

SYLVESTER EQUATIONS AND POLYNOMIAL SEPARATION OF SPECTRA

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Abstract. Sylvester equations $AX - XB = C$ have unique solutions for all C when the spectra of A and B are disjoint. Here A and B are bounded operators in Banach spaces. We discuss the existence of polynomials p such that the spectra of $p(A)$ and $p(B)$ are well separated, either inside and outside of a circle or separated into different half planes. Much of the discussion is based on the following inclusion sets for the spectrum: $V_p(T) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : |p(\lambda)| \leq \|p(T)\|\}$ where T is a bounded operator. We also give an explicit series expansion for the solution in terms of $p(M)$, where $M = \begin{pmatrix} A & C \\ & B \end{pmatrix}$, in the case where the spectra of A and B lie in different components of $V_p(M)$.

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