

# A New Iterative Scheme for Solving the Semi Sylvester Equation

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, the Galerkin projection method is used for solving the semi Sylvester equation. Firstly the semi Sylvester equation is reduced to the multiple linear systems. To apply the Galerkin projection method, some propositions are presented. The presented scheme is compared with the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm in point of view CPU-time and iteration number. Finally, some numerical experiments are presented to show that the efficiency of the new scheme.

**Keywords:** Iterative Method; Multiple Linear Systems; Galerkin Projection Method;  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR Algorithm

## 1. Introduction

We want to solve, using Galerkin projection method, the following semi Sylvester equation

$$AX - EXB = C, \quad (1)$$

where  $A$ ,  $E$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are  $n \times n$ ,  $n \times n$ ,  $m \times m$  and  $n \times m$  matrices, respectively, and the unknown matrix  $X$  is  $n \times m$ . Equation (1) has a unique solution if and only if  $(A, C)$  and  $(B^T, I)$  are regular matrix pairs with disjoint spectra, which will be assumed throughout this paper.

The semi Sylvester equations appear frequently in many areas of applied mathematics. We refer the reader to the elegant survey by Bhatia and Rosenthal [1] and references therein for a history of the equation and many interesting and important theoretical results. The semi Sylvester equations are important in a number of applications such as matrix eigen-decompositions [2,3], control theory [4,5], model reduction [6-8], numerical solution of matrix differential Riccati equations, and many more.

When the sizes of the coefficient matrices  $A$  and  $B$  are small, the popular and widely used numerical method is the Hessenberg-Schur algorithm [9]. For large and sparse matrices  $A$  and  $B$ , iterative schemes to solve the semi Sylvester equations such as those based on the matrix sign function or the Newton method are widely used [10-12]. During the last years, several projection methods based on Krylov subspace methods have also been proposed, see, e.g., [13-15] and the references therein. The main idea developed in these methods is to construct suitable bases of the Krylov subspace and projects the large problem into a smaller one. Naturally, a direct

method such the one developed in [16] is used to solve the projected problem. The final step in the projection process consists in recovering the solution of the original problem from the solution of the smaller problem.

The semi Sylvester Equation (1), in the special case, can be reduced to the following multiple linear system

$$A^{(i)}x^{(i)} = b^{(i)} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (2)$$

In [17], Ton F. Chan and Michael K. Ng presented the Galerkin projection method for solving linear systems (2). In this paper, we convert the semi Sylvester Equation (1) to the multiple linear system. We present some propositions for applying the Galerkin projection method to solve the reduced semi Sylvester equation. For showing the efficiency of the new scheme, in point of view CPU-time and iteration number, we compare the new scheme with the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm [18]. Note that the semi Sylvester Equation (1) is converted to standard Sylvester equation, when  $E$  be a identity matrix  $I$ .

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 is devoted to a short review of the Galerkin projection method. In Section 3, we show that how to apply the Galerkin projection method for solving the semi Sylvester Equation (1). Some numerical experiments and comparing the new scheme with the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm, is devoted in Section 4. Finally, we make some concluding remarks in Section 5.

## 2. The Short Summary of Galerkin Projection Method

In this section, we consider using conjugate gradient (CG) methods for solving multiple linear systems

$A^{(i)}x^{(i)} = b^{(i)}$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq s$ , where the coefficient matrices  $A^{(i)}$  and the right-hand side  $b^{(i)}$  are different in general. In particular, we focus on the seed projection method which generates a Krylov subspace from a set of direction vectors obtained by solving one of the systems, called the seed system, by the CG method and then projects the residuals of other systems onto the generated Krylov subspace to get the approximate solutions. The whole process is repeated until all the systems are solved. CG methods can be seen as iterative solution methods to solve a linear system of equations by minimizing an associated quadratic functional. For simplicity, we let

$$f_i(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T A^{(i)} x - (b^{(i)})^T x, \quad (3)$$

be the associated quadratic functional of the linear system  $A^{(i)}x^{(i)} = b^{(i)}$ . The minimizer of  $f_j$  is the solution of the linear system  $A^{(i)}x^{(i)} = b^{(i)}$ . The idea of the projection method is that for each restart, a seed system  $A^{(k)}x^{(k)} = b^{(k)}$  is selected from the unsolved ones which are then solved by the CG method. An approximate solution  $\hat{x}^{(j)}$  of the nonseed system  $A^{(j)}x^{(j)} = b^{(j)}$  can be obtained by using search direction  $p_i^k$  generated from the  $i$ th iteration of the seed system. More precisely, given the  $i$ th iterate  $x_i^j$  of the nonseed system and the direction vector  $p_i^k$ , the approximate solution  $\hat{x}^{(j)}$  is found by solving the following minimization problem

$$\min_{\eta} f_j(x_i^j + \eta p_i^k). \quad (4)$$

It is easy to check that the minimizer of (4) is attained at

$$\hat{x}^{(j)} = x_i^j + \eta p_i^k, \quad (5)$$

where

$$\eta = \frac{(p_i^k)^T r_i^j}{(p_i^k)^T A^{(j)} p_i^k} \quad \text{and} \quad r_i^j = b^{(j)} - A^{(j)} x_i^j. \quad (6)$$

After the seed system  $A^{(k)}x^{(k)} = b^{(k)}$  is solved to the desired accuracy, a new seed system is selected and the whole procedure is repeated. We note from (6) that the matrix-vector multiplication  $A^{(j)} p_i^k$  is required for each projection of the nonseed iteration. In general, the matrix-vector multiplication  $A^{(j)} p_i^k$  cannot be computed cheaply. The cost of the method will be expensive in the general case where the matrices  $A^{(j)}$  and  $A^{(k)}$  are different.

In order to reduce the extra cost in projection method in the general case, we propose using the modified quadratic function  $\bar{f}_j$ ,

$$\bar{f}_j(x) \equiv \frac{1}{2} x^T A^{(k)} x - (b^{(i)})^T x,$$

to compute the approximate solution of the nonseed

system. Note that we have used  $A^{(k)}$  instead of  $A^{(j)}$  in the above definition. In this case, we determine the next iterate of the nonseed system by solving the following minimization problem:

$$\min_{\alpha} \bar{f}_j(x_i^j + \alpha p_i^k). \quad (7)$$

The approximate solution  $\hat{x}^{(j)}$  of the nonseed system  $A^{(j)}x^{(j)} = b^{(j)}$  is given by

$$\hat{x}^j = x_i^j + \alpha p_i^k, \quad (8)$$

where

$$\alpha = \frac{(p_i^k)^T \bar{r}_i^j}{(p_i^k)^T A^{(k)} p_i^k} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{r}_i^j = b^{(j)} - A^{(k)} x_i^j. \quad (9)$$

Now the projection process does not require the matrix-vector product involving the coefficient matrix  $A^{(j)}$  of the nonseed system. Therefore, the method does not increase the dominant cost (matrix-vector multiplies) of each CG iteration. Of course, unless  $A^{(j)}$  is close to  $A^{(k)}$  in some sense, we do not expect this method to work well because  $\bar{f}_j$  is then far from the current  $f_j$ . So we have the following algorithm.

#### Algorithm 1 [17]: Preconditioned version of Projection Method

1. Set for  $k = 1, \dots, s$  until all the systems are solved
2. Select the  $k$ th system as seed.
3. For  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m_{k+1}$  CG iteration,
4. For  $j = k, k+1, \dots, s$  unsolved systems
5. If  $j = k$  then perform usual CG steps
6.  $\delta_i^{k,k} = (z_i^{k,k})^T r_i^{k,k} / (z_{i-1}^{k,k})^T (z_{i-1}^{k,k})$
7.  $p_i^{k,k} = z_i^{k,k} + \delta_i^{k,k} p_{i-1}^{k,k}$
8.  $\sigma_i^{k,k} = (z_i^{k,k})^T r_i^{k,k} / (p_i^{k,k})^T A^{(k)} p_i^{k,k}$
9.  $x_{i+1}^{k,k} = x_i^{k,k} + \sigma_i^{k,k} p_i^{k,k}$
10.  $r_{i+1}^{k,k} = r_i^{k,k} - \sigma_i^{k,k} A^{(k)} p_i^{k,k}$
11.  $z_i = (C^{(k)})^{-1} r_{i+1}^{k,k}$  preconditioning
12. Else perform Galerkin projection
13.  $\eta_i^{k,j} = (z_i^{k,k})^T r_i^{k,j} / (p_i^{k,k})^T A^{(k)} p_i^{k,k}$
14.  $x_{i+1}^{k,j} = x_i^{k,j} + \eta_i^{k,j} p_i^{k,k}$
15.  $r_{i+1}^{k,j} = r_i^{k,j} - \eta_i^{k,j} A^{(k)} p_i^{k,k}$
16. end if
17. end for
18. end for
19. end for

### 3. Solving the Semi Sylvester Equation

In this section, we focus on numerical solution of the

semi Sylvester equations

$$AX - EXB = C, \quad (10)$$

where  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ ,  $E \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  and  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  is the solution matrix. The semi Sylvester equation (10) has a unique solution if and only if  $(A, C)$  and  $(B^T, I)$  are regular matrix pairs with disjoint spectra.

Now we want to apply Galerkin projection methods for solving the semi Sylvester Equation (10). Let  $B$  be symmetric matrix then semi Sylvester Equation (10) can be reduced to the following multiple linear systems

$$A^{(i)}x^{(i)} = b^{(i)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, s, \quad (11)$$

where  $A^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $b^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$  and  $x^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$ .

By using the Schur decomposition, there is a unitary matrix  $Q_B$  such that

$$B = Q_B \Lambda_B Q_B^T, \quad (12)$$

where  $\Lambda_B$  is diagonal matrix and its diagonal components are the eigenvalues of  $B$ . By substitution of (12) in (10), we have

$$AX - EXQ_B \Lambda_B Q_B^T = C,$$

$$AXQ_B - EXQ_B \Lambda_B = CQ_B.$$

By taking  $\hat{X} = XQ_B$  and  $\hat{C} = CQ_B$ , we obtain the following multiple linear systems

$$\hat{A}^{(i)}\hat{x}^{(i)} = \hat{c}^{(i)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad (13)$$

where  $\hat{A}^{(i)}$ ,  $\hat{x}^{(i)}$  and  $\hat{c}^{(i)}$  are  $(A - \lambda_i E)$ ,  $i$ -th column of the matrix  $\hat{X}$  and  $i$ -th column of the matrix  $\hat{C}$ , respectively.

To use the Galerkin projection method for solving the multiple linear systems (13), it is need the matrix  $\hat{A}^{(i)}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  to be symmetric positive definite. So the following propositions are presented and their proof are clear.

**Proposition 1:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  are symmetric matrices and  $E$  is symmetric positive definite matrix and

$$\lambda_j < \frac{(Ax, x)}{(Ex, x)}, \quad j = 1, \dots, s,$$

where  $\lambda_j$  be the eigenvalues of matrix  $B$ . Then  $\hat{A}^{(i)}$  is symmetric positive definite.

**Proposition 2:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $E$  be symmetric positive definite matrices and symmetric positive semi-definite matrix, respectively. Then  $(A - \lambda_j E)$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, s$  are symmetric positive definite, where  $\lambda_j$  be the eigenvalues of matrix  $B$ .

Note that the semi Sylvester Equation (1) is converted to standard Sylvester equation, when  $E$  be a identity matrix  $I$ . Now by using the assumptions of the above propositions, we can apply the previous algorithm to

solve the semi Sylvester Equation (10).

## 4. Numerical Experiments

In this section, all the numerical experiments were computed in double precision with some MATLAB codes. For all the examples the initial guess  $X_0$  was taken to be zero matrix. We apply the new scheme for solving the standard Sylvester equation.

For obtaining the numerical solution of the Sylvester equation by using new scheme, we consider two examples. At the first example the dense coefficient matrix is as the form

$$A = \text{randint}(500), \quad E = I$$

where  $\text{randint}(m)$  is an  $m \times m$  matrix of uniformly distributed random integers and  $I$  is an identity matrix. At the second example the coefficient matrix is

$$A = \text{tridiag}\left(-1 + \frac{1}{n+1}, 3, -1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right),$$

$$E = \text{tridiag}\left(-1 + \frac{1}{n+1}, 4, -1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)$$

where  $\text{tridiag}(a, b, c)$  is  $4000 \times 4000$  tridiagonal matrix. In both examples the matrix  $B$  is symmetric tridiagonal matrix with  $s$  size, as follows

$$B = -\text{tridiag}\left(-1 + \frac{1}{s+1}, 5, -1 + \frac{1}{s+1}\right).$$

Also the right-hand side matrix  $C$  in both examples is normalized random matrix. The  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm and Galerkin projection method are stopped when the residual norms of the first and second examples are less than  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-6}$ , respectively.

In **Table 1**, we compare two  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm and Galerkin projection method for the first test example. We show that Galerkin projection method is better than  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm in point of view CPU-time and iteration number. In this table, (s)m is the sum of iterations when we apply the Galerkin projection method for solving  $s$  linear systems (2). In **Table 2**, we compare the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm and Galerkin projection method for the second test example. We find that the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm is better in point of view the iteration number and the new scheme is better in point of view the CPU-time. Finally, **Figures 1** and **2** show that the efficiency of the Galerkin projection method for solving the semi Sylvester equation. In both tables, the symbols **cond** and **iter** are the condition number of the coefficient matrix  $A$  and the iteration number of the methods, respectively.

## 5. Conclusion

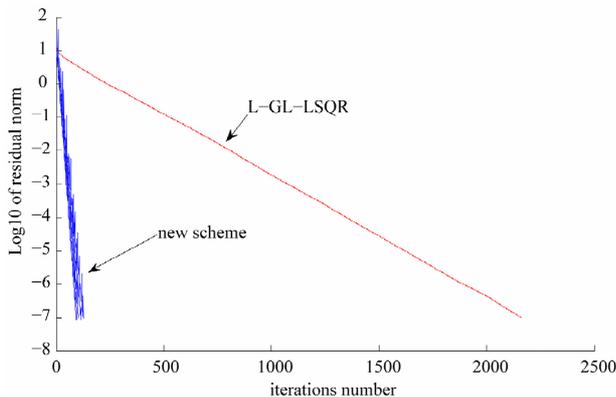
We proposed a new scheme for solving the semi Syl-

**Table 1. Numerical results of the new scheme and  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm for the semi Sylvester equation with the first example.**

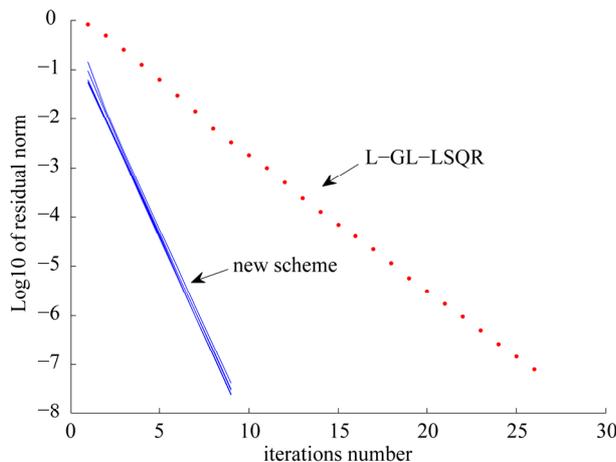
cond	Error	iter	CPU-time	Method ( $n, s$ )
1.2599e+006	1.7581e-008	2160	96.8445	GL-LSQR (500, 5)
1.2599e+006	4.4181e-008	(5)537	8.6389	Galerkin (500, 5)

**Table 2. Numerical results of the new scheme and  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm for the semi Sylvester equation with the second example.**

cond	Error	iter	CPU-time	Method ( $n, s$ )
4.9970	1.3837e-07	23	0.09578	GL-LSQR (4000, 4)
4.9970	5.0897e-007	(4)40	0.04339	Galerkin (4000, 4)



**Figure 1. Comparing the new scheme with the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm with  $n = 500, s = 5$ .**



**Figure 2. Comparing the new scheme with the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm with  $n = 4000, s = 4$ .**

vester equation. By forcing some conditions on coefficient matrices  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $E$ , We converted the semi Sylvester equation to  $s$  linear systems with different coefficient matrices and right-hands. Then we applied the

Galerkin projection method for obtaining the numerical solution, and we showed the efficiency of the new scheme. In **Table 1**, was shown that when the condition number of the coefficient matrix  $A$  is to be large then the new scheme is better then the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm for solving the semi Sylvester equation. But in **Table 2**, the  $\mathcal{L}$ -GL-LSQR algorithm is better than new scheme in point of view iteration number for sparse and well-conditioned matrix  $A$ .

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