

## The Set of Contractions for an Indefinite Inner Product

Tsuyoshi Ando

Department of Mathematics, Hokkaido University, Kita, Sapporo, Hokka 060, Japan

ando@es.hokudai.ac.jp

An invertible Hermitian matrix  $H$  gives rise to an (indefinite) inner product. A matrix  $A$  is called an  $H$ -(strict) contraction (or to be  $H$ -contractive) if  $H > A^*HA$ . It is well-known that a matrix  $A$  is  $H$ -contractive for suitable  $H$  if and only if  $A$  has no eigenvalue on the unit circle. It seems difficult, however, to determine when a pair of matrices is  $H$ -contractive for common (hidden)  $H$ . In this talk we treat a milder problem of characterization for a set of matrices to coincide with the set of all  $H$ -contractions for suitable (hidden)  $H$ .