



REFINED INERTIA OF MATRIX PATTERNS*

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Abstract. This paper explores how the combinatorial arrangement of prescribed zeros in a matrix affects the possible eigenvalues that the matrix can obtain. It demonstrates that there are inertially arbitrary patterns having a digraph with no 2-cycle, unlike what happens for nonzero patterns. A class of patterns is developed that are refined inertially arbitrary but not spectrally arbitrary, making use of the property of a properly signed nest. The paper includes a characterization of the inertially arbitrary and refined inertially arbitrary patterns of order three, as well as the patterns of order four with the least number of nonzero entries.

Key words. Spectrally arbitrary pattern, Refined inertia, Inertially arbitrary pattern.

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1. Introduction. Since the concepts were introduced in Drew et. al. [9], much work has focused on when a sign pattern is spectrally or inertially arbitrary (for example, [3, 6, 11, 14]). Various papers have also focused on the combinatorial arrangement of the nonzero positions in a matrix when considering eigenvalue properties of patterns (for example, [4, 7, 8]). The paper by Cavers and Fallat [3] reviews some of these results and also sets them in a more general setting, initiating the study of other types of patterns. Recently, there has started to be some consideration of zero-nonzero patterns, patterns with prescribed zero entries, nonzero entries and entries that are unrestricted (see, for example, [10]). The concept of a refined inertially arbitrary pattern has also recently been defined in [8] in the context of nonzero patterns. This concept includes patterns that allow for Hopf bifurcations [1]. In this paper, we begin an exploration of zero patterns (patterns that have prescribed zero entries, with the remaining entries unrestricted) that are refined inertially arbitrary, comparing them to other known results.

We first introduce the technical definitions and some lemmas in Section 2. We recall that a refined inertially arbitrary zero pattern requires a pair of symmetrically opposite nonzero entries, as was observed in [3]. We then show, in Section 3, that this restriction is not required for inertially arbitrary zero patterns, unlike what happens for nonzero patterns [4] and sign patterns [5].

In [8], Deaett et. al. present an irreducible nonzero pattern of order 5 that is refined inertially arbitrary but not spectrally arbitrary. In Section 4, we produce an infinite class of zero patterns that are refined inertially arbitrary but not spectrally arbitrary.

Garnett and Shader [11] showed that a path (sign) pattern \mathcal{T}_n having two end loops is spectrally arbitrary. In Section 5, using the technique from [11], we show that there are other zero patterns corresponding to a

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path with two loops that are spectrally arbitrary. While \mathcal{T}_n has a signing that is spectrally arbitrary, there is no signing of the nonzero entries of the path pattern introduced in Section 5 that is spectrally arbitrary.

In Section 6, we characterize the zero patterns of order 3 that are refined inertially arbitrary and inertially arbitrary, comparing them to the known spectrally arbitrary patterns. We say a pattern of order n is *sparse* if it has less than $2n$ nonzero entries. In Section 7, we conclude with an exploration of the sparse zero patterns of order 4 determining which are refined inertially arbitrary, spectrally arbitrary, or inertially arbitrary.

2. Technical definitions and lemmas for inertially arbitrary patterns. A *sign pattern* is an order n matrix with entries in $\{+, -, 0\}$; a *nonzero pattern* has entries in $\{*, 0\}$. The *qualitative class* of a sign pattern \mathcal{A} , denoted $Q(\mathcal{A})$, is the set of all real matrices A such that $\text{sgn}(A_{ij}) = \text{sgn}(\mathcal{A}_{ij})$. Likewise the qualitative class of a nonzero pattern \mathcal{A} consists of all the real matrices A with A_{ij} nonzero if and only if $\mathcal{A}_{ij} \neq 0$. A *zero pattern* \mathcal{A} is a matrix with entries in $\{\otimes, 0\}$; $Q(\mathcal{A})$ is the set of real matrices A such that $\mathcal{A}_{ij} = 0$ implies $A_{ij} = 0$. We refer to the \otimes entries of \mathcal{A} as the nonzero entries of the pattern, even though a matrix $A \in Q(\mathcal{A})$ may have a zero in that position.

A pattern \mathcal{A} *realizes a polynomial* $p(x)$ if there exists a matrix $A \in Q(\mathcal{A})$ such that the characteristic polynomial of A is $p(x)$, and \mathcal{A} is *spectrally arbitrary* if \mathcal{A} realizes all monic polynomials of degree n with real coefficients. The *inertia* of an order n matrix A , denoted $i(A)$, is the ordered tuple $i(A) = (n_+, n_-, n_0)$ where n_+ (resp. n_-, n_0) is the number of eigenvalues of A with positive real part (resp. negative and zero). The *refined inertia* of a matrix A , $ri(A) = (n_+, n_-, n_z, n_i)$ includes n_i , the number of the eigenvalues of A that are purely imaginary, and n_z , the number of eigenvalues of A that are zero. Note that $n_z + n_i = n_0$. \mathcal{A} can *realize* an inertia (resp. refined inertia) \mathbf{a} if there exists an $A \in Q(\mathcal{A})$ such that $i(A) = \mathbf{a}$ (resp. $ri(A) = \mathbf{a}$). A pattern \mathcal{A} is *inertially arbitrary* if \mathcal{A} can realize all inertias (n_1, n_2, n_3) with $n_1 + n_2 + n_3 = n$. Likewise, \mathcal{A} is *refined inertially arbitrary* if \mathcal{A} can realize all refined inertias (n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4) where $n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + n_4 = n$. Note that for nonzero patterns and zero patterns, if \mathcal{A} can realize the inertia (n_+, n_-, n_0) , then the *reversal* (n_-, n_+, n_0) can also be realized by \mathcal{A} by taking the negative of the matrix used to realize (n_+, n_-, n_0) . Since we will be focusing on zero patterns, when considering inertias, we will restrict to inertias with $n_+ \geq n_-$.

A matrix A (or pattern) of order n is *irreducible* if there does not exist a permutation matrix P , such that PAP^{-1} is a block triangular matrix, with two or more non-empty diagonal blocks. We will focus on irreducible patterns since the eigenvalues of a reducible matrix can be obtained from its irreducible blocks. As noted in the concluding comments, it may be worth considering reducible patterns in future work.

Note that any pattern \mathcal{A} of order n can be represented by a corresponding digraph D on n vertices: \mathcal{A} is the adjacency matrix of the digraph $D = D(\mathcal{A})$ with vertex set $\{v_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ and arc set $E(D) = \{(v_i, v_j) | \mathcal{A}_{i,j} \neq 0\}$. Note that \mathcal{A} is irreducible if and only if $D(\mathcal{A})$ is strongly connected (see e.g. [2, Theorem 3.2.1]). Furthermore, if \mathcal{A} is a pattern and \mathcal{A}^T is the transpose of \mathcal{A} with digraphs D and D^T , respectively, D^T is obtained from D by reversing all the arcs. Two patterns \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are *equivalent* if \mathcal{B} can be obtained from \mathcal{A} via permutation similarity and/or transposition. The *underlying graph* G of a digraph D has vertex set $V(G) = V(D)$ and edge set $E(G) = \{(v_i, v_j) | (v_i, v_j) \in E(D)\}$.

If $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a cycle $(v_{i_1}, v_{i_2}), (v_{i_2}, v_{i_3}), \dots, (v_{i_k}, v_{i_1})$ and $A = [a_{ij}] \in Q(\mathcal{A})$, then the associated *cycle product* is $(-1)^{k-1} a_{v_{i_1}, v_{i_2}} a_{v_{i_2}, v_{i_3}} \cdots a_{v_{i_k}, v_{i_1}}$. A *composite cycle* of length k is a set of vertex disjoint cycles with lengths summing to k (with an associated cycle product being the product of the cycle products of the individual cycles). Note that a composite cycle C could consist of only a single cycle; in this case, we sometimes call C a *proper cycle*. A 1-cycle is an arc from a vertex back to itself; this arc is often called a

loop. We will use the following fact (see, for example, [2, Section 9]):

LEMMA 2.1. *Given $A \in Q(\mathcal{A})$, if E_k is the sum of all the composite cycle products of length k in $D(\mathcal{A})$, then the characteristic polynomial of A is*

$$p_A(x) = x^n - E_1x^{n-1} + E_2x^{n-2} + \cdots + (-1)^n E_n.$$

EXAMPLE 2.2. The pattern

$$C_n = \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes & \ddots & \vdots \\ \otimes & 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is known to be spectrally arbitrary for all $n \geq 2$, since it is the pattern of a companion matrix (see, e.g., [3]). One could use a matrix realization with ones on the superdiagonal, along with Lemma 2.1 to verify C_n can obtain every characteristic polynomial of degree n .

We use the following lemmas to develop Theorem 6.3, a main result of Section 6. The first lemma was observed in [14, Lemma 20]. Further necessary conditions on the coefficients of a characteristic polynomial based on inertia can be found in [6, Lemma 1].

LEMMA 2.3. [14, Lemma 20] *If a pattern \mathcal{A} of order n is inertially arbitrary, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ must have a composite k -cycle for each k , $1 \leq k \leq n$.*

Proof. It is enough to observe that if A has inertia $(0, n, 0)$, then the characteristic polynomial of A has all positive coefficients. Thus, the result follows from Lemma 2.1. \square

The next lemma indicates that the digraph of refined inertially arbitrary patterns require a proper 2-cycle, not merely a composite 2-cycle, as observed by Cavers and Fallat in [3, Cor. 2.8]). While Cavers and Fallat used the refined inertia $(0, 0, a, b)$ with $b = 2$ in their hypothesis, we observe that for any $b \geq 2$, if $A \in \mathcal{A}$ has refined inertia $(0, 0, a, b)$, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a 2-cycle. We include the argument for completeness.

LEMMA 2.4. *If a pattern \mathcal{A} allows refined inertia $(0, 0, a, b)$ with $b \geq 2$, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 2-cycle.*

Proof. Suppose $A \in \mathcal{A}$ has refined inertia $(0, 0, n - 2c, 2c)$ for some $c \geq 1$. In particular, suppose A has nonzero eigenvalues $\pm \ell_1 i, \pm \ell_2 i, \dots, \pm \ell_c i$. Note that the trace of A is zero since it is the sum of the eigenvalues. If $p_A(x) = x^n - E_1x^{n-1} + E_2x^{n-2} + \cdots + (-1)^n E_n$, then since E_2 is the sum of all products of two eigenvalues, $E_2 = \sum_{k=1}^c \ell_k^2 > 0$. By Lemma 2.1, E_2 is also the sum of the signed composite 2-cycles, so $E_2 = \sum_{k < j} a_{kk}a_{jj} - \sum_{k < j} a_{kj}a_{jk}$. If $D(\mathcal{A})$ has no proper 2-cycles, then

$$2E_2 = 2 \sum_{k < j} a_{kk}a_{jj} = (\text{tr}(A))^2 - \sum a_{kk}^2 = - \sum a_{kk}^2 \leq 0.$$

But this would contradict the fact that $E_2 > 0$. Thus, $D(\mathcal{A})$ must have a proper 2-cycle. \square

In the next lemma, we note that if the digraph of a pattern has n loops, then the pattern is inertially arbitrary. A pattern \mathcal{B} is a *superpattern* of a pattern \mathcal{A} if $\mathcal{B}_{ij} = 0$ implies $\mathcal{A}_{ij} = 0$. A superpattern \mathcal{B} is a

proper superpattern of \mathcal{A} if $\mathcal{B} \neq \mathcal{A}$. Note that if \mathcal{A} allows an eigenvalue property, then any superpattern of \mathcal{A} will also allow that property. The following lemma is an example for the property of being inertially arbitrary.

LEMMA 2.5. *If \mathcal{A} is pattern of order n with \otimes entries in all its diagonal positions, then \mathcal{A} is inertially arbitrary.*

Proof. In this case, \mathcal{A} is a superpattern of the reducible diagonal pattern which is inertially arbitrary. \square

3. An inertially arbitrary pattern without a 2-cycle. Unlike for nonzero patterns [4, Lemma 2.1], and sign patterns [5, Lemma 5.1], the digraph of an irreducible inertially arbitrary zero pattern does not require a proper 2-cycle, as we will see in Theorem 3.1. For $n \geq 3$, let

$$\mathcal{A}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \otimes & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

THEOREM 3.1. *For $n \geq 3$, the pattern \mathcal{A}_n is inertially arbitrary but not refined inertially arbitrary.*

Proof. By Lemma 2.4, \mathcal{A}_n is not refined inertially arbitrary. Let

$$A = A(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1}, c) = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & 1 & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & a_{n-1} & 1 \\ c & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

By cofactor expansion along row n , we see that the characteristic polynomial of A is $p_A(x) = f(x) - c$ with $f(x) = x(x - a_1)(x - a_2) \cdots (x - a_{n-1})$. Note that $f(0) = 0$. Further $A(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1}, 0)$ is upper triangular and hence has eigenvalues a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1} and 0. Thus, \mathcal{A}_n can realize any inertia (n_+, n_-, n_0) with $n_0 \geq 1$.

To obtain the remaining inertias, we use the idea that if you take a polynomial function with distinct roots, with one root at zero, and shift it down slightly, then the resulting function will have distinct nonzero roots. The slope of the original polynomial at origin will determine if you gained a positive or negative root. In particular, let $A(c) = A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{n-1}, c)$ be a realization of \mathcal{A} with distinct d_k , $1 \leq k \leq n-1$, such that $i(A(0)) = (a, b, 1)$ for some $a, b \geq 0$. Then $p_{A(0)}(x) = f(x)$ and $f'(0) \neq 0$ since 0 is not a double root of $f(x)$. In this case, without loss of generality, assume $f'(0) > 0$. Choose $\epsilon > 0$ such that $\epsilon < \min\{|f(x)| : f'(x) = 0\}$. Since $p_{A(\epsilon)}(x) = f(x) + \epsilon$, we have $i(A(\epsilon)) = (a + 1, b, 0)$ and $i(A(-\epsilon)) = (a, b + 1, 0)$. Thus, \mathcal{A}_n can realize any inertia (n_+, n_-, n_0) with $n_0 = 0$. \square

REMARK 3.2. The pattern in Theorem 3.1 is an order n example of a zero pattern that is inertially but not refined inertially arbitrary. In [3], Cavers and Fallat presented an order 4 zero pattern \mathcal{N} with this property. In Section 7, we provide some other order 4 zero patterns with this property.

REMARK 3.3. The inertially arbitrary pattern in Theorem 3.1 is *minimal* in that if any of the \otimes entries are replaced by 0, then the resulting pattern would no longer be an inertially arbitrary pattern. In particular:

if a nonzero entry on the n -cycle was set to zero, then the resulting digraph would have no composite n -cycle; and replacing any nonzero on the diagonal with zero would result in a digraph that has no composite $(n - 1)$ -cycle. In either case, the resulting pattern could not be inertially arbitrary by Lemma 2.3.

4. Refined inertially arbitrary path patterns. In this section, we explore irreducible patterns whose underlying graph is a path. In this case, the largest cycle in the graph is a 2-cycle. In particular, the digraph of such a pattern must include $(n - 1)$ 2-cycles (for irreducibility) and at least one loop (by Lemma 2.3). We characterize which of these patterns with $2n - 1$ nonzero entries are refined inertially arbitrary.

Given $1 \leq \alpha \leq n$, let

$$\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \otimes & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \otimes & \otimes & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & \ddots & 0 & \otimes \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

be the order n pattern with $2n - 1$ nonzero entries such that the nonzero diagonal element is in row α . Note that $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ is not spectrally arbitrary since it does not allow a characteristic polynomial with the coefficient of x^{n-1} zero while the coefficient of x^{n-3} is nonzero. For example, there is no matrix $A \in Q(\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha})$ with characteristic polynomial $x^n + x^{n-3}$.

We use the following concept:

DEFINITION 4.1. Suppose B is an order n real matrix. Let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$ be a rearrangement of the elements of $\{1, \dots, n\}$, and $B[\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}]$ denote the principal submatrix in rows and columns $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ of B . A sign pattern \mathcal{A} allows a nested sequence of properly signed principal minors (abbreviated to a properly signed nest) if there exist $B \in Q(\mathcal{A})$ and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$, such that

$$\text{sgn}(\det(B[\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}])) = (-1)^k \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n.$$

In this case, we refer to $\{\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}\}$ as a properly signed nest of B .

EXAMPLE 4.2. Define $P_{n,\alpha}$ to be the matrix with pattern $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ having 1's on the subdiagonal and -1 's on the remaining n nonzero positions. As noted in [15, Example 2], $P_{n,1}$ has a properly signed nest, namely $\{\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}\}$.

LEMMA 4.3. [13, Theorem 2.1] *If \mathcal{A} is an order n sign pattern that allows a properly signed nest, then \mathcal{A} allows inertias $(n, 0, 0)$ and $(0, n, 0)$.*

THEOREM 4.4. *The pattern $\mathcal{P}_{n,1}$ is refined inertially arbitrary for all $n \geq 1$.*

Proof. Note that for $n \leq 2$, $\mathcal{P}_{n,1} = \mathcal{C}_n$, the pattern in Example 2.2. Hence, it is refined inertially arbitrary. For $n > 2$, note that

$$\mathcal{P}_{n,1} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{P}_{n-2,1} & \mathcal{Q} \\ \mathcal{S} & \mathcal{T} \end{bmatrix}$$

with $\mathcal{S} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cdots & 0 & \otimes \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{S}^T$, and $\mathcal{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Note that the matrices $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ all have the pattern \mathcal{T} , so \mathcal{T} can realize the refined inertias $W = \{(1, 1, 0, 0), (0, 0, 2, 0), (0, 0, 0, 2)\}$.

\mathcal{T} does not allow the refined inertias $(2, 0, 0, 0)$ or $(1, 0, 1, 0)$. Let $\mathcal{P}'_{n,1}$ be the reducible subpattern of $\mathcal{P}_{n,1}$ with $\mathcal{S} = 0$. By induction, $\mathcal{P}'_{n,1}$ (and hence, $\mathcal{P}_{n,1}$) can realize any refined inertia of the form $(a, b, c, 2d) + (x, y, z, w)$, such that $a + b + c + 2d = n - 2$ and $(x, y, z, w) \in W$. Thus, $\mathcal{P}'_{n,1}$ can realize all refined inertias of the form $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, 2\delta)$, where $\alpha + \beta + \gamma + 2\delta = n$, and either $\alpha, \beta \geq 1$, or $\gamma \geq 2$, or $\delta \geq 1$. This means that we have shown that $\mathcal{P}'_{n,1}$ allows every refined inertia except possibly $(n, 0, 0, 0)$ and $(n - 1, 0, 1, 0)$, up to reversal.

By Example 4.2 and Lemma 4.3, $\mathcal{P}_{n,1}$ allows refined inertia $(0, n, 0, 0)$ and its reversal $(n, 0, 0, 0)$. Consider the reducible subpattern of $\mathcal{P}_{n,1}$ with entry $(n - 1, n)$ set to zero. Lemma 4.3 implies that $\mathcal{P}_{n,1}$ allows inertias $(n - 1, 0, 1, 0)$ and $(0, n - 1, 1, 0)$. Thus, by induction $\mathcal{P}_{n,1}$ is refined inertially arbitrary. \square

LEMMA 4.5. $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ does not allow a properly signed nest if n is odd, and α is even.

Proof. Suppose n is odd, and α is even. Then, $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ has no nonzero transversal, that is, $D(\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha})$ has no composite n -cycle. In this case, $\det(P) = 0$ for each $P \in \mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$. Hence, $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ does not allow a properly signed nest. \square

REMARK 4.6. Note that

$$\text{if } R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & 1 \\ & \ddots & \\ 1 & & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{e} = [0, \dots, 0, 1], \text{ then } P_{n,n-1} = \begin{bmatrix} RP_{n-1,1}R & -\mathbf{e}^T \\ \mathbf{e} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Additionally, $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ is equivalent to $\mathcal{P}_{n,n-\alpha+1}$, since $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha} = RP_{n,n-\alpha+1}R$.

LEMMA 4.7. $P = P_{n,n-1}$ has a properly signed nest if and only if n is even. Further, $\{\{n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 1, n\}\}$ is a properly signed nest of P if n is even.

Proof. By Lemma 4.5, if $\mathcal{P}_{n,n-1}$ allows a properly signed nest, then n must be even. Note that $\mathcal{P}_{2,1}$ allows a properly signed nest by Example 4.2. Suppose that n is even, and $n > 2$. The matrix $P_{n-1,1}$ has a properly signed nest as noted in Example 4.2, so $\det(P_{n-1,1}) < 0$, since $n - 1$ is odd. Thus, $\det(RP_{n-1}R) < 0$ and $RP_{n-1}R$ has the properly signed nest $\{\{n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 2, 1\}\}$. By Remark 4.6, it is enough to show that $\det(P_{n,n-1}) > 0$. By cofactor expansion on the first column,

$$\det(P_{n,n-1}) = -\det \left(\left[\begin{array}{c|cccc} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & -1 & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \right) = \det(P_{n-2,n-3}).$$

It follows by induction that $\det(P_{n,n-1}) > 0$. Hence, $P_{n,n-1}$ has a the properly signed nest $\{\{n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 1, n\}\}$. \square

LEMMA 4.8. Let $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$. Then \mathcal{P} allows a properly signed nest if and only if n is even or α is odd. In this case, $\{\{\alpha, \alpha - 1, \alpha - 2, \dots, 1, \alpha + 1, \alpha + 2, \dots, n\}\}$ is a properly signed nest of $P_{n,\alpha}$.

Proof. By Lemma 4.5, α must be odd if n is odd. Suppose that either n is even, or n is odd and α is odd. Observe that if n is even and α is even, $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ is equivalent to $\mathcal{P}_{n,n-\alpha+1}$, and $n - \alpha + 1$ is odd. Thus, we may assume that α is odd. The case when $\alpha = 1$ is covered by Theorem 4.4 and Example 4.2. The case when $\alpha = n - 1$ is covered by Lemma 4.7.

Suppose $1 < \alpha < n - 1$. We claim that $\{\alpha, \alpha - 1, \alpha - 2, \dots, 1, \alpha + 1, \alpha + 2, \dots, n\}$ is a properly signed nest for $P_{n,\alpha}$. By induction, it is enough to show that

$$\text{sgn}(\det(P_{n,\alpha})) = -\text{sgn}(\det(P_{n-1,\alpha})).$$

By cofactor expansion along the last column of $P_{n,\alpha}$,

$$\det(P_{n,\alpha}) = \det \left(\begin{bmatrix} P_{n-2,\alpha} & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \det(P_{n-2,\alpha}).$$

Since $P_{n-1,\alpha}$ has a properly signed nest,

$$\text{sgn}(\det(P_{n-2,\alpha})) = \text{sgn}(\det(P_{n,\alpha})) = -\text{sgn}(\det(P_{n-1,\alpha})).$$

Thus, $P_{n,\alpha}$ has a properly signed nest, and $\{\alpha, \alpha - 1, \alpha - 2, \dots, 1, \alpha + 1, \alpha + 2, \dots, n\}$ is a properly signed nest for $P_{n,\alpha}$. \square

THEOREM 4.9. *Suppose $n \geq 1$. Then $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ is refined inertially arbitrary if and only if n is even or α is odd.*

Proof. For both $n = 1$ and $n = 2$, $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha} = \mathcal{C}_n$, which are both spectrally arbitrary. Let $n = k$ for some $k \geq 3$ and assume that the claim is true for all patterns $\mathcal{P}_{m,\alpha}$ with $m \leq k - 1$ and $1 \leq \alpha \leq m$. First note that we can assume that $\alpha > 1$ by Theorem 4.4. Further, we can assume that $\alpha < n - 1$ since $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ is equivalent to $\mathcal{P}_{n,n-\alpha+1}$ as noted in Remark 4.6. Note, $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{P}_{n-2,\alpha} & \mathcal{Q} \\ \mathcal{S} & \mathcal{T} \end{bmatrix}$, with \mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{S} , and \mathcal{T} as defined in the proof of Theorem 4.4. As in the proof of Theorem 4.4, \mathcal{T} can realize the refined inertias $(1, 1, 0, 0)$, $(0, 0, 2, 0)$, and $(0, 0, 0, 2)$. Replacing \mathcal{Q} with a zero matrix, the resulting block triangular pattern can be used to inductively show that $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ allows all refined inertias, except possibly $(n, 0, 0, 0)$ and $(n - 1, 0, 1, 0)$ and their reversals. By Lemmas 4.3 and 4.8, $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ allows $(n, 0, 0, 0)$. If α is odd, we can set entry $(n, n - 1)$ to be zero to obtain a block triangular subpattern of $P_{n,\alpha}$ with blocks $P_{n-1,\alpha}$ and $[0]$. Hence, inductively, $P_{n,\alpha}$ allows refined inertia $(n - 1, 0, 1, 0)$. If n is even and α is even, setting entry $(2, 1)$ to be zero gives a block triangular pattern with blocks $[0]$ and $\mathcal{P}_{n-1,\alpha-1}$ which inductively allows refined inertia $(n - 1, 0, 1, 0)$. Thus, $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ is refined inertially arbitrary. \square

It may be interesting to characterize which superpatterns of $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ are refined inertially arbitrary. When n is odd and α is even, then adding more loops to even positions, and only even positions, will not produce a refined inertially arbitrary pattern since such a pattern has zero determinant, as in Lemma 4.5. In the next section, we explore some superpatterns that are spectrally arbitrary, and hence, refined inertially arbitrary.

5. Superpatterns of $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$. In the previous section, we demonstrated that while the path patterns with one loop are not spectrally arbitrary, some are refined inertially arbitrary. Inserting exactly one additional \otimes in some $\mathcal{P}_{n,\alpha}$ patterns can produce a spectrally arbitrary superpattern, as will be demonstrated in this section.

A useful technique is the nilpotent-centralizer method introduced in [11]. While this technique was introduced for sign patterns, it also applies to the zero patterns we have been discussing, as noted in [10] and described in the next theorem. A matrix N is *nilpotent* if $N^k = 0$ for some positive integer k . A nilpotent matrix has *index* k if k is the smallest positive integer such that $N^k = 0$. The notation $A \circ B$ represents the Hadamard product of A and B . We use the fact that an entry of $A \circ B$ is nonzero if and only if the corresponding entries of both A and B are nonzero.

THEOREM 5.1. [11] *Let A be an order n nilpotent matrix of index n with pattern \mathcal{A} . If the only matrix B in the centralizer of A satisfying $B^T \circ A = 0$ is the zero matrix, then \mathcal{A} is spectrally arbitrary.*

For example, using the nilpotent-centralizer method, Garnett and Shader [11] demonstrated that

$$\mathcal{T}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \circledast & \circledast & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \circledast & 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \circledast & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \circledast & 0 & \circledast \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \circledast & \circledast \end{bmatrix}$$

is spectrally arbitrary for $n \geq 2$. For $n \geq 3$, let

$$\mathcal{W}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \circledast & \circledast & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ \circledast & 0 & \ddots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \circledast & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \circledast & 0 & \circledast & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \circledast & \circledast & \circledast \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & \circledast & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{T}_{n-1} & \mathbf{e}^T \\ \mathbf{e} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

with $\mathbf{e} = [0, \dots, 0, 1]$.

THEOREM 5.2. *If $n \geq 3$, then \mathcal{W}_n is a spectrally arbitrary pattern.*

Proof. Let $n \geq 3$ and

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{1,1} & m_{1,2} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ m_{2,1} & 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & m_{n-3,n-2} & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & m_{n-2,n-3} & 0 & m_{n-2,n-1} \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & m_{n-1,n-2} & m_{n-1,n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

be the nilpotent matrix used in [11, Corollary 8] to show that \mathcal{T}_{n-1} is spectrally arbitrary. This means that if A is a matrix in the centralizer of M with $A^T \circ \mathcal{T}_{n-1} = 0$, then $A = 0$. Note also that the \circledast entries of \mathcal{T}_{n-1} are nonzero in M .

Let $N = \begin{bmatrix} M & \mathbf{e}^T \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Then N is a nilpotent matrix with pattern \mathcal{W}_n . Since N is a proper Hessenberg matrix, N has nilpotent index n (see, for example, [12, Theorem 7.4.4]).

Suppose B is a matrix such that $B^T \circ \mathcal{W}_n = 0$. Then $B = \begin{bmatrix} A & \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{x} & a \end{bmatrix}$, for some $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-2}, 0]$, $\mathbf{y} = [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n-2}, 0]^T$, and $a \in \mathbb{R}$, such that $A^T \circ \mathcal{T}_{n-1} = 0$. Suppose that B is in the centralizer of N . We claim that $B = 0$. Observe that

$$NB = \begin{bmatrix} MA + \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{x} & M\mathbf{y} + a\mathbf{e}^T \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad BN = \begin{bmatrix} AM & A\mathbf{e}^T \\ \mathbf{x}M & \mathbf{x}\mathbf{e}^T \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let L be the principal submatrix of M consisting of the first $n - 1$ rows and columns. Since L has exactly one transversal, L is nonsingular. With $NB = BN$, it follows that $\mathbf{x}M = \mathbf{0}$, and hence, $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ since L is nonsingular. Since $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$, $MA = AM$, and since the only matrix A in the centralizer of M with $A^T \circ \mathcal{T}_{n-1} = 0$ is 0 , $A = 0$. This implies that $M\mathbf{y} + a\mathbf{e}^T = \mathbf{0}$. Ignoring the last row of this matrix equation gives us the equation $L[y_1, \dots, y_{n-2}]^T = \mathbf{0}$. Since L is invertible, we have $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$. It follows that $a = 0$, and hence, $B = 0$. Therefore, \mathcal{W}_n is spectrally arbitrary for all $n \geq 3$ by Theorem 5.1. \square

REMARK 5.3. While \mathcal{T}_n has a signing that is spectrally arbitrary [11], there is no signing of the nonzero entries of \mathcal{W}_n that is spectrally arbitrary. In particular, \mathcal{W}_n has exactly one nonzero transversal, so each matrix realization having zero as an eigenvalue requires a zero in one of the \otimes positions.

6. Classifying patterns of order 3. By Lemma 2.3, if \mathcal{A} is an order 3 irreducible pattern that is inertially arbitrary, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ must have at least one loop and either a proper two-cycle or another loop, in order to have a composite 2-cycle. Hence, accounting for irreducibility, we have the following:

LEMMA 6.1. *If \mathcal{A} is an irreducible inertially arbitrary zero pattern of order 3, then \mathcal{A} must have at least 5 \otimes entries.*

The next result describes the irreducible spectrally arbitrary patterns of order 3 as demonstrated in [10].

THEOREM 6.2. [10, Corollary 3.11] *Given \mathcal{A} is an irreducible zero pattern of order 3, then \mathcal{A} is spectrally arbitrary if and only if \mathcal{A} is equivalent to a superpattern of*

$$\begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \otimes \\ \otimes & \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes \\ 0 & \otimes & \otimes \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ 0 & \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Next we classify the irreducible patterns of order 3 that are refined inertially arbitrary.

THEOREM 6.3. *Given \mathcal{A} is an irreducible order 3 pattern, then \mathcal{A} is refined inertially arbitrary if and only if \mathcal{A} is equivalent to a superpattern of either*

$$\begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \otimes \\ \otimes & \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes \\ 0 & \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. Suppose \mathcal{A} is refined inertially arbitrary. If \mathcal{A} is irreducible, then \mathcal{A} is a superpattern of either

$$\mathcal{H}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \otimes & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{or} \quad \mathcal{H}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \otimes & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes \\ 0 & \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

By Lemma 2.4, $D(\mathcal{A})$ must have a proper 2-cycle and a loop. If \mathcal{A} is a superpattern pattern of \mathcal{H}_1 , then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to a superpattern of one of the first two patterns in Theorem 6.2. Suppose \mathcal{A} is a superpattern of \mathcal{H}_2 . Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to a superpattern of $\mathcal{P}_{3,1}$ or $\mathcal{P}_{3,2}$. If \mathcal{A} is a superpattern of $\mathcal{P}_{3,1}$ then \mathcal{A} is refined inertially arbitrary by Theorem 4.4. If $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{P}_{3,2}$ then \mathcal{A} is not refined inertially arbitrary by Theorem 4.9. If \mathcal{A} is a proper superpattern of $\mathcal{P}_{3,2}$, then \mathcal{A} is one of the first two patterns in Theorem 6.2, or \mathcal{A} is a superpattern of $\mathcal{P}_{3,1}$. \square

COROLLARY 6.4. *If \mathcal{A} is an irreducible refined inertially arbitrary pattern of order 3 that is not spectrally arbitrary, then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to $\mathcal{P}_{3,1}$.*

THEOREM 6.5. *If an irreducible zero pattern of order 3 is inertially arbitrary, but not refined inertially arbitrary, then it is equivalent to*

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ 0 & \otimes & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. Let \mathcal{A} be inertially arbitrary. By Lemma 2.1, \mathcal{A} has an \otimes entry on the main diagonal. Note that $\mathcal{A} \neq \mathcal{P}_{3,2}$ since any matrix with pattern $\mathcal{P}_{3,2}$ is singular. If \mathcal{A} is a superpattern of $\mathcal{P}_{3,1}$ or a proper superpattern of $\mathcal{P}_{3,2}$, then \mathcal{A} is refined inertially arbitrary as noted in the previous proof. Thus, if \mathcal{A} is not refined inertially arbitrary, then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to a superpattern of the pattern \mathcal{B}_1 defined in the proof of Theorem 6.3. If $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 2-cycle, then \mathcal{A} will be equivalent to a superpattern of a spectrally arbitrary pattern, namely one of the first two patterns in Theorem 6.2. Thus, $D(\mathcal{A})$ does not have a proper 2-cycle and hence, by Lemma 2.1, \mathcal{A} must have two \otimes entries on the main diagonal. Note that \mathcal{A} does not have three \otimes entries on the diagonal, otherwise it would be refined inertially arbitrary as noted in Lemma 2.5. Thus, $D(\mathcal{A})$ consists of a proper 3-cycle with two loops. \square

COROLLARY 6.6. *Given \mathcal{A} is an irreducible order 3 pattern, \mathcal{A} is inertially arbitrary if and only if \mathcal{A} is equivalent to a superpattern of*

$$\begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \otimes \\ \otimes & \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ \otimes & 0 & \otimes \\ 0 & \otimes & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & 0 \\ 0 & \otimes & \otimes \\ \otimes & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. The result follows from Theorem 6.3 and Theorem 6.5. \square

7. Order 4 refined inertially arbitrary patterns. In this section, we determine all refined inertially arbitrary order 4 zero patterns with the least possible number of \otimes entries. In general, it is an open question as to the minimum number of \otimes entries in an inertially or a refined inertially arbitrary pattern. It is known [3] that an irreducible spectrally arbitrary pattern of order n requires at least $2n - 1$ nonzero entries. In Lemma 7.1, we determine that an order 4 refined inertially arbitrary pattern requires at least seven \otimes entries. Then, in Theorem 7.4, we determine which of the irreducible patterns with seven \otimes entries are refined inertially arbitrary.

LEMMA 7.1. *If \mathcal{A} is an irreducible refined inertially arbitrary pattern of order 4, then \mathcal{A} must have at least seven \otimes entries.*

Proof. Suppose \mathcal{A} is an irreducible refined inertially arbitrary pattern of order 4. By Lemma 2.3 and Lemma 2.4, $D = D(\mathcal{A})$ must have a loop and a proper 2-cycle. If D had only 2-cycles and no proper cycles of higher order, then the underlying graph of D is a tree (having 3 edges). Thus, since \mathcal{A} is irreducible, D would have at least $3 \times 2 + 1 = 7$ edges, including at least one loop. Therefore, assume that D has a proper k -cycle for some $k > 2$.

Suppose \mathcal{A} has less than seven \otimes entries.

First suppose that D has a proper 4-cycle. Since D also has a proper 2-cycle and a loop, \mathcal{A} has at least six nonzero entries and hence exactly six nonzero entries. If the loop is incident to a proper 2-cycle, then D does not have a composite 3-cycle and so would fail to be inertially arbitrary by Lemma 2.3. Thus, the loop is not incident to the 2-cycle in D . The resulting pattern does not allow refined inertia $(0, 2, 0, 2)$. In particular, if $A \in Q(\mathcal{A})$ has inertia $(0, 2, 0, 2)$, then the characteristic polynomial of A is of the either of the

form

$$(x^2 + 2\alpha x + \alpha^2 + \beta^2)(x^2 + \omega^2) = x^4 + 2\alpha x^3 + (\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \omega^2)x^2 + 2\alpha\omega^2 x + (\alpha^2 + \beta^2)\omega^2$$

for some positive real numbers α and ω , and non-negative real number β , or of the form

$$(x + \gamma)(x + \kappa)(x^2 + \omega^2) = x^4 + (\gamma + \kappa)x^3 + (\gamma\kappa + \omega^2)x^2 + (\gamma + \kappa)\omega^2 x + \gamma\kappa\omega^2,$$

for some positive real numbers γ, κ and ω . However, the only composite 3-cycle in D is obtained by combining the loop with the 2-cycle, and hence by Lemma 2.1, the coefficient of x must be the product of the coefficients of x^3 and x^2 . This would imply that $2\alpha(\alpha^2 + \beta^2) = 0$ in the first case, and $(\gamma + \kappa)(\gamma\kappa) = 0$ in the latter case. Both of these would be contradictions since α, γ and κ are positive.

Suppose that D does not have a proper 4-cycle, but instead has a proper 3-cycle. Assuming \mathcal{A} has less than seven \otimes entries, then D can not have two proper 3-cycles as well as a loop and a proper 2-cycle. Thus, D must have exactly one proper 3-cycle and since \mathcal{A} is irreducible, D must have the digraph in Figure 1, with the loop placed so that D has a composite 4-cycle (as required by Lemma 2.3). However, in this case, if the coefficient of x^3 is zero in the characteristic polynomial of $A \in Q(\mathcal{A})$, then $\det(A) = 0$. This would



FIGURE 1.

imply that \mathcal{A} does not allow refined inertia $(0, 0, 0, 4)$. Therefore, an irreducible refined inertially arbitrary pattern must have at least seven \otimes entries. \square

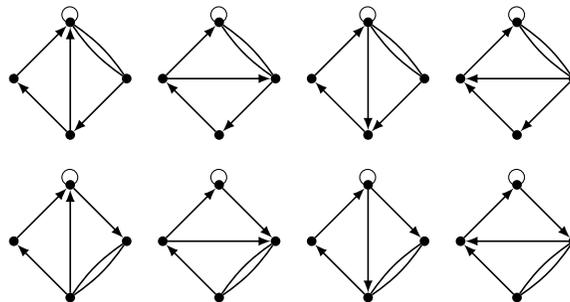


FIGURE 2. Digraphs of spectrally arbitrary patterns in \mathcal{C}_4 .

Let \mathcal{C}_n be the set of zero patterns with a digraph D satisfying:

1. D has exactly one k -cycle for each $k, 1 \leq k \leq n$,
2. D has a directed Hamilton path, and
3. each proper cycle of D contains exactly one arc not on the Hamilton path.

Figure 2 lists the digraphs corresponding to the patterns in \mathcal{C}_4 . Each of these patterns are spectrally arbitrary:

LEMMA 7.2. [10, Theorem 2.2] *If \mathcal{A} is a pattern in \mathcal{C}_n , then \mathcal{A} is spectrally arbitrary.*

REMARK 7.3. The first digraph in Figure 3 corresponds to the spectrally arbitrary pattern $\mathcal{Y}_4(3, 1)$ from [10]. The second digraph in Figure 3 has the same cycle adjacency structure as $\mathcal{Y}_4(3, 1)$, and hence by Lemma 2.1, it is also spectrally arbitrary.

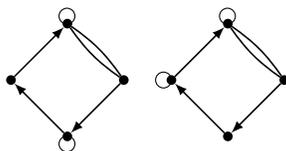


FIGURE 3. Digraphs of $\mathcal{Y}_4(3, 1)$ and a related spectrally arbitrary pattern.

The next theorem references the tables in the Appendix.

THEOREM 7.4. *If \mathcal{A} is an irreducible order 4 pattern with 7 nonzero entries, then the following hold:*

1. \mathcal{A} is spectrally arbitrary if and only if \mathcal{A} is equivalent a pattern with a digraph in Figure 2 or Figure 3.
2. \mathcal{A} is refined inertially arbitrary, but not spectrally arbitrary, if and only if \mathcal{A} is equivalent to $\mathcal{P}_{4,1}$, $\mathcal{P}_{4,2}$, or a pattern in Table 1.
3. \mathcal{A} is inertially arbitrary, but not refined inertially arbitrary, if and only if \mathcal{A} is equivalent to \mathcal{A}_4 , a pattern in Table 2 or a pattern in Table 3.

Proof. The tables in the Appendix, along with Lemma 7.2, Remark 7.3, and Theorem 4.9, provide justification for part of the characterization. That the patterns in (2) are not spectrally arbitrary and the patterns in (3) are not refined inertially arbitrary will be noted in the casework as we justify the converse of the characterization.

Let \mathcal{A} be an irreducible inertially arbitrary pattern of order 4 with 7 \otimes entries. Then the digraph of \mathcal{A} has at least one loop and at least one 2-cycle by Lemma 2.3.

Case 1: Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has exactly one loop. Then $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 2-cycle.

(A) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has exactly one proper 2-cycle.

(I) Suppose the loop is incident to the proper 2-cycle. By Lemma 2.1, $D(\mathcal{A})$ must have a composite 4-cycle in order to realize inertia $(4, 0, 0)$.

(a) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 4-cycle.

(i) Suppose the proper 2-cycle shares an arc with a proper 4-cycle. Then \mathcal{A} is in \mathcal{C}_4 and \mathcal{A} is spectrally arbitrary by Lemma 7.2. These are the first four patterns from Figure 2.

(ii) Suppose the proper 2-cycle does not share an arc with a proper 4-cycle. Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to \mathcal{B}_1 in Table 2. \mathcal{B}_1 is not refined inertially arbitrary since it does not allow the refined inertia $(0, 0, 0, 4)$ since there exists a superpattern (see [3, Example 2.16]) of this pattern that does not allow refined inertia $(0, 0, 0, 4)$.

(b) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has no proper 4-cycle. Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to \mathcal{B}_2 in Table 2. \mathcal{B}_2 does not realize the refined inertia $(0, 0, 0, 4)$ since for any $A \in Q(\mathcal{B}_2)$, if the trace of A is zero, then $\det(A) = 0$.

(II) Suppose the loop of $D(\mathcal{A})$ is not incident to the 2-cycle.

(a) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 4-cycle.

(i) Suppose the proper 2-cycle shares an arc with a 4-cycle. Then \mathcal{A} is in \mathcal{C}_4 and \mathcal{A} is spectrally arbitrary by Lemma 7.2. These correspond to the second four digraphs in Figure 2.

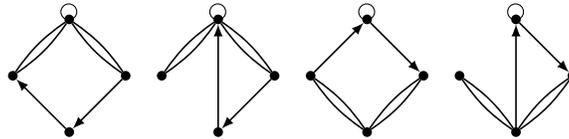


FIGURE 4. Digraphs of patterns that are not inertially arbitrary.

- (ii) Suppose the proper 2-cycle does not share an arc with a 4-cycle. Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to \mathcal{B}_3 in Table 2. \mathcal{B}_3 does not allow refined inertia $(0, 0, 0, 4)$ and so is not refined inertially arbitrary. In particular, one can check that if $A \in Q(\mathcal{B}_3)$ has characteristic polynomial $p(x) = x^4 + E_2x^2 + E_4$, with E_2 and E_4 nonzero, then E_2 and E_4 must have opposite signs.
 - (b) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has no proper 4-cycle. Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to either \mathcal{B}_4 or \mathcal{B}_5 in Table 2. There is no matrix $A \in Q(\mathcal{B}_4) \cup Q(\mathcal{B}_5)$ with refined inertia $(0, 0, 0, 4)$ since if the trace of A is zero, then $\det(A) = 0$. Thus, these two patterns are not refined inertially arbitrary.
 - (B) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has exactly two proper 2-cycles.
 - (I) Suppose both proper 2-cycles are incident to the loop. Considering \mathcal{A} is irreducible and has seven nonzero entries, \mathcal{A} would need to be equivalent to one of the first two patterns in Figure 4. But the digraph of first pattern has no composite 3-cycle and the digraph of the second pattern has no composite 4-cycle. Thus, by Lemma 2.3, neither of these patterns are inertially arbitrary.
 - (II) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has one proper 2-cycle incident to the loop and the proper 2-cycles are incident to each other. Since $D(\mathcal{A})$ must have a composite 4-cycle, \mathcal{A} must be equivalent to \mathcal{R}_1 in Table 1 or \mathcal{B}_6 in Table 2. \mathcal{R}_1 is not spectrally arbitrary since if $A \in Q(\mathcal{R}_1)$ with trace zero, then the sum of the composite 3-cycles is zero. \mathcal{B}_6 is not refined inertially arbitrary, since if $A \in Q(\mathcal{B}_6)$ with trace zero, then $\det(A) = 0$.
 - (III) Suppose one proper 2-cycle of $D(\mathcal{A})$ is incident to the loop and the proper 2-cycles are not incident to each other. Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to one of the four patterns $\mathcal{R}_2, \mathcal{R}_3, \mathcal{R}_4, \mathcal{R}_5$ in Table 1. The patterns \mathcal{R}_2 and \mathcal{R}_5 are not spectrally arbitrary since if $A \in Q(\mathcal{R}_2) \cup Q(\mathcal{R}_5)$, with the sum of the composite 2-cycles zero, then $\det(A) \neq 0$. The pattern \mathcal{R}_3 is not spectrally arbitrary since if $A \in Q(\mathcal{R}_3)$ has trace zero, then the sum of the composite 3-cycles is zero. The pattern \mathcal{R}_4 is not spectrally arbitrary since if $A \in Q(\mathcal{R}_4)$ with trace zero, $\det(A) \neq 0$, and the sum of the composite 2-cycles is zero, then $\det(A) < 0$.
 - (IV) Suppose both proper 2-cycles are not incident to the loop. Then, since \mathcal{A} is irreducible, $D(\mathcal{A})$ must be the third or fourth digraph in Figure 4. The fourth digraph has no composite 4-cycle, so its corresponding pattern is not inertially arbitrary by Lemma 2.3. One can check that the third digraph corresponds to a pattern that does not allow inertia $(2, 0, 2)$.
 - (C) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has three proper 2-cycles. In this case, the underlying graph of $D(\mathcal{A})$ must be a tree. If the tree is a star, then the digraph will have no composite 4-cycle, thus the tree must be a path. In this case, \mathcal{A} is equivalent to either the refined inertially arbitrary pattern $\mathcal{P}_{4,1}$ or $\mathcal{P}_{4,2}$.
- Case 2:** Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has exactly two loops. Note that there can be at most one proper 2-cycle in this case, since there are only seven arcs and the digraph must be strongly connected.
- (A) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 2-cycle, and it is incident to both loops. Since $D(\mathcal{A})$ must have a composite 3-cycle, \mathcal{A} will be equivalent to \mathcal{B}_7 in Table 2. In this case, if $A \in Q(\mathcal{B}_7)$ and the sum of the composite 3-cycles of A is zero, then $\det(A) = 0$. Thus, \mathcal{A} does not allow refined inertia $(0, 0, 0, 4)$.

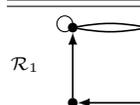
- (B) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 2-cycle, and it is incident to exactly one loop. Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to either one of the spectrally arbitrary patterns in Figure 3 or the pattern \mathcal{R}_6 in Table 1. If $A \in Q(\mathcal{R}_6)$, and if the characteristic polynomial of A is $x^4 + c$, then $c \geq 0$. Thus, \mathcal{R}_6 is not spectrally arbitrary.
- (C) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 2-cycle, and it is not incident to either loop. Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to either \mathcal{R}_7 in Table 1 or \mathcal{B}_8 in Table 2. If $A \in Q(\mathcal{R}_7)$ with trace zero, then the sum of the composite 3-cycles is zero too and so \mathcal{R}_7 is not spectrally arbitrary. If $A \in Q(\mathcal{R}_8)$ with trace zero and the sum of the composite 3-cycles is zero, then the sums of the composite 2-cycles and 4-cycles cannot both be positive. Thus, \mathcal{R}_8 does not allow refined inertia $(0, 0, 0, 4)$.
- (D) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has no proper 2-cycle. Then \mathcal{A} is not refined inertially arbitrary by Lemma 2.4.
 - (I) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has a proper 4-cycle. Then $D(\mathcal{A})$ will have exactly one proper 3-cycle. If only one loop is incident to the proper 3-cycle, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ is equivalent to one of the patterns \mathcal{J}_1 and \mathcal{J}_4 in Table 3. If both loops are incident to the 3-cycle, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ is equivalent to \mathcal{J}_2 or \mathcal{J}_3 .
 - (II) Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has no proper 4-cycle. If both loops are incident to both 3-cycles, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ has no composite 4-cycle in which case \mathcal{A} is not inertially arbitrary by Lemma 2.3. If both loops are on one of the proper 3-cycles, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ is equivalent to \mathcal{J}_5 in Table 3. If each 3-cycle is incident to exactly one loop, then $D(\mathcal{A})$ is equivalent to \mathcal{J}_6 in Table 3. □

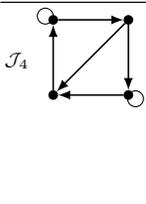
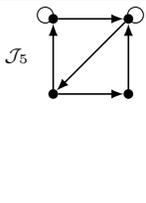
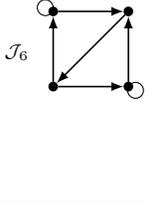
Case 3: Suppose $D(\mathcal{A})$ has exactly three loops. Then \mathcal{A} is equivalent to \mathcal{A}_4 and \mathcal{A} is inertially arbitrary but not refined inertially arbitrary by Theorem 3.1.

8. Concluding remarks. In Section 6, we characterized the refined inertially arbitrary patterns of order three. In Section 7, we determined which of the sparse irreducible patterns of order 4 are spectrally arbitrary, which are refined inertially arbitrary and which are simply inertially arbitrary. Characterizing all irreducible refined inertially arbitrary patterns of order 4 is still an open problem. Such a project would be of interest especially if it involved a development of new techniques to determine a refined inertially arbitrary pattern. It would also be of interest to explore characteristics of reducible refined inertially arbitrary patterns. These could be important for building irreducible patterns, since, for zero patterns, the eigenvalue properties that a pattern allows are preserved for superpatterns.

9. Appendix. This appendix provides the data for Theorem 7.4. Table 1 lists digraphs of patterns which are refined inertially arbitrary; for each pattern, we list specific matrices that realize the various refined inertias. Since a pattern is preserved under matrix negation, we only list matrices having inertias with $n_+ \geq n_-$. Refined inertially arbitrary patterns $\mathcal{P}_{4,1}$ and $\mathcal{P}_{4,2}$ are not represented in Table 1, nor are spectrally arbitrary patterns. Table 2 and Table 3 list digraphs of patterns which are inertially arbitrary but not refined inertially arbitrary; for each pattern we list specific matrices that realize the various inertias. This data is used in the proof of Theorem 7.4.

Table 1: Refined inertially arbitrary patterns.

Pattern	Matrix	Inertia
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & -2 & 0 & 1; & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(4, 0, 0, 0)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & -2 & 0 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(3, 1, 0, 0)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(3, 0, 1, 0)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1; & -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(2, 2, 0, 0)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(2, 1, 1, 0)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(2, 0, 2, 0)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1; & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(2, 0, 0, 2)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(1, 1, 2, 0)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(1, 1, 0, 2)$
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$(1, 0, 3, 0)$

 <p>\mathcal{J}_4</p>	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 11 & 4; & 0 & 0 & 3 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(4, 0, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(3, 1, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(3, 0, 1)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1; & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 2, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 1, 1)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 0, 2)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(1, 1, 2)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(1, 0, 3)
$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1; & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(0, 0, 4)	
 <p>\mathcal{J}_5</p>	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(4, 0, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(3, 1, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(3, 0, 1)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1; & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 2, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 1, 1)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 0, 2)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(1, 1, 2)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(1, 0, 3)
$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(0, 0, 4)	
 <p>\mathcal{J}_6</p>	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3/2 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 11/2 & 3 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(4, 0, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(3, 1, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 2 & 2 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(3, 0, 1)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 2, 0)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 1, 1)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(2, 0, 2)
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(1, 1, 2)
	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(1, 0, 3)
$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0; & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1; & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0; & 1 & 0 & 1; & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	(0, 0, 4)	

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