

## A POSTERIORI ERROR ESTIMATOR FOR SPECTRAL APPROXIMATIONS OF COMPLETELY CONTINUOUS OPERATORS

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we study numerical approximations of eigenvalues when using projection method for spectral approximations of completely continuous operators. We improve the theory depending on the ascent of  $T - \mu$  and provide a new approach for error estimate, which depends only on the ascent of  $T_h - \mu_h$ . Applying this estimator to the integral operator eigenvalue problems, we obtain asymptotically exact indicators. Numerical experiments are provided to support our theoretical conclusions.

**Key Words.** completely continuous operators, projection method, eigenvalues, a posteriori error estimates

### 1. Spectral Approximations of Completely Continuous Operators

In this paper, we assume that  $X$  is a separable reflexive Banach space or a separable Hilbert space,  $\|\cdot\|$  and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  are the norm and the adjoint pair in  $X$ , respectively. Let  $S^h$  be a sequence of finite dimensional spaces such that

$$S^{h_1} \subset S^{h_2} \quad \forall h_2 < h_1; \quad \bigcup_{h>0} S^h = X.$$

We will consider a completely continuous operator  $T : X \rightarrow X$  and a family of finite ranked operators  $T_h : X \rightarrow X$ , such that

$$\|T_h - T\| \rightarrow 0 \quad (h \rightarrow 0).$$

Consider the operator eigenvalue problem: Find  $\mu \in C$ ,  $0 \neq u \in X$ , such that

$$(1) \quad Tu = \mu u.$$

Also consider its discrete scheme: Find  $\mu_h \in C$ ,  $0 \neq u_h \in S^h$ , such that

$$(2) \quad T_h u_h = \mu_h u_h.$$

Let  $\mu$  be an eigenvalue of  $T$  with algebraic multiplicity  $m$ , let  $E$  be the spectral projection associated with  $T$  and  $\mu$ , and let  $E_h$  be the spectral projection associated with  $T_h$  and the eigenvalues of  $T_h$  which converge to  $\mu$ . Similarly, let  $E^*$  and  $E_h^*$  be spectral projections associated with the adjoint  $T^*$  of  $T$  and the adjoint  $T_h^*$  of  $T_h$ , respectively. Moreover, denote  $R(E)$ ,  $R(E_h)$ ,  $R(E^*)$ , and  $R(E_h^*)$  the image spaces of  $E$ ,  $E_h$ ,  $E^*$ , and  $E_h^*$ , respectively.

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In [4], Chatelin has proved that there exist  $m$  eigenvalues of  $T_h$  (including multiplicity)  $\mu_{1,h}, \mu_{2,h}, \dots, \mu_{m,h}$  converging to  $\mu$  and  $\mu_{1,h}, \mu_{2,h}, \dots, \mu_{m,h}$  are not necessarily equal, neither are the ascent of  $\mu$  and that of  $\mu_{i,h}$ . In addition, the abstract error estimates of approximate eigenvalues and eigenfunctions have been studied since 1964 by Babuška, Bramble, Chatelin, Grigorieff, Lemordant, Osborn, Stummel, Vainikko, etc. A systematic summarization is found in [1]. We will need the following lemmas [1].

**Lemma 1.** *There is a constant  $c$  independent of  $h$ , such that*

$$(3) \quad \theta(R(E), R(E_h)) \leq c \cdot \|(T - T_h)|_{R(E)}\|$$

for small  $h$ , where  $(T - T_h)|_{R(E)}$  denotes the restriction of  $T - T_h$  to  $R(E)$ .

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m$  be any basis for  $R(E)$ , and  $\varphi_1^*, \dots, \varphi_m^*$  be the dual basis for  $R(E^*)$ . We define  $\bar{\mu}_h = \frac{1}{m} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^m \mu_{j,h}$ , then there is a constant  $c$  independent of  $h$ , such that*

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} |\mu - \bar{\mu}_h| &\leq \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m |\langle (T - T_h)\varphi_j, \varphi_j^* \rangle| \\ &+ c \cdot \|(T - T_h)|_{R(E)}\| \|(T^* - T_h^*)|_{R(E^*)}\|. \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\alpha$  be the ascent of  $\mu - T$ . Let  $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m$  be any basis for  $R(E)$ , and  $\varphi_1^*, \dots, \varphi_m^*$  be the dual basis for  $R(E^*)$ . Then there is a constant  $c$ , such that*

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} |\mu - \mu_{j,h}| &\leq c \left\{ \sum_{i,k=1}^m |\langle (T - T_h)\varphi_i, \varphi_k^* \rangle| \right. \\ &+ \left. \|(T - T_h)|_{R(E)}\| \|(T^* - T_h^*)|_{R(E^*)}\| \right\}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \\ &(j = 1, 2, \dots, m). \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $\mu_h$  be an eigenvalue of  $T_h$  such that  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \mu_h = \mu$ . Suppose for each  $h$ ,  $u_h$  is a unit vector satisfying  $(\mu_h - T_h)^k u_h = 0$  for some positive integer  $k \leq \alpha$ . Then for any integer  $j$  with  $k \leq j \leq \alpha$ , we have*

$$(6) \quad \|u_h - P_j u_h\| \leq c \cdot \|(T_h - T)|_{R(E)}\|^{\frac{j-k+1}{\alpha}},$$

where  $P_j$  is the projection on  $N((\mu - T)^j)$  along  $M_j$ .  $M_j$  is a closed subspace of  $X$ , such that  $X = N((\mu - T)^j) \oplus M_j$ .

These Lemmas provide a foundation of the spectral approximate theory for completely continuous operators. We can establish *a priori* error estimates of finite element solution for differential operators and integral operators by using these Lemmas. However, we shall note that (5) and (6) depend on the ascent  $\alpha$  of  $T - \mu$ , which is very difficult to determine for non-self adjoint eigenvalue problems. Furthermore, the value of the constant  $c$  is unknown in (5) and (6). So, it is inconvenient to obtain *a posteriori* error estimates.

Since Babuška and Rheinboldt published the first paper on *a posteriori* error estimates of finite element methods [2], many developments have been made in this subject. In [6], an abstract error estimate has been presented, which gives *a posteriori* error estimates to finite element approximations for self-adjoint compact operator eigenvalue problems. In the current paper, we will present an abstract

error estimate that can provide *a posteriori* error estimates to finite element approximations for general completely continuous (probably non-self adjoint) operator eigenvalue problems.

Let  $(\mu_h, u_h)$  be an eigen-pair of  $T_h$  and  $l$  be the ascent of  $T_h - \mu_h$ , where  $\|u_h\| = 1$ . We choose  $u_h^*$  such that

$$(7) \quad u_h^* \in R(E_h^*), \quad \langle u_h, u_h^* \rangle = 1, \quad \langle v, u_h^* \rangle = 0, \quad \forall v \in M,$$

where  $M \subset R(E_h)$  satisfies  $R(E_h) = M \oplus \{u_h\}$ . Since  $T_h^* - \mu_h$  and  $T_h - \mu_h$  have the same ascent, we have

$$(8) \quad (T_h^* - \mu_h)^l u_h^* = 0.$$

**Theorem 1.** *Given  $u_h^*$  satisfying (7) and (8), there exists  $u^* \in R(E^*)$  such that*

$$(9) \quad \|u_h^* - u^*\| \leq c \|(T^* - T_h) |_{R(E^*)}\|^{1/\alpha},$$

$$(10) \quad (\mu - \mu_h)^l \langle u_h, u^* \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{i=0}^{l-1} (\mu - \mu_h)^i (\mu - T)^{l-1-i} (T - \mu_h) u_h, u^* \right\rangle,$$

and

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} & (\mu - \mu_h)^l \langle u_h, u^* \rangle \\ &= - \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} \left\langle \left( \sum_{m=k}^{l-1} C_m^k \right) (\mu_h - T)^{k+1} u_h, u^* \right\rangle (\mu - \mu_h)^{l-1-k}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\langle u_h, u^* \rangle = 1 + \langle u_h, u^* - u_h^* \rangle$ .

*Proof.* From the proof of Lemma 4 [1], there exists  $u^*$  which satisfies

$$(12) \quad (T^* - \mu)^l u^* = 0,$$

and (9). So, we have

$$\langle (T - \mu)^l u_h, u^* \rangle = \langle u_h, (T^* - \mu)^l u^* \rangle = 0.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mu - \mu_h)^l \langle u_h, u^* \rangle = \langle (\mu - \mu_h)^l u_h, u^* \rangle \\ &= \langle ((\mu - \mu_h)^l - (\mu - T)^l) u_h, u^* \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \sum_{i=0}^{l-1} (\mu - \mu_h)^i (\mu - T)^{l-1-i} (T - \mu_h) u_h, u^* \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Then (10) is proved. Using binomial theorem with respect to the right-hand side, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mu - \mu_h)^l \langle u_h, u^* \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \sum_{i=0}^{l-1} (\mu - \mu_h)^i \left( \sum_{k=0}^{l-1-i} C_{l-1-i}^k (\mu - \mu_h)^{l-1-i-k} (\mu_h - T)^k \right) (T - \mu_h) u_h, u^* \right\rangle \\ &= - \left\langle \sum_{i=0}^{l-1} \sum_{k=0}^{l-1-i} C_{l-1-i}^k (\mu - \mu_h)^{l-1-k} (\mu_h - T)^{k+1} u_h, u^* \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

On the right-hand side, we arrange  $\mu - \mu_h$  in descending power to have (11). Since  $\langle u_h, u_h^* \rangle = 1$ , it follows that  $\langle u_h, u^* \rangle = 1 + \langle u_h, u^* - u_h^* \rangle$ .  $\square$

**Remark.** *If  $X$  is a Hilbert space, let  $T^*$  and  $T_h^*$  be the Hilbert adjoints of  $T$  and  $T_h$ , respectively. Let  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_m$  be an orthonormal basis of  $R(E)$ , and let*

$\varphi_j^* = E^* \varphi_j$ . Then  $\varphi_1^*, \varphi_2^*, \dots, \varphi_m^* \in N((\mu^* - T^*)^\alpha)$ , and  $\{\varphi_i^*\}$  is the dual basis of  $\{\varphi_i\}$ . Replacing the adjoint pair  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  in Banach space by the inner product  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  in Hilbert space, all the former results remain valid.

**2. The Galerkin Method for Integral Operator Eigenvalue Problems and Sloan Iteration**

Consider (1) as an integral operator eigenvalue problem, i.e.

$$(13) \quad (Tu)(s) = \int_{\Omega} k(s, t)u(t)dt, \quad \forall s \in \Omega.$$

We assume that the integral operator  $T$  satisfies one of the following conditions:

1.  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain of  $R^n$ ,  $\int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} |k(x, y)|^2 dx dy < \infty$ . We choose  $X = L_2(\Omega)$ .  $T : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow L_2(\Omega)$  is completely continuous.

2.  $\Omega = [0, 1]$ . The kernel  $k(s, t)$  belongs to the family of  $C(a, \gamma)$  with respect to  $t$ ; namely, for  $a \geq \gamma \geq 0$ , and any  $t$  with  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ ,

$$k_t \in C^a(0, t) \cap C^a(t, 1) \cap C^\gamma(0, 1)$$

is uniformly valid with respect to  $t$  in  $[0, 1]$ .

According to the Grahum - Sloan theorem [4], we have  $T : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow C(\Omega)$  is completely continuous. Moreover,  $T : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow L_2(\Omega)$  and  $T : C(\Omega) \rightarrow C(\Omega)$  is completely continuous. Let  $V_\mu = \{u : (T - \mu)u = 0\}$  be the eigenvector space of  $\mu$  corresponding to  $T$ . Let  $V_{\mu^*} = \{u : (T^* - \mu^*)u = 0\}$  be the eigenvector space of  $\mu^*$  corresponding to  $T^*$ . From [4] Th.7.2, we see that  $V_\mu \subset C^a$ . Furthermore, if  $k(s, t)$  belongs to the family of  $C(a, \gamma)$  with respect to  $s$ , then  $V_{\mu^*} \subset C^a$ .

In this section, we will discuss the Galerkin method of the compact integral operator eigenvalue problem (1). Assume that  $X$  is a Hilbert space. Let  $S^h \subset X$  be a piecewise polynomial space and  $P_h : X \rightarrow S^h$  be a family of orthogonal projection operators, so that  $P_h \rightarrow I$  pointwisely. The Galerkin method takes the solution of (2) as the approximate solution of (1) after choosing  $T_h = P_h T$  in (2).

Let  $\{\mu_h, u_h\}$  be an eigen-pair of (2). Since  $P_h$  is a family of projection operators,  $P_h \rightarrow I$  pointwisely, and  $T$  is completely continuous, we have

$$\|P_h T - T\| \rightarrow 0 \quad (h \rightarrow 0).$$

Thus, from [4], we conclude that  $\mu_h$  converge to  $\mu$  with the same algebraic multiplicity, where  $\mu$  is the eigenvalue of (1).

In order to improve the accuracy, Sloan established a calculate scheme in 1976 [5]:

$$(14) \quad TP_h u_h^s = \mu_h u_h^s.$$

It is easy to prove that, if  $\{\mu_h, u_h\}$  is an eigen-pair of (2), then  $\{\mu_h, Tu_h\}$  is an eigen-pair of (14). Inversely, if  $\{\mu_h, u_h^s\}$  is an eigen-pair of (14), then  $\{\mu_h, P_h u_h^s\}$  is an eigen-pair of (2). We say that  $u_h^s$  is the Sloan iterate solution of (1).

We will need the following lemmas [4].

**Lemma 5.** Let  $S^h$  be a finite element space of order  $r$  and  $P_h : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow S^h$  be a family of orthogonal projection operators,  $T : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{r+1}(\Omega)$ ,  $T^* : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{r+1}(\Omega)$ . Then

$$(15) \quad \|u_h - Eu_h\| \leq ch^{r+1},$$

$$(16) \quad \|u_h^s - Eu_h^s\| \leq ch^{2(r+1)}.$$

Comparing with  $u_h$ , the convergence order of  $u_h^s$  used by Sloan iteration has a square improvement.

Let  $\alpha$  be the ascent of  $\mu$ . For the orthogonal projection method, if  $\alpha = 1$ , then  $R(E) = V_\mu$ . Thus  $\mu - \mu_h$  and  $\text{dist}(u_h^s, V_\mu)$  have the same accuracy as  $\mu - \hat{\mu}_h$  and  $\text{dist}(u_h^s, R(E))$ , respectively. If  $\alpha \geq 1$ , we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $K(t, s)$  be the kernel of  $T$ . If  $K(t, s)$  belongs to the family of  $C(a, \gamma)$  with respect to  $t$  and  $s$  and  $\alpha$  is the ascent of  $T - \mu$  satisfying  $\alpha \geq 1$ . Then for the orthogonal projection method, when  $h$  is sufficient small, we have*

$$(17) \quad \mu - \mu_h = O(h^{\frac{2\beta}{\alpha}}),$$

$$(18) \quad \text{dist}(u_h^s, V_\mu) = O(h^{\frac{2\beta}{\alpha}}),$$

where  $\beta = \min(a, r + 1)$ .

In order to do *a posteriori* error estimates to the eigen-pair  $(\mu_h, u_h)$  using Sloan iteration, we need to study the difference between  $Eu_h$  and  $ETu_h$ .

If  $Eu_h$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  associated with  $\mu$ , then

$$ETu_h = TEu_h = \mu Eu_h.$$

Hence,  $Eu_h$  and  $ETu_h$  are the same eigenvectors (ignoring constant coefficient).

If  $Eu_h$  is a generalized eigenvector (not an eigenvector) of  $T$  associated with  $\mu$ , we have the following result.

**Theorem 2.** *Given  $P_hTu_h = \mu_hu_h$ , then*

$$(19) \quad ETu_h - \mu_hEu_h = E(I - P_h)(I - P_h)Tu_h.$$

*Proof.* Note that

$$(20) \quad \begin{aligned} ETu_h &= E(T - P_hT + P_hT)u_h \\ &= E(T - P_hT)u_h + EP_hTu_h \\ &= E(I - P_h)(I - P_h)Tu_h + \mu_hEu_h, \end{aligned}$$

then the result follows. □

From (19), we conclude that the error  $ETu_h - \mu_hEu_h$  is of higher order comparing with the error of  $u_h$ . Thus

$$(21) \quad \begin{aligned} u_h - Eu_h &= u_h - \mu_h^{-1}ETu_h + \mu_h^{-1}ETu_h - Eu_h \approx u_h - \mu_h^{-1}ETu_h \\ &= u_h - \mu_h^{-1}Tu_h + \mu_h^{-1}Tu_h - \mu_h^{-1}ETu_h \approx u_h - \mu_h^{-1}Tu_h. \end{aligned}$$

Now, consider a further problem: Given  $u_h$  a generalized eigenvector of  $P_hT$ , so that  $(P_hT - \mu_h)^l u_h = 0$  ( $l > 1$ ). Is  $Tu_h$  a generalized eigenvector of  $TP_h$ , i.e.  $(TP_h - \mu_h)^l Tu_h = 0$ ? If it is, what is the difference between  $Eu_h$  and  $ETu_h$ ? The answer for the first question is positive. In fact, given  $(P_hT - \mu_h)^l u_h = 0$ , from binomial theorem and  $(TP_h)^{l-k} \cdot T = T(P_hT)^{l-k}$ , we have

$$(22) \quad \begin{aligned} (TP_h - \mu_h)^l Tu_h &= \left( \sum_{k=0}^l C_l^k (TP_h)^{l-k} (-\mu_h)^k \right) Tu_h \\ &= \left( \sum_{k=0}^l C_l^k (TP_h)^{l-k} T (-\mu_h)^k \right) u_h = T \left( \sum_{k=0}^l C_l^k (P_hT)^{l-k} (-\mu_h)^k \right) u_h \\ &= T(P_hT - \mu_h)^l u_h = 0. \end{aligned}$$

As for the difference between  $Eu_h$  and  $ETu_h$ , from (20) in Theorem 2, it is easy to conclude that

$$(23) \quad ETu_h - \mu_h Eu_h = E(I - P_h)(I - P_h)Tu_h + E(T_h - \mu_h)u_h.$$

However, to obtain more subtle estimates, we need to do further analysis in  $E(T_h - \mu_h)u_h$ .

**3. A Posteriori Error Estimates**

Consider the integral operator  $T : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow L_2(\Omega)$ . Let  $\mu$  be an eigenvalue of  $T$ ,  $\alpha$  be the ascent of  $T - \mu$ , and  $(\mu_h, u_h)$  be an eigen-pair of  $T_h(= P_h T)$  with  $\|u_h\|_0 = 1$  and  $\mu_h$  converges to  $\mu$ . We choose  $u_h^* \in R(E_h^*)$  as in (7).

Let  $S^h$  be a piecewise polynomial space of degree  $r$  and  $P_h$  be a family of projection operators on  $S^h$ . For  $T_h = P_h T$ , we choose

$$(24) \quad u^* = P_l^* u_h^*;$$

and for  $T_h = TP_h$ , we choose

$$(25) \quad u^* = P_l^* u_h^{*s} \quad (u_h^{*s} = \mu_h^{*-1} T^* u_h^*),$$

where  $P_l^*$  is the projection defined by the similar method in lemma 4.

**Theorem 3.** *Assume that  $P_h : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow S^h$  is a family of orthogonal projection operators in (2). Let  $T^* : R(E^*) \subset L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow H^a(\Omega)$  be continuous,  $\|Tu_h\|'_a \leq c\|u_h\|_0$ ,  $R(E) \subset H^a(\Omega)$ ,  $R(E^*) \subset H^a(\Omega)$ ,  $(\mu_h, u_h)$  be the approximate eigen-pair obtained from (2), and  $l$  be the ascent of  $T_h - \mu_h$ . We choose  $T_h = TP_h$  and  $u^*$  defined in (25). Then*

$$(26) \quad |\mu - \mu_h| \leq ch^{\frac{2\beta}{l}},$$

where  $\beta = \min(a, r + 1)$ . Moreover,  $\epsilon(\mu_h)$  defined below is the asymptotically exact indicator of  $\mu_h$ .

$$(27) \quad \epsilon(\mu_h)^l = -\frac{1}{(u_h^s, u_h^{*s})} ((\mu_h - T)^l u_h^s, u_h^{*s}).$$

*Proof.* To avoid over-elaborate narration, we assume that  $(\mu - T^*)^{l-1}u^* \neq 0$ . Let  $I_r : C(\Omega) \rightarrow S^h$  be piecewise interpolate operator of degree  $r$ . For any fixed  $i$ , by orthogonality of  $P_h$  and interpolation error estimate, we have

$$(28) \quad \begin{aligned} & |((\mu - \mu_h)^i (\mu - T)^{l-1-i} (T - \mu_h) u_h^s, u^*)| \\ &= |(\mu - \mu_h)^i ((T - \mu_h) u_h^s, (\mu^* - T^*)^{l-1-i} u^*)| \\ &= |\mu - \mu_h|^i |((I - P_h) u_h^s, (I - I_r) T^* (\mu^* - T^*)^{l-1-i} u^*)| \\ &\leq c |\mu - \mu_h|^i h^{2\beta} \|u_h^s\|_\beta \|T^* (\mu^* - T^*)^{l-1-i} u^*\|_\beta. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $T, T^*$  are continuous, and (9), we have:

$$(29) \quad \begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} \langle (\sum_{m=k}^{l-1} C_m^k) (\mu_h - T)^{k+1} u_h^s, u^* \rangle (\mu - \mu_h)^{l-1-k} \\ &= (1 + O(\mu - \mu_h)) ((\mu_h - T)^l u_h^s, u^*) \\ &= (1 + O(\mu - \mu_h)) (((\mu_h - T)^l u_h^s, u_h^{*s}) \\ &\quad + ((I - P_h) u_h^s, (I - I_r) T^* (\mu^* - T^*)^{l-1} (u^* - u_h^{*s}))) \\ &= (1 + O(\|(T^* - T_h^*)|_{R(E^*)}\|^\frac{1}{\alpha})) (1 + O(\mu - \mu_h)) ((\mu_h - T)^l u_h^s, u_h^{*s}). \end{aligned}$$

$$(30) \quad \frac{1}{(u_h^s, u^*)} - \frac{1}{(u_h^s, u_h^{*s})} = \frac{(u_h^s, u_h^{*s} - u^*)}{(u_h^s, u^*)(u_h^s, u_h^{*s})} = O(\|(T^* - T_h^*)|_{R(E^*)}\|^\frac{1}{\alpha}),$$

Substituting (28) and (30) into (10), we get (26). Substituting (29) and (30) into (11), we have

$$(\mu - \mu_h)^l = (1 + O(\|(T^* - T_h^*)|_{R(E^*)}\|^\frac{1}{\alpha}))^2(1 + O(\mu - \mu_h))\epsilon(\mu_h)^l,$$

which indicates that  $e(\mu_h)$  is an asymptotically exact indicator of  $\mu_h$ . □

Based on (11), a more subtle error indicator can be obtained. In particular, let  $\epsilon(\mu_h)$  be the initial value. Then, we use iteration method to obtain the root  $e$  of the following equation:

$$(31) \quad e^l \langle u_h^s, u_h^{*s} \rangle = - \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} \langle \sum_{m=k}^{l-1} C_m^k (\mu_h - T)^{k+1} u_h^s, u_h^{*s} \rangle e^{l-1-k}.$$

On the other hand, suppose that  $\Omega = [0, 1]$  and  $T : L_2(\Omega) \rightarrow C(\Omega)$  is completely continuous. Let  $P_h : C(\Omega) \rightarrow S^h$  be a piecewise polynomial interpolative operator of degree  $r$ . We choose  $T_h = P_h T$ . Then the discrete scheme (2) is obtained by the collocation method.

Similarly as Theorem 3, we are able to establish the following result.

**Theorem 4.** *Suppose that  $\|Tu_h\|'_a \leq c\|u_h\|_0$ ,  $R(E) \subset H^a(\Omega)$ ,  $R(E^*) \subset H^a(\Omega)$ ,  $\mu_h$  is the collocated solution of  $\mu$ , and  $l$  is the ascent of  $T_h - \mu_h$ . We choose  $T_h = P_h T$  and  $u^*$  defined in (24). Then*

$$(32) \quad |\mu - \mu_h| \leq ch^\frac{\beta}{r},$$

where  $\beta = \min(a, r + 1)$ . Moreover,  $\epsilon(\mu_h)$  defined as below is the asymptotically exact indicator of  $\mu_h$ .

$$(33) \quad \epsilon(\mu_h)^l = -\frac{1}{(u_h, u_h^*)} ((\mu_h - T)^l u_h, u_h^*).$$

#### 4. Numerical Experiments

We consider the integral equation problem

$$(34) \quad \int_0^1 K(s, t)u(t)dt = \mu u(s),$$

where  $K(s, t) = \frac{1}{2} |s - t|$ , for  $s \leq t$ ;  $K(s, t) = 2 |s - t|$ , for  $t \leq s$ .

We note that the first order derivative of the kernel is discontinuous. The eigenvalues of the largest and the third largest modulus are  $\mu_1 = 0.36031939951656$  and  $\mu_3 = -0.10038687851114$ , respectively. We shall use Galerkin method to approximate  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_3$ . Then, we use  $e(\mu_h)$  in Theorem 3 and in Theorem 4 to estimate the errors.

Partition  $[0, 1]$  into  $n$  equal subintervals. Let  $S^h \subset C^0$  be a piecewise linear polynomial space,  $\{l_i\}_0^n$  are the nodal base functions. An expansion method for (34) is then applied by approximating the eigenfunctions of

$$(35) \quad u(s) \simeq u_h(s) = \sum_{i=0}^n z_i l_i(s)$$

and by approximating the eigenvalue  $\mu$  with  $\mu_h$ .

Define the residual function  $r_h(s)$  as

$$r_h(s) = \int_0^1 K(s,t)u_h(t)dt - \mu_h u_h(s).$$

The particular expansion method is determined by the restrictions imposed on the residual function. We need to determine the coefficients  $z_i, i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$  in (35) so that  $r_h(s)$  is small in some measure. The same as in the Ritz-Galerkin method, we require that  $r_h(s)$  be orthogonal to each of the functions  $l_i(s), i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ , namely,

$$\int_0^1 l_i^*(s)r_h(s)ds = \int_0^1 l_i^*(s)[\int_0^1 K(s,t)u_h(t)dt - \mu_h u_h(s)]ds = 0, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n,$$

where  $h = 1/n$ . This leads to a generalized matrix eigenvalue problem

$$Lz = \mu_h Mz,$$

where

$$L = (l_{ij}), \quad l_{ij} = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 l_i^*(s)K(s,t)l_j(t)dsdt, \quad i, j = 0, 1, \dots, n;$$

$$M = (m_{ij}), \quad m_{ij} = \int_0^1 l_i^*(s)l_j(s)ds, \quad i, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

The entries of  $L$  and  $M$  can be calculated explicitly. We list them in the Appendix.

**Table 1**

h	i	$\mu_{i,h}$	$e_{i,h}$	$e(\mu_{i,h})$	$\frac{e(\mu_{i,h})}{e_{i,h}}$
$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0.35900382	1.31558318e-003	1.32848276e-003	1.0098052
	3	-0.103039524	2.65264576e-003	2.83573653e-003	1.0690219
$\frac{1}{4}$	1	0.36022636	9.30373241e-005	9.32672751e-005	1.0024716
	3	-0.09988222	-5.04659611e-004	-5.01813644e-004	0.9943606
$\frac{1}{8}$	1	0.36031352	5.88772391e-006	5.88102704e-006	1.0006445
	3	-0.10036284	-2.40342271e-005	-2.40195864e-005	0.9993908
$\frac{1}{16}$	1	0.36031903	3.67640473e-007	3.67700370e-007	1.0001629
	3	-0.10038551	-1.36615773e-006	-1.36595929e-006	0.9998547
$\frac{1}{32}$	1	0.36031938	2.29766842e-008	2.29776188e-008	1.0000407
	3	-0.10038680	-8.32024585e-008	-8.31994260e-008	0.9999636

The results and errors are shown in Table 1. Here, the ascent of  $T_h - \mu_{i,h}$  is 1,  $\mu_{i,h}$  depicts the approximate eigenvalues of  $\mu_i$ ,  $e_{i,h} = \mu_i - \mu_{i,h}$ , and  $e(\mu_{i,h})$  is the error obtained by using the composite Simpson's rule and extrapolation for (27) with  $l = 1$ . In Table 1, we see that  $\mu_{i,h}$  converges to  $\mu_i$  when  $h$  is decreasing. Moreover, the two errors are extremely close with ratio approaches one. Therefore,  $e(\mu_{i,h})$  is an asymptotically exact indicator for  $\mu_{i,h}$ .

We can also use collocation method to solve this problem. We seek approximated eigen-pairs  $(\lambda_h, u_h)$ , which satisfy

$$(36) \quad \int_0^1 K(s_i,t)u_h(t)dt = \mu_h u_h(s_i), \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

Let  $u_h(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n z_i l_i(t)$ , then

$$(37) \quad \int_0^1 K(s_i, t) \sum_{j=0}^n z_j l_j(t) dt = \mu_h \sum_{j=0}^n z_j l_j(s_i),$$

namely,

$$(38) \quad \sum_{j=0}^n z_j \int_0^1 K(s_i, t) l_j(t) dt = \mu_h \sum_{j=0}^n z_j l_j(s_i), \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

Then, the former problem became a matrix eigenvalue problem

$$Az = \mu_h z,$$

where  $z = (z_0, z_1, \dots, z_n)^T$ , and  $a_{ij}$ 's are listed in the Appendix.

**Table 2**

h	i	$\mu_{i,h}$	$e_{i,h}$	$e(\mu_{i,h})$	$\frac{e(\mu_{i,h})}{e_{i,h}}$
$\frac{1}{16}$	1	0.36113254	-8.13139257e-004	-8.14368623e-004	1.0015119
	3	-0.09958146	-8.05423027e-004	-8.062210e-004	1.0009898
$\frac{1}{32}$	1	0.36052281	-2.03408883e-004	-2.03486522e-004	1.0003817
	3	-0.10018395	-2.02929937e-004	-2.02981895e-004	1.0002560
$\frac{1}{64}$	1	0.36037026	-5.08600245e-005	-5.08648986e-005	1.0000958
	3	-0.10033605	-5.08301419e-005	-5.08334448e-005	1.0000650
$\frac{1}{128}$	1	0.36033212	-1.27154946e-005	-1.27157999e-005	1.0000240
	3	-0.10037416	-1.27136278e-005	-1.27138358e-005	1.0000164
$\frac{1}{256}$	1	0.36032258	-3.17890420e-006	-3.17892330e-006	1.0000060
	3	-0.10038370	-3.17878753e-006	-3.17880058e-006	1.0000041
$\frac{1}{512}$	1	0.36032019	-7.94727956e-007	-7.94729154e-007	1.0000015
	3	-0.10038608	-7.94720664e-007	-7.94721486e-007	1.0000010

The results and errors are shown in Table 2. Here, the ascent of  $T_h - \mu_{i,h}$  is 1 and  $e(\mu_{i,h})$  is the error obtained by (33) with  $l = 1$ . From Table 2, we see that  $e(\mu_{i,h})$  and the true error  $\mu_{i,h}$  are extremely close. Thus,  $e(\mu_{i,h})$  provides an asymptotically exact indicator for  $\mu_{i,h}$ .

We note that both methods result in asymptotically exact error indicators. Therefore, accurate error estimator can be accessed by *a posteriori* error estimates with these error indicators.

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## Appendix

$$\begin{aligned}
 l_{00} &= \frac{1}{12n^3} = l_{nn}; & l_{ii} &= \frac{7}{12n^3}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1; \\
 l_{10} &= \frac{11}{16n^3} = l_{n,n-1}; & l_{i,i-1} &= \frac{97}{48n^3}, \quad i = 2, 3, \dots, n-1; \\
 l_{01} &= \frac{3}{16n^3} = l_{n-1,n}; & l_{i,i+1} &= \frac{25}{48n^3}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2; \\
 l_{0j} &= \frac{3j-1}{12n^3}, \quad j = 2, \dots, n-1; & l_{0n} &= \frac{3n-2}{24n^3}; \\
 l_{n0} &= \frac{3n-2}{6n^3}; & l_{nj} &= \frac{3n-3j-1}{3n^3}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n-2; \\
 l_{i0} &= \frac{3i-1}{3n^3}, \quad i = 2, \dots, n-1; & l_{in} &= \frac{3n-3i-1}{12n^3}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2; \\
 l_{ij} &= \frac{2(i-j)}{n^3}, \quad i-j = 2, 3, \dots, n-2; & l_{ij} &= \frac{j-i}{2n^3}, \quad j-i = 2, 3, \dots, n-2. \\
 m_{00} &= \frac{1}{3n} = m_{nn}; & m_{ii} &= \frac{2}{3n}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1; \\
 m_{i,i-1} &= m_{i,i+1} = \frac{1}{6n}; & m_{i,j} &= 0, \quad |i-j| > 1. \\
 a_{00} &= \frac{1}{12n^2}, & a_{nn} &= \frac{1}{3n^2}, & a_{ii} &= \frac{5}{12n^2}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1; \\
 a_{i0} &= \frac{3i-1}{3n^2}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n; & a_{in} &= \frac{3n-3i-1}{12n^2}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1; \\
 a_{ij} &= \frac{j-i}{2n^2}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, j-1, & a_{ij} &= \frac{2(i-j)}{n^2}, \quad i = j+1, j+2, \dots, n,
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .

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