On a moduli space of the Wigner quasiprobability distributions

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Content

Context

Recently an ambiguity in specification of the Wigner quasiprobability distribution for a finite-dimensional quantum system has been studied.

It was shown that for an N-level quantum system one can construct $N-2$ parametric family of unitary non-equivalent Wigner quasiprobability distributions.

The main objective

In the report the moduli space of the Wigner quasiprobability distributions for N-dimensional quantum systems will be discussed and exemplified for low dimensional cases: for a single qubit, qutrit and quatrit.

Introduction

A quantum state is described by a density operator ϱ:

$$\varrho^\dagger = \varrho\,; \qquad tr(\varrho) = 1\,; \qquad \varrho \geq 0\,.$$

The Wigner function is constructed from the density matrix ϱ and the Stratonovich-Weyl kernel $\Delta(\Omega_N)$:

$$\boxed{W_\varrho(\Omega) = tr\left(\varrho\,\Delta(\Omega)\right)\,.}$$

Singular value decomposition: $\Delta(\Omega) = U(\Omega)\;P\;U^\dagger(\Omega)\,,$

where $\quad P = diag||\pi_1, \cdots, \pi_N|| \quad$ and $\quad \pi_1 \geq \pi_2 \geq \cdots \geq \pi_N\,.$

Master equations:

$$\boxed{tr\left(\Delta(\Omega)\right) = 1\,, \qquad tr\left(\Delta(\Omega)^2\right) = N\,.}$$

Parametrization of the moduli space

The Stratonovich-Weyl kernel

$$\Delta(\Omega|\boldsymbol{\nu}) = \frac{1}{N} U(\Omega) \left[I + \kappa \sum_{\lambda \in H} \mu_s(\boldsymbol{\nu}) \lambda_s \right] U(\Omega)^\dagger , \quad \kappa = \sqrt{N(N^2-1)/2} ,$$

where

- H is the **Cartan subalgebra** in $SU(N)$,
- parameter $\boldsymbol{\nu} = (\nu_1 , \cdots , \nu_{N-2})$ labels members of the WF family,
- coefficients $\boxed{\sum_{s=2}^{N} \mu^2_{s^2-1}(\boldsymbol{\nu}) = 1}$.

A density matrix of an N-dimensional quantum system

$$\varrho_\xi = \frac{1}{N} \left[I + \sqrt{\frac{N\,(N-1)}{2}}\,(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) \right] ,$$

where

- $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ is an (N^2-1)-dimensional Bloch vector,
- $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = \{\lambda_1 , \cdots , \lambda_{N^2-1}\}$ is $\mathfrak{su}(N)$ algebra basis.

A family of the Wigner functions

$$W^{(\nu)}_{\xi}(\Omega_N) = \frac{1}{N}\left[1 + \frac{N^2-1}{\sqrt{N+1}}(\boldsymbol{n},\xi)\right],$$

where

- $\boldsymbol{n} = \mu_3 \boldsymbol{n}^{(3)} + \cdots + \mu_{N^2-1}\boldsymbol{n}^{(N^2-1)}$,
- $\boldsymbol{n}^{(s^2-1)} = \frac{1}{2}\operatorname{tr}\left(U\lambda_{s^2-1}U^{\dagger}\lambda_{\mu}\right), \quad s = \overline{2, N}$.

The spectrum $\{\pi_1, \cdots, \pi_N\}$ of the Stratonovich-Weyl kernel:

$$\pi_i = \frac{1}{N}\left(1 + \sqrt{2}\kappa \sum_{s=i+1}^{N} \frac{\mu_{s^2-1}}{\sqrt{s(s-1)}} - \kappa\sqrt{\frac{2(i-1)}{i}}\mu_{i^2-1}\right).$$

Constraints on the spherical angles

The spherical $(N-2)$ angles:

$$\mu_3 = \sin\psi_1 \cdots \sin\psi_{N-2}\,,$$
$$\vdots$$
$$\mu_{i^2-1} = \sin\psi_1 \cdots \sin\psi_{N-i}\cos\psi_{N-i+1}\,,$$
$$\vdots$$
$$\mu_{N^2-1} = \cos\psi_1\,, \qquad i = \overline{2, N}\,.$$

For decreasing order $\pi_1 \geq \cdots \geq \pi_N$

$$\boxed{\mu_3 \geq 0\,, \qquad \mu_{(i+1)^2-1} \geq \sqrt{\frac{i-1}{i+1}}\,\mu_{i^2-1}\,, \quad i = \overline{2, N-1}\,.}$$

Examples: qubit, qutrit and quatrit

The Wigner function of a single qubit

A generic **qubit** quantum state is parameterized in a standard way

$$\varrho_{qubit} = \frac{1}{2}(I + \boldsymbol{r} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})$$

by the Bloch vector $\boldsymbol{r} = (r \sin\psi \cos\phi\,,\ r \sin\phi \sin\phi\,,\ r\cos\psi)\,.$
The master equations determine the spectrum:

$$\mathrm{spec}\left(P^{(2)}\right) = \left\{ \frac{1+\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1-\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\} .$$

The **Wigner function** for a single qubit is

$$W_{\boldsymbol{r}}(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\,(\boldsymbol{r}, \boldsymbol{n})\ ,$$

where $\boldsymbol{n} = (-\cos\alpha \sin\beta\,,\ \sin\alpha \sin\beta\,,\ \cos\beta)$ is the unit 3-vector.

Qutrit kernel and its fundamental region

A generic **qutrit** state is given by the density matrix

$$\varrho_{qutrit} = \frac{1}{3}\left(I + \sqrt{3}\sum_{\nu=1}^{8}\xi_\nu\lambda_\nu\right) .$$

The **Stratonovich-Weyl kernel**

$$\Delta(\Omega_3) = U(\Omega_3)\,\frac{1}{3}\left[I + 2\sqrt{3}\,(\mu_3\lambda_3 + \mu_8\lambda_8)\right]\,U(\Omega_3)^\dagger\,,$$

where the coefficients

$$\mu_3(\nu) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}\sqrt{(1+\nu)(5-3\nu)}\,, \quad \mu_8(\nu) = \frac{1}{4}(1-3\nu)$$

are functions of the parameter $\nu = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{4}{3}\cos(\zeta)$ with $\zeta \in [0,\ \pi/3]$ being the moduli parameter of the unitary nonequivalent WF of a qutrit.

The **Wigner function** of a single qutrit

$$W_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}^{(\nu)}(\Omega_3) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{4}{3}\left[\mu_3\left(\boldsymbol{n}^{(3)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}\right) + \mu_8\left(\boldsymbol{n}^{(8)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}\right)\right],$$

with two orthogonal unit 8-vectors

$$n_\nu^{(3)} = \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{tr}\left[U\lambda_3 U^\dagger \lambda_\nu\right], \qquad n_\nu^{(8)} = \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{tr}\left[U\lambda_8 U^\dagger \lambda_\nu\right].$$

The **master equations**

$$tr\left(\Delta(\Omega)\right) = 1, \qquad tr\left(\Delta(\Omega)^2\right) = 3$$

determine one-parametric family of kernels $P^{(3)}(\nu)$.

One-parametric $P^{(3)}(\nu)$-family

- The spectrum of **generic** kernels:

$$\text{spec}\left(P^{(3)}(\nu)\right) = \left\{\frac{1-\nu+\delta}{2}, \frac{1-\nu-\delta}{2}, \nu\right\},$$

where $\quad \delta = \sqrt{(1+\nu)(5-3\nu)}$ and $\nu \in (-1, -\frac{1}{3})$.

- Two **degenerate** kernels:

$$\text{spec}\left(P^{(3)}(-1)\right) = \{1\,, 1\,, -1\}\,, \quad \text{spec}\left(P^{(3)}\,(-1/3)\right) = \left\{\frac{5}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}\right\}.$$

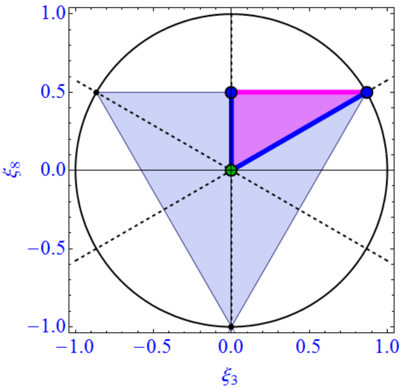
- The spectrum of **singular** kernel:

$$\text{spec}\left(P^{(3)}_{det=0}\right) = \left\{\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\,, 0\,, \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right\}, \quad tr\left([P^{(3)}_{det=0}]^m\right) = \mathcal{L}_m\,,$$

where the m-th **Lucas number** $\mathcal{L}_m = \phi^m + (-\phi)^{-m}$ and $\phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$.

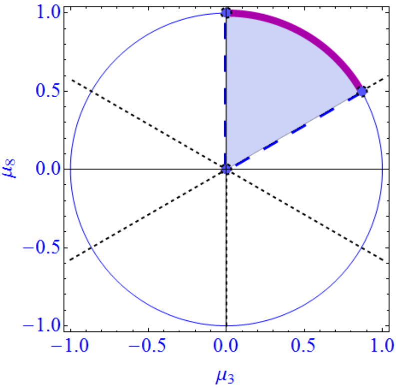
The ordering of the **density matrix** eigenvalues $\boxed{1 \geq r_1 \geq r_2 \geq r_3 \geq 0}$ and condition $\sum r_i = 1$ lead to

$$\boxed{\xi_3 \geq 0\,, \quad \xi_8 \geq \frac{\xi_3}{\sqrt{3}}}\,.$$



The ordering of the **SW kernel** eigenvalues $\boxed{\pi_1 \geq \pi_2 \geq \pi_3}$ and condition $\sum \mu_i^2 = 1$ lead to

$$\boxed{\mu_3 = \sin\zeta\,, \quad \mu_8 = \cos\zeta\,, \quad 0 \leq \zeta \leq \frac{\pi}{3}}\,.$$



Quatrit kernel and its fundamental region

A generic **quatrit** ($N = 4$) state is given by the density matrix

$$\varrho_{quatrit} = \frac{1}{4}\left(I + \sqrt{6}\sum_{\nu=1}^{15}\xi_\nu\lambda_\nu\right) .$$

The **Stratonovich-Weyl kernel**

$$\Delta(\Omega_N|\boldsymbol{\nu}) = U(\Omega_N)\,\frac{1}{4}\left[I + \sqrt{30}\,(\mu_3\lambda_3 + \mu_8\lambda_8 + \mu_{15}\lambda_{15})\right]\,U(\Omega_N)^\dagger .$$

The **Wigner function** of a quatrit

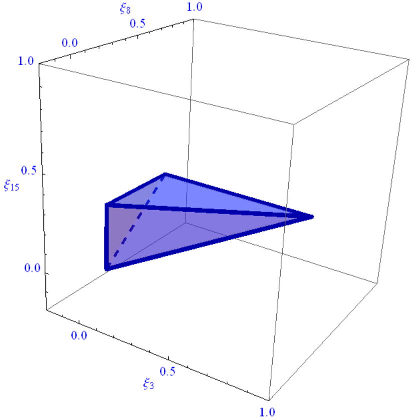
$$W^{(\boldsymbol{\nu})}_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}(\Omega_4) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{3\sqrt{5}}{4}\left[\mu_3(\boldsymbol{n}^{(3)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}) + \mu_8(\boldsymbol{n}^{(8)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}) + \mu_{15}(\boldsymbol{n}^{(15)}, \boldsymbol{\xi})\right] ,$$

with

$$n_\nu^{(3,8,15)} = \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{tr}\left[U\lambda_{3,8,15}U^\dagger\lambda_\nu\right] .$$

Quatrit density matrix

In a quatrit case, there are 24 ways of the spec $(\varrho_{quatrit}) = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4\}$ ordering.



The fixed order of the eigenvalues

$$1 \geq r_1 \geq r_2 \geq r_3 \geq r_4 \geq 0\,,$$
$$0 \leq r_i \leq 1\,, \qquad \sum r_i = 1\,,$$

leads to

$$0 \leq \xi_3 \leq \sqrt{2/3}\,,$$
$$\frac{\xi_3}{\sqrt{3}} \leq \xi_8 \leq \sqrt{2}/3\,,$$
$$\frac{\xi_8}{\sqrt{2}} \leq \xi_{15} \leq 1/3\,.$$

The **master equations**

$$tr\left(\Delta(\Omega)\right) = 1\,, \qquad tr\left(\Delta(\Omega)^2\right) = 4$$

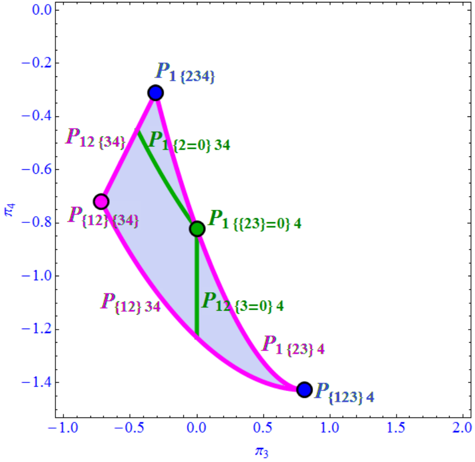
determine two-parametric family of kernels $P^{(4)}$ with $\pi_1 \geq \pi_2 \geq \pi_3 \geq \pi_4$:

- **Generic** kernel:

$$\text{spec}\left(P^{(4)}(\pi_3, \pi_4)\right) = \left\{\frac{\gamma+\delta}{2}\,, \frac{\gamma-\delta}{2}\,, \pi_3\,, \pi_4\right\}\,,$$

where

$$\gamma = 1 - \pi_3 - \pi_4\,, \quad \delta = \sqrt{8 - 2(\pi_3^2 + \pi_4^2) - \gamma^2}\,.$$



- **Degenerate** kernels:
  - Triple degenerate

$$P^{(4)}_{\{123\}4} : \pi_1 = \pi_2 = \pi_3 \neq \pi_4 \,,$$
$$P^{(4)}_{1\{234\}} : \pi_1 \neq \pi_2 = \pi_3 = \pi_4 \,.$$

  - Double degenerate

$$P_{\{12\}\{34\}} : \pi_1 = \pi_2 \neq \pi_3 = \pi_4 \,,$$
$$P_{\{12\}34} : \pi_1 = \pi_2 \neq \pi_3 \neq \pi_4 \,,$$
$$P_{1\{23\}4} : \pi_1 \neq \pi_2 = \pi_3 \neq \pi_4 \,,$$
$$P_{12\{34\}} : \pi_1 \neq \pi_2 \neq \pi_3 = \pi_4 \,.$$

- **Singular** kernels

$$P_{1\{2=0\}34} : \pi_1 \neq \pi_2 = 0 \neq \pi_3 \neq \pi_4 \,,$$
$$P_{12\{3=0\}4} : \pi_1 \neq \pi_2 = 0 \neq \pi_3 \neq \pi_4 \,,$$
$$P_{1\{\{23\}=0\}4} : \pi_1 \neq \pi_2 \neq \pi_3 = 0 \neq \pi_4,$$

with $tr\left(P^m_{1\{\{23\}=0\}4}\right) = \mathcal{R}_m \,.$

Note that

$$\mathcal{R}_\mathbf{m} = \mathcal{R}_{m-1} + \tfrac{3}{2}\mathcal{R}_{m-2} \,, \quad \mathcal{R}_1 = 1 \,, \mathcal{R}_2 = 4 \,;$$
$$\mathcal{L}_\mathbf{m} = \mathcal{L}_{m-1} + \mathcal{L}_{m-2} \,, \quad \mathcal{L}_1 = 2 \,, \mathcal{L}_2 = 1 \,.$$

Parameterizing μ by two spherical coordinates

$$\boxed{\mu_3 = \sin\psi_1 \sin\psi_2\,, \quad \mu_8 = \sin\psi_1 \cos\psi_2\,, \quad \mu_{15} = \cos\psi_1}$$

and using the constraints coming from the requirement of a decreasing order of the SW kernel's eigenvalues

$$\mu_3 \geq 0\,, \qquad \mu_8 \geq \frac{\mu_3}{\sqrt{3}}\,, \qquad \mu_{15} \geq \frac{\mu_8}{\sqrt{2}}\,,$$

we have:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \begin{cases} \psi_2 \in \left(0, \frac{\pi}{3}\right]\,, \\ 0 < \psi_1 \leq arccot\left(\cos\psi_2/\sqrt{2}\right)\;; \end{cases} \\ \\ \begin{cases} \psi_2 = 0\,, \\ 0 < \psi_1 \leq arccot\left(1/\sqrt{2}\right)\;; \end{cases} \\ \\ \psi_1 = 0\,. \end{array}\right.$$

(See Figure 1)

Girard's theorem: the spherical excess of a triangle determines the solid angle

$$\pi/2 + \pi/3 + \pi/3 - \pi = 4\pi/24 \,.$$

Any fixed order of eigenvalues corresponds to one of 24 possible ways to tessellate a sphere.

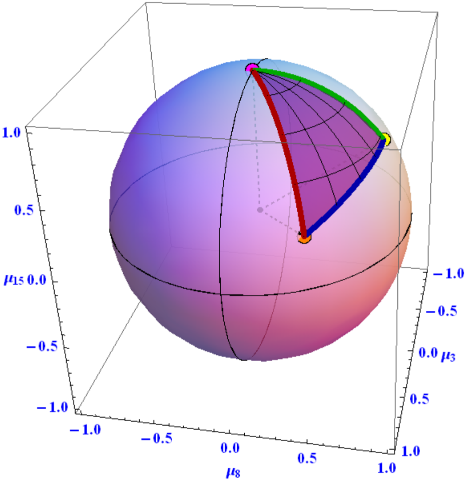


Figure 1: Möbius $(2, 3, 3)$ triangle with $(\pi/2\,, \pi/3\,, \pi/3)$ angles.

Conclusions

An ambiguity in the master equation's solution for Stratonovich-Weyl kernel is analyzed and the corresponding moduli spaces of the Wigner QPDF is determined for $N = 3, 4$ quantum systems:

- for the qutrit the moduli space is the $\frac{\pi}{3}$ arc of the unit circle,
- for the quatrit the moduli space is $(2, 3, 3)$ Möbius triangle.

The basic goal of our further studies is

understanding of a physical meaning of the Wigner function moduli space.

Thank you for attention