

Randomized iterative methods for linear systems and inverting matrices

Robert Gower
joint work with Peter Richtárik



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Gower, Robert M., Richtárik, Peter, April 2015.

Randomized Iterative Methods for Linear Systems (in progress)



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Randomized Iterative Methods for Inverting Matrices (in progress)

The Problem

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Solve a consistent linear system $Ax_* = b$, where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $m \geq n$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{---} A_1: \text{---} \\ \text{---} A_2: \text{---} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \text{---} A_{m-1}: \text{---} \\ \text{---} A_m: \text{---} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_*^1 \\ \vdots \\ x_*^n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b^1 \\ b^2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ b^{m-1} \\ b^m \end{bmatrix}$$

Solve with an iterative method

$$x_{k+1} = \text{update_formula}(A, x_k)$$

such that $x_k \rightarrow x_*$.

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The Return of old methods

- ▶ Old methods (Kaczmarz 1937, Gauss-Seidel 1823) make a randomized return, why?
- ▶ Often suitable for Big Data problems (short recurrence, low memory,...etc)
- ▶ Easy to implement
- ▶ Easy to analyse, good complexity
- ▶ Often fits in parallel architecture

- └ Old methods return randomized
- └ The Kaczmarz method (Stochastic gradient)

Kaczmarz method

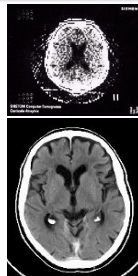
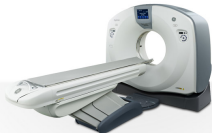
Choose the i th row then iterate

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x - x_k\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad A_{i:}x = b^i.$$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{A_{i:}x_k - b^i}{\|A_{i:}\|_2^2} A_{i:}^T$$

- ▶ Developed in 1937 Kaczmarz
- ▶ Implemented in the first CT scanner 1972

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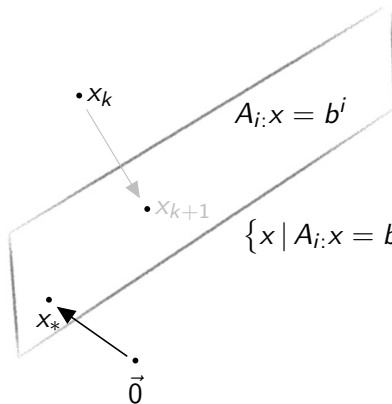


¹G.N. Hounsfield. Computerized transverse axial scanning (tomography): Part I. description of the system. British Journal Radiology. 1973

- └ Old methods return randomized
- └ The Kaczmarz method (Stochastic gradient)

Kaczmarz Interpretation

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x - x_k\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad A_i: x = b^i.$$

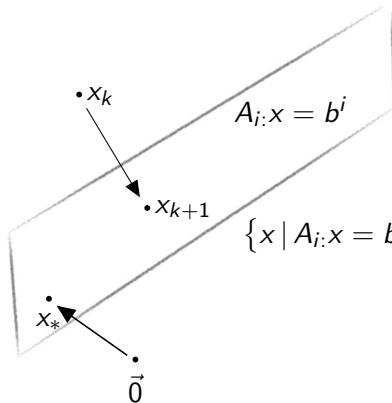


$$\begin{aligned} \{x \mid A_i: x = b^i\} &= \{x \mid A_i: (x - x_*) = 0\} \\ &= x_* + \{x \mid A_i: x = 0\} \\ &= x_* + \mathbf{Null}(A_i) \end{aligned}$$

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How to choose i

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x - x_k\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad A_i x = b^i.$$

- ▶ Traditional Kaczmarz: Cycle $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Slow in practice + difficult to interpret complexity
- ▶ Pick i with probability $p_i = 1/m$. Better in practice + difficult to interpret complexity
- ▶ **Break-Through (Strohmer & Vershynin, 2009)**: pick i with probability $p_i = \|A_{i:}\|_2^2 / \|A\|_F^2$.

$$\mathbf{E} [\|x_k - x_*\|_2^2] \leq \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_{\min}(A^T A)}{\|A\|_F^2}\right)^k \|x_0 - x_*\|_2^2.$$

$$\lambda_{\min}(A^T A) / \|A\|_F^2 = 1 / \|A\|_F^2 \|A^\dagger\|_2^2$$

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Coordinate Descent (Gauss-Seidel)

Choose the i th coordinate then

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad x = x_k + te_i, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{(A_{:i})^T (Ax_k - b)}{\|A_{:i}\|_2^2} e_i$$

Note that $\|Ax - b\|_2^2 = \|A(x - x_*)\|_2^2 = \|x - x_*\|_{A^T A}^2$

Convergence (Leventhal & Lewis, 2010)

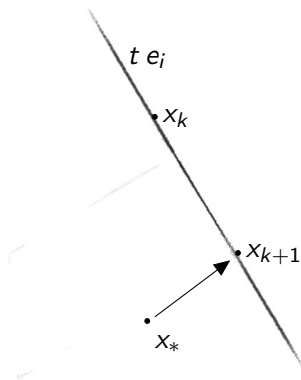
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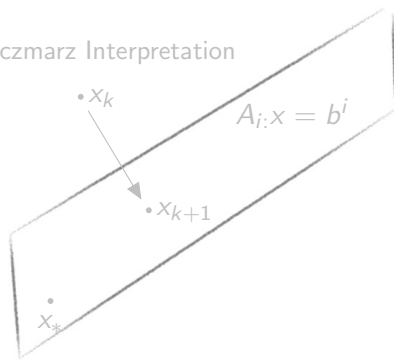
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Coordinate Descent Interpretation

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x - x_*\|_{A^T A}^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad x = x_k + t e_i, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$



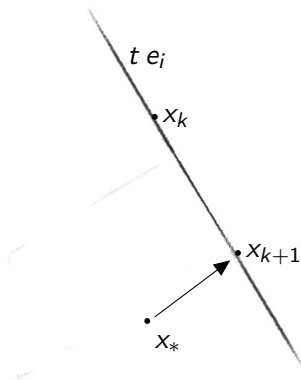
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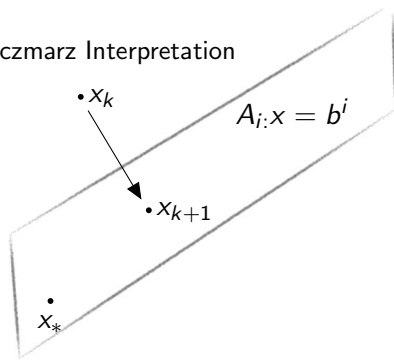


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Framework for designing randomized methods

Choose $B \succ 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and a **random** matrix S independently drawn at each iteration k . **Two** viewpoints of the **same** method.

$$(I) \quad x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x - x_k\|_B^2 \quad \text{s. t.} \quad S^T A x = S^T b,$$

$$(II) \quad x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x - x_k\|_B^2 \quad \text{s. t.} \quad x \in x_k + B^{-1} \text{Range} \left(A^T S \right)$$

(I) : Project x_k onto a **randomly compacted** system.

$$\boxed{S^T} \quad \boxed{A} \quad \boxed{x} = \boxed{S^T A} \quad \boxed{x}$$

Kaczmarz fits nicely with $B = I$ and $S = e_i$.

Block Kaczmarz choose $B = I$ and $S = I_{:,C}$ a subset of columns of identity.

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Coordinate descent methods fit (II)

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- **Least-Squares Coord. Desc:** With $B = A^T A$ and $S = A e_i = A_{:,i}$

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad x = x_k + t e_i, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Stochastic Newton (SDNA² Method 1) Let $S = A_{:,C} = A_{:,C}$ subset of columns of A

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad x = x_k + t l_{:,C}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}^{|C|}.$$

- **Positive Definite Coord. Desc:** When $A \succ 0$, $B = A$ and $S = l_{:,C}$ then

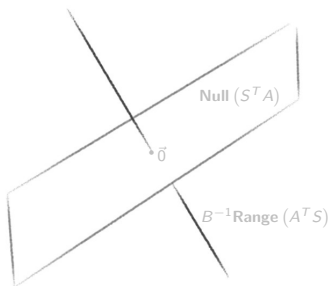
$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} x^T A x - x^T b}_{= \|x - x_*\|_A^2} \quad \text{subject to} \quad x = x_k + t l_{:,C}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}^{|C|},$$

²Qu, Z., Richtárik, P., Takáč, M., & Fercoq, O. (2015). SDNA: Stochastic Dual Newton Ascent for Empirical Risk Minimization.

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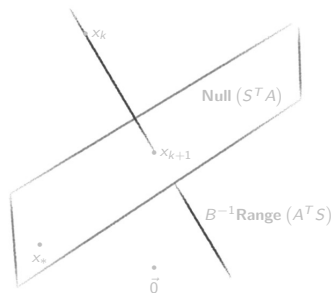
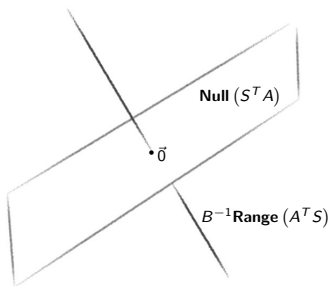
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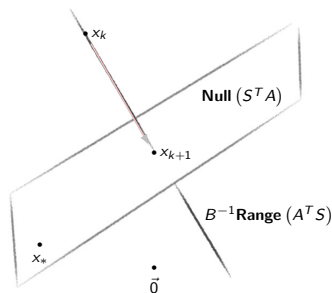
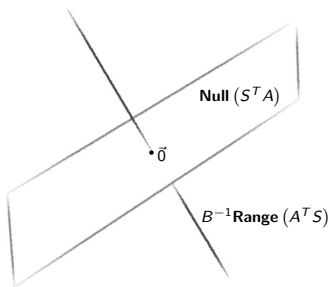
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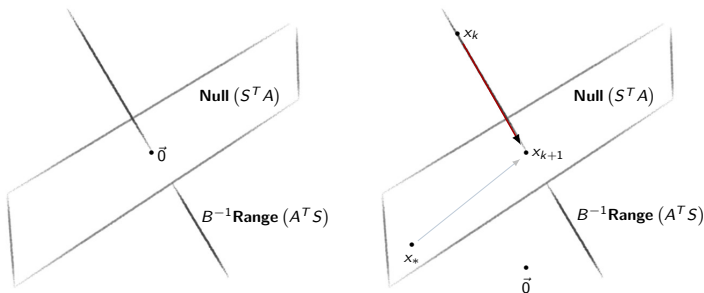


| Project x_k onto $x_* + \text{Null}(S^T A)$

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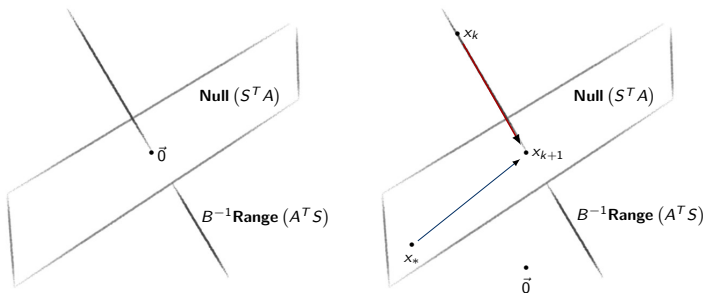
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The Solution

Assuming $A^T S$ has full column rank \Rightarrow closed form solution

II Project x_* onto $x_k + B^{-1}\text{Range}(A^T S)$

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} &= x_k + \text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(A^T S)}(x_* - x_k) \\ &= x_k + B^{-1}A^T S(S^T A B^{-1}A^T S)^{-1}S^T A(x_k - x_*) \\ &= x_k + B^{-1}A^T S \underbrace{(S^T A B^{-1}A^T S)^{-1}S^T A}_{\text{Solve small system.}}(x_k - x_*) \end{aligned}$$

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The Fixed point form

All randomness is in the range space projection $B^{-1}Z$

$$Z \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A^T S (S^T A B^{-1} A^T S)^{-1} S^T A.$$

For analysis, fixed point form

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[x_{k+1} - x_* \mid x_k] &= (I - B^{-1} \mathbf{E}[Z])(x_k - x_*). \\ \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{E}[x_{k+1} - x_* \mid x_k]] &= \mathbf{E}[x_{k+1} - x_*] \\ &= \mathbf{E}[(I - B^{-1} \mathbf{E}[Z])(x_k - x_*)] \\ &= (I - B^{-1} \mathbf{E}[Z]) \mathbf{E}[x_k - x_*]. \end{aligned}$$

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Convergence Theorems

$$\|\mathbf{E}[x_k] - x_*\| \leq \left(1 - \lambda_{\min}(B^{-1/2} \mathbf{E}[Z] B^{-1/2})\right)^k \|x_0 - x_*\|$$

and when $\mathbf{E}[Z]$ nonsingular

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Theorem (General S)

Let S be a random matrix such that $A^T S$ full column rank. Then for all $k \geq 0$,

$$\|\mathbf{E}[x_k] - x_*\| \leq \rho^k \|x_0 - x_*\|,$$

where

$$\rho = 1 - \lambda_{\min}(B^{-1/2} \mathbf{E}[Z] B^{-1/2}) \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq \rho \leq 1.$$

Proof.

Taking conditional expectation with respect to x_k , we get

$$\mathbf{E}[x_{k+1} - x_* \mid x_k] = (I - B^{-1} \mathbf{E}[Z])(x_k - x_*). \quad (1)$$

Taking full expectation, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[x_{k+1} - x_*] &= \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{E}[x_{k+1} - x_* \mid x_k]] \\ &\stackrel{(1)}{=} \mathbf{E}[(I - B^{-1} \mathbf{E}[Z])(x_k - x_*)] \\ &= (I - B^{-1} \mathbf{E}[Z]) \mathbf{E}[x_k - x_*]. \end{aligned}$$

Now unroll the recurrence and apply the operator norm. As $B^{-1}Z$ is a projection, by Jensen's inequality with the convex functions λ_{\max} and $-\lambda_{\min}$, we have

$$0 \leq \lambda_{\max}(B^{-1} \mathbf{E}[Z]) \leq \lambda_{\max}(B^{-1} Z) \leq 1. \quad \square$$

Unifying previous methods & analysis

Theorem (Discrete random vector)

Let S be discrete r.v. such $S = s_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (for concreteness, think of $s_i = e_i$) with probability $p_i > 0$, for $i = 1, \dots, m$, and let

$$\mathbf{S} = [s_1, \dots, s_m].$$

Then

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + \frac{s_i^T (Ax_k - b)}{s_i^T AB^{-1}A^T s_i} B^{-1}A^T s_i, \quad \text{with prob } p_i.$$

If we choose

$$p_i = \frac{s_i^T AB^{-1}A^T s_i}{\|B^{-1/2}A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2}, \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m,$$

then

$$\mathbf{E}[Z] = \frac{A^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{S}^T A}{\|B^{-1/2}A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \rho = 1 - \frac{\lambda_{\min}(B^{-1/2}A^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{S}^T AB^{-1/2})}{\|B^{-1/2}A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2}.$$

Furthermore, if $\mathbf{S}^T A$ has full column rank then $\rho < 1$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E}[Z] &= \sum_{i=1}^m A^T s_i (s_i^T A B^{-1} A^T s_i)^{-1} s_i^T A p_i \\ &= \frac{1}{\|B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2} \sum_{i=1}^m A^T s_i s_i^T A \\ &= \frac{1}{\|B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2} A^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{S}^T A.\end{aligned}$$

Thus the ρ is given by

$$\rho = 1 - \lambda_{\min} \left(B^{-1/2} \mathbf{E}[Z] B^{-1/2} \right) = 1 - \frac{\lambda_{\min} \left(B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{S}^T A B^{-1/2} \right)}{\|B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2}.$$

As $\mathbf{S}^T A$ has full column rank, $\mathbf{E}[Z]$ is positive definite and $\rho < 1$. □

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$$p_i = \frac{s_i^T A B^{-1} A^T s_i}{\|B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2} \quad \text{with} \quad \rho = 1 - \frac{\lambda_{\min}(B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{S}^T A B^{-1/2})}{\|B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2}.$$

Name	B	S	\mathbf{S}	p_i	$1 - \rho$
Kaczmarz	I	e_i	I	$\ A_{i:}\ _2^2 / \ A\ _F^2$	$\lambda_{\min}(A^T A) / \ A\ _F^2$
CD $\ Ax - b\ _2^2$	$A^T A$	$A_{:i}$	A	$\ A_{:i}\ _2^2 / \ A\ _F^2$	$\lambda_{\min}(A^T A) / \ A\ _F^2$
CD $x^T A x / 2 - x^T b$	A	e_i	I	$A_{ii} / \text{Tr}(A)$	$\lambda_{\min}(A) / \text{Tr}(A)$

New possibilities suggested:

- Covers new cases, e.g., $S = \alpha_i e_i + \alpha_j e_j$

Unifying previous methods & analysis

$$p_i = \frac{s_i^T A B^{-1} A^T s_i}{\|B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2} \quad \text{with} \quad \rho = 1 - \frac{\lambda_{\min}(B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{S}^T A B^{-1/2})}{\|B^{-1/2} A^T \mathbf{S}\|_F^2}.$$

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New possibilities suggested:

- Covers new cases, e.g., $S = \alpha_i e_i + \alpha_j e_j$
- For $B = I$, then ideally $\mathbf{S}^T \approx A^\dagger$ then $\rho \approx 1 - 1/n$. If we have a preconditioner $P \approx A^\dagger$ then $S = \text{sample rows of } P$.

Unifying previous methods & analysis

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Gaussian based sampling

Why not make S a continuous random matrix?

Sample $S = \xi \sim N(0, \Sigma)$ a normal random variable then

$$Z = A^T S (S^T A B^{-1} A^T S)^{-1} S^T A = \frac{A^T \xi \xi^T A}{\xi^T A B^{-1} A^T \xi}.$$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{\xi^T (A x_k - b)}{\xi^T A B^{-1} A^T \xi} B^{-1} A^T \xi.$$

Iteration cost $O(\text{product } A^T \cdot \xi)$.

The convergence rate determined by

$$\rho = 1 - \lambda_{\min}(B^{-1/2} \mathbf{E}[Z] B^{-1/2}) = 1 - \lambda_{\min}\left(\mathbf{E}\left[\frac{\bar{\xi} \bar{\xi}^T}{\bar{\xi}^T \bar{\xi}}\right]\right),$$

where $\bar{\xi} = B^{-1/2} A^T \xi \sim N(0, \Omega)$, and $\Omega = B^{-1/2} A \Sigma A^T B^{-1/2}$.

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where $\bar{\xi} = B^{-1/2} A^T \xi \sim N(0, \Omega)$, and $\Omega = B^{-1/2} A \Sigma A^T B^{-1/2}$.

New Gaussian Methods

Sample $S = \xi \sim N(0, \Sigma)$. Let $\eta \sim N(0, I)$.

Gauss. Kaczmarz $B = I$ and $\Sigma = I$

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x - x_k\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \eta^T (Ax - b) = 0.$$

Gauss Least-squares $B = A^T A$ and $\Sigma = AA^T$

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad x = x_k + t\eta, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Gauss. Pos. Def. $B = A$ and $\Sigma = I$

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} 1/2 x^T A x - x^T b \quad \text{subject to} \quad x = x_k + t\eta, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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Dense Overdetermined Gaussian Matrix

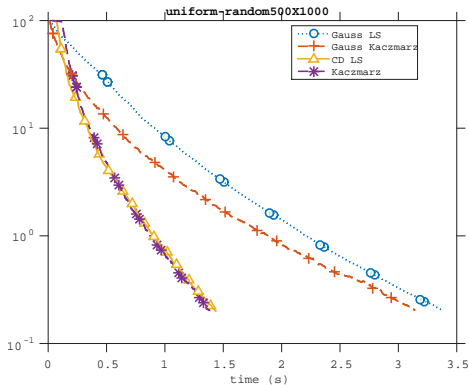


Figure : $m \times n = 500 \times 1000$, $A = \text{randn}(m, n)$

Dense matrix \Rightarrow High iteration cost of Gaussian methods $O(A \cdot \eta)$.

Sparse Square Gaussian Matrix

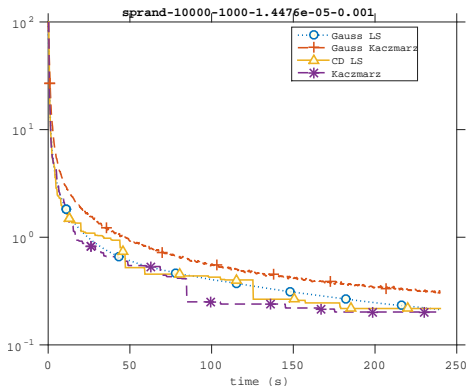
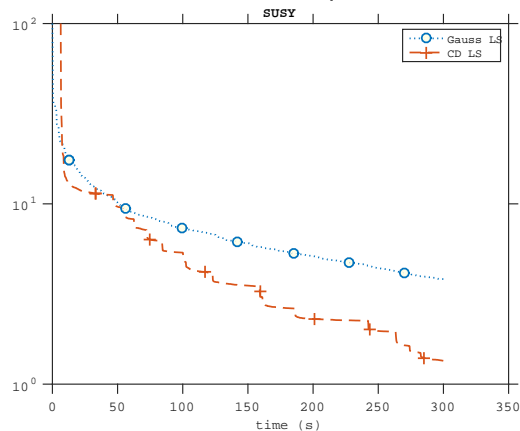


Figure : $m \times n = 10000 \times 1000$, density = $1/\sqrt{m} = 1\%$; $\kappa = \sqrt{n}$; $A = \text{sprandsym}(n, \text{density}, \text{rc})$

Sparse matrices \Rightarrow Gauss methods become competitive.

Regression SUSY

The SUSY³ Classification problem



Solving least-squares regression $\min \|Ax - b\|_2^2$ with $m = 5 \cdot 10^6$ and $n = 18$

³Baldi, P., P. Sadowski, and D. Whiteson. Searching for Exotic Particles in High-energy Physics with Deep Learning. Nature Communications 5 (July 2, 2014)

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Why iteratively invert a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$?

- ▶ Needed to calculate Schur complements, a projection operator...etc
- ▶ Iterative is good when we can tolerate an error
- ▶ Iterative is good when we have an initial guess $X_0 \approx A^{-1}$.
- ▶ Staging for randomized variable metric methods and randomized Preconditioning.

New context: $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ non-singular.

Framework

- ▶ Assume we observe $S^T A$ where S is random.
- ▶ Given $X_k \approx A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, we want to iteratively calculate

$$X_{k+1} = \text{update_formula}(S^T A, X_k)$$

such that $X_{k+1} \rightarrow A^{-1}$.

$$X_{k+1} = \arg \min_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}} \|X - X_k\|_{\text{Frobenius}(B)}^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad S^T A X = X,$$

The solution

$$\begin{aligned} X_{k+1} &= X_k + \text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(A^T S)}(A^{-1} - X_k) \\ &= X_k + B^{-1} A^T S (S^T A B^{-1} A^T S)^{-1} S^T A (A^{-1} - X_k) \\ &= X_k + B^{-1} A^T S \underbrace{(S^T A B^{-1} A^T S)^{-1}}_{\text{Invert small matrix}} S^T (I - A X_k). \end{aligned}$$

What about the symmetric case $A^T = A$?

Framework

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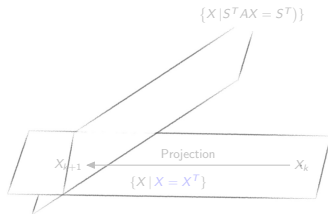
What about the symmetric case $A^T = A$?

Symmetric matrices

$$X_{k+1} = \arg \min_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}} \|X - X_k\|_{\text{Frobenius}(B)}^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } S^T A X = X$$

$$X = X^T$$

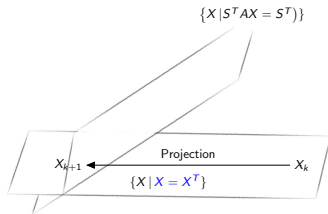


Symmetric matrices

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Solution:⁴

$$X_{k+1} = X_k + \text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(AS)}(X_k - A^{-1})\text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(AS)}$$

$$- (X_k - A^{-1})\text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(AS)} - \text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(AS)}(X_k - A^{-1})$$

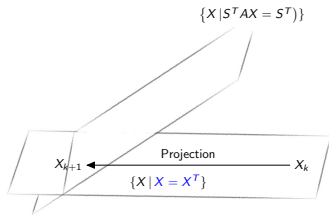
⁴Gower and Gondzio 2014

Symmetric matrices

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⁴Gower and Gondzio 2014

Theorem (Convergence)

Let S be equal to a column of a full rank matrix $\mathbf{S} := [s_1, \dots, s_n]$ with probability $\|B^{-1/2}As_i\|^2 / \|B^{-1/2}AS\|_F^2$. Then from a given $X_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, the iteration

$$X_{k+1} = X_k + \text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(AS)}(X_k - A^{-1})\text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(AS)} \\ - (X_k - A^{-1})\text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(AS)} - \text{proj}_{B^{-1}\text{Range}(AS)}(X_k - A^{-1})$$

converges with

$$\mathbf{E} \left[\|X_k - A^{-1}\|_{\text{Frob}(B)}^2 \right] = \left(I - \frac{1}{\kappa_F^2(B^{-1/2}AS)} \right)^k \|X_0 - A^{-1}\|_{\text{Frob}(B)}^2,$$

where $\kappa_F(B^{-1/2}AS) = \|B^{-1/2}AS\|_F \|\mathbf{S}^{-1}A^{-1}B^{1/2}\|_F$.

Self-preconditioning Method: This suggests that $\mathbf{S} \approx A^{-1}$.
But $X_k \approx A^{-1}$ so try $S =$ sample columns of X_k .

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Initial experiments A positive definite

Newton-Schulz: $X_0 = A^T / (0.99 \|A^T A\|_2)$, $X_{k+1} = 2X_k - X_k A X_k$.

Self-preconditioning Method: $B = A$, $X_0 = I$, $X_{k+1} = \text{proj}_S + (I - \text{proj}_S A) X_k (I - A \text{proj}_S)$,
where S = sample columns of X_k .

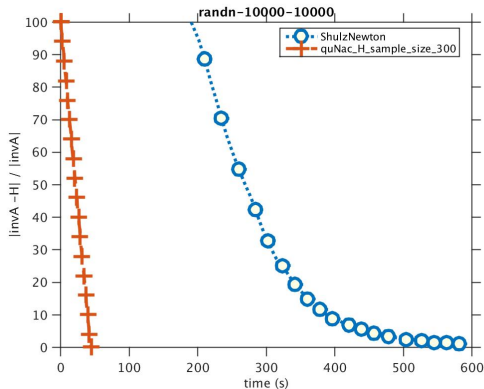


Figure: $n = 10'000$, with $nnz = 10^8$, $A = \text{randn}(n, n)$, $A = (A') * A$;

Towards Randomized Preconditioning

Initialize $X_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

While (stopping_criteria)

$S_k = \text{sample_function}(A, X_k)$

$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x - x_k\|_B^2 \text{ s.t. } S_k^T A x = S_k^T b$

$X_{k+1} = \arg \min_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}} \|X - X_k\|_{\text{Frobenius}(B)} \text{ s.t. } S_k^T A X = S_k^T, X = X^T.$

$k = k + 1$

end





What if $(A_k)_k$ is a slowly evolving sequence (like a Hessian matrix)?

Conclusion

- ▶ A natural framework for designing and analysing randomized iterative methods
- ▶ Analyse previous methods through one Theorem
- ▶ New Gaussian methods, with potential on sparse problems
- ▶ New randomized matrix inversion methods.
- ▶ Paving a path towards randomized preconditioning.

- └ Iteratively Inverting matrices
- └ Future work: Randomized Preconditioning?

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