

FACIAL STRUCTURES OF SEPARABLE AND PPT STATES

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Abstract. A positive semi-definite block matrix (a state if it is normalized) is said to be separable if it is the sum of simple tensors of positive semi-definite matrices. A state is said to be entangled if it is not separable.

It is very difficult to detect the border between separable and entangled states. The PPT (positive partial transpose) criterion tells us that the partial transpose of a separable state is again positive semi-definite, as was observed by M. D. Choi in 1982 from the mathematics side.

In this expository note, we explain the facial structures of the cone of all PPT block matrices, which are naturally characterized by pairs of subspaces of (small) matrices. We also discuss which faces of PPT's induce faces of separables, and which faces of separables are induced by PPT's.

1. Introduction. The notion of entanglement originated from quantum mechanics, and has no counterpart in classical mechanics. On the mathematics side, this may be explained by the distinction between commutative order structures and non-commutative order structures: it is well-known that a nonnegative continuous function of two variables is the limit of the sums of nonnegative continuous functions of separable variables. In the language of the tensor products of C^* -algebras, the positive cone $(C(X) \otimes C(Y))^+$ of the tensor product of commutative C^* -algebras $C(X)$ and $C(Y)$ of all continuous functions on compact Hausdorff spaces X and Y coincides with the tensor product $C(X)^+ \otimes C(Y)^+$ of the positive cones.

This is not the case for matrix algebras, the simplest non-commutative case, because the positive cone $(M_n \otimes M_m)^+$ of the tensor product of matrix algebras M_n and M_m is strictly larger than the tensor product $M_n^+ \otimes M_m^+$ of positive cones M_n^+ and M_m^+ . Throughout this note, M_n denotes the C^* -algebra of all $n \times n$ matrices with complex

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entries, and $M_{m \times n}$ denotes the inner product space of all $m \times n$ matrices with complex entries.

The notion of entanglement has been studied extensively by quantum physicists since nineties in the relations with possible applications to quantum information theory and quantum computing theory. We refer to the book [3] for related material. Entanglement is a block matrix in $(M_n \otimes M_m)^+$ which does not belong to $M_n^+ \otimes M_m^+$. One of the main research topics in entanglement theory is to distinguish entanglement from block matrices in $M_n^+ \otimes M_m^+$, whose elements give rise to separable states.

It is easy to see that if a block matrix gives rise to a separable state then its block transpose is still positive semi-definite. This gives us a necessary condition for separability. The positive semi-definite block matrix with positive semi-definite block transpose is said to be of *positive partial transpose* (PPT). In this expository note, we explore the boundary structures, or equivalently facial structures of the two cones; the cone consisting of PPT's and the cone consisting of separable states (up to scalar multiple).

Recall that a matrix itself represents a linear functional on the matrix algebra with respect to the Hadamard product. In this correspondence, a positive semi-definite matrix represents a positive linear functional on the matrix algebra, and a density matrix represents a state, a unital positive linear functional on the matrix algebra. Throughout this note, we do not distinguish matrices themselves from linear functionals. In this sense, every element in $M_n^+ \otimes M_m^+$ is a positive linear functional on $M_n \otimes M_m$, which is separable. We call that just a separable *state* by abuse of terminology.

The whole structures of operator algebras heavily depend on the order structures, as is seen in the Gelfand–Naimark–Segal representation theorem. In this vein, operator algebraists have studied various types of positive linear maps between operator algebras, and how to distinguish them, since fifties [41], [42]. For example, Choi [11] showed that there is a non-decomposable positive linear map between M_3 by exhibiting an example of a positive semi-definite biquadratic form which is not the sum of squares of bilinear forms. Woronowicz [48] also showed that there exists a non-decomposable positive linear map from M_2 into M_4 by exhibiting a special block matrix in $M_4 \otimes M_2$, which is nothing but an example of an entangled state with positive partial transpose. The same thing has been done in $M_3 \otimes M_3$ by Størmer [43]. Recently, many mathematicians are interested in entanglement theory itself. See [1], [2], [28] and [44], for example.

In the second section of this note, we introduce various kinds of entanglement and positive linear maps, and explain dualities between them. In the third section, we characterize faces of various cones introduced in the second section, and explain how to describe faces using the duality. In the last section, we exhibit some examples in the $3 \otimes 3$ case.

Throughout this note, we are concerned with *subspaces* of the inner product space $M_{m \times n}$ which is inner product space isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}_n \otimes \mathbb{C}_m$. This is why we do not use the convenient bra–ket notations of physicists, which is natural to describe elements of $\mathbb{C}_n \otimes \mathbb{C}_m$. Every vector will be considered as a column vector. If $x \in \mathbb{C}^m$ and $y \in \mathbb{C}^n$ then x will be considered as an $m \times 1$ matrix, and y^* will be considered as a $1 \times n$ matrix, and so xy^* is an $m \times n$ rank one matrix whose range is generated by x and whose kernel is orthogonal to y . For a vector x , the notation \bar{x} will be used for the vector whose entries

are conjugates of the corresponding entries. The notation $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ will be used for bilinear pairing. For natural numbers m and n , we denote by $m \wedge n$ the minimum of m and n . Finally, $\{e_{ij} : i = 1, \dots, m, j = 1, \dots, n\}$ denotes the usual matrix units in $M_{m \times n}$.

2. Entanglement and positive maps. In this section, we will explain what is entanglement and investigate dualities between entanglement and positive linear maps in matrix algebras. Basically, entanglement is a positive semi-definite block matrix in $M_n \otimes M_m$ which cannot be expressed as the sum of simple tensors of positive semi-positive matrices in M_m and M_n . We also introduce a bilinear pairing between $M_n \otimes M_m$ and the space $\mathcal{L}(M_m, M_n)$ of all linear maps from M_m to M_n . This pairing allows us to understand various cones of block matrices or positive linear maps as dual cones with respect to this pairing.

2.1. Entanglement. For an $m \times n$ matrix $z \in M_{m \times n}$ with the i -th row z_i , we write

$$\tilde{z} = \sum_{i=1}^m z_i \otimes e_i \in \mathbb{C}^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^m$$

and define the convex cones \mathbb{V}_s and \mathbb{V}^s in $M_n \otimes M_m$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{V}_s &= \text{conv} \{ \tilde{z}\tilde{z}^* \in M_n \otimes M_m : \text{rank } z \leq s \}, \\ \mathbb{V}^s &= \text{conv} \{ (\tilde{z}\tilde{z}^*)^\tau \in M_n \otimes M_m : \text{rank } z \leq s \}, \end{aligned}$$

for $s = 1, 2, \dots, m \wedge n$, where

$$\sum (a_{ij} \otimes e_{ij})^\tau = \sum a_{ji} \otimes e_{ij}$$

denotes the *block transpose*, or *partial transpose* by the language of quantum physics, and $\text{conv } X$ denotes the convex hull generated by X .

By a simple calculation, we have

$$\widetilde{xy^*xy^*}^* = \bar{y}y^* \otimes xx^*$$

for $x \in \mathbb{C}^m$ and $y \in \mathbb{C}^n$, and so it follows that

$$\mathbb{V}_1 = M_n^+ \otimes M_m^+ = \mathbb{V}^1.$$

We also have the following chain of inclusions;

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{V}_1 \subset \mathbb{V}_2 \subset \dots \subset \mathbb{V}_{m \wedge n} &= (M_n \otimes M_m)^+, \\ \mathbb{V}^1 \subset \mathbb{V}^2 \subset \dots \subset \mathbb{V}^{m \wedge n}. \end{aligned}$$

We say that a positive semi-definite block matrix $A \in (M_n \otimes M_m)^+$ is *separable* if $A \in \mathbb{V}_1$, and *entangled* if it is not separable. A block matrix in $\mathbb{V}_s \setminus \mathbb{V}_{s-1}$ is said to be of *Schmidt number* s . See [40].

For example, the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

is separable in $M_2 \otimes M_2$ since it is $\tilde{z}\tilde{z}^*$ with the rank one matrix $z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. On the other hand, the *rank one* matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is entangled, since it is $\tilde{z}\tilde{z}^*$ with the rank two matrix $z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. If a positive semi-definite matrix A is not of rank one, then it is extremely difficult to determine whether it is separable or entangled. Note that the block transpose

$$A^\tau = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

of A in $M_2 \otimes M_2$ is not positive semi-definite.

2.2. Positive partial transpose. If $z = xy^*$ is a rank one matrix with column vectors x and y , then

$$(\tilde{z}\tilde{z}^*)^\tau = \tilde{w}\tilde{w}^*, \quad \text{with } w = \bar{x}y^*,$$

is positive semi-definite by a direct simple calculation. So, we have

$$\mathbb{V}_1 \subseteq \mathbb{V}_{m \wedge n} \cap \mathbb{V}^{m \wedge n},$$

to get a necessary condition for separability, which is called the PPT (positive partial transpose) criterion by quantum physicists. See [12] and [38].

We define

$$\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{V}_{m \wedge n} \cap \mathbb{V}^{m \wedge n}.$$

A positive semi-definite block matrix is said to be *of positive partial transpose* (PPT) if it belongs to \mathbb{T} . The PPT criterion says that if a positive semi-definite block matrix is separable then it is of PPT. In the case of $M_2 \otimes M_n$, it was shown by Woronowicz [48] that the converse holds if and only if $n = 2$ or 3 . In other words, $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{V}_1$ in $M_2 \otimes M_n$ if and only if $n \leq 3$. Choi [12] also gave an example of a non-separable PPT matrix in $M_3 \otimes M_3$. Many examples of PPT entangled states have been found by quantum physicists. See [4], [5], [14], [15], [25], [26] and [40], for examples.

2.3. Positive linear maps. A linear map $\phi : M_m \rightarrow M_n$ is said to be *positive* if $\phi(M_m^+) \subset M_n^+$. It is said to be *s-positive* if $\phi_s : M_s(M_m) \rightarrow M_s(M_n)$ is positive, where

$$\phi_s : [x_{ij}] \mapsto [\phi(x_{ij})],$$

and *s-copositive* if $\phi^s : M_s(M_m) \rightarrow M_s(M_n)$ is positive, where

$$\phi^s : [x_{ij}] \mapsto [\phi(x_{ji})].$$

We denote by \mathbb{P}_s (respectively \mathbb{P}^s) the convex cone of all *s-positive* linear maps (respectively *s-copositive* linear maps). The transpose map $t : M_n \rightarrow M_n$ is a typical example of

positive linear map which is not 2-positive. A linear map is said to be *completely positive* (respectively *completely copositive*) if it is s -positive (respectively s -copositive) for every $s = 1, 2, \dots$. The following is very useful to deal with completely positive linear maps between matrix algebras. See [10] and [31].

THEOREM 2.1. *For a linear map $\phi : M_m \rightarrow M_n$, the following are equivalent:*

- (i) ϕ is completely positive,
- (ii) the matrix

$$[\phi(e_{ij})] = \begin{pmatrix} \phi(e_{11}) & \cdots & \phi(e_{1n}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi(e_{m1}) & \cdots & \phi(e_{mm}) \end{pmatrix}$$

in $M_m(M_n) = M_n \otimes M_m$ is positive semi-definite,

- (iii) ϕ is $(m \wedge n)$ -positive,
- (iv) ϕ is of the form

$$\phi_{\mathcal{V}} = \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} \phi_V,$$

where $\phi_V : X \mapsto V^* X V$ for $V \in M_{m \times n}$ and \mathcal{V} is a subset of $M_{m \times n}$.

A similar characterization for completely copositive linear maps also holds with the maps

$$\phi^{\mathcal{V}} = \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} \phi^V,$$

where $\phi^V : X \mapsto V^* X^t V$ for $V \in M_{m \times n}$.

A positive linear map $\phi : M_m \rightarrow M_n$ is said to be *decomposable* if it is the sum of a completely positive linear map and a completely copositive linear map. We denote by \mathbb{D} the convex cone of all decomposable positive linear maps, that is,

$$\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{P}_{m \wedge n} + \mathbb{P}^{m \wedge n}.$$

There are many examples of indecomposable positive linear maps in the literature. See [7], [11], [17], [18], [19], [29], [32], [37], [39], [43], [45] and [46], for examples. Especially, examples of indecomposable positive linear maps were constructed in [47] using PPT entangled states.

2.4. Dualities. For a block matrix $A = \sum_{i,j=1}^m a_{ij} \otimes e_{ij} \in M_n \otimes M_m$ and a linear map $\phi \in \mathcal{L}(M_m, M_n)$, we define the bilinear pairing by

$$\langle A, \phi \rangle = \text{Tr} \left[\left(\sum_{i,j=1}^m \phi(e_{ij}) \otimes e_{ij} \right) A^t \right] = \sum_{i,j=1}^m \langle \phi(e_{ij}), a_{ij} \rangle.$$

Then the pair (\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{D}) is dual in the sense

$$\begin{aligned} \phi \in \mathbb{D} &\iff \langle A, \phi \rangle \geq 0 \text{ for every } A \in \mathbb{T}, \\ A \in \mathbb{T} &\iff \langle A, \phi \rangle \geq 0 \text{ for every } \phi \in \mathbb{D}, \end{aligned}$$

and similarly for the pairs

$$(\mathbb{V}_s, \mathbb{P}_s), \quad (\mathbb{V}^s, \mathbb{P}^s).$$

See [16]. We may summarize these dualities as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathbb{P}_{m \wedge n} & \subset & \mathbb{D} & \subset & \mathbb{P}_1 & \subset & \mathcal{L}(M_m, M_n) \\
 & & \updownarrow & & \updownarrow & & \updownarrow \\
 M_n \otimes M_m & \supset & \mathbb{V}_{m \wedge n} & \supset & \mathbb{T} & \supset & \mathbb{V}_1
 \end{array}$$

These dualities are very useful to detect exposed faces in various situations, and used to describe maximal faces of \mathbb{P}_1 [33]. By the duality of the pair $(\mathbb{V}_1, \mathbb{P}_1)$, it is also possible to detect entanglement using a positive linear map. More precisely, a positive semi-definite block matrix A in $M_n \otimes M_m$ is entangled if and only if there exists a positive linear map ϕ such that $\langle A, \phi \rangle < 0$. This linear map ϕ is called an *entanglement witness* by quantum physicists. See [24].

3. Faces. In this section, we describe facial structures of the various cones introduced in the previous section, and how they are related with respect to the dualities. In the case of the cone \mathbb{D} of all decomposable maps and \mathbb{T} of all PPT's, it turns out that every face is determined by a pair of subspaces of $m \times n$ matrices. For the case of the cone \mathbb{V}_1 of separable states, we characterize which faces are induced by the larger cone \mathbb{T} .

3.1. Faces for completely positive maps. Recall that every element of $\mathbb{P}_{m \wedge n}$ (respectively $\mathbb{P}^{m \wedge n}$) is of the form

$$\phi_{\mathcal{V}} : X \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^{\nu} V_i^* X V_i \quad (\text{respectively } \phi^{\mathcal{V}} : X \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^{\nu} V_i^* X^t V_i),$$

where $\mathcal{V} = \{V_1, \dots, V_{\nu}\} \subset M_{m \times n}$. For a given subspace E of $M_{m \times n}$, we define

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Phi_E &= \{\phi_{\mathcal{V}} \in \mathbb{P}_{m \wedge n} : \text{span } \mathcal{V} \subset E\}, \\
 \Phi^E &= \{\phi^{\mathcal{V}} \in \mathbb{P}^{m \wedge n} : \text{span } \mathcal{V} \subset E\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then the correspondence $E \mapsto \Phi_E$ (respectively $E \mapsto \Phi^E$) is a lattice isomorphism from the lattice of all subspaces of $M_{m \times n}$ onto the lattice of all faces of $\mathbb{P}_{m \wedge n}$ (respectively $\mathbb{P}^{m \wedge n}$) [34].

3.2. Faces for decomposable maps. Therefore, it is easy to see that every face of the cone

$$\mathbb{D} = \text{conv}(\mathbb{P}_{m \wedge n}, \mathbb{P}^{m \wedge n})$$

is of the form

$$\sigma(D, E) := \text{conv}(\Phi_D, \Phi^E)$$

for a pair (D, E) of subspaces of $M_{m \times n}$. This pair is uniquely determined under the assumption

$$\sigma(D, E) \cap \mathbb{P}_{m \wedge n} = \Phi_D, \quad \sigma(D, E) \cap \mathbb{P}^{m \wedge n} = \Phi^E.$$

See [36]. It is very difficult in general to determine what kinds of pairs (D, E) give rise to faces of \mathbb{D} . In the case of $m = n = 2$, we found all faces in terms of pairs of subspaces [6]. See also [35].

3.3. Faces for positive partial transpose. It is well-known that every face of $\mathbb{V}_{m \wedge n} = (M_n \otimes M_m)^+$ is of the form

$$\Psi_D = \{A \in (M_n \otimes M_m)^+ : \mathcal{R}A \subset \tilde{D}\}$$

for a subspace D of $M_{m \times n}$, where $\mathcal{R}A$ is the range space of A and $\tilde{D} = \{\tilde{z} : \mathbb{C}^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^m : z \in D\}$. On the other hand, every face of $\mathbb{V}^{m \wedge n}$ is of the form

$$\Psi^E = \{A \in M_n \otimes M_m : A^\tau \in \Psi^E\}$$

for a subspace E of $M_{m \times n}$. Therefore, every face of $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{V}_{m \wedge n} \cap \mathbb{V}^{m \wedge n}$ is of the form

$$\tau(D, E) := \Psi_D \cap \Psi^E$$

for a pair (D, E) of subspaces of $M_{m \times n}$. This pair is determined uniquely under the assumption

$$\text{int } \tau(D, E) \subset \text{int } \Psi_D, \quad \text{int } \tau(D, E) \subset \text{int } \Psi^E.$$

3.4. Duality of faces. Let C_1 and C_2 be convex cones which are dual with respect to the bilinear pairing $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ as in the case of \mathbb{D} and \mathbb{T} . For a subset S of C_1 , the set

$$S' = \{y \in C_2 : \langle x, y \rangle = 0 \text{ for each } x \in S\}$$

is an *exposed* face of C_2 . In the dual convex cones \mathbb{D} and \mathbb{T} , it is easy to see that

$$\tau(D, E)' = \sigma(D^\perp, E^\perp)$$

gives rise to an exposed face of \mathbb{D} . It should be noted that not every face of \mathbb{D} arises in this way even in the simplest case of $m = n = 2$. See [6]. Nevertheless, every face of the cone \mathbb{T} arises from this duality. More precisely, it was shown in [21] that every face of the cone \mathbb{T} is of the form

$$\sigma(D, E)' := \{A \in \mathbb{T} : \langle A, \phi \rangle = 0 \text{ for every } \phi \in \sigma(D, E)\} = \tau(D^\perp, E^\perp) \tag{1}$$

for a face $\sigma(D, E)$ of the cone \mathbb{D} .

With the information in [6], we can list up all pairs (D, E) of subspaces which give rise to faces of \mathbb{T} in the case of $M_2 \otimes M_2$ as follows:

- (1, 1) : $D = \mathbb{C}xy^*, E = \mathbb{C}\bar{x}y^*$
- (2, 2) : $D = \text{span}\{xy^*, zw^*\}, E = \text{span}\{\bar{x}y^*, \bar{z}w^*\}$ (where $x \nparallel z$ or $y \nparallel w$)
- (3, 3) : $D = \{xy^*\}^\perp, E = \{\bar{x}y^*\}^\perp$
- (3, 3) : $D = V^\perp, E = W^\perp$
- (3, 4) : $D = V^\perp, E = M_{2 \times 2}$
- (4, 3) : $D = M_{2 \times 2}, E = W^\perp$
- (4, 4) : $D = M_{2 \times 2}, E = M_{2 \times 2}$,

where (s, t) in the first column denotes the dimensions of D and E respectively, and $x \parallel y$ means that x is parallel to y . In the case of (3, 3), V and W are rank two matrices with nonzero $y_0, y_1, y_2 \in \mathbb{C}^2$ such that $Vy_i \parallel \overline{Wy_i}$ for each $i = 0, 1, 2$ and $y_i \nparallel y_j$ for $i \neq j$. In the cases of (3, 4) and (4, 3), V and W are arbitrary rank two matrices.

Since $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{V}_1$ in the case of $M_2 \otimes M_2$, this gives us the complete list of faces of the cone \mathbb{V}_1 of all separable positive semi-definite block matrices in $M_2 \otimes M_2$ in terms of pairs of subspaces of $M_{2 \times 2}$.

3.5. Faces for separable states. Let $C_1 \subset C_2$ be convex sets. A face F_1 of C_1 is induced by a face of C_2 if it is of the form $F_1 = C_1 \cap F_2$ for a face F_2 of C_2 . In this case, F_2 is uniquely determined under the assumption $\text{int } F_1 \subset \text{int } F_2$. We say that F_1 is *induced* by F_2 , or F_2 *induces* F_1 if

$$F_1 = C_1 \cap F_2, \quad \text{int } F_1 \subset \text{int } F_2.$$

The next theorem [8] characterizes faces of \mathbb{T} which induce faces of \mathbb{V}_1 . This also implies the range criterion for separability [26].

THEOREM 3.1. *Let (D, E) be a pair of subspaces of $M_{m \times n}$. Then the following are equivalent:*

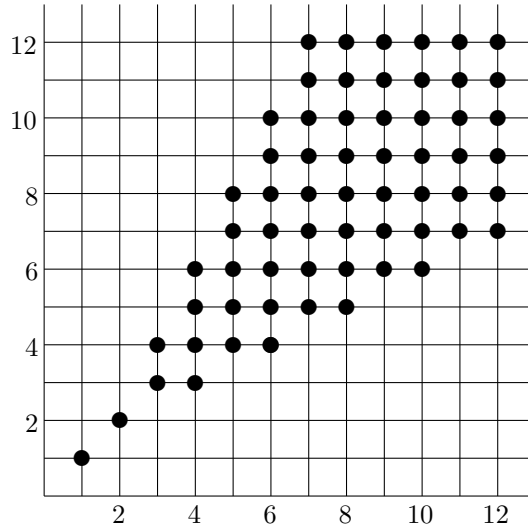
- (i) *The pair (D, E) gives rise to a nontrivial face $\tau(D, E)$ of \mathbb{T} which induces a face of \mathbb{V}_1 .*
- (ii) *There exist $x_1, \dots, x_\alpha \in \mathbb{C}^m$ and $y_1, \dots, y_\alpha \in \mathbb{C}^n$ such that*

$$D = \text{span} \{x_1 y_1^*, \dots, x_\alpha y_\alpha^*\}, \quad E = \text{span} \{\overline{x_1} y_1^*, \dots, \overline{x_\alpha} y_\alpha^*\}.$$

In the case of $M_2 \otimes M_2$, we note that possible pairs of dimensions of subspaces satisfying the conditions in the Theorem 3.1 are

$$(1, 1), \quad (2, 2), \quad (3, 3), \quad (3, 4), \quad (4, 3), \quad (4, 4),$$

as we have already seen in the previous subsection. In the case of $M_2 \otimes M_n$, possible pairs of dimensions of subspaces satisfying the conditions are as follows:



Next, we characterize faces of \mathbb{V}_1 which are induced by faces of \mathbb{T} . For a face F of \mathbb{V}_1 , we denote by R_F the set of all $m \times n$ rank one matrices z such that $\widetilde{z z}^* \in F$, which generate extremal rays of the cone F . If F is induced by $\tau(D, E)$ then we have

$$D = \text{span } R_F, \quad E = \text{span } R_{F^\tau},$$

where $F^\tau = \{A^\tau : A \in F\}$.

THEOREM 3.2. *For a face F of \mathbb{V}_1 , the following are equivalent:*

- (i) *The face F of \mathbb{V}_1 is induced by a face of \mathbb{T} .*
- (ii) *If xy^* is a rank one matrix in $(\text{span } R_F) \setminus R_F$ then $xy^* \notin \text{span } R_{F^\tau}$.*

4. Examples. Two convex cones $\mathbb{V}_1 \subset \mathbb{T}$ in $M_n \otimes M_m$ share faces with each other in various sense. Some convex cones are themselves faces of both cones. For example, the face $\tau(D, E)$ of \mathbb{T} is also a face of \mathbb{V}_1 in itself whenever $\dim D$ or $\dim E$ is less than or equal to $m \wedge n$ by [27].

Some faces of a cone induce faces of the other cone, or are induced by faces of the other cone. Some faces of the cones are independent of the other cones. In this section, we give examples of that last kind of faces of \mathbb{T} and \mathbb{V}_1 . Faces of \mathbb{T} which are independent of \mathbb{V}_1 give rise to the notion of ‘edge states’. A PPT entangled state A in $\mathbb{T} \setminus \mathbb{V}_1$ is called a PPT *entangled edge state* if the proper face of \mathbb{T} containing A as an interior point does not contain a separable state. We call that just an *entangled edge state* in this note.

Let $\sigma(D, E)$ be a proper face of the cone \mathbb{D} . Then we have the following two cases:

$$\text{int } \sigma(D, E) \subset \text{int } \mathbb{P}_1 \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma(D, E) \subset \partial \mathbb{P}_1,$$

since $\sigma(D, E)$ is a convex subset of the cone \mathbb{P}_1 , where $\partial C = C \setminus \text{int } C$ denotes the boundary of the convex set C . We have shown in [21], [23] that

$$\text{int } \sigma(D, E) \subset \text{int } \mathbb{P}_1 \iff \sigma(D, E)' \cap \mathbb{V}_1 = \{0\}. \tag{2}$$

Therefore, we see that if $\sigma(D, E)$ is a face of \mathbb{D} with $\text{int } \sigma(D, E) \subset \text{int } \mathbb{P}_1$ then every nonzero element in the dual face $\sigma(D, E)'$ gives rise to an entangled edge state up to constant multiplications. Furthermore, every entangled edge state arises in this way, since every face of the cone \mathbb{T} arises from the duality, by the relation (1).

4.1. Generalized Choi maps. We begin with the map $\Phi[a, b, c] : M_3 \rightarrow M_3$ defined by

$$\Phi[a, b, c] : x \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} ax_{11} + bx_{22} + cx_{33} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & ax_{22} + bx_{33} + cx_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & ax_{33} + bx_{11} + cx_{22} \end{pmatrix} - x$$

for $x = (x_{ij}) \in M_3$, as was studied in [7]. Recall that $\Phi[2, 2, 2]$ is the first example [9] of a 2-positive linear map which is not 3-positive, and $\Phi[2, 0, 1]$ is an example [13] of an extremal positive linear map which is not decomposable. It was shown that $\Phi[a, b, c]$ is positive if and only if

$$a \geq 1, \quad a + b + c \geq 3, \quad 1 \leq a \leq 2 \implies bc \geq (2 - a)^2,$$

and decomposable if and only if

$$a \geq 1, \quad 1 \leq a \leq 3 \implies bc \geq \left(\frac{3 - a}{2}\right)^2.$$

Therefore, every $\Phi[a, b, c]$ with the condition

$$1 < a < 3, \quad 4bc = (3 - a)^2$$

gives rise to an element of $\partial\mathbb{D} \cap \text{int } \mathbb{P}_1$, whenever $b \neq c$. Furthermore, we have a decomposition

$$\Phi[a, b, c] = \frac{a-1}{2} \Phi[3, 0, 0] + \frac{3-a}{2} \Phi\left[1, \sqrt{\frac{b}{c}}, \sqrt{\frac{c}{b}}\right] \tag{3}$$

into the sum of a completely positive map and a completely copositive map. If we fix b and c , then we see that the family $\{\Phi[a, b, c] : 1 \leq a \leq 3\}$ is a line segment, and so it suffices to consider the map $\Phi[2, b, c]$. We also see that

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi[3, 0, 0] &= \phi_{e_{11}-e_{22}} + \phi_{e_{22}-e_{33}} + \phi_{e_{33}-e_{11}}, \\ \Phi\left[1, \sqrt{\frac{b}{c}}, \sqrt{\frac{c}{b}}\right] &= \phi^{\mu e_{12}-\lambda e_{21}} + \phi^{\mu e_{23}-\lambda e_{32}} + \phi^{\mu e_{31}-\lambda e_{13}}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\lambda = (\frac{b}{c})^{1/4}$ and $\mu = (\frac{c}{b})^{1/4}$, and so $\lambda\mu = 1$ and $\lambda \neq 1$.

4.2. Construction of PPTES with dualities. We denote by $\tau(D, E)$ the dual face of \mathbb{T} determined by $\Phi[a, b, c]$ in (3) by the relation (1). Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \{e_{11} - e_{22}, e_{22} - e_{33}, e_{33} - e_{11}\}^\perp \\ &= \text{span}\{e_{12}, e_{21}, e_{23}, e_{32}, e_{31}, e_{13}, e_{11} + e_{22} + e_{33}\}, \\ E &= \{\mu e_{12} - \lambda e_{21}, \mu e_{23} - \lambda e_{32}, \mu e_{31} - \lambda e_{13}\}^\perp \\ &= \text{span}\{\lambda e_{12} + \mu e_{21}, \lambda e_{23} + \mu e_{32}, \lambda e_{31} + \mu e_{13}, e_{11}, e_{22}, e_{33}\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\lambda\mu = 1$ and $\lambda \neq \pm 1$, as before. We see that every nonzero block matrix in $\tau(D, E)$ gives rise to an entangled edge state by (2). Note that

$$\dim D = 7, \quad \dim E = 6.$$

Entangled edge states may be classified by their range dimensions as was studied in [40]. An entangled edge state A is said to be of *type* (s, t) , or an (s, t) -*edge state* if the range dimension of A is s and the range dimension of A^τ is t . By careful choices of block matrices in $\tau(D, E)$, it is possible [22], [23] to find following types

$$(4, 4), \quad (6, 5), \quad (7, 5), \quad (7, 6)$$

of entangled edge states in $M_3 \otimes M_3$. It is also possible [22] to modify the above construction to find (8, 5)-entangled edge states.

Another method to construct (4, 4)-entangled edge states is to use the notion of *unextendable product bases* [4], [15]. These examples arise from 4-dimensional subspaces of M_3 which have no rank one matrices and whose orthogonal complements have orthonormal bases consisting of rank one matrices. On the other hand, the construction explained above arises from 4-dimensional subspaces of M_3 which have no rank one matrices and whose orthogonal complements have six rank one matrices up to constant multiples. Professor Young-Hoon Kiem informed the author that the latter is the *generic* case for 4-dimensional subspaces of M_3 . In other words, every generic 4-dimensional subspace of M_3 , in algebraic geometric sense, has no rank one matrices and its orthogonal complement has six rank one matrices up to constant multiples.

Entangled edge states of types (5, 5) and (6, 6) were also found by Clarisse [14] and Ha [20], which turned out [30] to be extremal in the cone \mathbb{T} , as in the cases of (4, 4)-entangled edge states.

4.3. A face of separable states which is not induced by PPT. Consider the Choi map $\Phi[2, 0, 1]$ which is an indecomposable positive linear map in M_3 and generates an extremal ray of the cone \mathbb{P}_1 :

$$\phi : [a_{ij}] \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + a_{33} & -a_{12} & -a_{13} \\ -a_{21} & a_{22} + a_{11} & -a_{23} \\ -a_{31} & -a_{32} & a_{33} + a_{22} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let F be the dual face of \mathbb{V}_1 given by this map, that is,

$$F = \{A \in \mathbb{V}_1 : \langle A, \phi \rangle = 0\}.$$

Then the set R_F of all 3×3 rank one matrices z such that $\widetilde{z}z^* \in F$ consists of the following rank one matrices:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha & \bar{\gamma} \\ \bar{\alpha} & 1 & \beta \\ \gamma & \bar{\beta} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $|\alpha| = |\beta| = |\gamma| = \alpha\beta\gamma = 1$. Note that

$$\text{span } R_F = \{[a_{ij}] \in M_3 : a_{11} = a_{22} = a_{33}\}$$

is a 7-dimensional subspace of $M_{3 \times 3}$. We also note that a rank one matrix with nonzero diagonals is in the space $\text{span } R_F$ if and only if it is a scalar multiple of the matrix of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ \frac{1}{a} & 1 & \frac{b}{a} \\ \frac{1}{b} & \frac{a}{b} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

with nonzero complex numbers a and b . Note that the above matrix belongs to $(\text{span } R_F) \setminus R_F$ whenever $|a| \neq 1$. Since $\text{span } R_{F^\tau}$ is the full matrix algebra, we conclude that the face F is not induced by a face of \mathbb{T} by Theorem 3.2.

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Added in the proof (July 4, 2012). PPT entangled edge states of $M_3 \otimes M_3$ are completely classified by [49] and [50]. We also refer [51] to further development on the facial structures for separable states.

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