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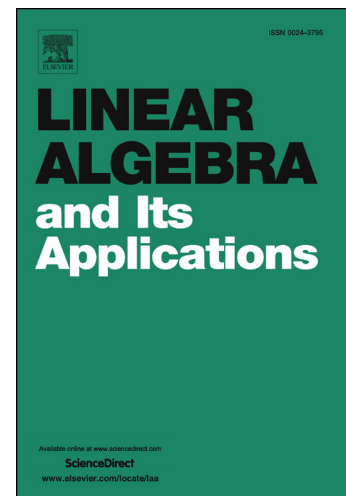
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A Necessary Condition for the Spectrum of Nonnegative Symmetric 5×5 Matrices

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Abstract

Let A be a nonnegative symmetric 5×5 matrix with eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \lambda_3 \geq \lambda_4 \geq \lambda_5$. We show that if $\sum_{i=1}^5 \lambda_i \geq \frac{1}{2}\lambda_1$ then $\lambda_3 \leq \sum_{i=1}^5 \lambda_i$. McDonald and Neumann showed that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 \geq 0$. Let $\sigma = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4, \lambda_5)$ be a list of decreasing real numbers satisfying:

1. $\sum_{i=1}^5 \lambda_i \geq \frac{1}{2}\lambda_1$,
2. $\lambda_3 \leq \sum_{i=1}^5 \lambda_i$,
3. $\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 \geq 0$,
4. the Perron property, that is $\lambda_1 = \max_{\lambda \in \sigma} |\lambda|$.

We show that σ is the spectrum of a nonnegative symmetric 5×5 matrix. Thus, we solve the symmetric nonnegative inverse eigenvalue problem for $n = 5$ in a region for which a solution has not been known before.

Keywords: Symmetric nonnegative inverse eigenvalue problem, Extreme matrix

2010 MSC: 15A29, 15B48

1. Introduction

Let $\sigma = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$ be a list of complex numbers. The problem of determining when σ is the spectrum of a nonnegative $n \times n$ matrix is called the nonnegative inverse eigenvalue problem (NIEP). If σ consists of real numbers, the problem of determining when σ is the spectrum of a nonnegative (symmetric nonnegative) $n \times n$ matrix is called RNIEP (SNIEP). All three problems are currently unsolved in the general case, more precisely for any list consisting of $n \geq 5$ numbers.

Loewy and London [6] have solved NIEP in the case of 3×3 matrices and RNIEP in the case of 4×4 matrices. Moreover, RNIEP and SNIEP are the same in the case of $n \times n$ matrices for $n \leq 4$. This can be seen from [6] and a paper by Fiedler [2]. However, it has been shown by Johnson, Laffey and Loewy [4] that RNIEP and SNIEP are different in general.

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