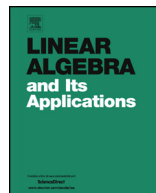




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Linear Algebra and its Applications

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Discrete norms of a matrix and the converse to the expander mixing lemma



Vsevolod F. Lev

Department of Mathematics, The University of Haifa at Oranim, Tivon 36006, Israel

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 22 October 2014

Accepted 30 May 2015

Available online 10 June 2015

Submitted by R. Brualdi

MSC:

primary 05C50

secondary 15A18, 15A60

Keywords:

Matrix norms

Graph eigenvalues

Second singular value

ABSTRACT

We define the *discrete norm* of a complex $m \times n$ matrix A by

$$\|A\|_{\Delta} := \max_{0 \neq \xi \in \{0,1\}^n} \frac{\|A\xi\|}{\|\xi\|},$$

and show that

$$\frac{c}{\sqrt{\log h(A) + 1}} \|A\| \leq \|A\|_{\Delta} \leq \|A\|,$$

where $c > 0$ is an explicitly indicated absolute constant, $h(A) = \sqrt{\|A\|_1 \|A\|_{\infty} / \|A\|}$, and $\|A\|_1$, $\|A\|_{\infty}$, and $\|A\| = \|A\|_2$ are the induced operator norms of A . Similarly, for the *discrete Rayleigh norm*

$$\|A\|_P := \max_{\substack{0 \neq \xi \in \{0,1\}^m \\ 0 \neq \eta \in \{0,1\}^n}} \frac{|\xi^t A \eta|}{\|\xi\| \|\eta\|}$$

we prove the estimate

$$\frac{c}{\log h(A) + 1} \|A\| \leq \|A\|_P \leq \|A\|.$$

These estimates are shown to be essentially best possible. As a consequence, we obtain another proof of the (slightly sharpened and generalized version of the) converse to the

E-mail address: seva@math.haifa.ac.il.

expander mixing lemma by Bollobás–Nikiforov and Bilu–Linial.

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1. Summary of results

For a complex matrix A with n columns, we define the *discrete norm* of A by

$$\|A\|_{\Delta} := \max_{0 \neq \xi \in \{0,1\}^n} \frac{\|A\xi\|}{\|\xi\|},$$

where the maximum is over all non-zero n -dimensional binary vectors ξ , and $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the usual Euclidean vector norm. Recalling the standard definition of the induced operator L^2 -norm

$$\|A\| := \sup_{0 \neq x \in \mathbb{C}^n} \frac{\|Ax\|}{\|x\|},$$

we see immediately that $\|A\|_{\Delta} \leq \|A\|$, and one can expect that, moreover, the two norms are not far from each other.

1.1. Norm estimates

Our first goal is to establish a result along the lines just indicated; to state it, we introduce the notion of a *height* of a matrix.

For $p \in [1, \infty]$, let $\|A\|_p$ denote the induced operator L^p -norm of the matrix A :

$$\|A\|_p := \sup_{0 \neq x \in \mathbb{C}^n} \frac{\|Ax\|_p}{\|x\|_p},$$

where n is the number of columns of A . We are actually interested in the following three special cases: the *column norm* $\|A\|_1$, which can be equivalently defined as the largest absolute column sum of A ; the *row norm* $\|A\|_{\infty}$, which is the largest absolute row sum of A ; and the Euclidean norm $\|A\|_2$, commonly denoted simply by $\|A\|$. These three norms are known to be related by the inequality

$$\|A\|^2 \leq \|A\|_1 \|A\|_{\infty}, \quad (1)$$

which can be obtained as a particular case of the Riesz–Thorin theorem, or proved directly, using basic properties of matrix norms (in particular, sub-multiplicativity of the L^1 -norm):

$$\|A\|^2 = \|A^*A\| \leq \|A^*A\|_1 \leq \|A^*\|_1 \|A\|_1 = \|A\|_{\infty} \|A\|_1.$$

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