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# The Change of the Kronecker Structure of a Complex Matrix Pencil Under Small Perturbations

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**Abstract.** In this paper we give a complete solution to the following problem: given a complex matrix pencil, with known Kronecker normal form, describe the possible Kronecker structures of pencils which are small perturbations of the given pencil.

Short title: Pencils under small perturbations

## 1. Introduction

The problem stated in the abstract will henceforth be called the *perturbation problem*. The concept of ‘Kronecker structure’, as it appears in the statement, calls for a precise definition. For this purpose, we shall introduce the concept of *skeleton* of a pencil, which, roughly speaking, is what we obtain from the Kronecker normal form by disregarding the actual values of the pencil’s eigenvalues.

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Given a pencil  $\mathcal{A}$ , we are interested in the skeletons  $\Sigma$  such that, in any neighbourhood of  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\Sigma$  occurs as the skeleton of a pencil in that neighbourhood. The set of all such skeletons is denoted by  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$ . The solution given to the perturbation problem implies a characterization of  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$ .

In the last few years this and related questions have been studied in the literature. For example, in [9] a complete description is given for the Jordan structures of a perturbed square complex matrix; as we shall see, this essentially is a complete solution to the perturbation problem, when the given pencil is nonsingular. In [11] some perturbation results for complex pencils are proved, together with a complete characterization of the closure of the equivalence orbit of a complex pencil. In [6] the perturbation problem is completely solved for those special pencils arising in Linear Control Theory.

In February 1987, during a visit to Bilbao (Spain), I pointed out to the authors of [6] the relevance of the results of [11] to the problem under discussion. As a matter of fact, the complete description of the closure of orbits given by A. Pokrzywa is so intimately and obviously related to the perturbation problem, that it is only natural to suspect that a small addition to his paper would completely solve our problem. Some weeks after that visit I confirmed those suspicions. It turns out that the elements of  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$  are precisely the skeletons of equivalence orbits in whose closure  $\mathcal{A}$  lies. In 1990, I. Hoyos sent me a copy of her thesis [8] where, among other results, a key perturbation theorem is obtained without direct use of [11]; that was one of the motivations to write down this paper, as it seems desirable to recognize the depth and importance of the results of [11].

The present paper describes how a complete solution to the perturbation problem may be obtained from [11], combined with results of [2, 9]. In section 3 we state and prove the main perturbation theorem. In section 4 we consider an inverse perturbation problem; Theorem 4.1 shows, again as a consequence of [11], that the perturbation theorem of section 3 is the best possible in a precise given sense. Theorem 5.3 is a quantitative refinement of Theorem 4.1.

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**Integer sequences.**  $\mathbf{N}$  is the set of positive integers. A sequence, say  $(k_i : i \in \mathbf{N})$ , where the  $k_i$ 's are integers, will be denoted by the corresponding upper case latin letter:  $K$  in the current example. If  $M = (m_i : i \in \mathbf{N})$  is another such sequence, we denote by  $K + M$  the componentwise sum. We write  $K \ll M$  whenever  $k_1 + \cdots + k_w \leq m_1 + \cdots + m_w$ , for all  $w \in \mathbf{N}$ . All sequences to be considered below are monotonic: some are decreasing, others are increasing (here, *decreasing* and *increasing* are meant in the weak sense). Therefore  $\ll$  will always be a *majorization relation* in the sense of (e.g.) [10], where the symbols  $\prec_w$  and  $\prec^w$  are used.

Now let  $(K_\tau)_{\tau \in T}$  be a family of sequences, indexed by a set  $T$ . Assuming  $K_\tau = (k_{\tau i} : i \in \mathbf{N})$  is decreasing for all  $\tau \in T$ , and  $\{k_{\tau 1} : \tau \in T\}$  is bounded from above, the *union* of the family, denoted by

$$\cup(K_\tau : \tau \in T) \quad \text{or} \quad \bigcup_{\tau \in T} K_\tau,$$

is the sequence  $(u_1, u_2, \dots)$ , where  $u_j$  is the  $j$ -th greatest element of the family  $(k_{\tau i} : \tau \in T, i \in \mathbf{N})$ . The reader may easily check that

$$u_1 + \cdots + u_w = \sup \left\{ \sum_{\tau \in T} \sum_{i=1}^{s_\tau} k_{\tau i} : s_\tau \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{\tau \in T} s_\tau = w \right\}.$$

With the help of this formula, one may prove the following result, that will be extensively used in the sequel.

**Lemma 1.1.** *Let  $K_\tau$  and  $M_\tau$  be decreasing sequences such that  $M_\tau \ll K_\tau$ , for each  $\tau \in T$ . Then*

$$\bigcup_{\tau \in T} M_\tau \ll \bigcup_{\tau \in T} K_\tau.$$

■

For  $c \in \mathbf{Z}$  the *constant sequence*  $(c, c, c, \dots)$  will be denoted by  $[c]$ . Note that if  $K$  is decreasing and  $k_1 \leq c$ , then  $K \cup [c] = [c]$ .

We say that  $K$  is a *partition* if  $K$  is a decreasing sequence of nonnegative integers, and  $k_i$  is positive for only a finite number of  $i$ 's. For partitions  $K$  and  $M$  we write  $K \prec M$  whenever  $K \ll M$  and the sum of all  $k_i$ 's equals the sum of all  $m_i$ 's (cf [10]). As usual, the *conjugate* of a partition  $K$ , denoted by

$\tilde{K} = (\tilde{k}_s : s \in \mathbf{N})$ , is defined by  $\tilde{k}_s := \#\{i : k_i \geq s\}$ . Then  $\tilde{K}$  is a partition as well. We shall use, with no further comments, the following properties of partitions:

$$\tilde{\tilde{K}} = K, \quad (K + M)^\sim = \tilde{K} \cup \tilde{M}, \quad \text{and} \quad K \prec M \Leftrightarrow \tilde{M} \prec \tilde{K}.$$

## 2. Preliminary Results

We assume the reader is familiar with the Weirstrass-Kronecker theory of pencils (see [5, ch.12]). Our discussion involves only complex pencils. So an  $m \times n$  pencil is a polynomial matrix,  $\mathcal{A} = \lambda A_1 + \mu A_2$ , where  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are independent variables and  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are  $m \times n$  complex matrices. Sometimes it will be convenient to represent  $\mathcal{A}$  by  $\mathcal{A}(\lambda, \mu)$ .

For any pair  $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbf{C}^2$  such that  $(\alpha, \beta) \neq (0, 0)$ , define

$$\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle := \{(z\alpha, z\beta) : z \in \mathbf{C}, z \neq 0\}.$$

The set of all  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$  is the projective complex line, that we denote by  $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{C})$ . We identify  $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{C})$  with  $\mathbf{C}^\infty := \mathbf{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  in the usual way: a given  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \in \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{C})$  is identified with  $\alpha/\beta$ ; here, of course, we convention  $\alpha/0 = \infty$ , for any nonzero  $\alpha$ . (Cf [1, §4.2, §4.3].)

We say  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \in \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{C})$ , or  $\alpha/\beta \in \mathbf{C}^\infty$ , is an *eigenvalue* of  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(\lambda, \mu)$ , whenever  $\text{rank } \mathcal{A}(\alpha, \beta) < \text{rank } \mathcal{A}$ . Define the following pencils:

$$\mathcal{J}_s(\lambda, \mu) := \lambda I_s + \mu N_s \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{R}_s(\lambda, \mu) := \lambda[I_s \ 0] + \mu[0 \ I_s],$$

where  $I_s$  is the  $s \times s$  identity matrix,  $N_s$  is the usual upper triangular, nilpotent Jordan block of order  $s$ , and the 0's denote zero columns [thus  $\mathcal{R}_s$  is  $s \times (s+1)$ ].  $\mathcal{R}_s$  and its transposed, which we denote by  $s$ , are called *right* and *left Kronecker pencils*, respectively. Pencils of the form  $\mathcal{J}_s(\lambda - \alpha\mu, \mu)$ , with  $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}$ , or  $\mathcal{J}_s(\mu, \lambda)$  are called *Jordan pencils*; note that  $\alpha$  is the unique eigenvalue of the former pencil and  $\infty$  is the unique eigenvalue of the latter.

According to a well-known theorem of Weirstrass and Kronecker (see, e.g., [5, Vol.2]), any pencil  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly equivalent to a direct sum of Jordan pencils and Kronecker pencils, which are called *Jordan and Kronecker components of  $\mathcal{A}$* ; such direct sum, known as *Kronecker normal form of  $\mathcal{A}$* , is unique up to the order of the components. Here we are using the following convention: the Kronecker

pencil  $\mathcal{R}_0 [\mathcal{L}_0]$  is said to occur  $p$  times in  $\mathcal{A}$  iff the Kronecker normal form of  $\mathcal{A}$  has  $p$  zero columns [rows]. To simplify forthcoming formulas, we encode the Kronecker structure of a pencil differently from [11].

**Definition 2.1.** Given a pencil  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}$  we let  $M(\alpha, \mathcal{A}) = (m_j(\alpha, \mathcal{A}) : j \in \mathbf{N})$ ,  $H(\mathcal{A}) = (h_j(\mathcal{A}) : j \in \mathbf{N})$ , and  $V(\mathcal{A}) = (v_j(\mathcal{A}) : j \in \mathbf{N})$  be the sequences defined as follows:  $m_j(\alpha, \mathcal{A})$  is the number of Jordan components of  $\mathcal{A}$ , with eigenvalue  $\alpha$ , having at least  $j$  rows;  $h_j(\mathcal{A})$  [ $v_j(\mathcal{A})$ ] is the number of Kronecker components of  $\mathcal{A}$  of type  $\mathcal{R}_s [\mathcal{L}_s]$ , such that  $s < j$ .

We denote by  $h(\mathcal{A})$  [ $v(\mathcal{A})$ ] the total number of right [left] Kronecker components of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

For any subset  $X$  of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$  we define

$$M(X, \mathcal{A}) := \bigcup_{\alpha \in X} M(\alpha, \mathcal{A}). \quad (1)$$

The *skeleton* of  $\mathcal{A}$  is the sequence of integer sequences

$$\text{SK}(\mathcal{A}) := (M(\alpha_1, \mathcal{A}), \dots, M(\alpha_p, \mathcal{A}), H(\mathcal{A}), V(\mathcal{A})),$$

where  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$  are the distinct eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{A}$ , ordered in such a way that the  $p$  partitions  $M(\alpha_i, \mathcal{A})$  occur in (say) increasing lexicographical order.

**Remarks.** (a) Letters ‘ $h$ ’ and ‘ $v$ ’ hold for ‘*horizontal*’ and ‘*vertical*’ blocks.  $h(\mathcal{A})$  is the maximum  $h_j(\mathcal{A})$ , and  $v(\mathcal{A})$  is the maximum  $v_j(\mathcal{A})$ . As  $v(\mathcal{A}) = h(\mathcal{A}) + m - n$ , we have chosen not to use  $v(\mathcal{A})$ .

(b) The union in (1) is essentially extended to the finite set of eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{A}$  inside  $X$ ; therefore  $M(X, \mathcal{A})$  is a partition.

(c) Of course we have  $p = 0$  if and only if  $\mathcal{A}$  has no eigenvalue; in that case  $\text{SK}(\mathcal{A}) = (H(\mathcal{A}), V(\mathcal{A}))$ .

**Examples.**

(1) For a  $2 \times 2$  Jordan pencil,  $\text{SK}(\mathcal{J}_2) = ((1, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots), [0], [0])$ .

(2) A  $2 \times 3$  zero pencil has skeleton  $([3], [2])$ .

(3)  $\text{SK}(\mathcal{R}_2) = ((0, 0, 1, 1, 1, \dots), [0])$ .

**Lemma 2.2.**

(a) An  $s \times s$  pencil  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly equivalent to the  $s \times s$  Jordan pencil with eigenvalue  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \in \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{C})$  iff  $\mathcal{A}$  has only one eigenvalue,  $\text{rank } \mathcal{A} = s$  and  $\text{rank } \mathcal{A}(\alpha, \beta) = s - 1$ .

(b) For  $s > 0$ , an  $s \times (s + 1)$  pencil  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly equivalent to the Kronecker pencil  $\mathcal{R}_s$  iff  $\text{rank } \mathcal{A}(\alpha, \beta) = s$  for all  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \in \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{C})$ ; that is, iff  $\mathcal{A}$  has maximum rank and no eigenvalue. ■

We now fix four complex numbers,  $a, b, c, d$ , such that  $ad \neq bc$ . Given  $\mathcal{A}$  we define a new pencil  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  by changing variables in  $\mathcal{A}$ :

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda, \mu) := \mathcal{A}(a\lambda + b\mu, c\lambda + d\mu). \quad (2)$$

The Möbius (linear fractional) transformation, given by

$$\psi(z) := (az + b)/(cz + d), \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbf{C}^\infty, \quad (3)$$

then naturally arises, because  $\alpha$  is an eigenvalue of  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  iff  $\psi(\alpha)$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$ . We stress the fact that  $\psi$  is a topological automorphism of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$ . (See [1, §18.10] and [3, pp.43 ff] for details).

The following theorem is surely known but we did not find it in the literature. So we give a sketchy proof.

**Theorem 2.3.** *With the above notation the pencils  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  have the same skeleton and  $M(\alpha, \tilde{\mathcal{A}}) = M(\psi(\alpha), \mathcal{A})$  for all  $\alpha$  in  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$ .*

*Proof.* Without loss of generality we assume that  $\mathcal{A}$  is in Kronecker normal form. Thus  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  also splits into a direct sum of pencils each of which is obtained from a component of  $\mathcal{A}$  by the same change of variables. Moreover the number of zero rows [columns] is the same in  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ . Therefore we may work out each block separately, that is, we only need to prove our theorem in the following two special cases: (a)  $\mathcal{A}$  is a Jordan pencil; (b)  $\mathcal{A}$  is a Kronecker pencil. In each case we may apply Lemma 2.2 to obtain the desired result. ■

The following result comes out as a consequence of [9, Th.5].

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be an  $n \times n$  nonsingular complex pencil and let  $U$  be an open subset of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$ , such that no eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{T}$  lies on the boundary of  $U$ . Moreover let  $W$  be a closed subset of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$ . Then for all pencils  $\mathcal{S}$  sufficiently close to  $\mathcal{T}$*

$$M(U, \mathcal{S}) \prec M(U, \mathcal{T}) \quad \text{and} \quad M(W, \mathcal{S}) \prec\prec M(W, \mathcal{T}). \quad (4)$$

*Proof.* Note that the statement involving  $U$  implies the statement involving  $W$  because, given a closed  $W$ , there is  $U$  satisfying the hypotheses of the theorem, such that  $U \supset W$  and no eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{T}$  lies on  $U \setminus W$ .

The statement concerning  $U$  is (in essence) a particular case of [9, Th.5]. In fact, each eigenvalue  $\tau$  of  $\mathcal{T}(\lambda, \mu)$  contained in  $U$  may be individually treated: if  $\tau$  is finite, apply [9, Th.5] to the holomorphic function  $\mathcal{T}(\lambda, 1)$  in a small disk centered at  $\tau$ ; if  $\tau = \infty$ , apply [9, Th.5] to the holomorphic function  $\mathcal{T}(1, \mu)$  in a small disk centered at the origin. ■

**Remark 2.5.** It is easy to give an independent elementary proof of the above result based on [2] or [9, Th.1]. First we change variables in  $\mathcal{T}$ , according to (2)-(3), in such a way that, in the new pencil,  $\tilde{\mathcal{T}} = \lambda\tilde{T}_1 + \mu\tilde{T}_2$ , the matrix  $\tilde{T}_1$  is nonsingular; then we apply [2] or [9, Th.1] to  $\lambda I + \tilde{T}_2\tilde{T}_1^{-1}$ .

To close this section we point out that, in the notation of Definition 2.1, Theorem 3 of [11] has the following formulation: *a pencil  $\mathcal{A}$  lies in the closure of the equivalence orbit of a pencil  $\mathcal{S}$  iff the following relations hold:*

$$H(\mathcal{S}) \prec\prec H(\mathcal{A}), \quad V(\mathcal{S}) \prec\prec V(\mathcal{A}) \quad (5)$$

$$[h(\mathcal{S})] + M(\alpha, \mathcal{S}) \prec\prec [h(\mathcal{A})] + M(\alpha, \mathcal{A}), \quad (6)$$

for all  $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}^\infty$ . Here, nothing essentially changes if we substitute ‘ $v$ ’ for ‘ $h$ ’ throughout. Note that condition (6) is equivalent to

$$[h(\mathcal{S})] + M(W, \mathcal{S}) \prec\prec [h(\mathcal{A})] + M(W, \mathcal{A}), \quad \text{for all } W \subset \mathbf{C}^\infty. \quad (7)$$

In fact, for any pencil  $\mathcal{P}$ , the union of all sequences  $[h(\mathcal{P})] + M(\alpha, \mathcal{P})$  (for  $\alpha \in W$ ) is  $[h(\mathcal{P})] + M(W, \mathcal{P})$ . So (7) follows from (6) by a straightforward application of Lemma 1.1.



### 3. The Main Perturbation Result

The following theorem is obtained as a combination of the results of [11] and [9, Th.5]. The reader should recall the notations of Definition 2.1.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a pencil and let  $W$  be a closed subset of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$ . There exists a neighborhood  $\Omega$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  such that any  $\mathcal{S}$  in  $\Omega$  satisfies*

$$H(\mathcal{S}) \ll H(\mathcal{A}), \quad V(\mathcal{S}) \ll V(\mathcal{A}) \quad (8)$$

$$[h(\mathcal{S})] + M(W, \mathcal{S}) \ll [h(\mathcal{A})] + M(W, \mathcal{A}). \quad (9)$$

Conditions (8) were proved by A. Pokrzywa [11, Th.1 (4)-(5)]. Note that (9) is the same majorization occurring in (7), but the quantification on  $W$  is different. Here, I will offer a proof of (9) that I obtained (but not published) in 1987. For that purpose a lemma is first stated and proved. This lemma has also been obtained by I. Hoyos, in her PhD thesis, by a different method.

**Lemma 3.2.** *For a fixed  $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}^\infty$  let  $U_\alpha$  be a neighbourhood of  $\alpha$  such that  $\overline{U_\alpha} \setminus \{\alpha\}$  contains no eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Given a sequence of pencils  $(\mathcal{S}_k : k \in \mathbf{N})$  converging to  $\mathcal{A}$ , for sufficiently large  $k$  we have*

$$[h(\mathcal{S}_k)] + M(U_\alpha, \mathcal{S}_k) \ll [h(\mathcal{A})] + M(U_\alpha, \mathcal{A}). \quad (10)$$

*Proof.* The pencils under consideration are  $m \times n$ , with  $m$  and  $n$  fixed. So we only have a finite number of possible skeletons and a finite number of possibilities for the left hand side of (10). Therefore, we only need to prove the Lemma when all the  $\mathcal{S}_k$  have the same skeleton and  $M(U_\alpha, \mathcal{S}_k)$  is independent of  $k$ ; henceforth we assume these conditions hold. So we have only to prove the *existence* of  $k$  satisfying (10). For each  $k$ , there exist unitary matrices  $Q_k$  and  $P_k$  such that  $\mathcal{S}_k = Q_k \mathcal{T}_k P_k$ , where  $\mathcal{T}_k$  has the block triangular form

$$\mathcal{T}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{F}_k & * \\ 0 & \mathcal{G}_k \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{with } \mathcal{F}_k := \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{F}_{1k} & \cdots & * \\ & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & & \mathcal{F}_{sk} \end{bmatrix};$$

here, we assume that: (i)  $\mathcal{F}_k$  is an upper triangular block matrix with  $s$  blocks,  $\mathcal{F}_{1k}, \dots, \mathcal{F}_{sk}$ , along the diagonal; (ii) the integer  $s$  and the dimensions of the  $\mathcal{F}_{ik}$

and  $\mathcal{G}_k$  do not depend on  $k$ ; (iii) each  $\mathcal{F}_{ik}$  is a square, nonsingular pencil, with only one eigenvalue, denoted  $\xi_{ik}$ , and  $\xi_{1k}, \dots, \xi_{sk}$  are the distinct eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{S}_k$ ; (iv)  $\mathcal{G}_k$  has no eigenvalue,  $H(\mathcal{G}_k) = H(\mathcal{S}_k)$  and  $V(\mathcal{G}_k) = V(\mathcal{S}_k)$  (cf. [13, 14]). These conditions imply that  $\mathcal{S}_k$  is strictly equivalent to  $\mathcal{F}_{1k} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{F}_{sk} \oplus \mathcal{G}_k$  (see [5, 12]). We may assume that  $(Q_k)$ ,  $(P_k)$  and  $(\xi_{ik} : k \in \mathbf{N})$  are convergent, and denote by  $\xi_i$  the limit of  $(\xi_{ik} : k \in \mathbf{N})$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, s$ . Without loss of generality we assume:  $\xi_{ik} \neq \infty$  if  $\xi_i \neq \infty$ , and  $\xi_{ik} \neq 0$  if  $\xi_i \neq 0$ . (So far, we followed the idea of [11, pp.107-108]).

Let  $V_\alpha$  be a closed neighborhood of  $\alpha$ , small enough so that  $V_\alpha \subset U_\alpha$  and no  $\xi_i$  lies in  $V_\alpha \setminus \{\alpha\}$ . Define, for  $\omega \in [0, 1]$ :

$$\mathcal{F}_{ik}^\omega = \mathcal{F}_{ik}^\omega(\lambda, \mu) := \begin{cases} \mathcal{F}_{ik}(\lambda + \mu\omega[\xi_i - \xi_{ik}], \mu) & \text{if } \xi_i \neq \infty \\ \mathcal{F}_{ik}(\lambda, \mu + \lambda\omega/\xi_{ik}) & \text{if } \xi_i = \infty. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\mathcal{S}_k^\omega := Q_k \mathcal{T}_k^\omega P_k$ , where  $\mathcal{T}_k^\omega$  is the pencil obtained from  $\mathcal{T}_k$  by replacing  $\mathcal{F}_{1k}, \dots, \mathcal{F}_{sk}$  with  $\mathcal{F}_{1k}^\omega, \dots, \mathcal{F}_{sk}^\omega$ , respectively, and leaving the other blocks invariant.

We point out that the eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{F}_{ik}^\omega$  lies on the *straight line segment*  $[\xi_{ik}, \xi_i]$  (we put  $[\xi, \infty] := \{\xi/\omega : 0 \leq \omega \leq 1\}$ ). We have one of two situations: either (I)  $\alpha = \xi_t$ , for some  $t \in \{1, \dots, s\}$ , or (II)  $\alpha$  is none of the  $\xi_i$ 's. For large enough  $k$  we have: in case (I),  $[\xi_{ik}, \xi_t]$  is a subset of  $V_\alpha$  and  $[\xi_{jk}, \xi_j] \cap V_\alpha$  is empty if  $j \neq t$ ; in case (II), no  $[\xi_{ik}, \xi_i]$  intersects  $V_\alpha$ . So, in both cases,  $M(V_\alpha, \mathcal{F}_{ik}^\omega) = M(V_\alpha, \mathcal{F}_{ik})$ , and therefore  $M(V_\alpha, \mathcal{S}_k^\omega) = M(V_\alpha, \mathcal{S}_k)$ . Combined with Theorem 2.4 this yields, for large enough  $k$ ,

$$M(V_\alpha, \mathcal{S}_k) \prec M(\alpha, \mathcal{S}_k^1). \quad (11)$$

All  $\mathcal{S}_k^1$  have the same spectrum, namely  $\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$ , and we have only a finite number of possible  $s$ -tuples  $(M(\xi_1, \mathcal{S}_k^1), \dots, M(\xi_s, \mathcal{S}_k^1))$ . Therefore, there exists a subsequence of  $(\mathcal{S}_k^1)$  with all entries in the same orbit. So we may assume, without loss of generality, that all pencils  $\mathcal{S}_k^1$  lie in the same orbit. By [11], (6) holds with  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_k^1$ ; taking into account (11) and  $h(\mathcal{S}_k^1) = h(\mathcal{S}_k)$  we obtain

$$M(V_\alpha, \mathcal{S}_k) \preccurlyeq M(\alpha, \mathcal{A}) + [h(\mathcal{A}) - h(\mathcal{S}_k)], \quad (12)$$

for large enough  $k$ . By [11, Th.1],  $M(\gamma, \mathcal{S}_k) \preccurlyeq [h(\mathcal{A}) - h(\mathcal{S}_k)]$  for all  $\gamma \in U_\alpha \setminus V_\alpha$  and large enough  $k$ . Combining the last relation with (12) and Lemma 1.1, we obtain (10). ■

*Proof of (9).* For each  $\alpha \in W$ , let  $U_\alpha$  be an open neighborhood of  $\alpha$  such that  $\bar{U}_\alpha \setminus \{\alpha\}$  contains no eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$ . As  $W$  is compact, there exists  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$  in  $W$  such that  $U := U_{\alpha_1} \cup \dots \cup U_{\alpha_r}$  contains  $W$ . By Lemma 3.2, (10) holds for all  $\mathcal{S}_k$  sufficiently close to  $\mathcal{A}$  and all  $\alpha \in \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r\}$ . Applying Lemma 1.1 we get

$$[h(\mathcal{S})] + M(U, \mathcal{S}) \ll [h(\mathcal{A})] + M(U, \mathcal{A}),$$

for all  $\mathcal{S}_k$  sufficiently close to  $\mathcal{A}$ . As  $M(W, \mathcal{S}) \ll M(U, \mathcal{S})$  and  $M(W, \mathcal{A}) = M(U, \mathcal{A})$ , our claim (9) follows easily.  $\blacksquare$

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$  be the distinct eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{A}$  and, for each  $t$ , let  $U_t$  be a neighbourhood of  $\alpha_t$  whose closure contains no other eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Define  $U_0 := \mathbf{C}^\infty \setminus (U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_p)$ . There exists a neighborhood  $\Omega$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  such that any  $\mathcal{S}$  in  $\Omega$  satisfies (8) and*

$$[h(\mathcal{S})] + M(U_t, \mathcal{S}) \ll [h(\mathcal{A})] + M(\alpha_t, \mathcal{A}), \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, p \quad (13)$$

$$\max M(U_0, \mathcal{S}) \leq h(\mathcal{A}) - h(\mathcal{S}). \quad (14)$$

*Proof.* Applying (9) to the closed sets  $\bar{U}_1, \dots, \bar{U}_p$ , we obtain (13). Applying (9) to  $\bar{U}_0$ , we get  $[h(\mathcal{S})] + M(U_0, \mathcal{S}) \ll [h(\mathcal{A})]$ , which is equivalent to (14).  $\blacksquare$

Note that we may easily obtain (9) from (13)-(14). Thus Theorem 3.3 is an alternative formulation of Theorem 3.1.

## 4. A Converse Result

The following theorem shows that Theorem 3.1 is, in a certain sense, a best possible result. The reader should compare (15) with (8), and (16)-(17) with (13)-(14). As a corollary, we characterize the set of skeletons,  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$ , defined in the introduction.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $p$  and  $q$  be nonnegative integers,  $(M_1, \dots, M_q, H, V)$  the skeleton of an  $m \times n$  pencil, and  $\mathcal{A}$  an  $m \times n$  pencil having  $p$  (distinct) eigenvalues,  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ . We are also given  $p + 1$  pairwise disjoint sets  $X_0, \dots, X_p$  such that  $X_0 \cup \dots \cup X_p = \{1, \dots, q\}$ . Denote by  $h$  the maximum of  $H = (h_1, h_2, \dots)$ .*

We assume these entities satisfy

$$H \ll H(\mathcal{A}), \quad V \ll V(\mathcal{A}) \quad (15)$$

$$[h] + \bigcup_{s \in X_t} M_s \ll [h(\mathcal{A})] + M(\alpha_t, \mathcal{A}), \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, p \quad (16)$$

$$\max \bigcup_{s \in X_0} M_s \leq h(\mathcal{A}) - h. \quad (17)$$

Finally, let  $U_t$  be a neighbourhood of  $\alpha_t$  whose closure contains no eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$  other than  $\alpha_t$ , and let  $\{\tau_s : s \in X_0\}$  be a set of pairwise distinct elements of  $\mathbb{C}^\infty \setminus (U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_p)$  indexed by  $X_0$ .

For any neighbourhood  $\Omega$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  there exists a pencil  $\mathcal{S}$  in  $\Omega$  with  $q$  (distinct) eigenvalues,  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_q$ , satisfying the following conditions:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \sigma_s &= \tau_s, \quad \text{for } s \in X_0 \\ \sigma_s &\in U_t, \quad \text{for } s \in X_t \text{ and } t \in \{1, \dots, p\} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (18)$$

$$H(\mathcal{S}) = H \quad \text{and} \quad V(\mathcal{S}) = V \quad (19)$$

$$M(\sigma_s, \mathcal{S}) = M_s, \quad \text{for } s \in \{1, \dots, q\}. \quad (20)$$

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{F} \oplus \mathcal{G}$  be an  $m \times n$  pencil, in Kronecker normal form, such that  $H(\mathcal{G}) = H$ ,  $V(\mathcal{G}) = V$ ,  $M(\alpha_t, \mathcal{F}) = \cup\{M_s : s \in X_t\}$ , for  $t = 1, \dots, p$ , and  $M(\tau_s, \mathcal{F}) = M_s$ , for  $s \in X_0$ . By [11], (15)-(17) mean that  $\mathcal{A}$  lies in the closure of the orbit of  $\mathcal{N}$ . Therefore there exist invertible complex matrices,  $P$  and  $Q$ , such that  $PNQ$  lies in  $\Omega$ .

Let  $\sigma_s$ , for  $s \in X_1 \cup \dots \cup X_p$ , be any pairwise distinct complex numbers satisfying (18). For a fixed  $t \in \{1, \dots, p\}$  let us denote by  $J_{ti}$  the  $i$ -th greatest Jordan component of  $\mathcal{N}$  with eigenvalue  $\alpha_t$ . Clearly  $J_{ti}$  has order  $\tilde{m}_i(\alpha_t, \mathcal{N})$  (recall:  $\tilde{m}_i(\alpha_t, \mathcal{N})$  is the  $i$ -th coordinate of  $\tilde{M}(\gamma_t, \mathcal{N})$ , the conjugate of  $M(\gamma_t, \mathcal{N})$ ). Assume  $\alpha_t$  is finite (the case  $\alpha_t = \infty$  is similar). We now perturb the diagonal of  $J_{ti}$  to obtain the following pencil

$$J'_{ti} := J_{ti} + \left[ \bigoplus_{s \in X_t} (\sigma_s - \alpha_t) \mu I_{s,i} \right],$$

where  $I_{s,i}$  is the  $\tilde{m}_{s,i} \times \tilde{m}_{s,i}$  identity matrix, with the notation  $(\tilde{m}_{s,i} : i \in \mathbb{N})$  for the conjugate of  $M_s$ . Note that  $J_{ti}$  and  $I_{s,i}$  have the same order, because

$\tilde{M}(\alpha_t, \mathcal{N}) = \Sigma\{\tilde{M}_s : s \in X_t\}$ .  $J'_{ti}$  has spectrum  $\{\sigma_s : s \in X_t\}$  with precisely one Jordan component with eigenvalue  $\sigma_s$ , and this component has order  $\tilde{m}_{s,i}$ .

Let us perturb in the way just described all the Jordan blocks occurring in  $\mathcal{N}$ , and let  $\mathcal{N}'$  be the resulting pencil. Clearly,  $\mathcal{S} := P\mathcal{N}'Q$  satisfies (19)-(20). Moreover, by appropriate choice of the  $\sigma_s$  ( $s \notin X_0$ ) our perturbation may be made small enough so that  $P\mathcal{N}'Q$  still lies in  $\Omega$ . So the theorem holds with  $\mathcal{S} := P\mathcal{N}'Q$ . ■

**Corollary 4.2.** *The skeleton  $\Sigma = (M_1, \dots, M_q, H, V)$  lies in  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$  iff there exist pairwise disjoint sets  $X_0, \dots, X_p$ , satisfying  $X_0 \cup \dots \cup X_p = \{1, \dots, q\}$ , and the conditions (15)-(17). That is,  $\Sigma$  belongs to  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$  iff  $\mathcal{A}$  lies in the closure of an equivalence orbit with skeleton  $\Sigma$ . ■*

**Remark 4.3.** The sequence of sets  $X_0, \dots, X_p$  represents the way we wish to locate the eigenvalues of the perturbed pencil  $\mathcal{S}$  with respect to those of  $\mathcal{A}$ :  $\mathcal{S}$  is supposed to have a cluster of  $|X_t|$  distinct eigenvalues around  $\alpha_t$ , for each  $t \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ ; the sum of the multiplicities of the eigenvalues in that cluster may be (i) less than, (ii) equal to, or (iii) greater than the multiplicity of  $\alpha_t$ . In case (i) we are, in a certain sense, “deflating”  $\alpha_t$  by a perturbation. If  $X_t$  is empty, that means we decided to rule out the possibility of  $\mathcal{S}$  having an eigenvalue nearby  $\alpha_t$ : in this extreme case, we may say that  $\alpha_t$  has been *banished* from the eigenvalue list.

The eigenvalues  $\sigma_s$ , for  $s \in X_0$  are unrelated to the spectrum of  $\mathcal{A}$ ; we call them *alien eigenvalues* by obvious reasons: they may blossom in almost every place of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$  for convenient choices of arbitrarily small perturbations of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Alien eigenvalues are bound by the condition that no one of them is allowed to coincide with one  $\alpha_t$ , otherwise *that* eigenvalue would have been labeled as a member of  $\alpha_t$ 's cluster. The other restriction on alien eigenvalues, namely (17) [or (14)], involves the maximum of  $\cup\{M_s : s \in X_0\}$ , which is nothing but the maximum number of Jordan blocks with the same alien eigenvalue. So the number of Jordan blocks of the perturbed pencil  $\mathcal{S}$  corresponding to any given alien eigenvalue is at most  $h(\mathcal{A}) - h(\mathcal{S})$  [clearly this equals  $v(\mathcal{A}) - v(\mathcal{S})$ ]. Thus, roughly speaking, alien eigenvalues may be brought into existence at the cost of destruction of Kronecker blocks.

## 5. A Quantitative Refinement

In our final result we obtain a quantitative refinement of Theorem 4.1. Roughly speaking, we give a relation between positive real numbers  $\epsilon$  and  $\kappa$ , such that, given a pencil  $\mathcal{A}$ , we may always find a pencil  $\mathcal{S}$  inside a neighbourhood of  $\mathcal{A}$  of radius  $\epsilon$ , satisfying (19)-(20), with each cluster  $\{\sigma_s : s \in X_t\}$  of nonalien eigenvalues *arbitrarily prescribed* in a neighbourhood of  $\alpha_t$  of radius  $\kappa$ . It turns out that  $\kappa$  and  $\epsilon$  have the same order of magnitude, for appropriate choices of the metrics in the space of pencils and in  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$ .

For pencils, distances are afforded by the following norm: if  $\mathcal{P} = \lambda L + \mu M$  is an  $m \times n$  pencil the *norm of  $\mathcal{P}$*  is defined as the greatest singular value of the  $m \times 2n$  complex matrix  $[L, M]$ .

To measure distances between eigenvalues we shall use the *chordal metric* of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$ . Recall that  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$  is naturally identified with a *Riemann sphere*, say  $RS := \{(\xi, \eta, \zeta) : \xi^2 + \eta^2 + \zeta^2 = \zeta\}$ , by means of the *stereographic projection* (see e.g. [4, pp.50-52] for details). The *chordal distance* between two points  $z, w \in \mathbf{C}$ , denoted  $d^*(z, w)$ , is the distance between the stereographic images of  $z$  and  $w$  in  $RS$ . We have

$$d^*(z, w) = |z - w| \left\{ (1 + |z|^2)(1 + |w|^2) \right\}^{-1/2}. \quad (21)$$

If  $\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle, \langle w_1, w_2 \rangle \in \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{C})$  satisfy  $z_1/z_2 = z$  and  $w_1/w_2 = w$  then (21) may be written in a nice symmetric way

$$d^*(z, w) = |z_1 w_2 - z_2 w_1| \left\{ (1 + |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2)(1 + |w_1|^2 + |w_2|^2) \right\}^{-1/2}. \quad (22)$$

This identity also holds in case  $z = \infty$  or  $w = \infty$ . As  $1/z$  is representable by  $z_2/z_1$  and formula (22) is invariant under the interchanging of the subindices 1, 2, it follows that  $d^*(1/z, 1/w) = d^*(z, w)$ .

**Lemma 5.1.** *Let  $\sigma, \sigma' \in \mathbf{C}^\infty$  satisfy  $d^*(\sigma, \sigma') < \rho$ , where  $\rho$  is any positive real number such that  $\rho < \sqrt{2}/2$ . There exist  $b, c \in \mathbf{C}$  such that  $bc = 0$ ,  $\sigma' = (\sigma + b)/(c\sigma + 1)$  and  $\max\{|b|, |c|\} < 2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho)$ .*

*Proof.* First assume that  $|\sigma| \leq 1$ , i.e., the stereographic image of  $\sigma$  lies in the south hemisphere of  $RS$ . As  $d^*(\sigma, \sigma') < \sqrt{2}/2$ , we have  $\sigma' \neq \infty$ . Let us put  $c := 0$

and  $b := \sigma' - \sigma$ . We easily get

$$(1 + |\sigma|^2)(1 + |\sigma'|^2) \leq 2[1 + (|b| + |\sigma|)^2] \leq 2[2 + 2|b| + |b|^2] \leq 4(1 + |b|/\sqrt{2})^2.$$

Combining this with  $d^*(\sigma, \sigma') < \rho$  and (21) we obtain  $|b|/(1 + |b|/\sqrt{2}) \leq 4\rho$ , that is,  $|b| \leq 2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho)$ . The proof is complete in case  $|\sigma| \leq 1$ .

Now let  $|\sigma| \geq 1$  (this includes the case  $\sigma = \infty$ ). As  $d^*(1/\sigma, 1/\sigma') < \sqrt{2}/2$ , we have  $1/\sigma' \neq \infty$ , etc, etc. The proof is the same as before, taking the inverses of  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma'$  and reversing the roles of  $b$  and  $c$ . ■

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{P}'$  be a nonsingular pencil with exactly one eigenvalue  $\sigma' \in \mathbf{C}^\infty$ . If  $\sigma \in \mathbf{C}^\infty$  satisfies  $d^*(\sigma, \sigma') < \rho$ , where  $\rho < \sqrt{2}/2$ , then there exists a pencil  $\mathcal{P}$  with the same skeleton as  $\mathcal{P}'$ , having  $\sigma$  as (unique) eigenvalue and satisfying  $\|\mathcal{P} - \mathcal{P}'\| < \|\mathcal{P}'\|2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho)$ .*

*Proof.* Write  $\mathcal{P}' = \lambda L + \mu M$  and define  $\mathcal{P} := (\lambda + b\mu)L + (c\lambda + \mu)M$ , where  $b$  and  $c$  are as given in Lemma 5.1. Clearly  $\mathcal{P}$  has the same skeleton as  $\mathcal{P}'$  and has eigenvalue  $\sigma$ , because  $\sigma' = (\sigma + b)/(c\sigma + 1)$ . Moreover

$$\|\mathcal{P} - \mathcal{P}'\| = \|b\lambda L + c\mu M\| = \|[bL, cM]\| = \|[L, M](bI \oplus cI)\| \leq \|\mathcal{P}'\| \max\{|b|, |c|\}.$$

Therefore, by Lemma 5.1,  $\|\mathcal{P} - \mathcal{P}'\| < \|\mathcal{P}'\|2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho)$ . ■

**Theorem 5.3.** *For a nonzero pencil  $\mathcal{A}$ , let us adopt all notations and assumptions of Theorem 4.1 up to (17) inclusive. Moreover, let us be given a real  $\kappa$  satisfying  $0 < \kappa < \sqrt{2}/2$ , and a set  $\{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_q\}$  of  $q$  distinct elements of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$  such that, for all  $t \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ ,*

$$\sigma_v \neq \alpha_t \text{ for } v \in X_0, \text{ and } d^*(\sigma_s, \alpha_t) < \kappa \text{ for } s \in X_t. \quad (23)$$

*Then there exists a pencil  $\mathcal{S}$  satisfying  $\|\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{S}\| < \|\mathcal{A}\|2\kappa/(1 - \sqrt{2}\kappa)$  and the conditions (19) and (20).*

*Proof.* Given  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_q$ , let  $\delta$  be a positive real number satisfying  $\delta < d^*(z, w)/10$ , for all distinct  $z, w$  in  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p\} \cup \{\sigma_s : s \in X_0\}$ . We shall apply Theorem 4.1 with  $U_t := \{z : d^*(z, \alpha_t) < \delta\}$  and  $\tau_s := \sigma_s$ , for  $s \in X_0$ .

Choose a real  $\rho$  so that  $0 < \rho < \kappa$  and  $d^*(\sigma_s, \alpha_t) < \delta$  for all  $s$  in  $X_1 \cup \dots \cup X_p$ , and choose a positive  $\eta$  satisfying

$$\eta + (\|\mathcal{A}\| + \eta)2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho) < \|\mathcal{A}\|2\kappa/(1 - \sqrt{2}\kappa). \quad (24)$$

Such  $\eta$  exists because (24) is equivalent to  $\eta(1 + f_\rho) < (f_\kappa - f_\rho)\|\mathcal{A}\|$  [here,  $f_x$  denotes  $2x/(1 - \sqrt{2x})$ ],  $\mathcal{A}$  is nonzero, and  $f_\kappa > f_\rho$ . By Theorem 4.1, there exists an  $m \times n$  pencil  $\mathcal{S}'$  such that  $\|\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{S}'\| < \eta$ , with distinct eigenvalues  $\sigma'_1, \dots, \sigma'_q$  satisfying (18)-(20) (with  $\mathcal{S}$  and  $\sigma_s$  replaced by  $\mathcal{S}'$  and  $\sigma'_s$ ). A closer look at the proof of Theorem 4.1 shows that we may further assume  $d^*(\sigma_s, \sigma'_s) \leq d^*(\sigma_s, \alpha_t)$ ; therefore, by (24),

$$d^*(\sigma_s, \sigma'_s) \leq \rho, \quad \text{for all } s \in \{1, \dots, q\}. \quad (25)$$

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be complex unitary matrices such that

$$\mathcal{S}' = P \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{F} & * \\ 0 & \mathcal{G} \end{bmatrix} Q, \quad \text{with } \mathcal{F} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{F}_1 & \cdots & * \\ & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & & \mathcal{F}_q \end{bmatrix}, \quad (26)$$

where  $\mathcal{G}$  has no eigenvalues,  $H(\mathcal{G}) = H(\mathcal{S}')$ ,  $V(\mathcal{G}) = V(\mathcal{S}')$  and each  $\mathcal{F}_s$  is square nonsingular with  $\sigma'_s$  as unique eigenvalue, for  $s = 1, \dots, q$  (cf. [13, 14]). According to (25), Lemma 5.2 yields, for each  $s$ , a pencil  $\mathcal{E}_s$  with the same skeleton as  $\mathcal{F}_s$ , having eigenvalue  $\sigma_s$  and satisfying  $\|\mathcal{E}_s - \mathcal{F}_s\| \leq \|\mathcal{S}'\|2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho)$ , for  $s = 1, \dots, q$ .

Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be the pencil obtained from  $\mathcal{S}'$  by replacing (in the representation (26)) each block  $\mathcal{F}_s$  by  $\mathcal{E}_s$  and leaving all other blocks invariant. Clearly  $\mathcal{S}$  satisfies (19)-(20). Moreover

$$\|\mathcal{S} - \mathcal{S}'\| = \sup\{\|\mathcal{E}_s - \mathcal{F}_s\| : s = 1, \dots, q\} \leq \|\mathcal{S}'\|2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho).$$

As  $\|\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{S}'\| < \eta$  we have  $\|\mathcal{S}'\| < \|\mathcal{A}\| + \eta$ . We thus obtain the following sequence of inequalities, the last of which is (24):

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{S}\| &\leq \|\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{S}'\| + \|\mathcal{S} - \mathcal{S}'\| < \eta + \|\mathcal{S}'\|2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho) \\ &< \eta + (\|\mathcal{A}\| + \eta)2\rho/(1 - \sqrt{2}\rho) < \|\mathcal{A}\|2\kappa/(1 - \sqrt{2}\kappa). \end{aligned}$$

The theorem is proved.



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