Krylov-aware low-rank approximation

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An $n \times n$ symmetric matrix **A** has real eigenvalues and orthonormal eigenvectors:

$$\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^{\mathsf{T}}.$$

The matrix function $f(\mathbf{A})$ is defined as

$$f(\mathbf{A}) := \sum_{i=1}^{n} f(\lambda_i) \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^{\mathsf{T}}.$$

Common matrix functions include:

-
$$f(x) = x^{-1}$$

- $f(x) = \exp(-\beta x)$ for all β in some range
- $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$
- $f(x) = \operatorname{sign}(x)$

Goal. Compute a low-rank approximation to $f(\mathbf{A})$ and/or estimate tr $(f(\mathbf{A}))$.

- We may wish to do this for several (related) functions f(x)

We can compute $f(\mathbf{A})$ via eigendecomposition of \mathbf{A} . However,

- this is slow: n^3 computation
- intractable n^2 storage costs
 - even if A is sparse, f(A) typically is not
 - for $n = 2^{20}$, a $n \times n$ matrix of 64bit numbers requires 8.8 terabytes 🤯

We can compute $f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X}$ more cheaply. A standard approach is using Krylov Subspace Methods which produce an approximation using the information in

$$\mathcal{K}_k(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{X}) = \operatorname{span}{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}, \dots, \mathbf{A}^{k-1}\mathbf{X}}.$$

The simplest approach is to just output $p(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X}$, where p(x) is some polynomial of degree k-1 and $p(x) \approx f(x)$ for $x \in [\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}]$.

- More powerful Lanczos-based methods more common

This essentially gives us a black-box method for approximating $f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X}$.

Suppose we wish to obtain a low-rank approximation to a symmetric matrix **B**.

Algorithm 1 Randomized SVD (two-sided)	
1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n imes \ell$ matrix $\mathbf{\Omega}$	
2: Form $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{\Omega}$	$\triangleright \ell$ matvecs with B
3: Compute $\mathbf{W} = \text{ORTH}(\mathbf{K})$	
4: Form $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{W}^{T} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{W}$	$\triangleright \ell$ matvecs with B
5: return WXW ^T	

The result **WXW**^T is a rank ℓ approximation to **B** which is nearly as good as the best rank $\ell - p$ approximation.¹

We can truncate to rank k if we desire a rank exactly k approximation.

¹Halko, Martinsson, and Tropp 2011; Tropp and Webber 2023.

Suppose we wish to obtain a low-rank approximation to a symmetric matrix **B**.

Algorithm 2 Randomized SI (two-sided)	
1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n imes \ell$ matrix $\mathbf{\Omega}$	
2: Form $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{B}^q \mathbf{\Omega}$	$\triangleright \ell q$ matvecs with B
3: Compute $\mathbf{W} = \text{ORTH}(\mathbf{K})$	
4: Form $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{W}^{T} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{W}$	$\triangleright \ell$ matvecs with B
5: return WXW ^T	

The result **WXW**^T is a rank ℓ approximation to **B** which is nearly as good as the best rank $\ell - p$ approximation.¹

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¹Halko, Martinsson, and Tropp 2011; Tropp and Webber 2023.

Suppose we wish to obtain a low-rank approximation to a symmetric matrix **B**.

Algorithm 3 Randomized BKI (two-sided)	
1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n \times \ell$ matrix Ω	
2: Form $\mathbf{K} = [\mathbf{\Omega}, \mathbf{B}\mathbf{\Omega}, \dots, \mathbf{B}^{q}\mathbf{\Omega}]$	$\triangleright \ell q$ matvecs with B
3: Compute $\mathbf{W} = \text{ORTH}(\mathbf{K})$	
4: Form $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{W}^{T} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{W}$	$\triangleright \ell(q+1)$ matvecs with B
5: return WXW [⊤]	

The result **WXW**^T is a rank $\ell(q+1)$ approximation to **B** which is nearly as good as the best rank $\ell - p$ approximation.¹

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The randomized SVD, SI, RBKI are matrix-free (access **B** only via matrix-vector products)

A natural way to analyze the runtime of such methods is by counting the number of matrix-vector products.

Pros:

- In many linear-algebra algorithms, matrix-vector products dominate the cost of computation
- We can hope to prove query complexity low-bounds to understand the hardness of linear algebra problems

Cons:

- Ignores arithmetic costs
- Matvecs with **B** may not be true core primitive

Algorithm 4 Low-rank approximation for matrix functions

- 1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n imes \ell$ matrix $oldsymbol{\Omega}$
- 2: Form $\mathbf{K} \approx f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{\Omega}$ from $\mathcal{K}_s(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Omega})$
- 3: Compute W = ORTH(K)
- 4: Form $\mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{W}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{W}$ from $\mathcal{K}_{r+1}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{W})$
- 5: **return WXW**^T

 $\triangleright (s-1)\ell$ matvces with A

 $\triangleright r\ell$ matvces with A

As we send *s*, $r \rightarrow \infty$, algorithm converges to the exact randomized SVD.

Algorithm 5 Low-rank approximation for matrix functions

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- 3: Compute W = ORTH(K)
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Observation. We can instead take: $\mathbf{K} \approx f(\mathbf{A})^q \mathbf{\Omega}$

Algorithm 6 Low-rank approximation for matrix functions

- 1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n \times \ell$ matrix $\mathbf{\Omega}$
- 2: Form $\mathbf{K} \approx f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{\Omega}$ from $\mathcal{K}_s(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Omega})$
- 3: Compute W = ORTH(K)
- 4: Form $\mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{W}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{W}$ from $\mathcal{K}_{r+1}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{W})$
- 5: **return WXW**^T

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As we send *s*, $r \rightarrow \infty$, algorithm converges to the exact randomized SVD.

Observation. We can instead take: $\mathbf{K} \approx f(\mathbf{A})^q \mathbf{\Omega}$ or $\mathbf{K} \approx [\mathbf{\Omega}, f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{\Omega}, \dots, f(\mathbf{A})^q \mathbf{\Omega}]$.

Algorithm 7 Low-rank approximation for matrix functions

- 1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n \times \ell$ matrix $\mathbf{\Omega}$
- 2: Form $\mathbf{K} \approx f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{\Omega}$ from $\mathcal{K}_s(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Omega})$
- 3: Compute W = ORTH(K)
- 4: Form $\mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{W}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{W}$ from $\mathcal{K}_{r+1}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{W})$
- 5: **return WXW**^T

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As we send *s*, $r \rightarrow \infty$, algorithm converges to the exact randomized SVD.

Observation. We can instead take: $\mathbf{K} \approx f(\mathbf{A})^q \mathbf{\Omega}$ or $\mathbf{K} \approx [\mathbf{\Omega}, f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{\Omega}, \dots, f(\mathbf{A})^q \mathbf{\Omega}]$.

Best error if we use the whole Krylov subspace we generated: $\mathbf{K} = [\Omega, A\Omega, ..., A^{s}\Omega]$.

If **K** has more columns, approximating $\mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{W}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{W}$ from $\mathcal{K}_{r+1}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{W})$ is ostensibly more expensive.

²Meyer, Musco, and Musco 2023.

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Fact. Suppose $\mathbf{Q}_s = [\mathbf{\Omega} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{\Omega} \cdots \mathbf{A}^{s-1} \mathbf{\Omega}]$. Then, $\mathcal{K}_{s+r}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Omega}) = \mathcal{K}_{r+1}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{Q}_s)$.

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Proof.
$$\mathcal{K}_{r+1}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{Q}_s) = \operatorname{range} \left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Q}_s & \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Q}_s & \cdots & \mathbf{A}^r \mathbf{Q}_s \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

 $= \operatorname{range} \left(\begin{bmatrix} \Omega & \mathbf{A}\Omega & \cdots & \mathbf{A}^{s-1}\Omega \\ \mathbf{A}\Omega & \mathbf{A}^2\Omega & \cdots & \mathbf{A}^s\Omega \\ \mathbf{A}^r\Omega & \mathbf{A}^{r+1}\Omega & \cdots & \mathbf{A}^{s+r-1}\Omega \end{bmatrix} \right)$
 $= \operatorname{range} \left(\begin{bmatrix} \Omega & \mathbf{A}\Omega & \cdots & \mathbf{A}^{s+r-1}\Omega \end{bmatrix} \right) = \mathcal{K}_{s+r}(\mathbf{A}, \Omega).$

Same observation independently used to analyze single-vector Lanczos for low-rank approximation $^2\,$

²Meyer, Musco, and Musco 2023.

Algorithm 8 Low-rank approximation for matrix functions

- 1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n imes \ell$ matrix $oldsymbol{\Omega}$
- 2: Form $\mathbf{K} \approx f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{\Omega}$ from $\mathcal{K}_s(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Omega})$
- 3: Compute $\mathbf{W} = \text{ORTH}(\mathbf{K})$
- 4: Form $\mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{W}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{W}$ from $\mathcal{K}_{r+1}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{W})$
- 5: **return WXW**^T

 $\triangleright (s-1)\ell$ matvces with **A**

 $\triangleright r\ell$ matvces with A

³Chen and Hallman 2023.

Algorithm 9 Krylov-aware low-rank approximation

- 1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n \times \ell$ matrix $\mathbf{\Omega}$
- 2: Form basis **K** for $\mathcal{K}_s(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Omega})$
- 3: Compute $\mathbf{W} = \text{ORTH}(\mathbf{K})$
- 4: Form $\mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{W}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{W}$ from $\mathcal{K}_{r+1}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{W}) = \mathcal{K}_{s+r}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Omega})$

 $(s-1)\ell$ matvces with **A**

 $\triangleright r\ell$ matvces with A

5: **return WXW**^T

³Chen and Hallman 2023.









Implementation

Given A, orthonormal X, and q > 0, the block-Lanczos algorithm produces an orthonormal basis \mathbf{Q}_q for $\mathcal{K}_q(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{X})$ and a corresponding block-tridiagonal matrix \mathbf{T}_k satisfying:

$$\mathbf{Q}_{k} = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} & & & & \\ \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{1} & \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{2} & \cdots & \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{q} \\ & & & & \end{vmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{T}_{k} = \operatorname{tridiag} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{1}^{\top} & \cdots & \mathbf{R}_{q-1}^{\top} \\ \mathbf{M}_{1} & \cdots & \cdots & \mathbf{M}_{q} \\ \mathbf{R}_{1} & \cdots & \mathbf{R}_{q-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

These are related by the block-three-term recurrence

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{Q}_q = \mathbf{Q}_q \mathbf{T}_q + \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_q \mathbf{R}_{q+1} \mathbf{E}_{q,r}^{\mathsf{T}}$$

Computational costs:

- -q matvecs with A
- O(n) storage (or O(nq) storage if \mathbf{Q}_q is saved)
- O(nq) arithmetic (or $O(nq^2)$ arithmetic if reorthogonalization is used)

The Lanczos algorithm commonly is used to approximate quantities involving matrix functions:

$$f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{Q}_q f(\mathbf{T}_q) \mathbf{E}_1 = \mathbf{Q}_q f(\mathbf{T}_q) \mathbf{Q}_q^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{X}$$
(1)

$$\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{E}_{1}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{T}_{q}) \mathbf{E}_{1} = \mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{Q}_{q} f(\mathbf{T}_{q}) \mathbf{Q}_{q}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{X}$$
(2)

If f(x) is a polynomial of degree q - 1 or 2q - 1 then (1) and (2) are respectively exact.

Note that (2) doesn't require knowledge of \mathbf{Q}_q !

If ${\bf X}$ is not orthonormal, apply ${\bf Q}$ factorization first.

For any polynomial *p* of degree $\leq q - 1$, $p(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Q}_k p(\mathbf{T}_k)\mathbf{E}_1$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Q}_k f(\mathbf{T}_k)\mathbf{E}_1\| &= \|f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X} - p(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X} - (\|\mathbf{Q}_k p(\mathbf{T}_k)\mathbf{E}_1 - \mathbf{Q}_k p(\mathbf{T}_k)\mathbf{E}_1)\| \\ &\leq \|f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X} - p(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{X}\| + \|\mathbf{Q}_k p(\mathbf{T}_k)\mathbf{E}_1 - \mathbf{Q}_k p(\mathbf{T}_k)\mathbf{E}_1\| \\ &\leq \|f(\mathbf{A}) - p(\mathbf{A})\| + \|f(\mathbf{T}_k - p(\mathbf{T})_k\| \\ &= \max_{x \in \Lambda(\mathbf{A})} |f(x) - p(x)| + \max_{x \in \Lambda(\mathbf{T}_k)} |f(x) - p(x)| \\ &\leq 2 \max_{x \in [\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}]} |f(x) - p(x)|. \end{aligned}$$

Similar bounds for $\|\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{E}_{1}^{\mathsf{T}} f(\mathbf{T}_{k}) \mathbf{E}_{1} \|$.

Remarkably, these bounds basically hold in finite precision arithmetic!⁴

⁴Druskin and Knizhnerman 1992; Knizhnerman 1996.

Algorithm 10 Krylov-aware low-rank approximation

- 1: Sample a standard Gaussian $n imes \ell$ matrix $oldsymbol{\Omega}$
- 2: Obtain \mathbf{Q}_{s+r} , $\mathbf{T}_{s+r} = \text{BLOCK-LANCZOS}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Omega}, s+r)$ $\triangleright (s+r)\ell$ matvces with \mathbf{A}
- 3: Set $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{Q}_s = [\mathbf{Q}_{s+r}]_{:,1:s}$

4: Form
$$\mathbf{X} = [f(\mathbf{T}_{s+r})]_{1:s,1:s}$$

5: return WXW¹

 \triangleright repeat for different f if you want

In line 2:

- use full reorthogonalization for the first s-1 iterations
- do not save $[\mathbf{Q}_{s+r}]_{:,s+1:}$

⁵Chen and Hallman 2023.

This "Krylov aware" idea is simple, but provides many benefits.

- use a (much) larger projection space "for free"
- algorithm is now agnostic to f
 - we can easily compute approximations to $tr(f(\mathbf{A}))$ for multiple f without additional matrix products with \mathbf{A} .
- If memory or reorthogonalization costs are an issue, we can use restarting, and pick Q as an onb. for some subset of span{ $\Omega, A\Omega, ..., A^{s-1}\Omega$ }.

Related work on operator monotone functions 6

– Better to sketch A than \sqrt{A}

⁶Persson and Kressner 2023.

Implicit trace estimation⁷

It is well-known that if $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}}] = \mathbf{I}$, then

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{v}] = \mathbb{E}[\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{B})] = \operatorname{tr}(\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}}]\mathbf{B}) = \operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{B}).$$

For many common distributions: $\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{v}] \approx 2\|\mathbf{B}\|_{\mathsf{F}}^2$.

We can average iid copies of the estimator corresponding to iid copies \mathbf{v}_i of \mathbf{v} . Variance is:

$$\mathbb{V}\left[\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\mathbf{v}_{i}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{v}_{i}\right] = \frac{1}{m}\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{v}_{1}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{v}_{1}] \approx \frac{2}{m}\|\mathbf{B}\|_{\mathsf{F}}^{2}.$$

Number of matvecs with **B** is: 2m, so we get scaling

accuracy ~ $(\# \text{ matvecs})^{-2}$

⁷Girard 1987; Hutchinson 1989; Skilling 1989.

If we know $\widehat{\mathbf{B}} \approx \mathbf{B}$, we can use the variance reduced estimator:⁸

$$\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{B}) = \operatorname{tr}(\widehat{\mathbf{B}}) + \operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{B} - \widehat{\mathbf{B}}) \approx \operatorname{tr}(\widehat{\mathbf{B}}) + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \mathbf{v}_{i}^{\mathsf{T}}(\mathbf{B} - \widehat{\mathbf{B}}) \mathbf{v}_{i}.$$

Variance is:

$$\mathbb{V}\left[\operatorname{tr}(\widehat{\mathbf{B}}) + \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\mathbf{v}_{i}^{\mathsf{T}}(\mathbf{B} - \widehat{\mathbf{B}})\mathbf{v}_{i}\right] = \frac{1}{m}\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{v}_{1}^{\mathsf{T}}(\mathbf{B} - \widehat{\mathbf{B}})\mathbf{v}_{1}] \approx \frac{2}{m}\|\mathbf{B} - \widehat{\mathbf{B}}\|_{\mathsf{F}}^{2}$$

Take $\hat{\mathbf{B}}$ as rank *b* approximation $\hat{\mathbf{B}} = \mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{Q}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{Q})\mathbf{Q}^{\mathsf{T}}$ obtained by sketching with a *b*-column random matrix. Number of matvecs with **B** is: 2b + m, and if we set b = m, can get scaling⁹

accuracy ~ $(\# \text{ matvecs})^{-1}$

⁸Girard 1987; Weiße, Wellein, Alvermann, and Fehske 2006. ⁹Mever. Musco. Musco. and Woodruff 2021.

Example: equilibrium thermodynamics of quantum spin systems

In quantum physics, we often wish to compute $tr(f(\mathbf{A})) = tr(exp(-\beta \mathbf{A}))$ for all $\beta > 0$.

- if $\beta = \infty$ (zero temperature), then we only need ground state(s)
- if $\beta = 0$ (high temperature), then quadratic trace estimation works very well
- for intermediate beta, we might expect low-rank approaches to work well













We also have a number of modifications to make this idea more practical:

– Using the information in the space span $\{\Omega, A\Omega, \dots, A^{q+n}\Omega\}$ we can approximate

 $\|(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{Q}^{\mathsf{T}}f(\mathbf{A})(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{Q}^{\mathsf{T}})\|$

in order to determine a good value of q; see also¹⁰

¹⁰Persson, Cortinovis, and Kressner 2022.

- $\operatorname{tr}(\exp(-\beta(\mathbf{A}+h\mathbf{B}))) \text{ for all } \beta > 0, h \in [-h_0,h_0].$
- generalize low-rank algorithms to partial traces
- better understanding of stability
- lower bounds in matrix-vector query models

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