A fast integral equation based solver for the computation of Taylor states in toroidal geometries

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FOREWORD

- Integral formulations are **our natural way** of thinking as physicists

\[ E(x) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int_V \rho(y) \frac{x - y}{|x - y|^3} dy \]

- Yet, they are **rarely favored by physicists as numerical schemes**
- Understandable 30 years ago, when key numerical difficulties were unresolved
- **Applied mathematicians have resolved these issues.** We should now tap the power of integral approaches
- I will illustrate this with a **new, integral equation based Taylor state solver** designed to be used in SPEC
OUTLINE

- Integral equation approaches in physics - advantages, difficulties, and solutions

- A robust integral formulation for electromagnetic scattering off perfect conductors: the generalized Debye representation for time harmonic Maxwell equations

- An integral equation based solver for Taylor states in toroidal geometries
Integral equation approaches in physics: advantages, difficulties, and solutions
INTEGRAL FORMULATION FOR LAPLACE’S EQUATION

- Compute the potential $\phi$ inside the disc due to a potential $u(\theta)$ applied on the unit circle

- We learned/worked out in E&M classes that

$$\phi(x) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C \frac{|x|^2 - 1}{|x - y|^2} u(y) dy$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \phi(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1 - r^2}{1 + r^2 - 2r \cos(\varphi - \theta)} u(\varphi) d\varphi$$

- For the exterior Laplace problem, flip sign in formula

Similar formula for 3D problem and a sphere
Integral formulation for Laplace’s equation

Example: $u(\theta) = \cos(30\theta)$

Exact solution:

$\phi(r, \theta) = r^{30} \cos(30\theta)$

Use trapezoidal rule for integral.

3000 points on boundary.

Domain discretized with 30 radii and 30 angles.
Integral Formulations - General Formalism

- **Goal**: Solve $\Delta \phi = 0$ in $\Omega$ with $\phi = u$ on boundary $\partial \Omega$
  where $\Omega$ is a general 2D domain
- **Green’s identity** tells us

$$
\phi(x) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial \Omega} \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla (\ln |x - y|) u(y) \, dl_y + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial \Omega} \ln |x - y|\, n \cdot \nabla u(y) \, dl_y
$$

- **Problem**: $\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla u(y)$ is not known
- **Idea**: Look for $\phi$ of the form

$$
\phi(x) = \int_{\partial \Omega} \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla (\ln |x - y|) \mu(y) \, dl_y \quad \text{Double layer potential}
$$

- Continuity of $\phi$ all the way to $\partial \Omega$ leads to equation for density $\mu$

$$
-\frac{1}{2} \mu(x) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial \Omega} \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla (\ln |x - y|) \mu(y) \, dl_y = u(x) \quad , \quad x \in \partial \Omega
$$
Integral formulations - General formalism

\[-\frac{1}{2} \mu(x) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial \Omega} \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla (\ln |x - y|) \mu(y) dl_y = u(x), \quad x \in \partial \Omega\]

\[\phi(x) = \int_{\partial \Omega} \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla (\ln |x - y|) \mu(y) dl_y\]

▶ Representation as layer potentials leads to reduction in the dimensionality of the problem and great flexibility in the geometry of the domain

▶ Fredholm integral equation of the second kind for \(\mu\)

▶ Integral equation as well-conditioned as the underlying physics

▶ If these equations are discretized with the Nyström method, there is no penalty for over-discretization in terms of stability.
Stability of a high-β, \( l = 3 \) stellarator

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The stability of an infinitely long, high β, \( l = 3 \) stellarator is investigated. The calculation is carried out by using the new scyllac expansion in the sharp boundary ideal magnetohydrodynamic model. It is found that for any given size \( l = 3 \) field allowed by equilibrium considerations and mode number \( m \), an infinite but discrete set of wavenumbers \( k \) exist for which the plasma is unstable to all β; that is, the critical β equals zero. These modes can be described as long wavelength interchanges. Thus, with regard to sharp boundary stability, \( l = 3 \) is less desirable than \( l = 1 \) for the basic scyllac magnetic field.

D. Solution of Laplace’s equation

We follow closely the procedure outlined previously\(^{11}\) to determine the \( b_p, \hat{b}_p \) in terms of the \( a_p, \hat{a}_p \). For this we need the relationship between \( \psi, \hat{\psi} \) and \( \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \psi, \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \hat{\psi} \) on the plasma surface. This requires the solution of Laplace’s equation in the straight helical geometry for the given boundary and prescribed boundary data. The one simplifying feature is that the solution is needed only on the plasma surface and not over the whole domain. The method consists of deriving an integral equation for \( \psi, \hat{\psi} \) by using a form of Green’s theorem and solving it by Fourier decomposition. As

APPENDIX

Here, we must resolve an important point before a fast and accurate numerical evaluation of the matrix elements \( A_{pn} \) and \( B_{pm} \) can be carried out. Due to the logarithmic singularity in \( F^*(v, v') \) when \( v = v' \) a rather large number of grid points would be required for high accuracy. We therefore seek a convenient function to add and subtract from the integrand, such that the two-dimensional fast Fourier transform is applied only to a smooth function.
INTEGRAL METHODS IN FUSION – NESTOR 1986

THREE-DIMENSIONAL FREE BOUNDARY CALCULATIONS USING A SPECTRAL GREEN'S FUNCTION METHOD

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The plasma energy \( W_{\Omega} = \int_{\Omega_p} \left( \frac{1}{2} B^2 + p \right) \, dV \) is minimized over a toroidal domain \( \Omega_p \) using an inverse representation for the cylindrical coordinates \( R = \sum R_m(s) \cos(m\theta - n\xi) \) and \( Z = \sum Z_m(s) \sin(m\theta - n\xi) \), where \( (s, \theta, \xi) \) are radial, poloidal and toroidal flux coordinates, respectively. The radial resolution of the MHD equations is significantly improved by separating \( R \) and \( Z \) into contributions from even and odd poloidal harmonics which are individually analytic near the magnetic axis. A free boundary equilibrium results when \( \Omega_p \) is varied to make the total pressure \( \frac{1}{2} B^2 + p \) continuous at the plasma surface \( \Sigma_p \) and when the vacuum magnetic field \( B_0 \) satisfies the Neumann condition \( B_0 \cdot d\Sigma_p = 0 \). The vacuum field is decomposed as \( B_0 = B_0^e + \nabla \Phi \), where \( B_0^e \) is the field arising from plasma currents and external coils and \( \Phi \) is a single-valued potential necessary to satisfy \( B_0^e \cdot d\Sigma_p = 0 \) when \( p \neq 0 \). A Green's function method is used to obtain an integral equation over \( \Sigma_p \) for the scalar magnetic potential \( \Phi = \sum \Phi_{mn} \sin(m\theta - n\xi) \). A linear matrix equation is solved for \( \Phi_{mn} \) to determine \( \frac{1}{2} B_0^2 \) on the boundary. Real experimental conditions are simulated by keeping the external and net plasma currents constant during the iteration. Applications to \( i = 2 \) stellarator equilibria are presented.

The free boundary problem requires only the value of \( B_0^2 \) on the boundary, which is obtained from \( B_0 \) and \( \Phi(x) \) on \( \Sigma_p \). Treating the vacuum problem by solving the integral equation (3.2) appears to be an appropriate approach, both because the solution yields \( \Phi(x) \) on \( \Sigma_p \) and because no extraneous values of \( \Phi(x) \) in the vacuum region are ever computed.

The main difficulty inherent to the Green's function method is the calculation of the Fourier transform of the singular Green's function and its normal derivative. This is solved by the following regularization procedure. Appropriate functions with the same singularity and periodicity are subtracted from the kernels, and their analytically calculated Fourier transforms are added to the Fourier transformed integral equation.
DIFFICULTIES WITH INTEGRAL FORMULATIONS

- Quadratures involve **singular integrands**

\[
-\frac{1}{2} \mu(x_i) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \omega_{ij} \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla (\ln |x_i - x_j|) \mu(x_j) = u(x_i)
\]

in principle \(O(N^3)\) work
Dealing with singular integrands: QBX

- Field induced by integral operator is locally smooth when restricted to the interior.
- Idea: Take expansion centers away from $\partial \Omega$ and evaluate field close to $\partial \Omega$ through Taylor expansions.
- Known as Quadrature By Expansion (QBX) scheme\(^1\) (QBX) scheme.

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ACCELERATING THE CALCULATION OF $\mu$

A seemingly unrelated problem: Consider $N$ charges $q_i$ at different locations $z_i$, and compute the potential $\phi$ at each $z_i$

- A naive calculation takes $O(N^2)$ work.
- Can do much better: think of two separate groups of charges

$\phi(z) = \left( \sum_{i}^{N} q_i \right) \ln z + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_k}{z^k}$

$a_k = - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{q_i z_i}{k}$

- Idea of the Fast Multipole Method\(^2\): Approximate potential far away from given group of charges by multipole expansion

Accuracy determined by number of terms $p$ in expansion and minimal distance between groups of charges

THE FAST MULTIPOLe METHOD FOR POINT CHARGES

▶ For given charge distribution, construct adaptive quad tree

▶ Define adjacent boxes as neighbors
▶ For neighbors, compute interaction with exact summation
▶ For boxes far away, use expansion - accuracy now only depends on $p$
▶ Run time complexity: $O(N)$!
The FMM for the computation of $\mu$

- The FMM can be viewed as a fast scheme for evaluating the matrix vector product
  $$\phi = Mq$$
  with $M_{ij} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \ln |x_i - x_j|$ and $q$ the vector of point charges
- Matrix equation for $\mu$ is $(I - K)\mu = -2u$ with $K$ in the class of operators for which FMM works
- $\mu$ can be solved in order $N$ or $N \log N$ time with FMM+GMRES
- Recently, new fast direct solvers developed, which can be competitive\(^3,^4\)
- Often, high accuracy reached for $N$ small, so dense linear algebra does not hurt

INTEGRAL FORMULATIONS HAVE DEFEATED LAPLACE’S EQUATION
A robust integral formulation for electromagnetic scattering off perfect conductors: the generalized Debye sources representation for time harmonic Maxwell equations
Electromagnetic scattering

- Time-harmonic problem:

\[ \nabla \times \mathbf{H} = -ik\mathbf{E} \quad \text{,} \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = ik\mathbf{H} \]

- Subject to perfect conductor boundary conditions:

\[ \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E} = 0 \quad \text{,} \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{H} = 0 \]
**Integral Formulations for Time-Harmonic Maxwell**

\[ \mathbf{E} = ik \mathbf{A} - \nabla \phi, \quad \mathbf{H} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \]

with

\[ \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{ik|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}|}}{4\pi|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}|} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{y})dA_y, \quad \phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{ik} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{ik|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}|}}{4\pi|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}|} (\nabla_{\Gamma} \cdot \mathbf{J})(\mathbf{y})dA_y \]

Two formulations usually considered:

1. **Electric Field Integral Equation Formulation (EFIE):** unknown is \( \mathbf{J} \), and integral equation for \( \mathbf{J} \) obtained by imposing \( \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E} = 0 \)

2. **Magnetic Field Integral Equation Formulation (MFIE):** unknown is \( \mathbf{J} \), and integral equation for \( \mathbf{J} \) obtained by imposing \( \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} \)
ISSUES WITH EFIE AND MFIE

- Both formulations have **spurious resonances**: frequencies $k$ for which the integral equations are not invertible

- "Low frequency breakdown": $E$ involves one term $\propto k$ and one term $\propto 1/k$

- The electric field does not uncouple naturally from the magnetic field as $k \to 0$

- In the multiply connected case, the MFIE has a nontrivial null space in the limit $k \to 0$
AN ELEGANT SOLUTION: THE GENERALIZED DEBYE REPRESENTATION

- Use potentials \((A, u)\) and antipotentials \((Q, v)\) to write \(E\) and \(H\):

\[
E = ikA - \nabla u - \nabla \times Q, \quad H = ikQ - \nabla v + \nabla \times A
\]

with

\[
A(x) = \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{ik|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} j(x')dA' \quad u(x) = \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{ik|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} r(x')dA'
\]

\[
Q(x) = \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{ik|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} m(x')dA' \quad v(x) = \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{ik|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} \sigma(x')dA'
\]

with the continuity conditions \(\nabla_{\Gamma} \cdot j = ikr\), \(\nabla_{\Gamma} \cdot m = ik\sigma\)

- In the simply connected case, system of equations has a unique solution for all frequencies with nonnegative imaginary part

- Uncoupling into an electrostatic problem involving \(r\) and a magnetostatic problem involving \(\sigma\) in limit \(k \to 0\)

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An integral equation based solver for Taylor states in toroidal geometries
STEellarator equilibria and Beltrami fields

- Proof of existence of 3D MHD equilibria for piecewise constant pressure profile (and small departure from axisymmetry) by O.P. Bruno and P. Laurence, CPAM 49, 717 (1996)

- Magnetic field in torii with constant pressure:

\[ \nabla p = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{J} = \mu \mathbf{B} \Rightarrow \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \lambda \mathbf{B} \quad \text{Beltrami field!} \]

- Such equilibria also make physical sense (Taylor relaxation) and form the basis of the code SPEC\(^6\)

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Beltrami fields through generalized Debye potentials

Given $\lambda, \Phi_{tor}, \Phi_{pol}$, solve

\[
\begin{aligned}
\nabla \times \mathbf{B} &= \lambda \mathbf{B} \quad \text{in } \Omega \\
\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{n} &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma
\end{aligned}
\]

\[
\int_{S_t} \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \Phi_{tor}, \quad \int_{S_p} \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \Phi_{pol}
\]

- Let $\mathbf{E} = i\mathbf{B}$, $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{B}$ satisfy the vacuum time-harmonic Maxwell equations, with $\lambda$ playing the role of $k$
- General potentials/“antipotentials” representation for $\mathbf{E}$ and $\mathbf{H}$

\[
\mathbf{E} = i\lambda \mathbf{A} - \nabla u - \nabla \times \mathbf{Q}
\]

\[
\mathbf{H} = i\lambda \mathbf{Q} - \nabla v + \nabla \times \mathbf{A}
\]

- Satisfy $\mathbf{E} = i\mathbf{H}$ if $\mathbf{A} = i\mathbf{Q}, u = iv$. Write $\mathbf{B}$ as

\[
\mathbf{B} = i\lambda \mathbf{Q} - \nabla v + i\nabla \times \mathbf{Q}
\]
Generalized Debye Representation of $Q$ and $\nu$

- $Q$ and $\nu$ are written in terms of layer potentials

\[
Q(x) = \int_\Gamma \frac{e^{i\lambda|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} m(x')dA' \quad \nu(x) = \int_\Gamma \frac{e^{i\lambda|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} \sigma(x')dA'
\]

- $m$ and $\sigma$ are related through

\[
m = i\lambda \left( \nabla_\Gamma \Delta_\Gamma^{-1} \sigma - i \mathbf{n} \times \nabla_\Gamma \Delta_\Gamma^{-1} \sigma \right) + \alpha \mathbf{m}_H.
\]

$\nabla_\Gamma$: surface gradient operator
$\Delta_\Gamma^{-1}$: inverse of the surface Laplacian along $\Gamma$ restricted to the class of mean-zero functions
$m_H$ is a tangential harmonic vector field satisfying

\[
\nabla_\Gamma \cdot m_H = 0, \quad \nabla_\Gamma \cdot \mathbf{n} \times m_H = 0 \quad \mathbf{n} \times m_H = -i m_H.
\]

$\alpha$: complex number determined by B.C.
**Integral Equation for \( \sigma \) and \( \alpha \)**

- Apply \( \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \) and the flux condition to get integral equations for \( \sigma \) and \( \alpha \):

\[
\frac{\sigma}{2} - \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{i\lambda|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} \sigma(x')dS' \\
+ i\lambda \mathbf{n} \cdot \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{i\mu|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} \mathbf{m}dS' + i\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \times \int_{\Gamma} \frac{e^{i\lambda|x-x'|}}{4\pi|x-x'|} \mathbf{m}dS' = 0
\]

\[
\frac{1}{\mu} \int_{\partial S_t} \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \Phi^{tor}
\]

- Well-conditioned, second kind integral equation
- Unknowns only defined on \( \Gamma \)
- Similar formulation (with more terms) for toroidal shells
NUMERICS

- $16^{th}$ order hybrid Gauss-trapezoidal rule for singular integrals
- Use Fourier spectral differentiation matrix to evaluate $\nabla \Gamma$
- Compute $\Delta^{-1}_{\Gamma}$ by solving

$$ (\Delta_{\Gamma} + \int_{\Gamma} dS)\omega = f $$

Invertible equation, and $\omega$ satisfies $\Delta_{\Gamma}\omega = f$ and $\int_{\Gamma} \omega dS = 0$

- Use recent numerical scheme for $m_H$ for nonaxisymmetric surfaces\(^7\)

- Major simplifications for axisymmetric equilibria:
  1. Closed form formula for basis of harmonic surface vector field $m_H$

\[
    m_{H1} = \frac{1}{R} \tau \quad m_{H2} = -\frac{1}{R} e_\zeta
\]

where $\tau$, $e_\zeta$, $n$ local orthonormal basis on flux surface.
  2. High order accuracy achieved with few unknowns $\Rightarrow$ dense linear algebra solvers fast

\(^7\)L.-M. Imbert-Gérard, L. Greengard, Numerical Methods for PDEs, 33 941 (2017)
TESTING THE SOLVER: CONSTRUCTING EXACT TAYLOR STATES

- View Taylor state as Grad-Shafranov equilibrium
  \[ \Delta^* \psi = -\lambda^2 \psi \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \psi = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma \]
- A general solution is
  \[ \psi(r, z, c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, c_5, c_6, \lambda) = \psi_0 + c_1 \psi_1 + c_2 \psi_2 + c_3 \psi_3 + c_4 \psi_4 + c_5 \psi_5 \]
  \[ \psi_0 = r J_1(\lambda r), \quad \psi_1 = r Y_1(\lambda r), \quad \psi_2 = r J_1 \left( \sqrt{\lambda^2 - c_6^2 r} \right) \cos(c_6 z) \]
  \[ \psi_3 = r Y_1 \left( \sqrt{\lambda^2 - c_6^2 r} \right) \cos(c_6 z), \quad \psi_4 = \cos \left( \lambda \sqrt{r^2 + z^2} \right) \]
  \[ \psi_5 = \cos(\lambda z) \]
- The toroidal flux is then given by \[ \Phi^{tor} = \lambda \int \int_{\Omega} \frac{\psi}{r} dr dz \]
- For Taylor states with \textbf{X-points}, use 5 more terms and 5 more \( c_i \)

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TESTING THE SOLVER: CONSTRUCTING EXACT TAYLOR STATES

- Treat $\lambda$ as unknown along with the 6 $c_i$
- Solve for the unknowns by imposing 7 conditions on $\psi = 0$ curve

\[
\begin{aligned}
\psi(1 + \epsilon, 0, C) &= 0 \\
\psi(1 - \epsilon, 0, C) &= 0 \\
\psi(1 - \delta\epsilon, -\kappa\epsilon, C) &= 0 \\
\psi_r(1 - \delta\epsilon, -\kappa\epsilon, C) &= 0 \\
\psi_{zz}(1 + \epsilon, 0, C) + N_1\psi_r(1 + \epsilon, 0, C) &= 0 \\
\psi_{zz}(1 - \epsilon, 0, C) + N_2\psi_r(1 - \epsilon, 0, C) &= 0 \\
\psi_{rr}(1 - \delta\epsilon, -\kappa\epsilon, C) + N_3\psi_z(1 - \delta\epsilon, -\kappa\epsilon, C) &= 0
\end{aligned}
\]

$N_1, N_2, N_3$: curvatures at three points $(1 + \epsilon, 0)$, $(1 - \epsilon, 0)$, $(1 - \delta\epsilon, \kappa\epsilon)$
**Comparison with exact Beltrami field**

Challenging very low aspect ratio, high elongation Taylor state:

| $n$ | $B_r$          | $B_\phi$       | $B_z$                        | $|B - B_{\text{exact}}| / |B_{\text{exact}}|$ |
|-----|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 25  | 0.443052524078644 | 3.10056763474524 | -3.784408049008867E-002     | 2.7 · 10^{-3}                  |
| 50  | 0.442014263551259 | 3.09845144534915 | -4.109405171821609E-002     | 2.5 · 10^{-5}                  |
| 100 | 0.442018001760211 | 3.09850436011175 | -4.104126312770094E-002     | 3.9 · 10^{-8}                  |
| 200 | 0.442017994270342 | 3.09850428092008 | -4.104130814605825E-002     | 1.2 · 10^{-8}                  |
COMPARISON WITH EXACT BELTRAMI FIELD

Challenging very low aspect ratio, high elongation Taylor state:

| $n$  | $B_r$     | $B_\phi$         | $B_z$            | $|B - B_{\text{exact}}| / |B_{\text{exact}}|$ |
|------|-----------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 25   | -0.7790590773628590 | 0.5058371725845370 | 0.9957374643442100 | 1.3 · $10^{-2}$ |
| 50   | -0.7758504363890280  | 0.5043487336557070 | 0.9869834030024680 | 7.3 · $10^{-4}$ |
| 100  | -0.7754614741802320 | 0.5046765566326400 | 0.9867586238268730 | 3.0 · $10^{-6}$ |
| 200  | -0.7754611961412940 | 0.5046760189196530 | 0.9867575110491060 | 8.6 · $10^{-7}$ |
$N = 1$ non-axisymmetric Taylor states for $\lambda \in [1, 8]$
RECAP

- We developed an integral equation formulation for Taylor states in toroidal geometries
- $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu B$ exactly, by construction, independently of the accuracy of the answer
- Unknowns only defined on the boundary of the domain
- Reduction in dimension $\Rightarrow$ high accuracy for low number of unknowns, and low memory requirement
- Particularly interesting for SPEC, since at each iteration step, $B^2 / 2 \mu_0 + p$ only needed on boundary of each region
- Exploring additional savings for the iteration, because of theorem by Kirsch regarding boundary derivatives in scattering problems\(^9\)
- Code for general stellarator geometries finished by December

Integral equation approaches in physics: advantages, difficulties, and solutions
**Grad-Shafranov Equation as Nonlinear Poisson Problem**

\[ R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left( \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial R} \right) + \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial Z^2} = R^2 h(\Psi(R, Z), R) \]

- Solution requires **iteration** as we saw
- Without extra computational cost, solve GSE as

\[ \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial R^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial Z^2} = \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial R} + R^2 h(\Psi(R, Z), R) \]

**Pro**: Gives access to numerical methods for Poisson’s equation

**Con**: Iteration on derivative term converges less fast

- **Better solution**, change unknown: \( \Psi = \sqrt{R}U \)

\[ \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial R^2} + \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial Z^2} = \frac{3}{4} \frac{U}{R^2} + R^{3/2} h(\sqrt{R}U, R) \]

\( U = 0 \) on plasma boundary