

A class of marked invariant subspaces with an
application to algebraic Riccati equations

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Abstract

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Abstract: Invariant subspaces of a matrix A are considered which are obtained by truncation of a Jordan basis of a generalized eigenspace of A . We characterize those subspaces which are independent of the choice of the Jordan basis. An application to Hamilton matrices and algebraic Riccati equations is given.

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1 Invariant subspaces

Let λ be an eigenvalue of a complex $n \times n$ matrix A and let

$$E_\lambda(A) = \text{Ker}(A - \lambda I)^n$$

be the corresponding generalized eigenspace. Suppose $\dim E_\lambda(A) = k$. If

$$(s - \lambda)^{t_1}, \dots, (s - \lambda)^{t_k}, \quad t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_k,$$

are the corresponding elementary divisors then $E_\lambda(A)$ is a direct sum of t_i -dimensional cyclic subspaces, i.e.

$$E_\lambda(A) = K_1 \oplus \dots \oplus K_k$$

with

$$K_i = \text{span}\{u_i, (A - \lambda I)u_i, \dots, (A - \lambda I)^{t_i-1}u_i\}, \quad (1.1)$$

and $(A - \lambda I)^{t_i}u_i = 0$, $i = 1, \dots, k$. We call

$$U = (u_1, \dots, u_k) \quad (1.2)$$

a tuple of *generators* of $E_\lambda(A)$. From a given U one can construct A -invariant subspaces in the following way. Let $r = (r_1, \dots, r_k)$ be such that

$$0 \leq r_i < t_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, k. \quad (1.3)$$

We set

$$W_{r_i}(U) = \text{span}\{(A - \lambda I)^{r_i}u_i, (A - \lambda I)^{r_i+1}u_i, \dots, (A - \lambda I)^{t_i-1}u_i\} \quad (1.4)$$

and

$$W(r, U) = W_{r_1}(U) \oplus \dots \oplus W_{r_k}(U). \quad (1.5)$$

The construction of invariant subspaces of the form $W(r, U)$ is a standard procedure in linear algebra and systems theory (see e.g. [8], [6, p.61], [5], [10], [2, p.28]).

If U and \tilde{U} are two different tuples of generators of $E_\lambda(A)$ then the restrictions of A to $W(r, U)$ and $W(r, \tilde{U})$ have the same elementary divisors, namely $(s - \lambda)^{t_i - r_i}$, $i = 1, \dots, k$. However, in general, the subspaces $W(r, U)$ and $W(r, \tilde{U})$ will be different. Consider the following example with $k = 2$, $t_1 = 2$, $t_2 = 3$, and

$$A = \text{diag}(N_2, N_3), \quad N_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad N_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1.6)$$

Let e_i be a unit vector of \mathbb{C}^5 . Then $U = \{e_2, e_5\}$ and $\tilde{U} = \{e_2, e_5 + e_2\}$ are tuples of generators of $E_0(A) = \text{Ker } A^5 = \mathbb{C}^5$. If we choose $r = (1, 0)$, then $W(r, U) = \text{span}\{e_1, e_3, e_4, e_5\}$ and $W(r, \tilde{U}) = \text{span}\{e_1, e_3, e_4 + e_1, e_5 + e_2\}$. Thus

$$W(r, U) \neq W(r, \tilde{U}). \quad (1.7)$$

On the other hand, if we choose $r = (1, 2)$, then

$$W(r, U) = W(r, \tilde{U}). \quad (1.8)$$

It is the purpose of our note to determine those tuples $r = (r_1, \dots, r_k)$ which have the property that the space $W(r, U)$ given by (1.4) and (1.5) is independent of the generator tuple U . The motivation for our study comes from Kucera's survey article [8], which deals with independence of generator tuples in the case of Hamiltonian matrices. In Section 3 we make the connection with [8, p.60] applying a corollary of our main theorem to Hamiltonian matrices and algebraic Riccati equations.

In the sequel we assume that $\lambda = 0$ is an eigenvalue of A and we focus on $E_0(A) = \text{Ker } A^n$. With each nonzero vector $v \in E_0(A)$ we associate a *height* $h(v)$ and an *exponent* $e(v)$ as follows. Suppose

$$v \in \text{Im } A^q, v \notin \text{Im } A^{q+1}, v \in \text{Ker } A^p, v \notin \text{Ker } A^{p-1}.$$

Then we set $h(v) = q$ and $e(v) = p$. Thus, if $\lambda = 0$ in (1.1) then the elements of U in (1.2) satisfy $e(u_1) = t_1 \leq \dots \leq e(u_k) = t_k$ and $h(u_i) = 0$. We define

$$\langle v \rangle = \text{span}\{A^\nu v, \nu \geq 0\}.$$

Then $\langle v \rangle$ is a cyclic subspace generated by v , and $\dim \langle v \rangle = e(v)$.

2 The main result

Theorem 2.1. *Let $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ and let*

$$s^{t_1}, \dots, s^{t_k}, t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_k, \quad (2.1)$$

be the elementary divisors corresponding to the eigenvalue $\lambda = 0$. Let

$$U = (u_1, \dots, u_k)$$

be a tuple of generators of $E_0(A) = \text{Ker } A^n$ such that $e(u_i) = t_i, i = 1, \dots, k$, and

$$E_0(A) = \langle u_1 \rangle \oplus \dots \oplus \langle u_k \rangle.$$

Let $r = (r_1, \dots, r_k)$ be a k -tuple of integers with $0 \leq r_i < t_i$, $i = 1, \dots, k$. Define

$$W(r, U) = \langle A^{r_1} u_1 \rangle \oplus \cdots \oplus \langle A^{r_k} u_k \rangle \quad (2.2)$$

and

$$W(r) = (\text{Im } A^{r_1} \cap \text{Ker } A^{t_1-r_1}) + \cdots + (\text{Im } A^{r_k} \cap \text{Ker } A^{t_k-r_k}). \quad (2.3)$$

Then the following statements are equivalent:

(i) The k -tuple $r = (r_1, \dots, r_k)$ satisfies

$$r_1 \leq \cdots \leq r_k, \quad (2.4)$$

and

$$t_1 - r_1 \leq \cdots \leq t_k - r_k. \quad (2.5)$$

(ii) The space $W(r, U)$ is independent of U .

Moreover, if (2.4) and (2.5) hold then $W(r, U) = W(r)$.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii). We show that (2.4) and (2.5) imply $W(r, U) = W(r)$. Define $W_{r_s}(U) = \langle A^{r_s} u_s \rangle$ such that (1.5) holds. From

$$W_{r_s}(U) \subseteq \text{Im } A^{r_s} \cap \text{Ker } A^{t_s-r_s}$$

we immediately obtain $W(r, U) \subseteq W(r)$. Now let x be in $\text{Im } A^{r_s} \cap \text{Ker } A^{t_s-r_s}$. Then $x = A^{r_s} y$ for some $y \in E_0(A)$, and

$$A^{t_s-r_s} x = A^{t_s} y = 0. \quad (2.6)$$

With respect to the basis

$$\mathcal{B}_U = \{A^{\nu_i} u_i; 0 \leq \nu_i \leq t_i - 1, i = 1, \dots, k\} \quad (2.7)$$

we have

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{\nu_i=0}^{t_i-1} \alpha_{i\nu_i} A^{\nu_i} u_i.$$

Let ℓ be the largest integer such that $t_\ell \leq t_s$. Then $A^{t_s} u_i = 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, \ell$. Moreover $A^{t_s+\nu_i} u_i = 0$ if $t_s + \nu_i > t_i$. Therefore

$$A^{t_s} y = \sum_{i>\ell} \sum_{\nu_i=0}^{t_i-t_s-1} \alpha_{i\nu_i} A^{t_s+\nu_i} u_i = 0.$$

Since the vectors of \mathcal{B}_U are linearly independent we obtain $\alpha_{i\nu_i} = 0$ for $i > \ell$ and $\nu_i = 0, \dots, t_i - t_s - 1$. Hence

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \sum_{\nu_i=0}^{t_i-1} \alpha_{i\nu_i} A^{\nu_i} u_i + \sum_{i>\ell} \sum_{\nu_i=t_i-t_s}^{t_i-1} \alpha_{i\nu_i} A^{\nu_i} u_i$$

and

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \sum_{\nu_i=0}^{t_i-1} \alpha_{i\nu_i} A^{r_s+\nu_i} u_i + \sum_{i>\ell} \sum_{\nu_i=t_i-t_s}^{t_i-1} \alpha_{i\nu_i} A^{r_s+\nu_i} u_i.$$

Note that $t_s = \dots = t_\ell$ implies $r_s = \dots = r_\ell$. Hence, if $1 \leq i \leq \ell$ then $r_i \leq r_s$, and therefore

$$A^{r_s+\nu_i} u_i \in W_{r_i}(U). \quad (2.8)$$

On the other hand, if $i > \ell$ then $t_s - r_s \leq t_i - r_i$. In that case $\nu_i \in \{t_i - t_s, \dots, t_i - 1\}$ implies

$$r_s + \nu_i \geq r_s + (t_i - t_s) \geq r_i.$$

Thus, we again have (2.8). Hence $x \in W(r, U)$ and therefore $W(r) \subseteq W(r, U)$.

(ii) \Rightarrow (i). We assume that $W(r, U)$ is independent of U . Let us show first that

$$r_i = r_j \text{ if } t_i = t_j. \quad (2.9)$$

Suppose $r = (r_1, \dots, r_k)$ is such that $t_s = t_{s+1}$ and $r_s \neq r_{s+1}$, e.g.

$$r_{s+1} < r_s \text{ for some } s \in \{1, \dots, k-1\}. \quad (2.10)$$

Let $V = (v_1, \dots, v_k)$ be such that $(v_s, v_{s+1}) = (u_{s+1}, u_s)$, and $v_i = u_i$ if $i \notin \{s, s+1\}$. Then $A^{r_{s+1}} u_{s+1} \in W(r, U)$ but $A^{r_{s+1}} u_{s+1} = A^{r_{s+1}} v_s \notin W(r, V)$. Therefore the tuples U and V contain the same elements, but $W(r, U) \neq W(r, V)$.

Now suppose that (2.4) is not satisfied. Then we have (2.10), and

$$A^{r_{s+1}} u_s \notin W(r, U). \quad (2.11)$$

Let $V = (v_1, \dots, v_k)$ be given by $v_{s+1} = u_{s+1} + u_s$, and $v_i = u_i$, if $i \neq s+1$. Thus V is a tuple of generators of $E_0(A)$ with $e(v_i) = e(u_i)$. Consider

$$A^{r_{s+1}} u_{s+1} + A^{r_{s+1}} u_s = A^{r_{s+1}} v_{s+1} \in W(r, V).$$

Then $A^{r_{s+1}} v_{s+1} \notin W(r, U)$. Otherwise $A^{r_{s+1}} u_{s+1} \in W(r, U)$ would imply $A^{r_{s+1}} u_s \in W(r, U)$, which is a contradiction to (2.11).

Suppose $r = (r_1, \dots, r_k)$ does not satisfy (2.5). Then $t_s - r_s > t_{s+1} - r_{s+1}$ for some $s \in \{1, \dots, k-1\}$. Because of (2.9) we have $t_{s+1} \neq t_s$. Hence $r_{s+1} - r_s > t_{s+1} - t_s > 0$, and $r_s < r_{s+1}$, and

$$r_s + (t_{s+1} - t_s) < r_{s+1}. \quad (2.12)$$

Because (2.2) it is obvious that (2.12) implies

$$A^{r_s+(t_{s+1}-t_s)}u_{s+1} \notin W(r, U). \quad (2.13)$$

Define $v_s = u_s + A^{t_{s+1}-t_s}u_{s+1}$. Then $e(v_s) = e(u_s) = t_s$. Therefore

$$V = \{u_1, \dots, u_{s-1}, v_s, u_{s+1}, \dots, u_k\} \quad (2.14)$$

is another tuple of generators of $E_0(A)$. Let us show that $W(r, V) \neq W(r, U)$. Clearly, the vector $A^{r_s}v_s$ belongs to $W(r, V)$. Suppose

$$A^{r_s}u_s + A^{r_s+(t_{s+1}-t_s)}u_{s+1} = A^{r_s}v_s \in W(r, U).$$

Because of $A^{r_s}u_s \in W(r, U)$ that would imply

$$A^{r_s+(t_{s+1}-t_s)}u_{s+1} \in W(r, U),$$

which is a contradiction to (2.13). \square

Let us consider again Example (1.6). We have $(t_1, t_2) = (2, 3)$. In the case of $r = (1, 0)$ condition (2.4) is violated, which accounts for (1.7). In the case of $r = (1, 2)$ both (2.4) and (2.5) hold, which ensures (1.8).

In accordance with a definition in [7, p. 83] and [3] the space $W(r, U)$ is a *marked* A -invariant subspace of $E_0(A)$. That means $W(r, U)$ has a Jordan basis, in our case

$$\{A^{r_i+\mu_i}u_i; 0 \leq \mu_i \leq t_i - r_i - 1, i = 1, \dots, k\},$$

which can be extended to a Jordan basis of $E_0(A)$, namely to \mathcal{B}_U in (2.7). Let \mathcal{M}_r be the set of marked subspaces M of $E_0(A)$ such that the elementary divisors of the restriction $A|_M$ are $s^{t_1-r_1}, \dots, s^{t_k-r_k}$. We have noted before that for each tuple of generators U the corresponding space $W(r, U)$ is in \mathcal{M}_r . Suppose (2.4) and (2.5) hold. Then all the spaces $W(r, U)$ coincide with $W(r)$ and one might ask whether $W(r)$ is the only subspaces in \mathcal{M}_r . In the following we have an example where $\mathcal{M}_r \not\subseteq \{W(r)\}$. Let $n = 10$, $k = 2$, and $t = (t_1, t_2) = (4, 6)$, and $r = (2, 3)$. Then $t - r = (2, 3)$. Hence

the conditions (2.4) and (2.5) are satisfied. Let $U = (u_1, u_2)$ be a tuple of generators such that $e(u_1) = 4$ and $e(u_2) = 6$. The subspaces

$$M = W(r, U) = W(r) = \langle A^2 u_1 \rangle \oplus \langle A^3 u_2 \rangle$$

and $\tilde{M} = \langle A u_1 \rangle \oplus \langle A^4 u_2 \rangle$ are marked, the elementary divisors of $A|_M$ and $A|_{\tilde{M}}$ are s^2, s^3 . Hence $\tilde{M} \in \mathcal{M}_r$, but $\tilde{M} \neq W(r)$.

Let $[m]$ denote the greatest integer of m . If we assume (t_1, \dots, t_k) as in (2.1) and take $r = ([\frac{1}{2}t_1], \dots, [\frac{1}{2}t_k])$ then the conditions (2.4) and (2.5) are satisfied and we note the following corollary of Theorem 2.1.

Corollary 2.2. *Let $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ and $0 \in \sigma(A)$. Let $s^{2m_1}, \dots, s^{2m_k}$, be the elementary divisors of A corresponding to $\lambda = 0$. If $U = (u_1, \dots, u_k)$ is a tuple of generators of $\text{Ker } A^n$ such that $e(u_i) = 2m_i$, $i = 1, \dots, k$, then $e(A^{m_i} u_i) = m_i$ for all i , and*

$$\langle A^{m_1} u_1 \rangle \oplus \dots \oplus \langle A^{m_k} u_k \rangle = (\text{Im } A^{m_1} \cap \text{Ker } A^{m_1}) + \dots + (\text{Im } A^{m_k} \cap \text{Ker } A^{m_k}).$$

3 An application

In this section we apply Corollary 2.2 to the algebraic Riccati equation

$$Q + F^* X + X F - X D X = 0 \quad (3.1)$$

and its associated Hamiltonian matrix

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} F & -D \\ -Q & -F^* \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3.2)$$

Here F, D, Q are complex $m \times m$ matrices, D and Q are hermitian, $D \geq 0$, and the pair (F, D) is assumed to be controllable. Then (see [8, p.59] all elementary divisors corresponding to eigenvalues $i\alpha \in i\mathbb{R}$ have even degree. To fix ideas we assume $\sigma(H) = \{0\}$. The subsequent result complements Lemma 3.2.3 of [8, p.60].

Proposition 3.1. *Let $s^{2m_1}, \dots, s^{2m_k}$ be the elementary divisors of H . Set*

$$W = (\text{Im } H^{m_1} \cap \text{Ker } H^{m_1}) + \dots + (\text{Im } H^{m_k} \cap \text{Ker } H^{m_k}). \quad (3.3)$$

Then W is an H -invariant subspace of \mathbb{C}^{2m} and $\dim W = m$. Let $Y, Z \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ be such that the columns of $\begin{pmatrix} Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix}$ are a basis of W . Then Y is nonsingular and $X = ZY^{-1}$ is the unique hermitian solution of (3.1).

Proof. Set $t = (2m_1, \dots, 2m_k)$. Let $U = (u_1, \dots, u_k)$ be a tuple of generators of $E_0(H) = \mathbb{C}^{2m}$. According to [8] we have

$$W(\frac{1}{2}t, U) = \text{span} \begin{pmatrix} I_m \\ X \end{pmatrix},$$

where $X \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ is the unique hermitian solution of (3.1). From Corollary 2.2 we know that $W(\frac{1}{2}t, U)$ is independent of the choice of U . Moreover, $W(\frac{1}{2}t, U) = W$ where W is given by (3.3). Hence, if $W = \text{span} \begin{pmatrix} Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix}$ then Y is nonsingular, and

$$\text{span} \begin{pmatrix} Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ ZY^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

implies that $X = ZY^{-1}$ is the solution of (3.1). □

4 Conclusions

Results of this note can be considered in a module theoretic framework. In a subsequent paper we shall make the connection of Theorem 2.1 with marked subspaces in [4] and with torsion modules over discrete valuation domains in [1].

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