

# Brauer Upper Bound for the Z-Spectral Radius of Nonnegative Tensors

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**Abstract** In this paper, we have proposed an upper bound for the largest Z-eigenvalue of an irreducible weakly symmetric and nonnegative tensor, which is called the Brauer upper bound:

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \max_{\substack{i,j \in N \\ j \neq i}} \left( a_{i \dots i} + a_{j \dots j} + \sqrt{(a_{i \dots i} - a_{j \dots j})^2 + 4r_i(\mathcal{A})r_j(\mathcal{A})} \right),$$

where  $r_i(\mathcal{A}) = \sum_{i_2 \dots i_m \neq i i \dots i} a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}$ ,  $i, i_2, \dots, i_m \in N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . As applications, a bound on the Z-spectral radius of uniform hypergraphs is presented.

**Keywords** bound; nonnegative tensor; Z-eigenvalue; hypergraph

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{R}$  be the real field. An  $m$ -th order  $n$  dimensional square tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  consists of  $n^m$  entries in  $\mathbb{R}$ , which is defined as follows:

$$\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}), \quad a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} \in \mathbb{R}, \quad 1 \leq i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m \leq n.$$

$\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m})$  is called nonnegative, denoted by  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{[m,n]}$ , if each of its entries  $a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m} \geq 0$ . For an  $n$ -vector  $x$ , real or complex, we define the  $n$ -vector:

$$\mathcal{A}x^{m-1} = \left( \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{i i_2 \dots i_m} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \right)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$$

and

$$x^{[m-1]} = (x_i^{m-1})_{1 \leq i \leq n}.$$

If  $\mathcal{A}x^{m-1} = \lambda x^{[m-1]}$ ,  $x$  and  $\lambda$  are all real, then  $\lambda$  is called an H-eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $x$  an H-eigenvector of  $\mathcal{A}$  associated with  $\lambda$ . If  $\mathcal{A}x^{m-1} = \lambda x$  and  $x^T x = 1$ ,  $x$  and  $\lambda$  are all real, then  $\lambda$  is called a Z-eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $x$  a Z-eigenvector of  $\mathcal{A}$  associated with  $\lambda$  (see [1]). See more

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about the eigenvalue problems of tensors in [2–9]. Let  $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . A real tensor of order  $m$  dimension  $n$  is called the unit tensor, if its entries are  $\delta_{i_1 \dots i_m}$  for  $i_1, \dots, i_m \in N$ , where

$$\delta_{i_1 \dots i_m} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i_1 = \dots = i_m, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a hypergraph with vertex set  $V(\mathcal{H}) = [n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and edge set  $E(\mathcal{H})$ . If  $|e| = k$  for  $e \in E(\mathcal{H})$ , then we say that  $\mathcal{H}$  is a  $k$ -uniform hypergraph. In this paper, we consider  $k$ -uniform hypergraphs on  $n$  vertices with  $2 \leq k \leq n$ . For  $i \in [n]$ ,  $E_i$  denotes the set of edges of  $\mathcal{H}$  containing  $i$ . The degree of a vertex  $i$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  is defined as  $d_i = |E_i|$ . If  $d_i = d$  for  $i \in V(\mathcal{H})$ , then  $\mathcal{H}$  is called a regular hypergraph (of degree  $d$ ). For  $i, j \in V(\mathcal{H})$ , if there is a sequence of edges  $e_1, \dots, e_r$  such that  $i \in e_1$ ,  $j \in e_r$  and  $e_s \cap e_{s+1} \neq \emptyset$  for all  $s \in [r-1]$ , then we say that  $i$  and  $j$  are connected. A hypergraph is connected if every pair of different vertices of  $\mathcal{H}$  is connected.

The adjacency tensor of  $\mathcal{H}$  is defined as the  $k$ -th order  $n$ -dimensional tensor  $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{H})$  whose  $(i_1 \dots i_k)$ -entry is:

$$(\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{H}))_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{(k-1)!}, & \text{if } \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \in E(\mathcal{H}), \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

When  $m = 2$ , the well-known Frobenius upper bound for the Perron root  $\rho(A)$  of a nonnegative  $n \times n$  matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  is introduced in [10, 11]:

$$\rho(A) \leq \max_{i \in N} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}.$$

By Brauer's theorem [12], Brauer and Gentry [13] derived the following improved Brauer upper bound for the Perron root  $\rho(A)$  of a nonnegative  $n \times n$  matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$ :

$$\rho(A) \leq \frac{1}{2} \max_{\substack{i, j \in N \\ j \neq i}} \left( a_{ii} + a_{jj} + \sqrt{(a_{ii} - a_{jj})^2 + 4R_i(A)R_j(A)} \right),$$

where  $R_i(A) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} - a_{ii}$ .

When  $m > 2$ , the Frobenius upper bound can be extended to establish the largest H-eigenvalue or Z-eigenvalue of a nonnegative tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  (see [3, 14]). Then, we ask that, whether the Brauer upper bound can be generalized to the largest H-eigenvalue or Z-eigenvalue of a nonnegative tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ ? Unfortunately, the answer is negative for the largest H-eigenvalue. The following example is given to show that the Brauer upper bound cannot be generalized to the largest H-eigenvalue of a nonnegative tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Example 1.1** Let  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{ijkl})$  be an order 4 dimension 2 tensor with entries defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{1111} &= 7, & a_{1112} &= a_{1211} = a_{1121} = a_{2111} = 10, \\ a_{2222} &= 6, & a_{2221} &= a_{2212} = a_{2122} = a_{1222} = 1, \end{aligned}$$

other  $a_{ijkl} = 0$ . Now, let

$$\tau(\mathcal{A}) = \frac{1}{2} \max_{\substack{i, j \in N \\ j \neq i}} \left( a_{i \dots i} + a_{j \dots j} + \sqrt{(a_{i \dots i} - a_{j \dots j})^2 + 4r_i(\mathcal{A})r_j(\mathcal{A})} \right) = 26.5811,$$

where  $r_i(\mathcal{A}) = \sum_{\delta_{i i_2 \dots i_m} = 0} a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}$ . In fact, the largest H-eigenvalue  $\rho_H(\mathcal{A}) = 30.8865 > \tau(\mathcal{A})$ . Hence, the Brauer upper bound cannot be generalized to the largest H-eigenvalue of a nonnegative tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an  $m$ -order and  $n$ -dimensional tensor. We define  $\sigma(\mathcal{A})$  the Z-spectrum of  $\mathcal{A}$  by the set of all Z-eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Assume  $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$ , then the Z-spectral radius of  $\mathcal{A}$  is denoted by

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) = \max\{|\lambda| : \lambda \in \sigma(\mathcal{A})\}.$$

In this paper, we will show that the Brauer upper bound still holds true for the largest Z-eigenvalue of a nonnegative tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ , that is

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \max_{\substack{i, j \in N \\ j \neq i}} \left( a_{i \dots i} + a_{j \dots j} + \sqrt{(a_{i \dots i} - a_{j \dots j})^2 + 4r_i(\mathcal{A})r_j(\mathcal{A})} \right).$$

As applications, a new bound on the Z-spectral radius of uniform hypergraphs is presented.

## 2. Preliminaries

The following definition for irreducibility has been introduced in [15].

**Definition 2.1** *The squire tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  is called reducible if there exists a nonempty proper index subset  $\mathbb{J} \subset \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that  $a_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m} = 0, \forall i_1 \in \mathbb{J}, \forall i_2, \dots, i_m \notin \mathbb{J}$ . If  $\mathcal{A}$  is not reducible, then we call  $\mathcal{A}$  irreducible.*

In [16], Chang, Pearson and Zhang gave the following bound for the Z-eigenvalues of an  $m$ -order  $n$ -dimensional tensor  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Theorem 2.2** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an  $m$ -order and  $n$ -dimensional tensor. Then*

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \sqrt{n} \max_{i \in N} \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n |a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}|. \quad (2.1)$$

For the positively homogeneous operators, Song and Qi [14] studied the relationship between the Gelfand formula and the spectral radius as well as the upper bound of the spectral radius. From [14, Corollary 4.5], we can get the following result:

**Theorem 2.3** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an  $m$ -order and  $n$ -dimensional tensor. Then*

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \max_{i \in N} \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n |a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}|. \quad (2.2)$$

A tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  is called weakly symmetric if the associated homogeneous polynomial  $\mathcal{A}x^m$  satisfies

$$\nabla \mathcal{A}x^m = m\mathcal{A}x^{m-1}.$$

If the tensor is positive, He and Huang gave the following Z-eigenpair bound [17, Theorem 2.7]:

**Theorem 2.4** *Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{[m, n]}$  is an irreducible weakly symmetric tensor. Then*

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq R - l(1 - \theta), \quad (2.3)$$

where  $R_i = \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n |a_{ii_2 \dots i_m}|$ ,

$$R = \max_{i \in N} R_i, \quad r = \min_{i \in N} R_i, \quad l = \min_{i_1, \dots, i_m} a_{i_1 \dots i_m}, \quad \theta = \left\{ \frac{r}{R} \right\}^{\frac{1}{m}}.$$

Li, Liu and Vong obtained the following upper bound [18, Theorem 3.5]:

**Theorem 2.5** Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{[m, n]}$  is an irreducible weakly symmetric tensor. Then

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \max_{i, j} \{R_i + a_{ij \dots j} (\delta^{-\frac{m-1}{m}} - 1)\}, \quad (2.4)$$

where

$$\delta = \frac{\min_{i, j} a_{ij \dots j}}{r - \min_{i, j} a_{ij \dots j}} (\gamma^{\frac{m-1}{m}} - \gamma^{\frac{1}{m}}) + \gamma, \quad \gamma = \frac{R - \min_{i, j} a_{ij \dots j}}{r - \min_{i, j} a_{ij \dots j}}.$$

And we define

$$r_i(\mathcal{A}) = \sum_{\delta_{ii_2 \dots i_m} = 0} |a_{ii_2 \dots i_m}|, \quad r_i^j(\mathcal{A}) = \sum_{\substack{\delta_{ii_2 \dots i_m} = 0, \\ \delta_{ji_2 \dots i_m} = 0}} |a_{ii_2 \dots i_m}| = r_i(\mathcal{A}) - |a_{ij \dots j}|.$$

The following upper bound was given in [19, Theorem 3.5]:

**Theorem 2.6** Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{[m, n]}$  is an irreducible weakly symmetric tensor. Then

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \max_{i, j \in N, j \neq i} \frac{1}{2} \{a_{i \dots i} + a_{j \dots j} + r_i^j(\mathcal{A}) + \Theta_{i, j}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\mathcal{A})\}, \quad (2.5)$$

where

$$\Theta_{i, j}(\mathcal{A}) = (a_{i \dots i} - a_{j \dots j} + r_i^j(\mathcal{A}))^2 + 4a_{ij \dots j} r_j(\mathcal{A}).$$

### 3. Main results

In this section, we consider a new upper bound for the largest Z-eigenvalue of a nonnegative tensor. In [16], Chang, Pearson and Zhang presented the following Perron-Frobenius Theorem for the Z-eigenvalue of nonnegative tensors.

**Lemma 3.1** Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{[m, n]}$  is an irreducible weakly symmetric tensor. Then the spectral radius  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A})$  is a positive Z-eigenvalue with a positive Z-eigenvector.

And a lower bound on  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A})$  is given as follows [16].

**Lemma 3.2** Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{[m, n]}$  is an irreducible weakly symmetric tensor. Then  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \geq a_{i \dots i}$ , for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

Based on the Lemmas, we give our main results as follows.

**Theorem 3.3** (Brauer upper bound) Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{[m, n]}$  is an irreducible weakly symmetric tensor. Then

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \omega = \frac{1}{2} \max_{\substack{i, j \in N \\ j \neq i}} \left( a_{i \dots i} + a_{j \dots j} + \sqrt{(a_{i \dots i} - a_{j \dots j})^2 + 4r_i(\mathcal{A})r_j(\mathcal{A})} \right).$$

**Proof** First, let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T$  be a Z-eigenvector of  $\mathcal{A}$  corresponding to  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A})$ , that is,

$$\mathcal{A}x^{m-1} = \rho_Z(\mathcal{A})x, \quad x^T x = 1. \quad (3.1)$$

Assume  $x_t = \max_{i \in N} x_i$ ,  $x_s = \max_{i \in N, i \neq t} x_i$ , then,  $x_s^{m-1} \leq x_s$ , we can get

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A})x_t = a_{t\dots t}x_t^{m-1} + \sum_{\delta_{ti_2\dots i_m}=0} a_{ti_2\dots i_m}x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m}. \quad (3.2)$$

By using  $x_t^{m-1} \leq x_t$ ,  $x_t^{m-2} \leq 1$ , we can get,

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_Z(\mathcal{A})x_t &\leq a_{t\dots t}x_t^{m-1} + \sum_{\delta_{ti_2\dots i_m}=0} a_{ti_2\dots i_m}x_t^{m-2}x_s \\ &\leq a_{t\dots t}x_t + \sum_{\delta_{ti_2\dots i_m}=0} a_{ti_2\dots i_m}x_s. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

Similarly, we can get

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_Z(\mathcal{A})x_s &= a_{s\dots s}x_s^{m-1} + \sum_{\delta_{si_2\dots i_m}=0} a_{si_2\dots i_m}x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_m} \\ &\leq a_{s\dots s}x_s^{m-1} + \sum_{\delta_{si_2\dots i_m}=0} a_{si_2\dots i_m}x_t^{m-1} \\ &\leq a_{s\dots s}x_s + \sum_{\delta_{si_2\dots i_m}=0} a_{si_2\dots i_m}x_t. \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

From Lemma 3.2, we have

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) - a_{i\dots i} \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Then, by (3.3) and (3.4), we obtain

$$(\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) - a_{t\dots t})(\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) - a_{s\dots s}) \leq r_t(\mathcal{A})r_s(\mathcal{A}). \quad (3.5)$$

Therefore,

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \left( a_{t\dots t} + a_{s\dots s} + \sqrt{(a_{t\dots t} - a_{s\dots s})^2 + 4r_t(\mathcal{A})r_s(\mathcal{A})} \right).$$

Then,

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \max_{\substack{i, j \in N \\ j \neq i}} \left( a_{i\dots i} + a_{j\dots j} + \sqrt{(a_{i\dots i} - a_{j\dots j})^2 + 4r_i(\mathcal{A})r_j(\mathcal{A})} \right).$$

Thus, we complete the proof.  $\square$

We now compare the upper bound in Theorems 3.3 with that in Theorem 2.3.

**Theorem 3.4** Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{[m, n]}$  is an irreducible weakly symmetric tensor. Then

$$\omega \leq \max_{i \in N} \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{i i_2 \dots i_m}.$$

**Proof** For any  $i, j \in N$ ,  $j \neq i$ , assume that

$$\sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{i i_2 \dots i_m} \leq \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{j i_2 \dots i_m}.$$

Then

$$0 \leq r_i(\mathcal{A}) \leq r_j(\mathcal{A}) + a_{j\dots j} - a_{i\dots i}.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} (a_{j\dots j} - a_{i\dots i})^2 + 4r_i(\mathcal{A})r_j(\mathcal{A}) &\leq (a_{j\dots j} - a_{i\dots i})^2 + 4(r_j(\mathcal{A}) - a_{j\dots j} + a_{i\dots i})r_j(\mathcal{A}) \\ &= (a_{j\dots j} - a_{i\dots i} + 2r_j(\mathcal{A}))^2. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} a_{j\dots j} + a_{i\dots i} + \sqrt{(a_{j\dots j} - a_{i\dots i})^2 + 4r_i(\mathcal{A})r_j(\mathcal{A})} &\leq a_{j\dots j} + a_{i\dots i} + a_{j\dots j} - a_{i\dots i} + 2r_j(\mathcal{A}) \\ &= 2a_{j\dots j} + 2r_j(\mathcal{A}) = \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{ji_2\dots i_m} \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$\omega = \frac{1}{2} \max_{\substack{i, j \in N \\ j \neq i}} \left( a_{i\dots i} + a_{j\dots j} + \sqrt{(a_{i\dots i} - a_{j\dots j})^2 + 4r_i(\mathcal{A})r_j(\mathcal{A})} \right) \leq \max_{i \in N} \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{ii_2\dots i_m}.$$

Thus, we complete the proof.  $\square$

**Remark 3.5** From Theorem 3.4, we know that, the upper bound  $\omega$  is tight and sharper than those in Theorems 2.2 and 2.3. And it is difficult to compare the upper bound  $\omega$  with the results in Theorems 2.4–2.6. We will research this problem in the future. But, if  $a_{ij\dots j} = 0$  for all  $i \in N$ , then the upper bounds in Theorems 2.4–2.6 reduce to  $\max_{i \in N} \sum_{i_2, \dots, i_m=1}^n a_{ii_2\dots i_m}$ , which means that, the upper bound  $\omega$  is sharper than the results in Theorems 2.4–2.6 in some cases.

**Example 3.6** We now show the efficiency of the new upper bound in Theorem 3.3 by the following example. Consider the tensor  $\mathcal{A} = (a_{ijk})$  of order 3 dimension 3 with entries defined as follows:

$$a_{111} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad a_{222} = 1, \quad a_{333} = 3, \quad \text{and} \quad a_{ijk} = \frac{1}{3} \quad \text{elsewhere.}$$

By Theorem 2.2, we have  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq 9.8150$ .

By Theorem 2.3, we have  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq 5.6667$ .

By Theorem 2.4, we have  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq 5.6079$ .

By Theorem 2.5, we have  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq 5.5494$ .

By Theorem 2.6, we have  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq 5.5296$ .

By Theorem 3.3, we have  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) \leq 4.8480$ .

In fact  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{A}) = 3.1970$ . This example shows that the bound in Theorem 3.3 is the best.

#### 4. Application to uniform hypergraphs

Let  $|\mathcal{A}|$  mean that  $(|\mathcal{A}|)_{i_1\dots i_k} = |a_{i_1\dots i_k}|$ . We need the following Lemmas.

**Lemma 4.1** ([20]) *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be two weakly symmetric and irreducible tensors of order  $m$  and dimension  $n$ . If  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{B} - |\mathcal{A}|$  are nonnegative, then  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{B}) \geq \rho_Z(\mathcal{A})$ .*

**Lemma 4.2** ([20]) *Let  $\{\mathcal{A}_k\}$  be a sequence of nonnegative, weakly symmetric and irreducible tensors of order  $m$  and dimension  $n$ , and  $\mathcal{A}_k - \mathcal{A}_{k+1}$  is nonnegative for each positive integer  $k$ . Then*

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \rho_Z(\mathcal{A}_k) = \rho_Z(\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{A}_k).$$

Now we give a new upper bound for the largest Z-eigenvalues  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{H})$  of the adjacency tensors for uniform hypergraphs.

**Theorem 4.3** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a  $k$ -uniform hypergraph on  $n$  vertices. Then*

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{H}) \leq \max_{e \in E(\mathcal{H})} \max_{\{i,j\} \in e} \sqrt{d_i d_j}. \quad (4.1)$$

**Proof** Case I.  $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{H})$  is irreducible. In this case, by Lemma 3.1, there exists a positive eigenvector corresponding to the spectral radius  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{H})$ . Then, by Theorem 3.3, we have

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{H}) \leq \max_{e \in E(\mathcal{H})} \max_{\{i,j\} \in e} \sqrt{d_i d_j}.$$

Case II.  $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{H})$  is reducible. Let  $\mathcal{A}_k(\mathcal{H}) = \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{H}) + \frac{1}{k} \mathcal{T}$ , where  $\mathcal{T}$  is an irreducible tensor whose diagonal entries are zero. By Lemmas 3.1 and 4.2, the inequality (4.1) also holds.  $\square$

For a  $k$ -uniform hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$ , let  $\Delta = d_1 \geq \dots \geq d_n = \delta$  be the degree sequence of  $\mathcal{H}$ . In 2013, Xie and Chang [21] presented the following upper bound for the largest Z-eigenvalues  $\rho_Z(\mathcal{H})$  of the adjacency tensors:

$$\rho_Z(\mathcal{H}) \leq \Delta. \quad (4.2)$$

We now show the efficiency of the new upper bound in Theorem 4.3 by the following examples.

**Example 4.4** Consider 3-uniform hypergraph  $\mathcal{G}_1$  with vertex set  $V(\mathcal{G}_1) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  and edge set  $E(\mathcal{G}_1) = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ , where  $e_1 = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $e_2 = \{1, 2, 4\}$ ,  $e_3 = \{1, 5, 6\}$ .

**Example 4.5** Consider 3-uniform hypergraph  $\mathcal{G}_2$  with vertex set  $V(\mathcal{G}_2) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and edge set  $E(\mathcal{G}_2) = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4\}$ , where  $e_1 = \{1, 6, 7\}$ ,  $e_2 = \{2, 6, 7\}$ ,  $e_3 = \{3, 6, 7\}$ ,  $e_4 = \{4, 5, 7\}$ .

	(11)	(12)
$G_1$	$\sqrt{6}$	3
$G_2$	$\sqrt{12}$	4

Table 1 Upper bounds for the hypergraphs  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$

From Table 1, we can find that, the bound (4.1) is always better than (4.2).

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