# GEOMETRIC FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS AND APPLICATIONS 

## -LECTURE NOTESGROTHENDIECK'S INEQUALITY

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## 1. Grothendieck's inequality

This lecture is about Grothendieck's inequality, the centerpiece of the extraordinary paper "Résumé de la théorie métrique des produits tensoriels topologiques" [Gro53]. This result shows a surprising relation between the three fundamental Banach spaces $\ell_{1}, \ell_{2}$ and $\ell_{\infty}$. Denote by $S_{p}^{n-1}=\left\{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n}:\|x\|_{p}=1\right\}$ the unit sphere of $\ell_{p}^{n}=\left(\mathbb{R}^{n},\| \|_{p}\right)$. The simplest formulation of Grothendieck's inequality is given in terms of the following two quantities on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \|A\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}=\sup \left\{\sum_{i, j=1}^{n} A_{i j} a_{i} b_{j}: a, b \in B_{\infty}^{n}\right\} \\
& \|A\|_{G}=\sup \left\{\sum_{i, j=1}^{n} A_{i j}\left\langle x_{i}, y_{j}\right\rangle: d \in \mathbb{N}, x_{i}, y_{j} \in B_{2}^{d}\right\} .
\end{aligned}
$$

The notation suggests that these quantities are norms, which they are. The first is easily seen to be the operator norm of the linear operator from $\ell_{\infty}^{n}$ to $\ell_{1}^{n}$ given by $x \mapsto A x$ (hence the notation). We leave showing that the second is also a norm as an exercise. Let us make a few preliminary observations of these norms. First, by convexity and compactness of $B_{p}^{n}$ and bi-linearity of the arguments, the suprema are attained by vectors $a, b \in\{-1,1\}^{n}$ and $x_{i}, y_{j} \in S_{2}^{2 n-1}$, respectively, where the second fact follows because there are only $2 n$ vectors appearing in $\|A\|_{G}$ (spanning a vector space of dimension at most $2 n$ ). Second, $\|A\|_{G} \geq\|A\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}$ holds for any matrix $A$, since $B_{2}^{1}=[-1,1]$. Third, the last inequality can be strict, as can be seen from the Hadamard matrix $H=\left(\begin{array}{cc}1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1\end{array}\right)$. On the one hand, $\|H\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}=2$ (exercise).

[^0]On the other, $\|H\|_{G} \geq 2 \sqrt{2}$, which can be seen by considering the 2-dimensional unit vectors shown in Figure 1.


Figure 1. Vectors for Hadamard matrix.

Surprisingly, Grothendieck's inequality shows that these norms are never too far apart, however.

Theorem 1.1 (Grothendieck's inequality). There exists an absolute constant $K \in(1, \infty)$ such that the following holds. For any positive integer $n$ and matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|A\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}} \leq\|A\|_{G} \leq K\|A\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

There are many equivalent formulations of this result. Its original formulation in [Gro53] was in terms of norms on tensor products of Banach spaces. The form used above is due to Lindenstrauss and Pełczyński [LP68], who revamped Grothendieck's original work in such a way so as to lift it from an obscurity it had unfortunately suffered up until then. We refer to Pisier's survey [Pis12] for more information about its interesting history and ramifications. The Grothendieck constant $K_{G}$ is the smallest $K$ for which Theorem 1.1 holds true. Determining its exact value is the only one of six problems posed in [Gro53] that remains open to this day. The Hadamard matrix shows that $K_{G} \geq \sqrt{2}$. The best bounds $1.6769 \cdots \leq K_{G}<1.7822 \ldots$ were proved by Davie and Reeds [Dav84, Ree91], and Braverman et al. [BMMN13], respectively. In the next section, we give arguably the most elegant proof of Theorem 1.1, due to Krivine [Kri79], who showed that

$$
K_{G} \leq \frac{\pi}{2 \ln (1+\sqrt{2})}=1.7822 \ldots
$$

The elegance of Krivine's proof led many researchers to believe that this was in fact the exact value of $K_{G}$. No one could prove this, however, and
it turns out for the good reason that it is false. It was shown relatively recently in [BMMN13] that $K_{G}$ is strictly smaller than Krivine's bound by some additive $\varepsilon>0$. Unfortunately, the proof of this fact is based on a long series of calculations in complex analysis in addition to a computer-assisted search for a good partition of the plane into two disjoints sets (giving the so-called tiger partition shown in Figure 2).


Figure 2. The tiger partition. Source: https://web.math.princeton.edu/~naor/

## 2. Krivine's proof of Grothendieck's inequality

The first ingredient of Krivine's proof of Theorem 1.1 is the following simple lemma, which was also used in the original proof given in [Gro53], but in a less effective way (giving a larger value of $K$ ).

Lemma 2.1 (Grothendieck's identity). Let $x$, $y$ be $n$-dimensional real unit vectors and let $g=\left(g_{1}, \ldots, g_{n}\right) \sim N\left(0, I_{n}\right)$ be an $n$-dimensional standard Gaussian vector. Then,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbb{E}[\operatorname{sign}(\langle x, g\rangle) \operatorname{sign}(\langle y, g\rangle)]=\frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin (\langle x, y\rangle) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof sketch: If $x=y$ or $x=-y$ then the identity is trivial. Suppose that $x$ and $y$ are not parallel and consider the two-dimensional subspace spanned by them. By rotational invariance of the Gaussian distribution, the projection of $g$ onto this subspace is a two-dimensional standard Gaussian. Observe that $\operatorname{sign}(\langle x, g\rangle) \operatorname{sign}(\langle y, g\rangle)$ is positive if and only if $g$ lies above or below both of the half-planes orthogonal to $x$ and $y$ respectively (Figure 3).


Figure 3. Grothendieck's identity in two dimensions.

Since the direction of $g$ is uniform on the unit circle, it follows that this happens with probability

$$
\frac{2}{2 \pi}(\pi-\arccos (\langle x, y\rangle) .
$$

Hence, the expectation in (2) equals

$$
\frac{1}{\pi}\left(\pi-\arccos (\langle x, y\rangle)-\frac{1}{\pi}\left(\arccos (\langle x, y\rangle)=1-\frac{2}{\pi} \arccos (\langle x, y\rangle)\right.\right.
$$

which equals the right-hand side of (2).
We will use the Taylor expansions of the sine and hyperbolic sine functions, given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sin (t) & =\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_{k} t^{k} \\
\sinh (t) & =\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\left|\alpha_{k}\right| t^{k}
\end{aligned}
$$

where for $k=0,1, \ldots$, we have $\alpha_{2 k}=0$ and $\alpha_{2 k+1}=(-1)^{k} /((2 k+1)!)$. In particular, the Taylor coefficients of the hyperbolic sine functions are given by the absolute values of those of the sine function. Moreover, both of these Taylor series converge on the interval $[-1,1]$.
Recall that the tensor product of vectors $x \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{1}}$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{1}}$ is the $d_{1} d_{2}$-dimensional vector $x \otimes y \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{1} d_{2}}$ given by

$$
x \otimes y=\left(x_{i} y_{j}\right)_{(i, j) \in\left[d_{1}\right] \times\left[d_{2}\right]} .
$$

For a positive integer $k$, denote by $x^{\otimes k}$ the $k$-fold iterated tensor product of $x$ with itself. We leave the proof of the following simple proposition as an exercise.

Proposition 2.2. For any $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{d}$, we have $\left\langle x^{\otimes k}, y^{\otimes k}\right\rangle=\langle x, y\rangle^{k}$.
Proof of Theorem 1.1: Let

$$
c=\sinh ^{-1}(1)=\ln (1+\sqrt{2}) .
$$

Fix a positive integer $d$ and two sets of $d$-dimensional unit vectors $x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}, y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n} \in S_{2}^{d-1}$. We show that there exist $\{-1,1\}$-valued random variables $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{n}, b_{1}, \ldots, b_{n}$ such that

$$
\mathbb{E}\left[a_{i} b_{j}\right]=\frac{2 c}{\pi}\left\langle x_{i}, y_{j}\right\rangle
$$

holds for all $i, j \in[n]$. To see why this suffices to prove the theorem, observe that by linearity of expectation,

$$
\frac{2 c}{\pi} \sum_{i, j=1}^{n} A_{i j}\left\langle x_{i}, y_{j}\right\rangle=\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i, j=1}^{n} A_{i j} a_{i} b_{j}\right] \leq \max _{a_{i}, b_{j} \in\{-1,1\}} \sum_{i, j=1}^{n} A_{i j} a_{i} b_{j} .
$$

This shows that $K_{G} \leq \pi /(2 c)$.
To obtain the random signs, define two new sequences of vectors:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& u_{i}=\bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} \sqrt{\left|\alpha_{k}\right|} c^{k / 2} x_{i}^{\otimes k} \\
& v_{j}=\bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} \operatorname{sign}\left(\alpha_{k}\right) \sqrt{\left|\alpha_{k}\right|} c^{k / 2} y_{j}^{\otimes k} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Using the Taylor expansions of sin and sinh and Proposition 2.2 it is easy to verify that these are unit vectors and that

$$
\left\langle u_{i}, v_{j}\right\rangle=\sin \left(c\left\langle x_{i}, v_{j}\right\rangle\right)
$$

Observe that these are infinite-dimensional. However, since there are only $2 n$ of them, they span a space of dimension at most $2 n$, and it follows that there exist unit vectors $u_{1}^{\prime}, \ldots, u_{n}^{\prime}, v_{1}^{\prime}, \ldots, v_{n}^{\prime} \in S_{2}^{2 n-1}$ such that $\left\langle u_{i}^{\prime}, v_{j}^{\prime}\right\rangle=\left\langle u_{i}, v_{j}\right\rangle$ for all $i, j \in[n]$. Let $g=\left(g_{1}, \ldots, g_{2 n}\right)$ be a random vector of independent standard normal random variables. Define

$$
a_{i}=\operatorname{sign}\left(\left\langle u_{i}^{\prime}, g\right\rangle\right) \quad \text { and } \quad b_{j}=\operatorname{sign}\left(\left\langle v_{j}^{\prime}, g\right\rangle\right)
$$

Then, by Lemma 2.1,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\pi}{2} \mathbb{E}\left[a_{i} b_{j}\right] & =\arcsin \left(\left\langle u_{i}^{\prime}, v_{j}^{\prime}\right\rangle\right) \\
& =\arcsin \left(\sin \left(c\left\langle x_{i}, y_{j}\right\rangle\right)\right) \\
& =c\left\langle x_{i}, y_{j}\right\rangle
\end{aligned}
$$

This proves the theorem.

## 3. Grothendieck factorization

In this section and the next, given a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and normed vector spaces $X=\left(\mathbb{R}^{n},\| \|_{X}\right), Y=\left(\mathbb{R}^{m},\| \|_{Y}\right)$, we shall write $\|A\|_{X \rightarrow Y}$ for the operator norm of the linear operator $X \rightarrow Y$ given by $x \mapsto A x$.

While it is not hard to interpret the $\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}$ norm, one may wonder what it means for a matrix $A$ to satisfy $\|A\|_{G} \leq 1$. The answer turns out to be that $A$ can be "factored through a Hilbert space", meaning that there exist matrices $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ and $C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ such that $A$ can decomposed as $A=B C$ and such that $\|B\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}\|C\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{2}} \leq 1$. This is a result of the following lemma, which we prove in this section.
Lemma 3.1 (Grothendieck). Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be a matrix without zero rows or columns. Then, satisfies $\|A\|_{G} \leq C$ if and only if there exist positive unit vectors $u, v \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \cap S_{2}^{n-1}$ such that for any $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\langle A x, y\rangle| \leq C\|x \circ u\|_{2}\|y \circ v\|_{2}, \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\circ$ denotes the entry-wise product.
Proof: We prove the "only if" direction and leave the "if" direction as an exercise. Let $M=A /\|A\|_{G}$, so that $\|M\|_{G} \leq 1$. Then, by the AMGM inequality, it holds that for arbitrary vectors $x_{i}, y_{j}$ of the same dimension, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\sum_{i, j=1}^{n} M_{i j}\left\langle x_{i}, y_{j}\right\rangle\right| \leq \max _{i, j \in[n]}\left\|x_{i}\right\|\left\|y_{j}\right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \max _{i, j \in[n]}\left(\left\|x_{i}\right\|^{2}+\left\|y_{j}\right\|^{2}\right) \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Define the set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ by

$$
K=\left\{\left(\left\|x_{i}\right\|^{2}+\left\|y_{j}\right\|^{2}-2\left|\sum_{k, \ell=1}^{n} M_{k \ell}\left\langle x_{k}, y_{\ell}\right\rangle\right|\right)_{i, j=1}^{n}: d \in \mathbb{N}, x_{i}, y_{j} \in \mathbb{R}^{d}\right\}
$$

We show that $K$ is a convex cone. For every $t \in \mathbb{R}_{+}$and matrix $Q \in K$ given by vectors $x_{i}, y_{j}$, the vectors $x_{i}^{\prime}=\sqrt{t} x_{i}$ and $y_{j}^{\prime}=\sqrt{t} y_{j}$ similarly define $t Q$, and so $K$ is a cone. We now show that $K$ is convex. Let
$Q, Q^{\prime} \in K$ be specified by $x_{i}, y_{j}$ and $x_{i}^{\prime}, y_{j}^{\prime}$ respectively. Then, for any $\lambda \in[0,1]$, the vectors $\left(\sqrt{\lambda} x_{i}, \sqrt{1-\lambda} x_{i}^{\prime}\right),\left(\sqrt{\lambda} y_{j}, \sqrt{1-\lambda} y_{j}^{\prime}\right)$ can easily be seen to define $\lambda Q+(1-\lambda) Q^{\prime}$, which thus also belongs to $K$.

Additionally, it follows from (4) that $K$ is disjoint from the open convex cone $\mathbb{R}_{<0}^{n \times n}$ of matrices with strictly negative entries. It thus follows from the Hahn-Banach separation theorem that there is a nonzero matrix $L \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ such that $\langle L, Q\rangle \geq 0$ for all $Q \in K$ and $\langle L, N\rangle<0$ for all $N \in \mathbb{R}_{<0}^{n \times n}$. The second inequality implies that $L$ is entry-wise non-negative. Indeed, suppose that $L_{i j} \leq-\varepsilon$ for some $\varepsilon>0$ and let $\delta=\max _{k, l}\left|L_{k l}\right|$. Consider the negative matrix $N$ given by $N_{i j}=-1$ and $N_{k l}=-\varepsilon /\left(\delta n^{2}\right)$ for all $(k, l) \neq(i, j)$. Then,

$$
\langle L, N\rangle \geq \varepsilon-\varepsilon\left(n^{2}-1\right) / n^{2}>0
$$

a contradiction.
Let $P=L / \sum_{i j} L_{i j}$, so that $P$ defines a probability distribution on $[n]^{2}$. Then, for any $Q \in K$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
0 \leq\langle P, Q\rangle & =\sum_{i, j=1}^{n} P_{i j}\left(\left\|x_{i}\right\|^{2}+\left\|y_{j}\right\|^{2}\right)-2\left|\sum_{k, \ell=1}^{n} M_{k \ell}\left\langle x_{k}, y_{\ell}\right\rangle\right| \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_{i}\left\|x_{i}\right\|^{2}+\sum_{j=1}^{n} \mu_{j}\left\|y_{j}\right\|^{2}-2\left|\sum_{k, \ell=1}^{n} M_{k \ell}\left\langle x_{k}, y_{\ell}\right\rangle\right|
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\sigma_{i}=P_{i 1}+\cdots+P_{i n}$ and $\mu_{j}=P_{1 j}+\cdots+P_{n j}$. Rearranging the inequality above, it follows that for every $\lambda>0$, we have

$$
\begin{align*}
2\left|\sum_{k, \ell=1}^{n} M_{k \ell}\left\langle x_{k}, y_{\ell}\right\rangle\right| & =2\left|\sum_{k, \ell=1}^{n} M_{k \ell}\left\langle\lambda x_{k}, \lambda^{-1} y_{\ell}\right\rangle\right| \\
& \leq \lambda^{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_{i}\left\|x_{i}\right\|_{2}^{2}+\lambda^{-2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mu_{j}\left\|y_{j}\right\|_{2}^{2} \tag{5}
\end{align*}
$$

Setting

$$
\lambda=\left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \mu_{j}\left\|y_{j}\right\|_{2}^{2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_{i}\left\|x_{i}\right\|_{2}^{2}}\right)^{1 / 4}
$$

in (5), we find that

$$
2\left|\sum_{k, \ell=1}^{n} M_{k \ell}\left\langle x_{k}, y_{\ell}\right\rangle\right| \leq 2\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_{i}\left\|x_{i}\right\|_{2}^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} \mu_{j}\left\|y_{j}\right\|_{2}^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}
$$

In particular, by letting $u_{i}=\sqrt{\sigma_{i}}, v_{i}=\sqrt{\mu_{i}}$ for every $i \in[n]$, the above shows that if $x_{k}, y_{\ell} \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\langle M x, y\rangle| \leq\|x \circ u\|_{2}\|y \circ v\|_{2} . \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

The assumption that $M$ has no zero rows or columns shows that $u$ and $v$ have strictly positive entries. To see this, first observe that $u$ and $v$ have at least one non-zero entry because they have unit $\ell_{2}$-norm. Let $i \in[n]$ be arbitrary, let $j \in[n]$ be such that $M_{i j} \neq 0$ (as per the assumption on $M)$ and let $k \in[n]$ such that $v_{k} \neq 0$. Setting $x=e_{i}$ and $y=\operatorname{sign}\left(M_{i j}\right) e_{j}+\operatorname{sign}\left(M_{i k}\right) e_{k}$ in (6) shows that

$$
0<\left|M_{i j}\right| \leq\left|M_{i j}\right|+\left|M_{i k}\right|=|\langle M x, y\rangle| \leq u_{i} \sqrt{v_{j}^{2}+v_{k}^{2}} \leq u_{i} v_{j}
$$

In particular, $u_{i}>0$ for each $i \in[n]$. The same argument shows that $v$ has strictly positive entries as well.

Combining Lemma 3.1 with Theorem 1.1 (Grothendieck's inequality) gives the following factorization result. For $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$, denote by $\operatorname{Diag}(x)$ the matrix whose diagonal is $x$ and whose off-diagonals are all zero.

Corollary 3.2. For any matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, there exist $B, C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ such that $A=B C$ and $\|B\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}\|C\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{2}} \leq K_{G}\|A\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}$.

Proof: Let $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ be as in Lemma 3.1. Since $u, v$ are Euclidean unit vectors, it follows that $\|\operatorname{Diag}(u)\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{2}}=\|\operatorname{Diag}(v)\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{1}} \leq 1$. Define $M=\operatorname{Diag}(v)^{-1} A \operatorname{Diag}(u)^{-1}$. Then, it follows from Lemma 3.1 and Theorem 1.1 that for any $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
|\langle M x, y\rangle| & \leq\|A\|_{G}\left\|\left(\operatorname{Diag}(u)^{-1} x\right) \circ u\right\|_{2}\left\|\left(\operatorname{Diag}(v)^{-1} y\right) \circ v\right\|_{2} \\
& \leq K_{G}\|A\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}\|x\|_{2}\|y\|_{2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

In particular, this shows that $\|M\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{2}} \leq K_{G}\|A\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}$. Setting $B=$ $\operatorname{Diag}(v) M$ and $C=\operatorname{Diag}(u)$ then gives the result since

$$
\|B\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{1}} \leq\|\operatorname{Diag}(v)\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}\|M\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{2}}
$$

## 4. An application to geometric functional analysis

We end with a first application of Grothendieck's inequality. A finitedimensional normed space $X$ embeds into normed space $Y$ with distortion $C$ if there is a subspace $Z \subseteq Y$ with the same dimension as $X$ such that $d(X, Z) \leq C$, where $d$ is the Banach-Mazur distance.

Corollary 4.1. Let $n \leq k$ be positive integers and let $X=\left(\mathbb{R}^{n},\| \|_{X}\right)$ be a normed space. Suppose that $X$ and its dual $X^{*}$ embed into $\ell_{1}^{k}$ with distortion $C_{1}, C_{2}$, respectively. Then, $d\left(X, \ell_{2}^{n}\right) \leq K_{G} C_{1} C_{2}$.

A famous result of Dvoretzky, which we will see later in this course, implies that a converse of Corollary 4.1 also holds. In particular, there is a constant $C$ such that if $d\left(X, \ell_{2}^{n}\right) \leq C^{\prime}$, then both $X$ and $X^{*}$ embed into $\ell_{1}^{2 n}$ with distortion at most $C C^{\prime}$. A more basic result due to Khitchine, which we will also see later, shows that this holds for $\ell_{1}^{2^{n}}$.

Proof: Let $S_{1}, S_{2} \subseteq \ell_{1}^{k}$ be subspaces such that $d\left(X, S_{1}\right) \leq C_{1}$ and $d\left(X^{*}, S_{2}\right) \leq C_{2}$. Then, there exist $A_{1}, B_{1}, A_{2}, B_{2} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$ such that $A_{1}^{\top} B_{1}=A_{2}^{\top} B_{2}=I_{n}$ and such that

$$
\left\|A_{1}^{\top}\right\|_{S_{1} \rightarrow X}\left\|B_{1}\right\|_{X \rightarrow S_{1}} \leq C_{1} \quad \text { and } \quad\left\|A_{2}^{\top}\right\|_{S_{2} \rightarrow X^{*}}\left\|B_{2}\right\|_{X^{*} \rightarrow S_{2}} \leq C_{2}
$$

We can thus write the identity (which should be thought of as a linear map from $X$ to itself) as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(A_{1}^{\top} B_{1}\right)\left(A_{2}^{\top} B_{2}\right)^{\top}=A_{1}^{\top} B_{1} B_{2}^{\top} A_{2}=I_{n} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Note that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\|B_{1}\right\|_{X \rightarrow \ell_{1}} & =\left\|B_{1}\right\|_{X \rightarrow S_{1}} \\
\left\|B_{2}^{\top}\right\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow X} & =\left\|B_{2}\right\|_{X^{*} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}=\left\|B_{2}\right\|_{X^{*} \rightarrow S_{1}} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Since operator norms are sub-multiplicative, the matrix appearing in the middle of (7), $M=B_{1} B_{2}^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$, therefore satisfies

$$
\|M\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}} \leq\left\|B_{1}\right\|_{X \rightarrow \ell_{1}}\left\|B_{2}^{\top}\right\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow X}=\left\|B_{1}\right\|_{X \rightarrow S_{1}}\left\|B_{2}\right\|_{X^{*} \rightarrow S_{2}} .
$$

It follows from Corollary 3.2 that there exist $M_{1}, M_{2} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ with which we can factor $M$ as $M=M_{1}^{\top} M_{2}$ and which satisfy the norm bounds

$$
\left\|M_{1}^{\top}\right\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}\left\|M_{2}\right\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{2}} \leq K_{G}\|M\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}} .
$$

Using this factorization of $M$, we can rewrite the factorization (7) as

$$
\begin{equation*}
I_{n}=A_{1}^{\top} M_{1}^{\top} M_{2} A_{2} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

The image of $M_{2} A_{2}$ is an $n$-dimensional subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{k}$. Therefore, there is an isometry from $\ell_{2}^{n}$ to $\ell_{2}^{k}$ given by a matrix $D \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$ such that the right-hand side of (7) equals $\left(A_{1}^{\top} M_{1}^{\top} D\right)\left(D^{\top} M_{2} A_{2}\right)$. This gives a factorization of the identity operator on $X$. In particular, since $S_{2}^{*}$ is
a quotient of $\ell_{\infty}^{n}$, we get that

$$
\begin{aligned}
d\left(X, \ell_{2}^{n}\right) & \leq\left\|A_{1}^{\top} M_{1}^{\top} D\right\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow X}\left\|D^{\top} M_{2} A_{2}\right\|_{X \rightarrow \ell_{2}} \\
& \leq\left\|A_{1}^{\top}\right\|_{S_{1} \rightarrow X}\left\|M_{1}^{\top}\right\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow S_{1}}\left\|M_{2}\right\|_{S_{2}^{*} \rightarrow \ell_{2}}\left\|A_{2}\right\|_{X \rightarrow S_{2}^{*}} \\
& \leq\left\|A_{1}^{\top}\right\|_{S_{1} \rightarrow X}\left\|M_{1}^{\top}\right\|_{\ell_{2} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}\left\|M_{2}\right\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{2}}\left\|A_{2}\right\|_{X \rightarrow S_{2}^{*}} \\
& \leq K_{G}\left\|A_{1}^{\top}\right\|_{S_{1} \rightarrow X}\|M\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}\left\|A_{2}^{\top}\right\|_{X^{*} \rightarrow S_{2}} \\
& \leq K_{G}\left\|A_{1}^{\top}\right\|_{S_{1} \rightarrow X}\left\|B_{1}\right\|_{X \rightarrow S_{1}}\left\|A_{2}^{\top}\right\|_{S_{2} \rightarrow X^{*}}\left\|B_{2}\right\|_{X^{*} \rightarrow S_{2}} \\
& \leq K_{G} C_{1} C_{2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

## 5. Exercises

Exercise 5.1. Show that the quantities $\|A\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}$ and $\|A\|_{G}$ are norms.
Exercise 5.2. Let $H=\left(\begin{array}{cc}1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1\end{array}\right)$. Show that $\|H\|_{\ell_{\infty} \rightarrow \ell_{1}}=2$.
Exercise 5.3. Prove Proposition 2.2.
Exercise 5.4. Prove the "if" direction in Lemma 3.1.

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