

Spectral theory of \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrices

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Abstract

In this paper, we study the spectrum and \mathcal{G} - spectrum of \mathcal{G} - idempotent matrices. Relations between \mathcal{G} - eigen values of a matrix M and eigen values of the matrix GM are obtained. Spectral characterisations of \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrices are investigated.

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1. Introduction

Let the space of $n \times n$ complex matrices be denoted by $\mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$. Let \mathbb{C}^n be the space of complex n -tuples. Let $u = (u_0, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{C}^n$. Let G be the Minkowski metric tensor defined by $Gu = (u_0, -u_1, -u_2, \dots, -u_{n-1})$. Then the Minkowski metric matrix G is given by $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -I_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$ and $G^2 = I_n$. Minkowski inner product on \mathbb{C}^n is defined by $(u, v) = \langle u, Gv \rangle$, where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the conventional Hilbert Space inner product. A space with Minkowski inner product is called a *Minkowski space*, which has been studied by physicists in optics. With respect to the Minkowski inner product the adjoint of a matrix $M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ is given by $M^\sim = GM^*G$, where M^* is the usual Hermitian adjoint.

A complex matrix $M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$, that satisfies the relation $M^2 = M$ is called idempotent matrix. Idempotent matrix plays an important role in functional analysis especially spectral theory of transformations and projections. For the properties of idempotent matrices and its generalizations one may refer [1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9]. In [8], B. Vasudevan and N. Anis Fathima introduced a new generalization of idempotent matrices, namely \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix in the Minkowski Space.

In this paper, we define \mathcal{G} - eigen values of a matrix. The \mathcal{G} - spectral resolution of a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix is determined. Relations among the multiplicity of eigen values of a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix M and the matrix functions such as trM , $det M$ and $rank M$ are discussed.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we define \mathcal{G} -eigen value of a matrix as a special case of generalized eigen value problem $Mx = \lambda Nx$. The \mathcal{G} -spectrum of a matrix is discussed. Section 3 deals with the spectral characterisation of \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrices. The \mathcal{G} -spectral properties of \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix is analysed in Section 4.

2. \mathcal{G} – Eigen value and \mathcal{G} -Eigen vector

The definition of \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix has been introduced in [8]. In this section, using the generalized eigen value problem, we define \mathcal{G} -eigen value of a matrix and proved that every matrix M satisfies the \mathcal{G} - characteristic equation of GM . Also \mathcal{G} -similarity of \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix is discussed.

Definition 2.1

A complex matrix $M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ is said to be \mathcal{G} -idempotent, if

$$M = GM^2G = M^{[2]},$$

where G is the Minkowski metric matrix, $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -I_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$.

Definition 2.2

A \mathcal{G} - eigen value of a matrix M is defined as the root of the equation $|\lambda G - M| = 0$. i.e., $\det(\lambda G - M) = 0$.

The polynomial $\det(\lambda G - M)$ is called \mathcal{G} - characteristic polynomial of M .

Definition 2.3

A non-zero vector $x (\neq 0)$ in \mathbb{C}^n is said to be a \mathcal{G} - eigen vector of a complex matrix M associated with a \mathcal{G} - eigen value λ , if it satisfies $Mx = \lambda Gx$.

Example 2.4

Let $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $M = \frac{-1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 12 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$. Then \mathcal{G} -eigen values of M are the roots of the equation $\det(\lambda G - M) = 0$.

$$\begin{vmatrix} \lambda + \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{4} \\ 3 & -\lambda + \frac{1}{2} \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = \pm 1$$

The \mathcal{G} -eigen vector of M corresponding to the \mathcal{G} -eigen value 1 is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and the \mathcal{G} -eigen vector of M corresponding to the \mathcal{G} -eigen value -1 is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$

Theorem 2.5

If $M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$, then

- i. (λ, x) is a (\mathcal{G} -eigen value, \mathcal{G} -eigen vector) pair for M if and only if it is an (eigen value, eigen vector) pair for GM .
- ii. Every matrix M satisfies the \mathcal{G} -characteristic equation of GM .
- iii. Any set of \mathcal{G} -eigen vectors corresponding to distinct \mathcal{G} -eigen values of a matrix must be linearly independent.

Proof

(i) (λ, x) is a (\mathcal{G} -eigen value, \mathcal{G} -eigen vector) pair for M

$$\Leftrightarrow Mx = \lambda Gx$$

$$\Leftrightarrow GMx = \lambda x$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (\lambda, x) \text{ is a (eigen value, eigen vector) pair}$$

for GM

(ii) Since every square matrix satisfies its characteristic equation (*Cayley-Hamilton theorem*), we have $\det(\lambda I - M) = 0$. Now

$$\det(\lambda G - GM) = \det[G(\lambda I - M)] = \det(G) \det(\lambda I - M) = 0.$$

Therefore the matrix M satisfies the \mathcal{G} -characteristic equation of GM .

(iii) By (i), any set of \mathcal{G} -eigen vectors corresponding to distinct \mathcal{G} -eigen values of a matrix M is the set of eigen vectors correspond to distinct eigen values of GM . Hence they are linearly independent.

Remark 2.6

If $\sigma(M)$ and $\sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M)$ denote the spectrum and \mathcal{G} -spectrum of M respectively then it is true that $\sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M) = \sigma(GM)$

Definition 2.7

Two matrices M and N in $\mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ are said to be \mathcal{G} -similar if there exists a non singular matrix $P \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ such that $N = GP^{-1}GMP$. Equivalently, M is \mathcal{G} -similar to N if and only if GM is similar to GN .

Example 2.8

Let $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $M = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. Then $N = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 + i\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + i\sqrt{3} \end{pmatrix}$ is \mathcal{G} -similar to M . For a non singular matrix $P = \begin{pmatrix} i & i \\ -\sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} \end{pmatrix}$, we have $N = GP^{-1}GMP$.

Theorem 2.9

Let M be a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix.

- i. Let N be a matrix similar to M and $N = P^{-1}MP$ then N is \mathcal{G} -idempotent if G commutes with P i.e., $GP = PG$.
- ii. Let S be a matrix \mathcal{G} -similar to M and $S = GQ^{-1}GMQ$ then S is \mathcal{G} -idempotent if G commutes with Q i.e., $GQ = QG$

Proof

Since M is a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix, we have $GM^2G = M$.

$$(i) \quad GN^2G = GP^{-1}MPP^{-1}MPG = GP^{-1}M^2PG = P^{-1}GM^2GP = P^{-1}MP = N$$

Hence N is \mathcal{G} -idempotent.

$$(ii) \quad S = GQ^{-1}GMQ = Q^{-1}GGMQ = Q^{-1}MQ. \text{ Therefore } S \text{ is similar to } M.$$

Hence by (i), S is \mathcal{G} -idempotent.

Theorem 2.10

Let M and N be two \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrices. If N is \mathcal{G} -similar to M , then N^3 is similar to M^3 .

Proof

Since N is \mathcal{G} -similar to M , we have $N = GP^{-1}GMP$, for some non singular matrix P . So,

$$GN = P^{-1}GMP$$

$$(GN)^2 = P^{-1}GMPP^{-1}GMP$$

$$(GN)^2 = P^{-1}(GM)^2P$$

$$N^3 = P^{-1}M^3P \quad (\text{by Remark 2.5 of [8]})$$

Hence N^3 is similar to M^3 .

3. Spectral Characterizations of \mathcal{G} -Idempotent Matrices

This section deals with the spectral resolution of \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrices.

Theorem 3.1

Let M be a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix. Then the eigen values of M are zero or cube roots of unity.

Proof

Let λ be an eigen value of a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix M . Then

$$Mx = \lambda x \Rightarrow M^2x = \lambda Mx \Rightarrow M^2x = \lambda^2x \Rightarrow M^4x = \lambda^2M^2x$$

$$\Rightarrow Mx = \lambda^4x \Rightarrow \lambda x = \lambda^4x$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda^4 - \lambda)x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda(\lambda^3 - 1)x = 0.$$

Since $x \neq 0$, we have $\lambda(\lambda^3 - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = 0$ or $\lambda^3 = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = 0 \text{ or } 1, \omega, \omega^2 \text{ where } \omega = \frac{-1+i\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

Example 3.2

Let $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $M = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$. Then M is \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix. The eigen values of M are ω and ω^2 .

Theorem 3.3

If $M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$, is a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix then it is diagonalizable and $\sigma(M) \subseteq \{0, 1, \omega, \omega^2\}$, where $\omega = \frac{-1+i\sqrt{3}}{2}$. Moreover, there exist unique disjoint oblique projectors P_i for $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ such that

$$M = \sum_{j=1}^3 \omega^j P_j \quad (3.1)$$

and

$$I = \sum_{i=0}^3 P_i \quad (3.2)$$

Proof

Since M is \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix, $M^4 = M$ (by theorem 2.11 of [8]) and so the polynomial $q(t) = t^4 - t$ is a multiple of $q_M(t)$ of M and every root of $q_M(t)$ has multiplicity 1 (cf.[3], pp11). Hence the matrix M is diagonalizable.

Moreover, $\sigma(M) \subseteq \{0, 1, \omega, \omega^2\}$ (by theorem 3.1 above)

Let us define P_i 's by the formula,

$$P_0 = \frac{f_0(M)}{f_0(0)}, \text{ where } f_0(\lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^3 (\lambda - \omega^i) \text{ and}$$

$$P_j = \frac{f_j(M)}{f_j(\omega^j)}, \text{ where } f_j(\lambda) = \prod_{\substack{i=1, \\ i \neq j}}^3 \lambda(\lambda - \omega^i) \text{ for } j = 1, 2, 3$$

Since $1 + \omega + \omega^2 = 0$, we have

$$P_0 = I - M^3,$$

$$P_1 = \frac{1}{3}(M^3 + \omega M^2 + \omega^2 M)$$

$$P_2 = \frac{1}{3}(M^3 + \omega^2 M^2 + \omega M)$$

$$P_3 = \frac{1}{3}(M^3 + M^2 + M)$$

When $\omega^j \notin \sigma(M)$ for $j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$, we see that $P_j = 0$. Similarly when $0 \notin \sigma(M)$, we see that $P_0 = 0$.

By spectral theorem, we see that the non-zero P_i 's so obtained are disjoint oblique projectors to satisfy (3.1) and (3.2).

Proof for Uniqueness

Let us assume that, if possible, let Q_i 's be non-zero disjoint oblique projectors such that

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i Q_i, \quad (3.3)$$

for complex numbers α_i and

$$I = \sum_{i=1}^m Q_i \quad (3.4)$$

Claim: (3.3) and (3.4) are identical with (3.1) and (3.2)

First we prove that α_i 's are eigen values of M .

Since $Q_i \neq 0$, there exists a non-zero vector x in the range of Q_i such that $Q_i x = x$ and $Q_j x = 0$ for $j \neq i$.

$$Mx = \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i Q_i \right) x$$

$$Mx = \alpha_i x.$$

Thus α_i is an eigen value of M .

Conversely, if λ is an eigen value of M , then $Mx = \lambda x$

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i Q_i \right) x = \lambda x = \lambda \left(\sum_{i=1}^m Q_i \right) x$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^m (\lambda - \alpha_i) Q_i x = 0 \quad (3.5)$$

Since Q_i 's are disjoint, we can find at least one $x \neq 0$ among the non-zero vectors for which (3.5) is linearly independent. Hence $\lambda = \alpha_i$ for some i and the set of α_i 's equals the set of eigen values of M . Also by changing the order of terms suitably, we can have

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^3 \omega^i Q_i.$$

Since the expression for P_i is unique in terms of M , we have $Q_i = P_i$ for $i = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$.

Hence the decompositions (3.1) and (3.2) are unique.

Example 3.4

Consider the matrices M and G given in *example 3.2*. The eigen values of M are ω and ω^2 . The oblique projectors of M are found to be

$$P_0 = 0,$$

$$P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{i\sqrt{3}}{6} \\ \frac{i\sqrt{3}}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{i\sqrt{3}}{6} \\ -\frac{i\sqrt{3}}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$P_3 = 0.$$

We can easily verify that the above projectors are disjoint, that is $P_i P_j = 0$ for $i \neq j$, and the equations (3.1) and (3.2) are satisfied by the projectors P_j 's.

Remark 3.5

Theorem 3.3 tells that every \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrices are diagonalizable. Let $m_i (i = 0, 1, 2)$ denote the multiplicity of eigen values 0, 1 and (ω, ω^2) respectively of a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix M . Since conjugate roots occur in pairs, m_2 denotes the multiplicity of ω as well as ω^2 . By spectral theorem, a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix M can be reduced to the following form (diagonal).

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & & & & & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & & & & & & & \\ & & 0 & & & & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & & & & & & & \\ & & & & \ddots & & & & & & \\ & & & & & 1 & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \omega & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \ddots & & & \\ & & & & & & & & \omega & & \\ & & & & & & & & & \omega^2 & \\ & & & & & & & & & & \ddots \\ & & & & & & & & & & & \omega^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

That is, we can find a matrix X such that $X^{-1}MX = \text{diag}(0 - m_0 \text{times}, 1 - m_1 \text{times}, \omega - m_2 \text{times}, \omega^2 - m_2 \text{times})$

Example 3.6

Let $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $M = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$. The eigen values of M are ω and ω^2 .
We can find an X such $X^{-1}MX = \begin{pmatrix} \omega & 0 \\ 0 & \omega^2 \end{pmatrix}$.

Here $X = \begin{pmatrix} i\sqrt{3} & i\sqrt{3} \\ -3 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$, $X^{-1} = \frac{-1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} i\sqrt{3} & 1 \\ i\sqrt{3} & -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

Theorem 3.7

Let $m_i (i = 0, 1, 2)$ denote the multiplicity of eigen values $0, 1$ and (ω, ω^2) respectively of a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix M of order n . Then

- i. $\text{tr } M = m_1 - m_2$
- ii. $\det M = 0$ or 1
- iii. $\text{rank } M = 3m_1 - 2 \text{tr} M$

Proof

By Theorem 3.3, the \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix M is diagonalizable. So we can find a matrix X such that

$$X^{-1}MX = \text{diag}(0 - m_0 \text{times}, 1 - m_1 \text{times}, \omega - m_2 \text{times}, \omega^2 - m_2 \text{times})$$

It is obvious that

$$n = m_0 + m_1 + 2m_2$$

- i. $\text{tr } M = 0 \times m_0 + 1 \times m_1 + (\omega + \omega^2)m_2 = m_1 + (-1)m_2 = m_1 - m_2$
- ii. If $m_0 > 0$ then we have $\det M = 0$. Otherwise,
 $\det M = 1^{m_1} \omega^{m_2} \omega^{2m_2} = 1(\omega^3)^{m_2} = 1$.
- iii. $\text{rank } M = n - m_0 = m_0 + m_1 + 2m_2 - m_0 = m_1 + 2(m_1 - \text{tr} M) = 3m_1 - 2 \text{tr} M$

Example 3.8

Let $M = \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 & 3i/2 \\ i/2 & -1/2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$. Then M is \mathcal{G} -idempotent. The eigen values of M are ω and ω^2 . That is $m_0 = 0$; $m_1 = 0$; $m_2 = 1$.

$$\text{tr } M = m_1 - m_2 = 0 - 1 = -1$$

$$\det M = 1$$

$$\text{rank } M = 3m_1 - 2 \text{tr} M = 3(0) - 2(-1) = 2$$

4. \mathcal{G} – Spectral Characterizations of \mathcal{G} -Idempotent Matrices

In this section, \mathcal{G} –spectral resolution of a \mathcal{G} – idempotent matrix is studied.

Theorem 4.1

The \mathcal{G} –eigen values of a \mathcal{G} –idempotent matrix M are 0, 1 and -1.

Proof

The \mathcal{G} –eigen values of M are given by $\det(\lambda G - M) = 0$ and the \mathcal{G} –eigen vector of M associated with a \mathcal{G} –eigen value λ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Mx &= \lambda Gx & (4.1) \\ \Rightarrow GMx &= \lambda x \\ \Rightarrow (GM)^2x &= \lambda GMx \\ \Rightarrow M^3x &= \lambda^2x \\ \Rightarrow M^4x &= \lambda^2Mx \\ \Rightarrow Mx &= \lambda^2Mx \\ \Rightarrow \lambda Gx &= \lambda^3Gx \\ \Rightarrow (\lambda - \lambda^3)Gx &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since $Gx \neq 0$, we have $\lambda = 0, 1, -1$.

Example: 4.2

Consider the \mathcal{G} –idempotent matrix M given in *example 3.8*. The \mathcal{G} –eigen values of M are 1 and -1.

Theorem: 4.3

If $M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$, is a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix then $\sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M) \subseteq \{0, 1, -1\}$. Moreover, there exist unique disjoint oblique projectors Q_j for $j \in \{0, 1, -1\}$ such that

$$GM = Q_1 - Q_{-1} \quad (4.2)$$

$$I = Q_0 + Q_1 + Q_{-1} \quad (4.3)$$

Proof

Since $\sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M) = \sigma(GM)$ and by *theorem 4.1*, we have $\sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M) \subseteq \{0, 1, -1\}$.

Let us define Q_j 's by the formula,

$$Q_j = \prod_{\substack{i=0,1,-1 \\ i \neq j}} \frac{GM - iI}{j - i} \text{ for } j = 0, 1, -1$$

Then $Q_0 = I - M^3$; $Q_1 = \frac{1}{2}(M^3 + GM)$; $Q_2 = \frac{1}{2}(M^3 - GM)$.

When $j \notin \sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M)$ for $j \in \{0, 1, -1\}$, we have $Q_j = 0$.

The proof for uniqueness of the disjoint oblique projectors of the non-zero Q_j 's satisfying the decompositions (4.2) and (4.3) is analogous to the proof in *theorem 3.3*.

Example 4.4

Consider the matrices M and G given in *example 3.8*. The oblique projectors of GM are found to be

$$Q_0 = 0,$$

$$Q_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & \frac{3i}{4} \\ i & \frac{3}{4} \\ -\frac{1}{4} & \frac{3}{4} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$Q_{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 3/4 & -3i/4 \\ i/4 & 1/4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is easy to verify that the above projectors are disjoint and satisfy the equations (4.2) and (4.3)

Theorem 4.7

Let M be a \mathcal{G} -idempotent matrix. If -1 or $1 \notin \sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M)$, then $MG = GM$.

Proof

Assume that $1 \notin \sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M)$. Then, by *theorem 4.3*, we have $Q_1 = 0$.

Therefore, $-GM = M^3$. But $M^3 = GM^3G = G(-GM)G = -MG$. Hence $GM = MG$.

Similarly, we can prove $GM = MG$, whenever $-1 \notin \sigma_{\mathcal{G}}(M)$.

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