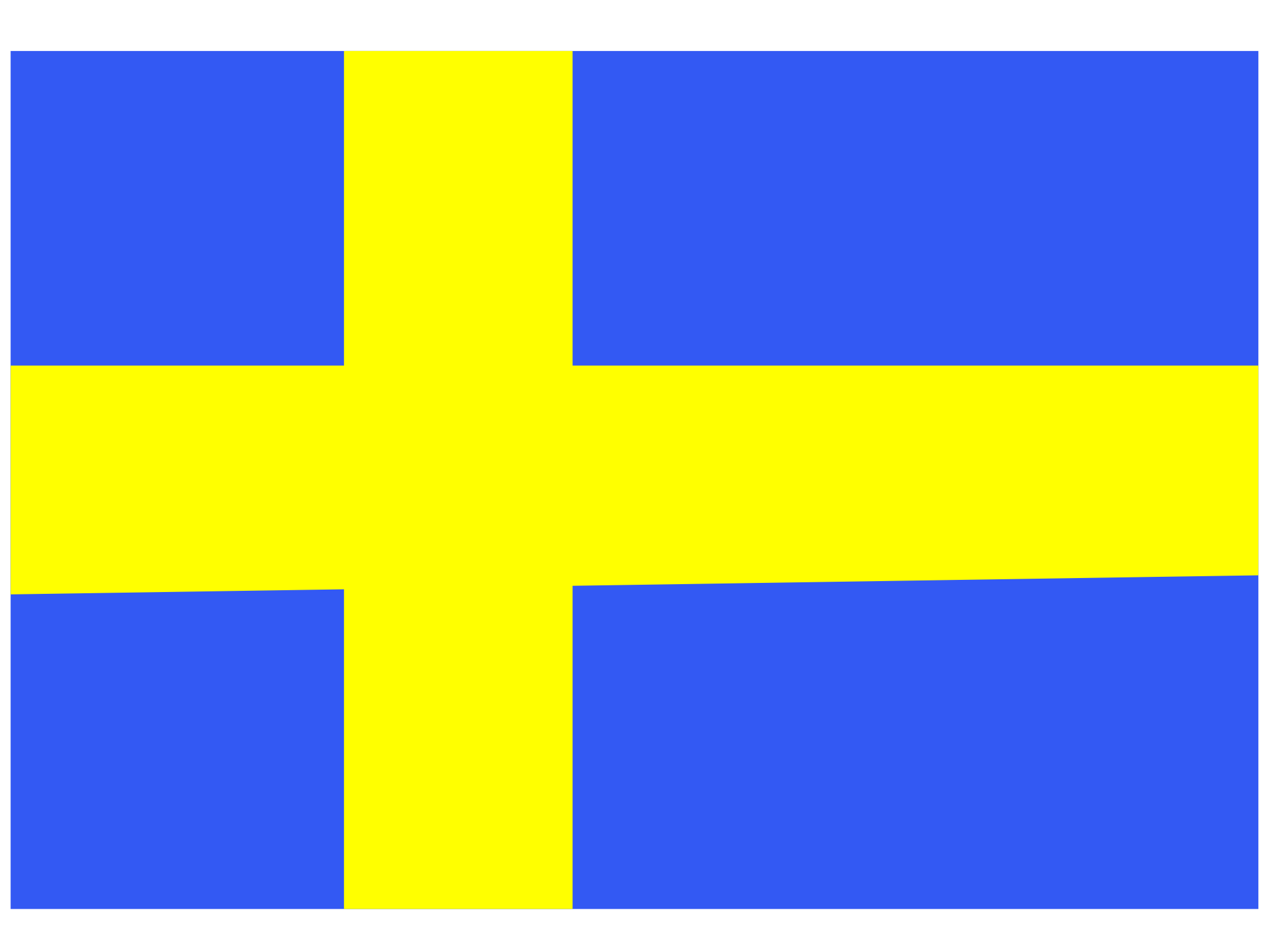


# Thirty years of $G$ -stability

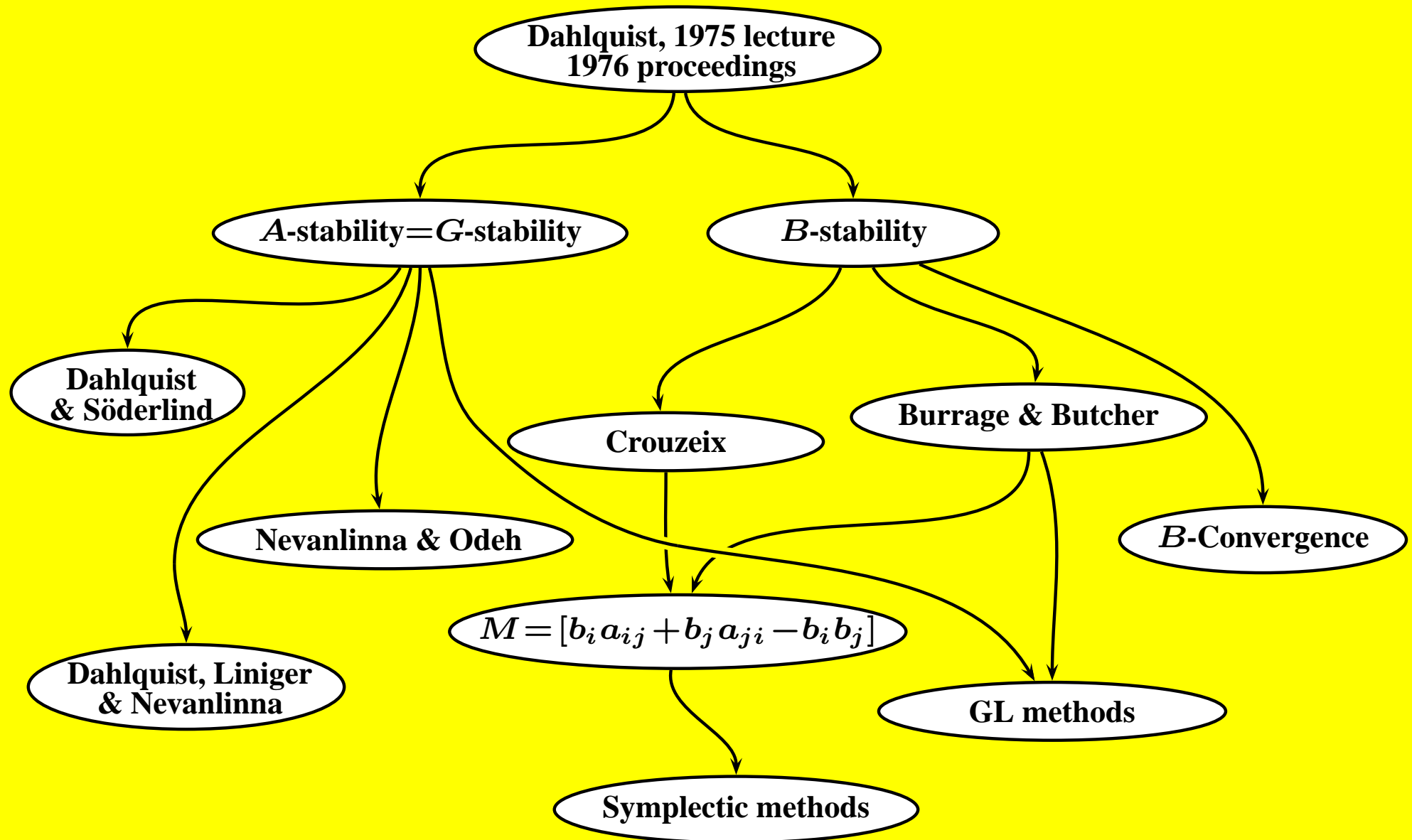
John Butcher

The University of Auckland  
New Zealand

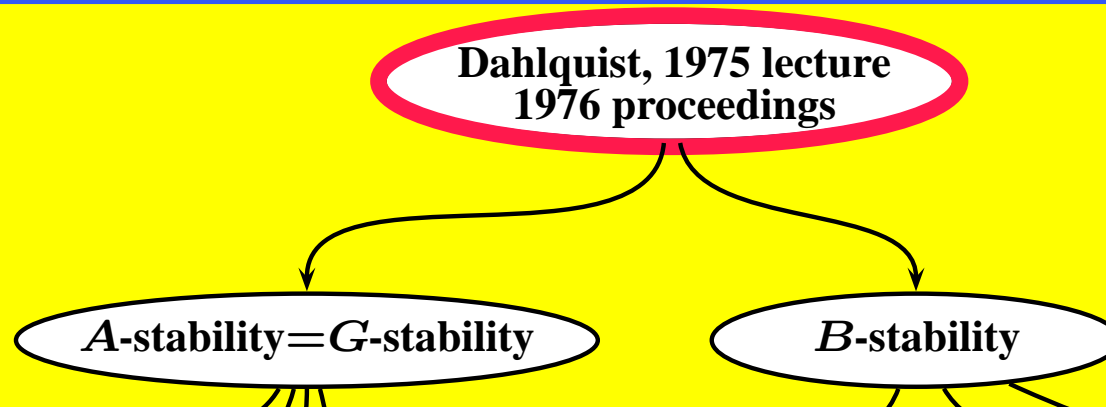
*In memory of Germund Dahlquist, friend, mentor and inspiration*



# $G$ -stability and consequences



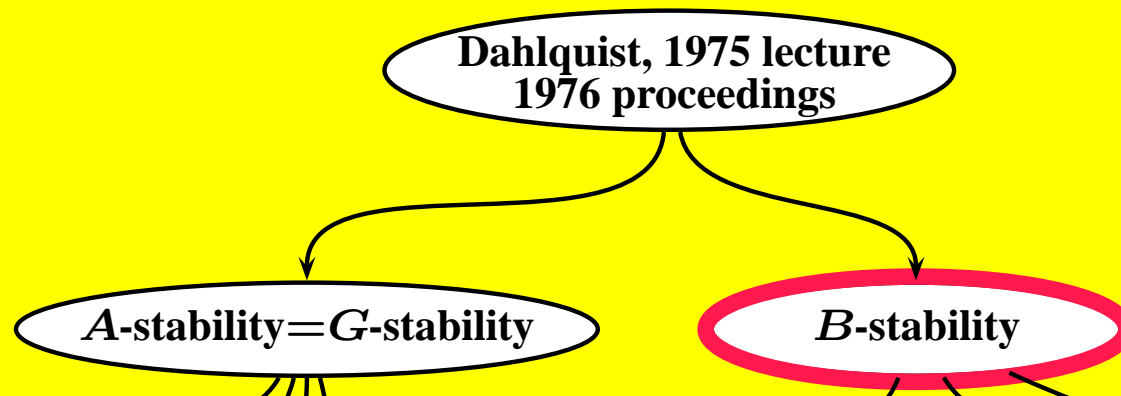
# G-stability and consequences



G. Dahlquist, *Error analysis of a class of methods for stiff nonlinear initial value problems*, Numerical Analysis, Dundee, Lecture Notes in Mathematics **506**, (1976) 60–74.

- Introduced “One-leg” counterpart to linear multistep method.
- Considered the test problem  $dy/dx = f(x, y)$ , where  $\langle y - z, f(x, y) - f(x, z) \rangle \leq 0$ .
- Sought  $G$  such that  $\|Y_{n+1} - Z_{n+1}\|_G \leq \|Y_n - Z_n\|_G$ , where  $Y_n = [y_n, y_{n+1}, \dots, y_{n+k-1}]$ .

# $G$ -stability and consequences



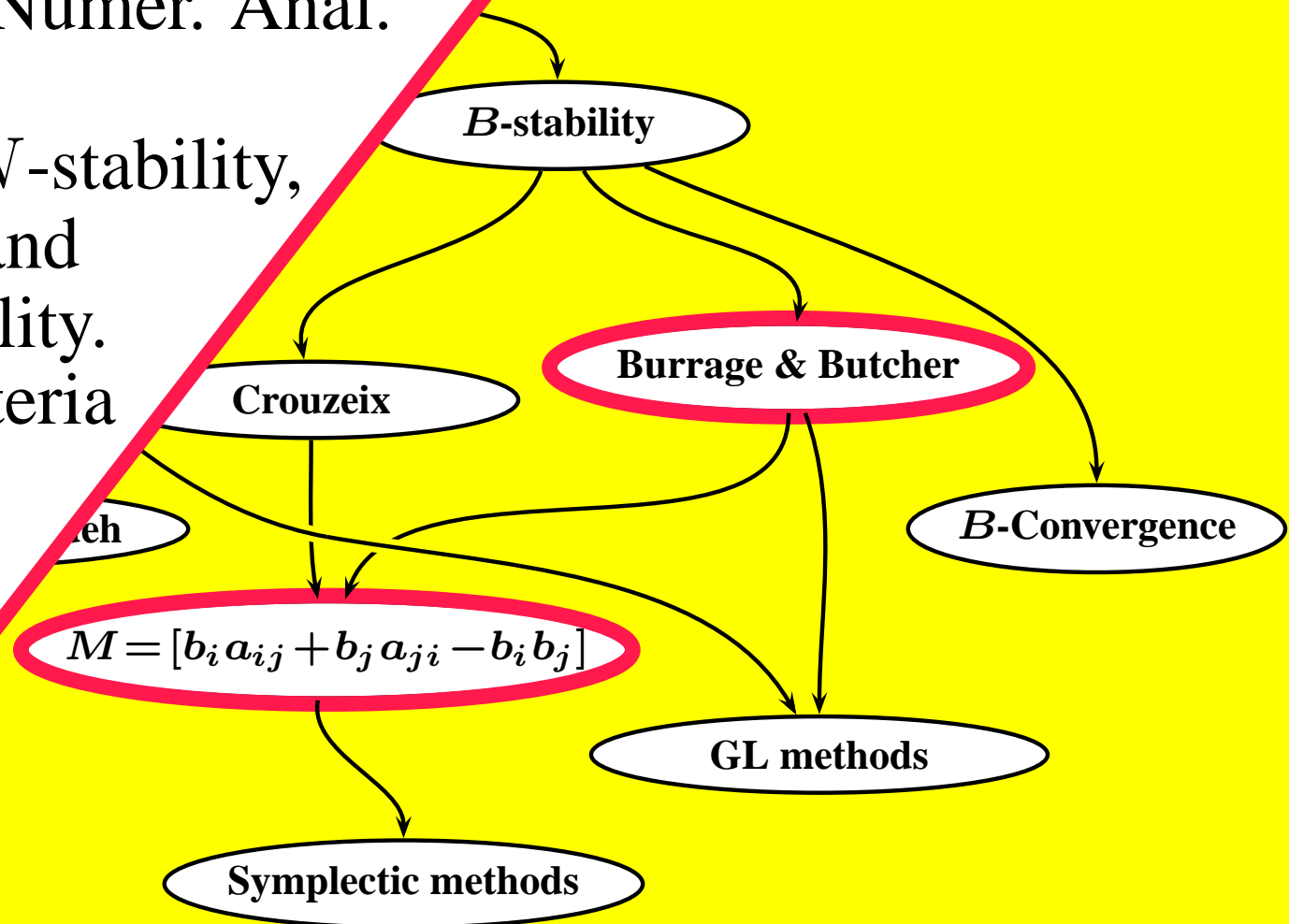
J. C. Butcher, *A stability property of implicit Runge–Kutta methods*, BIT **15**, (1975) 358–361.

- Applied same non-linear test problem to Runge–Kutta methods.
- Considered only methods  $(A, b^T, c)$  with  $A$  non-singular.
- Complicated criteria found for  $B$ -stability.
- Various standard methods of orders  $2s$ ,  $2s - 1$  and  $2s - 2$  shown to be  $B$ -stable.

# G-stability and consequences

K. Burrage and J. C. Butcher, *Stability criteria for implicit Runge–Kutta methods*, SIAM J. Numer. Anal. **16**, (1979) 46–57.

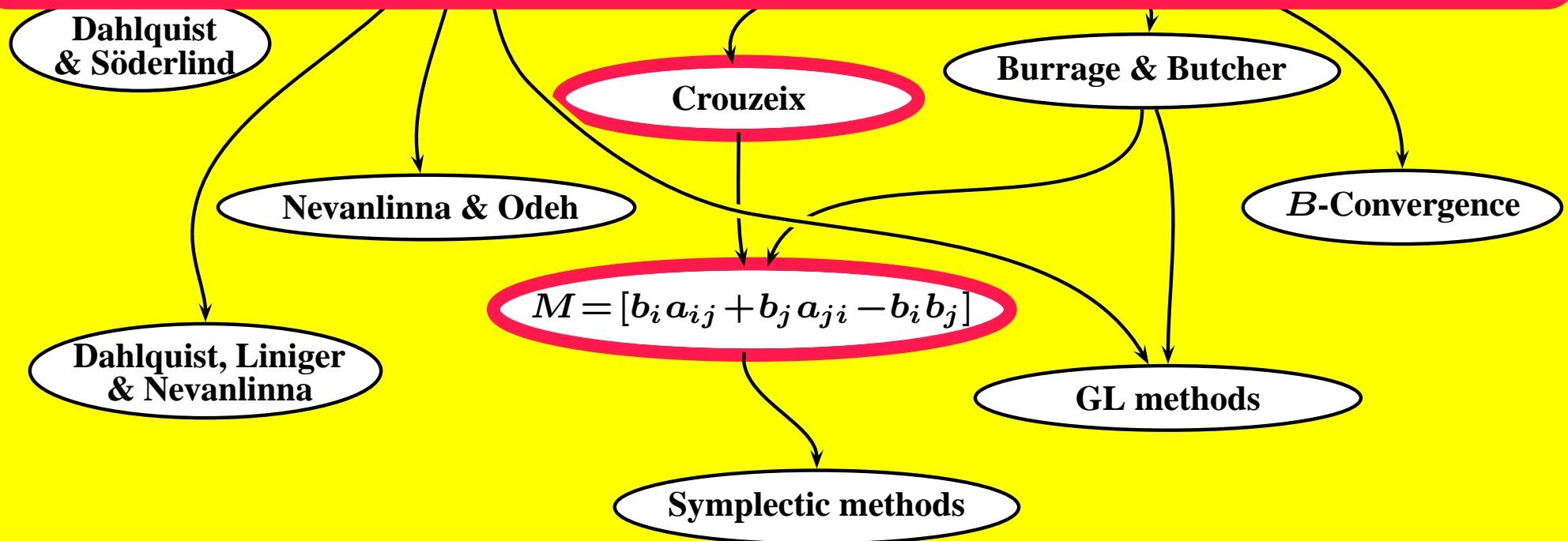
- Introduced  $AN$ -stability,  $BN$ -stability and algebraic stability.
- Introduced criteria based on  $M$ .
- Estimates of error growth.



# $G$ -stability and consequences

M. Crouzeix, *Sur la B-stabilité des méthodes de Runge–Kutta*, Numer. Math. **32**, (1979) 75–82.

- Introduces criterion for  $B$ -stability based on matrix  $M$ .



# $G$ -stability and consequences

Dahlquist, 1975 lecture  
1976 proceedings

$A$ -stability =  $G$ -stability

Dahlquist  
& Söderlind

Nevanlinna & Odeh

Dahlquist, Liniger  
& Nevanlinna

$M =$

G. Dahlquist,  *$G$ -stability is equivalent to  $A$ -stability*, BIT **18** (1978) 384–401.

- Intricate proof involving functions of a complex variable.
- Explicit construction of  $G$  matrix.

GL methods

Symplectic methods



# $G$ -stability and consequences

Dahlquist, 1975 lecture  
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$A$ -stability =  $G$ -stability

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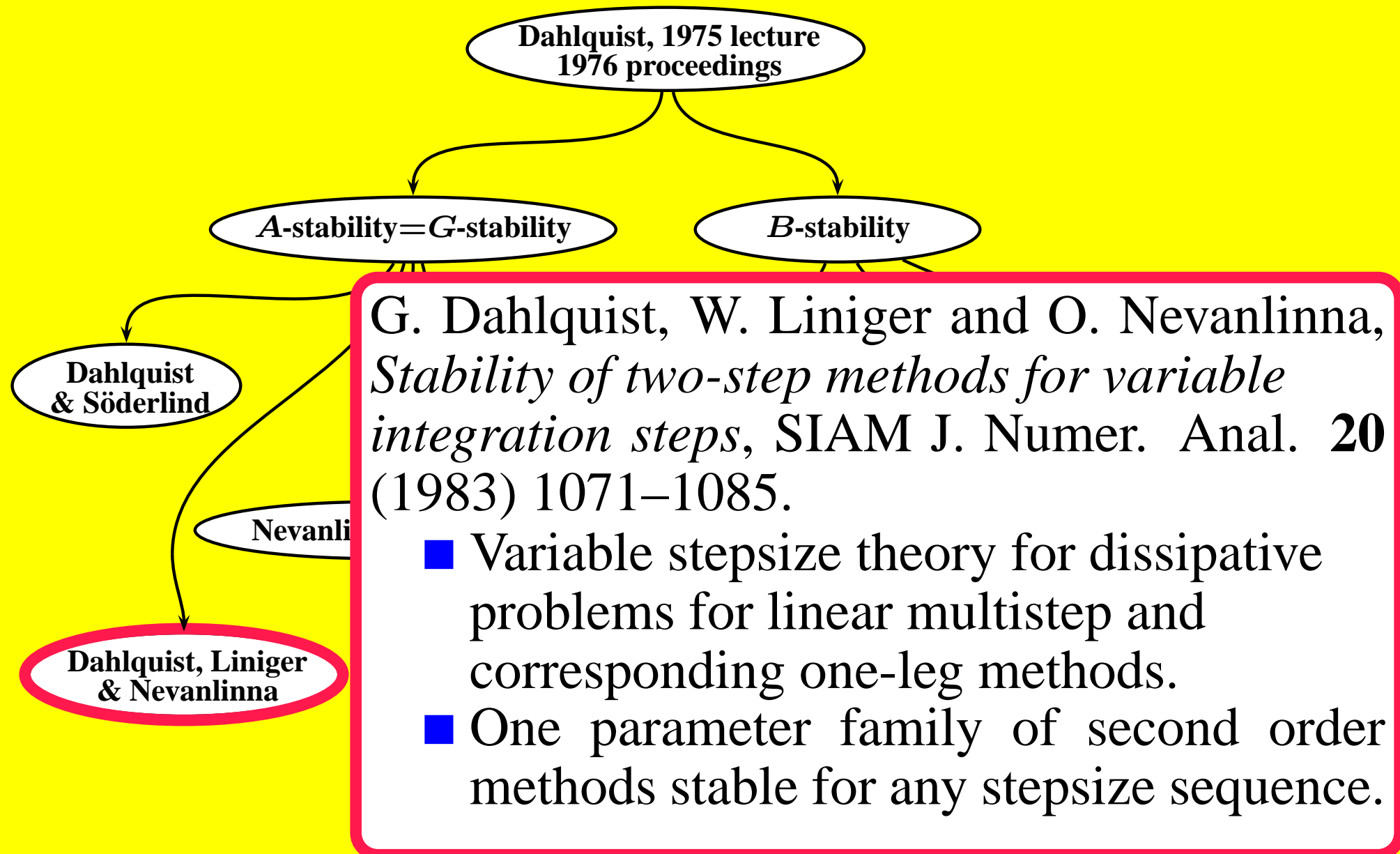
Dahlquist, Liniger  
& Nevanlinna

O. Nevanlinna and F. Odeh,  
*Multiplier techniques for linear  
multistep methods*, Numer. Funct.  
Anal. Optim. **3** (1981) 377–423.

- Introduces multiplier techniques.
- Extended Dahlquist's model problem to the study of  $A(\alpha)$ -stable methods.
- Applications to nonlinear parabolic-like problems.

$M = [t$

# $G$ -stability and consequences



# $G$ -stability and consequences

Dahlquist, 1975 lecture  
1976 proceedings

A-stability= $G$ -stability

B-stability

Dahlquist  
& Söderlind

G. Dahlquist and G. Söderlind, *Some problems related to stiff nonlinear differential systems*, Computing methods in Applied Sciences and Engineering V, R. Glowinski, J. L. Lions (editors), North Holland (1982) 57–74.

- Studies the relationship between stability and contractivity.
- Various linear and nonlinear model problems analysed.

Dahlquist, Lions  
& Nevanlinna

# $G$ -stability and consequences

Dahlquist, 1975 lecture  
1976 proceedings

R. Frank, J. Schneid and  
C. W. Ueberhuber, *The  
concept of  $B$ -convergence*,  
SIAM J. Numer. Anal. **18**,  
(1981) 753–780.

- Introduced (order of)  
 $B$ -consistency.
- Sought local and global “stiffness  
independent” bounds.
- Specific  $B$ -convergence orders derived for  
many standard method classes.

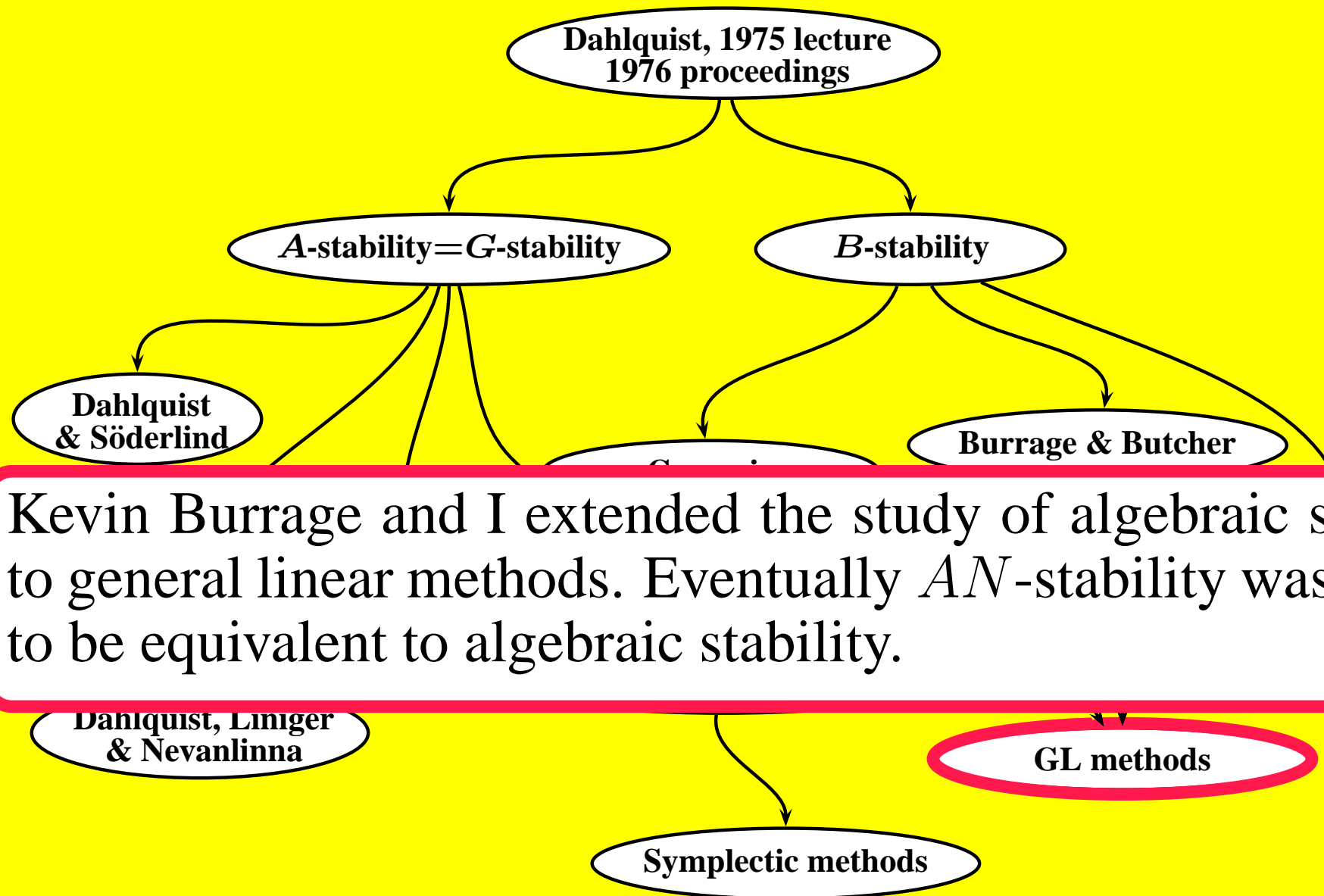
$B$ -stability

Burrage & Butcher

$B$ -Convergence

Methods

# $G$ -stability and consequences



Kevin Burrage and I extended the study of algebraic stability to general linear methods. Eventually  $AN$ -stability was shown to be equivalent to algebraic stability.

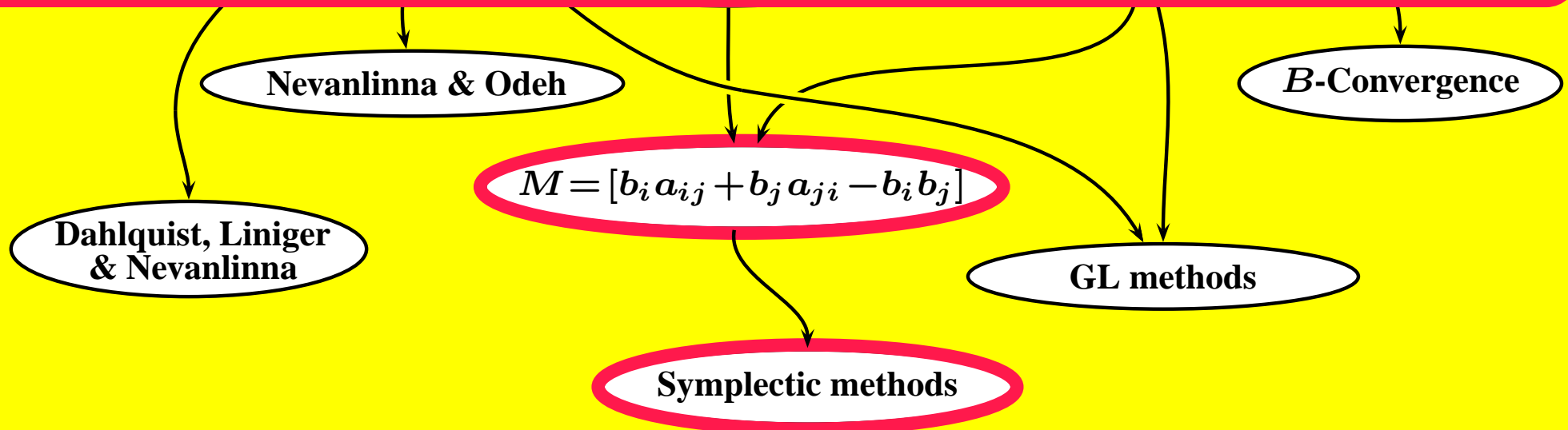
# G-stability and consequences

J. M. Sanz-Serna (1988) discovered that a Runge–Kutta method is symplectic if  $M = 0$ .

This result was also found independently by F. Lasagni (1988) and Y. B. Suris (1989).

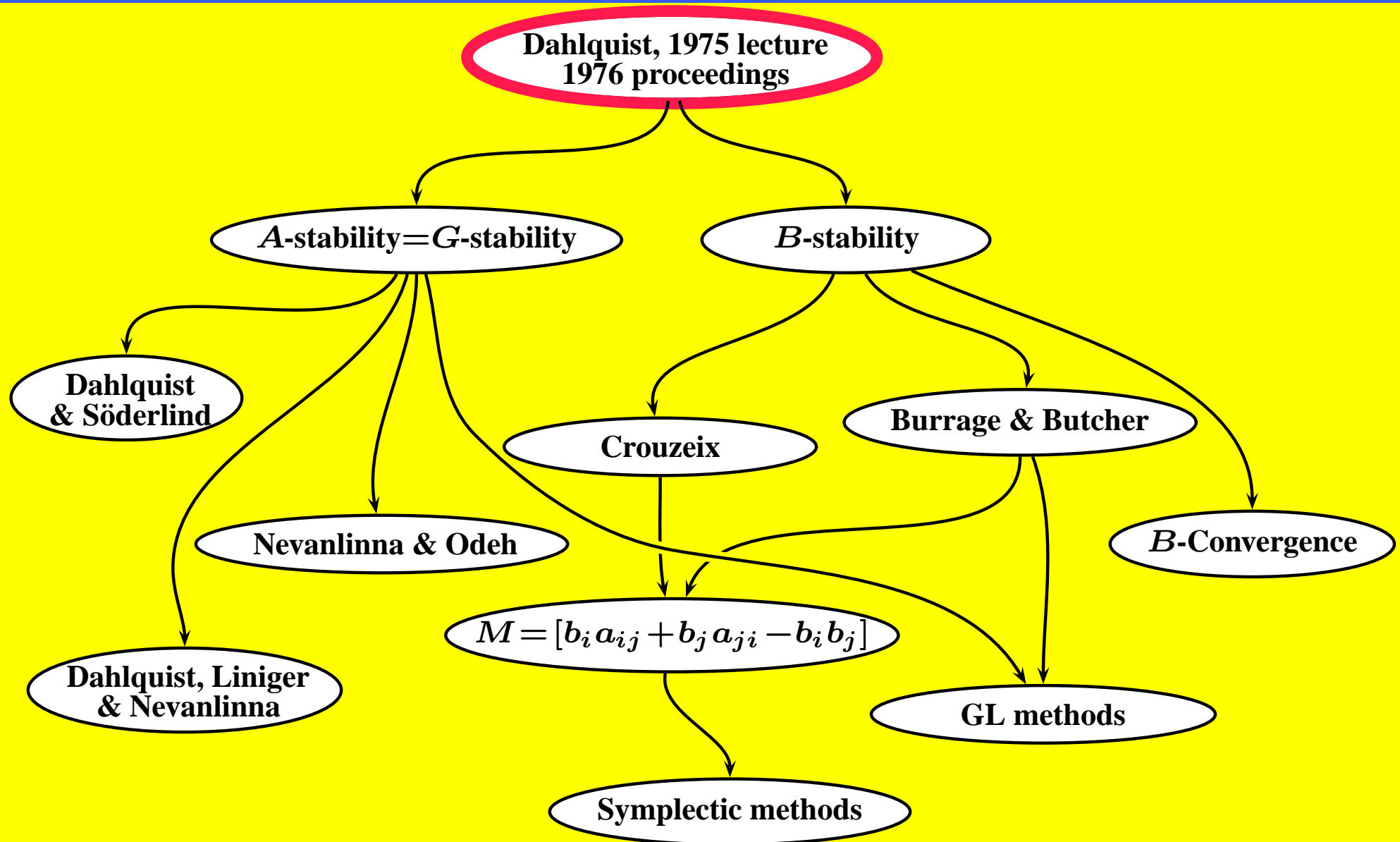
The following reference is to a survey paper:

J. M. Sanz-Serna, *Symplectic integrators for Hamiltonian problems: an overview*, *Acta Numerica* **1** (1991) 243–286.



I would like to conclude  
by recalling  
the main ideas  
from  
Dahlquist's 1975 Dundee paper

# $G$ -stability and consequences





# One-leg methods

Given a linear multistep method

$$\sum_{i=0}^k \alpha_i \hat{y}_{n+i} = h \sum_{i=0}^k \beta_i f(\hat{x}_{n+i}, \hat{y}_{n+i}), \quad (*)$$

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$$\sum_{i=0}^k \alpha_i y_{n+i} = h f\left(x_{n+i}, \sum_{i=0}^k \beta_i y_{n+i}\right). \quad (**)$$

Note that the two methods have the same linear stability:

$$\rho(w) - z\sigma(w) = 0.$$

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If  $y$  is a sequence computed using (\*\*), and  $\hat{x}$   $\hat{y}$  are defined by

$$\hat{x}_n = \sum_{i=0}^k \beta_i x_{n+i}, \quad \hat{y}_n = \sum_{i=0}^k \beta_i y_{n+i},$$

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In this sense, stable behaviour of the  $y$  sequence can be interpreted as stable behaviour of the  $\hat{y}$  sequence.

Dahlquist's main aim is now to analyse the performance of a one-leg method with a dissipative nonlinear problem.

# Nonlinear test problem

Dahlquist proposed use of the test problem

$$y'(x) = f(x, y), \text{ where } \langle y - z, f(x, y) - f(x, z) \rangle \leq 0. \quad (*)$$



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The aim is to identify methods which reflect this contractive behaviour.

For convenience we will replace (\*) by the related problem

$$y'(x) = f(x, y), \quad \text{where } \langle y, f(x, y) \rangle \leq 0.$$

# The $G$ norm

Let  $G$  be a positive-definite symmetric  $k \times k$  matrix:

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} g_{00} & g_{01} & g_{02} & \cdots & g_{0,k-1} \\ g_{10} & g_{11} & g_{12} & \cdots & g_{1,k-1} \\ g_{20} & g_{21} & g_{22} & \cdots & g_{2,k-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ g_{k-1,0} & g_{k-1,1} & g_{k-1,2} & \cdots & g_{k-1,k-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

and define the norm  $\|\cdot\|_G$  by

$$\|Y_n\|_G^2 = \sum_{i,j=0}^{k-1} g_{ij} \langle y_{n+i}, y_{n+j} \rangle,$$

where  $Y_n = [y_n, y_{n+1}, \dots, y_{n+k-1}]$ .

# The contractivity property

For convenience, we will write  $g_{ij} = 0$  if either  $i$  or  $j$  is outside the set  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, k - 1\}$ .

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A one-leg method (and the corresponding linear multistep method) is “ $G$ -stable” if  $G$  exists so that the symmetric part of the  $(k + 1) \times (k + 1)$  matrix with elements

$$\alpha_i \beta_j + g_{ij} - g_{i-1, j-1}, \quad i, j \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, k\},$$
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is positive semi-definite.

To appreciate the consequence of this definition, multiply by  $\langle y_{n+i}, y_{n+j} \rangle$  and sum for  $i, j = 0, 1, \dots, k$ .

Because of positive semi-definiteness, we have

$$T_1 + T_2 + T_3 \geq 0$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &= \left\langle \sum_{i=0}^k \alpha_i y_{n+i}, \sum_{j=0}^k \beta_j y_{n+j} \right\rangle \\ &= h \left\langle f \left( \sum_{i=0}^k \beta_i y_{n+i} \right), \sum_{j=0}^k \beta_j y_{n+j} \right\rangle \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$T_2 = \|Y_n\|_G^2$$

$$T_3 = -\|Y_{n+1}\|_G^2$$

implying that

$$\|Y_{n+1}\|_G \leq \|Y_n\|_G.$$



# Acknowledgements

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Finally, I express my thanks to my colleagues in Auckland for advice and insight during the preparation of these notes.