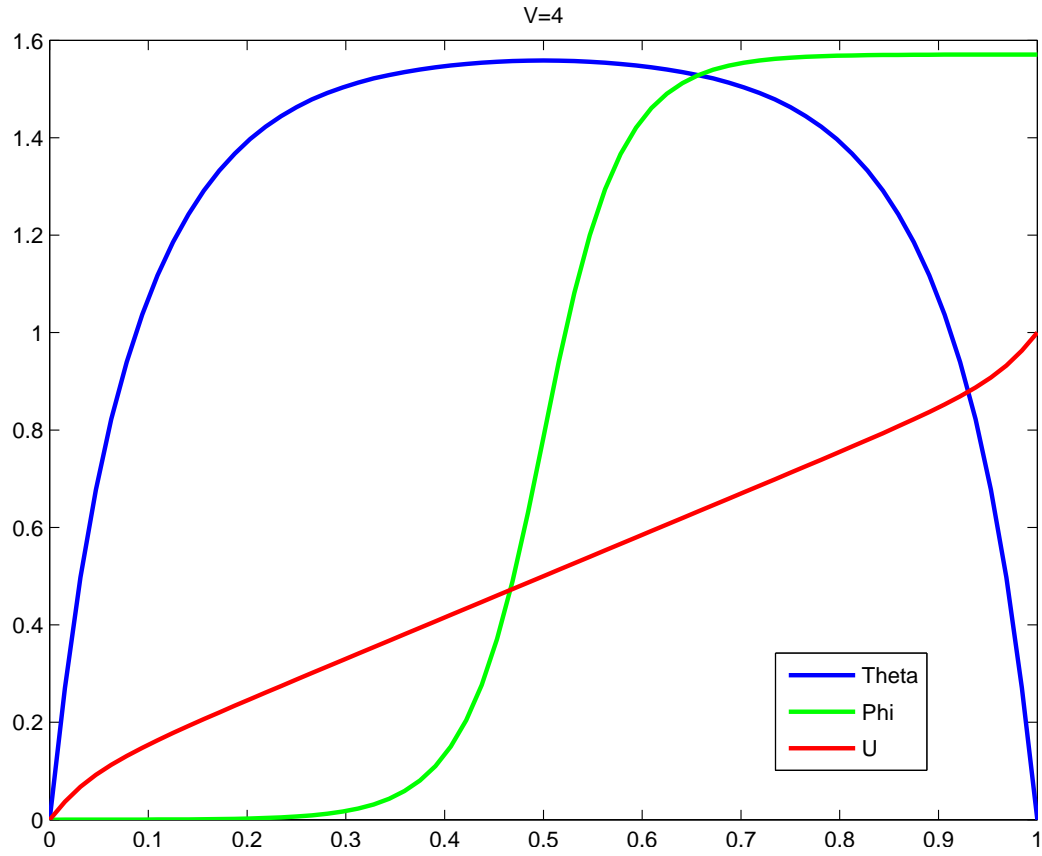


# Off State

$$\theta(z) \equiv 0, \quad \phi(z) = \frac{\pi}{2}z, \quad U(z) = z$$



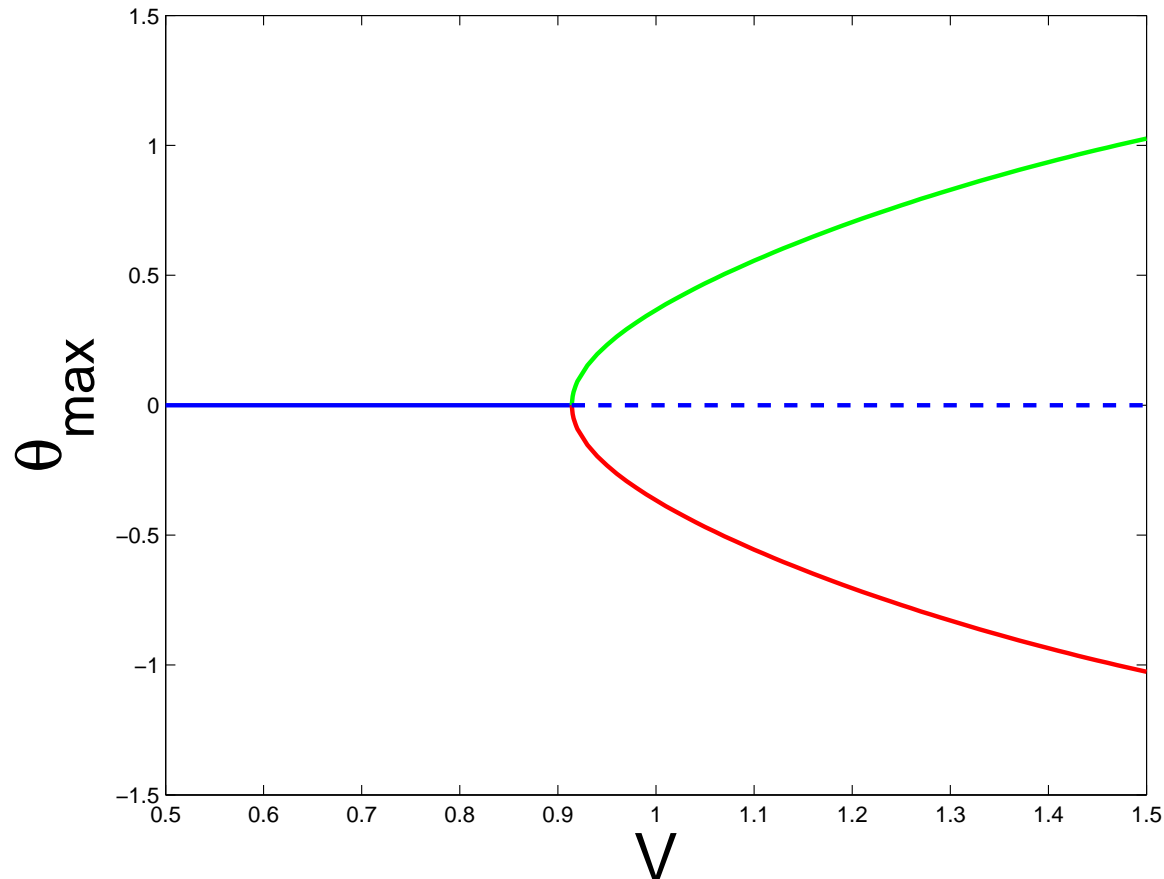
# On State



# Critical Voltage

- switching occurs at

$$V_c = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{\frac{3K}{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_a}}$$



# Discrete Free Energy

- grid of  $N + 1$  points  $z_k$  a distance  $\Delta z$  apart,  $n = N - 1$  unknowns for each variable
- **piecewise linear** approximation, weighted average

$$\begin{aligned} &\approx \frac{\Delta z}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left\{ \left[ \frac{u_{k+1} - u_k}{\Delta z} \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{v_{k+1} - v_k}{\Delta z} \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{w_{k+1} - w_k}{\Delta z} \right]^2 \right. \\ &- \left. \alpha^2 \pi^2 \left( \beta + \left[ \frac{w_k^2 + w_{k+1}^2}{2} \right] \right) \left[ \frac{U_{k+1} - U_k}{\Delta z} \right]^2 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

- equivalent to **mid-point** finite differences, **linear** finite elements

# Constrained Minimisation I

- discrete free energy

$$F \simeq \frac{\Delta z}{2} f(u_1, \dots, u_n, v_1, \dots, v_n, w_1, \dots, w_n, U_1, \dots, U_n)$$

- minimise  $F$  subject to pointwise constraint

$$u_j^2 + v_j^2 + w_j^2 = 1, \quad j = 1, \dots, n$$

- constraints are applied via **Lagrange multipliers**:  
minimise

$$G = \frac{\Delta z}{2} [f - \lambda_1(u_1^2 + v_1^2 + w_1^2 - 1) - \dots - \lambda_n(u_n^2 + v_n^2 + w_n^2 - 1)]$$

# Constrained Minimisation II

- set  $\frac{\partial G}{\partial u_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial v_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial w_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial U_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial \lambda_k}$  equal to zero

# Constrained Minimisation II

- set  $\frac{\partial G}{\partial u_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial v_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial w_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial U_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial \lambda_k}$  equal to zero
- solve  $\nabla \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$  for  $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \lambda, \mathbf{U}]$   
 $N + 1$  gridpoints  $\Rightarrow n = N - 1$  unknowns

# Constrained Minimisation II

- set  $\frac{\partial G}{\partial u_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial v_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial w_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial U_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial \lambda_k}$  equal to zero
- solve  $\nabla \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$  for  $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \lambda, \mathbf{U}]$   
 $N + 1$  gridpoints  $\Rightarrow n = N - 1$  unknowns
- use Newton's method: solve

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_j) \cdot \delta \mathbf{x}_j = -\nabla \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_j)$$



# Constrained Minimisation II

- set  $\frac{\partial G}{\partial u_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial v_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial w_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial U_k}, \frac{\partial G}{\partial \lambda_k}$  equal to zero

- solve  $\nabla \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$  for  $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \lambda, \mathbf{U}]$

$N + 1$  gridpoints  $\Rightarrow n = N - 1$  unknowns

- use Newton's method: solve

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_j) \cdot \delta \mathbf{x}_j = -\nabla \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

- $5n \times 5n$  coefficient matrix is **Hessian**  $\nabla^2 \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x})$

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_{\mathbf{nn}}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\mathbf{n}\lambda}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\mathbf{nU}}^2 \mathbf{G} \\ \nabla_{\lambda\mathbf{n}}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\lambda\lambda}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\mathbf{U}\lambda}^2 \mathbf{G} \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{n}}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\lambda\mathbf{U}}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\mathbf{UU}}^2 \mathbf{G} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Hessian Components 1

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{nn}}^2 \mathbf{G} = A$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_{\mathbf{uu}}^2 \mathbf{G} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \nabla_{\mathbf{vv}}^2 \mathbf{G} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \nabla_{\mathbf{ww}}^2 \mathbf{G} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{uu} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A_{vv} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_{ww} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $A_{uu}$ ,  $A_{vv}$  and  $A_{ww}$  are  $n \times n$  **symmetric tridiagonal** blocks

# Hessian Components 1

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{nn}}^2 \mathbf{G} = A$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_{\mathbf{uu}}^2 \mathbf{G} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \nabla_{\mathbf{vv}}^2 \mathbf{G} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \nabla_{\mathbf{ww}}^2 \mathbf{G} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{uu} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A_{vv} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_{ww} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $A_{uu}$ ,  $A_{vv}$  and  $A_{ww}$  are  $n \times n$  **symmetric tridiagonal** blocks

- $A_{uu} = A_{vv} = \frac{1}{\Delta z} \text{tri}(-1, 2 - \Delta z^2 \lambda_j, -1)$

- $A_{ww} = \frac{1}{\Delta z} \text{tri}(-1, 2 - \Delta z^2 \lambda_j - \gamma_j, -1)$

$$\gamma_j = \frac{\alpha^2 \pi^2}{2} [(U_{j+1} - U_j)^2 + (U_j - U_{j-1})^2]$$

# Eigenvalues of $A$

- **off state**: first Newton step, linear  $U$ , constant  $\lambda$

$$\lambda_j = \lambda = \frac{4}{\Delta z^2} \sin^2 \left( \frac{\pi \Delta z}{4} \right)$$

- block matrices are **Toeplitz**

# Eigenvalues of $A$

- **off state**: first Newton step, linear  $U$ , constant  $\lambda$

$$\lambda_j = \lambda = \frac{4}{\Delta z^2} \sin^2 \left( \frac{\pi \Delta z}{4} \right)$$

- block matrices are **Toeplitz**

- $\sigma_{\min}(A_{uu}) = \sigma_{\min}(A_{vv}) \simeq \frac{3\pi^2}{4} \Delta z > 0$

$A_{uu}$  and  $A_{vv}$  are positive definite

- $\sigma_{\min}(A_{ww}) \simeq \left( \frac{3\pi^2}{4} - \alpha^2 \pi^2 \right) \Delta z$

$A_{ww}$  is positive definite iff  $V < V_c$

# Eigenvalues of $A$

- **off state**: first Newton step, linear  $U$ , constant  $\lambda$

$$\lambda_j = \lambda = \frac{4}{\Delta z^2} \sin^2 \left( \frac{\pi \Delta z}{4} \right)$$

- block matrices are **Toeplitz**

- $\sigma_{\min}(A_{uu}) = \sigma_{\min}(A_{vv}) \simeq \frac{3\pi^2}{4} \Delta z > 0$

$A_{uu}$  and  $A_{vv}$  are positive definite

- $\sigma_{\min}(A_{ww}) \simeq \left( \frac{3\pi^2}{4} - \alpha^2 \pi^2 \right) \Delta z$

$A_{ww}$  is positive definite iff  $V < V_c$

- number of negative eigenvalues increases with  $V$

# Hessian Components 2

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{n}\lambda}^2 \mathbf{G} = B$

- the  $3n \times n$  matrix  $B$  has structure

$$B = -\Delta z \begin{bmatrix} B_u \\ B_v \\ B_w \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{aligned} B_u &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{u}) \\ B_v &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{v}) \\ B_w &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{w}) \end{aligned}$$

# Hessian Components 2

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{n}\lambda}^2 \mathbf{G} = B$

- the  $3n \times n$  matrix  $B$  has structure

$$B = -\Delta z \begin{bmatrix} B_u \\ B_v \\ B_w \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{aligned} B_u &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{u}) \\ B_v &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{v}) \\ B_w &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{w}) \end{aligned}$$

- $B^T B = \Delta z^2 I_n$  when constraints are satisfied

- $\text{rank}(B) = \text{rank}(B^T) = \text{rank}(BB^T) = \text{rank}(B^T B) = n$



# Hessian Components 3

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}}^2 \mathbf{G} = -\mathbf{C}$
- the  $n \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{C}$  is **symmetric** and **tridiagonal**

# Hessian Components 3

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}}^2 \mathbf{G} = -\mathbf{C}$
- the  $n \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{C}$  is **symmetric** and **tridiagonal**
- $\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{\Delta z} \text{tri}(-a_{j-\frac{1}{2}}, a_{j-\frac{1}{2}} + a_{j+\frac{1}{2}}, -a_{j+\frac{1}{2}})$

$$a_{j-\frac{1}{2}} = \alpha^2 \pi^2 \left( \beta + \frac{1}{2} (w_{j-1}^2 + w_j^2) \right) > 0$$

$$a_{j+\frac{1}{2}} = \alpha^2 \pi^2 \left( \beta + \frac{1}{2} (w_j^2 + w_{j+1}^2) \right) > 0$$

# Hessian Components 3

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}}^2 \mathbf{G} = -\mathbf{C}$
- the  $n \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{C}$  is **symmetric** and **tridiagonal**
- $\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{\Delta z} \text{tri}(-a_{j-\frac{1}{2}}, a_{j-\frac{1}{2}} + a_{j+\frac{1}{2}}, -a_{j+\frac{1}{2}})$

$$a_{j-\frac{1}{2}} = \alpha^2 \pi^2 \left( \beta + \frac{1}{2} (w_{j-1}^2 + w_j^2) \right) > 0$$

$$a_{j+\frac{1}{2}} = \alpha^2 \pi^2 \left( \beta + \frac{1}{2} (w_j^2 + w_{j+1}^2) \right) > 0$$

- diagonally dominant with positive real diagonal entries

$\mathbf{C}$  is positive definite

# Hessian Components 4

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{nU}}^2 \mathbf{G} = D$

$$D = \frac{\alpha^2 \pi^2}{\Delta z} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ D_w \end{bmatrix}$$

- the  $n \times n$  matrix  $D_w$  is **tridiagonal**

$$D_w = \text{diag}(\mathbf{w}) \text{tri}(U_j - U_{j-1}, U_{j-1} - 2U_j + U_{j+1}, U_j - U_{j+1})$$

# Hessian Components 4

- matrix notation:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{nU}}^2 \mathbf{G} = D$

$$D = \frac{\alpha^2 \pi^2}{\Delta z} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ D_w \end{bmatrix}$$

- the  $n \times n$  matrix  $D_w$  is **tridiagonal**

$$D_w = \text{diag}(\mathbf{w}) \text{tri}(U_j - U_{j-1}, U_{j-1} - 2U_j + U_{j+1}, U_j - U_{j+1})$$

- $D_w$  has **complex** eigenvalues in conjugate pairs and one zero eigenvalue ( $N$  even)
- $\text{rank}(D) = n - 1$

# Full Hessian Structure

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_{\mathbf{nn}}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\mathbf{n}\lambda}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\mathbf{nU}}^2 \mathbf{G} \\ \nabla_{\lambda\mathbf{n}}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\lambda\lambda}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\mathbf{U}\lambda}^2 \mathbf{G} \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{n}}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\lambda\mathbf{U}}^2 \mathbf{G} & \nabla_{\mathbf{UU}}^2 \mathbf{G} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B & D \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{bmatrix}$$

saddle-point problem

# Four Saddle-Point Problems

- for unknown vector ordered as  $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{U}, \lambda]$

$$H = \left[ \begin{array}{c|cc} A & D & B \\ \hline D^T & -C & 0 \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$H = \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} A & D & B \\ \hline D^T & -C & 0 \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

- for unknown vector ordered as  $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \lambda, \mathbf{U}]$

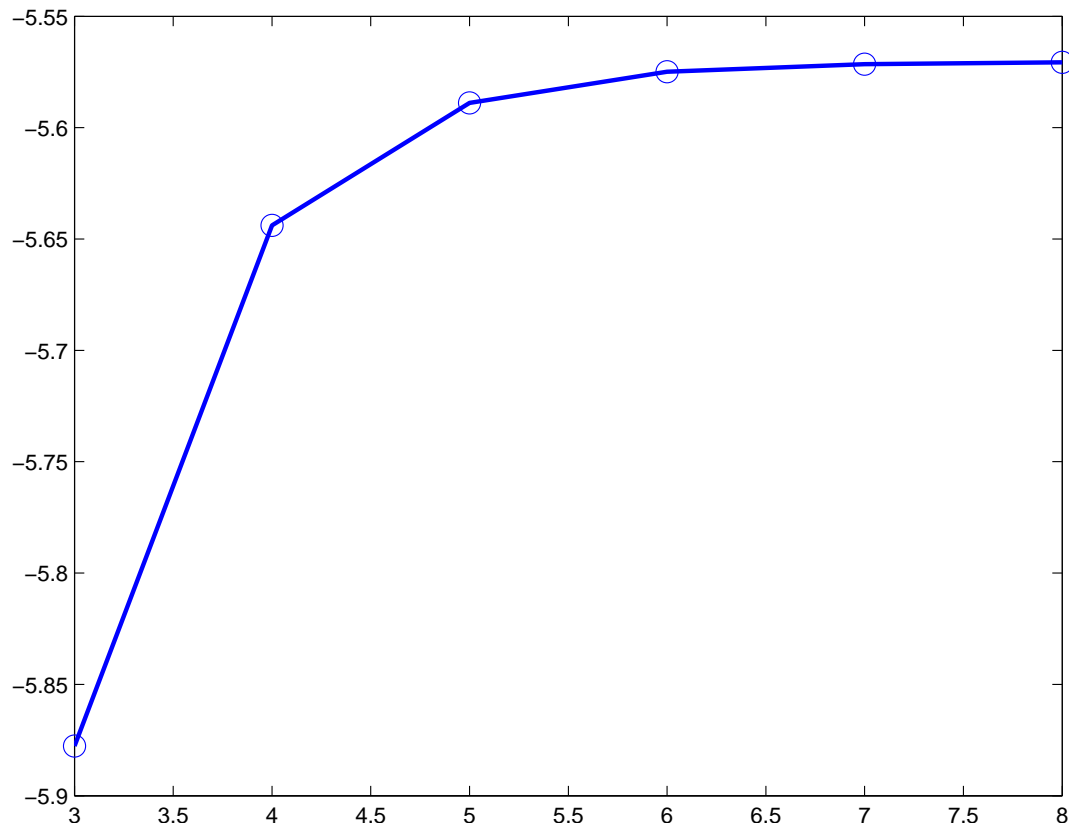
$$H = \left[ \begin{array}{c|cc} A & B & D \\ \hline B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{array} \right]$$

$$H = \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} A & B & D \\ \hline B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{array} \right]$$

**double** saddle-point structure

# Iterative Solution

- outer iteration: **Newton's method**  $\text{tol}=1e-4$
- inner iteration: **MINRES**  $\text{tol}=1e-4$
- check accuracy by calculating energy of final solution





# MINRES

Paige and Saunders (1975)

Construct iterates  $\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{x}_0 + V_k \mathbf{y}_k$  with properties

- $\mathbf{x}_k$  minimises  $\|\mathbf{r}_k\|_2 = \|\mathbf{b} - H\mathbf{x}_k\|_2$
- uses three-term recurrence relation

$$V_k = [\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k]$$

$\mathbf{v}_k$  form an orthonormal basis for Krylov subspace

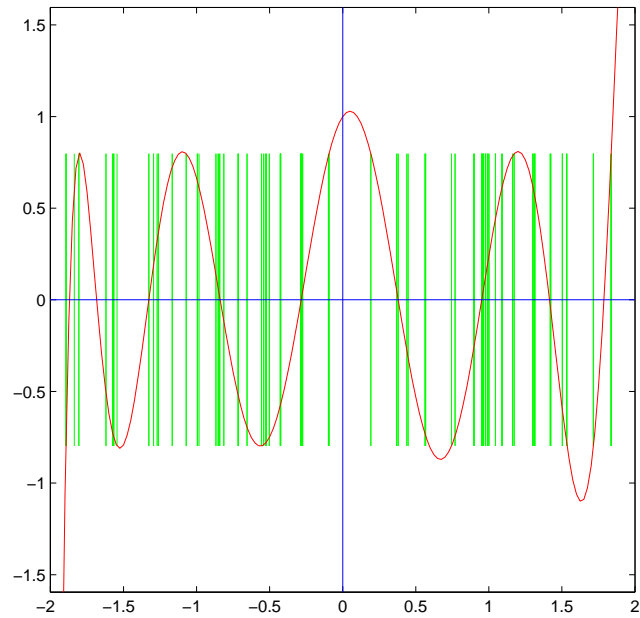
$$\kappa(H, \mathbf{r}_0, k) = \text{span}\{\mathbf{r}_0, H\mathbf{r}_0, \dots, H^{k-1}\mathbf{r}_0\}$$

- use Lanczos method to find  $\mathbf{v}_k$
- solve resulting least squares problem for  $\mathbf{y}_k$  using Givens rotations and QR factorisation

# Convergence of MINRES

- at step  $k$ :

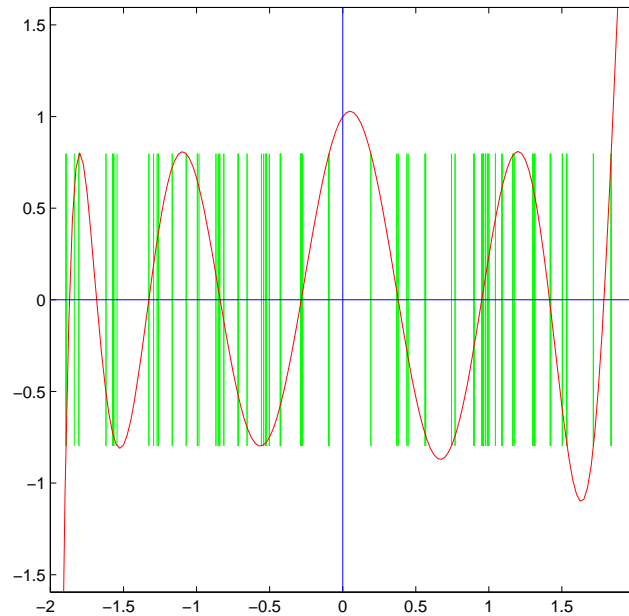
$$\|\mathbf{r}_k\|_2 \leq \min_{p_k \in \Pi_k^1} \max_i |p_k(\lambda_i)| \|\mathbf{r}_0\|_2$$



# Convergence of MINRES

- at step  $k$ :

$$\|\mathbf{r}_k\|_2 \leq \min_{p_k \in \Pi_k^1} \max_i |p_k(\lambda_i)| \|\mathbf{r}_0\|_2$$



- symmetric intervals:  $[-\lambda_{\max}, -\lambda_{\min}] \cup [\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}]$

$$k \propto \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{\lambda_{\min}}$$

# Matrix Conditioning

- eigenvalues of  $H$  lie in  $[\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_s] \cup [\lambda_{s+1}, \lambda_{\max}]$
- estimate of matrix conditioning:

$N$	condest	$\lambda_{\min}(H)$	$\lambda_s(H)$	$\lambda_{s+1}(H)$	$\lambda_{\max}(H)$
8	1.64e+6	-6.68e+2	-5.40e-4	1.88e-1	3.07e+1
16	2.58e+7	-1.44e+3	-6.26e-5	2.19e-1	6.33e+1
32	4.09e+8	-2.98e+3	-7.68e-6	1.28e-1	1.28e+2
64	6.51e+9	-6.07e+3	-9.56e-7	6.60e-2	2.56e+2
128	1.04e+11	-1.23e+4	-1.20e-7	3.33e-2	5.12e+2
256	1.66e+12	-2.46e+4	-1.50e-8	1.67e-2	1.03e+3
	$O(N^4)$	$O(N)$	$O(N^{-3})$	$O(N^{-1})$	$O(N)$

# Nullspace Method I

- Newton system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B & D \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta \mathbf{n} \\ \delta \lambda \\ \delta \mathbf{U} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G \\ -\nabla_{\lambda} G \\ -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}} G \end{bmatrix}$$

# Nullspace Method I

- Newton system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B & D \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta \mathbf{n} \\ \delta \lambda \\ \delta \mathbf{U} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G \\ -\nabla_{\lambda} G \\ -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}} G \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Idea:** use information about nullspace of  $B$  to eliminate constraint blocks

# Nullspace Method I

- Newton system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B & D \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta \mathbf{n} \\ \delta \lambda \\ \delta \mathbf{U} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G \\ -\nabla_{\lambda} G \\ -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}} G \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Idea:** use information about nullspace of  $B$  to eliminate constraint blocks
- use  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{3n \times 2n}$  whose columns form a basis for the nullspace of  $B^T$

$$B^T Z = Z^T B = 0$$

- $\text{rank}(Z) = 2n$

# Nullspace Method I

- Newton system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B & D \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta \mathbf{n} \\ \delta \lambda \\ \delta \mathbf{U} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G \\ -\nabla_{\lambda} G \\ -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}} G \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Idea:** use information about nullspace of  $B$  to eliminate constraint blocks
- use  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{3n \times 2n}$  whose columns form a basis for the nullspace of  $B^T$

$$B^T Z = Z^T B = 0$$

- $\text{rank}(Z) = 2n$
- system size will reduce from  $5n \times 5n$  to  $3n \times 3n$



# Nullspace Method II

$$A\delta\mathbf{n} + B\delta\lambda + D\delta\mathbf{U} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{n}}G \quad (1)$$

$$B^T\delta\mathbf{n} = -\nabla_{\lambda}G \quad (2)$$

$$D^T\delta\mathbf{n} - C\delta\mathbf{U} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}}G \quad (3)$$

# Nullspace Method II

$$A\delta\mathbf{n} + B\delta\lambda + D\delta\mathbf{U} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{n}}G \quad (1)$$

$$B^T\delta\mathbf{n} = -\nabla_{\lambda}G \quad (2)$$

$$D^T\delta\mathbf{n} - C\delta\mathbf{U} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}}G \quad (3)$$

- write solution of (2) as

$$\delta\mathbf{n} = \widehat{\delta\mathbf{n}} + Z\mathbf{z}$$

- particular solution satisfies  $B^T\widehat{\delta\mathbf{n}} = -\nabla_{\lambda}G$
- $Z\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$  lies in nullspace of  $B^T$

# Nullspace Method II

$$A\delta\mathbf{n} + B\delta\lambda + D\delta\mathbf{U} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{n}}G \quad (1)$$

$$B^T\delta\mathbf{n} = -\nabla_{\lambda}G \quad (2)$$

$$D^T\delta\mathbf{n} - C\delta\mathbf{U} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}}G \quad (3)$$

- write solution of (2) as

$$\delta\mathbf{n} = \widehat{\delta\mathbf{n}} + Z\mathbf{z}$$

- particular solution satisfies  $B^T\widehat{\delta\mathbf{n}} = -\nabla_{\lambda}G$
- $Z\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$  lies in nullspace of  $B^T$
- find  $\widehat{\delta\mathbf{n}}$  via  $\widehat{\delta\mathbf{n}} = -B(B^TB)^{-1}\nabla_{\lambda}G$
- here  $B^TB$  is **diagonal** so solve is cheap

# Nullspace Method III

- reduced system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z^T A Z & Z^T D \\ D^T Z & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z} \\ \delta \mathbf{U} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -Z^T (\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G + A \widehat{\delta \mathbf{n}}) \\ -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}} G - D^T \widehat{\delta \mathbf{n}} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Nullspace Method III

- reduced system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z^T A Z & Z^T D \\ D^T Z & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z} \\ \delta \mathbf{U} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -Z^T (\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G + A \widehat{\delta \mathbf{n}}) \\ -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}} G - D^T \widehat{\delta \mathbf{n}} \end{bmatrix}$$

- recover full solution from

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \mathbf{n} &= Z \mathbf{z} + \widehat{\delta \mathbf{n}} \\ \delta \lambda &= (B^T B)^{-1} B^T (-\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G - A \delta \mathbf{n} - D \delta \mathbf{U}) \end{aligned}$$

# Nullspace Method III

- reduced system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z^T A Z & Z^T D \\ D^T Z & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z} \\ \delta \mathbf{U} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -Z^T (\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G + A \widehat{\delta \mathbf{n}}) \\ -\nabla_{\mathbf{U}} G - D^T \widehat{\delta \mathbf{n}} \end{bmatrix}$$

- recover full solution from

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \mathbf{n} &= Z \mathbf{z} + \widehat{\delta \mathbf{n}} \\ \delta \lambda &= (B^T B)^{-1} B^T (-\nabla_{\mathbf{n}} G - A \delta \mathbf{n} - D \delta \mathbf{U}) \end{aligned}$$

- here  $B^T B$  is **diagonal** so solve is cheap

# Nullspace of $B^T$ I

- permute entries of B:

$$B = -\Delta z \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n}_1 & & & \\ & \mathbf{n}_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \mathbf{n}_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{n}_j = \begin{bmatrix} u_j \\ v_j \\ w_j \end{bmatrix}$$

# Nullspace of $B^T$ I

- permute entries of B:

$$B = -\Delta z \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n}_1 & & & \\ & \mathbf{n}_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \mathbf{n}_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{n}_j = \begin{bmatrix} u_j \\ v_j \\ w_j \end{bmatrix}$$

- eigenvectors of **orthogonal projection**

$$I - \mathbf{n}_j \otimes \mathbf{n}_j = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - u_j^2 & -v_j u_j & -w_j u_j \\ -u_j v_j & 1 - v_j^2 & -w_j v_j \\ -u_j w_j & -v_j w_j & 1 - w_j^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

will be orthogonal to  $\mathbf{n}_j$



# Nullspace of $B^T$ II

- eigenvectors of **orthogonal projection**: e.g.

$$\mathbf{l}_j = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{v_j}{u_j} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{m}_j = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{w_j}{u_j} \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (u_j \neq 0)$$

- orthonormalise:

$$\mathbf{l}_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u_j^2 + v_j^2}} \begin{bmatrix} -v_j \\ u_j \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{m}_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u_j^2 + v_j^2}} \begin{bmatrix} -u_j w_j \\ -v_j w_j \\ u_j^2 + v_j^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- at least one of  $u_j, v_j, w_j$  nonzero as  $|\mathbf{n}_j| = 1$

# Nullspace of $B^T$ III

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{l}_1 & \mathbf{m}_1 & & & & \\ & & \mathbf{l}_2 & \mathbf{m}_2 & & \\ & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & \mathbf{l}_n & \mathbf{m}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# Nullspace of $B^T$ III

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{l}_1 & \mathbf{m}_1 & & & \\ & & \mathbf{l}_2 & \mathbf{m}_2 & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \mathbf{l}_n & \mathbf{m}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

- consider  $B^T Z \mathbf{p}$  where  $\mathbf{p} = [p_1, q_1, p_2, q_2, \dots, p_n, q_n]^T$ :

$$B^T Z \mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n}_1^T & & & \\ & \mathbf{n}_2^T & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \mathbf{n}_n^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \mathbf{l}_1 + q_1 \mathbf{m}_1 \\ p_2 \mathbf{l}_2 + q_2 \mathbf{m}_2 \\ \vdots \\ p_n \mathbf{l}_n + q_n \mathbf{m}_n \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

- columns of  $Z$  form a **basis** for nullspace of  $B^T$

# Condition of Reduced System

- eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{H}$  lie in  $[\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_s] \cup [\lambda_{s+1}, \lambda_{\max}]$
- estimate of matrix conditioning:

$N$	condest	$\lambda_{\min}(\mathcal{H})$	$\lambda_s(\mathcal{H})$	$\lambda_{s+1}(\mathcal{H})$	$\lambda_{\max}(\mathcal{H})$
8	1.28e+3	-7.44e+2	-2.13e+1	1.71e+0	3.39e+3
16	1.51e+4	-1.51e+3	-9.77e+0	8.14e-1	1.89e+4
32	2.13e+5	-3.06e+3	-4.77e+0	4.04e-1	1.40e+5
64	3.29e+6	-6.20e+3	-2.37e+0	2.02e-1	1.10e+6
128	4.97e+7	-1.24e+4	-1.18e+0	1.01e-1	8.78e+6
256	7.84e+8	-2.50e+4	-5.91e-1	5.05e-2	7.02e+7
	$O(N^4)$	$O(N)$	$O(N^{-1})$	$O(N^{-1})$	$O(N^3)$

# Preconditioning

Idea: instead of solving  $\mathcal{H}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , solve

$$\mathcal{P}^{-1}\mathcal{H}\mathbf{x} = \mathcal{P}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

for some preconditioner  $\mathcal{P}$

Choose  $\mathcal{P}$  so that

- (i) eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{P}^{-1}\mathcal{H}$  are well clustered
- (ii)  $\mathcal{P}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{r}$  is easily solved

# Preconditioning

Idea: instead of solving  $\mathcal{H}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , solve

$$\mathcal{P}^{-1}\mathcal{H}\mathbf{x} = \mathcal{P}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

for some **preconditioner**  $\mathcal{P}$

Choose  $\mathcal{P}$  so that

- (i) eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{P}^{-1}\mathcal{H}$  are **well clustered**
- (ii)  $\mathcal{P}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{r}$  is **easily solved**

Extreme cases:

- $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{H}$ : good for (i), bad for (ii)
- $\mathcal{P} = I$ : good for (ii), bad for (i)

# Solving the Reduced System

- write  $\bar{A} = Z^T A Z$  and  $\bar{D} = Z^T D$ :

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & \bar{D} \\ \bar{D}^T & -C \end{bmatrix}$$

# Solving the Reduced System

- write  $\bar{A} = Z^T A Z$  and  $\bar{D} = Z^T D$ :

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & \bar{D} \\ \bar{D}^T & -C \end{bmatrix}$$

- block preconditioner:  $\mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & 0 \\ 0 & C \end{bmatrix}$



# Solving the Reduced System

- write  $\bar{A} = Z^T A Z$  and  $\bar{D} = Z^T D$ :

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & \bar{D} \\ \bar{D}^T & -C \end{bmatrix}$$

- block preconditioner:  $\mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & 0 \\ 0 & C \end{bmatrix}$

- preconditioned matrix:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \mathcal{P}^{-1/2} \mathcal{H} \mathcal{P}^{-1/2} = \begin{bmatrix} I & M^T \\ M & -I \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M = C^{-1/2} \bar{D} \bar{A}^{-1/2}$$

# Preconditioned Spectrum

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \mathcal{P}^{-1/2} \mathcal{H} \mathcal{P}^{-1/2} = \begin{bmatrix} I & M^T \\ M & -I \end{bmatrix}$$

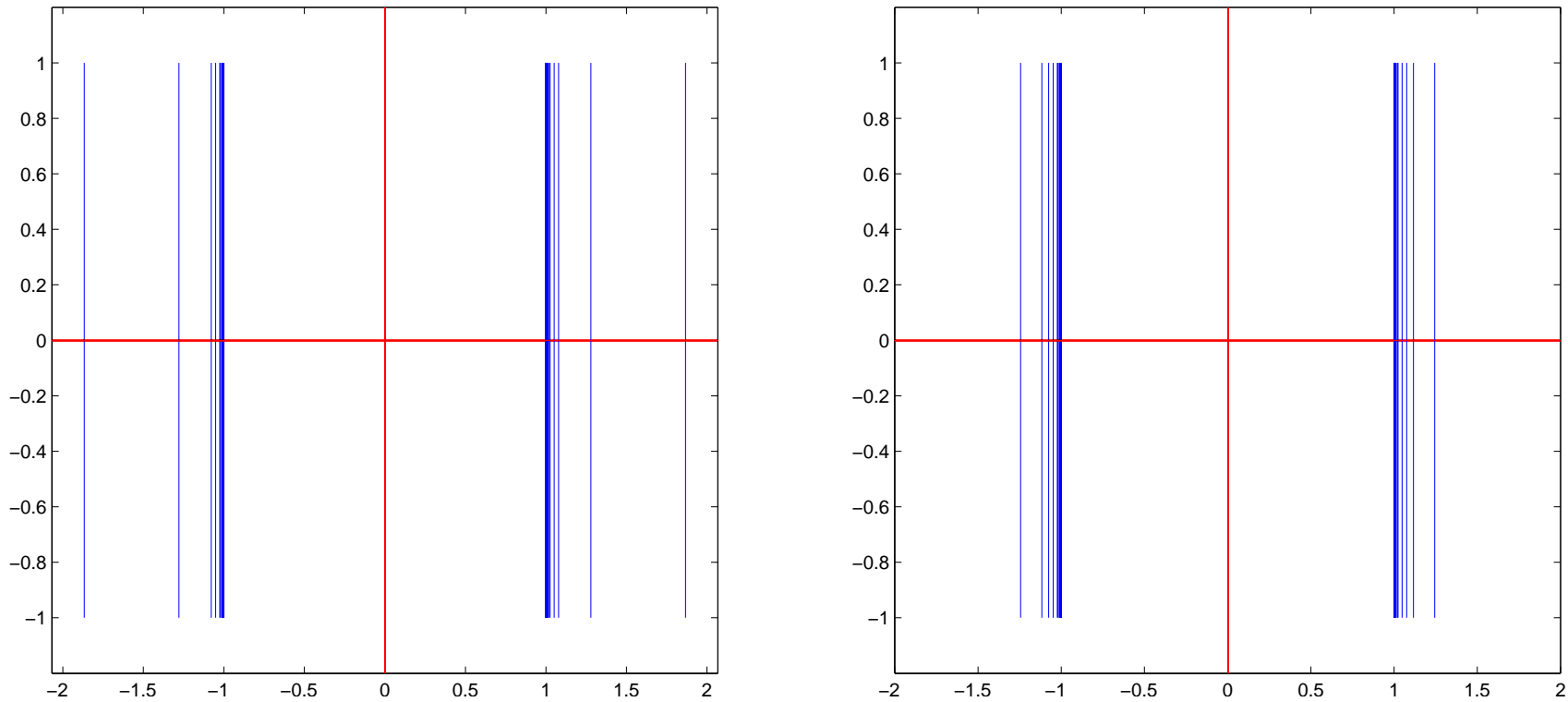
- $M = C^{-1/2} Z^T D (Z^T A Z)^{-1/2}$
- $\text{rank}(M) = n - 1$
- non-zero singular values  $\sigma_k$

# Preconditioned Spectrum

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \mathcal{P}^{-1/2} \mathcal{H} \mathcal{P}^{-1/2} = \begin{bmatrix} I & M^T \\ M & -I \end{bmatrix}$$

- $M = C^{-1/2} Z^T D (Z^T A Z)^{-1/2}$
- $\text{rank}(M) = n - 1$
- non-zero singular values  $\sigma_k$
- $3n$  eigenvalues of  $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$  are
  - (i)  $1$  with multiplicity  $n + 1$
  - (ii)  $-1$  with multiplicity  $1$
  - (iii)  $\pm \sqrt{1 + \sigma_k^2}$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n - 1$

# Sample Eigenvalue Plots



eigenvalue plots for  $N = 64$   
first and last Newton iteration

# Estimate of MINRES convergence

- eigenvalues in two symmetric intervals

$$[-\beta, -1] \cup [1, \beta], \quad \beta = \sqrt{1 + \sigma_{\max}^2}$$

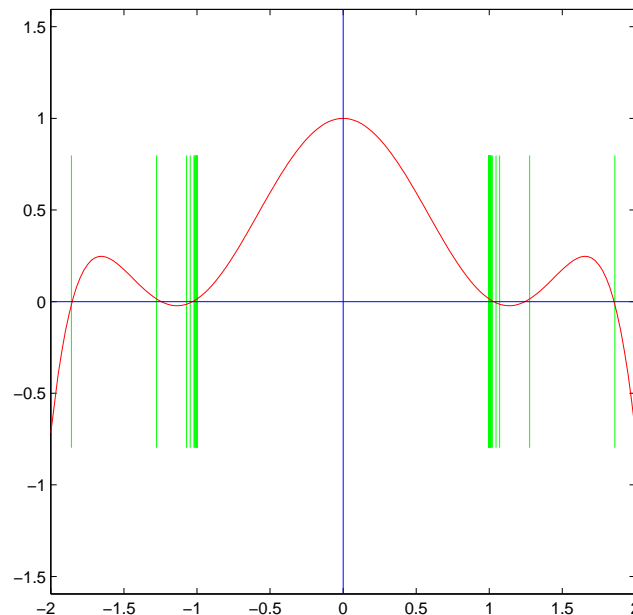
# Estimate of MINRES convergence

- eigenvalues in two symmetric intervals

$$[-\beta, -1] \cup [1, \beta], \quad \beta = \sqrt{1 + \sigma_{\max}^2}$$

- to achieve  $\|\mathbf{r}_k\| \leq \epsilon \|\mathbf{r}_0\|$  need

$$k \simeq \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + \sigma_{\max}^2} \ln \left( \frac{2}{\epsilon} \right)$$



# Diagonal Preconditioning

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} A & B & D \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{D} = \begin{bmatrix} D_A & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Delta z^3 I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_C \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D_A = \text{diag}(A)$$

$$D_C = \text{diag}(C)$$

# Diagonal Preconditioning

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} A & B & D \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \\ D^T & 0 & -C \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{D} = \begin{bmatrix} D_A & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Delta z^3 I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_C \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} D_A = \text{diag}(A) \\ D_C = \text{diag}(C) \end{array}$$

- estimated condition of  $\mathcal{D}^{-1}H$  is  $O(N^2)$

$$\lambda_{\min} = -2, \quad \lambda_s = O(N^{-2}), \quad \lambda_{s+1} = O(N^{-2}), \quad \lambda_{\max} = 2$$



# Iteration Counts

- diagonal scaling

$N$	8	16	32	64	128	256
first Newton step	15	40	117	382	1293	5126
last Newton step	37	134	414	1617	7466	34755

# Iteration Counts

- diagonal scaling

$N$	8	16	32	64	128	256
first Newton step	15	40	117	382	1293	5126
last Newton step	37	134	414	1617	7466	34755

- reduced block preconditioning

$N$	8	16	32	64	128	256
first Newton step	5	5	5	5	5	5
last Newton step	5	5	5	5	5	5

- independent of problem size and Newton iteration

# Computing Time

- elapsed time (tic/toc)
- A: **full** direct, B: **reduced** direct, C: **reduced** block

# Computing Time

- elapsed time (tic/toc)
- A: **full** direct, B: **reduced** direct, C: **reduced** block

$N$	A	B	C
8	7.54e-02	7.17e-02	2.85e-03
16	7.67e-03	7.37e-03	2.60e-03
32	1.11e-02	1.06e-02	3.51e-03
64	1.67e-02	1.56e-02	4.95e-03
128	3.55e-02	3.30e-02	8.62e-03
256	1.18e-01	1.26e-01	1.26e-02
512	4.89e-01	4.40e-01	2.26e-02
1024	1.40e+00	1.37e+00	4.64e-02
2048	5.25e+00	5.15e+00	1.12e-01
4096	2.11e+01	2.12e+01	1.78e-01

# Conclusions and the Future

- Reduced block preconditioner is very efficient for this problem.
- Nullspace method is ideal for this simple 1D director model.

# Conclusions and the Future

- Reduced block preconditioner is very efficient for this problem.
- Nullspace method is ideal for this simple 1D director model.
- Can the convergence analysis be pushed further?
- Does the same method work well for more complicated liquid crystal cells?
- What about 2D models?
- Reduced block preconditioner is cheap to invert here: could approximate solves (e.g. multigrid) be used for other problems with less structure?

# Conclusions and the Future

- Reduced block preconditioner is very efficient for this problem.
- Nullspace method is ideal for this simple 1D director model.
- Can the convergence analysis be pushed further?
- Does the same method work well for more complicated liquid crystal cells?
- What about 2D models?
- Reduced block preconditioner is cheap to invert here: could approximate solves (e.g. multigrid) be used for other problems with less structure?

THANKS!