

# An Overview of Multilevel Monte Carlo Techniques for Solving PDEs with Random Coefficients

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Multilevel and Multigrid Workshop, TU Delft

**KU LEUVEN**



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# Contents

## PART 1: Classic MLMC

Using coarser grids for variance reduction

## PART 2: Extensions of MLMC

Towards Multigrid Multilevel Quasi-Monte Carlo

## PART 3: Application

Wire drawing and Bekaert

# PART 1

## Classic MLMC

# The KU Leuven UQ team

- **NUMA**: numerical analysis and applied mathematics
- 11 professors, about 40 postdocs and PhD students
- Working on UQ:



S. Vandewalle  
Professor



P. Robbe  
PhD student



A. Van Barel  
PhD student



P. Blondeel  
PhD student

+ collaborations with prof. D. Nuyens and prof. G. Samaey

## Model parametric elliptic PDE

$$-\nabla \cdot a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \nabla u(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = f(\mathbf{x})$$

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$$-\nabla \cdot a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \nabla u(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = f(\mathbf{x})$$

- early work
  - [Ghanem, Spanos, 1997]
  - [Babuska, Tempone, Zouraris, 2004]
  - [Babuska, Nobile, Tempone, 2007]
  - and many others
- parametric PDE setting in
  - [Cohen, DeVore, Schwab, 2011]
- recent interest from multilevel/QMC community
  - [Graham, Kuo, Nuyens, Scheichl, Sloan, 2011]
  - [Cliffe, Giles, Scheichl, Teckentrup, 2011]
  - [Kuo, Schwab, Sloan, 2012]
  - [Kuo, Nuyens, 2016]
  - and many others

## Example

- $a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  is derived from a **Gaussian random field**  $z(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  with given mean  $z_0(\mathbf{x})$  and covariance function, e.g.,

$$C(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{2^{1-\nu}}{\Gamma(\nu)} \left(\sqrt{2\nu}r\right)^\nu K_\nu\left(\sqrt{2\nu}r\right), \quad r = \frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|_2}{\lambda_c}$$

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- Samples can be generated using a **KL expansion**

$$z(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{j \geq 1} y_j \sqrt{\theta_j} \psi_j(\mathbf{x})$$

where the eigenvalues  $\theta_j$  and eigenfunctions  $\psi_j(\mathbf{x})$  satisfy

$$\int_D C(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \psi_j(\mathbf{x}') d\mathbf{x}' = \theta_j \psi_j(\mathbf{x})$$

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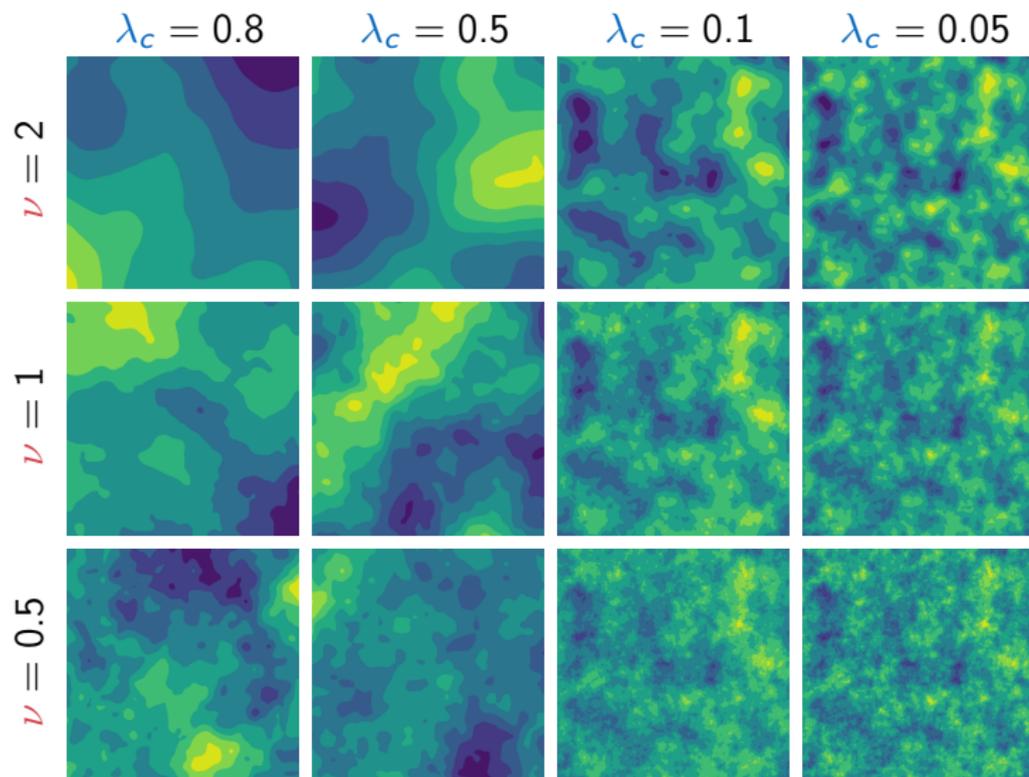
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- $a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \exp(z(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}))$  is known as the “*lognormal case*”

# Example Gaussian random fields



see [GaussianRandomFields.jl](#)

# Sampling based methods

- Goal: compute statistics of **quantity of interest**

$$Q = F(u(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}))$$

quantity of interest is uncertain, denote  $F(\mathbf{y}) := F(u(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}))$

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- 1: Draw a sufficiently large sample set  $\mathbf{y}^{(1)}, \mathbf{y}^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{y}^{(N)}$
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  - 3:   Compute the random field  $a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}^{(n)})$
  - 4:   Solve a **deterministic** PDE using method of choice
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  - 6: **end for**
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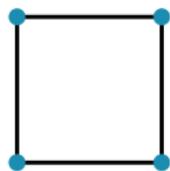
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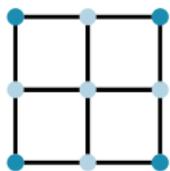
- Example: the Monte Carlo (MC) estimator for  $E[Q]$  is

$$Q^{\text{MC}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N F(\mathbf{y}^{(n)})$$

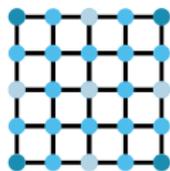
## A hierarchy of coarser grids



$l = 0$



$l = 1$



$l = 2$

- Solution of the PDE (and hence quantity of interest  $F$ ) is approximated numerically
- Suppose we have a **hierarchy of approximations**  $F_\ell$ ,  $\ell = 0, \dots, L$  and  $F_\ell \rightarrow F$  as  $\ell \rightarrow \infty$
- Do not compute  $E[F_L]$  by sampling from  $F_L$ , but by sampling from the whole hierarchy  $F_\ell$ ,  $\ell = 0, \dots, L$

# Multilevel Monte Carlo (MLMC)

- Basis is the **telescoping sum**

$$E[F_L] = E[F_0] + \sum_{\ell=1}^L E[F_\ell - F_{\ell-1}]$$

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$$Q_L^{\text{MC}} = \sum_{\ell=0}^L \frac{1}{N_\ell} \sum_{n=1}^{N_\ell} \left( F_\ell(\mathbf{y}_\ell^{(n)}) - F_{\ell-1}(\mathbf{y}_\ell^{(n)}) \right) \quad (F_{-1} := 0)$$

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- Crucially, use the **same random numbers**  $\mathbf{y}_\ell^{(n)}$  in each sample

$$\begin{aligned} V_\ell := V[F_\ell - F_{\ell-1}] &= V[F_\ell] + V[F_{\ell-1}] - 2\text{cov}(F_\ell, F_{\ell-1}) \\ &\ll V[F_\ell] + V[F_{\ell-1}] \end{aligned}$$

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- Most samples will be taken on the coarse grid, where samples are cheap, and only few samples are needed on the finest grid

## PART 2

### Extensions of MLMC



# Multigrid Multilevel Monte Carlo (MG-MLMC)

- Idea is to **recycle** the coarse solutions from the FMG method as coarse samples in the MLMC method
- MG-MLMC estimator [Kumar, Oosterlee, Dwight, 2017]

$$Q_{L,\text{reuse}}^{\text{MC}} := \sum_{\ell=0}^L \left( \frac{1}{\sum_{i=\ell}^L N_i} \right) \sum_{k=\ell}^L \sum_{n=1}^{N_k} \left( F_{\ell}(\mathbf{y}_k^{(n)}) - F_{\ell-1}(\mathbf{y}_k^{(n)}) \right)$$

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- This is a sum of  $L + 1$  estimators  $\mathcal{Y}_{\ell}$ , i.e.,

$$Q_{L,\text{reuse}}^{\text{MC}} := \sum_{\ell=0}^L \mathcal{Y}_{\ell},$$

that are **not independent**

- Accuracy of estimator is controlled using mean-square-error

$$\text{MSE}\left(Q_{L,\text{reuse}}^{\text{MC}}\right) = V\left[Q_{L,\text{reuse}}^{\text{MC}}\right] + \text{Bias}\left(Q_{L,\text{reuse}}^{\text{MC}}\right)^2$$

## Obtaining a variance estimate

- Variance of the MG-MLMC estimator is

$$\begin{aligned} V[Q_{L,\text{reuse}}^{\text{MC}}] &= \sum_{\ell=0}^L V[\mathcal{Y}_\ell] + 2 \sum_{0 \leq \ell < \tau \leq L} \text{cov}(\mathcal{Y}_\ell, \mathcal{Y}_\tau) \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^L \left( \frac{V_\ell}{\sum_{i=\ell}^L N_i} \right) + 2 \sum_{0 \leq \ell < \tau \leq L} \rho_{\ell\tau} \sqrt{\left( \frac{V_\ell}{\sum_{i=\ell}^L N_i} \right) \left( \frac{V_\tau}{\sum_{i=\tau}^L N_i} \right)} \end{aligned}$$

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- 3 approaches to obtain variance estimates:
  1. Bound the covariances using **Cauchy-Schwarz**: analytic solution for the optimal number of samples required on each level, but the error bound is too conservative
  2. Use the **de-biasing technique** from [Rhee, Glynn, 2015]: randomization of the final level  $L$
  3. Randomly shifted lattice rules from **Quasi-Monte Carlo**

## Quasi-Monte Carlo (QMC)

- A **Quasi-Monte Carlo** method uses well-chosen sample points, as opposed to the random points with Monte Carlo
- A popular choice are **rank-1 lattice rules**

$$\mathbf{t}^{(n)} := \frac{n\mathbf{z} \bmod N}{N} = \left\{ \frac{n\mathbf{z}}{N} \right\}$$

where  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{Z}_N^s$  is a generating vector and  $\{\cdot\}$  denotes mod 1

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<sup>1</sup>more details to be found in standard works such as [\[Dick, Kuo, Sloan, 2013\]](#)

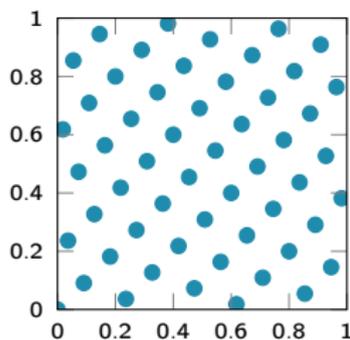
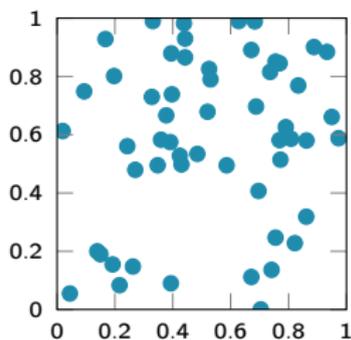
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- Can potentially obtain  $\mathcal{O}(1/N)$  convergence, if integrand is *sufficiently smooth and decaying importance of dimensions*<sup>1</sup>



---

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# Random shifting

- Lattice points are chosen deterministically, hence, they are **correlated**
- Solution is **random shifting**:

$$\bar{Q}_{L,P,\text{reuse}}^{\text{QMC}} := \frac{1}{P} \sum_{p=1}^P \sum_{\ell=0}^L \left( \frac{1}{\sum_{i=\ell}^L N_i} \right) \sum_{k=\ell}^L \sum_{n=1}^{N_k} \left( F_{\ell}(\mathbf{y}_{k,p}^{(n)}) - F_{\ell-1}(\mathbf{y}_{k,p}^{(n)}) \right)$$

where  $\mathbf{y}_{k,p}^{(n)} := \Phi^{-1} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{t}_{\ell}^{(k)} + \mathbf{u}_k^{(p)} \right\} \right)$  and  $\mathbf{u}_k^{(p)} \sim \mathbf{U}(0, 1)$

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- Sample variance is used as an estimate for the variance

$$V[\bar{Q}_{L,P,\text{reuse}}^{\text{QMC}}] \approx \frac{1}{P(P-1)} \sum_{p=1}^P \left( Q_{L,p,\text{reuse}}^{\text{QMC}} - \bar{Q}_{L,P,\text{reuse}}^{\text{QMC}} \right)^2$$

# Cost analysis

- Under the assumptions that

$$(1) |E[Q_L - Q]| \leq c_\alpha h_L^\alpha,$$

$$(2) V_\ell \leq c_\beta h_{\ell-1}^\beta,$$

$$(3) C_\ell \leq c_\gamma h_\ell^{-\gamma}, \text{ and}$$

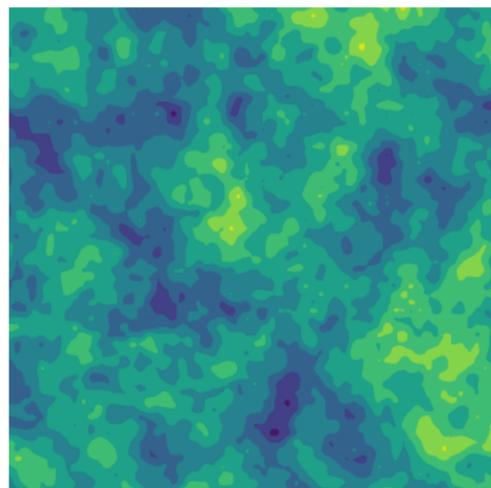
$$(4) V[\bar{Y}_\ell] \leq c_\lambda N_\ell^{-1/\lambda} V_\ell.$$

we can show that

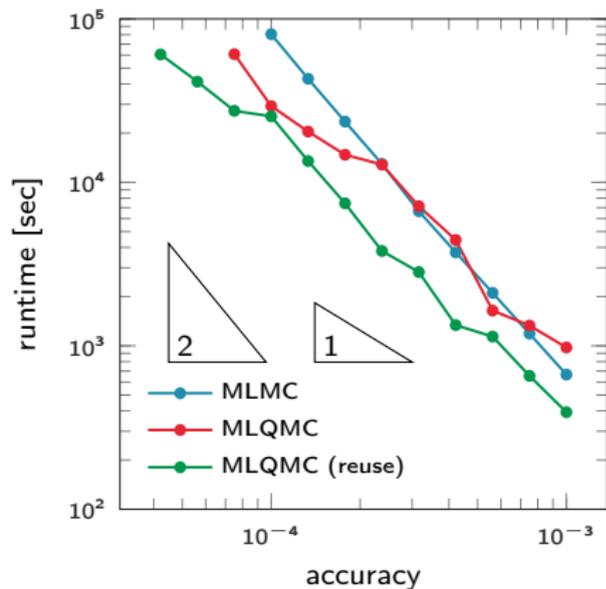
$$\text{cost}(\bar{Q}_{L,P,\text{reuse}}^{\text{QMC}}) = \left( 1 - \left( s^{-(\beta+\gamma)} \right)^{\frac{\lambda}{\lambda+1}} \right) \text{cost}(\bar{Q}_{L,P}^{\text{QMC}})$$

- This means that the sample reuse is more efficient when
  - The variance of the difference decays slowly (small  $\beta$ )
  - The lattice rule has good performance (small  $\lambda$ )

# Numerical results



$\lambda = 0.1, \nu = 0.5$   
3500 KL terms

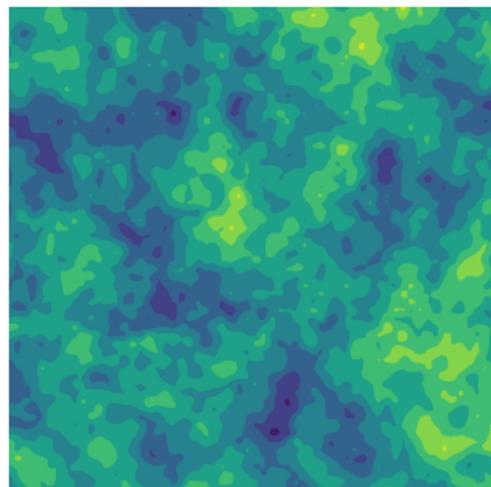


speedup vs MLMC:

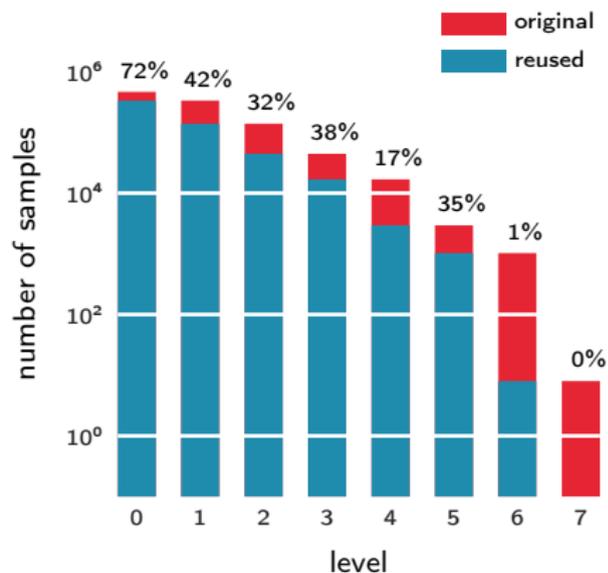
~1.34 with MLQMC

~2.59 with MLQMC (reuse)

# Numerical results



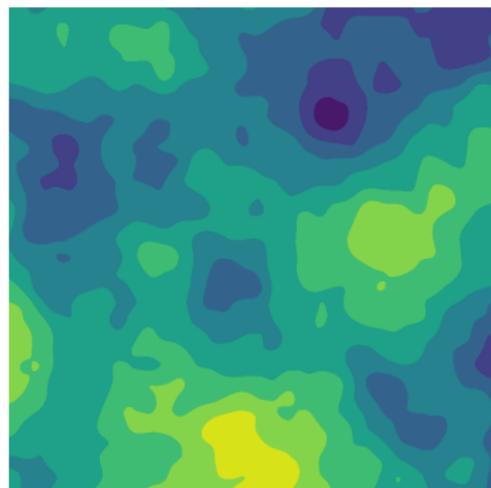
$\lambda = 0.1, \nu = 0.5$   
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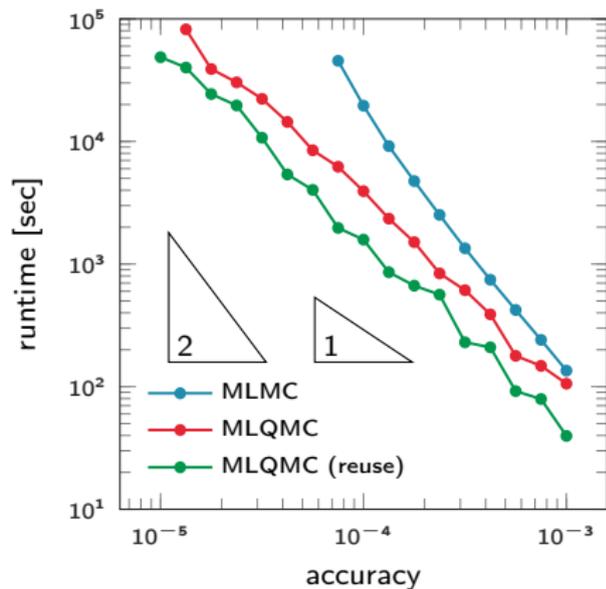
$\sim 3 \cdot 10^6$  samples on a  $4 \times 4$  grid

$\sim 2 \cdot 10^2$  samples on a  $512 \times 512$  grid

# Numerical results



$\lambda = 0.3, \nu = 1$   
1000 KL terms

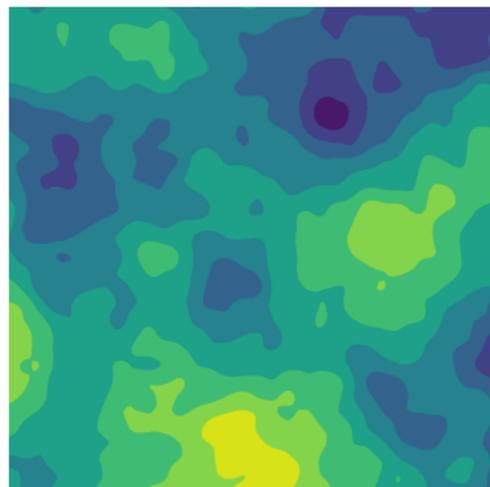


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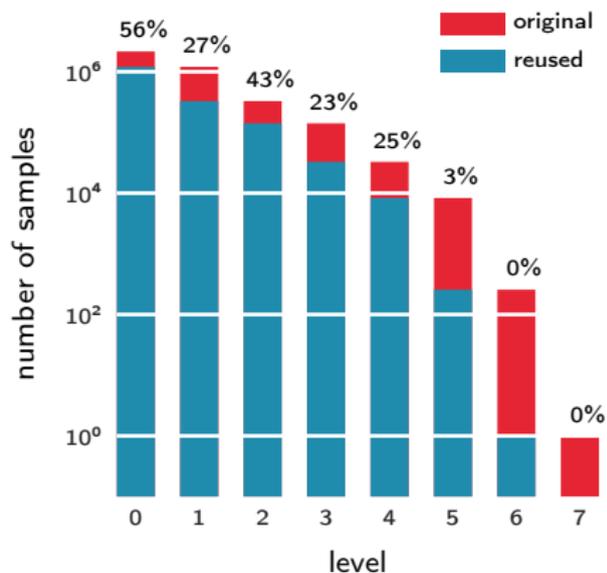
~3.17 with MLQMC

~7.82 with MLQMC (reuse)

# Numerical results



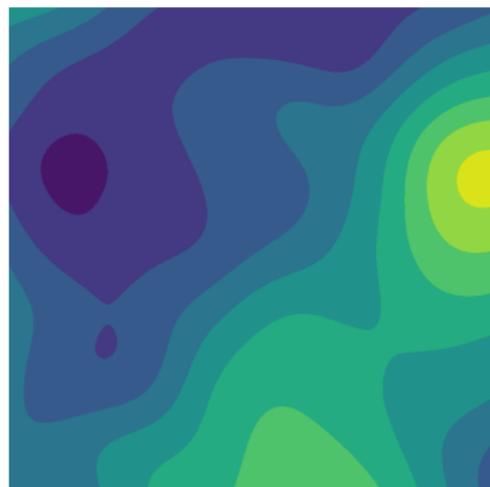
$\lambda = 0.3, \nu = 1$   
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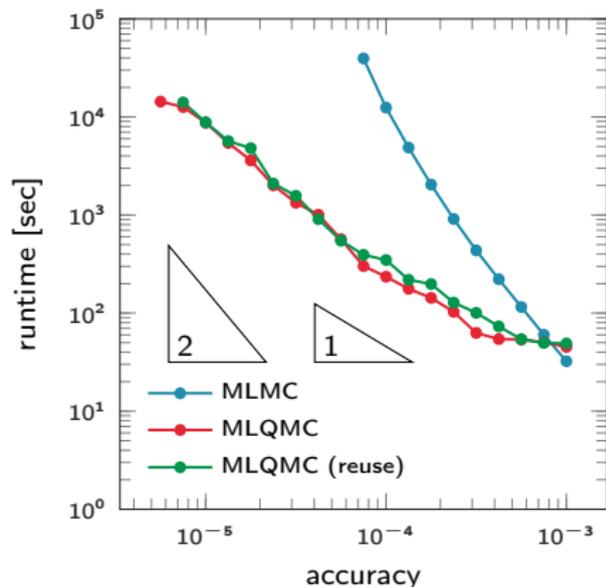
$\sim 2 \cdot 10^7$  samples on a  $4 \times 4$  grid

$\sim 2 \cdot 10^1$  samples on a  $512 \times 512$  grid

# Numerical results



$\lambda = 0.5, \nu = 2$   
100 KL terms

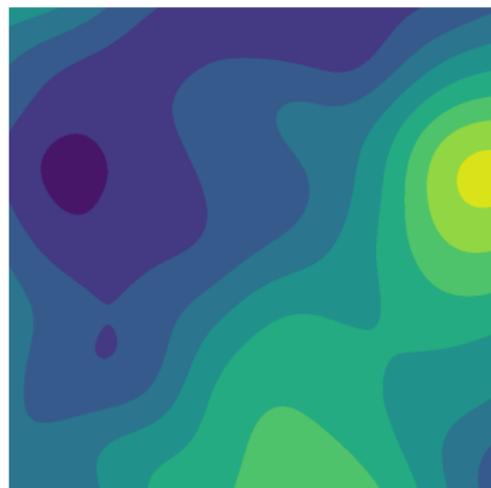


speedup vs MLMC:

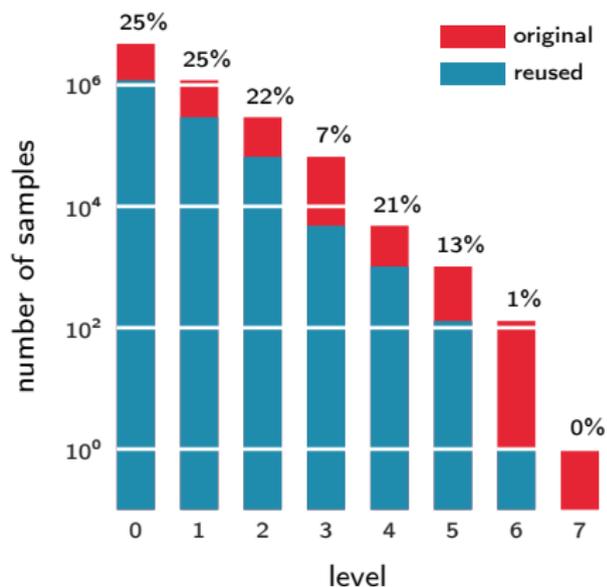
~41.93 with MLQMC

~36.94 with MLQMC (reuse)

# Numerical results



$\lambda = 0.5, \nu = 2$   
100 KL terms



$\sim 7 \cdot 10^7$  samples on a  $4 \times 4$  grid

$\sim 2 \cdot 10^1$  samples on a  $512 \times 512$  grid

## PART 3

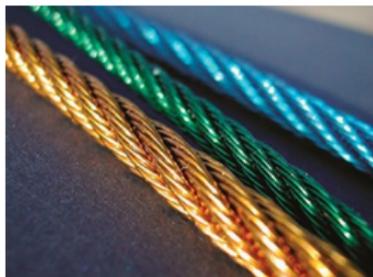
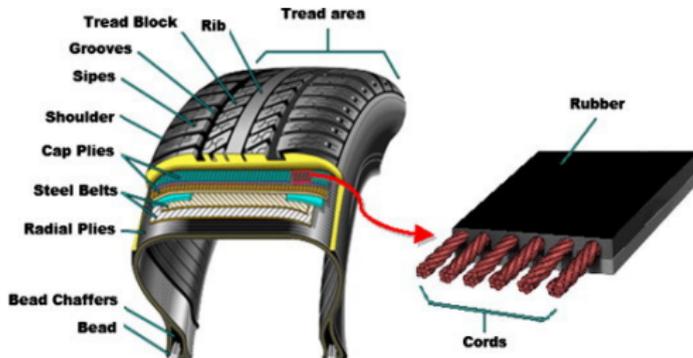
Application: Wire drawing and Bekaert

# Bekaert

- Belgian company, est. 1880
- Steel wire transformation and coatings
- 30.000 people in 120 countries
- Physical Modelling Team

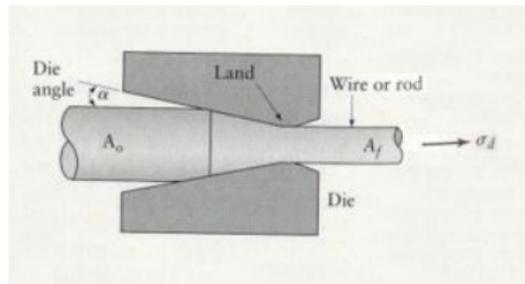
 **BEKAERT**

better together

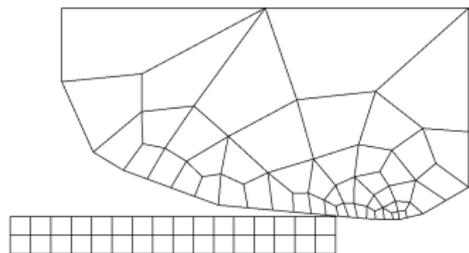


# Wire drawing test case

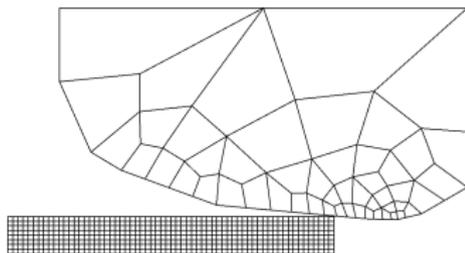
- 2d axisymmetric geometry with die and wire
- **22 uncertainties:** geometrical, physical, process-related. . .
- Quantity of interest: drawing force, stress distribution after several drawing passes



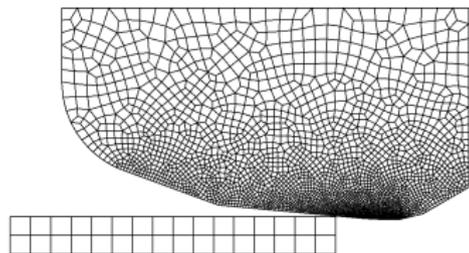
# Selection of coarse approximations



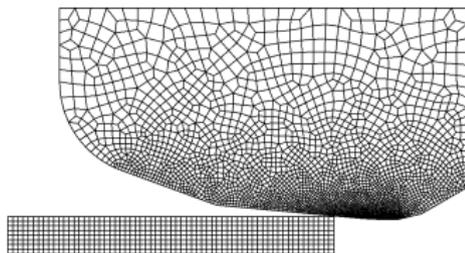
(0,0)



(0,2)

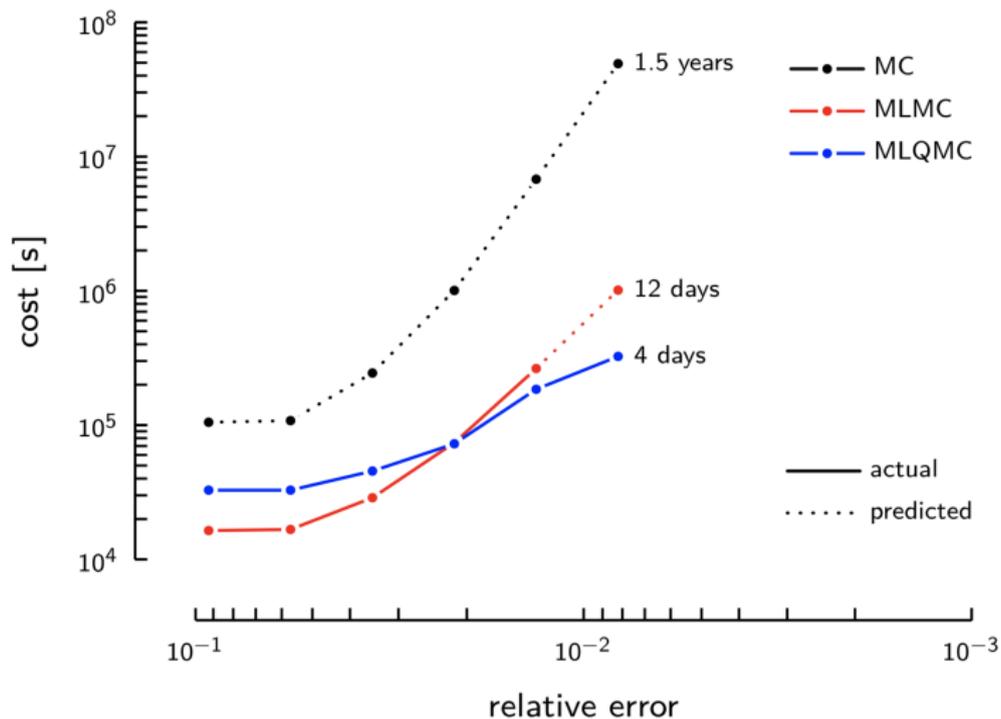


(3,0)



(3,2)

# Results



# Conclusions

- **MLMC** is an efficient **variance reduction** technique
  - Estimate differences between subsequent approximations and exploit telescoping sum to obtain cost reduction
  - Most samples are taken on the coarse grids, and only few samples are required on the finest grid
  - All benefits of Monte Carlo methods remain
- Discussed the **MG-MLQMC** extension
  - FMG solver yields free samples on coarse grids
  - Can be reused if care is taken not to introduce additional statistical error (→ random shifting from QMC)
- Application to real-life engineering problem
  - Can couple with existing code without much effort
  - Large gain by using the MLQMC method

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Thank you for your attention