

CHANGES IN SIGNATURE INDUCED BY THE LYAPUNOV MAPPING $\mathcal{L}_A : X \rightarrow AX + XA^*$

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ABSTRACT. The Lyapunov mapping on $n \times n$ matrices over \mathbb{C} is defined by $\mathcal{L}_A(X) = AX + XA^*$; a matrix is stable iff all its characteristic values have negative real parts; and the inertia of a matrix X is the ordered triple $\text{In}(X) = (\pi, \nu, \delta)$ where π is the number of eigenvalues of X whose real parts are positive, ν the number whose real parts are negative, and δ the number whose real parts are 0. It is proven that for any normal, stable matrix A and any hermitian matrix H , if $\text{In}(H) = (\pi, \nu, \delta)$ then $\text{In}(\mathcal{L}_A(H)) = (\nu, \pi, \delta)$. Further, if stable matrix A has only simple elementary divisors, then the image under \mathcal{L}_A of a positive-definite hermitian matrix is negative-definite hermitian, and the image of a negative-definite hermitian matrix is positive-definite hermitian.

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES. Lyapunov, stable matrix, matrix inertia, positive-definite matrix

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For many years stable matrices have interested applied mathematicians because, for a system of linear homogeneous differential equations whose coefficients are constant, a stable matrix of coefficients is a necessary and sufficient condition that the solution be asymptotically stable. Recently, algebraists too have become interested in stable matrices.

Definition: A square matrix is stable \Leftrightarrow all its characteristic values have negative real parts.

(In this article, the entries of all matrices are complex numbers unless stated otherwise.)

A classical test for stability of matrices is Lyapunov's theorem, whose statement is facilitated by some notation:

- S = set of all $n \times n$ stable matrices
- H = set of all $n \times n$ hermitian matrices
- iH = set of all $n \times n$ skew-hermitian matrices
- Π = set of all $n \times n$ positive-definite hermitian matrices
- N = set of all $n \times n$ negative-definite hermitian matrices
- $\mathcal{L}_A(X) = AX + XA^*$, where A and X are $n \times n$ matrices and A^* is the conjugate transpose of A .

(It is trivial to verify that $\mathcal{L}_A(\bullet)$, the Lyapunov mapping, is a linear transformation on the linear space M_n of $n \times n$ matrices.)

Lyapunov's theorem is usually expressed as statement a) of

Theorem 1: The following three statements are equivalent:

- a) $A \in S \Leftrightarrow$ there exists $G \in \Pi$ such that $\mathcal{L}_A(G) = -I$;

- b) $A \in S \Leftrightarrow$ for every $G_1 \in N$, there exists $G \in \Pi$ such that $\mathcal{L}_A(G) = G_1 \Leftrightarrow$ there exists $G_1 \in N$ and there exists $G \in \Pi$ such that $\mathcal{L}_A(G) = G_1$ [Tausky, 1964; p. 6, thms 2-3];
- c) Let $C = aI + S$ (a real and < 0 , $S \in iH$) and $D = \text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_n)$ with d_i real ($i=1, \dots, n$). Then $CD \in S \Leftrightarrow d_i > 0$ for all i . [Tausky, 1961, J. Math Anal. & App.].

The equivalences are proven (essentially) in Tausky's articles. An analytic proof a) is in Bellman, pp. 242-245, and a topological proof in Ostrowski & Schneider.

Theorem 1 suggests that the operator $\mathcal{L}_A(\bullet)$ might give rise to other tests for stability; such usefulness is limited, however, by the following

Theorem 2: The range of $\mathcal{L}_A(H)$ as a function of $H \in \Pi$ and $A \in S$ is that subset of H with $\nu \neq 0$ (where ν denotes the number of characteristic vectors with negative real parts). [Stein, p. 352, thm 2].

Some useful theorems result if further restrictions are imposed on A besides stability. These theorems are obtained via a topological route and require additional concepts.

Definition: The inertia of an $n \times n$ matrix X is the ordered triple of integers $(\pi(X), \nu(X), \delta(X)) = \text{In}(X)$ where $\pi(X)$ is the number of characteristic values of X whose real parts are positive, $\nu(X)$ the number whose real parts are negative, and $\delta(X)$ the number whose real parts are 0. If $n \times n$ matrices M and N possess the same inertia, this will be denoted by $M \stackrel{I}{\sim} N$.

Let M and N be $n \times n$ hermitian matrices. M and N are congruent (denoted $M \stackrel{C}{\sim} N$) $\Leftrightarrow \exists P$ non-singular such that $M = P^*NP$.

Recall that all norms in the set of all $n \times n$ matrices M_n induce the same topology. In M_n so topologized, matrices M and N are connected \Leftrightarrow there exists a connected set containing both M and N . The relationship of being connected is an equivalence relation, which will be denoted by $\stackrel{C}{\sim}$. M and N are arc-wise connected \Leftrightarrow there exists a continuous function f from the real interval $[0,1]$ into M_n such that $f(0) = M$ and $f(1) = N$. This, too, is an equivalence relation in M_n and will be denoted by $\stackrel{A}{\sim}$.

The preceding concepts are brought together by the following theorem:

Theorem 3: In the set N_n of all non-singular $n \times n$ matrices with the relative topology induced by any norm, $A \stackrel{C}{\sim} B$ and $A \stackrel{A}{\sim} B$ ($\forall A, B \in N_n$). [Schneider; pp. 818-819, lemmata 1 & 2]. Let H_r^H denote the set of all $n \times n$ hermitian matrices of rank r . In H_r^H with the relative topology induced by any norm the four equivalence relations $\stackrel{C}{\sim}$, $\stackrel{A}{\sim}$, $\stackrel{I}{\sim}$, $\stackrel{S}{\sim}$ coincide. [Schneider; p. 820].

The relationship between algebraic features of hermitian matrices and topological features expressed by theorem 3 makes it possible to discover the variation in signature induced by the Lyapunov mapping $\mathcal{L}_A(\bullet)$ whenever $A \in S$ is normal and $H \in H$.

Theorem 4: If $A \in S$ is normal, then for any $H \in H$ with $\text{In}(H) = (\pi, \nu, \delta)$, $\text{In}(\mathcal{L}_A(H)) = (\nu, \pi, \delta)$.

Proof: Let $A \in S$ be normal, $\{a_i\}_1^n$ be its characteristic values, $H \in H$, $\text{In}(H) = (\pi, \nu, \delta)$, and $\mathcal{L}_A(H) = AH + HA^* = C$.

Since A is normal, it is unitarily similar to a diagonal matrix: $VAV^* = \text{diag}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$, V unitary. Also a basis for n -dimensional space can be

formed from the characteristic vectors of A, $\{\alpha_i\}_1^n$.

For any i , $\alpha_i C = \alpha_i(AH+HA^*) = \alpha_i a_i H + \alpha_i HA^* = \alpha_i H(a_i I + A^*)$. The number of independent $\alpha_i C$ is the rank of C; it is also the rank of $H(a_i I + A^*) = \text{rank of } H$ (since $a_i I + A^*$ is non-singular, for the characteristic values of $-A^*$ are $\{-\bar{a}_i\}_1^n$ and $\{\alpha_i\}_1^n \cap \{-a_i\}_1^n = \emptyset$ because real part of $\bar{a}_i = \text{real part of } a_i < 0$ ($i=1, \dots, n$)). Therefore, $\text{rank}(H) = \text{rank}(\mathcal{L}_A(H))$.

Because \mathcal{L}_A is a linear transformation of M_n onto itself, it is continuous. If \mathcal{L}_A is restricted to $H \subseteq M_n$ it is continuous and onto H . Therefore, \mathcal{L}_A maps topologically connected components of H_1^n onto components of H_1^n since rank is preserved by \mathcal{L}_A . But by theorem 3 topologically connected components coincide with inertial components. Therefore, \mathcal{L}_A maps $\text{In}(H)$ on $\text{In}(C)$.

$H \in H$ and since VHV^* is congruent to H , $\text{In}(VHV^*) = \text{In}(H)$. Hence, $\text{In}(\mathcal{L}_A(VHV^*)) = \text{In}(\mathcal{L}_A(H)) = \text{In}(C)$.

Let $D = \mathcal{L}_A(VHV^*) = A(VHV^*) + (VHV^*)A^*$. Then $V^*DV = (V^*AV)H + H(V^*A^*V)$. Because $D \in H$, $\text{In}(\mathcal{L}_{VAV^*}(H)) = \text{In}(V^*DV) = \text{In}(D) = \text{In}(C)$.

H is congruent to $K = I_\pi \oplus -I_\nu \oplus 0_\delta$, so $\text{In}(K) = \text{In}(H)$, whence $\text{In}(\mathcal{L}_{VAV^*}(K)) = \text{In}(\mathcal{L}_{VAV^*}(H)) = \text{In}(C)$. $\mathcal{L}_{VAV^*}(K)$ is of the form

$$\text{diag}(a_1, \dots, a_n)(I_\pi \oplus -I_\nu \oplus 0_\delta) + (I_\pi \oplus -I_\nu \oplus 0_\delta) \text{diag}(\bar{a}_1, \dots, \bar{a}_n) \\ = 2 \text{diag}(R(a_1), \dots, R(a_\pi), -R(a_{\pi+1}), \dots, -R(a_{\pi+\nu}), 0, \dots, 0),$$

where $R(a)$ denotes the real part of complex number a , I_m the $m \times m$ identity matrix, and 0_m the $m \times m$ zero matrix. Since $R(a_i) < 0$ ($i=1, \dots, n$),

$\text{In}(\mathcal{L}_{VAV^*}(K)) = (\nu, \pi, \delta)$. Therefore, $\text{In}(C) = (\nu, \pi, \delta)$. QED

The preceding theorem was based on the unitary similarity of A to a diagonal matrix; this property was used first to show the invariance of rank and then to display the inertia when both A and H were expressed in canonical form. The next theorem generalizes the last in that A need be similar (not unitarily similar) to a diagonal matrix, but it is more restrictive of the inertia of H .

Theorem 5: If $A \in S$ has only simple elementary divisors, then $\mathcal{L}_A(\Pi) = N$ and $\mathcal{L}_A(N) = \Pi$.

Proof: Since A has only simple elementary divisors, it is similar to a diagonal matrix. As in the proof of the preceding theorem, $\text{rank}(H) = \text{rank}(\mathcal{L}_A(H))$. Likewise, \mathcal{L}_A maps $\text{In}(H)$ on $\text{In}(\mathcal{L}_A(H))$. By Lyapunov's theorem (1a), $\exists H \in \Pi : \mathcal{L}_A(H) = -I \in N$. Therefore, $\mathcal{L}_A(\Pi) \subseteq N$. But by the alternative version (1b) of Lyapunov's theorem, $N \subseteq \mathcal{L}_A(\Pi)$.

The second equation follows from $-\mathcal{L}_A(H) = \mathcal{L}_A(-H) = I$. QED

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