

Generalizing Minkowski's determinantal inequality
(joint work with J.-C. Bourin)

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2011, March (Greifswald)

Plan

1. Minkowski's inequalities with a convex or concave function
2. Subadditivity/superadditivity inequalities for symmetric (anti-)norms
3. Characterization of convexity/concavity of certain trace functions
4. Minkowski's inequalities in the semifinite von Neumann algebra setting

Reference

- J.-C. Bourin and F. H., Norm and anti-norm inequalities for positive semi-definite matrices, to appear in *Internat. J. Math.* (arXiv:1012.5171)

1. Minkowski's inequalities with a convex or concave function

Notations

- \mathbb{M}_n : the $n \times n$ complex matrices
- \mathbb{M}_n^+ : the $n \times n$ positive semidefinite matrices
- $\mathbb{M}_n\{\Omega\}$: the set of Hermitian matrices $A \in \mathbb{M}_n$ with spectra in an interval Ω

Minkowski's determinantal inequality For $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$,

$$\det^{1/n}(A + B) \geq \det^{1/n} A + \det^{1/n} B,$$

i.e.,

$$\left\{ \prod_{j=1}^n \lambda_j(A + B) \right\}^{1/n} \geq \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^n \lambda_j(A) \right\}^{1/n} + \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^n \lambda_j(B) \right\}^{1/n},$$

where $\lambda_1(A) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n(A)$ are the eigenvalues of A . ($\det^{1/n}$ is superadditive and concave on \mathbb{M}_n^+)

Rotfel'd trace inequality

When $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is concave, for $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$,

$$\text{Tr } f(A + B) \leq \text{Tr } f(A) + \text{Tr } f(B)$$

Aujla-Bourin (2007)

If f is monotone concave on $[0, \infty)$ with $f(0) \geq 0$ (resp., monotone convex on $[0, \infty)$ with $f(0) \leq 0$), then for $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$,

$$f(A + B) \leq U f(A) U^* + V f(B) V^* \quad (\text{resp.}, f(A + B) \geq U f(A) U^* + V f(B) V^*)$$

for some unitary $U, V \in \mathbb{M}_n$.

Bourin (2005, 2011?)

If f is concave on an interval Ω , then for $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n\{\Omega\}$,

$$f\left(\frac{A + B}{2}\right) \geq \frac{1}{2} \left\{ U \frac{f(A) + f(B)}{2} U^* + V \frac{f(A) + f(B)}{2} V^* \right\}$$

for some unitary $U, V \in \mathbb{M}_n$.

Extensions of the Rotfel'd and Minkowski's inequalities

From the above inequalities involving unitary matrices, we have

- When $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is concave, for $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$,

$$\|f(A + B)\| \leq \|f(A)\| + \|f(B)\|$$

for any symmetric (or unitarily invariant) norm $\|\cdot\|$.

- When $g : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is convex with $g(0) = 0$, for $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$,

$$\det^{1/n} g(A + B) \geq \det^{1/n} g(A) + \det^{1/n} g(B).$$

- When $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is concave, for $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$,

$$\det^{1/n} f\left(\frac{A + B}{2}\right) \geq \frac{\det^{1/n} f(A) + \det^{1/n} f(B)}{2}.$$

2. Subadditivity/superadditivity inequalities for symmetric (anti-)norms

Definition

A functional $A \in \mathbb{M}_n^+ \mapsto \|A\|_! \in [0, \infty)$ is called a **symmetric anti-norm** if

- homogeneous and concave (equivalently, superadditive), i.e.,

$$\|\lambda A\|_! = \lambda \|A\|_!, \quad \|A + B\|_! \geq \|A\|_! + \|B\|_!$$

for any $\lambda \geq 0$ and $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$,

- unitarily invariant (or symmetric), i.e.,

$$\|A\|_! = \|UAU^*\|_!$$

for any unitary $U \in \mathbb{M}_n$ and $A \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$.

Further, define $\|X\|_! := \||X|\|_!$ for all $X \in \mathbb{M}_n$.

Symmetric anti-norm version of the von Neumann theorem

A bijective correspondence between

$\|\cdot\|!$ symmetric anti-norms on \mathbb{M}_n



$\Phi! : \mathbb{R}_+^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ homogeneous and concave functions

invariant under coordinate permutations

is determined by

$$\|A\|! = \Phi!(\lambda(A)), \quad A \in \mathbb{M}_n^+.$$

Examples

- The **Ky Fan k -anti-norm** on \mathbb{M}_n , i.e., the sum of the k smallest singular values:

$$\|A\|_{\{k\}} := \sum_{j=1}^k \mu_{n+1-j}(A)$$

- The **Schatten q -norm** (or q -quasi-norm) for $q \in (0, 1)$:

$$\|A\|_q := \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j^q(A) \right)^{1/q}$$

This $\|A\|_q$ is an anti-norm also for $q < 0$, where $\|A\|_q = 0$ if A is non-invertible.

- For $k = 1, \dots, n$, the functional

$$\Delta_k(A) := \left(\prod_{j=1}^k \mu_{n+1-j}(A) \right)^{1/k}$$

is a symmetric anti-norm on \mathbb{M}_n . In particular, $\Delta_n(A) = \det^{1/n} |A|$

- If $A \mapsto \|A\|_!$ is a symmetric anti-norm on \mathbb{M}_n^+ , then so is also $A \mapsto \|A^q\|_!^{1/q}$ for any $q \in (0, 1)$.

Theorem Let $g, f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, $0 < q < 1 < p$, $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$.

- If $g(t)$ is convex and $g^q(t)$ is subadditive,

$$\|g(A + B)\|^q \leq \|g(A)\|^q + \|g(B)\|^q$$

for any symmetric norm.

- If $f(t)$ is concave and $f^p(t)$ is superadditive,

$$\|f(A + B)\|_!^p \geq \|f(A)\|_!^p + \|f(B)\|_!^p$$

for any symmetric anti-norms.

Note Most convex functions $g : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ are not subadditive: if $g(0) = 0$ then it is automatically superadditive. So we need to consider $g^q(t)$ for some $q \in (0, 1)$ to get subadditivity.

The proof of the theorem is based on majorization and the **Ky Fan dominance principle**:

- $\|A\|_{(k)} \leq \|B\|_{(k)}$ ($k = 1, \dots, n$) $\implies \|A\| \leq \|B\|$ for every symmetric norm
- $\|A\|_{\{k\}} \leq \|B\|_{\{k\}}$ ($k = 1, \dots, n$) $\implies \|A\|_! \leq \|B\|_!$ for every symmetric anti-norm

Cor

- If $g(t) = a_0 + a_1t + \dots + a_mt^m$ with $a_k \geq 0$ then

$$\|g(A + B)\|^{1/m} \leq \|g(A)\|^{1/m} + \|g(B)\|^{1/m}$$

for $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$ and any symmetric norm.

- If $f(t) = a_1t + a_2t^{1/2} + \dots + a_mt^{1/m}$ with $a_k \geq 0$ then

$$\|f(A + B)\|_!^m \geq \|f(A)\|_!^m + \|f(B)\|_!^m$$

for $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$ and any symmetric anti-norm.

Cor Let $g, f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, $0 < q < 1 < p$, $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{M}_n^+$.

- If $g(t)$ is convex with $g(0) = 0$ and $g^q(t)$ is subadditive,

$$\text{Tr } g(A) \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n g^q(a_{ii}) \right)^{1/q}.$$

- If $f(t)$ is concave and $f^p(t)$ is superadditive,

$$\text{Tr } f(A) \geq \left(\sum_{i=1}^m f^p(a_{ii}) \right)^{1/p}.$$

Note The above reverse the standard majorization inequalities:

$$\text{Tr } g(A) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n g(a_{ii}), \quad \text{Tr } f(A) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n f(a_{ii}).$$

3. Characterization of convexity/concavity of certain trace functions

Let $\tau := (1/n)\text{Tr}$ on \mathbb{M}_n , $\varphi : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Lambda$, where Λ, Ω are intervals. When $A \in \mathbb{M}_n\{\Omega\} \mapsto \varphi \circ \tau \circ f(A)$ is convex or concave?

Theorem Let φ be continuous on Λ , $\Xi := \varphi(\Lambda)$, and assume that φ is C^2 on Λ° , $\varphi'(t) > 0$ and $\varphi''(t) < 0$ (resp., $\varphi''(t) > 0$) on Λ° . TFAE:

- (i) $\varphi'(t)/\varphi''(t)$ is convex (resp., concave) on Λ° ,
- (ii) $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \Xi^n \mapsto \varphi\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi^{-1}(x_i)\right)$ is convex (resp., concave),
- (iii) $A \mapsto \varphi \circ \tau \circ \varphi^{-1}(A)$ is convex (resp., concave) on $\mathbb{M}_n\{\Xi\}$,
- (iv) for any Ω and any $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Lambda$ with $\varphi \circ f$ convex (resp., concave), $A \mapsto \varphi \circ \tau \circ f(A)$ is convex (resp., concave) on $\mathbb{M}_n\{\Omega\}$.

Proof Obvious that (iv) \Rightarrow (iii) \Rightarrow (ii).

(ii) \Rightarrow (iv):

- φ^{-1} is increasing and convex on Ξ (easily shown by (ii)), so $f = \varphi^{-1} \circ \varphi \circ f$ is convex on Ω .
- **Ky Fan majorization:**

$$\lambda\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) \prec \frac{\lambda(A) + \lambda(B)}{2},$$

i.e.,

$$\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\lambda_i(A) + \lambda_i(B)}{2}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n,$$

with equality for $k = n$, where $\lambda(A)$ is the eigenvalue vector of A in decreasing order.

•

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\lambda\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)\right) &\prec_w f\left(\frac{\lambda(A) + \lambda(B)}{2}\right) = \varphi^{-1} \circ \varphi \circ f\left(\frac{\lambda(A) + \lambda(B)}{2}\right) \\ &\leq \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{\varphi \circ f(\lambda(A)) + \varphi \circ f(\lambda(B))}{2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

• Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi \circ \tau \circ f\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) &\leq \varphi \circ \tau \circ \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{\varphi \circ f(\lambda(A)) + \varphi \circ f(\lambda(B))}{2}\right) \\ &\leq \frac{\varphi \circ \tau \circ f(\lambda(A)) + \varphi \circ \tau \circ f(\lambda(B))}{2} \quad (\text{by (ii)}) \\ &= \frac{\varphi \circ \tau f(A) + \varphi \circ \tau f(B)}{2} \end{aligned}$$

(i) \Leftrightarrow (ii): For any $t_i \in \Lambda^\circ$, $s_i := \varphi(t_i) \in \Xi^\circ$ and $x_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $1 \leq i \leq n$, since

$$\begin{aligned} & \left. \frac{d^2}{du^2} \varphi \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi^{-1}(s_i + ux_i) \right) \right|_{u=0} \\ &= \varphi'' \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \right) \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\varphi'(t_i)} \right)^2 - \varphi' \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \right) \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\varphi''(t_i)x_i^2}{\varphi'(t_i)^3} \right), \end{aligned}$$

(ii) is equivalent to

$$(*) \quad \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\varphi'(t_i)} \right)^2 \leq \frac{\varphi' \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \right)}{\varphi'' \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \right)} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\varphi''(t_i)x_i^2}{\varphi'(t_i)^3} \right).$$

Letting $x_i := \varphi'(t_i)^2 / \varphi''(t_i)$ in (*) gives, thanks to $\varphi'(t) / \varphi''(t) < 0$,

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\varphi'(t_i)}{\varphi''(t_i)} \geq \frac{\varphi' \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \right)}{\varphi'' \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \right)},$$

which means (i). Conversely, (i) implies (*) as

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\varphi'(t_i)} \right)^2 &= \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\varphi'(t_i)^{1/2}}{\{-\varphi''(t_i)\}^{1/2}} \cdot \frac{\{-\varphi''(t_i)\}^{1/2} x_i}{\varphi'(t_i)^{3/2}} \right)^2 \\ &\leq \frac{\varphi'(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i)}{\varphi''(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i)} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\varphi''(t_i) x_i^2}{\varphi'(t_i)^3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

by using the Schwarz inequality.

Examples

- When $\varphi(t) = \log t$ on $(0, \infty)$, $\varphi'(t) > 0$, $\varphi''(t) < 0$ and $\varphi'(t)/\varphi''(t) = -t$. Hence the pressure function $\log \tau(e^{f(A)})$ (also $\log \text{Tr}(e^{f(A)})$) is convex on $\mathbb{M}_n\{\Omega\}$ for any convex $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
- When $\varphi(t) = e^t$ on \mathbb{R} , $\varphi'(t)/\varphi''(t) = 1$. Hence $\det^{1/n} f(A) = \exp \tau(\log f(A))$ is concave on $\mathbb{M}_n\{\Omega\}$ for any concave $f : \Omega \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ (extending Minkowski's inequality again).

4. Minkowski's inequalities in the semifinite von Neumann algebra setting

Notations

- (\mathcal{M}, τ) : a semifinite von Neumann algebra with a faithful normal semifinite trace τ
- $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$: the set of τ -measurable operators
(Note: if $\tau(1) < +\infty$, $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ is the set of all densely-defined closed operators affiliated with \mathcal{M} ; $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}} = B(\mathcal{H})$ if $\mathcal{M} = B(\mathcal{H})$)
- $\mathcal{M}^+ := \{x \in \mathcal{M} : x \geq 0\}$, $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+ := \{x \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}} : x \geq 0\}$
- The **generalized s -numbers** of $x \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ are

$$\mu_t(x) := \inf\{s \geq 0 : \tau(e_{(s, \infty)}(|x|)) \leq t\}, \quad t \in (0, \infty),$$

where $|x| = \int_0^\infty s de_s(|x|)$ is the spectral decomposition of $|x|$.

Definition

- For $x \in \mathcal{M}^+$ and $t \in (0, \infty)$,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_t(x) &:= \lim_{\varepsilon \searrow 0} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \log \mu_s((x + \varepsilon \mathbf{1})^{-1}) ds\right) \\ &= \inf_{\varepsilon > 0} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \log \mu_s((x + \varepsilon \mathbf{1})^{-1}) ds\right) \in [0, \infty)\end{aligned}$$

It is clear that if $x, y \in \mathcal{M}^+$ and $y \leq x$, then $\Delta_t(y) \leq \Delta_t(x)$.

- For $x \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$,

$$\Delta_t(x) := \sup\{\Delta_t(y) : y \in \mathcal{M}^+, y \leq x\}$$

- Further, define $\Delta_t(x) := \Delta_t(|x|)$ for $x \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$.

Example When $(\mathcal{M}, \tau) = (\mathbb{M}_n, \text{Tr})$, for $A \in \mathbb{M}_n$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_k(A) &= \lim_{\varepsilon \searrow 0} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \log \mu_j((|A| + \varepsilon \mathbf{1})^{-1}) \right) \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \searrow 0} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \log(\mu_{n-j+1}(A) + \varepsilon)^{-1} \right) = \left(\prod_{j=1}^k \mu_{n-j+1}(A) \right)^{1/k}, \end{aligned}$$

which is a symmetric anti-norm on \mathbb{M}_n .

Properties

(a) **If** $x, y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$ **and** $y \leq x$, **then** $\Delta_t(y) \leq \Delta_t(x)$.

(b) **For** $x \in \mathcal{M}^+$,

$$\Delta_t(x) = \begin{cases} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \log \mu_s(x^{-1}) ds \right) & \text{if } \ker x = \{0\} \text{ and } x^{-1} \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(c) If $x_n, x \in \mathcal{M}^+$, $x_n \leq \alpha \mathbf{1}$ for some $\alpha \in (0, \infty)$ and $x_n \rightarrow x$ in the measure topology, then

$$\Delta_t(x) \geq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Delta_t(x_n).$$

(d) If $x_n, x \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$, $x_n \geq \delta \mathbf{1}$ for some $\delta \in (0, \infty)$ and $x_n \rightarrow x$ in the measure topology, then

$$\Delta_t(x) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Delta_t(x_n).$$

(e) If $x \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$ and $x_n := \int_0^n s de_s(x)$, then

$$\Delta_t(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Delta_t(x_n).$$

(f) If $\tau(\mathbf{1}) < +\infty$ and $x \in \mathcal{M}$, then

$$\Delta_t(x) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{t} \int_{\tau(\mathbf{1})-t}^{\tau(\mathbf{1})} \log \mu_s(x) ds\right), \quad t \in (0, \tau(\mathbf{1})].$$

In particular, if $\tau(\mathbf{1}) = 1$ and $x \in \mathcal{M}$, then $\Delta_1(x)$ is equal to the **Fuglede-Kadison determinant** $\Delta(x) = \exp\left(\int_0^1 \log \mu_s(x) ds\right)$.

(g) If $\tau(\mathbf{1}) = +\infty$ and $x \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$, then

$$\Delta_t(x) = \lim_{\varepsilon \searrow 0} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \log \mu_s((x + \varepsilon \mathbf{1})^{-1}) ds\right).$$

Proposition For every $t > 0$, $\Delta_t(x)$ is concave (equivalently, superadditive) on $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$, i.e.,

$$\Delta_t(x + y) \geq \Delta_t(x) + \Delta_t(y), \quad x, y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+.$$

Fack (1983) and **Fack and Kosaki (1986)** discussed a different functional $\Lambda_t(x)$ for $x \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$:

$$\Lambda_t(x) := \exp \int_0^t \log \mu_s(x) ds, \quad t \in (0, \infty),$$

and established:

- **Generalized Weyl inequality**

$$\Lambda_t(xy) \leq \Lambda_t(x)\Lambda_t(y)$$

More generally, if $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is increasing and $f(e^t)$ is convex, then $\int_0^t f(\mu_s(xy)) ds \leq \int_0^t f(\mu_s(x)\mu_s(y)) ds$.

- **Conjecture due to Grothendieck**

$$\Lambda_t(\mathbf{1} + |x + y|) \leq \Lambda_t(\mathbf{1} + |x|)\Lambda_t(\mathbf{1} + |y|)$$

Difference of our Δ_t -functional from Λ_t is that Λ_t is the “product of the t th **largest** s -numbers” while Δ_t is the “product of the t th **smallest** s -numbers”. In fact, when $(\mathcal{M}, \tau) = (\mathbb{M}_n, \text{Tr})$ and $A \in \mathbb{M}_n$,

$$\Lambda_k(A) = \prod_{j=1}^k \mu_j(A), \quad \Delta_k(A) = \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^k \mu_{n-j+1}(A) \right\}^{1/k}.$$

Another difference is that the definition of Δ_t contains the normalization $1/t$ inside exp while that of Λ_t does not.

Minkowski's inequalities with a convex or concave function hold true in the semifinite von Neumann setting:

Theorem If $g : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is convex with $g(0) = 0$ then

$$\Delta_t(g(x+y)) \geq \Delta_t(g(x)) + \Delta_t(g(y))$$

for every $t \in (0, \infty)$ and every $x, y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$.

Theorem If $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is a concave continuous function then

$$\Delta_t\left(f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)\right) \geq \frac{\Delta_t(f(x)) + \Delta_t(f(y))}{2}$$

for every $t \in (0, \infty)$ and every $x, y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$.

Thank you for your attention.