

# Asymptotics of the Sketched Pseudoinverse

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## Abstract

- **Problem:** Random sketching of regularized linear systems leads to a **different** solution than the original system.
- **Contribution:** We precisely characterize the pseudoinverse under sketching in the asymptotic regime, obtaining **first-** and **second-order equivalences** in terms of the ridge resolvent. We provide a conjecture that the same result holds for **general free sketching** supported by experiments.

## First-order Equivalence

- Sketching yields a **first-order** equivalence to **ridge regularization** under inversion.

### Setup:

- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times p}$  is positive semidefinite with uniformly upper bounded  $\|\mathbf{A}\|_{\text{op}}$  and lower bounded  $\lambda_{\min}^+(\mathbf{A})$ .
- $\sqrt{q}\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times q}$  is a random matrix consisting of i.i.d. random variables that have mean 0, variance 1, and finite  $8 + \delta$  moment for some  $\delta > 0$ .

**Theorem 1.** For any  $\lambda > \limsup \lambda_{\min}^+(\mathbf{S}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S})$ , as  $q, p \rightarrow \infty$  such that  $0 < \liminf \frac{q}{p} \leq \limsup \frac{q}{p} < \infty$ ,

$$\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{S}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_q)^{-1} \mathbf{S}^H \simeq (\mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{I}_p)^{-1},$$

where  $\mu$  is the most positive solution to

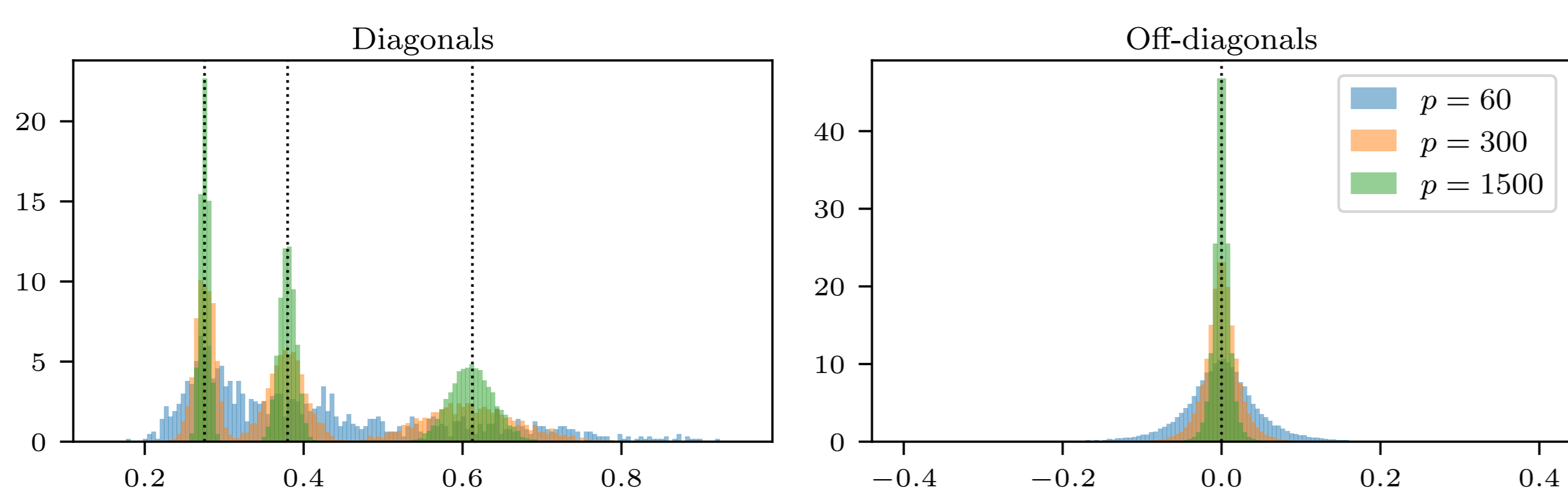
$$\lambda = \mu \left( 1 - \frac{1}{q} \text{tr} \left[ \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{I}_p)^{-1} \right] \right).$$

- That is, for any  $\Theta$  with uniformly bounded trace norm,

$$\text{tr} \left[ \Theta (\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{S}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_q)^{-1} \mathbf{S}^H - (\mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{I}_p)^{-1}) \right] \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} 0.$$

- Implies, e.g., **elementwise convergence**.

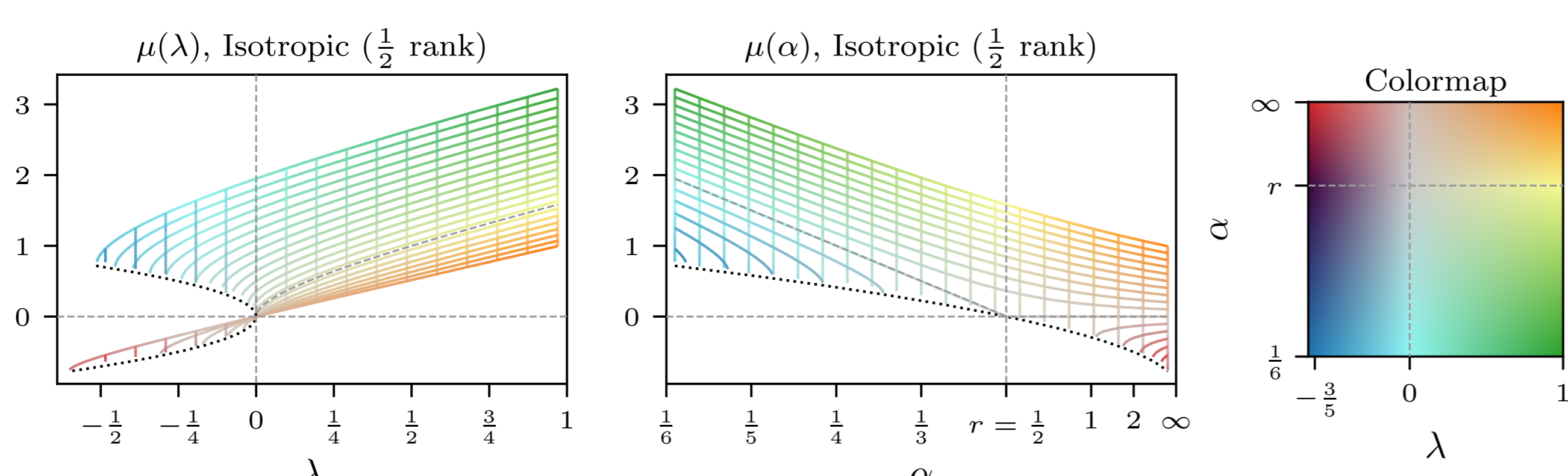
- **Example:**  $\mathbf{A} = \text{diag}(0 \dots, 1 \dots, 2 \dots)$ ,  $q = [0.8p]$ ,  $\lambda = 1$ .



- We provide a **detailed characterization** of the map from  $\lambda$  and sketch size  $\alpha = \frac{q}{p}$  to  $\mu$ .

- $\lambda \mapsto \mu$  is **increasing**,
- For  $\lambda \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha \mapsto \mu$  is **decreasing**, and  $\mu \geq \lambda$
- Distinct behavior for  $\alpha < r(\mathbf{A})$  and  $\alpha > r(\mathbf{A})$  (rank)
- Precise limits of **negative regularization**  $\lambda < 0$  and  $\mu < 0$ .

- **Example:**  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{[rp]} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $r = \frac{1}{2}$ .



## Second-order Equivalence

### Setup:

- $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{S}, \lambda, \mu, \frac{q}{p}$  as in **Theorem 1**.
- $\Psi \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times p}$  is a positive semidefinite matrix independent of  $\mathbf{S}$  with uniformly upper bounded  $\|\Psi\|_{\text{op}}$ .

**Theorem 2.** As  $q, p \rightarrow \infty$ ,

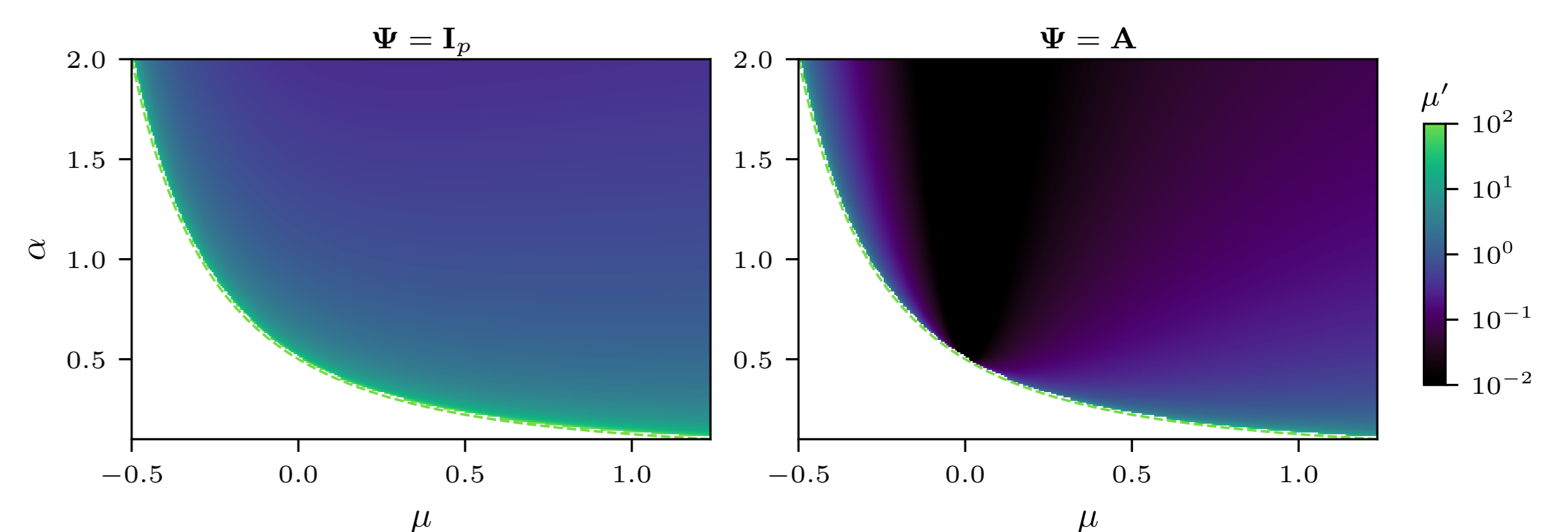
$$\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{S}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_q)^{-1} \mathbf{S}^H \Psi \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{S}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_q)^{-1} \mathbf{S}^H \simeq (\mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{I}_p)^{-1} (\Psi + \mu' \mathbf{I}_p) (\mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{I}_p)^{-1},$$

where

$$\mu' = \frac{\frac{1}{q} \text{tr} \left[ \mu^3 (\mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{I}_p)^{-1} \Psi (\mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{I}_p)^{-1} \right]}{\lambda + \frac{1}{q} \text{tr} \left[ \mu^2 \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{I}_p)^{-2} \right]} \geq 0.$$

- **Inflation**  $\mu'$  depends crucially on choice of  $\Psi$ .

- When  $\Psi \in \text{Range}(\mathbf{A})$ , **no inflation** for  $\mu = 0, \alpha > r(\mathbf{A})$  (rank).



## General Free Sketching

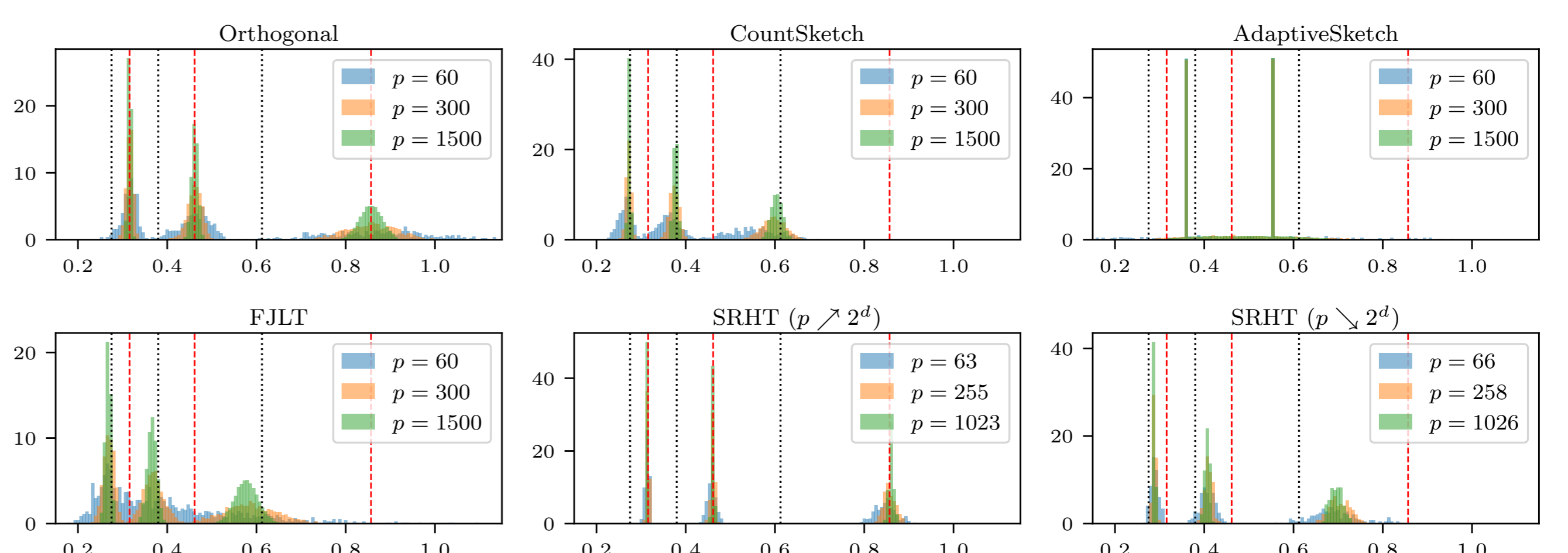
**Conjecture 3.** An analogous result to **Theorem 1** holds for a general class of asymptotically free sketching matrices  $\mathbf{S}$ :

$$\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{S}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_q)^{-1} \mathbf{S}^H \simeq (\mathbf{A} + \gamma \mathbf{I}_p)^{-1},$$

and the map  $\lambda \mapsto \gamma$  is increasing.

- **Common sketches** used in practice **follow this conjecture**.

- We obtain the resulting  $\gamma$  for **orthogonal sketching**.



## Conclusion

- **Interpretation:** sketching in linear systems maps regularization to effective regularization, generally **increasing regularization** and adding inflation due to randomness.

- **Impact:** Machine learning problems involving random projections induce **implicit regularization** in a precise way determined by our results.

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