

# **An Introduction to Linear Matrix Inequalities**

**Raktim Bhattacharya**  
**Aerospace Engineering, Texas A&M University**

# Linear Matrix Inequalities

*What are they?*

- Inequalities involving matrix variables
- Matrix variables appear linearly
- Represent convex sets polynomial inequalities
- Critical tool in post-modern control theory

# Standard Form

$$F(x) := F_0 + x_1 F_1 + \cdots + x_n F_n > 0$$

where

$$x := \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}, F_i \in \mathbb{S}^m \text{ } m \times m \text{ symmetric matrix}$$

Think of  $F(x) : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{S}^m$ .

**Example:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \\ x & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + x \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} > 0.$$

# Positive Definiteness

- Matrix  $F > 0$  represents **positive definite** matrix
- $F > 0 \iff x^T F x > 0, \forall x \neq 0$
- $F > 0 \iff$  **leading principal minors** of  $F$  are positive

Let

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} F_{11} & F_{12} & F_{13} & \cdots \\ F_{21} & F_{22} & F_{23} & \cdots \\ F_{31} & F_{32} & F_{33} & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{bmatrix}$$

## $n$ Polynomial Constraints as a Linear Matrix Inequality

$$F > 0 \iff F_{11} > 0, \begin{vmatrix} F_{11} & F_{12} \\ F_{21} & F_{22} \end{vmatrix} > 0, \begin{vmatrix} F_{11} & F_{12} & F_{13} \\ F_{21} & F_{22} & F_{23} \\ F_{31} & F_{32} & F_{33} \end{vmatrix} > 0, \dots$$

# Definiteness

## Positive Semi-Definite

$F \geq 0 \iff$  iff all principal minors are  $\geq 0$  not just leading

## Negative Definite

$F < 0 \iff$  iff every **odd** leading principal minor is  $< 0$  and **even** leading principal minor is  $> 0$  they alternate signs, starting with  $< 0$

## Negative Semi-Definite

$F \leq 0 \iff$  iff every **odd** principal minor is  $\leq 0$  and **even** principal minor is  $\geq 0$

$$F > 0 \iff -F < 0$$

$$F \geq 0 \iff -F \leq 0$$

Matrix Analysis, Roger Horn.

# Example 1

$$y > 0, y - x^2 > 0, \iff \begin{bmatrix} y & x \\ x & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

- LMI written as  $\begin{bmatrix} y & x \\ x & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0$  is in **general form**.

- We can write it in **standard form** as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + x \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

- General form saves notations, may lead to **more efficient computation**

## Example 2

$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 < 1 \iff \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & x_1 \\ 0 & 1 & x_2 \\ x_1 & x_2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

Leading Minors are

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &> 0 \\ \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} &> 0 \\ 1 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_2 \\ x_2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} - 0 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ x_1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} + x_1 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 \end{vmatrix} &> 0 \end{aligned}$$

Last inequality simplifies to

$$1 - (x_1^2 + x_2^2) > 0$$

# Eigenvalue Minimization

- Let  $A_i \in \mathbb{S}^n, i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ .
- Let  $A(x) := A_0 + A_1x_1 + \dots + A_nx_n$ .
- Find  $x := [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_n]^T$

that minimizes

$$J(x) := \min_x \lambda_{\max} A(x).$$

How to solve this problem?



# Eigenvalue Minimization (contd.)

Recall for  $M \in \mathbb{S}^n$

$$\lambda_{\max} M \leq t \iff M - tI \leq 0.$$

Linear algebra result: Matrix Analysis – R.Horn, C.R. Johnson

**Optimization problem is therefore**

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{x,t} t \\ & \text{such that } A(x) - tI \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

# Matrix Norm Minimization

- Let  $A_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ .
- Let  $A(x) := A_0 + A_1x_1 + \dots + A_nx_n$ .
- Find  $x := [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_n]^T$

that minimizes

$$J(x) := \min_x \|A(x)\|_2.$$

How to solve this problem?

# Matrix Norm Minimization

*contd.*

- Recall

$$\|A\|_2 := \lambda_{\max} A^T A.$$

- Implies

$$\min_{t,x} t^2$$
$$A(x)^T A(x) - t^2 I \leq 0.$$

or

**Optimization problem is therefore**

$$\min_{t,x} t^2 \text{ subject to } \begin{bmatrix} tI & A(x) \\ A(x)^T & tI \end{bmatrix} \geq 0.$$

# **Important Inequalities**

# Generalized Square Inequalities

**Lemma** For arbitrary scalar  $x, y$ , and  $\delta > 0$ , we have

$$\left( \sqrt{\delta}x - \frac{y}{\sqrt{\delta}} \right)^2 = \delta x^2 + \frac{1}{\delta}y^2 - 2xy \geq 0.$$

Implies

$$2xy \leq \delta x^2 + \frac{1}{\delta}y^2.$$

# Generalized Square Inequalities

## Restriction-Free Inequalities

**Lemma** Let  $X, Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $F \in \mathbb{S}^m$ ,  $F > 0$ , and  $\delta > 0$  be a scalar, then

$$X^T F Y + Y^T F X \leq \delta X^T F X + \delta^{-1} Y^T F Y.$$

When  $X = x$  and  $Y = y$

$$2x^T F y \leq \delta x^T F x + \delta^{-1} y^T F y.$$

**Proof:** Using completion of squares.

$$\left(\sqrt{\delta}X - \sqrt{\delta^{-1}}Y\right)^T F \left(\sqrt{\delta}X - \sqrt{\delta^{-1}}Y\right) \geq 0.$$

# Generalized Square Inequalities

## *Inequalities with Restrictions*

Let

$$\mathcal{F} = \{F \mid F \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, F^T F \leq I\}.$$

**Lemma** Let  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ , then for arbitrary  $\delta > 0$

$$XFY + Y^T F^T X^T \leq \delta X X^T + \delta^{-1} Y^T Y, \forall F \in \mathcal{F}.$$

**Proof:** Approach 1: Using completion of squares.

Start with

$$\left(\sqrt{\delta}X^T - \sqrt{\delta^{-1}}FY\right)^T \left(\sqrt{\delta}X^T - \sqrt{\delta^{-1}}FY\right) \geq 0.$$

# Generalized Square Inequalities

## *Inequalities with Restrictions*

Let

$$\mathcal{F} = \{F \mid F \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, F^T F \leq I\}.$$

**Lemma** Let  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ , then for arbitrary  $\delta > 0$

$$XFY + Y^T F^T X^T \leq \delta XX^T + \delta^{-1} Y^T Y, \forall F \in \mathcal{F}.$$

**Proof:** Approach 2: Use following Lemma. (To do)



# Schur Complements

Very useful for identifying convex sets

Let

$$Q(x) \in \mathbb{S}^{m_1}, R(x) \in \mathbb{S}^{m_2}$$

$Q(x), R(x), S(x)$  are **affine** functions of  $x$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S^T(x) & R(x) \end{bmatrix} > 0 \iff \begin{array}{l} Q(x) > 0 \\ R(x) - S^T(x)Q(x)^{-1}S(x) > 0 \end{array}$$

Generalizing,

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S^T(x) & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \iff \begin{array}{l} Q(x) \geq 0 \\ S^T(x) (I - Q(x)Q^\dagger(x)) = 0 \\ R(x) - S^T(x)Q(x)^\dagger S(x) \geq 0 \end{array}$$

- $Q(x)^\dagger$  is the pseudo-inverse
- This generalization is used when  $Q(x)$  is positive semidefinite but singular

# Schur Complement Lemma

Let

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Define**

$$S_{\text{ch}}(A_{11}) := A_{22} - A_{21}A_{11}^{-1}A_{12}$$

$$S_{\text{ch}}(A_{22}) := A_{11} - A_{12}A_{22}^{-1}A_{21}$$

For symmetric  $A$ ,

$$A > 0 \iff A_{11} > 0, S_{\text{ch}}(A_{11}) > 0 \iff A_{22} > 0, S_{\text{ch}}(A_{22}) > 0$$

# Example 1

$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 < 1 \iff 1 - x^T x > 0 \iff \begin{bmatrix} I & x \\ x^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned} R(x) &= 1, \\ Q(x) &= I > 0. \end{aligned}$$

## Example 2

$$\|x\|_P < 1 \iff 1 - x^T P x > 0 \iff \begin{bmatrix} P^{-1} & x \\ x^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

or

$$1 - x^T P x = 1 - (\sqrt{P}x)^T (\sqrt{P}x) > 0 \iff \begin{bmatrix} I & (\sqrt{P}x) \\ (\sqrt{P}x)^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

where  $\sqrt{P}$  is matrix square root.

# LMIs are not unique

- If  $F$  is positive definite then **congruence transformation** of  $F$  is also positive definite

$$\begin{aligned}
 F > 0 &\iff x^T F x, \forall x \neq 0 \\
 &\iff y^T M^T F M y > 0, \forall y \neq 0 \text{ and nonsingular } M \\
 &\iff M^T F M > 0
 \end{aligned}$$

- Implies, rearrangement of matrix elements does not change the feasible set

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q & S \\ S^T & R \end{bmatrix} > 0 \iff \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q & S \\ S^T & R \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} > 0 \iff \begin{bmatrix} R & S^T \\ S & Q \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

# Variable Elimination Lemma

**Lemma:** For arbitrary nonzero vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , there holds

$$\max_{F \in \mathcal{F}: F^T F \leq I} (x^T F y)^2 = (x^T x)(y^T y).$$

**Proof:** From Schwarz inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} |x^T F y| &\leq \sqrt{x^T x} \sqrt{y^T F^T F y} \\ &\leq \sqrt{x^T x} \sqrt{y^T y}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore for arbitrary  $x, y$  we have

$$(x^T F y)^2 \leq (x^T x)(y^T y).$$

Next show equality.

# Variable Elimination Lemma

*contd.*

Let

$$F_0 = \frac{xy^T}{\sqrt{x^T x} \sqrt{y^T y}}.$$

Therefore,

$$F_0^T F_0 = \frac{yx^T xy^T}{(x^T x)(y^T y)} = \frac{yy^T}{y^T y}.$$

We can show that

$$\sigma_{\max}(F_0^T F_0) = \sigma_{\max}(F_0 F_0^T) = 1.$$

$$\implies F_0^T F_0 \leq 1, \text{ thus } F_0 \in \mathcal{F}.$$

# Variable Elimination Lemma

*contd.*

Therefore,

$$(x^T F_0 y)^2 = \left( x^T \frac{xy^T}{\sqrt{x^T x} \sqrt{y^T y}} y \right)^2 = (x^T x)(y^T y).$$



# Variable Elimination Lemma

*contd.*

**Lemma:** Let  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ , and  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ . Then

$$Q + XFY + Y^T F^T X^T < 0, \forall F \in \mathcal{F},$$

iff  $\exists \delta > 0$  such that

$$Q + \delta X X^T + \frac{1}{\delta} Y^T Y < 0.$$

**Proof:** Sufficiency

$$Q + XFY + Y^T F^T X^T \leq Q + \delta X X^T + \frac{1}{\delta} Y^T Y \text{ from previous Lemma} \\ < 0.$$

# Variable Elimination Lemma

*contd.*

## Proof: Necessity

Suppose

$$Q + XFY + Y^T F^T X^T < 0, \forall F \in \mathcal{F}$$

is true. Then for arbitrary nonzero  $x$

$$x^T (Q + XFY + Y^T F^T X^T) x < 0,$$

or

$$x^T Q x + 2x^T XFY x < 0.$$

Using previous lemma result

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} (x^T XFY x) &= \sqrt{(x^T X X^T x)(x^T Y^T Y x)}, \\ \implies x^T Q x + 2\sqrt{(x^T X X^T x)(x^T Y^T Y x)} &< 0. \end{aligned}$$

# Variable Elimination Lemma

*contd.*

$$x^T Q x + 2\sqrt{(x^T X X^T x)(x^T Y^T Y x)} < 0$$

$$\implies x^T Q x - 2\sqrt{(x^T X X^T x)(x^T Y^T Y x)} < 0,$$

$$\text{and } x^T Q x < 0.$$

Therefore,

$$\underbrace{(x^T Q x)^2}_{b^2} - 4 \underbrace{(x^T X X^T x)}_a \underbrace{(x^T Y^T Y x)}_c > 0.$$

or

$$b^2 - 4ac > 0.$$

# Variable Elimination Lemma

*contd.*

Or the quadratic equation

$$a\delta^2 + b\delta + c = 0$$

has real-roots

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}.$$

Recall,

$$a := (x^T X X^T x) > 0, \quad b := (x^T Q x) < 0, \quad c := (x^T Y^T Y x) > 0.$$

Implies

$$-\frac{b}{2a} > 0,$$

or at least one positive root.

# Variable Elimination Lemma

*contd.*

Therefore,  $\exists \delta > 0$  such that

$$a\delta^2 + b\delta + c < 0.$$

Dividing by  $\delta$  we get

$$a\delta + b + \frac{c}{\delta} < 0,$$

or

$$x^T Q x + \delta x^T X X^T x + \frac{1}{\delta} x^T Y^T Y x < 0,$$

or

$$x^T (Q + \delta X X^T + \frac{1}{\delta} Y^T Y) x < 0,$$

or

$$Q + \delta X X^T + \frac{1}{\delta} Y^T Y < 0.$$

# Elimination of Variables

In a Partitioned Matrix

**Lemma:** Let

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{12} \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} \end{bmatrix}, Z_{11} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n},$$

be symmetric. Then  $\exists X = X^T$  such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} - X & Z_{12} & X \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} & 0 \\ X & 0 & -X \end{bmatrix} < 0 \iff Z < 0.$$

**Proof:** Apply Schur complement lemma.

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} - X & Z_{12} & X \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} & 0 \\ X & 0 & -X \end{bmatrix} < 0 \iff -X < 0, \quad S_{\text{ch}}(-X) < 0.$$

# Elimination of Variables

*In a Partitioned Matrix (contd.)*

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &> S_{\text{ch}}(-X), \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} - X & Z_{12} \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} X \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} (-X)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} X & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} - X & Z_{12} \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} X & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{12} \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

# Elimination of Variables

In a Partitioned Matrix (contd.)

**Lemma:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{12} & Z_{13} \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} & Z_{23} + X^T \\ Z_{13}^T & Z_{23}^T + X & Z_{33} \end{bmatrix} < 0 \iff \begin{cases} \begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{12} \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} \end{bmatrix} < 0 \\ \begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{13} \\ Z_{13}^T & Z_{33} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \end{cases}$$

with

$$X = Z_{13}^T Z_{11}^{-1} Z_{12} - Z_{23}^T.$$

**Proof:** **Necessity**  $\Rightarrow$  Apply rules for negative definiteness.

**Sufficiency**  $\Leftarrow$  Following are true from Schur complement lemma.

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{11} &< 0 \\ Z_{22} - Z_{12}^T Z_{11}^{-1} Z_{12} &< 0 & Z_{33} - Z_{13}^T Z_{11}^{-1} Z_{13} &< 0 \end{aligned}$$



# Elimination of Variables

*In a Partitioned Matrix (contd.)*

Look at Schur complement of

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{12} & Z_{13} \\ Z_{12}^T & Z_{22} & Z_{23} + X^T \\ Z_{13}^T & Z_{23}^T + X & Z_{33} \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} Z_{22} & Z_{23} + X^T \\ Z_{23}^T + X & Z_{33} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} Z_{12}^T \\ Z_{13}^T \end{bmatrix} Z_{11}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} Z_{12} & Z_{13} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} Z_{22} - Z_{12}^T Z_{11}^{-1} Z_{12} & Z_{23} + X^T - Z_{12}^T Z_{11}^{-1} Z_{13} \\ Z_{23}^T + X - Z_{13}^T Z_{11}^{-1} Z_{12} & Z_{33} - Z_{13}^T Z_{11}^{-1} Z_{13} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$< 0$ .

Also  $Z_{11} < 0$ .

# Elimination of Variables

## *Projection Lemma*

**Definition** Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . Then  $M_a$  is **left** orthogonal complement of  $A$  if it satisfies

$$M_a A = 0, \text{rank}(M_a) = m - \text{rank}(A).$$

**Definition** Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . Then  $N_a$  is **right** orthogonal complement of  $A$  if it satisfies

$$A N_a = 0, \text{rank}(N_a) = n - \text{rank}(A).$$

# Elimination of Variables

*Projection Lemma (contd.)*

**Lemma:** Let  $P, Q$ , and  $H = H^T$  be matrices of appropriate dimensions. Let  $N_p, N_q$  be right orthogonal complements of  $P, Q$  respectively.

Then  $\exists X$  such that

$$H + P^T X^T Q + Q^T X P < 0 \iff N_p^T H N_p < 0 \text{ and } N_q^T H N_q < 0.$$

**Proof:**

**Necessity**  $\Rightarrow$ : Multiply by  $N_p$  or  $N_q$ .

**Sufficiency**  $\Leftarrow$ : Little more involved – Use base kernel of  $P, Q$ , followed by Schur complement lemma.

# Elimination of Variables

## Reciprocal Projection Lemma

**Lemma:** Let  $P$  be any given positive definite matrix. The following statements are equivalent:

1.  $\Psi + S + S^T < 0$ .
2. The LMI problem

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Psi + P - (W + W^T) & S^T + W^T \\ S + W & -P \end{bmatrix} < 0,$$

is feasible with respect to  $W$ .

**Proof:** Apply projection lemma w.r.t general variable  $W$ . Let

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} \Psi + P & S^T \\ S & -P \end{bmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{bmatrix} -I_n & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad Z = \begin{bmatrix} I_n & -I_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Elimination of Variables

*Reciprocal Projection Lemma (contd.)*

Let

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} \Psi + P & S^T \\ S & -P \end{bmatrix}, \quad Y = [-I_n \quad 0], \quad Z = [I_n \quad -I_n].$$

Right orthogonal complements of  $Y, Z$  are

$$N_y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -P^{-1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad N_z = \begin{bmatrix} I_n \\ I_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

Verify that  $YN_y = 0$  and  $ZN_z = 0$ .

We can show

$$N_y^T X N_y = -P^{-1}, \quad N_z^T X N_z = \Psi + S^T + S.$$

Apply projection lemma.

# Elimination of Variables

*Reciprocal Projection Lemma (contd.)*

$$N_y^T X N_y = -P^{-1},$$

$$N_z^T X N_z = \Psi + S^T + S.$$

The expression

$$X + Y^T W^T Z + Z^T W Y = \begin{bmatrix} \Psi + P - (W + W^T) & S^T + W^T \\ S + W & -P \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore, if

$$\begin{matrix} N_y^T X N_y < 0 \\ N_z^T X N_z < 0 \end{matrix} \implies \begin{bmatrix} \Psi + P - (W + W^T) & S^T + W^T \\ S + W & -P \end{bmatrix} < 0.$$

# Trace of Matrices in LMIs

**Lemma** Let  $A(x) \in \mathbb{S}^m$  be a matrix function in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R} > 0$ . The following statements are **equivalent**:

1.  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$\text{tr}A(x) < \gamma,$$

2.  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n, Z \in \mathbb{S}^m$  such that

$$A(x) < Z, \text{tr}Z < \gamma.$$

**Proof:** Homework problem.