

# Distributed Matrix Exponentiation in R

Drew Schmidt<sup>1,\*</sup>, Nick Matzke<sup>2</sup>

1. National Institute for Computational Sciences, University of Tennessee

2. National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis, University of Tennessee

\*Contact author: [schmidt@math.utk.edu](mailto:schmidt@math.utk.edu)

**Keywords:** HPC, linear algebra, ScaLAPACK, MPI, parallel programming

Matrix exponentiation is an important matrix function which is useful in a wide variety of domains and applications. Formally, matrix exponentiation is an easily understood power series; but efficient, numerically stable algorithms for computing this function have been debated for over 30 years. There are several serial implementations of the matrix exponential available to *R*, including those found in the **Matrix** and **rexpokit** packages. We introduce a relatively new algorithm for computing the matrix exponential due to Al-Mohy and Higham, implemented in the **pbdDMAT** package. Our implementation includes both serial and distributed versions of this algorithm, the latter of which fully integrates with the pbdR framework for high performance computing with *R*. Finally, we will conclude by demonstrating the scalability of the implementation with benchmarks on University of Tennessee supercomputing resources.

## References

- [1] Al-Mohy, A. H. and N. J. Higham (2009). A New Scaling and Squaring Algorithm for the Matrix Exponential.
- [2] Blackford, L. S., J. Choi, A. Cleary, E. D’Azevedo, J. Demmel, I. Dhillon, J. Dongarra, S. Hammarling, G. Henry, A. Petitet, K. Stanley, D. Walker, and R. C. Whaley (1997). *ScaLAPACK Users’ Guide*. Philadelphia, PA: Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.
- [3] Matzke, N. J., R. B. Sidje, and D. Schmidt. *rexpokit: R wrappers for EXPOKIT; other matrix functions*. R package.
- [4] Moler, C. and C. Van Loan (2003). Nineteen Dubious Ways to Compute the Exponential of a Matrix, Twenty-Five Years Later. *SIAM Review* 45(1), 3–49.
- [5] Ostrouchov, G., W.-C. Chen, D. Schmidt, and P. Patel. Programming with Big Data in R,.
- [6] Schmidt, D., W.-C. Chen, G. Ostrouchov, and P. Patel (2012). pbdDMAT: Distributed Matrix Algebra Computation. R Package, URL <http://cran.r-project.org/package=pbdDMAT>.
- [7] Sidje, R. B. (1998, March). Expokit: A Software Package for Computing Matrix Exponentials. *ACM Trans. Math. Softw.* 24(1), 130–156.