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## Fuzzy Relational Equations of k-Regular Block Fuzzy Matrices

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**Abstract.** In this paper, consistency of fuzzy relational equations involving k-regular block fuzzy matrices is discussed. Solutions of  $xM=b$ , where M is a block fuzzy matrix whose diagonal blocks are k-regular are determined in terms of k-generalized inverses of the diagonal block matrices.

**Keywords:** Fuzzy matrices, k-regular block fuzzy matrices, fuzzy relational equations, k-g-inverses.

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $F_n$  be the set of all  $n \times n$  fuzzy matrices over the fuzzy algebra  $F=[0,1]$  under the operations  $(+, \cdot)$  defined as  $a+b=\max\{a,b\}$  and  $a \cdot b=\min\{a,b\}$  for all  $a, b \in F$ . A study of the theory of fuzzy matrices were made by Kim and Roush [2] analogous to that of Boolean matrices.  $A \in F_n$  is regular if there exists  $X$  such that  $AXA=A$ ;  $X$  is called a generalized (g) inverse of  $A$  and is denoted as  $A^{-}$  [2].  $A\{1\}$  denotes the set of all g-inverses of a regular matrix  $A$ . A fuzzy relational equation of the form  $xA=b$  is consistent when  $A$  is a regular matrix and  $x=bA^{-}$  is a solution. Hence the set of all solutions  $\Omega(A, b)$  of  $xA=b$  is non-empty. It is shown that  $\Omega(A, b)$  has a unique maximal element [4, p. 98], however the minimal element is not unique. Recently, a development of k-regular fuzzy matrices is made by Meenakshi and Jenita [5] analogous to that of generalized inverse of a complex matrix [1] and as a generalization of a regular fuzzy matrix [2, 3]. A matrix  $A \in F_n$ , is said to be right k-regular (left k-regular) if there exists a matrix  $X \in F_n$  such that  $A^k X A = A^k$  ( $A X A^k = A^k$ ) for some positive integer  $k$ .  $X$  is called a right k-g-inverse (left k-g-inverse) of  $A$ . In particular, for  $k=1$  it reduces to g-inverses of a fuzzy matrix. However a right k-g-inverse and a left k-g-inverse of a fuzzy matrix are distinct (refer example (2.22) of [5]). A k-regular matrix as one that has a generalized inverse lays the foundation in the study on fuzzy relational equations. Here, solutions of  $xM=b$ , where M is a block fuzzy matrix whose diagonal blocks are k-regular are determined in terms of k-generalized inverses of the diagonal block matrices as a

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generalization of results available in the literature [6] on consistency of fuzzy relational equations involving block fuzzy matrices whose diagonal blocks are regular (refer p.193-200 [3]).

### 2. Notations and Preliminaries

For a matrix  $A \in F_n$ , let  $R(A)$ ,  $C(A)$ ,  $A^T$  and  $A^-$  be row space, column space, transpose and g-inverse of  $A$  respectively.

**Definition 2.1[5]** A matrix  $A \in F_n$ , is said to be right k-regular if there exists a matrix  $X \in F_n$  such that  $A^k X A = A^k$ , for some positive integer  $k$ .  $X$  is called a right k-g-inverse of  $A$ .

Let  $A_r \{1^k\} = \{X / A^k X A = A^k\}$ .

**Definition 2.2[5]** A matrix  $A \in F_n$ , is said to be left k-regular if there exists a matrix  $Y \in F_n$  such that  $A Y A^k = A^k$ , for some positive integer  $k$ .  $Y$  is called a left k-g-inverse of  $A$ .

Let  $A_l \{1^k\} = \{Y / A Y A^k = A^k\}$ .

In the sequel, we shall make use of the following results found in [5].

**Lemma 2.1.** For  $A, B \in F_n$  and a positive integer  $k$ , the following hold.

- (i) If  $A$  is right k-regular and  $R(B) \subseteq R(A^k)$  then  $B = BXA$  for each right k-g-inverse  $X$  of  $A$ .
- (ii) If  $A$  is left k-regular and  $C(B) \subseteq C(A^k)$  then  $B = AYB$  for each left k-g-inverse  $Y$  of  $A$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $A \in F_n$  and  $k$  be a positive integer, then  $X \in A_r \{1^k\} \Leftrightarrow X^T \in A_l \{1^k\}$ .

### 3. Fuzzy Relational Equations of k-Regular Block Fuzzy Matrices

In this section, we are concerned with fuzzy relational equations of the form

$xM=b$ , where  $M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$  is a block fuzzy matrix whose diagonal blocks  $A$  and  $D$  are

k-regular. We have determined conditions under which the consistency of  $xM=b$  implies those of  $yA=c$  and  $zD=d$  where  $b = \begin{pmatrix} c & d \end{pmatrix}$ .

**Theorem 3.1.**

Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$  with  $A$  and  $D$  are right k-regular,  $R(C) \subseteq R(A^k)$  and

$R(B) \subseteq R(D^k)$ . If  $xM = b$  is solvable then  $yA = c$  and  $zD = d$  are solvable, where  $b = \begin{pmatrix} c & d \end{pmatrix}$ .

**Proof:** Since  $xM = b$  is solvable, let  $x = \begin{pmatrix} \beta & \gamma \end{pmatrix}$  is a solution.

Then,  $\begin{pmatrix} \beta & \gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c & d \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \beta A + \gamma C & \beta B + \gamma D \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c & d \end{pmatrix}$

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Hence we get the equations:  $\beta A + \gamma C = c$  and  $\beta B + \gamma D = d$ . (1)

By Lemma (2.1), A is right k-regular,  $R(C) \subseteq R(A^k) \Rightarrow C = CA^-A$  for each right k-g-inverse  $A^-$  of A and D is right k-regular,  $R(B) \subseteq R(D^k) \Rightarrow B = BD^-D$  for each right k-g-inverse  $D^-$  of D.

Substituting C and B in Equation (1), we get the equations:

$$(\beta + \gamma CA^-)A = c \text{ and } (\beta BD^- + \gamma)D = d.$$

Thus  $yA = c$  and  $zD = d$  are solvable and  $(\beta + \gamma CA^-) = y$ ,  $(\beta BD^- + \gamma) = z$  are the solutions.

**Theorem 3.2.**

Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$  with A and D are right k-regular. If  $yA^k = c$  and  $zD^k = d$

are solvable,  $c \geq dD^-C^k$  and  $d \geq cA^-B^k$  then  $xM^k = b$  is solvable when

$$M^k = \begin{bmatrix} A^k & B^k \\ C^k & D^k \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } b = (c \quad d)$$

**Proof:** Since  $yA^k = c$  and  $zD^k = d$  are solvable, let  $y = cA^-$  and  $z = dD^-$  are the Solutions  $\Rightarrow cA^-A^k = c$  and  $dD^-D^k = d$ .

From the given conditions,  $c \geq dD^-C^k$  and  $d \geq cA^-B^k$  we get,  $c = c + dD^-C^k$  and  $d = d + cA^-B^k$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now, } (cA^- \quad dD^-) \begin{bmatrix} A^k & B^k \\ C^k & D^k \end{bmatrix} &= (cA^-A^k + dD^-C^k \quad cA^-B^k + dD^-D^k) \\ &= (c + dD^-C^k \quad cA^-B^k + d) \\ &= (c \quad d) \\ &= b \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $xM^k = b$  is solvable.

Hence the Theorem.

**Remark 3.1.** For  $k=1$ , the Theorem (3.1) and Theorem (3.2) reduces to the following:

**Theorem 3.3[3].**

Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$  with A and D are regular with  $R(C) \subseteq R(A)$  and

$R(B) \subseteq R(D)$ . The Schur compliment  $M/A = D - CA^-B$  and  $M/D = A - BD^-C$  are fuzzy

matrix. Then  $xM = b$  is solvable iff  $yA = c$  and  $zD = d$  are solvable,  $c \geq dD^-C$  and  $d \geq cA^-B$ .

**Theorem 3.4.**

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Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$  with A and D are left k-regular,  $C(B) \subseteq C(A^k)$  and

$C(C) \subseteq C(D^k)$ . If  $Mx = d$  is solvable then  $Ay = b$  and  $Dz = c$  are solvable, where

$$d = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ c \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Proof:** This can be proved along the same lines as that Theorem (3.1) and by using Lemma (2.2) and hence omitted.

#### Theorem 3.5.

Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$  with A and D are left k-regular. If  $A^k y = b$  and  $D^k z = c$

are solvable,  $c \geq C^k A^- b$  and  $b \geq B^k D^- c$  then  $M^k x = d$  is solvable where

$$M^k = \begin{bmatrix} A^k & B^k \\ C^k & D^k \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } d = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ c \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Proof:** Since  $A^k y = b$  and  $D^k z = c$  are solvable, let  $y = A^- b$  and  $z = D^- c$  are the solutions  $\Rightarrow A^k A^- b = b$  ;  $D^k D^- c = c$ .

From the given conditions,  $c \geq C^k A^- b$  and  $b \geq B^k D^- c$  we get,  $c = c + C^k A^- b$  and  $b = b + B^k D^- c$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now, } \begin{bmatrix} A^k & B^k \\ C^k & D^k \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A^- b \\ D^- c \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} A^k A^- b + B^k D^- c \\ C^k A^- b + D^k D^- c \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} b + B^k D^- c \\ C^k A^- b + c \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} b \\ c \end{pmatrix} \\ &= d \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $M^k x = d$  is solvable.

Hence the Theorem.

**Remark 3.2.** For k=1, the Theorem (3.4) and Theorem (3.5) reduces to the following.

#### Theorem 3.6[3]

Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$  with A and D are regular, M/A and M/D exists.

$C(C) \subseteq C(D)$  and  $C(B) \subseteq C(A)$ . Then  $Mx = d$  is solvable iff  $Ay = b$  and  $Dz = c$  are solvable,  $c \geq CA^- b$  and  $b \geq BD^- c$ .

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**Remark 3.3.** In particular, for  $B=0$ , the Theorem (3.1) and Theorem (3.4) reduces to the following.

**Corollary 3.1.**

For the matrix  $M = \begin{bmatrix} A & O \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$  with A and D are k-regular such that

- (i)  $R(C) \subseteq R(A^k)$ . If  $xM = b$  is solvable then  $yA = c$  and  $zD = d$  are solvable.
- (ii)  $C(C) \subseteq C(D^k)$ . If  $Mx = d$  is solvable then  $Ay = b$  and  $Dz = c$  are solvable.

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