

Integral formula for quantum relative entropy implies data processing inequality

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Integral representations of quantum relative entropy, and of the directional second and higher order derivatives of von Neumann entropy, are established, and used to give simple proofs of fundamental, known data processing inequalities: the Holevo bound on the quantity of information transmitted by a quantum communication channel, and, much more generally, the monotonicity of quantum relative entropy under trace-preserving positive linear maps — complete positivity of the map need not be assumed. The latter result was first proved by Müller-Hermes and Reeb, based on work of Beigi.

For a simple application of such monotonicities, we consider any ‘divergence’ that is non-increasing under quantum measurements, such as the concavity of von Neumann entropy, or various known quantum divergences. An elegant argument due to Hiai, Ohya, and Tsukada is used to show that the infimum of such a ‘divergence’ on pairs of quantum states with prescribed trace distance is the same as the corresponding infimum on pairs of binary classical states.

Applications of the new integral formulae to the general probabilistic model of information theory, and a related integral formula for the classical Rényi divergence, are also discussed.

1 Introduction

Half a century ago, Alexander Holevo proved his famous inequality: the quantity of information transmitted by a quantum communication channel using a given ensemble of quantum states is bounded from above by the extent to which von Neumann entropy is concave on the ensemble. One of the main ingredients in Holevo’s proof is an explicit, closed formula for the directional second derivative S'' of the von Neumann entropy.

Since that time, the Holevo bound has become an important building block of the vast theory of quantum information. Generalizations and alternative proofs, often using advanced methods of that theory, have been given. Almost simultaneously with Holevo’s work, Elliott Lieb and Mary Beth Ruskai [11] established the strong subadditivity of von Neumann entropy, which quickly led to Göran Lindblad’s proof [12] of monotonicity of quantum relative entropy under completely positive trace-preserving linear maps — a generalization of Holevo’s inequality. Much later, a further generalization was proved by A. Müller-Hermes and D. Reeb [13], based on work of S. Beigi [1]: quantum relative entropy

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cannot increase under a trace-preserving positive linear map — complete positivity of the map need not be assumed.

In this paper, we return to more classical methods of analysis and linear algebra. In Section 5, we prove the alternative formula

$$-\frac{1}{2}S(\rho + t\sigma)''\Big|_{t=0} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{|t|^3} \operatorname{tr}^-(\rho + t\sigma)$$

for the directional second derivative of von Neumann entropy, which then leads to similar formulas for directional derivatives of higher order. Note that tr^- stands for the sum of absolute values of negative eigenvalues.

Before that, in Section 4, we establish a similar formula for the quantum relative entropy. The simplest form of this formula is

$$D(\rho\|\sigma) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{|t|(t-1)^2} \operatorname{tr}^-((1-t)\rho + t\sigma), \quad (1)$$

which holds for any two quantum states.

We then show in Section 6 that our formulae lead to the above mentioned monotonicity of quantum relative entropy and to the Holevo inequality in a very simple way, and a characterization of the case of equality in these inequalities can be deduced from our new proof. In a recent preprint [7], it is pointed out that the tr^- appearing in (1) is closely related to optimal error probabilities in quantum state discrimination, and, as a consequence, (1) leads to a new characterization of recoverability of quantum states with respect to a quantum channel in terms of quantities related to quantum hypothesis testing.

In Section 7, we consider any ‘divergence-like’ quantity that is non-increasing under quantum measurements, such as the concavity of von Neumann entropy, sandwiched Rényi divergences, or the more general optimized quantum f -divergences. We use a simple construction due to Hiai, Ohya, and Tsukada [3] from the year 1981 to show that the infimum of such a ‘divergence’ on pairs with prescribed trace distance is the same for (arbitrary dimensional) quantum states as for binary classical states. For example, the Holevo inequality is used to obtain a new, tight lower bound on the concavity of von Neumann entropy, improving on a lower bound given by Isaac Kim in 2014.

In Section 8, we discuss how formula (1) can be applied in the general probabilistic framework of information theory, yielding, in particular, an extension of the Holevo inequality to that framework. In Section 9, we provide an integral representation of the classical Rényi relative entropy and discuss its possible relevance to quantum information theory and to general probabilistic theory.

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2 Notations, terminology, and basic trace inequalities

We write \log for the natural logarithm. Partial derivatives will be denoted by putting the corresponding variable in the subscript. A $'$ means differentiation with respect to t .

The set of n -square matrices with complex entries is written $M_n(\mathbb{C})$. The identity matrix is $\mathbf{1}$. A complex matrix A is *psdh* if it is positive semi-definite Hermitian, written

$A \geq 0$. We write $A \geq B$ to mean that $A - B \geq 0$. For a Hermitian matrix A , we write $A = A^+ - A^-$, where $A^\pm \geq 0$ and $A^+A^- = A^-A^+ = 0$. We define $|A| = A^+ + A^-$. We write $\text{tr}^\pm A = \text{tr} A^\pm$ and $\|A\|_1 = \text{tr} |A|$ for the sum of absolute values of positive/negative eigenvalues and all eigenvalues of A , respectively. Recall that

$$\text{tr}^+ A = \max\{\text{tr} PA : P^2 = P = P^*\}.$$

The maximum is attained if and only if

$$(\mathbf{1} - P)A^+ = PA^- = 0. \quad (2)$$

If $A \geq B$, then $PAP \geq PBP$ and therefore $\text{tr} PA \geq \text{tr} PB$ for all projections P , whence

$$\text{tr}^+ A \geq \text{tr}^+ B. \quad (3)$$

There is equality here if and only if there exists a projection P satisfying (2) and $\text{tr} PA = \text{tr} PB$. In this case, $\text{tr} PA^+ = \text{tr} PA + \text{tr} PA^- = \text{tr} PA = \text{tr} PB$, but $\text{im} A^+ \perp \text{im}(\mathbf{1} - P) = \ker P$, whence

$$\text{im} A^+ \subseteq \text{im} P \perp \text{im}(A^+ - B),$$

so $A^+(A^+ - B) = 0$. Conversely, if this last equality holds, then the projection P onto $\text{im} A^+$ satisfies (2) and also

$$0 \leq \text{tr} P(A - B) \leq \text{tr} P(A^+ - B) = 0,$$

so there is equality in (3).

Recall the well-known fact that

$$\text{tr}^\pm \text{ are nonnegative convex functions.} \quad (4)$$

Indeed, from (3), the inequality

$$\text{tr}^+(A + B) \leq \text{tr}^+(A^+ + B^+) = \text{tr}(A^+ + B^+) = \text{tr} A^+ + \text{tr} B^+ = \text{tr}^+ A + \text{tr}^+ B$$

holds for any self-adjoint A and B , and the identity $\text{tr}^+ tA = t \text{tr}^+ A$ holds for any $t \geq 0$ and self-adjoint A , implying convexity of tr^+ . Since $\text{tr}^-(A) = \text{tr}^+(-A)$, the function tr^- is also convex.

A *density matrix*, or *quantum state*, is a psdh matrix with trace 1. The *von Neumann entropy* of a psdh matrix ρ (of arbitrary trace) is $S(\rho) = -\text{tr} \rho \log \rho$. The *quantum relative entropy* (Umegaki [19]) of two psdh matrices ρ and σ (of arbitrary trace) is

$$D(\rho||\sigma) = \begin{cases} \text{tr} \rho(\log \rho - \log \sigma) & \text{if } \text{im} \rho \subseteq \text{im} \sigma \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

3 Eigenvalues of matrix pencils

It will be useful to study the negative real eigenvalues of the linear matrix pencil

$$A(t) = (1 - t)\rho + t\sigma, \quad (5)$$

where $A(0) = \rho \geq 0$ and $A(1) = \sigma$ is Hermitian. A priori, we allow $t \in \mathbb{C}$ here. Thus, in general, $A(t)$ is not Hermitian, but some real eigenvalues could occur for some non-real t . However, we show that *negative* real eigenvalues of $A(t)$ can only occur for real t .

Lemma 1. *If $A(t)e = -re$ for a unit vector e and a positive real number r , then $t((\rho - \sigma)e, e) > 0$, and therefore $t \neq 0$ is real.*

Proof. We have $-r = (A(t)e, e) = (1 - t)(\rho e, e) + t(\sigma e, e)$, whence

$$t((\rho - \sigma)e, e) = (\rho e, e) + r > 0.$$

Thus, $t \neq 0$. Since ρ and σ are both Hermitian, $((\rho - \sigma)e, e)$ is real and therefore so is t . \square

Consider the two-parameter family of matrices

$$X(t, r) = A(t) + r\mathbf{1}. \quad (6)$$

Its partial derivatives are $X_t = \sigma - \rho$ and $X_r = \mathbf{1}$.

Define the bivariate polynomial

$$f(t, r) = \det X(t, r). \quad (7)$$

For its partial logarithmic derivatives, we have, by Jacobi's formula,

$$f_t/f = \operatorname{tr}(\sigma - \rho)X^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad f_r/f = \operatorname{tr} X^{-1} \quad (8)$$

whenever X is invertible, i.e., whenever $f \neq 0$. In this case,

$$f_t \operatorname{tr} X^{-1} = f_r \operatorname{tr}(\sigma - \rho)X^{-1}. \quad (9)$$

We have $f(t, r) = 0$ if and only if $-r$ is an eigenvalue of $A(t)$. In this case, the ratio of partial derivatives is given by

Lemma 2. *Let t be real. If $A(t)e = -re$ for a unit vector e , then*

$$f_t(t, r) = ((\sigma - \rho)e, e)f_r(t, r).$$

Proof. Let P be the orthogonal projection to the $(-r)$ -eigenspace of $A(t)$. We have $A(t) = -rP + (\mathbf{1} - P)A(t)(\mathbf{1} - P)$, where the second term does not have $-r$ as an eigenvalue. Thus, for all s , we have $X(t, s) = A(t) + s\mathbf{1} = (s - r)P + (\mathbf{1} - P)(A(t) + s\mathbf{1})(\mathbf{1} - P)$, where the second term does not have $s - r$ as an eigenvalue. Then $X(t, s)^{-1} \sim P/(s - r)$ as $s \rightarrow r$. Thus, (9) yields $f_t(t, r) \operatorname{tr} P = f_r(t, r) \operatorname{tr}(\sigma - \rho)P$. If $-r$ is a simple eigenvalue of $A(t)$, then $\operatorname{tr} P = 1$ and $\operatorname{tr}(\sigma - \rho)P = ((\sigma - \rho)e, e)$, proving the Lemma. If $-r$ is a multiple eigenvalue of $A(t)$, then $f_r(t, r) = 0$, but $\operatorname{tr} P \neq 0$, hence $f_t(t, r) = 0$, and the Lemma holds in a trivial way. \square

These two lemmas imply that any negative simple eigenvalue of $A(t)$ gets more negative as t moves farther away from zero. More precisely, we have

Corollary 3. *If $f(t, r) = 0$ and $r > 0$, then*

$$(a) \quad t \neq 0 \text{ is real, and } t f_r(t, r) f_t(t, r) \leq 0.$$

$$(b) \quad \text{The following are equivalent: } f_t(t, r) = 0; f_r(t, r) = 0; -r \text{ is a multiple eigenvalue of } A(t).$$

We have $f(t, r) = f_r(t, r) = 0$ if and only if $-r$ is a multiple eigenvalue of $A(t)$. As a polynomial in r , f has a discriminant whose value is a polynomial in t . The discriminant is zero for a given value of t if and only if the matrix $A(t)$ has a multiple eigenvalue. This happens either for finitely many t or for all t .

4 Quantum relative entropy

Let ρ and σ be psdh matrices. The notations (5), (6), and (7) introduced in Section 3 will be used. We wish to prove an integral formula for the quantum relative entropy $D(\rho\|\sigma)$. In the first part of the proof, we join the pair (ρ, σ) to infinity in the direction of the identity matrix. This is done in the following two lemmas, and yields an integral formula in terms of certain logarithmic derivatives of the function $f(t, r)$. We will then convert this into an integral formula in terms of $\text{tr}^- A(t)$ by applying the Residue Theorem and by changing the integration variable from r to t .

Lemma 4. $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} D(\rho + r\mathbf{1}\|\sigma + r\mathbf{1}) = \text{tr}(\rho - \sigma)$.

Proof. $D(\rho + r\mathbf{1}\|\sigma + r\mathbf{1}) = rD(\mathbf{1} + \rho/r\|\mathbf{1} + \sigma/r) \sim r \text{tr}(\rho - \sigma)/r$. \square

Lemma 5. (a) For all $r > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dr} D(\rho + r\mathbf{1}\|\sigma + r\mathbf{1}) &= \\ &= \text{tr} \log(\rho + r\mathbf{1}) - \text{tr} \log(\sigma + r\mathbf{1}) + \text{tr}(\sigma - \rho)(\sigma + r\mathbf{1})^{-1} = \\ &= \log f(0, r) - \log f(1, r) + (\log f)'(1, r) \end{aligned}$$

(b) If $\text{im } \rho \subseteq \text{im } \sigma$, then the expression above is $o(1/r)$ as $r \rightarrow 0$ or $r \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. (a) On the left hand side, we differentiate the product in the argument of tr to get

$$\text{tr} \left(\log(\rho + r\mathbf{1}) - \log(\sigma + r\mathbf{1}) + (\rho + r\mathbf{1}) \left((\rho + r\mathbf{1})^{-1} - (\sigma + r\mathbf{1})^{-1} \right) \right).$$

Apply the identity

$$\mathbf{1} - (\rho + r\mathbf{1})(\sigma + r\mathbf{1})^{-1} = (\sigma - \rho)(\sigma + r\mathbf{1})^{-1}$$

to arrive at the middle expression in Statement (a) of the Lemma. By $\text{tr} \log = \log \det$, the first two terms are clearly equal to the first two terms of the last expression in (a). By (8), the third terms are also equal.

(b) When $r \rightarrow 0$, the first two terms are $O(\log(1/r))$, and the third term $\rightarrow \text{tr}(\sigma - \rho)\sigma^{(-1)}$ if $\text{im } \rho \subseteq \text{im } \sigma$, where $\sigma^{(-1)} = (\sigma|_{\text{im } \sigma})^{-1} \oplus 0$ is the pseudoinverse of σ .

When $r \rightarrow \infty$, the third term is $\sim \text{tr}(\sigma - \rho)/r$, and the sum of the first two terms is $\text{tr} \log(\mathbf{1} + \rho/r) - \text{tr} \log(\mathbf{1} + \sigma/r) \sim \text{tr}(\rho - \sigma)/r$. \square

From Lemmas 4 and 5(a), we have

$$D(\rho\|\sigma) + \text{tr}(\sigma - \rho) = - \int_0^\infty (\log f(0, r) - \log f(1, r) + (\log f)'(1, r)) \, dr.$$

Now we integrate by parts. If $\text{im } \rho \subseteq \text{im } \sigma$, then, by Lemma 5(b), the result is simply

$$\int_0^\infty r \cdot (h(0, r) - h(1, r) + h'(1, r)) \, dr,$$

where $h = (\log f)_r = f_r/f$ is a rational function of t and r , holomorphic unless $f = 0$, so certainly holomorphic at (t, r) when $r > 0$ and $t \in [0, 1]$. Therefore, as a rational function of t , the function h/t has residue $h(0, r)$ at 0 and is holomorphic at 1, the function $h/(t-1)$

has residue $h(1, r)$ at 1 and is holomorphic at 0, and the function $h/(t-1)^2$ has residue $h'(1, r)$ at 1 and is holomorphic at 0. Let

$$g(t) = \frac{1}{t} - \frac{1}{t-1} + \frac{1}{(t-1)^2} = \frac{1}{t(t-1)^2},$$

then

$$D(\rho||\sigma) + \text{tr}(\sigma - \rho) = \int_0^\infty r \cdot (\text{Res}_{t=0} + \text{Res}_{t=1})(gh) dr. \quad (10)$$

For a fixed $r > 0$, observe that gh , as a rational function of t in the complex plane, is holomorphic except where $t = 0$, $t = 1$, or $f = 0$. The latter case occurs if and only if $-r$ is an eigenvalue of $A(t)$. If $-r$ is a *simple* eigenvalue of $A(t)$, then $f_t(t, r) \neq 0$ by Corollary 3, and the residue of $gh = gf_r/f$ at t is gf_r/f_t because gf_r is holomorphic at t and $f(t, r) = 0$.

The bivariate polynomial f , when viewed as a polynomial in t , has a leading coefficient that is a univariate polynomial in r . For all but finitely many values of r , this leading coefficient is nonzero, and then we have

$$h = O(1) \quad (|t| \rightarrow \infty), \quad (11)$$

whence $gh = O(|g|) = O(|t|^{-3})$, so the contour integrals on circles $|t| = T$ tend to zero as $T \rightarrow \infty$. By the Residue Theorem, the sum of all residues of gh is zero.

Let us assume that not all $A(t)$ have multiple eigenvalues. In this case, only finitely many $A(t)$ have multiple eigenvalues, therefore only finitely many numbers $-r$ occur as multiple eigenvalues of some $A(t)$. These finitely many values of r , together with the ones for which (11) fails, do not influence the integral in (10). The right hand side of (10) therefore becomes

$$- \int_0^\infty r \sum_{f(t,r)=0} \frac{gf_r}{f_t} dr. \quad (12)$$

By Lemma 1, only real numbers t can satisfy the condition $f(t, r) = 0$ required in the summation. Therefore, we can think of (12) as an integral on the portion of the real algebraic plane curve $f(t, r) = 0$ that lies in the upper half-plane $r > 0$. The finitely many singular points that the curve may have, corresponding to $-r$ being a multiple eigenvalue of $A(t)$, do not influence the integral. We only need to study the integral along the smooth arcs of the curve. Each smooth arc is parametrized by the variable r , but we want to reparametrize it using the variable t . For a simple negative eigenvalue $-r$ of $A(t)$, Corollary 3 implies that $f_r(t, r) \neq 0$ and $|dr/dt| = |f_t/f_r| = -(\text{sgn } t)f_t/f_r$ as we move along the curve. Hence, by the rule for change of variables, the integral is rewritten as

$$\int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{dt}{|t|(t-1)^2} \sum (r : r > 0, f(t, r) = 0).$$

The change of variables is justified since the integrand is positive at every smooth point.

The last sum that has appeared is $\text{tr}^- A(t)$. We arrive at the main result of this paper.

Theorem 6. *Let $\rho, \sigma \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ be psdh matrices. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} D(\rho||\sigma) &= \text{tr}(\rho - \sigma) + \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{dt}{|t|(t-1)^2} \text{tr}^- A(t) = \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{dt}{|t|(|t|+1)^2} (\text{tr}^+ A(t) - \text{tr } \rho) + \int_1^\infty \frac{dt}{t(t-1)^2} \text{tr}^- A(t), \end{aligned}$$

where $A(t) = (1-t)\rho + t\sigma$, and tr^\pm stands for the sum of absolute values of positive and negative eigenvalues, respectively.

Proof. First equality: Both sides are $+\infty$ unless $\text{im } \rho \subseteq \text{im } \sigma$, which we henceforth assume. Restricting our attention to the image of σ , we may assume that σ is positive definite to begin with. Since both sides are then continuous, we may change σ a little bit so that it has no multiple eigenvalues. The preceding discussion then applies and the first equality is proved.

Second equality: For $0 \leq t \leq 1$, we have $A(t) \geq 0$ and therefore $\text{tr}^- A(t) = 0$. For $t < 0$, observe that

$$\text{tr}^+ A(t) - \text{tr } \rho = \text{tr}^- A(t) + |t| \text{tr}(\rho - \sigma). \quad (13)$$

Then use $\int_{-\infty}^0 dt/(t-1)^2 = 1$ to conclude. \square

From Theorem 6 and fact (4), we immediately recover the well-known fact that $D(\rho\|\sigma)$ is a convex function of the pair (ρ, σ) , and it is nonnegative whenever $\text{tr } \rho \geq \text{tr } \sigma$.

5 Higher order derivatives of von Neumann entropy

In this section, ρ is a psdh matrix and σ is a Hermitian matrix with $\text{im } \sigma \subseteq \text{im } \rho$. We wish to find an integral formula for $S(\rho + t\sigma)^{(m)}\Big|_{t=0}$ when $m \geq 2$. When $m = 2$, $\text{tr } \rho = 1$, and $\text{tr } \sigma = 0$, an explicit formula for this quantity, in terms of the spectral decomposition of ρ , has been given by A. S. Holevo in his seminal paper [6, Lemma 4]. The fact that our integral formula yields the same value seems non-obvious. The proof given below does not rely on Holevo's explicit formula.

Theorem 7. *Let $\rho, \sigma \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ with $\rho \geq 0$, $\sigma^* = \sigma$, and $\text{im } \sigma \subseteq \text{im } \rho$.*

(a) *For all $m \geq 2$, we have*

$$-\frac{1}{m!} S(\rho + t\sigma)^{(m)}\Big|_{t=0} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{|t|t^m} \text{tr}^-(\rho + t\sigma), \quad (14)$$

where tr^- stands for the sum of absolute values of negative eigenvalues.

(b) *When $m \geq 2$ is even, the quantity (14) is nonnegative and convex as a function of the pair (ρ, σ) .*

Proof. (a) Case $m = 2$: We have

$$-S(\rho + t\sigma)''\Big|_{t=0} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t^2} (2S(\rho) - S(\rho + t\sigma) - S(\rho - t\sigma)).$$

In the parentheses here, we have

$$D(\rho + t\sigma\|\rho) + D(\rho - t\sigma\|\rho).$$

By Theorem 6, we have

$$D(\rho \pm t\sigma\|\rho) \mp t \text{tr } \sigma = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{ds}{|s|(s-1)^2} \text{tr}^-(\rho \pm (1-s)t\sigma).$$

Putting $u = (1-s)t$, i.e. substituting $s = 1 - u/t$, this becomes

$$t^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{du}{|t-u|u^2} \text{tr}^-(\rho \pm u\sigma) \sim t^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{du}{|u|^3} \text{tr}^-(\rho + u\sigma)$$

as $t \rightarrow 0$ by Lebesgue's Dominated Convergence Theorem. Case $m = 2$ follows.

If the statement holds for m , then

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{m!}S(\rho + t\sigma)^{(m)}\Big|_{t=u} = -\frac{1}{m!}S(\rho + u\sigma + t\sigma)^{(m)}\Big|_{t=0} = \\ & = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{|t|t^m} \operatorname{tr}^-(\rho + (t+u)\sigma) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{|t-u|(t-u)^m} \operatorname{tr}^-(\rho + t\sigma) \end{aligned}$$

for $|u| < T$, where $T > 0$ is such that $\rho \pm T\sigma \geq 0$ for both signs.

When $|u| < |t|$, we have

$$\frac{d}{du} \frac{1}{|t-u|(t-u)^m} = \frac{m+1}{|t-u|(t-u)^{m+1}},$$

whose absolute value is bounded from above by

$$\frac{(m+1)2^{m+2}}{|t|^{m+2}}$$

if $|u| \leq |t|/2$. Thus, for $|u| \leq T/2$, the absolute value of the derivative with respect to u of the last integrand is dominated by

$$\frac{(m+1)2^{m+2}}{|t|^{m+2}} \operatorname{tr}^-(\rho + t\sigma),$$

which is integrable on the real line. Use Lebesgue's Theorem to differentiate w.r.t. u at 0 under the integral sign, and get Theorem 7(a) for $m+1$.

(b) From (4), we see that $\operatorname{tr}^-(\rho + t\sigma)$ is nonnegative and convex as a function of the pair (ρ, σ) . For m even, $|t|t^m \geq 0$ for all t . \square

6 Data processing inequalities

Let $\mathcal{E} : M_n(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow M_{n'}(\mathbb{C})$ be a trace-nonincreasing positive linear map. *Positivity* means that psdh matrices are mapped to psdh matrices (and therefore Hermitian matrices are mapped to Hermitian matrices). *Trace-nonincreasing* means that $\operatorname{tr} \mathcal{E}A \leq \operatorname{tr} A$ for all $A \geq 0$. An important example is given by a *positive operator valued measure*, or *partition of unity*: psdh matrices E_1, \dots, E_k summing to $\mathbf{1}$, which give rise to a completely positive, trace-preserving linear map, the *quantum measurement*

$$\mathcal{E} : A \mapsto \operatorname{diag}(\operatorname{tr} E_1 A, \dots, \operatorname{tr} E_k A).$$

Lemma 8. (a) For any trace-nonincreasing positive linear map \mathcal{E} and any Hermitian matrix A , we have $\operatorname{tr}^\pm \mathcal{E}A \leq \operatorname{tr}^\pm A$.

(b) Equality holds in the statement (a) if and only if $\operatorname{tr} \mathcal{E}A^\pm = \operatorname{tr} A^\pm$ and $\mathcal{E}A^+ \mathcal{E}A^- = 0$.

(c) For a quantum measurement, the condition of equality in (a) is that for all i , we have $E_i A^+ = 0$ or $E_i A^- = 0$.

Proof. It suffices to treat the $+$ case because passing from A to $-A$ interchanges tr^+ and tr^- as well as A^+ and A^- .

(a) We have $A \leq A^+$ and therefore $\mathcal{E}A \leq \mathcal{E}A^+$. From (3), we get that

$$\operatorname{tr}^+ \mathcal{E}A \leq \operatorname{tr}^+ \mathcal{E}A^+ = \operatorname{tr} \mathcal{E}A^+ \leq \operatorname{tr} A^+ = \operatorname{tr}^+ A.$$

(b) Since $(\mathcal{E}A^+)^+ = \mathcal{E}A^+$ and $\mathcal{E}A^+ - \mathcal{E}A = \mathcal{E}A^-$, the claim follows from the condition for equality in (3).

(c) For a quantum measurement, the condition of equality is that there be no i with $\operatorname{tr} E_i A^\pm > 0$ for both signs. \square

Remark 9. The condition $\mathcal{E}A^+\mathcal{E}A^- = 0$ appearing in (b) is equivalent to each of the following: $(\mathcal{E}A)^+ = \mathcal{E}A^+$, $(\mathcal{E}A)^- = \mathcal{E}A^-$, $\|\mathcal{E}A\|_1 = \text{tr } \mathcal{E}|A|$. When $\text{tr } \mathcal{E}|A| = \text{tr } |A|$, it is also equivalent to $\|\mathcal{E}A\|_1 = \|A\|_1$.

6.1 Quantum relative entropy

From Theorem 6 and Lemma 8, we recover (for the finite-dimensional case) the **data processing inequality**

$$D(\mathcal{E}\rho\|\mathcal{E}\sigma) \leq D(\rho\|\sigma) \quad (15)$$

for any trace-nonincreasing positive linear map \mathcal{E} and any psdh matrices ρ and σ such that $\text{tr } \mathcal{E}\rho = \text{tr } \rho$. Note that *complete* positivity of \mathcal{E} is not assumed.

The inequality (15), in this generality, was first proved by A. Müller-Hermes and D. Reeb [13]. They also covered the infinite-dimensional case. Their approach was based on the work of S. Beigi [1] establishing the data processing inequality for sandwiched Rényi divergences, with respect to quantum channels (completely positive trace-preserving linear maps).

Proposition 10. *Let ρ and σ be psdh matrices with $\text{im } \rho \subseteq \text{im } \sigma$. Let \mathcal{E} be a trace-nonincreasing positive linear map such that $\text{tr } \mathcal{E}\rho = \text{tr } \rho$.*

(a) *Equality holds in (15) if and only if*

$$\text{tr}^+ \mathcal{E}(\rho - t\sigma) = \text{tr}^+(\rho - t\sigma) \quad (16)$$

holds for all $t > 0$. This is equivalent to saying that every linear combination A of ρ and σ has $\mathcal{E}A^+\mathcal{E}A^- = 0$, and

$$\text{tr } \mathcal{E}(\rho - t\sigma)^+ = \text{tr}(\rho - t\sigma)^+$$

holds for all $t > 0$.

(b) *For a quantum measurement, the condition of equality is that for all i and for all linear combinations A of ρ and σ , we should have $E_i A^+ = 0$ or $E_i A^- = 0$.*

Proof. (a) First claim: From Theorem 6, we see that equality holds in (15) if and only if every affine combination $A = A(t) = (1-t)\rho + t\sigma$ of ρ and σ has $\text{tr}^\pm \mathcal{E}A(t) = \text{tr}^\pm A(t)$ whenever $\pm t < 0$. This with the + or the - sign is equivalent to (16) for $0 < t < 1$ and $t > 1$, respectively. For $t = 1$, it follows by continuity.

The second claim is clear from Lemma 8(b).

(b) Since quantum measurements are trace-preserving, the claim is immediate from (a). \square

In a recent preprint [7] discussing the relevance of Theorem 6 to the sufficiency of quantum channels and to hypothesis testing, it is pointed out that when \mathcal{E} is trace-preserving, the condition for equality in (15) is (16), and that it can be reformulated as $\|\mathcal{E}(\rho - t\sigma)\|_1 = \|\rho - t\sigma\|_1$ for all $t \geq 0$. When \mathcal{E} is *completely* positive and trace-preserving, it was known [2, 17] that this preservation of the trace norm of linear combinations is equivalent to the recoverability of ρ and σ with respect to \mathcal{E} . When \mathcal{E} is 2-positive and trace-preserving, it was known [4, 14, 15] that the preservation of the quantum relative entropy is equivalent to the recoverability.

6.2 The Holevo bound

In [6], A. S. Holevo used his explicit formula for S'' to prove his celebrated upper bound on the quantity of information transmitted by a quantum communication channel. We shall now show how Theorem 7 quickly leads to a generalization of the same bound, which, however, also follows from (15).

Let \mathcal{E} be a trace-nonincreasing positive linear map. From Theorem 7 and Lemma 8, we see that

$$-S^{(m)}(\mathcal{E}\rho + t\mathcal{E}\sigma)\Big|_{t=0} \leq -S^{(m)}(\rho + t\sigma)\Big|_{t=0}$$

for any psdh matrix ρ , any Hermitian matrix σ satisfying $\text{im } \sigma \subseteq \text{im } \rho$, and any even $m \geq 2$. We have equality if and only if every combination

$$A = A(t) = \rho + t\sigma$$

has $\mathcal{E}A^+\mathcal{E}A^- = 0$ and $\text{tr } \mathcal{E}A^- = \text{tr } A^-$. For a quantum measurement \mathcal{E} , the condition of equality is that for all i and t we should have $E_i A(t)^+ = 0$ or $E_i A(t)^- = 0$.

In particular, $S - S \circ \mathcal{E}$ is a concave function on psdh matrices.

For psdh matrices ρ_1, \dots, ρ_l and nonnegative weights q_1, \dots, q_l summing to 1, let $\bar{\rho} = \sum_{j=1}^l q_j \rho_j$. Define the *Holevo quantity*

$$\chi(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_l; q_1, \dots, q_l) := S(\bar{\rho}) - \sum_{j=1}^l q_j S(\rho_j) = \sum_{j=1}^l q_j D(\rho_j \| \bar{\rho}). \quad (17)$$

From Theorem 7(b), or from Theorem 6 together with the fact (4), we recover the well-known fact that the Holevo quantity is nonnegative and convex as a function of (ρ_1, \dots, ρ_l) .

By Jensen's inequality, for any psdh matrices ρ_1, \dots, ρ_l , and any weights $q_1, \dots, q_l > 0$ summing to 1, we have

$$\chi(\mathcal{E}\rho_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}\rho_l; q_1, \dots, q_l) \leq \chi(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_l; q_1, \dots, q_l), \quad (18)$$

with equality if and only if $\mathcal{E}A^+\mathcal{E}A^- = 0$ and $\text{tr } \mathcal{E}A^- = \text{tr } A^-$ for every affine combination A of ρ_1, \dots, ρ_l .

In words: the Holevo quantity is non-increasing under trace-nonincreasing positive linear maps. Note that complete positivity of the map need not be assumed.

When \mathcal{E} is a quantum measurement, and each ρ_j has trace 1, (18) is Holevo's inequality. The left hand side is the *mutual information* between the random input j (whose distribution is given by the probabilities q_j) and the measurement output i (whose conditional distribution is given by the conditional probabilities $\text{tr } E_i \rho_j$ once j has occurred). We have equality in (18) if and only if for all i and all affine combinations A of the ρ_j , we have $E_i A^+ = 0$ or $E_i A^- = 0$.

7 Lower bounds on generalized divergences

This section is only loosely related to the rest of the paper. A simple application of the data processing inequality is presented.

The most basic metric on quantum states is given by the trace distance. It is therefore desirable to find inequalities that compare other measures of dissimilarity of quantum states, i.e. quantum divergences, to the trace distance. Among the many divergences commonly studied, the *quantum Jensen–Shannon divergence* $\chi(\rho_0, \rho_1; 1/2, 1/2)$, which is

the Holevo quantity (concavity of the von Neumann entropy) with equal weights $1/2$ and $1/2$, has special interest because its square root is a metric [20].

It was shown by F. Hiai, M. Ohya, and M. Tsukada [3] that the minimum of the quantum relative entropy for two quantum states with prescribed trace distance is attained on binary classical states. In this section, we shall use their method prove the analogous result for any quantity that depends on two quantum states and is non-increasing under quantum measurements. As examples of such quantities, we have already discussed in Section 6 the quantum relative entropy and the concavity of von Neumann entropy, but the sandwiched Rényi divergence with parameter $\alpha > 1$ is also non-increasing, not just under quantum measurements, but under quantum channels (completely positive trace-preserving maps), as was shown by S. Beigi [1]. More generally, M. M. Wilde [21] proved the same for optimized quantum f -divergences. An alternative proof (with respect to trace-preserving positive linear maps satisfying a certain Schwarz-type inequality) was given by H. Li [10].

Let ρ_0 and ρ_1 be density matrices of dimension ≥ 2 . Set

$$\rho_1 - \rho_0 = \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1 \sigma,$$

where σ is traceless Hermitian with 1-norm 1. Let $\mathbb{C}^n = V_+ \oplus V_-$ be an orthogonal decomposition with $\sigma V_{\pm} \subseteq V_{\pm}$ and $\pm\sigma \geq 0$ on V_{\pm} . Let E_{\pm} be the orthogonal projection onto V_{\pm} , and let \mathcal{E} be the quantum measurement given by these two projections. Then, for any density matrix ρ , we have $\mathcal{E}\rho = \text{diag}(\text{tr } E_+\rho, \text{tr } E_-\rho)$, whence

$$\|\mathcal{E}\rho_1 - \mathcal{E}\rho_0\|_1 = 2 \text{tr } E_+(\rho_1 - \rho_0) = 2\|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1 \text{tr } E_+\sigma = \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1.$$

We have $D(\mathcal{E}\rho_0\|\mathcal{E}\rho_1) \leq D(\rho_0\|\rho_1)$ and

$$\chi(\mathcal{E}\rho_0, \mathcal{E}\rho_1; q_0, q_1) \leq \chi(\rho_0, \rho_1; q_0, q_1) \quad (19)$$

for any positive q_0 and q_1 summing to 1. In both of these inequalities, equality holds if and only if the density matrices ρ_0 , ρ_1 and $|\sigma|$ are linearly dependent, i.e., lie on a line. Unique such ρ_0 and ρ_1 exist for any prescribed σ and any prescribed values of $0 \leq \text{tr } E_+\rho_0 \leq \text{tr } E_+\rho_1 \leq 1$.

More generally, let Δ be any function depending on two density matrices and satisfying the data processing inequality $\Delta(\mathcal{E}\rho_0\|\mathcal{E}\rho_1) \leq \Delta(\rho_0\|\rho_1)$ for any quantum measurement \mathcal{E} with two possible outcomes $+$ and $-$. Then we arrive at

Theorem 11. *For any quantum states (density matrices) $\rho_0, \rho_1 \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$, there exist binary classical states (diagonal 2-square density matrices) ρ'_0 and ρ'_1 such that $\|\rho'_1 - \rho'_0\|_1 = \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1$ and $\Delta(\rho'_0\|\rho'_1) \leq \Delta(\rho_0\|\rho_1)$.*

For the case of the Holevo quantity, with the notations above, we have $S(\mathcal{E}\rho) = h(\text{tr } E_+\rho)$, where

$$h(x) = -x \log x - (1-x) \log(1-x) \quad (20)$$

is the binary entropy function. Therefore, the mutual information is

$$\chi(\mathcal{E}\rho_0, \mathcal{E}\rho_1; q_0, q_1) = I(t_0, t_1; q_0, q_1) := h(q_0 t_0 + q_1 t_1) - q_0 h(t_0) - q_1 h(t_1),$$

where $t_j = \text{tr } E_+\rho_j$. Observe that

$$t_1 - t_0 = \text{tr } E_+(\rho_1 - \rho_0) = \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1 \text{tr } E_+\sigma = \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1/2.$$

We arrive at

Theorem 12. For any nonnegative q_0 and q_1 summing to 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \chi(\rho_0, \rho_1; q_0, q_1) \geq \\ & \geq \min\{I(t_0, t_1; q_0, q_1) : 0 \leq t_0 \leq t_1 \leq 1, t_1 - t_0 = \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1/2.\} \end{aligned}$$

This theorem and the possibility of equality in (19) tell us that for the Holevo quantity, or ‘quantum entropy concavity’ $\chi(\rho_0, \rho_1; q_0, q_1)$, the largest lower bound that depends only on $\rho_1 - \rho_0$ and q_1 is the ‘minimal classical binary entropy concavity’, i.e., the minimum in Theorem 12. It does not seem possible to compute this minimum exactly. There are various ways to get weaker but more explicit lower bounds. A simple way is to use the convexity and symmetry of $-h''(x) = 1/x + 1/(1-x)$ to prove that the minimum is

$$\geq 4q_0q_1 \left(h\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - h\left(\frac{2 + \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1}{4}\right) \right),$$

with equality if and only if $q_1 = 1/2$ or $\rho_0 = \rho_1$. Note that $h(1/2) = \log 2$. For $\rho_0 \neq \rho_1$ and $q_0q_1 > 0$, this weaker lower bound on

$$\chi(\rho_0, \rho_1; q_0, q_1)$$

is still strictly greater than the previously known lower bound

$$q_0q_1\|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1^2/2$$

due to I. H. Kim [8]. This is because $-h''$ is minimal, with value 4, only at $1/2$.

For lower bounds depending on other parameters of ρ_0 and ρ_1 , and also for upper bounds, see [9].

8 General probabilistic theory

In this vast generalization of quantum theory [16], the set of density matrices is replaced by a more general *state space*, i.e., a convex body K in a finite dimensional real affine space \mathbb{A} . We may assume that K spans \mathbb{A} as an affine space. Then points of \mathbb{A} , called *virtual states*, play the role of Hermitian matrices with trace 1. The vectors of the underlying vector space $V = \mathbb{A} - \mathbb{A}$ play the role of traceless Hermitian matrices. Let E be the set of *effects*, i.e., affine functions $e : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $0 \leq e \leq 1$ on K . For a virtual state $A \in \mathbb{A}$, we define

$$\text{tr}^+ A = \max_{e \in E} e(A)$$

and

$$\text{tr}^- A = -\min_{e \in E} e(A).$$

Clearly, $\text{tr}^+ - \text{tr}^- = 1$. For a state $\rho \in K$, we have $\text{tr}^+ \rho = 1$ and $\text{tr}^- \rho = 0$.

For two (virtual) states ρ_0 and ρ_1 , we define their *trace distance* to be

$$\|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1 = 2 \max_{e \in E} (e(\rho_1) - e(\rho_0)).$$

The role of quantum measurement is played by a *general measurement*, or *partition of unity*, i.e., a sequence $e_1, \dots, e_k \in E$ of effects such that $e_1 + \dots + e_k = 1$ (the constant 1 function). More generally, the role of a positive trace-preserving map is played by an affine map $\mathcal{E} : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}'$ such that $\mathcal{E}(K) \subseteq K'$, where K' is another state space spanning

another affine space \mathbb{A}' . Since \mathcal{E} is determined by its restriction to K , we will refer to it simply as an affine map $\mathcal{E} : K \rightarrow K'$. When \mathcal{E} is a general measurement, K' is the set of k -ary classical states, i.e., the simplex with k vertices. The role of Lemma 8(a) is played by

Lemma 13. *For any affine map $\mathcal{E} : K \rightarrow K'$, we have $\text{tr}^\pm \mathcal{E}A \leq \text{tr}^\pm A$ for any virtual state $A \in \mathbb{A}$.*

Proof. For any effect $e' \in E'$, we have a corresponding effect $e = e' \circ \mathcal{E} \in E$ such that $e(A) = e'(\mathcal{E}A)$. \square

For two states $\rho, \sigma \in K$, we define the *general relative entropy* $D(\rho \parallel \sigma)$ to be the integral (1). From Lemma 13, we get

Theorem 14. *The data processing inequality (15) holds for any affine map $\mathcal{E} : K \rightarrow K'$.*

For states $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_l \in K$ and nonnegative weights q_1, \dots, q_l summing to 1, we define the *general Holevo quantity* $\chi(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_l; q_1, \dots, q_l)$ to be the last sum in (17). From the previous Theorem, we get

Theorem 15. *The inequality (18) holds for any affine map $\mathcal{E} : K \rightarrow K'$; in particular, for any general measurement.*

This is an extension of Holevo's inequality to general probabilistic theory.

As an example, let $K = \{\rho \in \mathbb{R}^d : |\rho| \leq 1\}$ be the unit ball. The role of von Neumann entropy is played by the function $S(\rho) = h((1 - |\rho|)/2)$, where h is the binary entropy function (20). For any given σ in the interior of the ball K , the sum $S(\rho) + D(\rho \parallel \sigma)$ is an affine function of ρ . Indeed, for any linear subspace $W \leq \mathbb{R}^d$ of dimension three (or less) containing σ , we may identify $K \cap W$ with the Bloch ball of 2-square density matrices (or a central section of it), and then, for all $\rho \in K \cap W$, the above sum becomes $-\text{tr} \rho \log \sigma$. Therefore, for any states $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_l \in K$ and nonnegative weights q_1, \dots, q_l summing to 1, we have

$$S(\bar{\rho}) = S(\bar{\rho}) + D(\bar{\rho} \parallel \bar{\rho}) = \sum_{j=1}^l q_j (S(\rho_j) + D(\rho_j \parallel \bar{\rho})),$$

where $\bar{\rho} = \sum_{j=1}^l q_j \rho_j$. This means that the identity (17) holds in this setting, providing an explicit form of the Holevo quantity χ in terms of the entropy function S , just as in quantum information theory.

For general state spaces, however, χ seems unlikely to have a computable closed form, and therefore Theorem 15 will be more difficult to apply than in the quantum case. However, exploring the properties of D and χ in this framework might be an interesting topic of future research.

The results of Section 7 also have straightforward extensions to the general probabilistic setting. Indeed, for any states $\rho_0, \rho_1 \in K$, there is an effect $e : K \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that

$$e(\rho_1 - \rho_0) = \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1/2.$$

Then $\mathcal{E} = (e, 1 - e)$ is a general measurement such that the binary classical states $\mathcal{E}\rho_0$ and $\mathcal{E}\rho_1$ satisfy

$$\|\mathcal{E}\rho_1 - \mathcal{E}\rho_0\|_1 = \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|_1.$$

Therefore, we have

Theorem 16. *If the trace distance is given, then any general divergence satisfying the data processing inequality for two-part general measurements (for example, the general relative entropy, or the general Holevo quantity for two states and two given weights) will have the same infimum on pairs of general states as on pairs of binary classical states.*

9 Rényi divergence

Throughout this section, let $1 \neq \alpha > 0$. For $x, y \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$ with $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1$, recall the definition of Rényi divergence of order α :

$$D_\alpha(x||y) = \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \log \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\alpha y_i^{1-\alpha},$$

where, in case of $\alpha > 1$, we define $0^{1-\alpha} = \infty$. We define $0 \cdot \infty = 0$, $\log \infty = \infty$ and $\log 0 = -\infty$. Thus, $D_\alpha(x||y)$ will be finite if and only if $\alpha > 1$ and $x_i = 0$ whenever $y_i = 0$, or if $\alpha < 1$ and $x_i y_i > 0$ for some i . Otherwise, we have $D_\alpha(x||y) = \infty$.

It can be checked that

$$x_i^\alpha y_i^{1-\alpha} = x_i + (\alpha - 1) \left(x_i - y_i + \alpha \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|t|^{\alpha-2} dt}{|t-1|^{\alpha+1}} ((1-t)x_i + ty_i)^- \right), \quad (21)$$

where $\lambda^- = -\min(\lambda, 0)$. After summing (21) for all i , we get that $D_\alpha(x||y)$ is equal to

$$\frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \log \left(1 + (\alpha - 1) \left(1 - \text{tr} \sigma + \alpha \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|t|^{\alpha-2} dt}{|t-1|^{\alpha+1}} \text{tr}^- A(t) \right) \right), \quad (22)$$

where $\rho = \text{diag}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$, $\sigma = \text{diag}(y_1, \dots, y_n)$, and $A(t) = (1-t)\rho + t\sigma$. This fact is closely related to [18, Proposition 3].

Let us now allow $\rho \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ to be any density matrix, and $\sigma \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ to be any psdh matrix. Let us first study the sum in the inner large parentheses in (22). It is $\geq 1 - \text{tr} \sigma > -\infty$. Using the identity (13) as in the proof of Theorem 6, it can be rewritten as

$$\alpha \left(\int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{|t|^{\alpha-2} dt}{(|t+1|^{\alpha+1})} (\text{tr}^+ A(t) - 1) + \int_1^{\infty} \frac{t^{\alpha-2} dt}{(t-1)^{\alpha+1}} \text{tr}^- A(t) \right). \quad (23)$$

When $\alpha > 1$, observe that $\text{tr}^\pm A(t) \geq 0$ for all t ; moreover, we have $\text{tr}^+ A(0) = 1$, so $\text{tr}^+ A(t) > 0$ for $t < 0$ close enough to 0. Therefore, (23) is

$$> -\alpha \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{|t|^{\alpha-2} dt}{(|t+1|^{\alpha+1})} = -\frac{1}{\alpha - 1}.$$

Still assuming $\alpha > 1$, observe also that (23) is ∞ if and only if $\text{im} \rho \not\subseteq \text{im} \sigma$.

When $\alpha < 1$, observe that $\text{tr}^+ A(t) \leq 1 - t = |t| + 1$ for $t < 0$ and $\text{tr}^- A(t) \leq t - 1$ for $t > 1$, with equality if and only if $\text{im} \rho \subseteq \ker \sigma$, whence (23) is

$$\leq \alpha \left(\int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{|t|^{\alpha-1} dt}{(|t+1|^{\alpha+1})} + \int_1^{\infty} \frac{t^{\alpha-2} dt}{(t-1)^\alpha} \right) = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha},$$

with the same condition for equality.

We deduce

Proposition 17. *For any density matrix ρ and psdh matrix σ , the expression under the logarithm in (22) is nonnegative. It is zero if and only if $\alpha < 1$ and $\text{im} \rho \subseteq \ker \sigma$. It is ∞ if and only if $\alpha > 1$ and $\text{im} \rho \not\subseteq \text{im} \sigma$.*

Thus, (22) defines a quantum generalization $\Delta_\alpha(\rho||\sigma)$ of Rényi divergence which is unitarily invariant since semidefiniteness, tr , and tr^- are all unitarily invariant. It takes values in $(-\infty, \infty]$. It is finite if and only if $\alpha > 1$ and $\text{im} \rho \subseteq \text{im} \sigma$, or $\alpha < 1$ and $\text{im} \rho \not\subseteq \ker \sigma$. When $\text{tr} \sigma \leq 1$, we have $\Delta_\alpha(\rho||\sigma) \geq 0$, with equality if and only if $\rho = \sigma$.

Proposition 18. *For any fixed density matrix ρ and psdh matrix σ , the divergence $\Delta_\alpha(\rho\|\sigma)$ tends to Umegaki's quantum relative entropy $D(\rho\|\sigma)$ as $\alpha \rightarrow 1$.*

Proof. By the Monotone Convergence Theorem, both integrals in (23) converge to their respective values at $\alpha = 1$ as $\alpha \rightarrow 1$. Due to Theorem 6, the value of (23) for $\alpha = 1$ is $D(\rho\|\sigma)$. If this value is finite, then (23) multiplied by $\alpha - 1$ converges to zero as $\alpha \rightarrow 1$, whence $\Delta_\alpha(\rho\|\sigma) \rightarrow D(\rho\|\sigma)$ as claimed. If $D(\rho\|\sigma) = \infty$, then, for all finite $C > 0$, we have

$$\liminf_{\alpha \rightarrow 1} \Delta_\alpha(\rho\|\sigma) \geq \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \log(1 + C(\alpha - 1)) = C,$$

whence $\Delta_\alpha(\rho\|\sigma) \rightarrow \infty$ as $\alpha \rightarrow 1$. □

Due to Lemma 8(a) and formula (23), the data processing inequality $\Delta_\alpha(\mathcal{E}\rho\|\mathcal{E}\sigma) \leq \Delta_\alpha(\rho\|\sigma)$ holds for trace-nonincreasing positive linear maps \mathcal{E} such that $\mathcal{E}\rho$ is again a density matrix. Exploring the further properties of Δ_α , and relating it to existing quantum generalizations of Rényi divergence, might be an interesting topic for future research.¹

Note that (22) allows us to define a notion of Rényi divergence in the general probabilistic setting of Section 8. For any states $\rho, \sigma \in K$, we put

$$\Delta_\alpha(\rho\|\sigma) = \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \log \left(1 + (\alpha - 1)\alpha \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|t|^{\alpha-2} dt}{|t - 1|^{\alpha+1}} \operatorname{tr}^-((1 - t)\rho + t\sigma) \right).$$

Similarly to Proposition 17, it is easy to check that the expression under the logarithm is nonnegative even if $\alpha < 1$. Indeed, we have $\operatorname{tr}^- A(t) \leq |t|$ for $t < 0$ and $\operatorname{tr}^- A(t) \leq t - 1$ for $t > 1$.

Obviously $\Delta_\alpha(\rho\|\sigma) \geq 0$, with equality if and only if $\rho = \sigma$. The data processing inequality remains valid:

Theorem 19. *For any affine map $\mathcal{E} : K \rightarrow K'$, we have*

$$\Delta_\alpha(\mathcal{E}\rho\|\mathcal{E}\sigma) \leq \Delta_\alpha(\rho\|\sigma).$$

Proof. This is clear from Lemma 13. □

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¹ *Note added in Version 4 of this paper:* Such ‘future research’, relating Δ_α to Petz–Rényi and sandwiched Rényi divergences, was carried out and posted in a very recent preprint by Hirche and Tomamichel [5, Section 3]. Also, a quantitative version of Proposition 18 is given in [5, Subsection 3.2].

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