

# Quantum information theory and Reznick's Positivstellensatz

---

Ion Nechita (CNRS, LPT Toulouse)

— joint work with Alexander Müller-Hermes and David Reeb

8th ECM, Portorož, June 23rd 2021



# Talk outline

Sums of squares and Reznick's Positivstellensatz

Polynomials vs. symmetric operators

The complex Positivstellensatz

# **Sums of squares and Reznick's Positivstellensatz**

---

## Hilbert's 17th problem

$\mathbb{R}[x] \ni P(x) \geq 0 \iff P = Q_1(x)^2 + Q_2(x)^2$ , for  $Q_{1,2} \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ .

$\text{Pos}(d, n) := \{P \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_d] \text{ hom. of deg. } 2n, P(x) \geq 0, \forall x\}$ .

$\text{SOS}(d, n) := \{\sum_i Q_i^2 \text{ with } Q_i \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_d] \text{ hom. of deg. } n\}$ .

In general, SOS is a strict subset of Pos [Hil88]

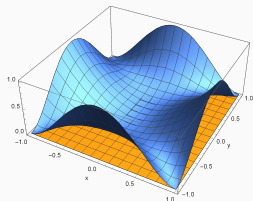
$$\text{SOS}(d, n) \subseteq \text{Pos}(d, n), \text{ eq. iff } (d, n) \in \{(d, 1), (2, n), (3, 2)\}.$$

The Motzkin polynomial  $x^4y^2 + y^4z^2 + z^4x^2 - 3x^2y^2z^2$  is positive but not SOS.

Membership in SOS can be **efficiently** decided with a semidefinite program (SDP) and provides an algebraic **certificate** for positivity.

## More on the Motzkin polynomial

The non-homogeneous Motzkin polynomial (set  $z = 1$ )  $x^4y^2 + y^4 + x^2 - 3x^2y^2$  can be seen to be positive by the AMGM inequality.



There exist computer algebra packages to check SOS and perform polynomial optimization using SOS ([[NC](#)][SOSTOOLS](#), [Gloptipoly](#))

```
» syms x y z; findsos(x^4*y^2 + y^4 + x^2 - 3*x^2*y^2)
```

Size: 49 19

...

No sum of squares decomposition is found.

# Reznick's Positivstellensatz

Artin's solution to Hilbert's 17th problem [Art27]

$$P \geq 0 \iff P = \sum_i \frac{Q_i^2}{R_i^2}$$

In particular, if  $P \geq 0$ , there exists  $R$  such that  $R^2P$  is SOS

## Theorem ([Rez95])

Let  $P \in \text{Pos}(d, k)$  such that  $m(P) := \min_{\|x\|=1} P(x) > 0$ . Let also  $M(P) := \max_{\|x\|=1} P(x)$ . Then, for all

$$n \geq \frac{dk(2k-1)}{2 \ln 2} \frac{M(P)}{m(P)} - \frac{d}{2},$$

we have

$$(x_1^2 + \dots + x_d^2)^{n-k} P(x) = \sum_{j=1}^r (a_1^{(j)} x_1 + \dots + a_d^{(j)} x_d)^{2n}.$$

In particular,  $\|x\|^{2(n-k)} P$  is SOS.

# Polynomials vs. symmetric operators

---

## From the symmetric subspace to polynomials — $\mathbb{R}$

Homogeneous polynomials of degree  $n$  in  $d$  real variables  $x_1, \dots, x_d$  are in one-to-one correspondence with **symmetric tensors**:

$$\vee^n \mathbb{R}^d \ni v \rightsquigarrow P_v(x_1, \dots, x_d) = \langle x^{\otimes n}, v \rangle$$

where  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$  is the vector of variables.

**Examples:**

- $n = 1$ ,  $P_v(x) = \sum_{i=1}^d v_i x_i$
- $|GHZ\rangle = |000\rangle + |111\rangle \rightsquigarrow P_{|GHZ\rangle}(x, y) = x^3 + y^3$ ;
- $|W\rangle = |001\rangle + |010\rangle + |100\rangle \rightsquigarrow P_{|W\rangle}(x, y) = 3x^2y$ ;
- if  $|\Omega\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^d |ii\rangle$ , then  $P_{|\Omega\rangle^{\otimes n}}(x_1, \dots, x_d) = (\sum_{i=1}^d x_i^2)^n = \|x\|^{2n}$ .

We denote  $d[n] := \dim \vee^n \mathbb{R}^d = \binom{n+d-1}{n}$  [Har13].



## From the symmetric subspace to polynomials — $\mathbb{C}$

In the complex case, we are interested in **bi-homogeneous polynomials** of degree  $n$  in  $d$  complex variables:  $P(z_1, \dots, z_d)$  is hom. in the variables  $z_i$  and also in  $\bar{z}_i$ .

Bi-hom. polynomials are in one-to-one correspondence with operators on  $\vee^n \mathbb{C}^d$ :

$$P(z_1, \dots, z_d) = \langle z^{\otimes n} | W | z^{\otimes n} \rangle.$$

Self-adjoint  $W$  are associated to real, bi-hom. polynomials.

The norm:  $\|z\|^{2n} = \langle z^{\otimes n} | P_{sym}^{(d,n)} | z^{\otimes n} \rangle$ .

More generally, polynomials which are bi-hom. of degree  $n$  in complex variables  $z_1, \dots, z_d$  and, separately, bi-hom. of degree  $k$  in complex variables  $u_1, \dots, u_D$  are in one-to-one correspondence with operators on  $\vee^n \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \vee^k \mathbb{C}^D$ :

$$Q(z_1, \dots, z_d, u_1, \dots, u_D) = \langle z^{\otimes n} \otimes u^{\otimes k} | W | z^{\otimes n} \otimes u^{\otimes k} \rangle.$$

# The different notions of positivity

A self-adjoint matrix  $W \in \mathcal{B}(\vee^n \mathbb{C}^d)$  is called:

- **block-positive** if  $\langle z^{\otimes n} | W | z^{\otimes n} \rangle \geq 0, \forall z \in \mathbb{C}^d$ ;
- **positive semidefinite** (PSD) if  $\langle u | W | u \rangle \geq 0, \forall u \in \vee^n \mathbb{C}^d$ ;
- **separable** if  $W \in \text{conv}\{|z\rangle\langle z|^{\otimes n}\}_{z \in \mathbb{C}^d}$ .

We have:  $W$  separable  $\implies W$  PSD  $\implies W$  block-positive.

$W$  is **block-positive**  $\iff P_W$  is **non-negative**:

$$P_W(z) = \langle z^{\otimes n} | W | z^{\otimes n} \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{C}^d.$$

$W$  is **PSD**  $\iff P_W$  is **Sum Of hom. Squares**:

$$W = \sum_j \lambda_j |w_j\rangle\langle w_j| \implies P_W(z) = \sum_j \lambda_j |\langle z^{\otimes n}, w_j \rangle|^2.$$

$W$  is **separable**  $\iff P_W$  is **Sum Of hom. Powers**:

$$W = \sum_j t_j |a_j\rangle\langle a_j|^{\otimes n} \implies P_W(z) = \sum_j t_j |\langle z, a_j \rangle|^{2n}.$$

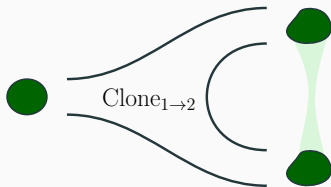
# Tensoring with the identity

For  $k \leq n$ , let  $\text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow n}^* : \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{V}^k \mathbb{C}^d) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{V}^n \mathbb{C}^d)$  be the map

$$\text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow n}^*(W) = P_{\text{sym}}^{(d,n)} \left[ W \otimes I_d^{\otimes (n-k)} \right] P_{\text{sym}}^{(d,n)}.$$

We have:  $P_{\text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow n}^*(W)}(z) = \|z\|^{2(n-k)} P_W(z)$ .

$\text{Clone}_{k \rightarrow n} := \frac{d[k]}{d[n]} \text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow n}^*$  is the optimal Keyl-Werner cloning quantum channel [Wer98, KW99]: among all quantum channels sending states  $\rho^{\otimes k}$  to symmetric  $n$ -partite states  $\sigma$ , it is the one which achieves the largest fidelity between  $\rho$  and  $\text{Tr}_{2 \dots n} \sigma$ .



# The partial trace

For  $k \leq n$ , let  $\text{Tr}_{n \rightarrow k} : \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{V}^n \mathbb{C}^d) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{V}^k \mathbb{C}^d)$  be the **partial trace**

$$\text{Tr}_{n \rightarrow k}(W) = \left[ \text{id}^{\otimes k} \otimes \text{Tr}^{\otimes (n-k)} \right] (W).$$

## Lemma

We have:  $P_{\text{Tr}_{n \rightarrow k}(W)} = ((n)_{n-k})^{-2} \Delta_{\mathbb{C}}^{n-k} P_W$ , where  $(x)_p = x(x-1) \cdots (x-p+1)$  and  $\Delta_{\mathbb{C}}$  is the **complex Laplacian**

$$\Delta_{\mathbb{C}} = \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \bar{z}_i \partial z_i}$$

## Lemma (complex Bernstein inequality ← we need analysis here)

For any  $W = W^* \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{V}^n \mathbb{C}^d)$  we have

$$\forall \|z\| \leq 1, \quad \left| (\Delta_{\mathbb{C}}^s P_W)(z) \right| \leq 4^{-s} (2d)^s (2n)_{2s} M(W)$$

## The Dictionary

Sym. operators  $\in \mathcal{B}(V^n \mathbb{C}^d)$

Polynomials ( $d$  vars, bi-hom. deg.  $n$ )

$W$

$$P_W(z) = \langle z^{\otimes n} | W | z^{\otimes n} \rangle$$

### Positivity notions

block-positive

non-negative

positive semidefinite

Sum Of Squares

separable

Sum Of Powers

### Operations

Tensor with identity

mult. with the norm<sup>2</sup>

Partial trace

complex Laplacian

# The complex Positivstellensatz

---

# A complex version of Reznick's PSS

## Theorem ([MHN19])

Consider  $W = W^* \in \mathcal{B}(\vee^k \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^D)$  with  $m(W) > 0$  and  $k \geq 1$ . Then, for any

$$n \geq \frac{dk(2k-1)}{\ln\left(1 + \frac{m(W)}{M(W)}\right)} - k$$

with  $n \geq k$ , we have

$$\|x\|^{2(n-k)} P_W(x, y) = \int P_{\tilde{W}}(\varphi, y) |\langle \varphi, x \rangle|^{2n} d\varphi$$

with  $P_{\tilde{W}}(\varphi, y) \geq 0$  for all  $\varphi \in \mathbb{C}^d$  and  $y \in \mathbb{C}^D$ , where the matrix  $\tilde{W} \in \mathcal{B}(\vee^k \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^D)$  is explicitly computable in terms of  $W$ , and  $d\varphi$  is any  $(n+k)$ -spherical design. In the case  $k=1$ , the bound on  $n$  can be improved to  $n \geq dM(W)/m(W) - 1$ .

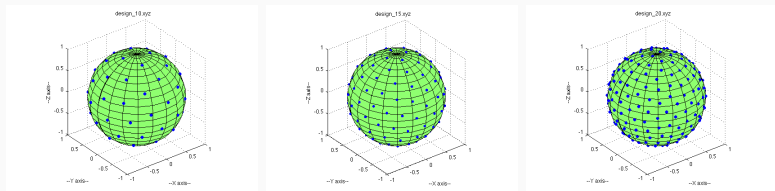
A similar result was obtained by To and Yeung [TY06] with worse bounds and in a less general setting, by “complexifying” Reznick’s proof.

# Spherical designs

A **complex  $n$ -spherical design in dimension  $d$**  [DGS91] is a probability measure  $d\varphi$  on the unit sphere of  $\mathbb{C}^d$  which approximates the uniform measure  $dz$  in the following sense: for any degree  $n$  bi-hom. polynomial  $P(z)$  in  $d$  complex variables,  $\int P(\varphi)d\varphi = \int P(z)dz$ . Equivalently,

$$\int |\varphi\rangle\langle\varphi|^{\otimes n}d\varphi = \int_{\|z\|=1} |z\rangle\langle z|^{\otimes n}dz = \frac{P_{sym}^{(d,n)}}{d[n]}.$$

For all  $d, n$ , there exist **finite  $n$ -designs**: the measure  $d\varphi$  has support of size  $\leq (n+1)^{2d}$ ; in particular, the integral in the main theorem can be a finite sum



Designs of orders 60, 120, 216 in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  ©John Burkardt



## Proof idea

$$\|x\|^{2(n-k)} P_W(x, y) = \int P_{\tilde{W}}(\varphi, y) |\langle \varphi, x \rangle|^{2n} d\varphi$$

- We want to transform a non-negative polynomial into a sum of powers by multiplying with some power of the norm.
- In terms of operators, this amounts to transforming a block-positive operator into a separable operator.
- Ansatz: use the **measure-and-prepare** map

$$\text{MP}_{n \rightarrow k} : \mathcal{B}(\vee^n \mathbb{C}^d) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\vee^k \mathbb{C}^d)$$

$$X \mapsto d[n] \int \langle \varphi^{\otimes n} | X | \varphi^{\otimes n} \rangle |\varphi\rangle \langle \varphi|^{\otimes k} d\varphi,$$

for some  $(n+k)$ -spherical design  $d\varphi$ .

- The linear map  $\text{MP}_{n \rightarrow k}$  is completely positive, and it is normalized to be trace preserving (i.e. it is a **quantum channel**).

# Chiribella's identity

## Theorem ([Chi10])

For any  $k \leq n$ , we have

$$\text{MP}_{n \rightarrow k} = \sum_{s=0}^k c(n, k, s) \text{Clone}_{s \rightarrow k} \circ \text{Tr}_{n \rightarrow s},$$

where  $c(n, k, s) = \binom{n}{s} \binom{k+d-1}{k-s} / \binom{n+k+d-1}{k}$ .

Above,  $c(n, k, \cdot)$  is a probability distribution:  $\sum_{s=0}^k c(n, k, s) = 1$ .

The proof of the Chiribella identity is a straightforward computation in the group algebra of  $G = \mathcal{S}_{n+k}$ :

$$\varepsilon_G = \sum_{s=0}^{\min(n,k)} \frac{\binom{n}{s} \binom{k}{s}}{\binom{n+k}{n}} \varepsilon_H \sigma_s \varepsilon_H$$

where  $\varepsilon_X$  is the average of the elements in  $X$ ,  $H = \mathcal{S}_n \times \mathcal{S}_k \leq G$  is a Young subgroup and  $\sigma_s$  is a permutation swapping  $s$  elements from  $[1, n]$  with  $s$  elements from  $[n+1, n+k]$ .

# The result is about the interplay between Clone and MP

The equality  $\|x\|^{2(n-k)} P_W(x, y) = \int P_{\tilde{W}}(\varphi, y) |\langle \varphi, x \rangle|^{2n} d\varphi$  reads, in terms of linear maps over symmetric spaces

$$\text{Clone}_{k \rightarrow n} \otimes \text{id}_D = [\text{MP}_{k \rightarrow n} \circ \Psi] \otimes \text{id}_D.$$

The fact that the polynomial  $P_{\tilde{W}}$  is non-negative reads

$$\tilde{W} := \Psi(W) \text{ is block-positive} \iff \langle z^{\otimes n} | \tilde{W} | z^{\otimes n} \rangle \geq 0.$$

Re-write the **Chiribella identity** as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MP}_{n \rightarrow k} &= \sum_{s=0}^k c(n, k, s) \text{Clone}_{s \rightarrow k} \circ \text{Tr}_{n \rightarrow s} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^k c(n, k, s) \text{Clone}_{s \rightarrow k} \circ \text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow s} \circ \text{Tr}_{n \rightarrow k} \\ &= \Phi_{k \rightarrow k}^{(n)} \circ \text{Tr}_{n \rightarrow k}. \end{aligned}$$

# Invert the Chiribella formula

Recall that  $\text{MP}_{n \rightarrow k} = \Phi_{k \rightarrow k}^{(n)} \circ \text{Tr}_{n \rightarrow k}$ , for some linear map  $\Phi_{k \rightarrow k}^{(n)}$ .

## Key fact.

The linear map  $\Phi_{k \rightarrow k}^{(n)} : \vee^k \mathbb{C}^d \rightarrow \vee^k \mathbb{C}^d$  is **invertible**, with inverse

$$\Psi_{k \rightarrow k}^{(n)} := \sum_{s=0}^k q(n, k, s) \text{Clone}_{s \rightarrow k} \circ \text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow s}$$

with

$$q(n, k, s) := (-1)^{s+k} \frac{\binom{n+s}{s} \binom{k}{s}}{\binom{n}{k}} \frac{d[k]}{d[s]}$$

Hence, up to some constants,  $\text{Clone}_{k \rightarrow n} = \text{MP}_{k \rightarrow n} \circ \Psi_{k \rightarrow k}^{(n)}$ .

Final step: use hypotheses on  $n, k, m(W), M(W)$  to ensure  $\Psi_{k \rightarrow k}^{(n)}(W)$  is block-positive whenever  $W$  is (strictly) block-positive.

# Use the Bernstein inequality to prove $P_{\tilde{W}}$ non-negative

Assume, wlog,  $D = 1$ , i.e. there is no  $y$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\tilde{W}}(\varphi) &= \sum_{s=0}^k q(n, k, s) \langle \varphi^{\otimes k} | \text{Clone}_{s \rightarrow k} \circ \text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow s}(W) | \varphi^{\otimes k} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^k q(n, k, s) \|\varphi\|^{2(k-s)} \langle \varphi^{\otimes s} | \text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow s}(W) | \varphi^{\otimes s} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^k q(n, k, s) \|\varphi\|^{2(k-s)} P_{\text{Tr}_{k \rightarrow s}(W)}(\varphi) \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^k \hat{q}(n, k, s) \|\varphi\|^{2(k-s)} (\Delta_{\mathbb{C}}^{k-s} p_W)(\varphi). \end{aligned}$$

Use the complex version of the **Bernstein inequality** to ensure that

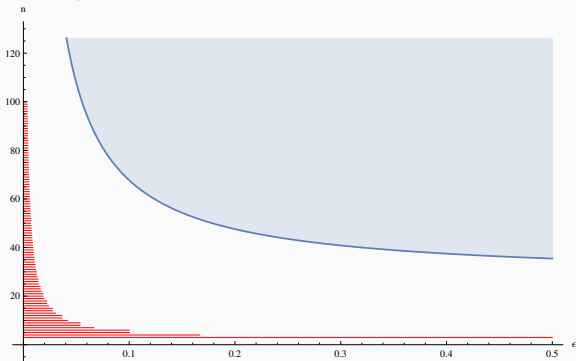
$$P_{\tilde{W}}(\varphi) \geq \left[ m(W) \tilde{q}(n, k, k) - M(W) \sum_{s=0}^{k-1} |\tilde{q}(n, k, s)| \right] \geq 0.$$

# How good are the bounds?

Consider the modified Motzkin polynomial

$$P_\varepsilon(x, y, z) = x^4y^2 + y^4z^2 + z^4x^2 - 3x^2y^2z^2 + \varepsilon(x^2 + y^2 + z^2).$$

We have  $m(P_\varepsilon) = \varepsilon$ ;  $M(P_\varepsilon) = \varepsilon + 4/27$ . Multiply with denominator  $P_{n,\varepsilon}(x, y, z) := (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{n-3}P_\varepsilon(x, y, z)$ . If a PSS decomposition for  $P_{n,\varepsilon}$  exists, then the  $[2p, 2q, 2r]$  coefficient of  $P_{n,\varepsilon}$  must be positive  $\rightsquigarrow$  lower bound on optimal  $n$ .



# The take-home slide

$W \in \mathcal{B}^{\text{sa}}(\vee^n \mathbb{C}^d) \rightsquigarrow$  hom. poly. in  $d$  vars of deg.  $n$   $P_W(z) = \langle z^{\otimes n} | W | z^{\otimes n} \rangle$

$W$  is **block-positive**  $\iff P_W$  is **non-negative**.

$W$  is **PSD**  $\iff P_W$  is **Sum Of hom. Squares**:

$$W = \sum_j \lambda_j |w_j\rangle \langle w_j| \implies P_W(z) = \sum_j \lambda_j |\langle z^{\otimes n}, w_j \rangle|^2.$$

$W$  is **separable**  $\iff P_W$  is **Sum Of hom. Powers**:

$$W = \sum_j t_j |a_j\rangle \langle a_j|^{\otimes n} \implies P_W(z) = \sum_j t_j |\langle z, a_j \rangle|^{2n}.$$

## Theorem ([MHN19])

For any  $W \in \mathcal{B}^{\text{sa}}(\vee^k \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^D)$  and  $n \geq [dk(2k-1)] / \ln \left( 1 + \frac{m(W)}{M(W)} \right) - k$ ,

$$\|x\|^{2(n-k)} P_W(x, y) = \int P_{\tilde{W}}(\varphi, y) |\langle \varphi, x \rangle|^{2n} d\varphi \in \text{SOP}(x) \subseteq \text{SOS}(x),$$

where the polynomial  $P_{\tilde{W}}(\cdot, \cdot) \geq 0$ .

## References

---



- [Art27] Emil Artin.  
**Über die Zerlegung definiter Funktionen in Quadrate.**  
*In Abhandlungen aus dem mathematischen Seminar der Universität Hamburg*, volume 5, pages 100–115. Springer, 1927.
- [Chi10] Giulio Chiribella.  
**On quantum estimation, quantum cloning and finite quantum de finetti theorems.**  
*In Conference on Quantum Computation, Communication, and Cryptography*, pages 9–25. Springer, 2010.
- [DGS91] Philippe Delsarte, Jean-Marie Goethals, and Johan Jacob Seidel.  
**Spherical codes and designs.**  
*In Geometry and Combinatorics*, pages 68–93. Elsevier, 1991.
- [Har13] Aram W Harrow.  
**The church of the symmetric subspace.**  
*arXiv preprint arXiv:1308.6595*, 2013.
- [Hil88] David Hilbert.  
**Über die Darstellung definiter Formen als Summe von Formenquadraten.**  
*Mathematische Annalen*, 32(3):342–350, 1888.
- [KW99] Michael Keyl and Reinhard F Werner.  
**Optimal cloning of pure states, testing single clones.**  
*Journal of Mathematical Physics*, 40(7):3283–3299, 1999.
- [MHNR19] Alexander Müller-Hermes, Ion Nechita, and David Reeb.  
**A refinement of Reznick’s Positivstellensatz with applications to quantum information theory.**  
*arXiv preprint arXiv:1909.01705*, 2019.
- [Rez95] Bruce Reznick.  
**Uniform denominators in hilbert’s seventeenth problem.**  
*Mathematische Zeitschrift*, 220(1):75–97, 1995.
- [TY06] Wing-Keung To and Sai-Kee Yeung.  
**Effective isometric embeddings for certain hermitian holomorphic line bundles.**  
*Journal of the London Mathematical Society*, 73(3):607–624, 2006.
- [Wer98] Reinhard F Werner.  
**Optimal cloning of pure states.**  
*Physical Review A*, 58(3):1827, 1998.