# Square-summable rank-one decomposition of nuclear operators

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#### Abstract

A problem posed by H. Feichtinger (and subsequently by C. Heil and D. Larson) asks whether a positive-definite integral operator with  $M_1$  kernel admits a rank-one decomposition series that is also strongly square-summable in  $M_1$ . In this note, we approach this problem by considering its matrix (and finite-dimensional) variant and analyzing several functionals that measure the optimality of such decomposition. Some of the results are based on the joint work with Radu Balan.

Let X, Y be Banach spaces and let  $x^* \in X^*, y \in Y$ , we write  $yx^* = x^* \otimes y : X \to Y$  to denote the rank-one operator specified by  $yx^*(z) = x^*(z)y$ . We define  $||z||_p := (\sum_{k=1}^n |z(k)|^p)^{1/p}$  for  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$  or  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with the usual modification for  $p = \infty$ . We use  $\ell_p^n$  to denote  $\mathbb{R}^n$  or  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with  $||\cdot||_p$ .

## 1 The Main Problem

Problem 1.1 (Feichtinger '04, Heil-Larson '06). Given a positive semidefinite trace-class operator

$$T: L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \to L^2(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad f \mapsto \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k(x, y) f(y) dy$$

with  $k \in M_1(\mathbb{R}^{2d})$ , can we find  $(g_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that the operator-norm convergent series

$$T = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} g_k g_k^* \text{ satisfies } \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \|g_k\|_{M_1(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 < \infty?$$

Here,  $M_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is the  $L_1$ -modulation space, also called the Feichtinger algebra, and is normed by

$$\|f\|_{M_1(\mathbb{R}^d)} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} |V_g f(\tau, \omega)| \, d\tau d\omega$$

where  $V_g$  is the windowed Fourier transform against a Gaussian window  $g(x) = \exp(-\pi |x|^2), V_g f(\tau, \omega) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{-2\pi I \omega \cdot x} f(x) g(x-\tau) dx.$ 

By choosing a suitable ONB associated with  $M_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  (see [3]), the problem above is equivalent to the following.

**Problem 1.2** (Heil-Larson '06). Let  $\mathcal{E} = \{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be an orthonormal basis for a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Let  $(c_{mn}) \in \ell_1(\mathbb{N}^2)$  such that  $c_{mn} = \overline{c_{mn}}$  for all  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Define  $T : \mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{H}$  by  $T = \sum_{m,n \in \mathbb{N}} c_{mn} e_m^* \otimes e_n$ , convergent in both in strong operator topology and absolutely in trace-class topology. Can we find

$$h_k \in \mathcal{H}_1 := \left\{ h \in \mathcal{H} : \left\| h \right\|_1 := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| \langle h, e_n \rangle \right| < \infty \right\} \subset_{dense} \mathcal{H}$$

such that  $T = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} h_k^* \otimes h_k$  (in suitable topology) and

(1.1) 
$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \|h_k\|_1^2 = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle h, e_n \rangle|\right)^2 < \infty.$$

We will see that  $\sum \|h_k\|_1^2 < \infty$  guarantees convergence in operator norm topology.

**Proposition 1.1** ([1]). For  $\mathcal{H} = \ell_2$  and  $e_k = \delta_k$ ,  $\mathcal{H} = \ell_1$ .

Therefore, we can state an even simpler version of the problem.

**Problem 1.3.** Let  $T : \ell_2 \to \ell_2$  be a Hermitian positive operator with  $\sum_{kl} |\langle \delta_k, T \delta_l \rangle| < \infty$  (hence trace-class). Can we find  $h_k \in \ell_1$  such that  $T = \sum_k h_k h_k^*$  and  $\sum_k \|h_k\|_1^2 < \infty$ ?

We now consider a finite-dimensional variant. Let  $\operatorname{Sym}^{n}(\mathbb{C})$  denote the space of Hermitian  $n \times n$  matrices. For  $A \in \text{Sym}^n$ , we define

$$||A||_{1,1} = \sum_{k,l=1}^{n} |A_{kl}|.$$

Let  $\mathrm{PSD}^n(\mathbb{C})$  denote the cone of positive semidefinite matrices. For  $A \in \mathrm{PSD}^n$ , define

$$\gamma_+(A) := \inf \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^N \|z_k\|_1^2 : A = \sum_{k=1}^N z_k z_k^* \right\}.$$

**Problem 1.4.** Is there a universal constant  $C_0 > 0$  such that

$$\gamma_+(A) \le C_0 \|A\|_{1,1}$$
?

**Theorem 1.1.** If Problem 1.3 is answered in the positive, then Problem 1.4 is answered in the positive.

*Proof.* We will prove the contrapositive statement. Let  $A_n \in PSD^{\phi(n)}(\mathbb{C})$  be a sequence of matrices such that  $\|A_n\|_{1,1} = 1$  but  $\gamma_+(A_n) \ge n \|A_n\|_{1,1}$ . Consider an infinite block-diagonal matrix defined by A := $\bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-2}A_n.$  The associated operator  $A: \ell_2 \to \ell_2$  then satisfies the assumption of Problem 1.3 For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $P_n$  denote the orthogonal projection from  $\ell_2$  to the range of  $A_n$ ,  $P_n = P_n^*$ . We may then

write

$$A = \sum_{m,n=1}^{\infty} P_m A P_n = \sum_{m,n=1}^{\infty} \delta_{mn} P_m A P_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_n A P_n$$

convergent in the strong operator topology.

Let  $(h_k) \subset \ell_1$  be any decomposition of  $A = \sum_k h_k h_k^*$ . Then

$$A = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_n \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} h_k h_k^* \right) P_n = \sum_{n,k=1}^{\infty} (P_n h_k) (P_n h_k)^*$$

and

$$n^{-2}A_n = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (P_n h_k) (P_n h_k)^*.$$

Note that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \|P_n h_k\|_1^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i,j=1}^{\infty} |(P_n h_k)(i)| |(P_n h_k)(i)| \le \sum_{i,j=1}^{\infty} |h_k(i)| |h_k(j)| = \|h_k\|_1^2.$$

As a consequence,

(1.2) 
$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \|h_k\|_1^2 \ge \sum_{n,k=1}^{\infty} \|P_n h_k\|_1^2 \ge \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \gamma_+(A_n) \ge \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} = \infty.$$

Problem 1.5. Are Problems 1.4 and 1.3 equivalent?

### 2 Some operator theory

Let  $A \in \mathcal{M}^n(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $A = [\operatorname{Col}_1 A | \cdots | \operatorname{Col}_n A]$ . For  $1 \le p, q < \infty$ , define

(2.1) 
$$||A||_{p,q} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} ||\mathrm{Col}_k A||_p^q\right)^{1/q}$$

with suitable modification for  $\ell_{\infty}^n$ . We also think of  $A: \ell_q^n \to \ell_p^n$ , and define the operator norm

$$||A||_{q \to p} := \sup_{||z||_q \le 1} ||Az||_p$$

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $1 \le p \le q \le \infty$ , 1/p + 1/q = 1, and  $A \in M^n(\mathbb{C})$ . The following hold.

- $(A) ||A||_{q \to p} \le ||A||_{p,p}.$
- (B)  $||A||_{q \to p} \le ||A||_{\infty \to 1}$ .

As a consequence,  $\gamma_+(A) \ge \|A\|_{1,1} \ge \|A\|_{\infty \to 1} \ge \|A\|_{q \to p}$ .

*Proof.* For the first statement, let  $z \in \ell_q$ . Then

$$\|Az\|_{p} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} |\operatorname{Col}_{k}(A^{*}) \cdot z|^{p}\right)^{1/p} \le \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} \|\operatorname{Col}_{k}A^{*}\|_{p}^{p} \|z\|_{q}^{p}\right)^{1/p} = \|A\|_{p,p} \|z\|_{q}.$$

Note that given  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $||z||_q \ge ||z||_{\infty}$  and  $||z||_1 \ge ||z||_p$ , so

$$|A||_{q \to p} = \inf_{\|z\|_q \le 1} \|Az\|_p \le \inf_{\|z\|_{\infty} \le 1} \|Az\|_1 = \|A\|_{\infty \to 1}.$$

Incidentally, we have the following.

**Theorem 2.1** (Gluskin-Tanny '20). Let  $A \in PSD^n(\mathbb{R})$ . Then

(2.2) 
$$||A||_{1,1} \leq 3\kappa_G (\operatorname{rk} A)^{1/2} ||A||_{\infty \to 1}$$

The dependence on  $(\operatorname{rk} A)^{1/2}$  is sharp, with  $A = \begin{bmatrix} O_{k \times k} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  where  $O \in \mathcal{O}(k)$  satisfies  $|O_{kl}| \lesssim k^{-1/2}$ .

**Definition 2.1.** Let X and Y be Banach spaces. An operator  $A : X \to Y$  is *p*-nuclear if there are sequences  $(x_k^*) \subset B_{X^*}, (y_k) \subset B_Y$ , and  $(\lambda_k) \in \ell_p$ , such that

(2.3) 
$$A = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k x_k^* \otimes y_k$$

where the series is convergent in the  $\mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  topology. Moreover,

(2.4) 
$$\gamma_p(A) := \inf \|\lambda\|_p$$

We use  $\mathcal{N}_p(X, Y)$  to denote the Banach space of nuclear operators from X to Y with norm  $\gamma_p = \nu_p$ . When p = 1, we drop the 1 in all the notation.

We mostly care about the case  $X = \ell_{\infty}^n$ ,  $Y = \ell_1^n$ , and p = 1. In this case,  $(\ell_{\infty}^n)^* = \ell_1^n$ . In the infinitedimensional case, we use  $X = c_0 \subset \ell_{\infty}$ , so  $X^* = \ell_1$ .

Remark 2.1. Some facts:

- From construction, regardless of the Banach spaces X and Y and the moment  $1 \le p < \infty$ , every operator in  $\mathcal{N}_p(X, Y)$  is the  $\gamma_p$ -limit of finite-rank operators, and so is compact.
- Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be Hilbert spaces, then  $\mathcal{N}_2(H_1, H_2) = \mathcal{S}_2(H_1, H_2)$  isometrically. The latter consists of 2-Schatten operators or Hilbert-Schmidt operators, with norm  $\|A\|_{\mathcal{S}_2}^2 = \sum_k \|Ae_k\|_{H_2}^2$ .

**Proposition 2.2** (Lemma 2.7 in [2]). Let  $A \in M^n(\mathbb{C})$ , viewed as an operator from  $\ell_{\infty}^n \to \ell_1^n$ . Then  $\gamma(A) = \|A\|_{1,1}$ .

*Proof.* Fix  $A \in \mathcal{M}^{n}(\mathbb{C})$ . To show  $\gamma \leq \|\cdot\|_{1,1}$ , we can write

$$A = \left[\operatorname{Col}_1(A) | \cdots | \operatorname{Col}_n(A)\right] = \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_k^* \otimes \operatorname{Col}_k(A).$$

Therefore,

$$\gamma(A) \le \sum_{k=1}^{n} \|\operatorname{Col}_{k}(A)\|_{1} \|\delta_{k}\|_{\ell_{1}} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \|\operatorname{Col}_{k}(A)\|_{1} = \|A\|_{1,1}.$$

For the other direction, let  $\epsilon > 0$ , and let  $(x_k), (y_k) \subset \ell_1^n$  with  $||x_k||_1, ||y_k||_1 \leq 1$ , and  $\lambda \in \ell_1$ , such that  $A = \sum_k \lambda_k x_k y_k^*$  and  $||\lambda||_1 \leq \gamma(A) + \epsilon$ . Then

$$\|A\|_{1,1} = \left\|\sum_{k} \lambda_k x_k y_k^*\right\|_{1,1} \le \sum_{k} |\lambda_k| \|x_k y_k^*\|_{1,1} \le \sum_{k} |\lambda_k| \|x_k\|_1 \|y_k\|_1 \le \gamma(A) + \epsilon.$$

# 3 Preliminary properties for $\gamma_+$

**Proposition 3.1.**  $\gamma_+$  is sub-additive and positive-homogeneous on  $PSD^n$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A, B \in \text{PSD}^n$ , and let  $(z_k), (w_k) \subset \ell_1^n$  satisfies

$$\sum_{k} \left\| z_{k} \right\|_{1}^{2} \leq \gamma_{+}(A) + \epsilon \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k} \left\| w_{k} \right\|_{1}^{2} \leq \gamma_{+}(B) + \epsilon.$$

Concatenate and re-index  $z_k$  and  $w_k$  to form  $(x_k) \subset \ell_1^n$ , so  $A + B = \sum x_k x_k^*$ . Moreover,

$$\gamma_+(A+B) \le \sum_k \|x_k\|_1^2 = \sum_k \|z_k\|_1^2 + \sum_k \|w_k\|_1^2 \le \gamma_+(A) + \gamma_+(B) + 2\epsilon.$$

Positive homogeneity is proved similarly.

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $u: X \to X$  be a finite rank operator. Then we can write  $u = \sum_{k=1}^{N} x_k^* \otimes \tilde{x}_k, x_k^* \in X^*$  and  $\tilde{x}_k \in X$ . We can define the trace of u to be  $\operatorname{tr}(u) = \sum_k x_k^*(\tilde{x}_k)$ . This definition is invariant of representation.

**Proposition 3.2.** Given  $A \in PSD^n$ , we have  $\gamma(A) \leq \gamma_+(A) \leq n \operatorname{tr}(A) \leq n ||A||_{1,1} = n\gamma(A)$ .

*Proof.* The only nontrivial inequality is  $\gamma_+(A) \leq n \operatorname{tr}(A)$ . Fix  $A \in \operatorname{PSD}^n(\mathbb{C})$  and let  $(z_k)_{k=1}^N$  be any factorization  $A = \sum_k z_k z_k^*$ . Since

$$||z_k||_1 = ||z_k \cdot 1_n||_1 \le ||1_n||_2 ||z_k||_2 = \sqrt{n} ||z_k||_2,$$

we have

$$\gamma_+(A) \le \sum_k \|z_k\|_1^2 \le n \sum_k \|z_k\|_2^2 = n \sum_k z_k^*(z_k) = n \operatorname{tr}(A)$$

**Proposition 3.3.** Given  $A \in PSD^n$ , we have  $\gamma_+(A) \leq \operatorname{rank}(A)n^{1/2} ||A||_{2\to 1} \leq \operatorname{rank}(A)n^{1/2} ||A||_{\infty\to 1} \leq \operatorname{rank}(A)n^{1/2} ||A||_{1,1}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A = \sum_{k=1}^{r} z_k z_k^*$  be the spectral factorization,  $r = \operatorname{rank}(A)$ , and  $Az_k = \lambda_k z_k$  with  $\lambda_k > 0$ . Let  $e_k = \lambda_k^{-1/2} z_k$ . Then

$$\lambda_k \|z_k\|_1 = \|Az_k\|_1 \le \|A\|_{2 \to 1} \|z_k\|_2.$$

Rearrange, we see that

$$|z_k||_1 \le ||A||_{2 \to 1} \lambda_k^{-1/2} ||e_k||_2 = ||A||_{2 \to 1} \lambda_k^{-1/2}.$$

For the other copy of  $||z_k||_1$ , use Hölder's inequality again to get  $||z_k||_1 \leq \sqrt{n} ||z_k||_2$ . Therefore,

$$\gamma_{+}(A) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{r} \|z_{k}\|_{1}^{2} \leq \sqrt{n} \|A\|_{2 \to 1} \sum_{k=1}^{r} \|e_{k}\|_{2}^{2} = \sqrt{n} \|A\|_{2 \to 1} \operatorname{tr} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{r} e_{k} e_{k}^{*}\right)$$
$$= \operatorname{rk}(A)\sqrt{n} \|A\|_{2 \to 1} \leq \operatorname{rk}(A)\sqrt{n} \|A\|_{1,1}.$$

# 4 Duality

Let  $S_1^n$  denote the unit sphere in  $\ell_1^n$ . Let  $\mathcal{M}(S_1^n)$  denote the cone of positive Borel measures on  $S_1^n$ , and let  $\mathcal{M}_{\pm}(S_1^n)$  denote the space of signed Borel measures on  $S_1^n$ . By the Riesz-Markov-Kakutani representation theorem,

$$C(S_1^n)^* \cong \mathcal{M}_{\pm}(S_1^n)$$

We also have the duality of the positive cones

$$C_+(S_1^n)^* \cong \mathcal{M}(S_1^n).$$

**Theorem 4.1** (R. Balan). For any  $A \in PSD^n(\mathbb{C})$ ,

$$\gamma_+(A) = \inf\left\{\int_{S_1^n} d\mu : A = \int_{S_1^n} zz^* d\mu, \ \mu \in \mathcal{M}(S_1^n)\right\}$$

Consider the dual pairs  $(\mathcal{M}_{\pm}(S_1^n), C(S_1^n))$  and  $(\operatorname{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}), \operatorname{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}))$ , where the bilinear forms are given by the natural duality pairing, so that we equip  $\mathcal{M}_{\pm}$  with the weak star topology,  $C(S_1^n)$  with the weak topology, and  $\operatorname{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C})$  with the Euclidean topology.

Consider the map

$$\Phi: \mathcal{M}_{\pm}(S_1^n) \to \operatorname{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}) \quad \mu \mapsto \Phi(\mu) = \int_{S_1^n} z z^* d\mu.$$

The adjoint of  $\Phi$  (with respect to the duality pairing) is given by

$$\Phi^* : \operatorname{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}) \to C(S_1^n) \quad T \mapsto \Phi^*(T)(z) = \operatorname{tr}(T \cdot zz^*) = \langle z, Tz \rangle.$$

By linear duality theory, the following functional on  $PSD^{n}(\mathbb{C})$ 

$$\delta_+(A) := \sup \{ \operatorname{tr}(AT) : T \in \operatorname{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}) \text{ and } \langle z, Tz \rangle \leq 1 \, \forall z \in S_1^n \}$$

is the dual linear program of that associated with  $\gamma_+$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** For all  $A \in PSD^{n}(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\delta_{+}(A) = \gamma_{+}(A)$ .

One direction is simple.

Lemma 4.1.  $\delta_+ \leq \gamma_+$ .

*Proof.* Fix  $A \in \text{PSD}^n$  and let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Let  $A = \sum_{k=1}^N z_k z_k^*$  be a decomposition such that  $\sum_k ||z_k||_1^2 \le \gamma_+(A) + \epsilon$ . Note that for any  $T = T^*$  with  $\langle z, Tz \rangle \le 1$  for all  $z \in S_1^n$ ,

$$\operatorname{tr}(AT) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\sum_{k} z_{k} z_{k}^{*} \circ T\right) = \sum_{k} \langle z_{k}, Tz_{k} \rangle = \sum_{k} \|z_{k}\|_{1}^{2} \langle \frac{z_{k}}{\|z_{k}\|_{1}}, \frac{Tz_{k}}{\|z_{k}\|_{1}} \rangle \leq \sum_{k} \|z_{k}\|_{1}^{2} \leq \gamma_{+}(A) + \epsilon.$$

**Theorem 4.3** (Hahn-Banach Separation Theorem). Let V be a topological vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$  and let  $K, L \subset V$  be disjoint convex subsets of V with L compact. Then there exists a bounded linear functional  $\phi \in V^*$  and a real number  $\alpha$  such that

$$\phi(x) \le \alpha < \phi(y)$$
 for all  $x \in K, y \in L$ .

For the reverse direction, consider the convex body

$$\mathcal{K} = \{ (\Phi(\mu), \langle \mu, 1 \rangle + r) : \mu \in \mathcal{M}(S_1^n), r \ge 0 \} \subset \operatorname{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}) \times \mathbb{R}$$

equipped with the induced topology.

**Lemma 4.2.** Let  $A \in \text{PSD}^n(\mathbb{C})$ . Suppose  $\delta_+(A) = M$ , then  $(A, M) \in \overline{\mathcal{K}}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose towards a contradiction, that  $(A, M) \notin \overline{\mathcal{K}}$ . Then (A, M) is separated from  $\mathcal{K}$  by a hyperplane, i.e., there exists some  $(T_0, \lambda) \in \text{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}) \times \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\langle (A, M), (T_0, \lambda) \rangle < \langle \mathcal{K}, T_0 \rangle$$

More explicitly,

(4.1) 
$$\operatorname{tr}(AT_0) + \lambda M < \operatorname{tr}\left(T_0 \cdot \int_{S_1^n} zz^* d\mu\right) + \lambda \int_{S_1^n} d\mu + \lambda r \text{ for all } \mu \in \mathcal{M}(S_1^n) \text{ and } r \ge 0.$$

By setting  $\mu = 0$  and r = 0, we see that

(4.2) 
$$\operatorname{tr}(AT_0) + \lambda M < 0.$$

Note that we must also have

(4.3) 
$$\operatorname{tr}\left(T_0 \cdot \int_{S_1^n} zz^* d\mu\right) + \lambda \int_{S_1^n} d\mu + \lambda r \ge 0 \quad \text{for all } \mu \in \mathcal{M}(S_1^n) \text{ and } r \ge 0.$$

By setting r = 0 in (4.3) and let  $\mu$  range over all possible Borel measures, we have

(4.4) 
$$\Phi^*(T)(z) = \langle z, T_0 z \rangle \ge -\lambda \quad \text{for all } z \in S_1^n.$$

By setting  $\mu = 0$  in (4.3), we have

 $\lambda \geq 0.$ 

• Suppose  $\lambda > 0$ . Then  $-\lambda^{-1}T_0 \in \text{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\langle z, -\lambda^{-1}T_0z \rangle = -\lambda^{-1}\langle z, T_0z \rangle \leq 1$  by (4.4). Therefore,  $-\lambda^{-1}T_0$  is feasible for  $\delta_+$ . By (4.2),  $(A(-\lambda^{-1}T_0)) > M,$ 

$$\operatorname{tr}(A(-\lambda^{-1}T_0)) > M$$

contradicting M being the supremum.

• Suppose  $\lambda = 0$ . Let  $\tilde{T} \in \text{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C})$  with  $\langle z, Tz \rangle \leq 1$  for all  $z \in S_1^n$ . It is clear that  $\tilde{T} - \alpha T_0 \in \text{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C})$  for all  $\alpha \geq 0$ . Since  $\Phi(T_0)(z) \geq 0$  for all  $z \in S_1^n$ , we have  $\langle z, (\tilde{T} - \alpha T)z \rangle \leq 1$  for all  $z \in S_1^n$  and  $\alpha \geq 0$ . Therefore,  $\tilde{T} - \alpha T_0$  is feasible for  $\delta_+$  for all  $\alpha \geq 0$ . Since  $\operatorname{tr}(A(\tilde{T} - \alpha T_0)) \leq \delta_+(A) = M < \infty$ , we must have  $\operatorname{tr}(AT_0) \geq 0$ . This contradicts (4.2).

In either case, we arrive at a contradiction. Therefore,  $(A, M) \in \overline{\mathcal{K}}$ .

Lemma 4.3.  $\mathcal{K}$  is closed.

Proof. Let  $(A_j, M_j)_j$  be a sequence in  $\mathcal{K}$  converging to  $(A, M) \in \operatorname{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}) \times \mathbb{R}$ . By definition, there exists a sequence  $\mu_j \in \mathcal{M}(S_1^n)$  and  $r_j = M_j - \int_{S_1^n} d\mu_j \in \mathbb{R}$ , such that  $A_j = \int_{S_1^n} zz^* d\mu_j$ . We may, without loss of generality, assume that  $\int_{S_1^n} d\mu_j \leq 100M$ . By weak-star compactness, we can replace  $\mu_j$  by a subsequence, such that  $\mu_j \to \mu \in \mathcal{M}(S_1^n)$  in the weak-star topology. Integrate against  $zz^*$ , we have  $\int_{S_1^n} zz^* d\mu = A$ . Integrate against the constant function 1, we have  $M = \int_{S_1^n} d\mu + \lim_j r_j$ . Since  $r_j \geq 0$ ,  $\lim_j r_j \geq 0$ . Therefore,  $(A, M) \in \mathcal{K}$ .

# References

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