



# Inverse eigenvalue problem for matrices whose graph is a banana tree

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, we consider an inverse eigenvalue problem (IEP) for constructing a special kind of acyclic matrices. The problem involves the reconstruction of matrices whose graph is a banana tree. This is performed by using the minimal and maximal eigenvalues of all leading principal submatrices of the required matrix. The necessary and sufficient conditions for the solvability of the problem is derived. An algorithm to construct the solution is provided.

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## 1 Introduction

An inverse eigenvalue problem (IEP) concerns the reconstruction of a matrix from prescribed spectral data. In [3] detailed characterization of inverse eigenvalue problems is mentioned. Special types of inverse eigenvalue problems have attracted attention of many authors. Inverse eigenvalue problems for graphs have been studied in [4,7,8,10,12,13].

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The inverse eigenvalue problem of a graph is to determine the possible spectra among real symmetric matrices whose pattern of nonzero off-diagonal entries is described by a graph. In the last fifteen years a number of papers on this problem have appeared. In this paper, we investigate an IEP, namely IEPB( $c,s$ ) (inverse eigenvalue problem for matrices whose graph is a banana tree). Similar problems were studied in [9,10,14]. For solving the problem, the recurrence relations among leading principal minors is used. Some applications of the acyclic matrix discussed in this paper are in chemistry, energy and graph theory [1,5].

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we give a brief outline of some preliminary concepts and clarify the notations used in the paper. In Section 3, we discuss the analysis of IEPB( $c,s$ ) and present an algorithm. In Section 4, we report numerical examples to illustrate the solutions of IEPB( $c,s$ ). In Section 5 conclusion is presented.

## 2 Preliminaries

Let  $G$  be a simple undirected graph (without loops and multiple edges) on  $n$  vertices. A real symmetric matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  is said to have a graph  $G$  provided  $a_{ij} \neq 0$  if and only if vertices  $i$  and  $j$  are adjacent in  $G$ .

Given an  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix  $A$ , the graph of  $A$ , denoted by  $G(A)$ , has vertex set  $V(G) = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$  and edge set  $E = \{ij : i \neq j, a_{ij} \neq 0\}$ . For graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices, we denote by  $S(G)$  the set of all real symmetric matrices whose graph is  $G$ . A matrix whose graph is a tree is called an acyclic matrix. Some simple examples of acyclic matrices are the matrices whose graphs are paths,  $m$ -centipedes, brooms or banana tree.

**Definition 2.1.** An  $(c, s)$ -banana tree, as defined by Chen et al.(1997), is a graph obtained by connecting one leaf of each of  $c$  copies of an  $s$ -star graph with a single root vertex that is distinct from all the stars.

Properties of banana trees have been studied in [2]. The vertices of an  $(c, s)$ -banana tree with  $c \geq 1$ ,  $s \geq 3$ , labeled as follows:

The root vertex is labeled by 1, the vertices of distance 1 from the root vertex as the intermediate vertices is labeled by  $(i - 1)s + 2$ , the center of every  $(S_s)$  is labeled by  $(i - 1)s + 3$  and leaves of the center is labeled by  $j = (i - 1)s + 4, \dots, is + 1, i = 1, 2, \dots, c$ . (Figure1).

For example matrix of an  $(3, 4)$ -banana tree is of the following form:



### 3 Problem statement and the solution

#### 3.1 Problem statement

Given  $2n - 1$  real numbers  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$ ,  $j = 2, \dots, n$ , find a  $n \times n$  matrix  $A_n \in S(B(c, s))$  such that  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$  are the minimal and maximal eigenvalues of  $A_j$ , the leading principal submatrix of  $A$ , respectively. This is referred to **IEPB(c,s)** problem. In the next subsection we discuss the solution of **IEPB(c,s)**.

#### 3.2 The solution of IEPB(c,s)

In the following, we investigate the relation between successive leading principal minors of  $\lambda I_n - A_n$ . **Lemma 3.1** The sequence  $\{P_j(\lambda) = \det(\lambda I_j - A_j)\}_{j=1}^n$  of characteristic polynomials of  $A_j$  satisfies the following recurrence relations:

- i.  $P_1(\lambda) = (\lambda - a_1)$
- ii.  $P_j(\lambda) = (\lambda - a_j)P_{j-1}(\lambda) - b_{1,j}^2 \det(B_j^\lambda) \quad j = (i-1)s + 2, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, c$
- iii.  $P_j(\lambda) = (\lambda - a_j)P_{j-1}(\lambda) - b_{(j-1),j}^2 P_{j-2}(\lambda) \quad j = (i-1)s + 3, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, c$
- iv.  $P_j(\lambda) = (\lambda - a_j)P_{j-1}(\lambda) - b_{(i-1)s+3,j}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda - a_k)$   
 $j = (i-1)s + 4, \dots, is + 1, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, c,$

with the convention that  $B_j^\lambda$  is the submatrix rows and columns  $2, 3, \dots, n-1$  of the matrix  $\lambda I_n - A_n$ ,  $p_0(\lambda) = 1$  and  $\prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda - a_k) = 1$  when  $j = (i-1)s + 4$ .

*Proof.* It is easy to verify by expanding the determinant. □

Since  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$  are eigenvalues of  $A_j$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} P_j(\lambda_1^{(j)}) = 0 \\ P_j(\lambda_j^{(j)}) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Thus, solving the IEPB(c,s) is equivalent to solving the above system of equations for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Observe that from the Cauchy's interlacing property, the minimal and the maximal eigenvalue,  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$ , respectively, of each leading principal submatrix  $A_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , of the matrix  $A \in S(B(c, s))$  satisfy the relations:

$$\lambda_1^{(n)} \leq \lambda_1^{(n-1)} \leq \dots \leq \lambda_1^{(2)} \leq \lambda_1^{(1)} \leq \lambda_2^{(2)} \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n^{(n)} \quad (2)$$

and

$$\lambda_1^{(j)} \leq a_i \leq \lambda_j^{(j)} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, j, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (3)$$

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$  be the minimal and maximal eigenvalues of  $A_j$  for  $j = (i-1)s + 2, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, c$ , then the system of equations 1 has unique solution if and only if  $\lambda_1^{(j)} < \lambda_1^{(j-1)}$  and  $\lambda_{j-1}^{(j-1)} < \lambda_j^{(j)}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})$  and  $P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})$  be nonzero for  $j = (i - 1)s + 2, i = 1, 2, \dots, c$ , replacing relation (ii) from Lemma 3.2 in equations (1), we obtain

$$\begin{cases} P_j(\lambda_1^{(j)}) = a_j P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) + b_{1,j}^2 \det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}}) - \lambda_1^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) = 0 \\ P_j(\lambda_j^{(j)}) = a_j P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) + b_{1,j}^2 \det(B_j^{\lambda_j^{(j)}}) - \lambda_j^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

Which can be regarded as a linear system of equations in  $a_j$  and  $b_{1,j}^2$ . Let  $D_{1,j}$  denote the determinant of the system of equations (4), then

$$D_{1,j} = P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) \det(B_j^{\lambda_j^{(j)}}) - P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) \det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}}). \tag{5}$$

Since  $b_{1,j}$ 's are nonzero, from the relation (ii) of Lemma 3.2 we obtain the following:

$$\det(B_j^\lambda) = \frac{1}{b_{1,j}^2} ((\lambda - a_j) P_{j-1}(\lambda) - P_j(\lambda)).$$

By replacing  $\det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}})$  and  $\det(B_j^{\lambda_j^{(j)}})$  in  $D_{1,j}$  and simplifying, we obtain

$$D_{1,j} = \frac{1}{b_{1,j}^2} [P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) (\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)}) - P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) P_j(\lambda_j^{(j)}) + P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) P_j(\lambda_1^{(j)})].$$

Since  $P_j(\lambda_1^{(j)})$  and  $P_j(\lambda_j^{(j)})$  are equal to zero and  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$  are not roots of  $P_{j-1}(\lambda)$  then

$$D_{1,j} = \frac{1}{b_{1,j}^2} [P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) (\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)})] \neq 0.$$

Conversely, let  $D_{1,j} \neq 0$ , if  $\lambda_1^{(j)} = \lambda_1^{(j-1)}$  then we have

$$\det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}}) = 0,$$

and this implies that  $D_{1,j} = 0$ . But this contradicts our hypothesis that  $D_{1,j} \neq 0$ . Hence  $\lambda_1^{(j)} < \lambda_1^{(j-1)}$ . Similarly,  $\lambda_{j-1}^{(j-1)} < \lambda_j^{(j)}$ . □

**Lemma 3.3.** Let A be a matrix of an  $(c, s)$ -banana tree and  $\lambda_1^{(j)}, \lambda_j^{(j)}$  be the minimal and the maximal eigenvalue of the leading principal submatrix  $A_j$  of A,  $j = 2, \dots, n$ . If  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+1)}$  and  $\lambda_{(i-1)s+1}^{((i-1)s+1)} < \lambda_{(i-1)s+2}^{((i-1)s+2)}$ , then we have

$$\lambda_1^{(j)} < \lambda_1^{(j-1)}, \lambda_{j-1}^{(j-1)} < \lambda_j^{(j)} \tag{6}$$

and

$$\lambda_1^{(j)} < a_k < \lambda_j^{(j)} \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, j, \tag{7}$$

for  $j = (i - 1)s + 3, \dots, is + 1, i = 1, 2, \dots, c$ .

*Proof.* For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, c$ , if  $j = (i - 1)s + 3$ , by Lemma 3.2 we have

$$P_{(i-1)s+3}(\lambda) = (\lambda - a_{(i-1)s+3})P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda) - b_{(i-1)s+2, (i-1)s+3}^2 P_{(i-1)s+1}(\lambda). \quad (8)$$

If  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)} = \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)}$ , by equation (8) we have

$$P_{(i-1)s+3}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}) = -b_{(i-1)s+2, (i-1)s+3}^2 P_{(i-1)s+1}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)}).$$

Since  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+1)}$  thus  $P_{(i-1)s+1}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)}) \neq 0$  hence  $P_{(i-1)s+3}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}) \neq 0$ , but this is a contradiction, then we obtain  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)}$ . Similary, we have  $\lambda_{(i-1)s+2}^{((i-1)s+2)} < \lambda_{(i-1)s+3}^{((i-1)s+3)}$ .

Now we assume  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)} = a_{(i-1)s+3}$ . Again, by equation (8) we have

$$P_{(i-1)s+3}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}) = -b_{(i-1)s+2, (i-1)s+3}^2 P_{(i-1)s+1}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}).$$

Since  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+1)}$ , we have  $P_{(i-1)s+1}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}) \neq 0$  hence  $P_{(i-1)s+3}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}) \neq 0$  but this is a contradiction, then we obtain  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)} < a_{(i-1)s+3}$ . Similary, we have  $a_{(i-1)s+3} < \lambda_{(i-1)s+3}^{((i-1)s+3)}$ , hence  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)} < a_{(i-1)s+3} < \lambda_{(i-1)s+3}^{((i-1)s+3)}$ .

If  $j = (i - 1)s + 4$ , by Lemma 3.2 we have

$$P_{(i-1)s+4}(\lambda) = (\lambda - a_{(i-1)s+4})P_{(i-1)s+3}(\lambda) - b_{(i-1)s+3, (i-1)s+4}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda). \quad (9)$$

If  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+4)} = \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}$ , by equation (9) we have

$$P_{(i-1)s+4}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+4)}) = -b_{(i-1)s+3, (i-1)s+4}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}).$$

Since  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)}$  it means that  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}$  is not a root of  $P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda)$ , then we obtain  $P_{(i-1)s+4}(\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+4)}) \neq 0$ , this is a contradiction and  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+4)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)}$ . Similary, we have  $\lambda_{(i-1)s+3}^{((i-1)s+3)} < \lambda_{(i-1)s+4}^{((i-1)s+4)}$ .

If  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+4)} = a_{(i-1)s+4}$  or  $\lambda_{(i-1)s+4}^{((i-1)s+4)} = a_{(i-1)s+4}$  then by equation (9) we have

$$P_{(i-1)s+4}(a_{(i-1)s+4}) = -b_{(i-1)s+3, (i-1)s+4}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(a_{(i-1)s+4}).$$

Since  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+4)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+3)} < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)}$  then  $P_{(i-1)s+2}(a_{(i-1)s+4}) \neq 0$ , which is a contradiction. From (3) we have  $\lambda_1^{((i-1)s+4)} < a_{(i-1)s+4} < \lambda_{(i-1)s+4}^{((i-1)s+4)}$ .

Assume that (6), (7) hold for  $j = (i - 1)s + 5, \dots, is$  now if  $j = is + 1$  by Lemma 3.2 we have

$$P_{is+1}(\lambda) = (\lambda - a_{is+1})P_{is}(\lambda) - b_{(i-1)s+3, is+1}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{is} (\lambda - a_k). \quad (10)$$

If  $\lambda_1^{(is+1)} = \lambda_1^{(is)}$ , by equation (10) we have

$$P_{is+1}(\lambda_1^{(is+1)}) = -b_{(i-1)s+3, is+1}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_1^{(is)}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{is} (\lambda_1^{(is)} - a_k).$$

Because  $P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_1^{(is)}) \neq 0$  and  $\lambda_1^{(is)} < a_k < \lambda_{is}^{(is)}, k = (i-1)s+4, \dots, is$ , then  $\prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{is} (\lambda_1^{(is)} - a_k) \neq 0$  and we obtain  $P_{is+1}(\lambda_1^{(is+1)}) \neq 0$ . This is a contradiction and  $\lambda_1^{(is+1)} < \lambda_1^{(is)}$ . Similarly, we have  $\lambda_{is}^{(is)} < \lambda_{is+1}^{(is+1)}$ .

If  $\lambda_1^{(is+1)} = a_{is+1}$  or  $\lambda_{is+1}^{(is+1)} = a_{is+1}$  then by equation (10) we have

$$P_{is+1}(a_{is+1}) = -b_{(i-1)s+3, is+1}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(a_{is+1}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{is} (a_{is+1} - a_k).$$

From the above verified results, we know

$$\lambda_1^{(is+1)} < \lambda_1^{(is)} < \dots < \lambda_1^{((i-1)s+2)} < \dots < \lambda_{(i-1)s+2}^{((i-1)s+2)} < \dots < \lambda_{is}^{(is)} < \lambda_{is+1}^{(is+1)},$$

then  $P_{(i-1)s+2}(a_{is+1}) \neq 0$  and we get  $P_{is+1}(a_{is+1}) \neq 0$ . This is a contradiction and from (3) we have  $\lambda_1^{(is+1)} < a_{is+1} < \lambda_{is+1}^{(is+1)}$ . □

**Theorem 3.4.** The **IEPB(c,s)** has a unique solution if and only if

$$\lambda_1^{(n)} < \lambda_1^{(n-1)} < \dots < \lambda_1^{(2)} < \lambda_1^{(1)} < \lambda_2^{(2)} < \dots < \lambda_n^{(n)}. \tag{11}$$

*Proof.* First we assume that  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$  for all  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  satisfying (11), thus

$$P_1(\lambda_1^{(1)}) = 0 \Rightarrow a_1 = \lambda_1^{(1)}.$$

For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, c$ , if  $j = (i - 1)s + 2$ , by Lemma 3.2 we have  $D_{1,j} \neq 0$ , by solving the system (4) we obtain

$$a_j = \frac{\lambda_1^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) \det(B_j^{\lambda_j^{(j)}}) - \lambda_j^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) \det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}})}{D_{1,j}},$$

$$b_{1j}^2 = \frac{(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})}{D_{1,j}}.$$

From equation (5) we have

$$(-1)^{j-1} D_{1,j} = (-1)^{j-1} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) \det(B_j^{\lambda_j^{(j)}}) + (-1)^{j-2} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) \det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}}).$$

From Lemma 2 and (11) we get  $(-1)^{j-1} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) > 0, \det(B_j^{\lambda_j^{(j)}}) > 0, P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) > 0$  and  $(-1)^{j-2} \det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}}) > 0$  then

$$b_{1,j}^2 = \frac{(-1)^{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})}{(-1)^{j-1}P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})\det(B_j^{\lambda_j^{(j)}}) + (-1)^{j-2}P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})\det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}})} > 0.$$

For  $j = (i - 1)s + 3$  the existence of  $A_j$  is equivalent to show that the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} P_j(\lambda_1^{(j)}) = a_j P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) + b_{(j-1),j}^2 P_{j-2}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) - \lambda_1^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) = 0 \\ P_j(\lambda_j^{(j)}) = a_j P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) + b_{(j-1),j}^2 P_{j-2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) - \lambda_j^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

has solutions  $a_j$  and  $b_{(j-1),j}^2$ . The determinant of the coefficients matrix of the above system is

$$D_{(j-1),j} = P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) - P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})P_{j-2}(\lambda_1^{(j)}).$$

If  $D_{(j-1),j} \neq 0$  then the system will have a unique solution. From Lemma 2 and (11) we get  $(-1)^{j-1}D_{(j-1),j} > 0$ , it is clear that  $D_{(j-1),j} \neq 0$  and the unique solutions of the system (12) are:

$$a_j = \frac{\lambda_1^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) - \lambda_j^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})P_{j-2}(\lambda_1^{(j)})}{D_{(j-1),j}},$$

$$b_{(j-1),j}^2 = \frac{(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})}{D_{(j-1),j}}.$$

Again, from Lemma 2 and (11) we have  $(-1)^{j-1}P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) > 0$  and  $P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) > 0$ , then it is evident that:

$$b_{(j-1),j}^2 = \frac{(-1)^{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})}{(-1)^{j-1}P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) + (-1)^{j-2}P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})P_{j-2}(\lambda_1^{(j)})} > 0.$$

Finally, for  $j = (i - 1)s + 4, \dots, is + 1$ , using the last recurrence relation from Lemma 3.2 in equations 1 we have

$$\begin{cases} a_j P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) + b_{((i-1)s+3),j}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_1^{(j)} - a_k) - \lambda_1^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) = 0 \\ a_j P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) + b_{((i-1)s+3),j}^2 P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_j^{(j)} - a_k) - \lambda_j^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

The determinant of the coefficients matrix of the system (13) is

$$D_{(i-1)s+3,j} = \left\{ P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_j^{(j)} - a_k) \right\} - \left\{ P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_1^{(j)} - a_k) \right\}. \quad (14)$$

From (14) we have

$$(-1)^{j-1}D_{(i-1)s+3,j} = \left\{ \{(-1)^{j-1}P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})\}P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_j^{(j)} - a_k) \right\} + \left\{ P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})\{(-1)^{(i-1)s+2}P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_1^{(j)})\}\{(-1)^{j-(i-1)s-4} \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_1^{(j)} - a_k)\} \right\}. \quad (15)$$

By Lemma 2 and (11) we get  $(-1)^{j-1}P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) > 0$ ,  $P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) > 0$ ,  $(-1)^{(i-1)s+2}P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) > 0$  and  $P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) > 0$ . Also, by Lemma 3.2, we have  $(-1)^{j-(i-1)s-4} \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_1^{(j)} - a_k) > 0$  and  $\prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_j^{(j)} - a_k) > 0$ . Hence,  $(-1)^{j-1}D_{(i-1)s+3, j} > 0$  and  $D_{(i-1)s+3, j} \neq 0$ . It follows that the linear system equations (13) has a unique solution for  $a_j$  and  $b_{(i-1)s+3, j}^2$ .

$$a_j = \frac{A_j - B_j}{D_{(i-1)s+3, j}},$$

$$b_{(i-1)s+3, j}^2 = \frac{(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)})P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})}{D_{(i-1)s+3, j}},$$

where  $A_j$  and  $B_j$  are given by

$$A_j = \lambda_1^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_j^{(j)} - a_k),$$

$$B_j = \lambda_j^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) P_{(i-1)s+2}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) \prod_{k=(i-1)s+4}^{j-1} (\lambda_1^{(j)} - a_k).$$

We can write  $b_{(i-1)s+3, j}^2$  as:

$$b_{(i-1)s+3, j}^2 = \frac{(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)}) \{(-1)^{j-1} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})\}}{(-1)^{j-1} D_{(i-1)s+3, j}}.$$

From Lemma 2 and (11) we have  $(-1)^{j-1}P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) > 0$  and  $P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) > 0$ . Also, from the above verified results, we know  $(-1)^{j-1}D_{(i-1)s+3, j} > 0$ , hence  $b_{(i-1)s+3, j}^2 > 0$ .

Conversely, suppose the **IEPB**(**c,s**) has a unique solution then from Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 3.2 we can obtain (11) thus the proof is completed. □

The resulting algorithm takes the form of **Algorithm 1**.

**Algorithm 1.** (To solve problem **IEPB(c,s)**)Input:  $c, s, \lambda_1^{(1)}, \lambda_1^{(2)}, \lambda_2^{(2)}, \dots, \lambda_1^{(n)}, \lambda_n^{(n)}$ , where  $n = cs + 1$ .Output:  $A \in S(B(c, s))$ .

$$a_1 = \lambda_1^{(1)}.$$

**For**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$ **if**  $j \in (i-1)s + 2$  *for*  $i = 1, 2, \dots, c$  **Then**

$$a_j = \frac{\lambda_1^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) \det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}}) - \lambda_j^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) \det(B_j^{\lambda_1^{(j)}})}{D_{1,j}}$$

$$b_{1,j} = \sqrt{\frac{(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})}{D_{1,j}}}$$

**elseif**  $j \in (i-1)s + 3$  *for*  $i = 1, 2, \dots, c$  **then**

$$a_j = \frac{\lambda_1^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-2}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) - \lambda_j^{(j)} P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)}) P_{j-2}(\lambda_1^{(j)})}{D_{(j-1),j}}$$

$$b_{(j-1),j} = \sqrt{\frac{(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})}{D_{(j-1),j}}}$$

**else***for*  $j = (i-1)s + 4$  *to*  $is + 1$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, c$  **do**

$$a_j = \frac{A_j - B_j}{D_{(i-1)s+3, j}}$$

$$b_{(i-1)s+3, j} = \sqrt{\frac{(\lambda_j^{(j)} - \lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_1^{(j)}) P_{j-1}(\lambda_j^{(j)})}{D_{(i-1)s+3, j}}}$$

**EndIf****EndFor**

## 4 Numerical examples

**Algorithm 1** is tested for various examples by matlab software. In this section we report some of examples. **Example 4.1** For given 17 real numbers

$$-7, -6.1, -5, -3.6, -2.5, -1, -0.5, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5.3, 6, 7, 8, 9.2,$$

rearrange and label them as  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, 9$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$ ,  $j = 2, \dots, 9$ , and find a matrix  $9 \times 9 \in S(B(2, 4))$  such that  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$  are the minimal and maximal eigenvalues of  $A_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ .

We rearrange the given numbers. The following numbers:

$$-7 < -6.1 < -5 < -3.6 < -2.5 < -1 < -0.5 < 1.5 < 2 < 2.5 < 3 < 4 < 5.3 < 6 < 7 < 8 < 9.2,$$

satisfy the sufficient condition (11). By applying **Algorithm 1**, we get the unique solution

$$A_9 = \begin{bmatrix} 2.0000 & 0.5000 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4.6952 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.5000 & 2.0000 & 1.4142 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.4142 & 0.3333 & 1.6101 & 3.0587 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.6101 & 3.0029 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3.0587 & 0 & 2.3925 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 4.6952 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.3752 & 3.6226 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3.6226 & 0.9421 & 5.0534 & 4.4313 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5.0534 & 1.1223 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4.4313 & 0 & 2.2202 \end{bmatrix}.$$

From the matrix  $A_9$  we recomputed the eigenvalues of  $A_j$ , and obtained

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(A_1) &= \{\underline{2.0000}\} \\ \sigma(A_2) &= \{\underline{1.5000}, \underline{2.5000}\} \\ \sigma(A_3) &= \{\underline{-0.5000}, \underline{1.8333}, \underline{3.0000}\} \\ \sigma(A_4) &= \{\underline{-1.0000}, \underline{1.7143}, \underline{2.6219}, \underline{4.0000}\} \\ \sigma(A_5) &= \{\underline{-2.5000}, \underline{1.5649}, \underline{2.4890}, \underline{2.8749}, \underline{5.3000}\} \\ \sigma(A_6) &= \{\underline{-3.6000}, \underline{-2.4916}, \underline{2.0448}, \underline{2.8688}, \underline{5.2820}, \underline{6.0000}\} \\ \sigma(A_7) &= \{\underline{-5.0000}, \underline{-2.4970}, \underline{1.2356}, \underline{2.1448}, \underline{2.8698}, \underline{5.2929}, \underline{7.0000}\} \\ \sigma(A_8) &= \{\underline{-6.1000}, \underline{-2.5108}, \underline{-2.1528}, \underline{2.0401}, \underline{2.8686}, \underline{4.7171}, \underline{5.3061}, \underline{8.0000}\} \\ \sigma(A_9) &= \{\underline{-7.0000}, \underline{-2.6646}, \underline{-2.4642}, \underline{1.7361}, \underline{2.0463}, \underline{2.8688}, \underline{5.2344}, \underline{5.4318}, \underline{9.2000}\}. \end{aligned}$$

The underlined eigenvalues are in consonance with the minimal and maximal eigenvalues.

**Example 4.2.** For given 11 real numbers

$$-8, -6, -3, -1, 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13,$$

rearrange and label them as  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, 6$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$ ,  $j = 2, \dots, 6$ , and find a matrix  $6 \times 6 \in S(B(1, 5))$  such that  $\lambda_1^{(j)}$  and  $\lambda_j^{(j)}$  are the minimal and maximal eigenvalues of  $A_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, 6$ .

We rearrange the given numbers. The following numbers:

$$-8 < -6 - 1 < 1 < 2 < 5 < 6 < 8 < 11 < 13,$$

satisfy the sufficient condition (11). By applying **Algorithm 1**, we get the unique solution

$$A_6 = \begin{bmatrix} 2.0000 & 1.7321 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1.7321 & 4.0000 & 2.5820 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2.5820 & 0.6667 & 4.4117 & 6.5160 & 6.1730 \\ 0 & 0 & 4.4117 & 4.4146 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6.5160 & 0 & 4.3427 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6.1730 & 0 & 0 & 4.3356 \end{bmatrix}.$$

From the matrix  $A_6$  we recomputed the eigenvalues of  $A_j$ , and obtained

$$\sigma(A_1) = \{\underline{2.0000}\}$$

$$\sigma(A_2) = \{\underline{1.0000}, 5.0000\}$$

$$\sigma(A_3) = \{-1.0000, 1.6667, \underline{6.0000}\}$$

$$\sigma(A_4) = \{-3.0000, 1.2100, 4.8713, \underline{8.0000}\}$$

$$\sigma(A_5) = \{-6.0000, 1.0811, 4.3918, 4.9511, \underline{11.0000}\}$$

$$\sigma(A_6) = \{-8.0000, 1.0521, 4.3389, 4.3999, 4.9686, \underline{13.0000}\}.$$

The underlined eigenvalues are in consonance with the minimal and maximal eigenvalues.

## 5 Conclusions

In this paper, we have solved the IEP for construction of matrices whose graphs are banana trees. This is performed by using the minimal and maximal eigenvalues of all leading principal submatrices of the required matrix. The results obtained in this paper provide an efficient method for constructing such matrices. The problem IEPB(c,s) is important in the sense that it partially describes inverse eigenvalue problem while it constructs matrices from partial information of prescribed eigenvalues. Such partially described problems may occur in computations involving a complex physical system that is difficult to obtain in its entire spectrum. It would be interesting to consider such IEPs for other acyclic matrices as well.

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