ISSN: 0975-833X

Available online at http://www.journalcra.com

International Journal of Current Research
Vol. 17, Issue, 11, pp.35382-35386, November, 2025
DOI: https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.49824.11.2025

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CURRENT RESEARCH

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A COMPUTATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR EFFICIENT MULTIDIMENSIONAL NONLINEAR INVERSE PROBLEM

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:
Received 10th September, 2025
Received in revised form
18th September, 2025
Accepted 24th October, 2025
Published online 30th November, 2025

Keywords:
Nonlinear inverse problems, computational efficiency, multidimensional optimization, regularization, numerical methods.

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ABSTRACT

The multi-dimensional nonlinear inverse problems (MNIPs) are important problems in computational science and engineering, which involve high computation cost and stability problems. This paper suggests a computation framework to increase the efficiency and stability of the solutions to MNIPs. The framework includes high-performance numerical optimization, regularization techniques, and adaptive computation techniques, which lead to more accurate solutions at less computation time. The computation framework is based on several techniques, including likelihood-informed model reduction for reduced effective dimension, an adaptive regularization algorithm, which is regularized based upon residuals of the solution, and hybrid global-local optimization, which only uses inexpensive surrogates in the early optimization iterations. Experimental studies on benchmark MNIP problems show an increased accuracy in the solutions and computational efficiency relative to previous methods, such as the standard Levenberg-Marquardt. In the present framework, solutions were 47% better in mean squared error (MSE), and total computation time was reduced by 45% by requiring 46% fewer iterations for convergence. This combined approach leads to a computation framework for MNIPs that is robust and operationally efficient, giving improved scalability for high-dimensional or real-time applications.

Citation: Ayalew Adane Akate and Imre Emo˝ke. 2025. *"*A Computational Framework for Efficient Multidimensional Nonlinear Inverse Problem.". ***International Journal of Current Research, 17, (11), 35382-35386.***

INTRODUCTION

Multidimensional nonlinear inverse problems occur in a variety of other fields, including geophysics, medical imaging, and non-destructive testing. In these problems, one seeks to re- construct from indirect and noisy observations a yet unknown, often high-dimensional parameter field which is described by some nonlinear forward operator. The combination of high dimensionality, non-linearities in the forward problem, and the presence of observational noise, composes a situation of severe ill-posedness and high computational cost, which is intrinsic to the standard methods of solution (1). Even though classical regularization and iterative optimization techniques (Tikhonov-type penalties, Gauss–Newton methods or Levenberg–Marquardt methods) are largely the foundation on which the majority of the inverse problems are built, they often suffer from the exorbitant computational burden and stability associated with scaling up to high-dimensional parameter spaces or to highly nonlinear forward models. There are also additional constraints requiring careful tuning of the regularization parameters and extensive evaluations and linearizations of expensive forward models, which limits their usefulness for large-scale MNIPs (2). The last five years have seen some major improvements in the field that address both the algorithmic and computational limitations of MNIPs. Three areas that are particularly active and promising: (i) physics-informed and operator- learning methods that use the forward physics in data-driven architectures, (ii) generative priors (and diffusion-based models) and other learned regularizers that represent complicated prior structure, and (iii) likelihood-informed and information- informed reduced-order modelling and surrogate modelling that help to reduce the effective dimensionality of the inversion. These developments offer ways to improve robustness, speed up inference, and decrease the number of expensive forward-model evaluations needed by optimization or sampling. (3–5) Physics-informed neural networks and related physics machine-learning hybrids have been used both to solve forward PDEs with scarce data and to formulate inverse estimators that respect governing equations; such approaches can reduce data requirements and increase stability in ill-posed problems, but they introduce new challenges in training, generalization, and quantifying uncertainty (6). Similarly, generative priors and diffusion-based inverse solvers provide powerful, expressive priors that resolve ambiguities in underdetermined problems; however, integrating these priors into principled inversion schemes while preserving computational tractability remains an active research area. (4), (7). Model-reduction and likelihood-informed dimension reduction techniques have proven effective at decreasing the number of degrees of freedom the inverse solver must explore, particularly within Bayesian formulations where posterior concentration often occurs on a low-dimensional subspace. These methods, ranging from reduced-basis methods to active subspace and likelihood-informed subspace (LIS) projections, significantly reduce computation when combined with efficient surrogates or adjoint-based gradient evaluations (5). At the same time, data-driven and hybrid regularization strategies (for example, learned regularizes or Morozov-style data-driven parameter selection) are emerging as practical means to adapt regularization to problem-specific features and noise levels. (8) Recent studies have also explored semantic and task-aware regularization that injects domain-specific structure to guide inversion toward physically plausible solutions. These approaches help resolve non-uniqueness by biasing solutions toward semantically meaningful regions of the parameter space, and they are particularly useful when traditional smoothness priors are insufficient (9).

The major contributions are outlined as follows:

- The adaptive framework yields stable convergence even for ill-conditioned nonlinear inverse problems.
- The proposed method provides higher accuracy and faster execution than standard iterative solvers.
- The model-reduction approach enhances scalability to high-dimensional or real-time applications.

This study introduces a computational framework for efficiently solving multidimensional nonlinear inverse problems, integrating advanced numerical methods with adaptive optimization and parallel computing strategies. The proposed framework aims to reduce computational burden, enhance solution accuracy, and ensure scalability across different classes of inverse problems. Through systematic analysis and numerical experiments, the study demonstrates the framework's effectiveness and potential for real-world applications where traditional methods face limitations.

Related Work: Developed adaptive reduced basis trust region methods specifically for parabolic inverse problems (10). Their frame- work combines reduced-order modeling with trust-region optimization, achieving significant computational savings while maintaining accuracy guarantees. The method adaptively reduces both parameter and state spaces, embedding the iteratively regularized Gauss-Newton method within an error-aware trust-region framework. Introduced pseudo-time continuation for parameterized inverse problems, addressing the challenge of solving families of related optimization problems (11). Their approach uses adaptive quasi-Newton Hessian preconditioning to accelerate the continuation process, particularly beneficial for uncertainty quantification sweeps in multidimensional settings. (12) presented a comprehensive framework for solving inverse problems in astrophysical contexts, demonstrating the integration of multiple optimizers and samplers with modular forward models. Their PHOEBE framework handles expensive forward evaluations and parameter uncertainty through flexible parameter distributions and pluggable forward-model architectures. (13) provided a comprehensive survey of stochastic optimization methods for large-scale inverse problems. Their work highlights variance reduction techniques, acceleration methods, and higher-order approaches specifically adapted to variational regularization in inverse imaging problems. (14). conducted extensive benchmarking of optimization algorithms for inverse problems, providing practical guidance for algorithm selection in different problem contexts. Their comparative analysis covers gradient based, derivative-free, and hybrid approaches across various problem scales and characteristics. (15)presented rigorous convergence analysis for the Levenberg-Marquardt method applied to inverse problems with Ho¨lder stability estimates. Their theoretical framework provides convergence guarantees for nonlinear least-squares formulations common in multidimensional inverse problems. Recent advances in homotopy methods for nonlinear inverse problems have shown promise for handling multiple local minima and improving global convergence properties. These methods are particularly relevant for multidimensional parameter spaces where traditional optimization may fail. (16) developed Laplace-based physics- informed neural networks for solving nonlinear coefficient inverse problems in acoustic equations with fractional derivatives. Their approach demonstrates the effectiveness of PINNs for handling complex mathematical formulations in inverse problems. (17) introduced enhanced physics-informed neural networks for data-driven soliton and parameter discovery in coupled nonlinear Schrődinger systems. The work showcases advanced PINN architectures capable of handling vector dark and anti-dark solitons in multidimensional settings. (18) pro- posed scaled Chebyshev-based physics-informed Kolmogorov- Arnold networks (Scaled-cPIKANs) with domain scaling capabilities. Their architecture achieves orders-of-magnitude ac- curacy improvements for PDEs with oscillatory dynamics, including inverse formulations. Recent work on deep equilibrium architectures has shown promise for inverse problems in imaging, providing infinite-iteration implicit layers that incorporate forward models and optimization insights while allowing adjustable compute budgets at test time. (19) presented a variational perspective on solving inverse problems with diffusion models, framing inverse reconstruction as variational posterior approximation. Their RED-Diff formulation turns sampling into optimization amenable to existing solvers. (20)developed reciprocity-aware adaptive tile low-rank factorization for large-scale 3D multidimensional de-convolution. Their method partitions unknowns into tiles with adaptive rank selection and reciprocity constraints, directly addressing high- dimensionality in seismic-style inverse problems. (21) introduced reinforcement learning techniques for inverse scattering problems, demonstrating how RL can guide the solution process in complex multidimensional scenarios. Their approach shows promise for handling the exploration-exploitation trade- off inherent in nonlinear inverse problems. (22) integrated physics-based constraints into data-driven methods for elastic full-waveform inversion with uncertainty quantification. Their approach demonstrates the importance of incorporating domain knowledge into computational frameworks.

Proposed Computational Framework

The proposed framework aims to improve efficiency through three main components:

- **Model Reduction:** Use of reduced-order modeling or principal component analysis (PCA) to lower the dimensionality of the parameter space.
- **Adaptive Regularization:** Dynamic adjustment of regularization parameters based on solution residuals and iteration progress.
- **Hybrid Optimization:** Combination of global and local optimization strategies to balance accuracy and computational speed.

Mathematical Formulation

The solution of nonlinear inverse problems typically requires solving:

$$y = F(x) + \varepsilon \qquad (1)$$

where $F\colon R^n \to R^m$ represents a nonlinear forward mapping, x is the unknown parameter vector, y is the measured data and $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I)$ denotes the additive noise.

The inverse problem is formulated as a minimization problem:

$$\min_x \|F(x) - y\|^2 + \lambda R(x) \qquad (2)$$

where R(x) is a regularization term and λ is the regularization coefficient.Adaptive scheme updated λ at each iteration

$$\lambda_{k+1} = \lambda_k + \frac{\|r_k\|}{\|r_{k-1}\|} \quad (3)$$

Whare $r_k = F(x_k) - y$ represents the residual.

Algorithm of the Proposed MNIP for the Solution Framework

- Initialize x_0, λ_0, tolerance ϵ
- while $\|F\ (x_k) - y\ \| > \epsilon$ do
- Compute Jacobian J_k
- Update$x_{k+1} = x_k - \left(J_k{}^T J_k + \lambda_k I\right)^{-1} J_k{}^T (F(x_k) - y)$
- Update λ_{k+1} adaptively
- $k \leftarrow k + 1$
- end while
- return x_k

Experimental Evaluation: Experiments were conducted on synthetic and real-world datasets to evaluate computational efficiency and accuracy. The framework was implemented in MATLAB by simulating the model and compared against baseline methods such as standard Levenberg-Marquardt.

Performance Metrics

Key metrics used for evaluation include, Mean Squared Error (MSE), Convergence Time and Number of Iterations described

•**Mean Squared Error (MSE):** Measures the average squared difference between the estimated solution and the true or observed data. A lower MSE indicates higher reconstruction accuracy.
•**Convergence Time:** The total computational time required for the algorithm to reach a predefined tolerance or stopping criterion. It reflects the overall efficiency of the method.
•**Number of Iterations:** Counts how many update steps the algorithm performs before converging. Less iteration generally indicates faster or more effective convergence behavior.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Experimental Configuration: To validate the proposed computational framework for solving multidimensional nonlinear inverse problems (MNIPs), a set of numerical experiments was conducted. The nonlinear forward operator was defined as:

$$y = F(x) = \sin(Ax) + 0.5x^3 \quad (4)$$

Where $A \in R^{m \times n}$ is a known system matrix generated with Gaussian random entries. Noisy measurements were simulated by

$$y^\delta = F(x_{true}) = \varepsilon,\ \ \varepsilon \sim N\ (0, 0.01^2 I_m) \quad (5)$$

To emulate typical experimental noise conditions. The inverse problem was formulated as:

$$\min J(x) =_x \|F\ (x)\ -\ y^\delta\ \|_2{}^2 +\ \lambda R(x) \quad (6)$$

Where $R(x) = \|Lx\|_2{}^2$ is Tikhonov-type regularization and λ is updated adaptively as:

$$\lambda_{k+1} = \lambda_k + \frac{\|r_k\|_2}{\|r_{k-1}\|_2}\ , with\ r_k = F\ (x) -\ y^\delta \quad (7)$$

Numerical Example: Nonlinear Parameter Estimation

To demonstrate the algorithm's effectiveness, consider a 1D nonlinear parameter estimation problem governed by:

$$y_i\ =\ sin(2x_i) +\ 0.5x_i{}^2 +\ \epsilon_i, i\ =\ 1,\ldots,100,$$

where the true parameters xtrue were generated from the known model and Gaussian noise with $\sigma\ =\ 0.05$ was added. The goal is to recover x given y^δ by minimizing the nonlinear least squares cost function using:

Baseline: Levenberg–Marquardt (LM) algorithm with fixed regularization, and Proposed Framework: Adaptive regularization with hybrid optimization.4.3.Convergence and Adaptive Regularization

The adaptive regularization parameter λ_k automatically adjusts during iterations according to the residual norm. Table 1, shows the convergence behavior of λ_k, residual norm $\|r_k\|$and relative error.

Table 1. Adaptive Regularization and Convergence Behavior

Iteration (k)	λ_k	r_k	Relative Error (%)
0	1.000	0.180	24.1
5	0.755	0.095	12.5
10	0.621	0.047	7.3
15	0.514	0.030	4.2

The adaptive strategy ensures smooth convergence and prevents divergence due to over-regularization. The relative reconstruction error drops below 5% after 15 iterations.

Table 2. Performance Comparison between LM and Proposed Framework

Method	MSE	Iterations	Time (s)
Levenberg–Marquardt	0.015	120	12.4
Proposed framework	0.008	65	6.8

Table 2, compares the proposed framework with the conventional Levenberg–Marquardt method. The proposed framework achieves:

- 47% lower mean squared error (MSE),
- 46% fewer iterations to convergence, and
- 45% reduction in total computation time.

The proposed framework achieved approximately 45% reduction in computation time while maintaining or improving solution accuracy.

Error and Convergence Rate

Illustrates the convergence trend of residual norms over iterations. The residual decreases exponentially for the proposed method, confirming faster convergence compared to LM. reduced-order modeling, and hybrid optimization strategies leads to a robust and efficient computational framework for multidimensional nonlinear inverse problems.

$$\|r_k\|_2 \approx Ce^{-\alpha x}, with\ \alpha > \alpha_{LM}$$

DISCUSSION

The results confirm that the proposed computational frame- work significantly enhances both accuracy and computational efficiency in MNIP solutions. The reduced-order representation effectively decreases dimensionality without sacrificing solution fidelity. This lowers the computational complexity of Jacobian evaluations and memory usage, which is crucial for high-dimensional problems. The dynamic update of λ_k balances stability and flexibility. Early iterations maintain high regularization to avoid over fitting, while later iterations gradually reduce λ_k to improve accuracy. The combination of global (stochastic search) and local (Gauss–Newton) optimization ensures both global robustness and local fast convergence. It mitigates the risk of getting trapped in local minima. Compared to the LM algorithm, the proposed framework reduces the number of forward model evaluations by nearly half, achieving substantial runtime savings without compromising accuracy. Its adaptive regularization and reduced-order components can be integrated into real-time signal processing or imaging systems with limited computational resources. The results highlight the benefits of integrating model reduction and adaptive regularization. The hybrid optimization strategy effectively avoids local minima and accelerates convergence. Overall, the integration of adaptive regularization,

CONCLUSION

This study introduced an efficient computational framework for solving multidimensional nonlinear inverse problems by integrating reduced-order modeling, adaptive regularization, and hybrid optimization. The results demonstrate that this approach significantly improves stability, accuracy, and computational speed compared to traditional methods such as Levenberg–Marquardt. By reducing effective dimensionality and dynamically tuning regularization during iterations, the framework achieves faster convergence and lower reconstruction error while requiring fewer computational resources. These advances make the method well-suited for large-scale or real-time inverse problem applications, offering a robust and scalable solution pathway for complex nonlinear systems.

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