Non-intrusive Data-driven Model Reduction for Differential Algebraic Equations Derived from Lifting Transformations

by

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Abstract

This paper presents a non-intrusive data-driven approach for model reduction of nonlinear systems. The approach considers the particular case of nonlinear partial differential equations (PDEs) that form systems of differential-algebraic equations (DAEs) when lifted to polynomial form. Such systems arise, for example, when the governing equations include Arrhenius reaction terms (e.g., in reacting flow models) and thermodynamic terms (e.g., the Helmholtz free energy terms in a phase-field solidification model). Using the known structured form of the lifted algebraic equations, the approach computes the reduced operators for the algebraic equations explicitly, using straightforward linear algebraic operations on the basis matrices. The reduced operators for the differential equations are inferred from lifted snapshot data using operator inference, which solves a linear least squares regression problem. The approach is illustrated for the nonlinear model of solidification of a pure material. The lifting transformations reformulate the solidification PDEs as a system of DAEs that have cubic structure. The operators of the lifted system have affine dependence on key process parameters, permitting us to learn a parametric reduced model with operator inference. Numerical experiments show the effectiveness of the resulting reduced models in capturing key aspects of the solidification dynamics.

Keywords: Reduced Order Model, Nonlinear Model Reduction, Lifting Transformations, Differential Algebraic Equation, Proper Orthogonal Decomposition, Operator Inference, Additive Manufacturing, Solidification.

1. Introduction

Model reduction is effective in reducing the computational cost of simulating complex systems but remains a challenging task when the governing physics exhibit highly nonlinear dynamics. Variable transformations combined with
data-driven learning of the reduced model operators have emerged as one strategy to address the challenges of nonlinear model reduction [1, 2]; however, for a large class of systems, including those that arise in reacting flow and phase-field models, the desired variable transformations lead to systems of differential algebraic equations (DAEs). This paper considers the form of the DAEs that arise in lifting a nonlinear system to polynomial form and exploits that structure to extend the Operator Inference (OpInf) approach of [3] to these lifted DAE systems.

As a driving application, we consider a solidification process in metal additive manufacturing. Additive manufacturing is a process during which a three-dimensional part is built via the layer-by-layer deposition of material according to its digital model. Additive manufacturing’s layer-wise process adds value by allowing for the manufacturing of components with complex geometries that are either infeasible or difficult to build by conventional manufacturing processes. However, the additive manufacturing process takes place over a wide range of length scales and time scales, making numerical simulations computationally expensive. Further, uncertainty quantification is essential since the structure and properties of the resulting components are sensitive to process parameter variations [4]. Thus, reduced models are key enabler to making control, optimization, and uncertainty quantification computationally feasible for additive manufacturing.

Our target problem poses several challenges for existing model reduction methods. First, the transport-dominated physics of the solidification interface result in highly localized changes in the state solution with time. Classical projection-based model reduction methods that seek approximations of the state in a linear subspace (see e.g., [5–8]) require many modes to achieve accuracy in a problem such as this one, rendering the resulting reduced models inefficient. Second, the forward solidification model, a coupled system of nonlinear partial differential equations (PDEs) comprising a phase-field equation and a heat equation, has a strong nonlinear dependence on the process parameters. Classical projection-based model reduction methods that use hyper-reduction methods (such as the Empirical Interpolation Method [9] and the Discrete Empirical Interpolation Method [10]) will require many interpolation points to approximate the nonlinear terms, again rendering the resulting reduced models inefficient.

Methods based on variable transformations are becoming an effective alternative for model reduction of nonlinear systems of PDEs. These approaches draw upon the notion that the introduction of auxiliary variables (often referred to as “lifting”) can lead to a reformulation of the governing equations in a structured form. For example, [11] shows how general nonlinear ODEs can be written as so-called “polynomial ordinary differential systems” through the introduction of additional variables. In biology, variable transformations called “recasting” are used to transform nonlinear ODEs to the so-called S-system form, a polynomial form that is faster to solve numerically [12]. Approaches based on the Koopman operator lift a nonlinear dynamical system to an infinite-dimensional space in which the dynamics are linear [13, 14]. Ref. [15] introduced the idea of reformulating nonlinear dynamical systems in quadratic form for model reduc-
tion and showed that the number of auxiliary variables needed to lift a system to quadratic-bilinear form is linear in the number of elementary nonlinear functions in the original state equations. The work in [15] shows that a large class of nonlinear terms that appear in engineering systems (including monomial, sinusoidal, and exponential terms) may be lifted to quadratic form. Lifting has been extended to model reduction of problems governed by PDEs and shown to be a competitive alternative to hyper-reduction methods [1, 16]. Yet, for many practical applications it is neither feasible nor desirable to explicitly transform the high-fidelity PDE solver, which motivates the use of non-intrusive data-driven model reduction. The advantage of data-driven approaches is that they compute the reduced model directly from snapshot data, without needing access to the high-fidelity operators [3, 17–20]. The Lift & Learn method of [2] combines lifting of a nonlinear PDE with data-driven learning of the reduced model via the OpInf method of [3], so that variable transformations are applied only to snapshot data and not to the high-fidelity PDE solver itself.

For several classes of nonlinear PDEs, the particular form of the nonlinear terms means that lifting will lead to a system of DAEs. For example, this is the case for the Arrhenius reaction terms in the tubular reactor example of [1]. It is also the case for the nonlinear thermodynamic dependencies in the solidification model considered in this paper. It is well known that reduction of DAEs is challenging and that the algebraic equations require special treatment [21, 22]. In some applications the DAEs can be reformulated as a system of differential equations and model reduction techniques are applied to the index-reduced ODEs [23], but these approaches often lead to stiff systems [24]. Another approach taken in the literature is index-aware model reduction in which the nonlinear DAE is linearized about a stationary solution, the linearized DAE is decoupled into the differential and algebraic parts, and model reduction is applied to each part individually [24, 25]. These existing DAE model reduction approaches are intrusive; here we formulate a non-intrusive data-driven approach. When the algebraic equations arise through the lifting process, they take on a particular structured form. In this paper we elicit that structured form and we exploit it to learn the resulting reduced model via non-intrusive operator inference. In particular, we show that the reduction of the lifted algebraic equations can be computed explicitly using only manipulations of the low-dimensional basis vectors, while the reduction of the differential equations follows the OpInf approach of [3].

Section 2 of this paper presents the lifting of a nonlinear system of PDEs to polynomial form and discusses the form of the algebraic equations that arise. Section 3 develops the proposed non-intrusive operator inference approach for the lifted system of DAEs. Section 4 presents application of the approach to solidification of a pure metal. Finally, concluding remarks are presented in Section 5.
2. Nonlinear Model Reduction via Lifting to Polynomial Form

This section first presents the general projection-based reduction of a nonlinear system and discusses its computational challenges. We then discuss lifting of nonlinear systems to systems with polynomial terms with particular attention to the differential-algebraic structure that arises for several classes of nonlinear equations. We derive the form of the reduced model of the lifted DAE system.

2.1. Projection-based nonlinear model reduction

Our goal is to derive reduced-order models of systems of nonlinear PDEs. We consider the case where we have a system of \( dq \) PDEs. To keep the presentation of our model reduction approach general, we consider the semi-discrete system of nonlinear ordinary differential equations (ODEs) that arises from spatial discretization of the PDEs of interest:

\[
\dot{q} = f(q), \quad q(0) = q_0,
\]

where \( q(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{ndq} \) is the \( ndq \)-dimensional semi-discrete state vector, with \( n \) the number of degrees of freedom in the spatial discretization, and \( f : \mathbb{R}^{ndq} \to \mathbb{R}^{ndq} \) is the discretized nonlinear function. The time interval of interest is \( t \in [0, tf] \) and \( q_0 \) is the specified state initial condition. We refer to (1) as the full-order model (FOM).

To construct a projection-based reduced model, we define a basis matrix \( U \in \mathbb{R}^{ndq \times r} \), where \( r \ll ndq \) is the reduced model dimension. Using the proper orthogonal decomposition (POD) method of snapshots [26], this is done by constructing a set of \( K \) solution snapshots of (1), \( Q = [q(t_0) \quad q(t_1) \quad \cdots \quad q(t_{K-1})] \).

The POD basis is comprised of the \( r \) left singular vectors of \( Q \) corresponding to the \( r \) largest singular values. That is, given the singular value decomposition

\[
Q = \Theta \Sigma \Psi^\top
\]

in which the diagonal matrix \( \Sigma \) contains the singular values of \( Q \) in non-increasing order, then \( \Theta \) contains as its columns the left singular vectors of \( Q \) and the POD basis is given by the first \( r \) columns of \( \Theta \), i.e., \( U = \Theta_{1:r} \). The POD basis is orthonormal, i.e., \( U^\top U = I_{r \times r} \), where \( I_{r \times r} \) denotes the identity matrix of dimension \( r \times r \).

The POD reduced model is derived by forming the POD approximation of the state, \( q \approx U\hat{q} \), and then performing a Galerkin projection to yield

\[
\dot{\hat{q}} = \hat{f}(\hat{q}), \quad \hat{q}(0) = U^\top q_0,
\]

where \( \hat{q} \in \mathbb{R}^r \) is the reduced-order state, and \( \hat{f}(\hat{q}) = U^\top f(U\hat{q}) \in \mathbb{R}^r \). Although (2) is a low-dimensional system of order \( r \ll dq \), it is not computationally efficient. The issue lies in the evaluation of the reduced nonlinear function \( \hat{f} \) which still scales with the dimension of the FOM, because to evaluate it we need to transform the reduced state \( \hat{q} \) back to the full-order state space, evaluate the nonlinear function, and then project the full-order nonlinear function \( f \) back to the reduced space.

To resolve this computational complexity issue arising with nonlinear model reduction, one common approach in the literature is the introduction of another
layer of approximation (commonly referred to as hyper-reduction), which limits
the evaluation of the nonlinear function to a subselection of sampling points
[9, 10, 27–30]. Among existing hyper-reduction methods, the discrete empirical
interpolation method [10] (DEIM) has been used broadly in the literature for a
wide range of nonlinear model reduction applications [31–35]. It has been shown
in [36, 37] that for highly nonlinear functions, the number of sampling points
required for hyper-reduction is relatively high compared to the dimension of the
FOM, undermining the efficacy of the resulting reduced model.

2.2. Lifting transformations

An alternative nonlinear model reduction approach is to employ variable
transformations to expose system structure, so that hyper-reduction is not
needed [1, 2, 15]. For nonlinear models of polynomial form, Operator Inference
(OpInf) [3] is a non-intrusive approach to model reduction where the reduced op-
erators are learned from data through least-squares minimization. For nonlinear
PDEs with general nonlinearity, one can lift the governing nonlinear PDEs—
that is, introduce auxiliary variables—to an equivalent polynomial structure,
thus making the lifted system well-suited for OpInf, and then construct the
reduced model for the lifted form via the OpInf learning scheme [2].

The lifting happens at the PDE level. For some specialized cases, transform-
ations can be found that preserve the number of PDE unknowns (\(d_q\)) in the
transformed equations, but in general the lifting transformation increases the
number of PDE unknowns (and correspondingly the number of equations) in
the lifted form, to \(d_l > d_q\). This is because auxiliary variables are introduced
to recast the nonlinear terms. In what follows, we consider the case where the
lifting map introduces additional auxiliary variables (i.e., \(d_l > d_q\)). According
to Gu [15] many nonlinear systems can be lifted to an exact equivalent polyno-
mial representation; however, for many of the nonlinear terms that appear in
scientific and engineering application, lifting leads to algebraic equations. This
means that the resulting lifted system has a DAE form. Algebraic equations
can also arise due to an imposed constraint on either the polynomial degree
of the lifted formulation or the number of introduced auxiliary variables. For
example, the tubular reactor example of [1] has Arrhenius reaction terms that
can be lifted to quartic form as a set of ODEs or to quadratic form as a set
of DAEs. Since the fourth-order operator in the quartic reduced model leads
to an operator inference problem with \(O(r^4)\) degrees of freedom, it is typically
desirable to bring the system to quadratic form. In this paper, we explicitly
consider the form of the DAE system and its algebraic constraints that arise in
such cases, and we formulate an OpInf approach that learns reduced models in
this setting.

Following [2], we define a lifting map \(T : R^{nd_q} \rightarrow R^{nd_l}\) that transforms the
native PDE state \(q \in R^{nd_q}\) into a lifted state of dimension \(nd_l\). We partition the
lifted state into its components corresponding to the differential equations, de-
noted \(y\), and its components corresponding to the algebraic equations, denoted
z. That is, the lifted state is

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
y \\
z
\end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{nd_l}.
\]

To ease notation, we will present the case where the lifting of the PDEs leads to one algebraic equation (i.e., \(z \in \mathbb{R}^n\)) and \(d_l - 1\) differential equations (i.e., \(y \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d_l-1)}\)); however, it is straightforward to see how the method applies to cases with multiple algebraic equations. We write the state \(y\) as

\[
y = \begin{bmatrix}
y^{(1)} \\
y^{(2)} \\
\vdots \\
y^{(m)} \\
y^{(d_l-1)}
\end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d_l-1)},
\]

\[
y^{(m)} = \begin{bmatrix}
y_1^{(m)} \\
y_2^{(m)} \\
\vdots \\
y_n^{(m)}
\end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n,
\]

where the notation \(y^{(m)}\) denotes the semi-discretization of the \(m\)th lifted state component, and thus forms an \(n\)-dimensional block component of the vector \(y\). The notation \(y_l^{(m)}\) denotes the value of this \(m\)th state component at the \(l\)th discretization point (e.g., corresponding to the \(l\)th spatial point for a finite difference discretization or the \(l\)th finite element basis function, etc.).

### 2.3. Lifting to a system of DAEs with polynomial terms

Consider the case where the lifting map \(T\) leads to cubic form in the lifted equations.\(^1\) The lifted equations can therefore be notionally written as

\[
\dot{y} = C + A \begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} + H \left( \begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \right) + G \left( \begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \right),
\]

\[
z = C + Ay + \mathcal{H}(y \otimes y) + \mathcal{G}(y \otimes y \otimes y),
\]

although it is important to note that we do not discretize the lifted PDEs; we present this form only to motivate the form of the reduced model. In (4) and (5), the symbol \(\otimes\) denotes the Kronecker product (following the notation from [38]).

The operators \(C \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d_l-1)},\ A \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d_l-1) \times (nd_l)},\ H \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d_l-1) \times (nd_l)^2},\) and \(G \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d_l-1) \times (nd_l)^3}\) are respectively the constant, linear, quadratic, and cubic operators of the differential equations in the lifted system. Similarly, \(C \in \mathbb{R}^n,\ \mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times [(d_l-1)n]},\ \mathcal{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times [n(d_l-1)]^2},\) and \(\mathcal{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times [n(d_l-1)]^3}\) are respectively the constant, linear, quadratic, and cubic operators corresponding to the algebraic equation in the lifted system corresponding to the constants of the polynomial

---

\(^1\)Note that we consider the cubic case because it arises in our additive manufacturing example problem in Section 4, but it is straightforward to see how our approach applies to systems with at most quadratic terms, as well as systems with higher-order polynomial terms.
algebraic equation. Note that the governing equations are typically sparse with respect to the underlying variables (e.g., the number of two-way and three-way interactions among the \( d_i \) variables is typically quite small, so that \( H, G, \mathcal{H}, \) and \( \mathcal{G} \) will contain a large number of zero blocks).

The projection-based reduced model of the DAE system (4) and (5) preserves the cubic structure, giving

\[
\dot{\hat{y}} = \hat{C} + \hat{A} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y} \\ \hat{z} \end{bmatrix} + \hat{H} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y} \\ \hat{z} \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y} \\ \hat{z} \end{bmatrix} \right) + \hat{G} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y} \\ \hat{z} \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y} \\ \hat{z} \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y} \\ \hat{z} \end{bmatrix} \right),
\]

(6)

\[
\hat{z} = \hat{C} + \hat{A} \hat{y} + \hat{H} (\hat{y} \otimes \hat{y}) + \hat{G} (\hat{y} \otimes \hat{y} \otimes \hat{y}),
\]

(7)

where \( \hat{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1}, \hat{z} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2} \) are the reduced state vectors for the differential and algebraic equations, respectively. That is, given a POD basis \( V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (d_i - 1) \times r_1} \) for the differential states \( y \) and another POD basis \( W \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r_2} \) for the algebraic states \( z \), the approximation of the full-order states in the POD subspace is:

\[
\begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} V & 0 \\ 0 & W \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y} \\ \hat{z} \end{bmatrix}.
\]

(8)

Our task now is to determine the reduced model defined by (6) and (7) by inferring the reduced operators \( \hat{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1}, \hat{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times (r_1 + r_2)}, \hat{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times (r_1 + r_2)^2}, \hat{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times (r_1 + r_2)^3}, \hat{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2}, \hat{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2 \times r_1}, \hat{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2 \times r_2^2}, \) and \( \hat{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2 \times r_2^3} \).

3. Operator Inference for Lifted Differential Algebraic Equations

This section presents our approach for learning the operators of the reduced model defined by (6) and (7). The differential equations (6) use the standard OpInf approach from [3], as discussed in Section 3.1. In Section 3.2, we develop a tailored approach for the algebraic equations (7), which exploits the particular structure of the lifted system.

3.1. Operator Inference for differential equations

To determine the reduced model for the differential equations in (4), we use the regularized OpInf approach of [39] to infer the reduced operators \( \hat{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1}, \hat{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times (r_1 + r_2)}, \hat{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times (r_1 + r_2)^2}, \) and \( \hat{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times (r_1 + r_2)^3} \). The steps of the approach are as follows:

Step 1: Snapshots of the state vector of the original high fidelity model (1) are generated at \( K \) time steps to build the state snapshot matrix for the original variables, \( Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n d_i \times K} \).

Step 2: The lifting transformations defined by the lifting map \( T \) are applied to the snapshots. For each snapshot \( q \), we generate

\[
\begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = T(q),
\]
resulting in the lifted snapshot data for the differential and algebraic equations, contained in the lifted snapshot matrices \( Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d-1) \times K} \) and \( Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times K} \) respectively.

**Step 3:** Compute the POD basis matrices for the lifted snapshots using singular value decomposition:

\[
Y = \Theta_1 \Sigma_1 \Psi_1^T, \quad V = (\Theta_1)_{1:r_1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d-1) \times r_1}, \quad (9)
\]

\[
Z = \Theta_2 \Sigma_2 \Psi_2^T, \quad W = (\Theta_2)_{1:r_2} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r_2}, \quad (10)
\]

where \( V \) and \( W \) are the POD basis matrices for \( Y \) and \( Z \), respectively. The size of the bases \( r_1 \) and \( r_2 \) are chosen by assigning a threshold for the relative cumulative energy of the POD modes. That is, choose \( r_1 \) (respectively \( r_2 \)) so that

\[
\varepsilon = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{r_1} \sigma_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{K} \sigma_i^2} \text{ is greater than the specified tolerance, where } \sigma_i \text{ is the } i\text{th singular value of } \Sigma_1 \text{ (respectively } \Sigma_2).]
\]

**Step 4:** Project the lifted snapshot matrices \( Y \) and \( Z \) onto their corresponding POD subspaces, to obtain the coordinates of the lifted snapshots in the POD bases. Estimate numerically the time derivative for the snapshots of the differential states:

\[
\dot{Y} = V^T Y = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{y}(t_0) & \dot{y}(t_1) & \cdots & \dot{y}(t_{K-1}) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times K}, \quad (11)
\]

\[
\dot{Z} = W^T Z = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{z}(t_0) & \dot{z}(t_1) & \cdots & \dot{z}(t_{K-1}) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2 \times K}. \quad (13)
\]

**Step 5:** Infer the reduced model operators for the differential states from snapshot data via OpInf by posing a least squares problem in a minimum residual sense:

\[
\min_{\hat{C}, \hat{A}, \hat{H}, \hat{G}} \left\| I_K \hat{C}^T + \hat{S}^T \hat{A}^T + \left( \hat{S} \odot \hat{S} \right)^T \hat{H}^T + \left( \hat{S} \odot \hat{S} \odot \hat{S} \right)^T \hat{G}^T - \dot{Y}^T \right\|_F^2, \quad (14)
\]

where \( \hat{S}^T = [\ Y^T \ Z^T \ ] \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times (r_1+r_2)} \) collects the differential and algebraic snapshot matrices in a single matrix, \( I_K \) is a column vector of length \( K \) of values of unity, and \( \odot \) denotes the Khatri-Rao product of two matrices (which is also known as column-wise Kronecker product [38]).

As shown in [3], (14) decomposes into \( r \) independent least squares problems, one for each row of the reduced system. This reduces the computational cost of the OpInf problem and also lowers the amount of training data required, since
the number of coefficients to be inferred in each least squares problem scales with $r^3$ rather than $r^4$. For the cubic structure in (14), the number of unknowns for each least squares problem is at most $s = 1 + r + r(r + 1)/2 + r(r + 1)(r + 2)/6$ (with $r = r_1 + r_2$), where we account for the elimination of the redundant terms arising from the commutativity of multiplication within $\hat{H}$ and $\hat{G}$. The number of unknown coefficients in the OpInf regression problem can be reduced further by constructing a separate POD basis for each physical variable, which leads to a block diagonal POD basis matrix. As noted before, the governing equations are typically sparse with respect to the underlying variables and a block diagonal POD basis preserves this sparsity. Using a separate POD basis also has the advantage of being able to select a different number of modes for each variable, although its sparsity-preserving advantage can be offset by an increase in the total number of modes required to achieve a desired accuracy level.

The least-squares problem of (14) is noisy. Sources of noise include the errors introduced due to numerical approximation of the time derivatives $\dot{\hat{Y}}$, closure error due to the disregarded POD modes, and any potential model mis-specification error. Thus, to avoid overfitting the operators to the data, regularization is needed as discussed in [39].

### 3.2. Reduced representation of the algebraic equations

We now present the approach for deriving the reduced operators $\hat{C}$, $\hat{A}$, $\hat{H}$, and $\hat{G}$ of the algebraic equation (7). Our approach leverages the known structure of the algebraic equations that arise during the lifting of the original nonlinear system to polynomial form. In particular, the algebraic equations have a pointwise structure because they arise from lifted equations that specify definitional relationships between lifted continuous variables (this will be illustrated in our example in Section 4). We can expand the terms in the algebraic equations (5) in a component-wise summation format as

$$
\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{C} + \sum_{i=1}^{d_1-1} \mathbf{A}^{(i)} \mathbf{y}^{(i)} + \sum_{i=1}^{d_1-1} \sum_{j=i}^{d_1-1} \mathbf{H}^{(i,j)} \mathbf{y}^{(i)} \otimes \mathbf{y}^{(j)} + \sum_{i=1}^{d_1-1} \sum_{j=i}^{d_1-1} \sum_{k=j}^{d_1-1} \mathbf{G}^{(i,j,k)} \mathbf{y}^{(i)} \otimes \mathbf{y}^{(j)} \otimes \mathbf{y}^{(k)},
$$

(15)

where $\mathbf{y}^{(i)}$ denotes the semi-discretization of the $i$th lifted state component as defined in (3), and $\mathbf{A}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\mathbf{H}^{(i,j)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n^2}$, and $\mathbf{G}^{(i,j,k)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n^3}$ denote the corresponding blocks within the operators of (5). The summation format of (15) accounts for all possible linear, quadratic and cubic terms in the algebraic equation. But in practice, the algebraic equations are generally sparse and only include a few terms (further discussed in Section 4). Written in this form, we
have

\[ C = c I_n, \quad \text{(16)} \]
\[ \mathcal{A}^{(i)} = a^{(i)} I_{n \times n}, \quad \text{(17)} \]
\[ \mathcal{H}^{(i,j)} = h^{(i,j)} \left[ e_1 \ 0_{n \times n} \ e_2 \ 0_{n \times n} \cdots 0_{n \times n} \ e_n \right]_{n \times n^2}, \quad \text{(18)} \]
\[ \mathcal{G}^{(i,j,k)} = g^{(i,j,k)} \left[ e_1 \ 0_{n \times (n^2+n)} \ e_2 \ 0_{n \times (n^2+n)} \cdots 0_{n \times (n^2+n)} \ e_n \right]_{n \times n^3}, \quad \text{(19)} \]

where \( 0_{\alpha \times \beta} \) represents a zero block with \( \alpha \) rows and \( \beta \) columns, \( e_p \) is a column vector of length \( n \) with all zeros and a unity value at the \( p \)th row, and \( c, a^{(i)}, b^{(i,j)} \) and \( g^{(i,j,k)} \) are scalar constants in the algebraic equation. We can then exploit this form to determine the reduced model operators

\[ \hat{C} = W^T C = c W^T I_n, \quad \text{(20)} \]
\[ \hat{\mathcal{A}}^{(i)} = W^T A^{(i)} V^{(i)} = a^{(i)} W^T V^{(i)}. \quad \text{(21)} \]
\[ \hat{\mathcal{H}}^{(i,j)} = W^T H^{(i,j)} \left( V^{(i)} \otimes V^{(j)} \right), \quad \text{(22)} \]
\[ \hat{\mathcal{G}}^{(i,j,k)} = W^T G^{(i,j,k)} \left( V^{(i)} \otimes V^{(j)} \otimes V^{(k)} \right), \quad \text{(23)} \]

where \( V^{(i)} \) denotes the partitioning of the POD basis \( V \) (whether it is block diagonal or not) in the same format as (3):

\[ V = \begin{bmatrix} V^{(1)} \\ V^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ V^{(m)} \\ \vdots \\ V^{(d_1-1)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{(24)} \]

where each block \( V^{(i)} \) has dimension \( n \times r_1 \). The computation of \( \hat{C} \) in (20) and \( \hat{\mathcal{A}} \) in (21) use straightforward products of the POD basis matrices \( V \) and \( W \). Since each row of the operators \( \mathcal{H}^{(i,j)} \), and \( \mathcal{G}^{(i,j,k)} \) contains only one non-zero element as shown in (18) and (19), computation of the reduced operators \( \hat{\mathcal{H}}^{(i,j)} \) and \( \hat{\mathcal{G}}^{(i,j,k)} \) can be achieved efficiently and without having to first construct the corresponding full-order operators. Given (18) and (22) for the quadratic operator, and (19) and (23) for the cubic operator, \( \hat{\mathcal{H}}^{(i,j)} \) and \( \hat{\mathcal{G}}^{(i,j,k)} \) can be
written as

\[
\hat{H}^{(i,j)} = \hat{G}^{(i,j,k)} = \\
\begin{bmatrix}
V_1^{(i)} \otimes V_1^{(j)} \\
V_2^{(i)} \otimes V_2^{(j)} \\
\vdots \\
V_l^{(i)} \otimes V_l^{(j)} \\
\vdots \\
V_n^{(i)} \otimes V_n^{(j)}
\end{bmatrix}^T
\begin{bmatrix}
V_1^{(i)} \otimes V_1^{(j)} \otimes V_1^{(k)} \\
V_2^{(i)} \otimes V_2^{(j)} \otimes V_2^{(k)} \\
\vdots \\
V_l^{(i)} \otimes V_l^{(j)} \otimes V_l^{(k)} \\
\vdots \\
V_n^{(i)} \otimes V_n^{(j)} \otimes V_n^{(k)}
\end{bmatrix}
\]

where \(V_l^{(i)}\) denotes the \(l\)th row of \(V^{(i)}\).

4. Application: Solidification Process in Additive Manufacturing

We test the efficacy of the proposed method for a solidification process in metal additive manufacturing. The additive manufacturing process takes place over a wide range of length scales and time scales, and it is sensitive to variations in process parameters. Numerical simulations of the additive manufacturing process are computationally expensive, making it a challenge to achieve control, optimization, and uncertainty quantification. Reduced-order modeling is thus a critical enabler for achieving models that are sufficiently accurate and computationally efficient. Section 4.1 presents the target problem of phase-field simulation of the solidification process. Section 4.2 derives the lifting transformation map to expose cubic polynomial structure in the solidification model. Section 4.3 presents numerical experiments that test the efficacy of the proposed model reduction method.

4.1. Phase Field Simulation of Solidification

This study uses Kobayashi’s solidification model [40] for pure materials in which the evolution of the order parameter is represented by the Allen-Cahn (also known as time-dependent Ginzburg-Landau) equation. The governing equations are

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{u} &= \nabla \cdot (K \nabla u) + L_H \dot{\phi}, \\
\tau \dot{\phi} &= \xi^2 \Delta \phi - p'(\phi) - q(u, \phi),
\end{align*}
\]

(26)

where the phase-field order parameter, \(\phi(x,t)\), characterizes the phase at spatial location \(x\) at time \(t\) and \(u(x,t)\) is the temperature. The phase-field equation accounts for the evolution of the interface in an implicit manner where \(\phi = 0\) and \(1\) represent the liquid and solid phases, respectively, and \(\phi = 0.5\) is considered to be the location of the interface. \(L_H\) is the non-dimensional latent heat, \(K\) is the thermal diffusivity, \(\tau\) is the relaxation parameter, \(\xi\) represents the width of the diffuse interface, \(\ell\) is the length of the one-dimensional physical domain, and \(t_{\text{end}}\) is the final time. The terms \(p'(\phi)\) and \(q(u, \phi)\) appearing in (26) arise
respectively from the differentiation of the first and second terms of the free energy density with respect to $\phi$. The Helmholtz free energy density used in this study is [40]

$$f(u, \phi) = \frac{1}{4} \phi^2 (1 - \phi)^2 + \left( \frac{1}{3} \phi^3 - \frac{1}{2} \phi^2 \right) m(u),$$  

(27)

where

$$m(u) = \frac{\beta}{2} m_0(u), \quad \text{with} \quad m_0(u) = \tanh [\gamma (u_M - u)],$$  

(28)

where $\beta < 1$ is the parameter that controls the magnitude of $m$ and $\gamma$ is the parameter controlling the rate of change of $m$ about the melting temperature $u_M$. The constraint $\beta < 1$ is to enforce $|m(u)| < 1/2$ which guarantees that the Helmholtz free energy $f$ acquires local minimum at liquid ($\phi = 0$) and solid ($\phi = 1$) phases, and a local maximum at $\phi = 1/2 - m$. Given the free energy density (27), we have

$$p'(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \phi (1 - \phi) (1 - 2\phi), \quad q(u, \phi) = \phi (\phi - 1) m(u),$$  

(29)

where $p(\phi) = f(\phi, u_M) = \frac{1}{4} \phi^2 (1 - \phi)^2$, and the prime denotes differentiation with respect to $\phi$. Note that the definition of $m$ in (28) is not a unique choice [40]; other monotonically decreasing continuous functions of $u$ can be used for $m$ as long as $|m(u)| < 1/2$.

Homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions are imposed on the temperature and order parameter. In this study the initial conditions are chosen to be:

$$\phi(x, 0) = \phi_0 = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 \leq x \leq x_0 \\ 0 & x_0 < x \leq \ell \end{cases}$$

$$u(x, 0) = u_0 = u_M \phi_0$$

(30)

where $x_0/\ell$ is the initial solid fraction, and the temperature in the solid phase is considered to be equal to the melting temperature $u_M$. The initial conditions are chosen such that $u < u_M$, hence the system will be driven towards solidification.

In this study, the thermal diffusivity is taken to depend on the phase of the material through an interpolation function $h$ (which satisfies $h(0) = 0$ and $h(1) = 1$):

$$K(\phi) = K_0 (1 - h(\phi)) + K_1 h(\phi),$$  

(31)

where $K_0$, and $K_1$ represent the thermal diffusivity of the liquid and solid phases, respectively. The selected interpolation function is $h(\phi) = 6\phi^5 - 15\phi^4 + 10\phi^3$ where $h'(\phi) = 120p(\phi)$ [4].

Figure 1 shows an example result of the phase-field simulation of the solidification phenomena. The figure depicts the evolution of the temperature and order parameter in time over the one-dimensional spatial domain ($\ell = 1$). Sharp changes in the order parameter occur along the interface (the dashed line), and
the interface moves in time. Because of the existence of the latent heat term in the heat equation (26), abrupt changes along the interface are also evident in the temperature field. The moving front nature of the solidification phenomena makes it a challenging problem for model reduction.

![Figure 1: Phase-field simulation of the solidification phenomena of a pure material (L_H = 1.0, K_0 = 1.0, K_1 = 0.1, \xi = 0.01, \tau = 0.0003, u_M = 1.0, \beta = 0.9, x_0 = 0.1, \ell = 1). The dashed line represents the location of the interface. Note: the horizontal axis corresponds to the physical domain, and the vertical axis represents the time.](image)

4.2. Lifting Transformation

We define a lifting map that lifts the nonlinear governing equations (26) to a polynomial system with cubic form. We define the auxiliary variables

\[
\begin{align*}
K &= K_0 + (K_1 - K_0) \left(6\phi^5 - 15\phi^4 + 10\phi^3\right) \\
p &= \frac{1}{4}\phi^2 (1 - \phi)^2 \\
p' &= \frac{1}{2}\phi (1 - \phi) (1 - 2\phi) \\
p'' &= 3\phi (\phi - 1) + \frac{1}{2} \\
m_0 &= \tanh \left[\gamma (u_M - u)\right] \\
z &= -\gamma (1 - m_0^2).
\end{align*}
\]
The lifted state is then defined with \( y = [ u \phi K p p' p'' m_0 ]^T \), and \( z = -\gamma (1 - m_0^2) \). This leads to the lifted equations

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{u} &= \nabla \cdot \{ K \nabla u \} + \frac{L_H}{\tau} \left[ \xi^2 \Delta \phi - p' - \frac{\beta}{6} m_0 \left( p'' - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right] \\
\tau \dot{\phi} &= \xi^2 \Delta \phi - p' - \frac{\beta}{6} m_0 \left( p'' - \frac{1}{2} \right) \\
\dot{K} &= \frac{120}{\tau} (K_1 - K_0) p \left[ \xi^2 \Delta \phi - p' - \frac{\beta}{6} m_0 \left( p'' - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right] \\
\dot{p} &= \frac{1}{\tau} p' \left[ \xi^2 \Delta \phi - p' - \frac{\beta}{6} m_0 \left( p'' - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right] \\
\dot{p}' &= \frac{1}{\tau} p'' \left[ \xi^2 \Delta \phi - p' - \frac{\beta}{6} m_0 \left( p'' - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right] \\
\dot{p}'' &= \frac{3}{\tau} (2\phi - 1) \left[ \xi^2 \Delta \phi - p' - \frac{\beta}{6} m_0 \left( p'' - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right] \\
\dot{m}_0 &= z \left[ \nabla \cdot \{ K \nabla u \} + \frac{L_H}{\tau} \left[ \xi^2 \Delta \phi - p' - \frac{\beta}{6} m_0 \left( p'' - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right] \right] \\
z &= -\gamma (1 - m_0^2)
\end{align*}
\]

Note that these equations form a DAE system with cubic form. The lifting introduces no approximations (but assumes that the necessary derivatives exist). Also note that these equations will not be discretized or solved, but rather provide the guiding structure for formulating the operator inference problem.

To derive the reduced model, we construct the POD basis matrix in a block-diagonal manner

\[
V = \begin{bmatrix}
V^{(u)} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & V^{(\phi)} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & V^{(aux)}
\end{bmatrix}, \quad W = W^{(aux)},
\]

with a separate basis for temperature \((V^{(u)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r_u})\), the order parameter \((V^{(\phi)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r_\phi})\), the five auxiliary differential variables \((V^{(aux)} \in \mathbb{R}^{5n \times r_{aux}})\), and the auxiliary algebraic variable \((W^{(aux)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r_{aux}})\). We use reduced dimensions of \( r_u \) to approximate the temperature, \( r_\phi \) to approximate the order parameter, \( r_{aux} \) to approximate the auxiliary differential variables, and \( r_{aux} \) to approximate the auxiliary algebraic variable. The size of bases \( V \) and \( W \) is \( r_1 = r_u + r_\phi + r_{aux} \) and \( r_2 = r_{aux} \), respectively.

Using the approximation (8), we seek a reduced model with the cubic structure (6)–(7). For the particular lifting transformations that arise here, the only non-zero terms in the summations of (15) are the constant term \( C \) with scalar \( c = -\gamma \), and one quadratic term \( H^{(7,7)} \) with scalar \( h^{(7,7)} = \gamma \). This latter term corresponds to the coefficient multiplying \( m_0^2 \) (recall that \( m_0 \) is the seventh state variable in the lifted formulation of (33)). Hence the reduced-space
representation of the algebraic equation is

\[
\hat{z} = \hat{C} + \hat{H}^{(7,7)} (\hat{y} \otimes \hat{y}), \quad \hat{C} = -\gamma W^T 1_n, \quad \hat{H}^{(7,7)} = \gamma W^T \begin{bmatrix}
V_1^{(7)} \otimes V_1^{(7)} \\
V_2^{(7)} \otimes V_2^{(7)} \\
\vdots \\
V_n^{(7)} \otimes V_n^{(7)}
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

This illustrates that the terms \(\hat{C}\) and \(\hat{H}^{(7,7)}\) can be derived explicitly from the basis matrices \(V\) and \(W\) in the offline stage (i.e., the reduced-space representation of the algebraic equation does not need to be learned via operator inference).

4.3. Parametric reduced model simulations

We conduct parametric studies considering variations in the latent heat, \(L_H\), and the parameter \(\gamma\) appearing in the thermodynamic term (28). Both \(L_H\) and \(\gamma\) appear explicitly in the lifted equations (33). In addition, \(\gamma\) appears in the initial conditions for the evolution of auxiliary variable \(m_0\). Other parameters are set to the values \(\tau = 0.0003, \xi = 0.01, \beta = 0.9, u_M = 1.0, K_0 = 1,\) and \(K_1 = 0.1\). The one-dimensional spatial domain has length \(\ell = 1\) and is discretized into \(n = 1000\) cells (chosen to ensure that the diffuse interface is sufficiently resolved with \(1/n = \xi/10\)). The timestep for numerical simulations is \(\Delta t = 8.33 \times 10^{-7}\). Simulations are initialized by setting the initial solid fraction to cover 10\% of the spatial domain (i.e., \(\phi(x,0) = 1\) for \(x < 0.1\) and \(\phi(x,0) = 0\) otherwise) and the initial temperature profile is such that the solidified region is at melting temperature, and the remainder of the spatial domain is at the undercooling temperature of zero as defined in (30). The final time for the simulations is chosen to be \(t_{end} = 0.03\).

The OpInf minimization problem (14) is augmented with Tikhonov regularization to guard against ill conditioning. The criterion for choosing the optimal regularization parameter is to minimize the relative error between the reduced model predictions and the full order snapshots of the original variables (i.e., temperature and order parameter) over a set of regularization parameters. This approach leads to stable reduced models. The L-curve criterion, which is often used in the literature to select the optimal regularization parameter, resulted here in unstable reduced models for a number of the studied cases.

For the first set of numerical results, we set \(\gamma = 10\) and vary the latent heat between \(L_H = 0\) and \(L_H = 1\). The specific snapshots generated for training and testing use the following values:

\[
L_H^{\text{train}} = \{0.0, 0.1, \ldots, 0.9, 1.0\}, \quad L_H^{\text{test}} = \{0.05, 0.15, \ldots, 0.85, 0.95\}.
\]

The basis matrices \(V^{(u)}, V^{(\phi)}, V^{(\text{aux})}\), and \(W^{(\text{aux})}\) are constructed by concatenating snapshots of the respective variables from all training simulations with \(\Delta t = 8.33 \times 10^{-7}\). Figure 2 shows the POD singular values (normalized by
the largest singular value in each case) and the energy in the neglected modes 
\(1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{r} \sigma_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_i^2}\) for a given basis size. Due to the moving front nature of the solidification phenomena, the decay of the singular values is slow, which makes this a challenging problem for model reduction.

Figure 2: Left: the decay in the singular values of the snapshot matrices for temperature, order parameter, and auxiliary states in differential and algebraic form, varying the latent heat. Right: energy in the neglected POD modes for a given basis size.

Figure 3 shows the sizes of each component of the basis matrices in (34) for increasing retained POD energy. As indicated in Figure 2, the singular value decay rate for the auxiliary variables is slower than that for the temperature and order parameter, and therefore the auxiliary states have a larger contribution to the total basis sizes in Figure 3.

Figure 3: POD basis sizes for variations in the latent heat at different levels of retained POD energy.
The reduced model is used to compute temperature and order parameter fields using (8). We also compute the interface location in a post-processing step, defined by the point at which \( \phi = 0.5 \) and computed by interpolating the estimated order parameter field. We assess the reduced model performance by plotting relative errors for each of temperature, order parameter, and interface location in Figure 4. In each case, the relative error is defined by the norm of the difference between full and reduced solutions divided by the norm of the full model solution. The figure shows the mean relative errors averaged over all snapshots in the test set, as well as the relative errors for the \( L_H \) values at which the reduced model performs the best (minimum error) and the worst (maximum error). Mean, minimum, and maximum relative errors are also plotted for the training set. The relative errors in temperature and order parameter decrease with the increase in the size of the POD basis, as expected. The interface location is not directly approximated by the POD basis, and while its accuracy improves, the error reduction is less than that observed for temperature and order parameter.

Figure 4: Relative errors in temperature (left), order parameter (middle), and interface location (right) for varying latent heat.

Figure 4 shows that the spread of the relative error for the test set is smaller than that of the training set, and that (unexpectedly) the test set has lower mean relative error than the training set. This is an artifact of the latent heat values selected in \( L_{H}^{\text{train}} \) and \( L_{H}^{\text{test}} \). As Figure 5 shows for two different basis sizes, the error is larger for the training set endpoint values \( L_{H} = 0 \) and \( L_{H} = 1 \). Following typical reduced modeling best practices, the test set was chosen to interpolate the training set and so has lower errors at its endpoints.

We present a final numerical example that studies variation of the \( \gamma \) term appearing in the thermodynamical driving force \( q \). The latent heat is set to \( L_{H} = 1.0 \). The snapshots generated for training and testing use the following values:

\[
\gamma^{\text{train}} = \{0.25, 0.75, \cdots, 4.75, 5.25\}, \quad \gamma^{\text{test}} = \{0.5, 1.0, \cdots, 4.5, 5.0\}.
\]
Figure 5: Variation of the temperature relative error versus $L_H$ for two values of the retained energy over the training set (solid line) and the test set (dashed line).

The global basis matrix is determined from concatenating the snapshots for all parameter values in the training set.

Figure 6 shows the normalized singular values and energy in the neglected POD modes as we increase the size of the basis components of (34) and the sizes of these basis components are shown in Figure 7. Again, we see the slower decay in the singular values for the auxiliary variables, requiring their basis sizes to be larger than those for the temperature and order parameter. The reduced model relative errors are plotted in Figure 8. The reduced model error decays more rapidly for this case than it did for variations in the latent heat. This is consistent with the singular value decay rates, which illustrate that varying the latent heat leads to a more complicated set of snapshot dynamics.

Figure 6: Left: the decay in the singular values of the snapshot matrices for temperature, order parameter, and auxiliary states in differential and algebraic form, varying $\gamma$. Right: energy in the neglected POD modes for a given basis size.
Figure 7: POD basis sizes for variations in $\gamma$ at different levels of retained POD energy.

5. Concluding Remarks

This paper has proposed and demonstrated a non-intrusive data-driven model reduction method that addresses the DAE structure arising in lifting nonlinear systems to polynomial form. The approach provides a new alternative for model reduction of highly nonlinear systems for which more classical hyperreduction techniques may be ineffective. The approach is effective for the studied solidification problem; however, the relatively slow decay of the POD singular values points to the inefficiencies of representing transport-dominated dynamics in a static linear basis. A fruitful direction of future work is to combine the approach proposed here with a localized [41, 42] and/or adaptive basis [43–45], although it remains an open question how to achieve this in a non-intrusive way. The solidification model also highlights the interesting question of how to optimally define the low-dimensional basis. Using a separate basis for each physical quantity preserves the sparsity of the lifted PDEs, but may come at a cost of increased total reduced model dimension. The results presented here used four separate bases—one for temperature, one for order parameter, one for the auxiliary differential variables, and one for the auxiliary algebraic variable. Through numerical experiments, this choice was found to provide a good tradeoff between block sparsity and overall reduced model dimension, leading to efficiency in the resulting reduced models. Formalizing the process of optimal basis design is another necessary area of future research.

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Figure 8: Relative errors in temperature (left), order parameter (middle), and interface location (right) for varying $\gamma$.

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References


