The Spectra of Entanglement Witnesses

Nathaniel Johnston and Everett Patterson
Mount Allison University

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Entanglement Witnesses

Definition

A Hermitian matrix $W \in M_m \otimes M_n$ is called an ***entanglement witness*** *if*

$$(\langle a| \otimes \langle b|)W(|a\rangle \otimes |b\rangle) \geq 0 \quad \textit{for all} \quad |a\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^m, |b\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^n.$$

- Equivalently, $W = (I \otimes \Phi)(X)$ for some positive semidefinite $X \in M_m \otimes M_n$ and positive linear map Φ.
- Useful because they can detect entanglement in quantum states.

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In this talk, entanglement witnesses might be positive semidefinite. This is not the usual convention, but it makes our results a bit easier to state.

- The "standard example" is the following matrix in $M_2 \otimes M_2$:

$$(I \otimes T)\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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If $W \in M_m \otimes M_n$ is an entanglement witness, then it has no more than $(m-1)(n-1)$ negative eigenvalues.

- Follows from the fact that entangled subspaces can have dimension no larger than $(m-1)(n-1)$.
- If $m = n = 2$, then W can have no more than 1 negative eigenvalue.

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Theorem (J.–Kribs, 2010, likely known before that though)

If $W \in M_m \otimes M_n$ is an entanglement witness, then

$$\lambda_{\min}(W)/\lambda_{\max}(W) \geq 1 - \min\{m, n\}.$$

- Proof is straightforward.
- If $m = n = 2$ and $\lambda_{\max}(W) = 1$ then $\lambda_{\min}(W) \geq -1$.

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Two-Qubit Entanglement Witnesses

Can we do better? Well, in small dimensions...

Theorem (J.–Patterson)

There exists an entanglement witness in $M_2 \otimes M_2$ with eigenvalues $\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \mu_3 \geq \mu_4$ if and only if the following inequalities hold:

- $\mu_3 \geq 0$,
- $\mu_4 \geq -\mu_2$, and
- $\mu_4 \geq -\sqrt{\mu_1 \mu_3}$.

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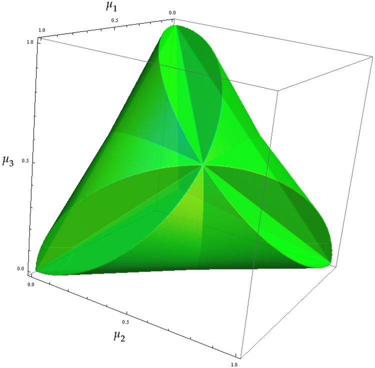

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Proof sketch:

- Every entanglement witness $W \in M_2 \otimes M_2$ can be written in the form $W = X + (I \otimes T)(Y)$, where $X, Y \in M_2 \otimes M_2$ are PSD
- If $Y = |v\rangle\langle v|$ is PSD with rank 1, eigenvalues of $(I \otimes T)(Y)$ are easy to compute in terms of the Schmidt coefficients of $|v\rangle$.
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Qubit–Qudit Entanglement Witnesses

Next, we consider entanglement witnesses $W \in M_2 \otimes M_n$, where $n \geq 2$.

- This problem is much harder. Even when $n = 3$, a complete characterization is beyond us.
- To simplify things, we instead characterize the possible convex combinations of (unsorted) spectra of entanglement witnesses (we denote this set by $Conv\left(\sigma(\mathrm{EW}_{m,n})\right)$).
- For example, $(4, 2, 1, -2) \in \sigma(\mathrm{EW}_{2,2})$, so

$$(4, 2, 1, -2) + (4, 2, -2, 1) = (8, 4, -1, -1) \in Conv\left(\sigma(\mathrm{EW}_{2,2})\right)$$
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Theorem (J.–Patterson)

Suppose $\vec{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$. Define $s_k := \sum_{j=k}^{2n} \mu_j^{\downarrow}$ for $k = 1, 2, 3$ and $s_- := \sum_{\{j : \mu_j < 0\}} \mu_j$. Then the following are equivalent:

(a) $\vec{\mu} \in \mathrm{Conv}\big(\sigma(\mathrm{EW}_{2,n})\big)$.

(b) *There exists a real PSD matrix $X \in M_2$ such that*

$$x_{1,1} + x_{2,2} \leq s_1, \quad x_{2,2} \leq s_2, \quad x_{1,2} + x_{2,2} \leq s_3, \quad \text{and} \quad x_{1,2} \leq s_-.$$

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Each of the inequalities described by part (c) of that theorem is a necessary condition that the spectra of entanglement witnesses must satisfy.

- These inequalities are not sufficient, even if $n = 2$.
- However, they are considerably stronger than all previously-known necessary conditions.
- Exact necessary and sufficient conditions are likely unreasonable to hope for (even inverse eigenvalue problems for "simple" matrices like entrywise non-negative matrices are very hard).

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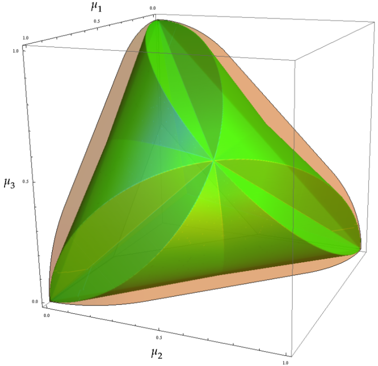

Decomposable Entanglement Witnesses

When going to even higher dimensions ($M_m \otimes M_n$ with $m, n \geq 3$), we have to sacrifice even more.

- Our methods now only work for **decomposable** entanglement witnesses: those of the form $W = X + (I \otimes T)(Y)$, with X and Y positive semidefinite.
- Not every entanglement witness is decomposable.
- We can characterize the set $Conv\left(\sigma(\mathrm{DEW}_{m,n})\right)$ (DEW stands for "decomposable entanglement witness") for all m, n (but the theorem is too ugly for 8:30am).

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Decomposable Entanglement Witnesses

When going to even higher dimensions ($M_m \otimes M_n$ with $m, n \geq 3$), we have to sacrifice even more.

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Decomposable Entanglement Witnesses

For example, $\vec{\mu} \in Conv\left(\sigma(\mathrm{DEW}_{3,3})\right)$ if and only if there exist real PSD matrices $X, Y \in M_3$ such that...

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(x_{1,1} + x_{2,2} + x_{3,3}) + (y_{1,1} + y_{2,2} + y_{3,3}) &\leq s_1 \\
(x_{2,2} + x_{3,3}) + (y_{2,2} + y_{3,3}) &\leq s_2 \\
(x_{2,2} + x_{3,3} - x_{1,2}) + (y_{2,2} + y_{3,3} - y_{1,2}) &\leq s_3 \\
(x_{3,3} - x_{1,2}) + (y_{2,2} + y_{3,3} - y_{1,2} - y_{1,3}) &\leq s_4 \\
(x_{3,3} - x_{1,2} - x_{1,3}) + (y_{3,3} - y_{1,2} - y_{1,3}) &\leq s_5 \\
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(-x_{1,2} - x_{1,3} - x_{2,3}) + (-y_{1,2} - y_{1,3} - y_{2,3}) &\leq s_7 \\
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Entanglement Witnesses in Higher Dimensions

We know comparatively little about (non-decomposable) entanglement witnesses when $m, n \geq 3$.

- Can we find a spectrum that is attained by an entanglement witness but not a decomposable entanglement witness?
- Determining whether or not $Conv\left(\sigma(\mathrm{EW}_{m,n})\right) = Conv\left(\sigma(\mathrm{DEW}_{m,n})\right)$ would settle a long-standing question about "absolutely separable" states.
- Specific cases of the above question might be more tractable. For example, does there exist an entanglement witness in $M_3 \otimes M_3$ with eigenvalues $(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, -1, -1, c)$ for some $c < -1$?

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(arXiv:1708.05901)