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# Pareto $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion theorems for tensor eigenvalue complementarity problems

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## Abstract

This paper presents some sharp Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion intervals and discusses the relationships among different Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion intervals for tensor eigenvalue complementarity problems. As an application, we propose a sufficient condition for identifying the strict copositivity of tensors. Some examples are provided to illustrate the obtained results.

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## 1 Introduction

Let  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m, n]}$  be an  $m$ th-order  $n$ -dimensional real tensor,  $x$  be a real  $n$ -vector and  $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{A}x^{m-1}$  the vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with entries

$$(\mathcal{A}x^{m-1})_i = \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N} a_{i i_2 \dots i_m} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}.$$

Consider the tensor eigenvalue complementarity problems of finding  $(\lambda, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+^n \setminus \{0\}$  such that

$$0 \leq x \perp (\lambda x - \mathcal{A}x^{m-1}) \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad x^\top x = 1,$$

where  $a \perp b$  means that vectors  $a$  and  $b$  are perpendicular to each other. For the problem, its solution  $(\lambda, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+^n \setminus \{0\}$  is called a Pareto  $Z$ -eigenpair of tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ .

The Pareto  $Z$ -eigenpair of a tensor was introduced by Song [1], which is a natural generalization of that of a matrix [2–5]. It is worth noting that Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{A}$  are closely related to  $Z$  ( $Z^+$ )-eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{A}$  introduced by Lim [6] and Qi [7, 8], respectively.

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**Definition 1** For a tensor  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m, n]}$ , if there exist  $(\lambda, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$  such that

$$\mathcal{A}x^{m-1} = \lambda x, \quad x^\top x = 1,$$

then  $(\lambda, x)$  is called a  $Z$ -eigenpair of tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ . Further,  $Z$ -eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  is said to be a  $Z^+$ -eigenvalue, if its eigenvector  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n \setminus \{0\}$ .

Obviously,  $Z^+$ -eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{A}$  are Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalues. However, the converse may not hold as pointed by Zeng [9]. Therefore, the tensor Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue received much attentions of researchers [9–12]. For instance, Zeng [9] proposed a semidefinite relaxation algorithm to obtain Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalues of tensor eigenvalue complementarity problems. Since it is not easy to find all Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalues in practice [1, 9, 13], it is significant to make some characterizations to the distribution of Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalues. Inspired by the results obtained in [14–18], we establish some Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalues inclusion intervals, give comparisons among these Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion intervals, and propose a sufficient condition to identify the strict copositivity of real tensors in this paper.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, we recall some preliminary results and establish Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion intervals. Further, we give comparisons among these Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion intervals. In Sect. 3, we propose a sufficient condition to identify the strict copositivity of tensors.

To end this section, we give some notations needed. The set of all real numbers is denoted by  $\mathbb{R}$ , and the  $n$ -dimensional real Euclidean space is denoted by  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For any  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , we denote  $[a]_+ := \max\{0, a\}$  and  $[a]_- := \max\{0, -a\}$ . For any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $x^{\otimes m}$  denotes a tensor whose entries are defined by  $(x^{\otimes m})_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} = x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m}$  for all  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m \in N$ . For any  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{[m, n]}$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we define

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}x^m &:= x^\top \mathcal{A}x^{m-1} = \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m}, \\ \|\mathcal{A}\|_F &:= \left( \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \\ [\mathcal{A}]_+ &:= ([a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}]_+) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m, n]}, \quad [\mathcal{A}]_- := ([a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}]_-) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m, n]}. \end{aligned}$$

For any  $i, j \in N$ , set

$$\begin{aligned} R_i(\mathcal{A})_+ &:= \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}]_+, & R_i(\mathcal{A})_- &:= \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}]_-, \\ R_i^j(\mathcal{A})_+ &:= R_i(\mathcal{A})_+ - [a_{ij \dots j}]_+, & R_i^j(\mathcal{A})_- &:= R_i(\mathcal{A})_- - [a_{ij \dots j}]_-, \\ P_i^j(\mathcal{A})_+ &:= \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ j \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}]_+, & P_i^j(\mathcal{A})_- &:= \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ j \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}]_-. \end{aligned}$$

### 2 Pareto Z-eigenvalues inclusion intervals

First, we recall some results of strictly copositive tensors [19, 20], and then establish Pareto Z-eigenvalue inclusion theorems of tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ . Some comparisons among different Pareto Z-eigenvalue inclusion intervals are also made in this section.

**Definition 2** Tensor  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,n]}$  is said to be:

- (i) strictly copositive if  $\mathcal{A}x^m > 0$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n \setminus \{0\}$ ;
- (ii) symmetric if  $a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} = a_{i_{\pi(1)} \dots i_{\pi(m)}}$ ,  $\forall \pi \in \Gamma_m$ , where  $\Gamma_m$  is the permutation group of  $m$  indices.

**Lemma 1** ([1, Corollary 3.5]) *Let  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,n]}$  be symmetric. Then  $\mathcal{A}$  always has Pareto Z-eigenvalues;  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly copositive if and only if all of its Pareto Z-eigenvalues are positive.*

**Lemma 2** ([20, Proposition 2.1]) *Let  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,n]}$ . If  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly copositive, then  $a_{i \dots i} > 0, \forall i \in N$ .*

Based on the above lemmas, we have the following conclusion.

**Theorem 1** *Let  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,n]}$ . Denote the set of Pareto Z-eigenvalues by  $\sigma(\mathcal{A})$  and assume  $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$ . Then,*

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Psi(\mathcal{A}) := \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{R} : \max\{-\bar{a} \cdot n^{\frac{m}{2}}, -\|[\mathcal{A}]_-\|_F\} \leq \lambda \leq \min\{\bar{a} \cdot n^{\frac{m}{2}}, \|[\mathcal{A}]_+\|_F\} \}, \tag{1}$$

where  $\bar{a} = \max_{i_1, \dots, i_m \in N} |a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}|$ .

*Proof* Suppose that  $(\lambda, x)$  is a Pareto Z-eigenpair of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 &= \mathcal{A}x^m \leq [\mathcal{A}]_+ x^m \leq \|[\mathcal{A}]_+\|_F \|x^{\otimes m}\|_F \\ &= \|[\mathcal{A}]_+\|_F \left( \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n x_{i_1}^2 x_{i_2}^2 \dots x_{i_m}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \|[\mathcal{A}]_+\|_F \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \right)^{\frac{m}{2}} = \|[\mathcal{A}]_+\|_F \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} -\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 &= -\mathcal{A}x^m \leq [\mathcal{A}]_- x^m \leq \|[\mathcal{A}]_-\|_F \|x^{\otimes m}\|_F \\ &= \|[\mathcal{A}]_-\|_F \left( \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n x_{i_1}^2 x_{i_2}^2 \dots x_{i_m}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \|[\mathcal{A}]_-\|_F \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \right)^{\frac{m}{2}} = \|[\mathcal{A}]_-\|_F. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Combining (2) with (3) yields

$$-\|[\mathcal{A}]_-\|_F \leq \lambda \leq \|[\mathcal{A}]_+\|_F. \tag{4}$$

Meanwhile, from the definition of Pareto  $Z$ -eigenpair, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\lambda| &= \frac{|\mathcal{A}x^m|}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2} \leq \frac{\bar{a}(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)^m}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2} \leq \bar{a} \left( \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2} \cdot \sqrt{1 + 1 + \dots + 1} \right)^m \\ &= \bar{a}n^{\frac{m}{2}}, \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where the second inequality holds via Cauchy–Schwartz inequality. The desired result follows by combining (4) and (5).  $\square$

In the following, we will use some important elements of tensor to describe Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalues inclusion intervals.

**Theorem 2** *Let  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,n]}$  and  $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$ . Then,*

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Omega(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcup_{i \in N} \Omega_i(\mathcal{A}) := \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq \max\{R_i(\mathcal{A})_+, R_i(\mathcal{A})_-\} \}.$$

*Proof* Suppose that  $(\lambda, x)$  is a Pareto  $Z$ -eigenpair of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then

$$\lambda x_i^2 = \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{ii_2 \dots i_m} x_i x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m}. \tag{6}$$

Denote  $x_p = \max_{i \in N} \{x_i\}$ . Then,  $0 < x_p \leq 1$  as  $x^\top x = 1$ . Recalling the  $p$ th equation of (6), we get

$$\lambda x_p^2 = \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{pi_2 \dots i_m} x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m}.$$

Taking the absolute value of the equation above, one has

$$\begin{aligned} |\lambda| x_p^2 &= \left| \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m} - \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m} \right| \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m}, \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m} \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+, \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- \right\} x_p^2. \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Dividing both sides by  $x_p^2$ , one has

$$|\lambda| \leq \max\{R_p(\mathcal{A})_+, R_p(\mathcal{A})_-\},$$

which implies  $\lambda \in \Omega_p(\mathcal{A})$ , and hence  $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Omega(\mathcal{A})$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3** Let  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,n]}$  and  $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$ . Then,

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Phi(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcup_{i \in N} \bigcap_{j \in N, i \neq j} \Phi_{ij}(\mathcal{A}),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{ij}(\mathcal{A}) := & \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda - R_i^j(\mathcal{A})_+| |\lambda| \leq [a_{ij\dots j}]_+ \max\{R_j(\mathcal{A})_+, R_j(\mathcal{A})_-\} \} \\ & \cup \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda - R_i^j(\mathcal{A})_-| |\lambda| \leq [a_{ij\dots j}]_- \max\{R_j(\mathcal{A})_+, R_j(\mathcal{A})_-\} \}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof* Suppose that  $(\lambda, x)$  is a Pareto  $Z$ -eigenpair of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Setting  $0 < x_p = \max_{i \in N} \{x_i\}$  and referring to the  $p$ th equation of (6), for any  $q \in N, q \neq p$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\lambda| x_p^2 &= \left| \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{pi_2 \dots i_m} x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right| \\ &= \left| \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} - \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right| \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}, \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ x_p x_q^{m-1} + \sum_{\delta_{qi_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}, \right. \\ &\quad \left. [a_{pq\dots q}]_- x_p x_q^{m-1} + \sum_{\delta_{qi_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ x_p x_q + \sum_{\delta_{qi_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_p^2, \right. \\ &\quad \left. [a_{pq\dots q}]_- x_p x_q + \sum_{\delta_{qi_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p^2 \right\} \\ &= \max \{ R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+ x_p^2 + [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ x_p x_q, R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_- x_p^2 + [a_{pq\dots q}]_- x_p x_q \}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$|\lambda| x_p^2 \leq \max \{ R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+ x_p^2 + [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ x_p x_q, R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_- x_p^2 + [a_{pq\dots q}]_- x_p x_q \}. \tag{8}$$

Recalling the  $q$ th equation of (6), one has

$$\begin{aligned} |\lambda| x_q^2 &= \left| \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{qi_2 \dots i_m} x_q x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right| \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_q x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}, \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_q x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_q x_p, \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_q x_p \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+ x_p x_q, R_q(\mathcal{A})_- x_p x_q\},$$

which shows

$$|\lambda| x_q^2 \leq \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\} x_p x_q. \tag{9}$$

We now break up the argument into two cases for (8).

Case I.  $|\lambda| x_p^2 \leq R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+ x_p^2 + [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ x_p x_q$ . In this case, if  $x_q > 0$ , multiplying (8) with (9) and dividing  $x_p^2 x_q^2$  yields

$$(|\lambda| - R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+) |\lambda| \leq [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\},$$

which implies  $\lambda \in \Phi_{p,q}(\mathcal{A})$ .

Otherwise,  $x_q = 0$ . From (8), it holds that

$$(|\lambda| - R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+) |\lambda| \leq 0 \leq [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\},$$

which shows that  $\lambda \in \Phi_{p,q}(\mathcal{A})$ .

Case II.  $|\lambda| x_p^2 \leq R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_- x_p^2 + [a_{pq\dots q}]_- x_p x_q$ . Following similar arguments as in the proof of Case I, we obtain  $\lambda \in \Phi_{p,q}(\mathcal{A})$ .

Combining Cases I and II, we obtain the desired results. □

Compared with Theorem 2, the result of Theorem 3 requires relatively many calculations but has accurate results. Detailed investigation is given in Corollary 1.

**Corollary 1** For a tensor  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,n]}$ , it holds that

$$\Phi(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Omega(\mathcal{A}),$$

where  $\Phi(\mathcal{A})$  and  $\Omega(\mathcal{A})$  are defined in Theorems 2 and 3.

*Proof* For any  $\lambda \in \Phi(\mathcal{A})$ , there exist  $p, q \in N$  with  $p \neq q$  such that

$$(|\lambda| - R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+) |\lambda| \leq [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\},$$

or

$$(|\lambda| - R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_-) |\lambda| \leq [a_{pq\dots q}]_- \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\}.$$

We now break up the argument into two cases.

Case I.  $(|\lambda| - R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+) |\lambda| \leq [a_{pq\dots q}]_+ \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\}$ .

If  $[a_{pq\dots q}]_+ \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\} = 0$ , it holds that

$$|\lambda| \leq R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+ \leq R_p(\mathcal{A})_+ \leq \max\{R_p(\mathcal{A})_+, R_p(\mathcal{A})_-\},$$

or

$$|\lambda| = 0 \leq \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\},$$

which indicates that

$$\lambda \in \Omega_p(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Omega(\mathcal{A}) \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda \in \Omega_q(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Omega(\mathcal{A}). \tag{10}$$

Otherwise,  $[a_{pq\dots q}]_+ \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\} > 0$ . Then,

$$\frac{|\lambda| - R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+}{[a_{pq\dots q}]_+} \cdot \frac{|\lambda|}{\max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\}} \leq 1,$$

which implies

$$\frac{|\lambda| - R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+}{[a_{pq\dots q}]_+} \leq 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{|\lambda|}{\max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\}} \leq 1.$$

Consequently, (10) holds.

Case II.  $(|\lambda| - R_p^q(\mathcal{A})_-)|\lambda| \leq [a_{pq\dots q}]_- \max\{R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_-\}$ . Following similar arguments as in the proof of Case I, we can prove that  $\lambda \in \Omega(\mathcal{A})$ .

Combining Case I with Case II, we conclude that  $\Phi(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Omega(\mathcal{A})$ . □

To get accurate results, we divide precisely the index set of  $\mathcal{A}$  and establish Theorem 4.

**Theorem 4** *Let  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,n]}$  and  $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$ . Then,*

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcup_{i \in N} \bigcap_{j \in N, j \neq i} \mathcal{N}_{ij}(\mathcal{A}),$$

where  $\mathcal{N}_{ij}(\mathcal{A}) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : (|\lambda| - \max\{P_i^j(\mathcal{A})_+, P_i^j(\mathcal{A})_-\})|\lambda| \leq \max\{R_j(\mathcal{A})_+ - P_i^j(\mathcal{A})_+, R_j(\mathcal{A})_- - P_i^j(\mathcal{A})_-\} \cdot \max\{R_j(\mathcal{A})_+, R_j(\mathcal{A})_-\}\}$ .

*Proof* Suppose that  $(\lambda, x)$  is a Pareto Z-eigenpair of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Setting  $0 < x_p = \max_{i \in N} \{x_i\}$  and referring to the  $p$ th equation of (6), for any  $q \in N, q \neq p$ , one has

$$\lambda x_p^2 = \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} a_{pi_2\dots i_m} x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} + \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} a_{pi_2\dots i_m} x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}.$$

Taking the absolute value of the equation above, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\lambda| x_p^2 &\leq \left| \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2\dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} - \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2\dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2\dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} - \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2\dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right| \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2\dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}, \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2\dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right\} \\ &\quad + \max \left\{ \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2\dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}, \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2\dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq x_p x_q \max \left\{ \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+, \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- \right\} \\ &\quad + x_p^2 \max \left\{ \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+, \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where the third inequality holds from  $0 < x_p^{m-1} \leq x_p \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq x_q < 1$ . Further,

$$\begin{aligned} &\left[ |\lambda| - \max \left\{ \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+, \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- \right\} \right] x_p^2 \\ &\leq x_p x_q \max \left\{ \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+, \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \in \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- \right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

In view of the  $q$ th equation of (6), we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} |\lambda| x_q^2 &= \left| \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N} a_{qi_2 \dots i_m} x_q x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right| \\ &= \left| \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N} [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_q x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} - \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N} [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_q x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right| \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N} [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_q x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}, \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N} [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_q x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right\} \\ &\leq x_p x_q \max \left\{ \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N} [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_+, \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N} [a_{qi_2 \dots i_m}]_- \right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

We now break up the argument into two cases.

Case I:  $x_q > 0$ . Multiplying (11) with (12) and dividing  $x_p^2 x_q^2$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (|\lambda| - \max \{ P_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+, P_p^q(\mathcal{A})_- \}) |\lambda| &\leq \max \{ R_p(\mathcal{A})_+ - P_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_p(\mathcal{A})_- - P_p^q(\mathcal{A})_- \} \\ &\quad \times \max \{ R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_- \}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies  $\lambda \in \mathcal{N}_{p,q}(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{A})$ .

Case II:  $x_q = 0$ . It follows from (11) that

$$|\lambda| \leq \max \left\{ \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_+, \sum_{\substack{i_2, \dots, i_m \in N \\ q \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_m\}}} [a_{pi_2 \dots i_m}]_- \right\},$$

that is,

$$\begin{aligned} (|\lambda| - \max \{ P_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+, P_p^q(\mathcal{A})_- \}) |\lambda| &\leq \max \{ R_p(\mathcal{A})_+ - P_p^q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_p(\mathcal{A})_- - P_p^q(\mathcal{A})_- \} \\ &\quad \times \max \{ R_q(\mathcal{A})_+, R_q(\mathcal{A})_- \}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies  $\lambda \in \mathcal{N}_{p,q}(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{A})$ . □



In what follows, we now test the efficiency of the obtained results.

*Example 1* Consider a 3rd order 3-dimensional tensor  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{ijk})$  defined by

$$a_{ijk} = \begin{cases} a_{111} = 1; & a_{112} = -1; & a_{131} = 1; & a_{133} = 1; \\ a_{211} = -1; & a_{222} = 2; & a_{232} = 1; & \\ a_{311} = 1; & a_{322} = 3; & a_{323} = 1; & \\ a_{ijk} = 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By calculating, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{A}\|_F &= \sqrt{2}, & \|\mathcal{A}\|_+ &= \sqrt{19}, & \bar{a} \cdot n^{\frac{m}{2}} &= 9\sqrt{3}, \\ R_1(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 3, & R_1(\mathcal{A})_- &= 1, & R_2(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 3, & R_2(\mathcal{A})_- &= 1, \\ R_3(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 5, & R_3(\mathcal{A})_- &= 0, \\ R_1^2(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 3, & R_1^2(\mathcal{A})_- &= 1, & R_1^3(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 2, & R_1^3(\mathcal{A})_- &= 1, \\ R_2^1(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 3, & R_2^1(\mathcal{A})_- &= 0, & R_2^3(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 3, & R_2^3(\mathcal{A})_- &= 1, \\ R_3^1(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 4, & R_3^1(\mathcal{A})_- &= 0, & R_3^2(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 2, & R_3^2(\mathcal{A})_- &= 0, \\ P_1^2(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 3, & P_1^2(\mathcal{A})_- &= 0, & P_1^3(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 1, & P_1^3(\mathcal{A})_- &= 1, \\ P_2^1(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 3, & P_2^1(\mathcal{A})_- &= 0, & P_2^3(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 2, & P_2^3(\mathcal{A})_- &= 1, \\ P_3^1(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 4, & P_3^1(\mathcal{A})_- &= 0, & P_3^2(\mathcal{A})_+ &= 1, & P_3^2(\mathcal{A})_- &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

According to Theorem 1, we obtain

$$\Psi(\mathcal{A}) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : -\sqrt{2} \leq \lambda \leq \sqrt{19}\}.$$

Referring to Theorem 2, we deduce

$$\Omega(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcup_{i \in N} \Omega_i(\mathcal{A}) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 5\}.$$

Recalling Theorem 3, one has

$$\Phi(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcup_{i \in N} \bigcap_{j \in N, i \neq j} \Phi_{i,j}(\mathcal{A}) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 1 + \sqrt{10}\},$$

where

---


$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{1,2}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 3\} & \Phi_{1,3}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 1 + \sqrt{6}\} \\ \Phi_{2,1}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 3\} & \Phi_{2,3}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 3\} \\ \Phi_{3,1}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 2 + \sqrt{7}\} & \Phi_{3,2}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 1 + \sqrt{10}\}. \end{aligned}$$


---

It follows from Theorem 4 that

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcup_{i \in N} \bigcap_{j \in N, i \neq j} \mathcal{N}_{i,j}(\mathcal{A}) = \left\{ \lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq \frac{1 + \sqrt{41}}{2} \right\},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{N}_{1,2}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq \frac{3+\sqrt{21}}{2}\} & \mathcal{N}_{1,3}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq \frac{1+\sqrt{41}}{2}\} \\
 \mathcal{N}_{2,1}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq \frac{3+\sqrt{21}}{2}\} & \mathcal{N}_{2,3}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 1 + \sqrt{6}\} \\
 \mathcal{N}_{3,1}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 2 + \sqrt{7}\} & \mathcal{N}_{3,2}(\mathcal{A}) &= \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : |\lambda| \leq 3\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

### 3 Judging strict copositivity of tensors

In this section, we mainly propose a sufficient condition for judging strict copositivity of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Theorem 5** *Let  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m,m]}$  be symmetric with  $a_{i \dots i} > 0$  for  $i \in N$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly copositive provided that*

$$a_{i \dots i} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{m-2} - R_i(\mathcal{A})_- > 0. \tag{13}$$

*Proof* Suppose that  $(\lambda, x)$  is a Pareto  $Z$ -eigenpair of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Setting  $0 < x_p = \max_{i \in N} \{x_i\}$  and referring to the  $p$ th equation of (6), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda x_p^2 &= \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{p i_2 \dots i_m} x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m} \\
 &= a_{p \dots p} x_p^m + \sum_{\delta_{p i_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{p i_2 \dots i_m}]_+ x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m} - \sum_{\delta_{p i_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{p i_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Further,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda x_p^2 &\geq a_{p \dots p} x_p^m - \sum_{\delta_{p i_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{p i_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m} \\
 &\geq a_{p \dots p} x_p^m - \sum_{\delta_{p i_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{p i_2 \dots i_m}]_- x_p^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Dividing both sides by  $x_p^2$ , we have

$$\lambda \geq a_{p \dots p} x_p^{m-2} - \sum_{\delta_{p i_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{p i_2 \dots i_m}]_- = a_{p \dots p} x_p^{m-2} - R_p(\mathcal{A})_-. \tag{14}$$

Since  $x_p = \max_{i \in N} \{x_i\}$  and  $x^\top x = 1$ , we deduce  $x_p \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ . It follows from  $a_{i \dots i} > 0$  and (14) that

$$\lambda \geq a_{p \dots p} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{m-2} - \sum_{\delta_{p i_2 \dots i_m}=0} [a_{p i_2 \dots i_m}]_- = a_{p \dots p} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{m-2} - R_p(\mathcal{A})_-. \tag{15}$$

Combining (13) with (15), we have  $\lambda > 0$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly copositive. □

From the conclusion, identifying the strict copositivity of tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  requires that it is symmetric. For general tensors, symmetry is a relatively strict condition. To tackle this

problem, we may symmetrize the tensors  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m, n]}$  as follows:

$$\tilde{a}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} = \begin{cases} a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} & \text{if } i_1 = i_2 = \dots = i_m, \\ \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{i_2 \dots i_m \in \Gamma_m} a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = (\tilde{a}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[m, n]}$  is the symmetrization tensor under permutation group  $\Gamma_m$ .

The following example shows that the result given in Theorem 5 can verify the strict copositivity of tensors.

*Example 2* Consider a 3rd order 2-dimensional tensor  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{ijk})$  defined by

$$a_{ijk} = \begin{cases} a_{111} = 4; & a_{112} = -1; & a_{121} = -1; & a_{122} = 0; \\ a_{222} = 2; & a_{211} = -1; & a_{212} = 0; & a_{221} = 0. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{A}$  is symmetric with

$$R_1(\mathcal{A})_- = 2, \quad R_2(\mathcal{A})_- = 1.$$

According to Theorem 5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_{111} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^{3-2} - R_1(\mathcal{A})_- &= 2(\sqrt{2} - 1) > 0, \\ a_{222} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^{3-2} - R_2(\mathcal{A})_- &= \sqrt{2} - 1 > 0, \end{aligned}$$

which means that  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly copositive.

When  $\mathcal{A}$  is asymmetric, we still identify the strict copositivity by Theorem 5.

*Example 3* Consider a 3rd order 2-dimensional tensor  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{ijk})$  defined by

$$a_{ijk} = \begin{cases} a_{111} = 4; & a_{112} = -1; & a_{121} = -2; & a_{122} = 0; \\ a_{222} = 2; & a_{211} = -1; & a_{212} = 0; & a_{221} = 0. \end{cases}$$

Since  $a_{112} = -1, a_{121} = -2$ , and  $a_{211} = -1$ , we know that  $\mathcal{A}$  is asymmetric. Therefore, we cannot directly use Theorem 5 to judge whether  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly copositive. Symmetrizing  $\mathcal{A}$ , we obtain  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  with

$$\tilde{a}_{ijk} = \begin{cases} \tilde{a}_{111} = 4; & \tilde{a}_{112} = -\frac{4}{3}; & \tilde{a}_{121} = -\frac{4}{3}; & \tilde{a}_{122} = 0; \\ \tilde{a}_{222} = 2; & \tilde{a}_{211} = -\frac{4}{3}; & \tilde{a}_{212} = 0; & \tilde{a}_{221} = 0. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to see that  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  is symmetric with

$$R_1(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})_- = \frac{8}{3}, \quad R_2(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})_- = \frac{4}{3}.$$

According to Theorem 5, we have

$$a_{111} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^{3-2} - R_1(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})_- = \frac{6\sqrt{2}-8}{3} > 0,$$

$$a_{222} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^{3-2} - R_2(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})_- = \frac{3\sqrt{2}-4}{3} > 0,$$

which implies that  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  is strictly copositive. Taking into account that  $\mathcal{A}x^3 = \tilde{\mathcal{A}}x^3 > 0$ , we deduce that  $\mathcal{A}$  is strictly copositive.

#### 4 Conclusion

In this paper, we proposed sharp Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion intervals and established comparisons among different Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion intervals for tensor eigenvalue complementarity problems. Meanwhile, we gave a sufficient condition to check strict copositivity of real tensors. Further studies can be considered to develop some algorithms by Pareto  $Z$ -eigenvalue inclusion intervals for tensor eigenvalue complementarity problems, as done in [5] for solving the matrix eigenvalue complementarity problems.

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Data sharing not applicable to this article as no data were generated or analyzed during the current study.

#### Declarations

##### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

##### Authors' contributions

PY: original draft writing, review writing, and editing. YJW: conceptualization, supervision, and funding acquisition. GW: computation and review writing. QLH: computation and review writing. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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