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Centrohermitian Solutions of a Factorization Problem Arising in Vibration Analysis. Part II: A Coninvolutory Matrix Approach

Elisa Hubert¹, Yacine Bouzidi², Roudy Dagher³ and Alban Quadrat⁴

Abstract—In [13], we showed that the structure of centrohermitian matrices and Lee’s transformation can be used to transform the search for centrohermitian solutions of a rank factorization problem – at the core of a new demodulation approach arising in gearbox vibration analysis – into the search for real solutions of a polynomial system. Hence, in [13], we parametrized a class of centrohermitian solutions of the rank factorization problem that is interesting in practice. Despite its effectiveness, Lee’s transformation can be seen as a black box hiding information on the resolution of the rank factorization problem for centrohermitian solutions. To get more insight, in this paper, we develop an alternative approach to the centrohermitian rank factorization problem.

I. INTRODUCTION

In [13], we studied the *centrohermitian* solutions of a rank factorization problem defined by *centrohermitian matrices* [14], [5]. Recall that a matrix with complex entries is centrohermitian when it is equal to the matrix obtained by exchanging the rows and the columns of its conjugate. See Definition 1 below. Centrohermitian vectors and matrices usually appear in signal processing. For instance, the vectors $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $C_n := (c_{-n}(s) \dots c_{-1}(s) c_0(s) c_1(s) \dots c_n(s))^T$ formed by the n first Fourier coefficients centered around 0 of a real signal s are centrohermitian since $J_n \overline{C_n} = C_n$, where J_n denotes the $n \times n$ exchange matrix, i.e., the matrix formed by 1 on the second diagonal and 0 elsewhere.

The rank factorization problem studied in [13] is at the core of demodulation problems arising in *gearbox vibration analysis* [8], [9]. Indeed, the static transmission error of *toothed gearing vibration* can be expressed as a finite sum of products of time functions [15], [1], [2], [8]. If we study this error within the frequency domain using Fourier analysis, transforming products into convolutions, under non overlapping hypotheses on the supports of the corresponding signals, we are then led to the rank factorization problem studied in [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13]. The standard *amplitude* and *amplitude and phase demodulation* problems can be reformulated within this framework [8], [9].

In [13], using the centrohermitian structure and the so-called *Lee’s transformation* [14], [5], the search of centrohermitian solutions of the rank factorization problem was transformed into the search of real solutions of an associated

rank factorization problem for real matrices. Then, using results obtained in [11], [12], an explicit characterization of a class of centrohermitian solutions (important in practice) of the rank factorization problem was obtained in [13].

Despite its effectiveness, Lee’s transformation can be seen as a black box which hides information on the resolution of the rank factorization problem. Hence, in this paper, we shall directly study the existence and the characterization of a class of centrohermitian solutions of the rank factorization problem by adapting the method developed in [10], [11], [12], [13]. Doing so, we shall obtain more insight.

II. THE CENTROHERMITIAN RANK FACTORIZATION PROBLEM

In what follows, \mathbb{k} denotes a field (e.g., \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C}), $\mathbb{k}^{n \times m}$ the \mathbb{k} -vector space of the $n \times m$ matrices with entries in \mathbb{k} , and I_n the identity matrix of $\mathbb{k}^{n \times n}$. Moreover, $\overline{M} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$ (resp., $M^* \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$) denotes the *conjugate matrix* (resp., the *adjoint*, i.e., the *conjugate transpose*) of $M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$ and J_n stands for the $n \times n$ exchange matrix, i.e., the matrix formed by 1 on the second diagonal (anti-diagonal) and 0 elsewhere. If $M \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times m}$, then we can consider the \mathbb{k} -linear maps $M. : \mathbb{k}^{m \times 1} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}$ and $.M : \mathbb{k}^{1 \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}^{1 \times m}$ respectively defined by $(M.)(\eta) := M \eta$ for all $\eta \in \mathbb{k}^{m \times 1}$ and $(.M)(\lambda) := \lambda M$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{k}^{1 \times n}$, and denote their kernels (resp., images) respectively by $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(M.)$ and $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(.M)$ (resp., $\text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M.)$ and $\text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(.M)$). If $\{f_j\}_{j=1, \dots, r}$ is a set of vectors, then $\text{span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{f_j\}_{j=1, \dots, r}$ denotes the \mathbb{k} -vector generated by the f_j ’s. Finally, we set:

$$r \geq l, \quad C_r^l := \frac{r!}{l!(r-l)!}.$$

We can now state the main problem studied in this paper.

The rank factorization problem:

Let $D_1, \dots, D_r \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times n} \setminus \{0\}$ and $M \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times m} \setminus \{0\}$. Determine – when they exist – a column vector $u \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}$ and row vectors $v_i \in \mathbb{k}^{1 \times m}$, $i = 1, \dots, r$, satisfying:

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^r D_i u v_i. \quad (1)$$

If (1) has a solution, then $M w = \sum_{i=1}^r D_i u (v_i w)$ for all $w \in \mathbb{k}^{m \times 1}$ and $\text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M.) \subseteq \text{span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{D_1 u, \dots, D_r u\} \subseteq \mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}$, which yields the following rank condition:

$$l := \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(M) \leq \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(D_1 u \dots D_r u) \leq \min\{r, n\}. \quad (2)$$

Hence, (2) is a necessary condition for the solvability of (1).

Let us state again the concept of a *centrohermitian* matrix.

¹Elisa Hubert is with University of Lyon, UJM-St-Etienne, LASPI, 42334 Saint-Etienne, France elisa.hubert@wanadoo.fr

²Yacine Bouzidi bouzidi.yacine@gmail.com

³Roudy Dagher is with Inria Lille - Nord Europe, 59650 Villeneuve d’Ascq, France roudy.dagher@inria.fr

⁴Alban Quadrat is with Inria Paris, Ouragan project, IMJ – PRG, Sorbonne University, 75252 Paris, France alban.quadrat@inria.fr

Definition 1 ([14], [5]): A matrix $M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$ is called *centrohermitian* if $J_n \overline{M} J_m = M$. The set of all the centrohermitian matrices of $\mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$ is denoted by $\text{CH}_{n,m}$.

Example 1: Using $J_1 = 1$, a column vector $u \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times 1}$ and a row vector $v_i \in \mathbb{C}^{1 \times m}$ are centrohermitian if we have:

$$J_n \overline{u} = u, \quad \overline{v_i} J_m = v_i.$$

The centrohermitian rank factorization problem is a rank factorization problem for centrohermitian matrices M and D_1, \dots, D_r and centrohermitian solutions u and v_1, \dots, v_r .

The centrohermitian rank factorization problem:

Let $D_1, \dots, D_r \in \text{CH}_{n,n} \setminus \{0\}$ and $M \in \text{CH}_{n,m} \setminus \{0\}$. Determine – when they exist – $u \in \text{CH}_{n,1}$ and $v_i \in \text{CH}_{1,m}$, $i = 1, \dots, r$, satisfying (1).

In [13], we showed that the centrohermitian rank factorization problem can be reduced to a rank factorization problem over $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{R}$. Let us state again this important result.

Definition 2: A matrix $Q \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$ is called *J-real* if:

$$J_n \overline{Q} = Q.$$

According to Example 1, the columns of a *J-real* matrix are centrohermitian vectors. Let us give explicit examples.

Example 2: For $t \in \mathbb{N}$, the following matrices

$$Q_{2t} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} I_t & i I_t \\ J_t & -i J_t \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{2t \times 2t}, \quad Q_1 = 1,$$

$$Q_{2t+1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} I_t & 0 & i I_t \\ 0 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \\ J_t & 0 & -i J_t \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{(2t+1) \times (2t+1)}$$

are *J-real*. They are also *unitary*, namely, they satisfy:

$$Q_{2t}^* Q_{2t} = Q_{2t} Q_{2t}^* = I_{2t},$$

$$Q_{2t+1}^* Q_{2t+1} = Q_{2t+1} Q_{2t+1}^* = I_{2t+1}.$$

If $U \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ and $V \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ are two non-singular *J-real* matrices, then we can define *Lee's transformation* [14]:

$$\varphi : \text{CH}_{n,m} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$$

$$M \longmapsto V^{-1} M U.$$

In [14], it is shown that φ is a bijection, and thus, that the \mathbb{R} -vector space $\text{CH}_{n,m} = \varphi^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$.

We state again the equivalence between the two problems.

Theorem 1 ([13]): Let $D_i \in \text{CH}_{n,n}$ for $i = 1, \dots, r$, $M \in \text{CH}_{n,m}$, $Q_m \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ and $Q_n \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ be two *J-real* and unitary matrices (see, e.g., Example 2), and:

$$\begin{cases} D_{i\varphi} := Q_n^* D_i Q_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, & i = 1, \dots, r, \\ M_\varphi := Q_n^* M Q_m \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Then, the centrohermitian rank factorization problem (1) admits a solution $(u, v_1, \dots, v_r) \in \text{CH}_{n,1} \times \text{CH}_{1,m}^r$ iff the following rank factorization problem

$$M_\varphi = \sum_{i=1}^r D_{i\varphi} u_\varphi v_{i\varphi}, \quad (4)$$

admits a solution $(u_\varphi, v_{1\varphi}, \dots, v_{r\varphi}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1} \times (\mathbb{R}^{1 \times m})^r$. The bijection between the sets of solutions is then defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CH}_{n,1} \times \text{CH}_{1,m}^r &\longmapsto \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1} \times (\mathbb{R}^{1 \times m})^r \\ (u, v_1, \dots, v_r) &\longmapsto (Q_n^* u, v_1 Q_m, \dots, v_r Q_m), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1} \times (\mathbb{R}^{1 \times m})^r &\longmapsto \text{CH}_{n,1} \times \text{CH}_{1,m}^r \\ (u_\varphi, v_{1\varphi}, \dots, v_{r\varphi}) &\longmapsto (Q_n u_\varphi, v_{1\varphi} Q_m^*, \dots, v_{r\varphi} Q_m^*). \end{aligned}$$

III. A FEW INTRODUCING REMARKS

Based on results of [10], [11], [12], all the centrohermitian solutions of the centrohermitian rank factorization problem which are such that v_1, \dots, v_r are \mathbb{C} -linearly independent were parametrized in [13]. This class is important in practice.

Lee's transformation can be seen as a black box hiding interesting information on the resolution of the centrohermitian rank factorization problem. Hence, we shall adapt the approach developed in [10], [11], [12] to directly handle the centrohermitian rank factorization problem.

If we note

$$A(u) := (D_1 u \dots D_r u) \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times r}, \quad v := \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_r \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{k}^{r \times m},$$

then (1) can be written as follows

$$A(u) v = M, \quad (5)$$

which emphasizes the *bilinear structure* of the system (1) which is polynomial in the entries of u and of the v_i 's.

Note that (5) and (2) explain the choice of the terminology for the problem (1), namely, a *rank factorization problem*.

If (u, v) is a solution of (5), then so is $(\lambda u, \lambda^{-1} v)$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{k} \setminus \{0\}$, which shows that the *solution space* \mathcal{S} of (5) is closed under the following transformation:

$$\forall \lambda \in \mathbb{k} \setminus \{0\}, \quad \lambda \bullet (u, v) := (\lambda u, \lambda^{-1} v). \quad (6)$$

Since $\mathbb{k}^\times := \mathbb{k} \setminus \{0\}$ is an *abelian group* for the multiplication, (6) then defines a *group action* of \mathbb{k}^\times on \mathcal{S} , namely:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall (u, v) \in \mathcal{S}, \quad 1 \bullet (u, v) &= (u, v), \\ \forall \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{k}^\times, \quad \lambda_2 \bullet (\lambda_1 \bullet (u, v)) &= (\lambda_2 \lambda_1) \bullet (u, v). \end{aligned}$$

The action (6) of the multiplicative group \mathbb{k}^\times on the solution space \mathcal{S} of (5) yields the following *equivalence relation*:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall (u', v'), (u, v) \in \mathcal{S} : (u', v') &\sim (u, v) \\ \Leftrightarrow \exists \lambda \in \mathbb{k}^\times : (u', v') = \lambda \bullet (u, v) &= (u \lambda, \lambda^{-1} v). \end{aligned}$$

The *quotient of the action* $\mathcal{S}/\mathbb{k}^\times$, defined by the *orbits*

$$\forall (u, v) \in \mathcal{S} : \mathcal{O}_{(u,v)} := \{(u \lambda, \lambda^{-1} v) \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{k}^\times\},$$

defines a *partition* of the solution space \mathcal{S} of (5). Hence, the study of \mathcal{S} can be restricted to the study of $\mathcal{S}/\mathbb{k}^\times$.

In what follows, we shall suppose that $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{C}$.

Let us first suppose that a centrohermitian solution (u, v) exists for (1), i.e., (u, v) satisfies (5) and:

$$\begin{aligned} u &= J_n \overline{u}, \quad v_i = \overline{v_i} J_m, \quad i = 1, \dots, r, \\ \Leftrightarrow u &= J_n \overline{u}, \quad v = \overline{v} J_m. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Let us suppose that the matrices D_i 's are also centrohermitian. Then, we can first check that we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{A(u)} &= (\overline{D_1} \overline{u} \dots \overline{D_r} \overline{u}) \\ &= (J_n D_1 J_n \overline{u} \dots J_n D_r J_n \overline{u}) \\ &= J_n A(J_n \overline{u}). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Using (7) and (8), $\overline{A(u)}\bar{v} = \overline{M}$ yields $J_n A(u)v J_m = \overline{M}$. Then, we obtain $A(u)v = J_n \overline{M} J_m$, i.e., $J_n \overline{M} J_m = M$. Hence, M is necessarily a centrohermitian matrix.

Let M, D_1, \dots, D_r be centrohermitian matrices. Let us study when a complex solution (u, v) of (5) is a centrohermitian solution, i.e., satisfies (7). Using (5), we get $\overline{A(u)}\bar{v} = \overline{M} = J_n M J_m$, and thus, using (8), we have $J_n \overline{A(u)}\bar{v} J_m = A(J_n \bar{u}) (\bar{v} J_m) = M$. The set \mathcal{S} of complex solutions of (5) is then closed under the transformation:

$$\mathcal{T} : (u, v) \in \mathcal{S} \mapsto (J_n \bar{u}, \bar{v} J_m) \in \mathcal{S}. \quad (9)$$

The transformation \mathcal{T} satisfies $\mathcal{T}^2 = \text{id}$, where id is the identity transformation. Moreover, using (6), we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{k}^\times, \quad \mathcal{T}(\lambda \bullet (u, v)) &= \mathcal{T}(u \lambda, \lambda^{-1} v) \\ &= (J_n \bar{u} \bar{\lambda}, \bar{\lambda}^{-1} \bar{v} J_m) \\ &= \bar{\lambda} \bullet \mathcal{T}(u, v). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we can restrict \mathcal{T} to the quotient $\mathcal{S}/\mathbb{k}^\times$ to obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\mathcal{T}} : \mathcal{S}/\mathbb{k}^\times &\longrightarrow \mathcal{S}/\mathbb{k}^\times \\ \mathcal{O}_{(u, v)} &\longmapsto \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}(u, v)}. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

The centrohermitian solutions of (5), i.e., the solutions satisfying (7), are the *fixed-points* of \mathcal{T} , i.e., those that satisfy:

$$(u, v) \in \mathcal{S} : \mathcal{T}(u, v) = (u, v).$$

Lemma 1: The centrohermitian solutions of (5) are in a 1-1 correspondence with the orbits $\mathcal{O}_{(u, v)}$ of $\mathcal{S}/\mathbb{k}^\times$ that are fixed by the involution $\overline{\mathcal{T}}$ defined by (10).

Proof: If (u, v) is a centrohermitian solution of (5), i.e., if (u, v) is a fixed point of \mathcal{T} , then, using (10), we have $\overline{\mathcal{T}}(\mathcal{O}_{(u, v)}) = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}(u, v)} = \mathcal{O}_{(u, v)}$, which shows that the orbit $\mathcal{O}_{(u, v)}$ is fixed by $\overline{\mathcal{T}}$. Conversely, let us suppose that $\mathcal{O}_{(u, v)}$ is a fixed point of $\overline{\mathcal{T}}$, then $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}(u, v)} = \mathcal{O}_{(u, v)}$. By definition, there exists $z \in \mathbb{k}^\times$ such that $\mathcal{T}(u, v) = (z u, z^{-1} v)$, i.e., $(J_n \bar{u}, \bar{v} J_m) = (z u, z^{-1} v)$. The equation $J_n \bar{u} = z u$ yields $u = J_n \bar{z} \bar{u} = \bar{z} J_n \bar{u} = \bar{z} z u$. Since $u \neq 0$ ($u = 0$ yields $A(u) = 0$, and thus, $M = 0$), we obtain $z \bar{z} = |z|^2 = 1$. Let us first suppose that $z = -1$ and let $u' = i u$ and $v' = -i v$. Then, we have $\mathcal{O}_{(u', v')} = \mathcal{O}_{(u, v)}$,

$$\begin{cases} J_n \bar{u}' = -i J_n \bar{u} = i u = u', \\ \bar{v}' J_m = i \bar{v} J_m = -i v = v', \end{cases}$$

which shows that (u', v') is a centrohermitian solution. Now, let us suppose that $z \neq -1$ and let $\lambda := (1 + z)/2 \in \mathbb{k}^\times$, $u' := \lambda u$ and $v' := \lambda^{-1} v$. Then, we have $\mathcal{O}_{(u', v')} = \mathcal{O}_{(u, v)}$, $\bar{\lambda} z = \lambda$, and thus, $\bar{\lambda}^{-1} z^{-1} = \lambda^{-1}$ and

$$\begin{cases} J_n \bar{u}' = \bar{\lambda} J_n \bar{u} = \bar{\lambda} z u = \lambda u = u', \\ \bar{v}' J_m = \bar{\lambda}^{-1} \bar{v} J_m = \bar{\lambda}^{-1} z^{-1} v = \lambda^{-1} v = v', \end{cases}$$

which shows that (u', v') is a centrohermitian solution. \blacksquare

Remark 1: If (u_J, v) satisfies (5), where u_J is centrohermitian, i.e., $J_n \bar{u}_J = u_J$, then, using (9), we have $A(u_J) (\bar{v} J_m) = M$, which, with the following notation

$$v_J := \frac{1}{2} (v + \bar{v} J_m),$$

yields $A(u_J) v_J = M$ and $\bar{v}_J J_m = v_J$, and shows that (u_J, v_J) is a centrohermitian solution of (5). Hence, the problem of the existence of fixed-points of \mathcal{T} is reduced to the problem of the existence of solutions (u, v) of (5) satisfying $J_n \bar{u} = u$, i.e., of solutions with u centrohermitian.

IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF A CLASS OF SOLUTIONS

In Section IV-A below, we shall review the parametrization of all the solutions (u, v) of (5) which are such that v are full row rank matrices which is obtained in [10], [11], [12]. These solutions are important in practice [8]. In this paper, we shall focus on this important class of solutions. See [3] for the general solutions. In Section IV-B, we shall extend this parametrization for the centrohermitian rank factorization problem without using Lee's transformations (see Section II).

A. Full row rank solutions v

(5) is equivalent to the existence of $u \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}$ satisfying:

$$\text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M) \subseteq \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u)) \subseteq \mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}. \quad (11)$$

Thus, we find again (2), i.e.:

$$l := \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(M) \leq \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u)) \leq \min\{r, n\}. \quad (12)$$

Hence, $u \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}$ is such that not all the $l \times l$ -minors of the matrix $A(u)$ vanish simultaneously.

A class of solutions of (5), important in practice, is defined by the solutions (u, v) with full row rank matrices v , i.e., such that the v_i 's are \mathbb{k} -linearly independent. Note that v then admits a right inverse $t \in \mathbb{k}^{m \times r}$, i.e., $vt = I_r$. Hence, $A(u)v = M$ yields $A(u) = M t$, which shows the inclusion $\text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u)) \subseteq \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M)$ and with (11) yields:

$$\text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u)) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(D_1 u \dots D_r u) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M). \quad (13)$$

Remark 2: Alternatively, this result is a consequence of the fact that $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(M) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u)v) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u))$ since $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(v) = r$, i.e., of the fact that v has full row rank. Equivalently, it is also a straightforward consequence of (12) and of *Sylvester's rank inequality* asserting that:

$$\text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u)) + \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(v) \leq l + r.$$

Indeed, $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(v) = r$ and (12) yield $l \leq \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u)) \leq l$.

In what follows, we shall recall how to parametrize all the u 's satisfying the equality (13). Note (13) is equivalent to:

- 1) $D_i u \in \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M) = \ker_{\mathbb{k}}(L)$ for $i = 1, \dots, r$, where $L \in \mathbb{k}^{p \times n}$ is a full row rank matrix whose rows define a basis of $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(M)$ and $p := n - l$, i.e., $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(M) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(L)$ (with the convention that $L = 0$ if $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(M) = 0$), i.e., u satisfies the linear system:

$$N u = 0, \quad N := \begin{pmatrix} L D_1 \\ \vdots \\ L D_r \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{k}^{p r \times n}. \quad (14)$$

- 2) $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(u)) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(M) = l$.

These above two conditions can be solved as follows. If (14) is reduced to $\{0\}$, then no solution exists since $A(0) = 0$ and $M \neq 0$. Hence, let us suppose that the dimension d of the

\mathbb{k} -vector space (14), i.e., of $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(N.)$, is larger than or equal to 1 and let $Z \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times d}$ be a full column rank matrix whose columns define a basis of (14). Thus, $u = Z \psi$ satisfies (14) for all $\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$, i.e., satisfies the first above condition. Substituting this expression into the second condition, we are led to the characterization of the following set:

$$\mathcal{P} := \{\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1} \mid \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(A(Z \psi)) = l\}.$$

To do that, let $X \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times l}$ be a full column rank matrix whose columns define a basis of $\text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M.)$. Therefore, we have $\text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M.) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(X.)$ and there exists a unique matrix $Y \in \mathbb{k}^{l \times m}$ such that $M = XY$. Now, using the fact that $D_i Z \psi \in \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(M.) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(X.)$ for all $\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$, there exists a unique $W_i \in \mathbb{k}^{l \times d}$ such that $D_i Z \psi = X W_i \psi$ for $i = 1, \dots, r$, which yields $A(Z \psi) = X (W_1 \psi \dots W_r \psi)$ for all $\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$. Let $B(\psi) := (W_1 \psi \dots W_r \psi) \in \mathbb{k}^{l \times r}$ for $\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$. Since X has full column rank, we then get:

$$\mathcal{P} = \{\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1} \mid \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(B(\psi)) = l\}. \quad (15)$$

Let $\{\mathfrak{m}_i\}_{i=1, \dots, C_r^l}$ denote the set of all the $l \times l$ -minors of the matrix $B(\psi) \in \mathbb{k}^{l \times r}$. Note that \mathfrak{m}_i is either 0 or a homogeneous polynomial of degree l . Let $\langle \mathfrak{m}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_{C_r^l} \rangle$ be the ideal of the polynomial ring $\mathbb{k}[\psi_1, \dots, \psi_d]$ and let us consider the following affine algebraic set [4]:

$$V_{\mathbb{k}}(\langle \mathfrak{m}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_{C_r^l} \rangle) := \{\psi = (\psi_1 \dots \psi_r)^T \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1} \mid \mathfrak{m}_i(\psi) = 0, i = 1, \dots, C_r^l\}.$$

Then, (15) is clearly equivalent to:

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1} \setminus V_{\mathbb{k}}(\langle \mathfrak{m}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_{C_r^l} \rangle).$$

For a more efficient method to compute \mathcal{P} , see [12].

For every $\psi \in \mathcal{P}$, $B(\psi)$ has full row rank, and thus, there exists a right inverse $E_{\psi} \in \mathbb{k}^{r \times l}$, i.e., $B(\psi) E_{\psi} = I_r$. Using $X B(\psi) v = A(Z \psi) v = M = XY$ and the fact that X has full column rank, we obtain $B(\psi) v = Y$, which yields $v = E_{\psi} Y + C_{\psi} Y'$, where $C_{\psi} \in \mathbb{k}^{r \times (r-l)}$ is a full column rank matrix whose columns define a basis of the \mathbb{k} -vector space $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(B(\psi).)$, i.e., $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(B(\psi).) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(C_{\psi})$, and Y' is any matrix of $\mathbb{k}^{(r-l) \times m}$. Finally, noticing that $(E_{\psi} \ C_{\psi}) \in \mathbb{k}^{r \times r}$ is not singular, v has full row rank iff so has $(Y^T \ Y'^T)$.

Theorem 2 ([11]): With the above notations, we have:

$$\forall \psi \in \mathcal{P}, \forall Y' \in \mathbb{k}^{(r-l) \times m}, \begin{pmatrix} u = Z \psi \\ v = E_{\psi} Y + C_{\psi} Y' \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}. \quad (16)$$

Moreover, $v = E_{\psi} Y + C_{\psi} Y'$ has full row rank iff so has

$$(Y^T \ Y'^T).$$

See [3], [12] for the study of the (regularity of the) maps:

$$\psi \in \mathcal{P} \mapsto E_{\psi}, \quad \psi \in \mathcal{P} \mapsto C_{\psi}.$$

Note that the multiplicative group \mathbb{k}^{\times} acts on \mathcal{P} as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{k}^{\times} \times \mathcal{P} &\longrightarrow \mathcal{P} \\ (\lambda, \psi) &\longmapsto \lambda \psi. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the study of \mathcal{P} can be reduced to the study of the quotient of the action $\mathcal{P}/\mathbb{k}^{\times}$ and of the orbits \mathcal{O}_{ψ} for $\psi \in \mathcal{P}$.

Moreover, we note that $B(\lambda \psi) = \lambda B(\psi)$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{k}^{\times}$. Hence, we get that $C_{\lambda \psi} = C_{\psi}$. If we denote by $E_{\lambda \psi}$ a right inverse of $B(\lambda \psi)$ for $\psi \in \mathcal{P}$, i.e., $B(\lambda \psi) E_{\lambda \psi} = I_r$, then we get $B(\psi) (\lambda E_{\lambda \psi}) = I_r$, and thus, $B(\psi) (E_{\psi} - \lambda E_{\lambda \psi}) = 0$, which shows that each column of $E_{\psi} - \lambda E_{\lambda \psi}$ belongs to $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(B(\psi).) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(C_{\psi}.)$, and thus, there exists a unique matrix $Y''_{\psi} \in \mathbb{k}^{(r-l) \times l}$ such that $E_{\psi} - \lambda E_{\lambda \psi} = C_{\psi} Y''_{\psi}$. Hence, we have:

$$\lambda^{-1} E_{\psi} = E_{\lambda \psi} - \lambda^{-1} C_{\psi} Y''_{\psi} = E_{\lambda \psi} - \lambda^{-1} C_{\lambda \psi} Y''_{\psi}.$$

Finally, if $(u, v) \in \mathcal{S}$ is of the form of (16), then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{k}^{\times}, \lambda \bullet (u, v) &= (\lambda u, \lambda^{-1} v) \\ &= (Z \lambda \psi, E_{\lambda \psi} Y + C_{\lambda \psi} \lambda^{-1} (Y' - Y''_{\psi} Y)) \in \mathcal{S}. \end{aligned}$$

For examples, see [3], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13].

B. An approach based on coninvolutory matrices

We consider the extension of the approach for the rank factorization problem of Section IV-A to the centrohermitian rank factorization problem, i.e., to centrohermitian matrices M, D_1, \dots, D_r and centrohermitian solutions u, v_1, \dots, v_r .

Let $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{C}$, $M \in \text{CH}_{n,m}$ and $D_i \in \text{CH}_{n,n}$, $i = 1, \dots, r$.

By definition of the full row rank matrix $L \in \mathbb{k}^{p \times n}$ introduced in Section IV-A, it satisfies the following properties:

- 1) $LM = 0$.
- 2) If $L' \in \mathbb{k}^{p' \times n}$ is a matrix satisfying $L' M = 0$, then there exists $L'' \in \mathbb{k}^{p' \times p}$ such that $L' = L'' L$.

The first condition, i.e., $LM = 0$ yields $\bar{L} \bar{M} = 0$, i.e., $\bar{L} J_n M J_n = 0$ since $\bar{M} = J_n M J_n$, and thus, we get $(\bar{L} J_n) M = 0$. Using the second point, there exists a matrix $L'' \in \mathbb{k}^{p \times p}$ such that $\bar{L} J_n = L'' L$, i.e.:

$$\bar{L} = L'' L J_n. \quad (17)$$

Using (17), $J_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $J_n^2 = I_n$, we obtain

$$L = \bar{L}'' \bar{L} J_n = \bar{L}'' L'' L J_n^2 = \bar{L}'' L'' L,$$

and using the fact that L has full row rank, we finally obtain:

$$\bar{L}'' L'' = I_p, \quad L'' \bar{L}'' = I_p. \quad (18)$$

A matrix $L'' \in \mathbb{k}^{p \times p}$ satisfying (18) is called *coninvolutory* [6], [7]. Clearly, a coninvolutory matrix is non-singular.

Remark 3: If $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, then $e^{i\Theta}$ is clearly coninvolutory. Theorem 14 of [7] proves the converse result, i.e., every coninvolutory matrix E is of the form of $E = e^{i\Theta}$ for a certain $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. In particular, Θ can be chosen to be a polynomial in E . Finally, there exists a unique matrix $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ satisfying $E = e^{i\Theta}$ with all its eigenvalues in the half-open strip $\{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid -\pi/2 < \Im(z) < \pi/2\}$.

Let us now consider a solution $u \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}$ of (14), i.e., satisfying $L D_i u = 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, r$. Then, we have $\bar{L} \bar{D}_i \bar{u} = 0$. Using $\bar{L} = L'' L J_n$, $\bar{D}_i = J_n D_i J_n$, $J_n^2 = I_n$ and L'' is a non-singular matrix, we then obtain

$$L'' L J_n^2 D_i J_n \bar{u} = 0 \Leftrightarrow L D_i (J_n \bar{u}) = 0,$$

which shows that the solution space $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(N.)$ of (14) is closed under the following transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J} : \ker_{\mathbb{k}}(N.) &\longrightarrow \ker_{\mathbb{k}}(N.), \\ u &\longmapsto J_n \bar{u}. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Using the \mathbb{k} -vector space structure of $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(N.)$ coming from the linear system (14), we then have:

$$u_J := \frac{1}{2}(u + \mathcal{J}(u)) = \frac{1}{2}(u + J_n \bar{u}) \in \ker_{\mathbb{k}}(N.).$$

Moreover, u_J satisfies $\mathcal{J}(u_J) = u_J$, i.e., $u \in \text{CH}_{n,1}$, which shows (14) always admits centrohermitian solutions.

If $(u, v) \in \mathcal{S}$, then we have just proved that $u_J \in \text{CH}_{n,1}$ satisfies (14). But as explained in Section IV-A, (14) is only a necessary condition on u for the existence of a solution (u, v) of (5). Hence, we now need to investigate when there exists $v_J \in \mathbb{k}^{r \times m}$ satisfying $\bar{v}_J J_m = v_J$ (i.e., the rows of v_J are centrohermitian vectors) such that $(u_J, v_J) \in \mathcal{S}$.

Recall that $u = Z\psi$ is a solution of (14) for all $\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$. Hence, using (19), we get that $J_n \bar{u} = J_n \bar{Z}\bar{\psi}$ is also a solution of (14) for all $\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$. Hence, there exists a unique $\phi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$ such that $J_n \bar{u} = J_n \bar{Z}\bar{\psi} = Z\phi$. Considering $R := (\phi_1 \dots \phi_n) \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times d}$, where ϕ_i is such that $J_n \bar{Z}\bar{\psi}_i = Z\phi_i$ and ψ_i is the i^{th} vector of the standard basis of $\mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}$, i.e., ψ_i is the vector formed by 1 at the i^{th} position and 0 elsewhere, then we have $J_n \bar{Z} = ZR$, i.e.:

$$\bar{Z} = J_n ZR. \quad (20)$$

Then, we get $Z = J_n \bar{Z}\bar{R}$, which implies that $Z = ZR\bar{R}$, and thus, $R\bar{R} = I_d$ since Z has full column rank, and also

$$\bar{R}R = R\bar{R} = I_d, \quad (21)$$

i.e., R is coninvolutory. Using $u = Z\psi$ and (20), we have:

$$J_n \bar{u} = J_n \bar{Z}\bar{\psi} = Z(R\bar{\psi}) \in \ker_{\mathbb{k}}(N.). \quad (22)$$

Now, using (20) and the fact that Z has full row rank, $u = Z\psi$ is centrohermitian iff $J_n \bar{u} = u$, i.e., iff:

$$J_n \bar{Z}\bar{\psi} = Z\psi \Leftrightarrow Z(R\bar{\psi} - \psi) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \psi = R\bar{\psi}. \quad (23)$$

A vector $\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$ satisfying (23) will be called *R-conjugate*. Let \mathcal{R} be the \mathbb{R} -linear vector space formed by all the *R-conjugate* vectors of $\mathbb{k}^{d \times 1}$, i.e.:

$$\mathcal{R} := \{\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times 1} \mid R\bar{\psi} = \psi\}. \quad (24)$$

Hence, $u \in \mathbb{k}^{n \times 1}$ belongs to $\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(N.)$ and is centrohermitian iff there exists $\psi \in \mathcal{R}$ such that $u = Z\psi$.

Let $\psi = \psi_r + i\psi_i$, where $\psi_r, \psi_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times 1}$, $R = R_r + iR_i$, where $R_r, R_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$. Using (21), R_r and R_i satisfy:

$$R_r^2 + R_i^2 = I_d, \quad R_r R_i = R_i R_r.$$

Let us note:

$$H := \begin{pmatrix} R_r & R_i \\ R_i & -R_r \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2d \times 2d}. \quad (25)$$

The matrix H is *involutory* [6], namely:

$$H^2 = \begin{pmatrix} R_r & R_i \\ R_i & -R_r \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R_r & R_i \\ R_i & -R_r \end{pmatrix} = I_{2d}.$$

Since $H^2 = I_{2d}$, the characteristic polynomial of H is either $\lambda^2 - 1$ or one of its two factors, i.e., $\lambda - 1$, $\lambda + 1$. The last two correspond to $H = I_{2d}$ and $H = -I_{2d}$, which are not of the form of (25). Hence, the characteristic polynomial of H is $\lambda^2 - 1$, which shows that the eigenvalues of H are 1 and -1 associated with the respective eigenvectors of the form:

$$\eta_+ := \eta + H\eta, \quad \eta_- := \eta - H\eta, \quad \eta \in \mathbb{k}^{2d \times 1}.$$

Now, $\psi = R\bar{\psi}$ is equivalent to the following linear system

$$\begin{pmatrix} R_r & R_i \\ R_i & -R_r \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_r \\ \psi_i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_r \\ \psi_i \end{pmatrix},$$

which shows that $(\psi_r^T \ \psi_i^T)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2d \times 1}$ is an eigenvector of H associated with its eigenvalue 1. Hence, we have $\mathcal{R} \neq \emptyset$.

Computing a basis of the eigenspace $\ker_{\mathbb{R}}((H - I_{2d}).)$ of H , there exists a full column rank matrix $G \in \mathbb{R}^{2d \times e}$ such that $\ker_{\mathbb{R}}((H - I_{2d}).) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{R}}(G.)$, where e is the multiplicity of the eigenvalue 1 of H , i.e., $e = \dim_{\mathbb{R}}(\ker_{\mathbb{R}}((H - I_{2d}).))$. Hence, using $\psi = \psi_r + i\psi_i$, we have:

$$\psi = R\bar{\psi} \Leftrightarrow \exists \gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{e \times 1}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \psi_r \\ \psi_i \end{pmatrix} = G\gamma.$$

Now, let $G = (G_1^T \ G_2^T)^T$, where $G_k \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times e}$ for $k = 1, 2$, and let set $0 \neq Z' := G_1 + iG_2 \in \mathbb{k}^{d \times e}$. We then have:

$$\mathcal{R} = Z' \mathbb{R}^{e \times 1} = \{Z'\gamma \mid \gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{e \times 1}\}. \quad (26)$$

Note that, by construction, we have $R\bar{Z}' = Z$. This identity can easily be checked again as follows:

$$HG = G \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} R_r G_1 + R_i G_2 = G_1, \\ R_i G_1 - R_r G_2 = G_2, \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow R\bar{Z}' = Z'.$$

Using Remark 1 and Theorem 2, we obtain that a solution of the centrohermitian rank factorization problem exists iff there exists $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{e \times 1}$ such that the following matrix

$$K(\gamma) := B(Z'\gamma) = (W_1 Z'\gamma \dots W_r Z'\gamma) \in \mathbb{k}^{l \times r}$$

is such that $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(K(\gamma)) = l$, i.e., such that $K(\gamma)$ has full row rank, i.e., admits a right inverse.

We can now state the main result of the paper.

Theorem 3: With the above notations, the centrohermitian rank factorization problem admits a solution iff:

$$\mathcal{C} := \{\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{e \times 1} \mid \text{rank}_{\mathbb{R}}(K(\gamma)) = l\} \neq \emptyset.$$

If so, then centrohermitian solutions are defined by

$$\forall \gamma \in \mathcal{C}, \quad \begin{cases} u_J = (Z Z')\gamma, \\ v_J = \frac{v + \bar{v} J_m}{2}, \end{cases}$$

with the following notations:

- $v = E_\gamma Y + C_\gamma Y'$ for all $Y' \in \mathbb{k}^{(r-l) \times 1}$,
- $E_\gamma \in \mathbb{k}^{r \times l}$ is a right inverse of the matrix $K(\gamma) \in \mathbb{k}^{l \times r}$,

- $C_\gamma \in \mathbb{k}^{r \times (r-l)}$ is a full column rank matrix satisfying:

$$\ker_{\mathbb{k}}(K(\gamma)) = \text{im}_{\mathbb{k}}(C_\gamma).$$

For computational issues, we refer to [3], [12].

Example 3: We consider the centrohermitian matrices:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 9 + 18i & -225 & 9 + 198i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 9 - 198i & -225 & 9 - 18i \end{pmatrix},$$

$$D_1 = I_3, \quad D_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then, we have $m = n = 3$, $r = l = 2$ and:

$$p = 1, \quad L = (0 \ 1 \ 0), \quad L'' = 1,$$

$$d = 2, \quad Z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have $\mathcal{R} = \{\psi \in \mathbb{k}^{2 \times 1} \mid R\bar{\psi} = \psi\}$. Hence, if we note

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 4},$$

then the eigenvalues of H are -1 and 1 , and the eigenspace associated with 1 is defined by $G = (G_1^T \ G_2^T)^T$, where:

$$G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad G_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence, we obtain:

$$Z' = G_1 + iG_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -i & 1 \\ i & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{R} = Z' \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 1}.$$

Since $l = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{k}}(M) = 2$, we can now consider

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 9 + 18i & -225 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 9 - 198i & -225 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{4}{5}i \end{pmatrix},$$

which yields:

$$W_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{i}{216} & -\frac{i}{216} \\ -\frac{1}{2700} + \frac{i}{5400} & -\frac{11}{2700} - \frac{i}{5400} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$W_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{216} & -\frac{1}{216} \\ -\frac{1}{5400} - \frac{i}{2700} & -\frac{1}{5400} + \frac{11i}{2700} \end{pmatrix}.$$

For $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 1}$, up to constant, the determinant of the matrix

$$K(\gamma) = (W_1 Z' \gamma \quad W_2 Z' \gamma) \in \mathbb{k}^{2 \times 2}$$

is $\gamma_1^2 + \gamma_2^2$. Hence, if $\gamma_1 \neq 0$ or $\gamma_2 \neq 0$, then the centrohermitian rank factorization problem admits solutions. For $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 1} \setminus \{0\}$, solutions (u_J, v_J) are then defined by:

$$u_J = Z Z' \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} i\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 \\ 0 \\ -i\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$v = K(\gamma)^{-1} Y = 9(\gamma_1^2 + \gamma_2^2)^{-1}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 12\gamma_1 + (1 - 10i)\gamma_2 & -25\gamma_2 & 12\gamma_1 + (1 - 10i)\gamma_2 + 20i\gamma_2 \\ -12\gamma_2 + (1 - 10i)\gamma_1 & -25\gamma_1 & -12\gamma_2 + (1 - 10i)\gamma_2 + 20i\gamma_1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$v_J = \frac{v + \bar{v} J_3}{2} = 9(\gamma_1^2 + \gamma_2^2)^{-1}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 12\gamma_1 + (1 - 10i)\gamma_2 & -25\gamma_2 & 12\gamma_1 + (1 + 10i)\gamma_2 \\ -12\gamma_2 + (1 - 10i)\gamma_1 & -25\gamma_1 & -12\gamma_2 + (1 + 10i)\gamma_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Finally, if $d = 1$ and $\mathcal{P} \neq \emptyset$, then we can easily prove that the centrohermitian rank factorization problem is solvable.

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