

A matrix trace inequality

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Abstract: *In this short paper, we give a affirmative answer on matrix trace inequalities for the product of positive semidefinite matrices under a condition.*

Keywords: *Matrix trace inequality Majorization Positive semidefinite matrix Contractive.*

1. INTRODUCTION

We give some notations, Let $M_{m \times n}(C)$ be the space of all complex matrices of size $m \times n$, For $A \in M_n(C)$, the vector of eigenvalues of A is denoted by $\lambda(A) = (\lambda_1(A), \lambda_2(A), \dots, \lambda_n(A))$ If A is Hermitian, we arrange the eigenvalues of A in nonincreasing order, $\lambda_1(A) \geq \lambda_2(A) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n(A)$. In addition $x \prec y$ means that $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is majorized by $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ with

$$x_1 \geq x_2 \geq \dots \geq x_n \text{ and } y_1 \geq y_2 \geq \dots \geq y_n, \text{ if we have } \sum_{i=1}^k x_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^k y_i \text{ (} k=1, \dots, n-1 \text{) and } \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i.$$

$x \prec_w y$ means that $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is weak majorized by $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$, if we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^k x_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^k y_i \text{ (} k=1, \dots, n \text{)}.$$

The purpose of this paper is to give the answer to the following problem which was given in the paper [1].

Problem 1.1 For $A, B \in M_n(C)$ are positive semidefinite matrices and K is contraction, the following inequality hold or not?

In fact, we easily find that the inequality isn't true if A, B is noncommutative, For example, Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 10 \end{bmatrix}, K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, AB \neq BA, \text{ then } |trAKB| = 33 > tr(AC) = 20.$$

2 Main results

Lemma 1 Denoted the eigenvalues of matrix A by $\lambda(A) = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$, then $\{|\lambda_i|\}_{i=1}^n \prec_w s(A)$.

Specially, $|trA| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n s_i(A)$.

Lemma 2 A_1, \dots, A_m are n -square complex matrices, then $s(\prod_{j=1}^m A_j) \prec_w \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^m s_i(A_j) \right\}_{i=1}^n$.

Theorem3 $A, B \in M_n(C)$ are positive semidefinite matrices and K is contraction and $AB = BA$, then

$$|trAKB| \leq trAB.$$

Proof $A, B \in M_n(C)$ are positive semidefinite matrices and $AB = BA$, so AB is positive semidefinite.

According to Lemma2, $s(BAK) \prec s(BA) = \lambda(BA)$. Then

$$|trAKB| = |trBAK| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n s_i(BAK) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n s_i(BA) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i(BA) = trBA = trAB$$

So the theorem is completed.

Corollary4 $H = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^* \\ B & C \end{bmatrix}$ is positive semidefinite, $AC = CA$, then for any integer m ,

$$|trB^m| \leq tr(A^{\frac{m}{2}} C^{\frac{m}{2}}).$$

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