

Block-modified random matrices and applications to entanglement theory

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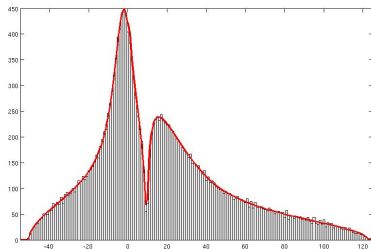
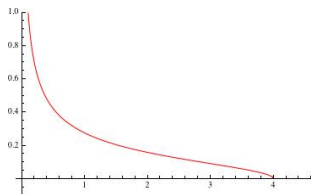


On one slide...

Consider a compactly supported probability measure μ and a linear operator f acting on $n \times n$ self-adjoint matrices, e.g.

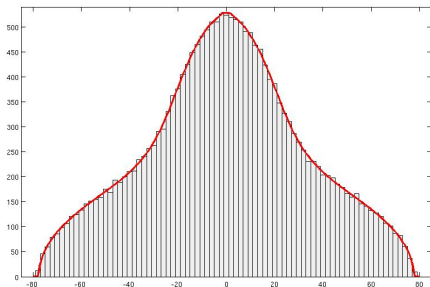
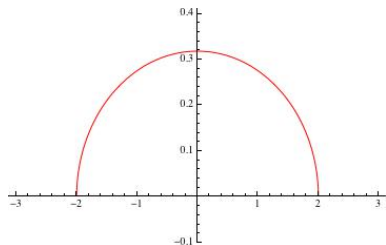
$$d\mu(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x(4-x)}}{2\pi x} \mathbf{1}_{(0,4]}(x) dx$$
$$f \left(\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 11a_{11} + 15a_{22} - 25a_{12} - 25a_{21} & 36a_{21} \\ 36a_{12} & 11a_{11} - 4a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

For a sequence of unitarily invariant random matrices $X_d \in \mathbb{M}_n \otimes \mathbb{M}_d$ converging in distribution to μ , what is the limiting eigenvalue distribution of the **block-modified** random matrix $X_d^f = [f \otimes \text{id}](X_d)$, as $d \rightarrow \infty$?



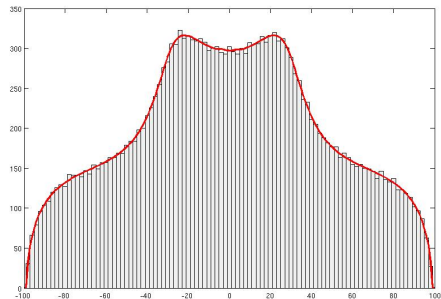
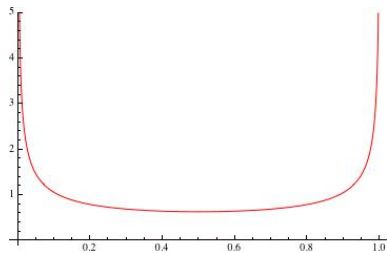
Wigner semicircle distribution

$$d\mu(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{4 - x^2} \mathbf{1}_{[-2,2]}(x) dx.$$



Arcsine distribution

$$d\mu(x) = \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{x(1-x)}} \mathbf{1}_{(0,1)}(x) dx.$$



Motivation: Entanglement in QIT

- Quantum states with n degrees of freedom are described by **density matrices**

$$\rho \in \mathbb{M}_n^{1,+} = \text{End}^{1,+}(\mathbb{C}^n); \quad \text{Tr} \rho = 1 \text{ and } \rho \geq 0$$

- Two** quantum systems: $\rho_{12} \in \text{End}^{1,+}(\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n) = \mathbb{M}_{mn}^{1,+}$
- A state ρ_{12} is called **separable** if it can be written as a convex combination of product states

$$\rho_{12} \in \mathcal{SEP} \iff \rho_{12} = \sum_i t_i \rho_1(i) \otimes \rho_2(i),$$

where $t_i \geq 0$, $\sum_i t_i = 1$, $\rho_1(i) \in \mathbb{M}_m^{1,+}$, $\rho_2(i) \in \mathbb{M}_n^{1,+}$

- Equivalently, $\mathcal{SEP} = \text{conv} [\mathbb{M}_m^{1,+} \otimes \mathbb{M}_n^{1,+}]$
- Non-separable states are called **entangled**

- Let \mathcal{A} be a C^* algebra. A map $f : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is called
 - **positive** if $A \geq 0 \implies f(A) \geq 0$;
 - **completely positive (CP)** if $\text{id}_k \otimes f$ is positive for all $k \geq 1$ ($k = n$ is enough).
- Let $f : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ be a **completely positive** map. Then, for **every** state $\rho_{12} \in \mathbb{M}_{mn}^{1,+}$, one has $[\text{id}_m \otimes f](\rho_{12}) \geq 0$.
- Let $f : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ be a **positive** map. Then, for every **separable** state $\rho_{12} \in \mathbb{M}_{mn}^{1,+}$, one has $[\text{id}_m \otimes f](\rho_{12}) \geq 0$.
 - ρ_{12} separable $\implies \rho_{12} = \sum_i t_i \rho_1(i) \otimes \rho_2(i)$.
 - $[\text{id}_m \otimes f](\rho_{12}) = \sum_i t_i \rho_1(i) \otimes f(\rho_2(i))$.
 - For all i , $\rho_2(i) \geq 0$, so $[\text{id}_m \otimes f](\rho_{12}) \geq 0$.

Entanglement criteria - the transposition

- Positive maps f provide **sufficient entanglement criteria**: if $[\text{id}_m \otimes f](\rho_{12}) \not\geq 0$, then ρ_{12} is entangled.
- Moreover, if $[\text{id}_m \otimes f](\rho_{12}) \geq 0$ for **all** positive maps $f : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_m$, then ρ_{12} is separable.
- Actually, for the exact converse to hold, ~~uncountably~~ **infinitely many** positive maps are needed [Skowronek], and for a very rough approximation of \mathcal{SEP} , **exponentially many** positive maps are needed [Aubrun, Szarek].
- The **transposition** map $t : A \mapsto A^t$ is positive, but not CP. Define the convex set

$$\mathcal{PPT} = \{\rho_{12} \in \mathbb{M}_{mn}^{1,+} \mid [\text{id}_m \otimes t_n](\rho_{12}) \geq 0\}.$$

- For $(m, n) \in \{(2, 2), (2, 3)\}$ we have $\mathcal{SEP} = \mathcal{PPT}$. In other dimensions, the inclusion $\mathcal{SEP} \subset \mathcal{PPT}$ is strict.
- Low dimensions are special because every positive map $f : \mathbb{M}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_{2/3}$ is **decomposable**:

$$f = g_1 + g_2 \circ t,$$

with $g_{1,2}$ completely positive. Among all decomposable maps, the transposition criterion is the strongest.

The PPT criterion at work

- Consider the Bell (or **maximally entangled**) state $\rho_{12} = \frac{1}{2}\omega = \frac{1}{2}\Omega\Omega^*$, where

$$\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \ni \Omega = e_1 \otimes f_1 + e_2 \otimes f_2.$$

- Written as a matrix in $\mathbb{M}_{2,2}^{1,+}$

$$\rho_{12} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Partial transposition: transpose each block B_{ij} :

$$\rho_{12}^{\Gamma} = [\text{id}_2 \otimes t_2](\rho_{12}) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- This matrix is no longer positive semidefinite $\implies P_{\text{Bell}}$ is entangled.

The Choi matrix of a map

- For any n , define the **maximally entangled state** $\omega = \Omega\Omega^*$, where

$$\mathbb{C}^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^n \ni \Omega = \sum_{i=1}^n e_i \otimes e_i.$$

- To any map $f : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$, associate its **Choi matrix**

$$C_f = [\text{id}_n \otimes f](\omega) \in \mathbb{M}_n \otimes \mathcal{A}.$$

- Equivalently**, if E_{ij} are the matrix units in \mathbb{M}_n , then

$$C_f = \sum_{i,j=1}^n E_{ij} \otimes f(E_{ij}).$$

Theorem (Choi '75)

A map $f : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is CP **iff** its Choi matrix C_f is positive semidefinite.

The Choi-Jamiołkowski isomorphism

- Recall (from now on $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{M}_d$)

$$C_f = [\text{id}_n \otimes f](P_{\text{Bell}}) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n E_{ij} \otimes f(E_{ij}) \in \mathbb{M}_n \otimes \mathbb{M}_d.$$

- The map $f \mapsto C_f$ is called the **Choi-Jamiołkowski** isomorphism.
- It sends:
 - 1 All linear maps to all operators;
 - 2 Hermiticity preserving maps to hermitian operators;
 - 3 Entanglement breaking maps to separable quantum states;
 - 4 Unital maps to operators with unit left partial trace ($[\text{Tr} \otimes \text{id}]C_f = I_d$);
 - 5 Trace preserving maps to operators with unit right partial trace ($[\text{id} \otimes \text{Tr}]C_f = I_n$).

Examples of Choi matrices

- The **identity** map $\text{id} : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ has Choi matrix

$$C_{\text{id}} = [\text{id} \otimes \text{id}](\omega) = \omega$$

- The **"depolarizing"** map $\Delta : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$, $\Delta(X) = I_n \cdot \text{Tr}(X)$ has Choi matrix

$$C_{\Delta} = [\text{id} \otimes \Delta](\omega) = I_n^2$$

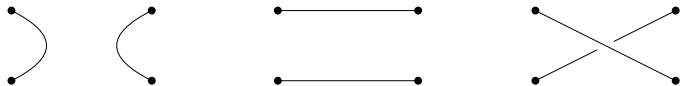
- The **transposition** map $t : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$, $t(X) = X^T$ has Choi matrix

$$C_t = [\text{id} \otimes t](\omega) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n E_{ij} \otimes E_{ji} = F_n,$$

where $F_n \in \mathcal{U}(n^2)$ is the **flip** operator

$$F_n(x \otimes y) = y \otimes x.$$

- In Penrose diagrammatical notation, we obtain



- Note that the first two examples above yield positive semidefinite Choi matrices, while the last one gives an operator (F_n) having negative eigenvalues

How powerful are the entanglement criteria?

- Let $f : \mathbb{M}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ be a given positive linear map (usually, f not CP).
- If $[f \otimes \text{id}](\rho) \not\geq 0$, then $\rho \in \mathbb{M}_m \otimes \mathbb{M}_d$ is **entangled**.
- If $[f \otimes \text{id}](\rho) \geq 0$, then ... **we do not know**.
- Define

$$\mathcal{K}_f := \{\rho : [f \otimes \text{id}](\rho) \geq 0\} \supseteq \mathcal{SEP}.$$

- We would like to compare (e.g. using the volume) the sets \mathcal{K}_f and \mathcal{SEP} .
- Several probability measures on the set $\mathbb{M}_{md}^{1,+}$: for any parameter $s \geq md$, let W be a **Wishart** matrix of parameters (md, s) : $W = XX^*$, with $X \in \mathbb{M}_{md \times s}$ a **Ginibre** random matrix (the entries of X are i.i.d. complex Gaussian random variables).
- Let \mathbb{P}_s be the probability measure obtained by pushing forward the Wishart measure by the map $W \mapsto W/\text{Tr}(W)$.
- To compute $\mathbb{P}_s(\mathcal{K}_f)$, one needs to decide whether the spectrum of the random matrix $[f \otimes \text{id}](W)$ is positive (here, d is large, m, n are fixed) \rightsquigarrow **block modified matrices**.

Block-modified random matrices - previous results

Many cases studied independently, using the method of moments for Wishart matrices; no unified approach, each case requires a separate analysis:

- [Aubrun '12]: the asymptotic spectrum of $W^\Gamma := [\text{id} \otimes \text{t}](W)$ is a shifted semicircular, for $W \in \mathbb{M}_d \otimes \mathbb{M}_d$, $d \rightarrow \infty$
- [Banica, N. '13]: the asymptotic spectrum of $W^\Gamma := [\text{id} \otimes \text{t}](W)$ is a free difference of free Poisson distributions, for $W \in \mathbb{M}_m \otimes \mathbb{M}_d$, $d \rightarrow \infty$, m fixed
- [Banica, N. '15]: the asymptotic spectrum of $W^f := [\text{id} \otimes \text{f}](W)$ is the free multiplicative convolution between a free compound Poisson distribution and the distribution of $f(I)$; the result requires f to come from a “wire diagram”
- [Jivulescu, Lupa, N. '14,'15]: the asymptotic spectrum of $W^{\text{red}} := W - [\text{Tr} \otimes \text{id}](W) \otimes I$ is a compound free Poisson distribution, for $W \in \mathbb{M}_m \otimes \mathbb{M}_d$, $d \rightarrow \infty$, m fixed (here, $f(X) = X - \text{Tr}(X) \cdot I$)
- etc...

⇒ we propose a **general**, **unified** framework for such problems

The problem

- Consider a sequence of **unitarily invariant** random matrices $X_d \in \mathbb{M}_n \otimes \mathbb{M}_d$:

$$\forall U \in \mathcal{U}_{nd}, \quad \text{law}(X_d) = \text{law}(UX_dU^*).$$

- Fix n and assume that, as $d \rightarrow \infty$, the matrices X_d have limiting spectral distribution μ :

$$\lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{nd} \sum_{i=1}^{nd} \delta_{\lambda_i(X_d)} = \mu.$$

- Define the **modified version** of X_d :

$$X_d^f = [f \otimes \text{id}_d](X_d).$$

- Our goal:** compute μ^f , the limiting spectral distribution of X_d^f , as a function of

- The initial distribution μ
- The function f .

- Results:** achieved this for all μ and a fairly large class of f .
- Tools:** operator-valued free probability theory.

Taking the limit

- We can write

$$X_d^f = [f \otimes \text{id}](X_d) = \sum_{i,j,k,l=1}^n c_{ijkl} (E_{ij} \otimes I_d) X_d (E_{kl} \otimes I_d) \in \mathbb{M}_n \otimes \mathbb{M}_d,$$

for some coefficients $c_{ijkl} \in \mathbb{C}$, which are actually the entries of the Choi matrix of f .

- At the limit:

$$x^f = \sum_{i,j,k,l=1}^n c_{ijkl} e_{i,j} x e_{k,l},$$

for some random variable x having the same distribution as the limit of X_d and some (abstract) matrix units e_{ij} .

↪ In the rectangular case $m \neq n$, one needs to use the techniques of Benaych-Georges; we will have freeness with amalgamation on $\langle p_m, p_m \rangle$.

Definition

(1) Let \mathcal{A} be a unital $*$ -algebra and let $\mathbb{C} \subseteq \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ be a $*$ -subalgebra. A **\mathcal{B} -probability space** is a pair $(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{E})$, where $\mathbb{E} : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is a conditional expectation, that is, a linear map satisfying:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(bab') &= b\mathbb{E}(a)b', & \forall b, b' \in \mathcal{B}, a \in \mathcal{A} \\ \mathbb{E}(1) &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

(2) Let $(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{E})$ be a \mathcal{B} -probability space and let $\bar{a} := a - \mathbb{E}(a)1_{\mathcal{A}}$ for any $a \in \mathcal{A}$. The $*$ -subalgebras $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ are **\mathcal{B} -free** (or free over \mathcal{B} , or free with amalgamation over \mathcal{B}) (with respect to \mathbb{E}) iff

$$\mathbb{E}(\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 \cdots \bar{a}_r) = 0,$$

for all $r \geq 1$ and all tuples $a_1, \dots, a_r \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $a_i \in \mathcal{A}_{j(i)}$ with $j(1) \neq j(2) \neq \dots \neq j(r)$.

(3) Subsets $S_1, \dots, S_k \subset \mathcal{A}$ are \mathcal{B} -free if so are the $*$ -subalgebras $\langle S_1, \mathcal{B} \rangle, \dots, \langle S_k, \mathcal{B} \rangle$.

Similar to independence, freeness allows to compute **mixed moments** free random variables in terms of their individual moments.

Matrix-valued probability spaces

Let \mathcal{A} be a unital C^* -algebra and let $\tau : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a state. Consider the algebra $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathcal{A}) \cong \mathbb{M}_n \otimes \mathcal{A}$ of $n \times n$ matrices with entries in \mathcal{A} . The maps

$$\mathbb{E}_3 : (a_{ij})_{ij} \mapsto (\tau(a_{ij}))_{ij} \in \mathbb{M}_n,$$

$$\mathbb{E}_2 : (a_{ij})_{ij} \mapsto (\delta_{ij}\tau(a_{ij}))_{ij} \in \mathbb{D}_n,$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}_1 : (a_{ij})_{ij} \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \tau(a_{ii}) I_n \in \mathbb{C} \cdot I_n$$

are respectively, conditional expectations onto the algebras $\mathbb{M}_n \supset \mathbb{D}_n \supset \mathbb{C} \cdot I_n$ of constant matrices, diagonal matrices and multiples of the identity.

Proposition

If A_1, \dots, A_k are free in (\mathcal{A}, τ) , then the algebras $\mathbb{M}_n(A_1), \dots, \mathbb{M}_n(A_k)$ of matrices with entries in A_1, \dots, A_k respectively are in general **not free over \mathbb{C}** (with respect to \mathbb{E}_1). They are, however, **\mathbb{M}_n -free** (with respect to \mathbb{E}_3).

Proposition (Nica, Shlyakhtenko, Speicher)

Let $1 \in \mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{A}$ be algebras such that $(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{F})$ and $(\mathcal{B}, \mathbb{E})$ are respectively \mathcal{B} -valued and \mathcal{D} -valued probability spaces and let $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathcal{A}$. Assume that the \mathcal{B} -cumulants of $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathcal{A}$ satisfy

$$R_{i_1, \dots, i_n}^{\mathcal{B}; a_1, \dots, a_k}(d_1, \dots, d_{n-1}) \in \mathcal{D},$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq k$, $d_1, \dots, d_{n-1} \in \mathcal{D}$.

Then the \mathcal{D} -cumulants of a_1, \dots, a_k are exactly the **restrictions** of the \mathcal{B} -cumulants of a_1, \dots, a_k , namely for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq k$, $d_1, \dots, d_{n-1} \in \mathcal{D}$:

$$R_{i_1, \dots, i_n}^{\mathcal{D}; a_1, \dots, a_k}(d_1, \dots, d_{n-1}) = R_{i_1, \dots, i_n}^{\mathcal{B}; a_1, \dots, a_k}(d_1, \dots, d_{n-1}),$$

Corollary

Let $\mathcal{B} \subseteq A_1, A_2 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ be \mathcal{B} -free and let $\mathcal{D} \subseteq M_N(\mathbb{C}) \otimes \mathcal{B}$. Assume that, individually, the $M_N \otimes \mathcal{B}$ -valued moments (or, equivalently, the $M_N \otimes \mathcal{B}$ -cumulants) of both $x \in M_N \otimes A_1$ and $y \in M_N \otimes A_2$, when restricted to arguments in \mathcal{D} , remain in \mathcal{D} . Then **x, y are \mathcal{D} -free.**

Proposition

The block-modified random variable x^f has the following expression in terms of the eigenvalues and of the eigenvectors of the Choi matrix C :

$$x^f = v^*(x \otimes C)v,$$

where

$$v = \sum_{s=1}^{n^2} b_s^* \otimes a_s \in \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathbb{M}_{n^2},$$

a_s are the eigenvectors of C , and the random variables $b_s \in \mathcal{A}$ are defined by $b_s = \sum_{i,j=1}^n \langle E_i \otimes E_j, a_s \rangle e_{i,j}$.

Theorem

Consider a linear map $f : \mathbb{M}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_n$ having a Choi matrix $C \in \mathbb{M}_{n^2} \subset \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathbb{M}_{n^2}$ which has *tracially well behaved eigenspaces*. Then, the random variables $x \otimes C$ and vv^* are *free with amalgamation* over the (commutative) unital algebra $\mathcal{B} = \langle C \rangle$ generated by the matrix C .

Definition

We say that f is well behaved if the eigenspaces of its Choi matrix are **tracially well behaved** if

$$\tau(b_{j_1} b_{j_2}^* Q_{i_1} \dots Q_{i_k}) = \delta_{j_1 j_2} \tau(b_{j_1} b_{j_1}^* Q_{i_1} \dots Q_{i_k}),$$

for every $i_1, \dots, i_k \leq n^2$ and $j_1, j_2 \leq n^2$, where we put $Q_i = b_i^* b_i$.

↪ a stronger condition:

Definition

The Choi matrix C is said to satisfy the **unitarity condition** if, for all t , there is some real constant d_t such that $[\text{id} \otimes \text{Tr}](P_t) = d_t I_n$, where P_t are the eigenprojectors of C .

The limiting distributions of block-modified matrices

Theorem

If the Choi matrix C satisfies the **unitarity condition**, then the distribution of x^f has the following R -transform:

$$R_{x^f}(z) = \sum_{i=1}^s d_i \rho_i R_x \left[\frac{\rho_i}{n} z \right],$$

where ρ_i are the distinct eigenvalues of C and nd_i are ranks of the corresponding eigenprojectors. In other words, if μ , resp. μ^f , are the respective distributions of x and x^f , then

$$\mu^f = \boxplus_{i=1}^s (D_{\rho_i/n} \mu)^{\boxplus nd_i}.$$

Example

The transposition, $f(X) = X^\top$:

$$\mu^T = \left(D_{1/n} \mu^{\boxplus n(n+1)/2} \right) \boxplus \left(D_{-1/n} \mu^{\boxplus n(n-1)/2} \right).$$

Range of applications

The following functions are well behaved

- 1 Unitary conjugations $f(X) = UXU^*$
- 2 The trace and its dual $f(X) = \text{Tr}(X)$, $f(x) = xI_n$
- 3 The transposition $f(X) = X^\top$
- 4 The reduction map $f(X) = I_n \cdot \text{Tr}(X) - X$
- 5 Linear combinations of the above $f(X) = \alpha X + \beta \text{Tr}(X)I_n + \gamma X^\top$
- 6 Mixtures of orthogonal automorphisms

$$f(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{n^2} \alpha_i U_i X U_i^*,$$

for **orthogonal** unitary operators U_i

$$\text{Tr}(U_i U_j^*) = n \delta_{ij}.$$

- 7 The Choi map

$$f([x_{ij}]) = \begin{bmatrix} ax_{11} + bx_{22} + cx_{33} & -x_{12} & -x_{13} \\ -x_{21} & cx_{11} + ax_{22} + bx_{33} & -x_{23} \\ -x_{31} & -x_{32} & bx_{11} + cx_{22} + ax_{33} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Support of the resulting measures

- Recall that we are interested ultimately in the **positivity of the support** of the resulting operators x^f
- It is in general hard to obtain analytical expressions for the support of x^f : one has to solve polynomial equations of large degree.
- Example: $\pi_c^{t_n}$ has positive support iff $c > 2 + 2\sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{n^2}}$

Lemma (Collins, Fukuda, Zhong '15)

Let μ be a probability measure having mean m and variance σ^2 , whose support is contained in $[A, B]$. Then, for any $T \geq 1$ such that $\mu^{\boxplus T}$ has no atoms, we have $\text{supp}(\mu^{\boxplus T}) \subseteq [A + m(T - 1) - 2\sigma\sqrt{T - 1}, B + m(T - 1) + 2\sigma\sqrt{T - 1}]$.

Proposition (I.N., in preparation)

Let μ be a non-atomic probability measure having mean m and variance σ^2 , whose support is contained in the compact interval $[A, B]$. Then, provided that $n(m - 2\sigma) > B - A + 2\sigma$, we have $\text{supp}(\mu^\Gamma) \subset (0, \infty)$.

Thank you!

- O. Arizmendi, I.N., C. Vargas - *On the asymptotic distribution of block-modified random matrices* - J. Math. Phys. 57, 015216 (2016), arXiv:1508.05732
- I.N. - *On the separability of unitarily invariant random quantum states: the unbalanced regime* - in preparation
- R. Speicher - *Combinatorial theory of the free product with amalgamation and operator-valued free probability theory* - Memoirs of the AMS 1998
- B. Collins, I.N. - *Random matrix techniques in quantum information theory* - J. Math. Phys. 57, 015215 (2016), arXiv:1509.04689

The free additive convolution of probability measures

- Given two self-adjoint matrices X, Y with spectra x, y , what is the spectrum of $X + Y$?
- In general, a very difficult problem, the answer depends on the relative position of the eigenspaces of X and Y (Horn problem).
- When the size of X, Y is large, and the eigenvectors are in general position, **(scalar) free probability theory** [Voiculescu, '80s] gives the answer.
- **Free additive convolution** (or free sum) of two compactly supported probability distributions μ, ν : sample $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d$ from μ, ν and consider

$$Z = \text{diag}(x) + U\text{diag}(y)U^*,$$

where U is a $d \times d$ Haar unitary random matrix. Then, as $d \rightarrow \infty$, the empirical eigenvalue distribution of Z converges to a probability measure denoted by $\mu \boxplus \nu$.

- The operation \boxplus is called **free additive convolution**, and it can be computed via the \mathcal{R} -transform (a kind of Fourier transform in the free world)