

UNIVERSITÄT KAISERSLAUTERN

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METHODS WITH PERTURBATIONS  
FOR ILL-POSED OPERATOR  
EQUATIONS

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# **REGULARIZED APPROXIMATION METHODS WITH PERTURBATIONS FOR ILL-POSED OPERATOR EQUATIONS**

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## **ABSTRACT**

We are concerned with a parameter choice strategy for the Tikhonov regularization

$$(\tilde{A} + \alpha I)\tilde{x} = T^*\tilde{y} + w$$

where  $\tilde{A}$  is a (not necessarily selfadjoint) approximation of  $T^*T$  and  $T^*\tilde{y} + w$  is a perturbed form of the (not exactly computed) term  $T^*y$ . We give conditions for convergence and optimal convergence rates.

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are concerned with the problem of finding approximations to the minimal norm least-square solution  $\hat{x}$  of the operator equation

$$Tx = y, \tag{1}$$

where  $T$  is a bounded linear operator between Hilbert spaces  $X$  and  $Y$  and  $y$  belongs to  $D(T^+) := R(T) + R(T)^\perp$ , the domain of the Moore–Penrose inverse  $T^+$  of  $T$ . It is well known [6] that if the range  $R(T)$  of  $T$  is not closed, then the operator  $T^+$  (which associates  $y \in D(T^+)$  the unique element  $\hat{x} := T^+y$  of minimal norm such that  $\|T\hat{x} - y\| = \inf\{\|Tx - y\| : x \in X\}$ )

is not continuous, and hence the problem of solving (1) for  $\hat{x}$  is ill-posed. So, regularization methods are employed to find approximations to  $\hat{x}$ . A well known such method is the Tikhonov regularization in which a well-posed equation

$$(T^*T + \alpha I)x_\alpha = T^*y \quad (2)$$

is solved for each  $\alpha > 0$ . It can be easily seen that if  $y^\delta \in Y$  with  $\|y - y^\delta\| \leq \delta$ , is available instead of  $y$ , then the solution of

$$(\alpha I + T^*T)x_\alpha^\delta = T^*y^\delta \quad (3)$$

satisfies

$$\|x_\alpha - x_\alpha^\delta\| \leq \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{\alpha}} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \delta \rightarrow 0.$$

In order that  $x_\alpha^\delta$  to be an approximation to  $\hat{x}$ , we must have  $x_\alpha^\delta \rightarrow \hat{x}$  as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  and  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ . It is known (c.f. Groetsch [6]) that

$$\|\hat{x} - x_\alpha\| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \alpha \rightarrow 0. \quad (4)$$

Therefore a sufficient condition for  $x_\alpha^\delta \rightarrow \hat{x}$  is to choose  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta)$  such that  $\delta/\sqrt{\alpha(\delta)} \rightarrow 0$  as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$ . Next question is how fast the convergence is. This question is generally tackled under certain "smoothness" assumptions on the unknown  $\hat{x}$ . If  $\hat{x} \in R((T^*T)^\nu)$ ,  $0 < \nu \leq 1$ , then it is known [6] that

$$\|\hat{x} - x_\alpha\| = O(\alpha^\nu), \quad (5)$$

so that an a priori parameter choice  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta)$  for  $\max\{\alpha^\nu, \delta/\sqrt{\alpha}\}$  to be minimum is  $\alpha(\delta) = c\delta^{2/(2\nu+1)}$  for some constant  $c > 0$ . With this choice of  $\alpha$ , we have

$$\|\hat{x} - x_\alpha^\delta\| \leq \|\hat{x} - x_\alpha\| + \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{\alpha}} = O(\delta^{2\nu/(2\nu+1)}). \quad (6)$$

It is also known (Schock [11]) that the rate  $O(\delta^{2\nu/(2\nu+1)})$  is optimal, in the sense that it can not be replaced (in general) by  $o(\delta^{2\nu/(2\nu+1)})$  for  $\hat{x} \in R((T^*T)^\nu)$ , unless  $\hat{x} = 0$ . In a posteriori parameter choice strategies, the

parameter  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta)$  is chosen during the course of computation of  $x_\alpha^\delta$ . Many works in the literature devoted to this (c.f. Groetsch [5], Schock [12], Engl [1], Engl and Neubauer [3], Gfrerer [4], Nair [9], and the references there in.)

In all the above referred works it is presumed that  $T^*y^\delta$  is computed exactly. But, due to the ill-posed nature of the operator  $T$  it is very likely that one actually deals with a perturbed quantity  $T^*y^\delta + w$  with  $\|w\|$  small instead of  $T^*y^\delta$ , so that  $T^*y^\delta + w$  does not belong to the range of  $T^*$ . Such situation in the finite dimensional frame work has been considered by Schock [13]. This consideration would be of very importance when one solves equation (3) numerically. For example the operator  $A := T^*T$  and  $T^*$  may be approximated by sequences of operators  $(A_n)$  and  $(T_n^*)$  respectively, and in that case one generally considers the problem to be solved is

$$(A_n + \alpha I)x = T_n^*y^\delta ;$$

but the actual problem at hand is of the form

$$(A_n + \alpha I)x = T_n^*y^\delta + w_n$$

where  $w_n$  is some additional error due to computation involved in  $T^*y^\delta$ . The main purpose of this paper is to address this issue. We propose a priori and a posteriori parameter choice strategies for choosing  $\alpha$  taking into consideration such inaccuracies due to computation. In particular we show that if  $A_n$  and  $z_n^\delta$  are "good" approximations to  $A$  and  $T^*y^\delta$  respectively, then the optimal theoretical rate in (6) can be achieved.

## THE METHOD AND ITS CONVERGENCE

Let  $y^\delta \in Y$  with  $\|y - y^\delta\| \leq \delta$ ,  $(z_n^\delta)$  in  $X$  such that

$$\|z_n^\delta - T^*y^\delta\| \leq \eta_{n,\delta} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

for each  $\delta > 0$ , and  $(A_n)$  be a sequence of bounded linear operators on  $X$

such that

$$\|A - A_n\| \leq \varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty,$$

where  $A := T^*T$ . Since  $A$  is a non-negative and self-adjoint operator, it follows that for each  $n=1,2,\dots$ ,  $\alpha \geq \varepsilon_n/c_1$  for some constant  $c_1$  such that  $0 < c_1 < 1$  implies the existence of  $(A_n + \alpha I)^{-1}$  as a bounded linear operator and  $\|(A_n + \alpha I)^{-1}\| \leq 1/(1-c_1)\alpha$ . It is to be remarked that if  $A_n$  is non-negative and self-adjoint, then the above conclusions hold for all  $\alpha > 0$ . In this context one recalls that in projection methods ([8],[3]) for compact  $T$ , one has non-negative self-adjoint operators  $A_n = P_n T^* T P_n$  where  $(P_n)$  is a sequence of orthogonal projections such that  $P_n x \rightarrow x$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for all  $x \in X$ ; and in a degenerate kernel method for integral equations of the first kind considered by Groetsch [7], non-negative self-adjoint operators  $A_n$  are obtained by approximating the kernel of the integral operator  $A = T^*T$  by convergent quadrature rules. In both these cases one also has  $\|A - A_n\| \rightarrow 0$ . But the consideration of a general  $A_n$ , as has been done recently by Nair [10], is again important in computational point of view, because due to truncation errors etc., one actually may not be dealing with a non-negative self-adjoint operator.

We consider the equation

$$(A_n + \alpha I)x_{\alpha,n}^\delta = z_n^\delta$$

for  $\alpha \geq \varepsilon_n/c_1$ , for  $0 < c_1 < 1$ .

In order to obtain estimates for  $\|\hat{x} - x_{\alpha,n}^\delta\|$  we consider the equation

$$(A_n + \alpha I)x_{\alpha,n} = T^*y, \quad \alpha \geq \varepsilon_n/c_1 \quad (7)$$

Then we have

$$(A_n + \alpha I)(x_{\alpha,n} - x_{\alpha,n}^\delta) = T^*y - z_n^\delta$$

so that

$$(A + \alpha I)(x_{\alpha, n} - x_{\alpha, n}^\delta) = T^*y^\delta - z_n^\delta + (A - A_n)(x_{\alpha, n} - x_{\alpha, n}^\delta).$$

Therefore, writing  $T^*y - z_n^\delta = T^*(y - y^\delta) + (T^*y^\delta - z_n^\delta)$  and using the relations  $\varepsilon_n \leq c_1 \alpha$ ,  $0 < c_1 < 1$  and  $\|(A + \alpha I)^{-1}\| \leq 1/\alpha$ , it follows that

$$\|x_{\alpha, n} - x_{\alpha, n}^\delta\| \leq \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{\alpha}} + \frac{\eta_{n, \delta}}{\alpha}.$$

Now, recall equation (2) which can be rewritten as

$$(A_n + \alpha I)x_\alpha = T^*y - (A - A_n)x_\alpha.$$

This together with (7) and using the fact that

$\|x_\alpha\| = \|(A + \alpha I)^{-1}T^*y\| = \|(A + \alpha I)^{-1}A\hat{x}\| \leq \|\hat{x}\|$ , it follows that

$$\|x_\alpha - x_{\alpha, n}\| \leq \|(A_n + \alpha I)^{-1}\| \|(A - A_n)x_\alpha\| = O\left[\frac{\varepsilon_n}{\alpha}\right].$$

Thus,

$$\|\hat{x} - x_{\alpha, n}^\delta\| = O\left[\|\hat{x} - x_\alpha\| + \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{\alpha}} + \frac{\eta_{n, \delta}}{\alpha} + \frac{\varepsilon_n}{\alpha}\right] \quad (8)$$

for all  $\alpha \geq \varepsilon_n/c_1$ .

Now, (8) together with (4), (5) and (6) gives the following result.

### ***THEOREM 1***

(i) For  $\delta > 0$  and  $n=1, 2, \dots$ , let  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta, n) > 0$  be such that

$$\alpha(\delta, n) \rightarrow 0, \quad \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{\alpha(\delta, n)}} \rightarrow 0, \quad \frac{\varepsilon_n}{\alpha(\delta, n)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\eta_{n, \delta}}{\alpha(\delta, n)} \rightarrow 0$$

as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Then

$$\|\hat{x} - x_{\alpha, n}^\delta\| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad \delta \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty.$$

(ii) Let  $\hat{x} \in R(A^\nu)$ ,  $0 < \nu \leq 1$ , and for  $\delta > 0$  let  $\alpha = c\delta^{2/(2\nu+1)}$  for some constant  $c > 0$ . Let  $n_0$  be a positive integer such that for

$$\varepsilon_n \leq c_1 \alpha, \quad \varepsilon_n = O(\delta^{(2\nu+2)/(2\nu+1)}), \quad \eta_{n, \delta} = O(\delta^{(2\nu+2)/(2\nu+1)}).$$

Then

$$\|\hat{x} - x_{\alpha, n}^\delta\| = O(\delta^{2\nu/(2\nu+1)}), \quad n \geq n_0.$$

## A POSTERIORI PARAMETER CHOICE STRATEGY

For the sake of simplicity of presentations, we assume that

$$\eta_{n,\delta} = o(\delta^r) \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon_n = o(\delta^k)$$

for all large enough  $n$ , and for some positive real numbers  $r$  and  $k$ . For  $p \geq 0$ ,  $q > 0$ , we propose the following "discrepancy principle"

$$\|A_n x_{\alpha,n}^\delta - z_n^\delta\| = \frac{\delta^p}{\alpha^q} \quad (9)$$

where  $n > \tilde{n}(\delta)$  with  $\tilde{n}(\delta)$  to be specified.

First we note that

$$\|A_n x_{\alpha,n}^\delta - z_n^\delta\| = \|\alpha x_{\alpha,n}^\delta\| = \|\alpha(A_n + \alpha I)^{-1} z_n^\delta\| \leq c \quad (10)$$

for some constant  $c > 0$  and for all  $\alpha \geq \varepsilon_n/c_1$ . Now, let  $c_2 > 0$  and  $c_3 > 0$  be such that  $\|z_n^\delta\| \leq c_2$  for all  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  and for all  $\delta \leq \delta_0$  for a given  $\delta_0 > 0$ , and  $\|A_n\| \leq c_3$  for all  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . Then for each  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and for all

$$\alpha \geq c_4 = \max \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon_n}{c_1} : n=1, 2, \dots \right\},$$

$$\|A_n x_{\alpha,n}^\delta - z_n^\delta\| = \|\alpha(A_n + \alpha I)^{-1} z_n^\delta\| \geq \frac{c_2}{1+c_3/c_4} = c_0, \text{ say.} \quad (11)$$

From (10) we have

$$f_n(\alpha) := \alpha^q \|A_n x_{\alpha,n}^\delta - z_n^\delta\| \leq c \alpha^q, \quad \alpha \geq \varepsilon_n/c_1.$$

Therefore

$f_n \left[ \frac{\varepsilon_n}{c_1} \right] \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Now, let  $\tilde{n}(\delta)$  be the smallest positive integer such

that for all  $n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta)$ ,

$$\varepsilon_n \leq c_1 \min \left\{ \left[ \frac{\delta^p}{c} \right]^{1/q}, \left[ \frac{\delta^p}{c_0} \right]^{1/q} \right\}.$$



Then taking

$$\alpha_o = \max \left\{ c_4, \left[ \frac{\delta^p}{c_o} \right]^{1/q} \right\}$$

it follows that for all  $n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta)$ ,

$$\alpha_o \geq \frac{\varepsilon_n}{c_1} \text{ and } f_n \left[ \frac{\varepsilon_n}{c_1} \right] \leq \delta^p \leq f_n(\alpha_o).$$

Therefore, by intermediate value theorem, there exists  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta, n)$  such that

$$\frac{\varepsilon_n}{c_1} \leq \alpha(\delta, n) \leq \alpha_o \text{ and } \|A_n x_{\alpha, n}^\delta - z_n^\delta\| = \frac{\delta^p}{\alpha^p}$$

for all  $n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta)$ . We also note that for  $n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta)$  and  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta, n)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|z_n^\delta\| - \frac{\delta^p}{\alpha^q} &= \|z_n^\delta\| - \|A_n x_{\alpha, n}^\delta - z_n^\delta\| \\ &\leq \|A_n x_{\alpha, n}^\delta\| \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha} \|A_n(\alpha x_{\alpha, n}^\delta)\| \\ &\leq \|A_n\| \cdot \frac{\delta^p}{\alpha^{q+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\alpha^{q+1} \leq \delta^p (\alpha + \|A_n\|) / \|z_n^\delta\| \leq \delta^p \left[ \frac{\alpha_o + c_3}{c_2} \right],$$

so that

$$\alpha(\delta, n) = O(\delta^{p/(q+1)})$$

for all  $n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta)$ .

We summarize the above results, in Proposition 2 below.

**PROPOSITION 2:**

Let  $p \geq 0$ ,  $q > 0$ . For  $\delta > 0$ , there exists positive integer  $\tilde{n}(\delta)$  and  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta, n) > 0$  for  $n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta)$  such that (9) holds, and

$$\alpha(\delta, n) = O(\delta^{p/(q+1)}), \quad n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta).$$

**PROPOSITION 3:**

If  $\frac{p}{q+1} \leq \min \{2, r\}$ , then

$$\frac{\delta^p}{\alpha(\delta, n)^q} \leq c \delta^{p/(q+1)}$$

for some constant  $c > 0$  independent of  $n$  and  $\delta$ .

**Proof:**

For any  $u \in X$ , we have

$$\|(A_n + \alpha I)^{-1} u\| \leq \frac{\|(A + \alpha I)^{-1} u\|}{1 - (\varepsilon_n / \alpha)} = \left[ \frac{1}{1 - c_1} \right] \|(A + \alpha I)^{-1} u\|.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(A_n + \alpha I)^{-1} z_n^\delta\| \\ & \leq \left[ \frac{1}{1 - c_1} \right] \|(A + \alpha I)^{-1} (z_n^\delta - T^* y^\delta) + (A + \alpha I)^{-1} T^* (y^\delta - y) + (A + \alpha I)^{-1} T^* y\| \\ & \leq \left[ \frac{1}{1 - c_1} \right] \left[ \frac{\eta_n, \delta}{\alpha} + \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{\alpha}} + \|\hat{x}\| \right], \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta^p}{\alpha^q} &= \|\alpha x_{\alpha, n}^\delta\| \leq \frac{1}{1 - c_1} (\eta_n, \delta + \delta \sqrt{\alpha} + \|\hat{x}\| \alpha) = O(\delta^\mu) \\ \mu &= \min \left\{ r, 1 + \frac{p}{2(q+1)}, \frac{p}{q+1} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

From this the result follows. □

Now we are in a position to state the main theorem of this paper.

**THEOREM 4:**

If  $\frac{p}{q+1} \leq \min \{2, r, k\}$ ,  $\hat{x} \in R(A^\nu)$ ,  $0 < \nu \leq 1$ ,  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta, n)$  is chosen according to (9) for  $n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta)$ , then

$$\|\hat{x} - x_{\alpha, n}^\delta\| = O(\delta^s), \quad n \geq \tilde{n}(\delta),$$

where

$$s = \min \left\{ \frac{p\nu}{q+1}, 1 - \frac{p}{2(q+1)}, r - \frac{p}{q+1}, k - \frac{p}{q+1} \right\}.$$

In particular we have the following:

(a) If  $1 + \frac{p}{2(q+1)} \leq r$ ,  $1 + \frac{p}{2(q+1)} \leq k$  and  $\frac{p}{2(q+1)} \leq 1$ , then

$$\|\hat{x} - x_{\alpha,n}^\delta\| = o(\delta^s), \quad s = \begin{cases} \frac{p\nu}{q+1}, & \frac{p}{q+1} \leq \frac{2}{2\nu+1} \\ 1 - \frac{p}{2(q+1)}, & \frac{p}{q+1} \geq \frac{2}{2\nu+1} \end{cases}$$

b) If  $r \geq \frac{2\nu+2}{2\nu+1}$ ,  $k \geq \frac{2\nu+2}{2\nu+1}$ , then

$$\|\hat{x} - x_{\alpha,n}^\delta\| = o(\delta^{(2\nu/2\nu+1)}).$$

**Proof:**

We recall from (5),(6) and (8) that

$$\|\hat{x} - x_{\alpha,n}^\delta\| = o\left[\max\left\{\alpha^\nu, \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{\alpha}}, \frac{\eta_{n,\delta}}{\alpha}, \frac{\varepsilon_n}{\alpha}\right\}\right].$$

From Proposition 3, we have

$$\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{\alpha}} = \delta^{1-p/2(q+1)} \left[\frac{\delta^p}{\alpha^q}\right]^{1/2q} = o\left[\delta^{1-p/2(q+1)}\right],$$

$$\frac{\delta^r}{\alpha} = \delta^{r-p/q} \left[\frac{\delta^p}{\alpha^q}\right]^{1/q} = o\left[\delta^{r-p/(q+1)}\right]$$

and

$$\frac{\delta^k}{\alpha} = o\left[\delta^{k-p/(q+1)}\right].$$

These estimates together with Proposition 2 and the assumptions  $\eta_{n,\delta} = o(\delta^r)$  and  $\varepsilon_n = o(\delta^k)$  imply the results.

□

It is to be remarked that in the projection method case  $z_n^\delta = P_n T^* y^\delta$  and in the degenerate kernel method,  $z_n^\delta = T^* y^\delta$ , so that in both the above cases,

$$\|z_n^\delta - T^* y^\delta\| \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Moreover, in both the above cases the operator  $A_n$  is non-negative and self-adjoint with  $\|A - A_n\| \rightarrow 0$ , so that the analysis can be simplified.

Thus this paper generalizes the type of results in Engl and Neubauer ([2],[3]) for projection methods, and also the first part of Grotsch [8] providing a parameter choice strategy.

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