

Journal of Applied and Theoretical Physics Research

A Note on the Strong Unitary Uncertainty Relations

Xiaofen Huang¹, Ting-Gui Zhang^{1*}, Xianqing Li-Jost², Yuan-Hong Tao³ and Shao-Ming Fei^{2,4}

¹School of Mathematics and Statistics, Hainan Normal University, Haikou, 571158, China

²Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Leipzig 04103, Germany

³Department of Mathematics College of Sciences, Yanbian University, Yanji, 133002, China

⁴School of Mathematical Sciences, Capital Normal University, Beijing 100048, China

***Corresponding author:** Ting-Gui Zhang, School of Mathematics and Statistics, Hainan Normal University, Haikou, 571158, China; E mail: tinggui333@163.com

Article Type: Research, **Submission Date:** 31 January 2019, **Accepted Date:** 06 February 2019, **Published Date:** 20 February 2019.

Citation: Xiaofen Huang, Ting-Gui Zhang, Xianqing Li-Jost, Yuan-Hong Tao and Shao-Ming Fei (2019) A Note on the Strong Unitary Uncertainty Relations. J Apl Theol 2(2): 1-3.

Copyright: © 2019 Xiaofen Huang, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Abstract

Uncertainty relations satisfied by the product of variances of arbitrary n observables have attracted much attention. In a recent article [Phys. Rev.Lett.120,230402(2018)], the authors provided so called strong unitary uncertainty relations for a set of unitary matrices by using the positivity property of the Gram matrix, from which uncertainty relations satisfied by two quantum mechanical observables are obtained. We derive the explicit uncertainty relations satisfied by n quantum mechanical observables from such Gram matrix approach. By some algebraic transformations, we show that these uncertainty relations are just the same as the ones derived from a positive semi-definite Hermitian matrix generated by the mean values of n observables in [Scientific Reports 6,31192 (2016)].

PAC Snumbers: 03.65.Bz, 89.70.+c

Introduction

Uncertainty relations are of profound significance in quantum mechanics and also in quantum information theory such as entanglement detection [1,2], security analysis of quantum key distribution in quantum cryptography [3], nonlocality [4]. There are many ways to quantify the uncertainty of measurement outcomes. For instance, the uncertainty relations are expressed in terms of variances of the measurement results, in terms of entropies [5–7], and by means of majorization technique [8–10].

In 1927, Heisenberg [11] introduced his famous uncertainty principle, which says that

$$(\Delta P)^2 (\Delta Q)^2 \geq \left(\frac{\hbar}{2}\right)^2, \quad (1)$$

where (ΔP) and (ΔQ) denote variances of the position P and the momentum Q , respectively. The variance of observable A with respect to the state ρ is defined by $(\Delta A)^2 = \langle A^2 \rangle - \langle A \rangle^2$, and $\langle A \rangle = \text{tr}(\rho A)$ is the mean value of observable A respect to state ρ .

Later Robertson [12] presented the uncertainty relations for arbitrary pairs of non-commuting observables A and B ,

$$(\Delta A)^2 (\Delta B)^2 \geq \frac{1}{4} |[A, B]|^2, \quad (2)$$

where $[A, B] = AB - BA$ is the commutator.

The above inequality employs the commutator, a characteristic quantity in quantum mechanics, to set a limit on the measurement precision.

The uncertainty relation (2) is further improved by Schrödinger [13], $(\Delta A)^2 (\Delta B)^2 \geq \frac{1}{4} |[A, B]|^2 + \frac{1}{4} |\langle \{A, B\} \rangle - \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle|^2$. (3)

The commutator encodes the incompatibility, while the anticommutator encodes the correlations between the observables A and B . The Schrödinger uncertainty relation (3) includes both the commutator and anticommutator, and provides a better lower bound than the uncertainty relation (2).

Recently in Ref.[14], instead of quantum mechanical observables, the authors present a strong unitary uncertainty relation for n unitary operators, by using the Gram matrices. For two unitary matrices case, they prove that the strong unitary uncertainty relation implies the uncertainty relation (3) for two observables. An interesting question is what will be the uncertainty relation for arbitrary n observables. We derive the explicit uncertainty relations satisfied by n quantum mechanical observables from such Gram matrix approach used in [14].

In terms of the covariance matrices of the mean values of Hermitian operators, in [15] uncertainty relations for n observables have been also derived. It would be interesting to compare the n -observable relations from the approach used in [14] to the ones from the approach used in [15]. By a bijection map between the unitary operators and Hermitian operators, we show here that the strong unitary uncertainty relations given in [14] are equivalent to the Hermitian uncertainty relations presented in [15], although these two kinds of uncertainty relations are derived from quite different approaches. In proving this equivalence the general representations of n -observable uncertainty relations for both approaches are provided.

Strong unitary uncertainty relations of n unitary operators

Recently the authors in Ref. [14] presented uncertainty relations for unitary operators $U_0 = I, U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n$, based on the Gram matrix G given by entries $G_{jk} = \langle U_j^\dagger U_k \rangle = \text{Tr}[\rho U_j^\dagger U_k] = \langle U_j^\dagger U_k \rangle$, $j, k = 0, 1, \dots, n$, where $\rho = U_j \rho^{j/2}$, ρ is a quantum state, the inner product is defined by $\langle A, B \rangle = \text{Tr}(A^\dagger B)$. As G is positive semi-definite, $\det G \geq 0$, one obtains the unitary uncertainty relations satisfied by the product of the variances

$$\Delta U_i^2 = 1 - |\langle U_i \rangle|^2 = \langle U_i^\dagger U_i \rangle - \langle U_i \rangle \langle U_i \rangle.$$

In particular, for $n = 2$, one gets

$$\Delta U^2 \Delta V^2 \geq |\langle U^\dagger V \rangle - \langle U \rangle \langle V \rangle|^2 \tag{4}$$

By writing $U = e^{i\varepsilon A}$ and $V = e^{i\varepsilon B}$ for some Hermitian matrices A and B and small parameter ε , the above relation gives rise to the standard Robertson-Schrödinger uncertainty relation [12,13],

$$\Delta A^2 \Delta B^2 \geq \frac{1}{4} | \langle [A, B] \rangle |^2 + \frac{1}{4} | \langle \{A, B\} \rangle - \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle |^2.$$

One may expect that strong uncertainty relations for general n observables can be similarly derived. Indeed for three unitary operators U, V and W , by direct calculation one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta U^2 \Delta V^2 \Delta W^2 \geq & |\langle U^\dagger V \rangle - \langle U \rangle \langle V \rangle|^2 + |\langle V^\dagger W \rangle - \langle V \rangle \langle W \rangle|^2 \\ & + |\langle W^\dagger U \rangle - \langle W \rangle \langle U \rangle|^2 - |\langle U \rangle \langle V^\dagger W \rangle - \langle W \rangle \langle U V \rangle| \\ & - |\langle U \rangle \langle V^\dagger W \rangle - \langle V \rangle \langle U W \rangle| - |\langle V \rangle \langle U W \rangle - \langle W \rangle \langle V U \rangle| \\ & + |\langle U \rangle|^2 |\langle V^\dagger W \rangle|^2 + |\langle V \rangle|^2 |\langle U^\dagger W \rangle|^2 + |\langle W \rangle|^2 |\langle U^\dagger V \rangle|^2 \\ & - 2 \text{Re} \{ \langle U^\dagger V \rangle \langle V^\dagger W \rangle \langle W U \rangle \}, \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where $\text{Re}\{S\}$ stands for the real part of S .

By setting $U = e^{i\varepsilon A}$, $V = e^{i\varepsilon B}$ and $W = e^{i\varepsilon C}$, we can derive the following uncertainty relation,

$$\begin{aligned} & \Delta A^2 \Delta B^2 \Delta C^2 \\ \geq & \Delta A^2 |\langle BC \rangle - \langle B \rangle \langle C \rangle| + \Delta B^2 |\langle CA \rangle - \langle C \rangle \langle A \rangle| \\ & + \Delta C^2 |\langle AB \rangle - \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle| - 2 \text{Re} \{ (\langle AB \rangle - \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle) \\ & (\langle BC \rangle - \langle B \rangle \langle C \rangle) (\langle CA \rangle - \langle C \rangle \langle A \rangle) \}, \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

which is just the one given in [15].

In order to compare the main results from [14] with the ones in [15], we first derive the explicit expressions of the unitary uncertainty relations for a arbitrary n unitary operators by using the approach in [14].

With respect to the unitary matrices $U_0, U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n$, the $(n+1) \times (n+1)$ Gram matrix G is given by the entries $G_{jk} = \langle U_j^\dagger U_k \rangle$, $j, k = 0, 1, \dots, n$. Let us construct an $n \times n$ Hermitian matrix \bar{G} with entries given by $g_{lm} = \langle U_l^\dagger U_m \rangle - \langle U_l \rangle \langle U_m \rangle$, $l, m = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Geometrically, the determinant of Gram matrix is the square of the volume of the parallelotope formed by the vectors. In particular, the vectors are linearly independent if and only if the determinant is nonzero. It can be shown that

Proposition 1. $\det G = \det \bar{G}$.

Proof: By using property of determinant, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \det G &= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & \langle U_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle U_n \rangle \\ \langle U_1^\dagger \rangle & \langle U_1^\dagger U_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle U_1^\dagger U_n \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \langle U_n^\dagger \rangle & \langle U_n^\dagger U_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle U_n^\dagger U_n \rangle \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & \langle U_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle U_n \rangle \\ \langle U_1^\dagger U_1 \rangle - \langle U_1 \rangle \langle U_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle U_1^\dagger U_n \rangle - \langle U_1 \rangle \langle U_n \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \langle U_n^\dagger U_n \rangle - \langle U_n \rangle \langle U_n \rangle & \dots & \langle U_n^\dagger U_1 \rangle - \langle U_n \rangle \langle U_1 \rangle \end{vmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Then using Laplace expansion along the first column, we have $\det G = \det \bar{G}$.

In the following we denote $perm(n)$ any permutations of a list $(j_1 \dots j_n)$ with n different elements. The **sign** $(j_1 \dots j_n)$ of a permutation $(j_1 \dots j_n)$ is defined to be 1 if the number of pairs of integers (j, k) , with $1 \leq j \leq k \leq n$, such that j appears after k in the list $(j_1 \dots j_n)$ is even, and -1 if the number of such pairs is odd. In other words, **sign** $(j_1 \dots j_n)$ equals to 1 (-1) if the natural order has been changed even (odd) times. For example, the **sign** $(12 \dots n) = 1$.

By the definition of determinant, the determinant of the matrix \bar{G} can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \det \bar{G} &= \sum_{(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) \in perm(n)} \mathbf{sign}(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) g_{j_1} g_{j_2} \dots g_{j_n} \\ &= g_{11} g_{22} \dots g_{nn} \\ &+ \sum_{(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) \in (123 \dots n)} \mathbf{sign}(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) g_{j_1} g_{j_2} \dots g_{j_n}, \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where $(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n)$ denotes the permutation of $(1, \dots, n)$, $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_n = 1, \dots, n$.

The matrix \bar{G} is the covariance matrix of vectors U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n and is positive semi-definite. Noting that ΔU_i^2 ($i = 1, \dots, n$) are just the diagonal entries of the matrix \bar{G} , we have the following unitary uncertainty relations from (7),

Theorem 1. $\Delta U_1^2 \Delta U_2^2 \dots \Delta U_n^2 = g_{11} g_{22} \dots g_{nn}$

$$\geq - \sum_{(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) \in (12 \dots n)} \mathbf{sign}(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) g_{j_1} g_{j_2} \dots g_{j_n}. \tag{8}$$

Remark. The inequalities (4) and (5) can be directly derived from (8) by substituting $g_{lm} = \langle U_l^\dagger U_m \rangle - \langle U_l \rangle \langle U_m \rangle$ into (8).

Uncertainty relations of n observables from covariance-matrix approach

In quantum mechanics one measures quantum mechanical observables which are Hermitian operators. In Ref. [15] the authors considered the positive semi-definite Hermitian matrix \bar{M} generated by n observables A_1, \dots, A_n , with entries given by $m_{ls} = \langle A_l^\dagger A_s \rangle - \langle A_l \rangle \langle A_s \rangle = \langle A_l A_s \rangle - \langle A_l \rangle \langle A_s \rangle$, $l, s = 1, 2, \dots, n$. To compare the relation (8) with the one in [15], we rewrite the n -observable uncertainty relation in [15] first.

By straight forward computation, we have the following result,

$$\begin{aligned} \det \bar{M} &= \sum_{(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) \in perm(n)} \mathbf{sign}(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) m_{j_1} m_{j_2} \dots m_{j_n} = m_{11} m_{22} \dots m_{nn} \\ &+ \sum_{(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) \in (123 \dots n)} \mathbf{sign}(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) m_{j_1} m_{j_2} \dots m_{j_n}. \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Since the diagonal entries of \bar{M} are just the variances of A_j defined by $\Delta A_j^2 = \langle A_j^\dagger A_j \rangle - \langle A_j \rangle \langle A_j \rangle = \langle A_j^2 \rangle - \langle A_j \rangle^2$, from the fact that \bar{M} is positive semi-definite, one gets from (9) the following uncertainty relations,

Theorem 2. $\Delta A_1^2 \Delta A_2^2 \dots \Delta A_n^2 \geq - \sum_{(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) \in (123 \dots n)} \mathbf{sign}(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) m_{j_1} m_{j_2} \dots m_{j_n}$ (10)

Relations between (8) and (10)

Next we show that the relations (8) in Theorem 1 from [14] and the relations (10) in Theorem 2 from [15] are equivalent.

Concerning the one to one map between the unitary operators and the Hermitian operators, for an unitary operator U_j , there is a Hermitian operator A_j satisfying $U_j = e^{i\varepsilon A_j}$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Taking Taylor expansions of $U_j = e^{i\varepsilon A_j}$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$,

$$U_j = 1 + i\varepsilon A_j - \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 A_j^2 + O(\varepsilon^3), \tag{11}$$

we have

$$\Delta U_j^2 = \epsilon^2 \Delta A_j^2 + O(\epsilon^3),$$

$$g_{ij} = \epsilon^2 m_{ij} + O(\epsilon^3). \tag{12}$$

Combining (8) and (12), we get

$$\epsilon^{2n} \Delta A_1^2 \Delta A_2^2 \dots \Delta A_n^2 + O(\epsilon^{2n+1}) \geq$$

$$-\epsilon^{2n} \sum_{(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) \neq (123 \dots n)} \text{sign}(j_1 j_2 \dots j_n) m_{j_1} m_{j_2} \dots m_{j_n} + O(\epsilon^{2n+1}), \tag{13}$$

dividing by ϵ^{2n} , and taking the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, which gives rise to the inequality (10).

Conversely, from (10) and taking into account that $\Delta A_j^2 = \epsilon^{-2} \Delta U_j^2 + O(\epsilon)$ and $m_{ij} = \epsilon^{-2} g_{ij} + O(\epsilon)$ one gets the inequality (8).

Therefore, according to the bijection map $U = e^{iA}$ between unitary operators and Hermitian operators, the unitary uncertainty relation (8) and the Hermitian uncertainty relation (10) are equivalent.

Conclusion

In Ref. [14], the authors presented the unitary uncertainty relations based on the Gram matrices of multi unitary operators. In [15] the Hermitian uncertainty relations are given based on the covariance matrices of multi Hermitian operators. By deriving the explicit uncertainty relations satisfied by n quantum mechanical observables from such Gram matrix approach, we have shown that the two kinds of uncertainty relations are equivalent. The related derivations and proofs may highlight further investigations on the uncertainty relations satisfied by the product of variances of n quantum mechanical observables.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Bing Yu and Ya Xi for fruitful discussions. This work is supported by the NSF of China under Grant Nos. 11861031, 11761073 and 11675113, and Beijing Municipal Commission of Education (KZ201810028042).

References

1. Gühne O. Characterizing Entanglement via Uncertainty Relations. *Phys.Rev. Lett.* 2004; 92(11):117903.

2. Hofmann HF, Takeuchi S. Violation of local uncertainty relations as a signature of entanglement. *Phys. Rev. A.* 2003; 68:032103.

3. Fuchs CA, Peres A. Quantum-state disturbance versus information gain: Uncertainty relations for quantum information. *Phys. Rev. A.* 1996; 53:2038.

4. Oppenheim J, Wehner S. The Uncertainty Principle Determines the Nonlocality of Quantum Mechanics. *Science.* 2010; 330:107.

5. Deutsch D. Uncertainty in Quantum Measurements. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 1983; 50:631.

6. Xiao Y, Jing N, Fei S, Li T, Li-Jost X, Ma T, et al. Strong entropic uncertainty relations for multiple measurements. *Phys. Rev. A.* 2016; 93:042125.

7. Maassen H, Uffink JBM. Generalized entropic uncertainty relations. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 1988; 60:1103.

8. Puchala Z, Rudnicki L, Zyczkowski K. Majorization entropic uncertainty relations. *J. Phys. A: Math. Theor.* 2013; 46:272002.

9. Pudnicki L, Puchala Z, Zyczkowski K. Strong majorization entropic uncertainty relations. *Phys. Rev. A.* 2014; 89:052115.

10. Pudnicki L. Majorization approach to entropic uncertainty relations for coarsegrained observables. *Phys. Rev. A.* 2015; 91:032123.

11. Heisenberg W. Über den anschulichen Inhalt der quantentheoretischen Kinematik und Mechanik. *Zeitschrift für Physik.* 1927; 43(3-4):172-198.

12. Robertson HP. The Uncertainty Principle. *Phys. Rev.* 1929; 34:163.

13. Schrödinger E. Sitzungsberichte der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Physikalisch-mathematische Klasse. 1930; 14:296.

14. Bong K, Tischler N, Patel RB, Wollmann S, Pryde GJ, Hall MJW. Strong Unitary and Overlap Uncertainty Relations: Theory and Experiment. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 2018; 120:230402.

15. Qin H, Fei S, Li-Jost X. Multi-observable Uncertainty Relations in Product Form of Variances. *Scientific Reports.* 2016; 6:31192.