



# Improved semi-local convergence of the Newton-HSS method for solving large systems of equations



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## ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to present the correct version of the main theorem 3.2 given in Guo and Duff (2011), concerning the semi-local convergence analysis of the Newton-HSS (NHSS) method for solving systems of nonlinear equations. Our analysis also includes the corrected upper bound on the initial point.

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## 1. Introduction

Numerous problems in computational disciplines can be reduced to solving a system of nonlinear equations with  $n$  equations in  $n$  variables like

$$F(x) = 0 \quad (1.1)$$

using Mathematical Modeling [1–4]. Here,  $F$  is a nonlinear continuously differentiable mapping defined on a convex subset  $\Omega$  of the  $n$ -dimensional complex linear space  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . The Jacobian matrix  $F'(x)$  is sparse, non symmetric and positive definite. Most solution methods for solving equation  $F(x) = 0$  are iterative, since a closed form solution  $x^*$  can be obtained only in special cases. In the rest of the paper, we use well established and standard notation for these methods and results [3–7]. The most popular methods for generating a sequence approximating  $x^*$  are undoubtedly the inexact Newton (IN) methods [1,2,5,6,8–14]:

Newton's method (NM) given for each  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  by

$$x_0 \in \Omega, x_{k+1} = x_k - F'(x_k)^{-1}F(x_k)$$

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is the most popular method for solving Eq. (1.1). In particular, one solves the system of linear equations

$$F'(x_k)r_k = -F(x_k) \quad (1.2)$$

to find

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + r_k.$$

System (1.2) is usually denoted in a more general form as

$$Ax = b. \quad (1.3)$$

Two types of methods are used for solving system (1.3) [15]. The first type is the so called Krylov methods. Then, the Krylov subspace iteration is called an inner iteration. Moreover, the nonlinear iterate  $x_k$  is called an outer iteration. Jacobi, Successive Over-Relaxation (SOR), Gauss–Siedel, Accelerated Over-Relaxation (AOR) and Krylov subspace methods are the most used inner iteration methods [3,4]. The most popular outer iteration methods are the Conjugate Gradient (CG) and GMRES. If Krylov subspace methods are employed, then we say that we use Newton–Krylov subspace methods (NKSM). Newton-CG and Newton-GMRES methods use CG and GMRES as outer iterations. Recently, there is an increased interest to provide efficient splitting of  $A$  for linear as well as nonlinear systems. Iterative Hermitian/ skew-Hermitian schemes (HSS) for non-Hermitian positive definite linear systems were given by Bai. et al. in [3,4]. In order to improve the robustness of HSS, some algorithms were also introduced based on HSS. In the case of weighted Toeplitz least squares problems a preconditioning algorithm based on HSS was reported in [16]. In [17] Li et al. introduced an asymmetric Hermitian/ske-Hermitian(AHSS) algorithm for large and sparse non-Hermitian positive definite systems of linear equations. Later, in [18,19] Li et al. presented a variation of the HSS algorithm called the Lopsided-HSS (LHSS) algorithm. Then, Bai et al. [20] presented the Picard-HSS as well as the nonlinear HSS-like algorithms to solve large scale systems of weakly nonlinear equations. Moreover, Bai et al. in [4] used Newton-Hss algorithms systems with positive definite Jacobian matrices. Another variation of HSS for non-Hermitian positive definite systems was reported by Li et al. [18]. Furthermore, Zhu in [21] introduced another class of LHSS methods to solve large sparse systems. Returning back to the solution of (1.3), let  $A = B$  and use methods

$$Bx_m = Cx_{m-1} + b, \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (1.4)$$

Suppose that these methods have initial point 0 and consider them as inner iterations. Then, we introduce the inner–outer iteration.

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 \in \Omega, \quad x_{k+1} &= x_k - (T_k^{l_k-1} + \dots + T_k + I)B_k^{-1}F(x_k) \\ T_k &= B_k^{-1}C_k, \\ F'(x_k) &= B_k - C_k, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (1.5)$$

where  $l_k$  is the number of inner iteration steps. Bai et al. in [3,4] proved that this method converges to the unique solution of the system of linear equations unconditionally and has the same upper bounds for the rate of convergence as the CG method. Numerical examples on two-dimensional nonlinear convection–diffusion equations showed that the Newton-HSS method outperforms in the sense of number of iterations and CPU time other Newton-GCG, Newton-USOR and Newton-GMRES methods [17–19]. In [6] the semi-local convergence of the Newton-HSS method was shown, which guarantees that the sequence generated by Algorithm NHSS converges to the solution of (1.1) under reasonable hypotheses. Therefore, any initial point can be tested to be or not to be suitably by verifying the semi-local convergence criteria. Unfortunately the criteria given in [6] are not correct and the proof of Theorem 3.2 breaks down (see Remark 2.2). That is there is no guarantee that algorithm NHSS converges. Because of the improvement of NHSS, we revised the

proof of Theorem 3.2 (see our [Theorem 2.1](#)) and provided the correct sufficient convergence criterion. Notice that we also present NHSSB and Newton-HSS method with some backtracking strategy and show global convergence two forcing terms.

The algorithm for IN is as follows;

**Algorithm IN** [8]

- Given  $x_0$  and a positive constant (tolerance denoted by  $tol$ )  $tol$ .
- For  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  until  $\|F(x_k)\| \leq tol\|F(x_0)\|$  do:
  - For a given  $\eta_k \in (0, 1)$  find  $s_k$  such that

$$\|F(x_k) + F'(x_k)s_k\| < \eta_k\|F(x_k)\|.$$

- Set  $x_{k+1} = x_k + s_k$ .

For large system with sparse non-Hermitian and positive-definite  $A$ , the HSS iteration method for linear equation  $Ax = b$  is given by

**Algorithm HSS** [3]

- Given an initial guess  $x_0$  and positive constants  $tol$ .
- Split  $A$  into its Hermitian part  $H$  and its skew-Hermitian part  $S$

$$H = \frac{1}{2}(A + A^*) \text{ and } S = \frac{1}{2}(A - A^*)$$

- For  $\ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  until  $\|b - Ax_\ell\| \leq tol\|b - Ax_0\|$ , compute  $x_{\ell+1}$  by

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha I + H)x_{\ell+1/2} &= (\alpha I - S)x_\ell + b \\ (\alpha I + S)x_{\ell+1/2} &= (\alpha I - H)x_{\ell+1/2} + b. \end{aligned}$$

Next, we present a Newton-HSS algorithm to solve large systems of nonlinear equations with a positive-definite Jacobian matrix:

**Algorithm NHSS (the Newton-HSS method** [4])

- Given an initial guess  $x_0$ , positive constants  $tol$ , and a positive integer sequence  $\{\ell_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ .
- For  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  until  $\|F(x_k)\| \leq tol\|F(x_0)\|$  do:
  - Set  $d_{k,0} := 0$ .
  - For  $\ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \ell_k - 1$  apply Algorithm HSS:

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha I + H(x_k))d_{k,\ell+1/2} &= (\alpha I - S(x_k))d_{k,\ell} - F(x_k), \\ (\alpha I + S(x_k))d_{k,\ell+1/2} &= (\alpha I - H(x_k))d_{k,\ell+1/2} - F(x_k). \end{aligned} \tag{1.6}$$

and obtain  $d_{k,\ell_k}$  such that

$$\|F(x_k) + F'(x_k)d_{k,\ell_k}\| < \eta_k\|F(x_k)\| \text{ for some } \eta_k \in [0, 1), \tag{1.7}$$

where

$$H(x_k) = \frac{1}{2}(F'(x_k) + F'(x_k)^*) \text{ and } S(x_k) = \frac{1}{2}(F'(x_k) - F'(x_k)^*) \tag{1.8}$$

are the Hermitian and skew-Hermitian parts of the Jacobian matrix  $F'(x_k)$ , respectively.

- Set

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + d_{k,\ell_k}. \tag{1.9}$$

Note that  $\eta_k$  is varying in each iterative step, unlike a fixed positive constant value used in [4]. Further observe that if  $d_{k,\ell_k}$  in (1.9) is given in terms of  $d_{k,0}$ , we get

$$d_{k,\ell_k} = (I - T_k^\ell)(I - T_k)^{-1}B_k^{-1}F(x_k) \quad (1.10)$$

where  $T_k := T(\alpha, k)$ ,  $B_k := B(\alpha, k)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} T(\alpha, x) &= B(\alpha, x)^{-1}C(\alpha, x) \\ B(\alpha, x) &= \frac{1}{2\alpha}(\alpha I + H(x))(\alpha I + S(x)) \\ C(\alpha, x) &= \frac{1}{2\alpha}(\alpha I - H(x))(\alpha I - S(x)). \end{aligned} \quad (1.11)$$

Using the above expressions for  $T_k$  and  $d_{k,\ell_k}$ , we can write the Newton-HSS in (1.9) as

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - (I - T_k^\ell)^{-1}F(x_k)^{-1}F(x_k). \quad (1.12)$$

A Kantorovich-type semi-local convergence analysis was presented in [6] for NHSS. However, the semi-local convergence criterion (15) in [6] is not correct (see Remark 2.2). Consequently, Theorem 3.2 in [6] is not correct as well as all subsequent results based on (15). Moreover, the upper bound function  $g_3$  (to be defined later) on the norm of the initial point is not the best that can be used under the conditions given in [6]. In this article, we present the correct version of Theorem 3.2 in [6] by providing the correct convergence criterion corresponding to (15) in [6] as well as the correct bound function  $\bar{g}_3$  (to be defined later). Moreover, a corrected comparison is given with the “ $g$ ” functions appearing in earlier works [6].

## 2. Semi-local convergence analysis

The semi-local convergence of NHSS is based on the conditions (A). Let  $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}^n$  and  $F : \Omega \subset \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$  be  $G$ -differentiable on an open neighborhood  $\Omega_0 \subset \Omega$  on which  $F'(x)$  is continuous and positive definite. Suppose  $F'(x) = H(x) + S(x)$  where  $H(x)$  and  $S(x)$  are as in (1.8) with  $x_k = x$ .

(A<sub>1</sub>) There exist positive constants  $\beta, \gamma$  and  $\delta$  such that

$$\max\{\|H(x_0)\|, \|S(x_0)\|\} \leq \beta, \|F'(x_0)^{-1}\| \leq \gamma, \|F(x_0)\| \leq \delta, \quad (2.1)$$

(A<sub>2</sub>) There exist nonnegative constants  $L_h$  and  $L_s$  such that for all  $x, y \in U(x_0, r) \subset \Omega_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|H(x) - H(y)\| &\leq L_h \|x - y\| \\ \|S(x) - S(y)\| &\leq L_s \|x - y\|. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Next, we present the corrected version of Theorem 3.2 in [6].

**Theorem 2.1.** Assume that conditions (A) hold with the constants satisfying

$$\delta\gamma^2L \leq \bar{g}_3(\eta) \quad (2.3)$$

where  $\bar{g}_3(t) := \frac{(1-t)^2}{2(2+t+2t^2-t^3)}$ ,  $\eta = \max\{\eta_k\} < 1$ ,  $r = \max\{r_1, r_2\}$  with

$$\begin{aligned} r_1 &= \frac{\alpha + \beta}{L} \left( \sqrt{1 + \frac{2\alpha\tau\theta}{(2\gamma + \gamma\tau\theta)(\alpha + \beta)^2}} - 1 \right) \\ r_2 &= \frac{b - \sqrt{b^2 - 2ac}}{a} \\ a &= \frac{\gamma L(1 + \eta)}{1 + 2\gamma^2\delta L\eta}, \quad b = 1 - \eta, \quad c = 2\gamma\delta, \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

and with  $\ell_* = \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \ell_k$  satisfying  $\ell_* > \lfloor \frac{\ln \eta}{\ln(\tau+1)\theta} \rfloor$ , (Here  $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$  represents the largest integer less than or equal to the corresponding real number)  $\tau \in (0, \frac{1-\theta}{\theta})$  and

$$\theta \equiv \theta(\alpha, x_0) = \|T(\alpha, x_0)\| < 1. \tag{2.5}$$

Then, the iteration sequence  $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$  generated by the Algorithm NHSS is well defined and converges to  $x_*$ , so that  $F(x_*) = 0$ .

**Proof.** Simply follow the proof of Theorem 3.2 in [6] but use function  $\bar{g}_3$  instead of function  $g_3$  defined in the following remark.

**Remark 2.2.** The corresponding result in [6] used the function bound

$$g_3(t) = \frac{1-t}{2(1+t^2)} \tag{2.6}$$

in (2.3). That is, they used instead of (2.3)

$$\delta\gamma^2L \leq g_3(\eta). \tag{2.7}$$

However, condition (2.7) does not necessarily imply  $b^2 - 2ac \geq 0$ , which means that  $r_2$  does not necessarily exist and the proof of Theorem 3.2 in [6] breaks down. That is there is no guarantee that under (2.7) Algorithm NHSS converges. Notice that, our condition (2.3) is equivalent to  $b^2 - 2ac \geq 0$ . We also have that

$$\bar{g}_3(t) < g_3(t) \text{ for each } t \geq 0, \tag{2.8}$$

so (2.3) implies (2.7) but not necessarily vice versa. Hence, our version of Theorem 3.2 is correct, i.e., Algorithm NHSS converges under (2.3).

### 3. Function bounds

The semi-local convergence of inexact Newton methods was presented in [22] under the conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \|F'(x_0)^{-1}F(x_0)\| &\leq \beta, \\ \|F'(x_0)^{-1}(F'(x) - F'(y))\| &\leq \gamma\|x - y\|, \\ \frac{\|F'(x_0)^{-1}s_n\|}{\|F'(x_0)^{-1}F(x_n)\|} &\leq \eta_n \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\beta\gamma \leq g_1(\eta),$$

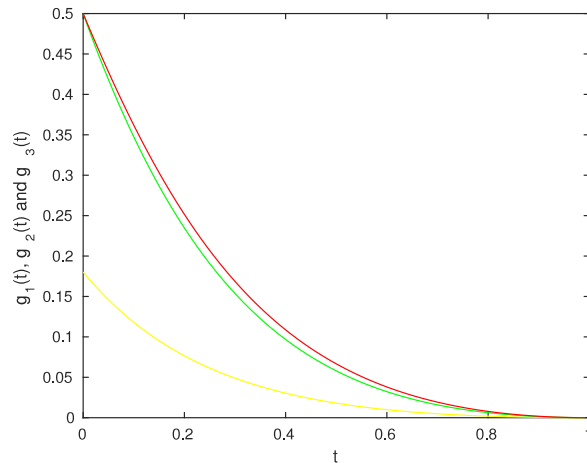
where

$$g_1(\eta) = \frac{\sqrt{(4\eta + 5)^3 - (2\eta^3 + 14\eta + 11)}}{(1 + \eta)(1 - \eta)^2}.$$

More recently, Shen and Li [7] substituted  $g_1(\eta)$  with  $g_2(\eta)$ , where

$$g_2(\eta) = \frac{(1 - \eta)^2}{(1 + \eta)(2(1 + \eta) - \eta(1 - \eta)^2)}.$$

These bound functions are used to obtain semi-local convergence results for the Newton-HSS method. In Fig. 1, we can see the graphs of the four bound functions  $g_1, g_2$  and  $\bar{g}_3$ . Clearly our bound function  $\bar{g}_3$  improves all the earlier results. Moreover, as noted before function  $g_3$  cannot be used, since it is incorrect bound function.



**Fig. 1.** Graphs of  $g_1(t)$  (Yellow),  $g_2(t)$  (Green) and  $\bar{g}_3$  (Red). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

#### 4. Conclusion

The corrected semi-local convergence for the Newton-HSS method is presented which guarantees the convergence of sequence  $\{x_k\}$  generated by Algorithm NHSS to a solution of Eq. (1.1). Initial point is chosen correctly now by combining Algorithm NHSSB with the Newton-HSS method. Numerical examples have been used to solve convection–diffusion equations in [6], where the superiority of these results over related inner iteration methods is shown for the least run time.

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