

Pow 6

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Let A, B, M be Hermitian mtrx, and $t \in [0, 1]$. Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ be the eigenvalues of M . Define $V_{\lambda_i} := \{v \in \mathbb{C}^n : Mv = \lambda_i v\}$ (i.e. eigenspace of λ_i). $\forall i \in [n]$

By spectral decomposition, we can write $M = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i P_{\lambda_i}$

(where P_{λ_i} is the orthogonal projection onto V_{λ_i})

For $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, note that $f(M) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(\lambda_i) P_{\lambda_i}$. Now, say $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$ is any orthonormal base of \mathbb{C}^n . Then observe the followings:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}(f(M)) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \langle u_i, f(M)u_i \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle u_i, \left(\sum_{j=1}^n f(\lambda_j) P_{\lambda_j}\right)u_i \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\sum_{j=1}^n f(\lambda_j) \|P_{\lambda_j} u_i\|^2\right) \\ &\stackrel{(*)}{\geq} \sum_{i=1}^n f\left(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j \|P_{\lambda_j} u_i\|^2\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n f\left(\langle u_i, \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j P_{\lambda_j}\right)u_i \rangle\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(\langle u_i, Mu_i \rangle) \end{aligned} \quad (\#)$$

(*) : Since f is convex and $\sum_{j=1}^n \|P_{\lambda_j} u_i\|^2 = \|u_i\|^2 = 1$, this inequality holds.

Now, let $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$ be an orthonormal basis of \mathbb{C}^n derived from $tA + (1-t)B$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \text{Tr}(f(tA + (1-t)B)) &= \sum_{j=1}^n f(\langle u_j, (tA + (1-t)B)u_j \rangle) = \sum_{j=1}^n f(t\langle u_j, Au_j \rangle + (1-t)\langle u_j, Bu_j \rangle) \\ &\stackrel{\text{convex}}{\leq} \sum_{j=1}^n \left(t f(\langle u_j, Au_j \rangle) + (1-t) f(\langle u_j, Bu_j \rangle)\right) \\ &\leq t \cdot \text{Tr}(f(A)) + (1-t) \text{Tr}(f(B)) \end{aligned} \quad (\#)$$

Hence, the map $X \mapsto \text{Tr}(f(X))$ is also convex.

NOTE The following are some facts that I used in the proof.

① $\text{Tr} M = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle u_i, Mu_i \rangle$ where $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$ is any orthonormal base of \mathbb{C}^n

② P : orthogonal projection, so $\langle x, Px \rangle = \langle Px, Px \rangle = \|Px\|^2$