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# Power linear Keller maps with ditto triangularizations

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October 21, 2014

## Abstract

We show that power linear Keller maps  $F = (x_1 + (A_1x)^d, x_2 + (A_2x)^d, \dots, x_n + (A_nx)^d)$  are linearly triangularizable if (1)  $\text{rk}A \leq 2$  or (2)  $\text{cork}A \leq 2$  and  $d \geq 3$  or (3)  $\text{cork}A = 3$ ,  $d \geq 5$  and the diagonal of  $A$  is nonzero. Furthermore, we show that the triangularizations can be chosen power linear as well.

## 1 Introduction

The famous Jacobian Conjecture, which was first formulated by O.H. Keller in 1939, for short JC, asserts that for every  $n \geq 1$  the following holds:

*If  $F = (F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n)$  is a polynomial map over  $\mathbb{C}$  with constant nontrivial Jacobian determinant, then  $F$  is invertible.*

In the 1980's, there are two famous reduction results. At first, it is shown that in order to prove the JC, it suffices to verify the JC for polynomial maps  $F$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  of special cubic homogeneous form:

$$F = x + H = (x_1 + H_1, x_2 + H_2, \dots, x_n + H_n)$$

where each component  $H_i$  of  $H$  is either zero or homogeneous of degree 3, see [1]. Later, Ludwik Drużkowski showed in [8] that in addition, one may assume that each component  $H_i$  of  $H$  is a third power of a linear form:

$$F = x + (Ax)^{*3} = (x_1 + (A_1x)^3, x_2 + (A_2x)^3, \dots, x_n + (A_nx)^3)$$

where  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $A_i$  is the  $i$ -th row of an  $(n \times n)$ -matrix  $A$ , and  $A_i x$  is the matrix product

$$(A_{i1} \ A_{i1} \ \cdots \ A_{in}) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

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\*Supported by the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO).

2000 *Mathematical Subject Classification*: 14R15, 14R10.

*Key words and phrases*: Jacobian Conjecture, Keller map, linearly triangularizable.

For the case  $\deg F \leq 2$ , S. Wang had already proved in 1980 that the JC is true over any field of characteristic  $\neq 2$ , see [17] and [1].

In 1993, David Wright showed that in case  $n = 3$ , the JC holds for maps  $F$  having special cubic homogeneous form, see [18]. In particular  $F$  is so called ‘linearly triangularizable’, see definition 2.5. In 1994, the result of Wright was extended to the case  $n = 4$  by Engelbert Hubbers, see [13], but for  $n = 4$ , maps of special cubic homogeneous form are not always linearly triangularizable. Hubbers used a (for those days) strong computer to get these results.

More than 10 years later, the result of Wright was extended in another direction: Arno van den Essen and the second author showed that in case  $n = 3$  the JC holds for maps  $F$  having special homogeneous form in general (not just cubic) in [2]. The main theorem of [2] asserts that  $F$  is even linearly triangularizable, just as in the cubic case.

But let us focus on special cubic linear maps  $x + (Ax)^{*3}$  and, more generally, special power linear maps  $x + (Ax)^{*d}$ , from now on. At the same time that Wright showed the case  $n = 3$  for special homogeneous cubic maps, Drużkowski showed that for special cubic linear maps  $F = x + (Ax)^{*3}$  with  $\text{rk}A \leq 2$  or  $\text{cork}A \leq 2$ ,  $F$  is invertible, see [9]. In particular,  $F$  is tame.

Although the results of Drużkowski for degree  $d = 3$  generalize to degree  $d \geq 3$  in a straightforward manner, we have chosen to rewrite these results. The main reason for this is that the proofs of Drużkowski are very sketchy; at some points, one can better speak of ‘guidelines of how to prove’.

Furthermore, Drużkowski only proved tameness in [9], which is weaker than linear triangularizability, but for the case  $\text{cork}A \leq 2$ , his proof is powerful enough for linear triangularizability, as Charles Ching-An Cheng observes in [4]. In the same article, Cheng proves linear triangularizability for the case  $\text{rk}A = 2$  and  $d = 3$ .

But this proof is quite long. Cheng presents a much shorter proof for the case  $\text{rk}A = 2$  and  $d$  arbitrary in [6], by showing the following result (Theorem 2 in [6]):

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $F = x + (Ax)^{*d}$  be a power linear Keller map,  $r = \text{rk}A$ , and assume that all special homogeneous Keller maps of degree  $d$  in dimension  $r$  are linearly triangularizable. Then  $F$  is linearly triangularizable as well.*

Since it is a classical result that for  $r = 2$ , the conditions of this theorem are fulfilled (see [1], [2] or [6]), the case  $\text{rk}A = 2$  and  $d$  arbitrary follows. As mentioned above, the main result of [2] was exactly the case  $r = 3$  of the conditions of the above theorem for all  $d$ , so the case  $\text{rk}A = 3$  and  $d$  arbitrary follows as well, as mentioned in [2].

We shall show that power linear Keller maps  $F = (x_1 + (A_1x)^d, x_2 + (A_2x)^d, \dots, x_n + (A_nx)^d)$  are linearly triangularizable in each of the following cases:

- (1)  $\text{rk}A \leq 2$ ,
- (2)  $\text{cork}A \leq 2$  and  $d \geq 3$ ,
- (3)  $\text{cork}A = 3$ ,  $d \geq 5$  and the diagonal of  $A$  is nonzero.

Furthermore, we show that in all of the above cases, the triangularizations can be chosen power linear as well. For a significant part, our results are based on the work of Drużkowski in [9].

Although the results for  $\text{rk}A \leq 2$  are valid for any  $d$ , those for  $\text{cork}A \leq 2$  apply only to the case  $d \geq 3$ . This restriction is not important for the JC, since it has already been proved for any polynomial map over  $\mathbb{C}$  with degree  $d \leq 2$ . On the other hand, the invertibility statement of the JC is weaker than linear triangularizability, so it is worth mentioning that in 2002, Cheng proved that quadratic linear Keller maps  $x + (Ax)^{*2}$  with  $\text{cork}A = 1$  are linearly triangularizable, see [5].

In the last section, we present a quadratic linear map in dimension 6 with  $\text{rk}A = \text{cork}A = 3$ , which is, as observed above, linearly triangularizable, but without a linear triangularization that is quadratic linear as well. So in our result for  $\text{cork}A = 3$ , the assumption  $d \geq 5$  or at least some assumption on  $d$ , is necessary.

## 2 Definitions and preliminaries

**Definition 2.1.** Write  $A^t$  for the transpose of a matrix  $A$ . Now let  $A$  be an  $(n \times n)$ -matrix. We write  $e_i$  for the  $i$ -th standard basis vector over  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Viewing vectors as column matrices, the matrix product  $Ae_i$  evaluates to the  $i$ -th column of  $A$  and  $e_i^t A$  evaluates to the  $i$ -th row of  $A$ . But we will just write  $A_i$  for the  $i$ -th row of  $A$ .

**Definition 2.2.** We call a map  $H$  *power linear (of degree  $d$ )* if  $H$  is of the form

$$H = (Ax)^{*d} := ((A_1x)^d, (A_2x)^d, \dots, (A_nx)^d)$$

and a map  $F$  *special power linear (of degree  $d$ )* if  $F$  is of the form

$$F = x + (Ax)^{*d} = (x_1 + (A_1x)^d, x_2 + (A_2x)^d, \dots, x_n + (A_nx)^d)$$

So  $H$  is power linear if and only if  $x + H$  is special power linear.

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $F$  be a polynomial map. We say that  $F$  is *upper/lower triangular* if its Jacobian  $\mathcal{J}F$  is upper/lower triangular. We call  $F$  *triangular* if it is either upper or lower triangular.

A triangular Keller map is tame and hence invertible.

**Definition 2.4.** Let  $F = x + H$  be a polynomial map. We call  $F$  *special homogeneous (of degree  $d$ )* if  $H$  is homogeneous (of degree  $d$ ).

In [1, lemma 4.1], it is shown that a special homogeneous map of degree  $d \geq 2$  is a Keller map, if and only if  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nilpotent.

**Definition 2.5.** Let  $F$  be a polynomial map over  $\mathbb{C}$ . We call  $F$  *linearly triangularizable* if there exists a  $T \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$  such  $T^{-1} \circ F \circ T$  is triangular.

A linear triangularizable map can be triangularized to both an upper and a lower triangular map: take  $T = (x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_1)$  to get from lower to upper and vice versa.

**Proposition 2.6.** *If  $F = x + H$  is a linearly triangularizable Keller map and the components of  $H$  do not have linear parts, then  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nilpotent.*

*Proof.* The proof is left as an exercise to the reader. A stronger result can be found in [10, Th. 1.6].  $\square$

**Proposition 2.7.** *If  $F = x + H$  is a triangular Keller map and the components of  $H$  do not have linear parts, then  $\mathcal{J}H$  has only zeros on its diagonal.*

*Proof.* From proposition 2.6, it follows that  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nilpotent. Since a nilpotent matrix over a reduced ring has only eigenvalue zero and the diagonal of a triangular matrix is formed by its eigenvalues, it follows that  $\mathcal{J}H$  has only zeros on its diagonal.  $\square$

**Definition 2.8.** Let  $f \in \mathbb{C}[x] = \mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$ . We write  $\deg f$  for the total degree of  $f$ . We write  $\deg_{x_i} f$  for the degree of  $f$ , seen as a polynomial in  $x_i$  over  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n]$ . We write  $\deg_{x_i, x_j, x_k} f$  for the (total) degree of  $f$ , seen as polynomial in  $x_i, x_j, x_k$ .

### 3 Some results on linear dependence

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $H := (Ax)^{*d}$  such that  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nilpotent. Assume that the first  $r$  rows of  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r$  of  $A$  are independent and the last  $n - r$  rows of  $A$  are dependent of  $A_{r-1}$  and  $A_r$  only. Assume a similar condition on the columns of  $A$ , i.e. the last  $n - r$  columns of  $A$  are dependent of  $Ae_{r-1}$  and  $Ae_r$  only. Then the components of  $H := (Ax)^{*d}$  are linearly dependent.*

*Proof.* Write  $Ae_{r+i} = \lambda_{r+i}Ae_{r-1} + \mu_{r+i}Ae_r$ . Put

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_{r-2} \\ x_{r-1} - \lambda_{r+1}x_{r+1} - \dots - \lambda_n x_n \\ x_r - \mu_{r+1}x_{r+1} - \dots - \mu_n x_n \\ x_{r+1} \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

and let  $B := A \cdot \mathcal{J}L$ . Then the last  $n - r$  columns of  $B$  and hence those of  $\mathcal{J}\tilde{H}$

are zero, where

$$\tilde{H} := L^{-1} \circ H \circ L = \begin{pmatrix} (B_1x)^d \\ \vdots \\ (B_{r-2}x)^d \\ (B_{r-1}x)^d + \lambda_{r+1}(B_{r+1}x)^d + \cdots + \lambda_n(B_nx)^d \\ (B_r x)^d + \mu_{r+1}(B_{r+1}x)^d + \cdots + \mu_n(B_nx)^d \\ (B_{r+1}x)^d \\ \vdots \\ (B_nx)^d \end{pmatrix}$$

Each row  $B_{r+i}$  with  $i \geq 1$  is a linear combination of  $B_{r-1}$  and  $B_r$ , for a similar statement holds for the rows of  $A$ . So  $\hat{H} := (\tilde{H}_1, \dots, \tilde{H}_{r-2}, \tilde{H}_{r-1}, \tilde{H}_r)$  is of the form

$$\hat{H} = \begin{pmatrix} (B_1x)^d \\ \vdots \\ (B_{r-2}x)^d \\ p(B_{r-1}x, B_r x) \\ q(B_{r-1}x, B_r x) \end{pmatrix}$$

Furthermore, since the last  $n - r$  columns of  $\mathcal{J}\tilde{H}$  are zero, the  $(r \times r)$ -matrix  $\mathcal{J}\hat{H}$  is nilpotent as well. In particular,  $\det \mathcal{J}\hat{H} = 0$ . If  $p(B_{r-1}x, B_r x)$  and  $q(B_{r-1}x, B_r x)$  are algebraically independent, then all linear forms  $B_i x$  with  $i \leq r$  are algebraically dependent of the components of  $\hat{H}$ . So

$$\text{trdeg}_{\mathbb{C}} \hat{H} = \text{trdeg}_{\mathbb{C}}(B_1x, \dots, B_r x) = \text{trdeg}_{\mathbb{C}}(A_1x, \dots, A_r x) = r$$

for the first  $r$  rows of  $A$  are linearly independent. This contradicts  $\det \mathcal{J}\hat{H} = 0$ , so  $p(B_{r-1}x, B_r x)$  and  $q(B_{r-1}x, B_r x)$  are algebraically dependent. But with  $p$  and  $q$  homogeneous of the same degree  $d$ , this dependence relation refines to a linear relation, say that  $\nu_1 p + \nu_2 q = 0$  with  $\nu \neq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_1((B_{r-1}x)^d + \lambda_{r+1}(B_{r+1}x)^d + \cdots + \lambda_n(B_nx)^d) + \\ \nu_2((B_r x)^d + \mu_{r+1}(B_{r+1}x)^d + \cdots + \mu_n(B_nx)^d) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

So the components of  $(Bx)^{*d}$ , and hence those of  $H = (Ax)^{*d}$  also, are linearly dependent.  $\square$

The preceding lemma is a special case of the following theorem:

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $H := (Ax)^{*d}$  such that  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nilpotent. Assume that the first  $r$  rows of  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r$  of  $A$  are independent and the last  $n - r$  rows of  $A$  are dependent of  $A_{r-1}$  and  $A_r$  only. Then the components of  $H := (Ax)^{*d}$  are linearly dependent.*

*Proof.* Since the rows of  $A$  are dependent, the columns are dependent as well. We distinguish two cases:

- There is an  $i \leq r - 2$  such that column  $Ae_i$  of  $A$  is dependent of the other columns of  $A$ .

Then there is a vector  $\lambda$  with  $\lambda_i \neq 0$  for some  $i \leq r - 2$  such that  $\lambda A = 0$ . Replacing  $H$  by  $P^{-1} \circ H \circ P$  for a suitable permutation  $P$  within  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{r-2}$ , we may assume that  $\lambda_1 \neq 0$ . Since

$$\mathcal{J}H = d \begin{pmatrix} A_{11}(A_1x)^{d-1} & A_{12}(A_1x)^{d-1} & \cdots & A_{1n}(A_1x)^{d-1} \\ A_{21}(A_2x)^{d-1} & A_{22}(A_2x)^{d-1} & \cdots & A_{2n}(A_2x)^{d-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{n1}(A_nx)^{d-1} & A_{n2}(A_nx)^{d-1} & \cdots & A_{nn}(A_nx)^{d-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

the expression  $\det(TI_n + \mathcal{J}H)$ , which is  $T^n$  on account of the nilpotence of  $\mathcal{J}H$ , can be seen as a polynomial in the transcendent ‘variables’  $A_1x, A_2x, \dots, A_nx$ . Since  $r - 2 \geq 1$ , ‘variable’  $A_1x$  only appears in the first row of (1). So substituting  $A_1x = 0$  in  $\mathcal{J}H$  just makes the first row of  $\mathcal{J}H$  zero. This substitution does not affect the condition  $\det(TI_n + \mathcal{J}H) = T^n$ . So  $\mathcal{J}\tilde{H}$  is nilpotent, where  $\tilde{H} := (0, H_2, \dots, H_n)$ . Next, let

$$\hat{H} := L^{-1} \circ \tilde{H} \circ L = \tilde{H} \circ L$$

where  $L = x + \lambda_1^{-1}(0, \lambda_2x_1, \dots, \lambda_nx_1)$ . Now  $x + \hat{H}$  is power linear of degree  $d$  as well, but both the first row and the first column of  $\mathcal{J}\hat{H}$  are zero. Hence  $x + \hat{H}$  is essentially a power linear map in dimension  $n - 1$ , and the result follows by induction.

- For each  $i \leq r - 2$ , column  $Ae_i$  of  $A$  is independent of the other columns of  $A$ .

Since in particular the first  $r - 2$  columns of  $A$  are independent, there exists a basis of the column space of  $A$  of the form  $Ae_1, Ae_2, \dots, Ae_{r-2}, Ae_{i_1}, Ae_{i_2}$ . Furthermore, for each  $j \geq r - 1$ , column  $Ae_j$  is a linear combination of  $Ae_{i_1}$  and  $Ae_{i_2}$  only. We shall show that we may assume that  $i_1 = r - 1$  and  $i_2 = r$ , in order to be able to apply lemma 3.1.

For that purpose let us look at the rows  $A_{i_1}$  and  $A_{i_2}$  of  $A$ . If both rows are dependent, then  $H_{i_1}$  and  $H_{i_2}$  are linearly dependent and we are done. So assume that  $A_{i_1}$  and  $A_{i_2}$  are independent. Since the last  $n - r$  rows of  $A$  are linear combinations of  $A_{r-1}$  and  $A_r$  and  $i_1, i_2 \geq r - 1$ , both  $A_{i_1}$  and  $A_{i_2}$  are linear combinations of  $A_{r-1}$  and  $A_r$ . Hence the spaces  $\mathbb{C}A_{i_1} + \mathbb{C}A_{i_2}$  and  $\mathbb{C}A_{r-1} + \mathbb{C}A_r$  are equal.

Hence  $A_{i_1}$  and  $A_{i_2}$  can take the role of  $A_{r-1}$  and  $A_r$ , i.e. the rows  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{r-2}, A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}$  are independent and each row  $A_j$  with  $j \geq r - 1$  is a linear combination of  $A_{i_1}$  and  $A_{i_2}$  only.

Replacing  $H$  by  $P^{-1} \circ H \circ P$  for a suitable permutation  $P$  within  $x_{r-1}, x_r, \dots, x_n$ , we may assume that  $H$  satisfies the conditions of lemma 3.1. So the components of  $H$  are linearly dependent.  $\square$

The proof of theorem 3.2 and its preceding lemma was essentially given by Druzkowski in [9], where he proved the case  $r = n - 2$  of theorem 3.2. The remaining theorems in this section show that under certain conditions, the components of  $H$  are not only linearly dependent, but the linear dependence even restricts to two components of  $H$ , i.e.  $H_i = sH_j$  for some  $i \neq j$  and an  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_r \in \mathbb{C}[x]$  be linear such that  $2 \leq r \leq d + 1$  and*

$$\lambda_1 L_1^d + \lambda_2 L_2^d + \dots + \lambda_r L_r^d = 0 \quad (2)$$

*for some  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r) \neq 0$ . Then there are  $i \neq j$  and an  $s \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $L_i = sL_j$ .*

*Proof.* Assume the opposite. In particular,  $L_1 \neq sL_r$  and  $L_r \neq sL_1$  for all  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ , whence  $L_1$  and  $L_r$  are independent. There exists a linear basis  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  of  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  with  $y_1 = L_1$  and  $y_2 = L_r$ .

The case  $d = 1$  is easy, so assume  $d \geq 2$ . Differentiating (2) with respect to  $y_1$  gives

$$\mu_1 L_1^{d-1} + \mu_2 L_2^{d-1} + \dots + \mu_{r-1} L_{r-1}^{d-1} = 0$$

for certain  $\mu_i \in \mathbb{C}$ . In particular,  $\mu_1 = d\lambda_1$ , whence not all  $\mu_i$  are zero. Hence, the result follows by induction on  $d$ .  $\square$

The following theorem generalizes Theorem 3.1 of [16] (the case  $\text{cork}A = 3$  of this theorem). [16] is a co-production of Song Shuang and the first author.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Assume  $H$  is of the form  $(Ax)^{*d}$  such that  $\text{cork}A \leq d - 2$ ,  $\text{tr}\mathcal{J}H = 0$ , and the diagonal of  $A$  is nonzero. Then there are  $i \neq j$  and an  $s \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $A_i = sA_j \neq 0$ .*

*Proof.* Since the diagonal of  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nonzero, we can replace  $H$  by  $P^{-1} \circ H \circ P$  to get  $A_{11} \neq 0$ , where  $P$  is a permutation. Similarly, we can make the first  $r$  rows of  $A$  independent in addition, where  $r = \text{rk}A \geq n - (d - 2)$ . Since  $\text{tr}\mathcal{J}H = 0$ , we have

$$dA_{11}(A_1x)^{d-1} + dA_{22}(A_2x)^{d-1} + \dots + dA_{nn}(A_nx)^{d-1} = 0 \quad (3)$$

Since the first  $r$  rows of  $A$  are independent, there exists a basis  $y$  of  $\mathbb{C}x_1 + \mathbb{C}x_2 + \dots + \mathbb{C}x_n$  such that  $A_i x = y_i$  for all  $i \leq r$ . Differentiating (3) with respect to  $y_1$  gives

$$d(d-1)A_{11}(A_1x)^{d-2} + \lambda_{r+1}(A_{r+1}x)^{d-2} + \dots + \lambda_n(A_nx)^{d-2} = 0$$

for certain  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$ . These are  $n - r + 1 \leq d - 1$  linear powers (powers of linear forms). Now apply lemma 3.3 to get  $A_i = sA_j$  for some  $i \neq j$  and  $s \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $i, j \in \{1, r + 1, r + 2, \dots, n\}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.5.** *Assume  $H$  is as in theorem 3.2 and  $\text{cork}A \leq d - 1$ . Then there are  $i \neq j$  and an  $s \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $A_i = sA_j$ .*



*Proof.* From theorem 3.2, it follows that there is a linear relation between the components of  $H$ . Similar to the proof of theorem 3.4 (but with  $d$  instead of  $d - 1$ ), one can show that this relation is of the form  $H_i = \alpha H_j$  for some  $i \neq j$ . So  $A_i = sA_j$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ .  $\square$

We will use the above theorems in the next section.

## 4 Linear triangularization to power linear maps

The following lemma is crucial in both [9] and our study of power linear maps  $(Ax)^{*d}$  where  $A$  has a small corank. It can be found at the beginning of page 238 in [9].

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $H = (Ax)^{*d}$  such that  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nilpotent. If  $A$  has a principal minor of any size which determinant is nonzero, then there exists a relation  $R \neq 0$  such that*

$$R((A_1x)^{d-1}, (A_2x)^{d-1}, \dots, (A_nx)^{d-1}) = 0$$

and  $\deg_{y_i} R(y) \leq 1$  for all  $i \leq n$ . Furthermore, if  $A_k = 0$  for some  $k$ , then  $\deg_{y_k} R = 0$  as well.

*Proof.* Write

$$\begin{aligned} & \det \left( TI_n + d \begin{pmatrix} A_{11}y_1 & A_{12}y_1 & \cdots & A_{1n}y_1 \\ A_{21}y_2 & A_{22}y_2 & \cdots & A_{2n}y_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{n1}y_n & A_{n2}y_n & \cdots & A_{nn}y_n \end{pmatrix} \right) \\ &= T^n + R_1(y)T^{n-1} + R_2(y)T^{n-2} + \cdots + R_{n-2}(y)T^2 + R_{n-1}(y)T + R_n(y) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nilpotent,  $\det(TI_n + \mathcal{J}H) = T^n$ . It follows from (1) that the coefficient of  $T^{n-j}$  of  $\det(TI_n + \mathcal{J}H)$  equals

$$R_j((A_1x)^{d-1}, (A_2x)^{d-1}, \dots, (A_nx)^{d-1}) = 0$$

for all  $j \geq 1$ . Furthermore, it follows from the definition of determinant that  $\deg_{y_i} R_j \leq 1$  for all  $i, j$ . For some  $j$ ,  $A$  has a principal minor of size  $j$  which determinant is  $\alpha \neq 0$ , say with rows and columns  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_j$ . Then the coefficient of  $y_{i_1}y_{i_2} \cdots y_{i_j}$  of  $R_j$  equals  $d\alpha$ , whence  $R_j \neq 0$ .

If  $A_k = 0$ , then all minors with row  $k$  of  $A$  have determinant zero, whence  $\deg_{y_k} R_j = 0$ .  $\square$

In all remaining lemmas in this section, relations  $R$  between linear powers  $L_1^d, L_2^d, \dots, L_m^d$  with  $\deg_{y_i} R \leq 1$  for all  $i \leq m$  are studied. For such relations, conditions are formulated that imply  $L_i = sL_j$  for some  $i \neq j$  and an  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ ,

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let  $d \geq 2$  and  $R$  be a nonzero relation with  $\deg_{y_i} R \leq 1$  such that*

$$R(x_1^d, x_2^d, \dots, x_r^d, (\lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2 + \dots + \lambda_r x_r)^d) = 0 \quad (4)$$

*Then  $\lambda = \lambda_i e_i$  for some  $i$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $x_1^d, x_2^d, \dots, x_r^d$  are algebraically independent, it follows that  $R$  has a term of the form

$$\alpha \cdot y_1^{t_1} \cdots y_r^{t_r} \cdot y_{r+1}$$

with  $\alpha \neq 0$  and  $0 \leq t_i \leq 1$  for all  $i$ . The coefficient of  $x_1^{dt_1} x_2^{dt_2} \cdots x_r^{dt_r} x_j^{d-1} x_k$  in (4) equals  $(d-1)\alpha \lambda_j \lambda_k = 0$ , so  $\lambda_j \lambda_k = 0$  for all  $j \neq k$ . It follows that  $\lambda$  has at most one nonzero coordinate, i.e.  $\lambda = \lambda_i e_i$  for some  $i$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.3.** *Let  $d \geq 2$  and  $R$  be a nonzero relation with  $\deg_{y_i} R \leq 1$  such that*

$$R(x_1^d, x_2^d, \dots, x_r^d, (\lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2 + \dots + \lambda_r x_r)^d, (\mu_1 x_1 + \mu_2 x_2 + \dots + \mu_r x_r)^d) = 0 \quad (5)$$

*Assume further that  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0$  for at most  $r-3$   $i$ 's. Then either  $\lambda = \lambda_i e_i$  for some  $i$  or  $\mu = \mu_i e_i$  for some  $i$  or  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are dependent.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are independent. Without loss of generality, we assume that  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  and  $(\mu_1, \mu_2)$  are independent. The cases  $\deg_{y_{r+1}} R = 0$  and  $\deg_{y_{r+2}} R = 0$  follow from lemma 4.2. So assume the opposite.

- i) Suppose first that  $\lambda_1 = \mu_2 = 0$ . Then  $\lambda_2 \mu_1 \neq 0$ . Since  $\deg_{y_{r+2}} R = 1$ ,  $R$  has a term of the form

$$\alpha y_1^{t_1} y_2^{t_2} \cdots y_r^{t_r} \cdot y_{r+1}^{t_{r+1}} y_{r+2}$$

with  $0 \leq t_i \leq 1$  for all  $i$ . If  $t_{r+1} = 0$ , then by looking at the term

$$x_1^{dt_1} x_2^{dt_2} \cdots x_r^{dt_r} \cdot (x_1^{d-1} x_m)$$

of (5), we see that  $\mu_m = 0$  for all  $m \neq 1$ , i.e.  $\mu = \mu_1 e_1$ . So assume  $t_{r+1} = 1$ . Looking at the term

$$x_1^{dt_1} x_2^{dt_2} \cdots x_r^{dt_r} \cdot x_2^{d-1} x_l^2 x_1^{d-1}$$

of (5), we see that  $\lambda_l \mu_l = 0$  for all  $l \geq 3$ . Assume  $\lambda \neq \lambda_2 e_2$ . Then there is an  $l \geq 3$  such that  $\lambda_l \neq 0$ . So  $\mu_l = 0$ . Looking at the term

$$x_1^{dt_1} x_2^{dt_2} \cdots x_r^{dt_r} \cdot x_2^{d-1} x_l x_m x_1^{d-1}$$

gives  $\mu_m = 0$  for all  $m \geq 3$ . So  $\mu = \mu_1 e_1$ .

So assume  $(\lambda_i, \mu_{3-i}) \neq 0$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Since  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  and  $(\mu_1, \mu_2)$  are independent, at least three of their four coordinates are nonzero. Assume without loss of generality that  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \mu_1 \neq 0$ . If  $\mu_2 = 0$ , then we may assume that  $\mu_3 \neq 0$  on account of the assumption  $\mu \neq \mu_1 e_1$ .

If  $\mu_2 \neq 0$ , then  $\lambda_1\lambda_2\mu_1\mu_2 \neq 0$ . From the assumption  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0$  for at most  $r - 3$   $i$ 's, it follows that  $\lambda_i \neq 0$  or  $\mu_i \neq 0$  for some  $i \geq 3$ . So without loss of generality, we may assume  $\mu_3 \neq 0$ . So assume  $\mu_3 \neq 0$  regardless of whether  $\mu_2 = 0$  or not.

Assume that  $(\lambda_2, \lambda_3)$  and  $(\mu_2, \mu_3)$  are dependent. Then  $\mu_2 \mid \lambda_2\mu_3 \neq 0$ , so  $\lambda_2\mu_2 \neq 0$ . If we interchange  $(\lambda_1, \mu_1)$  and  $(\lambda_2, \mu_2)$ , which can be realized by flipping  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ ,  $(\lambda_2, \lambda_3)$  and  $(\mu_2, \mu_3)$  get independent but the condition  $\lambda_1\mu_1 \neq 1$  is not affected. So we may assume that  $(\lambda_2, \lambda_3)$  and  $(\mu_2, \mu_3)$  are independent and in addition  $\lambda_1\mu_1 \neq 0$ .

ii) We show that the above assumptions lead to a contradiction. Replacing  $R$  by  $R(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_r, \lambda_1^d y_{r+1}, \mu_1^d y_{r+2})$ , we may assume that  $\lambda_1 = \mu_1 = 1$ . Write  $\lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2 + \dots + \lambda_r x_r = x_1 + L$  and similarly  $\mu_1 x_1 + \mu_2 x_2 + \dots + \mu_r x_r = x_1 + M$ .

Let  $s := \deg_{y_1, y_{r+1}, y_{r+2}} R$ . Notice that  $\deg_{y_i} R \leq 1$  for all  $i$ . If  $s \geq 3$ , then  $s = 3$  and the left hand side of (5) has degree  $3d$  with respect to  $x_1$ ; contradiction. Since  $\deg_{y_{r+1}} R \neq 0$ ,  $s \geq 1$ . So two cases remain:

–  $s = 1$ :

We can write

$$R = R_1 y_1 + R_2 y_{r+1} + R_3 y_{r+2} + R_4$$

with  $R_i \in \mathbb{C}[y_2, \dots, y_r]$ . Looking at the coefficient of  $x_1^{d-1}$  in (5) gives

$$R_2(x_2^d, \dots, x_r^d)L = -R_3(x_2^d, \dots, x_r^d)M$$

Assume  $R_2 \neq 0$ . Notice that  $d \geq 2$ . Reduction modulo  $x_i^d - y_i$  for all  $i$  gives  $R_2 L = -R_3 M$ . Next, a generic substitution into the  $y_i$ 's gives  $L = \alpha M$  for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ . So  $L$  and  $M$  are linearly dependent. This contradicts the independence of  $(\lambda_2, \lambda_3)$  and  $(\mu_2, \mu_3)$ , so  $R_2 = R_3 = 0$ . Looking at the coefficient of  $x_1^d$  in (5) gives  $R_1 = 0$ . So  $R = R_4$ . This contradicts  $s = 1$ .

–  $s = 2$ :

We can write

$$R = R_1 y_{r+1} y_{r+2} + R_2 y_1 y_{r+2} + R_3 y_1 y_{r+1} + R_4$$

with  $R_i \in \mathbb{C}[y_2, \dots, y_r]$  for all  $i \leq 3$  and  $\deg_{y_1, y_{r+1}, y_{r+2}} R_4 \leq 1$ . Looking at the coefficient of  $x_1^{2d-1}$  in (5) gives

$$(R_1 + R_3)(x_2^d, \dots, x_r^d)L = -(R_1 + R_2)(x_2^d, \dots, x_r^d)M$$

and  $(R_1 + R_3) = (R_1 + R_2) = 0$  follows similar as  $R_2 = R_3 = 0$  in the case  $s = 1$ . Looking at the coefficient of  $x_1^{2d}$  in (5) gives  $R_1 + R_2 + R_3 = 0$ , so  $R_2 = R_3 = 0$  and also  $R_1 = 0$ . So  $R = R_4$ . This contradicts  $s = 2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.4.** *Assume  $A$  is a matrix of corank 2 at most,  $d \geq 3$  and  $H = (Ax)^{*d}$  such that  $\mathcal{J}H$  is nilpotent. Then there exists a  $T \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$  and a lower triangular matrix  $B$  such that*

$$T^{-1} \circ (Ax)^{*d} \circ T = (Bx)^{*d}$$

*Proof.* Assume first that every principal minor of  $A$  has determinant zero. From [9, lemma 1.2] (see also [12, prop. 6.3.9]), it follows that there is a permutation  $P$  such that  $P^{-1}AP$  is lower triangular. So take  $T = P$ .

Assume next that  $A$  has an invertible principal minor. From lemma 4.1, it follows that there exists a nonzero relation  $R$  such that

$$R((A_1x)^{d-1}, (A_2x)^{d-1}, \dots, (A_nx)^{d-1}) = 0$$

Let  $r := \text{rk}A \geq n - 2$ . After a suitable permutation, we have that the rows  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r$  are independent,

$$A_{r+1} = \lambda_1 A_1 + \lambda_2 A_2 + \dots + \lambda_r A_r$$

and, in case  $r = n - 2$ ,

$$A_{r+2} = \mu_1 A_1 + \lambda_2 A_2 + \dots + \mu_r A_r$$

We first show that  $A_i = sA_j$  for some  $i \neq j$  and  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ . The case  $r = n - 1$  follows from lemma 4.2, so assume that  $r = n - 2$ . The case  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0$  for at most  $r - 3$   $i$ 's follows from lemma 4.3, so assume  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0$  for at least  $r - 2$   $i$ 's. Replacing  $A$  by  $P^{-1}AP$  for a suitable permutation  $P$ , we get that  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0$  for all  $i \leq r - 2$ , and theorem 3.5 applies. So  $A_i = sA_j$  for some  $i \neq j$  and  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ .

So the components of  $H$  are linearly dependent. Replacing  $H$  by  $T^{-1} \circ H \circ T$  for a suitable linear transformation  $T$ , we get  $H_1 = 0$  and hence  $A_1 = 0$ . This transformation may make all principal minor determinants zero, but then, again by [9, lemma 1.2], there is a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $P^{-1}AP$  is lower triangular. So we may assume that there is still a nonzero principal minor determinant in  $A$ . From lemma 4.1 it follows that there exists a nonzero relation  $R_1$  such that

$$R_1((A_2x)^{d-1}, \dots, (A_nx)^{d-1}) = 0$$

After a suitable permutation, we have that the rows  $A_2, A_3, \dots, A_{r+1}$  are independent and

$$A_{r+2} = \lambda_2 A_2 + \lambda_3 A_3 + \dots + \lambda_{r+1} A_{r+1}$$

Applying lemma 4.2 again gives  $A_i = sA_j$  for some  $i \neq j$  with  $i, j \neq 1$  and  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ , i.e. a linear relation between  $(A_2x)^d, \dots, (A_nx)^d$ . So after a suitable linear transformation, we have  $A_2 = 0$  as well.

Since  $\text{cork}A \leq 2$ ,  $(A_3x)^{d-1}, \dots, (A_nx)^{d-1}$  are algebraically independent. It follows from lemma 4.1 that all principal minor determinants of  $A$  are zero. So again we can take for  $T$  a suitable permutation matrix  $P$ .  $\square$

The proof of the above theorem was essentially given by Drużkowski in [9]. Drużkowski observed something more or less similar to lemma 4.3, but found it unnecessary to prove that in full detail.

**Lemma 4.5.** *Let  $d \geq 3$  and  $R$  be a nonzero relation with  $\deg_{y_i} R \leq 1$  such that*

$$R(x_1^d, x_2^d, \dots, x_r^d, (\lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2 + \dots + \lambda_r x_r)^d, (\mu_1 x_1 + \mu_2 x_2 + \dots + \mu_r x_r)^d) = 0 \quad (6)$$

*Then either  $\lambda = \lambda_i e_i$  for some  $i$  or  $\mu = \mu_i e_i$  for some  $i$  or  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are dependent.*

*Proof.* The cases  $\deg_{y_{r+1}} R = 0$  and  $\deg_{y_{r+2}} R = 0$  follow from lemma 4.2, so assume the opposite. The case  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0$  for at most  $r - 3$   $i$ 's follows from lemma 4.3, so assume without loss of generality that  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0$  for all  $i \geq 3$ . Similar as in the proof of lemma 4.3, we assume that  $\lambda_1 = \mu_1 = 1$  and write  $\lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2 + \dots + \lambda_r x_r = x_1 + L$  and  $\mu_1 x_1 + \mu_2 x_2 + \dots + \mu_r x_r = x_1 + M$ . Put  $s := \deg_{y_1, y_{r+1}, y_{r+2}} R$ . If  $s \geq 3$ , then  $s = 3$  and the left hand side of (6) has degree  $3d$  in  $x_1$ ; contradiction. Since  $\deg_{y_{r+1}} R \neq 0$ ,  $s \geq 1$ . So two cases remain:

- $s = 1$ :  
Since  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0$  for all  $i \geq 3$ ,  $R$  is in fact a relation between  $x_1^d, x_2^d, (x_1 + L)^d$  and  $(x_1 + M)^d$ , say

$$R_0(x_1^d, x_2^d, (x_1 + L)^d, (x_1 + M)^d) = 0$$

for some *homogeneous*  $R_0 \neq 0$  with  $\deg_{y_1, y_3, y_4} R_0 \leq s$  and  $\deg_{y_2} R_0 \leq 1$ . If  $R_0$  is linear, then it follows from lemma 3.3 and  $d \geq 3$  that  $L = 0$ ,  $M = 0$  or  $L = M$ . If  $R_0$  is not linear, then it follows from  $s = 1$  that  $R_0$  is quadratic and  $y_2 \mid R_0$ , for  $R_0$  is homogeneous. Hence,  $R_0$  decomposes into linear factors and can be chosen linear instead.

- $s = 2$ :  
Write

$$R = R_1 y_{r+1} y_{r+2} + R_2 y_1 y_{r+2} + R_3 y_1 y_{r+1} + R_4$$

with  $R_i \in \mathbb{C}[y_2, \dots, y_r]$  for all  $i \leq 3$  and  $\deg_{y_1, y_{r+1}, y_{r+2}} R_4 \leq 1$ . Looking at the coefficient of  $x_1^{2d-1}$  in (6) gives

$$(R_1 + R_3)(x_2^d, \dots, y_r^d)L = -(R_1 + R_2)(x_2^d, \dots, y_r^d)M$$

Looking at the coefficient of  $x_1^{2d}$  in (6), gives  $R_1 + R_2 + R_3 = 0$ , which implies  $-R_2L = R_3M$ .

At last, the coefficient of  $x_1^{2d-2}$  in (6) implies that the following is zero:

$$\begin{aligned} & 2dR_1LM + (d-1)(R_1 + R_3)L^2 + (d-1)(R_1 + R_2)M^2 \\ &= 2dR_1LM - (d-1)R_2L^2 - (d-1)R_3M^2 \\ &= 2dR_1LM + (d-1)R_3LM + (d-1)R_2LM \\ &= (d+1)R_1LM \end{aligned}$$

So  $LM = 0$  or  $R_1 = 0$ . So assume  $R_1 = 0$ . Then  $-R_2 = R_3$  due to  $R_1 + R_2 + R_3 = 0$ . From  $-R_2 = R_3$  and  $-R_2L = R_3M$ , it follows that either  $R = R_4$ , which contradicts  $s = 2$ , or  $L = M$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.6.** *If  $H$  is as in theorem 3.4 and  $\text{cork}A = 3$ , then there exists a  $T \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$  and a lower triangular matrix  $B$  such that*

$$T^{-1} \circ (Ax)^{*d} \circ T = (Bx)^{*d}$$

*Proof.* Since the proof of theorem 4.6 is more or less similar to that of theorem 4.4, we only give a sketch of it.

From theorem 3.4 or [16, Th. 3.1], it follows that  $A_i = sA_j$  for some  $i \neq j$  and  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ , i.e. the components of  $H$  are linearly dependent. So we may assume that the first row of  $A$  is zero. Assume  $A$  has a nonzero principal minor determinant. The conditions of theorem 3.4 imply that  $3 = \text{cork}A \leq d - 2$ , so  $d \geq 5$ . So it follows from lemmas 4.1 and 4.5 that we may assume that the first two rows of  $A$  are zero. Next, it follows from lemmas 4.1 and 4.2 that we may assume that the first three rows of  $A$  are zero. Since  $\text{cork}A = 3$ , all principal minors of  $A$  have determinant zero. So  $B$  as above exists.  $\square$

Observe that in the proofs of theorems 4.4 and 4.6, the process of triangularization is as follows: first, all occurrences of  $A_i = sA_j$  with  $i \neq j$  and  $s \in \mathbb{C}^*$  are eliminated by linear transformations ‘within  $\mathbb{C}[x_i, x_j]$ ’. After that,  $A$  is made triangular by a permutation transformation. This result does not follow from the methods of Drużkowski.

The above observation does not hold for power linear maps  $(Ax)^{*d}$  with  $\text{rk}A = 2$ , but still there exist a triangularization of  $(Ax)^{*d}$  that is power linear as well. The following theorem, which is in fact a closer look on what happens in the proof of Theorem 1 of [6], shows this result not only for  $d \geq 3$ , but for any  $d \geq 1$ .

**Theorem 4.7.** *Assume  $A$  is a matrix of rank 2 at most and  $\mathcal{J}(Ax)^{*d}$  is nilpotent. Then there exists a  $T \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$  and a lower triangular matrix  $B$  such that*

$$T^{-1} \circ (Ax)^{*d} \circ T = (Bx)^{*d}$$

*Proof.* The case  $\text{rk}A = 1$  was already done by Drużkowski in [9]. So assume that  $\text{rk}A = 2$ . Then there are two rows  $A_{i_1}$  and  $A_{i_2}$  of  $A$  such that all other rows of  $A$  are linear combinations of  $A_{i_1}$  and  $A_{i_2}$ . There are  $n - 2$  distinct unit vectors  $e_{k_3}, \dots, e_{k_n}$  such that the rows  $A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}, e_{k_3}^t, \dots, e_{k_n}^t$  are independent. Replacing  $A$  by  $P^{-1}AP$  for a suitable permutation  $P$  makes that the rows  $A_{j_1}, A_{j_2}, e_3^t, \dots, e_n^t$  are independent.

Hence the matrix with those  $n$  rows is invertible. So set

$$T := \begin{pmatrix} A_{j_1} \\ A_{j_2} \\ e_3^t \\ \dots \\ e_n^t \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$$

Then the last  $n - 2$  rows of  $T$  are  $e_3^t, \dots, e_n^t$  as well. Put  $\tilde{H} = T^{-1} \circ H \circ T$ , where  $H = (Ax)^d$ . The components  $\tilde{H}_3, \dots, \tilde{H}_n$  of  $\tilde{H}$  are clearly linear powers. Write  $A_i = \lambda_i A_{j_1} + \mu_i A_{j_2}$  for all  $i$ . Then

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \mu_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \lambda_2 & \mu_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \lambda_n & \mu_n & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot T^{-1}$$

So the last  $n - 2$  columns of  $A \cdot T$  are zero. It follows that  $\tilde{H}_i \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2]$  for each  $i$ . Hence  $(x_1, x_2) + (\tilde{H}_1, \tilde{H}_2)$  is a homogeneous Keller map in dimension 2. Such maps are classified in e.g. [1]: we have either  $\tilde{H}_1 = \tilde{H}_2 = 0$ , in which case  $\tilde{H}$  is already of the form  $(Bx)^{*d}$  with  $B$  triangular, or

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{H}_1 \\ \tilde{H}_2 \end{pmatrix} = S^{-1} \circ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x_1^d \end{pmatrix} \circ S$$

Now  $(S, x_3, \dots, x_n)^{-1} \circ \tilde{H} \circ (S, x_3, \dots, x_n)$  is of the form  $(Bx)^{*d}$  with  $B$  triangular.  $\square$

In case  $\text{rk}A = 1$ , Drużkowski found a matrix  $B$  with  $n - 1$  zero rows, but an argument similar as above would give a matrix  $B$  with  $n - 1$  zero columns.

## 5 Some final remarks

At first, we like to mention that in [5], Cheng proves that in case  $\text{cork}A = 1$ ,  $A_i = sA_j$  for some  $i \neq j$  and  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ , also in the quadratic case. So the conclusion of theorem 4.4 holds for this case as well: see the proof of theorem 4.4.

The following quadratic linear map  $(Ax)^{*2}$  in dimension 6 with  $\text{rk}A = \text{cork}A = 3$ , which is, as observed in the introduction, linearly triangularizable, but without a linear triangularization that is quadratic linear as well:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 - x_4 - x_5 + x_6)^2 \\ (x_1 - x_2 + x_3 - x_4 - x_5 + x_6)^2 \\ (x_1 - x_2 - x_3 + x_4 + x_5 - x_6)^2 \\ (x_1 + x_2 - x_3 + x_4 + x_5 - x_6)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

In order to prove that the above quadratic linear  $H$  has no ditto linear triangularization, we need the following normalization principle for triangular power linear maps.

**Proposition 5.1.** *Let  $H = (Ax)^{*d}$  be lower triangular. Then there exists an  $r$  and a  $G = (Bx)^{*d}$  which is lower triangular as well, such that  $G_1 = G_2 = \dots = G_r = 0$  and  $G_{r+1}, G_{r+2}, \dots, G_n$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{C}$ .*

*Proof.* Assume

$$\lambda_1 H_1 + \lambda_2 H_2 + \cdots + \lambda_s H_s$$

is a linear dependence relation between the components of  $H$  with  $\lambda_s \neq 0$ . After a suitable linear transformation that does not affect the fact that  $H$  is lower triangular, we have  $H_s = 0$ . Repeating this argument, we get that all linear relations between the components of  $H$  are determined by zero components of  $H$ .

Next, if  $H_s = 0$ , but  $H_i = 0$  does not hold for all  $i \leq s$ , then the map  $P^{-1} \circ H \circ P$  with  $P = (x_2, \dots, x_s, x_1, x_{s+1}, \dots, x_n)$ , which is lower triangular as well, has more zero components at the beginning than  $H$  has, and the result follows by induction.  $\square$

Now let  $E = (x_1, x_2, x_3 + x_4 + x_5 - x_6, x_4, x_5, x_6)$ , then

$$G := E^{-1} \circ H \circ E = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 8x_1x_2 \\ (x_1 - x_2 + x_3)^2 \\ (x_1 - x_2 - x_3)^2 \\ (x_1 + x_2 - x_3)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

is a triangularization of  $H$ . In order to prove that  $H$  has no triangularization that is quadratic linear as well, we show that  $\tilde{G} = T^{-1} \circ G \circ T$  cannot be both lower triangular just as  $G$  and quadratic linear just as  $H$ .

Assume  $\lambda^t G = 0$ . Looking at  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1})^2 G_i$  for all  $i$ , we see that  $\lambda_4 + \lambda_5 + \lambda_6 = 0$ . Looking at  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_2})^2 G_i$  and  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_3})^2 G_i$  for all  $i$  as well, we see that  $\lambda_4 = \lambda_5 = \lambda_6 = 0$ . Since  $G_1 = G_2 = 0$ ,  $\lambda_3 = 0$  and the last four components of  $G$  are linearly independent.

Assume that  $\tilde{G}$  is lower triangular. From proposition 5.1, it follows that we may assume that  $\tilde{G}_1 = \tilde{G}_2 = 0$ . Since the last four components of  $G$ , and hence those of  $G(Tx)$  as well, are linearly independent, it follows from  $0 = \tilde{G}_1 = (T^{-1})_1 G(Tx)$  that the last four coordinates of  $(T^{-1})_1$  are zero. Similarly, the last four coordinates of  $(T^{-1})_2$  are zero. Since  $\tilde{G}$  is lower triangular, we have  $\tilde{G}_3 \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2]$ , whence  $(T^{-1}G)_3 = \tilde{G}_3(T^{-1}x) \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2]$  as well.

Looking at  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} G_i$  for all  $i$ , it follows that  $(T^{-1}G)_3 \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2]$ , if and only if  $(T^{-1})_3$  is of the form

$$T_3^{-1} = (\mu_1 \ \mu_2 \ \mu_3 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)$$

Assume  $\tilde{G}_3$  is the square of a linear form. Then  $(T^{-1}G)_3$  is such a square as well. This requires  $\mu_3 = 0$ , so the first three rows of  $T^{-1}$  are dependent. Contradiction, so  $\tilde{G}_3$  is not the square of a linear form.

In [12, Th. 8.4.2], a special cubic linear map is given that is not linearly triangularizable; the proof follows from [12, Th 7.4.4] and [12, Th 8.3.2]. Another



power linear map that is not linearly triangularizable is

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ (x_1 + x_5 - x_6 + x_7 - x_9)^2 \\ (x_2 + x_5 - x_6 + x_7 - x_9)^2 \\ (x_2 + x_3 - x_8)^2 \\ (x_3 - x_8)^2 \\ (x_4 - x_8)^2 \\ (x_5 - x_6 + x_7 - x_9)^2 \\ (x_1 + x_4 - x_8)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The proof that this quadratic linear map cannot linearly be triangularized at all uses the same techniques as above, and is left as an exercise to the reader. Since for a triangular special homogeneous map  $x + H$ , either the first or the last component of  $H$  is zero, triangularizability of a power linear map  $H$  implies that its components are linearly dependent over  $\mathbb{C}$ . So one can ask whether the components of  $H$  need to be linearly dependent. This is not the case: in [3], the second author shows that there exists a cubic linear counterexample to this linear dependence problem in dimension 53.

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