

# Numerical methods for matrix functions

SF2524 - Matrix Computations for Large-scale Systems  
Lecture 13

## Reading material

- Lecture notes online “Numerical methods for matrix functions”
- (Further reading: Nicholas Higham - Functions of Matrices)
- (Further reading: Golub and Van Loan - Matrix computations)

## Agenda Block D Matrix functions

- Lecture 13: Defintions
- Lecture 13: General methods
- Lecture 14: Matrix exponential (underlying  $\text{expm}(A)$  in matlab)
- Lecture 14: Matrix square root, matrix sign function
- Lecture 15: Krylov methods for  $f(A)b$
- Lecture 15: Exponential integrators

## Functions of matrices

Matrix functions (or functions of matrices) will in this block refer to a certain class of functions

$$f : \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$$

that are consistent extensions of scalar functions.

## Simplest examples

- If  $f(t) = b_0 + b_1 t + \cdots + b_m t^m$  it is natural to define

$$f(A) = b_0 I + b_1 A + \cdots + b_m A^m.$$

- If  $f(t) = \frac{\alpha+t}{\beta+t}$  it is natural to define

$$f(A) = (\alpha I + A)^{-1}(\beta I + A) = (\beta I + A)(\alpha I + A)^{-1}.$$

Not matrix functions:  $f(A) = \det(A)$ ,  $f(A) = \|A\|$

# Definitions

## Definition encountered in earlier courses (maybe)

Consider an analytic function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , with a Taylor expansion with expansion point  $\mu = 0$

$$f(z) = f(0) + \frac{f'(0)}{1!}z + \dots$$

The matrix function  $f(A)$  is defined as

$$f(A) := \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(i)}(0)}{i!} A^i = f(0)I + \frac{f'(0)}{1!}A + \dots$$

In this course we are more careful. Essentially equivalent definitions:

- Taylor series: Definition 4.1.1
- Jordan based: Definition 4.1.3
- Cauchy integral: Definition 4.1.4

# Applications

## The most well-known non-trivial matrix function

Consider the linear autonomous ODE

$$y'(t) = Ay(t), \quad y(0) = y_0$$

The **matrix exponential** (`expm(A)` in matlab) is the function that satisfies

$$y(t) = \exp(tA)y_0$$

More generally, the solution to

$$y'(t) = Ay(t) + f(t)$$

satisfies

$$y(t) = \exp(tA)y_0 + \int_0^t \exp(A(t-s))f(s) ds$$

For some problems much better than traditional time-stepping methods.

## Trigonometric matrix functions and square roots

Suppose  $y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  satisfies

$$y''(x) + Au(x) = 0 \quad y(0) = y_0, \quad y'(0) = y'_0.$$

The solution is explicitly given by

$$y(t) = \cos(\sqrt{A}t)y_0 + (\sqrt{A})^{-1} \sin(\sqrt{(A)}t)y'_0.$$

## Matrix logarithm in Markov chains

The transition probability matrix  $P(t)$  is related to the transition intensity matrix  $Q$  with

$$P(t) = \exp(Qt)$$

where  $Q$  satisfies certain properties. Inverse problem: Given  $P(1)$  is there  $Q$  such that the properties are satisfied. Method: Compute

$$Q = \log(P(0))$$

and check properties.

## Further applications in

- Solving the Riccati equation (in control theory)
- Study of stability of time-delay systems
- Orthogonal procrustes problems
- Geometric mean
- Numerical methods for differential equations
- ...

See youtube video from Gene Golub summer school:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXWMyrOLQAk>



# Definitions of matrix functions

PDF lecture notes section 4.1

## Polynomials

If  $p(z) = a_0 + a_1z + \cdots + a_pz^p$ , then the matrix function extension is

$$p(A) = a_0I + a_1A + \cdots + a_pA^p$$

Taylor expansion of scalar function  $f(z)$  with expansion point  $\mu$

$$f(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(i)}(\mu)}{i!} (z - \mu)^i.$$

### Definition (Taylor definition)

The Taylor definition with expansion point  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$  of the matrix function associated with  $f(z)$  is given by

$$f(A) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(i)}(\mu)}{i!} (A - \mu I)^i.$$

When is the infinite sum

$$f(A) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(i)}(\mu)}{i!} (A - \mu I)^i. \quad (1)$$

finite?

### Theorem (Convergence of Taylor definition)

Suppose  $f(z)$  is analytic in  $\bar{D}(\mu, r)$  and suppose  $r > \|A - \mu I\|$ . Let  $f(A)$  be (1) and

$$\gamma := \frac{\|A - \mu I\|}{r} < 1.$$

Then, there exists a constant  $C > 0$  independent of  $N$  such that

$$\|f(A) - \sum_{i=0}^N \frac{f^{(i)}(\mu)}{i!} (A - \mu I)^i\| \leq C\gamma^N \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

Consequence:  $f(A)$  finite if  $f$  entire function

Proof on black board

## Simple properties:

- $f(z) = g(z) + h(z) \Rightarrow f(A) = g(A) + h(A)$
- $f(z) = g(z)h(z) \Rightarrow f(A) = g(A)h(A) = h(A)g(A)$
- $f(V^{-1}XV) = V^{-1}f(X)V \quad (\star)$

- $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} t_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & t_n \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} f(t_1) & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & f(t_n) \end{bmatrix}$

- $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} t_1 & \times & \times \\ & \ddots & \times \\ & & t_n \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} f(t_1) & \times & \times \\ & \ddots & \times \\ & & f(t_n) \end{bmatrix}$

- $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & B \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} f(A) & 0 \\ 0 & f(B) \end{bmatrix} \quad (\star\star)$

Note  $g(A)g(B) \neq g(B)g(A)$  unless  $AB = BA$

## Jordan form definition

Use (★) with Jordan decomposition  $A = VJV^{-1}$ :

$$f(A) = f(VJV^{-1}) = Vf(J)V^{-1}$$

Use (★★):

$$f(J) = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} J_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & J_q \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} f(J_1) & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & f(J_q) \end{bmatrix}$$

What is the matrix function of a Jordan block?

$$J_i = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & \lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example: $f(J)$

Example in Matlab:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} s & 1 & 0 \\ & s & 1 \\ & & s \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $p(z) = z^4$ . For this case we have

$$p(J) = \begin{bmatrix} p(\lambda) & p'(\lambda) & \frac{1}{2}p''(\lambda) \\ 0 & p(\lambda) & p'(\lambda) \\ 0 & 0 & p(\lambda) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Can be formalized (proof in PDF lecture notes)...

## Definition (Jordan canonical form (JCF) definition)

Suppose  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  and let  $X$  and  $J_1, \dots, J_q$  be the JCF. The JCF-definition of the matrix function  $f(A)$  is given by

$$f(A) := X \operatorname{diag}(F_1, \dots, F_q) X^{-1}, \quad (2)$$

where

$$F_i = f(J_i) := \begin{bmatrix} f(\lambda_i) & \frac{f'(\lambda_i)}{1!} & \dots & \frac{f^{(n_i-1)}(\lambda_i)}{(n_i-1)!} \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ & & \ddots & \frac{f'(\lambda_i)}{1!} \\ & & & f(\lambda_i) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{n_i \times n_i}. \quad (3)$$

Show specialization when eigenvalues distinct

## Cauchy integral definition

From complex analysis: Cauchy integral formula

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \oint_{\Gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - x} dz.$$

where  $\Gamma$  encircles  $x$  counter-clockwise. Replace  $x$  with  $A$ :

### Definition (Cauchy integral definition)

Suppose  $f$  is analytic inside and on a simple, closed, piecewise-smooth curve  $\Gamma$ , which encloses the eigenvalues of  $A$  once counter-clockwise. The Cauchy integral definition of matrix functions is given by

$$f(A) := \frac{1}{2i\pi} \oint_{\Gamma} f(z)(zI - A)^{-1} dz.$$

\* example in lecture notes \*



## Equivalence of definitions

We have learned about

- Definition 1: Taylor definition
- Definition 2: Jordan form definition
- Definition 3: Cauchy integral definition

Slightly different different definition domains.

### Theorem (Equivalence of the matrix function definitions)

*Suppose  $f$  is an entire function and suppose  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ . Then, the matrix function definitions are equivalent.*

Which definition valid for

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x} \text{ with } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}?$$

and

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x} \text{ with } A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}?$$

# General methods

PDF lecture notes section 4.2

General methods for matrix functions:

- Today: Truncated Taylor series (4.2.1)
- Today: Eigenvalue-eigenvector approach (4.2.2)
- Today: Schur-Parlett method (4.2.3)
- Lecture 15: Krylov methods for  $f(A)b$  (4.4)

# Truncated Taylor series (naive approach)

First approach based on truncating Taylor series:

$$f(A) \approx F_N = \sum_{i=0}^N \frac{f^{(i)}(\mu)}{i!} (A - \mu I)^i$$

## Properties

- Can be very slow if Taylor series converges slowly
- We need  $N - 1$  matrix-matrix multiplications. Complexity

$$\mathcal{O}(Nn^3)$$

- We need access to the derivatives

The truncated Taylor series is mostly for theoretical purposes.

## Eigenvalue-eigenvector approach

If we have distinct eigenvalues or symmetric matrix:

$$f(A) = V \begin{bmatrix} f(\lambda_1) & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & f(\lambda_n) \end{bmatrix} V^{-1}$$

where  $V = [v_1, \dots, v_n]$  are the eigenvectors.

### Main properties

- Requires computation of eigenvalues and eigenvectors: Complexity essentially  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$
- Requires only the function value in the eigenvalues
- Can be numerically unstable
- If  $A$  is symmetric  $V^{-1} = V^T$ .

Conclusion: Can be used for numerical computations if reliability is not important.

# Schur-Parlett method

We know how to compute a Schur factorization

$$A = QTQ^*$$

where  $Q$  orthogonal and  $T$  upper triangular

$$f(A) = f(QTQ^*) = Qf(T)Q^*.$$

Schur-Parlett method:

- Compute a Schur factorization  $Q, T$
- Compute  $f(T)$  where  $T$  triangular
- Compute  $f(A) = Qf(T)Q^*$ .

What is  $f(T)$  for a triangular matrix?

$f(T)$  where  $T$  triangular

Note:  $f(T)$  commutes with  $T$ :

$$f(T)T = Tf(T).$$

\* On black board: two-by-two example. Generalization derivation \*

## Theorem (Computation of one element of $f(T)$ )

Suppose  $T \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is an upper triangular matrix with distinct eigenvalues. Then, for any  $i$  and any  $j > i$ ,

$$f_{ij} = \frac{s}{t_{jj} - t_{ii}}$$

where

$$s = t_{ij}(f_{jj} - f_{ii}) + \sum_{k=i+1}^{j-1} t_{ik}f_{kj} - f_{ik}t_{kj}.$$

$$F: \begin{array}{cccccccc} & & & & & & j & & \\ & & & & & & \downarrow & & \\ & + & + & + & + & + & \square & \square & \square \\ & 0 & + & + & + & + & + & \square & \square \\ i \rightarrow & 0 & 0 & + & + & + & + & f_{ij} & \square \\ F: & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + & + & + & \square \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + \end{array}$$

$$T: \begin{array}{cccccccc} & & & & & & j & & \\ & & & & & & \downarrow & & \\ & + & + & + & + & + & + & + & + \\ & 0 & + & + & + & + & + & + & + \\ i \rightarrow & 0 & 0 & + & + & + & + & + & + \\ T: & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + & + & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + & + \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & + \end{array}$$



## Repeat sub-column by sub-column.

\* On blackboard \*

\* Matlab simulation \*

Input: A triangular matrix  $T \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  with distinct eigenvalues

Output: The matrix function  $F = f(T)$

```
for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  do
   $f_{ii} = f(t_{ii})$ 
end
for  $p = 1, \dots, n-1$  do
  for  $i = 1, \dots, n-p$  do
     $j = i + p$ 
     $s = t_{ij}(f_{jj} - f_{ii})$ 
    for  $k=i+1, \dots, j-1$  do
       $s = s + t_{ik}f_{kj} - f_{ik}t_{kj}$ 
    end
     $f_{ij} = s/(t_{jj} - t_{ii})$ 
  end
end
```

**Algorithm 1:** Simplified Schur-Parlett method

## Main properties Schur-Parlett (simplified)

- Requires the computation of a Schur-decomposition ( $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ ) which is often the dominating computational cost.
- The only usage of  $f$ :  $f(\lambda_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$
- Only works when eigenvalues distinct
- Numerical cancellation can occur when eigenvalues close: Can be repaired with the full version of Schur-Parlett by using  $f^{(i)}(z)$ .