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## ON THE STAR PARTIAL ORDERING OF NORMAL MATRICES

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## Abstract

We order the space of complex $n \times n$ matrices by the star partial ordering $\leq$.So $\mathrm{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathrm{~B}$ means that $\mathrm{A}^{*} \mathrm{~A}=\mathrm{A}^{*} \mathrm{~B}$ and $\mathrm{AA}^{*}=\mathrm{BA}^{*}$. We find severalcharacterizations for $\mathrm{A} \leq * \mathrm{~B}$ in the case of normal matrices. As an application,we study how $\mathrm{A} \leq^{*} \mathrm{~B}$ relates to $\mathrm{A}^{2} \leq^{*} \mathrm{~B}^{2}$. The results can be extended tostudy how $\mathrm{A} \leq^{*} \mathrm{~B}$ relates to $\mathrm{A}^{k} \leq^{*} \mathrm{~B}^{k}$, where $k \geq 2$ is an integer.
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## 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper, we consider the space of complex $n \times n$ matrices $(n \geq 2)$. We order it by the star partial ordering $\leq^{*}$. So $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$ means that $\mathbf{A}^{*} \mathbf{A}=\mathbf{A}^{*} \mathbf{B}$ and $\mathbf{A A}^{*}=\mathbf{B} \mathbf{A}^{*}$. Our motivation rises from the following

Theorem 1.1 (Baksalary and Pukelsheim [1, Theorem 3]). Let A and $\mathbf{B}$ be Hermitian and nonnegative definite. Then $\mathbf{A}^{2} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2}$ if and only if $\mathbf{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}$.

We cannot drop out the assumption on nonnegative definiteness.
Example 1.1. Let

$$
\mathbf{A}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
1 & 0 \\
0 & 1
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{B}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
1 & 0 \\
0 & -1
\end{array}\right)
$$

Then $\mathbf{A}^{2} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2}$, but not $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$.
We will study how $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$ relates to $\mathbf{A}^{2} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2}$ in the case of normal matrices. We will see (Theorem 3.1) that the "if" part of Theorem 1.1 remains valid. However, it is not valid for all matrices.

Example 1.2. Let

$$
\mathbf{A}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
1 & 1 \\
0 & 0
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{B}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
1 & 1 \\
2 & -2
\end{array}\right)
$$

Then $\mathbf{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}$, but not $\mathbf{A}^{2} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2}$.
In Section 2, we will give several characterizations of $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$. Thereafter, in Section 3, we will apply some of them in discussing our problem. Finally, in Section 4, we will complete our paper with some remarks.


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## 2. Characterizations of $\mathrm{A} \leq^{*} \mathrm{~B}$

Hartwig and Styan ([2, Theorem 2]) presented eleven characterizations of $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*}$ $\mathbf{B}$ for general matrices. One of them uses singular value decompositions. In the case of normal matrices, spectral decompositions are more accessible.

Theorem 2.1. Let $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ be normal matrices with $1 \leq \operatorname{rank} \mathbf{A}<\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{B}$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:
(a) $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$.
(b) There is a unitary matrix $\mathbf{U}$ such that

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{D}$ is a nonsingular diagonal matrix and $\mathbf{E} \neq \mathbf{O}$ is a diagonal matrix.
(c) There is a unitary matrix $\mathbf{U}$ such that

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{F} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{F} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{G}
\end{array}\right),
$$

where $\mathbf{F}$ is a nonsingular square matrix and $\mathbf{G} \neq \mathbf{O}$.
(d) If a unitary matrix $\mathbf{U}$ satisfies

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{F} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{F}^{\prime} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{G}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{F}$ is a nonsingular square matrix, $\mathbf{F}^{\prime}$ is a square matrix of the same dimension, and $\mathbf{G} \neq \mathbf{O}$, then $\mathbf{F}=\mathbf{F}^{\prime}$.
(e) If a unitary matrix U satisfies

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D}^{\prime} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{D}$ is a nonsingular diagonal matrix, $\mathbf{D}^{\prime}$ is a diagonal matrix of the same dimension, and $\mathbf{E} \neq \mathbf{O}$ is a diagonal matrix, then $\mathbf{D}=\mathbf{D}^{\prime}$.
(f) If a unitary matrix U satisfies

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathrm{O}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{D}$ is a nonsingular diagonal matrix, then

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathrm{G}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{G} \neq \mathbf{O}$.
(g) All eigenvectors corresponding to nonzero eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}$ are eigenvectors of $\mathbf{B}$ corresponding to the same eigenvalues.

The reason to assume $1 \leq \operatorname{rank} \mathbf{A}<\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{B}$ is to omit the trivial cases $\mathbf{A}=\mathbf{O}$ and $\mathbf{A}=\mathbf{B}$.

Proof. We prove this theorem in four parts.
Part 1. $(\mathrm{a}) \Rightarrow(\mathrm{b}) \Rightarrow(\mathrm{c}) \Rightarrow(\mathrm{a})$.

(a) $\Rightarrow$ (b). Assume (a). Then, by normality, $\mathbf{A}^{*}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ commute and are therefore simultaneously diagonalizable (see, e.g., [3, Theorem 1.3.19]). Since $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{A}^{*}$ have the same eigenvectors (see, e.g., [3, Problem 2.5.20]), also $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ are simultaneously diagonalizable. Hence (recall the assumption on the ranks) there exists a unitary matrix U such that

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D}^{\prime} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right),
$$

where $\mathbf{D}$ is a nonsingular diagonal matrix, $\mathbf{D}^{\prime}$ is a diagonal matrix of the same dimension, and $\mathbf{E} \neq \mathbf{O}$ is a diagonal matrix. Now $\mathbf{A}^{*} \mathbf{A}=\mathbf{A}^{*} \mathbf{B}$ implies $\mathbf{D}^{*} \mathbf{D}=\mathbf{D}^{*} \mathbf{D}^{\prime}$ and further $\mathbf{D}=\mathbf{D}^{\prime}$. Hence (b) is valid.
(b) $\Rightarrow$ (c). Trivial.
(c) $\Rightarrow$ (a). Direct calculation.

Part 2. $(\mathrm{a}) \Rightarrow(\mathrm{d}) \Rightarrow(\mathrm{e}) \Rightarrow(\mathrm{a})$.
This is a trivial modification of Part 1.
Part 3. (b) $\Leftrightarrow$ (f).
(b) $\Rightarrow$ (f). Assume (b). Let U be a unitary matrix satisfying

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathrm{O}
\end{array}\right)
$$

By (b), there exists a unitary matrix $\mathbf{V}$ such that

$$
\mathbf{V}^{*} \mathbf{A V}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D}^{\prime} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{V}^{*} \mathbf{B V}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D}^{\prime} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right),
$$

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where $\mathbf{D}^{\prime}$ is a nonsingular diagonal matrix and $\mathbf{E} \neq \mathbf{O}$ is a diagonal matrix. Interchanging the columns of $\mathbf{V}$ if necessary, we can assume $\mathbf{D}^{\prime}=\mathbf{D}$.

Let $\mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}\mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{U}_{2}\end{array}\right)$ be such a partition that

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\binom{\mathbf{U}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{U}_{2}^{*}} \mathbf{A}\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{U}_{2}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{U}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{U}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}_{2} \\
\mathbf{U}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{A U}_{1} & \mathbf{U}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{A U _ { 2 }}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right)
$$

Then, for the corresponding partition $\mathbf{V}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}\mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{2}\end{array}\right)$, we have

$$
\mathbf{V}^{*} \mathbf{A V}=\binom{\mathbf{V}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{V}_{2}^{*}} \mathbf{A}\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{V}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{V}_{2} \\
\mathbf{V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right)
$$

and

$$
\mathbf{V}^{*} \mathbf{B V}=\binom{\mathbf{V}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{V}_{2}^{*}} \mathbf{B}\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{V}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{V}_{2} \\
\mathbf{V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{B V _ { 1 }} & \mathbf{V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{B V _ { 2 }}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right) .
$$

Noting that

$$
\mathbf{A}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right)\binom{\mathbf{V}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{V}_{2}^{*}}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)\binom{\mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{O}}=\mathbf{V}_{1} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}_{1}^{*}
$$

we therefore have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{U} & =\binom{\mathbf{U}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{U}_{2}^{*}}\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right)\binom{\mathbf{V}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{V}_{2}^{*}}\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{U}_{2}
\end{array}\right) \\
& =\binom{\mathbf{U}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{U}_{2}^{*}}\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)\binom{\mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}_{1}^{*}}{\mathbf{E V}}\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{U}_{2}
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

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$$
\begin{aligned}
& =\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{U}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{U}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{2} \\
\mathbf{U}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{U}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D} V_{1}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{2} \\
\mathbf{E} \mathbf{V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{E V} \mathbf{V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{2}
\end{array}\right) \\
& =\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{U}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{1} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{U}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{2}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D V} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{U} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E} \\
\mathbf{E V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{2}
\end{array}\right) \\
& =\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{U}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{1} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{U}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{2} \mathbf{E V} \mathbf{V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{2}
\end{array}\right) \\
& =\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{U}_{1}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}_{1} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{U}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{2} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{V}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{2}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{U}_{2}^{*} \mathbf{V}_{2} \mathbf{E} V_{2}^{*} \mathbf{U}_{2}
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

and so (f) follows.
$(\mathrm{f}) \Rightarrow(\mathrm{b})$. Assume (f). Let U be a unitary matrix such that

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{D}$ is a nonsingular diagonal matrix. Then, by ( f ),

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{G}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{G} \neq \mathbf{O}$. Since $\mathbf{G}$ is normal, there exists a unitary matrix $\mathbf{W}$ such that $\mathbf{E}=\mathbf{W}^{*} \mathbf{G} \mathbf{W}$ is a diagonal matrix. Let

$$
\mathrm{V}=\mathrm{U}\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathrm{I} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathrm{O} & \mathrm{~W}
\end{array}\right) .
$$

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Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{V}^{*} \mathbf{A V}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{W}^{*}
\end{array}\right) \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A U}\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{W}
\end{array}\right) \\
& =\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathrm{I} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathrm{O} & \mathrm{~W}^{*}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathrm{D} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathrm{O} & \mathrm{O}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathrm{I} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathrm{O} & \mathrm{~W}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathrm{D} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathrm{O} & \mathrm{O}
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

and

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{V}^{*} \mathbf{B V} & =\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{I} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{W}^{*}
\end{array}\right) \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B U}\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathrm{W}
\end{array}\right) \\
& =\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{I} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{W}^{*}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{G}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{W}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathrm{E}
\end{array}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus (b) follows.
Part 4. (b) $\Leftrightarrow$ (g).
This is an elementary fact.
Corollary 2.2. Let $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ be normal matrices. If $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$, then $\mathbf{A B}=\mathbf{B} \mathbf{A}$. Proof. Apply (b).

The converse does not hold (even assuming rank $\mathbf{A}<\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{B}$ ), see Example 2.1. The normality assumption cannot be dropped out, see Example 2.2.
Example 2.1. Let


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$$
\mathbf{A}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
2 & 0 \\
0 & 0
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{B}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
1 & 0 \\
0 & 1
\end{array}\right)
$$

Then $\mathbf{A B}=\mathbf{B A}$ and $\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{A}<\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{B}$, but $\mathbf{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}$ does not hold. However, $\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}$, which makes us look for a counterexample such that $c \mathbf{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}$ does not hold for any $c \neq 0$. It is easy to see that we must have $n \geq 3$. The matrices

$$
\mathbf{A}=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
2 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 3 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{B}=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
3 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 4 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right)
$$

obviously have the required properties.
Example 2.2. Let

$$
\mathbf{A}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
0 & 1 \\
0 & 0
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{B}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
0 & 1 \\
1 & 0
\end{array}\right)
$$

Then $\mathbf{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}$, but $\mathbf{A B} \neq \mathbf{B A}$.


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## 3. Relationship between $\mathrm{A} \leq * \mathrm{~B}$ and $\mathrm{A}^{2} \leq^{*} \mathrm{~B}^{2}$

We will see that $\mathbf{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B} \Rightarrow \mathbf{A}^{2} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2}$ for normal matrices, but the converse needs an extra condition, which we first present using eigenvalues.

Theorem 3.1. Let $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ be normal matrices with $1 \leq \operatorname{rank} \mathbf{A}<\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{B}$. Then

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B} \tag{a}
\end{equation*}
$$

is equivalent to the following:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{A}^{2} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2} \tag{b}
\end{equation*}
$$

and if $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ have nonzero eigenvalues $\alpha$ and respectively $\beta$ such that $\alpha^{2}$ and $\beta^{2}$ are eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^{2}$ and respectively $\mathbf{B}^{2}$ with a common eigenvector $\mathbf{x}$, then $\alpha=\beta$ and $\mathbf{x}$ is a common eigenvector of $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$.

Proof. Assuming (a), we have

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathrm{D} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathrm{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathrm{D} & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathrm{O} & \mathrm{E}
\end{array}\right)
$$

as in (b) of Theorem 2.1, and so

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A}^{2} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D}^{2} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D}^{2} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}^{2}
\end{array}\right) .
$$



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Conversely, assume (b). Then

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A}^{2} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\Delta & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathrm{O} & \mathrm{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\Delta & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathrm{O} & \Gamma
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{U}, \boldsymbol{\Delta}$, and $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$ are matrices obtained by applying (b) of Theorem 2.1 to $\mathbf{A}^{2}$ and $\mathbf{B}^{2}$. Let $\mathbf{u}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_{n}$ be the column vectors of $\mathbf{U}$ and denote $r=\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{A}$.

For $i=1, \ldots, r$, we have $\mathbf{A}^{2} \mathbf{u}_{i}=\mathbf{B}^{2} \mathbf{u}_{i}=\delta_{i} \mathbf{u}_{i}$, where $\left(\delta_{i}\right)=\operatorname{diag} \boldsymbol{\Delta}$. So, by the second part of (b), there exist complex numbers $d_{1}, \ldots, d_{r}$ such that, for all $i=1, \ldots, r$, we have $d_{i}^{2}=\delta_{i}$ and $\mathbf{A u} \mathbf{u}_{i}=\mathbf{B u}_{i}=\delta_{i} \mathbf{u}_{i}$. Let $\mathbf{D}$ be the diagonal matrix with $\left(d_{i}\right)=\operatorname{diag} \mathbf{D}$.

For $i=r+1, \ldots, n$, we have $\mathbf{B}^{2} \mathbf{u}_{i}=\gamma_{i-r} \mathbf{u}_{i}$, where $\left(\gamma_{j}\right)=\operatorname{diag} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}$. Take complex numbers $e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-r}$ satisfying $e_{i}^{2}=\gamma_{i}$ for $i=1, \ldots, n-r$. Let $\mathbf{E}$ be the diagonal matrix with $\left(e_{i}\right)=\operatorname{diag} \mathbf{E}$. Then

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right),
$$

and (a) follows from Theorem 2.1.
As an immediate corollary, we obtain a generalization of Theorem 1.1.
Corollary 3.2. Let $\mathbf{A}$ and B be normal matrices whose all eigenvalues have nonnegative real parts. Then $\mathbf{A}^{2} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2}$ if and only if $\mathbf{A} \leq * B$.

Next, we present the extra condition using diagonalization.
Theorem 3.3. Let $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ be normal matrices with $1 \leq \operatorname{rank} \mathbf{A}<\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{B}$.

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(a)

$$
\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}
$$

is equivalent to the following:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{A}^{2} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2} \tag{b}
\end{equation*}
$$

and if

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D H} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{U}$ is a unitary matrix, $\mathbf{D}$ is a nonsingular diagonal matrix, $\mathbf{H}$ is a unitary diagonal matrix, and $\mathbf{E} \neq \mathbf{O}$ is a diagonal matrix, then $\mathbf{H}=\mathbf{I}$.
(Note that the second part of (b) is weaker than (e) of Theorem 2.1. Otherwise Theorem 3.3 would be nonsense.)

Proof. For (a) $\Rightarrow$ the first part of (b), see the proof of Theorem 3.1. For (a) $\Rightarrow$ the second part of (b), see (e) of Theorem 2.1.

Conversely, assume (b). As in the proof of Theorem 3.1, we have

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A}^{2} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\Delta & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathrm{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B}^{2} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\Delta & \mathrm{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \Gamma
\end{array}\right)
$$

Hence

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\mathbf{D} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{U}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\mathbf{D}^{\prime} & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathbf{E}
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\mathbf{D}$ and $\mathbf{D}^{\prime}$ are diagonal matrices satisfying $\mathbf{D}^{2}=\left(\mathbf{D}^{\prime}\right)^{2}=\boldsymbol{\Delta}$ and $\mathbf{E}$ is a diagonal matrix satisfying $\mathbf{E}^{2}=\Gamma$.

Denoting $\left(d_{i}\right)=\operatorname{diag} \mathbf{D},\left(d_{i}^{\prime}\right)=\operatorname{diag} \mathbf{D}^{\prime}, r=\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{A}$, we therefore have $d_{i}^{2}=\left(d_{i}^{\prime}\right)^{2}$ for all $i=1, \ldots, r$. Hence there are complex numbers $h_{1}, \ldots, h_{r}$

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such that $\left|h_{1}\right|=\cdots=\left|h_{r}\right|=1$ and $d_{i}^{\prime}=d_{i} h_{i}$ for all $i=1, \ldots, r$. Let $\mathbf{H}$ be the diagonal matrix with $\left(h_{i}\right)=\operatorname{diag} \mathbf{H}$. Then $\mathbf{D}^{\prime}=\mathbf{D H}$, and so $\mathbf{D}^{\prime}=\mathbf{D}$ by the second part of (b). Thus (b) of Theorem 2.1 is satisfied, and so (a) follows.


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## 4. Remarks

We complete our paper with four remarks.
Remark 1. Let $k \geq 2$ be an integer. A natural further question is whether our discussion can be extended to describe how $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$ relates to $\mathbf{A}^{k} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}^{k}$. As noted by Baksalary and Pukelsheim [1], Theorem 1.1 can be generalized in a similar way. In other words, for Hermitian nonnegative definite matrices, $\mathbf{A}^{k} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}^{k}$ if and only if $\mathbf{A} \leq{ }^{*} \mathbf{B}$. It can be seen also that Theorems 3.1 and 3.3 can be, with minor modifications, extended correspondingly.
Remark 2. Let $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ be arbitrary $n \times n$ matrices with $\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{A}<\operatorname{rank} \mathbf{B}$. Hartwig and Styan ([2, Theorem 2]) proved that $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$ if and only if there are unitary matrices U and V such that

$$
\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{A V}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\Sigma & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \mathrm{O}
\end{array}\right), \quad \mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{B V}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\Sigma & \mathbf{O} \\
\mathbf{O} & \Theta
\end{array}\right)
$$

where $\Sigma$ is a positive definite diagonal matrix and $\Theta \neq \mathrm{O}$ is a nonnegative definite diagonal matrix. This is analogous to $(a) \Leftrightarrow(b)$ of Theorem 2.1. Actually it can be seen that all the characterizations of $\mathbf{A} \leq^{*} \mathbf{B}$ listed in Theorem 2.1 have singular value analogies in the general case.
Remark 3. The singular values of a normal matrix are absolute values of its eigenvalues (see e.g., [3, p. 417]). Hence it is relatively easy to see that if (and only if) $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ are normal, then $\mathbf{U}$ and $\mathbf{V}$ above can be chosen so that $\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{V}$ is a diagonal matrix.
Remark 4. For normal matrices, it can be shown that Theorems 3.1 and 3.3 have singular value analogies. In the proof, it is crucial that $\mathbf{U}^{*} \mathbf{V}$ is a diagonal matrix. So these results do not remain valid without the normality assumption.

## References

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