# LEAST-SQUARES APPROXIMATION BY A TREE DISTANCE 

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#### Abstract

Let $T$ be a tree with vertex set $V(T)=\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and with a positive weight associated with each edge. The tree distance between $i$ and $j$ is the weight of the $i j$-path. Given a symmetric, positive real valued function on $V(T) \times V(T)$, we consider the problem of approximating it by a tree distance corresponding to $T$, by the least-squares method. The problem is solved explicitly when $T$ is a path or a double-star. For an arbitrary tree, a result is proved about the nature of the least-squares approximation. Some properties of the incidence matrix of all the paths in the tree are proved and used. We also note similar results for the corresponding matrix of a directed graph and obtain a formula for the MoorePenrose inverse of the all-paths matrix.


## 1. Introduction

Let $T$ be a tree with $V(T)=\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $E(T)=\left\{e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-1}\right\}$. Let $\beta$ : $E(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$. Thus $\beta$ is an assignment of nonnegative weights to each edge of $T$. We extend $\beta$ to a function on $V(T) \times V(T)$ as follows. We set $\beta(i, i)=0$ for each $i$. If $i \neq j$, then $\beta(i, j)$ is defined to be the weight of the $i j$-path, where the weight of a path is the sum of the weights of the edges in the path. Note that $\beta(i, j)=\beta(j, i)$ for all $i, j$. The extended function $\beta: V(T) \times V(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ will be called a tree distance, corresponding to $T$.

Suppose $w: V(T) \times V(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ is a function satisfying $w(i, i)=0$ and $w(i, j)=w(j, i)$ for all $i, j$. We will call $w$ a dissimilarity. We consider the problem of approximating $w$ by a tree distance $\beta$, corresponding to $T$, by the least-squares method. This problem is of interest and has been considered in the context of classification of species, see [2], Chapter 2, and [5]. A more recent reference is [8]. We now proceed to formulate this problem as a standard linear estimation problem.

[^0]It will be convenient to define the all-paths matrix $S$ of $T$. The order of $S$ is $\binom{n}{2} \times(n-1)$. The rows of $S$ are indexed by $(i, j), 1 \leq i<j \leq n$, while the columns are indexed by $E(T)$. The entries of $S$ are either 0 or 1 . The row of $S$ corresponding to $(i, j)$ is the incidence vector of the $i j$-path in $T$. Thus the $k$-th entry in that row is 1 if $e_{k}$ is on the $i j$-path, and 0 otherwise.

Example 1. Consider the tree


Then

$$
S=\left[\begin{array}{llll}
1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right]
$$

If $w: V(T) \times V(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$, then let $w$ also denote the vector of order $\binom{n}{2} \times 1$ with its components indexed by $(i, j), 1 \leq i<j \leq n$, where the component corresponding to $(i, j), i<j$, is set equal to $w(i, j)$. The problem of approximating a dissimilarity by a tree distance may be formulated as follows.

Let $w: V(T) \times V(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ be a dissimilarity. Then the problem is to find $\beta: E(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ such that $\|S \beta-w\|$ is minimized. Here $\|x\|$ denotes the usual Euclidean norm. It is well-known from the theory of least squares estimation that the minimizing vector $\beta$ is a solution of the normal equations $S^{\prime} S \beta=S^{\prime} w$. We first make an elementary observation

Lemma 2. $S^{\prime} S$ is nonsingular.

Proof: Consider the submatrix $B$ of $S$, indexed by the rows $(i, j)$, where $\{i, j\} \in$ $E(T)$. If $\{i, j\} \in E(T)$, then the row of $S$ corresponding to $(i, j)$ has all zeros except a 1 in the position corresponding to the column indexed by the edge $\{i, j\}$. Thus $B$ is a permutation matrix. It follows that the columns of $S$ are linearly independent. Hence $\operatorname{rank}\left(S^{\prime} S\right)=\operatorname{rank}(S)=n-1$ and therefore $S^{\prime} S$ is nonsingular.

We refer to $[3,4]$ for background material on generalized inverses, and particularly, the Moore-Penrose inverse. It follows from Lemma 2 that the unique solution of the normal equations $S^{\prime} S \beta=S^{\prime} w$ is given by $\hat{\beta}=\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1} S^{\prime} w$. Note that $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1} S^{\prime}$ equals the Moore-Penrose inverse $S^{+}$. In the rest of the paper we obtain an explicit formula for $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ when $T$ is a path or a double star. For an arbitrary tree we show that the $(i, j)$-element of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ is 0 if the corresponding edges of $T$ have no common vertex. This leads to some observations regarding the least squares solution $\hat{\beta}$ in case of an arbitrary tree $T$. In the final section some results for a directed tree are described. A formula for the Moore-Penrose inverse of the all-paths matrix is obtained.

## 2. Path and double-star

In the following Theorem we provide a formula for $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ where $S$ is the all-paths matrix of a path.

Theorem 3. Let $T$ be the path with $V(T)=\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $E(T)=\left\{e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-1}\right\}$, where $e_{i}$ is the edge $\{i, i+1\}, i=1, \ldots, n-1$. Let $S$ be the all-paths matrix of $T$. Then the $(i, j)$-entry of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ is given by $\frac{2}{n}$, if $i=j,-\frac{1}{n}$ if $i \neq j$, and 0 otherwise.

Proof: Let $B=S^{\prime} S$. Then it is easy to see that

$$
b_{i j}=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
i(n-j) \text { if } i \leq j \\
j(n-i) \text { if } i>j
\end{array}\right.
$$

Thus the $i$-th row of $B$ is given by

$$
[n-i, 2(n-i), \ldots,(i-1)(n-i), i(n-i), i(n-i-1), \ldots, 2 i, i]
$$

Let $C$ be the $(n-1) \times(n-1)$ matrix with

$$
c_{i j}=\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\frac{2}{n} \text { if } i=j \\
-\frac{1}{n} \text { if }|i-j|=1 \\
0 \text { otherwise }
\end{array}\right.
$$

We have, for $2 \leq j \leq n-2$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} b_{i k} c_{k j}=b_{i j-1} c_{j-1 i}+b_{i j} c_{j j}+b_{i j+1} c_{j j+1}=\frac{1}{n}\left(2 b_{i j}-b_{i j-1}-b_{i j+1}\right) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

If $i=j$, the it follows from (1) that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} b_{i k} c_{k i} & =\frac{1}{n}\left(2 b_{i i}-b_{i i-1}-b_{i i+1}\right) \\
& =\frac{1}{n}(2 i(n-i)-(i-1)(n-i)-i(n-i-1) \\
& =1
\end{aligned}
$$

If $i>j$, then

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} b_{i k} c_{k j} & =\frac{1}{n}(2(n-i) j-(n-i)(j-1)-(n-i)(j+1)) \\
& =0
\end{aligned}
$$

Finally, If $i<j$, then

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} b_{i k} c_{k j} & =\frac{1}{n}(2 i(n-j+1)-i(n-j)-i(n-j)) \\
& =0
\end{aligned}
$$

It can similarly be shown that if $j=1$ or if $j=n-1$, then

$$
\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} b_{i k} c_{k j}=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
1 \text { if } i=j \\
0 \text { if } i \neq j
\end{array}\right.
$$

Thus $B C$ is the identity matrix and hence $C=\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$.
We now derive a formula for the Moore-Penrose inverse $S^{+}$of $S$.
Theorem 4. Let $T$ be the path with $V(T)=\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $E(T)=\left\{e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-1}\right\}$, where $e_{i}$ is the edge $\{i, i+1\}, i=1, \ldots, n-1$. Let $S$ be the all-paths matrix of $T$. The rows of $S^{+}$are indexed by the edges $\{i, i+1\}, i=1, \ldots, n-1$ of $T$, while the columns are indexed by $(i, j), 1 \leq i<j \leq n$. The entry of $S^{+}$corresponding to the edge $\{i, i+1\}$ and the pair $(j, k)$ is given by $\frac{1}{n}$ if $i=j$ or $i=k-1,-\frac{1}{n}$ if $i=j-1$ or $i=j$, and 0 otherwise.

Proof: We consider the case when $2 \leq i \leq n-2$. The cases $i=1, n-1$ are similar. By Theorem 3 the row of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ corresponding to the edge $\{i, i+1\}$ has all coordinates 0 except $\frac{2}{n}$ at coordinate $i$, and $-\frac{1}{n}$ at coordinates $i-1, i+1$. The column
of $S^{\prime}$ corresponding to the pair $(j, k)$ has 1 at coordinates $j, j+1, \ldots, k-1$ and zeros elsewhere. The inner product of these vectors gives the entry of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1} S^{\prime}=S^{+}$ corresponding to the edge $\{i, i+1\}$ and the pair $(j, k)$, and is seen to be as asserted in the Theorem.

Let $T$ be the path with $V(T)=\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $E(T)=\left\{e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-1}\right\}$, where $e_{i}$ is the edge $\{i, i+1\}, i=1, \ldots, n-1$. Let $w: V(T) \times V(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$, be a dissimilarity. Consider the problem of finding $\beta: E(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ such that $\|S \beta-w\|$ is minimized. Then we have the following

Theorem 5. Let $\beta: E(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ that minimizes $\|S \beta-w\|$ be $\hat{\beta}$. The coefficients of $\hat{\beta}$ are indexed by the edges $\{i, i+1\}, i=1, \ldots, n-1$ of $T$. The coefficient of $\hat{\beta}$ corresponding to $\{i, i+1\}, i=1, \ldots, n-1$, is given by

$$
\sum_{j=i+1}^{n} w(i, j)+\sum_{k=1}^{i} w(k, i+1)-\sum_{j=i+2}^{n} w(i+1, j)-\sum_{k=1}^{i-1} w(k, i)
$$

Proof: The $\beta$ that minimizes $\|S \beta-w\|$ is given by $S^{+} w$. The result follows in view of the expression for $S^{+}$given in Theorem 4.

We consider another example in which the inverse of $S^{\prime} S$ can be calculated explicitly. A double star is a tree in which all vertices have degree 1 except two vertices, which may have degree greater than 1 . Consider the double star $T$ with $n$ vertices $\{1, \ldots, n\}, n=p+q+2$, in which vertices $1, \ldots, p+q$ are pendant, vertex $p+q+1$ is adjacent to $1, \ldots, p$, and vertex $p+q+2$ is adjacent to $p+1, \ldots, p+q$. Let $S$ be the all-paths matrix of $T$. Let $J_{r s}$ be the $r \times s$ matrix of all ones. Then it can be seen that

$$
S^{\prime} S=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
(n-2) I_{p}+J_{p p} & J_{p q} & (q+1) J_{p 1}  \tag{2}\\
J_{q p} & (n-2) I_{q}+J_{q q} & (p+1) J_{q 1} \\
(q+1) J_{1 p} & (p+1) J_{1 q} & (p+1)(q+1)
\end{array}\right]
$$

Theorem 6. Let $S^{\prime} S$ be as in (2). Then

$$
\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{1}{n-2} I_{p}+v_{1} J_{p p} & 0_{p q} & c J_{p 1} \\
0_{q p} & \frac{1}{n-2} I_{q}+v_{2} J_{q q} & d J_{q 1} \\
c J_{1 p} & d J_{1 q} & e
\end{array}\right]
$$

where

$$
c=-\frac{1}{p+q+2 p^{2}}, d=-\frac{1}{p+q+2 q^{2}},
$$

$$
v_{1}=\frac{c(p-q)}{n-2}, v_{2}=\frac{d(q-p)}{n-2}, e=\frac{1-p(q+1) c-q(p+1) d}{(p+1)(q+1)}
$$

We omit the proof as it follows by simple verification. Once we have a formula for $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$, an explicit expression for the least-squares approximation can also be obtained.

## 3. All-Paths matrix of a tree

We now consider the all-paths matrix $S$ of an arbitrary tree. We first prove some preliminary results.

Lemma 7. Let $T$ be a tree with $V(T)=\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $E(T)=\left\{e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-1}\right\}$. Let $e_{i} \in E(T)$ and let $T_{1}$ and $T_{2}$ be the components of $T \backslash\left\{e_{i}\right\}$. Let $X$ be the submatrix of $S^{\prime} S$ formed by the rows indexed by $E\left(T_{1}\right) \cup\left\{e_{i}\right\}$ and columns indexed by $E\left(T_{2}\right) \cup\left\{e_{i}\right\}$. Then $\operatorname{rank} X=1$.

Proof: For $e_{j} \in E(T), e_{j} \neq e_{i}$, let $f\left(e_{j}\right)$ denote the number of vertices in the component of $T \backslash\left\{e_{j}\right\}$ that does not contain $e_{i}$. Note that if $e_{j} \in E\left(T_{1}\right)$ and $e_{k} \in$ $E\left(T_{2}\right)$, then the $\left(e_{j}, e_{k}\right)$-entry of $X$ is $f\left(e_{j}\right) f\left(e_{k}\right)$. If $e_{j} \in E\left(T_{1}\right)$, then the $\left(e_{j}, e_{i}\right)$-entry of $X$ is $f\left(e_{j}\right)\left|V\left(T_{2}\right)\right|$, while if $e_{k} \in E\left(T_{2}\right)$, then the $\left(e_{i}, e_{k}\right)$-entry of $X$ is $f\left(e_{k}\right)\left|V\left(T_{1}\right)\right|$. It follows that $\operatorname{rank} X=1$.

Lemma 8. Let $A$ be an $m \times m$ matrix, $m \geq 2$. Let $B$ be an $r \times s$ submatrix of $A$ such that $r+s=m+2$ and $\operatorname{rank} B=1$. Then $A$ is singular.

Proof: We may assume, without loss of generality, that

$$
A=\left[\begin{array}{ll}
B & C \\
D & E
\end{array}\right]
$$

Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{rank} A & \leq \operatorname{rank}[B, C]+\operatorname{rank}[D, E] \\
& \leq \operatorname{rank} B+\operatorname{rank} C+m-r \\
& \leq 1+m-s+m-r \\
& \leq m-1,
\end{aligned}
$$

and hence $A$ is singular.

Denote by $A(i \mid j)$ the submatrix obtained by deleting row $i$ and column $j$ of $A$. We now prove the main result of this section.

Theorem 9. Let $T$ be a tree with $V(T)=\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $E(T)=\left\{e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-1}\right\}$. Let $S$ be the all-paths matrix of $T$. The rows and the columns of $S^{\prime} S$ are indexed by $E(T)$. If $e_{j}, e_{k} \in E(T)$ have no vertex in common, then $S^{\prime} S(j \mid k)$ is singular, and hence, the $(j, k)$-entry of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ is zero.

Proof: Since $e_{j}$ and $e_{k}$ have no vertex in common, there exists an edge $e_{i}$, distinct from $e_{j}$ and $e_{k}$, on the path from $e_{j}$ to $e_{k}$. Let $T_{1}$ and $T_{2}$ be the components of $T \backslash\left\{e_{i}\right\}$. As in Lemma 7, let $X$ be the submatrix of $S^{\prime} S$ formed by the rows indexed by $E\left(T_{1}\right) \cup\left\{e_{i}\right\}$ and the columns indexed by $E\left(T_{2}\right) \cup\left\{e_{i}\right\}$. By Lemma 7 , rank $X=1$. Note that $X$ is a matrix with $\left|E\left(T_{1}\right)\right|+1$ rows and $\left|E\left(T_{2}\right)\right|+1$ columns, and it is a submatrix of $S^{\prime} S(j \mid k)$, which is of order $(n-2) \times(n-2)$. Since $\left|E\left(T_{1}\right)\right|+\left|E\left(T_{2}\right)\right|+2=n$, the result follows by Lemma 8.

Theorem 9 has the following implication in terms of the problem of least-squares approximation by a tree distance. Let $T$ be a tree with $V(T)=\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $E(T)=\left\{e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-1}\right\}$. Let $w: V(T) \times V(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$, be a dissimilarity. Consider the problem of finding $\beta: E(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ such that $\|S \beta-w\|$ is minimized. Then we have the following

Theorem 10. Let $\beta: E(T) \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ that minimizes $\|S \beta-w\|$ be $\hat{\beta}$. Let $k \in$ $\{1, \ldots, n-1\}$. Let $F$ be the set of edges of $T$ which have a vertex in common with $e_{k}$. The least-squares estimate $\hat{\beta}_{k}$ of $\beta_{k}$ is a linear combination

$$
\sum_{i, j} \alpha(i, j) w(i, j)
$$

such that
: (i) if the ij-path has no intersection with $F$, then $\alpha(i, j)=0$.
: (ii) if the intersection of the ij-path with $F$ is the same as the intersection of the uv-path with $F$, then $\alpha(i, j)=\alpha(u, v)$,

Proof: The $\beta$ that minimizes $\|S \beta-w\|$ is given by $S^{+} w=\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1} S^{\prime} w$. The coefficient $\hat{\beta}_{k}$ is given by the inner product of the $k$-th row of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ and $S^{\prime} w$.

First suppose the $i j$-path has no intersection with $F$. By Theorem 9, the coordinates of the $k$-th row of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ corresponding to edges not in $F$ are all zero. Also the row of $S$ corresponding to $(i, j)$ has zeros at the places which correspond to edges in $F$. Thus the inner product of the $k$-th row of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ and the row of $S$ indexed by $(i, j)$ is zero. This inner product equals $\alpha(i, j)$, which must then be zero. The second part follows similarly in view of the fact that the coordinates of the $k$-th row of $\left(S^{\prime} S\right)^{-1}$ corresponding to edges not in $F$ are all zero.

Recall that a phylogenetic tree is a binary tree whose leaves are labelled by the species in a set $X$, and the internal vertices represent the unknown ancestors. An examination of the proof reveals that the results in this section apply equally well to a phylogenetic tree. It is known that the matrix $S$ is nonsingular for any phylogenetic $X$-tree, see, for example, [7]. In fact, (i), Theorem 10 has been observed in the context of a phylogenetic tree by Vach [9] and the property has been termed the independence of irrelevant pairs property in [7].

We also remark that the least-squares solution may not be nonnegative, a property required in practical applications in bioinformatics. The nonnegative least-squares problem must be approached by heuristic methods such as those in $[2,5]$. Our results might be useful in that the least-squares solution, after rounding the negative entries to zero, can provide a good initial guess for such iterative methods. Our emphasis is on providing exact results for the least-squares solution.

We further remark that the least-squares method, without the nonnegativity constraint, involves inverting a matrix, or equivalently, solving a system of linear equations. The algorithmic complexity of matrix inversion by Gaussian elimination is known to be of the order $O\left(n^{3}\right)$. There exist faster methods which bring down the complexity to around $O\left(n^{2.8}\right)$.

## 4. All-Paths matrix of a directed tree

We consider directed graphs in this section. Let $T$ be a directed tree with $V(T)=$ $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $E(T)=\left\{e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n-1}\right\}$. We define the all-paths matrix $P$ of $T$, which is a natural analogue of the undirected case. The order of $P$ is $\binom{n}{2} \times(n-1)$. The rows of $P$ are indexed by $(i, j), 1 \leq i<j \leq n$, while the columns are indexed by $E(T)$. The entries of $P$ are either 0 or $\pm 1$. The row of $P$ corresponding to $(i, j)$ is the incidence vector of the $i j$-path in $T$, where the directions of the edges are taken into account. Thus the $k$-th entry in that row is 1 if $e_{k}$ is on the $i j$-path, and $e_{k}$ is directed in the same way as we go from $i$ to $j$ along the path, it is -1 if $e_{k}$ is on the $i j$-path, and $e_{k}$ is directed in the opposite way as we go from $i$ to $j$ along the path, and it is 0 otherwise.

Example 11. Consider the directed tree


Then

$$
P=\left[\begin{array}{cccc}
1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\
0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & -1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right]
$$

Recall the definition of the (vertex-edge) incidence matrix of $T$, denoted by $Q$. It is a matrix of order $n \times(n-1)$, with its rows and columns indexed by $V(T)$ and $E(T)$ respectively. The $(i, j)$-entry of $Q$ is 0 if vertex $i$ and edge $e_{j}$ are not incident, and otherwise it is 1 or -1 according as $e_{j}$ originates or terminates at $i$, respectively. The incidence matrix of the tree $T$ in Example 11 can be seen to be

$$
Q=\left[\begin{array}{cccc}
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\
-1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & -1
\end{array}\right]
$$

The matrix $K=Q^{\prime} Q$ has been termed the edge-Laplacian matrix of $T$ by Merris [6] where a remarkable formula for $K^{-1}$ is obtained. It is evident that the formula obtained by Merris can be expressed in the following equivalent form.

Theorem 12. $K^{-1}=\left(Q^{\prime} Q\right)^{-1}=\frac{1}{n} P^{\prime} P$.

The rows and the columns of $P^{\prime} P$ are indexed by $E(T)$. It follows from Theorem 12 that $\left(P^{\prime} P\right)^{-1}=\frac{1}{n} Q^{\prime} Q$. Thus if edges $e_{i}$ and $e_{j}$ have no vertex in common, then the $(i, j)$-element of $\left(P^{\prime} P\right)^{-1}$ is zero. This property holds in the undirected case as well, as observed in Theorem 9. In the directed case, an explicit formula is available for $\left(P^{\prime} P\right)^{-1}$, namely $\left(P^{\prime} P\right)^{-1}=\frac{1}{n} Q^{\prime} Q$. However such a formula seems difficult to obtain in the case of an undirected tree.

We mention in passing that the matrices $S^{\prime}$ and $P^{\prime}$ may also be viewed as the fundamental cut-set matrices, over integers modulo 2 and over reals respectively, of the complete graph $K_{n}$, with respect to the spanning tree $T$.

It follows from Theorem 12 that $Q^{\prime} Q P^{\prime} P=n I$, and hence $P^{+}=\frac{1}{n} Q^{\prime} Q P^{\prime}$. It is possible to give a graph-theoretic description of the entries of $P^{+}$as we proceed to show.

The rows of $P^{+}$are indexed by $E(T)$, while the columns of $P^{+}$are indexed by $\{(i, j): 1 \leq i<j \leq n\}$. Let $e_{k} \in E(T)$ have end-vertices $u$ and $v$, and suppose $e_{k}$ is directed from $u$ to $v$. Fix $(i, j), i<j$. Let the entry of $P^{+}$in the row indexed by $e_{k}$, and the column indexed by $(i, j)$ be $\theta$. We consider the following cases:
: (i) $i=u, j \neq v$ and the $i j$-path in $T$ contains $e_{k}$. Then $n \theta=1$.
: (ii) $i=u$ and the $i j$-path in $T$ does not contain $e_{k}$. Then $n \theta=1$.
: (iii) $i=v, j \neq u$ and the $i j$-path in $T$ contains $e_{k}$. Then $n \theta=-1$.
: (iv) $i=v$ and the $i j$-path in $T$ does not contain $e_{k}$. Then $n \theta=-1$.
: (v) $j=u, i \neq v$ and the $i j$-path in $T$ contains $e_{k}$. Then $n \theta=-1$.
: (vi) $j=u$ and the $i j$-path in $T$ does not contain $e_{k}$. Then $n \theta=-1$.
: (vii) $i=u, j=v$. Then $n \theta=2$.
: (viii) $i=v, j=u$. Then $n \theta=-2$.
If none of the cases (i)-(viii) hold, then $e_{k}$ does not have even one vertex from $i$ and $j$ as an end-vertex and in that event, $\theta=0$.

Note that the entries of $n P^{+}$are all from $\{0, \pm 1, \pm 2\}$. Each row has exactly $2 n-3$ nonzero entries out of which one entry is $\pm 2$.

We indicate an argument in justification of Case (i). Let $e_{k}$ and $e_{\ell}$ be the first two edges on the $(i j)$-path. Let $v$ and $w$ be the end-vertices of $e_{\ell}$.

Suppose $i=u, j \neq u$ and that the $(i j)$-path contains $e_{k}$. Let $x$ be the row of $Q^{\prime} Q$ indexed by $e_{k}$, and let $y$ be the row of $S$ indexed by $(i, j)$. Since $n S^{+}=Q^{\prime} Q S^{\prime}, n \theta$ is given by the inner product $x$ and $y$.

The elements of both $x$ and $y$ are indexed by $E(T)$. For $s \in\{1, \ldots, n-1\}, x_{s}$ is nonzero if and only if $e_{s}$ has a vertex in common with $e_{k}$, while $y_{s}$ is nonzero if and
only if $e_{s}$ is on the $(i j)$-path. Thus $x_{s} y_{s} \neq 0$ if and only if $s$ equals either $k$ or $\ell$. Also $x_{k}=2$ and $y_{k}=1$.

If $e_{\ell}$ is directed from $v$ to $w$, then $x_{\ell}=-1$ and $y_{\ell}=1$. Thus

$$
n \theta=\sum_{s=1}^{n-1} x_{s} y_{s}=x_{k} y_{k}+x_{\ell} y_{\ell}=1
$$

Now suppose $e_{\ell}$ is directed from $w$ to $v$. Then $x_{\ell}=1$ and $y_{\ell}=-1$. Thus

$$
n \theta=\sum_{s=1}^{n-1} x_{s} y_{s}=x_{k} y_{k}+x_{\ell} y_{\ell}=1
$$

This completes the proof of the statement pertaining to Case (i). The proof is similar in the remaining cases.

The Moore-Penrose inverse of the all-paths matrix $P$ of the tree in Example 11 is given by

$$
P^{+}=\frac{1}{5}\left[\begin{array}{cccccccccc}
1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\
1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -2 & -1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 2
\end{array}\right]
$$

Consider the entry in row 3 and column 9 . This corresponds to the edge $e_{3}$ and the pair $(3,5)$. Setting $u=4, v=i=3$ and $j=4$, we see from Case (iii) that the entry in $5 P^{+}$should be -1 .

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