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**On Robust Stability of Linear
State Space Models**

by

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ON ROBUST STABILITY OF LINEAR STATE SPACE MODELS

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Introduction. The structured singular value (μ), introduced by Doyle [1] allows to analyze robust stability and performance of linear systems affected by parametric as well as dynamic uncertainty. While exact computation of μ can be prohibitively complex, an efficiently computable upper bound was obtained in [2], yielding a practical sufficient condition for robust stability and performance.

In this note, the results of [2] are used to study the case of state space models of the form

$$\dot{x} = (A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m \delta_i A_i)x \quad (1)$$

where the A_i 's are $n \times n$ real matrices and the δ_i 's are uncertain real parameters. The case where the A_i 's have low rank is given special attention. When the A_i 's all have rank one, (1) is equivalent to the model used by Qiu and Davison [3], which itself generalizes that used by Yedavalli [4]. By means of two examples, we compare our bound to those proposed in [3] and [4].

Preliminaries. Throughout the note, given any square complex matrix M , we denote by $\bar{\sigma}(M)$ its largest singular value and by M^H its complex conjugate transpose. Given any Hermitian matrix A , we denote by $\bar{\lambda}(A)$ its largest eigenvalue. Given any integer k , I_k denotes the $k \times k$ identity matrix and O_k the $k \times k$ zero matrix. Finally, j will denote $\sqrt{-1}$.

Given a $p \times p$ complex matrix M and positive integers k_1, \dots, k_m , with $\sum_{q=1}^m k_q = p$, consider the family of block diagonal $p \times p$ matrices (In this note we consider only parametric perturbations)

$$\mathcal{X} = \{\text{block diag } (\delta_1 I_{k_1}, \dots, \delta_m I_{k_m}) : \delta_q \in \mathbb{R}\} .$$

Definition 1. [1] The *structured singular value* $\mu_{\mathcal{X}}(M)$ of a complex $p \times p$ matrix M with respect to \mathcal{X} is 0 if there is no Δ in \mathcal{X} such that $\det(I - \Delta M) = 0$, and

$$\mu_{\mathcal{X}}(M) = \left(\min_{\Delta \in \mathcal{X}} \{\bar{\sigma}(\Delta) : \det(I - \Delta M) = 0\} \right)^{-1}$$

otherwise. \square

Exact computation of the structured singular value is generally intractable. In [2], the following computable upper bound was obtained.

Fact 1. [2] For any matrix M and \mathcal{X} ,

$$\mu_{\mathcal{X}}(M) \leq \hat{\mu}_{\mathcal{X}}(M) := \inf_{D \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{X}}} \nu_{\mathcal{X}}(DMD^{-1})$$

where

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{X}} = \left\{ \text{block diag}(D_1, \dots, D_m) : 0 < D_q = D_q^H \in \mathbb{C}^{k_q \times k_q} \right\}$$

and where, for any matrix A and \mathcal{X} , $\nu_{\mathcal{X}}(A)$ is defined by

$$\nu_{\mathcal{X}}(A) = \sqrt{\max \left\{ 0, \inf_{G \in \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}} \bar{\lambda}[A^H A + j(GA - A^H G)] \right\}}$$

with

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}} = \left\{ \text{block diag}(G_1, \dots, G_m) : G_q = G_q^H \in \mathbb{C}^{k_q \times k_q} \right\}.$$

\square

An efficient algorithm for computing $\hat{\mu}_{\mathcal{X}}(M)$ is described in [5,6].

Main result. Following [7], one can easily show that system (1) is asymptotically stable for all $|\delta_i| \leq \delta$ if, and only if,

$$\delta < \left(\sup_{\omega \geq 0} \mu_{\mathcal{X}}(H_1(j\omega)) \right)^{-1}$$

where $H_1(s)$ is the transfer matrix defined by

$$H_1(s) = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ I \\ \vdots \\ I \end{bmatrix} (sI - A_0)^{-1} [A_1 | A_2 | \dots | A_m]$$

and where

$$\mathcal{X} = \{\text{block diag } (\delta_1 I_n, \dots, \delta_m I_n) : \delta_q \in \mathbb{R}\} .$$

However, whenever some A_i 's are not of full rank, one can obtain a necessary and sufficient condition for robust stability involving a transfer matrix of lower size than H_1 . To see this, decompose each A_i as

$$A_i = b_i c_i^T$$

where $b_i, c_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r_i}$, with r_i the rank of A_i , and define

$$B = [b_1 | \dots | b_m]$$

and

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} c_1^T \\ \vdots \\ c_m^T \end{bmatrix} .$$

The following is then easily proven using [7].

Proposition 1. The system in (1) is asymptotically stable if, and only if,

$$\delta < \left(\sup_{\omega \geq 0} \mu_{\mathcal{X}}(H_2(j\omega)) \right)^{-1}$$

where $H_2(s)$ is the transfer matrix defined by

$$H_2(s) = C(sI - A)^{-1} B$$

and where

$$\mathcal{X} = \{\text{block diag } (\delta_1 I_{r_1}, \dots, \delta_m I_{r_m}) : \delta_q \in \mathbb{R}\} .$$

□

Substituting for $\mu_{\mathcal{X}}$ its upper bound $\hat{\mu}_{\mathcal{X}}$ gives the following sufficient condition

Corollary 1. The system in (1) is asymptotically stable if

$$\delta < \left(\sup_{\omega \geq 0} \hat{\mu}_{\mathcal{X}}(H_2(j\omega)) \right)^{-1}$$

where $H_2(s)$ and \mathcal{X} are defined as in Proposition 1. □

Models of the type (1) for which the A_i 's have low rank are of practical importance. The case where all A_i 's have rank one corresponds to the model used by Qiu and Davison,

$$\dot{x} = (A + B\Delta C)x \quad (2)$$

where Δ is uncertain. Yedavalli considered the model

$$\dot{x} = (A + \Delta)x ,$$

with Δ uncertain, which is clearly a special case of (2).

Numerical examples. We conclude this note by comparing on two examples the results obtained using Corollary 1 above to those obtained using the techniques of [3] and [4]. The examples are borrowed from [3,4,8].

Example 1. The following matrices were considered in [3,4].

$$A + B\Delta C = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \delta_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 + \delta_1 & -2 + \delta_2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} ,$$

$$A + B\Delta C = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \delta_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 + \delta_1 & -2 \\ 1 + \delta_2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} ,$$

$$A + B\Delta C = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \delta_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -2 + \delta_2 \\ 1 + \delta_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} ,$$

$$A + B\Delta C = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \delta_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \delta_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 + \delta_1 & -2 + \delta_3 \\ 1 + \delta_2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} .$$

Bounds of δ given in [4] which guarantees robust stability were 1.0, 0.48, 0.5 and 0.317, respectively. Bounds given in [3] were 1.5201, 0.9150, 0.8108 and 0.6848, respectively. Our bounds are 2,1,1 and 1, respectively. In these cases, our bounds are also exact.

Example 2. Consider the following system [3,8].

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 8 \\ 12 & 14 \end{bmatrix} u, \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -8 \\ -6 & 7 \end{bmatrix} x$$

with output feedback control

$$u = \begin{bmatrix} -k_1 & 0 \\ 0 & -k_2 \end{bmatrix} y .$$

The controller gains are subject to uncertainty such that $|\Delta k_1| \leq \delta/2$ and $|\Delta k_2| \leq \delta$. The nominal value of controller gains are $k_1 = k_2 = 1$. Corollary 1 implies that the closed loop system is stable if

$$\delta < \hat{\delta} := \left(\sup_{\omega \geq 0} \hat{\mu}_{\mathcal{X}}(H(j\omega)) \right)^{-1} \quad (3)$$

where $H(s) = C(sI - A)^{-1}B$, with

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 8 \\ 12 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -8 \\ -6 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 3.5 & 8 \\ 6 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -8 \\ -6 & 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution of the optimization problem in (3) yields $\hat{\delta} = 0.0816$. This result agrees with that in [3]. It turns out to be an exact bound.

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