

Tyler Chen

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<https://chen.pw>

Academic Positions

New York University (2022-present)

Assistant Professor / Courant Instructor

- Mathematics at Courant, Computer Science and Engineering at Tandon
- Sponsor: Christopher Musco

Education

University of Washington 2017-2022

Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics

- Thesis: *Lanczos-based methods for matrix functions*
- Advisors: Anne Greenbaum, Thomas Trogdon

University of Washington 2017-2019

M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics

Tufts University 2013-2017

B.S. Summa Cum Laude in Mathematics and Physics; Minor in Studio Art

Research Interests

I'm particularly interested in incorporating probabilistic techniques into classical algorithms to develop methods which are fast and reliable, both in theory and in practice. I hope that my work will help to bridge the gaps between numerical analysis, theoretical computer science, and applied computational sciences such as quantum physics with the ultimate goal of supporting the advancement of knowledge in the basic sciences.

Monographs

- [1] Tyler Chen. “*The Lanczos algorithm for matrix functions: a handbook for scientists*”. 2024.

Papers (in progress)

- [4] David Persson, Tyler Chen, and Christopher Musco. “Randomized block Krylov subspace methods for low rank approximation of matrix functions”. 2024.
- [3] Noah Amsel, Tyler Chen, Feyza Duman Keles, Diana Halikias, Cameron Musco, and Christopher Musco. “Fixed-sparsity matrix approximation from matrix-vector products”. 2024. arXiv: 2402.09379 [cs.DS]. INTRO: https://research/chen.pw/intros/fixed_sparsity_matrix_approximation.html

- [2] Tyler Chen, Anne Greenbaum, and Natalie Wellen. “Optimal Polynomial Approximation to Rational Matrix Functions Using the Arnoldi Algorithm”. 2023. arXiv: 2306.17308 [math.NA].
- [1] Tyler Chen, Thomas Trogdon, and Shashanka Ubaru. “Randomized matrix-free quadrature for spectrum and spectral sum approximation”. 2022. arXiv: 2204.01941 [math.NA]. INTRO: https://research/chen.pw/intros/randomized_quadrature.html

Papers (published)

- [17] Tyler Chen, Feyza Duman Keles, Diana Halikias, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, and David Persson. “Near-optimal hierarchical matrix approximation from matrix-vector products”. In: *Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA)*. 2025. arXiv: 2407.04686 [cs.DS].
- [16] Noah Amsel, Tyler Chen, Anne Greenbaum, Cameron Musco, and Christopher Musco. “Near-Optimal Approximation of Matrix Functions by the Lanczos Method”. In: *Proceedings of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing*. 2024. arXiv: 2303.03358 [math.NA]. (spotlight)
- [15] Tyler Chen, Robert Chen, Kevin Li, Skai Nzeuton, Yilu Pan, and Yixin Wang. “Faster randomized partial trace estimation”. In: *SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing* (2023). To appear. arXiv: 2310.12364 [math.NA].
- [14] Tyler Chen and Gérard Meurant. “Near-optimal convergence of the full orthogonalization method”. In: *ETNA - Electronic Transactions on Numerical Analysis* 60 (2024), pp. 421–427. arXiv: 2403.07259 [math.NA].
- [13] Raghu Bollapragada, Tyler Chen, and Rachel Ward. “On the fast convergence of minibatch heavy ball momentum”. In: *IMA Journal of Numerical Analysis* (Aug. 2024). arXiv: 2206.07553 [cs.LG].
- [12] Tyler Chen, Anne Greenbaum, and Thomas Trogdon. “GMRES, pseudospectra, and Crouzeix’s conjecture for shifted and scaled Ginibre matrices”. In: *Mathematics of Computation* (Mar. 2024). arXiv: 2303.02042 [math.NA].
- [11] Qichen Xu and Tyler Chen. “A posteriori error bounds for the block-Lanczos method for matrix function approximation”. In: *Numerical Algorithms* (Apr. 2024). arXiv: 2211.15643 [math.NA].
- [10] Tyler Chen and Thomas Trogdon. “Stability of the Lanczos algorithm on matrices with regular spectral distributions”. In: *Linear Algebra and its Applications* 682 (Feb. 2024), pp. 191–237. arXiv: 2302.14842 [math.NA].
- [9] Tyler Chen. “A spectrum adaptive kernel polynomial method”. In: *The Journal of Chemical Physics* 159.11 (Sept. 2023), p. 114101. arXiv: 2308.15683 [physics.comp-ph]. INTRO: https://research/chen.pw/intros/spectrum_adaptive_kpm.html
 - This approach is implemented in the `spectral_density` package
- [8] Tyler Chen and Eric Hallman. “Krylov-Aware Stochastic Trace Estimation”. In: *SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications* 44.3 (Aug. 2023), pp. 1218–1244. arXiv: 2205.01736 [math.NA].
- [7] Tyler Chen, Anne Greenbaum, Cameron Musco, and Christopher Musco. “Low-Memory Krylov Subspace Methods for Optimal Rational Matrix Function Approximation”. In: *SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications* 44.2 (May 2023), pp. 670–692. arXiv: 2202.11251 [math.NA].

- [6] Tyler Chen and Yu-Chen Cheng. “Numerical computation of the equilibrium-reduced density matrix for strongly coupled open quantum systems”. In: *The Journal of Chemical Physics* 157.6 (Aug. 2022), p. 064106. arXiv: 2204.08147 [quant-ph]. INTRO: https://research/chen.pw/intros/mean_force.html
- [5] Tyler Chen, Anne Greenbaum, Cameron Musco, and Christopher Musco. “Error Bounds for Lanczos-Based Matrix Function Approximation”. In: *SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications* 43.2 (May 2022), pp. 787–811. arXiv: 2106.09806 [math.NA]. INTRO: https://research/chen.pw/intros/lanczos_function_CIF.html
- [4] Tyler Chen, Thomas Trogon, and Shashanka Ubaru. “Analysis of stochastic Lanczos quadrature for spectrum approximation”. In: *Proceedings of the 38th International Conference on Machine Learning*. Vol. 139. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research. PMLR, July 2021, pp. 1728–1739. arXiv: 2105.06595 [cs.DS]. (long presentation)
- [3] Anne Greenbaum, Hexuan Liu, and Tyler Chen. “On the Convergence Rate of Variants of the Conjugate Gradient Algorithm in Finite Precision Arithmetic”. In: *SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing* (July 2021), S496–S515. arXiv: 1905.05874 [cs.NA].
- [2] Tyler Chen. “Non-asymptotic moment bounds for random variables rounded to non-uniformly spaced sets”. In: *Stat* (June 2021), e395. arXiv: 2007.11041 [math.ST].
- [1] Tyler Chen and Erin C. Carson. “Predict-and-recompute conjugate gradient variants”. In: *SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing* 42.5 (Jan. 2020), A3084–A3108. arXiv: 1905.01549 [cs.NA].
 - abridged version was Student Paper Competition winner at 16th Copper Mountain Conference on Iterative Methods

Student Mentoring

Active

Robert Chen (NYU)	2023 - present
Caroline Huber (NYU)	2024 - present
Ethan Lin (NYU)	2024 - present
Devin Tang (NYU)	2024 - present
Hajar Zaid (Graduate Center CUNY)	2024 - present

Previous

Ginebra Ferreira (NYU)	summer 2024
Kevin Li (NYU)	2022 - 2024
Yixin Wang (NYU)	2023 - 2024
Yue Geng (NYU)	summer/fall 2023
Ismael Jimenez (NYU)	summer 2023
Skai Nzeuton (Stuyvesant High School)	2022 - 2023
Yilu Pan (NYU Shanghai)	2022 - 2023
Qichen Xu (UW)	2021 - 2023

Linda Zhao (NYU)..... summer/fall 2023
 Aeron Langford (UW)..... autumn 2019

Teaching

Instructor

Applied Statistics (NYU MATH-UY 4114)..... spring 2025
 Numerical Analysis (NYU MATH-UA 252) fall 2024
 Linear Algebra I (NYU MATH-GA 2110)..... spring 2024
 Numerical Analysis (NYU MATH-UA 252) fall 2023
 Numerical Analysis (NYU MATH-UA 252) spring 2023
 Mathematical Statistics (NYU MATH-UA 234)..... fall 2022
 Applied Linear Algebra and Numerical Analysis (UW AMATH 352)..... spring 2021
 Interdisciplinary Writing/Natural Science (UW ENGL 199)..... winter 2021
 Interdisciplinary Writing/Natural Science (UW ENGL 199)..... autumn 2020

TA or Grader

Probability and Statistics for Computational Finance, TA (UW CFRM 410)..... winter 2019
 Calculus with Analytic Geometry I, TA (UW MATH 124) autumn 2018
 Calculus with Analytic Geometry II, TA (UW MATH 12)..... winter 2018
 Calculus with Analytic Geometry II, TA (UW MATH 125) autumn 2017
 Electronics, TA (Tufts PHY 41)..... spring 2017
 Electronics, TA (Tufts PHY 41)..... spring 2016
 Discrete Mathematics, Grader (Tufts MATH 61)..... spring 2016
 Calculus III, Grader (Tufts MATH 42) fall 2015
 Differential Equations, Grader (Tufts MATH 51) spring 2015
 Calculus III, Grader (Tufts MATH 42) fall 2014

Talks and Posters

- [22] “Near-optimal hierarchical matrix approximation from matrix-vector products”. Presentation at Precond 2024. Atlanta, GA, June 2024.
- [21] “Is the Lanczos-Method for Matrix Functions Nearly Optimal?” Presentation at SIAM Linear Algebra 2024. Paris, France, May 2024.
- [20] “Krylov Subspace Methods and Matrix Functions: new directions in design, analysis, and applications”. Presentation at Georgia Tech. Atlanta, GA, Jan. 2024.
- [19] “Randomized Numerical Linear Algebra and Iterative Methods”. Presentation at NYU Math Modeling workshop. New York, NY, Nov. 2023.
- [18] “An introduction to (Randomized) Numerical Linear Algebra”. Presentation at NYU Math Society meeting. New York, NY, Nov. 2023.

- [17] “Peering into the black box: Krylov-aware stochastic trace estimation”. Presentation at SIAM New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania Annual Meeting. Newark, NJ, Oct. 2023.
- [16] “Lanczos-based typicality methods for Quantum Thermodynamics”. Presentation at Universität Bielefeld. Virtual, Oct. 2023.
- [15] “Krylov subspace methods for matrix function trace approximation”. Presentation at NYU Shanghai. Shanghai, China, Aug. 2023.
- [14] “Krylov-aware low-rank approximation”. Presentation at International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics. Tokyo, Japan, Aug. 2023.
- [13] “Randomized trace estimation”. Presentation at Sampling Theory and Applications Conference. New Haven, CT, July 2023.
- [12] “Randomized matrix-free quadrature”. Presentation at Foundations of Computational Mathematics. Paris, France, June 2023.
- [11] “Stochastic trace estimation and quantum typicality: a case study in interdisciplinary research”. Presentation at Perspectives on Matrix Computations: Theoretical Computer Science Meets Numerical Analysis. Banff, AB, Mar. 2023.
- [10] “Randomized matrix-free quadrature”. Presentation at Courant Numerical Analysis and Scientific Computing Seminar. New York, NYU, Sept. 2022.
- [9] “GMRES, pseudospectra, and Crouzeix’s conjecture for shifted and scaled Ginibre matrices”. Presentation at Conference on Random Matrix Theory and Numerical Linear Algebra. Seattle, WA, June 2022.
- [8] “Simple Algorithms for Spectral Sum and Spectrum Approximation”. Poster at Workshop on Algorithms for Large Data (Online). Virtual, Aug. 2021.
- [7] “Analysis of stochastic Lanczos quadrature for spectrum approximation”. Oral at International Conference on Machine Learning. Virtual, July 2021.
- [6] “Concentration in the Lanczos Algorithm”. Presentation at SIAM Linear Algebra 21. Virtual, May 2021.
- [5] “Analysis of stochastic Lanczos quadrature for spectrum approximation”. Presentation at Baidu Research. Seattle, WA, Mar. 2021.
- [4] “Analyzing the Effects of Local Roundoff Error on Predict-and-Recompute Conjugate Gradient Variants”. Poster at Householder Symposium (Cancelled). Selva di Fasano, Italy, June 2020.
- [3] “Predict-and-recompute conjugate gradient variants”. Presentation at Copper Mountain Student Paper Award Session (Cancelled). Copper Mountain, CO, Mar. 2020.
- [2] “Predict-and-recompute conjugate gradient variants”. Presentation at SIAM Parallel Processing. Seattle, WA, Feb. 2020.
- [1] “Symmetric Preconditioner Refinement Using Low Rank Approximations”. Presentation at Baidu Research. Seattle, WA, Feb. 2019.

Service and Outreach

Proud to Be First Faculty Connect 2023-2024
 Serve as mentor for Proud to Be First Faculty Connect, which pairs second-year, first-generation

students with faculty

Math Modeling Workshop nov. 2023

Provide tutorial on randomized linear algebra for the math modeling club

Math Society chalkboard talk nov. 2023

Guest lecture for NYU Math Society on randomized linear algebra

NYU SIAM podcast oct. 2023

Discuss my path as a mathematician, and advice for students, etc.

NYU SIAM Grad School Info Session oct. 2022

Panelist for Q/A session for students interested in grad school

Minisymposium Organizer may 2021

Random matrices and numerical linear algebra (at SIAM Linear Algebra 21, co-organized with Thomas Trogdon) [\[program\]](#)

Graduate Student Representative 2019 - 2020

Represent interests of graduate students to the department

Minisymposium Organizer feb. 2020

High performance Krylov subspace methods: Theory, Implementation, and Application (at SIAM Parallel Processing 20) [\[program\]](#)

Diversity Committee Departmental Climate Orientation oct. 2019

Panelist for event focused on building an inclusive department culture

Numerical Analysis Research Club 2019 - 2020

Organize and plan weekly meetings for NARC

SIAM UW Mental Health Conversation and Resources oct. 2018

Organize and facilitate a discussion about mental health in grad school

Software

Research code (<https://github.com/tchen-research>)

Repositories with code to generate figures and experiments from my papers.

Spectral Density (<https://pypi.org/project/spectral-density/>)

Develop `spectral_density` package to efficiently produce spectrum adaptive KPM approximations.

PETSc (<https://www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc/>)

Contribute `PIPEPRCG`. This method can be used by with the flag `-ksp_type pipeprcg`.

mpmath (<https://github.com/mpmath>)

Update matrix multiplication driver to significantly improve performance for sparse matrices.

Awards & Honors

Boeing Research Award (UW Department of Applied Mathematics)	2020
Student Paper Competition Winner (Copper Mountain Conference on Iterative Methods).....	2020
Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF)	2019
Top Scholars Fellowship (UW).....	2017
The Audrey Butvay Gruss Science Award (Tufts)	2017
Phi Beta Kappa (Tufts).....	2017
Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honors Society (Tufts).....	2016
The Howard Sample Prize Scholarship in Physics (Tufts).....	2015