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Nonnegative Square Matrices^{1/}

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Square matrices, all of whose elements are nonnegative, have played an important role in the probabilistic theory of finite Markov chains (See [4] and the references there given) and, more recently, in the study of linear models in economics [2], [3], [8], [9], [12] to [17] and [20].

The properties of such matrices were first investigated by Perron [18], [19], and then very thoroughly by Frobenius [5], [6], [7]. Lately Wielandt [22] has given notably more simple proofs for the results of Frobenius.

In Section 1 we study nonnegative indecomposable matrices from a different point of view (that of the Brouwer fixed point theorem); a concise proof of their basic properties is thus obtained. In Section 2 properties of a general nonnegative square matrix A are derived from those of nonnegative indecomposable matrices. In Section 3 theorems about the matrix $sI-A$ are proved; they cover in a unified manner a number of results recurrently used in economics. In Section 4 a systematic study of the convergence of A^p when p tends to infinity (A is a general complex matrix) is linked to combinatorial properties of nonnegative square matrices.

Unless otherwise specified, all matrices considered will have real elements. We define for $A = (a_{ij})$, $B = (b_{ij})$:

$$A \leq B \text{ if } a_{ij} \leq b_{ij} \text{ for all } i, j$$

$$A \leq B \text{ if } A \leq B \text{ and } A \neq B$$

$$A < B \text{ if } a_{ij} < b_{ij} \text{ for all } ij$$

Primed letters denote transposes.

When A is an n·n matrix, $A_T = TAT^{-1}$ denotes the transform of A by the nonsingular n·n matrix T.

1. Nonnegative Indecomposable Matrices

An n·n matrix A ($n \geq 2$) is said to be indecomposable if for no permutation matrix Π , does $A_{\Pi} = \Pi A \Pi^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_{22} \end{pmatrix}$ where A_{11}, A_{22} are square.

Theorem I. Let $A \geq 0$ be indecomposable. Then

1. A has a characteristic root $r > 0$ such that
2. to r can be associated an eigen-vector $x_0 > 0$
3. if α is any characteristic root of A, $|\alpha| \leq r$
4. r increases when any element of A increases
5. r is a simple root.

Proof. 1. a) If $x \geq 0$, then $Ax \geq 0$. For if $Ax = 0$ A would have a column of zeros, and so would not be indecomposable.

1. b) A has a characteristic root $r > 0$.

Let $S = \{x \in R^n \mid x \geq 0, \sum x_i = 1\}$ be the fundamental simplex in the Euclidean n-space, R^n . If $x \in S$, we define $T(x) = \frac{1}{\rho(x)} Ax$ where $\rho(x) > 0$ is so determined that $T(x) \in S$ (by 1.a) such a ρ exists for every $x \in S$). Clearly $T(x)$ is a continuous transformation of S into itself, so, by the Brouwer fixed-point theorem (see for example [11]), there is an $x_0 \in S$ with $x_0 = T(x_0) = \frac{1}{\rho(x_0)} Ax_0$. Put $r = \rho(x_0)$.

2. $x_0 > 0$. Suppose that after applying a proper π , $\tilde{x}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $\xi > 0$.

Partition A_π accordingly. $A_\pi \tilde{x}_0 = r\tilde{x}_0$ yields $\begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} r & \xi \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$,

thus $A_{21} \xi = 0$, so $A_{21} = 0$, violating the indecomposability of A .

If $M = (m_{ij})$ is a matrix, we henceforth denote by M^* the matrix $M^* = (|m_{ij}|)$.

3 - 4. If $0 \leq B \leq A$, and if β is a characteristic root of B , then $|\beta| \leq r$. Moreover $|\beta| = r$ implies $B = A$.

A is indecomposable and therefore has a characteristic root $r_1 > 0$ with an eigen-vector $x_1 > 0$: $Ax_1 = r_1x_1$. Moreover $\beta y = By$. Taking absolute values and using the triangle inequality, we obtain

$$(i) \quad |\beta| y^* \leq By^* \leq Ay^*. \quad \text{So}$$

$$(ii) \quad |\beta| x_1' y^* \leq x_1' Ay^* = r_1 x_1' y^*.$$

Since $x_1 > 0$, $x_1' y^* > 0$, thus $|\beta| \leq r_1$.

Putting $B = A$ one obtains $|\beta| \leq r_1$. In particular $r \leq r_1$ and since, similarly, $r_1 \leq r$, r_1 is equal to r .

Going back to the comparison of B and A and assuming that $|\beta| = r$ one gets from (i) and (ii)

$$ry^* = By^* = Ay^*.$$

From $ry^* = Ay^*$, application of 2 gives $y^* > 0$.

Thus $By^* = Ay^*$ together with $B \leq A$ yields $B = A$.

5. a) If B is a principal submatrix of A and β a characteristic root of B , $|\beta| < r$.

β is also a characteristic root of the $n \times n$ matrix $\bar{B} = \begin{pmatrix} B & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Since A is indecomposable, $\bar{B} \leq A_\pi$ for a proper π and $|\beta| < r$ (by 3 - 4).

5. b) r is a simple root of $\Phi(t) = \det(tI - A) = 0$.

$\Phi'(r)$ is the sum of the principal $(n-1) \cdot (n-1)$ minors of $\det(rI - A)$.

Let A_1 be one of the principal $(n-1) \cdot (n-1)$ submatrices of A . By 5.a)

$\det(tI - A_1)$ cannot vanish for $t = r$, whence $\det(rI - A_1) > 0$ and $\Phi'(r) > 0$.^{2/}

With a proof practically identical to that of 3 - 4, one obtains the more general result:

If B is a complex matrix such that $B^* = A$, A indecomposable, and if β is a characteristic root of B , then $|\beta| = r$. Moreover $|\beta| = r$ implies $B^* = A$.

More precisely if $\beta = re^{i\varphi}$, $B = e^{i\varphi} DAD^{-1}$ where D is a diagonal matrix such that $D^* = I$. A proof of this last fact is given in ([22] p. 646, lines 4 - 11).

From this can be derived

Theorem II. Let $A \neq 0$ be indecomposable. If the characteristic equation $\det(tI - A) = 0$ has altogether k roots of absolute value r , the set of n roots (with their orders of multiplicity) is invariant under a rotation about the origin through an angle of $\frac{2\pi}{k}$, but not under rotations through smaller angles. Moreover there is a permutation matrix Π such that

$$(1) \quad \Pi A \Pi^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & A_{12} & 0 & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_{23} & \cdot & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdot & A_{k-1,k} \\ A_{k1} & 0 & 0 & \cdot & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{with square submatrices on}$$

the diagonal.

Again the reader is referred to the excellent proof of Wielandt [22, p. 646 - 647].^{4/}

If $k = 1$, the indecomposable matrix $A = 0$ is said to be primitive.

2. Nonnegative Square Matrices

If A is an $n \times n$ matrix, there clearly exists a permutation matrix Π such that

$$\Pi A \Pi^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & & * \\ & A_2 & \\ 0 & & \ddots \\ & & & A_H \end{bmatrix}$$

where the A_h are square submatrices on the

diagonal and every A_h is either indecomposable or a 1-1 matrix.

The properties of A will therefore be easily derived from those of the A_h . For example $\det(tI - A) = \prod_{h=1}^H \det(tI - A_h)$ and Theorem I gives

Theorem I*. If $A \geq 0$ is a square matrix, then

1. A has a characteristic root $r \geq 0$ such that
2. to r can be associated an eigen-vector $x_0 \geq 0$
3. if α is any characteristic root of A , $|\alpha| \leq r$
4. r does not decrease when an element of A increases.

Let r_h be the maximal nonnegative characteristic root of A_h , we take $r = \max_h r_h$; 1 - 3 - 4 are then immediate. To prove 2 we consider a sequence A_ℓ of $n \times n$ matrices converging to A such that for all ℓ $A_\ell \geq 0$. Let r_ℓ be the maximal positive characteristic root of A_ℓ , $x_\ell > 0$ its associated eigen-vector so chosen that $x_\ell \in S$, the fundamental simplex of R^n . Clearly r_ℓ tends to r . Let us then select $x_0 \in S$ a limit point of the set (x_ℓ) ; thus there is a subsequence $x_{\ell'}$ converging to $x_0 \geq 0$ and for every ℓ' , $A_{\ell'} x_{\ell'} = r_{\ell'} x_{\ell'}$, therefore $Ax_0 = rx_0$.

5 of Theorem I no longer holds, but 5.a) becomes:

If B is a principal submatrix of A and β a characteristic root of B , $|\beta| \leq r$.

The proof, almost identical, now rests on 4 of Theorem I*.

3. Properties of $sI-A$ for $s > r$.

In this section $A \geq 0$ is an $n \times n$ matrix, r is its maximal nonnegative characteristic root.

Lemma*: If for an $x \geq 0$, $Ax \leq sx$ (resp. \geq), then $r \leq s$ (resp. \geq).

If for an $x \geq 0$, $Ax < sx$ (resp. $>$), then $r < s$ (resp. $>$).

The proofs of the four statements being practically identical, we present only that of the first one. Let $x_0 \geq 0$ be a characteristic vector of A' associated with r (2 of Theorem I*): $A'x_0 = rx_0$. $Ax \leq sx$ with $x \geq 0$, therefore $x_0'Ax \leq sx_0'x$ i.e., $rx_0'x \leq sx_0'x$ and, since $x_0'x > 0$, $r \leq s$.

We now derive two theorems (III* and III) from the study of the equation

$$(2) \quad (sI-A)x = y$$

Theorem III*. $(sI-A)^{-1} \geq 0$ if and only if $s > r$.

Sufficiency. Since $s > r$ (2) has a unique solution $x = (sI-A)^{-1}y$ for every y ; we show that $y \geq 0$ implies $x \geq 0$.

If x had negative components (2) could be given the form [by proper (identical) permutations of the rows and columns and partition]

$$\begin{bmatrix} sI-A_1 & -A_{12} \\ -A_{21} & sI-A_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = y$$

where $x_1 \geq 0$, $x_2 \geq 0$, $y \geq 0$. Therefore $-(sI-A_1)x_1 - A_{12}x_2 \geq 0$ i.e., $-(sI-A_1)x_1 \geq 0$ i.e., $A_1x_1 \leq sx_1$. From the Lemma* the maximal non-negative characteristic root of A_1 , $r_1 \leq s$, a contradiction to the fact that $r = r_1$. (See end of Section 2) and $s > r$.

Necessity. Since $(sI-A)^{-1} \geq 0$ to a $y \geq 0$ corresponds an $x \geq 0$. Therefore from $sx - Ax = y$ follows $Ax < sx$ and, by the Lemma*, $r < s$.

If A is indecomposable these results can be sharpened to the

Lemma: Let A be indecomposable

if for an $x \geq 0$, $Ax \leq ax$ (resp. \geq), then $r \leq s$ (resp. \geq).

if for an $x \geq 0$, $Ax \leq ax$ (resp. \geq), then $r < s$ (resp. $>$).

The proofs, practically identical to those of the Lemma*, use a positive characteristic vector of A' associated with r . One of these statements indeed has already been proved in 3 - 4 of Theorem I.

Theorem III. Let A be indecomposable. $(sI-A)^{-1} > 0$ if and only if $s > r$.

Sufficiency. We show that $y \geq 0$ implies $x > 0$. It is already known (from the proof of sufficiency of Theorem III*) that $x \geq 0$. If x had zero components, (2) could be given the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} sI-A_1 & -A_{12} \\ -A_{21} & sI-A_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = y$$

where $x_1 = 0$, $x_2 > 0$, $y \geq 0$. Therefore $-A_{12} x_2 \geq 0$, and, since $x_2 > 0$, $A_{12} = 0$ violating the indecomposability of A .

The Necessity has already been proved since $(sI-A)^{-1} > 0$ implies $(sI-A)^{-1} \geq 0$.^{6/}

Theorem IV. The principal minors of $sI-A$ of orders 1, ..., n are all positive if and only if $s > r$.

Sufficiency. $\det(tI-A)$ cannot vanish for $t > r$, thus $\det(sI-A) > 0$ for $s > r$. Similarly, the maximal nonnegative characteristic root of a principal submatrix of A is not larger than r (see end of Section 2), it is therefore smaller than s , and the corresponding minor of $sI-A$ is positive.

Necessity. The derivative of order m ($< n$) of $\det(tI-A)$ with respect to t , for $t = s$, is a sum of principal minors of order $(n-m) \cdot (n-m)$ of $sI-A$ and thus is positive. As its derivatives of all orders $(0, 1, \dots, n-1, n)$ are positive for $t = s$, the polynomial $\det(tI-A)$ can vanish for no $t \geq s$ i.e., $s > r$.^{7/}

Since a square matrix with nonpositive (resp. negative) off-diagonal elements can always be given the form $sI-A$ where $A \geq 0$ (resp. > 0), results

such as those of Chipman [2], [3], Goodwin [8], Hawkins and Simon [9], Metzler [12] to [15], Morishima [16],^{8/} Mosak [17], Solow [20] are all contained in the above.

4. Convergence of A^{p^2}

Theorem V. Let A be a n·n complex matrix. The sequence $A, A^2, \dots, A^p, \dots$ of its powers converges if and only if

1. any characteristic root α of A satisfies either $|\alpha| < 1$ or $\alpha = 1$
2. when the second case occurs the order of multiplicity of the root 1 equals the dimension of the eigen-vector space associated with that root.

There is a nonsingular complex matrix T such that

$$A_T = TAT^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} J_1 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & J_1 & \\ 0 & & & \ddots \\ & & & & J_q \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{where } J_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_\ell 1 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ 0 & & \alpha_\ell 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \\ & & & & & \alpha_\ell \end{bmatrix}$$

is a square matrix on the diagonal and α_ℓ a characteristic root of A. To every root α_ℓ corresponds at least one J_1 . (For this reduction of A to its Jordan canonical form see for example [21]).

Since

$$TA^{p^2}T^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} J_1^{p^2} & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & J_1^{p^2} & \\ 0 & & & \ddots \\ & & & & J_q^{p^2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad A^{p^2} \text{ converges}$$

if and only if every one of the $J_1^{p^2}$ converges. Let us therefore study one of them; for this purpose we drop the subscripts 1 and ℓ .

J is a $k \times k$ matrix of the form $J = \alpha I + M$ where $M = (m_{st})$:
 $m_{st} = 1$ if $t = s + 1$, $m_{st} = 0$ otherwise.

$$J^p = \alpha^p I + \binom{p}{1} \alpha^{p-1} M + \dots + \binom{p}{k-1} \alpha^{p-k+1} M^{k-1}$$

It is easily seen that for M^h , $m_{st}^{(h)} = 1$ if $t = s + h$ and $m_{st}^{(h)} = 0$ otherwise. Thus $M^h = 0$ if $h \geq k$; also the nonzero elements of M^h and $M^{h'}$ ($h \neq h'$) never occur in the same place so J^p converges if and only if every term of the right-hand sum does.

The first term shows that necessarily either $|\alpha| < 1$ or $\alpha = 1$.

If $|\alpha| < 1$, every term tends to zero and J^p converges.

If $\alpha = 1$ no term other than the first one converges and necessarily $k = 1$ i.e., $J = [1]$; clearly J^p converges in this case.

We wish however to obtain for this necessary and sufficient condition of convergence an expression independent of a reduction to Jordan canonical form.

Consider then an arbitrary non complex matrix A and let \mathcal{J} be the set of i for which J_i corresponds to the root 1. The equation $A_T x = x$, in which x is partitioned in the same way as A_T , yields $J_i x_i = x_i$ for all i i.e.,
 if $i \notin \mathcal{J}$, $x_i = 0$

if $i \in \mathcal{J}$ all components of x_i but the first one equal zero.

Thus the dimension of the eigen-vector space associated with the root 1 equals the number of elements of \mathcal{J} . This number, in turn, equals the order of multiplicity of the root 1 if and only if $J_i = [1]$ for all $i \in \mathcal{J}$.

We now assume that the limit C exists and give its expression. If 1 is not a characteristic root of A , $C = 0$. Let therefore 1 be a root of A of order μ . Thus x (resp. y), an eigen-vector of A (resp. A^μ) associated with the root 1, has the form $x = X \xi$ (resp. $y = Y \eta$) where X (resp. Y) is a

$n \times \mu$ matrix of rank μ and ξ (resp. η) is a $\mu \times 1$ matrix. For an arbitrary x the relation $AA^p x = A^{p+1} x$ gives in the limit $ACx = Cx$ i.e., $Cx = X \xi(x)$. To determine $\xi(x)$ we remark that $Y' = Y'A$ i.e., by iteration $Y^0 = Y^0 A^p$, and therefore $Y^0 = Y^0 C$; thus $Y^0 x = Y^0 Cx = Y^0 X \xi(x)$. $Y^0 X$ is a nonsingular $\mu \times \mu$ matrix i.e., $\xi(x) = (Y^0 X)^{-1} Y^0 x$. Finally for all x , $Cx = X(Y^0 X)^{-1} Y^0 x$ i.e., $C = X (Y^0 X)^{-1} Y^0$.

Corollary. Let $A \geq 0$ be indecomposable and 1 be its maximal positive characteristic root. The sequence A^p converges if and only if A is primitive.

The necessity is obvious. The sufficiency follows from the fact that 1 is a simple root.

Let then $x_0 > 0$ (resp. $y_0 > 0$) be an eigen-vector of A (resp. A') associated with the root 1, the limit C of A^p has the simple expression

$$C = \frac{x_0 y_0'}{y_0' x_0} \cdot$$

Clearly $C > 0$, thus if the indecomposable matrix $A \geq 0$ is primitive, there is a positive integer m such that $A^p > 0$ when $p \geq m$. The converse is an immediate consequence of the decomposition (1) of Theorem II. 11/

Footnotes

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2. In any row or column of a permutation matrix one element equals 1, the others equal 0. $\Pi A \Pi^{-1}$ is obtained by performing the same permutation on the rows and on the columns of A.

3. As an immediate consequence of 4 one obtains:

$$\min \sum_j a_{ij} \leq r \leq \max \sum_j a_{ij}$$

and one equality holds only if all row sums are equal (then they both hold).

This is proved by increasing (resp. decreasing) some elements of A so as to make all row sums equal to $\max \sum_j a_{ij}$ (resp. $\min \sum_j a_{ij}$). A similar result naturally holds for column sums.

4. Decomposition (1) can indeed be completely characterized.

Lemma. Let A be a square complex matrix such that $\Pi A \Pi^{-1}$ has form (1) and let $B_1 = A_{i,i+1} \times \dots \times A_{k-1,k} \times \dots \times A_{i-1,i}$. For $\alpha \neq 0$ to be a characteristic root of A it is necessary (resp. sufficient) that α^k be a characteristic root of every (resp. one) B_1 .

After proper partition of x, an eigen-vector of A_Π associated with the root α , the equation $A_\Pi x = \alpha x$ becomes

$$(1') \quad A_{i,i+1} x_{i+1} = \alpha x_i \quad (i=1, \dots, k) \quad \text{which implies}$$

$$(1'') \quad B_1 x_1 = \alpha^k x_1. \quad \text{Since no } x_i \text{ can vanish (by (1')} \text{ they all would), } \alpha^k \text{ is a characteristic root of every } B_1.$$

Conversely let α^k be a characteristic root of B_1 and x_1 an associated eigen-vector, we construct a vector x, whose i^{th} component is x_i , and such that $A_\Pi x = \alpha x$. The $(i-1)^{\text{th}}$ equation (1') determines x_{i-1} ; $x_{i-2}, \dots, x_1, x_k, \dots, x_{i+2}, x_{i+1}$ are determined in turn; the i^{th} equation is redundant because of (1'').

As an immediate consequence of the lemma one finds

Theorem. Let $A \geq 0$ be indecomposable. For A to have exactly k characteristic roots of maximum absolute value r it is necessary (resp. sufficient) that A can be brought to form (1) where every (resp. one) B_i has no other characteristic root of maximum absolute value s_i than s_i itself.

Naturally $s_i = r^k$ for every i .

5. A stochastic $n \times n$ matrix P is defined by $p_{ij} \geq 0$ for all i, j and $\sum_j p_{ij} = 1$ for all i . Clearly 1 is a characteristic root of P (take an eigen-vector with all components equal). 1 is therefore a root of some of the indecomposable matrices P_1, P_2, \dots, P_h . Suppose that 1 is a root of P_h , it follows from Footnote (3) that all row sums of P_h are equal to 1, i.e.,

$$\Pi P \Pi^{-1} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline P_1 & * \\ \hline \hline & P_h \quad 0 \\ \hline & & * \\ \hline 0 & & P_h \\ \hline \end{array}$$

This simple remark

makes properties of stochastic matrices (the subject of the theory of finite Markov chains; see [4] and its references) ready consequences of the results of this article.

6. It is worth [9] emphasizing a result obtained in the proof of necessity of Theorem III*.

Remark. Let $A \geq 0$ (resp. $A \geq 0$ indecomposable) be a square matrix. If for a $y > 0$ (resp. $y \geq 0$), $x \geq 0$, then $(sI-A)^{-1} \geq 0$ [resp. $(sI-A)^{-1} > 0$].

The proof of indecomposable matrices uses the Lemma instead of the Lemma*.

7. We give a last property useful in economics [14], [15].

Theorem. Let $A > 0$ be a square matrix and let C_{ij} be the cofactor of the i^{th} row, j^{th} column element of $sI-A$. If $s > \sum_j a_{ij}$ for all i , then $i \neq j$ implies $C_{ii} > C_{ij}$.

Let us define the matrix $B = (b_{pq})$ as follows:

$$b_{pq} = a_{pq} \text{ if } p \neq i; \quad b_{iq} = 0 \text{ if } i \neq q \neq j; \quad b_{ii} = \frac{s}{2} = b_{ij}.$$

B is indecomposable, moreover $\sum_q b_{iq} = s$, $\sum_q b_{pq} < s$ for $p \neq i$.

Therefore (see Footnote 3) the maximal positive characteristic root of B , $r(B) < s$. Thus $\det (sI-B) > 0$; a development according to the i^{th} row yields:

$$\frac{s}{2} C_{ii} - \frac{s}{2} C_{ij} > 0.$$

8. Morishima studies square matrices A such that for a permutation matrix Π ,

$$\Pi A \Pi^{-1} = A_{\Pi} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } A_{11} \geq 0 \text{ and } A_{22} \geq 0 \text{ are square,}$$

$A_{12} \leq 0, A_{21} \leq 0$. The relation

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & C \\ 0 & -I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & -A_{12} \\ -A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

shows how properties of A_{Π} can be immediately derived from those of the non-negative matrix

$$A_{\Pi}^S = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & -A_{12} \\ -A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

In particular A_{Π} and A_{Π}^S have the same characteristic roots.

9. The Cesaro convergence of A^p , i.e., the convergence of $\frac{1}{p} (A + A^2 + \dots + A^p)$ can be studied in exactly the same fashion.

10. $X_{\Pi} = TX$ (resp. $Y_{\Pi}^i = Y^i T^{-1}$) plays for A_{Π} the same role as X (resp. Y^i) does for A . Moreover $Y^i X = Y_{\Pi}^i X_{\Pi}$. The right-hand matrix is nonsingular for the form taken by the Jordan matrix A_{Π} in the convergence case implies that the eigen-vector space U generated by X_{Π} is identical with the eigen-vector space V generated by Y_{Π} . Thus $Y_{\Pi}^i X_{\Pi} \xi = 0$ implies $X_{\Pi} \xi = 0$ (there is no vector different from zero in U perpendicular to V , i.e., to U) therefore $\xi = 0$ since the rank of X_{Π} is n .

11. This characterization of a primitive matrix is typical of the purely combinatorial properties of the nonnegative square matrix A (used for example in the theory of communication networks): the smallest m satisfying the above condition is independent of the values of the nonzero elements of A as long as they stay positive.

The development of combinatorial techniques adapted to the treatment of such properties is the subject of [10].

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