

Lipschitz estimates in Operator ideals

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This talk is mostly inspired by the paper

M., Sukochev, Lipschitz estimates in quasi-Banach Schatten ideals. *Math. Ann.* 383 (2022), no.1–2, 571–619.

Plan for this talk

- ① Operator Lipschitz functions: some basic concepts and history.
- ② Schur multipliers and the Löwner identity
- ③ Some very light background on Schatten ideals
- ④ Approximation methods (Besov spaces and wavelets)

Section 1: Operator Lipschitz functions (Some basic concepts and history)

Basic setting

This talk will be about operator theory and functional calculus, but there's no real loss of generality by considering $n \times n$ matrices.

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Functional calculus for matrices: Given a self-adjoint matrix $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ and a function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, the $n \times n$ matrix $f(A)$ can be defined by

$$f(A) = Uf(\Lambda)U^*$$

where $A = U\Lambda U^*$ is a diagonalisation, and

$$f \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f(\lambda_1) & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & f(\lambda_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Operator Lipschitz functions

Recall that the operator norm $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ of a matrix $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ may be defined as

$$\|A\|_\infty := \sup_{|x|_2 \leq 1} |Ax|_2.$$

where $|\cdot|_2$ is the Euclidean norm.

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A function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is called *Lipschitz* if there exists a constant c_f such that

$$|f(t) - f(s)| \leq c_f |t - s|, \quad t, s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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Similarly, a function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is said to be *operator Lipschitz* if there exists a constant C_f (independent of n) such that

$$\|f(A) - f(B)\|_\infty \leq C_f \|A - B\|_\infty, \quad A = A^*, B = B^* \in M_n(\mathbb{C}).$$

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Question (from M. G. Krein, 1950s)

Is every Lipschitz function operator Lipschitz?

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Is every Lipschitz function operator Lipschitz? That is, does

$$|f(t) - f(s)| \lesssim |t - s| \text{ imply that } \|f(A) - f(B)\|_\infty \lesssim \|A - B\|_\infty?$$

Operator Lipschitz functions

Answer

No.

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Johnson & Williams (1975): An operator Lipschitz function is differentiable.

If f is any Lipschitz function on \mathbb{R} , and $A, B \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ are self-adjoint then

$$\|f(A) - f(B)\|_\infty \leq C_{\text{abs}} \log(1 + n) \|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \|A - B\|_\infty$$

where C_{abs} is an absolute constant. This is sharp in the order of growth as $n \rightarrow \infty$. I do not know if a sharp estimate for C_{abs} is known.

Operator Lipschitz functions

It is easy to check that sufficiently good functions are operator Lipschitz. Let's check the function $f(x) = e^{i\xi x}$ for $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$. There's a classical integral identity:

$$e^{i\xi A} - e^{i\xi B} = i\xi \int_0^1 e^{i\xi(1-\theta)A} (A - B) e^{i\xi\theta B} d\theta.$$

This is called the Duhamel formula, you can check it by differentiating both sides. The triangle inequality implies

$$\|e^{i\xi A} - e^{i\xi B}\|_\infty \leq |\xi| \|A - B\|_\infty.$$

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$$\|f(A) - f(B)\|_\infty \leq \|A - B\|_\infty \cdot 2\pi \|\widehat{f'}\|_1.$$

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By Cauchy-Schwarz and Plancherel, $\|\widehat{f'}\|_1 \leq \|f'\|_2 + \|f''\|_2$. This is a “good enough” sufficient condition for most purposes.

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Theorem (Peller (1990))

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In other words, if f is Lipschitz and

$$\int_0^\infty \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{|f(t-h) - 2f(t) + f(t+h)|}{h^2} dh < \infty$$

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then f is operator Lipschitz. For example, if $f', f'' \in L_\infty(\mathbb{R})$ then f is operator Lipschitz.

Peller's operator Bernstein inequality

The classical Bernstein inequality states that if $f \in L_\infty(\mathbb{R})$ has Fourier transform supported in the interval $[-\sigma, \sigma]$, then

$$\|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq C\sigma \|f\|_\infty.$$

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Peller's theorem is a consequence of his *operator Bernstein inequality*.

Theorem (Peller (1990))

If $f \in L_\infty(\mathbb{R})$ has Fourier transform supported in the interval $[-\sigma, \sigma]$, then

$$\|f\|_{\text{O-Lip}} \leq C\sigma \|f\|_\infty.$$

Here $\|f\|_{\text{O-Lip}}$ is the operator Lipschitz seminorm, i.e.

$$\|f\|_{\text{O-Lip}} := \sup_{A=A^*, B=B^* \in \mathcal{B}(H)} \frac{\|f(A) - f(B)\|_\infty}{\|A - B\|_\infty}.$$

Section 2

Another perspective: Schur multipliers

Let $A, B \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$. The Schur product (a.k.a. Hadamard product, entrywise product...) of A and B is defined by

$$(A_{j,k})_{j,k} \circ (B_{j,k})_{j,k} = (A_{j,k} B_{j,k})_{j,k}.$$

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That is, $A \circ B$ is the matrix formed by multiplying the entries of A and B componentwise.

What is the point of such a thing?

Löwner's formula

The Schur product is very important in linear algebra. One reason for this is that it can be used to *linearise* nonlinear operators.

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If A and B are self-adjoint matrices with eigendecompositions

$$A\xi_j = \lambda_j(A)\xi_j, \quad B\eta_k = \lambda_k(B)\eta_k, \quad 0 \leq j, k < n$$

then

$$f(A)\xi_j = f(\lambda_j(A))\xi_j, \quad f(B)\eta_k = f(\lambda_k(B))\eta_k, \quad 0 \leq j, k < n.$$

K. Löwner noticed that therefore

$$\langle \xi_j, (f(A) - f(B))\eta_k \rangle = \frac{f(\lambda_j(A)) - f(\lambda_k(B))}{\lambda_j(A) - \lambda_k(B)} \langle \xi_j, (A - B)\eta_k \rangle$$

for all $0 \leq j, k < n$.

Löwner's formula

In other words, let $\Psi_{f,A,B}$ denote the “Löwner matrix”

$$\Psi_{f,A,B} = \left(\frac{f(\lambda_j(A)) - f(\lambda_k(B))}{\lambda_j(A) - \lambda_k(B)} \right)_{j,k=0}^{n-1}$$

then

$$f(A) - f(B) = \Psi_{f,A,B} \circ (A - B)$$

where the Schur product \circ is computed with respect to the matrix basis $\{\xi_j \otimes \eta_k\}_{j,k=0}^{n-1}$.

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This means that studying the highly nonlinear relationship

$$A - B \mapsto f(A) - f(B)$$

is reduced to the study of the linear map

$$X \mapsto \Psi_{f,A,B} \circ X.$$

How to study operator Lipschitz functions

Therefore if we want to find the operator Lipschitz functions, we need to characterise those functions f such that for all A and B , we have

$$\|\Psi_{f,A,B} \circ X\|_{\infty} \leq C_f \|X\|_{\infty}.$$

Because this is a linear (rather than nonlinear) problem, it turns out to be much easier.

Section 3: Some very light background on Schatten ideals

If T is a compact operator on H , the singular value sequence of T is defined as

$$\mu(k, T) := \inf\{\|T - R\|_\infty : \text{rank}(R) \leq k\}, \quad k \geq 0.$$

(Equivalently, $\mu(T) = \{\mu(k, T)\}_{k=0}^\infty$ is the sequence of eigenvalues of the absolute value $|T|$ arranged in non-increasing order with multiplicities.)

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(Equivalently, $\mu(T) = \{\mu(k, T)\}_{k=0}^\infty$ is the sequence of eigenvalues of the absolute value $|T|$ arranged in non-increasing order with multiplicities.) Note that $\|T\|_\infty = \mu(0, T) = \|\mu(T)\|_{\ell_\infty}$. For $1 \leq p < \infty$, the Schatten \mathcal{L}_p -norm of a compact operator T is

$$\|T\|_p := \|\mu(T)\|_{\ell_p} = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu(k, T)^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Equivalently, $\|T\|_p = \text{Tr}(|T|^p)^{1/p}$. It is not obvious, but this is a norm (i.e. $\|T + S\|_p \leq \|T\|_p + \|S\|_p$.)

\mathcal{L}_p -operator Lipschitz functions

A function f on \mathbb{R} is said to be \mathcal{L}_p -operator Lipschitz if there exists a constant $C_f > 0$ such that

$$\|f(A) - f(B)\|_p \leq C_f \|A - B\|_p, \quad A = A^*, B = B^* \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$$

By Loewner's identity, this follows from (actually, is equivalent to)

$$\|\Psi_{f,A,B} \circ X\|_p \leq C_f \|X\|_p, \quad X \in M_n(\mathbb{C}).$$

\mathcal{L}_2 -operator Lipschitz function

By far the easiest case is $p = 2$, because the \mathcal{L}_2 norm of a matrix is the same as the ℓ_2 norm of its entries

$$\|\{A_{j,k}\}_{j,k}\|_2 = \left(\sum_{j,k} |A_{j,k}|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Therefore

$$\|M \circ A\|_2 \leq \max\{|M_{j,k}|\}_{j,k} \|A\|_2.$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(A) - f(B)\|_2 &= \|\Psi_{f,A,B} \circ (A - B)\|_2 \\ &\leq \max_{j,k} \left\{ \left| \frac{f(\lambda_j(A)) - f(\lambda_k(B))}{\lambda_j(A) - \lambda_k(B)} \right| \right\} \|A - B\|_2 \\ &\leq \|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \|A - B\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

What about $p \neq 2$?

So any Lipschitz function f is Lipschitz in \mathcal{L}_2 . What about other Schatten ideals?

Theorem (Potapov and Sukochev (2010))

For $1 < p < \infty$, all Lipschitz functions are \mathcal{L}_p -operator Lipschitz.

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Theorem (Potapov and Sukochev (2010))

For $1 < p < \infty$, all Lipschitz functions are \mathcal{L}_p -operator Lipschitz.

For $p \neq 2$, this requires some very deep harmonic analysis. There are now essentially four proofs of Potapov-Sukochev. The most recent is relatively simple and due to Conde-Alonso, González-Pérez, Parcet and Tablate, but still uses advanced operator-valued harmonic analysis.

What about $0 < p < 1$?

For $0 < p < 1$, we can still define

$$\|T\|_p := \|\mu(T)\|_{\ell_p} = \text{Tr}(|T|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

This is not a norm, merely a quasi-norm. There is no triangle inequality, merely a quasi-triangle inequality

$$\|T + S\|_p \leq 2^{\frac{1}{p}-1}(\|T\|_p + \|S\|_p).$$

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$$\|T + S\|_p \leq 2^{\frac{1}{p}-1}(\|T\|_p + \|S\|_p).$$

Nonetheless, we have

$$\|T + S\|_p^p \leq \|T\|_p^p + \|S\|_p^p.$$

\mathcal{L}_p -Lipschitz functions for $0 < p < 1$.

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At least some functions are, for example $f(t) = (t + \lambda)^{-1}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$.

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At least some functions are, for example $f(t) = (t + \lambda)^{-1}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$.

What about $f(t) = \exp(it\xi)$ for $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$?

Periodic functions are not \mathcal{L}_p -Lipschitz for $0 < p < 1$.

Lemma (M. and Sukochev (2022))

Let $0 < p < 1$, and let f be a periodic function on \mathbb{R} . Then f is \mathcal{L}_p -Lipschitz if and only if it is constant.

What does this imply?

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What does this imply?

- Even C^∞ functions with all derivatives bounded may not be \mathcal{L}_p -Lipschitz;
- In particular $f(t) = \exp(it\xi)$, $\xi \neq 0$ is not \mathcal{L}_p -Lipschitz for any $0 < p < 1$. This means that methods based on a Fourier decomposition are unlikely to work.

Section 4: Approximation methods (Besov spaces and wavelets)

What is a good way of approximating a general function by nicer functions?

Theorem (Daubechies (1988))

For all $k > 0$, there exists a compactly supported C^k function ψ such that the system of translations and dilations

$$\psi_{j,k}(t) := 2^{\frac{j}{2}} \psi(2^j t - k), \quad j, k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

forms an orthonormal basis of $L_2(\mathbb{R})$.

Wavelets are analogous to Fourier series, in the sense that if

$$f(t) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} c_{j,k} \psi_{j,k}(t)$$

then the coefficients $c_{j,k}$ for $j > N$ represent oscillations of f on the scale $\sim 2^{-N}$. A function of the form

$$f(t) = \sum_{j < N} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} c_{j,k} \psi_{j,k}(t)$$

does not oscillate greatly on scales smaller than 2^{-N} . This is similar to functions with Fourier transform supported in $[-2^N, 2^N]$.

An \mathcal{L}_p -Lipschitz Bernstein inequality

Theorem (M.-Sukochev (2022))

Let $f \in L_{\frac{p}{1-p}}(\mathbb{R})$ have Wavelet expansion

$$f(t) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} c_{j,k} \psi_{j,k}(t)$$

where $c_{j,k} = 0$ for $k > N$. Then

$$\|f^{[1]}\|_{\mathfrak{m}_p} \leq C 2^{\frac{N}{p}} \|f\|_{\frac{p}{1-p}}.$$

With $p = 1$, this is the wavelet analogy of Peller's operator Bernstein inequality. For $p < 1$ it is new.

It follows from the Wavelet Bernstein inequality that Besov spaces have a very simple characterisation in terms of wavelet coefficients.

Theorem (Meyer (1986))

Let $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and $p, q \in (0, \infty]$. Let ψ be a compactly supported C^k wavelet where $k > -s$. Then a distribution $f \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ belongs to the homogeneous Besov space $\dot{B}_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R})$ if and only if

$$\|f\|_{\dot{B}_{p,q}^s} \approx \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} 2^{jq(s + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{p})} \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} |\langle f, \psi_{j,k} \rangle|^p \right)^{\frac{q}{p}} < \infty.$$

A new result

Using the p -triangle inequality and the \mathcal{L}_p -Lipschitz Bernstein inequality, we get the following:

Theorem (M. and Sukochev (2022))

Let $0 < p < 1$. Let $f \in \dot{B}_{\frac{p}{1-p}, p}^{\frac{1}{p}}(\mathbb{R})$ be Lipschitz continuous. Then f is \mathcal{L}_p -Lipschitz and for all self-adjoint matrices A and B ,

$$\|f(A) - f(B)\|_p \leq C_p(\|f\|_{\text{Lip}} + \|f\|_{\dot{B}_{\frac{p}{1-p}, p}^{\frac{1}{p}}(\mathbb{R})})\|A - B\|_p$$

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In other words, we require that f be Lipschitz and for some $n > \frac{1}{p}$ that

$$\int_0^\infty \left(\int_{-\infty}^\infty \left| \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (-1)^{n-k} f(t + kh) \right|^{\frac{p}{1-p}} dt \right)^{1-p} \frac{dh}{h^2} < \infty.$$

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For example, $f', \dots, f^{(k)} \in L_{\frac{p}{1-p}}(\mathbb{R})$ where $k > \frac{1}{p} - 1$ is sufficient.

Thank you for listening!