



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR DYNAMICS OF COMPLEX  
TECHNICAL SYSTEMS  
MAGDEBURG



COMPUTATIONAL METHODS IN  
SYSTEMS AND CONTROL THEORY

# Mixed-Precision Paterson–Stockmeyer Method for Evaluating Polynomials of Matrices

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The goal is to evaluate the **matrix polynomial**

$$p_m(X) = \sum_{i=0}^m b_i X^i = b_0 I + b_1 X + b_2 X^2 + \cdots + b_m X^m.$$

It often results from **truncated series expansions** (with  $\|b_m X^m\| \leq \epsilon \ll 1$ ) in **computation of matrix functions** and **solution of matrix equations**:

- series expansion (e.g., Taylor series)
- rational functions  $q(X)^{-1}p(X)$
- rational matrix equations  $r(X) = A$

So, practically,

- $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
- $b_i \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $|b_i|$  can decay quickly, e.g., the Taylor series of  $\exp$ ,  $\cos$
- $X \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  with  $\|X\|$  usually being small.



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For  $s \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , we can rewrite  $p_m(X)$  as a polynomial in  $X^s$  with matrix coefficients  $B_i$  (Paterson and Stockmeyer, 1973)

$$p_m(X) = \sum_{i=0}^r B_i \cdot (X^s)^i, \quad r = \lfloor m/s \rfloor,$$

where

$$B_i = \begin{cases} \sum_{j=0}^{s-1} b_{si+j} X^j, & i = 0, \dots, r-1, \\ \sum_{j=0}^{m-sr} b_{sr+j} X^j, & i = r. \end{cases}$$

- For example, with  $m = 6$  and  $s = 3$ ,

$$p_6(X) = \underbrace{b_6 I}_{B_2} (X^3)^2 + \underbrace{(b_5 X^2 + b_4 X + b_3 I)}_{B_1} X^3 + \underbrace{(b_2 X^2 + b_1 X + b_0 I)}_{B_0}$$



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$$p_m(X) = \left( ((B_r X^s + B_{r-1})X^s + B_{r-2})X^s + \cdots + B_1 \right) X^s + B_0$$

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**Input** :  $X \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $b_0, b_1, \dots, b_m \in \mathbb{C}$

**Output:**  $Z = p_m(X)$

```
1  $\mathcal{X}_0 \leftarrow I$ ,  $\mathcal{X}_1 \leftarrow X$ 
2 for  $i \leftarrow 2$  to  $s$  do
3    $\mathcal{X}_i \leftarrow X \mathcal{X}_{i-1}$     ▷  $X^2, \dots, X^s$  computed and stored
4  $Z \leftarrow \sum_{j=0}^{m-sr} b_{sr+j} \mathcal{X}_j$ 
5 for  $i \leftarrow r-1$  down to 0 do
6    $Z \leftarrow Z \mathcal{X}_s + \sum_{j=0}^{s-1} b_{si+j} \mathcal{X}_j$ 
7 return  $Z$ 
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- Two extreme cases: (i)  $s = 1$ : (plain) Horner's method  
(ii)  $s = m$ : evaluation via explicit powers.



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- $(s + 2)n^2$  elements of storage
- about  $s - 1 + r$  matrix products, incl.  $r = \lfloor m/s \rfloor$  products in the Horner's stage

### Theorem (Hargreaves, 2005; Fasi, 2019)

The choice  $s = \lfloor \sqrt{m} \rfloor$  or  $s = \lceil \sqrt{m} \rceil$  minimizes the number of matrix products required to evaluate  $p_m(A)$  over all choices of  $s$ . The minimized number of matrix products is about  $2\sqrt{m}$ .



For  $p_m(X) = ((B_r X^s + B_{r-1})X^s + B_{r-2})X^s + \cdots + B_1)X^s + B_0$ ,  
 $\|B_i\| \|X^s\| \ll \|B_{i-1}\|$  can hold for some  $i = v : r$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \|b_{si}I + b_{si+1}X + \cdots + b_{si+s-1}X^{s-1}\| \|X^s\| \ll \\ & \|b_{si-s}I + b_{si-s+1}X + \cdots + b_{si-1}X^{s-1}\|. \end{aligned}$$

**Intuition:** dominant terms in  $B_i$  and  $B_{i-1}$  have scalar coefficients being  $s$  indices apart from  $\{b_i\}$ . Consider  $X = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  with  $b_i = 1/i!$  and  $s = 6$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|B_2\|_1 \|X^s\|_1 &\approx \left\| \frac{1}{12!}I + \frac{1}{13!}X \right\|_1 \|X^s\|_1 = 6.5 \times 10^{-8} \\ &\ll 1.8 \times 10^{-3} = \left\| \frac{1}{6!}I + \frac{1}{7!}X \right\|_1 \approx \|B_1\|_1. \end{aligned}$$

### Idea for Utilizing Multi-Precisions

$\text{fl}(AB + C) = \text{fl}_{\text{high}}(\text{fl}_{\text{low}}(AB) + C)$  for  $|A||B| \ll |C|$  and do this recursively in the evaluation of  $p_m$ .



For  $p_m(X) = (((B_r X^s + B_{r-1})X^s + B_{r-2})X^s + \cdots + B_1)X^s + B_0$ ,  
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$\text{fl}(AB + C) = \text{fl}_{\text{high}}(\text{fl}_{\text{low}}(AB) + C)$  for  $|A||B| \ll |C|$  and do this **recursively** in the evaluation of  $p_m$ .



Given precisions  $u_r \geq u_{r-1} \geq \cdots \geq u_v \geq u$ , we compute

$$q_v(X) := \underbrace{\left( \underbrace{\left( \underbrace{B_r X^s + B_{r-1}}_{u_r} \right) X^s + B_{r-2}}_{u_{r-1}} \right) X^s + \cdots + B_v}_{u_{r-2}} X^s$$

in the lower-than-working precisions and

$$p_m(X) = \left( \left( (q_v(X) + B_{v-1}) X^s + B_{v-2} \right) X^s + \cdots + B_1 \right) X^s + B_0$$

in the working precision  $u$ .



Evaluation:  $q_v(X) = \underbrace{\left( \underbrace{(B_r X^s + B_{r-1})}_{u_r} X^s + B_{r-2} \right)}_{u_{r-1}} X^s + \cdots + B_v \Big) X^s.$

$u_{r-2}$

### Theorem (Error bound for $q_v(X)$ )

Given  $\|B_i\| \|X^s\| = \tau_i \|B_{i-1}\|$  for some  $\tau_i \ll 1$ ,  $\|\widehat{B}_i - B_i\| \leq u_i \|B_i\|$  for  $i = v : r$ , and  $\|\text{fl}(X^s) - X^s\| \leq u_v \|X^s\|$ , then by setting the precisions  $u_{v-1} \equiv u$  and

$$u_i = u_{i-1} / \tau_i, \quad i = v : r,$$

(so  $u \ll u_v \ll \cdots \ll u_r$ ) we have

$$\|\widehat{q}_v - q_v(X)\| \lesssim (r - v + 1) n u \|q_v(X)\|,$$

where  $r = \lfloor m/s \rfloor$  (assuming  $((1 + \max_i \tau_i)n + 2) \|q_v(X)\| u \ll 1$ ).

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Given  $\|B_i\| \|X^s\| = \tau_i \|B_{i-1}\|$  for some  $\tau_i \ll 1$ ,  $\|\hat{B}_i - B_i\| \leq u_i \|B_i\|^i$  for  $i = v:r$ , and  $\|\text{fl}(X^s) - X^s\| \leq u_v \|X^s\|^{ii}$ , then by setting the precisions  $u_{v-1} \equiv u$  and

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• If  $v = 1$  and  $\|\hat{B}_0 - B_0\| \leq cnu \|B_0\|$ ,  $\|\hat{p}_m - p_m(X)\| \lesssim rnu \|p_m(X)\|$ .

- i The required powers  $X^2, \dots, X^s$  are formed in the working precision  $u$  for the accuracy of  $\hat{B}_0$ .
- ii From standard analysis  $|\text{fl}(X^s) - X^s| \lesssim snu|X|^s$ , so the condition holds if  $sn\tau_v \|X\|^s \lesssim \|X^s\|$ , or,  $\|X^s\|$  not much less than  $\|X\|^s$ .

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- For the error in  $\widehat{B}_0 \approx B_0(X) = \sum_{j=0}^{s-1} b_j X^j$ , standard error analysis implies

$$\left\| \widehat{B}_0 - B_0(X) \right\| \leq \gamma_{(s-2)n+2} B_0(\|X\|) \approx \gamma_{(s-2)n+2} e^{\|X\|}, \quad \gamma_n := \frac{nu}{1 - nu},$$

then using  $1 \leq \|e^X\| \|e^{-X}\| \leq \|e^X\| e^{\|X\|}$ ,

$$\|\widehat{B}_0 - B_0(X)\| \lesssim \gamma_{(s-2)n+2} e^{\|X\|} e^{\|X\|} \|e^X\| \approx e^{2\|X\|} snu \|B_0(X)\|.$$

- A sufficient condition for  $\|f_l(X^s) - X^s\| \leq u_v \|X^s\|$  is  $sn\tau_v \|X\|^s \lesssim \|X^s\|$ , one can show

$$\frac{sn\tau_v \|X\|_1^s}{\|X^s\|_1} = \frac{sn\|B_v\|_1 \|X\|_1^s}{\|B_{v-1}\|_1} \lesssim \begin{cases} sne^{\|X\|_1}, & v = 1, \\ sn / \binom{vs}{s}, & v > 1, \end{cases}$$

with the assumption  $\|X\|_1 \leq s/e$ .



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## The General Algorithm

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**Output**:  $P \approx p_m(X)$

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2 Compute  $\mathcal{X} := \{X^i\}_{i=2}^s$  and  $B_0$  in precision  $u \equiv u_0$ 
3 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $r$  do
4   Assemble  $B_i$  using elements in  $\mathcal{X} \cup \{I, X\}$  and estimate  $\|B_i\|_1$ 
5    $u_i \leftarrow \|B_{i-1}\|_1 u_{i-1} / (\|B_i\|_1 \|X^s\|_1)$   $\triangleright u_i = u_{i-1} / \tau_i$ ,  $\tau_i \ll 1$ 
6  $v \leftarrow \min\{i: u_i \geq \delta u\}$ ,  $u_{v-1}, u_{v-2}, \dots, u_1 \leftarrow u$ ,  $P \leftarrow B_r$ 
7 for  $i \leftarrow r$  down to 1 do
8   Compute  $P \leftarrow PX^s$  in precision  $u_i$ 
9   Form  $P \leftarrow P + B_{i-1}$  in precision  $u_{i-1}$ 
10 return  $P$ 
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- need store  $\{X^i\}_{i=1}^s$  and  $\{B_i\}_{i=0}^r$ : about  $2sn^2$  elements of storage
- $s + v - 2$  matrix products in  $u$  and 1 in each of  $u_v, u_{v+1}, \dots, u_r$ .

● How practical is the algorithm (are the conditions  $\tau_i \ll 1$ ,  $i = v:r$ )?



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- How practical is the algorithm (are the conditions  $\tau_i \ll 1$ ,  $i = v:r$ )?



## Theorem (Decay of $\tau_i$ )

If  $\|X\|_1 \leq s/e$ , for  $i = 2:r$ ,

$$\tau_i = \frac{\|B_i\|_1 \|X^s\|_1}{\|B_{i-1}\|_1} \lesssim \frac{e}{e-1} i^{-s} \approx 1.58 i^{-s}.$$

- $\tau_i$  decreases at least **polynomially** as  $i$  increases and at least **exponentially** as  $s$  increases.
- Bound not applicable to  $\tau_1 \Rightarrow$  we have the bound

$$\tau_1 = \frac{\|B_1\|_1 \|X^s\|_1}{\|B_0\|_1} \lesssim \frac{\|X\|_1^s}{s! \|B_0\|_1} \cdot \frac{\|X^s\|_1}{\|X\|_1^s} \lesssim \frac{1}{\|e^X\|_1} \cdot \frac{\|X^s\|_1}{\|X\|_1^s} \leq 1.$$

- A special treatment for  $\|X\|_1 \leq s/e$  is possible: choose  $s$  sufficiently large s.t.  $\tau_i \ll 1$ ,  $i = 1:r$ .
- Insight for the general case (?): larger  $s$  makes  $v$  in  $\tau_i \ll 1$ ,  $i = v:r$  smaller. (Recall  $s + v - 2$  matrix products in  $u$  and  $1$  in  $u_v, u_{v+1}, \dots, u_r$ ).



## Theorem (Decay of $\tau_i$ )

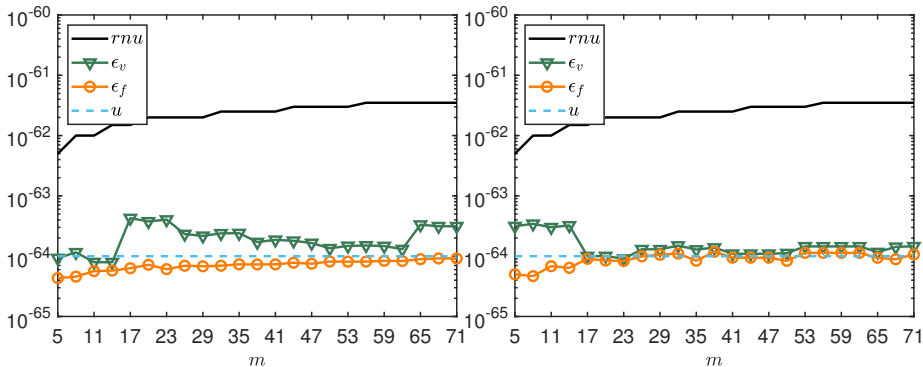
If  $\|X\|_1 \leq s/e$ , for  $i = 2:r$ ,

$$\tau_i = \frac{\|B_i\|_1 \|X^s\|_1}{\|B_{i-1}\|_1} \lesssim \frac{e}{e-1} i^{-s} \approx 1.58 i^{-s}.$$

- $\tau_i$  decreases at least **polynomially** as  $i$  increases and at least **exponentially** as  $s$  increases.
- Bound not applicable to  $\tau_1 \Rightarrow$  we have the bound

$$\tau_1 = \frac{\|B_1\|_1 \|X^s\|_1}{\|B_0\|_1} \lesssim \frac{\|X\|_1^s}{s! \|B_0\|_1} \cdot \frac{\|X^s\|_1}{\|X\|_1^s} \lesssim \frac{1}{\|e^X\|_1} \cdot \frac{\|X^s\|_1}{\|X\|_1^s} \leq 1.$$

- A special treatment for  $\|X\|_1 \leq s/e$  is possible: choose  $s$  sufficiently large s.t.  $\tau_i \ll 1$ ,  $i = 1:r$ .
- Insight for the general case (?): larger  $s$  makes  $v$  in  $\tau_i \ll 1$ ,  $i = v:r$  smaller. (Recall  $s + v - 2$  matrix products in  $u$  and  $1$  in  $u_v, u_{v+1}, \dots, u_r$ ).



Left:  $X = \text{rand}(n)$ . Right:  $X = \text{randn}(n)$ .  $n = 50$ .

$\|X\|_1 = \lceil \sqrt{m} \rceil / e$ , **Variable-precision environment** with  $u = 10^{-64}$   
(Simulated by **Advanpix**), and  $\epsilon = \|\hat{p}_m - p_m(X)\|_1 / \|p_m(X)\|_1$ .



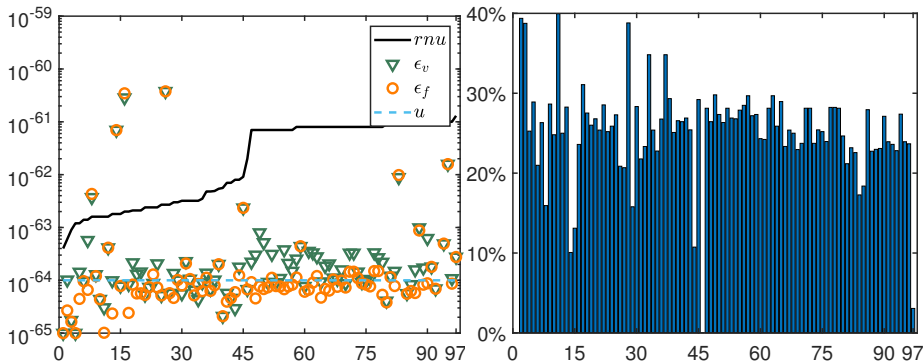


**Table:**  $m$ : minimal degree such that  $\|e^X - p_m(X)\|_1 \leq u$ .  $d_i$ : equivalent decimal digits of precision  $u_i$ .  $C_p$ : approximate complexity reduction in percentage (assuming **complexity is linearly proportional to the number of digits** used).

$(u, m)$	$(s, r)$	$(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_r)$	$C_p$
$(10^{-32}, 37)$	$(7, 5)$	$(30, 25, 18, \mathbf{11}, \mathbf{3})$	20.7%
$(10^{-64}, 60)$	$(8, 7)$	$(61, 55, 47, 38, \mathbf{28}, \mathbf{18}, \mathbf{7})$	21.6%
$(10^{-128}, 99)$	$(10, 9)$	$(124, 115, 104, 92, 78, \mathbf{64}, \mathbf{49}, \mathbf{34}, \mathbf{18})$	20.6%
$(10^{-256}, 169)$	$(13, 13)$	$(249, 237, 221, 203, 184, 164, 143, \mathbf{121}, \mathbf{99}, \mathbf{75}, \mathbf{52}, \mathbf{28}, \mathbf{3})$	24.2%

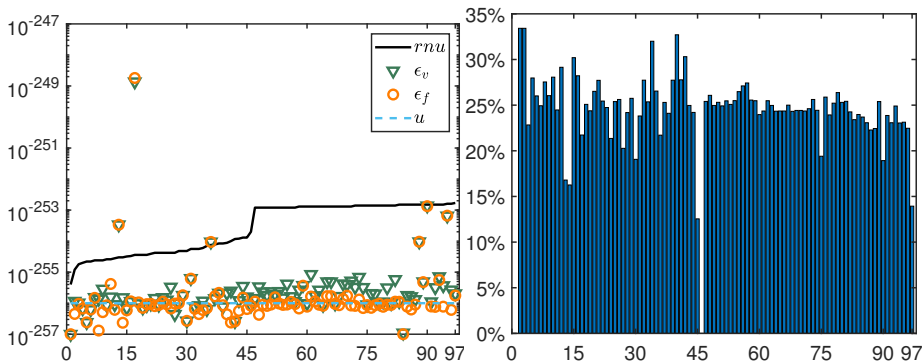
$X = \text{gallery}(\text{'cauchy'}, n)$  for  $n = 100$  with  $\|X\|_1 \approx 4.20$

- $\tau_i = u_{i-1}/u_i = 10^{d_i - d_{i-1}}$  is in general decreasing (w.r.t.  $i$ ), **20%** of the matrix products were performed in precision  $u^{1/2}$  or much lower.



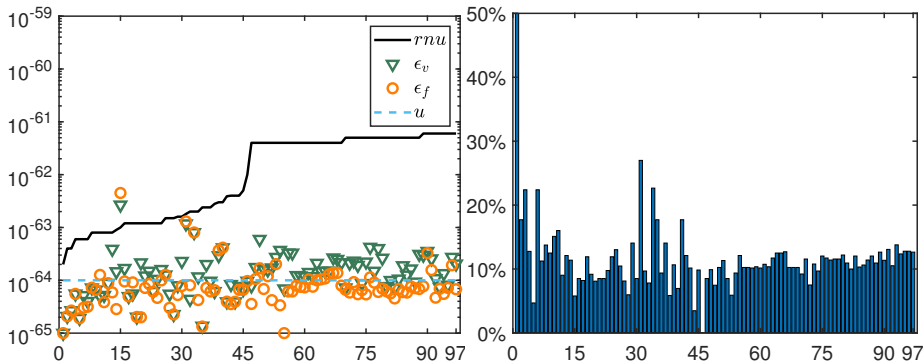
97 non-Hermitian matrices from **(Fasi and Higham, 2018)**,  $2 \leq n \leq 100$ .  
The degree  $m$  and scaling  $\ell$  are from  $e^A \equiv e^{2^\ell X} \approx p_m(X)^{2^\ell}$ .  $u = 10^{-64}$ .

Left:  $\epsilon = \|\hat{p}_m - p_m(X)\|_1 / \|p_m(X)\|_1$ . Right: the approximate percentages of complexity reduction.



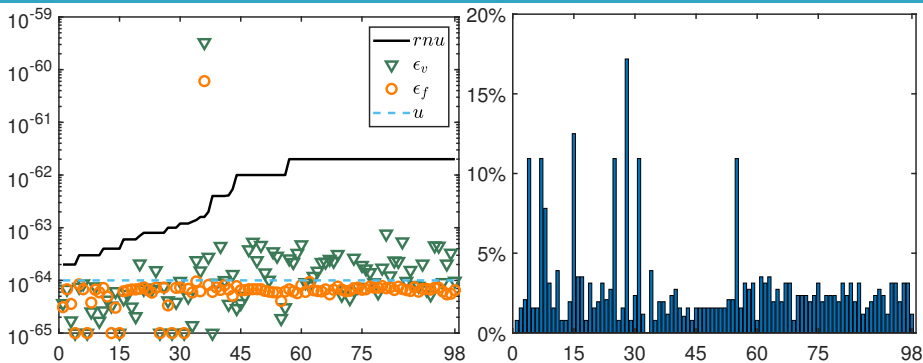
97 non-Hermitian matrices from **(Fasi and Higham, 2018)**,  $2 \leq n \leq 100$ .  
The degree  $m$  and scaling  $\ell$  are from  $e^A \equiv e^{2^\ell X} \approx p_m(X)^{2^\ell}$ .  $u = 10^{-256}$ .

Left:  $\epsilon = \|\hat{p}_m - p_m(X)\|_1 / \|p_m(X)\|_1$ . Right: the approximate percentages of complexity reduction.



97 non-Hermitian matrices from (Fasi and Higham, 2018),  $2 \leq n \leq 100$ .  
The degree  $m$  and scaling  $\ell$  are from  $e^A \equiv e^{2^\ell X} \approx r_{mm}(X)^{2^\ell}$ .  $u = 10^{-64}$ .

- Scalar coefficients from Padé decay faster than from Taylor and smaller degree  $m$  is chosen!



98 non-Hermitian matrices from (Al-Mohy, Higham and L, 2022),  
 $4 \leq n \leq 100$ . The degree  $m$  and scaling  $\ell$  are from  $e^A \equiv e^{2^\ell X} \approx p_m(X)^{2^\ell}$ .  
 $u = 10^{-64}$ .

- Scalar coefficients for  $\cos$  decay faster than for  $\exp$  and smaller degree  $m$  is chosen (plus  $p_m(X^2)$  is actually evaluated via Paterson–Stockmeyer).



- Lower(-than-working) precisions can be exploited in the Paterson–Stockmeyer method, if  $\|X\|$  is “small” (which (I think) is satisfied in most of the practical cases) and modulus of the scalar coefficients decays quickly.
- The key idea is to perform computations on data of small magnitude (norm) in low precision.
- Better understanding of the method is desired (e.g., for exp the algorithm works well and the bound appears pessimistic).

► X. Liu. Mixed-precision Paterson–Stockmeyer method for evaluating polynomials of matrices. preprint, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.17396>.

Thank you for your attention!



Advanpix.

Multiprecision Computing Toolbox.

*Advanpix, Tokyo, Version 5.1.1.15444.*



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PhD thesis, University of Manchester, Manchester, England, August 2005, 204 pp.



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