

# Second order pseudospectra of normal matrices\*

Gorka Armentia<sup>†</sup>, Juan-Miguel Gracia<sup>‡</sup>, Francisco E. Velasco<sup>‡</sup>

November 28, 2010

## Abstract

Let  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  be a normal matrix. A well-known theorem asserts that for any  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  the ordinary  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of  $A$  is the union of the closed disks of radius  $\varepsilon$  centered at the eigenvalues of  $A$ . We give a proof of the converse theorem.

We define the  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of algebraic (resp. geometric) multiplicity  $\geq 2$  of  $A$  as the set of complex numbers  $z$  such that there exists a  $X \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  which satisfies  $\|X - A\| \leq \varepsilon$  and  $z$  is an eigenvalue of  $X$  of algebraic (resp. geometric) multiplicity  $\geq 2$ . Let us denote this set by  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A)$ , (resp.  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(g)}(A)$ ). Here,  $\|\cdot\|$  stands for the spectral norm.

We prove that  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A)$  is a union of closed disks, whose centers and radii are determined in terms of the eigenvalues of  $A$  and  $\varepsilon$ . Also, we prove that  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(g)}(A)$  is the union of pairwise intersections of closed disks centered at the eigenvalues of  $A$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ .

*AMS classification:* 15A18, 15A21, 15A60, 47A25.

*Key Words:* singular values, unitary similarity, algebraic multiplicity, geometric multiplicity, Malyshev.

## 1 Introduction

For any complex matrix  $M$  we denote by  $\sigma_1(M) \geq \sigma_2(M) \geq \dots$  its singular values decreasingly ordered. We write  $\|\cdot\|$  for the spectral matrix norm. Given a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , we denote by  $\Lambda(A)$  the spectrum or set of eigenvalues of  $A$ . Let us recall the concept of unordered  $n$ -tuple of complex numbers. We say that two  $n$ -tuples  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ ,  $(\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n$  are equivalent if there exists a permutation  $\pi$  of the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that

$$(\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n) = (\lambda_{\pi(1)}, \lambda_{\pi(2)}, \dots, \lambda_{\pi(n)}).$$

This defines an equivalence relation  $\sim$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . We denote by  $\mathbb{C}_{\text{sym}}^n$  the quotient set  $\mathbb{C}^n / \sim$ . We call unordered  $n$ -tuple of complex numbers to each element  $[(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)] \in \mathbb{C}_{\text{sym}}^n$ , which we write briefly by  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$  without

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\*This paper has been written financed by the MICINN Spanish Ministry MTM2010-19356-C02-01, and the Basque Government GIC10/169-IT361-10.

<sup>†</sup>Department of Mathematical Engineering and Computer Science, The Public University of Navarre, Campus de Arrosadfa, 31006 Pamplona, Spain, [gorka.armentia@unavarra.es](mailto:gorka.armentia@unavarra.es)

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics and R.O., The University of the Basque Country, Faculty of Pharmacy, Paseo de la Universidad, 7; 01006 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, [juanmiguel.gracia@ehu.es](mailto:juanmiguel.gracia@ehu.es), [franciscoenrique.velasco@ehu.es](mailto:franciscoenrique.velasco@ehu.es)

peril of confusion. Now, if  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  are the eigenvalues of a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  where the multiples appear repeated, we denote by  $\text{Eig}(A)$  the unordered  $n$ -tuple  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ . Thus,  $\text{Eig}(A) \in \mathbb{C}_{\text{sym}}^n$ . We will use  $\Lambda(A)$  and  $\text{Eig}(A)$ . They are different things. The spectrum  $\Lambda(A)$  is a subset of  $\mathbb{C}$  and may have less than  $n$  elements. See [3, p. 153]

For  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ , it is defined the ordinary  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of  $A$  as

$$\Lambda_\varepsilon(A) := \bigcup_{\|X-A\| \leq \varepsilon} \Lambda(X).$$

Let us note that  $\Lambda_0(A) = \Lambda(A)$ . The set of eigenvalues of a matrix  $A$  with algebraic multiplicity greater than or equal to  $k$  will be denoted by  $\Lambda_k^{(a)}(A)$ . So, for  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ , we define the  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of algebraic multiplicity  $\geq k$  of  $A$  as the set

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,k}^{(a)}(A) := \bigcup_{\|X-A\| \leq \varepsilon} \Lambda_k^{(a)}(X).$$

Also, briefly we will call this pseudospectrum, the *algebraic  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of order  $k$*  of  $A$ . Let us observe again that  $\Lambda_{0,k}^{(a)}(A) = \Lambda_k^{(a)}(A)$ .

It is well known that the  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of  $A$  can be characterized as the sublevel set  $\varepsilon$  of the function  $z \mapsto \sigma_n(zI_n - A)$ , which associates to each complex  $z$  the  $n$ th singular value of the matrix  $zI_n - A$ . In particular, we have  $\Lambda_\varepsilon(A) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \sigma_n(zI_n - A) \leq \varepsilon\}$ .

Other analogous characterization of the set  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A)$  can be deduced from the next result due to Malyshev [8].

**Theorem 1.** *Given  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  and  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , let us denote by*

$$h_2(z) := \max_{t \geq 0} \sigma_{2n-1} \begin{pmatrix} zI_n - A & tI_n \\ 0 & zI_n - A \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

*Then, we have*

$$\min_{z \in \Lambda_2^{(a)}(X)} \|X - A\| = h_2(z).$$

With this result, we get the following characterization of  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of  $A$  with algebraic multiplicity  $\geq 2$ .

**Proposition 2.** *Given  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , for all  $\varepsilon \geq 0$   $z \in \mathbb{C}$  we have*

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : h_2(z) \leq \varepsilon\}.$$

**Proof.** Let be  $z \in \Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A)$ . Then, there exists a matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  such that  $z \in \Lambda_2^{(a)}(Y)$  and, in addition,  $\|Y - A\| \leq \varepsilon$ . Therefore, following on from (1), we derive that

$$h_2(z) = \min_{z \in \Lambda_2^{(a)}(X)} \|X - A\| \leq \|Y - A\| \leq \varepsilon.$$

Reciprocally, let  $z$  be such that  $h_2(z) \leq \varepsilon$ . Then by Theorem 1 we have  $\min_{z \in \Lambda_2^{(a)}(X)} \|X - A\| \leq \varepsilon$ . Therefore, there exists a matrix  $Y$  such that  $z \in \Lambda_2^{(a)}(Y)$  and, in addition,  $\|Y - A\| \leq \varepsilon$ . So,  $z \in \Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A)$ .  $\square$

The goal of this paper is to describe the set  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A)$ , as long as the matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is normal. So, denoting by

$$\mathcal{D}(\lambda, \delta) := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - \lambda| \leq \delta\},$$

The main result of this paper is the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.** *Let us suppose that the matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is normal. Moreover, let us suppose that  $\text{Eig}(A) = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ . Let  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  and  $(j, k)$  a pair of integers such that  $1 \leq j < k \leq n$ . If  $\varepsilon \geq |\lambda_j - \lambda_k|/2$ , let us define*

$$\rho_{jk}(\varepsilon) := \sqrt{\varepsilon^2 - \frac{|\lambda_j - \lambda_k|^2}{4}}, \quad (2)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon) := \mathcal{D}\left(\frac{\lambda_j + \lambda_k}{2}, \rho_{jk}(\varepsilon)\right). \quad (3)$$

If  $\varepsilon < |\lambda_j - \lambda_k|/2$ , let us define  $\mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon) := \emptyset$ .

Then

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A) = \bigcup_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} \mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon).$$

**Remark 1.** Since  $A$  is normal, then there exists a unitary matrix  $U \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  such that  $U^*AU = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ . Moreover, since  $U$  is unitary, we have  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A) = \Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(U^*AU)$ . So, from now on, we will assume without loss of generality  $A = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ .

The organization of this paper is as follows: in Section 2, we revise a characterization of the normal matrices  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  as those for which the set  $\Lambda_\varepsilon(A)$  is the union of closed disks of radius  $\varepsilon$  with center at its eigenvalues, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ . In Section 3, we introduce the necessary results to show the theorem 3. We prove the theorem 3 in Section 4. Finally, in Section 5, we describe the  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of  $A$  of geometric multiplicity  $\geq k$ , when the matrix  $A$  is normal.

## 2 Matrices whose ordinary pseudospectra are union of disks

In this section, we revise a result that characterizes the normal matrices as those whose ordinary  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum, for each  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ , is the union of closed disks of radius  $\varepsilon$  centered at the eigenvalues. Let  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  be a normal matrix, that is,  $A^*A = AA^*$ , where  $A^*$  stands for the conjugate transpose of  $A$ . The following theorem appears in [9, Theorem 2.2, p. 19] and [7, Corollary 5.3.8, p. 73].

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\Lambda(A) = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_v\}$ . Then the matrix  $A$  is normal if and only if, for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,*

$$\Lambda_\varepsilon(A) = \bigcup_{j=1}^v \mathcal{D}(\lambda_j, \varepsilon). \quad (4)$$

As the proof was given in [9, Theorem 2.2, p. 19] only for the case in which the eigenvalues of  $A$  are simple, and [7, Corollary 5.3.8, p. 73] proved the “only if” part, we give a proof for reasons of completeness.

We need some previous lemmas. The first is a characterization of a normal matrix by its Jordan decomposition. Let

$$A = \sum_{j=1}^v (\lambda_j P_j + N_j)$$

be the Jordan decomposition of any  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  whose spectrum is  $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_v\}$ , where, for each  $j \in \{1, \dots, v\}$ ,  $P_j$  is the Riesz projector onto the root subspace (or generalized eigenspace)  $\mathcal{R}_{\lambda_j}(A)$  of  $\lambda_j$  and along the sum of root subspaces associated with all eigenvalues of  $A$  different from  $\lambda_j$ ; and  $N_j := (A - \lambda_j I_n)P_j$  is the nilpotent matrix corresponding to  $\lambda_j$ . So,  $P_i P_j = \delta_{ij} P_j$  and  $\sum_{j=1}^v P_j = I_n$ .

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  and  $\Lambda(A) = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_v\}$ . Then,  $A$  is normal if and only if*

$$A = \sum_{j=1}^v \lambda_j P_j,$$

with  $P_i P_j = \delta_{ij} P_j$  and  $P_j^* = P_j$ .

A proof of this lemma can be seen in [10, Theorem 8.1 (10), p. 241].

Let us fix  $j \in \{1, \dots, v\}$  and let us denote by  $\mathcal{K}_j(\varepsilon)$  the connected component of  $\Lambda_\varepsilon(A)$  that contains  $\lambda_j$  for each  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ . We denote by  $\nu_j$  and  $m_j$  the index and the algebraic multiplicity of  $\lambda_j$ , respectively. Let us recall that the spectral variation of  $A' \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  with respect to the eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  of  $A$ , denoted by  $\text{sv}_{(A, \lambda_j)}(A')$ , is defined as the minimum of  $\rho \geq 0$  such that the closed disk  $\mathcal{D}(\lambda_j, \rho)$  with center at  $\lambda_j$  and radius  $\rho$  contains at least  $m_j$  eigenvalues (counting multiplicities) of  $A'$ . Moreover, the (Hölder) condition number of the eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  of order  $1/\nu_j$  is defined by

$$c_{1/\nu_j}(\lambda_j) := \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \max_{0 < \|X - A\| \leq \varepsilon} \frac{\text{sv}_{(A, \lambda_j)}(X)}{\|X - A\|^{1/\nu_j}}.$$

By [7, Theorem 5.4.4 (iv),(viii), p. 77–78], we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 6.**

$$c_{1/\nu_j}(\lambda_j) = \begin{cases} \|P_j\|, & \text{if } \nu_j = 1, \\ \|N_j^{\nu_j - 1}\|^{1/\nu_j} & \text{if } \nu_j \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $\delta_j(\varepsilon)$  be the diameter of  $\mathcal{K}_j(\varepsilon)$  for each  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ . Then*

$$\delta'(0^+) = \begin{cases} 2c_1(\lambda_j), & \text{if } \nu_j = 1, \\ \infty, & \text{if } \nu_j \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

The proof of this Lemma can be seen in [2, Theorem 4.2]. By  $O$  or  $O_t$  we denote a zero matrix or the  $t \times t$  zero matrix. Let us recall that a projector is a matrix  $P \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  such that  $P^2 = P$ . The next lemma uses a results on the singular values of a projector.

**Lemma 8.** *Let  $P \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $P \neq O$ , a projector such that  $\|P\| = 1$ . Then  $P^* = P$ .*

**Proof.** From [5, p. 235] we deduce that if  $\sigma$  is a singular value of  $P$ , then either  $\sigma = 0$  or else  $\sigma \geq 1$ . See also [1]. By a result of Djoković [4, Theorem 4] there exists a unitary matrix  $U \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  such that either

$$U^*PU = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s_1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \oplus \cdots \oplus \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s_k \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \oplus I_m \oplus O_t,$$

if  $P$  has singular values greater than 1, or

$$U^*PU = I_m \oplus O_t,$$

otherwise.

Therefore, if  $\|P\| = 1$ , then the singular values of  $P$  are 1 and 0. So,  $P = U(I_m \oplus O_t)U^*$ . Consequently,  $P^* = P$ . □

**Proof of Theorem 4.** If  $A$  is a normal matrix, then there exists a unitary matrix  $U \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  such that  $U^*AU = \text{diag}(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_n)$ . As  $\Lambda_\varepsilon(A) = \Lambda_\varepsilon(U^*AU)$ , we deduce that

$$\Lambda_\varepsilon(A) = \Lambda_\varepsilon\left(\text{diag}(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_n)\right) = \bigcup_{j=1}^n \mathcal{D}(\mu_j, \varepsilon).$$

Conversely, if for each  $\varepsilon > 0$

$$\Lambda_\varepsilon(A) = \bigcup_{j=1}^v \mathcal{D}(\lambda_j, \varepsilon),$$

then for each eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  of  $A$  and each sufficiently small  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  we have  $\mathcal{K}_j(\varepsilon) = \mathcal{D}(\lambda_j, \varepsilon)$ . Thus, the diameter  $\delta_j(\varepsilon)$  of  $\mathcal{K}_j(\varepsilon)$  is equal to  $2\varepsilon$ . Therefore,  $\delta'_j(\varepsilon) = 2$ , and  $\delta'_j(0^+) = 2$ . By Lemma 7, this implies that the index  $\nu_j$  of  $\lambda_j$  is equal to 1. So,  $c_1(\lambda_j) = 1$ , which implies that  $\|P_j\| = 1$ . From Lemma 8,  $P_j^* = P_j$ . Therefore, the matrix  $A$  is normal. □

### 3 Necessary results to prove Theorem 3

Given  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , in this section we consider the matrix function

$$F_z(t) := \begin{pmatrix} zI_n - A & tI_n \\ 0 & zI_n - A \end{pmatrix},$$

defined for every  $t \geq 0$ , with  $A = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ . For that function, the singular values are given by the following result.

**Proposition 9.** *Given  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , the singular values of  $F_z(t)$  not necessarily ordered are*

$$f_{z,1}^-(t), f_{z,1}^+(t), f_{z,2}^-(t), f_{z,2}^+(t), \dots, f_{z,n}^-(t), f_{z,n}^+(t),$$

where, for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$$\begin{cases} f_{z,i}^-(t) = \sqrt{\frac{t^2 + 2|z - \lambda_i|^2 - \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_i|^2}}{2}} \\ f_{z,i}^+(t) = \sqrt{\frac{t^2 + 2|z - \lambda_i|^2 + \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_i|^2}}{2}}. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

**Proof.** It is enough to observe that, permuting rows and columns properly, the system of singular values of  $F_z(t)$  fits in with that of the matrix

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^n \begin{pmatrix} z - \lambda_i & t \\ 0 & z - \lambda_i \end{pmatrix}.$$

□

Now, let us see some properties of the functions  $f_{z,i}^-(t)$  and  $f_{z,i}^+(t)$ , defined for every  $t \geq 0$ .

**Proposition 10.** For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , we have:

- (a)  $f_{z,i}^-(0) = f_{z,i}^+(0) = |z - \lambda_i|$ .
- (b) If  $z = \lambda_j$ , then  $f_{z,j}^-(t) = 0$  for  $t \geq 0$ .
- (c)

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f_{z,i}^+(t) = \infty, \text{ and } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f_{z,i}^-(t) = 0.$$

- (d)  $f_{z,i}^+(t)$  is increasing.
- (e)  $f_{z,i}^-(t)$  is decreasing.

**Proof.** The statements (a), (b), (c) and (d) are immediate by (5). So, it remains to prove that the function  $f_{z,i}^-(t)$  is decreasing or, equivalently, that the function

$$2f_{z,i}^-(t)^2 = t^2 + 2|z - \lambda_i|^2 - \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_i|^2}$$

is decreasing, or what is the same, that the function

$$g(t) := t^2 - \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2a^2},$$

is decreasing for  $t \geq 0$ . By differentiating, for  $t > 0$  we have

$$g'(t) \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow 2t \leq \frac{2t^3 + 4ta^2}{\sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2a^2}} \Leftrightarrow 1 \leq \frac{t^2 + 2a^2}{\sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2a^2}} \Leftrightarrow t^4 + 4t^2a^2 \leq (t^2 + 2a^2)^2,$$

a fact which is true.

□

**Proposition 11.** If  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k|$ , then for  $t \geq 0$  we have:

- (a)  $f_{z,j}^+(t) \leq f_{z,k}^+(t)$ .
- (b)  $f_{z,j}^-(t) \leq f_{z,k}^-(t)$ .

**Proof.** (a) is immediately deduced from (5). To prove (b), since  $f_{z,j}^-(t) \leq f_{z,k}^-(t) \Leftrightarrow 2f_{z,j}^-(t)^2 \leq 2f_{z,k}^-(t)^2$ , following from (5), it is enough to prove that the function

$$g(x) := 2x^2 - \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2x^2}$$

is increasing for  $x \geq 0$ . By differentiating, for  $x > 0$  we find that

$$g'(x) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow 4x \geq \frac{4t^2x}{\sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2x^2}} \Leftrightarrow 1 \geq \frac{t^2}{\sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2x^2}},$$

which is true. □

**Proposition 12.** *Let us suppose that  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k|$ . Then  $f_{z,j}^+(t) = f_{z,k}^-(t)$  if and only if  $t = t_{jk}^z$ , where*

$$t_{jk}^z = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \lambda_j = \lambda_k \\ \frac{|z - \lambda_k|^2 - |z - \lambda_j|^2}{\sqrt{2(|z - \lambda_k|^2 + |z - \lambda_j|^2)}} & \text{if } \lambda_j \neq \lambda_k \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

**Proof.** The case  $|z - \lambda_j| = |z - \lambda_k|$  is immediately deduced from (5). Now, let us suppose that  $|z - \lambda_j| < |z - \lambda_k|$ . Since  $f_{z,j}^+(t) = f_{z,k}^-(t)$ , if and only if  $2f_{z,j}^+(t)^2 = 2f_{z,k}^-(t)^2$ , following from (5), we conclude that  $f_{z,j}^+(t) = f_{z,k}^-(t)$  if and only if

$$2|z - \lambda_j|^2 + \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_j|^2} = 2|z - \lambda_k|^2 - \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_k|^2} \Leftrightarrow \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_j|^2} = 2(|z - \lambda_k|^2 - |z - \lambda_j|^2) - \sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_k|^2}.$$

Now, denoting by  $\alpha := 2(|z - \lambda_k|^2 - |z - \lambda_j|^2)$ , which is positive, and squaring we infer that  $f_{z,j}^+(t) = f_{z,k}^-(t)$  if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_j|^2 &= \alpha^2 + t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_k|^2 - 2\alpha\sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_k|^2} \Leftrightarrow \\ 2\alpha\sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_k|^2} &= \alpha^2 + 4t^2(|z - \lambda_k|^2 - |z - \lambda_j|^2) = \alpha^2 + 2\alpha t^2 \Leftrightarrow \\ 2\sqrt{t^4 + 4t^2|z - \lambda_k|^2} &= \alpha + 2t^2 \Leftrightarrow 4t^4 + 16t^2|z - \lambda_k|^2 = \alpha^2 + 4t^4 + 4\alpha t^2. \end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$t^2 = \frac{\alpha^2}{16|z - \lambda_k|^2 - 4\alpha} = \frac{(|z - \lambda_k|^2 - |z - \lambda_j|^2)^2}{2(|z - \lambda_k|^2 + |z - \lambda_j|^2)}.$$

□

The next proposition describes the singular value  $\sigma_{2n-1}(F_z(t))$ .

**Proposition 13.** *Let us suppose*

$$|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k| \leq |z - \lambda_i|, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad i \neq j, k.$$

*Then,*

$$\sigma_{2n-1}(F_z(t)) = \min\{f_{z,j}^+(t), f_{z,k}^-(t)\}.$$

*Moreover, if  $\lambda_j = \lambda_k$  then,*

$$\sigma_{2n-1}(F_z(t)) = f_{z,j}^-(t).$$

**Proof.** First, let us observe that, since  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_i|$  for  $i \neq j$ , by Proposition 11, we have for  $t \geq 0$

$$f_{z,j}^-(t) \leq f_{z,i}^-(t), \text{ and } f_{z,j}^-(t) \leq f_{z,j}^+(t) \leq f_{z,i}^+(t),$$

for every  $i \neq j$ . So,

$$\sigma_{2n}(F_z(t)) = f_{z,j}^-(t). \quad (7)$$

Now, let  $t_{jk}^z$  be the point where  $f_{z,j}^+(t) = f_{z,k}^-(t)$ . Then, since  $f_{z,j}^+(t)$  is increasing and  $f_{z,k}^-(t)$  is decreasing (Proposition 10), and furthermore,  $f_{z,j}^+(t_{jk}^z) = f_{z,k}^-(t_{jk}^z)$ , we conclude that  $f_{z,j}^+(t) \leq f_{z,k}^-(t)$  in the interval  $[0, t_{jk}^z]$ . Now, following from (7) and Proposition 11, we find that

$$\sigma_{2n}(F_z(t)) = f_{z,j}^-(t) \leq f_{z,j}^+(t) \leq f_{z,k}^-(t) \leq \begin{cases} f_{z,i}^-(t) & i \neq j, k \\ f_{z,i}^+(t) & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

Consequently,  $\sigma_{2n-1}(F_z(t)) = f_{z,j}^+(t)$ , for  $t \in [0, t_{jk}^z]$ . Now, let us suppose that  $t \in [t_{jk}^z, \infty)$ . Then, since  $f_{z,j}^+(t)$  is increasing and  $f_{z,k}^-(t)$  is decreasing (Proposition 10), and, moreover  $f_{z,j}^+(t_{jk}^z) = f_{z,k}^-(t_{jk}^z)$ , we infer that  $f_{z,j}^+(t) \geq f_{z,k}^-(t)$  in the interval  $[t_{jk}^z, \infty)$ . Now, following from (7) and Proposition 11, we have

$$\sigma_{2n}(F_z(t)) = f_{z,j}^-(t) \leq f_{z,k}^-(t) \leq \begin{cases} f_{z,j}^+(t) \leq f_{z,i}^+(t) & i \neq j, k \\ f_{z,i}^-(t) & i \neq j, k. \end{cases}$$

Therefore,  $\sigma_{2n-1}(F_z(t)) = f_{z,k}^-(t)$ , for  $t \in [t_{jk}^z, \infty)$ . To conclude, let us observe that if  $\lambda_j = \lambda_k$ , then  $t_{jk}^z = 0$  and  $\sigma_{2n-1}(F_z(t)) = f_{z,k}^-(t) = f_{z,j}^-(t)$ .

□

For the following property we introduce some notations. Given  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\lambda_j, \lambda_k$  two eigenvalues of  $A$ , let us suppose that  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k|$ . With these considerations, we define

$$g_{jk}(z, t) := \min\{f_{z,j}^+(t), f_{z,k}^-(t)\}, \quad (8)$$

$$g_{jk}^z := \max_{t \geq 0} g_{jk}(z, t). \quad (9)$$

With these notations, we find the following result.

**Proposition 14.** *If  $t_{jk}^z$  is defined in (6), then  $g_{jk}^z = g_{jk}(z, t_{jk}^z)$ .*

**Proof.** First, let us observe that, by Proposition 12, we have  $f_{z,j}^+(t_{jk}^z) = f_{z,k}^-(t_{jk}^z)$ . Now, as in the proof of Proposition 13, we deduce that  $f_{z,j}^+(t) \leq f_{z,k}^-(t)$  in the interval  $[0, t_{jk}^z]$ , and  $f_{z,k}^-(t) \leq f_{z,j}^+(t)$  in  $[t_{jk}^z, \infty)$ . So, the proof concludes by using the fact that the function  $f_{z,j}^+(t)$  is increasing and that  $f_{z,k}^-(t)$  is decreasing (Proposition 10).

□

**Proposition 15.** *Let us assume that  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k| \leq |z - \lambda_m|$ . Then, we have:*

- (a) *For every  $t \geq 0$ ,  $g_{jk}(z, t) \leq g_{km}(z, t)$  and  $g_{jk}(z, t) \leq g_{jm}(z, t)$ .*
- (b)  *$g_{jk}^z \leq g_{km}^z$  and  $g_{jk}^z \leq g_{jm}^z$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k| \leq |z - \lambda_m|$ , from Proposition 11 we infer that for  $t \geq 0$ ,

$$f_{z,j}^-(t) \leq f_{z,k}^-(t) \leq f_{z,m}^-(t), \text{ and } f_{z,j}^+(t) \leq f_{z,k}^+(t) \leq f_{z,m}^+(t).$$

So

$$\min\{f_{z,j}^+(t), f_{z,k}^-(t)\} \leq \min\{f_{z,k}^+(t), f_{z,m}^-(t)\},$$

and

$$\min\{f_{z,j}^+(t), f_{z,k}^-(t)\} \leq \min\{f_{z,j}^+(t), f_{z,m}^-(t)\}.$$

Consequently, (a) follows from the expression given for  $g_{pq}(z, t)$  in (8). (b) is immediate by (a). □

To conclude this section, let us see a relation between  $h_2(z)$  and  $g_{jk}^z$ , which are defined in (1) and (9), respectively.

**Proposition 16.** *Given  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\lambda_j, \lambda_k$  two eigenvalues of  $A$ , let us suppose that  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k|$ . Then,*

- (a) *If  $|z - \lambda_k| \leq |z - \lambda_i|$ ,  $i \neq j, k$ , then  $h_2(z) = g_{jk}^z$ .*
- (b)  *$h_2(z) \leq g_{jk}^z$ .*

**Proof.** First, let us observe that if  $\lambda_p, \lambda_q$  are eigenvalues of  $A$  such that

$$|z - \lambda_p| \leq |z - \lambda_q| \leq |z - \lambda_i|, \quad i \neq p, q,$$

then, from Proposition 13 and (8), we have

$$\sigma_{2n-1}(F_z(t)) = \min\{f_{z,p}^+(t), f_{z,q}^-(t)\} = g_{pq}(z, t).$$

Consequently,  $h_2(z) = g_{pq}^z$ . This proves the statement (a).

To prove (b), let us consider some situations: (1)  $j = p, k = q$ ; (2)  $j = p, k \neq q$ ; (3)  $j = q$ ; (4)  $j \neq p, q$ . The case (1) is immediate by the statement (a). For (2), since  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_q| \leq |z - \lambda_k|$ , then by Proposition 15 and the statement (a), we infer that  $h_2(z) = g_{jq}^z \leq g_{jk}^z$ . The cases (3) and (4) are proved in a similar way. □

## 4 Proof of Theorem 3

In the fourth section, we proceed with the proof of Theorem 3. In order to achieve it, the next result is key.

**Theorem 17.** *Let  $\lambda_j, \lambda_k$  be terms of  $\text{Eig}(A)$ . Let us assume that  $\varepsilon \geq \frac{|\lambda_k - \lambda_j|}{2}$ . Let us define the midpoint of the segment of vertices  $\lambda_j$  and  $\lambda_k$ ,*

$$z_0 := \frac{\lambda_j + \lambda_k}{2}.$$

*Then, for each  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $|z - z_0| = \rho_{jk}(\varepsilon)$ , where  $\rho_{jk}(\varepsilon)$  is defined in (2), if  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k|$  or  $|z - \lambda_k| \leq |z - \lambda_j|$  then*

$$g_{jk}^z = \varepsilon \text{ or } g_{kj}^z = \varepsilon, \text{ respectively.} \quad (10)$$

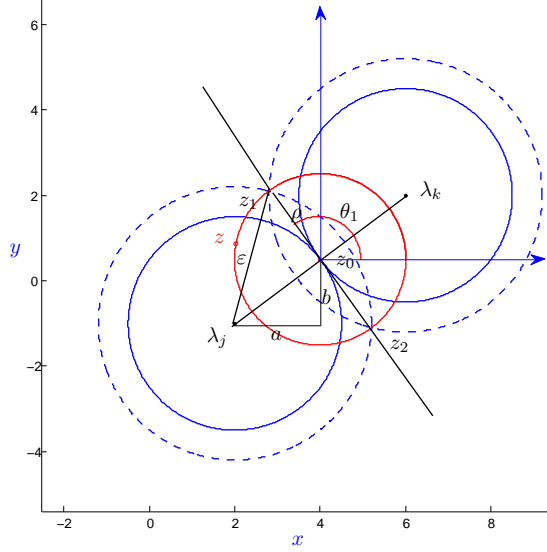


Figure 1: In a neighborhood of the midpoint  $z_0$  between two close eigenvalues  $\lambda_j$  and  $\lambda_k$ . Moreover,  $z_1 = z_0 + \rho e^{i\theta_1}$  and  $z_2 = z_0 + \rho e^{i(\theta_1 + \pi)}$  are the points of intersection of the circles centered at  $\lambda_j$  and  $\lambda_k$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ .

**Proof.** To begin with, we assume that  $\lambda_j \neq \lambda_k$ . Otherwise, the proof is easy. To shorten notation, we write  $\rho$  instead of  $\rho_{jk}(\varepsilon)$  and

$$\begin{cases} a := \operatorname{Re} \frac{\lambda_k - \lambda_j}{2}, & b := \operatorname{Im} \frac{\lambda_k - \lambda_j}{2}, \\ \theta_1 := \pi/2 + \arctan \frac{b}{a}, & \text{if } a \neq 0; \quad \theta_1 := \pi, & \text{if } a = 0, \\ \alpha(\theta) := a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta, & \theta_1 \leq \theta \leq \theta_1 + \pi. \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

It is easy to demonstrate that for each  $\theta \in (\theta_1, \theta_1 + \pi)$ ,  $\alpha(\theta) < 0$ ; also,  $\alpha(\theta_1) = 0 = \alpha(\theta_1 + \pi)$ . Let us note that, following from expression (2) we infer that

$$\varepsilon^2 := a^2 + b^2 + \rho^2. \quad (12)$$

Furthermore, from (11) we can prove

$$\varepsilon^2 \geq \rho |\alpha(\theta)|. \quad (13)$$

Now, let us define  $z := z_0 + \rho e^{i\theta}$ . Then, from (11) we conclude that

$$z - \lambda_j = z_0 + \rho e^{i\theta} - \lambda_j = \frac{\lambda_k - \lambda_j}{2} + \rho e^{i\theta} = a + \rho \cos \theta + i(b + \rho \sin \theta).$$

In a similar way, we have  $z - \lambda_k = -a + \rho \cos \theta + i(-b + \rho \sin \theta)$ . So, following from (11) and (12), we have

$$\begin{cases} |z - \lambda_j|^2 = a^2 + b^2 + \rho^2 + 2\rho(a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta), \\ |z - \lambda_k|^2 = a^2 + b^2 + \rho^2 - 2\rho(a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta), \end{cases}$$

that is,

$$\begin{cases} |z - \lambda_j|^2 = \varepsilon^2 + 2\alpha(\theta)\rho, \\ |z - \lambda_k|^2 = \varepsilon^2 - 2\alpha(\theta)\rho. \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

Now, let us suppose that  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k|$ , by Proposition 14 we have  $g_{jk}^z = g_{jk}(z, t_{jk}^z)$ , where  $t_{jk}^z$  is defined in (6). Now, by using (14), we have

$$t_{jk}^z = \frac{-2\alpha(\theta)\rho}{\varepsilon}. \quad (15)$$

On the other hand, following from expressions (8) and (9), as  $g_{jk}^z = f_{z,j}^+(t_{jk}^z)$  (Proposition 14), it is enough to see that  $g_{jk}^z = f_{z,j}^+(t_{jk}^z) = \varepsilon$  for proving the lemma. Now, using the expression for  $f_{z,j}^+(t_{jk}^z)$  given in (5), we infer that

$$2(g_{jk}^z)^2 = (t_{jk}^z)^2 + 2|z - \lambda_j|^2 + t_{jk}^z \sqrt{(t_{jk}^z)^2 + 4|z - \lambda_j|^2}.$$

Now, by using the expressions for  $|z - \lambda_j|^2$  and  $t_{jk}^z$  derived from (14) and (15), respectively, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} (g_{jk}^z)^2 &= \frac{2\alpha(\theta)^2\rho^2}{\varepsilon^2} + \varepsilon^2 + 2\alpha(\theta)\rho - \frac{2\alpha(\theta)\rho}{\varepsilon} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha(\theta)^2\rho^2}{\varepsilon^2} + \varepsilon^2 + 2\alpha(\theta)\rho} \\ &= \frac{2\alpha(\theta)^2\rho^2}{\varepsilon^2} + \varepsilon^2 + 2\alpha(\theta)\rho - \frac{2\alpha(\theta)\rho}{\varepsilon} \left| \frac{\alpha(\theta)\rho}{\varepsilon} + \varepsilon \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Now, in accordance with (13) it turns out that  $\varepsilon + \alpha(\theta)\rho/\varepsilon \geq 0$ , and we immediately have  $(g_{jk}^z)^2 = \varepsilon^2$ .

The case  $|z - \lambda_k| \leq |z - \lambda_j|$  can be reasoned in a similar way.

□

As a consequence of this theorem and Proposition 16, we infer the following result.

**Corollary 18.** *With the notations of Theorem 17,*

(a) *let  $z$  be such that  $|z - z_0| = \rho_{jk}(\varepsilon)$  and*

$$\max\{|z - \lambda_j|, |z - \lambda_k|\} \leq |z - \lambda_i|, \quad i \neq j, k.$$

*Then,  $h_2(z) = \varepsilon$ .*

(b) *for every  $z \in \mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon)$ , where  $\mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon)$  is defined in (3), it is satisfied that  $h_2(z) \leq \varepsilon$ .*

We are in a position to prove Theorem 3.

**Proof Theorem 3.** First, let us suppose that  $z \in \mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon)$ . Then, by Corollary 18(b), it turns out that  $h_2(z) \leq \varepsilon$ . So, by Proposition 2 it is satisfied that  $z \in \Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}(A)$ .

Reciprocally, let  $w \in \Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}(A)$ , or, equivalently,  $h_2(w) \leq \varepsilon$ . Let us choose  $\lambda_j, \lambda_k$  such that

$$|w - \lambda_j| \leq |w - \lambda_k| \leq |w - \lambda_i|, \quad i \neq j, k.$$

Now, as in Theorem 17, we define  $z_0 := \frac{\lambda_j + \lambda_k}{2}$ , then we can write  $w = z_0 + \rho_0 e^{i\theta}$ , for certain  $\rho_0 \geq 0$  and  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ . Let us observe that by Corollary 18 (a), we have  $h_2(w) = \varepsilon_0$ , where

$$\varepsilon_0 := \sqrt{\rho_0^2 + \left(\frac{|\lambda_k - \lambda_j|}{2}\right)^2}.$$

So, as  $h_2(w) \leq \varepsilon$ , we conclude that

$$\sqrt{\rho_{jk}(\varepsilon)^2 + \left(\frac{|\lambda_k - \lambda_j|}{2}\right)^2} = \varepsilon \geq \varepsilon_0;$$

that is,  $\rho_0 \leq \rho_{jk}(\varepsilon)$ .

□

As a consequence of Theorem 3, we have the following result which describes the set  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}(A)$  when all eigenvalues of  $A$  are multiple.

**Corollary 19.** *Given a normal matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  let us suppose that  $\Lambda(A) = \Lambda_2^{(a)}(A) = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_u\}$ . Then, for every  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  we have*

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}(A) = \bigcup_{i=1}^u \mathcal{D}(\lambda_i, \varepsilon).$$

**Proof.** Let us note that by Theorem 3, it is enough to prove that, for every pair of eigenvalues  $\lambda_j \neq \lambda_k$  of  $A$ , it is satisfied

$$\mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon) \subset \mathcal{D}(\lambda_j, \varepsilon) \cup \mathcal{D}(\lambda_k, \varepsilon),$$

for each  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ . Let us observe that if  $\varepsilon < \frac{|\lambda_j - \lambda_k|}{2}$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon) = \emptyset$ , that is to say, this case is trivial. So, let us suppose that  $\varepsilon \geq \frac{|\lambda_j - \lambda_k|}{2}$ . Now, if  $z \in \mathcal{D}_{jk}(\varepsilon)$ , following the notations of (11), from the proof of Theorem 17, we have

$$\begin{cases} |z - \lambda_j|^2 = \varepsilon^2 + 2\alpha(\theta)\rho, \\ |z - \lambda_k|^2 = \varepsilon^2 - 2\alpha(\theta)\rho. \end{cases}$$

So, if  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq |z - \lambda_k|$ , then  $\alpha(\theta) \leq 0$  and  $|z - \lambda_j| \leq \varepsilon$ , therefore,  $z \in \mathcal{D}(\lambda_j, \varepsilon)$ . If  $|z - \lambda_k| \leq |z - \lambda_j|$ , it turns out that  $\alpha(\theta) \geq 0$  and, therefore,  $|z - \lambda_k| \leq \varepsilon$ , so,  $z \in \mathcal{D}(\lambda_k, \varepsilon)$ .

□

We think it appropriate to make the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 20.** *If  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is normal, then for  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$  the algebraic  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of order  $k$  of  $A$  is a union of closed disks, or the empty set.*

## 5 Geometric pseudospectra

Given a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$  we write  $\Lambda_k^{(g)}(A)$  for the set of eigenvalues of  $A$  of geometric multiplicity  $\geq k$ .

For each  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ , we define the  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of geometric multiplicity  $\geq k$  of  $A$  as the set

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,k}^{(g)}(A) := \bigcup_{\|X-A\| \leq \varepsilon} \Lambda_k^{(g)}(X).$$

Also, briefly we will call this pseudospectrum, the *geometric  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of order  $k$*  of  $A$ . Let us note that  $\Lambda_{0,k}^{(g)}(A) = \Lambda_k^{(g)}(A)$ . Let us also remark that for  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ ,

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(g)}(A) \subset \Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(a)}(A).$$

**Example 21.** Let  $A_0 \in \mathbb{C}^{4 \times 4}$  the matrix

$$\text{diag}(2, -1 + \sqrt{3}i, -1 - \sqrt{3}i, \frac{5}{2} + \frac{5}{2}\sqrt{3}i).$$

In Figure 2 are showed the boundaries of  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,1}^{(g)}(A_0)$  in blue,  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(g)}(A_0)$  in red, and  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,3}^{(g)}(A_0)$  in green, for  $\varepsilon = 2.5$ .

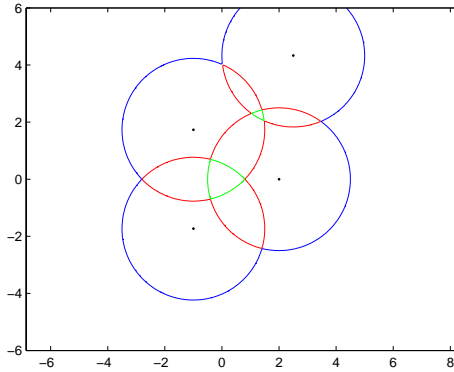


Figure 2: Boundaries of the geometric  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectra.

We are going to describe the set  $\Lambda_{\varepsilon,k}^{(g)}(A)$ , when the matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is normal. Thus, denoting by

$$\mathcal{D}(\lambda, \delta) := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - \lambda| \leq \delta\},$$

and by  $\text{Eig}(A)$  the  $n$ -tuple of unordered eigenvalues of  $A$  repeating the multiples, we arrive at the following theorem.

**Theorem 22.** *Let us assume that the matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is normal. Let us also suppose that  $\text{Eig}(A) = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ . Given  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ , for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$  we have*

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,k}^{(g)}(A) = \bigcup_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n} \bigcap_{j=1}^k \mathcal{D}(\lambda_{i_j}, \varepsilon).$$

Consequently,

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,2}^{(g)}(A) = \bigcup_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\mathcal{D}(\lambda_i, \varepsilon) \cap \mathcal{D}(\lambda_j, \varepsilon)).$$

**Proof.** As  $A$  is normal, we can assume without loss of generality that  $A = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ . Hence, given  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , the system of singular values of  $zI_n - A$  are

$$|z - \lambda_1|, |z - \lambda_2|, \dots, |z - \lambda_n|,$$

not necessarily ordered. We are going to use the property

$$\Lambda_{\varepsilon,k}^{(g)}(A) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \sigma_{n-k+1}(zI_n - A) \leq \varepsilon\}.$$

First, if  $z \in \Lambda_{\varepsilon,k}^{(g)}(A)$ , then  $\sigma_{n-k+1}(zI_n - A) \leq \varepsilon$ , that is, there exist  $k$  terms of the unordered  $n$ -tuple  $\text{Eig}(A)$  that will be denoted by  $\lambda_{i_j}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$  such that

$$|z - \lambda_{i_j}| \leq \varepsilon.$$

Therefore,  $z \in \mathcal{D}(\lambda_{i_j}, \varepsilon)$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . The converse demonstration can be proved following the reverse reasoning.

□

## 6 Conclusions

If  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is such that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  the ordinary  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectrum of  $A$  is the union of the disks of radius  $\varepsilon$  centered at the eigenvalues of  $A$ , we have given a general proof that  $A$  must be a normal matrix.

The gist of the article is the following result. When  $A$  is a normal matrix, we have characterized its algebraic  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectra of order 2 by means of a union of closed disks, ones centered at the multiple eigenvalues of  $A$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ , and the others centered at the midpoints of the line segments that join each pair  $\lambda_j, \lambda_k$  of different eigenvalues of  $A$  where at least one is simple, and radii  $\rho_{jk}(\varepsilon) = \sqrt{\varepsilon^2 - \frac{|\lambda_j - \lambda_k|^2}{4}}$ . Also, it is possible that for sufficiently small values of  $\varepsilon$  this pseudospectrum to be empty. A similar result for the geometric  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectra of order  $k$  of a normal matrix  $A$  is given in the last section; this set is equal to the union of the  $\binom{n}{k}$  intersections of  $k$  disks centered at the eigenvalues of  $A$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ . Besides, the set could be empty.

We are currently working on the Conjecture 20 for the  $k = 3$  case, based on papers by Ikramov and Nazari, mainly [6].

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