

# Generalizations of Non-strict Alpha-matrices with Nonzero Elements Chain

Guichun Han, Chunsheng Zhang, and Huishuang Gao

**Abstract**—The main theorems of this paper, which extend the previous generalizations of  $\alpha$ -matrices, provide some criteria for nonsingular  $H$ -matrices by the theories of non-strict  $\alpha$ -matrices with nonzero elements chain. Meanwhile, the effectiveness of the result is illustrated by one numerical example.

**Index Terms**—nonzero elements chain,  $H$ -matrices,  $\alpha$ -matrices, non-strict  $\alpha$ -matrices.

## I. INTRODUCTION

**N**ONSINGULAR  $H$ -matrices arise in many practical applications, such as the Linear Complementarity Problem (LCP, see [1]), the numerical solution of Euler equations in fluid dynamics and many other problems. Thus, how to investigate criteria for  $H$ -matrices is of great significance. However, in most of the cases, it is not practical to answer this question by using the classical definitions. In this paper, we extend the previous generalizations of  $\alpha$ -matrices and give some criteria for nonsingular  $H$ -matrices based on the theories of non-strictly  $\alpha$ -matrices with nonzero elements chain, which are easier to check than the original definitions.

First, we will recall some notations and definitions. Consider the set of the first  $n$  positive integers denoted by  $\mathbf{N} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and the pair set  $\mathbf{M} = \{(i, j) : i \neq j; i, j \in \mathbf{N}\}$ . Let  $\mathbf{C}^{m \times n}$  ( $\mathbf{R}^{n \times n}$ ) denote the set of all  $n \times n$ , complex (real) matrices. For  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$  ( $n \geq 2$ ), we write  $R_i = R_i(A) = \sum_{j \neq i}^n |a_{ij}|$  ( $i \in \mathbf{N}$ ) the  $i$ th deleted absolute row sums and  $C_i = C_i(A) = \sum_{j \neq i}^n |a_{ji}|$  ( $i \in \mathbf{N}$ ) the  $i$ th deleted absolute column sums of  $A$ , for the sake of simplicity.  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$  is a (row) diagonally dominant matrix ( $D$ ) if  $|a_{ii}| \geq R_i, \forall i \in \mathbf{N}$ , and  $A$  is further said to be a strictly (row) diagonally dominant matrix ( $SD$ ) if  $|a_{ii}| > R_i, \forall i \in \mathbf{N}$ .

The comparison matrix of a given matrix  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ , denoted by  $\mu(A) = (\mu_{ij})$ , is defined by

$$\mu_{ij} = \begin{cases} |a_{ij}|, & i = j; \\ -|a_{ij}|, & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

If  $A = \mu(A)$ , and can be written in the form  $A = \beta I - P$  where  $P$  is a nonnegative matrix and  $\beta > \rho(A)$ , the spectral radius of  $A$ , we call  $A$  a (nonsingular)  $M$ -matrix. We say  $A$  is a (nonsingular)  $H$ -matrix if  $\mu(A)$  is an  $M$ -matrix. Since

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well-known characterization of  $H$ -matrices is given by the fact that a matrix  $A$  is an  $H$ -matrix if and only if there exists a positive diagonal matrix  $X = \text{diag}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ , such that  $AX \in SD$  (i.e.,  $x_i |a_{ii}| > x_j \sum_{j \neq i}^n |a_{ij}|, i \in \mathbf{N}$ ). So, we assume that  $a_{ii} \neq 0$  for all  $i \in \mathbf{N}$  during this paper.

Next, we will present some already known subclasses of  $H$ -matrix.

The first result is the well-known Lévy-Desplanques Theorem (see[2], [3]).

**Lemma 1.1.** Let  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . If  $A \in SD$ , then  $A$  is nonsingular, more over  $A$  is an  $H$ -matrix.

Many generalizations of Lévy-Desplanques Theorem have occurred in the literature. Ostrowski (see [4]) extended the Lemma 1.1 by using generalized geometric means of row and column sums as are given below.

**Lemma 1.2.** Let  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , and let

$$|a_{ii}| > R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}, \quad (i \in \mathbf{N}),$$

hold for some  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , then  $A$  is nonsingular, more over  $A$  is an  $H$ -matrix.

From the generalized arithmetic-geometric mean inequality (see [5])

$$\alpha\tau + (1 - \alpha)\sigma \geq \tau^\alpha \sigma^{1-\alpha}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma, \tau \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , with equality holding for  $\tau = \sigma$  or  $\alpha = 0$ , else or  $\alpha = 1$ , the following results were given in [5].

**Lemma 1.3.** Let  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , and let

$$|a_{ii}| > \alpha R_i + (1 - \alpha)C_i, \quad (i \in \mathbf{N}),$$

hold for some  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , then  $A$  is nonsingular, more over  $A$  is an  $H$ -matrix.

The matrices that fulfill conditions of the Lemma 1.2 are known as (strict)  $\alpha_2$ -matrices, while (strict)  $\alpha_1$ -matrices are the matrices that fulfill conditions of the Lemma 1.3, respectively.

Authors extended the Lemmas 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 by letting all but at least one of the considered inequalities not to be strict with irreducible matrices (see [6], [7] and [8]).

In what follows, we are interested in the fact: the matrices remain to be  $H$ -matrices if we change the irreducibility with the existence of nonzero element chains. P. N. Shivakumar and K. H. Chew [9] introduced the most basic concept of diagonally dominant matrix associated with nonzero element chains as follows.

**Lemma 1.4.**  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , is called a diagonally dominant matrix with nonzero elements chain if  $|a_{ii}| \geq R_i, \forall i \in \mathbf{N}$ , at least one strict inequality holds, and for every vertex  $i$  with  $|a_{ii}| = R_i$  there exists a nonzero elements chain  $a_{i_1 j_1}, a_{j_1 j_2}, \dots, a_{j_{k-1} j_k}$  such that  $|a_{j_k k}| > R_{j_k}$ .

It is well known that a diagonally dominant matrix with nonzero elements chain is an  $H$ -matrix ([1], [9]).

## II. NON-STRICT $\alpha$ -MATRICES WITH NONZERO ELEMENTS CHAIN

We call  $\alpha_1$ -matrices and  $\alpha_2$ -matrices as  $\alpha$ (alpha)-matrices. It is well known that the class of  $\alpha$ -matrices play a central role in identifying  $H$ -matrices, and characterizations of  $\alpha$ -matrices were given in [5] and [10]. Non-strict  $\alpha$ -matrices with nonzero elements chain are extension of  $\alpha$ -matrices. So, we will start this section with its definitions.

**Definition 2.1.** A matrix  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , is said to be a non-strict  $\alpha_2$ -matrix with nonzero elements chain if there exists  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , such that

$$|a_{ii}| \geq R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}, \quad (\forall i \in \mathbf{N}),$$

and for each vertex  $i$  of  $A$  with  $|a_{ii}| = R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}$ , there exists a nonzero elements chain  $a_{ii_1}, a_{i_1 i_2}, \dots, a_{i_g j}$  such that

$$j \in J = \{i \in \mathbf{N} : |a_{ii}| > R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}\} \neq \emptyset.$$

**Definition 2.2.** A matrix  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , is said to be a non-strict  $\alpha_1$ -matrix with nonzero elements chain if there exists  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , such that

$$|a_{ii}| \geq \alpha R_i + (1 - \alpha)C_i, \quad (\forall i \in \mathbf{N}),$$

and for each vertex  $i$  of  $A$  with  $|a_{ii}| = \alpha R_i + (1 - \alpha)C_i$ , there exists a nonzero elements chain  $a_{ii_1}, a_{i_1 i_2}, \dots, a_{i_k j}$  such that

$$j \in J_0 = \{i \in \mathbf{N} : |a_{ii}| > \alpha R_i + (1 - \alpha)C_i\} \neq \emptyset.$$

As shown in [11], non-strict  $\alpha_2$ -matrices with nonzero elements chain are nonsingular, moreover are subclass of  $H$ -matrices. And by the generalized arithmetic-geometric mean inequality (1), we easily get that non-strict  $\alpha_1$ -matrices with nonzero elements chain are nonsingular, and are subclass of  $H$ -matrices, too.

The following notations are useful in the sequel.

$$\mathfrak{R}_0 = \{i : R_i > C_i, i \in \mathbf{N}\};$$

$$C_0 = \{i : C_i > R_i, i \in \mathbf{N}\};$$

$$\varepsilon_0 = \{i : C_i = R_i, i \in \mathbf{N}\}.$$

Then, the following theorems hold.

**Theorem 2.1.** A matrix  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , satisfies the following three conditions:

- (i)  $|a_{ii}| \geq \min\{R_i, C_i\}$  for all  $i \in \mathbf{N}$ ;
- (ii)

$$\log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} \geq \log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|}, \quad (2)$$

for all  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus \{l : C_l = 0\}$ , and for all  $j \in C_0 \setminus \{l : R_l = 0\}$ ;

- (iii) for each vertex  $s \in \mathbf{N}$  with  $|a_{ss}| = R_s = C_s$ , and each vertex  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0$ ,  $j \in C_0$  with

$$\log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} = \log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|}, \quad (3)$$

if they exist, there are three nonzero elements chains  $a_{ss_1}, a_{s_1 s_2}, \dots, a_{s_k p}$ ;  $a_{ii_1}, a_{i_1 i_2}, \dots, a_{i_l q}$  and  $a_{jj_1}, a_{j_1 j_2}, \dots, a_{j_m t}$  such that

$$p, q, t \in J' = \{i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 : \log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} > \log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|}, j \in C_0\} \neq \emptyset. \quad (4)$$

Then  $A$  is nonsingular, more over  $A$  is an  $H$ -matrix.

*Proof:* For each  $i \in \varepsilon_0$ , condition (i) directly implies the inequality  $|a_{ii}| \geq R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}$  for any  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , with equality holding only for  $|a_{ii}| = R_i = C_i$ . Recalling the assumption that  $a_{ii} \neq 0$  for all  $i \in \mathbf{N}$  during this paper, then for  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0$  such that  $C_i = 0$ , or  $i \in C_0$  such that  $R_i = 0$ , inequality  $|a_{ii}| > R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}$  for any  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , follows immediately. Thus, it remains to show that  $|a_{ii}| \geq R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}$  holds for vertexes from the set  $\mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus \{l : C_l = 0\}$  and the set  $C_0 \setminus \{l : R_l = 0\}$ .

Next, we consider the following two cases.

Case 1. If for all  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus \{l : C_l = 0\}$ , and all  $j \in C_0 \setminus \{l : R_l = 0\}$ ,

$$\log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} > \log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|}. \quad (5)$$

Noting that for each  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus \{l : C_l = 0\}$ , we have  $R_i > C_i$ , i.e.,  $\frac{R_i}{C_i} > 1$ , and, thus by condition (i), leads to  $|a_{ii}| \geq C_i$ , i.e.,  $\frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} \geq 1$ . Now, using the properties of the log function for the base greater than one, we obtain

$$\log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} \geq 0. \quad (6)$$

With similar arguments, for each  $j \in C_0 \setminus \{l : R_l = 0\}$ , we deduce

$$\log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|} \leq 1. \quad (7)$$

Together the inequalities (6), (6) and (7) imply that there is some  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , such that

$$\log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|} < \alpha < \log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} \quad (8)$$

for each  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus \{l : C_l = 0\}$ ,  $j \in C_0 \setminus \{l : R_l = 0\}$ .

From the left inequality and right inequality of inequality (8), we have, respectively, that  $j \in C_0 \setminus \{l : R_l = 0\}$ ,  $\frac{|a_{jj}|}{C_j} > (\frac{R_i}{C_i})^\alpha$ , that is,

$$|a_{jj}| > R_j^\alpha C_j^{1-\alpha}$$

and for each  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus \{l : C_l = 0\}$ ,  $\frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} > (\frac{R_i}{C_i})^\alpha$ , that is,

$$|a_{ii}| > R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}.$$

Case 2. Without loss of generality, we assume that there exist some  $i_0 \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus \{l : C_l = 0\}$ ,  $j_0 \in C_0 \setminus \{l : R_l = 0\}$ , such that

$$\log_{\frac{R_{i_0}}{C_{i_0}}} \frac{|a_{i_0 i_0}|}{C_{i_0}} = \log_{\frac{C_{j_0}}{R_{j_0}}} \frac{C_{j_0}}{|a_{j_0 j_0}|},$$

and for any  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus (\{l : C_l = 0\} \cup \{i_0\})$ ,  $j \in C_0 \setminus (\{l : R_l = 0\} \cup \{j_0\})$ ,

$$\log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} > \log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|}.$$

Let

$$\alpha_0 = \log_{\frac{R_{i_0}}{C_{i_0}}} \frac{|a_{i_0 i_0}|}{C_{i_0}} = \log_{\frac{C_{j_0}}{R_{j_0}}} \frac{C_{j_0}}{|a_{j_0 j_0}|},$$

and hence,

$$|a_{i_0 i_0}| = R_{i_0}^{\alpha_0} C_{i_0}^{1-\alpha_0};$$

$$|a_{j_0 j_0}| = R_{j_0}^{\alpha_0} C_{j_0}^{1-\alpha_0};$$

From condition (ii), it is obvious to get for all  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \setminus (\{l : C_l = 0\} \cup \{i_0\})$ ,  $j \in \mathcal{C}_0 \setminus (\{l : R_l = 0\} \cup \{j_0\})$ ,

$$\log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|} < \alpha_0 < \log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i},$$

implying in Case 1 that

$$|a_{ii}| > R_i^{\alpha_0} C_i^{1-\alpha_0};$$

$$|a_{jj}| > R_j^{\alpha_0} C_j^{1-\alpha_0}.$$

To sum up, for any  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0 \cup \mathcal{C}_0 \cup \varepsilon_0 = \mathbf{N}$ , there exists some  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , such that

$$|a_{ii}| \geq R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha},$$

with equality holding only for vertex  $s \in \mathbf{N}$  satisfying  $|a_{ss}| = R_s = C_s$ , and vertex  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0$ ,  $j \in \mathcal{C}_0$  satisfying  $\log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} = \log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|}$ .

Further by condition (iii), for each vertex  $i$  of  $A$  with  $|a_{ii}| = R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}$ , there exists a nonzero elements chain  $a_{i i_1}, a_{i_1 i_2}, \dots, a_{i_l j}$ , such that

$$j \in J' = \{i \in \mathbf{N} : |a_{ii}| > R_i^\alpha C_i^{1-\alpha}\} \neq \emptyset.$$

Since  $A$  is a non-strict  $\alpha_2$ -matrices with nonzero elements chain, then we can complete the proof. ■

Next, we will state and prove the similar result, precisely, as follows.

**Theorem 2.2.** A matrix  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , satisfies the following three conditions:

- (i)  $|a_{ii}| \geq \min\{R_i, C_i\}$  for all  $i \in \mathbf{N}$ ;
- (ii)

$$\frac{|a_{ii}| - C_i}{R_i - C_i} \geq \frac{C_j - |a_{jj}|}{C_j - R_j}, \quad (9)$$

for all  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0$ , and for all  $j \in \mathcal{C}_0$ ;

- (iii) for each vertex  $s \in \mathbf{N}$  with  $|a_{ss}| = R_s = C_s$ , and each vertex  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0$ ,  $j \in \mathcal{C}_0$  with

$$\frac{|a_{ii}| - C_i}{R_i - C_i} = \frac{C_j - |a_{jj}|}{C_j - R_j}, \quad (10)$$

if they exist, there are three nonzero elements chain- $s$   $a_{s s_1}, a_{s_1 s_2}, \dots, a_{s_k p}$ ;  $a_{i i_1}, a_{i_1 i_2}, \dots, a_{i_l q}$  and  $a_{j j_1}, a_{j_1 j_2}, \dots, a_{j_m t}$ , such that

Then  $A$  is nonsingular, more over  $A$  is an  $H$ -matrix.

*Proof:* Similar discussion as in the proof of the Theorem 2.1, based we obtain  $A$  is a non-strictly  $\alpha_1$ -matrices with nonzero elements chain. It follows that  $A$  is nonsingular, more over  $A$  is an  $H$ -matrix. ■

### III. EXAMPLE

**Example** Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & -0.5 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 4 & 3.1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.2 & 1.5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have

$$|a_{11}| = 1, \quad |a_{22}| = 3, \quad |a_{33}| = 4, \quad |a_{44}| = 1.5;$$

$$R_1 = 1, \quad R_2 = 1.5, \quad R_3 = 4.1, \quad R_4 = 1.2;$$

$$C_1 = 1, \quad C_2 = 2, \quad C_3 = 1.7, \quad C_4 = 3.1.$$

These conditions do not satisfy the theorem 4 or theorem 5 in [5], and it is hard and complicated to determine the value of  $\alpha$  if we want to check if  $A$  is a non-strictly  $\alpha$ -matrix with nonzero elements chain or not.

Nevertheless, by this paper, we know  $|a_{ii}| \geq \min\{R_i, C_i\}$  for all  $i \in \mathbf{N}$  with  $|a_{11}| = R_1 = C_1$ , and

$$\mathfrak{R}_0 = \{3\}, \quad \mathcal{C}_0 = \{2, 4\}, \quad \varepsilon_0 = \{1\},$$

An easy calculating yields

$$0.9720 \approx \log_{\frac{R_3}{C_3}} \frac{|a_{33}|}{C_3} > \log_{\frac{C_2}{R_2}} \frac{C_2}{|a_{22}|} \approx -1.4094;$$

$$0.9720 \approx \log_{\frac{R_3}{C_3}} \frac{|a_{33}|}{C_3} > \log_{\frac{C_4}{R_4}} \frac{C_4}{|a_{44}|} \approx 0.7649,$$

that is, for all  $i \in \mathfrak{R}_0, j \in \mathcal{C}_0$

$$\log_{\frac{R_i}{C_i}} \frac{|a_{ii}|}{C_i} > \log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|},$$

and for the vertex 1 with  $|a_{11}| = R_1 = C_1$ , there exists a nonzero elements chain  $a_{12}, a_{23}$  such that

$$3 \in J'_0 = \{3 \in \mathfrak{R}_0 : \log_{\frac{R_3}{C_3}} \frac{|a_{33}|}{C_3} > \log_{\frac{C_j}{R_j}} \frac{C_j}{|a_{jj}|}, j \in \mathcal{C}_0\} \neq \emptyset.$$

So, the matrix  $A$  satisfies conditions of the Theorem 2.1 in this section, and then  $A$  is an  $H$ -matrix.

### IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we extend previous generalizations of  $\alpha$ -matrices, provide some criteria for nonsingular  $H$ -matrices by the theorems of non-strict  $\alpha$ -matrices with nonzero elements chain theorem and illustrate the effectiveness and advantage of the new result by one numerical example.

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