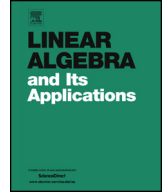




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# Linear Algebra and its Applications

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## On quaternionic numerical ranges with respect to nonstandard involutions



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### ABSTRACT

Let  $\phi$  be a nonstandard involution on the set of all quaternions, and the quaternion  $\alpha$  be such that  $\phi(\alpha) = \alpha$ . The notion of numerical range of an  $n \times n$  quaternion matrix  $A$  with respect to  $\phi$  was introduced by Leiba Rodman (2014) [8] as

$$W_{\phi}^{(\alpha)}(A) = \{x_{\phi}Ax : x \text{ is an } n \times 1 \text{ quaternion vector and}$$

$$x_{\phi}x = \alpha\},$$

where for  $x = [x_1 \ \cdots \ x_n]^T$ ,  $x_{\phi} = [\phi(x_1) \ \cdots \ \phi(x_n)]$ . In this paper, some algebraic and geometrical properties of  $W_{\phi}^{(0)}(\cdot)$  for every arbitrary quaternion matrix are investigated. Moreover, a description of this set is given for  $2 \times 2$  quaternion matrices, and  $W_{\phi}^{(0)}(\cdot)$  is characterized for  $\phi$ -hermitian and  $\phi$ -skewhermitian quaternion matrices. To illustrate the main results, some examples are also given.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{H}$  be the four-dimensional algebra of all quaternion numbers over the field of real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ . Quaternions have useful applications in control systems, quantum mechanics, computer graphics, algebra, analysis and geometry; see [1,4,6,7,11,12]. An ordered triple  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$  of quaternions is said to be a units triple if:

$$\begin{aligned} q_1^2 = q_2^2 = q_3^2 &= -1, \\ q_1q_2 = q_3 = -q_2q_1, \quad q_2q_3 = q_1 = -q_3q_2, \quad q_3q_1 = q_2 = -q_1q_3, \quad \text{and} \\ 1q &= q1 = q \quad \text{for all } q \in \{q_1, q_2, q_3\}. \end{aligned}$$

For example, the standard triple  $(i, j, k)$  is a units triple of quaternions. It is known, e.g., see [8, Proposition 2.4.2], that an ordered triple  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$  of quaternions is a units triple iff there exists a  $3 \times 3$  real orthogonal matrix  $P = [p_{\alpha,\beta}]_{\alpha,\beta=1}^3$  such that  $\det(P) = 1$  and  $q_\alpha = p_{1,\alpha}i + p_{2,\alpha}j + p_{3,\alpha}k$ , where  $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$ . In particular, for every units triple  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$  of quaternions,  $\{1, q_1, q_2, q_3\}$  is a basis of  $\mathbb{H}$ . So, every  $x \in \mathbb{H}$  can be uniquely written as  $x = x_0 + x_1q_1 + x_2q_2 + x_3q_3$ , where  $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{R}$ . It is easy to see that  $|x| = \sqrt{x_0^2 + x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}$ .

A map  $\phi : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}$  is called an involution if  $\phi(x+y) = \phi(x) + \phi(y)$ ,  $\phi(xy) = \phi(y)\phi(x)$  and  $\phi(\phi(x)) = x$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{H}$ . It is clear that  $\phi$  is one-to-one and onto. Moreover, the  $4 \times 4$  matrix representing of  $\phi$ , with respect to the standard basis of  $\mathbb{H}$ , is  $\text{diag}(1, T)$ , where  $T = -I$  or  $T$  is a  $3 \times 3$  real orthogonal symmetric matrix with eigenvalues  $1, 1, -1$ . If  $T = -I$ , then  $\phi$  is the standard conjugation, and for the latter case,  $\phi$  is called a nonstandard involution; see [8, Definition 2.4.5]. The set of all quaternions that are invariant by  $\phi$  is denoted by  $\text{Inv}(\phi)$ ; i.e.,

$$\text{Inv}(\phi) = \{x \in \mathbb{H} : \phi(x) = x\}.$$

**Proposition 1.1.** ([8, Theorem 2.5.1]) *If  $\phi$  is a nonstandard involution and  $0 \neq \alpha \in \text{Inv}(\phi)$ , then for every  $\lambda \in \text{Inv}(\phi)$ , there exists  $\beta \in \text{Inv}(\phi)$  such that  $\phi(\beta)\alpha\beta = \lambda$ .*

Let  $\mathbb{H}^n$  be the set of all  $n$ -column vectors with entries in  $\mathbb{H}$ , and  $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{H})$  be the algebra of all  $n \times n$  quaternion matrices. Also, for an  $n \times m$  quaternion matrix  $B$ , the  $m \times n$  matrix  $B_\phi$  is obtained by applying  $\phi$  entrywise to the transposed  $B^T$ . Leiba Rodman in his book [8], for a quaternion matrix  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{H})$  and  $\alpha \in \text{Inv}(\phi)$ , introduced the notion of numerical range of  $A$  with respect to  $\phi$  as:

$$W_\phi^{(\alpha)}(A) = \{x_\phi Ax : x \in \mathbb{H}^n, x_\phi x = \alpha\}. \quad (1)$$

We know that  $0 \in \text{Inv}(\phi)$ . In this paper, we are going to study some algebraic and geometrical properties of  $W_\phi^{(0)}(A)$ . For this, in Section 2, we state some preliminaries and essential properties of  $W_\phi^{(0)}(A)$  which can be found in [8]. We investigate some

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