

**NORM ESTIMATES FOR SOLUTIONS OF MATRIX  
EQUATIONS  $AX - XB = C$  AND  $X - AXB = C$**

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**Abstract**

Let  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  be matrices. We consider the matrix equations  $Y - AYB = C$  and  $AX - XB = C$ . Sharp norm estimates for solutions of these equations are derived. By these estimates a bound for the distance between invariant subspaces of matrices is obtained.

**Keywords:** matrix equations, norm estimates, perturbations, invariant subspaces.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND NOTATION

Let  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  be  $n \times n$  matrices. Consider the equations

$$(1.1) \quad Y - AYB = C$$

and

$$(1.2) \quad AX - XB = C.$$

Equations (1.1) and (1.2) have been widely studied in pure and applied mathematics, especially in control problems, cf. [3, 6, 7, 17, 18, 19]. In particular, the rank, image and kernel of solutions of (1.2) are important design parameters, and the role controllability and observability in the existence of solutions of (1.2) has been demonstrated in [15].

Norm estimates for solutions of equations were established when the coefficients are normal matrices [1] and diagonalizable ones [11]. Under the condition that the convex hulls of spectra  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint, the equations have been considered in [10], but that condition is rather restrictive. Except the just pointed results, to the best of our knowledge, no estimates were established for solutions of equations (1.1) and (1.2), although such estimates are very important, in particular, for the stability analysis, as well as for linear and nonlinear perturbations, cf. [4]. In the present paper we suggest new sharp solution estimates for equations (1.1) and (1.2) with non-normal and non-diagonalizable coefficients. In Section 5 below we also consider equations whose coefficients have different dimensions and discuss applications of our results to perturbations of invariant subspaces of matrices. The importance of invariant subspaces for applications, in particular, in the control theory, is very well explained in [13].

Introduce the notations. Let  $\mathbb{C}^n$  be the Euclidean space with scalar product  $(\cdot, \cdot)$ , the Euclidean norm  $\|\cdot\| = \sqrt{(\cdot, \cdot)}$  and the unit matrix  $I$ . For an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ ,  $A^*$  is the adjoint one;  $\lambda_k(A)$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , are the eigenvalues of  $A$ , counted with their multiplicities;  $\|A\| = \sup_{h \in \mathbb{C}^n} \|Ah\|/\|h\|$  is the spectral (operator) norm of  $A$ ;  $r_s(A)$  is the (upper) spectral radius;  $r_l(A) = \min_k |\lambda_k(A)|$  is the lower spectral radius.

The following quantity (the departure from normality of  $A$ ) plays a key role hereafter:

$$g(A) = \left[ |A|_F^2 - \sum_{k=1}^n |\lambda_k(A)|^2 \right]^{1/2},$$

where  $|A|_F = (\text{Trace } AA^*)^{1/2}$  is the Frobenius (Hilbert-Schmidt norm) of  $A$ .

The following relations are checked in [8, Section 2.1]:

$$g^2(A) \leq |A|_F^2(A) - |\text{Trace } A^2| \text{ and } g^2(A) \leq \frac{|A - A^*|_F^2}{2} = 2|A_I|_F^2,$$

where  $A_I = (A - A^*)/2i$ . If  $A$  is a normal matrix:  $AA^* = A^*A$ , then  $g(A) = 0$ . If  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are commuting matrices, then  $g(A_1 + A_2) \leq g(A_1) + g(A_2)$ . By the inequality between geometric and arithmetic mean values we have

$$\left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n |\lambda_k(A)|^2 \right)^n \geq \left( \prod_{k=1}^n |\lambda_k(A)| \right)^2.$$

So  $g^2(A) \leq |A|_F^2 - n(\det A)^{2/n}$ . If  $A$  is invertible, then from (1.2) we have

$$(1.3) \quad X - A^{-1}XB = A^{-1}C.$$

Taking in (1.3)  $A$  instead of  $A^{-1}$  and  $C$  instead of  $A^{-1}C$ , we get (1.1).

2. STATEMENTS OF THE MAIN RESULTS

2.1. Equation (1.1)

**Theorem 1.** *Let*

$$(2.1) \quad r_s(A)r_s(B) < 1.$$

*Then equation (1.1) has a unique solution  $Y$  which can be represented as*

$$(2.2) \quad Y = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A^k C B^k.$$

*Moreover,*

$$(2.3) \quad \|Y\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^k(A)g^j(B)}{(k!j!)^{3/2}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(m!)^2 r_s^{m-k}(A)r_s^{m-j}(B)}{(m-k)!(m-j)!}.$$

This theorem is proved in the next section. Recall that  $1/(m-k)! = 0$  if  $m < k$ . If  $A$  is normal, then  $g(A) = 0$  and

$$\|Y\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^j(B)}{(j!)^{3/2}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m! r_s^m(A)r_s^{m-j}(B)}{(m-j)!}.$$

But

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m! r_s^m(A)r_s^{m-j}(B)}{(m-j)!} &= r_s^j(A) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m! (r_s(A)r_s(B))^{m-j}}{(m-j)!} \\ &= r_s^j(A) \frac{d^j}{dx^j} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} x^m = j! r_s^j(A) (1-x)^{-j-1} \quad (x = r_s(A)r_s(B)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$\|Y\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^j(B)r_s^j(A)}{(j!)^{1/2}(1-r_s(A)r_s(B))^{j+1}},$$

provided  $A$  is normal. If both  $A$  and  $B$  are normal, then

$$(2.5) \quad \|Y\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (r_s(B)r_s(B))^m = \frac{\|C\|}{1-r_s(A)r_s(B)}.$$

The inequality (2.5) is attained, if  $A, B$  and  $C$  are commuting normal matrices.

According to (2.4) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(m!)^2 r_s^m(A) r_s^m(B)}{(m-k)!(m-j)!} &\leq \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{t!(r_s(A)r_s(B))^{t/2}}{(t-k)!} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!(r_s(A)r_s(B))^{m/2}}{(m-j)!} \\ &= (r_s(A)r_s(B))^{(k+j)/2} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{t!(r_s(A)r_s(B))^{(t-k)/2}}{(t-k)!} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!(r_s(A)r_s(B))^{(m-j)/2}}{(m-j)!} \\ &= \frac{j!k!(r_s(A)r_s(B))^{(k+j)/2}}{[1 - (r_s(A)r_s(B))^{1/2}]^{(k+j+2)}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now inequality (2.3) implies

**Corollary 2.** *Let condition (2.1) hold,  $r_s(A) \neq 0$  and  $r_s(B) \neq 0$ . Then a unique solution  $Y$  of (1.1) satisfies the inequality*

$$\|Y\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^k(A)g^j(B)}{\sqrt{k!j!}} \frac{r_s^{(j-k)/2}(A)r_s^{(k-j)/2}(B)}{(1 - \sqrt{r_s(A)r_s(B)})^{j+k+2}}.$$

Furthermore, Theorem 1 and simple calculations imply

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $r_s(A) < 1$ . Then the equation*

$$(2.6) \quad Y - AY A^* = C$$

*has a unique solution  $Y_L$ , which satisfies the inequalities*

$$(2.7) \quad \|Y_L\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^k(A)m!r_s^{m-k}(A)}{(k!)^{3/2}(m-k)!} \right)^2.$$

As it is well-known, equation (2.6) is an important tool in the theory of difference equations, cf. [9]. From (2.7) it follows

$$\|Y_L\| \leq \|C\| \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^k(A)m!r_s^{m-k}(A)}{(k!)^{3/2}(m-k)!} \right)^2.$$

Now taking into account (2.4) we get

$$(2.8) \quad \|Y_L\| \leq \|C\| \left( \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^k(A)}{(k!)^{1/2}(1 - r_s(A))^{k+1}} \right)^2.$$

**2.2. Equation (1.2)**

Let us consider (1.2), assuming that

$$(2.9) \quad r_l(A) > r_s(B).$$

This inequality is equivalent the one  $r_s(A^{-1})r_s(B) < 1$ . Then according to (1.3) and (2.2) a solution of (1.2) is represented by

$$(2.10) \quad X = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} A^{-1-k}CB^k.$$

This result is well-known, cf. [2].

**Theorem 4.** *Let condition (2.9) hold. Then equation (1.2) has a unique solution  $X$ , which can be represented by (2.10). Moreover,*

$$(2.11) \quad \|X\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{\zeta^k(A)g^j(B)}{(k!j!)^{3/2}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!(m+1)!r_s^{m-j}(B)}{r_l^{m+1-k}(A)(m-j)!(m+1-k)!},$$

where

$$\zeta(A) := \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^{k+1}(A)}{r_l^{k+2}(A)(k!)^{1/2}}.$$

This theorem is also proved in the next section. If  $A$  is normal, then  $g(A) = 0$  and therefore,  $\zeta(A) = 0$ . Thus (2.11) implies

$$\|X\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^j(B)}{(j!)^{3/2}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!r_s^{m-j}(B)}{r_l^{m+1}(A)(m-j)!}.$$

But

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!r_s^{m-j}(B)}{r_l^{m+1}(A)(m-j)!} = r_l^{-j-1}(A) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!a^{m-j}}{(m-j)!} \quad (0 \leq a = r_s(B)/r_l(A) < 1)$$

and

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!a^{m-j}}{(m-j)!} = \frac{d^j}{da^j} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a^m = j!(1-a)^{-j-1}.$$

Consequently, if  $A$  is normal, then a solution of (1.2) under (2.9) satisfies the inequality

$$\|X\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^j(B)}{(j!)^{1/2}(r_l(A) - r_s(B))^{j+1}}.$$

If both  $A$  and  $B$  are normal, then

$$(2.12) \quad \|X\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_s^m(B)}{r_l^{m+1}(A)} = \frac{\|C\|}{r_l(A) - r_s(B)}.$$

Furthermore, by (1.3) and Corollary 2 with  $A^{-1}$  instead of  $A$ , and  $A^{-1}C$  instead of  $C$ , applying Lemma 6 proved below we get

**Corollary 5.** *Let condition (2.9) hold. Then a unique solution  $X$  of equation (1.2) satisfies the inequality*

$$\|X\| \leq \|A^{-1}C\| \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{\zeta^k(A)g^j(B)}{(k!j!)^{1/2}} \frac{(r_l(A)r_s(B))^{(k-j)/2}(B)}{[1 - (r_s(B)/r_l(A))^{1/2}]^{j+k+2}}.$$

Note that  $\|A^{-1}\|$  can be estimated by inequality (3.6) presented below.

### 3. PROOFS OF THEOREMS 1 AND 4

**Proof of Theorem 1.** By Corollary 2.7.2 from [8] we can write

$$(3.1) \quad \|A^m\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{m!g^k(A)r_s^{m-k}(A)}{(m-k)!(k!)^{3/2}} \quad (m = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Thus

$$\left\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} A^m C B^m \right\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{m!g^k(A)r_s^{m-k}(A)}{(m-k)!(k!)^{3/2}} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{m!g^j(B)r_s^{m-j}(B)}{(m-j)!(j!)^{3/2}},$$

or

$$(3.2) \quad \left\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} A^m C B^m \right\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^k(A)g^j(B)}{(k!j!)^{3/2}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(m!)^2 r_s^{m-k}(A)r_s^{m-j}(B)}{(m-k)!(m-j)!}.$$

The series

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(m!)^2 r_s^{m-k}(A)r_s^{m-j}(B)}{(m-k)!(m-j)!}$$

converges. Therefore, the series in (2.2) also converges. In addition, according to (2.2)

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A^k C B^k - A \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A^k C B^k B = C.$$

So (2.2) really solves (1.1). Now inequality (2.3) follows from (3.2). ■

To prove Theorem 4 we need to estimate the departure  $g(A^{-1})$  of normality of  $A^{-1}$ . That is,

$$g(A^{-1}) = \left[ |A^{-1}|_F^2 - \sum_{k=1}^n |\lambda_k(A^{-1})|^2 \right]^{1/2}.$$

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $r_l(A) > 0$ . Then  $g(A^{-1}) \leq \zeta(A)$ .*

**Proof.** Due to the Schur theorem on the reduction of a matrix  $A$  to the triangular form, we can write

$$(3.3) \quad A = D + V \quad (\lambda_k(A) = \lambda_k(D); \quad k = 1, \dots, n)$$

with a normal (diagonal) matrix  $D$  and a nilpotent (a strictly upper-triangular) matrix  $V$ , having the same invariant subspaces. We will call equality (3.3) the triangular representation of matrix  $A$ ;  $D$  and  $V$  will be called the diagonal part and the nilpotent part of  $A$ , respectively. It is not hard to check that

$$(3.4) \quad g(A) = |V|_F,$$

cf. [8, Lemma 2.3.2]. Furthermore, making use (3.3), we have  $A^{-1} = D^{-1} + W$ , where

$$W = A^{-1} - D^{-1} = -A^{-1}(A - D)D^{-1} = -A^{-1}VD^{-1}$$

is a nilpotent matrix, since  $A^{-1}$ ,  $V$ ,  $D^{-1}$  and  $W$  have the same invariant subspaces. But  $D^{-1}$  is normal, and therefore,  $W$  is the nilpotent part of  $A^{-1}$ , and according to (3.4)

$$(3.5) \quad g(A^{-1}) = |W|_F = |A^{-1}VD^{-1}|_F \leq \|A^{-1}\| \|V\|_F \|D^{-1}\| = \|A^{-1}\| g(A) r_l^{-1}(A).$$

Due to Corollary 2.1.2 from [8],

$$(3.6) \quad \|A^{-1}\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^k(A)}{r_l^{k+1}(A)(k!)^{1/2}}.$$

This and (3.5) prove the result. ■

Inequality (3.1) and the previous lemma imply

**Corollary 7.** *Let  $r_l(A) > 0$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \|A^{-m}\| &\leq \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{m!g^k(A^{-1})}{r_l^{m-k}(A)(m-k)!(k!)^{3/2}} \\ &\leq \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{m!\zeta^k(A)}{r_l^{m-k}(A)(m-k)!(k!)^{3/2}} \quad (m = 1, 2, \dots). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof of Theorem 4.** Due to (2.8), (3.1) and the previous corollary we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \|X\| &= \left\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} A^{-m-1}CB^m \right\| \leq \\ \|C\| &\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(m+1)!\zeta^k(A)}{r_l^{m+1-k}(A)(m+1-k)!(k!)^{3/2}} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{m!g^j(B)r_s^{m-j}(B)}{(m-j)!(j!)^{3/2}}, \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\|X\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{\zeta^k(A)g^j(B)}{(j!k!)^{3/2}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!(m+1)!r_s^{m-j}(B)}{r_l^{m+1-k}(A)(m+1-k)!(m-j)!}.$$

The series

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{m!(m+1)!r_s^{m-j}(B)}{r_l^{m+1-k}(A)(m+1-k)!(m-j)!}$$

converges. Therefore, the series in (2.9) also converges. This proves the theorem.  $\blacksquare$

#### 4. ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES. LYAPUNOV'S EQUATION

Condition (2.7) does not allow us to consider equation (1.2) with  $B = -A^*$ , since  $r_s(A^*) = r_s(A)$ . Because of this we are going to derive estimates under other conditions. To this end put  $\alpha(A) = \max \operatorname{Re} \lambda_k(A)$ ,  $\beta(A) = \min \operatorname{Re} \lambda_k(A)$  and

$$\gamma(a, A, B) := \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(k+j)!g^k(A)g^j(B)}{a^{k+j+1}(k!j!)^{3/2}}$$

for a constant  $a > 0$ .



First, we need the following

**Lemma 8.** *Let the condition*

$$(4.1) \quad \beta(A) > \alpha(B)$$

*hold. Then*

$$\int_0^\infty \|e^{-At}\| \|e^{Bt}\| dt \leq \gamma(\eta, A, B),$$

*where  $\eta := \beta(A) - \alpha(B)$ .*

**Proof.** Due to Example 1.10.3 from [8] we have

$$(4.2) \quad \|e^{As}\| \leq e^{\alpha(A)s} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{s^k g^k(A)}{(k!)^{3/2}} \quad (s \geq 0).$$

For the brevity put  $b = \alpha(B)$  and  $c = \eta/2$ . Then  $\beta(A) = b + 2c$  and  $\alpha(B - I(b + c)) = -c$ . Moreover,  $\alpha(-(A - I(b + c))) = \alpha(-A) + b + c = -\beta(A) + b + c = -c$ . In addition,  $e^{-At}e^{Bt} = e^{-(A-(b+c)I)t}e^{(B+I(b+c))t}$ . Take into account that,  $g(A) = g(A - I(b + c))$  and  $g(B) = g(B - I(b + c))$ . From (4.2) we have,

$$\|e^{-(A-I(b+c))s}\| \leq e^{-cs} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{s^k g^k(A)}{(k!)^{3/2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \|e^{(B-I(b+c))s}\| \leq e^{-cs} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{s^k g^k(B)}{(k!)^{3/2}} \quad (s \geq 0).$$

So

$$(4.3) \quad \|e^{-As}\| \|e^{Bs}\| \leq e^{-2sc} \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{s^{k+j} g^k(A) g^j(B)}{(k!j!)^{3/2}}.$$

But

$$\int_0^\infty s^{k+j} e^{-2cs} ds = \frac{(k+j)!}{(2c)^{k+j+1}}.$$

Thus (4.3) proves the lemma. ■

**Theorem 9.** *Let condition (4.1) hold. Then equation (1.2) has a unique solution, which can be represented as*

$$(4.4) \quad X = \int_0^\infty e^{-At} C e^{Bt} dt.$$

*Moreover,*

$$(4.5) \quad \|X\| \leq \|C\| \gamma(\eta, A, B).$$

**Proof.** Again put  $c = \eta/2$ . Equation (1.2) is equivalent to the following one:

$$(A - (\alpha(B) + c)I)X - X(B - (\alpha(B) + c)I) = C$$

As it was shown in the previous lemma  $\alpha(B - I(b + c)) = -c$  and  $\alpha(-(A - I(b + c))) = -c$  with  $b = \beta(B)$ . Due to Theorem 9.2 from [2] a solution of (1.2) is defined by the equality

$$X = \int_0^\infty e^{-(A - I(\alpha(B) + c))t} C e^{(B - (\alpha(B) + c)I)t} dt.$$

Hence (4.4) follows. Now the previous lemma proves the theorem.  $\blacksquare$

If  $A$  is normal, then  $g(A) = 0$  and therefore,

$$\gamma(\eta, A, B) := \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{g^j(B)}{\eta^{j+1}(j!)^{1/2}}.$$

If both  $A$  and  $B$  are normal, then  $\gamma(\eta, A, B) = \frac{1}{\eta}$ . It is not hard to check that in (4.5) we have the equality, provided  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are commuting normal matrices.

Consider the Lyapunov equation for differential equations

$$(4.6) \quad AX + XA^* = -C.$$

Taking in Theorem 4.1  $-A$  instead of  $A$  and  $A^*$  instead of  $B$ , since  $\alpha(A^*) = \alpha(A)$  and  $\beta(-A) = -\alpha(A)$ , we get

**Corollary 10.** *Let  $\alpha(A) < 0$ . Then equation (4.6) has a unique solution, which satisfies the inequality*

$$\|X\| \leq \|C\| \sum_{j,k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(k+j)! g^{k+j}(A)}{(2|\alpha(A)|)^{k+j+1} (k!j!)^{3/2}}.$$

## 5. ESTIMATES VIA KRONECKER'S SUMS OF MATRICES

In this section we consider the Sylvester equation

$$(5.1) \quad A_1 X + X A_2 = C,$$

whose coefficients have different dimensions. Namely  $A_l$  are  $n_l \times n_l$  ( $l = 1, 2$ ) matrices,  $C$  is an  $n_1 \times n_2$  matrix. In this case the results are more complicated than Theorems 4 and 9. Put

$$M = A_1 \otimes I_2 + I_1 \otimes A_2,$$

where  $\otimes$  means the tensor product [16],  $I_l$  is the unit  $n_l \times n_l$  matrix ( $l = 1, 2$ ). The eigenvalues of  $M$  are  $\lambda_{jk}(M) = \lambda_j(A_1) + \lambda_k(A_2)$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n_1; k = 1, \dots, n_2$ ) and

$$g^2(M) = |M|_F^2 - \sum_{j,k=1}^n |\lambda_{jk}(M)|^2 = |M|_F^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{n_1} \sum_{k=1}^{n_2} |\lambda_k(A_2) + \lambda_j(A_1)|^2$$

is the departure from normality of  $M$ . Let  $\sigma(A)$  denote the spectrum of a matrix  $A$ . Due to the classical Schur theorem,  $A_l$  admits the triangular representation

$$(5.2) \quad A_l = D_l + V_l \quad (\sigma(A_l) = \sigma(D_l), \quad l = 1, 2),$$

where  $D_l$  is the diagonal (normal) part, and  $V_l$  is the nilpotent (strictly upper triangular) part of  $A_l$ . So

$$M = I_1 \otimes (D_2 + V_2) + (D_1 + V_1) \otimes I_2 = D_M + V_M.$$

Here  $D_M = I_1 \otimes D_2 + D_1 \otimes I_2$  is the diagonal part of  $M$ , and  $V_M = I_1 \otimes V_2 + V_1 \otimes I_2$  is the nilpotent part of  $M$ . With  $m = n_1 + n_2 - 1$  we obtain

$$(5.3) \quad V_M^m = \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{m!}{(m-k)!k!} (I_1 \otimes V_2)^k (V_1 \otimes I_2)^{m-k} = 0,$$

since  $(I_1 \otimes V_2)^{n_2} = (V_1 \otimes I_2)^{n_1} = 0$ , and either  $k \geq n_2$  or  $m - k \geq n_1$ . We thus have proved

**Lemma 11.** *One has  $V_M^{n_1+n_2-1} = 0$ .*

Put  $\rho(M, \lambda) := \min_{j,k} |\lambda_{jk}(M) - \lambda|$ .

**Lemma 12.** *We have*

$$(5.4) \quad \|(M - \lambda I)^{-1}\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{n_1+n_2-2} \frac{g^k(M)}{\sqrt{k!} \rho^{k+1}(M, \lambda)} \quad (\lambda \notin \sigma(M)).$$

**Proof.** Let  $R_\lambda(M) = (M - \lambda I)^{-1}$  ( $\lambda \notin \sigma(M)$ ) be the resolvent of  $M$ . Clearly,

$$(5.5) \quad R_\lambda(M) = (D_M + V_M - \lambda I)^{-1} = (I + R_\lambda(D_M)V_M)^{-1}R_\lambda(D_M)$$

for all  $\lambda$  regular for  $M$ . Denote by  $|A|_{sb}$  the matrix whose entries in its Schur basis (the orthonormal basis of the triangular representation) are the absolute values of  $A$ . Then  $|R_\lambda(D_M)V_M|_{sb} \leq |R_\lambda(D_M)|_{sb}|V_M|_{sb}$ . The inequalities are understood in the entry-wise sense. Since a normal operator is diagonal in its

Schur basis, we can write  $|R_\lambda(D_M)|_{Sb} \leq \rho^{-1}(D_M, \lambda)I$  and thus  $|R_\lambda(D_M)V_M|_{Sb} \leq \rho^{-1}(D_M, \lambda)|V_M|_{Sb}$ . This implies

$$|(R_\lambda(D_M)V_M)^k|_{Sb} \leq (\rho^{-1}(D_M, \lambda))^k |V_M|_{Sb}^k.$$

According to Lemma 11  $|V_M|_{Sb}^m = 0$  with  $m = n_1+n_2-1$ . Hence,  $(R_\lambda(D_M)V_M)^m = 0$ . Now (5.5) implies

$$(5.6) \quad R_\lambda(M) = \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} (R_\lambda(D_M)V_M)^k (-1)^k R_\lambda(D_M).$$

Due to Theorem 2.5.1 from [8], for any nilpotent  $n \times n$  matrix  $V$  we have  $\|V^k\| \leq \frac{|V|_F^k}{\sqrt{k!}}$  ( $k = 1, \dots, n - 1$ ). Therefore

$$\|R_\lambda(M)\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \frac{|R_\lambda(D_M)V_M|_F^k}{\sqrt{k!}} \|R_\lambda(D_M)\|.$$

But  $|R_\lambda(D_M)V_M|_F \leq \|R_\lambda(D_M)\| |V_M|_F$ ,  $\|R_\lambda(D_M)\| = \rho^{-1}(D_M, \lambda)$  and thanks to Lemma 2.3.2 from [8],  $|V_M|_F = g(M)$ . Thus

$$\|R_\lambda(M)\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \frac{g^k(M)}{\rho^{k+1}(D_M, \lambda)\sqrt{k!}}.$$

Taking into account that  $\sigma(M) = \sigma(D_M)$ , we get the required result. ■

**Lemma 13.** *One has  $|M|_F^2 = |A_1|_F^2 n_2 + |A_2|_F^2 n_1 + 2\text{Re}(\text{Trace } A_1)(\text{Trace } A_2^*)$ .*

**Proof.** Obviously,

$$\begin{aligned} M^*M &= (A_1^* \otimes I_2 + I_1 \otimes A_2^*)(A_1 \otimes I_2 + I_1 \otimes A_2) \\ &= A_1^*A_1 \otimes I_2 + A_1^* \otimes A_2 + I_1 \otimes A_2^*A_2 + A_2 \otimes A_1^*. \end{aligned}$$

Take into account that  $\text{Trace}(A_1 \otimes A_2) = (\text{Trace } A_1)(\text{Trace } A_2)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} |M|_F^2 &= \text{Trace}(M^*M) = n_2 \text{Trace } A_1^*A_1 + n_1 \text{Trace } A_2^*A_2 \\ &\quad + (\text{Trace } A_1^*)(\text{Trace } A_2) + (\text{Trace } A_1)(\text{Trace } A_2^*). \end{aligned}$$

This proves the lemma. ■

Since  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are nilpotent, the previous lemma yields  $|V_M|_F^2 = n_2|V_1|_F^2 + n_1|V_2|_F^2$ . But  $|V_i|_F = g(A_i)$ ,  $|V_M|_F = g(M)$ . Thus we get

**Corollary 14.** *The equality  $g(M) = g(A_1, A_2)$ , is valid, where  $g(A_1, A_2) := (n_2g^2(A_1) + n_1g^2(A_2))^{1/2}$ .*

Moreover, the previous corollary and Lemma 12 imply

**Corollary 15.** *One has*

$$\|(M - \lambda I)^{-1}\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{n_1+n_2-2} \frac{g^k(A_1, A_2)}{\sqrt{k!}\rho^{k+1}(M, \lambda)} \quad (\lambda \notin \sigma(M)).$$

This corollary considerably improves inequality (6.2) from [12] (which is proved in the case  $n_1 = n_2$ ). It is assumed that

$$(5.7) \quad \rho_0(A_1, A_2) := \min_{j,k=1,\dots,n} |\lambda_k(A_1) + \lambda_j(A_2)| > 0.$$

Put  $M' = A_1 \otimes I_2 - I_1 \otimes A_2^T$ , where  $A_2^T$  is the matrix transposed to  $A_2$ . As it is well known, [16, p. 255], equation (3.1) is equivalent to the following one:  $M' \text{vec } X = \text{vec } C$ , where  $\text{vec } X$  for an  $n_1 \times n_2$  matrix  $X = (x_{jk})$  is defined as

$$\text{vec } X = \text{column } (x_{11}, x_{12}, \dots, x_{1n_2}, x_{21}, \dots, x_{2n_2}, \dots, x_{n_11}, \dots, x_{n_1n_2}).$$

Hence,  $\text{vec } X = (M')^{-1} \text{vec } C$ . Obviously,  $\|\text{vec } X\| = |X|_F$  and  $\|\text{vec } C\| = |C|_F$ . So we get  $|X|_F \leq \|(M')^{-1}\| |C|_F$ . But  $\rho_0(A_1, A_2^T) = \rho_0(A_1, A_2)$  and  $g(A_1, A_2^T) = g(A_1, A_2)$ . Now Corollary 15 implies

**Theorem 16.** *Let condition (5.7) hold. Then a solution  $X$  of (5.6) satisfies the inequality*

$$|X|_F \leq |C|_F \sum_{k=0}^{n_1+n_2-2} \frac{g^k(A_1, A_2)}{\sqrt{k!}\rho_0^{k+1}(A_1, A_2)}.$$

Let us apply Theorem 16 to perturbations of invariant subspaces. Recall that a subspace  $S$  of a Euclidean space is invariant for an operator  $A$  if  $AS \subset S$ .

For two  $n \times n$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$  suppose that

$$\sigma(A) = \sigma_1(A) \cup \sigma_2(A) \text{ and } \sigma(B) = \sigma_1(B) \cup \sigma_2(B)$$

with  $\sigma_1(A) \cap \sigma_2(A) = \emptyset$ ,  $\sigma_1(B) \cap \sigma_2(B) = \emptyset$ , and

$$(5.8) \quad \delta := \text{dist}(\sigma_2(A), \sigma_1(B)) > 0.$$

Denote by  $Q_A$  the orthogonal projection onto the invariant subspace of  $A$ , corresponding to  $\sigma_1(A)$ , and by  $Q_B$  the orthogonal projection onto the invariant subspace of  $B$ , corresponding to  $\sigma_1(B)$ . That is,  $AQ_A = Q_AAQ_A$ ,  $BQ_B = Q_BAQ_B$ ,  $\sigma(AQ_A) = \sigma_1(A)$  and  $\sigma(BQ_B) = \sigma_1(B)$ , and put  $\hat{Q}_A = I - Q_A$ .

The gap or distance between these subspaces is defined as  $\|Q_A - Q_B\|$ , cf. [1, p. 202]. In the spectral norm, one has [1, Exercise VII.1.11]  $\|Q_A - Q_B\| = \|\hat{Q}_AQ_B\|$ . Therefore, to bound  $\|Q_A - Q_B\|$  it is sufficient to bound  $\|\hat{Q}_AQ_B\|$ .

The literature devoted to the quantity  $\|\hat{Q}_AQ_B\|$  is rather rich. Mainly, the normal and Hermitian matrices are considered, cf. [1, 5, 14] and references therein.

Put  $n_1 = \text{rank } Q_B$  and  $n_2 = \text{rank } \hat{Q}_A$ .

**Theorem 17.** *Let condition (5.8) hold. Then*

$$(5.9) \quad |\hat{Q}_AQ_B|_F \leq |A - B|_F \sum_{k=0}^{n_1+n_2-1} \frac{(n_1g^2(A) + n_2g^2(B))^{k/2}}{\sqrt{k!}\delta^{k+1}}.$$

If  $A$  is normal, then  $g(A) = 0$  and

$$(5.10) \quad |\hat{Q}_AQ_B|_F \leq |A - B|_F \sum_{k=0}^{n_1+n_2-1} \frac{n_2^k g^k(B)}{\sqrt{k!}\delta^{k+1}}.$$

If both  $A$  and  $B$  are normal, then (5.9) yields  $|\hat{Q}_AQ_B|_F \leq \frac{|A-B|_F}{\delta}$ . This is the well-known result of Davis and Kahan [5]. To prove Theorem 17 we need

**Lemma 18.** *Let  $Q$  be an (orthogonal) projection onto an invariant subspace of  $A$ . Then  $g(AQ) \leq g(A)$  and  $g((I - Q)A) \leq g(A)$ .*

**Proof.** Recall that  $A = D_A + V_A$ , where  $D_A$  is the diagonal part and  $V_A$  is the nilpotent part of  $A$ . We have  $AQ = D_AQ + V_AQ$ . It is not hard to check  $D_AQ$  is normal and  $V_AQ$  is nilpotent, since  $A$ ,  $D_A$  and  $V_A$  have the same invariant subspaces. Consequently,  $g(AQ) = |V_AQ|_F \leq |V_A|_F = g(A)$ . Similarly the second inequality can be proved. ■

**Proof of Theorem 17.** Denote  $A_2 = \hat{Q}_AA$ ,  $B_1 = BQ_B$ ,  $C_{21} = \hat{Q}_A(A - B)Q_B$  and  $X_{21} = \hat{Q}_AQ_B$ . Then

$$C_{21} = \hat{Q}_AA\hat{Q}_AQ_B - \hat{Q}_AQ_BBQ_B = \hat{Q}_AX_{21} - X_{21}BQ_B,$$

and therefore,

$$(5.11) \quad A_2X_{21} - X_{21}B_1 = C_{21}.$$

Clearly,

$$(5.12) \quad |C_{21}|_F = |\hat{Q}_A(A - B)Q_B|_F \leq |A - B|_F \|\hat{Q}_A\| \|Q_B\| = |A - B|_F.$$

Apply to (5.11) Theorem 16 with  $A_1 = -B_1$ . Taking into account that

$$g^2(B_1, A_2) = n_1 g^2(A_2) + n_2 g^2(B_1) \text{ and } \rho_0(A_2, -B_1) = \delta,$$

we have

$$|X_{21}|_F \leq |C_{21}|_F \sum_{k=0}^{n_1+n_2-1} \frac{(n_1 g^2(A_2) + n_2 g^2(B_1))^{k/2}}{\sqrt{k!} \delta^{k+1}}.$$

Due to the previous lemma,  $g(A_2) \leq g(A)$ ,  $g(B_1) \leq g(B)$ . This and equalities  $X_{21} = \hat{Q}_A Q_B$  and (5.12) prove the theorem. ■

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