Construction of Adjoint Problem

Consider a closed interval [a, b]. Fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and let the differential operator be defined as

$$L := \sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k(t) \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^k, \text{ where } a_k(t) \in C^{\infty}[a, b] \text{ and } a_n(t) \neq 0 \ \forall t \in [a, b].$$

Fix $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and let $\pi = \{a = x_0 < x_1 < \ldots < x_k = b\}$ be a partition of [a, b]. Consider a homogeneous multipoint BVP of rank m

$$\pi_m: Lq = 0, \qquad Uq = \vec{0},$$

where $U = (U_1, \dots, U_m)$ is a multipoint boundary form with

$$U_i(q) = \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} [\alpha_{ijl} f_l^{(j)}(x_{l-1}) + \beta_{ijl} f_l^{(j)}(x_l)], \qquad i \in \{1, \dots, m\},$$

where $\alpha_{ijl}, \beta_{ijl} \in \mathbb{R}, q \in H^n(\pi)$, as given in Locker's paper [2]. Our goal is to construct the adjoint multipoint BVP to π_m

$$\pi_{2nk-m}^+: L^+q = 0, \qquad U^+q = \vec{0},$$

where L^+ is the adjoint of L, and U^+ is an appropriate multipoint boundary form.

Green's Formula

For any $f, g \in H^n(\pi)$, application of Green's formula yields

$$\langle Lf, g \rangle - \langle f, L^+g \rangle = \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{p,q=0}^{n-1} [F_{pq}(x_l) f_l^{(p)}(x_l) g_l^{(q)}(x_l) - F_{pq}(x_{l-1}) f_l^{(p)}(x_{l-1}) g_l^{(q)}(x_{l-1})],$$

where F(t) denotes an $n \times n$ boundary matrix at the point $t \in [a, b]$. From [1, p. 1286], the entries of F(t) are given by

$$F_{pq}(t) = \sum_{k=j}^{n-p-1} (-1)^k \binom{k}{j} \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^{k-j} a_{p+k+1}(t), \qquad p+q < n-1$$

$$F_{pq}(t) = (-1)^q a_n(t), \qquad p+q = n-1$$

$$F_{pq}(t) = 0, \qquad p+q > n-1$$

Observe that since $\det F(t) = (a_0(t))^n \neq 0$, the matrix F(t) is non-singular.

We let

$$[fg]_l(t) = \sum_{p,q=0}^{n-1} F_{pq}(t) f_l^{(p)}(t) g_l^{(q)}(t),$$

so that the Green's formula can be rewritten as

$$\langle Lf, g \rangle - \langle f, L^+g \rangle = \sum_{l=1}^k [fg]_l(x_l) - [fg]_l(x_{l-1}).$$

Now, we seek another matrix \hat{F}_l , with which we can associate a *semibilinear* form \mathcal{S}_l . We derive this matrix

in the same way as in Linda's capstone [3]. First, observe that

$$[fg]_{l}(t) = \sum_{p,q=0}^{n-1} F_{pq}(t) f_{l}^{(p)}(t) g_{l}^{(q)}(t) = \sum_{p,q=0}^{n-1} \left[F_{pq} f_{l}^{(p)} g_{l}^{(q)} \right](t)$$

$$= \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \left[\left(\sum_{p=0}^{n-1} F_{pq} f_{l}^{(p)} \right) g_{l}^{(q)} \right](t)$$

$$= F(t) \vec{f}_{l}(t) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(t),$$

where $\vec{f}_l = (f_l, \dots, f_l^{(n-1)})$ and $\vec{g}_l = (g_l, \dots, g_l^{(n-1)})$. We use this to obtain:

$$\begin{split} [fg]_{l}(x_{l}) - [fg]_{l}(x_{l-1}) &= F(x_{l})\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l}) - F(x_{l-1})\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -F(x_{l-1}) & 0_{n \times n} \\ 0_{n \times n} & F(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vdots \\ f_{l}^{(n-1)}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vdots \\ f_{l}^{(n-1)}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} g_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vdots \\ g_{l}^{(n-1)}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vdots \\ g_{l}^{(n-1)}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \\ &=: \widehat{F}_{l}(x_{l-1}, x_{l}) \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \end{split}$$

Note that since $F(x_l)$ is nonsingular for all x_l , it follows that $\widehat{F}_l(x_{l-1}, x_l)$ is also non-singular for all x_l . Finally, with the above in mind, we obtain

$$\langle Lf, g \rangle - \langle f, L^+g \rangle = \sum_{l=1}^k [fg]_l(x_l) - [fg]_l(x_{l-1}) = \sum_{l=1}^k \widehat{F}_l(x_{l-1}, x_l) \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_l(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f}_l(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_l(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{g}_l(x_l) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now, expansion of the sum yields

$$\begin{split} &\sum_{l=1}^{k} \widehat{F}_{l}(x_{l-1}, x_{l}) \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l}) \\ \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \widehat{F}_{1}(x_{0}, x_{1}) \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{f}_{1}(x_{1}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{g}_{1}(x_{1}) \end{bmatrix} + \ldots + \widehat{F}_{k}(x_{k-1}, x_{k}) \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \widehat{F}_{1}(x_{0}, x_{1}) & 0 & \ldots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \widehat{F}_{2}(x_{1}, x_{2}) & \ldots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \ldots & \widehat{F}_{k-1}(x_{k-2}, x_{k-1}) & 0 & 0 & f_{2}(x_{2}) \\ 0 & 0 & \ldots & 0 & \widehat{F}_{k}(x_{k-1}, x_{k}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) & \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) & \vec{f}_{2}(x_{1}) & \vec{f}_{2}(x_{2}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) & \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{1}(x_{0}) & \vec{f}_{2}(x_{1}) & \vec{f}_{2}(x_{2}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) & \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix} \\ &=: 8 \begin{pmatrix} \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) & \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) & \vec{f}_{1}(x_{1}) & \vdots \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) & \vec{f}_{2}(x_{1}) & \vdots \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) & \vdots \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) & \vec{g}_{1}(x_{1}) & \vdots \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) & \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{pmatrix} , \end{split}$$

i.e. we managed to express the Green's Formula as in terms of a semibilinear form S. Observe that the matrix on the second-last line is a block matrix where block matrices are $2n \times 2n$.

Boundary-Form Formula

We turn to characterising an adjoint multipoint boundary condition using an extension of boundary form formula that Linda derived in her work. First, recall that the multipoint boundary conditions are of the form

$$Uq = \begin{bmatrix} U_1(q) \\ \vdots \\ U_m(q) \end{bmatrix} = \vec{0},$$

with

$$U_i(q) = \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} [\alpha_{ijl} q_l^{(j)}(x_{l-1}) + \beta_{ijl} q_l^{(j)}(x_l)], \qquad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, \ \alpha_{ijl}, \beta_{ijl} \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Note that U_1, \ldots, U_m are linearly independent when $\sum_{i=1}^m c_i U_i q = 0$ if and only if $c_i = 0$. When U_1, \ldots, U_m are linearly independent, we say that U has full rank m. For now, suppose that U has full rank, and define

$$\vec{ql} = \begin{bmatrix} q_l \\ q_l' \\ \vdots \\ q_l^{(n-1)} \end{bmatrix}, M_l = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{1\ 0\ l} & \alpha_{1\ 1\ l} & \dots & \alpha_{1\ (n-1)\ l} \\ \alpha_{2\ 0\ l} & \alpha_{2\ 1\ l} & \dots & \alpha_{2\ (n-1)\ l} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_{m\ 0\ l} & \alpha_{m\ 1\ l} & \dots & \alpha_{m\ (n-1)\ l} \end{bmatrix}, N_l = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{1\ 0\ l} & \beta_{1\ 1\ l} & \dots & \beta_{1\ (n-1)\ l} \\ \beta_{2\ 0\ l} & \beta_{2\ 1\ l} & \dots & \beta_{2\ (n-1)\ l} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \beta_{m\ 0\ l} & \beta_{m\ 1\ l} & \dots & \beta_{m\ (n-1)\ l} \end{bmatrix}$$

Then,

$$Uq = \begin{bmatrix} U_{1}(q) \\ \vdots \\ U_{m}(q) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{k} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{1 \ j \ l} \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_{m \ j \ l} \end{bmatrix} q_{l}^{(j)}(x_{l-1}) + \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{1 \ j \ l} \\ \vdots \\ \beta_{m \ j \ l} \end{bmatrix} q_{l}^{(j)}(x_{l})$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{k} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{1 \ 0 \ l} & \dots & \alpha_{1 \ (n-1) \ l} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_{m \ 0 \ l} & \dots & \alpha_{m \ (n-1) \ l} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vdots \\ q_{l}^{(n-1)}(x_{l-1}) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{1 \ 0 \ l} & \dots & \beta_{1 \ (n-1) \ l} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \beta_{m \ 0 \ l} & \dots & \beta_{m \ (n-1) \ l} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q_{l}(x_{l}) \\ \vdots \\ q_{l}^{(n-1)}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{k} M_{l} \vec{q}_{l}(x_{l-1}) + N_{l} \vec{q}_{l}(x_{l}),$$

where M_l, N_l are $m \times n$ matrices. In addition, letting

$$(M_l:N_l) = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{1\ 0\ l} & \alpha_{1\ 1\ l} & \dots & \alpha_{1\ (n-1)\ l} & \beta_{1\ 0\ l} & \beta_{1\ 1\ l} & \dots & \beta_{1\ (n-1)\ l} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_{m\ 0\ l} & \alpha_{m\ 1\ l} & \dots & \alpha_{m\ (n-1)\ l} & \beta_{m\ 0\ l} & \beta_{m\ 1\ l} & \dots & \beta_{m\ (n-1)\ l} \end{bmatrix},$$

we can write

$$Uq = \sum_{l=1}^{k} (M_l : N_l) \begin{bmatrix} \vec{q_l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{q_l}(x_l) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus we have found 2 compact ways of writing the multipoint boundary forms. Next, we extend the notion of a complementary boundary form.

Definition 1. If $U = (U_1, ..., U_m)$ is any multipoint boundary form with $\operatorname{rank}(U) = m$, and $U_c = (U_{m+1}, ..., U_{2nk})$ is a multipoint boundary form with $\operatorname{rank}(U_c) = 2nk - m$ such that $\operatorname{rank}(U_1, ..., U_{2nk}) = 2nk$, then U and U_c are **complementary multipoint boundary forms**.

Note that extending U_1, \ldots, U_m to U_1, \ldots, U_{2nk} is equivalent to embedding the matrices M_l, N_l in a $2nk \times 2nk$ non-singular matrix, i.e. we can write

$$\begin{bmatrix} Uq \\ U_{c}q \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{l=1}^{k} \begin{bmatrix} M_{l} & N_{l} \\ \overline{M}_{l} & \overline{N}_{l} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{q}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{q}_{l}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} M_{1} & N_{1} \\ \overline{M}_{1} & \overline{N}_{1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{q}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{q}_{1}(x_{1}) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} M_{2} & N_{2} \\ \overline{M}_{2} & \overline{N}_{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{q}_{2}(x_{1}) \\ \vec{q}_{2}(x_{2}) \end{bmatrix} + \dots + \begin{bmatrix} M_{k} & N_{k} \\ \overline{M}_{k} & \overline{N}_{k} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{q}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{q}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} M_{1} & N_{1} & M_{2} & N_{2} & \dots & M_{k} & N_{k} \\ \overline{M}_{1} & \overline{N}_{1} & \overline{M}_{2} & \overline{N}_{2} & \dots & \overline{M}_{k} & \overline{N}_{k} \end{bmatrix}}_{2nk \times 2nk} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \vec{q}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{q}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vec{q}_{2}(x_{2}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{q}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{q}_{2}(x_{1}) \\ \vec{q}_{2}(x_{2}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{q}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \end{bmatrix}}_{2nk \times 1}$$

$$= : H \begin{bmatrix} \vec{q}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{q}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vec{q}_{2}(x_{2}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{q}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \end{bmatrix} .$$

where $\operatorname{rank}(H) = 2nk$ and $\overline{M}_l, \overline{N}_l$ are $2nk - m \times n$ matrices. Just like the boundary form formula proven by Linda, the multipoint boundary form formula is motivated by the desire to express Green's formula as a combination of boundary forms U and U_c . Namely, we have:

Theorem 2 (Multipoint Boundary Form Formula). Given any boundary form U of rank m, and any complementary form U_c , there exist unique boundary forms U_c^+, U^+ of rank m and 2n - m, respectively, such that

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} [fg]_{l}(x_{l}) - [fg]_{l}(x_{l-1}) = Uf \cdot U_{c}^{+}g + U_{c}f \cdot U^{+}g.$$

We will use the following proposition from Linda's capstone [3] in the proof of Theorem 2:

Proposition 1 (Prop. 2.12 in Linda's capstone). Let S be the semibilinear form associated with a nonsingular matrix S. Suppose $\vec{f} := Ff$ where F is a nonsingular matrix. Then, there exists a unique nonsingular matrix G such that if $\vec{g} = Gg$, then $S(f,g) = \vec{f} \cdot \vec{g}$ for all f,g.

Proof. We prove Theorem 2. First, we have

$$egin{bmatrix} Uf \ U_cf \end{bmatrix} = H egin{bmatrix} ec{f_1}(x_0) \ ec{f_1}(x_1) \ dots \ ec{f_k}(x_{k-1}) \ ec{f_k}(x_k) \end{bmatrix}.$$

As shown in the subsection on Green's formula, we can write

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} [fg]_{l}(x_{l}) - [fg]_{l}(x_{l-1}) = \sum_{l=1}^{k} \widehat{F}_{l}(x_{l-1}, x_{l}) \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \mathcal{S} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{f}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{g}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix},$$

Now, by Proposition 1, there exists a unique $2nk \times 2nk$ nonsingular matrix J such that

$$S\left(\begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{f}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{g}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix}\right) = H\begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{f}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot J\begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{g}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let U^+, U_c^+ be such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_c^+ g \\ U^+ g \end{bmatrix} = J \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g_1}(x_0) \\ \vec{g_1}(x_1) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{g_k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{g_k}(x_k) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then, we obtain

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} [fg]_{l}(x_{l}) - [fg]_{l}(x_{l-1}) = \mathcal{S} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{f}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \vec{g}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{g}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{pmatrix} = H \begin{pmatrix} \vec{f}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{f}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{pmatrix} \cdot J \begin{pmatrix} \vec{g}_{1}(x_{0}) \\ \vec{g}_{1}(x_{1}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{k}(x_{k}) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} Uf \\ U_{c}f \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} U_{c}^{+}g \\ U^{+}g \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= Uf \cdot U_{c}^{+}g + U_{c}f \cdot U^{+}g,$$

which completes the proof.

Theorem 2 allows us to define an adjoint multipoint boundary form. Namely,

Definition 3. Suppose $U = (U_1, ..., U_m)$ is a multipoint boundary form with rank(U) = m, along with the condition that $Uq = \vec{0}$ for functions $q \in H^n(\pi)$. If U^+ is any boundary form with rank $(U^+) = 2nk - m$, determined as in Theorem 2, then the equation

$$U^{+}q = \vec{0}$$

is an adjoint multipoint boundary form to $Uq = \vec{0}$.

In turn, the above lets us define the adjoint multipoint problem:

Definition 4. Suppose $U = (U_1, \ldots, U_m)$ is a multipoint boundary form with rank(U) = m. Then, the problem of solving

$$\pi_m: Lq = 0, \qquad Uq = \vec{0},$$

is called a homogeneous multipoint boundary value problem of rank m. The problem of solving

$$\pi_{2nk-m}^+: L^+q = 0, \qquad U^+q = \vec{0},$$

is an adjoint multipoint boundary value problem to π_m .

The preceding construction allows us to state the following:

Proposition 2. Let $f, g \in C^n[a, b]$ with $Uf = \vec{0}$ and $U^+g = \vec{0}$. Then, $\langle Lf, g \rangle = \langle f, L^+g \rangle$.

Proof. We apply Green's formula and multipoint boundary form formula:

$$\langle Lf, g \rangle - \langle f, L^+g \rangle = \sum_{l=1}^k [fg]_l(x_l) - [fg]_l(x_{l-1}) = Uf \cdot U_c^+g + U_cf \cdot U^+g = \vec{0} \cdot U_c^+g + U_cf \cdot \vec{0} = 0.$$

Checking Adjointness

Finally, we extend Theorem 2.19 on Linda's Capstone [3].

Theorem 5. The boundary condition $U^+f = \vec{0}$ is adjoint to $Uf = \vec{0}$ if and only if

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} M_l F^{-1}(x_{l-1}) P_l = \sum_{l=1}^{k} N_l F^{-1}(x_l) Q_l,$$

where F(t) is the $n \times n$ matrix as given in Green's Formula subsection.

Recall that just how U is associated with a collection of $2k \ m \times n$ matrices M_l, N_l , so is U^+ associated with $2k \ n \times (2nk - m)$ matrices P_l, Q_l such that

$$U^{+}q = \sum_{l=1}^{k} P_{l}^{*} \vec{q}_{l}(x_{l-1}) + Q_{l}^{*} \vec{q}_{l}(x_{l}), \quad \text{rank} \left[(P_{1})_{1}^{*} \quad (Q_{1})_{1}^{*} \quad \dots \quad (P_{1})_{k}^{*} \quad (Q_{1})_{k}^{*} \right] = 2nk - m.$$

Proof. Let $\vec{f}_l = (f_l, \dots, f_l^{(n-1)})$ and $\vec{g}_l = (g_l, \dots, g_l^{(n-1)})$. Suppose that $U^+f = \vec{0}$ is adjoint to $Uf = \vec{0}$. By definition of adjoint multipoint boundary condition, U^+ is determined as in Theorem 2. Thus, in determining U^+ , there exist multipoint boundary forms U_c, U_c^+ of rank 2nk - m and m respectively, such that the multipoint boundary form formula holds. As such, let

$$U_c f = \sum_{l=1}^k \overline{M}_l \vec{f}_l(x_{l-1}) + \overline{N}_l \vec{f}_l(x_l), \qquad \text{rank} \left[\overline{M}_1 \quad \overline{N}_1 \quad \dots \quad \overline{M}_k \quad \overline{N}_k \right] = 2nk - m$$

$$U_c^+ g = \sum_{l=1}^k \overline{P}_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_{l-1}) + \overline{Q}_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_l), \qquad \text{rank} \left[\overline{P}_1^* \quad \overline{Q}_1^* \quad \dots \quad \overline{P}_k^* \quad \overline{Q}_k^* \right] = m$$

First, note that in the context of semibilinear form, we have $Sf \cdot g = f \cdot S^*g$, as given in Proposition 2.11 of

Linda's capstone [3, p.18]. We use this to rewrite the multipoint boundary form formula as follows:

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} [fg]_{l}(x_{l}) - [fg]_{l}(x_{l-1}) = Uf \cdot U_{c}^{+}g + U_{c}f \cdot U^{+}g$$

$$= \left(\sum_{l=1}^{k} M_{l}\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) + N_{l}\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l})\right) \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} (\overline{P}_{i})^{*}\vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1}) + (\overline{Q}_{i})^{*}\vec{g}_{i}(x_{i})\right)$$

$$+ \left(\sum_{l=1}^{k} \overline{M}_{l}\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) + \overline{N}_{l}\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l})\right) \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} P_{i}^{*}\vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1}) + Q_{i}^{*}\vec{g}_{i}(x_{i})\right)$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \left(\left(M_{l}\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) + N_{l}\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l})\right) \cdot \left(\overline{P}_{i}^{*}\vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1}) + \overline{Q}_{i}^{*}\vec{g}_{i}(x_{i})\right)$$

$$+ \left(\overline{M}_{l}\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) + \overline{N}_{l}\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l})\right) \cdot \left(P_{i}^{*}\vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1}) + Q_{i}^{*}\vec{g}_{i}(x_{i})\right),$$

where taking out the sum upfront follows due to distributivity and associativity of inner product. Moreover, using additivity of inner product and that $Sf \cdot g = f \cdot S^*g$, we write the above as

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k} (\overline{Q}_{i} N_{l} + Q_{i} \overline{N}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \cdot \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i}) + (\overline{P}_{i} N_{l} + P_{i} \overline{N}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \cdot \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1}) + (\overline{Q}_{i} M_{l} + Q_{i} \overline{M}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \cdot \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i}) + (\overline{P}_{i} M_{l} + P_{i} \overline{M}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \cdot \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1})$$
(1)

From Green's formula subsection, we have

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} [fg]_{l}(x_{l}) - [fg]_{l}(x_{l-1}) = \sum_{l=1}^{k} F(x_{l})\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l}) - F(x_{l-1})\vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l-1})$$
(2)

Comparison of (1) and (2) reveals that

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} \sum_{\substack{i=1\\i\neq l}}^{k} (\overline{Q}_{i}N_{l} + Q_{i}\overline{N}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \cdot \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i}) + (\overline{P}_{i}N_{l} + P_{i}\overline{N}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \cdot \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1})$$
$$+ (\overline{Q}_{i}M_{l} + Q_{i}\overline{M}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \cdot \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i}) + (\overline{P}_{i}M_{l} + P_{i}\overline{M}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \cdot \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1}) = 0,$$

and

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} (\overline{Q}_{l} N_{l} + Q_{l} \overline{N}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l}) + (\overline{P}_{l} M_{l} + P_{l} \overline{M}_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l-1})$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{k} F(x_{l}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l}) - F(x_{l-1}) \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \cdot \vec{g}_{l}(x_{l-1}),$$

so that we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} -F(x_0) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & F(x_1) & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -F(x_1) & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & F(x_{k-1}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & -F(x_{k-1}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & F(x_k) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \overline{P}_1 M_1 + P_1 \overline{M}_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \overline{Q}_1 N_1 + Q_1 \overline{N}_1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \overline{P}_k M_k + P_k \overline{M}_k & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \overline{Q}_k N_k + Q_k \overline{N}_k \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since the boundary matrix F is nonsingular on [a, b], F is invertible, and so the block diagonal matrix on LHS must also be invertible. Applying this inverse to both sides yields

$$E_{2nk\times 2nk} = \begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_0)(\overline{P}_1M_1 + P_1\overline{M}_1) & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & F^{-1}(x_k)(\overline{Q}_kN_k + Q_k\overline{N}_k) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_0)\overline{P}_1M_1 - F^{-1}(x_0)P_1\overline{M}_1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & F^{-1}(x_k)\overline{Q}_kN_k + F^{-1}(x_k)Q_k\overline{N}_k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_0)\overline{P}_1 & -F^{-1}(x_0)P_1 \\ F^{-1}(x_1)\overline{Q}_1 & F^{-1}(x_1)Q_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ -F^{-1}(x_k)\overline{Q}_k & F^{-1}(x_k)Q_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & N_1 & \dots & M_k & N_k \\ \overline{M}_1 & \overline{N}_1 & \dots & \overline{M}_k & \overline{N}_k \end{bmatrix}. \qquad (\star)$$

Since two matrices in (\star) are full rank, they are inverse to each other, and so we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} E_{m \times m} & 0_{m \times (2nk-m)} \\ 0_{(2nk-m) \times m} & E_{(2nk-m) \times (2nk-m)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & N_1 & \dots & M_k & N_k \\ \overline{M}_1 & \overline{N}_1 & \dots & \overline{M}_k & \overline{N}_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_0)P_1 & -F^{-1}(x_0)P_1 \\ F^{-1}(x_1)\overline{Q}_1 & F^{-1}(x_1)Q_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ -F^{-1}(x_{k-1})\overline{P}_k & -F^{-1}(x_{k-1})P_k \\ F^{-1}(x_k)\overline{Q}_k & F^{-1}(x_k)Q_k \end{bmatrix},$$

which implies that

$$-M_1 F^{-1}(x_0) P_1 + N_1 F^{-1}(x_1) Q_1 + \dots - M_k F^{-1}(x_{k-1}) P_k + N_k F^{-1}(x_k) Q_k = 0_{m \times (2nk-m)}$$

$$\implies \sum_{l=1}^k M_l F^{-1}(x_{l-1}) P_l = \sum_{l=1}^k N_l F^{-1}(x_l) Q_l.$$

Now, let U_1^+ be a multipoint boundary form of rank 2nk-m such that

$$U_1^+ g = \sum_{l=1}^k (P_1)_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_{l-1}) + (Q_1)_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_l),$$

for an appropriate collection of matrices $(P_1)_l^*, (Q_1)_l^*$, with

$$rank((P_1)_l^* : (Q_1)_l^*) = 2nk - m, \qquad l = 1, \dots, k.$$

Suppose that

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} M_l F^{-1}(x_{l-1}) P_l = \sum_{l=1}^{k} N_l F^{-1}(x_l) Q_l$$

holds. Now, let **u** be a $2nk \times 1$ vector. Then, there exist 2nk - m linearly independent solutions of the system

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & N_1 & \dots & M_k & N_k \end{bmatrix}_{m \times 2nk} \mathbf{u} = \vec{0}.$$

By assumption, we have

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} -M_l F(x_{l-1})^{-1} (P_1)_l + N_l F(x_l)^{-1} (Q_1)_l = 0_{m \times (2nk-m)},$$

so that

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & N_1 & \dots & M_k & N_k \end{bmatrix}_{m \times 2nk} \begin{bmatrix} F(x_0)^{-1}(P_1)_1 \\ F(x_1)^{-1}(Q_1)_1 \\ \vdots \\ F(x_{k-1})^{-1}(P_1)_k \\ F(x_k)^{-1}(Q_1)_k \end{bmatrix}_{2nk \times (2nk-m)} = 0_{m \times (2nk-m)}.$$
(3)

This means that the 2nk - m columns of the matrix

$$H_{1} := \begin{bmatrix} F(x_{0})^{-1}(P_{1})_{1} \\ F(x_{1})^{-1}(Q_{1})_{1} \\ \vdots \\ F(x_{k-1})^{-1}(P_{1})_{k} \\ F(x_{k})^{-1}(Q_{1})_{k} \end{bmatrix}$$

form the solution space of the system (3). Since rank $[(P_1)_1^* \quad (Q_1)_1^* \quad \dots \quad (P_1)_k^* \quad (Q_1)_k^*] = 2nk - m$,

$$\operatorname{rank} \begin{bmatrix} (P_1)_1 \\ (Q_1)_1 \\ \vdots \\ (P_1)_k \\ (Q_1)_k \end{bmatrix} = 2nk - m.$$

Since $F(x_{l-1})$, $F(x_l)$ are non-singular, rank $(H_1) = 2nk - m$. Now, if $U^+g = \sum_{l=1}^k P_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_{l-1}) + Q_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_l) = \vec{0}$ is a multipoint boundary condition adjoint to $Uf = \vec{0}$, then by multipoint boundary form formula we have that

$$\begin{bmatrix} Uf \\ U_c f \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} U_c^+ g \\ U^+ g \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^k \begin{bmatrix} M_l \vec{f_l}(x_{l-1}) + N_l \vec{f_l}(x_l) \\ \overline{M_l} \vec{f_l}(x_{l-1}) + \overline{N_l} \vec{f_l}(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \overline{P}_i^* \vec{g_i}(x_{i-1}) + \overline{Q}_i^* \vec{g_i}(x_i) \\ P_i^* \vec{g_i}(x_{i-1}) + Q_i^* \vec{g_i}(x_i) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^k \begin{bmatrix} M_l & N_l \\ \overline{M_l} & \overline{N_l} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f_l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f_l}(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \overline{P}_i & P_i \\ \overline{Q}_i & Q_i \end{bmatrix}^* \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g_i}(x_{i-1}) \\ \vec{g_i}(x_i) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^k \begin{bmatrix} \overline{P}_i & P_i \\ \overline{Q}_i & Q_i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_l & N_l \\ \overline{M_l} & \overline{N_l} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f_l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f_l}(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g_i}(x_{i-1}) \\ \vec{g_i}(x_i) \end{bmatrix} .$$

In addition, recall from Green's formula subsection that

$$\begin{bmatrix} Uf \\ U_c f \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} U_c^+ g \\ U^+ g \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{l=1}^k \begin{bmatrix} -F(x_{l-1}) & 0_{n \times n} \\ 0_{n \times n} & F(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_l(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f}_l(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_l(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{g}_l(x_l) \end{bmatrix}.$$

If follows that

$$\sum_{l=1}^{k} \sum_{\substack{i=1\\i\neq l}}^{k} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{P}_{i} & P_{i} \\ \overline{Q}_{i} & Q_{i} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_{l} & N_{l} \\ \overline{M}_{l} & \overline{N}_{l} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f}_{l}(x_{l}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i-1}) \\ \vec{g}_{i}(x_{i}) \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

and

$$\sum_{l=1}^k \begin{bmatrix} -F(x_{l-1}) & 0_{n\times n} \\ 0_{n\times n} & F(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f_l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f_l}(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g_l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{g_l}(x_l) \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{l=1}^k \begin{bmatrix} \overline{P}_l & P_l \\ \overline{Q}_l & Q_l \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_l & N_l \\ \overline{M}_l & \overline{N}_l \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f_l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{f_l}(x_l) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \vec{g_l}(x_{l-1}) \\ \vec{g_l}(x_l) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Expanding the sum and writing the above in the form of a system, we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} -F(x_0) & 0 \\ 0 & F(x_1) \end{bmatrix} & & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & \begin{bmatrix} -F(x_{k-1} & 0 \\ 0 & F(x_k) \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{P}_1 & P_1 \\ \overline{Q}_1 & Q_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & N_1 \\ \overline{M}_1 & \overline{N}_1 \end{bmatrix} & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & \begin{bmatrix} \overline{P}_k & P_k \\ \overline{Q}_k & Q_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_k & N_k \\ \overline{M}_k & \overline{N}_k \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Since the matrix on LHS is invertible, we can apply its inverse to both sides to obtain

Assuming that

$$\begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_{l-1})\overline{P}_1 & -F^{-1}(x_{l-1})P_l \\ F^{-1}(x_l)\overline{Q}_1 & F^{-1}(x_l)Q_l \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_l & N_l \\ \overline{M}_l & \overline{N}_l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} M_l & N_l \\ \overline{M}_l & \overline{N}_l \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_{l-1})\overline{P}_l & -F^{-1}(x_{l-1})P_l \\ F^{-1}(x_l)\overline{Q}_l & F^{-1}(x_l)Q_l \end{bmatrix},$$

we have

Thus we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & N_1 & \dots & M_k & N_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_0)P_1 \\ F^{-1}(x_1)Q_1 \\ \vdots \\ -F^{-1}(x_{k-1})P_k \\ F^{-1}(x_k)Q_k \end{bmatrix} = 0_{m \times (2nk-m)}.$$

Note that the left operand on RHS is invertible, so it has full rank. This means that

$$H := \begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_0)P_1 \\ F^{-1}(x_1)Q_1 \\ \vdots \\ -F^{-1}(x_{k-1})P_k \\ F^{-1}(x_k)Q_k \end{bmatrix}_{2nk \times (2nk-m)}$$

has rank 2nk - m. Thus, columns H also form the solution space of the system (3), just like H_1 does. But this suggests that H_1 and H are the same up to a linear transformation, i.e. there exists a list of non-singular $(n \times n)$ matrix $A_l, l = 1, \ldots, 2nk$ such that

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} -F^{-1}(x_0)P_1 \\ F^{-1}(x_1)Q_1 \\ \vdots \\ -F^{-1}(x_k)Q_k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A_1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & A_{2nk-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & A_{2nk} \end{bmatrix} H_1 = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A_1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & A_{2nk-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & A_{2nk} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F(x_0)^{-1}(P_1)_1 \\ F(x_1)^{-1}(Q_1)_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ F(x_{k-1})^{-1}(P_1)_k \\ F(x_k)^{-1}(Q_1)_k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} A_1F(x_0)^{-1}(P_1)_1 \\ A_2F(x_1)^{-1}(Q_1)_1 \\ \vdots \\ A_{2nk-1}F(x_{k-1})^{-1}(P_1)_k \\ A_{2nk}F(x_k)^{-1}(Q_1)_k \end{bmatrix},$$

and so $(P_1)_l = P_l A$ and $(Q_1)_l = Q_l A$ for all $l = 1, \ldots, k$. Therefore,

$$U_1^+ g = \sum_{l=1}^k (P_1)_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_{l-1}) + (Q_1)_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_l) = \sum_{l=1}^k A^* P_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_{l-1}) + A^* Q_l^* \vec{g}_l(x_l) = A^* U^+ g.$$

Observe that $U^+g=\vec{0}$ implies $U_1^+g=\vec{0}$. Since A^* is nonsingular, it follows that $U^+g=\vec{0}$ if and only if $U_1^+g=\vec{0}$. Since $U^+g=\vec{0}$ is adjoint to $Uf=\vec{0}$, $U_1^+g=\vec{0}$ is adjoint to $Uf=\vec{0}$. This completes the proof. \square

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