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A hybridized iterative algorithm of the BiCORSTAB and GPBiCOR methods for solving non-Hermitian linear systems

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A B S T R A C T

In this study, we derive a new iterative algorithm (including its preconditioned version) which is a hybridized variant of the biconjugate *A*-orthogonal residual stabilized (BiCORSTAB) method and the generalized product-type solvers based on BiCOR (GPBi-COR) method. The proposed method, which is named $GPBICOR(m, \ell)$ similarly to the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) method proposed by Fujino (2002), can be regarded as an extension of the BiCORSTAB2 method introduced by Zhao and Huang (2013). Inspired by Fujino's idea for improving the BiCGSTAB2 method, in the established GPBiCOR (m, ℓ) method the parameters computed by the BiCORSTAB method are chosen at successive *m* iteration steps, and afterwards the parameters of the GPBiCOR method are utilized in the subsequent ℓ iteration steps. Therefore, the proposed method can inherit the low computational cost of Bi-CORSTAB and the attractive convergence of GPBiCOR. Extensive numerical convergence results on selected real and complex matrices are shown to assess the performances of the proposed GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) method, also against other popular non-Hermitian Krylov subspace methods.

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1. Introduction

In many computational science and engineering applications, there is a strong need of fast and efficient solutions of large sparse linear systems

 $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, (1)

where *A* is an $n \times n$ non-Hermitian and possibly indefinite matrix, and **b** is the right-hand side vector of length *n*. There are two classes of numerical methods for solving the linear system [\(1\)](#page-1-3) on modern computers, namely direct and iterative solvers. Sparse direct methods are generally very accurate, robust, and predictable in terms of both storage and algorithmic cost (e.g. see [\[1\]](#page-12-0)). However, they tend to be very expensive for solving large problems. A large number of researchers are still interested in developing robust iterative solvers, especially the well-known class of Krylov subspace methods, as they only require matrix–vector products; refer to [\[2–5\]](#page-12-1). As we already know, if the coefficient matrix *A* is Hermitian positive definite, the conjugate gradient (CG) method [\[6\]](#page-12-2) is a very good choice. In addition, if the coefficient matrix *A* is complex symmetric,

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i.e. $A = A^T$ and $A \neq A^H$, Krylov subspace methods can exploit symmetry during the iterative process; refer, e.g., to our recent work [\[7,](#page-12-3)[8\]](#page-12-4) about the SCBiCG class of iterative algorithms. In the case, the coefficient matrix *A* is substantially non-Hermitian (e.g., see [\[2](#page-12-1)[,3\]](#page-12-5) and references therein), two popular non-Hermitian iterative solvers are the generalized minimal residual (GMRES) method proposed by Saad and Schultz [\[9\]](#page-12-6), and the generalized conjugate residual (GCR) method proposed by Eisenstat, Elman and Schultz [\[10\]](#page-12-7). Both the GMRES and GCR methods search the *optimal* approximation *x^m* for which the 2-norm of the residual r_m is minimal over the Krylov space $\mathcal{K}_m(A,\bm{r}_0)=\text{span}\{r_0,Ar_0,\ldots,A^{m-1}r_0\}$ for $m=1,2,\ldots$, where r_0 denotes the initial residual. However, due to the linearly increasing memory and computational costs with the iteration count, the two algorithms are often restarted after each cycle of, say, *m* iterations. The restarted GMRES and GCR variants, dubbed by GMRES(*m*) [\[2,](#page-12-1)[9,](#page-12-6) pp. 179–180] and GCR(*m*) [\[10\]](#page-12-7), however, do not share the optimality property of the original methods, and in practice they show some difficulties to converge on difficult problems. Some strategies to recover the optimal convergence behavior, while keeping the cost per iteration roughly constant, such as deflation and augmentation accelerating techniques, are described in [\[4,](#page-12-8)[11–15\]](#page-12-9).

On the other side, a prominent *non-optimal* Krylov subspace method for non-Hermitian systems is the biconjugate gradient (BiCG) method proposed in [\[16,](#page-12-10)[17\]](#page-12-11). However, the BiCG method displays irregular convergence behavior in many practical applications and requires two matrix–vector products, one with *A* and one with the transpose conjugate matrix *A ^H* per iteration step. Several variants of the BiCG method have been proposed to enhance its overall performance, such as the conjugate gradient squared (CGS) method proposed by Sonneveld [\[18\]](#page-12-12), the generalized CGS (GCGS) method proposed by Fokkema, Sleijpen and van der Vorst [\[19\]](#page-12-13), Freund and Nachtigal's transpose-free quasi-minimal residual (TFQMR) method [\[20\]](#page-12-14), van der Vorst's biconjugate gradient stabilized (BiCGSTAB) method [\[21\]](#page-12-15), the BiCGSTAB2 method by Gutknecht [\[22\]](#page-12-16), the BiCGSTAB(ℓ) method by Sleijpen and Fokkema [\[23\]](#page-12-17), and the generalized product-type method based on BiCG (GPBiCG) method introduced by Zhang [\[24,](#page-12-18)[25\]](#page-12-19). Moreover, the reborn induced dimension reduction (abbreviated as IDR(*s*)) method, which is also an efficient short-recurrence family of Krylov subspace methods, was proposed by Sonneveld and van Gijzen in [\[26\]](#page-12-20). A different approach to generalize BiCGSTAB was proposed by Yeung and Chan, whose ML(*k*)BiCGSTAB method [\[27\]](#page-12-21) is a BiCGSTAB variant based on multiple left Lanczos starting vectors; for a comparative study of the IDR(*s*) and ML(*k*)BiCGSTAB methods, see [\[28\]](#page-12-22).

It is a question to determine the classes of problems for which one algorithm is more numerically stable and memory efficient than others. For example, in many problems the CGS method is significantly faster than the BiCG method, but the convergence behavior is much more irregular, and this can potentially affect the final convergence rate and accuracy of the solution. Instead of squaring the BiCG polynomial $[16]$ as in CGS, the authors of $[19]$ consider products of two nearby BiCG polynomials, which results in the GCGS method. The BiCGSTAB2 and BiCGSTAB(ℓ) methods integrate both first and second (or higher) degree auxiliary polynomials, amending the convergent stability of the BiCGSTAB method on many problems. In contrast, the GPBiCG method utilizes only second degree auxiliary polynomials. Therefore each GPBiCG iteration step is slightly more expensive than other product-type iterative methods; similarly, refer to [Table 1](#page-3-0) about the cost for computing the scalar parameters. However, the idea behind the GPBiCG method implies that it is further possible to develop hybridized variants which attempt to select the different parameters of the algorithm to minimize its final cost; see [\[24\]](#page-12-18) for details.

In recent years, we [\[29](#page-12-23)[,30\]](#page-12-24) proposed a novel class of efficient *non-optimal* iterative methods for solving non-Hermitian linear systems [\(1\),](#page-1-3) dubbed biconjugate *A*-orthogonal residual (BiCOR) family. The BiCOR family of solvers requires only $\mathcal{O}(n)$ extra storage in addition to the matrix and performs $\mathcal{O}(n)$ operations per iteration, often shows competitive and sometimes superior performance against other popular Krylov subspace solvers in solving different scientific and engineering applications [\[31,](#page-12-25)[32\]](#page-12-26). The first variant, named the BiCOR method, can have much smoother and faster convergence behavior than the BiCG method. The same residual polynomial of the BiCOR method is utilized and squared in the second variant, the CORS method [\[29\]](#page-12-23). The convergence of the CORS method may be typically more irregular than that of the BiCOR method when the BiCOR method has a jagged convergence curve. In order to overcome this convergence problem, the BiCORSTAB method has been established exploiting the same philosophy behind the BiCGSTAB method. While the BiCORSTAB method works well in a lot of cases, it still has quite erratic oscillation in some difficult problems with complex spectrum; see e.g., the experiments reported in [\[29](#page-12-23)[,32\]](#page-12-26) on the representative matrix problems. By applying the ideas behind the BiCORSTAB, CORS, CGS and BiCGSTAB methods, a few generalized methods have been recently proposed such as the generalized product-type solvers based on BiCOR (GPBiCOR) method introduced by Zhao, Huang, Jing et al. [\[33\]](#page-12-27), the generalized CORS (GCORS) method by Zhang and Dai [\[34\]](#page-12-28), the QMOR method also by Zhang and Dai [\[35\]](#page-12-29), the TFQMR-like variant of the CORS (TFQMORS) method by Zhang and Dai [\[36\]](#page-12-30), and the BiCORSTAB2 method by Zhao and Huang [\[37\]](#page-12-31). Again, the GPBiCOR method utilizes always the second degree polynomial only similar to the case of GPBiCG. Therefore, cost of the GPBiCOR method per iteration step is slightly more expensive than those of other product-type iterative methods such as CORS and BiCORSTAB. By the way, it is also noted that almost simultaneously the authors of [\[38\]](#page-12-32) independently constructed the hybrid BiCR methods for solving nonsymmetric linear systems via replacing the BiCG part in the residual polynomial of the hybrid BiCG variants with BiCR [\[39\]](#page-13-0), but the comparison of the BiCOR family of solvers [\[29](#page-12-23)[,30\]](#page-12-24) and the hybrid BiCR variants [\[38\]](#page-12-32) is not the emphasis of this present study.

A mechanism of the GPBiCOR method has indicated further possibility of constructing a new hybridized variant in which one can vary from the CORS and BiCORSTAB methods to the BiCORSTAB2 method with suitable choice of parameters [\[33\]](#page-12-27). In this paper, we investigate this possibility. The research was prompted by the pioneering work about the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) method [\[40\]](#page-13-1), which makes an attempt to construct a hybridized iterative procedure for reducing the cost of the GPBiCG iterations. The GPBiCOR method is considerably more competitive than the GPBiCG method, see [\[33\]](#page-12-27) for details, but this

Table 1 Choice of parameters η*ⁿ* and ζ*ⁿ* of some product-type iterative methods.

algorithm suffers from the slightly more expensive cost during the iteration procedure, as shown in [Table 1.](#page-3-0) We exploit the ingenious idea behind GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) to establish a hybridized cost-efficient variant of BiCORSTAB and GPBiCOR. The proposed method not only generalizes earlier established iterative methods as the BiCORSTAB, GPBiCOR and BiCORSTAB2 methods, but can improve their convergence to some extent, as illustrated by our numerical results presented in Section [3.](#page-5-0)

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Section [2,](#page-3-1) we briefly review the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) method and the derivations of GPBiCOR and GPBiCG(m, ℓ), then we establish the GPBiCOR(m, ℓ) method and describe the corresponding algorithms and parameters of the BiCORSTAB, BiCORSTAB2 and GPBiCOR methods of the product-type methods. In Section [3,](#page-5-0) some test problems involving both real and complex matrices are employed to illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed solvers. Finally, the paper closes with conclusions in Section [4.](#page-11-0)

2. GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ**) method and a new variant of the GPBiCOR method**

In this section, we will first briefly introduce the main idea of $GPBiCG(m, \ell)$ proposed by Fujino, and then give some remarks on this method. Since the GPBiCOR method is closely related to the GPBiCG method, so we can exploit Fujino's trick to derive a new hybridized variant of GPBiCOR.

2.1. The GPBiCG(m, ℓ*) method*

Let us begin by reviewing the GPBiCG method [\[24\]](#page-12-18), recall x_0 and $r_0 = b - Ax_0$ denote the initial guess and the corresponding initial residual, respectively. Then, the residual vector *r* BiCG *k* generated by BiCG iterations can be formed by $r_k^{BICG} = R_k(A)r_0$, where $R_k(\lambda)$ with degree *k* is the residual polynomial of BiCG. It writes as a multiple of the so-called Bi-Lanczos polynomial [\[3](#page-12-5)[,16,](#page-12-10)[24\]](#page-12-18), which is in accordance with the following recurrence relations

$$
\begin{cases} R_0(\lambda) = 1, & R_1(\lambda) = 1 - \alpha_0 \lambda, \\ R_{k+1}(\lambda) = \left(1 + \alpha_k \frac{\beta_{k-1}}{\alpha_{k-1}} - \alpha_k \lambda\right) R_k(\lambda) - \alpha_k \frac{\beta_{k-1}}{\alpha_{k-1}} R_{k-1}(\lambda), & k = 1, 2, \dots \end{cases} \tag{2}
$$

for certain coefficients α_k and β_{k-1} . The residual vector r_k of the hybrid BiCG methods is expressed as $M_k(A)r_k^{\text{BicG}}$ by combining BiCG with an auxiliary polynomial $M_k(\lambda)$ of degree *k*. The polynomial $M_k(\lambda)$ used in the GPBiCG method is computed from the following recurrence

$$
\begin{cases} M_0(\lambda) = 1, & M_1(\lambda) = 1 - \zeta_0 \lambda, \\ M_{k+1}(\lambda) = (1 + \eta_k - \zeta_k \lambda) M_k(\lambda) - \eta_k M_{k-1}(\lambda), & k = 1, 2, \dots \end{cases} \tag{3}
$$

which can make the residual of BiCG converge to zero faster. Then the GPBiCG method needs to compute the coefficients η*^k* and ζ_k by minimizing the term

$$
\min_{\eta_k, \zeta_k} \|\mathbf{r}_k\|_2 = \min_{\eta_k, \zeta_k} \|M_k(A)\mathbf{r}_k^{\text{BiCG}}\|_2 = \min_{\eta_k, \zeta_k} \|M_k(A)R_k(A)\mathbf{r}_0\|_2.
$$
\n(4)

In many applications, the GPBiCG method is indeed more efficient and robust than the BiCGSTAB method. However, the total computational time can be higher than that of the BiCGSTAB method due to the solution of the minimization problem [\(4\).](#page-3-2) Motivated by this computational problem, Fujino recently proposed to utilize the sectional iteration steps of BiCGSTAB followed by another segmental iteration steps of GPBiCG during the whole iterative procedure. The resulting GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) method is clearly a hybrid variant of GPBiCG and BiCGSTAB and is expected to enjoy both the low computational cost of BiCGSTAB and at the same time the good convergence of GPBiCG, refer to [\[40](#page-13-1)[,41\]](#page-13-2). From [\[40\]](#page-13-1), the original version of $GPBicG(m, \ell)$ can be written as Algorithm 1.

In addition, the GPBiCG(1, 0), GPBiCG(0, 1) and GPBiCG(1, 1) methods are equivalent to the BiCGSTAB, GPBiCG and BiCGSTAB2 methods, respectively; see [\[40\]](#page-13-1) for details. Therefore, the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) method can be viewed as a direct extension of the BiCGSTAB2 method. The two parameters η_n and ζ_n at lines 13 and 14 are computed to minimize the residual norm $||\mathbf{r}_{n+1}||_2 = ||\mathbf{t}_n - \eta_n \mathbf{y}_n - \zeta_n A \mathbf{t}_n||_2$, also see Eq. [\(4\).](#page-3-2) The selection of *m* and ℓ in the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods is in general problem dependent.

2.2. A new variant of the GPBiCOR method

According to the derivation of GPBiCG, it is not hard to find that the GPBiCOR method can be also obtained by utilizing the aforementioned framework [\(2\)–\(4\),](#page-3-3) by employing the identities $\mathbf{r}_k^{\text{BICOR}} = R_k(A)\mathbf{r}_0$ and defining the residual vector r_k of the hybrid BiCOR methods as $M_k(A)r_k^{BiCOR}$, where the residual vector r_k^{BiCOR} generated by BiCOR; refer to [\[24](#page-12-18)[,25\]](#page-12-19) for details. Similarly to the GPBiCG method, the implementation of minimization problem (4) is slightly more expensive (see the computational formulae of the scalar coefficients ζ*ⁿ* and η*ⁿ* in Algorithm 2) than other hybrid methods such as CORS and BiCORSTAB. In order to remedy this difficulty, we exploit Fujino's idea implemented in GPBiCG(m, ℓ) and we derive the hybridized variant of the GPBiCOR method. We refer to the resulting method as dubbed GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ). Firstly, we reformulate the algorithm of GPBiCOR proposed in [\[33\]](#page-12-27) as in Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2 Algorithm of GPBiCOR

Here, two recurrences and the variables characterized with symbol "" at steps 5, 9, and 16 are newly added to alleviate the number of matrix–vector products per iteration step. If we want to obtain the algorithm of BiCORSTAB, we would need to simplify four working variables y_n , u_n , z_n and w_n given above. In [Table 1](#page-3-0) we summarize the choices of the two parameters η*ⁿ* and ζ*ⁿ* leading to the CORS, BiCORSTAB, GPBiCOR, BiCORSTAB2 and the proposed GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods. From this table we can see that the BiCORSTAB, GPBiCOR and BiCORSTAB2 methods correspond to GPBiCOR(1, 0), GPBiCOR(0, 1) and GPBiCOR(1, 1) methods, respectively. In other words, the BiCORSTAB2 method will be extended to the GPBiCOR(m, ℓ)

Table 2

Computation cost of GPBiCG(m, ℓ), GPBiCOR(m, ℓ) and their preconditioned variants.

method by this study. Like the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) method, the two parameters η*ⁿ* and ζ*ⁿ* are determined so that the residual norm $||\mathbf{r}_{n+1}||_2 = ||\mathbf{r}_n - \eta_n \mathbf{y}_n - \zeta_n A \mathbf{r}_n||_2$ is minimized, also see Eq. [\(4\).](#page-3-2) Combination of both parameters *m* and ℓ of the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) method can be decided according to the difficulty of the problem.

For the efficient implementation, we present the preconditioned version of the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) algorithm (see Algorithm $2¹$ $2¹$ $2¹$) by the derivation of preconditioned GPBiCG method [\[25\]](#page-12-19). The pseudo code, here rewritten using the same style of Algorithm 1, reads as:

At the end of this section, we analyze the computational cost for GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ), GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and their preconditioned variants (abbreviated as PGPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) and PGPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ), respectively) in [Table 1](#page-3-0) by using the idea of Ref. [\[42\]](#page-13-3). The **for** loops in Algorithms 1 and 3 are divided into 4 parts: the part before **if** and after **else** denoted as the head (*H*) part and the tail (*T*) respectively. As seen from [Table 2,](#page-5-2) the computational cost of the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and PGPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods is slightly more expensive than the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) and PGPBiCG(m, ℓ) methods, respectively, if the number of iterations of the GPBiCOR(m, ℓ) and PGPBiCOR(m, ℓ) methods is greatly close to that of the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) and PGPBiCG(m, ℓ) methods. However, the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and PGPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods require less number of iteration steps than the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) and PGPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods in some cases, respectively. Then it implies that the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and PGPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods can still converge faster than the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) and PGPBiCG(m, ℓ) methods in terms of the elapsed CPU time for some test problems, respectively; also refer to Section [3](#page-5-0) for further discussion.

3. Numerical experiments

Far from being exhaustive, in this section the following experiments are reported to investigate some performance of the $GPEiCOR(m, \ell)$ methods when applied to solving five sets of test problems. For the sake of comparison, we are concerned with the GPBiCG(*m*, *ℓ*), BiCORSTAB, GPBiCOR, BiCORSTAB2, CORS, and other popular Krylov subspace methods (such as CGS, GMRES(50), IDR(s),^{[2](#page-5-3)} and TFQMR). Here we also need to specify that the BiCGSTAB, GPBiCG and BiCGSTAB2 methods correspond to the GPBiCG(1, 0), GPBiCG(0, 1) and GPBiCG(1, 1) methods, respectively, refer to [\[40\]](#page-13-1) for details. Meanwhile, our numerical experiments focus on both real and complex test matrices, and also consider the preconditioning benefits of

¹ In order to reduce the number of MVPS, some notations should be defined: $\hat{\boldsymbol{p}}_n := A\boldsymbol{p}_n$, $\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_n := A\boldsymbol{e}_n$, $\hat{\boldsymbol{u}}_{n-1} := A\boldsymbol{u}_{n-1}$. Then it shows that Algorithm 2 (like the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) method) needs two *MVPS* in each iteration step.

² We directly use the MATLAB codes from [http://ta.twi.tudelft.nl/nw/users/gijzen/IDR.html.](http://ta.twi.tudelft.nl/nw/users/gijzen/IDR.html)

Table 3

iterative solvers. The experiments have been carried out in double precision floating point arithmetic with MATLAB 2014a (64 bit) on PC-Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-3470 CPU 3.20 GHz, 8 GB of RAM. Here we use *Iters* and *TRR* to denote the number of iterations and log₁₀ of the final true relative residual 2-norm defined as $\log_{10}(\|\bm{b}-A\bm{x}_{final}\|_2/\|\bm{r}_0\|_2)$, respectively. In our experiments we take the zero vector as initial guess. The stopping criterion used here is the reduction of the 2-norm of the initial residual by eight orders of magnitude, i.e., ∥*rk*∥2/∥*r*0∥² ≤ Tol = ¹⁰−⁸ . The convergence histories show *MVPS* (on the horizontal axis) versus 2-norms of the approximate relative residuals (on the vertical axis) in all figures. The notations ''OSTAB'', ''STAB'', ''GPO'' and ''GP'' correspond to the BiCORSTAB, BiCGSTAB, GPBiCOR and GPBiCG methods, respectively. Similarly, the symbols "GPO(\cdot , \cdot)" and "GP(\cdot , \cdot)" denote each sub-solvers of the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods, respectively. For the sake of clarity, the non-Hermitian test matrices from University of Florida Sparse Matrix Collection [\[43\]](#page-13-4) in this section are listed in [Table 3.](#page-6-0)

Example 1. First, we consider two publicly available linear systems with the two coefficient matrices "circuit_1" and ''circuit_2'', which arise from circuit simulations modeled as a system of differential algebraic equations. Upon solving with a BDF method, and Newton's method, a linear system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is required to be solved at each time step. The numerical results are reported in [Table 4.](#page-7-0) Here, the symbol "†" indicates that the method did not converge, and this specified symbol is also available for similar cases in the next numerical examples.

We can see that the GPBiCOR(m, ℓ) class of methods are more efficient than the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) solvers in terms of the less number of *Iters*, except the GPBiCOR(2, 1) method for the first problem. Meanwhile, the level of accuracy of all the converged approximate solutions (in terms of *TRR*) was almost of the same order of magnitude of the tolerance value used in the given stopping criterion, except the CGS and TFQMR methods for the second test problem. We found that when the number of *Iters* for these two families of iterative solvers are similar, the GPBiCOR(m, ℓ) methods may be slightly more expensive than the GPBiCG (m, ℓ) methods. It is because the GPBiCOR (m, ℓ) methods require some additional BLAS-1 operations in each iteration step, see the lines 5, 10, 13 and 20 of Algorithm 3 and also [Table 3.](#page-6-0) Both the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) and GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods indeed improve the convergence of the BiCGSTAB and BiCORSTAB methods in terms of both the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Roughly, the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) method also alleviates the elapsed CPU time of GPBiCG, but the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) method fails to reduce the elapsed CPU time of GPBiCOR dramatically in [Example 1.](#page-6-1) Meanwhile, although the restarted GMRES method is close to the *optimal* Krylov subspace methods, it is still more expensive than the other iterative solvers. For simplicity, [Fig. 1](#page-7-1) only shows typical plots of the convergence behavior of different iterative solvers; the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods showed fairly attractive convergence behaviors compared to those of GPBiCG(m , ℓ) in the last phase. In conclusion, the GPBiCOR(1, 3) and GPBiCOR(1, 2) methods are the best choices for the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time for solving the first and second problems, respectively. From the point of view of solution time, the CORS method can be used as an alternative for the first test problem, and the IDR(4) and IDR(6) methods can be regarded as two good alternatives for the second test problem. By the way, the results for both CGS and TFQMR methods listed in [Table 4](#page-7-0) indicate that these two methods may suffer from serious breakdowns on the circuit_2 problem. In the interest of counteraction against such breakdowns, oneself can make use of remedies such as the so-called look-ahead strategies [\[44\]](#page-13-5) which can enhance stability while increasing cost modestly or others. Since this is outside the scope of this study, we shall not pursue that here.

Example 2. Here we choose other two linear systems from University of Florida Sparse Matrix Collection, arising from computational fluid dynamics (CFD) applications. More precisely, the nonsymmetric matrix ''sherman3'' comes from the black oil model simulations. Test matrix ''Poisson3Da'' from FEMLAB, which is a finite-element method toolbox for MATLAB, developed by Comsol, Inc. (see <http://www.femlab.com> for more details). We let $\bm{b} = A\bm{e}$, where \bm{e} was chosen as a vector with random entries from −1 to 1, such that *e* is the exact solution. The numerical results of different iterative solvers are reported in [Table 5.](#page-8-0) A symbol ''*max*'' is used to indicate that the method did not meet the required *Tol* before $MAXIT = 5000$.

As seen from [Table 5,](#page-8-0) since the number of successful sub-solvers of the GPBiCOR(m, ℓ) methods for solving the first test problem is higher compared to GPBiCG (m, ℓ) , we conclude that the GPBiCOR (m, ℓ) methods are more efficient than the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) methods on this problem. Moreover, the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) method does not improve the convergence of the BiCGSTAB and GPBiCG methods at all, whereas the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) method improves the convergence of BiCORSTAB and partially the convergence of GPBiCOR in the first test problem. For the second test problem, the GPBiCG (m, ℓ) method

Numerical results of different iterative solvers for [Example 1.](#page-6-1)

Fig. 1. Convergence histories of different iterative methods for [Example 1.](#page-6-1) Left: circuit_1; Right: circuit_2.

indeed improves the convergence of the BiCGSTAB method in terms of both number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Roughly, the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) method also alleviates the elapsed CPU time of GPBiCG, but the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) method fails to improve the performance of the BiCORSTAB and GPBiCOR methods dramatically. Meanwhile, the level of accuracy of all the converged approximate solutions (in terms of *TRR*) was almost of the same order of magnitude of the tolerance value used in the given stopping criterion. At the same time, when the number of *Iters* required to converge is similar, the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods may be slightly more expensive than the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods. Once again, although the restarted GMRES method gets close to the *optimal* Krylov subspace methods, it is still more expensive than the other iterative solvers. From [Table 5](#page-8-0) we can conclude that the GPBiCOR(5, 1) method is the best choice among these listed iterative solvers in terms of the less number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time for the first test problem. Even the TRR of the GPBiCOR(5, 1) method is the best one among these iterative solvers for the first test problem. The BiCORSTAB method is the fastest solver on the second test problem. In addition, the performance of both the GPBiCOR(3, 1) and GPBiCOR(4, 1) methods are not disappointing and they can be considered as two alternatives for this problem. By the way, the results of testing the first problem also indicate that application specific preconditioners may be mandatory to use to speed up the iterative procedure.

Example 3. In this example, we solve the test problems adopted from [\[45\]](#page-13-6), for which the coefficient matrix of the linear system has the form

$$
A = \begin{pmatrix} D & K \\ -K^T & \mu I \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times 2n}, \quad K = (t_{i,j}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sigma e^{\frac{-|i-j|^2}{2\sigma^2}}
$$
 is a Toeplitz matrix,

Table 5

Numerical results of different iterative solvers for [Example 2.](#page-6-2)

Table 6

Numerical results of different iterative solvers for [Example 3.](#page-7-2)

where $D \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a positive diagonal matrix,^{[3](#page-8-1)} and $I \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a identity matrix. Taking $\sigma = 2$, a very ill-conditioned Toeplitz matrix with rapidly decaying singular values is obtained. This family of linear systems often arises in the weighted Toeplitz regularized least squares computation for image restoration problems, refer to [\[46\]](#page-13-7) for details. For simplicity, we let *b* = *Ae*, where *e* was chosen as a vector with random entries from −1 to 1, such that *e* is the exact solution. The numerical results of different iterative solvers are reported in [Table 6.](#page-8-2)

As seen from [Table 6,](#page-8-2) we find that the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods are more efficient than GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods in terms of the less number of *Iters* and the elapsed CPU time (except the GPBiCOR(1, 4) method for the second problem). Meanwhile, the level of accuracy of all the converged approximate solutions (in terms of *TRR*) was almost of the same order of magnitude of the tolerance value used in the given stopping criterion. As we already mentioned and explained, when the number of *Iters* are similar, the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods may still be more expensive than the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods. Both the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) and GPBiCOR (m, ℓ) methods indeed improve the convergence of the BiCGSTAB and BiCORSTAB methods in terms of the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Roughly, the GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods also alleviate the elapsed CPU time of GPBiCG, but the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods fail to reduce the elapsed CPU time of GPBiCOR on the first test problem. Moreover, both the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods fail to reduce the elapsed CPU time of GPBiCOR and GPBiCG for the second test problem in [Example 3.](#page-7-2) Meanwhile, the restarted GMRES method still remains more expensive than the other iterative solvers. For simplicity, [Fig. 2](#page-9-0) only illustrates typical plots of the convergence behavior of some different iterative solvers;

³ For the sake of convenience, we employ the MATLAB codes "d = 3 + [rand(n-400,1); randn(400,1)];" to generate its diagonal entries.

Fig. 2. Convergence histories of the different iterative methods for [Example 3.](#page-7-2) Left: $\mu = 0.04$, $n = 1024$; Right: $\mu = 0.05$, $n = 2048$.

we can see that GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods showed fairly attractive convergence behaviors compared to those of GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods in the last phase. Note that the CORS and CGS methods show their typically irregular convergence behaviors. For the first test problem, the GPBiCOR(1, 5) method outperforms all other iterative solvers in terms of the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Meanwhile, the performance of the CORS method is not bad in terms of the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time and it can be an efficient alternative for the first test problem. Then the CORS method outperforms the other iterative methods in terms of the less number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time for solving the second problems. The GPBiCOR(1, 2) method can be used an alternative for this problem. By the way, the results in bold print of [Table 6](#page-8-2) indicate that the GPBiCOR(5, 1) and GPBiCOR(1, 5) methods can reach the most accurate final solutions in terms of *TRR* in Example 3, respectively.

Example 4. Moreover, we consider two other publicly available linear systems with the coefficient matrices "ex31" and ''memplus'', which arise from CFD and circuit simulations, respectively. Whenever no right-hand side is available for the original linear system *Ax* = *b*, we let *b* = *Ae*, where *e* was chosen as a vector with random entries from −1 to 1, such that **e** is the exact solution. Then we want to evaluate the performance of GPBiCOR(m, ℓ) and GPBiCG(m, ℓ) with ILU(0) preconditioning [\[2,](#page-12-1) pp. 307–310] for solving the test linear systems. For stability reasons we compute an ILU(0) factorization of $A + \sigma I$, where $\sigma = 10^{-12}$ if all diagonal elements of *A* are zero, or $\sigma = 10^{-12}$ max{|a_{*ii*}|} if some but not all diagonal elements a_{ii} of *A* zero, or $\sigma = 0$ otherwise. This procedure follows the recommendations proposed in [\[47\]](#page-13-8). The numerical results of different preconditioned iterative solvers are reported in [Table 7.](#page-9-2)

Fig. 3. Convergence histories of the different iterative methods with ILU(0) preconditioning for [Example 4.](#page-9-1) Left: ex31; Right: memplus.

We clearly see from the results of [Table 7](#page-9-2) and from the convergence histories shown in [Fig. 3](#page-10-0) the good potential of the hybridized strategy and selected preconditioning can improve the performance of the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods to some extent. For the first problem, the PGPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods are more efficient than the PGPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods in terms of the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Moreover, the PGPBiCOR(4, 1) method outperforms the other preconditioned iterative solvers in aspects of elapsed CPU time. However, the PGPBiCOR(4, 1) method still needs slightly more *Iters* than the PGPBiCOR(1, 1) and PGPBiCOR(1, 3) methods. All in all, we conclude that the PGPBiCOR(4, 1) method is the best choice for solving the first test problem, the PGPBiCOR(3, 1) method being an efficient alternative. Then for the second problem, the PGPBiCOR(1, 5) method outperforms all other preconditioned iterative solvers in terms of the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Meanwhile, the convergence performance of PGPBiCOR(1, 4) is not disappointing for the second problem. In addition, the level of accuracy of the approximations computed by these mentioned iterative methods (in terms of *TRR*) was almost of the same order of magnitude of the tolerance value used in the given stopping criterion, except the preconditioned GMRES(50) method on the second test problem. Roughly, the PGPBiCOR(m, ℓ) and PGPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods indeed improve the convergence of the preconditioned BiCORSTAB and preconditioned BiCGSTAB methods for these two test problems in terms of the number of *Iters*, except that the preconditioned GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) method almost fails to improve the convergence of the preconditioned BiCGSTAB method for the first test problems in terms of the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Also, the PGPBiCG (m, ℓ) method also alleviates the elapsed CPU time of the preconditioned GPBiCG method, but the PGPBiCOR (m, ℓ) method fails to reduce the CPU time cost of the preconditioned GPBiCOR method dramatically on [Example 4.](#page-9-1) The restarted preconditioned GMRES method still remains more expensive than the other preconditioned iterative solvers. For simplicity, [Fig. 3](#page-10-0) only shows typical plots of the convergence behavior of some different preconditioned iterative solvers; we see that the PGPBiCOR (m, ℓ) methods had fairly attractive convergence behaviors compared to the PGPBiCG (m, ℓ) methods in the last phase.

Example 5. At last but not least, we still consider two other large-scale linear systems with the coefficient matrices ''bcircuit'' and ''hcircuit'', which are from the circuit simulation problems, for illustrating the effectiveness of our proposed methods. For these two problems, we set $\mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{e}$ where \mathbf{e} is the $n \times 1$ vector whose elements are all equal to unity, such that $\bm{e}=(1,\ldots,1)^T$ is the exact solution. Then we want to evaluate the performance of GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and GPBiCG(m, ℓ) with ILUT(droptol) preconditioning [\[2,](#page-12-1) pp. 321–327] for solving the test linear systems. The numerical results of different iterative solvers with ILUT(droptol) preconditioning are reported in [Table 8.](#page-11-1)

As observed from the numerical results of [Table 8](#page-11-1) and from the convergence curves demonstrated in [Fig. 4](#page-11-2) the good potential of the hybridized strategy and selected preconditioning can enhance the performance of the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and GPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods to some extent. For these two problems, the PGPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods are more efficient than the PGPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods in terms of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Moreover, the PGPBiCOR(5, 1) method outperforms the other preconditioned iterative solvers in aspects of elapsed CPU time for solving the first problem. However, the PGPBiCOR(5, 1) method still requires slightly more *Iters* than the PGPBiCOR(1, 1) method. All in all, we conclude that the PGPBiCOR(5, 1) method is the best choice for solving the first test problem, the PGPBiCOR(1, 1) method being an efficient alternative. Then for the second problem, the PGPBiCOR method outperforms all other preconditioned iterative solvers in terms of the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Meanwhile, the convergence performance of PGPBiCOR(4, 1) and PGPBiCOR(5, 1) is not disappointing for the second problem. In addition, the level of accuracy of the approximations computed by these mentioned iterative methods (in aspects of *TRR*) was almost of the same order of magnitude of the tolerance value

Fig. 4. Convergence histories of the different iterative methods with ILUT(droptol) preconditioning for [Example 5.](#page-10-1) Left: bcircuit, droptol = 0.01; Right: hcircuit, droptol = 0.025.

used in the given stopping criterion, except the preconditioned GMRES(50) method on the second test problem. Roughly, the PGPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) and PGPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) methods indeed improve the convergence of the preconditioned BiCORSTAB and preconditioned BiCGSTAB method for these two test problems in terms of the number of *Iters* and elapsed CPU time. Likewise, the PGPBiCOR (m, ℓ) methods also alleviate the elapsed CPU time of preconditioned GPBiCOR method for the first test problem, not the second test problem. In addition, the PGPBiCG(*m*, ℓ) method seems to fail to reduce the CPU time elapsed of preconditioned GPBiCG method dramatically on [Example 5.](#page-10-1) The restarted preconditioned GMRES method still remains more expensive than the other preconditioned iterative solvers. For the sake of simplicity, [Fig. 4](#page-11-2) only illustrates representative plots of the convergence behaviors of some different preconditioned iterative methods; we see that the PGPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods had fairly preferable convergence behaviors compared to the PGPBiCG (m, ℓ) methods in the last phase.

4. Conclusions

In this paper we present the development steps of the GPBiCOR(m, ℓ) method, which can be regarded as a hybridized variant of the BiCORSTAB and GPBiCOR methods, along with comprehensive convergence results. The numerical experiments indicate that the GPBiCOR (m, ℓ) method may be overall more efficient than the GPBiCG (m, ℓ) method recently proposed by Fujino and can be a significant method for solving the non-Hermitian systems of linear equations with real and complex matrices. However, further research is still necessary to find an optimal parameter selection strategy for the values of *m* and ℓ in the GPBiCOR(*m*, ℓ) methods. In our numerical experiments, the performance of the IDR(*s*) methods were also competitive. As mentioned by the author of [\[48\]](#page-13-9), recently, the relations between IDR(*s*) and BiCGStab(ℓ) and combinations of both methods have been investigated, refer to [\[49,](#page-13-10)[50\]](#page-13-11). So we think it should be possible to combine some of the ideas behind $GPBicG(m, \ell)$ and $GPBicOR(m, \ell)$ with the IDR philosophy to derive novel cost-efficient iterative solvers for non-Hermitian linear systems in future work. Finally, we mention that the parallel strategies for the GPBiCG(m, ℓ) methods presented in [\[42\]](#page-13-3) can be investigated for the proposed GPBiCOR (m, ℓ) methods. This will be the subject of a future study.

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