Closed form solutions of Lyapunov equations using the vech and veck operators

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Abstract: New closed forms are presented of the solutions of the continuous and discrete Lyapunov equations using the vech and veck operators. The proposed solutions are faster than the classical solutions derived using the vec operator. The solutions via veck operator are faster than the solutions via vech operator.

Key-Words: continuous Lyapunov equation, discrete Lyapunov equation, vec, vech, veck operator

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1 Introduction
Matrix equations [1]-[3] play a fundamental role in many tasks in control theory. Lyapunov equations play a very important role in stability theory of continuous systems [4] and discrete systems [4], [5].

The continuous Lyapunov equation is associated with continuous state space systems.

Continuous Lyapunov equation
Consider the \( n \times n \) real square matrices \( F, Q \), where \( Q \) is symmetric and nonnegative definite. The continuous Lyapunov equation is

\[
F \cdot X + X \cdot F^T = -Q
\]

where the solution \( X \) is an \( n \times n \) real square symmetric nonnegative definite matrix. \( F^T \) denotes the transpose of \( F \).

Existence and uniqueness of solution.
Let \( \lambda_i, i = 1 \ldots n \) be the eigenvalues of \( F \). The continuous Lyapunov equation (1.1) has a unique symmetric nonnegative definite solution \( X \) if and only if \( |\lambda_i| < 1 \) for all \( i = 1, \ldots, n \).

In the literature [6]-[9] there exist iterative as well as algebraic solutions of the continuous Lyapunov equation (for instance Arnoldi method, Smith’s algorithm, Hessenberg-Shur method).

In the literature [5] there exist iterative as well as algebraic solutions of the discrete Lyapunov equation (for instance Chandrasekhar type algorithms, doubling algorithm, Vaughan’s algebraic non-recursive solution).

Both continuous and discrete Lyapunov equations are equivalent to linear systems of equations. Thus solutions via the vec operator are derived. Classical closed forms solutions using the vec operator are briefly presented in section II.

In this paper, new closed forms are proposed for the solutions of the continuous and discrete Lyapunov equations using the operator vech and the operator veck, in sections III and IV, respectively. The computational requirements of the proposed method are determined in section V. It is shown that the proposed solutions derived using the vech and
veck operators are faster than the classical solutions derived using the vec operator. Finally, Section VI summarizes the conclusions.

The novelty of this paper concerns a) the analytic determination of the computational requirements of the algorithms that use the vec, vech and veck operators, with respect to the matrices dimension $n$, b) the derivation of the speedup form the classical solution via vec operator to the proposed solutions via vech and veck operators.

2 Solutions Using vec Operator

Lyapunov equations involve matrices. Then we are able to use the vec operator, which stacks columns of a matrix one under another in a single column.

**Continuous Lyapunov equation**

\[
F \cdot X + X \cdot F^T = -Q
\]

\[
\Rightarrow \text{vec}(-Q) = \text{vec}(F \cdot X + X \cdot F^T)
\]

\[
= (I_n \otimes F) \cdot \text{vec}(X) + (F \otimes I_n) \cdot \text{vec}(X)
\]

where $I_n$ denotes the $n \times n$ identity matrix, $\otimes$ is the Kronecker product and the following properties [10], [11] were used:

\[
\text{vec}(A + B) = \text{vec}(A) + \text{vec}(B)
\]

\[
\text{vec}(A \cdot B \cdot C) = (C^T \otimes A) \cdot \text{vec}(B)
\]

Then, defining

\[
C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n
\]

we get:

\[
C \cdot \text{vec}(X) = -\text{vec}(Q)
\]

(2.1)

Then, if the conditions for the existence of a unique solution of the continuous Lyapunov equation are satisfied, then the matrix $C$ is nonsingular and we get:

\[
\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)
\]

(2.2)

The construction of the solution $X$ from $\text{vec}(X)$ is trivial.

**Discrete Lyapunov equation**

\[
X = Q + F \cdot X \cdot F^T
\]

\[
\Rightarrow \text{vec}(X) = \text{vec}(Q + F \cdot X \cdot F^T)
\]

\[
= \text{vec}(Q) + \text{vec}(F \cdot X \cdot F^T)
\]

\[
= \text{vec}(Q) + (F \otimes F) \cdot \text{vec}(X)
\]

Then, defining

\[
C = I_n \otimes \text{vec}(Q)
\]

(2.3)

we get:

\[
C \cdot \text{vec}(X) = \text{vec}(Q)
\]

(2.4)

Then, if the conditions for the existence of a unique solution of the discrete Lyapunov equation are satisfied, then the matrix $C$ is nonsingular and we get:

\[
\text{vec}(X) = C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)
\]

(2.5)

The construction of the solution $X$ from $\text{vec}(X)$ is trivial.

3 Solutions Using vech Operator

Lyapunov equations involve symmetric matrices. Then we are able to use the vech operator, which stacks columns of a square matrix one under another in a single column, starting each column at its diagonal element.

The relation between the vec operator and the vech operator is described using the duplication matrix and the elimination matrix. For a symmetric matrix $S$, we also use the $n^2 \times \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ dimensional duplication matrix $D_n$ and $\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \times n^2$ dimensional elimination matrix $L_n$:

\[
D_n \cdot \text{vech}(S) = \text{vec}(S)
\]

(3.1)

\[
L_n \cdot \text{vec}(S) = \text{vech}(S)
\]

(3.2)

The knowledge of the duplication matrix and the elimination matrix allows the derivation of the Lyapunov equations via vech operator.

**Continuous Lyapunov equation**

Multiplying (2.2) by $L_n$ using (3.1) and (3.2) we get:

\[
C \cdot \text{vec}(X) = -\text{vec}(Q)
\]

\[
\Rightarrow L_n \cdot C \cdot \text{vec}(X) = -L_n \cdot \text{vec}(Q) = -\text{vech}(Q)
\]

(3.3)

Then, defining

\[
E = L_n \cdot C \cdot D_n
\]

(3.4)

we get:

\[
E \cdot \text{vech}(X) = -\text{vech}(Q)
\]

From (3.3) the nonsingularity of $C$ yields the nonsingularity of $E$, [2]. Hence, the equation in (3.4) follows:

\[
\text{vech}(X) = -E^{-1} \cdot \text{vech}(Q)
\]

(3.5)

The construction of the solution $X$ from $\text{vech}(X)$ is trivial.

**Discrete Lyapunov equation**

Multiplying (2.5) by $L_n$ using (3.1) and (3.2) we get:

\[
C \cdot \text{vec}(X) = \text{vec}(Q)
\]

\[
\Rightarrow L_n \cdot C \cdot \text{vec}(X) = L_n \cdot \text{vec}(Q) = \text{vech}(Q)
\]

(3.6)

Then, defining

\[
E = L_n \cdot C \cdot D_n
\]

(3.7)

we get:

\[
E \cdot \text{vech}(X) = \text{vech}(Q)
\]

From (3.6) the nonsingularity of $C$ yields the nonsingularity of $E$, [2]. Hence, the equation in (3.7) follows:

\[
\text{vech}(X) = E^{-1} \cdot \text{vech}(Q)
\]

(3.8)

The construction of the solution $X$ from $\text{vech}(X)$ is trivial.
4 Solutions Using vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) Operator

Lyapunov equations can be written in a form using skew symmetric matrices. Then we are able to use the vec operator [12, [13], which functions like vec operator and removes the zero elements of the main diagonal.

The relation between the vec operator and the vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) operator is described using the duplication matrix. For a skew symmetric matrix \(S\), we also use the \(n^2 \times \frac{n(n-1)}{2}\) dimensional duplication matrix \(d_n\):

\[
d_n \cdot \text{vec}(s) = \text{vec}(s)
\]

\[
\frac{1}{2} \cdot d_n^T \cdot \text{vec}(s) = \text{vec}(s)
\]

The knowledge of the duplication matrix allows the derivation of the Lyapunov equations via vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) operator.

Continuous Lyapunov equation

The equivalent formula in (1.1) is written

\[
F \cdot S + S \cdot F^T = -R
\]

where

\[
S = F \cdot X - X \cdot F^T
\]

\[
R = F \cdot Q - Q \cdot F^T
\]

are skew symmetric matrices, [14].

Then, defining

\[
C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n
\]

we get:

\[
C \cdot \text{vec}(S) = \text{vec}(-R)
\]

Then defining

\[
D = \frac{1}{2} \cdot d_n^T \cdot C \cdot d_n
\]

we get

\[
D \cdot \text{vec}(S) = \text{vec}(R)
\]

From (4.17) the nonsingularity of \(C\) yields the nonsingularity of \(D\), [2]. Hence, the equation in (4.18) follows

\[
\text{vec}(S) = D^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(R)
\]

The construction of the solution \(S\) from vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\))(S) is trivial.

Finally, the solution of (1.2) is

\[
X = (I - F \cdot F)^{-1} \cdot (Q - F \cdot S)
\]

All continuous and discrete Lyapunov equations solutions via vec, vec and vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) operators are summarized in Table I.

| Use of vec | Continuous Lyapunov Equation | Discrete Lyapunov Equation |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(F \cdot X + X \cdot F^T = -Q\) | \(X = Q + F \cdot X \cdot F^T\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(X = (I - F \cdot F)^{-1} \cdot (Q - F \cdot S)\) | \(X = (I - F \cdot F)^{-1} \cdot (Q - F \cdot S)\) |

| Use of vec | Continuous Lyapunov Equation | Discrete Lyapunov Equation |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(F \cdot X + X \cdot F^T = -Q\) | \(X = Q + F \cdot X \cdot F^T\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) | \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) | \(\text{vec}(X) = -C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) |
| vec(\(\overline{\text{vec}}\)) | \(X = (I - F \cdot F)^{-1} \cdot (Q - F \cdot S)\) | \(X = (I - F \cdot F)^{-1} \cdot (Q - F \cdot S)\) |

Example 1. Continuous Lyapunov equation.

A numerical example for an ill-conditioned continuous Lyapunov equation is taken from [15] with \(n = 3\). Consider the continuous Lyapunov equation with

\[
F = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0.0001 & 0 \\
1 & 1 & 1 \\
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
Q = \begin{bmatrix}
2 & 2.0001 & 4 \\
2.0001 & 2.0002 & 4.0001 \\
4 & 4.0001 & 6 \\
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Then

\[
n^2 = 9 \text{ and } C \text{ is a } 9 \times 9 \text{ dimensional matrix.}
\]

\[
m = 6 \text{ and } E \text{ is a } 6 \times 6 \text{ dimensional matrix.}
\]

The solution of the continuous Lyapunov equation is

\[
X = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 \\
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Example 2. Discrete Lyapunov equation.

A numerical example for a linearized model of an F-8 aircraft is taken from [15] with \(n = 4\). Consider the discrete Lyapunov equation with

\[
D \cdot \text{vec}(S) = \text{vec}(R)
\]
5 Computational Requirements

In order to investigate possible computational advantages of the proposed solutions versus the classical solutions, we are going to compare them. Thus, we compare the algorithms with respect to their computational burdens.

From Table I, it is clear that the Lyapunov equations solutions via vec, vech and veck operators, involve matrix manipulation operations: matrix addition, multiplication and inversion. Scalar operations are involved in matrix manipulation operations, which are needed for the implementation of the solutions. Table II summarizes the calculation burden of needed matrix operations for the general multidimensional case, where \( n \geq 2, m \geq 2, k \geq 2 \). The details are given in [16].

Note that the classical solutions that use vec, require the computation of the inverse of a matrix of dimensions \( k \times k \) where \( k = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \).

From Table III, it is clear that the calculation burdens of all solutions depend on the matrices dimension \( n \). From Table III, it is clear that the classical solutions via vec operator is of the order of \( \frac{16}{24} n^6 \), while the proposed solutions via vech and veck operators are of the order of \( \frac{44}{24} n^6 \), and hence the proposed solutions are faster than the classical solutions.

The proposed solutions which use vech operator are faster than the classical solutions which use vec operator, for \( n \geq 4 \). The proposed solutions which use veck operator are faster than the classical solutions which use vec operator, for \( n \geq 2 \). The solutions via vech operator are faster than the solutions via veck operator.

The calculation burdens of the classical and the proposed solutions of the continuous Lyapunov equation are shown in Fig.1.

The calculation burdens of the classical and the proposed solutions of the discrete Lyapunov equation are shown in Fig.2.

It is clear that from Table III we are able to compute the speedup form the classical solution via vec operator to the proposed solutions via vech and
veck operators, of the continuous as well as the discrete Lyapunov equations.

The speedup form the classical solution to the proposed solutions of the continuous Lyapunov equation are shown in Fig.3.

The speedup form the classical solution to the proposed solutions of the discrete Lyapunov equation are shown in Fig.4.

6 Conclusion
Continuous and discrete Lyapunov equations are linear matrix equations, involving $n \times n$ dimensional matrices. The classical solution uses the vec operator. New closed forms are presented using the vech operator, due to the fact that Lyapunov equations involve symmetric matrices. New closed forms are presented using the veck operator, due to the fact that Lyapunov equations can be written in a form using skew symmetric matrices.

The classical solutions which use the vec operator require the inversion of a $n^2 \times n^2$ dimensional matrix, while the proposed solutions which use the vech operator require the inversion of
a \(\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \times \frac{n(n+1)}{2}\) dimensional matrix and the proposed solutions which use the veck operator require the inversion of a \(\frac{n(n-1)}{2} \times \frac{n(n-1)}{2}\) dimensional matrix.

The use of vech and vec instead of vec decreases the calculation burden. The proposed solutions are faster than the classical solutions. The proposed solutions which use vec operator are faster than the classical solutions which use vec operator, for \(n \geq 4\). The proposed solutions which use veck operator are faster than the classical solutions which use vec operator, for \(n \geq 2\). The solutions via vec operator are faster than the solutions via veck operator.

The maximum speedup form the classical to the proposed solution via veck operator of the continuous Lyapunov equation is 1.4545. The minimum speedup form the classical to the proposed solution via vech operator of the discrete Lyapunov equation is 1.4545.

The main contribution of this paper concerns a) the analytic determination of the computational requirements of the classical algorithm via vec operator and the proposed algorithms via vech and veck operators, with respect to the matrices dimension \(n\), b) the derivation of the speedup form the classical solution via vec operator to the proposed solutions via vech and veck operators.

Appendix
The calculation burdens of the classical and the proposed solutions for the general multidimensional case, where \(n \geq 2\), are analytically calculated in Tables IV and V. Recall that \(N = n^2\), \(m = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}\) and \(k = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}\).

Table: Calculation Burdens of Continuous Lyapunov Equations Solutions

| Matrix Operation | Classical solution – Use of vec | Calculation Burden |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| \(I_n \otimes 1_n\) | \(0\)                          | \(-\)              |
| \(F \otimes I_n\) | \(0\)                          | \(-\)              |
| \(C = I_n \otimes F + F \otimes I_n\) | \(N^2\)                      | \(-\)              |
| \(C^{-1}\) | \(\frac{1}{8}(16N^3 - 3N^2 - N)\) | \(-\)              |
| \(v\text{ech}(X) = C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) | \(2N^2 - N\)                  | \(-\)              |

Table: Calculation Burdens of Discrete Lyapunov Equation Solutions

| Matrix Operation | Classical solution – Use of vec | Calculation Burden |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| \(I_n \otimes 1_n\) | \(0\)                          | \(-\)              |
| \(F \otimes F\) | \(N^2\)                          | \(-\)              |
| \(C = I_n \otimes C - F \otimes F\) | \(N\)                        | \(-\)              |
| \(C^{-1}\) | \(\frac{1}{8}(16N^3 - 3N^2 - N)\) | \(-\)              |
| \(v\text{ech}(X) = C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) | \(2N^2 - N\)                  | \(-\)              |

Table: Calculation Burdens of Continuous Lyapunov Equations Solutions

| Matrix Operation | Proposed solution – Use of veck | Calculation Burden |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| \(I_n \otimes 1_n\) | \(0\)                          | \(-\)              |
| \(F \otimes F\) | \(N^2\)                          | \(-\)              |
| \(C = I_n \otimes C - F \otimes F\) | \(N\)                        | \(-\)              |
| \(L_n \cdot C\) | \(2N^2m - Nm\)                  | \(-\)              |

Table: Calculation Burdens of Discrete Lyapunov Equation Solutions

| Matrix Operation | Proposed solution – Use of vech | Calculation Burden |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| \(I_n \otimes 1_n\) | \(0\)                          | \(-\)              |
| \(F \otimes F\) | \(N^2\)                          | \(-\)              |
| \(C = I_n \otimes C - F \otimes F\) | \(N\)                        | \(-\)              |
| \(C^{-1}\) | \(\frac{1}{8}(16N^3 - 3N^2 - N)\) | \(-\)              |
| \(v\text{ech}(X) = C^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(Q)\) | \(2N^2 - N\)                  | \(-\)              |
\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|}
\hline
\text{vec}(S) \rightarrow D^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(R) & 2k^2 - k \\
\hline
F \cdot S & 2n^3 - n^2 \\
Q \cdot F \cdot S & n^5 \\
F \cdot F & 2n^3 - n^2 \\
i - F \cdot F & n \\
(i - F \cdot F)^{-1} & \frac{1}{2}(16n^3 - 3n^2 - n) \\
X = (i - F \cdot F)^{-1} \cdot (Q - F \cdot S) & 2n^3 - n^2 \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

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Contribution of individual authors to the creation of a scientific article (ghostwriting policy)
Nicholas Assimakis: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Validation.
Maria Adam: Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing - original draft preparation, Writing - review and editing and Visualization.

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