

Iranian Journal of Mathematical Sciences and Informatics  
Vol. 11, No. 2 (2016), pp 111-118  
DOI: 10.7508/ijmsi.2016.02.008

## Linear Functions Preserving Sut-Majorization on $\mathbb{R}^n$

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ABSTRACT. Suppose  $\mathbf{M}_n$  is the vector space of all  $n$ -by- $n$  real matrices, and let  $\mathbb{R}^n$  be the set of all  $n$ -by-1 real vectors. A matrix  $R \in \mathbf{M}_n$  is said to be *row substochastic* if it has nonnegative entries and each row sum is at most 1. For  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , it is said that  $x$  is *sut-majorized* by  $y$  (denoted by  $x \prec_{sut} y$ ) if there exists an  $n$ -by- $n$  upper triangular row substochastic matrix  $R$  such that  $x = Ry$ . In this note, we characterize the linear functions  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  preserving (resp. strongly preserving)  $\prec_{sut}$  with additional condition  $Te_1 \neq 0$  (resp. no additional conditions).

**Keywords:**(strong) Linear preserver, Row substochastic matrix, Sut-majorization.

**2000 Mathematics subject classification:** 15A04, 15A21.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Over the years, the theory of majorization as a powerful tool has widely been applied to the related research areas of pure mathematics and the applied mathematics (see [19]). A good survey on the theory of majorization was given by Marshall, Olkin, and Arnold [17]. Recently, the concept of generalized stochastic matrices has been attended specially and many papers have been published in this topic [1-8] and [10-15]. The triangular matrices play an important role in the matrix analysis and its application. So, in this work, we pay attention to a new kind of majorization which has been defined by a

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Received 17 February 2014; Accepted 14 December 2015  
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special type of the triangular matrices. Some kinds of majorization with their linear preservers can be found in [9], [16], and [18].

Throughout the article,

$\mathbf{M}_n$  denotes the set of all  $n$ -by- $n$  real matrices.

$\mathbb{R}^n$  denotes the set of all  $n$ -by-1 real vectors.

$\mathcal{RS}_n^{ut}$  denotes the collection of all  $n$ -by- $n$  upper triangular row substochastic matrices.

$\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  denotes the standard basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

$A(n_1, \dots, n_l | m_1, \dots, m_k)$  denotes the submatrix of  $A$  obtained from  $A$  by deleting rows  $n_1, \dots, n_l$  and columns  $m_1, \dots, m_k$ .

$A(n_1, \dots, n_l)$  denotes the abbreviation of  $A(n_1, \dots, n_l | n_1, \dots, n_l)$ .

$\mathbb{N}_k$  denotes the set  $\{1, \dots, k\} \subset \mathbb{N}$ .

$A^t$  denotes the transpose of a given matrix  $A \in \mathbf{M}_n$ .

$[T]$  denotes the matrix representation of a linear function  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with respect to the standard basis.

$\mathcal{C}(A)$  denotes the set  $\{\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i a_i \mid m \in \mathbb{N}, \lambda_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \leq 1, a_i \in A, \forall i \in \mathbb{N}_m\}$ , where  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$x^\downarrow = (x_1^\downarrow, \dots, x_n^\downarrow)^t$  denotes the decreasing rearrangement of a vector  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^t \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . This means  $x_1 \geq \dots \geq x_n$ .

$x^\uparrow = (x_1^\uparrow, \dots, x_n^\uparrow)^t$  denotes the increasing rearrangement of a vector  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^t \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . This means  $x_1 \leq \dots \leq x_n$ .

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a relation on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . A linear function  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be a linear preserver of  $\mathcal{R}$  if for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$x\mathcal{R}y \Rightarrow Tx\mathcal{R}Ty.$$

If  $T$  is a linear preserver of  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $Tx\mathcal{R}Ty$  implies that  $x\mathcal{R}y$ , then  $T$  is called a strong linear preserver of  $\mathcal{R}$ .

A matrix  $R \in \mathbf{M}_n$  with nonnegative entries is called row stochastic if  $Re = e$ , where  $e = (1, \dots, 1)^t \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We say that  $x$  is ut-majorized by  $y$ , written  $x \prec_{ut} y$ , if  $x = Ry$  for some upper triangular row stochastic matrix  $R$ . In [15], the authors found all linear functions  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  preserving ut-majorization with additional condition  $Te_1 \neq 0$  and strong preserving ut-majorization as follow.

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a linear function. Assume  $[T] = [a_{ij}]$ , and  $Te_1 \neq 0$ . Then  $T$  preserves  $\prec_{ut}$  if and only if

$$[T] = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & a_{1n} \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & a_{2n} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{33} & \dots & 0 & 0 & a_{3n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a_{n-1n-1} & a_{n-1n} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix},$$

$a_{11} + a_{1n} = a_{22} + a_{2n} = \dots = a_{n-1n-1} + a_{n-1n} = a_{nn}$ , and the finite sequence  $(0, a_{11}, a_{22}, \dots, a_{n-1n-1})^t$  is monotone.

**Theorem 1.3.** A linear function  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  strongly preserves  $\prec_{ut}$  if and only if there exist  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $a, a + b \neq 0$ , and

$$[T] = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & b \\ 0 & a & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & a & \dots & 0 & 0 & b \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a & b \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & a + b \end{pmatrix}.$$

In this paper, we introduce the relation  $\prec_{sut}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and we obtain all linear functions  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  preserving sut-majorization with additional condition  $Te_1 \neq 0$  and strongly preserving sut-majorization.

## 2. SUT-MAJORIZATION ON $\mathbb{R}^n$

In this section, we focus on the upper triangular row substochastic matrices and introduce a new type of majorization. Then we characterize the structure of (resp. strong) linear preservers of sut-majorization on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  (resp. no additional conditions) with additional condition  $Te_1 \neq 0$ .

**Definition 2.1.** A matrix  $R$  with nonnegative entries is called *row substochastic* if all its row sums is less than or equal to one.

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We say that  $x$  sut-majorized by  $y$  (in symbol  $x \prec_{sut} y$ ) if  $x = Ry$ , for some  $R \in \mathcal{RS}_n^{ut}$ .

Let  $x = Ry$ , for some  $R \in \mathcal{RS}_n^{ut}$ . Then

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & \dots & r_{1n-1} & r_{1n} \\ 0 & r_{22} & \dots & r_{2n-1} & r_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & r_{n-1n-1} & r_{n-1n} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & r_{nn} \end{pmatrix},$$

$\sum_{j=i}^n r_{ij} \leq 1$ ,  $r_{ij} \geq 0$ , and  $x_i = \sum_{j=i}^n r_{ij}y_j$ , for each  $i \in \mathbb{N}_n$ . So  $x_i \in \mathcal{C}\{y_i, \dots, y_n\}$ , for each  $i \in \mathbb{N}_n$ .

Also, if  $x_i \in \mathcal{C}\{y_i, \dots, y_n\}$ , for each  $i \in \mathbb{N}_n$ , then there exist  $r_{ij} \geq 0$  such that  $\sum_{j=i}^n r_{ij} \leq 1$  and  $x_i = \sum_{j=i}^n r_{ij}y_j$ , for each  $i \in \mathbb{N}_n$  and for each  $j \in \mathbb{N}_i$ . Let  $r_{ij} = 0$  for each  $1 \leq i < j$  and put  $R = (r_{ij})$ . It is clear that  $R \in \mathcal{RS}_n^{ut}$  and  $x = Ry$ . Therefore,  $x \prec_{sut} y$ .

We summarize the foregoing discussion in the following proposition. This proposition provides a criterion for sut-majorization on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^t$ ,  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)^t \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $x \prec_{sut} y$  if and only if  $x_i \in \mathcal{C}\{y_i, \dots, y_n\}$ , for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}_n$ .*

Now, we assert some prerequisites for introducing the main results of this section.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Suppose  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a linear preserver of  $\prec_{sut}$ . Assume that  $S : \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$  is a linear function with  $[S] = [T](1, \dots, k)$ . Then  $S$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x' = (x_{k+1}, \dots, x_n)^t$ ,  $y' = (y_{k+1}, \dots, y_n)^t \in \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ , and let  $x' \prec_{sut} y'$ . By Proposition 2.3, we obtain

$x := (0, \dots, 0, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_n)^t \prec_{sut} y := (0, \dots, 0, y_{k+1}, \dots, y_n)^t$ , where  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , and hence  $Tx \prec_{sut} Ty$ . This shows that  $Sx' \prec_{sut} Sy'$ . Therefore,  $S$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a linear preserver of  $\prec_{sut}$ . Then  $[T]$  is upper triangular.*

*Proof.* Let  $[T] = [a_{ij}]$ . We proceed by induction. There is nothing to prove for  $n = 1$ . Suppose that  $n \geq 2$  and that the assertion has been established for all linear preservers of  $\prec_{sut}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ . Let  $S : \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$  be the linear function with  $[S] = [T](1)$ . By Lemma 2.4,  $S$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ . The induction hypothesis insures that  $[S]$  is an  $n - 1$ -by- $n - 1$  upper triangular matrix. So it is enough to show that  $a_{21} = \dots = a_{n1} = 0$ . As  $e_1 \prec_{sut} e_2$ , we see that  $Te_1 \prec_{sut} Te_2$  and hence  $(a_{11}, \dots, a_{n1})^t \prec_{sut} (a_{12}, a_{22}, 0, \dots, 0)^t$ . It implies that  $a_{31} = \dots = a_{n1} = 0$ . So it remains to prove that  $a_{21} = 0$ . Assume, if possible, that  $a_{21} \neq 0$ . Set  $x = e_1$  and  $y = (\frac{-a_{22}}{a_{21}}, 1, 0, \dots, 0)^t$ . So  $x \prec_{sut} y$ , and then  $Tx \prec_{sut} Ty$ . This follows that  $a_{21} = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $a_{21} = 0$  and we observe that the induction argument is completed. Therefore,  $[T]$  is an upper triangular matrix.  $\square$

The following theorem characterizes structure of the linear functions  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  preserving sut-majorization with additional condition  $Te_1 \neq 0$ . Note that the vector  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^t$  is monotone if  $x = (x_1^\uparrow, \dots, x_n^\uparrow)^t$  or  $x = (x_1^\downarrow, \dots, x_n^\downarrow)^t$ .

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a linear function. Assume that  $[T] = [a_{ij}]$  and  $Te_1 \neq 0$ . Then  $T$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$  if and only if*

$$[T] = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix},$$

and the vector  $(0, a_{11}, \dots, a_{nn})^t$  is monotone.

*Proof.* First, suppose that  $T$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$ . It is clear that  $T$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$  if and only if  $\alpha T$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$  for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ . So we can assume without loss of generality that  $a_{11} = 1$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $[T]$  is upper triangular. We prove the statement by induction. The result is trivial for  $n = 1$ . Assume that our claim has been proved for all linear preservers of  $\prec_{sut}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ .

We claim that  $a_{22} \neq 0$ . If  $a_{22} = 0$ , we consider the following two cases.

First, let  $a_{12} = -1$ . Then  $e_1 \prec_{sut} e_2$ , but  $Te_1 \not\prec_{sut} Te_2$ , which is a contradiction.

Next, let  $a_{12} \neq -1$ . Put  $x = e_1 + e_2$  and  $y = -a_{12}e_1 + e_2$ . We see that  $x \prec_{sut} y$ , but  $Tx \not\prec_{sut} Ty$ . This means  $T$  does not preserve  $\prec_{sut}$ .

Thus  $a_{22} \neq 0$ .

Let  $S : \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$  be the linear function with  $[S] = [T](1)$ . By Lemma 2.4,  $S$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ . Since  $a_{22} \neq 0$ , the induction hypothesis ensures that

$$[S] = \begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{33} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix},$$

and the vector  $(0, a_{22}, \dots, a_{nn})^t$  is monotone. So it is enough to show that  $a_{12} = \dots = a_{1n} = 0$  and  $1 \leq a_{22}$ . Assume that there is some  $j$  ( $2 \leq j \leq n$ ) such that  $a_{1j} \neq 0$ . Choose  $x = -a_{1j}e_1$  and  $y = -a_{1j}e_1 + e_j$ . The proof is divided into two steps.

Step 1. If  $a_{jj} > 0$ ; We consider two cases.

Case 1.  $a_{1j} > 0$ . Since  $x \prec_{sut} y$ , but  $Tx \not\prec_{sut} Ty$ , a contradiction.

Case 2.  $a_{1j} < 0$ . As  $e_j \prec_{sut} y$ , but  $Te_j \not\prec_{sut} Ty$ , we conclude  $T$  does not preserve  $\prec_{sut}$ .

Step 2. If  $a_{jj} < 0$ ; We have two cases.

Case 1.  $a_{1j} > 0$ . One can see that  $e_j \prec_{sut} y$ , but  $Te_j \not\prec_{sut} Ty$ , which is a contradiction.

Case 2.  $a_{1j} < 0$ . It is clear that  $x \prec_{sut} y$ , but  $Tx \not\prec_{sut} Ty$ . It implies that  $T$  does not preserve  $\prec_{sut}$ .

Hence  $a_{1j} = 0$  for each  $j$  ( $2 \leq j \leq n$ ), and so

$$[T] = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $e_1 \prec_{sut} e_2$ , we have  $Te_1 \prec_{sut} Te_2$ . This means that  $1 \leq a_{22}$ . So the vector  $(0, 1, a_{22}, \dots, a_{nn})^t$  is monotone.

To prove the sufficiency, let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^t, y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)^t \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $x \prec_{sut} y$ . Then

$$Tx = (a_{11}x_1, a_{22}x_2, \dots, a_{nn}x_n)^t$$

and

$$Ty = (a_{11}y_1, a_{22}y_2, \dots, a_{nn}y_n)^t.$$

We prove  $(Tx)_i \in \mathcal{C}\{(Ty)_i, \dots, (Ty)_n\}$ , for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}_n$ . Let  $i \in \mathbb{N}_n$ . Since  $x_i \in \mathcal{C}\{y_i, \dots, y_n\}$ , then there exist  $0 \leq \alpha_i, \dots, \alpha_n \leq 1, \sum_{k=i}^n \alpha_k \leq 1$ , and  $x_i = \sum_{k=i}^n \alpha_k y_k$ . As  $a_{ii}, \dots, a_{nn} \neq 0$ , we conclude that  $(Tx)_i = \sum_{k=i}^n (\frac{a_{ii}\alpha_k}{a_{kk}})(Ty)_k$ . Clearly,  $(Tx)_i \in \mathcal{C}\{(Ty)_i, \dots, (Ty)_n\}$ . This implies that  $Tx \prec_{sut} Ty$ . Therefore,  $T$  preserves  $\prec_{sut}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.7.** *If  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a linear preserver of  $\prec_{sut}$  such that  $Te_1 \neq 0$ , then  $rank[T] = n$ .*

We observe from Theorem 1.2 that if  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a linear preserver of  $\prec_{ut}$  such that  $Te_1 \neq 0$ , then  $rank[T] \geq n - 1$ . We need the following lemma in the rest of this paper.

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a linear function that strongly preserves  $\prec_{sut}$ . Then  $T$  is invertible.*

*Proof.* Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , and let  $Tx = 0$ . Since  $Tx = T0$  and  $T$  strongly preserves  $\prec_{sut}$ , we have  $x \prec_{sut} 0$ . So  $x = 0$ . Therefore,  $T$  is invertible.  $\square$

The following theorem characterizes the linear functions  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  which strongly preserves sut-majorization. We close this paper with this theorem.

**Theorem 2.9.** *A linear function  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  strongly preserves  $\prec_{sut}$  if and only if  $[T] = \alpha I_n$ , for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .*

*Proof.* First, suppose that  $T$  strongly preserves  $\prec_{sut}$ . Lemma 2.8 ensures that  $T$  is invertible and hence  $Te_1 \neq 0$ . So by Theorem 2.6,

$$[T] = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix},$$

and the vector  $(0, a_{11}, \dots, a_{nn})^t$  is monotone.

By a simple calculation, we obtain

$$[T]^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a_{11}} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{a_{22}} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{1}{a_{nn}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $T$  strongly preserves  $\prec_{sut}$ , we conclude  $T^{-1}$  is a linear preserver of  $\prec_{sut}$ , and hence the vector  $(0, \frac{1}{a_{11}}, \dots, \frac{1}{a_{nn}})^t$  is monotone. Thus  $a_{11} = \dots = a_{nn}$ , as desired.

For the converse, assume that there exists  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\alpha \neq 0$  and  $[T] = \alpha I_n$ . Thus  $[T]^{-1} = \frac{1}{\alpha} I_n$ . It follows from Theorem 2.6,  $T$  and  $T^{-1}$  preserve  $\prec_{sut}$ , therefore,  $T$  strongly preserves  $\prec_{sut}$ .  $\square$

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author is indebted to an anonymous referee for his/her suggestions and helpful remarks.

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فرض کنید  $M_n$  فضای برداری ماتریس‌های حقیقی  $n \times n$  و  $R^n$  مجموعه‌ی بردارهای حقیقی  $n \times 1$  باشند. ماتریس  $R \in M_n$  سطری زیرتصادفی گفته می‌شود اگر درایه‌های نامنفی داشته باشد و هر مجموع سطری آن حداکثر یک باشد. برای  $x, y \in R^n$ ، گوییم  $x$  توسط  $sut$ -مهمتری برداری می‌شود (و با نماد  $x <_{sut} y$  مشخص می‌شود) اگر ماتریس سطری زیرتصادفی بالا مثلثی  $n \times n$ ،  $R$  ای وجود داشته باشد به طوری که  $x = Ry$ . در این کار توابع خطی  $T: R^n \rightarrow R^n$  نگهدارنده‌ی (به ترتیب، نگهدارنده‌ی قوی)  $<_{sut}$  با شرط اضافی  $T_{e_i} \neq 0$  (به ترتیب، بدون شرط‌های اضافی) را مشخص می‌کنیم.

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