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## ON THE SENSITIVITY OF THE MATRIX EXPONENTIAL PROBLEM (\*)

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Communique par F ROBERT

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*Resume — On discute le probleme de comparer les applications  $\text{Exp}(At)$  et  $\text{Exp}((A + B)t)$  ou la matrice  $B$  est consideree comme une perturbation de  $A$   
On montre que ce probleme est fortement lie a la multiplicité des valeurs propres de  $A$  et  $A + B$   
En conclusion, on montre que l'application  $\text{Exp}(At)$  est moins affectee par les perturbations de  $A$ , si le spectre de  $A$  est simple*

*Abstract — We discuss the problem of comparing the mapping  $\text{Exp}(At)$  and  $\text{Exp}((A + B)t)$  where the square matrix  $B$  is considered as a perturbation of  $A$   
We show that this problem is strongly related to the multiplicity of eigenvalues of  $A$  and  $A + B$   
In conclusion, we set that the matrices  $A$ , for which  $\text{Exp}(At)$  is less sensitive to perturbations, are those which have a simple spectrum*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Many models of physical, biological and economic processes involve systems of linear, constant coefficient ordinary differential equations

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{X}(t) &= AX(t) \\ X(0) &= I_{n \times n}, t \geq 0 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where  $A$  is a fixed square matrix, of dimension  $n$

The solution is given by  $X(t) = \text{Exp}(At)$ , where  $\text{Exp}(At)$  can be formally defined by

$$\text{Exp}(At) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{A^k t^k}{k!}, t \geq 0, A^0 = I$$

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The subject of this paper concerns the sensitivity of the quantity  $\text{Exp}(At)$  with respect to a perturbation of  $A$ .

Van Loan [4] has suggested that the problem under consideration is related to the behaviour of the function :

$$\theta(t) = \frac{\| \text{Exp}((A + B) t) - \text{Exp}(At) \|}{\| \text{Exp}(At) \|}$$

as  $t$  tends to infinity.

We are going to show that  $\theta(t)$  is a quantity related not only to the structure of  $A$ , but also to the structure of  $B$ .

It follows that it is not possible to characterize those  $A$  for which  $\text{Exp}(At)$  is very sensitive to changes in  $A$ .

Then we study the quantity :

$$\phi(t) = \frac{\| \text{Exp}(At) - \text{Exp}(Dt) \|}{\text{Max} \{ \| \text{Exp}(Dt) \|, \| \text{Exp}(At) \| \}}$$

when  $t$  tends to infinity.

A characterization of  $\phi(t)$  is given as a function of the structure of  $A$  and  $D$ .

**II. NOTATIONS AND SOME PRELIMINARY LEMMAS**

Let us note  $\sigma(A)$  the spectrum of  $A$ ,

$$\rho(A) = \mathbb{C} - \sigma(A), \tag{2.1}$$

$$\alpha(A) = \text{Max} \{ \text{Re}(\lambda)/\lambda \in \sigma(A) \}, \tag{2.2}$$

$$A^* = (\bar{a}_{ij}) \tag{2.3}$$

$\text{Det}(A)$  the determinant of  $A$ .

We shall work exclusively with the 2-norms :

$$\| x \| = \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^2 \right]^{1/2}, \quad \| A \| = \max_{\|x\|=1} \| Ax \|. \tag{2.4}$$

LEMMA 1 : *Let  $A$  be a matrix  $n \times n$  and  $\sigma(A)$  its spectrum. Let  $\Gamma$  be a closed jordan curve in  $\mathbb{C}$  around  $\sigma(A)$  which contains no point of  $\sigma(A)$ . Then*

$$\text{Exp}(At) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} (zI - A)^{-1} e^{zt} dz. \tag{2.5}$$

*Proof* [2].

LEMMA 2 [Souriau's form] : Let  $A$  be a matrix of dimension  $n$ . If :

$$\text{Det}(z) = \text{determinant of } (zI - A)$$

$A_0 = I$  the identity of dimension  $n$ ,

$$c_{n-k} = - \text{trace}(A_{k-1} * A)$$

$$A_k = A_{k-1} * A - c_{n-k} I; k = 1, \dots, n - 1.$$

Then the resolvent

$$(zI - A)^{-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{z^{n-k-1}}{\text{Det}(z)} A_k. \tag{2.6}$$

Proof[1].

LEMMA 3 : Let  $f : \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be the function defined by

$$f(z, t) = \frac{z^1 e^{zt}}{\prod_{i=1}^n (z - \lambda_i)} ; \lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}. \tag{2.7}$$

Then  $\frac{d^k}{dz^k} f(z, t) = e^{zt} p(z, t)$ , where  $p(z, t)$  is a polynomial of degree  $k$  in  $t$ , with coefficient of  $t^k$  equal to  $z^1 \left/ \prod_{i=1}^n (z - \lambda_i) \right.$ .

Proof[3].

### III. THE ANALYSIS OF $\theta(t)$

Van Loan [4] has concluded that the bounds of  $\theta(t)$  for normal matrices are as small as it can be expected. Furthermore, when  $A$  is normal the  $\text{Exp}(At)$  problem is « well conditioned ».

We are going to give an example of a normal matrix such that for different choices of  $B$ ,  $\theta(t)$  behaves as a constant or an exponential when  $t$  tends to infinity.

Let  $A$  be a square normal matrix.

Let  $\sigma(A) = \{ \lambda_i \}$  and

$$0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots < \lambda_n.$$

Let  $B$  be a square matrix such that  $\sigma(A + B) = \{ \mu_i \}$  is real and simple.

By lemmas 1, 2, 3 we have

$$\theta(t) = \frac{1}{e^{\lambda_N t}} \left\| \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} D_k \sum_{p=1}^n \frac{\mu_p^{n-k-1} e^{\mu_p t}}{\prod_{i \neq p} (\mu_p - \mu_i)} - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} A_k \sum_{p=1}^n \frac{\lambda^{n-k-1} e^{\lambda_p t}}{\prod_{i \neq p} (\lambda_p - \lambda_i)} \right\| \tag{3.1}$$

where  $D_k = (A + B)_k$  in the Souriau's form.

It is easy to show that :

$$\left\| \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} A_k \sum_{p=1}^n \lambda_p^{n-k-1} \frac{e^{(\lambda_p - \lambda_n)t}}{\prod_{i \neq p} (\lambda_p - \lambda_i)} \right\| \tag{3.2}$$

converges to :

$$\left\| \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{\lambda^{n-k-1} A_k}{\prod_{i \neq p} (\lambda_p - \lambda_i)} \right\|, \text{ as } t \text{ tends to infinity.} \tag{3.3}$$

If  $\lambda_n < \mu_n$  then

$$\left\| \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} D_k \sum_{p=1}^n \mu_p^{n-k-1} \frac{e^{(\mu_p - \lambda_n)t}}{\prod_{i \neq p} (\mu_p - \mu_i)} \right\| \tag{3.4}$$

tends to the infinity like  $e^{(\mu_n - \lambda_n)t}$  as  $t$  tends to the infinity. If  $0 < \mu_i < \lambda_i$ ;  $i = 1, \dots, n$  then (3.4) tends to

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} D_k \sum_{p=1}^n \frac{\mu_p^{n-k-1}}{\prod_{i \neq p} (\mu_p - \mu_i)}, \text{ as } t \text{ tends to infinity.} \tag{3.5}$$

Then according to the structure of  $B$ ,  $\theta(t)$  may converge to infinity as  $e^{ct}$ ,  $c > 0$ , or to a constant.

This exemple shows that the structure of  $A$  is not enough to characterize the behaviour of  $\theta(t)$ .

**IV. THE MAIN THEOREM**

In this section we introduce a function  $\phi(t)$  which enables us to study the sensitivity of the problem  $\text{Exp}(At)$ . This function is symmetrical with respect to  $A$  and  $A + B$ .

If we note  $D = A + B$  :

$$\phi(t) = \frac{\| \text{Exp}(Dt) - \text{Exp}(At) \|}{\text{Max} \{ \| \text{Exp}(Dt) \|, \| \text{Exp}(At) \| \}}; \quad t \geq 0. \tag{4.1}$$

The main theorem is the following :

**THEOREM :** *Let  $A$  and  $D$  be two square matrices of dimension  $n$  and  $\{ \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r \}$  equals  $\sigma(A) \cup \sigma(D)$ .*

If  $\lambda_i \in \sigma(A) \cup \sigma(D) - \sigma(A) \cap \sigma(D)$  let  $m_i$  be the corresponding multiplicity of  $\lambda_i$ .

If  $\lambda_i \in \sigma(A) \cap \sigma(D)$ , let  $m_i$  be the sum of the multiplicity of  $\lambda_i$  as eigenvalue of  $A$  plus the multiplicity of  $\lambda_i$  as eigenvalue of  $D$ .

If  $m = \max_{1 \leq i \leq r} (m_i)$ , then  $\phi(t) \leq \|D - A\| p(t)$  where  $p(t)$  is a polynomial in  $t$  of degree less than  $m$ .

The proof of the theorem : By lemma 1 we have

$$\text{Exp}(At) - \text{Exp}(Dt) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} ((zI - A)^{-1} - (zI - D)^{-1}) e^{zt} dz, \quad (4.2)$$

where  $\Gamma$  is a closed Jordan curve in  $\mathbb{C}$  around  $\sigma(A) \cup \sigma(D)$  which contains no point of  $\sigma(A) \cup \sigma(D)$ .

It follows that

$$\text{Exp}(At) - \text{Exp}(Dt) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} (zI - D)^{-1} (D - A) (zI - A)^{-1} e^{zt} dz. \quad (4.3)$$

If we set  $c_1(z) = \text{Det}(zI - A)$  and  $c_2(z) = \text{Det}(zI - D)$  then by lemma 2

$$(zI - A)^{-1} = \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \frac{z^{n-l-1}}{c_1(z)} A_l, \quad (4.4)$$

and

$$(zI - D)^{-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{z^{n-k-1}}{c_2(z)} D_k.$$

This yields

$$\text{Exp}(At) - \text{Exp}(Dt) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} D_k (D - A) A_l \sum_{p=1}^r \text{Res} \left( \frac{z^{2n-l-k-2} e^{zt}}{\prod_{i=1}^r (z - \lambda_i)^{m_i}}, \lambda_p \right). \quad (4.6)$$

If  $\lambda_p$  is of multiplicity  $m_p$

$$\text{Res} \left( \frac{z^{2n-l-k-2}}{\prod_{i=1}^r (z - \lambda_i)^{m_i}}, \lambda_p \right) = \frac{1}{(m_p - 1)!} \frac{d^{m_p-1}}{dz^{m_p-1}} \left( \frac{z^{2n-l-k-2} e^{zt} (z - \lambda_p)^{m_p}}{\prod_{i=1}^r (z - \lambda_i)^{m_i}} \right)_{z=\lambda_p}. \quad (4.7)$$

Then by lemma 3 we have :

$$\text{Exp}(At) - \text{Exp}(Dt) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} D_k(D - A) A_l \sum_{p=1}^r \frac{e^{\lambda_p t}}{(m_p - 1)!} p_{l,k}(\lambda_p t), \quad (4.8)$$

where  $p_{l,k}(\lambda_p t)$  is a polynomial of degree less than or equal to  $m_p - 1$ , and the coefficient of  $(m_p - 1)$ th power of  $t$  is :

$$\frac{\lambda_p^{2n-k-l-2}}{\prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq p}}^r (\lambda_p - \lambda_i)^{m_i}}. \quad (4.9)$$

If we note  $p_{l,k}(\lambda_p t) = \sum_{i=0}^s n_i t^i$ , we write

$$q_{l,k}(\lambda_p t) = \sum_{i=0}^s |n_i| t^i. \quad (4.10)$$

Then if  $t \geq 0$ ,

$$|p_{l,k}(\lambda_p t)| \leq q_{l,k}(\lambda_p t). \quad (4.11)$$

It follows that

$$\|\text{Exp}(At) - \text{Exp}(Dt)\| \leq \|D - A\| \sum_{p=1}^r \frac{|e^{\lambda_p t}|}{(m_p - 1)!} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \|D_k\| \|A_l\| q_{l,k}(\lambda_p t). \quad (4.12)$$

But  $|e^{\lambda_p t}| \leq \text{Max} \{ \|\text{Exp}(Dt)\|, \|\text{Exp}(At)\| \}$ , then

$$\phi(t) \leq \|D - A\| \sum_{p=1}^r \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \|D_k\| \|A_l\| q_{l,k}(\lambda_p t). \quad (4.13)$$

If we set

$$p(t) = \sum_{p=1}^r \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \|D_k\| \|A_l\| q_{l,k}(\lambda_p t). \quad (4.14)$$

Then

$$\phi(t) \leq \|D - A\| p(t) \quad (4.15)$$

where  $p(t)$  is a polynomial of degree at most  $m - 1$ .

We can remark that if a non zero eigenvalue of  $A$  with multiplicity  $m$ , exist then  $p(t)$  is a polynomial of degree exactly  $m - 1$ .

If all the eigenvalues of  $A$  and  $D$  are simple and  $\sigma(A) \cap \sigma(D) = \emptyset$  then  $\phi(t)$  is bounded by a constant.

## V. CONCLUSION

We have shown that the function  $\theta(t)$  is insufficient to characterize the matrices for which the mapping  $\text{Exp}(At)$  is sensitive to changes in  $A$ .

We have introduced a function  $\phi(t)$  which measures the relative distance between  $\text{Exp}(At)$  and  $\text{Exp}((A + B)t)$ . In the main theorem we show that the behaviour of the bound of  $\phi(t)$  depends on the multiplicity of the eigenvalues of  $A$  and  $A + B$ . Another factor is the distance between two different eigenvalues, but it's a secondary factor as it modifies the coefficients of  $p(t)$  but not the degree.

This fact agrees with the conclusion obtained in section 3 by a formal development of  $\text{Exp}(At)$ .

The analysis of the (4.15) bound of  $\phi(t)$  lead us to conclude that if  $A$  in a matrix with a simple spectrum, the mapping  $\text{Exp}(At)$  is less sensitive to change on  $A$ , because the degree of  $p(t)$  may be at most  $n$ .

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