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Hermitian matrices with invariant principal submatrix characteristic polynomials

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Abstract

This paper addresses a problem on Hermitian matrices arising from the theory of 2-structures.

Let n be a positive integer and $k \in \{3, \dots, n-3\}$. We study Hermitian matrices whose $k \times k$ principal submatrices have identical characteristic polynomials. Such matrices are called k -spectrally monomorphic.

We prove that k -spectral monomorphy implies l -spectral monomorphy for every $l \in \{1, \dots, \min\{k, n-k\}\}$. This structural property allows us to characterize these matrices and highlights strong connections with conference matrices and spectral invariants.

Our results provide a deeper understanding of spectral monomorphy in the Hermitian framework and its combinatorial implications.

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