

## GENERALIZED POWER SYMMETRIC STOCHASTIC MATRICES

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(Communicated by Jeffrey N. Kahn)

ABSTRACT. We characterize stochastic matrices  $A$  which satisfy the equation  $(A^p)^T = A^m$  where  $p < m$  are positive integers.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

An  $n \times n$  matrix is called stochastic if every entry is nonnegative and each row sum is one. The transpose of the matrix  $A$  will be denoted by  $A^T$ . A matrix  $A$  is doubly stochastic if both  $A$  and  $A^T$  are stochastic.

Sinkhorn [5] characterized stochastic matrices  $A$  which satisfy the condition  $A^T = A^p$ , where  $p > 1$  is a positive integer. Such matrices were called power symmetric in [5]. In this paper we consider a generalization. Call a square matrix  $A$  generalized power symmetric if  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , where  $p < m$  are positive integers. We give a characterization of generalized power symmetric stochastic matrices, thereby generalizing Sinkhorn's result. The proof makes nontrivial use of the machinery of generalized inverses. In view of the fact that  $(A^n)_{i,j}$  represents the probability of an event to change from the state  $i$  to the state  $j$  in  $n$  units of time, the reader may find it interesting to interpret the condition  $(A^p)^T = A^m$  on the matrix  $A = (A_{i,j})$ .

The paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we introduce some definitions and prove several preliminary results. The main results are proved in Section 3.

### 2. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, then an  $n \times m$  matrix  $G$  is called a generalized inverse of  $A$  if  $AGA = A$ . If  $A$  is a square matrix, then  $G$  is the group inverse of  $A$  if  $AGA = A$ ,  $GAG = G$  and  $AG = GA$ . We refer to ([1], [2], [3]) for the background concerning generalized inverses. It is well known that  $A$  admits group inverse if and only if  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^2)$ , in which case the group inverse, denoted by  $A^\#$ , is unique.

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Received by the editors October 22, 1997.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 05B20, 15A09, 15A51.

This work was done while the second author was visiting Indian Statistical Institute in November-December 1996 and July-August 1997. He would like to express his thanks for the warm hospitality he enjoyed during his visits as always. Partially supported by Research Challenge Fund, Ohio University.

If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, then the index of  $A$ , denoted by  $index(A)$ , is the least positive integer  $k$  such that  $rank(A^k) = rank(A^{k+1})$ . Thus  $A$  has group inverse if and only if  $index(A) = 1$ .

If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  real matrix, then the  $n \times m$  matrix  $G$  is called the Moore-Penrose inverse of  $A$  if it satisfies  $AGA = A, GAG = G, (AG)^T = AG, (GA)^T = GA$ . The Moore-Penrose inverse of  $A$ , which always exists and is unique, is denoted by  $A^\dagger$ . A real matrix  $A$  is said to be an *EP* matrix if the column spaces of  $A$  and  $A^T$  are identical. We refer to [1] or [3] for elementary properties of *EP* matrices.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $A$  be a real  $n \times n$  matrix and suppose  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , where  $p < m$  are positive integers. Then the following assertions are true:*

- (i)  $rank(A^p) = rank(A^k)$ ,  $k \geq p$ ,
- (ii)  $index(A) \leq p$ ,
- (iii)  $index(A^p) = 1$ ,
- (iv)  $A^p$  is an *EP* matrix,
- (v)  $(A^p)^\# = (A^p)^\dagger$ .

*Proof.* (i) Clearly,  $rank(A^p) \geq rank(A^k) \geq rank(A^m)$  for  $p \leq k \leq m$ . Since  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , we have

$$rank(A^p) = rank(A^p)^T = rank(A^m)$$

and thus  $rank(A^p) = rank(A^k)$ ,  $p \leq k \leq m$ . It follows that  $rank(A^p) = rank(A^k)$ ,  $k \geq p$ .

- (ii) By (i),  $rank(A^p) = rank(A^{p+1})$  and hence  $index(A) \leq p$ .
- (iii) By (i),  $rank(A^p) = rank(A^{2p})$  and hence  $index(A^p) = 1$ .
- (iv) Since  $rank(A^p) = rank(A^m)$ , the column space of  $A^p$  is the same as that of  $A^m$ . Also, since  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , the column space of  $A^m$  is the same as the row space of  $A^p$ , written as a set of column vectors. Therefore, the column spaces of  $A^p$  and  $(A^p)^T$  are identical and  $A^p$  is an *EP* matrix.
- (v) It is known (see, for example, [3], p. 129) that for an *EP* matrix the group inverse exists and coincides with the Moore-Penrose inverse.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix such that  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , where  $p < m$  are positive integers. Let  $\gamma = m - p$ . Then  $A^p = A^p A^{i\gamma} (A^{i\gamma})^T$  for any integer  $i \geq 0$ .*

*Proof.* We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1) \quad A^p &= (A^{p+\gamma})^T \\
 &= (A^p)^T (A^\gamma)^T \\
 &= A^{p+\gamma} (A^\gamma)^T \\
 &= A^\gamma A^p (A^\gamma)^T \\
 &= A^\gamma (A^\gamma A^p (A^\gamma)^T) (A^\gamma)^T \\
 &= A^{2\gamma} A^p (A^{2\gamma})^T.
 \end{aligned}$$

Repeating the argument, we get

$$A^p = A^{i\gamma} A^p (A^{i\gamma})^T = A^p A^{i\gamma} (A^{i\gamma})^T$$

for any  $i \geq 0$  and the proof is complete.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $A$  be a nonnegative  $n \times n$  matrix and suppose  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , where  $p < m$  are positive integers. Then  $(A^p)^\#$  exists and is nonnegative.*

*Proof.* By Lemma 1 (iii),  $\text{index}(A^p) = 1$  and therefore  $(A^p)^\#$  exists. Let  $\gamma = m - p$ . Setting  $i = p$  in Lemma 2, we get

$$A^p = A^p A^{p\gamma} (A^{p\gamma})^T = A^p A^{p\gamma} A^{(p+\gamma)\gamma}$$

in view of  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ . Thus, since  $\gamma \geq 1$ ,

$$A^p = A^{2p} A^{p(\gamma-1)} A^{(p+\gamma)\gamma}$$

where  $A^0$  is taken to be the identity matrix. Let  $B = A^{p(\gamma-1)} A^{(p+\gamma)\gamma}$ . Then it follows from the previous equation that  $A^p B A^p = A^p$ . Also, since  $B$  is a power of  $A$ ,  $A^p B = B A^p$ . Thus  $(A^p)^\# = B A^p B$  is also a power of  $A$  and hence is nonnegative.

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $A$  be a stochastic  $n \times n$  matrix and suppose  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , where  $p < m$  are positive integers. Then there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $P A P^T$  is a direct sum of matrices of the following two types I and II:*

- I.  $C_{11}$  where  $C_{11}^v = x x^T, x > 0$  for some positive integer  $v$ .
- II.  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_{12} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_{23} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 0 & \cdots & & & C_{d-1,d} \\ C_{d1} & 0 & \cdots & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  where there exists a positive integer  $u$  such that  $(C_{12} \ C_{23} \ \cdots \ C_{d1})^u = x_1 x_1^T, \cdots, (C_{d1} \ C_{12} \ \cdots \ C_{d-1,d})^u = x_d x_d^T$  for some positive vectors  $x_1, \cdots, x_d$ .

*Proof.* Let  $C = A^p (A^p)^\#$ . Since  $(A^p)^\# = (A^p)^\dagger$  by Lemma 1,  $C$  is symmetric. By Lemma 3,  $(A^p)^\#$  is nonnegative and hence  $C$  is nonnegative. Also,  $C$  is clearly idempotent. As observed in the proof of Lemma 3,  $(A^p)^\#$  is a power of  $A$  and hence  $C$  is also a power of  $A$ .

The nonnegative roots of symmetric, nonnegative, idempotent matrices have been characterized in [4], Theorem 2. Applying the result to  $C$ , we get the form of  $A$  asserted in the present result. We remark that according to Theorem 2 of [4], a type III summand is also possible along with the two types mentioned above. However, a matrix of this type is necessarily nilpotent and since  $A$  is stochastic, such a summand is not possible.

*Remark.* Using the notation of Lemma 4, it can be verified that the type II summand given there has the property that its  $(du)$ th power is

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 x_1^T & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & x_2 x_2^T & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & x_d x_d^T \end{bmatrix}$$

This observation will be used in the sequel.

We now introduce some notation. Denote by  $J_{m \times n}$  the  $m \times n$  matrix with each entry equal to one. If  $n_1, \cdots, n_d$  are positive integers adding up to  $n$ , then

$\hat{J}_{(n_1, \dots, n_d)}$  will denote the  $n \times n$  matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{n_2} J_{n_1 \times n_2} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{n_3} J_{n_2 \times n_3} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \frac{1}{n_d} J_{n_{d-1} \times n_d} \\ \frac{1}{n_1} J_{n_d \times n_1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

where the zero blocks along the diagonal are square, of order  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_d$ , respectively. We remark that if  $d = 1$ , then  $\hat{J}_{(n_1)} = \frac{1}{n_1} J_{n_1 \times n_1}$ .

From now onwards, we make the convention that when we deal with integers  $n_1, \dots, n_d$ , the subscripts of  $n$  should be interpreted modulo  $d$ . Thus, for example,  $n_{d+1} = n_1, n_{-2} = n_{d-2}$  and so on.

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $n_1, \dots, n_d$  be positive integers summing to  $n$  and let  $p < m$  be positive integers. Let  $p = \mu \pmod d, m = \mu' \pmod d$  where  $0 \leq \mu \leq d - 1, 0 \leq \mu' \leq d - 1$ . Let  $S = \hat{J}_{(n_1, \dots, n_d)}$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $(S^p)^T = S^m$ ;
- (ii) (a)  $d$  divides both  $p$  and  $m$ , or (b)  $d$  divides neither  $p$  nor  $m, \mu + \mu' = d$  and  $n_i = n_{i+\mu'}, 1 \leq i \leq d$ ;
- (iii) (a)  $d$  divides both  $p$  and  $m$ , or (b)  $d$  divides neither  $p$  nor  $m, \mu + \mu' = d$  and  $n_i = n_{i+\delta}, 1 \leq i \leq d$ , where  $\delta = (\mu, \mu')$  is the g.c.d. of  $\mu$  and  $\mu'$ .

*Proof.* We first observe that

$$S^d = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{n_1} J_{n_1 \times n_1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{n_2} J_{n_2 \times n_2} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \frac{1}{n_d} J_{n_d \times n_d} \end{bmatrix}$$

$S^d S = S$  and so  $S^d S^i = S^i$ , for all  $i > 0$ .

Note (i) implies  $d$  divides  $p$  if and only if  $d$  divides  $m$ . We first prove (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (ii):

Assume  $d$  divides neither  $p$  nor  $m$ . Let  $(S^m)_{ij}$  denote the  $(i, j)$ -block in the partitioning of  $S^m$ , in conformity with the partitioning of  $S, 1 \leq i, j \leq d$ . Similarly  $(S^{\mu'})_{ij}$  will denote the  $(i, j)$ -block in  $S^{\mu'}$ . A straightforward multiplication involving partitioned matrices shows that

$$(S^\mu)_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n_{\mu+i}} J_{n_i \times n_{\mu+i}}, & \text{if } j = (\mu + i) \pmod d, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Similarly,

$$(S^{\mu'})_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n_{\mu'+i}} J_{n_i \times n_{\mu'+i}}, & \text{if } j = (\mu' + i) \pmod d, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Now

$$(S^\mu)_{ij}^T = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n_{\mu+j}} J_{n_{\mu+j} \times n_j}, & \text{if } i = (\mu + j) \pmod d, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

or equivalently,

$$(S^\mu)_{ij}^T = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n_{\mu+j}} J_{n_{\mu+j} \times n_j}, & \text{if } j = (i - \mu) \pmod d, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thus  $(S^\mu)^T = S^{\mu'}$  holds if and only if  $\mu' + i = (i - \mu) \pmod d$  and  $n_i = n_{\mu'+i}$ . Since  $(S^p)^T = S^m$  holds if and only if  $(S^\mu)^T = S^{\mu'}$ , it follows that under the condition  $d$  does not divide  $p$  and  $d$  does not divide  $m$ , (i) holds if and only if  $\mu + \mu' = d$  and  $n_i = n_{i+\mu}, 1 \leq i \leq d$ .

Furthermore, because  $d \mid p$  and  $d \mid m$  trivially imply  $(S^p)^T = S^m$ , the proof of (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (ii) is completed.

If (ii) holds, then  $n_i = n_{\mu'+i} = n_{d-\mu+i}, 1 \leq i \leq d$ . Hence

$$n_i = n_{\alpha\mu' - \beta\mu + \beta d + i} = n_{\alpha\mu' - \beta\mu + i},$$

where  $\alpha, \beta$  are positive integers,  $1 \leq i \leq d$ . Choosing  $\alpha, \beta$  such that  $\delta = \alpha\mu' - \beta\mu$ , we get  $n_i = n_{\delta+i}, 1 \leq i \leq d$ . This proves (iii).

Conversely, if (iii) holds, then  $n_i = n_{\mu'+i}$  since  $\delta$  divides  $\mu'$ , establishing (ii). This completes the proof.

### 3. THE MAIN RESULTS

We are now ready to give a characterization of generalized power symmetric stochastic matrices. In the next result we consider matrices of index one.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $A$  be a stochastic  $n \times n$  matrix with  $\text{index}(A) = 1$  and let  $p < m$  be positive integers. Then  $(A^p)^T = A^m$  if and only if there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PAP^T$  is a direct sum of matrices of the following two types I and II:*

- I.  $\frac{1}{k} J_{k \times k}$  for some positive integer  $k$ ;
- II.  $d \times d$  block partitioned matrices of the form  $\hat{J}_{(n_1, \dots, n_d)}$  satisfying (a)  $d \mid p$  and  $d \mid m$ , or (b)  $d$  divides neither  $p$  nor  $m$  such that if  $p = \mu \pmod d, m = \mu' \pmod d$  where  $0 \leq \mu, \mu' \leq d - 1$  and  $\delta = (\mu, \mu')$ , then  $\mu + \mu' = d, n_i = n_{i+\delta}$ .

*Proof.* First suppose that  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ . By Lemma 4 we conclude that there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PAP^T$  is a direct sum of matrices of types I, II given in Lemma 4.

Let  $S = C_{11}$  be a summand of type I so that  $C_{11}^v = xx^T, x > 0$  for some positive integer  $v$ . Since  $\text{index}(C_{11}) = 1$ , it follows that  $\text{rank}(C_{11}) = \text{rank}(C_{11}^v) = 1$ . Suppose  $C_{11} = \tilde{x}\tilde{y}^T$  for some  $\tilde{x} > 0, \tilde{y} > 0$ . Now using  $(C_{11}^p)^T = C_{11}^m$ , it can be shown that  $C_{11}$  is symmetric and hence doubly stochastic. It is well known that a positive, rank one doubly stochastic matrix must be  $\frac{1}{k} J_{k \times k}$  for some  $k$ .

Now suppose  $S$  is a summand of type II and let

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_{12} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_{23} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & & C_{d-1,d} \\ C_{d1} & 0 & \cdots & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

where the zero blocks on the diagonal are square of order  $n_1, \dots, n_d$ , respectively. As observed in the remark following Lemma 4, there exists a positive integer  $u$  such that  $S^{du}$  is a direct sum of  $d$  positive, symmetric, idempotent, rank one matrices.

We first claim that  $\text{rank}(C_{12}) = \text{rank}(C_{23}) = \dots = \text{rank}(C_{d1}) = 1$ . For otherwise,  $\text{rank}(S) > d$ . However,  $\text{rank}(S^{du}) = d$  and since  $\text{index}(S) = 1, \text{rank}(S) = \text{rank}(S^{du})$ , giving a contradiction. Therefore, the claim is proved. We let  $C_{12} =$

$x_1y_2^T, C_{23} = x_2y_3^T, \dots, C_{d1} = x_dy_1^T$ , where  $x_i, y_i$  are positive vectors. Since  $C_{12}, C_{23}, \dots, C_{d1}$  have rank one, we may choose  $x_i = J_{n_i \times 1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq d$ .

In view of the description of  $S^{du}$  given earlier, we may write

$$(C_{12} \ C_{23} \ \dots \ C_{d1})^u = xx^T$$

for some positive vector  $x$ . Thus

$$(x_1y_2^T \ x_2y_3^T \ \dots \ x_dy_1^T)^u = xx^T$$

and hence  $\lambda x_1y_1^T = xx^T$  for some  $\lambda > 0$ . It follows that  $y_1 = \gamma_1 J_{n_1 \times 1}$  for some  $\gamma_1 > 0$ . Similarly we conclude that  $y_i = \gamma_i J_{n_i \times 1}, \gamma_i > 0, 1 \leq i \leq d$ . Now, interpreting subscripts modulo  $d$  as usual, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (2) \quad C_{i,i+1} &= x_i y_{i+1}^T \\ &= J_{n_i \times 1} (\gamma_{i+1} J_{n_{i+1} \times 1})^T \\ &= \gamma_{i+1} J_{n_i \times n_{i+1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{n_{i+1}} J_{n_i \times n_{i+1}}, \end{aligned}$$

since  $C_{i,i+1}$  has row sums one,  $1 \leq i \leq d$ . The remaining assertions in (ii) follow from Lemma 5.

Conversely, it is clear that if  $S$  is a summand of type I or II, then  $(S^p)^T = S^m$ . This completes the proof.

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  stochastic matrix of index one and suppose  $(A^p)^T = A^m$  where  $p < m$  are positive integers with  $(p, m) = 1$ . Then there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PAP^T$  is a direct sum of matrices of the following types I and II:*

- I.  $\frac{1}{k} J_{k \times k}$  for some positive integer  $k$ ;
- II.  $\hat{J}_{(\ell, \dots, \ell)}$  for some positive integer  $\ell$ , occurring  $d$  times and  $d$  divides  $p + m$ .

*Proof.* By Theorem 1 there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PAP^T$  is a direct sum of matrices of types I, II given in Theorem 1. Consider a summand of type II, say  $\hat{J}_{(n_1, \dots, n_d)}$ . Let  $\mu = p \bmod d, \mu' = m \bmod d$ . Then by Theorem 1,  $\mu + \mu' = d$  and  $n_i = n_{i+\delta}$ , where  $\delta$  is the *g.c.d.* of  $\mu, \mu'$ . Since  $(p, m) = 1$  and  $\mu + \mu' = d$ , it follows that  $\delta = 1$ . Thus  $n_1 = n_2 = \dots = n_d = \ell$ , say. Thus the summand equals  $\hat{J}_{(\ell, \dots, \ell)}$ . Also,  $\mu + \mu' = d$  implies that  $p + m = 0 \bmod d$  and thus  $d$  divides  $p + m$ .

We now derive the main result in [5].

**Corollary 2.** *Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  stochastic matrix and suppose  $A^T = A^m$  for some positive integer  $m > 1$ . Then there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PAP^T$  is a direct sum of matrices of the following types:*

- (1)  $\frac{1}{k} J_{k \times k}$  for some positive integer  $k$ ;
- (2)  $\hat{J}_{(\ell, \dots, \ell)}$  for some positive integer  $\ell$ , where  $\ell$  occurs  $d$  times and  $d$  divides  $m + 1$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 1,  $index(A) = 1$ . Since the *g.c.d.* of  $1, m$  is 1, by Corollary 1 there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PAP^T$  is a direct sum of matrices of types given in Corollary 1. The rest of the proof follows easily.

Our next objective is to describe a stochastic matrix  $A$ , not necessarily of index one, which satisfies  $(A^p)^T = A^m$  for positive integers  $p < m$ .

If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, then recall that  $A$  can be expressed as  $A = C_A + N_A$  where  $C_A$ , the core part of  $A$ , is of index one,  $N_A$  is nilpotent and  $C_A N_A = N_A C_A = 0$ . This is referred to as the core-nilpotent decomposition of  $A$ . We refer to [2] for basic properties of this decomposition.

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $A$  be a stochastic  $n \times n$  matrix such that  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , where  $p < m$  are positive integers. Let  $A = C_A + N_A$  be the core-nilpotent decomposition. Then  $C_A$  is nonnegative and stochastic.*

*Proof.* By Lemma 1,  $index(A) \leq p$ . Then  $A^p = C_A^p$ . Since  $index(C_A) = 1$ , we can write  $C_A = C_A^p X$  for some matrix  $X$ . Now

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3) \quad A^p (A^p)^\# C_A &= A^p (A^p)^\# C_A^p X \\
 &= A^p (A^p)^\# A^p X \\
 &= A^p X \\
 &= C_A^p X \\
 &= C_A
 \end{aligned}$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4) \quad A^p (A^p)^\# A &= A^p (A^p)^\# (C_A + N_A) \\
 &= C_A + A^p (A^p)^\# N_A \\
 &= C_A + (A^p)^\# C_A^p N_A \\
 &= C_A.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $(A^p)^\#$  is a power of  $A$ , as observed in the proof of Lemma 3, it follows that  $C_A$  is also a power of  $A$ . Thus  $C_A$  is nonnegative and stochastic.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  stochastic matrix. Then  $(A^p)^T = A^m$ , where  $p < m$  are positive integers if and only if there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PAP^T$  is a direct sum of matrices  $C_{ii} + N_{ii}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , where*

- (1)  $C_{ii}$  are stochastic matrices of index 1,  $N_{ii}$  are nilpotent matrices of index  $\leq p$  with sum of entries of each row as zero,  $C_{ii} N_{ii} = 0 = N_{ii} C_{ii}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , and
- (2) Each  $C_{ii}$  is a direct sum of matrices of types (I) and (II) as described in Theorem 1.

*Proof.* ‘Only if’ part: By Lemma 1,  $index(A) \leq p$  and hence  $A^p = C_A^p$ ,  $A^m = C_A^m$ . Thus  $(C_A^p)^T = C_A^m$ . Since  $index(C_A) = 1$  and by Lemma 6  $C_A$  is stochastic, Theorem 1 yields that there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PC_A P^T$  is a direct sum of matrices of types I, II as given in Theorem 1.

Let

$$PAP^T = [A_{ij}], PC_A P^T = [(C_A)_{ij}], PN_A P^T = [(N_A)_{ij}]$$

be compatible partitions. Note that  $(C_A)_{ij} = 0$  if  $i \neq j$ . Since  $A_{ij} = (C_A)_{ij} + (N_A)_{ij}$ , we get that  $(N_A)_{ij} \geq 0$  for  $i \neq j$ . However, since  $C_A N_A = 0$ , we have  $(C_A)_{ii} (N_A)_{ij} = 0, i \neq j$ . It follows from the description of  $(C_A)_{ii}$ , in Theorem 1 and the remark following Lemma 4 that for some positive integer  $s$ ,  $(C_A)_{ii}^s$  has

positive diagonal entries. This, along with  $(C_A)_{ii}(N_A)_{ij} = 0$ , and  $(N_A)_{ij} \geq 0$  for  $i \neq j$ , yields  $(N_A)_{ij} = 0$ . Thus  $A_{ij} = 0, i \neq j$ . Setting  $C_{ii} = (C_A)_{ii}, N_{ii} = (N_A)_{ii}$  for all  $i$ , the result follows. The 'if part' is straightforward.

We conclude with an example. Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{2}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then  $A$  is stochastic and  $(A^2)^T = A^4$ . The core-nilpotent decomposition is given by  $A = C_A + N_A$ , where

$$C_A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad N_A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{6} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{6} & -\frac{1}{6} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus  $C_A$  is stochastic and is of type II as described in Theorem 2. This example also shows that  $N_A$  need not be nonnegative.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to thank the referee for helpful suggestions and comments.

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