

Stefan Güttel  
Randomized sketching for Krylov methods



# Remembering Olga & Jack



Olga Tausky-Todd (1906–1995)

John (Jack) Todd (1911–2007)

Photo in their Caltech office (1970s)

# Randomized Numerical Linear Algebra

*Randomized numerical linear algebra concerns the use of randomization as a resource to develop improved algorithms for large-scale linear algebra computations.*

Murray et al.<sup>1</sup>

*Randomized methods can handle certain NLA problems faster than any classical algorithm. Randomization allows us to tackle problems that otherwise seem impossible.*

Martinsson-Tropp<sup>2</sup>

**Our focus:** Randomization + Krylov methods

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<sup>1</sup>*Randomized Numerical Linear Algebra: A Perspective on the Field With an Eye to Software*, arXiv:2302.11474, 2023.

<sup>2</sup>*Randomized Numerical Linear Algebra: Foundations and Algorithms*, Acta Numerica, 2020.

# Krylov methods are central to numerical linear algebra

Widely used for computations with large sparse or structured matrices, including:

- eigenvalue problems
- linear systems of equations
- least squares problems
- matrix functions
- matrix equations
- model order reduction
- ...

**Essentially two uses of randomization:**

(i) Preconditioning

“sketch the problem”

(ii) BLAS-level

“sketch the algorithm”

# Randomized preconditioning (“sketch the problem”)

## Least squares problem

Given a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times m}$  ( $N \gg m$ ) and a vector  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , solve

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \|A\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_2.$$

- Direct approach: column-pivoted QR. Stable.  $O(Nm^2)$  ops.
- Alternative: iterative approach like LSQR producing  $\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \dots$
- Convergence:

$$\|A\mathbf{x}_* - A\mathbf{x}_k\|_2 \leq 2 \left( \frac{\kappa(A) - 1}{\kappa(A) + 1} \right)^k \|A\mathbf{x}_* - A\mathbf{x}_0\|_2$$

- $\kappa(A) \approx 1 \implies$  few iterations  $\implies O(Nm)$  ops.

# Randomized preconditioning (“sketch the problem”)

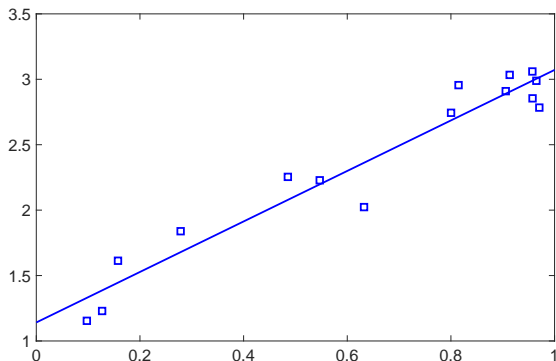
## Least squares problem with preconditioner

solve  $\operatorname{argmin}_y \|APy - \mathbf{b}\|_2$ , then set  $\mathbf{x} = Py$

- Ideal preconditioner:  $P = R_A^{-1}$ , where  $A = Q_A R_A$
- Blendenpik (Avron et al. 2010, Rokhlin-Tygart 2008):
  - 1 draw  $s$ -by- $N$  random sketch matrix  $S$  with  $m < s \ll N$  (e.g.,  $s = 2m$ )
  - 2 compute  $B = SA$
  - 3 compute economic QR:  $B = Q_B R_B$
  - 4 run LSQR with preconditioner  $P = R_B^{-1}$
- Can do Step 2 in  $O(mN \log s)$  ops.
- $\kappa(AP) = O(1)$  with high probability!

# Sketch the problem: why does it work?

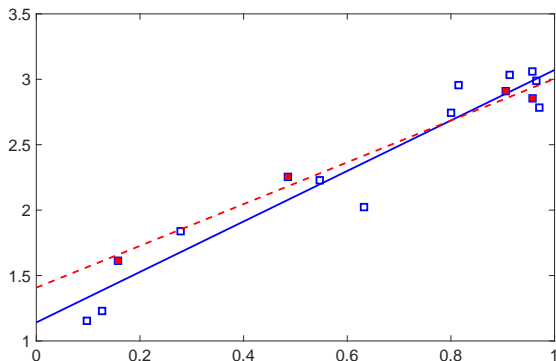
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.0975 \\ 1 & 0.1270 \\ 1 & 0.1576 \\ 1 & 0.2785 \\ 1 & 0.4854 \\ 1 & 0.5469 \\ 1 & 0.6324 \\ 1 & 0.8003 \\ 1 & 0.8147 \\ 1 & 0.9058 \\ 1 & 0.9134 \\ 1 & 0.9572 \\ 1 & 0.9575 \\ 1 & 0.9649 \\ 1 & 0.9706 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 1.1541 \\ 1.2291 \\ 1.6132 \\ 1.8388 \\ 2.2542 \\ 2.2281 \\ 2.0232 \\ 2.7440 \\ 2.9555 \\ 2.9094 \\ 3.0337 \\ 3.0597 \\ 2.8543 \\ 2.9886 \\ 2.7837 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Sketch the problem: why does it work?

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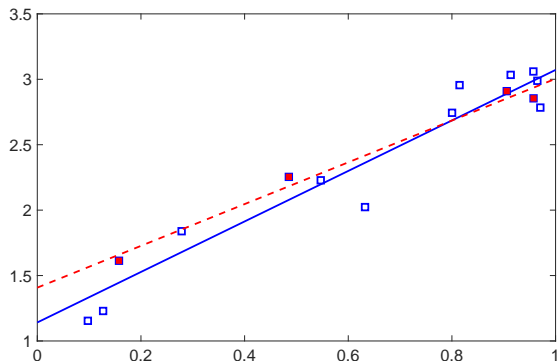
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**Redundancy: 15 data rows but only 2 coefficients to compute!**

**What about problems with no redundancy?**

# Sketch the algorithm

Given large sparse  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , define:

$$\underline{m\text{-th order Krylov space}} \quad \mathcal{K}_m(A, \mathbf{b}) = \text{span}\{\mathbf{b}, A\mathbf{b}, \dots, A^{m-1}\mathbf{b}\}.$$

The [Arnoldi process](#) (1951) computes an orthonormal basis  $V_m = [\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_m]$ :

$$\mathbf{v}_1 := \mathbf{b} / \|\mathbf{b}\|$$

For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$

$$\mathbf{w} := A\mathbf{v}_j$$

For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, j$

$$h_{i,j} := \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{w} := \mathbf{w} - h_{i,j}\mathbf{v}_i$$

$$h_{j+1,j} := \|\mathbf{w}\|$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{j+1} := \mathbf{w} / h_{j+1,j}$$

# Sketch the algorithm

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$\mathbf{v}_1 := \mathbf{b} / \ \mathbf{b}\ $	$O(N)$
For $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$	
$\mathbf{w} := A\mathbf{v}_j$	$O(\text{nnz}(A) \cdot m)$
For $i = 1, 2, \dots, j$	
$h_{i,j} := \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle$	$O(Nm^2)$
$\mathbf{w} := \mathbf{w} - h_{i,j}\mathbf{v}_i$	$O(Nm^2)$
$h_{j+1,j} := \ \mathbf{w}\ $	$O(Nm)$
$\mathbf{v}_{j+1} := \mathbf{w} / h_{j+1,j}$	$O(Nm)$

# Subspace embedding

Assume that  $S \in \mathbb{C}^{s \times N}$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -subspace embedding for  $\mathcal{K}_m(A, \mathbf{b})$ ,  $\varepsilon \in [0, 1)$ .

This means that for all  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{K}_m(A, \mathbf{b})$  we have

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle - \varepsilon \|\mathbf{u}\| \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\| \leq \langle S\mathbf{u}, S\mathbf{v} \rangle \leq \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle + \varepsilon \|\mathbf{u}\| \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|.$$

Equivalently, for all vectors  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{K}_m(A, \mathbf{b})$  we have

$$(1 - \varepsilon) \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 \leq \|S\mathbf{v}\|^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|\mathbf{v}\|^2.$$

In practice,  $S$  is unknown but one can construct maps that satisfy above with high probability [Sarlos 2006, Woodruff 2014, Martinsson-Tropp 2020, ...].

Usually, we choose  $s \sim m/\varepsilon^2$  (e.g.,  $s = 2m$ ).

# Subspace embedding: two main types

- Gaussian embedding  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{s \times N}$  with entries

$$S_{i,j} = N(0, s^{-1}) \text{ i.i.d.}$$

- Subsampled Randomized Fast Transform (SRFT)

$$S = \sqrt{\frac{N}{s}} \Pi F D$$

- $D \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is a diagonal matrix of random  $\pm 1$
- $F \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is a fast unitary trigonometric transform (FFT, DCT2, WHT)
- $\Pi \in \mathbb{R}^{s \times N}$  selects  $s$  random elements from a vector  $v \in \mathbb{R}^N$
- can be applied in  $O(N \log s)$  ops [Sorensen-Burrus '93, Woolfe et al. 2008]

# Sketch the Arnoldi process

**Idea:** Replace all  $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$  by  $\langle S\mathbf{u}, S\mathbf{v} \rangle$  (Balabanov-Nouy 2019, B.-Grigori 2022)

$$\mathbf{v}_1 := \mathbf{b} / \|\mathbf{b}\| \quad O(N)$$

For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$

$$\mathbf{w} := A\mathbf{v}_j \quad O(\text{nnz}(A) \cdot m)$$

For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, j$

$$h_{i,j} := \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle \quad O(Nm^2)$$

$$\mathbf{w} := \mathbf{w} - h_{i,j}\mathbf{v}_i \quad O(Nm^2)$$

$$h_{j+1,j} := \|\mathbf{w}\| \quad O(Nm)$$

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$$\mathbf{v}_1 := \mathbf{b} / \|S\mathbf{b}\|$$

$$O(N + s \log N)$$

For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$

$$\mathbf{w} := A\mathbf{v}_j; \quad \tilde{\mathbf{w}} := S\mathbf{w}$$

$$O(\text{nnz}(A) \cdot m + s \log N)$$

For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, j$

$$h_{i,j} := \langle \tilde{\mathbf{w}}, S\mathbf{v}_i \rangle$$

$$O(sm^2)$$

$$\mathbf{w} := \mathbf{w} - h_{i,j}\mathbf{v}_i$$

$$O(Nm^2)$$

$$h_{j+1,j} := \|S\mathbf{w}\|$$

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$$\mathbf{v}_{j+1} := \mathbf{w} / h_{j+1,j} \quad O(Nm)$$

Still  $O(Nm^2)$ , but computes *orthonormal*  $SV_m$  and well-conditioned  $V_m$

$$\left( \frac{1 - \varepsilon}{1 + \varepsilon} \right)^{1/2} \text{cond}(SV_m) \leq \text{cond}(V_m) \leq \left( \frac{1 + \varepsilon}{1 - \varepsilon} \right)^{1/2} \text{cond}(SV_m)$$



# Give up on orthogonality

**Idea:** Generate *some nonorthogonal basis*  $V_m$  of  $\mathcal{K}_m(A, \mathbf{b})$  *cheaply*, then let target algorithm deal with it. (Nakatsukasa-Tropp 2021)

**Example:** GMRES (Saad-Schultz 1986) computes optimal  $\mathbf{x}_m \in \mathcal{K}_m(A, \mathbf{b})$  as

$$\mathbf{x}_m = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}\|.$$

Let  $\mathbf{x}_m = V_m \mathbf{y}_m$ . Then

$$\mathbf{y}_m = (AV_m)^\dagger \mathbf{b}. \quad O(Nm^2)$$

Use randomized sketching instead (sGMRES):

$$\widehat{\mathbf{y}}_m = (SAV_m)^\dagger (S\mathbf{b}). \quad O(mN \log s + sm^2)$$

# Applicable to other NLA problems

Randomized sketching with non-orthogonal Krylov bases also applicable to

- eigenvalue problems (Nakatsukasa-Tropp 2021)
- matrix functions (G.-Schweitzer 2023, Cortinovis-Kressner-Nakatsukasa 2023)
- matrix equations (Palitta-Schweitzer-Simoncini 2023)

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Convergence analysis of these methods complicated due to lack of orthogonality.

Partial results e.g. for  $f(A)\mathbf{b}$  problem when  $f(z)$  is Stieltjes function (like  $z^{-1/2}$ ).

## sGMRES for matrix functions

Approximate Stieltjes integral representation using sGMRES:

$$f(A)\mathbf{b} = \int_0^\infty (tI + A)^{-1}\mathbf{b} \, d\mu(t) \approx V_m \int_0^\infty (tSV_m + SAV_m)^\dagger S\mathbf{b} \, d\mu(t) =: \mathbf{f}_m$$

## Theorem (G.-Schweitzer 2023)

Let  $A$  be a **positive real matrix** and let  $f(z)$  be a **Stieltjes function**.

Assume that  $S$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -subspace embedding for  $\mathcal{K}_{m+1}(A, \mathbf{b})$  with  $\varepsilon \in [0, 1)$ .

Then the sketched GMRES approximant  $\mathbf{f}_m$  converges at least linearly:

$$\|f(A)\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{f}_m\|_{A^H A} \leq \|\mathbf{b}\| C_1 C_\varepsilon (\sin(\beta_0))^m,$$

$$C_1 = \|A\|f(\rho\|A\|^2), \quad C_\varepsilon = \sqrt{(1+\varepsilon)/(1-\varepsilon)}, \quad \beta_0 = \arccos(\delta/\|A\|) \in [0, \pi/2).$$

The numbers  $\delta$  and  $\rho$  depend on the numerical range of  $A$  and  $A^{-1}$ , respectively:

$$\delta := \min \{ \Re(\mathbf{v}^H A \mathbf{v}) : \|\mathbf{v}\| = 1 \}, \quad \rho := \min \{ \Re(\mathbf{v}^H A^{-1} \mathbf{v}) : \|\mathbf{v}\| = 1 \}$$

“Sketch-the-algorithm” Krylov approach relies on fast generation of Krylov basis.

## Key challenge

Given a banded matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  and vector  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Generate well-conditioned basis  $V_m$  of  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{b}, A\mathbf{b}, \dots, A^{m-1}\mathbf{b}\}$  in  $O(Nk)$  operations with fixed  $k \ll m$ .

Faber-Manteuffel (1984): There exists a  $k$ -term recursion

$$h_{j+1,j} \mathbf{v}_{j+1} = A\mathbf{v}_j - \sum_{i=j+2-k}^j h_{ij} \mathbf{v}_i$$

to generate *orthonormal*  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots$  if and only if  $A^T = p(A)$ ,  $p \in \mathcal{P}_{k-2}$ .

## Our aim

Generate *well-conditioned*  $V_m$  using  $k$  vector-vector updates per iteration, i.e.,

$$h_j \mathbf{v}_{j+1} = A \mathbf{v}_j - V_j \mathbf{h}_j, \quad \|\mathbf{h}_j\|_0 \leq k.$$

### Sketch-and-select Arnoldi (G.-Simunec 2023)

At each Arnoldi iteration, select index set  $I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, j\}$  with  $|I| \leq k$  as

$$\operatorname{argmin}_I \min_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^k} \|S A \mathbf{v}_j - S V_j(:, I) \mathbf{h}\|.$$

Should be good idea to keep  $\|V_j^T \mathbf{v}_{j+1}\|$  small as (using Demmel-Veselić 1992)

$$\operatorname{cond}([V_j, \mathbf{v}_{j+1}])^2 \leq \frac{1 + \eta}{1 - \eta} \operatorname{cond}(V_j)^2, \quad \eta = \sigma_{\min}(V_j)^{-2} \|V_j^T \mathbf{v}_{j+1}\|.$$

# Solving the sparse approximation problem

The problem

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{|I| \leq k} \min_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^k} \|\mathbf{v} - V(:, I)\mathbf{h}\|.$$

is known as [subset selection](#) in statistics. It is NP-hard (Natarajan 1995).

In statistics, the residual norm  $\|\mathbf{v} - V(:, I)\mathbf{h}\|$  can usually be made small.

Also arises in [compressive sensing](#), but there the dictionary  $V$  is underdetermined.

Our setting is different

$V$  is a basis (overdetermined) and residual norm might not reduce significantly. It might be necessary to develop a specific solver for this.

## Some sketch-and-select methods we've tried

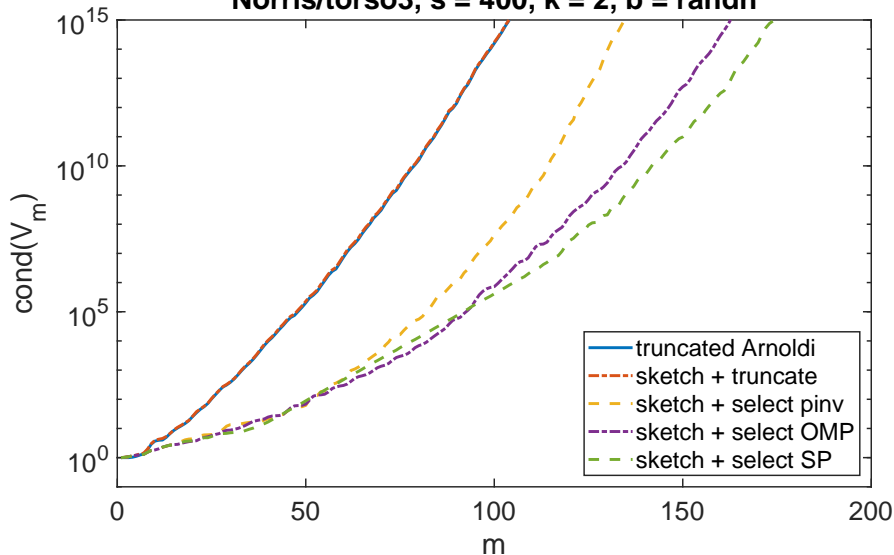
- **pinv**: compute  $\mathbf{h} = (SV_j)^\dagger(SA\mathbf{v}_j)$ , then keep largest  $k$  entries
- **OMP**: orthogonal matching pursuit (Pati et al. 1993) — a greedy method that selects vectors from  $SV_j$  based on correlation with the residual
- **SP**: subspace pursuit (Dai-Milenkovic 2009) — an iterative method that successively improves the index set  $I$  based on correlation with the residual

We also compare to truncated Arnoldi, which always projects against the last  $k$  vectors (with and without sketching).



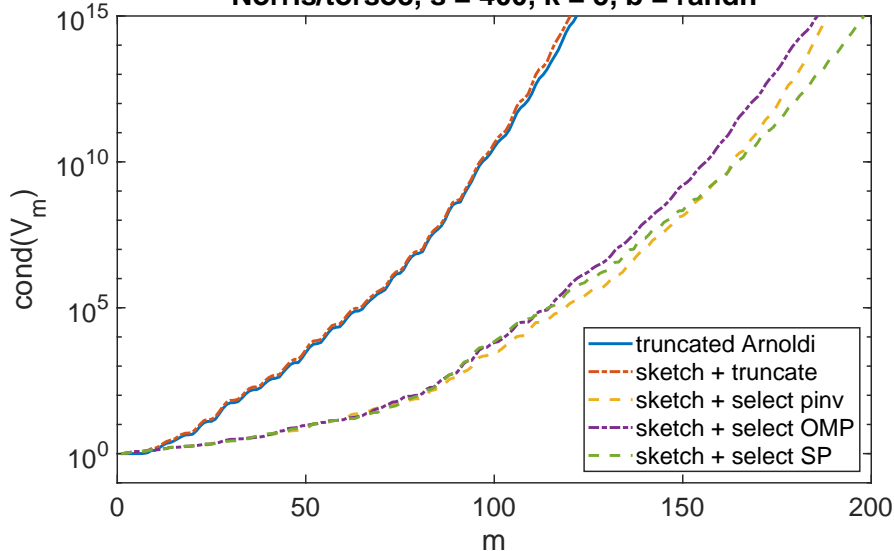
# Sketch-and-select can outperform truncated Arnoldi

Norris/torso3,  $s = 400$ ,  $k = 2$ ,  $b = \text{randn}$

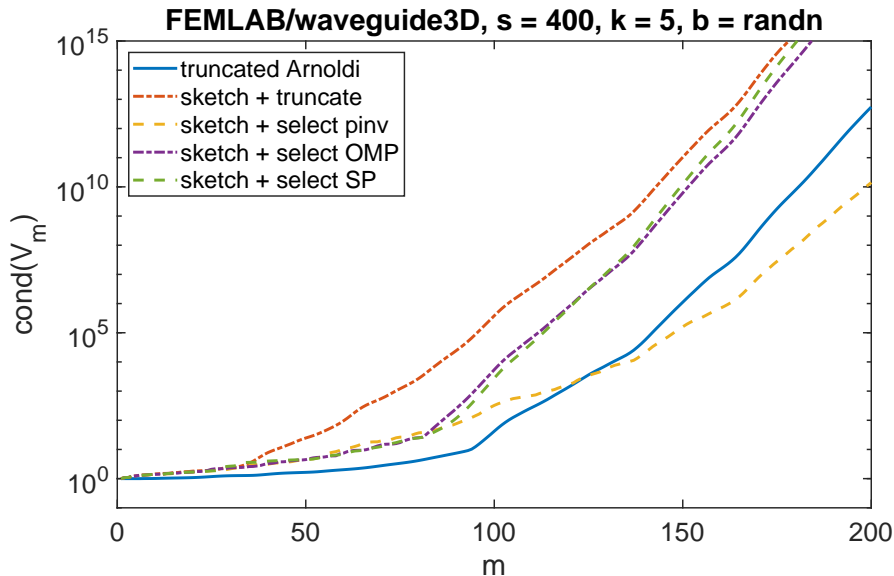


# Sketch-and-select can outperform truncated Arnoldi

Norris/torso3,  $s = 400$ ,  $k = 5$ ,  $b = \text{randn}$



# Examples where sketch + select doesn't perform well



# Summary

- “Sketch the problem” vs “sketch the algorithm” paradigm
- Sketched Arnoldi inner products yields well-conditioned bases, still  $O(Nm^2)$
- Use sketching to work with non-orthogonal bases (sGMRES,  $f(A)\mathbf{b}$ , ...)
- Convergence analysis available for sGMRES-type methods
- Need robust alternatives to truncated Arnoldi process
- Sketch-and-select Arnoldi promising, but needs tailored subset selection?
- Lots of new open problems to make these algorithms robust

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S. Güttel & M. Schweitzer: *Randomized sketching for Krylov approximations of large-scale matrix functions*, arXiv:2208.11447, to appear in SIMAX, 2023.

S. Güttel & I. Simunec: *A sketch-and-select Arnoldi process*, arXiv:2306.03592, 2023.