Optimality for indecomposable entanglement witnesses

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We examine various notions related with the optimality for entanglement witnesses arising from Choi type positive linear maps. We found examples of optimal entanglement witnesses which are non-decomposable, but which are not ‘non-decomposable optimal entanglement witnesses’ in the sense of [M. Lewenstein, B. Kraus, J. Cirac, and P. Horodecki, Phys. Rev. A 62, 052310 (2000)]. We suggest to use the term PPTES witness and optimal PPTES witness in the places of ‘non-decomposable entanglement witness’ and ‘non-decomposable optimal entanglement witnesses’ in order to avoid possible confusion. We also found examples of non-extremal optimal entanglement witnesses which are indecomposable.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Quantum entanglement is now considered as the main key resource for applications to quantum information and quantum computation theory. One of the major research topics in the theory of entanglement is, of course, how to distinguish entanglement from separable states. For this purpose, positive linear maps are known to be the most complete tools among various criteria. This criterion for separability using positive maps is equivalent to the duality theory [2] between positivity of linear maps and separability of block matrices, through the Jamiołkowski-Choi isomorphism [3, 4]. In this sense, we need a positive linear map to detect entanglement. This is formulated as the notion of entanglement witness [5] that is just a linear map to detect entanglement. This is formulated as the notion of entanglement witness [5] that is just a positive linear map which is not completely positive, under the isomorphism. We refer to [6, 7] for systematic approaches to the duality using the Jamiołkowski-Choi isomorphism.

An entanglement witness which detects a maximal set of entanglement is said to be optimal, as was introduced in [8]. The notion of optimality may be explained in terms of facial structures of the convex cone \(\mathbb{P}_1\) consisting of all positive linear maps between matrix algebras. In fact, it was shown [9] that a positive map \(\phi\) is an optimal entanglement witness if and only if the smallest face of \(\mathbb{P}_1\) containing \(\phi\) has no completely positive linear map. See also Ref. [10]. Therefore, the most natural candidates of optimal entanglement witnesses are extremal positive maps which are not completely positive. In spite of its importance, the facial structure of the cone \(\mathbb{P}_1\) is very far from being understood even in the low dimensional cases. When both the domain and the range are the 2 \(\times\) 2 matrix algebra, all extreme points of the convex set consisting of unital positive maps had been found in the sixties [11]. The whole facial structures of this convex set is completely understood by the second author [12]. See also Ref. [13]. Another sufficient condition for optimality is the notion of the spanning property, as was introduced in [8]. This is very useful, because the spanning property is much easier to verify than the optimality itself. It turns out [14] that a positive map \(\phi\) has the spanning property if and only if the smallest exposed face of the cone \(\mathbb{P}_1\) containing \(\phi\) has no completely positive map.

Recall that a convex subset \(F\) of a convex set \(C\) is said to be a face if the following condition holds: If a convex combination of two points \(x, y \in C\) belongs to \(F\) then \(x\) and \(y\) themselves belong to \(F\). A face \(F\) of \(C\) is said to be an exposed face if it is the intersection of \(C\) and a hyperplane. We will see an example of a face which is not exposed through the discussion. See FIG. 1.

For the decomposable case, several necessary and/or sufficient conditions for optimality are known, and there are progresses to characterize optimal decomposable entanglement witnesses. See Refs. [8, 15, 16] for examples. In the case of indecomposable entanglement witnesses, a condition for optimality has been found recently, and examples of optimal entanglement witnesses without the spanning property were given. Nevertheless, we have still few kinds of examples for optimal entanglement witnesses arising from indecomposable maps. We note that the Choi type positive maps are one of the main resources for indecomposable positive maps. The primary purpose of this note is to analyze those maps between 3 \(\times\) 3 matrix algebras, and examine the relations between extremeness, spanning property and optimality.

We note that a positive map \(\phi\) detects entanglement with positive partial transposes if and only if it is indecomposable. An indecomposable positive map \(\phi\) is said to be a non-decomposable optimal entanglement witness (nd-OEW) in [8] if it detects a maximal set of PPTES. But, it is not clear at all that an optimal entanglement witness which is non-decomposable is really nd-OEW in the sense of [8]. We found that this is not the case. In order to avoid such confusion, we use the following terminology in this note. A positive linear map \(\phi\) is said to

- be co-optimal if the smallest face of \(\mathbb{P}_1\) containing \(\phi\) has no completely copositive map.
be bi-optimal if it is optimal and co-optimal.

- have the co-spanning property if the smallest exposed face of $P_1$ containing $\phi$ has no completely copositive map.

- have the bi-spanning property if it has both the spanning and co-spanning property.

It is clear that $\phi$ is co-optimal (respectively has the co-spanning property) if and only if the composition $\phi \circ t$ with the transpose map $t$ is optimal (respectively has the spanning property). If we use the Jamiołkowski-Choi isomorphism, then a self-adjoint block matrix $W$ is co-optimal (respectively has the co-spanning property) if and only if the partial transpose $W^\Gamma$ is optimal (respectively has the spanning property). It is also clear that $\phi$ is bi-optimal (respectively has the bi-spanning property) if and only if the smallest face (respectively the smallest exposed face) of $P_1$ containing $\phi$ has no decomposable map. Therefore, $\phi$ is an nd-OEW in the sense of [8] if and only if it is bi-optimal. We note that if $\phi$ is bi-optimal then it is automatically indecomposable. We will present examples of indecomposable optimal positive linear maps which are not bi-optimal. Since an optimal decomposable entanglement witness is completely copositive, it is never co-optimal. Therefore, the notions of co-optimality and co-spanning are useful only for indecomposable entanglement witnesses.

For nonnegative real numbers $a$, $b$, and $c$, the Choi type map is given by

$$\Phi[a, b, c](X) = \begin{pmatrix} ax_{11} + bx_{22} + cx_{33} & -x_{12} & -x_{13} \\ -x_{21} & cx_{11} + bx_{22} + cx_{33} & -x_{23} \\ -x_{31} & -x_{32} & bx_{11} + cx_{22} + ax_{33} \end{pmatrix},$$

for $X = [x_{ij}] \in M_3$, where $M_3$ denotes the $C^*$-algebra of all $3 \times 3$ matrices over the complex field $\mathbb{C}$. Choi [18] showed that the map $\Phi[1, 2, 2]$ is a 2-positive linear map which is not completely positive. This is the first known example to distinguish $n$-positivities for different $n = 2, 3, \ldots$. The map $\Phi[1, 0, \mu]$ with $\mu \geq 1$ is also the first example of an indecomposable positive linear map [19] in the literature, and the map $\Phi[1, 0, 1]$ is extremal [20], that is, generates an extremal ray of the cone $P_1$. Later, it was shown [21] that this map $\Phi[1, 0, 1]$ is not the sum of a 2-positive map and a 2-copositive map. See also Ref. [22]. The map $\Phi[1, 0, 1]$ is usually called the Choi map. The maps $\Phi[a, b, c]$ have been considered in [23] to distinguish various notions of positivity. See also [17, 21, 24, 33] for another variations of the Choi map. It is known [23] that the map $\Phi[a, b, c]$ is positive if and only if the condition

$$a + b + c \geq 2, \quad 0 \leq a \leq 1 \implies bc \geq (1 - a)^2 \quad (1)$$

holds. Note that $\Phi[1, 0, 1]$ is optimal by the extremeness. It is also well known that $\Phi[1, 0, 1]$ has not the spanning property, as was observed in [34]. See also Ref. [35]. It is also known to have the co-spanning property [36]. Recently, the authors [27] have shown that if $0 < a < 1$ and the equalities hold in the both inequalities in [11] then $\Phi[a, b, c]$ has the bi-spanning property. We note that the Choi matrix $C_\Phi = \sum_{i,j=0}^{2} |i\rangle\langle j| \otimes \Phi(|i\rangle\langle j|)$ of the map $\Phi[a, b, c]$ is given by

$$W[a, b, c] = \begin{pmatrix} a & \cdots & -1 & \cdots & -1 \\
\cdots & c & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\
\cdots & \cdots & b & \cdots & \cdots \\
\cdots & \cdots & \cdots & c & \cdots \\
-1 & \cdots & -1 \cdots & a \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

In the next section, we examine the above mentioned properties for boundary points of the convex body determined by the condition [11], and discuss the result in the final section.

II. FACIAL STRUCTURES AND OPTIMALITY

Before going further, we note that the six properties, optimal, co-optimal, bi-optimal, spanning, co-spanning and bi-spanning are properties depending on the faces: If $\phi_1$ and $\phi_2$ determine the same smallest face containing them, then they are interior points of a common face, and share the each property, because the properties are described in terms of faces. Therefore, we can say that a face itself has one among six properties without confusion, and this means that every interior point of the face satisfies the property. It is also clear that a face has a property, then every subface also has the same property.

Hence, if a point $\phi$ does not have a property then every interior point in the face containing $\phi$ does not have the property. Therefore, we need to clarify the facial structures of the 3-dimensional convex body itself determined
by $\Phi$. It should be noted that the face of the convex body need not give rise to a real face of the convex cone $\mathbb{P}_1$. Nevertheless, an interior point of a face of the convex body gives rise to an interior point of the face of the cone $\mathbb{P}_1$ determined by the corresponding map.

First of all, the convex body has the following four 2-dimensional faces:

- $f_{ab} = \{(a, b, c) : c = 0, a + b \geq 2, a \geq 1\}$,
- $f_{ac} = \{(a, b, c) : b = 0, a + c \geq 2, a \geq 1\}$,
- $f_{bc} = \{(a, b, c) : a = 0, bc \geq 1\}$,
- $f_{abc} = \{(a, b, c) : a + b + c = 2, 0 \leq a \leq 1 \Rightarrow bc \geq (1 - a)^2\}$.

We note \[2\] that $\Phi[a, b, c]$ is completely positive if and only if $a \geq 2$, and it is completely copositive if and only if $bc \geq 1$. Therefore, the face $f_{abc}$ has the completely positive map $\Phi[2, 0, 0]$ and the completely copositive map $\Phi[0, 1, 1]$, and so $f_{abc}$ is neither optimal nor co-optimal. It is also easy to examine the optimality for the first three cases. For example, if $a > 2$ then the map $\Phi[a, 0, 0]$ is written by

$$\Phi[a, 0, 0] = \Phi[2, 0, 0] + (a - 2)D,$$

where $D$ is the diagonal map which send $[x_{ij}]$ to the diagonal matrix with the diagonal entries $(x_{11}, x_{22}, x_{33})$. The map $D$ is both completely positive and completely copositive. This means that the map $\Phi[a, 0, 0]$ never satisfy optimality and co-optimality. Therefore, every interior point in the 2-dimensional faces $f_{ac}$ and $f_{ab}$ never satisfy above properties. By the same argument, this is also the case for the face $f_{bc}$.

We note that the convex body has also the following five 1-dimensional faces which are on the $a$-axis, $ab$-plane or $ac$-plane:

- $e_a = \{(a, 0, 0) : a \geq 2\}$,
- $e_b = \{(1, b, 0) : b \geq 1\}$,
- $e_c = \{(1, 0, c) : c \geq 1\}$,
- $e_{ab} = \{(a, b, 0) : a + b = 2, 1 \leq a \leq 2\}$,
- $e_{ac} = \{(a, 0, c) : a + c = 2, 1 \leq a \leq 2\}$.

Among them, we have already seen that the face $e_a$ is neither optimal nor co-optimal. This is also the case for $e_b$ and $e_c$, since it is possible to subtract a map which is both completely positive and completely copositive. It is also clear that neither $e_{ab}$ nor $e_{ac}$ is optimal. In order to find other 1-dimensional faces, we note that the parametrization

$$(a(t), b(t), c(t)) = \frac{1}{1 - t + t^2}((1 - t)^2, t^2, 1), \quad 0 < t < \infty$$

satisfies the condition

$$a(t) + b(t) + c(t) = 2, 0 \leq a(t) \leq 1, b(t)c(t) = (1 - a(t))^2,$$

as was considered in \[37\]. For each fixed positive number $t > 0$ with $t \neq 1$, the line segment given by

$$e_t = \{(1 - s, st, s/t) : t/(t^2 - t + 1) \leq s \leq 1\}$$

lies on the surface $bc = (1 - a)^2$ for $0 \leq a < 1$, and connects the point $(a(t), b(t), c(t))$ to the point $(0, t, 1/t)$. This gives us 1-dimensional faces $e_t$ for each $t > 0$ with $t \neq 1$. Note that $\Phi[0, t, 1/t]$ is completely copositive for each $t > 0$, and so it is clear that $e_t$ is not co-optimal.

It remains to list up 0-dimensional faces as follows:

- $v_{(2, 0, 0)}, v_{(1, 0, 1)}, v_{(1, 1, 0)}, v_{(a(t), b(t), c(t))}$ for $t > 0$ and $t \neq 1$,
- $v_{(0, t, 1/t)}$ for $t > 0$.

![FIG. 1. Part of convex body determined by Eq. \( \Phi \). The smallest face containing $v_{(1, 1, 0)}$ is itself, but the smallest exposed face containing it is $e_{ab}$. The straight lines containing the faces $e_a$, $e_b$, $e_c$, and $e_t$ meet each other at the point $(1, 0, 0)$ which is not in the convex body.](image)

So far, we have seen that the faces $f_{ab}$, $f_{ac}$, $f_{bc}$, $f_{abc}$, $e_a$, $e_b$, and $e_c$ are neither optimal nor co-optimal. Therefore, they have neither the spanning property nor co-spanning property. We test the other faces. First of all, we show that $e_t$ and $v_{(0, t, 1/t)}$ have the spanning properties. To do this, it suffices to consider the case when $(a, b, c)$ satisfies the condition

$$0 \leq a < 1, \quad bc = (1 - a)^2, \quad a + b + c > 2. \quad (3)$$

We recall \[14\] (see also Ref. \[8\]) that $\phi \in \mathbb{P}_1$ has the spanning property if and only if the set

$$P[\phi] := \{\xi \otimes \eta \in \mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n : \langle \xi \otimes \eta | C_\phi | \xi \otimes \eta \rangle = 0\}$$

spans the whole space $\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n$, where $C_\phi$ is the Choi
whenever the condition (3) holds. Therefore, the vectors $k$ for all $\ell$ and only if the following condition (4) holds.

$$|\xi_{k, \sigma}^k \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^k| = e^{i\theta}b^{1/4}|1| + e^{i\pi}c^{1/4}|2|, $$
$$|\xi_{k, \sigma}^1 \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^1| = e^{i\theta}b^{1/4}|1| + e^{-i\pi}c^{1/4}|0|, $$
$$|\xi_{k, \sigma}^2 \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^2| = e^{i\theta}b^{1/4}|0| + e^{i\pi}c^{1/4}|1|, $$
$$|\eta_{h, \sigma}^0| = e^{-i\theta}(bc)^{1/2}|1| + e^{-i\pi}b^{1/2}|2|, $$
$$|\eta_{h, \sigma}^1| = e^{-i\theta}(bc)^{1/2}|2| + e^{-i\pi}b^{1/2}|0|, $$
$$|\eta_{h, \sigma}^2| = e^{-i\theta}(bc)^{1/2}|0| + e^{-i\pi}b^{1/2}|1|.$$  

Then, it is easy to check that

$$\langle \xi_{k, \sigma}^k \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^k | C_\Phi | \xi_{k, \sigma}^k \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^k \rangle = \langle \xi_{k, \sigma}^k | C_\Phi | \xi_{k, \sigma}^k \rangle - 2(1-a)bc^{1/2} + 2b^{3/2}c.$$  

for all $k = 1, 2, 3$, and $\langle \xi_{k, \sigma}^k \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^k | C_\Phi | \xi_{k, \sigma}^k \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^k \rangle = 0,$ whenever the condition (3) holds. Therefore, the vectors $|\xi_{k, \sigma}^k \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^k\rangle$ belong to $P[\Phi[a, b, c]]$ for all $k = 1, 2, 3$ whenever the condition (3) holds. We take $\sigma_1 = 0$, $\sigma_2 = \pi/2$ and $\sigma_3 = \pi$, and consider the $9 \times 9$ matrix whose columns are nine vectors $|\xi_{k, \sigma}^k \otimes \eta_{h, \sigma}^k\rangle$ for $k, \ell = 1, 2, 3$. Then the determinant of $M$ is given by

$$|\det M| = 128 b^2 c^2$$

which is nonzero. This shows that $e_\ell$ and $v_{(0,l,1/t)}$ have the spanning properties.

Next, we consider the 0-dimensional face $v_{(2,0,0)}$. We see that the smallest exposed face $F$ containing $v_{(2,0,0)}$ already contains $v_{(2,0,0)}$ in the Fig. 1. (See Ref. [14] for more general approach). We have seen that $\Phi[1, 0, 1]$ has the co-spanning property, and so $F$ has no completely copositive map. This show that $v_{(2,0,0)}$ has the co-spanning property, and so $e_{ab}$ and $e_{ac}$ also have the co-spanning properties.

We summarize the result as follows:

| Faces | (Co-)Spanning property | (Co-)Optimality |
|-------|------------------------|-----------------|
| $f_{ab}, f_{ac}, f_{bc}, f_{abc}, e_a, e_b, e_c$ | N N N | N N N |
| $e_{ab}, e_{ac}, v_{(2,0,0)}$ | N Y N | N Y N |
| $e_{\ell}, v_{(0,1,1/t)}$ | Y N N | Y N N |
| $v_{(1,0,1)}, v_{(1,1,0)}$ | N Y N | Y Y Y |
| $v_{(a(t),b(t),c(t))}$ | Y Y Y | Y Y Y |

TABLE I. Summary of (co-)optimality and (co-)spanning property for faces of the convex body illustrated in Fig. 1.

We note that the map $\Phi[a, b, c]$ is decomposable if and only if the following condition

$$0 \leq a \leq 2 \implies bc \geq \left( \frac{2-a}{2} \right)^2$$

holds. Therefore, we see that interior points of the following faces

$e_b, e_c, e_{ab}, e_{ac}, e_{\ell}, v_{(1,0,1)}, v_{(1,1,0)}, v_{(a(t),b(t),c(t))}$

give rise to indecomposable positive maps. We note that every interior point of the face $e_\ell$ gives rise to an example of an indecomposable optimal entanglement witness which is not bi-optimal. So, this is not ‘nd-OEW’ in the sense of [8]. If we consider the composition by the transpose map then the faces $e_{ab}$ and $e_{ac}$ play the exactly same role. They also provide us examples of non-extremal entanglement witnesses with the spanning property. On the other hand, the Choi maps $v_{(1,0,1)}$ and $v_{(1,1,0)}$ are extremal entanglement witnesses without the spanning property. Therefore, we see that two sufficient conditions, extremeness and spanning property, for the optimality is logically independent.

### III. CONCLUSIONS

In this note, we considered Choi type positive maps between $3 \times 3$ matrices, and determined their optimality, co-optimality, spanning property and co-spanning property. We have seen that even though a non-decomposable entanglement witness is optimal, it need not to be a ‘non-decomposable optimal entanglement witness’ in the sense of [8]. Because a positive map detects a PPTES if and only if it is indecomposable, we suggest to use the term PPTES witness in the place of non-decomposable entanglement witness, and use the term optimal PPTES witness in the place of nd-OEW. In other word, we say that a positive map is an optimal PPTES witness when it is bi-optimal. This is very natural since a positive map detects
a maximal set of PPTES if and only if it is bi-optimal.

Optimality is not so easy to determine for a given positive linear map, because we do not know the whole facial structures of the convex cone $\mathbb{P}_1$ consisting of all positive maps. The spanning property is stronger than optimality and relatively easy to check. Another sufficient condition for optimality is extremeness. We also showed that spanning property and extremeness are logically independent.

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