The closure property of $\mathcal{H}$-tensors under the Hadamard product

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Abstract

In this paper, we investigate the closure property of $\mathcal{H}$-tensors under the Hadamard product. It is shown that the Hadamard products of Hadamard powers of strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors are still strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors. We then bound the minimal real eigenvalues of the comparison tensors of the Hadamard products involving strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors. Finally, we show how to attain the bounds by characterizing these $\mathcal{H}$-tensors.

Keywords: $\mathcal{H}$-tensors; $\mathcal{M}$-tensors; Hadamard product; eigenvalues

1 Introduction

The study of tensors with their various applications has increasingly attracted extensive attention and interest [1–5]. A tensor can be regarded as a higher-order generalization of a matrix in linear algebra. However, unlike matrices, the problems for tensors are generally nonlinear. Hence, there is a large need to investigate tensor problems. Recently, some structured tensors such as nonnegative tensors, $\mathcal{M}$-tensors and $\mathcal{H}$-tensors have been introduced and studied well, and many interesting results for these tensors have been obtained because of their special structure properties [6–15]. These structural tensors have a wide range of applications such as spectral hypergraph theory, higher-order Markov chains, big amounts of data, polynomial optimization, magnetic resonance imaging, simulation, automatic control, and quantum entanglement problems [1, 2, 4–8, 10–18]. For example, the positive definiteness of an even-degree homogeneous polynomial form $f(x)$ plays an important role in the stability study of nonlinear autonomous systems via Lyapunov’s direct method in automatic control [19]. In [6], it is shown that the homogeneous polynomial form $f(x)$ is equivalent to the tensor product $A x^n$ of an $n$th-order, $n$-dimensional supersymmetric tensor $A$ and $x^n$, defined by the following equation (1.1) (see [4, 19]). In [16], Qi pointed out that $f(x)$ is positive definite if and only if the real supersymmetric tensor $A$ is positive definite. For an even-order real supersymmetric tensor $A$ of order $m$ and dimension $n$, with all diagonal elements $a_{k,k} > 0$, if $A$ is an $H$-tensor, then $A$ is positive definite [19]. The main aim of this paper is to study the closure property of structure properties of $\mathcal{H}$-tensors under the Hadamard product.
An $m$th-order $n$-dimensional real tensor $\mathcal{A}$ is a multidimensional array of $n^m$ real entries of the form

$$\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1...i_m}), \quad a_{i_1...i_m} \in \mathbb{R}, 1 \leq i_1, \ldots, i_m \leq n.$$  

The entries $a_{i_1...i_m}$ are called the diagonal entries of $\mathcal{A}$. If all its off-diagonal entries are zero, then $\mathcal{A}$ is diagonal. The identity tensor $\mathcal{I}$ is a diagonal tensor all of whose diagonal entries are 1. In the sequel, we denote by $\mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ the set of all $m$th-order $n$-dimensional real tensors.

For a tensor $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ and a vector $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_n)^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$, the tensor-vector multiplication $\mathcal{A}x^{m-1}$ is defined as an $n$-vector whose $i$th entries are

$$\langle \mathcal{A}x^{m-1} \rangle_i = \sum_{i_2, \ldots, i_m=1}^n a_{i_2...i_m} x_{i_2} \ldots x_{i_m}, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, n. \quad (1.1)$$

If there are a number $\lambda$ and a nonzero vector $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ such that

$$\mathcal{A}x^{m-1} = \lambda x^{m-1},$$

then $\lambda$ is called the eigenvalue of $\mathcal{A}$ and $x$ is the eigenvector of $\mathcal{A}$ associated with $\lambda$, where $x^{m-1}$ is the Hadamard power of $x$, i.e., $x^{m-1} = (x_1^{m-1}, \ldots, x_n^{m-1})^T$. Note that the definition of eigenvalues of tensors was independently introduced by Qi [16] and Lim [20]. Denote by $\varphi(\mathcal{A})$ the set of all the eigenvalues of $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$, and denote

$$\rho(\mathcal{A}) = \max \{ |\lambda| : \lambda \in \varphi(\mathcal{A}) \}, \quad \tau(\mathcal{A}) = \min \{ \text{Re} \lambda : \lambda \in \varphi(\mathcal{A}) \},$$

where $\text{Re} \lambda$ is the real part of $\lambda$. It is well known that if $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is a nonnegative tensor (i.e., all its entries are nonnegative), then $\rho(\mathcal{A})$ must be its eigenvalue [13, 14]; and if $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is an $\mathcal{M}$-tensor, then $\tau(\mathcal{A})$ must be its eigenvalue [15].

A tensor $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is said to be a (strong) $\mathcal{M}$-tensor if $\mathcal{A}$ can be written as $\mathcal{A} = s\mathcal{I} - \mathcal{B}$, where $\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is nonnegative and $s(\succ) \geq \rho(\mathcal{B})$. In this case, according to the proof of [15, Theorem 3.3], $\tau(\mathcal{A}) = s - \rho(\mathcal{B})$. For a tensor $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1...i_m}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$, the comparison tensor $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A}) = (m_{i_1...i_m}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is defined as

$$m_{i_1...i_m} = \begin{cases} |a_{i_1...i_m}|, & \text{if } i_1 = \cdots = i_m, \\ -|a_{i_1...i_m}|, & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases} \quad 1 \leq i_1, \ldots, i_m \leq n.$$  

**Definition 1.1** ([8, 11]) A tensor $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is called a (strong) $\mathcal{H}$-tensor if its comparison tensor $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A})$ is a (strong) $\mathcal{M}$-tensor. We denote $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) = \tau(\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A}))$.

For a nonnegative tensor $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1i_2...i_m}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$, the matrix $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}) = (r_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is called the representation of $\mathcal{A}$, where

$$r_{ij} = \sum_{i_2, \ldots, i_m=1} a_{i_2...i_m}, \quad i, j = 1, 2, \ldots, n.$$  

**Definition 1.2** ([9, 10]) A tensor $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1i_2...i_m}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is called weakly irreducible if the representation $\mathcal{R}(|\mathcal{A}|)$ of $|\mathcal{A}|$ is irreducible. We denote $|\mathcal{A}| = (|a_{i_1i_2...i_m}|)$. 
Many interesting properties have been provided for $M$-tensors. Recall that $A \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is an $H$-tensor if and only if $\mathcal{M}(A) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is an $M$-tensor. So using [15, Theorem 3.4] and [8, Theorem 3], we have the following facts on $H$-tensors that will be frequently used in the next sections:

(P1) If $A \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is an $H$-tensor, then $\sigma(A) = \sigma(|A|)$, which is the minimal real eigenvalue of $\mathcal{M}(A)$. Further, let $\mathcal{M}(A) = sI - B$ where $B$ is nonnegative and $s \geq \rho(B)$. Then $\sigma(A) = s - \rho(B)$.

(P2) If $A \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is a weakly irreducible strong $H$-tensor, then $\sigma(A) > 0$, and there exists an $n$-vector $x > 0$ such that $\mathcal{M}(A)x^{m-1} = \sigma(A)x^{m}$. 

(P3) A tensor $A \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is a strong $H$-tensor if and only if there exists an $n$-vector $x > 0$ such that $\mathcal{M}(A)x^{m-1} > 0$.

Clearly, these interesting results are due to the special structures of $H$-tensors. So it is natural to consider how to preserve the structure properties under certain operations. In addition, many interesting results have been obtained for the Hadamard products involving $M$-matrices and $H$-matrices [21]. It is natural to ask whether we can provide similar results for the tensor case. Motivated by these facts, the aim of this paper is to investigate the closure property of $H$-tensors under the Hadamard product.

Definition 1.3 Given two tensors $A = (a_{i_1,\ldots,i_m})$, $B = (b_{i_1,\ldots,i_m}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$, the Hadamard product of $A$ and $B$ is defined as $A \circ B = (a_{i_1,\ldots,i_m}b_{i_1,\ldots,i_m}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ and the $r$th Hadamard power of $A$ is defined as $A^{[r]} = (a_{i_1,\ldots,i_m}^{r}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ for $r \geq 0$.

To obtain our results, we need the following two famous inequalities:

- **Hölder’s inequality:** let $a_i$ and $b_i$ be nonnegative numbers for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, and let $0 < r < 1$. Then
  \[
  \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i^r b_i^{1-r} \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i \right)^r \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} b_i \right)^{1-r},
  \]
  and the equality holds if and only if, for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, $a_i = lb_i$ for some constant $l$.

- **Minkowski’s inequality:** let $a_i$ be nonnegative numbers for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, and let $r > 1$. Then
  \[
  \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i^r \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i \right)^r,
  \]
  and the equality holds if and only if there is at most one nonzero number for $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n$.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we show the closure property of the Hadamard products of Hadamard powers of strong $H$-tensors. In Section 3, we bound the minimal real eigenvalues of the comparison tensors of the Hadamard products involving strong $H$-tensors. In Section 4, we characterize these strong $H$-tensors such that the bounds can be obtained.

2 The closure property

In this section, we provide the closure property of the Hadamard products of Hadamard powers of strong $H$-tensors.
Lemma 2.1 Let $A, B \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ be strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors and let $0 \leq r \leq 1$. Then $A^{[r]} \circ B^{[1-r]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor.

Proof Set $A = (a_{ij_2 \ldots i_m})$ and $B = (b_{ij_2 \ldots i_m})$. By (P3), there exist positive vectors $x = (x_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $y = (y_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathcal{M}(A)x^{m-1} > 0$ and $\mathcal{M}(B)y^{m-1} > 0$, respectively. This means that, for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$,

$$|a_{i_2 \ldots i_m}|x_i^{m-1} > \sum_{(j_2 \ldots j_m) \neq (i_2 \ldots i_m)} |a_{ij_2 \ldots i_m}|x_{j_2} \ldots x_{i_m},$$

and

$$|b_{i_2 \ldots i_m}|y_i^{m-1} > \sum_{(j_2 \ldots j_m) \neq (i_2 \ldots i_m)} |b_{ij_2 \ldots i_m}|y_{j_2} \ldots y_{i_m}.$$

Note that $0 \leq r \leq 1$. Thus, using the Hölder inequality, we have

$$|a_{i_2 \ldots i_m}|^{1-r}x_i^{r-1} > \left( \sum_{(j_2 \ldots j_m) \neq (i_2 \ldots i_m)} |a_{ij_2 \ldots i_m}|x_{j_2} \ldots x_{i_m} \right)^r$$

and

$$|b_{i_2 \ldots i_m}|^{1-r}y_i^{r-1} > \left( \sum_{(j_2 \ldots j_m) \neq (i_2 \ldots i_m)} |b_{ij_2 \ldots i_m}|y_{j_2} \ldots y_{i_m} \right)^r.$$

Set $z = (x_i^r y_i^{1-r}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then the inequality above gives $\mathcal{M}(A^{[r]} \circ B^{[1-r]})z^{m-1} > 0$, from which it follows by (P3) that $A^{[r]} \circ B^{[1-r]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor. The result is proved. □

Lemma 2.2 Let $A \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ be a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor and let $t \geq 1$. Then $A^{[t]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor.

Proof Set $A = (a_{ij_2 \ldots i_m})$. Clearly, there exists a positive vector $x = (x_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathcal{M}(A)x^{m-1} > 0$ and so, for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$,

$$|a_{i_2 \ldots i_m}|x_i^{m-1} > \sum_{(j_2 \ldots j_m) \neq (i_2 \ldots i_m)} |a_{ij_2 \ldots i_m}|x_{j_2} \ldots x_{i_m},$$

from which we get, by considering $t \geq 1$ and using the Minkowski inequality,

$$|a_{i_2 \ldots i_m}|x_i^{m-1} > \left( \sum_{(j_2 \ldots j_m) \neq (i_2 \ldots i_m)} |a_{ij_2 \ldots i_m}|x_{j_2} \ldots x_{i_m} \right)^t$$

and

$$|a_{i_2 \ldots i_m}|x_i^{m-1} > \left( \sum_{(j_2 \ldots j_m) \neq (i_2 \ldots i_m)} |a_{ij_2 \ldots i_m}|x_{j_2} \ldots x_{i_m} \right)^t.$$

Set $z = (x_i^t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then $\mathcal{M}(A^{[t]})z^{m-1} > 0$ and thus $A^{[t]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor by (P3). The result is proved. □

Now we are ready to present the main result of this section.
**Theorem 2.3**  Let $A_1, \ldots, A_k \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ be strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors and let $r_1, \ldots, r_k$ be positive numbers with $\sum_{i=1}^k r_i \geq 1$. Then $A_1^{[r_1]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor.

**Proof**  Consider that $A \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor if and only if $|A| \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor. So, without loss of generality, assume that all the tensors $A_i$ are nonnegative for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$. We first use the induction on $k$ to prove the result in the case that $\sum_{i=1}^k r_i = 1$. Clearly, the result is true for $k = 2$ by Lemma 2.1. Assume that the result is true for $k - 1$. Now let

$$B^{[1-r_k]} = A_1^{[r_1]} \circ \cdots \circ A_{k-1}^{[r_{k-1}]}.$$  

Recall that each $A_i$ is nonnegative. Then

$$B = A_1^{\lceil\frac{r_1}{r_k}\rceil} \circ \cdots \circ A_{k-1}^{\lceil\frac{r_{k-1}}{r_k}\rceil}.$$  

Note that $\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{r_i}{r_k} = 1$. Hence, using the induction assumption, we conclude that $B$ is a strong tensor. Further, by Lemma 2.1, $B^{[1-r_k]} \circ A_k^{[r_k]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor. So the result is true in the case that $\sum_{i=1}^k r_i = 1$.

Now consider the general case $t = \sum_{i=1}^k r_i \geq 1$. Let $l_i = r_i t^{-1}$ for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$. Then $\sum_{i=1}^k l_i = 1$. Thus, following the case above, we know that $C = A_1^{[l_1]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[l_k]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor. Further, by considering $t \geq 1$, using Lemma 2.2 we find that $C^{[t]} = A_1^{[r_1]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor. The result is proved.

**Example 2.1**  Let $A_1 = (a_{ijkl})$, $A_2 = (b_{ijkl})$, $A_3 = (c_{ijkl}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(4,3)}$ be defined as follows:

$$
\begin{align*}
    a_{1111} &= 4, a_{2222} = 2, a_{3333} = 2, a_{1112} = a_{2211} = a_{1113} = a_{3111} = 1, & \text{otherwise } a_{ijkl} &= 0, \\
    b_{1111} &= 5, b_{2222} = 3, b_{3333} = 3, b_{1112} = b_{2211} = b_{1113} = b_{3111} = \frac{3}{2}, & \text{otherwise } b_{ijkl} &= 0, \\
    c_{1111} &= 6, c_{2222} = 3, c_{3333} = 4, c_{1112} = c_{2211} = \frac{3}{2}, c_{1113} = c_{3111} = \frac{5}{2}, & \text{otherwise } c_{ijkl} &= 0.
\end{align*}
$$

By (P3), it is ensured that $A_1$, $A_2$, and $A_3$ are strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors. Set $r_1 = r_2 = r_3 = 1$ and $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)^T = (1, 2, 2)^T$. Then $D = A_1^{[r_1]} \circ A_2^{[r_2]} \circ A_3^{[r_3]} = (d_{ijkl})$, where $d_{1111} = 120$, $d_{2222} = 18$, $d_{3333} = 24$, $d_{1112} = 3$, $d_{2211} = 3$, $d_{1113} = \frac{15}{4}$, $d_{3111} = \frac{15}{4}$, otherwise $d_{ijkl} = 0$. Since

$$
\begin{align*}
    |d_{1111}|x_1^3 &= 120 \times 1 \times 120 > |d_{1112}|x_1^2x_2 + |d_{1111}|x_1^2x_3 = 3 \times 1^2 \times 1 + \frac{15}{2} \times 1^2 \times 2 = \frac{39}{2}, \\
    |d_{2222}|x_2^3 &= 18 \times 2^3 = 144 > |d_{2211}|x_2^3 = 3 \times 1^3 = 3, \\
    |d_{3333}|x_3^3 &= 24 \times 2^3 = 192 > |d_{3111}|x_3^3 = \frac{15}{2} \times 1^3 = \frac{15}{2},
\end{align*}
$$

we see by (P3) that $D$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor.

### 3 Bounding the minimal real eigenvalues

In this section, we bound the minimal real eigenvalues of the comparison tensors of the Hadamard products involving strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors.

Let $A = (a_{ij\ldots,n}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ and let $\alpha \subseteq \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ with $|\alpha| = k$, where $|\alpha|$ denotes the number of elements of $\alpha$. A principal subtensor $A[\alpha]$ of $A$ is an $m$th-order $k$-dimensional
subtensor consisting of \( k^m \) elements defined as

\[
A[\alpha] = (a_{i_1i_2...i_m}), \quad \text{where } i_1, i_2, ..., i_m \in \alpha.
\]

For a nonnegative tensor \( B \in \mathbb{R}^{(m,n)} \), let \( B[\alpha] \) be a principal subtensor with \(|\alpha| < n\). Then \( \rho(B[\alpha]) \leq \rho(B) \) by [10, Lemma 2.2]. Further, if \( B \) is weakly irreducible, then \( \rho(B[\alpha]) < \rho(B) \) by [12, Theorem 3.3] or [11, Proposition 2.5]. Thus we immediately have the following result.

**Lemma 3.1** Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{(m,n)} \) be a strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensor and let \( A[\alpha] \) be a principal subtensor with \(|\alpha| < n\). Then \( A[\alpha] \) is a strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensor and \( \sigma(A[\alpha]) \geq \sigma(A) \). Furthermore, if \( A \) is weakly irreducible, then \( \sigma(A[\alpha]) > \sigma(A) \).

**Proof** Let \( \mathcal{M}(A) = sI - B \), where \( B \) is a nonnegative tensor and \( s > \rho(B) \). Then \( \mathcal{M}(A[\alpha]) = sI - B[\alpha] \) and \( s - \rho(B[\alpha]) \geq s - \rho(B) > 0 \). So \( A[\alpha] \) is a strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensor with \( \sigma(A[\alpha]) \geq \sigma(A) \). Further, if \( A \) is weakly irreducible, then \( B \) is also weakly irreducible by Definition 1.2, so \( \rho(B[\alpha]) < \rho(B) \), which implies that \( \sigma(A[\alpha]) > \sigma(A) \). The result is proved. \( \square \)

For a nonnegative tensor \( B \in \mathbb{R}^{(m,n)} \), by [10, Theorem 5.2], there exists a partition \( \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_p\} \) of \( \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) such that the principal subtensor \( B[\alpha_i] \) is weakly irreducible for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, p \). Also, \( \rho(B) = \rho(B[\alpha_t]) \) for some \( 1 \leq t \leq p \). Thus we immediately have the following result.

**Lemma 3.2** Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{(m,n)} \) be a strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensor. Then there exists \( \alpha \subseteq \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) such that \( A[\alpha] \) is a weakly irreducible strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensor with \( \sigma(A) = \sigma(A[\alpha]) \).

**Proof** Let \( \mathcal{M}(A) = sI - B \), where \( B \) is a nonnegative tensor and \( s > \rho(B) \). Assume that \( B[\alpha] \) is a weakly irreducible principal subtensor of \( B \) such that \( \rho(B[\alpha]) = \rho([B[\alpha]]) \). Then, by Definition 1.2 and Lemma 3.1, \( A[\alpha] \) is a weakly irreducible strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensor. Moreover, \( \sigma(A) = s - \rho(B) = s - \rho(B[\alpha]) = \sigma(A[\alpha]) \). The result is proved. \( \square \)

**Lemma 3.3** ([13, Lemma 5.3]) Let \( B \in \mathbb{R}^{(m,n)} \) be a nonnegative tensor and let \( s = \langle x_i \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^n \) be a positive vector. Then

\[
\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left( \frac{(Bz_i^{m-1})_i}{x_i^{m-1}} \right) \leq \rho(B) \leq \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left( \frac{(Bz_i^{m-1})_i}{x_i^{m-1}} \right).
\]

**Lemma 3.4** Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{(m,n)} \) be an \( \mathcal{M} \)-tensor and let \( Az_i^{m-1} \geq kz_i^{m-1} \) for a positive vector \( z \in \mathbb{R}^n \). Then \( \tau(A) \geq k \).

**Proof** Let \( A = sI - B \), where \( B \) is a nonnegative tensor and \( s \geq \rho(B) \). Since \( Az_i^{m-1} \geq kz_i^{m-1} \) for \( z = (z_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n > 0 \), we have, for all \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \),

\[
zs_i^{m-1} - (Bz_i^{m-1})_i \geq kz_i^{m-1},
\]

from which it follows that

\[
\max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left( \frac{(Bz_i^{m-1})_i}{z_i^{m-1}} \right) \leq s - k.
\]

So, by Lemma 3.3, \( \rho(B) \leq s - k \). Thus \( \tau(A) = s - \rho(B) \geq k \). The result is proved. \( \square \)
Lemma 3.5 Let $A, B \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ be strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors, and let $0 \leq r \leq 1$. Then

$$
\sigma (A^r \circ B^{1-r}) \geq \sigma (A)^r \sigma (B)^{1-r}.
$$

Proof The result is trivial for $r = 0, 1$. So let $0 < r < 1$. We first consider the case where $A^r \circ B^{1-r}$ is weakly irreducible. Obviously, both $A$ and $B$ must be weakly irreducible.

Thus, by (P2), there exist positive eigenvectors $x = (x_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $y = (y_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathcal{M}(A) x^{m-1} = \sigma (A) x^{m-1}$ and $\mathcal{M}(B) y^{m-1} = \sigma (B) y^{m-1}$, respectively. Let $A = (a_{i_1i_2...i_m})$ and $B = (b_{i_1i_2...i_m})$. Then, for all $i = 1, 2, ..., n,$

$$
\begin{align*}
|a_{i_1i_2...i_m} x^{m-1} | i_2...i_m | x_{i_2} ... x_{i_m} &= \sigma (A) x^{m-1} > 0, \\
|b_{i_1i_2...i_m} y^{m-1} | i_2...i_m | y_{i_2} ... y_{i_m} &= \sigma (B) y^{m-1} > 0.
\end{align*}
$$

Set $z = (x_i^r y_i^{1-r}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then, by the Hölder inequality, we have, for all $i = 1, 2, ..., n$,

$$
(\mathcal{M}(A^r \circ B^{1-r}) z^{m-1}) = (a_{i_1i_2...i_m} x_i^{m-1})^r (b_{i_1i_2...i_m} y_i^{m-1})^{1-r} 
- \sum_{(i_2...i_m)\neq(i,...,i)} |a_{i_2...i_m} x_{i_2} ... x_{i_m}|^r (|b_{i_2...i_m} y_{i_2} ... y_{i_m}|)^{1-r}
\geq (a_{i_1i_2...i_m} x_i^{m-1})^r (b_{i_1i_2...i_m} y_i^{m-1})^{1-r} 
- \left( \sum_{(i_2...i_m)\neq(i,...,i)} |a_{i_2...i_m} x_{i_2} ... x_{i_m}| \right)^r 
\times \left( \sum_{(i_2...i_m)\neq(i,...,i)} |b_{i_2...i_m} y_{i_2} ... y_{i_m}| \right)^{1-r}
\geq (a_{i_1i_2...i_m} x_i^{m-1})^r \sum_{(i_2...i_m)\neq(i,...,i)} |a_{i_2...i_m} x_{i_2} ... x_{i_m}|^r 
\times (b_{i_1i_2...i_m} y_i^{m-1})^{1-r} 
\geq (\sigma (A) x_i^{m-1})^r (\sigma (B) y_i^{m-1})^{1-r} = \sigma (A)^r \sigma (B)^{1-r} x_i^{m-1}. 
$$

So $\mathcal{M}((A^r \circ B^{1-r}) z^{m-1} \geq \sigma (A)^r \sigma (B)^{1-r} x_i^{m-1}$ for $z > 0$. Consider that $A^r \circ B^{1-r}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor by Theorem 3.3. Thus, using Lemma 3.4, we get $\sigma (A^r \circ B^{1-r}) \geq \sigma (A)^r \sigma (B)^{1-r}$. Now we consider the general case. Recall that $A^r \circ B^{1-r}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor. By Lemma 3.2, there exists $\sigma \subseteq \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ such that $(A^r \circ B^{1-r}) (\sigma) = (A(\sigma))^r \circ (B(\sigma))^{1-r}$ is a weakly irreducible $\mathcal{H}$-tensor with $\sigma (A^r \circ B^{1-r}) = \sigma ((A^r \circ B^{1-r}) (\sigma))$. Note that $A(\sigma)$ and $B(\sigma)$ are strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors. Thus, according to the case above, using Lemma 3.1 we get

$$
\sigma (A^r \circ B^{1-r}) = \sigma ((A(\sigma))^r \circ (B(\sigma))^{1-r}) \geq \sigma (A(\sigma))^r \sigma (B(\sigma))^{1-r} \geq \sigma (A)^r \sigma (B)^{1-r}.
$$

The result is proved.
Proof First assume that $\mathcal{A}^{[i]}$ is weakly irreducible. Obviously, $\mathcal{A}$ is weakly irreducible. Then by (P2), there exists a positive eigenvector $x = (x_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $M(\mathcal{A})x^{m-1} = \sigma(\mathcal{A})x^{m-1}$. Let $\mathcal{A} = (a_{ij1...im})$. Then, for all $i, 1, 2, \ldots, n$,

$$|a_{ii}x_i^{m-1}| - \sum_{(j_2, \ldots, j_m) \neq (i_1, \ldots, i_t)} |a_{i_2j_2...im}| x_{i_2} \cdots x_{im} = \sigma(\mathcal{A})x_i^{m-1} > 0. \tag{3.4}$$

Set $z = (z_i^j) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then, by the Minkowski inequality, we have, for all $i, 1, 2, \ldots, n$,

$$(M(\mathcal{A}^{[i]})(z^{m-1} - \sum_{(j_2, \ldots, j_m) \neq (i_1, \ldots, i_t)} |a_{i_2j_2...im}| x_{i_2} \cdots x_{im})
\geq (|a_{ii}x_i^{m-1}| - \sum_{(j_2, \ldots, j_m) \neq (i_1, \ldots, i_t)} |a_{i_2j_2...im}| x_{i_2} \cdots x_{im})^t
\geq (|a_{ii}x_i^{m-1}| - \sum_{(j_2, \ldots, j_m) \neq (i_1, \ldots, i_t)} |a_{i_2j_2...im}| x_{i_2} \cdots x_{im})
\geq \sigma(\mathcal{A})z_i^{m-1}. \tag{3.5}$$

So $M(\mathcal{A}^{[i]})(z^{m-1} - \sum_{(j_2, \ldots, j_m) \neq (i_1, \ldots, i_t)} |a_{i_2j_2...im}| x_{i_2} \cdots x_{im}) \geq \sigma(\mathcal{A})z_i^{m-1}$ for $z > 0$. Consider that $\mathcal{A}^{[i]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor by Lemma 2.2. Thus, using Lemma 3.4, we get $\sigma(\mathcal{A}^{[i]}) \geq \sigma(\mathcal{A})$.

Now we consider the general case. Recall that $\mathcal{A}^{[i]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor. By Lemma 3.2, there exists $\alpha \subseteq \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ such that $\mathcal{A}^{[i]}(\alpha) = (\mathcal{A}(\alpha))^{[i]}$ is a weakly irreducible $\mathcal{H}$-tensor with $\sigma(\mathcal{A}^{[i]}) = \sigma(\mathcal{A}(\alpha))$. Thus, according to the case above, using Lemma 3.1 we get

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}^{[i]}(\alpha)) = \sigma((\mathcal{A}(\alpha))^{[i]}) \geq \sigma(\mathcal{A}(\alpha))^{[i]} \geq \sigma(\mathcal{A})^{[i]}.$$

The result is proved. \(\square\)

Our main result of this section is the following.

**Theorem 3.7** Let $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_k \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ be strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors and let $r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_k$ be positive numbers such that $\sum_{i=1}^k r_i \geq 1$. Then

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}_1^{[r_1]} \circ \mathcal{A}_2^{[r_2]} \circ \cdots \circ \mathcal{A}_k^{[r_k]}) \geq \sigma(\mathcal{A}_1)^{r_1} \sigma(\mathcal{A}_2)^{r_2} \cdots \sigma(\mathcal{A}_k)^{r_k}. \tag{3.6}$$

**Proof** By (P1), without loss of generality, assume that all the tensors $\mathcal{A}_i$ are nonnegative for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$. We first use the induction on $k$ to prove the result in the case that $\sum_{i=1}^k r_i = 1$. Obviously, the result is true for $k = 2$ by Lemma 3.5. Assume the result is true for $k - 1$. Now let

$$\mathcal{B}^{[1-r_k]} = \mathcal{A}_1^{[r_1]} \circ \cdots \circ \mathcal{A}_{k-1}^{[r_{k-1}]}.$$

Consider that each $\mathcal{A}_i$ is nonnegative. Then

$$\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{A}_1^{[\frac{1}{r_1}] \circ \cdots \circ \mathcal{A}_{k-1}^{[\frac{1}{r_{k-1}}} \circ \mathcal{A}_k^{[r_k]}-1}.$$


Note that $\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{r_i}{1-r_i} = 1$. Thus $B$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor by Theorem 2.3. Therefore, using the induction assumption, we get

$$\sigma \left( A_1^{[r_1]} \circ A_2^{[r_2]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]} \right) = \sigma \left( (B^{[1-n]} \circ A_k^{[r_k]}) \right) \geq \sigma \left( (B^{[1-n]} \circ \sigma(A_k))^{r_k} \right)$$

$$\geq \sigma \left( (\sigma(A_1) \circ A_2 \circ \cdots \circ (A_{k-1})^{(1/n)})^{(1-n)} \sigma(A_k)^{r_k} \right)$$

$$= \sigma(A_1)^{r_1} \cdots \sigma(A_{k-1})^{r_{k-1}} \sigma(A_k)^{r_k}.$$

(3.7)

So the result is true in the case that $\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} r_i = 1$.

Now we consider the general case $t = \sum_{i=1}^{k} r_i \geq 1$. Set $l_i = r_i t^{-1}$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$. Then $\sum_{i=1}^{k} l_i = 1$. Thus $C = A_1^{[k_1]} \circ A_2^{[k_2]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[k_k]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor by Theorem 2.3. Therefore, according to the case above, using Lemma 3.6 we get

$$\sigma \left( A_1^{[r_1]} \circ A_2^{[r_2]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]} \right) = \sigma \left( C^{(t)} \right) \geq \sigma(C)^{l}$$

$$\geq \sigma \left( (A_1)^{l_1} \sigma(A_2)^{l_2} \cdots \sigma(A_k)^{l_k} \right)$$

$$= \sigma(A_1)^{r_1} \sigma(A_2)^{r_2} \cdots \sigma(A_k)^{r_k}.$$

The result is proved. \hfill $\square$

**Example 3.1** Let $A_1 = (a_{ijkl}), A_2 = (b_{ijkl}), A_3 = (c_{ijkl}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(4,2)}$ be defined as follows:

$$\begin{align*}
a_{1111} &= 4, \quad a_{1112} = a_{2111} = a_{1121} = a_{2221} = 1, \quad a_{2222} = 2, \quad \text{otherwise } a_{ijkl} = 0, \\
b_{1111} &= 5, \quad b_{1112} = b_{2111} = b_{1121} = b_{2222} = 1, \quad b_{2222} = 4, \quad \text{otherwise } b_{ijkl} = 0, \\
c_{1111} &= 6, \quad c_{1112} = a_{1211} = c_{1211} = c_{2222} = 4, \quad \text{otherwise } c_{ijkl} = 0.
\end{align*}$$

By (P3), it is assured that $A_1$, $A_2$, and $A_3$ are strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors. Now set $r_1 = r_2 = r_3 = 1$.

Then $D = A_1^{[r_1]} \circ A_2^{[r_2]} \circ A_3^{[r_3]} = (d_{ijkl})$, where $d_{1111} = 120, d_{2222} = 32, d_{1112} = 1, d_{2111} = 1, d_{1211} = 1, d_{1121} = 1, \text{otherwise } d_{ijkl} = 0$. By Corollary 2 of Qi [16], we get

$$\begin{align*}
\varphi[M(A_1)] &= [1, 2, 2, 3.547 + 2.125 i, 3.547 - 2.125 i, 5.905], \\
\varphi[M(A_2)] &= [2.422, 4, 4, 4.756 + 2.239 i, 4.756 - 2.239 i, 7.065], \\
\varphi[M(A_3)] &= [3, 4, 4, 5.547 + 2.125 i, 5.547 - 2.125 i, 7.905], \\
\varphi[M(D)] &= [31.999, 32, 32, 119.663 + 0.585 i, 119.663 - 0.585 i, 120.672].
\end{align*}$$

So $\sigma(D) = 31.999 \geq \sigma(A_1)^{l_1} \sigma(A_2)^{l_2} \sigma(A_3)^{l_3} = 1 \times 2.422 \times 3 = 7.266$.

**4 Characterizations for the equality case**

In this section, we characterize the strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors such that the equality of (3.6) holds.

**Lemma 4.1** ([12, Lemma 3.2]) Let $B \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ be a weakly irreducible nonnegative tensor and let $B z^{m-1} \leq \rho(B) z^{[m-1]}$ for a positive vector $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then $B z^{m-1} = \rho(B) z^{[m-1]}$.

Using Lemma 4.1, we immediately get the following result.

**Lemma 4.2** Let $A \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ be a weakly irreducible strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor and let $A z^{m-1} \geq \tau(A) z^{[m-1]}$ for a positive vector $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then $A z^{m-1} = \tau(A) z^{[m-1]}$. 


Proof. Let $A = sI - B$, where $B$ is a nonnegative tensor and $s > \rho(B)$. Obviously, $B$ is weakly irreducible. Since $A\mathcal{Z}^{m-1} \geq \tau(A)\mathcal{Z}^{m-1}$ where $\tau(A) = s - \rho(B)$, we have $B\mathcal{Z}^{m-1} \leq \rho(B)\mathcal{Z}^{m-1}$ for $z > 0$. Thus, by Lemma 4.1, $B\mathcal{Z}^{m-1} = \rho(B)\mathcal{Z}^{m-1}$. So $A\mathcal{Z}^{m-1} = \tau(A)\mathcal{Z}^{m-1}$. The result is proved.

For a tensor $A = (a_{i_1i_2...im}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ and a nonsingular diagonal matrix $D = \text{diag}(d_{ii}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, the tensor $C = AD^{(-1)} \cdot D \cdots D = (c_{i_1i_2...im}) \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ is defined as

$$c_{i_1i_2...im} = a_{i_1i_2...im}d_{i_1}^{(-1)}d_{i_2}d_{i_3}...d_{im}, \quad 1 \leq i_1, i_2, ..., i_m \leq n.$$  

It must be pointed out that $A$ and $C$ have the same eigenvalues [13]. In particular, if $A$ and $C$ are strong $H$-tensors, then $\mathcal{M}(C) = \mathcal{M}(A)\mathcal{|D|}^{-1} \cdot \mathcal{|D|} \cdots \mathcal{|D|}$, so $\sigma(A) = \sigma(C)$.

Lemma 4.3. Let $A, B \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}$ be weakly irreducible strong $H$-tensors and let $0 < r < 1$. Then

$$\sigma(A^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]}) = \sigma(A)^{r} \sigma(B)^{1-r}$$

if and only if there exist $\gamma > 0$ and a positive diagonal matrix $D \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ such that

$$|A| = \gamma |B|D^{-(m-1)} \cdot D \cdots D.$$  

Proof. As regards sufficiency, we have $\sigma(A)\gamma \sigma(B)^{1-r} = \gamma \sigma(B)\gamma \sigma(B)^{1-r} = \gamma \sigma(B)$ and

$$\sigma(A^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]}) = \sigma([A]^{|r|} \circ [B]^{[1-r]}) = \sigma(\gamma^{|r|} ([B]^{|r|} \circ [B]^{[1-r]})_D^{-(m-1)} \cdot D \cdots D) = \gamma \sigma(B),$$

and thus the sufficiency is true.

Necessarily, according to the proof of Lemma 3.5, there exists $\alpha \subseteq \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ such that $(A^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]})[\alpha]$ is a weakly irreducible $H$-tensor and

$$\sigma(A^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]}) = \sigma((A^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]})[\alpha]) = \sigma((A[\alpha])^{|r|} \circ (B[\alpha])^{[1-r]}) \geq \sigma(A[\alpha])^{|r|} \sigma(B[\alpha])^{1-r}.$$  

Recall that $A = (a_{i_1i_2...im})$ and $B = (b_{i_1i_2...im})$ are weakly irreducible strong $H$-tensors. Thus, if $|\alpha| < n$, then, by Lemma 3.1, $\sigma(A[\alpha]) > \sigma(A)$ and $\sigma(B[\alpha]) > \sigma(B)$, from which it follows that $\sigma(A^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]}) > \sigma(A)^{|r|} \sigma(B)^{1-r}$, a contradiction. So $|\alpha| = n$. Hence, $A^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]}$ must be weakly irreducible and thus, according to the proof of Lemma 3.5, (3.3) is true, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{M}(A^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]})z^{m-1} \geq \sigma(A)^{r} \sigma(B)^{1-r}z^{m-1} = \sigma(A)^{|r|} \circ B^{[1-r]}z^{m-1}, \quad 0 < z = (x^{|r|} \psi^{-1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n},$$
from which it follows by Lemma 4.2 that
\[
\mathcal{M}(A^{[n]} \circ B^{[1-r]})z^{m-1} = \sigma(A) \alpha \sigma(B)^{1-r} z^{m-1}.
\]
This means that the two Hölder inequalities of (3.3) are equalities and so, for all \(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n\),
\[
|a_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} = k_i |b_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| y_{i_2} \cdots y_{i_m}, \quad \forall (i_2, \ldots, i_m) \neq (i, \ldots, i)
\]
for some constant \(k_i\) and for some constant \(l_i\)
\[
\begin{cases}
\sum_{(i_2, \ldots, i_m) \neq (i, \ldots, i)} |a_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} = l_i \sum_{(i_2, \ldots, i_m) \neq (i, \ldots, i)} |b_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| y_{i_2} \cdots y_{i_m}, \\
|a_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| x_{i_2}^{m-1} = l_i |b_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| y_{i_2}^{m-1} - \sum_{(i_2, \ldots, i_m) \neq (i, \ldots, i)} |b_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| y_{i_2} \cdots y_{i_m},
\end{cases}
\]
from which we get \(k_i = l_i\) and
\[
|a_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} = k_i |b_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| y_{i_2} \cdots y_{i_m}, \quad \forall i, i_2, \ldots, i_m.
\]
By considering (3.2),
\[
\sigma(A)x_{i}^{m-1} = k_i \sigma(B)y_{i}^{m-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k_i = \frac{\sigma(A)x_{i}^{m-1}}{\sigma(B)y_{i}^{m-1}}.
\]
Therefore we have, for all \(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n\),
\[
|a_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| = |b_{i_1 \cdots i_m}| \frac{\sigma(A)x_{i}^{m-1}}{\sigma(B)y_{i}^{m-1}} y_{i_2} \cdots y_{i_m} \cdots x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} 1 \leq i_2, \ldots, i_m \leq n. \tag{4.1}
\]
Set \(D = \text{diag}(D_{1 \times 1}, \ldots, D_{n \times n}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}\) and \(\gamma = \frac{\sigma(A)}{\sigma(B)}\). Then (4.1) implies that \(|A| = \gamma |B|^D |z|^{m-1}\).

Now we characterize strong \(H\)-tensors such that the equality of (3.6) holds in the case that \(\sum_{i=1}^k r_i = 1\).

**Theorem 4.4** Let \(A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_k \in \mathcal{R}^{(m,n)}\) be strong \(H\)-tensors and let \(r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_k\) be positive numbers such that \(\sum_{i=1}^k r_i = 1\). Then
\[
\sigma(A_1^{[r_1]} \circ A_2^{[r_2]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]}) = \sigma(A_1)^{r_1} \sigma(A_2)^{r_2} \cdots \sigma(A_k)^{r_k}
\]
if and only if there exists \(\alpha \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}\) such that \(A_i[\alpha]\) is weakly irreducible with \(\sigma(A_i[\alpha]) = \sigma(A_i)\) for all \(i = 1, 2, \ldots, k\) and
\[
|A_i[\alpha]| = \gamma_i |A_i[\alpha]| D_i^{(m-1)} : D_1 \cdots D_i \quad i = 2, \ldots, k, \tag{4.2}
\]
where \(\gamma_i > 0\) and \(D_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}\) is a positive diagonal matrix.
Proof As regards sufficiency, using Lemma 3.1 and Theorem 3.7, we have

\[
\sigma (A_1^{[\sigma]} \circ A_2^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[\sigma]}) \leq \sigma ((A_1^{[\sigma]} \circ A_2^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[\sigma]})[\alpha])
\]

\[
= \sigma (|A_1[\alpha]|^{[\sigma]} \circ |A_2[\alpha]|^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ |A_k[\alpha]|^{[\sigma]})
\]

\[
= \gamma_2^{[\sigma]} \cdots \gamma_k^{[\sigma]} \sigma (|A_1[\alpha]|)
\]

\[
= \sigma (A_1[\alpha])^{\gamma_2} \sigma (A_2[\alpha])^{\gamma_3} \cdots \sigma (A_k[\alpha])^{\gamma_k}
\]

\[
\leq \sigma (A_1^{[\sigma]} \circ A_2^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[\sigma]})
\]

and thus the sufficiency is true.

Necessarily, by (P1), without loss of generality, assume that \( A_i \) is nonnegative for all \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, k \). Note that \( C = A_1^{[\sigma]} \circ A_2^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[\sigma]} \) is a strong \( H \)-tensor by Theorem 2.3. Thus by Lemma 3.2, there exists \( \alpha \subseteq \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) such that \( C[\alpha] \) is a weakly irreducible strong \( H \)-tensor with \( \sigma (C) = \sigma (C[\alpha]) \). Consider that \( C[\alpha] = (A_1[\alpha])^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]} \). Thus \( A_i[\alpha] \) is a weakly irreducible strong \( H \)-tensor for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, k \). Denote \( B^{[\sigma]} = (A_1[\alpha])^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]} \), which is weakly irreducible. Then \( B = (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]} \) is a weakly irreducible strong \( H \)-tensor. Hence, by Theorem 3.7 and Lemma 3.1, we have

\[
\sigma (C) = \sigma (B^{[\sigma]} \circ (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]}) \geq \sigma (B^{[\sigma]} \circ (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]})^{\gamma_k}
\]

\[
\geq (\sigma (A_1[\alpha])^{\gamma_1} \cdots \sigma (A_k[\alpha])^{\gamma_k})^{\gamma_k}
\]

\[
= \sigma (A_1[\alpha])^{\gamma_1} \cdots \sigma (A_k[\alpha])^{\gamma_k} \sigma (A_k[\alpha])^{\gamma_k}
\]

\[
\geq \sigma (A_1[\alpha])^{\gamma_1} \cdots \sigma (A_k[\alpha])^{\gamma_k} \sigma (A_k[\alpha])^{\gamma_k} = \sigma (C).
\]

Thus \( \sigma (A_i[\alpha]) = \sigma (A_i) \) for all \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, k \). Thus according to the observation that

\[
\sigma ((A_1[\alpha])^{[\sigma]} \circ \cdots \circ (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]}) = \sigma (A_1[\alpha])^{\gamma_1} \cdots \sigma (A_k[\alpha])^{\gamma_k} \sigma (A_k[\alpha])^{\gamma_k},
\]

where each \( A_i[\alpha] \) is a weakly irreducible strong \( H \)-tensor, we use the induction on \( k \) to prove that (4.2) is true. Clearly, (4.2) is true for \( k = 2 \) by Lemma 4.3. Assume that (4.2) is true for \( k - 1 \). Now by (4.3) we have the following statements:

1. \( \sigma (B^{[\sigma]} \circ (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]}) = \sigma (B^{[\sigma]} \circ (A_k[\alpha])^{[\sigma]} )^{\gamma_k} \) and so, by Lemma 4.3, there exist \( \gamma_k > 0 \) and a positive diagonal matrix \( D_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \) such that

\[
|A_k[\alpha]| = \gamma_k |B| (D_k^{(m-1)})^{\gamma_k} \cdot D_k \cdots D_k .
\]

2. \( \sigma (B) = \sigma (A_1[\alpha])^{\gamma_1} \cdots \sigma (A_{k-1}[\alpha])^{\gamma_{k-1}} \) and thus, by the induction assumption, we find that, for all \( i = 2, \ldots, k - 1 \), there exist \( \gamma_i > 0 \) and a positive diagonal matrix \( D_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \) such that

\[
|A_i[\alpha]| = \gamma_i |A_i[\alpha]| (D_i^{(m-1)} \cdot D_i) .
\]
Using (4.4) and (4.5), we derive that there exist \( \gamma_k > 0 \) and a positive diagonal matrix \( D_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \) such that

\[
|A_k[\alpha]| = \gamma_k |A_0[\alpha]| D_k^{m-1} \cdot D_k \cdots D_k.
\]

Thus the result is proved. \( \Box \)

Next we characterize strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensors such that the equality of (3.6) holds in the case that \( \sum_{i=1}^{k} r_i > 1 \).

**Lemma 4.5** Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{(m,n)} \) be a weakly irreducible strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensor and let \( t > 1 \). Then \( \sigma(A^{[t]}) = \sigma(A)^t \) if and only if \( n = 1 \).

**Proof** The sufficiency is trivial. Necessarily, \( A^{[t]} \) is obviously a weakly irreducible strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensor and thus, according to the proof of Lemma 3.6, (3.5) is true, i.e.,

\[
\mathcal{M}(A^{[t]}) z^{m-1} \geq \sigma(A)^t z^{[m-1]} = \sigma(A)^t z^{[m-1]}\quad 0 < z = (x_i^t) \in \mathbb{R}^n,
\]

from which it follows by Lemma 4.2 that

\[
\mathcal{M}(A^{[t]}) z^{m-1} = \sigma(A)^t z^{[m-1]}.
\]

This means that the two Minkowski inequalities of (3.5) are equalities, and so, for all \( i = 1, \ldots, n \), there is at most one nonzero element for the elements

\[
|a_{i_2, \ldots, i_m}| x_{i_2} \ldots x_{i_m}, \quad \forall (i_2, \ldots, i_m) \neq (i, \ldots, i),
\]

and there is at most one nonzero element for the two elements

\[
\sum_{(i_2, \ldots, i_m) \neq (i, \ldots, i)} |a_{i_2, \ldots, i_m}| x_{i_2} \ldots x_{i_m}, \quad |a_{i_2, \ldots, i_m}| x_{i_2}^{m-1} - \sum_{(i_2, \ldots, i_m) \neq (i, \ldots, i)} |a_{i_2, \ldots, i_m}| x_{i_2} \ldots x_{i_m}.
\]

So, because of (3.4), we have, for all \( i = 1, \ldots, n \),

\[
a_{i_2, \ldots, i_m} = 0, \quad \forall (i_2, \ldots, i_m) \neq (i, \ldots, i),
\]

by considering the fact that \( x_{i_2} \ldots x_{i_m} > 0 \), which means that \( A \) is diagonal. Recall that \( A \) is weakly irreducible. So, \( n = 1 \). The result is proved. \( \Box \)

**Theorem 4.6** Let \( A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_k \in \mathbb{R}^{(m,n)} \) be strong \( \mathcal{H} \)-tensors and let \( r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_k \) be positive numbers such that \( \sum_{i=1}^{k} r_i > 1 \). Then

\[
\sigma(A_1^{[r_1]} \circ A_2^{[r_2]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]}) = \sigma(A_1)^{r_1} \sigma(A_2)^{r_2} \cdots \sigma(A_k)^{r_k}
\]

if and only if there exists \( \alpha \subseteq \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) with \( |\alpha| = 1 \) such that \( \sigma(A_i[\alpha]) = \sigma(A_i) \) for all \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, k \).
Proof As regards sufficiency, by considering $|\alpha| = 1$, using Lemma 3.1 and Theorem 3.7, we have

$$\sigma(A_1^{[n]} \circ A_2^{[r]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]}) \leq \sigma((A_1^{[n]} \circ A_2^{[r]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]})(\alpha))$$

$$= \sigma(A_1^{\langle|\alpha|\rangle})^n \sigma(A_2^{\langle|\alpha|\rangle})^{r^2} \cdots \sigma(A_k^{\langle|\alpha|\rangle})^{r^k}$$

$$= \sigma(A_1)^n \sigma(A_2)^{r^2} \cdots \sigma(A_k)^{r^k}$$

$$\leq \sigma(A_1^{[n]} \circ A_2^{[r]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]}),$$

and thus the sufficiency is true.

Without loss of generality, assume that $A_i$ is nonnegative for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$. Note that $C = A_1^{[n]} \circ A_2^{[r]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[r_k]}$ is a strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor by Theorem 2.3. Thus, by Lemma 3.2, there exists $\alpha \subseteq \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ such that $C[\alpha]$ is a weakly irreducible strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor with $\sigma(C) = \sigma(C[\alpha])$. Set $t = \sum_{i=1}^k r_i$ and $l_i = r_i r_i^{-1}$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$. Denote $B = A_1^{[l_1]} \circ A_2^{[l_2]} \circ \cdots \circ A_k^{[l_k]}$. Then $B[\alpha]$ is a weakly irreducible strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensor. Hence, by using Lemma 3.6, Theorem 3.7 and Lemma 3.1,

$$\sigma(C) = \sigma(C[\alpha]) = \sigma((B[\alpha])^{[l]}) \geq \sigma(B[\alpha])^t$$

$$\geq (\sigma(A_1^{[l_1]}))^n (\sigma(A_2^{[l_2]}))^2 \cdots (\sigma(A_k^{[l_k]}))^k$$

$$\geq \sigma(A_1)^n \sigma(A_2)^{r^2} \cdots \sigma(A_k)^{r^k} = \sigma(C),$$

from which it follows that $\sigma(A_i^{[\alpha]}) = \sigma(A_i)$ for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$ and $\sigma((B[\alpha])^{[l]}) = \sigma(B[\alpha])^t$, which implies by Lemma 4.5 that $|\alpha| = 1$. The result is proved. \qed

5 Conclusions

In this paper, we investigate the closure property of $\mathcal{H}$-tensors under the Hadamard product. It is shown that the Hadamard products of Hadamard powers of strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors are still strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors. We then bound the minimal real eigenvalues of the comparison tensors of the Hadamard products involving strong $\mathcal{H}$-tensors. Finally, we show how to attain the bounds by characterizing these $\mathcal{H}$-tensors.

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Competing interests

All the authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors’ contributions

All authors completed the paper together. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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