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# A smoothing Gauss–Newton method for the generalized HLCP <sup>☆</sup>

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## Abstract

In this paper, we present a smoothing Gauss–Newton method for solving the generalized horizontal linear complementarity problem and prove that the method is both globally and locally quadratically convergent under reasonable assumptions. As a by-product of our analysis, we obtain a sufficient condition for the existence and boundedness of the solutions to the problem. © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $\{A, B\}$  be a pair of matrices in  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $q$  be a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ . The generalized horizontal linear complementarity problem is to find a vector  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} Ax - By &= q, \\ x^T y &= 0, \quad x \geq 0, \quad y \geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

We denote the problem by  $\hat{\text{HLCP}}(A, B, q)$ . This problem is a special case of the XLCP by Mangasarian and Pang [15] or the general LCP by Ye [26]. It arises from economic equilibrium problems, noncooperative games, traffic assignment problems, and optimization problems. When

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$m = n$ , it reduces to the well-known horizontal linear complementarity problem which is denoted by HLCP( $A, B, q$ ); when  $m = n$  and  $B = I$ , it becomes the linear complementarity problem which is denoted by LCP( $A, q$ ).

In the last couple of years the HLCP attracted attention of many researchers. Zhang [27] used it as a unifying framework for the convergence analysis of a class of infeasible interior-point algorithms for solving linear programs and complementarity problems. Subsequent work in this area includes Billups and Ferris [1], Bonnans and Gonzaga [2], Güler [11], Monteiro and Tsuchiya [16], etc. Some basic properties in the context of HLCP have been studied in [8,21,22,24], etc.

In this paper, we address the  $\hat{H}$ LCP. Our contribution is three-fold: first, we describe and characterize  $P_0$ -property in  $\hat{H}$ LCP along the line of the classical LCP in Section 2; second, based on the smoothed Fischer–Burmeister function, we present a smoothing Gauss–Newton method for solving problem (1) with  $m \geq n$  in Section 3; the third, we establish global and local quadratic convergence of this smoothing method under reasonable conditions, and get a sufficient condition for the existence and boundedness of solutions to the problem in Section 4. We conclude with some final remarks in Section 5.

Throughout the paper, all vectors are column vectors with the superscript T denoting a transpose. For simplicity, we use  $(x, y)$  for column vector  $(x^T, y^T)^T$ . The notations  $\mathbb{R}_+^n$  and  $\mathbb{R}_{++}^n$  are used for nonnegative and positive orthants, respectively, in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . We denote by  $x = \text{Vec}\{x_i\}$  a vector  $x$  whose  $i$ th element is  $x_i$ .  $A \geq 0$  ( $> 0$ ) means the matrix  $A$  is positive semi-definite (definite). Finally,  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes  $l_2$  norm of a vector or a matrix.

## 2. $P_0$ -property and its characterizations

It is well known that, in the standard LCP, there are various classes of matrices, which play an important role in developing theory and methods for LCP (see, e.g., [6]). In this section we shall establish the generalized  $P_0$ -matrices in the context of  $\hat{H}$ LCP.

**Definition 1.** Given two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , we say that  $\{A, B\}$  has the column  $P_0$ -property if  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = 2n$ , or the condition

$$Au - Bv = 0, (u, v) \neq (0, 0) \Rightarrow \exists u_{i_0} \neq 0, u_{i_0}v_{i_0} \geq 0, \text{ or } \exists v_{j_0} \neq 0, u_{j_0}v_{j_0} \geq 0 \tag{2}$$

holds; and that  $\{A, B\}$  has the row  $P_0$ -property if it satisfies the condition

$$(A^T u, B^T u) \neq 0, u \in \mathbb{R}^m \Rightarrow \exists (A^T u)_{i_0} \neq 0, (A^T u)_{i_0}(B^T u)_{i_0} \geq 0, \tag{3}$$

or

$$\exists (B^T u)_{j_0} \neq 0, (A^T u)_{j_0}(B^T u)_{j_0} \geq 0.$$

$\{A, B\}$  is said to have  $P_0$ -property if it has both column and row  $P_0$ -properties.

It is easily seen that, when  $m = n$ , the column  $P_0$ -property is the same as the  $P_0$ -property introduced in [24], where they show that their  $P_0$ -property is equivalent to the  $W_0$ -pair of Willson Jr. [25]. It is clear that the matrix  $A + B$  is of full column rank and hence  $m \geq n$  if  $\{A, B\}$  has the column  $P_0$ -property. In fact, assuming that there is a nonzero vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying  $(A + B)x = 0$ , then by this property, there exists an index  $i_0$  such that  $x_{i_0} \neq 0$  and  $x_{i_0}(-x_{i_0}) \geq 0$ , a contradiction. Note also

that, in the definition of the row  $P_0$ -property, we do not require the assumption: for any nonzero vector  $u \in \mathbb{R}^m \Rightarrow (A^T u, B^T u) \neq 0$ . In other words,  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = m$  is not needed. In addition, the row  $P_0$ -property is different from the row  $W_0$ -property of Sznajder and Gowda [21] for the extended vertical LCP (see Remark 2 of this section for the details).

Recalling the definitions of the column and row sufficient properties in [9], we immediately obtain the following result.

**Proposition 2.** *The column (row) sufficiency of  $\{A, B\}$  implies the column (row)  $P_0$ -property.*

Now, we further describe the characterization of  $P_0$ -property, which can be regarded as an extension of the seminal work by Kojima, Megiddo, Noma and Yoshise [14].

**Theorem 3.** *Given two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and define the matrix  $Q$  associated with  $\{A, B\}$  by*

$$Q := \begin{bmatrix} A & -B \\ D & \bar{D} \end{bmatrix}_{(m+n) \times (2n)}, \tag{4}$$

where  $D = \text{diag}(d_j)$  and  $\bar{D} = \text{diag}(\bar{d}_j)$  are two positive semi-definite matrices. Then

(a) *the pair  $\{A, B\}$  has the column  $P_0$ -property if and only if the matrix  $Q$  defined in (4) is of full column rank for any  $D > 0$  and  $\bar{D} > 0$ ;*

(b) *the pair  $\{A, B\}$  has the row  $P_0$ -property and  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = m$  if and only if the matrix  $Q$  defined in (4) is of full row rank for any  $D > 0$  and  $\bar{D} > 0$ .*

**Proof.** (a)  $\Rightarrow$ : Assume that, for some  $D > 0$  and  $\bar{D} > 0$ , the matrix  $Q$  defined in (4) is not of full column rank. Then there exists a nonzero vector  $(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ , such that  $Q(u, v) = 0$ , i.e.,

$$Au - Bv = 0, \quad Du + \bar{D}v = 0. \tag{5}$$

By the properties of  $D$  and  $\bar{D}$ , we know from the second equation of (5) that  $u_i = -d_i^{-1} \bar{d}_i v_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . This yields that

$$u_i v_i < 0, \quad \text{or} \quad u_i = v_i = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \tag{6}$$

This contradicts the column  $P_0$ -property of  $\{A, B\}$ .

$\Leftarrow$ : Assume  $\{A, B\}$  does not have the column  $P_0$ -property. Then by  $\text{rank}[A, -B] < 2n$ , there is a nonzero vector  $(u^0, v^0) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$  satisfying  $Au^0 - Bv^0 = 0$  and (6). Define the matrix  $Q$  in (4) by taking

$$D = \text{diag}(d_j), \quad d_j = 1 \text{ for } v_j^0 = 0, \quad \text{else } |v_j^0|,$$

$$\bar{D} = \text{diag}(\bar{d}_j), \quad \bar{d}_j = 1 \text{ for } u_j^0 = 0, \quad \text{else } |u_j^0|.$$

It is easy to verify that  $D > 0$ ,  $\bar{D} > 0$ , and  $Q(u^0, v^0) = 0$ . Since  $Q$  is of full column rank by the assumption, we have  $(u^0, v^0) = 0$ , a contradiction.

(b)  $\Rightarrow$ : Assume that, for some  $D > 0$  and  $\bar{D} > 0$ ,  $Q$  defined in (4) is not of full row rank. Then there is a nonzero vector  $(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^{m+n}$  such that  $Q^T(u, v) = 0$ , i.e.,

$$A^T u + Dv = 0, \quad -B^T u + \bar{D}v = 0. \tag{7}$$

This implies that

$$(A^T u)_i (B^T u)_i = -(Dv)_i (\bar{D}v)_i = -d_i \bar{d}_i v_i^2, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \tag{8}$$

By  $D > 0$  and  $\bar{D} > 0$ , from (7) and (8) we have

$$(A^T u)_i (B^T u)_i < 0, \quad \text{or} \quad (A^T u)_i = (B^T u)_i = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \tag{9}$$

From  $(u, v) \neq 0$ ,  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = m$  and (7), we have  $(A^T u, B^T u) \neq 0$ . So, the row  $P_0$ -property implies that  $(A^T u)_{i_0} (B^T u)_{i_0} \geq 0$  for some  $(A^T u)_{i_0} \neq 0$ , or  $(A^T u)_{j_0} (B^T u)_{j_0} \geq 0$  for some  $(B^T u)_{j_0} \neq 0$ , a contradiction to (9).

$\Leftarrow$ :  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = m$  follows directly from  $\text{rank}(Q) = m + n$ . Suppose  $\{A, B\}$  does not have the row  $P_0$ -property. Then by the definition, there is a nonzero vector  $u^0 \in \mathbb{R}^m$  such that

$$(A^T u^0)_i (B^T u^0)_i < 0, \quad \text{or} \quad (A^T u^0)_i = (B^T u^0)_i = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \tag{10}$$

Define the matrix  $Q$  in (4) by

$$D = \text{diag}(d_j), \quad d_j = 1 \text{ for } (A^T u^0)_j = 0, \quad \text{else } |(A^T u^0)_j|,$$

$$\bar{D} = \text{diag}(\bar{d}_j), \quad \bar{d}_j = 1 \text{ for } (B^T u^0)_j = 0, \quad \text{else } |(B^T u^0)_j|.$$

Then by a simple operation and (10), we know that the vector  $(u^0, -\text{sign}(A^T u^0)) \neq 0$ , where  $\text{sign}(A^T u^0) = \text{Vec}\{\text{sign}(A^T u^0)_i\}$ , satisfies the equation  $Q^T(u^0, -\text{sign}(A^T u^0)) = 0$ . This contradicts the condition that  $Q$  has full row rank. The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Remark.** (1) The special case of result (a) in the above theorem, for  $m = n$ , was obtained by Sznajder and Gowda [21] and Tütüncü and Todd [24], respectively. Furthermore, for the special case where  $m = n$  and  $B = I$ , the result (a) was proved by Kojima et al. [14], who were interested in developing a unified interior point algorithm for  $P_0$ -matrices.

(2) Result (b) in the above theorem shows that, when  $m = n$  and  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = m$ , the row  $P_0$ -property of  $\{A, B\}$  is equivalent to the row  $W_0$ -property of  $\{A^T, B^T\}$  in the VLCP by Sznajder and Gowda [21, Theorem 6].

(3) This theorem exhibits an interesting fact that, for  $m < n$  the column  $P_0$ -property does not hold; for  $m > n$ , when  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = m$ , the row  $P_0$ -property does not hold. So, for the case  $m > n$ ,  $\{A, B\}$  may have both the column and row  $P_0$ -properties only if  $\text{rank}[A, -B] \neq m$ . For example, let  $A = [1, 1]^T$  and  $B = [1, 1]^T$ , and we see that  $\{A, B\}$  has these two properties. For the case  $m = n$ , the column  $P_0$ -property implies the row  $P_0$ -property; however the row  $P_0$ -property together with  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = m$  imply the column  $P_0$ -property. This indicates that the  $\hat{H}$ LCP is more complicated, and may lose many good properties which the HLCP possesses.

Following the above discussion, we can introduce the concepts of column and row  $P$ -properties provided that all “ $\geq$ ” in Definition 1 are replaced by “ $>$ ”, and get similar characterization results for the two concepts.

**Theorem 4.** *Given two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . Then*

(a) *the pair  $\{A, B\}$  has the column  $P$ -property if and only if the matrix  $Q$  defined in (4) is of full column rank for any  $D \geq 0, \bar{D} \geq 0$  and  $D + \bar{D} > 0$ ;*

(b) *the pair  $\{A, B\}$  has the row  $P$ -property and  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = m$  if and only if the matrix  $Q$  defined in (4) is of full row rank for any  $D \geq 0, \bar{D} \geq 0$  and  $D + \bar{D} > 0$ .*

We say that  $\{A, B\}$  has weak P-property if it has both the column and row P-properties, i.e., the following equivalent conditions hold:

- (P<sub>1</sub>)  $Au - Bv = 0, \quad u_i v_i \leq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \Rightarrow (u, v) = 0;$
- (P<sub>2</sub>)  $(A^T u)_i (B^T u)_i \leq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \Rightarrow (A^T u, B^T u) = 0.$

The word “weak” is related to the P-property by Gowda [9], who defined the P-property by (P<sub>1</sub>) and (P<sub>2</sub>)', where

$$(P_2)' \quad (A^T u)_i (B^T u)_i \leq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \Rightarrow u = 0.$$

Similar to the previous analysis, the weak P-property can be introduced for  $m \geq n$ ; however the P-property in [9] requires the condition  $m = n$ .

As in the standard LCP and HLCP, the full-rank property of  $Q$  defined in (4) permits us to develop a class of smoothing methods for solving problem (1).

### 3. Smoothing Gauss–Newton method

In the remainder of this paper we only address problem (1) with  $m \geq n$ . Obviously, (1) is equivalent to a nonsmooth equation

$$F(x, y) := \begin{bmatrix} Ax - By - q \\ \Psi(x, y) \end{bmatrix} = 0, \tag{1'}$$

where  $\Psi(x, y) = (\psi(x_1, y_1), \dots, \psi(x_n, y_n))^T, \psi(a, b) = a + b - \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$  (Fischer–Burmeister function). By using the smoothed Fischer–Burmeister function

$$p(a, b, \mu) = a + b - \sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + 2\mu^2}, \tag{11}$$

where  $\mu > 0$  is a smoothing parameter which is also viewed as a variable, we can construct a smooth approximation to (1') with respect to variable  $(w, \mu) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \times \mathbb{R}_{++}$ :

$$H(w, \mu) := \begin{bmatrix} Ax - By - q \\ \Phi(x, y, \mu) \end{bmatrix} = 0 \tag{12}$$

with  $w = (x, y)$  and

$$\Phi(x, y, \mu) := \begin{bmatrix} p(x_1, y_1, \mu) \\ \dots \\ p(x_n, y_n, \mu) \end{bmatrix}.$$

It is easy to check that  $H(w, \mu)$  is twice continuously differentiable on  $(w, \mu) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \times \mathbb{R}_{++}$  and continuous at  $(w, 0)$ . Of course  $H(w, 0) = F(w)$ . The Jacobian matrix of (12) with respect to variable  $w$  is given by

$$\nabla_w H(w, \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} A & -B \\ \nabla_x \Phi(x, y, \mu) & \nabla_y \Phi(x, y, \mu) \end{bmatrix}, \tag{13}$$

where

$$\nabla_x \Phi(x, y, \mu) = \text{diag} \left( 1 - \frac{x_i}{\sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2 + 2\mu^2}} \right), \quad \nabla_y \Phi(x, y, \mu) = \text{diag} \left( 1 - \frac{y_i}{\sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2 + 2\mu^2}} \right).$$

By using Theorem 3 and noting that both  $\nabla_x \Phi(x, y, \mu)$  and  $\nabla_y \Phi(x, y, \mu)$  are in interval  $(0, 2)$  for any  $\mu > 0$  (see Lemma 5(ii) in the next section), we know that, under the column  $P_0$ -property of  $\{A, B\}$ ,  $\nabla_w H(w, \mu)$  is of full column rank, and hence  $G(w, \mu) := \nabla_w H(w, \mu)^T \nabla_w H(w, \mu)$  is nonsingular for any  $\mu > 0$ .

Consider the least-squares problem associated with (12)

$$\min_w r(w, \mu) = \frac{1}{2} H(w, \mu)^T H(w, \mu). \tag{14}$$

Then the gradient is given by  $g(w, \mu) := \nabla_w r(w, \mu) = \nabla_w H(w, \mu)^T H(w, \mu)$ ; the Hessian matrix is given by

$$\nabla_w^2 r(w, \mu) = G(w, \mu) + \sum_{j=1}^n \Phi_j(w, \mu) \nabla_w^2 \Phi_j(w, \mu).$$

We try to solve (14) inexactly using just one step of Gauss–Newton method for a fixed value of  $\mu > 0$ , and then reduce this value of  $\mu$  by some rule. By repeating the above computation we will get a sequence of iterates. The details of our algorithm are described as follows. For simplicity, at the  $k$ th iteration we use  $r^k = r(w^k, \mu_k)$ ,  $g^k = g(w^k, \mu_k)$ ,  $\nabla_w H^k = \nabla_w H(w^k, \mu_k)$ , etc.

**Algorithm (I)**

*Step 0:* Given constants  $\sigma \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\eta \in (0, 1)$  and  $\gamma > 0$ .

Choose any initial point  $(w^0, \mu_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \times \mathbb{R}_{++}$ . Set  $\sigma_0 = 1$  and  $k = 0$ .

*Step 1:* The search direction. If  $\mu_k = 0$  then stop. If  $g^k = 0$  then  $w^{k+1} = w^k$ , and go to the “If” part of Step 3. Otherwise, compute  $d^k \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$  as the solution of the linear system

$$(\nabla_w H^k)^T (\nabla_w H^k) d = -g^k. \tag{15}$$

*Step 2:* The fast step. Let  $\bar{w}^{k+1} = w^k + d^k$ ,  $\bar{\mu}_{k+1} = \min\{\sigma_{k+1}, \eta\} \mu_k$  where  $\sigma_{k+1} = \min\{\sigma_k, \|F(\bar{w}^{k+1})\|^2\}$ . If  $\bar{r}^{k+1} \leq \eta r^k$  where  $\bar{r}^{k+1} = r(\bar{w}^{k+1}, \bar{\mu}_{k+1})$ , then  $w^{k+1} = \bar{w}^{k+1}$ ,  $\mu_{k+1} = \bar{\mu}_{k+1}$ , and go to Step 4.

*Step 3:* The safe step. Set  $w^{k+1} = w^k + \lambda_k d^k$ , where  $\lambda_k = \alpha^{m_k}$  and  $m_k$  is the smallest nonnegative integer  $m$  satisfying the Armijo condition

$$r(w^k + \alpha^m d^k, \mu_k) \leq r^k + \sigma \alpha^m \cdot (g^k)^T d^k. \tag{16}$$

If  $\|g(w^{k+1}, \mu_k)\| \leq \gamma \mu_k$ , then  $\mu_{k+1} = \min\{\sigma_{k+1}, \eta \mu_k\}$  where  $\sigma_{k+1} = \min\{\sigma_k, \|F(w^{k+1})\|^2\}$ ; otherwise  $\mu_{k+1} = \mu_k$ ,  $\sigma_{k+1} = \sigma_k$ .

*Step 4:*  $k := k + 1$ , and go to Step 1.

**Remark.** (1) In the above algorithm we use the Gauss–Newton equation (15) to get the search direction. So, our algorithm is different from the smoothing Newton methods (see, e.g., [18–20]) and the noninterior path-following methods (see, e.g., [3–5,23]), and is called the smoothing Gauss–Newton algorithm.

(2) If the case where  $\mu_k = 0$  occurs in Step 1, then by the updating rule for  $\mu_k$  in Step 2 and Step 3, we know that  $F(w^k) = 0$  and hence  $w^k$  is a solution of (1). If Algorithm (I) produces an infinite sequence  $\{\mu_k\}$ , then from  $\mu_{k+1} \leq \eta \mu_k$  or  $\mu_{k+1} = \mu_k$ , it must be a decreasing sequence.

(3) For global convergence, only the safe step is needed. The fast step is added to ensure local quadratic convergence. Design of the fast step is motivated by Qi [17], Facchinei and Soares [7] and Chen and Xiu [5], and the safe step by Kanzow [13].

#### 4. Theoretical analysis

In this section, we shall consider the global convergence and local rate of convergence for Algorithm (I). To do so, we need to study further the properties of the smoothed Fischer–Burmeister function  $p(a, b, \mu)$  and the target function  $r(w, \mu)$ .

**Lemma 5.** For the smoothed Fischer–Burmeister function  $p(a, b, \mu)$  defined in (11), it is twice continuously differentiable on  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_{++}$ . Moreover,

- (i)  $0 < p(a, b, 0) - p(a, b, \mu) < \sqrt{2}\mu, \quad \forall (a, b, \mu) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_{++};$
- (ii)  $0 < p'_i(a, b, \mu) < 2 \ (i = 1, 2), \quad -\sqrt{2} \leq p'_3(a, b, \mu) < 0, \quad \forall (a, b, \mu) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_{++};$
- (iii) [12, Lemma 2.1]  $p(a, b, \mu)$  is a strongly semismooth function on  $(a, b, \mu) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+;$
- (iv) let  $a' \rightarrow a, \quad b' \rightarrow b, \quad \mu \rightarrow 0,$  then

$$\lim_{a' \rightarrow a, b' \rightarrow b, \mu \rightarrow 0} p'_i(a', b', \mu) p(a', b', \mu) = \partial_i p(a, b, 0) p(a, b, 0), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

where  $\partial_i p(a, b, 0)$  stands for the generalized derivative of the function  $p$  on the  $i$ th variable at  $(a, b, 0)$  in the sense of Clarke.

**Proof.** (i) Follows from a direct calculation. (ii) Comes from the fact that

$$\nabla p(a, b, \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + 2\mu^2}} \\ \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + 2\mu^2}} \\ 1 - \frac{2\mu}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + 2\mu^2}} \end{bmatrix}.$$

We now prove (iv). If  $p(a, b, 0) = 0$ , then by (ii) we have for  $i = 1, 2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & |p'_i(a', b', \mu) p(a', b', \mu) - \partial_i p(a, b, 0) p(a, b, 0)| \\ &= |p'_i(a', b', \mu) p(a', b', \mu) - 0| \\ &= |p'_i(a', b', \mu)| \cdot |p(a', b', \mu) - p(a, b, 0)| \\ &\leq 2|p(a', b', \mu) - p(a, b, 0)|. \end{aligned}$$

If  $p(a, b, 0) \neq 0$ , then  $a^2 + b^2 \neq 0$  and hence the function  $p$  is continuously differentiable at  $(a, b, 0)$  with  $a^2 + b^2 \neq 0$ . These two cases show that (iv) is true.  $\square$

Consider the case where  $\mu = 0$  in (14):

$$\min_w r(w, 0) = \frac{1}{2} H(w, 0)^T H(w, 0) = \frac{1}{2} F(w)^T F(w). \tag{17}$$

Similar to the proof of Proposition 3.4 in [7], we can verify that the function  $r(w, 0)$  is continuously differentiable on  $w$  and its gradient is  $\partial_w H(w, 0)^T H(w, 0) := g(w, 0)$ , where  $\partial_w H(w, 0)$  is the generalized Jacobian matrix of  $H(w, 0)$  on variable  $w$ . Furthermore, we have the following result which was actually obtained in [12, Proposition 2.1], but here we give the proof for reference.

**Lemma 6.** *The target function  $r(w, \mu)$  in (14) is continuously differentiable on  $(w, \mu) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \times \mathbb{R}_+$ .*

**Proof.** It suffices to prove that  $\lim_{w' \rightarrow w, \mu \rightarrow 0} g(w', \mu) = g(w, 0)$ . In fact, from

$$\begin{aligned} & \|g(w', \mu) - g(w, 0)\| \\ &= \|\nabla_w H(w', \mu)^T H(w', \mu) - \partial_w H(w, 0)^T H(w, 0)\| \\ &\leq \left\| \begin{bmatrix} A^T \\ -B^T \end{bmatrix} \right\| \|(Ax' - By' - q) - (Ax - By - q)\| \\ &\quad + \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_x \Phi(w', \mu) \\ \nabla_y \Phi(w', \mu) \end{bmatrix} \Phi(w', \mu) - \begin{bmatrix} \partial_x \Phi(w, 0) \\ \partial_y \Phi(w, 0) \end{bmatrix} \Phi(w, 0) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

and Lemma 5(iv), we derive the desired result.  $\square$

A point  $w^*$  is said to be a stationary point of (17) (or (1)) if  $g(w^*, 0) = 0$ . Obviously, the global minimum point of (17) must be a stationary point. The following theorem, which is an extension of Theorem 4.1 in [7], states that the inverse is true under some conditions.

**Theorem 7.** *Suppose  $\{A, B\}$  has the row  $P_0$ -property. Then every stationary point  $w^* = (x^*, y^*)$  of (17) is a global minimum point, and satisfies*

$$w^* \in \arg \min_{\frac{1}{2} \|Ax - By - q\|^2}, \text{ and } \Phi(w^*, 0) = 0. \tag{18}$$

Moreover, if  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = \text{rank}[A, -B, q]$ , then  $w^*$  is a solution to (1).

**Proof.** We prove (18) mainly by following the pattern developed in [7, Theorem 4.1]. Assume  $g(w^*, 0) = 0$ . This means that

$$\begin{aligned} & A^T(Ax^* - By^* - q) + \partial_x \Phi(w^*, 0)\Phi(w^*, 0) = 0, \\ & -B^T(Ax^* - By^* - q) + \partial_y \Phi(w^*, 0)\Phi(w^*, 0) = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

So, if  $\Phi_i(w^*, 0) = 0$  for some index  $i$ , then

$$(A^T(Ax^* - By^* - q))_i = (B^T(Ax^* - By^* - q))_i = 0; \tag{20}$$

otherwise, it holds that  $x_i^* \neq 0$  and  $y_i^* \neq 0$ , or  $x_i^* = 0$  and  $y_i^* < 0$ , or  $x_i^* < 0$  and  $y_i^* = 0$ . From  $(x_i^*)^2 + (y_i^*)^2 \neq 0$ ,  $\partial_j p(x_i^*, y_i^*, 0) = p'_j(x_i^*, y_i^*, 0) > 0$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) and (19), we have

$$(A^T(Ax^* - By^* - q))_i (B^T(Ax^* - By^* - q))_i < 0. \tag{21}$$

That is, (20) or (21) holds for  $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ . By the row  $P_0$ -property of  $\{A, B\}$ , we deduce  $\Phi(w^*, 0) = 0$ . This implies from (19) that

$$\begin{bmatrix} A^T \\ -B^T \end{bmatrix} [A, -B] \begin{bmatrix} x^* \\ y^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A^T \\ -B^T \end{bmatrix} q, \tag{22}$$



which means that  $w^*$  is a stationary point, and hence a minimum point of the least-squares problem  $\min \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - By - q\|^2$ . Therefore, (18) holds.

It is clear that, when  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = \text{rank}[A, -B, q]$ , i.e., the equation  $Ax - By = q$  is consistent,  $w^*$  satisfies  $Ax^* - By^* = q$  by (18). The proof is complete.  $\square$

Now, we recall the definition of  $R_0$ -property of  $\{A, B\}$ , see, e.g., [10].

**Definition 8.** Given two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , we say that  $\{A, B\}$  has the  $R_0$ -property if the system

$$Au - Bv = 0, \quad u^T v = 0, \quad u \geq 0, \quad v \geq 0 \tag{23}$$

has only zero solution.

Under  $R_0$ -property we can obtain the following result whose proof is similar to the one of Theorem 3.7 in [13], and is omitted.

**Lemma 9.** Given two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . If  $\{A, B\}$  has the  $R_0$ -property, then the level set

$$L(\varepsilon, \mu_0) := \{w \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \mid \|H(w, \mu)\| \leq \varepsilon, \mu \leq \mu_0\}$$

is bounded for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $\mu_0 > 0$  (it may be empty).

We now show, using Theorem 3, Lemmas 5 and 9, that Algorithm (I) is globally convergent under suitable assumptions.

**Theorem 10.** Given two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  in (1) with  $m \geq n$ . Assume that  $\{A, B\}$  has the column  $P_0$ - and  $R_0$ -properties. Let  $\{w^k, \mu_k\}$  be an infinite sequence generated by Algorithm (I). Then (a)  $\mu_k \downarrow 0$ ; (b)  $\{w^k\}$  is bounded; (c)  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|g(w^{k+1}, \mu_k)\| = 0$ , or  $\{r^k\} \downarrow 0$ .

**Proof.** (a) Assume that the result (a) is false. Then from  $\mu_{k+1} \leq \eta \mu_k$  or  $\mu_{k+1} = \mu_k$  for any  $k$  (see Steps 2 and 3), there exists an iteration index  $\hat{k}$  such that  $\mu_{\hat{k}+l} = \mu_{\hat{k}} > 0$  for all  $l = 1, 2, \dots$ . This means that Algorithm (I) eventually reduces to a damped Gauss–Newton method for the least-squares problem  $\min\{r(w, \mu_{\hat{k}}) \mid w \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}\}$ . In view of Lemma 9 and Theorem 3, we know that the level set

$$L(w^{\hat{k}}, \mu_{\hat{k}}) := \{w \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \mid r(w, \mu_{\hat{k}}) \leq r(w^{\hat{k}}, \mu_{\hat{k}})\}$$

is bounded and  $G(w, \mu_{\hat{k}})$  is nonsingular on this set. So,  $\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} g(w^{\hat{k}+l}, \mu_{\hat{k}}) = 0$ . In particular, there is an index  $l_0$  such that

$$\|g(w^{\hat{k}+l_0+1}, \mu_{\hat{k}+l_0})\| = \|g(w^{\hat{k}+l_0+1}, \mu_{\hat{k}})\| \leq \gamma \mu_{\hat{k}} = \gamma \mu_{\hat{k}+l_0}.$$

By the updating rule for  $\mu_k$  in Step 3,  $\mu_{\hat{k}+l_0+1} \leq \eta \mu_{\hat{k}+l_0} < \mu_{\hat{k}+l_0}$ , a contradiction. So, result (a) is true.

(b) According to the updating rule for  $\mu_k$ , we partition set  $K := \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  into three parts:

$$K_1 := \{k \in K \mid \mu_{k+1} = \min\{\sigma_{k+1}, \eta\} \mu_k\},$$

$$K_2 := \{k \in K \mid \mu_{k+1} = \mu_k\},$$

$$K_3 := \{k \in K \mid \mu_{k+1} = \min\{\sigma_{k+1}, \eta \mu_k\}\}.$$

For  $k \in K_1$ ,  $\|H^{k+1}\| \leq \sqrt{\eta}\|H^k\|$  by Step 2. For  $k \in K_2$ ,  $\|H^{k+1}\| = \|H(w^{k+1}, \mu_k)\| < \|H^k\|$  by (16). For  $k \in K_3$ , from Lemma 5(ii) and  $0 \leq \mu_{k+1} \leq \eta\mu_k$  we have for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_i(w^{k+1}, \mu_{k+1}) &\leq \Phi_i(w^{k+1}, \mu_k) + |\Phi_i(w^{k+1}, \mu_k) - \Phi_i(w^{k+1}, \mu_{k+1})| \\ &\leq \Phi_i(w^{k+1}, \mu_k) + \sqrt{2}|\mu_{k+1} - \mu_k| \\ &\leq \Phi_i(w^{k+1}, \mu_k) + \sqrt{2}\mu_k. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for  $k \in K_3$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|H(w^{k+1}, \mu_{k+1})\| &\leq \|H(w^{k+1}, \mu_k)\| + \sqrt{2n}\mu_k \\ &< \|H^k\| + \sqrt{2n}\mu_k. \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

This means that, for each  $k \in K$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|H^{k+1}\| &\leq \|H^k\| + \sqrt{2n}\mu'_k \\ &\leq \|H^0\| + \sqrt{2n}(\eta^l + \eta^{l-1} + \dots + 1)\mu_0 \\ &\leq \|H^0\| + \sqrt{2n}\mu_0/(1 - \eta), \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

where  $\mu'_k := \mu_k$  for  $k \in K_3$ , or 0 for  $k \in K_1 \cup K_2$ ; and  $l := \max\{j \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\} \mid j \in K_3\}$ . So, result (b) follows immediately from Lemma 9.

(c) If  $K_3$  is an infinite subset, then by result (a),

$$\lim_{k \in K_3, k \rightarrow \infty} \|g(w^{k+1}, \mu_k)\| \leq \gamma \lim_{k \in K_3, k \rightarrow \infty} \mu_k = 0. \tag{26}$$

Otherwise, we may assume that  $K = K_1 \cup K_2$ . It follows from  $\mu_k \downarrow 0$  that  $K_1$  must be an infinite subset. From  $r^{k+1} \leq \eta r^k$  for  $k \in K_1$  and  $r^{k+1} < r^k$  for  $k \in K_2$ , we have

$$\lim_{k \in K = K_1 \cup K_2, k \rightarrow \infty} r^k = 0. \tag{27}$$

So, result (c) follows from (26) and (27). The proof is complete.  $\square$

By using Theorems 7, 10 and Lemma 6, we obtain the following conclusion.

**Theorem 11.** *Given two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  in (1) with  $m \geq n$ . Assume  $\{A, B\}$  has the column  $P_0$ - and  $R_0$ -properties. Let  $\{w^k, \mu_k\}$  be an infinite sequence generated by Algorithm (I). Then,*

- (a) *there is one limit point  $w^*$  in  $\{w^k\}$  such that  $w^*$  is a stationary point of (17);*
- (b) *if  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = \text{rank}[A, -B, q]$  and  $\{A, B\}$  has the row  $P_0$ -property, then  $\{\|H^k\|\}$  converges to zero, and any limit point of  $\{w^k\}$  is a solution to (1).*

**Proof.** We only prove (b) because the proof of (a) can be observed from the one of (b). Based on the proof of Theorem 10(c), if  $K_3$  is an infinite subset then by the boundedness of  $\{w^k\}$ , there is a subset  $K_4 \subseteq K_3$  such that  $\lim_{k \in K_4, k \rightarrow \infty} w^{k+1} = w^*$ . This, together with (26) and Lemma 6, imply that

$$g(w^*, 0) = \lim_{k \in K_4, k \rightarrow \infty} g(w^{k+1}, \mu_k) = 0.$$

That is,  $w^*$  is a stationary point of (17) (from which and (27), we can derive result (a)). Moreover, from the assumptions in (b) and Theorem 7,  $w^*$  is a solution to (1). By (24),  $\mu_k \downarrow 0$  and the continuity of  $H(w, \mu)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{k \in K_4, k \rightarrow \infty} \|H(w^{k+1}, \mu_{k+1})\| &\leq \lim_{k \in K_4, k \rightarrow \infty} (\|H(w^{k+1}, \mu_k)\| + \sqrt{2n}\mu_k) \\ &= \|H(w^*, 0)\| + 0 \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

which together with (27) show that there exists a subsequence of  $\{\|H^k\|\}$  which converges to zero. This, plus the first inequality of (25) and  $\sum_{k=0}^\infty \mu'_k < +\infty$ , imply that  $\{\|H^k\|\}$  converges to zero. Hence, any limit point of  $\{w^k\}$  is a solution to (1).  $\square$

Theorem 11 tells us a sufficient condition for the existence and boundedness of solutions to (1), and can be viewed as an extension of the result which states that a standard LCP with  $P_0$ - and  $R_0$ -properties has a nonempty and bounded solution set (see, e.g., [6]).

At the end of this section, we discuss the local quadratic convergence of Algorithm (I).

**Theorem 12.** *Given two matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  in (1) with  $m \geq n$ . Assume that  $\text{rank}[A, -B] = \text{rank}[A, -B, q]$ , and  $\{A, B\}$  has the column  $P$ - and row  $P_0$ -properties. Let  $\{w^k, \mu_k\}$  be an infinite sequence generated by Algorithm (I). Then  $\{w^k\}$  converges to a unique solution, say  $w^*$ , to problem (1). Moreover,*

- (a)  $\{w^k\}$  converges  $Q$ -quadratically to  $w^*$ ;
- (b)  $\{\mu_k\}$  converges  $Q$ -superlinearly to zero.

**Proof.** By Theorem 11 and the uniqueness of solution to (1) (see [9, Theorem 14]), we know that  $\{w^k\}$  converges to a unique solution, say  $w^*$ , to (1).

We now observe the local rate of convergence. Since  $\mu_k \downarrow 0$  and  $K_1 \cup K_3$  is an infinite subset, we have, for some sufficiently large  $(k - 1) \in K_1 \cup K_3$ ,

$$\mu_k \leq \max\{1, \mu_0\} \|H(w^k, 0)\|^2 = O(\|H(w^k, 0) - H(w^*, 0)\|^2) = O(\|w^k - w^*\|^2), \tag{28}$$

where the local Lipschitz continuity of  $H(w, 0)$  at  $w^*$  is used. This means that for some sufficiently large  $(k - 1) \in K_1 \cup K_3$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &\|w^k + d^k - w^*\| \\ &= \|w^k - w^* - (G^k)^{-1}g^k\| \\ &\leq \|(G^k)^{-1}\| \cdot \|(\nabla_w H^k)^T\| \cdot \|H(w^k, \mu_k) - (\nabla_w H^k)(w^k - w^*)\| \\ &= O(\|H(w^k, \mu_k) - H(w^*, 0) - \nabla_w H(w^k, \mu_k)(w^k - w^*)\|) \\ &= O(\|(w^k - w^*)\|^2) + O(\mu_k) \\ &= O(\|(w^k - w^*)\|^2), \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

where the second equality is due to the nonsingularity of  $G^* := \partial_w H(w^*, 0)^T \partial_w H(w^*, 0)$  (by Theorem 4) and the boundedness of  $\{\|\nabla_w H^k\|\}$  (by Lemma 5(ii)); the third equality comes from the strong

semismoothness of  $H(w, \mu)$  at  $(w^*, 0)$  (by Lemma 5(iii)) and the boundedness of  $\{\|\nabla_{\mu}\Phi(w^k, \mu_k)\|\}$  (by Lemma 5(ii)). Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \|H(\bar{w}^{k+1}, \bar{\mu}_{k+1})\| &= \|H(\bar{w}^{k+1}, \bar{\mu}_{k+1}) - H(w^*, 0)\| \\ &= O(\|(\bar{w}^{k+1} - w^*)\|) + O(\bar{\mu}_{k+1}) \quad (\text{by Lemma 5(ii)}) \\ &= O(\|(w^k - w^*)\|^2) + O(\mu_k) \quad (\text{by } \bar{\mu}_{k+1} \leq \eta\mu_k) \\ &= O(\|(w^k - w^*)\|^2) \quad (\text{by (28)}) \\ &= O(\|H(w^k, \mu_k)\|^2), \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

where the last equality is based on the relation

$$\|w^k - w^*\| = O(\|H^k\|). \tag{31}$$

In fact, by (29), (15) and the boundedness of  $\{\|(G^k)^{-1}(\nabla_w H^k)^T\|\}$ , we have for some sufficiently large  $(k-1) \in K_1 \cup K_3$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|w^k - w^*\| &\leq \|d^k\| + \|w^k + d^k - w^*\| \\ &= \|d^k\| + O(\|w^k - w^*\|^2) \\ &= \|H^k\| + O(\|w^k - w^*\|^2). \end{aligned}$$

That is, (31) holds.

Equality (30) shows that for some sufficiently large  $(k-1) \in K_1 \cup K_3$ ,  $k \in K_1$ . Repeating the above proof, we know that  $k+1 \in K_1$ ,  $k+2 \in K_1, \dots$ , i.e., the fast step is always taken after a finite number of iterations. Therefore, result (a) follows from (29), and result (b) is based on

$$\mu_{k+1} \leq \sigma_{k+1}\mu_k = o(\mu_k).$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

## 5. Final remarks

In this paper, we have studied the  $P_0$ -property which allows us to propose a Gauss–Newton algorithm for the solution of problem (1) with  $m \geq n$ . The new algorithm needs to solve only a linear equation per iteration and hence has a low cost. Its global convergence, and hence the existence and boundedness of solutions to (1), have been shown under the  $P_0$ - and  $R_0$ -properties. Its local quadratic convergence is established without the strict complementarity assumption.

Although we do not make numerical experiments, from theoretical results the new algorithm should be effective for obtaining the solution of problem (1) with  $m > n$ . For problem (1) with  $m = n$ , we suggest the readers to use the interior point methods or the noninterior path-following methods. For problem (1) with  $m < n$ , since the column  $P_0$ -property (hence the column sufficiency and column  $P$ -property) does not hold, we suggest the readers to use the finite SLP algorithm of Mangasarian and Pang [15], or the polynomial-time potential reduction algorithm of Ye [26], etc.

However, we should point out that the further research on the  $\hat{H}$ LCP (or XLCP) is necessary. For example, is it possible to establish a global error bound for this problem with some monotonicity assumption? Would the smoothing method solve the problem with such assumption?

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