

# THE CYCLIC INDEX OF ADJACENCY TENSOR OF GENERALIZED POWER HYPERGRAPHS

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $G$  be a  $t$ -uniform hypergraph, and let  $c(G)$  denote the cyclic index of the adjacency tensor of  $G$ . Let  $m, s, t$  be positive integers such that  $t \geq 2$ ,  $s \geq 2$  and  $m = st$ . The generalized power  $G^{m,s}$  of  $G$  is obtained from  $G$  by blowing up each vertex into an  $s$ -set and preserving the adjacency relation. It was conjectured that  $c(G^{m,s}) = s \cdot c(G)$ . In this paper we show that the conjecture is false by giving a counterexample, and give some sufficient conditions for the conjecture holding. Finally we give an equivalent characterization of the equality in the conjecture by using a matrix equation over  $\mathbb{Z}_m$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A hypergraph  $G = (V(G), E(G))$  consists of a set of vertices, say  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ , and a set of edges, say  $E(G) = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k\}$ , where  $e_j \subseteq V(G)$  for  $j \in [k] := \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ . If  $|e_j| = m$  for each  $j \in [k]$ , then  $G$  is called an  $m$ -uniform hypergraph. A *walk*  $W$  in  $G$  is a sequence of alternating vertices and edges:  $v_{i_0}, e_{i_1}, v_{i_1}, e_{i_2}, \dots, e_{i_l}, v_{i_l}$ , where  $\{v_{i_j}, v_{i_{j+1}}\} \subseteq e_{i_{j+1}}$  for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, l-1$ . The hypergraph  $G$  is *connected* if every two vertices of  $G$  are connected by a walk. The *adjacency tensor*  $\mathcal{A}(G)$  of the hypergraph  $G$  is defined as  $\mathcal{A}(G) = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k})$  [4], an  $m$ -th order  $n$ -dimensional tensor, where

$$a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{(m-1)!}, & \text{if } \{v_{i_1}, v_{i_2}, \dots, v_{i_m}\} \in E(G); \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In general, A *tensor* (also called *hypermatrix*)  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m})$  of order  $m$  and dimension  $n$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  refers to a multiarray of entries  $a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} \in \mathbb{F}$  for all  $i_j \in [n]$  and  $j \in [m]$ , which can be viewed to be the coordinates of the classical tensor (as a multilinear function) under an orthonormal basis. If  $m = 2$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  is a square matrix of dimension  $n$ .

In 2005, independently, Lim [13] and Qi [17] introduced eigenvalues for tensors  $\mathcal{A}$ . Denote by  $\rho(\mathcal{A})$  the spectral radius of  $\mathcal{A}$ , and by  $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{A})$  the spectrum of  $\mathcal{A}$ . If  $\mathcal{A}$  is further nonnegative, then by Perron-Frobenius theorem of nonnegative tensors,  $\rho(\mathcal{A})$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Moreover, if  $\mathcal{A}$  is weakly irreducible and has  $k$  eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{A}$  with modulus  $\rho(\mathcal{A})$ , then those  $k$  eigenvalues are equally distributed on the spectral circle. As for nonnegative matrices, the number  $k$  is called the cyclic index of  $\mathcal{A}$  [2]. The cyclic index reflects the spectral symmetry of

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 15A18, 05C65; Secondary 13P15, 05C15.

*Key words and phrases.* Generalized power hypergraph, adjacency tensor, spectral symmetry, cyclic index.

The first author is the corresponding author, and was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China #11871073.

nonnegative weakly irreducible tensors, which was generalized and investigated in the paper [5].

**Definition 1.1** ([5]). Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an  $m$ -th order  $n$ -dimensional tensor, and let  $\ell$  be a positive integer. The tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  is called *spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric* if

$$(1.1) \quad \text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}) = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\ell}} \text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}).$$

The maximum number  $\ell$  such that (1.1) holds is called the *cyclic index* of  $\mathcal{A}$  and denoted by  $c(\mathcal{A})$ , and  $\mathcal{A}$  is called *spectral  $c(\mathcal{A})$ -cyclic*.

When we say a hypergraph is *spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric* or *spectral  $\ell$ -cyclic*, this is always referring to its adjacency tensor. In particular, for a uniform hypergraph  $G$ , denote  $c(G) := c(\mathcal{A}(G))$ , called the cyclic index of  $G$ .

For a general tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ , if it is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric, then  $\ell | c(\mathcal{A})$  by [5, Lemma 2.7]. It was also proved that if a connected  $m$ -uniform hypergraph is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric, then  $\ell | m$ , and hence  $c(G) | m$ ; see [5, Lemma 3.2, Corollary 4.3], [6, Lemma 2.5] or [21, Theorem 2.15]. In the paper [5] the authors use the construction of generalized power hypergraphs to show that for every positive integer  $m$  and any positive integer  $\ell$  such that  $\ell | m$ , there always exists an  $m$ -uniform hypergraph  $G$  such that  $G$  is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric. They posed the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 1.2** ([5]). Let  $G$  be a  $t$ -uniform hypergraph, and let  $G^{m,s}$  be the generalized power of  $G$ , where  $m = st$ . Then

$$(1.2) \quad c(G^{m,s}) = s \cdot c(G).$$

The generalized power of a hypergraph is defined as follows.

**Definition 1.3** ([10]). Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a  $t$ -uniform hypergraph. For any integers  $m, s$  such that  $m > t$  and  $1 \leq s \leq \frac{m}{t}$ , the generalized power of  $G$ , denoted by  $G^{m,s}$ , is defined as the  $m$ -uniform hypergraph with the vertex set  $(\cup_{v \in V} \mathbf{v}) \cup (\cup_{e \in E} \mathbf{e})$ , and the edge set  $\{\mathbf{u}_1 \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{u}_t \cup \mathbf{e} : e = \{u_1, \dots, u_t\} \in E(G)\}$ , where  $\mathbf{v}$  denotes an  $s$ -set corresponding to  $v$  and  $\mathbf{e}$  denotes an  $(m - ts)$ -set corresponding to  $e$ , and all those sets are pairwise disjoint.

In this paper, we only consider the power hypergraphs  $G^{m,s}$  with  $m = st$ , i.e.  $G^{m,s}$  is obtained from  $G$  by blowing up each vertex into an  $s$ -set and preserving the adjacency relation. The generalized power hypergraphs include some special cases, such as the powers of simple graphs introduced by Hu, Qi and Shao [9], the generalized powers of simple graphs introduced by Khan and Fan [11]. Peng [16] introduced  $s$ -paths and  $s$ -cycles with uniformity  $m$  on discussing the Ramsey number, which are exactly the generalized powers of paths and cycles (as simple graphs) respectively if  $1 \leq s \leq \frac{m}{2}$ . The spectral results on generalized power hypergraphs can be found in [9, 24, 11, 23, 12, 10].

For the conjecture 1.2, it was shown that it is true if  $c(G) = 1$  [5]. In this paper we show that the conjecture is false by giving a counterexample, and give some sufficient conditions for the conjecture holding. We finally give an equivalent characterization of Eq. (1.2) by using a matrix equation over  $\mathbb{Z}_m$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

**2.1. Notions.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a real tensor of order  $m$  and dimension  $n$ . The tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  is called *symmetric* if its entries are invariant under any permutation of their indices. So, the adjacency tensor of a uniform hypergraph is symmetric.

Given a vector  $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $\mathcal{A}x^m \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathcal{A}x^{m-1} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , which are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}x^m &= \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m \in [n]} a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}, \\ (\mathcal{A}x^{m-1})_i &= \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m \in [n]} a_{i i_2 \dots i_m} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}, i \in [n].\end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mathcal{I} = (i_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m})$  be the *identity tensor* of order  $m$  and dimension  $n$ , that is,  $i_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} = 1$  if and only if  $i_1 = i_2 = \cdots = i_m \in [n]$  and  $i_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} = 0$  otherwise.

**Definition 2.1** ([13, 17]). Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an  $m$ -th order  $n$ -dimensional real tensor. For some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , if the polynomial system  $(\lambda \mathcal{I} - \mathcal{A})x^{m-1} = 0$ , or equivalently  $\mathcal{A}x^{m-1} = \lambda x^{[m-1]}$ , has a solution  $x \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $\lambda$  is called an eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $x$  is an eigenvector of  $\mathcal{A}$  associated with  $\lambda$ , where  $x^{[m-1]} := (x_1^{m-1}, x_2^{m-1}, \dots, x_n^{m-1})$ .

The *determinant* of  $\mathcal{A}$ , denoted by  $\det \mathcal{A}$ , is defined as the resultant of the polynomials  $\mathcal{A}x^{m-1}$  [8], and the *characteristic polynomial*  $\varphi_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda)$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  is defined as  $\det(\lambda \mathcal{I} - \mathcal{A})$  [17, 3]. It is known that  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$  if and only if it is a root of  $\varphi_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda)$ . The *spectrum* of  $\mathcal{A}$  is the multi-set of the roots of  $\varphi_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda)$ .

The spectral symmetry of a connected hypergraph is closed related to a certain coloring of the hypergraph.

**Definition 2.2** ([5]). Let  $m \geq 2$  and  $\ell \geq 2$  be integers such that  $\ell \mid m$ . An  $m$ -uniform hypergraph  $G$  on  $n$  vertices is called  $(m, \ell)$ -colorable if there exists a map  $\phi : [n] \rightarrow [m]$  such that if  $\{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \in E(G)$ , then

$$(2.1) \quad \phi(i_1) + \cdots + \phi(i_m) \equiv \frac{m}{\ell} \pmod{m}.$$

Such  $\phi$  is called an  $(m, \ell)$ -coloring of  $G$ .

If  $m$  is even, an  $m$ -uniform hypergraph with an  $(m, 2)$ -coloring was called *odd-colorable* by Nikiforov [14].

**Theorem 2.3.** [5] *Let  $G$  be a connected  $m$ -uniform hypergraph. Then  $G$  is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric if and only if  $G$  is  $(m, \ell)$ -colorable.*

The *edge-vertex incidence matrix*  $B_G = (b_{ev})$  of an  $m$ -uniform hypergraph  $G$  is defined by

$$b_{ev} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } v \in e \in E(G), \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We may view  $B_G$  as one over  $\mathbb{Z}_m$ , where  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  is the ring of integers modulo  $m$ . Now Eq. (2.1) is equivalent to

$$(2.2) \quad B_G \phi = \frac{m}{\ell} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m,$$

where  $\phi = (\phi(1), \dots, \phi(n))$  is considered as a column vector, and  $\mathbf{1}$  is an all-ones vector of dimension  $n$ . So, Theorem 2.3 can be rewritten as follows.

**Corollary 2.4.** Let  $G$  be a connected  $m$ -uniform hypergraph. Then  $G$  is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric if and only if the equation

$$(2.3) \quad B_G x = \frac{m}{\ell} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m$$

has a solution.

In Corollary 2.4 and other places of the paper, the number of coordinates of  $\mathbf{1}$  is implicated from context, which is equal to the number of vertices of the hypergraph under discussion.

### 3. CYCLIC INDEX OF GENERALIZED POWER HYPERGRAPHS

Let  $G$  be a  $t$ -uniform hypergraph, and let  $G^{m,s}$  be a generalized power hypergraph of  $G$ , where  $1 \leq s \leq \frac{m}{t}$ . If  $m > st$ , then each edge of  $G$  contains a vertex of degree 1, and hence  $G$  is a 1-hm bipartite hypergraph [19]. By [19, Theorem 3.2] or [5, Theorem 4.5],  $c(G^{m,s}) = m$ .

So, in the following, we always assume that  $G$  is a connected  $t$ -uniform hypergraph,  $m = st$ , namely,  $G^{m,s}$  is considered to be obtained from  $G$  by blowing each vertex  $v$  into an  $s$ -set  $\mathbf{v}$  and preserving the adjacency relation. We also assume that the vertex  $v$  is contained in  $\mathbf{v}$  for each  $v \in V(G)$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *If  $G$  is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric, then  $G^{m,s}$  is also spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric. In particular,  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $c(G)$ -symmetric and hence  $c(G) \mid c(G^{m,s})$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $G$  is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric. By Corollary 2.4, the equation  $B_G x = \frac{t}{\ell} \mathbf{1}$  has a solution  $\phi$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_t$ . Now define a map  $\Phi$  on  $G^{m,s}$  such that  $\Phi|_{\mathbf{v}} = \phi(v)$  for each vertex  $v \in V(G)$ . Then

$$B_{G^{m,s}} \Phi = s \cdot B_G \phi = \frac{st}{\ell} \mathbf{1} = \frac{m}{\ell} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m,$$

which implies that  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric also by Corollary 2.4.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.**  *$G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $s$ -symmetric.*

*Proof.* For each vertex  $v \in V(G)$ ,  $v$  is blowing into an  $s$ -set  $\mathbf{v}$  of vertices of  $G^{m,s}$ , and is assumed to be contained in  $\mathbf{v}$ . Define a map  $\Phi$  on  $G^{m,s}$  such that  $\Phi(v) = 1$  and  $\Phi|_{\mathbf{v} \setminus \{v\}} = 0$  for each vertex  $v \in V(G)$ . Then

$$B_{G^{m,s}} \Phi = t \mathbf{1} = \frac{m}{s} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m,$$

which implies that  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $s$ -symmetric by Corollary 2.4.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *If  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $s \cdot \ell'$ -symmetric, then  $G$  is spectral  $\ell'$ -symmetric.*

*Proof.* By Corollary 2.4, there exists a map  $\Phi$  defined on  $G^{m,s}$  such that

$$B_{G^{m,s}} \Phi = \frac{m}{s \cdot \ell'} \mathbf{1} = \frac{t}{\ell'} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m.$$

Now define a map  $\phi$  on  $G$  such that  $\phi(v) = \sum_{u \in \mathbf{v}} \Phi(u)$  for each  $v \in V(G)$ . So we have

$$B_G \phi = B_{G^{m,s}} \Phi = \frac{t}{\ell'} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m.$$

As  $m$  is a multiple of  $t$ ,

$$B_G \phi = \frac{t}{\ell'} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_t,$$

which implies that  $G$  is spectral  $\ell'$ -symmetric by Corollary 2.4.  $\square$

By Lemma 3.2, we may assume  $c(G^{m,s}) = s \cdot \ell'$ , where  $\ell'$  is a positive integer. By Lemma 3.3, we know that  $G$  is spectral  $\ell'$ -symmetric and hence  $\ell' \mid c(G)$  by [5, Lemma 2.7]. So we get the following result immediately.

**Corollary 3.4.**  $c(G^{m,s}) \mid s \cdot c(G)$ .

**Corollary 3.5.**  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $\frac{s \cdot c(G)}{(s, c(G))}$ -symmetric. In particular, if  $(s, c(G)) = 1$  or  $(s, t) = 1$ , then  $c(G^{m,s}) = s \cdot c(G)$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.1 and Lemma 3.2, we know that  $c(G) | c(G^{m,s})$  and  $s | c(G^{m,s})$ , implying that  $\frac{s \cdot c(G)}{(s, c(G))} | c(G^{m,s})$ . So,  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $\frac{s \cdot c(G)}{(s, c(G))}$ -symmetric. As  $c(G) | t$ , if  $(s, t) = 1$ , then  $(s, c(G)) = 1$ . If  $(s, c(G)) = 1$ , then  $s \cdot c(G) | c(G^{m,s})$ . Then result follows by Corollary 3.4.  $\square$

By Corollary 3.5, Conjecture 1.2 holds in some special cases, including the case of  $c(G) = 1$ . However, Conjecture 1.2 does not hold in general. Now we give a counterexample to show the negative answer to the conjecture.

**Definition 3.6** ([14]). Let  $n \geq 16k$  and let partition  $[n]$  into three sets  $A, B, C$  such that  $|A| \geq 6k$ ,  $|B| \geq 6k$  and  $|C| \geq 4k$ . Define the four families of  $4k$ -subsets of  $[n]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &:= \{e : e \subset [n], |e \cap A| = 2k, |e \cap C| = 2k\}. \\ E_2 &:= \{e : e \subset [n], |e \cap B| = 2k, |e \cap C| = 2k\}. \\ E_3 &:= \{e : e \subset [n], |e \cap A| = k, |e \cap B| = 3k\}. \\ E_4 &:= \{e : e \subset [n], |e \cap A| = 3k, |e \cap B| = k\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now define a  $4k$ -uniform hypergraph  $G$  by setting  $V(G) = [n]$  and  $E(G) = E_1 \cup E_2 \cup E_3 \cup E_4$ . We call  $G$  a *Nikiforov's hypergraph* as it is introduced by Nikiforov.

Nikiforov [14] showed that Nikiforov's hypergraphs  $G$  are odd-colorable, or  $(4k, 2)$ -colorable in terms our definition, by defining a function  $\phi$  on  $G$  such that  $\phi|_A = 1$ ,  $\phi|_B = 4k - 1$  and  $\phi|_C = 0$ . By Theorem 2.3,  $G$  is spectral 2-symmetric.

By the following result, if  $G$  is a Nikiforov's hypergraph and  $s$  is even, then

$$c(G^{m,s}) \neq s \cdot c(G).$$

So we give a negative answer to Conjecture 1.2.

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $G$  be a  $4k$ -uniform Nikiforov's hypergraph. Then the following results hold.*

- (1)  $c(G) = 2$ .
- (2) *If  $s$  is even, then  $c(G^{m,s}) = s$ .*

*Proof.* (1) We first show that  $c(G) = 2$ . Suppose that  $G$  is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric. Then there exists a  $\phi : [n] \rightarrow [4k]$  such that  $B_G \phi = \frac{4k}{\ell}$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_{4k}$ . It is easily seen that  $\phi$  is constant on each of  $A, B, C$  by the equation. So, let  $\phi|_A := a$ ,  $\phi|_B := b$  and  $\phi|_C := c$ . Then, by considering the edges in  $E_1$ , we have

$$2ka + 2kc = \frac{4k}{\ell} \pmod{4k},$$

which implies that  $\ell$  equals 1 or 2, and hence  $c(G) = 2$  as  $G$  is spectral 2-symmetric.

(2) By Corollary 3.4,  $c(G^{m,s}) | 2s$ , where  $m = 4ks$ . By Lemma 3.2,  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $s$ -symmetric, and hence  $s | c(G^{m,s})$ . We will show that if  $s$  is even, then  $G^{m,s}$  is not spectral  $2s$ -symmetric so that  $c(G^{m,s}) = s$ .

Assume to the contrary that  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $2s$ -symmetric. Then there exists a  $\Phi : V(G^{m,s}) \rightarrow [4ks]$  such that

$$B_{G^{m,s}} \Phi = \frac{4ks}{2s} = 2k \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_{4ks}.$$

For each  $v \in V(G)$ , define  $\phi(v) := \sum_{u \in \mathbf{v}} \Phi(u)$ . So we have

$$B_{G^{m,s}} \Phi = B_G \phi = 2k \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_{4ks}.$$

It is also easily seen that  $\phi|_A := \alpha$ ,  $\phi|_B := \beta$  and  $\phi|_C := \iota$ . By considering the edges in  $E_3$  and  $E_4$  respectively, we have

$$\alpha + 3\beta = 2 \pmod{4s}, \quad 3\alpha + \beta = 2 \pmod{4s}.$$

So

$$\alpha - \beta = 0 \pmod{2s}, \quad \alpha + \beta = 1 \pmod{s},$$

which yields a contradiction as  $s$  is an even number.  $\square$

Finally we give an equivalent characterization of Eq. (1.2) in Conjecture 1.2.

**Theorem 3.8.**  $c(G^{m,s}) = s \cdot c(G)$  if and only if the equation

$$(3.1) \quad B_G x = \frac{t}{c(G)} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m$$

has a solution.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $c(G^{m,s}) = s \cdot c(G)$ . Then  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $s \cdot c(G)$ -symmetric, and by Corollary 2.4, there exists a map  $\Phi : V(G^{m,s}) \rightarrow [m]$  such that

$$B_{G^{m,s}} \Phi = \frac{m}{s \cdot c(G)} \mathbf{1} = \frac{t}{c(G)} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m.$$

For each  $v \in V(G)$ , define  $\phi(v) := \sum_{u \in \mathbf{v}} \Phi(u)$ . So we have  $B_{G^{m,s}} \Phi = B_G \phi$ , and get the necessity.

On the other hand, if  $B_G x = \frac{t}{c(G)} \mathbf{1}$  has a solution  $\phi$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_m$ . Define a map  $\Psi : V(G^{m,s}) \rightarrow [m]$  such that

$$\sum_{u \in \mathbf{v}} \Psi(u) = \phi(v), \text{ for each } v \in V(G).$$

There are  $|V(G)|$  independent linear equations; such  $\Psi$  is easily got (e.g. for each  $v \in V(G)$ , take  $\Psi(v) = \phi(v)$  and  $\Psi(u) = 0$  for each  $u \in \mathbf{v} \setminus \{v\}$ ). So we have

$$B_{G^{m,s}} \Psi = B_G \phi = \frac{t}{c(G)} \mathbf{1} = \frac{m}{s \cdot c(G)} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_m.$$

So  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $s \cdot c(G)$ -symmetric. The sufficiency follows by Corollary 3.4.  $\square$

As  $G$  is spectral  $c(G)$ -symmetric, by Corollary 2.4 the equation

$$(3.2) \quad B_G x = \frac{t}{c(G)} \mathbf{1} \text{ over } \mathbb{Z}_t$$

has a solution. Obviously, if the equation (3.1) has a solution, then the equation (3.2) has a solution as  $m$  is a multiple of  $t$ . However, the converse does not hold in general; see the previous counterexample.

## 4. REMARK

For a nonnegative weakly irreducible tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ , its cyclic index  $c(\mathcal{A})$  is exactly the number of eigenvalues with modulus  $\rho(\mathcal{A})$ . This is implied by Perron-Frobenius theorem for nonnegative tensors, where an eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$  is called  $H^+$ -eigenvalue (respectively  $H^{++}$ -eigenvalue) if it is associated with a nonnegative (respectively positive) eigenvector. For the notion of irreducible or weakly irreducible tensors, one can refer to [1] and [7]. It is known that the adjacency tensor of a uniform hypergraph  $G$  is weakly irreducible if and only if  $G$  is connected [15, 22].

**Theorem 4.1** (The Perron-Frobenius Theorem for nonnegative tensors).

- (1) (Yang and Yang [22]) *If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a nonnegative tensor, then  $\rho(\mathcal{A})$  is an  $H^+$ -eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$ .*
- (2) (Friedland, Gaubert and Han [7]) *If furthermore  $\mathcal{A}$  is weakly irreducible, then  $\rho(\mathcal{A})$  is the unique  $H^{++}$ -eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$ , with a unique positive eigenvector, up to a positive scalar.*
- (3) (Chang, Pearson and Zhang [1]) *If moreover  $\mathcal{A}$  is irreducible, then  $\rho(\mathcal{A})$  is the unique  $H^+$ -eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$ , with a unique nonnegative eigenvector, up to a positive scalar.*

According to the definition of tensor product in [18], for a tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  of order  $m$  and dimension  $n$ , and two diagonal matrices  $P, Q$  both of dimension  $n$ , the product  $PAQ$  has the same order and dimension as  $\mathcal{A}$ , whose entries are defined by

$$(PAQ)_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} = p_{i_1 i_1} a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} q_{i_2 i_2} \dots q_{i_m i_m}.$$

If  $P = Q^{-1}$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $P^{m-1}\mathcal{A}Q$  are called *diagonal similar*. It is proved that two diagonal similar tensors have the same spectrum [18].

**Theorem 4.2** ([22]). *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be two  $m$ -th order  $n$ -dimensional real tensors with  $|\mathcal{B}| \leq \mathcal{A}$ , namely,  $|b_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}| \leq a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}$  for each  $i_j \in [n]$  and  $j \in [m]$ . Then*

- (1)  $\rho(\mathcal{B}) \leq \rho(\mathcal{A})$ .
- (2) *Furthermore, if  $\mathcal{A}$  is weakly irreducible and  $\rho(\mathcal{B}) = \rho(\mathcal{A})$ , where  $\lambda = \rho(\mathcal{A})e^{i\theta}$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{B}$  corresponding to an eigenvector  $y$ , then  $y$  contains no zero entries, and  $\mathcal{B} = e^{-i\theta} D^{-(m-1)} \mathcal{A} D$ , where  $D = \text{diag}\{\frac{y_1}{|y_1|}, \dots, \frac{y_n}{|y_n|}\}$ .*

**Theorem 4.3** ([22]). *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an  $m$ -th order  $n$ -dimensional weakly irreducible nonnegative tensor. Suppose  $\mathcal{A}$  has  $k$  distinct eigenvalues with modulus  $\rho(\mathcal{A})$  in total. Then these eigenvalues are  $\rho(\mathcal{A})e^{i\frac{2\pi j}{k}}$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, k-1$ . Furthermore,*

$$(4.1) \quad \mathcal{A} = e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{k}} D^{-(m-1)} \mathcal{A} D,$$

*and the spectrum of  $\mathcal{A}$  remains invariant under a rotation of angle  $\frac{2\pi}{k}$  (but not a smaller positive angle) of the complex plane.*

Suppose  $\mathcal{A}$  be as in Theorem 4.3. If  $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{A})$  is invariant under a rotation of angle  $\theta$  of the complex plane, i.e.  $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}) = e^{i\theta} \text{Spec}(\mathcal{A})$ , then  $\rho(\mathcal{A})e^{i\theta}$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$  by Theorem 4.1. By Theorem 4.3,  $\theta = \frac{2\pi j}{k}$  for some  $j \in [k]$ , and hence by Theorem 4.2 (and taking  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{A}$ ),  $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}) = e^{i\frac{2\pi j}{k}} \text{Spec}(\mathcal{A})$ . So, for some positive integer  $\ell$ ,  $\ell | k$ ,

$$(4.2) \quad \text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}) = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\ell}} \text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}).$$

The number  $k$  in Theorem 4.3 is exactly the cyclic index of  $\mathcal{A}$ . In addition, if  $\mathcal{A}$  is spectral  $\ell$ -symmetric, Then  $\ell | c(\mathcal{A})$  by Theorem 4.3.

Now return to a connected  $t$ -uniform hypergraph  $G$  and its power  $G^{m,s}$ , where  $m = st$ . By Lemma 3.1,  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $c(G)$ -symmetric; and by Lemma 3.2,  $G^{m,s}$  is also spectral  $s$ -symmetric. So  $G^{m,s}$  has eigenvalues

$$\rho(G^{m,s})e^{i\frac{2\pi i}{c(G)}}e^{i\frac{2\pi j}{s}}, \quad i \in [c(G)], j \in [s].$$

In particular,  $\rho(G^{m,s})e^{i\frac{2\pi}{d}}$  is an eigenvalue of  $G^{m,s}$ , where  $d = \frac{s \cdot c(G)}{(s, c(G))}$ . So by Theorem 4.2,  $G^{m,s}$  is spectral  $d$ -symmetric, which is consistent with Corollary 3.5.

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