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Totally Positive Shapes and TP_k -completable Patterns

The notions of TP_k and of contiguity are generalized to shapes (a generalization of matrices). The relationship between positivity of contiguous minors and all minors is characterized for shapes. This and other ideas are used to address the TP_k -completion problem. In case $k = 2$, a near characterization of TP_2 -completable patterns is given.