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IRREDUCIBLE MATRICES

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A NOTE ON THE INVERTIBILITY OF A CLASS  
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A note on the invertibility of a class of  
irreducible matrices  
Popa Constantin

ABSTRACT. M.Kaykobad present in [3] a useful criterion about the invertibility of positive matrices. We prove in this paper a generalization of this criterion for arbitrary irreducible matrices and apply the result on proving the invertibility of matrices which appear in problems of interpolation using Bernstein-Bezier curves ([2]). We obtain also like a corollary the classical criterion for the invertibility of real irreducible diagonally dominant matrices (see [1], [4]).

1. Notations and definitions.

Let  $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j}$ ,  $B = (b_{ij})_{i,j}$  square matrices of order  $n \geq 2$  with real elements. We write:  $A \geq B$  (resp.  $A > B$ ) if  $a_{ij} \geq b_{ij}$  (resp.  $a_{ij} > b_{ij}$ )  $(\forall) i, j = 1, \dots, n$ ;  $A \geq 0$  (resp.  $A > 0$ ) if  $a_{ij} \geq 0$  (resp.  $a_{ij} > 0$ )  $(\forall) i, j = 1, \dots, n$ . We use the same notations for vectors  $a = (a_i)_i$ ,  $b = (b_i)_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . By  $|A|$  we understand the matrix with elements  $|a_{ij}|$ ,  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ . If  $a = (a_i)$ ,  $b = (b_i)$  are two vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  we note by  $\langle a, b \rangle$  the scalar product of  $a$  and  $b$ , i.e.  $\langle a, b \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_i$ .

Definition. A  $n \times n$  real or complex matrix  $A$  is reducible if there is a permutation matrix  $P$  such that:

$$P A P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where  $A_{11}$  and  $A_{22}$  are square matrices. A matrix  $A$  is irreducible if it is not reducible.

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It is well known the following characterization of irreducible matrices (see for ex. [4], [5]).

Proposition 1. A  $n \times n$ , real or complex matrix  $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j}$  is irreducible if and only if, for any two distinct indices  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , there is a sequence of nonzero elements of  $A$  of the form

$$a_{i,i_1}, a_{i_1,i_2}, \dots, a_{i_m,j} \quad (2)$$

Corrolary 1.  $A$  is irreducible if and only if  $A^T$  is irreducible (where  $A^T$  is the transpose of  $A$ ).

Definition. A real or complex  $n \times n$  matrix  $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j}$  is diagonally dominant if:

$$|a_{ii}| \geq \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \quad (3)$$

The matrix is irreducibly diagonally dominant if it is irreducible diagonally dominant and strict inequality holds in (3) for at least one  $i$ .

We know the following result

Proposition 2. If  $A$  is irreducibly diagonally dominant then  $A$  is invertible.

## 2. The main theorem

In [3] is proved the following

Theorem (partial statement). Suppose that  $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j} \geq 0$ ,  $a_{ii} > 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $b = (b_i)_i > 0$ . If we have:

$$b_i > \sum_{j \neq i} a_{ij} \frac{b_j}{a_{jj}}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \quad (4)$$

then  $A$  is invertible.

We'll make a generalization of this theorem for irreducible matrices with arbitrary real elements. The main result of the paper is



Theorem 1. Let  $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j}$  be a real  $n \times n$  irreducible matrix, with  $a_{ii} \neq 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . If a vector  $b = (b_i)_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $b > 0$ , exist with the property:

$$b_i > \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{|a_{ij}|}{|a_{jj}|} \cdot b_j, \quad (\forall) \quad i = 1, \dots, n \quad (5)$$

and strict inequality holds in (5) for at least one  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , then  $A$  is invertible.

Proof. Let  $D = \text{diag} \{a_{11}, \dots, a_{nn}\}$ ,  $B = A D^{-1} - I$ ,  $A_1 = |A|$ ,  $D_1 = \text{diag} \{|a_{11}|, \dots, |a_{nn}|\}$  and  $B_1 = A_1 D_1^{-1} - I$  (where  $I$  is the unit  $n \times n$  matrix). We have  $B_1 = |B|$ . Let  $\rho_1 = \rho(B_1)$  the spectral radius of  $B_1$  and  $c = (I - B_1) \cdot b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Accordingly to (5) we have  $c > 0$ .  $A_1$  irreducible implies  $A_1^T$  irreducible (corrolary 1), so  $B_1^T$  is irreducible. But  $B_1^T > 0$ , then by Peron-Frobenius theorem ([1], p.195, th.3.5) there exist a vector  $d = (d_i)_i > 0$  such that

$$B_1^T d = \rho_1 d$$

Then we have

$$\langle d, c \rangle = \langle d, (I - B_1)b \rangle = (1 - \rho_1) \langle d, b \rangle > 0$$

which implies  $\rho_1 < 1$ . Let suppose that  $\rho_1 = 1$ .

Then  $B_1^T d = d$ , so  $(I - B_1)^T d = 0$  and we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle (I - B_1)^T d, b \rangle = \langle d, (I - B_1)b \rangle = \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n d_i (b_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{|a_{ij}|}{|a_{jj}|} \cdot b_j) > d_{i_0} (b_{i_0} - \sum_{j \neq i_0} \frac{|a_{i_0 j}|}{|a_{jj}|} \cdot b_j) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

Absurd! (where  $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  is an index for which strict inequality holds in (5)). Then  $\rho(B_1) < 1$ . But if  $\rho = \rho(B)$  is the spectral radius of the matrix  $B$  we know that ([5], p.109):

$$\rho(B) \leq \rho(|B|) = \rho(B_1) < 1.$$

Then  $\rho < 1$ , so  $I + B$  is invertible ([5], p.26). But  $I + B = A D^{-1}$  by the definition of matrix  $B$ , so that  $A$  is invertible.  $\square$

We may obtain the "transpose" statement of the theorem 1.

Corrolary 2. Let  $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j}$  be a real  $n \times n$  irreducible matrix with  $a_{ii} \neq 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . If a vector  $b = (b_i)_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $b > 0$ , exist with the property:

$$b_i \geq \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{|a_{ji}|}{|a_{jj}|} \cdot b_j, i = 1, \dots, n \quad (6)$$

and strict inequality holds in (6) for at least one  $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , then A is invertible:  $\square$

We have also

Corrolary 3. If A is a real  $n \times n$  matrix with  $a_{ii} \neq 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  such that A or  $A^T$  is irreducibly diagonally dominant, then A is invertible.

Proof. We apply theorem 1 for the matrix  $C = \frac{a_{ij}}{a_{jj}}_{i,j}$  and the vector  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $b = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ .  $\square$

Remarks.

a) Corrolary 3 is exactly proposition 2 for the case of real matrices.

b) The condition in theorem 1 about the existence of an index  $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that (5) holds strictly is really necessary. Indeed for the matrix.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

which is not invertible ( $Ax_0 = 0$ , where  $x_0 = (1, -1, 1, -1)$ ) we'll prove that  $(\forall) b = (b_i)_i \in \mathbb{R}^4$ ,  $b > 0$  such that (5) holds, then none of these inequalities cannot be strict.

Indeed, if  $b$  satisfies (5) it is easy to see that  $b_1 = b_2 = b_3 = b_4 = \alpha > 0$ . Then if we suppose that one of the



inequalities from (5) is strictly satisfied for example with  $i = i_0$  we'll have:

$$\alpha > \sum_{j \neq i_0} 2 a_{i_0 j} \alpha = 2\alpha \sum_{j \neq i_0} a_{i_0 j} = 2\alpha \frac{1}{2} = \alpha \quad \text{Absurd!}$$

### 3. Application.

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $u_0, u_1, \dots, u_n, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in (0,1)$  be arbitrary constants. We consider the following matrices of order  $n+1$ :

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} b_0 & c_0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & \dots & a_{n-1} & b_{n-1} & c_{n-1} \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 & a_n & b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} b'_0 & c'_0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a'_0 \\ a'_1 & b'_1 & c'_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a'_2 & b'_2 & c'_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a'_{n-1} & b'_{n-1} & c'_{n-1} \\ c'_n & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 & a'_n & b'_n \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= 0 & ; & & c_0 &= \lambda_1 \\ a_n &= 1 - \lambda_n & ; & & c_n &= 0 \\ a_i &= (1 - \lambda_i)(1 - u_i)^2; & c_i &= u_i^2 \lambda_{i+1}, & i &= 1, \dots, n-1 \\ b_i &= 1 - (a_i + c_i), & i &= 0, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} a'_0 &= (1 - \lambda_{n+1}) (1 - u_0)^2; & c'_0 &= u_0^2 \lambda_1 \\ a'_i &= (1 - \lambda_i) (1 - u_i)^2; & c'_i &= u_i^2 \lambda_{i+1}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ b_i &= 1 - (a'_i + c'_i), & i &= 0, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

These matrices appear in problems concerning the interpolation with Bernstein-Bezier curves (see for ex. [2]). Using theorem 1 we'll prove that A and B are invertible so that the interpolation problem has unique solution.

For example for matrix A we'll put

$$\beta_i = \gamma_i \cdot b_i, \quad i = 0, \dots, n \quad (7)$$

where  $\gamma_i$  are positive numbers which satisfies:

$$\frac{\gamma_0}{\gamma_1} = \frac{\lambda_1}{1 - \lambda_1}; \quad \frac{\gamma_1}{\gamma_2} = \frac{\lambda_2}{1 - \lambda_2}; \quad \dots; \quad \frac{\gamma_{n-1}}{\gamma_n} = \frac{\lambda_n}{1 - \lambda_n} \quad (8)$$

We then have  $\beta_i > 0$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, n$  and:

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_1 \cdot \frac{\lambda_1}{b_1} &= \gamma_1 \cdot b_1 \cdot \frac{\lambda_1}{b_1} = \gamma_1 \lambda_1 = \gamma_0 \cdot (1 - \lambda_1) = \gamma_0 b_0 = \beta_0 \\ \beta_i \cdot \frac{(1 - \lambda_{i+1})(1 - u_{i+1})^2}{b_i} &+ \beta_{i+2} \cdot \frac{u_{i+1}^2 \lambda_{i+2}}{b_{i+2}} = \\ &= \gamma_i (1 - \lambda_{i+1})(1 - u_{i+1})^2 + \gamma_{i+2} \lambda_{i+2} u_{i+1}^2 = \\ &= \gamma_{i+1} \lambda_{i+1} (1 - u_{i+1})^2 + \gamma_{i+1} (1 - \lambda_{i+2}) u_{i+1}^2 = \\ &= \gamma_{i+1} \left[ 1 - (1 - \lambda_{i+1})(1 - u_{i+1})^2 - \lambda_{i+2} u_{i+1}^2 + (1 - u_{i+1})^2 + u_{i+1}^2 \right] \\ &= \beta_{i+1} - 2 \gamma_{i+1} u_{i+1} (1 - u_{i+1}) < \beta_{i+1}, \quad i = 0, \dots, n-2 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\beta_{n-1} \cdot \frac{1 - \lambda_n}{b_{n-1}} = \gamma_{n-1} (1 - \lambda_n) = \gamma_n \lambda_n = \gamma_n b_n = \beta_n$$

So the matrix A (which is irreducible, [5] pag.105) and the vector  $\beta = (\beta_0, \dots, \beta_n)$  defined in (7)-(8) verifies conditions of theorem 1. Then A is invertible. For the matrix



we observe first that the associated graph is strongly connected so B is irreducible (see [5], p.105, 6.2.4). Then using the same vector  $\beta = (\beta_0, \dots, \beta_n)$  like for the matrix A we obtain, using theorem 1, that also B is invertible.

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