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## On symmetrizability of hyperbolic matrix spaces.

### Abstract

We introduce a new general criterion of symmetrizability for linear matrix spaces over fields  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$ , and give some applications to first order quasilinear systems.

Let  $L \subset \text{Mat}(n, k)$  be a linear subspace of the space of  $n \times n$ -matrices over a field  $k$ , where  $k = \mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**Definition 1.** We shall call the space  $L$  *hyperbolic* if it satisfies the condition

$$A^2 \in L \quad \forall A \in L, \quad (1)$$

and any matrix in  $L$  has simple real spectrum ( i.e. eigenvalues of any matrix  $A \in L$  are real and there is a basis consisting of corresponding eigenvectors ).

From (1) it follows that  $AB + BA = (A + B)^2 - A^2 - B^2 \in L \quad \forall A, B \in L$  (this means that  $L$  is a special Jordan algebra). Thus, we can define the linear operators  $S_A$  by the rule  $S_A B = (AB + BA)$ .

The hyperbolicity condition admits the following reformulation.

**Proposition 1.** *Suppose a space  $L$  satisfies (1) and contains the unit matrix  $E$ . Then it is hyperbolic if and only if the linear operators  $S_A$  in  $L$  have simple real spectra for all  $A \in L$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $L$  be a hyperbolic space. Then the spectrum  $\sigma(A)$  of every matrix  $A \in L$  is simple and real. We define the symmetric bilinear form  $(A, B) = \text{Tr } AB$ . Since  $(A, A) = \sum_{\lambda \in \sigma(A)} \lambda^2 > 0$  for  $A \neq 0$  then the form

$(\cdot, \cdot)$  is positive definite and determines the scalar multiplication on  $L$ . As is directly verified the operators  $S_A$  are symmetric with respect to this scalar multiplication. Therefore they have simple real spectra.

Conversely, assume that the operators  $S_A$  have simple real spectra. From (1) and the condition  $E \in L$  it follows that  $L$  contains all powers  $A^n$ ,  $n \geq 0$  for  $A \in L$  and therefore functions  $f(A) \in L$  are well-defined for every real function  $f(z) \in C^{n-1}$ . Let  $A \in L$ . Clearly, simplicity of spectrum of a matrix (or, an operator)  $A$  is equivalent to the existence of a polynomial  $p(z) = \prod_{k=1}^m (z - \lambda_k)$ , which has distinct real roots  $\lambda_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m$ , such

that  $p(A) = 0$  ( we use that there are no nontrivial blocks in the Jordan form of  $A$  ). By our assumption the operator  $S_A$  has simple real spectrum. Therefore, there exist a polynomial  $p(z)$  having distinct real roots such that  $p(S_A) = 0$ . Since  $p(2A) = p(S_A)E = 0$ , and the polynomial  $p(2z)$  has distinct real roots we conclude that the spectrum of  $A$  is real and simple. The proof is complete.

Remark that the assumption  $E \in L$  is necessary for the inverse statement of Proposition 1. Indeed, let  $J$  be any nontrivial matrix such that  $J^2 = 0$ , and  $L = \{ \lambda J \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \}$ . Obviously,  $L$  satisfies (1) but  $E \notin L$ . One can directly verify that operators  $S_A = 0 \forall A \in L$  but clearly  $L$  is not a hyperbolic space.

As follows from Proposition 1, the hyperbolicity condition means that the system of conservation laws, generated by the Burgers-like equation  $U_t + (U^2)_x = 0$ ,  $U = U(t, x) \in L$ , is hyperbolic. In papers [1, 2] the more general systems

$$U_t + f(U)_x = 0 \tag{2}$$

were studied, in which the unknown function  $U = U(t, x)$  takes its values in the space  $S_n$  of symmetric or in the space  $H_n$  of Hermitian matrices of order  $n$ , and  $U \rightarrow f(U)$  is the functional calculus operator. As was shown in these papers, the system (2) is hyperbolic. Clearly, systems like (2) can be considered also in the general case when  $U$  takes its values in an arbitrary matrix linear space  $L$ , which is invariant under functional calculus operators:  $f(U) \in L \forall U \in L$ ,  $f(u) \in C^n(\mathbb{R})$ . In particular  $L$  must satisfy (1). As follows from our main Theorem 1 below, for nonlinear  $f$  system (2) is hyperbolic only in the case studied in [1, 2] when  $L$  consists of symmetric or Hermitian matrices (after appropriate choice of a basis).

Before formulation of our main result we describe some useful constructions conserving the property of hyperbolicity.

Let  $L$  be a matrix space. Denote by  $L^*$  a matrix space consisting of conjugate matrices  $A^*$ ,  $A \in L$  (with respect to some scalar multiplication on  $k^n$ ). Clearly, the space  $L^*$  is hyperbolic together with  $L$ . Now, suppose that  $H \subset k^n$  is a linear subspace, which is invariant under the action of  $L$  that is  $A(H) \subset H \forall A \in L$ . Then we can define matrix spaces  $L_H$  and  $L_{/H}$  consisting of matrices corresponding to the restricted operators  $A|_H : H \rightarrow H$ ,  $A \in L$  and to the factor-operators  $A/H : k^n/H \rightarrow k^n/H$ ,  $A \in L$  respectively. Clearly, the orthogonal complement  $H^\perp$  is an invariant space for  $L^*$  and  $(L_{/H})^* = L^*|_{H^\perp}$ . We have the following simple

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $L$  be a hyperbolic matrix space and  $H \subset k^n$  be an invariant subspace under the action of  $L$ . Then the matrix spaces  $L|_H$  and  $L_{/H}$  are hyperbolic as well.*

**Proof.** By the duality  $L_{/H} = (L^*|_{H^\perp})^*$  and it is sufficient to prove the Lemma for the case of matrix space  $L_H$ . Clearly,  $L_H$  satisfies (1). As was shown in the proof of Proposition 1, for any matrix  $A \in L$  there exist a polynomial  $p(z)$  with distinct real roots such that  $p(A) = 0$ . Then also  $p(A|_H) = p(A)|_H = 0$ . Therefore, the spectrum of  $A|_H$  is real and simple. The proof is complete.

Let us formulate our main result.

**Theorem 1.** *A space  $L$ , satisfying (1), is hyperbolic if and only if all matrices in  $L$  are symmetric (Hermitian) with respect to some scalar multiplication in  $k^n$ .*

We shall assume below that  $L$  is a space of matrices over the field  $k = \mathbb{C}$ . The case of real field  $k = \mathbb{R}$  is reduced to the case  $k = \mathbb{C}$  by the complexification procedure. Indeed, if a real matrix family  $L$  consists of Hermitian matrices with respect to a scalar multiplication  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  then all matrices in  $L$  are symmetric with respect to the real scalar multiplication  $\text{Re}(\cdot, \cdot)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . We also observe that the condition of hyperbolicity for  $L$  remains valid after the complexification.

To prove Theorem 1 we need some preliminary results and constructions.

**Lemma 2.** *For all  $A, B, C \in L$  the following identity*

$$[S_A, S_B]C = [[A, B], C]$$

*holds. Here  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  is a commutator of operators (matrices).*

**Proof.** The claim of the Lemma directly follows from the equality

$$\begin{aligned} [S_A, S_B]C &= S_A S_B C - S_B S_A C = \\ &= ABC + ACB + BCA + CBA - BAC - BCA - ACB - CAB = \\ &= (AB - BA)C - C(AB - BA) = [[A, B], C]. \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 1.** *1)  $[[A, B], C] \in L \forall A, B, C \in L$ ; 2) Let  $[L, L]$  be a linear hull of the set of commutators  $[A, B]$ ,  $A, B \in L$ . Then  $[L, L]$  is a Lie algebra (with multiplication  $[\cdot, \cdot]$ ).*

**Proof.** The first statement directly follows from Lemma 2. To prove the second statement we have to verify that  $[[A_1, B_1], [A_2, B_2]] \in [L, L]$

$\forall A_1, B_1, A_2, B_2 \in L$ . But this property follows from the equality

$$[[A_1, B_1], [A_2, B_2]] = [[[A_1, B_1], A_2], B_2] - [[[A_1, B_1], B_2], A_2] = [C_1, B_2] - [C_2, A_2],$$

and the fact that  $C_1 = [[A_1, B_1], A_2], C_2 = [[A_1, B_1], B_2] \in L$  due to the statement 1). The proof is complete.

We introduce a linear subspace  $\mathcal{A} = [L, L] \oplus L$  and define a multiplication setting for  $x = X \oplus A, y = Y \oplus B$

$$xy = ([X, Y] - [A, B]) \oplus ([X, B] - [Y, A]). \quad (3)$$

Observe firstly that by Corollary 1,  $[X, Y], [A, B] \in [L, L], [X, B], [Y, A] \in L \forall X, Y \in [L, L], A, B \in L$  and the multiplication is well defined. We introduce the following subspaces

$$Z_1 = \{ X \in [L, L] \mid [X, B] = 0 \forall B \in L \}, Z_2 = \{ A \in L \mid [A, B] = 0 \forall B \in L \}$$

of the spaces  $[L, L]$  and  $L$  respectively.

**Lemma 3.** 1)  $\mathcal{A}$  is a Lie algebra, its centre  $Z(\mathcal{A}) = Z_1 \oplus Z_2$ ; 2) maps

$$f(X \oplus A)B = [X, B] + iS_A B, \quad h(X \oplus A)v = Xv + iAv$$

are linear representations of  $\mathcal{A}$  in the spaces  $L \otimes \mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathbb{C}^n$  respectively. Here  $i^2 = -1$ .

**Proof.** 1) The statement that  $\mathcal{A}$  is a Lie algebra is directly verified using the known properties of commutators. We omit the corresponding tedious calculations. Let us describe the centre  $Z(\mathcal{A})$ . Suppose  $x = X \oplus A \in Z(\mathcal{A})$ . Then  $xy = 0 \forall y \in \mathcal{A}$ . Taking  $y = 0 \oplus B$  we obtain that  $[X, B] = [A, B] = 0 \forall B \in L$ . Therefore  $x \in Z_1 \oplus Z_2$ . Conversely, if  $x = X \oplus A \in Z_1 \oplus Z_2$  then  $X, A$  commute with all matrices in  $L$  and therefore they commute with matrices in  $[L, L]$ :  $[X, Y] = [A, Y] = 0 \forall Y \in [L, L]$  (this easily follows from the Jacobi identity). By (3) we have that  $xy = 0 \forall y \in \mathcal{A}$ , i.e.  $x \in Z(\mathcal{A})$ .

2) For  $X \in [L, L]$  we define the operator  $C_X$  acting in  $L \otimes \mathbb{C}$  as follows:  $C_X B = [X, B]$ . As is directly verified,  $[C_X, C_Y] = C_{[X, Y]}, [C_X, S_A] = S_{[X, A]}$  for  $X, Y \in [L, L], A \in L$ . Let  $x = X \oplus A, y = Y \oplus B \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then, by the above relation and Lemma 2

$$\begin{aligned} [f(x), f(y)] &= [C_X + iS_A, C_Y + iS_B] = [C_X, C_Y] - [S_A, S_B] + \\ & i([C_X, S_B] - [C_Y, S_A]) = C_{[X, Y] - [A, B]} + iS_{[X, B] - [Y, A]} = f(xy). \end{aligned}$$

Thus the map  $F$  is a homomorphism of the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  into the algebra  $gl(L \otimes \mathbb{C})$  of linear operators in  $L \otimes \mathbb{C}$ , i.e. it determines a linear representation of  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $L \otimes \mathbb{C}$ . Further,

$$[h(x), h(y)] = [X + iA, Y + iB] = [X, Y] - [A, B] + i([X, B] - [Y, A]) = h(xy)$$

that is  $h$  determines a linear representation of the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . The proof is complete.

Firstly, we prove the assertion of Theorem 1 in the case  $Z_1 = \{0\}$ .

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $L$  be a hyperbolic matrix space such that  $Z_1 = \{0\}$ . Then all matrices in  $L$  are Hermitian with respect to some scalar multiplication in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .*

**Proof.** If  $L$  is a hyperbolic space then its extension  $\{A + \lambda E \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\}$  obtained by adjunction of the unit matrix  $E$  is also a hyperbolic space with the same algebra  $[L, L]$ . Therefore, without loss of generality we may suppose that  $E \in L$ . As is easy to see, operators  $f(x)$  are skew-Hermitian in  $L \otimes \mathbb{C}$  with respect to the scalar product  $(A, B) = \text{Tr} A\bar{B}$ , where  $B \rightarrow \bar{B}$  denotes the complex conjugation on  $L \otimes \mathbb{C}$ . Therefore, the symmetric bilinear form  $(x, y) = -\text{Tr} f(x)f(y)$  is nonnegative definite. Moreover, if  $x = X \oplus A \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $(x, x) = 0$  then  $f(x) = 0$ . In particular  $A = -\frac{i}{2}f(x)E = 0$ . Then  $f(x)B = [X, B] = 0 \forall B \in L$ , i.e.  $X \in Z_1$ . Since  $Z_1 = \{0\}$  then  $X = 0$ . We conclude that  $x = 0$  and the form  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is non-degenerate. Thus, this form determines a scalar product on  $\mathcal{A}$ . Besides, operators  $ad_x y = xy$  are skew-symmetric with respect to this scalar product. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} (ad_x y, z) &= -\text{Tr} f(xy)f(z) = -\text{Tr}[f(x), f(y)]f(z) = \\ &= \text{Tr} f(y)[f(x), f(z)] = \text{Tr} f(y)f(xz) = -(y, ad_x z). \end{aligned}$$

The above property means that  $\mathcal{A}$  is a compact Lie algebra. By known properties of compact Lie algebras ( see for instance [4] )  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \oplus Z(\mathcal{A})$ , where  $\mathcal{A}_1$  is a semi-simple compact Lie algebra, which is the Lie algebra of a unique simple connected compact Lie group  $G$ . Moreover, the homomorphism  $h : \mathcal{A}_1 \rightarrow gl(\mathbb{C}^n)$  induces a homomorphism of the Lie groups  $\tilde{h} : G \rightarrow GL(\mathbb{C}^n)$ . Here  $GL(\mathbb{C}^n)$  is the Lie group of non-degenerate linear operators on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with corresponding Lie algebra  $gl(\mathbb{C}^n)$  of all linear operators on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Thus,  $G$  acts linearly on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ :  $gv = \tilde{h}(g)v$ . The space  $\mathbb{C}^n$  is decomposed into a direct sum of indecomposable invariant subspaces under the acting of  $L$ :  $\mathbb{C}^n = \bigoplus_{k=1}^m V_k$ . If  $x \in Z(\mathcal{A})$  then by Lemma 3 and the condition  $Z_1 = 0$  we

claim that  $x = 0 \oplus A$ , where  $[A, B] = 0 \forall B \in L$ . The latter implies that  $A$  acts trivially on the spaces  $V_k$ :  $A = \lambda_k E$  on  $V_k$ . Indeed, in the opposite case  $V_k$  can be decomposed into a direct sum of proper subspaces consisting of eigenvectors of  $A$ , and these subspaces are invariant for all matrices in  $L$ , in view of the condition  $[A, B] = 0 \forall B \in L$ . But this contradicts the fact that  $V_k$  are indecomposable. Clearly, all  $V_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m$  are invariant subspace for matrices in the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  and consequently they are invariant for action of the group  $G$  as well. We may suppose that the scalar product in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  is chosen in such way that the spaces  $V_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m$  are one-by-one orthogonal. Then, we define the new invariant scalar product  $(u, v)_i$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , setting  $(u, v)_i = \int_G (gu, gv) d\mu(g)$ , where  $\mu$  is the Haar measure in  $G$ . Under this new scalar product  $\tilde{h}$  takes its values in the group  $U(n)$  of unitary operators (matrices) and consequently for  $x \in \mathcal{A}_1$  the image  $h(x)$  lays in the corresponding algebra of skew-Hermitian matrices  $u(n)$ . As is easy to see, the spaces  $V_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m$  remain one-by-one orthogonal under the new scalar product. Therefore, matrices  $h(x)$  are skew-Hermitian also for  $x = 0 \oplus A \in Z(\mathcal{A})$  because they are skew-Hermitian on the one-by-one orthogonal subspaces  $V_k$  ( we recall that  $h(x) = iA = i\lambda_k E$  on  $V_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m$  ). Thus, the image  $h(\mathcal{A})$  consists of Hermitian matrices and since  $h(0 \oplus A) = iA$  for  $A \in L$  we conclude that all matrices in  $L$  are Hermitian.

Now we prove that our assumption  $Z_1 = 0$  is in fact always satisfied.

**Proposition 3.** *Let  $L$  be a hyperbolic matrix space. Then  $Z_1 = \{0\}$ .*

**Proof.** We shall draw the proof by induction in dimension  $n$ . If  $n = 0, 1$  then  $[L, L] = \{0\}$  and there is nothing to prove. Now suppose that  $n > 1$  and the statement of our Proposition is true for dimensions less than  $n$ . Let  $X \in [L, L]$  and  $[X, B] = 0 \forall B \in L$ . We should derive that  $X = 0$ . Let  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$  be an eigenvalue of  $X$ , and  $H \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be the corresponding subspace of eigenvectors. If  $H = \mathbb{C}^n$  then  $X = \mu E = 0$  (by the condition  $\text{Tr } X = 0$ ), as was to be proved. Thus, suppose that  $H$  is a proper linear subspace of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Then  $H$  is invariant under the action of  $L$ , as it follows from the equality  $XAv = AXv = \mu Av$  for all  $v \in H$ ,  $A \in L$ . Clearly,  $H$  is also invariant under the action of  $[L, L]$ . Therefore, we can define homomorphisms of restriction  $A \rightarrow A|_H$  of the spaces  $L, [L, L]$  into the spaces  $L_H, [L_H, L_H]$  respectively. By Lemma 1  $L_H$  is a hyperbolic space of less order  $m = \dim H < n$  and  $X|_H$  commutes with  $L_H$ . Since  $m < n$  then by the induction hypothesis  $X|_H = 0$  that is  $\mu = 0$  and  $H = \text{Ker } X$ . If  $V \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is a proper linear subspace invariant under the action of  $L$  then  $V$  is also invariant under the action of  $[L, L]$  and

$X|_V \in [L_V, L_V]$ ,  $[X|_V, A|_V] = 0 \forall A \in L$ . Again by the induction hypothesis we see that  $X|_V = 0$  that is  $V \subset H$ . Thus,  $H$  contains all proper invariant subspaces. Now, observe that  $H_1 = \text{Im } X$  is also an invariant subspace. Indeed, this directly follows from the commutation identity  $AXv = XAv \forall A \in L, v \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . Therefore  $H_1 \subset H$ , i.e.  $X^2 = 0$ . As was shown above,  $L_H$  is a hyperbolic space, for which the space  $Z_1 = 0$ . By Proposition 2 we can choose a scalar multiplication on  $H$  such that matrices  $A|_H$  are Hermitian for all  $A \in L$ . Let  $H_2 = H \ominus H_1$  be an orthogonal complement to  $H_1$  in  $H$ . Since matrices  $A \in L$  are Hermitian on  $H$  then  $H_2$  is invariant under the action of spaces  $L$  and  $[L, L]$ . Thus we can consider the space  $L/H_2$ , which is hyperbolic by Lemma 1. We see also that  $X/H_2 \in [L/H_2, L/H_2]$  and commutes with  $L/H_2$ . Assuming that  $H_2 \neq \{0\}$  we claim that  $\dim \mathbb{C}^n/H_2 < n$  and by the induction hypothesis  $X/H_2 = 0$ . But this is not true since  $\text{Im } X/H_2 = H/H_2 \simeq H_1 \neq \{0\}$ . We conclude that  $H_2 = 0$ , i.e.  $H_1 = H$ . This implies that  $\mathbb{C}^n = (\mathbb{C}^n/H) \oplus H$  and the operator  $X$  determines the isomorphism  $X : \mathbb{C}^n/H \rightarrow H$ . We can identify  $\mathbb{C}^n/H$  and  $H$  due to this isomorphism. After such identification we have that  $\mathbb{C}^n = H \oplus H$  and  $X(u, v) = (0, u)$ . Any operator  $A \in L$  can be represented as follows:  $A(u, v) = (A_1u, A_2u + A_3v)$  because the space  $0 \oplus H$  is invariant. Since  $0 = [X, A](u, v) = (0, A_1u - A_3u)$  then  $A_3 = A_1$ . Further, suppose  $A, B \in L$  and  $A(u, v) = (A_1u, A_2u + A_1v)$ ,  $B(u, v) = (B_1u, B_2u + B_1v)$ . Then, as is directly computed,  $[A, B](u, v) = (C_1u, C_2u + C_1v)$ , where  $C_1 = [A_1, B_1]$ ,  $C_2 = [A_2, B_1] + [A_1, B_2]$ . In particular,  $\text{Tr } C_1 = \text{Tr } C_2 = 0$ . Clearly, this property holds for all matrices from  $[L, L]$  because they are linear combination of commutators  $[A, B]$ ,  $A, B \in L$ . Since  $X \in [L, L]$  and  $X(u, v) = (0, Eu)$ , where  $E$  is a unit matrix, we obtain the equality  $\text{Tr } E = 0$ , which is not true. Thus, our assumption  $X \neq 0$  fails, and  $X = 0$ , as was to be proved.

Now we are ready to finish the **proof of Theorem 1**. The direct statement of Theorem 1 immediately follows from Propositions 2,3. Conversely, if all matrices in a linear matrix space  $L$  are Hermitian then they have simple real spectra and the space  $L$  is hyperbolic. The proof of Theorem 1 is complete.

We give below one application of the obtained result to the problem of symmetrizability for a first order system

$$u_t + \sum_{k=1}^m A_k u_{x_k} = 0, \quad A_k = A_k(t, x, u) \in \text{Mat}(n, \mathbb{R}), \quad k = 1, \dots, m. \quad (4)$$

Recall that system (4) is symmetrizable if for fixed  $t, x, u$  all matrices  $A_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m$  can be simultaneously symmetrized by the appropriate choice of a basis or, what is the same, by the choice of a scalar product  $(Bu, v)$ , where the matrix  $B$  is positive definite. Multiplying system (4) by  $B$  from the left, we obtain the following symmetric form of this system

$$Bu_t + \sum_{k=1}^m C_k u_{x_k} = 0,$$

where matrices  $B, C_k, k = 1, \dots, m$  are symmetric and  $B$  is positive definite.

Denote by  $M$  a linear hull of the matrices  $A_k, k = 1, \dots, m$ . Symmetrizability of system (4) can be formulated as possibility to symmetrize all matrices from  $M$ . Clearly, the hyperbolicity condition

$$A \text{ has simple real spectrum } \forall A \in M \tag{5}$$

is necessary for symmetrizability of real linear matrix subspace  $M \subset \text{Mat}(n, \mathbb{C})$ . In the case of complex matrices, we say that  $M$  is symmetrizable if it is possible to reduce all matrices in  $M$  to Hermitian form. When  $m = 1$  or  $n = 2$  condition (5) seems to be also sufficient for symmetrizability ( see for instance [3] ).

It turns out that this statement remains true only in the indicated cases. If  $n > 2$  then condition (5) and even the more restrictive condition of strict hyperbolicity

$$A \text{ has distinct and real eigenvalues } \forall A \in M, A \neq 0 \tag{6}$$

is not sufficient for symmetrizability of a matrix space  $M$  with  $\dim M > 1$ . The corresponding example was constructed in [3]. For the sake of completeness we give this example below .

**Example.** For  $n = 3$  we consider the following two-dimensional linear matrix space  $M$  consisting of matrices

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & a - b \\ 0 & 0 & b \\ a - b & a & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{R}.$$

The eigenvalues of  $A$  are easily computed:  $\lambda_1 = 0, \lambda_{2,3} = \pm\sqrt{(a-b)^2 + ab}$ . They are real and distinct for  $A \neq 0$  since the quadratic form  $(a-b)^2 + ab$  is positive definite. Thus, condition (6) is satisfied. Let us prove that this



”strictly hyperbolic” family can not be symmetrized. Assuming the contrary we can find a scalar product  $(Px, y)$  corresponding to some positive definite

matrix  $P = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 & p_2 & p_3 \\ p_2 & p_4 & p_5 \\ p_3 & p_5 & p_6 \end{pmatrix}$  such that all matrices  $A \in M$  are symmetric.

This means that  $(PAx, y) = (x, PAy)$ , i.e. the matrices  $PA$  are symmetric under the original scalar product. Expanding equalities  $(PA)_{12} = (PA)_{21}$ ,  $(PA)_{13} = (PA)_{31}$ ,  $(PA)_{23} = (PA)_{32}$  we get relations  $ap_3 = (a - b)p_5$ ,  $(a - b)p_1 + bp_2 = (a - b)p_6$ ,  $(a - b)p_2 + bp_4 = ap_6$  for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ . The latter relations easily imply that  $p_i = 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, 6$ , i.e.  $P = 0$ . But this contradicts the condition  $P > 0$ . Therefore the family  $M$  is not symmetrizable. Taking basis matrices  $A_1, A_2$ , corresponding to values  $a = 1, b = 0$  and  $a = b = 1$  we obtain the strictly hyperbolic but not symmetrizable system  $q_t = A_1q_x + A_2q_y = 0$ ,  $q = (u, v, w)^\top$ , which can be written in the explicit form as follows

$$\begin{cases} u_t = w_x \\ v_t = w_y \\ w_t = (u + v)_x + v_y \end{cases}.$$

The above Example stimulates ones to search general conditions of symmetrizability. One criterion was found in [3]. Namely, as was shown in [3], a space  $M$  can be symmetrized if and only if all matrices in the minimal Lie algebra containing  $iM$  (with  $i^2 = -1$ ) have simple imaginary spectra.

Now we are able to give another criterion following from Theorem 1. Let  $L = L(M)$  be the minimal linear matrix subspace, which contains  $M$  and satisfies condition (1).

**Theorem 2.** *The family  $M$  is symmetrizable if and only if the space  $L$  is hyperbolic.*

**Proof.** If all matrices  $A \in M$  are symmetric (Hermitian) under some scalar product then the same property holds for matrices from  $L$  and consequently these matrices have simple real spectra, i.e. the space  $L$  is hyperbolic.

The converse directly follows from Theorem 1.

Remark that the result of the Example above follows from Theorem 2.

Indeed, let  $A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  are basis matrices defined

in the Example. Then the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = A_2 A_1 A_2 = \frac{1}{2}[(S_{A_2})^2 A_1 - S_{A_2^2} A_1] \in L$$

but its spectrum is not simple.

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