Structural or analytic derivation

For a fixed link operator, $\pi(v_s) - \pi(v_u) = \alpha[I - (1-\alpha)W^\top]^{-1}(v_s - v_u)$. Although the inverse is nonnegative, the difference vector has both signs. Positivity of the operator therefore does not imply positivity of every sports coordinate.

Comparative cost and preferred method

The exact three-node counterexample resolves a universal claim with a few rational equations. Its source difficulty rating is preserved; no measured human solution-time reduction is claimed. The structural sign argument explains why a superficially plausible monotonicity proof cannot succeed.