Eigenvalues of Response Matrices

Colton Willig
Ryan Wilson

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Abstract
We examine the eigenvalues of the response matrix of an electrical network, specifically bounding the eigenvalues through physical interpretation and matrix analysis. Additionally, the general characteristic polynomial is considered and is evaluated in the n-star case.

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1 Preliminaries
Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph where $V$ is the set of vertices and $E$ is the set of edges. Let $\Omega = (G, \gamma)$ be a network where the vertices are nodes of
the network and $\gamma$ is a function defined on the edges of the network. $V$ is partitioned into two disjoint sets: boundary nodes denoted by $\partial G$ and interior nodes denoted by $\text{int } G$. Let $v$ be a voltage function defined on the nodes of the network. Then a network is $\gamma$-harmonic if for all interior nodes $p$: \[ \sum_{q \sim p} \gamma_{pq}(v(p) - v(q)) = 0 \] where $q \sim p$ denotes all nodes $q$ such that an edge from $p$ to $q$ exists. For any electrical network $\Omega$ with a $\gamma$-harmonic function defined on its vertices, there exists a Kirchhoff matrix $K$ defined as such:

$$ K_{ij} = \begin{cases} -\gamma_{ij} & \text{if the edge } ij \text{ exists,} \\ \sum_{k \neq i} \gamma_{ik} & \text{if } i = j. \end{cases} $$

If an edge does not exist between $i$ and $j$, $K_{ij} = 0$. The row sums of $K$ are equal to 0 as $\gamma_{ij} = \gamma_{ji}$. Thus, $K$ is symmetric and positive semi-definite. $K$ can be partitioned into four submatrices $A$, $B$, $B^T$ and $C$.

$$ K = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ B^T & C \end{pmatrix} $$

The response matrix $\Lambda$ is defined by taking the Schur complement of $K$ with respect to $C$, which equals: $A - BC^{-1}B^T$. $\Lambda$, like $K$, has row sums equal to 0, is symmetric, and is positive semi-definite. Let $\phi$ be a column vector where $\phi_i$ be the boundary voltage at boundary node $i$ and $\psi$ be a column vector where $\psi_i$ be the boundary current at boundary node $i$. Then the response matrix maps boundary voltages to boundary currents, such that $\Lambda \phi = \psi$.

Let $\lambda$ be an eigenvalue of $\Lambda$. Then $\lambda \phi = \psi$, indicating that the boundary currents are a scalar multiple of the boundary voltages. Because the net current flow into any network is 0, $\sum_i \psi_i = \lambda \sum_i \phi_i = 0$. Thus it follows that if $\lambda \neq 0$, then $\sum_i \phi_i = 0$. Also $\Lambda$ is a symmetric $n \times n$ matrix, implying that there exist $n$ eigenvalues with $n$ linearly independent eigenvectors that form a basis of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

**Lemma 1.1.** $0$ is an eigenvalue for all response matrices with multiplicity $1$.

**Proof.** Let there exist a constant column vector $\phi$. Then it follows from the row sum property of $\Lambda$ that $\Lambda \phi = 0$. Thus, $\phi$ is an eigenvector of $\Lambda$ corresponding to an eigenvalue of $0$. A non-constant $\phi$ cannot have eigenvalue 0 because there must be a current flow for the network as the current along
boundary-interior edges is nonzero. Thus, 0 only exists as an eigenvalue for constant $\phi$.

**Remark 1.** Lemma 1.1 bears a geometric interpretation. A constant column vector $\phi$ is equivalent to setting all the boundary voltages equal to a constant voltage. By the maximum/minimum principle, all interior voltages equal this constant value. This implies that no current flows through the network, which corresponds to an eigenvalue of 0.

**Lemma 1.2.** 0 is the lower bound for all eigenvalues of a response matrix.

*Proof.* Normalize the eigenvector $\phi$ such that $||\phi||_\infty = 1$. Let $p$ be the boundary node such that $v(p) = 1$. If $p$ is connected to $n$ different nodes:

$$
\lambda = \sum_{i}^{n} (1 - v_i) a_i
$$

where $v_i$ denotes the voltage at node $i$ and $a_i$ denotes the conductivity of the edge from $p$ to $i$. Because $-1 \leq v_i \leq 1$ by the maximum/minimum principle, $\lambda \geq 0$.

**Remark 2.** Lemma 1.2 may also be proven using the positive semi-definite property of a response matrix, given that a positive semi-definite matrix has eigenvalues greater than or equal to 0.

## 2 Bounds for the Eigenvalues of $\Lambda$

In [1], the goal was to find eigenvalues of n-star and n-lattice graphs. While determining specific eigenvalues is difficult, finding an upper bound for eigenvalues of general graphs proved to be much more feasible.

**Definition 1.** A boundary spike network is a connected network such that each boundary node neighbors only one interior node.

**Definition 2.** A boundary antenna is a pair of boundary nodes that neighbor the same interior node.
### 2.1 Physical Interpretations for Eigenvalues of $\Lambda$

A graph containing a boundary antenna with equal conductivities yields interesting properties for eigenvalues of its response matrix.

**Theorem 2.1.** If a boundary spike network has a boundary antenna with the same conductivity $a$ on both edges, $a$ is an eigenvalue.

**Proof.** Let $G = (V,E)$ be the graph corresponding to the boundary spike network. Let $pq$ and $pr$ be the edges of a boundary antenna with $\gamma(pq) = \gamma(pr) = a$, where $p$ is an interior vertex and $q$ and $r$ are boundary vertices. Let $\phi$ be a vector such that $\phi_q = 1$, $\phi_r = -1$ and $\phi_s = 0$ for all other boundary vertices $s$. The function $v$ which is 0 at all interior nodes satisfies Kirchhoff’s law at all interior nodes and hence is the unique solution of the Dirichlet problem on $G$ with boundary values $\phi$. Then it is easy to see that $[\Lambda \phi]_s = 0$, $[\Lambda \phi]_q = a$ and $[\Lambda \phi]_r = -a$. Hence $\Lambda \phi = a \phi$. This proves that $\phi$ is an eigenvector of $\Lambda$ with eigenvalue $a$.

![Figure 1: Assigning boundary voltages as shown in the proof of Theorem 2.1](image)

**Corollary 2.2.** For a boundary spike network, choose each interior node $p_i$ such that there exists $k_i$ boundary nodes neighboring $p_i$ with equal conductiv-
ities $a$. $a$ is an eigenvalue with multiplicity \( \sum_i (k_i - 1) \) if there exists some $i$ for which $k_i \geq 2$.

**Proof.** Using the voltage assignment from Theorem 2.1 for boundary antenna pairs, \( \forall j: e_j - e_{j+1} \) is an eigenvector if \( 1 \leq j \leq k_i - 1 \). Thus, for each $p_i$, there exists $k_i - 1$ linearly independent eigenvectors all with corresponding eigenvalue $a$. \( \square \)

Due to the way we defined a boundary spike network, the eigenvalues of its response matrix are limited by its boundary-interior edge conductivities as there exists no boundary-boundary edges.

**Theorem 2.3.** For a boundary spike network, let $n$ be the number of boundary nodes and $S = \{a_1, a_2, ..., a_n\}$ be the set of conductivities for boundary-interior edges. Let $a_k$ be the maximal element of $S$. For any eigenvalue $\lambda$ of response matrix $\Lambda$, $0 \leq \lambda \leq a_k$.

**Proof.** Assume $\lambda > a_k$. Let $\phi$ be an eigenvector for $\lambda$. Let $\{p_1...p_l\}$ be the set of interior nodes connected to boundary nodes and let $Q_i$ be the set of boundary nodes connected to $p_i$ where $q_i \in Q_i$. Let $v$ be a $\gamma$-harmonic function on $\text{int } G$ and $v = \phi$ for all $Q_i$. Therefore:

\[
v(p_i) = v(q_i)(1 - \lambda/a_i)
\]

where $a_i = \gamma_{p_i,q_i}$. Because $\lambda > a_i$, $v(p_i)v(q_i) < 0$ for $v(q_i) \neq 0$. Because $0 \neq \phi$, there must be a $q_i$ and $q_j$ such that $v(q_i) > 0$ and a $v(q_j) < 0$. Thus, $v(p_i) < 0$ and $v(p_j) > 0$. Let $G = (V,E)$ be the graph corresponding to the boundary spike network. Then let $G' = (V',E')$ be the subgraph such that $V' = V - \{Q_1, ..., Q_l\}$, $E' = E - \{p_1Q_1, ..., p_lQ_l\}$ and $\partial G' = \{p_1...p_l\}$. Let $v|_{G'} = w$, which is still $\gamma$-harmonic on $G'$. By the maximum/minimum principle, the maximum and minimum values of $w$ occur on $\partial G'$. Because there exists a $v(p_j) > 0$, then the maximum value of $w$ is positive. Letting the maximum of $w$ occur at node $p_j$, $v(q_j) < 0$. This implies the net current out of $p_j$ for $v$ in $G$ is greater than zero. This demonstrates a contradiction since $p_i \in \text{int } G$. Therefore, $\lambda \leq a_k$. Note that a similar argument can be made using the minimum of $w$. 

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Theorem 2.4. Suppose \( a_k \) is an eigenvalue of a boundary spike network where \( a_k \) is the maximal conductivity for all boundary-interior edges. Then there must exist a boundary antenna with equal conductivity \( a_k \).

Proof. Let \( \lambda = a_k \) and suppose there does not exist a boundary antenna with constant conductivity \( a_k \). Let all notation be defined as it was in the proof of Theorem 2.3. If for each \( p_i \) there exists an edge \( p_i q_i \) such that \( a_i = a_k \), letting \( v(p_1) = \ldots = v(p_l) = 0 \) satisfies Ohm’s Law for all edges \( p_i q_i \). Defining \( v = 0 \) for all other interior nodes satisfies Kirchoff’s Law and therefore is the unique Dirichlet solution of \( G' \). Because there exists a \( v(q_i) > 0 \) and a \( v(q_j) < 0 \), there must exist a boundary antenna at \( p_i \) and \( p_j \) so \( \gamma \) will be harmonic at \( p_i \) and \( p_j \). Therefore, there must be current flowing along some edge \( p_i q_i \) with conductance \( a_i < a_k \). However, any boundary voltage \( v(q_i) \) with edge conductance \( a_i \) has current \( v(q_i) a_i \) flowing across it. This demonstrates a contradiction as it implies \( \lambda \neq a_k \). Now, let there exist at least one \( p_i \) such that for each edge \( p_i q_i \), \( a_i \neq a_k \) \( \forall q_i \in Q_i \). \( v(q_i) \neq 0 \) because if \( v(p_i) = 0 \), \( v = 0 \) for all interior nodes in \( G \) and the same contradiction as before will be reached (\( \lambda \neq a_k \)). Thus, knowing that \( v(q_i) v(p_i) < 0 \) for \( v(q_i) \neq 0 \), the same
contradiction will be reached as in the proof of Theorem 2.3. Thus, there
must exist a boundary antenna with equal conductivity $a_k$.

\[ \square \]

### 2.2 Relating the Composition of $\Lambda$ to its Eigenvalues

Consider the composition of $\Lambda$:

\[
\Lambda \phi = \lambda \phi
\]

\[
(A - \lambda I)\phi = 0
\]

\[
(BC^{-1}B^T - \lambda I)\phi = 0
\]

\[
(A - \lambda I)\phi = (BC^{-1}B^T)\phi
\]

Using this interpretation for sub-matrices of $\Lambda$ generates a means to prove
the upper bound for eigenvalues in the general case. This decomposition is
useful due to the properties of $C^{-1}$ (invertible and positive semi-definite).

Notice that when $A = aI$ ($a$ is a scalar):

\[
(a - \lambda)\phi = (BC^{-1}B^T)\phi
\]

\[
\Leftrightarrow \lambda' = a - \lambda \text{ is an eigenvalue of } BC^{-1}B^T
\]

**Theorem 2.5.** Suppose there exists a network with no boundary-boundary
connections and for each $i \in \partial V$, $\sum_{i\sim k} \gamma_{ik} = a$ where $k \in \text{int } V$ ($A = aI$ where $A$ is a submatrix of Kirchhoff matrix $K$). When the number of
boundary nodes is greater than the number of interior nodes connected to the
boundary, $a$ is an eigenvalue.

**Proof.** Let $n$ be the number of boundary nodes and $r$ be the number of
interior nodes connected to the boundary.

\[
\text{rank}(BC^{-1}B^T) \leq \text{rank}B \leq \text{min}[n, r]
\]

\[
\text{Nullity}(BC^{-1}B^T) = n - \text{rank}(BC^{-1}B^T)
\]

For $n > r$:

\[
n - \text{rank}(BC^{-1}B^T) \geq n - \text{rank}B \geq n - r > 0
\]

\[
\Rightarrow \text{Nullity}(BC^{-1}B^T) > 0
\]

\[
\Rightarrow \lambda' = 0 \text{ is an eigenvalue for } BC^{-1}B^T
\]

\[
\Rightarrow a \text{ is an eigenvalue for } \Lambda
\]
Lemma 2.6. For all eigenvalues $\lambda$ of response matrix $\Lambda$, there exists an eigenvector $\phi$ such that:

$$\lambda \leq \sum_i a_{ii}\phi_i^2 + \sum_{i,j(i\neq j)} a_{ij}\phi_i\phi_j$$

Proof. For any vector $x$:

$$x(BC^{-1}B^T)x^T = (xB)C^{-1}(xB)^T \geq 0$$

as $C^{-1}$ is positive semi-definite. For some $\lambda$ with eigenvector $\phi$:

- $BC^{-1}B^T$ is positive semi-definite
- $\Rightarrow \phi^T BC^{-1}B^T \phi = \phi^T (A - \lambda I) \phi \geq 0$
- $\Rightarrow \phi^T A \phi \geq \phi^T \lambda \phi$
- $\Rightarrow \sum_i \phi_i [A \phi]_i \geq \lambda \sum_i \phi_i^2$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda \leq \frac{\sum_i a_{ij}\phi_i\phi_j}{\sum_i \phi_i^2} \text{ (Note that } \phi \neq 0 \text{ so } \sum_i \phi_i^2 \neq 0)$$

$$= \frac{\sum_i a_{ii}\phi_i^2 + \sum_{i,j(i\neq j)} a_{ij}\phi_i\phi_j}{\sum_i \phi_i^2}$$

Choosing the largest eigenvalue shows that for all $\lambda$, there exists an eigenvector $\phi$ such that:

$$\lambda \leq \frac{\sum_i a_{ii}\phi_i^2 + \sum_{i,j(i\neq j)} a_{ij}\phi_i\phi_j}{\sum_i \phi_i^2}$$

Theorem 2.7. Let $\Lambda$ be the response matrix of any network with no boundary-boundary connections ($A$ is a diagonal submatrix of Kirchhoff matrix $K$). For any eigenvalue $\lambda$ of $\Lambda$, $\lambda \leq \max_i \{a_{ii}\}$. 

\[\Box\]
Proof. By Lemma 2.6:

\[
\lambda \leq \sum_i a_{ii} \phi_i^2 + \sum_{i,j(i \neq j)} a_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j \\
= \sum_i a_{ii} \phi_i^2 \quad \text{as } a_{ij} = 0 \text{ for } i \neq j \\
\leq \max_1 \{a_{ii}\} \sum_i \phi_i^2 \\
= \max_1 \{a_{ii}\}
\]

Now the foundation has been built to prove the upper bound for eigenvalues of general response matrices. First, the following lemma must be shown:

**Lemma 2.8.** Let \( t_{ij} \) be the \( ij \)th entry of an \( n \times n \) symmetric matrix \( T \) such that \( t_{ij} t_{kl} \geq 0 \) for \( i \neq j \) and \( k \neq l \). Letting \( x \) be a vector in \( \mathbb{R}^n \):

\[
| \sum_{i,j(i \neq j)} t_{ij} x_i x_j | \leq \left| \sum_{i,j(i \neq j)} t_{ij} x_i^2 \right|
\]

*Proof.*

\[
\forall x_i, x_j : (|x_i - x_j|)^2 \geq 0 \\
\Rightarrow x_i^2 + x_j^2 \geq 2|x_i||x_j| \\
\Rightarrow \sum_{i \neq j} |t_{ij}|(x_i^2 + x_j^2) \geq 2 \sum_{i \neq j} |t_{ij}||x_i||x_j| \\
\Rightarrow \sum_{i < j} |t_{ij}|(x_i^2 + x_j^2) \geq \sum_{i \neq j} |t_{ij}||x_i||x_j| \\
\Rightarrow \sum_{i < j} 2|t_{ij}|x_i^2 \geq \sum_{i \neq j} |t_{ij}||x_i||x_j| \\
\Rightarrow \sum_{i \neq j} |t_{ij}|x_i^2 \geq \sum_{i \neq j} |t_{ij}||x_i||x_j| \\
\Rightarrow \sum_{i \neq j} |t_{ij}x_i^2| \geq \sum_{i \neq j} |t_{ij}x_i x_j| \\
\Rightarrow | \sum_{i \neq j} t_{ij}x_i^2 | \geq | \sum_{i \neq j} t_{ij}x_i x_j | 
\]
Theorem 2.9. Let \( a_{ij} \) be the \( ij \)th entry of \( A \) corresponding to a Kirchhoff matrix \( K \). For the response matrix \( \Lambda \) derived from \( K \), \( \lambda \leq \max_i \{ a_{ii} - \sum_{i \neq j} a_{ij} \} \) where \( \lambda \) is any eigenvalue of \( \Lambda \).

Proof. By Lemma 2.6:

\[
\lambda \leq \frac{\sum_i a_{ii} \phi_i^2 + \sum_{i,j (i \neq j)} a_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j}{\sum_i \phi_i^2}
\]

\[
\leq \frac{\sum_i a_{ii} \phi_i^2 - \sum_{i,j (i \neq j)} a_{ij} \phi_i^2}{\sum_i \phi_i^2}
\]

by Lemma 2.8

\[
\leq \frac{\max_i \{ \sum_i a_{ii} - \sum_{i \neq j} a_{ij} \} \sum_i \phi_i^2}{\sum_i \phi_i^2}
\]

\[
= \frac{\max_i \{ \sum_i a_{ii} - \sum_{i \neq j} a_{ij} \}}{\sum_i \phi_i^2}
\]

\[
\quad \text{by properties of the Rayleigh Quotient}
\]

\[
\leq \max \{ \mu \}
\]

Theorem 2.10. Let \( \lambda \) be an eigenvalue of \( \Lambda \) and \( \mu \) be an eigenvalue of Kirchhoff submatrix \( A \). Then \( \lambda \leq \max \{ \mu \} \). If \( \lambda < \min_i \{ a_{ii} + \sum_{i \neq j} a_{ij} \} \), \( \lambda < \max \{ \mu \} \).

Proof. By Lemma 2.6:

\[
\lambda \leq \frac{\sum_i a_{ii} \phi_i^2 + \sum_{i,j (i \neq j)} a_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j}{\sum_i \phi_i^2}
\]

\[
= \frac{\sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j}{\sum_i \phi_i^2} \leq \max \{ \mu \} \text{ by properties of the Rayleigh Quotient}
\]

If \( \lambda < \min_i \{ a_{ii} + \sum_{i \neq j} a_{ij} \} \), then \( \forall a_{ii} \in A : a_{ii} - \lambda > -\sum_{j (i \neq j)} a_{ij} \).

\[
\phi^T B C^{-1} B^T \phi = \phi^T (A - \lambda I) \phi
\]

\[
= \sum_i \phi_i [(A - \lambda I) \phi]_i
\]

\[
= \sum_i \phi_i [\sum_j (a_{ij} - \lambda \delta_{ij}) \phi_j]
\]

\[
= \sum_i [(a_{ii} - \lambda) \phi_i^2 + \phi_i \sum_{j (i \neq j)} a_{ij} \phi_j]
\]

\[
> -\sum_{i,j (i \neq j)} a_{ij} \phi_i^2 + \sum_{i,j (i \neq j)} a_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j \geq 0 \text{ by Lemma 2.8}
\]
⇒ \phi^T A \phi > \phi^T \lambda \phi
⇒ \lambda \leq \frac{\sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j}{\sum_i \phi_i^2} \leq \max\{\mu\} \text{ by properties of the Rayleigh Quotient}

3 Characteristic Polynomial of \Lambda

When considering the characteristic polynomial of \Lambda, a useful relationship between \Lambda and \( K \), the Kirchhoff matrix, can be derived as follows:

\[
0 = \det(\Lambda - \lambda I) \\
= \det((A - BC^{-1}B^T) - \lambda I) \\
= \det((A - \lambda I) - BC^{-1}B^T) \\
= \det(K'/C) \\
= \det K'/\det C
\]

where

\[
K' = \begin{pmatrix}
A - \lambda I & B \\
B^T & C
\end{pmatrix}
\]

and \( K'/C \) denotes the Schur complement of \( K' \) with respect to \( C \).

Because \( \det C \neq 0 \):

\[
\det(\Lambda - \lambda I) = 0 \iff \det K' = 0
\]

Remark 3. Letting \((A - \lambda I)\) be an \( n \times n \) matrix:

\[
\det K' = \sum_k (-1)^k \lambda^k (\sum_M \det(M_{n-k}))
\]

where \( M_{n-k} \) are minors of \( K' \) through removal of \( k \) rows and columns, leaving \( C \) intact.

The proof of this theorem is similar to the proof of the general characteristic polynomial in [2].

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3.1 The Characteristic Polynomial for $\Lambda$ of an n-star

Theorem 3.1. For an n-star network where $\{\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_n\}$ are the edge conductivities, its characteristic polynomial is of the form:

$$(-\lambda)^n(\sum_i \gamma_i) + (-\lambda)^{n-1}(2 \sum_{i<j} \gamma_i \gamma_j) + (-\lambda)^{n-2}(3 \sum_{i<j<k} \gamma_i \gamma_j \gamma_k) + \ldots + (-\lambda)(n \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \ldots \gamma_n)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-\lambda)^{n-k}(k+1) \sum_{a_1<a_2<\ldots<a_{k+1}} \gamma_{a_1} \gamma_{a_2} \ldots \gamma_{a_{k+1}}$$

Proof. A network is an n-star $\Rightarrow$

$$\det K' = \det \left( \begin{array}{cc} K_{ii} - \lambda & K_{i,n+1} \\ K_{n+1,i} & \sum_i \gamma_i \end{array} \right)$$

where $K_{ii} = -K_{n+1,i} = -K_{i,n+1} = \gamma_i$.

$$= \sum_i [\gamma_i \prod_i (\gamma_i - \lambda)] - \sum_i [\gamma_i \prod_{j\neq i} (\gamma_j - \lambda)]$$

$$= \sum_i [(\gamma_i (\gamma_i - \lambda) - \gamma_i^2 \prod_{j\neq i} (\gamma_j - \lambda))]$$

$$= \sum_i [-\gamma_i^2 \prod_{j\neq i} (\gamma_j - \lambda)] = 0$$

Choosing $n-k$ entries of $\lambda$ letting $i = a_1$:

$$\sum_{a_1} \sum_{a_2 \neq \ldots \neq a_{k+1} \neq a_1} \gamma_{a_2} \ldots \gamma_{a_{k+1}} (-\lambda)^{n-k-1}$$

$$= (-\lambda)^{n-k} \sum_{a_1 \neq a_2 \neq \ldots \neq a_{k+1}} \gamma_{a_1} \gamma_{a_2} \ldots \gamma_{a_{k+1}}$$

$$= (-\lambda)^{n-k}(k+1) \sum_{a_1 < a_2 < \ldots < a_{k+1}} \gamma_{a_1} \gamma_{a_2} \ldots \gamma_{a_{k+1}}$$

Summing over all $n-k$ entries for $0 \leq k \leq n-1$ yields:

$$\sum_{0}^{n-1} (-\lambda)^{n-k}(k+1) \sum_{a_1 < a_2 < \ldots < a_{k+1}} \gamma_{a_1} \gamma_{a_2} \ldots \gamma_{a_{k+1}}$$
Remark 4. The characteristic polynomial of the n-star can also be derived through summation of minors for $K'$.

Theorem 3.2. Suppose $\{\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_n\}$ is the set of edge conductivities for an n-star network. If $\{\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_{n-1}\}$ is the set of nonzero eigenvalues for $\Lambda$, then $\gamma_1 < \lambda_1 < \gamma_2 < \lambda_2 < \ldots < \lambda_{n-1} < \gamma_n$. But for $1 \leq k \leq n-1$: if $\gamma_k = \gamma_{k+1}$, then $\lambda_k = \gamma_k$.

Proof. Consider the characteristic polynomial for an n-star:

\[
(-\lambda)^n \left( \sum_i \gamma_i \right) + (-\lambda)^{n-1} (2 \sum_{i<j} \gamma_i \gamma_j) + \ldots + (-\lambda) (n \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \ldots \gamma_n) = 0 \quad (1)
\]

$\lambda \neq 0 \Rightarrow$

\[
(-\lambda)^{n-1} \left( \sum_i \gamma_i \right) + (-\lambda)^{n-2} (2 \sum_{i<j} \gamma_i \gamma_j) + \ldots + (n \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \ldots \gamma_n)^n = 0 \quad (2)
\]

Letting $\rho = 1/\lambda \Rightarrow$

\[
\left( \sum_i \gamma_i \right) + (-\rho)(2 \sum_{i<j} \gamma_i \gamma_j) + \ldots + (-\rho)^{n-1}(n \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \ldots \gamma_n) = 0 \quad (3)
\]

Integrating in terms of $\rho \Rightarrow$

\[
-1 - (-\rho) \left( \sum_i \gamma_i \right) - (-\rho)^2 \left( \sum_{i<j} \gamma_i \gamma_j \right) + \ldots - (-\rho)^n(n \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \ldots \gamma_n) = 0 \quad (4)
\]

Substituting $\lambda$ and multiplying by $-1 \Rightarrow$

\[
(-\lambda)^n + (-\lambda)^{n-1} \left( \sum_i \gamma_i \right) + (-\lambda)^{n-2} \left( \sum_{i<j} \gamma_i \gamma_j \right) + \ldots + (\gamma_1 \gamma_2 \ldots \gamma_n) = 0 \quad (5)
\]

Thus the roots of (5) are $\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_n$, which implies the roots of (4) are $1/\gamma_1 \ldots 1/\gamma_n$. Because (3) is the derivative of (4) with respect to $\rho$, the roots of (3) lie between the roots of (4) unless $\gamma_k = \gamma_{k+1}$ wherein $\rho_k = 1/\gamma_k$. Therefore:

\[
1/\gamma_1 < \rho_1 < 1/\gamma_2 < \ldots < \rho_{n-1} < 1/\gamma_n
\]

By (2):

\[
\gamma_1 > \lambda_1 > \gamma_2 > \ldots > \lambda_{n-1} > \gamma_n
\]

Hence $\{\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n\}$ and 0 are roots of (1), the characteristic polynomial for an n-star. Note that if $\gamma_k = \gamma_{k+1}$, then $\lambda_k = \gamma_k$. □
4 Future Research

There is much research still to be done regarding eigenvalues of the response matrix. Future problems include:

- Further bounding the eigenvalues for specific cases
- Relating the eigenvalues of $K$ and its submatrices to eigenvalues of $\Lambda$
- Finding general criteria for the existence of certain eigenvalues
- Relating the minimal path between boundary nodes to eigenvalue bounds
- Using eigenvalues to characterize the eigenvectors
- Further evaluating the characteristic polynomial for specific cases

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References
