# Randomized matrix decompositions for faster scientific computing 

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Processing data is slow.

Computers are producing massive amounts of data.


Figure: Anton 3 supercomputer


Figure: Each day, Anton 3 simulates $10^{6}$ atoms for $10^{11}$ time steps.

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Question. Let's say we want to analyze $10^{4}$ molecules, how large is a $10^{4} \times 3$ million array? Answer. Storage $\approx 8 \times r$ rows $\times c$ columns $/ 10^{9}=240 \mathrm{~GB}$.

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Figure: GPT-4 is a large language model with $\approx 1$ trillion parameters

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## Exam results (ordered by GPT-3.5 performance)

Estimated percentile lower bound (among test takers)


Question. How long does it take to train GPT-4?

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Question. How long does it take to train GPT-4?

Answer. Training requires 25,000 GPUs working constantly over 100 days.

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Randomized iterative methods lead to speed-ups for linear systems and eigenvalue problems.

Randomized iterative methods identify low-rank structure in large matrices.

- Find structure by repeatedly randomly searching.
- Low-rank structure leads to computational speed-ups.

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- RPC is accurate given eigenvalue decay (Chen, Epperly, Tropp, \& Webber, 2023).


## Low-rank approximation

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The modern approach for calculating dominant eigenvectors of a positive semidefinite (psd) matrix is based on low-rank approximation:

- Form approximation $\hat{\boldsymbol{A}} \approx \boldsymbol{A}$ where $\operatorname{rank}(\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}) \ll \operatorname{rank}(\boldsymbol{A})$.
- Dominant eigenvectors and eigenvalues of $\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}$ approximate dominant eigenvectors and eigenvalues of $\boldsymbol{A}$.

If $\boldsymbol{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is psd，we use the Nyström approximation：

$\boldsymbol{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times k}$ is the test matrix， $\boldsymbol{A X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times k}$ is the output matrix，$T$ is the transpose，$\dagger$ is the pseudoinverse．

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3. $\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}$ gives the minimum residual of any approximation satisfying $1-2$.

## Low-rank approximation

The optimal test matrix $\boldsymbol{X}$ for the Nyström approximation

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\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}=\boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{X}\left(\boldsymbol{X}^{\top} \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{X}\right)^{\dagger} \boldsymbol{X}^{\top} \boldsymbol{A},
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is any matrix whose columns span the dominant eigenvectors.

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We don't know the dominant eigenvectors, so high accuracy is obtained with the randomized block Krylov matrix

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\boldsymbol{X}=\left[\begin{array}{llll}
\boldsymbol{\Omega} & \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{\Omega} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{A}^{m-1} \boldsymbol{\Omega}
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where $\boldsymbol{\Omega} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times k}$ has independent Gaussian entries $\omega_{i j} \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$.

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* One Gaussian vector might miss the top eigenvectors, but many Gaussian vectors multiplied several times by $\boldsymbol{A}$ are exponentially unlikely to miss the top eigenvectors.
* Single-vector Krylov with $\boldsymbol{\Omega}=\left[\omega_{1}\right]$ is old, but using many random vectors $\Omega=\left[\begin{array}{lll}\boldsymbol{\omega}_{1} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\omega}_{k}\end{array}\right]$ is modern.

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* We offer an efficient implementation and theoretical guarantees in Tropp \& Webber, 2023.


## Description of RBKI

Randomized block Krylov iteration
(Tropp \& Webber, 2023)

1. Generate random Gaussian $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times k}$ and set $\boldsymbol{Y}_{0}=\boldsymbol{\Omega}$.
2. For $i=0, \ldots, m-1$ :
a) Compute an orthonormal matrix $\boldsymbol{Q}_{i}$ with

$$
\operatorname{range}\left[\begin{array}{lll}
\boldsymbol{Q}_{0} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{Q}_{i}
\end{array}\right]=\operatorname{range}\left[\begin{array}{lll}
\boldsymbol{Y}_{0} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{Y}_{i}
\end{array}\right] .
$$

b) Set $\boldsymbol{Y}_{i+1}=\boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{Q}_{i}$.
3. Compute the Nyström approximation $\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}=\boldsymbol{F} \boldsymbol{F}^{T}$ using $\left[\begin{array}{lll}\boldsymbol{Q}_{0} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{Q}_{m-1}\end{array}\right]$ and $\left[\begin{array}{lll}\boldsymbol{Y}_{1} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{Y}_{m}\end{array}\right]$.

Numerically stable code
Generates the Nyström approximation for $\boldsymbol{X}=\left[\begin{array}{llll}\boldsymbol{\Omega} & \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{\Omega} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{A}^{m-1} \boldsymbol{\Omega}\end{array}\right]$.
$2 \times$ faster than original RBKI (Rokhlin, Szlam, \& Tygert, 2010).

When $\boldsymbol{A}$ is large and dense, the bottleneck is $m$ multiplications with A, requiring $\mathcal{O}\left(N^{2} \mathrm{~km}\right)$ operations.

## Example

Consider the following matrices

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \boldsymbol{A}=\operatorname{diag}\left(1, e^{-0.1}, \ldots, e^{-9999.9}\right) \\
& \boldsymbol{B}=\boldsymbol{A}+\operatorname{diag}(0.1,0.099999, \ldots, 0.000001) .
\end{aligned}
$$

The top eigenvalues are similar, but $\boldsymbol{B}$ has slower eigenvalue decay than $\boldsymbol{A}$.


Figure: Eigenvalues decay fast or slow.

## Demonstration of RBKI

$$
\boldsymbol{A}=\left[\begin{array}{lllll}
1.000 & 0.000 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\
0.000 & 0.905 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\
0.000 & 0.000 & 0.819 & 0.000 \\
0.000 & 0.000 & 0.000 & 0.741 & \\
& & & \ddots .
\end{array}\right] \quad \boldsymbol{B}=\left[\begin{array}{llll}
1.100 & 0.000 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\
0.000 & 1.005 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\
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RBKI with block size of $k=100$ Gaussian vectors, depth of $m=1$ multiplication $\Longrightarrow$

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\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}=\left[\begin{array}{lllll}
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\end{array}\right] \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{B}}=\left[\begin{array}{rrrr}
0.024 & -0.001 & -0.001 & -0.004 \\
-0.001 & 0.016 & -0.003 & 0.001 \\
-0.001 & -0.003 & 0.017 & -0.001 \\
-0.004 & 0.001 & -0.001 & 0.015
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RBKI with block size of $k=100$ Gaussian vectors, depth of $m=2$ multiplications $\Longrightarrow$

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\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}=\left[\begin{array}{lllll}
1.000 & 0.000 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\
0.000 & 0.905 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\
0.000 & 0.000 & 0.819 & 0.000 \\
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& & & \ddots .
\end{array}\right] \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{B}}=\left[\begin{array}{rrrr}
1.072 & -0.002 & -0.002 & -0.007 \\
-0.002 & 0.960 & -0.005 & 0.001 \\
-0.002 & -0.005 & 0.880 & -0.001 \\
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- With fast eigenvalue decay, just $m=1$ matrix multiplication guarantees high accuracy.
- With slow eigenvalue decay, $m=3$ matrix multiplications is enough.


## Practical runtime of RBKI

Question. Why is the small number of multiplications $m$ important?

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Answer. RBKI runs fast with small $m$, even when the block size $k$ is large.
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* I'm working with M Melnichenko and R Murray to implement RBKI in RandLAPACK, a randomized software package faster than the current standard LAPACK.


## Theoretical properties of RBKI

For any psd matrix $\boldsymbol{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, let $\lfloor\boldsymbol{A}\rfloor_{r}$ be the best rank- $r$ approximation, which comes from an $r$-truncated eigendecomposition of $\boldsymbol{A}$.

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## RBKI guarantees for psd matrices

(Tropp \& Webber, 2023)
For each block size $k \geq 2 r+1$ and number of multiplications $m \geq 2$,

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\mathbb{E}\|\boldsymbol{A}-\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}\| \leq \exp \left(\left[\frac{\log (4 N+4)}{4 m-6}\right]^{2}\right)\left\|\boldsymbol{A}-\lfloor\boldsymbol{A}\rfloor_{r}\right\| .
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Proof uses "almost convexity" of Chebyshev polynomials and properties of Gaussian matrices (5 bonus slides).

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Proof uses "almost convexity" of Chebyshev polynomials and properties of Gaussian matrices (5 bonus slides).

* After just $m=\frac{1}{4} \log (N+1)+2$ multiplications, RBKI guarantees $\mathbb{E}\|\boldsymbol{A}-\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}\| \leq 2\left\|\boldsymbol{A}-\lfloor\boldsymbol{A}\rfloor_{r}\right\|$.


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For each block size $k \geq 2 r+1$ and number of multiplications $m \geq 2$,

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Proof uses "almost convexity" of Chebyshev polynomials and properties of Gaussian matrices (5 bonus slides).

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* We have also extended RBKI to compute a low-rank approximation for any rectangular matrix $\boldsymbol{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$.


## Application in genetics

Genetics data sets are large ( $\geq 10^{4}$ single-nucleotide polymorphisms) and noisy:
"In large datasets, eigenvalues may be highly significant (reflecting real population structure in the data) but only slightly larger than background noise eigenvalues."

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Figure: After $m=4$ multiplications (left), RBKI reproduces the ideal clustering (right).

## Column Nyström approximation

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1. $\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}$ is a specialization of the Nyström decomposition.
2. $\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}$ perfectly recovers the selected columns $\boldsymbol{A}(\cdot, \mathrm{S})$.

## Partial Cholesky approximation

The partial Cholesky decomposition generates the column Nyström approximation:

## Partial Cholesky decomposition

1. Initialize $\boldsymbol{F}=\mathbf{0}_{N \times k}$.
2. For $i=1, \ldots, k$ :
a) Select a column index $s_{i} \in\{1, \ldots, N\}$.
b) Evaluate the $s_{i}$ column of the target matrix $\boldsymbol{g}=\boldsymbol{A}\left(\cdot, s_{i}\right)$.
c) Subtract the $s_{i}$ column of the current Nyström approximation $\boldsymbol{g}=\boldsymbol{g}-\left(\boldsymbol{F} \boldsymbol{F}^{T}\right)\left(\cdot, s_{i}\right)$.
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Only requires evaluating the $k$ selected columns and taking linear combinations, hence $\mathcal{O}(N k)$ memory and $\mathcal{O}\left(N k^{2}\right)$ operations.
Let's apply partial Cholesky to an example and consider the best column indices $s_{1}, \ldots, s_{k}$.

## Example of partial Cholesky decomposition

Example. For data points $\boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{6}$, define $\boldsymbol{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 6}$ with entries $a_{i j}=\exp \left(-\frac{1}{2}\left\|\boldsymbol{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{x}_{j}\right\|^{2}\right)$.


Figure: Two clusters of data points

| $\boldsymbol{x}_{1}$ | $\boldsymbol{x}_{2}$ | $\boldsymbol{x}_{3}$ | $\boldsymbol{x}_{4}$ | $\boldsymbol{x}_{5}$ | $\boldsymbol{x}_{6}$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| -1.34 | -1.28 | -0.73 | 0.10 | 1.04 | 1.09 |
| 1.52 | 1.02 | 1.51 | -0.69 | -0.84 | -1.24 |

$$
\boldsymbol{A}=\left[\begin{array}{lll|lll}
1.00 & 0.88 & 0.83 & 0.03 & 0.00 & 0.00 \\
0.88 & 1.00 & 0.76 & 0.09 & 0.01 & 0.00 \\
0.83 & 0.76 & 1.00 & 0.06 & 0.01 & 0.00 \\
\hline 0.03 & 0.09 & 0.06 & 1.00 & 0.64 & 0.53 \\
0.00 & 0.01 & 0.01 & 0.64 & 1.00 & 0.92 \\
0.00 & 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.53 & 0.92 & 1.00
\end{array}\right]
$$

Column $\boldsymbol{A}(\cdot, i)$ measures the similarity of $\boldsymbol{x}_{\boldsymbol{i}}$ to the other data points.

Example. Let's apply the partial Cholesky decomposition and track the diagonal of the residual.


$$
\boldsymbol{A}^{(0)}=\left[\begin{array}{lll|lll}
1.00 & 0.88 & 0.83 & 0.03 & 0.00 & 0.00 \\
0.88 & 1.00 & 0.76 & 0.09 & 0.01 & 0.00 \\
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0.00 & 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.53 & 0.92 & 1.00
\end{array}\right]
$$



$$
\begin{gathered}
\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}^{(1)}=\left[\begin{array}{l}
0.88 \\
1.00 \\
0.76 \\
0.09 \\
0.01 \\
0.00
\end{array}\right][1.00]^{-1}\left[\begin{array}{c}
0.88 \\
1.00 \\
0.76 \\
0.09 \\
0.01 \\
0.00
\end{array}\right]^{T} . \\
\boldsymbol{A}^{(1)}=\left[\begin{array}{rr|rrr}
0.22 & 0.15 & -0.05 & -0.01 & 0.00 \\
0.15 & 0.41 & 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.00 \\
\hline-0.05 & 0.00 & 0.99 & 0.64 & 0.53 \\
-0.01 & 0.00 & 0.64 & 1.00 & 0.92 \\
0.00 & 0.00 & 0.53 & 0.92 & 1.00
\end{array}\right] .
\end{gathered}
$$

## Example of partial Cholesky decomposition



$$
\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}^{(2)}=\left[\begin{array}{r|r|r}
0.88 & -0.05 \\
1.00 & 0.00 \\
0.76 & 0.00 \\
\hline 0.09 & 0.99 \\
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\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{ll}
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$\boldsymbol{A}^{(2)}=\left[\begin{array}{cc|cc}0.22 & 0.15 & 0.02 & 0.02 \\ 0.15 & 0.41 & 0.01 & 0.00 \\ \hline 0.02 & 0.01 & 0.59 & 0.58 \\ 0.02 & 0.00 & 0.58 & 0.72\end{array}\right]$.


Just two columns typically give an approximation with a small residual.

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* Uniform sampling leads to bad performance the method focuses on the "typical" columns but ignores atypical clusters.


## Description of Randomly pivoted Cholesky

New method. Randomly pivoted Cholesky randomly chooses a column index according to the diagonal elements of the residual:

$$
\mathbb{P}\left\{s_{i}=j\right\}=\frac{\left(\boldsymbol{A}^{(i-1)}\right)_{j j}}{\operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{A}^{(i-1)}}, \quad j=1,2, \ldots, N .
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Randomly pivoted Cholesky (Chen, Epperly, Tropp, \& Webber, 2022)

1. Initialize $\boldsymbol{F}=\mathbf{0}_{N \times k}$.
2. Initialize the diagonal of the residual $\boldsymbol{d}=\operatorname{diag}(\boldsymbol{A})$.
3. For $i=1, \ldots, k$ :
a) Sample a column index $s_{i} \sim \boldsymbol{d} / \sum_{i=1}^{N} \boldsymbol{d}(i)$.
b) Evaluate the $s_{i}$ column of the target matrix $\boldsymbol{g}=\boldsymbol{A}\left(\cdot, s_{i}\right)$.
c) Subtract the $s_{i}$ column of the current approximation $\boldsymbol{g}=\boldsymbol{g}-\left(\boldsymbol{F} \boldsymbol{F}^{T}\right)\left(\cdot, s_{i}\right)$.
d) Rescale the column $\boldsymbol{F}(\cdot, i)=\boldsymbol{g} / \sqrt{\boldsymbol{g}\left(s_{i}\right)}$.
e) Update the diagonal of the residual matrix $\boldsymbol{d}=\boldsymbol{d}-|\boldsymbol{F}(\cdot, i)|^{2}$.
4. Return the approximation $\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}=\boldsymbol{F} \boldsymbol{F}^{T}$.

## Performance of RPCholesky

In comparisons, RPCholesky outperforms uniform sampling and greedy sampling.



Uniform

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RPCholesky

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RPCholesky error bound
(Chen, Epperly, Tropp \& Webber, 2022)
RPCholesky guarantees an $(r, \varepsilon)$-approximation for

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* The bounds are near-optimal there is a psd matrix that cannot be approximated in fewer than $r / \varepsilon$ columns.
* Proof uses matrix monotonicity, matrix concavity, and dynamical systems ( 5 bonus slides).


## Application in molecular dynamics

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- Let's introduce a kernel function $\phi: \mathbb{R}^{30} \times \mathbb{R}^{30} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{+}$that quantifies similarity between configurations:

$$
\phi\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \boldsymbol{x}_{j}\right)=\exp \left(-\frac{1}{2 \sigma^{2}}\left\|\boldsymbol{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{x}_{j}\right\|^{2}\right) .
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and identify clusters with high $\phi$ values within clusters and low $\phi$ values across clusters (see bonus slides).

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- The bottleneck is computing the dominant eigenvectors of an $N \times N$ kernel matrix. Even forming and storing this matrix is expensive.
- Traditionally, scientists subsampled their data and ran clustering codes for $>1$ day.


## Application in molecular dynamics

RPCholesky clusters 250, 000 points in just 10 seconds on a laptop. Near-perfect clustering is obtained with a rank $k=150$ approximation.



Figure: When we cluster configurations in $\mathbb{R}^{30}$, we find four clusters that are well-aligned with nonlinear functions of the coordinates ( $\phi$ and $\psi$ dihedral angles).

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* As a limitation, RPCholesky is only accurate when there is fast eigenvalue decay - it wouldn't work for the noisy genetics data. However, we often expect kernel matrices and neural net matrices to have fast eigenvalue decay.

Main answer. Communication with scientists is essential to make sure they are aware of these advances.

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Application area. Kernel methods are machine learning methods that use a positive-definite kernel function $\phi: \mathbb{R}^{d} \times \mathbb{R}^{d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ to quantify "similarity" between data points, $\phi\left(\boldsymbol{x}^{(i)}, \boldsymbol{x}^{(j)}\right)$.

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Figure: Used for prediction ("supervised learning")


Figure: Used for clustering ("unsupervised learning")

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Ongoing and future projects:

- Randomly pivoted Cholesky for infinite data sets (with E Epperly \& J Tropp)
- Data-adaptive kernels for biochemistry (with D Aristoff \& G Simpson).


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- Fast, randomized algorithms for graph signal processing (with R Lu).
- Randomly sparsified PageRank solvers (with J Weare).


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Thank you for your attention! Does anyone have questions?

## RPCholesky theorem

## Main theorem (Chen, Epperly, Tropp, \& Webber, 2022)

Fix a psd matrix $\boldsymbol{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ and let $\lfloor\boldsymbol{A}\rfloor_{r}$ denote an optimal rank- $r$ approximation obtained from an $r$-truncated eigendecomposition.

RPCholesky generates a k-column Nyström approximation s.t.

$$
\mathbb{E} \operatorname{tr}(\boldsymbol{A}-\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}) \leq(1+\varepsilon) \cdot \operatorname{tr}\left(\boldsymbol{A}-\lfloor\boldsymbol{A}\rfloor_{r}\right) .
$$

as soon as

$$
k \geq \frac{r}{\varepsilon}+r \log \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \cdot \frac{\operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{A}}{\operatorname{tr}\left(\boldsymbol{A}-\lfloor\boldsymbol{A}\rfloor_{r}\right)}\right) .
$$

Proof uses ideas of
Let's go!

- matrix monotonicity,
- matrix concavity,
- dynamical systems.


## RPCholesky proof

Recall the recursive definition of RPCholesky:

- Set $\boldsymbol{A}^{(0)}=\boldsymbol{A}$.
- For $i=1, \ldots, N$, sample $s_{i} \sim \operatorname{diag} \boldsymbol{A}^{(i-1)}$ and set

$$
\boldsymbol{A}^{(i)}=\boldsymbol{A}^{(i-1)}-\frac{\boldsymbol{A}^{(i-1)}\left(:, s_{i}\right) \boldsymbol{A}^{(i-1)}\left(s_{i},:\right)}{a_{s_{i} s_{i}}^{(i-1)}} .
$$

## Definition

Introduce the expected residual function

$$
\boldsymbol{\Phi}(\boldsymbol{A}):=\mathbb{E}\left[\boldsymbol{A}^{(1)} \mid \boldsymbol{A}\right]=\boldsymbol{A}-\sum_{s_{1}=1}^{N} \frac{a_{s_{1} s_{1}}}{\operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{A}} \frac{\boldsymbol{A}\left(:, s_{1}\right) \boldsymbol{A}\left(s_{1},:\right)}{a_{s_{1} s_{1}}}=\boldsymbol{A}-\frac{\boldsymbol{A}^{2}}{\operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{A}} .
$$

## Lemma

$\boldsymbol{\Phi}$ is monotone and concave with respect to the psd ordering.

## RPCholesky proof

## Lemma

The RPCholesky residual satisfies

$$
\mathbb{E} \operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{A}^{(k)} \leq \operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\circ k}(\boldsymbol{A}) .
$$

## Proof.

Let $\boldsymbol{A}$ be a psd matrix. Using the matrix Jensen's inequality,

$$
\mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{A}^{(i+1)}=\mathbb{E} \mathbb{E}\left[\boldsymbol{A}^{(i+1)} \mid \boldsymbol{A}^{(i)}\right]=\mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{\Phi}\left(\boldsymbol{A}^{(i)}\right) \preceq \boldsymbol{\Phi}\left(\mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{A}^{(i)}\right)
$$

for $i=0,1, \ldots, k-1$. Applying the above display recursively,

$$
\mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{A}^{(k)} \preceq \boldsymbol{\Phi}\left(\mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{A}^{(k-1)}\right) \preceq \boldsymbol{\Phi} \circ \boldsymbol{\Phi}\left(\mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{A}^{(k-2)}\right) \preceq \cdots \preceq \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\circ k}(\boldsymbol{A}) .
$$

The trace is linear and respects psd ordering, hence

$$
\mathbb{E} \operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{A}^{(k)}=\operatorname{tr} \mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{A}^{(k)} \leq \operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\circ k}(\boldsymbol{A})
$$

## RPCholesky proof

## Proof of main theorem (6 steps):

1. We know $\mathbb{E} \operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{A}^{(k)} \leq \operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\circ k}(\boldsymbol{A})$. The quantity $\operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\circ k}(\boldsymbol{A})$ depends only on the eigenvalues of $\boldsymbol{A}$, so we take $\boldsymbol{A}$ to be diagonal.
2. By concavity, the worst-case matrix is

$$
\boldsymbol{A}=\operatorname{diag}(\underbrace{\frac{a}{r}, \ldots, \frac{a}{r}}_{r \text { times }}, \underbrace{\frac{b}{N-r}, \ldots, \frac{b}{N-r}}_{N-r \text { times }})
$$

3. By definition of $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$, we obtain

$$
\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\circ k}(\boldsymbol{A})=\operatorname{diag}(\underbrace{\frac{a^{(k)}}{r}, \ldots, \frac{a^{(k)}}{r}}_{r \text { times }}, \underbrace{\frac{b^{(k)}}{N-r}, \ldots, \frac{b^{(k)}}{N-r}}_{N-r \text { times }}),
$$

where $\left(a^{(i)}\right)_{i=0,1, \ldots}$ and $\left(b^{(i)}\right)_{i=0,1, \ldots}$ are decreasing sequences with explicit formulae.

## RPCholesky proof

## Proof of main theorem (6 steps):

4. Moreover, we find an explicit upper bound

$$
\operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\circ k}(\boldsymbol{A}) \leq \bar{a}^{(k)}+b^{(0)}, \quad \bar{a}^{(k)}-\bar{a}^{(k-1)}=\frac{-\left(\bar{a}^{(k-1)}\right)^{2}}{r\left(\bar{a}^{(k-1)}+b^{(0)}\right)}
$$

5. At each instant $t=0,1,2, \ldots$, the discrete-time process $\bar{a}^{(t)}$ is bounded from above by the continuous-time process $x(t)$ satisfying

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{~d} t} x(t)=-\frac{x(t)^{2}}{r\left(x(t)+b^{(0)}\right)} \quad \text { with initial condition } x(0)=a^{(0)}
$$

6. By direct calculation,

$$
x(t) \leq \varepsilon b^{(0)} \quad \text { for any } \quad t \geq \frac{r}{\varepsilon}+r \log \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \cdot \frac{\operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{A}}{\operatorname{tr}\left(\boldsymbol{A}-\lfloor\boldsymbol{A}\rfloor_{r}\right)}\right) .
$$

## RBKI proof

## RBKI guarantees for psd matrices (Tropp \& Webber, 2023)

For each block size $k \geq 2 r+1$ and number of multiplications $m \geq 2$, RBKI satisfies

$$
\mathbb{E}\|\boldsymbol{A}-\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}\| \leq \exp \left(\left[\frac{\log (4 N+4)}{4 m-6}\right]^{2}\right)\|\boldsymbol{A}-\lfloor\boldsymbol{A}\rfloor r\| .
$$

Proof uses ideas of
Let's go!

- Chebyshev polynomials,
- convexity and almost convexity,
- properties of Gaussian matrices.


## RBKI theorem

## Tensions in the proof:

- The main idea is apply a filter $\phi(\boldsymbol{A})$ that increases the top eigenvalues and decreases the bottom eigenvalues.
- We need to ensure $\phi(\boldsymbol{A}) \boldsymbol{\Omega}$ lies inside the approximation space, so we use Chebyshev polynomials.
- However, there is a challenge. The Chebyshev filtering argument only applies to

$$
\left\|\left(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\phi(\mathbf{A}) \Omega}\right) \phi(\boldsymbol{A})\right\|,
$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\phi(\boldsymbol{A}) \boldsymbol{\Omega}}$ is the orthogonal projector onto the range of $\phi(\boldsymbol{A}) \boldsymbol{\Omega}$, but the actual error attained by RBKI is

$$
\left\|\left(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\phi(\boldsymbol{A}) \Omega}\right) \boldsymbol{A}\right\| .
$$

How can we relate these two quantities?

## RBKI theorem

## Lemma (Jensen's inequality with "almost" convex functions, Tropp \& Webber 2023)

Consider symmetric $\boldsymbol{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, a random rank-r orthogonal projection $\boldsymbol{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, and a function $f:[0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that has a supporting line at $(x, f(x))$ for $x \geq \sigma_{r+1}(\boldsymbol{A})^{2}$. Then,

$$
f\left(\mathbb{E}\|(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{Q}) \boldsymbol{A}\|^{2}\right) \leq \mathbb{E}\left\|(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{Q}) f\left(\boldsymbol{A}^{2}\right)(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{Q})\right\|
$$



Chebyshev polynomials $T_{i}(x)$ are almost convex. They admit supporting lines on the range $x \geq 1$.

## RBKI theorem

## Proof of main theorem (3 steps):

1. The RBKI approximation satisfies

$$
\|\boldsymbol{A}-\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}\| \leq\left\|\left(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\left[\boldsymbol{A}^{1 / 2} \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdots \boldsymbol{A}^{m-1 / 2} \boldsymbol{\Omega}\right]}\right) \boldsymbol{A}\right\|
$$

2. We apply the majorization

$$
\|\boldsymbol{A}-\hat{\boldsymbol{A}}\| \leq\|(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{Q}) \boldsymbol{A}\|
$$

where

$$
\boldsymbol{Q}=\phi(\boldsymbol{A}) \boldsymbol{\Omega} \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{1}^{\dagger}
$$

is a rank- $r$ orthogonal projection. It is defined using the modified Chebyshev polynomial

$$
\phi(x)=x T_{2 m-1}\left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{\lambda_{r+1}(\boldsymbol{A})}}\right)
$$

and the $N \times r$ matrix

$$
\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{1}=\left[\begin{array}{lll}
\boldsymbol{v}_{1}(\boldsymbol{A}) & \cdots & \boldsymbol{v}_{r}(\boldsymbol{A})
\end{array}\right]^{T} \boldsymbol{\Omega}
$$

where $\boldsymbol{v}_{i}(\boldsymbol{A})$ are the dominant $r$ eigenvectors of $\boldsymbol{A}$.

## RBKI theorem

## Proof of main theorem (3 steps):

3. Using the "almost convexity" lemma with $f(x)=\phi(\sqrt{x})^{2}$, calculate

$$
\begin{aligned}
f\left(\mathbb{E}\|(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{Q}) \boldsymbol{A}\|^{2}\right) & \leq \mathbb{E}\left\|(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{Q}) f\left(\boldsymbol{A}^{2}\right)(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{Q})\right\| \\
& =\mathbb{E}\|\phi(\boldsymbol{A})(\mathbf{I}-\boldsymbol{Q})\|^{2} \\
& \leq \sigma_{r+1}(\phi(\boldsymbol{A}))^{2}+\frac{r}{k-r-1} \sum_{i=r+1}^{N} \sigma_{i}(\phi(\boldsymbol{A}))^{2} \\
& \leq \sigma_{r+1}(\boldsymbol{A})^{2}+\frac{r}{k-r-1} \sum_{i=r+1}^{N} \sigma_{i}(\boldsymbol{A})^{2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

The third line uses a standard formula for the moments of an inverse Wishart matrix. The fourth line uses the fact that $\lambda_{i}(\phi(\boldsymbol{A})) \leq \lambda_{i}(\boldsymbol{A})$ for $i>r$. This gives a stronger version of the result.

## Kernel spectral clustering: formulation

Find a low-dimensional embedding $\boldsymbol{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times k}$ of $N$ data points into $\mathbb{R}^{k}$ that minimizes distortion

$$
\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i, j=1}^{N} \phi\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \boldsymbol{x}_{j}\right)\|\boldsymbol{V}(i, \cdot)-\boldsymbol{V}(j, \cdot)\|^{2}
$$

while satisfying the isotropy condition

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{N} \phi\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \boldsymbol{x}_{j}\right)\right) \boldsymbol{V}(i, \cdot) \boldsymbol{V}(i, \cdot)^{T}=\mathbf{I}
$$

Then apply $k$-means clustering to the rows of $\boldsymbol{V}$.

## Kernel spectral clustering

Kernel spectral clustering leads to an exact solution (Belkin \& Niyogi, 2003).

## Kernel spectral clustering: algorithm

1. Form the adjacency matrix $\boldsymbol{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ with entries $w_{i j}=\phi\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \boldsymbol{x}_{j}\right)$.
2. Form the diagonal matrix $\boldsymbol{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ containing the row sums $d_{i i}=\sum_{j=1}^{N} w_{i j}$.
3. Find the top eigenvectors $\tilde{\boldsymbol{V}}=\left[\begin{array}{lll}\tilde{\boldsymbol{V}}_{1} & \cdots & \tilde{\boldsymbol{V}}_{r}\end{array}\right]$ of $\boldsymbol{D}^{-1 / 2} \boldsymbol{W} \boldsymbol{D}^{-1 / 2}$.
4. Set $\boldsymbol{V}=\boldsymbol{D}^{-1 / 2} \tilde{\boldsymbol{V}}$ and apply $k$-means to the rows of $\boldsymbol{V}$.
