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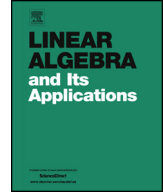


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# Eigenvalue-eigenvector structure of Schoenmakers–Coffey matrices via Toeplitz technology and applications

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## ABSTRACT

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The paper is concerned with the spectral properties of Green matrices and of a special subclass of the latter, known as Schoenmakers–Coffey matrices, which have a role in financial applications. The main results are related to the eigenvalue distribution of sequences of Green matrices of increasing size, while for the subclass of interest mentioned above, we also study the eigenvector oscillation structure: interestingly enough, even if these matrices are not shift invariant (Toeplitz), the results are obtained by using tools coming from Toeplitz technology. Indeed, for the asymptotic spectral distribution analysis, we use the theory of Generalized Locally Toeplitz sequences, while techniques taken from the study of Kac–Murdoch–Szegő matrices (again connected to Toeplitz matrices) are employed for the eigenvector oscillation structure results of the Schoenmakers–Coffey

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matrices. Few numerical tests are reported in order to illustrate the theoretical findings.

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## 1. Introduction

The paper is concerned with the spectral properties of Green matrices and of a special subclass of the latter, known as Schoenmakers–Coffey matrices. The main results concern the eigenvalue distribution of sequences of Green matrices of increasing size in the sense of Weyl [5]: in particular, despite its apparent complicate expression, we prove that these matrices can be seen as the product of diagonal matrices and inverse of Toeplitz matrices generated by linear trigonometric polynomials. Under the assumption that the diagonal matrices can be seen as samplings of Riemann integrable functions over the interval  $[0, 1]$ , we prove that the limit distribution of the spectra of the considered sequence is independent of such functions and indeed equals the constant zero. In other words, the Green matrix sequence  $\{G_n\}$  shows a cluster at zero of the eigenvalues, i.e., for every  $\epsilon$ , for the size  $n$  large enough, most of the eigenvalues of  $G_n$  have modulus bounded by  $\epsilon$ , except  $o(n)$  of them. In practice, as shown in the numerical experiments, the quantity indicated as  $o(n)$  behaves just as  $O(\sqrt{n})$ , so it seems that there is room for improving the theoretical result.

Concerning the subclass of the Schoenmakers–Coffey matrices we also study the eigenvector oscillation behavior. We recall that these structures appear as special instances of correlation matrices and the oscillations of the first three eigenvectors provide useful information in trendy financial problems, associated with interest rates models and risk management/valuation (see Section 4 for a brief account and [12,14,17] for more details).

Even if these matrices are not shift invariant, that is they do not enjoy the Toeplitz structure, it is worth stressing that the results are obtained by using tools coming from Toeplitz technology. Indeed, concerning the asymptotic spectral results, we use the theory of Generalized Locally Toeplitz (GLT) sequences [23,24], while, for the second type of results, tools used in the study of Kac–Murdoch–Szegő matrices (again connected to Toeplitz matrices) are employed [10].

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we report the definition of spectral distribution in the sense of Weyl and we briefly introduce Toeplitz matrices and GLT matrix sequences. In Section 3 we introduce the Green matrices and we use the tools of the previous section in order to identify the distribution symbol of Green matrix sequences: selected numerical tests are reported and commented. In Section 4 we define the subclass of the Schoenmakers–Coffey matrices and we study the oscillatory behavior of the eigenvectors, by including also some examples. Finally Section 5 is devoted to conclusions and to stress few open problems.

2. Asymptotic analysis of Green matrix sequences via the GLT theory

The section contains the mathematical tools that we use for studying the global behavior of the spectra of Green matrix sequences. In Subsection 2.1 we introduce the notion of spectral distribution in the Weyl sense [5,8] and in Subsection 2.2 we give the definition of Toeplitz matrices generated by a symbol (see [5]) and of the class of GLT sequences (see [23,24]), whose main properties are reported and discussed.

2.1. Definitions and distribution results

Before starting, let us introduce some notations. We denote by  $\mathcal{C}_0(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\mathcal{C}_0(\mathbb{R}_0^+)$  the set of continuous functions with bounded support defined over  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathbb{R}_0^+ = [0, \infty)$ , respectively. Given a function  $F : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and a matrix  $A$  of size  $m$ , with eigenvalues  $\lambda_j(A)$  and singular values  $\sigma_j(A)$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, m$ , we set

$$\Sigma_\lambda(F, A) := \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m F(\lambda_j(A)), \quad \Sigma_\sigma(F, A) := \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m F(\sigma_j(A)).$$

We use the notation  $\|A\|_p$  for the Schatten  $p$ -norm of  $A$ , defined as the  $p$ -norm of the vector formed by the singular values of  $A$ . In symbols,  $\|A\|_p = (\sum_{j=1}^m \sigma_j^p(A))^{1/p}$  for  $1 \leq p < \infty$  and  $\|A\|_\infty = \max_{j=1, \dots, m} \sigma_j(A) = \|A\|$  is the usual spectral norm [4].

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a complex-valued measurable function, defined on a measurable set  $G \subset \mathbb{R}$  with finite and positive Lebesgue measure,  $0 < \mu(G) < \infty$ . Let  $\{A_n\}$  be a matrix-sequence, with  $A_n$  of size  $d_n$ ,  $d_n < d_{n+1}$ . We say that:

- $\{A_n\}$  is distributed as the pair  $(f, G)$  in the sense of the eigenvalues, in symbols  $\{A_n\} \sim_\lambda (f, G)$ , if for all  $F \in \mathcal{C}_0(\mathbb{C})$  we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Sigma_\lambda(F, A_n) = \frac{1}{\mu(G)} \int_G F(f(t)) dt. \tag{1}$$

- $\{A_n\}$  is distributed as the pair  $(f, G)$  in the sense of the singular values, in symbols  $\{A_n\} \sim_\sigma (f, G)$ , if for all  $F \in \mathcal{C}_0(\mathbb{R}_0^+)$  we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Sigma_\sigma(F, A_n) = \frac{1}{\mu(G)} \int_G F(|f(t)|) dt. \tag{2}$$

Finally we say that two sequences  $\{A_n\}$  and  $\{B_n\}$  are equally distributed in the sense of the eigenvalues [30] if,  $\forall F \in \mathcal{C}_0(\mathbb{C})$ , we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [\Sigma_\lambda(F, A_n) - \Sigma_\lambda(F, B_n)] = 0.$$

An analogous definition works for singular values with  $F \in \mathcal{C}_0(\mathbb{R}_0^+)$  and  $\sigma$  in place of  $\lambda$ .

1 Notice that if two sequences are equally distributed and one of them has a distribution 1  
2 function, then the other necessarily has the same distribution function. 2

3 A matrix sequence  $\{A_n\}$  is distributed in the eigenvalue sense as the pair  $(f, G)$  if and 3  
4 only if the sequence of linear functionals  $\{\phi_n\}$  defined by  $\phi_n(F) = \Sigma_\lambda(F, A_n)$  converges 4  
5 weak-\* to the functional 5

$$6 \quad \phi(F) = \frac{1}{\mu(G)} \int_G F(f(t))dt, \quad 6$$

7 as in (1), the same is true for the singular values. A useful tool for the study of the spectral 7  
8 distribution of a matrix sequence is the notion of approximating class of sequences. 8  
9

10 **Definition 2.2.** Suppose a sequence of matrices  $\{A_n\}$ ,  $A_n$  of size  $d_n$ ,  $d_n < d_{n+1}$ , is given. 10  
11 We say that  $\{\{B_{n,m}\} : m \in \mathbb{N}\}_m$  is an approximating class of sequences (a.c.s.) for  $\{A_n\}$  11  
12 if, for all sufficiently large  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , the following splittings hold: 12

$$13 \quad A_n = B_{n,m} + R_{n,m} + N_{n,m}, \quad 13$$

14 with 14

$$15 \quad \text{rank}(R_{n,m}) \leq d_n c(m), \quad \|N_{n,m}\| \leq \omega(m), \quad \forall n > n_m, \quad 15$$

16 where  $n_m$ ,  $c(m)$  and  $\omega(m)$  depend only on  $m$  and 16

$$17 \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} c(m) = 0, \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \omega(m) = 0. \quad 17$$

18 **Proposition 2.1.** (See [22].) Suppose a sequence of matrices  $\{A_n\}$ ,  $A_n$  of size  $d_n$ , 18  
19  $d_n < d_{n+1}$ , is given and let  $\{\{B_{n,m}\} : m \in \mathbb{N}\}_m$  be an a.c.s. for  $\{A_n\}$  in the sense of 19  
20 **Definition 2.2.** Suppose that, for all sufficiently large  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  we have  $\{B_{n,m}\} \sim_\sigma (f_m, G)$ , 20  
21 and  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} f_m = f$ . Then it holds  $\{A_n\} \sim_\sigma (f, G)$ . 21

22 Similarly, if the matrices  $A_n$  and  $B_{n,m}$  are eventually Hermitian, and for all suffi- 22  
23 ciently large  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  we have  $\{B_{n,m}\} \sim_\lambda (g_m, G)$ , with  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} g_m = g$ , then it also holds 23  
24  $\{A_n\} \sim_\lambda (g, G)$ . 24

25 Finally we introduce the definition of sparsely vanishing sequence: a sequence of matrices 25  
26  $\{A_n\}$ ,  $A_n$  of size  $d_n$ , is said to be sparsely vanishing if, for each  $M > 0$  there exists 26  
27 an  $n_M$  such that for  $n \geq n_M$  we have 27

$$28 \quad \#\{i : \sigma_i(A_n) < M^{-1}\} \leq r(M)d_n, \quad \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} r(M) = 0. \quad 28$$

2.2. Toeplitz, Locally Toeplitz and Generalized Locally Toeplitz sequences

Given an integrable complex-valued function  $f$ ,  $f \in L^1(Q)$ ,  $Q = (-\pi, \pi)$ , from the Fourier coefficients of  $f$

$$a_j = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_Q f(x)e^{-ijx} dx, \quad j \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \mathbf{i}^2 = -1,$$

we can build the sequence of Toeplitz matrices  $\{T_n(f)\}$  as follows:

$$T_n(f) := [a_{i-j}]_{i,j=1}^n.$$

The eigen/singular values asymptotic distribution of a sequence of Toeplitz matrices, started in a famous theorem by Szegő [8], has been studied by many authors (see [5,26,31] and the references reported therein). The results are reported below.

**Theorem 2.1.** (See [31].) *If  $f \in L^1(Q)$  and  $\{T_n(f)\}$  is the sequence of Toeplitz matrices generated by  $f$ , then*

$$\{T_n(f)\} \sim_\sigma (f, Q).$$

Moreover, if  $f$  is also real-valued, then each matrix  $T_n(f)$  is Hermitian and

$$\{T_n(f)\} \sim_\lambda (f, Q). \tag{3}$$

Now we introduce the notion of (unilevel) Locally Toeplitz matrix-sequence that leads to a generalization of (unilevel) Toeplitz sequences. We mention that, with respect to the original paper by Tilli [27], the definitions will take into account very minor improvements (as discussed in Remark 1.1 of [23]). We recall that, given two matrices  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ , their direct sum is defined as

$$A \oplus B = \begin{bmatrix} A & O \\ O & B \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{(n+m) \times (n+m)},$$

where  $O$  is the null matrix, and the tensor product  $A \otimes B \in \mathbb{C}^{nm \times nm}$  is defined as the  $n \times n$  block matrix with  $m \times m$  blocks, whose block  $(i, j)$ ,  $i, j = 1, \dots, m$ , is given by  $a_{i,j}B$ .

**Definition 2.3.** A sequence of matrices  $\{A_n\}$ ,  $A_n$  of size  $n$ , is said to be Locally Toeplitz with respect to a pair of functions  $(a, f)$ , with  $a : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and  $f : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , if  $f$  is Lebesgue integrable and, for all sufficiently large  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , the following splitting holds:

$$A_n = LT_n^m(a, f) + R_{n,m} + N_{n,m}, \tag{4}$$

with

$$\text{rank}(R_{n,m}) \leq c(m), \quad \|N_{n,m}\|_1 \leq \omega(m)n, \quad \forall n > n_m,$$

where  $n_m$ ,  $c(m)$  and  $\omega(m)$  are functions of  $m$  and  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \omega(m) = 0$ . The matrix  $LT_n^m(a, f)$  in (4) is defined as

$$LT_n^m(a, f) = D_m(a) \otimes T_{[n/m]}(f) \oplus O_{n \bmod m},$$

where  $[n/m]$  is the integer part of  $m/n$  and  $n \bmod m = n - m [n/m]$  (it is understood that the zero block  $O_{n \bmod m}$  is not present if  $n$  is a multiple of  $m$ ). Moreover  $D_m(a)$  is the  $m \times m$  diagonal matrix whose entries are given by  $a(j/m)$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, m$ ,  $T_k(f)$  denotes the Toeplitz matrix of order  $k$  generated by  $f$  and  $O_q$  is the null matrix of order  $q$ . In this case we write in short  $\{A_n\} \sim_{LT} (a, f)$ .

The topological closure of the space of Locally Toeplitz sequences is that formed by Generalized Locally Toeplitz sequences.

**Definition 2.4.** A sequence of matrices  $\{A_n\}$ ,  $A_n$  of size  $n$ , is approximated by unilevel Locally Toeplitz sequences with respect to a measurable function  $\kappa$  if, for every  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

- there exist pairs of functions  $\{(a_{i,\epsilon}, f_{i,\epsilon})\}_{i=1}^{N_\epsilon}$  with  $f_{i,\epsilon}$  polynomial and  $a_{i,\epsilon}$  defined over  $\Omega = [0, 1]$  such that  $\sum_{i=1}^{N_\epsilon} a_{i,\epsilon} f_{i,\epsilon} - \kappa$  converge in measure to zero over  $\Omega \times Q$  as  $\epsilon$  tends to zero,
- there exist matrix sequences  $\{\{A_n^{(i,\epsilon)}\}\}_{i=1}^{N_\epsilon}$  such that  $\{A_n^{(i,\epsilon)}\} \sim_{LT} (a_{i,\epsilon}, f_{i,\epsilon})$
- $\{\{\sum_{i=1}^{N_\epsilon} A_n^{(i,\epsilon)}\} : \epsilon = (m+1)^{-1}, m \in \mathbb{N}\}_m$  is an a.c.s. for  $\{A_n\}$ .

In this case the sequence  $\{A_n\}$  is said to be a Generalized Locally Toeplitz sequence with respect to  $\kappa$  and we write in short  $\{A_n\} \sim_{GLT} \kappa$ .

Some remarks are in order. When  $\{A_n\} \sim_{LT} (a, f)$ , we call  $a$  the *weight function*, and  $f$  the *generating function*. Furthermore, in the splitting (4), the matrices  $R_{n,m}$  are called *rank corrections*, while the matrices  $N_{n,m}$  are called *norm corrections*.

If  $\{A_n\} \sim_{GLT} \kappa$ , it is evident that the unique function  $\kappa$  has simultaneously the role of *weight function* and of *generating function*: we call  $\kappa$  the *kernel function* or *symbol*.

For the class of Generalized Locally Toeplitz sequences the following Szegő-like result holds.

**Theorem 2.2.** (See [23].) Assume that  $\{A_n\}$ ,  $A_n$  of size  $n$ , is a sequence of complex matrices. Let  $\kappa$  be measurable over  $\Omega \times Q$ . Then

$$\{A_n\} \sim_\sigma (\kappa(x, s), \Omega \times Q),$$



holds whenever  $\{A_n\}$  is a GLT sequence with respect to  $\kappa$  as in Definition 2.4 and the functions  $a_{i,\epsilon}$  involved in Definition 2.4 are Riemann integrable over  $\Omega$ . If in addition the matrices  $A_n$  are eventually Hermitian, then the relation is true also for the eigenvalues.

The GLT sequences form a  $*$ -algebra. More precisely, the GLT sequences are stable under linear combinations, product, pseudo-inversion, and adjoint.

**Theorem 2.3.** (See [23,24].) If  $\{A_n\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \kappa_A$  and  $\{B_n\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \kappa_B$ , then we have

- $\{\alpha A_n + \beta B_n\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \alpha \kappa_A + \beta \kappa_B$ ;
- if the functions  $a_{i,\epsilon}^{(A)}$  and  $a_{i,\epsilon}^{(B)}$  involved in Definition 2.4 are Riemann integrable over  $\Omega$ , then  $\{A_n B_n\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \kappa_A \kappa_B$ ;
- if the function  $a_{i,\epsilon}^{(A)}$  involved in Definition 2.4 is Riemann integrable over  $\Omega$  and if  $\{A_n\}$  is sparsely vanishing then  $\{A_n^+\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \kappa_A^{-1}$ , where  $A_n^+$  is the pseudo inverse of  $A_n$  (we can replace the superscript  $+$  with  $-1$  if  $A_n$  is also invertible);
- $\{A_n^*\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \kappa_A^*$ , where  $A_n^*$  denote the conjugate transpose of  $A_n$ .

The class of GLT sequences contains all Toeplitz sequences, generated by  $L^1$  symbols, and diagonal sequences, obtained as a uniform sampling of Riemann integrable functions.

**Theorem 2.4.** (See [23].) If  $\{T_n(f)\}$  is a sequence of Toeplitz matrices generated by  $f \in L^1(Q)$ , then  $\{T_n(f)\}$  is a GLT sequence with respect to the function  $f$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** (See [23].) If  $\{D_n(a)\}$  is a sequence of diagonal matrices  $[D_n(a)]_{i,i} = a(i/n)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , generated by a Riemann integrable function  $a$ , then  $\{D_n(a)\}$  is a GLT sequence with respect to the function  $a$ .

### 3. Green matrices

A Green matrix  $G_n = [g_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  [16] is defined by

$$g_{ij} = \begin{cases} a_i c_j & \text{if } i \leq j, \\ a_j c_i & \text{if } i > j, \end{cases} \quad a_i, c_j \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}. \tag{5}$$

By construction,  $G_n$  is symmetric. Furthermore, it can be proved that  $G_n$  is a nonsingular Green matrix if and only if its inverse  $G_n^{-1}$  is a symmetric tridiagonal matrix with nonzero superdiagonal elements, whose explicit form is (see [3,2,11] and [15] for a study of the conditioning)

$$(G_n^{-1})_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{a_i c_{i+1} - a_{i+1} c_i} & i = j - 1, \\ \frac{1}{a_{i-1} c_i - a_i c_{i-1}} & i = j + 1, \\ \frac{a_{i+1} c_{i-1} - a_{i-1} c_{i+1}}{(a_i c_{i-1} - a_{i-1} c_i)(a_{i+1} c_i - a_i c_{i+1})} & i = j \neq 1, n, \\ \frac{a_2}{a_1(a_2 c_1 - a_1 c_2)} & i = j = 1, \\ \frac{c_{n-1}}{c_n(a_n c_{n-1} - a_{n-1} c_n)} & i = j = n, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

Hence, the pair  $(\lambda, \mathbf{h})$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{h} = [h_1, \dots, h_n]^T$ , is an eigenpair of  $G_n^{-1}$  if and only if it satisfies the discrete Sturm–Liouville Problem (SLP)

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta(p_{i-1} \Delta h_{i-1}) = (\mu - q_i) h_i & i = 1, \dots, n, \\ h_0 = 0; h_{n+1} = 0 \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

with  $\mu = 1/\lambda$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta h_i &= h_{i+1} - h_i, \\ p_i &= \frac{1}{a_{i+1} c_i - a_i c_{i+1}}, \quad i = 0, \dots, n, \\ q_i &= \frac{a_{i-1}(c_i - c_{i+1}) + a_i(c_{i+1} - c_{i-1}) - a_{i+1}(c_i - c_{i-1})}{(a_i c_{i-1} - a_{i-1} c_i)(a_{i+1} c_i - a_i c_{i+1})}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \end{aligned}$$

where, by convention, we have set  $a_0 = c_{n+1} = 0$  and  $a_{n+1} = c_0 = 1$ .

Regarding the spectral properties of Green matrices, we recall a result on the ordering of the eigenvalues and on the oscillatory properties of the eigenvectors that passes through the theory of totally positive matrices [11,16]. We first introduce a definition and two theorems.

**Definition 3.1.** An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A_n$  is called: (strictly) totally positive, denoted by TP (STP), if all its minors are nonnegative (positive); oscillatory if it is TP and there exists a  $q \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $A^q$  is STP.

Of course, an STP matrix is also oscillatory with  $q = 1$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** (See [11], Theorem 3.1 of Chapter 3.) A Green matrix  $G_n$  is TP if and only if  $\{a_i\}$  and  $\{c_i\}$  have the same strict sign and  $\{a_i/c_i\}$  is increasing. Moreover,  $G_n^{n-1}$  is STP if and only if  $\{a_i\}$  and  $\{c_i\}$  have the same strict sign and  $\{a_i/c_i\}$  is strictly increasing.

The importance of being TP is well-illustrated by the following well-known result.

**Theorem 3.2.** An  $n \times n$  oscillatory matrix  $A_n$  has eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_n > 0$  and  $S(\mathbf{v}_k) = k - 1$  for each  $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , where  $\mathbf{v}_k$  is the  $k$ -th eigenvector of  $A_n$ .

Regarding the previous result, we recall that the symbol  $S(\mathbf{v}_k)$  denotes the number of sign variations of  $\mathbf{v}_k$  that coincides with the common value  $S^-(\mathbf{v}_k) = S^+(\mathbf{v}_k)$ , where  $S^-(\mathbf{v}_k)$  is the number of sign changes of  $\mathbf{v}_k$  when zero terms are discarded, and  $S^+(\mathbf{v}_k)$  is the maximum number of sign changes of  $\mathbf{v}_k$  when values  $+1$  or  $-1$  are arbitrarily assigned to zero terms. Notice that  $S^+(\mathbf{v}_k)$  and  $S^-(\mathbf{v}_k)$  can coincide only if the first and the last components of  $\mathbf{v}_k$  are not zero and if for every zero component the preceding and the following components are not zero and of different sign.

In the following, we will be interested in characterizing the asymptotic spectral distribution of specific sequences of Green matrices and in analyzing, when possible, the monotonicity properties of the components of the eigenvectors; the latter analysis has an impact from an economic viewpoint (see [12,14,17]).

### 3.1. Spectral distribution of sequences of Green matrices

In this section we use the theory reported in Section 2 in order to show that a sequence of Green matrices is a GLT sequence: as a noteworthy result we obtain that the spectral distribution is independent of the possible parameters and in fact it is equal to zero.

**Theorem 3.3.** *Suppose that  $a_j$  and  $c_j$  in (5) are equally spaced sampling of Riemann integrable real valued functions  $a(x)$  and  $c(x)$ , respectively, on the interval  $[0, 1]$ , i.e.  $a_j = a(j/n)$  and  $c_j = c(j/n)$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , then  $\{G_n\} \sim_\sigma 0$  and  $\{G_n\} \sim_\lambda 0$ .*

**Proof.** The matrix  $G_n$  in (5) can be written as

$$G_n = D_n(a)D_n(c) + D_n(a)T_n^{(1)}D_n(c) + D_n(c)T_n^{(2)}D_n(a), \tag{8}$$

where

$$D_n(a) = \text{diag}\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}, \quad D_n(c) = \text{diag}\{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\},$$

and

$$T_n^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & 1 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T_n^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We study separately the four sequences  $\{D_n(a)\}$ ,  $\{D_n(c)\}$ ,  $\{T_n^{(1)}\}$  and  $\{T_n^{(2)}\}$ .

From Theorem 2.5 we have  $\{D_n(a)\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} a$  and  $\{D_n(c)\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} c$ .

1 Consider the Toeplitz matrix  $T_n^{(1)}$ , we can write

$$T_n^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & 1 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & -1 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} - I = T_n(\tilde{f}_1)^{-1} - I,$$

3 with  $\tilde{f}_1(\theta) = 1 - e^{-i\theta} \in L^1(Q)$ . By Theorem 2.4  $\{T_n(\tilde{f}_1)\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \tilde{f}_1$ . Since the sequence  $\{T_n(\tilde{f}_1)\}$  is sparsely vanishing ( $T_n(\tilde{f}_1)$  is invertible), from Theorem 2.3 we obtain  $\{T_n(\tilde{f}_1)^{-1}\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \tilde{f}_1^{-1}$ .

4 The same reasoning can be repeated verbatim for  $T_n^{(2)}$ :

$$T_n^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -1 & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} - I = T_n(\tilde{f}_2)^{-1} - I,$$

5 with  $\tilde{f}_2(\theta) = 1 - e^{i\theta} \in L^1(Q)$ . Again we can conclude that  $\{T_n(\tilde{f}_2)^{-1}\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} \tilde{f}_2^{-1}$ .

6 Using Theorem 2.3, putting together the previous results we have

$$\begin{aligned} \{G_n\} &\sim_{\text{GLT}} a(x)c(x) + a(x) \left( \frac{1}{1 - e^{-i\theta}} - 1 \right) c(x) + c(x) \left( \frac{1}{1 - e^{i\theta}} - 1 \right) a(x) \\ &= a(x)c(x) \left( 1 + \frac{1}{1 - e^{-i\theta}} - 1 + \frac{1}{1 - e^{i\theta}} - 1 \right) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

7 that is  $\{G_n\} \sim_{\text{GLT}} 0$ . Theorem 2.2 ensures that  $\{G_n\} \sim_{\sigma} 0$  and  $\{G_n\} \sim_{\lambda} 0$  since  $G_n$  is also Hermitian.  $\square$

8 **Remark 3.1.** We can prove Theorem 3.3 using a result on the spectral distribution of nonscaled sampling matrices obtained in [1], but again with the support of GLT theorems.

9 The Green matrix  $G_n$  in (5) can be obtained as a nonscaled sampling of the Green function (kernel) defined as

$$\begin{aligned} K(x, y) &= \begin{cases} a(x)c(y) & 0 < x \leq y \leq 1, \\ a(y)c(x) & 0 < y \leq x \leq 1, \end{cases} \\ &= a(x)c(y) + \begin{cases} 0 & 0 < x \leq y \leq 1, \\ a(y)c(x) - a(x)c(y) & 0 < y \leq x \leq 1, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$



**Table 1**

Number of eigenvalues of  $G_n$ , defined in (5) with  $a_i = (i/n+1)^{-1}$ ,  $c_j = \ln(j/n+2)$ , greater than  $\epsilon_1 = 10^{-1}$ ,  $\epsilon_2 = 10^{-2}$ , and  $\epsilon_3 = 10^{-3}$ .

$n$	$q_{\epsilon_1}(n, 0)$	$q_{\epsilon_2}(n, 0)$	$q_{\epsilon_3}(n, 0)$	$\frac{q_{\epsilon_1}(n, 0)}{n}$	$\frac{q_{\epsilon_2}(n, 0)}{n}$	$\frac{q_{\epsilon_3}(n, 0)}{n}$
20	4	16	20	0.2000	0.8000	1.0000
40	6	19	40	0.1500	0.4750	1.0000
80	8	25	80	0.1000	0.3125	1.0000
160	11	35	142	0.0688	0.2188	0.8875
320	16	49	174	0.0500	0.1531	0.5437
640	22	68	226	0.0344	0.1063	0.3531
1280	31	96	311	0.0242	0.0750	0.2430
2560	43	136	433	0.0168	0.0531	0.1691
5120	61	192	609	0.0119	0.0375	0.1189

It is immediate to see that a sequence of matrices is weakly clustered at  $s$  if and only if it admits a distribution in the sense of Definition 2.1 and the distribution function is equal to the constant  $s$  (almost everywhere on a reference domain  $[0, 1]$ ). Therefore Theorem 3.3 tells us that any Green matrix sequence, with Riemann integrable coefficients  $a(\cdot)$  and  $c(\cdot)$ , is weakly clustered at zero.

In the following we report selected experiments and we also discuss the fact that the cluster is often strong, depending on the nature of the considered functions. This shows that there is room for improving the theoretical findings in Theorem 3.3.

We choose the functions  $a(x)$  and  $c(x)$ ,  $x \in [0, 1]$ , compute the number of eigenvalues of the matrix  $G_n$  in (5) greater, in modulus, of a certain tolerance  $\epsilon \in \{10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}\}$ , for various sizes  $n$ .

First of all, we observe that, if we set  $c(x) = ka(x)$ , with  $k \in \mathbb{C}$ , we obtain a rank-one matrix. Indeed, if we use the decomposition in (8) we have

$$G_n = k^2 D_n(a)(I_n + T_n^{(1)} + T_n^{(2)})D_n(a) = k^2 D_n(a)\mathbf{1}_n D_n(a),$$

where  $\mathbf{1}_n$  is the matrix of size  $n$  with all elements equal to one. Now, since  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{1}_n) = 1$  and  $\text{rank}(AB) \leq \min\{\text{rank}(A), \text{rank}(B)\}$ , where  $A, B$  are matrices of size  $n$ , the result follows. In this case, obviously, the cluster is strong.

In Tables 1–3 we fix the function  $a(x) = (x + 1)^{-1}$  and we choose the functions  $c(x)$  with different growth: logarithmic:  $c(x) = \ln(x + 2)$  (Table 1); polynomial  $c(x) = x + 1$  (Table 2); and exponential:  $c(x) = e^x$  (Table 3). The experiments seem to suggest a deterioration of the cluster when the slope of  $c(x)$  increases and  $a(x)$  is a decreasing function, moreover, in all three cases, we can note that  $q_{\epsilon_2}(n, 0) \approx 3q_{\epsilon_1}(n, 0)$  and  $q_{\epsilon_3}(n, 0) \approx 10q_{\epsilon_1}(n, 0)$ . Finally, we can observe that the growth of the outliers is proportional to the square root of the dimension  $n$  of the matrix.

In Table 4 we consider a combination of a sinusoidal function  $a(x)$  with a linear function  $c(x)$  with positive and negative values, in detail  $a(x) = \sin(\frac{\pi}{2}x + \frac{\pi}{4})$  and  $c(x) = x - 1/3$ . Also in this case the same considerations of the previous cases on the proportionality of  $q_\epsilon(n, 0)$  and on the growth of the outliers as the square root of  $n$  are valid.



Covariance and/or correlation matrices play a crucial role in *multifactor models of interest rates* where changes in the shape of the *yield curve* are largely attributed to some unobservable factors. Their estimation on real data through the multivariate statistic technique of *principal component analysis* highlighted the importance of the first three factors, formally captured by the first three eigenvectors of the covariance (or correlation) matrix of yields: for details refer to [12,14,17]. These three eigenvectors were respectively called *shift*, *slope* and *curvature* (of the yield curve), hereafter SSC, because of the behavior of their elements. Approximately:

- a shift has constant sign and an “humped shape”: when it is positive, it is first increasing then decreasing (see e.g. [7]);
- a slope is monotone, with a change of sign;
- a curvature has a one-peaked shape with two changes of sign.

These features are formally captured in the following definition (that resumes the ones in [18] and [20]) in terms of changes of sign of vectors  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = [v_1, \dots, v_n]^T$ , and  $\Delta \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$  defined by  $(\Delta \mathbf{v})_i = v_{i+1} - v_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n-1$ .

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $\Gamma_n$  be an  $n \times n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , correlation (or covariance) matrix having its first three eigenvalues simple, whose corresponding eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_2$  and  $\mathbf{v}_3$  have, by convention, non negative first element. We define:

- $\mathbf{v}_1$  *weak shift* if  $S^-(\mathbf{v}_1) = 0$ , *shift* if it is weak shift and  $S^-(\Delta \mathbf{v}_1) = 1$  where the first no zero element of  $\Delta \mathbf{v}_1$  is positive, *pure shift* if it is constant;
- $\mathbf{v}_2$  *weak slope* if  $S^-(\mathbf{v}_2) = 1$ , *slope* if it is weak slope and  $S^-(\Delta \mathbf{v}_2) = 0$ ;
- $\mathbf{v}_3$  *weak curvature* if  $S^-(\mathbf{v}_3) = 2$ , *curvature* if it is weak curvature and  $S^-(\Delta \mathbf{v}_3) = 1$ .

In the empirical literature both cases of SSC and SSC in a weak form can be found (see Figures 3.16 and 3.17 in [14], Exhibit 5 in [7], Figures 1 and 2 in [12,13]). Anyway, in all the weak cases, in each interval where the elements of the first three eigenvectors are of constant sign, there is at most one hump, that is the conjecture  $S(\Delta \mathbf{v}_1) \leq 1$ ,  $S(\Delta \mathbf{v}_2) \leq 2$  and  $S(\Delta \mathbf{v}_3) \leq 3$  appears reasonable.

We will show that this is the case for a class of Green matrices, those of Schoenmakers–Coffey, denoted by  $SC_n = [r_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  where [21]:

$$r_{ij} = \frac{\min\{b_i, b_j\}}{\max\{b_i, b_j\}}, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n, \quad (10)$$

and

- H1)  $\{b_i\}$  is real and strictly positive;
- H2)  $\{b_i\}$  is strictly increasing;
- H3)  $\{b_i/b_{i+1}\}$  is strictly increasing, that is  $\{b_i\}$  is log-concave.





We recall now a definition and a theorem due to Hartman [9].

**Definition 4.2.** A solution  $\mathbf{h} = [h_1, \dots, h_n]^T$  of Eq. (7) has a generalized zero at  $i_0$  provided  $h_{i_0} = 0$  if  $i_0 = 1$  and if  $i_0 > 1$  either  $h_{i_0} = 0$  or  $h_{i_0-1}h_{i_0} < 0$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** (Rolle’s) Assume the sequence of real numbers  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  has  $N_j$  generalized zeros and  $\Delta v_1, \dots, \Delta v_{n-1}$  has  $M_j$  generalized zeros. Then  $M_j \geq N_j - 1$ .

Given a vector  $\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , set

$$\Omega_i = -\Delta (p_{i-1} (\Delta \mathbf{h})_{i-1}) = p_{i-1} (h_i - h_{i-1}) - p_i (h_{i+1} - h_i).$$

Obviously if  $h_{i-1} = h_i = h_{i+1}$  then  $\Omega_i = 0$ . Furthermore, if in  $i$  there is a strict maximum, that is  $(\Delta \mathbf{h})_{i-1} > 0$  and  $(\Delta \mathbf{h})_i < 0$ , then  $\Omega_i > 0$ ; analogously, if in  $i$  there is a strict minimum then  $\Omega_i < 0$ .

We are now able to prove the main result of this section.

**Theorem 4.2.** The  $k$ -th eigenvector  $\mathbf{h}_k$  of a Schoenmakers–Coffey matrix  $SC_n$  of size  $n$ ,  $n \geq 4$ , has exactly  $k - 1$  changes of sign; between two consecutive changes of sign of  $\mathbf{h}_k$  there is exactly one change of monotonicity and  $k - 2 \leq S^-(\Delta \mathbf{h}_k) \leq k$ .

**Proof.** The first statement follows by Theorem 3.2.

Assume now  $\mathbf{h}_k$  has two consecutive generalized zeroes in  $i_*, i_{**} \in \{2, \dots, n\}$  with  $i_* < i_{**}$ . Since  $SC_n$  is oscillatory, if  $h_{k,i_*} = h_{k,i_{**}} = 0$  there exists an index  $i^*$  such that  $i_* < i^* < i_{**}$  and  $h_{i^*} \neq 0$ . By Rolle Theorem,  $\Delta \mathbf{h}_k$  has (at least) a generalized zero between  $i_*$  and  $i_{**}$ . Let  $i^+$  between  $i_*$  and  $i_{**}$  the minimum index for which  $\Delta \mathbf{h}_k$  has a generalized zero, so  $(\Delta \mathbf{h}_k)_{i^+} = 0$  or  $(\Delta \mathbf{h}_k)_{i^+-1} (\Delta \mathbf{h}_k)_{i^+} < 0$ . If, for example,  $(\Delta \mathbf{h}_k)_{i^+-1} > 0$  then  $h_{k,i^+} > 0$  and in both the previous cases we obtain  $\Omega_{i^+} > 0$ . Since  $\{\mu - q_i\}_{i=2}^{n-1}$  is strictly increasing, by (7) it follows  $\Omega_i > 0$  for all  $i > i^+$  for which  $h_i > 0$  and this prevent the existence of other generalized zero of  $\Delta \mathbf{h}_k$  between  $i_*$  and  $i_{**}$ . Assuming alternatively  $(\Delta \mathbf{h}_k)_{i^+-1} < 0$  (and then  $h_{k,i^+} < 0$ ) we get the same conclusion.

With the same argument, it is possible to show that before the first (the minimum) and after the last (the maximum) generalized zeroes of  $\mathbf{h}_k$  there exists at most a change of sign of  $\Delta \mathbf{h}_k$  and the last conclusion follows.  $\square$

If one removes the assumption that  $\{b_i\}$  is log-concave, then the sequence  $\{\mu - q_i\}_{i=2}^{n-1}$  is no longer strictly increasing and the statement of Theorem 4.2 on the changes of monotonicity does not necessarily hold. In this last case, by the proof of the previous theorem it emerges that the first eigenvector presenting “internal” humps is the first one, as illustrated by the following example.

**Example 4.1.** The sequence  $\{b_i\}$  defined by  $b_i = \exp \left\{ \frac{6}{5}i + \sin \frac{6}{5}i \right\} + 1$  is strictly increasing but not log-concave. One can verify that the first eigenvector of the corresponding matrix  $SC_n$  has two humps for  $n \geq 9$ .



1 Since  $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0^+} r_{ij} = 1$  and  $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow +\infty} r_{ij} = 0$ , we obtain:

$$2 \quad \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0^+} \lambda_2 = 0; \quad \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow +\infty} \lambda_2 = 1.$$

3 On the other hand

$$4 \quad \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0^+} 1 + \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0^+} 1 + \frac{b_{n-1}}{b_n} = 2,$$

$$5 \quad \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow +\infty} 1 + \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow +\infty} 1 + \frac{b_{n-1}}{b_n} = 1.$$

6 Therefore for  $\alpha$  in a suitable right neighborhood of 0 there are no initial and final humps in  $\mathbf{h}_2$ . Similar considerations apply to  $\lambda_3$  and  $\mathbf{h}_3$ .

7 A further consideration. As it is well-known, the eigenvectors of a covariance matrix are different from the ones of the corresponding correlation matrix. However, in [13] it has been shown that an invertible covariance matrix is oscillatory if and only if its correlation matrix is oscillatory. This means that all Green (covariance) matrices having a corresponding correlation matrix of Schoenmakers–Coffey type, are oscillatory and their first three eigenvectors are SSC in a weak sense. This raises the question of whether the results obtained here on the number of monotonicity changes of Schoenmakers–Coffey matrices extend in a natural way to the corresponding covariance Green matrices. The negative answer is given by the following example.

8 **Example 4.3.** Consider the Green matrix  $G_n$  defined by the sequences  $\{a_i\}$  and  $\{c_j\}$  with:

$$9 \quad t_k = \frac{\pi}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{k-1}{n-1} \right), \quad k = 1, \dots, n,$$

$$10 \quad a_i = t_i(\sin(4t_i) + 2), \quad i = 1, \dots, n,$$

$$11 \quad c_j = \sin(4t_j) + 2, \quad j = 1, \dots, n.$$

12 The sequences  $\{a_i\}$  and  $\{c_j\}$  are positive but not monotone. However we have that  $\{a_i/c_i\} = \{t_i\}$  is strictly increasing, therefore  $G_n$  is oscillatory and in particular is a covariance matrix. The sequence  $\{b_i\} = \{\sqrt{a_i/c_i}\} = \{\sqrt{t_i}\}$  is positive, strictly increasing and such that  $\{b_i/b_{i+1}\}$  is strictly increasing too:

$$13 \quad \frac{b_i}{b_{i+1}} - \frac{b_{i-1}}{b_i} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{n-1+i}} - \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{n-2+i}} > 0.$$

14 Therefore, the corresponding correlation matrix  $SC_n$  is of Schoenmakers–Coffey type and its first three eigenvectors are SSC (Fig. 1(a)). Nevertheless the first eigenvector of  $G_n$  is not shift and presents two humps (Fig. 1(b)). If we substitute  $\sin(4t_i)$  with  $\sin(10t_i)$  also the second and the third eigenvector of  $G_n$  are not more slope and curvature (Fig. 1(c)).

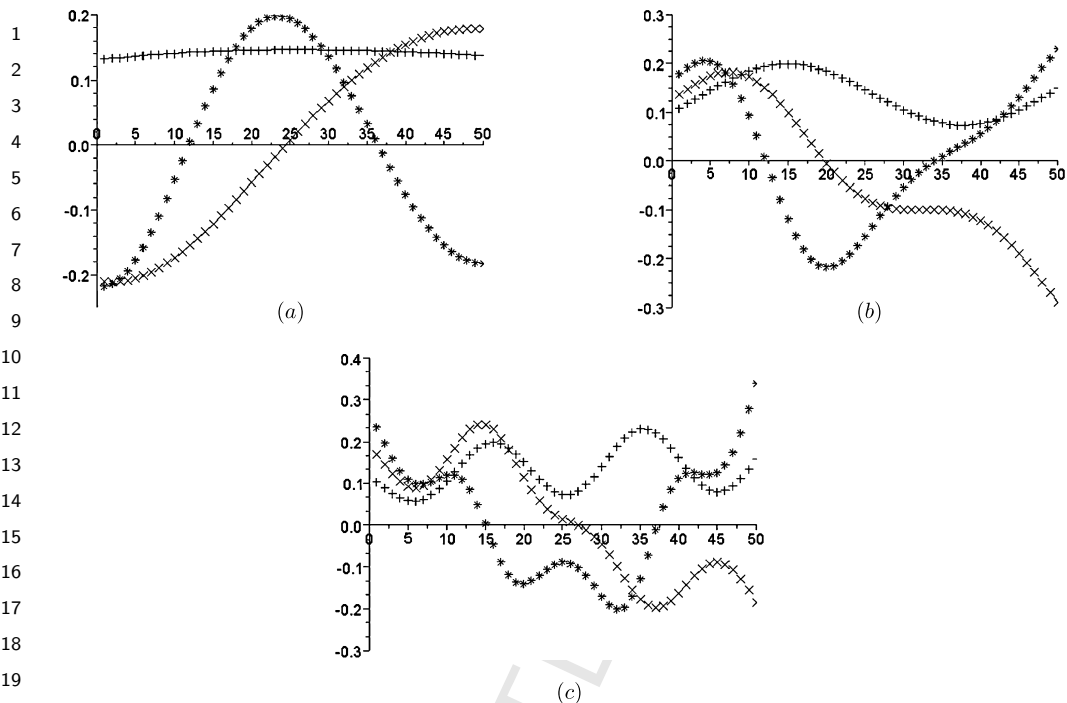


Fig. 1. First three eigenvectors,  $h_1$  (+),  $h_2$  (x) and  $h_3$  (\*), of  $SC_{50}$  for  $\sin(4t_i)$  (a), of  $G_{50}$  for  $\sin(4t_i)$  (b), and of  $G_{50}$  for  $\sin(10t_i)$  (c).

In the next example the estimation of the eigenvalues of the considered correlation matrix allows to obtain a complete result on the existence of slope and curvature.

**Example 4.4.** Consider the well-known Kac–Murdock–Szegő (KMS) matrices  $R = [\rho^{|i-j|}]_{i,j=1}^n$ ,  $\rho \in (0, 1)$ , [6,8,10,29]. They are Green’s (see (6)) with

$$a_i = \rho^{1-i}, \quad c_j = \rho^{j-1}, \tag{11}$$

and represent a limit case of the Schoenmakers–Coffey ones, as  $\{b_i/b_{i+1}\}$  is constant. Indeed, by the proof of Lemma 4.1,  $\{p_i\}_{i=1}^{n-1}$  is a constant sequence if and only if  $\{b_i/b_{i+1}\}$  is constant. It is possible to show (see Theorem 3.1 in [21]) that under H1)–H3) (10) is equivalent to

$$(R)_{ij} = \exp \left\{ - \sum_{l=i+1}^n \min \{ l - i, j - i \} \tilde{\Delta}_l \right\}, \quad i < j, \tag{12}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Delta}_l &= \ln b_l - \ln b_{l-1} - (\ln b_{l+1} - \ln b_l), \quad l = 2, \dots, n - 1, \\ \tilde{\Delta}_n &= \ln b_n - \ln b_{n-1} = \ln b_2 - \sum_{l=2}^{n-1} \tilde{\Delta}_l. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\{b_i/b_{i+1}\}$  is constant if and only if one chooses  $\tilde{\Delta}_l = 0$  in (12) for  $l = 2, \dots, n - 1$ , obtaining (without any restrictions we assume  $b_1 = 1$ )  $(R)_{ij} = \exp\{-\min\{n - i, j - i\} \Delta_n\} = b_2^{i-j}$  for  $i < j$ . Therefore this is the unique case where the main diagonal of  $SC_n^{-1}$  (except for the first and the last elements) and the super-diagonals are constant.

KMS matrices are oscillatory [18], so their first three eigenvectors are SSC in a weak sense. The authors in [19] have shown that these matrices admit shift for all  $\rho \in (0, 1)$  and slope and curvature if and only if  $\rho$  is greater than a threshold value. We briefly show how to extend and precise these results for  $n \geq 4$  (if  $n = 3$  all is obvious, see Example 15 in [19]).

As it can be easily verified, the conclusions of Theorem 4.2 apply despite being in a borderline case. The same result can be obtained recalling that KMS matrices are Toeplitz's, with the  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  symmetric and  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  skew-symmetric eigenvectors  $\mathbf{h}_k$  whose expressions (see [28]):

$$h_{tk} = \cos\left(\left(t - \frac{n+1}{2}\right)\theta_k\right), \quad k \text{ odd}, \tag{13}$$

$$h_{tk} = \sin\left(\left(t - \frac{n+1}{2}\right)\theta_k\right), \quad k \text{ even}, \tag{14}$$

are obtained by solving problem (7) with  $p_i = \frac{\rho}{1-\rho^2}$  and  $q_i = \frac{1-\rho}{1+\rho}$ . As a consequence, the fact that between two consecutive zeros there is one and only one change of monotonicity follows by noting that each eigenvector is an equispaced sampling of sine or cosine functions.

For what concerns the presence of initial (and by symmetry, final) humps, we recall that the eigenvalues of  $R$  are (interlaced, with  $\lambda_1$  even and) given by

$$\lambda_k = \frac{1 - \rho^2}{1 + \rho^2 - 2\rho \cos \theta_k}, \tag{15}$$

where, as proved in [25] improving a previous result of [8],

$$\frac{(k-1)\pi}{n} < \theta_k < \frac{k\pi}{n+1}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n. \tag{16}$$

As Corollary 4.1 holds with  $1 + \frac{b_1}{b_2} = 1 + \frac{b_{n-1}}{b_n} = 1 + \rho$ , the monotonicity of the “first positive part” (with  $h_{1k} > 0$ ) of any eigenvector of  $R$  depends on the sign of  $\lambda_k - (1 + \rho)$ . Apart from the obvious conclusions about  $\lambda_1 (> 1 + \rho)$  (and  $\lambda_n < 1 + \rho$ ), we show now that:

- i) for  $n = 4, 5$  we have  $(\lambda_3 <) \lambda_2 < 1 + \rho$  for all  $\rho \in (0, 1)$ ; for  $n \geq 6$  we have  $\lambda_2 \gtrless 1 + \rho$  if and only if  $\rho \lesseqgtr 2 \cos \frac{\pi}{n-2} - 1$ ;



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