

## Note on the Generalized Invertibility of $a - xy^*$

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ABSTRACT. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a unital  $C^*$ -algebra,  $a, x$  and  $y$  are elements in  $\mathcal{A}$ . In this paper, we present the expression of the Moore–Penrose inverse and the group inverse of  $a - xy^*$  under the conditions  $x = aa^+x, y^* = y^*a^+a$ , respectively.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra with unit 1 and  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ . The element  $b \in \mathcal{A}$  which satisfied  $aba = a$  and  $bab = b$  is called the generalized inverse of  $a$ , denoted by  $a^+$ . The set of the elements which have generalized inverse in  $\mathcal{A}$ , denoted by  $Gi(\mathcal{A})$ .

The Moore–Penrose inverse of  $a$  is denoted by  $a^\dagger$  and is the unique element to the following equations:

$$aa^\dagger a = a, \quad a^\dagger aa^\dagger = a^\dagger, \quad (aa^\dagger)^* = aa^\dagger, \quad (a^\dagger a)^* = a^\dagger a.$$

It is well known that  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  has an Moore–Penrose inverse iff  $a$  is generalized invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$ .

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The group inverse of an element  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  is a unique element  $b \in \mathcal{A}$  such that

$$aba = a, \quad bab = b, \quad ab = ba.$$

The Moore–Penrose inverse of  $a - xy^*$  has many applications in statistics, networks, optimizations etc. (see [8],[9],[11]). Many authors have been studying the expression of  $(a - xy^*)^\dagger$  and get some results similar to the famous Sherman–Morrison–Woodbury (SMW) formula (see [2],[3],[4],[5],[6],[7],[10],[12]).

In this paper, we investigate the Moore–Penrose inverse of  $a - xy^*$  again. We present the explicit expressions of the Moore–Penrose inverse and the group inverse of  $a - xy^*$  under the conditions  $x = aa^+x$ ;  $y^* = y^*a^+a$ , respectively. Our results are new and cover a lots of the known results.

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $a \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{0\}$ . We know that  $aa^*$  is a positive element and  $1 + aa^*$  is always invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$ . So, for an idempotent element  $s \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $(1 - s - s^*)^2 = 1 + (s - s^*)(s - s^*)^*$  is always invertible. Thus, we have the following Lemma:

**Lemma 2.1.**([1],[7],[13]) *Let  $s$  be an idempotent element in  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $1 - s - s^*$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $o(s) = s(s + s^* - 1)^{-1}$  is a projection (i.e.  $(o(s))^2 = o(s) = (o(s))^*$ ) and  $o(s) = ss^\dagger$ ,  $o(1 - s) = 1 - s^\dagger s$ .*

**Lemma 2.2.**([1],[7],[13]) *Let  $a \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{0\}$  with  $a \in Gi(\mathcal{A})$ . Then*

$$a^\dagger = [1 - o(1 - a^+a)]a^+o(aa^+) = (1 - p - p^*)^{-1}a^+(1 - q - q^*)^{-1}.$$

Here,  $p = a^+a$ ,  $q = aa^+$ .

The Lemma 2.2 shows if  $a^+$  exists, then  $a^\dagger$  exists and

$$\begin{aligned} aa^\dagger &= o(aa^+) = aa^+(aa^+ + (aa^+)^* - 1)^{-1}, \\ a^\dagger a &= 1 - o(1 - a^+a) = (a^+a + (a^+a)^* - 1)^{-1}a^+a. \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then  $1 + ab$  is invertible iff  $1 + ba$  is invertible and*

$$(1 + ab)^{-1} = 1 - a(1 + ba)^{-1}b.$$

**Lemma 2.4.**([13]) *Let  $a \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{0\}$  with  $a^+$  exists. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $a^\#$  exists.
- (2)  $aa^+ + a^+a - 1$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$  for some  $a^+$ .
- (3)  $a^2a^+ + 1 - aa^+$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$  for some  $a^+$ .
- (4)  $a^2a^+ + 1 - aa^+$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$  for any  $a^+$ .

(5)  $a + 1 - aa^+$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$  for some  $a^+$ .

(6)  $a + 1 - aa^+$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$  for any  $a^+$ .

*Proof.* Noting that  $a^2a^+ + 1 - aa^+ = 1 + (a - 1)aa^+$  and  $1 + aa^+(a - 1) = a + 1 - aa^+$ . Thus, by Lemma 2.3, we have (3)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (5) and (4)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (6). Please see [13] for the equivalence of (1) to (4).  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $a^\#$  exists. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} a^\# &= (1 + a - aa^+)^{-2}a \\ &= a(1 + a - a^+a)^{-2} \\ &= (1 + a - aa^+)^{-1}a(1 + a - a^+a)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $w = a^2a^+ + 1 - aa^+$  and  $b = w^{-2}a$ . Noting that  $a^2a^+ = aa^+w = waa^+$ , we have  $ab = ba, aba = a, bab = b$ . That show  $b = a^\#$ .

Noting that

$$(1 + a - aa^+)^{-1}a = a(1 + a - a^+a)^{-1},$$

by Lemma 2.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a^\# &= (a^2a^+ + 1 - aa^+)^{-2}a \\ &= [1 + (a - 1)aa^+]^{-2}a \\ &= [1 - (a - 1)(1 + a - aa^+)^{-1}aa^+]^2a \\ &= [1 - (a - 1)(1 + a - aa^+)^{-1}aa^+](2 - aa^+)(1 + a - aa^+)^{-1}a \\ &= [1 - (a - 1)(1 + a - aa^+)^{-1}aa^+]a(1 + a - a^+a)^{-1} \\ &= a(1 + a - a^+a)^{-2} \\ &= (1 + a - aa^+)^{-2}a \\ &= (1 + a - aa^+)^{-1}a(1 + a - a^+a)^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

### 3. Main Results

Let  $a, x, y \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $a \in Gi(\mathcal{A})$ . We set  $e_a = 1 - aa^+, f_a = 1 - a^+a, z = 1 - y^*a^+x, u = e_ax, v = y^*f_a$  throughout this section.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $a, x, y \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $a \in Gi(\mathcal{A})$  and  $u = e_ax = 0, v = y^*f_a = 0$ . If  $z^+$  exists, then  $(a - xy^*)^+$  exists and*

$$(a - xy^*)^+ = a^+ + a^+x(z^+ - f_z e_z)y^*a^+.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\Lambda = a^+ + a^+x(z^+ - f_z e_z)y^*a^+$ . Noting that  $aa^+x = x, y^*a^+a = y^*$  and

$y^*a^+x = 1 - z$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}(a - xy^*)\Lambda &= (a - xy^*)(a^+ + a^+x(z^+ - f_z e_z)y^*a^+) \\ &= aa^+ - x e_z y^* a^+, \\ \Lambda(a - xy^*) &= (a^+ + a^+x(z^+ - f_z e_z)y^*a^+)(a - xy^*) \\ &= a^+a - a^+x f_z y^*\end{aligned}$$

and  $(a - xy^*)\Lambda(a - xy^*) = (a - xy^*)\Lambda(a - xy^*)\Lambda = \Lambda$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $x, y \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then  $(1 - xy^*)^+$  exists iff  $(1 - y^*x)^+$  exists and*

$$(1 - xy^*)^+ = 1 + x\{(1 - y^*x)^+ - [1 - (1 - y^*x)^+(1 - y^*x)][1 - (1 - y^*x)(1 - y^*x)^+]\}y^*.$$

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $a, x, y \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $a \in Gi(\mathcal{A})$  and  $u = e_a x = 0, v = y^* f_a = 0$ . If  $z^\dagger$  exists, then  $(a - xy^*)^\dagger$  exists and*

$$\begin{aligned}(a - xy^*)^\dagger &= \{1 - (a^\dagger x f_z y^*) - (a^\dagger x f_z y^*)^*\}^{-1} \{a^\dagger + a^\dagger x (z^\dagger - f_z e_z) y^* a^\dagger\} \\ &\quad \times \{1 - (x e_z y^* a^\dagger) - (x e_z y^* a^\dagger)^*\}^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

In addition, if  $(a^\dagger x f_z y^*)^\dagger, (x e_z y^* a^\dagger)^\dagger$  exist, then

$$\begin{aligned}(a - xy^*)^\dagger &= \{1 - (a^\dagger x f_z y^*)(a^\dagger x f_z y^*)^\dagger\} \{a^\dagger + a^\dagger x (z^\dagger - f_z e_z) y^* a^\dagger\} \\ &\quad \times \{1 - (x e_z y^* a^\dagger)^\dagger (x e_z y^* a^\dagger)\}.\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Using Proposition 3.1 and Lemma 2.2 and  $(2a^\dagger a - 1)^2 = (2aa^\dagger - 1)^2 = 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}(a - xy^*)^\dagger &= \{1 - (a^\dagger x f_z y^*) - (a^\dagger x f_z y^*)^*\}^{-1} \{a^\dagger + a^\dagger x (z^\dagger - f_z e_z) y^* a^\dagger\} \\ &\quad \times \{1 - (x e_z y^* a^\dagger) - (x e_z y^* a^\dagger)^*\}^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

Noting that

$$(1 - a^\dagger x f_z y^*)[a^\dagger + a^\dagger x (z^\dagger - f_z e_z) y^* a^\dagger](1 - x e_z y^* a^\dagger) = a^\dagger + a^\dagger x (z^\dagger - f_z e_z) y^* a^\dagger,$$

by Lemma 2.1, we get

$$\begin{aligned}(a - xy^*)^\dagger &= \{1 - (a^\dagger x f_z y^*)(a^\dagger x f_z y^*)^\dagger\} \{a^\dagger + a^\dagger x (z^\dagger - f_z e_z) y^* a^\dagger\} \\ &\quad \times \{1 - (x e_z y^* a^\dagger)^\dagger (x e_z y^* a^\dagger)\}.\end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $a, x, y \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $u = e_a x = 0, v = y^* f_a = 0$  and  $z = 1 - y^* a^\dagger x$ . Then*

(1) If  $a$  is invertible and  $z \in Gi(A)$ , then

$$(a - xy^*)^\dagger = \{1 - (a^{-1}xf_zy^*) - (a^{-1}xf_zy^*)^*\}^{-1} \{a^{-1} + a^{-1}x(z^\dagger - f_z e_z)y^*a^{-1}\} \\ \times \{1 - (xe_zy^*a^{-1}) - (xe_zy^*a^{-1})^*\}^{-1}.$$

(2) If  $a = 1$  and  $z \in Gi(A)$ , then

$$(1 - xy^*)^\dagger = \{1 - xf_zy^* - (xf_zy^*)^*\}^{-1} (1 + x(z^\dagger - f_z e_z)y^*) \\ \times \{1 - xe_zy^* - (xe_zy^*)^*\}^{-1}.$$

(3) If  $a$  and  $z$  are invertible, then

$$(a - xy^*)^{-1} = a^{-1} + a^{-1}xz^{-1}y^*a^{-1}.$$

This is the famous SMW formula.

(4) If  $a$  is invertible and  $z = 0$ , then

$$(a - xy^*)^\dagger = \{1 - a^{-1}xy^* - (a^{-1}xy^*)^*\}^{-1} (a^{-1} - a^{-1}xy^*a^{-1}) \\ \times \{1 - xy^*a^{-1} - (xy^*a^{-1})^*\}^{-1}.$$

This is better than the result of Theorem 3.5 in [3], since there is only true inverse in this formula.

(5) If  $u = v = 0$  and  $z = 0$ , then

$$(a - xy^*)^\dagger = \{1 - a^\dagger xy^* - (a^\dagger xy^*)^*\}^{-1} (a^\dagger - a^\dagger xy^* a^\dagger) \\ \times \{1 - xy^* a^\dagger - (xy^* a^\dagger)^*\}^{-1} \\ = (1 - (a^\dagger xy^*)(a^\dagger xy^*)^\dagger) a^\dagger (1 - (xy^* a^\dagger)^\dagger (xy a^\dagger)) \\ = (1 - (a^\dagger x)(a^\dagger x)^\dagger) a^\dagger (1 - (y^* a^\dagger)^\dagger (y^* a^\dagger)).$$

This is the result of Theorem 2.2 in [7].

Especially, when  $a = 1$ , we get the result of Theorem 3.3 in [3], i.e.,

$$(1 - xy^*)^\dagger = (1 - xx^\dagger)(1 - yy^\dagger).$$

(6) If  $u = v = 0$  and  $e_zy^* = 0, xf_z = 0$ , then

$$(a - xy^*)^\dagger = a^\dagger + a^\dagger xz^\dagger y^* a^\dagger.$$

This is the result of Theorem 2.2 in [4].

(7) If  $u = v = 0$  and  $z$  is invertible, then

$$(a - xy^*)^\dagger = a^\dagger + a^\dagger xz^{-1}y^* a^\dagger.$$

This result has been proved by Du and Xue in [7, Proposition 2.1] and Deng in [4, Corollary 2.3], respectively.

**Example 3.5.** Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Then

$$A^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{4} & -\frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{4} & -\frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z^\dagger = (I - Y^*A^\dagger X)^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$F_Z = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad E_Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$(A^\dagger X F_Z Y^*)^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{2}{5} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{5} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (X E_Z Y^* A^\dagger)^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is easy to verify that  $U = E_A X = 0$ ,  $V = Y^* F_A = 0$ . So by Theorem 3.4,

$$(A - XY^*)^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Theorem 3.6.** Let  $a, x, y \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $u = e_a x = 0$ ,  $v = y^* f_a = 0$  and  $z = 1 - y^* a^+ x$ . If  $(a - xy^*)^\#$  exists, then

$$(a - xy^*)^\# = (1 + a - aa^+ - xy^* + x e_z y^* a^+)^{-1} (a - xy^*) (1 + a - a^+ a - xy^* + a^+ x f_z y^*)^{-1}.$$

*Proof.* Using Proposition 3.1 and Lemma 2.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (a - xy^*)^\# &= [1 + (a - xy^*) - (a - xy^*)(a - xy^*)^+]^{-1} (a - xy^*) \\ &\quad \times [1 + (a - xy^*) - (a - xy^*)^+(a - xy^*)]^{-1} \\ &= (1 + a - aa^+ - xy^* + x e_z y^* a^+)^{-1} (a - xy^*) \\ &\quad \times (1 + a - a^+ a - xy^* + a^+ x f_z y^*)^{-1}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 3.7.** Let  $a, x, y \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $u = e_a x = 0$ ,  $v = y^* f_a = 0$  and  $z = 1 - y^* a^+ x$ . Assume that  $(a - xy^*)^\#$  exists.

(1) If  $z = 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (a - xy^*)^\# &= (1 + a - aa^+ - xy^* + xy^* a^+)^{-1} (a - xy^*) \\ &\quad \times (1 + a - a^+ a - xy^* + a^+ xy^*)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

(2) If  $a$  is invertible, then

$$(a - xy^*)^\# = (a - xy^* + xe_z y^* a^{-1})^{-1} (a - xy^*) (a - xy^* + a^{-1} x f_z y^*)^{-1}.$$

(3) If  $a = 1$ , then

$$(1 - xy^*)^\# = (1 - xy^* + xe_z y^*)^{-1} (1 - xy^*) (1 - xy^* + x f_z y^*)^{-1}.$$

In addition, if  $z = 0$ , then  $1 - xy^*$  is an idempotent element in  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Example 3.8.** Let  $X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} Z = I - Y^* X &= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & Z^+ &= \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ E_Z = I - ZZ^+ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & F_Z = I - Z^+ Z &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

By Corollary 3.8 (3), we have

$$(I - XY^*)^\# = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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