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## A NUMERICAL METHOD IN TERMS OF THE THIRD DERIVATIVE FOR A DELAY INTEGRAL EQUATION FROM BIOMATHEMATICS

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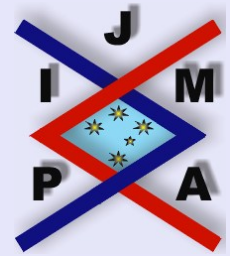


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## Abstract

Let  $F$  be a Schatten  $p$ -operator and  $R, S$  positive operators. We show that the inequality  $|F(R+S)|_p^c \leq |FR|_p^c + |FS|_p^c$  for the Schatten  $p$ -norm  $|\cdot|_p$  is true for  $p \geq c = 1$  and for  $p \geq c = 2$ , conjecture it to be true for  $p \geq c \in [1, 2]$ , give counterexamples for the other cases, and present a numerical study for  $2 \times 2$  matrices. Furthermore, we have a look at a generalisation of the inequality which involves an additional factor  $\sigma(c, p)$ .

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*Key words:* Schatten class, Schatten norm, Norm inequality, Minkowski inequality, Triangle inequality, Powers of operators, Schatten-Minkowski constant.

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# 1. Introduction

Let  $H$  and  $K$  be complex Hilbert spaces and  $0 < p \leq \infty$ . Following [1], we denote by  $c_p(H, K)$  the space of Schatten  $p$ -operators  $T : H \rightarrow K$ , equipped with the Schatten  $p$ -norm or quasi-norm  $|\cdot|_p$ . Note that [1] deals only with the spaces  $c_p(H) := c_p(H, H)$ . The generalisations  $c_p(H, K)$  can be found in textbooks like [2] and [3] (there written as  $B_p(H, K)$  and  $S_p(H, K)$  respectively).

By  $L(H)$  we denote the space of bounded linear operators on  $H$ , and by  $L(H)_+$  the subset of positive operators. With  $|T| := (T^*T)^{1/2} \in L(H)_+$  for  $T \in L(H, K)$  we have for  $p < \infty$

$$|T|_p^p = \operatorname{tr} |T|^p \quad \text{for } T \in c_p(H, K), \text{ and consequently}$$

$$|T|_p^p = \operatorname{tr} T^p \quad \text{for } T \in c_p(H)_+ := c_p(H) \cap L(H)_+.$$

Applying  $|T|_p = |T^*|_p$  for  $T \in c_p(H, K)$ , this shows in case of  $p < \infty$

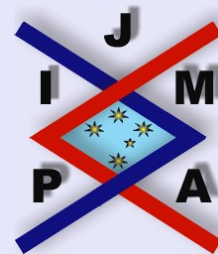
$$\left|FU^{\frac{1}{2}}\right|_p^2 = \left|U^{\frac{1}{2}}F^*\right|_p^2 = \left(\operatorname{tr} (FUF^*)^{\frac{p}{2}}\right)^{\frac{2}{p}} = |FUF^*|_{\frac{p}{2}}$$

for  $F \in c_p(H, K)$  and  $U \in L(H)_+$ . Because  $|\cdot|_\infty$  is the usual operator norm,

$$\left|FU^{\frac{1}{2}}\right|_p^2 = |FUF^*|_{\frac{p}{2}}$$

is also true for  $p = \infty$ , with the common convention  $\frac{\infty}{2} := \infty$ .

Our question, which arose while studying the integration of Schatten operator valued functions in [4], is: For what values of  $p \in (0, \infty]$  and  $c \in (0, \infty)$  is



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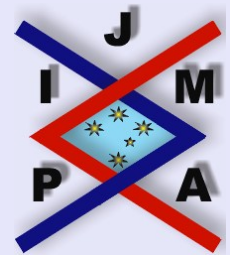
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the Minkowski-like inequality

$$(MS) \quad \left| F(R + S)^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c \leq \left| FR^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c + \left| FS^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c$$

true for all  $F \in c_p(H, K)$  and  $R, S \in L(H)_+$ ?



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## 2. The Conjecture

Let  $H, K, p, c, F, R, S$  be as above.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Inequality (MS) is true for  $p \geq c = 1$  and for  $p \geq c = 2$ .*

*Proof.* For  $p \geq c = 1$ , the triangle inequality for  $|\cdot|_p$  shows

$$|F(R + S)|_p = |FR + FS|_p \leq |FR|_p + |FS|_p.$$

For  $p \geq c = 2$ , the triangle inequality for  $|\cdot|_{\frac{p}{2}}$  shows

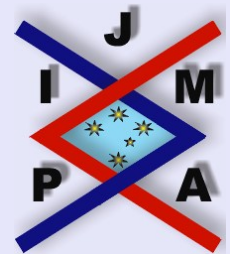
$$\left|F(R + S)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right|_p^2 = |F(R + S)F^*|_{\frac{p}{2}} \leq |FRF^*|_{\frac{p}{2}} + |FSF^*|_{\frac{p}{2}} = \left|FR^{\frac{1}{2}}\right|_p^2 + \left|FS^{\frac{1}{2}}\right|_p^2.$$

□

Theorem 2.1 suggests the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 1.** *Inequality (MS) is true for  $p \geq c \in [1, 2]$ .*

For  $c \in (1, 2)$  we have at the present time no proof of this conjecture for other than trivial situations, not even for the special case of  $2 \times 2$  matrices. However, some justification will be given in Section 4.



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### 3. The Case $p < c$ and the Case $c \notin [1, 2]$

In this section we will demonstrate, by providing counterexamples, that inequality (MS) is not necessarily true for other values of  $(c, p)$  than those stated in Conjecture 1. We will offer one example for  $0 < p < c < \infty$ , and one for arbitrary  $p$  when  $c < 1$  or  $c > 2$ , both examples using  $2 \times 2$  matrices. The power  $U^t$  for  $t > 0$  of a non-negative matrix  $U$  can be calculated easily with help of the spectral decomposition of  $U$ .

**Example 3.1.** Inequality (MS) is violated for  $0 < p < c < \infty$  by

$$F := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

*Proof.* From  $U^t = U$  for  $U \in \{R, S, R + S\}$  and  $t \in (0, \infty)$  we get

$$\left|FU^{\frac{1}{c}}\right|_p = |U|_p = (\operatorname{tr} U^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} = (\operatorname{tr} U)^{\frac{1}{p}},$$

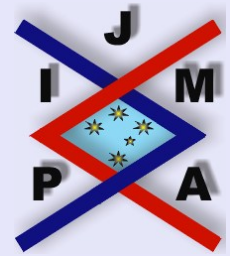
yielding

$$\left|FR^{\frac{1}{c}}\right|_p = 1, \quad \left|FS^{\frac{1}{c}}\right|_p = 1, \quad \left|F(R + S)^{\frac{1}{c}}\right|_p = 2^{\frac{1}{p}},$$

and using  $p < c$ ,

$$\left|FR^{\frac{1}{c}}\right|_p^c + \left|FS^{\frac{1}{c}}\right|_p^c = 2 < 2^{\frac{c}{p}} = \left|F(R + S)^{\frac{1}{c}}\right|_p^c.$$

□



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The second example makes use of an inequality which is interesting in its own right. Seeming simple, it is surprisingly fiddly to prove:

**Lemma 3.1.** For  $x \in (0, 1) \cup (2, \infty)$  we have

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\right) \left(\frac{3 + \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^x + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\right) \left(\frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^x < 1 + 3^x.$$

*Proof.* Setting  $r := \sqrt{5}$ ,  $\alpha_1 := 1 + \frac{1}{r}$ ,  $\alpha_2 := 1 - \frac{1}{r}$ , and  $\omega := \frac{3+r}{2}$ , we have to show

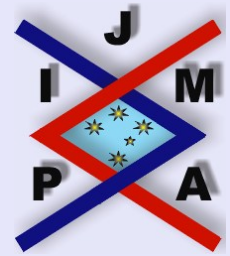
$$\alpha_1 \omega^x + \alpha_2 \omega^{-x} < 1 + 3^x.$$

The case  $x \in (2, \infty)$ : Set  $f(x) := \alpha_1 \omega^x$ ,  $g(x) := \alpha_2 \omega^{-x}$ ,  $h(x) := 1 + 3^x$  for  $x \in (0, \infty)$ . Because  $\alpha_2 > 0$  and  $\omega > 1$ ,  $g$  is strictly decreasing, thus  $f(x) + g(x) < f(x) + g(2)$  for  $x > 2$ . We will show  $f(x) + g(2) < h(x)$  for  $x > 2$ . Because  $f(2) + g(2) = h(2)$ , this is done if we prove  $f'(x) < h'(x)$  for  $x > 2$ , which is equivalent to  $\alpha_1 \left(\frac{\omega}{3}\right)^x \ln \omega < \ln 3$ . This inequality is true for  $x = 2$ . All factors of its left side are positive, and  $\omega < 3$ , so the left side is strictly decreasing for  $x \geq 2$ . Hence the inequality is true for  $x > 2$  as well.

The case  $x \in (0, 1)$ : After substituting  $s := \omega^x$  and setting  $\delta := \frac{\ln 3}{\ln \omega}$ , we have to prove the equivalent inequality

$$s + \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{r} \left(s - \frac{1}{s}\right) < 1 + s^\delta$$

for  $s \in (1, \omega)$ , which can be done by building a sandwich with a suitable poly-



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nomial function inside: Set

$$\varphi(s) := s + \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{r} \left( s - \frac{1}{s} \right), \quad p(s) := 2 \left( 1 + \frac{s-1}{\omega-1} \right),$$

$$q(s) := \frac{(s-1)(s-\omega)}{(3-1)(3-\omega)} (\varphi(3) - p(3))$$

for  $s > 0$ . The claim is

$$\varphi(s) < p(s) + q(s) < 1 + s^\delta$$

for  $s \in (1, \omega)$ . The left inequality is verified by the fact that  $s \cdot (p(s) + q(s) - \varphi(s))$  defines a polynomial of degree 3 with three zeros  $\{1, \omega, 3\}$ , where  $1 < \omega < 3$ , and with positive leading coefficient  $\lambda := \frac{1}{2}(\varphi(3) - p(3))/(3 - \omega)$ . To prove the second inequality, we inspect

$$\psi(s) := 1 + s^\delta - p(s) - q(s)$$

for  $s > 0$  and get  $\psi''(s) = \delta(\delta - 1)s^{\delta-2} - 2\lambda$ . Because  $1 < \delta < 2$ ,  $\psi''$  has a unique zero

$$s_0 := \left( \frac{\delta(\delta - 1)}{2\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1}{2-\delta}}, \quad 1 < s_0 < \omega,$$

with  $\psi''(s) > 0$  for  $s \in (0, s_0)$  and  $\psi''(s) < 0$  for  $s \in (s_0, \infty)$ . Now  $\psi(1) = 0$ ,  $\psi'(1) > 0$ , and  $\psi''(s) > 0$  for  $s \in (1, s_0)$  show  $\psi(s) > 0$  for  $s \in (1, s_0]$ , while  $\psi(s_0) > 0$ ,  $\psi(\omega) = 0$ ,  $\psi'(\omega) < 0$ , and  $\psi''(s) < 0$  for  $s \in (s_0, \omega)$  show  $\psi(s) > 0$  for  $s \in [s_0, \omega)$ .  $\square$



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**Example 3.2.** Inequality (MS) is violated for  $0 < p \leq \infty$  and  $c < 1$  as well as  $c > 2$  by

$$F := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S := \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

*Proof.* Evaluation of the matrix powers for  $t \in (0, \infty)$  gives

$$R^t = R, \quad S^t = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_1 \omega^t + \alpha_2 \omega^{-t}) & \frac{1}{r}(\omega^{-t} - \omega^t) \\ \frac{1}{r}(\omega^{-t} - \omega^t) & \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_2 \omega^t + \alpha_1 \omega^{-t}) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$(R + S)^t = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 3^t & 1 - 3^t \\ 1 - 3^t & 1 + 3^t \end{pmatrix}$$

with  $r := \sqrt{5}$ ,  $\alpha_1 := 1 + \frac{1}{r}$ ,  $\alpha_2 := 1 - \frac{1}{r}$ ,  $\omega := \frac{3+r}{2}$ . For  $U \in \{R, S, R + S\}$  we get in case of  $p < \infty$

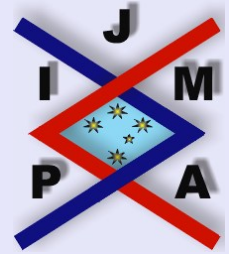
$$|FU^t|_p = \left( \text{tr} (FU^{2t}F^*)^{\frac{p}{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \sqrt{u_t}$$

with  $u_t$  being the top left entry of  $U^{2t}$ . Using  $|FU^t|_{\infty}^2 = |FU^{2t}F^*|_{\infty}$ , the case  $p = \infty$  yields the same result, thus for all  $p$ :

$$\left| FR^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p = 0, \quad \left| FS^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} (\alpha_1 \omega^{2/c} + \alpha_2 \omega^{-2/c})},$$

$$\left| F(R + S)^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} (1 + 3^{2/c})}.$$

Substituting  $\frac{2}{c}$  by  $x$ , we have to prove  $\alpha_1 \omega^x + \alpha_2 \omega^{-x} < 1 + 3^x$  for  $x \in (2, \infty)$  and for  $x \in (0, 1)$ , which is the statement of Lemma 3.1.  $\square$



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## 4. Some Numerical Evidence

To justify Conjecture 1, we present the results of a numerical study performed with  $2 \times 2$  matrices.

From functional calculus it is known: For an operator  $T \geq 0$  on a complex Hilbert space the powers  $T^\alpha, T^\beta$  for  $\alpha, \beta \in (0, \infty)$  obey the rule  $T^\alpha T^\beta = T^{\alpha+\beta}$ . If  $T$  is invertible, then  $T^\alpha$  can be defined for  $\alpha \leq 0$  as well, and  $T^\alpha T^\beta = T^{\alpha+\beta}$  is true for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Before turning to the matrix case, we note the following general lemma.

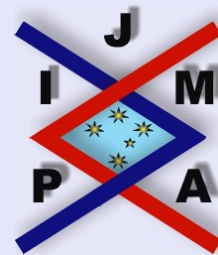
**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $H, K, F$  be as above and  $\alpha \in (0, \infty)$ .*

(a) *Let  $T \in L(H)_+$ . Then  $FT^\alpha = 0$  if and only if  $FT = 0$ .*

(b) *Let  $R, S \in L(H)_+$ . Then  $F(R + S)^\alpha = 0$  if and only if  $FR^\alpha = 0$  and  $FS^\alpha = 0$ .*

*Proof.* (a) Suppose  $FT^\alpha = 0$ . Then  $|FT^{\alpha/2}|^2 = |FT^\alpha F^*| = 0$ , hence  $FT^{\alpha/2} = 0$ . Repeated application yields  $\beta \in (0, 1)$  with  $FT^\beta = 0$ , thus  $FT = FT^\beta T^{1-\beta} = 0$ .

Now suppose  $FT = 0$ . There is nothing to prove in the case of  $\alpha = 1$ , so assume  $\alpha \neq 1$ . If  $T$  is invertible, then  $FT^\alpha = FTT^{\alpha-1} = 0$ . If  $T$  is not invertible, then we have  $0 \in \sigma(T)$ , the spectrum of  $T$ . Choose polynomials  $f_n \in \mathbb{R}[t]$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $f_n(x) \rightarrow x^\alpha$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$  uniformly for  $x \in \sigma(T)$ . Then  $f_n(T) \rightarrow T^\alpha$  and  $Ff_n(T) \rightarrow FT^\alpha$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , hence  $Ff_n(T) = f_n(0)F \rightarrow 0$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , thus  $FT^\alpha = 0$ .



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(b) Part (a) shows:

$$\begin{aligned} FR^\alpha = 0 \wedge FS^\alpha = 0 &\iff FR = 0 \wedge FS = 0 \\ &\implies F(R + S) = 0 \\ &\iff F(R + S)^\alpha = 0. \end{aligned}$$

To prove the missing implication, suppose  $F(R + S) = 0$ . Then  $FRF^{*} + FFS^{*} = 0$ . Because  $FRF^{*} \geq 0$  and  $FFS^{*} \geq 0$ , we get  $FRF^{*} = 0$ , thus  $|FR^{1/2}|^2 = |FRF^{*}| = 0$  and  $FR^{1/2} = 0$ . Applying (a) again gives  $FR = 0$ . Symmetry shows  $FS = 0$ .  $\square$

We will also use the following well-known property of  $2 \times 2$  matrices:

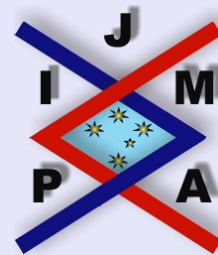
**Lemma 4.2.** *A complex  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $M$  is positive semidefinite if and only if there exist  $a, b \in [0, \infty)$  and  $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $|\gamma|^2 \leq ab$  such that*

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a & \gamma \\ \bar{\gamma} & b \end{pmatrix}.$$

Lemma 4.1(b) shows that, when checking Conjecture 1, one may assume the denominator to be non-zero, or setting  $\frac{0}{0} := 0$ , in

$$q_{c,p}(F, R, S) := \frac{\left| F(R + S)^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c}{\left| FR^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c + \left| FS^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c}.$$

We are searching for the supremum of  $q_{c,p}(F, R, S)$  over all complex  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $F, R, S$  with  $R, S \geq 0$ . For  $r \in [0, \infty)$  and  $x \in \mathbb{C}$  define  $r \wedge x := x$



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if  $|x| \leq r$  and  $r \wedge x := (r/|x|)x$  otherwise. Lemma 4.2 shows that  $R$  has the structure

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^2 & |\alpha\beta| \wedge \gamma \\ |\alpha\beta| \wedge \bar{\gamma} & \beta^2 \end{pmatrix} =: P(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$$

with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$ , and a corresponding representation is valid for the matrix  $S$ . This means that we have to deal with six complex and four real variables, resulting in a 16-dimensional real optimisation problem: For  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{16}) \in \mathbb{R}^{16}$  we set

$$F_\lambda := \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 i & \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 i \\ \lambda_5 + \lambda_6 i & \lambda_7 + \lambda_8 i \end{pmatrix},$$

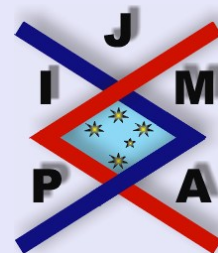
$$R_\lambda := P(\lambda_9, \lambda_{10}, \lambda_{11} + \lambda_{12} i),$$

$$S_\lambda := P(\lambda_{13}, \lambda_{14}, \lambda_{15} + \lambda_{16} i)$$

and are asking for

$$\sigma(c, p) := \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{16}} q_{c,p}(F_\lambda, R_\lambda, S_\lambda).$$

To attack this problem, GNU Octave [5], version 2.1.57, was utilised. It offers a function for determining the singular values of a matrix, which can be employed for calculating the Schatten norms. For the optimisation task the implementation [6], version 2002/05/09, with standard parameters of the Downhill Simplex Method of Nelder and Mead ([7], 10.4) was used. The results are in perfect agreement with Conjecture 1. For visualisation, approximations for  $\sigma(c, p)$  for  $c \in \{1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0\}$  have been calculated and plotted with a step size of 0.01 for  $p$ , see Figure 1.



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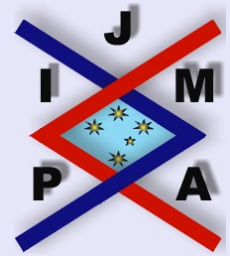


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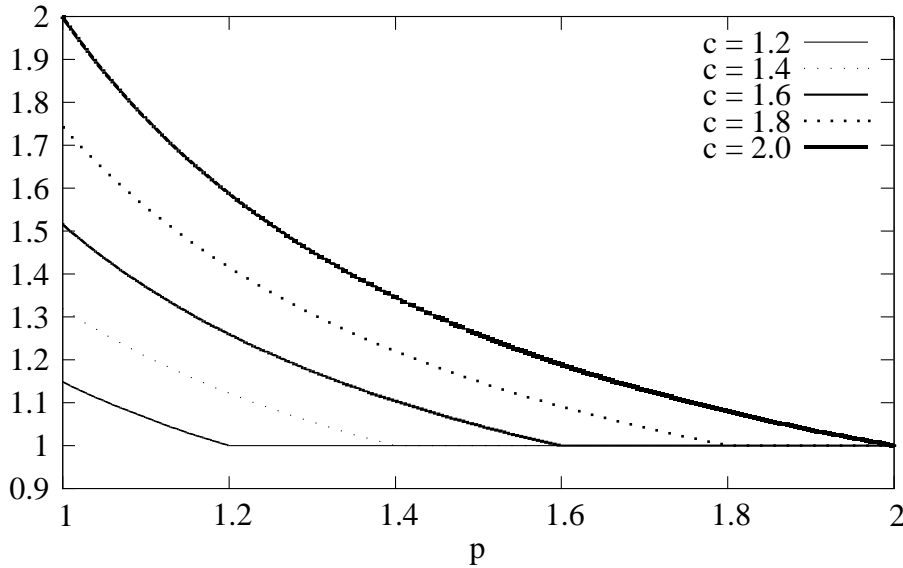
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Figure 1: Experimental approximations of  $\sigma(c, p)$ .



The apparently smooth shape of  $p \mapsto \sigma(c, p)$  for  $p \leq c$ , together with the fact that for each  $p$  a new random starting point  $\lambda$  was used for the Nelder-Mead algorithm, gives some confidence in the validity of the data.

A closer inspection of some of the calculated numerical values suggests

$$\sigma(2, 1) = 2, \quad \sigma\left(\frac{3}{2}, 1\right) = \sigma\left(\frac{9}{5}, \frac{6}{5}\right) = 2^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \sigma\left(\frac{8}{5}, \frac{6}{5}\right) = \sigma\left(2, \frac{3}{2}\right) = 2^{\frac{1}{3}},$$

$$\sigma\left(\frac{5}{4}, 1\right) = \sigma\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{4}\right) = \sigma\left(\frac{7}{4}, \frac{7}{5}\right) = \sigma\left(2, \frac{8}{5}\right) = 2^{\frac{1}{4}}, \quad \sigma\left(\frac{6}{5}, 1\right) = \sigma\left(\frac{9}{5}, \frac{3}{2}\right) = 2^{\frac{1}{5}},$$

which leads to the idea to look at  $\log_2 \sigma(c, p)$ . It seems there is a linear depen-

density of  $\log_2 \sigma(c, p)$  from  $c$  if  $c \geq p$ . This observation will be made precise in the next section.



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## 5. Generalisation of (MS)

It is natural to generalise (MS) and to ask for the smallest  $\sigma(c, p) \in [0, \infty]$  for  $c \in (0, \infty)$  and  $p \in (0, \infty]$  such that

$$\left| F(R + S)^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c \leq \sigma(c, p) \left( \left| FR^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c + \left| FS^{\frac{1}{c}} \right|_p^c \right)$$

for all  $F \in c_p(H, K)$  and  $R, S \in L(H)_+$  (and for all complex Hilbert spaces  $H$  and  $K$ ). It is tempting to call  $\sigma(c, p)$  the *Schatten-Minkowski constant* for  $(c, p)$ . By choosing  $F \neq 0$  and setting  $R$  to be the identity and  $S := 0$  it can be seen that  $\sigma(c, p) \geq 1$ . Now Conjecture 1 can be re-phrased using  $\sigma(c, p)$ , and, motivated by the numerical results, we add another conjecture:

**Conjecture 2.** (a) For  $1 \leq c \leq 2$  and  $p \geq c$  we have  $\sigma(c, p) = 1$ .

(b) For  $0 \leq c \leq 2$  and  $p \leq c$  we have  $\sigma(c, p) = 2^{\frac{c}{p}-1}$ .

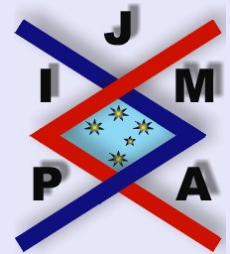
Again, the cases  $c = 1$  and  $c = 2$  are not too difficult to prove:

**Theorem 5.1.**

$$(a) \sigma(1, p) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } p \geq 1 \\ 2^{\frac{1}{p}-1} & \text{for } p \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$(b) \sigma(2, p) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } p \geq 2 \\ 2^{\frac{2}{p}-1} & \text{for } p \leq 2 \end{cases}.$$

*Proof.*  $\sigma(1, p) \leq 1$  for  $p \geq 1$  and  $\sigma(2, p) \leq 1$  for  $p \geq 2$  is the subject of Theorem 2.1, while  $\sigma(c, p) \geq 1$  is noted above. Example 3.1 tells us that



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$\sigma(c, p) \geq 2^{c/p-1}$  for  $0 < p \leq c < \infty$ , yielding

$$\sigma(1, p) \geq 2^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \text{ for } p \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma(2, p) \geq 2^{\frac{2}{p}-1} \text{ for } p \leq 2.$$

Now for the missing ‘ $\leq$ ’ inequalities. For the case  $c = 1$ , recall the inequality between the power means of degrees  $p \leq 1$  and 1, see e.g. [8], 8.12, which reads

$$\left(\frac{\alpha^p + \beta^p}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \alpha^p + \beta^p \leq 2^{1-p} (\alpha + \beta)^p$$

for  $\alpha, \beta \in [0, \infty)$ . Together with the quasi-norm inequality of  $|\cdot|_p$  this gives

$$|F(R + S)|_p^p \leq |FR|_p^p + |FS|_p^p \leq 2^{1-p} (|FR|_p + |FS|_p)^p$$

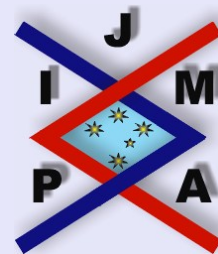
and thus  $|F(R + S)|_p \leq 2^{\frac{1}{p}-1} (|FR|_p + |FS|_p)$ .

For the case  $c = 2$ , start with the power means inequality for the degrees  $p \leq 2$  and 2,

$$\left(\frac{\alpha^p + \beta^p}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq \left(\frac{\alpha^2 + \beta^2}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \alpha^p + \beta^p \leq 2^{1-\frac{p}{2}} (\alpha^2 + \beta^2)^{\frac{p}{2}}$$

for  $\alpha, \beta \in [0, \infty)$ . Together with the quasi-norm inequality of  $|\cdot|_{\frac{p}{2}}$  this gives

$$\begin{aligned} \left|F(R + S)\right|_{\frac{p}{2}}^p &= \left|F(R + S)F^*\right|_{\frac{p}{2}}^{\frac{p}{2}} \\ &\leq |FRF^*|_{\frac{p}{2}}^{\frac{p}{2}} + |FSF^*|_{\frac{p}{2}}^{\frac{p}{2}} \\ &= \left|FR\right|_p^{\frac{p}{2}} + \left|FS\right|_p^{\frac{p}{2}} \leq 2^{1-\frac{p}{2}} \left(\left|FR\right|_p^2 + \left|FS\right|_p^2\right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \end{aligned}$$




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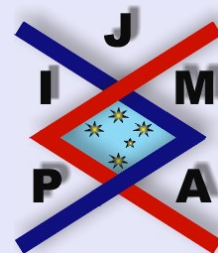
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and consequently

$$\left|F(R + S)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right|_p^2 \leq 2^{\frac{2}{p}-1} \left( \left|FR^{\frac{1}{2}}\right|_p^2 + \left|FS^{\frac{1}{2}}\right|_p^2 \right).$$

□



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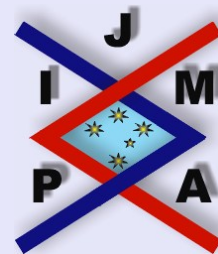
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## 6. Conclusion

Starting with Conjecture 1, which we proved for the cases  $c = 1$  and  $c = 2$  in Theorem 2.1, a numerical study of  $2 \times 2$  matrices led to the generalised Conjecture 2, which we also proved for  $c = 1$  and  $c = 2$  in Theorem 5.1.

The given proofs make use of the (quasi-) triangle inequality of the Schatten (quasi-) norm. Another ingredient to Theorem 5.1 is the power means inequality. Presumably, a combination of these inequalities shall also be central when dealing with the case  $c \neq 1, 2$ . However, it is unclear how to apply the triangle inequality in this situation, because there is no obvious way to get from  $F(R + S)^{1/c}$  to an expression where  $R$  and  $S$  can be separated.



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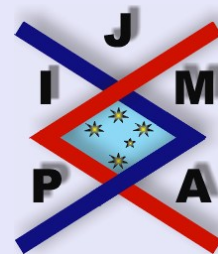
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