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Growth in Gaussian Elimination for Weighing Matrices, $W(n, n - 1)$

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Keywords

Gaussian elimination, growth, complete pivoting, weighing matrices, AMS Subject Classification: 65F05, 65G05, 20B20.

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Growth in Gaussian Elimination for Weighing Matrices, $W(n, n - 1)$

C. Koukouvinos*, M. Mitrouli† and Jennifer Seberry‡

Abstract

We consider the values for large minors of a skew-Hadamard matrix or conference matrix W of order n and find maximum $n \times n$ minor equals to $(n - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}}$, maximum $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ minor equals to $(n - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$, maximum $(n - 2) \times (n - 2)$ minor equals to $2(n - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}-2}$, and maximum $(n - 3) \times (n - 3)$ minor equals to $4(n - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$.

This leads us to conjecture that the growth factor for Gaussian elimination of completely pivoted skew-Hadamard or conference matrices and indeed any completely pivoted weighing matrix of order n and weight $n - 1$ is $n - 1$ and that the first and last few pivots are $(1, 2, 2, 3$ or $4, \dots, n - 1$ or $\frac{n-1}{2}, \frac{n-1}{2}, n - 1)$ for $n > 14$.

We show the unique $W(6, 5)$ has a single pivot pattern and the unique $W(8, 7)$ has at least two pivot structures. We give two pivot patterns for the unique $W(12, 11)$.

Key Words and Phrases: Gaussian elimination, growth, complete pivoting, weighing matrices.

AMS Subject Classification: 65F05, 65G05, 20B20.

1 Introduction

Let $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathcal{R}^{n \times n}$. We reduce A to upper triangular form by using Gaussian Elimination (GE) operations. Let $A^{(k)} = [a_{ij}^{(k)}]$ denote the matrix obtained after the first k pivoting operations, so $A^{(n-1)}$ is the final upper triangular matrix. A diagonal entry of that final matrix will be called a pivot. Matrices with the property that no exchanges are actually needed during GE with complete pivoting are called completely pivoted (CP) or feasible. Let $g(n, A) = \max_{i,j,k} |a_{ij}^{(k)}| / |a_{11}^{(0)}|$ denote the growth associated with GE on a CP A and $g(n) = \sup\{g(n, A) / A \in \mathcal{R}^{n \times n}\}$. The problem of determining $g(n)$ for various values of n is called the growth problem.

The determination of $g(n)$ remains a mystery. Wilkinson in [8] proved that

$$g(n) \leq [n 2^{1/2} \dots n^{1/n-1}]^{1/2} = f(n)$$

In Table 1 there are values of $f(n)$ for representative values of n .

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n	10	20	50	100	200	1000
$f(n)$	19	67	530	3300	26000	7900000

Table 1

The above bound is certainly not sharp and the true upper bound is much smaller. Wilkinson in [9],[10] noted that there were no known examples of matrices for which $g(n) > n$. In [2] Cryer conjectured that “ $g(n, A) \leq n$, with equality iff A is a Hadamard matrix”. This was proved to be untrue in [7].

An Hadamard matrix H of order $n \times n$ is an orthogonal matrix with elements ± 1 and $HH^T = nI$.

The problem is quite different if partial pivoting is allowed and Datta [3] gives an example, found by Wilkinson, of a matrix of order n and elements $0, \pm 1$ and growth factor 2^{n-1} .

It is easy to see that $g(1) = 1$ and $g(2) = 2$ for all $n > 2$. By using algebraic methods, it was proved [1],[2], that $g(3) = 2.25$, $g(4) = 4$ and $g(5) \leq 4\frac{17}{18}$.

One of the curious frustrations of the growth problem is that it is quite difficult to construct any examples of $n \times n$ matrices, A , other than Hadamard for which $g(n, A)$ is even close to n . Wilkinson has remarked that in real-world problems, $g(n, A)$ has never been observed to be very large [10]. In [2] Cryer did numerical experiments in which he computed $g(n, A)$, doing complete pivoting on $n \times n$ matrices, A , with entries chosen randomly from the interval $[-1, 1]$ and for sizes up to $n = 8$. He had to generate over 50000 3×3 examples before finding one with $g(3, A) > 2$. Also the largest $g(n, A)$ he obtained by testing 10000 random matrices for sizes up to $n = 8$ was 2.8348.

Thus, in order to obtain matrices with large growth sophisticated numerical optimization techniques must be applied [7]. By using such methods, matrices with growth larger than $n = 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 25$ were specified, and thus the conjecture that $g(n, A) \leq n$ is false. The following table summarizes the growth size attained for various values of n [2],[5].

n	13	14	15	16	18	20	25
growth size	13.0205	14.5949	16.1078	18.0596	20.45	24.25	32.99

Table 2

The matrices that give rise to the growth factors of Table 2 are often extremely sensitive to small perturbations in their entries in that tiny perturbations to a complete elimination matrix rarely results in another such matrix. This makes it rather difficult to specify matrices which give rise to large growth.

If an Hadamard matrix, H , of order n can be written as $H = I + S$ where $S^T = -S$ then H is called *skew-Hadamard*.

A $(0, 1, -1)$ matrix $W = W(n, k)$ of order n satisfying $WW^T = kI_n$ is called a *weighing matrix of order n and weight k* or simply a *weighing matrix*. A $W(n, n)$, $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, is a Hadamard matrix of order n . A $W = W(n, k)$ for which $W^T = -W$ is called a *skew-weighing matrix*. A $W = W(n, n-1)$ satisfying $W^T = W$, $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, is called a *symmetric conference matrix*. Conference matrices cannot exist unless $n-1$ is the sum of two squares: thus they cannot exist for orders 22, 34, 58, 70, 78, 94. For more details and construction of weighing matrices the reader can consult the book of Geramita and Seberry [6].

We have now studied, by computer, the pivots and growth factors for $W(n, n-1)$, $n = 6, 10, 14, 18, 26, 30, 38, 42, 50, 54, 62, 74$ constructed by two circulant matrices and for $n =$

8, 12, 16, 20, 28, 36, 44, 52, 60, 68, 76, 84, 92, 100 constructed by four circulant matrices and obtained the results in Tables 3 and 4.

Wilkinson's initial conjecture seems to be connected with Hadamard matrices. Interesting results in the size of pivots appears when GE is applied to CP skew-Hadamard and weighing matrices of order n and weight $n - 1$. In these matrices, the growth is also large, and experimentally, we have been led to believe it equals $n - 1$ and special structure appears for the first few and last few pivots. These results give rise to new conjectures that can be posed for this category of matrices.

Conjecture (The growth conjecture for weighing matrices $W(n, n - 1)$)

Let $W = W(n, n - 1)$ be a CP weighing matrix. Reduce W by GE. Then

- (i) $g(n, W) = n - 1$.
- (ii) The three last pivots are equal to $n - 1$ or $\frac{n-1}{2}, \frac{n-1}{2}, n - 1$.
- (iii) Every pivot before the last has magnitude at most $n - 1$.
- (iv) The first four pivots are equal to 1, 2, 2, 3 or 4, for $n > 14$.

Notation. Write A for a matrix of order n whose initial pivots are derived from matrices with CP structure. Write $A(j)$ for the absolute value of the determinant of the $j \times j$ principal submatrix in the upper lefthand corner of the matrix A and $A[j]$ for the absolute value of the determinant of the $(n - j) \times (n - j)$ principal submatrix in the bottom righthand corner of the matrix A . Throughout this paper when we have used i pivots we then find all possible values of the $A(n - i)$ minors. Hence, if any minor is CP it must have one of these values. The magnitude of the pivots appearing after the application of GE operations on a CP matrix W is given by

$$p_j = W(j)/W(j - 1), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad W(0) = 1. \quad (1)$$

We use $W(j)$, $W[j]$ similarly. We also use the following results

Lemma 1 [4] *Let A be an orthogonal matrix of order n satisfying $AA^T = kI_n$, then*

$$A(j) = k^{j-\frac{n}{2}} A[n - j].$$

Corollary 1 *If A is an $n \times n$ weighing matrix of weight $k = n - 1$, then the k th pivot from the end is*

$$p_{n+1-j} = \frac{kA[j - 1]}{A[j]}.$$

2 The first four pivots

Lemma 2 *Let W be a CP weighing matrix, $W(n, n - 1)$, of order $n \geq 6$ then if GE is performed on W the first three pivots are 1, 2, and 2.*

Proof. We note that in the upper lefthand corner of a CP weighing matrix, $W(n, n-1)$, of order $n \geq 6$ the following submatrices can always occur:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & - \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus, the first three pivots, using equation (1), are

$$p_1 = 1, \quad p_2 = 2, \quad \text{and} \quad p_3 = 2.$$

□

Proposition 1 *Let W be a CP weighing matrix, $W(n, n-1)$, of order $n \geq 8$ then if GE is performed on W the first four pivots are 1, 2, 2, 3 or 4.*

Proof. The first three pivots are given in Lemma 2. Now in the upper lefthand corner of a CP weighing matrix, $W(n, n-1)$, of order $n \geq 8$ the following submatrices can always occur:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 1 & - \\ 1 & - & - & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - & - \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & - & - & - \\ 1 & - & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The fourth pivots for $n \geq 8$, using equation (1), are

$$p_4 = 4 \quad \text{or} \quad 3.$$

□

3 Exact Calculations

We assume that row and column permutations have been carried out so we have a CP skew-Hadamard or CP conference matrix A in the initial steps from which we can calculate the maximum minors $A(n)$, $A(n-1)$, $A(n-2)$ and $A(n-3)$. We explore the use of a variation of a clever proof used by combinatorialists to find the determinant of a matrix satisfying $AA^T = (k - \lambda)I + \lambda J$, where I is the $v \times v$ identity matrix, J is the $v \times v$ matrix of ones and k, λ are integers to simplify our proofs.

Proposition 2 *Let A be a skew-Hadamard or conference matrix of order n . Then the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ minors are: $A(n-1) = (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$.*

Proof: Since $AA^T = (n-1)I$ and $\det(A) = (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}}$. The $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ matrix B formed by deleting the first row and column of A satisfies $\det BB^T = (n-1)^{n-2}$ or zero according as the $(1, 1)$ element of A is non-zero or zero. Hence $\det B = (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$ or zero and we have the result. \square

Proposition 3 *Let A be a skew-Hadamard or conference matrix of order n . Then the $(n-2) \times (n-2)$ minors are $A(n-2) = 0$, $2(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-2}$.*

Proof: There are six cases: they have upper lefthand corner

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

These have determinants $2, \pm 1, \pm 1, 0$ respectively. We use the lower right hand principal minor, C , of order $n-2$ to calculate CC^T for each case. We find the second case, where the determinant is $(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-2}$, is not CP as there must be -2 s after the first step of GE. Hence the maximum determinant of C is $2(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-2}$. \square

Lemma 3 *The possible values for the determinants of 3×3 matrices with entries $0, \pm 1$ where there is at most one zero in each row and column are $0, 1, \pm 2, \pm 3$ and ± 4 .*

Proof. For matrices of the required type, upto equivalence, we have these four cases

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \pm 1 & \pm 1 \\ 1 & \pm 1 & \pm 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \pm 1 & \pm 1 \\ 1 & \pm 1 & \pm 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & \pm 1 \\ 1 & \pm 1 & \pm 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & \pm 1 \\ 1 & \pm 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We used a computer to search all the possibilities and found that for no zeros the determinant can be 0 or 4, for one zero the determinant can be 0, 2 or 4, for two zeros the determinant can be 1 or 3, and for three zeros the determinant can be 0 or 2. \square

We now proceed to study $A(n-3)$.

Proposition 4 *Let A be a skew-Hadamard or conference matrix of order n . Then the $(n-3) \times (n-3)$ minors are $A(n-3) = 0$, $2(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$, or $4(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$ for $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and $2(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$, or $4(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$ for $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$.*

Proof: We first note that the submatrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & - \end{bmatrix}$$

always occur in any skew-Hadamard or conference matrix of order > 6 . We first consider the upper lefthand corner

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - \end{bmatrix}$$

which corresponds to a CP matrix with pivots 1, 2, 2.

We assume the CP matrix is in the form below where for ease of comprehension we have written the elements a, b, c, d, p, q, s in the top 6×6 matrix although they will not appear there in the CP matrix.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|cccccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \overbrace{1 \dots 1}^u & \overbrace{1 \dots 1}^v & \overbrace{1 \dots 1}^w & \overbrace{1 \dots 1}^x \\ 1 & - & 1 & 1 & 0 & q & 1 & \dots & 1 & - & \dots & - \\ 1 & 1 & - & p & s & 0 & 1 & \dots & 1 & - & \dots & - \\ \hline 0 & a & c & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & 0 & b & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & d & 0 & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & & & & & & & & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & 1 & - & & & & & & & & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & 1 & - & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & - & 1 & & & & & & & & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & - & 1 & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & - & - & & & & & & & & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & - & - & & & & & & & & & \end{array} \right].$$

We use the orthogonality of the matrix, A , and the order, n , to obtain constraints for all the variables, $a, b, c, d, p, q, s, u, v, w, x$ in terms of each other and n , the original order. We then calculate CC^T and then these constraints are solved by either Matlab or a simple, but tedious, calculation to obtain the values for the minors as 0 and $4(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$ for $n \equiv 0(\text{mod}4)$ and $4(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$ for $n \equiv 2(\text{mod}4)$.

We now consider the second case with upper lefthand corner,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & - \end{bmatrix}$$

which also corresponds to a CP matrix with pivots 1, 2, 2.

We proceed, as before, to obtain the three values 0, $2(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$, $4(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$ for $n \equiv 0(\text{mod}4)$ and the two non-zero values $2(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$, $4(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$ as the only determinants for $n \equiv 2(\text{mod}4)$. \square

Theorem 1 *When Gaussian Elimination is applied on a CP skew-Hadamard or conference matrix W of order n the last three pivots are $n-1$, $\frac{n-1}{2}$, and $\frac{n-1}{2}$ or $n-1$.*

Proof. The last three pivots are given by

$$p_n = \frac{W(n)}{W(n-1)} \quad p_{n-1} = \frac{W(n-1)}{W(n-2)} \quad p_{n-2} = \frac{W(n-2)}{W(n-3)}.$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
W(n) &= (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}} \\
W(n-1) &= (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-1} \\
W(n-2) &= 2(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-2} \\
W(n-3) &= 2(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3} \text{ or } 4(n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}.
\end{aligned}$$

the values of the three last pivots are $n-1$, $\frac{n-1}{2}$, and $\frac{n-1}{2}$ or $n-1$ respectively. \square

4 Numerical Calculations

Lemma 4 *The maximum determinant of all $n \times n$ matrices with elements ± 1 or 0, where there is at most one zero in each row and column is:*

Order	Maximum Determinant	Possible Determinantal Values
2×2	2	0, 1, 2
3×3	4	0, 1, 2, 3, 4
4×4	16	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16
5×5	48	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, 36, 40, 48

Remark. In fact we found that considering all 5×5 matrices with elements ± 1 and no more than one zero per row and column, if the matrix had no zeros the determinant could be 0, 16, 32 or 48; had exactly one zero the determinant could be 0, 8, 16, 24, 32 or 40; had exactly two zeros the determinant could be 0, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32 or 36; had exactly three zeros the determinant could be 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 or 36; had exactly four zeros the determinant could be 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 or 27; had exactly five zeros the determinant could be 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 18, 20, 22.

Considering all 4×4 matrices with elements ± 1 and no more than one zero per row and column, if the matrix had no zeros the determinant could be 0, 8, 16; had exactly one zero the determinant could be 0, 4, 8, 12; had exactly two zeros the determinant could be 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10; had exactly three zeros the determinant could be 1, 3, 5, 7, 9; had exactly four zeros the determinant could be 1, 3, 5, 9.

Considering all 3×3 matrices with elements ± 1 and no more than one zero per row and column, if the matrix had no zeros the determinant could be 0, 4; had exactly one zero the determinant could be 0, 2, 4; had exactly two zeros the determinant could be 1, 3; had exactly three zeros the determinant could be 0, 2.

Considering all 2×2 matrices with elements ± 1 and no more than one zero per row and column, if the matrix had no zeros the determinant could be 0, ± 2 ; had exactly one zero the determinant could be ± 1 ; had exactly two zeros the determinant could be ± 1 . \square

Lemma 5 $W(4) = 10$ for a $W(6, 5)$.

Proof. Every 4×4 subdeterminant of $W(6, 5)$ must contain two zeros. Hence its determinant can only be 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10. We show that the first four non-zero values are not possible in a $W(6, 5)$.

Without any loss of generality we assume that the 4×4 subdeterminant has first row and column comprising only +1s. Because we are dealing with a weighing matrix the second row and column must contain two 1s and two -1s.

We denote the vectors $(1, -, -)$, $(1, -, 1)$ and $(-, -, 1)$ as a_1 , a_2 and a_3 respectively. We denote the 2×2 submatrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & y \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x \\ y & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

by b_1 and b_2 respectively, where x and y are both 1 or -1.

Calculation shows that the 4×4 matrix with second row and column comprising a_1 and a_1^T can be completed by both b_1 and b_2 , but are equivalent under permutation of rows and columns, to the matrix A_1 below.

Furthermore calculations show that the 4×4 matrix with second row and column a_i and a_j^T , and completion matrix of shape b_k , give only two inequivalent matrices, A_2 and A_3 , under row and column permutations.

(a_2, a_2^T, b_1) , (a_3, a_3^T, b_1) , and (a_3, a_2^T, b_2) are equivalent to A_1 .

(a_2, a_2^T, b_2) , (a_3, a_3^T, b_2) , and (a_3, a_2^T, b_1) are equivalent to A_2 .

Now, writing x for ± 1 , and using the orthogonality conditions for the $W(6, 5)$, we have

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - & - \\ 1 & - & x & 0 \\ 1 & - & 0 & \bar{x} \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 1 & - \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & - \\ 1 & - & - & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 1 & - \\ 1 & 1 & - & 0 \\ 1 & - & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now A_1 has determinant 0. A_2 and A_3 have determinant 10. This gives the result. \square

Lemma 6 *The unique pivots of the $W(6, 5)$ are $\{1, 2, 2, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, 5\}$*

Proof. We use the determinants of $W(1) = 1$, $W(2) = 2$, $W(3) = 4$, $W(4) = 10$, $W[1] = 1$, $W[2] = 2$.

Hence the pivot pattern is given by

$$p_1 = 1, \quad p_2 = \frac{W(2)}{W(1)} = 2, \quad p_3 = \frac{W(3)}{W(2)} = 2,$$

$$p_4 = \frac{W(4)}{W(3)} = \frac{5}{2}, \quad p_5 = 5 \frac{W[1]}{W[2]} = \frac{5}{2}, \quad p_6 = 5 \frac{W[0]}{W[1]} = 5.$$

\square

Lemma 7 *The pivots of the $W(8, 7)$ are $\{1, 2, 2, 4, \frac{7}{4}, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{7}{2}, 7\}$ or $\{1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{7}{3}, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{7}{2}, 7\}$.*

Proof. From Lemma 2 and Proposition 1 we have that

$$p_1 = 1, \quad p_2 = 2, \quad p_3 = 2, \quad p_4 = 4 \quad \text{or} \quad 3.$$

From Theorem 1 we also have that

$$p_8 = 7, \quad p_7 = \frac{7}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad p_6 = \frac{7}{2}.$$

Since $\prod_{i=1}^8 p_i = \det W(8, 7) = 7^4$ the only values that p_5 can take are $\frac{7}{4}$ or $\frac{7}{3}$. \square

Remark. The following matrices have pivot patterns $1, 2, 2, 4, \frac{7}{4}, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{7}{2}, 7$ and $1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{7}{3}, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{7}{2}, 7$ respectively.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & - & - & 1 & 1 & - & 0 & - \\ 1 & - & 1 & - & - & 0 & 1 & - \\ 1 & 1 & - & - & 0 & 1 & - & - \\ 1 & - & 0 & 1 & - & 1 & - & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - & 0 & - & - & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & - & - & - & - \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & - & 1 & - & - & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & - & - & 1 & 1 & - \\ 1 & - & - & - & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & - & - \\ 1 & 1 & - & 1 & - & 0 & - & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & - & 1 & - & - & 0 \\ 1 & - & 1 & 0 & - & - & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & - & 1 & 1 & - & 1 & - \end{bmatrix}.$$

\square

Lemma 8 *The pivots of the $W(10, 9)$ can be $\{1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{9}{2}, \frac{9}{2}, 9\}$ or $\{1, 2, 2, 4, 3, 3, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{9}{2}, \frac{9}{2}, 9\}$.*

Proof. The $W(10, 9)$ is unique upto permutation of rows and columns and multiplication of rows and columns by -1 . We have found two CP $W(10, 9)$ which have difference pivot patterns showing the sensitivity of the pivots to permutations of rows and columns.

The following matrices have pivot patterns $\{1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{9}{2}, \frac{9}{2}, 9\}$. and $\{1, 2, 2, 4, 3, 3, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{9}{2}, \frac{9}{2}, 9\}$ respectively.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 1 & - & 1 & - & 1 & - & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & - & - & 1 & 0 & - & - & 1 & 1 & - \\ 1 & 1 & - & - & - & 1 & 0 & - & 1 & - \\ 1 & - & 1 & 1 & - & 1 & 1 & 0 & - & - \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & - & - & - & - & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & - & 1 & - & - & 1 & - & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & - & - & - & - & 1 & 1 & - & 1 \\ 1 & - & - & 0 & 1 & 1 & - & - & - & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & - & 1 & 0 & - & 1 & - & - \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & - & - & 1 & 1 & - & 1 & 0 & - & - \\ 1 & - & 1 & - & - & - & 0 & 1 & - & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - & - & 1 & - & - & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & - & 1 & - & 0 & - & - & - & 1 \\ 1 & - & - & - & 0 & 1 & 1 & - & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & - & - & 1 & - & 1 & - \\ 0 & - & 1 & 1 & 1 & - & - & - & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & - & 0 & 1 & - & 1 & - & 1 & 1 & - \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & - & 1 & 1 & - & - & - & - \end{bmatrix}.$$

\square

We calculated the values of all the large minors of the unique $W(12, 11)$. These are given in the next table. We also calculated all the minors for one of the $W(20, 19)$ and found exactly the same results as those in the table.

Minor	Minimum Non-Zero Determinant	All Determinants
$W(n-1)$	$m = (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$	0, m
$W(n-2)$	$m = (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-2}$	0, m, 2m
$W(n-3)$	$m = (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-3}$	0, m, 2m, 3m, 4m
$W(n-4)$	$m = (n-1)^{\frac{n}{2}-4}$	0, m, 2m, 3m, 4m, 6m, 8m, 9m, 10m, 12m, 16m

Tables 3 and 4 give us the pivot patterns calculated by computer for the first few $W(n, n-1)$ for both $n \equiv 2(\text{mod } 4)$ and $n \equiv 0(\text{mod } 4)$. Although our theory predicts the third last pivot be $n-1$ or $\frac{n-1}{2}$ in both these tables and all our calculations only the value $\frac{n-1}{2}$ has been observed.

n	growth	Pivot Pattern
6	5	$(1, 2, 2, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, 5)$
10	9	$(1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{9}{2}, \frac{9}{2}, 9)$ or $(1, 2, 2, 4, 3, 3, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{9}{2}, \frac{9}{2}, 9)$
14	13	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{17}{5}, 3.2941, 3.9464, 3.8235, \frac{13}{5/2}, \frac{13}{4}, \frac{13}{2}, \frac{13}{2}, 13)$
14	13	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, \frac{13}{4}, \frac{13}{3}, \frac{13}{3}, \frac{13}{4}, \frac{13}{2}, \frac{13}{2}, 13)$
18	17	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{11}{3}, \frac{148}{33}, 3.7432, 4.5415, 3.9054, \frac{17}{17/5}, \frac{17}{10/3}, \frac{17}{3}, \frac{17}{4}, \frac{17}{2}, \frac{17}{2}, 17)$
26	25	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, 4, \frac{25}{6}, 5, \frac{13}{3}, 6.7308, 5.2857, 4.3919, 4.9231, 5.9375, 6.0855, 5.5743, \frac{25}{11/3}, \frac{25}{3}, \frac{25}{3}, \frac{25}{4}, \frac{25}{2}, \frac{25}{2}, 25)$
30	29	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{34}{9}, 3.9412, \dots, \frac{29}{3}, \frac{29}{4}, \frac{29}{2}, \frac{29}{2}, 29)$
38	37	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{13}{3}, 4.4615, \dots, \frac{37}{4}, \frac{37}{8/3}, \frac{37}{3}, \frac{37}{4}, \frac{37}{2}, \frac{37}{2}, 37)$
42	41	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{37}{9}, 4.4595, \dots, \frac{41}{8/3}, \frac{41}{10/3}, \frac{41}{3}, \frac{41}{4}, \frac{41}{2}, \frac{41}{2}, 41)$
46	45	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{34}{9}, 4.2353, \dots, \frac{45}{4}, \frac{45}{6}, \frac{45}{4}, \frac{45}{4}, \frac{45}{2}, \frac{45}{2}, \frac{45}{2}, 45)$
50	49	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{40}{9}, \frac{9}{2}, \dots, \frac{49}{8/3}, \frac{49}{3}, \frac{49}{4}, \frac{49}{2}, \frac{49}{2}, 49)$
54	53	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{34}{9}, 4.4706, \dots, \frac{53}{6}, \frac{53}{4}, \frac{53}{4}, \frac{53}{2}, \frac{53}{2}, \frac{53}{2}, \frac{53}{2}, 53)$
62	61	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{34}{9}, 4.2353, \frac{37}{9}, \dots, \frac{61}{16/5}, \frac{61}{5/2}, \frac{61}{4}, \frac{61}{2}, \frac{61}{2}, 61)$
74	73	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{37}{9}, 4.9730, \dots, \frac{73}{6}, \frac{73}{4}, \frac{73}{4}, \frac{73}{2}, \frac{73}{2}, \frac{73}{2}, \frac{73}{2}, 73)$

Table 3

n	growth	Pivot Pattern
8	7	$(1, 2, 2, 4, \frac{7}{4}, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{7}{2}, 7)$ or $(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{7}{3}, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{7}{2}, 7)$
12	11	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{17}{5}, \frac{11}{17/5}, \frac{11}{5/2}, \frac{11}{4}, \frac{11}{2}, \frac{11}{2}, 11)$
16	15	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{31}{9}, 4.0806, 3.913, 4.5455, \frac{15}{10/3}, \frac{15}{3}, \frac{15}{4}, \frac{15}{2}, \frac{15}{2}, 15)$
20	19	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{34}{9}, 4.1176, 4.2857, 4.1, 4.6341, \frac{19}{25/6}, \frac{19}{4}, 5.2778, \frac{19}{10/3}, \frac{19}{3}, \frac{19}{4}, \frac{19}{2}, \frac{19}{2}, 19)$
28	27	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{34}{9}, 4.2353, \frac{38}{9}, 4, 4.9474, 4.6755, 4.9966, 4.8074, 5.5416, 5.5093, 6.0458, 5.4375, 6.5172, 6.6623, 6.0395, 7.9412, \frac{27}{10/3}, \frac{27}{3}, \frac{27}{4}, \frac{27}{2}, \frac{27}{2}, 27)$
36	35	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, \frac{34}{9}, 3.8824, \dots, \frac{35}{3}, \frac{35}{4}, \frac{35}{2}, \frac{35}{2}, 35)$
44	43	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{37}{9}, 5.0270, \dots, \frac{43}{6}, \frac{43}{4}, \frac{43}{4}, \frac{43}{2}, \frac{43}{2}, \frac{43}{2}, \frac{43}{2}, 43)$
52	51	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{37}{9}, 4.7703, \dots, \frac{51}{25/4}, \frac{51}{4}, \frac{51}{4}, \frac{51}{2}, \frac{51}{2}, \frac{51}{2}, \frac{51}{2}, 51)$
60	59	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{38}{9}, 5.1579, \dots, \frac{59}{10/3}, \frac{59}{3}, \frac{59}{4}, \frac{59}{2}, \frac{59}{2}, 59)$
68	67	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{38}{9}, 5.1579, \dots, \frac{67}{6}, \frac{67}{4}, \frac{67}{4}, \frac{67}{2}, \frac{67}{2}, \frac{67}{2}, \frac{67}{2}, 67)$
76	75	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{40}{9}, \frac{26}{5}, \dots, \frac{75}{10/3}, \frac{75}{3}, \frac{75}{4}, \frac{75}{2}, \frac{75}{2}, 75)$
84	83	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{37}{9}, 5.1351, \dots, \frac{83}{6}, \frac{83}{4}, \frac{83}{4}, \frac{83}{2}, \frac{83}{2}, \frac{83}{2}, \frac{83}{2}, 83)$
92	91	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{40}{9}, \dots, \frac{41}{6}, \frac{91}{4}, \frac{91}{4}, \frac{91}{2}, \frac{91}{2}, \frac{91}{2}, 91)$
100	99	$(1, 2, 2, 3, \frac{10}{3}, \frac{18}{5}, 4, 4, \frac{38}{9}, 5.4737, \dots, \frac{99}{6}, \frac{99}{4}, \frac{99}{4}, \frac{99}{2}, \frac{99}{2}, \frac{99}{2}, \frac{99}{2}, 99)$

Table 4

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