
Randomized TSVD Algorithms



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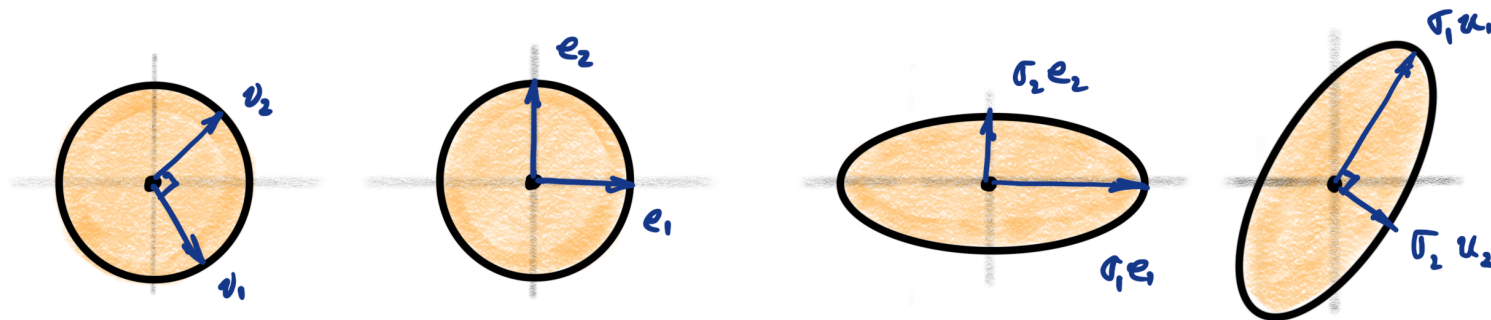
Katie Bouman, Aviad Levis (Caltech); Charles Gammie, David Lee (UIUC)

The Famous Truncated SVD

The Singular Value Decomposition

$$\begin{matrix} & n \\ m & \boxed{A} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} & m \\ m & \boxed{U} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} & & n \\ \boxed{\Sigma} & \boxed{0} & \\ & \diagdown & \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} & n \\ & \boxed{V^*} \\ & n \end{matrix}$$

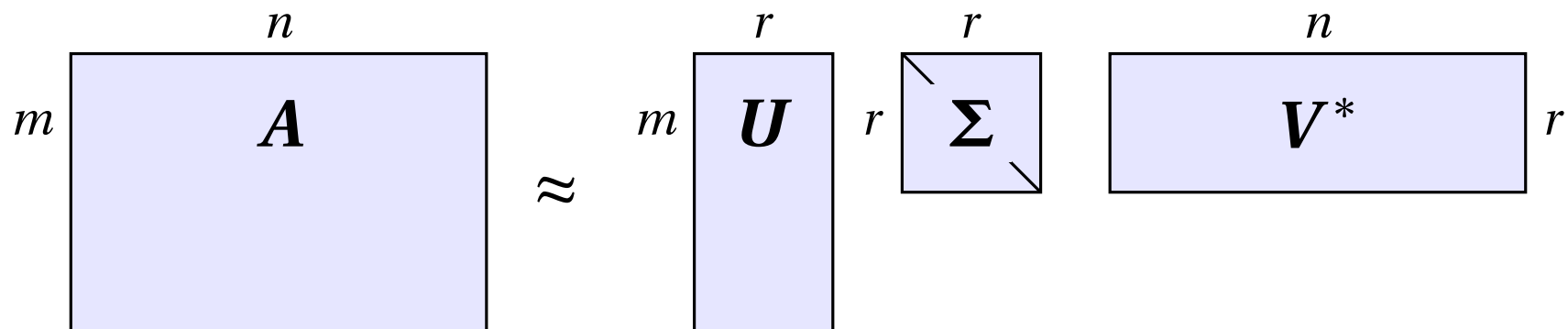
$$Av_i = \sigma_i u_i$$



$$A : \mathbb{R}^n \xrightarrow{V^*} \mathbb{R}^n \xrightarrow{\Sigma} \mathbb{R}^m \xrightarrow{U} \mathbb{R}^m$$

U, V are orthogonal and $\Sigma = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \dots)$ is positive, decreasing

Truncated Singular Value Decomposition (TSVD)



- U, V have orthonormal columns and Σ is positive, diagonal, decreasing
- **Eckart–Young:** r -truncated SVD = best rank- r Frobenius-norm approximation
- Approximately $r(m + n)$ degrees of freedom

Applications:

- Least-squares computations (linear regression)
- Principal component analysis (orthogonal regression; total least squares)
- Approximation, summarization, data reduction, visualization, ...

Randomized Matrix Computations

What's Wrong with Classical TSVD Algorithms?

🐼 Nothing... when the matrices are small

Climate Change

- 🐼 Medium- to large-scale data (Gigabytes+)
- 🐼 New architectures (multi-core, distributed, data centers, ...)
- 🐼 New data presentations (off-core, dynamic, streaming)

The Role of Randomness

- 🐼 Randomness is becoming a core tool for matrix computations
- 🐼 Can solve problems that are impossible without randomness
- 🐼 Can organize computations so they are cheaper (multiplication rich)
- 🐼 Careful implementation and analysis remain essential!
- 🐼 **Today:** Practical randomized algorithms for TSVD computations

History of Randomized TSVD Algorithms

Classical Numerical Linear Algebra

- Random initialization for iterative methods (conventional wisdom)
- Guarantees for maximum eigenvalue (Dixon 1983; Kucziński & Woźniakowski 1992; ...)

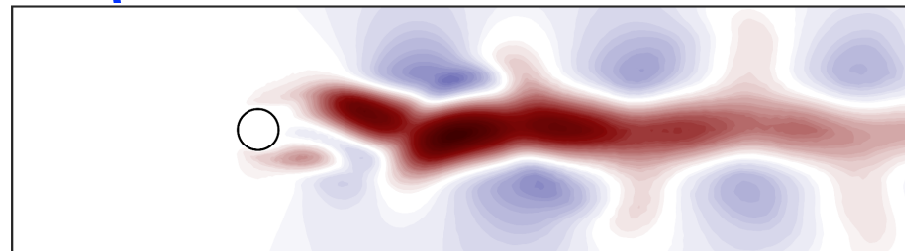
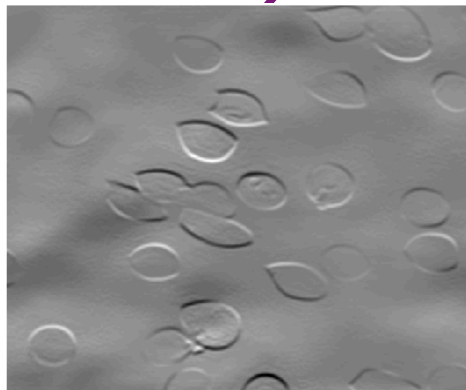
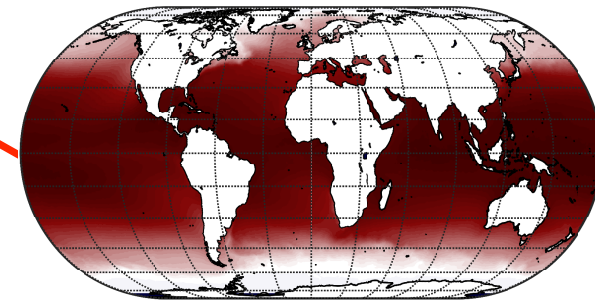
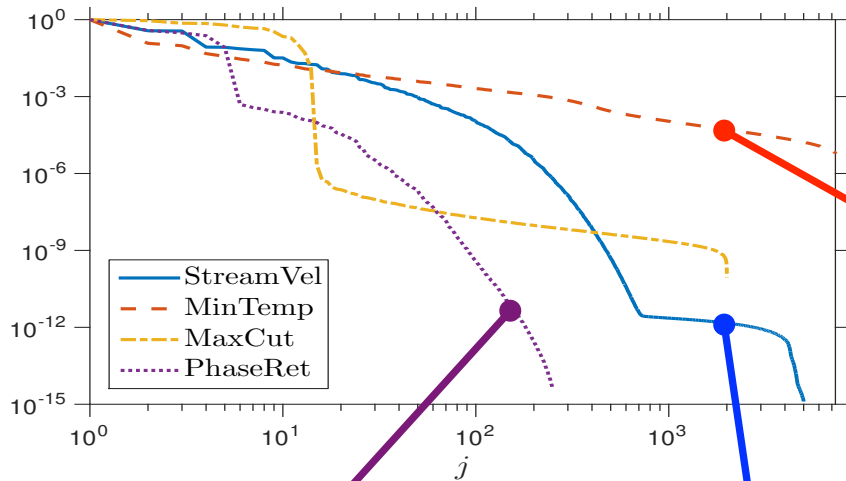
Modern Numerical Linear Algebra

- Randomized low-rank matrix approximation (Martinsson, Rokhlin, Tygert 2004)
- One-pass matrix approximation (Woolfe, Liberty, Rokhlin, Tygert 2007)
- **Randomized SVD framework, algorithms, and analysis** (Halko, Martinsson, Tropp 2008–2011)
- **Randomized block Krylov methods** (Rokhlin & Tygert 2008; Halko et al. 2011; Tropp et al. 2017–2021)
- **Practical streaming SVD algorithms** (Tropp, Yurtsever, Udell, Cevher 2016–2019)
- Fast randomized algorithms for linear systems and eigenvalue problems (Nakatsukasa & Tropp 2021)
- Randomized block Krylov framework, algorithms, and analysis (Tropp & Webber, forthcoming)

CS Theory

- Gaussian dimension reduction (Johnson & Lindenstrauss 1984; Indyk & Motwani 1998)
- Randomized algorithms for LSI (Frieze, Kannan, Papadimitriou, Vempala 1998)
- Randomized linear algebra foundations (Drineas, Kannan, Mahoney 2004)
- Sketch-and-solve framework (Sarlós 2006)
- Streaming linear algebra foundations (Clarkson & Woodruff 2009)
- Qualitative analysis of randomized block Krylov methods (Musco & Musco 2015)

Spectral Decay in Scientific Data



Theme: Tradeoff between spectral decay and computational effort for TSVD

Randomized SVD Framework

[HMT11] Randomized SVD Framework

- ☞ Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ be an input matrix
- ☞ Let $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ be a (random) test matrix

1. **Rangefinder:** Find orthobasis $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ for range of input matrix:

$$Q = \text{orth}(AB)$$

2. **Approximation:** Variational formulation of matrix approximation:

$$\text{minimize}_{M \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}} \|A - QM\|_F^2 \quad \text{Solution: } M_\star = Q^* A$$

3. **SVD:** Write rank- d approximation \hat{A} as an SVD:

$$\hat{A} = QM_\star = Q(U\Sigma V^*) = (QU)\Sigma V^*$$

Sources: Halko et al. 2008–2011, Nakatsukasa & Tropp 2021, Tropp & Webber 2021.

Randomized SVD Prototype

Randomized SVD Framework

Input: Input matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and (random) test matrix $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$

Output: Approximate rank- d SVD in factored form: $\hat{A} = U\Sigma V^*$

1. Form range sketch: $Y = AB$
2. Orthogonalize columns: $Q = \text{orth}(Y)$
3. Compress input matrix: $M = Q^* A$
4. Compute **small** dense SVD: $M = \hat{U}\Sigma V^*$
5. Consolidate left unitary factor: $U = Q\hat{U}$

Cost: Two $m \times n \times d$ matmuls with A and A^* plus $(m + n)d^2$ arithmetic

Benefits: Most arithmetic in matmuls (fast!) and very robust

Questions:

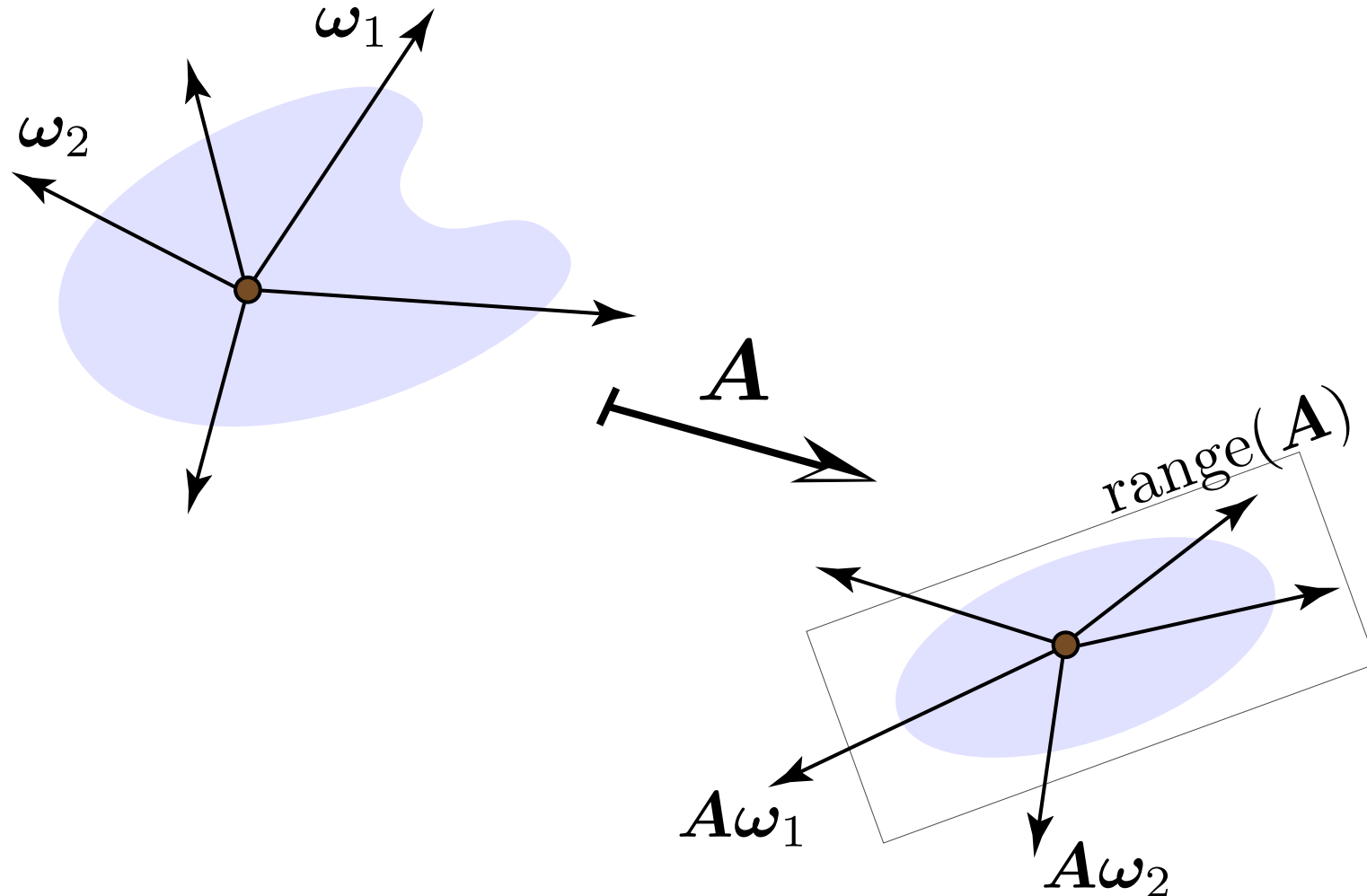
🐞 What test matrix?

🐞 Error bounds?

Theme: Tradeoff between spectral decay and computational effort

The HMT11 Randomized TSVD

Crazy Idea: Totally Random Test Matrix



[HMT11] Randomized SVD

Theorem (HMT 2011). Assume

- *Input matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$*
- *Test matrix $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ is **standard normal***
- *Form range sketch: $Q = \text{orth}(AB)$*
- *Compute rank- d approximation: $\hat{A} = QQ^* A$*

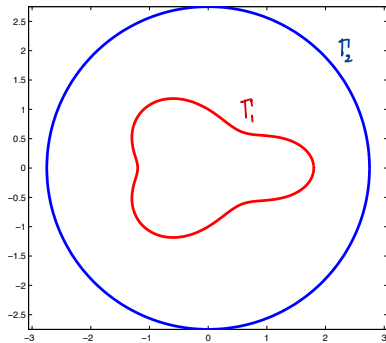
For $d \geq 1 + k/\varepsilon$, this randomized SVD algorithm guarantees

$$\mathbb{E} \left\| A - \hat{A} \right\|_F^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \cdot \left\| A - \llbracket A \rrbracket_k \right\|_F^2$$

- **Key fact:** Error is small when spectrum of A decays quickly
- Probability of a much larger error is negligible

Source: Halko et al. 2011, §10.2.

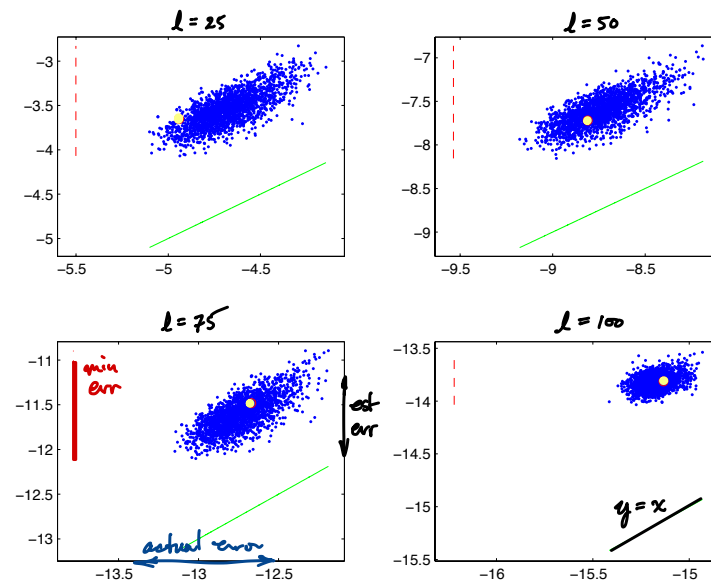
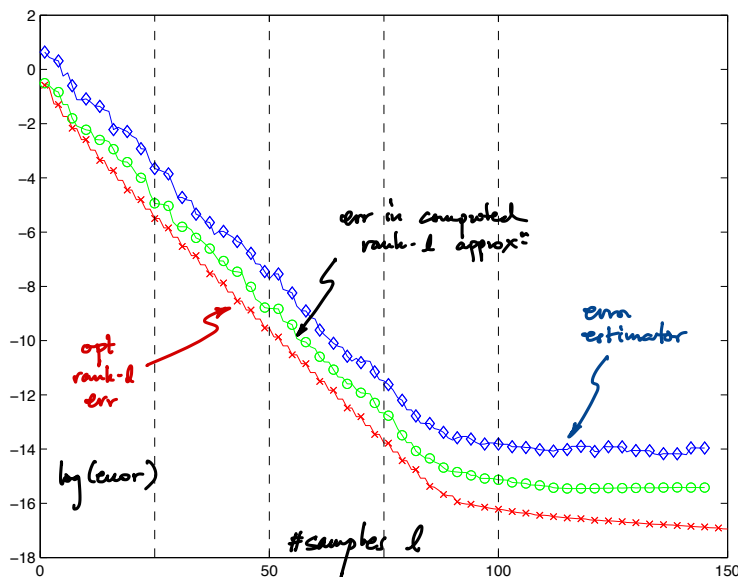
Example: Discretized Integral Operator



Matrix A is a 200×200 discretization of

$$[S\sigma](\mathbf{x}) = \text{const} \cdot \int_{\Gamma_1} \log \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\| \sigma(\mathbf{y}) dA(\mathbf{y})$$

for $\mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_2$



Source: Halko et al. 2011, Figures 7.1–7.3.

Randomized Subspace Iteration

Randomized Subspace Iteration (RSI)

- 🐼 **Issue:** What if the spectrum decays more slowly?
- 🐼 **RSI idea:** Adapt test matrix to input matrix by powering:
 - 🐼 Draw standard normal matrix $\mathbf{\Omega} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$
 - 🐼 (Carefully) form test matrix $\mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^*)^q \mathbf{A}\mathbf{\Omega}$
- 🐼 **Equivalent:** Apply [HMT11] to $(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^*)^q \mathbf{A}$. Enhances spectral decay!
- 🐼 **RSI cost:** $2q + 2$ matmuls plus $(m + n)qd^2$ arithmetic
- 🐼 **Spectral-norm error:** For $d = k + 2$ and $q \lesssim (\log n)/\varepsilon$,

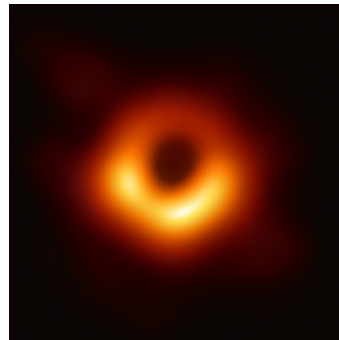
$$\mathbb{E} \|\mathbf{A} - \widehat{\mathbf{A}}\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \cdot \|\mathbf{A} - \llbracket \mathbf{A} \rrbracket_k\|$$

- 🐼 **In practice:** $q = 2$ or $q = 3$ often suffices. Not asymptotic!

Source: Halko et al. 2011, Algorithms 4.4 and 5.1, Corollary 10.10.

Example: Event Horizon Telescope

M87



Sgr A* (???)



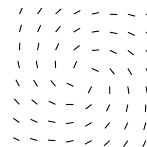
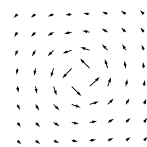
Noise

Random Field

Static Envelope



+



advection

diffusion

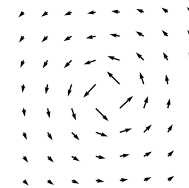
Source: Bouman, Gammie, Lee, Levis, Tropp 2021.

Modal Decomposition of Dynamics

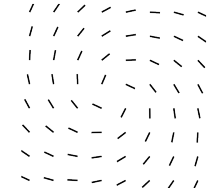
Target
Random
Field

Modes

Advection 1



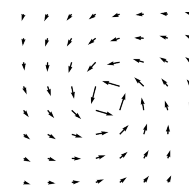
Diffusion 1



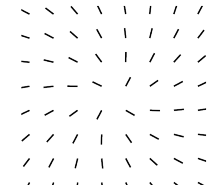
Model 1

Model 2

Advection 2



Diffusion 2



Source: Bouman, Gammie, Lee, Levis, Tropp 2021.

Recovery of Black Hole Dynamics

Simulated Black Hole

Noisy Full Data

EHT 2025

EHT 2017

Source: Bouman, Gammie, Lee, Levis, Tropp 2021.

Randomized Block Krylov

Randomized Block Krylov Methods

- 🐼 **Issue:** What if the spectrum does not really decay?
- 🐼 **BK idea:** Adapt test matrix to input matrix by including all powers:
 - 🐼 Draw standard normal matrix $\mathbf{\Omega} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$
 - 🐼 (Carefully) form test matrix $\mathbf{B} = [\mathbf{A}\mathbf{\Omega} \quad (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^*)\mathbf{A}\mathbf{\Omega} \quad \dots \quad (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^*)^q \mathbf{A}\mathbf{\Omega}]$
- 🐼 **BK cost:** $2q + 2$ matmuls plus $(m + n)(qd)^2$ arithmetic
- 🐼 **Spectral-norm error:** For $d = k + 2$ and $q \lesssim (\log n) / \sqrt{\varepsilon}$,

$$\mathbb{E} \|\mathbf{A} - \hat{\mathbf{A}}\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \cdot \|\mathbf{A} - [\mathbf{A}]_k\|$$

- 🐼 **In practice:** $q = 2$ or $q = 3$ often suffices. Not asymptotic!
- 🐼 **Loss:** Extra storage + orthogonalization

Sources: Rokhlin & Tygert 2008; Halko, Martinsson, Shkolnisky, Tygert 2011; Musco & Musco 2015; Tropp 2018–2021; Martinsson & Tropp 2020; Tropp & Webber 2021.

Example: Geophysical Imaging

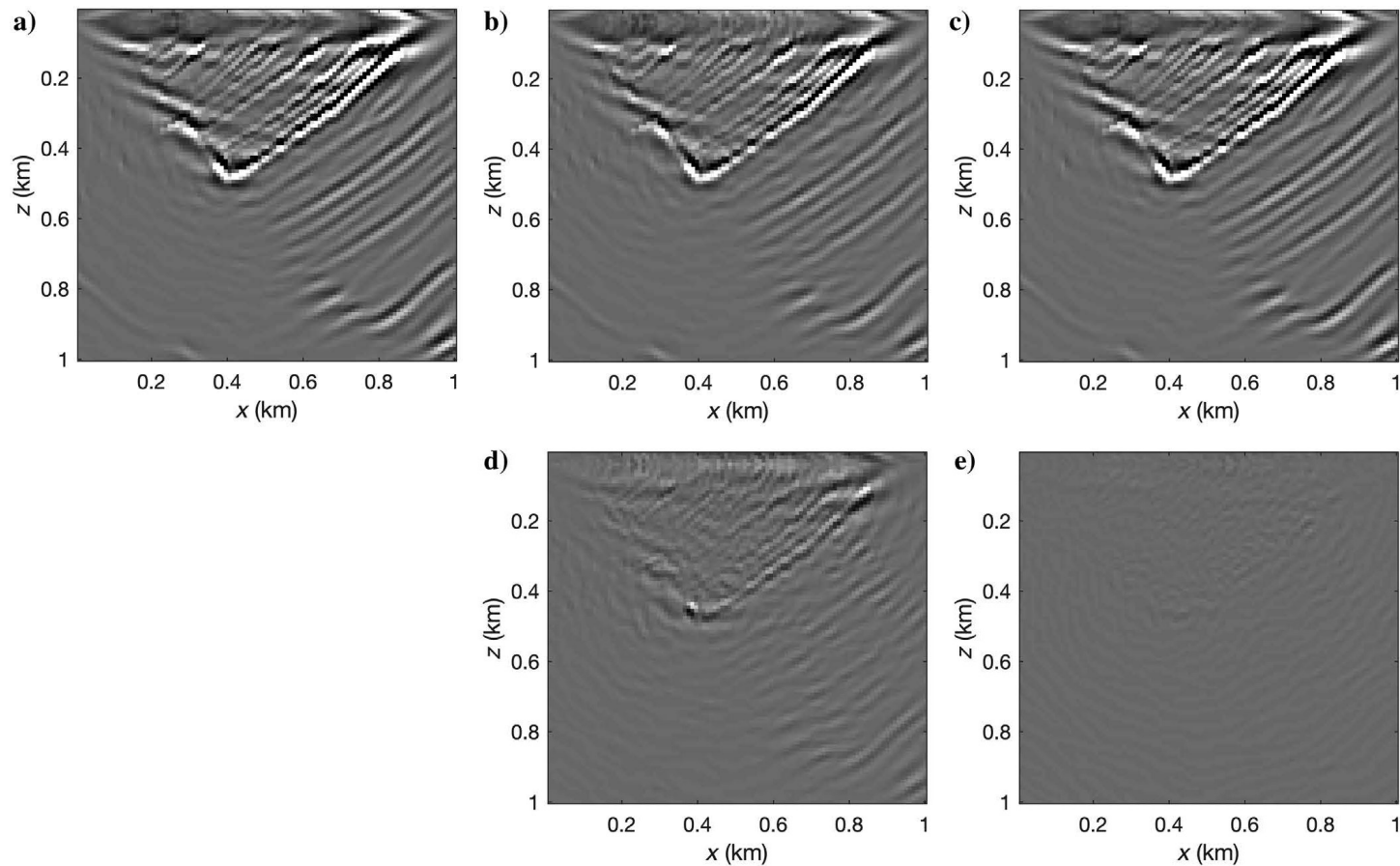


Figure 6. Comparison between RTMs obtained by carrying out (a) conventional SVD, (b) the rSVD, and (c) BKI for $q = 1$. Difference plots with respect to the conventional SVD are included in (d and e). These plots show that the image obtained from a factorization based on BKI is significantly more accurate. Only the first eight singular values are used, i.e., $n_p = 8 \ll n_s$ with $n_s = 100$.

Source: Yang, Graff, Kumar, Herrmann 2021, Figure 6.

Sketchy TSVD Algorithms

Sketchy SVD Framework

- ☞ Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ be an input matrix
- ☞ Let $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ be a (random) test matrix

1. **Rangefinder:** Find a basis $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ for the range of the input matrix:

$$Y = AB \quad \text{and} \quad Q = \text{orth}(Y)$$

2. **Sketching:** For random $S \in \mathbb{R}^{s \times m}$, compressed matrix approximation:

$$\text{minimize}_{M \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}} \|S(A - QM)\|_F^2 \quad \text{Solution: } M_\star = (SQ)^\dagger(SA)$$

3. **SVD:** Write rank- d approximation \hat{A} as an SVD:

$$\hat{A} = QM_\star = Q(U\Sigma V^*) = (QU)\Sigma V^*$$

Sources: Woolfe et al. 2008; Halko et al. 2008–2011; Clarkson & Woodruff 2009; Woodruff 2014; Tropp et al. 2017–2020; Nakatsukasa 2020; Nakatsukasa & Tropp 2021; Tropp & Webber 2021.

Example: One-Pass SVD

Basic Sketchy SVD

Input: Input matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$

Output: Approximate rank- d SVD in factored form: $\hat{A} = U\Sigma V^*$

1. Form range sketch: $Y = AB$ for random $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$
2. Form co-range sketch: $Z = SA$ for random $S \in \mathbb{R}^{s \times m}$
3. Orthogonalize columns of range sketch: $Q = \text{orth}(Y)$
4. Compute matrix approximation: $M = (SQ)^\dagger Z$
5. Compute small dense SVD: $M = \hat{U}\Sigma V^*$
6. Consolidate left unitary factor: $U = Q\hat{U}$

Cost: Two matmuls plus $(m + n)d^2$ arithmetic

Benefits: Takes linear measurements of matrix, only requires one pass

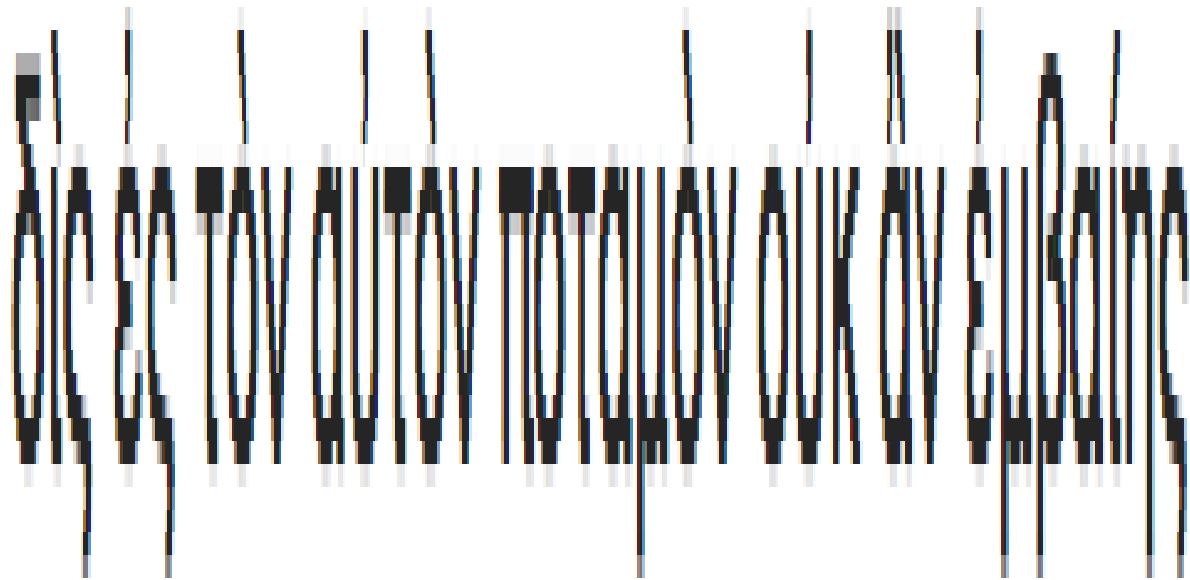
Frobenius-norm error: For $d = 1 + 2k$ and $s = 2 + 4k$,

$$\mathbb{E} \left\| A - \hat{A} \right\|_F \leq 4 \cdot \left\| A - \llbracket A \rrbracket_k \right\|_F$$

Loss: Requires significant spectral decay

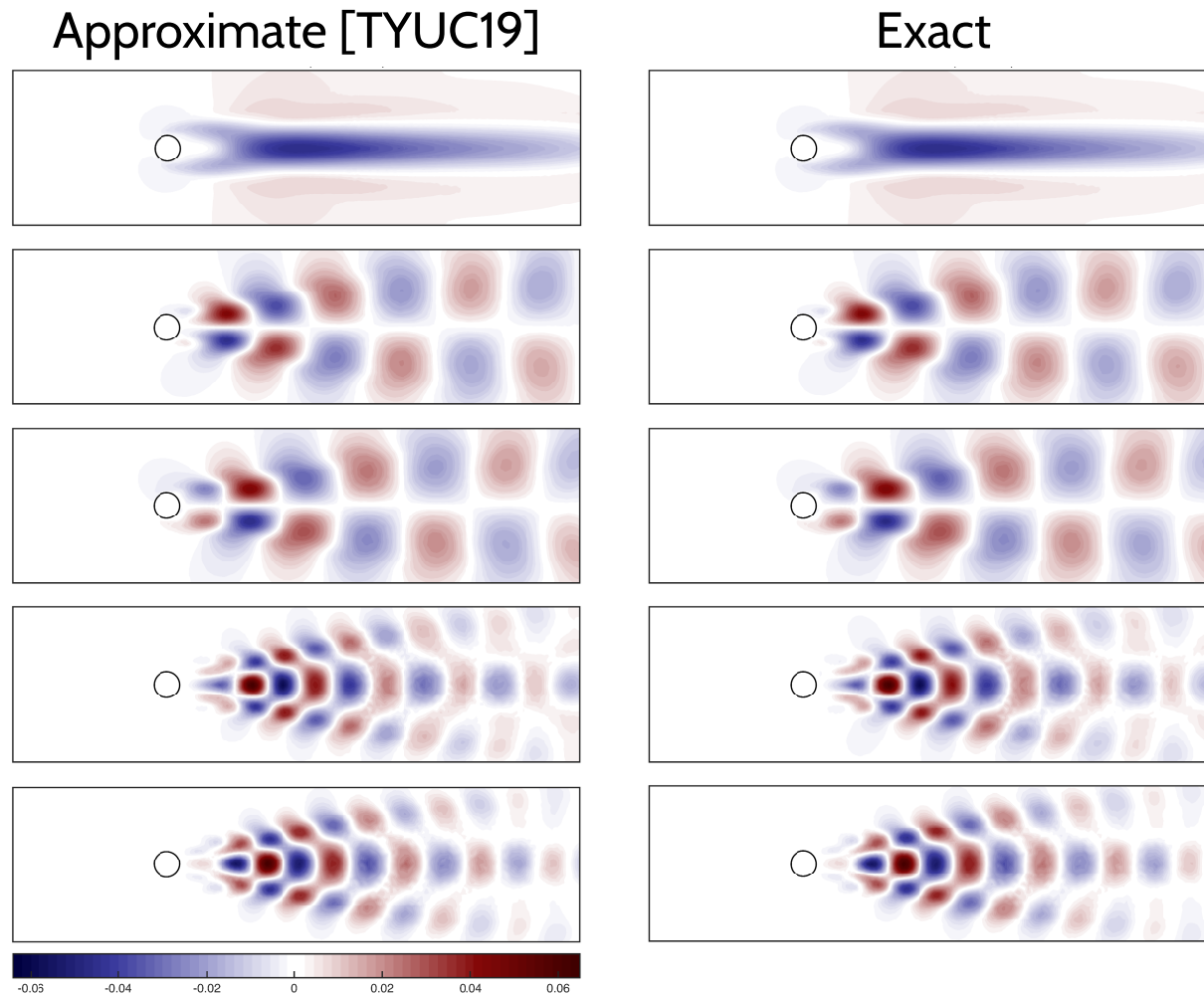
Sources: Woolfe et al. 2008; Halko et al. 2008–2011; Clarkson & Woodruff 2009; Woodruff 2014; Tropp et al. 2017–2019; Nakatsukasa 2020.

Reconstruction of von Kármán Street



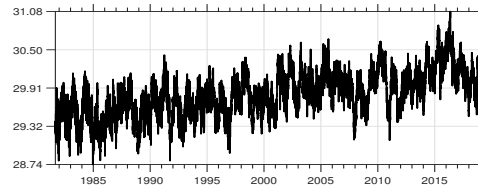
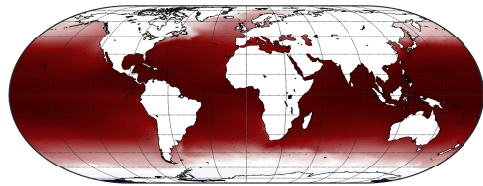
Comments: Data: $m = 10,738$; $n = 5,001$; 430 MB. Algorithm: [TYUC19], sparse maps; rank $r = 5$; storage $T = 48(m + n)$. Compression: $71 \times$.

Left Singular Vectors of von Kármán Street

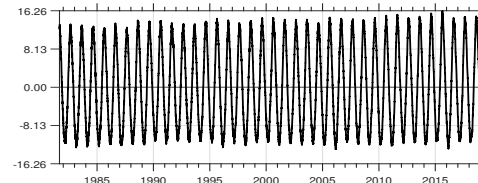
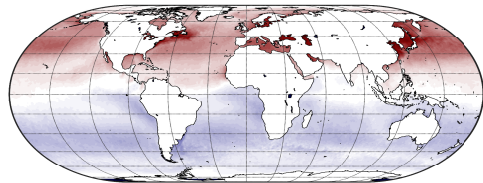


Comments: Data: $m = 10,738$; $n = 5,001$; 430 MB. Algorithm: [TYUC19], sparse maps; rank $r = 5$; storage $T = 48(m + n)$. Compression: $71 \times$.

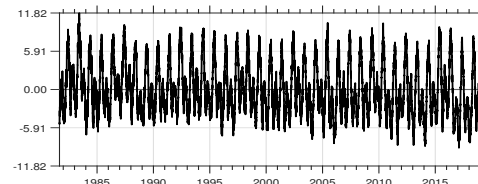
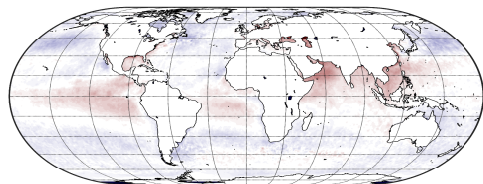
Singular Vectors of Sea Surface Temperature Data



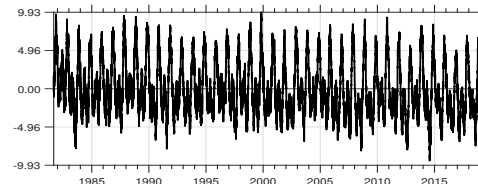
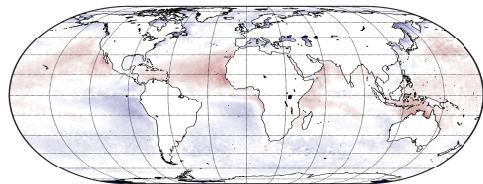
Spatiotemporal Avg.



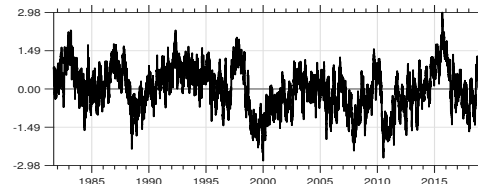
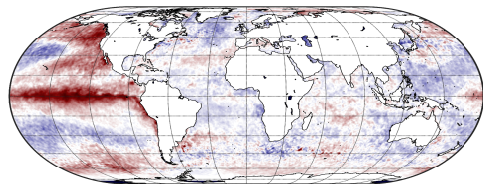
Seasonal



(Intra-)Seasonal



(Intra-)Seasonal



El Niño / La Niña

Comments: Data: $m = 691,150$; $n = 13,670$; 75 GB. Algorithm: [TYUC19], sparse maps; $k = 48$; $s = 839$. Compression ratio: $222\times$.

To learn more...

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Web: <http://users.cms.caltech.edu/~jtropp>

Some papers:

- Halko, Martinsson, & Tropp, "Finding structure with randomness: Probabilistic algorithms for computing approximate matrix decompositions," *SIREV*, 2011. [arXiv 0909.4061](https://arxiv.org/abs/0909.4061).
- Halko, Martinsson, Shkolnisky, & Tygert, "An algorithm for the principal component analysis of large data sets," *SISC*, 2011.
- Tropp, Yurtsever, Udell, & Cevher, "Practical sketching algorithms for low-rank matrix approximation," *SIMAX*, 2017. [arXiv 1609.00048](https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.00048).
- Tropp, Yurtsever, Udell, & Cevher, "Streaming low-rank matrix approximation with an application to scientific simulation," *SISC*, 2019. [arXiv 1902.08651](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.08651).
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- Bouman, Gammie, Lee, Levis, & Tropp, "Inference of black hole fluid-dynamics from sparse interferometric measurements." ICCV 2021.
- Yang, Graff, Kumar, & Herrmann, "Low-rank representation of omnidirectional subsurface extend image volumes," *Geophysics*, 2021.
- Nakatsukasa & Tropp, "Fast & accurate randomized algorithms for linear systems and eigenvalue problems," [arXiv 2111.00113](https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.00113).
- Tropp & Webber, "Randomized algorithms for low-rank matrix approximation: Design, analysis, and applications," in preparation.