

Efficient Spectral-Galerkin Method for eigenvalue problems

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Abstract—we provide a priori error estimates for linear elliptic eigenvalue problems based on the spectral-Galerkin method, and also provide an efficient Galerkin method is proposed for solving this problems, with this scheme, the solution of an eigenvalue problem on a big spectral space is reduced to the solution of an eigenvalue problem on a small spectral space and the solution of a linear algebraic system on the big spectral space and the resulting solution still maintains an asymptotically optimal accuracy.

Keywords-eigenvalue; iterated galerkin method; priori error estimates; legendre polynomial

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to present an efficient technique based on the Legendre-Galerkin approximations for solving eigenvalue problems, and also provide a priori error estimates for linear elliptic eigenvalue problems based on the spectral-Galerkin method that different from [1]. It should be mentioned that this method is called iterated Galerkin method. This method for elliptic eigenvalue problems is first proposed in [2], and later developed in [3], then it was further investigated by many other authors, for instance Axelsson and Layton [4] for nonlinear elliptic problems, Dawson and Wheeler [5] and Xu [6] for finite difference scheme for parabolic equations, Layton and Lenferink [7], and Utnes [8] for Navier-Stokes equations, Marion and Xu [9] for evolution equations. But we do not see it was used in spectral spaces.

Inspired by the work [10], in this paper we propose iterated Galerkin method for eigenvalue problems. By using the scheme, the solution of an eigenvalue problem on a big spectral space is reduced to the solution of an eigenvalue problem on a small spectral space and the solution of a linear algebraic system on the big spectral space, it provides very accurate approximations with a relatively small number of unknowns, because solving an elliptic eigenvalue problem will not be much more difficult than the solution of some standard elliptic boundary value problem.

In the remainder of this section, we would like to give an example to illustrate the main idea in this paper. Consider the following eigenvalue problem

$$-\Delta u = \lambda u, \text{ in } \Omega, u = 0, \text{ on } \partial\Omega \quad (1)$$

the variational problem associated with (1) is given by: find

$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ with $\|u\|_b = 1$ satisfying:

$$a(u, v) = \lambda b(u, v), \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \quad (2)$$

where

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v,$$

$$b(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} uv, \|b\|_b = b(u, u)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Let us first introduce some basic notations which will be used in the sequel. We assume that $\Omega = (-1, 1)^d$, $d = 1, 2, 3$, we denote by $L_n(x)$ the n th degree Legendre polynomial, and set

$$S_N = \text{span}\{L_0(x), L_1(x), \dots, L_N(x)\},$$

$$X_N = \{v \in S_N : v|_{\partial\Omega} = 0\}.$$

Then the standard Legendre-Galerkin approximation to (2) is: find $\lambda_N \in \mathbb{R}$ and $u_N \in X_N$ with $\|u_N\|_b = 1$ such that

$$a(u_N, v) = \lambda_N b(u_N, v), \quad \forall v \in X_N. \quad (3)$$

We can employ the following high order algorithm to approximate the problem (1), say the first eigenvalue λ with its corresponding eigenvector u and $\|u\|_b = 1$:

Step 1: solve an eigenvalue problem on a small spectral space: find $\lambda_N \in \mathbb{R}$ and $u_N \in X_N$ with such that $\|u_N\|_b = 1$ and

$$a(u_N, v) = \lambda_N b(u_N, v), \quad \forall v \in X_N.$$

Step 2: solve one single linear problem on a big spectral space: find $u_{\square}^* \in X_{\square}$ such that

$$a(u_{\square}^*, v) = \lambda_{\square} b(u_{\square}^*, v), \quad \forall v \in X_{\square}.$$

Step 3: compute the Rayleigh quotient

$$\lambda_{\square}^* = \frac{a(u_{\square}^*, u_{\square}^*)}{(u_{\square}^*, u_{\square}^*)}.$$

if $u \in H^s$, $s > 1$ then we can establish the following results (see sections 4)

$$\|u_{\square}^* - u\|_a = O(N^{1-s} + N^{-s}),$$

$$|\lambda_{\square}^* - \lambda| = O(N^{2-2s} + N^{-2s}).$$

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II. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we shall describe some basic notation and properties of the Legendre-Galerkin approximation. Throughout this paper, we shall use the letter C (with or without subscripts) to denote a generic positive constant which may stand for different values at different occurrences.

Suppose that H is a real Hilbert space with inner product $(\cdot, \cdot)_H$ and norm $\|\cdot\|_H$. Let $a(\cdot, \cdot)$,

$b(\cdot, \cdot)$ be two symmetric bilinear forms on $H \times H$

Satisfying

$$a(w, v) \leq C \|w\|_H \|v\|_H, \quad \forall w, v \in H, \quad \|w\|_H^2 \leq Ca(w, w), \quad \forall w \in H,$$

$$|b(u, v)| \leq C \|u\|_H \|v\|_H, \quad 0 < b(w, w), \quad \forall u, v, w \in H.$$

We note that $\|\cdot\|_a \equiv a(\cdot, \cdot)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and $\|\cdot\|_H$ are two equivalent norms on H , we assume that the norm $\|\cdot\|_H$ is relatively

compact with respect to the norm $\|w\|_a \equiv b(w, w)^{\frac{1}{2}}$. In

the sense the form any sequence which is bounded in $\|\cdot\|_H$ one can extract a subsequence which is Cauchy with respect to $\|\cdot\|_b$. In the rest of this paper we shall use $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ and $\|\cdot\|_a$ as the inner product and norm on H . Consider the source problem (4) associated with (1) and the approximate source problem (5) associated with (3): find $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ such that

$$a(u, v) = b(f, v), \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \quad (4)$$

find $u_N \in X_N$ such that

$$a(u, v) = b(f, v), \quad \forall v \in X_N, \quad (5)$$

At first, we transform (4)-(5) into the operator forms, note that $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ is coercive. Using the source problem (4)

associated with (2), we define the operator

$$T : L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow H_0^1(\Omega),$$

$$a(Tu, v) = b(f, v), \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega),$$

Babuska and Osborn [1] proved that (2) has the operator form:

$$Tu = \frac{1}{\lambda} u.$$

Using the source problem (5) associated with (3), we define the operator $T_N : L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow X_N$

$$a(T_N u, v) = b(f, v), \quad \forall v \in X_N,$$

Bramble and Osborn [1] also proved that (3) has the operator form:

$$T_N u_N = \frac{1}{\lambda_N} u_N.$$

Next, we prove that T and T_N are self-adjoint operators and $\|T_N - T\|_b \rightarrow 0$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$. Since $\forall f, g \in L^2(\Omega)$

$$b(Tf, v) = b(g, Tf) = a(Tg, Tf) = a(Tf, Tg) = b(f, Tg).$$

T is a self-adjoint operator. In a similar way we can also prove T_N is a self-adjoint operator.

It is well known (cf. [3]) that for $s \geq 1$ and $u \in H^s(\Omega)$, the following optimal error hold:

$$\|u - u_N\|_b + N^{-1} \|u - u_N\|_a \leq C(s) N^{-s} \|u\|_s.$$

Hence we have

$$\|T_N - T\|_b = \sup_{g \in L^2(\Omega)} \frac{\|T_N g - Tg\|_b}{\|g\|_b} \leq C N^{-s},$$

This shows that $\|T_N - T\|_b \rightarrow 0$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$.

III. A PRIORI ERROR ESTIMATES OF SPECTRAL-GALERKIN METHOD SELECTING A TEMPLATE

In this section we will provide a priori error estimates for linear elliptic eigenvalue problems based on the spectral-Galerkin method that different from [1]. It is known that (2)

has a countable sequence of real eigenvalues

$0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3 \leq \dots$, and corresponding eigenvectors

$$u_1, u_2, u_3, \dots, \text{ which can be assumed to satisfy } a(u_i, u_j) = \lambda_j b(u_i, u_j) = \delta_{ij},$$

In the sequence $\{\lambda_j\}$, the λ_j are repeated according to geometric multiplicity. It is known that (3) has a finite sequence of eigenvalues $0 \leq \lambda_{1,N} \leq \lambda_{2,N} \leq \lambda_{3,N} \leq \dots$, and corresponding eigenvectors $u_{1,N}, u_{2,N}, u_{3,N}, \dots$, which can be assumed to satisfy

$$a(u_{i,N}, u_{j,N}) = \lambda_{j,N} b(u_{i,N}, u_{j,N}) = \delta_{ij}.$$

Set $M(\lambda)$ be the space spanned by eigenfunctions of

T corresponding to λ . Let $f = \lambda_N u_N$ in (4), where (λ_N, u_N) is an eigenvalue pair of (2), a special solution of (2) is: find u^o such that

$$a(T_N u, v) = \lambda_N (u_N, v), \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega).$$

Lemma 3.1 Assume (λ_N, u_N) is an eigenvalue pair of (3), $\|\cdot\|_b = 1, \lambda_N \rightarrow \lambda$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$. Let E is the orthogonal-

projection operator from $L^2(\Omega)$ onto $M(\lambda)$, taking

$$u = \frac{Eu_N}{\|Eu_N\|_b}.$$

Then

$$\frac{\lambda_N - \lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{b(u, u_N)} b(u^o - u_N, u),$$

$$\|u_N - u\|_b \leq \lambda_N^{-1} \frac{\|u_N - u\|_b}{d(\lambda^{-1})} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\lambda_N^2} \frac{\|u_N - u\|_b^2}{d(\lambda^{-1})}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

where $d(\lambda^{-1})$ is disjunctive constant (see [1]),

$$d(\lambda) = \min_{\lambda_j \neq \lambda} |\lambda_N^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1}|.$$

Proof. Assume (λ, u) is an eigenvalue pair of (3), then

$$\begin{aligned} b(u^o - u_N, u) &= b(u^o, u) - (u_N, u) \\ &= \lambda^{-1} a(u^o, u) - b(u_N, u) = \lambda^{-1} \lambda_N b(u_N, u) - b(u_N, u) \\ &= \frac{\lambda_N - \lambda}{\lambda} b(u_N, u). \end{aligned}$$

We obtain (7). Denote $\{\lambda_j\}$ be the set of all eigenvalue, and u_j be the eigenfunction corresponding to λ_j , $\{u_j\}$

Construct complete orthogonal system, then

$$u_N = \sum_j b(u_N, u_j) u_j, \quad (9)$$

$$Tu_N = \sum_j \lambda_N^{-1} b(u_N, u_j) u_j.$$

Because E be the orthogonal-projection, we have

$$Eu_N = \sum_{\lambda_j = \lambda} b(u_N, u_j) u_j. \quad (10)$$

Combining (9)-(10) and the define of u , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{b(u_N, u)} - 1 &= \frac{1 - b(u_N, u)}{b(u_N, u)} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\|u_N - u\|_b^2}{b(u_N, u)}, \\ b(u_N, u) &= \frac{b(\sum_{\lambda_j = \lambda} b(u_N, u_j) u_j, \sum_j b(u_N, u_j) u_j)}{\|Eu_N\|_b} = \|Eu_N\|_b, \end{aligned}$$

$$b(u_N, Eu_N) = b(\sum_j b(u_N, u_j) u_j, \sum_{\lambda_j = \lambda} b(u_N, u_j) u_j) = \|Eu_N\|_b,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|Eu_N - u_N\|_b^2 &= \sum_{\lambda_j \neq \lambda} b(u_N, u_j)^2 \leq \sum_{\lambda_j \neq \lambda} \frac{(\lambda_N^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1}) b(u_N, u_j)^2}{d(\lambda^{-1})} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda_j \neq \lambda} \frac{(\lambda_N^{-1} b(u_N - u_j) u_j - \lambda_j^{-1} b(u_N - u_j) u_j)^2}{d(\lambda^{-1})^2} = \frac{\|T_N u_N - Tu_N\|_b^2}{d(\lambda^{-1})^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_N - u\|_b^2 &= 2 - 2b(u_N, u) = 2 - 2\|Eu_N\|_b \\ &= 2(1 - \sqrt{1 - \|u_N - Eu_N\|_b^2}), \end{aligned}$$

and use inequality

$$\sqrt{1 - a} \geq 1 - \frac{1}{2} a(a + 1), \forall a \in R, |a| < 1.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_N - u\|_b^2 &\leq \|u_N - Eu_N\|_b^2 (1 + \|u_N - Eu_N\|_b^2) \\ &\leq \frac{\|T_N u_N - Tu_N\|_b^2}{d(\lambda^{-1})^2} (1 + \frac{\|T_N u_N - Tu_N\|_b^2}{d(\lambda^{-1})^2}). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\|u_N - u\|_b^2 \leq \frac{\|T_N u_N - Tu_N\|_b}{d(\lambda^{-1})^2} (1 + \frac{\|T_N u_N - Tu_N\|_b^2}{d(\lambda^{-1})^2})^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (11)$$

By the define of T and T_N , we have

$$u^o = T \lambda_N u_N, u_N = T_N \lambda_N u_N. \quad (12)$$

Combining with (11), (12) we obtain (8). This completes the proof.

Theorem 3.1 Let (λ_N, u_N) be an eigenvalue pair of (3), (λ, u) is an eigenvalue pair of (2) $\lambda_N \rightarrow \lambda$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$, $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$, $s > 1$. Then

$$\|u_N - u\|_b \leq C(\lambda) C(s) N^{-s}, \quad (13)$$

$$\|u_N - u\|_a \leq C(\lambda) C(s) N^{-s}, \quad (14)$$

$$|\lambda_N - \lambda| \leq C(\lambda) C(s) N^{-s}, \quad (15)$$

Proof. Let $f = \lambda_N u_N$ in (4), where (λ_N, u_N) is an

eigenvalue pair of (3), let u^o be an exact solution of (4). Obviously, u_N be an approximate solution. Because of (6) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_N - u^o\|_b &\leq C(\lambda) C(s) N^{-s}, \\ \|u_N - u^o\|_a &\leq C(\lambda) C(s) N^{-s}, \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Submit (16) to Lemma 3.1, we obtain (13), and (15). Let $f = \lambda u$ in (4), where (λ, u) is an eigenvalue pair of (2),

\bar{u}_N be an approximate solution. That is find $\bar{u}_N \in X_N$, such that

$$a(\bar{u}_N, v) = \lambda_N(u_N, v), \forall v \in X_N. \quad (17)$$

Because of (6) we have

Because of (6) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\bar{u}_N - u\|_b &\leq C(s)N^{-s} \|u\|_s, \\ \|\bar{u}_N - u\|_a &\leq C(s)N^{1-s} \|u\|_s. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Combining with (3), (17), we have

$$a(u_N - \bar{u}_N, v) = b(\lambda_N u_N - \lambda u, v), \forall v \in X_N.$$

Take $v = u_N - \bar{u}_N$, we obtain

$$\|u_N - \bar{u}_N\|_a^2 \leq C \|\lambda_N u_N - \lambda u\|_b \|u_N - \bar{u}_N\|_b.$$

Then we have

$$\|u_N - \bar{u}_N\|_a \leq C(\|\lambda_N u_N - \lambda u\|_b + \|u_N - \bar{u}_N\|_b).$$

By using triangle inequality we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - u_N\|_a &\leq \|u - \bar{u}_N\|_a \\ &+ C(\|\lambda_N - \lambda\| \|u_N\|_b + \|\lambda_N u_N - \lambda u\|_b + \|u_N - \bar{u}_N\|_b). \end{aligned}$$

Combining with (13), (15), (18) we obtain

$$\|u - u_N\|_a \leq C(\lambda)C(s)(N^{1-s} \|u\|_s + N^{-s} \|u\|_s).$$

This completes the proof.

IV. ITERATED GALERKIN METHOD

In this section, we shall now introduce iterated-Galerkin method, the iterated Galerkin method for eigenvalue problems may be dated back to [11]. By using the scheme, the solution of an eigenvalue problem on a big spectral space is reduced to the solution of an eigenvalue problem on a small spectral space and solution of a linear algebraic system on the big spectral space, it provides very accurate approximations with a relatively small number of unknowns, because solving an elliptic eigenvalue problem will not be much more difficult than the solution of some standard elliptic boundary value problem.

Let $\square > N$ and assume that $X_N \subset X_\square$. We consider the approximation of any eigenvalue λ of (2). Here and hereafter we let λ_N be the eigenvalue of (3) corresponding to X_N , which satisfies

$$|\lambda_N - \lambda| \leq C(\lambda)C(s)N^{-s}. \quad (19)$$

Iterated Galerkin method for (2) is constructed as follow

Step1: find $(\lambda_N, u_N) \in R \times X_N$, such that $\|u_N\|_b = 1$ and

$$a(u_N, v) = \lambda_N b(u_N, v), \quad \forall v \in X_N. \quad (20)$$

Step 2: find $u_\square^* \in X_\square$, such that

$$a(u_\square^*, v) = \lambda_\square b(u_\square, v), \quad \forall v \in X_\square. \quad (21)$$

Step 3: compute the Rayleigh quotient

$$\lambda_\square^* = \frac{a(u_\square^*, u_\square^*)}{b(u_\square^*, u_\square^*)}. \quad (22)$$

It is seen from Theorem 3.1 that associated with the

eigenfunction u_N obtained by step 1, there exists an exact

eigenfunction u of (2) satisfying $\|u_N\|_b = 1$ and

$$\|u - u_N\|_b + N^{-1} \|u - u_N\|_a \leq C(\lambda)C(s)N^{-s}. \quad (23)$$

Proposition 4.1 Let (λ, u) be an eigenvalue pair of (2).

For any $w \in H_0^1(\Omega) \setminus \{0\}$,

$$\frac{a(w, w)}{b(w, w)} - \lambda = \frac{a(w - u, w - u)}{b(w, w)} - \lambda \frac{b(w - u, w - u)}{b(w, w)}.$$

Theorem 4.1 Let $(\lambda_\square^*, u_\square^*)$ be obtained from the iterated

Galerkin method. If $X_N \subset X_\square$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_\square^* - u\|_a &\leq C(\lambda)C(s)(\square^{1-s} + N^{-s}), \\ |\lambda_\square^* - \lambda|_a &\leq C(\lambda)C(s)(\square^{2-2s} + N^{-2s}). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Assume u^* be an exact solution of (21), combining with (2) we have

$$a(u - u^*, v) = b(\lambda u - \lambda_N u_N, v), \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega). \quad (24)$$

Take $v = u - u^*$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - u^*\|_a &\leq C(\|u_N\|_b |\lambda_N - \lambda| + \lambda \|u - u_N\|_b) \\ &\leq C(\lambda)C(s)N^{-s}. \end{aligned}$$

Because u_\square^* Nbe an approximate solutions of (21), by (6) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_\square^* - u^*\|_a &\leq C(\lambda)C(s)\square^{1-s} \|u\|_s, \\ \|u_\square^* - u^*\|_a &\leq C(\lambda)C(s)\square^{1-s} \|u\|_s. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Using triangle inequality, we obtain

$$\|u_\square^* - u\|_a \leq C(\lambda)C(s)(\square^{1-s} + N^{-s}).$$

Taking $w = u_\square^*$ in Proposition 4.1, we have

$$\frac{a(u_\square^*, u_\square^*)}{b(u_\square^*, u_\square^*)} - \lambda = \frac{\|u_\square^* - u\|_a}{b(u_\square^*, u_\square^*)} - \frac{\|u_\square^* - u\|_b^2}{b(u_\square^*, u_\square^*)}.$$

Combining with (22), we obtain

$$|\lambda_\square^* - \lambda| \leq \frac{\|u_\square^* - u\|_a}{b(u_\square^*, u_\square^*)}.$$

This completes the proof.

V. NUMERICAL EXPERIMENTS

In this section, we report a simple numerical experiments for a second order elliptic operator. We consider the following eigenvalue problem:

$$\begin{aligned} -u'' &= \lambda u, x \in (-1, 1), \\ u(-1) &= u(1) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

The eigenvalue of above equation are easily seen to be given by

$$\lambda_k = \frac{k^2 \pi^2}{4}, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (27)$$

with the corresponding normalized eigenfunctions

$$u(x) = \begin{cases} \cos(\frac{1}{2} k \pi x), k = \text{odd}, \\ \sin(\frac{1}{2} k \pi x), k = \text{even}. \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

Now we apply the algorithm to solve the problem, these estimates mean that we can obtain asymptotically optimal

errors by taking $\square = O(N^{\frac{s}{s-1}})$. If λ_{\square}^* is the first eigenvalue of the problem, then by Theorem 4.1, we have

$$\|u_{\square}^* - u\|_a = O(\square^{1-s}), |\lambda_{\square}^* - \lambda| = O(\square^{2-2s}).$$

The results shown in Table 1 are consistent with the above estimates, this numerical experiments are carried out to verify the theoretical prediction.

Table 1. Iterated Galerkin method for elliptic eigenvalue problems

N	λ_N	λ_N^*	$ \lambda_N - \lambda $	$ \lambda_N^* - \lambda $
3	2.5	2.46774193548387	3.25989×10^{-2}	3.40899×10^{-4}
4	2.4674374053292	2.46740121355576	3.63050×10^{-5}	1.13283×10^{-7}
6	2.4674011087466	2.46740110027234	8.47426×10^{-9}	6.85050×10^{-12}
8	2.46740110027299	2.46740110027234	6.50501×10^{-13}	3.51632×10^{-16}
10	2.467401100272340	2.46740110027233	8.88178×10^{-16}	1.56635×10^{-16}
12	2.467401100272339	2.467401100272339	4.44089×10^{-16}	1.56632×10^{-16}
14	2.467401100272340	2.467401100272339	8.88178×10^{-16}	1.56632×10^{-16}
16	2.467401100272339	2.467401100272339	4.44089×10^{-16}	1.56632×10^{-16}

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