

# An overview on the solvability of Sylvester-like equations

Fernando De Terán

# The Sylvester equation: $AX + XD = 0$



James Joseph Sylvester  
(London, 1814–1897)

ANALYSE MATHÉMATIQUE. — *Sur l'équation en matrices  $p x = x q$  ;*  
par M. SYLVESTER.

« Soient  $p$  et  $q$  deux matrices de l'ordre  $\omega$ .

» Pour résoudre l'équation  $p x = x q$ , on obtiendra  $\omega^2$  équations homogènes linéaires entre les  $\omega^2$  éléments de l'inconnue  $x$  et les éléments de  $p$  et de  $q$ , de sorte que, afin que l'équation donnée soit résoluble, les éléments de  $p$  et de  $q$  doivent être liés ensemble par une et une seule équation.

» Mais, si l'équation identique en  $p$  est écrite sous la forme

$$p^{\omega} + B p^{\omega-1} + C p^{\omega-2} + \dots + L = 0,$$

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$$X \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n} \rightsquigarrow A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}, D \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$$

# Sylvester-like equations considered in this talk

$$AX + XD = E$$

(Sylvester equation)

$$AXB + CXD = E$$

(Generalized Sylvester equation)

$$AX + X^*D = E \quad \star = \top, *$$

( $\star$ -Sylvester equation)

$$AXB + CX^*D = E \quad \star = \top, *$$

(Generalized  $\star$ -Sylvester equation)







# Uniqueness and the linear system

$M = B^T \otimes A + (D^T \otimes C)\Pi$ : the matrix of the linear system (over  $\mathbb{C}$ ).

( $\Pi$  : an appropriate permutation matrix).

$M$

**Uniqueness** for the **homogeneous** equation  $\Leftrightarrow$   
**uniqueness** for **any** right-hand side.

$M$

**Uniqueness** for the **homogeneous** equation  $\Leftrightarrow$   
**at most** one solution for **any** right-hand side.





















# The Sylvester equation

☞ Solvability:

Theorem [Roth'52]

$AX - XD = E$  is consistent iff

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & E \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix} = P \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix} P^{-1} \quad (\text{Roth's criterion})$$

for some invertible  $P$ .

(If  $AX - XD = E$  then  $P = \begin{bmatrix} I & X \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}$ ).





# The generalized Sylvester equation: consistency

**Theorem** [Dmytryshyn-Kågström'15]

$AXB - CXD = E$  is **consistent** iff

$$P_1^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} A & E \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix} P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}, \quad P_2^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} P_3 = \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}, \quad P_3^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix} P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix},$$

for some  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  invertible.

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Comes from a more general result on systems of Sylvester equations:

$$AXB - CXD = E \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} AZ - YD & = & E, \\ CX - Y & = & 0, \\ Z - XD & = & 0. \end{cases}$$

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👉 Another characterization in terms of the **Kronecker canonical form** of  $A + \lambda C$  and  $B + \lambda D$  in:



T. Kosir.

The matrix equation  $AXD^T - BXC^T = E$ .

U. Calgary, Dept. Math. & Stat., Res. paper no. 737 (1992)

# The generalized Sylvester equation: uniqueness

Theorem [Chu'87]

$AXB - CXD = E$  has a **unique solution** (for any  $E$ ) iff:  
 $A + \lambda C$  and  $D + \lambda B$  are **regular** and have **disjoint spectra**.

# The generalized Sylvester equation: uniqueness

☞  $A, C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}, B, D \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ .

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# The generalized Sylvester equation: uniqueness

☞  $A, C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}, B, D \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . **Not** the most general situation:  
 $A, C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times m}, B, D \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$

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☞ The coefficient matrix of the linear system is  $pq \times mn$ .

**Open problem:** Characterize:

- ▶ the **uniqueness** of solution when  $pq = mn$  and, more in general,
- ▶ the existence of **at most** one solution.

**Answer:** Analyze the solution of the homogeneous equation given in [Kosir'92].



DT-Iannazzo-Poloni-Robol.

Solvability and uniqueness criteria for generalized Sylvester-type equations.  
LAA 542 (2018) 501–521.

# The $\star$ -Sylvester equation: consistency

$\mathbb{F}$  a field with  $\text{char } \mathbb{F} \neq 2$ ,  $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{F}^{m \times n}$ ,  $C \in \mathbb{F}^{m \times m}$

**Theorem** [Wimmer'94], [DT-Dopico'11]

$AX + X^*D = E$  is **consistent** iff

$$P^* \begin{bmatrix} E & A \\ D & 0 \end{bmatrix} P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & A \\ D & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

for some nonsingular  $P$ .

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$X \in \mathbb{F}^{m \times n}$

👉 **Size:** Most general setting.

**Open problem:** What happens for  $\text{char } \mathbb{F} = 2$ ?



# The $\star$ -Sylvester equation: uniqueness

$$A, D \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$$

**Theorem** [DT-Iannazzo'24]

$AX + X^*D = 0$  has a **unique solution** iff  $A + \lambda D^*$  has **full column rank**, and

- ▶  $\star = \top$ :  $\Lambda(A + \lambda D^*) \setminus \{-1\}$  is **reciprocal free** and  $m_a(-1, A + \lambda D^*) \leq 1$ .
- ▶  $\star = *$ :  $\Lambda(A + \lambda D^*)$  is **\*-reciprocal free**.

**Definition:**  $\mathcal{S} \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  is:

- (a) **reciprocal free** if  $\lambda\mu \neq 1$ , for any  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{S}$ .
- (b) **\*-reciprocal free** if  $\lambda\bar{\mu} \neq 1$ , for any  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{S}$ .

$m_a(\mu, A + \lambda D^*)$ : **algebraic multiplicity** of  $\mu$  in  $A + \lambda D^*$ .

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☞ Generalizes the characterization in [Byers-Kressner'06], [Kressner-Schröder-Watkins'09] for  $m = n$  ( $A + \lambda D^*$  must be **regular**).

# Generalized $\star$ -Sylvester: $n \times n$ coefficients (uniqueness)

The “magic” pencil:  $\mathcal{Q}(\lambda) := \begin{bmatrix} \lambda D^\star & B^\star \\ A & \lambda C \end{bmatrix}$ .

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**Theorem** [DT-Iannazzo'16]

The equation  $AXB + CX^\star D = E$ , with  $A, B, C, D \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  has a **unique solution, for every  $E$** , if and only if:

- (i)  $\mathcal{Q}(\lambda)$  is **regular**;
- (ii-a) if  $\star = \top$ ,  $\Lambda(\mathcal{Q}) \setminus \{\pm 1\}$  is **reciprocal free** and  $m_a(\pm 1, \mathcal{Q}) \leq 1$ ;
- (ii-b) if  $\star = *$ ,  $\Lambda(\mathcal{Q})$  is  **$*$ -reciprocal free**.



FDT, B. Iannazzo.

Uniqueness of solution of a generalized  $\star$ -Sylvester matrix equation.  
LAA, 493 (2016) 323-335.

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 The matrix of the linear system is **square**.

# Generalized $\star$ -Sylvester: coefficients with any size

$$\mathcal{Q}(\lambda) := \begin{bmatrix} \lambda D^* & B^* \\ A & \lambda C \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Theorem** [DT-Iannazzo'24, in preparation]

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- (b- $*$ ) If  $\star = *$ , the set  $\Lambda(\mathcal{Q}) \setminus \{0, \infty\}$  is  **$*$ -reciprocal free**.
- (c) If  $0, \infty$  are e-vals of  $\mathcal{Q}$ , at least one of them is **semisimple**.
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☞ For **at least one solution**, replace  $\mathcal{Q}(\lambda)$  by  $\mathcal{Q}^\sharp(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda C^* & B \\ A^* & \lambda D \end{bmatrix}$ .



# Transformation on $AXB + CX^*D = E$

$AXB + CX^*D = E$  is equivalent to:

$$(R_2AS_1)Y(S_2^*BR_1^*) + (R_2CS_2)Y^*(S_1^*DR_1^*) = R_2ER_1^*,$$

where  $Y = S_1^{-1}XS_2^{-*}$ .

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☞ Corresponds to a block diagonal strict equivalence of  $\mathcal{Q}(\lambda)$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda(S_1^*DR_1^*)^* & (S_2^*BR_1^*)^* \\ R_2AS_1 & \lambda(R_2CS_2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_1 & 0 \\ 0 & R_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda D^* & B^* \\ A & \lambda C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_1 & 0 \\ 0 & S_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# A summary of known results

**S**: Solvable, for given  $A, B, C, D, E$ .

**US**: Unique solution, for given  $A, B, C, D, E$ .

**SR**: Solvable, for any  $E$ .

**OR**: At most one solution, for any  $E$  (i.e.: the homogeneous eq. has only the trivial solution).

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	$AXB - CXD = E$		$AXB + CX^*D = E$	
	square coefficients	general coefficients	square coefficients	general coefficients
<b>S</b>	[DK16]	[K92],[DK16]	[DK16]	[DK16]
<b>US</b>	[Chu87]	[K92]	[DI16]	open
<b>SR</b>	same as <b>US</b>	[DIPR18] (using [K92])	same as <b>US</b>	[DI24]
<b>OR</b>	same as <b>US</b>	[K96]	same as <b>US</b>	[DI24]
<b>UR</b>	same as <b>US</b>	[DIPR18] (using [K92])	same as <b>US</b>	[DIPR18]

[DI16]: DT-Iannazzo'16; [DI24]: DT-Iannazzo'24; [DIPR18]: DT-Iannazzo-Poloni-Robol'18; [DK16]: Dmytryshyn-Kågström'16; [K92]: Kosir'92; [K96]: Kosir'96.

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# Explicit expression for the solution

(Up to the change matrices leading to the canonical form).

Equation	Reference
$AX + XD = 0$	[Gantmacher'59]
$AXB + CXD = 0$	[Kosir'92]
$AX + X^*D = 0$	[DT-Dopico-Guillery-Montealegre-Reyes'13]
$AXB + CX^*D = 0$	open



Thank you!

Gracias!