Appendix C

Pure Mathematics and Problems

We have taken the viewpoint of engineering and computation in several parts of the book. Much of it could be looked at simply as mathematics. One implication of this work is that it suggests a new class of problems in functional analysis and operator theory or in several complex variables if that is your viewpoint.

First we emphasize that a pure mathematician might read Part III, then follow up with part IV. One who despises computation might read the how to run the program part quickly, but the parts which describe numerical algorithms actually could have been cast in much more mainstream mathematical terms. To describe this, first focus on a statement which formulates what we have done to the old paradigm Nehari problem.

Claim.

For the Nehari problem of approximating a given function $k \in L^\infty$ by functions $f \in H^\infty$,

$$\inf_{f \in H^\infty} ||k - f||_\infty,$$

there are two different sets of optimality conditions for solutions f each having the property that their associated differential is invertible at almost all locations.

1. *Equations (16.5) and (16.6) in Theorem 21 due to Nehari.*
2. *The key optimality condition $T(f, \beta) = 0$ determined by equations (13.16) and (13.18) in Chapter 13), or equations (16.8) and (16.9) in Chapter 16.*

We call this a claim rather than the theorem because the differentials are operators on spaces of functions and we did not say exactly what the spaces are.

Idea of Proof. Here we shall denote the Nehari-Commutant Lifting conditions (16.5) and (16.6) in Theorem 21 as a system of equations

$$\mathcal{N}(\alpha, \lambda) = 0$$

where $\lambda = \tau^2 > 0$ and $\alpha \in H^2_N$. The differential

$$\mathcal{N}'_{\alpha,\lambda} \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{pmatrix} := (R_k - \lambda)\varepsilon - \delta\alpha$$

where $R_k : H^2_N \longrightarrow H^2_N$ is defined by $R_k\varepsilon := P_{H^2_N}\left[\overline{k}^t P_{H^{2\perp}_N} k\varepsilon\right]$. for each $\varepsilon \in L^2_N$. Now R_k is a selfadjoint operator on L^2_N and λ is an eigenvalue of R_k which for almost all k has multiplicity one. Thus range of $R_k - \lambda$ has codimension one, so it is not invertible. Fortunately, the map $\delta \longrightarrow \delta\alpha$ has one dimensional range in L^2_N and since α is the null vector of $R_k - \lambda$ it is perpendicular to range $(R_k - \lambda)$. Therefore, range $\mathcal{N}^1_{\alpha,\lambda}$ equals L^2_N.

The optimality conditions for the OPT problem after projecting are denoted $T(f, \beta) = 0$ in chapters 13 and 16. The objective is to prove that $T'_{f,\beta}$ is invertible for almost all f, β which are solutions to OPT. The formula for $T'_{f,\beta}$ is given in Propostion 4 of Chapter 16. There are various spaces on which $T'_{f,\beta}$ could act. The easiest setting to analyze is when $T'_{f,\beta}$ acts from H^2_{N+1} to H^2_{N+1} (see **[HMW]**). Then it roughly has the form selfadjoint Toeplitz plus Hankel. The Hankel operator is compact and *the Toeplitz because of the special structure of* M_1 *can be shown to be invertible provided* wA *is positive definite and* $a(e^{j\theta}) = \Xi^n \lambda(e^{j\theta}) F(e^{j\theta})$ *where* F *is analytic inside the disk,* $\lambda \geq 0$ *and* $n \leq 1$. A is positive definite because Γ is strictly plurisubharmonic; indeed for the Nehari example $A = 1$. The optimality conditions guarantee that the condition on a holds and thus for "most" choices of symbol k we have invertibility. See Theorem 6 **[HMW]**.

■

Unfortunately $H^2_N + 1$ is the wrong space for analyzing Newton's method since a nonlinear map rarely maps $H^2_N + 1$ into itself. Thus we did the analysis of invertibility in the space of C^∞ functions with a topology imposed by a family of Sobolev norms. The proof and precise formulation can be found in **[HMW]**. ■

The technique applied here makes sense for many optimization problems in function theory. Find optimality conditions $\mathcal{C}$ for the problem. These are a set of equations involving primal and dual variables. In our problem and probably in many others. The differential of $\mathcal{C}$ is not invertible. Find some way to modify $\mathcal{C}$ and produce new optimality conditions $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ with invertible [1]left invertible will do differential $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}'$. Thus we have the pure mathematics problem: find optimality conditions with invertible differential. Possibly this is a natural type of mathematical result to seek for many function theory problems.

What we are saying is hardly shocking from the viewpoint of optimization theory. The surprising thing is that for the class of problems we study one does not immediately get the invertibility condition. Also it is a bit surprising that such basic principles of optimization theory were only recently applied to the very old Nevanlinna-Pick-Nehari problem.

For perspective and to make sure that the reader interprets this speculation widely (wildly) enough we mention some of the more interesting work on optimization in several complex variables. This concerns N-P-N type problems on the polydisk. There is striking work of Agler which derives beautiful matrix inequality conditions for checking if a particular N-P interpolation problem is solvable but for a norm stronger than the supnorm. Agler's view implemented successfully several problems is that instead of doing supnorm optimization one modifies the norm in some way so that the answer to the problem can be gotten from an eigenvalue problem or something similar. A very elegant result of this type, due to Cotlar and Sadosky, converts the Nehari problem in the polydisk for a BMO type norm to an eigenvalue problem.

The suggestion here is that we liberalize our notion of what it means to answer a question in function theory beyond insisting that an answer must have the form of an eigenvalue problem. It seems like a very reasonable pursuit for function theory problems from the pure mathematics point of view is to find optimality conditions whose differential is invertible. While this seems like a considerable loosening of the eigenvalue condition if we insist that our conditions use only explicit formulas, then it may not be that liberal a condition. Only time will tell if these ideas extend in many other directions.

Also we mention that there are extremely pretty connections between the theory of analytic disks developed in this book and ongoing work in Several Complex Variables. The article **[HMer1]** describes one line of connections while the paper **[HV]** quickly indicates some others. Readers in the area of Several Complex Variables might find these articles interesting.

---

1 1

Appendix D

Uncertainty

D.1 Introduction

So far we have considered the system $\mathcal{S}$ where the plant P is known. However in most physical systems typically there is a certain amount of "plant uncertainty", i.e., lack of knowledge about the plant.

To explain what uncertainty is, we use the example of an airplane. We can model the control of an airplane with a system of differential equations. These equations are the result of an idealization of the airplane that invariably does not include some elements, either because we are not aware that they affect the airplane, or because we choose not to include them for simplicity and are deemed to be relatively unimportant. The differential equations have a series of parameters that have physical significance and whose values we can tell only approximately.

We may further simplify the model by linearizing the system of differential equations. The model is surely not perfect, indeed at high frequencies it is highly inaccurate. Also there are factors affecting the system, among which we have changes in the properties of the components or even malfunction of some components.

A common approach to treating uncertainty when doing system design is to assume that there is available a known *reference* or *nominal* plant P_0, and that the true plant P of the system is, in the frequency domain description,

$$P(j\omega) = P_0(j\omega) + \Delta_0 \tag{D.1}$$

where Δ_0 is unknown. We may think of P as the result of perturbing P_0.

Uncertainty can have a devastating effect on a system. For example, a stable system may cease to be stable after a perturbation of the plant. This