



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR DYNAMICS OF COMPLEX  
TECHNICAL SYSTEMS  
MAGDEBURG



COMPUTATIONAL METHODS IN  
SYSTEMS AND CONTROL THEORY

# MaRDIMark : *the MaRDI benchmarking framework and its instances*

A. S. Nayak, K. Lund, J. Saak, P. Benner

December 5, 2025

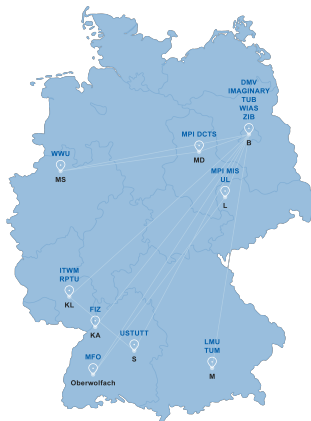
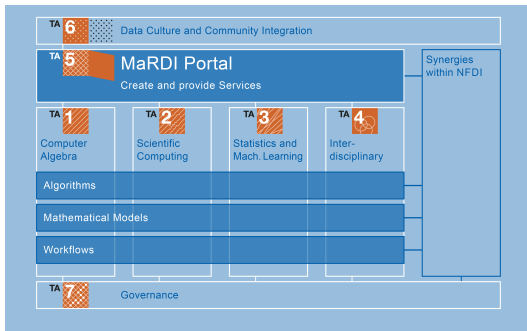
GAMM RSE/RDM Kickoff Meeting

Supported by:





- The German research data consortium for mathematics.
- 16 institutions and partners.
- 2021-2026.
- Supported by **National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI)**.





## 1. Introduction

## 2. The MarDIMark specification

## 3. MORB: A MarDIMark instance

## 4. Outlook and Future Work

## Introduction

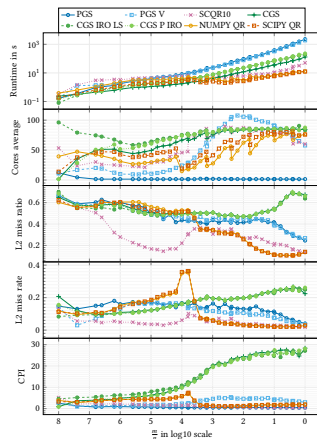




- Benchmarking is a process of **comparing** the **performance** of a system or component using a set of **standard measures**.
  - Requires a **problem** definition with a set of **data** and a set of **algorithms**.
  - Requires a well-defined set of **metrics**.
- A **transparent** benchmarking process is essential for:
  - identify areas for improvement,
  - optimize efficiency and effectiveness,
  - ensure compliance with standards.

### Universal Benchmarker

- The definition is community-specific and,
- depends heavily on the context.
- There is no universal benchmarker!

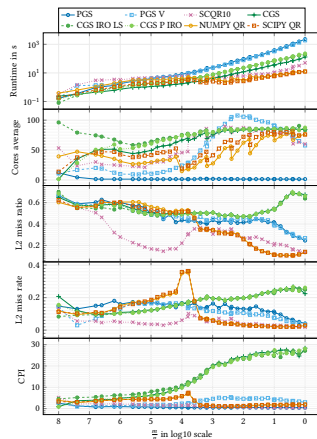




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## Database Curation

- Define benchmark instance and “concrete algorithm”
- Determine important searchable attributes and aggregate metadata
- Automate curation process to avoid human error
- Choose file-naming schemes and standards that are FAIR and conform to community traditions

## Benchmark Framework

- Identify domain-specific aspects of each module
- Choose intuitive and informative performance measures
- Develop platform-independent interfaces




## Community Engagement

- Ensure proper licensing
- Encourage researchers to contribute their data, provide feedback, and conform to standards
- KISS<sup>1</sup>: Reduce barriers to cooperation by providing workflows, GUIs, easy-to-follow guidelines, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Keep It Simple, Silly  
<https://w.wiki/JAn>



## Computer Science

-  google/benchmark
-  catchorg/Catch2
-  pytest-dev/pytest-benchmark
- ...

Focus on testing and providing detailed computational **performance metrics** for algorithms. Popular due to their **easy-to-use** yet feature-rich API.

## Distributed Computing

-  FZJ-JSC/JUBE
-  LLNL/benchpark
-  GoogleCloudPlatform/PerfKitBenchmarker
- ...




Features include **reproducible** complicated software configurations across distributed systems, **parametric runs**, and **comprehensive reporting**.

- **Reproducibility:** Consistency in results across multiple runs.
- **Scalability:** Handle different sizes of data and systems.
- **Fairness:** Unbiased comparison across different hardwares or software tools.
- **Verification:** Confirmable and verifiable results.
- **Ease of use:** Simple and intuitive.








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## The MarDIMark specification





### Examples

Contains **datasets**, **parameters** and **problem descriptions** of unique problem instance.

### Algorithms

Includes **code**, descriptions of **software** and **metadata** for specifying **concrete algorithms**.

### Driver

Implements **interfaces** to algorithms, orchestrates benchmark runs and collects **raw data** for results.

### Analyzer

Performs **post-processing** and evaluates **performance measures** on raw result data.

### Explorer

Generates **visualizations** and human-readable, platform-independent **reports**.

*A generic, extensible benchmark framework specification*

- Generic extensible toolkit specification
- Language agnostic interoperability
- FAIR comparison among different algorithm implementations
- Flexible performance measures
- Versatile visualizations of results
- Connect with Knowledge graphs
- Use open interfaces
- Confirmable workflows
- Integrate into MaRDI portal

MORB: A MarDIMark instance



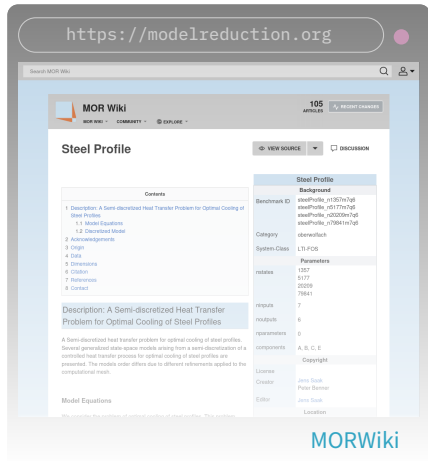
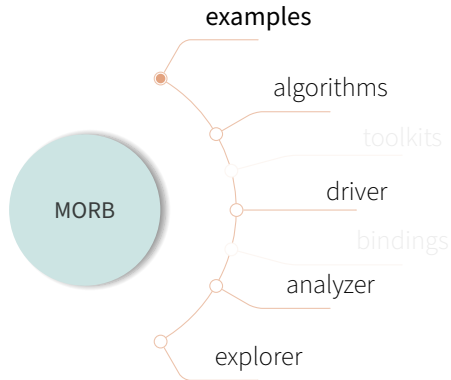


- A **MaRDIMark** implementation for the **Model Order Reduction** community.
- Serve as a template for other mathematical communities.
- Focus on Linear Time-Invariant, First-Order Systems (**LTI-FOS**).

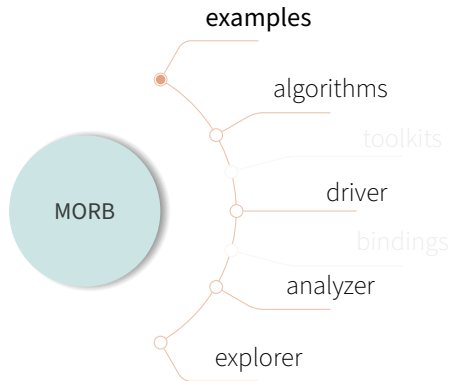
$$\begin{array}{c}
 \boxed{E} \quad \dot{x}(t) = \boxed{A} x(t) + \boxed{B} u(t) \\
 y(t) = \boxed{C} x(t) + \boxed{D} u(t)
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow{\text{MOR}}
 \begin{array}{c}
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 \hat{y}(t) = \boxed{\hat{C}} \hat{x}(t) + \boxed{\hat{D}} u(t)
 \end{array}$$



- **Community-based** data entries and easy dataset fetching on demand.
- Ensuring dataset is tagged heavily and encoded **uniformly**.
- Easy **accessibility** to algorithm information.
- Distinguish unique implementation of an algorithm (“**concrete algorithm**”)
- Calling external software as “**black box**”-es and without unnecessary overhead.
- Implement subroutines that compute **measures** (e.g. error, speed etc.) efficiently, accurately, FAIR-ly.
- Provide a user-friendly interface for data **visualization** and analysis.
- **Platform-agnostic** and highly **configurable** interface with a low threshold to learn, but easy to extend.
- Workflow should be made **reproducible**, **reusable** and **replicable**.







## examples

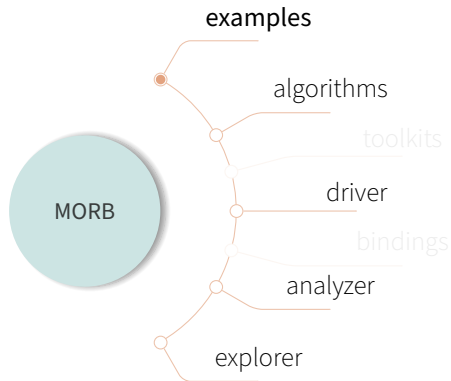
- Matrix data checked in **LTISystem** class.
- Can retrieve datasets using `morb-fetch`.
- Sorts the dataset based on combination of matrices received.
- Can also be configured with custom datasets.
- (ongoing) connect to knowledge graphs.

## morb-fetch



mardi4nfdi/morb-fetch

- Easy dataset selection, download, extraction
- Flexible configuration options and dataset-caching
- Python package with easy installation
- Platform independent



## examples

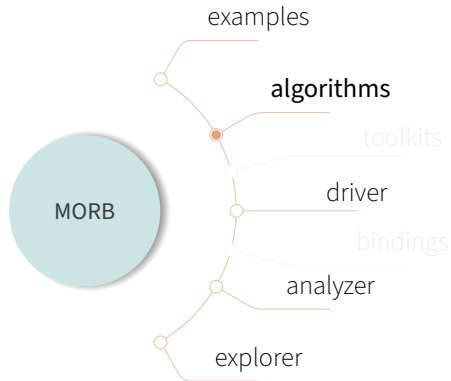
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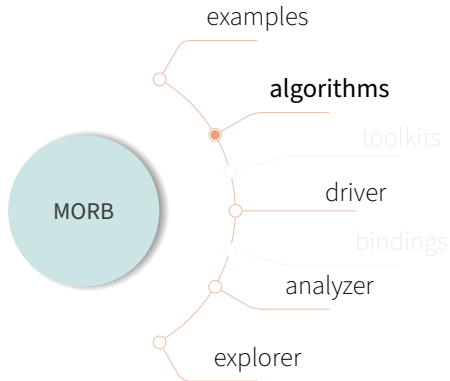


## algorithms

- Currently only implements **balancing** methods.
  - Balanced Truncation (BT)
  - Positive-real BT
  - Stochastic BT
  - Frequency-limited BT
  - Time-limited BT
  - Frequency-weighted BT
  - Linear Quadratic Gaussian BT
- holds metadata pointing to a **MORWiki** entry.
- (extend) connect to knowledge graphs.

## concrete algorithm

- Implementable algorithm with fully specified parameters.
- Stores identifiable information of a **toolkit**.
- Can `apply()` itself on an **example**.

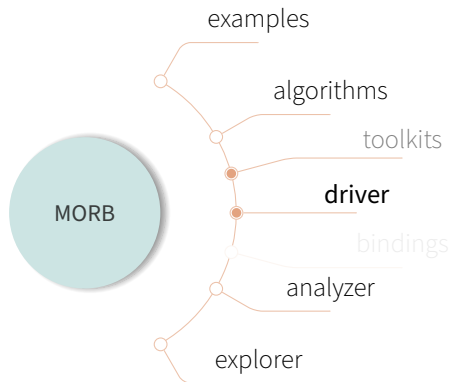


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### toolkits

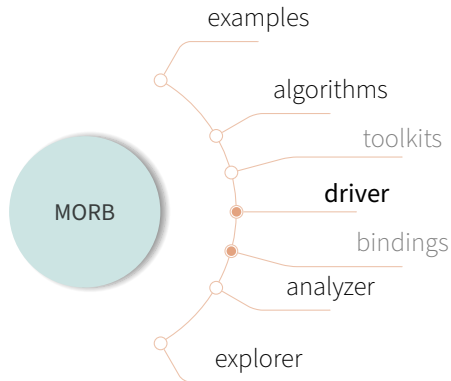
- M-M.E.S.S
- MORLAB
- pyMOR
- Octave Control Toolbox
- MATLAB Control Toolbox
- ...(user extensible)

### bindings

- Octave API
- MATLAB API
- Python API
- Julia API
- C++ API
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### driver

- Parses the **problem** description and orchestrates its execution.
- Interfaces to different **toolkits**.
- Provides **executors** which manages **bindings**.



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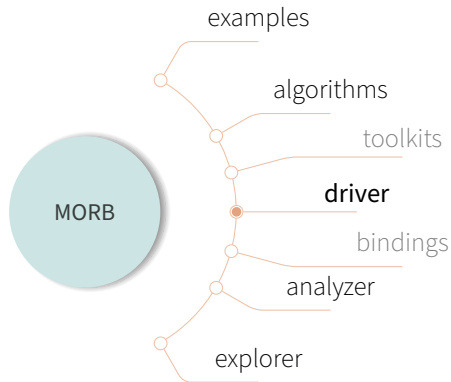
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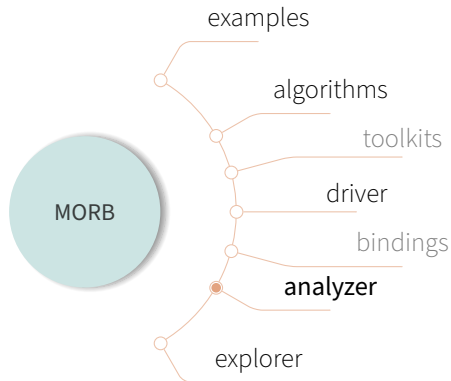
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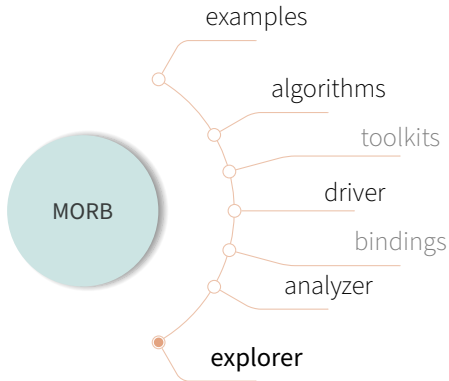
## analyzer

- Defines proper **measures** for accuracy, performance and reliability of the algorithms.
  - Error Norms :  $L^1, L^2, H^2, H^\infty, \dots$
  - Bode Magnitudes
  - Singular values
  - Computation Runtimes
- (extend) upload to knowledge graph.

## explorer

- Plots: Timings, Error plots.
- TeX Report: autogenerated with specifications, extensible templates.
- Tectonic-based fallback compiling. Easily configurable.
- PDF Report: Easily distributed and viewed.



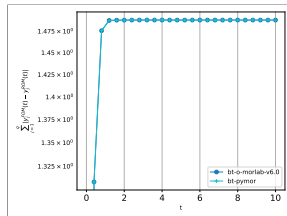
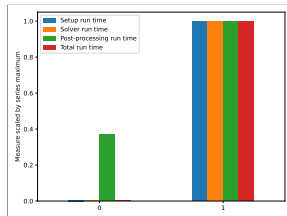
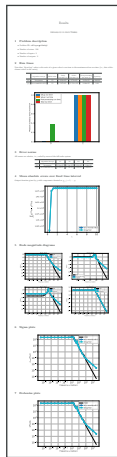
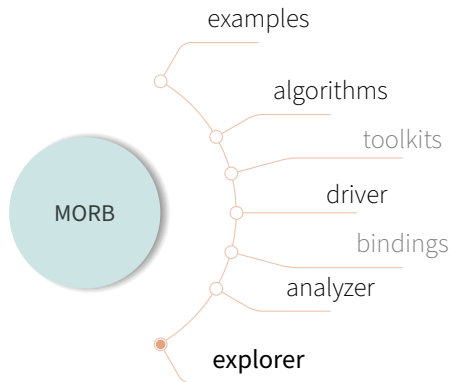


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```
{
  "mor_problem": {
    "lti_system": {
      "id" : "steelProfile_n1357m7q6"
    },
    "algorithm": {
      "balanced_truncation": {
        "tolerance":1e-6,
        "max_order":100
      },
      "toolkit": {
        "morlab": {
          "version": "6.0.0",
          "interpreter": {
            "octave": {
              "version": "8.4.0"
            }
          }
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

```
$ morb driver run
```

JSON-file with Command Line Interface

```
# Fetch a system by Example ID
from morb.examples import LTISystem
fom = LTISystem.from_id('steelProfile_n1357m7q6')

# List algorithms
from morb.toolkits import MORLAB
from morb.bindings import Octave
from morb.algorithms import BalancedTruncation
bt = BalancedTruncation(
    tolerance=1e-6,
    max_order=100,
    toolkit=MORLAB(
        version='6.0.0',
        interpreter=Octave(version='8.4.0')
    )
)

# Formulate a problem
from morb.driver import MORProblem, SerialExecutor
problem = MORProblem(fom, bt)

# Run benchmark
benchmark = SerialExecutor([problem])
results = benchmark.run()

# Compare with measures
from morb.analyzer import HInfErrorNorm
measure.HInfErrorNorm(fom, results)
```

Python-based easy-to-use interface



## Configurable

- Cross-platform reproducible setup (with `uv.lock`) with caching of all fetched resources
- Environment variable overrides with persistent **YAML** configuration files
- Command-line interface (in development)  $\rightsquigarrow$  **MaRDIFlow**.

## Confirmable

- Data is made verifiable using checksums (SHA256 hashes)
- Verifiable workflows through proper typing and data models with validation (hashable and exportable to JSON schema)

## Dependencies

- |                |                |                 |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ■ Python 3.10+ | ■ platformdirs | ■ uv            |
| ■ numpy        | ■ pydantic     | ■ matlab.engine |
| ■ polars       | ■ pooch        | ■ tectonicx     |



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## gasnetbench

- Implements interfaces to various computational models for gas networks.
- Current focus: accuracy of time discretizations.
- Collection of benchmark networks.


## LASE<sub>r</sub>

- Currently, implements interfaces for orthogonal decomposition (QR).
- Hardware counters as performance indicators.
- Broad range of linear algebra backends.



- Recommend algorithms and examples from and store results in knowledge graphs
- Bindings should involve open-interfaces:  `MaRDI4NFDI/open-interfaces`
- Improve “confirmable workflows”
- Ensure synergetic potential with other communities and MaRDI projects
- Integrate into MaRDI portal
- Extend MORB specification to PH systems (planned)





**Thank You!**  
**Questions?**

Reach out: [mardi-ta2@listserv.uni-muenster.de](mailto:mardi-ta2@listserv.uni-muenster.de)