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# Iterative methods for solving large scale matrix equation problems

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## Schedule of the course module

- Iterative methods for large scale linear systems  
(Today, Dec 15, 15-18)
- Stopping criteria and other effective methods + Lab (?)  
(Tomorrow, Thu, Dec 16, 11-13)
- Preconditioning  
(Tomorrow, Thu, Dec 16, 15-18)
- Computational experience  
(Fri, Dec 17, 9-11)

Lectures: see <https://www.dm.unibo.it/~simoncin/corso.html>

## Iterative methods for large scale linear systems

### Outline

- Projection and polynomial -type methods
- **Coefficient matrix role in tailoring the solution strategy**
  - Real symmetric or complex Hermitian
  - Complex symmetric and  $H$ -symmetric
  - Complex/Real non-Hermitian
- Stopping criteria and inexactness

## The Problem

$$Ax = b \quad \text{or} \quad AX = B, \quad B = [b_1, \dots, b_s]$$

$A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $B$  full column rank,  $s \ll n$

- $A$  large and sparse
- $A$  large and structured: blocks, banded, ...
- $A$  functional:  $A = CS^{-1}D$ , preconditioned, integral, ...
- ....

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The solution approach. Generate sequence of approximate solutions:

$$\{x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots\}, \quad x_k \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} x$$

## Occurrence of the problem

Very broad range of applications in Engineering and Scientific Computing

Original application context:

- Discretization of 2D and 3D PDEs  
(linear steady state, nonlinear, evolutive, etc.)
- Eigenvalue problems
- Approximation of matrix functions
- Workhorses of more advanced techniques
- ...

## Relevant Bibliographic Pointers

YOUSEF SAAD

*Iterative methods for sparse linear systems*

SIAM, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, 2003, 2nd edition.

VALERIA SIMONCINI AND DANIEL B. SZYLD

*Recent developments in Krylov Subspace Methods for linear systems*

Numerical Linear Algebra with Appl., v. 14, n.1 (2007), pp.1-59.

“Projection” methods (or, reduction methods)

- Approximation vector space  $K_m$ . At each iteration  $m$

$$\{x_m\} \text{ such that } x_m \in K_m$$

$K_m$ : dimension<sup>a</sup>  $m$ , with the “expansion” property:

$$K_m \subseteq K_{m+1}$$

- Computation of iterate. Galerkin condition:

$$\text{residual } r_m := b - Ax_m \perp K_m$$

$\Rightarrow$  This condition uniquely defines  $x_m \in K_m$

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<sup>a</sup>At most



## Optimality property of Galerkin projection method

$A$  symmetric and positive definite. Let  $x^*$  be the true solution.

**Galerkin property:** Impose that

$$\text{residual } r_m := b - Ax_m \perp K_m$$

is equivalent to: Find

$$x_m \text{ solution to } \min_{x \in K_m} \|x^* - x\|_A$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_A$  is the **energy norm**, or  $A$ -norm, namely  $\|v\|_A^2 := v^T Av$

## Convergence and spectral properties

- In exact arithmetic (i.e., in theory), finite termination property
- A-priori bound for energy norm of the error:

If  $K_m = \text{span}\{b, Ab, \dots, A^{m-1}b\}$ , then

$$\|x^* - x_m\|_A \leq 2 \left( \frac{\sqrt{\kappa} - 1}{\sqrt{\kappa} + 1} \right)^m \|x^* - x_0\|_A$$

where  $\kappa = \frac{\lambda_{\max}(A)}{\lambda_{\min}(A)}$  is the condition number of  $A$

(Conjugate Gradients, Hestenes & Stiefel, '52)

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### Consequences:

- Convergence: The closer  $\kappa$  to 1 the faster
- Convergence depends on spectral properties, not directly on problem size!

## A well established algorithm

Classical Conjugate Gradient method:

Given  $x_0$ . Set  $r_0 = b - Ax_0$ ,  $p_0 = r_0$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots$

$$\alpha_i = \frac{r_i^* r_i}{p_i^* A p_i}$$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + p_i \alpha_i$$

$$r_{i+1} = r_i - A p_i \alpha_i$$

$$\beta_{i+1} = \frac{r_{i+1}^* A p_i}{p_i^* A p_i}$$

$$p_{i+1} = r_{i+1} + p_i \beta_{i+1}$$

end

\* At each iteration: 1 Mxv, 3 -axpys, 2 -dots

\* Short-term recurrence

\* Implicit space generation, no explicit computation of the orthonormal basis!

## The Conjugate Gradient method. Geometric properties

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + p_i \alpha_i$$

$$r_{i+1} = r_i - A p_i \alpha_i$$

$$p_{i+1} = r_i + p_i \beta_{i+1}$$

$$K_k = \text{span}\{r_0, Ar_0, \dots, A^{k-1}r_0\}$$

For simplicity, assume  $x_0 = 0$ .

★ Using  $p_0 = r_0 = b$ , we have

$$r_0 = b, \quad r_1 \in \text{span}\{r_0, Ar_0\}, \quad r_2 \in \text{span}\{r_0, Ar_0, A^2r_0\}, \dots,$$

$$\Rightarrow r_k \in K_{k+1}(A, r_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_{k+1} \in K_{k+1}(A, r_0), \quad x_{k+1} = p_0 \alpha_0 + p_1 \alpha_1 + \dots + p_k \alpha_k$$

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★ It holds

$$r_i^T r_j = 0, \quad p_i^T A p_j = 0, \quad \text{for all } i \neq j$$

## The Block Conjugate Gradient

$$AX = B, \quad B = [b_1, b_2, \dots, b_s]$$

$$R_0 = B - AX_0, \quad P_0 = R_0 \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times s}$$

for  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

$$\alpha_k = (P_k^* A P_k)^{-1} (R_k^* R_k) \in \mathbb{C}^{s \times s}$$

$$X_{k+1} = X_k + P_k \alpha_k$$

$$R_{k+1} = R_k - A P_k \alpha_k$$

$$\beta_{k+1} = (P_k^* A P_k)^{-1} (R_{k+1}^* A P_k) \in \mathbb{C}^{s \times s}$$

$$P_{k+1} = R_{k+1} + P_k \beta_{k+1}$$

end

## A more general picture. Nonsymmetric problems

- $A$  normal,  $AA^* = A^*A$
- $A$  (highly) non-normal,  $\|AA^* - A^*A\| \gg 0$
- $A$  “Hermitian” in disguise:



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e.g.  $M, C$  Hermitian

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} M & B \\ -B^* & C \end{bmatrix}, \quad H = \begin{bmatrix} I & \\ & -I \end{bmatrix},$$

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- ★  $Ax = b \Leftrightarrow A^*Ax = A^*b$  (not recommended in general...)

## Outline

- What is the added difficulty with  $A$  non-Hermitian ?
- How to handle “Symmetry in disguise”
- Non-normal (non-Hermitian) case
  - ★ Long-term recurrences and their problems
  - ★ Coping with them  $\Rightarrow$  Restarted, truncated, flexible
  - ★ Making it without  $\Rightarrow$  short-term recurrences
- Tricks for all trades

What goes “wrong” with  $A$  non-Hermitian. I

$\{x_k\}$ , with  $x_k \in x_0 + K_k(A, r_0) = \text{span}\{r_0, Ar_0, \dots, A^{k-1}r_0\}$

Let  $V_k = [v_1, \dots, v_k]$  be a (orthogonal) basis of  $K_k(A, r_0)$ . Then

$$x_k = x_0 + V_k y_k, \quad y_k \in \mathbb{C}^k$$

A condition is required to specify  $y_k$ .

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A condition is required to specify  $y_k$ . For instance:

$$r_k := b - Ax_k = r_0 - AV_k y_k \perp K_k(A, r_0) \quad V_k^* r_k = 0$$

(Galerkin condition, again!) so that

$$0 = V_k^* r_k = V_k^* r_0 - V_k^* AV_k y_k \Leftrightarrow y_k \text{ s.t. } (V_k^* AV_k) y_k = V_k^* r_0$$

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Hence

$$x_k = x_0 + V_k (V_k^* AV_k)^{-1} V_k^* r_0 \quad \text{with} \quad V_k^* r_0 = e_1 \|r_0\|$$

And:  $V_k^* AV_k$  upper Hessenberg (Gram-Schmidt procedure to build  $V_k$ )



## What goes “wrong” with $A$ non-Hermitian. II

If  $A$  were Hpd  $\Rightarrow V_k^* A V_k$  also Hpd  $\Rightarrow$  tridiagonal

$$V_k^* A V_k = L_k L_k^* \quad L_k \text{ bidiagonal}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_k &= x_0 + V_k L_k^{-*} L_k^{-1} e_1 \|r_0\| \\ &= x_0 + V_{k-1} L_{k-1}^{-*} L_{k-1}^{-1} e_1 \|r_0\| + p_k \alpha_k \\ &= x_{k-1} + p_k \alpha_k \end{aligned}$$

with  $p_k \in \text{span}\{v_{k-1}, v_k\}$

(development underlying Conjugate Gradients)

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with  $p_k \in \text{span}\{v_{k-1}, v_k\}$

(development underlying Conjugate Gradient)

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$A$  non-Hermitian  $\Rightarrow V_k^* A V_k$  only upper Hessenberg

$$p_k \in \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$$

## What goes “wrong” with $A$ non-Hermitian. III

$p_k \in \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ , with  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  orthogonal basis

### Alternatives

- Give up orthogonal basis,  $V_k^* V_k = I_k$
- Give up optimality condition, e.g.  $r_k \perp K_k(A, r_0)$
- Resume symmetry

## Symmetry in disguise. Complex symmetric shifted systems. 1.

Case 1:  $A = M + \sigma I, \quad M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, \sigma \in \mathbb{C}$

E.g.: Helmholtz equation (wave problems such as vibrating strings and membranes)

Trick: replace  $*$  (conj. transp.) with  $\top$  (transp.)

$$A = A^\top \quad \text{complex symmetric}$$

Apply CG with  $\top$

Given  $x_0$ . Set  $r_0 = b - Ax_0, p_0 = r_0$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots$

$$\alpha_i = \frac{r_i^\top r_i}{p_i^\top A p_i}$$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + p_i \alpha_i$$

$$r_{i+1} = r_i - A p_i \alpha_i$$

$$\beta_{i+1} = \frac{r_{i+1}^\top A p_i}{p_i^\top A p_i}$$

$$p_{i+1} = r_{i+1} + p_i \beta_{i+1}$$

end

## Symmetry in disguise. Complex symmetric shifted systems. 2.

$A = M + \sigma I$ : Apply CG with  $\top$

### Properties:

- $V_k$  real:  $K_k(A, r_0) = K_k(A + \sigma I, r_0)$

- $\top$  does not define an inner product!

- $V_k^\top AV_k = V_k^\top MV_k + \sigma I$

If  $\Im(\sigma) \neq 0$  then  $V_k^\top AV_k$  is nonsingular  $\Rightarrow$  No breakdown

The same code applies in case of any  $A$  complex symmetric ( $A = A^\top$ )

## *H*-symmetry

$A$  is *H*-Hermitian if there exists  $H \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  Hermitian, nonsingular s.t.

$$HA = A^* H$$

(*H*-symmetric if  $HA = A^\top H$  with  $H$  is symmetric)

## $H$ -symmetry

$A$  is  $H$ -Hermitian if there exists  $H \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  Hermitian, nonsingular s.t.

$$HA = A^* H$$

( $H$ -symmetric if  $HA = A^\top H$  with  $H$  is symmetric)

If  $H$  is Hpd (and  $HA$  is also Hpd), use CG in the  $H$ -inner product:

Given  $x_0$ . Set  $r_0 = b - Ax_0$ ,  $p_0 = r_0$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots$

$$\alpha_i = \frac{r_i^* H r_i}{p_i^* H A p_i}$$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + p_i \alpha_i$$

$$r_{i+1} = r_i - A p_i \alpha_i$$

$$\beta_{i+1} = \frac{r_{i+1}^* H A p_i}{p_i^* H A p_i}$$

$$p_{i+1} = r_{i+1} + p_i \beta_{i+1}$$

end

( $H$  not Hpd  $\Rightarrow$  see later)

## First Summary

Symmetry in disguise:

- Shifted matrices,  $A = M + \sigma I$ ,  $M$  real symmetric
- Complex symmetric matrices
- $H$ -symmetric or  $H$ -Hermitian matrices



## Long-term recurrences

$$K_k(A, r_0) = \text{span}\{r_0, Ar_0, \dots, A^{k-1}r_0\}, \quad V_k \text{ orth. basis}$$

1. Arnoldi process :  $v_{k+1} \leftarrow Av_k - \sum_{j=1}^k v_j h_{j,k}$ , that is

$$AV_k = V_k H_k + h_{k+1,k} v_{k+1} e_k^T = V_{k+1} \underline{H}_k \quad (H_k = V_k^* AV_k)$$

2.  $x_k = x_0 + V_k y_k$

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2.  $x_k = x_0 + V_k y_k$

- GMRES. Particular Petrov-Galerkin condition:

$$r_k \perp AK_k \Rightarrow y_k \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \min_y \|r_0 - AV_k y\|$$

- FOM. Galerkin condition: ( $H_k$  nonsingular)

$$r_k \perp K_k \Rightarrow y_k \quad \text{s.t.} \quad H_k y = e_1 \|r_0\|$$

## GMRES

$$AV_k = V_{k+1}\underline{H}_k, \quad r_0 = V_{k+1}e_1\beta_0$$

Crucial property:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_y \|r_0 - AV_k y\| &= \min_y \|V_{k+1}(e_1\beta_0 - \underline{H}_k y)\| \\ &= \min_y \|e_1\beta_0 - \underline{H}_k y\| \end{aligned}$$

Least squares problem expands at each iteration.

QR decomposition of  $\underline{H}_k$  only updated, not recomputed from scratch.

## Block GMRES

$$R_0 = B - AX_0, \quad K_k(A, R_0) = \text{span}\{R_0, AR_0, \dots, A^{k-1}R_0\},$$

$$\mathcal{U}_k \text{ orth. basis, } \mathcal{U}_k = [U_1, U_2, \dots, U_k] \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times ks}$$

Block Arnoldi process ( $s$  MxV + Gram-Schmidt)

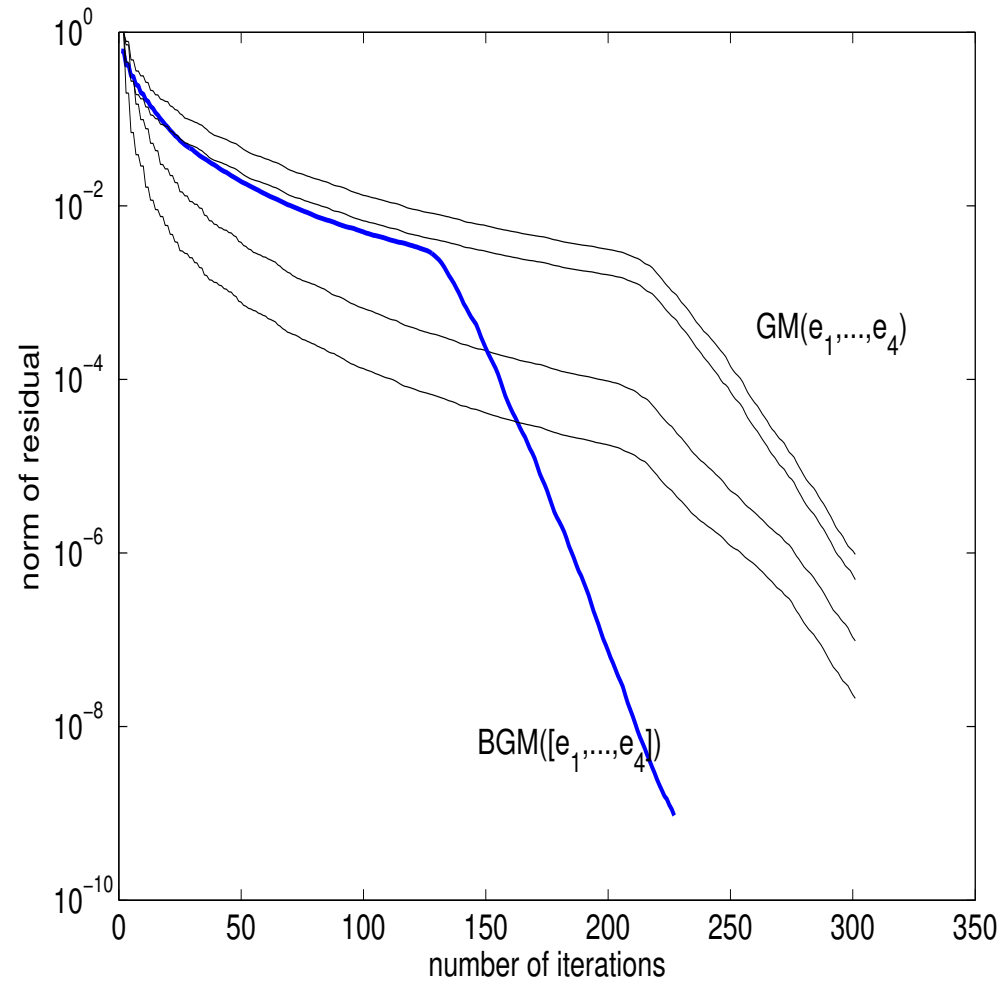
$$\Rightarrow A\mathcal{U}_k = \mathcal{U}_k \mathcal{H}_k + U_{k+1} \chi_{k+1,k} E_k^* = \mathcal{U}_{k+1} \underline{\mathcal{H}}_k \quad (\mathcal{H}_k = \mathcal{U}_k^* A \mathcal{U}_k)$$

$$\min_Y \|R_0 - A\mathcal{U}_k Y\| = \min_Y \|E_1 \boldsymbol{\rho} - \underline{\mathcal{H}}_k Y\| \quad R_0 = U_1 \boldsymbol{\rho}$$

$$\underline{\mathcal{H}}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \square & \square & \dots & \square \\ \square & \square & \dots & \square \\ O & \square & \dots & \square \\ O & O & \ddots & \square \\ O & O & O & \square \end{bmatrix}$$

## Block GMRES

$A \in \mathbb{R}^{6400 \times 6400}$ : FD discretiz. of  $\mathcal{L}(u) = -\Delta u + \frac{1000}{x+y} u_x$  in  $[-1, 1]^2$



## Coping with long-term recurrences

Restarted, Truncated, etc variants.

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Restarted, Truncated, etc variants.

**Restarted:** Choose  $m_{\max}$ .

Set  $x = x_0$ ,  $r_0 = b - Ax_0$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$

$z \leftarrow \text{GMRES}(A, r_0, m_{\max})$  (or other method)

$x \leftarrow x + z$ ,  $r_0 = b - Ax$

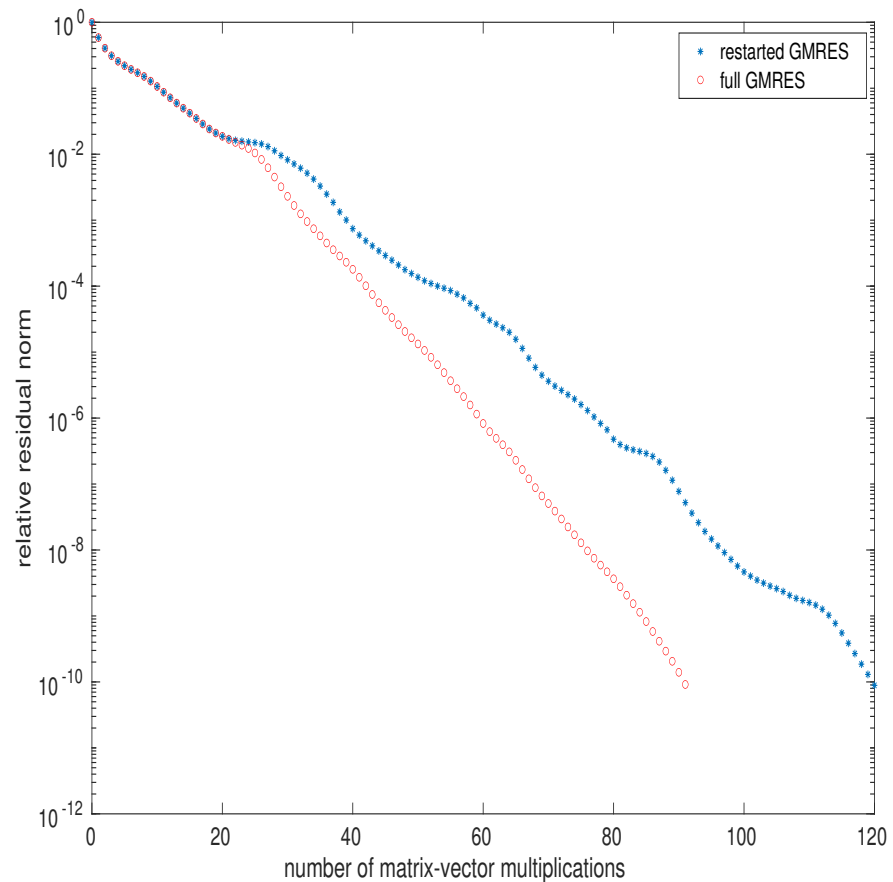
Check Convergence

## Restarted GMRES, an example

$$\mathcal{L}(u) = -u_{xx} - u_{yy} - u_{zz} + 100xu_x, \quad \Omega = (0, 1)^3$$

$A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n = 1,000$ . GMRES(20) ( $m = 20$ )

restart	res. norm
1	0.0186592
2	0.000743465
3	3.63848e-05
4	4.77843e-07
5	4.65117e-09
8	.87182e-11





## Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Shorter dependencies
- Lower and fixed memory requirements

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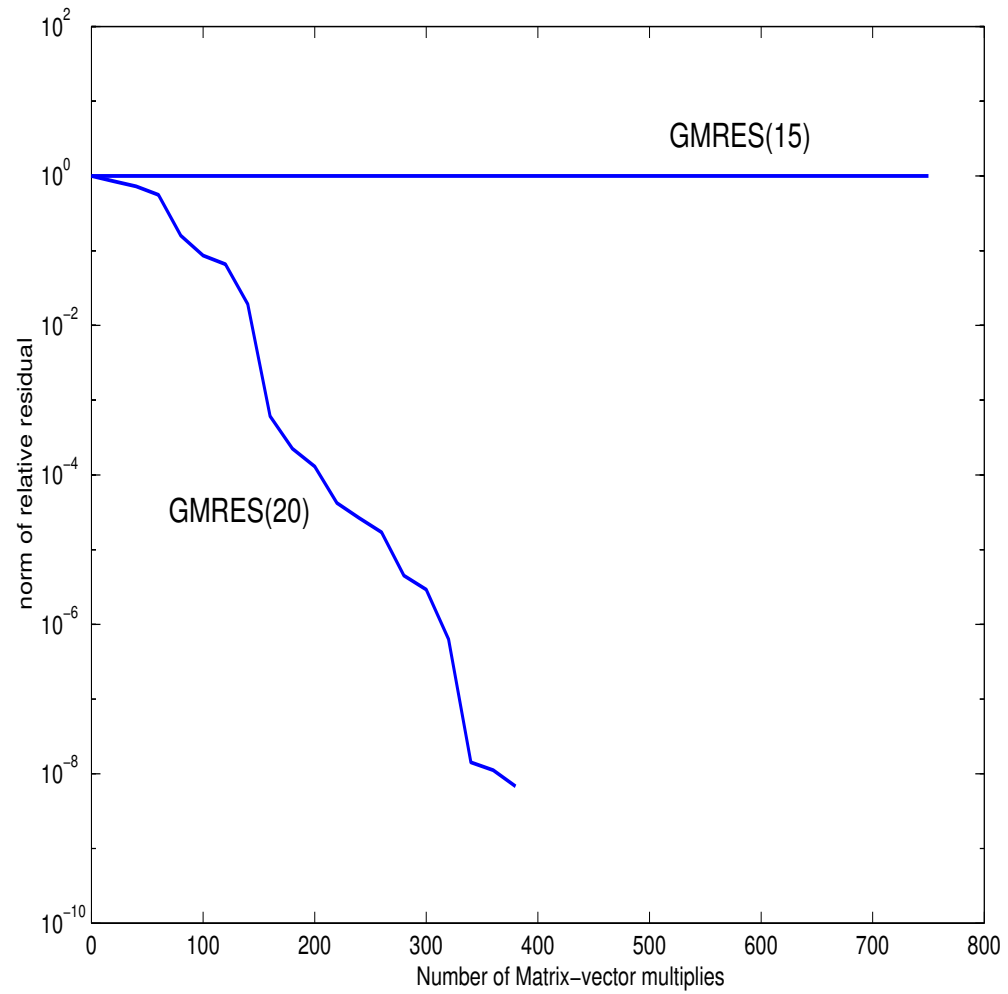
Cons:

- All optimality properties are lost

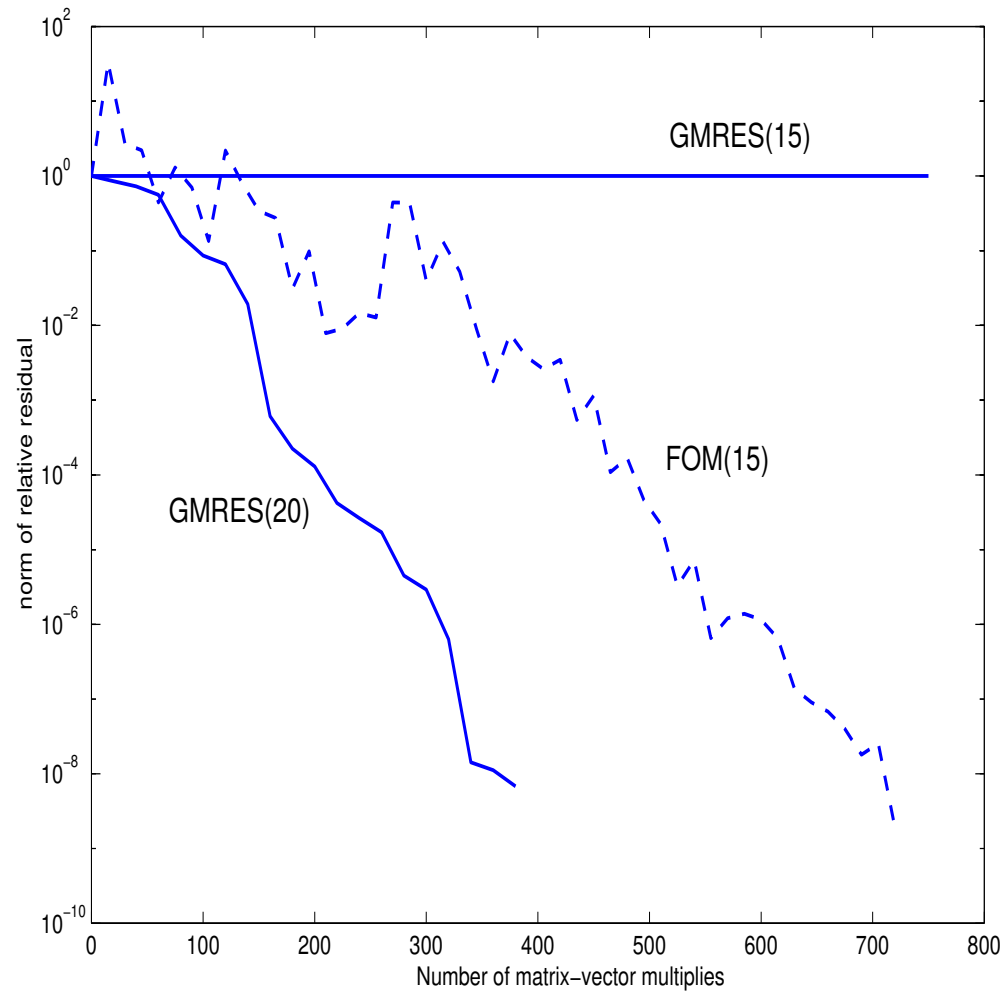
$$K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(0)}) + K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(1)}) + \dots + K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(k)}) + \dots$$

- Additional parameter. What value for  $m_{\max}$ ??

## A problem with the restarting parameter? ...



A problem with the restarting parameter? ... or with the method?



## Explanation

$$K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(0)}) + K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(1)}) + \dots K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(k)}) + \dots$$

GMRES:  $r_0^{(k)} \in \text{range}(V_{m_{\max}+1}^{(k-1)})$ . Almost stagnation:  $\rightarrow r_0^{(k)} \propto v_1^{(k-1)}$

## Explanation

$$K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(0)}) + K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(1)}) + \dots K_{m_{\max}}(A, r_0^{(k)}) + \dots$$

GMRES:  $r_0^{(k)} \in \text{range}(V_{m_{\max}+1}^{(k-1)})$ . Almost stagnation:  $\rightarrow r_0^{(k)} \propto v_1^{(k-1)}$

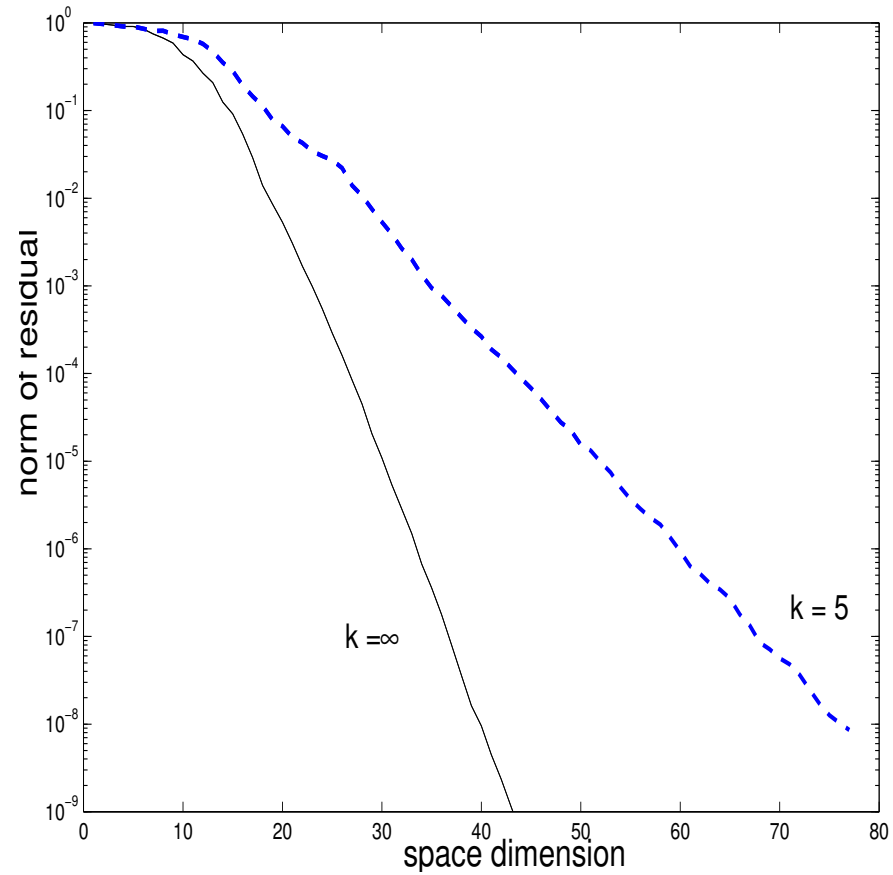
FOM:  $r_0^{(k)} \propto v_{m_{\max}+1}^{(k-1)}$  Subspace keeps growing

## Truncating

Only local orthogonalization ( $k$ -term recurrence,  $H_m$  banded)

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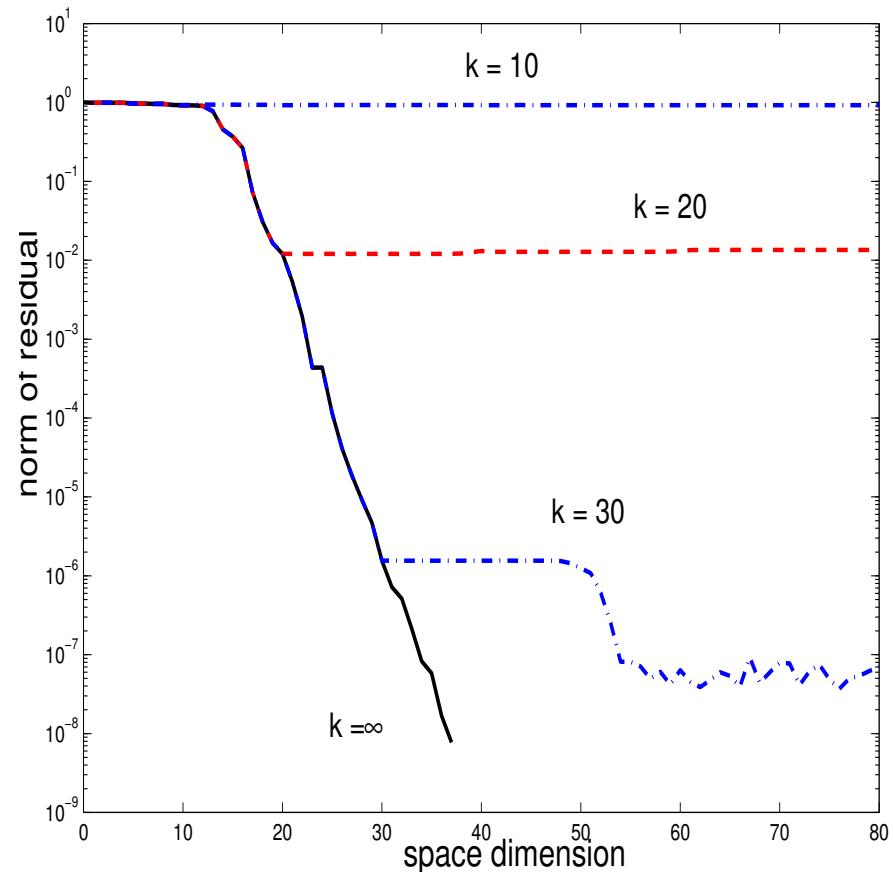


a reasonable strategy



# Truncating

...but not always good



Making it without long-term recurrences: short-term recurrences for  $A$   
non-Hermitian

- Non-Hermitian Lanczos
- BiCGStab( $\ell$ ):  $\ell$  iterations of GMRES at every step
- IDR( $s$ ):  $r_k \in \mathcal{G}_k$ , where  $\mathcal{G}_{k+1} \subset \mathcal{G}_k$