

Tridiagonalization of Completely Nonnegative Matrices*

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Abstract. Let $M = [m_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$ be completely nonnegative (CNN), i.e., every minor of M is nonnegative. Two methods for reducing the eigenvalue problem for M to that of a CNN, tridiagonal matrix, $T = [t_{ij}]$ ($t_{ij} = 0$ when $|i - j| > 1$), are presented in this paper. In the particular case that M is nonsingular it is shown for one of the methods that there exists a CNN nonsingular S such that $SM = TS$.

1. Introduction. It is well known that if $M = [m_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$ is Hermitian, there exists an orthogonal Q such that $QMQ^* = T$ is tridiagonal, i.e., $t_{ij} = 0$ when $|i - j| > 1$. Moreover, for $\lambda (> 0)$ sufficiently large and some nonsingular, diagonal D , $D(T + \lambda I)D^{-1}$ is completely nonnegative (CNN), i.e., every minor of $D(T + \lambda I)D^{-1}$ is nonnegative. (See [2], [3] for a discussion and applications of CNN matrices.) We want to show that an analogous result can be obtained when M is CNN. Namely, we will show that given any arbitrary CNN matrix, M , one can easily construct a CNN tridiagonal matrix, T , which has the same eigenvalues as M . Two methods for obtaining T are described in Section 2, both methods being based upon a result derived in Section 3.

2. Outline of the Methods. (a) *First Method.* If for some k ($2 \leq k \leq n - 1$),

$$(2.1) \quad m_{ij} = 0 \quad (m_{ji} = 0), \quad i = 1, \dots, k - 1, j = i + 2, \dots, n,$$

we will say that M is "lower (upper) Hessenberg through its first k rows (columns)." For convenience, we will say that any matrix is Hessenberg through its first row or column. A matrix is Hessenberg in the case $k = n - 1$.

In Section 3, we prove the

BASIC LEMMA. *Let M be lower Hessenberg through its first k rows. Then, there exists a CNN matrix, M' , which has the same eigenvalues as M and which is lower Hessenberg through its first $k + 1$ rows. If M is nonsingular, then there exists a CNN nonsingular S' such that $S'M = M'S'$.*

By a sequential application of the Basic Lemma, it follows that we can find a CNN lower Hessenberg matrix, H , which has the same eigenvalues as M . We note that if M is nonsingular then $H = S''M(S'')^{-1}$, where S'' is CNN (from, e.g., the Cauchy-Binet theorem [2, I]).

Let P be the matrix obtained by reversing the order of the rows of the $n \times n$ identity, I ; trivially, $P^{-1} = P$.

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Define $\hat{H} = PHP$. \hat{H} is similar to H and therefore has the same eigenvalues as M . \hat{H} is obtained by reversing the order of the rows and columns of H and therefore is upper Hessenberg; since the value of a minor is not changed by reversing the order of the rows and columns of its array form, \hat{H} must be CNN.

As we indicate in Section 3, a sequential application of our method of proof of the Basic Lemma to \hat{H} maintains the upper Hessenberg form of \hat{H} and therefore yields a CNN tridiagonal matrix, \hat{T} . In general, we could take $T = \hat{T}$. In the particular case that M , and therefore \hat{H} , is nonsingular, we note as before that there exists a nonsingular CNN S such that $\hat{T} = S\hat{H}(S)^{-1}$; defining

$$\begin{aligned} T &= P\hat{T}P = P\hat{S}\hat{H}(\hat{S})^{-1}P \\ &= P\hat{S}PHP(\hat{S})^{-1}P \\ &= P\hat{S}PS''M(S'')^{-1}P(\hat{S})^{-1}P \\ &= SMS^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

where $S = P\hat{S}PS''$, it is easily verified that T is tridiagonal, CNN, and that S (the product of the CNN matrices, $P\hat{S}P$ and S'') is CNN.

(b) *Second Method.* If, for some k ($2 \leq k \leq n - 1$),

$$(2.2) \quad m_{i,j} = m_{j,i} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k - 1, j = i + 2, \dots, n,$$

we will say that M is “tridiagonal through its first k rows and columns.” For convenience, we will say that any square matrix is tridiagonal through its first row and column. A matrix is tridiagonal in the case $k = n - 1$. We want to prove the

SEQUENTIAL LEMMA. *Let M be tridiagonal through its first k ($< n - 1$) rows and columns. Then there exists a CNN matrix \bar{M} which has the same eigenvalues as M and which is tridiagonal through its first $k + 1$ rows and columns.*

Proof. Applying the method of proof of the Basic Lemma to M yields M' which is tridiagonal through its first k rows and columns and lower Hessenberg through its first $k + 1$ rows.

Since every minor of the transpose $(M')^t$ of M' will be the transpose of some minor of M' , we note that $(M')^t$ is CNN. Moreover, $(M')^t$ has the same eigenvalues as M , is tridiagonal through its first k rows and columns and is upper Hessenberg through its first $k + 1$ columns. Applying the method of proof of the Basic Lemma to $(M')^t$ would now yield \bar{M} .

The proof of the preceding lemma indicates a method of “sequentially tridiagonalizing” (a term introduced in [1]) M with, as we will show, the desirable property that each intermediate result of the procedure is CNN.

Let $M^{(k)} = [m_{ij}^{(k)}]_{i,j=1}^n$ be the $(k - 1)$ th result of applying the sequential tridiagonalization procedure to M (in general, $M^{(1)} = M$, $M^{(n-1)} = T$). In analogy with (2.2), we can assume that

$$(2.3) \quad m_{i,j}^{(k)} = m_{j,i}^{(k)} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k - 1, j = i + 2, \dots, n.$$

As shown in [4, p. 399 ff.], a measure of the stability of the procedure (but by no means the most important measure) is the growth of the quantities

$$(2.4) \quad \rho_k = \sum_{i=k+1}^n m_{ki}^{(k)} m_{ik}^{(k)},$$

where the ρ_k (see, e.g., [1]) also satisfy

$$(2.5) \quad \rho_k = t_{k+1,k} t_{k,k+1}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n - 1.$$

We want to show that the ρ_k cannot become arbitrarily large.

First of all, we note that $M^{(k)}$ ($k > 1$) is obtained by similarity transformations performed on either $M^{(k-1)}$ or on a "reduced" form of $M^{(k-1)}$; in either case, $\text{trace}(M^{(k)}) = \text{trace}(M^{(k-1)})$ and, therefore, $\text{trace}(M) = \text{trace}(M^{(k)})$ for all k .

Now, since $M^{(k)}$ is CNN,

$$m_{kk}^{(k)} m_{ji}^{(k)} \geq m_{ki}^{(k)} m_{jk}^{(k)} \geq 0, \quad j \geq k + 1,$$

and, therefore,

$$m_{kk}^{(k)} \sum_{i=k+1}^n m_{ji}^{(k)} \geq \rho_k \geq 0,$$

or, since $\text{trace}(M) = \text{trace}(M^{(k)}) = \sum_{i=1}^n m_{ii}^{(k)}$,

$$(2.6) \quad 0 \leq \rho_k \leq (\text{trace}(M))^2.$$

By maintaining the CNN property in our procedure, we are assured that the ρ_k remain uniformly bounded with respect to k .

We note that if $M^{(1)}$ is nonsingular, then $M^{(n-1)} = T$ is similar to $M^{(1)}$; letting " \sim " indicate similarity, we have, in the notation of the Sequential Lemma, $M \sim M' \sim (M')^t \sim \tilde{M}$ (since any square matrix is similar to its transpose) and by induction, $M^{(1)} \sim T$. Thus, $T = SM^{(1)}S^{-1}$ for some S but the S "constructed" as in the proof of the Basic and Sequential Lemmas is not, in general, CNN. For example, if

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix},$$

then, following the procedure indicated on the proof of the Sequential Lemma, one obtains

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 5.5 & .75 \\ 0 & 1 & .5 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & .5 & .5 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The question of whether or not there exists, in the general case, some CNN S such that $T = SMS^{-1}$ remains open.

3. Proof of the Basic Lemma. Let M be CNN and lower Hessenberg through its first k rows but not through its first $k + 1$ rows. Then, there exists $p \geq k + 1$ such that

$$(3.1) \quad M = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} X & \cdots & X & \overbrace{0 \cdots 0}^p & & \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \vdots & 0 \cdots 0 & & \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \hline u & v & 0 \cdots 0 & \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & & \\ \vdots & & X & \cdots & \cdots & X \\ X & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & X \end{array} \right] \} k,$$

where the X 's indicate possibly nonzero elements, $u = m_{k,p}$ and

$$(3.2) \quad v = m_{k,p+1} \neq 0.$$

Note. We indicate in (3.1) that $p + 1 < n$ and $k > 1$; whether or not this is true will make no difference in our argument.

We assert that we can verify our primary statement in the lemma by showing that there exists a CNN matrix, say \hat{M} , which has precisely the same form as M in (3.1) and the same eigenvalues, but " θ " = 0, and then calling on finite induction. We proceed with the proof of the latter.

Consider first the case when $u = m_{k,p} = 0$. From the latter assumption, (3.2) and the fact that $u \cdot m_{i,p+1} - v \cdot m_{i,p} \geq 0$ when $i \geq k$, it follows that the p th column of M must be null. By a similarity transformation involving elementary permutation matrices, one can therefore obtain

$$M' = \begin{bmatrix} M'_1 & 0 \\ m'_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

where M'_1 is obtained by deleting the p th row and column of M while m'_1 is obtained by deleting the p th column of the p th row of M . Now, M'_1 would not, in general, be CNN but

$$\hat{M} = \begin{bmatrix} M'_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is easily shown to be CNN; moreover, since M' and M are similar, \hat{M} must have the same eigenvalues as M . Finally, from our description of M'_1 , \hat{M} evidently has the desired form.

Now, suppose that $u \neq 0$. We can, therefore, use u to eliminate v by an "elementary column operation"; in particular, let

$$S^{-1} = I - (v/u)E_p E_{p+1}^t,$$

where I is the $n \times n$ identity and E_i is the i th column of I . We want to show that we may choose

$$(3.3) \quad \hat{M} = S M S^{-1},$$

where

$$S = I + (v/u)E_p E_{p+1}^t.$$

Since $p \geq k + 1$, it is evident that \hat{M} has the desired form; it remains now to show

that \hat{M} is CNN. Since S is evidently CNN, we can and will verify the latter by showing that $M' = MS^{-1}$ is CNN. Note that if M_i is the i th column of M , then

$$(3.4) \quad M' = [M_1 \cdots M_p \ M_{p+1} - (v/u)M_p \ M_{p+2} \cdots M_n].$$

In showing that M' is CNN, we assert that we need only consider those minors, of which, say, μ is an example, which satisfy the following conditions:

(a) μ depends upon elements of the $(p + 1)$ th column of M' but not upon elements of the p th column.

(b) If μ depends upon elements of the first $k - 1$ rows of M' , then μ depends upon elements of the first $p - 1$ columns.

If μ did not satisfy (a), then by inspection of (3.1) and (3.4), μ would be numerically equal to a minor of M ; if μ did not satisfy (b), then by inspection, μ depends upon a null row of M . In either of the latter cases, μ would be nonnegative.

For brevity in the following, we introduce the Gantmacher notation: $A(\alpha \ \beta \ \cdots \ \vdots)$ is that submatrix of the matrix A composed of elements from rows α, β, \cdots and columns a, b, \cdots while $\bar{A}(\alpha \ \beta \ \cdots \ \vdots)$ is obtained by deleting row α, β, \cdots and column a, b, \cdots from A . Also, $A[\cdots] = \det \{A(\cdots)\}$ and $\bar{A}[\cdots] = \det \{\bar{A}(\cdots)\}$.

Let μ be a minor of M' satisfying conditions (a) and (b), e.g.,

$$(3.5) \quad \mu = M' \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ a & b & \cdots & c & p + 1 & d & \cdots \end{bmatrix},$$

where $\alpha < \beta < \cdots$ and $a < b < \cdots < c < p + 1 < d < \cdots$ and $c \neq p$.

Note. Those minors of M' which depend only upon the columns, $M'_i, i \geq p + 1$, will be simple special cases of the following.

Now, from (3.4), (3.5) and a well-known determinantal property,

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \mu &= M \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ a & \cdots & c & p + 1 & d & \cdots \end{bmatrix} - (v/u)M \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ a & \cdots & c & p & d & \cdots \end{bmatrix}, \\ &= u^{-1}uM \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ a & \cdots & c & p + 1 & d & \cdots \end{bmatrix} - vM \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ a & \cdots & c & p & d & \cdots \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$(3.7) \quad A = M \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \cdots & \gamma & k & \delta & \cdots \\ a & \cdots & c & p & p + 1 & d & \cdots \end{bmatrix},$$

where, say, $\gamma < k \leq \delta$.

Note. If $\alpha > k$, then the first row of A would be composed of elements from the k th row of M ; as will be seen, we lose no generality by supposing $k > \alpha$.

For reference, we suppose that $a_{i,i} = m_{kp}$. Then, from (3.6) and (3.7),

$$(3.8) \quad \mu = v^{-1} \left\{ a_{i,i} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ i \end{bmatrix} - a_{i,i+1} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ i + 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Thus, we must show that the quantity in brackets is nonnegative.

From (3.1) and (3.7),

$$(3.9) \quad A = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} X & \cdots & X & \overbrace{0 \cdots 0}^i & & \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \vdots & 0 \cdots 0 & & \\ \vdots & & \vdots & u' v' 0 \cdots 0 & & \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & & \\ & & X & \cdots & \cdots & X \\ X & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & X \end{array} \right] t,$$

where $u' = a_{i,i}$, $v' = a_{i,i+1}$. Since, with the possible exception of a "repeated" row, A is a submatrix of M , A is evidently CNN. We require two lemmas, the second of which will readily imply that μ , as defined by (3.8), must be nonnegative when $v > 0$ and A is CNN and has the form noted in (3.9).

The following lemma was proved in [3, p. 309]; for completeness, we offer a proof which does not require certain special results derived in [3].

LEMMA 1. *Let A be CNN. Then, for $1 \leq p \leq n$,*

$$(3.10) \quad (-1)^{p+1} \sum_{i=p}^n (-1)^{i+1} a_{i,i} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} \geq 0.$$

Proof. In the case $p = 1$, the left-hand side of (3.10) is just $\det(A)$; in the case $p = n$, the left-hand side reduces to $a_{1,n} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ n \end{bmatrix}$. Since A is CNN, (3.1) is evidently valid for these cases.

Assume now that $1 < p < n$. Let s and i be chosen such that $1 \leq s < p < i \leq n$ and suppose that, for *all* such pairs (s, i) and *all* k such that $2 \leq k \leq n$,

$$\bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ s & i \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

Then, for all $i > p$,

$$\bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{k=2}^n (-1)^{k+s-1} a_{k,s} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ s & i \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

and (3.10) would reduce to the known inequality, $a_{1,p} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ p \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$.

Assume that for *some* choice of s, i , and k , restricted as above, that

$$(3.11) \quad \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ s & i \end{bmatrix} \neq 0.$$

Let N be the matrix obtained when the elements $m_{11}, m_{12}, \dots, m_{1,p-1}$ of A are replaced by zeros. (3.10) is then equivalent to the assertion that

$$(3.12) \quad (-1)^{p+1} \det(N) \geq 0.$$

(3.12) is evidently true when $n = 2$; we make the usual inductive hypothesis that (3.12) is valid for all N of dimension less than n . Now, from Sylvester's identity (see, e.g., [2, p. 33]),

$$\det(N) \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ s & i \end{bmatrix} = \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ s \end{bmatrix} \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ i \end{bmatrix} - \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ s \end{bmatrix}.$$

or since all rows, except the first, of A and N are identical and noting (3.11),

$$(3.13) \quad \det(N) = \left(\bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ s & i \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1} \left(\bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ s \end{bmatrix} \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ i \end{bmatrix} - \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ s \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

Now $\bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ i \end{bmatrix}$ (and $\bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ s \end{bmatrix}$) can be obtained by replacing the first $p - 1$ (and $p - 2$) elements of the first row of $\bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ i \end{bmatrix}$ (and $\bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ s \end{bmatrix}$) with zeros; by the inductive hypothesis

$$(3.14) \quad (-1)^{p+1} \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ i \end{bmatrix} \geq 0, \quad (-1)^{(p-1)+1} \bar{N} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ s \end{bmatrix} \geq 0.$$

(3.12), and therefore (3.10), now follow readily from (3.13) and (3.14) and the fact that A is CNN which completes our proof.

The following lemma now generalizes the result of Lemma 1 for the case that A has a form such as in (3.9).

LEMMA 2. *Suppose that A is CNN and that*

$$(3.15) \quad a_{ij} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, t - 1, j = s, \dots, n,$$

for some s and t satisfying $1 \leq s, t \leq n$. Then, for $p \geq s$,

$$(3.16) \quad (-1)^{t+p} \sum_{i=p}^n (-1)^{t+i} a_{ti} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ j \end{bmatrix} \geq 0.$$

Proof. Assume initially that $s > t - 1$. Define

$$(3.17) \quad r_{ii} = A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdots t - 1 & i + t - 2 \\ 1 \cdots t - 1 & j + t - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and let $R = [r_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^{n-(t-1)}$.

Again utilizing Sylvester's identity,

$$(3.18) \quad R \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon & \eta & \cdots & \rho \\ e & f & \cdots & g \end{bmatrix} = \Delta^{q-1} A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdots t - 1 & \epsilon + t - 1 \cdots \rho + t - 1 \\ 1 \cdots t - 1 & e + t - 1 \cdots g + t - 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

presuming that the latter minor is q th order and

$$\Delta = A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdots t - 1 \\ 1 \cdots t - 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Evidently, R is CNN. From Lemma 1, then follows

$$(3.19) \quad (-1)^{q+1} \sum_{i=q}^{n-(t-1)} (-1)^{1+i} r_{1i} \bar{R} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ j \end{bmatrix} \geq 0,$$

whenever $1 \leq q \leq n - (t - 1)$.

Now, from (3.15) and (3.17),

$$r_{1j} = A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdots t - 1 & t \\ 1 \cdots t - 1 & j + t - 1 \end{bmatrix} = a_{t,j+t-1} \Delta,$$

whenever $j \geq s - (t - 1)$; from (3.18),

$$\bar{R} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ j \end{bmatrix} = \Delta^{n-t-1} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ j + t - 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Utilizing these last two relations and (3.19) yields, after some simplification,

$$(3.20) \quad \Delta^{n-t}(-1)^{p+t} \sum_{i=p}^n (-1)^{t+i} a_{ti} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ j \end{bmatrix} \geq 0,$$

whenever $p \geq s > t - 1$. If $\Delta > 0$, then (3.20) reduces to (3.16). Suppose, however, that $\Delta = 0$; the inequality

$$(3.21) \quad \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ j \end{bmatrix} \leq \Delta \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdots t-1 & t \\ 1 \cdots t-1 & j \end{bmatrix}, \quad j > t - 1,$$

is a special case of a result due to [2, II, p. 100]. Evidently, $\Delta = 0$ would imply the equality in (3.16) for the case $j \geq p \geq s > t - 1$.

Finally, suppose that $s \leq t - 1$. Then, $A \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdots & s \\ 1 & \cdots & j \end{bmatrix} = 0$, since $A \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdots & s \\ 1 & \cdots & j \end{bmatrix}$ has a column of zeros. Then, as in (3.21),

$$\bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ j \end{bmatrix} \leq A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdots s \\ 1 \cdots s \end{bmatrix} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdots s & t \\ 1 \cdots s & j \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad j > s.$$

Therefore, (3.16) either reduces to an equality (when $p > s$) or to the known inequality, $a_{tp} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ p \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$ (when $p = s$). This completes our proof of the lemma.

From (3.9) and (3.16), then follows

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq (-1)^{t+1} \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{t+i} a_{ti} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ j \end{bmatrix}, \\ &= (-1)^{t+i} \left\{ (-1)^{t+i} a_{ti} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ i \end{bmatrix} + (-1)^{t+i+1} a_{t,i+1} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t & i \\ i & i+1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \\ &= a_{ti} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ i \end{bmatrix} - a_{t,i+1} \bar{A} \begin{bmatrix} t & i \\ i & i+1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

and therefore, from (3.8), $\mu \geq 0$, which completes our proof of the primary assertion of the Basic Lemma.

Noting that we choose \hat{M} similar to M as long as M does not have a column of zeros, the second assertion of the Basic Lemma is now obvious.

Finally, as in all elementary similarity transformations of the form (3.3), \hat{M} will be upper Hessenberg as long as M is upper Hessenberg.

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