

# On B-H Partial Ordering of Matrices and Their Exponents

## 关于矩阵及其方幂矩阵的 B-H 偏序

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**Abstract** The relationship between the partial ordering of two matrices and the partial ordering of their exponents and  $A^k$  and  $B^k$  ( $k = 2, 3$ ) is discussed in the sense of B-H partial ordering

**Key words** matrix, partial ordering, B-H partial ordering

摘要: 研究矩阵  $A, B$  及其方幂矩阵  $A^k$  和  $B^k$  ( $k = 2, 3$ ) 的 B-H 偏序之间的关系.

关键词: 矩阵 偏序 B-H 偏序

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### 1 Introduction and preliminaries

Let  $C_{m \times n}$  stand for the set of  $m \times n$  complex matrices, and  $H_{m \times n}$  for the subset of  $C_{m \times n}$  consisting of Hermitian matrices. The symbols  $A^H, R(A)$  and  $r(A)$  stand for the conjugate transpose, range and the rank of  $A \in C_{m \times n}$ , respectively.

For matrices  $A, B \in C_{m \times n}$ , star partial ordering, minus partial ordering and B-H ordering are defined as

$$A^H \leq B \Leftrightarrow AA^H = BA^H, A^H A = A^H B;$$

$$A \leq B \Leftrightarrow r(B - A) = r(B) - r(A);$$

$$A \leq B \Leftrightarrow A < B, AB^H A = AA^H A,$$

respectively.

For non-negative definite matrices, Baksalary and Pukelsheim<sup>[1]</sup> had discussed the relationships of partial orderings of  $A^L \leq B, A^H \leq B$  and  $A \leq B$  with that ones between  $A^2$  and  $B^2$ . In the present paper we discuss the relationship of partial ordering of  $A \leq B$  with that ones between  $A^k$  and  $B^k$  ( $k = 2, 3$ ). Some related results for Hermitian matrices are obtained.

We first introduce a few preliminary lemmas.

**Lemma 1.**<sup>[2]</sup> Let  $A, B \in C_{m \times n}$  with the rank  $a$

and  $b$  respectively, then

$$A^H \leq B \text{ if and only if } A = U \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H, B =$$

$$U \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H,$$

where  $D, E$  are diagonal positive definite matrices,  $U, V$  are unitary matrices.

**Lemma 1.**<sup>[3]</sup> Let  $A, B \in C_{m \times n}$  with the rank  $a$  and  $b$  respectively, then

$$A \leq B \text{ if and only if } A = U \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H, B =$$

$$U \begin{pmatrix} D & DR & 0 \\ SD & SDR + E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H,$$

where  $D, E$  are diagonal positive definite matrices,  $U, V$  are unitary matrices.

### 2 The main results

The main results are released as follows.

**Theorem 2.1** Let  $A, B \in H_{m \times n}$ , if

$$A = U \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H,$$

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$$B = U \begin{pmatrix} D & DR & 0 \\ SD & SDR+ & E \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H, \quad (2.1)$$

then

$$V^H U = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & T_5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & T_9 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.2)$$

Where  $T_1, T_5, T_9$  are unitary matrices, and  $T_1 R S = DR^H T_5^H, T_5 R D = S^H D T_1^H, T_5 (R D S + E) = T_5^H (S^H D R^H + E), T_1 D T_1 = D$ . (2.3)

**Proof** Since  $A^H = A$ , then  $V^H U \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H U = \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Let  $V^H U = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 & T_3 \\ T_4 & T_5 & T_6 \\ T_7 & T_8 & T_9 \end{pmatrix}$ , then  $\begin{pmatrix} T_1 D T_1 & T_1 D T_2 & T_1 D T_3 \\ T_4 D T_1 & T_4 D T_5 & T_4 D T_6 \\ T_7 D T_1 & T_7 D T_8 & T_7 D T_9 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Therefore

$$T_2 = 0, T_3 = 0, T_4 = 0, T_7, T_1 D T_1 = D.$$

Similarly, since  $B^H = B$ , we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} T_1 D & T_1 R S & 0 \\ T_5 R D & T_5 (R D S + E) & 0 \\ T_8 R D & T_8 (R D S + E) & 0 \\ D T_1^H & D R^H T_5^H & D R^H T_8^H \\ S^H D T_1^H & (R D S + E)^H T_5^H & (R D S + E)^H T_8^H \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This relation implies that  $T_8 = 0$ .

Since  $V^H U$  is a unitary matrix, we have  $T_6 = 0$ , so Formulae (2.2) and (2.3) are held.

**Theorem 2.2** Let  $A, B \in H_{m \times n}$ , then  $A \leq B, A^2 \leq B^2$  if and only if  $A^H \leq B$ .

**Proof** If  $A^H \leq B$ , obviously  $A \leq B, A^2 \leq B^2$ . If  $A \leq B, A^2 \leq B^2$ , using theorem 2.1 yields,

$$A^2 = U \begin{pmatrix} D T^H D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H, \\ B^2 = U \begin{pmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} & 0 \\ T_{21} & T_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^H,$$

$T_{11}: D T_1 D + D S T_5 R D; T_{12}: R D T_1 + R D S T_5 R D + E T_5 R D; T_{21}: D T_1 D S + D S T_5 R D S + D S T_5 E; T_{22}: R D T_1 D S + (R D S + E) T_5 (R D S + E)$ .

Since  $A^2 \leq B^2$ , we obtain  $D S T_5 R D = 0$ . From Formula (2.3), we have  $S^H S = 0$ , So  $S = 0$ , and  $R = 0$ . By Lemma 1.1, we obtain  $A^H \leq B$ .

**Corollary 2.3**<sup>[4]</sup> Let  $A, B$  be non-negative definite matrices, then  $A \leq B, A^2 \leq B^2$  if and only if

$$A^H \leq B.$$

**Corollary 2.4** Let  $A, B \in H_{m \times n}$ , we have

- (1) If  $A \leq B, A^2 \leq B^2$ , then  $AB = BA$ .
- (2) If  $AB = BA$  and  $A \leq B$ , then  $A^2 \leq B^2$ .

**Proof** (1) If  $A \leq B, A^2 \leq B^2$ , then  $A^H \leq B$ , and there exists unitary matrix  $U$ . Such as

$$A = U \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} U^H, B = U \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 \\ 0 & F \end{pmatrix} U^H. \quad (2.4)$$

Where  $D$  is a diagonal positive definite matrix, and  $F$  is a diagonal matrix.

$$AB = U \begin{pmatrix} D^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} U^H = BA.$$

(2) As  $A \leq B$ , then from Formulae (2.1) and (2.2), we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} D T_1 D & D T D_1 R & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} D T_1 D & 0 & 0 \\ S D T D_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $R = 0, S = 0$ , and  $A^H \leq B$ . From Formula (2.4), it is easily to prove  $A^{2H} \leq B^2$ , so  $A^2 \leq B^2$ .

We extend the results in References[5].

**Remark 2.5** If and  $AB = BA$  and  $A^2 \leq B^2$ , but  $A \leq B$  may be not true.

That can be understood easily from the following example (even for star partial ordering).

**Example 2.6**  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ ,

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 \end{pmatrix}. \text{ obviously, } AB = BA \text{ and } A^2 \leq B^2, \text{ but } A \leq B \text{ is not held.}$$

**Theorem 2.7** Let  $A, B$  be non-negative definite matrices, then

$$A \leq B, A^3 \leq B^3 \text{ if and only if } A^H \leq B.$$

**Proof** If  $A^H \leq B$ , obviously,  $A \leq B, A^3 \leq B^3$ .

Conversely if  $A \leq B, A^3 \leq B^3$ , using Lemma 1.2, we have  $A \leq B \Leftrightarrow A, B$  have the following decomposition

$$A = U \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} U^H, \\ B = U \begin{pmatrix} D & DR^H & 0 \\ RD & E + RDR^H & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} U^H. \quad (2.5)$$

Where  $D, E$  are diagonal positive definite matrices,  $U$  is a unitary matrix.

Since  $A^3 \leq B^3$ , it follows that  $R^H R D + D R^H R + R^H R D R^H R + R^H E R = 0$ . (2.6)

Suppose  $R \neq 0$ , let

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$$R^H R = T \operatorname{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_t, 0, \dots, 0) T^H,$$

where  $T = (t_{ij})_{n \times n}$  is a unite matrix, and  $\lambda_1 > 0$ .

Since  $C = (c_j)_{n \times n} = T^H R^H R D R^H R D T$ ,  $G = (g_{ij})_{n \times n} = T^H R^H E R T$  are non-negative definite matrices, then  $c_{11} \leq 0$ ,  $g_{11} \geq 0$ .

Let  $F = \operatorname{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_t, 0, \dots, 0) T^H D T + T^H D T \operatorname{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_t, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,

we obtain  $f_{11} = \lambda_1 \sum_{i=1}^n d_i t_{i1} t_{i1}^H$ .

From  $\sum_{i=1}^n t_{i1} t_{i1}^H = 1$ ,  $d_i > 0$ , we have

$$f_{11} + c_{11} + g_{11} > 0,$$

which is a contradiction to Formula (2.6).

So  $R = 0$ , and  $A^H \leq B$ .

**Corollary 2.8** Let  $A, B$  be non-negative definite matrices, if  $A \leq B$ ,  $A^3 \leq B^3$ , then  $AB = BA$ .

**Proof** If  $A \leq B$ ,  $A^3 \leq B^3$ , then  $A^H \leq B$ , so  $AB = BA$ .

### 3 Conclude

The relation between the minus partial ordering of two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  relates to the B-H partial ordering of theirs exponent  $A^k$  and  $B^k$  ( $k = 2, 3$ ) are given. But our method seems unavailable for the general case, and we pose an open question.

**Question** As a consequence of above corollary, we conjecture

$$A \leq B, A^k \leq B^k (k \geq 4) \Rightarrow AB = BA.$$

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