

# A block Newton method for nonlinear eigenvalue problems

D. Kressner

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Seminar für Angewandte Mathematik  
Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule  
CH-8092 Zürich  
Switzerland

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## Abstract

We consider matrix eigenvalue problems that are nonlinear in the eigenvalue parameter. One of the most fundamental differences to the linear case is that distinct eigenvalues may have linearly dependent eigenvectors or even share the same eigenvector. This has been a severe hindrance in the development of general numerical schemes for computing several eigenvalues of a nonlinear eigenvalue problem, either simultaneously or subsequently. The purpose of this work is to show that the concept of invariant pairs offers a way of representing eigenvalues and eigenvectors that is insensitive to this phenomenon. To demonstrate the use of this concept in the development of numerical methods, we have developed a novel block Newton method for computing such invariant pairs. Algorithmic aspects of this method are considered and a few academic examples demonstrate its operability.

## 1 Introduction

Given a function  $T : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  holomorphic on an open set  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ , we consider the *nonlinear eigenvalue problem* of finding pairs  $(x, \lambda) \in \mathbb{C}^n \times \Omega$  with  $x \neq 0$  such that

$$T(\lambda)x = 0. \tag{1}$$

For any such pair  $(x, \lambda)$ , we call  $x$  an *eigenvector* and  $\lambda$  an *eigenvalue*. This formulation includes linear eigenvalue problems, for which  $T(\lambda) = A - \lambda I$  with  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , as well as polynomial eigenvalue problems, for which  $T$  is a matrix polynomial in  $\lambda$ . To avoid degenerate situations, we assume that  $T$  is *regular*, i.e.,  $\det(T(\cdot)) \neq 0$  on any of the components of  $\Omega$ , throughout this paper. For a recent overview on the numerics and numerous applications of such nonlinear eigenvalue problems, we refer to [20].

In contrast to the linear case, there may be eigenvector/eigenvalue pairs  $(\lambda_1, x_1), \dots, (\lambda_k, x_k)$  of (1), for which the eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  are pairwise distinct but  $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$  is linearly dependent. This possibility is already evident from the fact that  $k$  can be larger than  $n$ . Another example [12] is given by

$$T(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 12 \\ -2 & 14 \end{bmatrix} + \lambda \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -6 \\ 2 & -9 \end{bmatrix} + \lambda^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{2}$$

for which the eigenvalues 3 and 4 share the same eigenvector  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . The occurrence of such linear dependencies is an annoyance when attempting to develop numerical methods for computing more than one eigenvalue of (1). For example, standard Newton methods [10, 11] for the simultaneous computation of several eigenvalues crucially depend on the existence of a basis

for the invariant subspace belonging to the eigenvalues of interest. In methods that determine several eigenvalues subsequently, such as Krylov subspace or Jacobi-Davidson methods [2], repeated convergence towards an eigenvalue is usually avoided by reorthogonalization against converged eigenvectors. If such an idea was directly applied to nonlinear eigenvalue problems, eigenvalues could be missed due to linear dependencies among eigenvectors.

In the case that the nonlinear eigenvalue problem admits a minimum-maximum characterization [26, 31], its eigenvalues can be ordered and numbered. Voss and his co-authors [4, 5, 7, 27, 28, 29, 30] have developed Arnoldi-type and Jacobi-Davidson-type methods that employ this numbering as a safety scheme for avoiding repeated convergence towards the same eigenvalue. Unfortunately, for many applications such minimum-maximum characterizations do not exist or are difficult to verify.

In this work, we will propose a different approach for dealing with several eigenvalues, very much inspired by the work of Beyn and Thümmler [9] on continuation methods for quadratic eigenvalue problems. For this purpose, it will be more convenient to assume that the nonlinear eigenvalue problem (1) takes the form

$$(f_1(\lambda)A_1 + f_2(\lambda)A_2 + \cdots + f_m(\lambda)A_m)x = 0. \quad (3)$$

for holomorphic functions  $f_1, \dots, f_m : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and constant matrices  $A_1, \dots, A_m \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ . This is no restriction as we could turn (1) into (3) by choosing  $m = n^2$ ,  $f_{(i-1)n+j}(\lambda) = t_{ij}(\lambda)$  and  $A_{(i-1)n+j} = e_i e_j^T$ , with  $e_i$  and  $e_j$  denoting the  $i$ th and  $j$ th unit vectors of length  $n$ , respectively. However, many applications of nonlinear eigenvalue problems already come in the form (3) and such a reformulation is not needed. For example, in eigenvalue problems related to the stability of time-delay systems [21], the functions  $f_j$  are exponentials or polynomials. In applications related to vibrating mechanical structures [30], the functions  $f_j$  are rational and model different material properties.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the concept of invariant pairs for the nonlinear eigenvalue problem (3) is introduced. We believe this to be the most suitable extension of an eigenvalue/eigenvector pair to several eigenvalues. Several useful properties are shown to substantiate this belief. In Section 3, a Newton method for computing such invariant pairs is developed, along with some algorithmic details and numerical experiments.

## 2 Invariant pairs

**Definition 1** *Let the eigenvalues of  $S \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$  be contained in  $\Omega$  and let  $X \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k}$ . Then  $(X, S) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$  is called an invariant pair of the nonlinear eigenvalue problem (3) if*

$$A_1 X f_1(S) + A_2 X f_2(S) + \cdots + A_m X f_m(S) = 0. \quad (4)$$

Note that the matrix functions  $f_1(S), \dots, f_m(S)$  are well defined under the given assumptions [16]. As an example, let  $(x_1, \lambda_1)$  and  $(x_2, \lambda_2)$  be eigenvector/eigenvalue pairs of (3). Then  $(X, S)$  with  $X = [x_1, x_2]$  and  $S = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  is an invariant pair.

To avoid trivial invariant pairs, such as  $X = 0$ , an additional property needs to be imposed. However, we have already seen that requiring  $X$  to have full column rank is not reasonable in the context of nonlinear eigenvalue problems. Instead, we use the concept of minimal invariant pairs from [6, 9].

**Definition 2** A pair  $(X, S) \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{n \times k}$  is called minimal if there is  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  such that the matrix

$$V_l(X, S) = \begin{bmatrix} X \\ XS \\ \vdots \\ XS^{l-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

has rank  $k$ . The smallest such  $l$  is called the minimality index of  $(X, S)$ .

**Example 3** For the example (2), the pair  $(X, S)$  with  $X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $S = \text{diag}(3, 4)$  is invariant and minimal with minimality index 2.

It has been shown in [6] that any invariant pair can be turned into a minimal one in the following sense. If  $V_l(X, S)$  has rank  $\tilde{k} < k$  then there is a minimal invariant pair  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{S}) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times \tilde{k}} \times \mathbb{C}^{\tilde{k} \times \tilde{k}}$  such that  $\text{span } \tilde{X} = \text{span } X$  and  $\text{span } V_l(\tilde{X}, \tilde{S}) = \text{span } V_l(X, S)$ . The following Lemma reveals the connection of minimal invariant pairs to the nonlinear eigenvalue problem (3).

**Lemma 4** Let  $(X, S) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$  be a minimal invariant pair of (3). Then the following statements hold.

1. For any invertible matrix  $Z \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$ ,  $(XZ, Z^{-1}SZ)$  is also a minimal invariant pair of (3).
2. The eigenvalues of  $S$  are eigenvalues of (3).

*Proof.*

1. Using  $f_j(Z^{-1}SZ) = Z^{-1}f_j(S)Z$ , the relation (4) can be written as

$$A_1 X Z f_1(Z^{-1}SZ) Z^{-1} + A_2 X Z f_2(Z^{-1}SZ) Z^{-1} + \cdots + A_m X Z f_m(Z^{-1}SZ) Z^{-1} = 0,$$

which is equivalent to

$$A_1 X Z f_1(Z^{-1}SZ) + A_2 X Z f_2(Z^{-1}SZ) + \cdots + A_m X Z f_m(Z^{-1}SZ) = 0, \quad (6)$$

and shows that  $(XZ, Z^{-1}SZ)$  is an invariant pair. Its minimality follows from

$$V_l(XZ, Z^{-1}SZ) = V_l(X, S)Z.$$

2. By the Schur decomposition, we can choose  $Z$  orthogonal such that  $Z^{-1}SZ$  is upper triangular with any eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $S$  appearing in the (1, 1) position of  $\tilde{S}$ . Setting  $x = XZ e_1$ , the first column of  $V_l(Z^{-1}SZ, XZ)$  has the entries  $x, x\lambda, \dots, x\lambda^{l-1}$ . Hence,  $x \neq 0$  since otherwise  $V_l(Z^{-1}SZ, XZ)$  would be rank deficient for any  $l$ . Moreover,

$$XZ f_j(Z^{-1}SZ) e_1 = f_j(\lambda)x$$

and thus the first column of (6) implies that  $(x, \lambda)$  is an eigenvector/eigenvalue pair.

□

Let us briefly discuss the practical consequences of Lemma 4. Once a minimal invariant pair is computed we can extract the corresponding eigenvalues of  $T(\cdot)$  by computing the eigenvalues of  $S$ . Moreover, if  $S$  admits a diagonalization  $Z^{-1}SZ$  then the columns of  $XZ$  contain the corresponding eigenvectors.

The following lemma shows that for checking minimality, it is sufficient to check the rank of  $V_k(X, S)$ .

**Lemma 5** *If a pair  $(X, S) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$  is minimal then its minimality index cannot exceed  $k$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $(X, S)$  is minimal, there is  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\text{rank}(V_l(X, S)) = k$ . For  $l \leq k$  there is nothing to prove. For  $l > k$ , the Cayley-Hamilton theorem yields the existence of coefficients  $\alpha_{ij} \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$XS^{k+i} = \alpha_{i0}X + \alpha_{i1}XS + \cdots + \alpha_{i,k-1}XS^{k-1}, \quad i \geq 0.$$

Hence, there is a square invertible matrix  $W$  such that

$$W V_l(X, S) = \begin{bmatrix} V_k(X, S) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

implying  $\text{rank}(V_k(X, S)) = k$ . □

## 2.1 Relation to polynomial eigenvalue problems

Given a minimal invariant pair  $(X, S, X) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$ , the nonlinear eigenvalue problem (3) can be locally transformed into a polynomial eigenvalue problem. To see this, we choose  $p_j \in \Pi_k$ , where  $\Pi_k$  denotes all polynomials of degree at most  $k$ , as the Hermite interpolating polynomial of  $f_j$  at the spectrum of  $S$  [16]. Then  $f_j(S) = p_j(S)$  and (4) can be written as

$$A_1 X p_1(S) + A_2 X p_2(S) + \cdots + A_m X p_m(S) = 0.$$

Hence,  $(S, X)$  is a minimal invariant pair for the polynomial eigenvalue problem

$$(p_1(\lambda)A_1 + p_2(\lambda)A_2 + \cdots + p_m(\lambda)A_m)x = 0. \quad (7)$$

In particular, Lemma 4.2 implies that the eigenvalues of  $S$  are eigenvalues of (7). Note, however, that the converse is not true: from the  $kn$  eigenvalues of (7) only  $k$  can be expected to solve the original nonlinear eigenvalue problem. Nevertheless, (7) allows us to show that minimal invariant pairs can be easily constructed in the case of pairwise distinct eigenvalues.

**Lemma 6** *Let  $(x_1, \lambda_1), \dots, (x_k, \lambda_k)$  be eigenvector/eigenvalue pairs for the nonlinear eigenvalue problem (3), with  $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$  for  $i \neq j$ . Then the invariant pair*

$$(X, S) = ([x_1, \dots, x_k], \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k))$$

*is minimal.*

*Proof.* The construction above shows that  $(X, S)$  is an invariant pair for the polynomial eigenvalue problem (7). By the companion linearization [14] of (7), there is a matrix pencil  $C_A - \lambda C_B \in \mathbb{C}^{kn \times kn}$  such that  $(v_1, \lambda_1), \dots, (v_k, \lambda_k)$  with  $v_j = [x_j^T, \lambda_j x_j^T, \dots, \lambda_j^{k-1} x_j^T]^T$  are eigenvector/eigenvalue pairs of  $C_A - \lambda C_B$ . Eigenvectors belonging to pairwise distinct eigenvalues of matrix pencils are linearly independent and hence  $V_l(X, S) = [v_1, \dots, v_k]$  has rank  $k$ , concluding the proof. □

## 2.2 Simple invariant pairs

The relation (1) immediately implies that  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue if and only if  $\det(T(\lambda)) = 0$ . The algebraic multiplicity of  $\lambda$  is defined as usual.

**Definition 7** *Let  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue of a holomorphic function  $T : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ . Then the algebraic multiplicity of  $\lambda$ , denoted by  $\text{alg}_T(\lambda)$ , is the smallest integer  $j$  such that  $\frac{\partial^j}{\partial \lambda^j} \det(T(\lambda)) \neq 0$ .*

Note that  $\det(T(\cdot))$  is also holomorphic in the open set  $\Omega$  and thus – by basic complex analysis results – the algebraic multiplicity of  $\lambda$  is finite unless  $\det(T(\cdot)) \equiv 0$  in some component of  $\Omega$ . However, in the latter case  $T$  is not regular, contradicting the assumption made in the introduction.

The following definition defines an invariant pair to be simple if it includes eigenvalues in their full multiplicity.

**Definition 8** *An invariant pair  $(X, S)$  for a regular, holomorphic function  $T : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is called simple if  $(X, S)$  is minimal and the algebraic multiplicities of the eigenvalues of  $S$  are identical to the algebraic multiplicities of the corresponding eigenvalues of  $T$ .*

In the following, it will be shown that simple invariant pairs are well posed objects in the sense of being regular solutions to a nonlinear matrix equation. For this purpose, we introduce the nonlinear matrix operator

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{T} : \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}_{\Omega}^{k \times k} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n \times k}, \\ (X, S) &\mapsto XA_1f_1(S) + XA_2f_2(S) + \cdots + XA_mf_m(S), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

associated with  $T(\lambda) = f_1(\lambda)A_1 + f_2(\lambda)A_1 + \cdots + f_m(\lambda)A_m$ . Here,  $\mathbb{C}_{\Omega}^{k \times k}$  denotes the set of  $k \times k$  matrices with eigenvalues in  $\Omega$ . By definition, see (4), an invariant pair  $(X, S)$  satisfies  $\mathbb{T}(X, S) = 0$ . But this relation is clearly not sufficient to characterize  $(X, S)$  and we need to add some normalization. For this purpose, choose  $l$  such that the matrix  $V_l(X, S)$ , see (5), has rank  $k$ . Define and partition the matrix

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} W_0 \\ W_1 \\ \vdots \\ W_{l-1} \end{bmatrix} := V_l(X, S)(V_l(X, S)^H V_l(X, S))^{-1} \in \mathbb{C}^{n k \times k},$$

with  $W_j \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k}$ . Thus,  $\mathbb{V}(X, S) = 0$  for the operator

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{V} : \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}_{\Omega}^{k \times k} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}, \\ (X, S) &\mapsto W^H V_l(X, S) - I_k. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

In the following it will be investigated whether the two conditions  $\mathbb{T}(X, S) = 0$ ,  $\mathbb{V}(X, S) = 0$  are sufficient to characterize  $(X, S)$ , at least locally. For this purpose, we compute the Fréchet derivatives of  $\mathbb{T}$  and  $\mathbb{V}$  at  $(X, S)$ :

$$\mathbb{D}\mathbb{T} : (\Delta X, \Delta S) \mapsto \mathbb{T}(\Delta X, S) + \sum_{j=1}^m A_j X [\mathbb{D}f_j(S)](\Delta S), \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbb{D}\mathbb{V} : (\Delta X, \Delta S) \mapsto W_0^H \Delta X + \sum_{j=1}^{l-1} W_j^H (\Delta X S^j + X \mathbb{D}S^j(\Delta S)). \quad (11)$$

Here,  $[\mathbb{D}f_j(S)]$  denotes the Fréchet derivative of  $f_j$  at  $S$ . Note that the Fréchet derivative  $\mathbb{D}S^j$  of the map  $S \mapsto S^j$  can be written as

$$\mathbb{D}S^j : \Delta S \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^j S^i \Delta S S^{j-i-1}.$$

The following example illustrates the definitions above.

**Example 9** Consider  $T(\lambda) = \lambda I - A_0 - A_1 e^{-\lambda\tau}$  with  $A_0, A_1 \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  and  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ . The associated nonlinear eigenvalue problem arises from the stability study of a linear delay differential equation (DDE) with a single delay [21]. For  $k = l = 2$ , the operators  $\mathbb{T}$  and  $\mathbb{V}$  take the form

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{T}(X, S) &= XS - A_0 X - A_1 X e^{-\tau S}, \\ \mathbb{V}(X, S) &= W_0^H X + W_1^H X S - I_2. \end{aligned}$$

The corresponding Fréchet derivatives at  $(X, S)$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{D}\mathbb{T}(\Delta X, \Delta S) &= \mathbb{T}(\Delta X, S) + X \Delta S - A_1 X \mathbb{D}e^{-\tau S}(\Delta S), \\ \mathbb{D}\mathbb{V}(\Delta X, \Delta S) &= W_0^H \Delta X + W_1^H (\Delta X S + X \Delta S). \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\mathbb{D}e^{-\tau S}$ , the Fréchet derivative of the exponential matrix function, can be computed using methods described in [16, 18, 22], see also Section 3 below.

The following theorem is the main result of this section and proves that simple invariant pairs are well posed.

**Theorem 10** Let  $(X, S)$  be a minimal invariant pair for the nonlinear eigenvalue problem (3). Then  $(X, S)$  is simple if and only if the associated linear matrix operator

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{L} : \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k} \\ (\Delta X, \Delta S) &\rightarrow (\mathbb{D}\mathbb{T}(\Delta X, \Delta S), \mathbb{D}\mathbb{V}(\Delta X, \Delta S)), \end{aligned}$$

with  $\mathbb{D}\mathbb{T}$  and  $\mathbb{D}\mathbb{V}$  defined in (10)–(11), is invertible.

*Proof.* The basic idea of the proof is to replace the holomorphic functions  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  by polynomials and apply results from [6]. Complex interpolation theory [13] shows that there are polynomials  $p_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ , of degree not larger than  $\ell$ , with some integer  $\ell > k$ , such that

$$p_i^{(j)}(\lambda_s) = f_i^{(j)}(\lambda_s), \quad j = 0, \dots, 2k - 1,$$

for every eigenvalue  $\lambda_s$  of  $S$ . In particular, this implies  $f_i(S) = p_i(S)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and hence  $(X, S)$  is a minimal invariant pair for  $P(\lambda) = A_1 p_1(\lambda) + \dots + A_m p_m(\lambda)$ . Moreover,

$$\frac{\partial^j}{\partial \lambda^j} \det(T(\lambda_s)) = \frac{\partial^j}{\partial \lambda^j} \det(P(\lambda_s)), \quad j = 0, \dots, 2k - 1, \quad (12)$$

showing that the algebraic multiplicities of  $T$  for the eigenvalues of  $S$  match those of  $P$ , unless the algebraic multiplicity exceeds  $2k - 1$  (in which case  $(X, S)$  cannot be simple, neither for  $T$  nor for  $P$ ). By definition, (12) thus proves that  $(X, S)$  is a *simple* invariant pair for  $T$  if and

only if it is a *simple* invariant pair for  $P$ . In [6], the latter condition is shown to be equivalent to the condition that  $(X, S)$  is a regular solution to the matrix equations

$$\mathbb{P}(X, S) = \hat{X}A_1p_1(S) + \cdots + XA_m p_1(S) = 0, \quad \mathbb{T}(X, S) = \widetilde{W}^H V_\ell(X, S) = 0. \quad (13)$$

A minor complication is that in general  $\ell > l$ , but this can be easily fixed by defining  $\widetilde{W}$  as the matrix obtained from appending  $W$  with  $(\ell - l)n$  zero rows. In turn,  $(X, S)$  is a *simple* invariant pair if and only if the linear matrix operator

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\mathbb{L}} : \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k} \\ (\Delta X, \Delta S) &\rightarrow (\mathbb{D}\mathbb{P}(\Delta X, \Delta S), \mathbb{D}\mathbb{V}(\Delta X, \Delta S)), \end{aligned}$$

is invertible, where

$$\mathbb{D}\mathbb{P} : (\Delta X, \Delta S) \mapsto \mathbb{T}(\Delta X, S) + \sum_{j=1}^m A_j X [\mathbb{D}p_j(S)](\Delta S).$$

Using (12) we obtain from the results in [18] that

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} f_j(S) & [\mathbb{D}f_j(S)](\Delta S) \\ 0 & f_j(S) \end{bmatrix} &= f_j \left( \begin{bmatrix} S & \Delta S \\ 0 & S \end{bmatrix} \right) = p_j \left( \begin{bmatrix} S & \Delta S \\ 0 & S \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} p_j(S) & [\mathbb{D}p_j(S)](\Delta S) \\ 0 & p_j(S) \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

for  $j = 1, \dots, m$ . Thus  $[\mathbb{D}f_j(S)](\Delta S) = [\mathbb{D}p_j(S)](\Delta S)$ , which implies  $\widetilde{\mathbb{L}} = \mathbb{L}$  and concludes the proof.  $\square$

By the implicit function theorem for holomorphic functions [17], Theorem 10 reveals that the entries of a simple invariant pair  $(X, S)$  vary analytically under analytic changes of  $T$ . This shows that  $(X, S)$  is well posed and reasonable to compute numerically.

### 3 A Newton method for simple invariant pairs

In this section, we show how the theoretical framework developed in the previous section can be turned into a numerical algorithm for computing simple invariant pairs. The aim is to compute a solution  $(X, S) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$  to the nonlinear matrix equations

$$\mathbb{T}(X, S) = 0, \quad \mathbb{V}(X, S) = 0. \quad (14)$$

with  $\mathbb{T}(X, S) = XA_1f_1(S) + \cdots + XA_m f_m(S)$  and  $\mathbb{V}(X, S) = W^H V_l(X, S) - I_k$  for some fixed  $W \in \mathbb{C}^{ln \times k}$ . By Lemma 4, the eigenvalues of  $S$  are eigenvalues of  $T(\cdot)$  and if there is an invertible  $Z$  such that  $Z^{-1}SZ$  is diagonal then  $XZ$  contains the corresponding eigenvectors.

Formally, the Newton method for solving (14) can be written as

$$(X_{p+1}, S_{p+1}) = (X_p, S_p) - \mathbb{L}_p^{-1}(\mathbb{T}(X_p, S_p), \mathbb{V}(X_p, S_p)) \quad (15)$$

where  $\mathbb{L}_p$  is the Jacobian of (14) at  $(X_p, S_p)$ . We have

$$\mathbb{L}_p(\Delta X, \Delta S) = (\mathbb{D}\mathbb{T}_p(\Delta X, \Delta S), \mathbb{D}\mathbb{V}_p(\Delta X, \Delta S))$$

with  $\mathbb{D}\mathbb{T}_p$  and  $\mathbb{D}\mathbb{V}_p$  defined as in (10)–(11) but with  $X, S$  replaced by  $X_p, S_p$ . Theorem 10 implies that the iteration (15) converges *locally* quadratically to a simple invariant pair.



**Remark 11** *In principle,  $W$  can be chosen arbitrarily as long as  $W^H V$  is invertible for any basis  $V$  of  $\text{span}(V_l(X, S))$ . Equivalently, the largest principal angle between  $\text{span}(W)$  and  $\text{span}(V(X, S))$  must be less than  $\pi/2$  [25]. To avoid an ill-conditioned basis in the course of the iteration, it is common practice in Newton methods for eigenvalue computation [1] to choose an orthonormal basis for  $W$  in each iteration. In our setting, this corresponds to computing a compact QR decomposition  $V_l(X_p, S_p) = WR$  with  $W^H W = I_k$  and  $R \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$  invertible. To preserve the relation  $W^H V_l(X_p, S_p) = I_k$ , we then have to replace  $X_p \leftarrow X_p R^{-1}$  and  $S_p \leftarrow R S_p R^{-1}$  accordingly.*

**Algorithm 1** Newton method for computing invariant pairs

**Input:** Initial pair  $(X_0, S_0) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$  such that  $V_l(X_0, S_0)^H V_l(X_0, S_0) = I_k$ .

**Output:** Approximate solution  $(X_{p+1}, S_{p+1})$  to (14).

- 1:  $p \leftarrow 0$ ,  $W \leftarrow V_l(X_0, S_0)$
- 2: **repeat**
- 3:    $\text{Res} \leftarrow \mathbb{T}(X_p, S_p)$
- 4:   Solve linear matrix equation  $\mathbb{L}_p(\Delta X, \Delta S) = (\text{Res}, 0)$ .
- 5:    $\tilde{X}_{p+1} \leftarrow X_p - \Delta X$ ,    $\tilde{S}_{p+1} \leftarrow S_p - \Delta S$
- 6:   Compute compact QR decomposition  $V_l(X_p, S_p) = WR$ .
- 7:    $X_{p+1} \leftarrow \tilde{X}_{p+1} R^{-1}$ ,    $S_{p+1} \leftarrow R \tilde{S}_{p+1} R^{-1}$
- 8: **until** convergence

### 3.1 Setting up the initial pair $(X_0, S_0)$

In many applications the approximate location of the eigenvalues of interest might be known, but usually little or no information is available for the eigenvectors. To compensate for this imbalance, a variant of inverse iteration should be applied *before* starting Algorithm 1.

**Algorithm 2** Inverse iteration for setting up initial pair  $(X_0, S_0)$

**Input:** An initial matrix  $S_0 \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$ .

**Output:** An initial matrix  $X_0 \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k}$ .

- 1: Choose random matrix  $X_0 \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times k}$ .
- 2: **for**  $p \leftarrow 1, \dots, 3$  **do**
- 3:   Compute solution  $Y$  to linear matrix equation  $\mathbb{T}(Y, S_0) = X_0$ .
- 4:   Compute compact QR decomposition  $V_l(Y, S_0) = WR$ .
- 5:   Update  $X_0 \leftarrow Y_k R^{-1}$ ,    $S_0 \leftarrow R S_0 R^{-1}$
- 6: **end for**

The linear matrix equation to be solved in Step 3 is a special case of the matrix equation in Step 4 of Algorithm 1, whose efficient solution is discussed in the next section. Note that choosing 3 as the number of loops to be performed in Algorithm 2 is a heuristics; for the examples reported below we did not observe any significant benefit from iterating further.

### 3.2 Solving the linear system

The most expensive part of Algorithm 1 is certainly the solution of the linear matrix equation in Step 4. In principal, by using Kronecker products to replace the involved matrix products, this is equivalent to a linear system of order  $(nk + k^2)$ . However, even if this system can be cheaply set up, its solution still requires  $\mathcal{O}(k^3(n + k)^3)$  flops, which is only acceptable as long

as  $k$  is not significantly larger than 1. Fortunately, the ideas from [8, 9] can be extended to reduce the cost significantly. For notational convenience, we drop the index  $p$  and consider the solution of a linear system of matrix equations

$$\mathbb{T}(\Delta X, S) + \sum_{j=1}^m A_j X [\mathbb{D}f_j(S)](\Delta S) = R_T, \quad (16)$$

$$W_0^H \Delta X + \sum_{j=1}^{l-1} W_j^H (\Delta X S^j + X \mathbb{D}S^j(\Delta S)) = R_V, \quad (17)$$

where  $(\Delta X, \Delta S)$  is unknown. Moreover, by a suitable normalization of  $X, S, W$  we can assume w.l.o.g. that  $S$  is in (complex) Schur form. Because of the triangular structure of  $S$ , the equations (16)–(17) simplify considerably for the first columns  $\Delta x_1$  and  $\Delta s_1$  of  $\Delta X$  and  $\Delta S$ , respectively, leading to a linear system of order  $nk$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} T(\tilde{s}_{11}) & \sum_{j=1}^m A_j X [\mathbb{D}f_j(S)]_{11} \\ \sum_{j=0}^{l-1} \tilde{s}_{11}^j W_j^H & \sum_{j=1}^{l-1} W_j^H X [\mathbb{D}S^j]_{11} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x_1 \\ \Delta s_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_T e_1 \\ R_V e_1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (18)$$

The meaning of the  $k \times k$  matrices  $[\mathbb{D}f_j(S)]_{11}$  and  $[\mathbb{D}S^j]_{11}$  is explained in the following lemma, which also offers a possible way for their computation.

**Lemma 12** *Let  $f$  be holomorphic on an open set  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$  containing the spectrum of the upper triangular matrix  $S \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$ . Then there is a matrix  $[\mathbb{D}f(S)]_{11} \in \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$  such that*

$$[\mathbb{D}f(S)]_{11} c = [\mathbb{D}f(S)](c e_1^T) e_1 \quad (19)$$

for all  $c \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . Moreover, this matrix is upper triangular and satisfies the relation

$$f \left( \begin{bmatrix} S & I_k \\ 0 & s_{11} I_k \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} f(S) & [\mathbb{D}f(S)]_{11} \\ 0 & f(s_{11}) I_k \end{bmatrix}. \quad (20)$$

*Proof.* Since  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and its derivative are considered for a fixed matrix  $S$ , we can assume w.l.o.g. (e.g., by replacing  $f$  by a Hermite interpolant) that  $\Omega$  is connected. Let  $\Gamma$  be a closed contour that is contained in  $\Omega$  and encircles the eigenvalues of  $\tilde{S}$ . Then [16],

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathbb{D}f(S)](c e_1^T) e_1 &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} f(z) (zI - S)^{-1} c e_1^T (zI - S)^{-1} e_1 dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - s_{11}} (zI - S)^{-1} c dz, \end{aligned}$$

where we used that  $S$  is upper triangular. Hence,

$$[\mathbb{D}f(S)]_{11} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - s_{11}} (zI - S)^{-1} dz,$$

which is clearly upper triangular. The equality (20) follows from

$$\begin{aligned} f \left( \begin{bmatrix} S & I_k \\ 0 & s_{11} I_k \end{bmatrix} \right) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} f(z) \begin{bmatrix} zI - S & -I_k \\ 0 & (z - s_{11}) I_k \end{bmatrix}^{-1} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} f(z) \begin{bmatrix} (zI - S)^{-1} & (z - S)^{-1} (z - s_{11})^{-1} \\ 0 & (z - s_{11})^{-1} I_k \end{bmatrix} dz \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} f(S) & [\mathbb{D}f(S)]_{11} \\ 0 & f(s_{11}) I_k \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

which concludes the proof.  $\square$

While (20) offers an appropriate way for computing  $[\mathbb{D}f_j(S)]_{11}$ , the matrices  $[\mathbb{D}S^j]_{11}$  can be computed more efficiently by making use of the recursion

$$\mathbb{D}S^1(\Delta S) = \Delta S, \quad \mathbb{D}S^j(\Delta S) = (\mathbb{D}S^{j-1}(\Delta S))S + S^{j-1} \Delta S, \quad j \geq 2,$$

implying

$$[\mathbb{D}S^1]_{11} = I_k, \quad [\mathbb{D}S^j]_{11} = s_{11}[\mathbb{D}S^{j-1}]_{11} + S^{j-1}, \quad j \geq 2.$$

Before continuing this process for the next columns of  $\Delta X$  and  $\Delta S$ , we need to update the right hand sides of (16)–(17) after  $\Delta x_1$  and  $\Delta s_1$  have been computed from (18) (this bears resemblance to the forward substitution process for solving lower triangular systems). For this purpose, partition

$$\Delta X = [\Delta x_1, \Delta X_2], \quad \Delta S = [\Delta s_1, \Delta S_2], \quad R_T = [R_T e_1, \tilde{R}_{T2}], \quad R_V = [R_V e_1, \tilde{R}_{V2}],$$

and

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} s_{11} & s_{12} \\ 0 & S_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \quad f(S) = \begin{bmatrix} f(s_{11}) & [f(S)]_{12} \\ 0 & f(S_{22}) \end{bmatrix}$$

for some function  $f$ . Inserted into (16)–(17), we obtain the following linear matrix equation for the pair  $(\Delta X_2, \Delta S_2) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times (k-1)} \times \mathbb{C}^{k \times (k-1)}$ :

$$\mathbb{T}(\Delta X_2, S_{22}) + \sum_{j=1}^m A_j X [\mathbb{D}f_j(S)]([0, \Delta S_2]) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} = \tilde{R}_{T2}, \quad (21)$$

$$W_0^H \Delta X_2 + \sum_{j=1}^{l-1} W_j^H \left( \Delta X_2 S_{22}^j + X \mathbb{D}S^j([0, \Delta S_2]) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \tilde{R}_{V2}. \quad (22)$$

with updated right-hand sides

$$\begin{aligned} R_{T2} &= \tilde{R}_{T2} - \sum_{j=1}^m A_j \left( \Delta x_1 [f_j(S)]_{12} + X [\mathbb{D}f_j(S)]([\Delta s_1, 0]) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} \right), \\ R_{V2} &= \tilde{R}_{V2} - \sum_{j=1}^{l-1} W_j^H \left( \Delta x_1 [S^j]_{12} + X \mathbb{D}S^j([\Delta s_1, 0]) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The first columns of the solutions to (21)–(22) can be computed in an analogous manner as for the original transformed equations (16)–(17). We refrain from providing the algorithmic details here and refer to Appendix A for a MATLAB implementation of the sketched forward substitution process. If  $k \ll n$  and  $l \ll n$  then the cost of the overall algorithm is dominated by the solution of  $k$  linear systems of the form (18). Since each of these systems has order  $n + k$ , the overall cost is  $\mathcal{O}(k(n + k)^3)$  flops, which compares well with the  $\mathcal{O}(k^3(n + k)^3)$  flops needed by the Kronecker product formulation. Moreover, if the matrices  $A_j$  are sparse then (18) is a bordered sparse system and a sparse direct solver, possibly adapted to such bordered matrices [3], could be used.

### 3.3 Improving global convergence

In an attempt to improve the global convergence of Algorithm 1, we have implemented a simple Armijo rule based on the residual norm

$$\|\mathbb{T}(X, S)\|_F = \|A_1 X f_1(S) + \cdots + A_m X f_m(S)\|_F. \quad (23)$$

More specifically from a discrete set  $\{2^{-3}, 2^{-2}, 2^{-1}, 1\}$  of step sizes we choose the largest step size  $\tau$  such that

$$\|\mathbb{T}(X_\tau, S_\tau)\|_F \leq \|\mathbb{T}(X_p, S_p)\|_F/2, \quad (24)$$

where  $(X_\tau, S_\tau)$  is obtained from applying the orthogonalization steps 6–7 of Algorithm 1 to  $(X_p + \tau \Delta X, S_p + \tau \Delta S)$ . If (24) cannot be fulfilled we choose  $\tau$  as small as possible, i.e.,  $\tau = 2^{-3}$ . The next iterate is obtained as  $(X_{p+1}, S_{p+1}) \leftarrow (X_\tau, S_\tau)$ .

### 3.4 Application 1

We continue Example 3; computing eigenvalues for

$$T(\lambda) = \lambda I - A_0 - A_1 e^{-\lambda \tau} \quad (25)$$

with  $A_0, A_1 \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  and a delay  $\tau > 0$ . For the stability analysis of the corresponding DDE  $\dot{x}(t) = A_0 x(t) + A_1 x(t - \tau)$ , it is of interest to compute eigenvalues with large real part. To obtain an initial guess, we approximate  $T(\lambda)$  by a polynomial

$$T(\lambda) \approx P(\lambda) := \lambda I - A_0 - A_1 \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} \frac{1}{i!} (-\lambda \tau)^i. \quad (26)$$

and compute the  $k$  eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  of  $P$  that have largest real part. We then choose  $S_0 = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$  and compute  $X_0$  with Algorithm 2.

**Example 13** ([21, Sec. 2.4.1]) *Consider (25) for the matrices*

$$A_0 = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 1 \\ 2 & -6 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 4 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $\tau = 1$ . We aim at computing an invariant pair for 5 eigenvalues. In this case, the minimality index is at least 3. Figure 1 displays the numerical results obtained from running the block Newton method proposed in this paper for this example with  $k = 5$  and  $l = 3$ . For the initial approximation (26), we have chosen  $\ell = 4$ . Initially, three eigenvalues are well and two eigenvalues are poorly approximated. During the first 8 iterations the step size is at the allowed minimum  $2^{-3}$  before it increases to 1 at the 9th step, after which quadratic convergence sets in. Comparing with the results [21], it turns out that the converged eigenvalues are in fact the ones with largest real part. Note that the condition number of the Jacobian is  $9.2 \times 10^5$  at convergence, which could explain the poor transient behavior of the Newton method.

**Example 14** ([21, Sec. 2.4.2]) *The experiments from Example example:1 are repeated for the matrices*

$$A_0 = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 1 \\ 2 & -6 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 4 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $\tau = 1$ , which has – according to [15] – applications in the stability analysis of a semiconductor laser subject to external feedback. This time,  $\ell = 2$  in the approximation (26), and  $k = 4, l = 2$ . The step size is  $2^{-2}$  for the first 4 iterations and increase to 1 at the 5th iterations. The condition number of the Jacobian is  $2.2 \times 10^6$  at convergence.

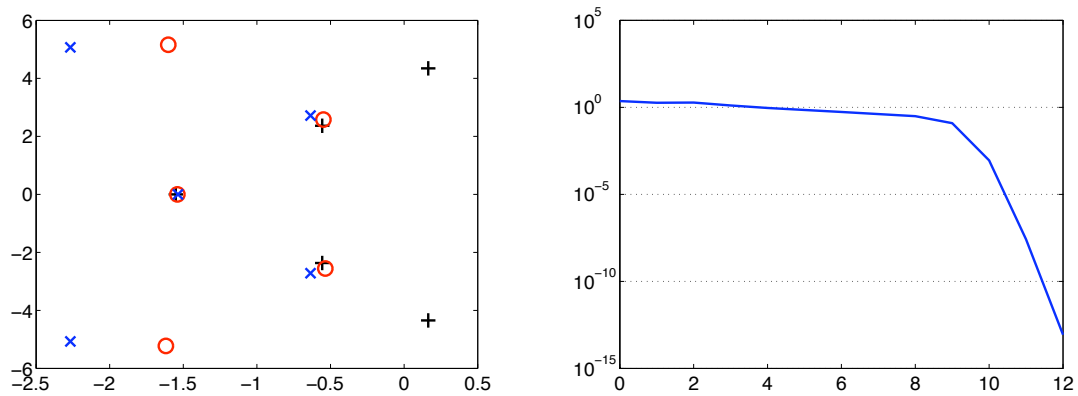


Figure 1: Numerical results for Example 13. *Left plot:* Location of eigenvalue approximations initially (+), after 3 Iterations (o), and at convergence after 12 iterations (x). *Right plot:* Residual norm (23) in the course of the Newton iteration.

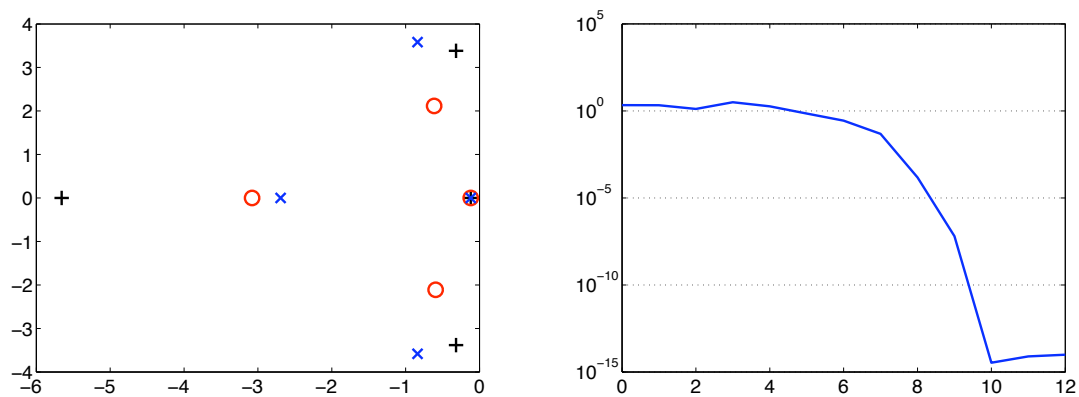


Figure 2: Numerical results for Example 14. *Left plot:* Location of eigenvalue approximations initially (+), after 3 Iterations (o), and at convergence after 12 iterations (x). *Right plot:* Residual norm (23) in the course of the Newton iteration.

### 3.5 Application 2

As a second application, we consider a simple boundary eigenvalue problem, which was also considered in [24]. Find  $\lambda > \kappa$  and a nonzero function  $u : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$-u''(y) = \lambda u(y), \quad u(0) = 0, \quad -u'(1) = f(\lambda)u(1), \quad (27)$$

where  $f(\lambda) = \frac{\kappa M \lambda}{\lambda - \kappa}$  and  $\kappa = \frac{K}{M}$  for given positive numbers  $K, M$ . The equation (27) describes the eigenvibrations of a string with a load of mass  $M$  attached by an elastic spring of stiffness  $K$ . In practice, two- or three-dimensional variants of (27) are used to model mechanical structures with elastically attached loads.

A finite element discretization of (27) with linear elements on subintervals of length  $h = 1/n$  leads to the nonlinear matrix eigenvalue problem

$$(A_1 + f(\lambda)e_n e_n^T - \lambda A_3)x = 0, \quad (28)$$

where

$$A_1 = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ & \ddots & 2 & -1 & \\ & & -1 & 1 & \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_3 = \frac{h}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 & & & \\ 1 & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ & \ddots & 4 & 1 & \\ & & 1 & 2 & \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that (28) could be turned into a polynomial eigenvalue problem by multiplying with  $\lambda - \kappa$  but this introduces the erroneous eigenvalue  $\kappa$ . Moreover, in more realistic problems with a large number of different springs, this strategy would lead to a polynomial of high degree and massive numerical cancellation can be expected when forming this polynomial.

**Example 15** *We consider (28) for  $n = 100$  and  $M = K = \kappa = 1$ . We apply the Newton method with  $k = 5, l = 1$ . As initial pair, we choose  $S_0 = \text{diag}(2, 2, 2, 2, 2)$  and a random matrix  $X_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 5}$ . Figure 3 reveals convergence despite this poor choice of initial eigenvalues. Also, quadratic convergence almost immediately sets in. We have repeated this experiment for  $n = 400$  and obtained a rather similar convergence behavior. For reference, we provide the first 10 decimal digits of the computed eigenvalues:*

$n$	$\lambda_1$	$\lambda_2$	$\lambda_3$	$\lambda_4$	$\lambda_5$
100	4.4821765459	24.223573113	63.723821142	123.03122107	202.20089914
400	4.4820338110	24.219005847	63.692138408	122.91317036	201.88234012

*These values compare well with the analytically computed values from [24] and reveal that the Newton method has in fact converged to the 5 smallest eigenvalues.*

## 4 Conclusions

When little is known about a nonlinear eigenvalue problem at hand, the concept of invariant pairs proposed in this paper offers a robust way of representing several eigenvalues and eigenvectors simultaneously. We are not aware of any competitive alternative representation in the literature. To compute such invariant pairs, we have developed a block Newton method and described some algorithmic details, mainly to maintain a reasonable computational cost. However, it should be emphasized that our block Newton method inherits the disadvantages

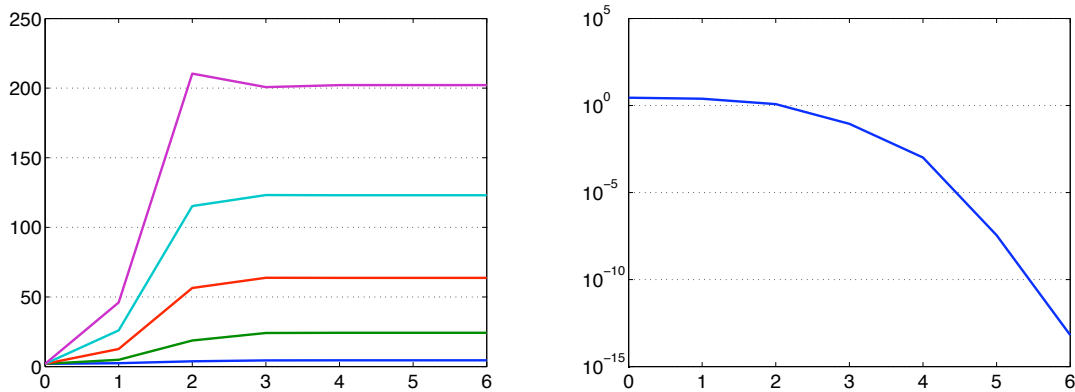


Figure 3: Numerical results for Example 15. *Left plot:* Obtained eigenvalue approximations in the course of the Newton iteration. *Right plot:* Residual norm (23) in the course of the Newton iteration.

of similar methods [11] for solving linear eigenvalue problems: Its global convergence may be erratic and already a single slowly converging eigenvalue contained in  $S$  will hinder the convergence of the entire pair. To a certain extent, this is avoided in single-vector methods such as Jacobi-Davidson [7, 23], Arnoldi [27], and preconditioned inverse iteration [24]. A logical next step of future research is to employ invariant pairs in single-vector methods for safely locking and purging converged eigenpairs, similar to the work by Meerbergen [19] on the quadratic eigenvalue problem.

## 5 Acknowledgments

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## A Matlab code

The following MATLAB function implements the forward substitution method sketched in Section 3.2.

```
function [dX,dS] = nlevp_newtonstep( A, f, X, S, W, RT, RV )
% Computes the solution (dX,DS) to the linearized system in one step of
% the block Newton method for a nonlinear eigenvalue problem (NLEVP).
%
% Input: A - 3d-array containing the matrices A_j of the NLEVP
%        f - handle to a function f(j,M) that returns f_j(M)
%           for any square matrix M
%        (X,S) - current iterate. S is assumed upper triangular.
%        W - 3d-array containing the normalization matrices W_j
%        (RT,RV) - right-hand side
%
% Output: Solution (dX,dS) to the linearized equation in one step
%         of the block Newton method for the NLEVP.
```

```

n = size(A,1); m = size(A,3); k = size(X,2); l = size(W,3);
dX = zeros(n,k); dS = zeros(k,k);
% Precompute all required powers and functions of S.
fS = zeros(k,k,m); pS = zeros(k,k,l-1); pS(:, :, 1) = S;
for j = 1:m, fS(:, :, j) = feval(f,j,S); end
for j = 2:l-1, pS(:, :, j) = pS(:, :, j-1)*S; end
% Main loop for computing the ith columns of dX and dS
for i = 1:k,
    % Set up and solve linear sySem
    s = S(i,i);
    T11 = zeros(n); for j = 1:m, T11 = T11 + A(:, :, j)*feval(f,j,s); end
    T12 = zeros(n,k);
    for j = 1:m,
        DF = feval(f,j,[S, eye(k);zeros(k) s*eye(k) ]);
        T12 = T12 + A(:, :, j)*X*DF(1:k,k+1:2*k);
    end
    T21 = W(:, :, 1)'; for j = 2:l, T21 = T21 + s^(j-1) * W(:, :, j)'; end
    DS = eye(k); T22 = zeros(k);
    for j = 2:l, T22 = T22 + W(:, :, j)'*X*DS; DS = s*DS + pS(:, :, j-1); end
    sol = [T11 T12; T21 T22] \ [RT(:,i);RV(:,i)];
    dX(:,i) = sol(1:n); dS(:,i) = sol(n+1:end);
    % Update right-hand side
    Z = zeros(k); Z(:,i) = dS(:,i); DS = Z;
    for j = 1:m,
        DF = feval(f,j,[S, Z;zeros(k) S ]);
        RT(:,i+1:k) = RT(:,i+1:k) - A(:, :, j) * ( dX(:,i)*fS(i,i+1:k,j) + X*DF(1:k,k+i+1:2*k) );
    end
    for j = 2:l,
        RV(:,i+1:k) = RV(:,i+1:k) - W(:, :, j)' * ( dX(:,i)*pS(i,i+1:k,j-1) + X*DS(:,i+1:k) );
        DS = DS*S + pS(:, :, j-1)*DS;
    end
end
end

```

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08-24	<i>N. Reich</i> Wavelet compression of integral operators on sparse tensor spaces; Construction, consistency and asymptotically optimal complexity