

# The star-shapedness of a generalized numerical range

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## Abstract

Let  $\mathcal{H}_n$  be the set of all  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrices and  $\mathcal{H}_n^m$  be the set of all  $m$ -tuples of  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrices. For  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  and for any linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\ell$ , we define the  $L$ -numerical range of  $A$  by

$$W_L(A) := \{L(U^* A_1 U, \dots, U^* A_m U) : U \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}, U^* U = I_n\}.$$

In this paper, we prove that if  $\ell \leq 3$ ,  $n \geq \ell$  and  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  are simultaneously unitarily diagonalizable, then  $W_L(A)$  is star-shaped with star center at  $L\left(\frac{\text{tr} A_1}{n} I_n, \dots, \frac{\text{tr} A_m}{n} I_n\right)$ .

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## 1 Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  denote the set of all  $n \times n$  complex matrices, and  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ . The (classical) numerical range of  $A$  is defined by

$$W(A) := \{x^* A x : x \in \mathbb{C}^n, x^* x = 1\}.$$

The properties of  $W(A)$  were studied extensively in the last few decades and many nice results were obtained; see [10, 13]. The most beautiful result is probably the Toeplitz-Hausdorff Theorem which affirmed the convexity of  $W(A)$ ; see [12, 17]. The generalizations of  $W(A)$  remain an active research area in the field.

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For any  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , write  $A = A_1 + iA_2$  where  $A_1, A_2$  are Hermitian matrices. Then by regarding  $\mathbb{C}$  as  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , one can rewrite  $W(A)$  as

$$W(A) := \{(x^* A_1 x, x^* A_2 x) : x \in \mathbb{C}^n, x^* x = 1\}.$$

This expression motivates naturally the generalization of the numerical range to the joint numerical range, which is defined as follows. Let  $\mathcal{H}_n$  be the set of all  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrices and  $\mathcal{H}_n^m$  be the set of all  $m$ -tuples of  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrices. The joint numerical range of  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  is defined as

$$W(A) = W(A_1, \dots, A_m) := \{(x^* A_1 x, \dots, x^* A_m x) : x \in \mathbb{C}^n, x^* x = 1\}.$$

It has been shown that for  $m \leq 3$  and  $n \geq m$ , the joint numerical range is always convex [1]. This result generalizes the Toeplitz-Hausdorff Theorem. However, the convexity of the joint numerical range fails to hold in general for  $m > 3$ , see [1, 11, 14].

When a new generalization of numerical range is introduced, people are always interested in its convexity. Unfortunately, this nice property fails to hold in some generalizations. However, another property, namely star-shapedness, holds in some generalizations; see [5, 18]. Therefore, the star-shapedness is the next consideration when the generalized numerical ranges fail to be convex. A set  $M$  is called star-shaped with respect to a star-center  $x_0 \in M$  if for any  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$  and  $x \in M$ , we have  $\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)x_0 \in M$ . In [15], Li and Poon showed that for a given  $m$ , the joint numerical range  $W(A_1, \dots, A_m)$  is star-shaped if  $n$  is sufficiently large.

Let  $\mathcal{U}_n$  be the set of all  $n \times n$  unitary matrices. For  $C \in \mathcal{H}_n$  and  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$ , the joint  $C$ -numerical range of  $A$  is defined by

$$W_C(A) := \{(\operatorname{tr}(CU^* A_1 U), \dots, \operatorname{tr}(CU^* A_m U)) : U \in \mathcal{U}_n\},$$

where  $\operatorname{tr}(\cdot)$  is the trace function. When  $C$  is the diagonal matrix with diagonal elements  $1, 0, \dots, 0$ , then  $W_C(A)$  reduces to  $W(A)$ . Hence the joint  $C$ -numerical range is a generalization of the joint numerical range. In [3], Au-Yeung and Tsing generalized the convexity result of the joint numerical range to the joint  $C$ -numerical range by showing that  $W_C(A)$  is always convex if  $m \leq 3$  and  $n \geq m$ . However  $W_C(A)$  fails to be convex in general if  $m > 3$ . One may consult [6] and [7] for the study of the convexity of  $W_C(A)$ . The star-shapedness of  $W_C(A)$  remains unclear for  $m > 3$ .

For  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$ , we define the joint unitary orbit of  $A$  by

$$\mathcal{U}_n(A) := \{(U^* A_1 U, \dots, U^* A_m U) : U \in \mathcal{U}_n\}.$$

For  $C \in \mathcal{H}_n$ , we consider the linear map  $L_C : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  defined by

$$L_C(X_1, \dots, X_m) = (\operatorname{tr}(CX_1), \dots, \operatorname{tr}(CX_m)).$$

Then the joint  $C$ -numerical range of  $A$  is the linear image of  $\mathcal{U}_n(A)$  under  $L_C$ . Inspired by this alternative expression, we consider the following generalized

numerical range of  $A \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$ . For  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  and linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\ell$ , we define

$$W_L(A) = L(\mathcal{U}_n(A)) := \{L(U^*A_1U, \dots, U^*A_mU) : U \in \mathcal{U}_n\},$$

and call it the  $L$ -numerical range of  $A$ , due to [4]. Because  $L_C$  is a special case of general linear maps  $L$ , the  $L$ -numerical range generalizes the joint  $C$ -numerical range and hence the classical numerical range.

In this paper, We shall study in Section two an inclusion relation of the  $L$ -numerical range of  $m$ -tuples of simultaneously unitarily diagonalizable Hermitian matrices and linear maps  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\ell$  with  $\ell = 2, 3$ . This inclusion relation will be applied in Section three to show that the  $L$ -numerical ranges of  $A$  under our consideration are star-shaped.

## 2 An Inclusion Relation for $L$ -numerical Ranges

The following results follow easily from the the definition of the  $L$ -numerical range.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $(A_1, \dots, A_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  and  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\ell$  be linear. Then the followings hold:*

- (i)  $W_L(\alpha(A_1, \dots, A_m) + \beta(I_n, \dots, I_n)) = \alpha W_L(A_1, \dots, A_m) + \beta L(I_n, \dots, I_n)$  if  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
- (ii)  $W_L(U^*A_1U, \dots, U^*A_mU) = W_L(A_1, \dots, A_m)$  for all unitary  $U$ .

In the following we shall consider those  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  which are simultaneously unitarily diagonalizable, i.e., there exists  $U \in \mathcal{U}_n$  such that  $U^*A_1U, \dots, U^*A_mU$  are all diagonal. Hence by Lemma 2.1, we assume without loss of generality that  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  are (real) diagonal matrices. For  $d = (d_1, \dots, d_n)^T \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we denote by  $\text{diag}(d)$  the  $n \times n$  diagonal matrix with diagonal elements  $d_1, \dots, d_n$ . We first introduce a special class of matrices which is useful in studying the generalized numerical range; see [9, 16, 18].

An  $n \times n$  real matrix  $P = (p_{ij})$  is called a pinching matrix if for some  $1 \leq s < t \leq n$  and  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ,

$$p_{ij} = \begin{cases} \alpha, & \text{if } (i, j) = (s, s) \text{ or } (t, t), \\ 1 - \alpha, & \text{if } (i, j) = (s, t) \text{ or } (t, s), \\ 1, & \text{if } i = j \neq s, t, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Definition 2.2.** *Assume  $D = (\text{diag}(d^{(1)}), \dots, \text{diag}(d^{(m)}))$ ,  $\hat{D} = (\text{diag}(\hat{d}^{(1)}), \dots, \text{diag}(\hat{d}^{(m)}))$  where  $d^{(1)}, \dots, d^{(m)}, \hat{d}^{(1)}, \dots, \hat{d}^{(m)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We say  $\hat{D} \prec D$  if there exist a finite number of pinching matrices  $P_1, \dots, P_k$  such that  $\hat{d}^{(i)} = P_1 P_2 \dots P_k d^{(i)}$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, m$ .*

The following inclusion relation is the main result in this section.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $D, \hat{D} \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  and  $n > 2$ . If  $\hat{D} \prec D$ , then for any linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ , we have  $W_L(\hat{D}) \subset W_L(D)$ .

To prove Theorem 2.3, we need some lemmas. For  $\theta, \phi \in \mathbb{R}$ , let  $T_{\theta, \phi} \in \mathcal{U}_n$  be defined by

$$T_{\theta, \phi} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi} & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{n-2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $D = (D_1, \dots, D_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  be an  $m$ -tuple of diagonal matrices. Then for any linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $U \in \mathcal{U}_n$ , the set of points

$$E_L(D, U) := \{L(U^* T_{\theta, \phi}^* D_1 T_{\theta, \phi} U, \dots, U^* T_{\theta, \phi}^* D_m T_{\theta, \phi} U) : \theta \in [0, \pi], \phi \in [0, 2\pi]\}$$

forms an ellipsoid in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

*Proof.* Note that for any  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ , we can always express  $L$  as

$$L(X_1, \dots, X_m) = \left( \operatorname{tr} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m P_i X_i \right), \operatorname{tr} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m Q_i X_i \right), \operatorname{tr} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m R_i X_i \right) \right)$$

for some suitable  $P_i, Q_i, R_i \in \mathcal{H}_n$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . For  $U \in \mathcal{U}_n$ , we write  $U P_i U^* = (p_{jk}^{(i)})$ ,  $U Q_i U^* = (q_{jk}^{(i)})$ ,  $U R_i U^* = (r_{jk}^{(i)})$  and  $D_i = \operatorname{diag}(d_1^{(i)}, \dots, d_n^{(i)})$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . By direct computations, the first coordinate of points in  $E_L(D, U)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{tr} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m P_i U^* T_{\theta, \phi}^* D_i T_{\theta, \phi} U \right) \\ &= \operatorname{tr} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m D_i T_{\theta, \phi} U P_i U^* T_{\theta, \phi}^* \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m (d_1^{(i)} + d_2^{(i)}) (p_{11}^{(i)} + p_{22}^{(i)}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=3}^n d_j^{(i)} p_{jj}^{(i)} \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m (d_1^{(i)} - d_2^{(i)}) (p_{11}^{(i)} - p_{22}^{(i)}) \cos 2\theta \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^m (d_1^{(i)} - d_2^{(i)}) \operatorname{Re}(p_{21}^{(i)} e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi}) \sin 2\theta. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly for the second and the third coordinates of points in  $E_L(D, U)$ . Note that for  $a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $a_3, b_3, c_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ , the points  $(a_1, b_1, c_1) + (a_2, b_2, c_2) \cos 2\theta + \operatorname{Re}(a_3 e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi}, b_3 e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi}, c_3 e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi}) \sin 2\theta$  form an ellipsoid in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  when  $\theta, \phi$  run through  $[0, \pi]$  and  $[0, 2\pi]$  respectively. Hence  $E_L(D, U)$  is an ellipsoid in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .  $\square$

Note that  $E_L(D, U) \subset W_L(D)$  for any  $U \in \mathcal{U}_n$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $D \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  be an  $m$ -tuple of diagonal matrices with  $n > 2$ . Then for any linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ , there exists  $V \in \mathcal{U}_n$  such that  $E_L(D, V)$  defined in Lemma 2.4 degenerates (i.e.,  $E_L(D, V)$  is contained in a plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ).*

*Proof.* Following the notations in Lemma 2.4 and its proof, we let  $\alpha_i = d_1^{(i)} - d_2^{(i)}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $P' = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i P_i \in \mathcal{H}_n$ . Since  $n > 2$ , by generalized interlacing inequalities for eigenvalues of Hermitian matrices (see [8]), there exist  $V \in \mathcal{U}_n$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $VP'V^*$  has  $\alpha I_2$  as leading  $2 \times 2$  principal submatrix. For any matrix  $M$ , let  $M_{ij}$  denote its  $(i, j)$  entry. Then by taking  $U = V$  in the proof of Lemma 2.4, the first coordinate of points in  $E_L(D, V)$  is  $a + b \cos 2\theta + c \sin 2\theta$  where

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m (d_1^{(i)} + d_2^{(i)}) (p_{11}^{(i)} + p_{22}^{(i)}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=3}^n d_j^{(i)} p_{ii} \\ b &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i [(VP_i V^*)_{11} - (VP_i V^*)_{22}] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( V \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i P_i \right) V^* \right)_{11} - \frac{1}{2} \left( V \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i P_i \right) V^* \right)_{22} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (VP'V^*)_{11} - \frac{1}{2} (VP'V^*)_{22} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \alpha - \frac{1}{2} \alpha = 0, \\ c &= \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \operatorname{Re} \left( (VP_i V^*)_{21} e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi} \right) \\ &= \operatorname{Re} \left[ \left( V \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i P_i \right) V^* \right)_{21} e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi} \right] \\ &= \operatorname{Re}((VP'V^*)_{21} e^{\sqrt{-1}\phi}) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since the first coordinate of points in  $E_L(D, V)$  is constant for  $\theta \in [0, \pi]$  and  $\phi \in [0, 2\pi]$ ,  $E_L(D, V)$  degenerates.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.3.* Let  $D = (D_1, \dots, D_m) = (\operatorname{diag}(d^{(1)}), \dots, \operatorname{diag}(d^{(m)}))$  and  $\hat{D} = (\hat{D}_1, \dots, \hat{D}_m) = (\operatorname{diag}(\hat{d}^{(1)}), \dots, \operatorname{diag}(\hat{d}^{(m)}))$  where  $d^{(1)}, \dots, d^{(m)}, \hat{d}^{(1)}, \dots, \hat{d}^{(m)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We may further assume without loss of generality that  $\hat{d}^{(i)} = Pd^{(i)}$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $P = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 1 - \alpha \\ 1 - \alpha & \alpha \end{pmatrix} \oplus I_{n-2}$  with  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ . Then we have

$$\hat{D}_i = \alpha T_{0,0}^* D_i T_{0,0} + (1 - \alpha) T_{\frac{\pi}{2},0}^* D_i T_{\frac{\pi}{2},0}, \quad i = 1, \dots, m.$$

For any  $U \in \mathcal{U}_n$ , we have  $L(U^* \hat{D} U) \in \operatorname{conv}(E_L(D, U))$  where  $\operatorname{conv}(\cdot)$  denotes the convex hull. By path-connectedness of  $\mathcal{U}_n$ , there exists a continuous function

$f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_n$  such that  $f(0) = U$  and  $f(1) = V$  where  $V$  is defined in Lemma 2.5 and hence  $E(D, f(1))$  degenerates. By continuity, there exists  $t \in [0, 1]$  such that  $L(U^* \hat{D} U) \in E(D, f(t)) \subset W_L(D)$ .  $\square$

Using similar techniques, one can prove that Theorem 2.3 stills holds for all linear maps  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  with  $n \geq 2$ . However, the following example shows that the inclusion relation in Theorem 2.3 fails to hold if  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\ell$  is linear with  $\ell > 3$ .

**Example 2.6.** Let  $n \geq 2$ ,  $d = (1, \dots, 0)^T$ ,  $\hat{d} = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0, \dots, 0)^T \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $O_k$  be the  $k \times k$  zero matrix. Consider  $D = (\text{diag}(d), O_n, \dots, O_n)$ ,  $\hat{D} = (\text{diag}(\hat{d}), O_n, \dots, O_n) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  and  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\ell$  with  $\ell \geq 4$  defined by

$$L(X_1, \dots, X_m) = (\text{tr}(PX_1), \text{tr}(QX_1), \text{tr}(RX_1), \text{tr}(SX_1), 0, \dots, 0)$$

where

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \oplus O_{n-2}, \quad Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ -i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \oplus O_{n-2},$$

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \oplus O_{n-2}, \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \oplus O_{n-2}.$$

Then we have  $\hat{D} \prec D$  and  $(1, 0, \dots, 0) \in W_L(\hat{D})$ , but  $(1, 0, \dots, 0) \notin W_L(D)$ .

### 3 Star-shapedness of the $L$ -numerical range

The  $L$ -numerical range may fail to be convex for linear maps  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\ell$  with  $\ell \geq 2$  even when  $A_1, \dots, A_m \in \mathcal{H}_n$  are simultaneously unitarily diagonalizable; see [2]. However, we shall show in this section that for  $n > 2$ ,  $W_L(A_1, \dots, A_m)$  is always star-shaped for all linear maps  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  and simultaneously unitarily diagonalizable  $A_1, \dots, A_m \in \mathcal{H}_n$ . The following result is the essential element in our proof.

**Proposition 3.1.** [18] Let  $\mathbb{P}_n$  be the set of all finite products of  $n \times n$  pinching matrices. Then for  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ,  $\alpha I_n + (1 - \alpha)J_n$  is in the closure of  $\mathbb{P}_n$  where  $J_n$  is the  $n \times n$  matrix with all entries equal  $1/n$ .

Note that for any  $A \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$ ,  $\mathcal{U}_n(A)$  is compact. Hence  $W_L(A)$  is compact for all linear maps  $L$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $D = (D_1, \dots, D_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  be an  $m$ -tuple of diagonal matrices with  $n > 2$ . Then for any linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $W_L(D)$  is star-shaped with respect to star-center  $L(\frac{\text{tr} D_1}{n} I_n, \dots, \frac{\text{tr} D_m}{n} I_n)$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.1, we may assume without loss of generality that  $\text{tr} D_i = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$ ; otherwise we replace  $D_i$  by  $D_i - \frac{\text{tr} D_i}{n} I_n$ . Let  $D_i = \text{diag}(d^{(i)})$  where  $d^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . For any  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ , we have  $\alpha d^{(i)} = [\alpha I_n + (1 - \alpha)J_n]d^{(i)}$ . Then for any  $U \in \mathcal{U}_n$ , by Proposition 3.1, Theorem 2.3 and the compactness of  $W_L(D)$ , we have  $\alpha L(U^* D U) \in W_L(\alpha D) \subset \overline{W_L(D)} = W_L(D)$  where  $\overline{M}$  denotes the closure of  $M$ .  $\square$

For a linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , by regarding it as a projection of some linear map  $\hat{L} : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ , we deduce the following corollary easily.

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $D = (D_1, \dots, D_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  be an  $m$ -tuple of diagonal matrices with  $n \geq 2$ . Then for any linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $W_L(D)$  is star-shaped with respect to star-center  $L(\frac{\text{tr}D_1}{n}I_n, \dots, \frac{\text{tr}D_m}{n}I_n)$ .*

*Proof.* We only need to consider the case  $n = 2$ . We may assume without loss of generality that  $m = 1$  and  $D = \text{diag}(1, -1)$ . For any linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , we express it as  $L(X) := (\text{tr}(PX), \text{tr}(QX))$  for some  $P, Q \in \mathcal{H}_2$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} W_L(D) &= \{2(x^*Px, x^*Qx) - (\text{tr}P, \text{tr}Q) : x \in \mathbb{C}^2, x^*x = 1\} \\ &= 2W(P, Q) - (\text{tr}P, \text{tr}Q), \end{aligned}$$

which is convex and contains the origin. This implies that  $W_L(D)$  is star-shaped with respect to star-center  $L(\frac{\text{tr}D}{n}I_2)$ , which is the origin.  $\square$

Note that the star-shapedness of the  $L$ -numerical range for linear maps  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\ell$  with  $\ell > 3$  remains open in the diagonal case. Moreover, for general cases of  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_m)$  where  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  are not necessarily simultaneously unitarily diagonalizable and  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  with  $m \geq 3$ , the star-shapedness of  $W_L(A)$  is also unclear. However, by applying a result in [4], we can show that  $L(\frac{\text{tr}A_1}{n}I_n, \dots, \frac{\text{tr}A_m}{n}I_n) \in W_L(A_1, \dots, A_m)$  for all linear maps  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ .

**Proposition 3.4** ([4], P. 23.). *Let  $A_k = (a_{ij}^{(k)}) \in \mathcal{H}_n$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m$ . For  $0 \leq \epsilon \leq 1$ , define  $A_k(\epsilon)$  as*

$$A_k(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}^{(k)} & \epsilon a_{12}^{(k)} & \cdots & \epsilon a_{1n}^{(k)} \\ \epsilon a_{21}^{(k)} & a_{22}^{(k)} & \cdots & \epsilon a_{2n}^{(k)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \epsilon a_{n1}^{(k)} & \epsilon a_{n2}^{(k)} & \cdots & a_{nn}^{(k)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad k = 1, \dots, m.$$

*Then  $W_L(A_1(\epsilon), \dots, A_m(\epsilon)) \subseteq W_L(A_1, \dots, A_m)$  for any linear map  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ .*

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_m) \in \mathcal{H}_n^m$  and  $L : \mathcal{H}_n^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be linear. Then  $L(\frac{\text{tr}A_1}{n}I_n, \dots, \frac{\text{tr}A_m}{n}I_n) \in W_L(A)$ .*

*Proof.* Define  $A_i(\epsilon)$  as in Proposition 3.4 and note that  $\text{tr}A_i(\epsilon) = \text{tr}A_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . Hence by Corollary 3.3 and Proposition 3.4, we have

$$L\left(\frac{\text{tr}A_1}{n}I_n, \dots, \frac{\text{tr}A_m}{n}I_n\right) \in W_L(A_1(0), \dots, A_m(0)) \subseteq W_L(A_1, \dots, A_m).$$

$\square$

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