The Derivative of a Schur Decomposition 1

1.1 Definitions and Properties

For an arbitrary matrix B, let

$$B(\alpha) = B + \alpha \frac{\partial B}{\partial \alpha} =: B + \alpha \dot{B} \tag{1}$$

and let B^* represent the hermitian transpose of B (matlab's B').

A Schur Decomposition is defined as

$$Q^*AQ = S \Leftrightarrow AQ = QS \tag{2}$$

Where Q is orthogonal, and S is block triangular.

The last piece we need is to define U as follows¹

$$Q(\alpha) = Q + \alpha \dot{Q} \tag{3}$$

$$=Q(I+\alpha \tilde{U}) \tag{4}$$

$$= Q(0) \cdot U(\alpha) \tag{5}$$

$$U = U^{(1)}U^{(2)} (6)$$

$$U^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} I_k & -P^* \\ P & I_{n-k} \end{bmatrix} \tag{7}$$

$$U^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} I_k & -P^* \\ P & I_{n-k} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$U^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} (I_k + P^*P)^{-1/2} & 0 \\ 0 & (I_{n-k} - PP^*) \end{bmatrix}$$
(8)

Note that as $\alpha \to 0$, $U \to I$, leading to the following as $\alpha \to 0$

$$P \to 0 \tag{9}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} (I_k + P^*P)^{-1/2} \to 0 \tag{10}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} (I_{n-k} + PP^*)^{-1/2} \to 0 \tag{11}$$

$$U(0) = I (12)$$

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial \alpha}\Big|_{\alpha=0} = \begin{bmatrix} I_k & -\dot{P}^* \\ \dot{P} & I_{n-k} \end{bmatrix}$$
(13)

Thus

$$\dot{Q} = Q \cdot \dot{U}(0) = Q \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I_k & -\dot{P}^* \\ \dot{P} & I_{n-k} \end{bmatrix}$$
(14)

and finding \dot{A} is now reduced to finding \dot{P} , which can be done as follows.

¹Why we can make the assumption that U takes this form is beyond me. But Anderson does...

1.2 Finding \dot{P}

Using definition 1 in equation 2, differentiating, and evaluating at $\alpha = 0$ gives

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} \left[(A + \alpha \dot{A}) Q U(\alpha) = Q U(\alpha) S(\alpha) \right]_{\alpha = 0} \tag{15}$$

$$\dot{A}QU(0) + AQ\dot{U}(0) = Q\dot{U}(0)S + QU(0)\dot{S}$$
(16)

Where $A=A(0),\ Q=Q(0),\ {\rm and}\ S=S(0).$ Which left multiplying by Q^* and using U(0)=I reduces to

$$Q^* \dot{A} Q + S \dot{U}(0) = \dot{U}(0) S + \dot{S} \tag{17}$$

Representing Q into $[Q_1Q_2]$, where $Q_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n-k)}$, and breaking S into 4 components such that $S_{1,1} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ leads to the previous statement being represented by

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_1^* \\ Q_2^* \end{bmatrix} \dot{A} \begin{bmatrix} Q_1 & Q_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} S_{1,1} & S_{1,2} \\ 0 & S_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_k & -\dot{P}^* \\ \dot{P} & I_{n-k} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{S}_{1,1} & \dot{S}_{1,2} \\ 0 & \dot{S}_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I_k & -\dot{P}^* \\ \dot{P} & I_{n-k} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_{1,1} & S_{1,2} \\ 0 & S_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}$$
(18)

Examining just the lower left corner of the previous equation, namely rows n - k : n and columns k : n leads to the following subproblem:

$$Q_2^* \dot{A} Q_1 + S_{2,2} \dot{P} = \dot{P} S_{1,1} \tag{19}$$

Which reorganized is

$$-S_{2,2}\dot{P} + \dot{P}S_{1,1}\dot{P} = Q_2^*\dot{A}Q_1 \tag{20}$$

If k is chosen such that k = n - k, then this is the Sylvester Equation for which exist LAPACK routines. Better yet, Octave itself can solve this for \dot{P} using the command

$$\dot{P} = syl\left(-S_{2,2}, S_{1,1}, Q_2^* \dot{A} Q_1\right) \tag{21}$$

Using equation 14 now yields the desired \dot{Q} needed for our algorithm!