



---

Spectral Properties  
of Saddle Point Linear Systems  
and Relations to Iterative Solvers  
**Part I: Spectral Properties**

V. Simoncini

Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Bologna

`valeria@dm.unibo.it`

## Outline of the 3-hour Presentation

- Schematic presentation of certain algebraic preconditioners  
(Today)
- Iterative solvers. Some (hopefully) helpful considerations...  
(Tomorrow)
- Spectral analysis of nonsymmetric preconditioners  
(Last Talk)

## The problem

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f \\ g \end{bmatrix}$$

- Computational Fluid Dynamics (Elman, Silvester, Wathen 2005)
- Elasticity problems
- Mixed (FE) formulations of II and IV order elliptic PDEs
- Linearly Constrained Programs
- Linear Regression in Statistics
- Image restoration
- ... **Survey:** Benzi, Golub and Liesen, Acta Num 2005

## The problem. Simplifications

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f \\ g \end{bmatrix}$$

To make things simple:

- ★  $A$  symmetric positive (semi)definite
- ★  $B^T$  tall, possibly rank deficient
- ★  $C$  symmetric positive (semi)definite
- ★ Warning: we shall use  $g = 0$  in some cases

## Spectral properties

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0 < \lambda_n \leq \dots \leq \lambda_1 \quad \text{eigs of } A \\ 0 < \sigma_m \leq \dots \leq \sigma_1 \quad \text{sing. vals of } B \end{array}$$

$\sigma(\mathcal{M})$  subset of (Rusten & Winther 1992)

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_n - \sqrt{\lambda_n^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}), \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 - \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_m^2}) \right] \cup \left[ \lambda_n, \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}) \right]$$

## Spectral properties

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0 < \lambda_n \leq \dots \leq \lambda_1 \quad \text{eigs of } A \\ 0 < \sigma_m \leq \dots \leq \sigma_1 \quad \text{sing. vals of } B \end{array}$$

$\sigma(\mathcal{M})$  subset of (Rusten & Winther 1992)

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_n - \sqrt{\lambda_n^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}), \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 - \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_m^2}) \right] \cup \left[ \lambda_n, \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}) \right]$$

$A$  nonsingular

## Spectral properties

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0 = \lambda_n \leq \dots \leq \lambda_1 \quad \text{eigs of } A \\ 0 < \sigma_m \leq \dots \leq \sigma_1 \quad \text{sing. vals of } B \end{array}$$

$\sigma(\mathcal{M})$  subset of

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_n - \sqrt{\lambda_n^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}), \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 - \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_m^2}) \right] \cup \left[ \alpha_0, \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}) \right]$$

$A$  singular but  $\frac{u^T A u}{u^T u} > \alpha_0 > 0, u \in \text{Ker}(B)$

## Spectral properties

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0 < \lambda_n \leq \dots \leq \lambda_1 \quad \text{eigs of } A \\ 0 < \sigma_m \leq \dots \leq \sigma_1 \quad \text{sing. vals of } B \end{array}$$

$\sigma(\mathcal{M})$  subset of (Rusten & Winther 1992)

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_n - \sqrt{\lambda_n^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}), \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 - \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_m^2}) \right] \cup \left[ \lambda_n, \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}) \right]$$

$B$  full rank



## Spectral properties

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & -C \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0 < \lambda_n \leq \dots \leq \lambda_1 \quad \text{eigs of } A \\ 0 = \sigma_m \leq \dots \leq \sigma_1 \quad \text{sing. vals of } B \end{array}$$

$\sigma(\mathcal{M})$  subset of

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2}(-\gamma_1 + \lambda_n - \sqrt{(\gamma_1 + \lambda_n)^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}), \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 - \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\theta}) \right] \cup \left[ \lambda_n, \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}) \right]$$

$B$  rank deficient, but  $\theta = \lambda_{\min}(BB^T + C)$  full rank

$$\gamma_1 = \lambda_{\max}(C)$$

## Spectral properties

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0 < \lambda_n \leq \dots \leq \lambda_1 \quad \text{eigs of } A \\ 0 < \sigma_m \leq \dots \leq \sigma_1 \quad \text{sing. vals of } B \end{array}$$

$\sigma(\mathcal{M})$  subset of (Rusten & Winther 1992)

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_n - \sqrt{\lambda_n^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}), \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 - \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_m^2}) \right] \cup \left[ \lambda_n, \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}) \right]$$

Good (= slim) spectrum:  $\lambda_1 \approx \lambda_n, \quad \sigma_1 \approx \sigma_m$

## Spectral properties

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0 < \lambda_n \leq \dots \leq \lambda_1 \quad \text{eigs of } A \\ 0 < \sigma_m \leq \dots \leq \sigma_1 \quad \text{sing. vals of } B \end{array}$$

$\sigma(\mathcal{M})$  subset of (Rusten & Winther 1992)

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_n - \sqrt{\lambda_n^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}), \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 - \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_m^2}) \right] \cup \left[ \lambda_n, \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\sigma_1^2}) \right]$$

Good (= slim) spectrum:  $\lambda_1 \approx \lambda_n, \quad \sigma_1 \approx \sigma_m$

e.g.

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} I & U^T \\ U & O \end{bmatrix}, \quad UU^T = I$$

## General preconditioning strategy

- Find  $\mathcal{P}$  such that

$$\mathcal{M}\mathcal{P}^{-1}\hat{u} = b \quad \hat{u} = \mathcal{P}u$$

is easier (faster) to solve than  $\mathcal{M}u = b$

- A look at efficiency:
  - Dealing with  $\mathcal{P}$  should be cheap
  - Storage requirements for  $\mathcal{P}$  should be low  
*Possibly zero storage*
  - Properties (algebraic/functional) should be exploited  
*Mesh/parameter independence*

Structure preserving preconditioners

## Block diagonal Preconditioner

★  $A$  nonsing.,  $C = 0$ :

$$\mathcal{P}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & BA^{-1}B^T \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{M} \mathcal{P}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \begin{bmatrix} I & A^{-\frac{1}{2}} B^T (BA^{-1}B^T)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ (BA^{-1}B^T)^{-\frac{1}{2}} BA^{-\frac{1}{2}} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

MINRES converges in at most 3 iterations.  $\sigma(\mathcal{P}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{M} \mathcal{P}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) = \{1, 1/2 \pm \sqrt{5}/2\}$

## Block diagonal Preconditioner

★  $A$  nonsing.,  $C = 0$ :

$$\mathcal{P}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & BA^{-1}B^T \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{M} \mathcal{P}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \begin{bmatrix} I & A^{-\frac{1}{2}} B^T (BA^{-1}B^T)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ (BA^{-1}B^T)^{-\frac{1}{2}} BA^{-\frac{1}{2}} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

MINRES converges in at most 3 iterations.  $\sigma(\mathcal{P}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{M} \mathcal{P}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) = \{1, 1/2 \pm \sqrt{5}/2\}$

A more practical choice:

$$\mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{S} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{spd.} \quad \tilde{A} \approx A \quad \tilde{S} \approx BA^{-1}B^T$$

eigs in  $[-a, -b] \cup [c, d]$ ,  $a, b, c, d > 0$

Still an Indefinite Problem

## Giving up symmetry ...

- Change the preconditioner: *Mimic the LU factors*

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} I & O \\ BA^{-1} & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ O & BA^{-1}B^T + C \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{P} \approx \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ O & BA^{-1}B^T + C \end{bmatrix}$$

## Giving up symmetry ...

- Change the preconditioner: *Mimic the LU factors*

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} I & O \\ BA^{-1} & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ O & BA^{-1}B^T + C \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{P} \approx \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ O & BA^{-1}B^T + C \end{bmatrix}$$

- Change the preconditioner: *Mimic the Structure*

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & -C \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{M} \approx \mathcal{P}$$



## Giving up symmetry ...

- Change the preconditioner: *Mimic the LU factors*

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} I & O \\ BA^{-1} & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ O & BA^{-1}B^T + C \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{P} \approx \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ O & BA^{-1}B^T + C \end{bmatrix}$$

- Change the preconditioner: *Mimic the Structure*

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & -C \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{P} \approx \mathcal{M}$$

- Change the matrix: *Eliminate indef.*

$$\mathcal{M}_- = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ -B & C \end{bmatrix}$$

## Giving up symmetry ...

- Change the preconditioner: *Mimic the LU factors*

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} I & O \\ BA^{-1} & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ O & BA^{-1}B^T + C \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{P} \approx \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ O & BA^{-1}B^T + C \end{bmatrix}$$

- Change the preconditioner: *Mimic the Structure*

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & -C \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{P} \approx \mathcal{M}$$

- Change the matrix: *Eliminate indef.*

$$\mathcal{M}_- = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ -B & C \end{bmatrix}$$

- Change the matrix: *Regularize* ( $C = 0$ )

$$\mathcal{M} \Rightarrow \mathcal{M}_\gamma = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & -\gamma W \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } \mathcal{M}_\gamma = \begin{bmatrix} A + \frac{1}{\gamma} B^T W^{-1} B & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix}$$

... But recovering symmetry in disguise

Nonstandard inner product:

Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be any of  $\mathcal{MP}^{-1}, \mathcal{M}_-$

For  $\sigma(\mathcal{W})$  in  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , find sym matrix  $H$  such that

$$\mathcal{W}H = H\mathcal{W}^T$$

(that is,  $\mathcal{W}$  is  $H$ -symmetric)

... But recovering symmetry in disguise

Nonstandard inner product:

Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be any of  $\mathcal{M}\mathcal{P}^{-1}, \mathcal{M}_-$

For  $\sigma(\mathcal{W})$  in  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , find sym matrix  $H$  such that

$$\mathcal{W}H = H\mathcal{W}^T$$

(that is,  $\mathcal{W}$  is  $H$ -symmetric)

If  $H$  is spd then

- $\mathcal{W}$  is diagonalizable
- Use PCG on  $\mathcal{W}$  with  $H$ -inner product

## Triangular preconditioner

$$A \text{ spd, } \mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} & B^T \\ 0 & -\tilde{C} \end{bmatrix} \quad \tilde{A} \approx A, \quad \tilde{C} \approx BA^{-1}B^T + C$$

$$\text{Ideal case: } \tilde{A} = A, \quad \tilde{C} = BA^{-1}B^T + C \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{M}\mathcal{P}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ BA^{-1} & I \end{bmatrix}$$

## Triangular preconditioner

$$A \text{ spd, } \mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} & B^T \\ 0 & -\tilde{C} \end{bmatrix} \quad \tilde{A} \approx A, \quad \tilde{C} \approx BA^{-1}B^T + C$$

$$\text{Ideal case: } \tilde{A} = A, \quad \tilde{C} = BA^{-1}B^T + C \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{M}\mathcal{P}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ BA^{-1} & I \end{bmatrix}$$

## Recovering symmetry?

- If  $\tilde{C} = C$  nonsing., then  $\sigma(\mathcal{M}\mathcal{P}^{-1})$  in  $\mathbb{R}^+$
- If  $\tilde{A} < A$  then  $\sigma(\mathcal{M}\mathcal{P}^{-1})$  in  $\mathbb{R}^+$  with

$$\lambda \in [\chi_1, \chi_2] \ni 1, \quad \chi_j = \chi_j((B^T \tilde{A}^{-1} B + C)\tilde{C}^{-1}, \tilde{A}^{-1} A)$$

## Constraint (Indefinite) Preconditioner

$$\mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} & B^T \\ B & -C \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathcal{M}\mathcal{P}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} A\tilde{A}^{-1}(I - \Pi) + \Pi & \star \\ O & I \end{bmatrix}$$

with  $\Pi = B(B\tilde{A}^{-1}B^T + C)^{-1}B\tilde{A}^{-1}$

- If  $C$  nonsing  $\Rightarrow$  all eigs real and positive
- If  $B^T C = 0$  and  $BB^T + C > 0 \Rightarrow$  all eigs real and positive

**Special case:**  $C = 0 \Rightarrow$  at most  $2m$  unit eigs with Jordan blocks

## Constraint (Indefinite) Preconditioner. Generalizations

$$\mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} & B^T \\ B & -\tilde{C} \end{bmatrix}$$

**Primal-based:**  $\tilde{C} \approx C$  nonsing,  $\tilde{A} \approx A + B^T \tilde{C}^{-1} B$

- If  $A + B^T \tilde{C}^{-1} B > \tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{C} > C \Rightarrow$  all eigs real and positive



## Constraint (Indefinite) Preconditioner. Generalizations

$$\mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} & B^T \\ B & -\tilde{C} \end{bmatrix}$$

**Primal-based:**  $\tilde{C} \approx C$  nonsing,  $\tilde{A} \approx A + B^T \tilde{C}^{-1} B$

- If  $A + B^T \tilde{C}^{-1} B > \tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{C} > C \Rightarrow$  all eigs real and positive

**Dual-based:** ( $C = O$ )  $\tilde{A} \approx A$ ,  $\tilde{C} = S - B \tilde{A}^{-1} B^T$  for some  $S$

- If  $\tilde{A} > A$  and  $\tilde{C} < 0 \Rightarrow$  all eigs real and positive

$\mathcal{M}\mathcal{P}^{-1}$  is  $H$ -symmetric with  $H = \text{blkdiag}(\tilde{A} - A, B \tilde{A}^{-1} B^T - S)$

## The "minus-signed" Problem

$$\mathcal{M}_- = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ -B & C \end{bmatrix}$$

$B$  full rank  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}_-$  positive stable  $\Rightarrow$  eigs in  $\mathbb{C}^+$

$B$

## The "minus-signed" Problem

$$\mathcal{M}_- = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ -B & C \end{bmatrix}$$

$B$  full rank  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}_-$  positive stable  $\Rightarrow$  eigs in  $\mathbb{C}^+$

### Important facts

- $\mathcal{M}_-$  has always at least  $n - m$  real eigs
- If  $2\|B\| < \lambda_{\min}(A) - \lambda_{\max}(C) \Rightarrow$  all eigs real and positive  
for  $C = 0$ , condition simplifies:  $\lambda_{\min}(A) > 4\lambda_{\max}(B^T A^{-1} B)$
- If  $B$  full rank and  $\lambda_{\min}(A) > \lambda_{\max}(C)$   
upon scaling all eigs real and positive

## The "minus-signed" Problem

$$\mathcal{M}_- = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ -B & C \end{bmatrix}$$

$B$  full rank  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}_-$  positive stable  $\Rightarrow$  eigs in  $\mathbb{C}^+$

### Important facts

- $\mathcal{M}_-$  has always at least  $n - m$  real eigs
- If  $2\|B\| < \lambda_{\min}(A) - \lambda_{\max}(C) \Rightarrow$  all eigs real and positive  
for  $C = 0$ , condition simplifies:  $\lambda_{\min}(A) > 4\lambda_{\max}(B^T A^{-1} B)$
- If  $B$  full rank and  $\lambda_{\min}(A) > \lambda_{\max}(C)$   
upon scaling all eigs real and positive

Hermitian-Skew-Hermitian preconditioners

Block diagonal preconditioner + nonsym solver

## Regularized Problem

Augmented Lagrangian approach:

$$\mathcal{M}_\gamma = \begin{bmatrix} A + \frac{1}{\gamma} B^T W^{-1} B & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix}$$

Particularly interesting for  $A$  indefinite or singular

★ Any of the above preconditioners may be used.

## Regularized Problem

Augmented Lagrangian approach:

$$\mathcal{M}_\gamma = \begin{bmatrix} A + \frac{1}{\gamma} B^T W^{-1} B & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix}$$

Particularly interesting for  $A$  indefinite or singular

★ Any of the above preconditioners may be used.

---

Somehow related preconditioner for  $\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & O \end{bmatrix}$ :

$$\mathcal{P} = \begin{bmatrix} A + B^T W^{-1} B & B^T \\ O & W \end{bmatrix}$$

## Questions (to be answered)

- ★ Which formulation/preconditioner for which iterative solver?

## Questions (to be answered)

- ★ Which formulation/preconditioner for which iterative solver?
- ★ Is the theoretical spectral information useful in practice?



## Questions (to be answered)

- ★ Which formulation/preconditioner for which iterative solver?
- ★ Is the theoretical spectral information useful in practice?
- ★ Are the imposed “constraints” needed?