

# EQUADIFF 5

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Strongly maximal matrix functions in regions containing stable solutions

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STRONGLY MAXIMAL MATRIX FUNCTIONS  
IN REGIONS CONTAINING STABLE SOLUTIONS

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Ito stochastic equations

$$(1) \quad dx = a(t,x)dt + B(t,x)dw$$

are considered where  $w(t)$  is an  $n$ -dimensional Wiener process,  $a(t,x)$  is an  $n$ -dimensional vector function,  $B(t,x)$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix function.

Hypothesis (A).  $B_{ij}(t,x)$ ,  $a_i(t,x)$  are defined for  $t \geq 0$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , are bounded, Lipschitz continuous in  $x$  and Hölder continuous in  $t$ . Let  $D$  be a given bounded region and  $K$  a compact subset of  $D$ .

Hypothesis (B). The matrix function  $H(t,x) = B(t,x)B^T(t,x)$  is uniformly positive definite on  $(0,\infty) \times S$  for every compact subset  $S$  of  $\bar{D}-K$ .

Define  $P(B,x_0) = P\{\exists t: x(t;0,x_0) \notin D\}$ , where  $x(t;t_0,x_0)$  is the solution of (1),  $x(t_0;t_0,x_0) = x_0$ . We write  $H_0(t,x) \geq H(t,x)$  (the diffusion generated by  $H_0$  is greater than that generated by  $H$ ) iff  $H_0(t,x) - H(t,x)$  is positive semidefinite at every point of  $\langle 0,\infty \rangle \times D$ .

Definition (of stability). A compact set  $K$  is uniformly stable with respect to (1) iff for every neighbourhood  $U$  of  $K$  and every number  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a neighbourhood  $U_\varepsilon$  of  $K$  such that

$$P\{\exists t: x(t;t_0,x_0) \notin U, t \geq t_0\} \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{for } x_0 \in U_\varepsilon.$$

Definition (of maximality). Let  $a(t,x)$ ,  $B_0(t,x)$ , a bounded region  $D$  and a subset  $K$  be given fulfilling Hypotheses (A), (B). We say that the matrix function  $B_0(t,x)$  is strongly maximal (with respect to  $a(t,x), D, K$ ) if  $P(B_0, x_0) \geq P(B, x_0)$  for every initial value  $x_0 \in D$  and for every matrix function  $B(t,x)$  fulfilling Hypotheses (A), (B) and  $B(t,x) \leq B_0(t,x)$ .

Motivation of the problem. Let a technical device be described by  $\dot{x} = a(t,x)$ . The influence of random perturbations on such a system can be sometimes described by (1), where  $B(t,x)$  determines the intensity and distribution of the random perturbations. Frequently the probability that the parameter  $x$  leaves the region  $D$  is required to be small. If  $a(t,x)$  and  $B(t,x)$  are given precisely then this probability  $P(B, x_0)$  can be calculated. But often only an upper bound  $B_0(t,x)$  for  $B(t,x)$  ( $B(t,x) \leq B_0(t,x)$ ) is available. Certainly  $B_0$  is a good upper bound only if  $P(B, x_0) \leq P(B_0, x_0)$ , i.e. if  $B_0$  is strongly maximal.

A similar problem was studied in [1] - [3] but in these papers

the probability  $P(B, x_0)$  was considered on a finite time interval.

Before the results can be formulated, further assumptions are to be imposed on  $D$  and  $K$ .

Hypothesis (C). The region  $D$  is bounded and is of the type  $C^{(3)}$ , i.e. for every point  $x^{(0)} \in \dot{D}$  (boundary of  $D$ ) there exist a neighbourhood  $U$  of  $x^{(0)}$ , an index  $i$  and a function  $x_i = h(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)$  having the third continuous derivatives so that  $D \cap U = \{x: x_i > h(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)\} \cap U$ . If  $n=1$  then Hypothesis (C) is fulfilled for bounded intervals.

Hypothesis (C'). The set  $K$  is compact, can be expressed as  $K = \bar{U}$  where  $U$  is a region, the boundary  $\dot{U}$  consists of one component only and  $U$  fulfils Hypothesis (C).

Hypothesis (C''). The compact set  $K$  is a union of a finite number of disjoint sets  $K_i$  fulfilling Hypothesis (C').

Lemma. Let  $R$  be a symmetric matrix. There exist symmetric positive definite matrices  $R^{(i)}$ ,  $i=1, 2$ , such that  $R = R^{(1)} - R^{(2)}$ . The matrices  $R^{(i)}$  are determined uniquely provided they have the same eigenvectors as  $R$ .

Further notation. Denote  $r(x) = \text{dist}(x, K)$  for  $x \in \overline{D-K}$ .

With regard to (C') there exist  $\partial^2 r / (\partial x_i \partial x_j)(x)$  for  $x \in \dot{K}$ . We denote  $R(x) = \{\partial^2 r / \partial x_i \partial x_j\}$  for  $x \in \dot{K}$ . Let  $\nu(x)$  be the unit vector of the outward normal with respect to  $D-K$ .

Problem (P). Find a bounded solution  $u(t, x)$  of

$$Lu = \partial u / \partial t + \sum_i a_i(t, x) \partial u / \partial x_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} (H_0)_{ij}(t, x) \partial^2 u / \partial x_i \partial x_j = 0$$

in the region  $(0, \infty) \times (D-K)$ ,

fulfilling

$$u(t, x) = 1 \text{ for } x \in \dot{D}, \quad t \geq 0,$$

$$u(t, y) \rightarrow 0 \text{ for } y \rightarrow K \text{ uniformly with respect to } t.$$

We shall consider the Ito equation

$$(2) \quad dx = a(t, x)dt + B_0(t, x)dw.$$

Theorem 1. Let the coefficients  $a(t, x)$ ,  $B_0(t, x)$  fulfil Hypotheses (A), (B), let the region  $D$  fulfil Hypotheses (C) and let the compact set  $K$ ,  $K \subset D$ , be a union of two disjoint sets  $K_1, K_2$  such that

- 1)  $H_{ij}(t, x) \equiv 0$  for  $t \geq 0$ ,  $x \in K_1$  (if  $K_1$  is nonempty),
- 2)  $K_2$  fulfils Hypothesis (C'') and  $\sum_i a_i(t, x) \nu_i(x) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} (H_0)_{ij}(t, x) R_{ij}^{(2)}(x) \geq 0$  for  $t \geq 0$ ,  $x \in K_2$  (if  $K_2$  is nonempty),
- 3)  $K$  is uniformly stable with respect to (2),
- 4) every point of  $D-K$  can be connected with  $\dot{D}$  by a continuous curve lying in  $D-K$ .

Then  $B_0(t, x)$  is strongly maximal if and only if the solution  $u$

of the problem (P) is a convex function of  $x$  in  $(0, \infty) \times (D-K)$ .

The theorem gives conditions for the matrix function  $B_0(t, x)$  to be strongly maximal. Notice that  $B_0(t, x)$  need not be strongly maximal even if it is a constant matrix and even in the scalar case (see [1], [2]). The method of the proof uses modified results of [4], [5] on attainable and nonattainable sets and on degenerate partial differential equations of parabolic type.

Theorem 1 yields that a necessary condition for  $B_0(t, x)$  to be strongly maximal is that the set  $K$  is convex. Using this fact as an assumption we obtain

Theorem 2. Let the coefficients  $a(t, x)$ ,  $B_0(t, x)$  fulfil Hypotheses (A), (B), let the region  $D$  fulfil Hypothesis (C) and let the compact set  $K$  be convex. Assume that  $K$  is uniformly stable with respect to (2) and that at least one of the following assumptions is fulfilled:

- 1)  $H(t, x) = 0$  for  $t \geq 0$ ,  $x \in K$
- 2)  $K$  fulfils (C').

Then the statement of Theorem 1 is valid.

Scalar case ( $n=1$ ). In this case  $D = (x_1, x_2)$ . We shall assume (without loss of generality) that  $K = \{x_1\}$ . In this case we obtain more explicit results.

Theorem 3. Let functions  $a(t, x)$ ,  $B(t, x)$  fulfil Hypotheses (A), (B). Assume that  $a(t, x_1) = B(t, x_1) = 0$  and that the solution  $x(t) = x_1$  is uniformly stable with respect to (1). Let the function  $a(t, x)$  be a convex function of  $x$  in  $(0, \infty) \times D$ . The function  $B_0(t, x)$  is strongly maximal if and only if  $a(t, x_2) \leq 0$ .

Theorem 3 can be derived from Theorem 2 and it is a starting point for deriving theorems involving no assumption on convexity of  $a(t, x)$ . Let  $f'(x)$  be the derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $x$ .

Theorem 4. Let  $a(t, x)$ ,  $B(t, x)$  fulfil Hypotheses (A), (B),  $D=(0, 1)$ ,  $a(t, 0) = B(t, 0) = 0$ , let  $x(t) = 0$  of (1) be uniformly stable,  $a'$  and  $B''$  continuous,  $a(t, 1) < 0$ . Denote  $g = \sup \frac{1}{2} B^2(t, 1) / (-a(t, 1))$ . Assume there exists a number  $m \geq g$  such that

$$(a'(t, x) + B'(t, x) + B(t, x)B''(t, x))s^2 + (2a(t, x) + 5B(t, x)B'(t, x))s + 6B^2(t, x) + a''(t, x)s^3 \geq 0$$

for all  $t \geq 0$ ,  $x \in (0, 1)$ ,  $s \in (m, m+2)$ .

Then the function  $B(t, x)$  is strongly maximal.

A very simple condition for strong maximality can be given in the autonomous scalar case, i.e. when  $n=1$  and  $a(t, x)$ ,  $B(t, x)$  do not depend on  $t$ .

Theorem 5. Let  $a(x)$ ,  $B(x)$  be real, Lipschitz continuous functions,  $D = (0,1)$ ,  $a(0) = B(0) = 0$ ,  $B(x) \neq 0$  for  $x \in (0,1)$ . If the solution  $x(t) = 0$  is stable with respect to (1) then  $B(x)$  is strongly maximal if and only if  $a(x) \leq 0$  for  $x \in (0,1)$ .

Notice that the condition  $a \leq 0$  is neither necessary nor sufficient in the nonautonomous case. The condition of uniform stability of  $K$  can be given in terms of Lyapunov functions.

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