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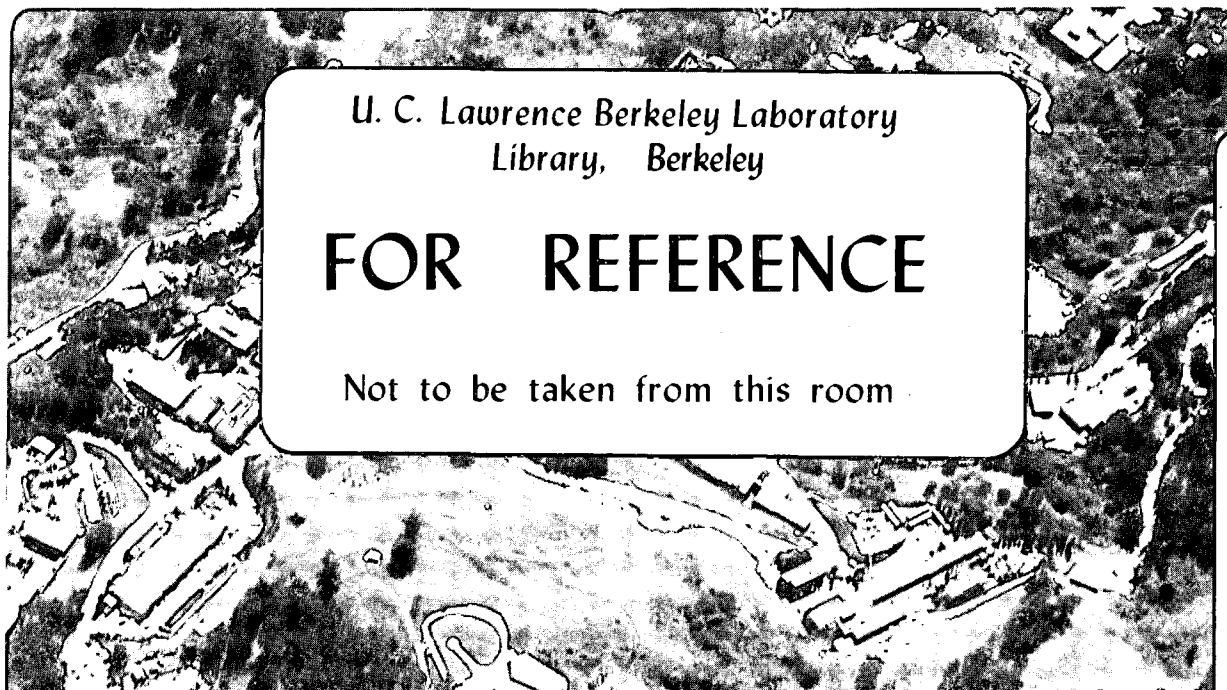
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### On the Complete Pivoting Conjecture for a Hadamard Matrix of Order 12

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**ON THE COMPLETE PIVOTING CONJECTURE FOR A  
HADAMARD MATRIX OF ORDER 12**

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# On The Complete Pivoting Conjecture for a Hadamard Matrix of order 12

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## Abstract

This paper settles a conjecture by Day and Peterson that if Gaussian elimination with complete pivoting is performed on a 12 by 12 Hadamard matrix, then  $(1,2,2,4,3,10/3,18/5,4,3,6,6,12)$  must be the (absolute) pivots. By way of contrast, at least 30 patterns for the absolute values of the pivots have been observed for 16 by 16 Hadamard matrices. This problem is non-trivial due to the fact that row and column permutations do not preserve pivots. A naive computer search would require  $(12!)^2$  trials.

## 1 Introduction

Wilkinson and Cryer's conjecture [2, 16] states that if  $A$  is a real  $n$  by  $n$  matrix such that  $|a_{ij}| \leq 1$ , then the maximum pivot encountered during

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the process of Gaussian elimination with complete pivoting, the so called “growth factor”, is bounded by  $n$ . Given a choice of pivoting strategy, the growth factor of a matrix is defined as

$$g(A) = \frac{\max_{i,j,k} |A_{ij}^{(k)}|}{\max_{i,j} |A_{ij}|},$$

where  $A^{(k)}$  is the matrix obtained from  $A$  after  $k$  steps of Gaussian elimination. In this paper, we consider only “complete-pivoting”, meaning that at each step the element of largest magnitude (the “pivot”) is moved by row and column exchanges to the upper left corner of the current subblock.

Recently Gould [6] published a 13 by 13 matrix that exhibited in the presence of roundoff error growth slightly larger than 13.0205. He also discovered a 16 by 16 matrix which numerically has growth larger than 18. Edelman [4] found that Gould’s matrices could be perturbed so as to serve as true counterexamples in exact arithmetic, though in this case finding the perturbation was not easy. Gould’s discoveries were obtained computationally using sophisticated numerical optimization techniques. The key mathematical problem of finding the largest growth possible remains unsolved.

The conjecture that  $g(A) \leq n$  had been supported by the observation that an **Hadamard matrix**, i.e. a  $n \times n$  matrix  $H$  with entries  $\pm 1$  and  $HH^T = nI$ , always had growth factor at least  $n$ . In fact, the last pivot must be exactly  $n$  for an Hadamard matrix. It has long been thought unlikely that any Hadamard matrix could have any pivots greater than  $n$ . Indeed Gould’s examples are not Hadamard.

We now know that the conjecture is false, but we believe a weaker version of the conjecture formulated by Cryer: We believe that  $g(H) = n$  if  $H$  is a Hadamard matrix. Here we take a small step towards proving this fact about Hadamard matrices by settling a conjecture by Day and Peterson [3] that only one set of absolute pivots is possible for a 12 by 12 Hadamard matrix. Husain [10] showed that there is only one Hadamard matrix of order 12 up to Hadamard equivalence. (Two matrices are Hadamard equivalent if they can be obtained from each other by row and column permutations and by row and column sign changes.) However, the pivot pattern is not an invariant under Hadamard equivalence. For example, many pivot patterns can be observed by permuting the rows and columns of any 16 by 16 Hadamard matrix.

## 2 Preliminary Notation and Lemmas

Hadamard matrices are highly structured. We collect here the important properties that we will need for our proof. To begin, it is well known that a Hadamard matrix of size  $n = 4t$  is equivalent to a **symmetric block design** with parameters  $v = 4t - 1$ ,  $k = 2t - 1$ , and  $\lambda = t - 1$  [7]. A symmetric block design with parameters  $v, k$  and  $\lambda$  is a collection of  $v$  objects and  $v$  blocks such that there are

- $k$  objects in each block,
- $k$  blocks that contain each object,
- exactly  $\lambda$  objects in common to a pair of blocks and
- exactly  $\lambda$  blocks that contain any pair of objects.

We can interpret a Hadamard matrix as a symmetric block design by first negating rows and columns of  $H$  so that its leading row and column only contains positive ones. We then have a design on the objects 1 through  $n - 1$  by saying that  $i$  is a member of block  $k$  iff  $H_{i+1, k+1} = +1$ . In particular, a 12 by 12 Hadamard matrix is equivalent to an arrangement of 11 symbols into 11 blocks containing 5 objects such that each object appears in exactly 5 blocks, every pair of distinct objects appears together exactly twice, and every pair of distinct blocks has exactly 2 elements in common.

We say that a matrix  $A$  is **completely pivoted**, or CP, if the rows and columns have been permuted so that Gaussian elimination with no pivoting satisfies the requirements for complete pivoting. Following [3], let  $A[k]$  denote the absolute value of the determinant of the lower right  $k$  by  $k$  principal submatrix of  $A$ , and  $A(k)$  denotes the absolute value of the determinant of the upper left  $k$  by  $k$  principal submatrix. The determinant of a 0 by 0 matrix is defined here to be 1.

**Definition 2.1** *Let  $A$  be CP, we define the  $k$ th pivot as*

$$p_k = A(k)/A(k - 1).$$

The usual definition of the  $k$ th pivot is the value of  $A_{kk}$  after  $k - 1$  steps of Gaussian elimination. Our definition is equivalent to  $|A_{kk}|$  which allows us to avoid the “ $\pm$ ” symbol in every formula.



**Lemma 2.1** *If  $H$  is an  $n$  by  $n$  Hadamard matrix, then*

$$n^{n/2} H(k) = n^k H[n - k].$$

**Proof** See [3], Proposition 5.2.

**Corollary 2.1** *If  $H$  is an  $n$  by  $n$  Hadamard matrix, then the  $k$ th pivot from the end is*

$$p_{n+1-k} = \frac{nH[k-1]}{H[k]}.$$

**Proof** This follows immediately from the lemma and Definition 2.1.

**Corollary 2.2** *If a Hadamard matrix  $H$  is CP and  $k < n$ , then, for all  $(k-1) \times (k-1)$  minors  $M_{k-1}$  of the  $k \times k$  lower right submatrix of  $H$ , we have  $H[k-1] \geq |\det(M_{k-1})|$ .*

**Proof** This follows from Corollary 2.1 and the CP property of  $H$ , for otherwise we could permute rows and columns of the lower right  $k \times k$  minor of  $H$  to obtain a larger value for  $p_{n+1-k}$ .

This corollary is useful for telling us that  $H[k-1]$  is the magnitude of the largest  $(k-1) \times (k-1)$  minor of the  $k \times k$  lower right submatrix of  $H$ . Thus  $H[k-1]/H[k]$  is the largest element in magnitude of the inverse of the  $k \times k$  lower right submatrix of  $H$ .

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $d_n$  denote the largest possible value of a determinant of an  $n$  by  $n$  matrix consisting of entries  $\pm 1$ . The first seven values of the sequence  $(d_i)$  are 1, 2, 4, 16, 48, 160, 576 and for  $n = 2, \dots, 7$  if the determinant of an  $n$  by  $n$  matrix is  $d_n$ , then the matrix must have an  $n-1$  by  $n-1$  minor whose absolute determinant is  $d_{n-1}$ . This is not true when  $n = 8$ .*

**Proof** The values of  $d_1, \dots, d_7$  were computed in [17] who further showed that up to equivalence there is only one  $n$  by  $n$  matrix with determinant  $d_n$  for  $n = 2, \dots, 7$ . It is easy to verify that each of these matrices have an  $n-1$  by  $n-1$  minor with absolute determinant  $d_{n-1}$ . When  $n = 8$ ,  $d_8 = 4096$  while all 7 by 7 minors have determinant of magnitude 512.

**Lemma 2.3** *If  $H$  is a CP Hadamard matrix, then  $H(4) = 16$  so that the  $4 \times 4$  principal subminor of  $H$  is an Hadamard matrix of order 4.*

**Proof** See [3], Proposition 5.8.

### 3 Pivot Sequence for $H_{12}$

In this section we prove our main result: the pivots for a CP  $12 \times 12$  Hadamard matrix are  $(1,2,2,4,3,10/3,18/5,4,3,6,6,12)$ . The first four pivots were determined by Day and Peterson [3] as given in Lemma 2.3. In Lemma 3.1 that follows, we show that the fifth pivot must be 3 from which the remaining pivots will be determined to be unique using Lemma 2.2.

**Lemma 3.1** *If  $H$  is a  $12 \times 12$  CP Hadamard matrix then  $H(5) = 48$ .*

**Proof** The argument is simplified if we consider the design interpretation of a Hadamard matrix so (without loss of generality) we assume that the first row and column of  $H$  are all  $+1$ , and also that the upper left  $4 \times 4$  submatrix of  $H$  is a  $4 \times 4$  Hadamard matrix (by Lemma 2.3) which can be given by the block design  $B_1 = (1)$ ,  $B_2 = (2)$ ,  $B_3 = (3)$ .

It is of no consequence to us in what order rows and columns 5 through 12 appear, it is sufficient that we show that some  $5 \times 5$  minor of  $H$  with determinant 48 includes rows and columns 1 through 4. In fact, since by Lemma 2.2, 48 is the maximum value of the determinant of a  $5 \times 5$  matrix of  $\pm 1$ 's, if there were such a minor  $M_5$  with determinant 48 then, because of complete pivoting, we must have  $48 = \det(M_5) \leq H(5) \leq 48$ , implying  $H(5) = 48$ . It is also of no consequence how rows and columns 2 through 4 are ordered among themselves.

We proceed to find conditions on four blocks in the symmetric design corresponding to  $H$ . Each block has five elements, each pair of blocks has two elements in common, and we are building from the upper left  $4 \times 4$  submatrix of  $H$ . From these conditions, there is no loss in generality by labeling

$$B_1 = (1\ 4\ 5\ 6\ 7), \text{ and } B_2 = (2\ 4\ 5\ 8\ 9).$$

Now  $B_1 \cap B_2 \cap B_3$  is either empty or consists of one object which we can call 5 without loss of generality. (There could not be three blocks containing the same pair.) This leads to only two distinct possibilities for  $B_1$ ,  $B_2$  and  $B_3$  either

$$(1\ 4\ 5\ 6\ 7), (2\ 4\ 5\ 8\ 9), (3\ 5\ 6\ 8\ 10),$$

or

$$(1\ 4\ 5\ 6\ 7), (2\ 4\ 5\ 8\ 9), (3\ 6\ 7\ 8\ 9).$$

Let  $B_4$  be a block that contains 1 and 2 but not 3. (There are two blocks that contain any pair such as 1 and 2, and they both could not contain 3 for

otherwise there would be too many elements in common.) It is easy to verify that  $B_4$  can not contain a 4 for if it did, it would not be possible to choose the last two elements to be consistent with the either of the possibilities above. Thus  $B_4$  contains 1 and 2 but not 3 and 4.

The information from  $B_1$  through  $B_4$  about the objects 1 through 4 tells us that we have a five by five minor that includes rows and columns 1 through 4 of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This matrix has determinant 48 and thus  $H(5) = 48$ . □

**Corollary 3.1** *If  $H$  is a  $12 \times 12$  CP Hadamard matrix then*

$$p_5 = H(5)/H(4) = 3.$$

**Theorem 3.1** *No matter how the rows and columns of a CP 12 by 12 Hadamard matrix  $H$  are ordered, the pivots must be 1, 2, 2, 4, 3, 10/3, 18/5, 4, 3, 6, 6, 12.*

**Proof** From Lemmas 3.1 and 2.1, it follows that  $H[7] = 576$ . Observe that, from Lemma 2.2, this is the maximum value attained by the absolute value of the determinant of a  $7 \times 7$  matrix with entries  $\pm 1$ . Lemma 2.2 also tell us that the  $7 \times 7$  lower right corner has a  $6 \times 6$  minor with maximal determinant 160. As a consequence of Corollary 2.2,  $H[6] = 160$ . Similarly, we conclude  $H[5] = 4$ ,  $H[4] = 16$ ,  $H[3] = 4$ ,  $H[2] = 2$ , and  $H[1] = 1$ . The last seven pivots now follow from Corollary 2.1.

## 4 Hadamard matrices of order 16 and open problems

It is known (see [14]) that there are five equivalence classes of Hadamard matrices of order 16. Unfortunately, the pivot pattern is not an invariant of the equivalence class, and thus the number of equivalence classes may offer little useful information. We found over 30 possible pivot patterns for

Hadamard matrices of order 16, though not all patterns appeared for each equivalence class. However, we found the number of possible values for  $H(k)$  to be quite small. For example the only values that appeared in practice for  $H(8)$  were 1024, 1536, 2048, 2304, 2560, 3072, and 4096. For  $H(7)$  the values that appeared were 256, 384, 512, and 576. It may be necessary to understand these possible values to prove that the growth factor for a 16 by 16 Hadamard matrix, must be 16.

An interesting conjecture by Day and Peterson [3] that the fourth from last pivot must be  $n/4$  remains unsolved. We performed extensive experiments beyond those reported in [3] for a large variety of Hadamard matrices including some that were only discovered in the last seven years. We too strongly believe this conjecture, though we have not attempted to prove this at this time. Hadamard matrix problems sound tantalizingly easy, yet still the existence of relatively small Hadamard matrices ( $n = 428$ ) is not known.

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