## A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHARACTERISTIC VALUES AND VECTORS

E. T. BEASLEY, JR. AND P. M. GIBSON

ABSTRACT. It is shown that for all nonzero *n*-component column vectors  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  over a field F there exists a set  $\Gamma$  of *n*-square matrices over F of cardinality  $n^2-2n+2$  such that, for each *n*-square matrix A over F,  $A\alpha = \alpha$  or  $A^T\beta = \beta$  if and only if 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every  $P \in \Gamma$ .

Let F be a field with unit 1, and A an n-square matrix over F. If all row sums of A or all row sums of  $A^T$  (the transpose of A) are 1, then A is a stochastic matrix. It is obvious that if A is stochastic then 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every n-square permutation matrix P. R. A. Brualdi and H. W. Wielandt [1] proved the converse. In this paper, it is shown as a corollary to a more general result that the n! permutation matrices can be replaced by a set of n-square matrices of cardinality  $n^2-2n+2$ .

Let  $F^n$  be the set of all  $n \times 1$  column vectors over F, and let  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta \in F^n - \{0\}$ . A set  $\Gamma$  of n-square matrices over F is called an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set provided that, for each n-square matrix A over F,  $A\alpha = \alpha$  or  $A^T\beta = \beta$  if and only if 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every  $P \in \Gamma$ . An  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set  $\Gamma$  is minimal if no proper subset of  $\Gamma$  is an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set. If  $\alpha^T\beta = 0$ , then  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are orthogonal. Let  $\varepsilon_k$  be the vector in  $F^n$  with all components zero, except component k, which is equal to 1. Denote the vector in  $F^n$  with all components equal to 1 by  $\varepsilon$ . The characterization of stochastic matrices by Brualdi and Wielandt implies that the set of all n-square permutation matrices is an  $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ -set of cardinality n!. We shall show that minimal  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -sets of cardinality  $n^2-2n+2$  can be easily constructed for all  $\alpha, \beta \in F^n-\{0\}$ .

We first exhibit minimal  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -sets for two particular choices of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . One of these is  $\alpha = \beta = \varepsilon_1$ , and the other is  $\alpha = \varepsilon_1$  and  $\beta = \varepsilon_n$ .

LEMMA 1. For each positive integer n, the set

$$\Phi_n = \{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T\} \cup \{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_i^T \mid i, j = 2, 3, \cdots, n\}$$

of n-square matrices over F is a minimal  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_1)$ -set.

Presented to the Society November 17, 1973; received by the editors March 28, 1973.

AMS (MOS) subject classifications (1970). Primary 15A18; Secondary 15A51.

<sup>©</sup> American Mathematical Society 1974

PROOF. Let  $A = (a_{ij})$  be an *n*-square matrix over F. Since  $\varepsilon_1^T \varepsilon_1 = 1$  and  $\varepsilon_j^T \varepsilon_1 = 0$  for  $j = 2, 3, \dots, n$ ,

$$A\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1 \Rightarrow PA\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1 \qquad \forall P \in \Phi_n,$$
  
 $A^T\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1 \Rightarrow (PA)^T\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1 \quad \forall P \in \Phi_n.$ 

Hence, if  $A\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1$  or  $A^T \varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1$ , then 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every  $P \in \Phi_n$ . Now suppose that 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every  $P \in \Phi_n$ . Since 1 is a characteristic value of  $\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T A$ ,  $a_{11} = 1$ . Since 1 is a characteristic value of  $(\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_1^T)A$ ,

$$\det((\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_i^T) A - I) = 0, \quad i, j = 2, 3, \dots, n.$$

This implies that

(1) 
$$\det\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} - 1 & a_{1j} \\ a_{i1} & a_{ij} - 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad i, j = 2, 3, \dots, n.$$

Therefore, since  $a_{11}=1$ ,  $a_{i1}a_{1j}=0$ , i, j=2, 3,  $\cdots$ , n. Since  $a_{11}=1$ , this implies that  $A\varepsilon_1=\varepsilon_1$  or  $A^T\varepsilon_1=\varepsilon_1$ . Hence,  $\Phi_n$  is an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_1)$ -set. We now show that  $\Phi_n$  is minimal. If

$$A = \varepsilon \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon^T - 2\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T,$$

then  $A\varepsilon_1 = A^T \varepsilon_1 \neq \varepsilon_1$ , and equation (1) holds. This implies that  $\Phi_n - \{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T\}$  is not an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_1)$ -set. If  $k, m \in \{2, 3, \dots, n\}$  and

$$A = \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_k^T + \varepsilon_m \varepsilon_1^T,$$

then  $A\varepsilon_1 \neq \varepsilon_1 \neq A^T \varepsilon_1$ ,  $a_{11}=1$ , and equation (1) holds except for i=m and i=k. This implies that

$$\Phi_n - \{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_k \varepsilon_m^T\}, \quad k, m = 2, 3, \dots, n,$$

is not an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_1)$ -set. Therefore,  $\Phi_n$  is a minimal  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_1)$ -set.

LEMMA 2. Let  $E_{1n} = \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_n \varepsilon_n^T$ . For each integer n > 1, the set

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_n &= \{E_{1n}, E_{1n} + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_n^T\} \\ &\qquad \cup \{E_{1n} + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_j^T, E_{1n} + \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_n^T, E_{1n} + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_j^T + \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_n^T \mid i, j = 2, 3, \cdots, n-1\} \end{aligned}$$

of n-square matrices over F is a minimal  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_n)$ -set.

PROOF. Let  $A = (a_{ij})$  be an *n*-square matrix over F. Then

$$A\varepsilon_{1} = \varepsilon_{1} \Rightarrow E_{1n}A\varepsilon_{1} = \varepsilon_{1}, \varepsilon_{i}\varepsilon_{j+1}^{T}A\varepsilon_{1} = 0, \qquad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n-1,$$

$$A^{T}\varepsilon_{n} = \varepsilon_{n} \Rightarrow (E_{1n}A)^{T}\varepsilon_{n} = \varepsilon_{n}, (\varepsilon_{i}\varepsilon_{j+1}^{T}A)^{T}\varepsilon_{n} = 0, \qquad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n-1.$$

Hence, if  $A\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1$  or  $A^T \varepsilon_n = \varepsilon_n$ , then 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every  $P \in \Psi_n$ . Suppose that 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every  $P \in \Psi_n$ . Since 1 is a characteristic value of  $E_{1n}A$  and  $(E_{1n} + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_n^T)A$ ,

(2) 
$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} - 1 & a_{1n} \\ a_{n1} & a_{nn} - 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0,$$

(2) 
$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} - 1 & a_{1n} \\ a_{n1} & a_{nn} - 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0,$$
(3) 
$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + a_{n1} - 1 & a_{1n} + a_{nn} \\ a_{n1} & a_{nn} - 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

Equations (2) and (3) imply that  $a_{n1}=0$ . Then equation (2) implies that  $a_{11}=1$  or  $a_{nn}=1$ . Hence, if n=2, then  $A\varepsilon_1=\varepsilon_1$  or  $A^T\varepsilon_n=\varepsilon_n$ . Suppose that n>2. We complete the proof that  $\Phi_n$  is an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_n)$ -set by considering three cases.

Case 1.  $a_{11}=1, a_{nn}\neq 1$ . Since 1 is a characteristic value of  $(E_{1n}+\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_i^T)A$ ,

(4) 
$$\det\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + a_{i1} - 1 & a_{1n} + a_{in} \\ a_{n1} & a_{nn} - 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad i = 2, 3, \dots, n - 1.$$

Since  $a_{n1}=0$ ,  $a_{11}=1$ , and  $a_{nn}\neq 1$ , equation (4) implies that  $a_{i1}=0$  for  $i=2, 3, \cdots, n-1$ . Therefore,  $A\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1$ .

Case 2.  $a_{11} \neq 1$ ,  $a_{nn} = 1$ . Since 1 is a characteristic value of  $(E_{1n} + \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_n^T)A$ ,

(5) 
$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} - 1 & a_{1j} & a_{1n} \\ a_{n1} & a_{nj} - 1 & a_{nn} \\ a_{n1} & a_{nj} & a_{nn} - 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad j = 2, 3, \dots, n - 1.$$

Since  $a_{n1}=0$ ,  $a_{11}\neq 1$ , and  $a_{nn}=1$ , equation (5) implies that  $a_{nj}=0$  for  $j=2, 3, \cdots, n-1$ . Hence,  $A^T \varepsilon_n = \varepsilon_n$ .

Case 3.  $a_{11}=1=a_{nn}$ . Since 1 is a characteristic value of

(6) 
$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + a_{i1} - 1 & a_{1j} + a_{ij} & a_{1n} + a_{in} \\ a_{n1} & a_{nj} - 1 & a_{nn} \\ a_{nj} & a_{nn} & a_{nn} - 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

for  $i, j=2, 3, \dots, n-1$ . Therefore, since  $a_{n1}=0$  and  $a_{11}=1=a_{nn}$ ,

$$a_{i1}a_{nj}=0, \quad i,j=2,3,\cdots,n-1,$$

and we see that  $A\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_1$  or  $A^T \varepsilon_n = \varepsilon_n$ .

We now show that  $\Psi_n$  is minimal. If

$$A = \sum_{k=2}^{n} \varepsilon_k \varepsilon_1^T + \sum_{m=2}^{n-1} \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_m^T - \sum_{k=m=2}^{n-1} \varepsilon_k \varepsilon_m^T,$$

then it is not difficult to show that  $A\varepsilon_1 \neq \varepsilon_1$  and  $A^T\varepsilon_n \neq \varepsilon_n$ , while equations (3) through (6) hold. This implies that  $\Psi_n - \{E_{1n}\}$  is not an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_n)$ -set. If  $A = \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_n^T + \varepsilon_n \varepsilon_1^T$ , then  $A\varepsilon_1 \neq \varepsilon_1$  and  $A^T\varepsilon_n \neq \varepsilon_n$ , while equations (2), (4), (5), and (6) hold. This implies that  $\Psi_n - \{E_{1n} + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_n^T\}$  is not an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_n)$ -set. If  $m \in \{2, 3, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $A = \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_m \varepsilon_1^T$ , then  $A\varepsilon_1 \neq \varepsilon_1$  and  $A^T\varepsilon_n \neq \varepsilon_n$ , while equations (2) through (6) hold except when i = m in equation (4). This implies that

$$\Psi_n - \{E_{1n} + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_m^T\}, \quad m = 2, 3, \dots, n-1,$$

is not an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_n)$ -set. If  $k \in \{2, 3, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $A = \varepsilon_n \varepsilon_k^T + \varepsilon_n \varepsilon_n^T$ , then  $A\varepsilon_1 \neq \varepsilon_1$  and  $A^T \varepsilon_n \neq \varepsilon_n$ , while equations (2) through (6) hold except when j=k in equation (5). This implies that

$$\Psi_n - \{E_{1n} + \varepsilon_k \varepsilon_n^T\}, \quad k = 2, 3, \dots, n-1,$$

is not an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_n)$ -set. If  $k, m \in \{2, 3, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $A = E_{1n} + \varepsilon_m \varepsilon_1^T + \varepsilon_n \varepsilon_k^T$ , then  $A\varepsilon_1 \neq \varepsilon_1$  and  $A^T\varepsilon_n \neq \varepsilon_n$ , while equations (2) through (6) hold except when i=m and j=k in equation (6). This implies that

$$\Psi_n - \{E_{1n} + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_m^T + \varepsilon_k \varepsilon_n^T\}, \quad k, m = 2, 3, \dots, n-1,$$

is not an  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_n)$ -set. Hence,  $\Psi_n$  is a minimal  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_n)$ -set.

LEMMA 3. Let  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta \in F^n - \{0\}$ , and let P and Q be nonsingular matrices over F such that

(7) 
$$P\gamma = \alpha, \quad P^T\beta = c\delta, \quad Q\alpha = \gamma, \quad Q^Tc\delta = \beta,$$

where  $c \in F - \{0\}$ . If  $\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma'$  are sets of n-square matrices over F such that

(8) 
$$\Gamma' = \{ PBQ \mid B \in \Gamma \},$$

then  $\Gamma'$  is an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set if and only if  $\Gamma$  is a  $(\gamma, \delta)$ -set.

**PROOF.** Suppose that  $\Gamma$  is a  $(\gamma, \delta)$ -set, and let A be an n-square matrix over F. Assume that

$$A\alpha = \alpha$$
 or  $A^T\beta = \beta$ .

Since (7) holds, this implies that  $AP\gamma = Q^{-1}\delta$  or  $A^TQ^T\delta = (P^T)^{-1}\delta$ . Therefore,

$$(QAP)\gamma = \gamma$$
 or  $(QAP)^T\delta = \delta$ .

Hence, since  $\Gamma$  is a  $(\gamma, \delta)$ -set, 1 is a characteristic value of B(QAP) for every  $B \in \Gamma$ . If G=PBQ, then B(QAP) and GA are similar matrices. Therefore, from (8) we see that 1 is a characteristic value of GA for every  $G \in \Gamma'$ . Reversing this sequence of steps, we see that  $A\alpha = \alpha$  or  $A^T\beta = \beta$  if 1 is a characteristic value of GA for every  $G \in \Gamma'$ . Therefore,  $\Gamma'$  is an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set. A similar argument shows that  $\Gamma$  is a  $(\gamma, \delta)$ -set if  $\Gamma'$  is an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set.

It is convenient to express our principal results on minimal  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -sets in two theorems. One of these applies when  $\alpha^T \beta \neq 0$ , and the other when  $\alpha^T \beta = 0$ .

THEOREM 1. Let  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta \in F^n$  with  $\alpha^T \beta \neq 0$ . If  $\{\gamma_i, \delta_i | i=1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$  is a subset of  $F^n$  such that  $\{\alpha, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_{n-1}\}$  and  $\{\beta, \delta_1, \delta_2, \dots, \delta_{n-1}\}$  are independent while  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are orthogonal to  $\delta_i$  and  $\gamma_i$ , respectively, for  $i=1, 2, \dots, n-1$ , then

$$\Gamma = \{ (\alpha^T \beta)^{-1} \alpha \beta^T \} \cup \{ (\alpha^T \beta)^{-1} \alpha \beta^T + \gamma_i \delta_i^T \mid i, j = 1, 2, \cdots, n-1 \}$$
 is a minimal  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set.

PROOF. Let P be the n-square matrix with columns  $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma_1$ ,  $\gamma_2$ ,  $\cdots$ ,  $\gamma_{n-1}$ , and let Q be the n-square matrix with columns  $\beta'$ ,  $\delta_1$ ,  $\delta_2$ ,  $\cdots$ ,  $\delta_{n-1}$ , where  $\beta' = (\alpha^T \beta)^{-1} \beta$ . Then P and Q are nonsingular with

$$P\varepsilon_1 = \alpha$$
,  $P^T\beta = (\alpha^T\beta)\varepsilon_1$ ,  $Q^T\alpha = \varepsilon_1$ ,  $Q(\alpha^T\beta)\varepsilon_1 = \beta$ .

Since  $\Gamma = \{PBQ^T | B \in \Phi_n\}$ , it follows from Lemmas 1 and 3 that  $\Gamma$  is a minimal  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set.

Theorem 2. Let  $\alpha, \beta \in F^n - \{0\}$  with  $\alpha^T \beta = 0$ . Suppose that

$$\{\gamma_i, \delta_i \mid i=1, 2, \cdots, n-1\}$$

is a subset of  $F^n$  such that  $\{\alpha, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \cdots, \gamma_{n-1}\}$  and  $\{\beta, \delta_1, \delta_2, \cdots, \delta_{n-1}\}$  are independent,  $\alpha^T \delta_1 = 1 = \beta^T \gamma_{n-1}$ , and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are orthogonal to  $\delta_{i+1}$  and  $\gamma_i$ , respectively, for  $i = 1, 2, \cdots, n-2$ . If  $H = \alpha \delta_1^T + \gamma_{n-1} \beta^T$ , then

$$\Gamma = \{H, H + \alpha \beta^T\}$$

$$\cup \{H + \alpha \delta_{i+1}^T, H + \gamma_i \beta^T, H + \alpha \delta_{i+1}^T + \gamma_i \beta^T \mid i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n-2\}$$

is a minimal  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set.

**PROOF.** Let P be the n-square matrix with columns  $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma_1$ ,  $\gamma_2$ ,  $\cdots$ ,  $\gamma_{n-1}$ , and let Q be the n-square matrix with columns  $\delta_1$ ,  $\delta_2$ ,  $\cdots$ ,  $\delta_{n-1}$ ,  $\beta$ . Then P and Q are nonsingular with

$$P\varepsilon_1 = \alpha$$
,  $P^T\beta = \varepsilon_n$ ,  $Q^T\alpha = \varepsilon_1$ ,  $Q\varepsilon_n = \beta$ .

Since  $\Gamma = \{PBQ^T | B \in \Psi_n\}$ , it follows from Lemmas 2 and 3 that  $\Gamma$  is a minimal  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set.

Let  $\alpha, \beta \in F^n - \{0\}$ . Clearly a subset  $\{\gamma_i, \delta_i | i=1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$  of  $F^n$  exists satisfying the conditions of Theorems 1 or 2 according to whether  $\alpha^T \beta \neq 0$  or  $\alpha^T \beta = 0$ . Hence we have the following.

COROLLARY 1. If  $\alpha, \beta \in F^n - \{0\}$ , there exists a minimal  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -set of cardinality  $n^2 - 2n + 2$ .

If we let  $\alpha = \beta = \varepsilon$  in this corollary we obtain the following.

COROLLARY 2. There exists a set  $\Gamma$  of n-square matrices over F of cardinality  $n^2-2n+2$  such that, for each n-square matrix A over F, A is stochastic if and only if 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every  $P \in \Gamma$ .

Consideration of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -sets was motivated by Brualdi and Wielandt's remark [1] on the difficulty of finding sets of fewer than n! permutation matrices which could be used in their characterization of the n-square stochastic matrices. We have no general results on this problem, but we can show that every set of five 3-square permutation matrices is a minimal  $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ -set.

Let  $\Gamma$  be the set of all 3-square permutation matrices over F, excluding the identity matrix. Let  $A = (a_{ij})$  be a 3-square matrix over F. Suppose that 1 is a characteristic value of PA for every  $P \in \Gamma$ . Then

$$\det(I - PA) = 0 \quad \forall P \in \Gamma.$$

If we multiply each matrix I-PA on the left by  $P^{T}$ , we obtain

(9) 
$$\det(P - A) = 0 \quad \forall P \in \Gamma.$$

Let

$$\Delta = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

If we add the second and third row of P-A to the first row of P-A, and then add the second and third column to the first column we see from (9) that

(10) 
$$\det \begin{bmatrix} s & c_2 & c_3 \\ r_2 & p_{22} - a_{22} & p_{23} - a_{23} \\ r_3 & p_{32} - a_{32} & p_{33} - a_{33} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

for every matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} p_{22} & p_{23} \\ p_{33} & p_{33} \end{bmatrix}$  in  $\Delta$ , where

$$s = 3 - \sum_{i,j=1}^{3} a_{ij},$$
  $c_k = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{3} a_{ik},$   $r_k = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{3} a_{kj},$   $k = 2, 3.$ 

Suppose that  $s\neq 0$ . Then (10) must hold for  $c_2=c_3=0$ , since any multiple of the first column can be added to any other column without changing the determinant. If  $s\neq 0$  and  $c_2=c_3=0$  in (10), we see that

$$a_{22}a_{33} - (a_{23} - 1)(a_{32} - 1) = 0,$$

$$a_{22}a_{33} - (a_{23} - 1)a_{32} = 0,$$

$$a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}(a_{32} - 1) = 0,$$

$$(a_{22} - 1)a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32} = 0,$$

$$a_{22}(a_{33} - 1) - a_{23}a_{32} = 0.$$

It is not difficult to show that this system of equations has no solution. Hence, s=0.

Since s=0, from (10) we obtain a homogeneous system of five linear equations in the four unknowns  $c_2r_2$ ,  $c_2r_3$ ,  $c_3r_2$ ,  $c_3r_3$ . Since the coefficient matrix for this system has rank four, we see that

$$r_2 = r_3 = 0$$
 or  $c_2 = c_3 = 0$ .

Therefore, since s=0,  $A\varepsilon=\varepsilon$  or  $A^T\varepsilon=\varepsilon$ . Therefore,  $\Gamma$  is an  $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ -set. If any equation is removed from system (11), then the remaining system has a solution. Hence  $\Gamma$  is a minimal  $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ -set. It now follows from Lemma 3 that every set of five 3-square permutation matrices is a minimal  $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ -set.

We have determined by machine calculation that the 12 matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

over GF(2) form a minimal  $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ -set. There also exist minimal  $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ -sets of 4-square permutation matrices over GF(2) of cardinality 13, but there exist none of cardinality less than 12.

## REFERENCE

1. R. A. Brualdi and H. W. Wielandt, A spectral characterization of stochastic matrices, Linear Algebra and Appl. 1 (1968), no. 1, 65-71. MR 36 #6435.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807 (Current address of P. M. Gibson)

Current address (E. T. Beasley): Department of Computer Science, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210