


The Nonnegative Inverse Eigenvalue Problem is NP-hard¹

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- 2 **NIEP**: Characterize the set of spectra of nonnegative matrices

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- A **yes-instance** is an input that has output “yes”
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- A **certificate** permits to check yes-instances (how to get it is not the question)

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^aThese are some of the 21 **NP-complete** decision problems of Karp's list (1972)

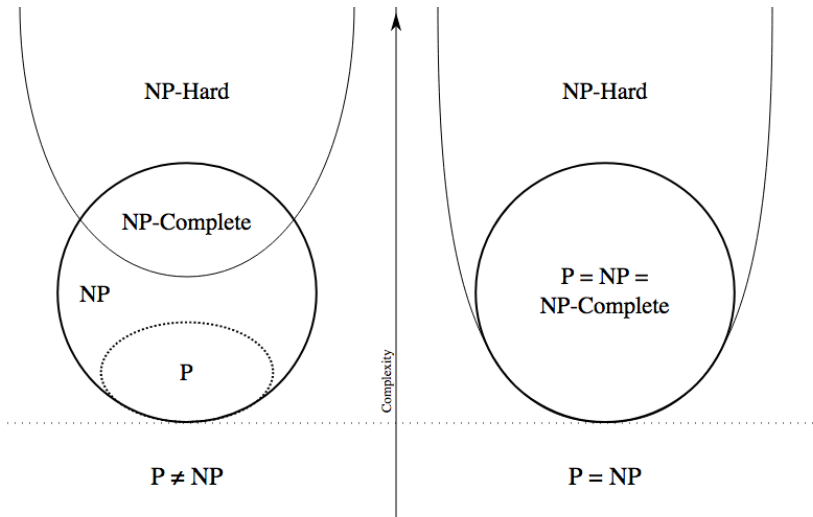


Figure : Euler diagram for P, NP, NP-complete, and NP-hard set of problems. The left side is valid if $P \neq NP$, while the right side is valid if $P = NP$ (author: Behnam Esfahbod)

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- (i) Yes-instances in yes-instances: $\phi(\Omega_1) \subset \Omega_2$
- (ii) No-instances inno-instances: $\phi(\Pi_1 - \Omega_1) \subset \Pi_2 - \Omega_2$

The $(\Pi_{PP}, \Pi_{\mathbb{N}})$ –Problem or Partition Problem

Consider the set

$$\Pi_{\mathbb{N}} \equiv \{(i_1, \dots, i_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

and its subset

$$\Pi_{PP} \equiv \{I \in \Pi_{\mathbb{N}} : \exists \text{ a partition } I = J \cup K \text{ such that } \Sigma(J) = \Sigma(K)\}$$

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(i) $(9, 4, 4, 2, 1) \in \Pi_{PP} \subset \Pi_{\mathbb{N}}$ is a yes-instance of the Partition Problem

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(ii) $(8, 6, 4, 1) \in \Pi_{\mathbb{N}} - \Pi_{PP}$ is a no-instance of the Partition Problem

$$8 + 6 + 4 + 1 \text{ is odd}$$

Let $\Pi_{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \cup \mathbb{C}^2 \cup \mathbb{C}^3 \cup \dots$

Nonnegative Inverse Eigenvalue Problem (NIEP)

Characterize the **NIEP-set** $\Pi_{NIEP} \equiv \left\{ \Lambda \in \Pi_{\mathbb{C}} : \exists A \geq 0 \text{ with } \sigma(A) = \Lambda \right\}$

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(i) $(6, -3) \in \Pi_{\mathbb{C}}$ is a yes-instance of the $(\Pi_{NIEP}, \Pi_{\mathbb{C}})$ -Problem since $(6, -3) = \sigma\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}\right)$

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- (ii) $(3, -2, -2) \in \Pi_{\mathbb{C}}$ is a no-instance of the $(\Pi_{\text{NIEP}}, \Pi_{\mathbb{C}})$ -Problem since the trace of a nonnegative matrix is nonnegative

Each $X \subset \Pi_{NIEP}$ has associated the decision (X, Π_C) -Problem

The decision (X, Π_C) -Problem (X -Problem by short)

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Subsets X of Π_{NIEP} which are useful for our interests

The **Suleřmanova Set**

$$\Pi_{Su} \equiv \left\{ (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : n \in \mathbb{N}; \lambda_1 \geq 0 > \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n; \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n \geq 0 \right\}$$

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Is trivial the Suleřmanova-Perfect decision Problem (Π_{SP}, Π_C) ?

Theorem

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Theorem

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- (i) The Partition Problem is **NP-hard** (Karp 1972). So all **NP** problems are polynomial-time reducible to the Partition Problem

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Main result

The (Π_{NIEP}, Π_C) and the (Π_{RNIEP}, Π_C) –Problems are **NP-hard**

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For $\Pi_{SP} \subseteq X \subseteq \Pi_{NIEP}$ the (X, Π_C) –Problem is **NP-hard**. Same implication

We will restrict to **reals** (and later on to **rationals**)

$$\mathbb{R}_\downarrow \equiv \{(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : n \in \mathbb{N}; \lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n\}$$

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Real Nonnegative Inverse Eigenvalue Problem: Characterize

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Which $(X, \Pi_{\mathbb{R}})$ -Problems for $X \subseteq \Pi_{\text{RNIEP}}$ are **P** or **NP**?

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- 4 Its elements require the existence of an auxiliary nonnegative matrix

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Let $\Lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \mathbb{R}_\downarrow$ and $\Gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m) \in \mathbb{R}_\downarrow$

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- $\Lambda = \Lambda^+ \cup \Lambda^-$, $\Lambda^- = \Lambda - \Lambda^+$, and $\Lambda^+ = \Lambda - \Lambda^-$

Example

Let $\Lambda = (8, 7, 3, 0, -1, -1, -6)$ and $\Gamma = (15, 3, 2, -1, -4)$

- 1 $\rho(\Lambda) = 8$ and $\Sigma(\Lambda) = 10$
- 2 $\Lambda^+ = (8, 7, 3, 0)$ and $\Lambda^- = (-1, -1, -6)$

Let $\Lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \mathbb{R}_\downarrow$ and $\Gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m) \in \mathbb{R}_\downarrow$

- $\rho(\Lambda) = \max\{|\lambda_1|, \dots, |\lambda_n|\}$ and $\Sigma(\Lambda) = \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n$
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- 4 If $\Lambda' = (8, -1, -6)$ then $\Lambda - \Lambda' = (7, 3, 0, -1)$

- *Suleĭmanova Set*

$$\Pi_{Su} \equiv \left\{ (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \Pi_{\mathbb{R}} : \lambda_1 \geq 0 > \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \right\}$$

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3. Its elements are defined recursively

Basic tools to construct new subsets from known subsets of Π_{RNIEP}

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- *Borobia-Moro-Soto Set* is composed by lists obtained with basic tools

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- Equal to^a: (i) Soules Set; (ii) Soto Set; (iii) Smigoc and Ellard Set

^aSmigoc-Ellard [LAA2016]

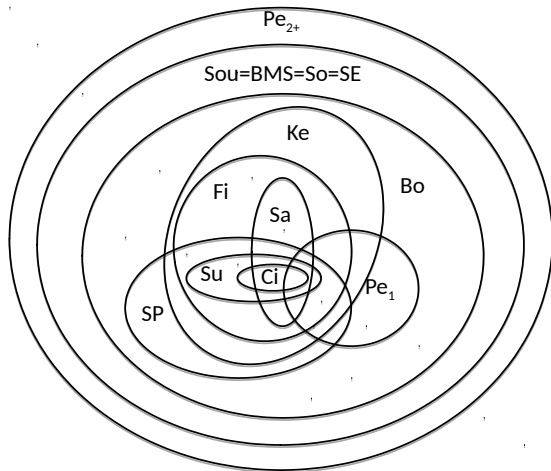
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$$\Pi_{\text{Pe}_2^+} \equiv \left\{ \Lambda \in \Pi_{\mathbb{R}} : \Lambda = \left((\Lambda_1 - \rho(\Lambda_1)) \cup \alpha_1 \right) \cup \dots \cup \left((\Lambda_k - \rho(\Lambda_k)) \cup \alpha_k \right) \right.$$

where $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_k \in \Pi_{\text{Su}}$; $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \geq 0$; and

$$\exists A = \begin{bmatrix} \rho(\Lambda_1) & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ * & & \rho(\Lambda_k) \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad \text{with } \sigma(A) = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}$$



- Suleimanova = Su
- Suleimanova-Perfect = SP
- Perfect 1 = Pe_1
- Perfect 2+ = Pe_{2+}
- Ciarlet = Ci
- Kellogg = Ke
- Salzman = Sa
- Fiedler = Fi
- Borobia = Bo
- Soules = Sou
- Boro-Moro-Soto = BMS
- Soto = So
- Smigoc-Ellard = SE

Figure : $\Pi_{SP} \subset \Pi_{Bo} \subset \Pi_{Sou} = \Pi_{BMS} = \Pi_{So} = \Pi_{SE} \subset \Pi_{Pe_{2+}} \subset \Pi_{RNIEP}$

(*) Marijuán-Pisonero-Soto [LAA2007], Marijuán-Pisonero [ENDM2014], Smigoc-Ellard [LAA2016]

Recall: Which $(X, \Pi_{\mathbb{R}})$ –Problems for $X \subseteq \Pi_{\text{RNIEP}}$ are **P** or **NP**?

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- For a criterion C the set $\Pi_{\mathbb{Q}C}$ is composed by the rational elements of Π_C
- Which $(X, \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}})$ –Problems for $X \subseteq \Pi_{\text{QNIEP}}$ are in the class **P** or **NP**?

- *Suleĭmanova Set*

$$\Pi_{\text{QSu}} \equiv \left\{ (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}} : \lambda_1 \geq 0 > \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \right\}$$

- *Salzmann Set*

$$\Pi_{\text{QSa}} \equiv \left\{ (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}} : \frac{\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n}{n} \geq \frac{\lambda_i + \lambda_{n-i+1}}{2} \text{ for } i = 2, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor \right\}$$

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In all cases the $(\Pi_{\text{QX}}, \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}})$ -Problem belongs to the class **P**

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Let $\Lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}}$. Observe that Π_{QX} is defined by a collection of at most n inequalities. Therefore, the overall process to check that $\Lambda \in \Pi_{\text{QX}}$ or not will employ at most quadratic time with respect to the size of the input Λ

2. Its elements admit a special partition

- *Suleĭmanova-Perfect Set*

$$\Pi_{\text{QSP}} \equiv \left\{ \Lambda \in \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}} : \exists \text{ a partition } \Lambda = \Lambda_1 \cup \dots \cup \Lambda_k \text{ such that } \Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_k \in \Pi_{\text{QSu}} \right\}$$

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If $\Lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \Pi_{\text{QSP}}$ is a yes-instance, take as certificate for Λ any partition $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \cup \dots \cup \Lambda_k$ such that $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_k \in \Pi_{\text{QSu}}$. Checking that $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_k \in \Pi_{\text{QSu}}$ can be done in linear time

3. Defined recursively

Basic tools to construct new subsets from known subsets of Π_{QNIEP}

1. $(0) \in \Pi_{\text{QNIEP}}$
2. $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_k \in \Pi_{\text{QNIEP}} \Rightarrow \Lambda_1 \cup \dots \cup \Lambda_k \in \Pi_{\text{QNIEP}}$
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The $(\Pi_{\text{QBMS}}, \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}})$ -Problem belongs to the class **NP** (so it is **NP-complete**)

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If $\Lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \Pi_{\text{QBMS}}$ is a yes-instance, take as certificate for Λ any sequence of the allowed moves that transform the n trivially realizable lists $(0), (0), \dots, (0)$ into the list $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$. Checking that the moves perform this transformation can be done in polynomial time

4. Require the existence of an auxiliary nonnegative matrix

- *Perfect-2⁺ Set*

$$\Pi_{\text{QPe}_2^+} \equiv \left\{ \Lambda \in \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}} : \Lambda = \left((\Lambda_1 - \rho(\Lambda_1)) \cup \alpha_1 \right) \cup \dots \cup \left((\Lambda_k - \rho(\Lambda_k)) \cup \alpha_k \right) \right\}$$

where $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_k \in \Pi_{\text{QSu}}$; $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \geq 0$ rationals; and

$$\exists A = \begin{bmatrix} \rho(\Lambda_1) & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ * & & \rho(\Lambda_k) \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad \text{with } \sigma(A) = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}$$

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We do not know if the $(\Pi_{\text{QPe}_2^+}, \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}})$ -Problem belongs to the class **NP**, since a certificate of membership in **NP** includes apparently a nonnegative matrix with prescribed diagonal and spectrum. We can not assure that it is a rational matrix and so we can not assure that it can be checked that it has the prescribed spectrum in polynomial time

We do not know if the $(\Pi_{\mathbb{Q}^{\text{NIEP}}}, \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}})$ -Problem belongs to the class **NP**, since a certificate of membership in **NP** includes a nonnegative matrix with prescribed spectrum. We can not assure that it is a rational matrix and so we can not assure that it can be checked that it has the prescribed spectrum in polynomial time

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We finish with the following open questions:

We do not know if the $(\Pi_{\mathbb{Q}^{\text{NIEP}}}, \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}})$ -Problem belongs to the class **NP**, since a certificate of membership in **NP** includes a nonnegative matrix with prescribed spectrum. We can not assure that it is a rational matrix and so we can not assure that it can be checked that it has the prescribed spectrum in polynomial time

We finish with the following open questions:

Let A be a square nonnegative matrix whose eigenvalues are rational numbers. Does there always exist a rational nonnegative matrix B with the same spectrum than A ?

We do not know if the $(\Pi_{\text{QNIEP}}, \Pi_{\mathbb{Q}})$ -Problem belongs to the class **NP**, since a certificate of membership in **NP** includes a nonnegative matrix with prescribed spectrum. We can not assure that it is a rational matrix and so we can not assure that it can be checked that it has the prescribed spectrum in polynomial time

We finish with the following open questions:

Let A be a square nonnegative matrix whose eigenvalues are rational numbers. Does there always exist a rational nonnegative matrix B with the same spectrum than A ?

Let A be a square nonnegative matrix whose characteristic polynomial has rational coefficients. Does there always exist a rational nonnegative matrix B with the same characteristic polynomial than A ?