

POSITIVE MAP AS DIFFERENCE OF TWO COMPLETELY POSITIVE OR SUPER-POSITIVE MAPS

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This paper is dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Uffe Haagerup

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ABSTRACT. For a linear map from \mathbb{M}_m to \mathbb{M}_n , besides the usual positivity, there are two stronger notions, complete positivity and super-positivity. Given a positive linear map φ we study a decomposition $\varphi = \varphi^{(1)} - \varphi^{(2)}$ with completely positive linear maps $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$). Here $\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}$ is of simple form with norm small as possible. The same problem is discussed with super-positivity in place of complete positivity.

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEMS

Let \mathbb{M}_k denote the space of $k \times k$ (complex) matrices. Each matrix in \mathbb{M}_k is considered as a linear map from \mathbb{C}^k to itself. An element x of \mathbb{C}^k is treated as a *column* k -vector, correspondingly x^* is a *row* k -vector. Then given $a, b \in \mathbb{C}^k$, according to the rule of matrix multiplication, a^*b is the inner product of a and b , that is, $a^*b = \langle a|b \rangle$ while ba^* is a matrix of rank-one in \mathbb{M}_k . Be careful about that the inner product is linear in b and anti-linear in a .

For selfadjoint $X, Y \in \mathbb{M}_k$, the order relation $X \geq Y$ or equivalently $Y \leq X$ is defined as $X - Y$ is positive semi-definite. Therefore $X \geq 0$ or $0 \leq X$ simply means that X is positive semi-definite. The norm $\|X\|$ denotes the *operator norm*

$$\|X\| := \sup_{\|a\|=1} \|Xa\|.$$

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Throughout this paper, we assume $2 \leq m \leq n$. There are canonical identifications:

$$\mathbb{M}_m \otimes \mathbb{M}_n \sim \mathbb{M}_m(\mathbb{M}_n) \sim \mathbb{M}_{mn}.$$

Here $\mathbb{M}_m(\mathbb{M}_n)$ denotes the space of $m \times m$ block-matrices with entries in \mathbb{M}_n and the first identification is in the following way:

$$X \otimes Y \sim [\xi_{jk}Y]_{j,k} \quad \text{for } X = [\xi_{jk}]_{j,k} \in \mathbb{M}_m, Y \in \mathbb{M}_n.$$

Here, for simplicity of notations, an $m \times m$ (numerical) matrix with (j, k) -entry $\xi_{j,k}$ is written as $[\xi_{jk}]_{j,k}$. In analogy, an $m \times m$ block-matrix with (j, k) -block-entry $S_{j,k}$ is denoted by $[S_{jk}]_{j,k}$.

Therefore a block matrix $\mathbf{S} = [S_{jk}]_{j,k} \in \mathbb{M}_m(\mathbb{M}_n)$ is uniquely assigned as

$$[S_{jk}]_{j,k} \sim \sum_{j,k} E_{jk} \otimes S_{jk},$$

where $E_{jk} (j, k = 1, 2, \dots, m)$ are *matrix-units* in \mathbb{M}_m , that is, $E_{jk} = e_j e_k^*$ where $e_j (j = 1, \dots, m)$ is the canonical orthonormal basis of \mathbb{C}^m .

In the following, $\mathbb{M}_{(m,n)}$ denotes the real subspace of $\mathbb{M}_m(\mathbb{M}_n)$, consisting of selfadjoint elements, that is, the subspace of $\mathbf{S} = [S_{jk}]_{j,k}$ with $S_{jk} = S_{kj}^* (j, k = 1, \dots, m)$.

The cone of positive semi-definite (block) matrices in $\mathbb{M}_{(m,n)}$ will be denoted by \mathfrak{P}_0 . The order relation based on this cone is denoted by \geq as usual. Therefore $\mathbf{S} \geq 0$ means that \mathbf{S} is positive semi-definite.

In the tensor product theory a fact of key importance is the following (see [3, Chapter I-4]):

$$0 \leq X \in \mathbb{M}_m, 0 \leq Y \in \mathbb{M}_n \implies 0 \leq X \otimes Y.$$

The cone generated by $X \otimes Y$ with $0 \leq X \in \mathbb{M}_m$ and $0 \leq Y \in \mathbb{M}_n$ will be denoted by \mathfrak{P}_+ . Because of finite dimensionality of $\mathbb{M}_{(m,n)}$ it is known (see [2, p.8]) that \mathfrak{P}_+ is a (topologically) closed cone, contained in \mathfrak{P}_0 . A (block) matrix in \mathfrak{P}_+ is said to be *separable*.

The space $\mathbb{M}_{(m,n)}$ becomes a real Hilbert space with inner product

$$\langle \mathbf{T} | \mathbf{S} \rangle := \text{Tr}(\mathbf{T}\mathbf{S}),$$

and we can consider the dual cone \mathfrak{P}_- of the cone \mathfrak{P}_+ defined by

$$\mathbf{S} \in \mathfrak{P}_- \iff \langle \mathbf{S} | \mathbf{T} \rangle \geq 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{T} \in \mathfrak{P}_+. \quad (1.1)$$

The cone \mathfrak{P}_- is (topologically) closed by definition. In view of the closedness of \mathfrak{P}_+ , according to a general theory of convexity, \mathfrak{P}_+ is the dual cone of \mathfrak{P}_- .

It is well-known that the cone \mathfrak{P}_0 is selfdual, that is,

$$\mathbf{S} \in \mathfrak{P}_0 \iff \langle \mathbf{S} | \mathbf{T} \rangle \geq 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{T} \in \mathfrak{P}_0.$$

As a consequence we have the inclusion relations:

$$\mathfrak{P}_+ \subset \mathfrak{P}_0 \subset \mathfrak{P}_-.$$

Notice the algebraic relations:

$$\mathfrak{P}_0 - \mathfrak{P}_0 = \mathfrak{P}_+ - \mathfrak{P}_+ = \mathbb{M}_{(m,n)}. \quad (1.2)$$

Given a linear map $\varphi : \mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$, its Choi matrix \mathbf{C}_φ [7, p.49] is defined by

$$\mathbf{C}_\varphi := [\varphi(E_{jk})]_{j,k} \in \mathbb{M}_m(\mathbb{M}_n).$$

On the basis of the relation

$$\varphi(X) = \sum_{j,k} \xi_{jk} \varphi(E_{jk}) \quad \forall X = [\xi_{jk}]_{j,k} \in \mathbb{M}_m,$$

the original map φ is uniquely recaptured from its Choi matrix.

Further $\varphi \longleftrightarrow \mathbf{C}_\varphi$ is a linear bijection between the space of selfadjoint linear maps φ , that is,

$$\varphi(X^*) = \varphi(X)^* \quad \forall X \in \mathbb{M}_m,$$

and the space $\mathbb{M}_{(m,n)}$. This bijection is usually called the Jamiolkowski isomorphism (see [7, p.49]).

A linear map $\varphi : \mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ is said to be *positive* if $\varphi(X) \geq 0$ whenever $X \geq 0$. Our starting point is the following relation, deduced from (1.1) and the definition of \mathfrak{P}_+ (see [2, Theorem 2.1]):

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi \text{ positive} &\iff \mathbf{C}_\varphi \in \mathfrak{P}_- \\ &\iff \left[\langle x | S_{jk} x \rangle \right]_{j,k} \geq 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{M}_m \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^n. \end{aligned} \quad (1.3)$$

There is a well-known notion, stronger than positivity. A linear map $\varphi : \mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ is said to be *completely positive* if the linear map $id_N \otimes \varphi : \mathbb{M}_N \otimes \mathbb{M}_m \equiv \mathbb{M}_N(\mathbb{M}_m) \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_N(\mathbb{M}_n)$ defined by

$$(id_N \otimes \varphi)([T_{jk}]_{j,k}) := [\varphi(T_{jk})]_{j,k} \quad \forall T_{jk} \in \mathbb{M}_N$$

is positive for all $N = 1, 2, \dots$.

Usefulness of use of the Choi matrix is seen in the following theorem of Choi [4] (see [2, Theorem 2.2])

$$\varphi \text{ completely positive} \iff \mathbf{C}_\varphi \in \mathfrak{P}_0. \quad (1.4)$$

In accordance with (1.3) and (1.4), a positive linear map $\varphi : \mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ will be said to be *super-positive* [2, p.11] when

$$\mathbf{C}_\varphi \in \mathfrak{P}_+. \quad (1.5)$$

Therefore a positive linear map φ is completely positive if and only if all eigenvalues of its Choi matrix are non-negative. On the contrary, there is no simple test to check super-positivity of φ . An obvious condition, which guarantees its super-positivity, is *block-diagonality* of the Choi matrix $\mathbf{C}_\varphi = [S_{jk}]_{j,k}$, that is,

$$S_{jk} = 0 \quad \text{for } j \neq k.$$

In this case $S_{jj} \geq 0$ ($j = 1, \dots, m$) is guaranteed by the positivity of φ .

Though not used in the subsequent discussion, we notice that the following intrinsic characterization of super-positivity of φ was established by Horodecki's [5, Theorem 2]

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi \text{ super-positive} &\iff \\ \psi \circ \varphi \text{ completely positive} &\quad \forall \text{ positive } \psi : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_N. \end{aligned}$$

As usual, the (mapping) norm of a linear map $\varphi : \mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ is defined by

$$\|\varphi\| = \sup\{\|\varphi(X)\|; \|X\| \leq 1, X \in \mathbb{M}_m\}.$$

Here advantage of positivity of φ is seen in the following fact, a consequence of a theorem of Russo-Dye [6] (see [7, Theorem 1.3.3]):

$$\varphi \text{ positive} \implies \|\varphi\| = \|\varphi(I_m)\|. \quad (1.6)$$

In view of (1.2), it is seen from (1.4) and (1.5) that every selfadjoint linear map $\varphi : \mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ is written as difference of two completely positive (or even super-positive) linear maps $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$);

$$\varphi = \varphi^{(1)} - \varphi^{(2)}. \quad (1.7)$$

Of course, such decomposition is never unique.

In this paper, which is a continuation of [2], we study the problem how to construct a decomposition (1.7) of positive φ , for which the Choi matrix of $\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}$ is block-diagonal and its norm is small as possible.

2. CASE OF COMPLETE POSITIVITY

For notational convenience, let us define the *partial trace* $\chi(\mathbf{S})$ of $\mathbf{S} = [S_{jk}]_{j,k} \in \mathbb{M}_{(m,n)}$ by

$$\chi(\mathbf{S}) := \sum_j S_{jj} \in \mathbb{M}_n.$$

Then (1.6) says that

$$\varphi \text{ positive} \implies \|\varphi\| = \|\chi(\mathbf{C}_\varphi)\|. \quad (2.1)$$

For selfadjoint \mathbf{S} , its *modulus* $|\mathbf{S}| \in \mathfrak{P}_0$ is defined as the positive (semi-definite) square root of \mathbf{S}^2 . Further its *positive part* \mathbf{S}^+ and the *negative part* \mathbf{S}^- are defined as

$$\mathbf{S}^+ := \frac{1}{2} \cdot \{|\mathbf{S}| + \mathbf{S}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{S}^- := \frac{1}{2} \cdot \{|\mathbf{S}| - \mathbf{S}\}.$$

All $|\mathbf{S}|$, \mathbf{S}^+ and \mathbf{S}^- belong to the cone \mathfrak{P}_0 and the decomposition

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{S}^+ - \mathbf{S}^-$$

is called the *Jordan decomposition* of \mathbf{S} . (See [3, p. 99].)

Lemma 2.1. *If φ is a selfadjoint linear map : $\mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ with Choi matrix \mathbf{C}_φ ,*

$$\|\chi(|\mathbf{C}_\varphi|)\| \leq m \cdot \|\varphi\|.$$

A proof is found in [2, Theorem 6.2].

Theorem 2.2. *Let φ be a selfadjoint linear map : $\mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ with Choi matrix \mathbf{C}_φ . Define completely positive linear maps $\varphi^{(1)}$ and $\varphi^{(2)}$ by*

$$\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(1)}} := \mathbf{C}_\varphi^+ \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(2)}} := \mathbf{C}_\varphi^-.$$

Then $\varphi = \varphi^{(1)} - \varphi^{(2)}$ and $\|\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}\| \leq m \cdot \|\varphi\|$.

Proof. By (2.1) and Lemma 2.1

$$\|\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}\| = \|\chi(|\mathbf{C}_\varphi|)\| \leq m \cdot \|\varphi\|.$$

□

When φ is positive, a decomposition (1.7) with completely positive $\varphi^{(1)}$ and $\varphi^{(2)}$, for which $\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(1)}} + \mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(2)}}$ is block-diagonal and

$$\varphi^{(1)}(I_m) + \varphi^{(2)}(I_m) = m \cdot \varphi(I_m),$$

can be constructed rather easily.

We need a result in $\mathbb{M}_{(2,n)}$ for its proof.

Lemma 2.3.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_- \implies \begin{bmatrix} X & \pm B \\ \pm B^* & Y \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_0 \quad \exists X, Y \geq 0, X + Y = A + C.$$

Proof. By (1.3), $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_-$ means that $A, C \geq 0$ and

$$\langle x|Ax \rangle \cdot \langle x|Cx \rangle \geq |\langle x|Bx \rangle|^2 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^n,$$

which implies that

$$\langle x|\frac{1}{2}(A+C)x \rangle \geq |\langle x|Bx \rangle| \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^n. \quad (2.2)$$

We may assume here that $A + C$ is invertible. Then, with $D := \{\frac{1}{2}(A + C)\}^{\frac{1}{2}}$, (2.2) means that the *numerical radius* of $D^{-1}BD^{-1}$ is ≤ 1 , that is,

$$\|x\|^2 \geq |\langle x|(D^{-1}BD^{-1})x \rangle| \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^n.$$

Then by [1, Theorem 1] there are $R, T \geq 0$ such that $R + T = 2I_n$ and

$$\begin{bmatrix} R & \pm D^{-1}BD^{-1} \\ \pm D^{-1}B^*D^{-1} & T \end{bmatrix} \geq 0.$$

Let $X := DRD$ and $Y := DTD$. Then

$$X + Y = A + C \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} X & \pm B \\ \pm B^* & Y \end{bmatrix} \geq 0.$$

□

To apply some results of $\mathbb{M}_{(2,n)}$ to the case of $\mathbb{M}_{(m,n)}$ the following trivial facts will be used without any mention.

$$(1) \quad A_j \geq 0 \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, m) \implies \text{diag}(A_1, \dots, A_m) \in \mathfrak{P}_+ \subset \mathfrak{P}_0.$$

$$(2) \quad \mathbf{S} = [S_{jk}]_{j,k} \in \mathfrak{P}_- \implies \begin{bmatrix} S_{pp} & S_{pq} \\ S_{qp} & S_{qq} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_- \quad (\text{in } \mathbb{M}_{(2,n)}) \quad \forall p < q.$$

- (3) If $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_0$ (resp. $\in \mathfrak{P}_+$) in $\mathbb{M}_{(2,n)}$ then, for any $1 \leq j < k \leq m$, the (block) matrix $\mathbf{S} \in \mathfrak{P}_0$ (resp. $\in \mathfrak{P}_+$) where
- $$S_{jj} = A, S_{jk} = B, S_{kj} = B^*, S_{kk} = C, \text{ and } S_{pq} = 0 \text{ if } p \neq j \text{ or } q \neq k.$$

Theorem 2.4. *Let φ be a positive linear map : $\mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$. Then there are completely positive linear maps $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$) : $\mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ such that $\varphi = \varphi^{(1)} - \varphi^{(2)}$, the Choi matrix of $\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}$ is block-diagonal and*

$$\varphi^{(1)}(I_m) + \varphi^{(2)}(I_m) = m \cdot \varphi(I_m).$$

Proof. Let $\mathbf{C}_\varphi = [S_{jk}]_{j,k}$ be the Choi matrix of φ . Since

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_{jj} & S_{jk} \\ S_{kj} & S_{kk} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_- \quad \text{in } \mathbb{M}_{(2,n)} \quad \forall j < k$$

by Lemma 2.3 there are $0 \leq X_{j,k}, X_{k,j} \in \mathbb{M}_n$ such that

$$X_{j,k} + X_{k,j} = S_{jj} + S_{kk} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} X_{j,k} & \pm S_{jk} \\ \pm S_{kj} & X_{k,j} \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (2.3)$$

Let $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$) be the selfadjoint linear maps: $\mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ with respective Choi matrix $\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(j)}}$ ($j = 1, 2$) given by

$$\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(1)}} := \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \text{Diag}(\mathbf{C}_\varphi) + \text{diag}(A_1, \dots, A_m) + \mathbf{C}_\varphi \right\}$$

and

$$\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(2)}} := \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \text{Diag}(\mathbf{C}_\varphi) + \text{diag}(A_1, \dots, A_m) - \mathbf{C}_\varphi \right\},$$

where

$$\text{Diag}(\mathbf{C}_\varphi) := \text{diag}(S_{11}, \dots, S_{mm})$$

and

$$A_j := \sum_{1 \leq k < j} X_{k,j} + \sum_{j < k \leq m} X_{j,k} \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, m).$$

Then it is clear that $\varphi = \varphi^{(1)} - \varphi^{(2)}$, and by (2.3)

$$\chi(\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(1)}} + \mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(2)}}) = m \cdot \chi(\mathbf{C}_\varphi),$$

and that the Choi matrix of $\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}$ is block-diagonal. That $\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(j)}} \in \mathfrak{P}_0$ ($j = 1, 2$) comes also from (2.3). Therefore both $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$) are completely positive by (1.4). \square

Optimality of the constant m in Theorem 2.4 is pointed out in [2, p.28]. In fact, when $m = n$, for the positive linear map $\varphi_0(X) := X^T$ (transpose map) any decomposition $\varphi_0 = \varphi^{(1)} - \varphi^{(2)}$ with completely positive $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$) satisfies necessarily

$$\|\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}\| \geq m \cdot \|\varphi_0\|.$$

3. CASE OF SUPER-POSITIVITY

In the case of decomposition with super-positive linear maps, there is no canonical decomposition as Jordan decomposition in Section 2. However, the same idea as in the proof of Theorem 2.4 can be used to find a suitable decomposition.

This approach was used already in [2, Theorem 7.4]. Let me present the same result again to show how the difference of scalars, m and $2m - 1$, appears.

Lemma 3.1.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_- \implies \begin{bmatrix} A + C & \pm B \\ \pm B^* & A + C \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_+.$$

A proof is found in [2, Theorem 4.10]. This lemma corresponds to Lemma 2.3.

Theorem 3.2. *Let φ be a positive linear map $:\mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$. Then there are super-positive linear maps $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$) $:\mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ such that $\varphi = \varphi^{(1)} - \varphi^{(2)}$, the Choi matrix of $\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}$ is block-diagonal and*

$$\varphi^{(1)}(I_m) + \varphi^{(2)}(I_m) = (2m - 1) \cdot \varphi(I_m).$$

Proof. Let $\mathbf{C}_\varphi = [S_{jk}]_{j,k}$ be the Choi matrix of φ , and let $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$) be the linear maps with respective Choi matrix $\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(j)}}$ ($j = 1, 2$) given by

$$\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(1)}} := \frac{1}{2} \left\{ (m - 1) \cdot \text{Diag}(\mathbf{C}_\varphi) + I_m \otimes \chi(\mathbf{C}_\varphi) + \mathbf{C}_\varphi \right\}$$

and

$$\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(2)}} := \frac{1}{2} \left\{ (m - 1) \cdot \text{Diag}(\mathbf{C}_\varphi) + I_m \otimes \chi(\mathbf{C}_\varphi) - \mathbf{C}_\varphi \right\}.$$

It is clear that

$$\chi(\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(1)}} + \mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(2)}}) = (2m - 1) \cdot \chi(\mathbf{C}_\varphi),$$

and that the Choi matrix of $\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}$ is block-diagonal.

It remains to show that $\mathbf{C}_{\varphi^{(j)}} \in \mathfrak{P}_+$ ($j = 1, 2$). As in the proof of Theorem 2.4, this follows principally from Lemma 3.1:

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_{jj} + S_{kk} & \pm S_{jk} \\ \pm S_{kj} & S_{jj} + S_{kk} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathfrak{P}_+ \quad \forall j < k.$$

□

Optimality of the constant $2m - 1$ in Theorem 3.2 is pointed out in [2, Theorem 7.6]. In fact, when $m = n$, for the (completely) positive map $\varphi_0(X) = X$ (*identity map*), any decomposition $\varphi_0 = \varphi^{(1)} - \varphi^{(2)}$ with super-positive $\varphi^{(j)}$ ($j = 1, 2$) satisfies necessarily

$$\|\varphi^{(1)} + \varphi^{(2)}\| \geq (2m - 1) \cdot \|\varphi_0\|.$$

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