

# Fast Solution of the Nonlinear Poisson-Boltzmann Equation Using the Reduced Basis Method and Range-Separated Tensor Format

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## Electrostatic Interactions

The Poisson-Boltzmann equation (PBE) determines the electrostatic potential in a biomolecular system

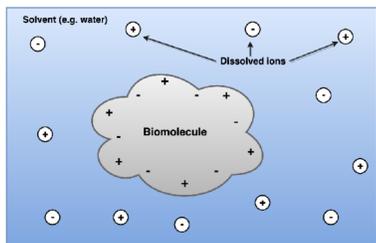


Figure 1: 2-D view of the 3-D Debye-Hückel model.

## Mathematical Model

The traditional nonlinear PBE [3]:

$$-\nabla \cdot (\epsilon(x) \nabla u(x)) + \bar{k}^2(x) \sinh(u(x)) = \left( \frac{4\pi e_c^2}{k_B T} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{N_m} z_i \delta(x - x_i), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad (1)$$

$$u(x) = \left( \frac{e_c^2}{k_B T} \right) \frac{q e^{-k(d-a)}}{\epsilon_w (1 + ka)d} \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \quad d = |x - x_i|,$$

where

- $u(x) = \frac{e_c \psi(x)}{k_B T}$  - dimensionless potential,
- $C = \sum_{i=1}^{N_m} z_i \delta(x - x_i)$  - molecular charge density,
- $k^2 = \frac{8\pi e_c^2 I}{1000 \epsilon_w k_B T}$  - Debye screening constant,
- $I = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N c_i z_i^2$  - ionic strength (parameter).

## Canonical Tensor Approximation of the Newton Kernel

- Consider  $\Omega = [-b, b]^3$ , uniform  $n^3$  rectangular grid  $\Omega_n$ .
- Let  $\psi_i(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{\ell=1}^3 \psi_i^{(\ell)}(x_\ell)$  be a set of tensor-product basis functions.
- Discretize the Newton kernel  $p(\|\mathbf{x}\|) = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{x}\|}$  by its projection onto  $\{\psi_i\}$ ,

$$\mathbf{P} := [\rho_i] \in \mathbb{R}^{n^3 \times n^3}, \quad \rho_i = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \psi_i(\mathbf{x}) p(\|\mathbf{x}\|) d\mathbf{x}.$$

- Low-rank canonical representation of  $\mathbf{P}$  is based on exponentially convergent sinc-quadratures for the Laplace-Gauss transform of the Newton kernel

$$\frac{1}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} e^{-t^2 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2} dt = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \prod_{\ell=1}^3 e^{-t^2(x_\ell)^2} dt \approx \sum_{k=0}^M a_k e^{-t_k^2 z^2} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\| > 0.$$

- The quadrature points and weights are  $t_k = k \eta_M$ ,  $a_k = a(t_k) \eta_M$ ,  $\eta_M = C_0 \log(M)/M$ ,  $C_0 > 0$ .
- Tensor  $\mathbf{P}$  can be approximated by the separable  $R$ -term ( $R = M + 1$ ) canonical representation [4]

$$\mathbf{P} \approx \mathbf{P}_R = \sum_{k=0}^M a_k \bigotimes_{\ell=1}^3 \mathbf{b}^{(\ell)}(t_k) = \sum_{k=0}^M \mathbf{p}_k^{(1)} \otimes \mathbf{p}_k^{(2)} \otimes \mathbf{p}_k^{(3)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n^3 \times n^3}.$$

## Modified PBE by the Range-Separated (RS) Tensor format

Consider the free space electrostatic potential of (1) in form of Newton potential

$$u(x) = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{x}\|}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

The RS canonical tensor format, developed and analyzed in [1], decomposes the Newton potential () into short- and long-range canonical tensor components

$$\frac{1}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \rightsquigarrow \mathbf{P}_R = \mathbf{P}_{R_s} + \mathbf{P}_{R_l}.$$

Discretize the exact equation for the Newton potential  $-\Delta \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} = 4\pi \delta(\mathbf{x})$  using the finite difference method (FDM). This leads to the discrete representation of the Dirac delta

$$\delta(\mathbf{x}) \rightsquigarrow \delta_h := -\frac{1}{4\pi} \mathbf{A}_\Delta \mathbf{P}_R.$$

Split  $\delta_h$  into short- and long-range components,  $\delta_h = \delta_s + \delta_l$ , we get

$$\delta_s := -\frac{1}{4\pi} \mathbf{A}_\Delta \mathbf{P}_{R_s}, \quad \text{and} \quad \delta_l := -\frac{1}{4\pi} \mathbf{A}_\Delta \mathbf{P}_{R_l}.$$

The solution to the modified PBE is given by  $u(x) = u^s(x) + u^l(x)$  such that  $u^s(x) = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{x}\|^s} \rightsquigarrow \mathbf{P}_{R_s}$  and  $u^l(x)$  is the solution to

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot (\epsilon \nabla u^l(x)) + \bar{k}_2^2(x) \sinh(u^l(x)) &= \delta_l, & \text{in } \Omega \\ u^l(x) &= \bar{k}_2^2(x) \mathbf{P}_{R_l} & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

## Reduced Basis Method (RBM)

### RBM algorithm for the modified PBE (2)

**Algorithm 1** RBM algorithm

**Input:** System (2), tol,  $\mu_1$ , n, training set ( $\Xi \in D$ ).

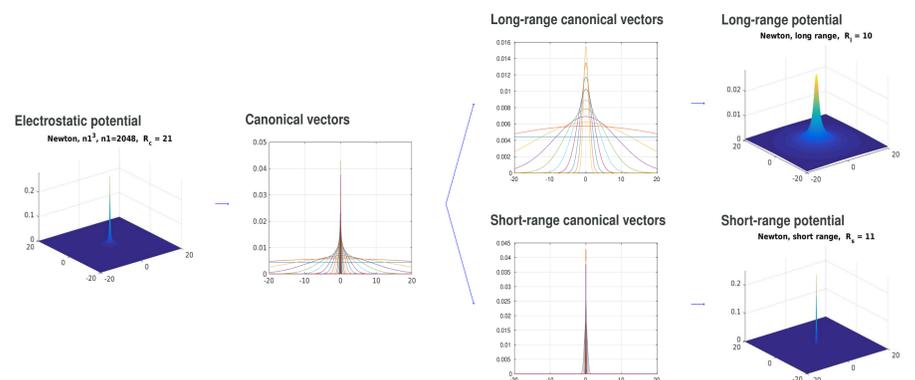
**Output:** RB solution  $u_{rb}(\mu)$ , ROM, error estimator  $\Delta(\mu)$ .

- 1: Compute long-range solution to the linearized variant of (2) as the initial solution for Step 2.
- 2: Compute  $u_l(\mu_n)$  to (2) for  $\mu_n$  by AINSOLVE.
- 3: Set  $\mathbb{V}_{rb} = \text{span}\{u_\delta(\mu_1), \dots, u_\delta(\mu_n)\}$ .
- 4: Compute the reduced basis approximation  $u_{rb}(\mu) \in \mathbb{V}_{rb}$  defined by  $A_{rb}^\mu u_{rb}^\mu = f_{rb}^\mu$  by AINSOLVE, where  $A_{rb}^\mu = \nabla_{rb}^T A_\delta^\mu \nabla_{rb}$  and  $f_{rb}^\mu = \nabla_{rb}^T f_\delta^\mu$ .
- 5: Evaluate the error estimator  $\Delta(\mu)$ .
- 6: Choose  $\mu_{n+1} = \arg \max_{\mu \in \Xi} \Delta(\mu)$ .
- 7: If  $\Delta(\mu_{n+1}) \geq \text{tol}$ , then set  $n := n + 1$  and go to Step 1, otherwise terminate.

**AINSOLVE** is an accelerated inexact Newton solver which uses a preconditioned Krylov space to accelerate the convergence and avoids inversion of the Jacobian by excluding the Newton direction [2].

## Numerical Results

### RS canonical tensor format for the Newton potential



### Accuracy of RS canonical tensor format for Poisson Equation (PE)

- Consider Acetazolamide compound with 18 atoms.
- Determine the error between the modified PE solution and the canonical solution.

n	97	129	257
Discrete $L_2$ norm	$4.1176 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.1936 \times 10^{-7}$	$3.7003 \times 10^{-9}$

Table 1: The discrete  $L_2$  norm of the error w.r.t. grid size.

### Accuracy of the RB approximation for the modified PBE

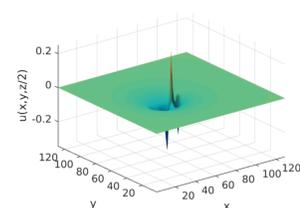
**Cartesian grid properties and data**

- Consider Acetazolamide compound,
- 129<sup>3</sup> grid and 32 Å box length,
- $\Xi \in D = [0.05, 0.15]$ .

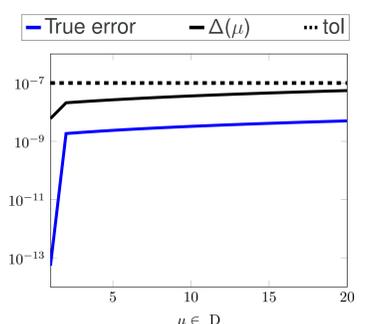
**RB approximation properties**

- Model reduction from  $\mathcal{N} = 2,146,689$  to  $\mathbf{N} = 1$ ,
- Greedy tol ( $10^{-7}$ ), sample size  $\ell = 11$ .

	Runtime (seconds) and speed-up		
	FOM	ROM	Speed-up
Nonlinear system	4.174	5.785e-03	722



(a) RB approximation in the  $\mathcal{N}$  space.



(b) Error estimator versus true error.

## References

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- [2] S. ENGBLOM. <https://github.com/stefanengblom/stenglib/blob/master/Scicomp/ainsolve.m>. Accessed: 2018-04-04.
- [3] M. J. HOLST, *Multilevel methods for the Poisson-Boltzmann equation*, PhD Thesis, Numerical Computing group, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA, 1994.
- [4] V. KHOROMSKAIA AND B. N. KHOROMSKIJ, *Grid-based lattice summation of electrostatic potentials by assembled rank-structured tensor approximation.*, Comp. Phys. Comm., 185 (2014).