# Multilevel Monte Carlo methods for Uncertainty Quantification

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# Outline

Problem setting

- Multilevel Monte Carlo method
- 3 MLMC for moments and distributions
- 4 Generalizations of MLMC



# UQ analysis for complex models







Working assumptions:

- Complex computational models:a single scenario analysis is computationally heavy
- multiple scenarios investigation and UQ analysis is often unaffordable
- Question: how to exploit multiple discretizations with different accuracy levels to reduce the cost of UQ analysis



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# Problem setting – forward uncertainty propagation

- Random input parameters: y ∈ Γ with given distribution
   Assumption 1: we can sample y exactly and independently.
- Complex differential model (e.g. Euler, Navier-Stokes, elastodynamics, ...):

$$\mathcal{L}_{y} u = \mathcal{F}_{y} \tag{1}$$

Assumption 2: for any y ∈ Γ, (1) has a unique solution u = u(y) ∈ V (V: solution space, typically a Banach space)
(random) Output quantity of interest (e.g. lift, drag, etc.):

$$Q(y) = \tilde{Q}(y, u(y)) \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \forall y \in \Gamma$$

Goal: compute  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[Q] = \mathbb{E}_{y}[\tilde{Q}(y, u(y))]$  or other statistical quantities In practice, u is not accessible and can only be computed approximately. Computational model

 $\mathcal{L}_{h,y}u_h = \mathcal{F}_{y,h},$  Computational output  $Q_h(y) = \tilde{Q}(y, u_h(y))$ 

*h*: discretization parameter (e.g. mesh size);  $Q_h(y) \xrightarrow{h o 0} Q(y), \ \forall y \in \Gamma$ 

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- Generate M iid copies  $y^{(1)}, \ldots, y^{(M)} \sim y$
- Compute the corresponding outputs  $Q_h(y^{(i)})$ , i = 1, ..., M
- Approximate expectation by sample average  $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_{M}[\cdot]$

$$\hat{\mu}_{MC} := \hat{\mathbb{E}}_M[Q_h] = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M Q_h^{(i)}$$

**Bias** (discretization error):

$$m{B} := \mathbb{E}[\hat{\mu}_{m{MC}}] - \mu = rac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \mathbb{E}[Q_h(y^{(i)})] - \mathbb{E}[Q]$$
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The estimator is biased, in general, because of the discretization error **Variance** (statistical error):

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### Mean squared error

$$MSE(\hat{\mu}_{MC}) := \mathbb{E}[(\hat{\mu}_{MC} - \mu)^{2}] = \mathbb{E}[(\hat{\mu}_{MC} - \mathbb{E}[\hat{\mu}_{MC}] + \mathbb{E}[\hat{\mu}_{MC}] - \mu)^{2}]$$
$$= V_{MC} + B^{2}$$
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Controlling the MSE

- Bias estimation: needs an error estimator  $\eta_h(y) \approx Q_h(y) Q(y)$ , e.g.
  - goal oriented a posteriori error estimator (dual weighted residual based)
  - $Q_h(y) Q^*(y)$  with  $Q^*(y)$  a Richardson extrapolation from  $Q_h(y), Q_{2h}(y)$

Then, 
$$B \approx \hat{B} := \hat{\mathbb{E}}_M[\eta_h] = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \eta_h(y^{(i)})$$

• Variance estimation: one can use the sample variance estimator  $\hat{V}_h := \hat{V}_{ar_M}[Q_h] = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{i=1}^M (Q_h(y^{(i)}) - \hat{\mu}_{MC})^2$ . Then

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EPP

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### Using the Central Limit Theorem (CLT)

$$\sqrt{M}(\hat{\mu}_{MC} - \mathbb{E}[\hat{\mu}_{MC}]) \xrightarrow{d} N(0, V_h)$$

Asymprotic confidence interval: with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ 

$$|\hat{\mu}_{MC} - \mu| \le |\hat{\mu}_{MC} - \mathbb{E}[\hat{\mu}_{MC}]| + |\mathbb{E}[\hat{\mu}_{MC}] - \mu|$$
$$\sim c_{\delta} \frac{\sqrt{V_h}}{\sqrt{M}} + |B|$$



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• preliminary grid convergence study: find suitable h for which  $\hat{B} \leq \frac{\text{tol}}{\sqrt{2}}$ **2** Pilot run: compute  $\hat{\mu}_{MC}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{M^{(0)}} \sum_{i=1}^{M^{(0)}} Q_h(y^{(i)})$  and estimate 3 while  $\frac{\hat{V}_{h}^{(k-1)}}{M^{(k-1)}} > \frac{\mathrm{tol}^{2}}{2}$  do • output  $\hat{\mu}_{MC}^{(k)}$  and  $\widehat{MSE}(\hat{\mu}_{MC}^{(k)}) = \hat{B}^2 + \frac{\hat{V}_h^{(k)}}{\hbar \epsilon^{(k)}}$ 



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- The error may be split unevenly between bias and variance:  $\hat{B}^2 \leq (1-\theta) \operatorname{tol}^2$ ,  $\frac{\hat{V}_h}{M} \leq \theta \operatorname{tol}^2$ .
- Instead of the MSE one can control the asymptotic confidence interval:  $-\hat{B}| \leq \frac{\text{tol}}{2}, \quad c_{\delta} \frac{\sqrt{\hat{V}_h}}{\sqrt{M}} \leq \frac{\text{tol}}{2}$
- The previous algorithm may suffer from early termination if the variance estimate  $\hat{V}_h$  is inaccurate and too small (which may happen if M is small).
- For a more robust version one could set at items 3.1-3.2 M<sup>(k)</sup> = γM<sup>(k-1)</sup> (γ > 1) and resample from scratch (i = 1,...M<sup>(k)</sup>). This gives a more robust algorithm with only little extra cost:

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Assumptions: for a *d*-dimensional problem

- $|\mathbb{E}[Q Q_h]| \leq C_{\alpha} h^{\alpha}$ , (grid convergence with rate  $\alpha$  on the mean)
- $\operatorname{Var}[Q_h] \leq C_{\beta}$ ,  $(\operatorname{Var}[Q_h] \approx \operatorname{Var}[Q] \nrightarrow 0$  as  $h \to 0$ )
- cost to compute each  $Q_h^{(i)}$ :  $C_h \leq C_\gamma h^{-d\gamma}$

(typically,  $\#dofs \simeq h^{-d}$  and the cost  $C_h$  depends algebraically on #dofs)

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$$B^{2} \leq \frac{\operatorname{tol}^{2}}{2} \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad h \simeq \operatorname{tol}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}$$
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$$\operatorname{Cost}(\hat{\mu}_{MC}, \operatorname{tol}) = \operatorname{C_hM} \simeq \operatorname{tol}^{-2 - \frac{d\gamma}{\alpha}}$$


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 $\begin{aligned} & dX_t = a(t,X_t)dt + b(t,X_t)dW_t(y), \qquad t \in (0,T], \qquad X_0 = x_0 \\ & \text{Quantity of interest:} \quad Q = \tilde{Q}(X_T) \end{aligned}$ 

here  $W_t(y)$  is a standard Wiener process (y denotes a random elementary event) Discretization by Euler-Maruyama with step size h = T/N and  $t_n = nh$ 

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For smooth  $a(\cdot)$  and  $b(\cdot)$  one has

•  $|\mathbb{E}[Q - Q_h]| \lesssim h$  (order 1 convergence for the mean – weak rate)

- $\mathbb{E}[(Q-Q_h)^2]^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq h^{\frac{1}{2}}$  (order 1/2 in mean square sense strong rate)
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Hence:  $\alpha = 1$ , d = 1,  $\gamma = 1 \implies \operatorname{Cost}(\hat{\mu}_{MC}, \operatorname{tol}) \simeq \operatorname{tol}^{-3}$ 

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F. Nobile (EPFL)

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EPFL

 $-\operatorname{div}(a(y)\nabla u) = f$ , in  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , u = 0, on  $\partial D$ 

with a(y) uniformly bounded, positive and Lipschitz continuous random field. Quantity of interest: Lipschitz functional  $Q = \tilde{Q}(u)$  (e.g.  $Q = \frac{1}{|\Sigma|} \int_{\Sigma} ||\nabla u||$ ,  $\Sigma \subset D$ )

Discretization by  $\mathbb{P}^1$  finite elements on a regular triangulation with mesh size h.

Assumptions

- $0 < a_{min} \leq a(x, y) \leq a_{max}, \ \forall x \in D, \ y \in \Gamma$
- $\|\nabla a(\cdot, y)\|_{L^{\infty}(D)} \leq K, \quad \forall y \in \Gamma$
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Then

- $\ \ \, \|u(y)-u_h(y)\|_{H^1}\leq Ch, \ \forall y\in \mathsf{\Gamma} \ (\text{order 1 "pathwise" convergence rate})$
- |Q(y) Q<sub>h</sub>(y)| ≤ ||u(y) u<sub>h</sub>(y)||<sub>H<sup>1</sup></sub> ≤ h, ∀y ∈ Γ (order 1 "pathwise" convergence on Lipschitz functionals; for smoother functionals the rate could be up to 2)
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From 2. we deduce  $|\mathbb{E}[Q - Q_h]| \leq \mathbb{E}[|Q - Q_h|] \lesssim h$ .

Hence  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\gamma = 1$  (optimal solver). For a 3D problem d = 3

 $\operatorname{Cost}(\hat{\mu}_{MC},\operatorname{tol})\simeq\operatorname{tol}^{-5}$ 

To reduce the error by a factor 10, the cost increses by a factor  $10^5$  !

Can we do better than that ?

Yes. Multilevel Monte Carlo can bring this cost down to tol<sup>-2</sup> in favorable cases?

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## Outline

Problem setting

#### 2 Multilevel Monte Carlo method

3 MLMC for moments and distributions

#### 4 Generalizations of MLMC



# Multilevel Monte Carlo (MLMC) method

Iterated control variate idea [Heinrich 1998], [Giles 2008]



• Sequence of refined discretizations (not necessarily nested nor structured)

$$h_0 > h_1 > \ldots > h_L$$

• Sequence of sample sizes

 $M_0 > M_1 > \cdots > M_L$ 

We assume that the mesh size  $h_L$  achieves the desired accuracy and aim at computing  $\mathbb{E}[Q_{h_L}]$ .

Simple idea: write a **telescopic sum** (denoting  $Q_{\ell} = Q_{h_{\ell}}$ )

$$\mathbb{E}[Q_L] = \mathbb{E}[Q_0] + \mathbb{E}[Q_1 - Q_0] + \ldots + \mathbb{E}[Q_L - Q_{L-1}]$$

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Controlled by the choice of sample sizes  $\{M_\ell\}_{\ell=0}^L$ .

Mean squared error

$$\mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}) = B^2 + V_{MLMC} = \mathbb{E}[Q - Q_L]^2 + \frac{\mathrm{Var}[Q_0]}{M_0} + \sum_{\ell=1}^L \frac{\mathrm{Var}[Q_\ell - Q_{\ell-1}]}{M_\ell}$$

Key point: Since Var[Q<sub>ℓ</sub> − Q<sub>ℓ−1</sub>] gets smaller and smaller for large ℓ, one can take M<sub>ℓ</sub> smaller and smaller. Only few samples on the fine grid h<sub>L</sub>.

EPFL

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# Optimal choice of $M_{\ell}$ (optimal allocation)

- $C_0$ : cost of generating one realization of  $Q_0$
- $\mathcal{C}_\ell$ : cost of generating one realization of  $\mathcal{Q}_\ell \mathcal{Q}_{\ell-1}$ ,  $\ell > 0$

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$$V_0 = \operatorname{Var}[Q_0]$$

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Total cost: 
$$\operatorname{Cost}(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{L} M_{\ell} C_{\ell},$$
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**Problem**: Find optimal  $\{M_\ell\}_{\ell=0}^L$  to minimize the cost at a fixed variance level

$$\min_{\{M_\ell\}} \sum_{\ell=0}^L M_\ell C_\ell \qquad \text{subject to} \quad \sum_{\ell=0}^L M_\ell^{-1} V_\ell \leq \operatorname{tol}^2$$

**Solution**: if we replace  $M_{\ell}$  by continuous variables (relaxation), the optimal solution is

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EP!

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Substituting into the constraint gives

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In practice, one should take the ceiling of the real value  $M_\ell$  (important if  $M_\ell < 1$ ). That is, we have for the MLMC estimator

• Optimal sample sizes: 
$$M_{\ell} = \left[ \text{tol}^{-2} \sqrt{\frac{V_{\ell}}{C_{\ell}}} \sum_{j=0}^{L} \sqrt{V_j C_j} \right]$$

Replacing in the cost extression  $Cost(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}, tol) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{L} C_{\ell} M_{\ell}$  and using that  $\lceil x \rceil \leq x + 1, \ \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ 

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To analyze the complexity of the MLMC estimator, we make the following assumptions (see also [Giles 2008], [Cliffe et al. 2011])

**Assumptions**: for a problem in  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  (*d*-dimensional)

- $h_\ell = h_0 \delta^\ell$ ,  $0 < \delta < 1$  (sequence of geometric meshes)
- $\mathbb{E}[(Q Q_{\ell})^2] \leq \hat{C}_{\beta} h_{\ell}^{\beta}$  (strong rate of conv.)
- $C_{\ell} = C_{\gamma} h_{\ell}^{-d\gamma} \ (\gamma = 3$

Notice that from 3 it follows that

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$$V_{\ell} \leq C_{\beta} h_{\ell}^{\beta}$$
, with  $C_{\beta} = 2\hat{C}_{\beta}(1 + \delta^{-\beta})$ .

Indeed:

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Moreover one always has  $\beta \leq 2\alpha$  (typically  $\beta = 2\alpha$  for PDEs with random coefficients). Indeed by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$\mathbb{E}[Q-Q_\ell] \leq \mathbb{E}[(Q-Q_\ell)^2]^{rac{1}{2}} \leq \sqrt{ ilde{\mathcal{C}}_eta} h_\ell^{rac{eta}{2}}, \hspace{0.2cm} ext{hence} \hspace{0.2cm} lpha \geq rac{eta}{2}$$

#### Theorem (MLMC Complexity, [Cliffe et al. 2011])

Under the assumptions 1-4 above, if  $2\alpha \ge \min(\beta, d\gamma)$ , the computational cost required to approximate  $\mathbb{E}[Q]$  with MLMC with accuracy 0 < tol < 1/e in mean square sense, that is  $\mathbb{E}[(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC} - \mu)^2] \le \text{tol}^2$  is bounded as follows:

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**Recall**: standard MC has corresponding complexity of  $Cost(\hat{\mu}_{MC}, tol) \propto tol^{-2-d\gamma/\alpha}$ 



Moreover one always has  $\beta \leq 2\alpha$  (typically  $\beta = 2\alpha$  for PDEs with random coefficients). Indeed by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

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F. Nobile (EPFL)

# Proof. We enforce the error constraint $MSE(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}) \leq tol^2$ as

$$\text{Bias constraint: } |\mathbb{E}[Q - Q_L]|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{tol}^2, \quad \text{Var. constraint: } \mathbb{V}ar[\hat{\mu}_{\text{MLMC}}] \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{tol}^2$$

From the Bias constraint we get

$$L(\text{tol}) \equiv \mathbf{L} = \left\lceil \frac{\log(\sqrt{2}\mathbf{C}_{\alpha}\mathbf{h}_{0}^{\alpha}\text{tol}^{-1})}{\alpha\log\delta^{-1}} \right\rceil \sim \log_{\delta} \text{tol}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} .$$

Setting  $\tilde{C}_{\beta} = C_{\beta} h_0^{\beta}$  and  $\tilde{C}_{\gamma} = C_{\gamma} h_0^{-d\gamma}$ , the total cost is:

$$\operatorname{Cost}(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}, \operatorname{tol}) \leq \operatorname{tol}^{-2} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{L} \sqrt{\tilde{C}_{\beta} \tilde{C}_{\gamma}} \delta^{j\frac{\beta-d\gamma}{2}} \right)^{2} + \sum_{j=0}^{L} C_{j}$$



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Let us focus on two particular cases:

• Fast convergence rate,  $\beta > d\gamma$ .

Here the complexity of MLMC is  $tol^{-2}$ , which is the same of Monte Carlo sampling when the cost to sample each realization is *fixed*. This means that we do not see the effect of the fine  $h_L$  discretization in the rates!

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Further remarks:

- In all cases, MLMC has a better asymptotic complexity than MC. (in the pre-asymptotic regime, this is not always the case).
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### Example 1 – stochastic differential equation

 $\begin{aligned} & dX_t = a(t,X_t)dt + b(t,X_t)dW_t(y), \qquad t \in (0,T], \qquad X_0 = x_0 \\ & \text{Quantity of interest:} \quad Q = \tilde{Q}(X_T) \end{aligned}$ 

discretized by Euler-Maruyama with step size  $h_{\ell} = h_0 2^{-\ell}$ . We have already seen that for smooth  $a(\cdot)$  and  $b(\cdot)$  one has

|E[Q - Q<sub>ℓ</sub>]| ≤ h<sub>ℓ</sub> (order 1 convergence for the mean - weak rate)
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From 2 we deduce  $V_\ell = \mathbb{V}\!\mathrm{ar}[\mathcal{Q}_\ell - \mathcal{Q}_{\ell-1}] \lesssim h_\ell$ 

Hence:  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $\beta = 1$ , d = 1,  $\gamma = 1 \implies \operatorname{Cost}(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}, \operatorname{tol}) \simeq \operatorname{tol}^{-2} \log^{2}(\operatorname{tol})$ 

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### Example 2 – PDE with random parameters

 $-\operatorname{div}(a(y)\nabla u) = f$ , in  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , u = 0, on  $\partial D$ 

and  $Q = \tilde{Q}(u)$  a Lipschitz functional. Discretization by  $\mathbb{P}^1$  finite elements on a regular triangulation with mesh size h. Under suitable assumptions

|Q(y) - Q<sub>ℓ</sub>(y)| ≤ Ch<sub>ℓ</sub>, ∀y ∈ Γ (order 1 strong convergence)
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From 1. we infer  $|\mathbb{E}[Q - Q_{\ell}]| \lesssim h_{\ell}$  and  $V_{\ell} = \mathbb{V}ar[Q_{\ell} - Q_{\ell-1}] \lesssim h_{\ell}^2$ .

2D case:  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $\beta = 2$ , d = 2, and  $\gamma = 1$  (optimal solver) ( $\beta = d\gamma$ )

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### **Recall**: $MSE(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}) = B^2 + V_{MLMC} = \mathbb{E}[Q - Q_L]^2 + \sum_{\ell=0}^{L} \frac{V_{\ell}}{M_{\ell}}$

Given a hierarchy  $\{M_\ell\}_\ell$  and samples  $\{\Delta_\ell Q(y^{(i,\ell)}), i = 1, \dots, M_\ell\}_{\ell=0}^L$ , with  $\Delta_\ell Q = Q_\ell - Q_{\ell-1}$ 

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Variance estimation: use sample variance estimator

$$\hat{V}_{MLMC} := \sum_{\ell=0}^{L} \frac{\hat{V}_{\ell}}{M_{\ell}} \quad \text{with} \quad \hat{V}_{\ell} = \widehat{\mathbb{V}ar}_{M_{\ell}}[Q_{\ell} - Q_{\ell-1}]$$

**Cost** estimation:  $\hat{C}_{\ell} := \hat{\mathbb{E}}_{M_{\ell}}[\operatorname{Cost}(Q_{\ell} - Q_{\ell-1})].$ 



**Recall**: MSE $(\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}) = B^2 + V_{MLMC} = \mathbb{E}[Q - Q_L]^2 + \sum_{\ell=0}^{L} \frac{V_{\ell}}{M_{\ell}}$ 

Given a hierarchy  $\{M_\ell\}_\ell$  and samples  $\{\Delta_\ell Q(y^{(i,\ell)}), i = 1, \dots, M_\ell\}_{\ell=0}^L$ , with  $\Delta_\ell Q = Q_\ell - Q_{\ell-1}$ 

**Bias** estimation (as in MC): use a posteriori error estimators or extrapolation strategies. E.g. Richardson extrapolation

$$B pprox \hat{B}_L := rac{\hat{\mathbb{E}}_{M_L}[Q_L - Q_{L-1}]}{\delta^{-lpha} - 1}$$

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### Adaptive MLMC

# Error splitting we aim at $B^2 \leq rac{ ext{tol}^2}{2}$ and $V \leq rac{ ext{tol}^2}{2}$

Given a MLMC run and estimates  $\hat{B}_L$  and  $\hat{V}_{MLMC}$ 

• if  $|\hat{B}_L| > \frac{tol}{\sqrt{2}} \implies$  set L = L + 1 and run  $\bar{M}$  simulations to estimate  $\hat{V}_L$ • it  $\hat{V}_{MLMC} > \frac{tol^2}{2} \implies$  compute optimal  $\{M_\ell\}_\ell$  using the formula

$$M_{\ell} = \left[rac{2}{ ext{tol}^2} \sqrt{rac{\hat{V}_{\ell}}{\hat{C}_{\ell}}} \sum_{j=0}^L \sqrt{\hat{V}_{\ell}\hat{C}_{\ell}}
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Algorithm (Adaptive MLMC, from [Giles Acta Num. 2015])

- **③** start with L=2, and initial  $M_0=M_1=M_2=ar{M}$  on levels  $\ell=0,1,2$
- while extra samples need to be evaluated do
  - evaluate extra samples on each level

  - a define optimal  $M_\ell, \ \ell = 0, \dots, L$
  - $\Im$  if  $\hat{B}_L > \frac{\text{tol}}{\sqrt{2}}$  set L := L + 1, and initialise  $M_L = \bar{M}$

end while

#### Drawback of the simple algorithm

- The initialization  $M_L = \overline{M}$  on finest level L may be too costly (in the best scenario only a couple of simulations are needed on level L)
- The sample variance estimator  $\hat{V}_{\ell} = \widehat{\mathbb{V}_{\mathrm{ar}}}_{M_{\ell}}[Q_{\ell} Q_{\ell-1}]$  may be unreliable for  $M_{\ell}$  small, which typically happens in finest levels.

Estimation of  $V_{\ell}$  on finest levels need to be combined with suitable extrapolation from previous levels.

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# Continuation Multilevel Monte Carlo (CMLMC)

[Collier-HajiAli-N.-vonSchwerin-Tempone 2015, Pisaroni-N.-Leyland 2017]

Idea: Solve the problem with decreasing tolerances  $tol^{(0)} > tol^{(1)} > ... \ge tol$ . Use collected samples on all levels to improve the estimate of  $V_{\ell} = \mathbb{V}ar[\Delta_{\ell}Q]$  and  $\mu_{\ell} = \mathbb{E}[Q - Q_{\ell}]$ .

MAP Bayesian estimator  $\hat{V}_{\ell}$  at iteration *j*:

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$$\mu_{\ell}^{model} = C_{\alpha} h_{\ell}^{\alpha}$$
  
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- We take a Normal-Gamma prior for  $(\mu_\ell, V_\ell)$ , with mode in  $(\mu_\ell^{model}, V_\ell^{model})$
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Effectively, we have

$$\begin{split} M_\ell &= 0 & \hat{V}_\ell = V_\ell^{model} & (\text{prior model}) \\ M_\ell &\to \infty & \hat{V}_\ell \approx \widehat{\mathbb{Var}}_{M_\ell}[\Delta_\ell Q] & (\text{sample variance}) \end{split}$$

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SP

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F. Nobile (EPFL)

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SPS

### The CMLMC algorithm

Choose a sequence of decreasing tolerances:  $tol_0 > tol_1 > ... > tol_K = tol$  and an initial guess of the rates  $(\alpha^{(0)}, \beta^{(0)}, \gamma^{(0)})$ , constants  $(C_{\alpha}^{(0)}, C_{\beta}^{(0)}, C_{\gamma}^{(0)})$  and variances  $\{\hat{V}_{\ell}^{(0)}\}_{\ell=0}^{L^{(0)}}$ , for k = 1, ..., KBased on rates  $(\alpha^{(k-1)}, \beta^{(k-1)}, \gamma^{(k-1)})$ , constants  $(C_{\alpha}^{(k-1)}, C_{\beta}^{(k-1)}, C_{\gamma}^{(k-1)})$ and variances  $\{\hat{V}_{\ell}^{(k-1)}\}_{\ell=0}^{L^{(k-1)}}$ 

• compute optimal  $L^{(k)}$  s.t.  $C^{(k-1)}_{\alpha}h^{\alpha^{(k-1)}}_{I} < \frac{\operatorname{tol}_k}{2}$ 

- compute optimal  $\{M_{\ell}^{(k)}\}_{\ell=0}^{L^{(k)}}$  s.t.  $\sum_{\ell=0}^{L^{(k)}} \frac{\hat{v}_{\ell}^{(k-1)}}{M_{\ell}} \leq \frac{\mathrm{tol}_{k}^{2}}{2}$
- run **MLMC** with  $L^{(k)}$ ,  $\{M_{\ell}^{(k)}\}_{\ell=0}^{L^{(k)}}$
- update rates  $(\alpha^{(k)}, \beta^{(k)}, \gamma^{(k)})$ , constants  $(C_{\alpha}^{(k)}, C_{\beta}^{(k)}, C_{\gamma}^{(k)})$  and variances  $\{\hat{V}_{\ell}^{(k)}\}_{\ell=0}^{L(k)}$  based on the new simulations performed
- k = k + 1

#### end for

EPF
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EPFI

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EPF

### Alternative error splitting based on CLT

It has been shown in [Collier-HajiAli-N.-vonSchwerin-Tempone, 2015], [Hoel-Krumscheid, 2019] that the estimator  $\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}$  satisfies a CLT. More precisely, taking L = L(tol) to satisfy a bias condition and  $M_{\ell} = M_{\ell}(\text{tol})$  with optimal allocation to satisfy the variance condition, under mild assumptions

$$\frac{\hat{\mu}_{MLMC} - \mathbb{E}[\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}]}{\sqrt{\mathbb{Var}[\hat{\mu}_{MLMC}]}} \stackrel{d}{\rightarrow} N(0,1)$$

Alternative Error splitting for aymptotic confidence level  $1-\delta$ 

$$|\hat{B}_L| pprox (1- heta) ext{tol}, \qquad \mathrm{c}_\delta \sqrt{\sum_{\ell=0}^{\mathrm{L}} rac{\hat{\mathrm{V}}_\ell}{\mathrm{M}_\ell}} pprox heta ext{tol}$$

CMLMC can also estimate the optimal splitting parameter: at iteration k

$$(L^{(k)}, \theta^{(k)}) = \underset{\substack{\theta \in \{0, 1\}\\ L^{(k-1)} \le L \le L_{max}}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \operatorname{Cost}^{(k-1)}(L, \theta), \qquad \text{s.t. } C_{\alpha}^{(k-1)} h_{L}^{\alpha^{(k-1)}} \le (1-\theta) \operatorname{tol}_{k}$$

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#### Error plot of CMLMC

3D elliptic PDE with random coefficients;  $\mathbb{P}_1$  finite elements, smooth functional:  $\alpha = 2, \beta = 4, \gamma = 1$  (iterative),  $\gamma = 1.5$  (sparse direct) Error splitting based on CLT with condition  $1 - \delta$ . Exact solution is known so true error can be measured and compared with prescribed tolerance.



The algorithm was run with  $c_{\delta} = 2$  so that the bound holds with 95% confidenc EPFL

## Total work of CMLMC



Reference lines are  $tol^{-2.25}$  and  $tol^{-2}$ , respectively. This is consistent with complexity analysisx.





Improvement in running time due to better choice of splitting parameter,  $\theta$ .





Reusing samples in CMLMC does not significantly improve running, since the work is dominated by the work of the last iteration.



#### Computation of $C_L$ and pressure coeff. for RAE2822 airfoil

	Parameter	Reference value $(r)$	Uncertainty
	$\alpha_{\infty}$	2.31°	$\mathcal{TN}(r, 2\%r, 90\%r, 100\%r)$
Operational	$M_{\infty}$	0.729	$\mathcal{TN}(r, 2\%r, 90\%r, 110\%r)$
	$p_{\infty}$	101325 [N/m <sup>2</sup> ]	_
	$T_{\infty}$	288.5 [K]	—
	Rs	0.00839	$\mathcal{TN}(r, 2\%r, 90\%r, 110\%r)$
Geometrical	R <sub>p</sub>	0.00853	$\mathcal{TN}(r, 2\%r, 90\%r, 110\%r)$
	Xs	0.431	$\mathcal{TN}(r, 2\%r, 90\%r, 110\%r)$
	Хp	0.346	$\mathcal{TN}(r, 2\%r, 90\%r, 110\%r)$
	y <sub>s</sub>	0.063	$\mathcal{TN}(r, 2\%r, 90\%r, 110\%r)$
	Уp	-0.058	$\mathcal{TN}(r, 2\%r, 90\%r, 110\%r)$
	Cs	-0.432	-
	Cp	0.699	-
	$\theta_s$	-11.607	-
	$\theta_p$	-2.227	-



#### Multilevel Monte Carlo method

## Computation of $C_L$ and pressure coeff. for RAE2822 airfoil



MLMC 5-levels	grid hierarchy	for the RAE2822	problem.
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Level	Airfoil nodes	Cells	$\tau(Q_{Mi})[s](n.cpu)$
LO	67	5197	14.4 (18)
L1	131	9968	21.4 (22)
1.2	259	20850	28.8 (28)
1.3	515	47476	64.0 (36)
1.4	1027	114857	122.1 (44)
1.5	2051	283925	314.2 (56)



Inviscid model (Euler); SU<sup>2</sup> solver (Stanford) [Pisaroni-N.-Leyland CMAME 2017]

F. Nobile (EPFL)

EPFL

#### MLMC hierarchies and comparison with MC









#### Robustness of C-MLMC estimator



Variability over 10 repetitions of the C-MLMC algorithm for different parameters in the Normal-Gamma prior.



#### Outline

Problem setting

Multilevel Monte Carlo method

MLMC for moments and distributions

4 Generalizations of MLMC



#### **Goal**: compute $\mu_p(Q) = \mathbb{E}[(Q - \mathbb{E}[Q])^p]$

#### How to apply and tune MLMC in this case?

Let  $\vec{Q}_M = \{Q^{(1)}, \dots, Q^{(M)}\}$  be an iid sample from Q and  $\hat{\mu}_p(\vec{Q}_M)$  and estimator for  $\mu_p(Q)$ . E.g. for p = 2 consider the sample variance estimator

$$\hat{\mu}_2(\vec{Q}_M) = rac{1}{M-1} \sum_{i=1}^M \left( Q^{(i)} - \sum_{j=1}^M rac{Q^{(j)}}{M} 
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**Idea**: telescope on  $\hat{\mu}_p$ 

$$\hat{\mu}_{
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Two main issues:

- It is important that  $\hat{\mu}_p(\vec{Q}_M)$  is unbiased to preserve the telescopic property in expectation. ( $M_\ell$  is small on finest levels and the corresponding bias could be large)
- We should be able to estimate Var[μ̂<sub>ρ</sub>(Q<sub>ℓ,Mℓ</sub>) μ̂<sub>ρ</sub>(Q<sub>ℓ-1,Mℓ-1</sub>)] to tune the MLMC algorithm

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$$h_p(\vec{Q}_M)$$
 : unbiased estimator of  $\mu_p(Q)$  with minimal variance

(see [Bierig-Chernov 2015-2016] for an alternative approach with biased estimators)

$$h_{\rho}^{MLMC} = \sum_{\ell=0}^{L} (h_{\rho}(\vec{Q}_{\ell,M_{\ell}}) - h_{\rho}(\vec{Q}_{\ell-1,M_{\ell}})), \quad \vec{Q}_{-1,M_{0}} = \vec{0}$$



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Observe that

$$\mathbb{E}[h_{p}^{MLMC}] = \sum_{\ell=0}^{L} (\mathbb{E}[h_{p}(\vec{Q}_{\ell,M_{\ell}})] - \mathbb{E}[h_{p}(\vec{Q}_{\ell-1,M_{\ell}}))]$$
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Definind  $V_{\ell,p} = M_{\ell} \mathbb{V}ar[h_p(\vec{Q}_{\ell,M_{\ell}}) - h_p(\vec{Q}_{\ell-1,M_{\ell}})]$  we have

Mean squared error

$$\mathbb{E}(h_p^{MLMC}) = \underbrace{(\mu_p(Q) - \mu_p(Q_L))^2}_{\text{Rise}^2}$$

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Same structure of MSE as for expectation.

F. Nobile (EPFL)

Variance

**Complexity result** for  $h_{\ell} = h_0 \delta^{\ell}$ ,  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ 

Assume  $\mu_{2p}(Q_{\ell}) < \infty$  for all  $\ell$  and there exist  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma > 0$ ,  $2\alpha \ge \min\{\beta, d\gamma\}$  s.t.

• 
$$|\mu_p(Q) - \mu_p(Q_\ell)| = \mathcal{O}(h_\ell^{\alpha}),$$

• 
$$V_{\ell,p} = O(h_{\ell}^{\beta}),$$

• 
$$C_{\ell} = \operatorname{Cost}(Q_{\ell}^{(i,\ell)}, Q_{\ell-1}^{(i,\ell)}) = \mathcal{O}(h_{\ell}^{-d\gamma})$$

Then, taking  $L = \mathcal{O}(tol^{\frac{1}{\alpha}})$  and  $M_{\ell} = \left[ tol^{-2} \sqrt{\frac{V_{\ell,p}}{C_{\ell}}} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{L} \sqrt{C_k V_{k,p}} \right) \right]$  leads to

$$\mathrm{MSE}(h_p^{MLMC}) \lesssim tol^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathrm{Cost}(h_p^{MLMC}, \mathrm{tol}) \lesssim \begin{cases} tol^{-2}, & \beta > d\gamma \\ tol^{-2} |\log(tol)|^2, & \beta = d\gamma \\ tol^{-2 - \frac{d\gamma - \beta}{\alpha}}, & \beta < d\gamma \end{cases}$$



# **Technical difficulty**: how to estimate the variances $V_{\ell,p}$ (needed for optimal allocation and error control)

Define 
$$\vec{X}_{\ell,M_{\ell}}^{+} = \vec{Q}_{\ell,M_{\ell}} + \vec{Q}_{\ell-1,M_{\ell}}, \quad \vec{X}_{\ell,M_{\ell}}^{-} = \vec{Q}_{\ell,M_{\ell}} - \vec{Q}_{\ell-1,M_{\ell}}$$
  
 $\Delta_{\ell}h_{p} = h_{p}(\vec{Q}_{\ell,M_{\ell}}) - h_{p}(\vec{Q}_{\ell-1,M_{\ell}})$  can be expressed as a power sum
$$\Delta_{\ell}h_{p} = \sum_{a+b \leq p} S_{a,b}(\vec{X}_{\ell,M_{\ell}}^{+},\vec{X}_{\ell,M_{\ell}}^{-}), \qquad S_{a,b}(\vec{X},\vec{Y}) = \sum_{i} (X^{(i)})^{a} (Y^{(i)})^{b}$$

Unbiased estimators  $\hat{V}_{\ell,p}$  of  $V_{\ell,p}$  can be computed in closed form starting from the power terms  $S_{a,b}(\vec{X}^+_{\ell,M_\ell}, \vec{X}^-_{\ell,M_\ell})$  [Pisaroni-Krumscheid-N. 2017].



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#### Beyond expectations: CDF, quantiles, and more

The cumulative distribution function (CDF) of Q can be seen as a parametric expectation

$$F(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[\phi(\theta, Q)], \qquad \phi(\theta, Q) = \mathbb{1}_{\{Q \le \theta\}}$$

One could apply MLMC on many values  $\theta_i$  (using the same sample of Q) and interpolate.

**Problem**:  $\phi(\theta, Q)$  is not smooth! the variance of the differences,  $V_{\ell} = \operatorname{Var}[\phi(\theta, Q_{\ell}) - \phi(\theta, Q_{\ell-1})]$  will decay slowly. No much gain in using MLMC vs MC.

Remedies:

- [Giles-Nagapetyan-Ritter 2015, 2017] smoothing:  $F_{\epsilon}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[\phi_{\epsilon}(\theta, Q)]$ . Technical difficulty:  $\epsilon$  should depend on the required tolerance  $\rightsquigarrow$  difficult tuning of MLMC
- [Bierig-Chernov 2016] approximate F or pdf based on moments
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## Anti-derivative approach to CDF computation

For a given  $au \in (0,1)$  define

 $\Phi_ au( heta) = \mathbb{E}[\phi_ au( heta, Q)], \qquad \phi_ au( heta, Q) = heta + rac{1}{1+ au}(Q- heta)_+$ 

Then (assuming  $F \in C^1$ )

$$F(\theta) = (1 - \tau)\Phi'_{\tau}(\theta) + \tau$$

### and MLMC can be effectively used to approximate $\Phi_{\tau}(\theta)$ and its derivatives.

Moreover, from the approximation of  $\Phi_{ au}$  and its derivatives we can get for free

- pdf:  $p(\theta) = F'(\theta) = (1 \tau)\Phi''_{\tau}(\theta)$
- $\tau$ -quantile:  $q_{\tau} = \inf\{\theta : F(\theta) \ge \tau\} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} \Phi_{\tau}(\theta)$
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$$CVaR_{\tau} = \frac{1}{1-\tau} \int_{q_{\tau}}^{\infty} x dF(x) = \min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} \Phi_{\tau}(\theta)$$

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## Computing parametric expectations by MLMC

**Goal**: given  $\phi(\theta, Q)$ , approximate  $\Phi(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[\phi(\theta, Q)]$  and its derivatives uniformly in  $\Theta$ . Notation:  $\Phi_{\ell}(\theta) := \mathbb{E}[\phi(\theta, Q_{\ell})]$ .



Eventually, compute also derivatives

Interpolation approach:

- introduce a grid  $\vec{ heta} = \{ heta_1, \dots, heta_n\} \subset \Theta$
- compute  $\Phi^{MLMC}(\theta_j)$ , j = 1, ..., n by MLMC (same sample of  $Q_\ell$  for every  $\theta_j$ )

• Interpolate values  

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e.g. by spline or polynomial interpolation



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 $d^m \hat{\Phi}^{MLMC}$ Eventually, compute also derivatives

 $d\theta^m$ 

Define the mean squared error:  $MSE(\hat{\Phi}^{MLMC}) = \mathbb{E}[\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} |\Phi(\theta) - \hat{\Phi}^{MLMC}(\theta)|^2]$ Error splitting

$$MSE(\hat{\Phi}^{MLMC}) \lesssim \underbrace{\|\Phi - \mathcal{I}_n \Phi(\vec{\theta})\|_{\infty}^2}_{\text{interp. error}} + \underbrace{\|\Phi(\vec{\theta}) - \Phi_L(\vec{\theta})\|_{\infty}^2}_{\text{discret. error}} + \log(n) \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{V_{\ell}}{M_{\ell}}$$

statistical error

with  $V_\ell = \mathbb{E}[\|\Delta \phi(ec{ heta}, Q_\ell) - \mathbb{E}[\Delta \phi(ec{ heta}, Q_\ell)]\|_{\ell^\infty}^2]$ 

All terms (and constants) can be estimated in practice... but rather painful. Optimization of MLMC based on estimators  $\hat{V}_{\ell}$  of  $V_{\ell}$ 

[AyoulGuilmard-Ganesh-Krumscheid-N.-Pisaroni in preparation]

Complexity analysis for the error on  $\Phi$  and its derivatives available in [Krumscheid-N. 2017].



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$$\mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\Phi}^{MLMC}) \lesssim \underbrace{\|\Phi - \mathcal{I}_n \Phi(\vec{\theta})\|_{\infty}^2}_{\text{interp. error}} + \underbrace{\|\Phi(\vec{\theta}) - \Phi_L(\vec{\theta})\|_{\infty}^2}_{\text{discret. error}} + \log(n) \underbrace{\sum_{\ell=0}^{L} \frac{V_{\ell}}{M_{\ell}}}_{\text{statistical error}}$$

with  $V_{\ell} = \mathbb{E}[\|\Delta \phi(\vec{\theta}, Q_{\ell}) - \mathbb{E}[\Delta \phi(\vec{\theta}, Q_{\ell})]\|_{\ell^{\infty}}^2]$ 

All terms (and constants) can be estimated in practice... but rather painful. Optimization of MLMC based on estimators  $\hat{V}_\ell$  of  $V_\ell$ 

[AyoulGuilmard-Ganesh-Krumscheid-N.-Pisaroni in preparation]

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## Example - risk averse optimization

# $\min_{x \in X} \mathcal{R}(Q(x)), \qquad X: \text{ feasible design space}$

### $\mathcal{R}$ : risk measure

### Examples

- $\mathcal{R}(Q) = \mathbb{E}[Q]$  (risk neutral)
- $\mathcal{R}(Q) = \mathbb{E}[Q] \pm \alpha \operatorname{std}[Q]$
- $\mathcal{R}(Q) = q_{\tau}[Q]$  ( $\tau$ -quantile)
- $\mathcal{R}(Q) = CVaR_{\tau}[Q]$



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# Combining MLMC with CMA-ES

Optimization done by Covariance Matrix Adaptation Evolutionary Algorithm (CMA-ES)



For each individual at each generation, risk measure computed by MLMC. EPFL 🌍

F. Nobile (EPFL)

## Airfoil optimization under operating uncertainties

$$\begin{cases} \min_{x \in X} \mathcal{R} [C_D(x)] \\ s.t \ C_L(x) = C_L^*, \end{cases}$$

thickness constraint

x: airfoil shape – PARSEC parameters  $(R_s, R_p, x_s, x_p, C_s, C_p, \theta_s, \theta_p)$ 



$\mathcal{R}_{\mu,\sigma}\left[\mathcal{C}_{D}(x)\right]$	$\mu_{C_D}(x) + \sigma_{C_D}(x)$		
$\mathcal{R}_{\mu,\sigma,\gamma}\left[\mathcal{C}_{D}(x)\right]$	$\mu_{C_D}(x) + \sigma_{C_D}(x) + \mu_{C_D}(x) \cdot \gamma_{C_D}(x)$		
$\mathcal{R}_{VaR^{90}}\left[\mathcal{C}_D(x)\right]$	$VaR_{C_{D}}^{90}(x)$		
$\mathcal{R}_{CVaR^{90}}\left[\mathcal{C}_{D}(x)\right]$	$CVaR_{C_D}^{90}(x)$		

	Quantity	Reference (r)	Uncertainty
	CL	0.5	_
Operating	$M_{\infty}$	0.75	$\mathcal{B}(2,2,0.1,M_{\infty}-0.05)$
parameters	Rec	$6.5\cdot10^{6}$	_
	$p_{\infty}$ [Pa]	101325	_
	$T_{\infty}[K]$	288.5	-

Model: steady state Euler + boundary layer equation (MSES software)

F. Nobile (EPFL)

EP?

MLMC for moments and discributions

## Deterministic versus Robust optimization



## Outline

Problem setting

Multilevel Monte Carlo method

3 MLMC for moments and distributions





Often, the computational model involves several discretization parameters (e.g. spatial mesh size, time step, domain truncation, model simplification, etc.)

numerical solution:  $u_{\vec{h}}, \quad \vec{h} = (h^{(1)}, \dots, h^{(d)})$ 

• Introduce sequences of refined discretizations:  $h_0^{(i)} > h_1^{(i)} > \ldots > h_{L_i}^{(i)}$ 

• For 
$$\vec{\ell} = (\ell_1, \dots, \ell_d)$$
, denote  $Q_{\vec{\ell}} = Q(u_{h_{\ell_1}^{(1)}, \dots, h_{\ell_d}^{(d)}})$ 

• Difference operators

$$\Delta_{j} Q_{\vec{\ell}} = \begin{cases} Q_{\vec{\ell}} - Q_{\vec{\ell} - \vec{e_{j}}}, & \text{if } \ell_{j} > 0\\ Q_{\vec{\ell}}, & \text{if } \ell_{j} = 0 \end{cases}$$
$$\Delta Q_{\vec{\ell}} = \bigotimes_{j=1}^{d} \Delta_{j} Q_{\vec{\ell}} = \sum_{\vec{j} \in \{0,1\}^{d}} (-1)^{|\vec{j}|} Q_{\vec{\ell} - \vec{j}}$$





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Telescopic formula: given finest discretization level  $\vec{L} = (L_1, \dots, L_d)$ 

$$\mathbb{E}[Q_{\vec{L}}] = \sum_{\vec{\ell} \leq \vec{L}} \mathbb{E}[\Delta Q_{\vec{\ell}}]$$

Multi Index idea: compute each expectation independently

$$\hat{\mu}_{\vec{L}}^{\textit{MIMC}} = \sum_{\vec{\ell} < \vec{L}} \frac{1}{M_{\vec{\ell}}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{\vec{\ell}}} \Delta Q_{\vec{\ell}}^{(i,\vec{\ell})}$$

Further sparsification: often the set  $\{\vec{l} \leq \vec{L}\}$  is not the optimal one. Optimized index sets  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathbb{N}^d$  can lead to substantial improvement

$$\mu_{\mathcal{I}}^{MIMC} = \sum_{\vec{\ell} \in \mathcal{I}} \frac{1}{M_{\vec{\ell}}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{\vec{\ell}}} \Delta Q_{\vec{\ell}}^{(i,\vec{\ell})}$$

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EPF

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EPF

# Complexity analysis

- Assume  $h_{\ell_i}^{(i)} = h_0^{(i)} \sigma_i^{\ell_i}$ ,  $\sigma_i > 1$  and
  - $|\mathbb{E}[\Delta Q_{\vec{\ell}}]| \lesssim \prod_{j=1}^d h_{\ell_j}^{\alpha_i}$
  - $\operatorname{Var}[\Delta Q_{\vec{\ell}}] \lesssim \prod_{j=1}^d h_{\ell_j}^{\beta_i}$
  - $Cost(\Delta Q_{\vec{\ell}}) \lesssim \prod_i h_{\ell_i}^{-\gamma_i}$

These assumptions require some type of "mixed regularity".

Then, setting  $n_i = \log(\sigma_i)(lpha_i + rac{\gamma_i - eta_i}{2})$ , the optimal sets are

$$\mathcal{I}_L = \{ \vec{\ell} \in \mathbb{N}^d : \ \vec{\ell} \cdot \vec{n} \le L \}$$

Complexity analysis [HajiAli-N.-Tempone 2015]

Under the above assumptions, for any tol > 0 there exist L and  $\{M_{\vec{\ell}}\}_{\vec{\ell} \in \mathcal{I}_L}$  such that  $MSE(\mu_{\mathcal{I}_l}^{MIMC}) \leq tol^2$  and

$$W(\mu_{\mathcal{I}_{L}}^{MIMC}) \lesssim egin{cases} tol^{-2}, & ext{if } eta_{j} > \gamma_{j}, \ orall j \ tol^{-2-\max_{j} rac{\gamma_{j}-eta_{j}}{lpha_{j}}} |\log tol|^{p}, & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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with *p* depending on  $\#\{j: \frac{\gamma_j - \beta_j}{\alpha_j} = \max_k \frac{\gamma_k - \beta_k}{\alpha_k}\}$ 

## Numerical test

Elliptic equation in 3D with random coefficient and forcing term. Discretization parameters: mesh sizes in the 3 variables (x, y, z) separately.



MIMC has been used also for particle systems (time discretization + n. of particles) [HajiAli-Tempone 2017], nested Monte Carlo simulations [Giles 2015], space-time Zakai type SPDEs [Giles-Reisinger 2016].

F. Nobile (EPFL)

MLMC for UQ

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