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# Complete positivity of matrices of special form

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## Abstract

Given that  $B, C_2, \dots, C_k$  are positive semidefinite (PSD)  $n$ -by- $n$  real matrices and  $B$  is entrywise nonnegative, we characterize (fully for  $n = 2$  and partially for  $n \geq 3$ ) when  $B$  may be written as  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  so that  $B_i$  and  $B_i - C_i$  are PSD and  $B_i$  is entrywise nonnegative,  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . These characterizations are used to give conditions under which an entrywise nonnegative, PSD matrix  $A$  with a special block form can be written as  $A = BB^T$ , in which  $B$  is entrywise nonnegative. © 2001 Elsevier Science Inc. All rights reserved.

*Keywords:* Completely positive; Doubly nonnegative

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## 1. Introduction

An  $n$ -by- $n$  matrix  $A$  is called *completely positive* (CP) if it may be written as  $A = BB^T$ , in which  $B$  is  $n$ -by- $m$  and entrywise nonnegative. Equivalently,  $A = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i b_i^T$ , in which each  $b_i \in R^n$  is nonnegative.

More generally,  $A$  is called *doubly nonnegative* (DN) if  $A$  is positive semidefinite and entrywise nonnegative. Of course CP matrices are DN, but the containment is

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proper for  $n \geq 5$ . Double nonnegativity is easily checked, but, thus far, there is no definitive test for a matrix to be CP. The two classes coincide for  $n \leq 4$  and also for certain sparsity patterns when  $n$  is larger.

The graph  $G = G(A)$  of the  $n$ -by- $n$  symmetric matrix  $A = [a_{ij}]$  is the undirected graph on  $n$  vertices in which is the edge  $\{i, j\}$ ,  $i \neq j$ , if and only if  $a_{ij} \neq 0$ . All doubly nonnegative matrices whose graph is  $G$  are completely positive if and only if  $G$  contains no odd length cycle of length  $\geq 5$  [2–4,6,9]. We refer to such graphs as NLOC.

For some further graphs, complete positivity may be checked. For example, if the graph of a doubly nonnegative matrix  $A$  is triangle free, then  $A$  is CP if and only if the comparison matrix  $M(A)$  is an M-matrix (possibly singular) [5] and tests are given for certain other graphs in [1], which overlaps prior work.

Our purpose here is to extend conditions for complete positivity by considering doubly nonnegative matrices of the special block form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & \cdots & A_{1k} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & & \mathbf{0} & \\ A_{31} & & A_{33} & & \\ \vdots & \mathbf{0} & & \ddots & \\ A_{k1} & & & & A_{kk} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{1}$$

which generalizes the special case (up to permutation similarity)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & 0 \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ 0 & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix}. \tag{2}$$

In this process, we extend the graphs for which complete positivity may be checked, in a simple and unified way. In the case that  $A_{11}$  is 2-by-2, a parallel result can be found in [1].

We begin with a general discussion. Let  $\succeq$  denote the positive semidefinite partial order of symmetric matrices and let  $|X|$  denote the entrywise absolute value of a matrix  $X$ . Using Schur complements [7], a symmetric matrix  $A$  of form (1) is positive semidefinite (PSD) if and only if  $A_{ii}$  is PSD,  $i = 2, \dots, k$ , and  $A_{11} \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k A_{1i} A_{ii}^{-1} A_{i1}$ . Here, we assume that  $A_{ii}$  is invertible,  $i = 2, \dots, k$ , but, if not,  $A_{ii}^{-1}$  may be replaced by the Moore–Penrose generalized inverse  $A_{ii}^\dagger$ .

Further,  $A$  is CP if and only if  $A_{11}$  may be decomposed as  $A_{11} = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  in such a way that

$$A_i = \begin{bmatrix} B_i & A_{1i} \\ A_{i1} & A_{ii} \end{bmatrix} \tag{3}$$

is CP,  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . (This may be seen by using the rank 1 decomposition already mentioned,  $A = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i b_i^T$ , noting that each vector  $b_i$  can have nonzero entries only in those positions corresponding to the rows of  $A$  occupied by  $A_{11}$  and some other single block  $A_{i1}$ , then considering the sums of the  $b_j b_j^T$  corresponding to each  $A_{i1}$ .)

In order that a symmetric matrix of form (3) be CP, it must be DN, and, for this it is necessary and sufficient that  $A_i$  be entrywise nonnegative,  $A_{ii}$  be PSD and  $B_i \succeq A_{1i}A_{ii}^{-1}A_{i1}$ . Again  $A_{ii}^{-1}$  may be replaced by  $A_{ii}^\dagger$ . In case the graph of each  $A_i$  is NLOC, these conditions become necessary and sufficient for each  $A_i$  to be CP and thus for  $A$  to be CP. We conclude that the existence of a decomposition of the doubly nonnegative matrix  $A_{11}$  into a sum of doubly nonnegative matrices  $\sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  in such a way that  $B_i \succeq A_{1i}A_{ii}^{-1}A_{i1}$ , each of which is PSD, is a central question in CP theory. We next formalize and study this question and then apply the results to matrices of form (1).

Suppose that  $B$  and  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  are symmetric matrices. We say that  $B$  is *decomposable* relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  if  $B$  may be written as  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  so that  $B_i \succeq C_i, i = 2, \dots, k$ ; when  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  are naturally understood from the context, we just say that  $B$  is decomposable. It is an easy exercise that  $B$  is decomposable if and only if

$$B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k C_i. \tag{4}$$

A more stringent condition that is relevant to our inquiry is the following. We say that  $B$  is *DN-decomposable* relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  if  $B$  may be written as  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  so that  $B_i \succeq C_i$  and  $B_i$  is DN,  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . Condition (4) remains necessary, but is no longer generally sufficient. Now,  $B$  must be DN (by virtue of being a sum of DN matrices), but, even together with (4), this is not sufficient beyond the case  $n = 1$  (as we shall see). We are able to characterize DN-decomposability for  $n = 2$ . For  $n \geq 3$ , we give conditions and characterizations only in certain circumstances.

## 2. DN-decomposition in the 2-by-2 case

**Theorem 1.** *Suppose that  $B, C_2, \dots, C_k$  are 2-by-2 PSD matrices with  $B$  DN and  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$ . Then  $B$  is DN-decomposable relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  if and only if  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k |C_i|$ .*

**Proof.** ( $\Rightarrow$ ): We assume that  $B$  may be written as  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$ , in which  $B_i \succeq C_i$  and  $B_i$  is DN,  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . It is easy to verify that, for 2-by-2 matrices, since  $B_i$  is DN and  $C_i$  is PSD,  $B_i \succeq C_i$  implies  $B_i \succeq |C_i|$ . Thus,

$$B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k |C_i|.$$

( $\Leftarrow$ ): We assume that  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k |C_i|$  and let

$$C_i = \begin{bmatrix} a_i & c_i \\ c_i & b_i \end{bmatrix}, \quad i = 2, \dots, k.$$

We may assume that the  $c_i$  are nonzero since otherwise we could redefine  $B$  by subtracting it from each  $C_i$  that is diagonal. By diagonal congruence, we may assume that

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \phi \\ \phi & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{with } \phi \geq 0.$$

We consider several cases.

*Case 1.* If  $\phi = 0$ , for each  $i$  let  $p_i = |c_i| / \sum_{j=2}^k |c_j|$  and let

$$B_i = \begin{bmatrix} p_i \left(1 - \sum_{j=2}^k a_j\right) + a_i & 0 \\ 0 & p_i \left(1 - \sum_{j=2}^k b_j\right) + b_i \end{bmatrix}.$$

For each  $i$ ,  $B_i \geq C_i$  since  $B_i - C_i$  has nonnegative diagonal entries and

$$\begin{aligned} \det(B_i - C_i) &= p_i^2 \left\{ \left(1 - \sum_{j=2}^k a_j\right) \left(1 - \sum_{j=2}^k b_j\right) - \left(\sum_{j=2}^k |c_j|\right)^2 \right\} \\ &= p_i^2 \det \left( B - \sum_{j=2}^k |C_j| \right) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\sum_{j=2}^k B_j = B$  and  $B_i \geq 0$ , matrix  $B$  is DN-decomposable relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ .

*Case 2.* If at least one of the  $c_i$  (say  $c_2$ ) is such that  $c_i \geq \phi$ , then define  $\tilde{B}$  and  $\tilde{C}_2$  by subtracting  $\phi$  from the off-diagonal entries of  $B$  and  $C$ . From case 1 it follows that  $\tilde{B}$  has a DN-decomposition relative to  $\tilde{C}_2, C_3, \dots, C_k$  and hence that  $B$  has a DN-decomposition relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ .

*Case 3.* If  $c_i < 0$  for each  $i$ , let

$$p_i = \left( \frac{\phi}{k-1} - c_i \right) / \left( \phi - \sum_{j=2}^k c_j \right), \quad i = 2, \dots, k.$$

Then  $\sum_{i=2}^k p_i = 1$  and, for each  $i$ ,  $p_i > 0$  and

$$p_i \left( \phi - \sum_{j=2}^k c_j \right) + c_i = \frac{\phi}{k-1} \geq 0. \tag{5}$$

For each  $i$ , let

$$B_i = C_i + p_i \left( B - \sum_{j=2}^k C_j \right).$$

Each  $B_i$  is entrywise nonnegative, by (5), and  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$ . Moreover, for each  $i$ ,  $B_i \geq C_i$  since  $B_i - C_i$  has nonnegative diagonal entries and

$$\det(B_i - C_i) = p_i^2 \det \left( B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i \right) \geq 0.$$

Thus  $B_i$  is DN for each  $i$  and hence  $B$  is DN-decomposable relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ .

*Case 4.* If at least one  $c_i$  (say  $c_2$ ) is such that  $0 < c_i < \phi$ , then define  $\tilde{B} = B - C_2$ , yielding  $\tilde{B} \succeq \sum_{i=3}^k C_i$  and  $\tilde{B} \succeq \sum_{i=3}^k |C_i|$ . If  $\tilde{B}$  has a DN-decomposition relative to  $C_3, \dots, C_k$ , then  $B$  has a DN-decomposition relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ . Thus, since the theorem is trivially true when  $k = 2$ , induction on  $k$  shows that it is true in this final case.  $\square$

Theorem 1 cannot be extended to include 3-by-3 matrices, as shown by the following example.

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 12 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & -2 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -2 & -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Matrix  $B$  is DN-decomposable with respect to  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  since  $B = B_2 + B_3$  with  $B_2 \succeq C_2$  and  $B_3 \succeq C_3$ , but  $B \not\succeq |C_2| + |C_3|$ . Thus  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k |C_i|$  is not a necessary condition for DN-decomposability when  $n = 3$ . It will be shown below that the condition is sufficient when  $B$  is diagonal.

### 3. DN-decomposition in the $n$ -by- $n$ case

If  $B, C_2, \dots, C_k$  are  $n$ -by- $n$  symmetric matrices and  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$ , it is easy to show that  $B$  is decomposable relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  since  $B$  may be written as  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$ , in which

$$B_i = C_i + \frac{1}{k-1} \left( B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i \right) \quad \text{for } i = 2, \dots, k.$$

Although DN-decomposability is a more stringent condition, it can be demonstrated under certain circumstances by using the same  $B_i$  as above (or a slight generalization).

**Theorem 2.** *Suppose that  $B, C_2, \dots, C_k$  are  $n$ -by- $n$  PSD matrices with  $B$  DN and  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$ . If there exist nonnegative numbers  $\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k$  such that  $\sum_{i=2}^k \alpha_i = 1$  and  $B_i = C_i + \alpha_i(B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i)$  is entrywise nonnegative for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ , then  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  is a DN-decomposition of  $B$  relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ .*

**Proof.** Since both  $C_i$  and  $B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$  are PSD for each  $i$ , so is  $B_i$  and hence  $B_i$  is DN for each  $i$ . Clearly  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  and  $B_i \succeq C_i$  for each  $i$ .  $\square$

Theorem 2 also follows from a more general observation: a DN matrix  $B$  is DN-decomposable relative to the PSD matrices  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  if and only if  $B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$  can be partitioned into PSD matrices  $X_2, \dots, X_k$  such that  $C_i + X_i$  is DN for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . Moreover, because each  $B_i$  is nonnegative, such a partition  $X_2, \dots, X_k$  has the property that if any  $C_i$  has a negative entry  $(C_i)_{pq}$ , then  $(X_i)_{pq} \geq |(C_i)_{pq}|$ .

In the following theorem, we denote by  $Z$  the set of  $n$ -by- $n$  matrices whose off-diagonal entries are all  $\leq 0$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Suppose that  $B, C_2, \dots, C_k$  are  $n$ -by- $n$  DN matrices with  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$  and  $B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i \in Z$ . Then  $B$  is DN-decomposable relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ .*

**Proof.** We may assume that  $B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$  is irreducible since otherwise DN-decompositions for each of its irreducible diagonal blocks could be combined to form a DN-decomposition for  $B$ , forming each matrix  $B_i$  from  $C_i$  by replacing each diagonal block of  $C_i$  by a larger ( $\succeq$ ) DN matrix, generated from a DN-decomposition of the corresponding diagonal block of  $B$  relative to the corresponding diagonal blocks of  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ .

We also may assume that  $B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$  is singular since otherwise it could be made singular by decreasing the diagonal elements of  $B$ . If this new  $B$ , which satisfies the hypotheses of the theorem, is DN-decomposable relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ , then it follows easily that the original  $B$  is also.

Since  $B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i \in Z$  is PSD, it is an (irreducible and singular) M-matrix [8]. Hence there is a vector  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T > 0$  such that

$$\left( B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i \right) x = 0. \tag{6}$$

We now construct matrices  $B_2, \dots, B_k$  that satisfy  $(B_i - C_i)x = 0$  and  $B_i - C_i \in Z$ , implying that  $B_i - C_i$  is a singular M-matrix and thus is PSD. Let  $B = [b_{ij}]$  and let the off-diagonal entry in row  $s$  and column  $t$  of each  $B_i$  be given by

$$(B_i)_{st} = b_{st} \frac{(C_i)_{st}}{\sum_{j=2}^k (C_j)_{st}} \quad \text{for } s, t = 1, \dots, n.$$

In this way, the ratio  $(B_i)_{st}/(C_i)_{st}$  remains fixed (and  $\leq 1$ ) as  $i$  varies and  $s, t$  remain fixed. On the diagonal of each  $B_i$ , let

$$(B_i)_{ss} = (C_i)_{ss} + \sum_{j=1, j \neq s}^n \frac{x_j}{x_s} \{(C_i)_{sj} - (B_i)_{sj}\}, \quad s = 1, \dots, n$$

so that  $(B_i - C_i)x = 0$  for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . Straightforward calculation shows that  $B_i - C_i \in Z$  for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . Thus  $B_i - C_i$  is a singular M-matrix and hence is PSD.

Since each  $B_i$  is entrywise nonnegative and each  $C_i$  is PSD, each  $B_i$  is DN. The fact that  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  follows from Eq. (6).  $\square$

#### 4. DN-decomposition in the diagonal case

In the case that  $B$  is a diagonal matrix and  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  are nonnegative symmetric matrices, Theorem 3 provides a characterization of exactly when  $B$  is DN-decomposable relative to  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ .

**Corollary 4.** *Suppose  $B, C_2, \dots, C_k$  are  $n$ -by- $n$  entrywise nonnegative symmetric matrices, with  $B$  diagonal. Then  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$  if and only if there exist diagonal matrices  $B_i$  such that  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  and  $B_i \succeq C_i$ , for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ .*

**Proof.** ( $\Leftarrow$ ):  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$ .

( $\Rightarrow$ ): As in the proof of Theorem 3, since  $B - \sum_{i=2}^k C_i$  is PSD and in  $Z$ ,  $B$  can be written as  $\sum_{i=2}^k B_i$ , in which  $B_i$  is entrywise nonnegative and diagonal, with  $B_i \succeq C_i$ , for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ .  $\square$

If the hypothesis in Corollary 4 is relaxed so that the symmetric matrices  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  are not required to be entrywise nonnegative, a sufficient condition can be found for DN-decomposability, but first the following lemma is required.

**Lemma 5.** *Suppose  $D$  is an  $n$ -by- $n$  nonnegative diagonal matrix and  $C$  is an  $n$ -by- $n$  real symmetric matrix. If  $D \succeq |C|$ , then  $D \succeq C$ .*

**Proof.** We may assume  $D$  is a positive diagonal matrix since any zero diagonal entry would imply that the corresponding row and column of  $C$  have all zero entries. Since  $D - |C|$  is PSD, so is  $D^{-1/2}(D - |C|)D^{-1/2}$  and thus  $I_n \succeq D^{-1/2}|C|D^{-1/2}$ , which equals  $|D^{-1/2}CD^{-1/2}|$ . Since

$$\rho\left(D^{-1/2}CD^{-1/2}\right) \leq \rho\left(\left|D^{-1/2}CD^{-1/2}\right|\right) \leq \rho(I_n) = 1,$$

the eigenvalues of  $D^{-1/2}CD^{-1/2}$  lie on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ , implying that the eigenvalues of  $I - D^{-1/2}CD^{-1/2}$  lie on  $[0, 2]$ , as do the eigenvalues of  $D^{-1/2}(I_n - D^{-1/2}CD^{-1/2})D^{1/2} = D - C$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 6.** *Suppose  $B$  is an  $n$ -by- $n$  nonnegative diagonal matrix and matrices  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  are  $n$ -by- $n$  symmetric. If  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k |C_i|$ , then there exist nonnegative diagonal matrices  $B_i$  such that  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  and  $B_i \succeq C_i$ , for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ .*

**Proof.** By Corollary 4, since  $B, |C_2|, \dots, |C_k|$  are entrywise nonnegative symmetric matrices, with  $B$  diagonal, there are nonnegative diagonal matrices  $B_i$  such that  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  and  $B_i - |C_i|$  is PSD, for each  $i$ . Applying Lemma 5,  $B_i \succeq C_i$  for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ .  $\square$

Theorem 6 gives a sufficient condition for a diagonal matrix  $B$  to be DN-decomposable relative to the symmetric matrices  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ . However, this condition is not necessary, as shown by the example given after Theorem 1.

A necessary condition for a diagonal matrix to be DN-decomposable follows, in which a *signature matrix* is a diagonal matrix with each diagonal entry either +1 or -1.

**Theorem 7.** *Suppose the diagonal matrix  $B$  is DN-decomposable relative to the symmetric matrices  $C_2, \dots, C_k$ . Then  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k S_i C_i S_i$  for any signature matrices  $S_2, \dots, S_k$ .*

**Proof.** There are diagonal matrices  $B_2, \dots, B_k$  such that  $B = \sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  and  $B_i \succeq C_i$  for each  $i$ . Since  $B_i = S_i B_i S_i \succeq S_i C_i S_i$  for each  $i$ , then  $B \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k S_i C_i S_i$ .  $\square$

Note that if  $n = 2$ ,  $B$  is diagonal and  $C_2, \dots, C_k$  are PSD, then the necessary condition of Theorem 7 is also a sufficient condition for DN-decomposability, by Theorem 1. However, for 3-by-3 diagonal matrices the condition is not sufficient for DN-decomposability, as will be shown immediately after the following required (and well-known) lemma is introduced.

**Lemma 8.** *If  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are  $n$ -by- $n$  PSD matrices, then  $\text{nullspace}(A_1 + A_2) \subset \text{nullspace}(A_1)$ .*

Consider the following PSD matrices:

$$C_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1.4 & -1.1 \\ -1.4 & 3.1 & -1 \\ -1.1 & -1 & 2.1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3.2 & -0.8 & 1 \\ -0.8 & 1.7 & 1.2 \\ 1 & 1.2 & 1.8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let  $r$  denote the largest eigenvalue of  $C_1 + C_2$ , with corresponding eigenvector  $x$ , and let  $B = rI_3$ . It is easy to verify that  $B \succeq S_2 C_2 S_2 + S_3 C_3 S_3$  for any signature matrices  $S_2$  and  $S_3$ . We now show that  $B$  is not DN-decomposable relative to  $C_2$  and  $C_3$ . Suppose there are nonnegative diagonal matrices  $B_2$  and  $B_3$  such that  $B = B_2 + B_3$  with  $B_2 \succeq C_2$  and  $B_3 \succeq C_3$ . Since  $(B_1 + B_2)x = rx = (C_2 + C_3)x$ ,  $x \in \text{nullspace}[(B_2 - C_2) + (B_3 - C_3)]$  and hence, by Lemma 8,  $x \in \text{nullspace}(B_2 - C_2)$  and  $x \in \text{nullspace}(B_3 - C_3)$ . The diagonal matrices  $B_2$  and  $B_3$  are uniquely determined by the equations  $B_2 x = C_2 x$  and  $B_3 x = C_3 x$ .



$$B_2 \approx \begin{bmatrix} 3.38 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4.54 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4.27 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_3 \approx \begin{bmatrix} 3.85 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2.69 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.95 \end{bmatrix}.$$

However,  $B_3 \not\prec C_3$  since the eigenvalues of  $B_3 - C_3$  are (approximately) 0.00,  $-0.19$  and  $2.27$ . Thus, in the 3-by-3 case, the necessary condition of Theorem 7 is not sufficient.

### 5. Applications to complete positivity

We now apply the above DN-decomposition theorems to the question of complete positivity for DN matrices of form (1). Let

$$M_i = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{1i} \\ A_{i1} & A_{ii} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{for } i = 2, \dots, k.$$

**Theorem 9.** *Suppose  $A$  is a DN matrix of form (1), with  $A_{11}$  2-by-2, and  $G(M_i)$  is NLOC for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . Then  $A$  is CP if and only if*

$$A_{11} \geq \sum_{i=2}^k \left| A_{1i} A_{ii}^\dagger A_{i1} \right|.$$

**Proof.** By Theorem 1,  $A_{11}$  has a DN-decomposition  $\sum_{i=2}^k B_i$  relative to  $A_{12} A_{22}^\dagger A_{21}, \dots, A_{1k} A_{kk}^\dagger A_{k1}$  if and only if  $A_{11} \geq \sum_{i=2}^k \left| A_{1i} A_{ii}^\dagger A_{i1} \right|$ . If  $A_{11}$  has such a decomposition, then, with  $A_i$  defined as in (3), since  $G(A_i)$  is NLOC and  $A_i$  is DN,  $A_i$  is CP for each  $i$  and hence  $A$  is CP. If  $A_{11}$  has no such decomposition,  $A$  cannot be CP. □

**Theorem 10.** *Suppose  $A$  is a DN matrix of form (1) and  $G(M_i)$  is NLOC for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . If there exist nonnegative numbers  $\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k$  such that  $\sum_{i=2}^k \alpha_i = 1$  and  $A_{1i} A_{ii}^\dagger A_{i1} + \alpha_i (A_{11} - \sum_{i=2}^k A_{1i} A_{ii}^\dagger A_{i1})$  is entrywise nonnegative for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ , then  $A$  is CP.*

**Proof.**  $A_{11}$  has a DN-decomposition relative to  $A_{12} A_{22}^\dagger A_{21}, \dots, A_{1k} A_{kk}^\dagger A_{k1}$  by Theorem 2. For each  $i$ ,  $A_i$ , as defined in (3), is CP since  $G(A_i)$  is NLOC and  $A_i$  is DN. Hence  $A$  is CP. □

In the same way that Theorem 10 follows directly from Theorem 2, Theorems 11 and 13 below follow directly from Theorems 3 and 6, respectively.

**Theorem 11.** Suppose  $A$  is a DN matrix of form (1) and  $G(M_i)$  is NLOC for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . If the matrices  $A_{12}A_{22}^\dagger A_{21}, \dots, A_{1k}A_{kk}^\dagger A_{k1}$  are entrywise nonnegative and  $A_{11} - \sum_{i=2}^k A_{1i}A_{ii}^\dagger A_{i1} \in Z$ , then  $A$  is CP.

If  $A_{11}$  is a diagonal matrix, the condition involving  $Z$  in the hypothesis of Theorem 11 is automatically satisfied.

**Corollary 12.** Suppose  $A$  is a DN matrix of form (1), with  $A_{11}$  diagonal, and  $G(M_i)$  is NLOC for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . If the matrices  $A_{12}A_{22}^\dagger A_{21}, \dots, A_{1k}A_{kk}^\dagger A_{k1}$  are entrywise nonnegative, then  $A$  is CP.

**Theorem 13.** Suppose  $A$  is a DN matrix of form (1), with  $A_{11}$  diagonal, and  $G(M_i)$  is NLOC for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . If  $A_{11} \succeq \sum_{i=2}^k |A_{1i}A_{ii}^\dagger A_{i1}|$ , then  $A$  is CP.

We note that Corollary 12 follows directly from Theorem 13, as well as from Theorem 11.

**Theorem 14.** Suppose  $A$  is a DN matrix of form (1), with  $A_{11}$  diagonal. If there are signature matrices  $S_2, \dots, S_k$  such that  $A_{11} \not\preceq \sum_{i=2}^k S_i A_{1i} A_{ii}^\dagger A_{i1} S_i$ , then  $A$  is not CP.

**Proof.** If  $A$  were CP, then  $A_{11}$  would be DN-decomposable relative to  $A_{12}A_{22}^\dagger A_{21}, \dots, A_{1k}A_{kk}^\dagger A_{k1}$  but, by Theorem 7, such a decomposition cannot exist.  $\square$

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