

STABILITY FOR SYMMETRIC  
VERSUS NONSYMMETRIC  
MATRICES: A COMPARISON

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(Including joint work with  
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## OUTLINE

- Two matrix cones:
  - negative-semidefinite symmetric
  - stable nonsymmetric
- What do they have in common?
- “Convex-like” properties: regularity
- “Active-set-like” properties:
  - partial smoothness
- “Robustness” properties:
  - Lyapunov characterizations
  - Pseudospectra
  - Kreiss matrix theorem
  - stability radii and the  $H_\infty$ -norm
  - Lipschitz effects

## THE SEMIDEFINITE CONE

$\mathbf{S}^n$  — the space of  $n$ -by- $n$   
real symmetric matrices.

$\mathbf{S}_-^n$  — the set of negative-  
semidefinites.

In this space

$$X \succeq Y \text{ means } Y - X \in \mathbf{S}_-^n.$$

Properties of  $\mathbf{S}_-^n$  :

- closed convex cone
- rich algebraic structure  
(homogeneous, self-dual ...)
- powerful modeling tool in modern optimization.

## THE STABLE CONE

$\mathbf{M}^n$  — the space of  $n$ -by- $n$  complex matrices.

$\mathbf{M}_-^n$  — the set of stable matrices: all eigenvalues have real part  $\leq 0$ .

Properties of  $\mathbf{M}_-^n$  :

- closed cone (eigenvalues continuous)
- basic modeling tool: all trajectories of  $\dot{x} = Ax$  go to zero exponentially  
 $\Leftrightarrow A \in \text{int } \mathbf{M}_-^n$  .

But not convex:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} .$$

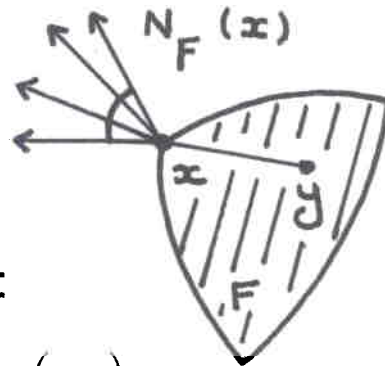
stable + stable = unstable

So no nice global structure.

## LOCAL PROPERTIES

Key property of a closed convex set  $F$ :  
normal cone map

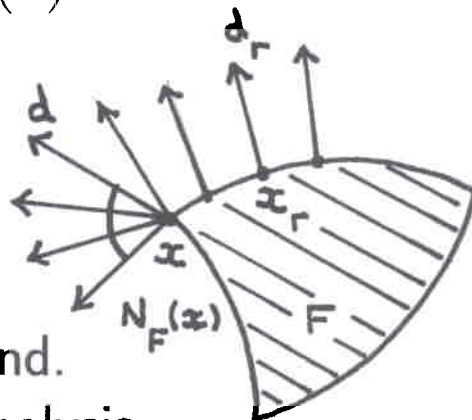
$$x \in F \mapsto N_F(x) = \bigcap_{y \in F} \{d : d^T(y - x) \leq 0\}$$



is a closed multifunction:

$$\begin{aligned} x_r \in F, \quad d_r \in N_F(x_r) \\ x_r \rightarrow x, \quad d_r \rightarrow d \\ \Rightarrow d \in N_F(x). \end{aligned}$$

But many nonconvex sets have this property (for suitable  $N_F$ ). Eg:  $\{x : g_i(x) \leq 0 \forall i\}$  when  $\{\nabla g_i(x) : i \text{ active}\}$  lin. ind.

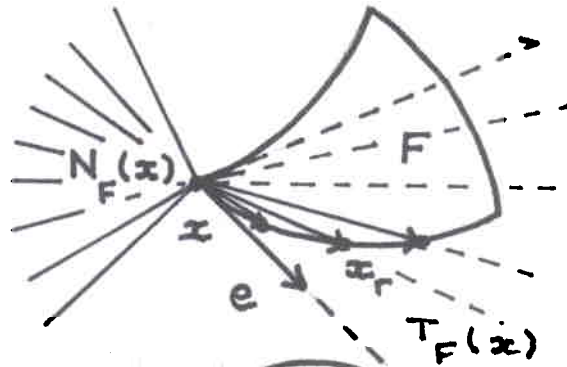


Crucial for nonsmooth analysis.

## NORMALS AND REGULARITY

$d \in N_F(x)$  (a regular normal) means  $d^T e \leq 0$  for all tangent  $e$ , ie. whenever

$x^r \rightarrow x$  in  $F$  and  $\frac{x_r - x}{\|x_r - x\|} \rightarrow e$ .



$F$  Clarke regular at  $x$  means regular normal map  $N_F$  closed at  $x$ .



(Clarke... or Rockafellar/Wets, 1998)

## REGULARITY OF STABLE CONE

**Thm** (Burke/Overton '99)

If  $A \in \mathbb{M}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  satisfies

$$(*) \quad \begin{cases} \text{every imaginary eigenvalue} \\ \text{has geometric multiplicity } 1 \end{cases}$$

then  $\mathbb{M}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  is regular at  $A$ .

Eg: Jordan block

$$J_n = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: the “nonderogatory” assumption  $(*)$  is generic—within the matrices having imaginary eigenvalues of any given algebraic multiplicities, those failing  $(*)$  have lower dimension.

## ACTIVE SET IDEAS

**Eg** Given  $A_1, \dots, A_k, B \in \mathbf{S}^n$ ,  
denote optimal solution of SDP

$$\min \left\{ c^T x : \sum_j x_j A_j - B \in \mathbf{S}_-^n \right\}$$

by  $x(c)$ .

Usually,

$$\text{rank} \left( \sum_j x_j A_j - B \right)$$

stays constant for small changes in  $c$ ,  
and

$$c \mapsto x(c)$$

smooth.



## PERSISTENCE OF JORDAN FORM

Eg Given  $A_1, \dots, A_k, B \in \mathbf{M}^n$ ,  
denote optimal solution of

$$\min \left\{ c^T x : \sum_j x_j A_j - B \in \mathbf{M}_-^n \right\}$$

by  $x(c)$ .

Usually, each imaginary eigenvalue of

$$\sum_j x_j A_j - B$$

has

- geometric multiplicity 1
- algebraic multiplicity constant

for small changes in  $c$ , and

$$c \mapsto x(c)$$

smooth.

## EXAMPLE

Minimize  $c^T x$  subject to

$$\mathcal{A}(x) = \begin{bmatrix} -x_2 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ x_2 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ x_3 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ x_n & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} - x_1 I_n + J_n$$

stable.

For  $c = [1, 0, 0, \dots, 0]^T$ , optimal  $x = 0$ ,  
so  $\mathcal{A}(x) = J_n$ , (single Jordan block).

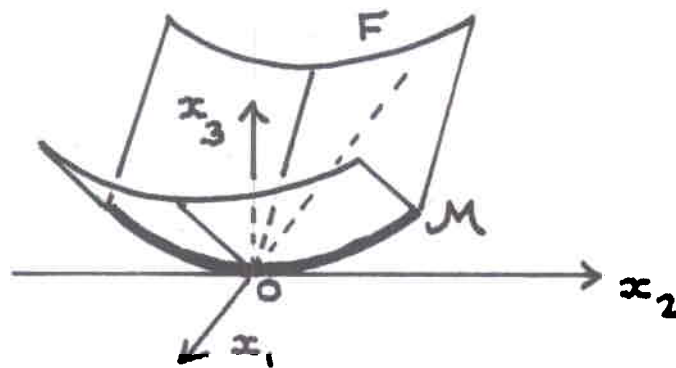
For  $c$  close to  $[1, 0, 0, \dots, 0]^T$ , optimal  
 $\mathcal{A}(x)$  remains a single Jordan block.

**WHY?**

## PARTLY SMOOTH SETS

A framework for “active-set” ideas.

Eg Consider  $\min\{c^T x : x \in F\}$ ,  
where  $F = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^3 : x_3 \geq |x_1| + x_2^2\}$ .



As  $c$  varies near  $[0, 0, 1]^T$ , optimal  $x(c)$   
varies smoothly on active manifold

$$\mathcal{M} = \{x : x_1 = 0, x_3 = x_2^2\}.$$

Reason:

- $N_F$  continuous on  $\mathcal{M}$ , and
- $F$  “sharp” around  $\mathcal{M}$ .

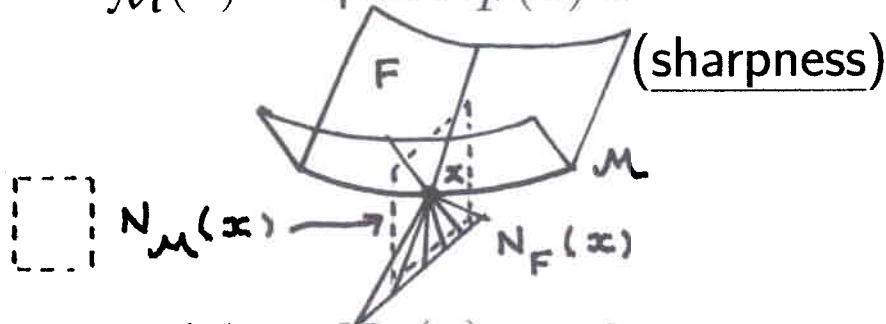
## PARTLY SMOOTH: THE DEFINITION

Suppose  $\mathcal{M} \subset F$  a manifold:

- defined locally by smooth equations
- linearly independent gradients.

Closed  $F$  partly smooth relative to  $\mathcal{M}$  if regular throughout  $\mathcal{M}$ , and normal cone satisfies

- $N_{\mathcal{M}}(x) = \text{span } N_F(x)$  for  $x \in \mathcal{M}$



- $x \in \mathcal{M} \mapsto N_F(x)$  continuous:

$$d \in N_F(x), x^r \rightarrow x \text{ in } \mathcal{M} \Rightarrow \exists d^r \in N_F(x^r) \text{ with } d^r \rightarrow d.$$

Partly smooth sets have good calculus.

## THE CONES

**Thm** (Oustry, '00) For any  $r$ ,  $\mathbf{S}_-^n$  is partly smooth relative to

$$\{X : \text{rank } X = r\}.$$

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For any list of numbers  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $X \in \mathbf{M}^n$

$$X \in \mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{L}}^n$$

means  $X$  has imaginary eig/vals with

- geometric multiplicities 1
- algebraic multiplicities constant, listed (downward) by  $\mathcal{L}$ .

**Thm** (Arnold, '71)  $\mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{L}}^n$  a manifold.

**Thm**  $\mathbf{M}_-^n$  partly smooth rel. to  $\mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{L}}^n$ .

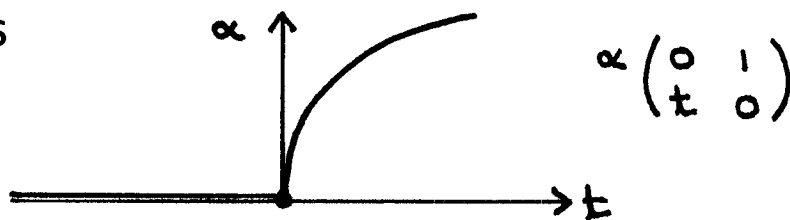
## SPECTRAL ABSCISSA

Asymptotic decay for trajectories of  $\dot{x} = Ax$  measured by spectral abscissa:

$$\alpha(A) = \max\{\operatorname{Re} z : z \text{ eig/val of } A\}.$$

(So,  $A \in \mathbf{M}_-^n \Leftrightarrow \alpha(A) \leq 0$ .)

Unlike maximum eig/val  $\lambda_{\max}$  on  $\mathbf{S}^n$ ,  $\alpha$  is



- not convex
- not Lipschitz:

$$\alpha(X) - \alpha(Y) \not\leq k\|X - Y\|.$$

$\alpha$  is differentiable a.e., since semi-algebraic: its epigraph defined by polynomial equations and inequalities.

## PEAKING AND APPROXIMATION

Classical characterization  $\alpha(A) =$   
 $\inf\{\gamma : 2\gamma P \succeq PA + A^*P, P \in \mathbf{H}_{++}^n\}$

( $P$  Hermitian) suggests a “Lyapunov”  
approximation: for small  $\delta > 0$ ,

$$\alpha^\delta(A) = \inf\{\gamma : 2\gamma P \succeq PA + A^*P, \\ I \succeq P \succeq \delta I\}.$$

### Advantages

- Stops transient peaks for  $\dot{x} = Ax$ .
- Characterization attained.
- $\alpha^\delta$  Lipschitz and “more” convex:

$$\alpha^1(A) = \lambda_{\max}\left(\frac{A + A^*}{2}\right).$$

Disadvantage (computationally):  
large auxiliary variable  $P$ .

## ROBUSTNESS

How do we check

$$A \in \mathbf{S}_-^n \quad \underline{\text{robustly?}}$$

Suppose we mean, for small  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\|X - A\| \leq \epsilon \Rightarrow X \in \mathbf{S}_-^n.$$

In terms of functions, we need

$$\lambda_{\max}(A) \leq 0 \quad \text{robustly.}$$

In other words:

$$0 \geq \max_{\|X-A\| \leq \epsilon} \lambda_{\max}(X)$$

(the robust regularization)

$$= \lambda_{\max}(A) + \epsilon.$$

What is robust regularization of spectral abscissa  $\alpha$ ?



## PSEUDOSPECTRA

$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda_\epsilon(A) &= \{e/\text{vals of } X : \|X - A\| \leq \epsilon\} \\ &= \{z : \sigma_{\min}(A - zI) \leq \epsilon\}\end{aligned}$$

(where  $\sigma_{\min}$  is smallest singular value).

Robust regularization of  $\alpha$  is  
pseudospectral abscissa:

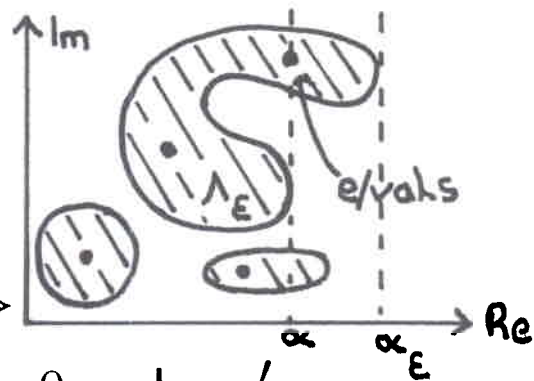
$$\alpha_\epsilon(A) = \max\{\text{Re } z : z \in \Lambda_\epsilon(A)\}.$$

Computing  $\alpha_\epsilon$  is relatively easy (like finding  $\mathbf{H}_\infty$ -norms).

Kreiss matrix thm  $\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned}\forall \delta > 0 \quad \exists \epsilon > \epsilon' > 0 \text{ and } c, c' \text{ so} \\ c' \alpha_{\epsilon'} < \alpha^\delta < c \alpha_\epsilon.\end{aligned}$$

Hence reducing  $\alpha_\epsilon$  also discourages transient peaks.



## ASIDE: KREISS MATRIX THEOREM

$\mathcal{F} \subset \mathbf{M}^n$  is:

(a)  $L_2$ -stable if  $p =$

$$\sup_{k \in \mathbf{N}, A \in \mathcal{F}} \|A^k\| < \infty.$$

(b) strictly Hermitian-stable if  $q =$

$$\inf\{\gamma : H_\gamma(A) \neq \emptyset \forall A \in \mathcal{F}\} < \infty$$

where  $H \in H_\gamma(A)$  means

$$H \succeq A^*HA, \quad \gamma I \succeq H \succeq \gamma^{-1}I.$$

(c) pseudospectral stable if  $r =$

$$\sup_{\epsilon} \frac{1}{\epsilon} (|\Lambda_\epsilon(\mathcal{F})| - 1) < \infty.$$

**Thm** (Kreiss '62)  $(a) \Leftrightarrow (b) \Leftrightarrow (c)$ ,  
and  $p, q, r$  related.

**Thm** (Spijker '91)  $r \leq p \leq enr$ .

## PSEUDOSPECTRAL ABSCISSA

$$\alpha_\epsilon(A) = \max\{\operatorname{Re} z : \sigma_{\min}(A - zI) \leq \epsilon\}.$$

Like the Lyapunov approximation  $\alpha^\delta$ ,

- reducing  $\alpha_\epsilon$  discourages transient peaks for  $\dot{x} = Ax$  (by Kreiss)
- optimum in characterization is attained (but easier to compute)
- $\alpha_\epsilon$  approximates  $\alpha$ , because  $\alpha_\epsilon \rightarrow \alpha$  “variationally” as  $\epsilon \downarrow 0$ , so

$$\operatorname{argmin}_F \alpha_\epsilon \rightarrow \operatorname{argmin}_F \alpha.$$

- enhances convexity, because, as  $\epsilon \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\alpha_\epsilon(X) - \epsilon \rightarrow \lambda_{\max}\left(\frac{X + X^*}{2}\right)$$

variationally.

## $\mathbf{H}_\infty$ -NORM

For stable  $A$ , complex stability radius

$$\beta(A) = \inf\{\|X - A\| : X \text{ not stable}\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\|s \mapsto (sI - A)^{-1}\|_{\mathbf{H}_\infty}}$$

**Prop** If  $A$  maximizes  $\beta$  over a set  $F$ , then it also minimizes  $\alpha_{\beta(A)}$  over  $F$ .

So as  $\epsilon$  decreases through  $\mathbf{R}_+$ , set of minimizers  $\operatorname{argmin}_F \alpha_\epsilon$  evolves through

- minimizers of  $\lambda_{\max}$ (symmetric part)
- minimizers of  $\mathbf{H}_\infty$ -norm
- minimizers of spectral abscissa.

## LIPSCHITZ PROPERTIES

An advantage of Lyapunov approximation: it's Lipschitz. What about pseudospectral abscissa  $\alpha_\epsilon$ ?

**Thm** Consider set  $E$  and function  $f$ :

- $E$  closed, semi-algebraic (or ...)
- $f$  locally Lipschitz off  $E$  and “grows sharply” from  $E$ :

$$T_E(x) \subset \text{cl}\{y : d(-f)(x)(y) < 0\}.$$

Then robust regularization (for  $\epsilon > 0$ )

$$g_\epsilon(x) = \sup\{g(y) : \|y - x\| \leq \epsilon\}$$

loc. Lip. around any point, if  $\epsilon$  small.

Hence  $\alpha_\epsilon$  loc. Lip. around any fixed nonderogatory matrix, once  $\epsilon$  small.

## SUMMARY

Unlike largest eigenvalue  $\lambda_{\max}$  on  $\mathbf{S}^n$ ,  
the spectral abscissa  $\alpha$  on  $\mathbf{M}^n$  is

- not convex
- not Lipschitz.

But it is:

- regular at nonderogatory matrices
- partly smooth at nonderog. matrices  
( $\rightarrow$  easy sensitivity analysis)
- a.e. differentiable ( $\rightarrow$  sampling algorithms).
- We can approximate  $\alpha$ , robustly and computably, by the pseudospectral abscissa  $\alpha_\epsilon$ , which has enhanced convexity and Lipschitz properties.