

## ON SYMMETRIC MATRICES WITH EXACTLY ONE POSITIVE EIGENVALUE\*

SHU-QIAN SHEN<sup>†</sup> AND TING-ZHU HUANG<sup>‡</sup>

**Abstract.** We present a class of nonsingular matrices, the  $MC'$ -matrices, and prove that the class of symmetric  $MC$ -matrices introduced by Shen, Huang and Jing [On inclusion and exclusion intervals for the real eigenvalues of real matrices. *SIAM J. Matrix Anal. Appl.*, 31:816-830, 2009] and the class of symmetric  $MC'$ -matrices are both subsets of the class of symmetric matrices with exactly one positive eigenvalue. Some other sufficient conditions for a symmetric matrix to have exactly one positive eigenvalue are derived.

**Key words.** Eigenvalue, Symmetric matrix,  $MC$ -matrix,  $MC'$ -matrix.

**AMS subject classifications.** 15A18, 15A48, 15A57.

---

\*Received by the editors November 23, 2009. Accepted for publication February 8, 2010. Handling Editor: Michael J. Tsatsomeros.

<sup>†</sup>School of Mathematics and Computational Sciences, China University of Petroleum, Dongying, Shandong, 257061, P. R. China (sqshen@upc.edu.cn). The work of this author was supported by the NSFC Tianyuan Mathematics Youth Fund (10926086), and in part by Independent Innovation Research Plan of CUP (09CX04004A).

<sup>‡</sup>School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, Sichuan, 610054, P. R. China (tzhuang@uestc.edu.cn, tingzhuang@126.com). The work of this author was supported by NSFC (10926190, 60973015).